

2016-2017
Annual School Health Services
SUMMARY REPORT


The Annual School Health Services Report (ASHSR) highlights the data submitted to the New Mexico Public Education Department by 88 of 89 (99%) school districts (inclusive of local charter schools). This report provides a snapshot of the health care needs of New Mexico students and the health services provided by school nursing staff during the 2016-2017 school year. This project is a collaborative effort between the New Mexico Public Education Department and the New Mexico Department of Health.

“The school nurse is more than someone who takes temperatures and puts Band-Aids on knees. Much more. They teach, support, screen, refer, guide, prevent. Hospital nurses help patients when they are sick and hurting. School nurses often get to help patients before they get sick. Ask any school nurse, and they’ll tell you that is one of the most rewarding parts of the job. Prevention is a huge part of what they do on a daily basis, from teaching students (and reminding staff) of the importance of handwashing to prevent communicable diseases to helping children manage their own health care.”

— Raquel Reedy, Superintendent, Albuquerque Public Schools

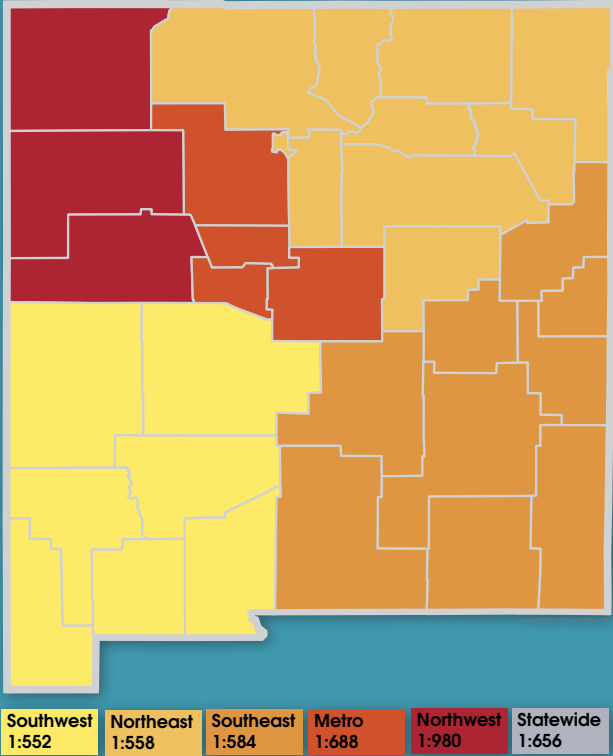
“Prior to my employment at Portales, I had been at a very small school where there was no full time nurse and another small school where there was a full time nurse. I quickly learned that nurses are an integral part of the educational process. When I became superintendent in Portales, I was told that one of the nursing positions had been cut due to budgetary restraints. One of my first decisions was to find a way to fund that position and fill it. Since that time, we have had a nurse in each of our six schools. School nurses are trained to work with students, parents, and teachers and help to keep our students in school. Our nurses work to help advise and teach our students about their own health and work with staff to help them learn how to deal with minor medical problems and what to do in case of a medical emergency. Without our school nurses, we would have a revolving door of parents coming to school to provide services to their children that our teachers and other staff are not qualified to do.”

— Johnnie S. Cain, Superintendent, Portales Municipal Schools



School Nurse Staffing in New Mexico

- 499 licensed school nurses, assisted by 7 licensed practical nurses and 344 health assistants, provided care for 321,552 students on 801 public school campuses.
- In the 2016-2017 school year, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) recommended a school nurse to student ratio of 1:750 for the general student population. **In the case of students who may require daily nursing services, this ratio is reduced to 1:225.** This recommended ratio continues to decrease as the complexity of student health care needs increases.
- 16 out of 89 (approximately 1 out of 6) districts reported having less than 1.0 full time school nurse.



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“I would like to thank all the nurses for being there for my daughter Ebenezer...for taking care of her Diabetes 1. You all are awesome. Thank you for your love for our kids.”

— Pedro Rios, father of Ebenezer

Gadsden school nurse, Sandra Perez, RN, assists Gadsden student, Ebenezer “Eben” Rios, with her diabetes care.

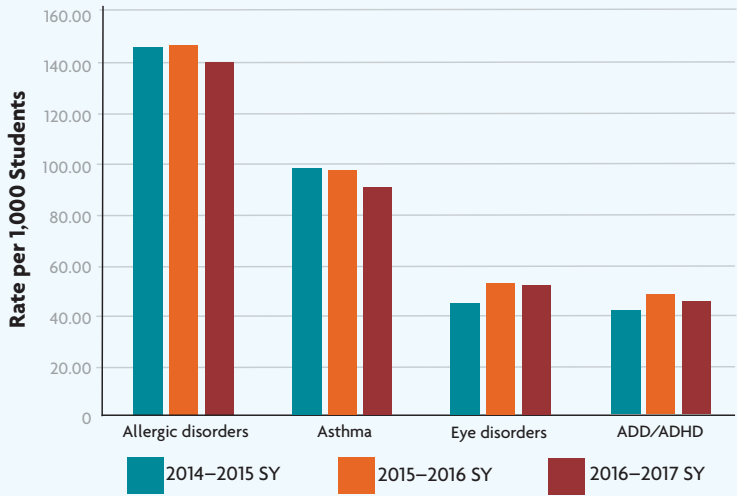
School Nursing in New Mexico:
Healthy Students Make Better Learners



Students with a Medical Diagnosis

- 47% of students had an identified medical diagnosis (N = 150,389).
 - Top 4 medical diagnoses were: allergic disorders, asthma, eye disorders*, and ADD/ADHD.
 - 6,131 students had a mental health diagnosis.
 - 483 students had a pregnancy diagnosis. There were 27,984 student visits for reproductive health counseling. 966 of these students were referred for additional services.
 - 993 students had a diabetes diagnosis (Type I = 771, Type II = 222).
- *Some districts and local charter schools may have included standard corrective eyewear in their report of eye disorders.

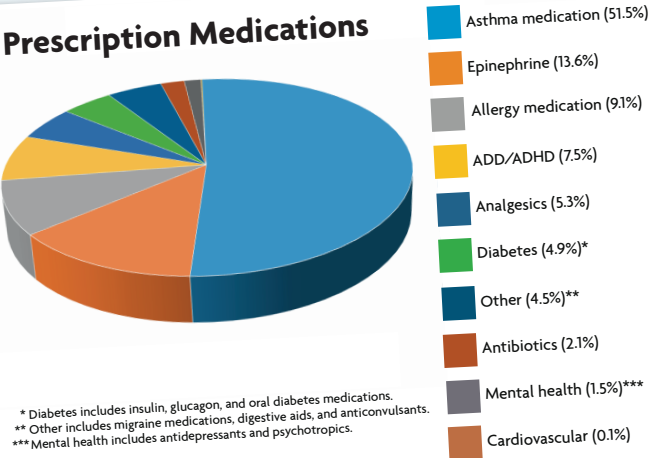
Top Four Diagnoses by School Year



Prescription Medications

- 28,925 students had prescription medications available for administration at school.
- Top 3 prescription medications available were asthma medications (52%), epinephrine (14%), and allergy medications (9%).
- 7,172 emergency medications were administered by school nurses.

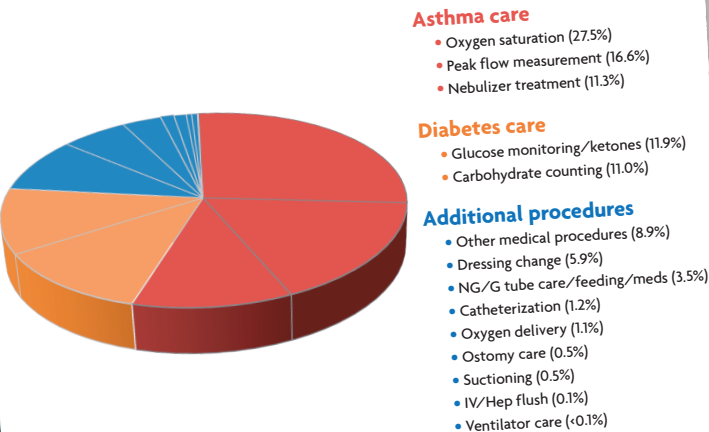
Prescription Medications



Medically Complex Procedures

- 6,862 students required a medically complex procedure.
- Asthma and diabetes care accounted for 78% of the medically complex procedures.
- Additional procedures are often time intensive and may require 1:1 nursing care. Additional procedures increased by 12% since last school year.

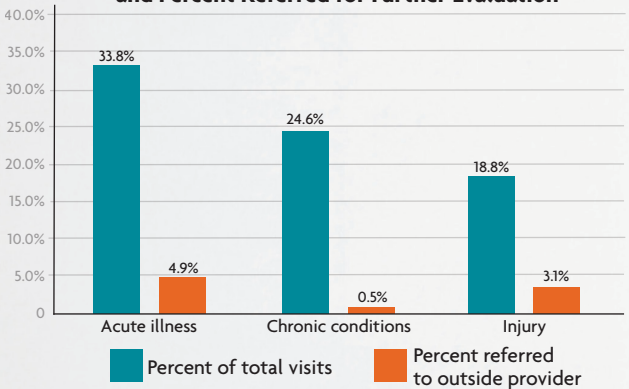
Percent of Students Requiring Medically Complex Procedures



Student Visits to Health Office

- There were just under 2.0 million visits to school health offices.
- Top 3 reasons for visits were: acute illness (34%), chronic conditions (25%), and injury (19%).
- 62,154 students were referred to outside providers for follow up care.
- With their health needs met, 90% of all students visiting the health office returned to class.

Top 3 Reasons for Visits to Health Office and Percent Referred for Further Evaluation



Student Screenings, Assessments and Referrals

- A total of 274,396 screenings were completed in the areas of hearing, vision, special education, substance abuse and depression.
- Of those screened for depression, 70.7% were referred to outside providers for evaluation and treatment.
- 9,330 Individualized Education Program, Student Assistance Team and Section 504 meetings were attended by the school nurse.
- 17,002 Individualized Health Care Plans, Emergency Care Plans, and Section 504 Plans were developed by the school nurse.

	Hearing	Vision	Special education	Substance abuse	Depression
Total number of students screened	111,654	130,545	27,365	2,689	2,143
Percent of students referred to outside providers	2.4%	11.4%	7.9%	17.5%	70.7%