

2019

# Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice



## **SCHOOL-BASED OFFENSES AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

January 9, 2019

## SCHOOL-BASED JUVENILE INTAKE COMPLAINTS

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**Between FY 2016 and FY 2018,**

***Total juvenile intake complaints decreased, but intake complaints from schools increased.***

- Total juvenile intake complaints decreased 10.4% from 56,825 to 50,910.
  - Juvenile intake complaints from school officials increased 6.9% from 5,064 to 5,415. Complaints from school officials constituted 8.9% of all complaints in FY 2016 and 10.6% of all complaints in FY 2018.
  - Juvenile intake complaints from school resource officers (SROs) increased 16.9% from 2,813 to 3,288. Complaints from SROs constituted 5.0% of all complaints in FY 2016 and 6.5% of all complaints in FY 2018.

***Intake complaints from schools were less disproportionate regarding sex and race compared to overall intake complaints.***

- Overall, 29.1% of juvenile intake complaints were for females.
  - Of complaints from school officials, 43.1% were for females.
  - Of complaints from SROs, 32.0% were for females.
- Overall, 44.3% of juvenile intake complaints were for Black youth.
  - Of complaints from school officials, 34.0% were for Black youth.
  - Of complaints from SROs, 40.6% were for Black youth.

***The types of complaints from schools differed between school officials and SROs, with school officials focused more on truancy/attendance and SROs focused more on behaviors/conduct.***

- The majority (75.4%) of complaints from school officials were for Child in Need of Supervision (CHINSup), followed by Contempt of Court (17.4%).
- Complaints from SROs were most often for Assault (29.0%), Narcotics (14.7%), and Disorderly Conduct (12.7%).

***Intake complaints from schools and the rate they were petitioned<sup>1</sup> differed by locality.***

- The following localities had the largest number of intake complaints from school officials:
  - Norfolk (2,731; 4.9% petitioned)
  - Henrico Co. (637 complaints; 69.1% petitioned)
  - Prince William Co.<sup>2</sup> (557 complaints; 45.8% petitioned)
  - Roanoke City (454 complaints; 59.3% petitioned)
  - Chesapeake (410 complaints; 92.2% petitioned)
  - Newport News (372 complaints; 98.4% petitioned)
- The following localities had the largest number of intake complaints from SROs:
  - Prince William Co. (1,012 complaints; 24.7% petitioned)
  - Henrico Co. (583 complaints; 55.1% petitioned)
  - Chesterfield Co. (528 complaints; 27.5% petitioned)
  - Chesapeake (287 complaints; 79.4% petitioned)
  - Suffolk (277 complaints; 57.4% petitioned)
  - Virginia Beach (260 complaints; 42.3% petitioned)

***Intake complaints from schools increased, but petitioned intake complaints from schools decreased.***

- On average, 68.2% of juvenile intake complaints were petitioned.
  - The percentage of complaints from school officials that were petitioned decreased from 60.9% to 53.1%.
  - The percentage of complaints from SROs that were petitioned decreased from 49.9% to 40.5%.
- Total petitioned juvenile intake complaints decreased 15.1% from 38,209 to 32,451.
  - Petitioned juvenile intake complaints from school officials decreased 6.8% from 3,084 to 2,875. Petitioned complaints from school officials constituted 8.1% of all petitioned complaints in FY 2016 and 8.9% of all petitioned complaints in FY 2018.
  - Petitioned juvenile intake complaints from SROs decreased 5.2% from 1,404 to 1,331. Petitioned complaints from SROs constituted 3.7% of all petitioned complaints in FY 2016 and 4.1% of all petitioned complaints in FY 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> DJJ intake officers determine whether a petition should be filed for an intake complaint, which initiates proceedings in the juvenile and domestic relations district court. They may instead decide to handle the complaint informally (e.g., diversion plan, informal counseling, referral to community resources). Unsuccessful diversions with petitions filed were counted as diversions and not petitions. Court summons (359 from school officials and 157 from SROs) were not included as petitions; practices regarding court summons data entry vary by locality.

<sup>2</sup> Prince William County includes Woodbridge.

## DISORDERLY CONDUCT JUVENILE INTAKE COMPLAINTS

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### Between FY 2014 and FY 2018,

- 2.6% (7,128) of juvenile complaints were disorderly conduct.
  - The number of disorderly conduct complaints decreased 30.8% (1,673 to 1,158) while the number of all juvenile intake complaints decreased 13.2% (58,683 to 50,910).
- Compared to all juvenile intake complaints, disorderly conduct complaints were disproportionately more for females (40.4% vs. 28.8%) and Black youth (65.9% vs. 44.8%).
  - The number of disorderly conduct complaints decreased 36.2% for Black youth (1,175 to 750) and 27.9% for White youth (438 to 316).
- The following localities had the highest number of disorderly conduct complaints:
  - Henrico Co. (578)
  - Prince William Co.<sup>3</sup> (565)
  - Fairfax Co. (417)
  - Chesterfield Co. (402)
  - Richmond (305)
  - Norfolk (293)
- The majority of disorderly conduct complaints were the only offense type of the intake case (62.9%) and the most serious offense of the intake case (66.8%).
- 57.3% of disorderly conduct complaints were petitioned. This percentage of complaints that were petitioned decreased each FY, from 65.0% in FY 2014 to 49.5% in FY 2018.
  - The number of petitions for disorderly conduct decreased 47.3% (1,088 to 573).
- The following localities petitioned over three quarters of disorderly conduct complaints:
  - Prince George Co. (95.6%)
  - Danville (92.6%)
  - Newport News (83.6%)
  - Hopewell (78.0%)
  - Norfolk (77.1%)
  - Lynchburg (75.5%)
- The petition rate for disorderly conduct among Black youth decreased from 67.5% in FY 2014 to 46.8% in FY 2018 while the petition rate for White youth remained relatively stable with 60.5% in FY 2014 and 57.3% in FY 2018. Thus, the petition rate was higher for Black youth than White youth in FY 2014 but lower for Black youth than White youth by FY 2018.
  - The number of petitioned disorderly conduct complaints decreased 55.7% for Black youth (793 to 351) and 31.7% for White youth (265 to 181).
- 13.2% of disorderly conduct complaints resulted in probation. This percentage decreased each FY, from 16.4% in FY 2014 to 7.3% in FY 2018. (A probation status may have multiple associated offenses.)

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<sup>3</sup> Prince William County includes Woodbridge.

## DISORDERLY CONDUCT JUVENILE INTAKE COMPLAINTS FROM SCHOOLS

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### Between FY 2016 and FY 2018,

- The majority (61.8%) of disorderly conduct complaints came from law enforcement (i.e., police or sheriff departments), followed by SROs (33.1%).
- There were no substantial differences by race for disorderly conduct complaints within the school and non-school settings. From school officials and SROs, 63.2% of disorderly conduct complaints were for Black youth. From non-school settings, 62.7% of disorderly conduct complaints were for Black youth.
- The following localities had the highest number of disorderly conduct complaints from schools (school officials or SROs):
  - Prince William Co.<sup>4</sup> (216)
  - Henrico Co. (122)
  - Suffolk (84)
  - Lynchburg (58)
  - Chesterfield Co. (48)
  - Danville (40)
- Disorderly conduct complaints from SROs were petitioned at a lower rate (45.9%) than those from law enforcement (56.7%).
- There were no substantial differences in rates of petitions by race for disorderly conduct within the school and non-school settings. From school officials and SROs, 46.8% of Black youth and 47.6% of White youth were petitioned. From non-school settings, 57.5% of Black youth and 57.8% of White youth were petitioned.

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<sup>4</sup> Prince William County includes Woodbridge.

