

Healthy Children Learn Better! School Nurses Make a Difference

How Does Your State Measure Up?

Students per School Nurse	State
1	275 Vermont
2	347 New Hampshire
3	419 Massachusetts
4	445 OSHNA
5	460 Connecticut
6	519 Delaware
7	530 Alaska
8	552 Kansas
9	595 Wyoming
10	602 Maine
11	632 Rhode Island
12	652 Washington, DC
13	674 New Jersey
14	748 Missouri
15	780 New Mexico
16	832 Pennsylvania
17	841 Texas
18	873 Virginia
19	889 Iowa
20	901 South Carolina
21	913 Maryland
22	936 Alabama
23	1,007 New York
24	1,022 Indiana
25	1,060 Washington
26	1,084 Arkansas
27	1,159 West Virginia
28	1,195 South Dakota
29	1,217 Arizona
30	1,320 North Carolina
31	1,394 Mississippi
32	1,407 Nebraska
33	1,415 Tennessee
34	1,734 Georgia
35	1,803 Minnesota
36	1,814 Nevada
37	1,868 Louisiana
38	1,877 Kentucky
39	2,101 Colorado
40	2,240 California
41	2,359 Wisconsin
42	2,368 Idaho
43	2,377 Ohio
44	2,605 Florida
45	2,828 North Dakota
46	2,893 Illinois
47	3,110 Oklahoma
48	3,137 Montana
49	3,142 Oregon
50	4,204 Michigan
51	4,893 Utah
52	No School RNs Hawaii

Students per School Nurse (RN) 2008 www.nasn.org



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

A) The school nurse's 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 does my district need?*

A) NASN recommends 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) *How are school nurses funded?*

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

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

A) Not safely - due to inadequate medical training

Q) *What types of health concerns are found in the current population?*

A) 24% of children have vision deficiencies
 17% of children are obese/32% are overweight
 13% of children are prescribed medication more than 90 days
 10% of children have mental/emotional behavioral problems
 6% of children missed more than 11 days due to illness/injury
 5% of children have asthma
 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

National Association of School Nurses
 8484 Georgia Ave., Suite 420 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 (866) 627-6767 (301) 585-1791 (fax) www.nasn.org