

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

The Child Who Repeatedly Visits the School Health Nurse in Parochial Elementary
Schools: The Child's Perception of Well-being in School

A DISSERTATION

Submitted to the Faculty of the

School of Nursing

Of The Catholic University of America

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

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Washington, D.C.

2010

The child who repeatedly visits the school health nurse in parochial elementary schools:

The child's perception of well-being in school

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There exists the phenomenon of the child who repeatedly visits the school health nurse three times or more within a four-week time frame, with vague physiological complaints and without a history of chronic illness. (Stamler & Palmer, 1971; Sweeney, 1999; Sweeney & Sweeney, 2000). With this unmet need for care, the child persists with a threat to the optimal outcome of their education (Lewis & Lewis, 1989; Symons, et al., 1997).

The purpose of this research study is to answer the question: How much association in the behavior of visiting the school health registered nurse of the parochial elementary school child in grades four, five, and six can be explained by the four factors of well-being: *health status*, *school environment*, *social relationships*, and *school as a means of self-fulfillment*? Considering the model: Y is a function of $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 +$ error; the hypothesis tested was $H_0: \beta_{x1} = 0$, and $\beta_{x2} = 0$, and $\beta_{x3} = 0$, and $\beta_{x4} = 0$.

The descriptive correlation study design was used. The sample population was comprised of 320 parochial elementary school children in grades four, five, and six, from

a diocese in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. The survey instrument was the School Well-being Profile: Survey of Student Subjective Well-being, American English® a translation and adaptation of School Well-being Assessment Profile (Konu, Alanen, et al., 2002).

Logistic regression analysis rejected the null hypothesis; the number of visits to the school health clinic was revealed to be a function of the well-being factors. The factor *health status* demonstrates the most significant predictive value for a variable in the equation with a level of *significance* (.026) and $\text{Exp}[B] = (2.174)$. Knowing the visits to the school health clinic to be a function of the four factors of well being, the refinement of the role of the school health nurse in the parochial elementary schools can be accomplished.