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# School Nursing in Alameda County

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Community Advisory Group February 7, 2023

# School Nurses: Qualifications & Education

- ▶ Registered Nurses
- ▶ Possess a Baccalaureate Degree
- ▶ Hold a School Nurse Services Credential (additional 1 year program)
- ▶ Certificated School Audiometrists
- ▶ Complete over 30 hours of continuing education every 2 years

Additionally, many school nurses:

- ❑ Are licensed Public Health Nurses
- ❑ Are MSN (Master's of Science in Nursing) prepared
- ❑ Possess additional certifications (e.g. Nurse practitioner, CPR instructor, National School Nurse Certification)

# The Many Roles of the School Nurse

- ▶ Health Care Provider
- ▶ Care Coordination/Case Management
- ▶ Emergency Responder
- ▶ Screen Vision and Hearing
- ▶ Special Education Team Member
- ▶ Health Educator
- ▶ Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- ▶ Environmental Health and Safety Advocate
- ▶ Promote Health Equity/Reduce Health Disparities
- ▶ Mental Health Provider





# Pediatric Public Health Population

- ▶ Alameda County Students 2021-22 → 214,600 in TK-12
  - ▶ 10% (or more) asthma & current symptoms
  - ▶ 8% food allergies
  - ▶ Dental caries
  - ▶ Seizures
  - ▶ Other chronic conditions (including COVID)
  - ▶ Responsible for Immunizations

# Pediatric Public Health Population

- ▶ Responsible for primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
- ▶ Immunizations
- ▶ Vision and hearing screening
- ▶ Collaboration with community healthcare agencies and HCPs

# School Nurse as a Community Health Coordinator

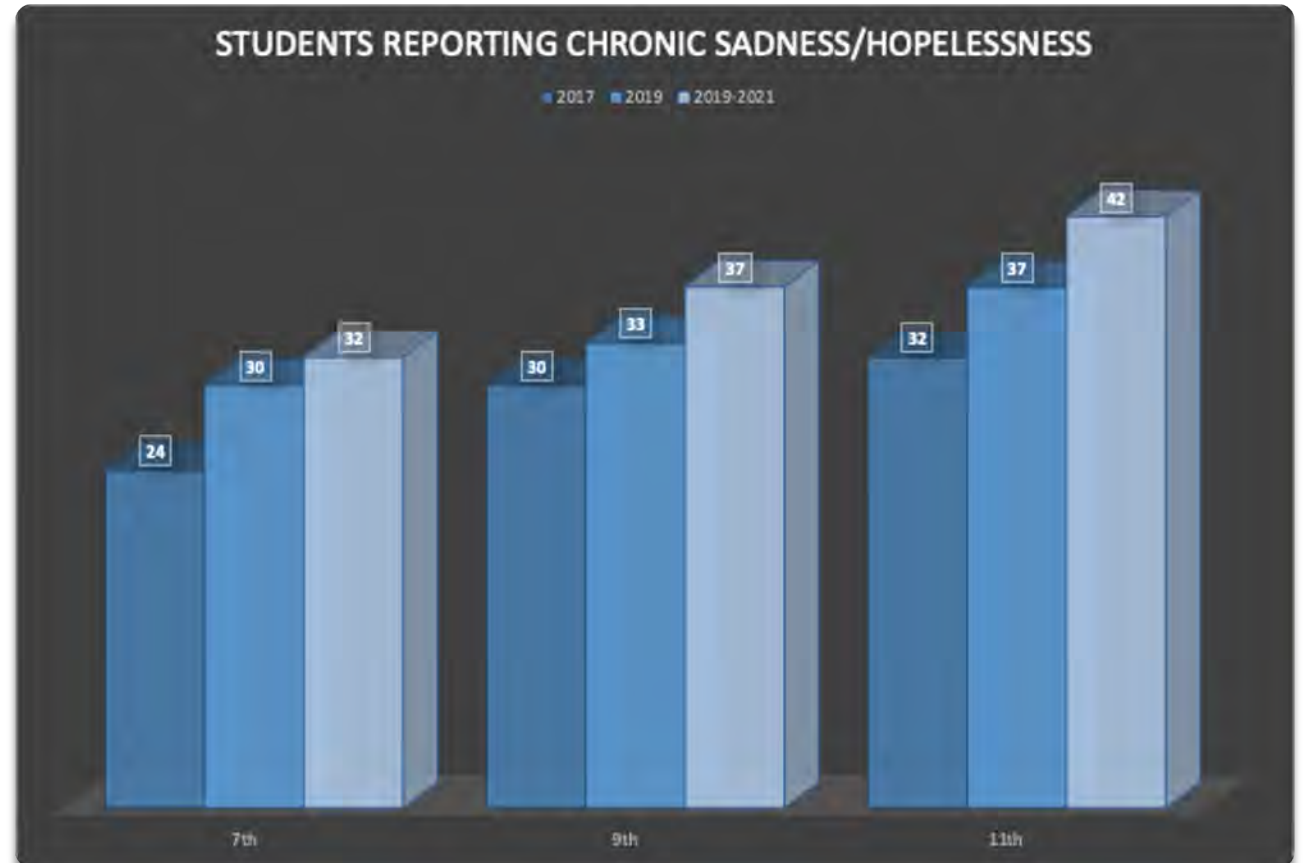
- ▶ Coordinates with County Health Department in identifying and tracking communicable diseases and other health trends
- ▶ Immunization clinics e.g., flu and COVID for students, staff, and families
- ▶ Refers students and their families to community health and social service resources when needed
- ▶ Often serves as a lifeline for at risk-students – recognizing and intervening for behavioral issues, malnutrition, abuse, and bullying

# School Nurse as a Health Educator

- ▶ School nurses are often the most accessible resource for credible, reliable health information.
- ▶ Educate staff about health conditions, emergency medications, immunizations
- ▶ Provide individual education to students about their health conditions.
- ▶ Provide classroom education Educate families and staff about vital health topics.

# School Nurses are Mental Health Providers

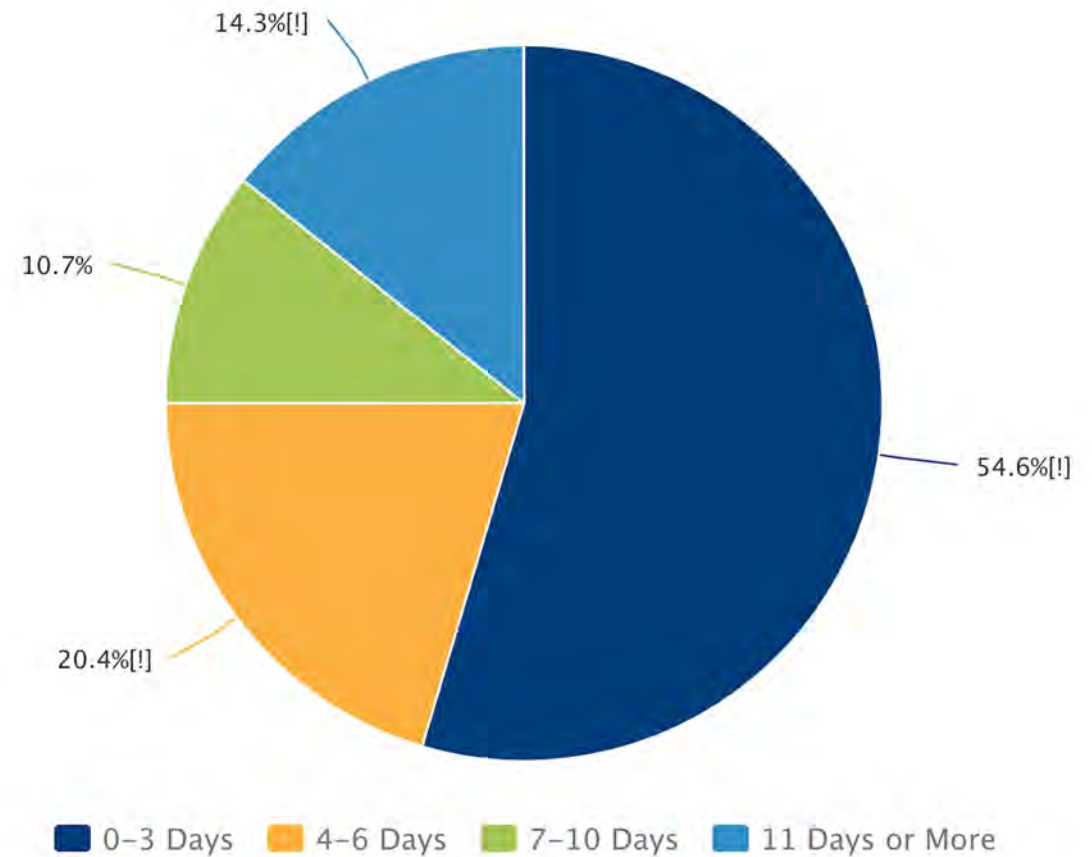
- ▶ The school nurse is often the first to identify a mental health issue
- ▶ School nurses are trained to provide mental health services
- ▶ School nurses provide referral to school-based and/or community-based mental health providers for ongoing care





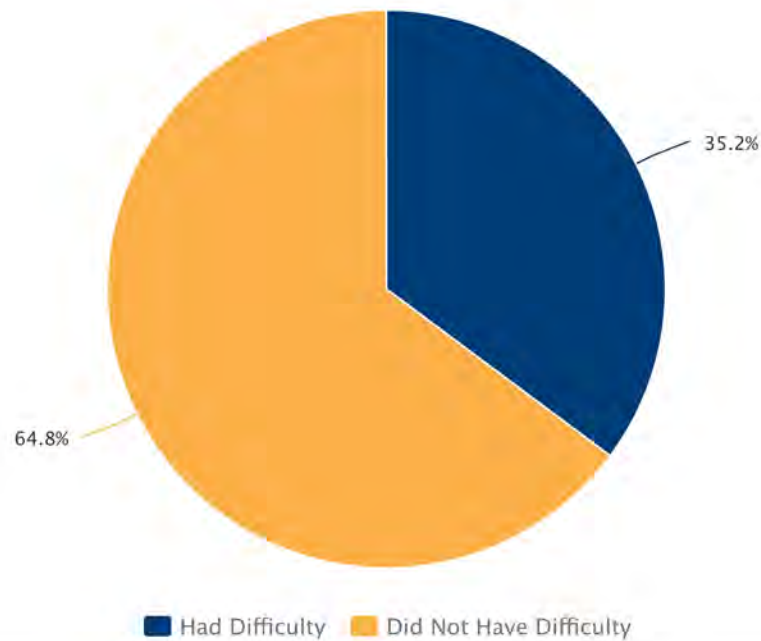
# Supporting Student Attendance

School days missed Among Children with Special Healthcare Needs in CA 2016-2019



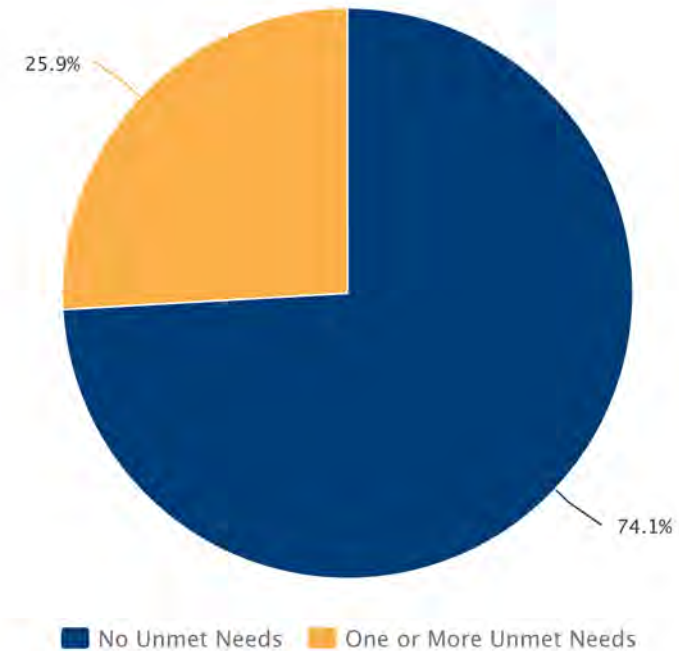
# School Nurses Promote Health Equity

Difficulty Accessing Community-Based Services for California Children with Special Health Care Needs (2009-2010)



Kids Data: <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/453/special-needs-community-services/pie#fmt=622&loc=2&tf=74&ch=1057,1058&pdist=152>

Unmet Needs for Services Among Children with Special Healthcare Needs in CA (2009-2010)



Kids Data: <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/66/special-needs-unmet-need/pie#fmt=311&loc=2,1&tf=74&ch=139,140&pdist=117>

# School Nurses Promote Health Equity by...

## Addressing Social Determinants of Health:

- ▶ Direct care, medical referrals, connect to community resources, health promotion, illness prevention, advocacy, health education, social services. Future of Nursing 2020-2030

## Advancing student, staff, family, community Health Literacy:

- ▶ Build individual and community capacity to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions that are health enhancing. Health Framework for California Public Schools

# Pandemic

- ▶ Excluded from team at State level (CDE)
- ▶ No School Nurse Consultant at COE
- ▶ Some districts turned to school nurses
- ▶ Some districts excluded school nurses
- ▶ Some districts directed school nurse practice
- ▶ Advocated for invitation to CAG



# Special accomplishments & initiatives

Developed guidance for school nurses on vision and hearing screening  
Reviewed by ACPHD  
Adopted and incorporated into school COVID guidance

Testing  
Contact tracing  
Collaboration with ACPHD  
Staff, family, student education and guidance

# Special accomplishments & initiatives

ACPHD had monthly meetings 2005-2020  
10-20 school nurses

Since April 2020 every 1-2 weeks  
ACPHD representative  
ACOE representative  
Over 100 school nurses on email distribution list  
Spring 2021 ~60 school nurses on weekly Zoom meetings  
Currently 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
    One business meeting  
    One professional development meeting  
Networking  
Updates

# Special accomplishments & initiatives

## Policy changes

### Access to Naloxone

- Piedmont (p 156)
- Livermore
- San Leandro
- New Haven
- Alameda
- Castro Valley

### Access to medical cannabis Oakland

# How can we work together?

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# References

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# Acknowledgement

This presentation is based on the *Essential Role of the School Nurse* Powerpoint presentation developed by the National Association of School Nurses. (n.d.).

It has been adapted by the School Nurses of California Foundation to support school nurses in promoting and educating school personnel, administrators, and community leaders about their unique role in supporting the health and wellbeing of California's children and communities.

