

What is the impact of worksite clinics for teachers in a public school district?

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An increasing number of employers are operating worksite clinics for their staff. While worksite clinics have traditionally offered occupational health and minor acute care, many employers have started providing a full range of primary care services. Looking at a public school district, this study is one of the first to consider the causal relationship among worksite clinics, health care utilization and cost, teacher health, and student academic achievement growth (one common measure of teacher performance).

STUDY DESIGN

- » The study used longitudinal data from 2007-2016 from a large urban public school district with nearly 6,000 teachers.
- » The study compared the health outcomes of teachers who received care at worksite clinics with a control group who used non-worksite clinics.

KEY FINDINGS

For teachers, using a worksite clinic instead of a community-based clinic as the usual source of primary care was associated with reductions in:

- » Inpatient admissions (31 versus 53 per 1,000 teachers per year)
- » Annual health care costs (\$4,298 versus \$5,043 in 2016 U.S. dollars)
- » Annual absent work hours (61 versus 63)

No significant differences were detected in self-reported health status and student achievement.

CONCLUSION

- » School-based worksite clinics reduced health care costs and illness-related absenteeism for teachers.

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