



Suspensions

Maryland Public Schools

1998 - 1999



Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Planning, Results, and Information Management
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MSDE-PRIM 12/99

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Use of Suspension Data

The annual suspension data contained in these tables can provide valuable information about student behavior statewide and in each local school system. Suspensions can be indicators of the most serious student misbehavior in the school, as determined by the local school administration. Information on student suspensions in Maryland has been collected by the local school systems and reported to the Maryland State Department of Education for many years. Suspension information can be useful in local and statewide needs assessment and program planning efforts to address the problem of disruptive students in schools.

However, suspension data do not provide complete information about student misbehavior in school. School system personnel are advised to consider the following points in examining these tables of suspension data.

- The suspension data collected and reported by MSDE represent system-level information, aggregated across schools.
- Suspension figures are indirect measures of student misbehavior. They represent the response of the school to the behavior.
- Many factors can influence how a particular offense is perceived and dealt with in a particular school. Local norms and community standards may lead to varying thresholds for determining that a student should be suspended for a certain behavior. Often school administrators will consider a student's record in determining whether or not to suspend the student. In other cases local policy may require suspension for a "first offense." Different perceptions of the severity of a particular offense may result in differing disciplinary responses to the offense.
- The availability of alternatives to suspension in different schools may result in different rates of suspension. If the school has few other options when a severe offense occurs, then suspension may be a more frequent response. If programs such as "in-school" suspension, after-school detention, conflict resolution classes, "Saturday school," or other options within a continuum are available to the school administration, some misbehaving students will be assigned to these programs instead of being suspended.

As will all school improvement efforts, local school systems are encouraged to employ both expanded data sources and school-specific data in planning and needs assessment in the area of student violence or disruption. As recommended in the MSDE report, *Maryland Schools Respond to the Problem of Disruptive Students: Needs Assessment and Program Planning* (November 1995), additional measures of student misbehavior may be available in objective data such as office referral statistics, as well as in the form of more subjective measures such as climate survey results.

For additional information on this subject, please contact the Division of School and Student Services at 410-767-0307.

Table 1

Percentage of Students Suspended from Maryland Public Schools*
School Year 1992-93 through 1998-99

Local Unit	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Total State	6.8%	7.0%	6.6%	7.1%	8.1%	8.9%	7.8%
Allegany	7.1%	6.9%	7.1%	5.5%	6.1%	5.9%	5.9%
Anne Arundel	7.9%	8.8%	9.1%	9.3%	9.1%	9.2%	8.2%
Baltimore City	9.4%	5.7%	1.4%	4.2%	11.2%	15.6%	9.9%
Baltimore	5.8%	6.5%	7.0%	7.6%	7.8%	8.6%	8.6%
Calvert	5.1%	6.2%	6.5%	6.5%	7.6%	7.4%	6.9%
Caroline	13.5%	9.6%	9.0%	11.2%	11.5%	12.8%	16.6%
Carroll	4.8%	5.5%	5.9%	5.6%	5.5%	5.6%	4.9%
Cecil	12.2%	11.9%	12.0%	13.3%	12.1%	11.0%	13.5%
Charles	10.7%	10.6%	16.6%	17.7%	18.0%	12.9%	11.6%
Dorchester	18.1%	17.6%	17.4%	17.5%	15.5%	18.3%	18.5%
Frederick	6.7%	11.6%	7.8%	8.4%	7.9%	8.2%	7.3%
Garrett	7.0%	7.5%	6.8%	8.1%	5.4%	5.9%	5.0%
Harford	6.3%	6.3%	7.3%	6.8%	7.7%	7.3%	7.2%
Howard	2.9%	3.3%	4.0%	2.9%	2.7%	4.9%	4.5%
Kent	12.9%	13.3%	9.2%	15.0%	8.7%	9.0%	9.7%
Montgomery	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%	3.5%
Prince George's	6.8%	8.2%	8.8%	8.5%	9.0%	9.7%	9.1%
Queen Anne's	8.8%	10.5%	10.4%	9.7%	10.4%	9.5%	8.4%
St. Mary's	8.8%	9.4%	9.4%	10.3%	10.3%	9.6%	9.9%
Somerset	22.0%	26.4%	23.2%	17.6%	20.6%	19.5%	18.7%
Talbot	12.3%	13.5%	12.3%	10.6%	15.1%	14.2%	13.9%
Washington	4.0%	4.6%	6.3%	5.9%	5.5%	4.9%	4.3%
Wicomico	11.9%	14.4%	13.8%	15.0%	11.7%	13.0%	10.9%
Worcester	9.2%	10.2%	9.8%	8.8%	8.6%	8.9%	9.1%

*Unduplicated count of the number of students suspended divided by the September 30 enrollment.

Table 2

Number and Percentage of Students Suspended from Maryland Public Schools
School Year 1997-98 and 1998-99

Local Unit	1997-98				1998-99			
	Public School Enrollment (K-12)	Total Suspension Offenses	Number of Students Suspended	Percent of Students Suspended	Public School Enrollment (K-12)	Total Suspension Offenses	Number of Students Suspended	Percent of Students Suspended
Total State	811,005	123,327	72,073	8.9%	821,658	113,064	64,103	7.8%
Allegany	10,880	901	639	5.9%	10,733	901	638	5.9%
Anne Arundel	72,332	11,821	6,652	9.2%	73,067	10,558	5,994	8.2%
Baltimore City	102,998	23,401	16,100	15.6%	102,413	18,682	10,131	9.9%
Baltimore	101,671	15,303	8,761	8.6%	102,744	15,000	8,811	8.6%
Calvert	14,501	1,779	1,068	7.4%	14,950	1,589	1,028	6.9%
Caroline	5,479	1,543	700	12.8%	5,487	1,846	909	16.6%
Carroll	26,669	2,806	1,487	5.6%	27,051	2,448	1,328	4.9%
Cecil	14,876	3,446	1,642	11.0%	15,072	4,703	2,033	13.5%
Charles	21,012	4,861	2,716	12.9%	21,601	4,339	2,495	11.6%
Dorchester	4,944	1,624	905	18.3%	4,909	1,567	910	18.5%
Frederick	33,984	5,922	2,783	8.2%	34,744	5,492	2,542	7.3%
Garrett	4,992	424	293	5.9%	4,947	364	249	5.0%
Harford	37,723	4,280	2,740	7.3%	38,083	4,772	2,744	7.2%
Howard	39,982	3,066	1,964	4.9%	41,562	2,965	1,863	4.5%
Kent	2,754	386	248	9.0%	2,750	452	268	9.7%
Montgomery	122,687	6,579	4,681	3.8%	125,502	5,976	4,427	3.5%
Prince George's	125,608	20,843	12,178	9.7%	127,617	19,834	11,638	9.1%
Queen Anne's	6,379	1,193	604	9.5%	6,611	992	553	8.4%
St. Mary's	14,129	2,452	1,360	9.6%	14,187	2,699	1,400	9.9%
Somerset	3,007	1,393	587	19.5%	2,953	1,094	552	18.7%
Talbot	4,406	1,358	624	14.2%	4,428	1,318	615	13.9%
Washington	19,573	1,445	956	4.9%	19,674	1,291	851	4.3%
Wicomico	13,768	5,601	1,792	13.0%	13,848	3,205	1,509	10.9%
Worcester	6,651	900	593	8.9%	6,725	977	615	9.1%

Table 3

Unduplicated Count of the Number of Students Suspended from Maryland Public Schools
By Race/Ethnicity and Gender
School Year 1998-99

Local Unit	Race/Ethnicity					Gender		Total Students
	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	African American	White	Hispanic	Male	Female	
Total State	249	760	34,617	26,805	1,673	45,562	18,541	64,103
Allegany	0	1	26	611	0	454	184	638
Anne Arundel	7	57	2,189	3,642	98	4,362	1,632	5,994
Baltimore City	67	13	9,083	932	36	6,807	3,324	10,131
Baltimore	51	89	4,138	4,438	95	6,235	2,576	8,811
Calvert	1	4	272	739	12	795	233	1,028
Caroline	1	0	308	587	13	629	280	909
Carroll	3	5	82	1,222	16	1,037	291	1,328
Cecil	2	9	170	1,818	34	1,407	626	2,033
Charles	28	20	1,186	1,228	33	1,794	701	2,495
Dorchester	1	0	540	358	11	597	313	910
Frederick	6	15	475	2,000	46	1,856	686	2,542
Garrett	0	0	2	247	0	197	52	249
Harford	11	24	717	1,927	65	1,968	776	2,744
Howard	2	91	728	1,014	28	1,424	439	1,863
Kent	0	0	158	109	1	200	68	268
Montgomery	16	257	1,922	1,571	661	3,418	1,009	4,427
Prince George's	35	137	10,049	951	469	7,948	3,690	11,638
Queen Anne's	1	0	151	400	1	417	136	553
St. Mary's	16	17	494	859	14	1,022	378	1,400
Somerset	0	1	348	202	3	404	148	552
Talbot	1	2	246	359	4	435	180	615
Washington	0	6	122	704	19	630	221	851
Wicomico	0	6	914	578	11	1,068	441	1,509
Worcester	0	6	297	309	3	458	157	615

Table 4

Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools by Type of Offense
School Year 1998-99

Local Unit	Attendance				Dangerous Substance					Weapons			
	Class Cutting	Tardiness	Truancy	Total	Alcohol	Inhalants	Drugs	Tobacco	Total	Firearms	Other Guns	Other Weapons	Total
Total State	3,838	1,302	2,055	7,195	891	20	1,641	2,655	5,207	31	296	2,352	2,679
Allegany	13	3	37	53	4	9	24	63	100	0	1	14	15
Anne Arundel	429	378	579	1,386	67	2	115	201	385	2	10	125	137
Baltimore City	1,481	20	88	1,589	83	0	239	81	403	14	142	952	1,108
Baltimore	320	136	124	580	103	0	250	201	554	0	52	169	221
Calvert	28	40	38	106	30	0	29	24	83	0	2	22	24
Caroline	33	6	34	73	6	0	11	157	174	0	1	9	10
Carroll	43	57	165	265	28	1	57	175	261	0	5	32	37
Cecil	405	356	126	887	14	0	53	236	303	0	0	15	15
Charles	87	12	50	149	34	1	9	38	82	0	9	34	43
Dorchester	119	7	4	130	18	0	19	26	63	0	2	9	11
Frederick	224	39	61	324	43	2	60	358	463	0	6	32	38
Garrett	2	2	4	8	4	0	12	40	56	0	1	14	15
Harford	189	70	439	698	22	0	74	203	299	3	5	51	59
Howard	82	13	21	116	81	4	87	139	311	0	8	76	84
Kent	28	6	2	36	4	0	6	30	40	0	0	3	3
Montgomery	126	3	69	198	112	0	214	213	539	0	29	220	249
Prince George's	0	0	0	0	143	0	252	164	559	10	0	417	427
Queen Anne's	14	19	23	56	11	0	17	51	79	1	3	11	15
St. Mary's	10	10	30	50	26	0	28	71	125	0	5	42	47
Somerset	35	6	26	67	6	0	6	26	38	0	3	5	8
Talbot	24	24	89	137	0	1	5	20	26	0	1	9	10
Washington	11	3	18	32	18	0	31	82	131	0	3	40	43
Wicomico	86	87	26	199	14	0	21	45	80	1	7	41	49
Worcester	49	5	2	56	20	0	22	11	53	0	1	10	11

Table 4 (continued)

Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools by Type of Offense
School Year 1998-99

Local Unit	Attack/Threats/Fighting							Arson/Fire/Explosives			
	Physical Attack-Teacher/Staff	Physical Attack-Student	Verbal or Physical Threat to Teacher or Staff	Verbal or Physical Threat to Student	Fighting	Extortion	Total	Arson/Fire	False Alarm/Bomb Threat	Explosives	Total
Total State	2,497	10,572	2,916	2,116	16,692	181	34,974	363	509	321	1,193
Allegany	14	114	31	26	151	4	340	2	1	12	15
Anne Arundel	163	731	227	276	1,526	3	2,926	4	43	15	62
Baltimore City	1,066	2,504	888	375	3,194	80	8,107	209	127	53	389
Baltimore	291	1,439	36	56	1,683	15	3,520	31	33	30	94
Calvert	26	104	46	44	284	1	505	2	12	8	22
Caroline	11	163	47	56	205	1	483	2	1	0	3
Carroll	53	299	76	81	181	1	691	1	9	20	30
Cecil	31	282	66	83	459	0	921	1	20	10	31
Charles	66	382	103	103	595	0	1,249	7	15	8	30
Dorchester	33	160	39	21	214	2	469	0	2	1	3
Frederick	38	361	127	82	682	3	1,293	5	17	8	30
Garrett	9	49	17	16	49	1	141	1	1	4	6
Harford	56	485	148	136	515	3	1,343	5	16	6	27
Howard	120	409	89	120	451	1	1,190	8	17	16	41
Kent	4	88	12	24	5	0	133	0	3	1	4
Montgomery	180	1,040	339	200	1,037	18	2,814	35	53	38	126
Prince George's	220	1,069	333	50	3,829	37	5,538	19	78	57	154
Queen Anne's	7	58	18	20	197	0	300	2	2	4	8
St. Mary's	28	106	45	67	431	3	680	1	5	9	15
Somerset	5	114	23	70	131	1	344	5	13	1	19
Talbot	21	147	31	40	66	0	305	7	6	2	15
Washington	20	147	71	51	187	2	478	5	10	4	19
Wicomico	27	245	89	92	396	5	854	5	15	14	34
Worcester	8	76	15	27	224	0	350	6	10	0	16

Table 4 (continued)

Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools by Type of Offense
School Year 1998-99

Local Unit	Sex Offenses				Disrespect/Insubordination/Disruption					
	Sexual Assault	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Activity	Total	Disrespect	Insubordination	Harassment	Classroom Disruption	Inciting/ Participating in Disturbance	Total
Total State	133	737	282	1,152	10,312	12,830	1,098	9,348	7,596	41,184
Allegany	3	1	1	5	167	46	13	70	17	313
Anne Arundel	10	52	13	75	1,087	1,430	71	1,215	236	4,039
Baltimore City	67	125	84	276	1,342	1,221	80	1,691	427	4,761
Baltimore	0	0	29	29	538	1,304	377	1,392	5,075	8,686
Calvert	0	26	6	32	157	144	2	116	31	450
Caroline	1	19	5	25	226	198	20	158	80	682
Carroll	3	27	9	39	361	256	28	97	77	819
Cecil	1	13	6	20	558	426	32	654	55	1,725
Charles	6	56	14	76	602	392	25	409	154	1,582
Dorchester	1	6	3	10	185	88	3	153	53	482
Frederick	17	45	4	66	514	475	69	359	66	1,483
Garrett	1	3	2	6	35	5	1	21	3	65
Harford	2	59	9	70	469	351	23	295	67	1,205
Howard	3	21	10	34	203	312	18	172	43	748
Kent	0	2	3	5	102	13	3	49	18	185
Montgomery	6	102	32	140	331	395	0	118	140	984
Prince George's	0	56	0	56	2,053	4,793	0	1,289	625	8,760
Queen Anne's	0	4	10	14	171	93	7	69	12	352
St. Mary's	1	18	3	22	374	126	44	317	163	1,024
Somerset	1	2	4	7	171	33	8	186	45	443
Talbot	1	38	3	42	55	173	242	48	46	564
Washington	1	19	4	24	122	193	11	64	13	403
Wicomico	8	27	22	57	317	251	13	344	120	1,045
Worcester	0	16	6	22	172	112	8	62	30	384

Table 4 (continued)

Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools by Type of Offense
School Year 1998-99

Local Unit	Other							Total	Total Suspensions	Number of Students Suspended
	Academic Dishonesty/ Cheating	Portable Communication Devices	Theft	Trespassing	Unauthorized Sale or Distribution	Vandalism/ Destruction of Property	Refusal to Obey School Policies or Regulations			
Total State	224	518	1,890	189	76	1,284	15,299	19,480	113,064	64,103
Allegany	0	3	6	0	0	10	41	60	901	638
Anne Arundel	5	10	145	15	6	95	1,272	1,548	10,558	5,994
Baltimore City	21	44	254	81	4	293	1,352	2,049	18,682	10,131
Baltimore	35	42	211	12	4	193	819	1,316	15,000	8,811
Calvert	5	23	34	3	1	12	289	367	1,589	1,028
Caroline	3	0	17	0	0	31	345	396	1,846	909
Carroll	5	3	70	1	0	21	206	306	2,448	1,328
Cecil	7	17	25	13	7	33	699	801	4,703	2,033
Charles	16	23	108	1	2	56	922	1,128	4,339	2,495
Dorchester	1	3	34	1	0	9	351	399	1,567	910
Frederick	8	33	57	7	1	43	1,646	1,795	5,492	2,542
Garrett	0	0	24	0	0	3	40	67	364	249
Harford	14	37	88	7	1	71	853	1,071	4,772	2,744
Howard	6	1	92	13	0	56	273	441	2,965	1,863
Kent	0	0	4	0	0	2	40	46	452	268
Montgomery	23	190	260	19	20	99	315	926	5,976	4,427
Prince George's	34	12	266	0	23	161	3,844	4,340	19,834	11,638
Queen Anne's	1	1	29	1	0	4	132	168	992	553
St. Mary's	8	30	34	3	0	32	629	736	2,699	1,400
Somerset	8	8	7	3	3	4	135	168	1,094	552
Talbot	15	8	20	0	0	20	156	219	1,318	615
Washington	3	10	21	0	2	21	104	161	1,291	851
Wicomico	5	19	60	8	1	9	785	887	3,205	1,509
Worcester	1	1	24	1	1	6	51	85	977	615

Table 5

Number of Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools and Percent Change by Offense
1997-98 and 1998-99

Suspension Offense	Number of Suspensions		Percent Change
	1997-98	1998-99	
Total State	123,327	113,064	-8.3%
Firearms	61	31	-49.2%
Trespassing	324	189	-41.7%
Tardiness	1,901	1,302	-31.5%
Explosives	465	321	-31.0%
Inhalants	28	20	-28.6%
Truancy	2,541	2,055	-19.1%
Tobacco	3,264	2,655	-18.7%
Unauthorized Sale or Distribution	93	76	-18.3%
Classroom Disruption	11,175	9,348	-16.3%
Class Cutting	4,442	3,838	-13.6%
Physical Attack-Student	12,155	10,572	-13.0%
Refusal to Obey School Policies or Regulations	16,988	15,299	-9.9%
Drugs	1,811	1,641	-9.4%
Theft	2,054	1,890	-8.0%
Alcohol	968	891	-8.0%
Fighting	18,046	16,692	-7.5%
Insubordination	13,733	12,830	-6.6%
Vandalism/Destruction of Property	1,366	1,284	-6.0%
Disrespect	10,698	10,312	-3.6%
Other Weapons	2,397	2,352	-1.9%
Inciting/Participating in Disturbance	7,741	7,596	-1.9%
Sexual Activity	284	282	-0.7%
Harassment	1,093	1,098	0.5%
Sexual Assault	132	133	0.8%
Verbal or Physical Threat to Teacher/Staff	2,881	2,916	1.2%
Physical Attack-Teacher/Staff	2,463	2,497	1.4%
Portable Communication Devices	489	518	5.9%
Verbal or Physical Threat to Student	1,908	2,116	10.9%
Sexual Harassment	651	737	13.2%
Arson/Fire	289	363	25.6%
Extortion	144	181	25.7%
Academic Dishonesty/Cheating	175	224	28.0%
Other Guns	214	296	38.3%
False Alarm/Bomb Threat	353	509	44.2%

Table 6

Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools by School Level
School Year 1998-99

Local Unit	Total Suspensions	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
Total State	113,064	15,001	41,214	56,849
Allegany	901	71	225	605
Anne Arundel	10,558	1,464	3,863	5,231
Baltimore City	18,682	3,884	9,523	5,275
Baltimore	15,000	1,828	6,205	6,967
Calvert	1,589	133	610	846
Caroline	1,846	193	443	1,210
Carroll	2,448	325	467	1,656
Cecil	4,703	346	1,441	2,916
Charles	4,339	729	1,671	1,939
Dorchester	1,567	210	500	857
Frederick	5,492	153	1,919	3,420
Garrett	364	98	174	92
Harford	4,772	401	1,371	3,000
Howard	2,965	336	1,155	1,474
Kent	452	37	210	205
Montgomery	5,976	880	2,058	3,038
Prince George's	19,834	2,464	4,921	12,449
Queen Anne's	992	61	329	602
St. Mary's	2,699	238	1,476	985
Somerset	1,094	247	390	457
Talbot	1,318	151	587	580
Washington	1,291	75	346	870
Wicomico	3,205	614	983	1,608
Worcester	977	63	347	567