

Opioid Epidemic

School Nurses assess, counsel, and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. There were 2,964 students reported as engaged with the school nurse related to known drug abuse with 515 student incidents listed as “requiring Emergency Medical Services response or immediate care by a physician, and/or loss of ½ or more days of school.” During 2023-2024 school year, 42 drug abuse related presentations were given, and 4,609 individual counseling sessions related to substance abuse were provided. When present, school nurses can respond to emergent symptoms indicative of possible drug influence or overdose. Opioid overdose on school grounds increased this school year, with 26 incidents of Naloxone use for suspected overdose reported this school year, administered 12 times by the School Resource Officer, 11 times by the school nurse or school nurse extender and three times by other school staff. Eighty-six school districts reported having Naloxone available on school grounds through the School Resource Office and 35 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. Ninety-nine percent of public-school districts reported the presence of an AED on campus. During this school year, 13 instances of AED use were reported with the following statistics:

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	6	5
School Staff Person	3	3
Visitor	4	2*

*Outcome for one visitor unknown

Case Management Outcomes

School nurse case 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 case manage students with a variety of diagnoses. Not all chronic condition diagnosed students need case management services. During this year, 5,047 individual students received case management services at school.

Condition	Average % Improved Student Specific Outcomes
Asthma	87%
Diabetes	87%
Mental/Behavioral Health	72%
Seizure Disorder	82%
Severe Allergy	92%
Weight Management	90%

Summary

As a component of local School Health Programs, school nurses work with various partners in education. These include the NCDHHS Division of Child and Family Well-Being, Division of Public Health, and Division of Health Benefits; 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; and local health departments. Through these partnerships, the goal of school nursing services is to facilitate the well-being and educational success of NC students. School nurses across the state provide services that promote the health of children and adolescents which allow them to be in class and ready to learn. In many areas, NC can serve as a model for school health programs. In others, services are limited due to the number of school nurse positions in relation to the increasing complexities of student health care needs. In NC, improvements in student health and well-being, through additional school nurse positions, could have significant positive outcomes in the attendance and academic achievement of students.

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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 Child and Family Well-Being
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North Carolina Annual School Health Services Report Brochure

2023-2024



North Carolina School Health Nurses

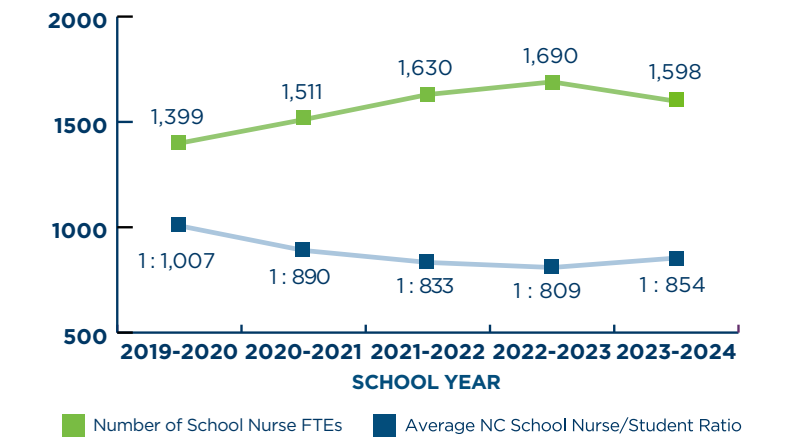
Keeping Students in Class and Ready to Learn

The North Carolina (NC) 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’s 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*

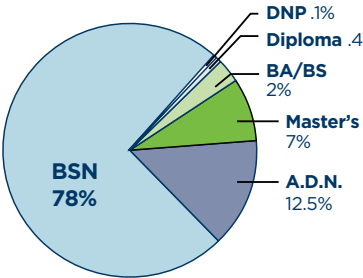


*Note there were 96 positions vacant for longer than 6 months during 2023-2024

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 2023-2024 school year, 51% 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

School nurses play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of children and adolescents by helping them to establish lifelong healthy behavior patterns. Healthy students and students with well-maintained chronic health conditions are better positioned to fully access their educational opportunities. During the 2023-2024 school year, 48% of charter schools employed a full or part-time school nurse. Charter school health services data collection began in the 2021-2022 school year with the first report brochure published from 2022-2023 data. This information is available for review on the School Nursing Support webpage.

Common School Nurse Activities:

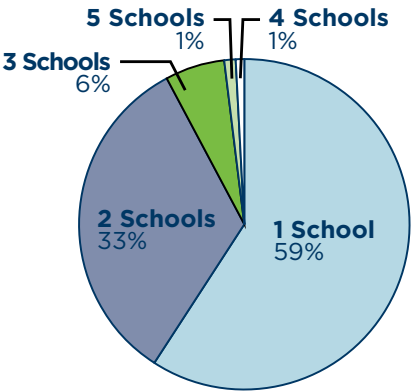
North Carolina School Nurses are assigned a varying case load dependent upon school district resources, and serve from one to five schools per nurse. Common school nurse activities include:

- 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 School Nurse School Assignments:

Nursing time and services provided are dependent on the number of schools assigned.

Percent of School Nurses that Serve 1-5 Schools

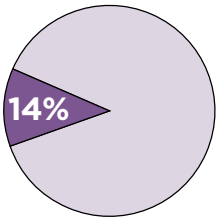


NC Students

Chronic Conditions

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

Percent of student population receiving school nurse services related to chronic condition



2023-2024 Most Common Chronic Conditions	
Asthma	66,084
ADD/ADHD	36,441
Severe Allergies	32,147
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	11,914
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	9,410

Students and Suicide	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Suicide attempt	44	228	427
Death from suicide	0	8	24
Suicide occurred at school	0	0	0

Selected Services Provided

School Nurse/Student Encounters and Return to Class

A student with a health concern who saw a school nurse was more likely to remain in school. During the 2023-2024 school year, NC school nurses reported 2,975,499 student encounters. Of those, 89% of students seen by the school nurse were returned to class.

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.

2022-2023 Student Medications	
Number of students on long-term medications (more than 3 weeks)	17,848
Number of students on short-term medications (less than 3 weeks)	2,301
Number of students on PRN (non-emergency) medications	22,959
Number of students on emergency medications (included orders for epinephrine auto-injectors)	50,313

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.

Health Issue Counseling	
Total Number of Counseling Sessions	641,924
Other Mental Health Issues	15,803
Depression	4,383
Suicide Ideation	1,426