

Health Issues in Arkansas Schools: Resources and Programs for Combatting Absenteeism

Cheria McDonald, BSN, RN, NCSN



Why is this important to you?



Why is this important for your schools?

- Leading causes of absenteeism is asthma. On average in a classroom of 30 children, 3 are likely to have asthma.
- Children with poor oral health are 3 times more likely to miss school than their counterparts
- Flu vaccine can reduce the risk of illness by 40-60% among the overall population
- Other childhood vaccine efficacy rates are 90-99%



School Nurse Survey Data 2018-2019

237 Districts



Chronic Conditions



Chronic Conditions for Arkansas

- ADHD 44, 934
- Asthma 37,701
- Life-Threatening Allergies 11,453
- Seizures 3,934
- Diabetes (Type I and II) 1,672



Emergency Medications for Chronic Conditions

- Beta Antagonist (Albuterol) Asthma

24,251 given by nurse, 3705 given by other school personnel and 67 were 911 emergencies

- Buccal Medications (Clonazepam) Seizures

156 given by a nurse, 4 given by other school personnel and 20 were 911 emergencies

- Epinephrine Auto Injector (Epi-pen) Life-threatening allergies

86 given by a nurse, 6 given by other school personnel and 39 were 911 emergencies



Medication Administration at School

- 16, 166 students receive long-term prescription Medications
- 7,681 students received short-term prescription medications

Arkansas schools administer anywhere from 5 doses to 55 doses a day of prescription medications.



Mental Health

- 16, 166 students receiving mental health on campus
- 6, 107 students receiving mental health off campus

- In Arkansas 1 in 7 children experienced 3 or more traumas (Adverse Childhood Experiences)



Outcomes of Students Seen by a Nurse

- Returned to class
2,314,275
- Sent Home
198,295
- Sent to Healthcare Provider
39,883
- Requiring 911
1004
- Sent to School-Based Health Center
10,151



Minor Injuries and Illnesses

1,487,457 students received first aid

151,202 school personnel care/visits by the school nurse



Impact of Sexual Health

- 920 Pregnant
 - 157 Homebound services provided
 - 62 Dropped out of school permanently
 - 81 High Risk Pregnancies
-
- 302 Referred for STD symptoms



Acute Conditions

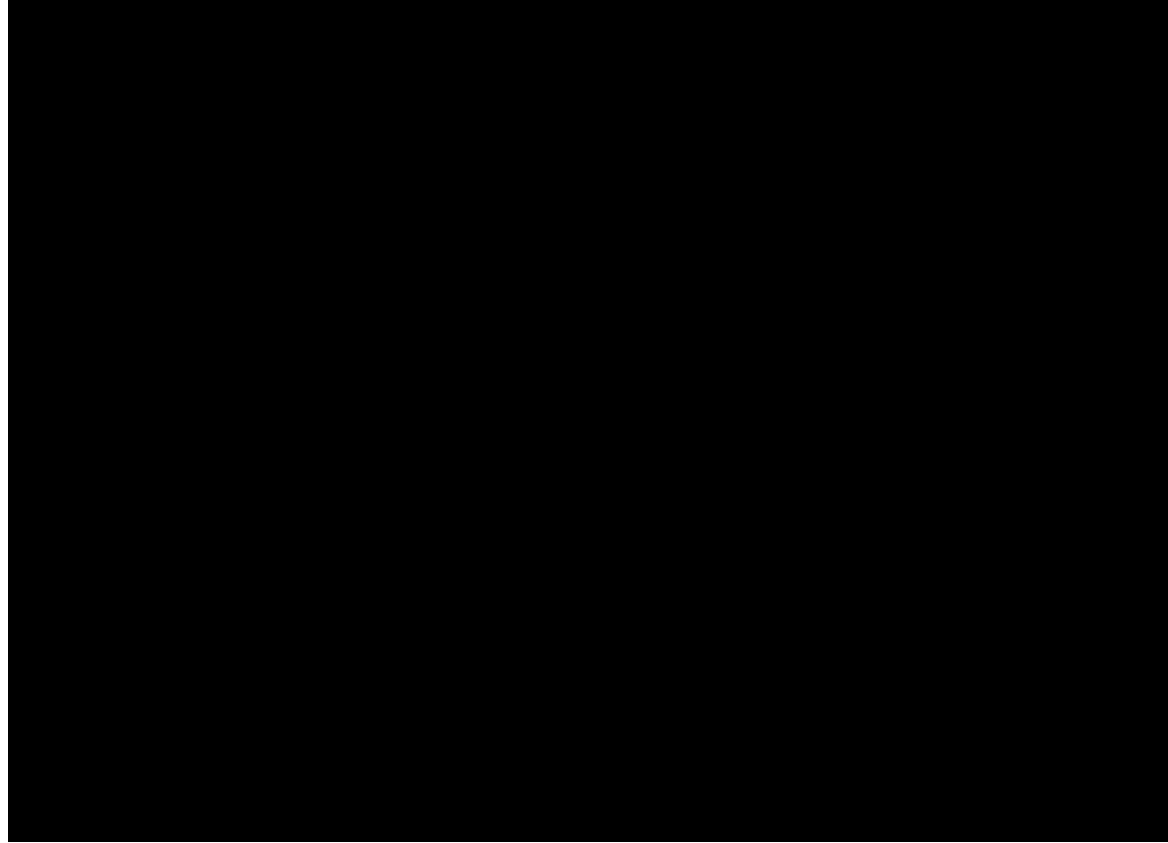


Sudden Cardiac Arrest

6



Vaping



Substance Abuse: Opioids

2019 YRBS Survey

- 17.9% high school students reported taking a prescription pain medicine without a doctors Rx or differently than they were told to take it.
- 26.7% high school students reported being offered, sold, or given an illegal substance on school property.



Other Issues



Immunizations

- Exemptions
- Compliance
- Outbreaks

Act 676 of 2019



Flu Vaccination

Arkansas Department of Health Analysis:

10% increase in flu vaccination rates among students would reduce absenteeism by 44,825 days.

In 2018-2019 school year, at least 21 public schools closed due to flu for a total of 38 days. Closures accounted for 26,896 student school days missed.



Vision Screenings

264,074 Screened Pre-K through 12th

27,730 Referred for a comprehensive eye exam

9,703 Received an exam

8,074 Confirmed Difficulty: Vision Deficit needing lens or treatment

83% Efficacy Rate of School Screening by the School Nurse



Head Lice

- For every elementary of 500 children, at least 5 children have lice at all times
- They do not carry disease, but are a nuisance
- Nits or No Nits-controversial



School Health Team

School-Based Mental Health

School-Based Mental Health Specialist

Charis Mian Charis.Mian@Arkansas.gov

Arkansas AWARE Project

Elizabeth Kindall Elizabeth.Kindall@Arkansas.gov

School Nursing

Cheria McDonald Cheria.McDonald@Arkansas.gov

ADE/ADH State School Nurse Consultant

Coordinated School Health

Lisa Mundy Lisa.Mundy@Arkansas.gov

ADE Coordinated School Health Coordinator

Ariel Schauffler Ariel.Schauffler@Arkansas.gov

ADH Coordinated School Health Advisor

Act 1220 Nutrition & Physical Activity

Ashley Williams Ashley.Williams@Arkansas.gov

ADE 1220 Coordinator

Shannon Borchert Shannon.Borchert@Arkansas.gov

ADH 1220 Coordinator

Joint Use Agreement

School-Based Health Centers

Brittany Rogers Brittany.Rogers@Arkansas.gov
Administrator

ADE Grant Manager

Vacant

ADH/ADE School-Based Health Advisor

Medicaid in the Schools

Vacant

Central AR ADE MITS Trainer

Dana Bennett Dana.Bennett@Arkansas.gov
Personal Care Certification

Northwest AR ADE MITS Trainer

Rena McCone rena.mccone@Arkansas.gov
Medicaid Claiming

South AR ADE MITS Trainer

Sarah Dover Sarah.Dover@Arkansas.gov

Northeast South AR ADE MITS Trainer

Richard Harper Richard.Harper@Arkansas.gov

ARMAC

ADE ARMAC Specialist

Sherri Pettit sherri.pettit@Arkansas.gov

Medicaid Match



Cheria McDonald

cheria.mcdonald@arkansas.gov

501-683-3586

501-607-4208 cell

