

# LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER AND LPS SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER

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*Trends and Opportunities in  
Adolescent Health*



# LCHC School Based Health Center

The School Based Health Center (SBHC) at Lowell High School provides students with medical and behavioral health care *on-site during school hours*

Services include:

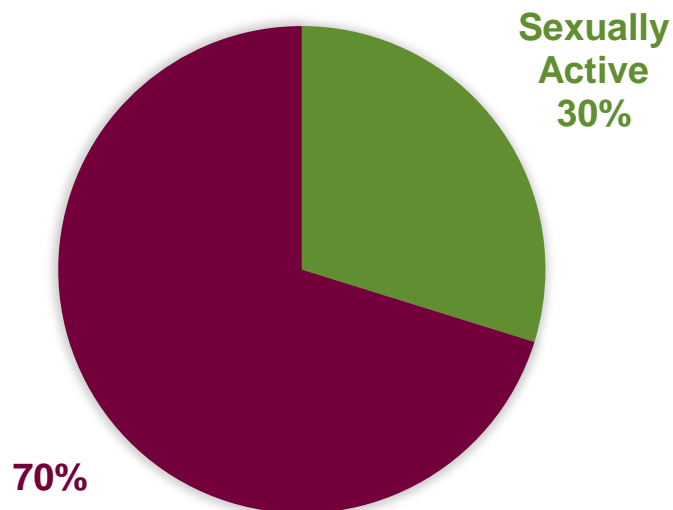
- physical exams
- behavioral health services
- management of chronic medical conditions
- sick visits
- nutrition counseling
- health screenings
- immunizations
- sports and employment physicals



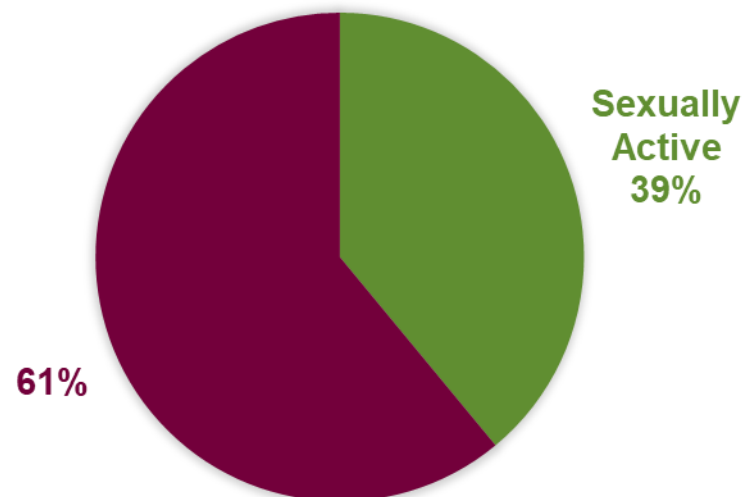
School-based health centers are nationally recognized as a best practice for providing comprehensive adolescent health care including reproductive health. They are uniquely positioned in a safe, non-judgmental space which meets the students social, emotional, and physical needs in an easily accessible location.

# Lowell Communities that Care Survey 2012

## 9TH GRADERS



## 12TH GRADERS

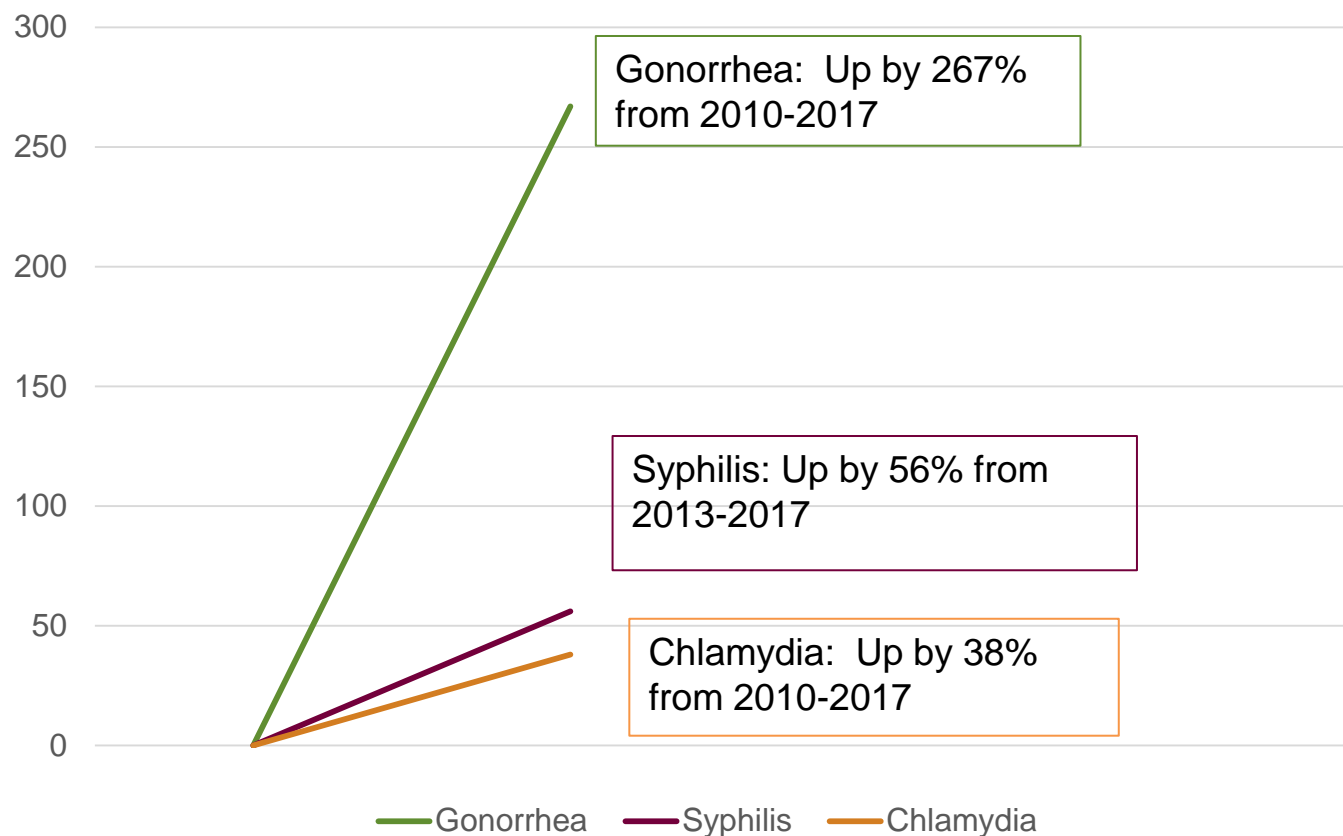


### Lowell Teen Contraceptive use

40.5% of sexually active high school students and 47.3% of sexually active middle school students reported that they did **not** use any method of birth control/condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse.[1](appendix A)

22% of Middle Schoolers report being sexually active

# Massachusetts STD Trends

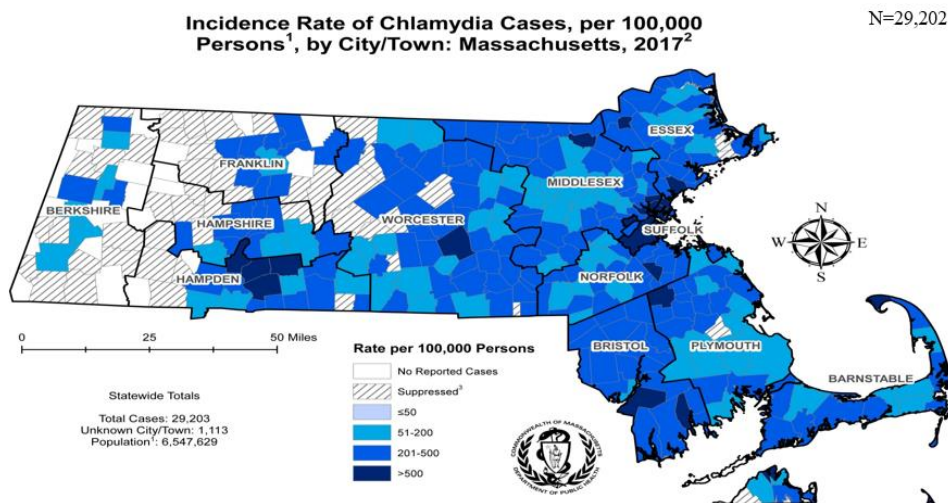


# Lowell and Massachusetts STD Trends

15-24 year olds account for half of all new STD infections while making up just over one quarter of the sexually active population(CDC, 2018). STD rates in the US, Massachusetts and Lowell are on the rise.

## Lowell:

Lowell is in the highest category of incidence rates of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV in Massachusetts.



# Lowell Teen Pregnancy trends

In 2016, there were 54 teen births in Lowell. 57% of the teen births were to Hispanic mothers while Hispanic students make up only 24% of the Lowell Public School student population. (2)

*While the teen birth rate in Lowell has decreased in the past 10 years, it is still almost twice that of the Massachusetts rate[4]*

The SBHC refers students to LCHC at 161 Jackson street for expanded adolescent health services including contraception:

These services are:

- Free and Confidential for adolescents
- Available by appointment or by walk in after school hours
- Located 1/2 mile walk from Lowell High School

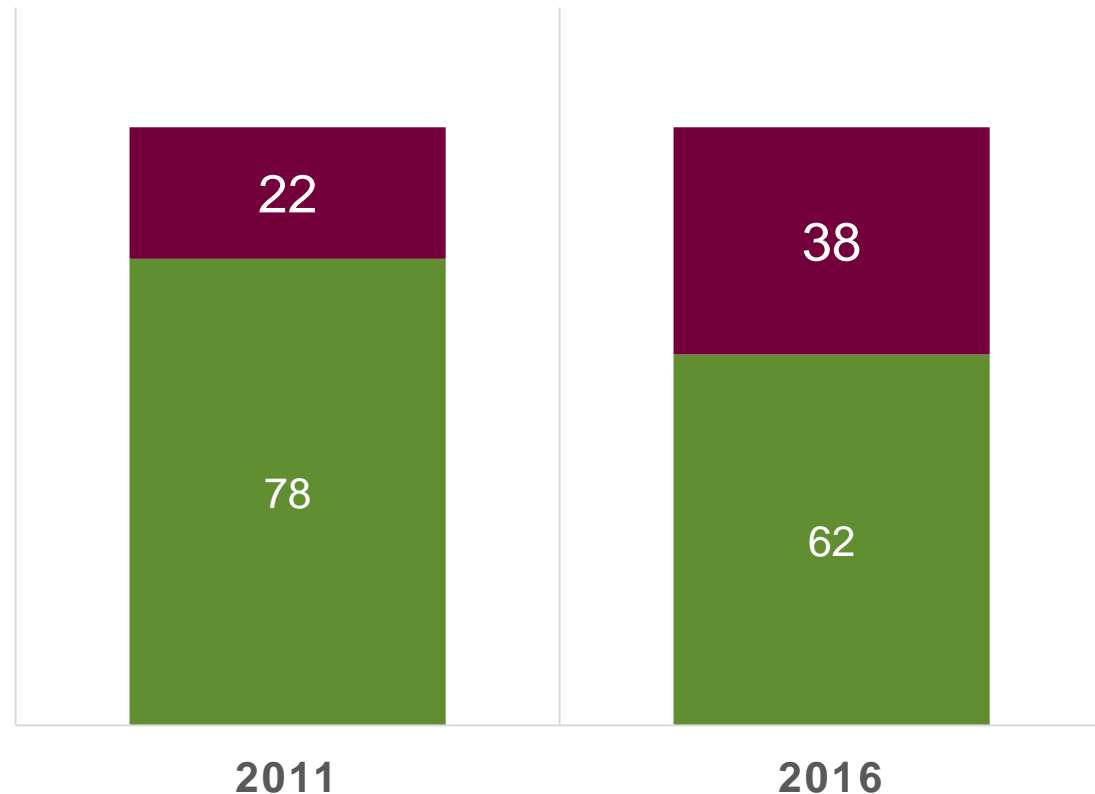


## Referrals from SBHC to LCHC

In 2011 and 2016 SBHC Patients seeking birth control services and referred to the LCHC were tracked. 78% and 62% did not make it to their appointment

### PERCENTAGE OF SBHC PATIENTS ACCESSING TEEN CLINIC SERVICES

■ No Visit ■ Visit



# Best Practice in Adolescent Preventive Care

*The American Academy of Pediatrics considers contraception to be an essential component of adolescent preventive care[4].*

Other communities have made expanded access to contraceptives available at the SBHCs.

These include:

- Boston
- Cambridge
- Somerville
- Everett
- Lynn
- Gloucester
- Lawrence (Vocational School)
- Peabody
- Chelsea
- Revere
- Charlestown

# Request for Consideration

We are requesting that the Lowell Public School Committee consider further review of expanding the services, including contraceptives, within the Lowell Community Health Center's School Based Health Center at LHS

# Sources

1. Rothenback Research and Consulting LLC. 2012. Communities that Care Survey. Lowell, MA.
2. Massachusetts Department of Public Health (2016). *Massachusetts Births 2016*. Released April, 2018.
3. Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. STD Updated 2018.
4. American Association of Pediatrics. Policy Statement: Contraception for Adolescents. October 2014, Volume 134/ Issue 4

## Appendix A: Communities that Care Youth Survey

The *Communities That Care* Youth Survey is designed to identify risk factors related to problem behavior such as alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and levels of protective factors that guard against those behaviors. 7 MA *Youth Risk Behavior* survey sexual behavior questions were added.

All together, 1,235 students in grades 6 through 8 in the Lowell Public Middle Schools and 1,748 students in grades 9 through 12 at Lowell High School participated in 2012.\*

The survey was administered in the classroom by teachers and participation was voluntary and anonymous.

Data analysis was completed by the Rothenbach Research and Consulting LLC.

\*55% of High School students 65% of middle school students surveyed responded to Sexual behavior questions



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