

Introduction

The School Arrest Diversion Project looks at how the Rochester City School District's policies affect the connection of students to the justice system. The goal is to find out what crimes are being committed by students, and how they were handled as a result. Ultimately, we hope to find a way for students to face repercussions that will not deter them from school or steer them toward being admitted into the justice system. A concept that describes the relationship between school policies and criminal delinquency is referred to as the school-to-prison-pipeline.

The School-to-Prison Pipeline

Main Contributors

- Inadequate public school resources
- Zero-tolerance policies
- Officers stationed in schools – school resource officers

Suspension

Can be either in-school or out-of-school

Out-of-school suspensions remove students from the school setting, further alienating them from the material being taught and contributing to their disinterest in school.

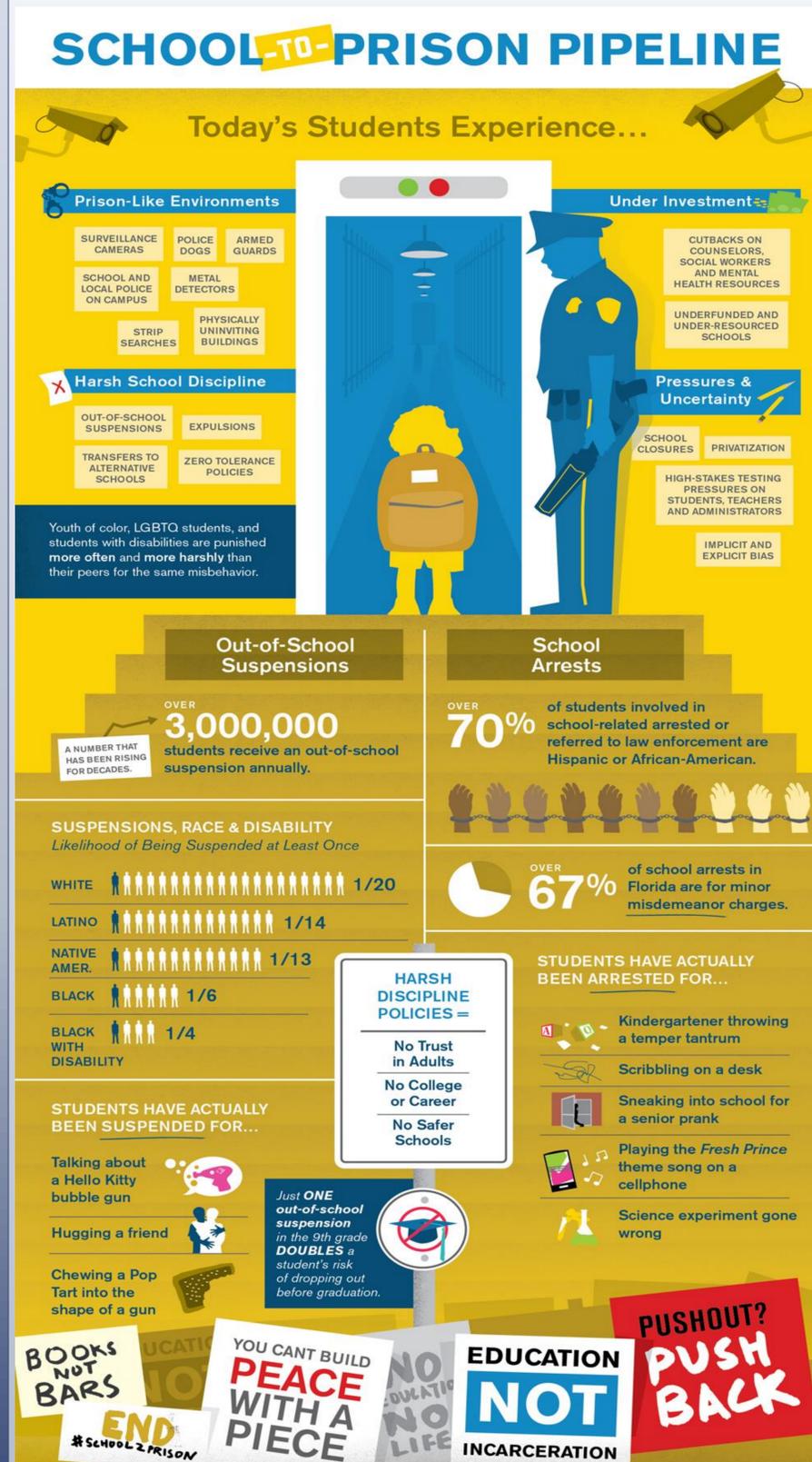
In-school suspensions currently do not correspond with what students are learning within their own classroom. Instead, all students who have been deemed delinquent are put in a room with what they often refer to as “busywork” and told to not talk to one another.

Both forms of suspension fail to acknowledge the source of the problem.

Zero Tolerance Policies

These policies are very common in the school setting. They instate rigid repercussions for different offenses. For example, bringing a weapon to school may constitute mandatory out of school suspension. Due to such policies students could be suspended for bringing nail clippers to school, as zero tolerance provides no leeway.

Statistics



(Advancement Project, n.d.)

A Look at Rochester

“Of the 6,373 total suspensions in 2012-13, at least 88% were for nonviolent offenses.

20% of students ages 12-17 were suspended at least once. There is an abrupt jump in the rate from 8th grade (12%) to 9th grade (30%)

Nearly three-quarters of all suspensions were served by less than 5% of the district student body — 1,382 students who were suspended, on average, 3.4 times each.” (Murphy, 2014)

About our Data

The data is pulled from the Monroe Crime Analysis Center, and includes all of the arrests at school addresses.

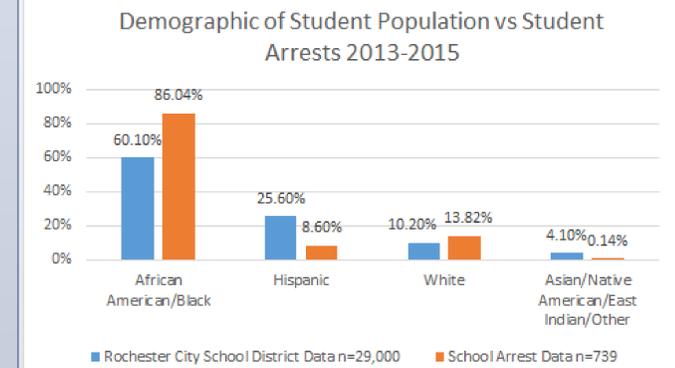
As this data deals with the arrest of minors, about half of the cases within the requested parameters were sealed. Due to this, many identifiers are removed.

While the majority of offenders were students, the date of birth for the sealed cases were omitted and currently the outliers can not be removed.

Note: School arrest demographics percentages add up to more than 100%, due to Hispanic being an ethnicity and not a race

739 arrests between 06/11/2013 and 09/09/2015 (roughly 1.3% of the student population per year)

Comparing Demographics



Next Steps

- Run further analysis on the data to get information such as highest offense rate by address and offense rate by age
- View previous offenses by the student, and see how they were handled
- Work to develop new policies geared toward handling arrests differently
- Identify alternatives to arrests

References

- Advancement Project. (n.d.). Clayton County, GA. *Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track*. Retrieved from <http://safequalityschools.org/pages/clayton-county-ga>
- Justin Murphy. (2014, November 18). Data: Suspensions a problem in city school district. *Democrat & Chronicle*. Retrieved from <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2014/11/17/report-puts-spotlight-suspensions/19197757/>
- Rochester City School District. (n.d.). Rochester City School District by the Numbers. Retrieved from <http://www.rcsdk12.org/Page/22>.

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