

Opioid Epidemic

School Nurses assess, counsel, and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. There were 1,914 students reported as engaged with the school nurse related to known drug abuse with 390 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 2021-2022 school year, 33 drug abuse related presentations were given, and 3,281 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 14 incidents of Naloxone use for suspected overdose reported this school year, administered nine times by the School Resource Officer, three times by the school nurse and two times by other school staff. Seventy-one school districts reported having Naloxone available on school grounds through the School Resource Office and 14 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 when 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, 30 instances of AED use were reported with the following statistics:

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	18	16
School Staff Person	8	4
Visitor	4	2

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, 3,538 individual students received case management services at school.

Condition	Average % Improved Student Specific Outcomes
Asthma	86%
Diabetes	83%
Mental/Behavioral Health	81%
Seizure Disorder	78%
Severe Allergy	85%
Weight Management	80%

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 Child and Family Well-Being, NC Division of Public Health, NC 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, 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 because of relatively slow growth in the number of school nurse positions in relation to student population growth and complexity of health care needs. Working toward 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 Child and Family Well-Being
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North Carolina Annual School Health Services Report Brochure 2021-2022



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



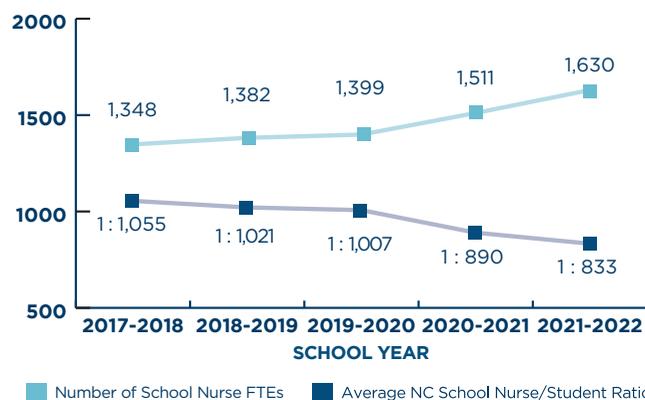
The North Carolina (NC) Annual School Health Services Report Survey began with the 1996/97 school year and has enjoyed 100% participation from all public-school districts since its inception. The survey's purpose has remained the same as shared in 1996:

- 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.

This report brochure reflects complete data collection after 2 years of limitations in collecting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

School Nurse Profile

School Nurse Staffing and Nurse-to-Students Ratios*

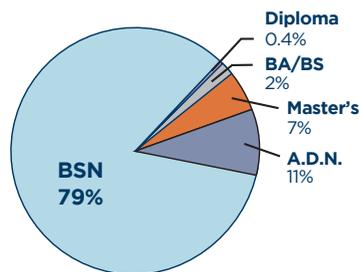


*Note there were 131 positions vacant for longer than 6 months during the 21-22 school year, which greatly impacts the FTE. For comparison, during the 18-19 school year there were 15 positions vacant for longer than 6 months.

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 2021-2022 school year, 53% 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

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. The number of charter schools employing a school nurse increased to 56.2% this year.

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 Students

Chronic Conditions

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

2021-2022 Most Common Chronic Conditions	
Asthma	66,236
ADD/ADHD	36,180
Severe Allergies	32,935
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	10,942
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	8,626



Procedures

School nurses completed or supervised completion of 15,343 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	69	322	508
Death from suicide	0	2	31
Suicide occurred at school	0	0	2

Selected Services Provided

School Nurse/Student Encounters and Return to Class

Pre-COVID-19, a student with a health concern who saw a school nurse was more likely to remain in school. During the 2021-22 school year, NC school nurses reported 2,323,689 student encounters. Of those, 78% of students seen by the school nurse were returned to class. More students seen by the school nurse were sent home this school year due to COVID-19 assessment guidelines.

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.

2021-2022 Student Medications	
Number of students on long-term medications (more than 3 weeks)	15,298
Number of students on short-term medications (less than 3 weeks)	2,106
Number of students on PRN (non-emergency) medications	18,450
Number of students on emergency medications (included orders for epinephrine auto-injectors)	45,768

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	575,985
Illness/Injury/Recovery	355,318
Depression	4,767
Suicide Ideation	1,514