

Opioid Epidemic

School Nurses assess, counsel, and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. In the charter school setting, 241 students were reported as engaged with a school nurse related to known drug abuse during 2024-2025. This same school year 7 incidents of suspected drug overdose “requiring Emergency Medical Services response or immediate care by a physician, and/or loss of 1/2 or more days of school” were reported. During the 2024-2025 school year, 215 presentations and 168 individual health counseling sessions were provided by school nurses related to substance abuse.

When present, school nurses can respond to emergencies related to possible drug influence or overdose. Instances of suspected opioid overdose on charter school grounds increased when compared to the 2023-2024 school year. Reporting for 2024-2025 indicates naloxone was administered twice on charter school campuses by school staff. Forty-four charter schools reported having naloxone available on school grounds through an School Resource Officer (SRO). Forty-eight charter schools reported having a naloxone program supported with 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. School nurses who serve charter schools reported that 108 campuses have an AED in one or more buildings. There were no reports of AED use involving students, staff or visitors for the 2024-2025 school year.

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	0	0
School Staff Person	0	0
Visitor	0	0

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 the 2024-2025 school year, 1,759 individual students received case management services.

Condition	Average % Improved Student Specific Outcomes
Asthma	94%
Diabetes	93%
Mental/Behavioral Health	77%
Seizure Disorder	94%
Severe Allergy	94%
Weight Management	72%

Summary

As a component of local school health programs, including charter schools, 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 complexities of student health care needs. Additional school nursing positions which consider the acuity of school populations would benefit student health and well-being. The impact could have significant positive outcomes in student attendance and academic achievement locally and statewide.

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

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & DATA REQUESTS:
Jennifer.Corso@dhhs.nc.gov • Rachel.Johnson@dhhs.nc.gov

NC Department of Health and Human Services • Division of Child and Family Well-Being
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North Carolina Annual CHARTER SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT BROCHURE 2024-2025

North Carolina School Health Nurses

*Keeping Students in Class and
Ready to Learn*



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

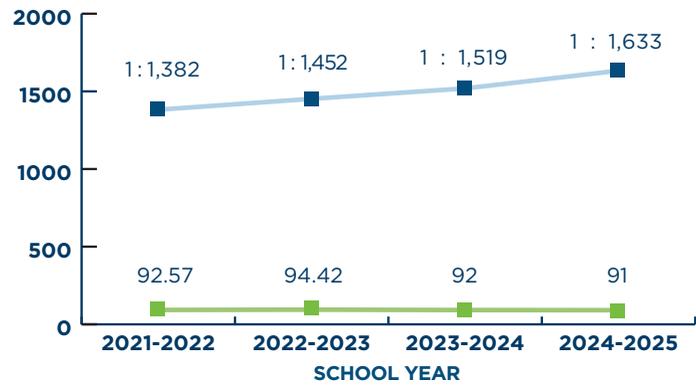


The North Carolina (NC) Annual Charter School Health Services Report Survey began with the 2021-2022 school year. For 2024-2025, out of 207 active charter schools, 199 reported employing the services of 108 Registered Nurses and completed data for this summary report. The purpose is to collect data for school health services in public charter schools:

- 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

Charter School Nurse Staffing and Nurse-to-Student Ratios*



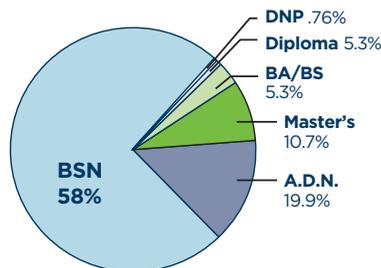
■ Number of School Nurse FTEs ■ Average NC School Nurse/Student Ratio

*Limitations exist in obtaining the FTE as not all charter school nurses completed a report.

School Nurse Educational Preparation

School nurses are Registered Nurses (RN) with varied educational preparation. In addition to being an 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 2024-2025 school year, 30 charter school nurses were nationally certified. NC charter school nurse degree status is indicated in the following graph.



NC Public Charter Schools that Employ a School Nurse

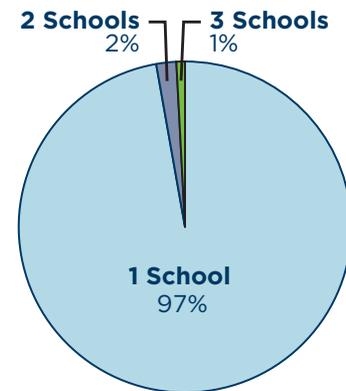
As in all school settings, school nurses play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of students and in helping them to establish lifelong health behavior patterns. Healthy students and students with well-maintained chronic health conditions are better positioned to fully access their educational opportunities. During the 2024-2025 school year, 54% of charter schools employed a school nurse full or part-time.

Common School Nurse Activities:

North Carolina charter school nurses are typically assigned to one school. 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.
- Assessing, referring, and assuring care for identified health needs.
- Assuring that mandated health related activities are completed.
- Implementing health education and health counseling.
- Helping to assure a safe and healthy school environment.
- Providing case management of select students with chronic health conditions.

Percent of Charter School Nurses that Serve 1-3 Schools



NC School Nurse Assignments in Charter Schools:

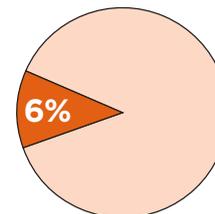
Nursing time and services provided are dependent on the number of schools assigned.

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



2024-2025 Most Common Chronic Conditions

Asthma	2,963
ADD/ADHD	2,762
Severe Allergies	1,737
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	861
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	885

Students and Suicide

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Suicide attempt	0	0	0
Death from suicide	0	0	1
Suicide occurred at school	0	0	0

Selected Services Provided

School Nurse/Student Encounters and Return to Class

Students with health concerns who have an encounter with a school nurse are more likely to remain in school. During the 2024-2025 school year, NC charter school nurses reported 249,692 student encounters. Of those, 88% of students seen by a school nurse were able to return to class rather than being sent home or requiring 911 be called.

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.

2024-2025 Student Medications

Number of students on long-term medications (more than 3 weeks)	1,305
Number of students on short-term medications (less than 3 weeks)	297
Number of students on PRN (non-emergency) medications	2,374
Number of students on emergency medications (included orders for epinephrine auto-injectors)	2,888

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.

2024-2025 Health Issue Counseling

Total Number of Counseling Sessions	22,760
Illness/Injury/Recovery	8,150
Depression	625
Suicide ideation	199
Other Mental Health Issues	1,205