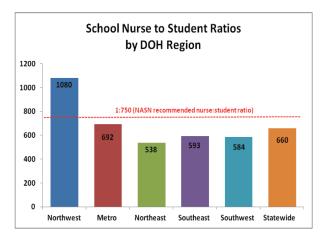
Role of the School Nurse

"The school nurse serves in an essential role to provide expertise and oversight for the provision of school health services and promotion of health education. Using clinical knowledge and judgment, the school nurse plans and provides health care to students, performs health screenings and coordinates referrals to the medical home or private healthcare provider. The school nurse serves as a liaison between school personnel, family, community and healthcare providers to advocate for health care and a healthy school environment."

(American Nurses Association & National Association of School Nurses [NASN], 2011).

School Nurse Staffing in New Mexico

- 489 licensed school nurses, assisted by 7 LPN's and 333 health assistants, provided care for 322,843 students on 880 school campuses.
- While New Mexico ranks
 14th nationwide for nurse-to
 -student ratio (NASN,2011),
 some areas of the state
 have nurse-to-student ratios
 that do not meet the
 recommended standard.



"Some school nurses are performing more procedures than their local hospitals on pediatric patients, including catheterizations, tube feedings, nebulizer treatments, tracheostomy care, suctioning and at times ventilator care on a daily basis."

Lisa Patch, President, New Mexico School Nurses Association (NMSNA)





For further information, please contact:

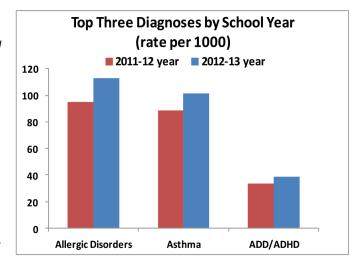
PED's School & Family Support Bureau at (505) 827-1804

DOH's Office of School and Adolescent Health at (505) 222-8680



Students with a Medical Diagnosis

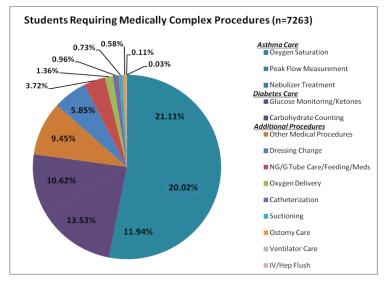
- 1 in 3 NM students had an identified medical diagnosis (all diagnoses made by a medical provider). (n=136,110).
- Top 3 medical diagnoses were: Allergic Disorders, Asthma, and ADD/ ADHD.
- 5,195 students had a Psychiatric diagnosis.



- 899 students had a Pregnancy diagnosis.
- 1 in 500 students had a Diabetes diagnosis (Diabetes Type I=745, Diabetes Type II=388).

Medically Complex Procedures

- 7,263 (2.25%) of NM students required a medically complex procedure.
- Care for Asthma (53%) and Diabetes (24%) accounted for more than 3/4 of medically complex procedures.

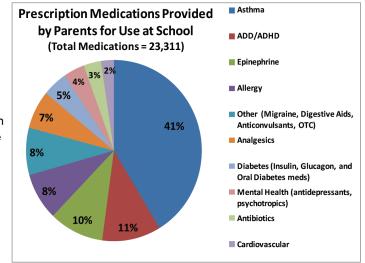


Student Screenings

- Student screenings facilitate the referral process for effectively treating barriers to learning. Vision and hearing are essential for student success.
- 8.85% of 129,298 students screened for vision, and 2.3% of 106,895 students screened for hearing, were referred to outside providers for evaluation and treatment.

Prescription Medications

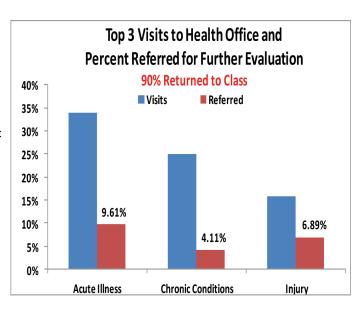
- 23,311 students had prescription medications available for administration at school.
- Top 5 prescription medications were Asthma (41%), ADD/ADHD (11%), Epinephrine (10%), Allergy (8%), and Analgesics (7%).



• 1,887 emergency medications were administered by school nurses.

Student Visits to Health Office

- There were 2.1 million visits to school health offices.
- Top 3 reasons for student visits to health offices were: Acute Illness (34%), Chronic Conditions (25%), and Injury (16%).
- 148,148 students seen in school health offices were referred to outside providers for follow up care.



• With their health needs met, an impressive 90% of students returned to class, ready to learn.