



Health and Chronic Absenteeism

Health-related issues and illnesses are some of the reasons why students are chronically absent from school.

5 AREAS

1. Physical Health

- Asthma is a common cause for students to miss school. Asthma affects about 8.3% of children in the United States. Compared to White children, African American children are more likely to be hospitalized for asthma-related issues. Poor air quality in schools and air pollution can trigger asthma symptoms. A study conducted in Michigan public schools found lower attendance rates when students were exposed to higher amounts of air pollution.
- Common cold, chronic disability, and allergies are also reasons why students miss school

2. Oral Health

- Nationally, students ages 5 to 17 miss about 2 million school days each year due to oral health problems. Students with dental pain are more likely to be absent from school.

3. Trauma and Violence

- Research has shown that adverse childhood experiences are related to chronic absenteeism. Certain experiences include community violence and family substance abuse.

4. School Climate

- Nationally, 1 in 3 students are bullied at school. Students who are bullied are more likely to stay home from school. In Maryland public schools, more than 4,500 harassment, bullying, or intimidation incidences were reported in 2015-2016. The highest reports were from Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince Georges County. Kent, Wicomico, and Dorchester County had the highest incidences based on enrollment.
- Research has shown that students who perceive the school climate as negative have higher rates of chronic absenteeism. Implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and restorative practices can improve school climate.

School based health services and on-site school nurses will help to reduce chronic absenteeism among students

References

- American Lung Association. (2018). Healthy air in schools. Retrieved from <https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/indoor/in-schools/>
- American Society for the Positive Care of Children. (n.d.). Bullying definition, statistics, and risk factors. Retrieved from <https://americanspcc.org/our-voice/bullying/statistics-and-information/>
- Attendance Works. (2015). Bringing dental care to schools. Retrieved from <https://www.attendanceworks.org/bringing-dental-care-to-schools/>
- Attendance Works. (2015). Mapping the early attendance gap: Charting a course for school success. Retrieved from https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Mapping-the-Early-Attendance-Gap_Final-4.pdf
- Bauer, L., Liu, P., Schanzenbach, D., & Shambaugh, J. (2018). Reducing chronic absenteeism under the every student succeeds act. Retrieved from http://www.hamiltonproject.org/papers/reducing_chronic_absenteeism_under_the_every_student_succeeds_act
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Most recent asthma data. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_data.htm
- Eck, K. V., Johnson, S. R., Bettencourt, A., & Johnson, S. L. (2016). How school climate relates to chronic absence: A multi-level latent profile analysis. *Journal of School Psychology, 61*, 89-102. Retrieved from https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/How_School-Climate_relates_to_chronic-absence_attendance_works_1-s2.0-S0022440516300607-main.pdf
- Henderson, T., Hill, C., & Norton, K. (2014). The connection between missing school and health: A review of chronic absenteeism and student health in Oregon. Retrieved from <https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Chronic-Absence-and-Health-Review-10.8.14-FINAL-REVISED.pdf>
- Johns Hopkins Children's Center. (2018). Chronic absenteeism and asthma. Retrieved from <http://ralescenter.hopkinschildrens.org/2018/06/chronic-absenteeism-and-asthma/>
- Maryland State Department of Education. (2017). Bullying, harassment, or intimidation in Maryland public schools. Retrieved from <http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/Bullying/BullyingHarassmentReport2017.pdf>
- Mohai, P., Kweon, B., Lee, S., & Ard, K. (2011). Air pollution around schools is linked to poorer student health and academic performance. *Health Affairs, 30*, p.852-862. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0077
- Stempel, H., Cox-Martin, M., Bronsert, M., Dickinson, M., Allison, M. A. (2017). Chronic school absenteeism and the role of adverse childhood experiences. *Academic Pediatrics, 17*. Retrieved from https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Attendance-Works-chronic_absenteeism_and_ACEs.pdf
- U.S. Department of health and human services office of minority health. (2018). Asthma and african americans. Retrieved from <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?vl=4&vlid=15>