

SUMMARY OF DISCIPLINE DATA FOR GIRLS IN  
U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS: AN ANALYSIS FROM THE  
2013-14 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS DATA COLLECTION

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## Methodology

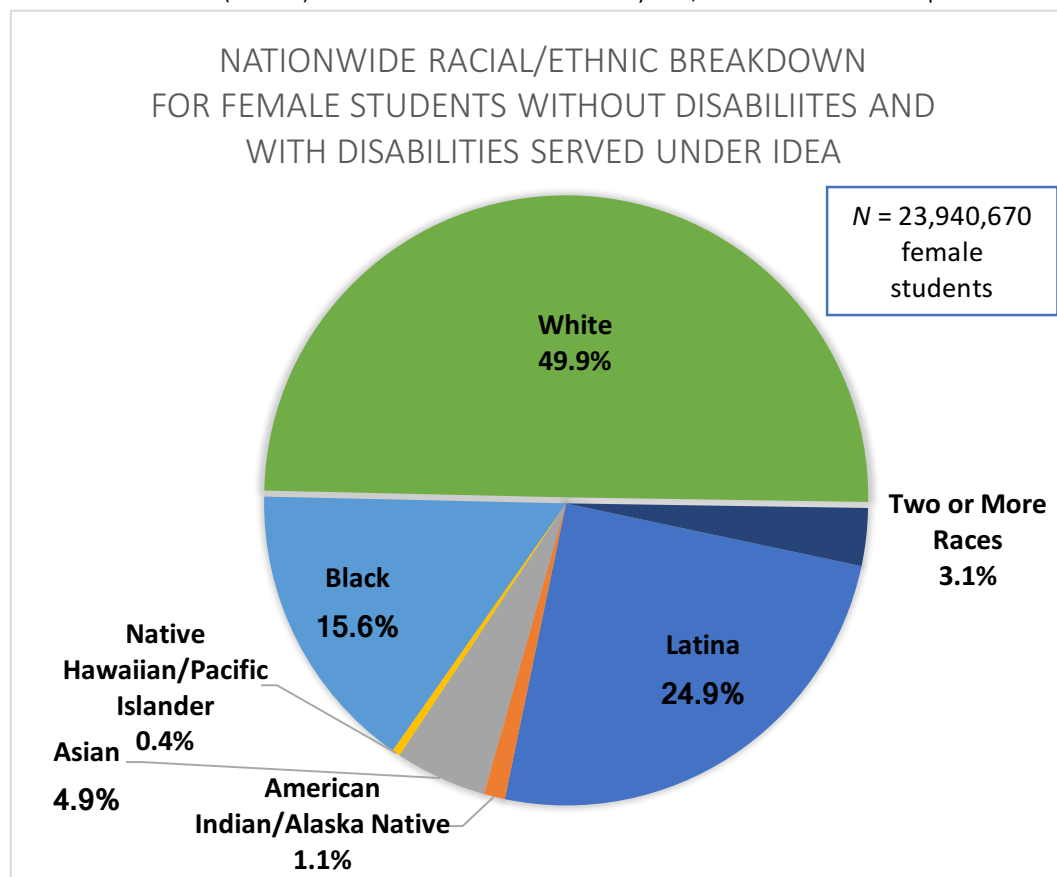
Our work sought to examine the extent of disparate school disciplinary practices for female students nationwide, with a focus on Black and Latina girls in comparison to their White female counterparts. Data presented in this fact sheet is focused explicitly on girls without disabilities and with disabilities served under the Individuals with Educational Disabilities Act (IDEA) in K-12 public schools.

To examine disciplinary trends, we used the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) from the 2013-14 school year, which the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights made available in June of 2016. The CRDC is collected biennially and reflects self-reported information from every public school and school district in the country ( $N = 95,507$ ), 44

Data from 2013-14 included 50,035,744 students, and the racial-ethnic breakdown for all students was as follows: White (50.3%), Hispanic or Latino of any race (hereafter referred to as Latina; 24.7%), Black or African American (hereafter referred to as Black; 15.6%), Asian (4.8%), Two or more races (3.1%), American Indian or Alaska native (1.1%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (0.4%). Of this number, 48.6% were girls, and 51.4% were boys.

Our focus is on the Black, Latina, and White girls without disabilities and with disabilities served under IDEA in this sample ( $N = 21,647,173$ ), who comprise 90.4% of the total female student population ( $N = 23,940,670$ ).

This fact sheet examines differences in the following key disciplinary practices: one or more out-of-school



(OSS) or in-school suspensions (ISS), arrests, referrals to law enforcement, and physical restraint. For detailed information about how each of these disciplinary practices are defined, please visit the Office of Civil Rights' [website](#).

Data were analyzed using a combination of R Studio, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 23, and Microsoft Excel. Due to the large nature of the CRDC, selected files were merged to examine disciplinary trends (a) nationwide, (b) by geographic region, (c) by school level, and (d) for charter schools. As per OCR guidelines, the following were treated as missing values: -2 (small cell value), -5 (missing value), and -9 (N/A due to skip logic).

## Data Notes

As per previous OCR data analysis, data by race/ethnicity were only collected for female students without disabilities and with disabilities served under IDEA, but not for students served solely under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As a result, the total female population calculations presented excluded female students served under 504.

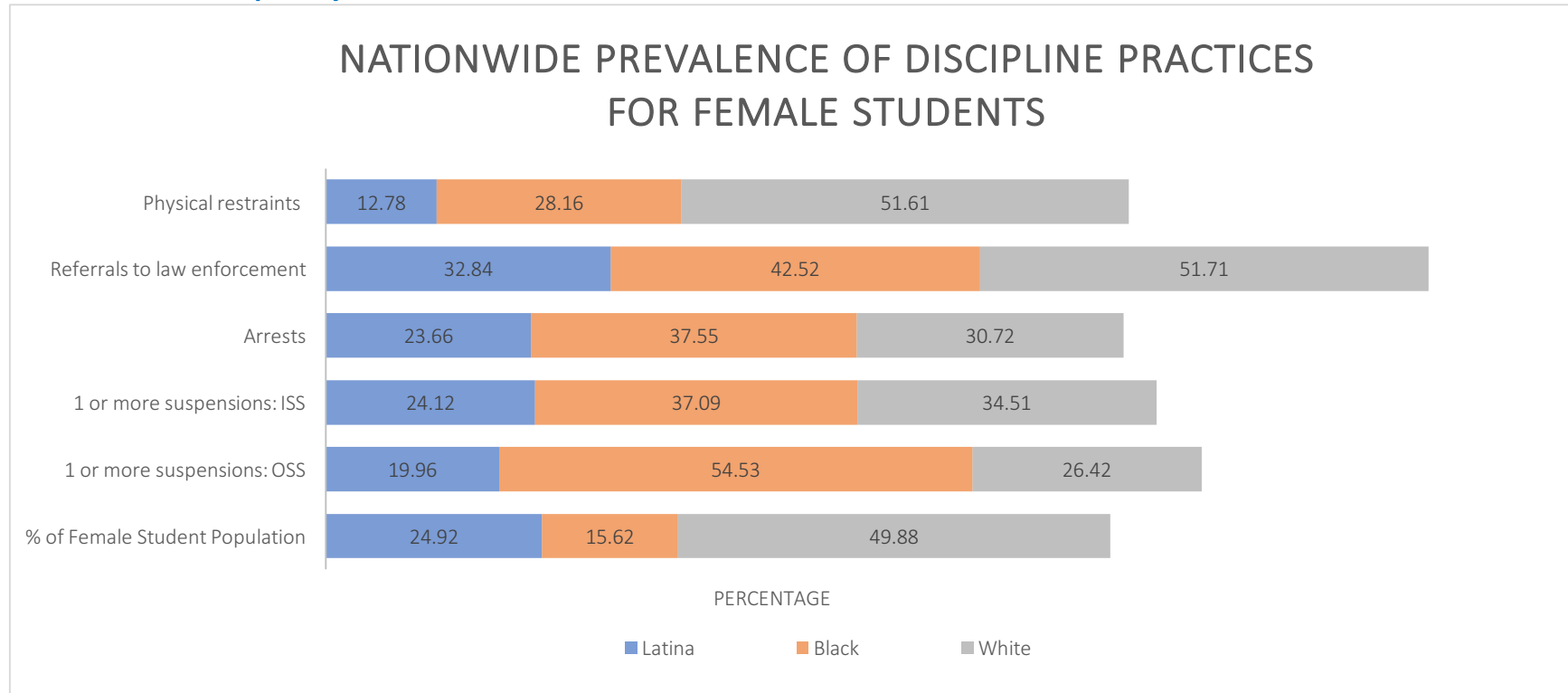
Schools were categorized and coded into geographic regions based on United States Census classifications.

Geographic region	States included	Number of schools (% of schools nationwide)
Northeast	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania	15,073 (15.8%)
Midwest	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota	24,868 (26%)
South	Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas	33,173 (34.7%)
West	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington	22,393 (23.4%)

Schools were then categorized and coded by school type to include elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. These categories also included schools that were ungraded but categorized students by the grade they would be in based on their age. Finally, charter schools were isolated and disciplinary trends were analyzed.

Category	Number of schools (% of schools nationwide)
Elementary schools (Kindergarten – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade)	36,683 (38.4%)
Middle schools (6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade)	31,807 (33.3%)
High schools (9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	25,921 (27.1%)
Charter schools	6, 129 (6.4%)

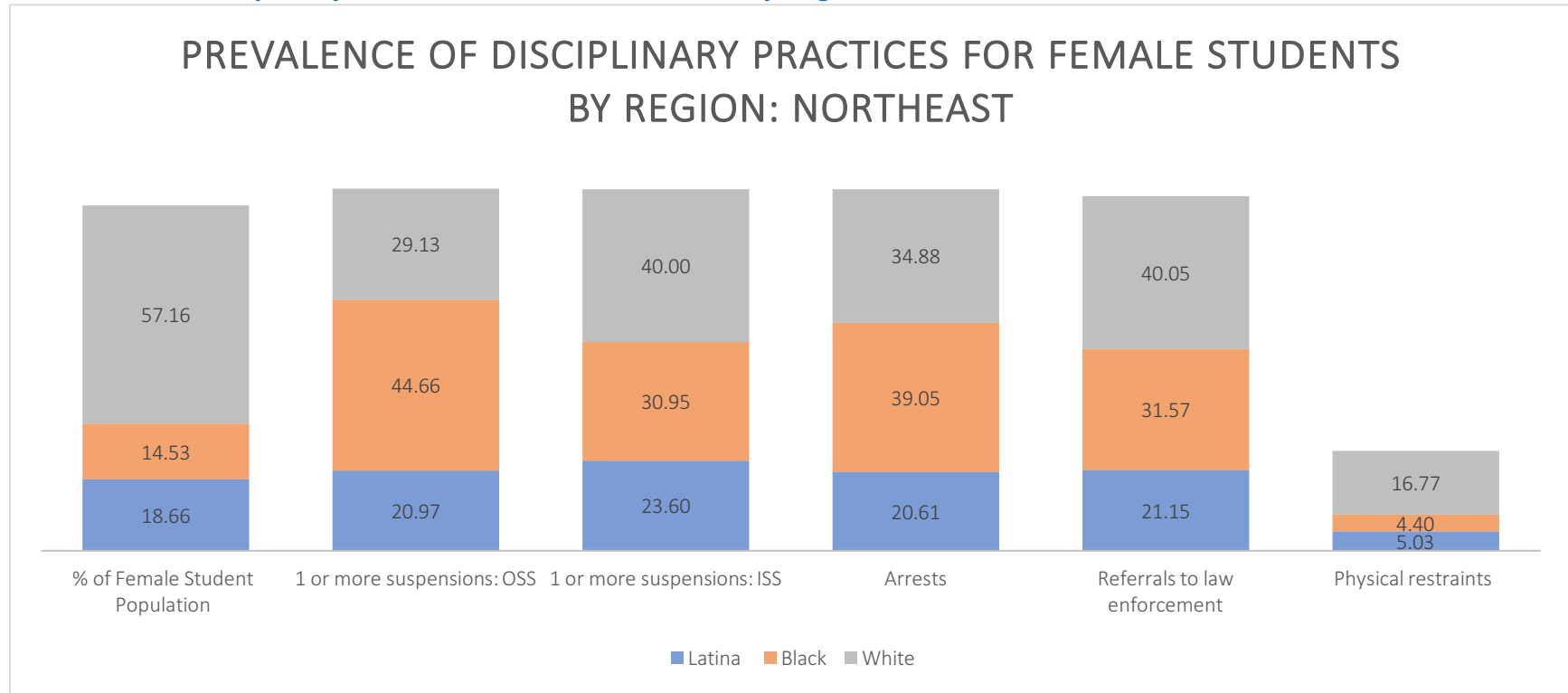
## Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students Nationwide



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
1 or more OSS	7.33	1.51
1 or more ISS	3.43	1.40
Arrests	3.91	1.54
Referrals	2.63	1.27
Restraints	1.74	0.50

**Nationwide**, 324,818 female students received 1 or more out-of-school suspensions (OSS); 876,918 female students received one or more in-school suspensions (ISS); 20,591 were arrested; 66,154 were referred to law enforcement; and 12,910 were physically restrained. Just over 50 percent of female students nationwide are White, with approximately 25 percent identifying as Latina and nearly 16 percent identifying as Black. Of note, Black girls were over **seven times** more likely than White girls to receive 1 or more OSS, and over **three times** more likely than White girls to receive 1 or more ISS. Black girls were also nearly **four times** more likely to be arrested in schools and over **two and half times** more likely than White girls to be referred to law enforcement.

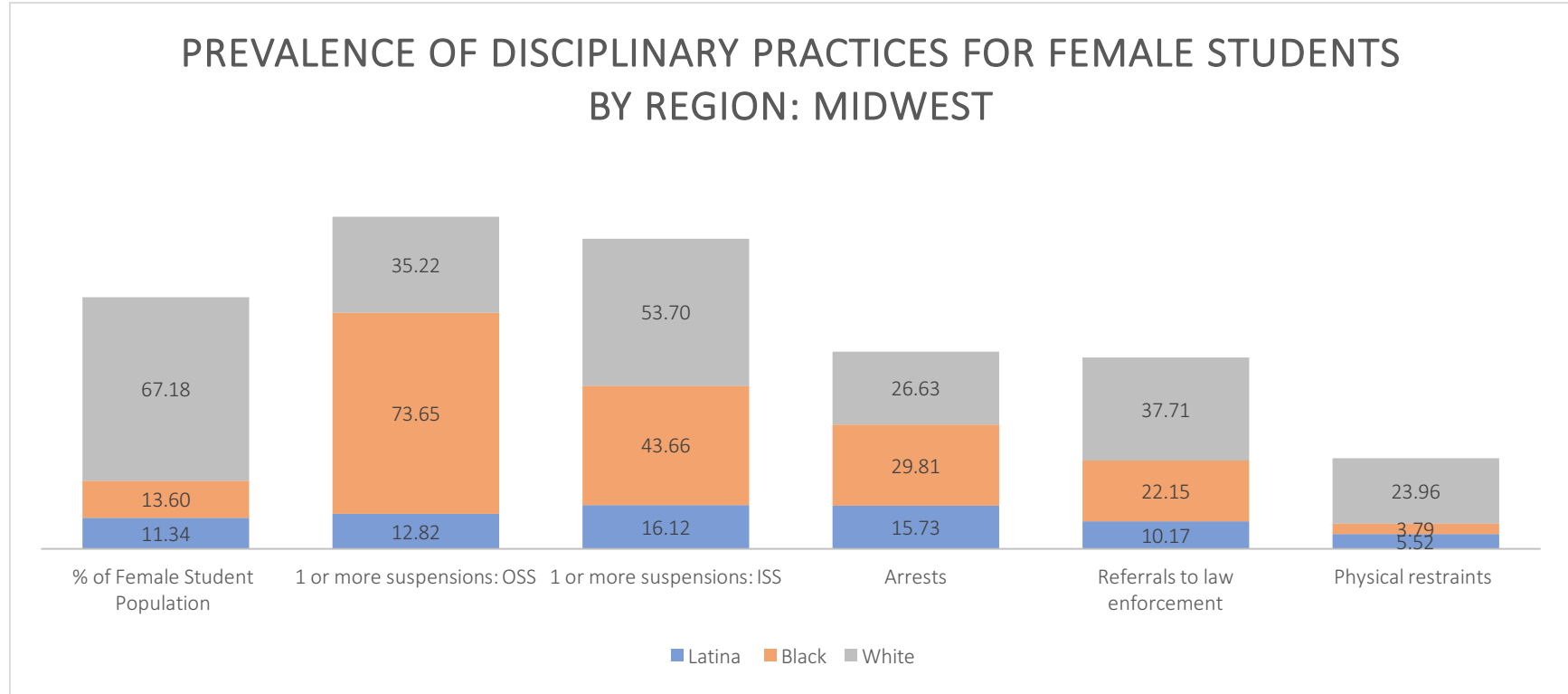
## Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students by Region: Northeast



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
<b>1 or more OSS</b>	6.03	2.21
<b>1 or more ISS</b>	3.04	1.81
<b>Arrests</b>	4.40	1.81
<b>Referrals</b>	3.10	1.62
<b>Restraints</b>	1.03	0.92

In the **Northeast**, 45,302 female students received 1 or more OSS; 101,786 female students received 1 or more ISS; 3,357 were arrested; 10,190 were referred to law enforcement; and 2,523 were physically restrained. Over half of the female students in Northeast schools were White, with nearly 19 percent of the female students identifying as Black and nearly 15 percent identifying as Latina. Of note, Black females were **six times** more likely to receive 1 or more OSS and **four times** more likely to be arrested than White females. Latina students were **twice as likely** as White females to receive 1 or more OSS, and **nearly twice** as likely to receive 1 or more ISS, or student arrest.

Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students by Region: Midwest

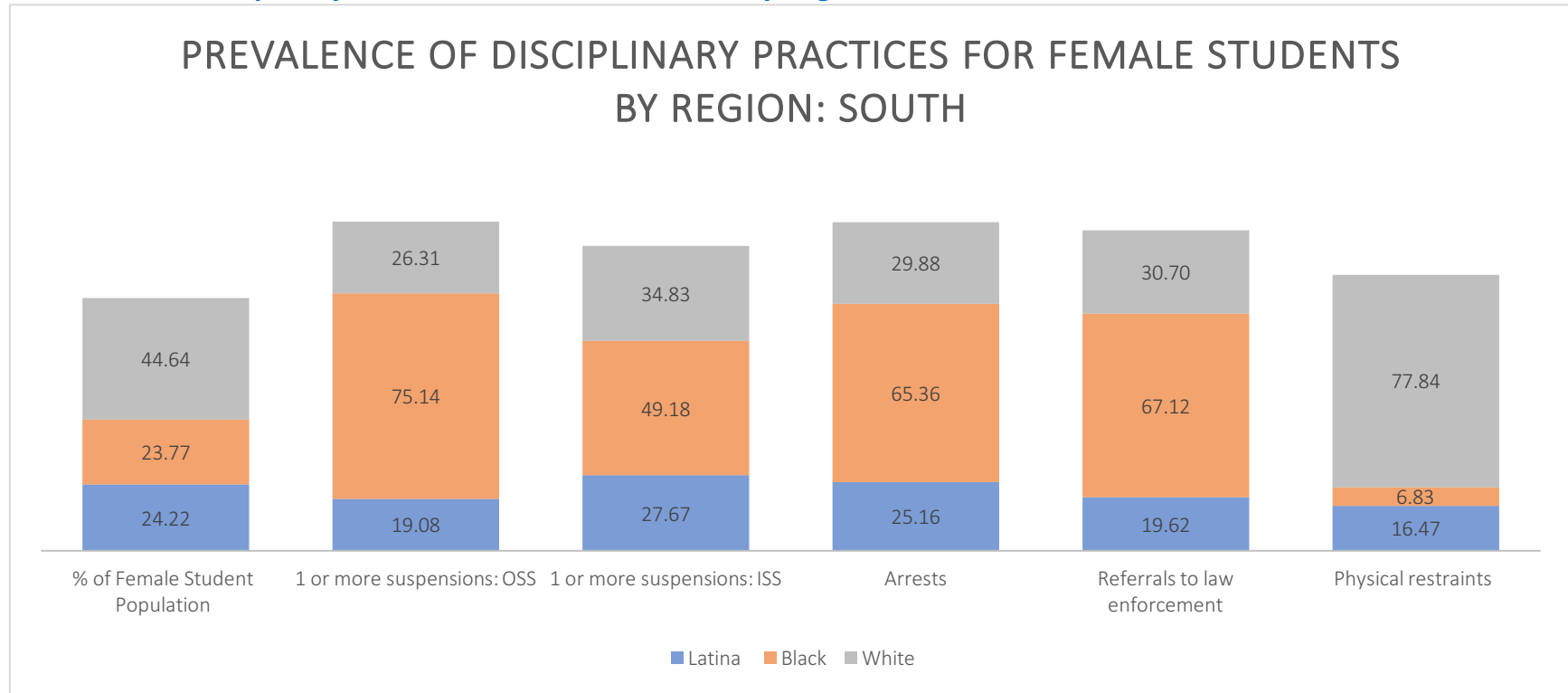


	Discipline rate (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action than White females)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
1 or more OSS	10.33	2.16
1 or more ISS	4.02	1.78
Arrests	4.29	1.90
Referrals	4.93	2.71
Restraints	1.08	1.36

In the **Midwest**, 90,927 female students received 1 or more OSS; 177,475 female students received 1 or more ISS; 5,805 were arrested; 14,313 were referred to law enforcement; and 5,071 were physically restrained. Over two-thirds of the female students in schools in the Midwest were White, while 14 percent were Black and 11 percent were Latina. Of note, Black female students were **10 times** more likely than White females to receive 1 or more OSS, and more than **four times** more likely to receive 1 or more ISS, arrests, or referrals to law enforcement. Latina students were **twice** as likely as White female students to receive 1 or more OSS, and **nearly twice** as likely to receive 1 or more ISS, to be arrested. Latina students were nearly **three times** as likely as White female students to be referred to law enforcement.



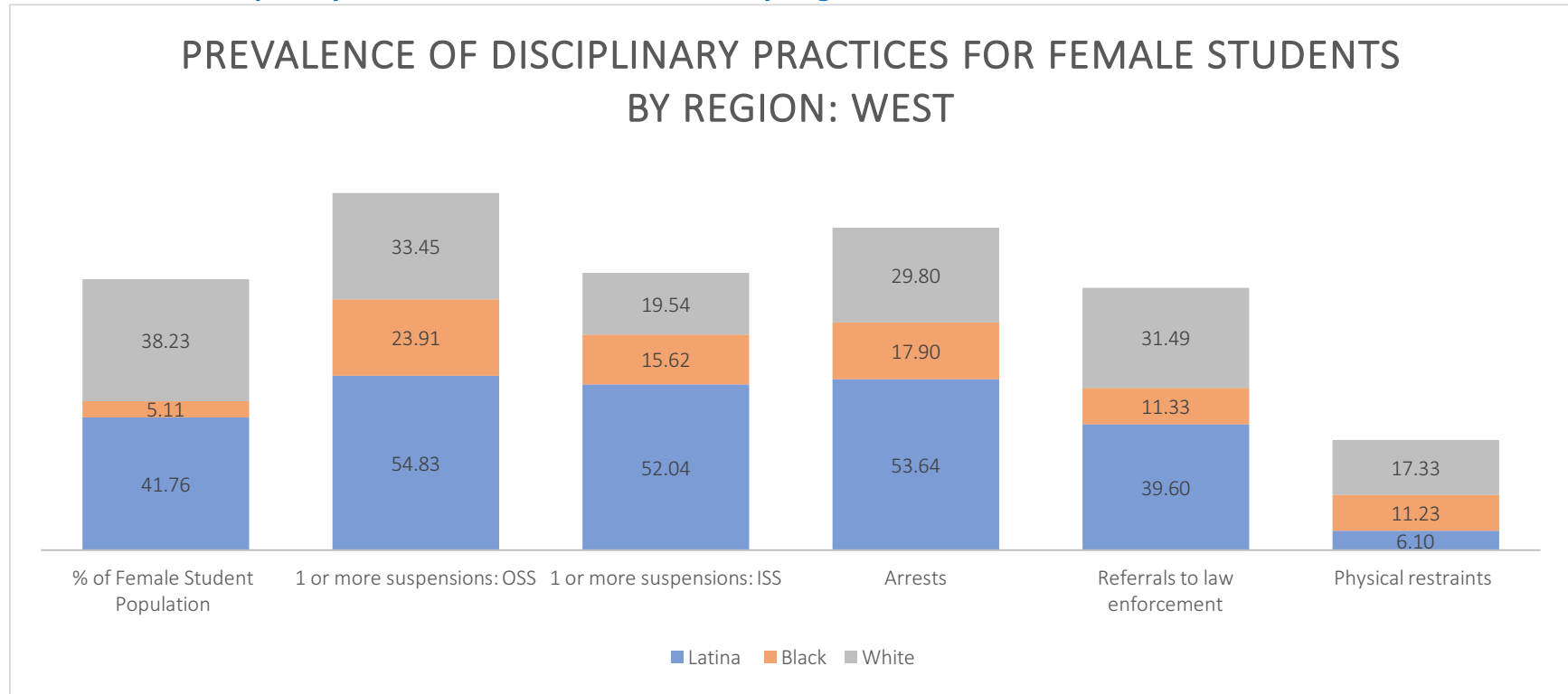
## Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students by Region: South



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
<b>1 or more OSS</b>	5.36	1.34
<b>1 or more ISS</b>	2.65	1.46
<b>Arrests</b>	4.11	1.55
<b>Referrals</b>	2.54	1.18
<b>Restraints</b>	0.16	0.39

In the **South**, 140,027 female students received 1 or more OSS; 521,065 female students received 1 or more ISS; 7,081 were arrested; 24,215 were referred to law enforcement; and 3,634 were physically restrained. White females comprised approximately 45 percent of female students in the South, with Black and Latina girls each comprising approximately 24 percent of all female students in this region. Black females were over **five times** more likely than White females to receive 1 or more OSS, and over **four times** more likely to be arrested in school. Black females were approximately **two and half times** more likely than White female students to receive 1 or more ISS and referrals to law enforcement. Latina students are almost **twice** as likely to be arrested than White females in schools.

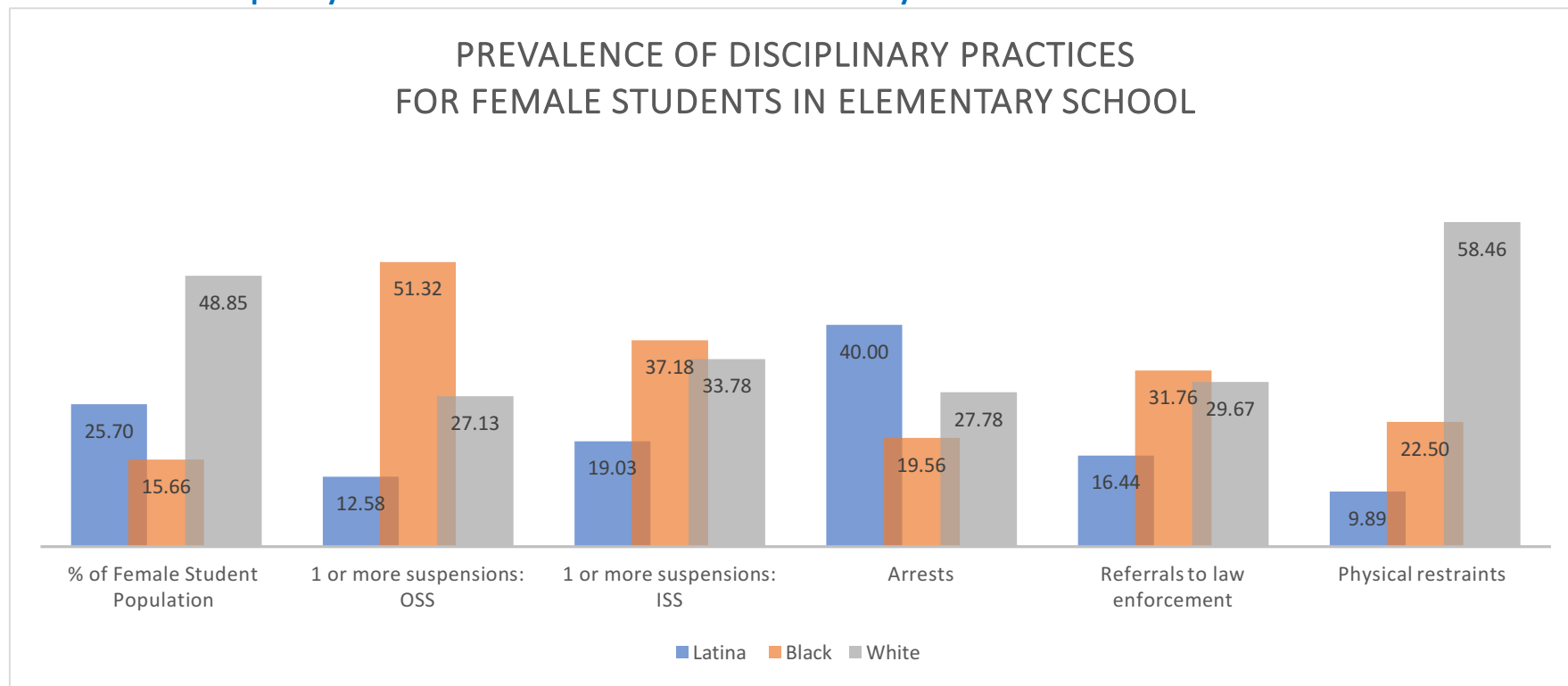
## Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students by Region: West



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
<b>1 or more OSS</b>	5.34	1.50
<b>1 or more ISS</b>	5.98	2.44
<b>Arrests</b>	4.49	1.65
<b>Referrals</b>	2.69	1.15
<b>Restraints</b>	4.84	0.32

In the **West**, 48,562 female students received 1 or more OSS; 96,323 female students received 1 or more ISS; 4,348 were arrested; 18,607 were referred to law enforcement; and 1,755 were physically restrained. Latina students were 42 percent and White females were 38 percent of all female students. Black females represented 5 percent of female students in the West. Of note, Black female students were **five times** more likely to receive 1 or more OSS and nearly **six times** more likely than White females to receive 1 or more ISS. Black females were also nearly **five times** more likely to be restrained and **four and half times** more likely to be arrested. Latina students were over **twice** as likely as White females to receive 1 or more ISS.

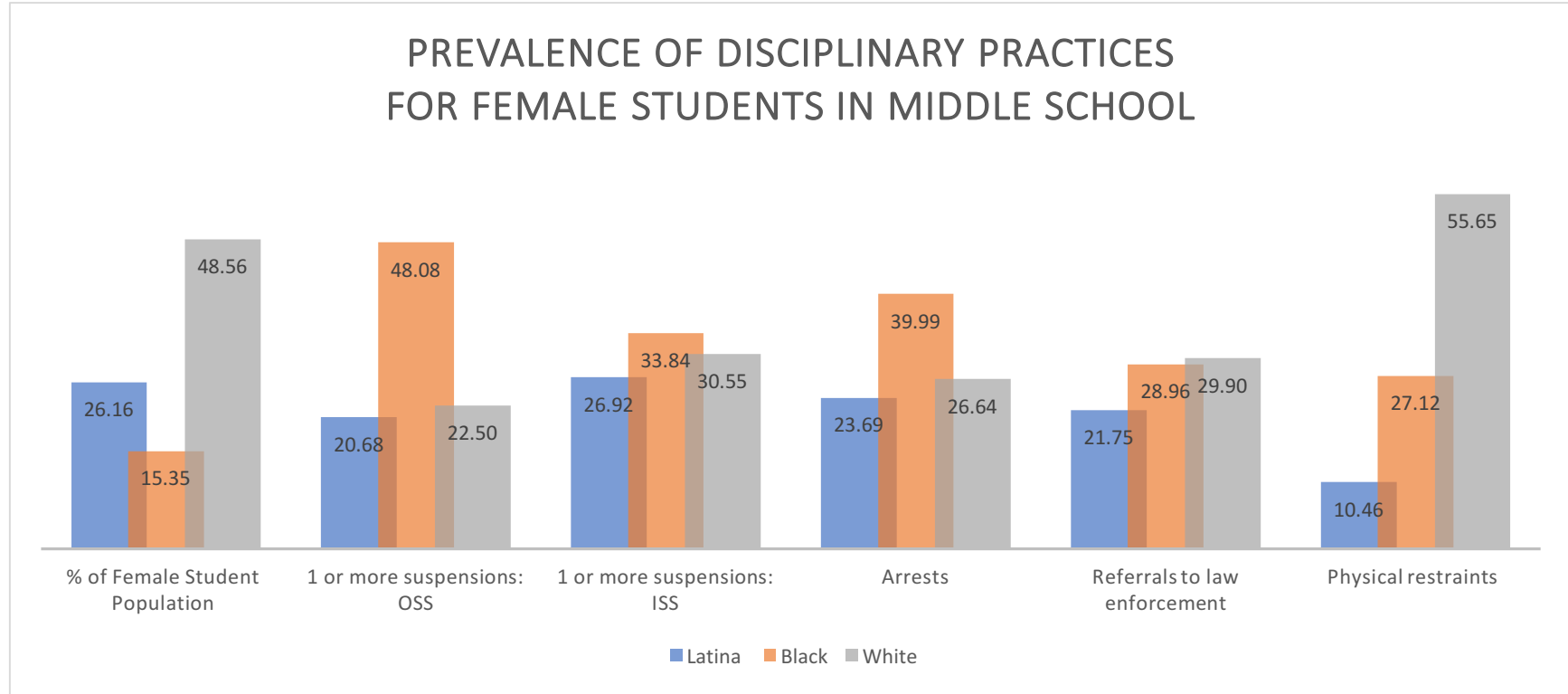
## Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students in Elementary School



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
1 or more OSS	5.90	0.88
1 or more ISS	3.43	1.07
Arrests	2.20	2.74
Referrals	3.34	1.05
Restraints	1.20	0.32

Among the nation's **elementary schools**, 16,579 female students received 1 or more OSS; 45,082 female students received 1 or more ISS; 438 were arrested; 3,239 were referred to law enforcement; and 16,971 were physically restrained. White females represented nearly 49 percent of the population, while Latinas were 26 percent and Black females were 16 percent of girls in elementary school. Of note, Black and Latina females were more than **twice** as likely as White females to be arrested in schools. Black females were nearly **six times** more likely to receive 1 or more OSS, and **three times** more likely to receive 1 or more ISS and referrals to law enforcement. Latina students were nearly **three times** more likely to be arrested than White girls, and represented 40 percent of all elementary-age girls arrested in schools.

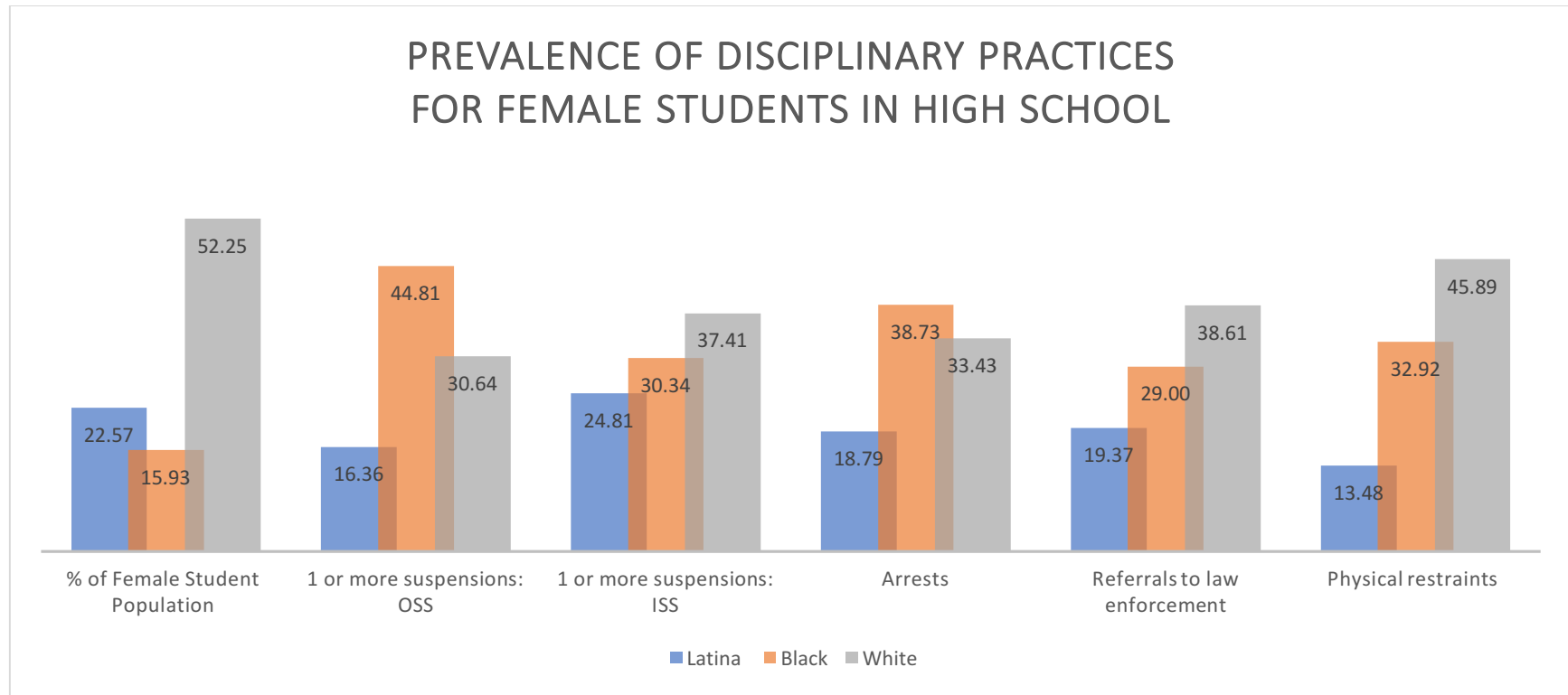
Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students in Middle School



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
1 or more OSS	6.76	1.71
1 or more ISS	3.50	1.64
Arrests	4.75	1.65
Referrals	3.06	1.35
Restraints	1.54	0.35

Among the nation’s **middle schools**, 66,090 female students received 1 or more OSS; 191,330 female students received 1 or more ISS; 5,050 were arrested; 19,252 were referred to law enforcement; and 2,574 were physically restrained. Forty-nine percent of the female student population was White, while 26 percent was Latina and 15 percent was Black. Of note, Black girls were nearly **seven times** more likely than White females to receive 1 or more OSS. Black girls were also nearly **five times** more likely to be arrested and **three times** more likely to be referred to law enforcement than White females. Black girls were about **three and half times** more likely to receive 1 or more ISS. Latina students were **nearly twice** as likely as White females to receive 1 or more OSS.

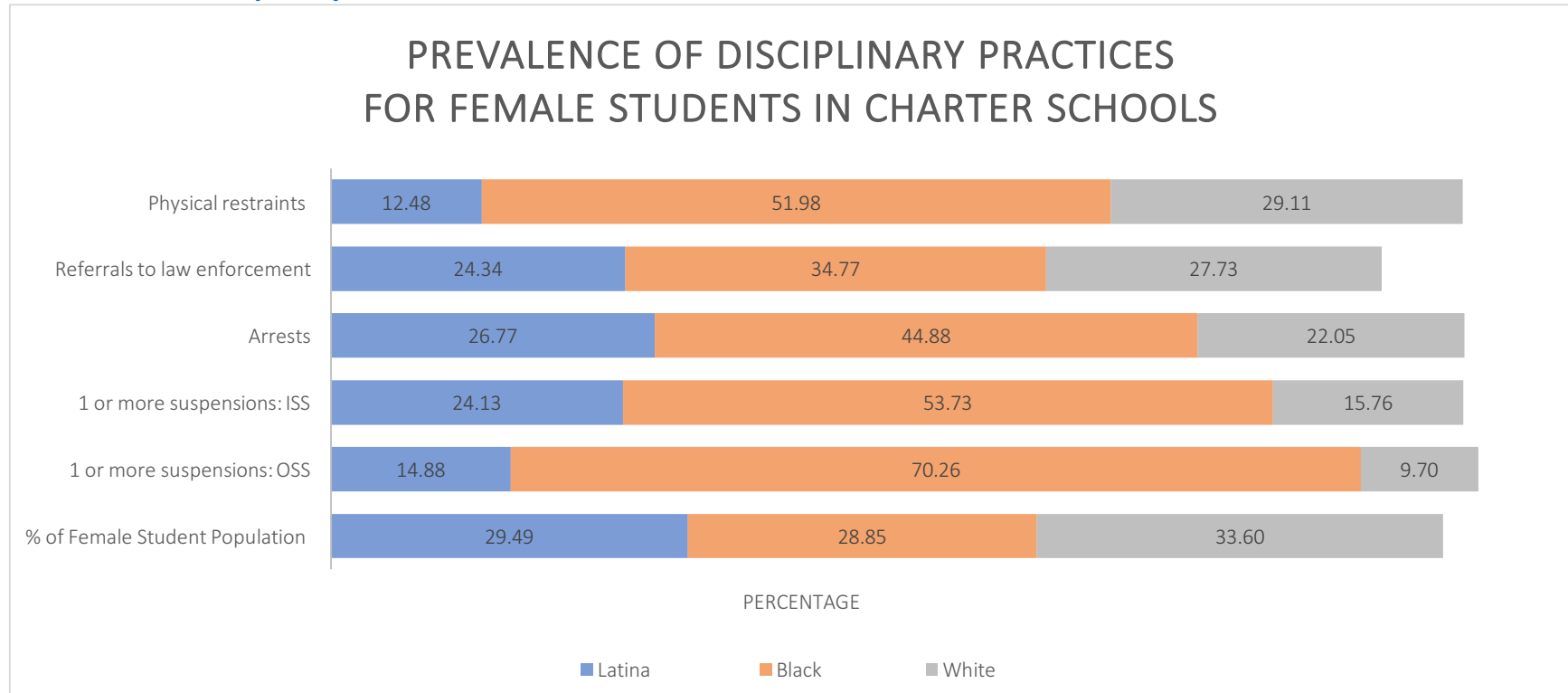
## Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students in High School



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
1 or more OSS	4.80	1.24
1 or more ISS	2.66	1.54
Arrests	3.80	1.30
Referrals	2.46	1.16
Restraints	2.35	0.68

Among the nation's **high schools**, 83,489 female students received 1 or more OSS; 279,897 female students received 1 or more ISS; 12,310 were arrested; 37,438 were referred to law enforcement; and 3,486 were physically restrained. White females comprised over 50 percent of females in high schools, with Latina girls comprising 23 percent, and Black girls comprising approximately 16 percent. Of note, Black girls were nearly **five times** more likely to receive 1 or more OSS and nearly **four times** more likely to be arrested than White females. Black girls were also nearly **two and half times** more likely to be restrained and referred to law enforcement than White female students.

## Prevalence of Disciplinary Practices for Female Students in Charter Schools



	Discipline rate relative to White females (Times more likely to receive disciplinary action)	
	Black Females	Latina Females
<b>1 or more OSS</b>	8.44	1.75
<b>1 or more ISS</b>	3.97	1.74
<b>Arrests</b>	2.37	1.38
<b>Referrals</b>	1.46	1.00
<b>Restraints</b>	2.08	0.49

Among the nation's **charter schools**, 23,096 female students received 1 or more OSS; 26,599 female students received 1 or more ISS; 254 were arrested; 1,192 were referred to law enforcement; and 519 were physically restrained. White females represented about one-third of the female population, while nearly 30 percent was Latina, and 29 percent were Black. Of note, Black females were more than **eight times** more likely than their White female counterparts to receive 1 or more OSS, and nearly **four times** as likely to receive 1 or more ISS. Black girls were also approximately **twice as likely** as White girls to be arrested and restrained in schools. Latina students were nearly **twice** as likely as White females to receive 1 or more OSS and ISS.

## ABOUT NBWJI

The National Black Women’s Justice Institute (NBWJI) is a nonprofit organization focused on reducing racial and gender disparities across the justice continuum affecting cisgender and transgender Black women, girls, and their families, by conducting research, providing technical assistance, engaging in public education, promoting civic engagement, and advocating for informed and effective policies.

NBWJI conducts research independently and in collaboration with a number of domestic universities and organizations on Black women and girls in the U.S. who are impacted by criminalization and the criminal legal system as a function of their intersecting identities. Our work also includes training and technical assistance to public agencies that are working to improve outcomes for women and girls impacted by criminalization.



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