

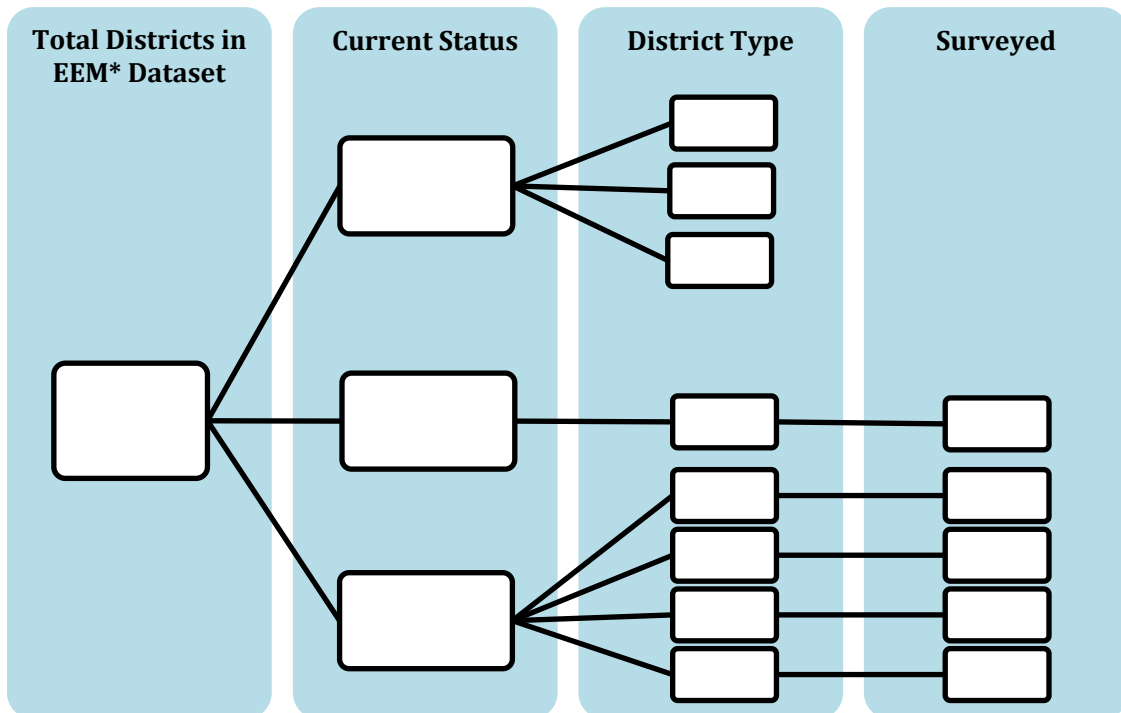
Access to School Nursing Services in Michigan Public Schools 2014

Michigan School Nurse Taskforce

Survey Administration and Response Rate

During February and March of 2014, all operating school districts in Michigan were contacted by the Michigan School Nurse Task Force and asked to provide information about the school nursing services they were providing to their students at that time. The response rate among all currently open school districts, including both active and pending districts, was 89.5%. Among open, active districts, the response rate was 0% among state districts, 21.1% among intermediate school districts (ISD), 99.1% among local education authority (LEA) districts, and 88.4% among public school academy (PSA) districts. Due to low participation rates, state and intermediate school districts are excluded from the analysis, leaving a combined 798 LEA and PSA districts.

Figure 1



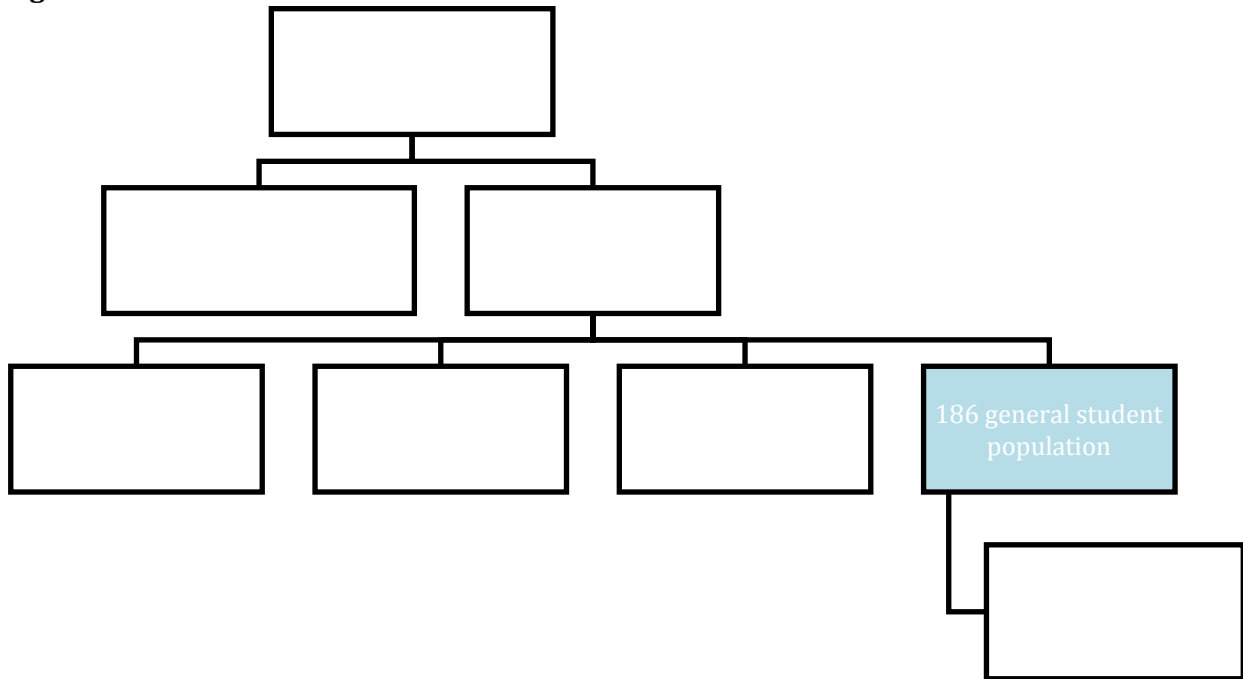
* The Educational Entity Master (EEM) is a repository that contains data on educational systems in the state of Michigan.

School Nursing Service Access

Overall, 225 school districts reported having access to any type of school nursing services, representing 28.2% of responding districts; however local education agencies were more likely to report school nurse access (37.9%) compared to public school academies (8.1%). There were 44 districts (4.9%) with missing data on school nursing services.

Among all participating LEA and PSA districts in the state of Michigan, 186 districts (23.3%) reported that they provided direct, clinical school nursing services to all students. There were 13 districts (1.6%) which provided direct clinical services to special needs students only, and 25 districts (3.1%) received only nurse consultant services (see figure 2). There was one school district which did not report the type of school nursing services they provided. LEA districts were more likely to provide clinical school nursing services to their general population of students compared to PSA districts (31.1% vs. 7.3% of responding districts, respectively). A subset (9) of the 186 districts providing direct clinical school nursing services to their general population indicated that the school nurses in their district provided routine care to only a specific grade or level, such as elementary students.

Figure 2



Overall, there were 1,512,833 students attending either an LEA or PSA district in Michigan during the fall of 2013. Of these students, 1,487,673 attended a district which participated in the school nurse survey and provided information on the type of nursing services available to their students. Less than half of students (46.1%) who attended a participating district had access to direct, clinical school nursing services. These results indicate that there are at least 801,690 students in Michigan

with no access to clinical school nursing services. Overall, there is one full-time equivalent school nurse per 6,570 students in the state of Michigan. Among districts with access to clinical school nursing services, there is only one nurse per 3,030 students. The Michigan School Nurse Task Force recommends a ratio of one nurse per 750 well students. In order to meet the recommended ratio, an additional 1,757 FTE school nurses would need to be added statewide, or an average of 2.2 school nurse FTEs per district.

Table 1: Characteristics of student population by access to nursing services

Total enrollment in LEA and PSA districts	1,512,833
Enrollment at responding districts	1,487,673
Enrollment at districts with clinical school nursing service	685,983
Percent of students attending districts with clinical school nursing services	46.1%
Ratio of clinical school nurse FTE to students	
All districts*	1:6,570
Districts with clinical school nursing services	1:3,030

*Excluding districts with missing data

Characteristics of School Nursing Services in Michigan

Among the 186 districts providing direct clinical care to students, 169 (90.9%) provided access to a registered nurse (R.N.) only and 14 (7.5%) provided access to a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) only. An additional three districts (1.6%) provided access to both registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. There were 107 districts (57.5%) that reported access for all students to clinical school nursing services at least 35 hours per week and 78 districts (41.9%) that reported access for fewer than 35 hours per week. One district did not provide information. LEA districts were more likely than PSA districts to provide full-time school nursing services.

Overall, there are 226.4 FTE school nurses who provide direct, clinical services to all students currently practicing within Michigan. Of these, 213.3 FTEs are among registered nurses and 14.1 FTEs are among licensed practical nurses. On average, school districts which provided clinical school nursing services employed 1.2 FTEs, including both R.Ns and L.P.Ns. These estimates do not include nurses who only provide consultant services, only provide one-to-one care for special needs students, or who only practice in a school based health center. One district was excluded from the calculation of total FTEs due to missing data.

Table 2: Characteristics of clinical school nursing services provided to general student population by school district type

	LEA	PSA	Total
Qualifications of providers			
R.N. only	151 (90.4%)	17 (94.4%)	169 (90.9%)
L.P.N only	14 (8.4%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (7.5%)
Both R.N. and L.P.N	2 (1.2%)	1 (5.6%)	3 (1.6%)
Hours of care provided			
35 or more hours per week	100 (59.9%)	7 (36.8%)	107 (57.5%)
Fewer than 35 hours per week	67 (40.1%)	11 (57.9%)	78 (41.9%)
Unknown	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.3%)	1 (0.5%)
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)
Average school nurse full time equivalent (FTE)*			
Registered nurse	1.2 (2.8)	0.6 (0.4)	1.1 (2.7)
Licensed practical nurse	0.1 (0.3)	0.1 (0.2)	0.1 (0.3)
Combined R.N. and L.P.N FTE	1.3 (2.8)	0.6 (0.4)	1.2 (2.7)

*1.0 FTE=35 hours per week

Most school nurses were employed by the school district in which they provided services (42.3%) or through the intermediate school district (ISD) servicing their school district (13.4%). PSA districts were more likely to have school nurse access through their ISD compared to LEA districts. Over a quarter (29.9%) of districts with school nurse access reported that nurses were contracted through an outside agency, such as a healthcare system or local health department.

Table 3: School nurse employment agreements among districts with access to direct, clinical school nursing services

	LEA	PSA	Total
Employer			
School district	73 (43.7%)	6 (31.6%)	79 (42.3%)
Intermediate school district	18 (10.8%)	6 (31.6%)	25 (13.4%)
Contractor			
Healthcare system	19 (11.4%)	2 (10.5%)	21 (11.2%)
Health department	12 (7.2%)	0 (0.0%)	12 (6.4%)
Unspecified organization	21 (12.6%)	2 (10.5%)	23 (12.3%)
Both school district and outside contractor	6 (3.6%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (3.2%)
Unknown	18 (10.8%)	3 (15.8%)	21 (11.2%)

LEA districts located within cities (large, midsized, and small) were the most likely to have access to school nursing services, with a little over half (55.9%) reporting that direct, clinical school nursing services are available to their general population of students. LEAs located in towns were slightly

more likely to have school nurse access (44.6%) compared to LEAs located in suburban areas (37.9%) LEAs located in rural areas were the least likely to have school nursing access, with only 21.2% reporting access to a school nurse. There was a large proportion of public school academies which were not classified by geographic setting, therefore, these results should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4: School District Access to Clinical School Nurse Services by Geographic Setting*

	LEA	PSA
City	19 (55.9%)	2 (2.6%)
Large city	1 (100.0%)	2 (5.9%)
Midsized city	6 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Small city	12 (48.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Suburb	50 (37.9%)	5 (8.5%)
Large suburb	38 (37.6%)	3 (6.7%)
Midsized suburb	4 (22.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Small suburb	8 (61.5%)	2 (28.6%)
Town	37 (44.6%)	2 (22.2%)
Fringe town	4 (23.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Distant town	17 (47.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Remote town	16 (53.3%)	2 (50.0%)
Rural	61 (21.2%)	2 (6.3%)
Fringe rural	21 (26.3%)	1 (7.7%)
Distant rural	33 (23.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Remote rural	7 (10.0%)	1 (33.3%)
Missing	6 (1.1%)	121 (40.5%)

* Large city: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population of 250,000 or more. Midsized city: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000. Small city: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population less than 100,000. Large suburb: Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population of 250,000 or more. Midsized suburb: Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000. Small suburb: Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population less than 100,000. Fringe town: Territory inside an urban cluster that is less than or equal to 10 miles from an urbanized area. Distant town: Territory inside an urban cluster that is more than 10 miles and less than or equal to 35 miles from an urbanized area. Remote town: Territory inside an urban cluster that is more than 35 miles from an urbanized area. Fringe rural: Census-defined rural territory that is less than or equal to 5 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is less than or equal to 2.5 miles from an urban cluster. Distant rural: Census-defined rural territory that is more than 5 miles but less than or equal to 25 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is more than 2.5 miles but less than or equal to 10 miles from an urban cluster. Remote rural: Census-defined rural territory that is more than 25 miles from an urbanized area and is also more than 10 miles from an urban cluster.

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