

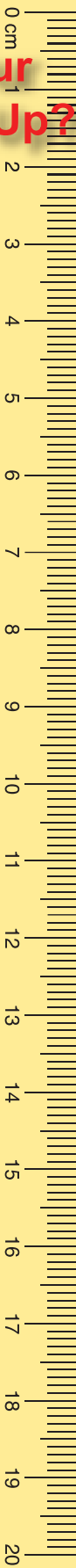
# Healthy Children Learn Better! School Nurses Make a Difference

## How Does Your State Measure Up?

State	Students per School Nurse
Vermont	311
New Hampshire	337
Washington, DC	459
Connecticut	507
Delaware	510
Rhode Island	514
Wyoming	521
Maine	575
Massachusetts	575
Alaska	631
New Jersey*	674
Kansas	684
South Carolina	748
Iowa	756
Missouri	773
Pennsylvania	789
New Mexico	814
Texas	827
Georgia	874
Indiana	909
Arkansas	920
Washington*	1,012
Arizona	1,022
Tennessee	1,045
Virginia	1,053
Alabama	1,097
Mississippi	1,118
West Virginia	1,131
Maryland	1,139
New York	1,161
Ohio	1,210
North Carolina	1,224
South Dakota	1,230
Nebraska	1,381
Kentucky	1,554
Nevada	1,882
Minnesota	1,907
Louisiana	1,931
Colorado	1,982
Illinois	2,023
Wisconsin	2,073
California	2,187
Idaho	2,201
Montana	2,304
Florida	2,518
Oklahoma	2,537
Oregon	2,686
North Dakota	2,800
Utah	4,003
Michigan	4,836

\*2008 Data [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org)

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



### 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

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