




Illinois State Board of Education

Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent of Education
Dr. Steven Isoye, Chair of the Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Tony McCombie, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable John Curran, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker of the House
Doctor Sameer Vohra, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health

FROM: Dr. Tony Sanders 
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: September 26, 2023

SUBJECT: The Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine Report, School Year 2022-23

“The Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine Report, School Year 2022-23” is issued pursuant to Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30]. This report summarizes the characteristics of cases and dosages of undesignated epinephrine administrations reported to the Illinois State Board of Education during the 2022-23 school year. A summary of the major findings:

- Reports of use of undesignated epinephrine occurred in 109 public schools across 52 districts and 18 nonpublic schools during the 2022-23 school year. The City of Chicago SD 299 experienced the greatest number with 40 occurrences.
- There were 151 reports of administration of undesignated epinephrine in Illinois schools received for the 2022-23 school year.
- A previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy was reported in 75 of the student reports; there were 12 in the staff reports.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the state superintendent of education. Please contact Dana Stoerger, executive director of Legislative Affairs, at 217-782-4338 or dstoerger@isbe.net to obtain additional copies of this report or for more specific information.

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

The Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine – School Year 2022-23

Illinois State Board of Education

Wellness Department

September 26, 2023

*Dr. Tony Sanders
State Superintendent of Education*

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Foreword

Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/22-30 permits a school -- whether public, charter, or nonpublic -- to authorize administration of undesignated epinephrine. The administration of epinephrine via auto-injector from a stock supply may be administered to persons who may or may not have had a previous diagnosis of anaphylaxis to an allergen. Within three days of use of the undesignated epinephrine supply, a report is to be sent to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This report is a compilation of data on the frequency and circumstances of administration of undesignated epinephrine during the preceding academic year and the names of districts or schools that have instituted a policy and procedure for the administration of undesignated epinephrine.

Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to Rebecca Doran at rdoran@isbe.net in the ISBE Wellness Department or by calling 217-782-5270.

Background

Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30] mandates that a school -- whether public, charter, or nonpublic -- must permit the self-administration and self-carry of an epinephrine injector by a pupil, provided that the parents or guardians of the pupil provide to the school written authorization for the self-administration and self-carry of an epinephrine injector; there is written authorization from the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse; and there is a written statement from the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse containing the name and purpose of the epinephrine injector, the prescribed dosage, and the time or times at which or the special circumstances under which the epinephrine injector is to be administered.

School districts, public schools, charter schools, or nonpublic schools may maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors in any secure location that is accessible before, during, and after school where an allergic person is most at risk, including, but not limited to, classrooms and lunchrooms.

A school district, public school, charter school, or nonpublic school that maintains a supply of undesignated epinephrine injectors or has an independent contractor providing transportation to students who maintains such a supply must report that information to ISBE upon adoption or change of a policy in a manner as prescribed by the State Board. The way schools notify ISBE of their undesignated epinephrine policy is discussed in the Methodology section on page 2. The report must include the number of undesignated epinephrine injectors in supply.

ISBE shall submit a report to the General Assembly by Oct. 1 of each year identifying the frequency and circumstances of undesignated epinephrine administration during the preceding academic year. The report shall also contain information on which school districts, public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools maintain or have independent contractors providing transportation to students who maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine injectors.

Methodology

The 2022-23 epinephrine usage data collection was conducted using the [Undesignated Epinephrine Reporting Form](#) (ISBE 34-20). Schools emailed the forms to epinephrine@isbe.net. Reports also could be submitted using a [portal](#) accessible on ISBE's website. Data was then compiled and is presented in this report.

ISBE staff reviewed the forms and performed a cross-check to remove duplicates between email and online reports. School staff were contacted if additional information was needed.

Limitations

The following limitations in the data collection should be noted:

- The validity of the data reported is subject to the limitations of the aggregate nature.
- Having two submission options required staff to cross-reference to ensure compilation of all applicable data and avoid duplication.
- Data is not collected from schools that are not registered with ISBE.
- The potential trigger for the allergic reaction is not necessarily a medical diagnosis, as information on follow-up medical care was not collected.
- Percentages may not equal 100 for all data tables and figures due to rounding.
- This report does not include administration by school staff or by a student from the individual's own supply of (designated) epinephrine.
- Information for the narrative of this report may include missing data points.
- Data for charts and data were cleaned prior to publishing graphs for this report.

School Year 2022-23 Results

ISBE received reports that 151 administrations of undesignated epinephrine were given during the 2022-23 school year. The first reported use of undesignated epinephrine occurred on Aug. 16, 2022, and the last on June 2, 2023.

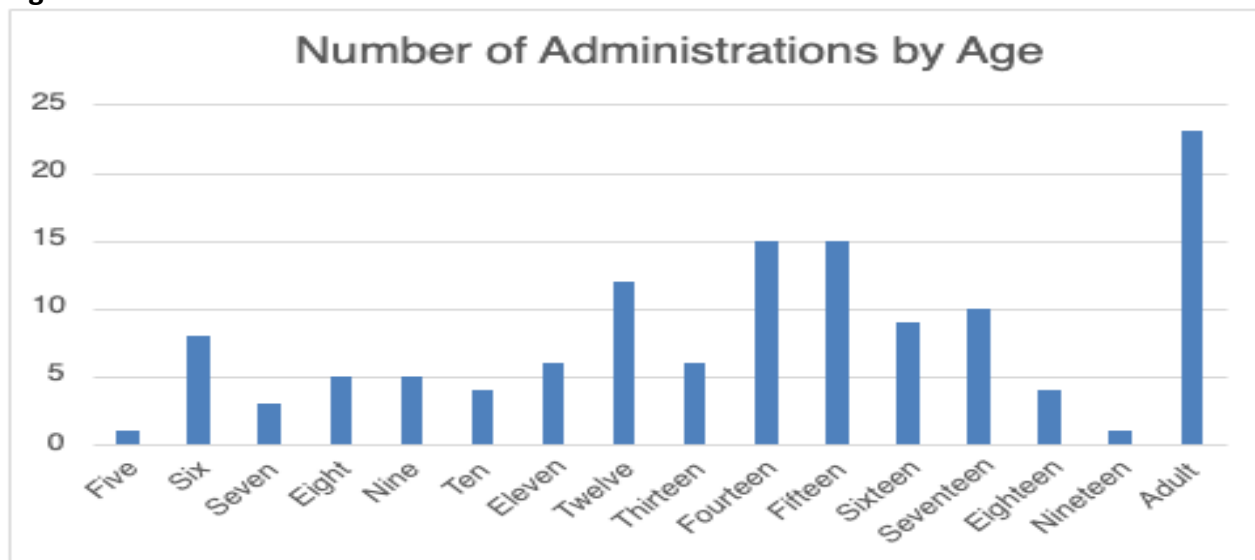
There were 109 public schools and 18 nonpublic schools that reported administering undesignated epinephrine during the 2022-23 school year. Fifty-two school districts across the state of Illinois reported administration.

City of Chicago SD 299 experienced the greatest number with 40 instances over the course of year with a single building experiencing three episodes. The district with the next closest number of occurrences was Rockford SD 205 with 10 occurrences. A previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy was reported in 87 of the reports, while there were 63 with no previously known diagnosis; one of the submitted reports did not indicate whether there was a previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy.

Background and age

There was a total of 154 doses administered. A single dose was administered in 151 of those instances; two doses were given in three situations. Twenty incidents (16% involved staff members; 126 (66%) involved students; two visitors and one bus driver were specified on separate occasions. Two of the reports submitted did not identify the role of the person to whom the dose was administered.

Figure 1.

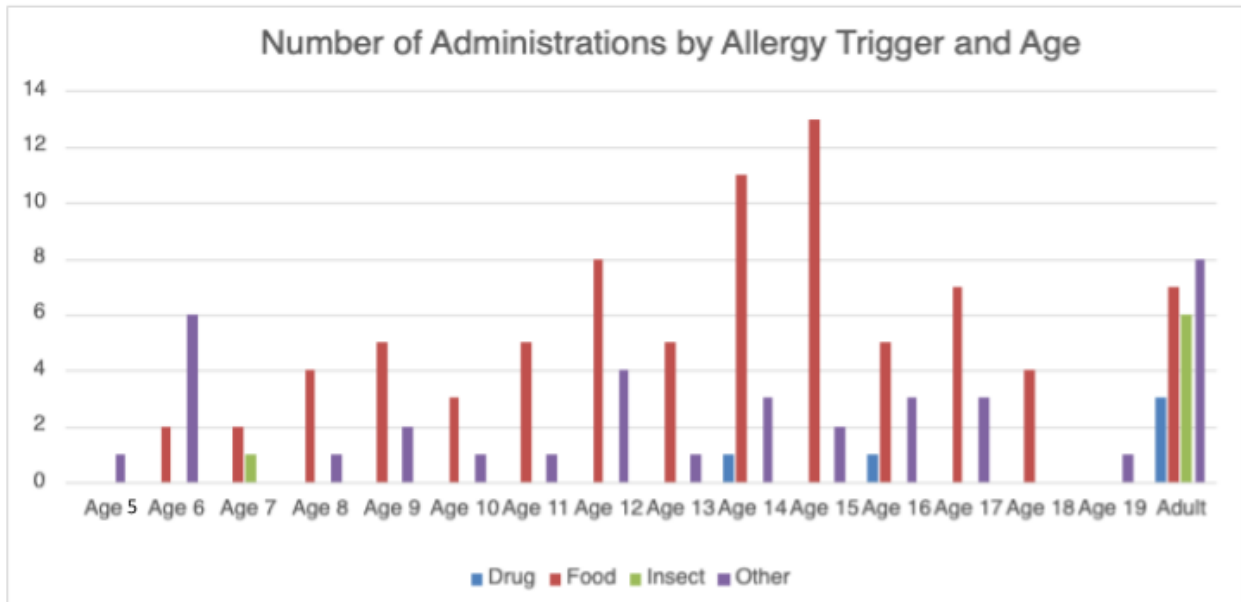


- The figure above shows ages 14 and 15 had the highest number of student administrations with 15 each.
- A 7-year-old, a 12-year-old, and an adult each received a second dose of epinephrine during the incident.
- All other ages reported a single-dose administration of epinephrine.

Triggers by category

There are four broad categories of triggers -- food, insect, other, and drug -- listed on the reporting form.

Figure 2.



- Adults had the most reports of insect triggers (six) and other triggers (eight).
- Students aged 14 (11) and 15 (13) had the most reports of food related triggers.
- Students aged 12 (8) and 17 (7) had the second-highest number of reports.
- Students aged 6 had the highest number triggers listed as other category with six reports.
- The most frequent trigger was food with 81 incidents reported across all categories. That accounted for 61% of all episodes for undesignated epinephrine reporting.
- There were five reports instances triggered by drugs adults, age 14, and age 16.
- Insect triggers were reported for adults and age 7 only.
- Nearly half of the adults who required administration of undesignated epinephrine had a previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy.

Food-related triggers

Details on the type of food trigger nut, nut products, peanut, tree nuts accounted for 31% of the reports received. Single reports include almonds, almond cookie, avocado, candy, chocolate pudding, coconut, cookie from Subway, corn, cracker, cucumber, eggs, fish, Goldfish, gummy bears, Harvest bowl, marinara sauce, Mexican candy, protein shake, raw carrot, sesame, shrimp, Starbucks drink, shrimp, spicy chip, Sun-butter, wheat, and yogurt.

Drug-related triggers

There was one reported use of undesignated epinephrine for each of the following drug-related triggers: possibly marijuana, new medication, Advil, and ibuprofen during this report year.

Insect-related triggers

There were seven reports of insect-related triggers with bees as the known trigger. One of those was reported as “wasp/bee.”

Other triggers

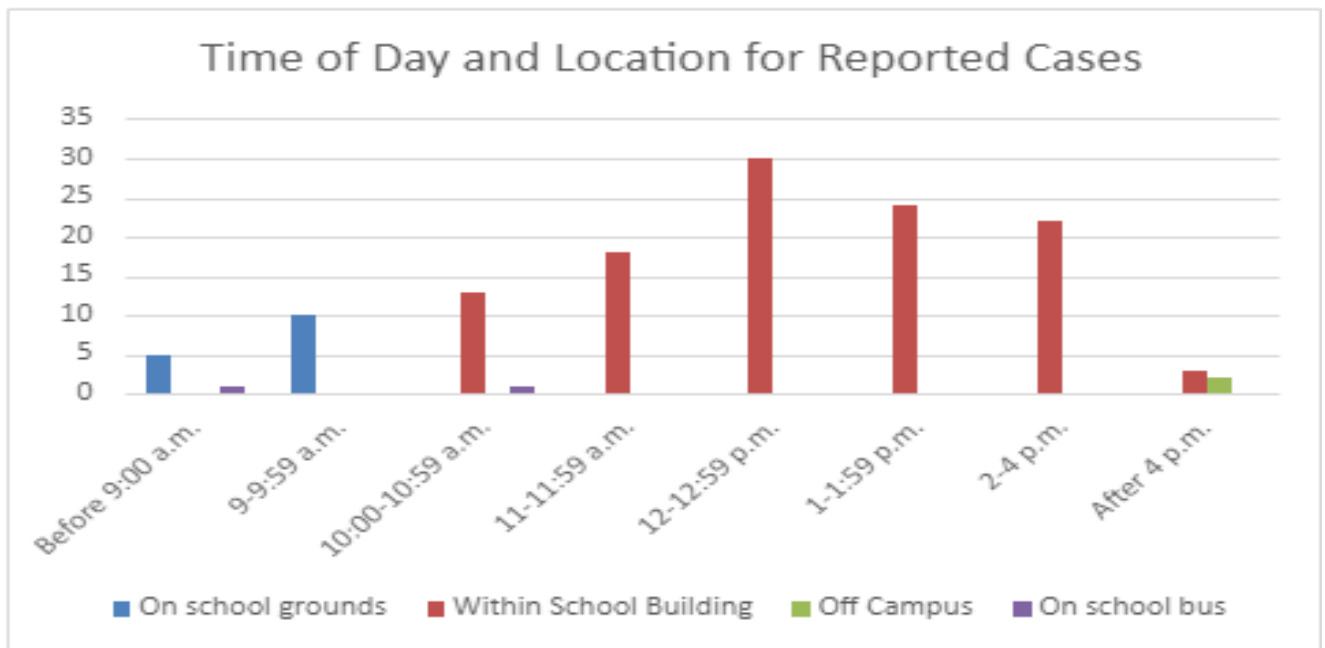
Triggers that were not in the drug, insect, or food categories included Crayola marker, latex, sweat, outdoor environmental allergies, perfume sprayed near the student, and suspected cold intolerance.

Location when symptoms developed

Injection occurrences were within the school building 87% of the times when the person developed symptoms. Ten percent of the incidents reportedly occurred on school grounds. There were four locations categorized as home, when symptoms began before the student arrived at school. Football practice and prom were listed as school events, but at a different location than the school campus. Two incidents occurred on a school bus.

Time of day for reported cases

Figure 3. Time of Day and Location for Reported Cases



- The highest number of incidents occurred from noon to 2 p.m.
- Thirty incidents occurred from noon to 12:59 p.m., which was the highest per hour.
- Six incidents occurred between 4 and 8 p.m.

Number of undesignated epinephrine doses administered per report

A single dose of epinephrine was administered 145 times, according to the reports. Two doses of undesignated epinephrine were administered in three situations.

Person administering the epinephrine

Registered nurses administered the undesignated medication in 80% of the reported administrations. Sixteen reports identified the person administering the epinephrine as trained personnel. Two reports stating administration of the undesignated epinephrine were completed by the student. Personnel listed in the other category for who administered the dose(s) were advanced practice registered nurse, licensed practical nurse (four), clerk, and adult self-administered (three).

Districts reporting use of undesignated epinephrine

Table 1. Districts/schools reporting undesignated epinephrine administration

District Name & Number	District Name & Number	District Name & Number
Adlai E. Stevenson HSD 125	Dunlap CUSD 323	Niles ESD 71
Arlington Heights SD 25	DuPage HSD 88	Oak Park ESD 97 NP
Alton CUSD 11	Elmhurst CUSD 205	Oregon Community Unit School District 2200
Bloomington SD 13	Elwood CCSD 203	Orland SD 135
Champaign CUSD 4	Evanston CCSD 65	Park Ridge CCSD 64
Charleston CUSD 1	Galesburg CUSD 205	Peoria SD 150
Cons HSD 230	Grayslake CHSD 127	Peotone CUSD 207U
City of Chicago SD 299	Glenview CCSD 34	Plainfield SD 202
Cicero SD 99	Gurnee SD 56	Schaumburg CCSD 54
Community Consolidated SD 59	Elk Grove High School District 214	SD U-46
Community Consolidated School District 146	Homer CCSD 33C	Special Education District Lake County
Community High School District 218	Indian Prairie CUSD 204	Springfield SD 186
Community High School District 128	Jewish Child & Family Services 243	St. Charles CUSD 303
Community Unit School District 200	Lake Park CHSD 108	Township HSD 211
CUSD 300	Lyons Township HSD 204	Urbana SD 116
Decatur SD 61	Maine Township HSD 207	Wheaton Christian Grammar School 48x
Dekalb School District 428	Marengo CHSD 154	Whitney Young HS Association 1375

Epinephrine policy reports

A school or district that institutes a policy or program offering undesignated epinephrine, revises an existing policy or program, or contracts with a student transportation company that has instituted such a policy and program must notify ISBE. Districts or schools that had neither a program to provide undesignated epinephrine nor a separate contracted student bus transportation company that offered the same did not need to report. Ten districts reported to ISBE of newly adopting an undesignated epinephrine protocol and policy. One of the 10 reported having independent contractors that provided student transportation and maintained a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors.