

## Counseling

School nurses provide health counseling which is defined as any encounter with a student where direct service, instruction and advice for health promotion, health improvement and health maintenance were discussed.

Mental Health Issue Counseling	
Total Number of Counseling Sessions	398,680
Other Mental Health Issues	12,001
Depression	4,504
Suicide Ideation	1,232

## Opioid Epidemic

School nurses assess, counsel and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. 1,575 students were reported as engaged with the school nurse for known drug abuse with 227 student incidents listed as “requiring EMS response or immediate care by a physician, and/or loss of 1/2 or more days of school”. During this school year 52 drug abuse related presentations were given, and 3,902 individual counseling sessions were provided. When present, school nurses can respond to emergent symptoms indicative of possible drug influence or overdose. Opioid overdose on school grounds occurs rarely, with two incidents of Naloxone use for suspected overdose reported this school year, both administered by the School Resource Officer. Twenty school districts reported having Naloxone available on school grounds.

## Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)

AEDs are used for an immediate response to an emergency where a student or adult appears to have no heartbeat and time is critical for survival. 98% of public school districts report the presence of an AED on a campus. During this school year 22 instances of AED use were reported with the following statistics:

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	8	7
School Staff Person	6	3
Visitor	8	7

## Care Management Outcomes

School nurse care management of selected students with complex health needs involves use of a plan of care that includes specific interventions with achievable goals, measurable outcomes and regular evaluations. Students may have one or more planned outcomes based

on identified needs. School nurses may care manage students with a variety of diagnoses. Not all chronic condition diagnosed students are in need of care management services. 6,836 individual students received care management services at school during this year. Possible outcomes included diagnosis specific goals, grades and attendance. Care management outcomes for the following diagnoses are reported each school year:

Condition	Average % Improved Student Specific Outcomes
Asthma	82%
Diabetes	83%
Mental/Behavioral Health	75%
Seizure Disorder	79%
Severe Allergy	87%
Weight Management	77%

## Summary

School nursing services are one component of a local School Health Program. By working with multiple partners in health and education, including the NC Division of Public Health, NC Division of Medical Assistance, NC Department of Public Instruction, NC Pediatric Society, NC Academy of Family Physicians, NC Dental Society, Prevent Blindness NC, NC School and Community Health Alliance, local health departments, and more, school nurses are working to help students achieve at levels they might not otherwise reach. In many school health areas North Carolina can serve as a model for school health programs. In others, services are limited as a result of relatively slow growth in the number of school nurse positions in relation to student population growth and complexity of health care needs. Working towards an increase in the number of school nurses in North Carolina could positively impact overall student health and well-being, resulting in improved student attendance and successful academic outcomes.

This data represents key information shared by NC School Nurses via the Annual School Health Report Surveys. The information is based on students known to school nurses who received health related services in NC public schools. It is not intended as surveillance data. Except where indicated the data does not include students in NC public charter schools. Additional data is collected and is available upon request.

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NC Department of Health and Human Services • Division of Public Health  
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# North Carolina Annual School Health Services Report Brochure

## 2016-2017



# North Carolina School Health Nurses

*Keeping Students in Class and Ready to Learn*



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
 Division of Public Health

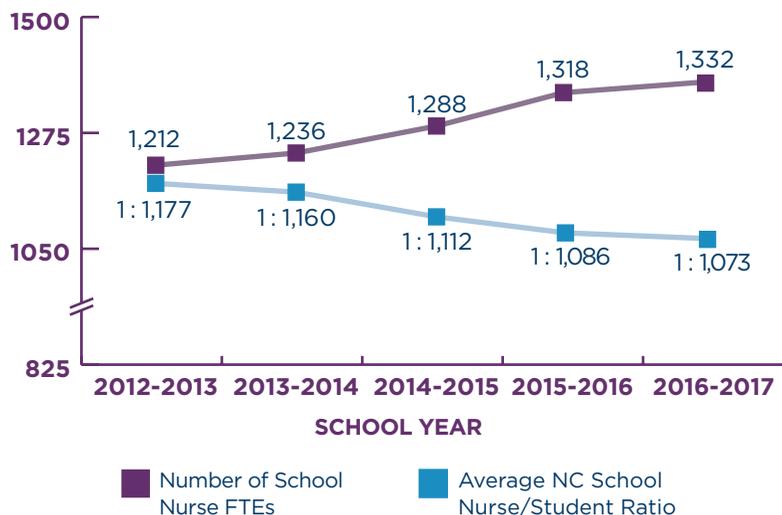


The North Carolina Annual School Health Services Report Survey began with the 1996/97 school year and has enjoyed 100% participation from all public-school districts since its inception. The survey purpose has remained the same as shared in 1996:

- To describe current school health services which demonstrate the scope and complexity of health needs in the school environment.
- To identify school health service needs in local communities and regions, and state trends.
- To clarify the school nurse role as the professional health services coordinator and provider within the school health program.
- To provide relevant data to assist local and state school health program managers and policy makers.

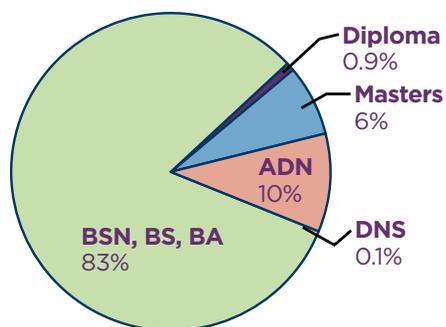
## School Nurse Profile

### School Nurse Staffing and Nurse-to-Students Ratios



### School Nurse Educational Preparation

School nurses are Registered Nurses (RN) with varied educational preparation. In addition to being a RN, national certification in school nursing is the standard by which North Carolina school nurses are assured to have the advanced knowledge and skills required in this



independent specialty practice. A baccalaureate is the minimum degree required for certification eligibility. At the close of the 2016-2017 school year 56% of the total number of school nurses were nationally certified. NC school nurse degree status is illustrated in the pie chart.

### NC Public Charter Schools that Employ a School Nurse

While NC LEA public schools are required to provide the services of a Registered Nurse to plan for the health needs of students, public charter schools are not. During the 2016-17 year 16% of public charter schools reported employing a school nurse, full or part-time.

### Common School Nurse Activities:

North Carolina school nurses are assigned a varying case load dependent upon school district resources and serve between one and six schools per nurse. Common school nurse activities include:

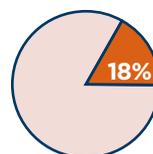
- Preventing and responding to communicable disease outbreaks
- Developing and implementing plans for emergency health related assistance
- Planning and providing specialized clinical services and related health instruction
- Medication and health care procedure oversight
- Assessment, referral, and assuring care for identified health needs
- Assuring that mandated health related activities are completed
- Provision of health education and health counseling
- Helping to assure a safe and healthy school environment

## NC Students

### Chronic Disease

School nurses assess needs, complete health care plans, and provide instruction to meet the health needs of students with chronic conditions.

2016-2017 Most Common Chronic Conditions	
Asthma	99,459
ADD/ADHD	55,445
Severe Allergies	33,941
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	11,386



**Percent of student population receiving school nurse services related to chronic disease**

## Procedures

School nurses completed or supervised completion of 12,890 individual student health care procedures that were needed many times over the course of the school year.

### Students and Suicide

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Suicide attempt	76	235	545
Death from suicide	0	12	30
Suicide occurred at school	0	0	1

## Selected Services Provided

### School Nurse/Student Encounters and Return to Class

A student with a health concern who sees a school nurse is more likely to remain in school. During the 2016-17 school year NC school nurses reported 2,218,972 student encounters. Of those, 89% of students seen were returned to class. This is consistent with the national average.

### Medication Delivery and Oversight

School nurses provide oversight for medication administration in schools through training, administration, auditing for medication variances and assuring compliance with requirements.

2016-2017 Student Medications	
Number of students on long term medications (more than 3 weeks)	29,937
Number of students on short term medications (less than 3 weeks)	5,092
Number of students on PRN (non-emergency) medications	31,596
Number of students on emergency medications (included 20,919 orders for epinephrine auto-injectors)	69,209

### Screening Data

School nurses manage screening programs to identify health conditions that may impact education. The most common screening program is for visual issues.

2016-2017 School Year	
% Target Population Screened	28
% Referred for vision care	8
% Referred who secured vision care	70