

BRIEFING REPORT
SERIOUS, VIOLENT, AND CHRONIC DELINQUENCY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report examines the prevalence of serious, violent, and chronic (SVC) offenders in the population of youth that turned 18 years of age across eight fiscal years (FY 2010-11 to FY 2017-18). On average, 48.6% of youth were serious, 22.0% were violent, 16.8% were chronic, 9.7% were SVC and 50.0% were not serious, not violent, and not chronic. Results continue to show that fewer youth enter the juvenile justice system but that those entering tend to be more serious, as less serious youth are increasingly receiving civil citation or other alternatives to arrest. The percentage of youth classified as SVC has increased in recent fiscal years, but the raw number of youth classified as SVC has continued to decrease. This is likely due to a larger number of lower risk youth being diverted from the juvenile justice system.



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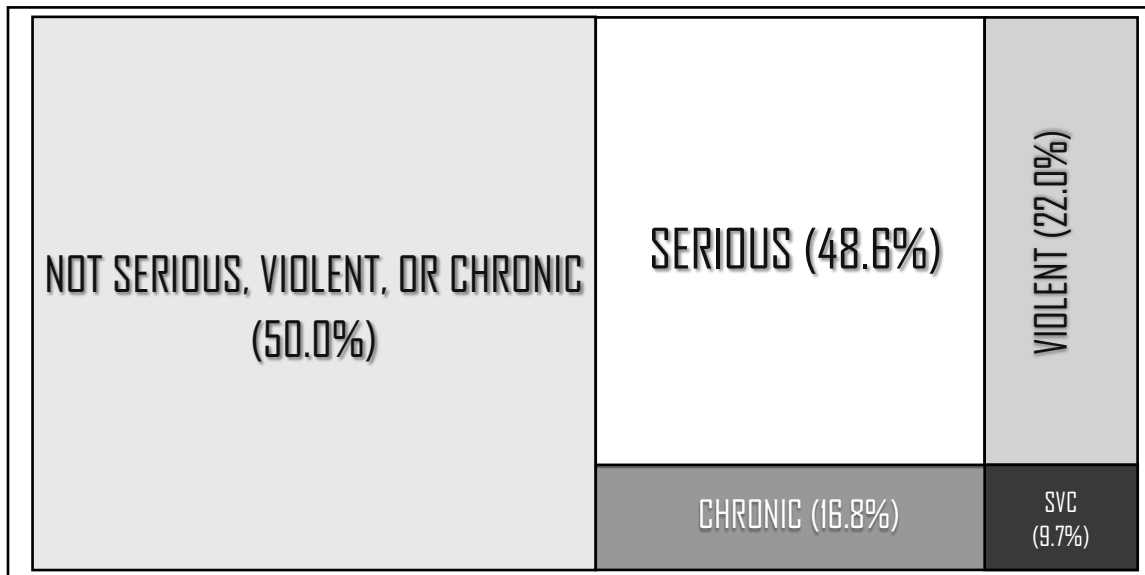
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METHODOLOGY

To determine whether a given youth was classified as an SVC offender, delinquency histories were examined for youth turning 18 during each of the last eight fiscal years (FY) (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18). Delinquency referrals issued from age 6 through the youth's 18th birthday were included in this study. A serious offender was defined as any youth with a history of a felony referral. A violent offender was defined as any youth with a history of a felony against-person referral (with a qualifying against-person charge present on the violent felony list established by the 2018 Detention Risk Assessment Instrument Committee). A chronic offender was defined as a youth with a history of four or more prior referrals with either a misdemeanor or felony charge. A serious, violent, chronic (SVC) offender was defined as a youth who was defined as serious, violent, **and** chronic. The age at which the youth was first referred to juvenile court for a misdemeanor or felony was also examined to compare the differences between the SVC categories of youth.

All data was derived from the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) and analyzed by the Office of Research and Data Integrity.

FIGURE 1: SVC YOUTH (FY 2010-11 TO FY 2017-18)



SVC BY FISCAL YEAR

Table 1 shows the percentage of youth served by the Department who turned 18 during each of the last eight fiscal years. The data from FY 2017-18 show that youth who turned 18 during FY 2017-18 were more serious, more violent, more chronic, and more SVC than previous fiscal years. The raw number of SVC youth, however, has continued to decrease since FY 2010-11. The SVC percentage-point increase is likely the result of efforts of the Department and stakeholders to increase the use of prevention programs, civil citations, and other alternatives to arrest to divert a larger number of lower risk youth from the juvenile justice system.

**Table 1
SVC By Fiscal Year**

Fiscal Year	Serious	Violent	Chronic	SVC	Not S, V, or C
FY 2010-11	45.8%	22.1%	16.9%	9.9% (N = 4,785)	52.7%
FY 2011-12	44.9%	20.9%	16.2%	9.3% (N = 4,051)	53.6%
FY 2012-13	45.3%	19.5%	16.2%	9.0% (N = 3,590)	53.3%
FY 2013-14	45.9%	19.8%	16.3%	8.9% (N = 3,059)	52.6%
FY 2014-15	47.3%	20.9%	16.2%	9.4% (N = 2,861)	51.3%
FY 2015-16	50.0%	22.4%	17.3%	10.1% (N = 2,769)	48.6%
FY 2016-17	53.1%	24.3%	17.1%	10.3% (N = 2,533)	45.7%
FY 2017-18	56.4%	25.9%	17.9%	10.9% (N = 2,501)	42.5%
Average	48.6%	22.0%	16.8%	9.7%	50.0%

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

SVC YOUTH – AGE AT FIRST REFERRAL

The age at first offense was 12 or younger for an average of 12.9% of the Not SVC youth turning 18 each year and an average of 37.0% of the SVC youth turning 18 each year. The eight-year trend indicates little change in the proportion of the Not-SVC youth turning 18 who were 12 years old or younger at the age of their first referral (see Table 2). However, the proportion of the SVC youth who were 12 or under at the time of their first referral has declined. Overall, the vast disparity between Not-SVC youth and SVC youth who were 12 or under at the age of their first offense is cause for concern and indicates SVC youth exhibit an earlier age of onset than Not SVC youth.

Table 2
SVC Youth - 12 Years of Age or Younger at First Referral

Fiscal Year	Not SVC	SVC
FY 2010-11	12.8%	41.0%
FY 2011-12	12.3%	39.4%
FY 2012-13	12.5%	39.3%
FY 2013-14	13.0%	37.2%
FY 2014-15	13.2%	38.9%
FY 2015-16	13.7%	35.4%
FY 2016-17	13.0%	32.7%
FY 2017-18	13.0%	32.1%
Average	12.9%	37.0%

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

SVC BY GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY (FY 2017-18)

The FY 2017-18 sample of youth turning 18 was used to examine SVC classifications across gender and race. Results show the percentage of males meeting the Serious, Violent, Chronic, and SVC classifications is roughly twice that of females who aged out of the juvenile justice system during FY 2017-18. Furthermore, females were nearly twice as likely to not be Serious, Violent, or Chronic.

Results by race/ethnicity show that Black and Hispanic youth who turned 18 during FY 2017-18 were most likely to be Serious, Violent, Chronic, and SVC. While Other youth were more likely than White youth to be Serious offenders, White youth were more likely to be Violent, Chronic, and SVC when compared to Other youth. Overall, White youth were most likely to be Not Serious, Violent, or Chronic.

Table 3
SVC By Gender and Race/Ethnicity (FY 2017-18)

Fiscal Year	Serious	Violent	Chronic	SVC	Not S, V, or C
Male	65.1%	30.6%	21.5%	13.6%	34.2%
Female	38.3%	16.0%	10.3%	5.3%	59.8%
White	49.3%	19.1%	11.7%	5.9%	49.6%
Black	62.8%	33.9%	25.2%	16.9%	35.9%
Hispanic	57.9%	23.0%	15.0%	8.4%	41.0%
Other	50.0%	12.3%	6.5%	2.2%	49.3%
Average	56.4%	25.9%	17.9%	10.9%	42.5%

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

SVC BY CIRCUIT (FY 2017-18)

The FY 2017-18 sample of youth turning 18 was used to examine SVC classifications across Florida’s twenty judicial circuits. The percentage of youth that turned 18 during FY 2017-18 that were not Serious, Violent, or Chronic ranged from a low of 18.9% to a high of 58.9% in the 11th and 1st Circuit, respectively. SVC categories exhibited smaller variation across circuits—that is, the percentage of SVC youth ranged from a low of 6.1% in the 1st Circuit to a high of 14.9% in the 6th Circuit. The circuits with the highest percentages of Serious youth were the 11th Circuit (80.7%), 17th Circuit (68.9%), and 6th Circuit (67.3%). Violent youth were most prevalent in the 11th Circuit (37.7%), 15th Circuit (30.1%), and 17th Circuit (29.3%). Finally, the highest percentages of Chronic youth were in the 6th Circuit (26.5%), 15th Circuit (22.0%), and 11th Circuit (20.7%).

Table 4
SVC by Judicial Circuit (FY 2017-18)

Judicial Circuit	Serious	Violent	Chronic	SVC	Not S, V, or C
1st Judicial Circuit	40.6%	16.3%	11.5%	6.1%	58.9%
2nd Judicial Circuit	61.2%	28.3%	18.8%	11.2%	37.8%
3rd Judicial Circuit	52.9%	23.2%	14.4%	8.5%	46.1%
4th Judicial Circuit	55.2%	25.9%	14.5%	9.5%	44.0%
5th Judicial Circuit	54.2%	26.3%	16.0%	10.5%	44.5%
6th Judicial Circuit	67.3%	29.1%	26.5%	14.9%	31.2%
7th Judicial Circuit	54.1%	24.3%	16.6%	9.2%	44.9%
8th Judicial Circuit	55.6%	26.4%	20.5%	11.0%	42.0%
9th Judicial Circuit	54.6%	27.1%	17.4%	11.8%	44.6%
10th Judicial Circuit	44.9%	21.3%	19.4%	11.0%	53.4%
11th Judicial Circuit	80.7%	37.7%	20.7%	14.4%	18.9%
12th Judicial Circuit	49.8%	24.9%	15.4%	9.0%	48.2%
13th Judicial Circuit	55.2%	26.3%	19.5%	12.2%	43.6%
14th Judicial Circuit	50.8%	24.1%	16.3%	9.3%	47.3%
15th Judicial Circuit	64.0%	30.1%	22.0%	13.2%	34.9%
16th Judicial Circuit	64.3%	26.8%	16.1%	10.7%	35.7%
17th Judicial Circuit	68.9%	29.3%	19.1%	12.3%	30.4%
18th Judicial Circuit	54.1%	26.7%	17.0%	10.7%	44.6%
19th Judicial Circuit	51.4%	21.3%	15.2%	8.7%	47.6%
20th Judicial Circuit	45.5%	17.5%	14.0%	7.0%	52.5%
Statewide	56.4%	25.9%	17.9%	10.9%	42.5%

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

SVC BY COUNTY

The FY 2017-18 sample of youth turning 18 was used to examine SVC classifications across Florida's sixty-seven counties. The county with the highest percentage of SVC youth who turned 18 during FY 2017-18 was Union County (17.6%), followed by Pinellas County (17.4%) and Dade County (14.4%)¹. Dade County was the county with the lowest percentage of Not Serious, Violent, or Chronic youth (18.9%) in the entire state, followed by Pinellas County (24.5%) and Broward County (30.4%). Dade, Pinellas, and Broward counties had the highest percentages of youth turning 18 during FY 2017-18 that were categorized as Serious (80.7%, 73.5%, and 68.9%, respectively). Gilchrist County (42.1%) appeared to have the highest percentage of youth categorized as Violent who turned 18 during FY 2017-18, with Dade County (37.7%) and Pinellas County (31.4%) having the second and third highest percentage of Violent youth turning 18 during FY 2017-18². Finally, the county with the most Chronic youth that turned 18 during FY 2017-18 was Pinellas County (31.6%), succeeded by Alachua County (24.3%) and Union County (23.5%).

¹ Union: 3 SVC youth (N = 17)

² Gilchrist: 8 Violent youth (N = 19)

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Table 5
SVC by County (FY 2017-18)

County	Serious	Violent	Chronic	SVC	Not S, V, or C
Alachua	58.3%	27.7%	24.3%	13.4%	38.9%
Baker	46.7%	26.7%	8.9%	4.4%	53.3%
Bay	49.9%	23.5%	18.6%	10.0%	47.7%
Bradford	52.4%	21.4%	16.7%	9.5%	45.2%
Brevard	56.1%	26.9%	18.7%	12.0%	43.2%
Broward	68.9%	29.3%	19.1%	12.3%	30.4%
Calhoun	46.2%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	53.8%
Charlotte	41.8%	18.1%	11.5%	6.6%	56.0%
Citrus	64.9%	32.1%	16.4%	11.2%	34.3%
Clay	39.0%	13.1%	6.4%	2.0%	59.8%
Collier	42.2%	14.5%	11.4%	5.1%	56.0%
Columbia	55.5%	20.9%	14.5%	8.2%	44.5%
Dade	80.7%	37.7%	20.7%	14.4%	18.9%
Desoto	60.2%	30.1%	18.1%	12.0%	39.8%
Dixie	52.2%	26.1%	13.0%	8.7%	43.5%
Duval	59.1%	29.8%	17.1%	11.6%	40.1%
Escambia	54.0%	24.3%	17.0%	10.4%	45.5%
Flagler	49.6%	15.1%	16.0%	5.9%	47.1%
Franklin	62.5%	18.8%	6.3%	6.3%	37.5%
Gadsden	64.7%	30.9%	11.8%	5.9%	35.3%
Gilchrist	52.6%	42.1%	15.8%	10.5%	42.1%
Glades	42.9%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	57.1%
Gulf	62.5%	25.0%	6.3%	6.3%	37.5%
Hamilton	54.2%	29.2%	16.7%	12.5%	45.8%
Hardee	50.0%	22.5%	22.5%	10.0%	47.5%
Hendry	58.2%	25.3%	17.6%	9.9%	40.7%
Hernando	52.4%	25.2%	12.9%	6.2%	46.2%
Highlands	42.0%	16.5%	17.6%	9.1%	55.7%
Hillsborough	55.2%	26.3%	19.5%	12.2%	43.6%
Holmes	63.9%	22.2%	13.9%	8.3%	36.1%
Indian River	49.3%	15.8%	13.0%	6.8%	50.7%
Jackson	47.2%	30.2%	13.2%	11.3%	52.8%
Jefferson	64.3%	35.7%	21.4%	14.3%	35.7%
Lafayette	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.0%
Lake	46.7%	22.4%	13.6%	10.0%	52.2%
Lee	46.5%	17.7%	15.5%	7.7%	51.5%
Leon	59.8%	28.2%	20.9%	12.7%	38.6%
Levy	55.6%	17.5%	12.7%	3.2%	42.9%
State wide	56.4%	25.9%	17.9%	10.9%	42.5%

SERIOUS, VIOLENT, AND CHRONIC DELINQUENCY

Table 5
SVC by County (FY 2017-18) Continued

County	Serious	Violent	Chronic	SVC	Not S, V, or C
Liberty	54.5%	18.2%	18.2%	9.1%	45.5%
Madison	56.7%	26.7%	13.3%	10.0%	43.3%
Manatee	47.5%	25.0%	15.2%	9.3%	49.9%
Marion	59.8%	29.8%	20.5%	13.3%	38.6%
Martin	39.7%	14.4%	8.2%	4.8%	58.9%
Monroe	64.3%	26.8%	16.1%	10.7%	35.7%
Nassau	50.6%	11.1%	3.7%	2.5%	49.4%
Okaloosa	24.3%	9.5%	7.8%	3.2%	74.9%
Okeechobee	34.9%	11.1%	9.5%	4.8%	65.1%
Orange	55.7%	27.6%	19.3%	13.2%	43.4%
Osceola	51.0%	25.3%	11.2%	7.6%	48.5%
Palm Beach	64.0%	30.1%	22.0%	13.2%	34.9%
Pasco	56.1%	25.0%	17.2%	10.4%	43.3%
Pinellas	73.5%	31.4%	31.6%	17.4%	24.5%
Polk	45.2%	21.9%	19.5%	11.3%	53.3%
Putnam	55.4%	30.8%	17.7%	11.5%	43.8%
St Johns	55.3%	23.7%	14.2%	7.4%	44.2%
St Lucie	58.5%	27.0%	19.1%	11.2%	40.1%
Santa Rosa	53.2%	15.6%	9.2%	2.3%	46.3%
Sarasota	50.7%	23.2%	14.9%	7.6%	47.7%
Seminole	51.6%	26.5%	14.9%	9.0%	46.4%
Sumter	55.6%	23.5%	13.6%	8.6%	43.2%
Suwannee	52.7%	20.9%	15.4%	8.8%	45.1%
Taylor	43.5%	30.4%	13.0%	4.3%	56.5%
Union	41.2%	29.4%	23.5%	17.6%	58.8%
Volusia	54.3%	24.8%	17.1%	9.8%	44.9%
Wakulla	65.3%	28.6%	18.4%	10.2%	34.7%
Walton	18.2%	6.8%	4.7%	3.1%	81.8%
Washington	48.7%	25.6%	10.3%	5.1%	48.7%
State wide	56.4%	25.9%	17.9%	10.9%	42.5%

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

IMPLICATIONS

These results may assist the Department with resource allocation efforts by demonstrating the proportion of referred youth most appropriate for deep-end residential commitment in any given fiscal year. Circuit and county variations in SVC prevalence demonstrate that a one-size-fits-all approach to resource allocation is inadequate and strategies should be different for individual youth. Furthermore, the analysis revealed a large disparity between SVC and non-SVC youth regarding age of onset—that is, SVC youth were more likely to be referred to the Department before age 12. Additionally, males are more likely to be categorized as Serious, Violent, Chronic, and SVC when compared to females. Finally, race-ethnicity results demonstrate the need for continued efforts at reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and ensuring interventions are available to at-risk members of this population.