

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year marks the sixth annual publication of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) Comprehensive Accountability Report (CAR), a synthesis of Quality Assurance, Outcome Evaluation, and Program Accountability Measures data for the Department. This compilation provides legislators, policy-makers, and all members of the public we serve with a comprehensive evaluation of the continuum of juvenile justice services throughout Florida.

FY 2010-11 has been a challenging year for the Department, but there is a great deal of good news regarding delinquency trends and the Department's programs. The number of youth referred to the Department for delinquent offenses has continued to decline across virtually all measures, including serious and violent offending. The Department is working aggressively to shift dollars and resources to address at-risk youth in the community, before behaviors escalate into serious delinquency. An important component of this shift is statewide implementation of the cost-effective Civil Citation alternative, which gives first-time misdemeanants the opportunity to perform community service and in some cases to participate in treatment. Civil Citation holds minor, first-time offenders immediately accountable while allowing them to avoid an arrest record that can interfere with job and educational opportunities for years to come. The Department also has continued to work with its private partners to develop and improve its evidence-based programs and services to ensure that individual youth risk factors are identified and addressed through proven programs and treatment approaches.

Outlined below are some of the key trend indicators extracted from this year's CAR, highlighting various aspects of the juvenile justice system in the state of Florida during FY 2010-11. More detailed information regarding each of these trends can be obtained throughout the chapters of the report.

The Adolescent Population of Florida

Florida's population of 10 to 17-year-olds decreased 2.5% between 2006 and 2010. As of August 2010, Florida's population of 10 to 17 year-olds was estimated to be approximately 1.85 million.

Most Frequent Juvenile Offenses

- Misdemeanor simple assault or battery was the most common reason for referral to the Department. During FY 2010-11, there were 15,422 delinquency referrals where the most serious offense was misdemeanor assault or battery.
- Burglary is the felony offense committed most often by juveniles. During FY 2010-11, there were 11,007 delinquency referrals where the most serious offense was burglary.

“Moving in the Right Direction”

The majority of the Department’s key indicators of public safety and delinquency in Florida are trending in the right direction. There are fairly substantial reductions in almost every major offense category, including the most serious juvenile offenses. Results presented here show the positive impact resulting from the implementation of the Department’s strategic plan. The following pages summarize these trends.



Overall Juvenile Delinquency Rates in Florida

Today, Floridians are substantially less likely to be the victim of crime involving a juvenile than at any other time since the Department started tracking this statistic in 1990.

- Florida's juvenile crime rate is down from 77 delinquency referrals per 1,000 juveniles during FY 2006-07 to 59 delinquency referrals for every 1,000 juveniles during FY 2010-11.



Referrals and Youth Received

The Department received fewer delinquency referrals last year than at any point since 1990.

- During FY 2010-11, DJJ received 109,813 delinquency referrals representing 66,934 youth.
- Since FY 2006-07, the number of referrals is down 25% from 146,950 to 109,813 and the number of youth referred for delinquency is down 27% from 91,294 to 66,934.



Serious and Violent Juvenile Delinquency (offenses that declined)

During FY 2010-11, the Department received 31,872 delinquency referrals where a felony was the most serious offense, down 34% from 48,346 felony referrals received during FY 2006-07.

- Auto Theft referrals decreased 58%, from 3,082 during FY 2006-07 to 1,297 in FY 2010-11.
- Aggravated Assault and Battery declined 36% from 9,863 during FY 2006-06 to 6,311 in FY 2010-11.
- Armed Robbery decreased 39%, from 1,384 during FY 2006-07 to 839 in FY 2010-11.
- Sexual Battery referrals decreased 22%, from 680 during FY 2006-07 to 529 in FY 2010-11.
- Murder/Manslaughter referrals decreased 33%, from 126 during FY 2006-07 to 85 in FY 2010-11.
- Attempted Murder referrals fell 51%, from 83 during FY 2006-07 to 41 in FY 2010-11.

- Burglary referrals decreased 18%, from 13,396 during FY 2006-07 to 11,007 in FY 2010-11.



Juvenile Drug Referrals

- Felony Drug (non-marijuana) referrals declined 62%, from 4,511 during FY 2006-07 to 1,730 in FY 2010-11.
- Felony Marijuana referrals declined 27%, from 1,412 during FY 2006-07 to 1,032 in FY 2010-11.
- Misdemeanor Marijuana referrals declined 12%, from 8,380 during FY 2006-07 to 7,369 in FY 2010-11.
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia referrals declined 8%, from 873 during FY 2006-07 to 801 during FY 2010-11.



Secure Detention Utilization

The overall utilization of the Department's secure detention facilities declined in four of the past five years.

- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, statewide utilization of secure juvenile detention declined 39%.
- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, admissions to secure detention declined 32%.



Probation Placement Trends

Fewer youth and cases are being disposed by the court to a probation service.

- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the number of delinquency cases disposed to a probation service declined by 23%.
- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the number of individual youth assigned to a probation service declined by 27%.



Residential Placement Trends

During FY 2010-11, judges committed 4,722 individual juveniles to residential commitment facilities, down 33% from 7,078 during FY 2006-07. The number of girls committed to residential facilities has

declined faster than boys. Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the number of boys committed to the Department declined 33% while the number of girls declined 36%.

Juveniles Transferred to Adult Court



The number of delinquency cases in Florida transferred to adult court declined 17% last year, and has gone down 34% since 2006-07, from 4,622 during FY 2007-08 to 3,061 in FY 2010-11.

Types of Delinquency for Male and Female Youth



Youth in Florida, both males and females, are less violent and are committing less serious offenses than in the past.

- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the number of male youth charged with a felony offense declined by 33%.
- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the number of male youth charged with a violent felony offense declined by 32%.
- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the number of female youth charged with a felony offense declined by 38%.
- Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the number of female youth charged with a violent felony offense declined by 32%.

Profile of Youth

The youth profile section for each program area chapter contains demographic data (race, age, and gender) taken from the Department's Juvenile Justice Information System. Profile data are based on the number of youth, unduplicated, who were served within the various program areas during FY 2010-11.

Program Evaluation

The Department uses three primary sources to evaluate programs and program components: quality assurance, outcome evaluation, and program accountability measures (residential commitment only).

Quality Assurance (QA)

The Florida Legislature mandates, in Section 985.632, Florida Statutes that the DJJ evaluate each program operated by the Department or a provider under contract with the Department and establish minimum thresholds of performance for each program component. This process ensures that all providers and

programs are meeting at least minimum standards of care for youth in their custody. The review includes a thorough examination of documents (e.g., mental health treatment plans, performance plans, and medication administration records); interviews with staff, youth, parents and others; and on-site observations. The team, through a consensus rating session before the exit conference, determines the rating for each requirement. Private provider employees are trained and utilized in the review process as well.

Outcome Evaluation (OE)

Delinquency programs are designed to provide supervision and services to reduce a youth's further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Annual evaluation of these programs is critical to the implementation of effective services. A key outcome of interest to all stakeholders is recidivism following program services or program release. For more than a decade, the Department has maintained accountability in services through its comprehensive statewide assessment of recidivism rates. DJJ has received national recognition for these outcome evaluations and continues its strong record of service assessment.

The outcome evaluation analyses contain information and outcome data for the following juvenile justice services: prevention, intake, detention, probation and community intervention, and residential commitment. Data from nearly 1,000 different programs and case management units are collected and analyzed for the outcome evaluation. The Intake and Detention chapters present data for FY 2010-11, and the Intake chapter includes five-year trend data. Alternately, the chapters on Prevention, Probation and Residential Commitment present data on youth completing programs in FY 2009-10, to allow for a follow-up period for recidivism outcomes through FY 2010-11. Supplemental information and summary tables of youth outcomes and outputs, while referenced here, may be found in the CAR appendices available on the web at: <http://www.djj.state.fl.us> under the Research and Planning section.

Program Accountability Measures (PAM)

The Florida Legislature mandates, in section 985.632 (4)(a)(b), Florida Statutes, that the Department evaluate the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs that provide care, custody, and treatment for committed youth. To meet this requirement, DJJ, in collaboration with the independent Justice Research Center (JRC), developed the annual Program Accountability Measures. By implementing an evaluation tool that assesses the effectiveness of programs in reducing recidivism while including a cost-effectiveness measure, the PAM promotes accountability in the delivery of juvenile residential services. The measures have been highlighted as a best practice in the use of juvenile justice data by the National Center for Juvenile Justice and selected as a national semi-finalist in the Harvard University Innovations in American Government Awards.

Prevention and Victim Services

Delinquency prevention programs are designed to address specific problems and provide interventions for at-risk-to-offend youth and their families in order to reduce juvenile crime and protect public safety. Program outputs and outcomes, including total releases, the percentage of youth adjudicated for offenses committed during services, number of completions and completion rates, demographic characteristics, six-month juvenile success rates and one-year success rates, are presented in the prevention chapter for each prevention program that released youth in FY 2009-10.

During FY 2009-10, a total of 22,058 youth were released from 151 delinquency prevention programs. Ninety percent of those youth completed their program. Among youth completing prevention programs, 50% were male and 50% were white. Statewide, almost one-third (29%) of all youth completing prevention programs had at least one delinquency charge prior to admission.

Intake

The delinquency intake process includes receiving youth charged with a crime, screening (including the Suicide Risk Screening), investigating, assessing, and processing allegations that a youth is delinquent or has violated the law. The intake process continues from the time the youth is charged with a delinquent offense through the disposition of the case.

The Department received 109,813 intake referrals during FY 2010-11. These referrals represented 66,934 individual youth, as some youth were referred multiple times during the year. The 109,813 delinquency referrals received by the Department during FY 2010-11 represents a 10% reduction from the previous fiscal year. The majority of delinquency referrals during FY 2010-11 involved male youth (73%) and youth between the ages of 16 and 17 years (52%). White youth generated 42,349 delinquency referrals (39%) and black youth were responsible for 46,004 (42%). Youth of Hispanic ethnicity generated 17,158 referrals (16%) and youth of "other" ethnicities generated 4,302 referrals (4%).

Detention

During FY 2010-11, the Department operated 25 juvenile detention centers in 24 counties, with a total of 2,007 beds and 1,982.5 employees. Detention is the custody status for youth who are held pursuant to a court order or have been arrested for a violation of the law. In Florida, a youth may be detained only when specific statutory criteria, outlined in Section 985.215, Florida Statutes, are met. Criteria for detention include current offenses, prior history, legal status, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. Two types of detention are available: Secure Detention and Home Detention. A total of 21,968 youth were admitted to secure detention during FY 2010-11. Of these youth, most were male (78%) and the majority (80%) were between 15 and 17 years of age when they were admitted. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the youth admitted to secure detention were black, 35% were white, and 15% were Hispanic.

Probation and Community Intervention

Probation and Community Intervention (PCI) programs provide supervision over youth to protect public safety, promote offender accountability through restorative sanctions and treatments, and to support youth in becoming responsible citizens. PCI provides case management for over 85,000 youth referred for delinquency each year and may be considered the most far reaching service area administered by DJJ. Principle programming for this service area includes diversion, probation supervision, day treatment and minimum risk commitment programming, and post-commitment programs for youth on conditional release and/or probation status. The PCI section of the Comprehensive Accountability Report presents a profile of FY 2010-11 youth served and FY 2009-10 probation outputs and outcomes including total releases, the percentage of youth adjudicated for offenses committed during supervision, number of completions and completion rates, demographic characteristics, average length of stay, and recidivism rates.

Residential and Correctional Facilities

Delinquent youth in Florida can be ordered by a court into a residential treatment facility. Circuit judges determine the level of confinement appropriate for each youth. DJJ is responsible for placement of each youth in an appropriate program based on the youth's identified risks and needs. Youth are committed to residential programs for an indeterminate length of time and must complete individual treatment plan goals based on their rehabilitative needs as one of the requirements for release. Included in each youth's goals are educational and vocational services. Residential Services oversees all residential commitment programs. During FY 2009-10, there were a total of 6,744 releases from residential commitment programs. In FY 2010-11, Residential Commitment programs served 8,419 youth.

Program Expenditures: State and Federal Funding

The program expenditure tables in this report provide total state and federal expenditures for juvenile justice programs and include self-reported federal expenditures from private provider organizations. The source documents from which these amounts were derived are as follows: State of Florida accounting information system and program cost affidavits submitted by private provider organizations.

