

Raise Awareness with these answers about School Based Health Centers

1. We are here to **kick off Advocacy Day** and let you know the benefits of providing quality health care in school. We are in our 26th year of SBHCs in Oregon.
2. An SBHC is **like having a doctor's office** in school. The location makes it easy to access health care and to follow up when necessary.
3. SBHCs reduce barriers to accessing health care, like lack of **insurance, transportation challenges, distance to provider, availability of providers**
4. School-based health centers provide care to kids who otherwise might not get the care they need. SBHCs provide care **regardless of insurance status or the family's ability to pay.**
5. **SBHCs are prevention focused**, helping to stop or to catch conditions early, before they get costly or do more damage.
 - provide primary health care like well child exams, sports physicals
 - talk to kids about things like preventing obesity and tobacco use
 - help kids deal with grief, peer pressure, bullying and suicidal thoughts
6. SBHCs support education by **keeping kids healthy and in class.**
 - Studies show SBHCs reduce absenteeism, tardiness and school discipline problems
 - 53 percent of students report NO class time missed while using the center
 - 75 percent of students report that without the center they would have missed at least one class to go to a traditional clinic

Quick Facts about SBHCs in Oregon:

- 55 state certified SBHCs in 20 counties in Oregon
- 7 more SBHCs are scheduled to open in 2011
- SBHCs served nearly 24,000 students in 69,000 visits in the 2009-2010 school year
- SBHCs are located in elementary, middle and high schools
- 64% of SBHC patients surveyed reported that they would not have received health services that day without the school-based health center