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K-12 Racial Disparities in School Discipline

Title

Nationwide Survey of State Education Agencies' Online School Disciplinary Data

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Publication Date

2013-10-01

Supplemental Material

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Data Availability

The data associated with this publication are in the supplemental files.

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The Center for Civil Rights Remedies

at The Civil Rights Project | *Proyecto Derechos Civiles*

Nation-wide Survey of State Education Agencies' Online School Disciplinary Data

Instructions and Description of the Survey

The spreadsheet provides the results of a survey of suspension/expulsion data sources located on state-level (including Washington, DC) department of education websites throughout the United States conducted between August 2012 and May 2013. This survey was the result of a joint effort from the [Civil Rights Project](#) and [Council of State Governments, Justice Center](#). The purpose of this tool is to provide the public, including advocates, researchers, education policymakers, and parents, with information regarding the availability of school discipline data on their state's website, including direct live links to the data source where available. In most states, additional data can be obtained by filing a request, most often pursuant to the state's "sunshine act." For each state, we have listed the contact person for requesting additional data. Furthermore, The Center for Civil Rights Remedies (CRR) has provided an [analysis of suspension rates in each state for the 2009-2010 academic year](#) and this information is available on our [website](#) and described at the end of this document.

This *Survey* is limited to what reviewers found to have been publicly reported on each state's website. Some states did not publish any discipline data while others published detailed data as recent as 2011-2012.¹ More specifically, 10 states (20%) did not publically report any school discipline data. As indicated in Table 1, less than half of the states (43%) publicly report on their SEA website how many students are suspended annually. Furthermore, only one out of three states disaggregates disciplinary data by race in their SEA website reporting. The Civil Rights project has asserted that states should provide detailed (e.g., disaggregated) discipline data to the public via their website every year.

Table 1. Overview of Discipline Data Reporting across States (including Washington, DC)

						Disaggregated by:						
	Suspensions	Expulsions	Students Suspended	Students Expelled	Offense	Race or Ethnicity	Gender	Special Ed	Grade or School Level	State	District	Campus
# of states	32	29	22	21	32	17	19	16	20	37	34	26
% of States	63%	57%	43%	41%	63%	33%	37%	31%	39%	73%	67%	51%

Spreadsheet Overview:

The *Survey* worksheet details what data is accessible online for public consumption. The spreadsheet indicates whether discipline data is available online at the department of education website of each state and the District of Columbia. The spreadsheet also indicates whether the data may be disaggregated by subgroups (i.e., grade level, school level, race/ethnicity, gender, & special education designation). For some states, more detailed discipline data is available offline. Therefore, we have provided each state's contact information where one can request data

¹ See "Summary" worksheet in the *Survey* spreadsheet for details.

that are more detailed. The availability of detailed data varies by state and will be determined upon correspondence with the provided contacts. *It is important to note that this spreadsheet is accurate as of June 6, 2013.* Due to the nature of data availability, some changes may occur periodically. Accordingly, we will provide updates to this spreadsheet on a semi-annual basis.

Definitions of Terms used in Spreadsheet:

Term	Definition
In-School Suspension	Student removed from his or her regular classroom(s) for a period of time but remains under the supervision of school personnel. The time period could vary from hours within a single day to several days. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
Out-of-School Suspension	Student removed from school grounds for a finite period of time. Typically, the student is removed for 10 days or less. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
Expulsion	Student removed from a school or school district for an extended period of time or permanently. The student may or may not be provided with educational support services or placed in alternative location. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
Grade Level	If marked, disciplinary data are aggregated by grade level. Any exceptions will be noted by an asterisk.
School Level	If marked, disciplinary data are aggregated by school level (elementary, middle, and/or high). Any exceptions will be noted by an asterisk.
Race &/or Ethnicity	Generally defined as: African-American/Black, American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, White, Multi-Racial. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
Special Education	If marked, disciplinary data is provided for students with disabilities who are eligible for special education according to state and federal law. Typically, these students have an individualized education plan commonly referred to as an IEP.
# of Students (In-School Suspensions: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students suspended <i>In School</i> is provided. Unduplicated means that each student is counted a single time even if the student received more than one in-school suspension during the year.
# of Students (Out-of-School Suspensions: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students suspended <i>Out-of-School</i> is provided. Unduplicated means that each student is counted a single time even if the student received more than one out-of-school suspension during the year. A student that received 10 suspensions in the same year would only be recorded once.
# of Students (Suspensions & Expulsions Combined: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students <i>Suspended &/or Expelled</i> is provided. Unduplicated means that each student is counted a single time even if the student received more than one out-of-school suspension during the year or was suspended and later expelled during the same academic year.
# of Students (Expulsions: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students <i>Expelled</i> is provided. Each student is counted a single time. Typically, expelled students are removed for the balance of the academic year or longer, but definitions vary by state.
# of Suspensions (In-School: Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>In-School Suspensions</i> is provided. The # of in-school suspensions counts every suspension meted out during the year. A student that received 10 in-school suspensions during the same year would generate a count of 10 suspensions.
# of Suspensions (Out-of-School: Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>Out-of-School Suspensions</i> is provided. The # of out-of-school suspensions counts every suspension meted out during the year. A student that received

Term	Definition
	10 out-of-school suspensions during the same year would generate a count of 10 out-of-school suspensions.
# of Suspensions (In & Out-of-School Combined: Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>In-School &/or Out-of-School Suspensions</i> is provided. Combined # of suspensions means that each suspension is counted with no distinction as to whether it was served in-school or out-of-school.
# of Expulsions (Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>Expulsions</i> is provided. This category provides the number of expulsions meted out. Some states attach the term “expulsion” to long-term suspensions. Therefore, it is conceivable that one student could be expelled more than once in a given year. In most states, however, the number of expulsions should match the number of students expelled because expulsions typically entail removal of the student from school for the balance of the school year.
Type of Offense/Reason	If marked, the type of offense that resulted in disciplinary action is provided. For example, states often indicate the number of suspensions under the category of particular offenses such as: theft, assault, bullying, cheating, weapon or firearm possession, sexual assault, destruction of property, and some states also include less serious offense categories such as dress code violations or willful defiance. Most often, where one suspension resulted from multiple offenses, only the most serious offense is counted. However, in some states, each offense may be counted even only one disciplinary response results.
Disciplinary Action (other than Suspension/Expulsion)	If marked, a disciplinary action other than suspension or expulsion is provided. Examples of other disciplinary actions typically include after-school detention, Saturday school, and parent-teacher conferences.
Data Available (2010-11)	If marked, disciplinary data from the 2010-11 academic school year is provided on the states website.
Data Available (2011-12)	If marked, disciplinary data from the 2011-12 school year is provided.
Time Period Limitations	If marked, data for the school year <i>prior</i> to the <i>current</i> school year is not available (e.g., the <i>current</i> school year is 2012-13 & the data from 2011-2012 is not available).
Discipline Data Link	The link(s) to the most current disciplinary data is (provided, if available).
Detailed Data Request Link	If disciplinary data are not available on the web, or more detailed information is desired this link provides instructions on how to request data from the state.
Detailed Data Contact	Information regarding whom to contact regarding the request of data is provided.
Enrollment Data Link	The link to the most current enrollment data is provided. The enrollment data are essential for calculating rates of suspension and expulsion.
Notes	This section provides additional information regarding the disciplinary data, if applicable.

Methods:

As a first step in the survey, the researchers went to each state’s department of education website (and the District of Columbia) to ascertain what discipline data was available. More specifically, the researchers tried to determine if suspension/expulsion data was located on the state’s department of education website and if so, whether the data was disaggregated by subgroups (i.e., grade level, school level, race/ethnicity, gender, & special education status). If the researchers were unable to find discipline data, they contacted the department of education to inquire if and how the data might be obtained.

How to use this spreadsheet:

The states and the District of Columbia are listed in the columns and type of data, contact information, & data notes are listed in the rows of the spreadsheet. Data indicators are further disaggregated at the state, district, and school level. The states are listed alphabetically. You may search for a state by using the search feature (Ctrl-F [PC] or CMD-F [Mac]). If available, we have provided a link to the data sources in the spreadsheet (indicated by a [hyperlink](#)). When applicable, the name of the report is indicated in the hyperlink to aid in locating the data on the department's website. Definitions for the terms used in the first worksheet are provided on the second worksheet.

If you have any questions or comments about the use of or accuracy of this data, please contact Cheri Hodson at closingthedisciplinegap@gmail.com.

Web tool:

The Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG Justice Center) has created a [web tool](#) that provides summaries of student discipline data for each state in a graphic format.

Discipline Data in Your State: The Center for Civil Rights Remedies (CCRR) has provided an analysis of suspension rates in each state for the 2009-2010 academic year and this information is available on our website www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu. In our report *Suspended Education: The Disparate Impact of Out of School Suspensions* we provide a companion spreadsheet with data for grades k-12 for each district. In our more recent report, *Out of School and Off Track: The Overuse of Suspensions in American Middle and High Schools*, released on April 8, 2013, we provide a spreadsheet with suspension rates for each district broken down by elementary, middle and high school levels as well as a combined secondary schools rate. Nearly all districts enrolling over 3,000 students are included in these spreadsheets. On our website you will also find further instructions regarding how to use these spreadsheets to find and compare discipline data at the district level. We are also launching a web-tool that will allow you quickly see the information about discipline rates in your school district and compare it to others with relevant charts and tables generated on demand.

The data collected by the Department of Education is disaggregated by race, gender, disability status and English learner status, including cross-sections of these groups. The data published by the DOED provides the number of each subgroup suspended out-of-school one time and, separately, the number of students suspended out-of-school two or more times. Our analysis added these mutually exclusive categories together to report the number of students suspended one or more times. On the Department of Education's website, you can also find data on the number of students who experienced any of the following: in-school suspension, expulsion, school-based arrests, referral to law enforcement, and the use of seclusion or restraints on students. The data collected and reported by DOED does not include the number of suspensions, the number of offenses, nor does it break down the data by reasons for suspensions.²

² The district analysis in the two reports mentioned above is based on data collected by The U.S. Department of Education on a biennial basis. The DOED has collected data from every school district in the nation for 2011-12. Unfortunately, this information will not likely be available to the public until 2013, but members of the public can often ask schools and districts for this data pursuant to their state's "sunshine act" law.