New York State School Safety

A Statewide and Regional Review

August 2019

Spotlight on Education

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Introduction

Violence of any type has no place in schools. In the absolute worst cases, such incidents may end with loss of life. Yet other instances of violence and disruption, such as assaults, sexual offenses, bomb threats and weapons possession, can also cause serious physical and emotional harm. Students need and deserve a safe learning environment. Parents, educators, the public and State policymakers agree that student safety must be a top priority in every school.

In an effort to secure school buildings from both internal and external threats, school districts in New York State are spending millions of dollars annually to install security cameras and metal detectors and restrict access to school buildings by reinforcing entrances. These figures do not include spending on personnel, such as school resource officers or staff to handle oversight of entrances, which is not separately reported.

This report summarizes some of the information reported by New York's public school districts on violent and disruptive incidents and expenditures on school building security materials and equipment, and includes a series of regional profiles.

In these difficult times, including what can feel like an epidemic of violence and mass shootings, it is critical that school and government officials, parents, and communities at large are aware of what's happening in our schools. The Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) audits and reports are assessing school districts' reported data and their compliance with requirements designed to ensure that we are providing the safest, most effective educational environment possible for our children and school personnel.

New York State School Safety by the Numbers

Violent and Disruptive Incidents in Schools: School Year (SY) 2017-18
(includes New York City and charter schools)

32,084 Total Incidents

- **14,144** Assaults
- **7,006** Alcohol or Drugs
- **5,464** Weapons Possession
- **4,583** Sexual Offenses
- **692** False Alarms
- **194** Bomb Threats
- **1** Homicide

Capital Expenditures on School Building Security: SY 2013-14 to 2017-18
(excludes New York City and charter schools)

$27.1 million Total Spending

- **$15.1 million** on Security Cameras
- **$4.4 million** on Interior Hardened Doors
- **$3.4 million** on Exterior Hardened Doors
- **$3.5 million** on Electronic Security Systems
- **$670,328** on Metal Detectors

School Safety and the SAVE Act

In 1999, a State-authorized task force consisting of parents, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement experts, business leaders, mental health professionals and local elected officials was created for the purpose of providing recommendations on how to prevent school violence and increase the safety of students and teachers in New York's public schools. The task force's work was referred to as "Project SAVE" and it helped shape the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act, which was adopted into law in 2000, a year after the tragic school shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado.[1]

The SAVE Act requires all New York State public schools, including charter schools, to document "violent and disruptive incidents" taking place on school property, including incidents occurring in or on a school bus, and at school functions. This data is then used to create lists of "persistently dangerous schools."[2]

It also requires the board of education of every school district in the State, every board of cooperative educational services (BOCES) and every county vocational education and extension board, and the chancellor of the New York City school district, to develop comprehensive district-wide and building-level school safety plans. Investments in school building security equipment and materials – i.e. video surveillance cameras, "hardening" of exterior and interior doorways, and alarm systems, among other things – may be included in the comprehensive safety plans and their expenditures are reported to the New York State Education Department (SED) through school district annual financial filings.

This report uses the data outlined above, as reported by school districts and charter schools to SED, to describe the overall level of safety and preparedness of schools statewide. It does not assess the accuracy of the reporting by individual school districts, nor the effectiveness of SED in overseeing such reporting, although several audits by this agency have found schools that have underreported or miscategorized violent or bullying incidents.[3] However, the data are still useful in helping to understand the different challenges facing schools depending on what grades they serve, the background of their students, and even what region of the State they are in.

Recent Audits of SAVE Act Planning Requirements

OSC recently completed a series of audits on the implementation and oversight of the SAVE Act's planning requirement. The first audit reviewed SED's oversight of school safety planning and found that SED was not sufficiently monitoring school districts' compliance with the requirements for school safety planning and other requirements related to the Act.[4] The next audit examined the New York City Department of Education's implementation of school safety planning requirements, at the school district and school building level. This audit found that the Department needs to improve its compliance with the school safety planning requirements outlined in the Law and State and City Regulations.[5] Most recently, OSC released a global summary of a series of audits conducted in 17 school districts and two charter schools in the rest of the State, which found that none of the school safety plans met all the minimum requirements of the SAVE Act and that no schools met all of the annual safety training requirements.[6]

School Safety and Educational Climate

Incident Category

SED publishes aggregated data reported by schools on violent and disruptive incidents in its School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) summary. In school year (SY) 2017-18, over 4,700 New York State public and charter schools, with a combined student population of nearly 2.7 million, reported a total of 32,084 violent and disruptive incidents.[7]

The most commonly-reported type of incident was assault. Assaults that are reported to SED by school districts involve some level of injury. This can include anything

Figure 1

School Violent and Disruptive Incidents Reported by Category, SY 2017-18

Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Assault	14,144	44.1%	5.3
Alcohol or Drugs	7,006	21.8%	2.6
Weapons Possession	5,464	17.0%	2.0
Sexual Offenses	4,583	14.3%	1.7
False Alarm	692	2.2%	0.3
Bomb Threat	194	0.6%	0.1
Homicide	1	<0.1%	<0.1
Total Statewide Incidents	**32,084**	**100.0%**	**12.0**

Source: New York State Education Department (SED), School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC), SY 2017-18, with calculations by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC). Includes charter schools but does not include Pre-K only schools.

from a playground fight that results in a black eye, abrasion or headache (reported as "assault with physical injury") to an altercation that requires a visit to the emergency room or even a hospital stay (reported as "assault with serious physical injury"). Schools reported a total of 14,144 incidents of assault of all kinds, or 44 percent of the total incidents. (See Figure 1.) Assaults with serious physical injury accounted for less than one-tenth of all assaults.

Alcohol and drug-related incidents (just over 7,000) were the next most common type and include illegally using, possessing, or being under the influence of a controlled substance, marijuana, or alcohol. Drugs are much more commonly reported than alcohol, making up over 84 percent of these incidents.

Weapons possession accounted for 17 percent of total incidents. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives and explosives. Just over 30 percent of these weapons were found through routine security checks, with the rest discovered under other circumstances.

Sexual offenses comprise a wide range of behaviors. By far the most common were "other sexual offenses" (89 percent), which include inappropriate touching of another student on a part of the body that is generally regarded as private and sexual conduct involving a child who is incapable of consent by reason of disability or age. The more serious incidents were forcible sexual offenses (11 percent), which include incidents of rape and sodomy.

False alarms and bomb threats together were less than 3 percent of the total incidents reported statewide. One homicide was reported by public schools in SY 2017-18.

Grade Organization

Schools of different grade levels face different types of challenges. Elementary schools, with nearly 1.3 million pupils, reported the lowest rate of incidents (8.7 per thousand students). But violent and disruptive incident rates climb with grade level: middle or junior high schools had 13.6 incidents per 1,000 students and senior high schools had 15.1 incidents per 1,000 students. (See Figure 2.)
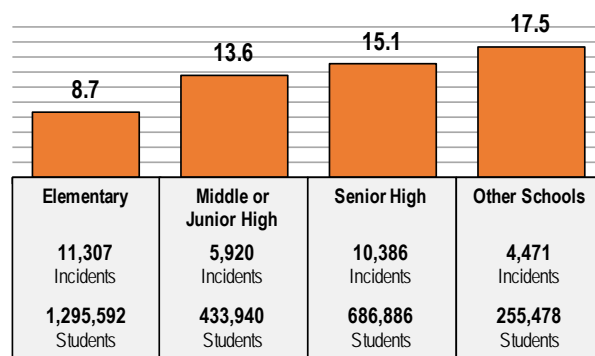
Assaults made up nearly 63 percent of the total incidents in elementary schools, with sexual offenses accounting for another 20 percent. By high school, the largest percentage of incidents involve alcohol and drugs (44 percent), followed by assaults (25 percent).

This is not to say that assaults and sexual offenses go away in higher grade levels. The rate of assaults per 1,000 students is 3.8 in high school, higher than for any category of incident other than alcohol and drugs. Sexual offense rates are slightly higher in middle or junior high schools than in elementary schools, although they drop in high school. In addition, the severity of the incidents is different: the percentage of assaults that resulted in serious injuries rises from 5 percent in elementary to nearly 9 percent in high school. Similarly, while just over 7 percent of sexual offenses in elementary schools were forcible offenses, in high school this rises to over 16 percent.

Figure 2

School Violent and Disruptive Incidents by Grade Organization, SY 2017-18

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
	8.7	13.6	15.1	17.5
Incidents	11,307	5,920	10,386	4,471
Students	1,295,592	433,940	686,886	255,478

As a Share of Total Incidents By Category

Legend: ■ Alcohol and Drugs ■ Assault ■ Bomb Threat ■ False Alarm ■ Sexual Offenses ■ Weapons Possession

Elementary: 62.8%, 20.4%, 11.4%
Middle or Junior High: 15.9%, 43.2%, 17.5%, 20.1%
Senior High: 43.8%, 24.9%, 7.2%, 21.8%
Other Schools: 27.3%, 42.6%, 11.1%, 16.1%
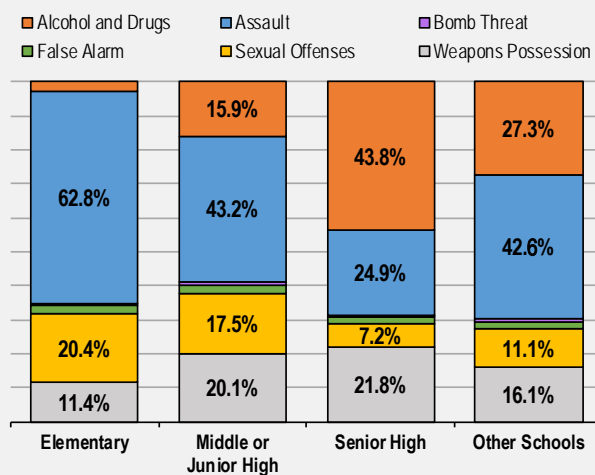
Incidents Per 1,000 Students by Category

Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.2	2.2	6.6	4.8
Assault	5.5	5.9	3.8	7.4
Bomb Threat	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
False Alarm	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Sexual Offenses	1.8	2.4	1.1	1.9
Weapons Possession	1.0	2.7	3.3	2.8
Total Incidents	**8.7**	**13.6**	**15.1**	**17.5**

Source: SED, SSEC, SY 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Includes charter schools but does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar chart.
Notes: Other schools include junior-senior high and K-12 schools, along with 8 schools that did not have an identifiable grade organization. One homicide occurred in other schools.

Need/Resource Capacity

Violent and disruptive incidents in schools also vary depending on the type of district the school is in. SED uses a need/resource capacity index as a broad measure of student need relative to school district wealth.[8] (New York City is not included in this discussion, but it is included in the Regional Overview section starting on page 6.)

The large city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers (shown as the "Big 4 Cities") had the highest incident rate (13.2 per thousand students). However, high-need rural and high-need urban/suburban districts had high rates as well (11.7 and 11.3 incidents per 1,000 students, respectively). These three categories of high need districts, added together, serve close to half a million of the State's children. Average-need school districts, which serve the largest group – 742,000 pupils – had a lower rate, but still had the highest total number of incidents (outside of New York City). Low-need schools had the fewest incidents per thousand students, with 4.8. (See Figure 3.)

Weapons possession accounted for 36 percent of all incidents in the Big 4 Cities, and 22 percent in other high-need urban/suburban districts, making it a much larger issue for those schools than in high-need rural school districts, where alcohol and drug incidents were more common.
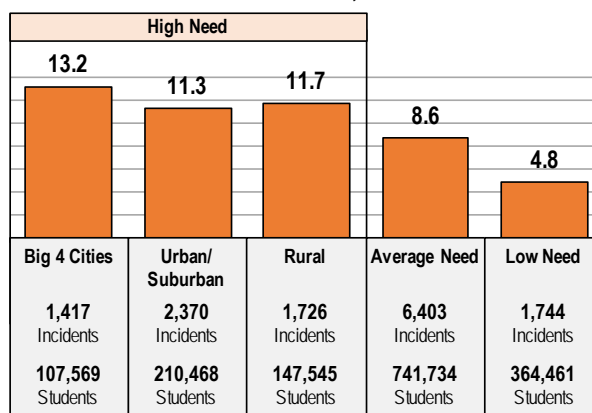
Figure 3

School Violent and Disruptive Incidents by Need/Resource Capacity, SY 2017-18

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

	Big 4 Cities	Urban/ Suburban	Rural	Average Need	Low Need
Per 1,000	13.2	11.3	11.7	8.6	4.8
Incidents	1,417	2,370	1,726	6,403	1,744
Students	107,569	210,468	147,545	741,734	364,461

As a Share of Total Incidents by Category

Legend: Alcohol and Drugs, Assault, Bomb Threat, False Alarm, Sexual Offenses, Weapons Possession

High Need

Category	Big 4 Cities	Urban/ Suburban	Rural	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	25.5%	28.8%	33.3%	38.5%	45.2%
Assault	29.6%	39.0%	40.0%	36.7%	36.4%
Sexual Offenses	6.2%	7.2%	8.5%	7.9%	7.2%
Weapons Possession	35.6%	22.3%	14.2%	14.0%	8.9%
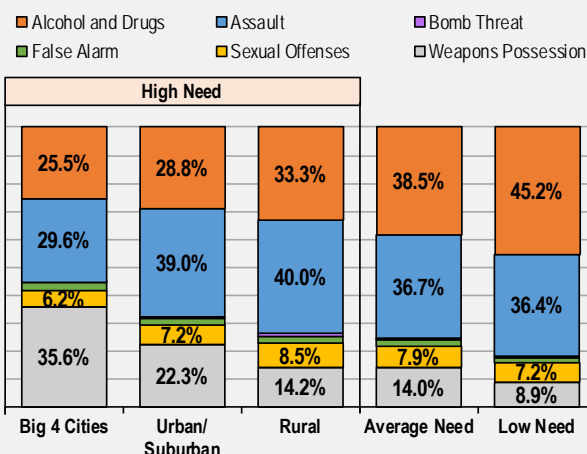
Incidents Per 1,000 Students by Category

Category	High Need			Average Need	Low Need
	Big 4 Cities	Urban/ Suburban	Rural		
Alcohol and Drugs	3.4	3.2	3.9	3.3	2.2
Assault	3.9	4.4	4.7	3.2	1.7
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
False Alarm	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Sexual Offenses	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.3
Weapons Possession	4.7	2.5	1.7	1.2	0.4
Total Incidents	**13.2**	**11.3**	**11.7**	**8.6**	**4.8**

Source: SED, SSEC, SY 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include charter schools, New York City schools and Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 6.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar chart.
Notes: Big 4 Cities comprise the dependent city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers.

Although alcohol and drug-related incidents were the biggest issue for districts with higher wealth levels, their rate of 2.2 incidents per 1,000 students was substantially lower than in other districts. Conversely, although these incidents represented a smaller share of the total in high- and average-need districts, the rate in those districts is higher: between 3.2 and 3.4 incidents per thousand students in most of these categories, and 3.9 in high-need rural districts. Similarly, while assaults accounted for a similar percentage of incidents in most types of districts, the rate of assaults per thousand students was considerably lower in low-need schools (1.7) than in average-need schools (3.2), and highest in high-need rural districts (4.7).

Regional Overview

New York City's public schools, which serve 1.1 million (40 percent) of the State's 2.7 million students, reported 17,991 incidents, or 56 percent of the State's total.

Even though a recent OSC audit found that the City's schools had underreported and misclassified similar types of data in the past, New York City's rate of 16.8 incidents per thousand students was higher than any other region in New York. The City's rate was also higher than the Big 4 Cities in the need/resource capacity discussion above. In contrast, the other (largely suburban) downstate districts of the Long Island and Mid-Hudson regions had the lowest rates in the State, at 6.1 and 7.6 incidents per thousand, respectively.[9] Upstate incident rates varied less, from 9.0 in the North Country to 12.0 in the Capital District. (See Figure 4.)

The types of incidents reported varied considerably by region. Downstate, New York City's most frequently reported incidents were assault, sexual offenses and weapons possession, while the Long Island and Mid-Hudson regions' schools had a much larger proportion of drug and alcohol incidents. Upstate, assaults were most frequently reported by schools in the North Country and the Capital District, while alcohol and drug incidents were more common in the Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley regions. Central New York reported a much higher percentage of weapons possessions incidents in the State than any other region did, and Mohawk Valley and North Country schools reported higher rates of sexual offenses.

New York City has high overall incident rates including a high percentage of assaults, reporting 8.3 assaults per thousand students, the highest in the State and significantly higher than the next region (Capital District at 5.3). The City also reported 3.3 sexual offenses per 1,000, which was three times higher than the second-highest region (Mohawk Valley with 1.1). However, the City also had the lowest rates of alcohol and drug-related incidents in the State, while other regions ranged from 2.3 to 4.4 incidents per thousand students. (For additional regional statistics, go to the Regional Profiles section starting on page 12.)

Figure 4

School Violent and Disruptive Incidents by Economic Development Region, SY 2017-18

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

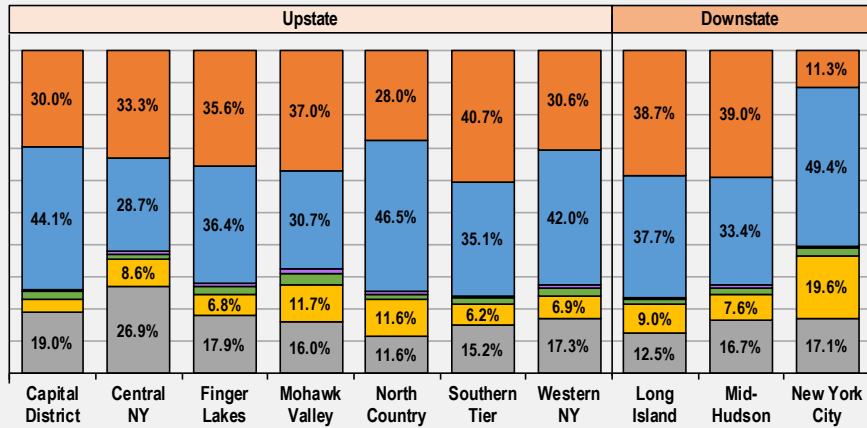|	Upstate							Downstate		
	Capital District	Central NY	Finger Lakes	Mohawk Valley	North Country	Southern Tier	Western NY	Long Island	Mid-Hudson	New York City
Incidents per 1,000	12.0	10.3	11.3	9.5	9.0	10.9	10.5	6.1	7.6	16.8
Incidents	1,726	1,168	1,905	589	525	1,003	2,006	2,662	2,509	17,991
Students	144,042	113,162	168,228	61,830	58,544	91,839	191,394	438,996	330,465	1,073,396
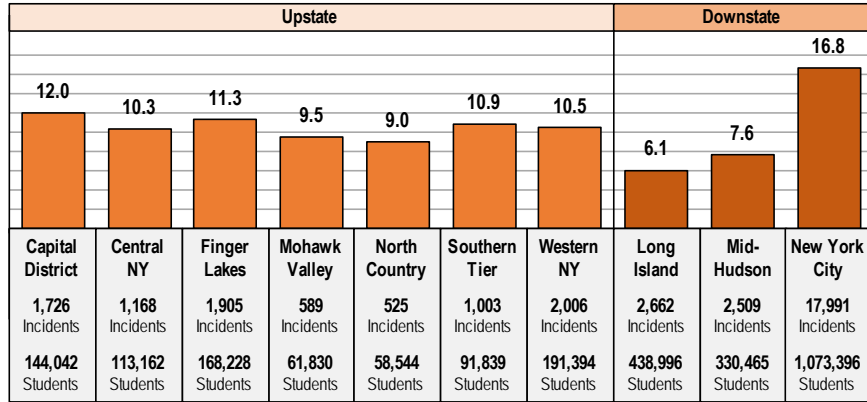
As a Share of Total Incidents by Category

■ Alcohol and Drugs ■ Assault ■ Bomb Threat ■ False Alarm ■ Sexual Offenses ▨ Weapons Possession

	Upstate							Downstate		
	Capital District	Central NY	Finger Lakes	Mohawk Valley	North Country	Southern Tier	Western NY	Long Island	Mid-Hudson	New York City
Alcohol and Drugs	30.0%	33.3%	35.6%	37.0%	28.0%	40.7%	30.6%	38.7%	39.0%	11.3%
Assault	44.1%	28.7%	36.4%	30.7%	46.5%	35.1%	42.0%	37.7%	33.4%	49.4%
Sexual Offenses		8.6%	6.8%	11.7%	11.6%	6.2%	6.9%	9.0%	7.6%	19.6%
Weapons Possession	19.0%	26.9%	17.9%	16.0%	11.6%	15.2%	17.3%	12.5%	16.7%	17.1%

Incidents Per 1,000 Students by Category

Category	Upstate							Downstate		
	Capital District	Central NY	Finger Lakes	Mohawk Valley	North Country	Southern Tier	Western NY	Long Island	Mid-Hudson	New York City
Alcohol and Drugs	3.6	3.4	4.0	3.5	2.5	4.4	3.2	2.3	3.0	1.9
Assault	5.3	3.0	4.1	2.9	4.2	3.8	4.4	2.3	2.5	8.3
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
False Alarm	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4
Sexual Offenses	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	3.3
Weapons Possession	2.3	2.8	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.7	1.8	0.8	1.3	2.9
Total Incidents	**12.0**	**10.3**	**11.3**	**9.5**	**9.0**	**10.9**	**10.5**	**6.1**	**7.6**	**16.8**

Source: SED, SSEC, SY 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Includes charter schools but does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 6.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar chart. One homicide occurred in New York City.

No Incidents

Just over one-fourth, or 1,210, of all public and charter schools that submitted violent and disruptive incident data reported having no incidents of any kind in SY 2017-18. Collectively, these schools had a student population of over half a million.

When looking at schools by grade level, elementary schools were far more likely to report no incidents (nearly 40 percent of all, or 1,034 schools) compared to middle or junior high schools (11 percent) and senior high schools (3.4 percent). (See Figure 5.)
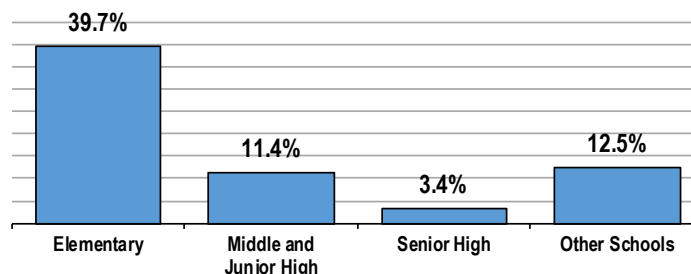
By school district type, over half (or 301) of the schools in low-need districts reported having no incidents. Average-need districts also had a substantial share of schools without incidents (38 percent, or 525 schools). Conversely, 17 percent, or 31, of the schools in the Big 4 Cities reported no incidents.

Regionally, downstate schools displayed a stark contrast between New York City (where only 8.3 percent reported having no incidents) and its mainly suburban neighbors. Nearly half of Long Island's schools reported no incidents, as did 41 percent of schools in the Mid-Hudson region. Upstate, the portion of schools reporting no incidents was lower in the western part of the State (the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Western New York) than in other regions.
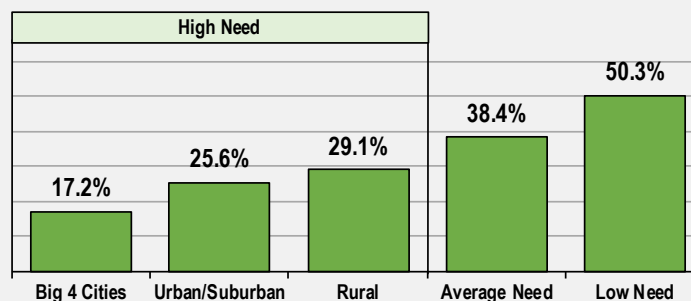
Figure 5

Share of Schools that Reported No Violent and Disruptive Incidents, SY 2017-18

By Grade Organization

Elementary	39.7%
Middle and Junior High	11.4%
Senior High	3.4%
Other Schools	12.5%

By Need/Resource Capacity

High Need

Big 4 Cities	17.2%
Urban/Suburban	25.6%
Rural	29.1%
Average Need	38.4%
Low Need	50.3%

By Economic Development Region

Upstate | **Downstate**

Region	%
Capital District	34.2%
Central NY	35.3%
Finger Lakes	25.7%
Mohawk Valley	36.6%
North Country	43.0%
Southern Tier	27.1%
Western NY	27.9%
Long Island	47.2%
Mid-Hudson	40.6%
New York City	8.3%
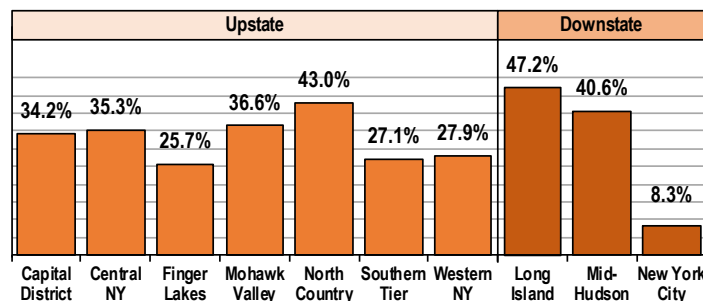
Source: SED, SSEC, SY 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Charter schools and New York City are not included in the need/resource capacity chart.

Notes: Other schools include junior-senior high and K-12 schools, along with 8 schools that did not have an identifiable grade organization. Big 4 Cities comprise the dependent city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers.

Building Security Expenditures

School districts have made investments in building security materials and equipment over the years to improve school safety, and they report on certain of these in their annual financial filings with SED. They also r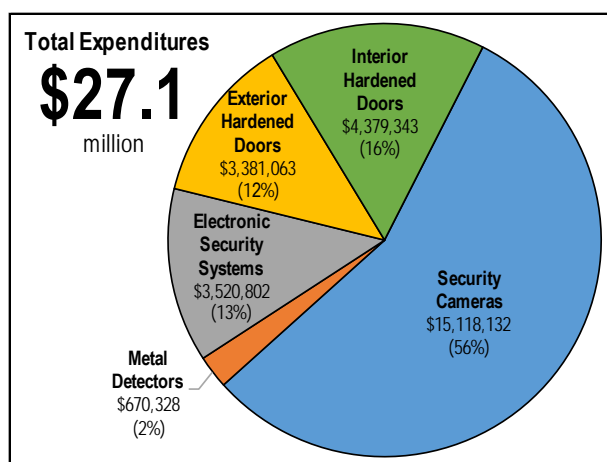eport whether these investments are included in their district-wide school safety plans.[10] These one-time capital investments represent just a fraction of the total spending on school safety improvements: some spending – such as the employment of school resource officers or staff to handle oversight of entrances – is not separately reported.

Outside of New York City, school districts reported spending just over $27 million on these types of building security materials and equipment from SY 2013-14 to 2017-18.[11] Over 50 percent, or $15 million, of these expenditures went towards "security cameras," defined as the purchase of video surveillance equipment, including installation costs. (See Figure 6.)

Figure 6

Total School Building Security Capital Expenditures, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18

Total Expenditures
$27.1 million

Interior Hardened Doors $4,379,343 (16%)

Exterior Hardened Doors $3,381,063 (12%)

Electronic Security Systems $3,520,802 (13%)

Metal Detectors $670,328 (2%)

Security Cameras $15,118,132 (56%)

Source: SED, State Aid Management System (SAMS), SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include charter schools or the New York City school district. Totals may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Nearly $8 million went to hardening of interior ($4.4 million) or exterior doors ($3.4 million). Hardening doors includes the purchase and installation of commercial door jams, deadbolt locks and re-enforced screws, plates and hinges. School districts also spent $3.5 million on electronic security systems for operations such as access and intrusion controls, including alarming facilities.

Smart Schools Bond Act

The expenditures discussed in this section are all funded by traditional State building aid. Schools can also receive funding for "high-tech security" under the $2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA), which can be used to fund school and community connectivity, classroom technology, Pre-K classrooms, and to replace transportable classrooms.[12] As of July 1, 2019, a total of 289 school districts had been approved for $145 million in SSBA funding for high-tech security projects including video surveillance, emergency notification systems and physical access controls; relatively little SSBA funding had actually been spent.[13]

As shown in Figure 7, the highly populated downstate regions of the State spent the most in total dollars: Long Island schools spent over $6 million on school building security equipment and materials from SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, and Mid-Hudson schools reported spending another $5.6 million. However, the Mohawk Valley and North Country regions spent the most on a per pupil basis, at $6.74 and $6.30, respectively. Western New York schools reported spending the least, both in total and per pupil.

Figure 7

School Building Security Capital Expenditures by Region, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18

Region	Total Expenditures (Over 5 Years)	Total Expenditures Per Pupil
Long Island	$6,171,677	$2.76
Mid-Hudson	$5,617,347	$3.31
Finger Lakes	$3,147,872	$3.74
Southern Tier	$2,225,718	$4.71
Central New York	$2,208,410	$3.82
Mohawk Valley	$2,158,076	$6.74
North Country	$1,889,782	$6.30
Capital District	$1,878,871	$2.61
Western New York	$1,771,915	$1.89
New York State	**$27,069,668**	**$3.34**

Source: SED, SAMS, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include charter schools or the New York City school district.

Conclusion

In order to learn effectively, students need to feel safe. Many students, along with those working in our educational institutions, are confronted with violent and disruptive activity on a regular basis. Fighting and other types of assault are a big part of the problem, and many schools also struggle with the prevalence of alcohol and drugs on school grounds, sexual offenses and students bringing weapons to school.

The public rightly demands that school officials take the necessary actions to ensure the safety of all students, from both external and internal threats. An appropriate response in a specific school district and even a specific school building will likely be somewhat different depending on the number and mix of risks the students face.

For this reason, the collection of data on violent and disruptive incidents is an important aspect of New York State's SAVE Act. As this report shows, one size does not fit all as far as school safety is concerned. Students at different grade levels, in schools of different levels of need, and in different parts of the State face different profiles of risk, and schools must manage accordingly. This means that the quality of the data reported is also of utmost importance. OSC audits have found that schools have tended to underreport violent and disruptive incidents and to misclassify the incident types, especially with regard to their severity. The labeling of schools with a high School Violence Index as "persistently dangerous" may be a disincentive to proper reporting. But accurate data is critical for the State and its school districts to make decisions about how to make students safer.

Of course, these reports focus on the most common types of violence and disruptive incidents experienced by students and teachers. School district officials must also be concerned about the rare and devastating incidents, such as active shooter emergencies. Schools spent more than $27 million over the last five years to add safety features such as security cameras, alarms and deadbolts, although recent controversial security measures taken by school officials show that school districts must strike a balance between providing a safe learning environment and protecting the privacy of students.[14] Planning is also vital when trying to anticipate such potentially deadly incidents, and our recent audits show that many schools need to do more to enhance this function.

Capital District

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Assault	762	44.1%	5.3
Alcohol and Drugs	517	30.0%	3.6
Weapons Possession	328	19.0%	2.3
Sexual Offenses	69	4.0%	0.5
False Alarm	42	2.4%	0.3
Bomb Threat	8	0.5%	0.1
Total Incidents	**1,726**	**100.0%**	**12.0**

144,042
Student Population

278
Number of Schools
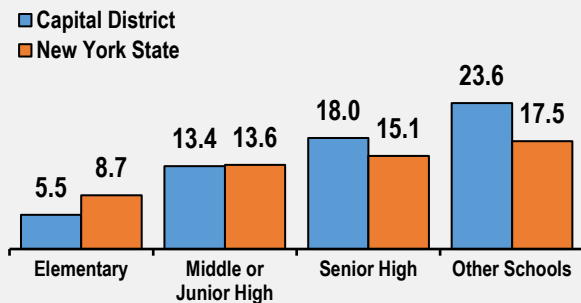(34.2% Reported No Incidents)

1,726
Violent and Disruptive Incidents

$1.9M
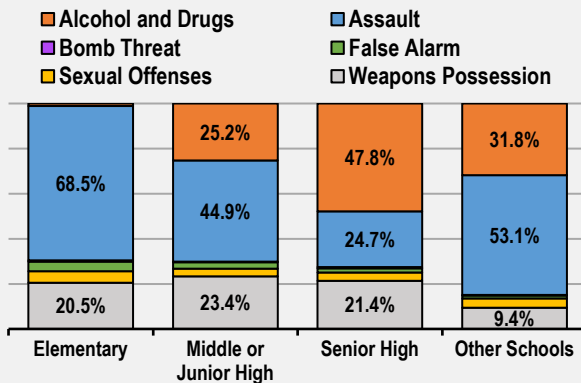Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Capital District
- New York State

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Capital District	5.5	13.4	18.0	23.6
New York State	8.7	13.6	15.1	17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

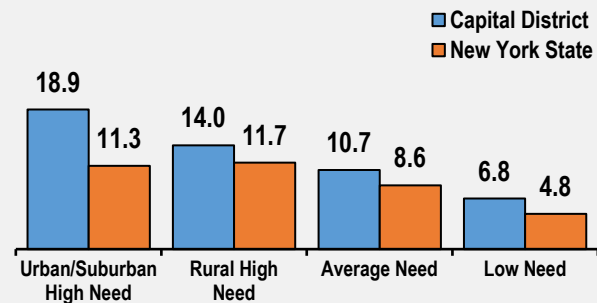|	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs		25.2%	47.8%	31.8%
Assault	68.5%	44.9%	24.7%	53.1%
Weapons Possession	20.5%	23.4%	21.4%	9.4%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.1	3.4	8.6	7.5
Assault	3.8	6.0	4.5	12.6
Bomb Threat	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.1
False Alarm	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3
Sexual Offenses	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0
Weapons Possession	1.1	3.1	3.9	2.2
Total Incidents	**5.5**	**13.4**	**18.0**	**23.6**

Need/Resource Capacity
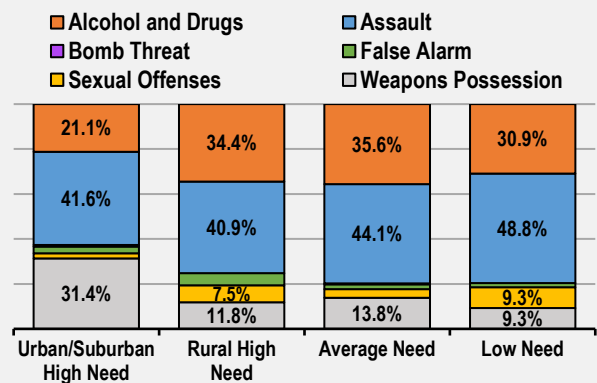
Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Capital District
- New York State

	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Capital District	18.9	14.0	10.7	6.8
New York State	11.3	11.7	8.6	4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	21.1%	34.4%	35.6%	30.9%
Assault	41.6%	40.9%	44.1%	48.8%
Sexual Offenses		7.5%		9.3%
Weapons Possession	31.4%	11.8%	13.8%	9.3%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	4.0	4.8	3.8	2.1
Assault	7.8	5.7	4.7	3.3
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.0	<0.1	0.0
False Alarm	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.1
Sexual Offenses	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.6
Weapons Possession	5.9	1.7	1.5	0.6
Total Incidents	**18.9**	**14.0**	**10.7**	**6.8**

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding. **Notes**: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. Charter schools are not included in need/resource capacity.

Central New York

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Alcohol and Drugs	389	33.3%	3.4
Assault	335	28.7%	3.0
Weapons Possession	314	26.9%	2.8
Sexual Offenses	100	8.6%	0.9
False Alarm	20	1.7%	0.2
Bomb Threat	10	0.9%	0.1
Total Incidents	**1,168**	**100.0%**	**10.3**

113,162
Student Population

221
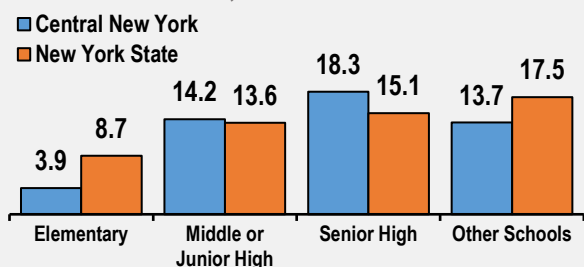Number of Schools
(35.3% Reported No Incidents)
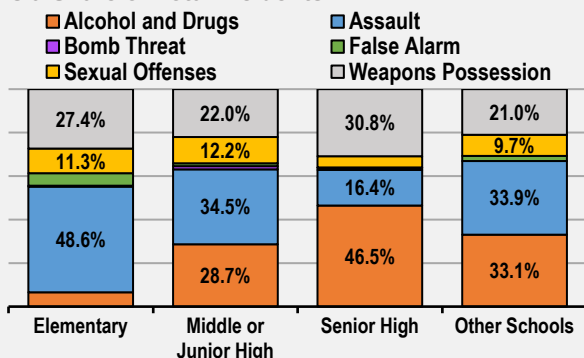
1,168
Violent and Disruptive Incidents

$2.2M
Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Central New York
- New York State

	Central New York	New York State
Elementary	3.9	8.7
Middle or Junior High	14.2	13.6
Senior High	18.3	15.1
Other Schools	13.7	17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Elementary: Weapons Possession 27.4%, Sexual Offenses 11.3%, Assault 48.6%
Middle or Junior High: Weapons Possession 22.0%, Sexual Offenses 12.2%, Assault 34.5%, Alcohol and Drugs 28.7%
Senior High: Weapons Possession 30.8%, Assault 16.4%, Alcohol and Drugs 46.5%
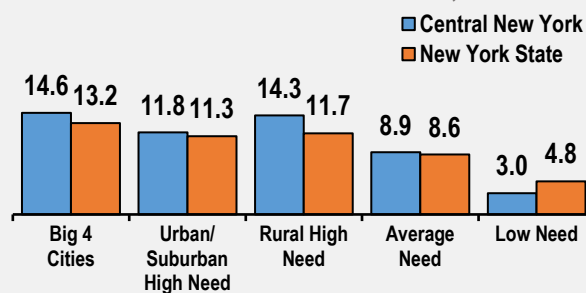Other Schools: Weapons Possession 21.0%, 9.7%, Assault 33.9%, Alcohol and Drugs 33.1%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.3	4.1	8.5	4.5
Assault	1.9	4.9	3.0	4.6
Bomb Threat	<0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
False Alarm	0.2	0.2	<0.1	0.3
Sexual Offenses	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.3
Weapons Possession	1.1	3.1	5.6	2.9
Total Incidents	**3.9**	**14.2**	**18.3**	**13.7**

Need/Resource Capacity

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Central New York
- New York State

	Central New York	New York State
Big 4 Cities	14.6	13.2
Urban/Suburban High Need	11.8	11.3
Rural High Need	14.3	11.7
Average Need	8.9	8.6
Low Need	3.0	4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Big 4 Cities: Weapons Possession 58.1%, Sexual Offenses 14.9%, Alcohol and Drugs 18.8%
Urban/Suburban High Need: Weapons Possession 17.2%, Sexual Offenses 7.5%, Assault 30.6%, Alcohol and Drugs 44.8%
Rural High Need: Weapons Possession 15.8%, Sexual Offenses 7.0%, Assault 46.5%, Alcohol and Drugs 26.3%
Average Need: Weapons Possession 15.3%, Sexual Offenses 10.7%, Assault 31.6%, Alcohol and Drugs 40.0%
Low Need: Weapons Possession 23.5%, Sexual Offenses 11.8%, Assault 23.5%, Alcohol and Drugs 41.2%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Big 4 Cities	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	2.8	5.3	3.8	3.6	1.3
Assault	2.2	3.6	6.6	2.8	0.7
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
False Alarm	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0
Sexual Offenses	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.4
Weapons Possession	8.5	2.0	2.3	1.4	0.7
Total Incidents	**14.6**	**11.8**	**14.3**	**8.9**	**3.0**

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding.
Notes: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. Big 4 Cities comprise the dependent city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. Charter schools are not included in need/resource capacity.

School Safety Regional Profiles
School Year 2017-18

Finger Lakes

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Assault	694	36.4%	4.1
Alcohol and Drugs	678	35.6%	4.0
Weapons Possession	341	17.9%	2.0
Sexual Offenses	130	6.8%	0.8
False Alarm	45	2.4%	0.3
Bomb Threat	17	0.9%	0.1
Total Incidents	**1,905**	**100.0%**	**11.3**

168,228
Student Population

323
Number of Schools
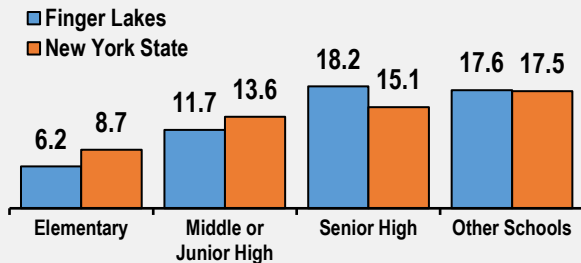(25.7% Reported No Incidents)
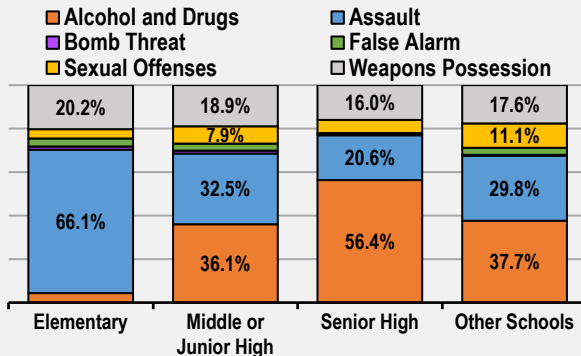
1,905
Violent and Disruptive Incidents

$3.1M
Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Finger Lakes
- New York State

	Finger Lakes	New York State
Elementary	6.2	8.7
Middle or Junior High	11.7	13.6
Senior High	18.2	15.1
Other Schools	17.6	17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Bomb Threat
- Sexual Offenses
- Assault
- False Alarm
- Weapons Possession

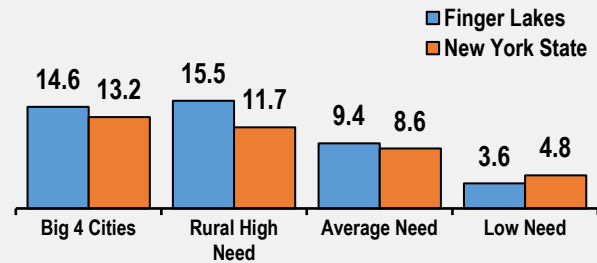|	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Weapons Possession	20.2%	18.9%	16.0%	17.6%
Sexual Offenses		7.9%		11.1%
Assault	66.1%	32.5%	20.6%	29.8%
Alcohol and Drugs		36.1%	56.4%	37.7%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.3	4.2	10.2	6.6
Assault	4.1	3.8	3.7	5.2
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
False Alarm	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.6
Sexual Offenses	0.3	0.9	1.1	2.0
Weapons Possession	1.3	2.2	2.9	3.1
Total Incidents	**6.2**	**11.7**	**18.2**	**17.6**

Need/Resource Capacity

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Finger Lakes
- New York State

	Finger Lakes	New York State
Big 4 Cities	14.6	13.2
Rural High Need	15.5	11.7
Average Need	9.4	8.6
Low Need	3.6	4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Bomb Threat
- Sexual Offenses
- Assault
- False Alarm
- Weapons Possession

	Big 4 Cities	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Weapons Possession	28.3%	16.0%	15.4%	15.2%
Sexual Offenses		8.3%	7.0%	9.1%
Assault	41.5%	32.9%	29.9%	54.5%
Alcohol and Drugs	19.8%	39.8%	44.9%	21.2%
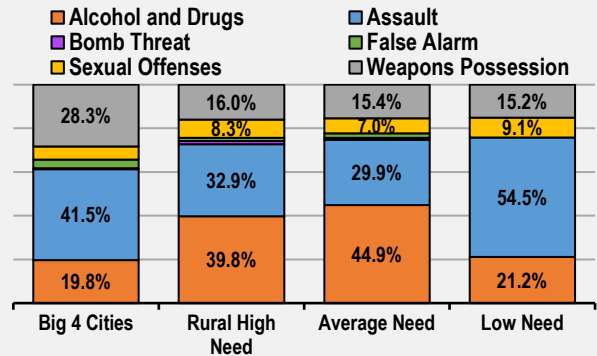
Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Big 4 Cities	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	2.9	6.2	4.2	0.8
Assault	6.1	5.1	2.8	2.0
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
False Alarm	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0
Sexual Offenses	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.3
Weapons Possession	4.1	2.5	1.4	0.5
Total Incidents	**14.6**	**15.5**	**9.4**	**3.6**

Long Island

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Alcohol and Drugs	1,029	38.7%	2.3
Assault	1,003	37.7%	2.3
Weapons Possession	333	12.5%	0.8
Sexual Offenses	239	9.0%	0.5
False Alarm	41	1.5%	0.1
Bomb Threat	17	0.6%	<0.1
Total Incidents	2,662	100.0%	6.1

438,996
Student Population
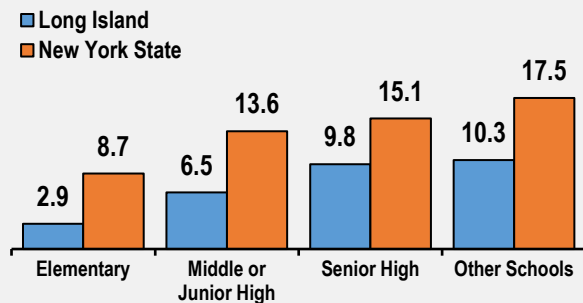
646
Number of Schools
(47.2% Reported No Incidents)

2,662
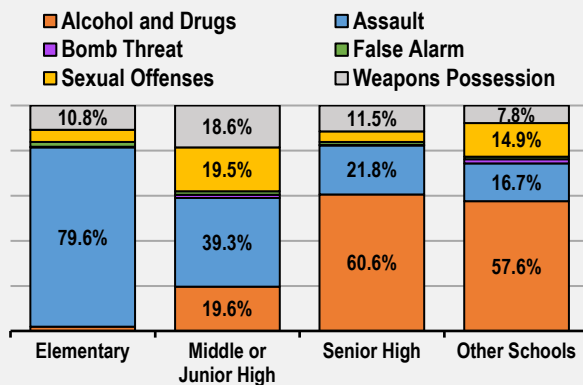Violent and
Disruptive Incidents

$6.2M
Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Need/Resource Capacity

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Long Island
- New York State

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Long Island	2.9	6.5	9.8	10.3
New York State	8.7	13.6	15.1	17.5

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Long Island
- New York State

	Urban/Suburban High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Long Island	8.4	6.7	4.8
New York State	11.3	8.6	4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Weapons Possession	10.8%	18.6%	11.5%	7.8%
Sexual Offenses		19.5%		14.9%
Assault	79.6%	39.3%	21.8%	16.7%
Alcohol and Drugs		19.6%	60.6%	57.6%

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

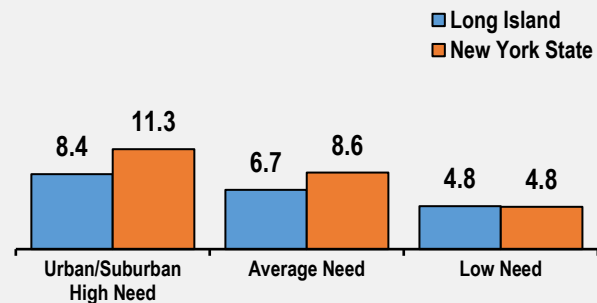|	Urban/Suburban High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Weapons Possession	18.7%	12.8%	8.7%
Sexual Offenses	9.5%	9.9%	7.8%
Assault	42.6%	37.9%	34.3%
Alcohol and Drugs	26.6%	37.5%	47.0%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.1	1.3	5.9	5.9
Assault	2.3	2.6	2.1	1.7
Bomb Threat	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.2
False Alarm	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sexual Offenses	0.2	1.3	0.5	1.5
Weapons Possession	0.3	1.2	1.1	0.8
Total Incidents	2.9	6.5	9.8	10.3
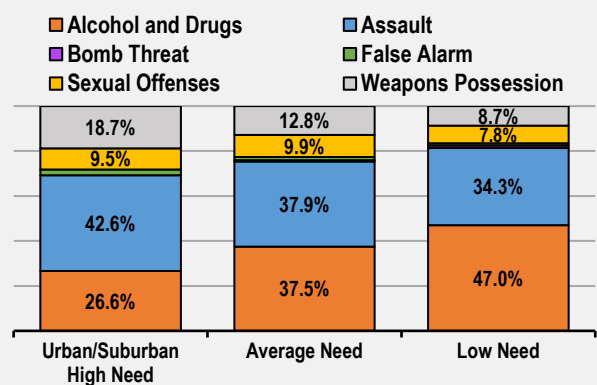
Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Urban/Suburban High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	2.2	2.5	2.3
Assault	3.6	2.5	1.7
Bomb Threat	0.0	<0.1	0.1
False Alarm	0.2	0.1	<0.1
Sexual Offenses	0.8	0.7	0.4
Weapons Possession	1.6	0.9	0.4
Total Incidents	8.4	6.7	4.8

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding. **Notes**: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. Charter schools are not included in need/resource capacity.

School Safety Regional Profiles
School Year 2017-18

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Alcohol and Drugs	979	39.0%	3.0
Assault	837	33.4%	2.5
Weapons Possession	420	16.7%	1.3
Sexual Offenses	190	7.6%	0.6
False Alarm	60	2.4%	0.2
Bomb Threat	23	0.9%	0.1
Total Incidents	2,509	100.0%	7.6

330,465 Student Population

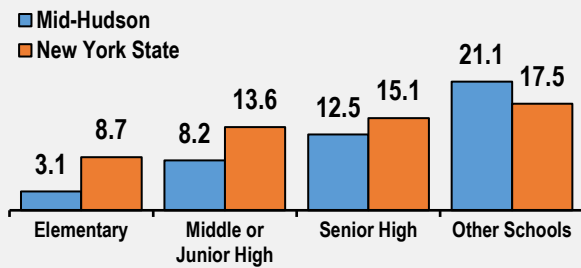**545** Number of Schools (40.6% Reported No Incidents)
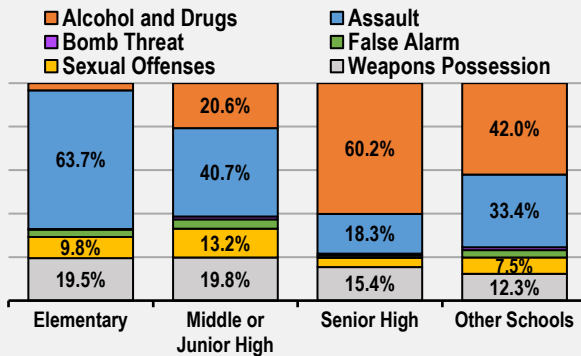
2,509 Violent and Disruptive Incidents

$5.6M Building Security Expenditures (SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Mid-Hudson
- New York State

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Mid-Hudson	3.1	8.2	12.5	21.1
New York State	8.7	13.6	15.1	17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Elementary: 63.7%, 9.8%, 19.5%
Middle or Junior High: 20.6%, 40.7%, 13.2%, 19.8%
Senior High: 60.2%, 18.3%, 15.4%
Other Schools: 42.0%, 33.4%, 7.5%, 12.3%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.1	1.7	7.5	8.9
Assault	2.0	3.3	2.3	7.1
Bomb Threat	<0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
False Alarm	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.7
Sexual Offenses	0.3	1.1	0.5	1.6
Weapons Possession	0.6	1.6	1.9	2.6
Total Incidents	3.1	8.2	12.5	21.1

Need/Resource Capacity
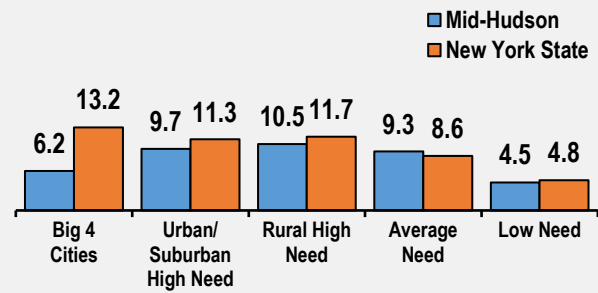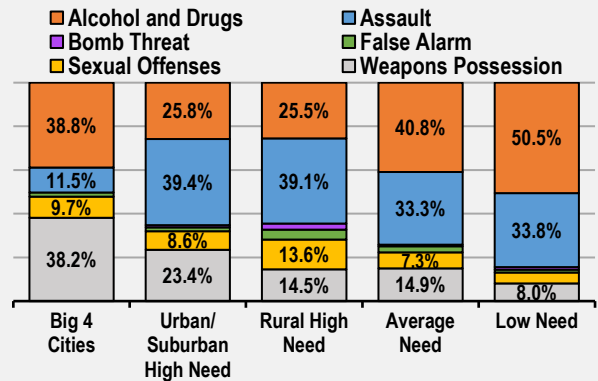
Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Mid-Hudson
- New York State

	Big 4 Cities	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Mid-Hudson	6.2	9.7	10.5	9.3	4.5
New York State	13.2	11.3	11.7	8.6	4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Big 4 Cities: 38.8%, 11.5%, 9.7%, 38.2%
Urban/Suburban High Need: 25.8%, 39.4%, 8.6%, 23.4%
Rural High Need: 25.5%, 39.1%, 13.6%, 14.5%
Average Need: 40.8%, 33.3%, 7.3%, 14.9%
Low Need: 50.5%, 33.8%, 8.0%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Big 4 Cities	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.8	2.2
Assault	0.7	3.8	4.1	3.1	1.5
Bomb Threat	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1
False Alarm	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1
Sexual Offenses	0.6	0.8	1.4	0.7	0.2
Weapons Possession	2.4	2.3	1.5	1.4	0.4
Total Incidents	6.2	9.7	10.5	9.3	4.5

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding.
Notes: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. Big 4 Cities comprise the dependent city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. Charter schools are not included in need/resource capacity.

Mohawk Valley

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Alcohol and Drugs	218	37.0%	3.5
Assault	181	30.7%	2.9
Weapons Possession	94	16.0%	1.5
Sexual Offenses	69	11.7%	1.1
False Alarm	21	3.6%	0.3
Bomb Threat	6	1.0%	0.1
Total Incidents	**589**	**100.0%**	**9.5**

61,830
Student Population

145
Number of Schools
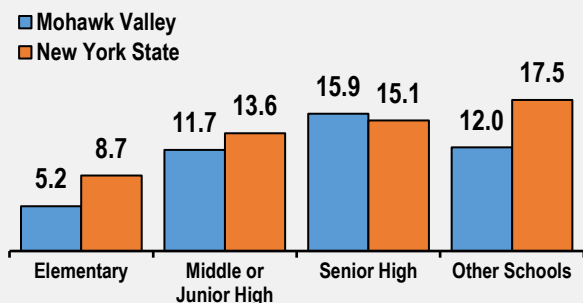(36.6% Reported No Incidents)

589
Violent and
Disruptive Incidents

$2.2M
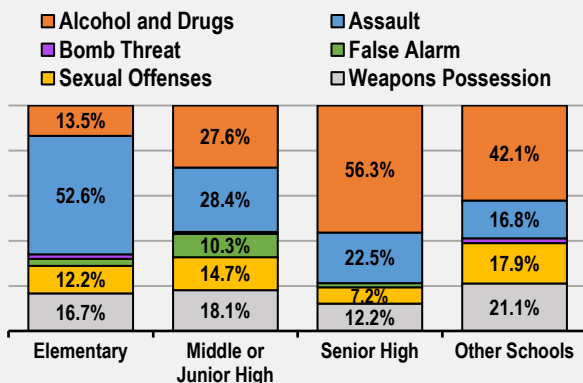Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Mohawk Valley
- New York State

Elementary: 5.2, 8.7
Middle or Junior High: 11.7, 13.6
Senior High: 15.9, 15.1
Other Schools: 12.0, 17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Elementary: 13.5%, 52.6%, 10.3%, 12.2%, 16.7%
Middle or Junior High: 27.6%, 28.4%, 14.7%, 18.1%
Senior High: 56.3%, 22.5%, 7.2%, 12.2%
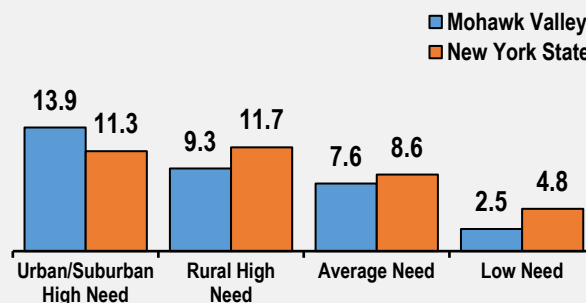Other Schools: 42.1%, 16.8%, 17.9%, 21.1%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.7	3.2	8.9	5.0
Assault	2.7	3.3	3.6	2.0
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3
False Alarm	0.2	1.2	0.3	0.0
Sexual Offenses	0.6	1.7	1.1	2.1
Weapons Possession	0.9	2.1	1.9	2.5
Total Incidents	**5.2**	**11.7**	**15.9**	**12.0**

Need/Resource Capacity
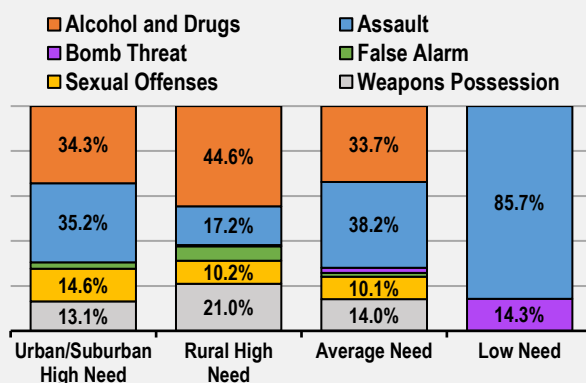
Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Mohawk Valley
- New York State

Urban/Suburban High Need: 13.9, 11.3
Rural High Need: 9.3, 11.7
Average Need: 7.6, 8.6
Low Need: 2.5, 4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Urban/Suburban High Need: 34.3%, 35.2%, 14.6%, 13.1%
Rural High Need: 44.6%, 17.2%, 10.2%, 21.0%
Average Need: 33.7%, 38.2%, 10.1%, 14.0%
Low Need: 85.7%, 14.3%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	4.8	4.2	2.6	0.0
Assault	4.9	1.6	2.9	2.2
Bomb Threat	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4
False Alarm	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.0
Sexual Offenses	2.0	1.0	0.8	0.0
Weapons Possession	1.8	2.0	1.1	0.0
Total Incidents	**13.9**	**9.3**	**7.6**	**2.5**

New York City

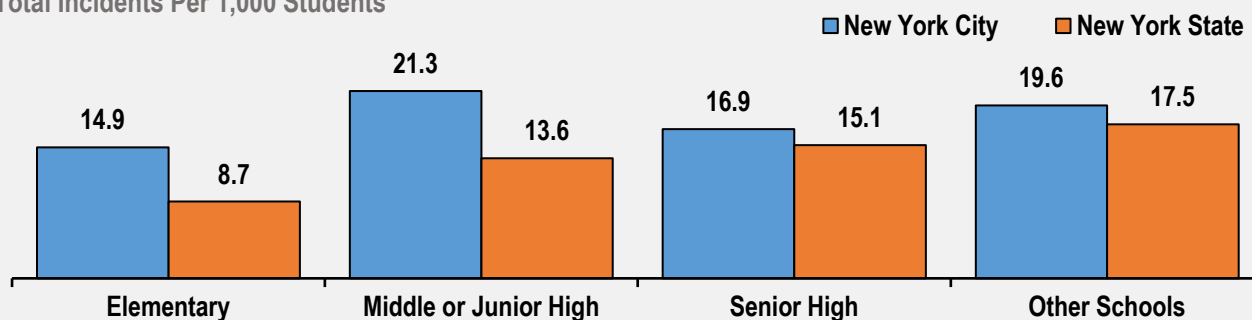| Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Assault	8,894	49.4%	8.3
Sexual Offenses	3,525	19.6%	3.3
Weapons Possession	3,073	17.1%	2.9
Alcohol and Drugs	2,027	11.3%	1.9
False Alarm	386	2.1%	0.4
Bomb Threat	85	0.5%	0.1
Total Incidents	**17,991***	**100.0%**	**16.8**

1,073,396
Student Population

17,991
Violent and
Disruptive Incidents

1,817
Number of Schools
(8.3% Reported No Incidents)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

■ New York City   ■ New York State

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
New York City	14.9	21.3	16.9	19.6
New York State	8.7	13.6	15.1	17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

■ Alcohol and Drugs ■ Assault ■ Bomb Threat ■ False Alarm ■ Sexual Offenses □ Weapons Possession

Elementary: Assault 61.7%, Sexual Offenses 25.5%, Weapons Possession 8.8%

Middle or Junior High: Alcohol and Drugs 8.3%, Assault 47.1%, Sexual Offenses 21.6%, Weapons Possession 20.6%

Senior High: Alcohol and Drugs 29.1%, Assault 29.7%, Sexual Offenses 9.7%, Weapons Possession 28.4%

Other Schools: Alcohol and Drugs 14.7%, Assault 48.3%, Sexual Offenses 14.8%, Weapons Possession 19.3%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.3	1.8	4.9	2.9
Assault	9.2	10.0	5.0	9.5
Bomb Threat	<0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
False Alarm	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Sexual Offenses	3.8	4.6	1.6	2.9
Weapons Possession	1.3	4.4	4.8	3.8
Total Incidents	**14.9**	**21.3**	**16.9**	**19.6**

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding. **Notes**: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. *New York City also reported one homicide in SY 2017-18.

North Country

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Assault	244	46.5%	4.2
Alcohol and Drugs	147	28.0%	2.5
Sexual Offenses	61	11.6%	1.0
Weapons Possession	61	11.6%	1.0
False Alarm	8	1.5%	0.1
Bomb Threat	4	0.8%	0.1
Total Incidents	**525**	**100.0%**	**9.0**

58,544
Student Population

149
Number of Schools
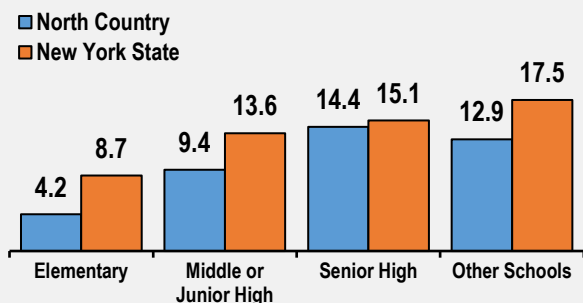(43.0% Reported No Incidents)

525
Violent and
Disruptive Incidents

$1.9M
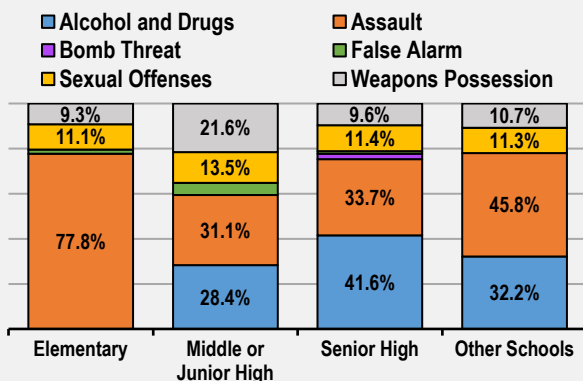Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- North Country
- New York State

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
North Country	4.2	9.4	14.4	12.9
New York State	8.7	13.6	15.1	17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Elementary
9.3%
11.1%
77.8%

Middle or Junior High
21.6%
13.5%
31.1%
28.4%

Senior High
9.6%
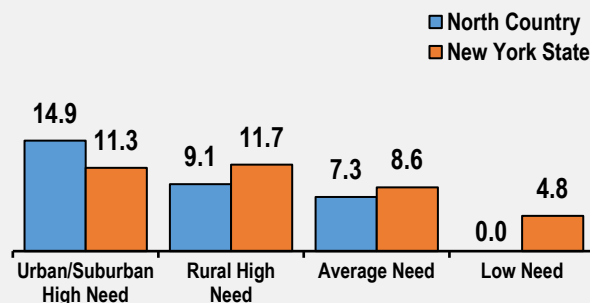11.4%
33.7%
41.6%

Other Schools
10.7%
11.3%
45.8%
32.2%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.0	2.7	6.0	4.2
Assault	3.3	2.9	4.9	5.9
Bomb Threat	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
False Alarm	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.0
Sexual Offenses	0.5	1.3	1.6	1.5
Weapons Possession	0.4	2.0	1.4	1.4
Total Incidents	**4.2**	**9.4**	**14.4**	**12.9**

Need/Resource Capacity
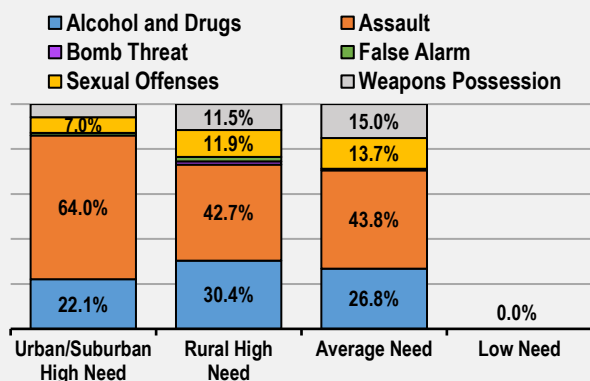
Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- North Country
- New York State

	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
North Country	14.9	9.1	7.3	0.0
New York State	11.3	11.7	8.6	4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Urban/Suburban High Need
7.0%
64.0%
22.1%

Rural High Need
11.5%
11.9%
42.7%
30.4%

Average Need
15.0%
13.7%
43.8%
26.8%

Low Need
0.0%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	3.3	2.8	2.0	0.0
Assault	9.6	3.9	3.2	0.0
Bomb Threat	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
False Alarm	0.2	0.2	<0.1	0.0
Sexual Offenses	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.0
Weapons Possession	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.0
Total Incidents	**14.9**	**9.1**	**7.3**	**0.0**

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding. **Notes**: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. Charter schools are not included in need/resource capacity.

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Alcohol and Drugs	408	40.7%	4.4
Assault	352	35.1%	3.8
Weapons Possession	152	15.2%	1.7
Sexual Offenses	62	6.2%	0.7
False Alarm	21	2.1%	0.2
Bomb Threat	8	0.8%	0.1
Total Incidents	**1,003**	**100.0%**	**10.9**

91,839
Student Population

225
Number of Schools
(27.1% Reported No Incidents)

1,003
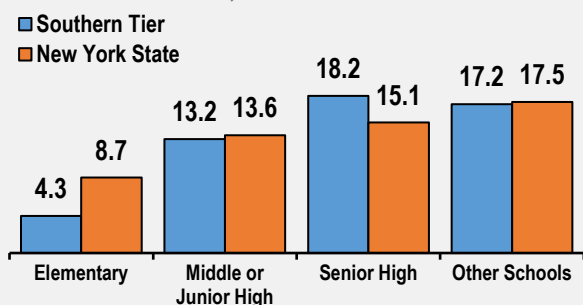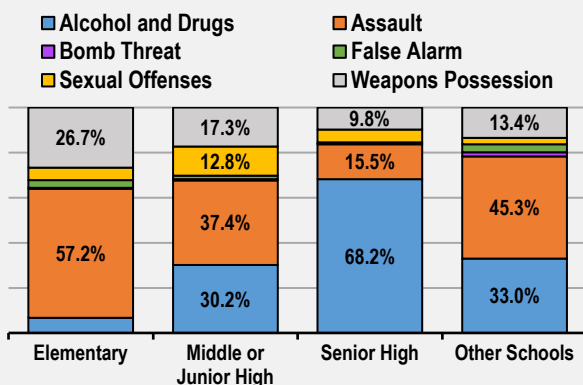Violent and Disruptive Incidents

$2.2M
Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Need/Resource Capacity

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Southern Tier
- New York State

Elementary: 4.3 / 8.7
Middle or Junior High: 13.2 / 13.6
Senior High: 18.2 / 15.1
Other Schools: 17.2 / 17.5

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Southern Tier
- New York State

Urban/Suburban High Need: 11.3 / 11.3
Rural High Need: 11.9 / 11.7
Average Need: 9.9 / 8.6

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Elementary: 57.2%, 26.7%
Middle or Junior High: 30.2%, 37.4%, 12.8%, 17.3%
Senior High: 68.2%, 15.5%, 9.8%
Other Schools: 33.0%, 45.3%, 13.4%

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Possession

Urban/Suburban High Need: 49.4%, 19.9%, 27.6%
Rural High Need: 32.6%, 43.8%, 15.3%
Average Need: 43.4%, 33.6%, 8.7%, 11.1%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.3	4.0	12.4	5.7
Assault	2.5	4.9	2.8	7.8
Bomb Threat	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.3
False Alarm	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6
Sexual Offenses	0.2	1.7	1.0	0.5
Weapons Possession	1.1	2.3	1.8	2.3
Total Incidents	**4.3**	**13.2**	**18.2**	**17.2**
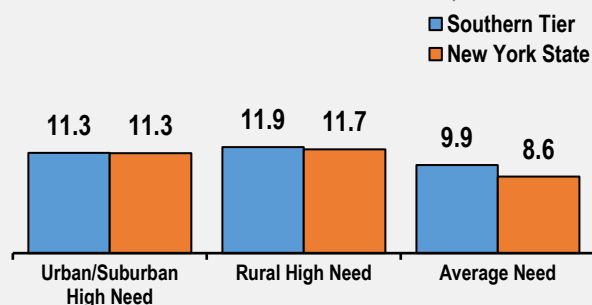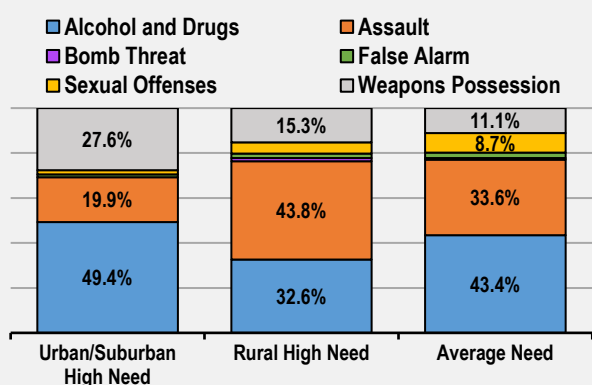
Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need
Alcohol and Drugs	5.6	3.9	4.3
Assault	2.2	5.2	3.3
Bomb Threat	0.0	0.2	0.1
False Alarm	0.1	0.2	0.2
Sexual Offenses	0.2	0.6	0.9
Weapons Possession	3.1	1.8	1.1
Total Incidents	**11.3**	**11.9**	**9.9**

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding. **Notes**: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. Charter schools are not included in need/resource capacity.

Western New York

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Number of Incidents	As a Share of Total Incidents	Incidents Per 1,000 Students
Assault	842	42.0%	4.4
Alcohol and Drugs	614	30.6%	3.2
Weapons Possession	348	17.3%	1.8
Sexual Offenses	138	6.9%	0.7
False Alarm	48	2.4%	0.3
Bomb Threat	16	0.8%	0.1
Total Incidents	**2,006**	**100.0%**	**10.5**

191,394
Student Population

359
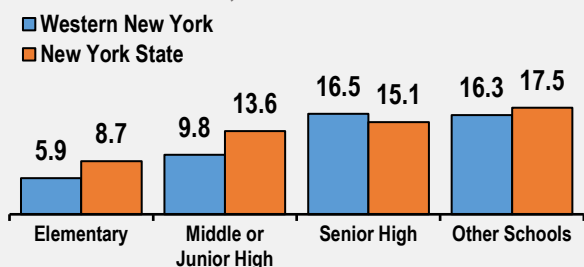Number of Schools
(27.9% Reported No Incidents)
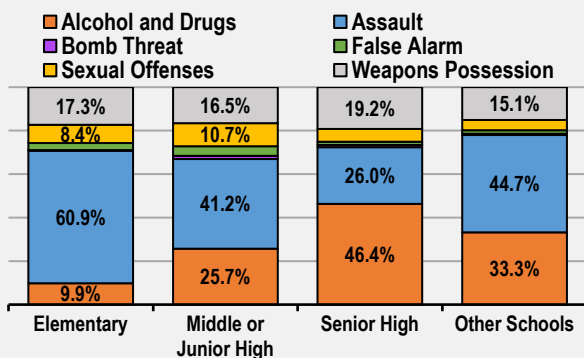
2,006
Violent and
Disruptive Incidents

$1.8M
Building Security Expenditures
(SY 2013-14 to 2017-18)

Grade Organization

Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Western New York
- New York State

	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Western New York	5.9	9.8	16.5	16.3
New York State	8.7	13.6	15.1	17.5

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Bomb Threat
- Sexual Offenses
- Assault
- False Alarm
- Weapons Possession

|	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Weapons Possession	17.3%	16.5%	19.2%	15.1%
Sexual Offenses	8.4%	10.7%		
Assault	60.9%	41.2%	26.0%	44.7%
Alcohol and Drugs	9.9%	25.7%	46.4%	33.3%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Elementary	Middle or Junior High	Senior High	Other Schools
Alcohol and Drugs	0.6	2.5	7.6	5.4
Assault	3.6	4.0	4.3	7.3
Bomb Threat	<0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
False Alarm	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3
Sexual Offenses	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.8
Weapons Possession	1.0	1.6	3.2	2.5
Total Incidents	**5.9**	**9.8**	**16.5**	**16.3**

Need/Resource Capacity
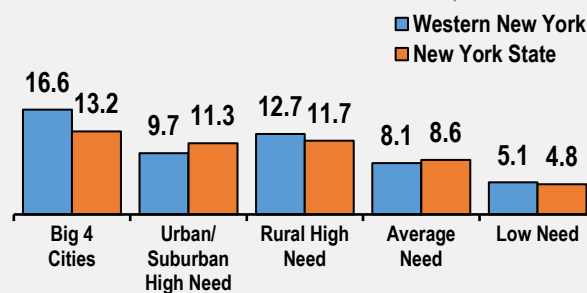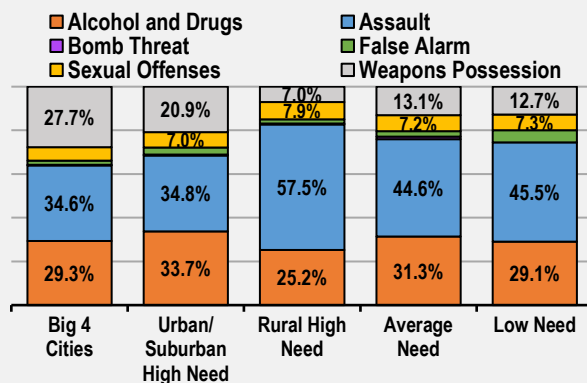
Total Incidents Per 1,000 Students

- Western New York
- New York State

	Big 4 Cities	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Western New York	16.6	9.7	12.7	8.1	5.1
New York State	13.2	11.3	11.7	8.6	4.8

As a Share of Total Incidents

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Bomb Threat
- Sexual Offenses
- Assault
- False Alarm
- Weapons Possession

	Big 4 Cities	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Weapons Possession	27.7%	20.9%	7.0%	13.1%	12.7%
Sexual Offenses		7.0%	7.9%	7.2%	7.3%
Assault	34.6%	34.8%	57.5%	44.6%	45.5%
Alcohol and Drugs	29.3%	33.7%	25.2%	31.3%	29.1%

Per 1,000 Students By Category

Violent and Disruptive Incident Category	Big 4 Cities	Urban/Suburban High Need	Rural High Need	Average Need	Low Need
Alcohol and Drugs	4.9	3.3	3.2	2.5	1.5
Assault	5.7	3.4	7.3	3.6	2.3
Bomb Threat	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
False Alarm	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Sexual Offenses	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.4
Weapons Possession	4.6	2.0	0.9	1.1	0.6
Total Incidents	**16.6**	**9.7**	**12.7**	**8.1**	**5.1**

Sources: New York State Education Department, School Safety and Educational Climate, SY 2017-18; State Aid Management System, SY 2013-14 to 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Does not include Pre-K only schools. Data labels that are less than 7.0 percent are not shown in the stacked bar charts above. Totals may not sum in tables and charts due to rounding.
Notes: Other schools include junior-senior high, K-12 schools and schools with no identifiable grade organization. Big 4 Cities comprise the dependent city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. Charter schools are not included in need/resource capacity.

Appendix

Schools (and Students) that Reported Violent and Disruptive Incident Data, SY 2017-18

Grade Organization	Schools		Students	
	Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of Total
Elementary	2,604	55.3%	1,295,592	48.5%
Middle or Junior High	736	15.6%	433,940	16.2%
Senior High	872	18.5%	686,886	25.7%
Other Schools	496	10.5%	255,478	9.6%
Need Resource/Capacity	**Schools**		**Students**	
	Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of Total
New York City*	1,593	33.8%	961,655	36.0%
Big 4 Cities	180	3.8%	107,569	4.0%
Urban/Suburban High Need	317	6.7%	210,468	7.9%
Rural High Need	375	8.0%	147,545	5.5%
Average Need	1,368	29.1%	741,734	27.8%
Low Need	598	12.7%	364,461	13.6%
Charter Schools*	277	5.9%	138,464	5.2%
Economic Development Region	**Schools**		**Students**	
	Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of Total
Capital District	278	5.9%	144,042	5.4%
Central New York	221	4.7%	113,162	4.2%
Finger Lakes	323	6.9%	168,228	6.3%
Long Island	646	13.7%	438,996	16.4%
Mid-Hudson	545	11.6%	330,465	12.4%
Mohawk Valley	145	3.1%	61,830	2.3%
New York City	1,817	38.6%	1,073,396	40.2%
North Country	149	3.2%	58,544	2.2%
Southern Tier	225	4.8%	91,839	3.4%
Western New York	359	7.6%	191,394	7.2%
New York State	**4,708**	**100.0%**	**2,671,896**	**100.0%**

Source: SED, SSEC, SY 2017-18, with calculations by OSC. Includes charter schools, but does not include Pre-K only schools.

Notes: Other schools include junior-senior high and K-12 schools, along with 8 schools that did not have an identifiable grade organization. Big 4 Cities comprise the dependent city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers.

*These need/resource capacity categories are not included in the report.

Notes

[1] Chapter 181 of the Laws of 2000 enacted Project SAVE, the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act. For more information and resources on Project SAVE and New York State's SAVE Act, go to **www.nyscfss.org/project-save-safetyplans** and **www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/schoolsafety/save/**.

[2] In 2017, an amendment to the New York State Commissioner's Regulations, Section 100.2 (gg), was adopted by the Board of Regents, thus creating the School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) summary data collection where public school districts and charter schools began submitting all Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting (VADIR) data starting in SY 2017-18. In accordance with federal law, VADIR data are weighted to reflect the most serious violent incidents, using a combination of a school's School Violence Index and Weighted Incident Exclusion Process. The purpose of such data is to determine which public elementary and secondary schools are considered "persistently dangerous." For more information on SSEC and VADIR reporting requirements and methodology, go to **www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/schoolsafety/vadir/**.

[3] See Office of the New York State Comptroller (OSC), S*tate Education Department Compliance With the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act (2013-S-71)*, January 2015, **www.osc.state.ny.us/audits/allaudits/093015/13s71.pdf.** See also OSC, *Implementation of the Dignity for All Students Act: New York City Department of Education (2017-N-6)*, March 2019, **www.osc.state.ny.us/audits/allaudits/093019/sga-2019-17n6.pdf.**

[4] OSC, *Overight of School Safety Planning Requirements: State Education Department (2018-S-34),* April 2019, **www.osc.state.ny.us/audits/allaudits/093019/sga-2019-18s34.pdf**.

[5] OSC, *Compliance With School Safety Planning Requirements: New York City Department of Education (2018-N-2),* June 2019, **www.osc.state.ny.us/audits/allaudits/093019/sga-2019-18n2.pdf.**

[6] OSC, *Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act – Safety Plans (2019-MS-1),* July 2019, **www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/swr/2019/safe-schools/global-2019-ms-1.pdf**.

[7] For the purpose of this report, some of the VADIR categories were merged together. For a definition of VADIR categories, go to **www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/schoolsafety/vadir/glossary201718.html**.

[8] High-need categories include large city (the dependent city school districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers, referred to as "Big 4 Cities"), urban/suburban high-need and rural high-need. For this report, the need/resource capacity categories of New York City and charter schools were not included. However, New York City is included in the regional overview section.

[9] For this report, "downstate" includes the regions of Long Island, Mid-Hudson and New York City, while "upstate" includes the Capital District, Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country, Southern Tier and Western New York regions.

[10] Charter schools and the New York City school district do not report their expenditures on school building security materials and equipment to SED.

[11] School districts use Form FB, Schedule N, to submit their total expenditures on school building security materials and equipment through the SED's State Aid Management System. For more information on the various types of expenditures reported by school districts, go to **stateaid.nysed.gov/sams/**. Since these are one-time capital expenditures, the discussion in the section is based on aggregated spending over the most recent five years reported, SY 2013-14 through 2017-18.

Notes

[12] The Smart School Bond Act was included in Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2014, as part of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-15 Enacted Budget, and was approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held during the 2014 General Election. See Education Law Section 3641(16).

[13] As of July 1, 2019, the State had approved plans for over $1.4 billion in total Smart School Bond Act spending. See New York State Education Department, *Smart Schools,* last updated June 27, 2019, at **www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools**. As of the end of SFY 2019-20, the State had reported spending $235 million of this amount, with no breakdown by expenditure category. See *New York State Enacted Capital Program and Financing Plan* reports for SFY 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, which may be found at **www.budget.ny.gov**.

[14] Jeff Preval, "State tells Lockport Schools to stop using facial recognition, again," *WGRZ*, June 28, 2019, **www.wgrz.com/article/news/state-tells-lockport-schools-to-stop-using-facial-recognition-again/71-abc0e45d-82ba-462e-8c24-b97614b7412a**.
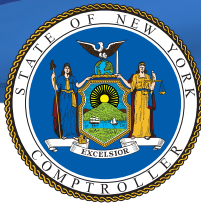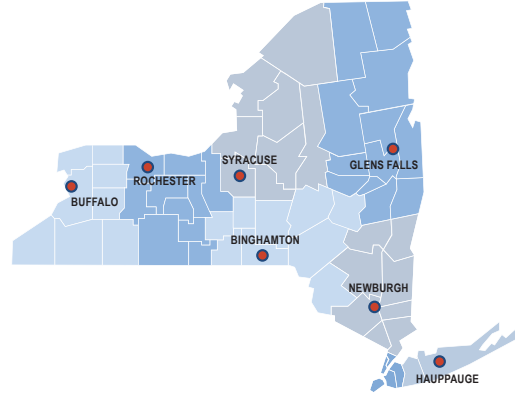
New York State Comptroller
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