

As we look to strengthen the future of health and education in California, school-based health centers (SBHCs) can play an integral role. There are currently 231 SBHCs in California. However, there are more than 10,000 schools in California – only 2% of the schools have an SBHC.<sup>1</sup>

**If additional public and philanthropic resources are made available to support student health, where should these resources be targeted and where is the greatest need for additional SBHCs?**

## LOW-INCOME STUDENTS NEED SBHCs

There are a variety of ways to think about the need for an SBHC. SBHCs provide benefits to children, families, and communities at all socioeconomic levels. However, we know that there is a particular need in low-income areas. An abundance of research connects poverty to poor educational and health outcomes, high rates of teen pregnancy, and greater risk of dropping out of school.<sup>2,3,4</sup> SBHCs can significantly impact the needs of children living in the state’s most distressed neighborhoods where children and families are uninsured, experience barriers to accessing preventive health care, have high rates of emergency room visits, obesity, asthma, and exposure to violence and trauma.

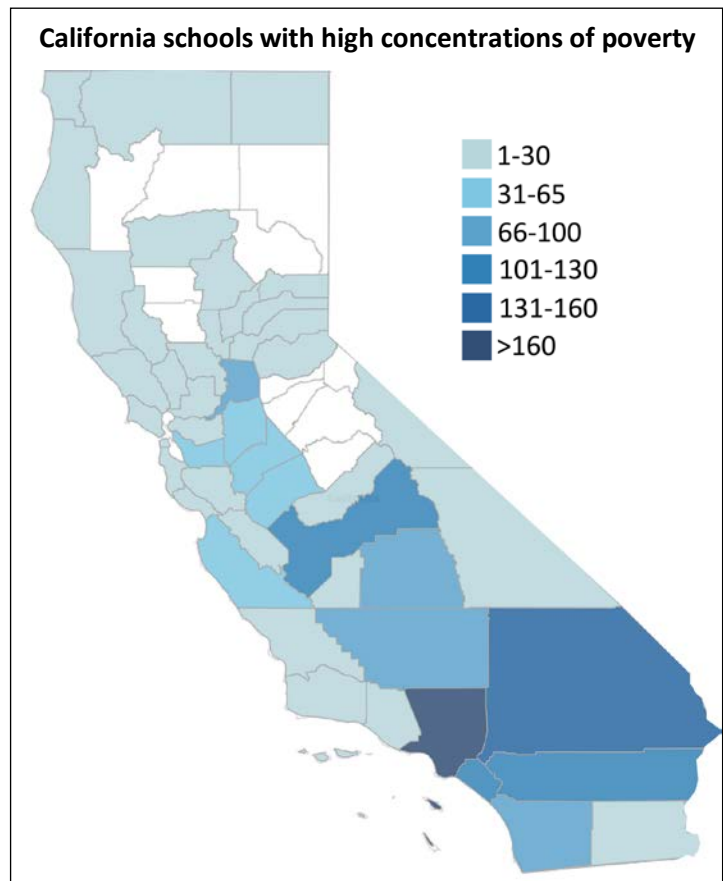
## 2,151 SCHOOLS HAVE HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF VERY POOR STUDENTS

As a first step, we determined how many schools in California have very high concentrations of poverty. We defined this as schools where over 75% of students qualify for free school meals. Children are eligible for free meals when their family income is at or below 130% of the federal poverty level. As an example, 130% FPL in 2014 equals an annual income of \$31,005 for a family of four. We eliminated very small schools with less than 100 students where an SBHC may not be sustainable. From this pool of high need schools, 93 schools currently have an SBHC.

**From these calculations, we found that there are 2,151 schools in California with high concentrations of poverty, where an SBHC could make a significant difference in the lives of students.**

## A FEW COUNTIES HAVE A LOT OF VERY POOR SCHOOLS

Five counties (Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Fresno, Orange, and Riverside) have 60% of the schools with high concentrations of poverty. See the included table and map for an overview of the number of schools with high concentrations of poverty by county.



Where are the schools with high concentrations of poverty? (more than 75% of students eligible for free school meals)			
County	Number of schools*	County (cont.)	Number of schools (cont.)
Los Angeles	811	Santa Cruz	11
San Bernardino	151	Butte	10
Fresno	128	Solano	9
Orange	103	Sutter	7
Riverside	101	Mendocino	6
Kern	91	Shasta	6
San Diego	88	Yolo	6
Sacramento	86	Lake	5
Tulare	69	Yuba	5
Alameda	62	Humboldt	4
San Joaquin	59	Del Norte	3
Monterey	41	El Dorado	3
Merced	38	Marin	3
Stanislaus	34	San Benito	2
Contra Costa	30	Siskiyou	2
Ventura	24	Inyo	1
Imperial	23	Modoc	1
Santa Barbara	23	Mono	1
Santa Clara	22	Napa	1
Kings	20	Nevada	1
Madera	15	Placer	1
San Mateo	15	San Luis Obispo	1
Sonoma	15	Tehama	1
San Francisco	12		

\*excludes schools with less than 100 students and schools with an existing SBHC.

<sup>1</sup> Children Now, *California Children's Report Card – How kids are doing in our state and what needs to be done about it*, (2014).

<sup>2</sup> Susan E. Mayer, "Trends in the Economic Well-Being and Life Chances of America's Children," in *Consequences of Growing up Poor*, ed. Greg J. Duncan and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1997): 46-69.

<sup>3</sup> Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Greg J. Duncan, and Nancy Maritato, "Poor Families, Poor Outcomes: The Well-Being of Children and Youth," in *Consequences of Growing Up Poor*, ed. Duncan, G.J., and Brooks-Gunn, J. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1997): 1-17.

<sup>4</sup> Eugene M. Lewit, Donna L. Terman, and Richard E. Behrman, "Children and Poverty: Analysis and Recommendations," [www.futureofchildren.org](http://www.futureofchildren.org).