

The **mission of the Arizona School Nurse Access Program (ASAP)** is to optimize the health of school-age children by increasing the number of school nurses and increasing the core competencies of school nurses in public schools throughout Arizona.

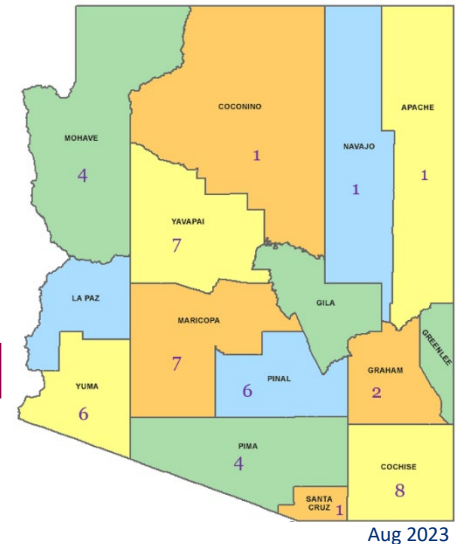
## ASAP Outcomes

The ASAP hired **49 school nurses** in rural areas, where schools have reported never having an RN in the school health office.

The ASAP increased school nurse competencies by providing training programs and supporting national certification for **44 school nurses**.

The ASAP provides multiple **statewide school nursing supports** to increase specific school nursing professional development and school nurse professional learning communities.

ASAP School Nurses by County

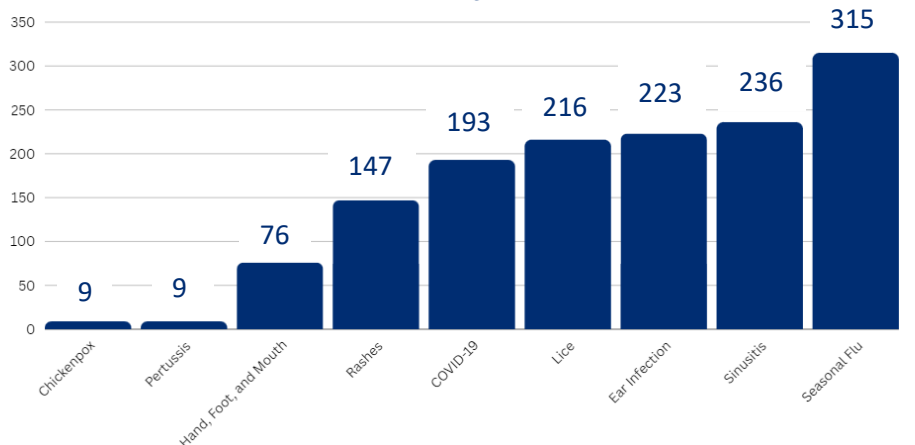


## The School Nurses' Role is Crucial to Health and Academic

The title **School Nurse (SN)** must be a **licensed registered nurse (RN)** and is the health expert with the preparation and authority to assess, plan, and manage students' health care. The SN **bridges health care** and education, provides **care coordination**, advocates for quality student-centered care, and collaborates to design systems that create **safe and healthy** communities.

**30% of students do not have access to a pediatric provider.<sup>2</sup>**  
A SN helps parents link to health services when health issues arise.

Acute Illnesses Detected by ASAP School Nurse



### A School Nurse:

Connects families to healthcare and community resources.

Advances academic success through increasing return to class rates.

Brings an important perspective on what schools need to operate safely to support the health, wellness and learning of students.

Reduces costs as for every \$1 dollar invested in a full-time registered school nurse, society gains \$2.20.<sup>1</sup>

## Arizona School Nursing Needs

1. **Every Student** has access to a **Registered School Nurse** everyday while at school.
2. State-level **School Nurse Consultant** to help with ongoing training and competencies of school nurses.
3. **Continuation of the ASAP** to bring safety programs to the state through the nurse.
4. **Data** to understand the health office: parents to know who is in the school health office.

<sup>1</sup>JAMA Pediatr. 2014;168(7):642-648. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.5441

<sup>2</sup>Jessica Drescher, "Educational opportunity and access to pediatric care are more intertwined than you might think," *Brookings*, 2023, <https://www.brookings.edu/>

<sup>3</sup>Data was collected from 31 ASAP School Nurses during 2022-2023 school year, serving 26,819 students.