

Because student health means student success

Research shows that healthy children are at a lower risk for school problems than unhealthy students. Simply put: Students with good health tend to perform better in school than those with poor health.¹

Problems that come with poor health include a higher probability of school failure, poor levels of concentration, grade retention and dropout. But health is a complex and elusive concept, and it's often shrouded by assumptions and unknowns. That means that understanding the relationship between health and student achievement is critical — and that makes The L.A. Trust Data xChange so important.

“Data xChange gives us a baseline for future conversations and strategic planning.”

Pia V. Escudero
Executive Director
LAUSD Student Health and Human Services

We need insights, especially now

The L.A. Trust Data xChange is a first-in-the-nation initiative that links health and wellness data from students and community members with achievement factors such as attendance, grades and graduation rates from the country's second largest school district, Los Angeles Unified.

It contains more than 5 million records from 2015 forward and provides critical data to the LAUSD's network of 16 Wellness Centers, which received approximately 230,000 visits over the past five years and more than 54,000 visits in 2019-2020 alone.

These insights have never been more critical. Eighty-four percent of L.A. Unified's nearly 600,000 students live at or below the poverty line² and many receive inadequate or infrequent healthcare. Only 77% of its students graduate on time.³

The COVID crisis

Meanwhile, preventative health initiatives are being defunded and the COVID-19 crisis has put strains on an already overtaxed and inadequate student and community healthcare system.⁴

The Wellness Centers supported by The L.A. Trust Data xChange received more than 12,000 visits during

the initial three months of the pandemic, most from Black and Latinx patients in underserved communities.

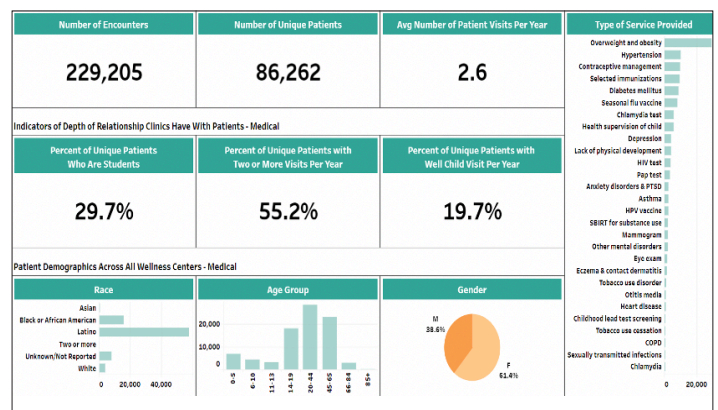
Connecting the dots to find solutions

The L.A. Trust Data xChange is foundational, scalable and actionable. It was designed to interoperate with other systems and databases and includes such metrics such as number of visits, unduplicated patients, co-morbid conditions, demographics and differences between the services received by students and community members.

The database also tracks services provided as well as benchmarks on key performance standards, including risk

assessments, well-child exams, BMI screening, chlamydia tests and depression screening. Datasets on mental and oral health are currently being added. This will create valuable insights on how patients receive integrated services that include physical health, mental health and oral health needs.

When hundreds of thousands of anonymized encounter records are linked to achievement factors such as attendance, grades and graduation rates, the database will be a game-changer, enabling healthcare providers, educators and other decision makers to find solutions and focus resources.



Data xChange reports like these are distributed to decision makers. Researchers can also access the database.

How it works, how it helps

The L.A. Trust Data xChange is a robust, secure database that integrates academic data from the Los Angeles Unified School District and wellness data from its 16 Student and Family Wellness Centers. The scale and ambition of The Data xChange is unique nationwide.

It provides regular reports to clinics, school district decision makers and funders. Data xChange is secured and HIPAA and FERPA compliant, and all reports show aggregated and anonymous results so there is no risk of identification of individuals.

“Imagine what we will be able to do for our kids and communities with The L.A. Trust Data xChange.”

Dr. Ron Tanimura
Director, LAUSD
Student Health Services

The benefits

The L.A. Trust Data xChange has a broad range of benefits and beneficiaries. It will:

- Enable The L.A. Trust and its partners to target prevention education, including student engagement and community outreach.
- Provide benchmark data to help Wellness Center operators improve outcomes.
- Help funders and partners direct resources
- Enable Los Angeles Unified and other agencies to identify areas of greatest need.
- Help L.A.'s student healthcare community coordinate activities and find common solutions.

1. Health, Academic Achievement and School-Based Interventions, published by Thomas Matingwina, September 19, 2018.

2. California School Dashboard, 2019.

3. School year 2019, California Department of Education.

4. Coronavirus threatens South L.A. clinic that's long been a lifeline for the working poor, Los Angeles Times, April 24, 2020.

About The L.A. Trust

The L.A. Trust was established in 1991 by the Los Angeles Board of Education to support its school-based health centers and improve the health of L.A. Unified students and their families. In 2001, we became an independent 501 (c)3, but we continue our close relationship and unflagging support for this vital student healthcare system.

The L.A. Trust is the backbone health entity for student health in Los Angeles, bridging the gap between L.A. Unified, community clinics, mental health providers, advocacy groups and program partners to tackle collaboratively the urgent issues affecting the lives of young people, including substance use prevention, mental health, nutrition, oral health, HPV prevention and sexual and reproductive health.

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Essential Access Health

Kaiser Permanente

L.A. Care Health Plan

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

UniHealth Foundation



**The Los Angeles Trust
for Children's Health**
Putting the care in student healthcare

thelatrust.org #trustyouth

