The Benefits of School-Based Health Care

Healthy Kids Learn Better

School-based health centers allow kids to take responsibility for their healthcare, both mentally and physically.

For over 25 years, Michigan’s school-based and school-linked health centers (SBHCs) have provided comprehensive physical and mental health care, offering medical and mental health screening and treatment for children and teens.

Getting to Know School-Based Health Care in Michigan

• 123 total school-based/school-linked centers and programs; 100 are state-funded
• 45% of Michigan Counties have an adolescent school-based health program
• In 2013: Approximately 30,000 kids received health care services. Over 100,000 had health encounters through a center or program. Over 22,000 kids received mental health services.

School-Based Health Centers

• School-Based Health Centers are a pediatric office located in a school staffed by mid-level practitioners (Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants).
• They are located in areas where families are economically disadvantaged and struggle to access medical services.
• The centers are designed to appeal to young people by creating a friendly atmosphere specific to their age-group.
• Parents must sign written consents for their children to receive the full scope of services provided at the School-Based Health Center
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School-Linked Health Centers

- Located off school grounds
- Often serve more than one school
- Established methods of referral, communication, and follow-up with SBHC partners
- Often extended hours beyond the school day
- Offer broader scope of services than SBHCs

The Benefits of School-Based Health Care

- Increases student attendance and graduation rates
- Improves school performance
- Succeeds in preventing and treating conditions such as obesity and asthma
- Reduces hospitalization and emergency care usage
- Improves mental health

Data Sources:

- School-Based Health Alliance Fact Sheets, http://www.sbh4all.org/