



# Tips for Data Use

- Prioritize data points that will have the greatest impact for your student population
  - Are you already collecting the data you need?
    - If not-how can you start?
  - Partner with your electronic health record (EHR) vendor to set up a dashboard or reports from your data
- Start small, make it do-able (tracking forms, EHRs)

## Ways to Use Your Data

- Annual presentation to your principal/school board. Some suggested data to include:
    - Number of students receiving medications at school
    - Number of students diagnosed with asthma, type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, severe allergies, seizures disorder\*
    - Number of students with emergency health care plans
    - Number of students with health care plans
    - Number of special education/504 case conferences attended
    - Outcome of health room visit: students returned to class, sent home, or 911 called\*
    - Number of completed screening referrals
    - Change in number of students absent/increased "seat time" in class
  - Identify and include meaningful data that is important to your principal/school board
  - Use data to illustrate students health concerns
  - Help paint a picture and portray the complexity of school nursing
- Advocate for policy change (obesity rates to advocate against junk food in vending machines)
  - Advocate for other changes (recess injury rates to get different playground equipment, increased supervision or change in recess rules)
  - Increase number of school nurses and/or stop reduction of school nurses (identify trends in complex students needing nursing care to be safe in school)
  - Write a grant or apply for community partnerships/programs
  - Quality improvement projects (improve number of screening referral returns by converting data to an electronic format that is easily shared with school administrators)
  - Identify students at risk (for social determinants, substance abuse)

*\*defined school nurse data points part of NASN's National School Health Data Set: Every Student Counts!*

## When presenting your data

- Connect with the audience by using charts, graphs, and infographics (more than numbers)
- Use the data to tell a story (do not just spout facts)
- Have a purpose in sharing your data

### References

- Galemore, C.A., & Maughan, E.D. (2014). Standardized data set for school health services: Part 2-top to bottom. *NASN School Nurse*, 29(4), 187-192. doi:10.1177/1942602X14536526
- Maughan, E.D., Duff, C., & Wright, J. (2016). Using the framework for 21<sup>st</sup>-century school nursing practice in daily practice. *NASN School Nurse*, 31(5), 278-281. doi: 10.1177/1942602X16661558