

IMPACT REPORT



**DENVER HEALTH
FOUNDATION™**

**SCHOOL-BASED
HEALTH CENTERS**

RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2024





INTRODUCTION

Denver Health Foundation is deeply grateful for your contribution. Your gift supports the vital, school-based work of Denver Health Pediatrics at Denver Public Schools (DPS), making a profound impact on our community and helping to build a healthier, thriving Denver.

Denver Health has been a cornerstone of our community since 1860, committed to providing exceptional health care for everyone. Today, our system serves a quarter of Denver residents—270,000 patients annually—through a comprehensive network that reaches every corner of our city.

Our School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs), including the clinic at George Washington High School, have been crucial in addressing the needs of our city's youth. In 2023, George Washington SBHC served 843 unique students, providing essential health services that promote overall well-being.

Your support enables us to continue this essential work, ensuring accessible care for all. Thank you for being a part of Denver Health's journey towards building a healthier, thriving community through your transformational giving.

Top Accomplishments

Enhanced Dental Services

The equipment obtained for the George Washington (GW) school-based oral health program (SOHP) allowed the registered dental hygienist to practice at full scope. This included providing preventative dental sealants, interim therapeutic restorations, and ergonomic practice with mobile equipment. As a result, there was increased access to no-cost dental services for students at GW and surrounding schools, reducing barriers such as transportation and appointment scheduling conflicts.

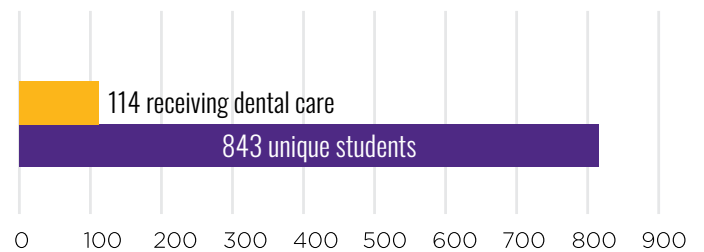
Challenges and Future Goals

While goals are being met, challenges remain. The registered dental hygienist at the GW oral health program can only provide full scope hygiene services a few times each semester due to limited clinical space. As the clinic plans to expand, the team hopes to offer more regular services as space becomes available.

Patient Demographics and Service Statistics

Number of Patients Served

This school year, George Washington SBHC served 843 unique students, with 114 receiving dental care at GW.



Demographic Breakdown

- 96.3% of students live in households under the 200% Federal Poverty Level.
- 74.2% are youth of color.
- 30.5% speak a language other than English as their first language.



Community Impact

Dental health is an essential component of overall well-being, especially for youth. Thanks to external funding, George Washington High School has been added as an additional site to provide oral health care to youth, many of whom may not receive this care otherwise. This initiative has significantly contributed to the health and well-being of the community by ensuring that more students have access to essential dental services.

Addressing Health Disparities

Purchasing additional equipment has reduced barriers to care by meeting students where they are. The Pulse Clinic at George Washington High School is also one of three School-Based Health Centers that remain open during the Denver Public Schools' summer vacation months. This ensures continuous access to health services, addressing health disparities and promoting equitable access to care for all students.

General Information About Denver Health SBHCs

Denver Health's School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) form a large network of 19 health centers located inside Denver Public School (DPS) campuses. They provide medical, mental health, dental, and behavioral health care to any DPS student and sibling(s), including children enrolled in DPS-affiliated Early Childhood Education programs at no charge to families. Services include well child/adolescent checks, prescriptions, immunizations, care for chronic conditions, reproductive health services, mental health counseling, and dental screenings.

Additional Services and Support

SBHCs also offer health education, family planning, insurance enrollment, and advising services. They assist families in determining insurance eligibility and completing applications for programs like Health First Colorado (Medicaid), CHP+, and Connect for Health Colorado. This comprehensive support helps reduce health disparities and ensures students and their families have access to necessary health care services.

CONCLUSION

Since 2019, the financial burden of providing unpaid care for residents of the City and County of Denver has surged, escalating from \$42 million to \$102 million in 2023. The city's fixed payment for care for patients who are ineligible for health insurance is placing a growing strain on our health system. According to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) 2024 Hospital Financial Transparency Report, Denver Health's share of total care for uninsured patients is 17%, significantly higher than other Front Range hospitals.

Philanthropic giving through Denver Health Foundation is crucial in addressing the financial challenges posed by rising levels of uncompensated care.

Denver Health Foundation's efforts are not just about raising funds—they are also about enhancing the quality and accessibility of health care. Philanthropic support empowers critical programs like Denver Health Pediatrics at Denver Public Schools. Your generosity ensures that all patients, regardless of their ability to pay, receive exceptional care. The combined support from foundations, individual donors, and community partners is vital in maintaining the health and well-being of Denver's diverse population and addressing health inequities across the community.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to our mission. Together, we are transforming lives and building a healthier, thriving Denver.





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