

The Problem: Many Kids Lack Access to Health Care

According to the 2009 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), 10% of currently insured children age 5-18 had no usual place to go for medical care. Additionally in 2009, HEDIS data reveal that 23.8% of children age 3-6 did not have at least one well-child visit with a PCP, and that 54.9% of adolescents age 12-21 did not have at least one comprehensive well-care visit with a PCP or OB/GYN.

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) Increase Access to Care

- SBHCs increase access to health care.^{1,2,3,4,5}
- SBHC users are likely to use primary care—both medical and behavioral health—more consistently.^{6,7,8,9}
- SBHC users are more likely to have yearly dental and medical check-ups.^{10,11}
- SBHC users are less likely to go to the Emergency Room or be hospitalized.¹²

The Problem: Childhood Asthma

Sixteen percent of California children, age 5-18, have at some point in their lives been diagnosed with asthma. Among children who currently have asthma, 9% had an asthma-related emergency room or urgent care visit in the past year.

SBHCs Can Help Manage Asthma

- SBHC users are less likely to have asthma-related restricted activity days.¹³
- SBHC users are less likely to go to the Emergency Room or be hospitalized for asthma.¹⁴

The Problem: Obesity & Diabetes

Among California public school students in 2008, 38% were overweight, 19.8% were obese and 3.6% were severely obese.¹³ In the 2009 measurement year, HEDIS data show that 43.2% of children and adolescents did not have an outpatient visit with a PCP or OB/GYN that included evidence of BMI documentation, counseling for nutrition, and counseling for physical activity.

SBHCs Help Students Make Healthy Lifestyle Choices

- Adolescent SBHC users engage in more physical activity and consume more healthy foods.¹⁵
- SBHC staff can effectively screen students for important diabetes risk factors.¹⁶

The Problem: Teen Pregnancy

Each year, 750,000 American adolescents become pregnant.¹⁷ In California, 32 of every 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15-19 have babies each year.¹⁸

SBHCs Provide Comprehensive Reproductive Health Services & Education

- SBHCs can help prevent teen pregnancy by providing students with access to comprehensive reproductive health services including contraception, contraceptive counseling, and comprehensive sex education.
- Students who can access reproductive health services through their SBHC reported greater exposure to reproductive health education and counseling and greater use of hormonal contraception.¹⁹

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