



Forum Guide to Crime, Violence, and Discipline Incident Data

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Maintaining order in schools is an important component of effective school management, and reducing school crime and violence is a priority for educators and policymakers. Developing policies to reduce school crime requires accurate and timely data about where, how, and why existing crimes occur. While greater awareness of crime and violence data cannot guarantee that future incidents will be prevented, the information derived from these data can enable policymakers and practitioners to more effectively focus interventions aimed at improving school safety and security.

The *Forum Guide to Crime, Violence, and Discipline Incident Data* focuses on the collection, use, and presentation of crime, violence, and discipline data. Chapter 1 discusses why data matter, and how crime, violence, and discipline data can be used to create safe and productive learning environments. Chapter 2 focuses on how to implement an incident data system, from planning and designing the system to maintaining the database, and training staff in its use. Chapter 3 recommends a body of data elements, definitions, and code lists useful for collecting accurate and comparable data. Chapter 4 offers suggestions on how to present and report crime, violence, and discipline data.

In developing this guide, the Forum collaborated with the Discipline Data Working Group of the U.S. Department of Education. As a result of this collaboration, the guide includes information useful to states reporting data under the following statutes:

- Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA)
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

This guide provides best practices for collecting, maintaining, and reporting incident data; reduces data burden by mapping data elements from multiple federal reporting standards; and establishes a consistent body of terms and definitions in the field of incident data collection.

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