

School Based Clinic services

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

"I feel blessed that my daughter's school has one [School Based Clinic]. All schools should have some type of health facility."

– Parent comment

"Keep up the good work, our kids need it, and us parents depend on it."

– Parent comment

Parents were asked to complete a brief survey as part of an ongoing effort to elicit their perspectives. The survey listed potential benefits of the clinics for students and parents, and asked parents to select which benefits they believed were most important. The survey also asked about the best way for clinic staff to provide information about the clinics to parents and allowed for open-ended comments. Between September 2012 and May 2013, 1,759 parent surveys were completed.

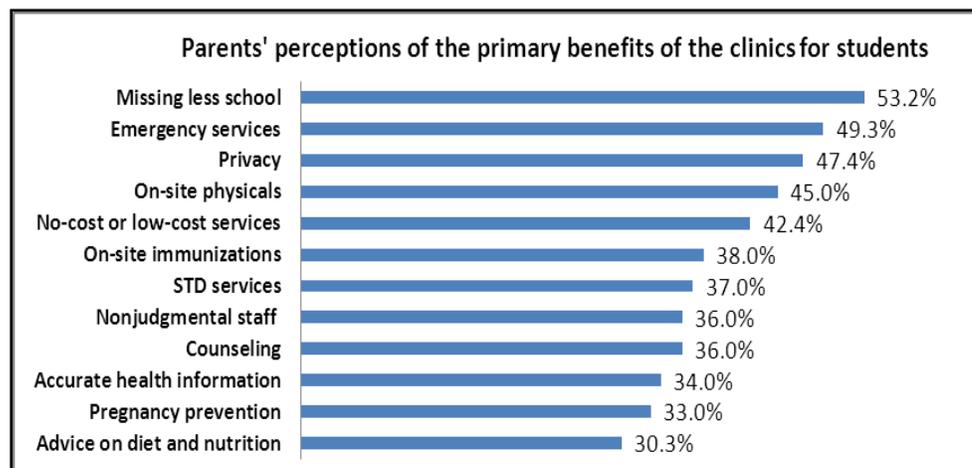
Parents' discussion with students about School Based Clinic services

Approximately two-thirds of parents who responded to at least one question in the survey said they discussed School Based Clinic services with their teen (62.9%) and encouraged the use of services provided at the clinic (63.2%).

Parents' perceptions of how School Based Clinics benefit students

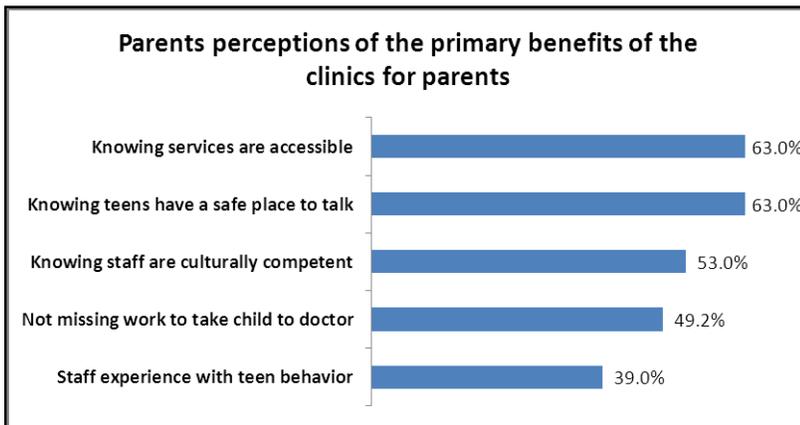
On average parents who responded to the survey selected 4 or 5 of the 10 options listed as potential primary benefits of the clinics to students. The most commonly perceived benefits are students missing less school, the accessibility of emergency health services, privacy, on-site physicals, and low-cost health care services. Other benefits selected by parents include - immunizations, STD services, nonjudgmental care and counseling.

Parents appreciate both the practical benefits of clinic services – accessibility and cost – as well as the clinic staff members' responsiveness to students' needs.



Parents' perceptions of how School Based Clinics benefit parents

Parents who responded to the survey typically selected 2 of the 5 major benefits the clinics provide for parents. The greatest benefits for parents reflect their confidence in how the School Based Clinics serve their children.



Almost two-thirds said that knowing their teens have a safe place to talk and that services are easily accessible are important benefits. Knowing that clinic staff is culturally competent was reported as a primary benefit by more than half of parents. Also, nearly half of parents identified not having to miss work to take their teen to a doctor as a benefit.

Parents' suggestions for the best ways to provide them with clinic information

Two-thirds of parents (67.0%) believe that the brochure the clinics send home with the consent form is the best way for clinic staff to give them information about the clinics. Much smaller proportions endorsed the other two suggestions offered; only 20.2% thought open houses for parents was the best way, and 14.0% thought that evening informational sessions would be best. Some parents also indicated that web-based communication strategies such as email or a website could be helpful.

Parents' recommendations and comments

In response to an open-ended question about how to improve School Based Clinics, parents offered a variety of suggestions including: increasing the number of male clinic staff; scheduling more appointments before and after school hours; providing more education to prevent pregnancies, STDs and drug use; increasing awareness of clinic services among students and parents; and providing services to improve self-esteem and reduce stress.

"I'm delighted that there is a clinic at South [High School]. What a convenient and private way for my daughter to get any care she needs."

– Parent comment

Conclusions

Survey results demonstrate that 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. The 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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