



Driving impact through policy and practice: Strengthening school-based health care infrastructure

School-Based Health Care Conference
Thursday, June 25, 2026

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Ohio School-Based Health Alliance “Ohio Alliance”

The Ohio Alliance is the only nonprofit, independent, statewide organization created to advance and support the sustainability and expansion of school-based health care.

Our mission is to improve access to comprehensive, integrated health services through school-based health care to advance equity and improve health and education outcomes for students, their families, and communities.



Ohio Alliance team



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Learning objectives

- 1 The participant will be aware of the system-level challenges to SBHC sustainability, expansion, and evaluation**
- 2 The participant will be familiar with potential policies and evidence-driven practices to support SBHC networks and strengthen school-based health care infrastructure**



Why strengthen school-based health care infrastructure?



Why must we advocate for foundational infrastructure and systems change?

At their core, school-based health centers...

- Have an atypical design and provide services that require robust cross-sector collaboration
- Address complex needs of whole family and drive outcomes in different domains
- Don't have a default pool of funding for start-up costs and may be less traditionally "productive"



Challenges



Uncoordinated SBHC network



Lack of comprehensive data collection



Siloed state-level support



Need for advocacy and policy changes

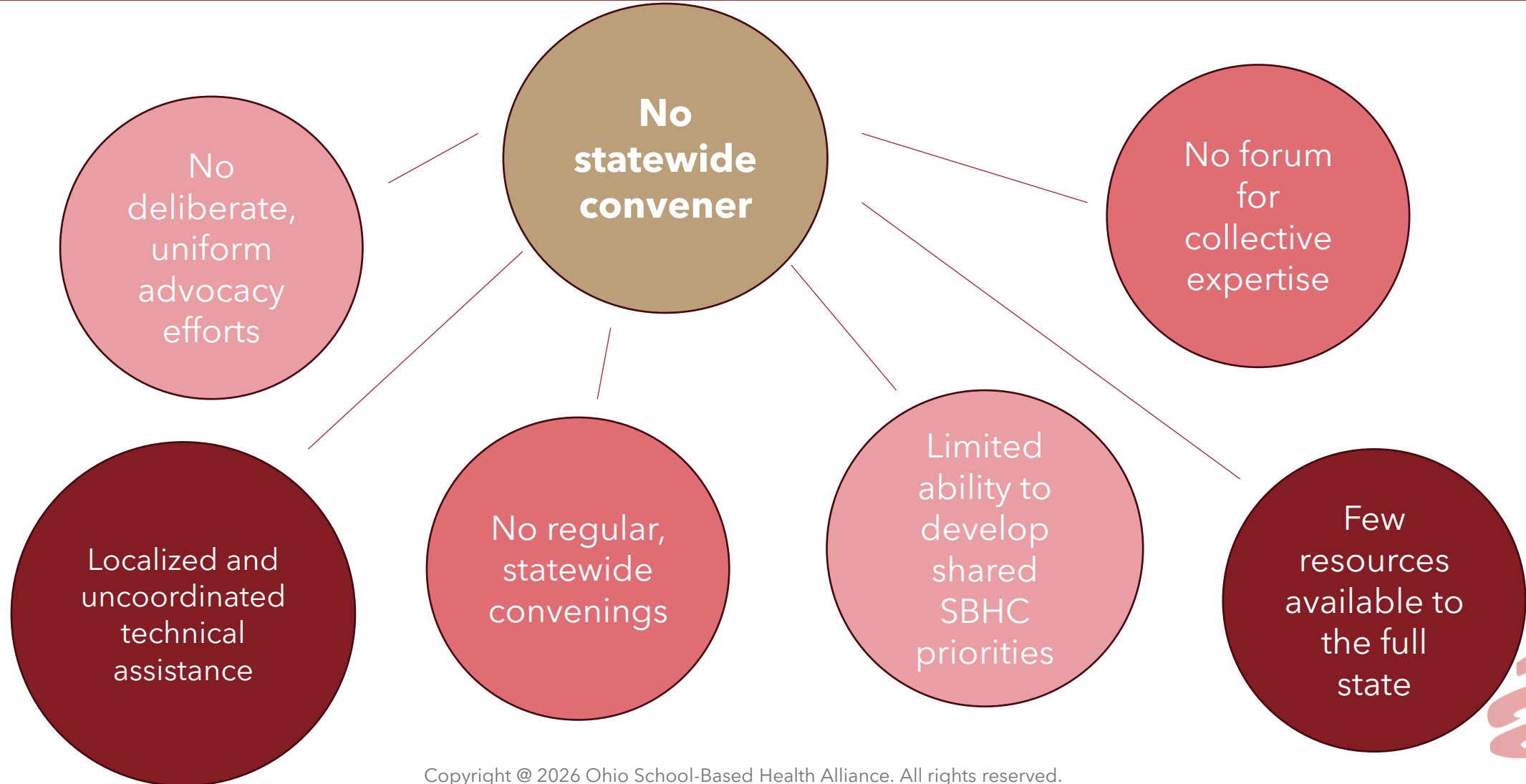


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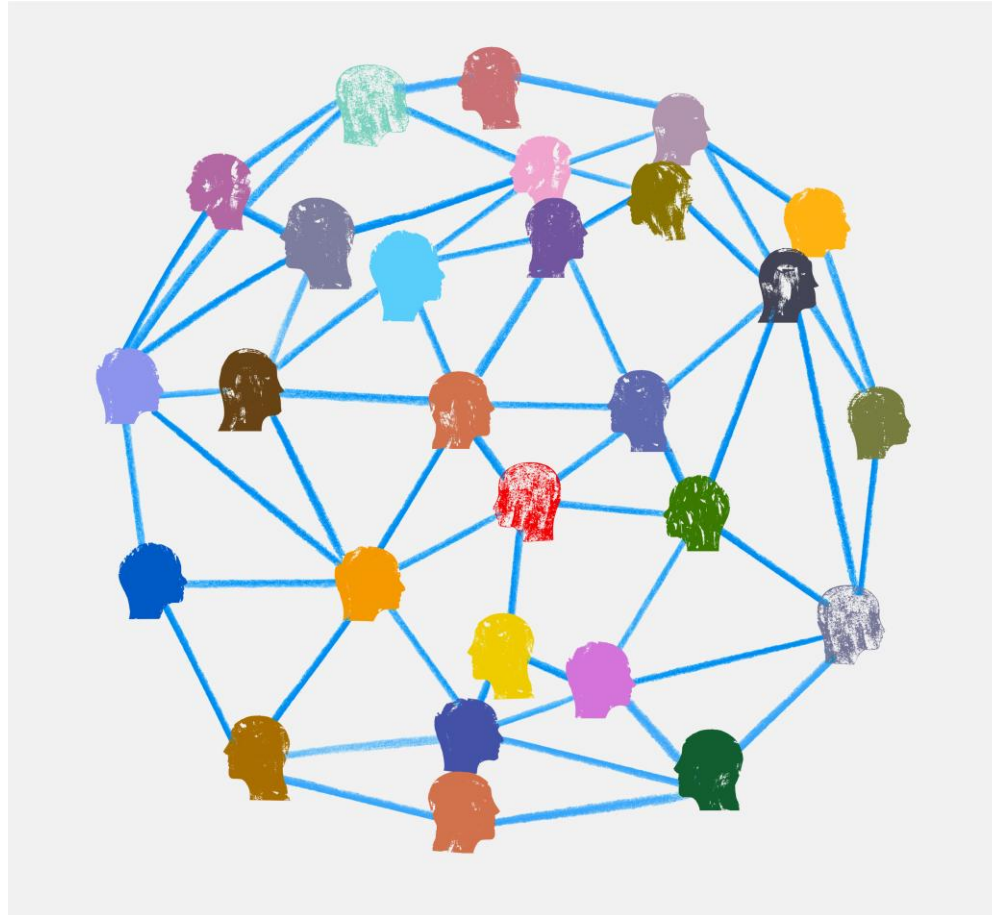
Uncoordinated SBHC network



Challenge: Uncoordinated network



Ohio's strategy: Network building



Ohio's strategy: Network building

Biweekly newsletter

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Scan the QR code to sign up for the Ohio Alliance newsletter to access mental health resources throughout the month!



Ohio's strategy: Network building

**Bimonthly learning
community &
all-partner
meetings**



Ohio's strategy: Network building

Annual conference



Ohio's strategy: Network building

**Technical
assistance
and
resources**



Ohio's strategy: Network building

Advocacy coalitions



Challenge:

Lack of comprehensive data collection



Challenge: Lack of comprehensive data collection

No centralized or consistent data collection



Challenge: Lack of comprehensive data collection

**No Ohio SBHC
database or maps**

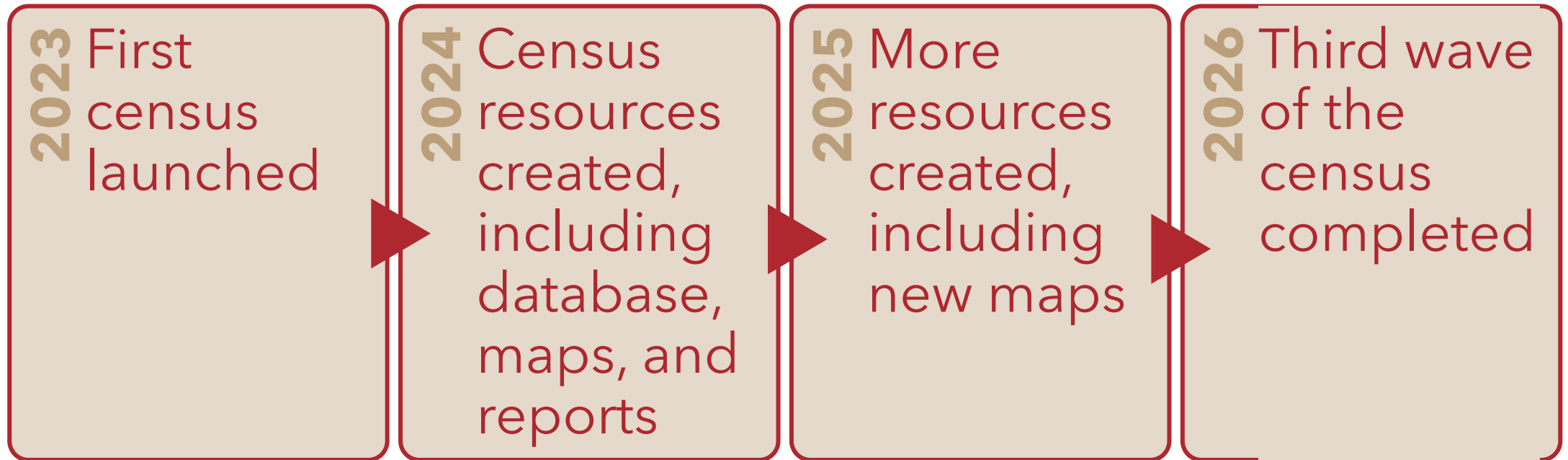


Challenge: Lack of comprehensive data collection

**Barrier to advocacy
and to the
expansion of
school-based health
care**



Ohio's strategy: State SBHC census



Ohio's strategy: State SBHC census

Ohio School-Based Health Center Census: 2025-2026 School Year

The [Ohio School-Based Health Alliance \("Ohio Alliance"\)](#) is launching the third year of the Ohio School-Based Health Center Census to reflect the **2025-26 school year** and demonstrate SBHC impact. This is ongoing work to create a comprehensive database of school-based health centers (SBHCs) in Ohio and is part of an annual effort to track the growing positive impacts of SBHCs and other innovative school-based health care delivery models across the state.

Please complete this 2025-2026 census to provide information about your SBHC or other school-based health care delivery model's operations, populations served, services offered, and performance measures. This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete per site/program.

To help you in filling out the census form for each of your SBHC sites, you can access a PDF of the census and a video tutorial that walks you through the form [here](#). It may be helpful to gather the requested information before starting the survey. If your organization participated in the 2024-2025 census, a PDF of your responses for reference is available upon request. If you would like your 2024-2025 responses, please email rachael@osbha.com.

Census definitions

For the purpose of this census, please follow the definitions below:

- **School-based health center (SBHC):** Located in a permanent facility on a school campus, provides comprehensive primary care services, and prioritizes serving students
- **Mobile:** delivers primary care or other services on a school campus via a mobile unit or van.
- **Portable:** delivers primary care or other services in a temporary space on a school campus via a

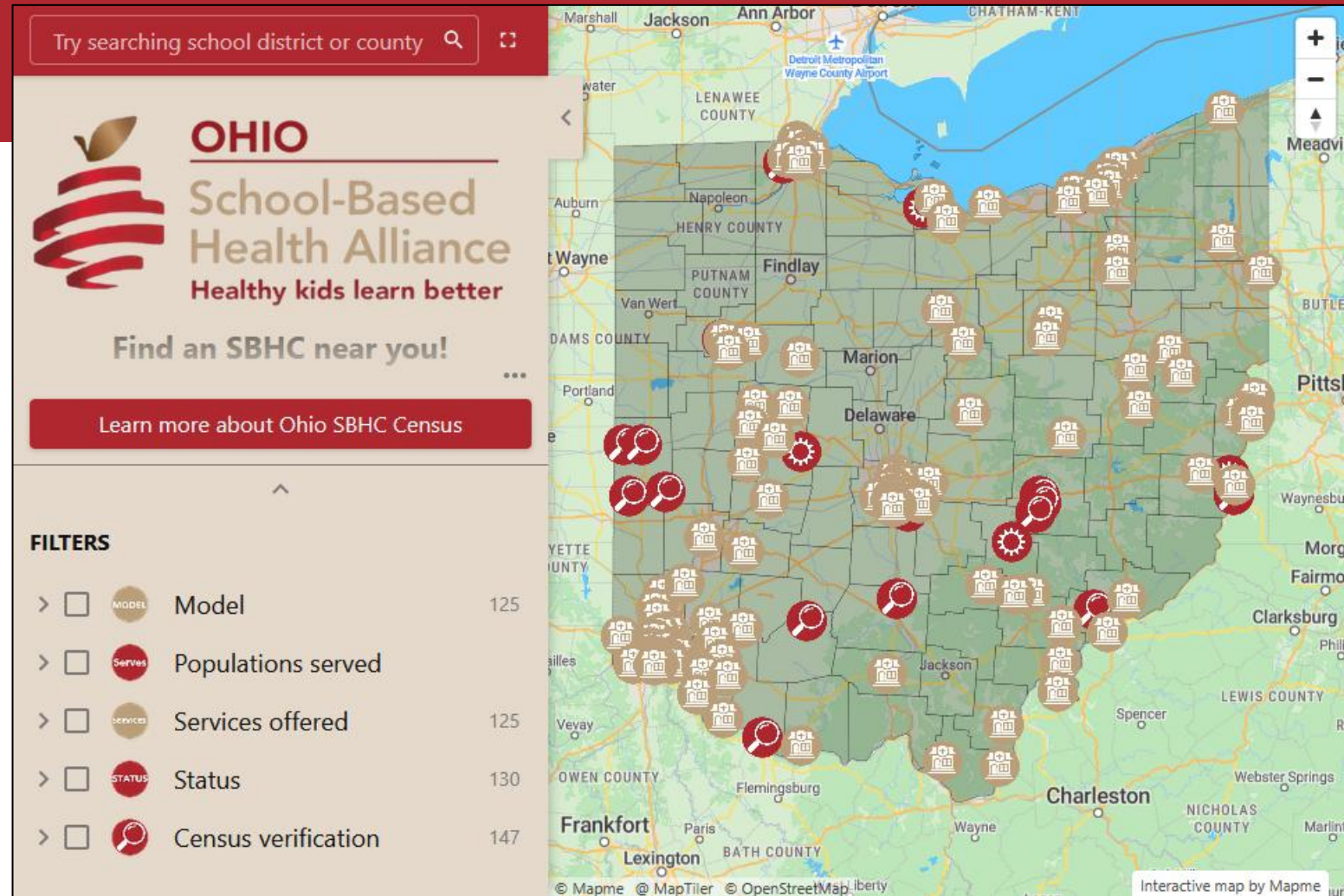
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- **Annual census**
- **Data collected from SBHC operators**
- **Refined each year**



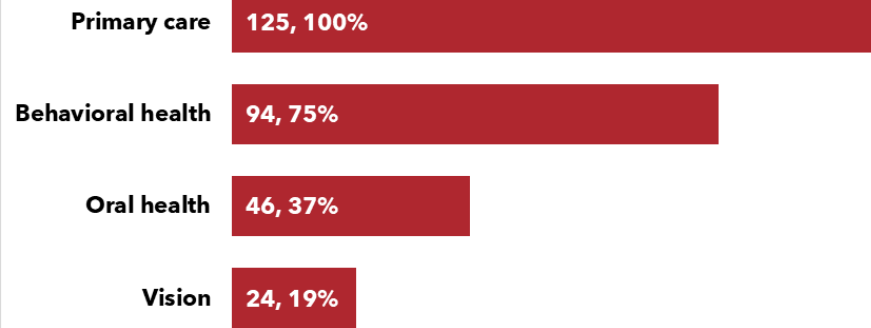
Ohio's strategy: State SBHC census

Interactive SBHC map

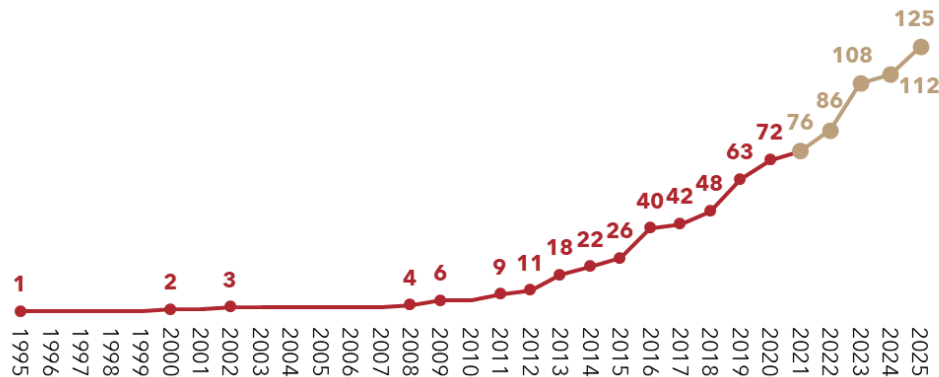


Ohio's strategy: State SBHC census

SBHC services (N=125)

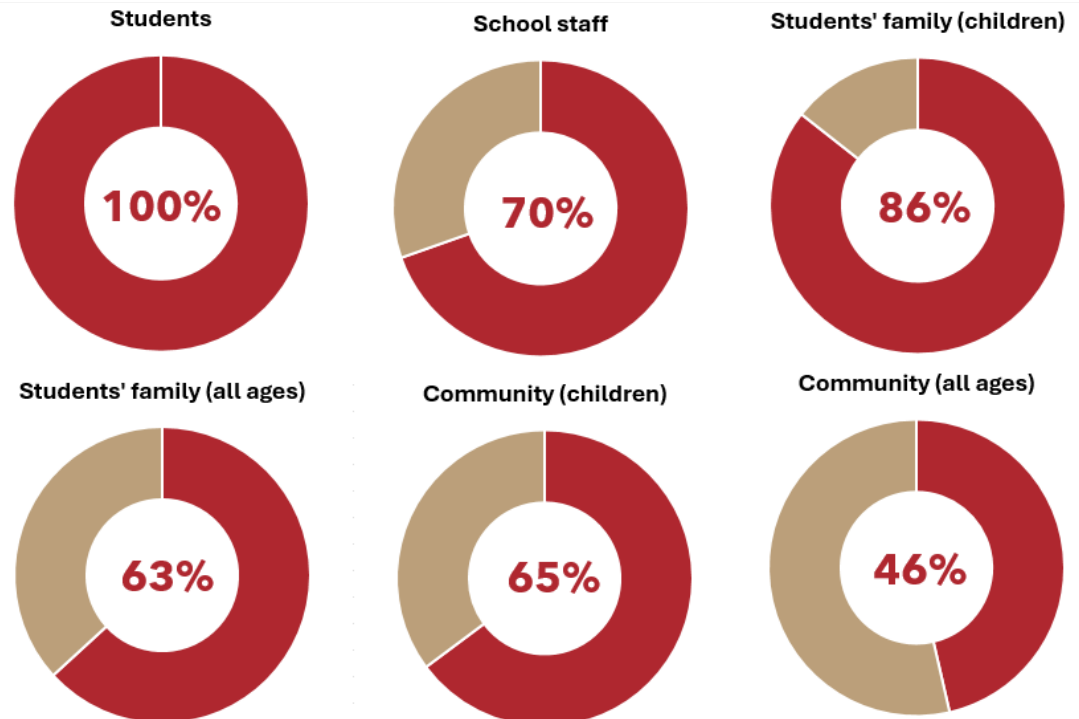


Number of SBHCs operating in Ohio (1995-present)



Census data

Populations served (N=125)



Ohio's strategy: State SBHC census

Stat	Model	2023	2024	2025	Particip	Site ID	County	Region	Run	Ap	Organizatio
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2001	Allen	Northwest	1	0	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	3901	Hamilton	Southwest	0	0	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2104	Clermont	Southwest	0	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2714	Richland	Central	1	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	804	Clermont	Southwest	0	1	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2715	Franklin	Central	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	0	0	0	NA	6201	Highland	Southwest	0	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2710	Franklin	Central	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	0	1	0	2024-25	2601	Coshocton	Southeast	1	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	1701	Erie	Northwest	1	0	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2709	Franklin	Central	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	1	0	1	2025-26	4101	Adams	Southwest	1	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	0	1	2025-26	708	Jefferson	Northeast	1	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2707	Franklin	Central	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2501	Cuyahoga	Northeast	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2102	Clermont	Southwest	0	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2702	Franklin	Central	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	1	0	1	2025-26	702	Jefferson	Northeast	1	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	1001	Cuyahoga	Northeast	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	0	0	1	2025-26	4102	Pike	Southeast	1	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2301	Hocking	Southeast	1	1	Critical acces
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	3903	Hamilton	Southwest	0	0	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	0	0	0	NA	2016	Lucas	Northwest	0	0	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	3301	Franklin	Central	0	0	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	2703	Franklin	Central	0	0	Hospital or H
Operating	SBHC	1	1	0	2024-25	2901	Cuyahoga	Northeast	0	0	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	0	0	0	NA	2605	Muskingum	Southeast	0	1	FQHC
Operating	SBHC	1	1	1	2025-26	907	Hamilton	Southwest	0	0	FQHC

SBHC database

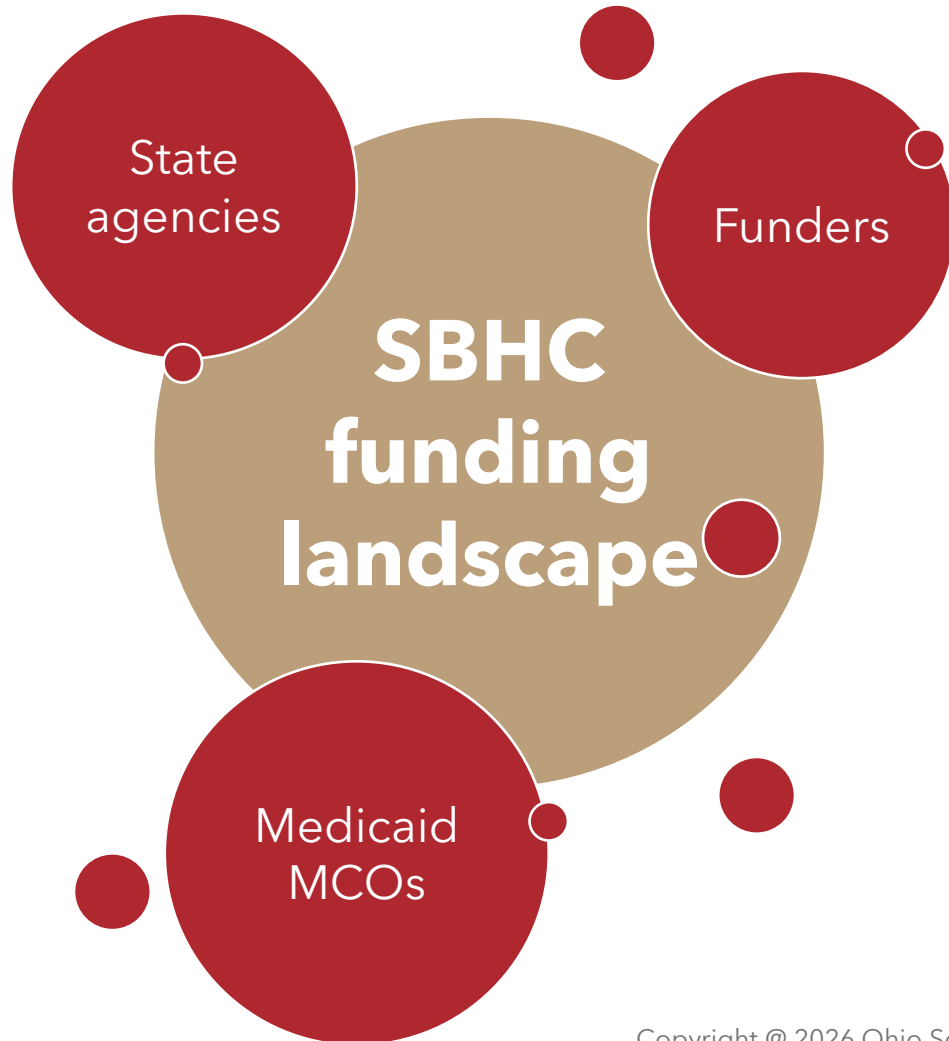


Challenge:

Siloed state-level support



Challenge: Siloed state-level support

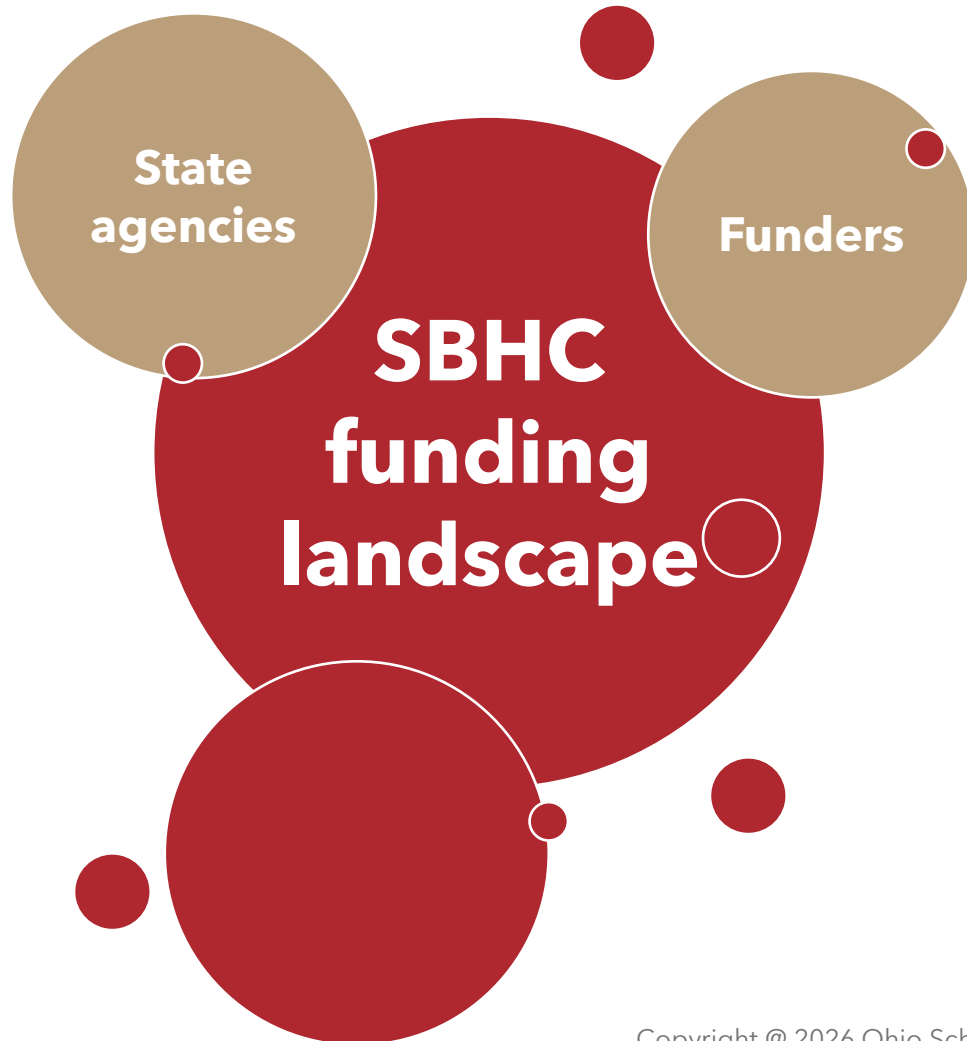


Interest in SBHCs starting in early 1990s

Rapid increase in SBHCs starting in early 2010s



Challenge: Siloed state-level support

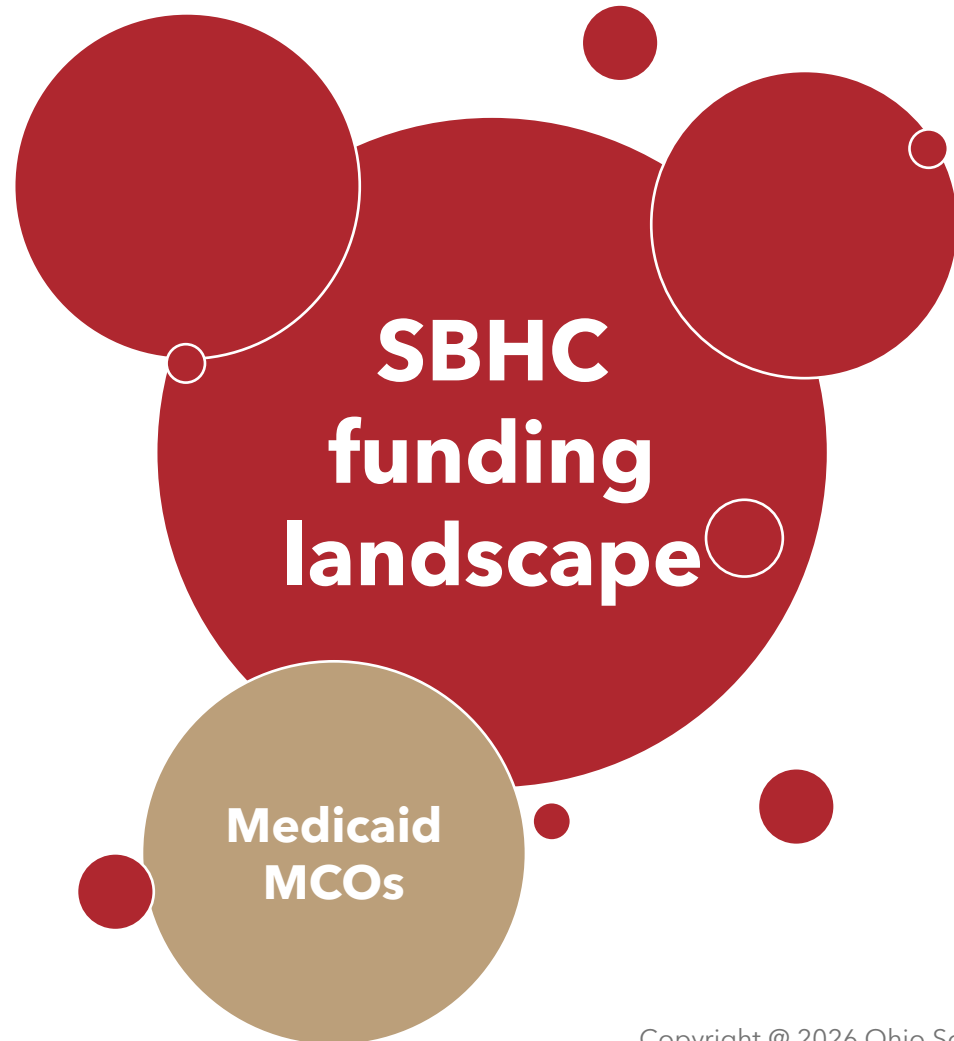


SBHC funding from multiple sources

Varying expectations, data collection, and supports



Challenge: Siloed state-level support

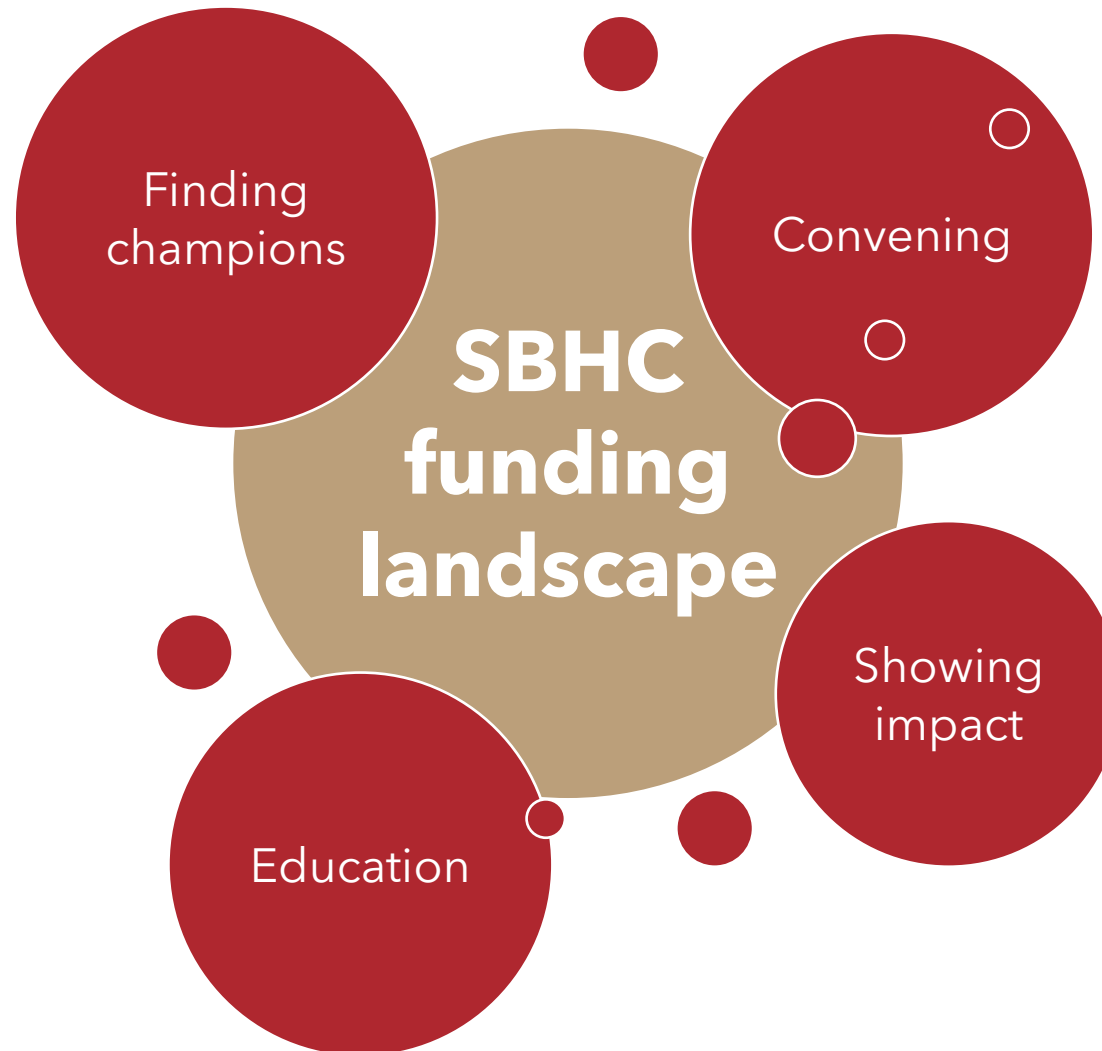


Appetite among MCOs for supporting SBHCs

Unsure how best to engage



Ohio's strategy: Convening and education



Ohio's strategy: Convening and education

Regular meetings

Being responsive to needs and sharing information

Celebrating champions



Ohio's strategy: Convening and education

Learning collaboratives

**Presentations, publications,
and resources**



Ohio's strategy: Convening and education

SBHC impact report

Sharing data, stories, and testimonials



Example 4

Need for advocacy and policy change



OSBHA advocacy and policy priorities



What do we mean by “school-based health center” in Ohio?



How can we grow the number of SBHCs serving Ohio’s families?



How can we demonstrate the impact of SBHCs statewide?



What do we mean by “school-based health center” in Ohio?

Defining an SBHC became a priority because...

- Wide variability in operating models and standards of care
- Definition crucial to pursuing possible next steps to support sustainability (accreditation or enhanced reimbursement, for instance)





Department of Health



Department of Education & Workforce



Wickliffe City Schools



Akron Children's



MetroHealth



dayton children's



OHHC

Ohio Hills Health Centers



OhioRISE



Department of Medicaid

city of CINCINNATI



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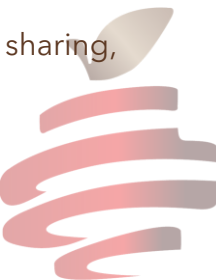
SBHC common definition

March 2025

1. A school-based health center (SBHC) is an evidence-based model of health care delivery where a center is established and operated in a school or on a school campus. SBHCs prioritize serving students in the school or district in which the SBHC is located and may also extend services to other populations including but not limited to students' families, school personnel, and community members.
2. An SBHC provides comprehensive primary care services¹ to students and may deliver additional services or work with other providers to deliver additional services based on assessed community need, including but not limited to behavioral, vision, and oral health services. Care provided by an SBHC should be responsive to the community and meet the cultural and linguistic needs of the populations served.
3. An SBHC has a focus on increasing access to high-quality healthcare services to improve health and education outcomes and reduce disparities. SBHCs align healthcare and education systems to support a student's success both inside and outside of school. Care provided by an SBHC complements and supports but does not replace or duplicate existing health services² provided by the school.
4. SBHCs are created through a collaborative partnership between the community, the school, and an entity that operates and administers the SBHC ("operator"), with students and families being central to this partnership. The SBHC operator is a: (A) federally qualified health center or federally qualified health center look-alike (B) hospital; (C) public health department; (D) nonprofit health or human services agency; or (E) other entity that can operate/administer healthcare operations. The SBHC operator and the partnering school district enter into a legally binding agreement regarding the administration and operation of the SBHC.
5. An SBHC provides on-site services and:
 - Operates, at a minimum, during the academic day when school is in session
 - Operates with regular frequency to ensure the provision of continuous and appropriate care
 - Coordinates care, including a systematic follow-up and referral process for patients
 - Establishes a method for the exchange of health information between the SBHC and, if applicable, a patient's primary care provider and other existing care provider(s)
 - Communicates with appropriate school personnel to ensure the provision of integrated care
 - Establishes a system to connect patients to care outside of SBHC operating hours
6. An SBHC operates in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including those relating to licensure and certification, information sharing, and consent for treatment.

¹ **Primary care services** include, but are not limited to, comprehensive health assessments/well child exams, primary care mental health, diagnosis and treatment of minor, acute, and chronic medical conditions, and referrals to and follow-up for specialty care.

² **Health services provided in schools** include, but are not limited to, services provided by school nurses, psychologists, counselors, social workers, health aides, etc.



SBHC key components



**Onsite
school
presence**



**Continuity
of care**



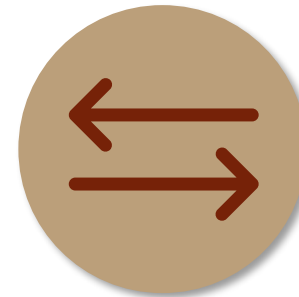
Partnership



**Comprehensive
primary care**



**Compliance
and consent**



**System
alignment**



Other models



**Mobile
unit**



**Portable
providers**



**Hub and
spoke**



Telehealth



**School-
linked**



How can we grow the number of SBHCs serving Ohio's families?

Educating and cultivating legislative champions to prioritize public funding for SBHCs is a priority because...

- Need for start-up funding
- Lack of understanding of value and impact of the model on Ohio's communities
- Concerns around parents' rights and SBHC services



Legislator education and engagement



"By restoring full funding and ensuring [SBHC] consent language reflects existing Ohio law, the General Assembly can safeguard access to school-based care for the students who need it most."



How can we demonstrate the impact of SBHCs statewide?

Identifying care provided in a SBHC in claims data remains a priority because...

- Medicaid managed-care organizations cannot see which of their patients are receiving care at an SBHC and what that means for their health outcomes
- There is no consistent mechanism to designate place of service as an SBHC in Ohio
- There is no way to demonstrate collective impact of SBHCs statewide



Identifying next steps

- Explaining the implications and potential to state leaders
- Gleaning insight from experts
- Collaborating with the Ohio Department of Medicaid to pilot an identifier for SBHCs
- Have you done this? We'd love to talk!



**In your state, which challenges
impede SBHC expansion and
sustainability?**



Brainstorming

Small group work



Group discussion



Contact



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