

The Population Characteristics of Children Served by a School-Based Interprofessional Clinic

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Background

- Vine School Health Center (VSHC) is the only school-based interprofessional health clinic in Knox County Schools System (KCS) to serve students and their families. It intends to serve underserved populations based on income and access to healthcare services.
- The clinic is staffed by the University of Tennessee Colleges of Nursing and Social Work.
- Services provided include: physicals, sick visits, Telehealth, case management, therapy, mental health evaluations, insurance consultations, & resourcing
- The clinic was founded in 1995, but demographic data has never been compiled or studied.

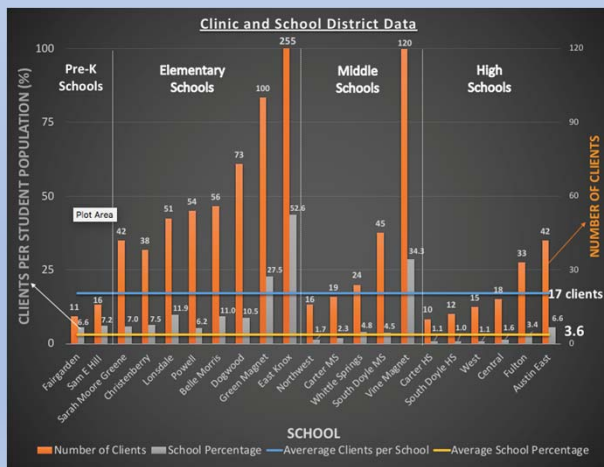
Purpose and Research Methods

Purpose: To describe the school- and individual-level characteristics of clients served to see if the needs of underserved populations are being met.

Methods:

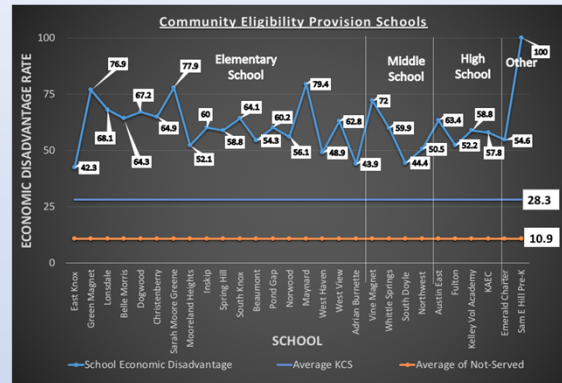
- This study analyzed data from the clinic's Permission to Treat (PTT) form from 1,710 clients served in the 2016-2017 school year.
- Public school- and school district-level data was collected to compare VSHC clients with total school and district students from Kids Count Data Center, National Center for Education Statistics, & Tennessee Department of Education
- Statistical Tests: bivariate tests were run with SPSS (Pearson correlations & independent t-tests)

(1) Schools Served by Clinic with Highest Frequencies



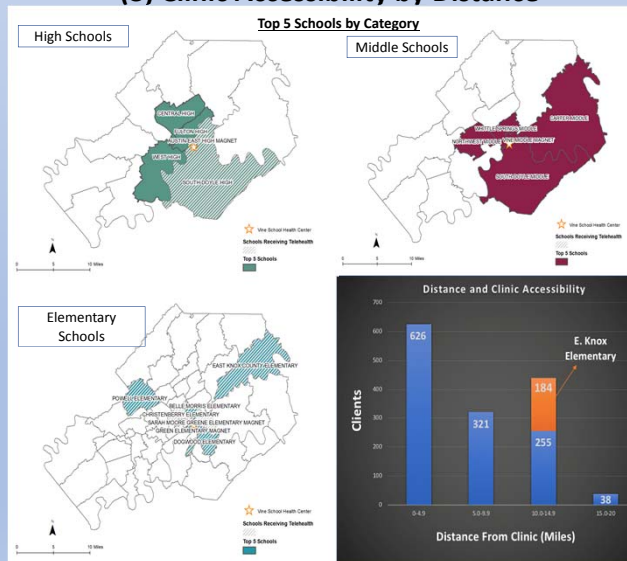
- The PTTs show that clients come from 80 Knox County K-12 Schools out of 87 possible schools at the point of entry into services.
- VSHC sees clients from all 20 Community and Magnet Schools (13 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, & 5 high schools).
- On average, the number of clients per school that VSHC sees is 17.
- On average, VSHC sees 3.6% of students per school in KCS.

(2) Economic Disadvantage Status



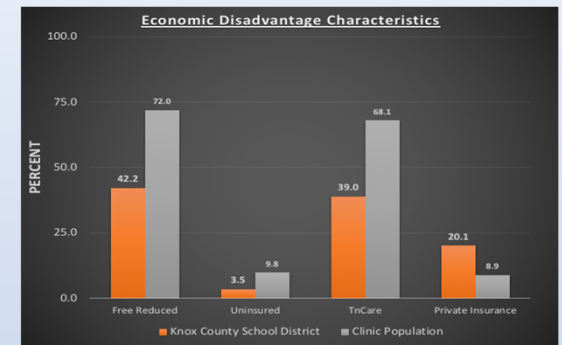
- The average economic disadvantage rate (based on students who are homeless, runaways, migrants, or directly certified based on household income level) of KCS is 28.3%
- 27 schools of the 80 schools served by VSHC (60.7% of clients) have an economic disadvantage rate of over 40%, making them eligible for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which provides free lunch to all students regardless of income.

(3) Clinic Accessibility by Distance



Note: Maps were created by GIS Outreach and Community Engagement Lab at UTK

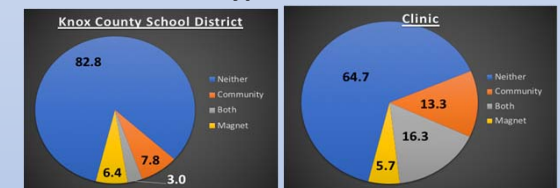
- There was a negative correlation between the number of students served per school and the distance of school from the clinic ($r = -0.276$, $p = 0.011$)
- On average, each school in the KCS System is 9.45 miles from VSHC
 - 64% ($n = 912$) of VSHC's population is within this distance.
 - 76.5% of schools shown on this map are within this distance.
- The 12 schools >15 mi. away are underrepresented at VSHC. These total only 38 clients (2.7% of VSHC), out of the possible 12,991 at these schools (21.5% of KCS)



Compared with all schools in the KCS, those schools served by VSHC have:

- Higher rates of students receiving free/reduced lunch
- Higher percentages of students without insurance or receiving TnCare
- Lower percentages of students covered by private insurance

(4) Type of Schools



- Community & Magnet Schools are disproportionately overrepresented in schools seen by VSHC.
- 100% of Community & 67% of Magnet Schools are Economically Disadvantaged at a rate >40%. This rate provides 16 of 20 Community & Magnet Schools with CEP free lunch status.

Policy & Practice Implications

Policy Implications

- This research highlights the need for clinics like VSHC in areas of high economic disadvantage.
- When looking at KCS, there are still pockets of unmet needs of students and schools.
- We can surmise from the data that clinics designed for underserved populations need to be placed in an area that is accessible to clients based on distance.

Practice Implications

- Clinics for underserved populations are most effective when within 10 miles of the clinic.
- The value of a clinic like VSHC is increased with on-site and personal connections, such as with East Knox Elementary. Although 12 miles away, VSHC reached 255 clients in this time period with on-site telehealth and therapy services and maintaining relationships with client guardians and school staff.

Limitations

- VSHC has room for growth in improving future data collection as now all PTT data is self-reported by clients/guardians.