



Student Safety Act Reporting 2019

BACKGROUND

The Student Safety Act (SSA) requires that the New York City Police Department publicly issue quarterly reports on arrests, summonses and other police-involved incidents in New York City public schools. Since 2012, the number of arrests and summonses issued by School Safety Officers (SSOs) has consistently declined as the City reckons with the effects of the School to Prison Pipeline. The 2016 calendar year was the first in which the NYPD reported on activity by officers outside of the School Safety Division, giving a more complete picture of the enormous impact police have on the educational environment.¹

NYC students started the 2019-2020 school year with a new Memorandum of Understanding in place that strictly limits the activities of police in non-emergency situations. In addition, a new state law prohibits police from stepping in to manage everyday school discipline. Advocates expect (and hope) these new policies will begin to have a major impact on the number of in-school arrests and police actions.

While only three months' worth of data have been collected and made available since the implementation of the new MOU, the data indicate a troubling lack of change and a continued failure of the City to reduce the racial disparities in its school safety program.

Top findings include:

- Interventions by non-SROs: In the 2018-2019 school year, SSOs, who are at least minimally trained to work in schools, were responsible for 20% of arrests and just 6% of summonses. Since the implementation of the new MOU in the 3rd quarter of 2019, the proportion of arrests and summonses that SSOs were responsible for increased to 23% and 10% respectively.
- Racial disparities: In the 2018-2019 school year, Black and Latinx students represent 66% of the student body, but were involved in 88.9% of police interventions in schools. Since the implementation of the new MOU in summer 2019, the proportion of SSA incidents involving Black and Latinx students actually slightly increased to 89.4%. This is generally consistent with other changes over the years—as the City does more to reduce the overall impact of police in schools, but does little to explicitly eliminate racial disparities, disparities actually worsen. Unfortunately, the benefits of the city's efforts seem to flow first to the students who are the least impacted.

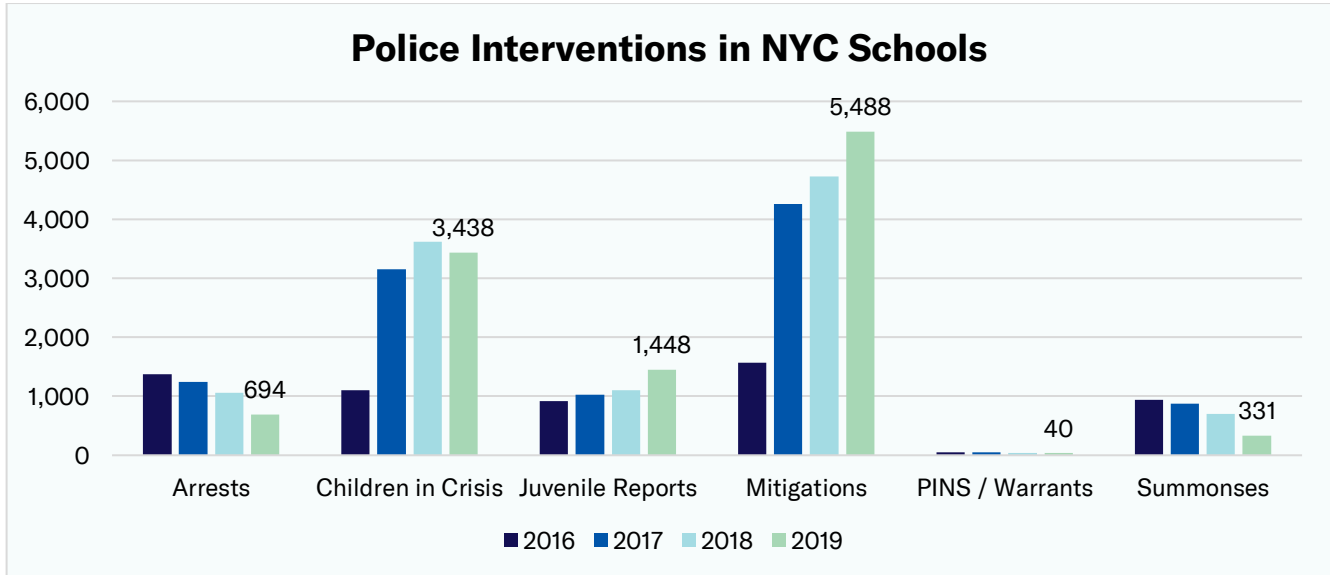
¹ NYC Local Law 093, 2015.

11,439 incidents were reported in 2019

694	Arrests
3,438	Children in crisis ⁱ
1,448	Juvenile reports ⁱⁱ
5,488	Mitigations ⁱⁱⁱ
40	PINS/warrants ^{iv}
331	Summonses

1,272 incidents resulted in the use of handcuffs

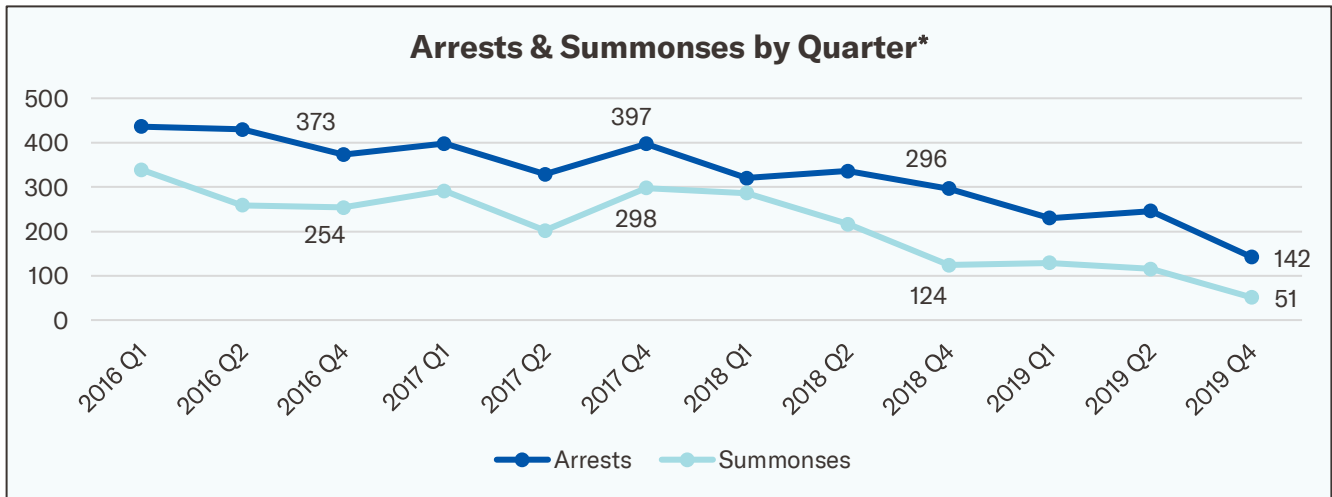
611	Arrests (88%)
258	Children in crisis (8%)
232	Juvenile reports (16%)
103	Mitigations (2%)
17	PINS/warrants (43%)
51	Summonses (15%)



ARRESTS

There were 694 school-based arrests in 2019, 88% of which involved handcuffs.

- Black and Latinx students accounted for 90% of arrests, and White students accounted for 5% of arrests. 89% of Black and Latinx students arrested were handcuffed, compared with 81% of White students arrested.
- 20% of arrests were carried out by SSOs. This is a slightly higher proportion of arrests by SSOs than in past reporting periods (e.g. 18% in 2018). The vast majority of activity in schools is carried out by NYPD officers with no special training in the school environment.
- 226 arrests (33% of total arrests) were for non-school-related incidents that occurred off school grounds.
- 50% of arrests were for misdemeanors, 49% were for felonies and 1% were for violations. The number of felonies reported in schools in 2019 dropped nearly 25% compared with 2018.
- 74% of those arrested identified as male, and 22% were aged 14 or under.



* Q3 is excluded from this figure because it falls during the summer months when there are very few students in schools.

SUMMONSES:

331 summonses were issued in schools in 2019, 15% of which involved handcuffs. The number of summonses issued was on the decline before the MOU was adopted, in part because of New York's Raise the Age law and in part because of the NYPD's use of warnings in place of summonses.

- Of those issued summonses, 93% were Black and Latinx, and 4% were white. Of the 51 summonses where handcuffs were used, all but two involved Black or Latinx students.
- Less than 5% of summonses were issued by SSOs. The remainder were issued by NYPD patrol and other uniformed enforcement officers.
- 75% of those arrested identified as male, and only one summons was issued to a person under the age of 16.

CHILD-IN-CRISIS INCIDENTS

- 3,438 child-in-crisis incidents were reported in 2019, 9% of which involved handcuffs.
- Black and Latinx students accounted for 87% of child-in-crisis incidents, and 91% of child-in-crisis incidents where handcuffs were used.

JUVENILE REPORTS

- 1,448 juvenile reports were issued in schools in 2019, 16% of which involve handcuffs.
- Black and Latinx students accounted for 89% of juvenile reports, and 90% of juvenile reports where handcuffs were used.

MITIGATED INCIDENTS

- 5,488 mitigated incidents were reported in 2019, 103 (2%) of which involved handcuffs.
- Black and Latinx students accounted for 90% of mitigated incidents, and 95% of mitigated incidents where handcuffs were used.

HANDCUFFS (ALL INCIDENTS)

- 1,272 incidents involving the use of handcuffs were reported in 2019, accounting for 11% of all incidents in schools.
- While Black and Latinx students accounted for 91% of incidents involving handcuffs, Black and Latinx students were handcuffed at almost the same rate as White students (11.4% of incidents compared to 10.8% of incidents).
- People under the age of 16 accounted for 42% of those who were handcuffed, including 9 students who were between 6 and 10 years old.
- 69% of those handcuffed identified as male. Black and Latinx students accounted for 90% males and 95% of females who were handcuffed.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICERS

In 2019, 183 FADO complaints were made against SSOs.

134 Force

0 Abuse of authority

46 Discourtesy

3 Offensive language

DOE Enrollment K-12 Student population: 1,052,597	
Male	51.4 %
Latinx	40.6 %
Black	25.5 %
Asian	16.2 %
White	15.1 %
Source: DOE snapshot ^v	

ⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ Mitigation refers to incidents where a student commits an offense but the NYPD releases the student to the school for discipline.

^{iv} PINS refers to a family court warrant for a “Person in Need of Supervision.”

^v DOE enrollment statistics were retrieved from the October 31, 2019 Audited Register.