DETENTION UTILIZATION STUDY
PINELLAS COUNTY
JUNE 2015

Office of Research and Data Integrity
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Rick Scott, Governor

Christina K. Daly, Secretary
SOME NOTES TO KEEP IN MIND…

- For comparison purposes, a January 2010-June 2011 eighteen-month comparison period was created. This group is referred to as “the 2010-2011 comparison group” throughout this study.

- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

- All slides use data referring to youth whose home county of residence was Pinellas at the time of their offense, regardless of where they were served, admitted, etc.
The youth population (age 10-17) in Pinellas County decreased by 6% over the past 5 fiscal years, from 77,193 in FY2009-2010 to 72,471 in FY2013-2014.
The number of arrests continued to trend downward in Pinellas County over the past 5 fiscal years. However, there was a 4% increase in arrests since last fiscal year.

- There was an 11% increase in felony arrests since last fiscal year.
- There was a 10% reduction in felony arrests from FY2009-2010 to FY2013-2014.
The arrest rates of White, Hispanic, and Other youth have decreased over the past 5 fiscal years, while the arrest rate of Black youth has increased.

- The arrest rate of Black youth relative to the population increased by 40 arrests per 1,000 Black youth over the past fiscal year.
- During the same time period, the arrest rate of White youth decreased by 4 arrests per 1,000 White youth and the arrest rate of Hispanic youth decreased by 1 arrest per 1,000 Hispanic youth.
Annual racial and ethnic disparities in arrest rates have been on an overall increase over the past 5 years in Pinellas County.

- Disparities in arrest rates between Black youth and Hispanic youth and between White youth and Black youth have been increasing over the past 5 years.
- In the past fiscal year, the disparity in arrest rates between Black youth and White youth increased by 44 arrests per 1,000 youth.
Annual admissions to secure detention in Pinellas County have been on an overall decline over the past 15 fiscal years, with an upward slope in the most recent year.

- Admissions to secure detention increased by 7% since last fiscal year.
- During the same period, felony arrests increased by 21%.
There has been an increase in the percent of Black youth from Pinellas County admitted to secure detention over the past 3 fiscal years and a decrease in the percent of White youth.

- 63% of youth admitted to secure detention in Pinellas County in FY2013-14 were Black while only 32% were White.

- There was a 9 percentage point increase in percent Black youth admitted to secure detention from the previous fiscal year and a 5 percentage point decrease in percent White youth admitted to secure detention.

*Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding and the fact that “Other” youth were excluded from comparison*
Sixty-two percent of Pinellas County youth admitted to secure detention during fiscal year 2013-2014 were Black.

- Black youth are overrepresented in arrests and secure detention admissions relative to the percent of Black youth in the population.
- The percent of Black youth admitted to secure detention in FY2013-2014 was 62% while the percent of Black youth arrested was 59% and the percent of Black youth (age 10-17) in the population was only 17%.

*Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding and the fact that “Other” youth were excluded from comparison.
Gender of Pinellas County Youth Admitted to Secure Detention During Fiscal Year 2013-2014

N=788

- 82% Male
- 18% Female
Approximately three quarters (73%) of Pinellas County youth admitted to secure detention in fiscal year 2013-2014 were between the ages of 15 and 17.
56% of admissions to secure detention in Pinellas County were related to new charges while almost half (44%) of admissions to secure detention were related to court orders.

Pinellas County Youth Admitted to Secure Detention by Reason for Detention, January 2013-June 2014 (N*=2,685)

- There were 540 less admissions to secure detention in the current study period than in the comparison 2010-2011 study period.
- A smaller proportion of admissions to secure detention (5 percentage points less) were related to court orders in the present 18-month study period than in the comparison 2010-2011 study period.

*N = number of admissions. Individual youth may have been admitted and released multiple times during the study period.
Of youth screened and remanded to secure detention in Pinellas County, 6% of youth were DRAI screened on the basis of an underlying charge.

*Includes all detained youth administered a DRAI screening within 1 day of (either before or after) beginning secure detention. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.

There was a 2 percentage point increase in youth screened on an underlying charge and sent to secure detention between this 18-month period and the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

*Includes all detained youth administered a DRAI screening within 1 day of (either before or after) beginning secure detention. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.
• There was a 7 percentage point increase in the proportion of youth detained whose most serious current offense scored 7 (Dealing in Stolen Property, etc.) on Section III of the DRAI and a 9 percentage point decrease in the proportion of youth detained whose most serious offense scored 12 (Other Felony 1, etc.) on Section III of the DRAI since the 2010-2011 comparison period.

• This suggests detention is being used more often for less serious offenses.

*Includes all detained youth administered a DRAI screening within 1 day of (either before or after) beginning secure detention. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.
Approximately one-third (35%) of Pinellas County youth admitted to secure detention have never been in secure detention before.

- The distribution of prior detention stays has remained stable in Pinellas County compared to the 2010-2011 study period.

*N=First admission to secure detention within the 18-month study period for each youth
Approximately one-third (34%) of youth in secure detention in Pinellas County are only detained for 2 days or less.

- Both the percent of youth in secure detention for longer than 22 days and the percent of youth in secure detention for less than 24 hours have remained stable since the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

*N= number of releases. Individual youth may have been admitted and released multiple times during the study period.
The overall average length of stay as well as each categorical average length of stay is shorter in Pinellas County than the statewide average.

The average length of stay in secure detention is 2 days shorter in Pinellas County than the statewide average.

*N = number of releases. Individual youth may have been admitted and released multiple times during the study period.
DRAI Decision for Pinellas County Youth – Actual Outcome

*This figure refers to all youth administered a DRAI screening. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.

- The proportion of screened Pinellas youth sent to secure detention is 5 percentage points less than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

- The proportion of screened Pinellas youth sent to home detention is 4 percentage points more than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.
**DRAI Section III Risk Assessment: C. Prior History – Pinellas County Youth Distribution (January 2013-June 2014)**

- The proportion of Pinellas youth with a non-zero DRAI score sent to secure detention with no priors is 22 percentage points less than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

- The proportion of Pinellas youth with a non-zero DRAI score sent to secure detention with 3 prior felonies is 9 percentage points more than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

- This suggests secure detention is being used for more chronic offenders.

---

*\(N^* = \text{all detained youth administered a DRAI screening with a non-zero score. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.}\)*
The proportion of Pinellas youth with a non-zero DRAI score and no current DJJ status sent to secure detention is 26 percentage points less than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

The proportion of Pinellas youth with a non-zero DRAI score and committed or detention status sent to secure detention is 8 percentage points more than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

This suggests secure detention is being used for more chronic offenders.

*N = all detained youth administered a DRAI screening with a non-zero score. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.
Pinellas County Detention Overview: Strengths, Concerns, and Serious Concerns

**Strengths**

- Fewer youth with no priors detained
  - The proportion of Pinellas youth with a non-zero DRAI score sent to secure detention with no priors is 22 percentage points less than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

- Fewer screenings result in detention
  - The proportion of screened Pinellas youth sent to secure detention is 5 percentage points less than it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

- Fewer detainments due to court orders and technical violations
  - A smaller proportion of admissions to secure detention (5 percentage points less) were related to court orders and technical violations in the present 18-month study period than in the comparison 2010-2011 study period.

**Concerns**

- Over 1/3 of youth new to detention
  - 35% of youth sent to secure detention have never been to secure detention before

- More detention admissions
  - Between FY2012-2013 and FY2013-2014, there was a 7% increase in detention admissions.

**Serious Concerns**

- Nearly half of admissions due to court orders or technical violations
  - 44% of detention admissions are due to court orders or technical violations.

- Almost half of all screenings result in detention
  - 48% of youth screened go to secure detention as opposed to release, home, or respite.