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

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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.
· 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
Vaping
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
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
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