

# HB 2729: School-Based Health Services

SUPPORTING YOUTH, FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITIES

## OVERVIEW

Our schools and families are being overwhelmed by a youth mental health crisis and we must provide innovative resources to create a continuum of care for youth and families, and address health issues and disrupted learning.

- ! Oregon is ranked last on youth mental health and has the 4th highest chronic absenteeism rate in the USA
- ! Oregon Student Health Survey Data (2022) revealed that 38% of 11th grade students are suffering from depressive symptoms
- ! In the 2022-2023 school year 41% of SBHC visits by school-aged youth were for behavioral health reasons

Schools are the heart of our communities, and students, parents, educators, and health providers agree that a comprehensive system of wraparound supports in schools would remove barriers to success and wellness.

## IMPACT

Expands access to affordable health services where kids are, at school, in the heart of the community

Builds on the existing systems that support kids in schools

Positively contributes to and links health care and education in Oregon, with a community level focus

Directly improves student health and educational success

## Provides Immediate Support for Oregon's Youth and Families

### Funds School Health Supports Statewide

- Provides behavioral health grants to Oregon school communities, without pulling from State School Fund. (\$7.85 mil)
- Five planning grants to develop new school-based health center and school nurse models to support thousands of students, without drawing from the State School Fund. (\$600,000)
- Inflationary increase to school-based health center operating grants, which have remained static for over a decade. (\$1.8 mil)

### Prevents Future Crisis

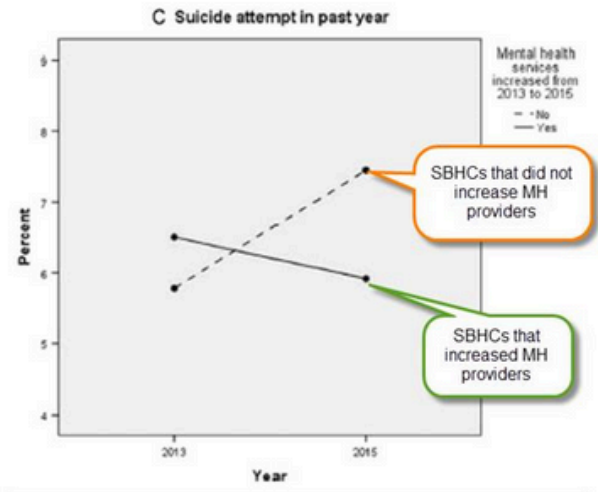
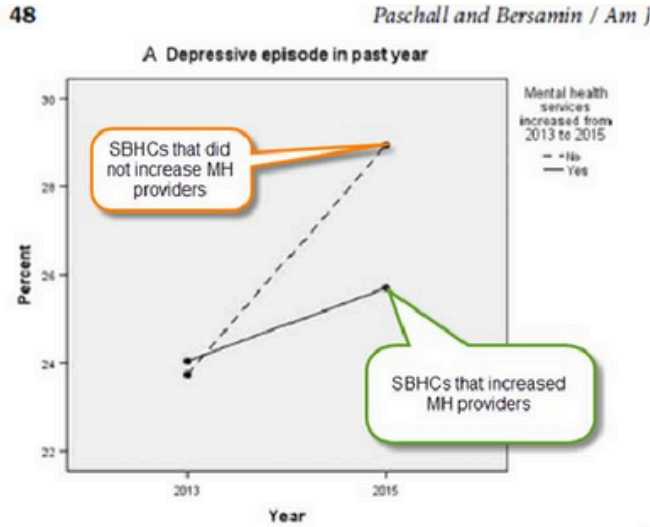
- 🔑 More than 50% of adult mental disorders have their onset before the age of 18 years (NIH)
- 🔑 Early mental health investments in youth build a strong and resilient generation and is a protective factor against substance use, serious mental illness, and other behavioral health issues.

**For every \$1 the State invests, SBHCs leverage \$3-4 through billing, grants, and other funds**

# Data Shows That These Approaches Work!

## SBHC IMPACT ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

A study conducted in Oregon found that youth at SBHCs that increased mental health capacity were: 12% less likely to report a depressive episode; 16% less likely to report suicidal ideation; and 18% less likely to report a suicide attempt.



## SBHCs ARE EMBRACED STATEWIDE AND ENDORSED BY CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERS

