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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 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/docs/comm/roadmap-to-system-excellence-results-march-1-20157CBA9B6C7BF8.pdf?sfvrsn=2](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/comm/roadmap-to-system-excellence-results-march-1-20157CBA9B6C7BF8.pdf?sfvrsn=2)) 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, until recently no analyses have addressed the implementation and impact of reform efforts at the county and circuit levels. In response to this information gap, beginning in the 2014-15 General Appropriations Act and continued subsequently, the Legislature directed the Department to “…conductor 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 2018 Service Continuum Analysis is the fifth annual Service Continuum report. A wide range of information and data were 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-2018](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2018)

**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**

Beginning in 2011, the Department implemented an online Community Resource Guide (CRG). Staff statewide input information on local programs and resources for youth, and information was published to the web by the Office of Research and Data Integrity. The CRG is a robust, living database into which Circuit-level staff may input information on local programs and resources at any time. The information collected in the CRG is available to the public on the DJJ webpage as part of the interactive Service Continuum Analysis dashboard, available at: [http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2018](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2018).
In preparation for the end-of-year analysis, Chief Probation Officers (CPOs) and their staff reviewed and updated entries in the CRG, and also responded to a survey identifying:

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, subsequent surveys have been 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 21 of this report.

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 and family mental health/substance-abuse counseling** were noted as a top need by just over half of Florida’s counties (34 in total). Six counties noted a need specifically for inpatient/residential substance-abuse or mental health treatment, while outpatient services were identified as a top need for nine counties. Moreover, substance-dependent or mentally ill youth were identified as a population in need of special attention by 18 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 29 counties.

**Mentoring** was noted as a top need by 16 counties.

**Structured activities/prevention programs** were noted as a top need by 16 counties, and youth eligible for prevention programs were identified as a special population in five counties.
Sex offender services were noted as a top need by 14 counties, with needs such as transitional housing for sex offenders and sex offender day-treatment services described. Sex offenders were considered by 17 counties to be a population in need of special attention. Outpatient sex offender services were specifically identified by 6 counties as a top need. Conversely, 14 counties listed sex offender counseling as being one of the resources in sufficient supply to meet needs.

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.

Financial assistance was listed as a top need by 13 counties, with services such as drug screening vouchers for indigent families and programs to help youth pay court fees and restitution mentioned. Bay county specifically highlighted financial assistance as a significant barrier to youth and family success while under court supervision.

Gender-specific programs were listed as a top need by 5 counties; girls were identified by 14 counties as a special population in need of services.

Services for human trafficking victims were noted as a top need by 3 counties, and trafficking victims were identified as a population in need of special attention in 7 counties.

Special note: Transportation and access to services. As in prior years’ surveys, transportation needs were a common theme in the responses. Transportation issues present barriers to service for some youth and families, and nearly every Florida county identified some special barrier or challenge that lack of transportation presented to providing services to families. In rural counties, there is often a complete lack of public transportation; buses may not reach areas of the county where youth live, and the cost of using public transportation can be a barrier even when it is available. In rural areas, lack of bus service and parents’ inability to afford transportation was often noted as a barrier to service. In total, 62 of Florida’s 67 counties noted transportation issues as a barrier to services.

Additional, detailed county-level information on 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-2018](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2018) 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, use 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).
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. Selecting a Mentoring Program in Hillsborough County

![Figure 3: Selecting a Mentoring Program in Hillsborough County]

Figure 4: Program Information Screen

![Figure 4: Program Information Screen]
Local Measures of Progress on Reform Goals

Because a key requirement 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. By avoiding an arrest, youth can avoid barriers to college admission, scholarships, job opportunities, and military enlistment. Youth who complete civil citation programs have a remarkably favorable 95% success rate (for FY 2016-17 completers). During FY 2017-18, statewide, 62% of eligible youth received civil citations, up from 55% in FY 2016-17.¹ Please visit [http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-data/interactive-data-reports/civil-citation-and-other-alternatives-to-arrest](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-data/interactive-data-reports/civil-citation-and-other-alternatives-to-arrest) 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. Statewide, school-related arrests dropped 28% between Fiscal Year 2013-14 and Fiscal Year 2017-18, from 10,331 to 7,406.

3. **Adherence to the validated, evidence-based dispositional matrix placement guidelines.** Research tracking thousands of youth in Florida, conducted by two different researchers over two unique time frames, 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 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. Statewide, during FY 2017-18, 91% of dispositions

¹ This utilization rate only includes first-time misdemeanants
were within the “optimal” or “appropriate” range. Statewide, this measure has remained nearly stable over the past five years. To review the department’s validation studies on the outcomes of adherence to research-based placement recommendations, please visit: http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/research2/the-fdjj-disposition-matrix-validation-study.pdf?sfvrsn=0.

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 dispositional matrix guidelines, costly and restrictive residential commitment is typically reserved for youth who truly require that higher level of restrictiveness. Since FY 2010-11, commitments of low- and moderate-risk youth have dropped from 27% to 12%.

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” or “appropriate” based on the dispositional 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 2017-18 Percent of Eligible Youth Issued Civil Citations*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Civil Citation Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alachua</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian River</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Lucie</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hernando</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevard</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suwannee</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escambia</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volusia</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desoto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hernando</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counties with fewer than ten eligible misdemeanant arrests are not displayed. Counties that are shown with 0% indicate that there were more than 10 eligible misdemeanant arrests, but no alternative was issued.
Table 2. FY 2017-18 School-related Arrests*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select Performance Measure</th>
<th>School Arrest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendry</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasco</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagler</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
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<td>Holmes</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlands</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suwannee</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hernando</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
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<td>Desoto</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okaloosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilchrist</td>
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<td>St Lucie</td>
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<td>Clay</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glades</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wakulla</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citrus</td>
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<td>Levy</td>
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<td>Okeechobee</td>
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<td>Gadsden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collier</td>
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<td>Santa Rosa</td>
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<td>St Johns</td>
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<td>Alachua</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counties with fewer than ten school-related arrests are not displayed. Counties that are shown with 0% indicate that there were more than ten arrests, but none were school-related.
Table 3. FY 2017-18 Optimum Disposition Level Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Optimum Rate</th>
<th>Appropriate Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevard</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suwannee</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian River</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>93.4%</td>
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<td>Madison</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Jefferson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gadsden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
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<td>Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
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<td>Calhoun</td>
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*Counties with fewer than ten youth disposed are not displayed.*
Table 4. Commitments of Low- and Moderate-Risk to Reoffend Youth*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low/Mod Risk Commitment</th>
<th>Percentage of youth disposed to commitment who were low or moderate risk to re-offend</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suwannee</td>
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<td>Volusia</td>
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<td>Nassau</td>
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<td>Lake</td>
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<td>34.6%</td>
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<td>Manatee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okeechobee</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevard</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
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</table>

*Counties with fewer than ten youth disposed to commitment are not displayed.
Additional, detailed data regarding the status of key reform initiatives can be accessed in an interactive web-based format http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/reports-and-data/static-research-reports/service-continuum-analysis/service-continuum-analysis-2018 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).

Figure 5: County-level Performance Indicators (Palm Beach County example)
The county-level charts enable the user to view the county five-year trend, benchmarked against the statewide five-year trend. For example, in Figure 5 (above) Palm Beach County has been selected. The School-Related Arrests display shows that the county’s school arrest rate has been below the statewide rate for the past five fiscal years. The Civil Citation Rate display shows that the rate of civil citation issuance in this county 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 disposed to residential commitment who are assessed as low and moderate risk to reoffend has mostly trended below the statewide rate. The Optimum and Appropriate Dispositions display shows that the percentage of Palm Beach youth who are disposed within optimum and appropriate ranges has tracked closely with the statewide average over the past five 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 and substance abuse treatment, both in-patient and out-patient cited. Other commonly cited gaps in the two survey phases included:

- Job-related and/or life skills training and counseling
- Mentoring
- Structured activities/prevention programs
- Sex offender services

Most circuits noted some gaps with regard to 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.

Gang members and gang associates are a population with specific needs, as indicated by a few counties. While they cause a disproportionate amount of crime, our research, along with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s statistics, show that they comprise a relatively small percentage of offenders. Approximately 4% of youth arrested have some type of gang alert, and 1.4% of youth arrested are documented gang members.
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 Highlands and Polk Counties noted a need for Applied Behavior Analyst services. 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 with regard to Circuit and County-level implementation of key reform initiatives.

**Civil Citation:** In Fiscal Year 2017-18, the statewide issuance rate for civil citations was 62% (of eligible youth). While a number of counties issued civil citations at rates that far exceeded the statewide average, a number of counties have very low rates of issuance, and a few counties issued zero civil citations during the fiscal year. The Department provides resources, such as Best Practices Guidelines and easily accessible data to ensure that law enforcement and local stakeholders have the right information to make decisions that will best impact their communities. Civil Citation and other similar prearrest diversions are tied to local policy and officer discretion, they have demonstrated low recidivism rates of between 4 and 5 percent points 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.

**School-related arrests:** Statewide, in Fiscal Year 2017-18, 17% of juvenile arrests were school-related. 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.

**Adherence to the Disposition Matrix Evidence-Based Placement:** Adherence to the Dispositional Matrix is associated with reduced recidivism. Statewide, a relatively high 91% of dispositions are “optimal” or “appropriate” based on the Matrix. However, a number of counties are well below the average. 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 of youth served in those counties.

**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 Dispositional Matrix, as adherence to the Matrix recommendations reduces commitments of low- and moderate-risk youth. During Fiscal Year 2017-18, statewide, 12% 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 46%. Through adherence to the Disposition Matrix, commitments of low- and moderate-risk youth can be expected to decline.
Appendix I

County Summary Sheets
Alachua County

(Circuit 8)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Vocational training
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Contracted provider for Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) assessments
- Transitional Housing Program in Alachua County
- Funding for psychiatric evaluations

“Obtaining SAMH assessments early in the juvenile justice process identifies youth’s criminogenic needs, allowing for better case planning and services.”

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 or 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.
Baker County

(Circuit 8)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Vocational services
- Funding for psychiatric evaluations
- Educational alternatives
- Contracted provider for SAMH assessments

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.
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 northern section of the county and beaches area, especially substance-abuse counseling
- Expanded version of Functional Family Therapy (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 youths 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
- Trauma counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Civil citation
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Contracted provider for SAMH assessments
- Funding for psychiatric evaluations
- Educational alternatives

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.

“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:
- Mental health providers
- Pregnancy and parenting supports
- Community services options

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Affordable after school programs
- Mentors

Populations with specific needs:
- Girls with sexual traumatic history

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
- Respite programs (with the addition of Covenant House)

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Youth in foster care are unable to receive additional services when in a group home due to double billing.
- Youth over 18-years-old need services and transitional (housing) funding
- Residential substance abuse services, especially for girls
- Short-term, residential re-entry portal

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth over 18 years of age
- 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.”
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
- Sex offender and substance abuse counseling

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

Transportation issues:
- Youths 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:
- Civil Citation
- Juvenile arbitration
- Juvenile Diversion Alternative Program (JDAP)
- Project Bridge (aftercare program)
- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Functional Family Therapy

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 (transition services)
- In-home substance abuse/mental health services
- Drug screens

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Gender-specific program for girls
- Transportation
- In-patient substance-abuse services
- Community service worksites

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth with history of trauma, runaway and human trafficking

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

“Substance abuse is prevalent in the community. We have no inpatient substance abuse treatment facilities for youth in the 5th Circuit. We must utilize Inpatient facilities in other Circuits that make it extremely difficult for our families to transport and/or visit. These facilities usually have a waiting list or funding has been used up”
Clay County

(Circuit 4)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Skills training
- Job placement
- Transportation
- 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, the Juvenile Assessment Center, and other services.

“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:
• Strong community involvement and partnerships, including with Collier County Sheriff’s Office
• Civil citation
• Prevention programs, however additional prevention programs for girls would be a great benefit
• Functional Family Therapy

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• Crisis units
• Specific programs to address human trafficking once it is identified
• Sex offender services
• Evidence-based treatment services
• Aftercare for youth released from commitment programs

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 regard 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 and job placement opportunities

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
- Court, law enforcement, and DJJ cooperation

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Shelter beds/domestic violence respite 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.

“There is no sex offender treatment in DeSoto County. Juvenile Sex Offenders must either travel to Manatee or Sarasota County for treatment or face commitment.”
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
• 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 pro-social activities.”
Duval County
(Circuit 4)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Transitional housing for post-commitment youth
- Transportation
- Sex offender day-treatment program

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders
- LGBTQ youth

Transportation issues:
- Available options are minimal for families needing transportation to court, counseling, treatment, Juvenile Assessment Center, etc.

“The LGBTQ community is a growing population that is in need of support in Duval County.”
Escambia County

(Circuit 1)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community based substance abuse treatment programs
- In-home counseling programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Residential substance abuse programming
- Structured afterschool prevention activities
- Targeted skill building and job placement services
- Out-of-home placement programs for youth returning from sex offender programs
- Independent living programming

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth 12 years and younger
- Substance-abusing adolescents

Transportation issues:
- There continues to be a challenge with transportation in the northern part of the county. Bus transportation is not available in that area and clients required to meet with their JPOs must travel 45 minutes to an hour to get to the nearest office.

“With the loss of our only residential drug treatment program for adolescents this year, we now have no treatment facilities in our four county Circuit. The closest program beyond the circuit was destroyed by Hurricane Michael in Panama City.”
Flagler County

(Circuit 7)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Psychiatric services
- Medication management resources
- 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/mental health
- Transportation
- Mentoring programs
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Prevention programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

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

“Franklin County is lacking counseling, mentoring, and prevention programs.”
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
- Prevention programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

Transportation issues:
- Lack of transportation and geographic distance create barriers to services. JPOs transport youth when they can.

“Gadsden County is lacking mentoring and prevention programs.”
Gilchrist County

(Circuit 8)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Vocational training
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Contracted provider for SAMH assessments
- Funding for psychiatric evaluations

“There are fewer part-time, entry-level position in rural areas, making it difficult for many youths to obtain employment. Additional services are needed to teach employability skills and provide employment opportunities for at risk youth.”

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.
Glades County

(Circuit 20)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Migrant services
- Functional Family Therapy
- Project Bridge (transition services)

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

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
- Lack of transportation is a barrier to services.

“There is a large sex offender population in Hendry or 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
- Substance abuse counseling
- 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 Recreational 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
- 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 interagency 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
- Transportation
- Diversion programs
- 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
- Bilingual youth (need more bilingual service providers)

Transportation issues:
- Lack of public transportation continues to be a barrier in Hardee County.
Hendry County

(Circuit 20)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• Migrant services
• Functional Family Therapy
• Project Bridge (transition services)

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

Greatest additional needs:
• Mental health services

Populations with specific needs:
• Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
• Lack of transportation is a barrier in Hendry County.

“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. Without online services, usually, the youth has 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:
- Out-patient sex offender counseling
- In-home substance abuse/mental health treatment
- Project Connect (transition services)
- Drug Screens
- PACE Center for Girls

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Crisis stabilization unit for the county
- Alternative education for boys
- 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.
- More services for dually-served youth

Transportation issues:
- Public transportation doesn’t run on the weekends or holidays.

“We only have one group treatment site for juvenile drug treatment and one group treatment site for juvenile sex offenders. Transportation to them is limited if the parents are unable or unwilling to take off work or drive youth to these sites, which are not centrally located.”
Highlands County

(Circuit 10)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community planning and interagency councils
- Community collaboration

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-home mental health and substance abuse counseling
- Non-DJJ diversion program
- Day-treatment program
- Transportation
- Respite beds
- Bilingual services
- Juvenile detox facility
- ABA 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:
- In-home therapeutic counseling services
- Mentoring services for juvenile justice involved youth
- Job placement for youth aged 16 and older and employability skills training

Populations with specific needs:
- Juvenile justice-involved youth with mental health issues
- Crossover youth

Transportation issues:
- Youth under supervision need better means of transportation to access services. We try to provide bus passes but have limited funds.

“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 levels of 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 County for mental health, substance abuse and sex offender treatment services.
Indian River County
(Circuit 19)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Mental health counseling
- Substance abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Dual-diagnosis residential treatment program
- Financial assistance for indigent families
- Mental health court
- Housing and jobs for sex offenders
- Affordable residential treatment for 18-year-old youth

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 youth with substance abuse issues

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
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Prevention programs

“Jefferson County is lacking counseling, mentoring, and prevention programs.”

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

Transportation issues:
- Youth and families lack available and reliable transportation to attend all appointments, including treatment services.
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 and prevention programs
- Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
- Lack of 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 in which 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:
- Out-patient sex offender counseling
- Project Connect (transition services)
- Diversion programs (Teen Court and JDAP)
- In-home substance abuse and mental health services
- Drug screenings

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Counseling for victims of sexual assault and human trafficking victims
- In-patient drug rehabilitation
- Job Corps program (vocational training)

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

Transportation issues:
- Many of our families cannot afford transportation. Resources for bus or taxi vouchers would be useful.

“Substance abuse 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:
- Civil Citation
- Counseling services
- Neighborhood accountability board
- Diversion programs (JDAP & Salus Care)
- Sex offender treatment

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

Populations with specific needs:
- Pregnant teens
- Teens with infants
- Gender-specific programs for girls

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 assessments.”
Leon County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Individual and family counseling
- Mentoring programs
- In-home counseling services
- Out-patient substance abuse counseling

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

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

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

(Circuit 8)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Vocational training
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Contracted provider for SAMH assessments
- Funding for psychiatric evaluations

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.
- 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.

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

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- None

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Individual and family counseling
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Transportation
- Mentoring programs
- Vocational training
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Prevention programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

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

“There is a lack of counseling and mentoring programs available in Liberty County.”
Resources in sufficient supply:
- Family counseling services
- Substance abuse counseling
- Sex offender counseling
- Diversion programs

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured activities and prevention programs
- Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
- Substance abuse and mental health assessment services
- Employability skills training
- 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
- Evidence-based treatment
- Diversion programs
- Interagency partnerships and councils

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Staff-secure shelter
- Independent living program
- Reporting center for home detention youths

“Domestic violence youth do not qualify for civil citation in Manatee County. Those charges are often dropped, and the youth and family receive no services.”

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth charged with domestic violence
- Cross-over youths
- Low-income youth
- CINS/FINS and runaway youth
Marion County

(Circuit 5)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Project Connect (transition services)
- Civil citation
- Out-patient sex offender counseling
- In-home substance abuse and mental health treatment
- Drug screenings

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Substance abuse treatment
- Mentors/mentorship programs
- Alternative education

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

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

“Mentoring provides a positive partnership that enhances one’s ability to create themselves in their own image for growth. There are limited mentorship programs that are actively engaging youth in Marion County”
Martin County

(Circuit 19)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• Mental health counseling agencies
• Substance abuse counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• Dual-diagnosis residential treatment programs
• Expansion of afterschool programs for middle school youth
• Community service sites
• Housing and employment for sex offenders
• Transitional housing for youth over 18
• Employment opportunities
• Affordable residential treatment for 18-year-old youth
• Mental health-focused juvenile receiving center

“\(\text{We have a lack of programs for girls, such as PACE, in Martin County. PACE used to serve this county years ago, but funding went away.}\)"

Populations with specific needs:
• Sex offenders
• Young black males
• Teen parents who need low-income housing

Transportation issues:
• There is a lack of public transportation, particularly from Indiantown. Youth who do have access to public transportation would benefit from bus passes.
Miami-Dade County

(Circuit 11)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Cognitive-behavioral interventions
- Substance abuse and mental health services
- Diversion programs
- Community planning, interagency councils and task forces

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Human trafficking safe homes
- In-patient substance abuse program for girls
- Vocational training and services for probation youth

Populations with specific needs:
- Human trafficking population
- Crossover youth

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 significant percentage of these victims are involved with the dependency system, making placement inconsistent every time the youth returns from absconder status.”
Monroe County

(Circuit 16)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-patient substance abuse treatment facility
- Out-patient treatment for sex offender throughout entire County
- Vocational training or alternatives to formal education

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:
- Interagency cooperation (courts, law enforcement, and non-profits)
- Mental health and substance abuse services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Additional providers
- Transportation
- Independent living program
- Housing options for transient youth

“Nassau County is in need of a homeless shelter.”

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

Transportation issues:
- Available options are minimal for families needing transportation to court, counseling, treatment, the Juvenile Assessment Center, and other services.
Okaloosa County

(Circuit 1)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community-based treatment services in the urban portion 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
- Residential treatment services for youth anywhere in the county

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.

“Residential services for mental health, substance abuse and sex offense treatment are provided in Pensacola and not in the local community. This makes family involvement in treatment extremely difficult.”
Okeechobee County

Circuit 19

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Summer youth programs
- Gender-specific programming and services for youth and 18-year-olds

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Structured activities and prevention programs
- Expansion of afterschool programs for middle school youth
- Transitional housing for youth over 18.
- Employment opportunities
- Mentoring programs
- Housing and employment opportunities for sex offenders

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders.
- Impoverished persons
- Hispanic and low-income families
- Black males and young adults 18-years-old and over
- Women, lack of gender-specific programming

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 there is 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:
- 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
- Day-treatment services for northeast, central, and west Orlando

Populations with specific needs:
- Haitian youths
- Hispanic youths

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 youths 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 treatment
- 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 substance abuse and mental health counseling services

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- More affordable in-patient substance abuse treatment options for youth
- Pediatric psychiatry services, including medication management
- Quality mentoring programs for boys and girls

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
- Circuit 15 has available public transportation through Palm Tram bus system and Tri-Rail train system. However, many families cannot afford the fares. The circuit would benefit greatly from bus and train vouchers to provide transportation to counseling and treatment services.

“Many youths have to go out of the county to complete an in-patient substance abuse treatment program. Families must be separated due to a lack of affordable in-patient services. This creates a bit of a hardship for families to visit and participate in face-to-face family therapy. We currently have one available program for males and females with 20 beds”
Pasco County

(Circuit 6)

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

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- In-home therapy that addresses comorbidity
- Out- and in-patient mental health therapy, specifically psychiatric services
- Mentoring and a specialized education setting for youth who get “lost” in typical public-school settings
- Transitional and independent-living services for youth unable to return home and/or over the age of 18
- Transportation services

“Pasco County has many families unable to access the system-of-care in Pasco for various reasons. In-home services that accept Medicaid and various types of insurance and also meet the family where they are would help to overcome many barriers and ensure the needs of the family are adequately met.”

Populations with specific needs:
- Single parent households

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.
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
- 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
- More vocational opportunities and job linkage for youth age 16 and over

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth with little to no parental support or involvement
- Severe and persistent mentally-ill youth with extreme behavior disorders

Transportation issues:
- Transportation continues to be a significant problem to the youth and families in Pinellas County. Inadequate transportation hinders access to needed services. Convoluted and lengthy bus routes are difficult for kids to navigate.

“Pinellas County has experienced an epidemic of youth committing car theft. The youth are engaging in this activity for fun and social status. To adequately address this problem, Pinellas County needs resources that are provided at the community level and keep youth and families engaged in the process of improving their economic situation.”
Polk County

(Circuit 10)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- Community planning and interagency councils
- Community collaboration

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Case management diversion programs
- In-home mental health counseling and substance abuse counseling services
- Trauma-informed care counseling
- Bilingual services
- Applied behavior analysis (ABA) services
- Juvenile detox facility
- Additional respite beds
- Additional Community Action Treatment slots

Populations with specific needs:
- Transgender youth
- Youth with severe mental health problems and youth on the autism spectrum
- Homeless youth
- Adult services for youth 18 and over who are still on probation or conditional release

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
- 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. Currently, there is no 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

(Circuit 7)

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
- 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.

“Transportation is a huge issue. There is no reliable public transportation available in most of the county’s rural areas.”
St. Lucie County

(Circuit 19)

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
• Residential treatment facilities that are affordable for youth 18 and older
• After school programs for youth 12 and under
• Housing and counseling for youth 18 and over
• A homeless shelter for families

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

Transportation issues:
• Some youth have limited access to public transportation and routes are limited.

“We have a need for diverse, culturally competent, evidence-based mentoring, especially for black 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 substance abuse treatment programs
- IMPACT and cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT)
- Current services and protocol for youth on the Autism spectrum
- School liaison services

**Greatest needs identified from survey:**
- Residential substance abuse treatment programming
- Community-based mental health and substance abuse services for youth in the rural parts of the county
- Community-based parenting classes, both for parents of delinquent youth, and for youth who are parents
- Shelter placement for domestic violence clients

**Populations with specific needs:**
- Youth returning to the community from sex offender programs
- Families with youth diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder

**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 where in the county the parents/guardians live. 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
- Evidence-based treatment
- Civil Citation, school diversion programs, and judicial diversion programs
- Interagency partnerships and councils

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Staff-secure shelter
- Independent living
- Reporting center for home-detention youths

“There is no staff-secure shelter in Sarasota County. Youth with domestic violence charges, human-trafficked youth, and youth who meet detention criteria but require a more secure setting than offered by the CINS shelter would benefit from one.”

Populations with specific needs:
- Youth charged with domestic violence
- Human-trafficked youth
- Low-income youth
- Dually-diagnosed youth

Transportation issues:
- Two probation units are housed in Manatee county. JPOs will meet with clients in the community, but travel can be a burden for families if they need to come to the office.
Seminole County

(Circuit 18)

Resources in sufficient supply:
• Mental health providers

Greatest needs identified from survey:
• Affordable drug testing sites
• Mentors

Populations with specific needs:
• Youth identified as low-functioning
• Youth on the autism spectrum
• LGBTQ youth

“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 (transition services)
- Out-patient sex offender counseling
- Civil citation
- In-home substance abuse and mental health services
- Drug screenings

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Gender-specific program for girls
- Local youth shelter/respite care
- Mentoring
- Transportation

Populations with specific needs:
- Girls with history of trauma and mental health issues
- Youth that are involved with human-trafficking

Transportation issues:
- Transportation is an issue for many families due to lack of transit for the entire county and is especially a problem in the rural portions of the county.

“Sex-offending youth who are court-ordered to have no contact with minors are often restricted from attending mainstream or alternative schools. Home-schooling or private school are the only options available.”
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 and prevention programs
- Programs to assist low-income youth in paying court fees and/or restitution
- Substance abuse/mental health assessment services
- Job skills training and 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
- 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
- Trauma counseling

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Vocational training
- Employability skills training
- Employment opportunities
- Contracted provider for SAMH assessments
- Funding for psychiatric evaluations
- Educational alternatives

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.
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
- In- and out-patient psychiatric services for the eastern side of county
- Substance-abuse services providers for the western side of county

Populations with specific needs:
- Sex offenders

Transportation issues:
- Volusia County is an extremely large county. 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 services available.”
Wakulla County

(Circuit 2)

Resources in sufficient supply:
- None

Greatest needs identified from survey:
- Mentoring programs
- Day treatment services
- Transportation
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Prevention programs

Populations with specific needs:
- All populations

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

“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 substance-abuse services

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

Populations with specific needs:
- Low-income youth who do not have access to public transportation

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 provided.

“Residential services for mental health, substance abuse and sex offense treatment are provided in Pensacola and not in the local community, making family involvement in treatment extremely difficult.”
Washington 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 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.