



HEALTHY STUDENTS ~ BETTER STUDENTS: West Virginia's School-Based Health Centers

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- √ School-based health centers (SBHCs) are health clinics that bring preventive and immediate care, as well as counseling, health education, and sometimes dental care, to children and adolescents at schools.
- √ Currently, there are 50 SBHCs serving 62 schools in 24 counties. There were over **66,205 student visits by approximately 24,000 students** recorded during the 2007-08 school year by 47 SBHCs. Many schools without a SBHC would like to start a center, and requests for new sites continue to increase from school nurses, community health centers, and hospitals.
- √ SBHCs require a signed parental consent form before students can receive services. In WV, **an average of 80% of all students with a SBHC located in their schools has a signed parental consent form.**
- √ In WV, **17 of the state's 27 community health centers and one hospital operate SBHCs as satellites**, and receive funding from state, federal, private sources, in-kind donations and patient revenue. Since the sponsoring entity provides support, SBHC administrative cost savings are redirected to student care.
- √ Services provided at SBHCs involve local input, collaboration and coordination and meet standards established by the WV Bureau for Public Health. Services include **health education, treatment of acute illness, and management of chronic illness**. Twenty-one SBHCs provide mental health services such as **bullying and suicide prevention, grief counseling**, and some also provide **dental care**.
- √ SBHCs **work with, but do not replace the child's physician or school nurse**. The centers may serve as the child's medical home if needed.
- √ Studies by Johns Hopkins University and others show that SBHCs **decrease absenteeism and tardiness; reduce behavior and discipline problems; and save money by reducing the number of emergency room visits.**

The West Virginia School-Based Health Assembly promotes health services in schools to help students be healthy learners. For additional information, please visit: www.wvsbha.org.