

3-2000

Maine Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Program Report on Drug and Violence Prevention 1998-1999

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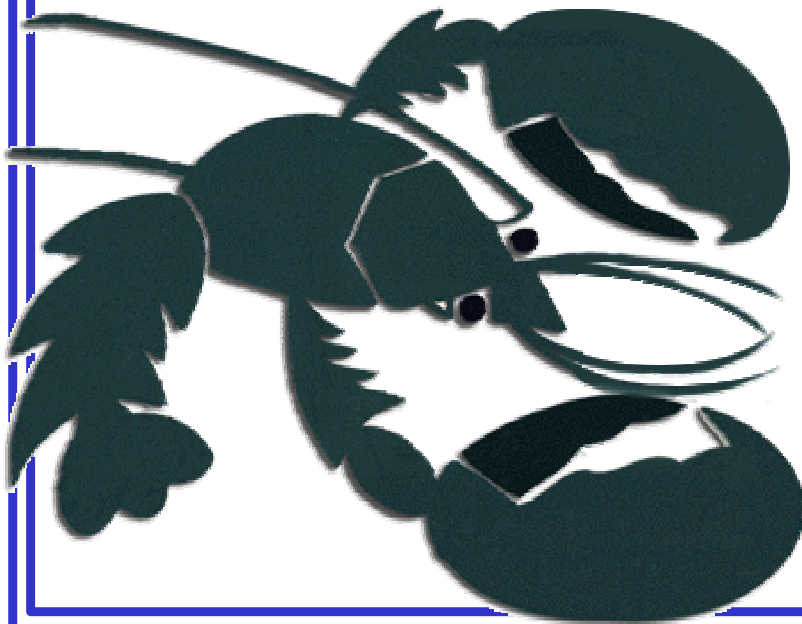
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Maine

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Program

Report on Drug and Violence Prevention 1998-1999

**The Maine Department of Mental Health,
Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services'
Office of Substance Abuse, The Maine Department
of Education, and Research Triangle Institute**



This data collection was conducted by the Research Triangle Institute through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, contract # S184G980004.

For more information, contact Bertha Gorham, Center for Research in Education, Research Triangle Institute, 3040 Cornwallis Road, P.O. Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; 800-262-4494. To obtain a copy of this report, visit: <http://mesdfsca.rti.org/>.

MAINE

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Program

Report on Drug and Violence Prevention 1998-1999

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March 2000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the participation of Maine's schools in this effort and the assistance provided by Local Education Agency prevention coordinators in gathering data. Over 80 percent of the LEAs responded to this data collection. Data reported here are based on 141 of the 175 LEAs¹.

The following people reviewed and made significant contributions to the SDFSCA data collection project and the preparation of this report:

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¹ Total individual LEAs = 285; LEAs participating in consortia are counted as 1 unit in this report, equaling 175.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Maine Safe and Drug-Free Schools Data Collection Project is a partnership between the Maine Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Office of Substance Abuse (OSA), the Maine Department of Education (DOE), and Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, the project intends to enhance the state's capacity to gather data on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) and violence prevention programs and on prohibited behavior among youth in Maine's local school systems. The project supports federal reporting requirements for measuring progress toward achieving the goal of safe and drug-free learning environments in schools.

The Maine SDFSCA Data Collection Project has four specific objectives to accomplish the goals of the project:

- 1) assist all LEAs in providing data on youth violence and prevention activities;
- 2) improve the quality and completeness of data reported by schools and LEAs;
- 3) develop an integrated reporting system to meet the new federal reporting requirements for SDFSCA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 1997;
- and 4) provide access to data to serve the reporting and evaluation needs at the federal, state, and local levels.

The system is supported by technical assistance made available through on-site training workshops, telephone assistance, and through a web site established for the project that provides access to resources about Safe and Drug-Free Schools programs throughout the State of Maine and across the nation.

For the 1998-1999 school year, all LEAs in Maine were encouraged to document in an electronic database, information on their prevention activities -- including related staff development and training -- and incidents that occurred during the school year. Schools supplied school-level data to the SDFSCA LEA coordinator, who then submitted it to the state (via RTI).

Data for the 1999-2000 school year will be collected through a World Wide Web-based database. When fully operational in all LEAs, information from the SDFSCA data collection system will be available to every LEA.

This report presents the data collected from LEAs and schools during the 1998-1999 school year. It contains information about local ATOD and violence prevention efforts, as well as recorded incidents of prohibited behavior.

II. METHODOLOGY

In compliance with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the U.S. Department of Education requires that all states annually conduct statewide data collections of local prevention efforts and incidents of prohibited behavior. This data is used to aggregate and analyze information on the status of prevention efforts and impact nationwide.

The data for Maine was collected during the 1998-1999 school year by Research Triangle Institute in Research Triangle Park, NC, through a contract with the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Maine Department of Education.

RTI, DOE, and OSA worked collaboratively to develop a coordinated system of reporting that meets the requirements of local and state SDFSCA personnel. A working group of Maine stakeholders was convened to assist with development of the definitions for terms used in the report and the structure of the database.

Data was submitted to RTI by LEAs, either by means of an electronic database or on paper forms. The database was made available to all LEAs on CD-ROM and by download from the Maine SDFSCA web site. LEAs were strongly encouraged to utilize the electronic database. They were asked to record their data directly into the database or on the paper form and submit it to RTI for inclusion in the master database.

One hundred forty-one (81%) of Maine's 175 LEAs² participated in the 1998 - 1999 SDFSCA Data Collection Project. This includes 570 (69%) of the total 830 schools in Maine.

Data submitted by Maine LEAs was aggregated and reported to the U.S. Department of Education. This report presents that information, as well as additional, more detailed information and analysis related to Maine SDFSCA activities.

The report layout provides a graphical representation and explanation of Maine's reported SDFSCA local prevention efforts. It provides a demographic overview of LEAs and schools, information on SDFSCA prevention programs, services, and activities, reported incidents of prohibited behavior, and data in summation to enable the reader to draw comparisons and conclusions.

The results presented in this report can be used by Maine LEAs and schools to gain a better understanding of their progress, as well as advise on the development of programs and revision of continued efforts for safe and drug-free schools and communities.

² Total individual LEAs = 285; LEAs participating in consortia are counted as 1 unit in this report, equaling 175.

III. DEMOGRAPHICS

Local Education Agencies and Schools Participating in the Maine SDFSCA Data Collection Project

Participants: total and number of LEAs reporting

Total # of LEAs ³	175
LEAs not reporting	34
Total LEAs Reporting	141

Participants: total and number of schools reporting

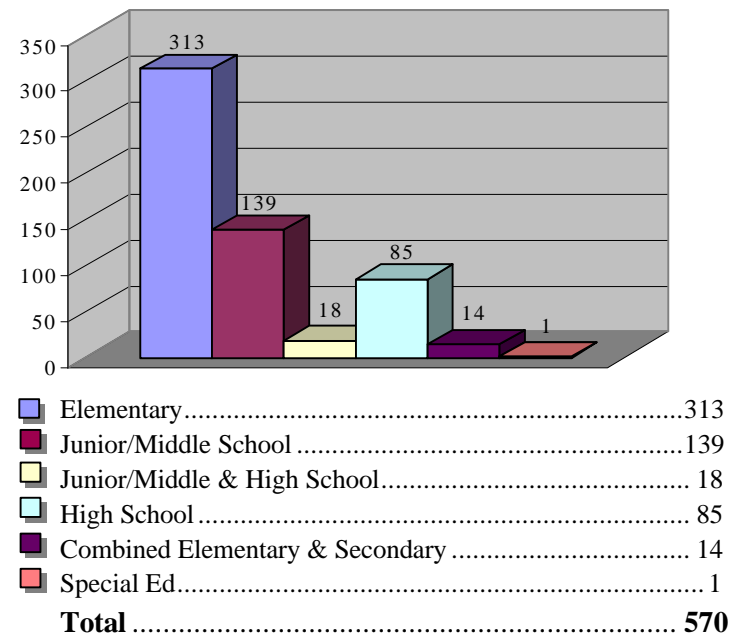
School Level	Total Number of Schools in Maine	Number & Percentage of Schools Reporting	
Elementary	469	313	67%
Junior/Middle School	154	145	94%
High School	127	112	88%
Other *Count includes Maine Indian Education schools, private schools, others not required to report	80	--	
Total Schools	830	570	69%

³ Total individual LEAs = 285; LEAs participating in consortia are counted as 1 unit in this report, equaling 175 LEAs.

Count includes private school district(s).

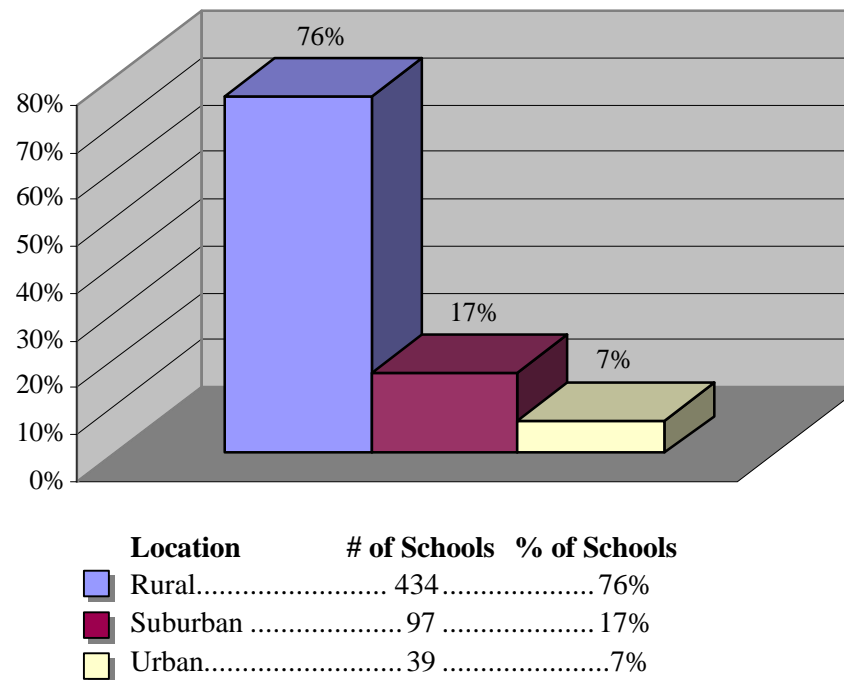
⁴ For the purposes of this report, "Junior/Middle & High Schools" and "Combined Elementary & Secondary Schools" with 8th grade being the highest grade level are counted as middle schools; schools with grade levels of 9th and above are counted as high schools.

Breakdown of schools reporting, by school level⁴



Participants: number and percentage of schools by geographic location⁵

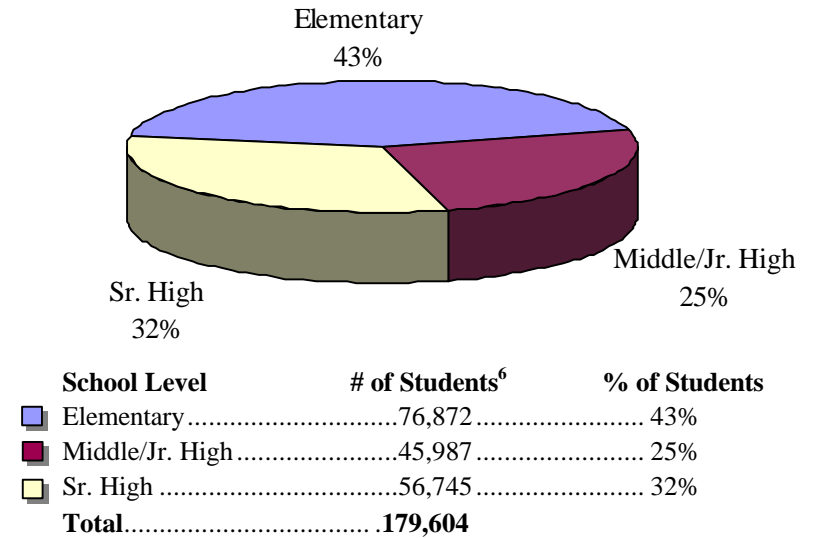
- The vast majority of schools in Maine (76%) are located in rural areas.
- Suburban schools make up the next most common geographic location (17%).
- Urban locations contain the least number of schools in Maine (7%).



⁵ LEAs assigned themselves into these geographic location categories.

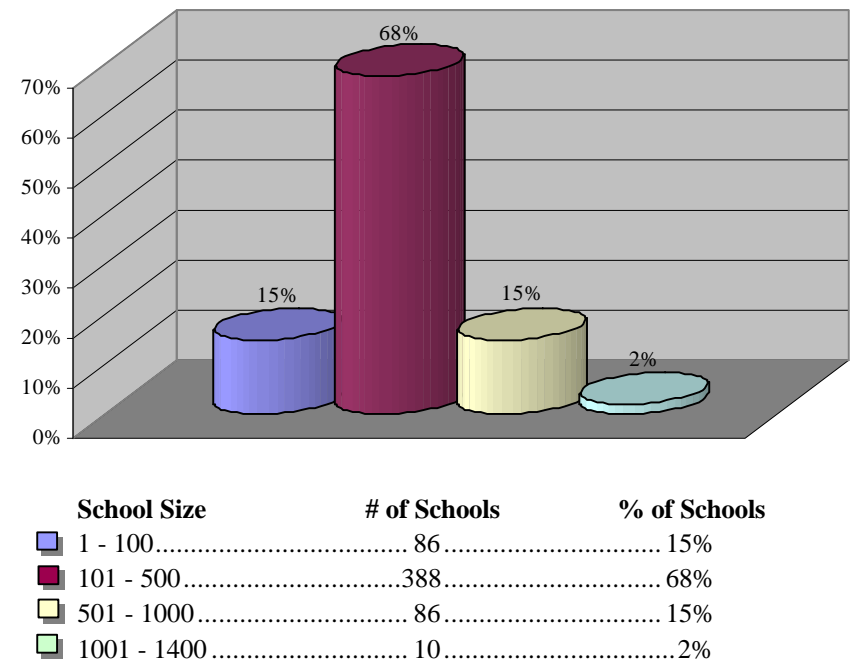
Participants: enrollment of schools reporting by school level

- With elementary schools being the most prevalent in Maine, they contain the largest student population (43%).
- Sr. high schools contain the next highest percentage of Maine students (32%).
- Middle schools comprise 25% of students in Maine.



Participants: number and percentage of reporting schools by size

- Most Maine schools (68%) have an enrollment of 100 to 500 students.
- Almost one third of Maine schools fall into the enrollment range of either 1 to 100 students, or 500 to 1000 students.
- Only 2% of Maine schools have a student enrollment of more than 1000.



⁶ Student enrollment based on the total enrollment of reporting schools.

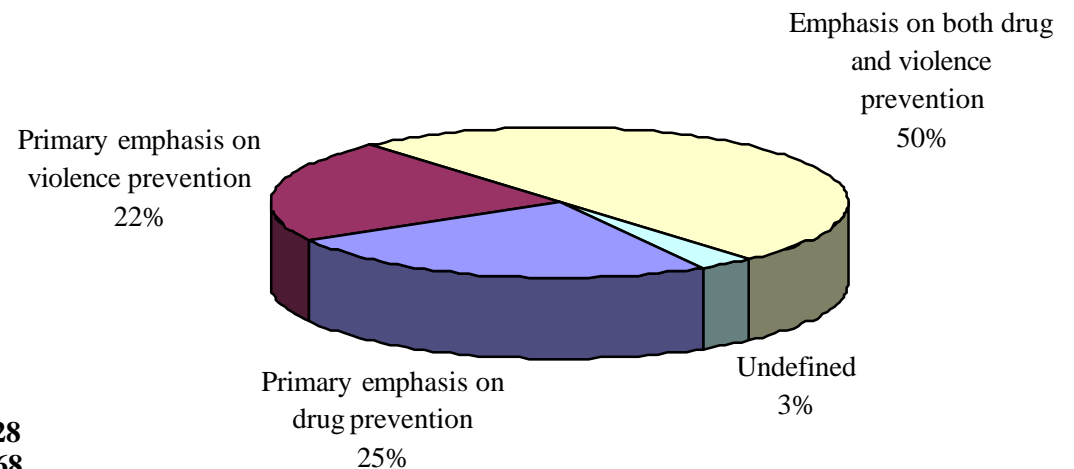
IV. SDFSCA PREVENTION PROGRAMS, SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Exhibit 1. Drug and Violence Prevention Efforts

Prevention: number and percentage of drug and violence prevention programs

- Ninety-eight percent (138) of Maine LEAs and 91% of schools⁷ offer drug and violence prevention instruction⁸ at one or more grade levels.
- A total of 2,228 prevention programs, services, and activities are provided.
- A total of 272,741 students⁹ were served; this averages to 122.4 students served per program.
- Maine students spent a total of 120,825 hours engaged in drug and violence prevention activities; this equals an average of 54.2 hours per program, service, or activity, and an average of 2.25 hours per student.

Total prevention instruction offerings during 1998-99.....	2,228
Primary emphasis on drug prevention	568
Elementary.....	281
Middle/Jr. High.....	160
High School	127
Primary emphasis on violence prevention	482
Elementary.....	274
Middle/Jr. High.....	129
High School	79
Emphasis on both drug and violence prevention.....	1,113
Elementary.....	478
Middle/Jr. High.....	317
High School	318
Undefined	65



⁷ N = 141 LEAs; 520 schools

⁸ Includes prevention programs, services, activities, and curriculum/classroom instruction.

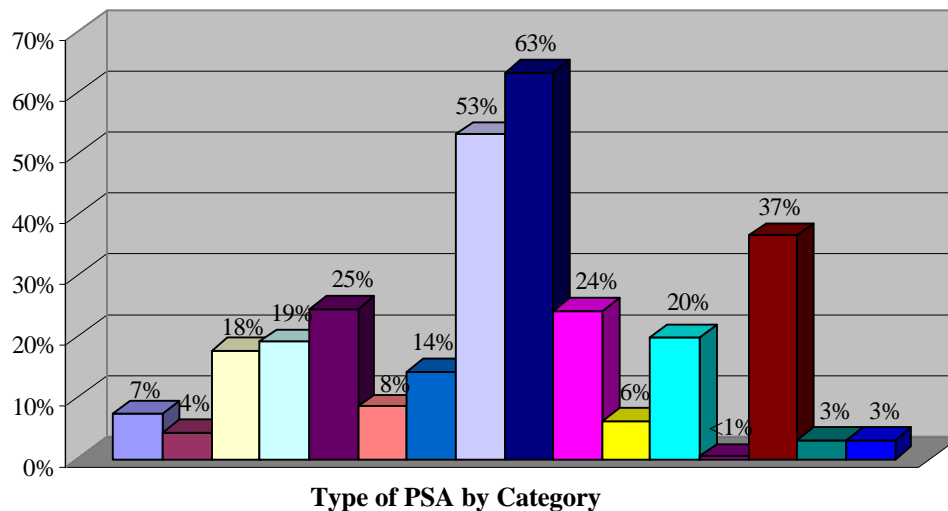
⁹ Due to reporting methods, this is a duplicated count of students served and hours of instruction provided.

Exhibit 2. Drug and Violence Prevention Programs, Services, & Activities Offered in Grades K - 12

Prevention: types of programs, services, and activities by category¹⁰ and percentage of schools providing them

- Of the 570 schools reporting, 520 schools (91%) provide prevention programs, services, and activities.
- The most prevalent program, service or activity was drug prevention instruction, with 329 (63%) of Maine schools¹¹ reporting drug prevention activities.

**% of Schools
Offering PSA**



Category	% of Schools ¹¹
Advisory Council Activities ¹²	7%
Analysis/Evaluation Activities.....	4%
Special Events.....	18%
Coordination w/ Community Groups & Agencies	19%
Curriculum/Audiovisual Materials.....	25%
Awareness Activities.....	8%
Parent Involvement	14%
Counseling & Referral/Student Support Services	53%
Drug Prevention Instruction.....	63%
Violence Prevention Instruction.....	24%
Alternative Education Programs	6%
Before/After School Programs.....	20%
Services for Out-of School Youth.....	<1%
Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation.....	37%
Security Personnel.....	3%
Security Equipment.....	3%

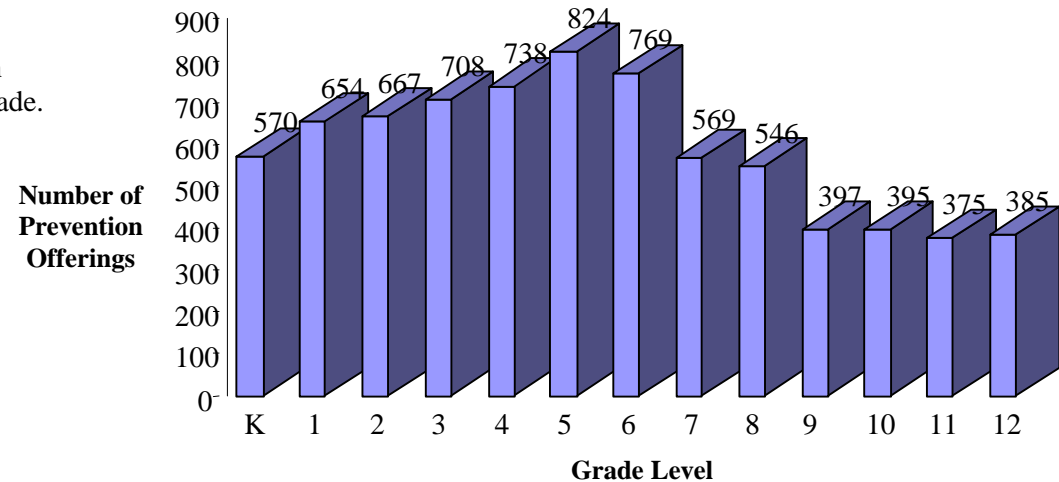
¹⁰ Per federal reporting requirements, schools were asked to define each of their prevention programs according to prescribed categories.

¹¹ N = 520 schools

¹² All LEAs in Maine are *required* to have an advisory council for their SDFSCA-related activities; due to reporting structure and discrepancies, not all schools recorded advisory council activities.

Prevention: number of prevention offerings per grade level

- Middle grade students in Maine receive the greatest number of prevention offerings, with 738 for grade four, 824 for grade five, and 769 for grade six.
- Grades 9 - 12 received the least amount of prevention programming, with less than 400 offerings in each grade.



Prevention: examples and number of commercial programs/curricula¹³

DARE	235
Red Ribbon Campaign.....	64
Camp Kieve	53
Life Skills Program	29
Peer Helpers Program.....	21
BABES	19
Wellness Program	14
Natural Helpers	12
Just Say "No"	9
Teaching Children to Care.....	9
Terrific Kids Program.....	9

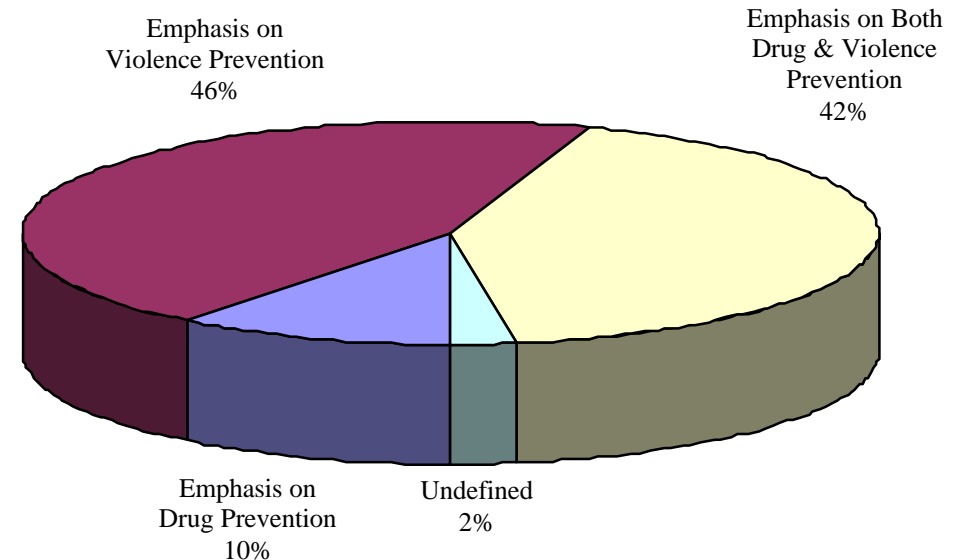
Hooked on Fishing.....	7
Breakfast Club.....	7
Great American Smokeout	6
Quest for Growing	5
Tar Wars.....	5
SADD.....	4
Stop & Think Program	4
DETOUR	3
Here's Looking at You 2000.....	3
S.T.A.G.E.S.....	3
"Take Responsibility"	2

¹³ 373 different programs appeared in only 1 school each.

Exhibit 3. Drug and Violence Prevention: Professional Development Offerings

Professional development: percentage and types of professional development

- One hundred fourteen LEAs¹⁴ (81%) report providing drug and violence prevention training for school staff.
- Within those LEAs, 326 schools¹⁵ (57%) provide staff training.
- Schools and LEAs in Maine provided a total of 920 drug and violence prevention-related professional development programs to staff.



Professional development: amount of training

- A total of 11,618 school staff¹⁶ have been reported to have received training in drug and violence prevention.
- School staff spent a total of 13,755 hours in training programs.

Average staff trained statewide per program = 12.6

Average training hours received per staff, per program = 1.5

¹⁴ N = 141 LEAs

¹⁵ N = 570 schools

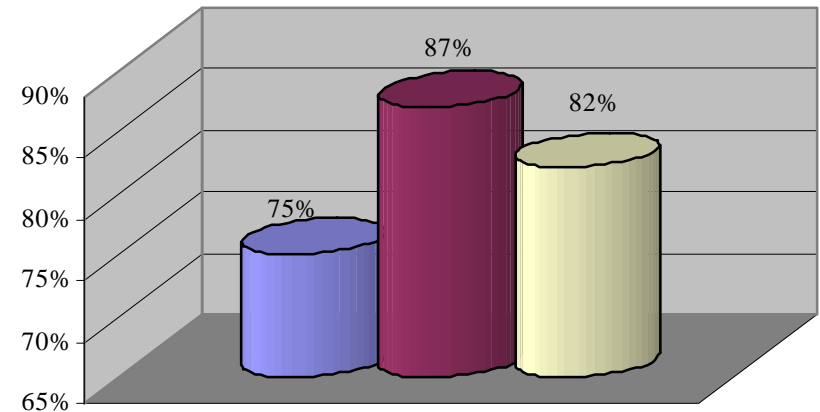
¹⁶ Due to reporting methods, this count is duplicated.

Exhibit 4. Schools Involving Community Agencies and Organizations in their Drug and Violence Prevention Efforts

Community involvement: number and percentage of schools involving the community

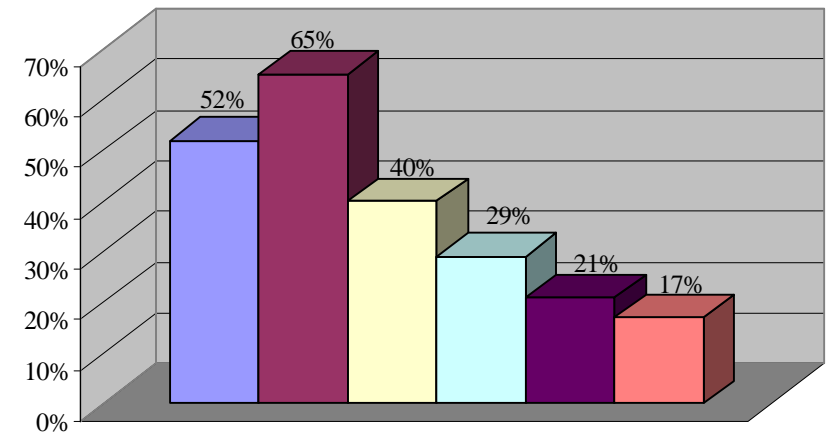
- Most schools in Maine¹⁷ (80%) involve the community in their drug and violence prevention efforts:

Elementary	236	75%
Middle/Jr. High.....	126	87%
Sr. High	92	82%



Community involvement: number and percentage of schools¹⁸ by nature of community involvement

Public Awareness	234	52%
Local Advisory	293	65%
Joint Services	182	40%
Professional Development	132	29%
Fundraising	95	21%
Other	79	17%



- Three hundred eleven Maine schools¹⁹ (55%) involve students in the design, delivery, and critique of their drug and violence prevention programs.

¹⁷ N = 570 (Elem. = 313; Mid. = 145; Sr. = 112)

¹⁸ N = 454 schools with community involvement

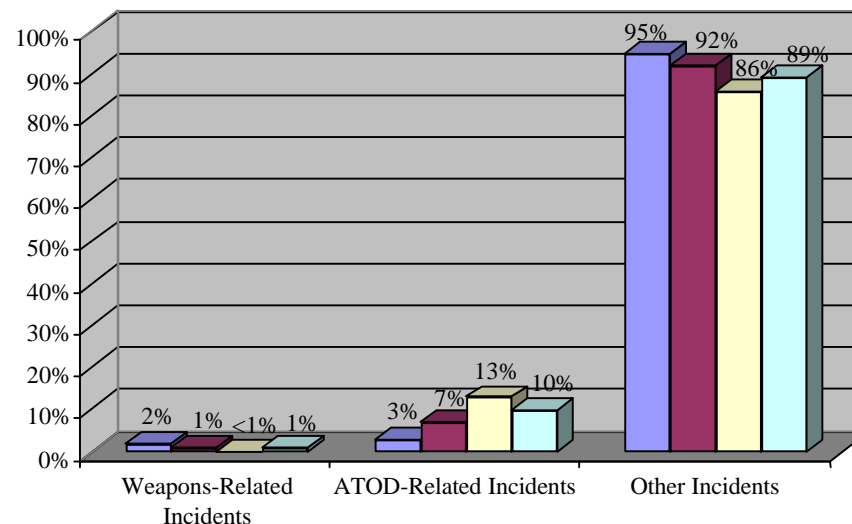
¹⁹ N = 570 schools

V. INCIDENTS OF PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

Exhibit 5. Incidents of Prohibited Behavior

Incidents: total number and percentage of incidents

- Schools in Maine reported a total of 33,629 incidents in the 1998-1999 school year.
- Of those incidents, weapons-related incidents were 1% of the total.
- ATOD incidents constituted 10% of the incidents reported in all schools and 13% of the incidents in high schools.
- "Other" incidents²⁰ make up the vast majority of reported incidents (89%).



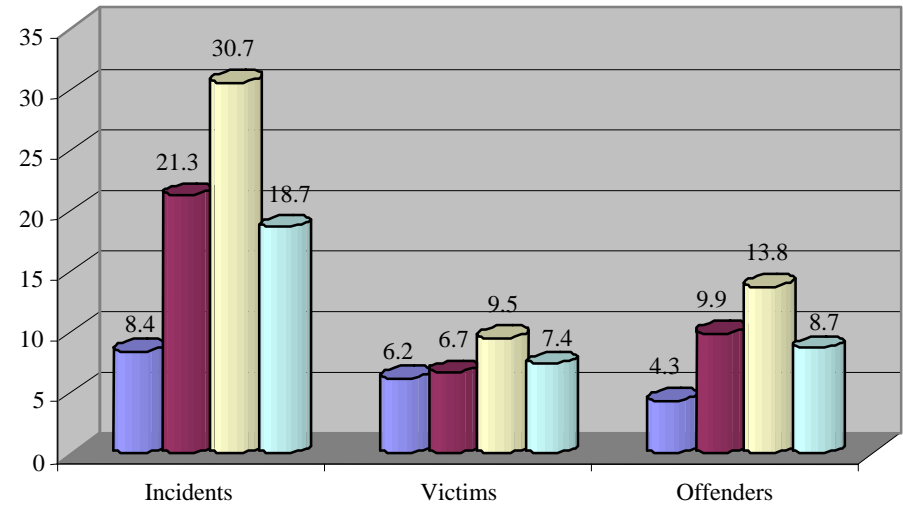
School Level	Total Incidents	Weapons	ATOD	Other
Elementary.....	6,449.....	100	199.....	6,150
Middle/Jr. High.....	9,776.....	100	715.....	8,961
Sr. High	17,404	140	2,309	14,955
All Schools	33,629	340	3,223	30,066

²⁰ "Other" types of incidents include personal offenses, criminal acts, and policy violations; refer to Exhibit 6. Types of Incidents for a more detailed listing of offenses.

Incidents: average number of incidents, victims, and offenders²¹ per 100 students

- For all schools in Maine, there was an average of 18.7 incidents per 100 students, with elementary schools having the smallest average (8.4) and high schools containing the largest, 30.6 incidents per 100 students.
- Incidents for all schools in Maine averaged 7.4 victims per 100 students and 8.7 offenders per 100 students.

Average Per 100 Students

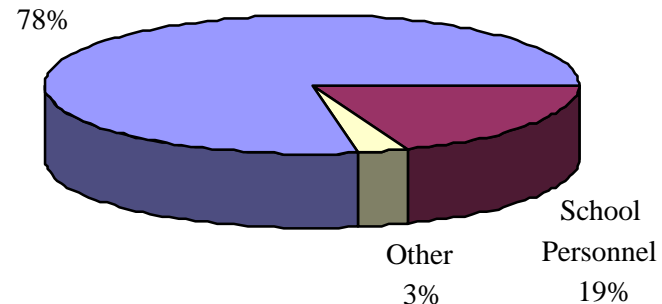


School Level	Incidents	Victims	Offenders
Elementary	8.4	6.2	4.3
Middle/Jr. High	21.3	6.7	9.9
Sr. High	30.7	9.5	13.8
All Schools	18.7	7.4	8.7

Incidents: types and percentage of victims and offenders

- While students were by far the most often reported offenders (98%), victims included students (78%), school personnel (19%), and others (3%).

Students



²¹ Not every LEA or school was able to provide complete data for victims and offenders.

Exhibit 6. Types of Incidents of Prohibited Behavior Resulting in Removal from School ²²

Incidents: listing of types of incidents resulting in removal ²³

Acts Precipitating Removal		Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	Sr. High	Total
Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug	ATOD possession	5	47	39	91
	ATOD use	6	14	76	96
	ATOD distribution	3	6	9	18
Personal Offense	Assault and battery	2	22	37	61
	Fighting/pushing	7	68	126	201
	Threat/intimidation	25	66	67	158
	Harassment/other personal	13	71	46	130
Weapon-Related	Possession of weapon	11	17	17	45
	Assault w/ other weapon	2	3	1	6
	Other weapon	3	7	15	25
	Bomb offense	2	6	16	24
Other: Criminal Acts²⁴	Property damage (arson/vandalism)	2	2	5	9
	Burglary/robbery/larceny	4	12	7	23
	Other property		3		3
Other: Policy Violations	Inappropriate behavior	10	58	110	178
	Fireworks offense		2	2	4
	Extortion			1	1
	Bias incident		1	1	2
	Truancy/skipping school	1	13	57	71
Totals		96	418	632	1146

²² Excludes reported incident records with incomplete or missing data in one or more fields, i.e., student code, removal code, etc.

²³ Refer to supplementary technical report for a full listing of types of incidents resulting in removal.

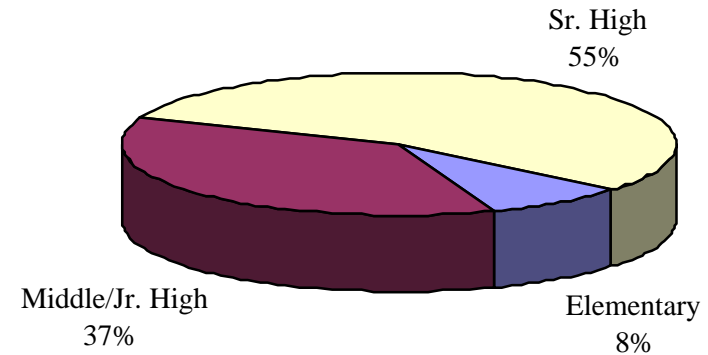
²⁴ Other: Criminal Acts does not mean to imply that criminal prosecution actually occurred in these incidents, but rather that these types of offenses may be subject to legal action.

Exhibit 7. Types of Incidents Resulting in Removal from School

Removal: number and percentage of incidents resulting in removal by school level

- Maine LEAs and schools reported a total of 1,146 incidents resulting in students' removal from school by expulsion, long-term suspension, and alternative placement.

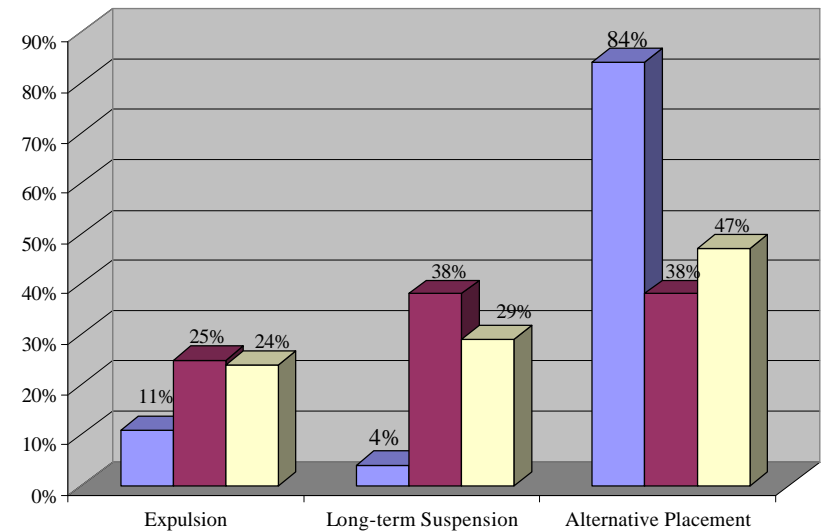
School Level	Total Incidents	
Elementary	96	8%
Middle/Jr. High	418	37%
Sr. High	632	55%
Total	1146	100%



Removal: number and percentage of incidents by type of removal

- Students referred to alternative placement settings were the highest percentage of removals -- 47% of total removals, followed by long-term suspensions²⁵ (30%) and expulsions (23%).

School Level	Expulsion		Long-term Suspension		Alternative Placement	
Elementary	11	11%	4	4%	81	84%
Middle/Jr. High	103	25%	157	38%	158	38%
Sr. High	149	24%	186	29%	297	47%
Total	263	23%	347	30%	536	47%

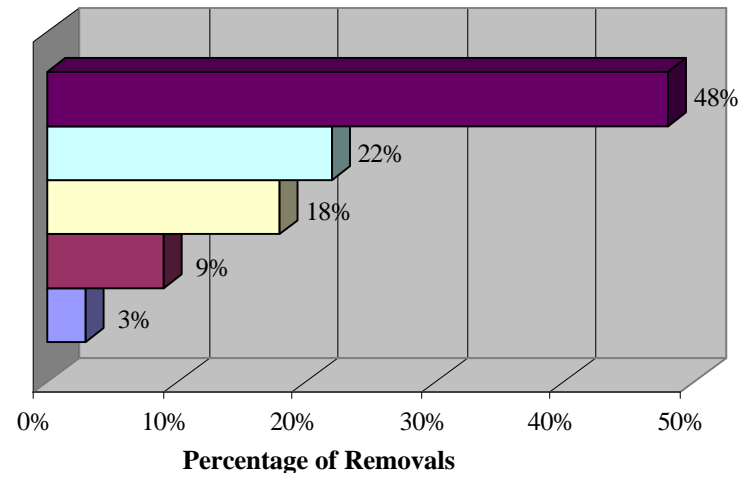


²⁵ Long-term suspension is defined as a temporary removal from school over 10 days.

Removal: number and percentage of offenses by removal

- "Personal Offenses" were the most commonly reported offenses resulting in removal from school (48%).
- "Other Policy Violations" (22%) and ATOD-related offenses (18%) also resulted in a substantial number of removals.

Types of Offenses

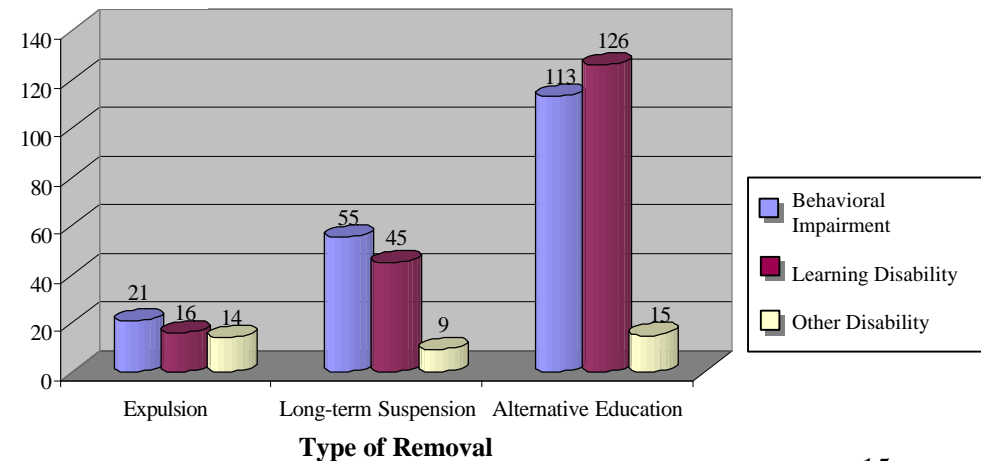


Act ²⁶	Expulsion		Long-term Suspension		Alternative Education		Total	
Personal Offenses	113	43%	183	53%	254	47%	550	48%
Other Policy Violations	48	18%	91	26%	117	22%	256	22%
ATOD	63	24%	40	12%	102	19%	205	18%
Weapons-Related Incidents	34	13%	22	6%	44	8%	100	9%
Other Criminal Acts	5	2%	11	3%	19	4%	35	3%
Total	263	23%	347	30%	536	47%	1146	100%

Incidents: number and type of removal by special education student

- Of the 1,146 incidents resulting in removal from school, special education students were responsible for 414 (36%).

of Incidents



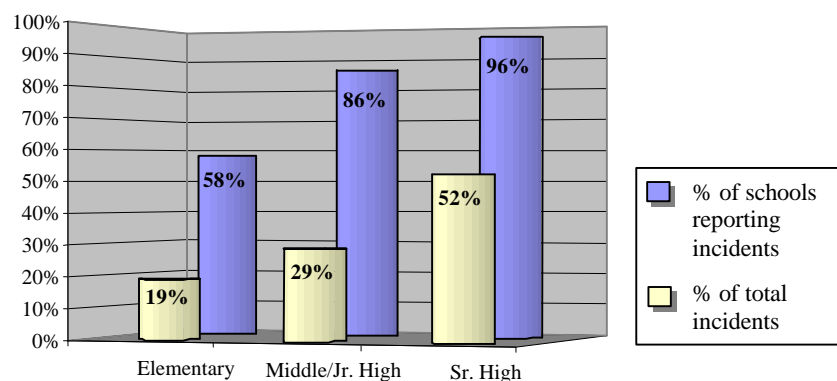
²⁶ Refer to Exhibit 6 for a listing of types of offenses.

VI. SUMMATION

Exhibit 8. Schools Reporting Incidents of Prohibited Behavior²⁷

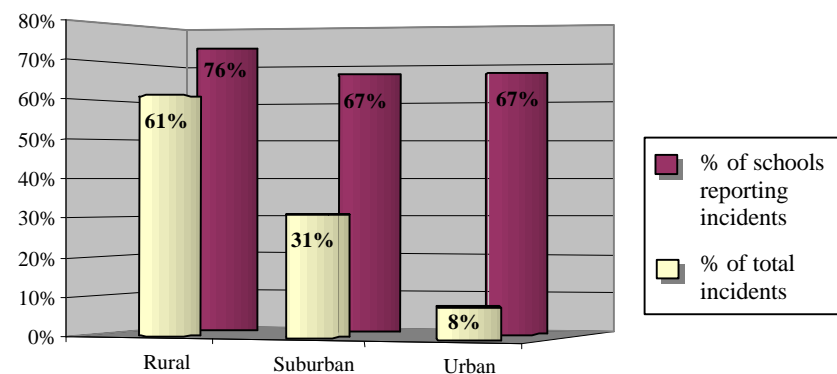
Schools reporting incidents: by school level

- Seventy-three percent (414) of the 570 schools in Maine reported the 33,629 incidents of prohibited behavior.
- One hundred fifty-six schools reported no incidents.
- The number of reported incidents appears to rise along with school level, as indicated by 58% of elementary schools (N=313) reporting only 19% of the total incidents, 86% of middle schools (N=145) reporting 29% of the total incidents, and 96% of high schools (N=112) reporting over 50% of the total incidents.



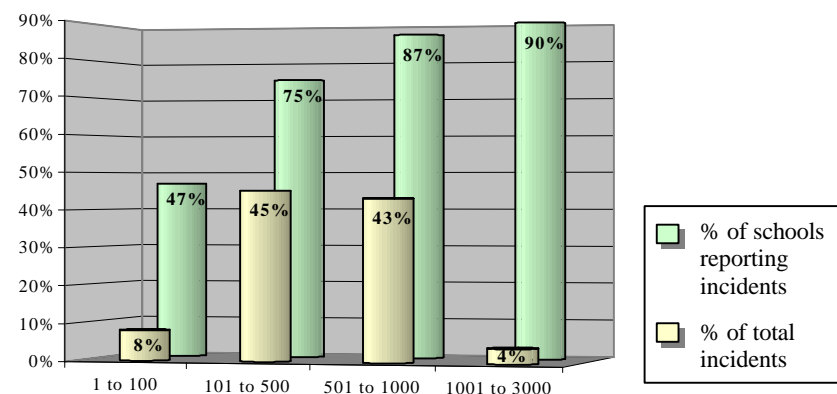
Schools reporting incidents: by geographic location

- With 76% of schools in Maine located in rural areas (N=434), most incidents (61%) were reported there.
- There is no significant relationship between geographic location and the number of schools reporting incidents -- 67 - 76% of the schools reporting in each area (N=434 rural; N=97 suburban; N=39 urban).
- However, while comprising only 17% of the total schools, 67% of suburban schools reported almost one-third (31%) of the total incidents.



Schools reporting incidents: by school size

- As enrollment range increases, so does the number of schools reporting incidents, as indicated by 90% of schools with an enrollment of 1000 - 3000 reporting incidents, compared with 47% of schools in the 1 - 100 range reporting incidents.
- With the majority Maine schools containing an enrollment of 100 to 500 students (N=388), the largest number of incidents reported (45%) occurred within those schools.
- Although only 15% of schools contain an enrollment of 500 to 1000 students (N=86), 87% of those schools reported 43% of the total incidents.

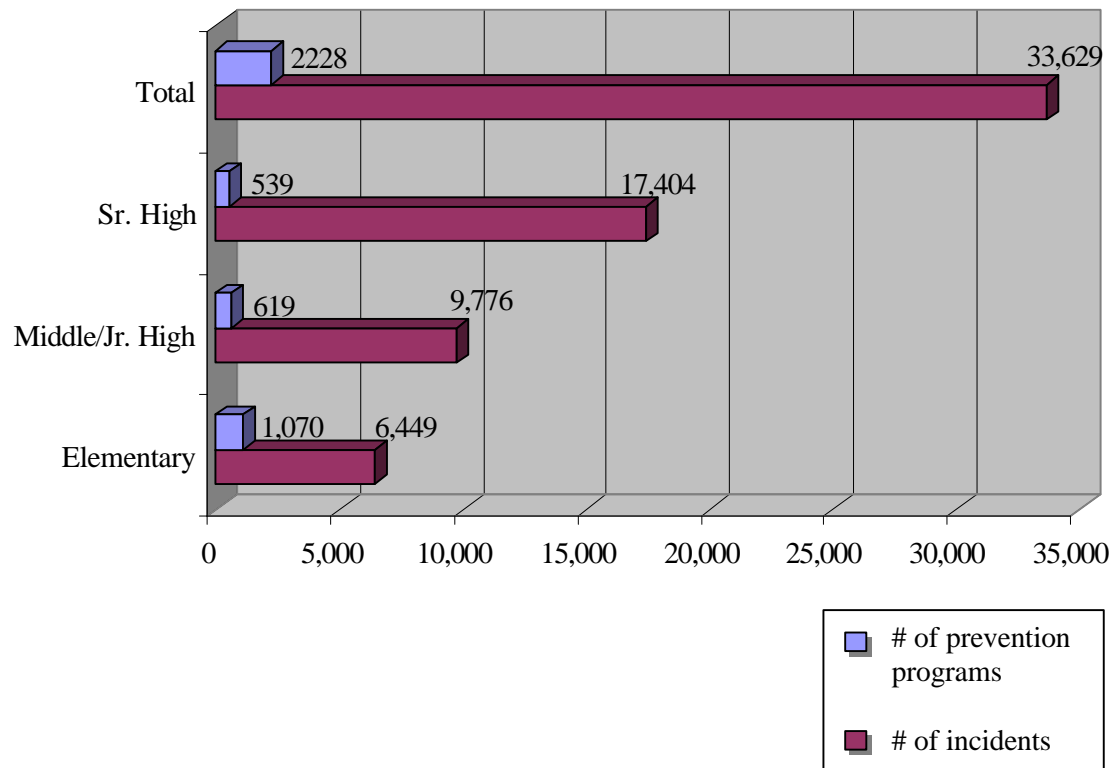


²⁷ Charts indicate the percentage of **schools reporting incidents** in each category by the percentage of total incidents reported.

Exhibit 9. Incidents and Prevention Efforts

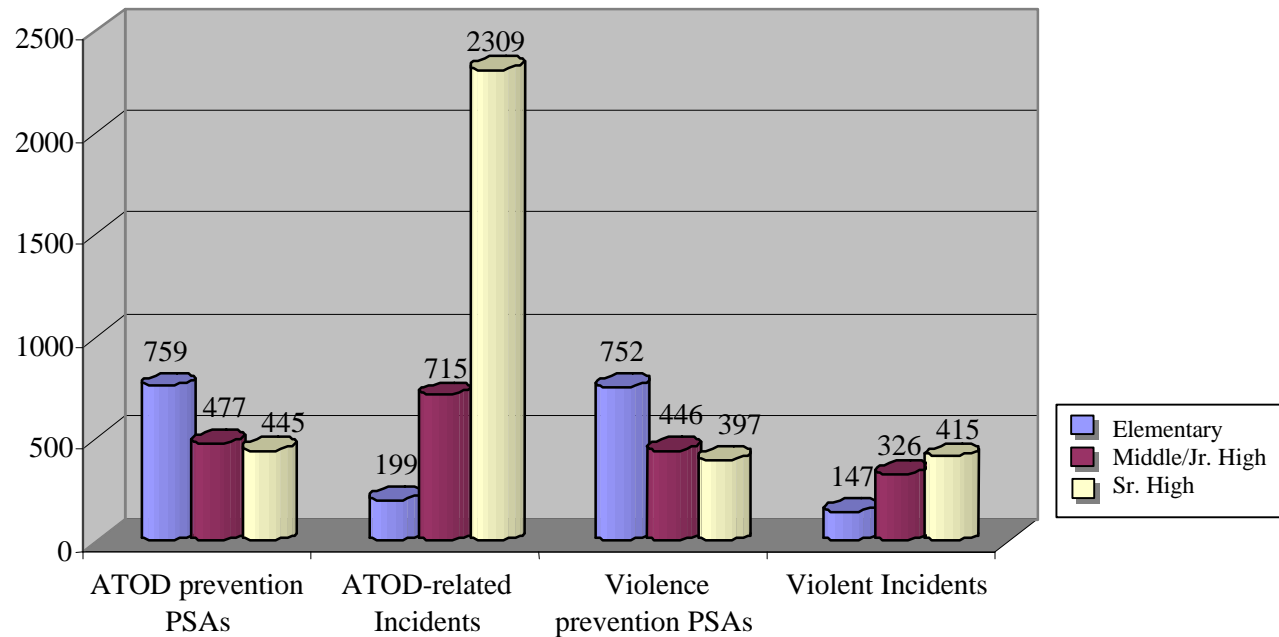
Incidents and prevention: total number of incidents relative to prevention programs, services, and activities

- A total of 1,070 SDFSCA-related activities were reported in Maine elementary schools, compared to their 6,449 incidents.
- Middle schools provided 619 prevention-related activities and reported 9,776 incidents.
- High schools accounted for only 539 prevention-related activities, whereas 17,404 incidents were recorded.



Incidents and prevention: number of ATOD-related and violent incidents relative to programs, services, and activities (PSAs) with an emphasis on ATOD and violence prevention

Grade Level	ATOD-prevention PSAs	ATOD-related Incidents	Violence-prevention PSAs	Violent Incidents ²⁸
Elementary	759	199	752	147
Middle/Jr. High	477	715	446	326
Sr. High	445	2309	397	415
Total	1,681	3,223	1,595	888

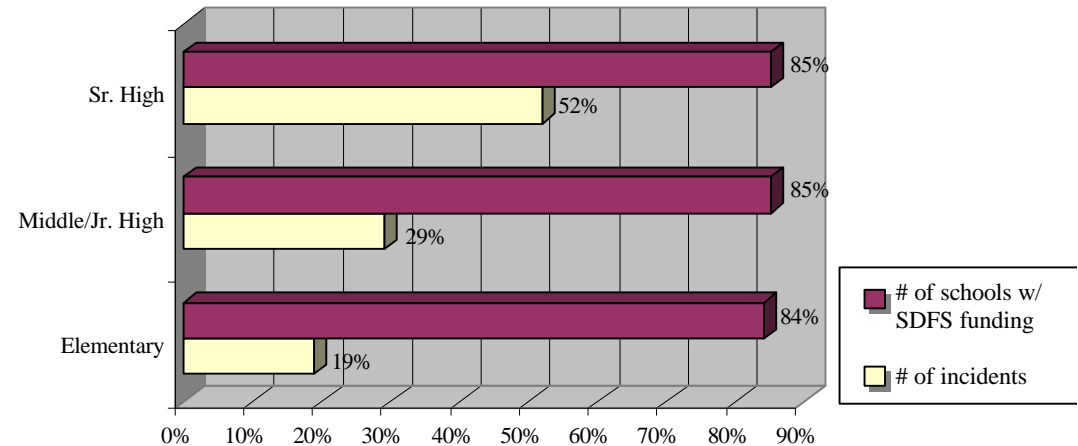


²⁸ Includes "personal offenses" and weapons-related incidents.
Number of reported violent incidents is based on those resulting in removal; this may be an understatement of actual, total violent incidents.

Exhibit 10. Reported Incidents Compared to SDFSCA Funding and Community Involvement

Incidents: number and percentage of incidents relative to SDFSCA funding

- While more than 84% of Maine schools reported receiving SDFSCA funding for drug and violence prevention efforts, school levels reported differing totals of incidents of prohibited behavior:
 - ⇒ Senior high schools reported over half (52%) of the total incidents;
 - ⇒ Middle schools reported almost one-third (29%) of the total incidents;
 - ⇒ Elementary schools reported 19% of the total incidents.



Incidents: number and percentage of incidents relative to community involvement

- Although the percentages were high, Maine schools reported different levels of community involvement in their drug and violence prevention programs, services, and activities:
 - ⇒ Elementary schools had the least amount of community involvement (75%);
 - ⇒ Middle schools reported the most (87%);
 - ⇒ Eighty-two percent of high schools involve the community in its prevention efforts.

