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The L.A. Trust Data xChange report shows 'one-two punch' of Wellness Centers

Student and community visits have grown 143% in past five years

LOS ANGELES (October 20, 2020) -- The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health has released a new Data xChange report demonstrating the widespread impact of L.A. Unified School District's 16 full-service Wellness Centers on students, families and community members in the District's highest-need areas.

According to the Data xChange report, 11 school-based Wellness Centers reported more than 229,000 visits from 86,000 patients in the past five years. Visits grew 143% in the past half decade and patients averaged 2.7 visits per year, demonstrating "a strong bond between clinics and patients."

The statistics in the Wellness Center 5-Year Impact Report were produced by The L.A. Trust's Data xChange, which is designed to measure the impact of Wellness Center investments, improve the allocation of health resources and connect the dots between student health and academic achievement.

Vital services

Quality healthcare is essential to student success, the report noted. The L.A. Trust supports these clinics by offering best practices, prevention education programs, learning collaboratives and other vital infrastructure. In addition, it has independently raised more than \$1.5 million to create The Data xChange, which The L.A. Trust views as key to the sustainability of school-based health in Los Angeles and throughout the nation.

Common student services include Well Child Exams, contraceptive management, weight and obesity management, immunization and vaccines, sexually transmitted infection testing and management, and mental health and substance use services.

Because students are only as healthy as the communities they live in, Wellness Centers treat family and community members, too. Community members are more likely to be treated for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

There are currently 16 LAUSD Wellness Center clinics with two more on the way. They bring high-quality medical services into traditionally underserved communities, provide culturally competent care and reduce transportation burdens by placing clinics on school campuses. (Most of the clinics have a street-facing door to admit community members and a school-facing door to admit students.)

COVID-19 response

The coronavirus pandemic has hit Los Angeles hard, especially predominantly Black and Latinx communities served the Wellness Centers, the report stated. Six Wellness Centers have remained open during the height of the school lockdown and received more than 12,000 visits between March and June of this year.

“As many of our Wellness Centers pivot toward telehealth and incorporate more specific coding practices related to COVID-19, The L.A. Trust Data xChange will stay in step with them by working to create new reports and insights,” the report stated.

The Data xChange is guided by an Expert Advisory Council that includes: Manal Aboelata, The Prevention Institute; Mayra Alvarez, The Children’s Health Partnership; Grace Kim Crofton, L.A. Care Health Plan; Rebecca Dudovitz, UCLA; Pia Escudero, LAUSD Student Health and Human Services; Mehrnaz Davoudi, Kaiser Permanente; Art Garcia, First 5 Los Angeles; Will Grice, Kaiser Permanente and board president of The L.A. Trust; Lyndee Knox, PatientToc; Hayley Love; James Kyle, L.A. Care Health Plan; Anitha Mullangi, St. John’s Well Child and Family Health Center; Kevon Tucker-Seeley, LAUSD Office of Data and Accountability; Mollie Rudnick, LAUSD Chief Strategy Office; Nina Vaccaro, Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County; Ron Tanimura, LAUSD Student Medical Services; Kimberly Uyeda; and Lynn Yonekura, L.A. Best Babies Network.

The mission of The Los Angeles Trust for Children’s Health is to “Bridge the worlds of health and education to achieve student wellness.” The independent 501c3 nonprofit supports Wellness Centers, student engagement, research, and programs focused on mental health, substance use prevention, oral health, healthy living and more. For more information visit thelatrust.org.