Step Up Be Counted:
Creating a National Core Data Set for School Health Services

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Disclosure

Marjorie Cole and Jessica Gerdes

We disclose the absence of personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this educational activity.
Background:
Review of Literature

- Lack of data regarding school nursing
- Increased accountability using data
- Tightening budgets
- BIG DATA: When “N” equals all
The First Steps: Laying the Groundwork

2014:
• Developed Joint Work group
• First set of meetings supported by sponsor

2014-15
• Sorted potential data points
• Agreed data point definitions
• Developed webpage, webinars, and process
• Collected uniform data points
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Data Points for the Uniform Data Set: (2014-15)

- Chronic Conditions (diagnosed)
  - Allergies (life-threatening)
  - Asthma
  - Diabetes (Type I and Type II)
  - Seizures
- School Staffing (count)
  - RN, LPN, Health Extenders
- Disposition (count)
  - Health Office Visits
Preliminary Data

Preliminary results indicate project has obtained data from 22 states.

Final data entries due October 15

2014-15 data final date to be reviewed later this month

First “step” for many of us; lots of lessons learned.
Missouri: Student Health Services Workforce

- RN FTE direct service 1,271
- LPN FTE direct service 350
- Health Extenders Direct & Regular Service 306
- RN Supplemental DNC
- RN special assignments DNC

* Preliminary data of school nurses reporting
Missouri:
Chronic Health Conditions 2014-15*

809,323 Students counted

- Asthma: 80,443
- Type 1 Diabetes: 2,272
- Type 2 Diabetes: 582
- Life threatening allergy: 20,953
- Seizure disorder: 7,277

* Preliminary data of school nurses reporting
Health Office Dispositions
One Small Illinois Elementary School, 344 students, 2014-2015
Total student visits to RN: 1,200

- returned back to the class for academic instruction: 1,050
- student sent home due to illness: 150
- student required emergency services or 911: 0
Health Office Dispositions
North Carolina Statewide Data Public Schools K-12
Total student visits to RN: 2,018,326

- returned back to the class for academic instruction: 1,772,614
- student sent home due to illness: 242,967
- student required emergency services or 911: 2,745

Source: North Carolina Department of Public Health, School Health Program
What We Learned

- Willing participants; needed additional help
- If no SSNC in the state, needed to find a designated “data champion”
- Unable to locate state level data
- Limited awareness of all the nurses in the state or outside the state association
- Variety of electronic systems; primarily developed for education or health care entities
- Unfamiliar with public health model of data collection
- Individual assessment vs community assessment
Challenges

- Differences in opinion of definitions
- Resisting urge to change the definition
- Variety of school nursing models
- Private, charter, public schools: variances
- State barriers to data reporting
- No standardized data collection system
- Documentation standards are critical
Success Stories

• States looking to hiring a state school nurse consultant
• Data shared with decision-makers
• Launched “geo maps” of hot spots
• Non-traditional partnerships were born
  • Hospital Association
  • State Kids Count Associations
  • State Health Departments
Looking Forward!

• Additional data points

• Data warehouse

• Long term sustainability
Looking Forward!

• New data points for 2015-16 year:

  Workforce
  – RNs, LPNs/LVNs, aides with administrative duties
  – LPN/LVNs and aides who supplemental/float
  – LPN/LVNs and aides with special assignments

  Health Office Disposition
  – LPNs/LVNs disposition
  – Non-RN, non-LPN/LVN disposition
http://nasn.org/stepupbecounted

Website includes:
• Data collection tool
• Excel sheet for paper collection
• Frequently Asked Questions
• Archived webinars

Questions:
email: stepupbecounted@nasn.org
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Standardized Data Set for School Health Services:

A Joint Project of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC)

"Anything that is measured and watched, improves" ~ Bob Parsons, American Entrepreneur

School nurses collect rich and important data. NASN and NASSNC are working together to develop a national uniform, standardized data set for all school nurses to collect specific data points the same way.

For the 2015-16 school year, school nurses are encouraged to collect specific data on the number of nurses and health personnel in schools, the number of children with diagnosed chronic health conditions, and the disposition of children seen in the school nurse office. We invite each school nurse to step up and be counted!
“If you are not in the data, you don’t exist”

School nurses are in the data and exist...

the data demonstrates:

✓ Who we are (workforce data)
✓ What we do (manage chronic disease and provide acute care)
✓ How we do it (with or without extenders)
✓ Outcomes for our students
Physical Activity

Break

Step Up & Be Counted!

100% Students Counted

100% School Nurses Participating