

# **Champaign Police Department**



## **School Resource Officer Program**

**2008-2009 School Year**

The School Resource Officer program is a collaborative effort between the Champaign Police Department and the Champaign Community Unit 4 School District. The 08/09 school year was the third year for the SRO program. As with previous years, the end of the year SRO report is a joint report between the Unit 4 School District and the Champaign Police Department.

The 08/09 school year was very challenging for the SROs and the Unit 4 School District. During the summer of 2008, the police observed a number of incidents involving physical confrontations between large groups of juveniles. Some of these juveniles had associated themselves with neighborhood based gangs in Champaign. As the school year began in August, there were several physical confrontations at or near the schools which involved some of these gang members.

The Unit 4 School District and the Champaign Police Department took proactive measures to address the neighborhood gangs. The Champaign Community and Police Partnership formed a gang intervention sub-committee to focus on Prevention, Intervention and Education, with a multi-faceted approach involving parents, youth, police, school personnel and community members. Some of the strategies utilized by this sub-committee included gang awareness training, family meetings and outreach initiatives. In addition, the Unit 4 School District implemented a gang intervention program, which provided counseling for self-identified gang members on truancy and academic problems.

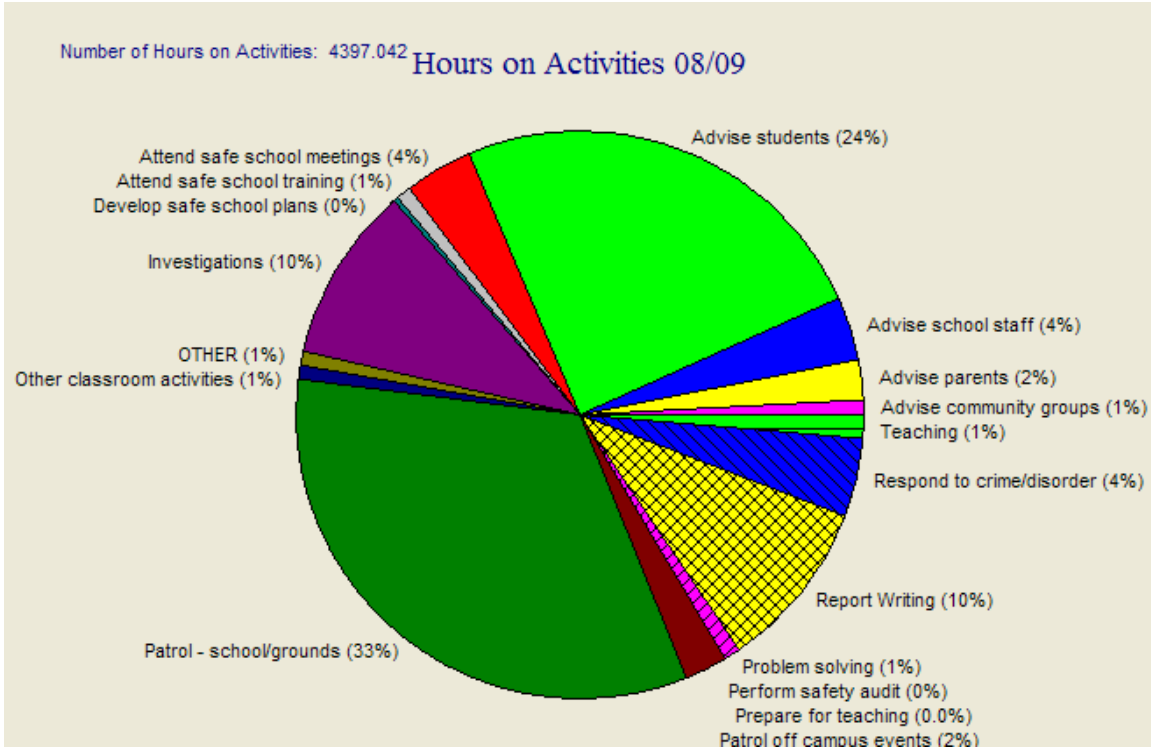
Although numerous steps were taken to address the gang-related activity, the violent altercations between the rival gangs had an impact on the incidents and number of custodial arrests made by the SROs.

The following results were extracted from the Unit 4 Consent Decree report in the area of climate and discipline.

#### District Results:

- Ninety-one percent of all students have never been involved in an action of suspension, while 82% of African American students have never been involved in an action of suspension.
- Suspensions represented 1,368 actions or 86% of the actions taken. Suspensions decreased when compared to the same time period in SY2008.
- In-school suspensions represented 45% of the actions taken. In-school suspensions decreased by 51% when compared to the same time period in SY2008.
- The disciplinary actions totaled 10,132.
- We saw a significant increase of 6% in physical acts and disruptions.
- There were 789 out of 9453 (8%) students involved in acts and disruptions.
- African American students represented 72% of the students involved in physical acts and disruptions.

During the 08/09 school year, the five SROs recorded 4,397 hours of activities in the Unit 4 schools. An activity is defined as any function where the SRO performs his or her duties in the Unit 4 School District. The activity categories help keep track of how and where the officers are spending their time in the schools.

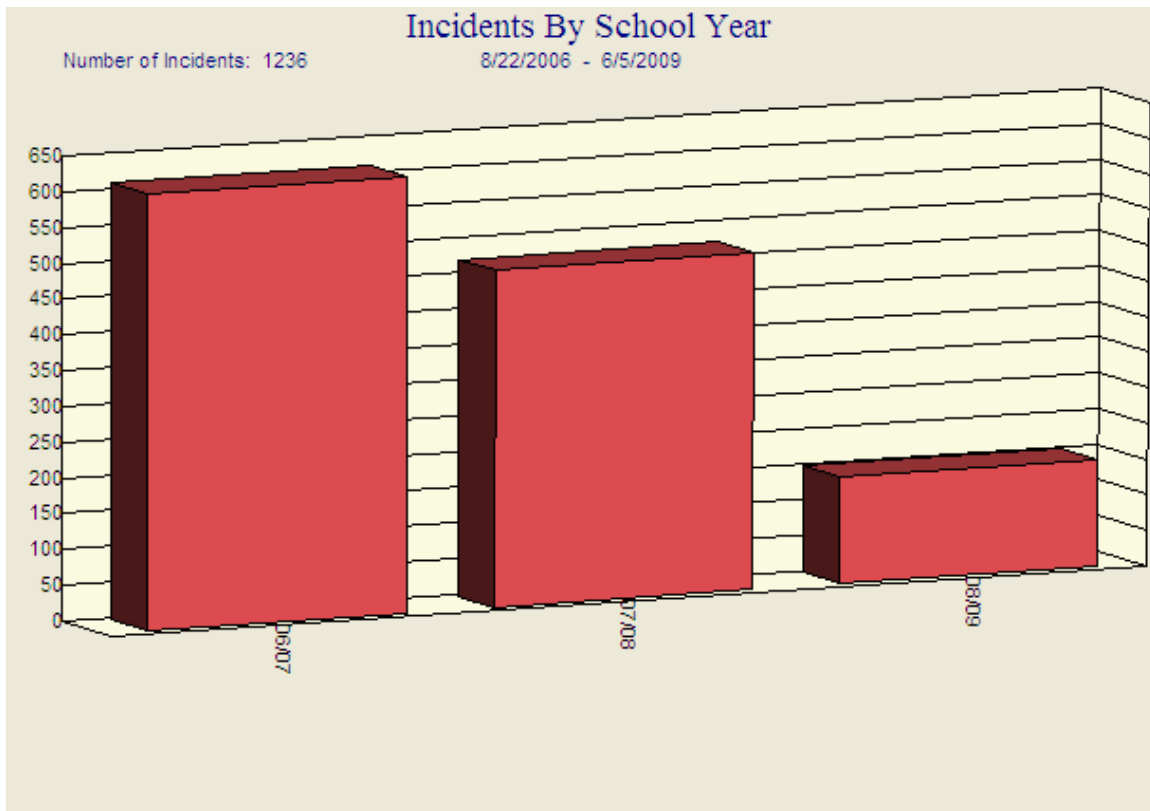


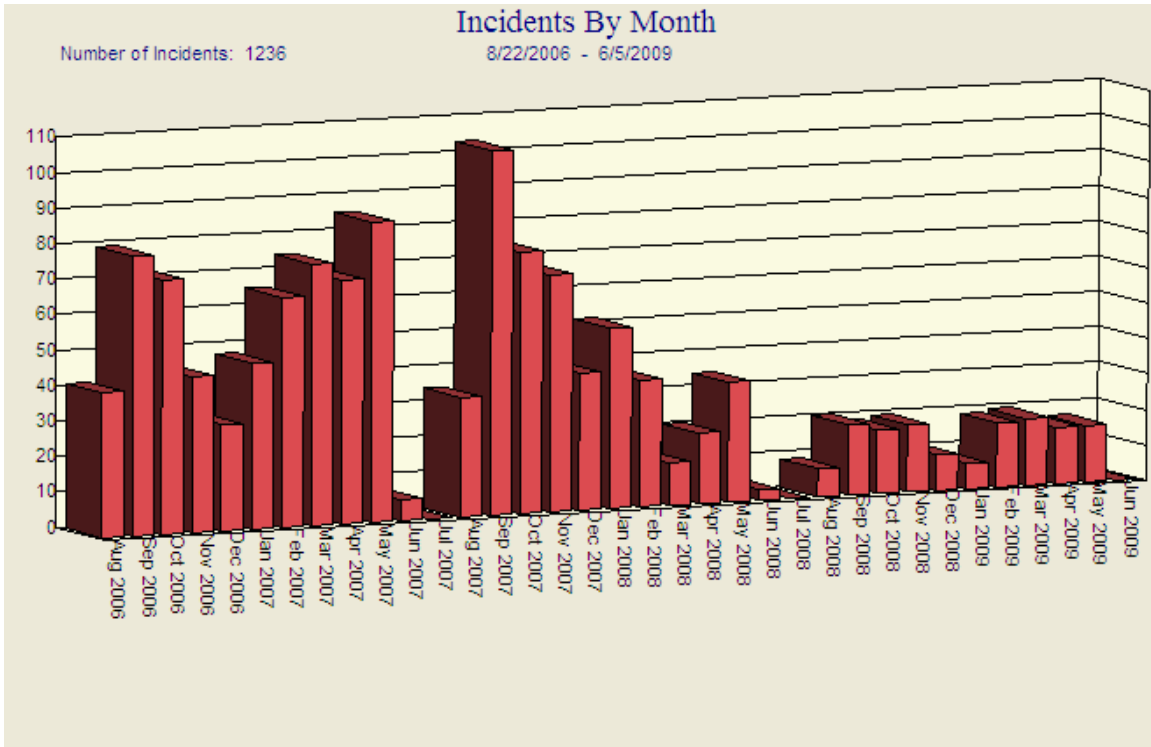
As with previous years, the majority of the activity hours are spent patrolling the school facilities (33%), followed by advising students (24%). The remainder of the time is spent on report writing (10%), investigations (10%), and other administrative functions. The investigations category represents the time the SROs spent on cases that were assigned by the police department. These cases would include runaway reports and incidents where Unit 4 students were listed as a victim or offender in a police report that required a follow-up investigation or juvenile appointment.

Twenty-four percent of the activity time was spent advising students. This category is used to document the time the SROs spent with the students addressing problems, concerns or general conversation. It also represents instances where the SROs may have been used to assist Unit 4 with a school rule violation, such as fighting or disorderly conduct.

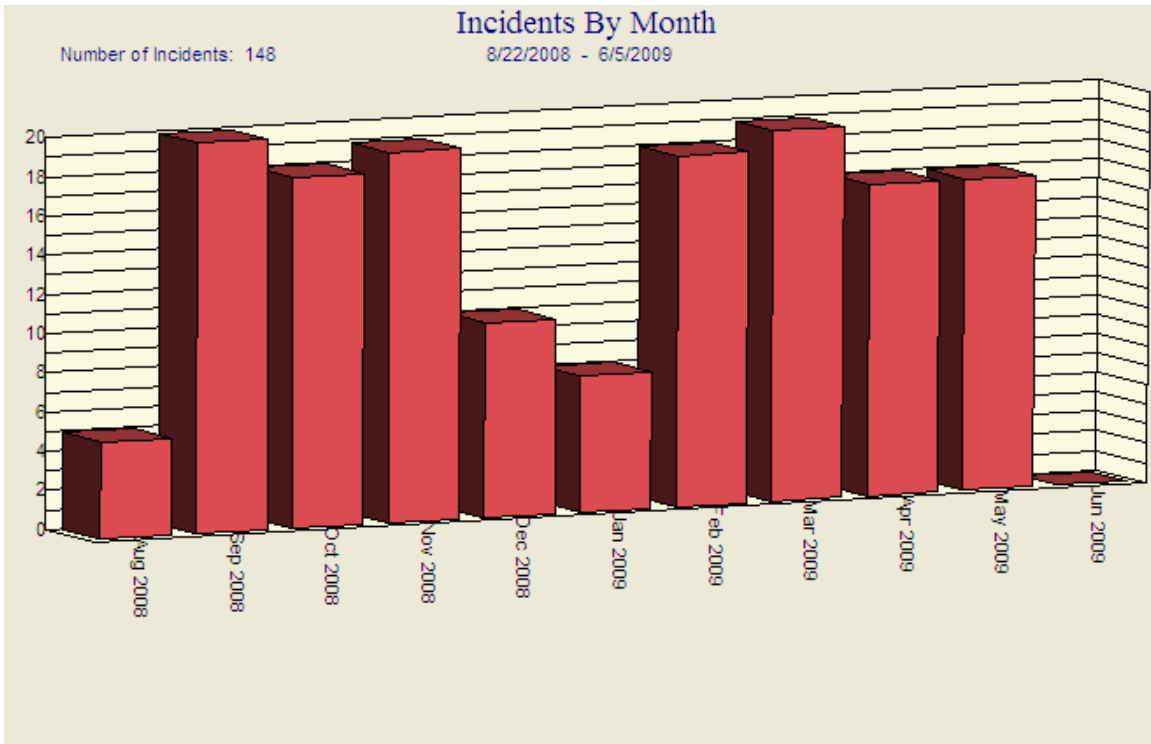
During the 08/09 school year, there were 148 incidents recorded by the five SROs. An incident is defined as any event that would require a police report. This definition was modified during the second part of the 07/08 school year, after we observed an increase in incidents involving school rule violations. By using the new definition, there is a more consistent definition of the nature of an incident. Since this is the first year where an incident mirrors a police report, the number of incidents decreased when compared to previous years, where 473 incidents were recorded in SY 07/08 and 612 incidents were recorded in SY06/07.

The following charts show the differences in the first three school years. The second chart reflects the recorded incidents by the month.

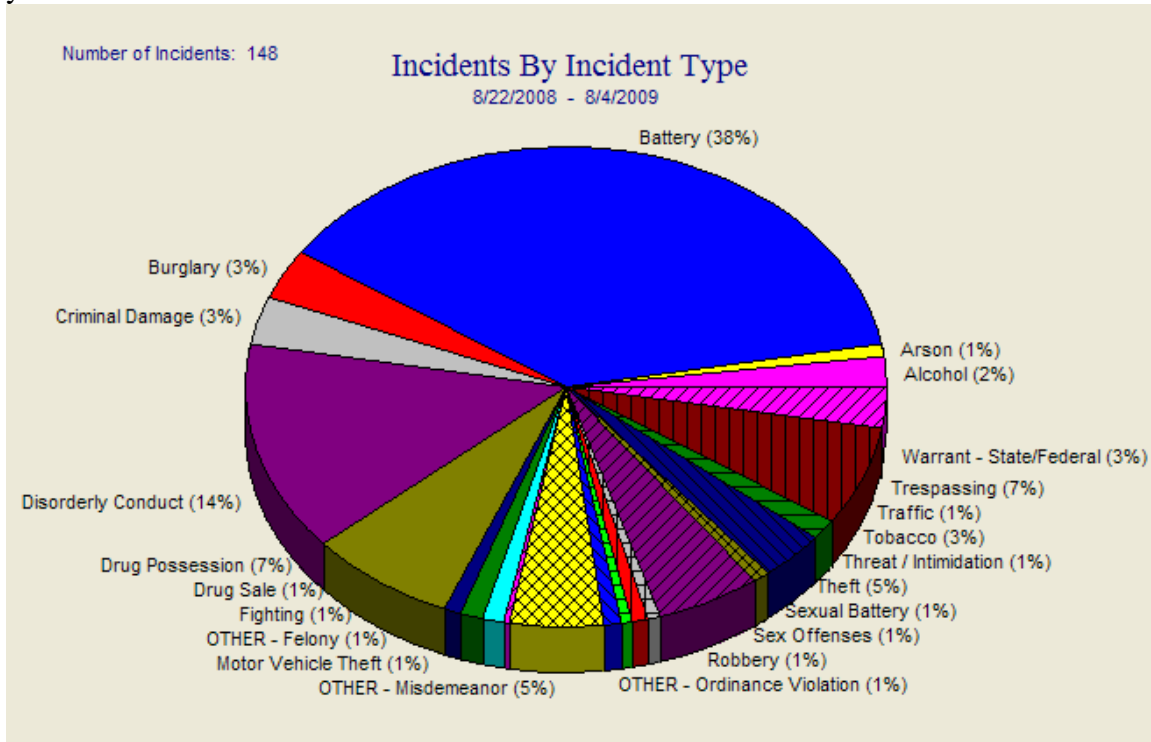




The next chart shows the incidents by month for the 08/09 school year. This year, we saw a fairly consistent number of incidents each month, with the exception of December and January, which did not have as many school days due to Christmas break and snow days.



The majority of incidents where Unit 4 requested assistance from the SROs were for Battery and Disorderly Conduct. The following chart lists the incidents by type for the 08/09 school year.



As previously stated, there were 10,132 disciplinary actions handled by Unit 4 Staff during the 2008-2009 school years. The following is a summary of the incidents where an SRO was called in to assist Unit 4. The number in parentheses represents the figures from the 07/08 school year. There is a dramatic difference in the numbers due to the change in the definition of an incident.

- There were 3 (117) incidents that resulted in 4 (199) students being counseled.
- There were 17 (100) incidents that resulted in 21 (156) suspensions.
- There were 8 (19) incidents that resulted in 9 (21) students being placed on a station adjustment.
- There were 23 (29) incidents that resulted in 22 (48) students being issued a City NTA or traffic citation.
- There were 59 incidents that resulted in 84 (82) custodial arrests of students.
- According to Unit 4 data, 789 students were involved in acts of physical confrontation. Of those 789 students, 44 were arrested for battery. There were 42 custodial arrests for battery in the 07/08 school year.
- There were 10 (5) incidents where 20 (5) non-students were placed under custodial arrest. Non-students are defined as an individual that was not a current student or was not a registered student at the school where the incident occurred.

This is one area which accounts for the increase in custodial arrests. The majority of these arrests were for violent altercations between one or more gang member.

- There were 40 incidents that were gang-related (see paragraph 3 on page 2) that resulted in 56 of the 104 total custodial arrests made by the SROs.

There were 9 individuals that accounted for 22 of the custodial arrests. These individuals were responsible for 21% of the 104 custodial arrests made by the SROs during the 08/09 school year. Four of these individuals were arrested three times during the school year for a total of 12 arrests or 11.5% of the total arrests.

Of the 84 custodial arrests made, 39 (35) resulted in a formal charge by the State's Attorney's Office. The remaining cases were disposed of by station adjustments, referral to a diversion program, placed with a pending case, or prosecution was denied.

There were 73 custodial arrests of African American students during the 08/09 school year, as opposed to 69 during the 07/08 school year. Approximately 87% of the custodial arrests were African American students.