

## ALASKA DATA RELATED TO SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) School Health Profiles Data

The CDC School Health Profiles Survey occurs biennially on even-numbered years with the most recent available Alaska data from 2014. **Secondary** school principals and lead health education teachers complete the paper and pencil questionnaires on a wide range of school health topics. Some of the weighted data from the **2014** Alaska survey is below.

Percentage of **secondary** schools:

- That have a full-time registered nurse who provides health services to students is 18.9% (down from 20.6% in 2008). National comparison is 44% (45 states), 47.1% (16 large urban school districts).
- That currently have someone who oversees or coordinates school health and safety programs and activities (60.7%).
- That routinely use school records to identify and track students with a current diagnosis of asthma (78.6%), food allergies (79.1%), diabetes (70.4%), and epilepsy (74.9%).
- In which the lead health education teacher received professional development on asthma (10.9%), food allergies (11.4%), diabetes (22%), and epilepsy (12.1%).
- With a School Improvement Plan that includes health-related objectives for health services (11.3%).

Reference:

Alaska Division of Public Health, School Health Profiles. Available at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/SchoolHealth/profiles.aspx>. Accessed January 5, 2016.

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2015

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of a national surveillance system developed by the CDC to assist with assessing and addressing the health risks of youth, grades 9-12. It is conducted in Alaska every other year by the Department of Education & Early Development and the Department of Health and Social Services in cooperation with public high schools. A selection of 2015 Alaska YRBS results from traditional high schools are summarized below.

Percentage of high school students who:

- Were bullied on school property (22.8%). The school nurse role includes the prevention of bullying and the identification of students who are bullied, bully others, or both.
- Experienced sexual dating violence (10.1%). School nurses provide education to prevent dating violence.
- Felt sad or hopeless (33.6%); seriously considered attempting suicide (20.1%). School nurses play a significant role in prevention of and interventions for suicide, depression and other behavioral or mental health conditions and risk factors.
- Described themselves as slightly or very overweight (31.9%). School nurses promote prevention of and address the needs of students who are overweight or obese.
- Had ever been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma (19.4%). Asthma is a leading cause of school absenteeism. School nurses coordinate and conduct assessment, planning, and implementation of individualized healthcare plans for safe and effective management of students with health conditions, such as asthma, during the school day.

References:

Alaska Division of Public Health. 2015 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results. Available at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/yrbs/yrbsresults.aspx>. Accessed January 6, 2016.

National Association of School Nurses (NASN). Position Statements. Available at <https://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatements>. Accessed January 6, 2015.