



Community Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation

The Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends the implementation and maintenance of school-based health centers (SBHCs) in low-income communities to improve educational and health outcomes.

Facts about Health and Racial and Ethnic Minority Children

Children from low-income and racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States commonly experience worse health, are less likely to have a usual place of health care, and

miss more days of school because of illness than do children from less economically and socially disadvantaged populations.¹

They are also more likely to be hungry and have problems with vision, oral health, or hearing.¹ SBHCs can help address these obstacles, which can be critical to students' education and long-term health.

What are School-Based Health Centers?

SBHCs provide primary health services to students in grades K-12 and may be offered on-site (school-based centers) or off-site (school-linked centers). SBHCs are often established in schools that serve predominantly low-income communities. SBHCs may have the following characteristics:

- A single clinician providing primary care services or a multi-disciplinary team providing comprehensive services
- Mental health care, social services, dentistry, and health education
- Ability to extend services to school staff, student family members, and others within the surrounding community.

Major Findings

SBHCs led to improved educational outcomes including school performance, grade promotion, and high school completion.

SBHCs also led to improved health outcomes including the delivery of vaccinations and other recommended preventive services, and decreases in asthma morbidity, and emergency department and hospital admission rates.

Learn More

Summary of Evidence and Task Force Finding

www.thecommunityguide.org/healthequity/education/schoolbasedhealthcenters.html

Improving Environments for Health & Health Equity

thrive.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/improving-environments-for-health-and-health-equity.html

CDC, Office of Minority Health & Health Equity

www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/OMHHE.html

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) is an independent, nonfederal, unpaid body of public health and prevention experts. It is congressionally mandated to identify community preventive programs, services, and policies that save American lives and dollars, increase longevity, and improve quality of life. The Community Guide is a collection of all the evidence-based findings and recommendations of this Task Force. Find more information at www.thecommunityguide.org.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides administrative, research, and technical support for the Community Preventive Services Task Force.

¹Bloom B, Jones LI, Freeman G. Summary health statistics for U.S. children: National Health Interview Survey, 2012. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat. 2013; 10(258).