



## Connecticut State Department of Education Health Services Program Information Survey

### Summary of Highlights 2004-2012

#### **Background:**

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), as part of its ongoing efforts to support and expand school health services provided to Connecticut students, has completed its ninth year of data collection regarding school health services. This data collection process is designed to assist the CSDE to understand the status of school health services in Connecticut school districts, the needs of school districts and students in the area of school health services, and progress being made in these areas over time.

As one component of these ongoing efforts, the CSDE commissioned **EDUCATION CONNECTION** to develop an online survey to collect information regarding the status of school health services from school districts throughout Connecticut. **EDUCATION CONNECTION** designed the survey process in collaboration with the CSDE and the Connecticut State Health Records Committee. The survey process was pilot-tested in spring 2003, and then implemented in spring 2004. The survey has been administered annually since 2004.

Each year, the Coordinator of School Nursing in each of 169 Connecticut school districts has been asked to complete the online survey. Response rates have ranged from 61 to 88 percent over the nine-year period. Each year, **EDUCATION CONNECTION** has analyzed the questionnaire data using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences and developed a report in collaboration with the CSDE. Final reports are available on the **EDUCATION CONNECTION** Web site.

This report presents a summary of survey highlights from 2004 to 2012. The purpose of this summary is to assist school districts and state agencies to track trends in the status of school health services and needs over time. Because the survey has been reviewed and revised as necessary over time, the time range presented in this summary varies.

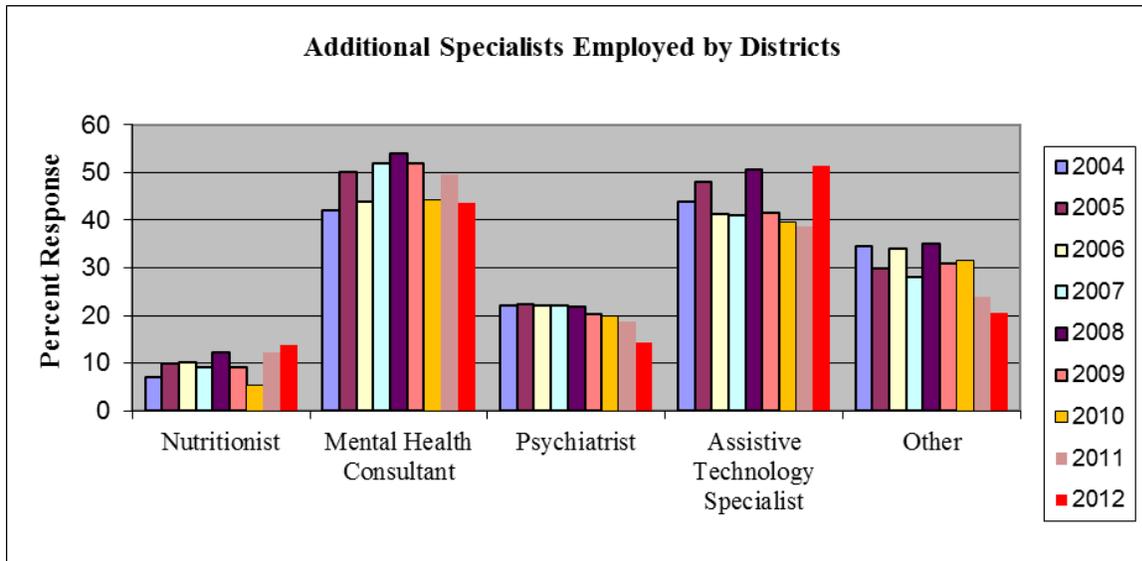
#### **Nursing Staff:**

- 56 to 70 percent of full-time equivalent (FTE) school nursing staff in Connecticut districts are classified as school nurses. Another 6 to 9 percent are nurse leaders.

Nursing Staff Classification	Percent of FTE Staff							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Nurse Leaders	8.7%	7.5%	8.4%	6.2%	8.7%	7.9%	7.9%	7.2
School Nurses	67.0	67.7	67.3	60.2	69.8	55.9	66.8	66.6
Other Registered Nurses	8.8	9.1	6.3	11.8	7.8	17.8	12.0	12.2
Nursing Support	15.5	15.7	18.0	21.8	13.7	18.4	13.3	14.1

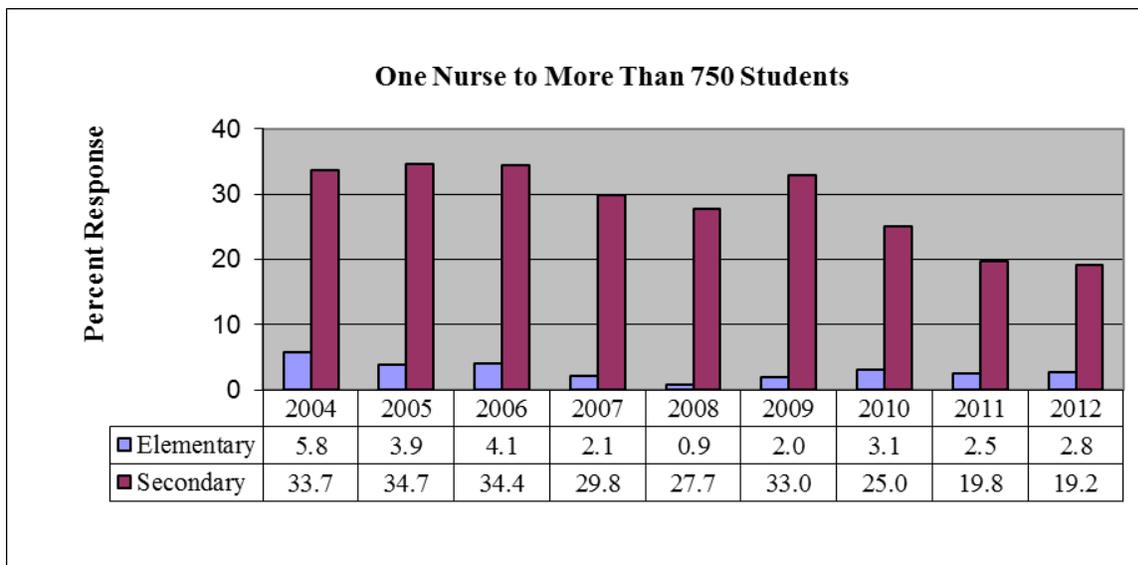
**Additional Staff:**

- Slightly more than 5% of districts use the service of medical advisors more than 10 hours per month.
- Approximately 6 in 10 medical advisors specialize in pediatrics.
- Although respondents have commented on the need for more support in the areas of mental health services and nutrition, survey results suggest no appreciable increase in the percentage of districts employing specialists in these areas.

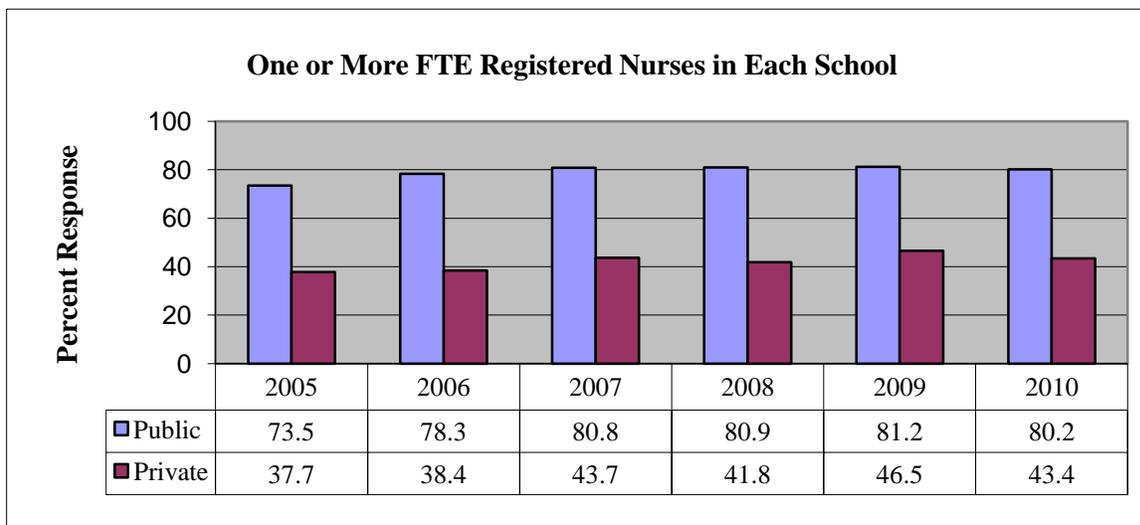


**Staffing Levels:**

- A majority of Connecticut schools meet national guidelines that recommend a school district have a nurse-to-student ratio of no less than 1 nurse to 750 students in the general population. In addition, the guidelines recommend 1 nurse to 225 students in student populations requiring daily professional school nursing services or interventions, 1 nurse to 125 students in student populations with complex health care needs, and 1 nurse per student for individual students who require daily and continuous professional nursing services. Survey results continue to suggest that approximately 1 in 5 secondary level schools in Connecticut may not meet general population guidelines. It is important to note that no information is collected regarding the acuity levels of the population of students reported.
- The percentage of districts not meeting the guideline ranges from 15 to 30 percent at the secondary level and from 1 to 6 percent at the elementary level. The percentage of districts not meeting the guidelines at the secondary level has decreased notably over the past three years.



- Between 2005-2010, 8 in 10 Connecticut school districts and 4 in 10 private, non-profit schools, had the equivalent of at least one full-time registered nurse in each school.

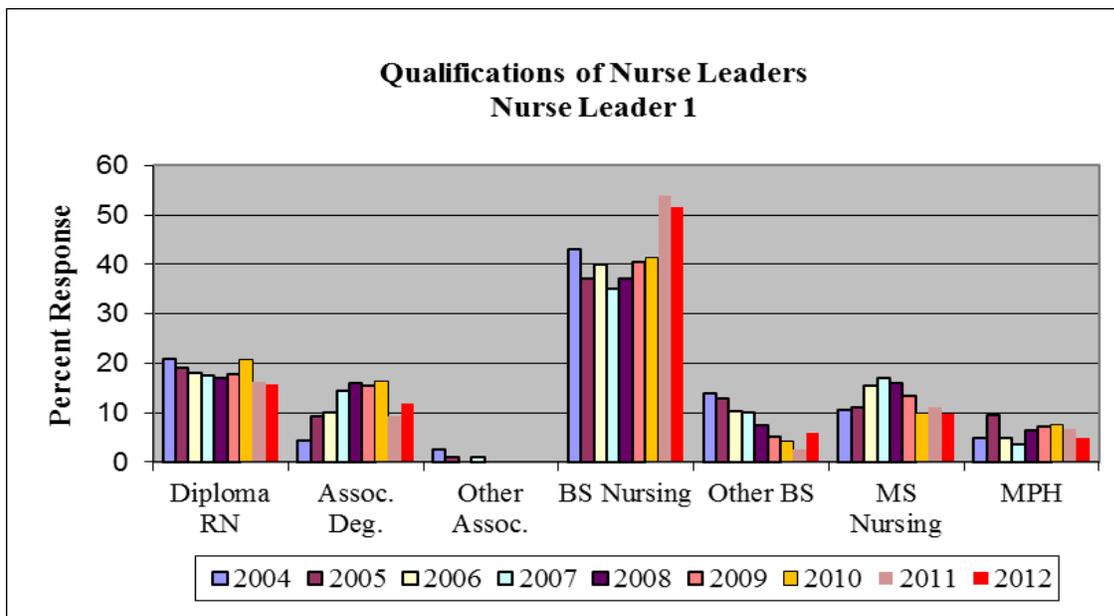


**Note:** Data was not collected in 2011 and 2012 due to change in data collection methodology.

**Staff Qualifications:**

Nurse leader credentials are shifting over time...

- The percentage of nurse leaders with a B.S. in Nursing is increasing over time.
- The percentage of nurse leaders with a B.S. degree that is not in Nursing has been generally decreasing since 2004, but rose slightly in 2011-2012
- The percentage of nurse leaders with a Diploma R.N. has decreased in recent years while the percentage of leaders with an Associate degree has been gradually rising.

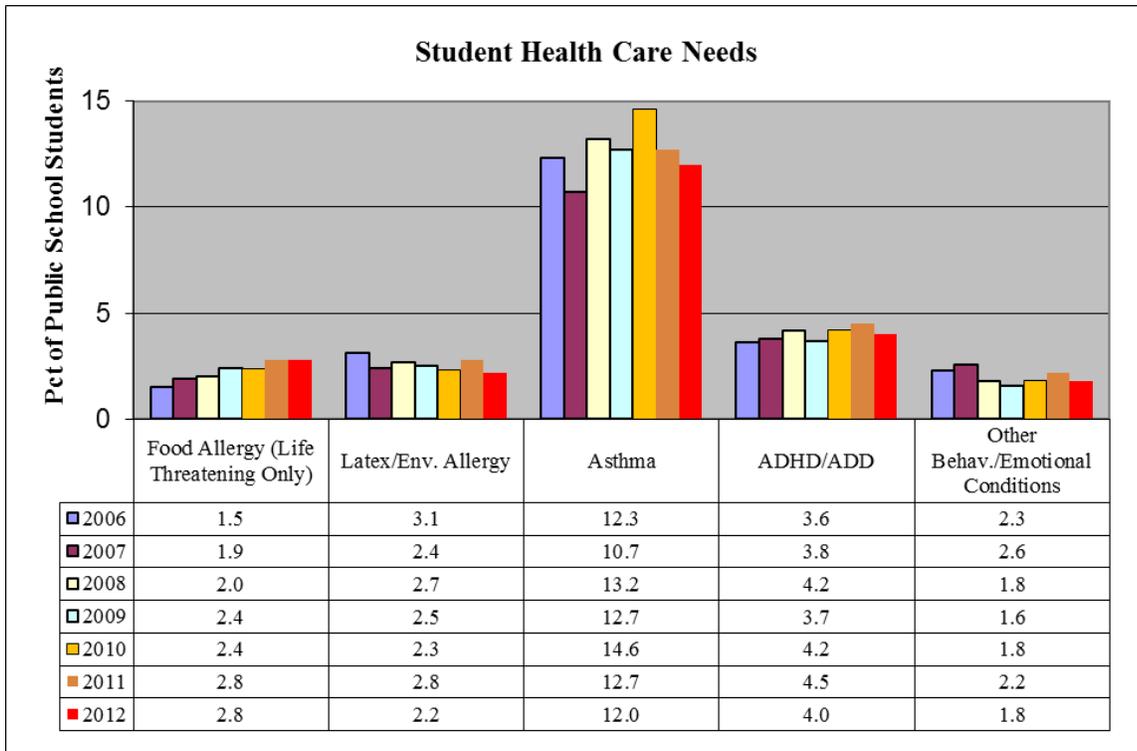


### **Health Care Screenings:**

- The optional service provided most frequently by districts to their public school students is pediculosis screening.
- 21 to 25 percent of public school students receive pediculosis screenings. About 1 percent of students receive nutrition screening.
- Approximately 4 percent of public school students receive mental health consultations each year.
- 7 to 24 percent of districts provide dental services. The percentage of public school students receiving dental screenings has never exceeded 13 percent.
- Vision screenings, compared to other mandatory services, generate the greatest number of referrals. From 4 to 6 percent of vision screenings result in a referral.

### **Student Health Care Needs:**

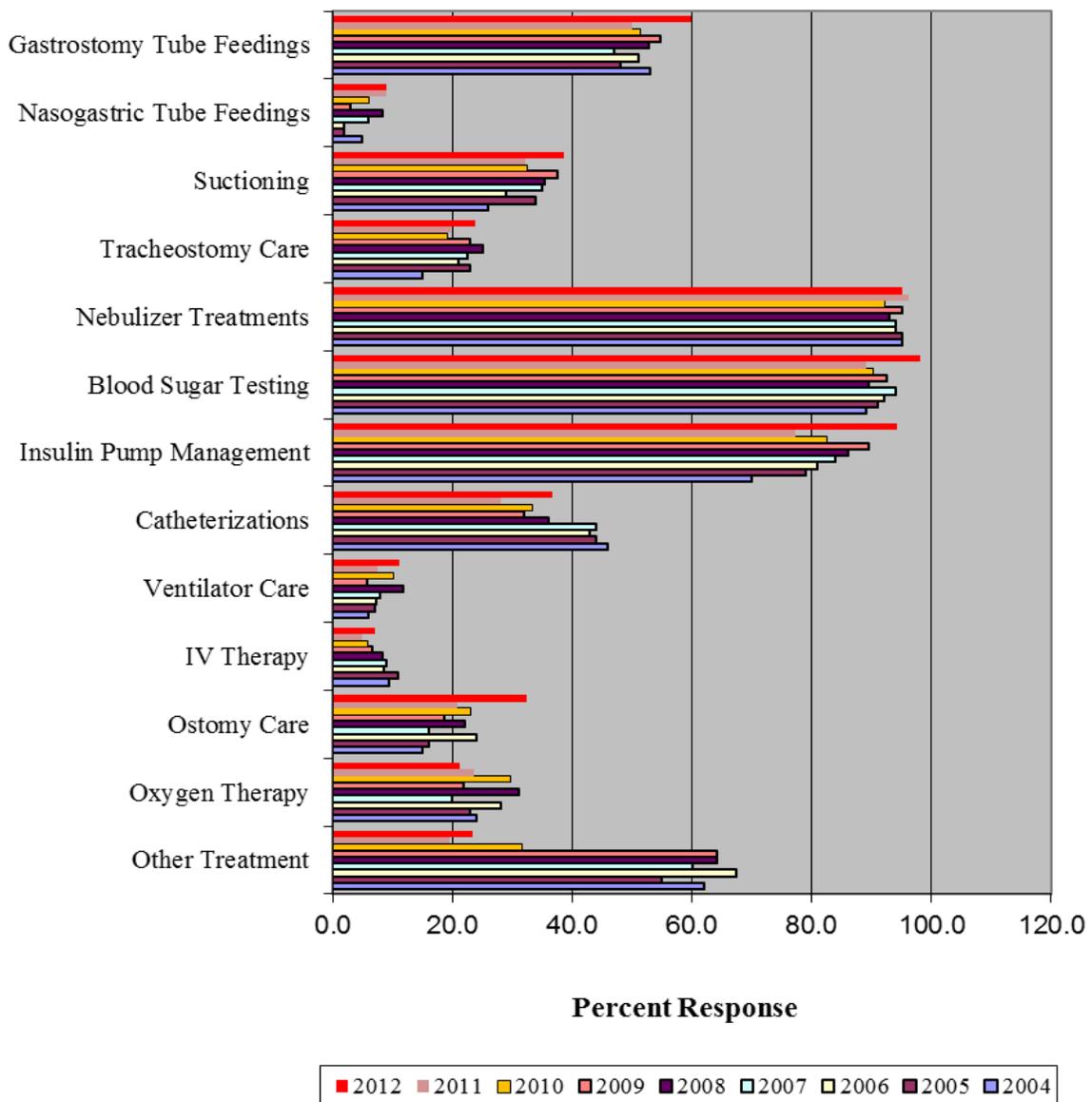
- Connecticut school nurses provide services to students with a wide range of physical and emotional health needs. The health care conditions reported most frequently by districts are asthma, allergies, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD/ADD), other behavioral/emotional conditions and speech defects.
- 11 to 15 percent of public school students in Connecticut have asthma.
- Approximately 4 percent of public school students have ADHD/ADD.
- The percent of public school students with life threatening food allergies has generally increased each year since 2006.



**Health Care Procedures Performed by School Nurses:**

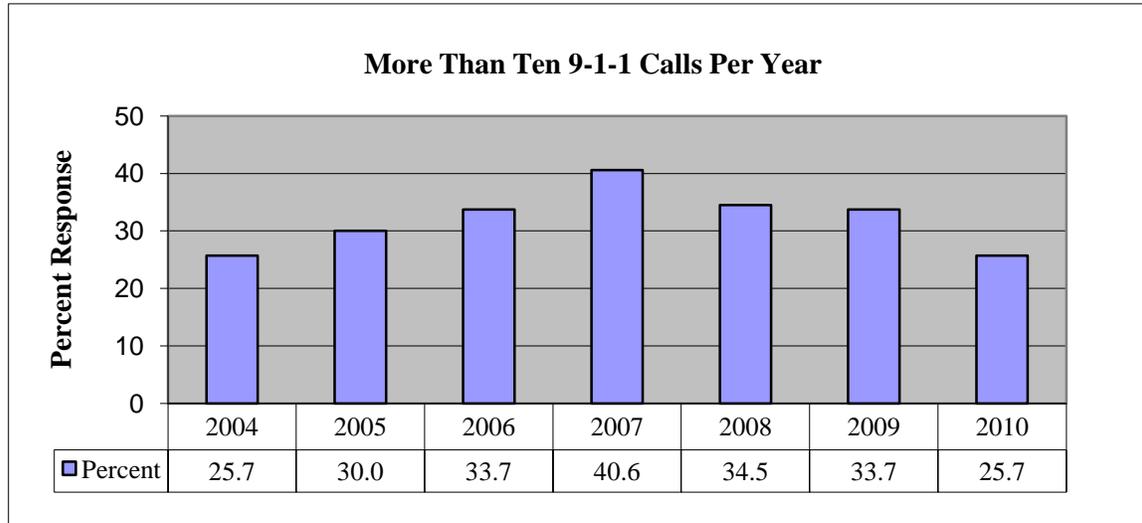
- The health care procedures most likely to be performed in the public school setting are blood sugar testing, nebulizer treatments and insulin pump management.
- At least 90 percent of districts serving public schools perform nebulizer treatments, blood sugar testing, and insulin pump management.
- All procedures are less likely to be performed in the private, non-profit school setting than in the public school setting.

### Health Care Procedures Performed



#### 9-1-1 Calls:

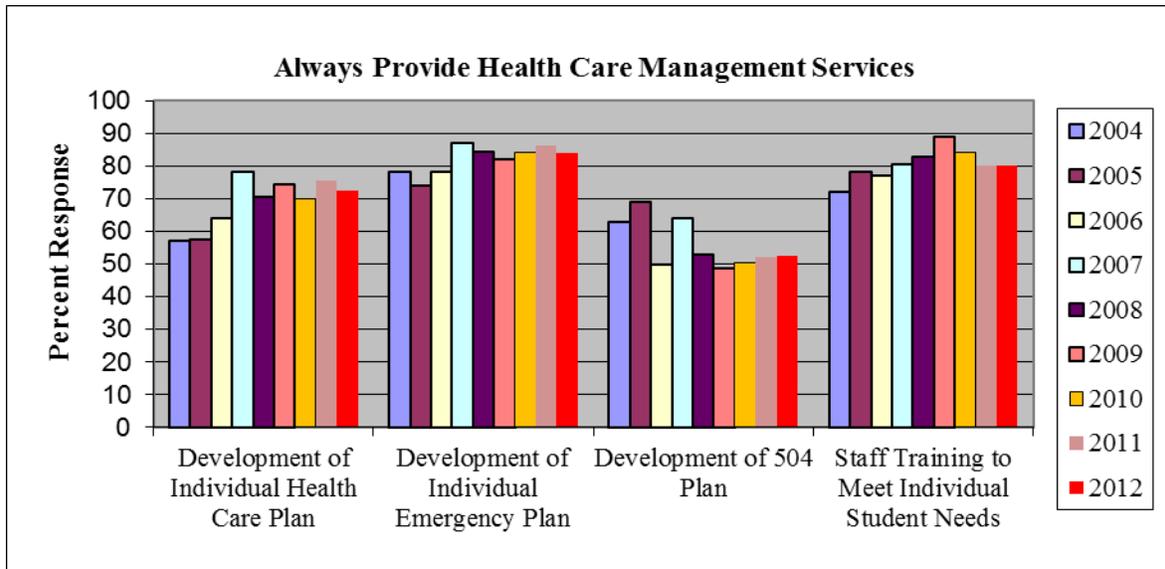
- From 2004 through 2010, the percentage of districts making more than ten 9-1-1 calls per year peaked in 2007 at 41 percent.
- Injury was the most frequently cited reason for 9-1-1 calls. Anaphylaxis was increasingly being reported as a reason for calling 9-1-1.



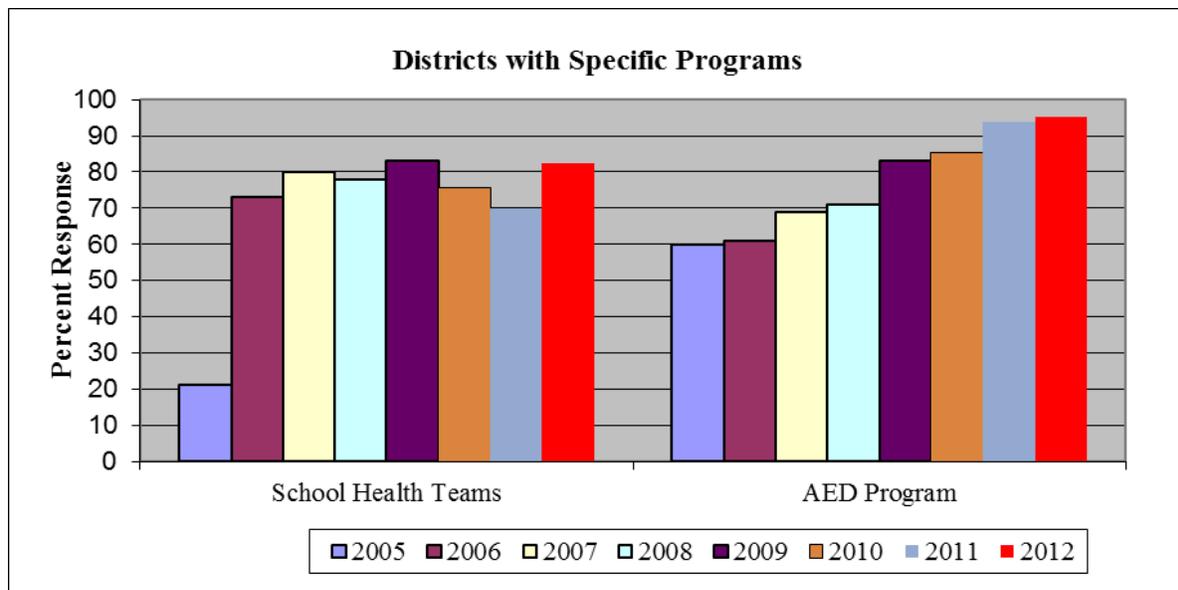
**Note:** For 2011 and 2012, data collection methodology was altered to identify the actual number of 9-1-1 calls per district. During both 2011 and 2012, approximately three 9-1-1 calls were made for every 1,000 students in the public schools. Fewer 9-1-1 calls per student were made for students in the private, non-profit schools.

**Health Coordination/Education:**

- The numbers of districts that always provide individual health care plans, individual emergency plans, and staff training to meet individual student needs are greater in more recent years of the survey compared to earlier years. The percent of districts that always provide development of 504 Plans has been generally decreasing over time.
- The health care management service most likely to be provided by districts on a consistent basis is the development of individual emergency plans. Eighty four percent of districts always provided this health care management service in 2012.



- An increasing number of districts have an automatic external defibrillator (AED) program in place.
- Sixty percent of districts had an AED program in 2005 compared to 95 percent in 2012.
- Since 2007, about 8 in 10 districts have reported having a school health team. During 2012, this percentage rose to 82% after decreasing during the previous two years.



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