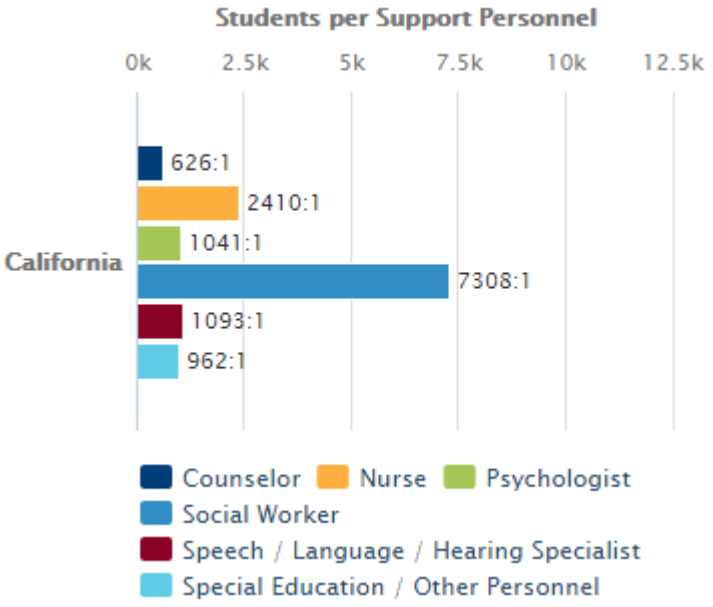
KidsData

POWERED BY PRB

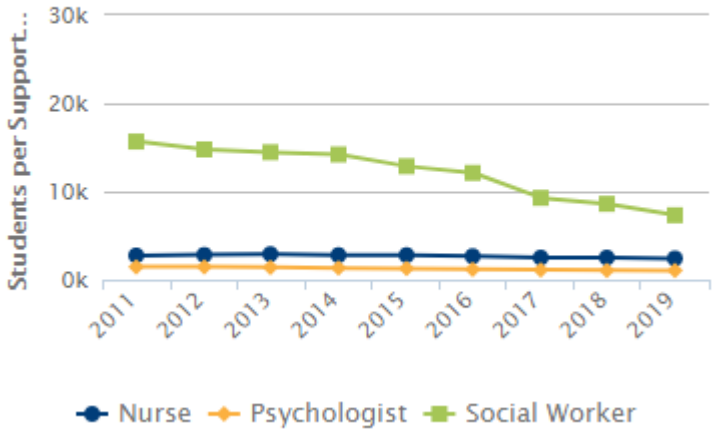
Pupil Support Services in California

Ratio of Students to Pupil Support Service Personnel: 2019



Definition: Ratio of public school students to full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil support service personnel, by type of personnel (e.g., in 2019, there were 2,410 students for every FTE nurse serving California public schools). *Smaller numbers indicate that students have greater access to support service personnel.*
Data Source: California Dept. of Education, Staff Assignment and Course Data (Jan. 2020) & DataQuest (Mar. 2019).

Ratio of Students to Pupil Support Service Personnel
California



Definition: Ratio of public school students to full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil support service personnel, by type of personnel (e.g., in 2019, there were 2,410 students for every FTE nurse serving California public schools). *Smaller numbers indicate that students have greater access to support service personnel.*
Data Source: California Dept. of Education, Staff Assignment and Course Data (Jan. 2020) & DataQuest (Mar. 2019).

What It Is

Kidsdata.org provides the number of and ratio of students to full-time equivalent pupil support service personnel, by type of personnel. Pupil support service personnel include school counselors, librarians, nurses, psychologists, psychometrists, resource specialists, social workers, language specialists, special education personnel, and others.

Also available are school staff reports on the extent to which their school

- provides adequate counseling and support services for students
- provides effective confidential support and referral services for substance abuse or other problems
- collaborates with community organizations to help address youth problems

Why This Topic Is Important

Pupil support services address students' social, emotional, behavioral, physical, and cognitive needs to help them reach their maximum academic and health potential. The availability of an array of pupil support personnel reflects a school's capacity to meet a wide range of student needs. For example, school counselors often help students learn coping, conflict resolution, and goal-setting skills that are critical to future success. Counselors also provide immediate support during crises and referrals to other services as needed. School psychologists provide some of these same services and also offer mental health counseling, identify learning challenges, and assist teachers in tailoring instruction accordingly. Speech/language/hearing and resource specialists provide direct service and case management for students with specific disabilities. Nurses manage the daily health needs of students, which may include providing basic health care and screenings, connecting students to health care resources, and helping students manage chronic health conditions, among other responsibilities. Nurses and other student support staff help ensure that children are healthy and have the support they need to be successful learners. These support services play an important role in creating a positive school climate, which is linked to improved student behavior and academic achievement.

How Children Are Faring

In 2019, public school districts in California employed one full-time equivalent counselor for every 626 students, a psychologist for every

Ratio of Students to School Counselors: 2019

Locations	Students per Support Personnel
California	626:1
Alameda County	681:1
Contra Costa County	666:1
Fresno County	778:1
Kern County	861:1
Los Angeles County	489:1
Orange County	989:1
Riverside County	597:1
Sacramento County	687:1
San Bernardino County	631:1
San Diego County	619:1
Santa Clara County	746:1

Definition: Ratio of public school students to full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil support service personnel, by type of personnel (e.g., in 2019, there were 2,410 students for every FTE nurse serving California public schools). *Smaller numbers indicate that students have greater access to support service personnel.*
Data Source: California Dept. of Education, Staff Assignment and Course Data (Jan. 2020) & DataQuest (Mar. 2019).

1,041 students, a speech/language/hearing specialist for every 1,093 students, a nurse for every 2,410 students, and a social worker for every 7,308 students. As in previous years, 2019 data for counties and school districts show wide variation in student access to support personnel.

Statewide trends since 2011 show overall improvement in the ratio of students to every type of pupil support personnel for which data are available. Still, 2019 figures fall short of recommendations from the American School Counselor Association (250 students per counselor), the National Association of School Psychologists (500-700 students per psychologist), and the National Association of Social Workers (250 students per social worker).

When asked whether their school provides adequate counseling and support services for students, 30% of responses by elementary school staff, 37% of responses by middle school staff, 35% of responses by high school staff, and 49% of responses by staff at non-traditional schools reported strong agreement in 2017-2019.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
https://charts.kidsdata.org/topic/24/pupil-support-services/summary