

Snapshot on

Child and Adolescent Health Centers



Keeping your Children Healthy and Learning.

Child and Adolescent Health Centers (CAHCs), also known as School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs), are a crucial service for especially vulnerable students in Michigan. CAHCs provide comprehensive physical and mental health care, offering medical and mental health screening and treatment for children and teens for more than 30 years across the state.

Annually, CAHCs serve over 200,000 children and youth, providing them with health services such as primary care, mental health care, and health education. Primary care services include utilizing resources such as well-visits, acute care, immunizations, and the treatment of chronic conditions such as obesity, asthma, and diabetes.

What Defines a Child and Adolescent Health Center?

- Centers are located in areas where families are economically disadvantaged, and struggle to access medical services.
- CAHCs are a pediatric office located in a school staffed by clinicians (doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants).
- Parent/guardians must sign a written consent for their children to receive services provided at the CAHCs.
- The centers are designed to appeal to young people by creating a friendly atmosphere specific to their age-group.



Keeping Schools Safe with Mental Health Services.

Mental health continues to be a priority for communities and leaders from Marquette to Detroit. CAHCs have proved to be an ideal delivery system for mental health care. Located conveniently within schools, CAHC clinicians not only provide care, but also serve as mentors. Our centers are able to break through the stigma while ensuring they have access to services by licensed mental health clinicians.

In 2018, Michigan passed legislation to fund over \$30 million for new mental health services in schools, including \$5 million for CAHCs. We are excited to see mental health services expand across the state in 2020 and beyond.

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CAHCs by the Numbers

47%

of Michigan counties
have a CAHC

124

CAHCs in Michigan

200,000

children served
annually

25,399

immunizations
provided by CAHCs in
2017

Benefits of CAHCs

- Increases student performance and graduation
- Improves mental health
- Improves school performance
- Succeeds in preventing conditions such as obesity, asthma, and diabetes
- Reduces hospitalization and emergency room care usage