Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

Indiana Schools Bullying, Safety Staffing, and Arrests Report

2022

INDIANA SCHOOLS SAFETY
STAFFING, ARRESTS, AND
BULLYING REPORT

SYNOPSIS

Under Indiana Code (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. 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.

The enclosed report includes acts of bullying for the 2021-2022 school year. IC 20-33-8.2 defines bullying as:

(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 an 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 2021-2022 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/relational 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 cyberbullying, collective or group note writing, or any bullying undertaken using 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 one 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 2021-2022 school year, the bullying data was collected via the IDOE 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, IDOE had a 100 percent response rate.

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

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

DATA RESULTS

Overall, there were 5,103 total reported incidents of bullying during the 2021-2022 school year. Broken down by category, this includes 1,616 physical incidents, 1,952 verbal incidents, 543 social/relational incidents, 473 electronic/written incidents, and 519 combination incidents.

Total Number of Confirmed Bullying Incidents 2014-2022

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED BULLYING INCIDENTS

2014: 9396
2015: 6805
2016: 3641
2017: 4037
2018: 5604
2019: 5257
2020: 4495
2021: 1984
2022: 5103
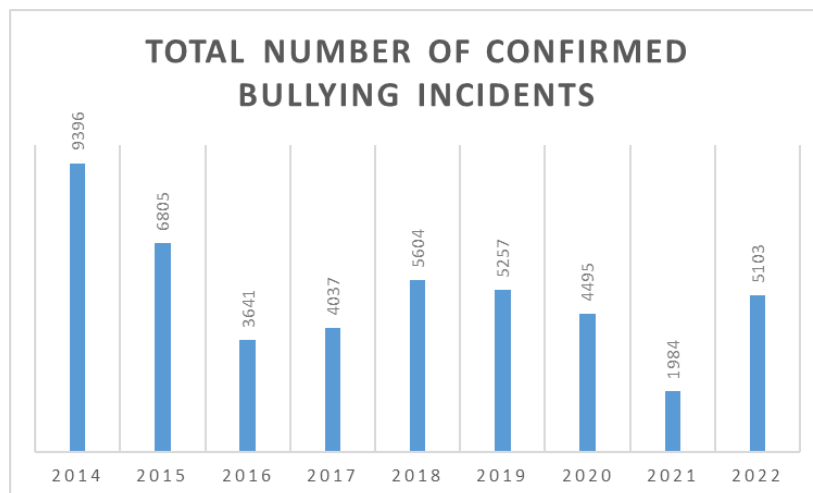
Overall, total incidents of bullying have increased with the return to in-person instruction following the COVID-19 pandemic; however, numbers from the 2021-2022 school year remain lower than the last pre-COVID data collection (2018-2019). Each of the categories of bullying saw an increase in number of reported incidents. Historically, verbal incidents of bullying have represented the greatest proportion of total incidents, and this remains true for the 2021-2022 school year.

2021 - 2022 Bullying Incidents By Category

- Physical Incidents
- Verbal Incidents
- Social/Relational Incidents
- Written/Electronic Incidents
- Combination Incidents
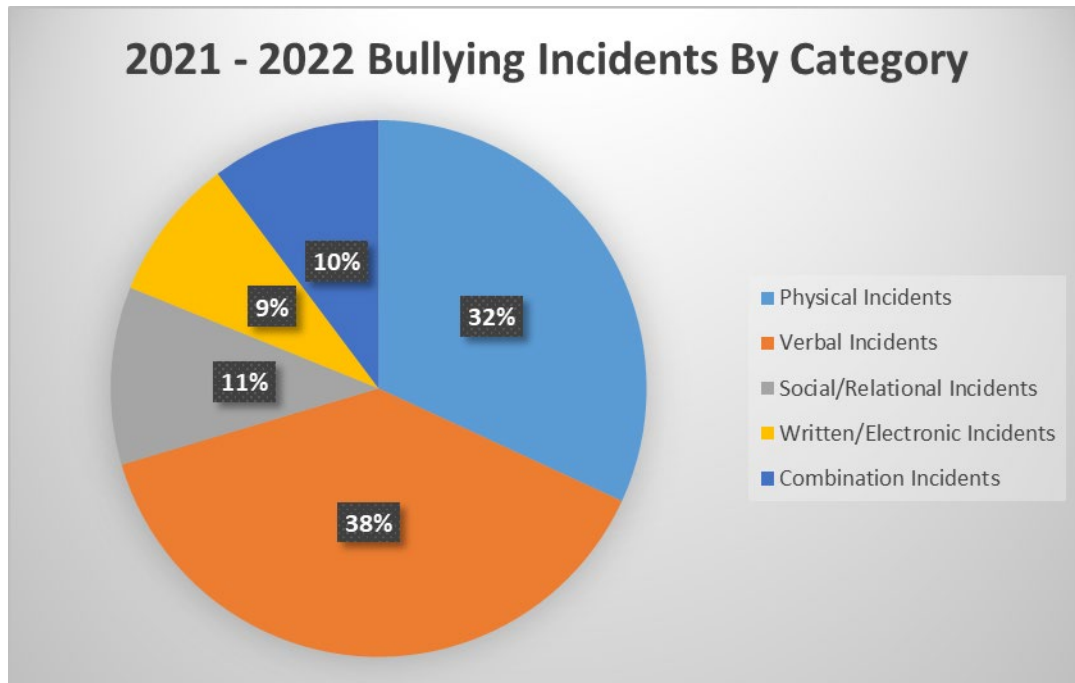
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Physical Incidents	2,024	1,408	925	1,009	620	1,532	1,399	565	1,616
Verbal Incidents	4,169	3,120	1,406	1,505	1,522	2,105	1,618	788	1,952
Social/Relational Incidents	958	754	337	373	511	515	417	182	543
Written/Electronic Incidents	870	632	295	359	2,446	505	372	219	437
Combination Incidents	1,576	891	678	791	505	600	689	230	519

2014 - 2022 Bullying Incidents By Category

Legend: Physical Incidents, Verbal Incidents, Social/Relational Incidents, Written/Electronic Incidents, Combination Incidents
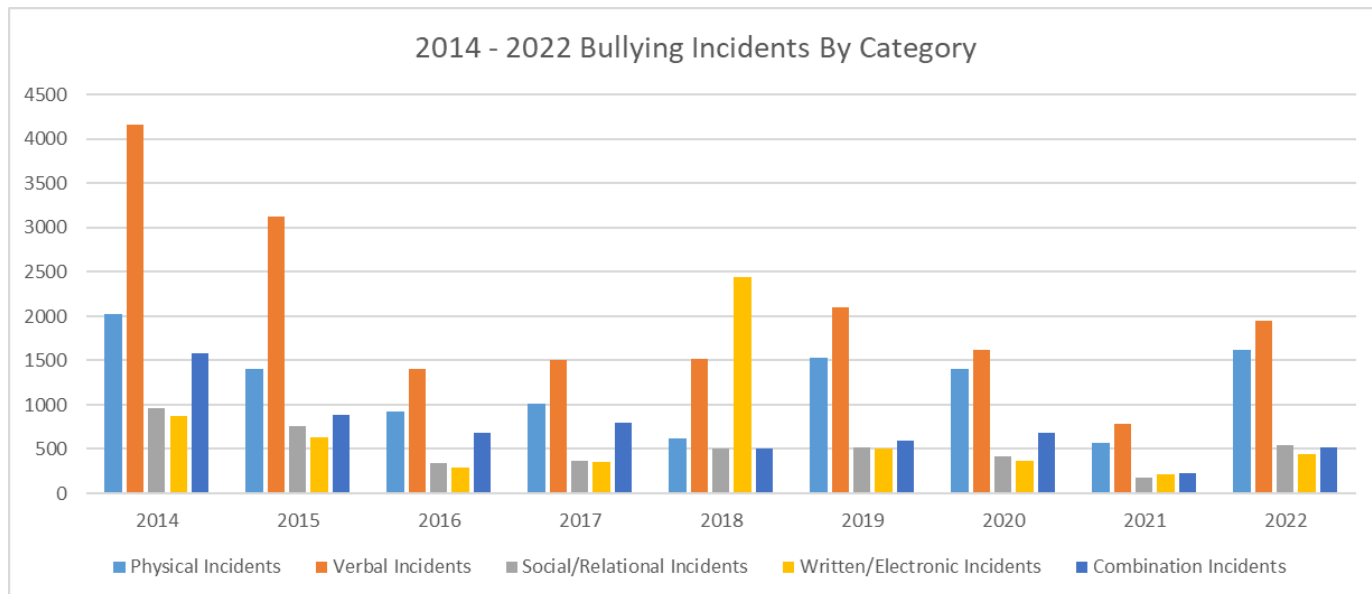
IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT DATA

All reported incidents of bullying were higher than the previous school year; however, the proportions of incidents remained consistent with previous years, with 2018 being an outlier when electronic/written incidents represented a majority of all bullying incidents.

This data shows that bullying continues to be a concern in all schools in Indiana and should be reflected in training provided to educators on bullying prevention and definitions. Schools should continue to review their bullying policies and procedures and continue to implement them to prevent and respond to incidents of bullying.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Several training sessions for the 2021-2022 school year focused on a variety of bullying types. The Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy conducted training on the topics of threat assessment, sexting, cyberbullying, and harassment. For the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, the Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy will continue to provide training on bullying, bullying definitions, and cyberbullying. Additional training focused on all types of bullying should be considered for future sessions and by local school corporations.

IC 20-19-3-11.5 also requires 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. This resource can be found here.

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. 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 incidents.

Additionally, every public school is required by law to provide age appropriate, research-based instruction focused on bullying prevention for all students in grades one through 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.

REPORTED BULLYING INCIDENTS 2021-2022
Data has been posted for public review on the IDOE Website:
https://www.in/gov/doe.

-STUDENT ARRESTS-

DATA COLLECTION

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

    (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 2021-2022 school year, there were 1,291 total arrests reported though the STN Application Center. Students arrested off school property, but because of a school-initiated report to law enforcement, are included in this number. Additional information on age, race, gender, and offense was also collected. A summary of the data is included below.
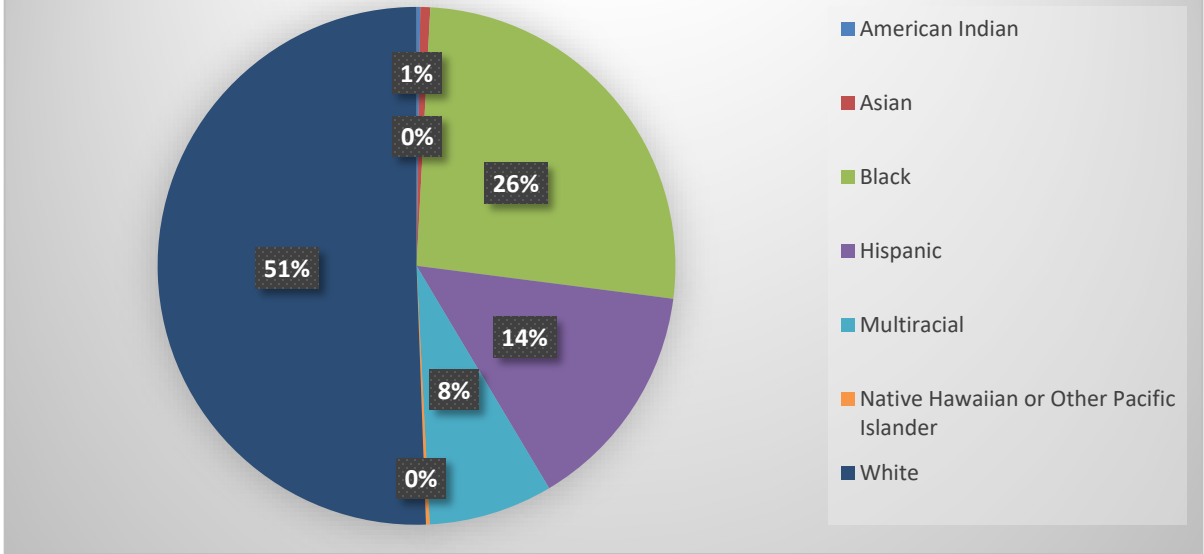
DATA RESULTS

There were 1,291 total arrests reported for the 2021-2022 school year. Of the overall student arrests, 68 percent were male. Ages of those arrested range from eight to 18.

Age	Number of Arrests
8	1
9	4
10	6
11	40
12	126
13	207
14	284
15	266
16	199
17	127
18	28
19	3

Of those arrested, 51 percent were White, and 26 percent were Black.

Arrests by Race or Ethnicity

- American Indian
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

1%
0%
26%
51%
14%
8%
0%

The most common offenses were battery and other. Other offenses included, but were not limited to, criminal mischief, illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage, and aggravated battery

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Offenses by Type

- Battery
- Possession of Marijuana
- Disorderly Conduct
- Intimidation
- Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury
- Illegal Possession of Tobacco
- Possession of a Knife on School Property or Bus
- Other

24%
28%
2%
3%
4%
5%
13%
21%
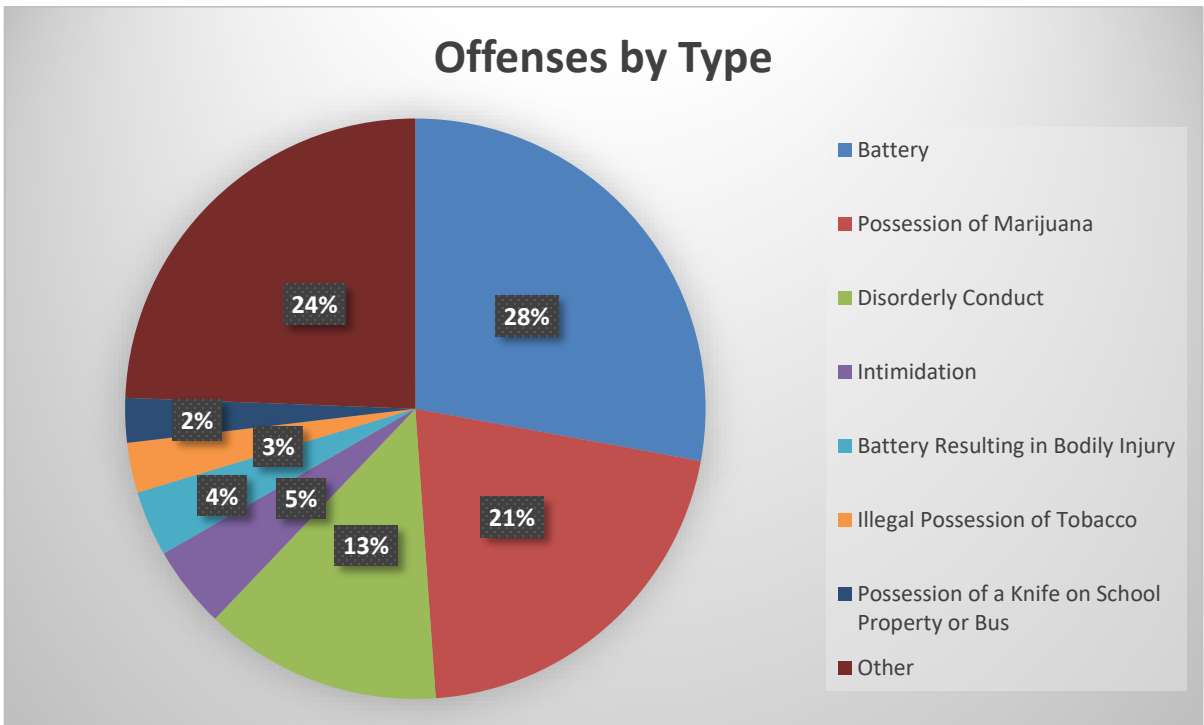
STUDENTS ARRESTED ON SCHOOL CORPORATION PROPERTY
The total number of students arrested on school corporation property totaled 1,166. Sixty-two percent of those arrested were male. Ages of those arrested on school property ranged from eight to 19.

Age	Number of Arrests on School Property
8	1
9	4
10	6
11	38
12	115
13	194
14	245
15	239
16	179
17	117
18	26
19	2

Of those arrested on school property, 49 percent were White, and 27 percent were Black.
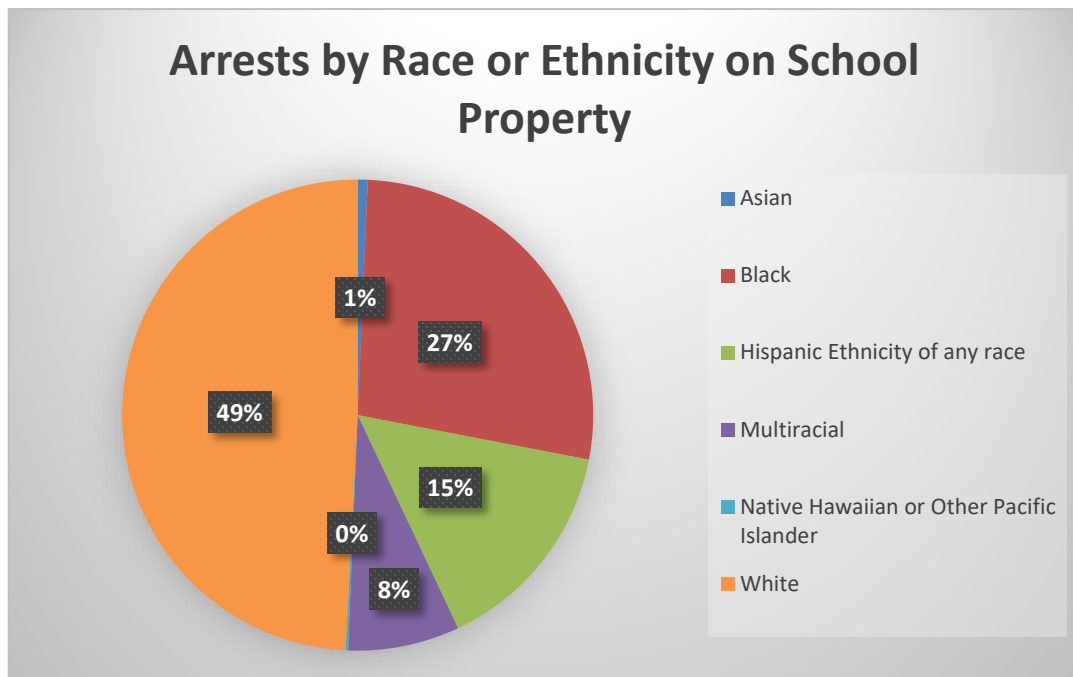
The most common offenses were battery, possession of marijuana, and other. Other arrests included, but were not limited to, attempted theft, aggravated battery, and illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Arrest Reason
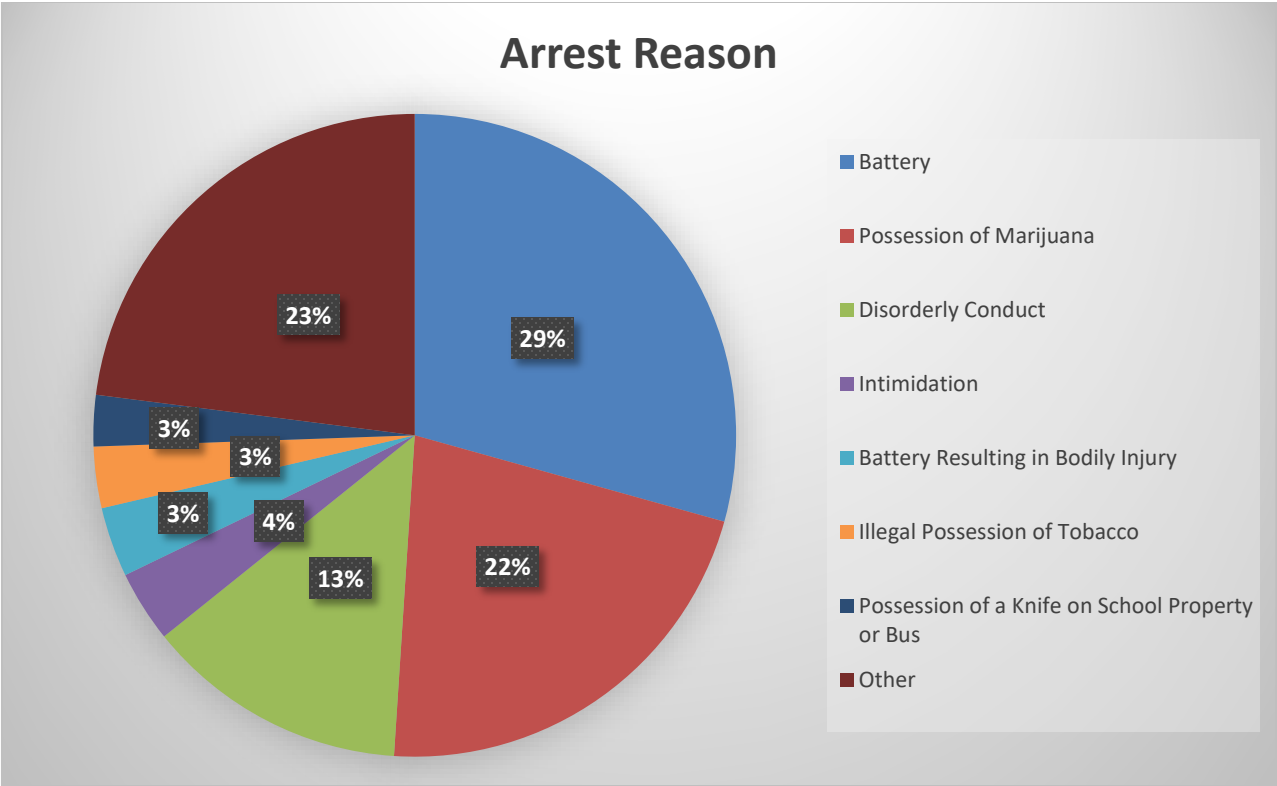
**STUDENTS ARRESTED NOT ON SCHOOL CORPORATION PROPERTY**
The total number of contacts with law enforcement personnel from a school corporation employee that resulted in arrests of students not on school corporation property totaled 125. Sixty-nine percent of those arrested were male. Ages of those arrested ranged from 11 to 19.

Age	Number of Arrests Not on School Corporation Property
11	2
12	11
13	13
14	39
15	27
17	20
17	10
18	2
19	1

Of those arrested, 65 percent were White/Non-Hispanic, and 16 percent were Black/Non-Hispanic.
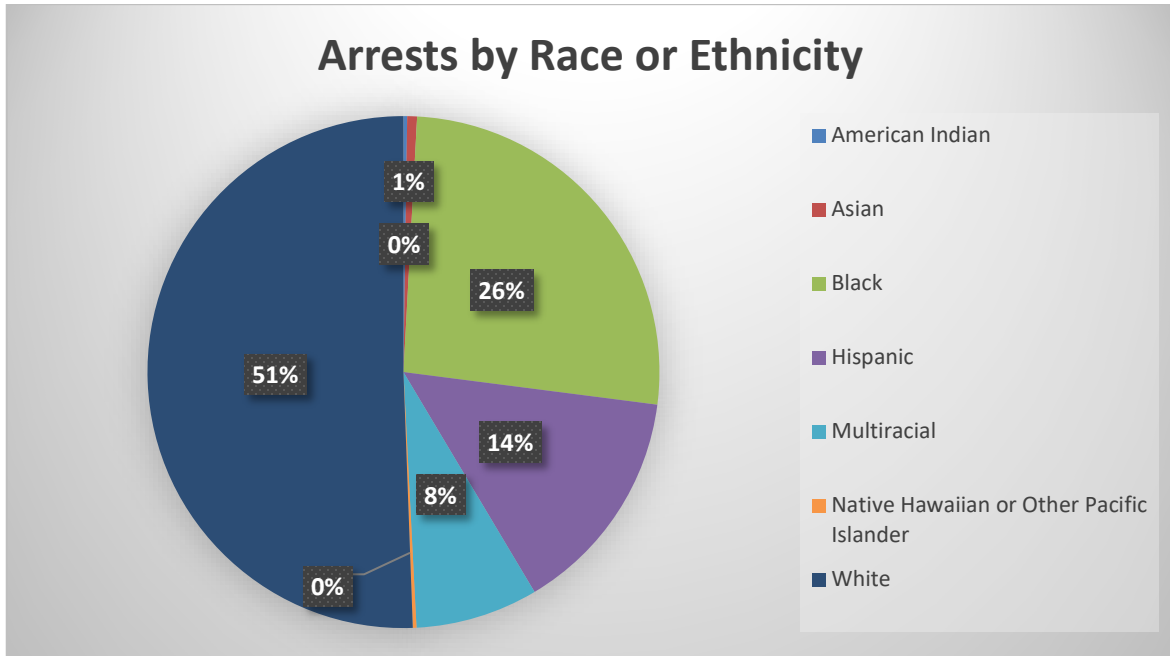
The most common offenses were possession of marijuana, battery, disorderly conduct, intimidation, and other. Other arrests included, but were not limited to aggravated battery, attempted robbery, and criminal mischief.
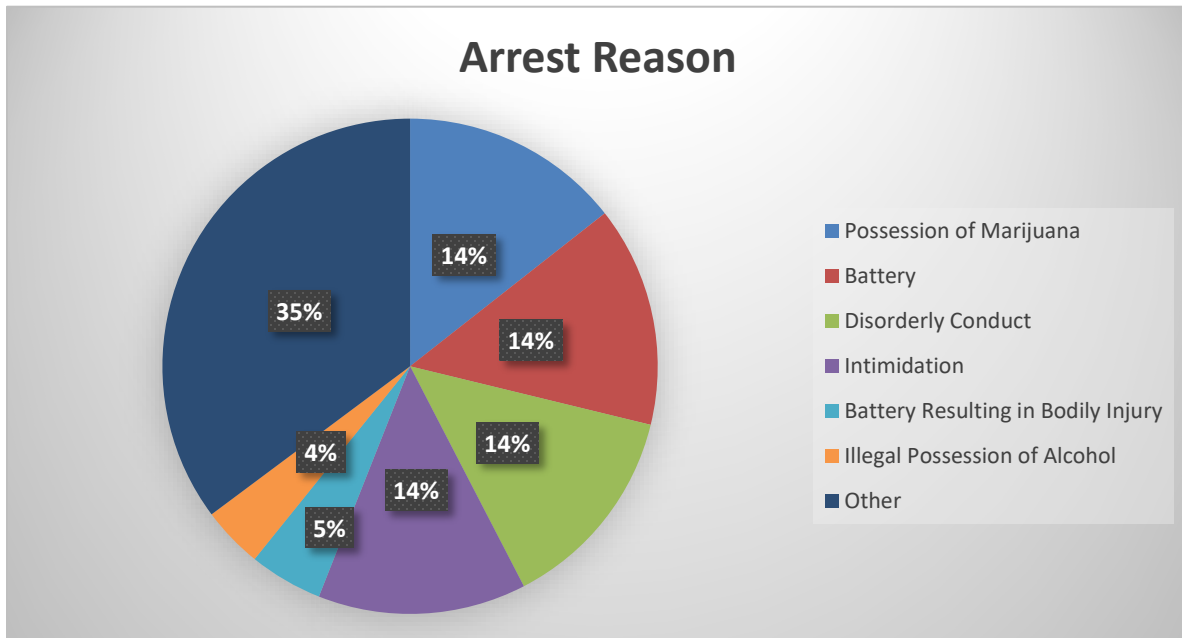
-SAFETY STAFFING-

DATA COLLECTION

For the 2021-2022 school year, the safety staffing data was collected via a JotForm survey. Superintendents and school safety specialists were sent numerous reminders between January and June 2022. A total of 464 responses were collected and compiled, including 100 percent of public school corporations. The following information represents the safety staffing data collected for the 2021-2022 school year.

Question 1: Has the school corporation established a school corporation police department?
**Yes:** 43   **No:** 421

Of those who answered yes, the average number of officers employed is 4.67. Certification from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy was cited as the primary means of training for these officers. Additional training reported included School Safety Specialist Certification and the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO).
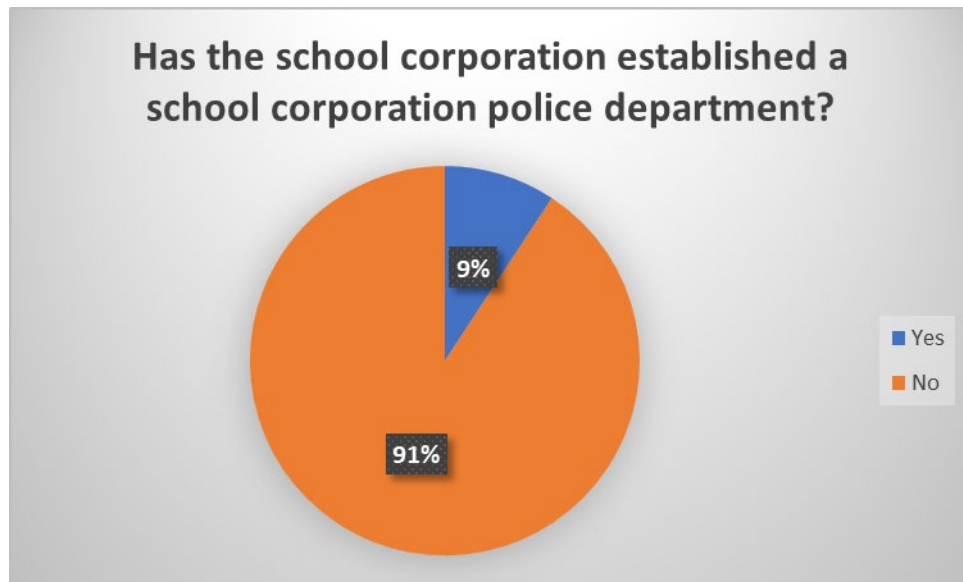
Question 2: Does the school corporation employ private security guards?
**Yes:** 46   **No:** 418

According to the responses submitted, 46 indicated they employ private security guards. Most of the responses note that private security was employed for traffic control and special events, such as athletic events, dances, and other after-hour activities. Other responses indicated that private security was used to supplement physical security measures and school resource officers.
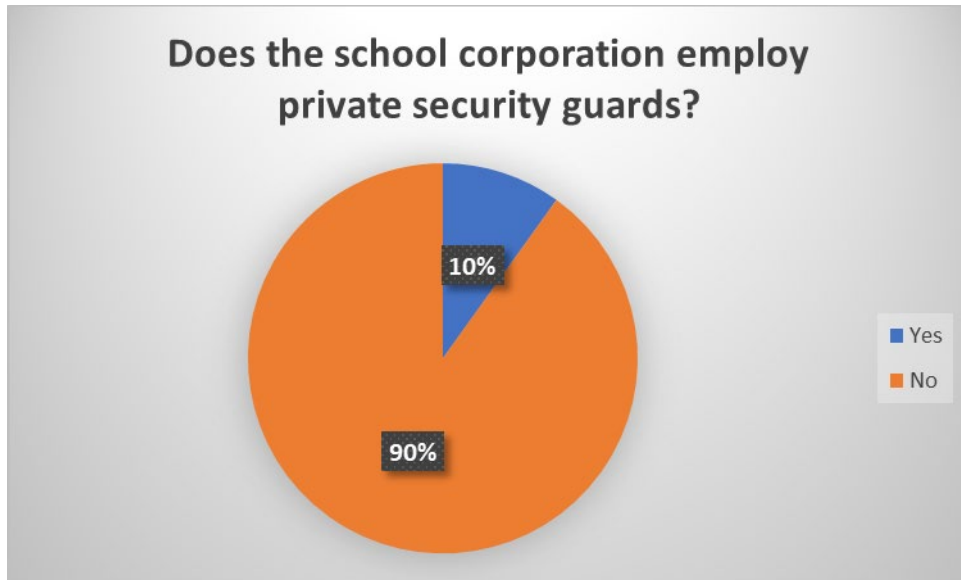
Question 3: Does the school corporation have an agreement with a local law enforcement agency regarding procedures to arrest students on school property?
Yes: 240   **No:** 224

According to the responses submitted, 240 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. Most respondents with an MOU explained that the agreement arose out of the employment of an SRO.
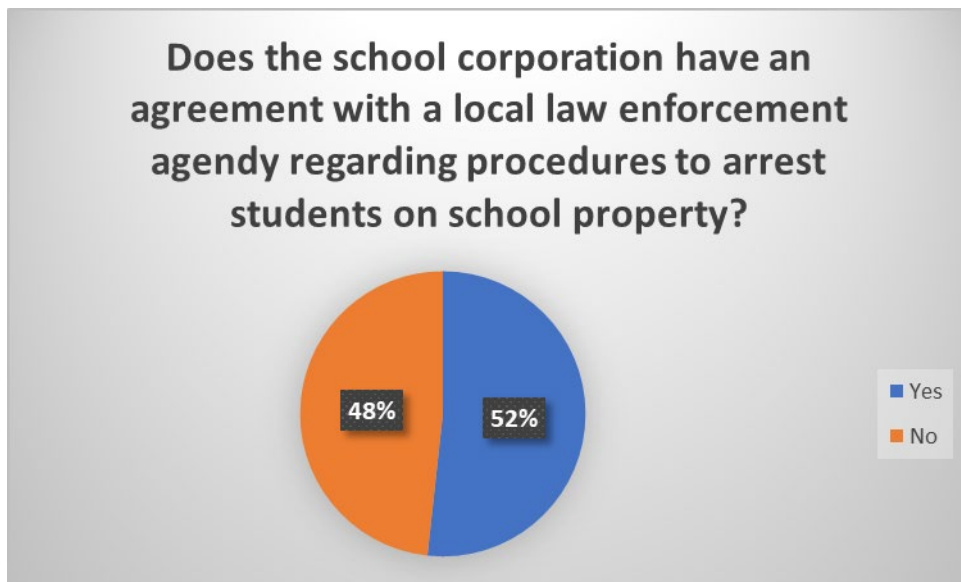
This report was compiled by the Indiana Department of Education's Office of School Safety.