

2010 School Nurse Survey
NH Department of Education
Office of School Health, School Health Services
Survey conducted in April 2010

Highlights

We received 288 surveys completed by school nurses from public and private schools. The survey was sent out by email through the NH Department of Education School Nurse Listserve to 592 school nurses, showing a 48.6 % return rate.

- The ratio of RN's to students was 1:454 for nurses who reported working full-time at public schools only. All districts were included in obtaining 100% response for the ratio calculation in order to get as accurate a ratio as possible. This ratio was comparable to the ratio in the 2007 school nurse survey results.
- 21 private school nurses (7.5%) responded to survey, with 5 of those schools being co-ed boarding schools. The RN to Student Ratio was 1:172. Private school ratios were not measured in the 2007 survey.
- Salaries tended to increase with increasing years of experience as a school nurse and with higher degrees. The average annual salary for a full-time school nurse changed from \$43,016.22 in 2007/2008 school year to \$46,253.77 in 2009/2010 school year.
- The substitute average daily pay changed from \$85.74/day in 2007 to \$94.18/day in 2010.
- 234 nurses (81%) were employed by the district and 33 nurses (11.5%) reported being employed by an agency, hospital, or Manchester Health Department. 21 nurses (7.5%) worked at private schools.
- 257 nurses out of 288 (89.2%) reported working full-time; 240 nurses (88%) worked primarily at one school, and 218 nurses (77.3%) were the only school nurse at the school.
- 219 nurses (77.7%) out of 288 reported having no help from other health professionals in the office. Of those who reported having help in the nurse's office, the most frequent responses were clinical help: EMT, medical, or nurse assistant, LPN, health aide, or float nurse.

Certifications

- 5.2% (15 school nurses) were also certified to teach. Subject reported most frequently was Health Education.
- 6.3 % (18 school nurses) reported being certified as a school nurse with National School Nurse Certification.
- 38.2% (110 school nurses) reported being certified as an instructor to teach CPR certification and First Aid Certification.

Physician Information

- 49.1% of school nurses reported having a physician consultant available. 38.7% of physician consultants in schools are paid, 34.3% are voluntary positions, and 27% of nurse respondents were unsure if the physician was paid.
- Of those who reported having a physician consultant, the duties consisted of policy development, writing protocols, guidance on health related issues, standing orders, sports physicals, and referral recommendations.

Salary

Please note – 257 respondents out of 288 provided salary information.

- For full-time nurses (public and private schools), the average annual salary = \$46,253.77 with a range being reported from \$26,000-72,000.
- For part-time RN's that reported an hourly wage, the average = \$31.75/hr. (Range \$21.50–38.50)
- For substitute nurses, average daily pay = \$94.18 (Range \$50-180). (This excludes 4 respondents that used an agency that charged \$200-300.00 per day). Many respondents indicated that there is difficulty finding substitute nurses. Other schools do not use a substitute if the nurse is absent.

Degree Held	# of Nurses	Percent of Nurses	Average Salary*	Lowest	Highest
Diploma	41	14.1	42,516	27,000	62,000
Associate's	79	27.5	44,613	27,000	66,000
Bachelor's	134	46.6	43,990	26,000	69,000
Master's	30	10.4	50,997	34,000	68,000
Nurse Practitioner	4	1.4	58,171	44,000	72,000

*257 respondents out of 288 provided salary info.

Years Experience as RN	# of Nurses	Percent of Nurses	Average Salary*	Lowest	Highest
0 to 2 years	5	1.7	31,000	27,000	34,000
3 to 5 years	13	4.5	33,750	29,500	36,000
6 to 10 years	7	2.4	37,500	32,000	43,000
11 to 15 years	29	10.1	43,324	35,000	58,000
16 to 20 years	41	14.2	45,959	33,000	62,000
> than 20 years	193	67.0	51,969	34,000	72,000

*257 respondents out of 288 provided salary info.

Years Experience as School Nurse	# of Nurses	Percent of Nurses	Average Salary*	Lowest	Highest
0 to 2 years	28	9.7	36,807	27,000	53,500
3 to 5 years	49	17.0	39,476	29,000	55,000
6 to 10 years	68	23.6	43,432	32,000	64,000
11 to 15 years	69	24.0	47,539	34,000	68,000
16 to 20 years	33	11.5	50,353	35,000	68,800
>than 20 years	41	14.2	54,219	33,000	72,000

*257 respondents out of 288 provided salary info.