Healthy Children Learn Better!
School Nurses Make a Difference

How Does Your State Measure Up?

	Students per School Nurse	State
1	396	Vermont
2	448	Connecticut
3	454	New Hampshire
4	472	Delaware
5	476	Washington, DC
6	477	OSHNA
7	503	Alaska
8	504	Wyoming
9	514	Maine
10	517	Rhode Island
11	533	New Jersey
12	536	Alabama
13	628	Kansas
14	665	New Mexico
15	696	New York
16	700	Massachusetts
17	732	Missouri
18	776	Maryland
19	779	Pennsylvania
20	784	Louisiana
21	789	South Carolina
22	819	Iowa
23	826	Texas
24	837	Virginia
25	918	Arkansas
26	960	Indiana
27	1,027	South Dakota
28	1,065	West Virginia
29	1,098	Mississippi
30	1,114	Kentucky
31	1,185	North Carolina
32	1,328	Ohio
33	1,403	Nebraska
34	1,416	Arizona
35	1,451	Montana
36	1,625	Wisconsin
37	1,649	Nevada
38	1,773	Minnesota
39	1,774	Tennessee
40	1,788	Colorado
41	1,881	Idaho
42	2,026	Oregon
43	2,031	Washington
44	2,179	Illinois
45	2,187	California
46	2,318	Georgia
47	2,372	Oklahoma
48	2,537	Florida
49	3,637	Utah
50	4,357	North Dakota
51	4,411	Michigan

Student-to-School Nurse (RN) Ratios 2010

NASN National Association of School Nurses

www.nasn.org

Q) ***How do school nurses help children learn?***

A) The school nurses' role includes:

- Assessing student health status and making referrals
- Identifying vision and hearing problems that impact learning
- Delivering emergency care
- Administering medication and vaccines
- Performing health care procedures
- Disaster preparedness
- Providing health counseling and wellness programs

Q) ***What benefits can I expect from hiring school nurses?***

A)

- Help students manage chronic illness, increasing attendance
- Improved attendance = academic success
- Addressing health concerns keeps students at school and parents at work
- Allows teachers to teach instead of providing health care for children
- Reducing number of 911 calls
- Health professional input on wellness programs for the school community

Q) ***How many school nurses are there in the United States?***

A) According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), there are 73,697 registered nurses working as school nurses (HRSA, 2010).

Q) ***Is school nursing losing ground?***

A) No. School nursing remains a necessary investment for our children's health. Between 1999 and 2009, 38 states improved their number of school nurses

Q) ***How many school nurses does my district need?***

A) NASN and Healthy People 2010 recommend a needs-based formula approach for determining full-time school nurse-to-students ratio. For example:

- 1:750 WELL students
- 1:225 in the student populations that may require daily professional school nursing services or interventions such as Special Ed inclusions
- 1:125 in student populations with complex health care needs
- 1:1 may be necessary for individual students with multiple disabilities

Q) ***Is there a shortage of school nurses?***

A) No. There is a shortage of funded school nurse positions

Q) ***How are school nurses funded?***

A) Local school district budget, state budget, EPSDT, Title I, Medicaid (accessed by only 42% of schools), and community sponsors

Q) ***Can a secretary, teacher, or paraeducator fill this role?***

A) Not safely, or in some states legally - due to inadequate medical training

Q) ***What types of health concerns are found among students?***

A) 32% of children are obese/overweight
24% of children have vision deficiencies
13% of children are prescribed medication more than 90 days
10% of children have mental/emotional behavioral problems
10% of children have asthma
6% of children missed more than 11 days due to illness/injury
5% of children have food allergies
5% of children have a seizure disorder
5% of children have hearing deficiencies
5% of children have ADHD
47% of 12th grade students report "lifetime" use of an illicit drug
65% of 12th grade students are sexually active

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