

# *Indiana* Schools Bullying, Safety Staffing, and Arrests Report

August 2019



## **INDIANA SCHOOLS SAFETY STAFFING, ARRESTS, AND BULLYING REPORT**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Under IC 20-34-6-1, each school is required to report the number of bullying incidents involving a student of their school corporation by category, and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) shall submit a report to the legislative council, the Board for the Coordination of Programs serving vulnerable individuals (established by IC 4-23-30.2-8), and the Criminal Justice Institute.

This report will include acts of bullying as defined by IC 20-33-8-.2 for the 2018-2019 school year. Per the Indiana Legislature:

- (a) As used in this chapter, “bullying” means overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:
  - (1) Places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student’s person or property;
  - (2) Has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student’s physical or mental health;
  - (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student’s academic performance; or
  - (4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.
- (b) The term may not be interpreted to impose any burden or sanction on, or include in the definition of the term, the following:
  - (1) Participating in a religious event.
  - (2) Acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from in imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial danger.
  - (3) Participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a student’s rights protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, or both.
  - (4) Participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of one (1) or more adults.
  - (5) Participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written direction of the student’s parent.
  - (6) Engaging in interstate or international travel from a location outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana.

Additionally, under IC 20-34-6-1, school corporations shall report whether the school corporation has established and employs a school corporation police department under IC 20-26-16, and if so, report the number of officers in the school corporation police department and the training the officers must complete. If the school corporation employs private security guards to enforce rules or laws on school property, a detailed explanation of the use of private security guards by the school corporation is required. If the school corporation has an agreement with a local law enforcement agency regarding procedures to arrest students on school property, a detailed explanation of the use of the local law enforcement agency by the school corporation is required. This report will summarize the 2018-2019 data.

## **-BULLYING-**

### **BULLYING CRITERIA**

Bullying fosters a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of its victims and creates conditions that negatively impact learning. Bullying includes unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. The imbalance of power involves the use of physical strength or popularity to access embarrassing information to control or harm others. Bullying can occur anywhere (in-school or out-of-school) and at any time – both during and after school hours. Bullying can include physical bullying, verbal bullying, social/relational bullying, and electronic/written communication.

***Physical bullying** involves hurting a person's body or possessions. It includes hitting/kicking/punching, spitting, tripping or pushing, taking or breaking someone's things, and making mean or rude hand gestures.*

***Verbal bullying** involves saying mean things. It can include teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, or threatening to cause harm.*

***Social/relational bullying** involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying involves telling other children not to be friends with someone, leaving someone out on purpose, spreading rumors about someone, or embarrassing someone in public.*

***Electronic/written communication** involves cyber-bullying, collective or group note writing, any bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices (computer, cell phones).*

*Considerations in determining if the behavior meets the definition of bullying:*

*The history between the individuals: Have there been past conflicts? Have these individuals had a dating relationship? (This may not be considered bullying.)*

*Power differential: Is there an imbalance of power? (Power imbalance is not limited to physical strength.)*

*Repetition: Has this or a similar incident happened before? Is the individual worried that it may happen again?*

*Gang affiliation: Are any of the individuals involved with a gang? (This may result in interventions different from bullying.)*

Additionally, bullying is a behavior that will not always be exhibited by one set of actions or categories. When a student has been targeted by a bully, that target may be bullied verbally AND physically, or verbally AND socially, and so on. Therefore, the category of “Combination Incidents” was added to the collection to include incidents that crossed over more than type of bullying category. Incidents that qualify as “Combination Incidents” were to be reported once, rather than be reported in multiple fields.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

For the 2018-2019 school year, the bullying data was collected via the Indiana Department of Education Student Testing Number (STN) application center data transfer function. This streamlines the process for schools by attaching the bullying collection to their standard data collections packages. By utilizing this process, the total number of submissions from public school corporations is 100 percent.

By integrating the bullying data collections into IDOE’s STN Applications Center, IDOE has determined an effective method for every school corporation to collect data via their chosen student management system. This standardized system will provide realistic numbers that were not available for the first years of the data collection.

To increase compliance and understanding of the requirements, frequent reminders were sent to school corporations utilizing IDOE’s dialogue communication tools to every superintendent and principal in the state. School safety specialists and school counselors, who are often key to bullying intervention and prevention, also received frequent reminders throughout the school year.

The biggest hurdle to collecting bullying data is the behavior of bullying itself. How do educators track human behavior using information often provided by students via their own filter? HEA 1421 (2018) required the Indiana Department of Education to survey school corporations to determine methods to improve data reporting for bullying. The questionnaire specifically asks, “What situations may prevent a school corporation from accurately reporting bullying incidents to IDOE?” Respondents were given options to choose from, including the following:

- 1) Our school corporation reports are accurate.
- 2) The definition of bullying by state legislature is vague.
- 3) Difficult to accurately report human behaviors that do not clearly fall Under the bullying label.

- 4) IDOE data collection process is faulty.
- 5) Lack of training for schools regarding bullying dynamics and definitions.
- 6) Fear of retribution from community and media.
- 7) Other: (open response)

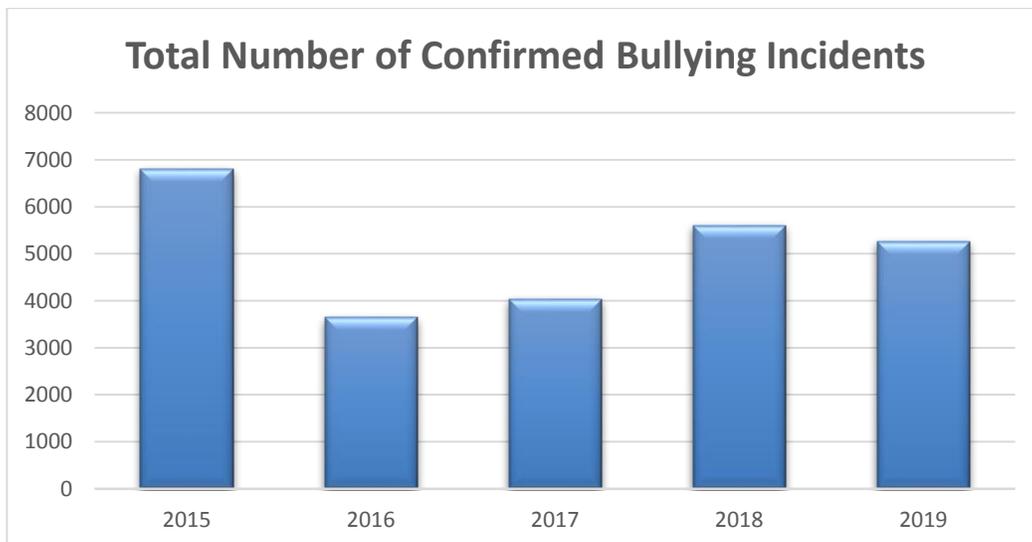
Results of the survey completed on August 10, 2018, had collected responses from 155 school corporations. Seventy-four percent of respondents stated that it is “difficult to accurately report human behaviors that do not clearly fall under bullying label.” This indicates that despite clear definitions of bullying from the legislature, human behavior is very difficult to quantify. In response, IDOE redeveloped the Bullying Resource Webpage in order to make the resources easier to use and identify, and we will continue to provide training on bullying identification and prevention.

**DATA RESULTS**

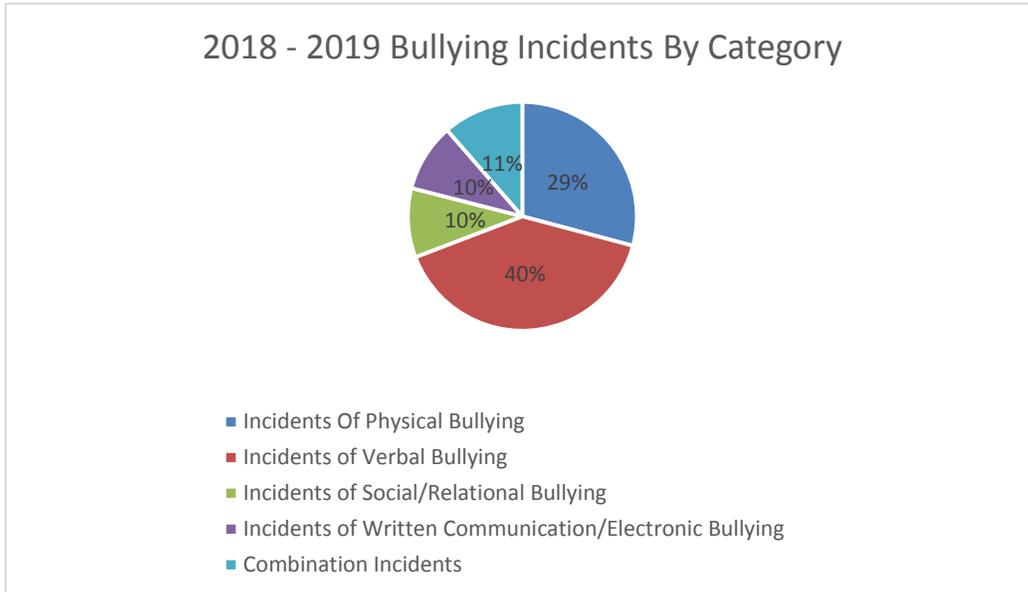
The total number of survey submissions from public school corporations is 100 percent. Overall, there were 5,257 total reported incidents of bullying during the 2018-2019 school year. This data indicates a slight decrease in overall bullying incidents during the 2018-2019 school year. Broken down by category, this includes 2,105 verbal incidents, 1,532 physical incidents, 515 social/relational incidents, 505 written/electronic incidents, and 600 combination incidents as indicated on the chart below.

**Total Number of Confirmed Bullying Incidents**

<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
9396	6805	3641	4037	5604	5257

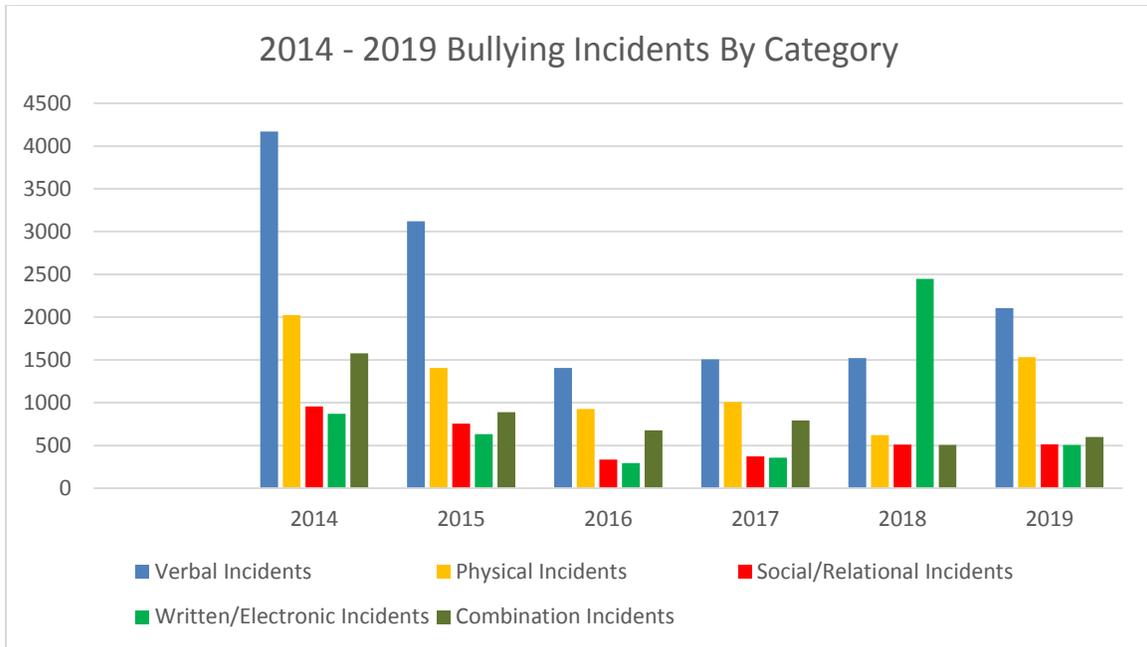


In the past, the highest number of bullying incidents had been “verbal” incidents. Verbal incidents increased slightly this year, while there was a decrease in the number of “written/electronic” incidents. “Social/relational” incidents held steady, while “combination” incidents increased.



The most significant change in the data is the increase in the number of “physical” incidents, which increased 147 percent. “Written/Electronic” incidents decreased by 79 percent from the previous year.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Verbal Incidents</b>	4169	3120	1406	1505	1522	2105
<b>Physical Incidents</b>	2024	1408	925	1009	620	1532
<b>Social/Relational Incidents</b>	958	754	337	373	511	515
<b>Written/Electronic Incidents</b>	870	632	295	359	2446	505
<b>Combination Incidents</b>	1576	891	678	791	505	600



**IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT DATA**

Though the overall number of reported bullying incidents appears to be consistent, the types of bullying being reported were significantly different in 2017-2018 with a large increase in the number of “physical” incidents. There was also a significant decrease in the number of “written/electronic” incidents.

The implications of this change in data should be reflected in training provided to educators on bullying prevention and definitions. Training for the 2018-2019 school year focused on “written/electronic” incidents. For the 2018-2019 school year, the Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy conducted trainings on the topics of digital threat assessment, sexting, cyberbullying, and harassment, and a reduction in these incidents is shown in the data. For the upcoming 2019-2020 school year, the Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy will continue to provide trainings on bullying, bullying definitions, and cyberbullying. Additional trainings focusing on all types of bullying should be considered for future sessions and by local school corporations.

New legislation passed in 2018 (IC 20-19-3-11.5) also addresses this shift in data (though the legislation was passed prior to the data collection). This new law added language to existing bullying laws and states school corporations must include cellular telephones or other wireless devices in their discipline rules which prohibit bullying.

This legislation also required IDOE to maintain a link on its [website](#) that provides parents and school officials with resources regarding the [prevention](#) and [reporting](#) of bullying and cyberbullying incidents.

## **BULLYING CONCLUSION**

Per IC 20-26-5-34.2, school corporations are required to provide training to employees and volunteers who have direct, ongoing contact with students concerning the school's bullying prevention and reporting policies. In theory, this should increase the knowledge and capabilities of educators and enable staff to intervene in bullying situations earlier, reduce bullying in classrooms, and ultimately lead to fewer reported incidents.

Additionally, every public school is required by law to provide age appropriate, research-based instruction focusing on bullying prevention for all students in grades one-12. Implementation of this training should empower students to directly reduce bullying incidents through peer awareness and bystander intervention before bullying escalates.

Local school corporations will continue to partner with local and state agencies to share resources and combat bullying. With an increase in data collected over the coming years, the state will have the ability to note trends in bullying categories and assist local schools with their mission to provide safe learning environments for all students.

## **REPORTED BULLYING INCIDENTS 2018-2019**

Data has been posted for public review online:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/safety/student-safetybullying-reporting>

## **-STUDENT ARREST DATA-**

### **STUDENT ARREST DATA**

Under IC 20-34-6-1, school corporations are required to report the following data on student arrests:

- (a) By July 1 of each year, each school corporation shall submit a report to the department detailing the following information for the current school year for each school in the school corporation and for the entire school corporation:
- (1) The number of arrests of students on school corporation property, including arrests made by law enforcement officers, security guards, school safety specialists, and other school corporation employees, and any citizen arrests.
  - (2) The offenses for which students were arrested on school corporation property.
  - (3) The number of contacts with law enforcement personnel from a school corporation employee that have resulted in arrests of students not on school corporation property.
  - (4) Statistics concerning the age, race, and gender of students arrested on school corporation property and categorizing the statistics by offenses.

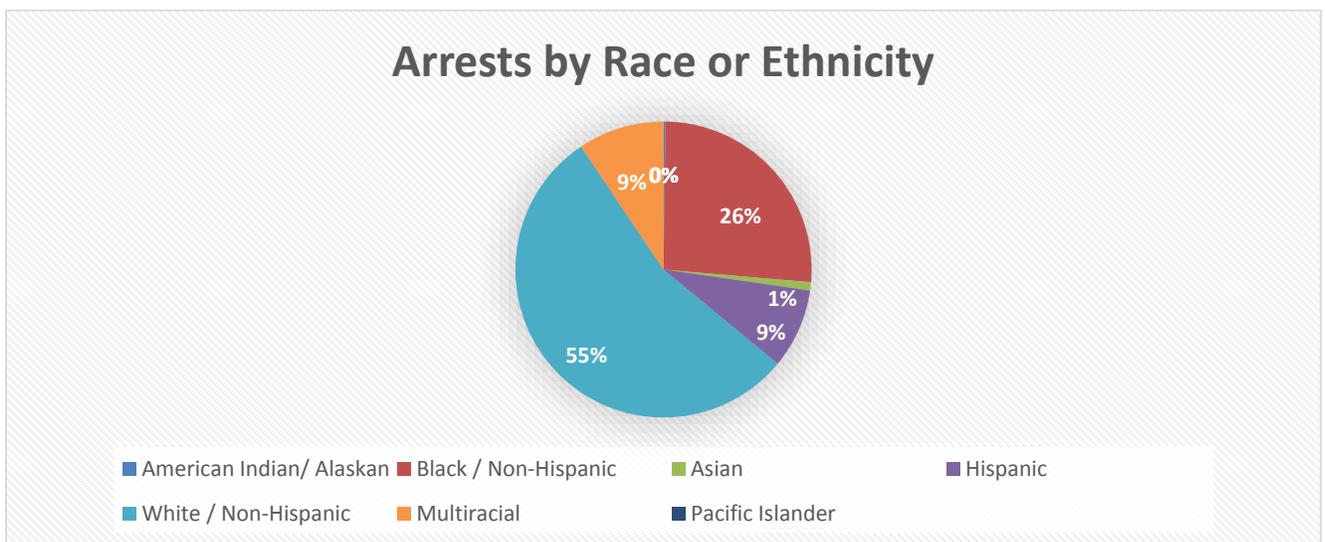
For the 2018-2019 school year, there were 1,321 total arrests reported through the STN application center. Students arrested off of school property, but as a result of a school-initiated report to law enforcement, were included. Additional information on age, race, gender, and offense was also collected. A summary of the data is included below.

**DATA COLLECTION**

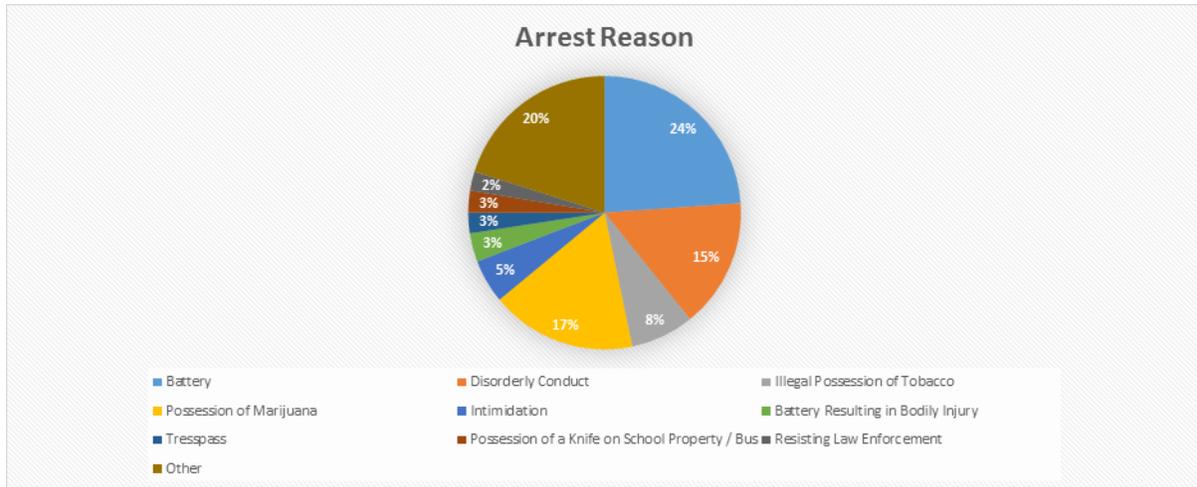
There were 1,321 total arrests reported for the 2018-2019 school year. Of the overall student arrests, 64.7 percent were male. Grade levels of those arrested range from kindergarten through grade 13.

Age	Number of Arrests
5	1
6	1
7	2
8	2
9	5
10	8
11	47
12	91
13	176
14	238
15	272
16	262
17	163
18	45
19	6
20	2

Of those arrested, 55 percent were White/Non-Hispanic and 26 percent Black/Non-Hispanic.



The most common reasons for arrest were battery, possession of marijuana, and disorderly conduct. Other arrests included, but were not limited to, criminal mischief, criminal recklessness, dealing in a controlled substance, incorrigibility, vandalism, and theft.



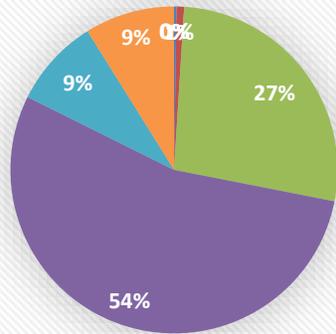
**STUDENTS ARRESTED ON SCHOOL CORPORATION PROPERTY**

The total number of students arrested on school corporation property totaled 1,207. Sixty-four percent of those arrested were male. Ages of those arrested ranged from five to 20.

Age	Number of Arrests on School Property
5	1
6	1
7	2
8	2
9	5
10	7
11	45
12	77
13	166
14	216
15	244
16	241
17	154
18	40
19	4
20	2

Of those arrested, 54 percent were White/Non-Hispanic and 27 percent Black/Non-Hispanic.

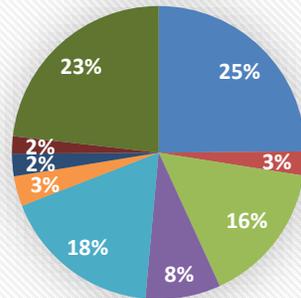
## Arrests by Race or Ethnicity on School Property



- American Indian / Alaskan
- Asian
- Black / Non-Hispanic
- White / Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- Pacific Islander

The most common reasons for arrest were: battery, disorderly conduct, and possession of marijuana. Other arrests included, but were not limited to; criminal mischief, criminal recklessness, dealing in a controlled substance, incorrigibility, vandalism, and theft.

## Arrest Reason



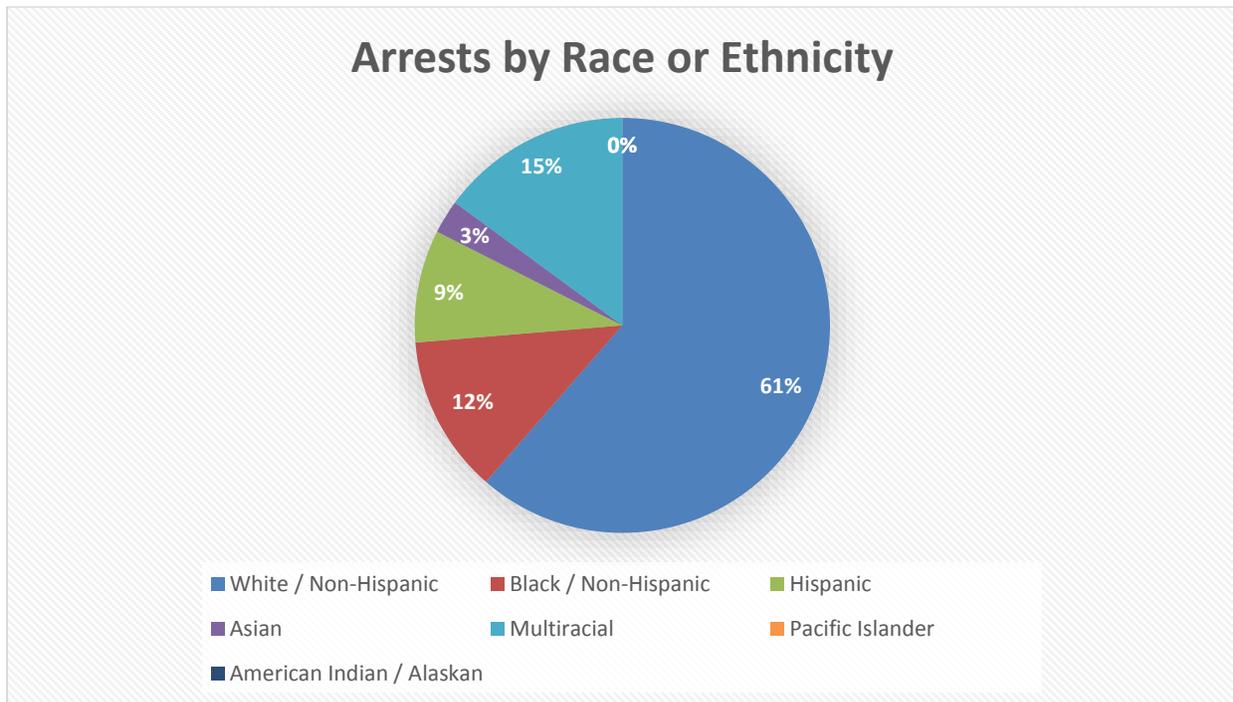
- Battery
- Disorderly Conduct
- Possession of Marijuana
- Theft
- Other
- Possession of a Knife on School Property / Bus
- Illegal Possession of Tobacco
- Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury
- Illegal Consumption of an Alcoholic Beverage

**STUDENTS ARRESTED NOT ON SCHOOL CORPORATION PROPERTY**

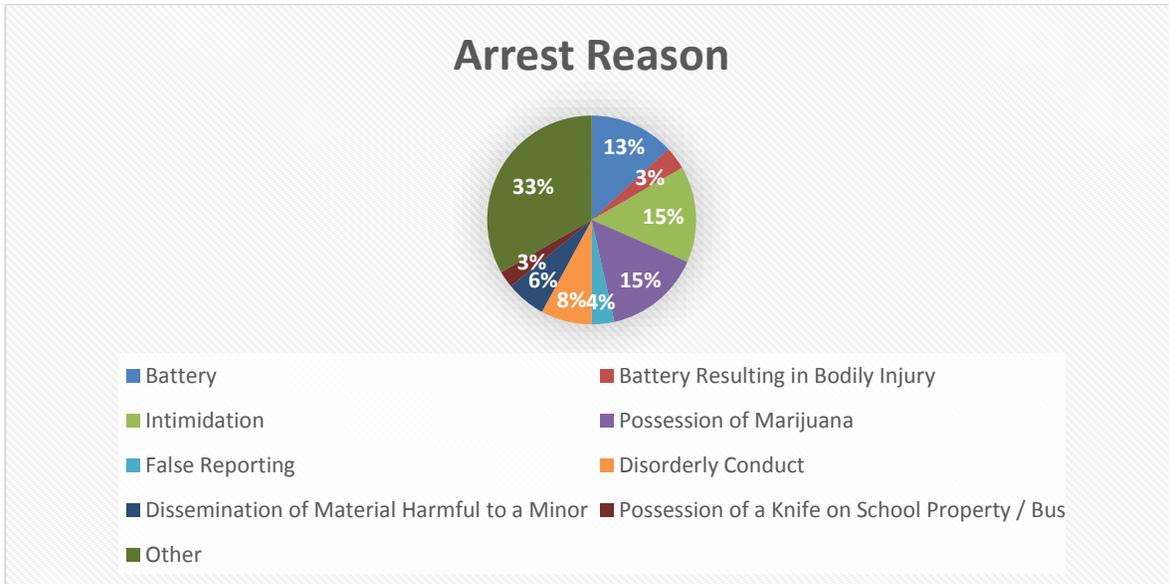
The total number of contacts with law enforcement personnel from a school corporation employee that have resulted in arrests of students not on school corporation property totaled 114. Seventy-two percent of those arrested were male. Ages of those arrested ranged from 10 to 19.

Age	Number of Arrests Not on School Corporation Property
10	1
11	2
12	14
13	10
14	22
15	28
16	21
17	9
18	5
19	2

Of those arrested, 61 percent were White/Non-Hispanic, and 12 percent were Black/Non-Hispanic.



The most common reasons for arrest were intimidation, possession of marijuana, and battery. Other arrests included disorderly conduct, false reporting, and dissemination of material harmful to minors.



## -SAFETY STAFFING-

### DATA COLLECTION

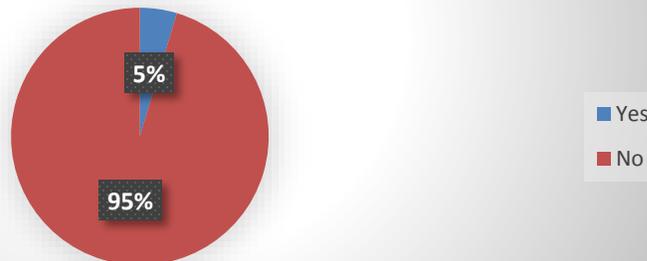
For the 2018-2019 school year, the safety staffing data was collected via a JotForm survey collection tool. Superintendents and school safety specialists were sent reminders on May 10, May 29, and lastly on June 19, 2019. A total of 195 responses were collected and compiled. Due to the response rate, the Department is reviewing collection process options. The following information represents the safety staffing data collected for 2018-2019.

#### **Question 1: Has the school corporation established a school corporation police department:**

Yes: 9                      No: 186

According to the responses submitted, nine school corporations have established their own police departments. The average number of officers employed is five. Certification from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy was cited as the primary means of training for these officers. Additional training reported was School Safety Specialist Certification, and National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO).

## Has the school corporation established a school corporation police department?



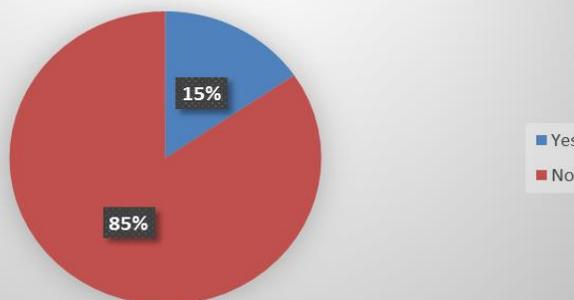
### Question 2: Does the school corporation employ private security guards?

Yes: 30

No: 165

According to the responses submitted, 30 school corporations employ private security guards. The majority of the responses note that private security was employed for traffic control and special events such as athletic events, dances, support the school resource officer, and other after hour activities.

## Does the school corporation employ private security guards?



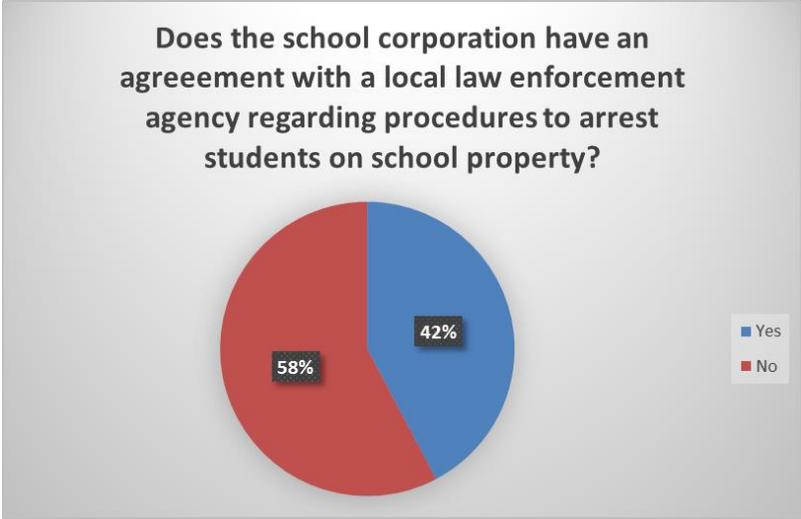
### Question 3: Does the school corporation have an agreement with a local law enforcement agency regarding procedures to arrest students on school property?

Yes: 82

No: 113

According to the responses submitted, 82 school corporations have some form of memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local law enforcement regarding arresting

students on school property. An MOU is standard practice in schools that have a school resource officer (SRO) and this data supports that practice. The majority of respondents with an agreement explained that the agreement arose out of the employment of an SRO.



This report was compiled by the Indiana Department of Education’s Office of School Safety.