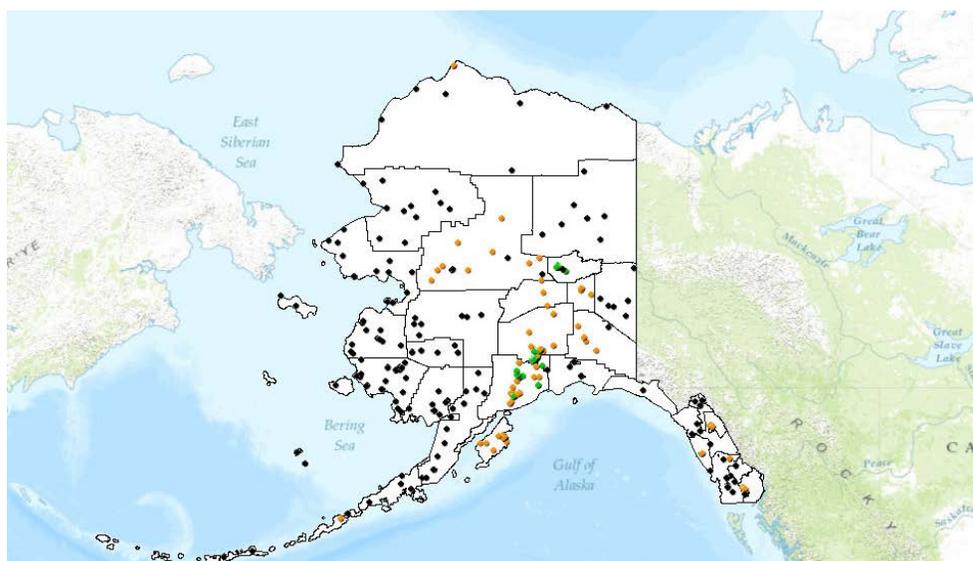


2014-15 Alaska School Nurse Data Collection

As a joint project of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC), school nurses across the country were encouraged to begin to collect specific data in the 2014-15 school year in order to assist in development of a national, uniform, standardized data set. The initiative, coined **“Step Up and Be Counted!”**, includes data collection on the number of nurses in schools, the number of children with *diagnosed* chronic health conditions and the disposition of children seen in the school nurse office. Data were collected at the local level, aggregated at the district level and then state level before being submitted to the national database. What follows is a report of the findings for Alaska during the 2014-15 school year. Additional data points will be collected during the 2015-16 school year.

STAFFING LEVELS

- All 17 school districts with school nursing services in Alaska (out of 54 total school districts), plus two private/parochial schools* reported their staffing levels.
- Two hundred and nineteen school nurses serve in 333 out of the 507 Alaska public school buildings across the state, all of whom are registered nurses. This includes 18 registered nurses who serve as supplemental nurses or for special assignments. Fifteen non-RN health assistants also serve in several schools reporting.
- 111,597 students out of a total statewide student population of 131,875 (85%) are served by registered nurses in Alaska public schools though some only part time during the week or year.
- Total district-wide full-time equivalent (FTEs) (RN or health assistants) ranges from 102.67 FTE nursing services in the largest school district to 0.25 FTE in a smaller rural district.
- The total nurse to student ratio for Alaska is 1:588, although even in school districts with a school nurse in every school, the ratio can be as high as 1:2100 at an individual school.



Map of School Nurse Staffing in Alaska Public Schools 2014/15

RN Staffing:
● Full Time
● Part Time
● No Nurse

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Eight of the 17 public school districts with school nursing services reported the number of students in their schools with diagnosed chronic conditions (i.e., medically confirmed cases), including asthma, Type I and Type II diabetes, seizure disorder and life-threatening allergy. Sixty-seven percent of the total Alaska student population and 44% of public schools are represented in these data.

- **Asthma:** 8,252 students have asthma, 9% of students in schools reporting
- **Type I Diabetes:** 239 students (0.3%) have Type I diabetes
- **Type II Diabetes:** 34 students (0.04%) are diagnosed with Type II diabetes
- **Seizure Disorder:** 814 students have a seizure disorder (0.9%)
- **Life-threatening Allergy (anaphylaxis):** 2,129 (2.4%) students are diagnosed with anaphylaxis

ENCOUNTERS/ DISPOSITIONS

School nurses were asked to keep track of students' dispositions (i.e., return to class, 911 called, sent home) following student visits to the school health office for school nursing assessment and interventions. One hundred and sixty-nine school nurses reported (77% of school nurses statewide) with 60% of the student population in the state covered in this reporting. Of the school nurses and districts reporting, all collected data over the entire 2014-15 school year (100% of the school year represented).

School nurses from the schools reporting had 499,107 student encounters; of these encounters:

- **Returned to class:** 466,965 encounters resulted in the student returning to class, where studies have shown it is imperative for students to be to achieve academically. ***On average, school nurses returned students to class 94% of the time.***
- **Emergency Medical Services (911) called:** 830 student visits resulted in 911 or equivalent being called.
- **Sent home:** 31,312 encounters resulted in the student being sent home.

*Thank you to all the
Alaska school nurses who
participated in 2014-15
data collection!*



School Nursing/ School Health Program

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*Because the total number of private/parochial schools and school nurses serving in these schools in Alaska is unknown at this time, therefore affecting the denominator, private/parochial school data is not included in this report.