

School-Based Health Care in Montana

The Montana Healthcare Foundation (MTHF) School-Based Health Initiative was launched in 2020 with the goal of improving health and academic outcomes for youth by supporting new and existing partnerships between schools and healthcare organizations. To better understand the current landscape of school-based health in Montana, MTHF conducted a statewide survey. We found that there are at least 24 sponsoring healthcare organizations for school-based health care in Montana operating at least 82 sites in or near schools. Of the 24 sponsoring organizations, 19 responded to the survey on behalf of 64 sites.



Findings From the First Annual Survey

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Urban Indian Health Center
- Non-profit BH organization
- Rural health clinics,
- Tribal health departments
- Hospitals



66%

Over 2/3 of sites in the survey serve more than one school

SERVICES & MODES OF DELIVERY

Ideally, school-based health sites would offer comprehensive healthcare services including primary care. However, in small, rural communities in Montana, many sites start with a single, high-priority service—often behavioral health.



45% offer primary care

98% offer behavioral health

23% offer oral health

9% offer vision health

47,453

school-based visits (encounters) during the 2023/24 school year

11,887

unique patients during the 2023/24 school year



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

75% of sites offer behavioral health groups

63% of sites screen for substance use

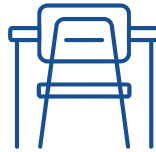
70% of sites screen for social needs

SUSTAINABILITY



59% of sites are sustainable (income that meets or exceeds expenses)

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES



70% Over 70% of districts said their school-based health program improves attendance and reduces absenteeism and suspensions

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SITES ACROSS THE STATE

