

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	460,953
Other Mental Health Issues	13,207
Depression	5,482
Suicide Ideation	2,162

Opioid Epidemic

School Nurses assess, counsel and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. 1,963 students were reported as engaged with the school nurse related to known drug abuse with 638 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 48 drug abuse related presentations were given, and 3,395 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. Forty-eight school districts reported having Naloxone available on school grounds through the School Resource Office and six through a district wide program supported with local policy and procedure.

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. 97% of public-school districts report the presence of an AED on campus. During this school year 10 instances of AED use were reported with the following statistics:

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	6	5
School Staff Person	1	1
Visitor	2	1

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. 6,553 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	84%
Diabetes	81%
Mental/Behavioral Health	74%
Seizure Disorder	82%
Severe Allergy	89%
Weight Management	74%

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

2017-2018



North Carolina School Health Nurses

Keeping Students in Class and Ready to Learn



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 Division of Public Health

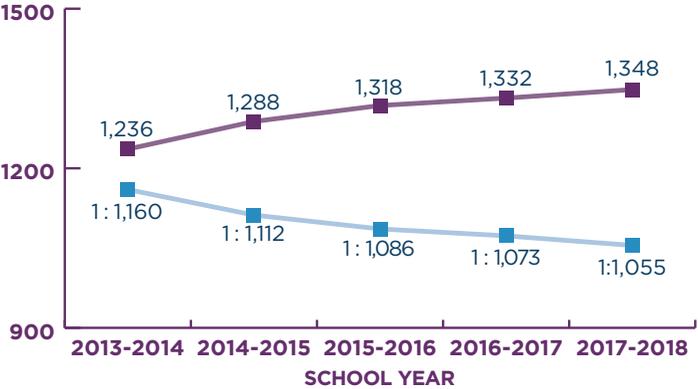


The North Carolina Annual School Health Services Report Survey began with the 1996/97 school year and has enjoyed 100% participation from all public-school districts since its inception. The survey purpose has remained the same as shared in 1996:

- 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

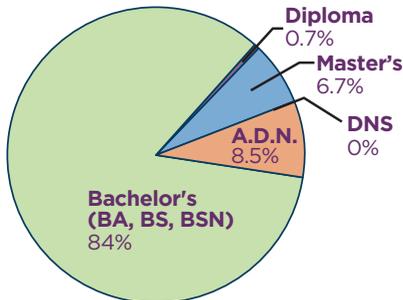
School Nurse Staffing and Nurse-to-Students Ratios



■ Number of School Nurse FTEs ■ Average NC School Nurse/Student Ratio

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 2017-2018 school year 56% of the total number of school nurses were nationally certified. NC school nurse degree status is indicated in the following graph.



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 2017-2018 year 22% 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:

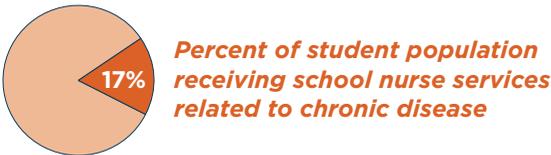
- Preventing and responding to communicable disease outbreaks
- Developing and implementing plans for emergency health related assistance
- Planning and providing specialized clinical services and related health instruction
- Medication and health care procedure oversight
- Assessment, referral, and 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.

2017-2018 Most Common Chronic Conditions	
Asthma	107,135
ADD/ADHD	65,307
Severe Allergies	37,487
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	11,724



Procedures

School nurses completed or supervised completion of 12,652 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	68	315	583
Death from suicide	0	8	25
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 2017-18 school year NC school nurses reported 2,251,241 student encounters. Of those, 90% of students seen by the school nurse 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.

2017-2018 Student Medications	
Number of students on long term medications (more than 3 weeks)	29,511
Number of students on short term medications (less than 3 weeks)	5,104
Number of students on PRN (non-emergency) medications	32,569
Number of students on emergency medications (included orders for epinephrine auto-injectors)	85,059

Screening Data

School nurses manage screening programs to identify health conditions that may impact education. The most commonly included screening programs are for vision and hearing.