

# Healthy Children Learn Better! School Nurses Make a Difference

## How Does Your State Measure Up?

Students per School Nurse	State
1	311 Vermont
2	450 OSHNA*
3	454 New Hampshire
4	459 Washington, DC
5	507 Connecticut
6	510 Delaware
7	512 New Jersey
8	514 Rhode Island
9	521 Wyoming
10	575 Maine
11	575 Massachusetts
12	631 Alaska
13	684 Kansas
14	748 South Carolina
15	756 Iowa
16	773 Missouri
17	789 Pennsylvania
18	814 New Mexico
19	827 Texas
20	909 Indiana
21	920 Arkansas
22	1,022 Arizona
23	1,045 Tennessee
24	1,053 Virginia
25	1,097 Alabama
26	1,118 Mississippi
27	1,131 West Virginia
28	1,139 Maryland
29	1,161 New York
30	1,210 Ohio
31	1,224 North Carolina
32	1,230 South Dakota
33	1,381 Nebraska
34	1,479 Washington
35	1,554 Kentucky
36	1,882 Nevada
37	1,907 Minnesota
38	1,931 Louisiana
39	1,982 Colorado
40	2,023 Illinois
41	2,073 Wisconsin
42	2,187 California
43	2,201 Idaho
44	2,304 Montana
45	2,317 Georgia
46	2,518 Florida
47	2,537 Oklahoma
48	2,686 Oregon
49	2,800 North Dakota
50	4,003 Utah
51	4,836 Michigan

## Student-to-School Nurse (RN) Ratios 2009



\*Overseas School Health Nurse Association

### 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?

- A) In 2007, the National Center for Education Statistics reported 56,239 public school nurses working either full or part-time. NASN 2007 study reported 45% of public schools have a full-time nurse; 30% have a part-time nurse; and 25% are without a nurse

### 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 - 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
  - 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
  - 65% of 12th grade students are sexually active

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