

# Calhoun County School Wellness Program

*Albion Public Schools*



2011-2012 School Year





# Calhoun County School Wellness Program

*Mission: All children will have access to quality health care through school-based health services.*



## Contents

<b>Director's Message</b>	3
School Year Highlights	4
Student Population Characteristics	5
Program Dashboard	6
Childhood Obesity Surveillance	7
Reducing Student Absenteeism	8
School Staff Satisfaction Survey	9
Parent Satisfaction Survey	10
Immunization Coverage	11
Chronic Conditions Among Students	11
Health Exams	12
Health Education	12-13
School Wellness Committee	14

School Wellness Program Partners:

I am pleased to provide to you the following year-end report pertaining to the Calhoun County School Wellness Program. Included in this report you will find the school year highlights, student population demographics, and program dashboard data. In addition, this report includes the results of a school staff satisfaction survey as well as results from the parent satisfaction survey that was administered earlier this year.



The Calhoun County School Wellness Program provides access to school-based nursing services for over 17,000 students in Calhoun County. During the 2011-2012 school year, roughly half of all students visited their school nurse at least once and approximately 20% visited their school nurse more than five times throughout the year.

One of the significant accomplishments that staff implemented this past school year was the completion of our first ever countywide obesity surveillance of elementary school students within Calhoun County. Our school nurses measured the height and weight of 223 randomly selected third grade students from 10 public schools. Results from this survey indicated that approximately 21% of our third-graders are obese and an additional 19% are overweight. The results of this surveillance initiative, which will become an annual initiative, will help us to target specific populations, develop health education curriculum, and track progress with childhood obesity in Calhoun County.

What is most exciting about the Calhoun County School Wellness Program is that we are assuring that our students are healthy, in the classroom, and are ready to learn. Between 2010 and 2011, immunization coverage levels among children in Calhoun County have increased according to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Our school nurses administered 778 vaccines to students throughout the year. These are kids that most likely would have missed these vaccines without the intervention of our school nurses.

In partnership with the Kellogg Community College Nursing Program, we were able to extern a total of 70 student nurses into the program this past year. These student nurses help to facilitate the health education programs that are provided within our schools throughout the year. This past year, 4,331 students were provided with education sessions that focused on nutrition, exercise, dental care, head lice prevention, and other health topics.

I look forward to the upcoming 2012-2013 school year and continuing with this very valuable and impactful program within our schools as we continue to pursue our mission of assuring that all children have access to quality health care through school-based health services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Rutherford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a white rectangular background.

James A. Rutherford, MPA  
Health Officer  
Calhoun County Public Health Department



***“The program is not only responsive care but preventive care, educating the kids along with parents. (Our school nurse) provides parents counsel and ways to find kids the help they need. I believe this district would suffer a great loss professionally, academically, socially, and in all areas of health without the nurse program.”***

*-Calhoun County Elementary School Educator*

Dear Albion Community,

I thank Albion Public Schools for allowing me to be a part of this district. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know the staff, families, and especially the students of Albion. Throughout the year I have worked with KCC nursing students to teach our students about good handwashing, preventing the spread of germs, proper dental care, good nutrition, reading nutrition labels, heart health, importance of sleep, head lice, and proper hygiene.

In addition to health education, flu vaccine clinics were provided to staff, students, and families and have also given required immunizations to students throughout the year. The immunization rates have improved greatly due to education and encouragement that was provided to families to visit bring their child(ren) up-to-date on immunizations. Body mass index measurements were also taken on the majority of Harrington students as part of a countywide challenge to assess students who are at risk for obesity or overweight. Students were treated for illnesses and injuries and I provided ongoing monitoring and education for students with asthma, diabetes, bleeding disorders, allergies, seizures, and communicable diseases.

**In April, I participated in a countywide “Better Health, Better Education” health fair at Lakeview Square Mall.** I have worked with teachers, counselors and other staff to improve the overall health of our students and staff. I look forward to working with all of you again next year and doing even more extensive education with students, their families, and staff. Thank you all for your support and encouragement this year.

Sincerely,

Deana Zimmerlee, RN, BSN  
School Nurse

# Albion Public School Student Population Characteristics

	Albion Public School District	Michigan
Free/Reduced price lunch eligible <sup>1</sup>	78.0%	46.5%
Percent of children in poverty <sup>2</sup>	50.8%	20.5%
Median family income for families with children under 18 years <sup>2</sup>	\$25,588	\$57,053
Percent of students in special education <sup>1</sup>	16.2%	13.0%
Primary care provider rate per 100,000 residents <sup>3*</sup>	64.4	113.2
Percent of students who transferred between districts during academic year <sup>1</sup>	14.1%	9.2%

1. 2011 Michigan Student Data System, Center for Educational Performance and Improvement

2. 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

3. 2009-2010 Area Resource File, Health Resources and Services Administration (Calhoun County estimate)

\* Primary care providers include family practice, general practice, internal medicine, and pediatric physicians (M.D. & D.O).

Compared to the state of Michigan as a whole, the Albion Public School (APS) student population is markedly disadvantaged in terms of socioeconomic status. Additionally, there is a shortage of primary care health care providers in the Albion area. Albion residents must now travel an average of 27.8 miles to reach a low cost health clinic. The lack of primary care providers in the Albion area may result in long wait times for appointments and delays in receiving necessary preventive care.

## \$0.16

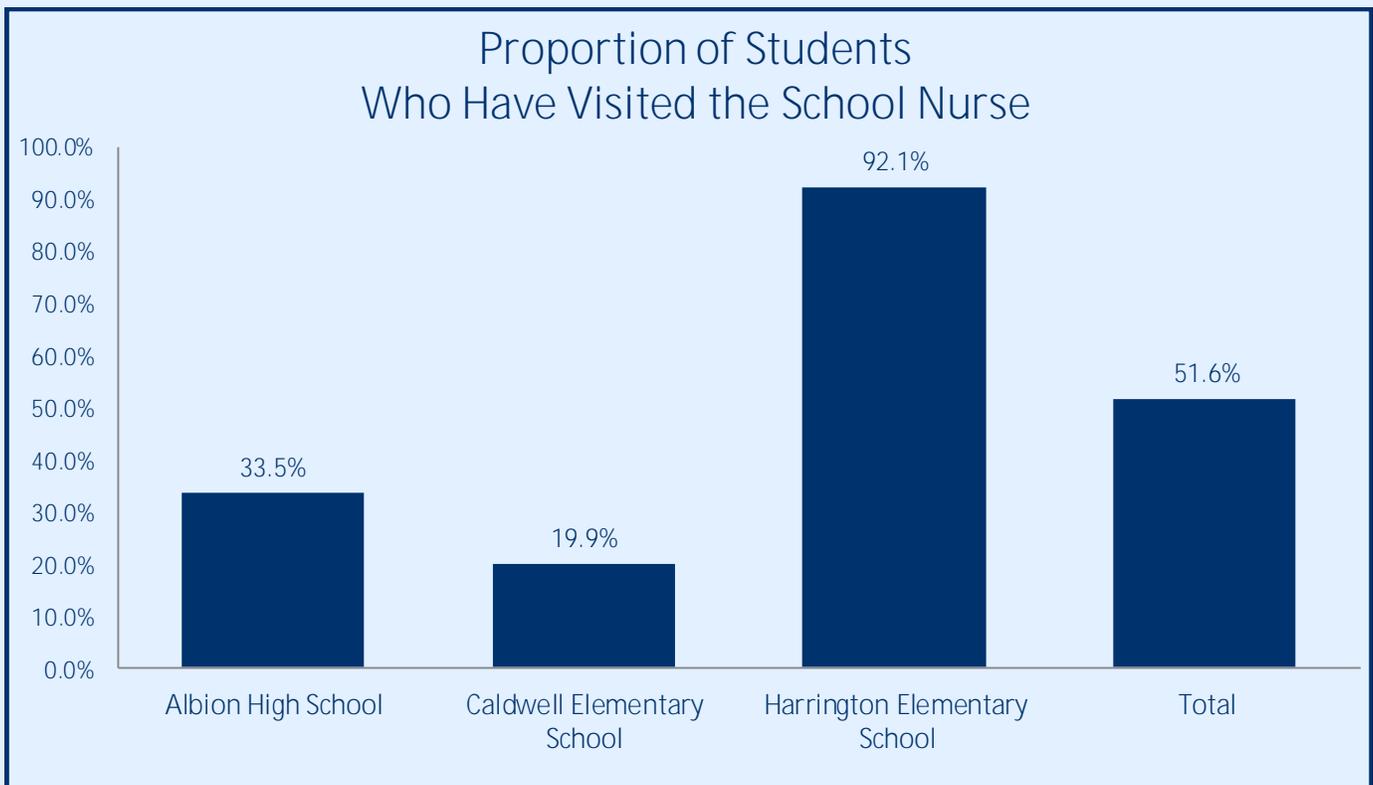
The average cost per student per day for Albion Public Schools to participate in the School Wellness Program

# School Wellness Program Dashboard: Albion Public Schools, 2011-2012 School Year

Total student population	864
Unduplicated clients	446
Percent of students who received services	51.6%
Percent of students who were frequent users	28.3%
Total number of office visits	1,810
Medications dispensed	950
Health exams	246
Vaccines administered	121
Health education sessions	29
Referrals given	48
Nurse to student ratio	1 : 864

The Calhoun County School Wellness Program (SWP) provides access to school-based nursing services for 864 students in the APS district. During the 2011-2012 school year, more than half of all students visited their school nurse at least once and 28.3% of students were frequent users (5 or more visits per school year).

In addition to providing care for acute medical needs such as illness and injury, the school nurses also ensure that students receive necessary health exams. Health exams may identify potential underlying medical conditions. The school nurse provided 246 exams for growth and development, blood, dental needs, and head lice as well as 48 referrals to dentists, physicians, counselors, health insurers, social workers, and other community resources.

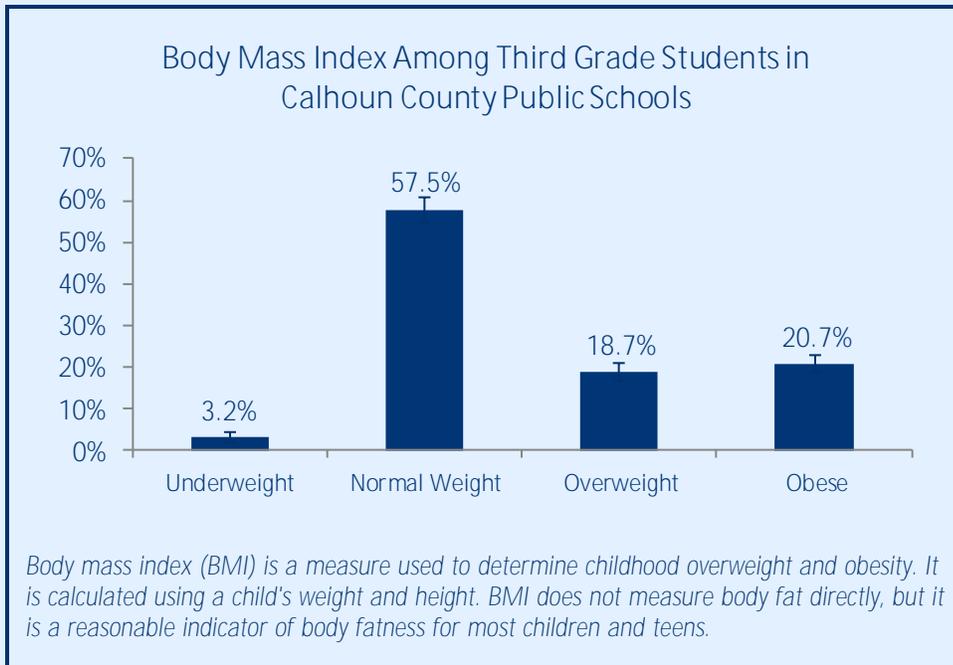


# Childhood Obesity: A Growing Concern

Childhood overweight and obesity have been increasing across the nation. In fact, some studies have indicated that the rate of obesity has tripled compared to the previous generation. Obesity increases the risk of harmful health effects for children including high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and asthma.

The first step in reversing the rising tide of obesity is understanding exactly how this condition affects children in our community. To accomplish this goal, our school nurses have facilitated the first ever countywide obesity surveillance system for elementary school students. School nurses measured the height and weight of 223 randomly selected third grade students from 10 public schools in Calhoun County during the 2011-2012 school year.

Results demonstrated that 20.7% of third grade students are obese and an additional 18.7% are classified as overweight. Only 57.5% of students were at a healthy weight. Furthermore, the data indicated that students were 80% more likely to be above a healthy weight if they attended a school where 40% or more of students are eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) program. Eligibility for FRL program is dependent on a **student's family income**, therefore, the data suggest that low-income children may be at a higher risk of overweight and



obesity. These data indicate a slightly, but not significantly, higher rate of obesity compared to the national estimate of 18.0% (95% CI: 16.3%-19.8%) among 6 to 11 year olds from the 1999-2010 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Although there are many factors that cause childhood obesity, poor nutrition and lack of physical activity are the two most important. School nurses are working to promote better nutrition and physical activity in public schools. During the 2011-2012 school year, the SWP provided 9 health education presentations to 417 APS students on healthy nutritional choices and ways to be more active.

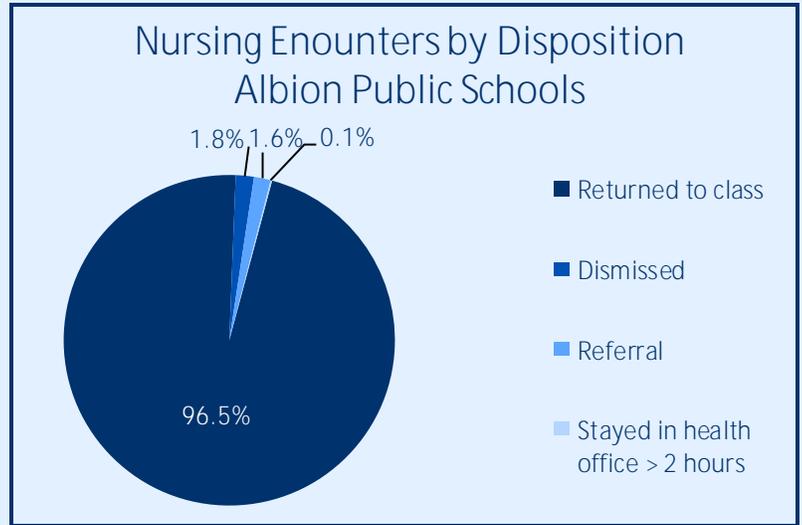


# Focus On Student Success: Reducing Absenteeism

Many studies have demonstrated a connection between student wellness and academic performance. The Calhoun County SWP strives to support student academic achievement by reducing absenteeism due to poor health. The goal of the school nurse is to maximize each **student's learning time by treating, managing, and preventing** conditions in the school setting that would otherwise force a student to miss class.

Out of a total 1,410\* school nurse encounters, 96.5% resulted in the student returning to class. Only 1.8% of students were dismissed from school to home. These results indicate that school nurses are instrumental in keeping students with minor health needs in school.

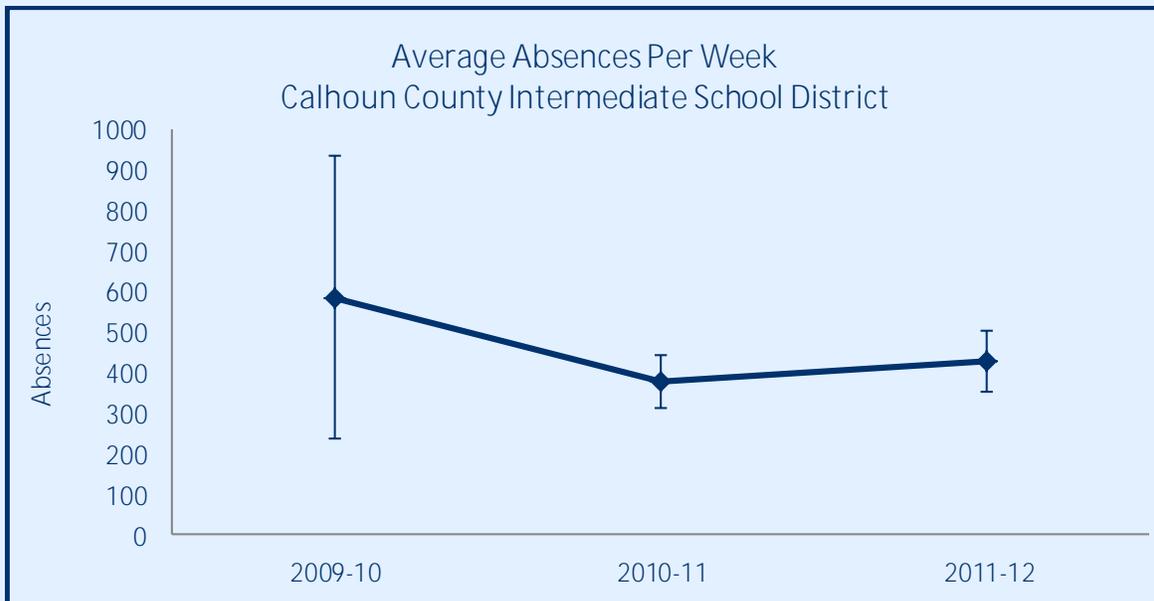
The SWP also tracks the number of student absences due to communicable disease. Analysis of this data allows us to evaluate the success of infection control measures that school nurses have implemented such as education on proper handwashing and better follow-up of students that have fallen behind on their required vaccinations. The average number of student absences per week



was calculated for each school enrolled in the SWP for the 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 school years. The mean was adjusted for fluctuations in the student population size over the three year period.

Results demonstrate a net decrease of 156 in the overall average number of student absences per week district-wide over the past three years. There were wide variations in the average number of student absences during the 2009-2010 school year due to H1N1 pandemic influenza. Nevertheless, initial results are encouraging. The SWP will continue to track this data in the future in order to evaluate secular trends.

\*Includes office visits, immunizations, medication administration, and special need visits



# School Staff Satisfaction Survey Results

This school year, we launched an online survey for all teachers, school secretaries, school administrators, paraprofessionals, and other staff members to complete in order to evaluate school **employees' satisfaction with the SWP**. We had 405 responses from school staff across the Calhoun Intermediate School District and gathered valuable feedback. The majority of school staff and administrators were very satisfied with the SWP and the services the school nurse provides to students in their school (right table). Roughly 16% of school administrators and 14% of other staff members indicated that they would like the nurse to be available more hours per week or on a full-time basis.

## School Administrator & Staff Perceptions of the School Nurse

	Strongly Agree or Agree
I am satisfied with the services the school nurse provides	84.7%
I feel comfortable asking the school nurse questions about a <b>student's health*</b>	83.6%
The school nurse understands my role in the school	78.3%
The school nurse understands what student health information I need to do my job	80.7%
The school nurse has helped reduce the amount of time I spend providing health services to students	72.4%
I know what is expected of me when dealing with student health and safety concerns*	79.3%
When I contact the school nurse, I receive the help I need*	91.1%
The school nurse responds to requests in a quality manner**	100.0%
The school nurse responds to requests in a timely manner**	100.0%
I can contact the school nurse without any problem**	92.1%

\*among school staff only

\*\*among administrators only

***“I believe our school nurse program is a very important part of our school on a day-to-day basis. There is not a day goes by that a student here does not need the school nurse for a variety of reasons.”***

-Calhoun County Public High School Educator



# What Parents Are Saying

To ensure that the SWP is **meeting our students' needs**, we launched a Parent Satisfaction Survey this year to evaluate **parents' perceptions of our program**. Surveys were sent to all parents of elementary school children who had a school nurse visit during the current school year. A total of 540 parents responded, providing us with invaluable information about how we are currently performing and what we can do to improve our services.

Overall, parents gave the SWP outstanding feedback with approximately 88% of parents reporting that they

were satisfied or very satisfied with the care the school nurses provide to their children. Parents were much more likely to report being comfortable **with the school nurse's knowledge** about administering medications (84.4%) compared to other school staff members (62.4%). Roughly half of parents reported communicating with the school nurse either on the phone (55.2%) or in person (52.9%) during the current school year.

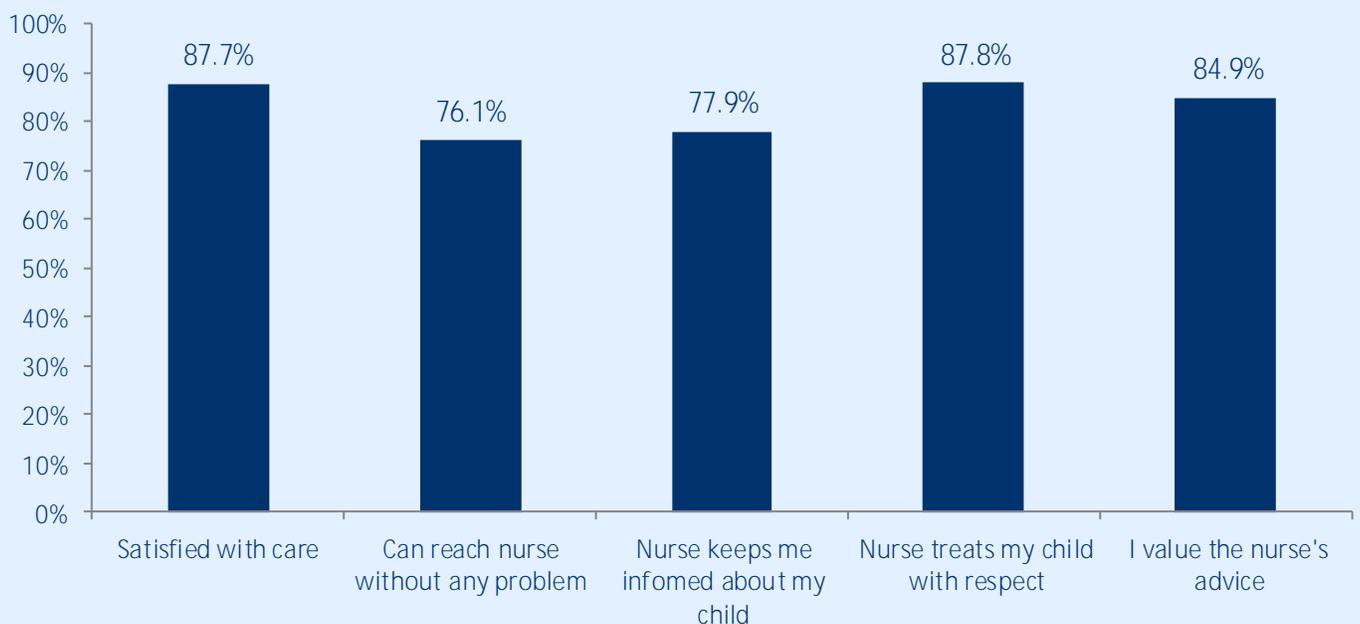
A significant proportion (19.4%) of parents reported that they depended on the school nurse when their child could not access their

usual source of medical care. These results highlight the importance of the SWP to act as a stopgap for children who cannot receive care due to lack of health insurance, inability to pay, or long wait-times for pediatric appointments.

***"It is comforting to know that if my child needed medical attention at school, a knowledgeable, trustworthy person will be there to help them out. As a parent, it is one less thing I have to worry about!"***

-Calhoun County Public Elementary School Parent

## Parent Satisfaction Survey Results



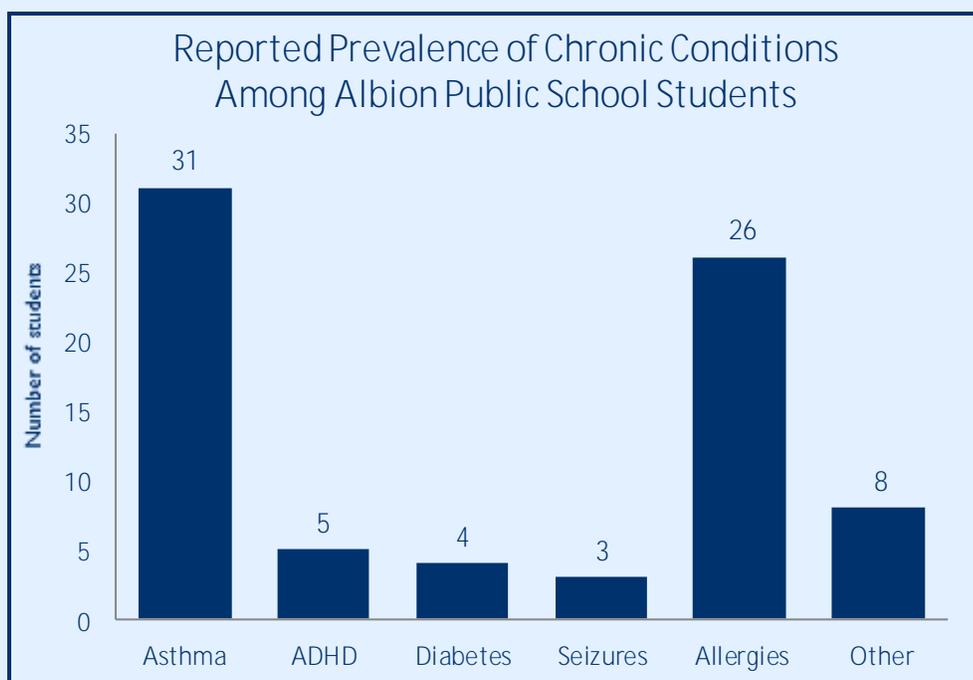
# Immunization Coverage

Our school nurses are charged with ensuring that every student is up-to-date on their required vaccinations. Nurses provide vaccines on-site and work with parents and health care providers to make sure students follow-up on time. Between 2010 and 2011, immunization coverage levels increased for 10 required vaccines among children in Calhoun County according to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). The school nurse administered 121 vaccines to students during the 2011-2012 school year, including 16 vaccines against seasonal influenza.

	Vaccines Administered through SWP	2011 Coverage Levels		2010 Coverage Levels	
		4-6 Years	11-12 Years	4-6 Years	11-12 Years
		Number	%	%	%
Influenza	16	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hep A	22	45.2	n/a	36.0	n/a
DTap	0	74.2	82.2	68.9	78.6
Tdap/Td	26	n/a	69.6	n/a	61.0
IPV	2	76.8	86.7	71.2	84.0
MMR	2	76.9	90.0	72.1	87.7
Hep B	0	94.6	94.3	94.1	91.4
Varicella	19	75.5	72.9	70.3	62.7
PCV7/PCV13	1	84.6	n/a	81.7	n/a
MCV4	26	n/a	67.6	n/a	60.1
HPV	7	n/a	3.2	n/a	2.2

# Chronic Conditions Affecting Academic Performance

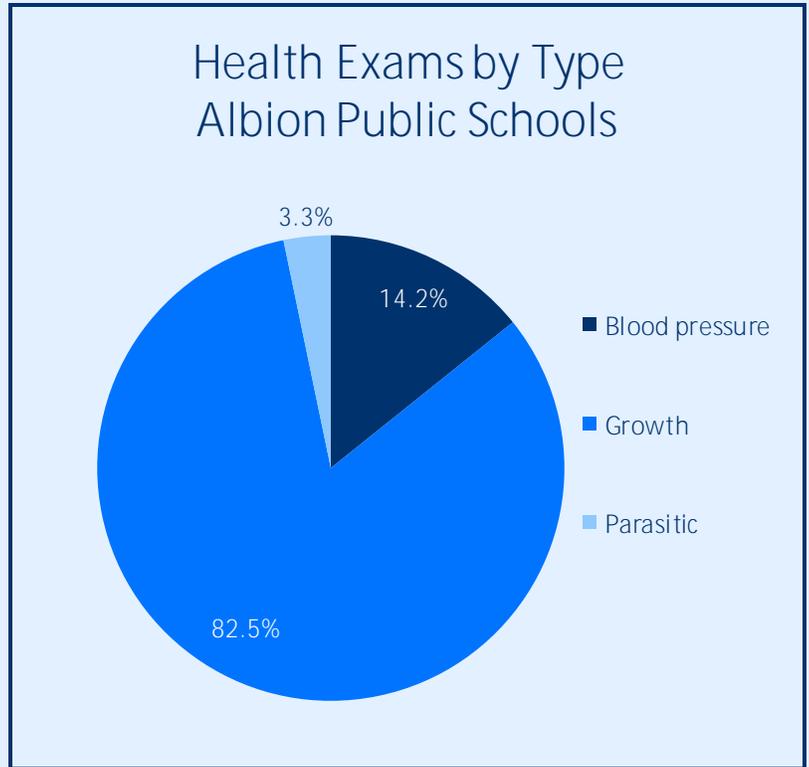
The most common chronic condition reported among APS students was asthma followed by allergies. School nurses work with students and staff to develop individualized health plans for students with special health needs. School nurses also provide training to staff on what to do in an emergency and how to administer life-saving medications.



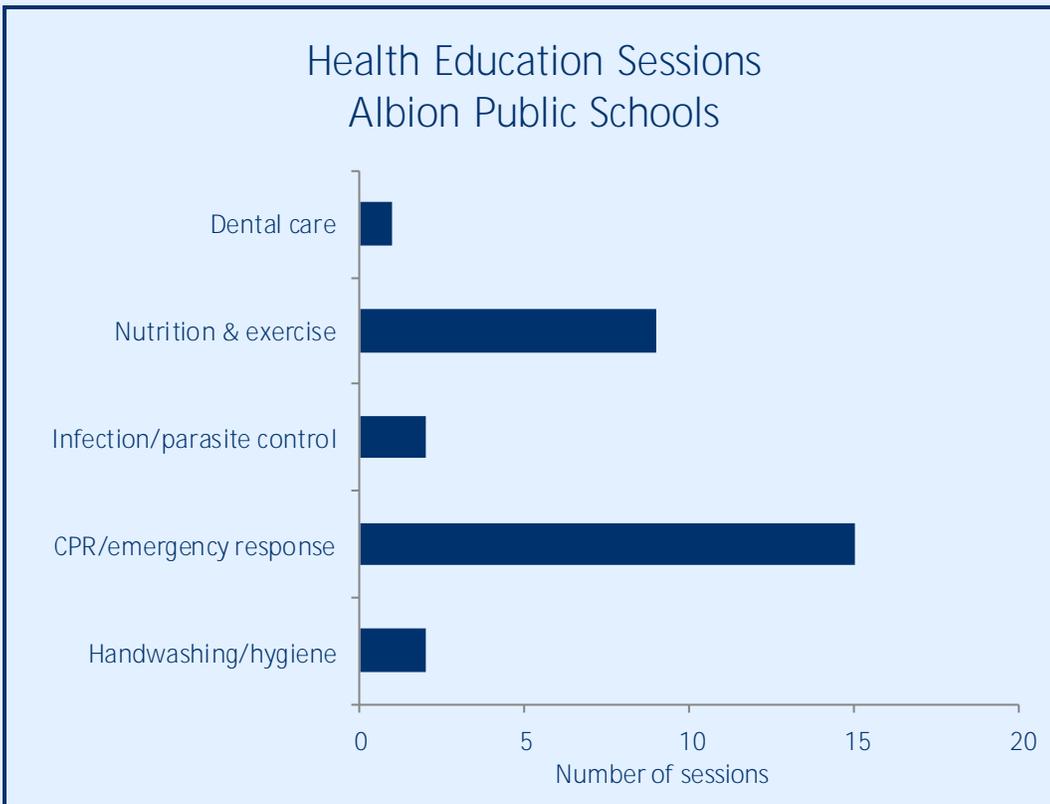
# Health Exams by Type

The APS school nurse performed 246 health exams during the 2011-2012 school year. Health exams include both population-wide screening programs and **individual exams depending on a student's** health needs. The largest proportion (82.5%) of screenings were growth exams, followed by blood pressure screening (14.2%) and parasitic exams (checks for head lice) at 3.3%.

Timely exams can identify potential health problems before they become serious medical issues. School nurses provide education and referrals to community health agencies for students who may have health concerns.



# Health Education

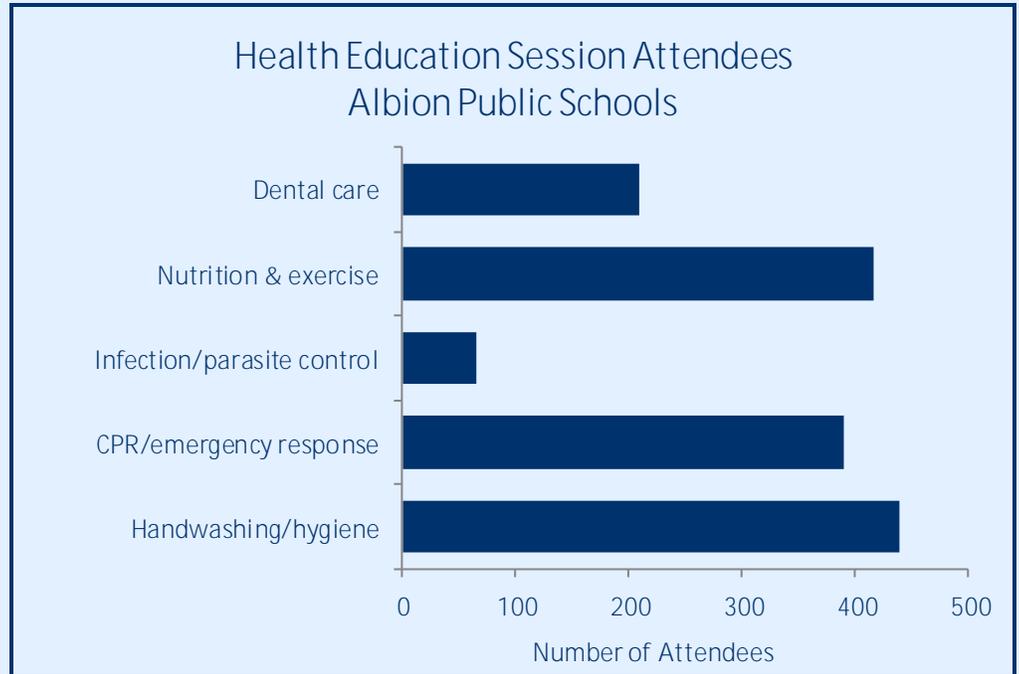


During the 2011-2012 school year, the APS school nurse provided a total of 29 health education sessions to students, faculty/staff members, parents, and community members in the APS district. School nurses provide education in a variety of formats, ranging from school-wide presentations to one-on-one sessions for students and staff who need specialized training.

## Health Education (continued)

The most popular educational topics (by attendance) for the APS district were handwashing/hygiene (2 sessions), CPR/emergency response (15 sessions), and nutrition & exercise (9 sessions). School nurses also provided small-group training sessions for school staff members on appropriate management of students with asthma and diabetes.

School nurses also worked to put together a community health fair, **“Better Health, Better Education”** this year, bringing together dozens of area organizations. The focus of this event was to inform and link people to health and recreational resources in Calhoun County.



This past school year, the SWP formed a new partnership with the Kellogg Community College (KCC) Nursing Program in an effort to bring nursing students into area public schools. This partnership not only provided a valuable externship opportunity for

future community nurses, but also helped to facilitate health education for public school students. KCC nursing students assisted on 10 health education sessions in the APS district focused on handwashing, nutrition & exercise, and dental care.

**“Our school nurses are doing a great job! The health fair, “Better Health, Better Education” was fantastic. The school nurses brought organizations from the whole community to celebrate good health and to help educate the community on services available.”**

-Calhoun County Public School Educator





# Calhoun County Public Health Department School Wellness Program

190 E. Michigan Ave  
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Phone: 269-969-6334  
Fax: 269-966-1489

[www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth](http://www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth)

---

## School Wellness Committee Members

---

Sue Boley  
Marshall Public Schools

Tom Cameron  
Tekonsha Community Schools

Betsy Carroll-Crist  
Community Representative

Ruth Carr  
Battle Creek Public Schools

Cynthia Cook  
Calhoun County Intermediate School District

Cheri Czerney  
Calhoun County Public Health Department

Theresa Dawson  
Kellogg Community College & Miller College

Sharon Davids  
Calhoun County Public Health Department

Randy Davis  
Marshall Public Schools

Mary Gehrig  
Calhoun County Intermediate School District

Cheryl Hinds  
Fountain Clinic

Lisa Hazel  
Oaklawn Hospital

Sharon Hostetler  
Albion College Health & Wellness Action Team

Matt Lynn  
United Way of Greater Battle Creek

Dianne Kalnins  
Family Health Center

Terance Lunger  
Calhoun County Intermediate School District

Chris Miller  
Regional Health Alliance Leadership Cabinet

Carol Petredean-DiSalivio  
Calhoun County Foundation Alliance

Paulette Porter  
Battle Creek Community Foundation & Regional Health Alliance

Victoria Reese  
Calhoun County Public Health Department

Robert Ridgeway  
Homer Community Schools

Becky Rocho  
Calhoun County Intermediate School District

