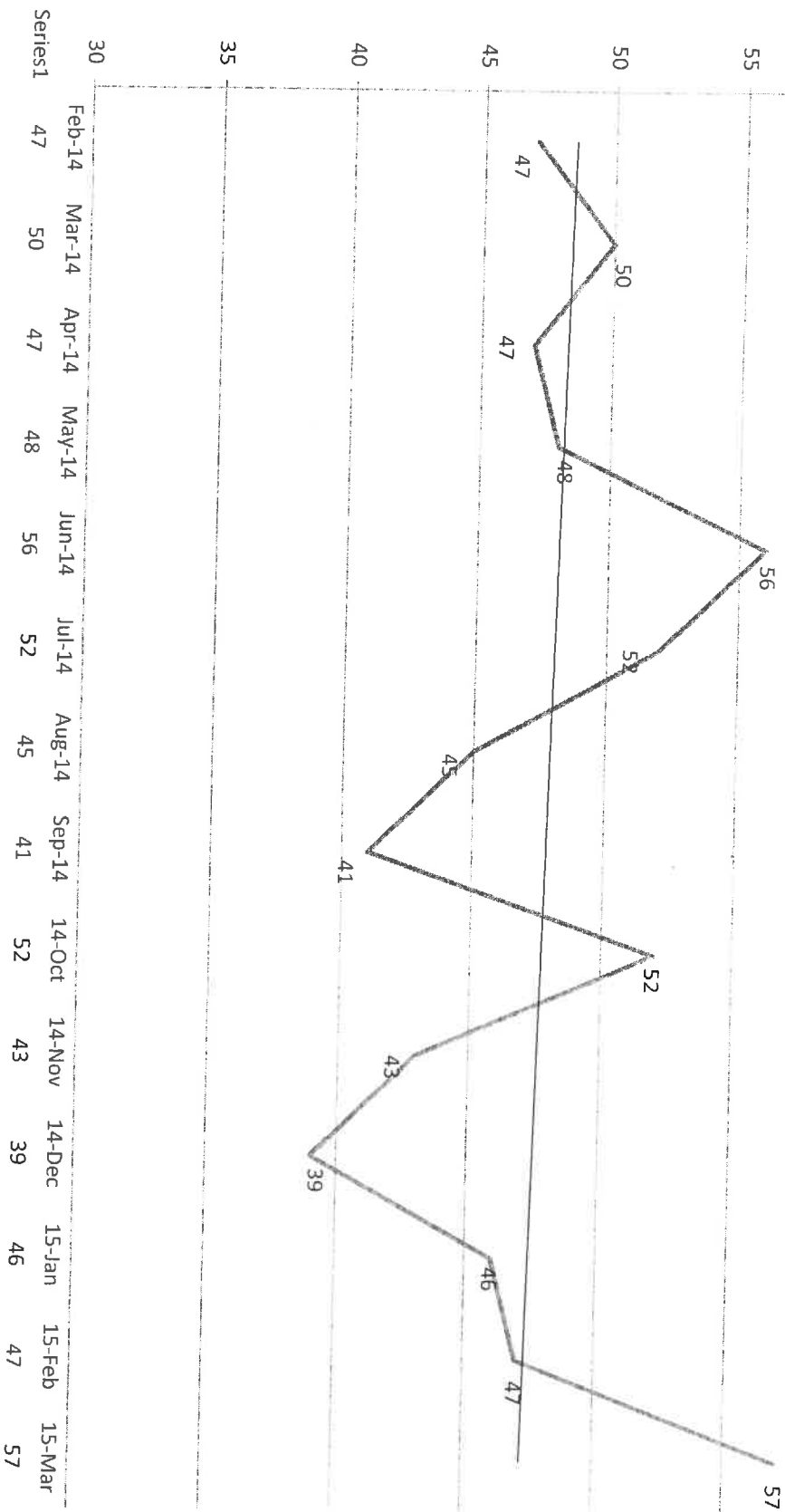
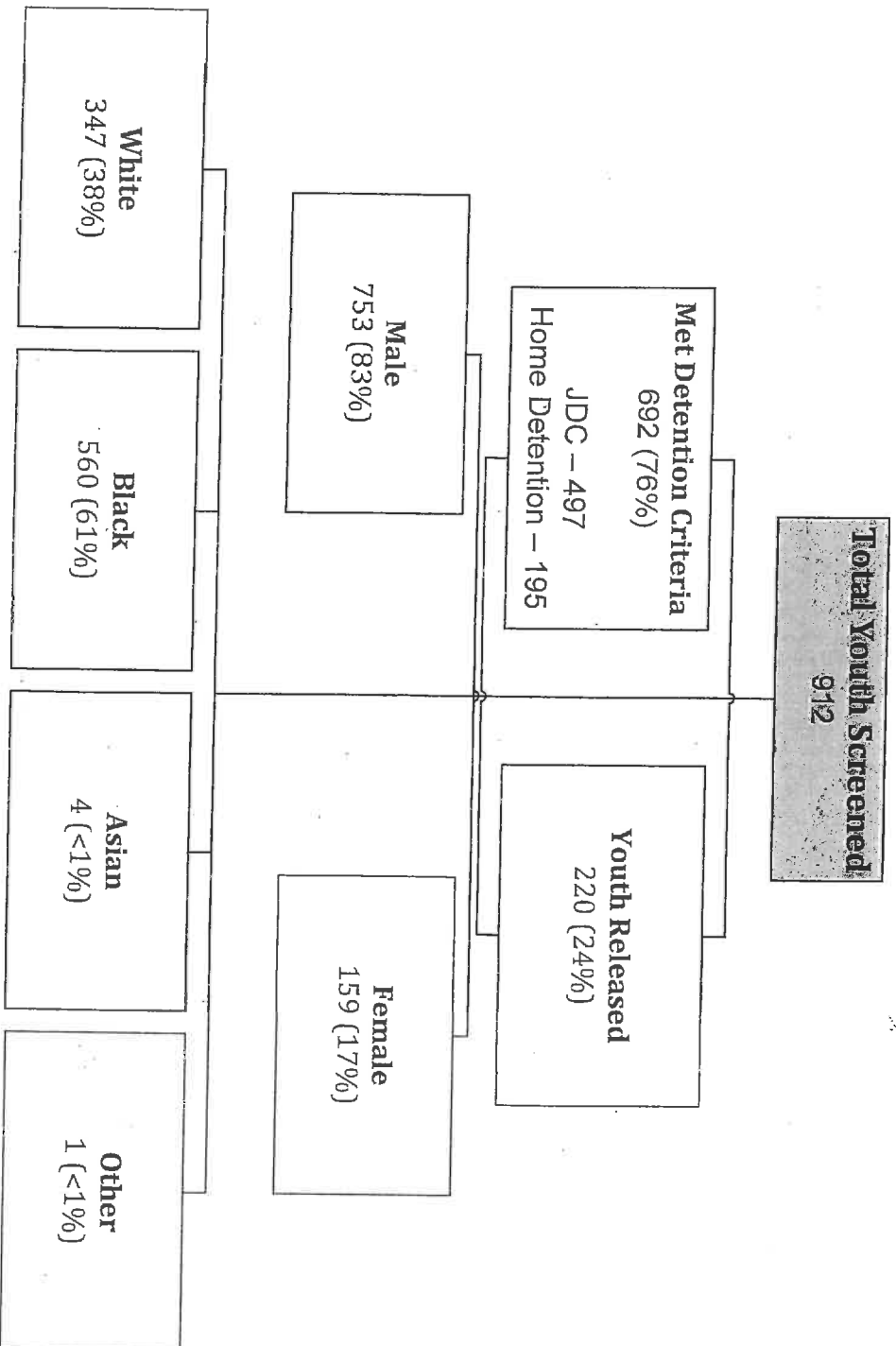


HANDOUTS

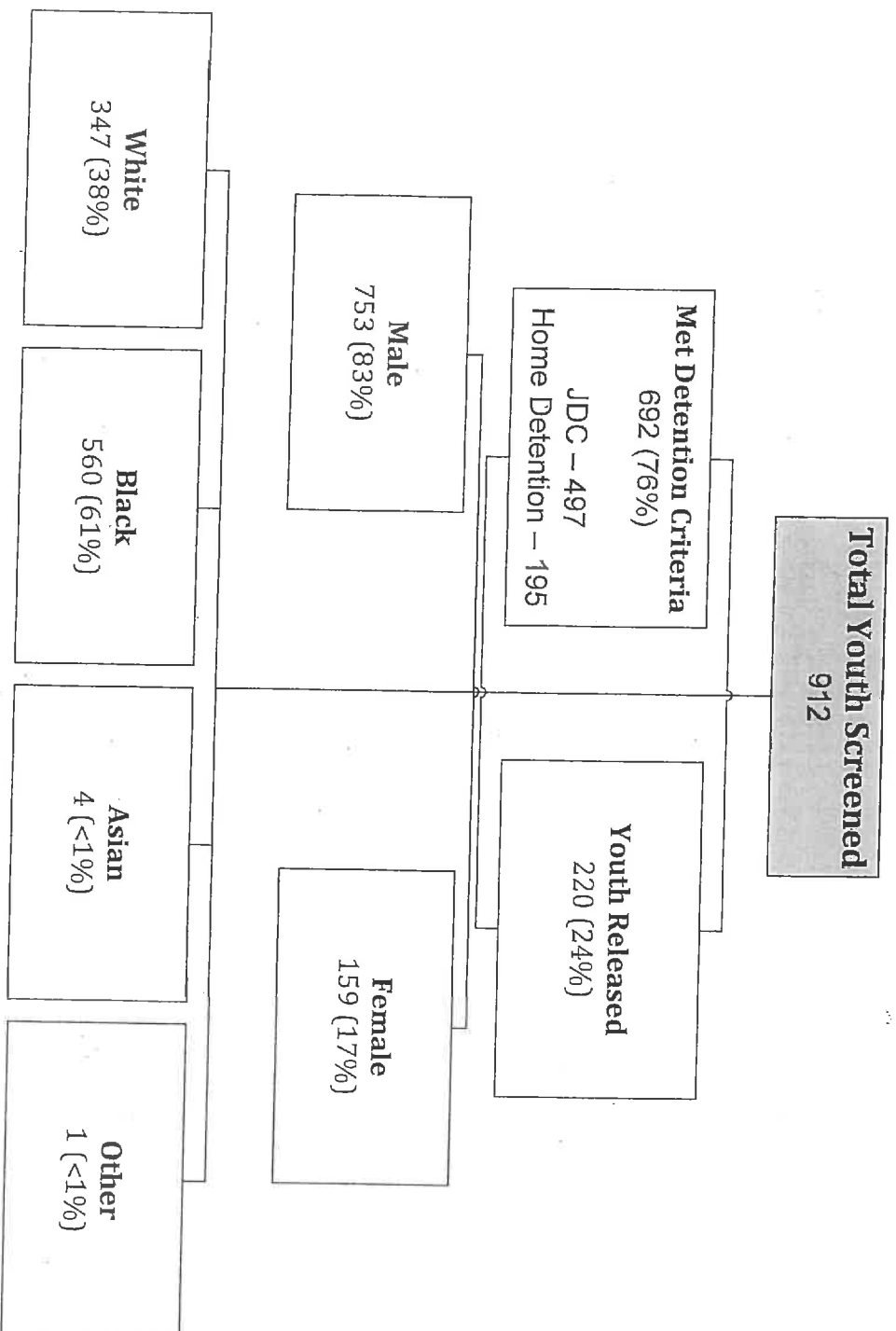
AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION (ADP) OF PINELLAS YOUTH IN PINELLAS JDC



Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center
Youth Screened by Department of Juvenile Justice
January - March 2015 Quarterly Report



Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center
Youth Screened by Department of Juvenile Justice
January - March 2015 Quarterly Report



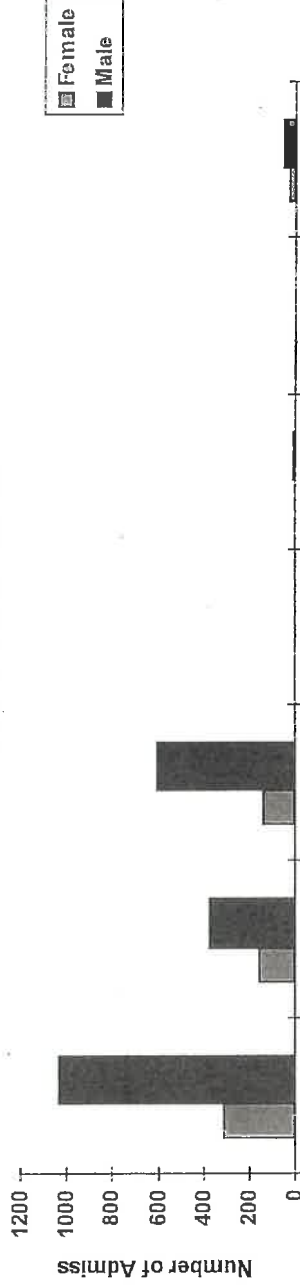
Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center **Admission by Sex and Race**

Date Printed: 04/13/2015

Report Start Date: 01/01/2015 00:

Report End Date: 03/31/2015 23:

Admissions by Sex and Race

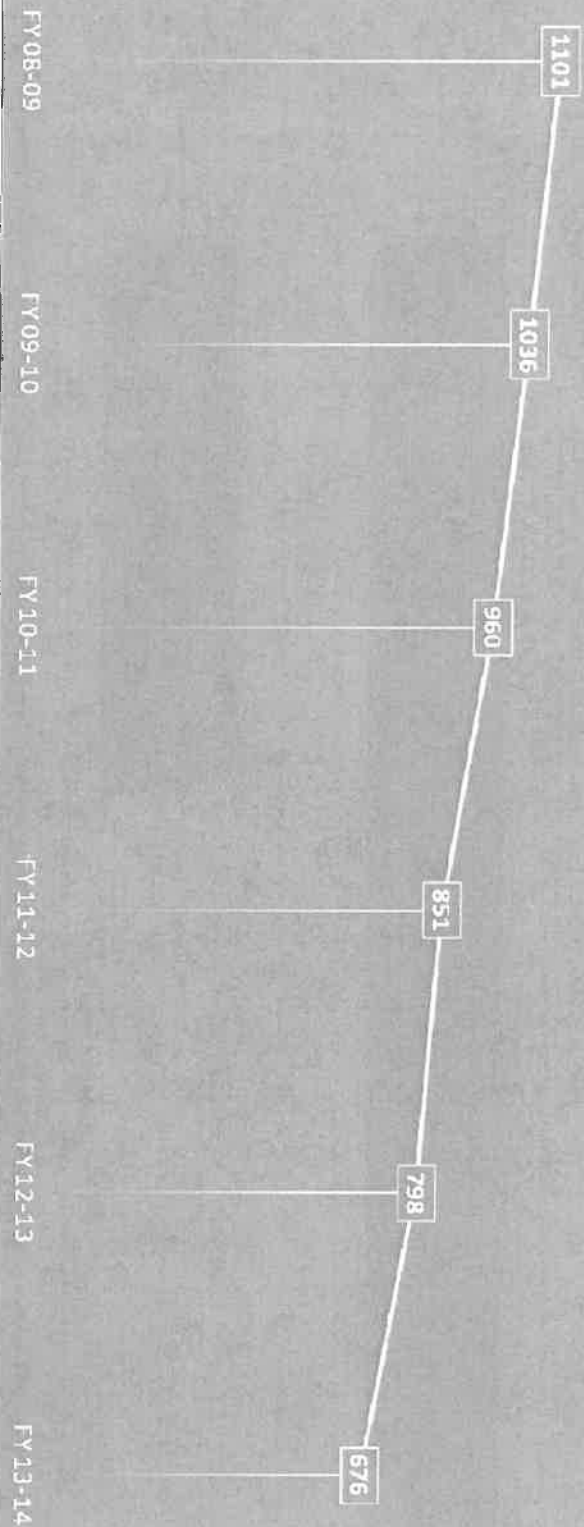


Race

Sex	White	African-American	Am Indian	Asian Pac Islander	Alaskan Native	Other	Total Admits
Female	152	135			3		25
	29.06%	18.24%			33.33%		32.89%
Male	371	605			6		51
	70.94%	81.76%			66.67%		67.11%
Grand Total:							
	523	740			9		76
	38.80%	54.90%			0.67%		5.64%

SCHOOL BASED ARRESTS IN PINELLAS COUNTY BY FISCAL YEAR

— Number of School Based Arrests

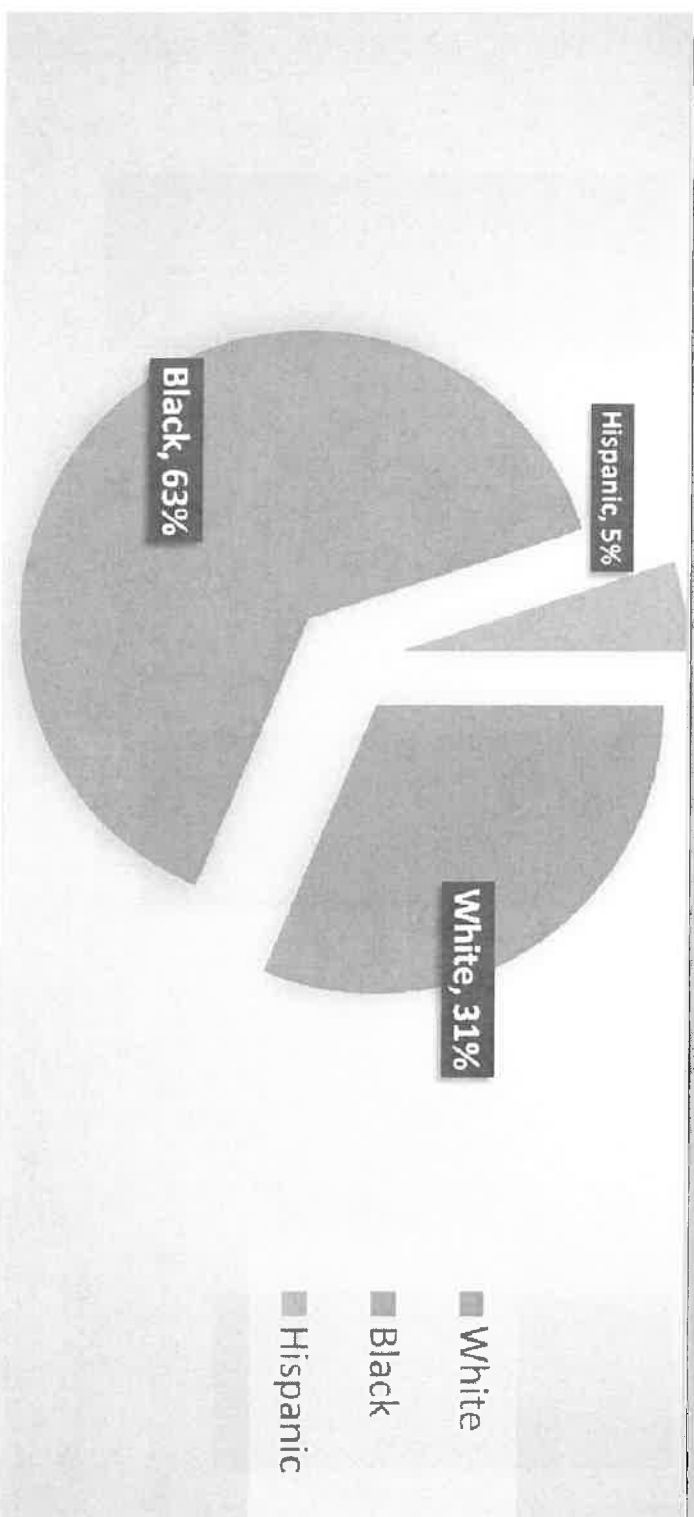


Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	6-Year Change
2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	
1101	1036	960	851	798	676	-38%

School Arrest Demographics by Gender and Race Pinellas County FY 13-14



School Arrest Demographics by Race/Ethnicity Pinellas County FY 13-14



252

587

265

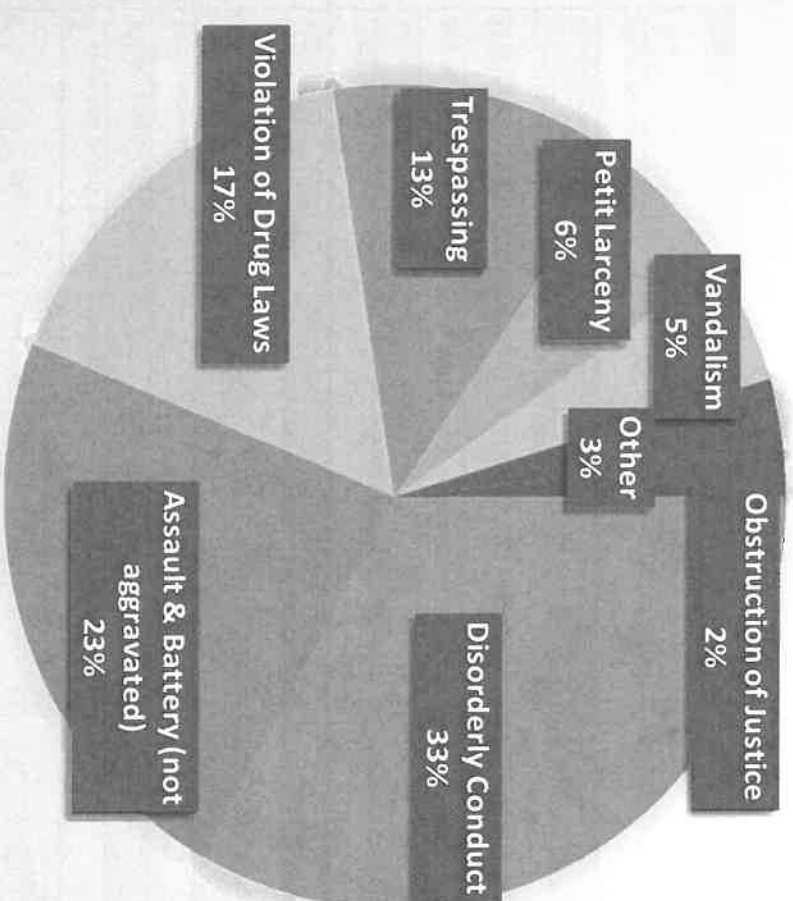
524

241

435



Types of Misdemeanor Charges FY 13-14



- Disorderly Conduct
- Assault & Battery (not aggravated)
- Violation of Drug Laws
- Trespassing
- Petit Larceny
- Vandalism
- Other
- Obstruction of Justice

Type of Misdemeanor	#
Disorderly Conduct	142
Assault & Battery (not aggravated)	99
Violation of Drug Laws	73
Trespassing	54
Petit Larceny	25
Vandalism	21

PINELLAS COUNTY CIVIL CITATION ADMISSIONS
FY 2013-14, by Offense Type and Referral Origin

Offense Type	Community	School	Total
Assault and or Battery (not aggravated)	171	54	225
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses	4	3	7
Petit Larceny	348	7	355
Misdemeanor Weapon-Firearm Offense	3	0	3
Misdemeanor Violation of Drug Laws	163	59	222
Vandalism	20	4	24
Trespassing	28	11	39
Disorderly Conduct	27	64	91
Misdemeanor Alcohol Offenses	11	3	14
Loitering and Prowling	27	0	27
Violation of Hunting, Fishing, or Boating Laws	2	0	2
Misdemeanor Obstruction of Justice	32	3	35
Other Misdemeanor	4	3	7
Total	840	211	1,051

Pinellas County Civil Citation Admissions				
July 2014 - February 2015 by Offense Type and Referral Origin				
Offense Type	Community	School	Total	
Assault and or Battery (not aggravated)	116	41	157	
Petit Larceny	149	4	153	
Misdemeanor Weapon-Firearm Offense	1	4	5	
Misdemeanor Violation of Drug Laws	70	35	105	
Vandalism	29	1	30	
Trespassing	11	11	22	
Disorderly Conduct	7	37	44	
Misdemeanor Alcohol Offenses	2	2	4	
Loitering and Prowling	12	1	13	
Violation of Hunting, Fishing, and Boating Laws	1	0	1	
Misdemeanor Obstruction of Justice	16	4	20	
Misd Other	0	1	1	
Contempt of Court	1	0	1	
Total	415	141	556	

COUNTY	DATE	DEFINITION	RESPONSE	Results
Clayton County, GA	Renewed 2013	" <u>Focused Acts</u> " include all misdemeanor type delinquent acts except those involving serious bodily harm or drugs. Focused Acts are considered school discipline issues to be handled by school officials and are not deemed criminal law issues warranting the filing of a juvenile complaint unless the student has committed at least three (3) separate prior Focused Acts within the same school calendar year and each incident documented using the	<u>Examples of Graduated Response</u> 2nd or subsequent <u>Disorderly Conduct</u> - School Conflict Workshop <u>Theft</u> - Theft Workshop <u>Simple Battery</u> - School Conflict workshop/Mediation <u>Criminal Damage to Property</u> -Mediation/Volunteer Restitution Program/ Civil Action <u>4th Focused Act</u> in the same school year may result in the filing of a juvenile complaint, but is not mandated by this agreement. The SRO has discretion to take other action that includes deferment to the administrator's disciplinary action, admonishment and counsel, or a referral to a graduate response program.	80% decrease in average daily detention population (ADP) 75% reduction in ADP of minority youth 47% reduction in average length of stay Felony re-arrest (prior to adjudication) is 0% 72% fewer commitments to state custody 66% fewer commitments of minority youth, BUT a 72% reduction in formal petitions 62% reduction in complaints

Jefferson County, AL (Birmingham)	Adopted 2009	<u>Minor school based offenses:</u> Affray; Criminal trespass 3; Assault 3 (no weapon); Disorderly Conduct; Harassment; Menacing; Theft of Property 3 (\$500 or less)	Graduated Response to minor school based offense <u>1st offense</u> -Warning <u>2nd offense</u> - Warning, Counsel, School Conflict Workshop <u>3rd or subsequent offense</u> - referral to JJ (although not required)	75% decrease in referrals. 72% decrease in detention rates between 2004 and 2011.
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Broward County, FL	Adopted 2013	<p>1.02 <u>Non-Violent Misdemeanors</u> are limited to: Disrupting or interfering with a School Function; Affray; Theft of less than \$300; Vandalism of less than \$1,000; Disorderly Conduct; Trespassing; Criminal Mischief; Gambling; Loitering or Prowling; Harassment; Incidents relating to Alcohol; Possession of Cannabis (misdemeanor, requires consultation with law enforcement to determine the level of offense); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Threats; 6 and Obstructing Justice without Violence</p>	<p><u>1st instance of student</u> misbehavior that rises to the level of a non-violent misdemeanor and requires consultation with a police officer should not result in arrest nor the filing of a criminal complaint, but instead be handled through the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline Matrix</p> <p><u>Repeated incidents of non-violent misdemeanors</u> as defined in section 1.02 shall result in graduated levels of school-based interventions and consequences by the administrators on campus, according to the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline Matrix, and referral to law enforcement for certain incidents. The Discipline Matrix outlines the specific incidents in which repeated misbehavior shall result in a referral to law enforcement.</p> <p><u>three incidents</u> in a school year that fall under section 1.02 shall be referred to the Behavior Intervention Committee.</p> <p><u>fourth incident</u> in a school year that falls under section 1.02, the student shall be referred for consultation with law enforcement, unless such referral is sooner required by the Discipline Matrix.</p>
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San Francisco, CA	Adopted 2014	<p><u>Low-level school-based offense</u>, defined as an offense involving battery, battery on school property, battery against a school employee, attempt to resist arrest, disturbing the peace, or possession of marijuana for personal use, unless the student has committed his or her third or subsequent similar offense during the school year.</p>	<p>GRADUATED RESPONSES TO LOW-LEVEL SCHOOL BASED OFFENSES</p> <p><u>First Offense:</u> If a student commits a low-level school-based offense, an SFPD officer shall have the discretion to admonish and counsel or take no action.</p> <p><u>Second Offense:</u> Upon the commission of a subsequent, similar low-level school-based offense in the same school year, law enforcement shall have the discretion to admonish and counsel, or require the student to attend a SFUSD or other diversion program.</p> <p><u>Third or subsequent offense.</u> For a student who commits a third or subsequent offense, SFPD may refer the case to CARC/Juvenile Probation for filing with the Court or further if the student has attended a program in that or previous school year and the student has committed a similar low-level school-based offense, the next similar minor school-based offense may result in a complaint being filed with the Court.</p>
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Sedgwick, KY	Adopted 2011	<p><u>"Focused Acts"</u> are misdemeanor type delinquent acts involving offenses against order including but not limited to a fight between two or more people, disrupting public school, disorderly conduct, obstruction of Police (limited to acts of truancy where a Student fails to obey an officer's command to stop or not leave campus), and criminal trespass (not involving damage to property).</p>	<p>Focused Acts shall <u>not</u> result in filing of a complaint alleging delinquency or arrest. The Parties agree that the response to the commission of a Focused Act by a Student should be determined by the Principal or designee after reviewing the Student's Crisis Plan and Behavior Intervention Plan including a De-escalation Plan Crisis Plan and Individual Behavior Intervention Plan in Cases Where a Student has Committed a Focused Act.</p> <p><u>Crisis Plan and Individual Behavior Intervention Plan in Cases Where a Student has Committed a Focused Act</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>First-tier responders</u>. Within the classroom setting, school staff members are to follow the classroom behavior system, individual Behavior Intervention Plans and Crisis Plans when addressing problematic behavior. They initiate research-based interventions before requesting assistance with a Student unless there has been a Violent Physical Assault. 2. <u>Second-tier responders</u>. When a staff member has a Student who is showing signs of escalation and has tried the appropriate interventions without success, the child study team or security may be called. If the child study team personnel are unable to move the Student to another location safely, security will be contacted to remove the Student, initiate de-escalation interventions, and continue implementing the Crisis Plan. When the Student exhibits Violent Behavior, or commits a Violent Physical Assault resulting in the injury of another person, Police will be contacted to assist, a CIT Officer will be requested and will respond as available. The parent/guardian will also be notified. 3. <u>Third-tier responders</u>. If the Student continues to escalate, the parent and/or identified community service providers, as identified in the Student's IEP, will be contacted for assistance. If the Student does not have community service support, the parent and Student will be referred to JIAC to complete an assessment survey. 4. <u>Fourth-tier responders</u>. If the Student's community service support providers have not been successful in de-escalating the Student, Police will be contacted to assist and a CIT Officer will be requested and will respond as available to assist. If the Student exhibits homicidal or Suicidal Behavior at any time throughout the de-escalation process, Police or a CIT Officer will be contacted to assist and/or file a report, then the Student will be taken to COMCARE Crisis for a Mental Health Assessment or to a secure mental health facility.
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School Arrests Thru March 2015 (Pinellas County Schools Police Data)

SCHOOL		Aug19-Sep30	Aug18-Sep30	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Dec	Dec	Jan	Jan	Feb	Feb	March	March
		2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Azalea Middle		2	3	5	3	5	1	5	0	3	1	5	1	1	0
Bay Point Middle		2	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bayside High School		6	5	2	1	3	3	5	0	0	0	4	2	3	1
Boca Ciega High		9	3	3	2	2	3	0	0	2	2	1	3	3	4
Calvin Hunsinger		0	5	5	5	1	0	4	0	1	1	2	3	1	2
Carwise Middle		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Clearwater High		2	0	2	1	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	2	3	0
Clwter Inter/Fund		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Countryside High		4	0	6	0	3	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0
Dixie Hollins High		1	4	5	4	1	0	5	1	3	0	2	2	4	2
Dunedin High		9	0	6	6	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	1
Dunedin Middle		1	0	2	3	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	3
East Lake High		2	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	2	1	5	0
East Lake Middle		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fitzgerald Middle		2	5	7	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	7	1	4
Gibbs High		1	3	5	4	1	3	2	0	1	4	1	1	1	0
Gulf Coast Academy		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hamilton School		0	1	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
John Hopkins Middle		0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	7	1	0	1
Lakewood High		9	2	9	0	5	2	1	0	1	4	6	7	6	6
Largo High		5	0	8	0	0	2	4	3	3	0	0	0	1	1
Largo Middle		3	0	9	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	6	1	1	1
Lealman Intermediate		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Meadowlawn Middle		2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Northeast High		0	0	4	0	7	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0
Oak Grove Middle		3	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	4
Osceola High		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Osceola Middle		3	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	4	4	1	3
Palm Harbor Middle		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palm Harbor Univ. High		5	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
Pinellas Park High		6	5	3	2	4	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	3	4
Pinellas Park Middle		1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	1	1	3
Pinellas Secondary		2	1	1	2	0	1	2	6	3	1	3	0	8	4
PTEC North		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PTEC South		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Safety Harbor Middle		1	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	3	2	1	0	1
Sanders Exceptional		4	4	5	3	6	2	1	0	5	2	3	2	2	3
Seminole High		4	0	2	2	4	2	1	0	2	1	3	5	3	2
Seminole Middle		4	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	8	0
St. Pete High		3	5	0	4	0	4	5	0	2	5	2	3	8	2
Tarpon Springs High		3	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0
Tarpon Springs Middle		1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
Tomlinson Adult		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyone Middle		1	1	3	0	1	2	1	0	1	2	2	4	0	3
Totals		101	61	101	68	59	43	56	16	44	42	79	69	71	60
Mar-14		71													
Mar-15		60	-15%												
Total 2013-14		511													
Total 2014-15		359	-30%												

The Weekly Challenger

Education not incarceration

Posted on November 20, 2014 by TWC in Featured, in The Community with 0 Comments



BY HOLLY KESTENIS, Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG—Local residents gathered at Greater Mt. Zion AME Church to hear new ways the community is working toward stopping the pipeline to prison among our youth with alternative approaches to disciplinary actions.

Parents, grandparents and concerned citizens were in attendance to discuss how to reduce the amount of teenagers in the juvenile justice system, particularly among African-American males.

Although the numbers around Pinellas County are dropping, there are too many children each year being arrested for criminal activity happening in area schools.



Gina Gibbs of Pinellas County Justice and Community Services cited some startling statistics. Bottom line, there are a lot of arrests being made in our schools. According to Gibbs, five of the top 10 schools with the most arrests are right here in St. Petersburg. Azalea Middle School was the only middle school rounding out the top 10. Area high schools, Boca Ciega, Dixie Hollins, Lakewood, and St. Petersburg High School were also among those schools with the highest arrests. Although there are over 200 students being arrested for felonies, Gibbs argued that the majority of arrests are made for misdemeanors such as disorderly conduct, which averaged 33 percent of the arrests, and assault that averaged about 23 percent. Gibbs clarified assault as threatening or hitting someone without causing severe damage. "That's a large chunk of the misdemeanors that maybe in the past wouldn't have been referred," said Gibbs who stated that of those school-based arrests around 63 percent of those arrested were African American.

But there's a juvenile program that is there to help. It's called the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives (JDAI). It's for first time misdemeanors who are entering the juvenile justice program, regardless of whether they are coming from school, the community or transported by the police. It doesn't involve any additional costs to participate and is geared toward helping youths stay out of the court system and turn their lives around before it's too late.

Two Pinellas County judges showed up to give a brief overview of what it's like when a teen enters their courtroom. "I try to give them a touch of reality," said Judge Patrice Moore who plays hardball when court is in session. "Yes they are kids, but sometimes they do things that if they were in an adult role, would make your head spin."

Moore has seen too many lives wasted with bad decisions and works to make a difference in the lives of those who enter her courtroom, but admits that sometimes they come to her too late, after they are in too deep. She doesn't believe in a slap on the wrist when trying to prevent a career criminal. "I try to scare them straight, tell them what life will hold if they don't get it

together.” Members from Pinellas County Schools also were in attendance and took the time to share a few ways they are working toward combating arrests in schools and low academic achievement. Area Superintendent Dr. Barbara Hires discussed some alternatives in education to meet the growing challenges that arise in a classroom setting.

“Our mission is 100 percent student success,” said Hires as she explained the county’s mission of educating all students and preparing them for college, career and life after high school. She accepts however that it’s all a work in progress.

“I am not ashamed to stand before you today to say we have not arrived, nor have we accomplished our goal to educate, not incarcerate, 100 percent of our students in Pinellas County schools,” said Hires who plans to continue to work with school leaders, teachers and the community in order to confront the school-to-prison pipeline affecting so many families.

To begin with, all schools are implementing positive behavior support (PBS) to reduce disciplinary incidences and increase a sense of safety in schools as well as, supporting academic outcomes.

“We know that school climate is a key,” said Hires who touched on solutions stemming from challenging environmental variables such as physical setting, curriculum, instructional pace and positive reinforcement. Part of the positive attitude the schools are trying to implement deals with changing titles. Instead of labeling students as part of a dropout prevention program, the school system is renaming their efforts to help those in need.

The new program will be called Educational Alternative Services and the hope is that program participants and their families will gain some positive options to traditional schooling without the stigma associated with these different routes. Clearwater High School Principal Keith Mastorides received a round of applause as he enthusiastically spoke of some of the new alternative services being offered at his school. “We know that kids think much differently than we do,” he said pointing out that change is necessary to be successful. “We’ve been doing education the same way for over 100 years.”

Mastorides spoke of the three concepts that will bring excellence to any school: rigor, relevance and relationships. By engaging students in new ways and forging relationships with teachers, administrators and peers the pipeline-to-prison could be halted as more students stay in school and venture on to higher education or career paths that will keep them happy and fulfill their basic needs to survive in the real world.

School resource officers (SRO) spoke about changing the way they handle in school behavior issues. Opting to look at all the options before referring teens to the juvenile justice system where they can get caught up in a downward spiral.

“Our kids, just like us, do stupid stuff at school sometimes,” said Chief Stelljes with the SRO. “We really don’t need to criminalize some of those things that we really need to be taking care of at the school level.”

Those in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions or state their opinions or concerns with the juvenile justice system. Pastor Rainey who worked more than 30 years in education brought up the need to make a commitment and stick to it when it comes to solving the problems of keeping African Americans in school and out of trouble.

“We find programs that work and we let them stay in place for about two or three years and then we stop them,” he said. “When you find something that’s good, support it.” Community Activist Kurt Donnelly believes the school district is in need of implementing a district wide behavior plan. He feels a discrepancy in what is acceptable from school-to-school puts some students at a disadvantage.

“If each school has a separate behavior plan and each school is set up differently economically, how can it be equal?” he asked. For more information on how to get involved in mentoring youths, or even working behind the scenes to help educate not incarcerate, contact Gina Gibbs at ggibbs@pinellascounty.org or call 727-453-7436.

To reach Holly Kestenis, email hkestenis@theweeklyphallenger.com

2015 Pinellas County Juvenile Justice Citizens Academy

**schedule is subject to change*

Date	Topic
April 9 6pm-9pm	Week One – Juvenile Justice Overview and Prevention Programs Location: Bethel Community Foundation / Bethel Community Baptist Church - 2901 54th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33712 Meet in Church Fellowship Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Class participants • Juvenile Justice Overview • Prevention Programs : Children in Need of Services (CINS)/ Family in Need of Services (FINS) providers - Bethel Community Services, Thaise Educational & Exposure Tours, Family Resources.
April 16 6pm-9pm	Week Two – Juvenile Assessment Center and Pre-Court Diversion Programs Location: Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center (PJAC) - 14500 49th Street North Clearwater, FL 33762 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation PAR • Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) • Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Diversion • Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Project (JAAP)/Juvenile Diversion Services • Tour: Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center (PJAC)
April 23 6pm-9pm	Week Three – Court Location: Criminal Justice Center - 14250 49th Street North Clearwater, FL 33762 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Attorney Office • Public Defender Office • Unified Family Court Judge • Court Behavioral Services • Tour: Court House
April 30 6pm-9pm	Week Four –Detention Location: Pinellas Regional Juvenile Detention Center - 5255 140th Ave N Clearwater, FL 33760 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Detention • JAMS Gives Hope mentoring • Tour: Pinellas Regional Juvenile Detention Center
May 7 6pm-9pm	Week Five – Jail Location: Pinellas County Jail - 14400 49th Street North Clearwater, FL 33762 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Detention and Corrections Bureau • Tour: Pinellas County Jail
May 14 6pm-9pm	Week Six – Probation Location: DJJ Wildwood Service Center - 955 26th St S, St Petersburg, FL 33712 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Probation • Juvenile Diversion Alternative Program (JDAP) (BAYS Florida) • Home Builders Institute (HBI) • Tour: DJJ Wildwood Service Center
May 21 6pm-9pm	Week Seven – Community Based Programs Location: DJJ Wildwood Service Center - 955 26th St S, St Petersburg, FL 33712 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paxen Learning • Tour: Paxen Center (will have to drive to Paxen location after presentation at DJJ)
May 28 6pm-9pm	Week Eight – Commitment Programs Location: Charles Britt Academy- 3001 26th Ave S, St Petersburg, FL 33712 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Commitment Programs • Charles Britt Academy Staff (YSI) • Tour: Charles Britt Academy
June 4 6pm-9pm	Week Nine – Graduation and Volunteer Opportunities Location: DJJ Wildwood Service Center - 955 26th St S, St Petersburg, FL 33712 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of volunteer opportunities with previous presenters • Faith Network • 211 Tampa Bay • Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) • DJJ Circuit Advisory Board • Graduation • Class Picture

PROJECT AWARE

Pinellas County Schools Student Services

Youth Mental Health First Aide

Like CPR, Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to interact with a youth in crisis and connect the person with help. You can help someone in emotional distress by becoming a certified Mental Health First Aider. Led by a certified instructor, the Mental Health First Aid training class will teach you about:

Depression and mood disorders

Anxiety disorders

Trauma

Substance abuse disorders

Psychosis

When you have concluded the course, you should be able to apply the Mental Health First Aid action plan, which includes assessing for risk of suicide or harm, listening nonjudgmentally, giving reassurance and information, encouraging appropriate professional help, and encouraging self-help and other strategies. You will learn to apply these steps in a variety of situations, including when someone is experiencing:

Panic attacks

Suicidal thoughts or behaviors

Non-suicidal self-injury

Acute psychosis (e.g., hallucinations or delusions)

Overdose or withdrawal from alcohol or drug use

Reaction to a traumatic event

Throughout the course, you will have the opportunity to practice applying these skills in a real-life situation.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is included on the Substance abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP)

PROJECT AWARE

The Purpose of the Pinellas Project Aware is to build capacity for sustained awareness and education training of adults to recognize mental illness in children. The Youth Mental Health First Aid training program (YMHFA) introduces participants to the risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, and the importance of early intervention.

Pinellas County Student Services will have 16 certified trainers who will conduct workshops for parents, school staff, child protective service workers, community youth workers and community mental health employees to increase mental health literacy of adults who interact with school-aged children.

Another component of the grant is to expand mental health supports within the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support within the targeted schools. Four System Navigators will be assigned to the identified schools to provide mental health supports across all tiers, and assist the schools to strengthen prevention and intervention beyond the tenure of the grant. This includes a universal screening component. The System Navigators will also work with families and community partners to provide linkages to community mental health resources. The District Implementation Team, which is comprised of representatives from community mental health providers, law enforcement and Pinellas county schools, will meet to problem solve any barriers that exists in accessing mental health services, and provide possible solutions to those identified problems.

The System navigators will service the following schools and their families:

- Azalea Middle
- Bay Point Middle
- Dunedin Highland Middle
- Fitzgerald Middle
- John Hopkins Middle
- Largo Middle
- Meadowlawn Middle
- Pinellas Park Middle
- Tyrone Middle.