



SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES



These services are designed to ensure access or referral to primary health care services or both, foster appropriate use of primary health care services, prevent and control communicable disease and other health problems, provide emergency care for illness or injury, promote and provide optimum sanitary conditions for a safe school facility and school environment, and provide educational and counseling opportunities for promoting and maintaining individual, family, and community health. Qualified professionals such as physicians, nurses, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel provide these services. ¹

School Health Services positively impacts student achievement by:

- Improving school performance and academic achievement
- Improving high school completion rates
- Lowering juvenile crime
- Increasing school attendance
- Decreasing drop-out and suspension rates
- Increasing graduation rates

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC USE AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE ²

School based health clinics have been successful at: 1) improving adolescent access to health related services; 2) increasing utilization of health care, especially for low income minority youth with limited access to other care; 3) familiarizing students with the health care system; and 4) identifying and treating adolescent health problems. Absenteeism and drop-out rates decreased with the social support and services provided. Increased graduation rates among students who registered and used the school-based clinic were also reported.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION IS EFFECTIVE ³

To determine the effects of early childhood interventions on educational achievement and juvenile arrest, low income, urban youth were evaluated 15 years following early childhood education programs. Children who were enrolled in pre-school interventions for one or two years completed high school at higher rates; had lower rates of juvenile and violent arrests; and had lower drop-out rates. Students enrolled in early childhood education programs were also less likely to be retained a grade level or need special education services.

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINICS AND ABSENTEEISM ⁴

A retrospective review of four Michigan schools from 1982 – 1994 found that schools with a school-based health clinic had a reduction of absenteeism when compared to schools without a school-based health clinic. Schools with clinics showed a lower mean absentee rate nine of the 12 years reviewed. The three years with higher rates of absenteeism were influenced by outside factors.

REFERENCES

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