

The National School Health Data Set: Every Student Counts!

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) envisions a resource that uses existing systems to capture current information on the health status of school aged children.

This resource will:

- Represent true population health data capturing the status of over 95% of school aged children
- Include all children - both well and those with chronic health conditions ensuring that all children are represented in a health dataset
- Provide annual prevalence data on the most common, salient childhood conditions
- Quantify the amount of healthcare that is delivered daily in the school setting
- Enhance understanding of the impact of health on educational outcomes adding vital context to current P-12 education system data
- Be captured from the daily documentation of the nation's school nurses
- Represent the health needs of America's children and school health systems resources

To accomplish this vision the following objectives are identified:

- Increase the capacity of all school nurses to:
 - Collect, analyze and report on the data they collect on their students.
 - Utilize the data to guide their practice and interventions
 - Effectively utilize data to report, present and communicate the health needs of their students to a variety of stakeholders
- Promote access and effective use of electronic documentation systems for all school nurses
- Promote interoperability of school health documentation systems with students' electronic health records
- Develop and promote the development and use of standardized data points, definitions and reporting structures to be used by all school nurses
- Develop and promote the use of a standardized data set that will
 - Capture the structure, processes and outcomes of school health services
 - Include a minimum dataset that all school nurses will collect, and a dictionary of other items school nurses may collect locally
 - Be based on school nursing activities
 - Utilize key metrics that advance policy, describe national outcome measures for children, and promote predictive analytics to inform best practice
 - Promote the integration of school health data with data already being collected in the health and education sectors to better understand the connections between health and educational outcomes.

To bring this vision to life, NASN anticipates key partnerships with other organizations to build an infrastructure that will gather and aggregate information into one system, which may include universities and experts in health, education and data management. The infrastructure will include electronic data systems to collect, aggregate and report on school health data, standardized data points and definitions, and systems to assure the confidentiality of individual students. Information will be unidentifiable but allow all children, regardless of their state of health or access to health care be represented.

