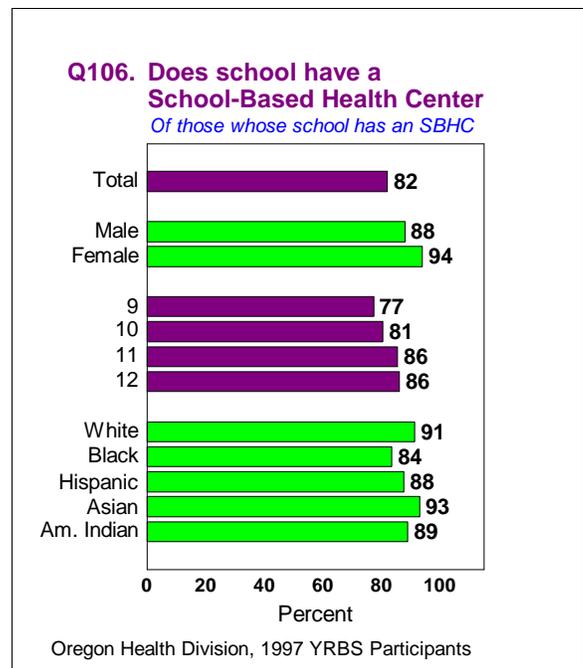


## SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

These questions address students' knowledge and use of school-based health centers. The State of Oregon began providing support for school-based health centers (SBHCs) in 1985 and has helped support or identify funding for twenty of the thirty-nine SBHCs in operation throughout 13 different counties in Oregon. Of twenty-six SBHCs reporting data for the 1996-97 service year, 10,389 students were seen in for a total of 44,562 primary care visits.<sup>41</sup> Nationally, SBHCs have experienced tremendous growth as a system of delivering comprehensive preventive health services to youth with over 900 centers in operation during the 1995-96 school year.<sup>42</sup> For these questions, only the responses of those students whose school has a SBHC were included (sixteen sites and 6,893 students. The high schools included in this portion of the summary are noted in the introduction).

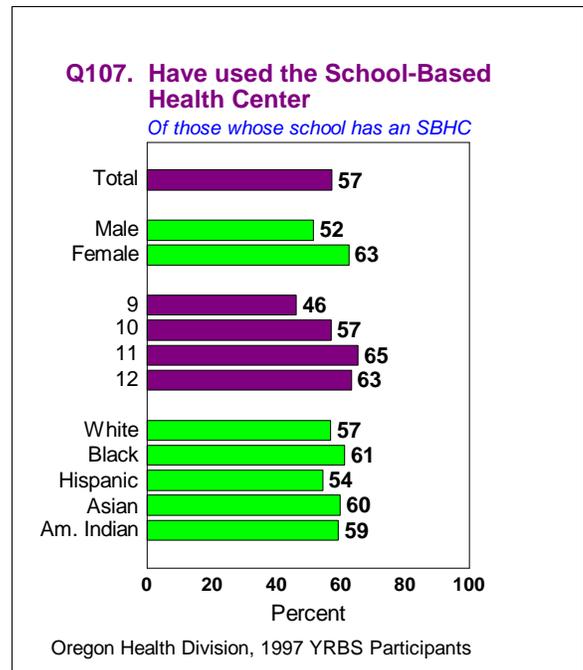
**Q106. Does your school have a School Based Health Center?** [Of those YRBS participants whose school has an SBHC]

Eighty-two percent of students whose school has an SBHC knew it existed. *Significantly* more females (94%) than males (88%) knew it existed. As grade increased, *significantly* more students knew it existed. There were no differences by race/ethnicity.



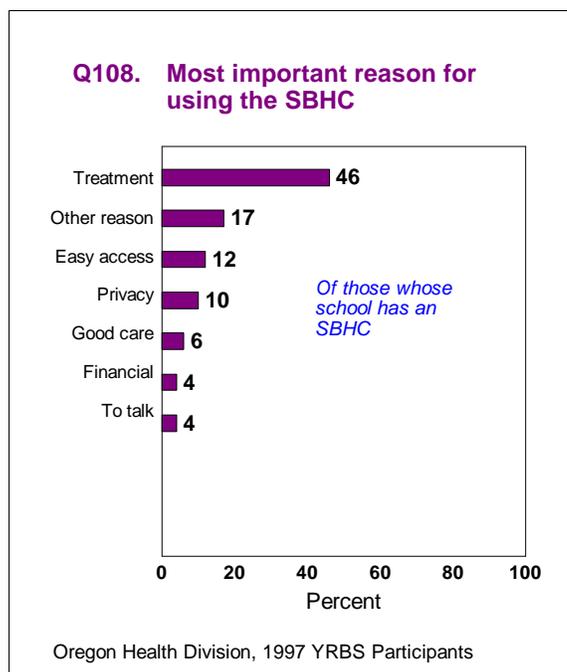
**Q107. Have you used the School Based Health Center at this school?** [Of those YRBS participants whose school has an SBHC]

Fifty-seven percent of students had used the SBHC, including *significantly* more females (63%) than males (52%). As grade increased, *significantly* more students used the SBHC. There were no differences by race/ethnicity.



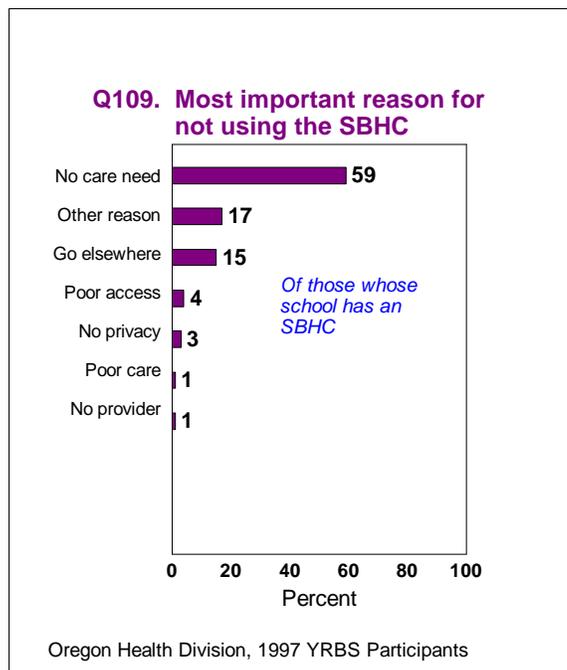
**Q108. What's the most important reason for going to the School-Based Health Center?** [Of those YRBS participants whose school has an SBHC]

- \* Treatment of illness, injury, health problem - 46%
- \* Other reason not listed - 17%
- \* Ease of access - 12%
- \* Privacy is protected - 10%
- \* Good care received - 6%
- \* Financial reasons - 4%
- \* To talk - 4%



**Q109. What's the most important reason you have not used the School-based Health Center?** [Of those YRBS participants whose school has an SBHC]

- \* No need for care - 59%
- \* Other reason - 17%
- \* I go somewhere else - 15%
- \* Difficult to access - 4%
- \* Concern for privacy - 3%
- \* Poor care received there - 1%
- \* No qualified provider - 1%



## WHAT OREGON STUDENTS WROTE

I feel we need a health center (at school) because when we can't tell (or go to) our parents, we need somewhere to go and get help if we can't get to a health center or doctor.

I think the health center is good for teens. You're not judged by the things you do, but they do try to show you the right direction. I think all schools should have an opportunity to have the people we have in our health center; they help a lot!

I like our school's student health center, and I hope it will always be there for access now and in the future. I think that condoms should be available for free in our student health center for the large percentage of students having sex. Just because we can't get them doesn't mean we're going to stop having sex.

The one thing at this school that is very commendable is the student health care center. It is very helpful and should most definitely be continued. The two nurses employed there are excellent both at their jobs and at student relations.

I think our school's health center is very good. The staff members are very nice and helpful; for example, they let me borrow crutches when I dislocated my knee at school. They sent me to see a nurse practitioner when I had a cold that turned out to be bronchitis, and the nurse practitioner has also seen me for my kidney problems ...

One thing that could be addressed more is health risks and teen health. I think there should be places available for you to go to when you have a health problem (e.g., sex, pressures, weight concern).

I think that our school needs a health center in it also, so I am able to try to help a friend that is suffering from depression and family/home/life troubles. I believe he is not getting everything he needs (and is not) doing the right thing because of lack of supervision.

A big teen issue at my school is about the clinic: 1) it is not open on Fridays - that sucks because Fridays are hard days for me; 2) they don't give out condoms or birth control there. That is a big reason why some teens go there. They say they can't give them out. Why not?

I don't live with my parents so I don't get any medical needs when I live over here. I need to go to the dentist really bad, but a hard working student like me can't even get my teeth fixed. It's not a good system. There should be some way that I can get some health care. I also need to talk to someone about my problems, but there is no one to talk to. It should be easier for a teen to talk to someone they can trust.

I think that the school should have an insurance program because me and my family don't have insurance and I got cut a couple months (ago) and couldn't pay for it.

I am glad a survey like this is used because it gives us a chance to tell the truth and not be afraid. I think a health center would be great for my school.

Our school needs a school based health center. The rural schools are always ignored. Just because we are in a smaller area does not mean we (are without) kids with problems.

**Q110. When you are scared, worried, or concerned about yourself or your friends, is there a caring adult you can talk to?**

Sixteen percent of Oregon YRBS participants reported having no caring adult to whom they could talk when worried or scared. *Significantly* more males (18%) than females (14%) had no caring adult. There was no statistically significant difference by grade level. Hispanic (22%), Asian (22%), and American Indian (22%) students were *significantly* more likely to report having no caring adult to whom they could talk.

