

Parents' Perceptions of Minneapolis School Based Clinics

Minneapolis Health Department
Research Brief, January 2015

School Based Clinics operated by the Minneapolis Health Department ensure that high school students have access to high quality health care services, including medical care, mental health assessment and treatment, counseling, STD prevention and treatment, nutrition counseling, health education, prescriptions, and laboratory services. The clinics are located in seven high schools: Edison, Henry, Roosevelt, South, Southwest, Washburn and Broadway Area Learning Center (ALC) at Longfellow. Research has shown that students who are healthy are more likely to learn.

“I love that it [School Based Clinic] is there for all students; a great, holistic, student-centered service.”
— Parent

About the parent survey

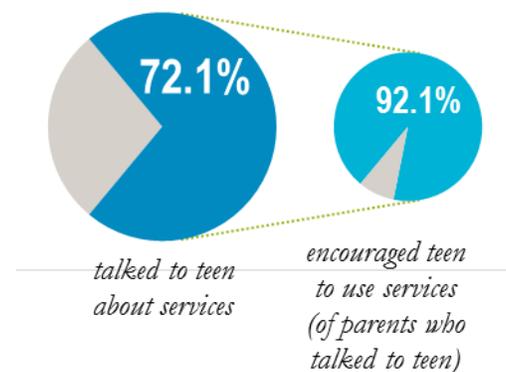
Parents were asked to complete a brief survey as part of an ongoing effort to learn more about their experiences and perspectives related to School Based Clinics (SBCs). The survey listed potential benefits of the clinics and asked parents to identify any that they believe are “most important” to teens and parents. The survey asked parents to select the best ways that information about clinics can be delivered to parents, and it also allowed for open-ended comments. Between September 2013 and May 2014, a total of **1,134 surveys** were completed. Survey completion was determined by a parent’s

response to at least one non-demographic question on the survey.

Parents talk to teens about clinic services

Approximately 7 out of 10 parents who completed the survey (72.1 percent) reported ever talking to their teen about School Based Clinic services. Of the parents who had ever talked to their teen about clinic services, 92 percent also reported encouraging their teen to use those services.

Figure 1. Percent of parents who reported ever talking to their teen about School Based Clinic services, SBC Survey, 2013-2014

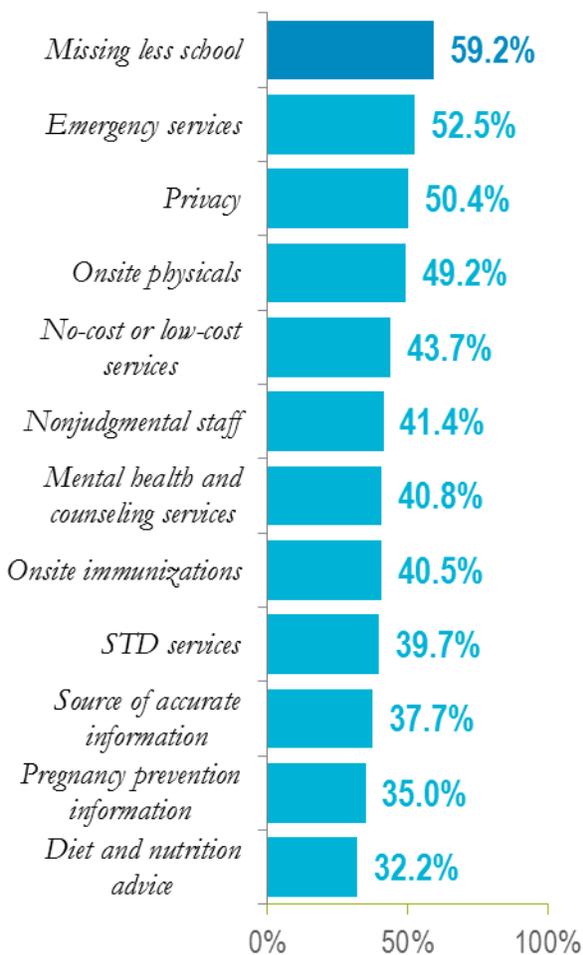


“This is so important! I support everything you do, and I am grateful that you are there for my daughter.”
— Parent

Clinic services benefit teens

On average, parents who completed the survey chose 5 to 6 of the 12 options listed as the “most important” teen-specific benefits of School Based Clinics. The most commonly selected benefit of clinics for teens was **missing less school**, which was reported by nearly 6 out of 10 parents (59.2 percent). Over half of parents also reported that accessibility of emergency services (52.5 percent) and privacy (50.4 percent) were important benefits for teens.

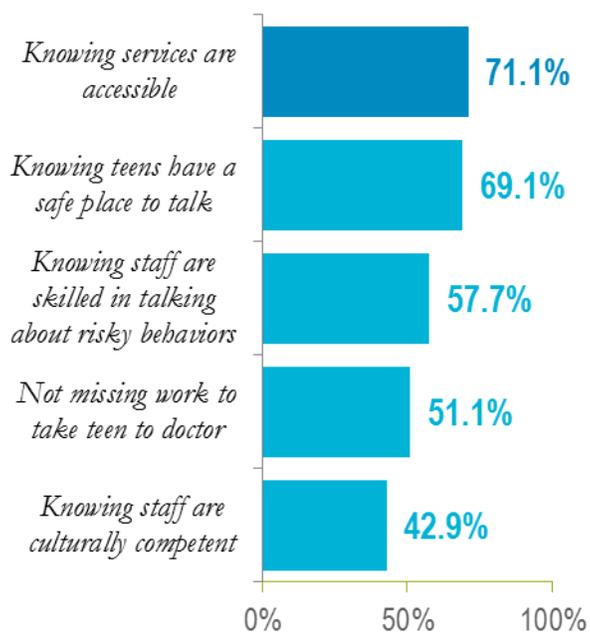
Figure 2. Percent of parents who perceived the listed clinic benefit as “most important” to teens, SBC Survey, 2013-2014



Clinic services benefit parents

On average, parents who responded to the survey chose 2 to 3 of the 5 options listed as the “most important” parent-specific benefits of School Based Clinics. The most commonly selected benefit of clinics for parents was **knowing services are accessible**, which was reported by approximately 7 out of 10 parents (71.1 percent). Knowing teens have a safe place to talk was the second-most commonly perceived benefit for parents, reported by 69.1 percent of survey respondents. Over half of parents reported that knowing staff are skilled in talking about risky behaviors (57.7 percent) and not missing work to take teen to the doctor (51.1 percent) were important benefits for parents.

Figure 3. Percent of parents who perceived the listed clinic benefit as “most important” to parents, SBC Survey, 2013-2014

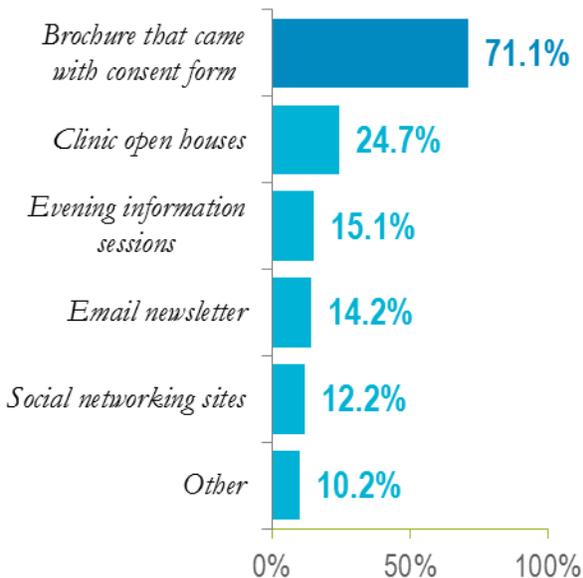


“Parents know their students are given good health info and care without losing days at work and school.”
 — Parent

Parents recommend best ways to provide information about clinic services

Approximately 7 out of every 10 parents surveyed (71.1 percent) reported that the **brochure sent home with the consent form** is the best way for clinic staff to provide information about School Based Clinics. Clinic open houses for parents were endorsed by 24.1 percent of parents. Other avenues of providing information about the clinics were far less popular, with 15.1 percent of parents recommending evening informational sessions; email newsletters, 14.2 percent; social networking sites, 12.2 percent.

Figure 4. Percent of parents who perceived the listed method as best way to provide information about clinic services, SBC Survey, 2013-2014



Parents offer additional suggestions

Parents offered a variety of suggestions in response to open-ended questions about how School Based Clinics could better serve males, females, and parents. Their suggestions included: (1) increasing the number of male clinic staff; (2) scheduling more appointments before and after school hours; (3) providing more education to prevent pregnancies, STDs and drug use; (4) increasing awareness of clinic services among students and parents; (5) providing services to improve self-esteem and reduce stress.

Summary

Parents strongly support and value the services provided by the dedicated and highly trained staff at Minneapolis School Based Clinics. **Parental support** of School Based Clinics has remained strong since surveys to parents were first administered in 2004. School Based Clinic services contribute to the advancement of several Health Department goals including thriving youth and young adults, healthy weight and smoke free living, and a strong public health infrastructure.

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