

RACE, DISCIPLINE, AND SAFETY AT U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS



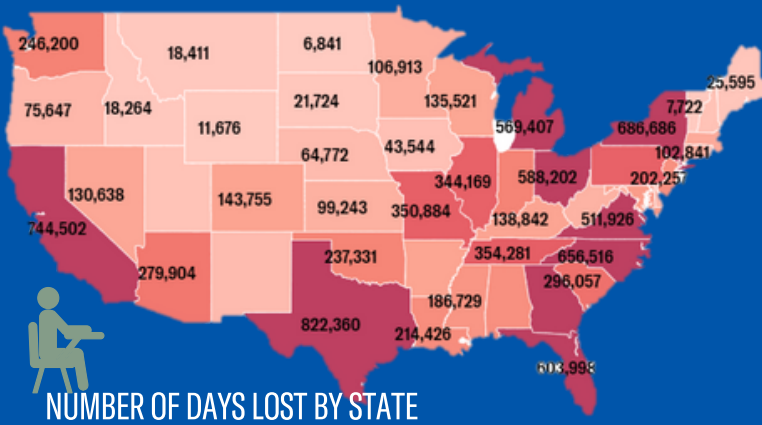
A REVIEW AND PREVIEW OF THE REPORTS

The U.S. Department of Education requires all 96,000 public schools to report data related to equity, staffing, school climate, and other important areas. The ACLU is publishing a series of reports and data tools to enhance the public's understanding of this Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). Some data are being reported publicly for the first time in history. This fact sheet summarizes national numbers in the publication.

ACCESS FULL REPORT, MAPS, AND STATE-LEVEL DATA AT WWW.ACLU.ORG/SCHOOLDISCIPLINE
ALL DATA FROM THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

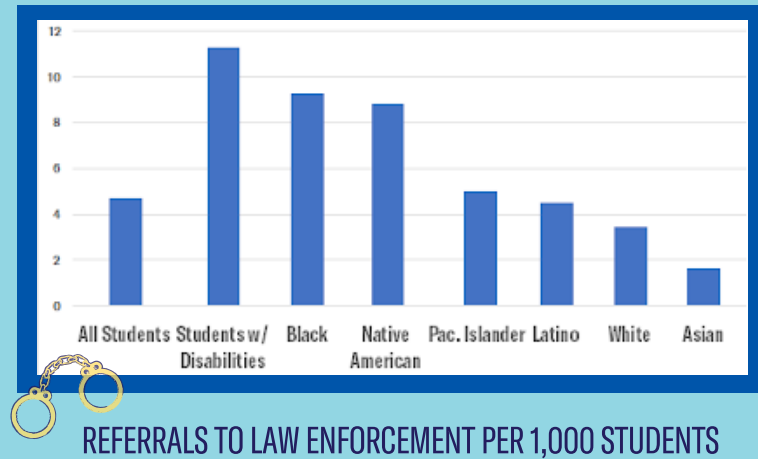
MILLIONS OF DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST TO SUSPENSION

- The 11,360,000 days that students lost due to suspension translates to 66 million hours of missed instruction or more than 63,000 school years of lost learning.
- Black students made up 15% of students in U.S. public schools, but they account for 45% of days lost to suspensions.
- Students with disabilities lost instruction at 2X the rate of students without disabilities.
- States with the highest number of days lost per 100 students were DC(51), NC(42), HI(41), VA(40), and SC(39).



ARRESTS & REFERRALS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Although some states and districts failed to report data, over 290,000 school arrests and referrals to law enforcement were reported.
- Black students are 3X as likely to be arrested than White students nationally and are 7X as likely to be arrested in some states.
- Students with disabilities are 12% of students but 28% of arrests
- Black and Latino boys with disabilities are 3% of students, but were 12% of school arrests.



LAW ENFORCEMENT & SECURITY IN SCHOOLS

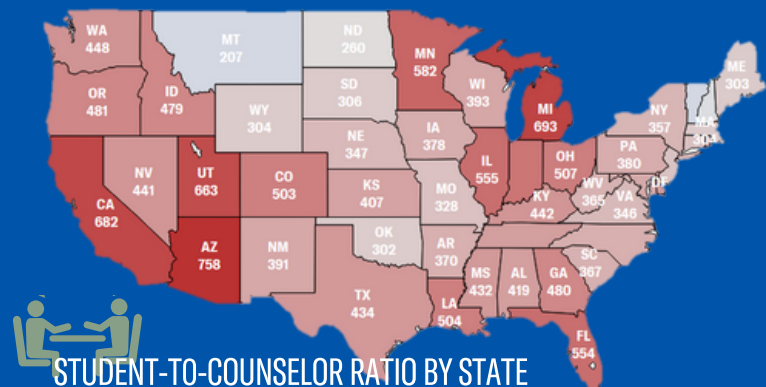
- The federal data indicates that many of these schools prioritize law enforcement rather than mental health and social services.
- Schools, districts, and entire states are failing to report law enforcement in schools despite their federal obligation.
- Nationally, schools reported more than 27,000 sworn law enforcement officers compared with just 23,000 social workers.
- Over 24,000 schools (more than 25% of all schools) reported a police officer without a nurse, counselor, psychologist, and/or social worker at the school.
- Several states like California reported more security guards than nurses in schools statewide.
- The U.S. Department of Education reported a "data anomaly" with the law enforcement data. Some schools only have 2013-14 numbers.



See full report for number of law enforcement, security guards, counselors, nurses, social workers, teachers, psychologists, arrests, days lost, and more by state.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, NURSES, & SOCIAL WORKERS

- Most states have far fewer counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses than recommended by experts and professional organizations.
- Counselors are seriously overworked with a student caseload that is 78% greater than what is recommended by professionals.
- Less than 3% of schools met the recommended ratio of 250 students to 1 social worker.
- For psychologists, the national ratio is 1,526 students to 1 counselor. The recommended ratio is less than half that by conservative estimates.



SCHOOLS WITH POLICE BUT NO SUPPORT STAFF

1.7 million

students are in schools with cops,
but **no counselors**.



3 million

students are in schools with cops,
but **no nurses**.



6 million

students are in schools with cops,
but **no school psychologists**.



10 million

students are in schools with cops,
but **no social workers**.



STUDENT-TO-COUNSELOR RATIOS

RECOMMENDED: 250:1
NATIONAL AVG. 444:1
LOWEST: 207:1 (VT)
HIGHEST: 758:1 (AZ)

STUDENT-TO-NURSE RATIOS

RECOMMENDED: 750:1
NATIONAL AVG. 936:1
LOWEST: 324:1 (VT)
HIGHEST: 4,479:1 (UT)

STUDENT-TO-PSYCHOLOGIST RATIOS

RECOMMENDED: 700:1
NATIONAL AVG. 1,526:1
LOWEST: 410:1 (DC)
HIGHEST: 6,389:1 (GA)

STUDENT-TO-SOCIAL WORKER RATIOS

RECOMMENDED: 250:1
NATIONAL AVG. 2,106:1
LOWEST: 365:1 (DC)
HIGHEST: 8,973:1 (IA)

"SERIOUS OFFENSES" DATA REVISITED

- 96% of the “serious offenses” that the Trump/Devos Administration placed significant emphasis on did not involve weapons of any kind. Less than 3% of all public schools reported an incident of physical attack or fight with a weapon.
- The current administration reported over 230 school shootings in their 2018 “School Climate and Safety” data. Our data cleaning and news sources like NPR have only been able to confirm 11 school shootings. Over 138 shootings reported by schools were confirmed to be errors.
- Grossly misreported data is currently influencing legislation on school safety. In 2018, 330 school safety bills have been introduced and 53 have been enacted nationwide.
- The major response to the crisis of school climate, and these inflated school shooting data, has been to militarize schools instead of funding more counselors, social workers, and psychologists to address the emotional needs of students.

ACCESS FULL REPORT, MAPS, AND STATE DATA AT WWW.ACLU.ORG/SCHOOLDISCIPLINE

REFERENCES & CITATIONS

- American Nurses Association [ANA]/NASN, (2011). American Nurses Association (ANA) & National Association of School Nurses (2011) School nursing: Scope and standards of practice (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: nursesbooks.org.
- American School Counselors Association, Press Release, access here www.schoolcounselor.org/press
- National Association of School Psychologist, NASP Practice Model
- National Association of School Social Workers, NASW Standards for school social work Services
- U.S. Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection 2015-16 and 2013-14

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