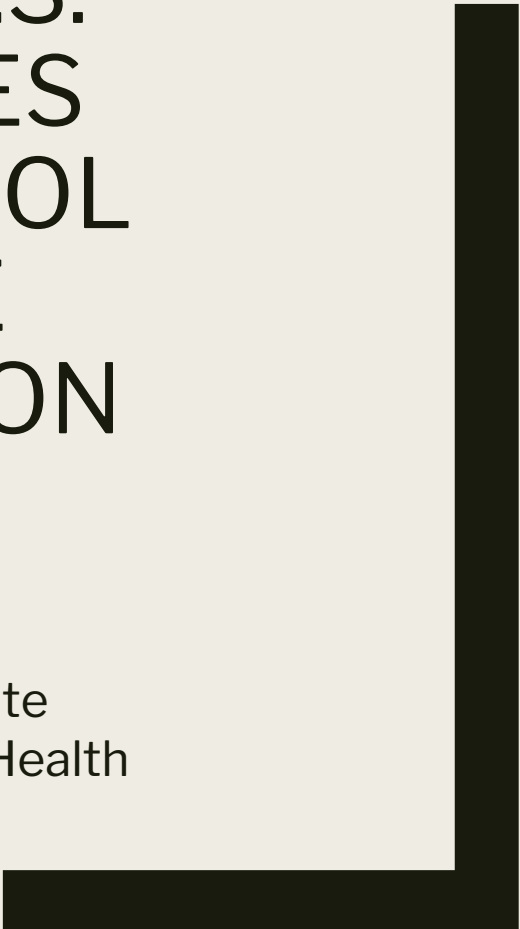


# DECREASING U.S. TRUANCY RATES THROUGH SCHOOL HEALTHCARE IMPLEMENTATION

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# Quick Survey

Missing 2 days or more per month increases dropout rates by what percent?

A. 16%

B. 21%

C. 10%

What is the most common reason that students miss school?

A. *Family emergencies*

B. *Illness*

C. *Disciplinary problems*

How many absences does one have to have annually to be considered at risk for dropping out of school?

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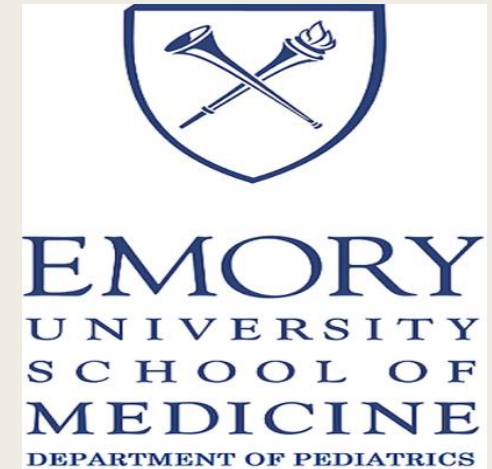
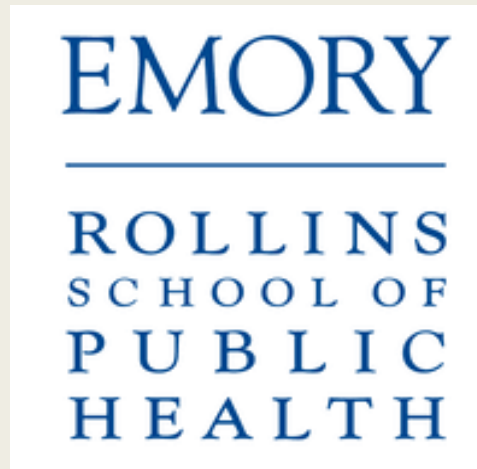
***SPOILER ALERT:***

***ATTENDAN***

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***MATTERS!***

# Affiliations



# Presentation Objectives

- Truancy/Absenteeism Statistics
- Risk Factors for School Dropouts
  - 'ACEs"
    - Definition
    - Statistics
  - *What role do they play in dropping out of school?*
- Dropout Effects on Health and Well-Being
- How SBHCs address/correct dropout rates
  - *What are 'SBHCs'?*
  - *How can SBHCs improve educational outcomes?*
    - *NIH EPOCH study outcomes*
    - SBHC statistics
- How to establish a SBHC
- How to address UK absenteeism
- References
- Survey results
- Contact information

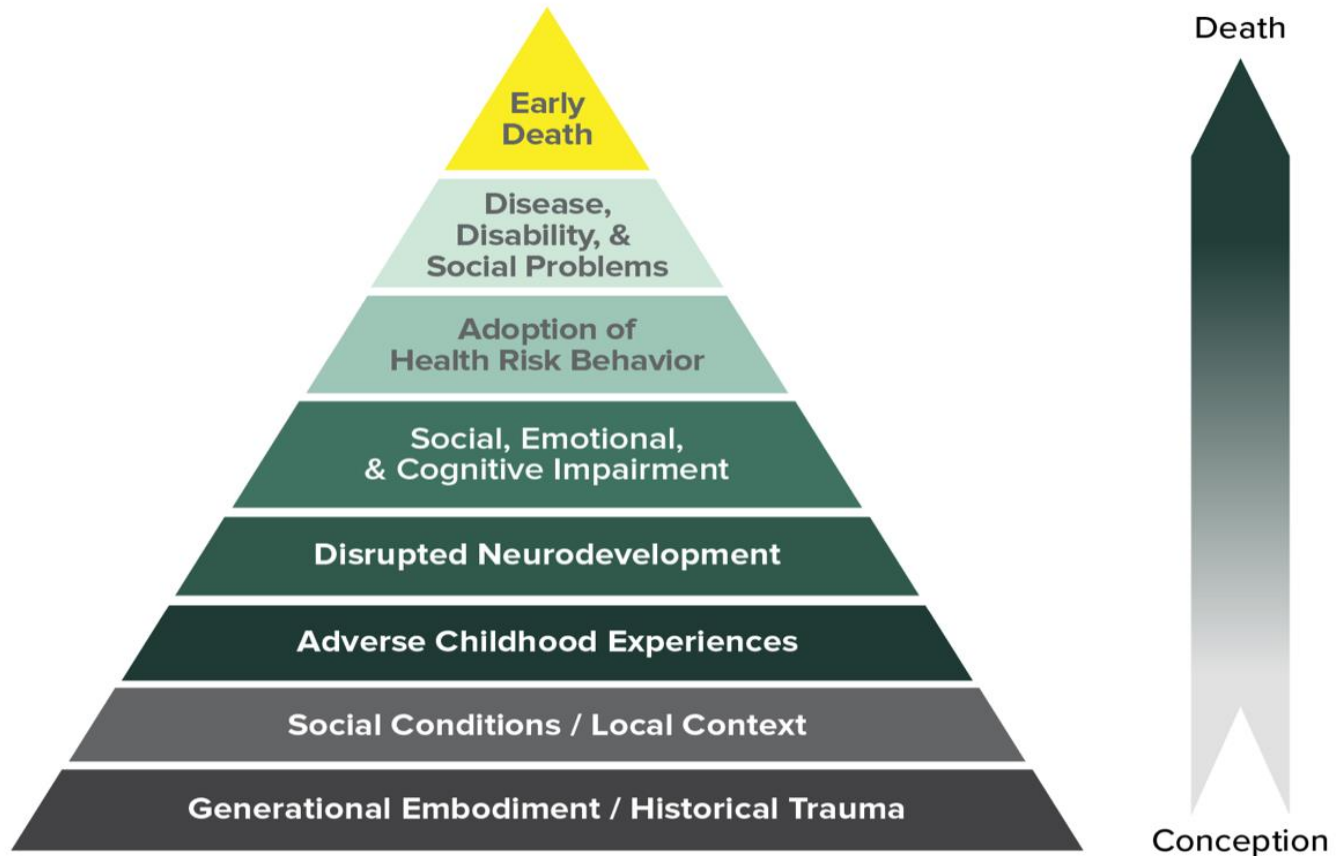
# U.S. Truancy/Absenteeism Statistics

- **"More than 6.5 million students, or about 13%, miss 3 or more weeks of school."**<sup>1</sup>
  - *This is enough to threaten their chance of graduating.*
- **"9 out of 10 U.S. school districts experience some level of chronic absenteeism among students."**<sup>1</sup>
- Students that miss at least 10% of school have lower literacy rates, higher likelihoods for future mental health issues and higher levels of suspension.
- Poor or rural communities see higher rates of absenteeism.
- **"A student is considered chronically absent if they miss only two days of school per month (18 days in a year) - chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out".**<sup>2</sup>

# What are ACEs?

- **Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful events that occur during childhood that have negative effects on future life outcomes later in adolescence and adulthood.**<sup>3</sup>
  - *ACEs include child abuse, neglect, substance abuse, mental illness, little to no access to health resources, lack of support within home environment and other household risk factors.*<sup>3</sup>
- **ACEs are a direct correlation to high school dropout, future educational outcomes, future health outcomes and issues with the law.**<sup>3</sup>
  - *According to the NHS, individuals with 4 or more ACEs are more likely to have been in prison, develop heart disease, frequently visit the GP, develop type 2 diabetes, have committed violence in the last 12 months, have health-harming behaviors (high-risk drinking, smoking, drug use).*<sup>3</sup>

# ACE Conceptual Framework



Mechanism by which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan



# ACEs

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly **two-thirds** of youth in the U.S. **have had at least one ACE** and **more than one-third of those have had two or more ACEs.**<sup>5</sup>
- **As the number of ACEs increases, educational attainment decreases.** In other words, as students who reported experiencing traumatic life events were more than one and one-half times more likely to drop out of high school.
  - ***Household adversities, including parent criminal offending, parent substance and alcohol abuse, etc. can lead to maladaptive interpersonal patterns and deviant peer associations (i.e. gang involvement, etc.) which are leading indicators of dropout.***<sup>5</sup>

# Dropout Effects on Health and Well-Being

- According to the CDC, high school or secondary school graduation is one of the leading social determinants of health.<sup>5</sup>
- **Dropout can lead to a reduced quality of life** (e.g., adult-onset chronic disease and mental health issues and an increased risk for joblessness, criminality, and single parenthood).<sup>5,6</sup>
- Theoretical models have found that **children who experience ACEs can develop future health-risk behaviors and social problems** via altered neurological and cognitive/socio-emotional functioning.<sup>5</sup>
  - *These problems include **emotional, cognitive, and behavioral deficits**, which can lead to **decreased academic development, reduced mastery of educational competencies, and school disengagement.***<sup>5</sup>
  - *These processes that may begin early in a student's education (**signs can be seen as early as kindergarten**) can eventually lead to school dropout.*<sup>5</sup>

# School-Based Health Centers

- **School-based health centers (SBHCs) are clinics that are implemented within schools** to increase access to healthcare and improve educational achievement for underserved and impoverished youth.<sup>7</sup>
- SBHCs operate as a partnership between the school, surrounding communities and a sponsoring medical provider to provide services that are typically offered in an emergency room.<sup>7</sup>
- The specific **services provided by school-based health centers vary based on community needs and resources** and are determined by the community, school district and health care providers.<sup>7</sup>
  - *These health services include: primary medical care, mental/behavioral health care, dental, health education, substance abuse counseling, nutrition, health screenings, vision, etc.*<sup>7</sup>

# School-Based Health Centers Address ACEs and Reduce Absenteeism

- SBHCs have proven to be effective in **improving a student's health and attendance** by addressing a child's physical, mental and emotional needs.
- SBHCs reduce number of early dismissals in comparison to students who only receive care from school nurses alone.<sup>8</sup>
  - *Students not enrolled in an SBHC **lost 3 times as much seat time** as students enrolled in an SBHC.*<sup>8</sup>
- SBHCs offer resources and opportunities for students that allow them to stay in school and graduate when they would have been suspended or dropped out otherwise.<sup>9</sup>
- Studies have found that **SBHCs can see up to 50% decrease in absenteeism and 25% decrease in tardiness**, thus reducing chances of dropout.<sup>10</sup>
- Chronically ill patients (i.e. asthmatics, obese children, etc.) who use the centers reduce hospitalizations.<sup>10</sup>

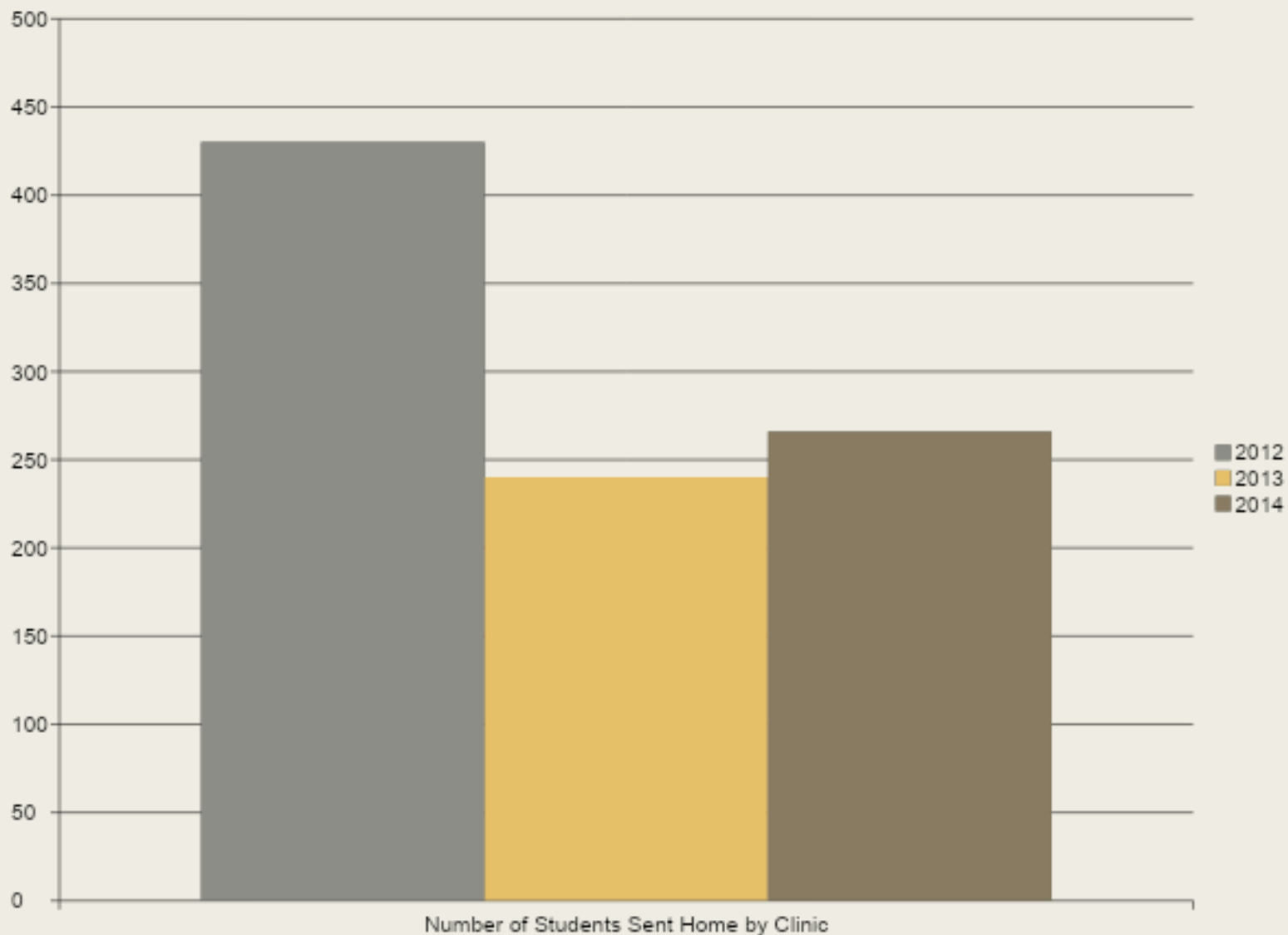
# NIH Study - EPOCH

- **Evaluating Processes and Outcomes for Children (EPOCH)** study evaluated the **impact of SBHCs on reducing student health disparities** in lower income communities while addressing the barriers.
- During a 7-year longitudinal study, Emory evaluated the impact of 3 SBHCs in GA on students and surrounding communities.
  - *Lake Forest Elementary SBHC (primarily black community)*
  - *Turner Elementary SBHC (primarily Hispanic community)*
  - *Tiger Creek Elementary SBHC (primarily white community)*
- Evaluation efforts focused on:
  - *Data collection on utilization and quality measures (i.e. Health center patient data, School records, and school level data to demonstrate the SBHCs' impact on improving student outcomes)*
  - *SBHC observational assessments*
  - *Staff, Admin Interviews*
  - *Community focus groups*

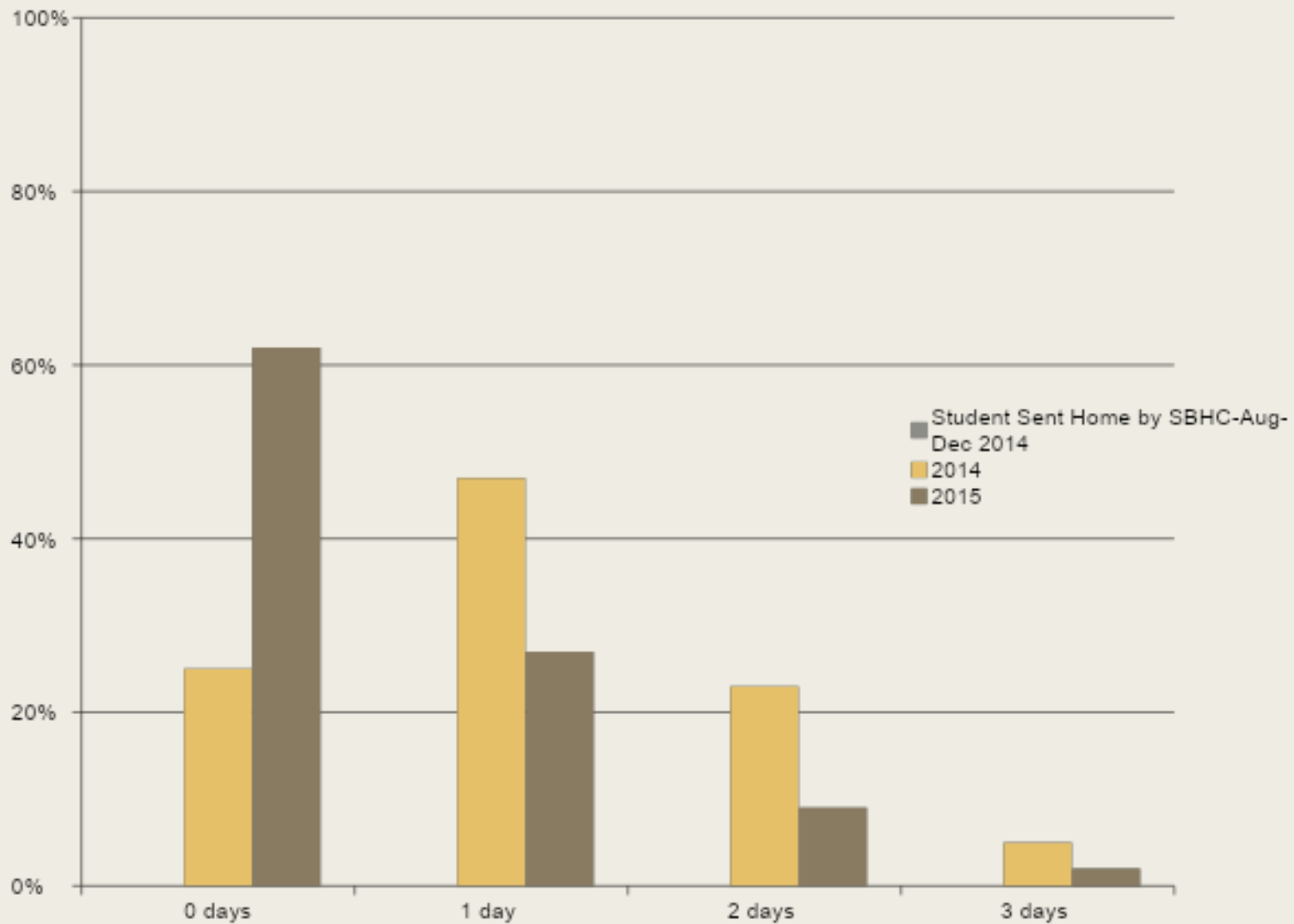
# EPOCH Results

- All SBHCs recruited and enrolled over 80% of the student body into the respective centers
- **Each SBHC set and met quality benchmarks for chronic illness** (i.e. asthma, obesity-related conditions, etc.) **health maintenance and was able to increase seat time** over time.
- Increased seat time for students at Lake Forest Elementary SBHC
  - *40% and 38% increase in seat time from pre-SBHC to post – SBHC, years 1 & 2 respectively*
  - *Decrease in numbers of days missed due to illness between years 1 & 2*

### Number of Students Sent Home by Lake Forest Clinic



## Number of Missed Days from School After Visiting the Health Center





# How to Establish a SBHC

1. Apply for planning grants for communities interested in establishing a SBHC
2. Develop community advisory group/board
3. Scout possible facilities and conduct needs assessments
4. Define strategies to address needs and identify specific clinic services necessary to address these needs
5. Develop a business plan for establishing SBHC
6. Engage district and school admin to get school board approval
7. Identify space for SBHC and determine if renovation of space is needed
8. Enlist SBHC Sponsoring organization, hire staff, get federal approval, clinic certification and staff credentials
9. Liaise with parents to recruit students and families, enrollment, and utilization

# U.S. vs. U.K. Truancy Rates

- According to the UK Dept. for Education, **illness is the #1 cause for overall absences** in the UK, accounting for 54.7%.<sup>11</sup>
- Unfortunately, in the UK **school nurses cannot treat all illnesses and medical emergencies alone**, therefore students may be sent home if illnesses persist.<sup>11</sup>
- Persistent absentees account for 32.4% of all authorized absences and more than half, 54.1%, of all unauthorized absence.<sup>11</sup>
- **Enrollment rates have decreased due to chronic absenteeism.**<sup>11</sup>
- How should the UK address these issues?
  - Answer: **SBHCs**

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