



School Crime **2018**



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David B. Rausch
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Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is releasing its annual School Crimes Study. This study presents the nature, volume, and extent of reported crimes on school campuses, excluding colleges and universities in 2018.

The study is based on data submitted to the TBI through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS) program, which collects data on all crimes occurring in Tennessee. All law enforcement agencies as well as colleges and universities, are mandated to report crime statistics to the TBI. This study is produced from the TIBRS program and includes comparison statistics.

This study will hopefully assist law enforcement, school administrations, and government officials in planning their efforts in the fight against crime and continue to create awareness that crime exists as a threat to our communities. The threats to society by criminal activity must be addressed by efforts from all law-abiding citizens, as well as law enforcement agencies.

Thank you to all participating law enforcement agencies for their hard work and contributions to making this report a thorough and accurate picture of crime in Tennessee. It is only with their support that the state continues to maintain such a successful TIBRS program.

Sincerely,

David B. Rausch
Director



Introduction

This study presents information on characteristics surrounding crime in Tennessee schools, focusing upon public and private school systems, excluding colleges/universities and technical schools. The period covered in this study is from 2016 to 2018. This study was completed using data provided to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS).

Explanatory Note: This report is based on incidents submitted by law enforcement agencies and excludes offenses reported by colleges and universities. Data submitted by colleges and universities is contained in the annual Crime on Campus publication which can be viewed on the TBI website at www.tn.gov/tbi. Since the offense of Justifiable Homicide is not considered a crime, the offense is excluded from the study.

It is important to understand the characteristics surrounding school crime; the offenders who reportedly commit these offenses; and the demographics of the victims. A better understanding of these characteristics will help law enforcement, policy makers, school administrators, and the public properly combat and reduce the amount of crime occurring at Tennessee schools.

Situations surrounding school crime vary based on the offender's motive and the intended victim. For example, incidents involving student offenders and student victims constitute the stereotypical definition of crime at schools where the offender and victim are present to participate in school related activities. However, there are situations involving adult and/or juvenile offenders and victims where the school serves only as an offense location. Crimes perpetrated by offenders against victims who are not instructors or students and have no other relation to the school, i.e., a drug deal committed in a school parking lot or an assault involving multiple offenders and victims would be examples of such situations.

What is Incident Based Reporting?

Incident based reporting views a crime and all of its components as an incident. In order to obtain incident data, facts recorded and preserved about the incident are organized into specific categories or segments. The mechanism used for recording these facts is a data element. Data elements provide information about crime **and its involvement with victims, offenders, property, arrestees, etc.**

What is TIBRS?

The Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS) program is designed to collect data on every single crime occurrence and on each incident and arrest within the occurrence. TIBRS differs from the national crime statistics data released by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). The most significant difference between TIBRS and the national UCR summary data is the degree of detail in reporting. Unlike the summary system that collects only eight Part 1 crimes (Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson), TIBRS collects 24 crime categories made up of 54 specific crimes called Group A offenses. Additionally, arrests are reported for 10 Group B offense categories. Under the summary UCR program, only the most serious offense was reported. In TIBRS, up to 10 offenses can be reported in an incident, providing a more accurate picture of crime. Because of the differences between UCR summary data and TIBRS data, any cross-comparisons would provide inaccurate results in trend analysis. Additionally, the ability to conduct the type of data analysis found in this report is due in large part to the amount of detailed information collected through an incident based reporting system.

Methodology

The study specifically addresses incident characteristics, offender characteristics, arrestee characteristics, offense characteristics, victim characteristics and victim to offender characteristics.

Throughout this study, age groups are used versus individual age. The age groups are: Under 10, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-24, 25 – 34, 35 – 44, 45 – 54, 55 – 64, 65 and Over, and Unknown.

An additional consideration for this study is that Victim to Offender relationships are only collected for those offenses that are considered as Crimes Against Persons and Robbery. Crimes Against Persons consist the following offenses: Murder, Non-negligent Manslaughter, Negligent Manslaughter, and Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter, Kidnapping/Abduction, Forcible Rape, Forcible Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, Forcible Fondling, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation, Stalking, Incest, Statutory Rape, Commercial Sex Acts, and Involuntary Servitude.

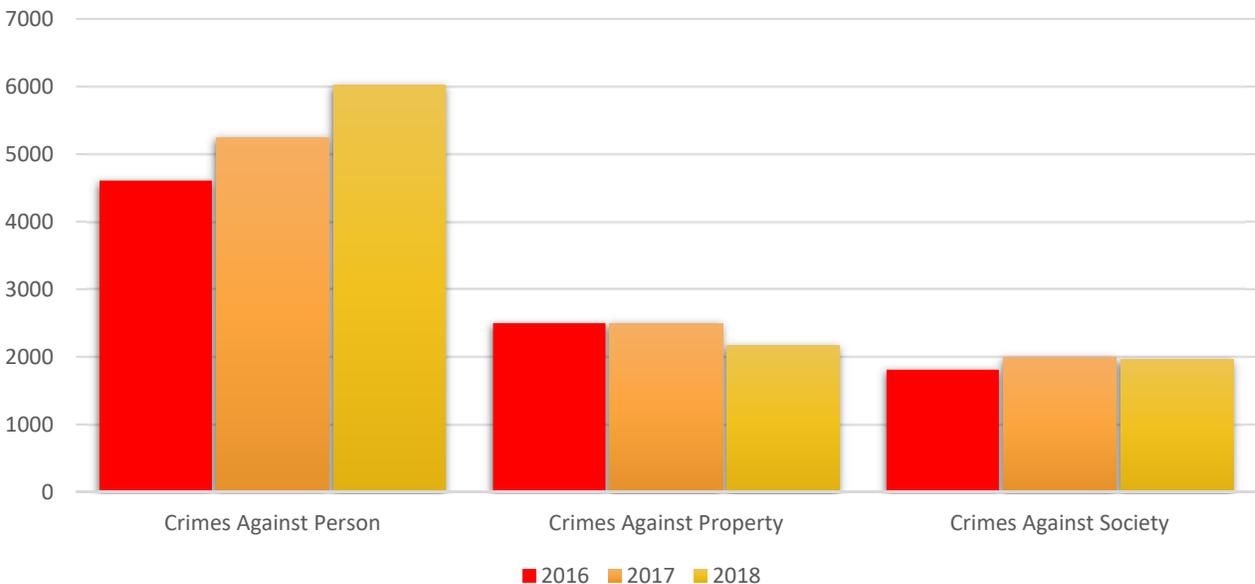
Quick Facts

- ❖ From 2016 to 2018, 28,777 crimes were reported by Tennessee law enforcement agencies with a location code of School-Elementary/Secondary.
- ❖ The overall number of reported offenses increased 13.9% from 2016 to 2018.
- ❖ Simple Assault was the most frequently reported offense at 37.6%.
- ❖ The month of September had the highest frequency of school crimes.
- ❖ The largest percentage of School Crime offenses occurred between 12:00 pm and 2:59 pm at 31.6%.
- ❖ Thursday was the most frequently reported day of week for school crimes.
- ❖ The most common weapon type was Personal Weapons (hands, fist, feet, etc.) at 77.8%.
- ❖ Females accounted for 53.3% of total victims and 46.4% of the victims were Male.
- ❖ Males contributed to 58.4% of the offender total compared to 27.2% reported as Female. The remaining offenders were reported as having an Unknown gender (7.9%) or Missing (6.5%).
- ❖ Males aged 16-17 were the most reported offenders comprising a total of 28.0% followed by the age group category of 14-15 at 27.1%.
- ❖ Black or African American was the most reported offender's race (45.4%), followed by White at 38.2%.

School Crime Offenses by Year

The overall crimes reported in elementary and secondary schools increased by 13.9 % from 2016 to 2018. Data shown on Chart 1 displays a 30.8% increase in Crimes Against Persons. Crimes Against Property, in comparison, decreased by 13.1% from 2016 to 2018. Within the same time frame, Crimes Against Society increased slightly at 8.4%.

Chart 1: Three Year Comparison



- ❖ Crimes Against Persons are those crimes in which victims are always individuals or law enforcement officers, e.g., Murder, Rape, Aggravated Assault, etc.
- ❖ Crimes Against Property are those crimes in which the offender's intent is to obtain money, property, or some other benefit, e.g., Robbery, Bribery, Burglary, etc..
- ❖ Crimes Against Society are those crimes which represent society's prohibition against engaging in certain types of activity, e.g., Gambling, Prostitution, Drug Violations, etc.

The offense of Simple Assault accounted for the highest reported offense in 2018 at 37.6% followed by Intimidation at 13.7%. Findings on data revealed that Theft from a Building decreased by 31.7% from 2016 to 2018. The overall number of Crimes Against Society increased 8.4%. Drug/Narcotic Violations, in particular, increased 11.5%. Further findings also revealed an 11.9% decrease in Weapon Law Violations. The increase of law enforcement personnel in schools could be attributed to the decrease in Weapon Law Violations.

School Crime Offenses by Clearances

Per TIBRS, there are two ways to clear an offense. The offenses can be Cleared by Arrest or Cleared by Exceptional Means. If an arrest has been made in an incident, an exceptional clearance is never applicable and cannot be submitted. From 2016 to 2018, 22, 953 of the 28,777 offenses were cleared. More specifically, 40.4% school crimes were cleared by arrest and 13.7% were exceptionally cleared.

An offense is cleared exceptionally when an element beyond law enforcement control prevents a physical arrest. All four of the following conditions must be met to clear an offense by exceptional means:

1. The investigation must have established the identity of at least one offender. This means the agency knows at least one offender's sex, race, age, ethnicity, and resident status.
2. Sufficient probable cause must have been developed to support the arrest, charging, and prosecution of the offender.
3. The exact (present) location of the offender must be known so that an arrest could be made.
4. There must be a reason outside of law enforcement control, which prevents the arrest.

Chart 2: Clearance Types

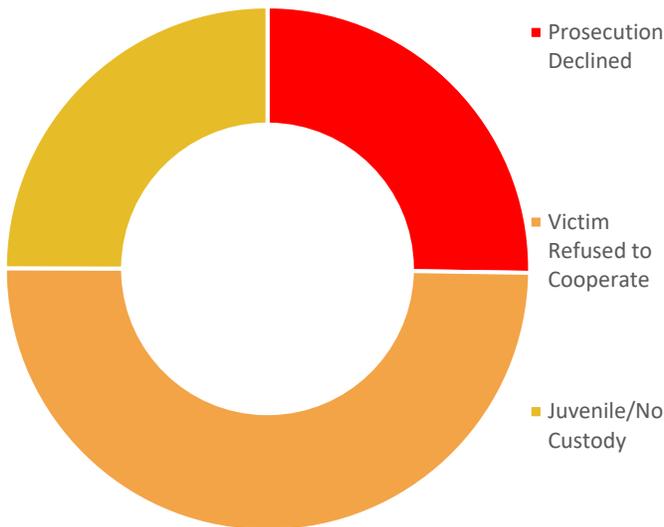


Chart 2 breaks down the different reportable exceptional clearance types. Victim Refused to Cooperate was the most common exceptional clearance with 49.6% of all exceptional clearances during the three year study period.

Prosecution Declined accounted for the second highest reported at 25.2%. Juvenile/No Custody accounted for 24.9%. Death of Offender and In Custody of Other Jurisdiction accounted for less than one percent of all reported types and therefore, are not included in Chart 2.

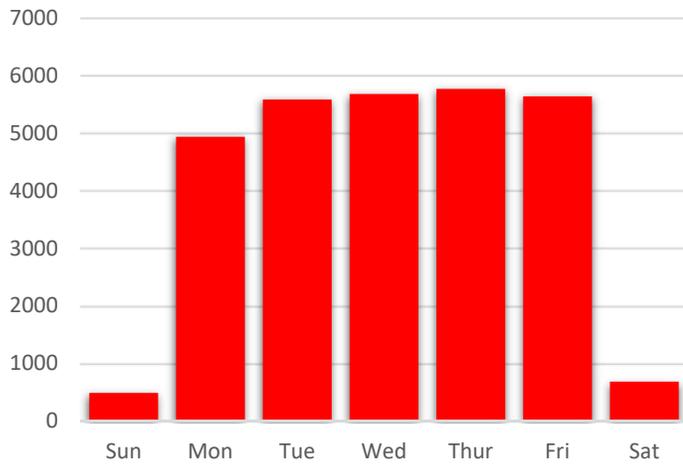
Another point to remember is, in a multiple offense incident the exceptional clearance of any one offense involved clears an entire incident. An incident cannot be cleared exceptionally when an arrest has been made in connection with the incident because the incident will be cleared by arrest.

School Crimes Cleared by Arrest

Three Year Comparison

TIBRS Group A Offenses	Offenses Cleared			Percent Change		
	2016	2017	2018	2016 to 2017	2017 to 2018	2016 to 2018
Crimes Against Persons - Total	1,772	1,909	2,114	7.7%	10.7%	19.3%
Murder	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kidnapping/Abduction	5	7	8	40.0%	14.3%	60.0%
Rape	3	3	5	0.0%	66.7%	66.7%
Sodomy	1	3	0	200.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%
Sexual Assault w/Object	2	2	1	0.0%	-50.0%	-50.0%
Fondling	56	64	76	14.3%	18.8%	35.7%
Incest	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Statutory Rape	0	6	2	N/A	-66.7%	N/A
Aggravated Assault	117	178	172	52.1%	-3.4%	47.0%
Simple Assault	1,443	1,505	1,549	4.3%	2.9%	7.3%
Intimidation	140	131	283	-6.4%	116.0%	102.1%
Stalking	5	10	17	100.0%	70.0%	240.0%
Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crimes Against Property - Total	574	576	482	0.3%	-16.3%	-16.0%
Arson	8	7	5	-12.5%	-28.6%	-37.5%
Bribery	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Burglary	57	65	43	14.0%	-33.8%	-24.6%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	15	14	25	-6.7%	78.6%	66.7%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	156	155	135	-0.6%	-12.9%	-13.5%
Embezzlement	2	4	2	100.0%	-50.0%	0.0%
Extortion/Blackmail	2	0	3	-100.0%	N/A	50.0%
Fraud - False Pretenses	11	5	7	-54.5%	40.0%	-36.4%
Fraud - Credit Card/ATM	3	2	0	-33.3%	-100.0%	-100.0%
Fraud - Impersonation	6	3	2	-50.0%	-33.3%	-66.7%
Fraud - Welfare	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fraud - Wire	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fraud- Identity Theft	0	1	0	N/A	-100.0%	N/A
Fraud- Computer Hacking/Invasion	1	2	1	100.0%	-50.0%	0.0%
Robbery	14	11	16	-21.4%	45.5%	14.3%
Theft - Pocket Picking	3	1	4	-66.7%	300.0%	33.3%
Theft - Purse Snatching	1	2	1	100.0%	-50.0%	0.0%
Theft - Shoplifting	2	0	1	-100.0%	N/A	-50.0%
Theft from Building	225	215	153	-4.4%	-28.8%	-32.0%
Theft from Coin Machine	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	11	20	9	81.8%	-55.0%	-18.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	1	2	1	100.0%	-50.0%	0.0%
Theft - All Other Larceny	44	49	44	11.4%	-10.2%	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	16	19	166.7%	18.8%	216.7%
Stolen Property Offenses	5	1	10	-80.0%	900.0%	100.0%
Crimes Against Society - Total	1,329	1,458	1,440	9.7%	-1.2%	8.4%
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drug/Narcotic Violations	860	903	930	5.0%	3.0%	8.1%
Drug/Narcotic Equipment Violations	228	290	253	27.2%	-12.8%	11.0%
Gambling-Betting/Wagering	1	2	1	100.0%	-50.0%	0.0%
Gambling-Operating/Promoting	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gambling-Equipment Violation	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gambling-Sports Tampering	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pornography/Obscene Materials	11	20	34	81.8%	70.0%	209.1%
Prostitution	0	1	2	N/A	100.0%	N/A
Purchasing Prostitution	0	3	0	N/A	-100.0%	N/A
Prostitution-Assisting/Promoting	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Weapon Law Violations	228	239	220	4.8%	-7.9%	-3.5%
Total School Crimes Cleared by Arrest	3,675	3,943	4,036	7.3%	2.4%	9.8%

Chart 3: School Crimes by Day

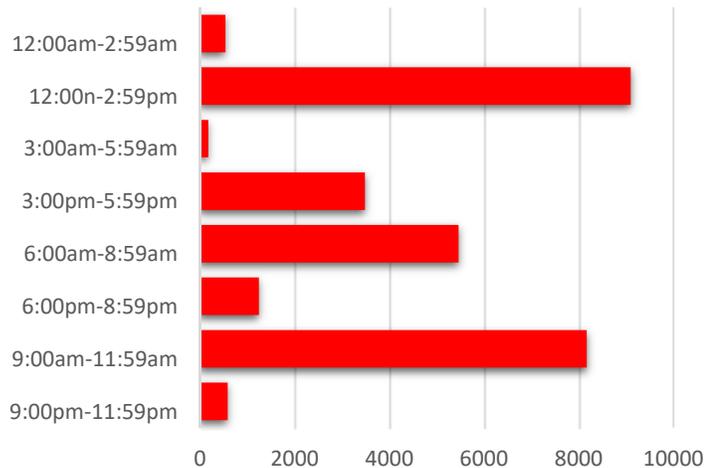


Overview

Thursday accounted for the highest reported day of week at 20.1%, followed by Wednesday at 19.7%. Additional findings revealed the number of reported offenses increased by 13.1% from Monday to Tuesday. Similarly, school crimes increased 14.2% from Monday to Friday.

School crime predominately occurred during regular school days.

Chart 4: School Crimes by Time



Further examination of data revealed the incident period of noon to 2:59 pm was the most common time for offense occurrences at 31.6%, followed by the period of 9:00 am to 11:59 am at 28.4%.

Offenses were less likely to occur during the time frame of 3:00am—5:59 am—when schools are closed.

Chart 5: School Crimes by Month



Additionally, September had the greatest number of reported offenses representing 11.8% of all offenses followed by the month of Feb at 11.5%.

The months of June and July had the lowest number of reported offenses accounting for a combined 2.3% of the overall offenses. This may be due to the fact that the majority of schools are not in session during these months.

Weapon Types

Of the 28,777 reported offenses, 47.5% involved a weapon. Since Simple Assault accounted for the highest reported offense type within the three-year time span, Personal Weapons (i.e. hands, fist, feet, etc.) comprised the largest portion of reported weapon types at 77.8%.

The second most reported known weapon type was Dangerous Weapons (i.e. knife/cutting instrument, blunt object) at 6.3%.

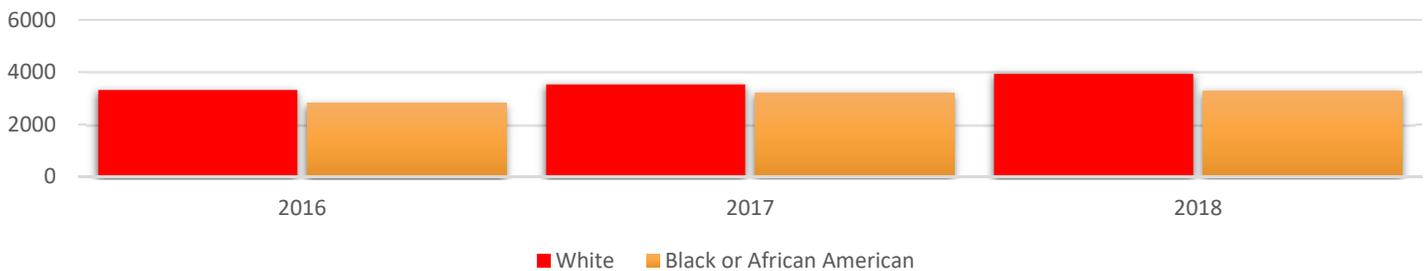
Weapon Type Category	Number of Offenses
Firearm	415
Dangerous Weapons	861
Motor Vehicle/Vessel	42
Asphyxiation	14
Personal Weapons	10,636
Poison/Drugs	8
Fire/Explosives	17
Other	900
Unknown	774

The majority of injuries were reported as None at 61.8%, followed by Apparent Minor Injury at 36.4%. The remaining injury types comprised less than one percent of reported injuries. Each of the remaining injury types represented 1.8%.

School Crime Victims

From 2016 to 2018, 20,444 victims were involved in a school crime. This number includes victims of multiple offenses (i.e. a victim involved in a Simple Assault offense and a Theft offense will be counted twice). The overall number of school crime victims increased 18.2% from 2016 to 2018. Females accounted for 53.3% of total victims. Males, in comparison, accounted for 46.4%. Seventy-six victims were classified as an Unknown gender within this timeframe. The most frequently reported victim race was White (52.7%) followed by Black or African-American (45.5%). The remaining 1.8% of victims had a race of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Native American/Alaskan Native, or Unknown race and are not included in the chart below.

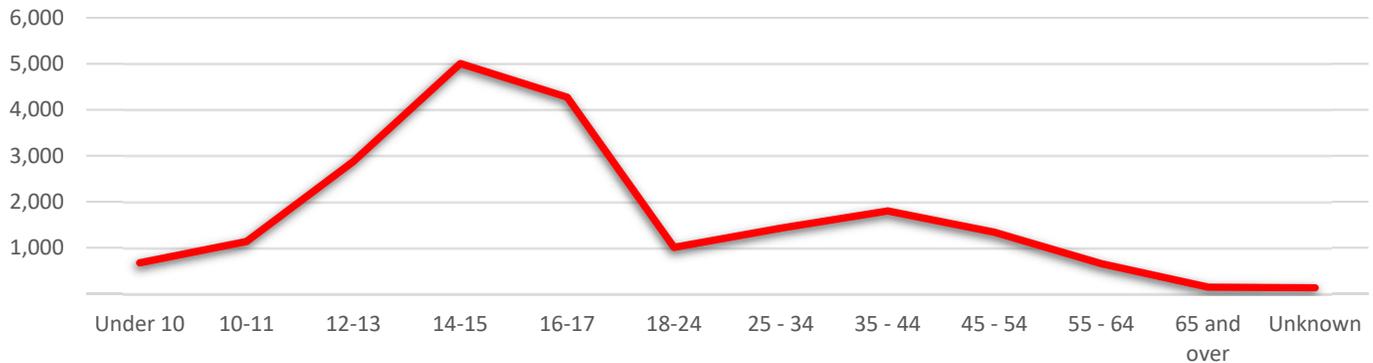
Chart 6: Victims by Race



School Crime Victims Continued

Victims between the ages of 14-15 comprised the highest reported age group at 24.5% followed by 16-17 at 20.9%. Since the majority of elementary/secondary schools populations are comprised of students under the age of 18, adults were less likely to be victimized. Unknown comprised less than one percent in 2018.

Chart 7: Victims by Age

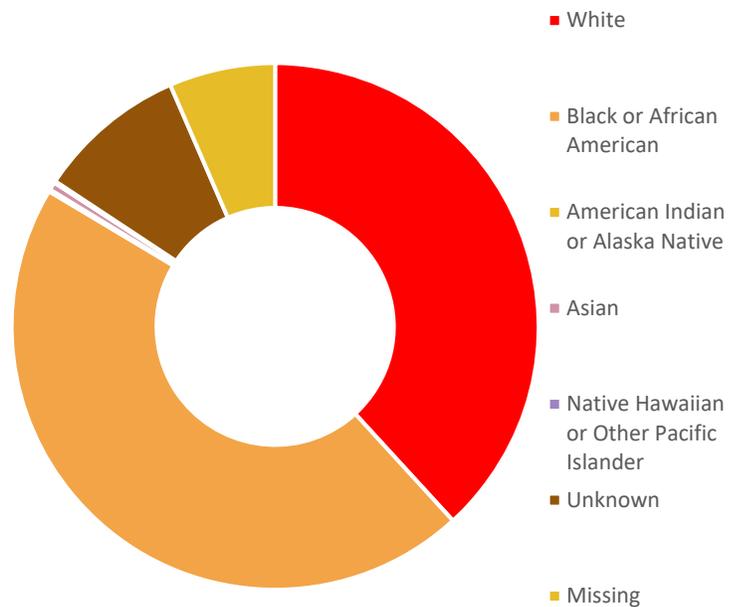


Please note: The above graph does not include victims involved in multiple offenses; it is only a count of individual victims.

School Crime Offenders

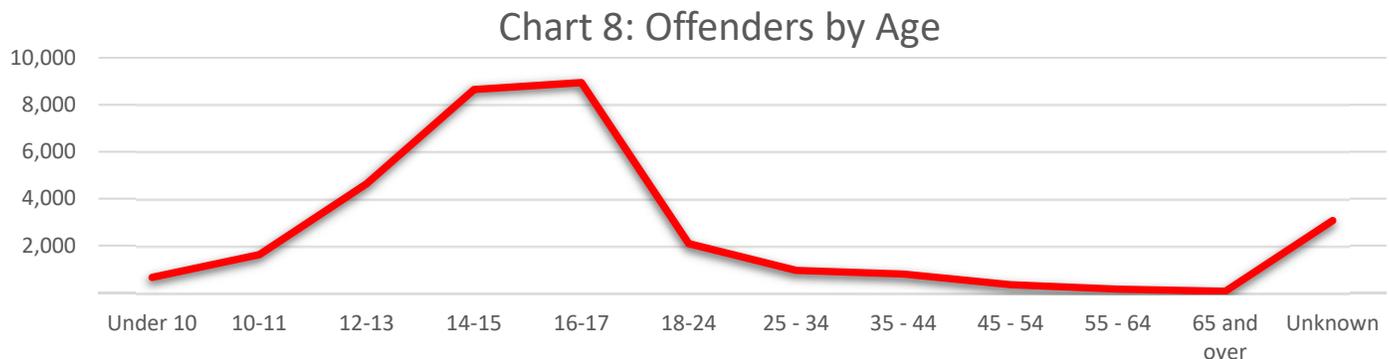
From 2016 to 2018, 29,839 school crime offenders were reported. Males contributed to 58.4% of the offender total compared to 27.2% reported as Female. The remaining offenders were reported as having an Unknown gender (7.9%) or Missing (6.5%). The most frequently reported offender race was Black or African-American (45.4%) followed by White (38.2%). Offenders with an Unknown race comprised 9.2%. Offenders with a reported race of Asian, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander accounted for less than one percent of the total.

Chart 7: Offenders by Race



School Crime Offenders Continued

The age group category of 16-17 accounted for the highest offender age group at 28.0%, followed by the age group category of 14-15 at 27.1%. The category of Unknown accounted for 9.6%.



Please note: One offense can have up to 99 offenders. The number of offenders compared to the number of offenses will rarely match.

The Unknown category is reported when the officer is unable to determine the age or age range of an offender. Quality control tools have been established within the TIBRS program to confirm the category of Unknown is properly used. However, in many instances nothing is known about the offender so the Unknown demographic is all that can be reported.

Summary

From 2016 to 2018, 28,777 crimes were reported by Tennessee law enforcement agencies with a school location code of School- Elementary/Secondary. The overall number of reported offenses increased 14.0%. Simple Assault was the most frequently reported offense type at 37.6%. The month of September had the highest frequency of school crimes. The largest percentage of School Crime offenses occurred between 12:00 pm and 2:59 pm at 31.6% with Thursday accounting the highest reported day of week for school crimes. The most common weapon type was Personal Weapons (hands, fist, feet, etc.) at 77.8%. Victim data revealed that females accounted 53.3% of the total victim counts. Males between comprised the majority of offenders at 58.4%. Males aged between 16-17 the age group of the were the most reported offenders at 28.0% followed by the age group category of 14-15 at 27.1%. Black or African American was the most reported offender's race (45.4%), followed by White at 38.2%.



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