


MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
The Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Tony McCombie, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable John Curran, Senate Minority Leader

FROM: Dr. Tony Sanders 
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: October 1, 2024

SUBJECT: The Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication, School Year 2023-24

The Illinois State Board of Education respectfully submits the “Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication, School Year 2023-24 Report” to the governor and General Assembly to fulfill the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/22-30.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the state Superintendent of Education. For additional information, please contact Dana Stoerger, executive director of Legislative Affairs, at 217-782-6510 or dstoerge@isbe.net.

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House
Legislative Research Unit
State Government Report Center

The Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication School Year 2023-24

Illinois State Board of Education
Wellness and Student Care Department

October 1, 2024

Dr. Tony Sanders
State Superintendent of Education

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Foreword

The administration of a stock supply of asthma medication to persons who may be experiencing respiratory distress is permitted by [Illinois School Code \(105 ILCS 5/22-30\)](#). [Public Act 100-0726](#) requires a report to be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by each Illinois public and nonpublic school that administers a dose under this Act. Schools are to report information about the incident that necessitated use of the rescue medication to ISBE within three days.

This report is a compilation of data on the frequency and circumstances of undesignated asthma medication administration during the 2023-24 academic year.

Background

Any Illinois school may obtain a medical order for quick relief asthma medication, including albuterol or other short-acting bronchodilators, delivered through a metered dose inhaler with a reusable or disposable spacer or a nebulizer with a mouthpiece or mask. Schools may maintain a supply of the drug and train personnel to recognize and respond to a person experiencing respiratory distress. ISBE shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly by Oct. 1 every year and publish the report online on the same day of its submission.

There was a total of 1,900 reports of administration of undesignated asthma medications during school year 2023-24, a marked increase in reporting compared to previous years (SY 2022-23 – 300; SY 2021-22 – 111, SY 2020-21 – 20, SY 2019-20 - 42, SY 2018-19 – four).

Public Act 100-0726 permits a school nurse or another trained personnel to:

- (1) Provide undesignated asthma medication to a student for self-administration in accordance with that student's Individual Health Care Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan,
- (2) Administer undesignated asthma medication to any student who has an Individual Health Care Action Plan or asthma action plan, and
- (3) Administer undesignated asthma medication to any person who they believe in good faith is experiencing respiratory distress.

This Act is intended to reduce the number of 911 calls, Emergency Medical Service transports, and missed school days due to asthma episodes by better equipping schools to handle respiratory emergencies.

The General Assembly also appropriated \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2023 to support a statewide program, known as the RESCUE Illinois Schools Program, to stock albuterol in Illinois schools. Notably, Illinois was the first state to make funding available for this purpose. Training was provided to over 2,100 school staff in the first year of this program. Medication, equipment, and education boxes were provided to 2,171 schools that participated in Year 1 of this program. RESCUE is funded through a grant administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America – St. Louis Chapter, in collaboration with Respiratory Health Associates, uses these funds to obtain community and school districtwide prescriptions, purchase asthma equipment, and train school officials. Note that the significant increase in the number of reports of administration of undesignated asthma medications in SY 2023-24 cited previously is likely a direct correlation with the start of the RESCUE Illinois Schools Program.

A total of 2,171 out of 3,183 (68 percent) eligible schools formally enrolled in the program using the RESCUE Illinois Portal during the 2023-24 school year. A total of 657 asthma emergency incidents involving students were reported from a total of 279 schools during this year. Reporting schools were in 138 school districts across

43 Illinois counties. The results from the RESCUE Illinois Schools Program can be found in the [Year One RESCUE Report](#). Additional funding for the evaluation of the RESCUE Illinois Schools Program was provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

RESCUE Illinois Schools Program data also is submitted to ISBE. The RESCUE report, however, specifically summarizes information from Illinois schools that maintain a supply of undesignated asthma medication supported with these funds. The numbers in ISBE's report are more comprehensive than those of the RESCUE data because they include all schools that administered undesignated asthma medication during the 2023-24 school year, regardless of their participation in the RESCUE Illinois Schools Program in that year.

Methodology

ISBE staff in the Wellness and Student Care Department developed the data collection instruments and procedures used by schools to report data on asthma medication use in alignment with the applicable administrative rules (Rule 1.540). The 2023-24 data collection was conducted via the [Undesignated Asthma Medication Reporting Form \(ISBE 34-22\)](#) using an [online portal](#).

Limitations

The data provided in this report pertains to school year 2023-24, which ended June 30, 2024.

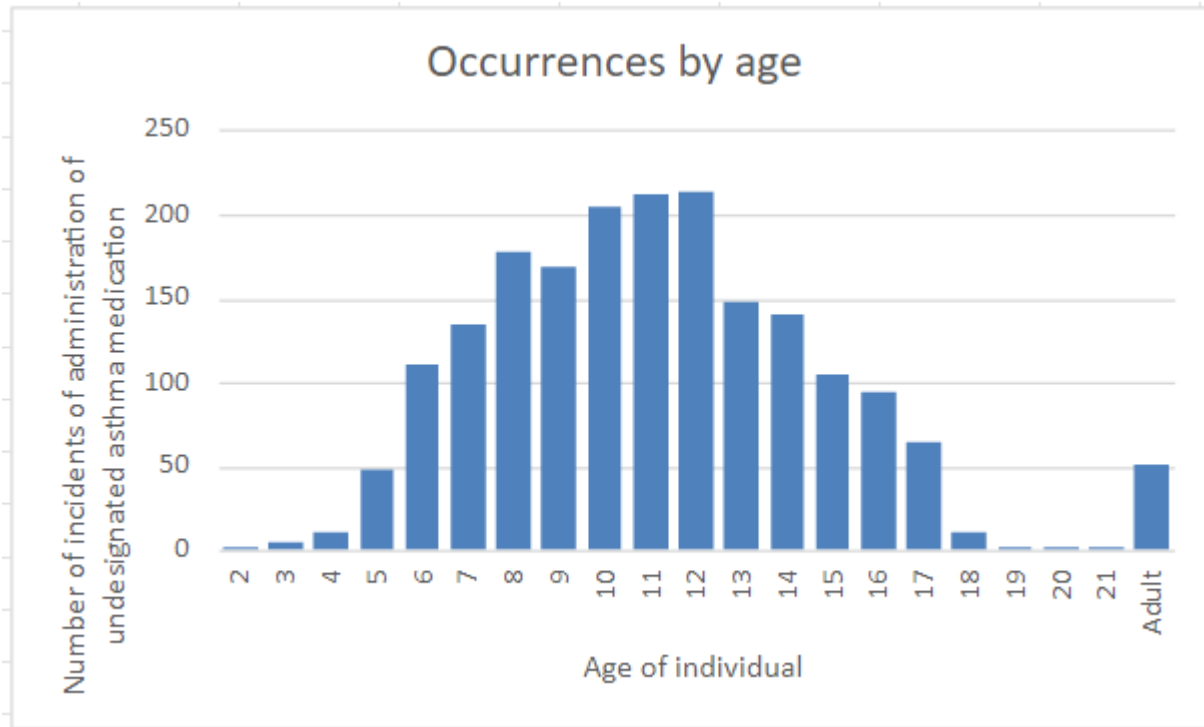
Submissions were reviewed by ISBE's school nurse consultants. The consultants reached out for corrections to reports that indicated administration times later than 9 p.m. and before 6 a.m. In addition, any reports for ages below preschool level were also verified and corrected, if necessary.

The completeness of the data reported depends upon the ability of schools and districts to access the online reporting system. ISBE shared education and information about the online reporting system with school health professionals, but there were some reports that were emailed to a shared in-box; in such cases, the entity received an auto-response that directed it to resubmit the information using the web-based submission system. A school nurse consultant provided technical assistance to any user who experienced difficulty with submission. Such problems were often related to the browser settings or privacy restrictions at the local level.

School Year 2023-24 Results

There were 1,900 reports of undesignated asthma medication administered for the 2023-24 school year, with 1,876 administered via metered dose inhaler and 23 using a nebulizer; one report did not indicate the method of delivery. Three reported uses of undesignated asthma medication indicated using a spacer chamber. A total of 1,833 doses were administered to students, 60 doses to school staff members, and seven to visitors.

Figure 1



The students ranged in age from 2 to 21 years, with the mean age of 10.86 years and the median age of 11 years. There were 1,371 students and 44 school staff members/faculty with a previous diagnosis of asthma. Sixteen individuals in the role of school staff member/faculty and 462 students did not have a diagnosis of asthma. The individual had a known diagnosis of asthma in six of the seven reports for undesignated asthma medication administered for visitors.

Schools reported having Asthma Action Plans on file for 507 of the students who required use of undesignated asthma medication.

Figure 2

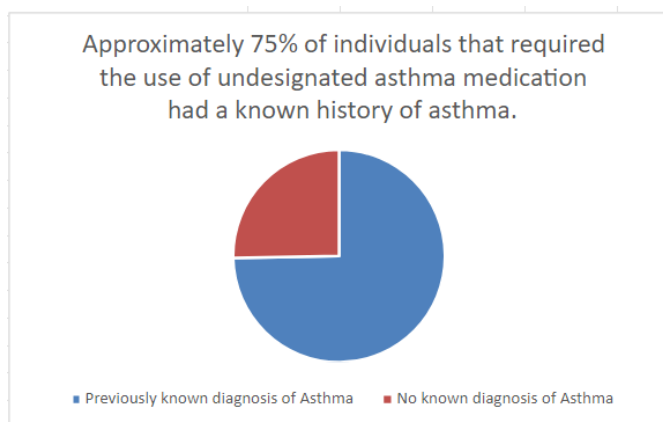
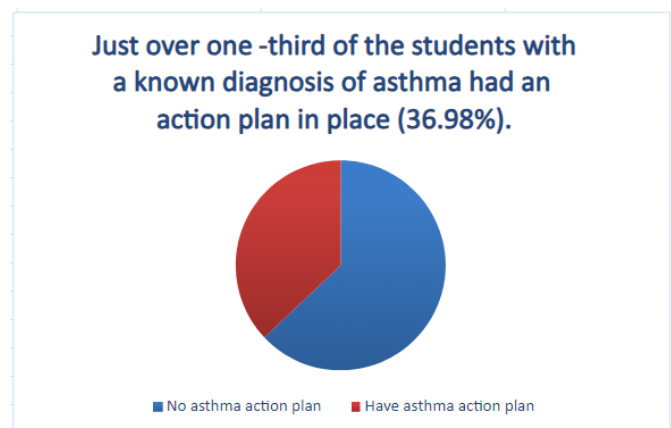


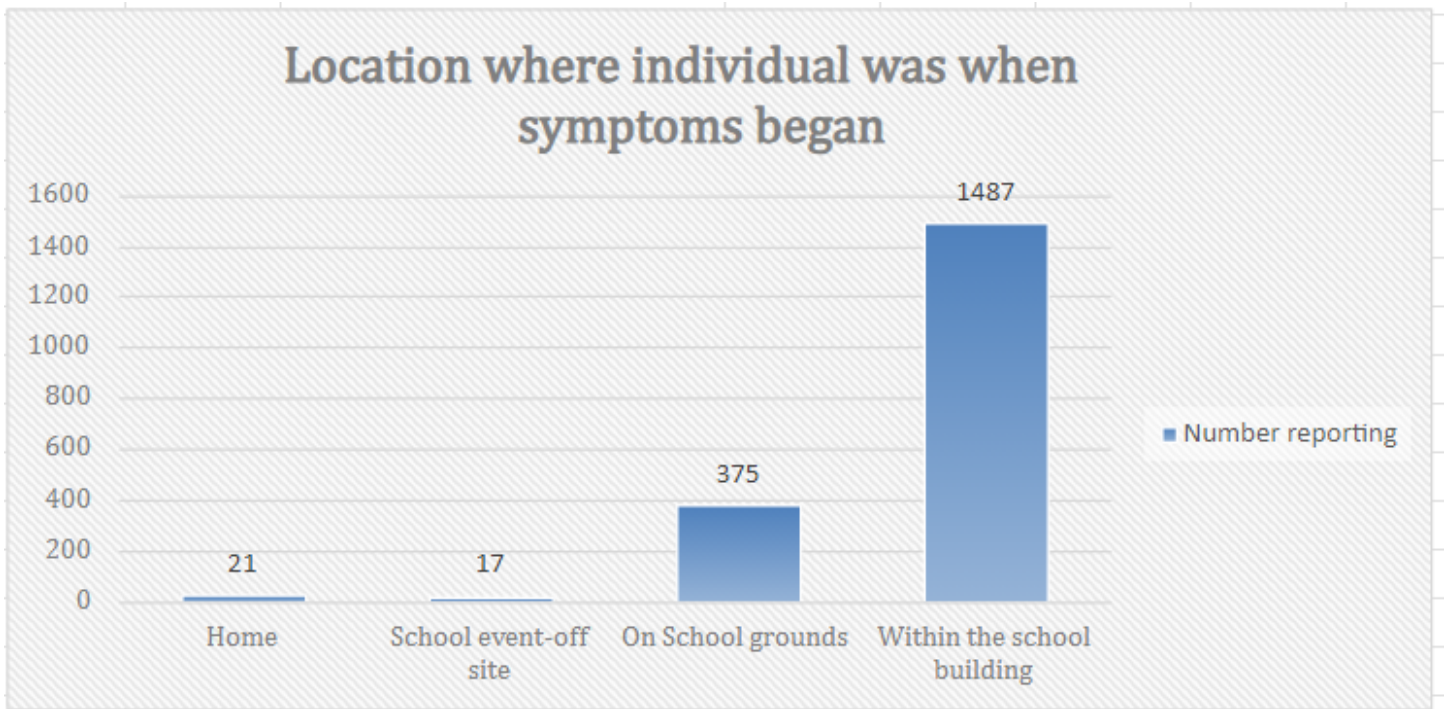
Figure 3



The earliest date of reported use came on July 7, 2023, with the last occurring on June 24, 2024.

Occurrences were more frequent in the morning hours with 989 reported then, while 908 reportedly occurred in the afternoon hours. Time of day was not specified in the reports for three of the occurrences. The earliest reported time was 6:42 a.m., and the latest confirmed administration was at 9:15 p.m. Most (78.26 percent) of events reportedly occurred within a school building; 19.74 percent reportedly occurred on school grounds; and less than one percent reportedly occurred at a school event off site. All others reportedly began at home.

Figure 4



The undesignated asthma medication was administered in 1,817 occurrences by nurses (registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or advanced practice nurse), and by other health professionals in three separate instances involving a certified athletic trainer, a physician assistant, and a nursing student under the direction of a registered nurse. There were 65 administrations by trained school personnel. The individual self-administered the asthma medication in 15 of the incidents. Reporting the incidents to the individual’s health care provider occurred in 226 of the incidents (one involving a staff member/faculty and the others involving students); 1,526 were not reported to the individual’s health care provider. A parent declined provider notification in 89 instances, and 59 reports made no indication of whether a provider was notified.

Reported use of undesignated asthma medication administrations came from 186 public school districts, six nonpublic schools, one charter school, and one special education cooperative school. An elementary school in Cook County had the greatest number (33) of reported episodes in which undesignated albuterol was administered. The second greatest number of administrations was from another elementary school in Cook County, with reports of 25 incidents of undesignated asthma medication.

Table 1: Schools or districts (official directory names) that administered undesignated asthma medication

Alsip-Hazelgreen-Oaklawn SD 126	Elmhurst SD 205	Lindop SD 92	Plainfield SD 202
Alton CUSD 11	Elmwood Park CUSD 401	Lombard SD 44	Plano CUSD 88
Anna Jonesboro CHSD 81	Elwood CCSD 203	Lycee Francais De Chicago	Posen-Robbins ESD 143-5
Aurora West USD 129	Evanston Twp HSD 202	Lyons SD 103	Prairie Crossing Charter School
Ball Chatham CUSD 5	Fairview SD 72	Macomb CUSD 185	Prospect Heights SD 23
Bannockburn SD 106	Flossmoor SD 161	Mahomet Seymour CUSD 3	Quincy SD 172
Barrington CUSD 220	Forest Park SD 91	Marissa CUSD 40	Raccoon Cons SD 1
Batavia USD 101	Forest Ridge SD 142	Marquardt SD 15	Richland County CUSD 1
Belle Valley SD 119	Fox Lake GSD 114	Matteson ESD 162	Ridgewood CHSD 234
Belleville Twp HSD 201	Frankfort CUSD 168	Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview 89	River Trails SD 26
Bensenville SD 2	Freeport SD 145	McHenry CCSD15	Riverside SD 96
Berwyn South SD 100	Galesburg CUSD 205	McLean County USD 5	Riverside-Brookfield Twp SD 208
Bethalto CUSD 8	Gen George Patton SD 133	Mercer County School District 404	Roanoke Benson CUSD 60
Bismarck Henning CUSD	Geneva CUSD 304	Meridian CUSD 15	Rockford SD 205
Bloomington CCSD 93	Glenbard Twp HSD 87	Minooka CCSD 201	Sandoval CUSD 501
Bloomington SD 87	Glencoe SD 35	Mokena SD 159	Saratoga CCSD 60C
Bourbonnais SD 53	Glenview CCSD 34	Moline-Coal Valley CUSD 40	Schaumburg CCSD 54
Bradford CUSD 1	Golf School District #67	Montessori Academy for Peace	SD 45 DuPage County
Bremen CHSD 228	Granite City CUSD 9	Morgan Park Academy	Sherrard CUSD 200
Butler SD 53	Grayslake CHSD 127	Morton CUSD 709	Silvis SD 34
Calumet City SD 155	Hammitt School	Morton Grove SD 70	Smithton CCSD 130
Cambridge CUSD 227	Harlem UD 122	Mount Prospect School District 57	Sparta CUSD 140
Carbondale CHSD 165	Hawthorn CCSD 73	Mt Pulaski CUSD 23	Special Education District of Lake County 825
Carterville CUSD 5	Hazel Crest SD 152-5	Murphysboro CUSD 186	Springfield SD 186
Cary CCSD 26	Heritage CUSD 8	Naperville CUSD 203	Sterling CUSD 5
Cass SD 63	Hillside SD 93	New Berlin CUSD 16	Streator Twp HSD 40
Charleston CUSD 1	Hinsdale CCSD 181	New Lenox SD 122	Sullivan CUSD 300
Chicago Public Schools District 299	Homer CCSD 33C	New Trier Twp HSD 203	Summit SD 104
Cicero SD 99	Homewood SD 153	Newark CCSD 66	Sunnybrook SD 171

Clinton CUSD 15	Huntley Community School Dist 158	Niles ESD 71	Sunset Ridge SD 29
Collinsville CUSD 10	Indian Prairie CUSD 204	Nippersink SD 2	Sycamore CUSD 427
Comm Cons SD 59 Elk Grove Vlg	Itasca SD 10	North Boone CUSD 200	Thornton Twp HSD 205
Crystal Lake CHSD 155	J S Morton HSD 201	North Shore SD 112	Tinley Park CCSD 146
CUSD 200 Wheaton	Jersey CUSD 100	Northbrook SD 28	Tolono CUSD 7
Decatur SD 61	Jewish Child & Family Services	Oak Lawn CHSD 218	Township HSD 214
Deerfield SD109	Johnston City CUSD #1	Oak Park - River Forest SD 200	Triad CUSD 2
Dekalb CUSD 428	Joliet Twp HSD 204	Oak Park ESD 97	Tuscola School District 301
Des Plaines CCSD 62	Kenilworth SD 38	Odin PSD 722	Twp HSD 113
Dixon USD 170	Kewanee School District 229	O'Fallon District 90	University of Chicago Lab Schs
Dolton SD 148	Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96	Olympia CUSD 16	Urbana SD 116
Dolton SD 149	Kinnikinnick CCSD 131	Oregon CUSD 220	Valley View 365U
Downers Grove CHSD 99	Kirby SD 140	Orland SD 135	Waukegan CUSD 60
Downers Grove GSD 58	Lake Bluff ESD 65	Oswego CUSD 308	West Northfield SD 31
Dunlap CUSD 323	Lake Forest SD 67	Palatine CCSD 15	Wheeling CCSD 21
DuPage HSD 88	Lake Park CHSD 108	Palos CCSD 118	Williamsfield CUSD 210
East Maine SD 63	Lake Villa CCSD 41	Pana CUSD 8	Williamsville CUSD 15
East Prairie SD 73	Lake Zurich CUSD 95	Peotone CUSD 207U	Winfield School District 34
El Paso-Gridley CUSD 11	Leyden CHSD 212	Peru ESD 124	Woodland CCSD 50
Elgin SD U-46	Libertyville SD 70		