

# School-Based Health Centers

## Grown-ups and kids agree...

*...that SBHCs are an important way to provide health services to kids.*

### KIDS



AND

### ADULTS



### In a 2007 patient satisfaction survey:

- Students say their health has improved because of their SBHC.
- Students say they miss less class time when they use their SBHC.

### In a 2005 Statewide Opinion Survey:

- Oregonians overwhelmingly agree that all 12 of the major health services provided by SBHCs in Oregon are important.
- Even with Oregon's diverse experiences and geography, every region of the state supports health care in Oregon schools.

*Turn the page to learn more about what Oregonians say about SBHCs...*

*"I really learned a lot about HIV/AIDS by working with the Health Center. We put up posters and spread information throughout the school about how HIV/AIDS is affecting people. I wouldn't have known that the African American population is at most risk of getting AIDS here in America, if I hadn't worked with the Health Center."*

– Student, Jefferson HS, Portland

## What Kids Say:

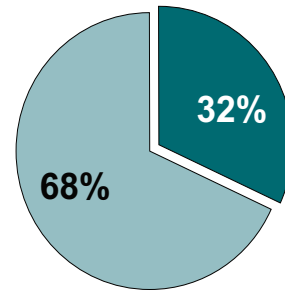
Students report they miss less class time when using an SBHC than if they had to access care elsewhere.

SBHCs see students who otherwise would not receive health care. 68 percent of students stated they are unlikely to otherwise receive health care because they don't have access, or they just won't go.

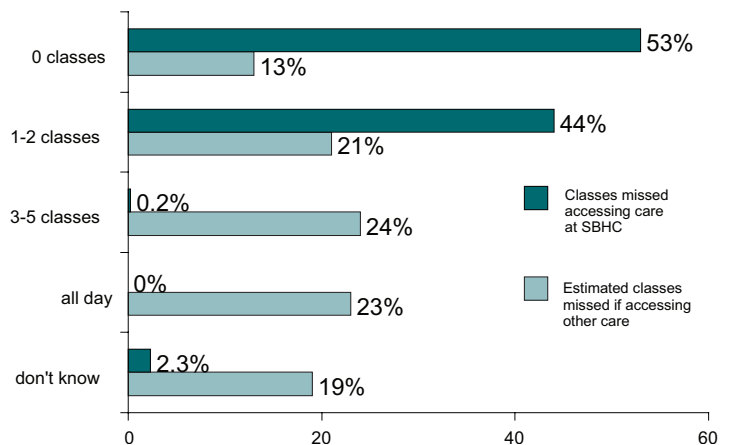
Kids vote with their heart: 99 percent of students said they are comfortable receiving health care at the SBHC.

**Methodology:** Data is from the 2007 annual Patient Satisfaction survey where clients from 34 Oregon SBHCs were asked to report on the health care they received at the SBHC.

Students report likelihood of receiving care if their school did not have an SBHC



Comparison of classes missed accessing health care



## If you are thinking of starting a new SBHC – or expanding school health services – here are some good reasons why you should:

### ■ **Because Oregonians have spoken.**

There is overwhelming support among parents and non-parents to provide health services in schools.

*Oregon BRFSS Survey, 2005*

### ■ **Healthy kids learn better.**

Research consistently supports the links between health and academic success. In Oregon, students who reported better physical and/or emotional health were much more likely to have A's or B's. Students with poorer health were more likely to report C's, D's or F's.

*Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 2006*

### ■ **Kids vote with their feet.**

SBHCs provide students with access to health care. Students are likely to access and utilize SBHC services regardless of insurance status.

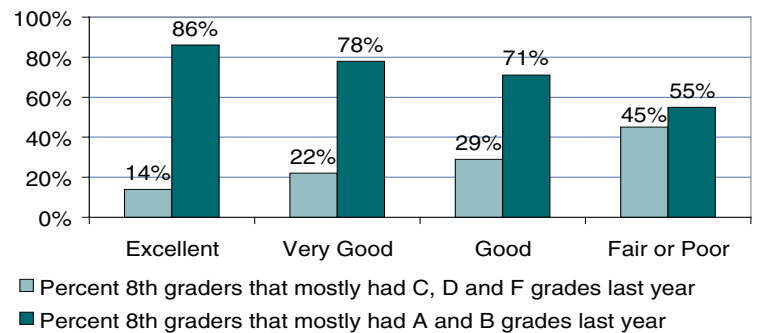
*Oregon SBHC Medical Encounter Data, 2006–07*

### ■ **Health care costs are saved.**

SBHCs have an impact on reducing more expensive forms of health care (e.g. emergency room use and hospitalizations).

*National Assembly on School-Based Health Care, 2007*

Would you say that in general your emotional and mental health is...?

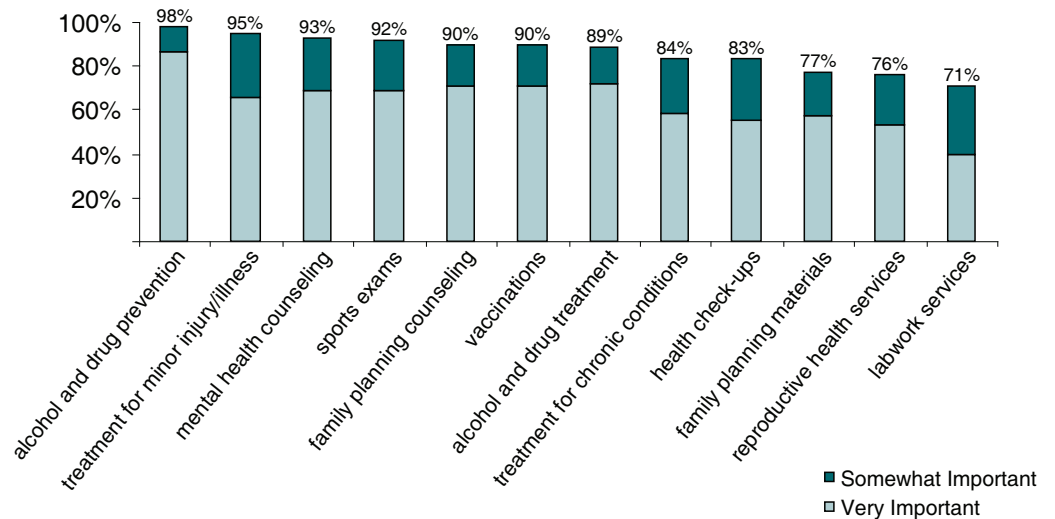


Oregon Healthy Teens 2006

## What Adults Say:

- On average, Oregonians rated 10 of the 12 health services as “Somewhat or Very Important.”
- The top two services receiving the most “very important or somewhat important” votes are, alcohol and drug prevention and treatment for minor injuries/illnesses.
- There were no differences in responses between five different geographical regions in Oregon. This means equal support exists for health care in schools across Oregon’s unique geographical settings.
- Support for health care services in schools was slightly higher among those who are uninsured, make less money, have a child at home, have equal to or less than 12 years of education, and be of a race/ethnicity other than white.

Percent of respondents rating SBHC services as very or somewhat important



**Methodology:** In 2005, the Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a statewide random digit dial public opinion survey, was conducted of adults to ask questions about the importance of providing health care services in a school-based setting. Survey data is weighted to be representative of all Oregonians.

\*Two out of three American voters agree that school based health centers are important, based upon a public opinions survey supported by the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC). – *NASBHC National Survey* <http://www.nasbhc.org/index.html>

*“Students use the SBHC. The reason is they can get answers and help there. It is easily accessible. If the clinic can’t give the treatment the student needs, the staff will find them a place that can, for free. As a result, students do seek treatment for a wide range of ailments, for everything from STDs to depression to substance abuse.”*

– Health Teacher, Grant HS, Portland

*“When students have quick accessible health care and their medical needs are met, they are more likely to be in school and attending class everyday.”*

– Health Education Consultant

To obtain more information on the BRFSS public opinion survey or about School-Based Health Centers contact the Oregon School-Based Health Center Program, Office of Family Health, Adolescent Health Section, Public Health Division at 971-673-0252.



**Oregon Department of Human Services**

Public Health Division  
Office of Family Health  
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 825  
Portland, OR 97232

