

# Review of Incident Report Data

*June 8, 2021*

Expect great things.



Pittsburgh  
Public Schools

## Activists Call On Pittsburgh Public Schools Remove Police From All Buildings

90.5 WESA | By [Liz Reid](#), [Margaret J. Krauss](#)

Published June 22, 2020 at 4:50 PM EDT

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**PPS police officers defend their jobs before school board**

### **EDUCATION**

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



SERENA CHO  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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

Sophie Burkholder | September 14, 2020

**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.**

▲ Bill O'Toole ● January 4, 2019 □ Kidsburgh Pittsburgh, Latest News, NEXT Wave, Pittsburgh for All

# School and Student Safety

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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

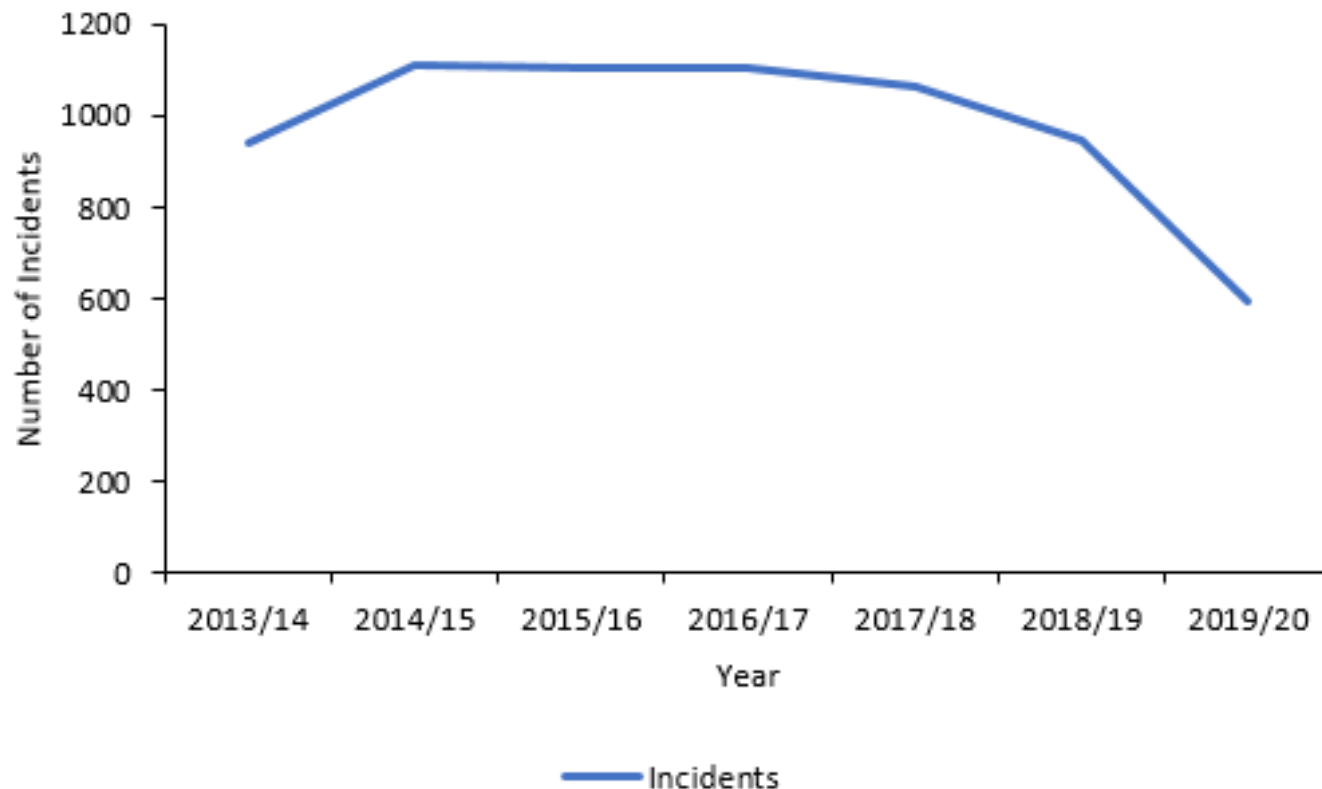
- Incident – When an officer is called to responds to something.
- Citation – An official summons to appear in court.
- Arrest - seize someone by legal authority and take into custody

## Deeper Dive – Calls for Service

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

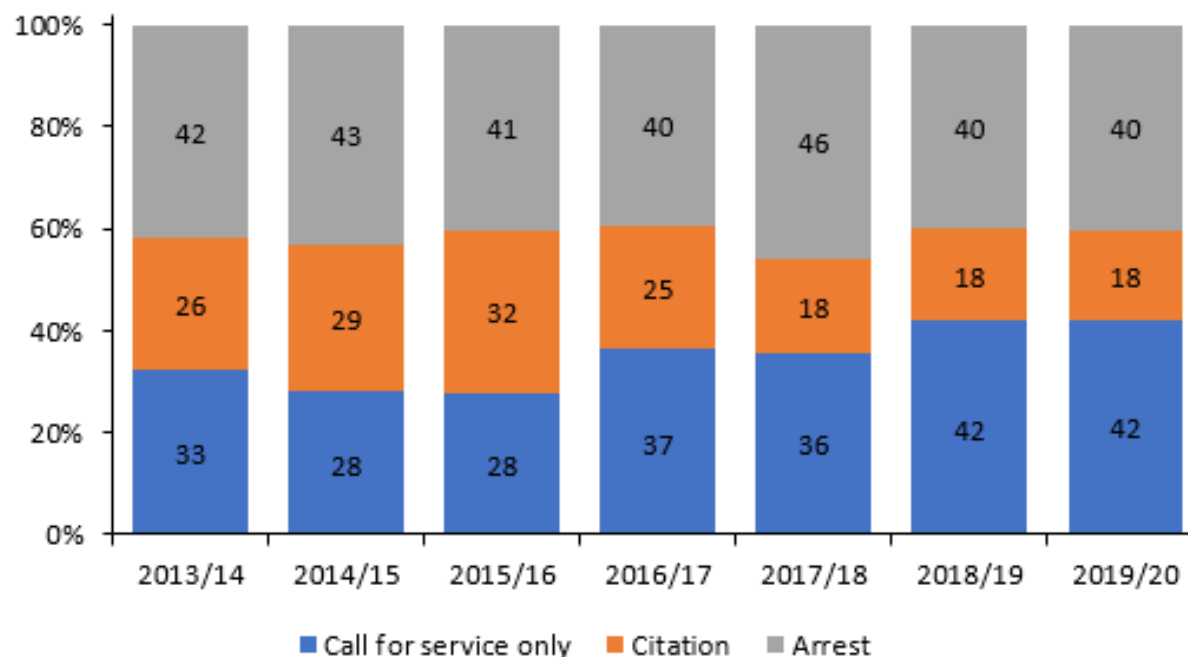
**EXHIBIT 3. OVERALL INCIDENTS**





# 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**



*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.

# Calls 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.

# Overall Findings

- 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 more 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.