Department of Juvenile Justice

2017 SERVICE CONTINUUM ANALYSIS

Governor Rick Scott
Secretary Christina K. Daly
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Introduction

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is charged with overseeing the entire continuum of juvenile justice in the State of Florida, including civil citation, prevention, probation, detention, commitment, and aftercare. Under Governor Rick Scott’s administration, the Department has embarked on an ambitious reform agenda, with a range of initiatives aimed at a common goal of protecting public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through optimal services and care in the least restrictive environment. This reform agenda is strongly data-driven and is guided by the findings of rigorous national and Florida-specific research. The driving principle of the administration’s reform agenda, as detailed in The Roadmap to System Excellence (available at http://www.djj.state.fl.us/roadmap-to-system-excellence) is to provide “…the right service, to the right youth, in the right way, at the right time.” The success of the Governor’s reform agenda is reflected in statewide data as evidenced by declines across a range of indicators, including juvenile felony and misdemeanor arrest rates, school arrest rates, secure commitment rates, and secure detention admissions.

While statewide delinquency trends reflect significant improvement across many measures, no analyses have addressed the implementation and impact of reform efforts at the county and circuit levels until recently. In response to this information gap, beginning in the 2014-15 General Appropriations Act and continued subsequently, the Legislature directed the Department to “...conduct a comprehensive statewide review of county-level data, including a gap analysis of services and programs available across all counties in the state, to evaluate the implementation of juvenile justice policies at the county level. As the result of such review, the Department shall prepare a report that includes benchmarking of counties’ performance on factors that demonstrate how a county is supporting the Department’s strategic goals of preventing and diverting more youth from entering the juvenile justice system; providing appropriate, less restrictive, community-based sanctions and services; reserving serious sanctions for youth who pose the greatest risk to public safety, and focusing on rehabilitation. The report shall also include recommendations and strategies that can be implemented by the Department or counties to address any identified deficiencies and to assist in developing a statewide, coordinated response across all of Florida’s communities to support the Department’s strategic goals.”

DJJ’s Mission: To increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.
The 2017 Service Continuum Analysis is the fourth annual Service Continuum report. A wide range of information and data was compiled and analyzed to create this report, including:

- extensive data from the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS),
- a survey of chief probation officers and their staff throughout the state, and
- program-level information regarding local resources and services input into the Community Resource Guide by each circuit throughout the state.

The report covers three main topics: available resources and services, resource and service gaps, and county-level measures of several key reform initiatives. This document includes county-level findings of the service gap analysis and summary information regarding local implementation of reform initiatives. A companion to the report is an interactive, web-based report that provides detailed county- and circuit-level information on available resources. The interactive report additionally contains county-level indicators related to several reform initiatives, including civil citation, school arrests, trends in reducing commitment placements of youth at low- and moderate-risk to reoffend, and county-level rates of adherence to the dispositional matrix. The interactive report is available at: http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2017

**Methodology**

**Implementation of Juvenile Justice Policies at the County Level**

Analysts in the Office of Research and Data Integrity compiled data from a variety of electronic sources to produce measures of progress on key local indicators including civil citation utilization, school arrest rates, adherence to research-based disposition level recommendations, and commitment of youth assessed as low and moderate risk to re-offend. Summary information regarding these measures is provided in this report, and detailed county-level information is available in the report’s online, interactive companion report.

**Services and Resources**

DJJ staff in each circuit continuously update information regarding resources for youth and families that are available in their areas. Information is input into an Access database and uploaded into the interactive report on an ongoing basis, to ensure that parents and other stakeholders can obtain up-to-date information regarding a wide array of community resources such as mental health, mentoring, education, and substance abuse treatment programs. Information regarding how to use the interactive report to locate services and resources begins on Page 7 of this report.
The 2017 Service Continuum Analysis represents one component of the Department’s continuing effort to provide the best and most comprehensive juvenile justice information to all stakeholders. In preparation for this end-of-year analysis, chief probation officers (CPOs) and their staff entered data to identify:

1) The top three service/resource gaps in each county within their Circuit
2) Specific populations of youth for whom inadequate resources are available in each county within their Circuit
3) What services/resources are available in sufficient supply in each county within their Circuit

It is important to note that for the 2014 Service Continuum Analysis report, local administrators and staff were provided a “forced choice” resource survey, which required respondents to provide information regarding programs from a predetermined list of resource types such as “skill-building/structured activities” and “remedial academic programs.” In contrast, for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 reports, the survey was comprised of “free-response” items, permitting respondents to describe local resource gaps in their own words rather than selecting from a list of resource types.

This qualitative data collection approach requires analysts to carefully review and classify each county’s responses to identify the larger statewide themes, as well as to develop the individual County Summary Sheets that begin on page 20 of this report. To ensure that the needs and resources of each county were correctly classified by the report authors, the draft County Summary Sheets were returned to the respondents for final review and approval.

Although this qualitative approach to data collection is more labor-intensive than “forced response” data collection, the information provided by the Circuits offers a richer and more complete assessment of each county’s resources and needs. The “Summary of Findings” section below summarizes key statewide themes, and the County Summary Sheets provide detailed county-level information.

**Summary of Findings: Resource Gaps**

**Individual/family mental health/substance-abuse counseling services** were noted as a top need by nearly sixty percent of Florida’s counties. Fourteen counties noted a need specifically for inpatient/residential substance abuse or mental health treatment, and youth with mental health or substance abuse needs were identified as a specific-needs population in 25 counties.

**Job-related services and life skills** such as services to break the cycle of poverty, parenting classes, and job training were ranked as one of the top service needs by 26 counties.
**Sex offender services** were noted as a top need by 19 counties, with needs such as transitional housing for sex offenders and sex offender day-treatment services described. Moreover, sex offenders were identified as a specific-needs population in 35 counties, independent of the assessment of available services.

**Respite care and transitional housing services** were listed as a top need by 13 counties, with services such as transitional housing for post-commitment youth and independent living mentioned. Additionally, youth in need of housing services were identified as a specific-needs population; youth in need of respite services were specific-needs youth in 8 counties, homeless youth were so identified in 9 counties, transitional youth were noted in 10 counties, and independent youth were identified in 16 counties.

**Structured activities/prevention programs** were noted as a top need by 11 counties, and 13 counties identified youth in need of recreational/extra-curricular programs as a specific-needs group.

**Mentoring** was noted as a top need by 11 counties, and 10 counties identified youth in need of mentoring as a specific-needs population.

**Day-Treatment Programs** were noted as a top need by eight counties.

**Gender-specific** programs were listed as a top need by eight counties; six of these counties specifically identified inpatient substance abuse treatment for girls as a top need. Moreover, 16 counties identified girls as a population with specific needs.

**Financial assistance** was listed as a top need by 6 counties, and 21 counties identified low-income youth as a specific-needs population.

**Special note--transportation and access to services:** As in prior years’ surveys, transportation needs were a common theme in survey responses. Transportation issues present barriers to service for some youth and families, and reduce access to delinquency intervention resources even when those resources are in adequate supply. In rural counties, there is often a complete lack of public transportation, and families may not have access to reliable personal vehicles. In urban areas, public transportation may not reach areas of the county where youth live, and the cost of using transportation can be a barrier when it is available. In total, 33 counties noted transportation issues as a barrier to services.

Additional, detailed county-level information regarding resource needs is provided in the County Summary Sheets.
Interactive Resource Search

The online companion to this report at [http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2017](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2017) enables users to view and search for services for youth by type of service, youth age, and youth legal status. To view services available in a specific county, use the map interface on the “Community Services” tab (Tab 1) to select a specific county. Then, check one or more boxes using the “Youth Served” dropdown to select all youth or to limit your search to youth on specific legal statuses. The “age restriction” dropdown box permits additional filtering by youth age range. Last, select a service type by clicking on the name of the service (please see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1. Community Resources Search

For example, if a user needs to locate mentoring services for a 16-year old on probation in Hillsborough County, the user would click on Hillsborough County, then select “Probation” in
the “Youth Served” dropdown menu and “16” in the Age of Youth dropdown menu (please see Figure 2 below).

**Figure 2. Locating Services Using the Interactive Companion Report**

Next, the user would click on “Mentoring,” which will bring up a screen listing all mentoring programs in Hillsborough County that serve 16-year-old youth on Probation (Figure 3). Last, the user can click on any of the listed programs to obtain a program description and contact information (Figure 4).
Figure 3. Locating a Mentoring Program in Hillsborough County

Community Services for Youth - Hillsborough County

Step 3 - Select a program to view details & contact information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>100 Black Men of Tampa Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central City YMCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computer Mentor Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crossover Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For The Family Motherhood and Parental Mentoring Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAXEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second Chance for Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success for Kids and Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tampa Bay Academy of Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turn Around Tampa Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman to Woman a division of GCJFand Community Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YMCA of Tampa Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Advocate Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4: Program Information Screen

Community Services for Youth - Hillsborough County

Hover over page to email directly or go to website

**Computer Mentor Group**
**Hillsborough County**
**Mentoring**

Program provides free, high quality computer literacy training and technology access to underprivileged families, and seeks to provide computer ownership for low-income participants.

Contact Shawn Wilkenson
Phone: (813)236-1191
Email: SWilkenson@computermentors.org
Website: www.computermentors.org

Age Restriction Min - NA Max - NA
Admission Requirements: None
Admission Restrictions: None
Local Measures of Progress on Reform Goals

Because a key element of this report is the “... benchmarking of counties’ performance on factors that demonstrate how a county is supporting the department’s strategic goals of preventing and diverting more youth from entering the juvenile justice system; providing appropriate, less restrictive, community-based sanctions and services; reserving serious sanctions for youth who pose the greatest risk to public safety, and focusing on rehabilitation,” four key reform measures are examined at the county level:

1. **Civil citation** offers misdemeanant youth the opportunity to avoid an arrest record by completing community service and in some cases, rehabilitative interventions. Effective October 1, 2015, Florida law expanded the civil citation program to permit issuance of civil citations for misdemeanor offenses on up to three occasions per youth. By avoiding an arrest, youth are able to avoid barriers to college admission, scholarships, job opportunities, and military enlistment. Youth who complete civil citation programs have a remarkably favorable 96% success rate (for FY 2015-16 completers). For more information, please visit [http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/civil-citation-dashboard](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/civil-citation-dashboard) to view the Department’s Civil Citation Dashboard, which enables users to search regularly updated civil citation data, filtering on a variety of criteria including circuit, county, race/ethnicity, and issuing law enforcement agency.

2. **School-related arrest rates** reflect the portion of overall juvenile arrests that occur on school grounds or at school-related activities. Various Department initiatives, including prevention programs, civil citation, collaboration at the local level, and a pilot project placing juvenile probation officers in schools are aimed at reducing school arrest rates.

3. **Adherence to the validated, evidence-based disposition matrix placement guidelines.** Research tracking tens of thousands of youth in Florida has shown that regardless of youth risk level, recidivism outcomes are most favorable for youth who are placed within the recommended ranges in the disposition matrix. Results clearly show that lack of adherence to the disposition matrix guidelines results in increased recidivism for serious as well as non-serious juvenile offenders, and the results hold true across all sex, race, and risk level groups. To review the Department’s two validation studies on the outcomes of adherence to research-based placement
recommendations, please visit: http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/latest-initiatives/juvenile-justice-system-improvement-project-(jjsip)/disposition-recommendation-matrix

4. **Reduction of residential placements of youth assessed as low- and moderate-risk to reoffend** is an important goal of reform and is a key outcome of a variety of other reform efforts. Through increasing availability of civil citation and related rehabilitative, front-end services in the community, and adherence to the disposition matrix guidelines, costly and restrictive residential commitment is typically reserved for youth who truly require that level of restrictiveness. Statewide, commitments of youth assessed as low- and moderate-risk to reoffend have dropped dramatically. In FY 2010-11, commitments of low- and moderate-risk youth comprised 27% of all commitments. In FY 2016-17, only 14% of commitments were of low- and moderate-risk to re-offend youth. Between FY 2012-13 and FY 2016-17, the percentage of committed youth who were low- and moderate-risk to re-offend dropped from 17% to 14%.

The pages that follow display county-level measures for civil citation utilization (Table 1), the percentage of overall arrests that are school related (Table 2), the percentage of dispositions rated as “optimal” based on the disposition matrix (Table 3), and the percentage of dispositions to commitment that involve youth assessed as low- and moderate-risk to reoffend (Table 4). The images are taken from Tab 6 of the Service Continuum Report, “Performance Measures by County.”
Table 1. FY 2016-17 Percent of Eligible Youth Issued Civil Citations*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Dade  96%</th>
<th>St Lucie 59%</th>
<th>Okeechobee 46%</th>
<th>Santa Rosa 19%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>Gilchrist 58%</td>
<td>Lee 45%</td>
<td>Desoto 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>Martin 58%</td>
<td>Charlotte 42%</td>
<td>Highlands 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Johns</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Citrus 57%</td>
<td>Duval 39%</td>
<td>Franklin 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Hernando 57%</td>
<td>Suwannee 39%</td>
<td>Hamilton 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasco</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>Union 54%</td>
<td>Clay 36%</td>
<td>Okaloosa 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>Wakulla 64%</td>
<td>Bay 32%</td>
<td>Levy 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>Nassau 52%</td>
<td>Brevard 32%</td>
<td>Walton 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alachua</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>Putnam 51%</td>
<td>Gadsden 30%</td>
<td>Polk 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Baker 60%</td>
<td>Lake 29%</td>
<td>Bradford 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Flagler 60%</td>
<td>Sumter 27%</td>
<td>Dixie 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>Orange 48%</td>
<td>Columbia 26%</td>
<td>Gulf 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>Hillsborough 47%</td>
<td>Hendry 28%</td>
<td>Hardee 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>Volusia 47%</td>
<td>Jackson 25%</td>
<td>Madison 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian River</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>Escambia 47%</td>
<td>Osceola 24%</td>
<td>Washington 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counties with fewer than 10 eligible youth not displayed; only first-time misdemeanants are included in the analysis.
### Table 2. FY 2016-17 School-related Arrests*

| County       | Jefferson  | Collier  | Indian River | Washington | Putnam | Suwannee | Volusia | Escambia | Brevard | Desoto | Okeechobee | Flagler | Taylor | Gulf | Okaloosa | Seminole | St Johns | Holmes | Gadsden | Gilchrist | Lake | Hernando | Bradford | Columbia | Calhoun | Madison | Leon | Wakulla | Palm Beach | Glades | Sumter | Polk | Pinellas | Alachua |
|--------------|------------|----------|--------------|------------|--------|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|------------|---------|--------|------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|-------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------|----------|--------|
|              | 50%        | 21%      | 17%          | 13%        | 8%    | 34%      | 21%    | 16%      | 13%    | 6%    | 32%        | 21%    | 16%    | 13% | 6%      | 28%      | 20%      | 16%    | 13%    | 6%      | 28% | 20%      | 16%    | 12%    | 0%    | 27%      | 19%    | 15%    | 12% | 6%      | 11%    |
|              |            |          |              |            |       |          |        |          |        |       |            |        |        |      |          |          |          |        |        |         |      |          |         |        |       |          |        |        |      |          |        |
|              |            |          |              |            |       |          |        |          |        |       |            |        |        |      |          |          |          |        |        |         |      |          |         |        |       |          |        |        |      |          |        |

*Counties with fewer than 10 school-related arrests are not displayed.*
Table 3. FY 2016-17 Optimum and Appropriate Disposition Level Rates*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gulf</th>
<th>Levy</th>
<th>Broward</th>
<th>Okaloosa</th>
<th>Monroe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harddee</td>
<td>98.4%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
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<td>Union</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilchrist</td>
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<td>Levy</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
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<td>Polk</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
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<td>Baker</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
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<td>Taylor</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian River</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hernando</td>
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<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
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<td>90.9%</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Suwanee</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
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<td>Hendry</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
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<td>Citrus</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
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<td>Madison</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
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<td>Volusia</td>
<td>90.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
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<td>Seminole</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
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<td>Dixie</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walton</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pasco</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagler</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Escambia</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okaloosa</td>
<td>86.8%</td>
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</table>

*Counties with fewer than 10 youth disposed are not displayed.
Table 4. 2016-2017 Commitments of Low- and Moderate-Risk to Reoffend Youth*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2017 Commitments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suwannee</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Lucie</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escambia</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Johns</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagler</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volusia</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alachua</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian River</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okaloosa</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Orange 5%
Highlands 4%
Hillsborough 4%
Brevard 2%
Sarasota 2%
Bay 0%
Hendry 0%

*Counties with fewer than 10 dispositions to commitment are not displayed.

Additional, detailed data regarding the status of key reform initiatives can be accessed in an interactive web-based format at [http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2017](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2017) on Tab 5 (Performance Measures). The first view will include four charts that include three-year trends for school-related arrest rates, civil citation rates, and rates for commitments of youth assessed as low- and moderate-risk to reoffend as well as a chart showing the two-year trend for dispositions that are “optimal” according to the disposition matrix. Users may click on a county to view local measures benchmarked against the statewide average for each measure. The statewide average appears as a gray line on each chart, and county measures appear as orange lines (Figure 5).
The county-level charts enable the user to view both the level for each measure and the four-year trend, benchmarked against the statewide four-year trend. For example, in Figure 5 (above) Broward County has been selected. The School-Related Arrests display shows that the county’s school arrest rate has been consistently lower than the overall state rate. The Civil Citation Rate display shows that the rate of civil citation issuance in this county was slightly below the state rate in FY 2012-13, but has been above the statewide rate for each of the last four fiscal years. The Low- and Moderate-Risk to Re-Offend Youth Committed display shows
that the percentage of youth assessed as low- and moderate-risk to reoffend has been below the statewide rate for each of the past five fiscal years, and the Optimum & Appropriate Dispositions display shows that the optimum and appropriate disposition rate has been nearly identical to the overall state rate for the past five fiscal years.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

**Service Continuum: Greatest Needs**
The circuits’ responses to the needs analysis surveys reveal that service continuum strengths and needs vary widely across the state. The County Summary Sheets (Appendix I) summarize each circuit’s responses, by county. The most commonly noted “top need” is for mental health/counseling services, with needs such as individual or family counseling (especially in-home counseling) and substance-abuse treatment, both in-patient and out-patient cited. Other commonly cited gaps included services such as:

- Job-related and/or life skills training and counseling
- Sex offender services
- Respite care and transitional housing services
- Financial assistance, such as programs that help youth pay restitution

Many circuits noted some gaps regarding transportation; however, the specific transportation problems cited varied, with some circuits noting that public transportation is not very practical and others noting that transportation services are simply unavailable.

It is clear from the findings that county and circuit-level service continuum gaps vary widely across the state and that local Department of Juvenile Justice staff and administrators are aware of their jurisdiction’s specific needs. While some gaps, such as mental health and transportation, are common, some circuits reported very specialized needs. For example, Flagler County noted a need for medication management services, and Sumter County noted that parents need help paying for drug testing for youth. Because each circuit has a unique set of resources, and because local staff and administrators are experts on their own jurisdictions, any attempts to address gaps in services should be closely guided by the input of those local professionals.

**Implementation of Reform Initiatives**
The results demonstrate that there is considerable variation regarding Circuit and County-level implementation of key reform initiatives.
Civil Citation: During FY 2016-17, statewide, 55% of eligible youth received civil citations, up from 50% in FY 2015-16. While many counties issued civil citations at rates that far exceeded the statewide average, some counties have low rates of issuance, and a few counties issued zero civil citations during the fiscal year. It will be important in upcoming months and years for DJJ staff and administrators as well as local advocates to continue to work with law enforcement to promote the use of civil citation. This innovative program has demonstrated remarkably low recidivism rates of between four and five percent and avoids creating arrest records for minor, first-time offenses while preserving taxpayer resources by minimizing processing and service costs. Avoidance of arrest records is critical to ensure that kids who make common, youthful mistakes don’t face barriers to future prosocial opportunities such as work, scholarships, military enlistment, and college enrollment.

Adherence to the Disposition Matrix Evidence-Based Placement Recommendations:
Adherence to the disposition matrix is associated with reduced recidivism. In FY 2016-17, 90% of dispositions were rated as “optimal” or “appropriate.” Statewide, this percentage has been relatively stable for the last five fiscal years, varying between 89% and 91%. However, some county rates are far above or far below this level. It will be important in upcoming months and years for stakeholders to work with local courts to increase adherence rates and thus minimize recidivism rates in counties with low adherence rates.

Commitment of Youth Assessed as Low- and Moderate-Risk to Reoffend: With some exceptions, youth assessed as low- and moderate-risk to reoffend have the best chance for successful rehabilitation in community-based settings. One of the Department’s reform efforts has focused on reducing the number of low- and moderate-risk to reoffend youth who receive dispositions to residential commitment. This reform goal is very closely linked to the disposition matrix, as adherence to the matrix recommendations reduces commitments of low-and moderate-risk youth. During Fiscal Year 2016-17, statewide, 14% of youth disposed to residential commitment were assessed as low or moderate risk to reoffend. However, county rates of commitment of low- and moderate-risk youth ranged from zero to as high as 55%. Through adherence to the disposition matrix, commitments of low- and moderate-risk youth can be expected to decline.

School-related arrests: Statewide, in Fiscal Year 2016-17, 15% of juvenile arrests were school-related. School-related arrests dropped 39% between Fiscal Year 2012-13 and Fiscal Year 2016-

1 This utilization rate only includes first-time misdemeanants and does not account for the recent change in law that permits issuance of up to three civil citations.
17, from 11,941 to 7,255. However, some jurisdictions continue to experience much higher rates. Continued expansion of civil citation utilization, as well as continued work with school and local officials, may help further reduce school arrest rates.
Appendix I

County Summary Sheets
Alachua County

(Circuit 8)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- In-home counseling services
- Out-patient substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient substance treatment for girls
- Targeted mental health case management
- Vocational training

Greatest additional needs:
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Trauma counseling for youth and families

Populations with specific needs:
- Girls: Additional gender-based services to address their needs, especially substance abuse.
- Youth with mental health issues: Providing treatment-based programs to address needs rather than DJJ commitment.
- Pregnant youth/youth who are already parents: Services to provide parenting education.

Transportation issues:
- Youth and families lack available/reliable transportation to attend all appointments including treatment services.

“Unfortunately, many girls wind up in DJJ commitment due to the lack of resources to meet their needs. We have access to two in-patient substance-abuse treatment programs in neighboring circuits for boys, however, we have no residential treatment for girls.”
Baker County

(Circuit 8)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- In-home counseling services
- Out-patient substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient substance treatment for girls
- Targeted mental health case management
- SAMH assessments

Greatest additional needs:
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Trauma counseling for youth & families

Populations with specific needs:
- Girls: Additional gender-specific services to address their needs, especially substance abuse.
- Youth with mental health issues: Providing treatment-based programs to address needs rather than DJJ commitment.
- Pregnant youth or youth who are already parents: Services to provide parenting education.

Transportation issues:
- Families have transportation problems getting to their assessments.
  Without early assessment, it is difficult to provide appropriate services.

“We have access to two in-patient substance-abuse treatment programs in neighboring circuits for boys, however we have no residential treatment for girls”
Bay County

(Circuit 14)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Ample food banks
- Counseling services in the Panama City area
- Pro-social activities in most areas

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Counseling of all types in north section of the county and beaches area especially substance-abuse counseling

Greatest additional needs:
- Expanded version of FFT
- Transportation

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth with substance-abuse issues
- Youth from low-income homes
- Gang members
- Youth with mental health issues who need in-patient treatment
- Younger youth with complex risk factors

Transportation issues:
- There is a lack of transportation in the northern part of Bay County and west end of county (beach area).

“We need to look for ways to break the cycle of poverty—life skills training, financial education classes, parenting classes for youth who are parents.”
Bradford County

(Circuit 8)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- In-home counseling services
- Out-patient substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient substance-abuse treatment for girls
- Targeted mental health case management
- Civil citation

Greatest additional needs:
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Trauma counseling for youth & families

Populations with specific needs:
- Girls
- Youth with mental health issues

Transportation issues:
- Families have transportation problems getting to their assessments.
  Without early assessment, it is difficult to provide appropriate services.

"Due to the lack of civil citation referrals in Bradford County, all first-time misdemeanor offenders receive formal charges, and consequently have formal juvenile-offender records."
Brevard County

(Circuit 18)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Alternative education
- In-home counseling services
- Job skill development and placement services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transportation
- Mentoring
- Sex-offender services

“Mentoring services for both male and female probation status youth are needed. Individual mentors become disinterested once the background screening process is explained as they feel it is too lengthy or costly. The faith-based mentors seem active only in pockets of the community.”

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth with problem sexual behaviors

Transportation issues:
- Public transportation services are ineffective for purposes of reaching services between communities. The county is 80 miles long and 15 miles across with beach and island communities separated by the river. Public transportation to access services is time-consuming and often impractical.
Broward County

(Circuit 17)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Civil citation and community/school diversion programs
- Mental health and substance-abuse services
- Sex offender services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Staff-secure placements for youth who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking and for youth who are “locked out” following a detention stay
- Short-term, residential reentry portal
- Expanded service array for the juvenile assessment center (JAC) (including: medical clearances and direct linkages to substance-abuse and mental health services)

Greatest additional needs:
- Respite programs

Populations with specific needs:
- Human trafficking victims
- In-patient substance-abuse treatment for females
- Gang members and gang associates

“Broward County needs a short-term (60-120 day) residential re-entry portal for youth returning from DJJ residential commitment programs. This portal should be staffed and programmed to ensure the youth is linked and engaged in the most appropriate community-based service and educational system.”
Calhoun County

(Circuit 14)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Domestic violence education
- Counseling services, with the exception of sex offender and substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transportation
- Parenting classes for youth who are parents, financial education classes—things that are directed at breaking the cycle of poverty

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth with a lack of structured activity options
- Youth with mental health issues who need in-patient treatment
- Younger youth with complex risk factors
- Gang members

Transportation issues:
- Youth and families must travel to Jackson and/or Bay Counties to receive services for substance-abuse and mental health counseling.
Charlotte County

(Circuit 20)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Juvenile arbitration
- Juvenile Diversion Alternative Program (JDAP)
- Project Bridge
- Mental health and substance-abuse services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Local out-patient sex offender treatment
- Gender-specific programs for girls
- Restorative justice program

Transportation issues:
- Families must travel out of the county to receive sex offender services

“Charlotte County no longer has any restorative justice diversion program. Charlotte County lost funding for the Neighborhood Accountability Board. That program allowed victims to meet with the youth, family and community volunteers, to design a program of restitution, restorative justice, and to allow for direct victim input.”
Citrus County

(Circuit 5)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Civil citation
- Sex offender out-patient counseling
- Project Connect

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Drug screening
- Transportation

Greatest additional needs:
- Out-patient substance-abuse counseling

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth involved with human trafficking and youth with trauma histories

Transportation issues:
- Many families cannot make appointments because their car won't work or they have no car. There is no bus system in Citrus County.

“Many families cannot afford drug screens. If we buy our own to give to the youth, it doesn't hold up in court due to chain of custody. It would be great if we could give vouchers to parents that are indigent.”
Clay County

(Circuit 4)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Inter-agency partnerships
- Court, law enforcement, and agency cooperation

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Skills training
- Job placement
- Transportation

Greatest additional needs:
- Providers for mental health, substance-abuse, family counseling

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
- Available options are minimal for families needing transportation to court, counseling, treatment, juvenile assessment center, etc.

“Once sex-offending youth are court-ordered to stay away from other juveniles, they are often restricted from attending school.”
Collier County

(Circuit 20)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Civil citation
- Prevention programs, however additional prevention programs for girls would be a great benefit

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Sex offender services
- Day treatment
- Evidence-based treatment services

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth in the Immokalee area have limited services
- Youth in need of independent or other alternative living arrangements

“We have great prevention programs through CCSO; between our Juveniles At Risk (JAR) mentoring program and civil citation I really feel that we are getting the kids that are appropriate on probation. In Collier County we have a great community that communicates well in regards to the youth that we all serve.”
Columbia County

*(Circuit 3)*

**Resources in sufficient supply:**
- Family counseling
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Sex offender counseling
- Diversion programs

**Greatest needs identified from survey:**
- Structured activities/prevention programs
- Assistance for low-income youth in paying court fees
- Job skills training/job placement opportunities

**Greatest additional needs:**
- Job skills training/job placement opportunities – there is a lack of vocational opportunities as well as local employment opportunities in our communities.

**Populations with specific needs:**
- Low-income youth who have great difficulty paying court fees, fines, restitution, and lack adequate transportation to attend required services and/or work.

**Transportation issues:**
- Low-income youth lack transportation to attend required services, adult education programs and/or employment.

“There are no programs or services available to assist youth in meeting their court requirements for monetary sanctions. This issue results in longer supervision times with no other sanctions/requirements.”
DeSoto County

(Circuit 12)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Transition services for youth returning from residential programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Shelter beds
- Out-patient sex offender treatment
- Evidence-based treatment

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth charged with domestic violence
- DCF-involved and CINS/FINS youth
- Youth with sex offenses

Transportation issues:
- DeSoto youth who need shelter placement are sent to Manatee and Sarasota counties, as much as 70 miles from their homes. They are unable to continue attending their own schools because transportation is not feasible.
- There is no public transportation in DeSoto County. This makes it difficult for families without reliable transportation to get to and from various appointments.

“Currently there is no out-patient sex offender treatment provider in DeSoto County. Funded service is usually available in Manatee or Sarasota Counties, but many families are not able to travel to these counties on a regular basis for this service due to the distance. DeSoto County youth with sex offenses are more likely to be committed than other youth due to out-patient services not being available to them.”
Dixie County

(Circuit 3)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• Family counseling services
• Substance-abuse counseling
• Sex offender counseling
• Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• Structured activities/prevention programs
• Assistance for low-income youth to pay fines, court fees, and restitution
• Job skills training/job placement opportunities

Greatest additional needs:
• Job skills training/job placement opportunities
• Local employment opportunities

Populations with specific needs:
• Low-income youth have great difficulty in paying court fees, fines and restitution resulting in longer time on supervision and lack adequate transportation to attend required services and/or work when applicable.

Transportation issues:
• Low-income youth lack transportation to attend required services, adult education programs and/or employment.

“There are no after-school or summer programs in which our youth can participate, or adequate prevention programs for local youth to remain active in prosocial activities.”
Duval County

(Circuit 4)

**Resources in sufficient supply:**
- Cognitive-behavioral interventions
- Community planning/circuit board membership
- Community donations

**Greatest needs identified from survey:**
- Reporting center for detention-eligible youth
- Transportation
- Sex-offender day-treatment program

**Greatest additional needs:**
- Transitional housing for post-commitment youth

**Populations with specific needs:**
- Sex offenders

**Transportation issues:**
- Available options are minimal for families needing transportation to court, counseling, treatment, juvenile assessment center, etc.
Escambia County

(Circuit 1)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Residential and community-based substance-abuse treatment programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured after-school prevention activities
- Targeted skill building/job placement services
- Out-of-home placement programs for youth returning from sex offender programs

Populations with specific needs:
- Prevention programs targeted towards young populations (under 12)
Flagler County

(Circuit 7)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Out-patient sex offender counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Psychiatric services
- Medication management resources

Greatest additional needs:
- Respite beds

Populations with specific needs:
- Human trafficking victims

Transportation issues:
- Youth in rural parts of the county (Espinola, Bunnell, Andalusia) have transportation concerns

“There are no respite beds/services available within Flagler County. Youth must be transported and receive services outside of the county.”
Franklin County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- None

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Counseling services
- Transportation
- Mentoring programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

Transportation issues:
- Many youth and families do not have transportation.

“There are only three counseling service providers in Franklin County.”
Gadsden County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:

- None

Greatest needs identified from survey:

- Lack of in-home substance-abuse providers
- Mentoring programs
- Lack of day treatment providers

Populations with specific needs:

- All populations

“Gadsden County is lacking mentoring programs.”
Gilchrist County

(Circuit 8)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- In-home counseling services
- Out-patient substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient substance-abuse treatment for girls
- Targeted mental health management
- Vocational training

Greatest additional needs:
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Trauma counseling for youth and families

Populations with specific needs:
- Girls: Additional gender-specific services to address their needs, especially substance abuse.
- Youth with mental health issues: Providing treatment-based programs to address needs rather than DJJ commitment.

Transportation issues:
- Families have transportation problems getting to their assessments. Without early assessment, it is difficult to provide appropriate services.

“There are fewer part-time, entry-level positions in rural areas, making it difficult for many youth to obtain employment. Additional services are needed to teach employability skills and provide employment opportunities for at-risk youth.”
Glades County
(Circuit 20)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Migrant services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Anger management
- Prevention programs
- Mental health services
- Sex offender assessment and counseling

Greatest additional needs:
- Mental health services

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
- Lack of transportation

“There is a large sex offender population in Hendry/Glades and no assessment or counseling services are available in Hendry or Glades County- nor is there transportation to the treatment options available in Lee County. This leads to a significant number of the youth charged with a sex offense being committed to treatment programs.”
Gulf County
(Circuit 14)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Domestic violence education
- Counseling services with the exception of sex-offender counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transportation
- Gang members—alternative lifestyle education
- Parenting classes for youth who are parents, financial education classes – things that are directed at breaking the cycle of poverty

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth with a lack of structured activity options
- Youth with mental health issues who need in-patient treatment
- Younger youth with complex risk factors
- Gang members

Transportation issues:
- Youth and families must travel to Bay County to receive mental health, substance-abuse and sex offender counseling.

“Youth from low-income homes lack structured activity options. Gulf County has only the Washington Rec Center and lacks after-school programs.”
Hamilton County
(Circuit 3)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Family counseling services
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Sex offender counseling
- Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured activities/prevention programs
- Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
- Job skills training/job placement opportunities

Greatest additional needs:
- Substance-abuse/mental health assessment services

Populations with specific needs:
- Low-income youth have great difficulty in paying court fees, fines and restitution resulting in longer time on supervision.

Transportation issues:
- Low-income youth lack transportation to attend required services, adult education programs and/or employment.

“There is a lack of vocational opportunities as well as local employment opportunities in our communities.”
Hardee County

(Circuit 10)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community planning and inter-agency councils
- Community collaboration

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- There are no evidence-based services available in the area
- In-home mental health and substance-abuse services
- Diversion programs

Greatest additional needs:
- Transportation
- Additional Community Action Treatment (CAT) slots

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth charged with sex offenses have no services available within the county.
- Severe and persistent mentally ill youth

Transportation issues:
- Transportation continues to be a barrier in Hardee County.
Hendry County

(Circuit 20)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Migrant services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Anger management
- Prevention programs
- Mental health services
- Sex offender assessment and counseling

Greatest additional needs:
- Mental health services

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
- Lack of transportation

“There are no anger management services in the Hendry/Glades area that are low cost to the population of youth that we serve. Currently, there is an online anger management course that offers 4, 8, and 16 hour online courses, but it is costly, and without online services, usually, the youth is having to take that class at school, taking away from school time. The judge currently accepts this class. There is an anger management group available, but it is with adults, not just youth, and is very costly as well.”
Hernando County

(Circuit 5)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Project Connect
- Out-patient sex-offender counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Day-treatment programs
- Gender-specific program for girls

Greatest additional needs:
- Residential mental health and substance-abuse programs

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth assessed as moderate-high and high risk to reoffend would benefit from a day-treatment program.
- Girls in the community would benefit from a PACE Program.

Transportation issues:
- We need county-wide mass transit services.
Highlands County

(Circuit 10)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community planning and inter-agency councils
- Community collaboration

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-home mental health and substance-abuse counseling
- Non-DJJ diversion program
- Day-treatment program

Greatest additional needs:
- Transportation
- Respite beds
- Bi-lingual services
- Additional Community Action Treatment (CAT) slots

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth charged with sex offenses have no services available in the county
- Severe and persistent mentally ill youth

Transportation issues:
- Transportation continues to be a barrier in Highlands County.
Hillsborough County

(Circuit 13)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Family counseling
- Substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Respite beds for youth that been adjudicated or are crossover or post-commitment
- Human trafficking beds

Greatest additional needs:
- Job placement for youth 16 and older and employability skills training

Populations with specific needs:
- Post-commitment youth
- Human trafficking victims
- Crossover youth

Transportation issues:
- Youth under supervision need better transportation to access services.

“Local shelters require that the youth not have an adjudication or open DCF investigation in order to be eligible. We need a shelter that will take youth with higher needs.”
Holmes County

(Circuit 14)

Resources in sufficient supply:

- Domestic violence education
- Counseling services, except for sex offenders and substance abuse

Greatest needs identified from survey:

- Transportation
- Parenting classes for youth who are parents, financial education classes—things that are directed at breaking the cycle of poverty

Populations with specific needs:

- Sex offender youth do not have services available in Holmes County
- Youth with a lack of structured activity options
- Youth with mental health issues who need in-patient treatment
- Younger youth with complex risk factors
- Gang members

Transportation issues:

- Youth and families must drive to Washington, Jackson or Bay Counties for mental health, substance abuse and sex offender treatment services.
Indian River County

(Circuit 19)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Mental health counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Dual-diagnosis residential treatment program
- Financial assistance for indigent families
- Mental health court

Greatest additional needs:
- Housing and jobs for sex offenders

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
- Sex offenders cannot ride public transportation, which inhibits their access to services.

“We have a lot of juveniles who have mental health issues who would be better served via a mental health court instead of being placed on probation. Mental health courts are a type of problem solving court that combine judicial supervision with community health treatment and other support services to reduce criminal activity.”
Jackson County

(Circuit 14)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Domestic violence education
- Counseling services, except for sex offenders and substance abusers

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transportation
- Parenting classes for youth who are parents, financial education classes—things that are directed at breaking the cycle of poverty

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth with a lack of structured activity options
- Youth with mental health issues who need in-patient treatment
- Younger youth with complex risk factors
- Gang members

Transportation issues:
- Families that are low-income and reside in rural parts of the county have limited to no means of transportation.
Jefferson County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- None

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Counseling services
- Transportation
- Mentoring programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

Transportation issues:
- Many youth and families do not have adequate transportation.

“There is only one identified provider of counseling services in Jefferson County.”
Lafayette County

(Circuit 3)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Family counseling services
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Sex offender counseling
- Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured activities/prevention programs
- Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
- Lack of local employment opportunities

Greatest additional needs:
- Job skills training/job placement opportunities
- Local employment opportunities

Populations with specific needs:
- Low-income youth have great difficulty in paying court fees, fines and restitution resulting in longer time on supervision.

Transportation issues:
- Low-income youth lack transportation to attend required services, adult education programs and/or employment.

“There are no after-school or summer programs that our youth can participate as well as adequate prevention programs/activities for local youth to remain active in pro-social services.”
Lake County

(Circuit 5)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Civil citation
- Out-patient sex offender counseling
- Project Connect

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Drug screening
- In-patient drug rehab
- Job Corps program

Greatest additional needs:
- In-home counseling

Populations with specific needs:
- Moderate-high risk and high risk youth

Transportation issues:
- A lot of our families cannot afford transportation. It would be helpful if we had resources for vouchers for bus or cab rides.

“Substance use is becoming a bigger problem in all of the counties in Circuit 5. We currently have no drug rehab for youth in the 5th Circuit.”
Lee County

(Circuit 20)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Neighborhood accountability board
- Diversion programs (JDAP & Salus Care)

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transportation
- Mentoring
- Respite care for youth charged with domestic violence

Populations with specific needs:
- Pregnant teens
- Teens with infants

Transportation issues:
- Lee County has limited public transportation.

“There is very limited public transportation in Lee County. There are some areas and populations that have access to adequate public transportation, but there are a number of areas with limited public transportation. In those cases, families—many who are suffering financial hardships—have to travel long distances for court, counseling and other assessments.”
Leon County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Individual and family counseling
- Mentoring programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transportation
- Evidence-based programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

Transportation issues:
- Many youth and families do not have transportation.
Levy County

(Circuit 8)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• In-home counseling services
• Out-patient substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• In-patient substance-abuse treatment for girls
• Targeted mental health case management
• Vocational training

Greatest additional needs:
• Employability skills training
• Employment opportunities
• Trauma counseling for youth & families

Populations with specific needs:
• Girls: Additional gender-based services to address their needs, especially substance-abuse.
• Youth with mental health issues: Providing treatment programs to address needs rather than DJJ commitment.

Transportation issues:
• Families have transportation problems getting to their assessments. Without early assessment, it is difficult to provide appropriate services.

“'Youth with mental health issues are frequently placed into commitment due to the lack of intensive mental health programs that could better address their needs.’
Liberty County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- None

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Individual and family counseling
- Transportation
- Mentoring programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

Transportation issues:
- Many youth and families do not have transportation.

“There is a lack of mentoring programs available in Liberty County.”
Madison County

(Circuit 3)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• Family counseling services
• Substance-abuse counseling
• Sex offender counseling
• Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• Structured activities/prevention programs
• Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
• Substance-abuse/mental health assessment services

Greatest additional needs:
• Job skills training/job placement opportunities
• Local employment opportunities

Populations with specific needs:
• Low-income youth have great difficulty in paying court fees, fines and restitution resulting in longer time on supervision.

Transportation issues:
• Low-income youth lack transportation to attend required services, adult education programs and/or employment.

“There are no programs or services available to assist youth in meeting their court requirements for monetary sanctions. This issue results in longer supervision times with no other sanctions/requirements.”
Manatee County

(Circuit 12)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Transition services for youth returning from residential programs
- Cognitive-behavioral therapy
- Probation day-treatment

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Staff-secure shelter
- Independent living program
- Restitution program

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth charged with domestic violence
- Low-income youth
- CINS/FINS and runaway youth

“Manatee County does not have a staff-secure shelter that could be used for youth who need a more secure setting than that offered by our CINS shelter. Youth involved with human trafficking would benefit from a shelter that would give them a safe place to receive services. Youth with domestic violence charges and youth who meet detention criteria but require a more secure setting than offered by our CINS shelter would also benefit.”
Marion County

(Circuit 5)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Project Connect
- Civil citation
- Out-patient sex offender counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Respite program for adjudicated youth
- Substance-abuse treatment
- Mentors

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth assessed as moderate-high and high risk to reoffend

Transportation issues:
- We need county-wide mass transit services.
Martin County

*(Circuit 19)*

**Resources in sufficient supply:**
- Mental health counseling agencies
- After-school programming for elementary youth

**Greatest needs identified from survey:**
- Police athletic league
- In-county dual-diagnosis residential treatment program
- Day-treatment program

“*We have a lack of programs for females like PACE in Martin County. PACE used to serve this county years ago, but funding went away.*”

**Greatest additional needs:**
- After-school activities for middle-school youth
- Transitional housing for sex offenders

**Populations with specific needs:**
- Young black males
- Teen mothers who have dropped out of school
Miami-Dade County

(Circuit 11)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Cognitive-behavioral interventions
- Diversion programs
- Community planning, inter-agency councils and task forces

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Human trafficking safe homes
- In-patient substance-abuse program for girls
- Skill building/structured activities

Greatest additional needs:
- Vocational training and services

Populations with specific needs:
- Human trafficking population

Transportation issues:
- Youth in southern Miami-Dade are less likely to participate in specialized services due to lack of transportation and proximity to programming.

“We have about sixty verified/possible human trafficking victims on supervision. This population is difficult to engage due to constantly absconding from supervision. Also, a large percentage of these victims are involved with the dependency system, making placement inconsistent every time the youth is picked up from absconder status.”
Monroe County

(Circuit 16)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Drug testing
- Domestic violence respite beds
- Civil citation
- Teen court

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient substance-abuse treatment facility
- Mental health providers
- Vocational/technical/trade training/alternatives to formal education

Greatest additional needs:
- Out-patient sex offender treatment throughout entire county

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders
- Substance-abuse clients

Transportation & Location issues:
- Monroe youth must be transported to Miami for certain specialized services. This is a hardship for all families; in a time of high stress and need, placing a youth potentially 140 miles away from their hometown and surrounding support system ends up being an added stressor.

“Monroe County consistently has one of the highest percentages of youth with substance-abuse issues in the state of Florida, yet there are no in-patient treatment programs in the Circuit. We have the out-patient component through Drug Court, but the residential part is a serious problem (for example, we recently had a female youth in need of residential substance-abuse treatment and the only place we could find for her was in the Orlando area).”
Nassau County

(Circuit 4)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Inter-agency cooperation (courts, law-enforcement, non-profits)

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Additional providers
- Transportation
- Independent living program

Greatest additional needs:
- Housing options for transient youth

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders
- Youth transitioning out of commitment

Transportation issues:
- Available options are minimal for families needing transportation to court, counseling, treatment, juvenile assessment center, etc.
Okaloosa County

(Circuit 1)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community-based treatment services for mental health
- Substance abuse treatment services for urban areas of the county

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Pre-arrest diversion programs (civil citation) for non-school based offenses
- Community-based mental health and substance-abuse services for youth in the rural portions of the county

Greatest additional needs:
- Residential treatment services for mental health and substance abuse for youth anywhere in the county

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth returning to the community from sex offender programs

Transportation issues:
- The county provides a very limited public transportation system. Access to treatment services of any sort is limited for youth that do not live within the urban areas of the county. Some services are only available in Fort Walton, which requires families located in Crestview to drive more than 30 miles one way to obtain access to community-based services.

“We see greater problems with children that have committed sex offenses and are not allowed to return to their custodial home. In many of these cases, the guardians/parents are forced to maintain a second residence to follow the mandates of the court.”
Okeechobee County

Circuit 19

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Summer youth programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured activities/prevention programs
- Intensive family counseling
- Job opportunities and work experience

Greatest additional needs:
- Mentoring programs

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders
- Poverty is an issue for most of the community

Transportation issues:
- Transportation is a problem—youth have difficulty making it to their appointments in the community and out of town.

“Intensive family counseling is needed and represents a very big gap in services. If there is a program, there is a long wait list...”
Orange County

(Circuit 9)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Day treatment
- Out-patient substance-abuse counseling
- Targeted case management

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Increased funding for community-based in-patient mental health treatment
- Employment assistance for youth returning from secure residential facilities
- Placement services for homeless youth and families

Greatest additional needs:
- Day-treatment services for NE side of the County

Populations with specific needs:
- The Haitian community

Transportation issues:
- As Orange County continues to grow the transportation time from one area to another within the county is increasing. This causes youth to be ineligible for day-treatment programs.

“The majority of our youth returning from a residential placement are in their late teens and are at high risk of entering the adult justice system. Many of these youth have a strong internal inclination to join the work force—they must begin to contribute to the maintenance of their households. Many return from a residential facility with certificates of completed vocational training; however, we fall short when it comes to assisting with a rewarding job placement.”
Osceola County

(Circuit 9)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Out-patient substance-abuse
- Targeted case management
- Academic services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Day-treatment programs in Poinciana and St. Cloud
- Vocational training services
- Additional funding for Oasis program

Populations with specific needs:
- Hispanics currently make up 51% of the residents in Osceola.

Transportation issues:
- Youth living in the Poinciana and St. Cloud communities live too far from Kissimmee to be served by the Paxen day-treatment program.

“Osceola youth would certainly benefit from a vocational program such as Home Builders Institute. Currently, there are no DJJ-sponsored vocational programs in Osceola County.”
Palm Beach County

(Circuit 15)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Out-patient individual and substance-abuse and mental health counseling services
- Psychiatric and medication management services
- Case management services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient substance-abuse services
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Mentoring programs for males and females

Greatest additional needs:
- Respite for dually-diagnosed youth

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders have very few affordable out-patient services and no in-patient services available in Palm Beach County.

“We currently have eight FFT slots available for youth and families. There is a constant waitlist for the evidence-based services which often leads to further family discord. Due to long waitlist, youth are often referred to other counseling services that have not been proven to be more effective than FFT for working with families and changing negative behaviors.”
Pasco County

(Circuit 6)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community planning/inter-agency councils
- Anger-management treatment
- Substance-abuse education/prevention

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Out-and in-patient substance-abuse therapy
- Out-and in-patient mental health therapy
- Parenting classes for youth

Greatest additional needs:
- Transitional and independent-living services for youth unable to return home and/or over the age of 18
- Transportation services

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth who have sexual behavior issues

Transportation issues:
- Transportation continues to be a significant barrier in Pasco County. Despite a small expansion in the routes for the public bus transit system, there are still several areas, mostly low-income, that the bus does not serve.

“Pasco County has a growing number of teen parents. Wrap-around services, to include parenting classes, would provide the structure and support needed by this population while ensuring the safety of the newborns.”
Pinellas County

*(Circuit 6)*

**Resources in sufficient supply:**
- Community planning and collaboration
- Civil citation and diversion programs
- Agencies that provide assessments and therapeutic counseling for youth under the age of 18

**Greatest needs identified from survey:**
- Therapeutic group homes
- Step-down services for youth being released from residential mental health treatment programs
- System-of-care case management

**Greatest additional needs:**
- Flexible funding
- Transitional or independent-living services for youth who cannot return home and/or are over the age of 18
- Free or low-cost counseling services for youth over 18 years of age

**Populations with specific needs:**
- Crossover (DJJ/DCF) youth
- Severe and persistent mentally-ill youth

**Transportation issues:**
- Transportation continues to be a significant problem to the youth and families in Pinellas County. Inadequate transportation hinders access to needed services.

“The Pinellas County System of Care needs system navigators or a centralized case manager to guide families through the system of care and assist with the access of appropriate services. This system navigator would connect the families with the resources they need for not only treatment, but also those needed to thrive as a unit in the community.”
Polk County

(Circuit 10)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community planning and inter-agency councils
- Community collaboration

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Case management diversion programs
- In-home mental health counseling
- In-home substance-abuse counseling
- Trauma-informed care counseling

Greatest additional needs:
- Bi-lingual services
- Additional respite beds
- Additional Community Action Treatment (CAT) slots

Populations with specific needs:
- Transgender youth
- Youth with severe mental health problems
- Homeless youth

Transportation issues:
- Youth in rural areas have difficulty getting transportation to available services.
Putnam County

(Circuit 7)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Prevention programs
- Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient psychiatric facility or Children’s Crisis Stabilization Unit
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Mentoring programs

Greatest additional needs:
- In-County Baker Act/CCSU Facility

Populations with specific needs:
- Girls need gender-specific programming

Transportation issues:
- Putnam County is a very rural county, yet youth that reside in isolated areas still require services. There is not currently a reliable means of public transportation for these areas.

“There is a lack of community-based programs that deal with female gender-specific issues. Instead, girls are usually placed in programs designed for boys.”
St. Johns County

(Resources in sufficient supply):
- Out-patient substance-abuse counseling
- Family/individual counseling
- Mentoring programs
- Boys/Girls Club

(Greatest needs identified from survey):
- Substance-abuse residential treatment facility
- Day-treatment program
- CINS/FINS shelter

(Greatest additional needs):
- In-county CINS/FINS shelter

(Transportation issues):
- Youth that reside in outlying parts of the county (Hastings, Elkton, etc.) are unable to access resources available within Saint Augustine. Transportation is a huge issue and there is no reliable public transportation available in these rural areas.

“There are no respite beds/resources available within St. Johns County. Youth who qualify for such services must be transported out of the county (Duval). There needs to be a CINS/FINS shelter within the county.”
St. Lucie County

(Resources in sufficient supply:
  • Mental health counseling)

(Greatest needs identified from survey:
  • Culturally competent mentoring
  • Consequence unit for probation violators
  • Increased employment opportunities for youth)

(Greatest additional needs:
  • Programs for youth age 12 and under
  • Housing and counseling for youth age 18 and older)

(Populations with specific needs:
  • Sex offenders (transitional housing)
  • Gang-involved youth)

“We have a need for diverse, culturally competent, evidence-based mentoring, especially for African American males. The Roundtable of St. Lucie County completed an assessment of community resources and gaps earlier this year and this was one that will be selected as a goal for that organization.”
Santa Rosa County

(Circuit 1)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Residential treatment services for mental health and substance abuse
- Community-based mental health and substance-abuse services for youth in the rural parts of the county

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth returning to the community from sex offender programs

Transportation issues:
- There is no public transportation in Santa Rosa County. Services are provided in Milton which is located near the center of the county. Youth located on the outskirts of the county cannot access services in Milton, unless they are able to provide their own transportation.

“Residential services are only provided in Pensacola which is 30 to 50 miles away, depending upon which part of the county. This distance can make family participation difficult or impossible.”
Sarasota County

(Circuit 12)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Transition services for youth returning from residential programs
- Cognitive-behavioral therapy
- Probation day-treatment

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Restitution program
- Staff-secure shelter
- Independent living

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth charged with domestic violence
- Human-trafficked youth
- Substance-using youth
- Low-income youth
- CINS/FINS and runaway youth

“At times restitution and fees are the last sanction youth have to complete to have their supervision cases closed. Creating a program that would allow youth to perform meaningful public-service type work in exchange for money that would go directly to restitution and fees would not only help youth successfully complete their court-ordered supervision but would also help compensate victims and the court system. Funds could be generated via grants, donations or other fines.”
Seminole County

(Circuit 18)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Mental health services
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Wrap-around services for families

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Job skills and placement services
- Problem sexual behavior services
- Independent living

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders
- Homeless youth not eligible for CBC/DCF services

“Community services for sex offenders are beyond the financial reach of most families and providers that are willing to work with uninsured or underinsured youth are not acknowledged as accepted providers by the judicial system.”
Sumter County

(Circuit 5)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Project Connect
- Out-patient sex-offender counseling
- Civil citation

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Drug-screen waivers for indigent families
- Youth shelter/respite care
- Trauma treatment

Greatest additional needs:
- In-home services

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth that are involved with human trafficking

Transportation issues:
- We need county-wide mass transit services.

“Sumter County has a high number of youth with trauma histories and related problems. We would like to have counseling or therapy specifically geared toward trauma.”
Suwannee County

(Circuit 3)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Family counseling services
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Sex offender counseling
- Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured activities/prevention programs
- Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
- Substance-abuse/mental health assessment services

Greatest additional needs:
- Job skills training/job placement opportunities
- Local employment opportunities

Populations with specific needs:
- Low-income youth have great difficulty in paying court fees, fines and restitution--resulting in longer time on supervision--and lack adequate transportation to attend required services and/or work when applicable.

Transportation issues:
- Low-income youth lack transportation to attend required services, adult education programs and/or employment.

“There are no after school or summer programs that our youth can participate in, and inadequate prevention programs/activities for local youth to remain active in pro-social services.”
Taylor County

(Circuit 3)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Family counseling services
- Substance-abuse counseling
- Sex offender counseling
- Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured activities/prevention programs
- Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
- Substance-abuse/mental health assessment services

Greatest additional needs:
- Job skills training/job placement opportunities
- Local employment opportunities

Populations with specific needs:
- Low-income youth have great difficulty in paying court fees, fines and restitution resulting in longer time on supervision and lack adequate transportation to attend required services and/or work when applicable.

Transportation issues:
- Low-income youth lack transportation to attend required services, adult education programs and/or employment

“There are no programs or services available to assist youth in meeting their court requirements for monetary sanctions. This issue results in longer supervision times with no other sanctions/requirements.”
Union County
(Circuit 8)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• In-home counseling services
• Out-patient substance-abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• In-patient substance-abuse treatment for girls
• Targeted mental health case management
• Vocational training

Greatest additional needs:
• Employability skills training
• Employment opportunities
• Trauma counseling for youth & families

Populations with specific needs:
• Girls: Additional gender-based services to address their needs, especially substance abuse.
• Youth with mental health issues: Treatment-based programs to address needs rather than DJJ commitment.

Transportation issues:
• Families have transportation problems getting to their assessments.
  Without early assessment, it is difficult to provide appropriate intervention.

“Youth with mental health issues are frequently placed into commitment due to the lack of intensive mental health programs that could better address their needs.”
Volusia County

(Circuit 7)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• Cognitive-behavioral therapy
• Redirections
• Day treatment

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• Vocational programs/resources
• Additional sex offender services

Greatest additional needs:
• In- and out-patient psychiatric services for east side of county
• Substance-abuse services providers for west side of county

Populations with specific needs:
• Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
• Volusia County is an extremely large county and rural parts throughout (Pierson, Seville, Oak Hill, etc.) do not have access to public transportation.

“We have only one provider of sex-offender services (DJJ contracted) and if a youth/family is unsuccessful with this service, there is a lack of other options available.”
Wakulla County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• None

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• Mentoring programs
• Lack of day-treatment services
• Transportation

Populations with specific needs:
• All populations

Transportation issues:
• Many youth and families do not have any transportation.

“There is a lack of day treatment services in Wakulla County, which includes evidence-based programs (EBPs).”
Walton County

(Circuit 1)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Residential mental health and substance abuse treatment services for youth
- Community-based mental health and substance-abuse services for youth in the rural sections of the county
- Domestic violence services for youth

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth returning to the community from sex offender programs

Transportation issues:
- There is no public transportation in Walton county, which means that youth who do not live within walking distance of the provider will not be able to access services that are available.

“Residential services are only available in Pensacola which is located 70 to 100 miles away, depending upon the location within the county. This presents barriers to family and community involvement in the treatment process.”
Resources in sufficient supply:
- Domestic violence education
- Counseling services, except for sex offenders and substance abuse

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transportation
- Parenting classes for youth who are parents, financial education classes—things that are directed at breaking the cycle of poverty

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offender youth do not have services available in Washington County
- Youth with a lack of structured activity options
- Youth with mental health issues who need in-patient treatment
- Younger youth with complex risk factors
- Gang members

Transportation issues:
- Families who are low-income and reside in rural parts of the county have limited transportation.