Corporal Punishment in Public Schools

The Civil Rights Data Collection gathers and publishes key information about student access to educational opportunities and school climate from public schools (pre-K through 12th grade) in all 50 states, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The CRDC defines corporal punishment as paddling, spanking, or other forms of physical punishment imposed on a child. The data reported in this factsheet is for K-12 students.

### The Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106,055</td>
<td>92,479</td>
<td>69,492</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 2013-14 to 2017-18, the number of students reported to receive corporal punishment decreased by 34.5%.

#### By sex of student, 2017-18

- Boys were 4.0 times more likely than girls to receive corporal punishment.

#### By race/ethnicity of student, 2017-18

- Across all of the race/ethnicities, American Indian or Alaska Native, Black, and White students disproportionately received corporal punishment.
- Black students received corporal punishment at more than twice their rate of enrollment and American Indian or Alaska Native students received corporal punishment at almost twice their rate of enrollment.

- **IN 2017-18, BLACK STUDENTS WERE 2.3 TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN WHITE STUDENTS TO RECEIVE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.**

#### Students with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) were overrepresented in receipt of corporal punishment.

- Students served under IDEA represented 13.2% of the student enrollment but 16.5% of the students who received corporal punishment.

- **For requests for documents in alternate formats such as Braille or large print please contact the Department at 202-260-0852 or om_eeos@ed.gov.**

STATE LAWS ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS

- **27 states, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico bar corporal punishment in schools.**

- The majority of students who received corporal punishment were in the southern United States: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas.

- **2.3x Students who received corporal punishment were in the southern United States.**

For more information about corporal punishment and other civil rights data, visit the CRDC website: https://ocrdata.ed.gov. The entire Focus on Student Discipline series can be found at: https://ocrdata.ed.gov/resources/datareports.

If you have difficulty understanding English, you may ask OCR to provide language access services or resources, which may include oral technical assistance or written translation of a publicly available OCR document, free of charge, by contacting OCR at OCR@ed.gov.

For requests for documents in alternate formats such as Braille or large print please contact the Department at 202-260-0852 or om_eeos@ed.gov.