



School-Based Health Centers in Washington State

Overview for
Edmonds School District
and
Verdant Health

July 2021



Washington School-Based Health Alliance

Our mission:

Advance and advocate for school-based health care to ensure the health and academic success of children and youth statewide

- Since 2010
- State affiliate of the National School-Based Health Alliance
- www.wasbha.org
- Contact: Sandy Lennon, Executive Director, slennon@wasbha.org



Advancing Health Care in Schools

School-Based Health Centers Defined

What is a school-based health center (SBHC)?

- A SBHC is a **student-focused health center** located in or adjacent to a school where students can receive **integrated medical, behavioral health, and other healthcare services such as dental care.**
- A SBHC is a collaboration between the community, the school and a **healthcare sponsor.**
- The healthcare sponsor can be a community clinic or healthcare system, hospital, public health department, or tribal program. The **sponsor staffs and manages operations of the SBHC.**





Advancing Health Care in Schools

SBHC Services

Integrated Physical, Mental and Other Healthcare services

- Preventive well-child care & sports physicals
- Immunizations
- Screenings (depression, SBIRT for substance abuse)
- Chronic disease management
- Acute care
- Reproductive health care
- Mental & behavioral health counseling
- Preventive and primary dental care
- Health education
- Care coordination



Youth-Based Population Health and Preventive Services

- Student support and counseling groups
- Health education in classrooms

Community-Based Population Health & Preventive Services

- Attend family-oriented school events and resource fairs
- Facilitate/support parent groups
- Coordinate with other community resources

School Coordination and Engagement Services

- Coordinate with school staff and administration for student support
- Support teachers and school staff with health expertise and resources

Common SBHC Staffing Model

Core staffing:

- Primary care provider: PA or ARNP
- Mental health provider: LISW or LMHC
- Clinic coordinator

Other staffing for e.g.:

- Dental care
- Substance abuse counseling
- Health & nutrition education

Benefits of SBHCs

School-based health centers:

- **Increase attendance** by providing services on campus so students miss less class time for appointments and illness
- **Reduce barriers to learning** by improving student health with preventive care, chronic care, and early interventions in students' physical, mental and developmental health
- **Increase school connectedness** by providing mental health services and coordinating with other student support services in the school
- **Engage parents and community** by providing information and services for the physical and emotional development of their children
- **Save parents and employers time** by allowing students to stay in school to get their health care needs met
- **Support teachers and school staff** by coordinating to support individual students and helping with health promotion and education schoolwide
- **Lower health care costs** by reducing emergency room visits and hospitalizations

SBHC Model of Care

- A youth-centered, whole-child approach
- Integration with the school
- Coordination with families, school nurse, school counselors, and other school staff
- Coordination of care with other providers in the community



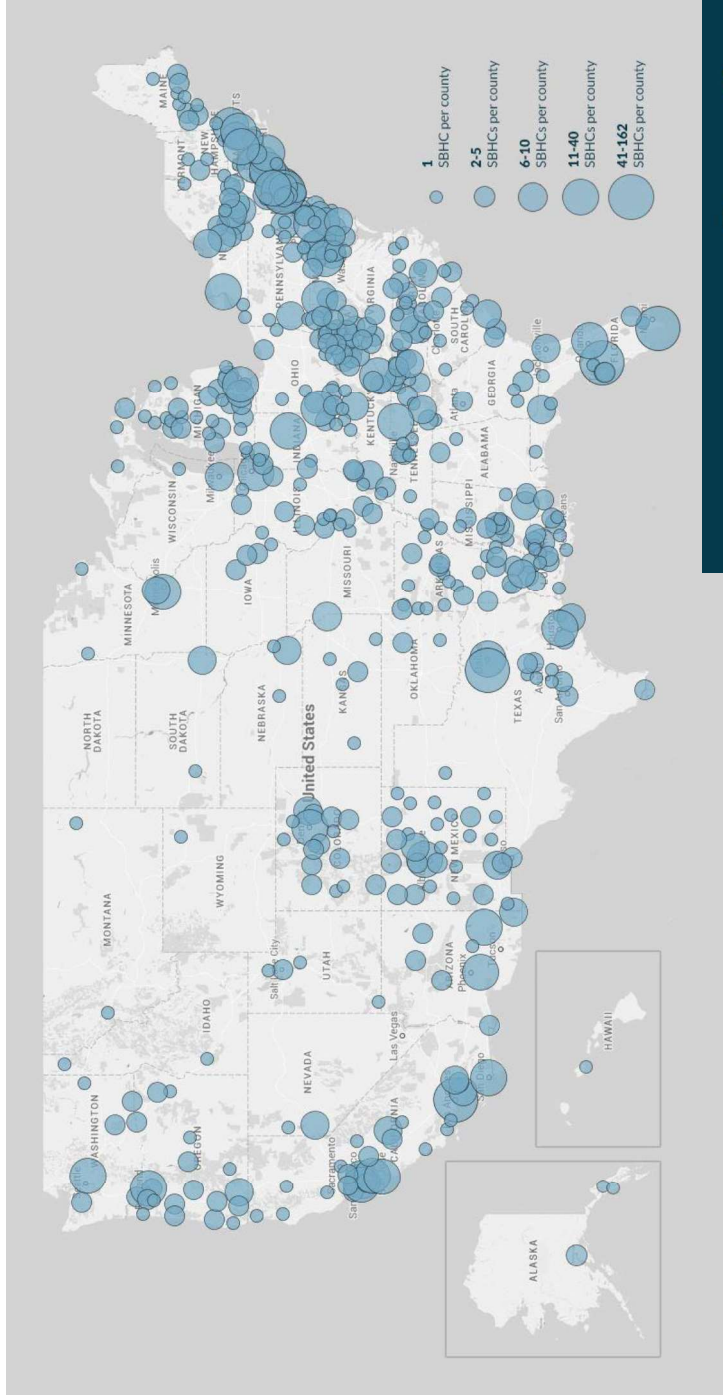
Sample SBHC Utilization Data

King County, 2019-2020

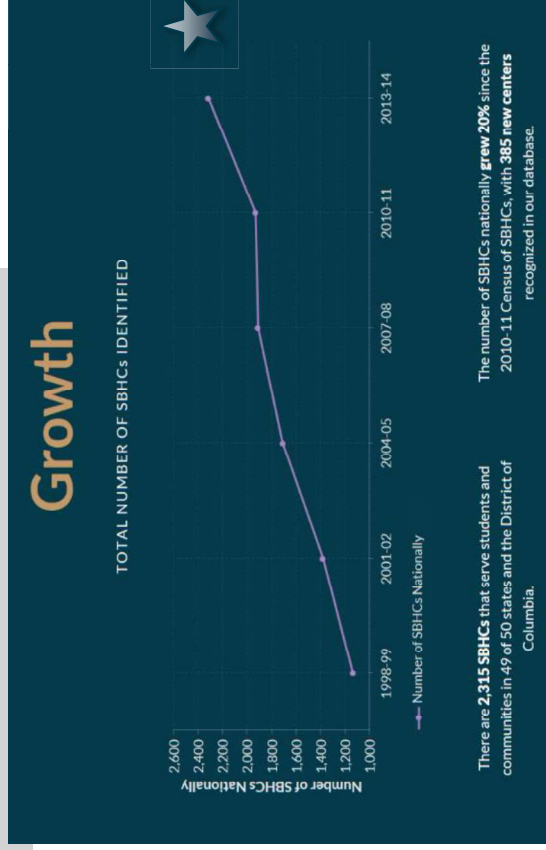
2019-2020 School Year <i>(with COVID impacts in spring 2020)</i>	Medical Users	Mental Health Users	Other Users	Total Users	Medical Visits	Mental Health Visits
All 32 SBHC sites in King County	7,024	2,310	94	8,203	18,356	13,529

School-Based Health Centers Across the U.S.

National Census Map 2013-2014



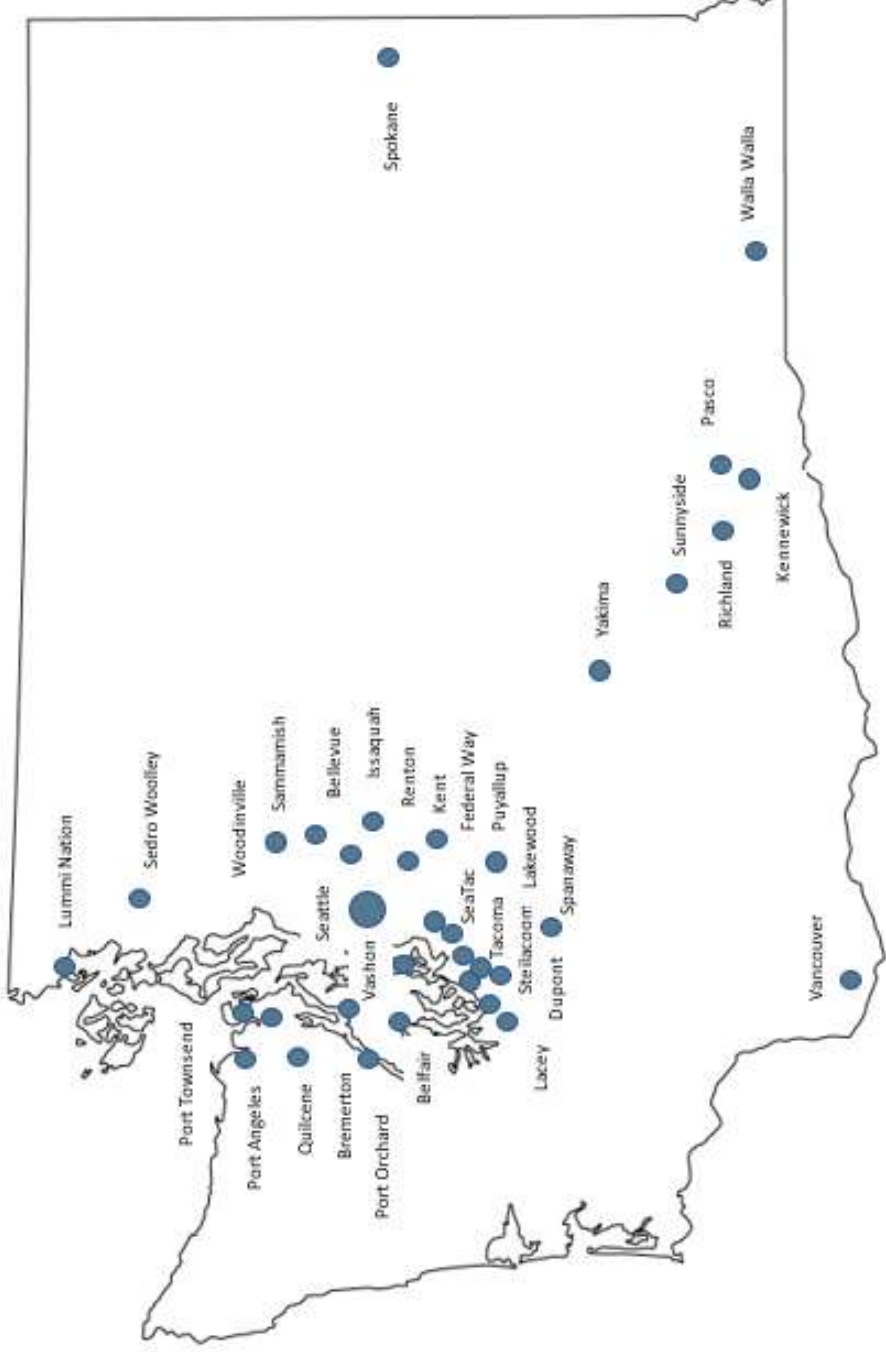
1998-1999 Census Total: 1,135
 2013-2014 Census Total: 2,315
 2016-2017 Census Total: 2,584





Advancing Health Care in Schools

School-Based Health Centers in Washington



1988: first SBHC in WA opened as a pilot at Rainier Beach High School in Seattle
2021: 60 Medical+ SBHCs (plus 9 additional sites for students of military families)

Sources of SBHC funding in Washington

Capital funding provided by, for example:

- School districts, in consideration of the benefit to the district
- Local levies
- State capital budget
- Federal funding, e.g. HRSA
- Healthcare sponsor contributions to SBHC renovation
- Private donor and local business contributions

Operational funding provided by, for example:

- Medicaid and third-party insurance billing
- Local levies
- Federal funding, e.g. HRSA
- Community benefit contributions of larger hospital or healthcare systems
- Private grants and donations
- In-kind support of school districts

- **In process:** State grant funding provided through the Washington State Department of Health following passage of House Bill 1225 in 2021

SBHC Work Group 2020

In fall 2020, Rep. Monica Stonier convened a SBHC work group in partnership with the Washington School-Based Health Alliance (WA SBHA).

The work group brought together over 30 state-level SBHC stakeholders including legislators from both parties, state agencies, and associations representing families, schools and health care. The work group identified challenges to the expansion and sustainability of the SBHC model statewide and opportunities to address these challenges.

House Bill 1225 introduced this year was the first step in advancing the recommendations identified by the work group.

HB 1225 Concerning school- based health centers: PASSED in 2021

HB 1225 creates a state program office for SBHCs at the Department of Health that will provide SBHC planning, start-up and operating grants; monitor and evaluate grantees; partner with a statewide nonprofit organization to provide SBHC training and technical assistance; and help coordinate with other state agencies and entities in support of SBHCs in collaboration with local communities.

COVID Impacts

Increased inequities in both health & education

Students and families have increased need for:

- Behavioral health support
- Physical health care e.g. deferred well-child care & immunizations

Schools have increased need for:

- School-based student supports so teachers can teach and students can learn