

New Mexico Annual School Health Services Report

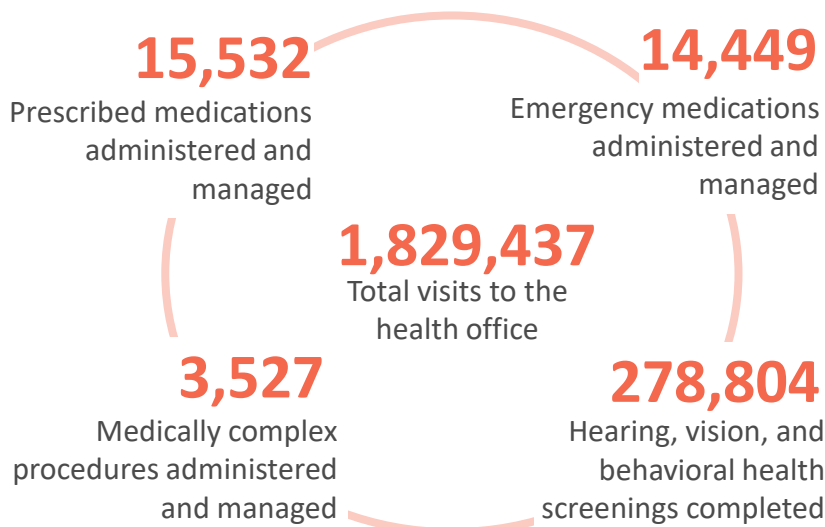
Data from the 2023-2024 School Year

School nurses are specialized registered nurses and collaborate with school health services teams, which include licensed health assistants and school behavioral health counselors. The services provided by school health services teams improve the health and well-being of students, lowering absences and supporting students' ability to achieve learning goals. Access to the specialized care provided by school health services personnel allows students to attend school safely, particularly those with chronic health conditions and other medical needs. School health services personnel also provide emergency response care in schools and assist districts in implementing the New Mexico Safe Schools Plan. For these reasons and more, school health services teams are vital to the state's healthcare system.¹

This report further details the services provided by school nurses in New Mexico schools during the 2023-2024 school year. This report represents 81 of 89 school districts and 36 state charter schools that submitted data.

School nurses help **keep students in class** by providing direct medical care and safely managing student medical conditions and medications.

In the 2023-2024 school year, New Mexico school nurses reported...



89%

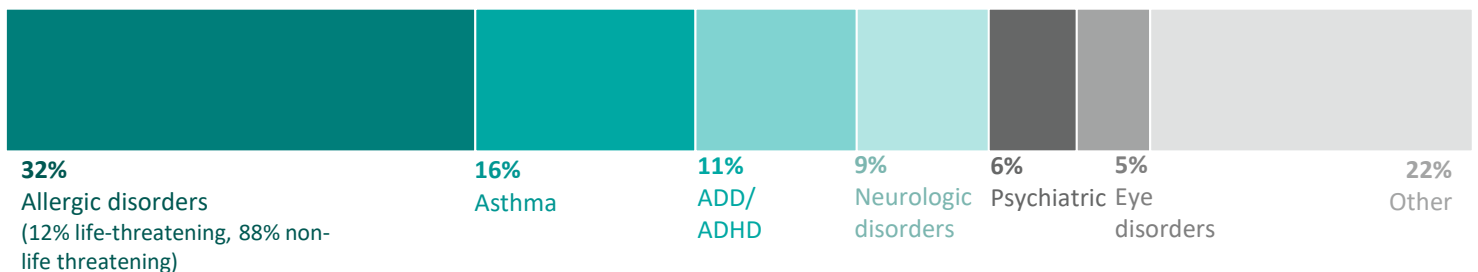
of all visits to the health office resulted in students being able to **return to class**.

20,328

individualized health care plans and emergency care plans developed by school nurses, **making schools safer**.

School nurses manage a range of **complex student medical needs**.

New Mexico school districts and state charter schools reported 130,252 student medical diagnoses in the 2023-2024 school year. The most prevalent were allergic disorders (42,009), asthma (20,259), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD) (14,033), and neurological disorders (concussions, migraines, seizure disorders) (11,775).



The Annual School Health Services Report is funded by the New Mexico Department of Health, Office of School and Adolescent Health. The New Mexico Public Education Department coordinates data collection and provides funding and expertise. To learn more, visit nmstudenthealth.org.



Access to a school nurse, all day, every day can improve students' health, safety, and educational achievement.²

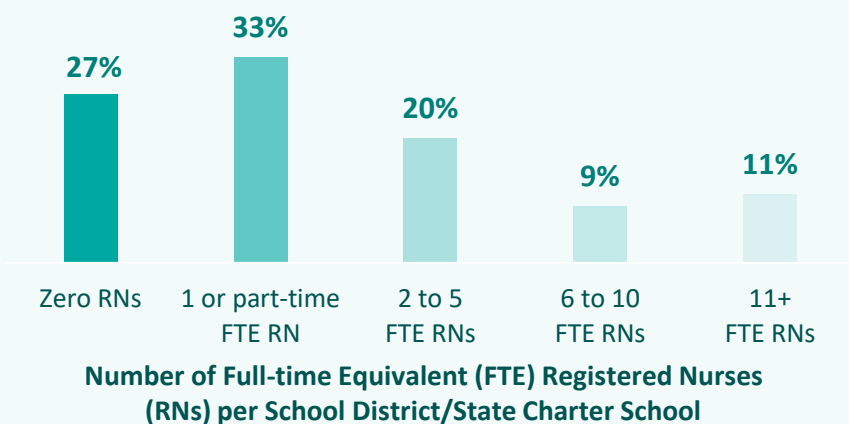
The number of school nurses a district needs to benefit the health and learning outcomes of their students can depend on the size of the student population, the variability and acuity of students' social and health needs in the district, and more.³ Larger districts with high-need populations may require a nurse per school building, while smaller districts may be able to effectively serve multiple schools with a single nurse who coordinates care through a trained health services team.

Although staffing needs vary by district, there is an overall shortage of school nurses in New Mexico³:

At least 27% of school districts **do not have a school nurse.**

At least 1 in 3 school districts have **only one** or **a part-time** school nurse.

Percent of School Districts/State Charter Schools with School Nurses (2023-2024)³



How many school nurses might your district need?

For more information and tools on assessing staffing needs, contact:

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As school health team leaders, school nurses are responsible for⁴:



Providing care coordination, case management, and chronic disease management.



Supporting public health through health education, surveillance, and response.



Overseeing diabetes management and oral health programs.



Conducting and managing vision and hearing screenings.



Collecting and reporting data on school health, including compliance programming for immunizations.



Providing training, expertise, and oversight of school health services, including supporting Special Education, Section 504 processes, and Safe School Plans.



Identifying and addressing behavioral and mental health concerns with school behavioral health counselors.



Managing over-the-counter, prescription, and emergency medication.

This report was created by Apex Evaluation.



1. Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC). Center for Disease Control. <http://bit.ly/4fbZQQE>
2. National Association of School Nurses. (n.d.). *School Nurse Workload: Staffing for Safe Care*. <https://bit.ly/3AizPjB>
3. As reported by 81 school districts and 36 state charter schools for 2023-2024 school year.
4. National Association of School Nurses. (n.d.). *Student Access to School Nursing Services*. <https://bit.ly/3ACvs2U>