

School Resource Officer Incident Reports at DPS
A Four-Year Study
School Years 2010-11 to 2013-14

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Background

The Durham County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) provides School Resource Officers (SRO's) to the Durham Public School (DPS) school system to preserve student and staff safety as well as to provide opportunities for positive interactions between students and law enforcement agents. Every traditional high school in Durham has two SRO's and most middle schools have one SRO.

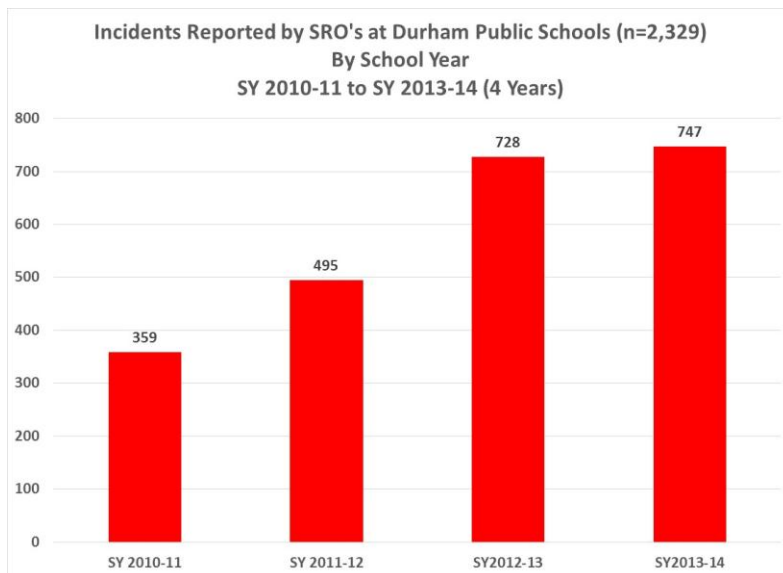
DCSO provided the author with a list of school incidents reported by SRO's on March 15, 2015. The data was an RMS report of incidents sorted by calendar year from July 2010 through January 2015. For purposes of this report the author re-sorted the data into school years.¹

The data includes five types of incidents.² They are assaults, affrays, larceny, drugs/narcotic possession, and weapons offenses.

1) Number of Incidents Reported by SRO's (SY 2010-11 to SY 2013-14)

As indicated by the table and chart below, the number of incidents has increased each of the past four years, with a substantial total increase from SY 2010/11 to SY 2013/14. Data shown later in the report indicates that increases in larceny may be responsible for much of the overall increase.

School Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
# Incidents	359	495	728	747



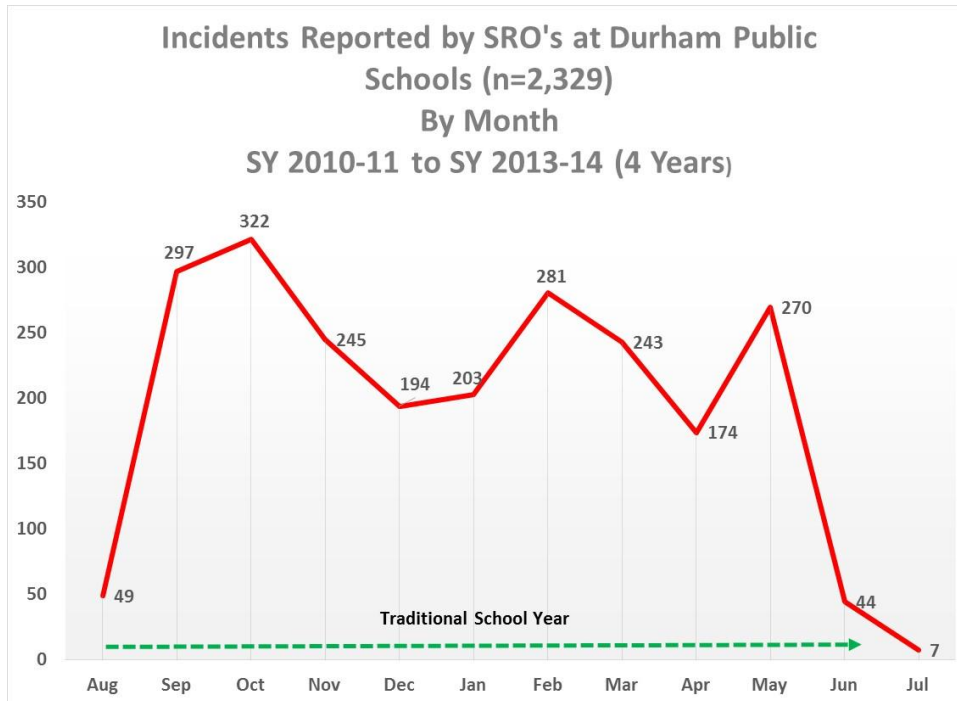
¹ For this report, a school year is defined as beginning on August 1 and ending on July 31

² It is not known if other types of incidents occur, and if so, how they are reported

2) Monthly Distribution of Incidents

As indicated by the table and chart below, incident counts are highest at the beginning of the school year, dropping off during the mid-year holiday, period and then picking up again in February and May.

Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
49	297	322	245	194	203	281	243	174	270	44	7

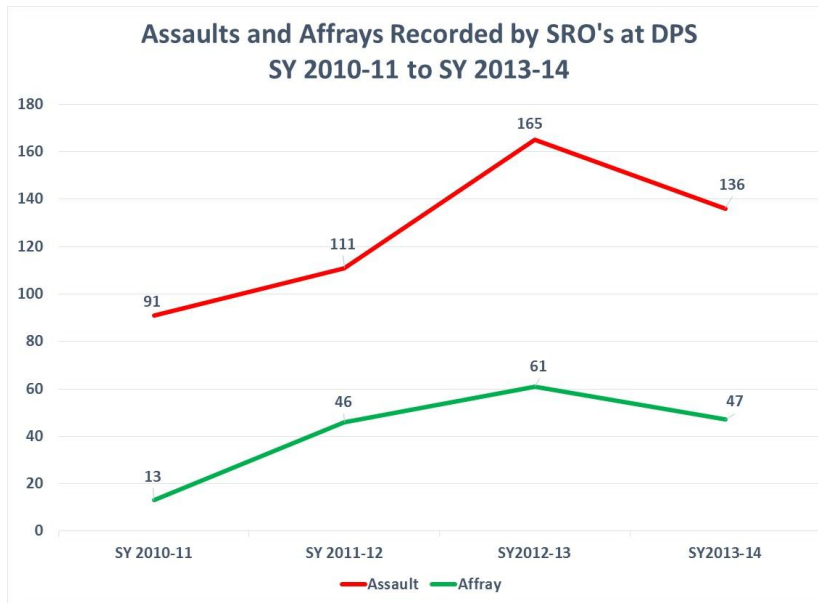


3) Incidents of Assault and Affray³

As indicated by the table and chart below, assault incidents and affray incidents increased steadily from SY 2010-11 to SY 2012-13, then declined in SY 2013-14.

School Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Assault Incidents	91	111	165	136
Affray Incidents	13	46	61	47

³ These types of incidents are paired together to make the Report more concise, not because they are related

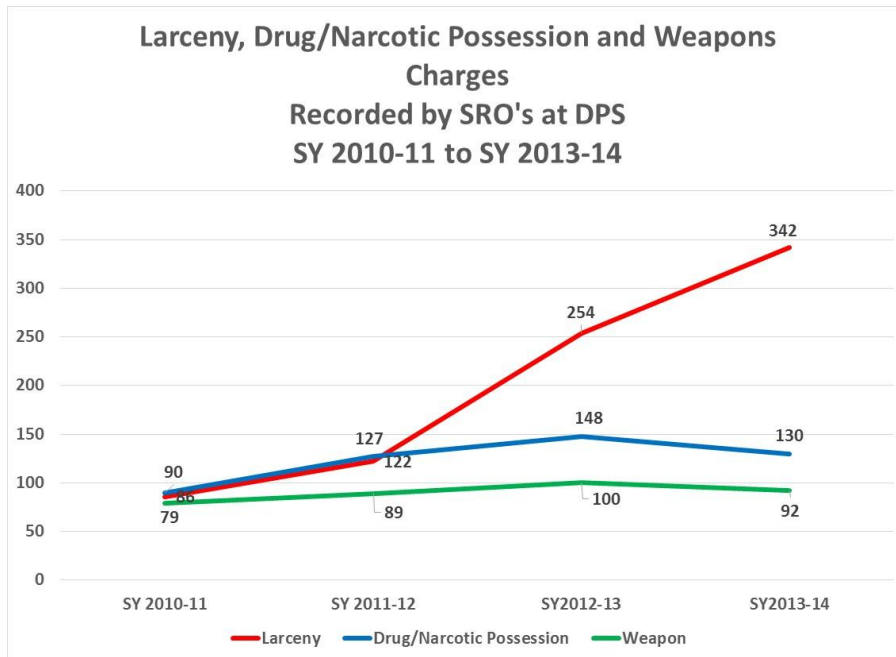


4. Incidents of Larceny, Possession of Drugs/Narcotics, and Weapons⁴

Most noticeable in the table and chart is the substantial increase over time of larceny incidents. Possession of drugs/narcotics incidents have increased overall during the time frame, but have declined somewhat in the most recent school year. Weapons incidents also increased overall during the time frame, but declined somewhat during the most recent school year.

School Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Larceny Incidents	86	122	254	342
Possession of Drugs/Narcotics Incidents	90	127	148	130
Weapons Incidents	79	89	100	92

⁴ These types of incidents are paired together to make the Report more concise, not because they are related



5. SRO Incident Reports and Suspension Data⁵

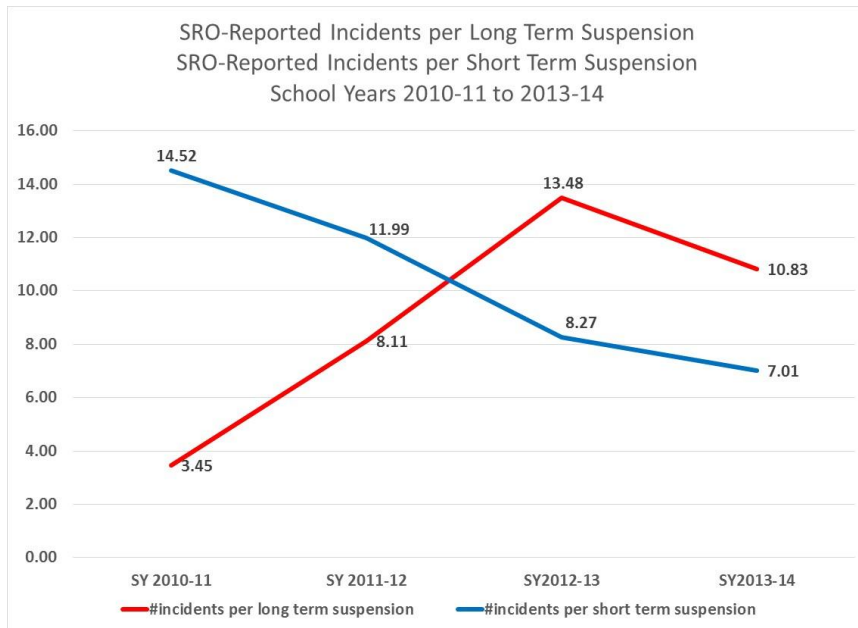
It is likely that some of the SRO-reported incidents result in disciplinary action, including long-term and short-term suspensions.⁶ For this reason, it may be useful to examine the numbers side-by-side.

The table and chart below are for informational purposes only, but do appear at first glance to show some developing trends. For example, four years ago there were 3.45 incidents per each long term suspension. During the most recent school year (2013-14) there were 10.83 incidents per each long term suspension. The ratios for short term suspensions have an opposite trend. This *may* signal that DPS is finding alternatives other than long term suspensions for SRO-reported incidents.

	Incidents	Long Term Suspensions	Ratio Incid/LTS	Short Term Suspensions	Ratio Incid/STS
SY 2010-11	359	104	3.45	5,213	14.52
SY 2011-12	495	61	8.11	5,934	11.99
SY 2012-13	728	54	13.48	6,020	8.27
SY 2013-14	747	69	10.83	5,235	7.01

⁵ Suspension data was retrieved from the Department of Public Instruction report to the NC General Assembly

⁶ Short term suspensions are up to 10 days; long term suspensions are greater than 10 days



6. Summary

The total number of incidents reported by School Resource Officers in Durham Public Schools has increased each of the past four school years. Incidents of assaults, affrays, larceny, drugs/narcotic possession, and weapons offenses have been examined in this report. Of those incident types, larceny is increasing at the fastest pace, while assaults and affrays have declined in the most recent school year. Narcotic and weapons charges increase the first three years of the study, but declined in the most recent school year.

Report prepared by Jim Stuit (Gang Reduction Strategy Manager) March 2015