

Suspension Trends in the School District of Philadelphia

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INTRO

- Evidence links suspensions to a variety of negative outcomes for students.¹
- At the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) introduced changes to its disciplinary policy.
- In response to these changes the Office of Research and Evaluation has examined trends in suspension focusing on the percent of students receiving zero suspensions and an examination of disproportionality over time.

METHODS

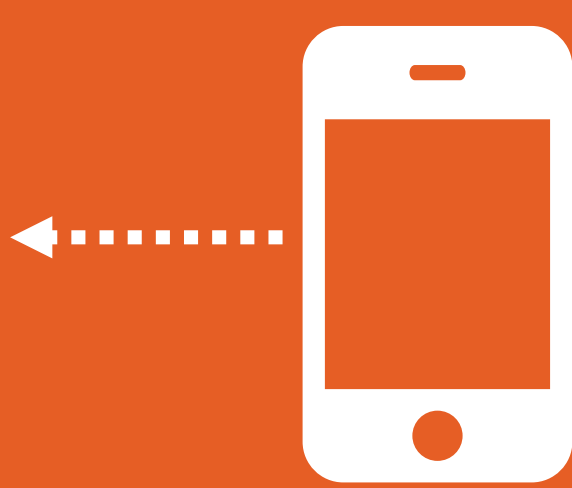
- District administrative data from 2015-16 to 2017-18 were used to examine trends.
- Risk ratios examined disproportionality and were calculated as the suspension rate of one group divided by the suspension rate of a comparison group.

RESULTS

| School Year | Total Students (End of Year) | % with Zero OSS (End of Year) |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2015-16 | 143,115 | 88.8% |
| 2016-17 | 141,852 | 90.4% |
| 2017-18 | 140,480 | 92.1% |

- From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the percentage of students in grades 3-12 that received zero suspensions increased.
- Male students were more likely to be suspended than female students, and students with disabilities were more likely to be suspended compared to students without disabilities.
- Contrary to the findings of other research, English Language Learner (ELL) students were not more likely to receive a suspension compared to non-ELL students.
- Black/African American students, Latino/Hispanic students, and students identified as Multiracial/Other were more likely to be suspended compared to White students.

The percent of students with zero suspensions has improved over time. However, not all groups of students are suspended at equal rates.



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% of students with zero Out of School (OSS) Suspensions by gender (2017-18 School Year)

| Grade | Female | Male |
|-------|--------|-------|
| 3 | 96.7% | 90.3% |
| 4 | 95.6% | 89.1% |
| 5 | 93.7% | 88.4% |
| 6 | 92.3% | 88.0% |
| 7 | 88.7% | 85.5% |
| 8 | 89.5% | 85.3% |
| 9 | 88.0% | 84.6% |
| 10 | 90.0% | 87.6% |
| 11 | 93.1% | 90.9% |
| 12 | 96.2% | 93.3% |

% of students with zero OSS by disability status (2017-18 School Year)

| Grade | No Disability | Disability |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| 3 | 93.8% | 90.9% |
| 4 | 93.1% | 87.7% |
| 5 | 91.9% | 86.8% |
| 6 | 91.2% | 85.0% |
| 7 | 87.7% | 84.0% |
| 8 | 88.6% | 81.9% |
| 9 | 87.4% | 80.4% |
| 10 | 89.9% | 83.0% |
| 11 | 93.0% | 86.9% |
| 12 | 95.1% | 92.2% |

Race/ethnicity-based risk ratios for students without disabilities (2017-18 School Year)

| Grade | Asian | Black/ African American | Hispanic/ Latino | Other |
|-------|-------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|
| 3 | 0.27 | 7.90 | 2.07 | 2.84 |
| 4 | 0.15 | 7.84 | 2.79 | 2.60 |
| 5 | 0.37 | 8.79 | 3.38 | 3.49 |
| 6 | 0.25 | 3.66 | 2.00 | 2.11 |
| 7 | 0.35 | 4.24 | 2.17 | 2.44 |
| 8 | 0.09 | 4.82 | 3.04 | 2.75 |
| 9 | 0.30 | 3.03 | 1.97 | 1.76 |
| 10 | 0.40 | 2.74 | 1.35 | 1.40 |
| 11 | 0.65 | 2.61 | 1.54 | 0.64 |
| 12 | 0.41 | 2.25 | 0.98 | 0.89 |

This table provides information about the likelihood of receiving a suspension based on a student's race/ethnicity relative to White students in the same grade. A Risk Ratio of 1 indicates an equal rate of receiving OSS as White students while a Risk Ratio larger than 1 indicates greater risk.