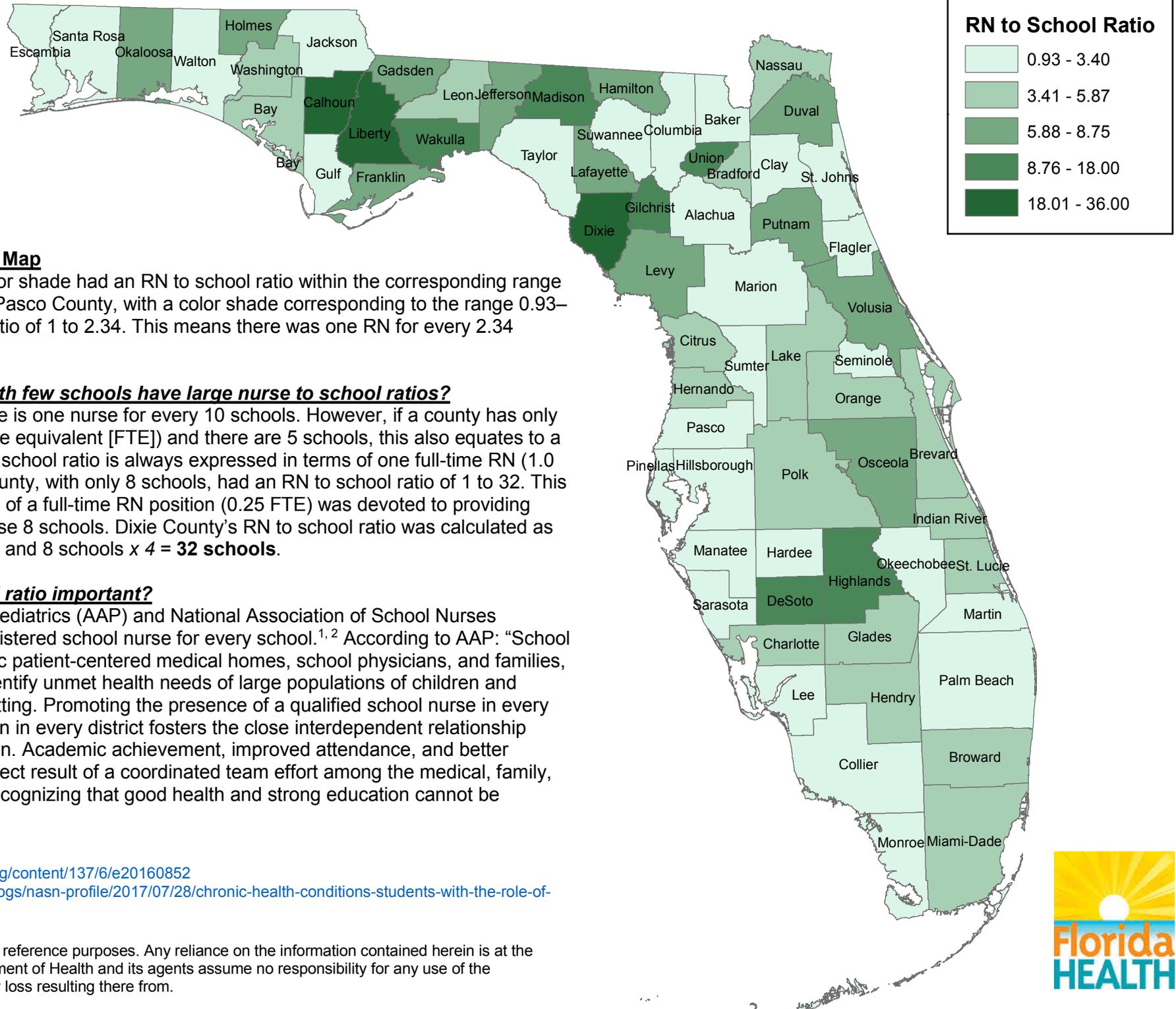


Non-Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Registered Nurse (RN) to School Ratio by Florida County, 2015–2016



A Note on Interpreting this Map

Each county of the same color shade had an RN to school ratio within the corresponding range in the legend. For example, Pasco County, with a color shade corresponding to the range 0.93–3.40, had an RN to school ratio of 1 to 2.34. This means there was one RN for every 2.34 schools in the county.

How can small counties with few schools have large nurse to school ratios?

A ratio of 1 to 10 means there is one nurse for every 10 schools. However, if a county has only one half-time RN (0.5 full-time equivalent [FTE]) and there are 5 schools, this also equates to a ratio of 1 to 10. The nurse to school ratio is always expressed in terms of one full-time RN (1.0 FTE). For example, Dixie County, with only 8 schools, had an RN to school ratio of 1 to 32. This was because only one-fourth of a full-time RN position (0.25 FTE) was devoted to providing school health services to these 8 schools. Dixie County's RN to school ratio was calculated as follows: $0.25 \text{ FTE} \times 4 = 1 \text{ RN}$ and $8 \text{ schools} \times 4 = 32 \text{ schools}$.

Why is the nurse to school ratio important?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and National Association of School Nurses recommend one full-time registered school nurse for every school.^{1,2} According to AAP: "School nurses, working with pediatric patient-centered medical homes, school physicians, and families, are in a critical position to identify unmet health needs of large populations of children and adolescents in the school setting. Promoting the presence of a qualified school nurse in every school and a school physician in every district fosters the close interdependent relationship between health and education. Academic achievement, improved attendance, and better graduation rates can be a direct result of a coordinated team effort among the medical, family, and educational homes all recognizing that good health and strong education cannot be separated."¹

References

¹<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/137/6/e20160852>

²<https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/blogs/nasn-profile/2017/07/28/chronic-health-conditions-students-with-the-role-of-the-school-nurse>

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