

What are School Based Health Centers/Clinics (SBHCs)?

- Free standing medical clinics located within or on the grounds of schools.
- Licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) as hospital satellite clinics or outpatient clinics.
- Licensed by the Department of Children and Families, Department of Public Health or both to provide mental/behavioral health services. (Effective: 1/1/14)
- The result of partnerships between the schools in which they are located, the sponsoring agency and the community.
- Available to all students, regardless of income or health care coverage, who are enrolled in the school in which the SBHC is located. Parent/guardian permission is required to access clinical services. Some health promotion/education activities are open to all students regardless of enrollment.

SBHCS

1. **Provide comprehensive care where kids are located-in school.**
2. **Open to all enrolled in the school regardless of ability to pay.**
3. **Work collaboratively with schools, parents and the community.**
4. **Ensure that students are healthy and ready to learn.**

What are the benefits of SBHCs?

- Tend to unmet health care needs by placing health care where the kids are and when they need it.
- Supports students by providing a safe place to talk about sensitive issues such as depression, family problems, relationships, and substance abuse.
- Supports the school environment by helping children stay in school and by identifying and addressing health problems that may interfere in the learning process.
- Supports families by allowing parents to stay at work while attending to their child's routine health care needs.
- Saves money by keeping children out of hospitals and emergency rooms.

History of SBHCs in Connecticut



- The first SBHC in Connecticut opened in 1981 and the first DPH funded SBHC opened in 1985.
- DPH currently funds 92 School Based Health Services programs in 27 communities statewide. Of those 80 (87%) are SBHCs and provide the full complement of SBHC programming. The other 12 (13%) Expanded School Health programs offer more limited services.

Staffing

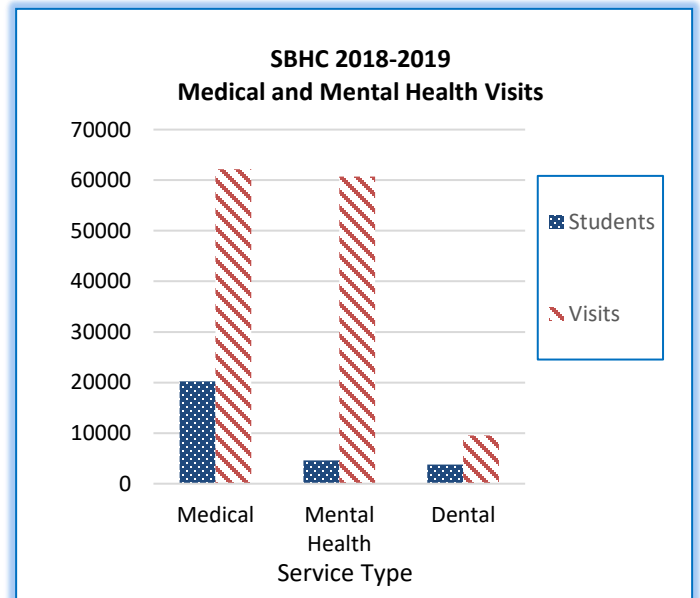
- SBHCs are staffed by an interdisciplinary team of professionals with expertise in child and adolescent health.
- Care is provided under the clinical direction of a medical director/designated physician.
- Minimum staffing includes a licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)/ Physician’s Assistant and a licensed Mental Health Clinician (MHC).
- Other staff may include: Medical assistants, outreach workers, support personnel, health educators, nutritionists, etc.

Services

- Diagnosis and treatment of acute injuries and illnesses
- Managing/monitoring chronic disease
- Physical exams
- Immunizations
- Prescribing and dispensing medications
- Reproductive health
- Laboratory testing
- Health education/promotion/risk reduction activities
- Crisis intervention
- Individual, group and family counseling
- Outreach
- Oral Health (In some locations)
- Referral and follow-up for specialty care
- Linkages to community based providers

Access and Utilization

In 2018-2019, a total of 20,216 students made 62,159 medical visits, an average of 3.1 visits per student. A total of 4,589 students made a total of 60,697 mental/behavioral health visits, an average of 13.2 visits per student. A total of 3,814 students made 9,557 dental visits, an average of 2.5 visits per student.



More Information

- CT Department of Public Health SBHC Webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Family-Health/School-Based-Health-Centers/School-Based-Health-Centers>
- Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers (CASBHC): <http://ctschoolhealth.org>
- School-Based Health Alliance: <https://www.sbh4all.org/>