

# 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



Baisch, M.J., Lundeen, S.P. & Murphy, M. K. (2011). Evidence-based research on the value of school nurses in an urban school system. *Journal of School Health, 81*, 74-80. doi:10.1111/j.1746-1561.2010.00563.x



## Cost Benefit Analysis

Wang, L.Y, Vernon-Smiley, M., Gapinski, M.A., Desisto, M., Maughan, E., & Sheetz, A. (2014). **Cost-benefit study of school nursing services. *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics, 168(7), 642-648.*** doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.5441



## The 2009-2010 Essential School Health Services Report

▪ Districts	78
▪ Schools	933
▪ Students:	477,163
▪ School nurses	1,157
▪ Student encounters	4,946,7579
▪ 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

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