

Get Cops Out of Schools: A Factsheet

As uprisings against racial injustice have laid bare centuries of systemic police brutality, school districts around the country are reconsidering their relationship with local police departments. They are doing so under the backdrop of [severe declines](#) in school funding and imminent budget cuts in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. 62 superintendents from major school districts including New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami wrote they're bracing for 15% to 25% cuts in overall revenues going into next school year.

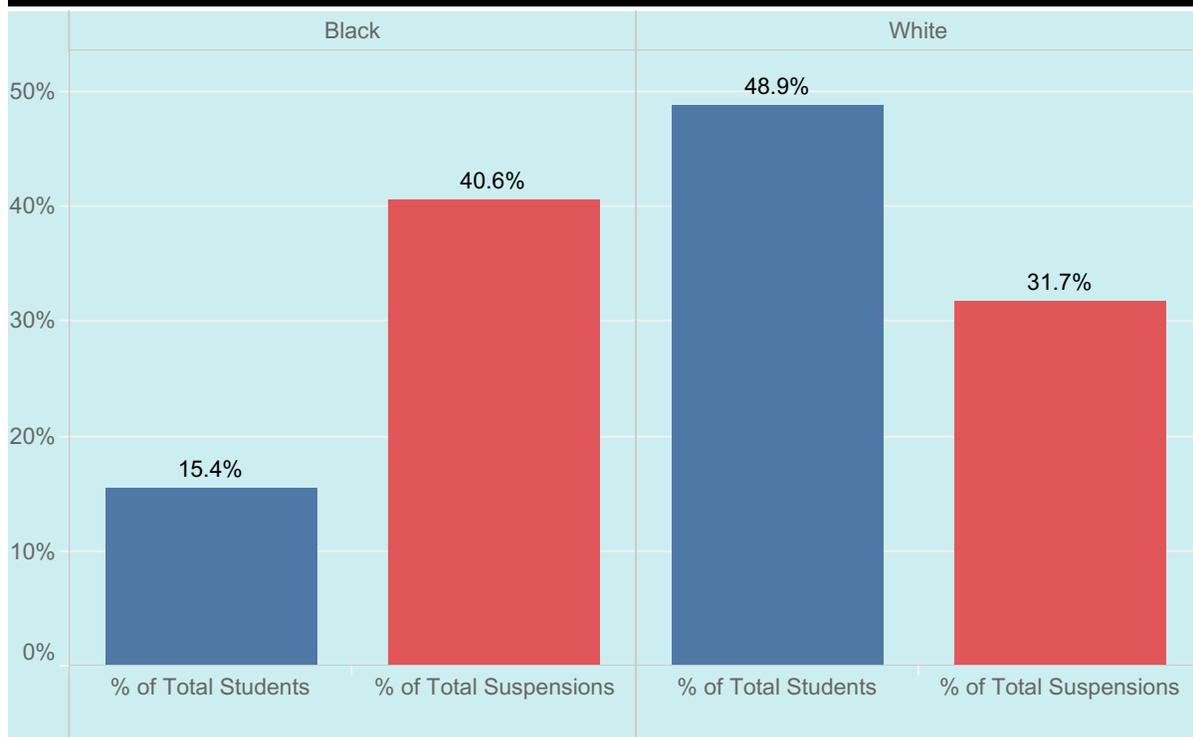
However, some cities, such as [Minneapolis, Portland, Denver, and Oakland](#) are moving forward with resolutions to cut ties with the police, a move that reverses state-wide decisions over the last decade to ramp up funding for policing in schools. This comes as well as evidence shows harm to marginalized student populations without an increase in school safety and the ways in which SROs contribute to the school-ro-prison-pipeline rather than to safer educational environments.

The call is to reimagine school safety and invest funds currently spent on armed law enforcement into restorative practices, social and emotional development, health and counseling.

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- Since the Parkland, Florida, and Santa Fe, Texas shootings, states have allocated an additional [\\$965 million](#) to law enforcement in schools.
 - According to the ACLU, [1.7 million students](#) are in schools with cops but no counselors; [three million](#) students attend schools with cops but no nurses; [six million](#) students attend schools with cops but no school psychologists, and [ten million](#) students are in schools with cops but no social workers.

- Out of [2.6 million total](#) out-of-school suspensions in the 2015-16 school year, 40.6% were Black students and 31.7% were White students. Within the public school system, Black students make up 15.4% and White students make up 48.9%. Thus, despite making up only 15.4% of students in the public school system, Black students are 4 times more likely to be suspended than White students, and are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested in school than White students.

Black Students Are Four Time More Likely to Be Suspended From School Than White Students

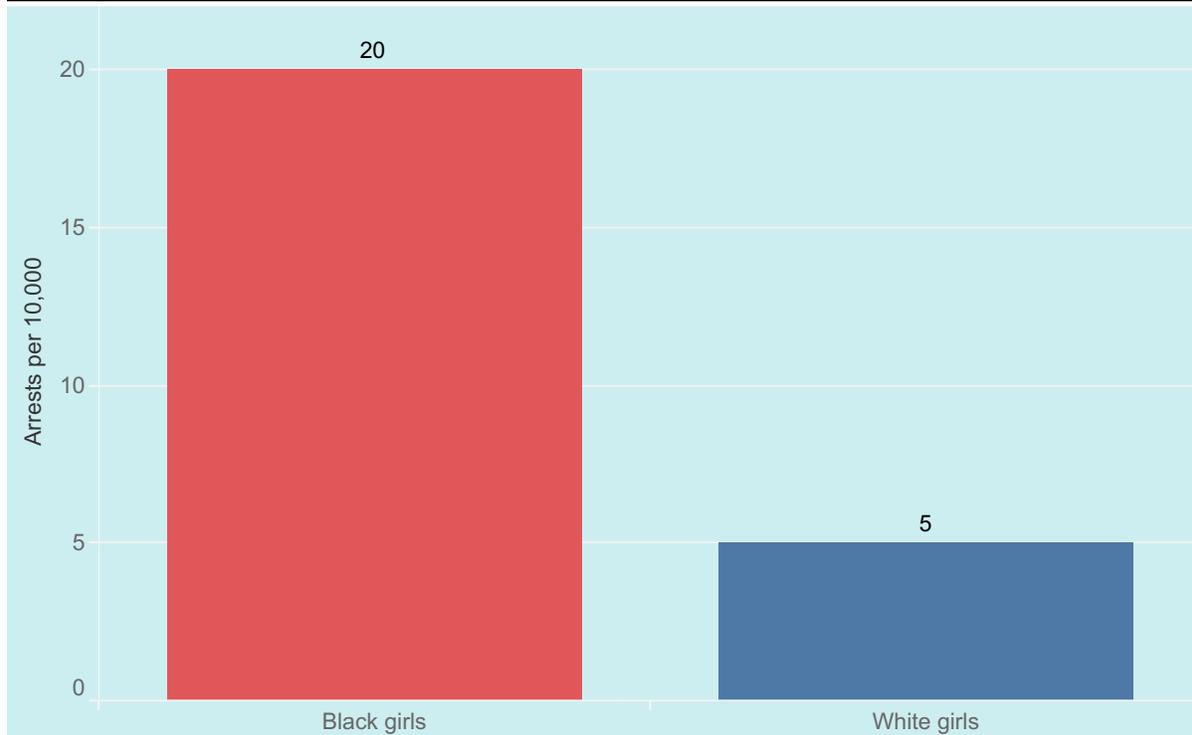


Source: Department of Education

- Schools employing school police see increases in reported student offenses and school-based arrests by as much as [400 percent](#).
- Researchers have found [few differences](#) between Black and White youth regarding common areas of arrest: they are roughly as likely to get into fights, carry weapons, steal property, use and sell controlled substances, and skip school. Despite these behavioral similarities, Black teenagers are 2.3 times more likely than White teenagers to be arrested for all delinquent offenses.
- Black students are [three times](#) more likely than non-Black students to attend a school with more security staff than mental health personnel.

- According to the ACLU, In North Carolina, Iowa, and Michigan, Black girls were more than [8 times](#) as likely to be arrested than White girls. According to the same study, Black girls are arrested at 4 times the rate of White girls nationally.

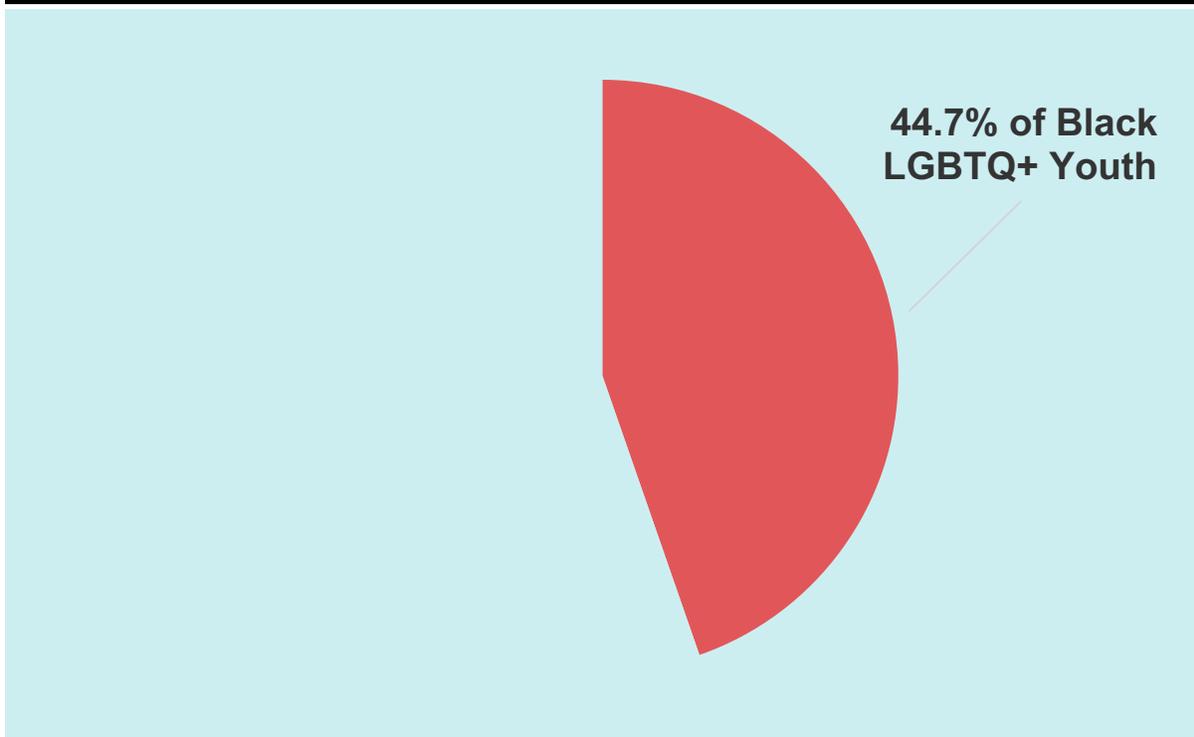
Black Girls Are Four Times More Likely to Be Arrested Than White Girls in the United States



Source: American Civil Liberties Union

- According to data collected from more than [95,500](#) schools, the average arrest rate in California schools where more than 80% of students receive free or reduced-price lunch is seven times the average arrest rate in schools where fewer than 20% of students receive free or reduced price lunch
- Students with disabilities also account for more than [67%](#) of all students placed in seclusion, involuntary confinement, or physical restraint at school.
- A 2019 study found that students at schools with higher relative suspension rates were [15-20%](#) more likely to be arrested later in life.
- A 2020 study from the National Black Justice Coalition found that [44.7%](#) of Black LGBTQ+ youth had experienced some form of discipline, either detention, suspension, or expulsion.

Black LGBTQ+ Experience High Rates of Discipline and Punishment in Schools



Source: National Black Justice Center

The criminalization of Black, Brown, LGBTQ, and disabled students at the hands of SROs has fueled a [school to prison pipeline](#) that follows students far beyond their youth. As educators begin to wake up to the grave emotional and developmental [harm](#) that putting law enforcement officers in schools causes, school districts now have the chance to reallocate their resources towards adequate mental health staff who can contribute to a more equitable, just, and meaningful future for all students.

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