

# Increasing Access to Student Health Services for MS Students

A Johnson and Johnson School Health Leadership Project



# J&J School Health Leadership Program

- Team MS—one of 17 teams selected
- MS Team member include:
  - Donnis Harris—Quitman School District
  - Margaret Hart—McComb School District
  - Joyce Little—Greenville School District
  - Chandra Warren—Chickasaw County School District
  - Estelle Watts—MS Department of Education

# Health Services Assumptions

- Health services is seen as a luxury not a necessity
- Link between health and education is not understood.
- Unrecognized connection to chronic absenteeism
- Other staff (administrators, teachers, secretaries) will attend to student health needs when there is no nurse

# Project Selection

- MS School District planned to slash quality school health services, eliminating RN's and replacing with LPN's
- Massachusetts study—concluded, for each dollar invested in school health services there was a resulting \$2.20 savings

# MS Project-Method

- Modified the Massachusetts study
- Enlist schools/district to participate
  - Schools with full-time school nurses
    - School nurse participation
    - Teacher participation
    - Parent participation
  - Districts without a school nurse
    - Teacher participation
    - Parent participation

# Enlistment activities

- Define full-time school nurse
  - School nurses were asked to self identify as working in one school, all day every day.
- Develop and test parent survey
  - Student nurse (RN-BSN) conducted testing in her school district
- Modify existing surveys
  - Included questions that applied to schools with and without school nurses

# Data Collection

- Teachers were provided a work sheet to aid with identifying the time used for student health needs
- Teachers and nurses were provided an electronic survey link
- Parents who were at the school addressing student health needs during the data collection period were asked to complete a survey.

# Data Collection

- Schools and districts were asked to select a one week period during a six week window to collect data.
- A contact person was identified in each school or district.
- The thirteen districts without a school nurse were visited by Team MS members to explain the importance of the project.



- Nurse Data

- 113 school nurses self identified as meeting the established definition of full-time
- 36 nurses completed the data collection survey
  - 32% participation rate

- Teacher Data
  - 942 surveys completed
    - Distributed among all school levels
    - 37 surveys from Pre-K programs
  - 187 from districts with “no school nurse”
    - Represents 54% of districts (7)
    - 20% of total surveys
  - 755 from schools with a school nurse
    - Represents 21 districts
    - 80% of total surveys

# Data (continued)

- Parent Data
  - 264 surveys completed
  - 18 did not wish to participate
    - 7% of total surveys
  - 75 from districts without a school nurse
    - 28% of total surveys
  - 171 from schools with a school nurse
    - 65% of total surveys

## Data (continued)

- A comment section was added to the surveys to give teachers and parents an opportunity to freely express thoughts and concerns.
  - Parents-expressed need for nurses, and gratitude for nurses
  - Teachers-expressed need for nurses, and various services that nurses provide their students

# Resources

- Wang, L.Y., et. al.(2014). Cost-benefit study of school nursing services. Journal of American Medical Association Pediatric, 168(7), 642-648. Retrieved from [archpedi.jamanetwork.com](http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com)
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# Questions



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