



Community Health Services Summary

Primary Pediatric, Comprehensive Adolescent Healthcare, and Preventive Healthcare Services to Children Birth to 21 Years Old

Effective August 2011

Community Health Services (CHS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing community-based and school-based primary health care services in Commerce City and Westminster to children and adolescents ages birth to 21 years since 1978. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of infants, children and youth. The agency's goal is to eliminate the financial and accessibility barriers for healthcare while maintaining a high quality of care in a "family-friendly" atmosphere. CHS also provides school nursing services in 32 schools, ensuring that more than 17,000 students are healthy and able to achieve at their fullest potential.

At CHS, we emphasize preventative health care, health promotion and health education, particularly to children who are high-risk and underserved. The agency is committed to providing affordable, quality health services for children from families that are from low-income, uninsured, and underinsured families.

School-based sites include comprehensive well-child and well-adolescent exams; immunizations; acute care for the diagnosis and treatment of minor illnesses, infection and injuries; management of chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, or asthma; mental health assessment and treatment; health education prevention programs including smoking, violence, nutrition and weight control counseling; and medical screenings. Confidential services for adolescents include gynecological exams, pregnancy tests, counseling, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing, family planning information and mental health services including drug and alcohol assessment. CHS works with families and children birth to five years old on safety issues including car seat checks and passenger safety.

Centers are located where access to care is limited for a large number of children either because of low-income status, lack of health insurance, or geographic isolation. Programs are designed to promote healthy choices, prevent disease, intervene early when problems arise, and provide integrated services and continuity of care. Our purpose is to keep children healthy, in school, and ready to learn.

Bringing the Doctor's Office into Schools

Students perform better when they are healthy and ready to learn when they show up for class. School-based health centers (SBHCs) bring the doctor's office to the school so students avoid health-related absences and get support to succeed in the classroom. Services are designed to identify problems early, provide continuity of care, and improve academic participation.

The theory of school-based health centers is that health services need to be where students can trip over them. Adolescents do not carry appointment books, and school is the only place where they are required to spend their time. A school-based health center is a safe, easily accessible location on a school campus where students can go for comprehensive preventive and primary health care services.

A child cannot reach full educational potential unless s/he is physically and mentally healthy. Many children suffer unrecognized health and psychological disorders because they lack access to health care. These children receive medical care only for major illness or injury. Consequently, chronic problems such as inadequate growth rate, asthma, ear infections, or childhood depression may not be addressed. Treatment for most health and psychosocial disorders is more successful and less costly if instituted early, but many children fail to receive preventive health services, which provide early identification and intervention.

Why are some children not receiving the health care they need? Parents may be unable to leave work or arrange transportation to take the child for a checkup. The family may lack medical insurance. The insurance policy of working parents may not cover dependent children or may only provide for catastrophic illness. Parents may not know about early warning signs of poor health or about the importance of regular health evaluations for their children. In Commerce City, there are no private medical providers because they wouldn't be able to run a practice based on families that are mostly insured by Medicaid and CHP+ and uninsured families.

We provide pediatric care year-round at our clinics in Commerce City and Westminster and in school-based health centers within Adams County School District 14 during the school year.

Locations

Community-based health centers are located at the following locations:

CHS Commerce City Clinic (located across the street from the previous Adams City High School)
4675 East 69th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022

CHS Clinic at Baker (located adjacent to what was Baker Elementary School)
3447 West 64th Avenue
Denver, CO 80221 (in Westminster with a Denver post office)

Adams County School District 14 School-Based Health Centers are located In Commerce City at:

- Adams City Middle School
- Adams City High School
- Kearney Middle School
- Lester Arnold High School

CHS home/administrative offices are located at:

4675 East 69th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022

CHS wants to assure that every student has a "health care home" with a medical provider who knows the health history of the child and the family and is available to offer or arrange for care whenever needed. School-based health centers provide accessible, affordable health care services for a large number of previously underserved children and adolescents.

Provision of Care

In 33 years of care, since 1978 CHS has provided approximately 124,000 to more than 50,000 children. During the 2010-2011 school year alone, at CHS sites...

- 10,336 health care visits were provided to 4,342 infants, children and youth.
- 1,433 children were enrolled in Medicaid, CHP+ or the CHS sliding fee scale.
- 4,109 immunizations were administered to 2,041 children and adolescents.

- 2,091 mental health counseling visits were provided to 307 children and adolescents.
- 1,156 middle school and high school students attended health education classes and health fairs focused on high-risk behaviors including alcohol and drug abuse, smoking, violence, nutrition, exercise, and use of seat belts and bike helmets.

School Nursing Services

By way of contract with Adams County School District 14 in Commerce City and School District 50 in Westminster, CHS provides school nursing services, ensuring that more than 17,000 students in 32 schools are healthy and able to achieve at their fullest potential.

The following School Health Nursing Services are provided in collaboration with the schools:

- Health consultation for students with identified health care needs requiring modification or accommodations in the school setting.
- Development and implementation of Individualized Health Care Plans and services for students with disabilities and/or students with special health care needs.
- Staff training regarding student health care needs and plan of care.
- Annual training, delegation, and ongoing supervision of school personnel in the administration of medication or other special health care procedures.
- Health assessments, interpretation of medical data, and participation in special education, Individualized Education Plan development, including Child Find and 504 accommodations.
- Phone consultation services; triage of traumatic injuries and acute medical conditions.
- Assessment and consultation for communicable diseases and significant illness/injury.
- Referral for healthcare based on case finding, staff referrals, family and community request.
- Health-related liaison between student, school staff, parent, and community health care providers and organizations.
- Professional support and advice for the district vision and hearing program.
- Consultation and tracking regarding student health information, immunizations and documentation.
- Health policy consultation, development, and interpretation.
- CPR, First Aid, Medication, Diabetes Training for School Personnel and Universal Precautions (and other health-related areas as requested) training for key school personnel.
- Assessment and consultation regarding environmental safety as requested.
- Participation in the development of emergency plans to assist students with special health care needs during crises.
- Collection, interpretation and evaluation of student health data and state required health-related reporting.