

2006

OHIO

SCHOOL NURSE SURVEY FACT SHEET



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

School and Adolescent Health
246 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
www.odh.ohio.gov

The School Nursing Program at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) conducts periodic surveys of Ohio schools related to the provision of health services. The purposes of the 2006 survey were to: (1) provide a description of current nursing services in schools and school nurse practice in the State of Ohio; (2) develop effective training and technical assistance programs for nurses working in schools; (3) collect key stakeholder input for recommending state-level policies to protect the health and safety of school-aged children in school environments; (4) articulate the critical role of nurses working in schools.

The Students

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) reported an enrollment of 2,042,291 students for the 2006 school year; 1,835,237 students attended public schools and 207,054 students attended non-public schools.

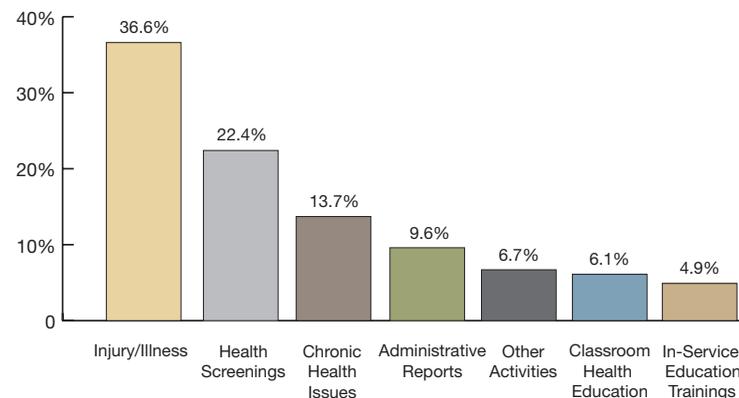
Twenty-eight percent of schools have students who need daily skilled nursing care.

Medications Administered in Ohio Schools

Route of Medication	Daily	As Needed (prn)
Oral	73.2%	76.5%
Injectable	33.6%	46.0%
Inhaled	27.2%	78.4%
Topical	4.1%	27.5%
GI Tube	3.3%	1.6%
Rectal	0.3%	9.1%
IV	0%	0.4%

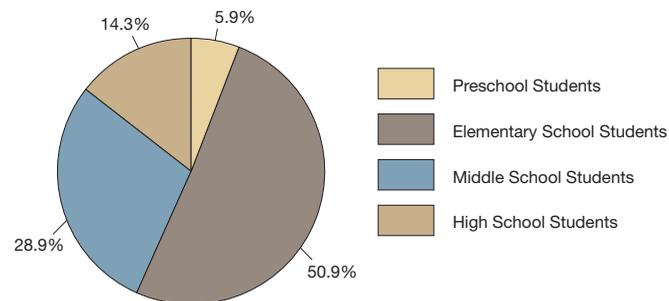
Medications are administered in schools on a routine daily or as needed (prn) basis.

Percent of Time the RN School Nurse Devotes to Selected Activities



The majority of the RN school nurse's time is spent on the care of ill and injured students, followed by health screenings and issues related to children with chronic illnesses.

Percent of Time Spent Providing Nursing Services to Each Age Group



RN school nurses provide services to students throughout their time of enrollment in the schools. In Ohio, RN school nurses spend the majority of their time with elementary school students.

The RN school nurse is in a unique position to understand both the world of education and health care, and is an important resource for planning and coordinating the care required to accommodate children with special health care needs in the school setting. The full report, *Ohio Department of Health, Nursing Services in Ohio Schools: Report of School Nurse Survey 2006*, is available on the ODH School Nursing Program Web site at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/chss/schnurs/schnurs1.aspx>.

The Nurses

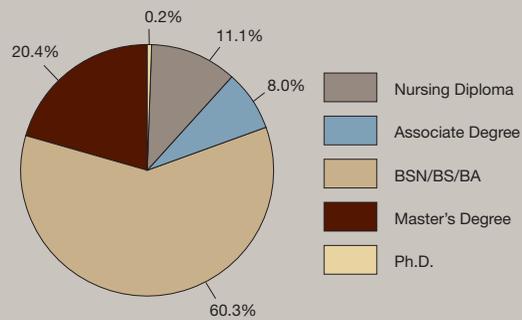
There are an estimated 1,566 full-time equivalent (FTE) RN school nurses in Ohio schools; 1,315 practice in public schools, while 251 practice in non-public schools.

The FTE RN school nurse to student ratio in Ohio public schools is 1:1,396. The ratio recommended in *Healthy People 2010* and by the National Association of School Nurses is 1:750.

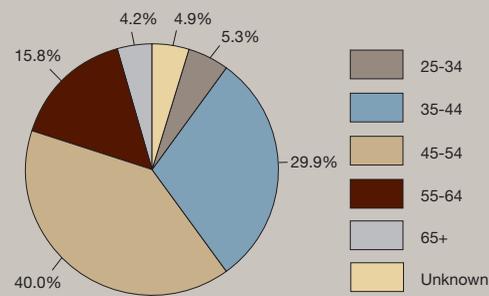
Approximately one-quarter (24.5 percent) of nurses have worked four years or fewer in the schools, 36.3 percent have worked in the schools between five and 10 years and 28 percent have worked in the schools between 11 and 20 years.

61.4 percent of the RNs in schools are credentialed by the ODE as licensed school nurses.

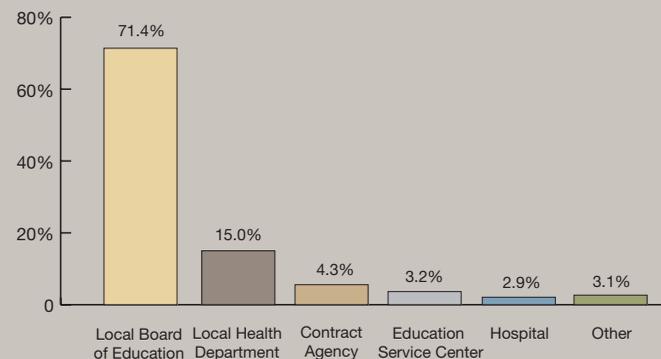
Highest Level of Education for RN School Nurses



Age of RN School Nurse



Employer of the RN School Nurse



Schools obtain information about student health diagnoses from a variety of sources, such as forms authorizing medication administration or emergency treatment. However, this information may be incomplete and should not be construed as prevalence data. Schools were provided a list of diagnoses and asked to report the number of students about which they were aware with each diagnosis. There was a statistically significant difference in ranking of the diagnoses between public and non-public schools.

Ranking of Frequency of Chronic Illnesses in Ohio Schools

Public	Non-public
Asthma	Asthma
ADD/ADHD	ADD/ADHD
Mental Health (other than ADD/ADHD)	Severe Allergies
Severe Allergies	Mental Health (other than ADD/ADHD)
Seizure Disorders	Diabetes
Mobility Limited	Seizure Disorders
Diabetes	Mobility Limited

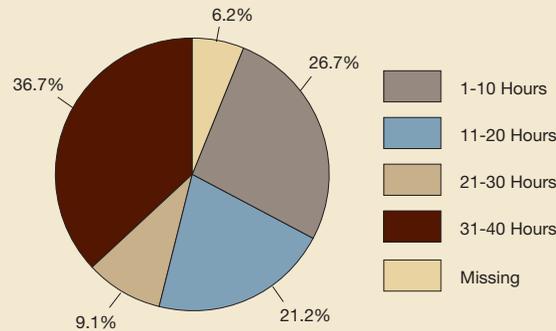
The frequency of occurrence of chronic illness does not correlate with how challenging the illness is to manage in the school setting. For example, the frequency of occurrence of diabetes is low, but it is considered the most difficult chronic illness to manage in the school setting. Registered Nurse (RN) school nurses ranked the following diagnoses in order of how challenging they are to manage in school (with one being the most challenging):

- 1) Diabetes
- 2) Mental Health (other than ADD/ADHD)
- 3) Asthma
- 4) ADD/ADHD
- 5) Severe Allergies
- 6) Mobility Limited
- 7) Seizure Disorders

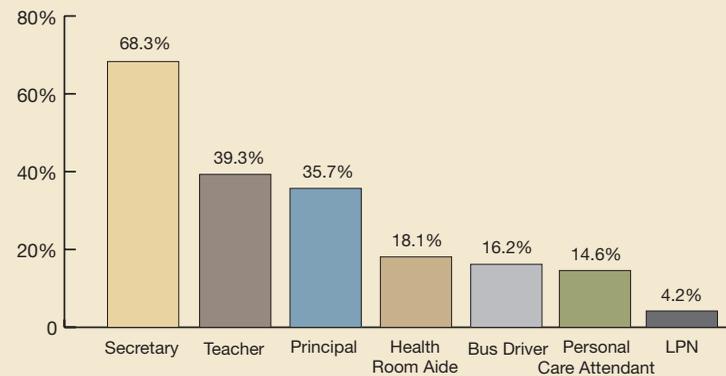
The Schools

RN school nurses were asked to describe the number of hours they were paid to work at the sampled school. Nearly two-thirds of schools **do not** have the services of an RN school nurse on a full-time basis.

Number of Hours per Week the RN School Nurse is Paid to Work at the Selected School



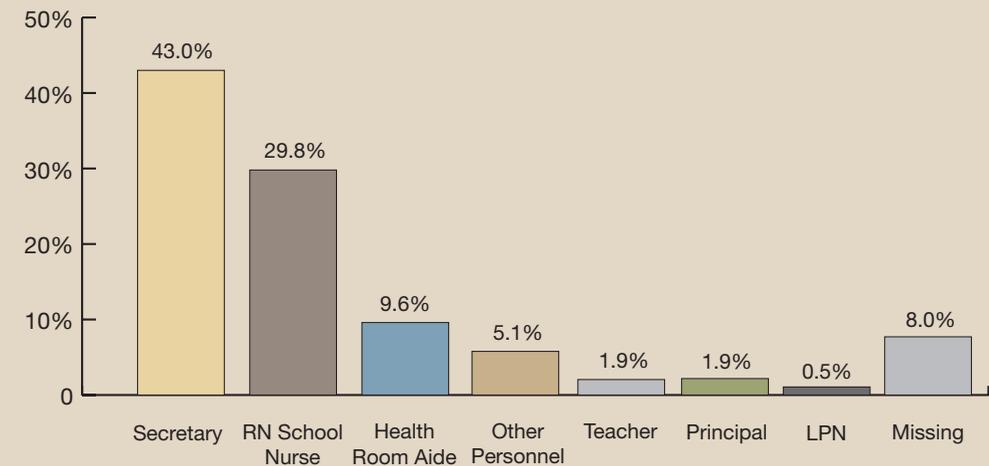
Types of Personnel the RN School Nurse Directs/Delegates/Trains and Supervises in the Performance of Skilled Nursing Tasks



Because more than half of schools do not have a full-time RN school nurse, other school personnel may be trained to perform skilled nursing tasks in the nurse’s absence. The RN school nurse must direct, delegate, train and supervise the performance of skilled nursing tasks by other school personnel.

- 25.9 percent of public schools reported employing a health aide, while 10.7 percent of non-public schools employed a health aide. Also, 19.1 percent of public schools reported that they contract for the services of a medical director, compared with 7.9 percent of non-public schools.
- 12.8 percent of public schools reported providing no RN school nursing services to general education students, compared to 28.7 percent of non-public schools.
- The school secretary administers first aid 81.5 percent of the time in the absence of the RN school nurse.

Position of the Person most Frequently Administering Medication at the School



The Ohio Revised Code 3313.713 states that the local school board can designate a school employee to administer medication in the school setting. The school secretary most often administers medication in Ohio schools.