



**SCHOOL-BASED
HEALTH ALLIANCE**

The National Voice for School-Based Health Care

**RESILIENCE AFTER
TRAGEDY:
ADVOCACY AND POLICY
SOLUTIONS AFTER UVALDE**

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023

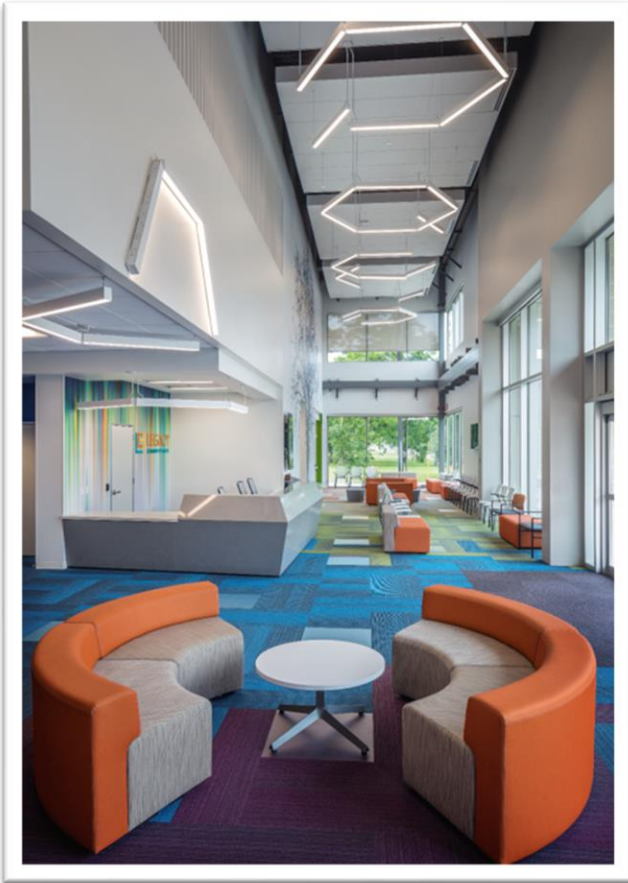
ROMA BHATT, LPC-S

*Senior Director, School-Based
Behavioral Health Services*

LINDSAY LANAGAN

Vice President, Government Relations





This workshop will be an overview of how Legacy:

- Advocates to increase behavioral health and pediatric services in schools.
- Strives to create safer school environments through policy and legislation.
- Addresses resiliency by advocating for our patients and their wellbeing.
- Carefully manages our available resources, in order to deliver on our promise of driving healthy change.



The participant will be able to explain three ways they can advocate for policy changes.



The participant will identify policy priorities that create legislative opportunities for school-based health care.



The participant will learn from best practices in funding their school-based health care programs through community-based giving.



At Legacy, we believe health care is a right, not a privilege.

Mission

Driving healthy change in our communities.

Vision

Connecting our communities to health every day, in every way.

Values

Health Care is a Right, Not a Privilege.
We believe that comprehensive health care is a human right. Legacy's services and programs are open to all who need us, regardless of the ability to pay, without judgment or exception.

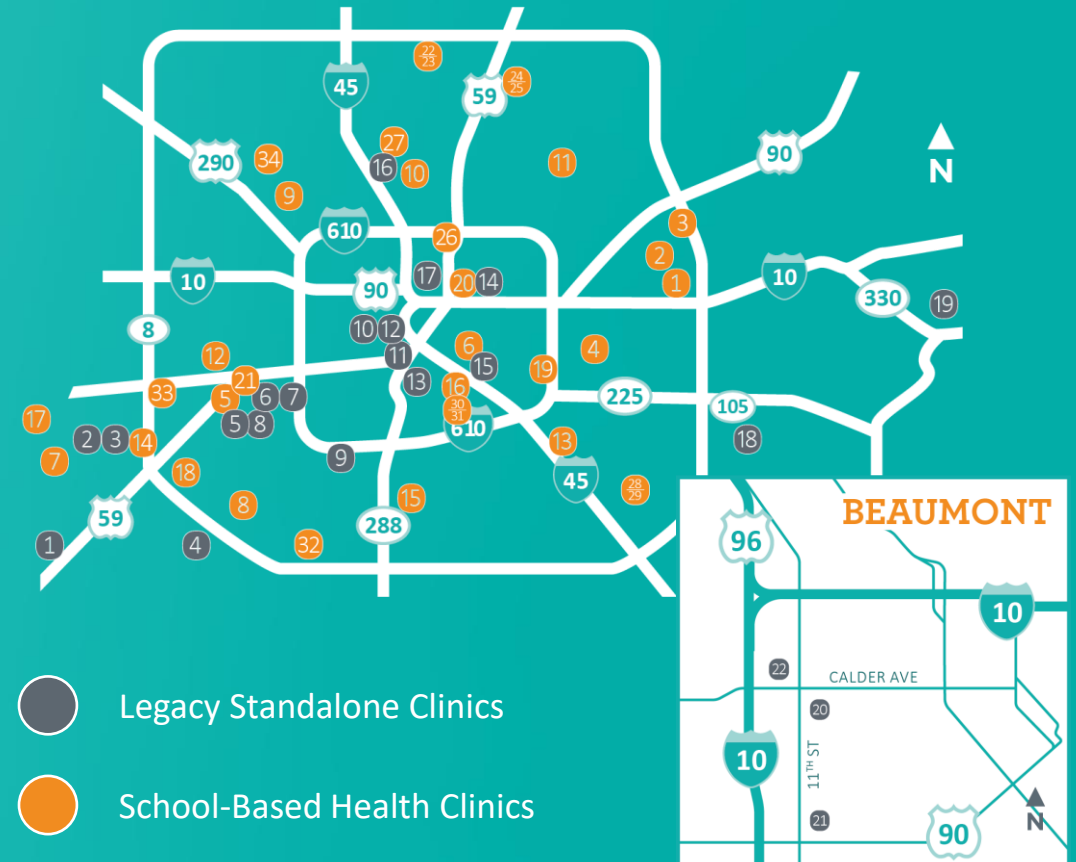
To learn well, you must be well.

56 Locations Across the Baytown, Beaumont, Deer Park, Missouri City and Stafford.

- 34 of 56 Sites are School-Based Health Clinics.
- 1700+ Legacy Employees serving the community.
- Serves more than 190,000 patients annually.
- **Legacy is the largest FQHC in the state of Texas.**

GREATER HOUSTON

Baytown, Deer Park, Houston, Missouri City, and Stafford

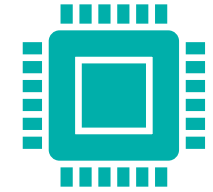
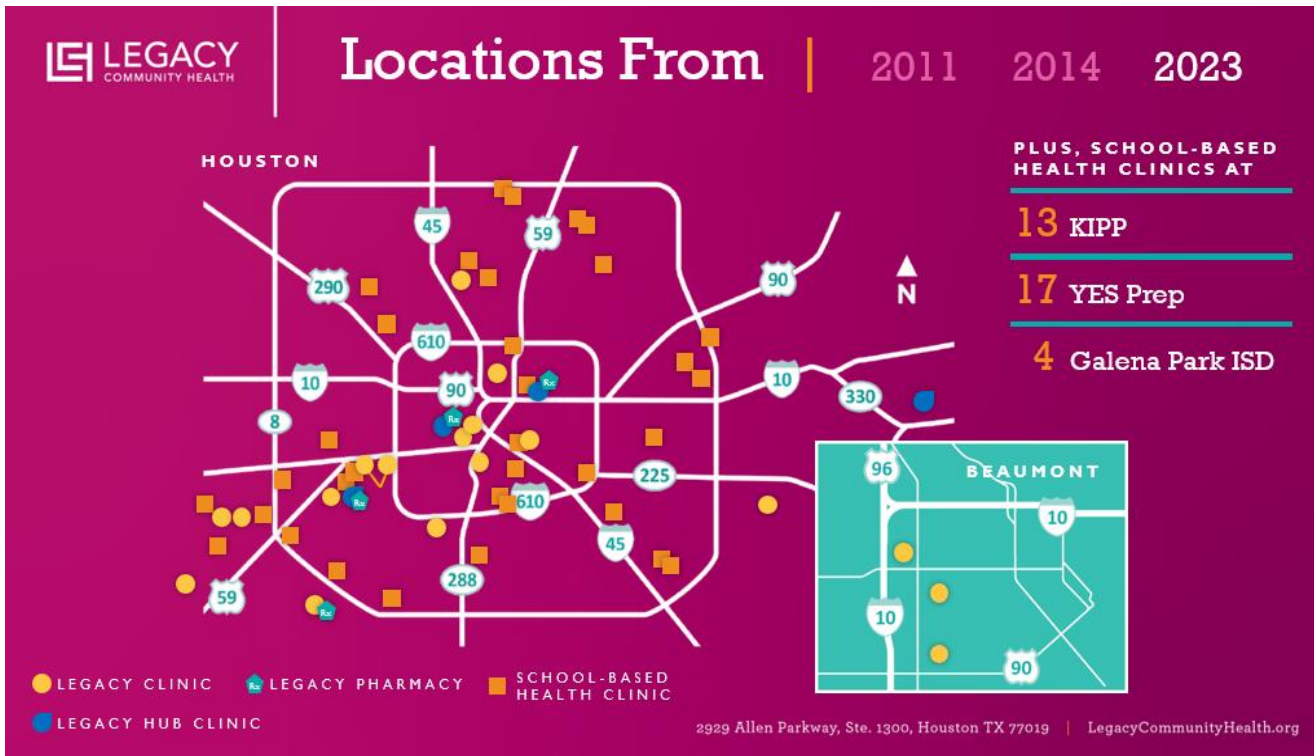


**With Legacy's vision of health care for all,
we're committed to providing a wide range of services:**

Adolescent Care
Adult Medicine
Behavioral Health
Dental
Eligibility & Enrollment
Endocrinology
Family Medicine
Gender Health & Wellness
Health Promotion & Education

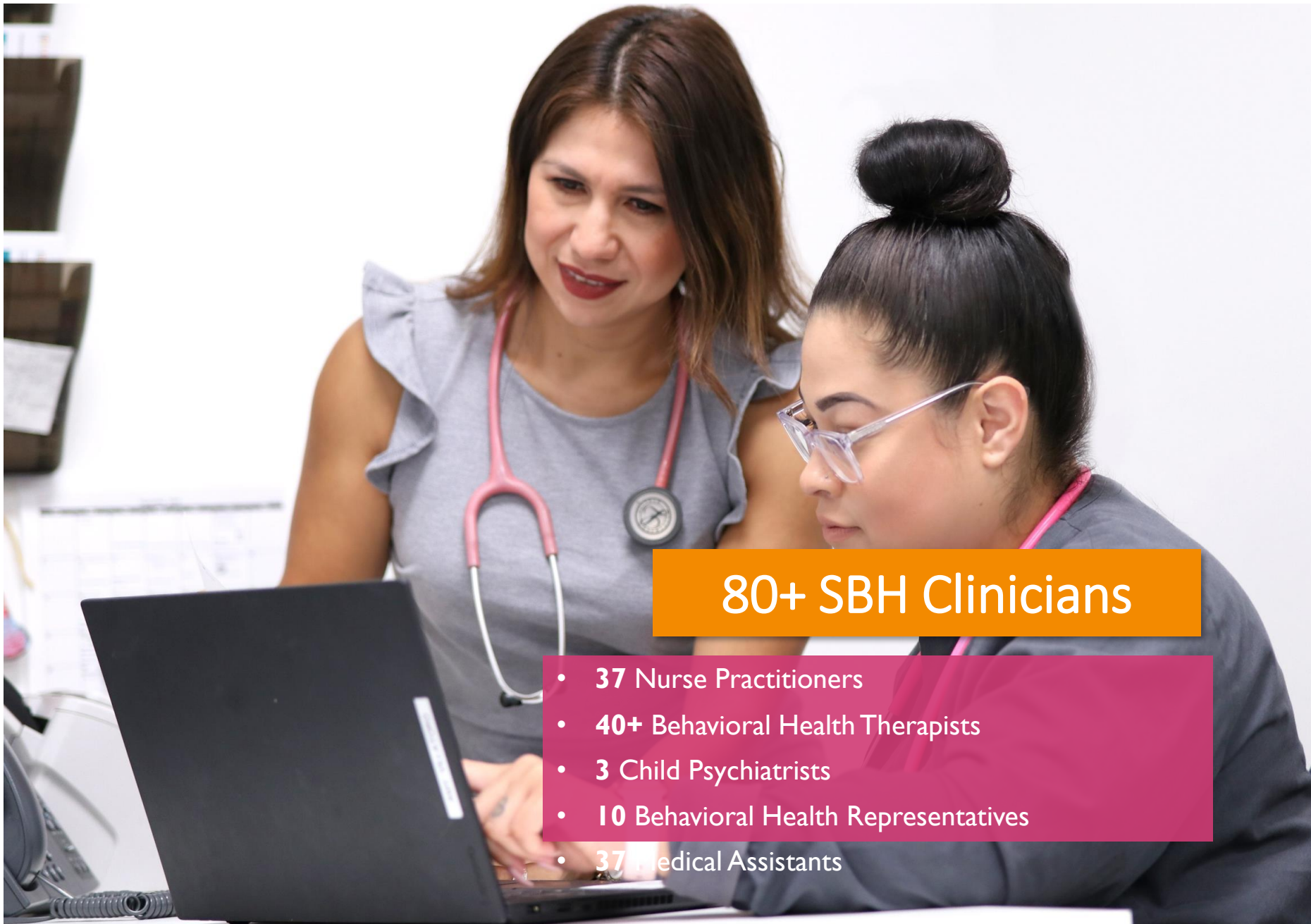
HIV/STI Screening, Prevention &
Treatment
LGBTQIA+ Services
Newborn to Adolescent Care
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Patient Navigation & Linkage to Care
Pediatrics
Pediatric Walk In Clinic
Pharmacy

Pregnancy Testing
PrEP for HIV Prevention
School-Based Health Care
Senior Care
Social Services
Sports Medicine
Transgender Specialty Care
Vaccinations & Immunizations
Vision



Our School-Based Health Care Program consists of three separate school systems totaling thirty-four, soon to be thirty-seven, clinics which provide behavioral health and medical services on school campuses.

With the addition of three school-based health sites in 2023–2024, Legacy will have the largest FQHC school-based health program in the nation.



80+ SBH Clinicians

- 37 Nurse Practitioners
- 40+ Behavioral Health Therapists
- 3 Child Psychiatrists
- 10 Behavioral Health Representatives
- 37 Medical Assistants

Legacy's School-Based Health Services Include:

Pediatric Care

Well Child Visits	Minor Injuries
Vaccination & Immunization	Skin Problems
Sports Physicals	Asthma
Common Cold & Flu	Weight Management/Nutrition
Upset Stomach	Health Education & Referrals
Sore Throat	Senior Check-out Visits
Ear Infections	COVID-19 Testing

Behavioral Health

Anxiety
Depression
Trauma/Grief
Behavioral Difficulties
Attention Difficulties
Family Conflicts

Therapy Services

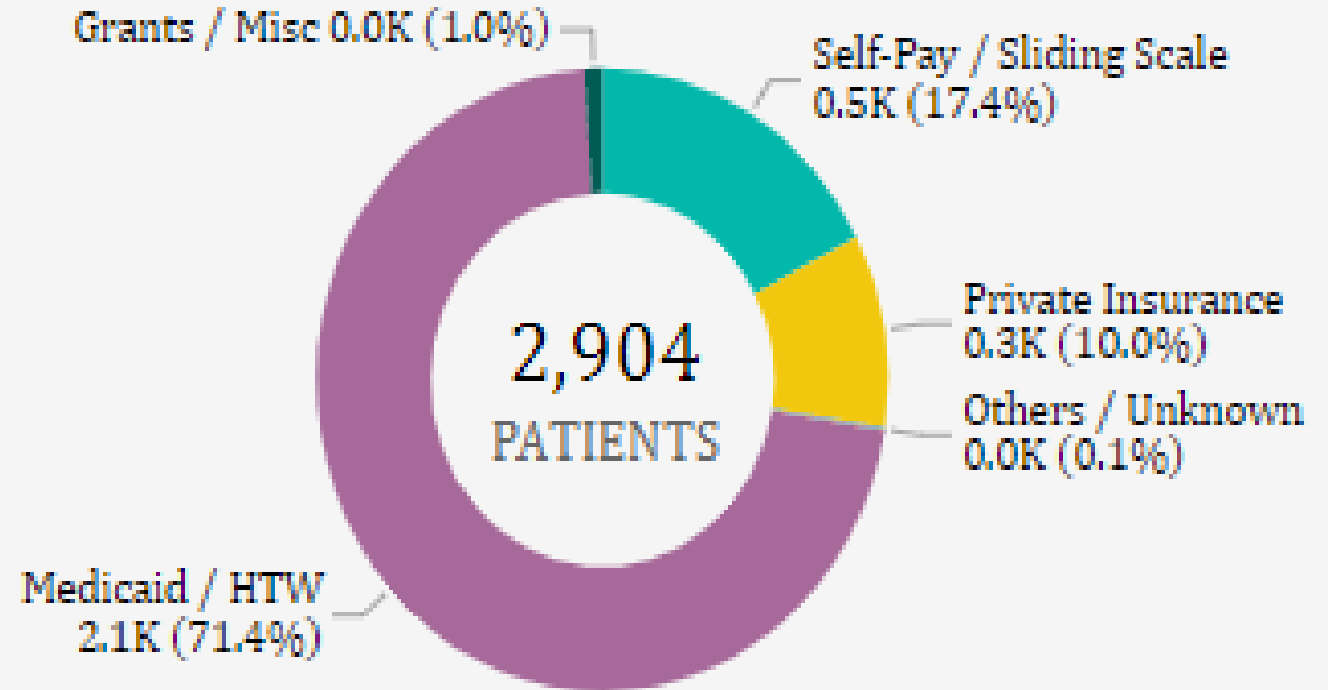
Individual Therapy
Family Therapy
Group Therapy
Psychiatry Services
Telehealth (Video Visits)



yes prep
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PATIENT POPULATIONS BY PATIENT'S PRIMARY FINANCIAL CLASS



August 2022 – May 2023

Completed Visits: 74,930

Uvalde, Texas

Tragedy Strikes in Our Home State



- In 2022, **nineteen students and two teachers** lost their lives in the Robb Elementary School shooting, in Uvalde, Texas. In 2018, just four years prior, **eight students and two teachers** lost their lives in the Sante Fe High School shooting.
- Texas has the **second highest** number of school shootings in the United States with more than 135 shooting events since 1970.

School Shooting Statistics

Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in the United States and has led to an epidemic of senseless and tragic mass shootings.

Firearm deaths occur at a rate more than 5 times higher than drownings.³

Since Columbine in 1999, more than 338,000 students in the U.S. have experienced gun violence at school.⁴

In 2022, we saw an all time high of school shootings in a one-year period (46 instances). This mirrored America's broader rise in gun violence as it emerged from the pandemic.

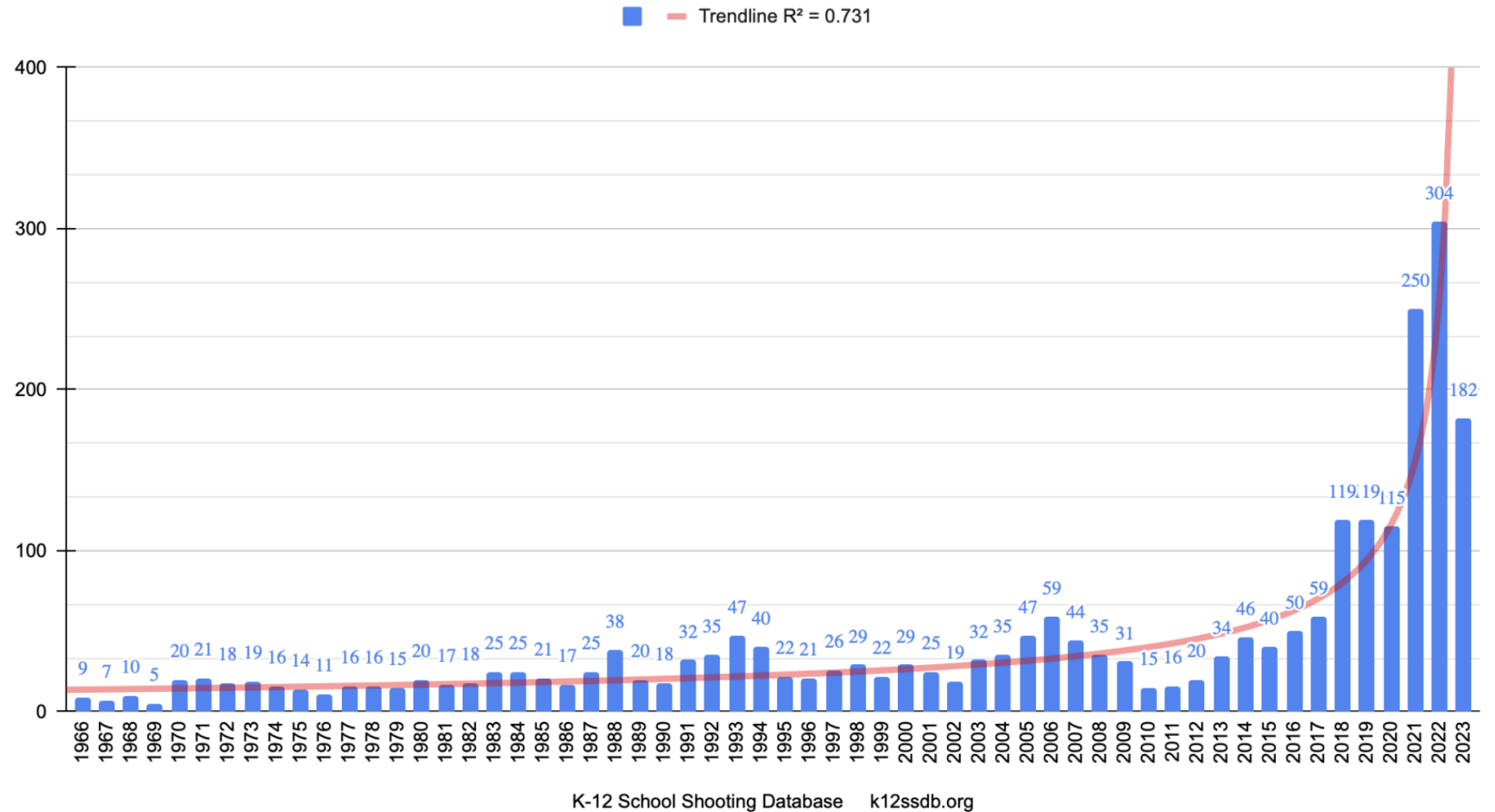
In 2022, 34 students and adults died while more than 43,000 children were exposed to gunfire at school.^{help}

The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security research shows that if we “know the signs” of gun violence, we can prevent it and reverse the trend.⁵

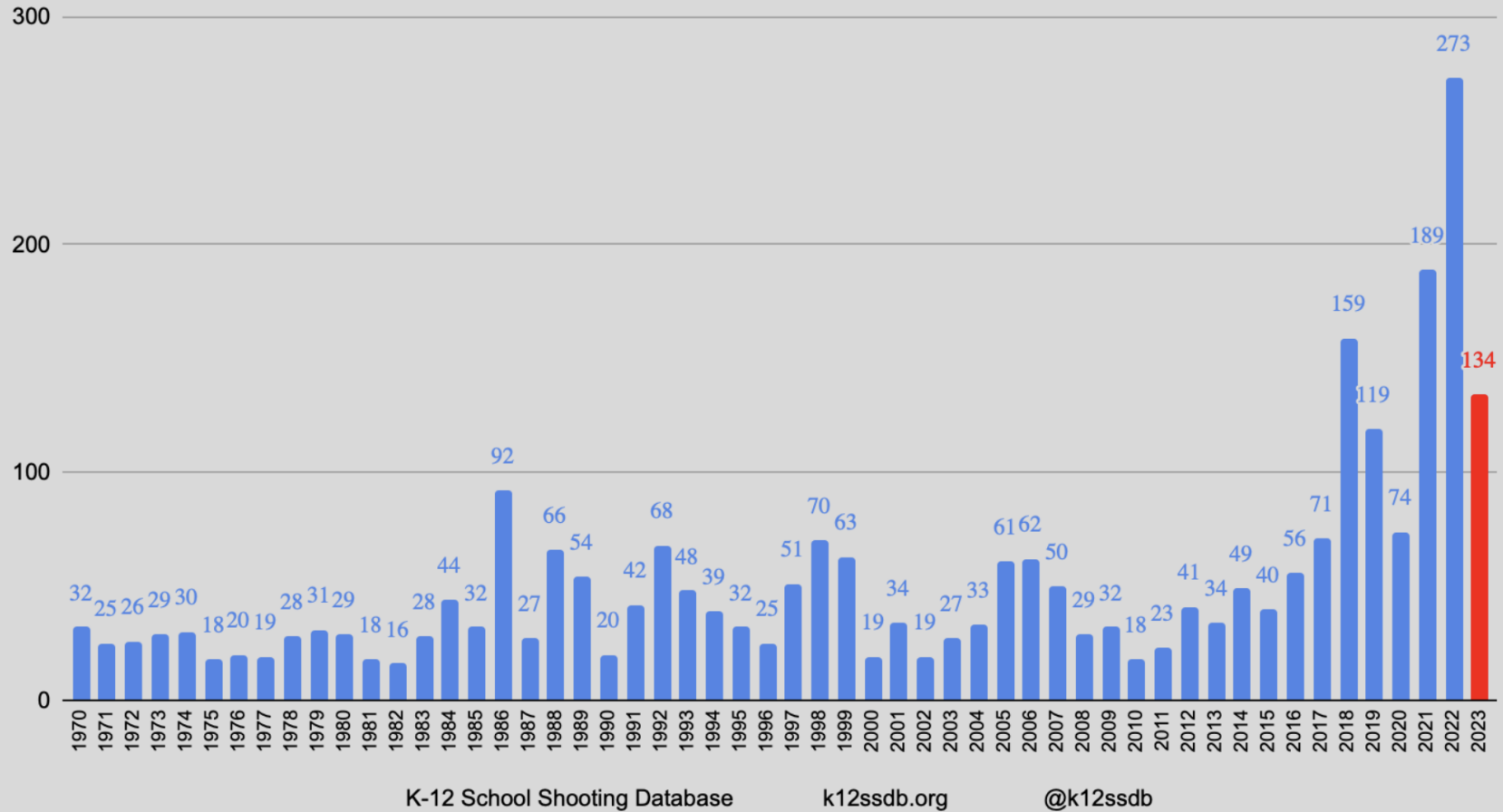


According to Everytown USA, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the impact of our country's gun violence crisis. There were 3,906 additional firearm deaths and 9,278 additional firearm injuries in 2020 compared to 2019.

Incidents per year from 1966 - present with power regression model

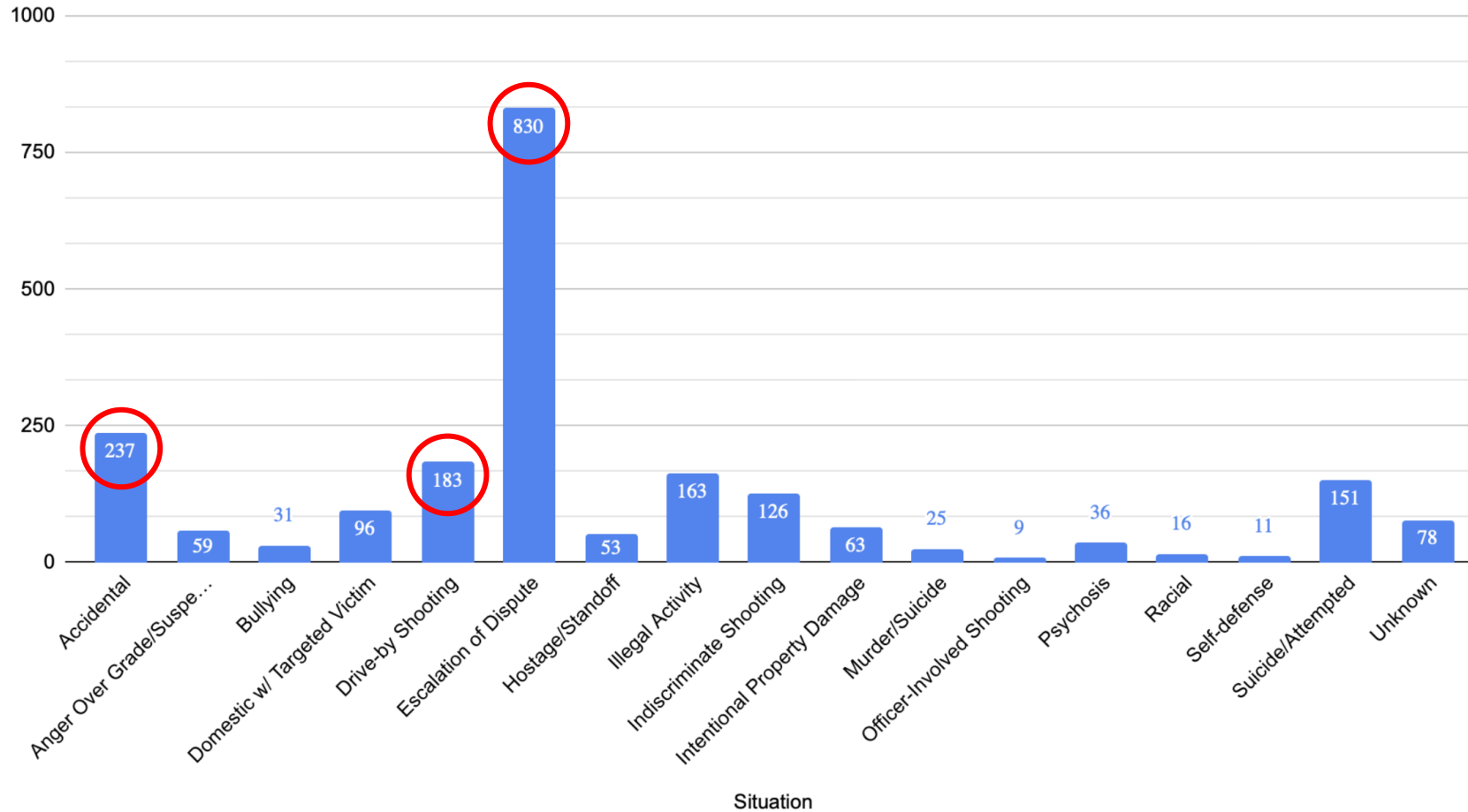


Number of victims (fatal and wounded) on K-12 school property



School Shooting: Circumstances

K-12 School Shooting Database: Situation



After the recent school shooting in Uvalde Texas, school-based health teams noticed an uptick in lockdowns and suspected emergency situations.

Students Reported:

- Feeling sad, angry, fearful, and worried about their safety.
- Numbness and an inability to describe emotions.
- Signs and symptoms of anxiety, depression and inattention, violence and death.

Impact to Teachers/Counselors:

- Collective fear, trauma and grief.
- Individual mental health challenges.
- Feeling of inability to keep school staff, students and peers safe from harm.



Each day 12 children die from gun violence in America. Another 32 are shot and injured.

- **Dr. Antoinette Wilson said,** *"the anguish of school shootings has left a devastating impact on our children, schools and community. The trauma of these events has contributed to an increased sense of fear, anxiety, loss of hope, and increased sadness and changes in mood. We bear witness to the pain of school shootings and how it penetrates on every level and negatively impacts the emotional, physical, and psychological well being of our students, families and school community."*
- **Director of School- Based Behavioral Health for YES Prep, Echevarria-Guzman said,** *"after the shooting, many students expressed feeling removed from a sense of safety, there were concerned about their peers, families and communities. But, there was also a sense of unity, solidarity, an increased support as a community. As result the school has geared up with all the necessary tools to improve safety, to check-in, to support staff, students and providers. Through resiliency, the school now provides a safer environment and is much more aware and mindful of the students needs. At Legacy, our team also became more mindful and resilient as we support one another, through incident stress debriefings to support students throughout the post incident year. We witnessed resiliency overall as a team, community and organization."*
- **Quachae Thomas, School-Based Health Therapist at YES Prep Southwest, the school which experienced the shooting, shared,** *"the children continue to express ongoing anxiety in response to the shooting...they report checking for exits, feeling jumpy when they hear loud noises, see people make sudden movements...we recently had a terrorist threat on another campus. Many of the students and parents were so concerned that the majority of students on our campus did not show up for school. One student reported telling her friend to always make sure her shoes were tied so she could run if she needed to. Another said they avoid walking on a certain side of the hallway because that's where they saw the shooter."*

Because we are on campus, inside the school building and part of the school system, we have unique access to students, get to know them better, are actively involved in their lives regarding their functioning and mental and medical health, which allows us to better treat them, leading to better overall outcomes.

Our program has helped reduce school absences, suspensions, detentions, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and even major causes of youth mortality, such as suicide, homicide, and accidental injury, all while improving students' academic performance and overall functioning in school, at home, and in their community.

As a licensed professional counselor and a school-based mental health professional, I can attest to the profound impacts school-based health programs have on the physical and mental wellbeing of students. This type of proactive approach creates a safer, more supportive environment for all students and school personnel.

Jessica Ginn, Senior Director of School Based Health-Clinical Services, reports:

"In 2021, we experienced a school shooting at one of the schools where we have a school-based health clinic. An alumni who graduated several years prior to Legacy establishing a clinic on campus, accessed the school and shot the principal. Thankfully, the principal was okay but had a big impact on the students and staff. Our organization sent therapists from the agency to the school to provide support to students and staff when they returned to campus. The need for mental health services increased exponentially at that campus so we continued to support via telehealth for those students. Unfortunately, by the end of the year, all three of the Legacy staff members at the school had resigned or transferred to a different location because they were adults and could make that decision. The children that went to the school can't go somewhere else to school. They don't have a choice."

Government Relations



Legacy's Vice President of Government Relations is key to identifying opportunities to advocate for change in governmental policies and oversees all external communications.



Key in overseeing federal, state and local government relations for the organization to influence policy at all levels of government and leads the Public Affairs team.



School-Based Health Clinics

Government Relations

Advocacy

Question for the Audience:

- Please raise your hand if your organization's success is impacted by government policy at the federal, state, or local level?



Define Issues

- What issues does your organization care about?
- Are you trying to change an existing piece of legislation, or introduce something new?
- Is your issue affected at the federal, state, or local level?

Identify Legislative Champions

- Which legislators are most active on your issue?
- Through a variety of methods, you can figure out which legislators of Congress, state legislators, or city officials are critical to the outcome of the issue your organization cares about.

Track Legislation

- While you're building relationships with legislators, you need to be alert to any legislation introduced that affects the issues you care about.

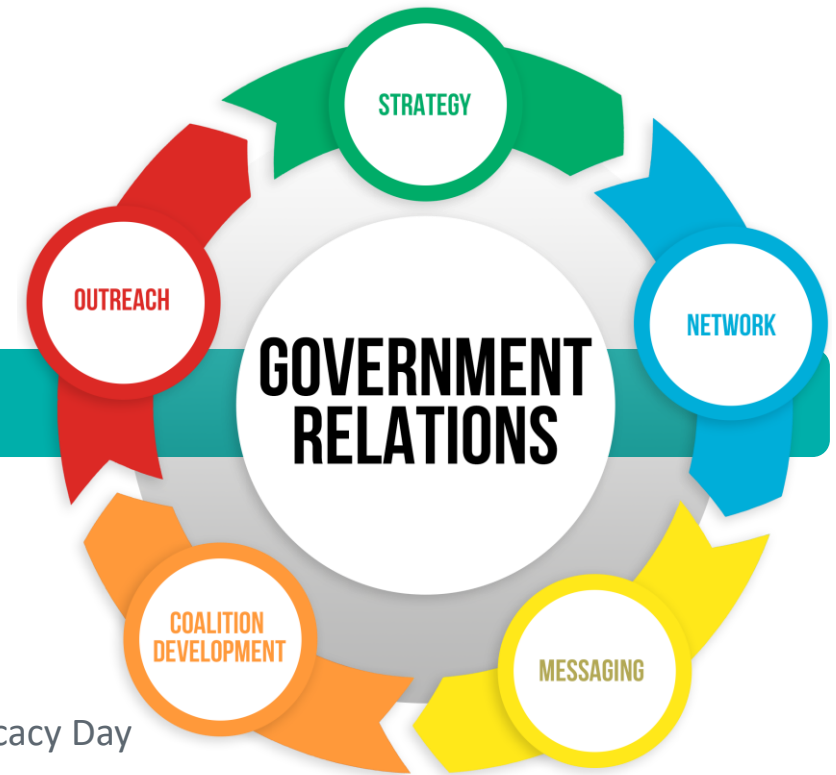
Draft Legislation

Build Relationships with Our Legislative Champions

- A few key steps to build a relationship with a legislative office:
 - Schedule a meeting in the district to introduce yourself
 - Attend a legislator's event
 - Schedule a site-visit for the member
 - Schedule a meeting in Washington or the state capitol
 - Make a small ask, like a resolution
 - Continue to follow up and engage periodically

Integrate Grassroots Advocacy

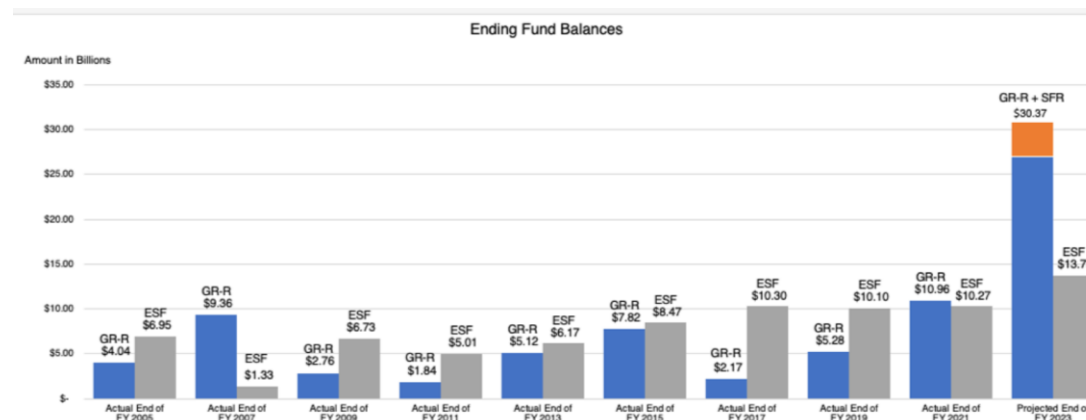
- Key steps to a successful grassroots program:
 - [Survey Your Advocates](#) to Find Personal Relationships
 - Call on Advocates to [Write and Call](#) Their Legislators
 - Train Your Advocates on the Aspects of a [Successful Advocacy Meeting](#)
 - Bring Your [Grasstops Advocates](#) to Washington or the state capitol for an Advocacy Day



Legislative Response

2023 Texas State Budget

- \$16 million for the construction of inpatient beds at children's hospitals.
- \$40 million for the Federally Qualified Health Center Incubator Program, \$20 million of which is dedicated to FQHC school-based health center expansion.
- A newly required strategic plan for children's behavioral and mental health.
- \$1.5 million for the Texas A&M University System to complete a study on the capacity of mental health services for children and adolescents.
- Approximately \$30 million for the expansion of multisystemic therapy for at-risk youth with intensive needs and their families.
- \$28 million for the Mental Health Loan Repayment Program





News +++ Information +++ News +++ Information +++ News +++ Information +++ News
Changes in legislation

**2023 Texas State
Legislation that
will become
Law September
1st, 2023**

- **HB 400:** Innovation Grant program for medical schools that administer innovative residency training programs designed to increase the number of physicians in this state who specialize in pediatric or adult psychiatric care.
- **HB 617:** Creates a pilot program for Next Gen 911 telehealth and telemedicine services in rural areas.
- **SB 26:** Expands mental health capacity, especially for children and adolescents, through the creation of an innovation grant program.
 - Prioritize grant awards to entities that work with children and family members of children with a high risk of experiencing a crisis or developing a mental health condition.



News +++ Information +++ News +++ Information +++ News +++ Information +++ News
Changes in legislation

2023 Texas State Legislation that will become Law September 1st, 2023

- **HB 3:** Seeks to provide schools in Texas with a new standard of emergency preparedness and response with state funding to school districts through the school safety allotment.
 - Ensure that schools can be defended and adds new emergency operation standards.
 - Also provides for routine school safety audits.
- **SB 838:** Alyssa's Law, requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide silent panic alert technology in each classroom.
- **SB 728:** Requires courts to report involuntary mental health hospitalizations of juveniles aged 16 and older for inclusion in the federal gun background check system — closing a loophole exposed by The Texas Tribune and ProPublica after the Uvalde shooting.

What the TX Legislature Did Not Do

Did not pass raising the age of purchasing an AR-15-style rifle from 18 to 21.

Legislators were suspicious of school-based health centers, felt schools should teach, not provide health care.

Very concerned about parental consent in the school.

“We don't want our schools to become the delivery system for our mental health system,” Chairwoman of Senate Health and Human Services said.



Focused on creating grant programs to fund our school-based health, focusing primarily on the benefits of behavioral health on campus.

SB 1966:

- Texas saw the greatest increase in the number of uninsured children between 2016-2019 among all states.
- School-based health centers increase school attendance, help eligible students enroll in health insurance, offer support to at-risk students, reduce emergency room visits, and create a positive school climate that fosters learning and safety.
- The bill creates a grant program for the purpose of establishing school-based health centers that provide comprehensive preventative and primary health care for underserved Texas students.
- Requires a grant recipient have a student population with at least 50% of its students who are uninsured or who receive free or reduced-price lunches.



Incubator Grant.

Advocating for Change

Our Vice President of Government Relations believes that “People often think that legislation is imposed upon us, and that it cannot be changed. That couldn’t be farther from the truth! There is so much opportunity to effect change in policy and legislation, and all of us can play a part in policy solutions.”



How A Bill Becomes A Law



What is Healthcare Advocacy?

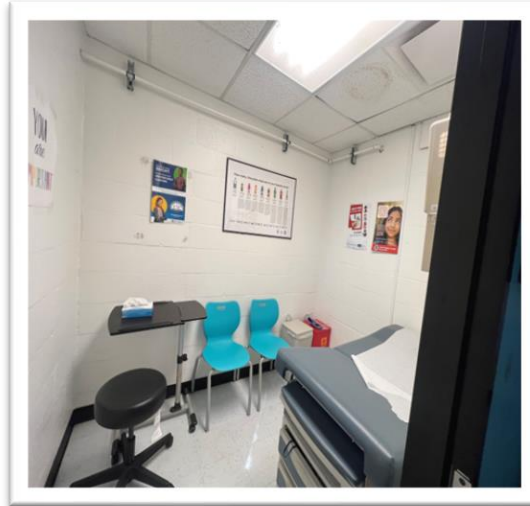
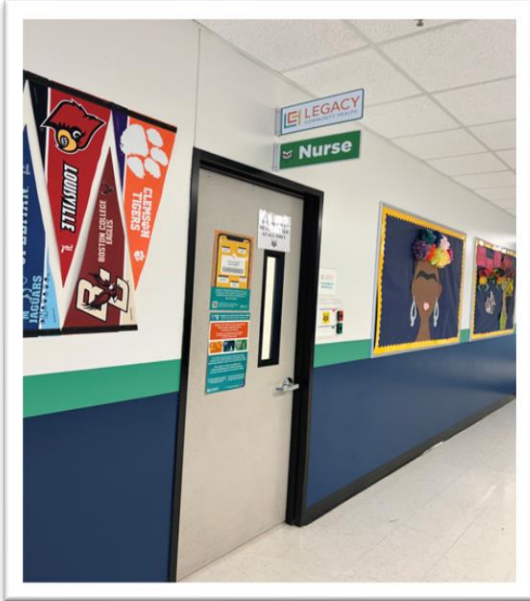
Advocacy means speaking out on a patients' behalf. Advocacy assumes that there is a problem that needs to be changed and it is a way to drive, or effect that change.

At its core, advocacy is about speaking out on behalf of patients' health and well-being, whether it is for one patient or for systematic solutions that benefit many patients.

Through working together, we can accomplish more than we can alone.

YOU can play a powerful role in creating lasting and meaningful change for patients.





Most legislators have no idea what a School-Based Health Center is:

- Site Visits are key to connecting with staff, students, parents and school leadership
- Educating legislators on resources and its impact to students, staff and administration is key.
- “Tell the Story” of the impact clinicians and therapists have on our students, school staff and administrators.

Tips for an Effective Meeting with Legislators

Always be courteous.

Plan what you are going to say before saying it!

Effective advocacy is about letting decision-makers know what you think about the issues you care about.

Regardless of how you reach your elected official, keep in mind the following:

Don't get frustrated if you don't see immediate results. Change takes time.



State you are a constituent.

Make your contact personal.

Tell your story.

Include a concrete or direct "ask" in your communication.

Thank legislators for actions that are in line with the things you care about.

'I don't want to be worried about my health': Houston area school nurse helps 16-year-old boy lose 100 pounds



Funding and Sustainability

- Strong engagement in Development and Marketing Department.
- Engaging with key community and school stakeholders at Legacy's Annual Frank Billingsley's Golf Classic, hosted by the Legacy Development Department, to raise funding which will improve infrastructure, programming, and future expansion to build a bigger and brighter future for students.
- The annual golf tournament includes an auction, raffle and this year, we will have our first live auction.
- SBHC is also one of Legacy's Programs to receive designated funds for donations.
- Public and private grants led by our VP of Program Development.
- Recipient of American Cancer Society grant to increase HPV vaccination rates and CPRIT grant to increase HPV vaccination rates and reduce vaping rates



- **Funding:**

- Private Funding received from private donors and local businesses applied to start-up costs for new school-based health sites.

- **Grant Collaborations:**

- Selected as 1 of 10 national organizations by School-Based Health Alliance to collaborate for pilot of multi-pronged approach to care coordination to schools in low-income communities.
- Collaboration with Brighter Bites to provide free fruits and vegetables for GPISD patients to improve healthcare outcomes.

- **Provider Wellness Team**

- Created to establish infrastructure and resources to support wellness at Legacy Community Health. In addition, the Wellness Team will encourage leadership support, commitment, and accountability for provider wellness at Legacy. The group will also provide opportunities for peer support, recognition and appreciation, fairness and inclusiveness, transparency and values alignment, and be responsible for measurement of well-being.
- At least one member from each of the 4 major service lines including Behavioral Health, Pediatrics, Family Practice, and OB/GYN.

CME and CE Information

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by the School-Based Health Alliance and Moses/Weitzman Health System, Inc. and its Weitzman Institute and is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



Through Joint Accreditation, credits are also available under the following bodies:

- American Academy of PAs (AAPA)
- American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
- Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)