



# Protecting the Health of Connecticut's Young People: Brief Reports

## Immunization Program

Connecticut's School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) play a vital role in keeping children healthy and in school through the provision of immunizations on site. The state of Connecticut has mandatory immunization requirements for children. Without proof of such vaccines, children are not allowed to attend school.

Connecticut's SBHC program, during the 2 school years highlighted here, has contributed to the number of young people that have received these important vaccinations. "Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. Immunization programs have resulted in a vast reduction in deaths and illnesses from at least 13 once-common diseases, including smallpox, polio, diphtheria and whooping cough."<sup>1</sup>

While CT has a high success rate with child and adolescent immunizations, some children are not adequately immunized. This may occur when children from other states or countries attempt to enter CT schools, or when children or adolescents do not regularly access health care providers. SBHCs have the greatest impact in these situations because they can provide the immunizations on site in a timely manner.

SBHCs address identified barriers to immunizations. Barriers primarily fall into 3 categories: lack of knowledge about immunizations, fears about vaccine safety, and logistical problems that limit access to immunization services. Issues such as complicated immunization schedules, fragmented care and records, inconvenient clinic hours, long waits for immunizations, transportation problems, and cost also have been found in studies assessing immunization barriers.<sup>2</sup> Every dollar spent on routine childhood immunizations saves \$5.30 on direct health care costs.<sup>3</sup>

(1) Council of State Governments. Healthy States: CSG's Partnership to Promote Public Health, 2006

(2) Burns and Zimmerman. "Immunization Barriers and Solutions", Journal of Family Practice, January 2005. (3) CDC data.

## CT School-Based Health Centers

### Common Immunization Types

	'07-'08	'08-'09
Students Receiving 1 or More	3,965	4,021
Meningococcal Vaccine	791	1,054
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	459	476
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis*	1,465	1,365
Polio	380	361
Influenza	782	1,089
Varicella (Chicken Pox, including MMRV)	897	952
Hepatitis A,B	743	876
Human Papillomavirus	1,015	792
Type Unspecified**	2,083	1,736
<b>Total Visits</b>	<b>8,615</b>	<b>8,701</b>

\* e.g., TD, Dtap Tdap \*\* Standard immunizations

## Tuberculosis Screening and Prevention

	'07-'08	'08-'09
Screening Tests for Tuberculosis (PPD)	1,202	1,144
Positive PPD	106	88

