

Opioid Epidemic

School Nurses assess, counsel, and refer students related to drug abuse issues, including opioids. There were 127 students reported as engaging with the school nurse related to known drug abuse with 27 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 2022-2023 school year, 18 drug abuse related presentations were given, and 401 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 no incidents of Naloxone use for suspected overdose reported in charter schools this school year. Twenty-seven schools reported having Naloxone available on school grounds through a School Resource Office and 17 through a school program supported with local policy and procedure.

Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)

AEDs are used for an immediate response to an emergency where a student or adult appears to have no heartbeat and time is critical for survival. Fifty-three percent of charter schools reported the presence of an AED on campus. During this school year, one instance of AED use was reported with the following statistics:

Victim	Number	Survival
Student	1	1
School Staff Person	0	0
Visitor	0	0

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. Six-hundred forty-eight students received case management services at school during this year.

Condition	Average % Improved Student Specific Outcomes
Asthma	90%
Diabetes	91%
Mental/Behavioral Health	90%
Seizure Disorder	84%
Severe Allergy	92%
Weight Management	60%

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 charter school nurses in NC 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 Charter 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 charter schools. It is not intended as surveillance data. Additional data is collected and is available upon request.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & DATA REQUESTS:
Jenifer.Simone@dhs.nc.gov • Rachel.Johnson@dhs.nc.gov

NC Department of Health and Human Services • Division of Child and Family Well-Being
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North Carolina Annual Charter School Health Services Report Brochure 2022-2023



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

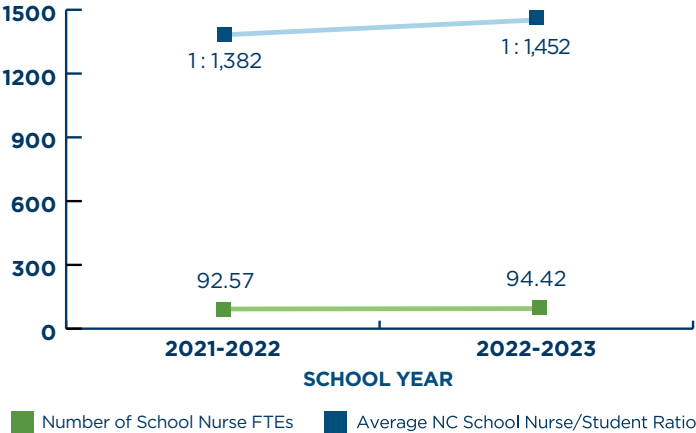


The NC Annual School Health Services Report Survey for public charter schools began with the 2021-2022 school year. Out of the 206 active charter schools for the 2022-2023 school year, 112 reported employing the services of a Registered Nurse and completed data for this summary report. The purpose is to collect data for school health services in public charter schools:

- 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.

School Nurse Profile

Charter School Nurse Staffing and Nurse-to-Student Ratios*

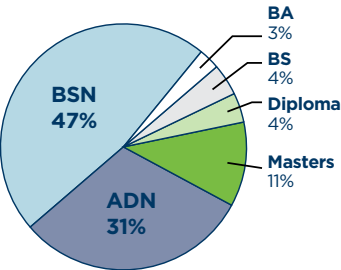


*Limitations exist in obtaining the FTE as not all charter school nurses completed a report.

School Nurse Educational Preparation

School nurses are Registered Nurses (RN) with varied educational preparation. In addition to being an 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 2022-2023 school year, 17% of the total number of charter school nurses were nationally certified. NC charter 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. During the 2022-2023 school year, 54% of charter schools employed a school nurse full or part-time.

Common School Nurse Activities

North Carolina Charter School Nurses are typically assigned to one school. Common school nurse activities include:

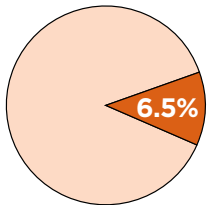
- Preventing and responding to communicable disease outbreaks.
- Developing and implementing plans for emergency health related assistance.
- Planning and providing specialized clinical services and related health instruction.
- Medication and health care procedure oversight.
- Assessing, referring, and assuring care for identified health needs.
- Assuring that mandated health related activities are completed.
- Implementing 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.

2022-2023 Most Common Chronic Conditions	
Asthma	2,792
ADD/ADHD	1,892
Severe Allergies	1,704
Nonspecific Emotional/Behavioral/Psychiatric	845
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	470



Percent of student population receiving school nurse services related to chronic condition

Procedures

School nurses completed or supervised the completion of 646 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	7	25	18
Death from suicide	0	1	0
Suicide occurred at school	0	0	1

Selected Services Provided

School Nurse/Student Encounters and Return to Class

A student with a health concern who saw a school nurse was more likely to remain in school. During the 2022-23 school year, NC charter school nurses reported 221,517 student encounters. Of those, 87% of students seen by the school nurse were returned to class.

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.

2022-2023 Student Medications	
Number of students on long-term medications (more than 3 weeks)	1,221
Number of students on short-term medications (less than 3 weeks)	340
Number of students on PRN (non-emergency) medications	2,071
Number of students on emergency medications (included orders for epinephrine auto-injectors)	2,479

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	20,133
Other Mental Health Issues	1,204
Depression	903
Suicide Ideation	142