

Opioid Epidemic

School Nurses assess, counsel, and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. There were 72 students reported as engaging with the school nurse related to known drug abuse with 5 student incidents listed as “requiring Emergency Medical Services response or immediate care by a physician, and/or loss of 1/2 or more days of school.” During the 2023-2024 school year, 17 drug abuse related presentations were given, and 164 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. No incidents of Naloxone use for suspected overdose were reported this school year. Thirty-seven charter schools reported having Naloxone available on school grounds through their School Resource Officer. Forty-one charter schools reported through a school program supported by 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-seven percent of public-school districts reported the presence of an AED on campus. During this school year, 20 instances of AED use were reported with the following statistics:

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	1	1
School Staff Person	1	0
Visitor	0	N/A

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. Eight hundred individual students received case management services at school during this year.

Condition	Average % Improved Student Specific Outcomes
Asthma	90%
Diabetes	96%
Mental/Behavioral Health	96%
Seizure Disorder	92%
Severe Allergy	92%
Weight Management	76%

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 the 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 Charter School Health Services Report Brochure

2023-2024



North Carolina School Health Nurses

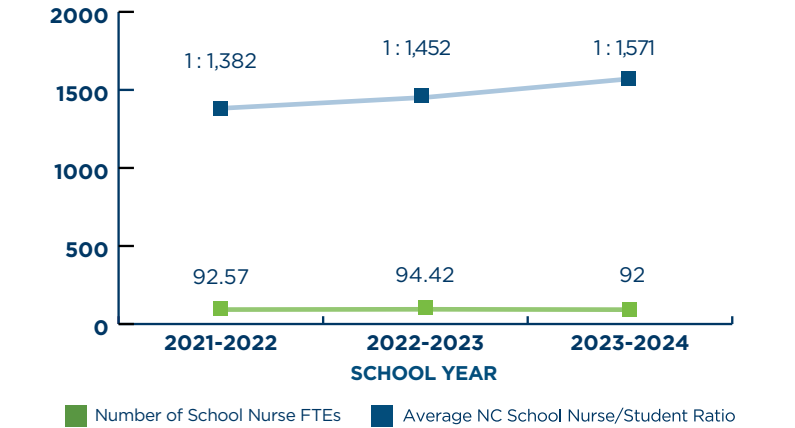
Keeping Students in Class
and Ready to Learn

The NC Annual School Health Services Report Survey for public charter schools began with the 2021-2022 school year. Out of the 210 active charter schools, 184 reported employing the services of 102 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*

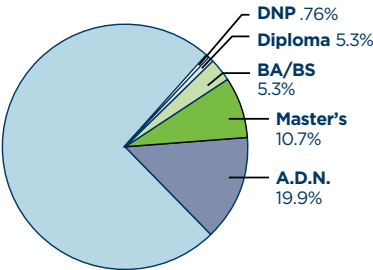


*Limitations exist in obtaining the FTE as not all charter school nurses completed a report.

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 2023-2024 school year, 25% of 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

School nurses play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of young people and in 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 school nurse full or part-time. Charter school health services data collection began in the 2021-2022 school year and the summary is available for review on the School Nursing Support webpage.

Common School Nurse Activities:

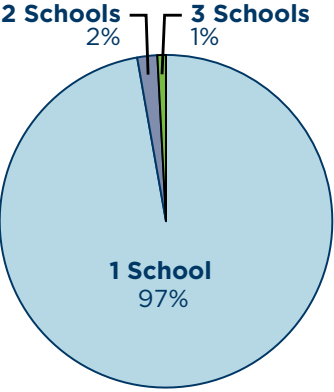
North Carolina Charter School Nurses are typically assigned to one school. Common school nurse activities include:

- 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.

NC School Nurse Assignments in Charter Schools:

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

Percent of Charter School Nurses that Serve 1-3 Schools

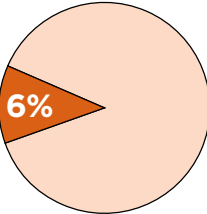


NC Students

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	2,768
ADD/ADHD	2,093
Severe Allergies	1,705
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	643
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	504

Students and Suicide	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Suicide attempt	1	24	14
Death from suicide	0	1	0
Suicide occurred at school	0	1	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 in charter schools reported 223,217 student encounters. Of those, 86% 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	22,982
Other Mental Health Issues	931
Depression	1,005
Suicide Ideation	89