

## Opioid Epidemic

School nurses assess, counsel, and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. There were 2,589 students reported as engaged with a school nurse related to known drug abuse during 2024-2025. This same school year 2,975 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, 42 presentations and 3,590 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 school grounds were similar when compared to the 2023-2024 school year. Reporting for 2024-2025 indicates naloxone was administered 32 times. Of these instances, administration was provided by a School Resource Officer (SRO) 10 times, by a school nurse or school staff 22 times. Eighty-seven Public School Units (PSUs) reported having naloxone available on school grounds through an SRO. Sixty-two PSUs reported having a district wide naloxone 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-eight percent of public-school districts reported the presence of an AED on campus. During this school year, 15 instances of AED use were reported with the following statistics:

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	8	6
School Staff Person	6	6
Visitor	1	1

## 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, 5,737 individual students received case management services.

Condition	Average % Improved Student Specific Outcomes
Asthma	78%
Diabetes	81%
Mental/Behavioral Health	91%
Seizure Disorder	79%
Severe Allergy	83%
Weight Management	70%

## 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 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.

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 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



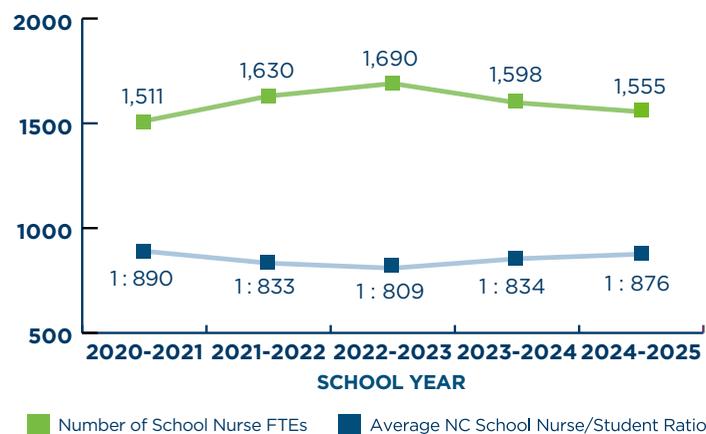
**NORTH CAROLINA  
Healthy Schools**

**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\*

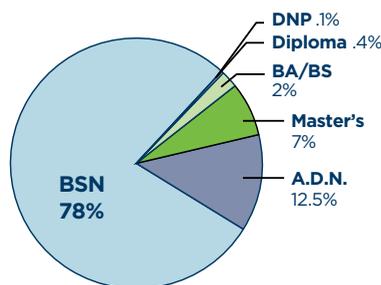


\*Note there were 87 positions vacant for longer than 6 months during the 2024-2025 school year, which greatly impacts the FTE.

### 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 2024-2025 school year, 54% of school nurses were nationally certified. NC school nurse degree status is indicated in the following graph.

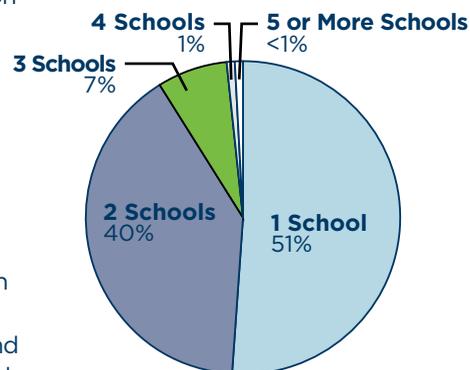


### Common School Nurse Activities:

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:

- Providing case management of select students with chronic health conditions.
- 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

### Percent of School Nurses that Serve 1-7 Schools



### NC School Nurse School Assignments:

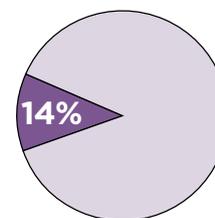
Nursing time and services provided are dependent on the number of schools assigned.

## 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 conditions*



2024-2025 Most Common Chronic Conditions	
Asthma	57,240
ADD/ADHD	31,678
Severe Allergies	31,112
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	10,942
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	8,560

### Students and Suicide

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Suicide attempt	44	264	392
Death from suicide	0	7	18
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 school nurses reported 3,041,073 student encounters. Of those, 86% 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)	17,419
Number of students on short-term medications (less than 3 weeks)	2,006
Number of students on PRN (non-emergency) medications	20,523
Number of students on emergency medications (included orders for epinephrine auto-injectors)	50,788

### 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	579,115
Illness/Injury/Recovery	207,525
Substance abuse	3,590
Violence/bullying	3,503
Depression	3,357
Suicide ideation	1,091
Other Mental Health Issues	13,322