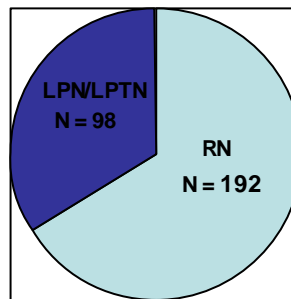


**Arkansas School Health Nursing and Program Summary
2006-2007 School Year**

School nurses in all public and charter school districts in the state of Arkansas were asked to complete the Arkansas School Health Nursing and Program Summary. The summary was developed by the State School Nurse Consultant. This report is compiled from data voluntarily submitted by school nurses from seventy-five (75) of the school districts across the state. It does not include data from correctional or private schools.

School Nurses

The demand for school nursing services has grown rapidly in recent years. Nursing personnel who work daily with school children must have the knowledge and expertise to meet increasingly complex health needs. Some of the reporting districts have one or two nurses while other districts have 35 or more. Among the 75 survey respondents who listed the academic credentials of their school nurses (n=290), one hundred ninety-two (66%) were Registered Nurses (RNs) while 98 (34%) were Licensed Practical Nurses/Licensed Psychiatric Technical Nurses (LPN/LPTNs). Among the survey respondents who listed the nurses' academic credentials, 22% (n = 65) reported a baccalaureate or higher degree.



School Policies

Policies are essential to guide the development and implementation of school programs. School nurses reported the presence of written, school board approved policies that could be found in the student handbook and/or the personnel policy handbook. Sixty-five districts reported having a policy for medication administration while 44 districts had a policy for HIV/Chronic Infectious Disease management. Fifty-six districts had a policy for emergency response, 53 had policies for reporting an injury, while only 54 districts had a policy requiring two persons per campus trained in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and only 50 districts had policies requiring two persons per campus have First Aid Training.

Written, school board approved health policies: School year 2006-2007

Policy	Number of districts with policy
Medication Administration	65
HIV/Chronic Infectious Disease Management	44
Emergency Response	56
Injury Reporting	53
2 persons/school trained in CPR	54
2 persons/school trained in First Aid	50

Health Screening, Referral and Follow-up

Health screenings have historically been an integral part of a school nurse's job. In Arkansas, there are four mandated health screenings for students: height and weight for Body Mass Index (BMI) calculations, vision, hearing and scoliosis. All of these screenings are performed by school nurses who have received certification by Community Health Nurse Specialists (CHNS). In addition, height and weight measurements may be performed by licensed teachers (i.e. PE or health) that have received certification from the CHNS. Hearing screenings may be performed by audiologists or speech/language pathologists. For vision and hearing, students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, first, second, fourth, sixth and eighth grades and all transfer students are screened. In the reporting school districts for the 2006-2007 school year, 94,579 students were screened for vision, 9,802 (10%) were referred to an eye doctor and of those, 5,872 (60%) students received an exam. For hearing, 94,125 students were screened, 1,408 (1%) students were referred to a physician, and 805 (57%) of those students referred received an exam.

For the school year 2006-2007, all Kindergarten through grade twelve were required to be measured for height and weight for their BMI calculation. Those students measured for height and weight were 98,671.

Scoliosis screens were conducted on all females in grades five through ten and all males in grades six, eight and ten. Of the 75 reporting school districts, 50,520 students were screened and 499 students were referred with 412 students receiving an exam.

Other screenings reported by school nurses included: 10,211 dental screenings, 7,060 blood pressure screenings and 12,740 screenings for *Pediculosis capitus* (head lice).

Screenings performed: School Year 2006-2007

Screening	Number Screened	Number referred	Received Exam
Vision	94579	9802	5872
Hearing	94125	1408	805
Body Mass Index (BMI)	98671		
Scoliosis	50520	499	412
Dental	10211	1740	303
Blood Pressure	7060	161	64
Other: Head lice	12740		

Chronic Illness/Disabilities

An increasing number of students with chronic health conditions attend school. Since these conditions can affect attendance, school performance, and the student's level of well being, school nurses work closely with students, their families, health care providers and school administrators and staff to reduce the negative impact of illness on learning. Some of the responsibilities nurses have in caring for students with chronic illnesses or disabilities are to serve as case managers, evaluate activities of daily living, and assist with the development of appropriate modifications for the learning environment. For the 2006-2007 school year, of the 130,982 students enrolled in the 75 school districts, 40,755 students reported having a chronic illness and/or disability. That number represents 31% of the student population of the elementary, middle and high school campuses in these districts. Twenty-six percent of these students reported having asthma, a major chronic illness among school age children. The numbers and percentages of the ten most reported conditions in these 75 districts can be found in the table below.

Chronic Health Conditions: School Year 2006-2007

Type of Condition (Rank)	Number of Students with Known Condition
	TOTAL
ADD/ADHD (2)	7003
Anaphylaxis (or potential for) (4)	2999
Anorexia/Bulimia	46
Asthma (1)	10,671
Autism	431
Blind/Visually impaired (5)	1563
Cardiovascular	420
Cerebral Palsy	287
Cytomegalovirus	1
Cystic Fibrosis	44
Deaf/Hearing Impaired	490
Depression (6)	1147
Diabetes Insulin dependent/Non-insulin dependent (7)	1144
Down's Syndrome	155
Epilepsy/Seizure disorder (10)	657
Genetic Diseases, other	152
Hemophilia/Bleeding disorder	65
Hepatitis B/C	5
HIV/AIDS	16
Hypertension	242
Malignant Disease	77
Migraine Headaches (8)	1116
Neuromuscular Disease	39
Muscular Dystrophy	44
Multiple Sclerosis	3
Orthopedic disability (permanent)	236
Psychiatric Disorder (9)	973
Renal Disease	112
Rheumatoid Arthritis	292
Sickle Cell Anemia	148
Spina Bifida	56
Substance Abuse (known)	249
Ulcers	114
Other (Allergies) (3)	5317
TOTAL	40,755

Health Care Procedures at School

Some students with chronic illnesses and/or disabilities require health care procedures to be performed during the school day. School nurses from the 75 districts reported that 2,107 students required specialized care. The following table illustrates the diversity of some of the more commonly performed procedures performed at school.

Number of children needing specialized care: School Year 2006-2007

Procedure	Number of students
Bladder Program	153
Blood Glucose testing	335
Bowel Program	110
Catheterization by Nurse or Aide	51
Catheterization by Self	23
Dialysis (Peritoneal)	5
Diapering/Personal Toileting	337
Feeding Assistance (oral)	189
Nebulizer	281
Range of Motion Exercises	148
Respiratory Care (i.e. oxygen, postural drainage)	22
Stoma Care	32
Suctioning	16
Tracheostomy Care	16
Tube Feedings	97
Ventilator Assisted Care	4
Sub-cutaneous medications	139
Intramuscular Medications	75
Intravenous Medications	4
Other Procedures	70
TOTAL	2,107

Pregnancy

Students known to be pregnant: School Year 2006/2007

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	TOTAL
Total number of known pregnancies		53	484	537
Of these known pregnancies:				
Number that received homebound services		18	112	130
Number that dropped out of school permanently		1	63	64

Suicide and Homicide

It is important to note the reports from school nurses in the 75 districts regarding suicide attempts, suicide deaths and homicides. The number of students attempting suicide totaled 57 students. Twenty-six of the attempts were made by high school students, 29 attempts were made by middle school students and alarmingly, 2 attempts were made by elementary students. There were 5 deaths from suicide in middle and high school students. A troubling number is seen in the number of deaths by homicide among public school students. There were 4 reported by the school nurses. It is important to note that none of the deaths, either by suicide or homicide, occurred at school.

Death by Suicide/Homicide: School Year 2006/2007

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	TOTAL
Number attempting suicide	2	29	26	57
Number of deaths from suicide	0	1	4	5
Number of suicides occurring at school	0	0	0	0
Number of deaths from homicide	3	0	1	4
Number of homicides occurring at school	0	0	0	0

Abuse/Neglect

In an effort to protect all students, Arkansas law states “It is the public policy of the State of Arkansas to protect the health, safety, and the welfare of minors within the state.” In addition, among the list of 27 mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect are “a licensed nurse, mental health professional, school counselor, school official, social worker, and teacher” (Act 1039 of 2003). In the 2006-2007 school year, school nurses from the 75 school districts indicated there had been 752 reported cases of child abuse, 111 cases of sexual abuse, 356 reported cases of neglect and 3 other cases of abuse.

The following table presents the reported cases by elementary, middle and high school aged students.

Abuse (reported cases): School Year 2006-2007

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	TOTAL
Number of Child Abuse cases	354	146	252	752
Number of sexual abuse cases	59	30	22	111
Number of neglect cases	207	98	51	356
Other	0	0	3	3

Medication Administration

During the 2006-2007 school year, school nurses reported that 24,500 students received medication while at school. Of these, 12,885 students received medications on a long-term basis, that is, for a duration longer than three weeks. Another 2,841 students received medications on a short-term basis, less than three weeks. Eight thousand seven hundred seventy-four students were given medications on an as-needed basis. Medications received most frequently on a daily basis included but were not limited to: Ritalin, Dexedrine, Lithium and other psychotropic, controlled substances and Insulin delivered through an infusion pump or as a sub-cutaneous injection. Emergency medications include rescue asthma inhalers, Diastat, Versed, epinephrine injections and medications for migraine headaches (i.e. Imitrex and Maxalt,). Over-the-counter (OTC) medications include Acetameniphen (Tylenol), Ibuprofen (Advil), Benedryl, Anti-acids, and topical ointments/lotions (i.e. Neosporin and Calamine).

Number of students receiving medications at school: School Year 2006-2007

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	TOTAL
Students on long-term medicine (>3 weeks)	11,964	559	362	12,885
Students on short-term medicine (<3 weeks)	1,773	510	558	2,841
Students on PRN medicines	5,017	2,133	1,624	8,774

Health Care Coordination

The school nurse’s role frequently extends beyond the school setting. Nurses serve as liaisons with physicians, dentists, community agencies, and families while supporting and caring for the health needs of students. More than 1,000 home visits were conducted during the 2006-2007 school year. In addition, there were 16,318 meetings held with parents or guardians, support staff and community agencies. Often times the school nurse is called on to care for school employees as well. This is evidenced by 9,387 contacts made with school employees.

In addition, Individualized Health Care Plans must be developed by a Registered Nurse for all students with special health care needs. Some of these special health care needs include but are not limited to: life-threatening allergies requiring sub-cutaneous epinephrine; blood glucose monitoring with carbohydrate consumption calculations and guiding insulin injections.

Contacts/Meetings conducted by School Nurses: School Year 2006-2007

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	TOTAL
Home visits conducted by School Nursing Staff	834	52	114	1000
Meetings conducted with parents or guardians	6,451	1,836	1,739	10,026
Meetings conducted with support staff	2,126	1,858	957	4,941
Meetings conducted with community agencies	644	331	376	1,351
Children with Individualized Health Care Plans	3,697	1,457	1,201	6,355
Individual contacts-School employee health needs	5,493	1,770	2,124	9,387

Injuries/Emergency Care

Injuries and illnesses are common occurrences in the school-aged population. Many minor incidents occur to students and staff during the course of the school day. School nurses reported 397,125 at-school minor injuries requiring first-aid and 3,785 major injuries occurred in the 2006-2007 school year. Elementary injuries numbered 270,442, middle school injuries were 74,356 and high school injuries were 52,327. Major injuries are defined as medical emergencies requiring an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) call or immediate medical care plus the loss of one-half day or more of school. Of the major injuries reported, most (56%) occurred on the play/school grounds. Another 13% occurred in Physical Education Class and 12% in athletic practice while 9% occurred in the classroom. There were adverse outcomes for some of the students with serious injuries that occurred at school. One serious injury resulted in a permanent disability while another one resulted in death. One hundred twelve injuries occurred as a result from an incident requiring law enforcement intervention.

Injuries requiring EMS or immediate care by a physician or dentist AND loss of ½ or more school days

Type of injury (give # in each category)	Bus	Hall	Class room	Play ground	PE class	Sporting event	Athletic practice	Shop	Rest-room	Lunch-room	Other	Total
Respiratory emergencies	3	7	131	133	75	0	11	0	0	1	2	363
Head Injury	5	6	19	218	41	2	35	0	3	0	12	341
Back Injury	1	0	6	35	105	2	108	0	1	0	2	260
Eye Injury	0	4	40	121	18	1	7	5	3	3	6	208
Fracture	0	4	8	284	53	11	26	0	0	0	19	405
Sprain or Strain	5	24	38	993	83	16	209	0	2	10	48	1428
Laceration	2	7	46	169	55	2	30	32	4	15	41	403
Dental Injury	0	3	8	127	10	0	2	0	0	1	9	160
Anaphylaxis	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	16
Psychiatric Emergencies	0	3	24	10	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	43
Heat Related Emergencies	2	0	0	21	32	0	37	4	0	0	5	101
Other: Seizures	1	1	8	11	12	0	4	0	2	2	4	45
Other: Blood Pressure	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Other:	0	2 burn	1 ear						1 sex. assault			4
TOTALS	19	60	347	2125	485	34	469	41	17	34	154	3785

Other Responsibilities

Many school nurses reported being a part of several committees in the school district. Some of these committees include: student handbook, emergency preparedness, child nutrition/physical activity, 504, absentee, hometown health improvement, crisis team and literacy. Many school nurses fulfill other needs at school such as: bus duty, lunch duty, morning duty, classroom substitute, office duty, wellness committee chair, attendance clerk, front office relief, testing proctor, car duty, translator, and substitute office secretary just to name a few.