

School Nurses (SN) at Public Schools in Brandenburg/Germany – an Effective Resource for School Children’s Health. Analysis of Activities and Networking.

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The study analyses the activities of 18 school nurses at 23 public schools (primary and secondary schools during a 3-year period (02/2017- 03/2020). The allocation of nurses in schools is a model project under the umbrella of the AWO Bezirksverband Potsdam e.V. (<https://awo-potsdam.de/projekt/schulgesundheitsfachkraefte-im-land-brandenburg/>), in the German state of Brandenburg. The data is extracted of a standardised documentation system encompassing a variety of items related to the school nurse’s core tasks: health care for school children with health disorders, injuries or chronic diseases; and health promotion on individual and population level. The second part of the report investigates the type and content of community-based co-operations (network map), and also, if specific healthcare or psychosocial support for school children were needed.

Main results: school nurses are frequently visited by school children because of mental and physical health problems. School nurses spend an average of 4 hours providing individual health care in schools, in terms of a ratio one SN per 700 school children. 87 % of school children could return to class after the school nurse’s visit. Unnecessary emergency operations could be reduced because the school nurse could assess the critical incident. Each school nurse was co-operating with an average of 20 stakeholders in the community, thus, she could refer to a specialised care or psychosocial support if needed.

Conclusion: Whilst improving health of school children, school nurses contribute extremely to their education chances. Community networking is crucial for a successful case management.