A school-based health center (SBHC) is a shared commitment between a community’s schools and health care organizations to support students’ health, well-being, and academic success by providing preventive, early intervention, and treatment services where students are: in school.

Findings from the 2013-14 Census of School-Based Health Centers

2,315

The National Census of School-Based Health Centers, conducted every three years by the School-Based Health Alliance, charts the steady growth of this unique student-centered access model.

Our 2013-14 survey counted 2,315 SBHCs in 49 states and the District of Columbia (see rear for map) providing access to an estimated 2.3 million children and adolescents.

An online digital report details the geographic distribution of SBHCs, their staffing profiles, service scope, student demographics, clinic operation policies, funding for sustainability, and performance measurement efforts.

This report-in-brief highlights topline census findings. Be sure to visit the address below to discover much more about SBHCs.

www.sbh4all.org/censusreport
Supporting Access for the Underserved

SBHCs are located in all types of settings—high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, K-12 schools—but especially where low-income and minority children experience poor health because they lack access to health care.

- **76.5%** serve schools where more than half of students are eligible for free or discounted lunch
- **71.1%** serve majority-minority schools

Providing Comprehensive Care

The majority of SBHCs ensure easy access to comprehensive health services by being open full-time (66.5%) and offering pre-arranged after-hours care (78.1%).

**PERCENTAGE OF SBHCs THAT PROVIDE:**

- Chronic disease management, including asthma: **83.4%**
- Influenza immunizations: **86.2%**
- Vision screenings: **84.3%**
- Depression screenings: **76.1%**
- STD diagnosis and treatment: **69.5%**
- Oral health exams by a dentist or dental hygienist or therapist: **21.6%**

Providing Accountable Care

SBHCs provide care that aligns with evidence-based practices and state and national guidelines. More than half report performance data to national or state quality initiatives, including HEDIS and CHIPRA.¹

- **87.0%** of SBHCs report using an EHR compared with only **32.0%** in 2007-08. This dramatic uptake of technology reflects a sector eager to adopt tools that will enhance the quality of care delivered.

¹ Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS; 65.3%), and Medicaid/Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act’s recommended core set of child health quality measures (CHIPRA; 55.3%). State-defined performance tools and measures are collected by 77.2%.
Building Health System Partnerships

SBHCs are most often administered by health organizations committed to partnering with schools and investing in population health.

PERCENTAGE OF SBHCs SPONSORED BY:

- FQHCs: 43.3%
- Hospitals: 19.1%
- School system: 11.8%
- Health departments: 7.8%

Funding for Sustainability

Public and private insurance is critical for the SBHC business model, but it isn’t enough. As a safety net provider, SBHCs rely on public and private grants, corporate donations, and in-kind contributions to supplement insurance billing.

PUBLIC FUNDING SOURCES FOR SBHCs INCLUDE:

- State governments: 70.9%
- Federal government: 53.6%
- Schools or school districts: 33.9%
- Local city or county governments: 31.7%

SBHCs bill the following entities and payers for services\(^2\): Medicaid state agencies (89.0%), Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (78.1%), Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (71.4%), commercial insurers (69.2%), and families (48.1%).

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\(^2\) SBHCs may bill multiple entities or payers, so total may not equal 100%.
Census Methods: Of known programs, 1,900 responded to the Alliance’s triennial census survey for the 2013-14 school year—an 82.1% completion rate. The data presented in this report include those SBHCs that provide primary care (n=1,737), but questions may have missing data. The majority (94.1%) of respondents included fixed SBHCs located on a school campus.

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To view our full 2013-14 report and for more information on the methods, data, and recommended citation, visit www.sbh4all.org/censusreport