

Nursing services in Utah public schools

2022-2023 summary report

School nurses in Utah: Keeping students healthy, safe, and ready to learn



Utah Department of
Health & Human
Services

2022-2023 school year data:

- 38 of 41 school districts submitted data.
- 27 out of 115 charter schools submitted data.
- The data represents 99% of students in all school districts, 91% of public school students, and 31% of charter school students.

School nurse facts:

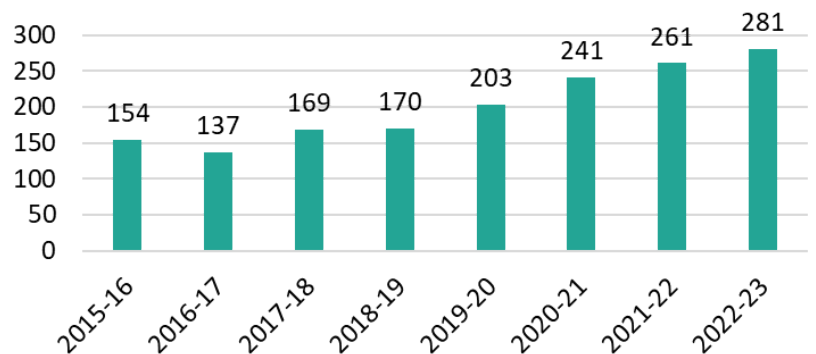
- School nurses are trained in children's physical and emotional development, both of which can affect students' school readiness.
- They are trained to calmly handle both medical and emotional crises and bring comfort to an ill or injured student.
- They offer support to teachers and other school staff by managing student health and wellness.
- They prevent medical liability through managing school medical care, including training school staff, delegating medical tasks to school staff, and properly documenting medical care that occurs.



2022-2023 school nurse staffing:

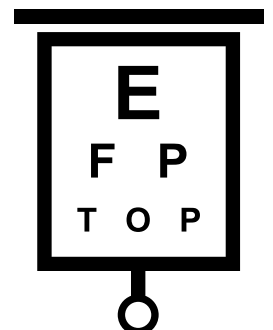
The number of full-time school nurses working in Utah has increased each year. However, even with regular staffing increases, there are still not enough school nurses in Utah schools. **Only 1.75% of Utah schools meet the national recommendation of 1 registered nurse per school.**

Total school nurse FTEs by year



Student health screenings and referrals:

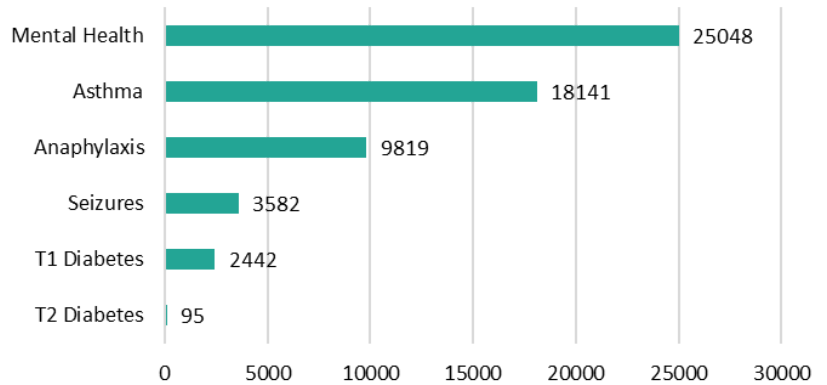
- 320,149 vision screenings conducted
- 27,329 vision referrals provided
- 7,401 oral health screenings conducted
- 782 oral health services provided through a school-sponsored oral health program



Student health conditions:

In the 2022-2023 school year, school nurses helped students with a variety of chronic health conditions.

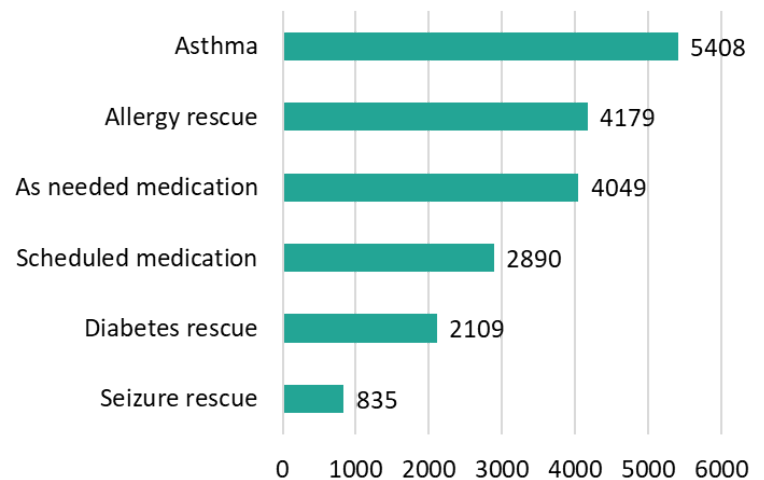
Student health conditions,
2022-2023



Medication orders:

In the 2022-2023 school year, school nurses managed life-saving medication orders for students with chronic health conditions.

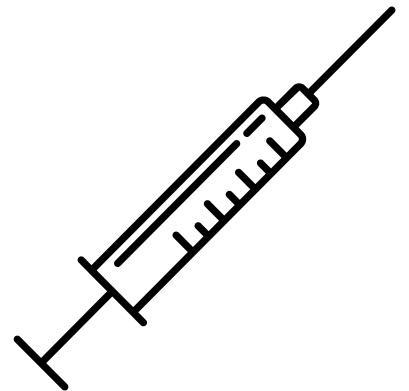
Medication orders, 2022-2023



Emergency rescue medication administration:

In addition to managing student medications, school nurses also administer medication to students, including rescue medications for life-threatening emergencies. In the 2022-2023 school year, school nurses administered the following medications to students:

- 101 seizure rescue medications
- 50 allergy rescue medications
- 10 diabetes rescue medications



“School nurses enhance each child’s educational potential by promoting physical and emotional wellness, increasing school attendance, and decreasing non-academic barriers to learning.”

-Dr. William Cosgrove