

# **School-Based Health Centers**



## **Sustaining Access to Care for Oregon's Youth**

**2005 Status Report**



## **School-Based Health Center (SBHC) Fast Facts<sup>1</sup> Combined Service years 2002-2004**

43 Centers in 14 Counties

- 26 High Schools
- 9 Middle Schools
- 8 Elementary Schools

3 new counties received state funds to start new SBHCs.

Oregon SBHCs served 34,904 clients in 148,312 visits.

Service years 2002-2004 experienced a temporary loss of funding and later reinstatement resulting in incomplete data sets as school-based health centers closed and re-opened.

***“...I don’t simply want more insurance for children. I want more health care for children. This means supporting and strengthening Oregon’s health care safety net...comprised of entities like federally funded health centers...rural health clinics, and school-based health centers. The safety net compliments the health care offered through public and private insurance, by providing comprehensive primary care to individuals regardless of ability to pay.”***

–GOVERNOR TED KULONGOSKI

Benefit Lunch for Children First for Oregon, November 6, 2003

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***“School-based health centers are a first line of defense for the health of children. We need to increase and enhance support of these centers where kids can be treated for injuries, illnesses and emotional problems.”***

–SENATOR GORDON SMITH

Benefit Lunch for Children First for Oregon, November 3, 2004

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***“...SBHCs promote health and prevention. We need to look at ways to strengthen SBHCs...”***

–SPEAKER COMMENTS

Benefit Lunch for Children First for Oregon, November 3, 2004

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<sup>1</sup>2002-2003 Service year: 17,409 clients and 79,650 visits. 2003-2004 Service year: 16,995 clients and 67,092 visits.

## Impact of Funding Loss and Reinstatement

State funding for SBHCs and the state program office was eliminated in February 2003 as a result of the popular vote failure of Measure 28<sup>1</sup>. There were significant implications reported in October 2003 as a result of the loss of funding.

- Seven SBHCs closed their doors to all students. Five have since reopened.
- Seventy-five percent of the Oregon state-funded SBHCs experienced staff lay-offs.
- Sixty-six percent of all SBHCs were forced to make operational changes, including reduction in hours or days open.
- Including the centers that closed, 25% of all SBHCs eliminated mental health services.



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***“The communities that were state funded and had a single school-based clinic were hit hardest. Four of these centers all had to close their doors. These are all mostly places where health care access is difficult.”***

—Oregon School-Based Health Care Network (OSBHCN)

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- All 3 staff positions in the state program office responsible for direct support and technical assistance of Oregon SBHCs were eliminated. The office was fully restored as of August 2004.
- During service years 2002-2004, final encounter data sets were not collected from sites due to SBHC state program office closure. Data for the 2004–2005 service year is now being collected.

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***“We lost the state program office support and technical assistance who were moving forward with OSBHCN to build a system of financial sustainability for school-based health centers.”*** —OSBHCN

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<sup>1</sup>Funds were reinstated August 2003.

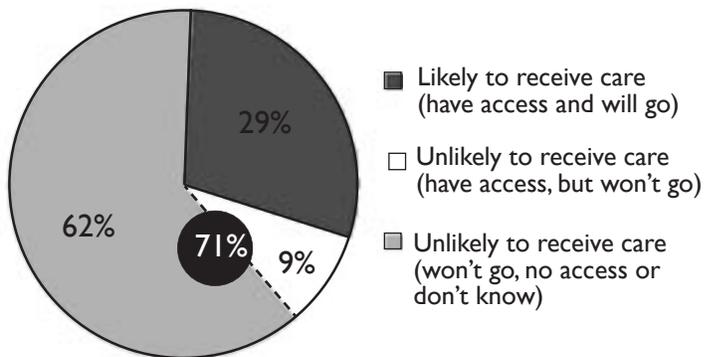
## Why School-Based Health Centers?



### ✓ Students have improved access to health care.

In October 2004, at the annual Oregon School-Based Health Care Network Institute, national and local Insurance Roundtable panelists recognized SBHCs as an important piece of healthcare delivery. As part of Oregon's Safety Net, SBHCs see children who otherwise would not get care.

### Students report likelihood of receiving care<sup>1</sup>



**Seventy-one percent of SBHC clients reported they were unlikely to receive care outside of the SBHC.**

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***"It was overwhelming [when the center closed in 2003]. There was no way to get medical attention without missing school or paying for doctor visits, etc., especially for people without health insurance...I am hoping to see the health center stay open for quite a while so that others may have the opportunity that I have had."*** –SBHC Client

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### ✓ Students receive prevention messages.

The SBHC model presents opportunities for clients to receive prevention messages on a variety of topics ranging from the dangers of tobacco, drugs or alcohol to the benefits of getting exercise and eating healthy.

- Seventy-four percent of clients reported they received one or more prevention messages and 48% reported they received two or more messages while visiting an SBHC.
- Thirty-one percent of clients reported they received three or more prevention messages and 15% reported they received four or more messages while visiting an SBHC.
- Forty-five percent of clients reported the center staff discussed making safe choices about sex.
- Thirty-six percent of clients reported the center staff discussed feeling sad or angry.

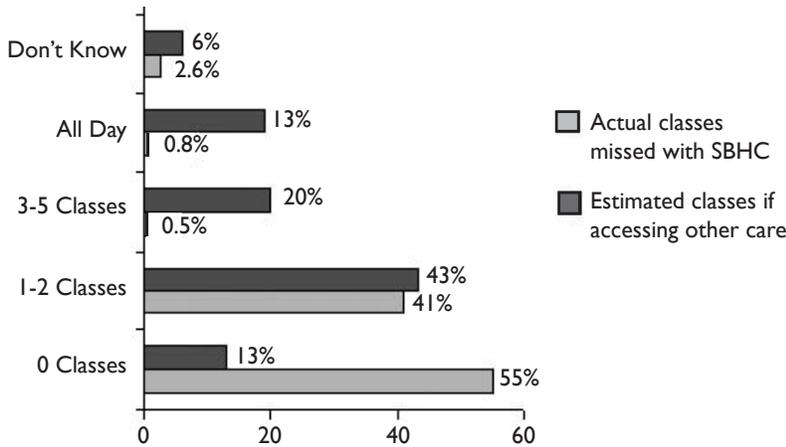
# Why School-Based Health Centers?

✓ **Students miss less class time.**

Students visiting a SBHC return to the classroom faster than if they had gone elsewhere for care (and parents don't have to miss work!).



**Comparison of classes missed when accessing health care<sup>1</sup>**



**Eighty-one percent of SBHC clients estimated they would miss one class or more if they had to access care outside of the center, while 55% reported they did not miss one class while using the center.**

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***[When the center closed in 2003...] “There was no safe place for me to go. I had to take time out of my school schedule and miss classes to go to my doctor. I was constantly missing class time and my grades suffered.”***  
 –SBHC Client

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✓ **SBHCs put medical expertise in the schools.**

Other school personnel are relieved of the need to address medical issues for which they are not trained, and schools avoid the liability of potentially unlicensed personnel handling medical issues.

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***“It is because of the School-Based Health Center that my medical condition was caught before I went into a diabetic coma. If it hadn't been for the convenience of the health center location, I would have probably been in a coma before my family even realized that I was a diabetic.”***  
 –SBHC Client

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<sup>1</sup>SBHC Patient Satisfaction Survey 2001-2002

# Oregon SBHC Partners

Creating a foundation for healthy schools and healthier kids



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## **Additional Information**

Department of Human Services Web site:  
[www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ah/](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ah/)

Oregon School-Based Health Care Network Web site:  
[www.osbhc.org/](http://www.osbhc.org/)

National Assembly of School-Based Health Care Web site:  
[www.nasbhc.org/](http://www.nasbhc.org/)

Healthy Kids Learn Better Web site:  
[www.hklb.org/](http://www.hklb.org/)

The Center for Health and Healthcare in Schools Web site:  
[www.healthinschools.org/](http://www.healthinschools.org/)



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