



Briefing Report

Pinellas Detention Utilization Study

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PINELLAS DETENTION UTILIZATION STUDY

Introduction:

The following briefing report on detention utilization is intended to assist in informing the JDAI collaborative about trends and conditions in Pinellas County. The report is intended to help begin the “Digging Deeper” process, in which questions that arise as a result of this report will become part of work planning, and may require further analyses, as well as local action. One such “Digging Deeper” question focused on by some of the other Florida JDAI counties is high rates of Failure to Appear (FTA). The identification of the FTA problem led the counties to problem solve, innovate, ask questions of probation officers, judicial partners, etc., and come up with strategies to deal with the issue on the local level. These “Digging Deeper” questions are all **opportunities for improvement**, bolstered by empirical analysis, according to JDAI methodology.

Issue:

Pinellas County recently became a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) pilot site. As such, one of the first steps in the planning process is to complete a Detention Utilization Study (DUS) to establish baseline data, including delinquency trends, youth arrests, admissions to secure detention, average daily population, length of stay, demographic information. In addition, the DUS will also include data on reasons for admissions to secure detention, including breakdowns of charge type for new charges and court orders, as well as information from the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument. This information can be used to support future local juvenile reform, in support of the ***Roadmap to System Excellence***. The biggest question here is ***“Are the right kids being detained in secure detention?”*** In other words, what youth are detained unnecessarily, i.e. youth that are not a threat to public safety/failure to appear?

Methodology:

The Pinellas Detention Utilization Study used multiple methods, which reflects the necessity for both broad and specific information. The study that follows begins by including information about general crime and delinquency trends in Pinellas over the last 2 years from the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) system. Next, using data from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, information on the race of youth in Pinellas County over the last 6 years is presented.

The rest of the report uses data from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, including data files pulled from JJIS, including arrests by charge type (misdemeanor, felony, other) over time, average daily population (ADP) over time, ADP by month during the last Fiscal Year, the % change of the last 4 fiscal years of youth served in Pinellas Regional Juvenile Detention center who did and did not reside in Pinellas County. In addition, for Calendar Year 2012, data is presented on race, gender, ethnicity, age, LOS (raw and grouped), average LOS by gender, average LOS by race, charge type for youth in secure detention under 72 hours/21-22 days/23+ days, charge type for admissions to secure detention, new charges broken down by charge type and charge type/level, and court order type.

For each of these arrests leading to a stay in secure detention, the referral that is linked to the secure detention stay (which appears on the Facesheet) is chosen. For youth that have multiple charges for a single arrest, the highest charge is selected and is reflected in these data. Data are taken from data files extracted from JJIS, which include placement information, arrest information, and DRAI data. Finally, all data are for youth residing in Pinellas County only, and do not include youth who are transferred in or detained from other counties (with the exception of the 2 charts that illustrate which youth come from Pinellas or other counties).

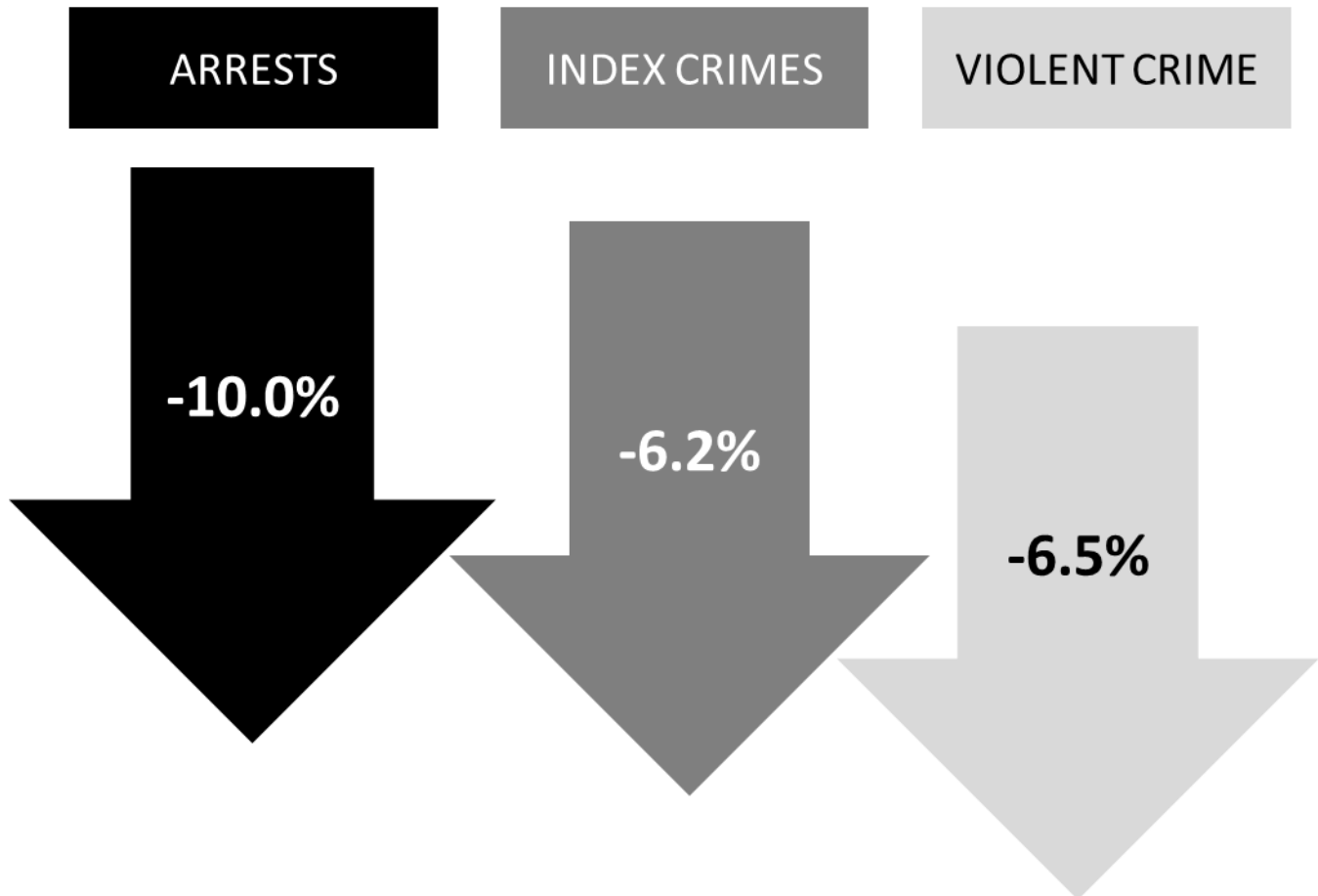
Each page of the DUS includes a title which captures important findings from the data and graphics. In addition, some pages also include additional bulleted items.

Results:

Overall, the analyses indicate that there are numerous opportunities to dig deeper, and that there are youth who are potentially being detained unnecessarily. For example, the override rate in Pinellas County is double the statewide average. A number of youth were detained for misdemeanor domestic violence charges that did not meet criteria for secure detention, and could have been safely placed in a respite bed. Almost half of youth (45%) are detained for court orders – and of these, a significant number are for FTAs and non-law VOPs. Finally, over a quarter of admissions to secure detention were youth who were aged 14 and younger, a number of which were for FTA and other Court Orders. The following pages examine these issues in detail, with recommendations at the end.

ADULT AND JUVENILE CRIME AND DELINQUENCY RATES ARE DOWN

- According to FBI UCR statistics, between 2010 and 2011 arrests, index crimes, and violent crime rates were all down in Pinellas County.



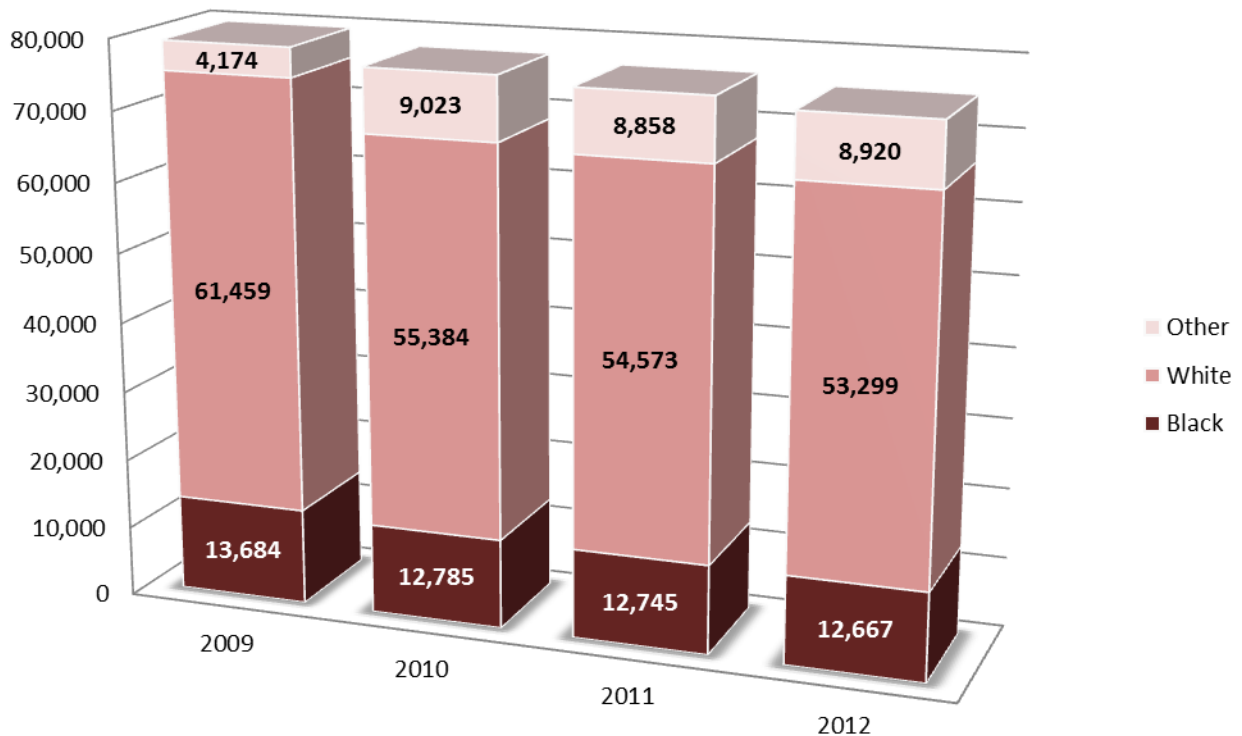
UCR CRIME STATISTICS: PINELLAS COUNTY			
	Total Index Crimes	Total Violent Crimes	Total Arrests
2009	49,132	6,905	51,179
2010	43,546	6,027	50,952
2011	40,863	5,638	45,856

For more information about the FBI UCR Program, please go to <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr>

THE JUVENILE POPULATION IS DOWN

- Between 2009 and 2012, there was a 6% decrease in the total juvenile population (between the ages of 10-17) in Pinellas County.
- During the same time period, there was also an increase of 29% in the Hispanic juvenile population.

PINELLAS COUNTY JUVENILE POPULATION TREND, YOUTH AGE 10-17, 2009-2012



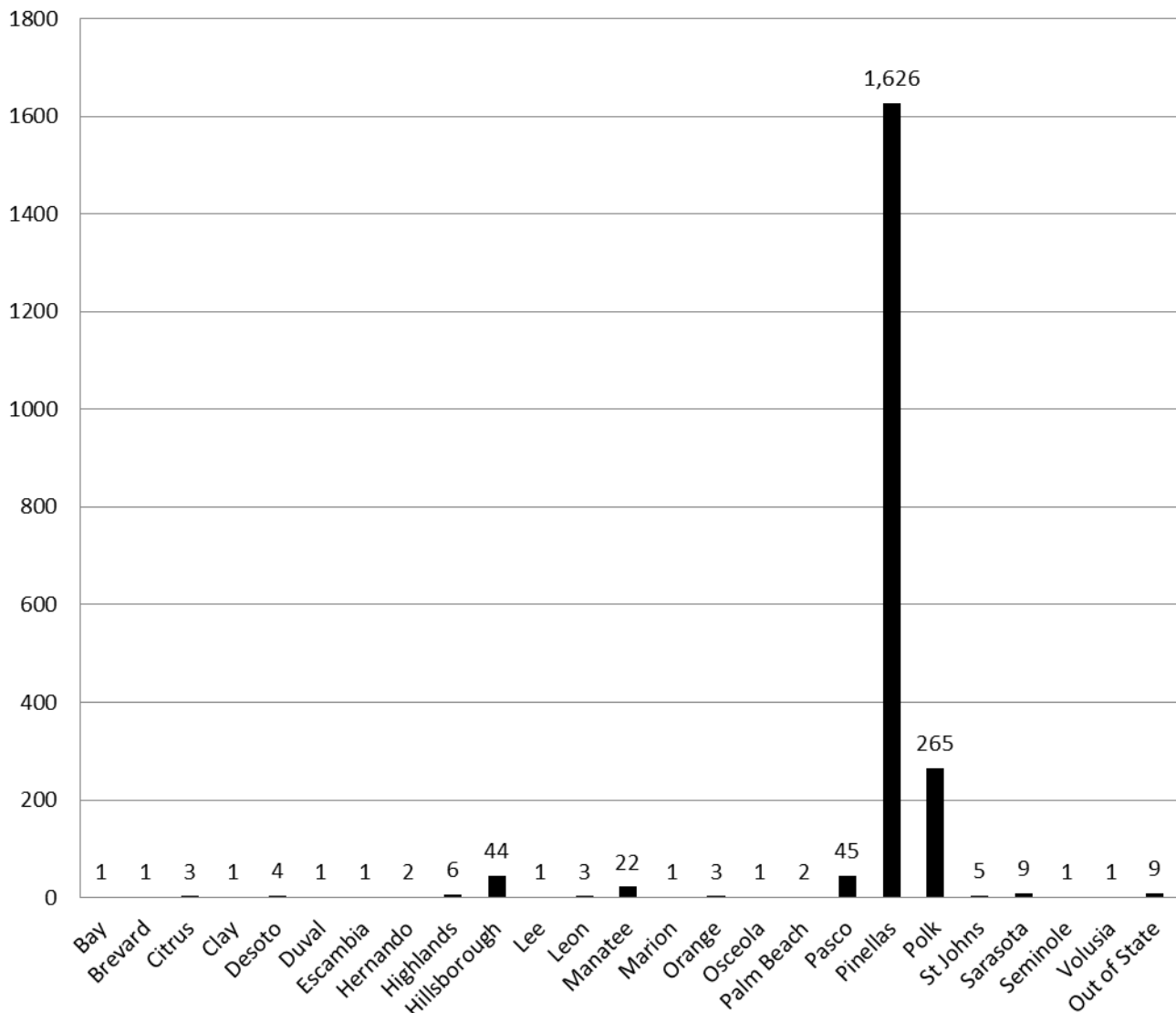
Hispanic Youth: Pinellas County	
2009	7,818
2010	9,362
2011	9,831
2012	10,097

For more information about the juvenile population, please reference the Office of Economic and Demographic Research at <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/>

THE MAJORITY (79%) OF YOUTH DETAINED IN PINELLAS REGIONAL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER ARE FROM PINELLAS COUNTY, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TRANSFERS. ONLY YOUTH WHO RESIDE IN PINELLAS ARE INCLUDED IN SUBSEQUENT ANALYSES.

- The increase in youth in Pinellas secure detention from other counties in the past fiscal year is due to transfers from other counties, including Polk, Pasco, and Hillsborough.

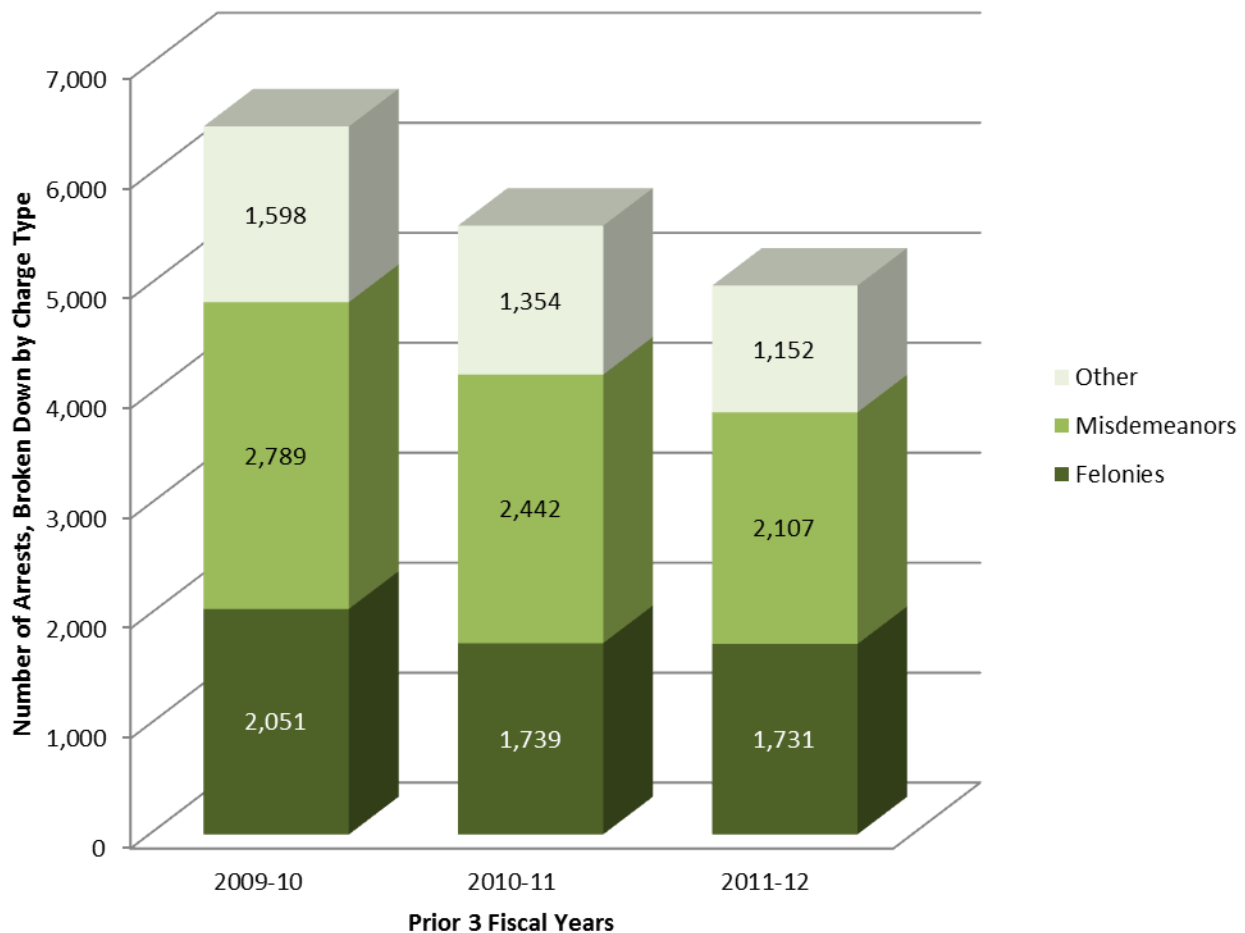
PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, BY COUNTY OF YOUTH RESIDENCE, CY 2012



JUVENILE ARRESTS ARE DOWN, INCLUDING FELONY ARRESTS

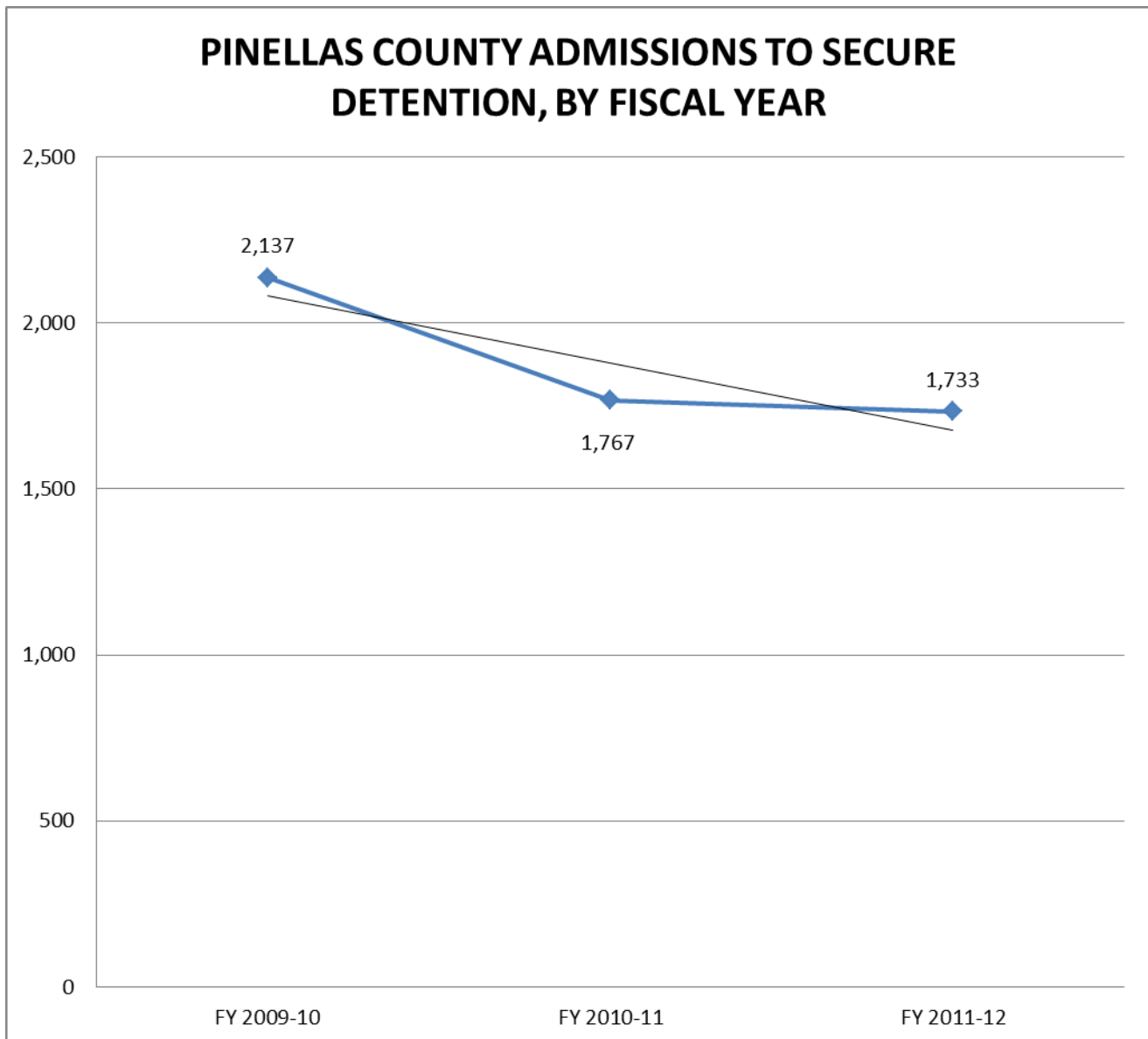
- Over the past three fiscal years, there has been a 22.5% decrease in arrests in Pinellas County. Between FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12 alone there was a 10% decrease in arrests.
- In addition, over the past three fiscal years there has been a 15.6% decrease in felony arrests.

**PINELLAS COUNTY ARRESTS,
BY FISCAL YEAR, BY CHARGE TYPE**



ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION ARE DOWN BETWEEN FY2009-10 & FY2010-11, BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY OVER THE LAST YEAR DESPITE SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN DELINQUENCY

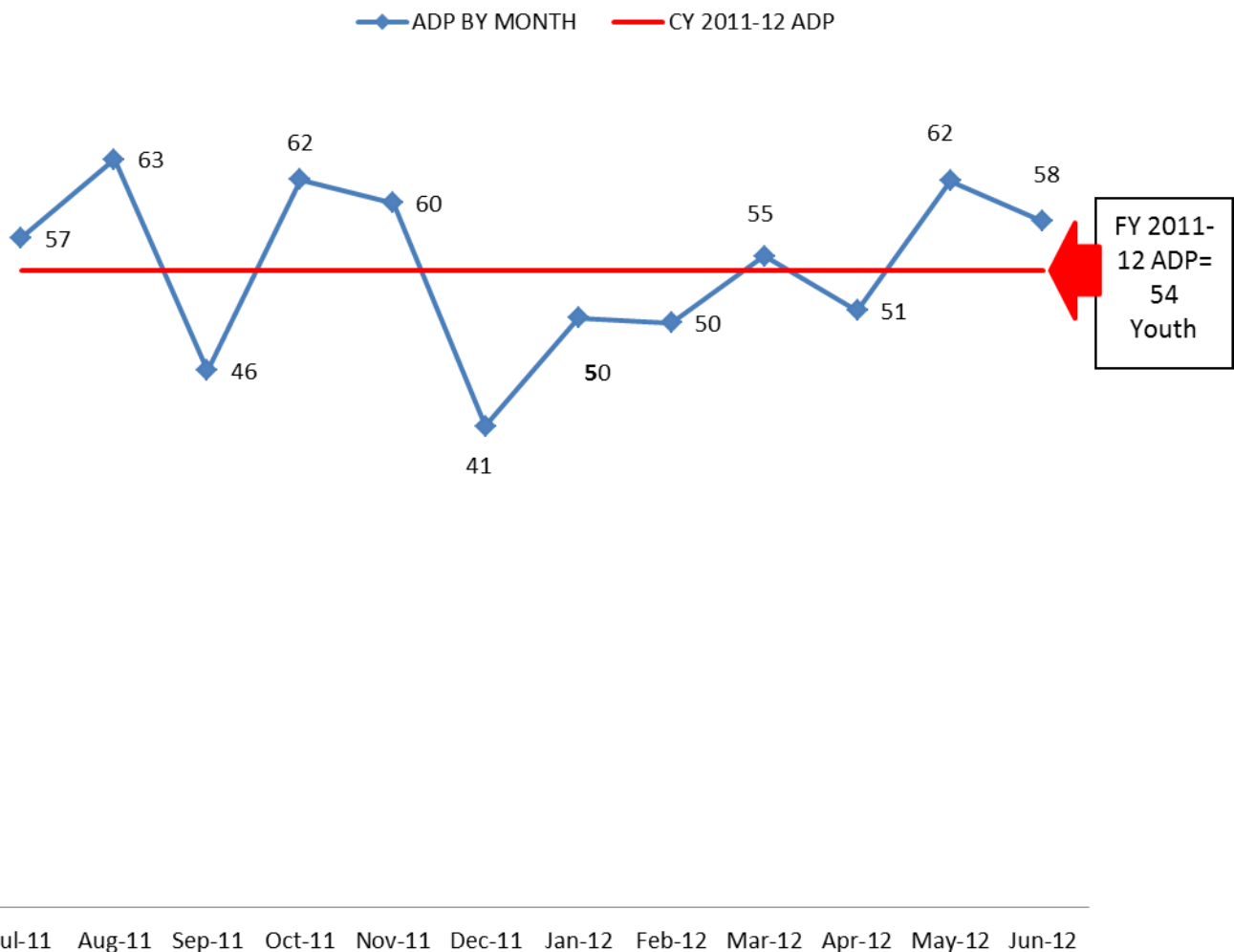
- Going back 2 fiscal years, admissions to secure detention in Pinellas have decreased substantially. Specifically, between FY 2009-10 and FY 2011-12, admissions decreased 17%. However, over the last year, there is only a 2% decrease in admissions to secure detention.



THE AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION FLUCTUATES EACH MONTH, BUT THERE IS NO OVERALL UPWARD OR DOWNWARD TREND FOR ADP

- Over the past fiscal year, monthly ADPs range from 41 at the lowest to 63 at the highest, with an overall yearly ADP of 54. Despite considerable fluctuation in the average daily population by month, the overall trend does not show a pattern for increases or decreases over time. For comparison, the overall yearly FY 2011-12 ADP for Pinellas, including all youth residing in other counties, is 57. This indicates that on any given day, 3 youth in secure detention are from another county.

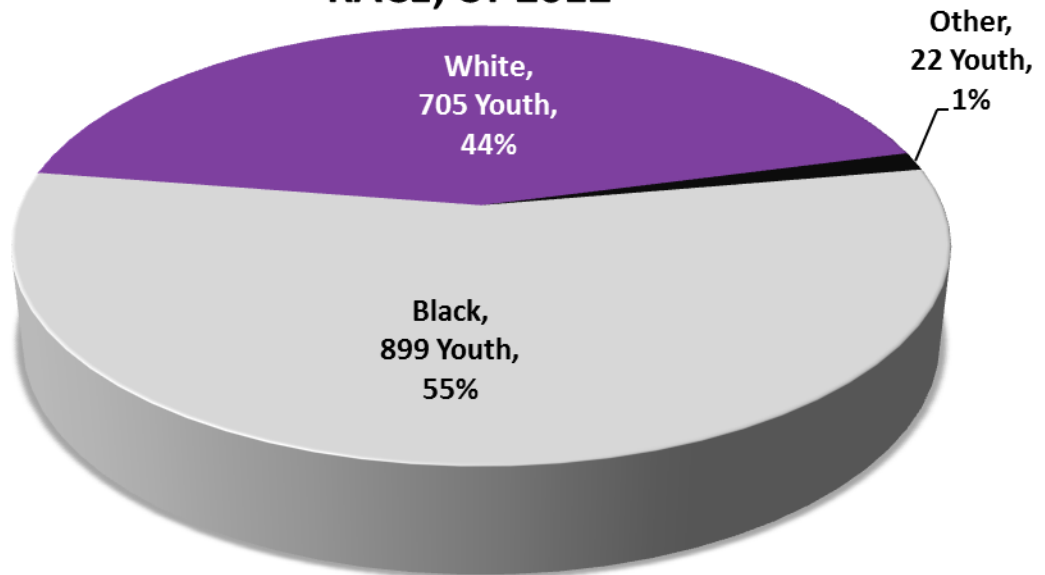
PINELLAS AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION IN SECURE DETENTION, SERVED YOUTH, BY MONTH, FY 2011-12



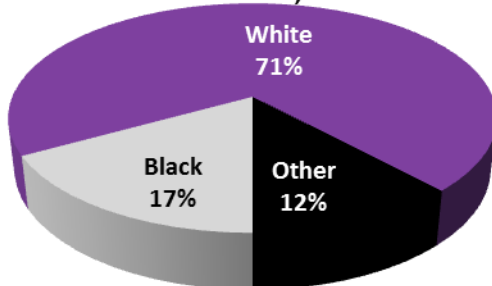
ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION ARE DISPROPORTIONATE FOR BLACK YOUTH

- The majority of youth admitted to Pinellas County secure detention are Black, although 44% of admissions are White youth. However, the Black youth population is only about 17% in any given year (see graph on page 3), indicating that Black youth are overrepresented in secure detention.

PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, BY RACE, CY 2012



PINELLAS COUNTY JUVENILE POPULATION, CY 2012



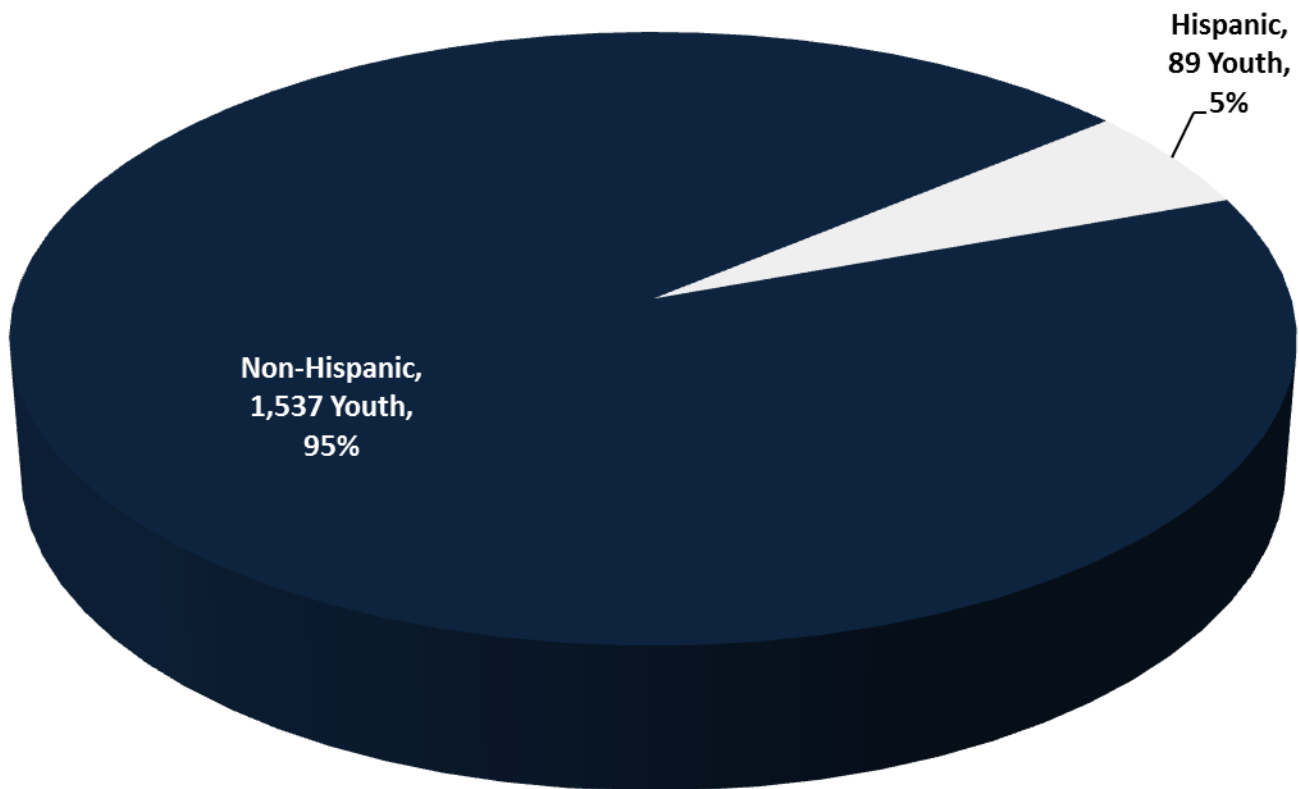
In addition, Black youth are responsible for 48% of arrests and 18% of felony arrests, while White youth are responsible for 45% of arrests and 14% of felony arrests. Despite the close rates of official offending, Black youth are still disproportionately more likely to be securely detained.

For average length of stay by race, please reference page 15 of this document

THE MAJORITY OF YOUTH ADMITTED TO SECURE DETENTION ARE IDENTIFIED AS NON-HISPANIC IN JJIS

- Only 5% of youth securely detained in Pinellas County are identified as having Hispanic ethnicity. However, the Hispanic youth population is approximately 13%, suggesting that there might be under-reporting of youth ethnicity in JJIS.

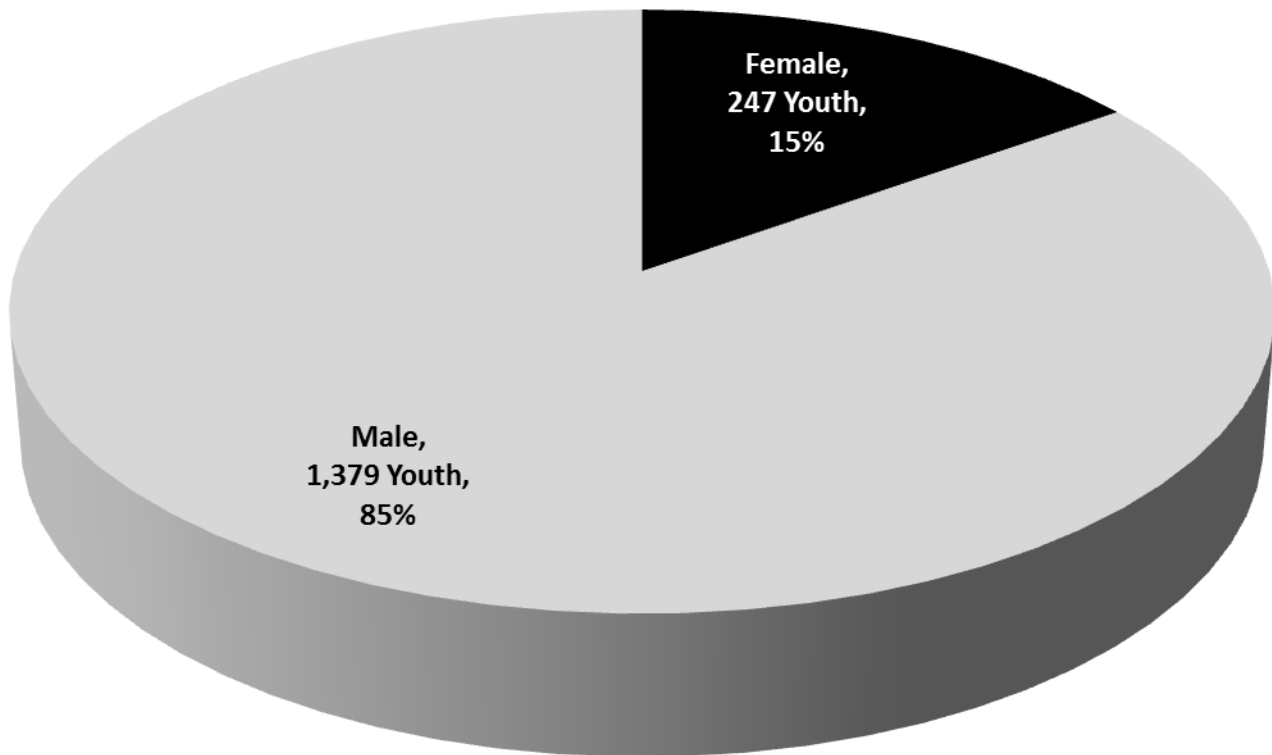
PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, BY ETHNICITY, CY 2012



FEMALE ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION ARE WITHIN EXPECTED RANGE

- Males make up the overwhelming majority of admissions to secure detention, as is expected. In addition, a look at female delinquency, and female felony delinquency in particular, shows that *female delinquency is down slightly over the past 5 fiscal years* (see delinquency profile: <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/delinquency-data/delinquency-profile>).

PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, BY GENDER, CY 2012

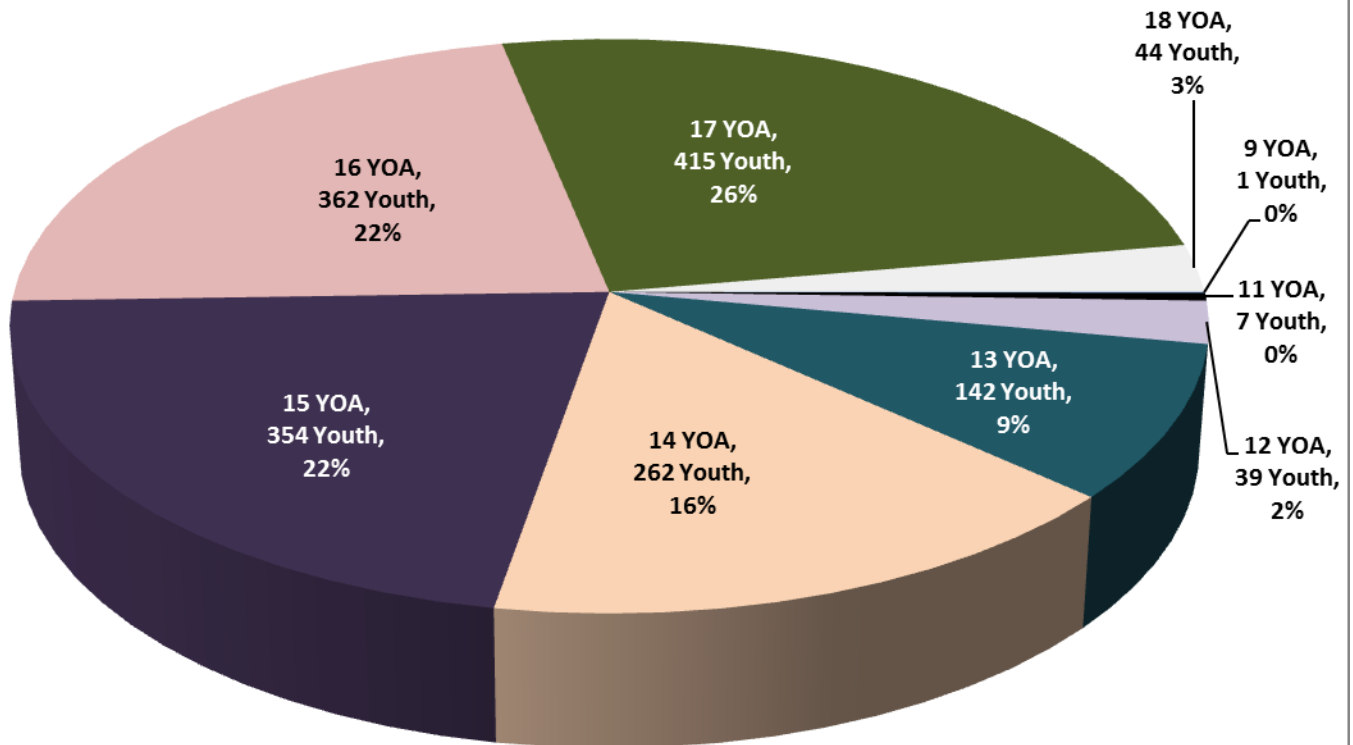


For average length of stay by gender, please reference page 15 of this document

OVER A QUARTER OF ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION ARE FOR YOUTH AGE 14 AND YOUNGER

- Although 70% of admissions to secure detention are for youth aged 15,16, or 17, a substantial number of youth (451) who are admitted are age 14 or younger.

PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, BY AGE OF ADMISSION, CY 2012

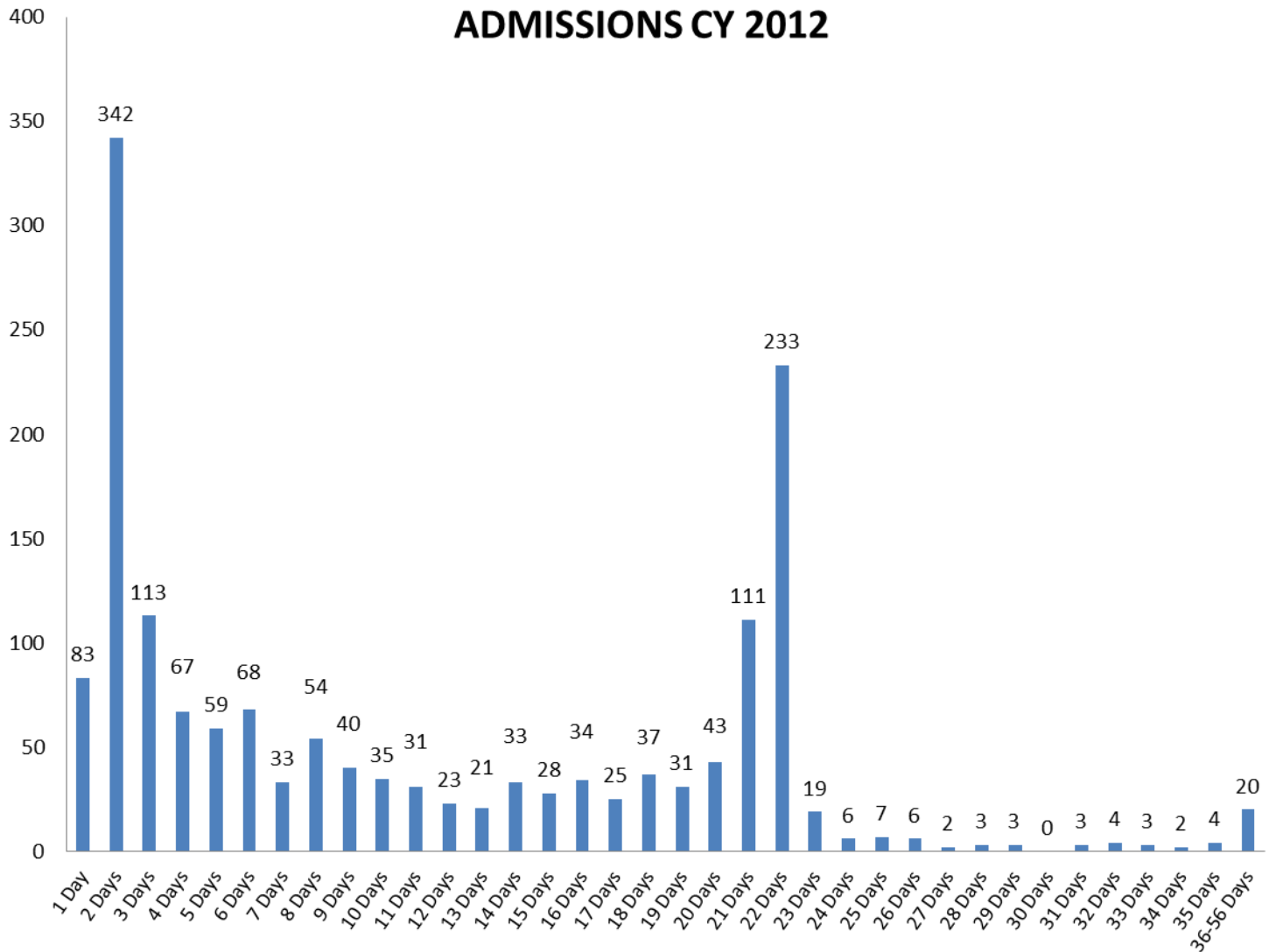


THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (ALOS) IN PINELLAS COUNTY IS 11 DAYS. 1 OUT OF EVERY 3 (33%) YOUTH STAYED IN SECURE DETENTION LESS THAN 72 HOURS

- Length of stay is a very useful indicator of facility utilization. As is shown in the next 2 charts, a large number of youth are held in the detention center for a brief period of time,

and on the other end of the spectrum there are a small but important group of kids that remain in secure detention more than 21 days (5%). Both of these extremes present opportunities for improvement.

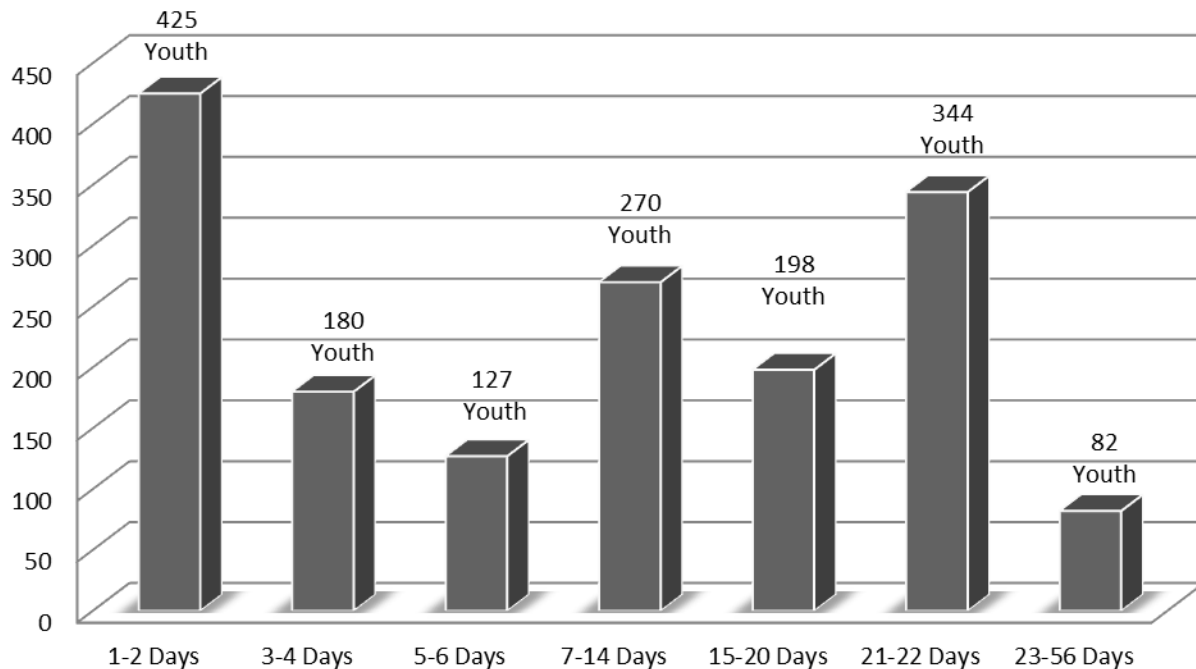
PINELLAS LOS IN SECURE DETENTION (RAW), ADMISSIONS CY 2012



LOS, SHOWN DIFFERENTLY, CAN HELP IDENTIFY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DETENTION STAYS, INCLUDING LARGE NUMBERS OF YOUTH STAYING 1, 2, OR 3 DAYS.

- Below, we see a large number of youth stay the full 21 (or 22) days in secure detention. These findings lead us to “digging deeper” questions – Are male or female youth in detention longer? Are black or white youth in detention longer? What types of youth are staying for the full amount of time allotted by statute? What types of youth are in secure detention for only a day, or for longer than 22 days? Are the “right” kids staying in detention, i.e. kids posing a risk to public safety, or at risk of failure to appear?

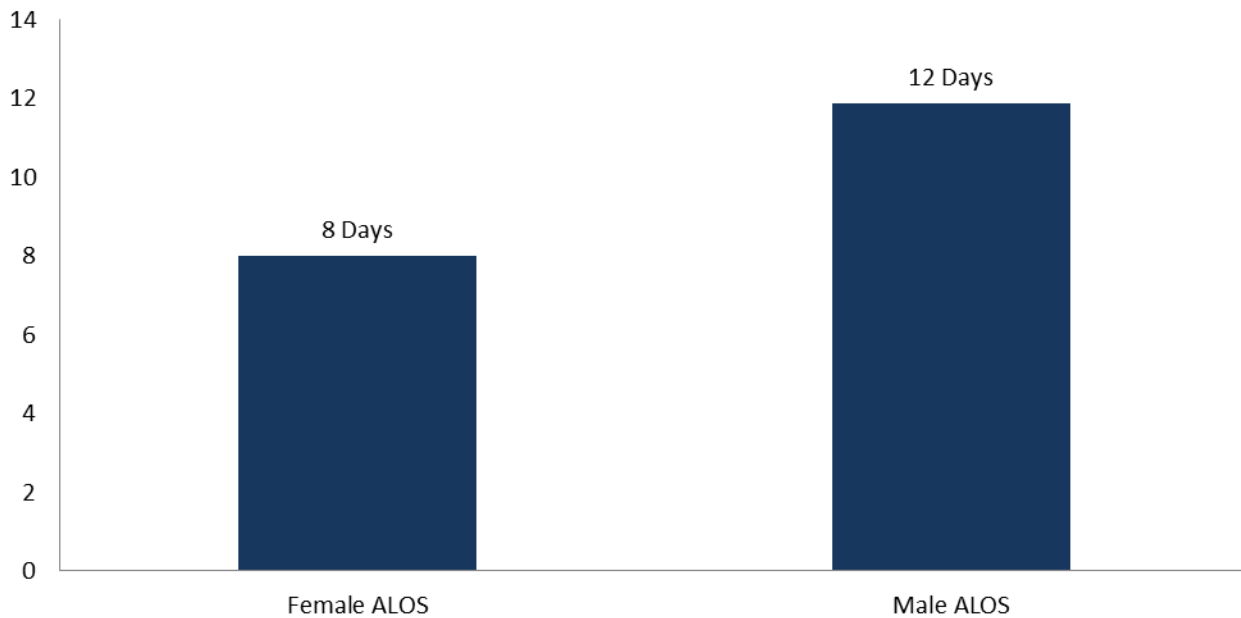
PINELLAS LOS IN SECURE DETENTION (GROUPS OF DAYS), ADMISSIONS, CY 2012



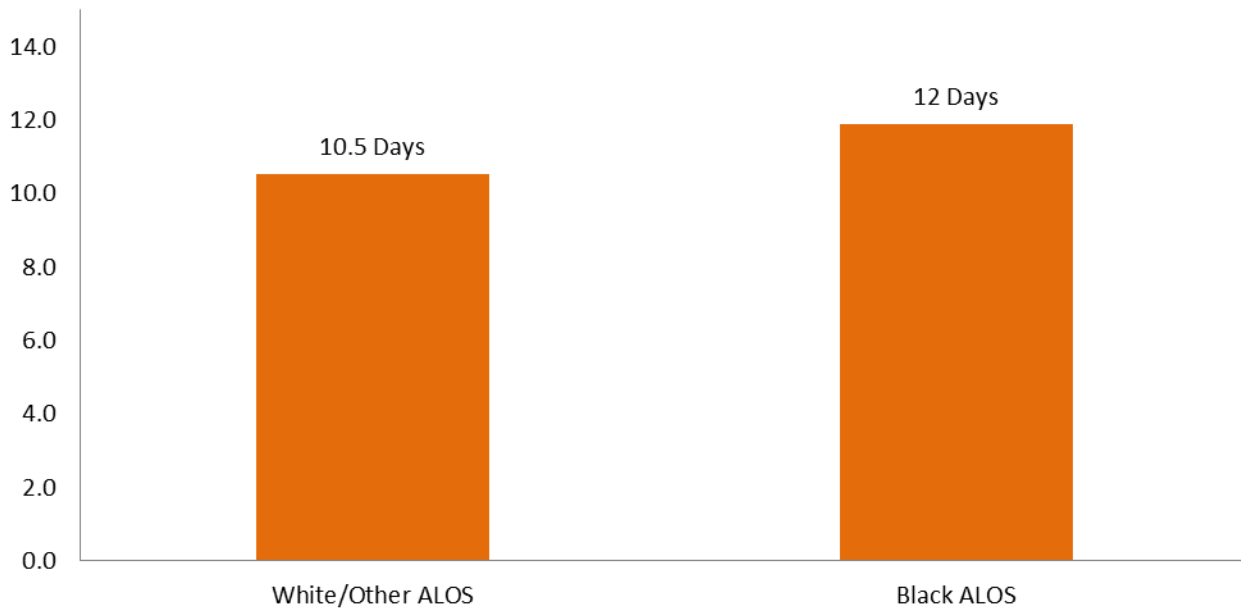
*PLEASE NOTE THAT A “DAY” IN SECURE DETENTION IS DEFINED AS A YOUTH WHO WAS IN THE FACILITY AT ANY TIME DURING THAT DAY. FOR EXAMPLE, A YOUTH THAT ENTERS A FACILITY AT 11:45 PM AND IS RELEASED IN THE NEXT MORNING FOR COURT AT 7:00 AM IS COUNTED FOR 2 “DAYS” IN SECURE DETENTION.

LOS BY GENDER AND RACE GROUPINGS SHOW THAT MALE AND BLACK YOUTH HAVE LONGER LENGTHS OF STAY ON AVERAGE THAN FEMALE AND WHITE/OTHER YOUTH

PINELLAS ALOS, BY GENDER, CY 2012

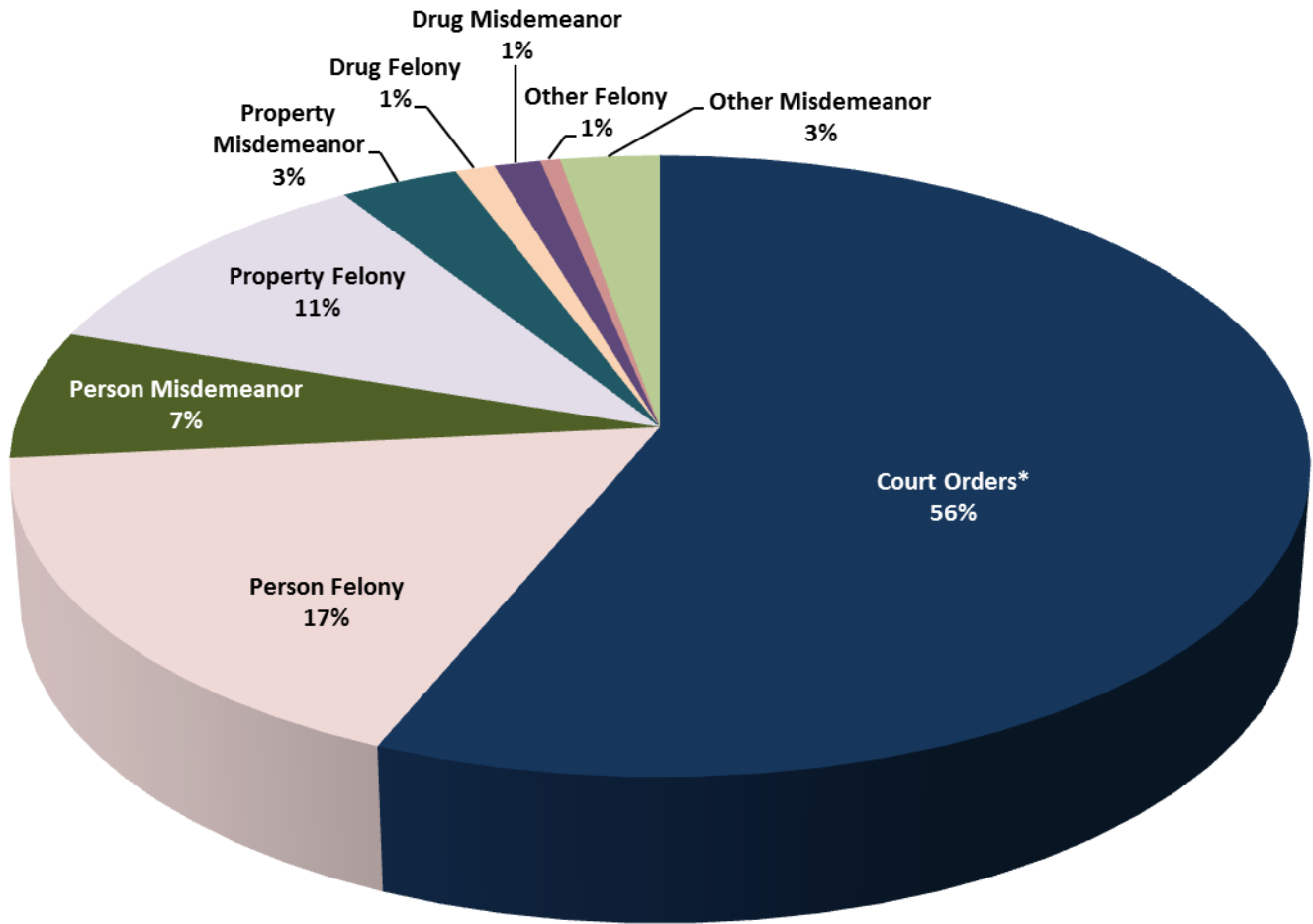


PINELLAS ALOS, BY RACE, CY 2012



FOR YOUTH IN DETENTION UNDER 72 HOURS, THE MAJORITY OF ADMISSIONS ARE RELATED TO A COURT ORDER

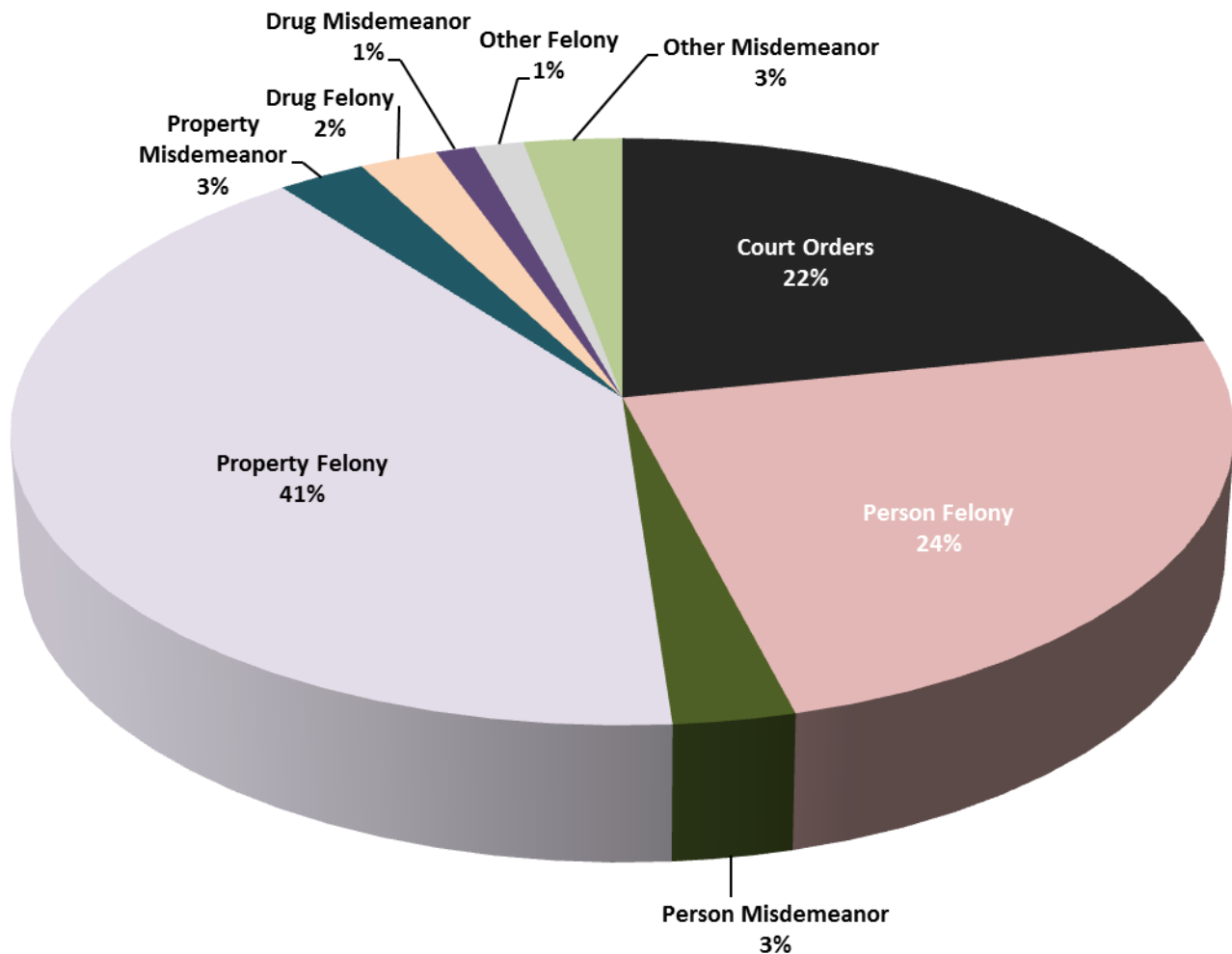
**PINELLAS CHARGE TYPE FOR YOUTH IN SECURE
DETENTION LESS THAN 72 HOURS, ADMISSIONS, CY
2012 (N=538)**



*Court Orders include the following: Failure to Appear, Abscond/Escape, New-law VOP, Non-Law VOP (and other technical violations), Contempt, and General Court Orders/Warrants

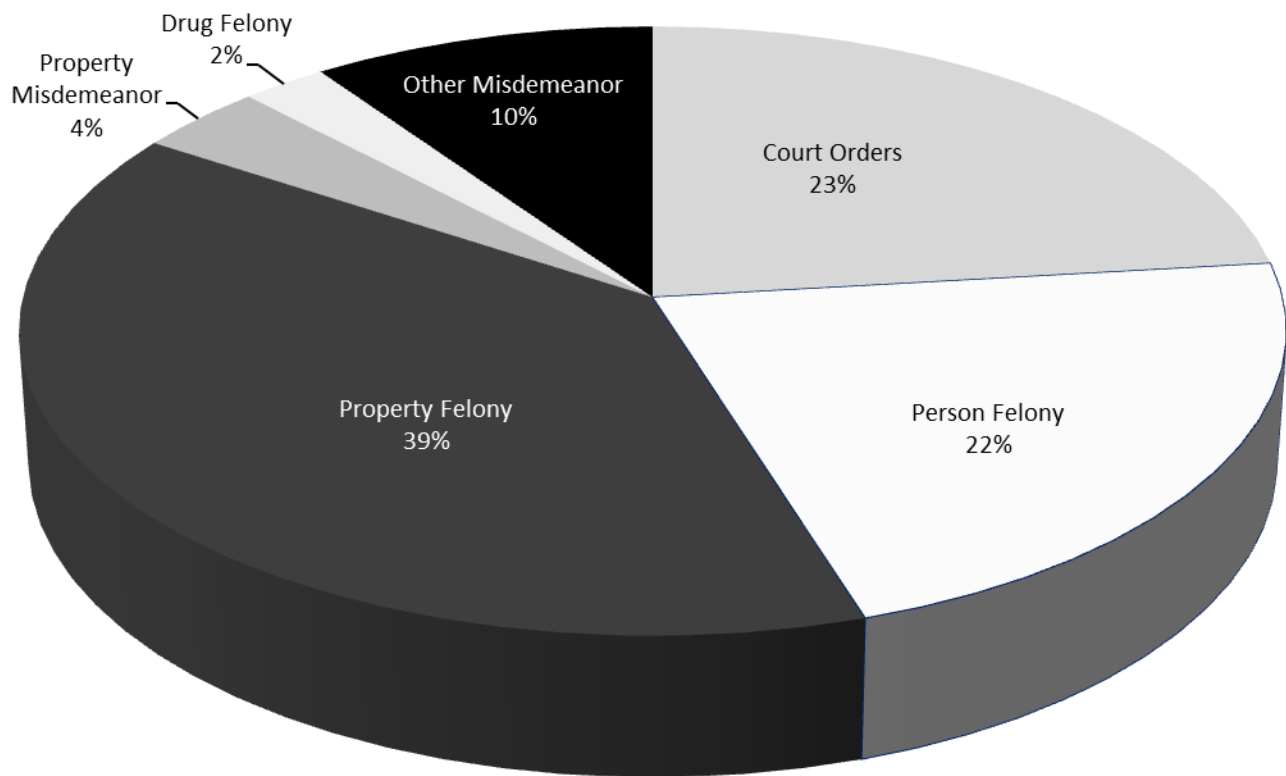
**FOR YOUTH IN DETENTION 21/22 DAYS, 2 IN 5 YOUTH COMMITTED A
PROPERTY FELONY, WHILE ALMOST A QUARTER OF YOUTH HAD BOTH
PERSON FELONYS AND COURT ORDERS. ADDITIONALLY, 10% OF YOUTH HAD
A MISDEMEANOR AS THEIR HIGHEST PRESENTING CHARGE**

**PINELLAS CHARGE TYPE FOR YOUTH IN SECURE
DETENTION 21 or 22 DAYS, ADMISSIONS, CY 2012
(N=344)**



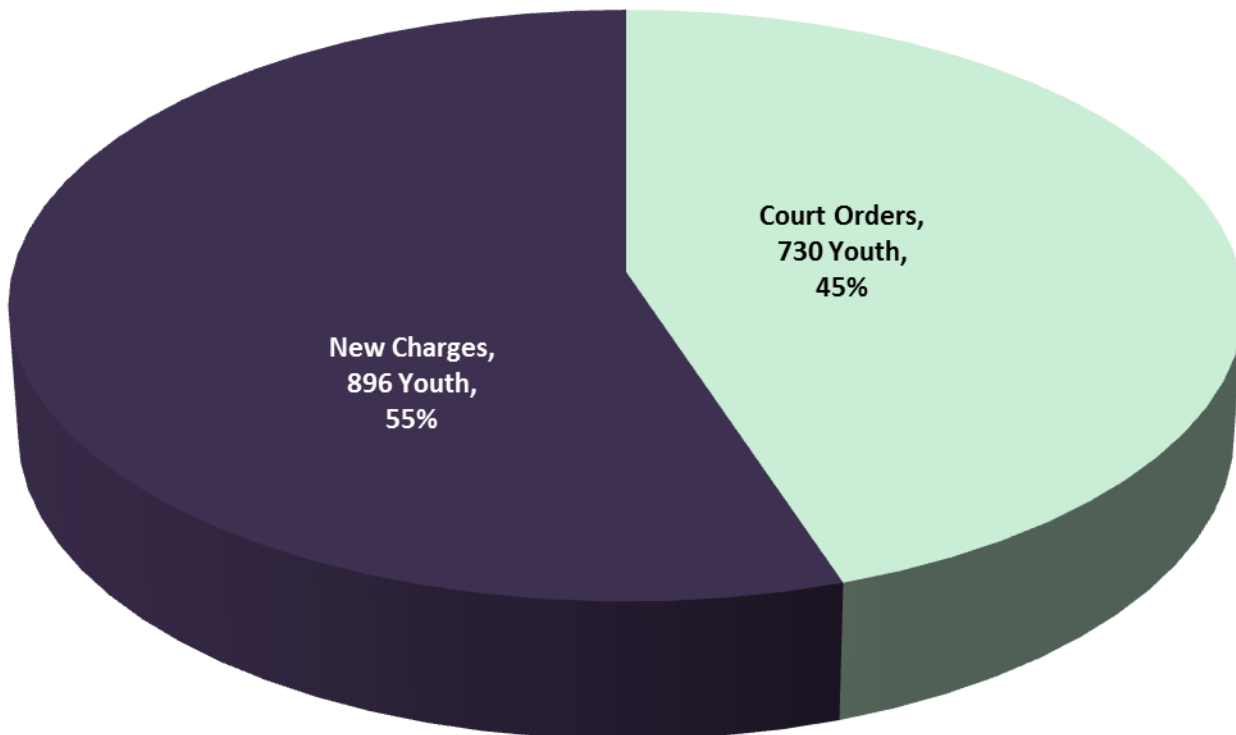
**OF YOUTH HELD IN SECURE DETENTION OVER 22 DAYS, OVER ONE
THIRD ARE FOR A PRESENTING PROPERTY FELONY, WHILE 14%
ARE FOR A PRESENTING MISDEMEANOR**

**PINELLAS CHARGE TYPE FOR YOUTH IN SECURE
DETENTION 23 DAYS OR MORE, ADMISSIONS, CY
2012 (N=82)**



**ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF YOUTH WERE SECURELY DETAINED
FOR A NEW CHARGE (55%), ALMOST HALF OF DETENTION STAYS
WERE DUE TO A COURT ORDER**

**PINELLAS COUNTY ADMISSIONS TO SECURE
DETENTION, BY HIGHEST CHARGE TYPE,
CY 2012 (N=1,626)**

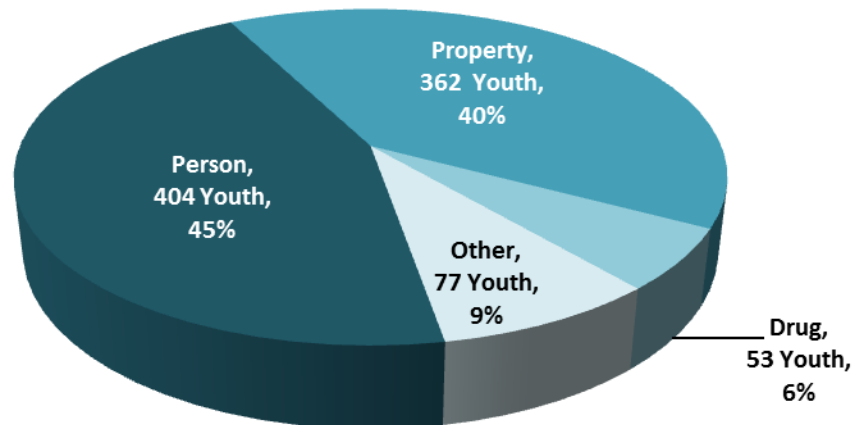


**OF YOUTH DETAINED FOR NEW CHARGES, 45% ARE FOR PERSON OFFENSES
AND 40% ARE PROPERTY OFFENSES.**

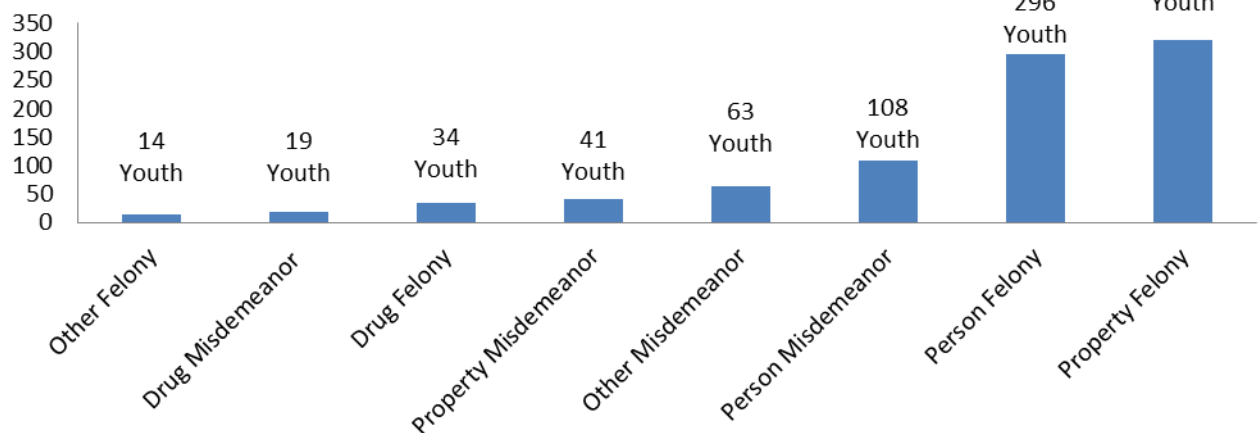
- Looking closer at the charge types in the next graph, we see that the majority of person and property offenses resulting in secure detention are felony

related. However, over a quarter (26.9%) of admissions are related to presenting misdemeanors. Are these related to underlying charges, are the misdemeanor domestic violence charges, do they have accompanying court orders?

PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, NEW CHARGES, BY OFFENSE CATEGORY, CY 2012



PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, NEW CHARGES, BY OFFENSE TYPE, CY 2012

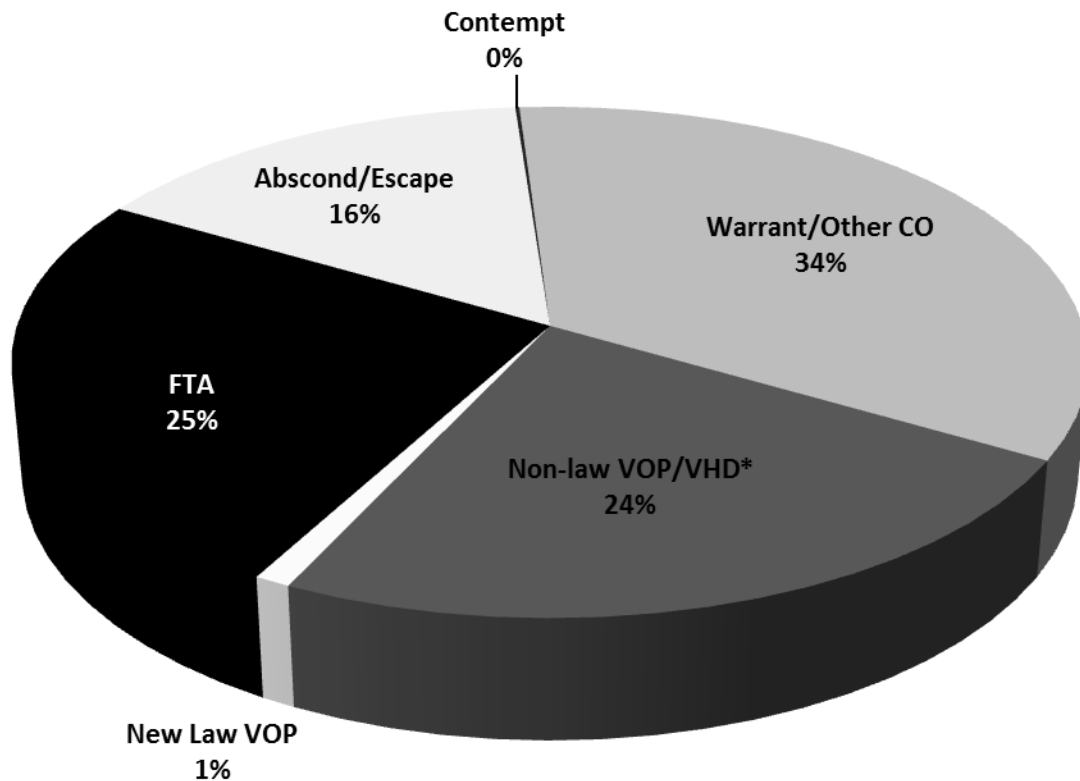


OF YOUTH DETAINED FOR COURT ORDERS, A THIRD (34%) ARE FOR GENERAL COURT ORDERS, AND AN ADDITIONAL QUARTER OF YOUTH ARE DETAINED FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SECURE DETENTION

STAYS. ALL THREE OF THESE CATEGORIES PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT.

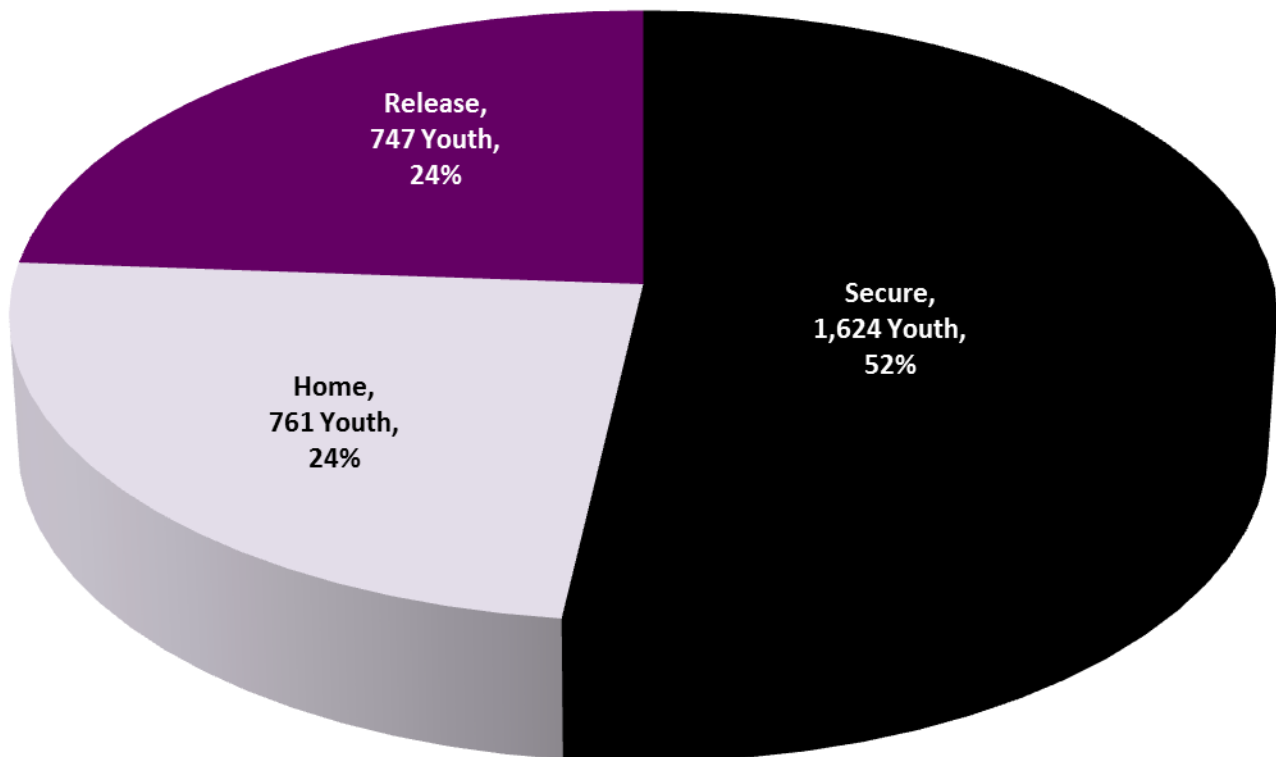
- Youth who have failure to appear charges are 75% Male and 56% Black.
- Of youth who have secure detention stays associated with **failure to appear charges**, 16% are age 14 and below.
- Youth who have non-law VOPs are 87% Males and 53% Black.
- Of youth who have secure detention stays associated with **non-law VOPs**, 38% are age 14 or below.

PINELLAS ADMISSIONS TO SECURE DETENTION, COURT ORDERS, BY CO TYPE, CY 2012



OF YOUTH SCREENED IN PINELLAS COUNTY, 52% ARE PLACED IN SECURE DETENTION, WHILE ONLY 24% ARE RELEASED.

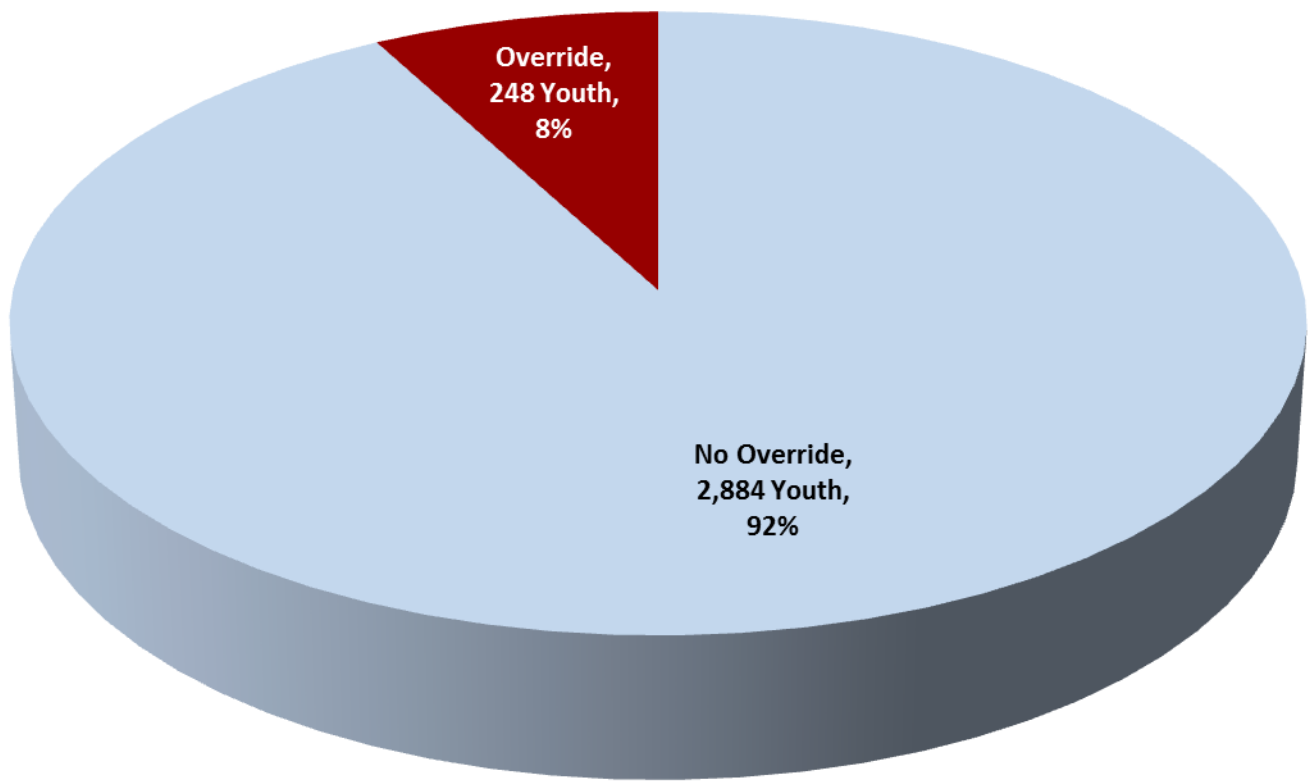
**PINELLAS COUNTY DRAI SCREENING DECISIONS,
CY 2012 (N=3,132)**



**PINELLAS COUNTY IS ALMOST 3 TIMES AS LIKELY TO OVERRIDE A YOUTH ON
THE DRAI COMPARED TO THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE**

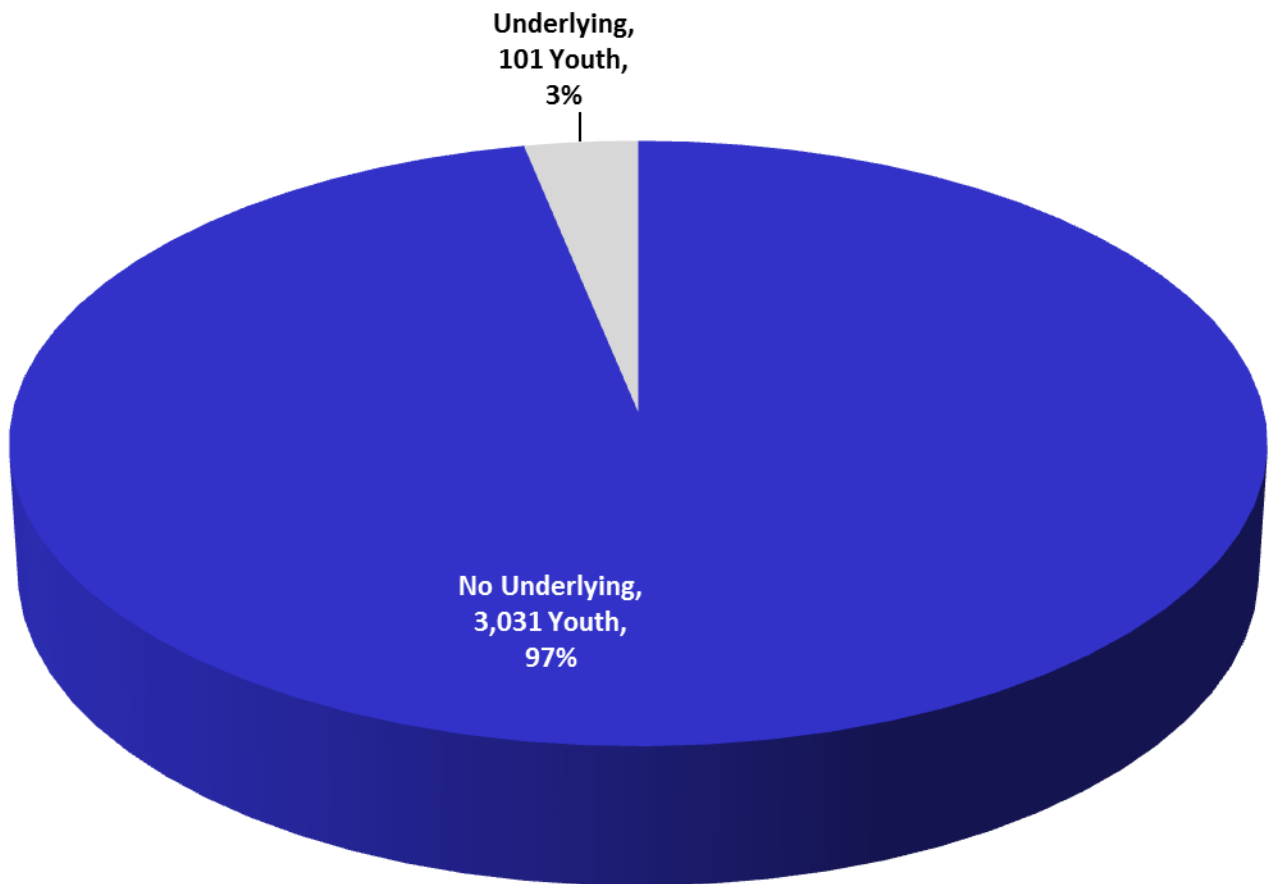
- The override rate in Pinellas County (8%) is much higher than the override rate of the State of Florida, which is only 3%.

**PINELLAS COUNTY DRAI OVERRIDES, CY 2012
(N=3,132)**



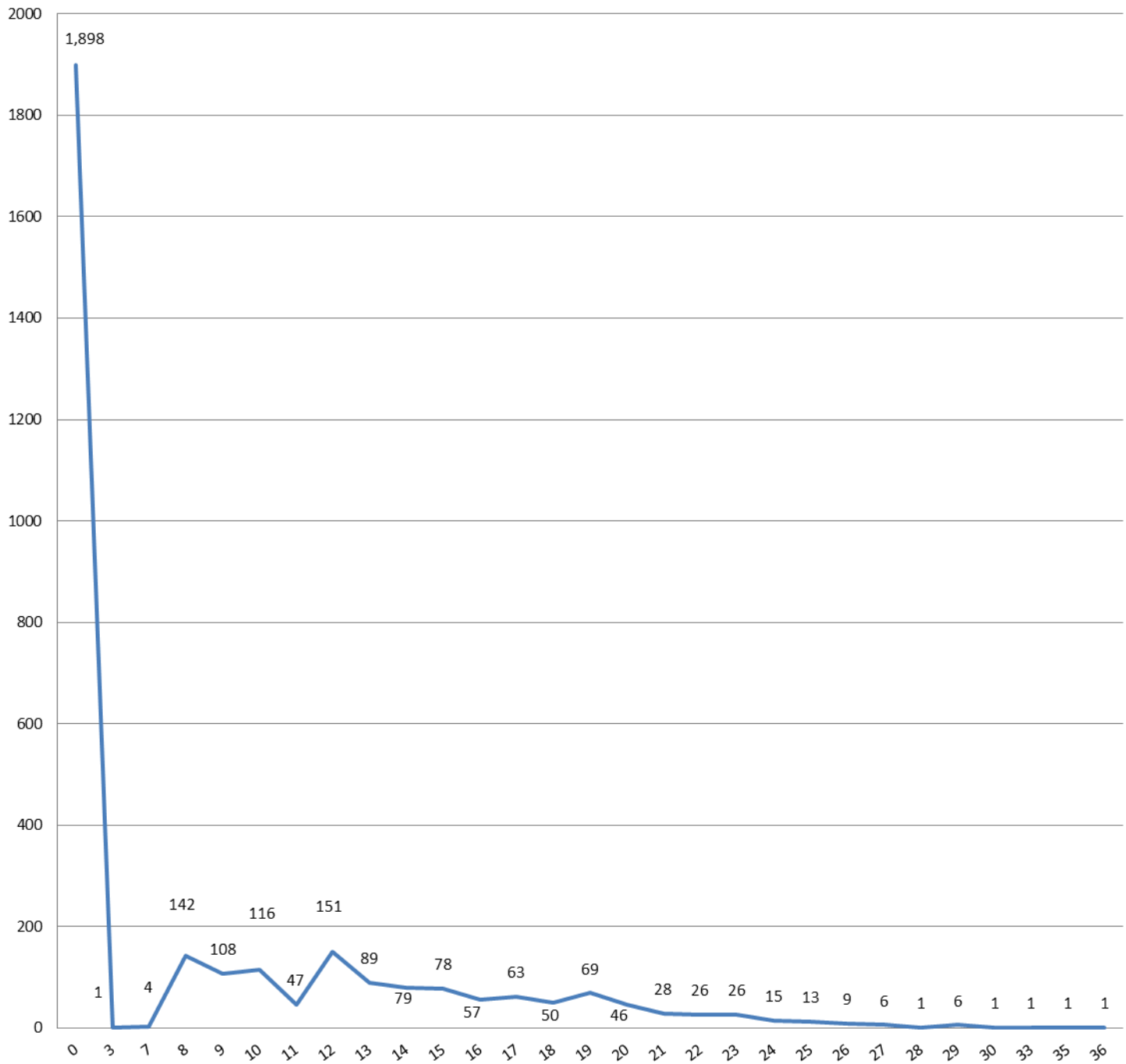
PINELLAS COUNTY HAS 3.2% OF YOUTH WHO ARE SCREENED ON THE DRAI WHO QUALIFY FOR UNDERLYING CHARGES, WHICH IS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THE 3.9% STATEWIDE UNDERLYING CHARGE RATE

**PINELLAS COUNTY DRAI UNDERLYING CHARGES,
CY 2012**



**61% OF YOUTH SCREENED IN PINELLAS COUNTY HAVE A ZERO DRAI SCORE,
DUE TO THE FACT THAT EITHER THE YOUTH DID NOT REACH SCREENING
CRITERIA OR THE YOUTH RECEIVED A COURT ORDER**

PINELLAS COUNTY RAW DRAI SCORES, CY 2012

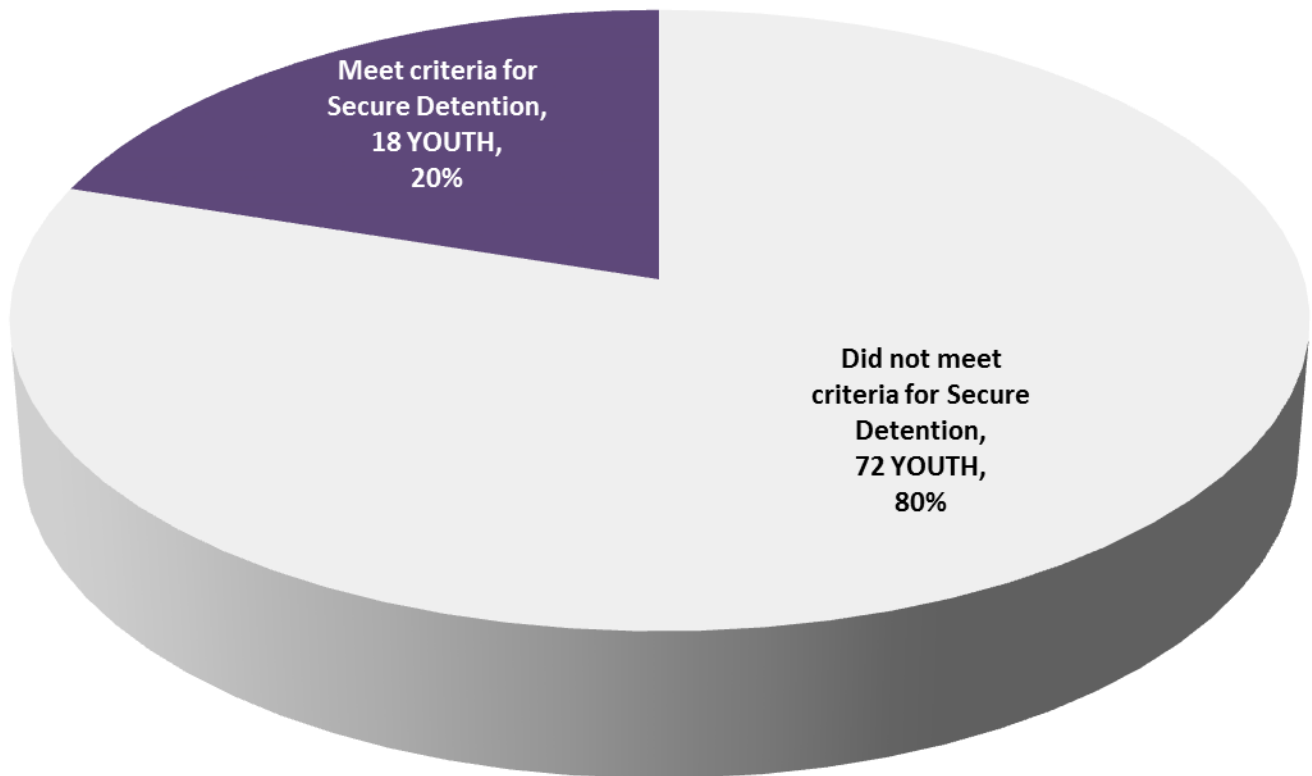


80% OF YOUTH (72 YOUTH) WHO WERE DETAINED FOR CHARGES RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DID NOT MEET CRITERIA FOR SECURE DETENTION

AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO A RESPITE BED IF ONE WAS AVAILABLE

- Of these 90 detained domestic violence youth, 38% are Black and 55% are Male.

PINELLAS COUNTY DRAI, YOUTH WHO WERE SECURELY DETAINED WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGES, CY 2012 (N=90)



STRENGTHS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Crime and delinquency rates are down!
 2. Only 3% of youth screened are scored on underlying charges.
 3. There are only a small number of youth in secure detention beyond 22 days.
1. Work with the local JAC and other relevant staff to identify the issues related to the high number of overrides. Consider potential retraining of staff.
 2. Continue to work with local Probation staff to bolster relationships with our Judicial Partners to reduce the high number of court orders that send youth to secure detention, as over half of youth in SD are there because of a court order.
 3. Work with the local collaborative to establish alternatives to secure detention so that judges and local staff have other placement options.
 4. Work with local respite providers to ensure there is space for the youth that have domestic violence charges but who cannot immediately return home.
 5. Work with probation officers to address the high rates of non-law violations which are associated with 11% of stays in secure detention, because of court orders that are issued pursuant to these non-law VOPs
 6. Continue to work with local staff to address high rates of FTAs, which are associated with 11% of stays in secure detention.

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