



Student Safety Act Reporting 2017 in Review

SUMMARY

The Student Safety Act (SSA) requires that the New York City Police Department publically issue quarterly reports on arrests, summonses, and other police-involved incidents in New York City public schools.ⁱ The 2017 calendar year is the second year in which the NYPD reported on activity in schools by officers outside of the School Safety Division, giving a more complete picture of the impact police have on the educational environment.ⁱⁱ

Since 2012, the number of arrests and summonses issued by School Safety Officers (SSOs) has consistently declined. In 2017, SSOs were responsible for less than 15% of arrests and 2% of summonses. However, the vast majority of police interactions with students in school are not with the school safety officers specially trained to work with youth in schools, but with other law enforcement officials, including armed patrol officers. In addition, 366 arrests (29% of total arrests in schools) were for incidents that occurred off school grounds and had no relationship to the school, indicating that police may be using schools as a place to locate and arrest young people for non-school related offenses. This practice sends the harmful message that kids in trouble should stay away from school.

The School Safety Division has made a significant effort to reduce the use of summonses for non-criminal offenses. In 2017 they issued just 18 summonses, down from 1,275 in 2012. Summonses for disorderly conduct, including unreasonable noise, fighting and obscene language, are not an appropriate response to student misbehavior. However, precinct officers are not required to follow the same procedures as the School Safety Division, and officers issued nearly 900 summonses, sending children into the criminal justice system for misbehavior.

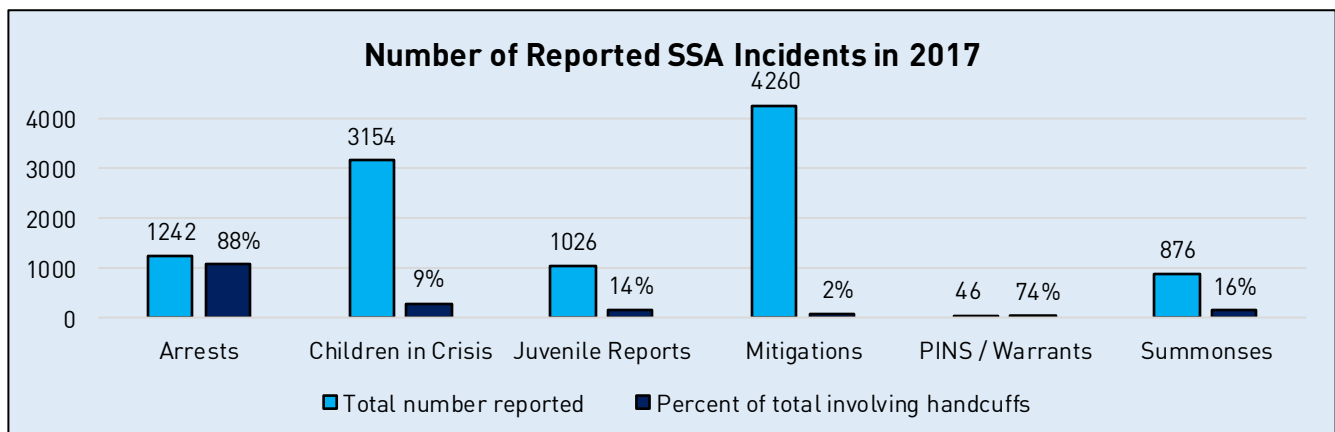
Black and Latino students continue to bear the burden of arrests, summonses, and police interactions in school, and the city has failed its responsibility to reduce the racial disparities in its school safety program. Black and Latino students represent 66.9 % of the student body, but 90.2% of arrests and 89.3% of summonses in school. They also accounted for 88.4% of child-in-crisis incidents, 87.9% of juvenile reports, and 89.5% of mitigated incidents. Students of color were also more likely than white students to be handcuffed for school misbehavior, even where there is no criminal activity. Black and Latino students accounted for 92.5% of juvenile reports and 94.4% of mitigated incidents where handcuffs were used, as well as 93.4% of child-in-crisis incidents where handcuffs were used.

10,604 incidents were reported in 2017

1,242 Arrests
 3,154 Children in crisisⁱⁱⁱ
 1,026 Juvenile reports^{iv}
 4,260 Mitigations^v
 46 PINS/warrants^{vi}
 876 Summonses

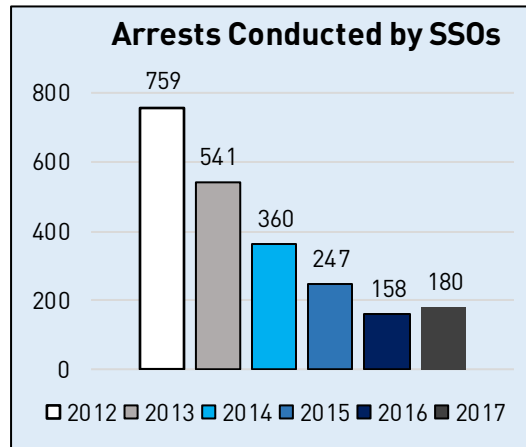
1,768 of the reported incidents resulted in the use of handcuffs

1,091 Arrests
 287 Children in crisis
 146 Juvenile reports
 72 Mitigations
 34 PINS/warrants
 138 Summonses



ARRESTS: There were 1,242 school-based arrests in 2017.

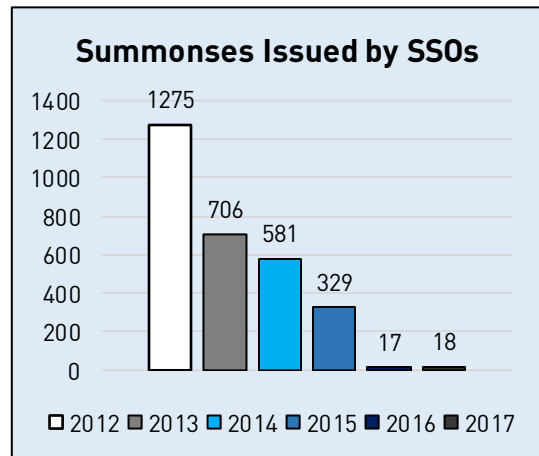
- 57% of arrests were for misdemeanors, 41% were for felonies, and 2% were for violations.
- Only 14.5% of arrests were carried out by SSOs. The vast majority of activity in schools is carried out by NYPD officers with no special training in the school environment.
- In 87.8% of arrests, students were placed in handcuffs.
- 70% of those arrested identified as male.



Breakdown by borough		Top charges	
21.5%	Bronx	39.8%	Assault (494)
29.5%	Brooklyn	12.5%	Robbery (155)
19.3%	Manhattan	7.2%	Criminal possession of a weapon (90)
24.2%	Queens	4.6%	Grand larceny (57)
5.4%	Staten Island	3.4%	Criminal possession of a controlled substance (42)
Breakdown by race		Breakdown by age	
58.9%	Black students	16.3%	14 or under
31.2%	Latino students	66.3%	15-18
5.2%	White students	4.8%	19-21

SUMMONSES: 876 summonses were issued in schools in 2017.

- Just 2.1% of summonses were issued by SSOs. The remainder were issued by NYPD patrol and other uniformed enforcement officers.
- 89.3% of those issued summonses were Black or Latino and 69.5% identified as male.
- 7 summonses (under 1%) were for non-school-related incidents that occurred off school grounds.



Breakdown by borough		Charges with over 100 incidents	
31.2%	Bronx	34.0%	Possession of marijuana (298)
27.4%	Brooklyn	26.4%	Disorderly conduct (231)
22.8%	Manhattan	19.7%	Possession of a knife (173)
15.2%	Queens	14.2%	Possession of a box cutter (124)
3.4%	Staten Island		
Breakdown by race		Breakdown by age	
51.7%	Black students	89.5%	16-18
37.6%	Latino students	8.3%	19-21
5.0%	White students		

JUVENILE REPORTS

- 1,026 juvenile reports were issued in schools in 2017. 87.9% of juvenile reports were issued to Black and Latino students.
- 14% of students were handcuffed during juvenile report investigations. 92.5% of these students were Black and Latino.

CHILD-IN-CRISIS INCIDENTS

- 3,154 child-in-crisis incidents were reported in 2017.
- Black and Latino students accounted for 88.4% of child-in-crisis incidents and 93.4% of child-in-crisis incidents where handcuffs were used.

MITIGATED INCIDENTS

- 4260 mitigated incidents were reported in 2017.
- Black and Latino students accounted for 89.5% of mitigated incidents, and 94.4% of mitigated incidents where handcuffs were used.

HANDCUFFS (ALL INCIDENTS)

- 1,768 of the incidents reported in 2017, 16.7% of all incidents, resulted in the use of handcuffs.
- 17.0% of incidents involving Black or Latino students resulted in handcuffing compared with 14.9% of those involving white students, meaning that students of color are more likely to be handcuffed for school misbehavior, even where there is no criminal activity.
- 67.1% of those handcuffed identified as male.
- 35.7% of those handcuffed were under 16 years of age, 71 of whom were under 13 years of age, and 6 of whom were under 10 years of age.

Breakdown by borough

26.3%	Bronx
28.8%	Brooklyn
17.1%	Manhattan
21.3%	Queens
6.6%	Staten Island

Breakdown by intervention type

61.7%	arrest
16.2%	child-in-crisis
8.3%	juvenile report
4.1%	mitigation
7.8%	summons
1.9%	PINS

SCHOOL SAFETY AGENT COMPLAINTS

In 2017, 130 FADO complaints were made against school safety agents.

- 75 Force
- 4 Abuse of authority
- 44 Discourtesy
- 7 Offensive language

DOE Enrollment K-12 Student population: 1,068,679

Male	51.5 %
Latino	40.4 %
Black	26.5 %
Asian	15.8 %
White	14.9 %

Source: DOE snapshot^{vii}

ⁱ NYC Local Law 093, 2015.

ⁱⁱ The 2017 numbers cannot be directly compared with previous annual analyses of Student Safety Act (SSA) data due to changes in reporting.

ⁱⁱⁱ Child in crisis refers to incidents where a student "displaying signs of emotional distress" is removed from the classroom and taken to hospital for a psychological evaluation. The NYPD reported only the instances in which handcuffs were used until the third quarter of 2016.

^{iv} Juvenile report is a report for a student under 16 who allegedly committed an offense that, if they were an adult, would be considered criminal. The report substitutes for an arrest or summons and students are detained during the time it takes to collect details.

^v Mitigation refers to incidents where a student allegedly commits an offense but the NYPD releases the student to the school for discipline. The NYPD reported only the instances in which handcuffs were used until the third quarter of 2016.

^{vi} PINS refers to a family court warrant for a "Person in Need of Supervision."

^{vii} DOE enrollment statistics were retrieved from the October 31, 2016 Audited Register.