Utah State Board of Education

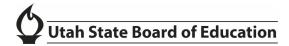# 2018-19 Incident Report

Contents

Background

- USBE has been working with District and Charter Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to improve incident data reporting. As a result of this effort there have been large increases in the number of incidents reported to USBE in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years (SY 2018 and SY 2019) as compared with previous years. It is believed that incident data is still underreported, and incident counts are expected to continue to increase. Until complete statewide incident data reporting can be achieved, year to year comparisons of incident rates should only be made in regard to the rate at which incidents are reported.

Key Findings

- A majority of LEAs (96%) reported incident data in SY 2019. 62,258 primary incident records were submitted to USBE, which is a 13.4% increase as compared with incidents reported in SY 2018.
- 31,233 students, or 4.5% of enrolled students, were reported with one or more incident.
- 13,170 students, or 1.9% of enrolled students were reported with one or more discipline (suspension or expulsion) as a result of an incident.
- Nearly a fourth of infraction types reported were truancies (24.2%).

Introduction

Background

USBE has been working with LEAs to identify and solve problems that have led to a systemic issue of behavioral incident data underreporting. National data, including SHARP survey data, as well as feedback and anecdotal information received from schools support the belief that behavioral incident data is underreported to USBE. The primary issues that have been identified include complications related to incident data tracking software and student information systems, a need for more clear directives from USBE on what constitutes an incident that must be reported, and misunderstandings about what the data can and will be used for. USBE has been working with LEAs to solve these issues and improve behavioral incident data reporting.

As a result of this effort there were large increases in the number of incidents reported to USBE, especially from SY 2017 to SY 2018. Despite the increases it is believed that incident data is still being underreported to USBE and incident counts are expected to continue to increase as this is resolved. As such, until complete statewide incident data reporting can be achieved, year to year comparisons of incident rates should only be made in regard to the rate at which incidents are reported (rather than any implied rate of occurrence).

Incident Data Collection

USBE collects incident data that is entered and reported through the local student information systems and submitted to the Utah Transcript Record Exchange (UTREx). An incident may involve one or more student, and each student may be reported with one primary infraction and up to four secondary infraction types, as well as one primary weapon and up to four secondary weapons. If the student receives a suspension or expulsion as a result of the incident the discipline type and total duration should be reported. Information can also be reported for victims of incidents, though very little victim data is reported. Victim data is not included in this report. This report only includes information on primary infractions and weapons. Infraction types include:

- Arson
- Assault, physical or sexual
- Bullying
- Disruption
- Fighting (mutual altercation)
- Harassment, non-sexual (physical, verbal, psychological), or sexual (unwelcomed sexual assault)
- Homicide
- Robbery
- Drug or substance violations, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, controlled and uncontrolled substances, and distribution
- Terroristic Threat
- Threat/intimidation (causing fear or harm)
- Truancy
- Weapon (Weapon types include guns: handgun, shotgun, rifle, or look-alike; knife or other sharp object; other explosive device; other object used as a weapon; and substance used as a weapon)
- Other

Overall Findings

For SY 2019 there were 62,258 records of primary infractions reported to USBE. A total of 31,233 students had one or more incident reported. Of these, 19,905 had only one incident reported and 11,328 had more than one incident reported. The percentage of students with an incident reported in SY2019 was 4.5%. For SY 2019 96% of LEAs (149 out of 155) reported one or more incident to USBE.

Comparison with Previous Years

There was a 95% increase in incidents reported from SY 2016 to SY 2019, from 31,812 in SY 2016 to 62,258 in SY 2019). Figure 1 shows the total counts of incidents reported state-wide for school years 2016 to 2019.
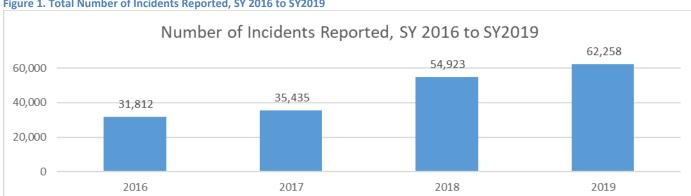
Figure 1. Total Number of Incidents Reported, SY 2016 to SY2019

Number of Incidents Reported, SY 2016 to SY2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019
	31,812	35,435	54,923	62,258

In part, the increase in incident reporting was due to more LEAs reporting their incident data to the state. The percent of LEAs reporting incidents has increased from 49% in SY 2016 to 96% in SY 2019.
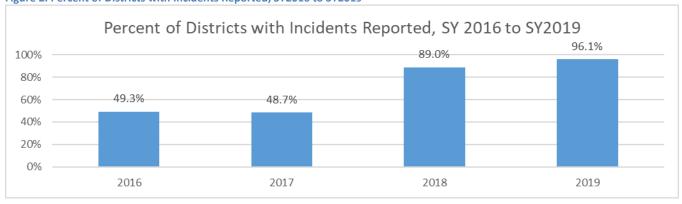
Figure 2. Percent of Districts with Incidents Reported, SY2016 to SY2019

Percent of Districts with Incidents Reported, SY 2016 to SY2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019
	49.3%	48.7%	89.0%	96.1%

The percentages of student with an incident reported have also increased each year, from 2.3% in SY 2016 to 4.5% in SY 2019. While there have been big improvements in incident data reporting, SHARP survey data (https://dsamh.utah.gov/reports/sharp-survey) suggests that actual incident rates, especially bullying rates, are much higher than this.

Disciplines Reported

In SY 2019 a total of 19,030 of the 62,258 incidents (30.6%) were reported with a discipline. Among the 31,233 students with an incident reported, 13,170 (42.2%) had a discipline reported. This is 1.9% of the students enrolled during SY 2019. A majority of disciplines (73.2%) were out-of-school suspensions, followed by in-school suspensions (26.7%), and expulsions (0.2%). Suspensions can be reported in increments of one tenth of a day. The average duration for disciplines was 1.5 days for in-school suspensions, 3 days for out-of-school suspensions, and 57 days for expulsions.

Incidents by Grade Level and Demographics

Incidents by Grade Level

By grade level the percentage of students reported with an incident stayed low in grades Pre-K through five (below 3.5%), began to climb in grade six (4.6%) and seven (7.7%), and peaked in grade eight (8.7%).
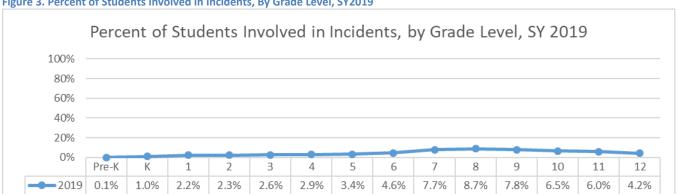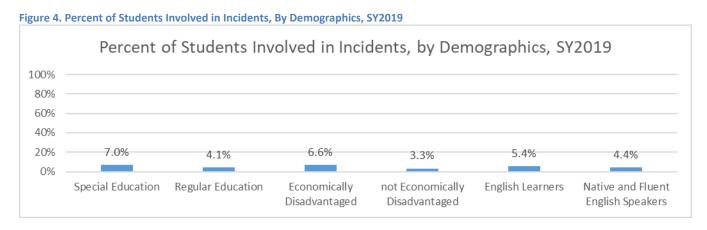
Figure 3. Percent of Students Involved in Incidents, By Grade Level, SY2019

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2019	0.1%	1.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.6%	2.9%	3.4%	4.6%	7.7%	8.7%	7.8%	6.5%	6.0%	4.2%

Incidents by Demographics

By demographic group, higher percentages of students who are in Special Education, are economically disadvantaged, or are English learners have incidents reported than their counterparts. The biggest gap is in the economically disadvantaged student group. The percentage of economically disadvantaged students who have one or more incident reported is nearly double the percentage of students who are not economically disadvantaged who have had one or more incident reported (6.6% compared with 3.3%).

Figure 4. Percent of Students Involved in Incidents, By Demographics, SY2019

Incidents by Race/Ethnicity

By racial/ethnic group, higher percentages of students who identify as Native American, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, or Pacific Islander have incidents reported than the state average. The biggest gap is with Native American students. The percentage of Native American students who have one or more incident reported is more than double the state average (10% compared with 4.5%). The percentage of Black/African American students who have one or more incident reported is second highest at 8%. The percentage of Asian students who have one or more incident reported is lowest at 2.7%.
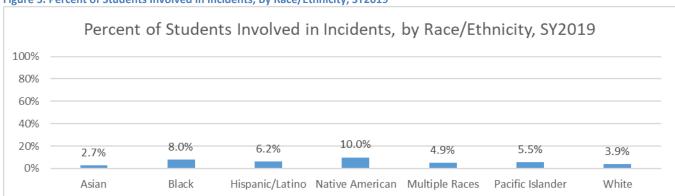
Figure 5. Percent of Students Involved in Incidents, By Race/Ethnicity, SY2019

Percent of Students Involved in Incidents, by Race/Ethnicity, SY2019

2.7%	8.0%	6.2%	10.0%	4.9%	5.5%	3.9%
Asian	Black	Hispanic/Latino	Native American	Multiple Races	Pacific Islander	White

Incidents by Infraction Category

Incidents are grouped into four infraction type categories. In SY 2019, the "Other" infraction category accounted for the majority of the 62,258 infractions reported (42,299, or 67.9%). A plurality of the infractions in the "other" category were truancies (15,081, or 24.2% of all infractions).
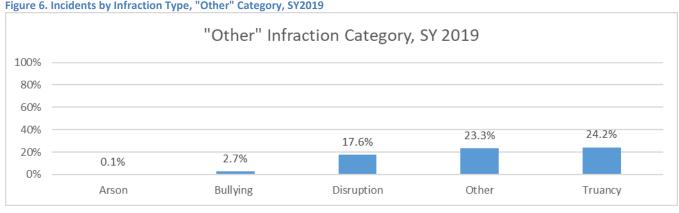
Figure 6. Incidents by Infraction Type, "Other" Category, SY2019

"Other" Infraction Category, SY 2019

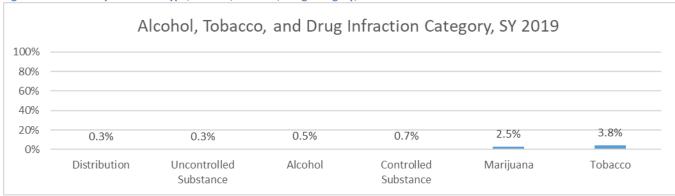|				
0.1%	2.7%	17.6%	23.3%	24.2%
Arson	Bullying	Disruption	Other	Truancy

The "Violent" infraction category accounted for the next highest percentage of all infractions reported (13,938, or 22.4%), with a plurality of these infractions being for fighting (5,392, or 8.7% of all infractions).

Figure 7. Incidents by Infraction Type, Violent Category, SY2019

Violent Infraction Category, SY 2019

Homicide	0.0%
Sexual Assault	0.2%
Terroristic Threat	0.3%
Robbery	0.4%
Harassment, sexual...	1.8%
Harassment, non-sexual...	2.7%
Threat/Intimidation...	3.1%
Physical Assault	5.2%
Fighting (mutual altercation)	8.7%

The "Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug" infraction category accounted for 8.3% of all infractions reported (5,172), with a plurality being for tobacco (2,387, or 3.8% of all infractions), followed closely by Marijuana (1,584, or 2.5% of all infractions).

Figure 8. Incidents by Infraction Type, Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug Category, SY2019

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Infraction Category, SY 2019

Distribution	Uncontrolled Substance	Alcohol	Controlled Substance	Marijuana	Tobacco
0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	2.5%	3.8%

The remainder of infractions were reported as Weapon infractions (849, or 1.4% of all infractions), though over a fourth of the weapon infractions were reported as "none". A majority of the weapons infractions were reported as "knife or other sharp object" (428, or 0.7% of all infractions), followed by "none" and "look alike" (97, or 0.2% of all infractions).

Figure 9. Incidents by Infraction Type, Weapon Category, SY2019

Weapon Infractions, SY 2019

Shotgun	Handgun	Other Explosive Device	Other Object Used as a Weapon	Look Alike	None	Knife or Other Sharp Object
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.7%