Review of Incident Report Data
June 8, 2021
Activists Call On Pittsburgh Public Schools: Remove Police From All Buildings

90.5 WESA | By Liz Reid, Margaret J. Krauss
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There's overwhelming evidence that the criminal justice system is racist. Here's the proof.

PPS board approves resolution geared toward school police transparency

PPS police officers defend their jobs before school board

Pittsburgh schools play outsized role in overcriminalization of Black youth, new report shows

Sophie Burkholder | September 14, 2020

Should police be in Pittsburgh schools? Advocates' call for removal reignited in wake of Floyd's death

Hamlet: Task force will examine disparities, biases in safety at Pittsburgh's public schools

Will a new approach to discipline improve Pittsburgh Public Schools? This new data is encouraging.

At Pittsburgh Public Schools, introduction of alternative disciplinary approach showing mixed results

SERENA CHO
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pittsburgh Public Schools has multiple mechanisms which support a safe, secure learning environment for students and staff, including a School Safety Department.
Our Objective

Intent of analysis was to both provide a picture of the data in the police report logging system and to provide information related to the student demographics from the educational record of the students
• Verify third-party analyses and reporting of PPS arrest data
• Take a deeper dive into the types of calls for service received by School Police
  • What was the reason for the police to be called?
Data Process Challenges

• Complex data structures both within the police reporting system and the student education data

• Reports are entered in the police reporting system across time
  • The analysis treated reports that were entered over greater than 4 days, which had changes to the outcomes (citations/arrests) as separate instances.

• Single report had multiple dates/times associated

• Calls for service resulting in an arrest or citation:
  • Can involve multiple individuals (actors and victims)
  • Can include multiple charges

• Matching to educational data was not easily done
  • Identity of individual students could not be verified based on the level of data available
Key Terms

• Incident – When an officer is called to respond to something.
• Citation – An official summons to appear in court.
• Arrest - seize someone by legal authority and take into custody
Examine when an officer responds to something – how often does it become an arrest or citation.
Overall Calls for Service Have Decreased Over 5 Years
Citations and Arrests Have Decreased Over 5 Years

EXHIBIT 4. PERCENT OF INCIDENTS THAT WERE CALLS FOR SERVICE ONLY, LED TO CITATIONS, OR LED TO ARRESTS BY YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Call for service only</th>
<th>Citation</th>
<th>Arrest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Percentages may add up to more than 100% because incidents involving multiple students may have had multiple outcomes. This occurred in 24 incidents across all years.
Call for Service Only
No Citation or Arrest

- Mean age of students remained consistent at about 13.5 years old.
- On average, two-thirds of the calls for service only involved males and about one-third involved females.
- On average, three-fourths of the calls for service only involved an African American/Black student
  - Higher than the proportion of African American/Black students in the District during each year.
  - Fewer than one-fifth of calls for service only involved a White/Caucasian student. Less than 10% of the calls for service only involved a Native American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, or multi-racial student.
Incidents Leading to Citations

• Mean age of students involved in incidents resulting in a citation 14.2 years of age
• On average, two-thirds of the incidents that resulted in a citation involved males
• Overall, the incidents that involved males decreased slightly, while incidents involving females increased by more than 10% between 2013/14 and 2019/20
• On average, over three-fourths of the incidents leading to a citation involved an African American/Black student
  • Higher than the proportion of these students in the District.
  • Fifteen to 20% of the incidents involved a White/Caucasian student and less than 5% of the incidents involved a Native American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, or Multi-racial student.
Incidents Leading to Arrests

• Mean age remained consistent at about 15 years old.
• On average, slightly less than two-thirds of the incidents that resulted in an arrest involved males.
• Across years, approximately 80% of the incidents that resulted in an arrest involved an African American/Black student, which is higher than the proportion of these students in the District.
• About 11% of incidents that resulted in an arrest involved White students and about 10% of the incidents involved a Native American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, or Multi-racial student.
Calls for service have decreased over the last 5 years.
Arrests and citations have all decreased as well.
  • As the incidents decreased the calls that resulted in arrests have decreased but remained at around 40% of the calls that are responded to each year.
  • The number of citations have decreased both in number and as a percent of the overall calls for service.
  • The number of calls for service that result in no action (arrest, or citation) have increased as a percent of overall calls for service.
Data aligns with community reports:
  • Incidents that result in a citation or arrest involve African American/Black students at a rate higher than the proportion of these students in the District.
  • While overall citations have decreased, the number of citations given to African American/Black female students have increased.
Progress Monitoring and Transparency

• In order to provide move transparency to reporting
  • Contracted with B3 solutions to build a report that can be consistently run to provide aggregated information from the reports to allow review of the calls for service information
  • Citations and arrests review with School Performance Cabinet using anticipated report to take place every week
Next Steps

• Conversations with School Administrators of schools with higher calls for service
• Obtain student level demographics not found in reports
• Additional training for school staff to limit calls for service (de-escalation, restorative practices, implicit bias etc.)
• Expanding diversion program efforts utilized in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Diversion Program.