

Keeping Students Safe in Los Angeles

An Analysis of LAUSD School Incident Reports & Funding

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Methodology



Overview: Los Angeles Unified School District funds the largest independent school police department in the United States. This past school year alone, the district allotted \$70 million to the Los Angeles School Police Department. This brief provides an analysis of district wide school incident reports, funding trends for LASPD, and LAUSD students' reported feelings of safety at school. Key findings:

1. School incident reports are on the rise and there is an increasing need for mental health providers.
2. LAUSD student enrollment has decreased, meanwhile funding for LASPD has exponentially increased despite evidence showing that schools are not safer.
3. Black students do not feel safe in school and have negative perceptions of school police.
4. To meet student needs, LAUSD should decrease funds for LASPD and increase funds for school nurses and mental health providers.

Methodology for Aggregated Responder Categories

Our research team aggregated the different types of incidents into 5 overarching “responder categories” based on [incident type definitions](#) provided by LAUSD. The aggregated responder categories encompass the 5 different school department/personnel that we judged as most equipped to respond to a particular incident. The 5 responder categories are: Police Officers, District Personnel, School Leadership, School Nurse, or School Counselor.

Responder Categories Disaggregated by ISTAR Incidents
Counselor Category
Suicidal Behavior
Trauma/Violence Exposure
Nurse Category
Injury
Medical
Police Officer Category
Abduction
Arrest
Burglary
Damage/attempted to damage school or private property
Death
Illegal/Controlled Substance
Lockdown
Missing/Runaway
Robbery
Sex Crime/ Sexual Behavior-Inappropriate
Shooting
Theft
Trespass
Weapons
District Personnel Category
Air Conditioning Problem
Alarm Activation Investigation
Bells out of order
Custody Issues
Environmental hazard/odor
Fire Alarm System
Fire Sprinkler Broken
Gas Leak/Odor
Heating System Problem
Inappropriate Conduct (Employee as Suspect Only)
Job Action (Strike Related)
Lost School Keys
Public Shelter
Rodent/Insect Problem
Sewer Problem
Technology Failure
Utility Failure

Incidents Disaggregated by Appropriate Respondent

School Leadership Category

Accident
Altercation (Verbal)
Bullying
Child Annoyance (Student as Victims only)
Discrimination/Harassment (Only grades 4-12 suspension)
Disrupted School-Wide Activities
Disruptive Parent/Community Member/3rd party
Fighting/Physical Aggression
Fire
Fraud Allegation
Hate Violence
Hazing
Intergroup Conflict
Law Enforcement Activity
Loitering
Shelter In Place
Testing
Threat
Unsecure Access to School
Vandalism/Property Damage
Walkout/ Demonstration

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