



Utah School Nurses Care About Utah's Children

For the 2003-2004 school year, there are approximately **125 school nurses**, serving **483,685 school-age children** in Utah. The ratio of school nurses to children is **1 nurse to 6,022 students**.

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) recommends that the maximum ratio of nurse to students should be one school nurse to no more than 750 regular education students. In order to be in line with NASN recommendations, Utah would need approximately 562 more school nurses.

Chronic Conditions found among Utah's School Children

- In 2002-2003 there were 53,381 students categorized as **Special Education Students**. Many of these students require care plans completed by the school nurses to assure they receive the health care they need while at school.
- The 2001 Utah Health Status Survey estimates that about 36,000 children (age 0-17 years) living in Utah have **asthma**. It is the most common chronic childhood disease.
- From 1990 to 1999 there was a 198% increase in the number of children at Primary Children's Medical Center who were **newly diagnosed with diabetes**. The 2000 Utah Child Health Survey estimates that there are 1,800 Utah children who have **diabetes**. There were 214 children newly diagnosed with diabetes in 2003.
- There were a total of 1900 children in 2002-2003 who required **medical procedures** that were **delegated** to other individuals (including unlicensed assistive personnel) by the school nurse. This means other people were performing nursing duties under the direction of the school nurse because there are not enough school nurses to perform these procedures directly.

School Injuries in Utah

(from the Utah Department of Health's Violence and Injury Prevention Program)

- Every hour a student is injured at school.
- Every 4 hours a student suffers an injury resulting in a possible fracture.
- Every day 911 is called because of a school injury.
- Every day a student suffers a possible concussion due to a school injury.
- Every 3 days a student loses consciousness as the result of a school injury.

School Nurse Activities

In the 2002-2003 school year, school nurses performed the following activities:

(data taken from the statewide annual school nurse survey):

- School nurses supervised 206,722 preschool and elementary **vision screenings** and 62,567 middle school **scoliosis screenings**.
- School nurses taught 4,139 specialized **health topic classes**, which included hygiene, communicable diseases and dental health.
- School nurses conducted 4,769 **staff wellness** clinics/programs.
- School nurses arranged 265 **first aid trainings** and 372 **CPR trainings**. They personally trained 2,388 school personnel in CPR.
- School nurses spent about 20% of their time developing student health **care plans** for teachers and other school staff to use in caring for children at school.