School Nursing: A Return on Investment

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Impact on Student Outcomes

School nurse services impact:
- Attendance (Moricca, 2013; Telljohann et al., 2004)
- Early Dismissal (Hill & Hollis, 2012; Pennington, 2008)
Return on Investment

A school nurse saves:
- Principal = 1 hour/day
- Clerical = 46 minutes/day
- Annual cost per school saved: $133,174.89
- Return on Investment: 1.84


Cost Benefit Analysis

The 2009-2010 Essential School Health Services Report

- Districts: 78
- Schools: 933
- Students: 477,163
- School nurses: 1,157
- Student encounters: 4,946,757
- Medication administered: 1,191,060
- Procedures performed: 1,016,140
- Early dismissal rate: 6.2%

Study design

- Scenarios estimated:
  - Health care costs
    - Medical procedures
  - Parent productivity loss
    - Medication administration
    - Early dismissals
  - Teacher productivity loss
    - Teacher time for health concerns
- Costs not included: hospitalizations, 911, ER
- Measured: Costs averted compared to “no school nursing services” scenario
Results

- **Base case analysis results:**
  - Program cost $79 million
  - Costs averted:
    - Medical care $20.0 million
    - Parent productivity loss $28.1 million
    - Teacher productivity loss $129.1 million
  - Net benefit $98.2 million

- Benefit cost ratio: Every $1.00 spent save $2.20

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men”
-Frederick Douglass
References


