

# Fact Sheet

## Asthma

From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000

### About SHPPS

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from SHPPS 2000 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 71, Number 7, September 2001.

### Equipment

- 27.2% of schools have a peak-flow meter and 13.0% of schools have a nebulizer available at school, not just for a specific individual's use.

### Medication Administration

- In 93.8% of states and 83.1% of districts, some students are permitted to self-medicate at school; 48.9% of those states and 85.7% of those districts have adopted policies stating that students can self-medicate with prescription inhalers.

- In 92.0% of states, 94.3% of districts, and 97.0% of schools, school faculty and staff are allowed to administer prescription drugs to students with appropriate documentation.
- To administer prescription drugs, 92.8% of schools require a written request from the parent or guardian, 86.1% require written instructions from the physician or prescriber, and 40.8% require written information on possible side effects.
- 34.0% of states, 72.1% of districts, and 93.7% of schools require notification of teachers about chronic health conditions their students may have, such as diabetes or asthma.

### Percentage of All Schools and Elementary, Middle/Junior High, and Senior High Schools Allowing Students to Self-Medicate with Selected Medications

	All schools	Elementary schools	Middle/junior high schools	Senior high schools
Prescription inhaler	68.1	59.3	74.2	86.3
Epinephrine*	33.5	25.7	37.5	53.7
Other prescription medication	20.4	13.1	25.0	36.9

\*Epinephrine is a life-saving treatment for severe allergic reactions, usually administered by an auto-inject device.

### Percentage of States and Districts Requiring Information to be Kept in Student Records and Percentage of Schools Keeping Information in Student Records, by Type of Information

Type of information	States	District	Schools
Authorization for emergency treatment	42.9	80.0	80.0
Medication needs	67.4	92.1	93.2
Physical health history	52.0	80.0	92.0
Physical activity restrictions	36.7	80.6	93.4



**Percentage of States and Districts Requiring the Provision of Selected Health Services and Percentage of Schools Providing These Services**

Health Services	States	Districts	Schools
Administration of medications	64.0	93.7	97.1
Case management for students with chronic health conditions, such as asthma or diabetes	32.6	60.8	68.0
Identification or treatment of chronic illness	32.6	46.5	57.9
Prescriptions for medications	14.0	25.1	14.3

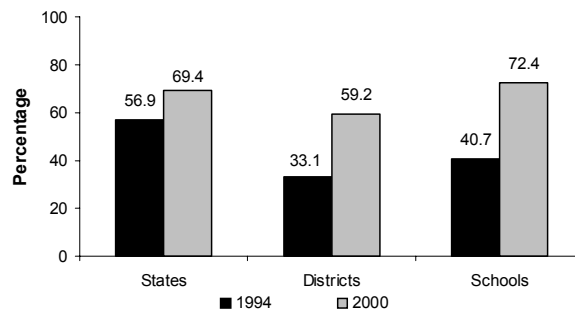
**School-Based Health Centers**

- 89.1% of states have at least one school-based health center. The number of centers per state ranges from 1 to 163 with an average of 27.1.
- 12.9% of districts have at least one school-based health center. The number of centers per district ranges from 1 to 50.

**Nursing Services**

- 76.8% of schools have either a part-time or full-time school nurse. In these schools, a nurse is present for an average of 22.4 hours per week.
- 52.9% of schools have the recommended nurse-to-student ratio of 1:750 or better.
- 27.4% of states and 47.5% of districts require school nurses to participate in the development of Individualized Health Plans (IHPs); 74.8% of schools with school nurses indicated that nurses participate in the development of IHPs.

**Percentage of States and Districts Offering Staff Development on Case Management for Students with Chronic Health Conditions to School Nurses and Schools with a Health Services Coordinator who Received this Staff Development, 1994 and 2000**



**Percentage of States and Districts Offering Staff Development to School Nurses on Selected Topics and Percentage of Schools with a Health Services Coordinator who Received this Staff Development\***

Topic of Staff Development	States	Districts	Schools
Administration of medications	74.0	52.6	67.0
Case management for students with chronic health conditions, such as asthma or diabetes	69.4	59.2	72.4
Identification or treatment of chronic illness	66.0	59.0	71.3
Prescriptions for medications	30.0	25.4	28.6

\*During the 2 years preceding the survey.

**Tobacco-Free Environment Policies**

- "Tobacco-free environment" policies prohibiting cigarette, cigar, and pipe smoking, and smokeless tobacco use by students, faculty, staff, and visitors in school buildings, on school grounds, in school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events exist in 24.5% of states, 45.5% of districts, and 44.6% of schools.

**For additional information** on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 888-231-6405, <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>.