

2010

OHIO

Survey of Health Services in Schools



2010 Ohio Department of Health Survey of Health Services in Ohio Schools

The School Nursing program at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) conducts periodic surveys of Ohio schools related to their provision of nursing and health services. The purposes of the 2010 survey were to (1) describe health care services available in Ohio schools, (2) collect information for development of effective programs for schools nurses and (3) develop state-level recommendations to support school nursing services. A total of 1,335 Ohio schools were randomly selected for participation in the survey. The response rate was 83 percent.

The Nurses

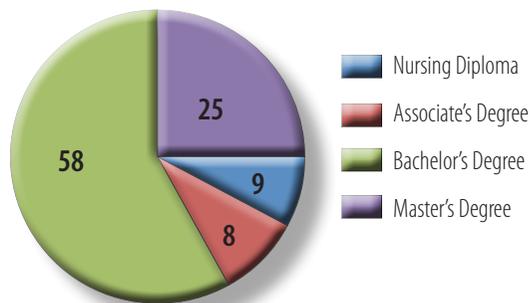
There are an estimated 1,528 full-time-equivalent (FTE) registered nurses (RNs) employed in Ohio schools. With 1,937,343 students enrolled in Ohio schools, this creates an FTE RN-to-student ratio of 1: 1,268.

The majority (83 percent) of RNs working in Ohio schools have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Of RNs working in Ohio schools, 67.4 percent have some type of school nurse license from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Of those without the ODE school nurse license, the majority (80.6 percent) do not plan to pursue that license.

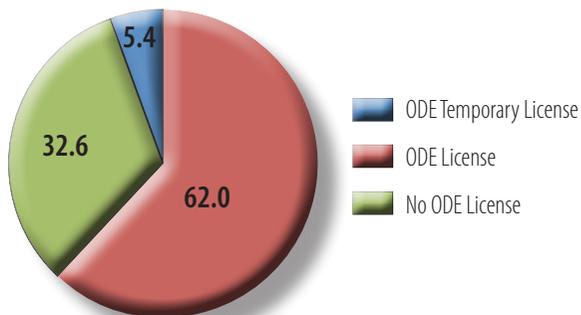
RN Level of Education

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ODE School Nurse License

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More than half (51 percent) of the RNs have worked in schools for five to 15 years, while 20 percent have worked in schools fewer than five years.

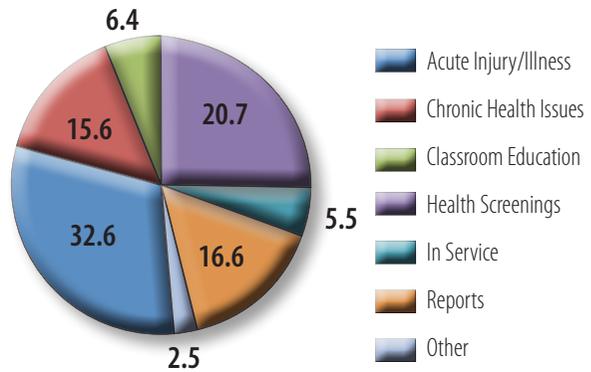
Of the time spent with these age groups, the RN spends 32.6 percent of his/her time managing acute injuries and illnesses and 20.7 percent conducting health screenings. In addition, 15.6 percent of RN time is spent managing chronic health issues and 16.6 percent completing reports.

Slightly more than three-quarters (78 percent) of RNs working in Ohio schools are employed by the local board of education, with the local health department being the second-most common employer (9 percent).

Of the RNs responding to the survey, nearly one-fourth are assigned to work at one school building. However, 11.5 percent of RNs serve six or more buildings.

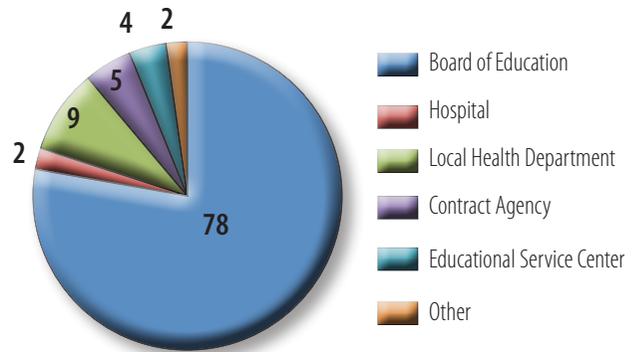
RN Time Spent on Selected Activities

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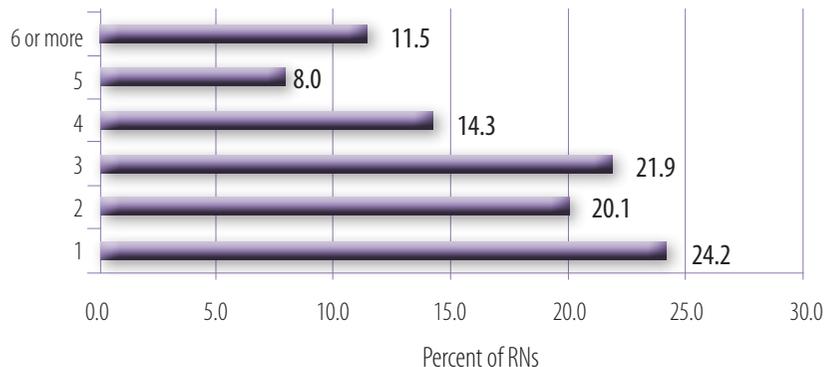
RN Employer

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Number of School Buildings Assigned to RN

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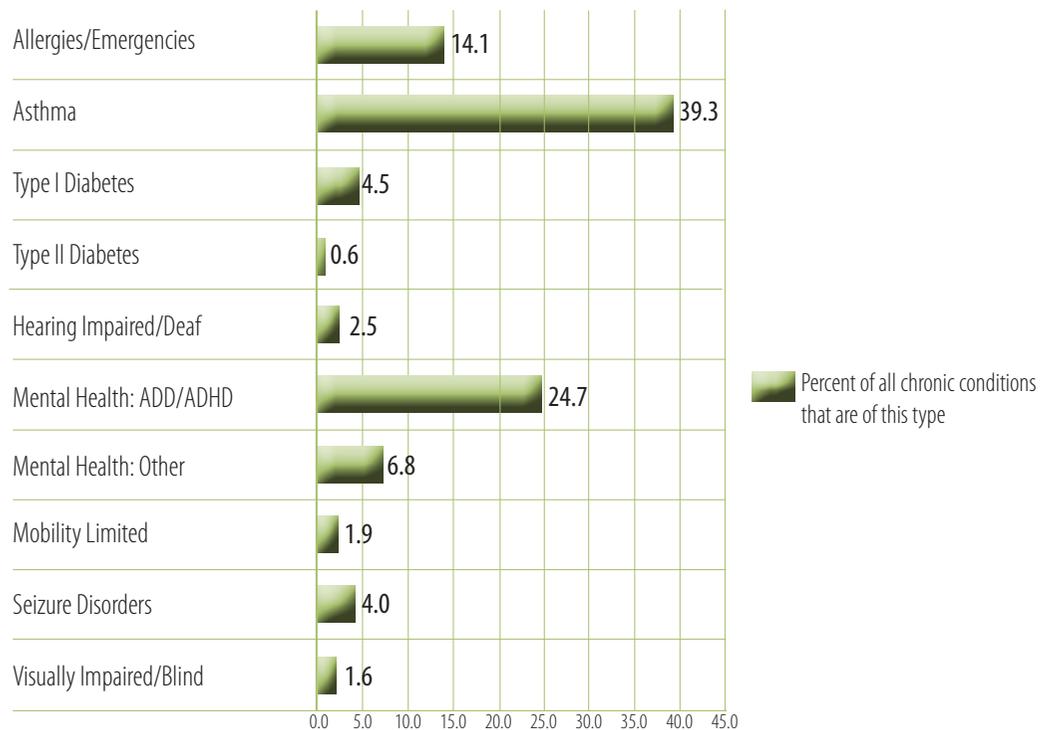
The Students

ODE reports an enrollment of 1,937,343 students in Ohio schools during the 2009-10 school year. Statewide, 74.1 percent of Ohio schools report having at least one student requiring daily skilled nursing care.

Schools were provided a list of chronic illnesses and asked to report the total number of students known to have a particular diagnosis per school. The illness reported most often statewide was asthma (39.3 percent of chronic illnesses); mental health: Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) (24.7 percent); allergies (14.1 percent) and mental health concerns other than ADD/ADHD (6.8 percent).

Percent of Chronic Diseases Reported

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While asthma is the most commonly recognized chronic illness in Ohio schools, it is also the most difficult to manage in the school setting. Asthma is followed in the ranking by allergies, ADD/ADHD and seizure disorders. Type I diabetes has dropped to number six.



Students receive medications at school on a daily or as-needed basis. Medications can be administered by a variety of routes in the school setting.

Rank of Chronic Health Conditions Most Difficult to Manage

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Asthma	1
Allergies/ Emergency	2
ADD/ADHD	3
Seizure Disorders	4
Other Mental Health Issues	5
Type I diabetes	6
Mobility Issues	7
Hearing Impairment	8
Visual Impairment	9
Type II Diabetes	10

Percent of Medications by Route Administered in Ohio Schools

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Medication type/route	Daily	PRN (As Needed)
Oral	64.7	43.6
Injectable	18.0	5.2
Inhaled	13.2	45.8
GI Tube	1.9	0.4
Topical (Skin)	1.8	3.3
Rectal	0.3	1.4

The School

As noted previously, less than one-quarter of schools have the services of a RN on a full-time basis. In the absence of a registered nurse, health care services are provided by other school staff.

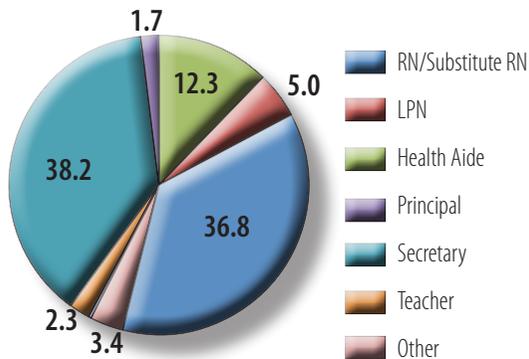
Only 10 percent of public schools report administering **no** daily medications. Ninety (90) percent of schools have orders for >3 prn or “as needed” medications.

Statewide, the secretary is the school employee most likely to administer medications whether the school district employs a nurse in the district or not.

In the absence of a school nurse, the secretary is the school employee most likely to administer first aid and care for ill students, followed by the principal/administrator and teacher.

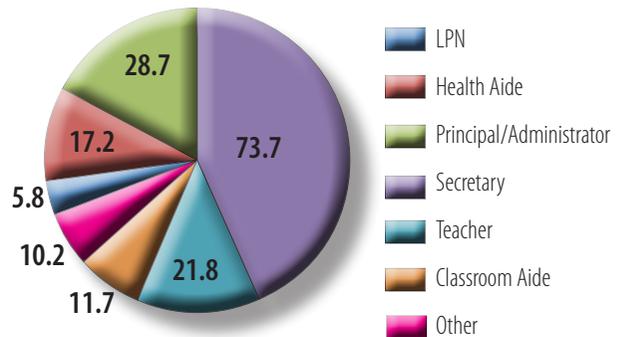
Employee Most Frequently Administering Medications

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Percent of Employees Most Likely to Administer First Aid in Absence of RN

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The secretary is the most commonly named employee to care for ill students in the absence of an RN. "Other" employees reported by the schools as caring for ill students included guidance counselors, teacher or instructional aides, recess or medication monitors and athletic/sports directors.

In addition, some schools employ health aides to provide health care services. More than half of health aides report having first aid training (62.1 percent) and CPR certification (78.2) percent. Other health care credentials for the school health aides include LPN licenses (11.4 percent) and RN licenses (15.1 percent).

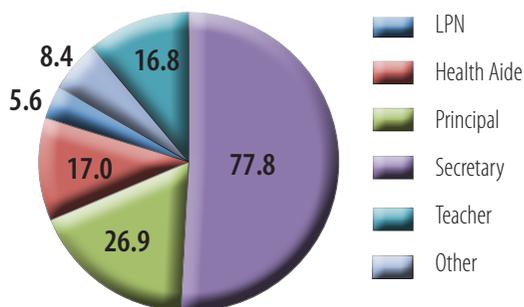
Schools are advancing their school technological efforts each year, including recording health information electronically. About 44 percent of schools recorded health information electronically in 2009-2010.

As students are identified with health concerns, schools must address their needs in the school setting. The nationally recognized gold standard for the provision of health care services in schools is for school districts to employ licensed school nurses in a ratio of one nurse to 750 well students. This fact sheet describes some of the methods used by Ohio schools in 2010 to provide for the health needs of their students. The full report of the *2010 Ohio Department of Health Survey of Health Services in Ohio Schools* may be found online at the ODH School Nursing Program Web site at:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/chss/schnurs/schnurs1.aspx>.

Percent of Employees Most Likely to Administer Care for Ill Students in Absence of RN

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Health Aide Credentials

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	Percent
CPR	78.2
EMT	3.7
First Aid	62.1
LPN	11.4
MA	8.8
RN	15.1
STNA	5.8
None	6.0
Other	5.6

May select more than one, will not add to 100%

Is Health Data Recorded Electronically?

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	Percent
Yes	44.2
No	55.8



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