



2019-20 Incident Report

Contents

Background.....	1
Key Findings.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Background.....	2
Incident Data Collection	2
Incident Data and Covid-19 School Closures.....	3
Findings.....	3
Comparison with Previous Years	3
Disciplines Reported	4
Incidents by Grade Level and Demographics	4
Incidents by Grade Level	4
Incidents by Demographics	4
Incidents by Race/Ethnicity	5
Incidents by Infraction Category	5

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, 2018-19, and 2019-20 school years (SY 2018, SY 2019, and SY 2020) 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 (97%) reported incident data in SY 2020. 67,576 primary incident records were submitted to USBE, which is an 8.5% increase as compared with incidents reported in SY 2019.
- 28,665 students, or 4.1% of enrolled students, were reported with one or more incident.
- 11,910 students, or 1.7% of enrolled students were reported with one or more discipline (suspension or expulsion) as a result of an incident.
- Nearly a third of infraction types reported were disruptions (31.8%).

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

Incident Data and Covid-19 School Closures

For SY 2020 there were 67,576 records of primary infractions reported to USBE. Nearly all of these incidents (67,332, or 99.6%), occurred on or before the last day of school before the Covid-19 school closures. Of the incidents reported after March 13 almost half of them (47%) were reported as ‘Other’ infraction types, followed by Truancy (17%), and Disruption (14%). Among the incidents reported as ‘Other’ infraction type, a third were described as ‘Cheating’ (33%), followed by ‘Computer Misuse’ (18%), and ‘Defiance of School Standards’ (9%).

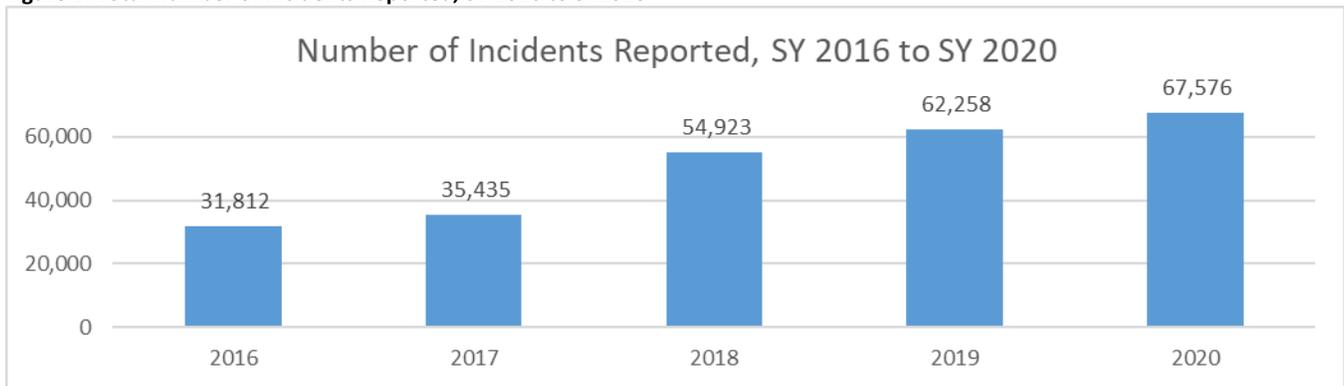
Findings

For SY 2020 there were 67,576 records of primary infractions reported to USBE. A total of 28,665 students had one or more incident reported. Of these, 18,344 had only one incident reported and 10,321 had more than one incident reported. The percentage of students with an incident reported in SY2020 was 4.1%. For SY 2020 97% of LEAs (149 out of 154) reported one or more incident to USBE.

Comparison with Previous Years

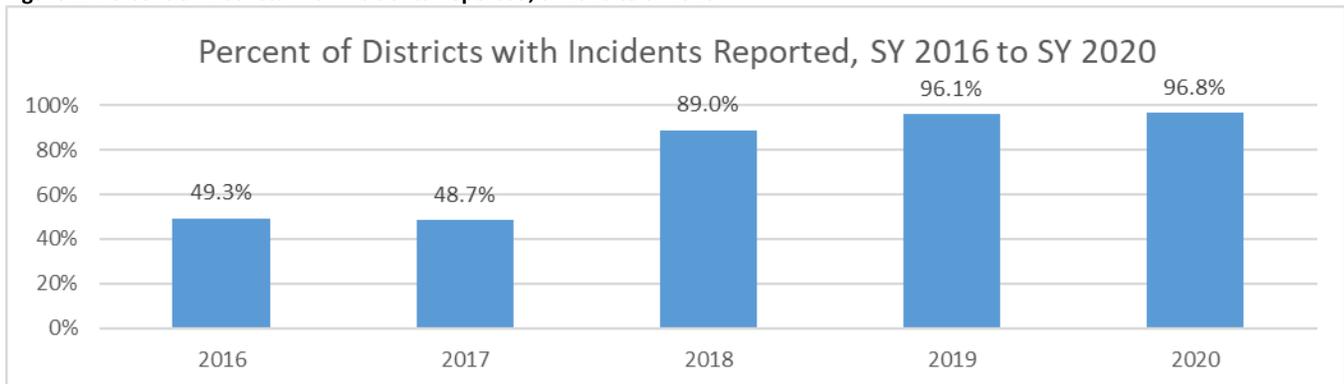
There were more than double the number of incidents reported in SY 2020 as compared with SY 2016 to SY 2020, (from 31,812 in SY 2016 to 67,576 in SY 2020). Figure 1 shows the total counts of incidents reported state-wide for school years 2016 to 2020.

Figure 1. Total Number of Incidents Reported, SY 2016 to SY2020



The number of LEAs reporting incidents remained the same from SY 2019 to SY 2020, though the percent of LEAs reporting had a slight increase due to one fewer LEA in SY 2020 compared with SY 2019.

Figure 2. Percent of Districts with Incidents Reported, SY2016 to SY2020



The percentages of student with an incident reported increased each year, from 2.3% in SY 2016 to 4.5% in SY 2019, then decreased slightly to 4.1% in SY 2020. While there have been big improvements in incident data reporting since SY 2016, 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

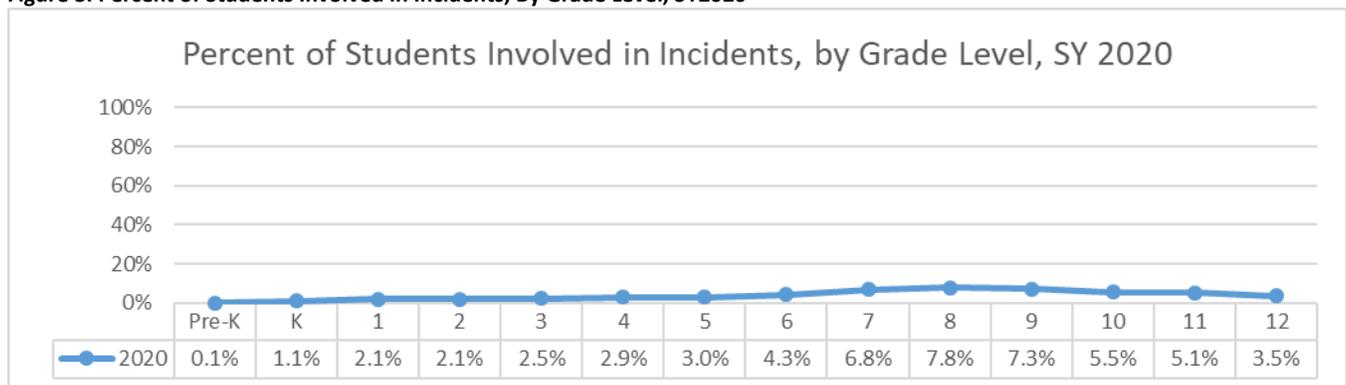
In SY 2020 a total of 17,573 of the 67,576 incidents (26%) were reported with a discipline. Among the 28,665 students with an incident reported, 11,910 (41.5%) had a discipline reported. This is 1.7% of the students enrolled during SY 2020. A majority of disciplines (68%) were out-of-school suspensions, followed by in-school suspensions (32%), and expulsions (0.1%). Suspensions can be reported in increments of one tenth of a day. The average duration for disciplines was 1.4 days for in-school suspensions, 3 days for out-of-school suspensions, and 47 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 (3% or lower), began to climb in grade six (4.3%) and seven (6.8%), and peaked in grade eight (7.8%).

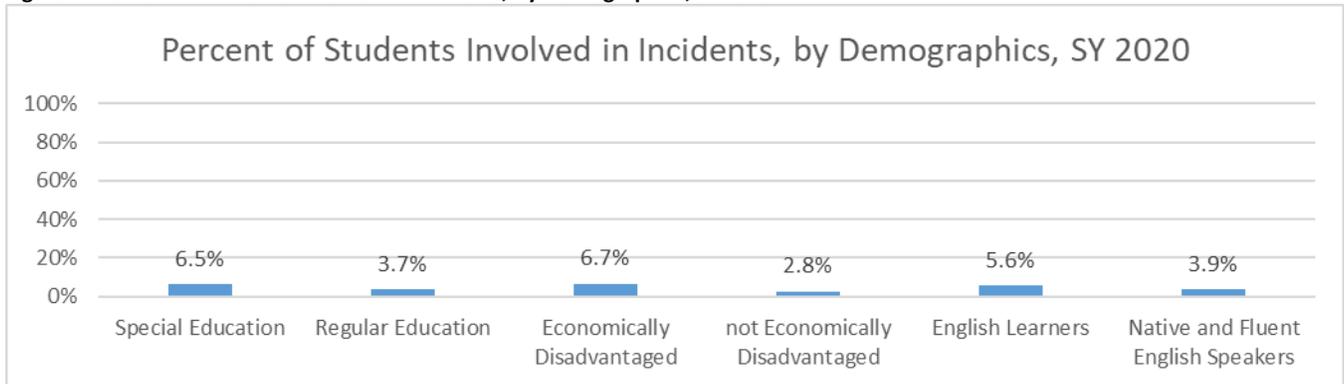
Figure 3. Percent of Students Involved in Incidents, By Grade Level, SY2020



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 more than double the percentage of students who are not economically disadvantaged who have had one or more incident reported (6.7% compared with 2.8%).

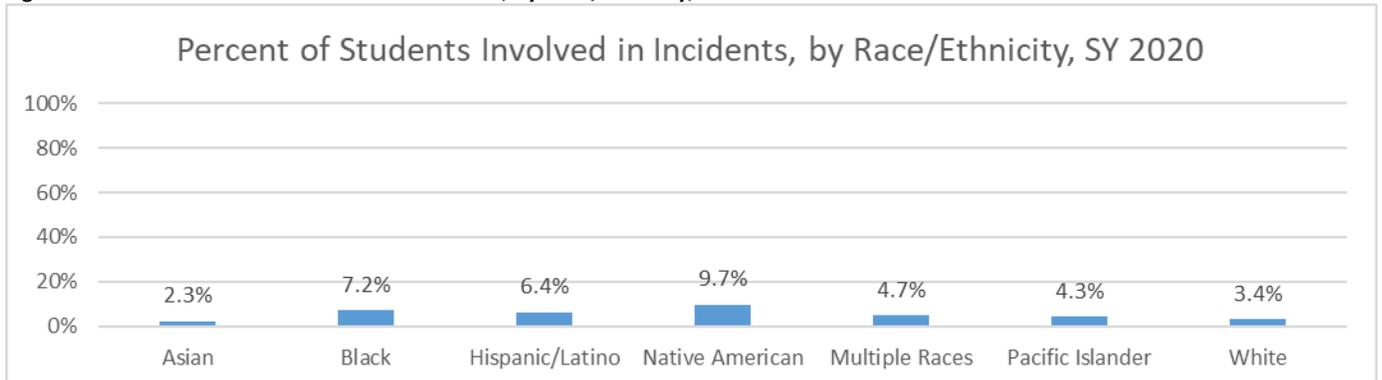
Figure 4. Percent of Students Involved in Incidents, By Demographics, SY2020



Incidents by Race/Ethnicity

By racial/ethnic group, higher percentages of students who identify as Native American, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Multiple Race, 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 (9.7% compared with 4.1%). The percentage of Black/African American students who have one or more incident reported is second highest at 7.2%. The percentage of Asian students who have one or more incident reported is lowest at 2.3%.

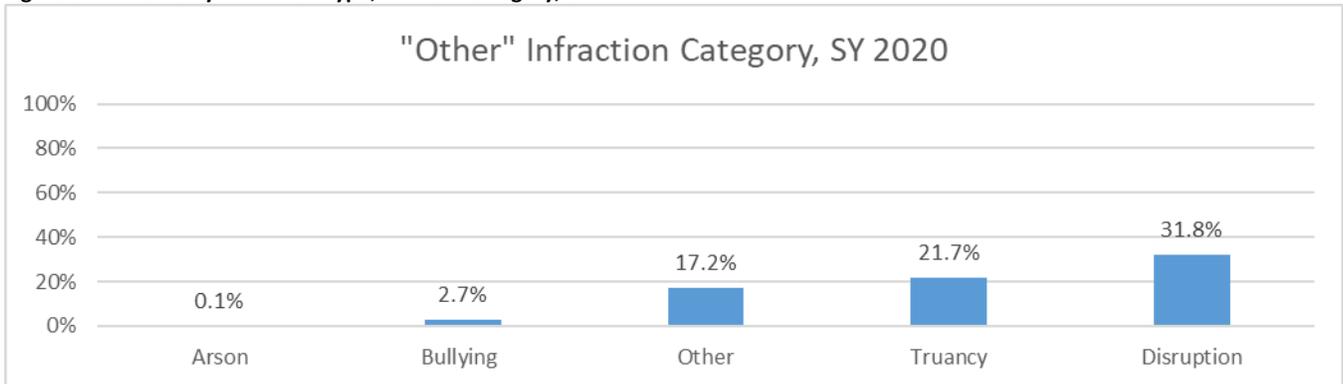
Figure 5. Percent of Students Involved in Incidents, By Race/Ethnicity, SY2020



Incidents by Infraction Category

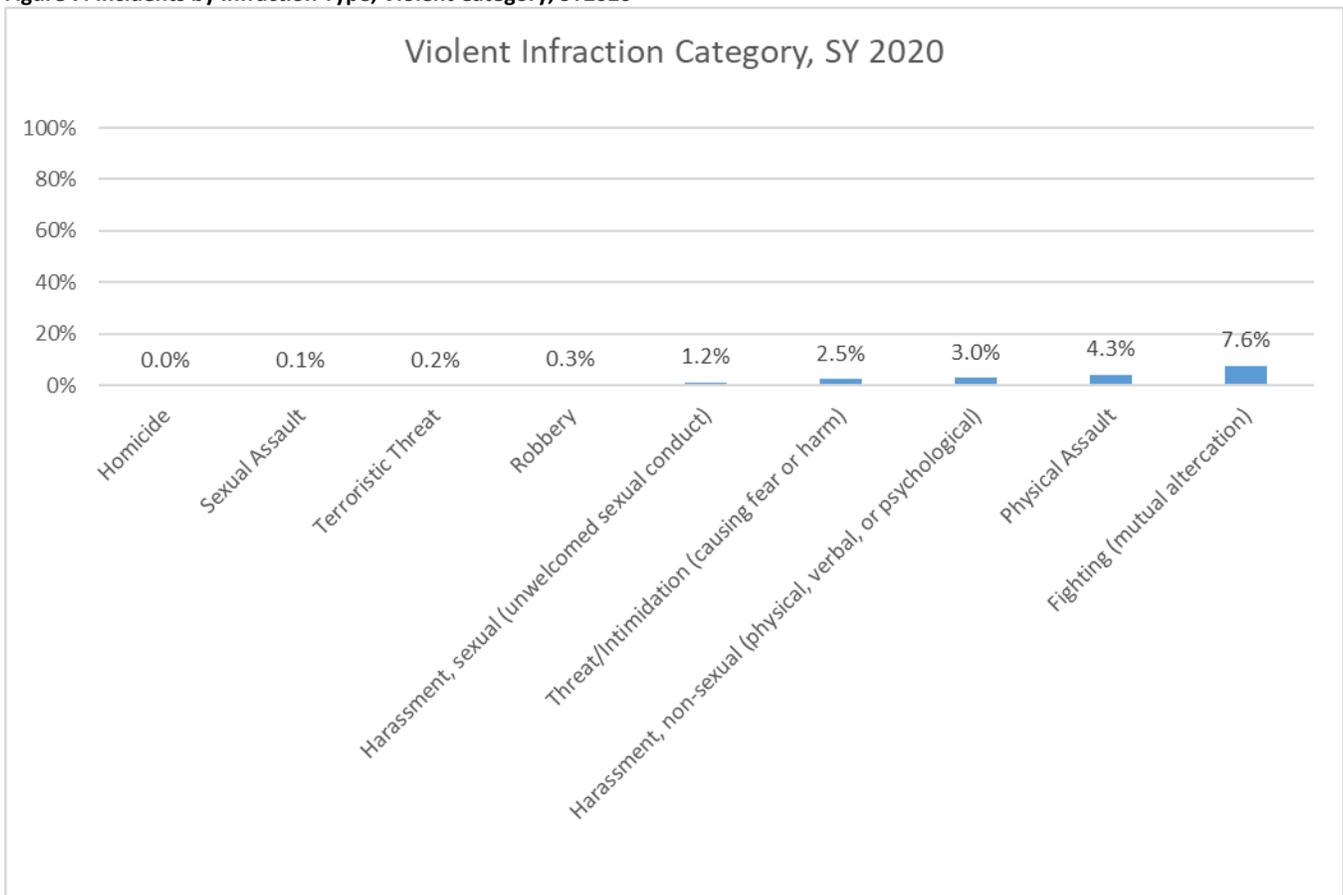
Incidents are grouped into four infraction type categories. In SY 2020, the “Other” infraction category accounted for the majority of the 67,576 infractions reported (49,618, or 73.4%). A plurality of the infractions in the “other” category were disruptions (21,483, or 31.8% of all infractions). In SY 2019 a plurality of the infractions in the “other” category were truancies (15,081, or 24.2% of all infractions). The drop in truancies in SY 2020 as compared with SY 2019 might have had something to do with students doing school from home after the COVID-19 related school closures that started on March 16. The increase in disruptions was primarily due to one LEA that changed the way they record and submit disruption data. It is changes such as this that make it hard to compare incident data over time. Only when incident data reporting becomes consistent and reliable should year-to-year comparisons of data be made.

Figure 6. Incidents by Infraction Type, "Other" Category, SY2020



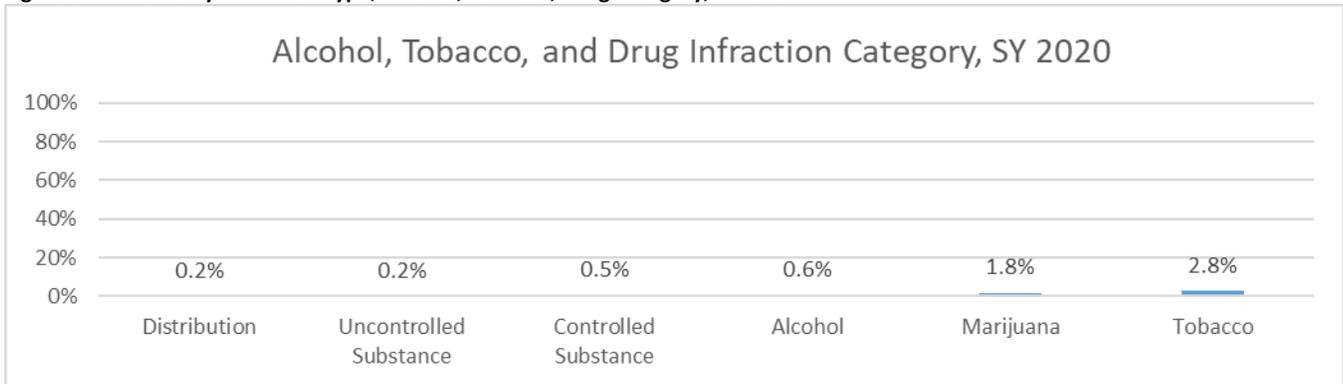
The “Violent” infraction category accounted for the next highest percentage of all infractions reported (13,032, or 19.3%), with a plurality of these infractions being for fighting (5,152, or 7.6% of all infractions).

Figure 7. Incidents by Infraction Type, Violent Category, SY2020



The “Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug” infraction category accounted for 6.3% of all infractions reported (4,245), with a plurality being for tobacco (1,904, or 2.8% of all infractions), followed by Marijuana (1,221, or 1.8% of all infractions).

Figure 8. Incidents by Infraction Type, Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug Category, SY2020



The remainder of infractions were reported as Weapon infractions (681, or 1% of all infractions), though almost a third of the weapon infractions were reported as “none”. A majority of the weapons infractions were reported as “knife or other sharp object” (329, or 0.5% of all infractions), followed by “none” and “look alike” (69, or 0.1% of all infractions).

Figure 9. Incidents by Infraction Type, Weapon Category, SY2020

