

Champaign Police Department



School Resource Officer Program

2007-2008 School Year

The 07/08 school year started the second year of the School Resource Officer Program. This collaborative effort between the Champaign Police Department and the Champaign Community Unit 4 School District continues to improve each year as we identify ways to improve the program. As such, this end of the year SRO report is a joint effort between the Unit 4 School District and the Champaign Police Department.

The Unit 4 School District has engaged in a collaborative partnership with the Champaign Police Department to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students. This partnership has produced positive outcomes as noted by reductions in disruptive disciplinary incidents. The results below indicate a positive correlation between the implementation of the SRO program, along with proactive actions of district personnel and the reduction in major campus disruptions.

The results below were extracted from the Unit 4 end of year report in the area of climate and discipline.

District Results:

- As of SY2008, total disciplinary incidents have decreased in the area of Verbal Abuse and Threats, and Physical Acts and Disruptions are lower than in SY2007.
- Physical Acts and Disruptions decreased by 22% and Verbal Abuse and Threats decreased by 2%.
- 93% of all students have never been involved in an incident of verbal abuse. Eighty-five percent of African American students have never been involved in an incident of Verbal Abuse and Threats.

African American Impact:

- African American students represent 60.1% (1761 out of 2928) of the total students who have received one or more referrals including tardies and truancy.
- Forty nine percent (1761 out of 3611) of African American students have received one or more disciplinary referrals, including tardies and truancy.
- Seventy-six percent of African American students have never been involved in an incident of insubordination. 87.4% of all students have never been in an incident of insubordination.
- The percentage of African American students who were involved in an incident Verbal Abuse and Threats decreased from 16.5% in SY2007 to 15.6% in SY2008.
- The percentage of African American students who were involved in an incident of Physical Acts and Disruption decreased from 34.1% in SY2007 to 31.8% in SY2008.

High School Discipline Incidents

- The percentage of students with one or more disciplinary incidents decreased from 58% in SY2007 to 56% in SY2008.

African American Impact:

- The percentage of African American students with one or more discipline incidents decreased from 84.4% in SY2007 to 83.2% in SY2008
- Fifty-five percent (908 out of 1663) of students involved in one or more disciplinary incidents were African American.
- Eighty-one percent (291 out of 361) of students involved in one or more incidents of Verbal abuse and Threats were African American.
- Seventy-seven percent (431 out of 559) of students involved in one or more incidents of Physical Acts and Disruptions were African American.
- Based on our review process, we've not identified racial conflict as a key factor in any of the disruptions. The majority of the physical conflicts have occurred amongst racial peers.

District Discipline Actions:

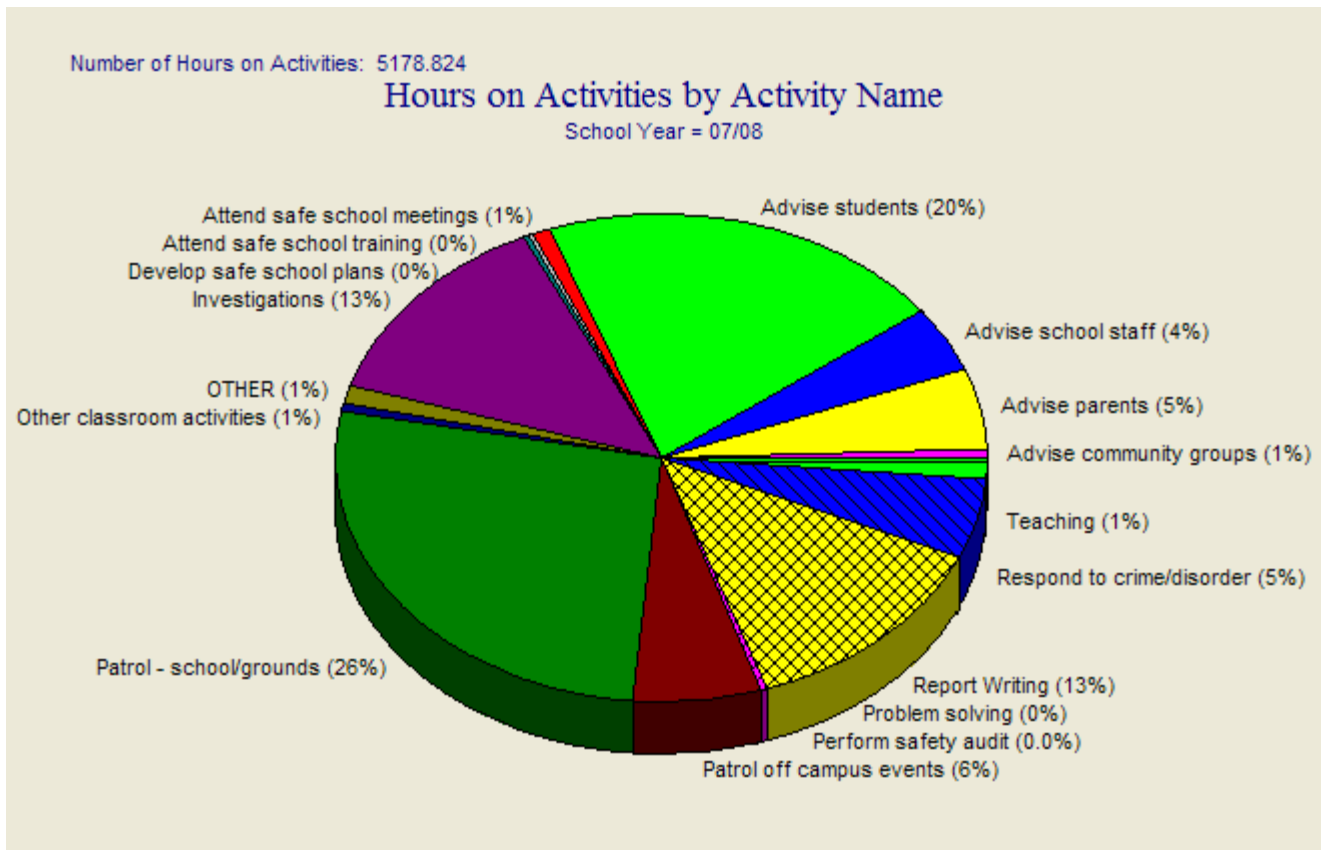
- Suspension assignments represent 5.1% (1694 out of 33,100) of the disciplinary actions issued. Suspension assignments increased from 1619 to 1694 incidents.
- Forty nine percent of African American students have been involved in one or more disciplinary actions and 19.8% of non-African American students have been involved in one or more disciplinary actions.
- Eighty one percent (2907 out of 3611) of African American students received no suspension. 12% (423 out of 3611) of African American students have received only one suspension during SY2008. Four percent (281 out of 3611) of African American students received more than one suspension during SY2008.
- African American students received 704 suspensions out of 899 which represent 78.3% of all suspensions issued. Non-African American students received 21.6% of the suspensions issued.

During the 07/08 school year, the SROs recorded 5,178 hours of activities in the Unit 4 schools. An activity is any function in which the SRO performs his/her duties in the Unit 4 School District. The activity categories help keep track of how the officers are spending their time working in the schools.

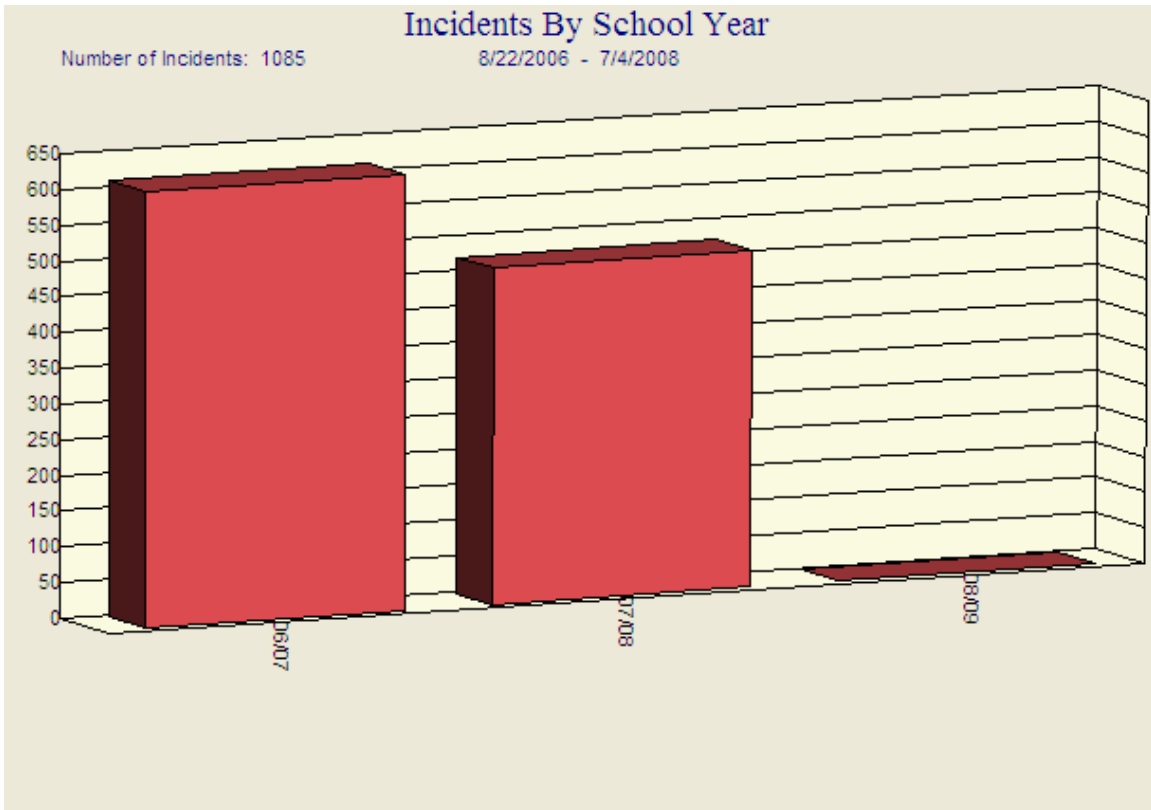
The predominant activity categories were patrolling school facilities (26%) and advising students (20%). This was followed by report writing (13%) and investigations (13%). The investigation activity represents the time SRO's spent on cases that were assigned to

them by Investigations Command. These cases would include runaway reports or juvenile appointments involving Unit 4 students. The respond to ‘crime/ disorder’ activity represent ‘in-progress’ crimes or incidents.

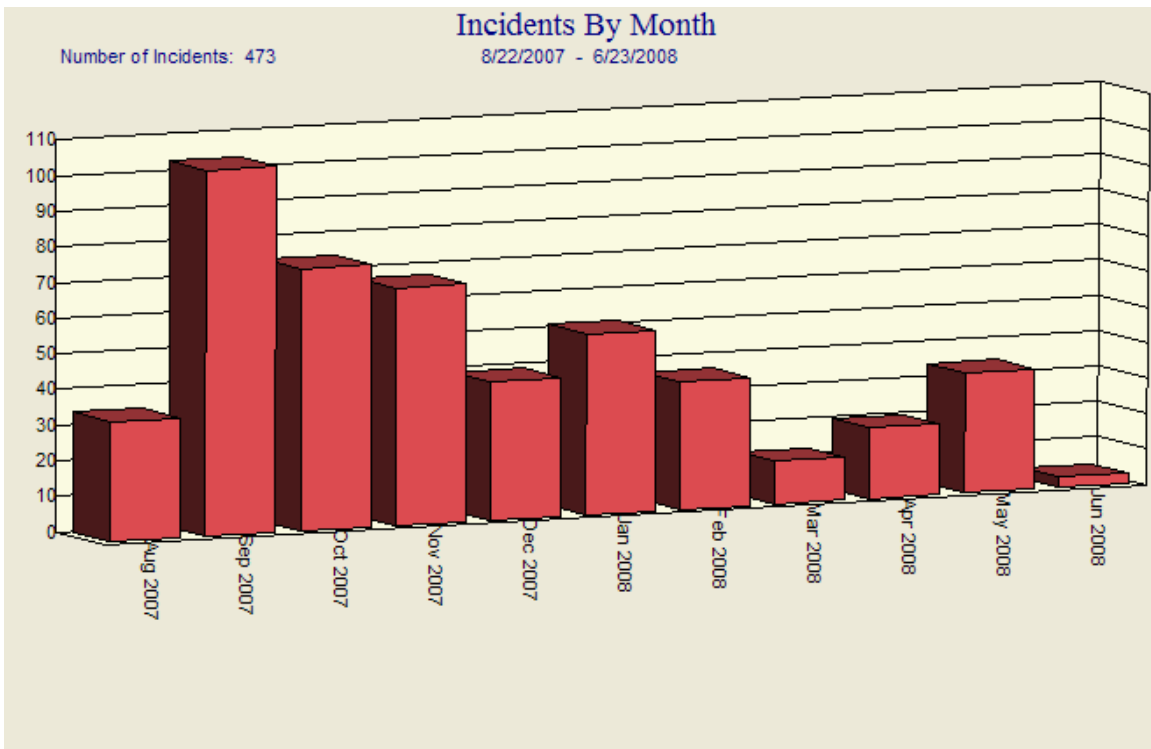
Twenty percent of the activity time is categorized as advise students. This activity represents the time the SRO spoke to students about problems, concerns or general conversation. It also represents those instances where the SRO spoke to students about school rule violations, such as fighting or disorderly conduct.



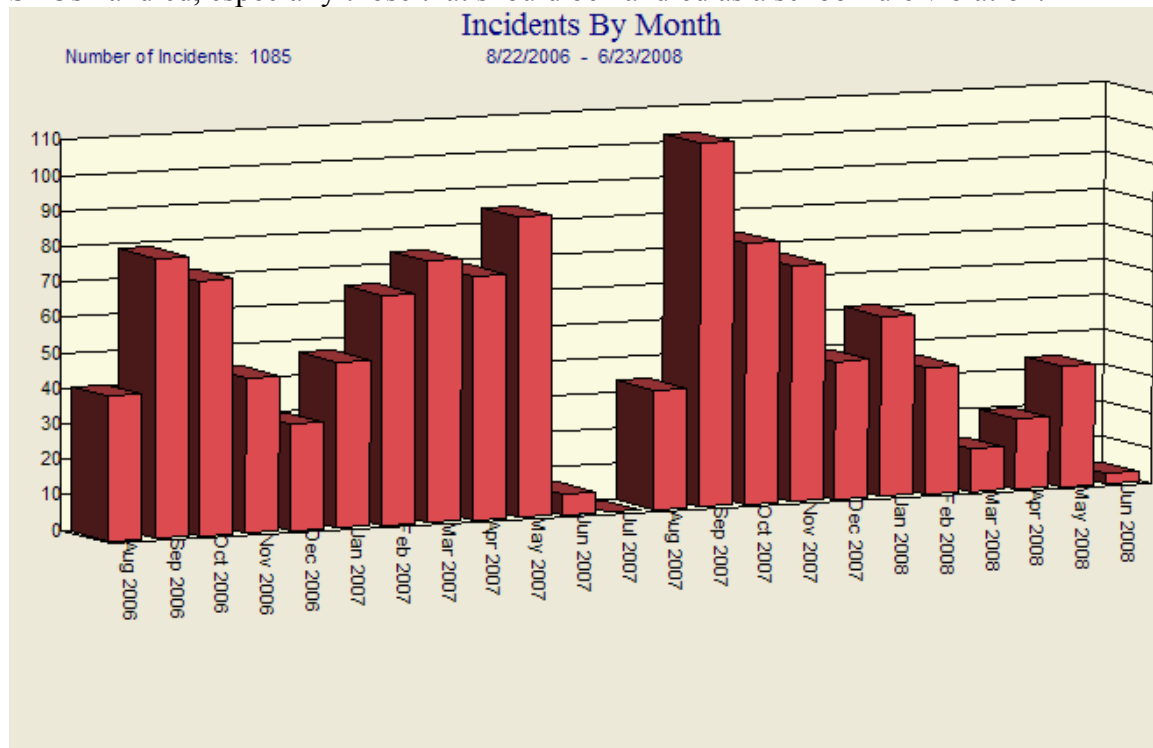
During the 07/08 school year, there were 473 incidents handled by the SROs. An incident would be classified as any criminal, quasi-criminal or violation of a school rule, which the SRO is investigating. This may include, but is not limited to, battery, fighting, theft and disorderly conduct. During the 06/07 school year, there were 612 incidents recorded by the SROs.



As with last year's data, we saw a similar spike at the beginning of the school year. This was followed by declining numbers in October, November and December.



The following chart shows incidents by month for the 06/07 and 07/08 school year. The significant difference between the two school years is found in the second semester in the 07/08 school year. At the end of the first semester, Unit 4 Administration and CPD met to discuss the number of incidents the SROs were reporting. The criteria for an incident was discussed and a concentrated effort was made to reduce the number of incidents the SROs handled, especially those that should be handled as a school rule violation.

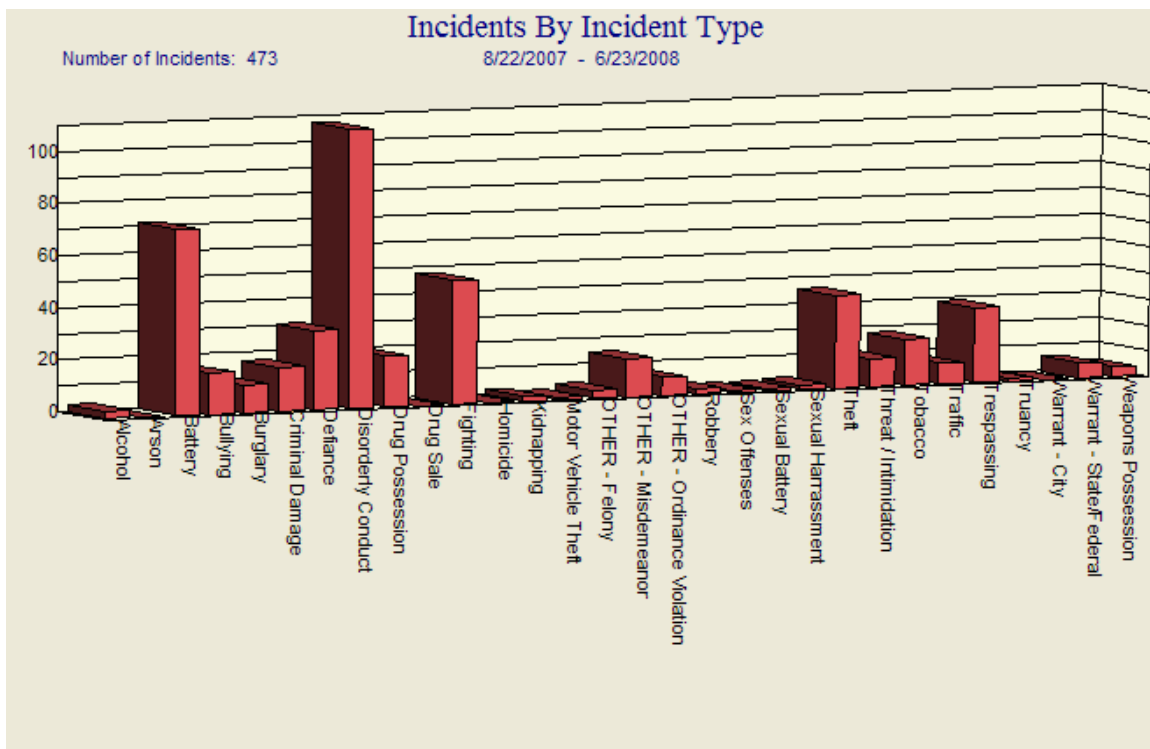


Upon further review, it appeared that there were inconsistencies among the SROs regarding when a school rule violation becomes an incident. For example, two students are involved in a minor fight which is being handled by the school Deans. If the SRO was asked to speak with the students regarding the fight and the possible criminal ramifications, it was sometimes recorded as an incident for battery. Other times, it was recorded as ‘advising’ in the activity category. In reality, the SRO was acting in an advising capacity for the school and no law enforcement action was taken. As such, the described scenario should have been documented an advising activity instead of a battery incident.

As an outcome of this review with Unit 4 Administration and the SROs, the following directions were given regarding incidents and school rule violations. If the SRO was not in the building, would the police have been contacted. If the answer is no, then the school administration would handle the violation and the SRO could advise if needed. If the police would have been contacted, then the SRO would handle accordingly and document as an incident. In other words, the new definition of an incident is an event that would require an official police report. This is a clear and consistent delineation that does not leave any questions regarding the level of police involvement.

This change in the guideline was implemented in the first week of February. It had a dramatic impact on the number of incidents reported in the second semester. During the first semester, there were 358 incidents recorded by the SROs. In the second semester, the total incidents dropped by 71% to 115 incidents. In addition, the number of custodial arrests were reduced by 61%, from 59 during the first semester to 23 during the second semester.

The predominant types of incidents handled by the SROs were disorderly conduct (1), battery (2), fighting (3) and theft (4). Generally, fighting has mutual combatants where both parties are at fault and are listed as offenders. Batteries have a clear victim; the offender is deemed as the aggressor or cause of the altercation.



The following is a summary of incident dispositions. The numbers in the parenthesis represents the figures from the 06/07 school year:

- There were 117 (107) incidents that resulted in 199 (209) students being counseled.
- There were 100 (107) incidents that resulted in 144 (156) suspensions.
- There were 243 (59) incidents that occurred, where no action was taken.
- There were 70 (56) incidents that resulted in 82 (74) custodial arrest(s). The majority of the custodial arrests, 45, were for battery. There were 42 custodial arrests for battery in the 06/07 school year.
- There were 19 (49) incidents that resulted in 21 (67) students being placed on station adjustments.

- There were 29 (36) incidents where 48 (48) students were issued NTA's or IVC citations.
- There were 5 incidents where 5 non-students were arrested.

Of the 82 custodial arrests, there were 35 cases that were formally charged by the State's Attorney's Office. The remaining cases were disposed of by station adjustments, referral to a diversion program, placed with a pending case, or prosecution was denied.

There were 69 African American students arrested during the 07/08 school year, as opposed to 64 during the 06/07 school year. Approximately 84% of the custodial arrests were African American.

During the 07/08 school year, we collected data on witnesses, victims and the reporting parties. The following is the "Persons Totals by Race".

Race:	Witness:	Victim:	Reporting Party:
Black	89	98	31
White	62	88	24
Hispanic	6	2	
Middle Eastern	3	2	
Asian	1	3	
Pacific Islander	1	2	

In an effort to reduce the size and to make it more reader friendly, the raw data has been removed from the report. This data has been reviewed and shared with the Champaign Human Relations Commission, the Chief's Advisory Committee, and the Unit 4 School District. Although the data is not included in the report, it is available upon request.