

SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

South Carolina Department of Mental Health

South Carolina is a leader in the US for mental health services provided to children in public schools increasing absences from school and graduation rates. Decreasing school absence, drop-out rate and juvenile justice involvement. Learn more...

SC Estimates on Children's Mental Health Needs*

- 101,731 (15%) school students with disabilities
- 62,442 (12% of all SC students 9-17 yrs of age) have substantial MH functional impairment.
- 41,628 (8% of all SC students 9-17 yrs of age) have extreme MH functional impairment.

**Data derived from 2000 US Census and 2006 SC Kids Count*



Current Services, SC School Based Mental Health (2010)

- 13,950 children/youth are receiving MH services in South Carolina Public Schools. This number represents:
 - Under 14% (62,442+41,628)) of the estimated SC children (ages 9-17) with substantial or extreme functional impairment.
- 404 (37% of all SC schools) SC schools have school based mental health programs, staffed by approximately 242 mental health counselors.

Basic Outcomes Of SC School Based Mental Health Services

- Youth enter mental health system sooner than if services were not available at the school (average age 11 to13)
- At the start of services, students average assessment levels of moderate to severe on DMH Assessment scales (CAFAS)
- Length of treatment services averages 6 to 18 months
- Assessments indicate that students have increased their coping skills by 2 levels (CAFAS) at the end of services
- 95% of students stay out of trouble (and out of court)
- 50% of students are absent from school less than 2 days per month
- 75% of students live with their families at home



For more information about school based mental health services or to find out if these services are available to your child, contact Melissa L. Craft, Director of School Based Mental Health Services, SC Department of Mental Health at 803-898-8636 or Email- mlc75@scdmh.org or the Federation of Families of South Carolina at 866-779-0402 or Email- info@fedfamsc.org