

Missouri School-Based Health Programs 2019-2020 Census – Overview

The Show-Me School-Based Health Alliance of Missouri (MOSBHA) is a statewide affiliate of the national School-Based Health Alliance established to improve the health of children and youth by advancing and advocating for school-based health care. The MOSBHA shares the national School-Based Health Alliance's vision that all children and adolescents are healthy and achieving at their fullest potential.

The MOSBHA is committed to building partnerships between healthcare organizations and schools to support the health and wellness of Missouri students and families. The MOSBHA supports both entities as they build and sustain quality school-based health (SBH) programs to improve the health of young people and increase access to care in our communities

Defining School-Based Health

School-based health care is an evidenced-based intervention delivering health services to students in pre-k through 12th grade in the setting where children spend a significant amount of time – school. It is a powerful model for improving health equity given that SBH programs increase access to care by overcoming barriers such as a lack of providers in some communities, no transportation to get to a provider, and parents who are unable to take off from work.

The MOSBHA defines a SBH program as a shared commitment between a community's schools and healthcare organizations to support students' health, well-being, and academic success by providing preventative, early intervention, and/or treatment services in school. Under this definition, SBH programs may provide any combination of primary/physical healthcare (acute and/or preventative), behavioral/mental health, vision, or oral health services. Students receive services from SBH programs only once parental consents to treatment are on file. One of the goals of school-based health care is to better coordinate care, thus programs work closely with students' pediatricians and/or other providers.

Purpose of the 2019-2020 Census

In September 2019, the MOSBHA began systematically collecting information across the state to learn what SBH programs exist, who has access to the programs, and what services are being provided. The census report briefs are intended to provide a point-in-time snapshot of the SBH landscape in Missouri and provide findings from the first comprehensive census of SBH programs in Missouri. The MOSBHA census aligns with the triannual census conducted by the National School-Based Health Alliance but greatly expands on the types of programs represented as the National census only includes programs providing primary care services with acute care. More details on the methods, data sources, and variable classifications are available [here](#). The intended audiences include federal, state, and local policy makers, funders, and schools and healthcare providing organizations who have or are considering SBH programs.

Limitations of the 2019-2020 Census

A number of limitations exist for the MOSBHA census. All programs that exist are not represented, as the data only includes those programs that participated in the census (methodology available [here](#)). Additionally, this data is constantly changing, especially amid our current climate, as programs are opening, closing, and adapting to changing needs. While the unique health needs of a community may not warrant a SBH program, additional assessments are needed to understand what healthcare providers serve the community, what gaps in access to care may exist, and if local stakeholders can leverage the SBH program model to partner to address those gaps.