

The prevalence of children and youth impacted by mental health disorder is well documented.

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/youth-mental-health>



One in every four to five youth in the general population meet criteria for a lifetime mental health disorder.

(Merikangas, He, Burstein, et al., 2010)

The onset for 50 percent of adult mental health disorders occurs by age 14, and for 75 percent of adults by age 24.

(Kessler, et al. 2007)



In the United States, 75 to 80 percent of children and youth in need of mental health services do not receive them.

(Kataoka, et al. 2002)





Youth with untreated mental illness have high rates of absenteeism and tardiness. Referral to a school-based mental health center or to counseling can help to reduce absenteeism rates by 50 percent and tardiness rates by 25 percent.

(Gall, Pagano, Desmond, Perrin, & Murphy, 2000)

The rates of suspension and expulsion of children and youth with mental disorders are three times higher than their peers.

(Blackorby & Cameto, 2004)



Six percent of 12th graders report daily use of marijuana.

(Monitoring the Future Survey, December 2018)

**School-based behavioral health services offer many benefits to students in need.**

Schools play a critical role in supporting students. Schools can be a safe, non-stigmatizing, and supportive environment in which youth and families have access to prevention, early intervention, and treatment through school-based programs.

**Schools and community organization partnerships can enhance the academic success of individual students. These partnerships have been found to significantly:**

- Improve school-wide truancy and discipline rates
- Increase the rates of high school graduation
- Help create a positive school environment in which a student can learn and be successful in school and in the community



*Source: <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/youth-mental-health/school-based>*

## Key Terms

**Behavioral health services:** A continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support services for mental health and substance use.

**County-funded:** Services funded through the County of San Diego’s Health & Human Services Agency’s Behavioral Health Services Division.

**Provider:** Unless otherwise specified, a County-funded behavioral health provider.

### **Administrative Information**

For administrative information or to provide feedback about the SchoolLink training program, please email [BHSContactUs.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:BHSContactUs.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov) with subject line: SchoolLink or call 619-563-2700 and ask to speak with the Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Services for Children, Youth, and Families.