



Correlates and Effects of School Suspensions

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Purpose

- To understand the effect school suspensions have on students.
- To understand how different alternatives to out-of-school suspensions work and the benefits that it has over out-of-school suspension.

Introduction

The reasons behind implementing school suspensions

- Discipline misbehaved students, hope to reduce negative behavior
- Misbehaved students are disruptive in classroom
- Misbehaved students affect the education of other students

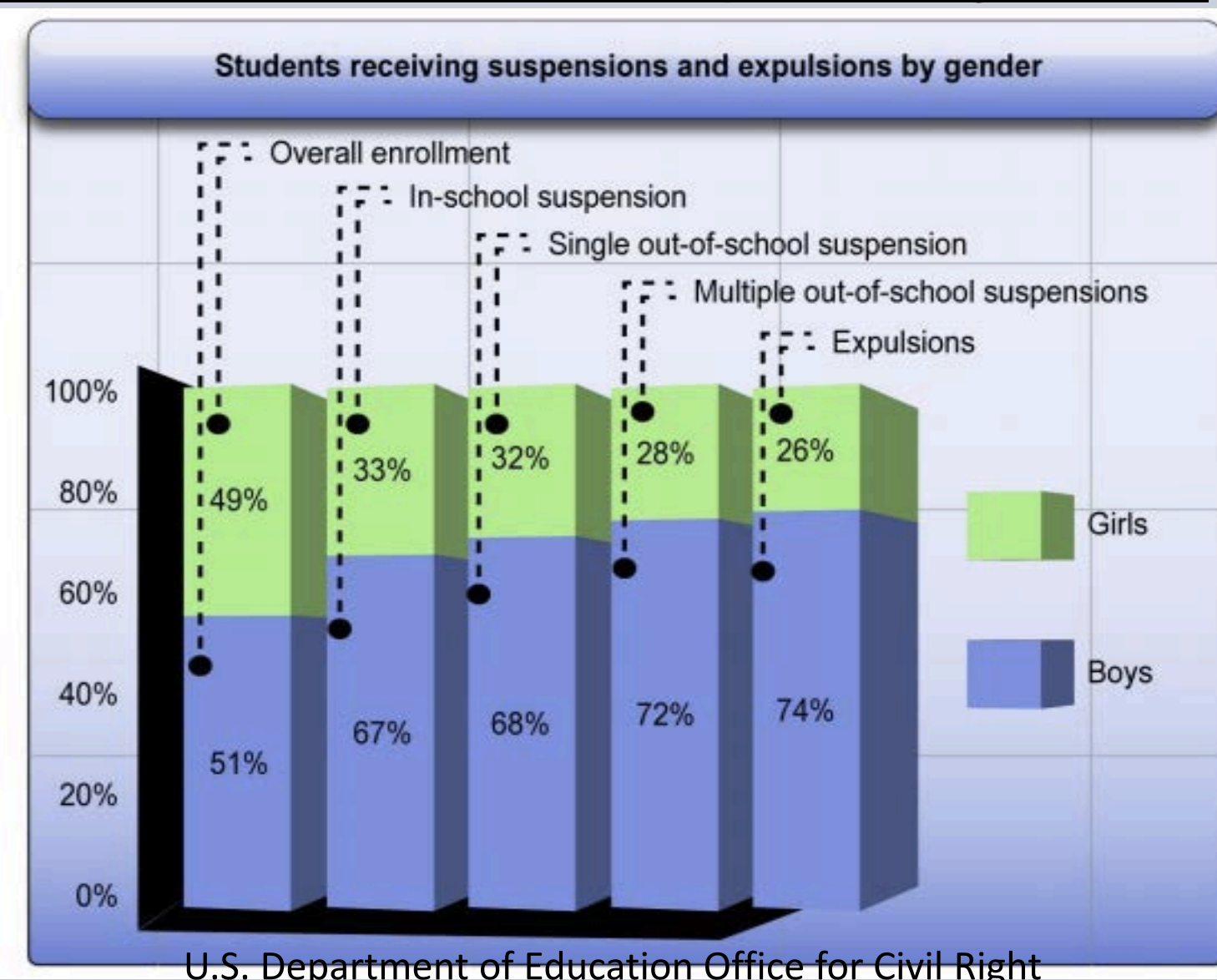
Common offenses that result in suspension:

- Defiance of school authority
- Failure to report after school detention
- Dress code violation
- Damage to school property
- Use of profanity
- Theft
- Fighting
- Leaving campus during school hours without permission

Reasons school suspensions are not working/fair:

- All children have the right and access to public education
- Attendance is compulsory and important for quality education
- There are no educational benefits to suspension
- Teachers and principals admit it does not help with the students' behavior
- Suspended students are labeled as troublemakers
- Students who are suspended at least three times are more likely to drop out
- Suspended students are more involved in risky behavior/serious crimes; suspension may encourage such behavior
- Suspensions are correlated to academic failure
- Urban schools and minority students are most affected

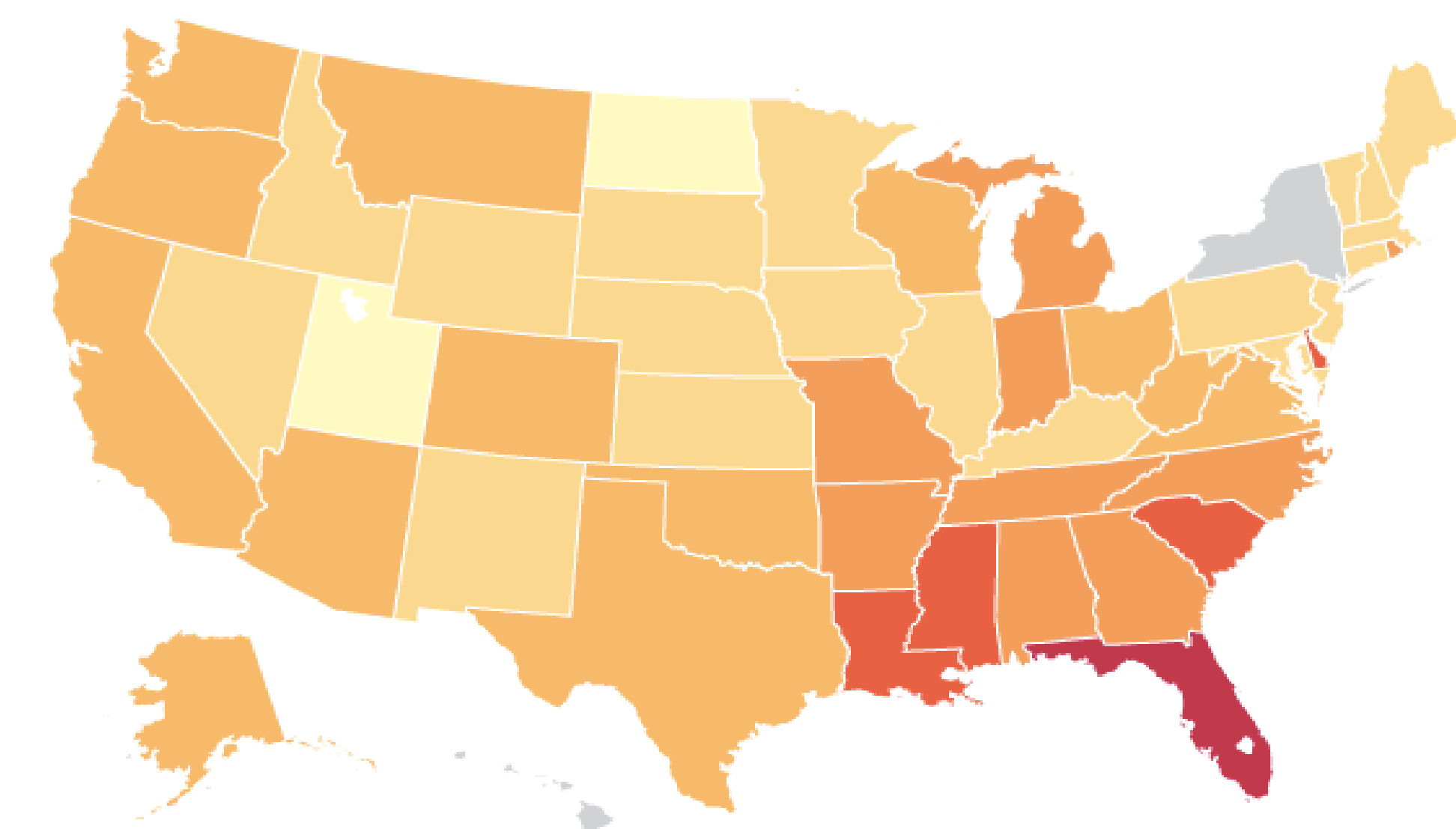
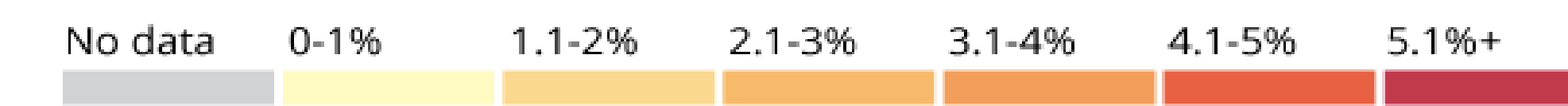
2011-2012 National Data: Suspension by Gender



- US School Enrollment: 49 million students
- In-school suspension: 3.5 million students (7.1%)
- Single out-of-school suspensions- 1.9 million students (3.9%)
- Multiple out-of-school suspension: 1.55 million students (3.2%)
- Expulsions: 130,000 students (0.27%)
- Boys represent ¾ of those suspended

States With The Most Elementary School Suspensions

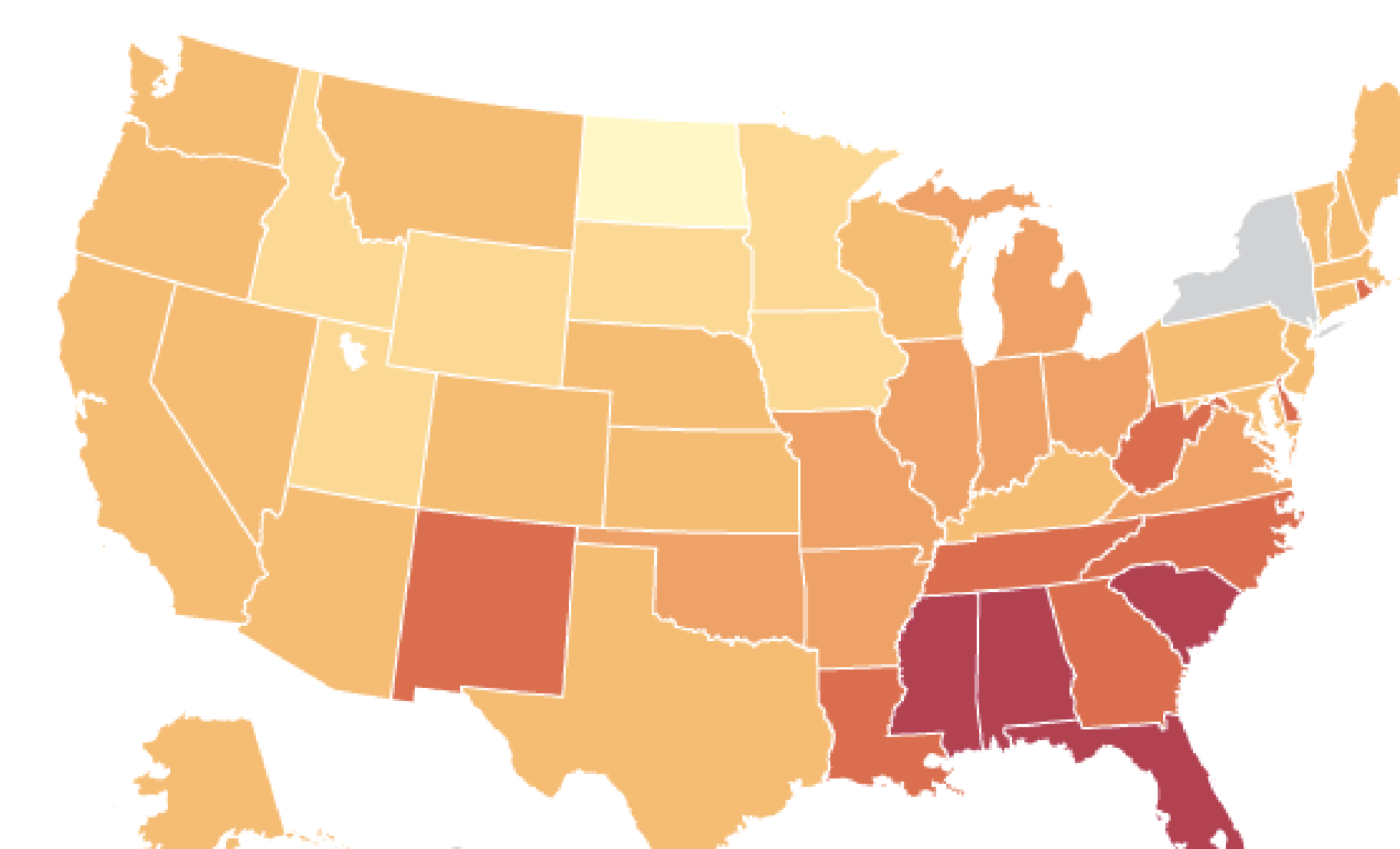
States' elementary school suspension rates, 2011-12



Note: Hawaii and New York were removed because of data reporting errors. Huffington Post

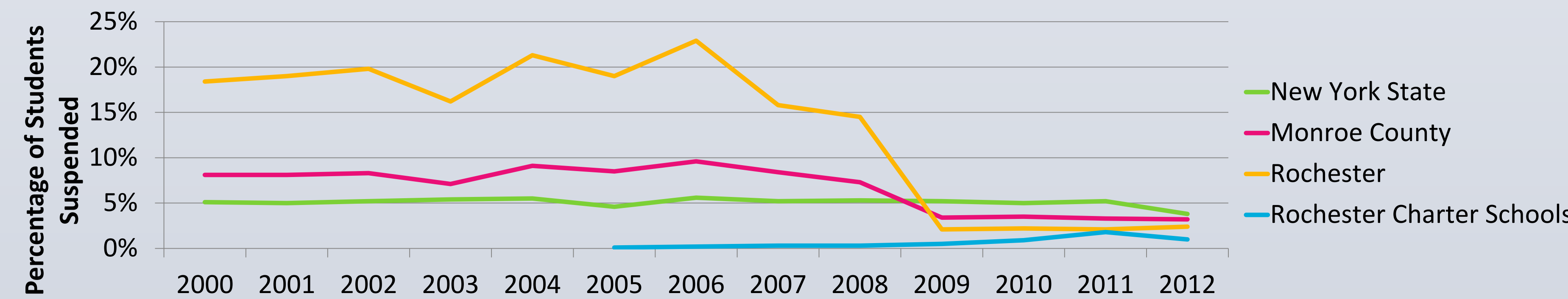
States With The Most Secondary School Suspensions

States' secondary school suspension rates, 2011-12

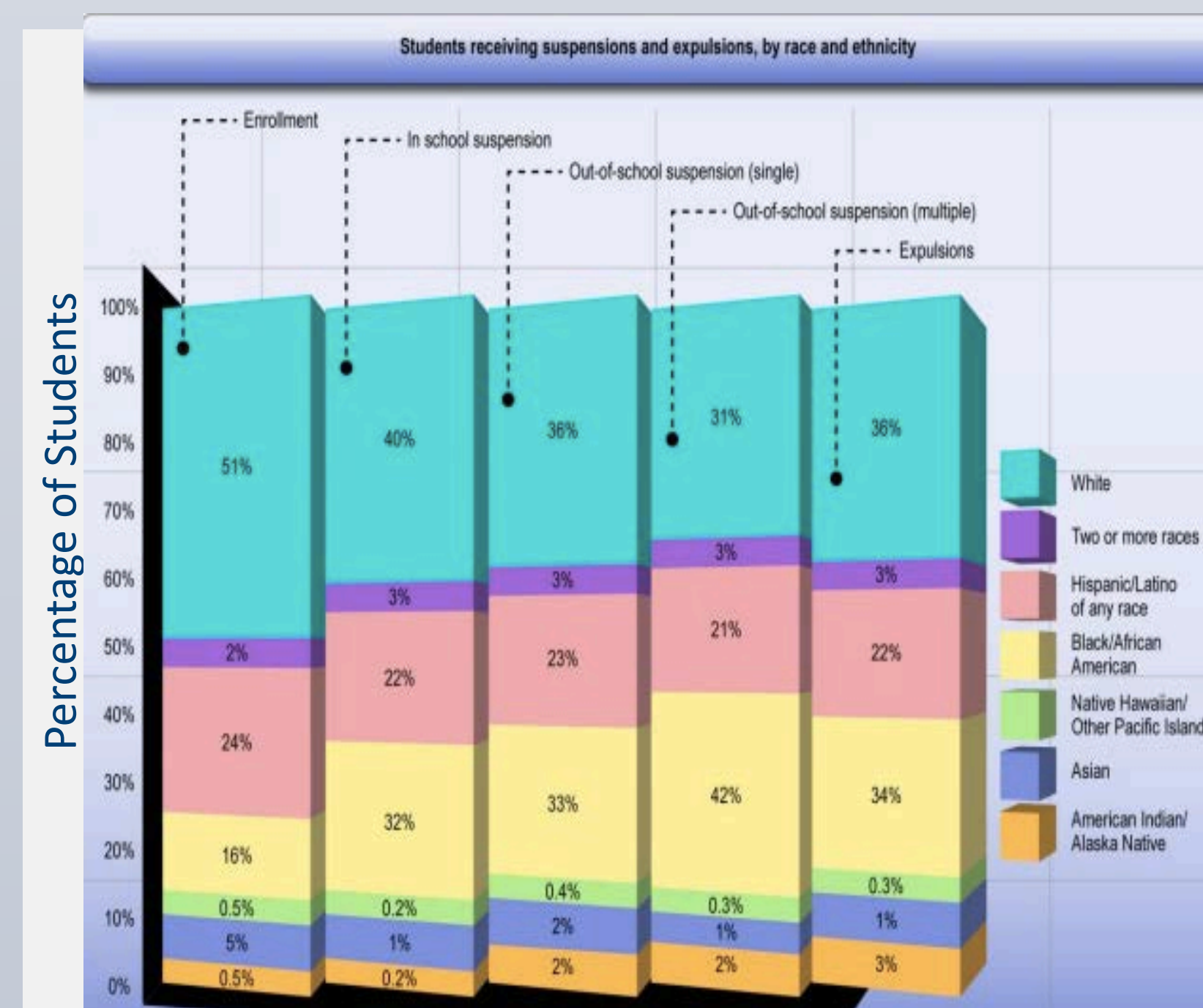


Huffington Post

Percentage of Students Suspended by Local Region



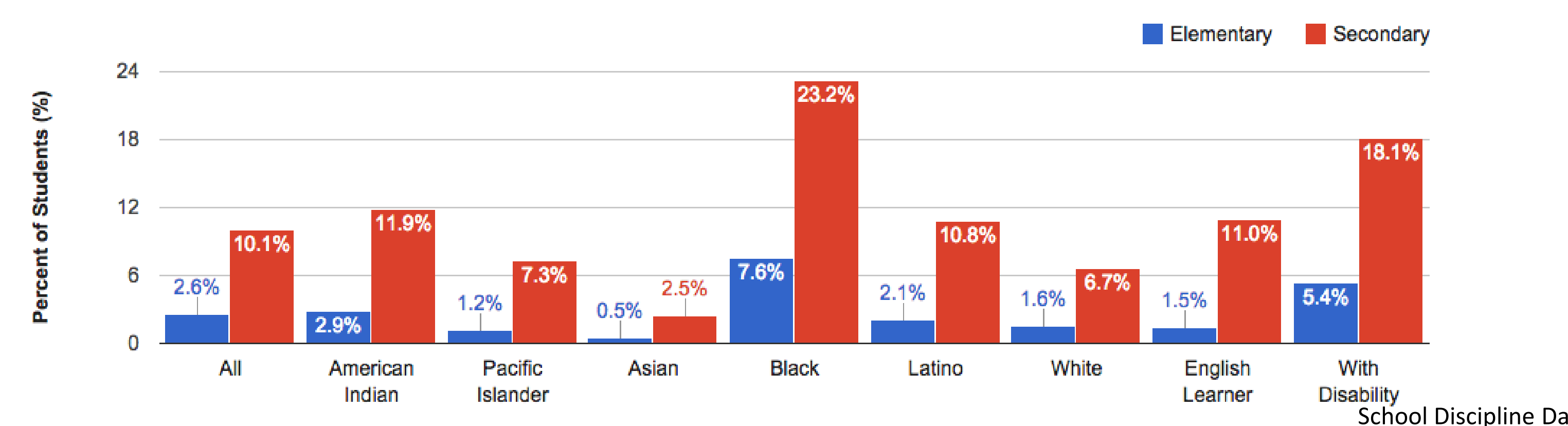
*In 2009-2009 school year, the RCSD made it much harder to give a student out-of-school suspension.



- Disproportionately high suspension/expulsion rates for students of color, compared to their share of school population
- Black students are suspended at rates three times greater than white students
 - 16% of black students are suspended, compared to 5% of white students.
- Students with disabilities (13%) are less likely to be out-of-school suspended compared with students without disabilities (6%).

Nationwide Suspension Rates at U.S. Schools (2011-12)

Elementary and Secondary Rates by Subgroup



Alternatives To Traditional Suspensions

Research studies show that school suspensions contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline (increased risk of students being arrested for behavior that could otherwise be handled by schools) because students who are suspended are at a greater risk to drop out (Klein, 15).

There are many alternatives to out-of school suspensions, such as...

- Phone call to parent or parent conference
- After school detention
- Lunch detention
- Co-curricular activity suspension
- Written apology
- Community service
- Saturday school

Conclusion and Next Steps

School suspension is becoming a higher-profile issue in the Rochester City School District. Schools are realizing that many students are getting suspended for minor infractions and that the suspension severely disrupts the students' education without large amounts of extra resources. It has become clear that the school code of conduct needs to be rewritten so that schools have options for different measures before suspending a student (Murphy, 2014).

However, little research and information is available on student discipline, especially in terms of what discipline really works for misbehaved students since school suspension is not working. It is important that research be conducted on school suspensions, alternatives to school suspensions, and how other schools are succeeding so that Rochester City School District have the most relevant information as they begin to rewrite and modify the school code of conduct.

References

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