

Student Encounters with School Nurses in Montana: Frequency and Outcomes Step Up and Be Counted Survey, 2014-15 School Year

During each month of the 2014-15 school year, school nurses in Montana were asked to report the number of student encounters they had as well as the outcomes of these encounters. On average, 17 nurses submitted data each month, reporting an average total of 6304 student encounters per month, or a crude frequency of 371 student encounters per nurse per month. Taking the number of student days and nurse hours worked into account, there was a median of 13.4 student encounters per nurse (full time equivalent (FTE)) per day. Reports ranged from 1 to 75 encounters per day and the middle 50% of reports were from 7 to 31 encounters per nurse per day. (Figure 1)

Outcomes of student encounters were reported as either the student returned to class, was sent home, or had 911 called. Overall, 90% of encounters resulted in the student returning to class. The student was sent home at 10% of encounters. 911 was called for 0.2% of encounters. (Figure 2) The median rate at which students were sent home by school nurses was 1.2 students sent home per 1000 students enrolled per day. The middle 50% of reported rates ranged from 0.7 to 2.1 students sent home per 1000 students per day.

Figure 1. Boxplots of the distribution of reported frequencies of student encounters by Montana school nurses, 2014-15 school year.

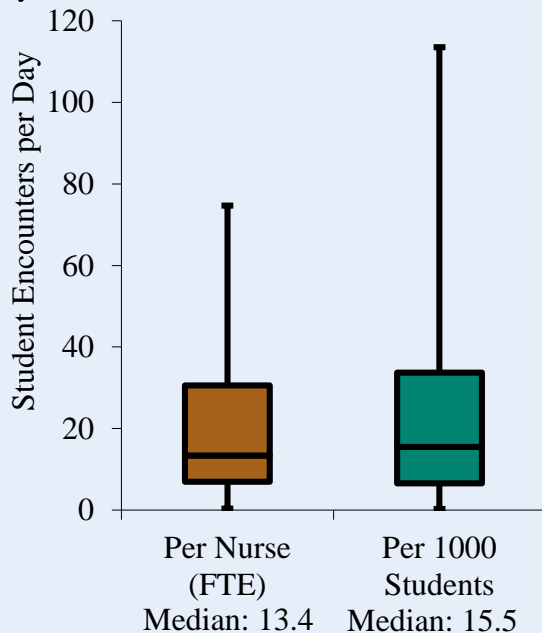
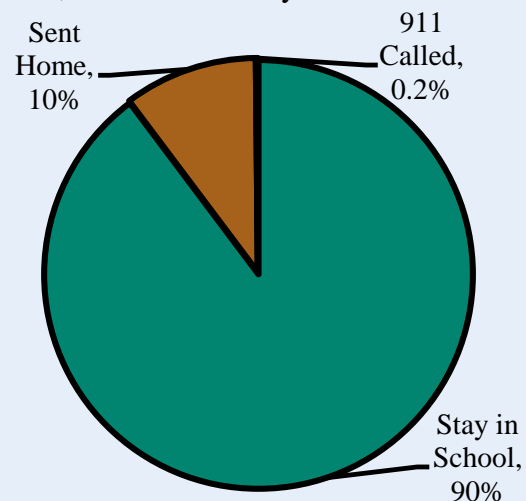


Figure 2. Outcomes of student encounters with Montana school nurses, 2014-15 school year.



CONTACT

Chronic Disease Prevention and
Health Promotion Bureau
1-844-684-5848
ChronicDiseasePrevention@MT.gov

Source: *The State of School Nursing in Montana: A Comprehensive Study of School Nursing Services, 2015.* A cooperative project between the Montana Association of School Nurses and the MT DPHHS Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Bureau. Author: Sue Buswell, MASN.