

Chicago School-to-Prison Pipeline Fact Sheet

(September 2013 by Project NIA)

Chicago Public School Arrest Data (Source: Policing Chicago Public Schools Vol. 2 – <http://cpdincps.com/>)

Overall youth school-based arrests have been decreasing. In 2010, over **5,500 arrests of young people under 18 years old** took place on CPS properties. In 2011, the number of youth school-based arrests (under 18) was **4,959** and in 2012, it was **4,287**. **This is a decrease of 23% since 2010.**

Black youth are still disproportionately targeted by these arrests. While they represent about 42% of CPS students, black youth accounted for **75.5% percent of school-based arrests in 2012**. This mirrors the general trend of disproportionate minority contact within the juvenile legal system.

In 2012, **young men were more likely to be arrested on CPS properties** than were their female counterparts [68% vs. 32%].

Most youth school-based arrests are for **misdemeanor offenses** (84%) as opposed to felonies (16%).

In 2012, 86% of youth school-based arrests happened in school buildings while 14% took place on school grounds.

In 2012, the top three aggregate numbers of youth school-based arrests were in the 8th, 5th, and 4th police districts. Together these **three districts accounted for 30% of total youth school-based arrests** on CPS properties.

VOYCE estimates that **25 students** arrested in Chicago Public Schools DAILY.

<http://chiyouthjustice.wordpress.com/2012/04/27/25-arrests-a-day-on-cps-properties/>

School Suspension Data

Research suggests that students who have been suspended are three times more likely to drop out by the 10th grade than their peers who have never been suspended.¹ Data obtained from the *Illinois State Board of Education* (ISBE) through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request suggests that CPS administered **17,020** in-school suspensions, **40,662** out-of-school suspensions and **217** expulsions in the 2010-2011 academic year. Specific demographic information (race, gender) about these suspensions and expulsions was not available at the time of the request. However, based on past data, black male students are likely to be disproportionately targeted by CPS suspensions and expulsions.

¹ Goertz, M.E., Pollack, J.M. & Rock, D.A. (1996). Who drops out of high school and why?: Findings from a national study. *Teachers College Record*, 87, 357-73, available at www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentId=688.

Total Numbers of Chicago Public School Students Suspended & Expelled (2010-2011)

	In-School Suspensions	Out-of-School Suspensions	Expulsions	TOTAL
Elementary School (pre-k-8 th grade)	4,950	18,878	59	23,887
High School	12,070	21,784	158	34,012
TOTAL	17,020	40,662	217	57,899

The arbitrary use of exclusionary discipline for minor offenses has cost Illinois students **1,117,453 days** in the 2010-2011 school year.

Dropouts/Pushouts

Approximately one-third of LGBTQ students have skipped at least one day of school because of safety concerns.²

Based on data from the 2009 and 2010 American Community Survey, among 19- to 24-year-olds in the City of Chicago³:

-Nearly 42,000 or 15 percent do not have a regular high school diploma.⁴ The share of youth in the city of Chicago without a regular high school diploma (15%) was higher than that of the remainder of the Chicago Metro area (9.7%), state of Illinois (11.5%), and the entire U.S. (13.7%).

-19 percent of males did not have a regular high school diploma while 10 percent of females didn't have a high school diploma. Male youth in the city were nearly two times more likely to be dropouts than their female peers.

-30 percent of Hispanic males did not have a regular high school diploma

-27 percent of African American males did not have a regular high school diploma

-Only 4% of White/Non-Hispanic males did not have a regular high school diploma

² GLSEN National Climate Study

³ Sum, Andrew et. al. (November 2011). "High School Dropouts in Chicago and Illinois: The Growing Labor Market, Income, Civic, Social and Fiscal Costs of Dropping Out of High School. Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University.

⁴ These are conservative estimates of the number of high school dropouts. The American Community Survey tends to have below average coverage rates for low income households and respondents are known to sometimes exaggerate their educational credentials.

Gender and Sexual Orientation disparities in Suspensions and Expulsions

Findings indicate that non-heterosexual adolescents suffer disproportionate punishments by schools and the criminal-justice system, which implicates not only schools, police, and courts but also other youth-serving health and welfare systems that often fail to meet the needs of non-heterosexual adolescents

LGBTQ students are **1.4 times more** likely to be expelled than straight-identified youth.

Non-heterosexual adolescents, particularly girls, suffer punishments by school and criminal-justice authorities that are disproportionate to their rates of transgressive behavior.

Non-heterosexual adolescents had between **1.25 and 3 times greater odds** than their heterosexual peers of experiencing institutional sanctions.

Racial Disparities in Suspensions and Expulsions

The Center for Civil Rights Remedies at the UCLA Civil Rights Project found that one of every 4 African-American public school students in Illinois was suspended at least once for disciplinary reasons during the 2009-10 school year, the highest rate among 47 states examined.

In Chicago from 2009 to 2010, the Center found an 18 percent Suspension Rate for all students (K-12). The suspension rate for all secondary school students was 27.5 percent. The suspension rate for African-Americans was more than 30 percent in 2009-10. That was 24 percentage points higher than the rate for white students, the widest gap between black and white students of any large urban district in the report, including those in Houston, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.⁵

Data on Costs

Chicago Public Schools budgeted **\$56,303,794** for school security personnel in the FY14 budget for 1029 school-based security positions. In addition, the CPS central office budget allocated **more than \$47 million** (\$47,652,163) to the Office of School Safety and Security to fund “safety & security,” which included security officers, metal detectors, and surveillance cameras. (CPS FY14 Budget)

In contrast, CPS budgeted **\$24,428,202** for psychological service personnel in the FY14 budget for **217 psychologist positions** (CPS FY14 Budget).

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) charges CPS over \$25 million a year for two police officers at each high school. CPS estimates that it costs **\$75,000 a year** to station a daily police officer at a school (Policing Chicago Public Schools, 2012).

⁵ Source: http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/resources/projects/center-for-civil-rights-remedies/school-to-prison-folder/federal-reports/out-of-school-and-off-track-the-overuse-of-suspensions-in-american-middle-and-high-schools/OutofSchool-OffTrack_UCLA_4-8.pdf

Incarceration of LGBT Youth

Nationally, LGBT teens make up 5-7% of the total youth population but **represent upwards of 15%** of the population of young people involved with the nation's juvenile justice system.⁶

According to UC Santa Cruz researcher Dr. Angela Irvine, LGBT youth are two times more likely than straight youth to land in a prison cell before adjudication for nonviolent offenses like truancy, running away and prostitution.

LGBT kids are often targeted for sexual assault. A 2009 Department of Justice report shows that across the country, **LGBT youth are twelve times** more likely than straight youth to report being sexually assaulted by a fellow inmate.⁷

Incarceration Rates and Dropouts⁸

In Illinois, dropouts accounted for 51% of the incarcerated population between the ages of 18 and 34 in 2010. In that year, 10% of native-born high school dropouts (18-34) in Illinois were in jail or prison, an incarceration rate that was 2 percentage points above the U.S. average (8.0%).

A native born male high school dropout (18-34 years old) was 5 times more likely to be incarcerated than a native-born male with a high school diploma and nearly 30 times more likely to be in jail or prison as a native-born male with an Associate's degree.

Among 18 to 34-year-old males in Illinois, 14.7 percent of high school dropouts were incarcerated in 2010, while only 3 percent of male high school graduates (with no completed years of postsecondary schooling) spent time behind bars (in jail or prison).

The incarceration rates of young adult dropouts varied widely across gender and race-ethnic groups. Male dropouts in Illinois and the U.S. are much more likely to be incarcerated than their female peers. The incarceration rate of native-born 18 to 34 year old male dropouts in Illinois was 15%, compared to a rate of under 2% for native born female dropouts in this age group.

Black male dropouts in Illinois had by far the highest incarceration rate among the three major race-ethnic groups. Nearly 29% of 18 to 34 year old, Black male dropouts in Illinois were incarcerated in 2010. Incarceration rates of Black males fell sharply with their educational attainment, declining to under 8% for high school graduates and only 2% for Associate degree holders. Native-born Hispanic male dropouts (6.6%) in Illinois had a similar incarceration rate as native-born White male dropouts (6.5%).

Education Not Incarceration

In 2013, Illinois paid about \$90,000 to lock up a youth in juvenile prison for a year and only \$6,119 to fund public K-12 education.

⁶ Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research Policy and Practice (2011)

⁷ <http://www.thenation.com/article/36488/i-was-scared-sleep-lgbt-youth-face-violence-behind-bars>

⁸ Sum et al. (November 2011)

In 2013, Cook County spent \$600 a day to detain a youth at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC). It cost \$75 a day to educate a student in Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

In the community areas where 50 public schools were closed in 2013, the amount spent on schools since 2000 was \$2.2 billion and the amount spent on incarceration in that same time frame was \$2.7 billion (Chicago Reporter).

Restorative Justice

During the 2010 to 2011 school year, 306 Fenger high school students received restorative justice services, 1,103 suspension days were prevented. Cases of misconduct dropped by 59% during this same school year, while arrests declined by 69% (From Policy to Standard Practice: Restorative Justice in Chicago Public Schools, 2012).