The Impact of School-Based Health Centers

Reporting health and academic insights in L.A. Unified to achieve student wellness and success

2015-2021

The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Data xChange

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The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health

A message from the Executive Director

During the COVID-19 pandemic, L.A. Unified Wellness Centers have been at the forefront of providing healthcare to students, families and community members at increased risk due to healthcare and social inequities. And The L.A. Trust has been at the forefront supporting this effort.

In the 2020-2021 school year, the number of clinics participating in the L.A. Trust Data xChange grew from 11 to 20. The nine clinics that remained open received a total of 104,000 visits from 32,000 patients — just 10% less than 2019-2020. They received 7% more adult and community member visits, proving that school-based healthcare played a vital role in community healthcare during the pandemic.

There are many more school-based health clinics in LAUSD whose data is not being captured — yet. The L.A. Trust is working with L.A. Unified and other community partners to access this data and get a more complete look at the impact of school-based health centers across L.A.

In addition to expanding in size, The L.A. Trust Data xChange is expanding in scope. LAUSD's Welligent electronic medical record system houses behavioral health data along with other behavioral health EMRs among community providers — gaining access to this data will shed light on the mental health crisis facing our students.

Since 2006, there has been a 104% increase in inpatient visits for suicide and self-injury in children ages 1-17, and the social isolation and economic insecurity resulting from COVID-19 is compounding the crisis.* It is paramount that we gain insight into this crisis and find ways to get our kids the behavioral health support they need.

The L.A. Trust has received significant funding for the next two years from the W.M. Keck Foundation, Cedars-Sinai and Kaiser Permanente to expand our Data xChange to include mental health data and the other remaining L.A. Unified school-based health centers.

We are also studying how health issues impact student attendance and graduation (to find out what we're learning, look on page 7).

The L.A. Trust Data xChange continues to gain traction (there's a timeline of key milestones on page 10). We are also working on National Institute of Health grants that would help us expand the use of the Data xChange to other clinics.

We are proud to share our progress with you in this report and look forward to your continued support as we bridge health and education to achieve student wellness, together.

Maryjane Puffer
Executive Director
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health

Healing Centered Schools: Financing Justice and Equity at the Nexus of Public Health and Public Education, California Children's Trust, 2020.

Access to care

L.A. Unified Wellness Centers are full-service clinics providing care where it's needed most.

In the past six years, Wellness Centers and other LAUSD School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) have provided care to 188,666 unique patients through 615,031 visits.

Patients visit three times a year on average, showing they consider these clinics a trusted source of care.

615,031 VISITS

188,666 PATIENTS

since July 2015

3

VISITS PER PATIENT

Clinics are the healthcare home for thousands

Coping with COVID-19

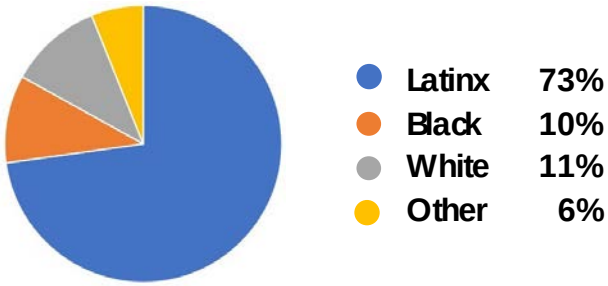
Nine clinics, including Carson, Crenshaw, Fremont, Garfield, Jefferson, Maclay, Manual Arts, Sun Valley and Washington Prep, remained open during the pandemic.

- From March 2020 through December 2021, these nine clinics had over 4,000 COVID diagnoses and administered more than 6,000 COVID vaccines within their service network.
- St. John's Community Health administered over 91,000 COVID vaccines outside their service network through their five school-based clinics. Other clinic operators provided vaccines outside their service network as well. We will be collecting this data from each clinic operator.
- A UCLA analysis of our data showed that Wellness Centers continued to play a critical role during the pandemic-related school closures. Despite school closures, the proportion of visits for mental health and well child exams increased, showing that clinics remained a critical access point for preventive and mental health care.

Demographics

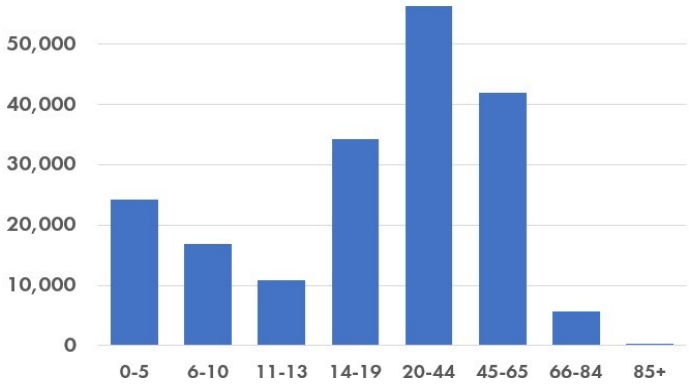
Wellness Centers are specifically designed to serve not just students, but their families and community members, too. These clinics serve a diverse population and are deeply committed to health equity — they turn away no one.

Race



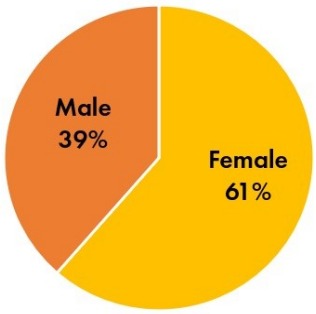
Latinx patients made up the largest proportion of patients over the past six years. This reflects LAUSD's student population —73% of students enrolled in LAUSD schools in the 2020-21 school year were Latinx.

Age



Wellness Centers provide intergenerational care to families and community members, while SBHCs primarily serve students ages 5-19.

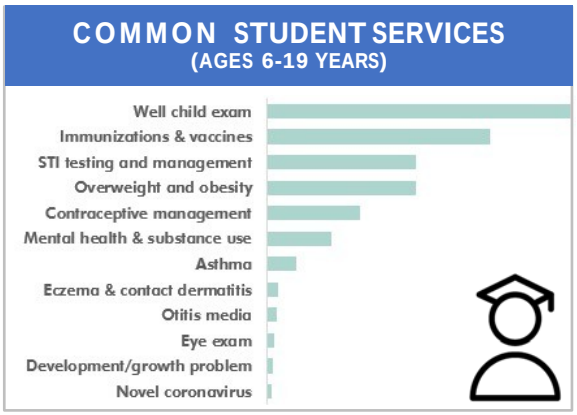
Gender

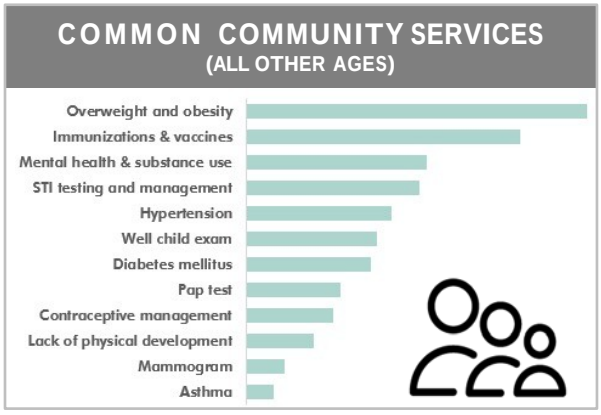


More females visit the Wellness Centers and SBHCs than males. Among student-aged patients 6-19 years old, the proportion of males increases to 43%.

Services

Healthcare is fundamental right for all children. The school-based health clinics in L.A. Unified help students access the care they need. Wellness Centers and SBHCs play an important role in promoting positive lifelong behaviors, reducing the risk of chronic disease later in life. Establishing healthy behaviors in children is more effective than changing behaviors as adults.





Most services to students focus on prevention while services for community members focus on both prevention and chronic disease management. Compared to previous years, visits for vaccines, testing and management of sexually transmitted infections and mental health were more common among both students and community members. For example, visits for mental health and substance use are now the third most common service for community members. Compared to the previous 5 years, visits for mental health problems increased from 3.7% of all visits to 10.0% of all visits for student-aged patients and from 8.1% of all visits to13.5% of all visits for all other age groups.

Attendance and health

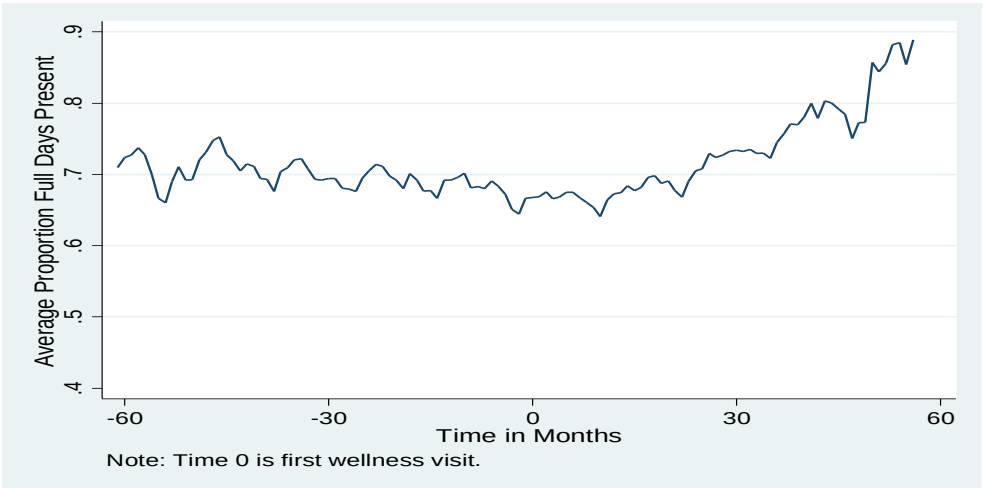
The L.A. Trust Data xChange is the first known database in the nation that combines student health and academic data on a regular basis, not just a one-time study. Attendance data from 2015—2021 is now in the Data xChange and reports on the relationship between attendance and types of medical services received are being generated and are under review. These reports will provide actionable insights to health programs at schools.

In an in-depth analysis of attendance and student health data, we compared the proportion of full-days present at school each month during the school years before students' first visit to a school-based health center to the attendance after the first visit to the school-based health center.

Visiting a school-based health center was associated with increase in school attendance.

On average, the proportion of full days present in school was declining for students before their first school-based health center visit. After the first visit to a school-based health center, the proportion of full days present increased over time. Students' attendance increased by 5.4 school days per year following any type of visit to a school-based health center. Students' attendance increased by 7 school days per year after a school-based health center visit for a mental health diagnosis.

Proportion of Full Days Present Over Time Relative to the First Visit to a School-Based Health Center



Future insights: Graduation rates, homelessness, foster youth and English learners

The Data xChange will add graduation rates and data about children experiencing homelessness, foster youth and English-language learners beginning next year. This data will provide insights on the relationship between clinical issues and graduation rates, and provide health equity insights on special populations of youth who may lack access to care outside of the school setting.

Mental health

There's a growing crisis in child and adolescent mental health, as these pre-pandemic metrics illustrate. Organizations like Cedars-Sinai, Kaiser Permanente and the W. M. Keck Foundation are aware of the magnitude of this crisis and have granted The L.A. Trust funding to collect data and provide insights on student mental health in Los Angeles.

The L.A. Trust launched a Student Mental Health Initiative in late 2020 and established a Youth Mental Health Collaborative in 2021 to bring agencies, experts, educators and students together to find solutions and eliminate barriers to care. We are in discussions with L.A. Unified Student Health & Human Services and have begun to work with third-party mental health providers who operate on school campuses to bring vital mental health data into the Data xChange.

The growing crisis in children's mental health

104%

Increase in inpatient visits for suicide, suicidal ideation, and self-injury

for children 1-17 years old; 151% increase for children ages 10-14

50%

Increase in mental health hospital days

all children, 2006-2014

61%

Increase in self-reported mental health needs

since 2005

43rd

California ranks near the bottom of 50 states

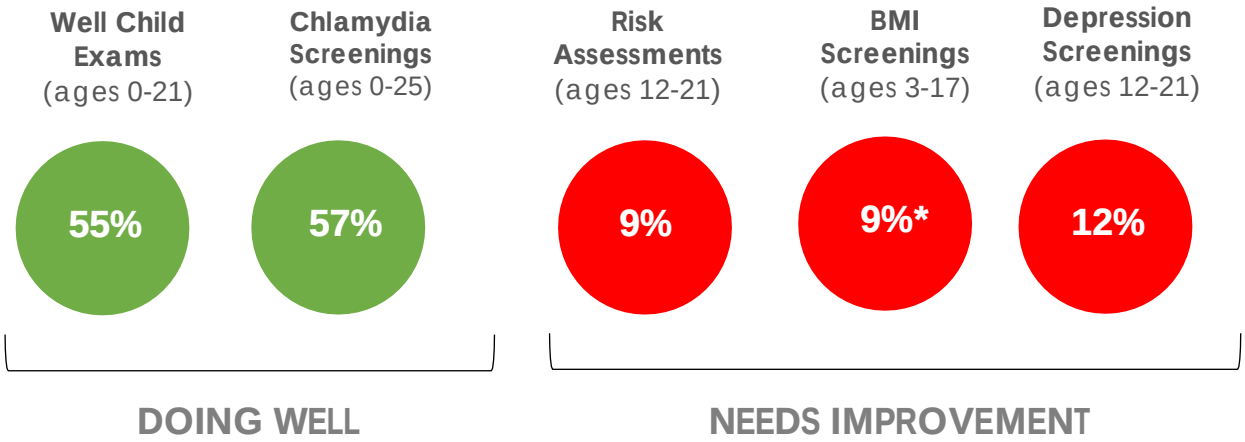
in behavioral, social and development screenings key to identifying early signs of challenges

SOURCE: Healing Centered Schools: Financing Justice and Equity at the Nexus of Public Health and Public Education, California Children's Trust, 2020.

National School-Based Health Performance Measures

The School-Based Health Alliance launched the National Quality Initiative (NQI) in 2016, establishing national standardized performance measures to consistently measure quality of care across all school-based health centers.

The NQI measures align with Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures — the better clinics do at providing and documenting these services, the greater their reimbursements from Medi-Cal and insurance companies. Below is a summary of how 20 L.A. Unified clinics perform on the five national SBHC performance measures.



*Only 9% of those receiving BMI screenings get exercise and nutrition counseling.

Body Mass Index

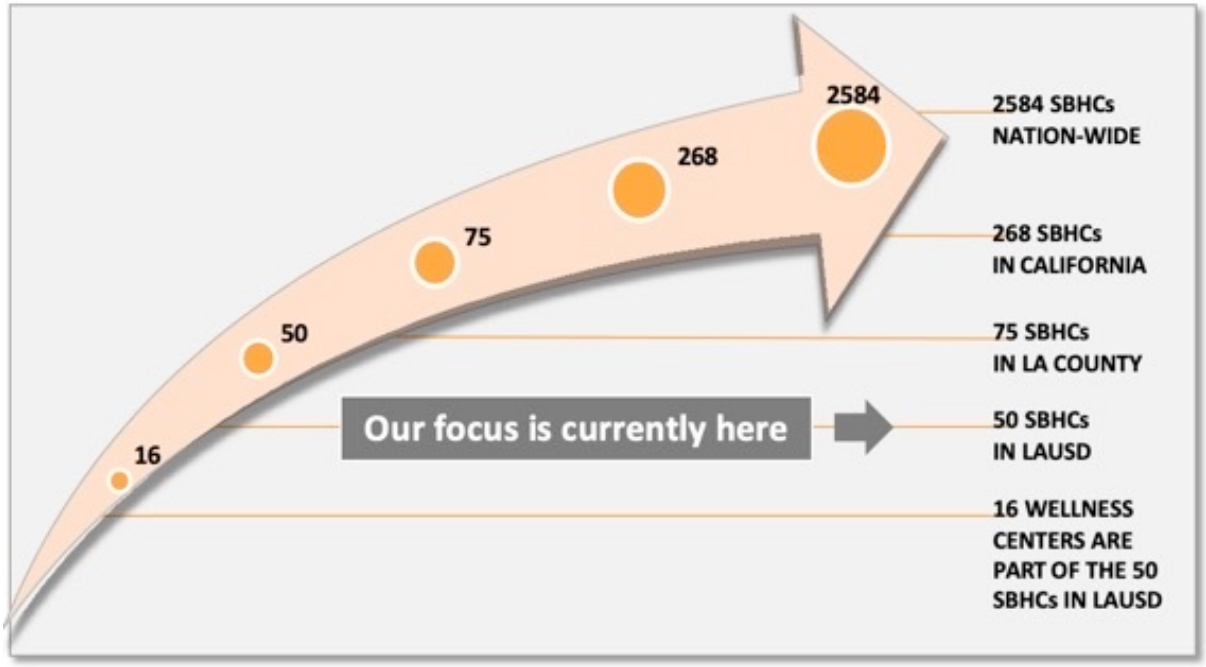
- 47% of all screened patients screened for BMI ages 3-17 are clinically classified as "morbidly obese."
- Only 9% of all screened patients ages 3-17 receive exercise and nutrition counseling.
- We are working with clinics to ensure we accurately capture counseling data from the medical codes used in their EMRs.

Risk and depression screenings

- We need to urgently increase the number of screenings.
- Clinics may be tracking this info outside of their EMRs.
- We aim to get to get more detail on these results in 2022.

SBHCs and The L.A. Trust

There are nearly 2,600 SBHCs in the nation and approximately 50 SBHCs (not including Well Being Centers) in the L.A. Unified School District. It is the goal of the Data xChange to provide a comprehensive view of all SBHCs across the district.



Completed

2018–2021

Integrate 16 Wellness Centers into Data xChange

Short-term goals

2021–2023

Capture and centralize insights on medical, dental and mental health across all 50 SBHCs in LAUSD

Long-term goals

2024–2026

Expand to other school districts, counties and states

Pilot with the national School-Based Health Alliance

The future of The L.A. Trust Data xChange

The goal of The L.A. Trust Data xChange is to be the centralized source of SBHC data in the nation, enabling better research on the impact of student health on academic achievement — and better policy decisions at the local, state and federal levels.

The L.A. Trust will add more insights on the relationship between student health and attendance and graduation rates. And we plan to delve into health equity issues affecting foster youth, English-learners and youth without housing. We look toward L.A. Unified, our partners and potential licensees to help sustain and grow The L.A. Trust Data xChange.

Why school-based healthcare works

SBHCs are effective because they put healthcare where students already spend most of their time – at school. They:

- Offers school-based outreach to students and community members and enhanced to healthcare access.
- Strengthen prevention education and improve population health by connecting clinical care to public health approaches such as group and classroom education, school- wide screenings and prevention programs, and efforts to address the social determinants of health.
- Provide support to students by being present on a daily basis to manage chronic disease, address behavioral health issues, deal with crises, and help students and families access resources.
- Support the school's mission to improve academic achievement by working to address absenteeism, school climate, and classroom behavior and performance.

Research proves what educators intuitively know — that healthier children are better students because they're able to concentrate in class when not distracted by stress, pain. hunger or chronic illness.[1]

The Data xChange supports the CDC Whole Child Approach

Investments in Wellness Centers and The L.A. Trust Data xChange support the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model of health (WSCC) put forth by the Centers for Disease Control.

The WSCC framework is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices.[2]

Data xChange SBHCs

- Carson High
- Crenshaw High
- Jordan High
- Elizabeth Learning Center
- Fremont High
- Garfield High
- Hollywood High
- Jefferson High
- Locke Early Education
- Los Angeles High
- Maclay Middle School
- Manual Arts High
- Metropolitan High
- Nevin Avenue Elementary
- San Fernando Teen Clinic
- San Pedro Elementary
- Santee High
- Sun Valley Health Center
- Wadsworth Elementary

1. Courtesy California School-based Health Alliance. https://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/school-health-centers-in-ca
2. Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscc/index.htm

The L.A. Trust and L.A. Unified: Partners in student health

The Los Angeles Unified School District has been strategically investing school construction bond funds to create full-service medical clinics on school campuses since 2009.

These Wellness Centers are located in the highest-need areas of Los Angeles and are open to students, their families and community members — regardless of ability to pay.

As a trusted partner of L.A. Unified, The L.A. Trust helped recruit and support nonprofit healthcare companies to run these Wellness Centers and continues to support this vital healthcare system.

The 17 Wellness Centers currently operating are part of a broader school-based health center network of more than 50 school-based health centers (SBHCs) in L.A. Unified.

The L.A. Trust Data xChange

The L.A. Trust Data xChange is a HIPAA- and FERPA-compliant database and centralized reporting environment that quantifies the impact of the Wellness Centers, improves resource allocation and makes connections between student health and academic achievement.

The Data xChange is the only known database in the country to integrate student health data with academic data such as attendance, grades and graduation rates.

It's designed to be interoperable with other systems and it easily integrates with different electronic health systems. (The Data xChange reports only "aggregated insights" so no identification of an individual's data is possible.)

Since 2016, The L.A. Trust has raised more than $1.5 million for the development of the Data xChange, which is expanding to include data from a total of 20 Wellness Centers and SBHCs during the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to including all SBHCs in LAUSD going forward.

The vision and promise

The L.A. Trust regularly hosts a countywide Data xChange Expert Advisory Council made up of partners who share our vision. This council guides our health reporting and cultivates a better understanding of our data and insights so that these partners and advocates can better support L.A. Unified students and families.

The mission of The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health is to bridge health and education together to achieve student success. The L.A. Trust Data xChange does literally that. By leveraging data and technology to focus on the health and success of our students, The L.A. Trust Data xChange helps Los Angeles Unified, clinic operators and the community identify concerns, find solutions and direct resources to where they are needed most. It put L.A. Unified, The L.A. Trust and our partners at the forefront of school-based health.

George McKenna	Mónica García	Scott Schmerelson	Nick Melvoin	Jackie Goldberg	Kelly Gonez	Tanya Ortiz Franklin
Board District 1	Board District 2	Board District 3	Board District 4	Board District 5	Board District 6	Board District 7

The L.A. Unified School Board can play a pivotal role

The L.A. Trust Data xChange takes the integration of children's health into our schools beyond brick-and-mortar improvements. By using data and technology to focus on the human side of health and learning, The L.A. Trust helps L.A. Unified make the most of its investments and puts the district in the forefront of school-based healthcare.

Since 2016, The L.A. Trust has independently raised more than $1.5 million for the development of the Data xChange. The Data xChange is a HIPAA- and FERPA-compliant centralized reporting environment that quantifies the impact of school-based health centers, improves resource allocation and supports research that finds key connections between student health and academic achievement.

In addition to the 20 clinics that participate in the Data xChange, there are 30 clinics that are not now part of the Data xChange — these clinics use the district's Welligent electronic medical record system (EMR). Welligent also contains mental health data, provided by district-paid school mental health providers, that is critical to understanding the health and wellness of the whole child.

Increasing reporting from 20 to all 50

The L.A. Trust needs the support of the board to gain access to the district's Welligent EMR system. With access to all 50 SBHCs — including mental health data — The L.A. Trust can provide a complete picture of the impact, reach and services provided across all clinics in L.A. Unified and serve as the barometer of health for all L.A. Unified students.

School-based health center impact

2020-2021

Board District 1

George McKenna

146,813 Visits

49,422 Patients

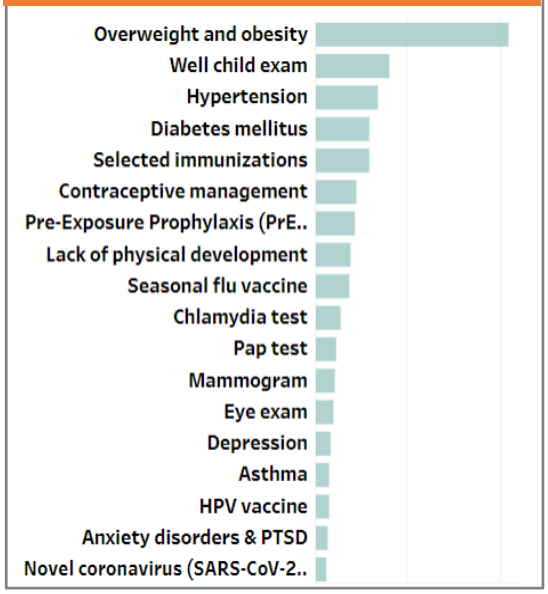
Students and community members since 2015

2.9

Average visits per patient

Indicates these clinics are the medical home for many

Type of services provided



Clinics in Data xChange

Crenshaw High School

Los Angeles High Teen Clinic

Manual Arts High School

Washington Prep High School

Clinics to add

97th Street Mental Health Clinic

Dorsey High School

Hyde Park Elementary *

* Clinic data was added to the Data xChange after this report was developed. As a result, this clinic's data is not included in this report.

School-based health center impact

2020-2021

Board District 2
Mónica García

11,201 Visits

4,320 Patients

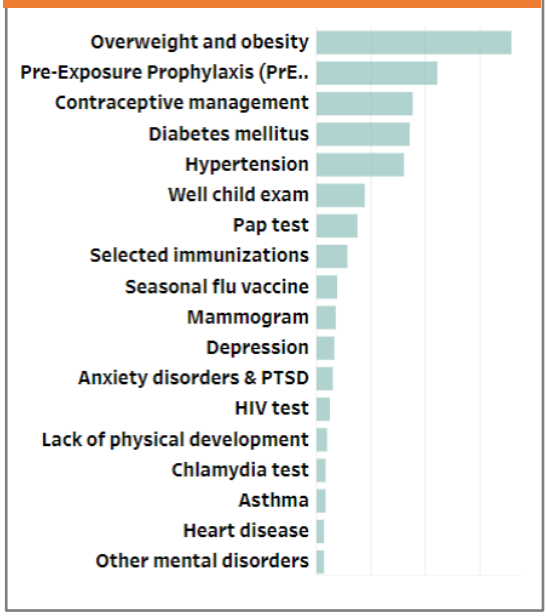
Students and community members since 2015

3.5

Average visits per patient

Indicates these clinics are the medical home for many

Type of services provided



Clinics in Data xChange

- Garfield High School
- Metropolitan High School
- San Pedro Elementary
- Santee High School

Clinics to add

- Accelerated School
- Belmont High School
- Hilda Solis Dental Clinic
- Lincoln High School *
- Ninth Street Elementary
- Roosevelt High School
- Second Street Elementary
- Michael Godfrey Health Clinic

* Clinic data was added to the Data xChange after this report was developed. As a result, this clinic's data is not included in this report.

School-based health center impact

2020-2021

Board District 3

Scott Schmerelson

Board District 3 has no clinics currently participating in The L.A. Trust Data xChange.

Clinics to add

Columbus Middle School Health Center

Lawrence Middle School Family Health Center

Kennedy High School-Based Health Center

School-based health center impact

2020-2021

Board District 4
Nick Melvoin

2,056 Visits

871 Patients

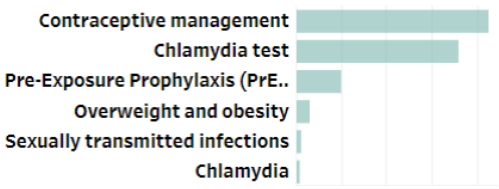
Students and community members since 2015

2.3

Average visits per patient

Indicates these clinics are the medical home for many

Type of services provided



Clinics in Data xChange

Hollywood High School

Sexual and reproductive health services only provided by Planned Parenthood

Co-located with LAUSD clinical providers but no Welligent data in the Data xChange.

Clinics to add

District 4 has no other clinics to enroll.

School-based health center impact

2020-2021

Board District 5
Jackie Goldberg

34,700 Visits

13,683 Patients

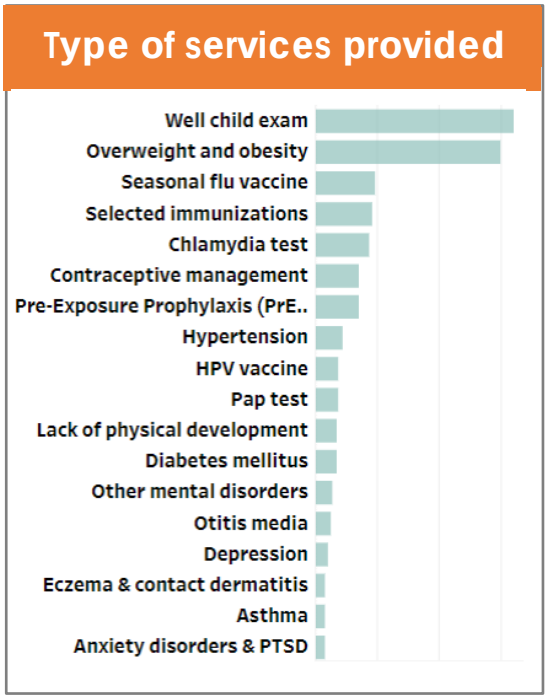
Students and community members since 2015

2.4

Average visits per patient

Indicates these clinics are the medical home for many

Type of services provided



Clinics in Data xChange

Elizabeth Learning Center

Jefferson High School

Nevin Avenue Elementary

Wadsworth Avenue Elementary

Clinics to add

Bell Cudahy Clinic

Gage Middle School

Holmes Ave. Elementary

San Miguel Healthy Start

John Marshall High School

Maywood Center for Enrichment Studies

School-based health center impact

2020-2021

Board District 6
Kelly Gonez

328,396 Visits

85,509 Patients

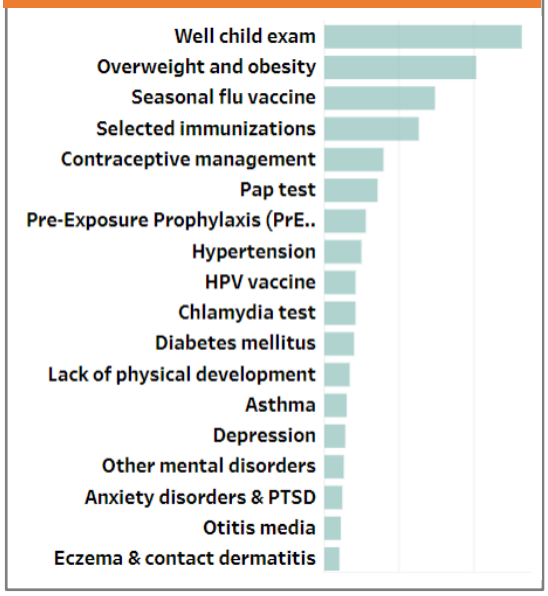
Students and community members since 2015

3.3

Average visits per patient

Indicates these clinics are the medical home for many

Type of services provided



Clinics in Data xChange

Maclay Middle School

Sun Valley Health Center

San Fernando High School

Clinics to add

Monroe High School

Pacoima Middle School

School-based health center impact

2020-2021

Board District 7

Tanya Ortiz Franklin

91,865 Visits

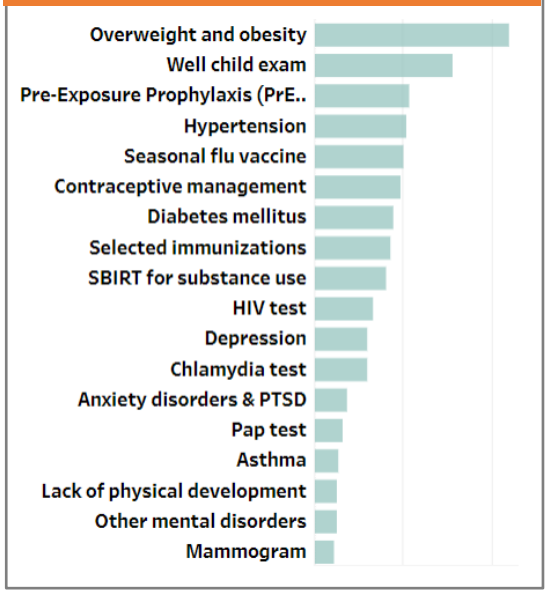
34,861 Patients

Students and community members since 2015

2.3 Average visits per patient

Indicates these clinics are the medical home for many

Type of services provided



Clinics in Data xChange

Carson High School

Jordan High School

Fremont High School

Locke Early Education Wellness Center

Clinics to add

Garden High School

Cabrillo Elementary

Thank you to our clinic partners

Acknowledgements

Data xChange funders

The Ahmanson Foundation

Blue Shield of California Foundation

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

Essential Access Health

Harbor Community Benefit Foundation

Kaiser Permanente

W. M. Keck Foundation

L.A. Care Health Plan

Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Sorenson Impact Center

UniHealth Foundation

Expert Advisory Council members

Children Now

Community Clinic Association of LA County

Community Coalition

Community Health Councils

First 5 Los Angeles

Inner City Struggle

Kaiser Permanente

L.A. Care Health Plan

LAUSD Student Health & Human Services

LAUSD Office of Data & Accountability

Prevention Institute

The Children's Health Partnership

The Advancement Project

PLUS

All the healthcare providers, educators and agencies working together to improve student health and school-based healthcare in Los Angeles.

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The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health

Putting the care in student healthcare

LAT121421