OVERVIEW AND KEY POINTS

Overview:

The Comprehensive Accountability Report (CAR) provides detailed evaluation results for each Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) program area and each state and contract service provider. The services provided and evaluated in this report are directly responsible for the consistent drop in delinquency referrals in Florida since 1994. Within these pages you can find the specific performance factors and results that have driven the reduction in delinquency referrals shown below.

The Department’s Annual Report for 2007-2008 describes the overall mission, vision, strategic approach, budget, activity level and key accomplishments for each DJJ program area. The results shown there are the combined impacts of each state and contracted service provider for each program area. This Comprehensive Accountability Report provides the detailed analysis that will enable each provider to evaluate their performance and identify areas of excellence as well as opportunities to prioritize improvement efforts. This report is intended as a catalyst for improvement through accountability which drives innovation and improved benefits for the citizens of the State of Florida.

The 2007-08 Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Annual Report can be downloaded at the following link:  http://www.djj.state.fl.us/AboutDJJ/DJJ-2008-Annual-Report.pdf
Key Points:

- The Department has implemented a statewide system of continual program improvement based on the following five Principles of Effective Intervention: risk, need treatment, responsivity, and fidelity. This approach has been shown to improve results.

- As of September 30, 2008, 76 juvenile justice programs were registered with 170 industry recognized certificates earned. Top-performing programs were:
  - Stewart Marchman: 44 credentials
  - Okaloosa Youth Academy: 21
  - Collier Academy: 20
  - Nassau Juvenile Residential Facility: 20
  - Pensacola Boys Base: 18

- More than 28,000 youth were provided prevention services. Half of the youth served were male and 53% were a classified as white. Forty two percent were between the ages of 12 and 14. There was an overall six months success rate of 93% for all prevention programs.

- Delinquency Intake processed 89,776 youth representing 144,705 delinquency referrals. This represents a 10% drop from five years prior (99,634 youth) compared to the overall increasing youth population at risk (up by 7% over the same period). Of those youth referred 38% had a felony offense as their most serious presenting offense.

- There were 30,002 individual youth admitted to secure detention centers in the state. 19,929 individual youth were admitted to home detention status.

- Probation and Community Intervention served over 30,000 youth through diversion services. An additional 39,000 youth were served through probation services and 3,100 youth though contracted day treatment and redirection services.

- Provider operated post commitment programs served more youth in FY 2007 08 (6,336) than did state operated post commitment programs (2,957).

- The rate of offenses during supervision ranged from a high of 36% of the releases from day treatment and minimum-risk commitment to a low of 8% from intensive delinquency diversion services. Completion rates varied from a high of 93% for diversion services to a low of 49% from probation enhancement service programs.

- Average Program Accountability Measures (PAM) scores did not differ significantly overall between programs serving males and those serving females.

- Youth completing commitment programs spent, on average, between 4 months in low risk residential programs to an average of 14 months in maximum risk residential programs. The average length of stay increased by approximately four months with each increase in restrictiveness level. There was no significant difference in the average length of stay between recidivists and non-recidivists.

- Overall, 57% of youth who completed their residential program in FY 2006-07 did not recidivate within one year after their return to the community. The success rate varied little by restrictiveness level, from 57% for low- and moderate-risk programs, 55% for high-risk programs and 67% for maximum-risk programs. Statewide, success rates for residential commitment programs have remained about the same over the past five years with a slight drop from 60% for youth who completed services in FY 2002-03 to 57% for youth who completed services in FY 2006-07.
In examining the time it takes for re-offending to occur, a consistent pattern has been observed over the last decade. The data demonstrate that if youth are going to recidivate within the first year, more than half will be rearrested within the first four months following program release. Among committed youth who recidivated in FY 2006-07, the majority (55%) were re-arrested by the end of the fourth month and 82% were re-arrested by the end of the seventh month.

Youth placed in low-risk residential placement generally have as their most serious current offense a misdemeanor or a third degree felony.

Youth classified for low-risk residential placement have usually performed unsuccessfully in prevention, diversion, or probation programs.

7,576 youth received services through placement in moderate-risk residential programs. Of those who received services within FY 2007-08: 82% were male, 51% were non-white 73% were 15 to 17 years of age.

2,537 youth received services through placement in high-risk residential programs. Of those youth who received services within FY 2007-08: 93% were male, 59% were non-white, 72% were 15 to 17 years of age.

198 youth received services through placement in a maximum-risk residential programs and 88 youth completed services the previous year. Of those youth who received services within FY 2007-08: 98% were male, 67% were non-white, 66% were 15 to 17 years of age.