

Background

- ❖ The traditional funding for school nursing has been educational dollars.
- ❖ As school district budgets tighten, the number of students with health needs continues to rise and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) puts increased emphasis on community care, new school health delivery models are emerging.
- ❖ There is limited research in this area. Anecdotal stories of wide variability exist.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to:

- ❖ Learn about nontraditional approaches to school health delivery.
- ❖ Differentiate between traditional and extended roles of school nurses
- ❖ Identify trends of strengths and weaknesses among the different school health delivery models.

Methods

- ❖ Qualitative descriptive design.
- ❖ Outreach to state affiliate leadership; Snowball sampling was also employed to expand identification.
- ❖ Semi structured telephone interviews
- ❖ The interview questions, based on the literature and reviewed by school health experts. Topics included:
 - funding,
 - staffing configuration,
 - strengths,
 - weaknesses,
 - history of their development, and
 - overall descriptions and impressions.
- ❖ Copious notes taken during interviews and shared with the interviewee to assure accuracy of the information.
- ❖ Data analyzed for common themes.



Preliminary Results

- ❖ **N=10**
- ❖ **Overall Impetus for Models:** To better address the health needs of students
- ❖ **Funding Sources:** Public Health Agencies, Hospitals, Mix of Education, Hospitals, and Public Health Agencies, Medicaid
- ❖ **Non-Traditional Employers:** Hospitals, Public Health Agencies, and community agencies
- ❖ **Strengths:** Supervision by Registered Nurses, Strong communication/collaboration with Health Department, Improved case management and care delivery
- ❖ **Weaknesses:** Still not always 100% school nurse coverage, Nurses initially feel like outsiders, UAP boundaries can be unclear.

Conclusion

School health delivery is adapting to a changing health arena. Non- traditional models and funding sources are increasing school nursing services to students and communities. More research is needed to determine what models are most effective and efficient in ensuring students are safe, healthy and ready to learn.