

Specialized & Experienced Nurses in New Mexico Schools



WHAT IS A SCHOOL NURSE?

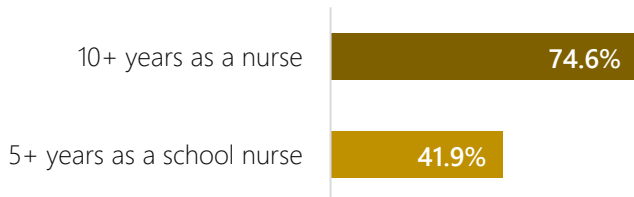


School nursing, a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential.¹ In school year 2019-2020, over 500 licensed school nurses provided services to 333,020 students across the state of New Mexico.² Unfortunately, 15% of school districts reported having less than one full-time school nurse.

WHAT DOES THE NEW MEXICO SCHOOL NURSE WORKFORCE LOOK LIKE?



School nurses in New Mexico are highly educated & experienced

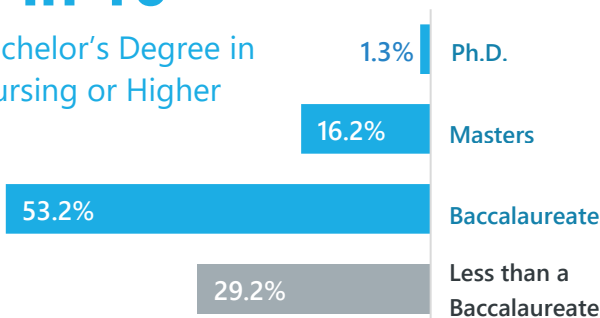


1 in 8

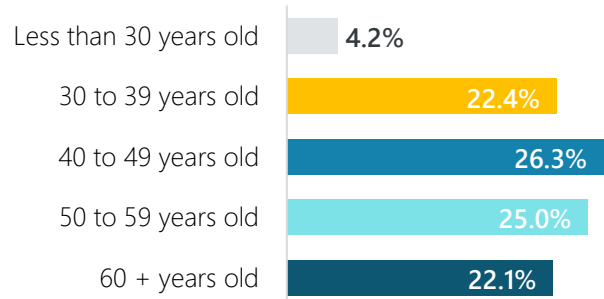
Nationally Certified School Nurse

7 in 10

Bachelor's Degree in Nursing or Higher

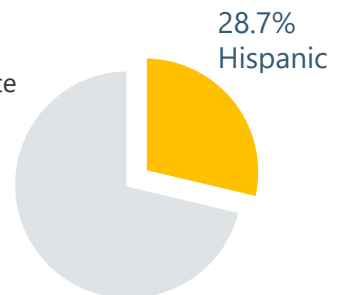


9 out of 10 school nurses in New Mexico are female, and almost half are over the age of 50



.... with Hispanics and Native Americans under-represented

59.9% Non-Hispanic White
1.6% Black
5.5% Native American
4.4% Other



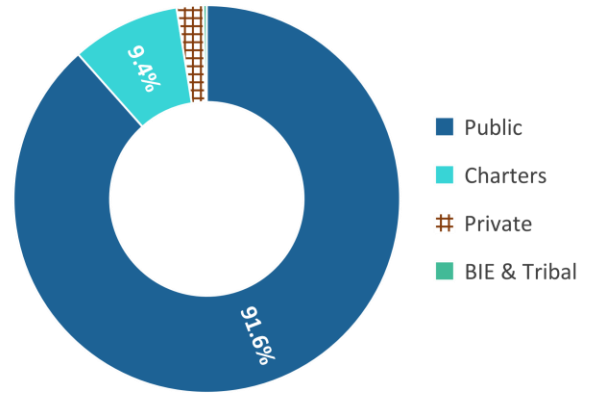
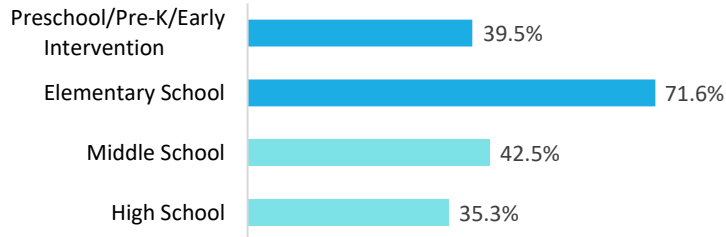
WHERE DO SCHOOL NURSES IN NEW MEXICO WORK?

1 in 3 school nurses serve more than 1 school campus



School nurses work in all types of schools in New Mexico

School nurses serve students in all grade levels

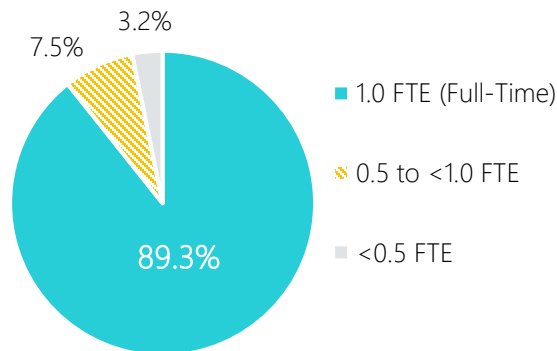


Note: Respondents selected all grade levels and types they serve; many serve multiple schools, campuses, and grade levels. Totals do not add up to 100%.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A SCHOOL NURSE?



9 out of 10 school nurses work full time as a school nurse



1 in 4

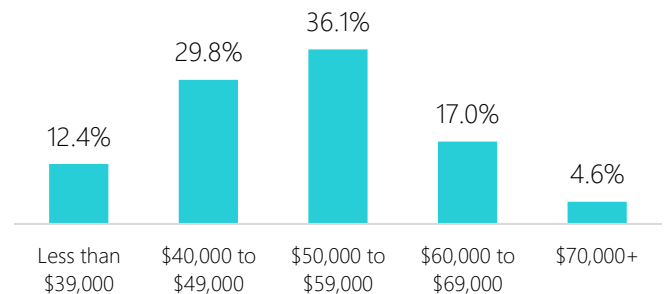
Work another job during the school year



1 in 3

Work another job during breaks from school

New Mexico School Nurse Salary Ranges (in FTEs)



95% of school nurses earn LESS than the New Mexico average RN salary of \$71,730

The 2019 New Mexico School Nurse Workforce Survey collected information on the responsibilities of school nurses, their work environments, and the needs and educational priorities of school nurses in every public health region in the state of New Mexico. Respondents were recruited from the New Mexico Department of Health 2019 School Nurse Directory, which includes 517 school nurses currently working in a public school or school district, state or local charter, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Tribal, or private school in New Mexico. A total of 320 anonymous surveys were completed between October and December 2019, reflecting a response rate of 61.9%. The [Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation](https://www.pire.org/) (PIRE) conducted the survey for the New Mexico Department of Health Office of School & Adolescent Health. For more information, please contact Susan Acosta, State School Health Services Manager (Susan.Acosta@state.nm.us) or Kim Zamarin, PIRE Program Director (kzamarin@pire.org).

¹ National Association of School Nurses. 2017. Definition of School Nursing. <https://www.nasn.org/about-nasn/about>

² New Mexico Public Education Department. 2018. Annual School Health Services Summary Report.

https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SHSB_2017-18-ASHSR-BROCHURE_FINAL_12-18-18.pdf

