





# DELINQUENCY IN FLORIDA'S SCHOOLS: A SEVEN-YEAR STUDY (2004-05 THROUGH 2010-11)

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**Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
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*Electronic copies of this report are available at the Department's Research Web site:*

<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/Research/index.html>

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## A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY WANSLEY WALTERS



On behalf of the employees of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and all whom we serve, I am pleased to present *Delinquency in Florida's Schools: A Seven-Year Study for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)*.

This report was produced by DJJ's Bureau of Research and Planning as part of our ongoing efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency and turn around the lives of troubled youth. It contains analyses of delinquency in Florida's public schools between Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-05 and FY 2010-11.

The report also reflects my commitment to improve our accountability and help DJJ become a more data-driven organization, with measurable performance and outcomes. The people of Florida should expect nothing less from the state agencies that serve them.

State law requires school districts in Florida to examine their discipline policies for minor offenders. There have been substantial reductions in school offenses over the last six years. Specifically, delinquency on school grounds has declined 42 percent over the past seven years and 39 percent fewer youth were arrested in schools.

While these improvements are the result of strong commitment and collaboration among many agencies and stakeholders, there is much work to be done as thousands of youth continue to be arrested in schools around the state. For a substantial proportion of the youth arrested in schools last year, the arrest was the youth's first delinquent charge.

We in Florida have a golden opportunity to implement needed reforms that keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system in the first place. Community and school-based diversionary efforts – chief among which is statewide civil citation – will give children the help and guidance they need. Working together, we will reduce the number of young people entering the juvenile justice system.



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes delinquency referrals received by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for offenses occurring on school grounds, a school bus (or bus stop), or at an official school event between FY2004-05 and FY2010-11.

- Delinquency referrals for school-related offenses **declined 42%** over the past seven years and **39% fewer** youth were arrested in Florida's schools during the most current fiscal year.
- School-related delinquency referrals during FY2010-11 accounted for 15% of all the cases handled by DJJ, which is down from 19% during FY 2004-05.
- A statewide average of 12 school-related delinquency referrals were received by DJJ for every 1,000 public school students (grades 6-12).
- While only representing 21% of the youth ages 10-17 in Florida, black males and females accounted for almost half (46%) of all school-related referrals.
- The differences are substantial between white youth and their nonwhite counterparts in case outcomes for school-related offenses. For example, black males were substantially more likely to receive commitment dispositions or to have their cases transferred to adult court. In addition, black youth were more likely to have their cases ultimately dismissed than their white counterparts.
- Misdemeanor "disorderly conduct" and "assault and battery" accounted for 37% of all school-related delinquency referrals.
- Drug and weapon offenses accounted for 24% of all school-related referrals.
- Misdemeanors accounted for 67% of school-related referrals.
- First time delinquents accounted for 58% of the youth receiving school-related referrals during FY2010-11.
- School-related delinquency referrals that were ultimately dismissed/not filed or received some type of diversion service totaled 69% during FY2010-11.
- Of youth that were referred from schools, 83% had at least one previous out-of-school suspension.
- Of youth referred from schools, 34% were identified as Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students.

## **HOW THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE TRACKS AND REPORTS DELINQUENCY IN SCHOOLS**

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) monitors the number of youth referred as well as the number of referrals received for delinquent offenses that were identified as occurring on school grounds, a school bus (or bus stop), or at an official school event. Generally, this information is provided to the Department by law enforcement as part of the delinquency intake process and is recorded in the Department's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). This information is then extracted from JJIS and reported to the public annually through the Department's "Delinquency in Florida's Schools" analysis. A delinquency referral differs from the term "referral" that is commonly used within schools to describe a disciplinary action taken. For the purposes of this report, "referral" means a delinquency case sent to DJJ for handling.

## **WHO ARRESTS YOUTH FOR DELINQUENCY IN SCHOOLS?**

With few exceptions, local law enforcement (police officers and sheriff's deputies) are responsible for arresting youth for alleged acts of delinquency in school. In many communities, local police officers or sheriff deputies serve as school resource officers and are based at the schools. These school resource officers may be a part of an existing law enforcement agency or, in some communities, may make up their own distinctive law enforcement entity.

## **WHAT AFFECTS SCHOOL REFERRAL AND ARREST RATES?**

Numerous factors can influence whether or not a youth is arrested and referred to the Department for delinquency in schools. Each school district in Florida maintains its own distinctive progressive response or "discipline" plan that outlines how everything from misbehavior to actual crimes should be handled. In addition, law enforcement agencies in each school district have their own policies regarding how to respond and deal with delinquency in schools. Availability and use of alternatives to arrest can have a substantial impact on the number of youth referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice. For example, two of the state's largest school districts (Miami-Dade and Palm Beach) aggressively use alternatives to arrest, and these districts also have school referral rates that are much lower than the general statewide average.

## SCHOOL-RELATED DELINQUENCY REFERRALS

Delinquency referrals in Florida's schools decreased 42% between FY2004-05 and FY2010-11. In addition, over the past seven years, 39% fewer youth received a delinquency referral for an offense that occurred on school grounds. The reductions in school-related referrals far outpaced the reductions in general delinquency referrals for an offense occurring somewhere other than school grounds. During FY2010-11, school-related delinquency referrals accounted for 15% of all the cases handled by the Department of Juvenile Justice, which was down from 19% during FY2004-05.

### Delinquency and School-Related Referral and Youth Trends (Statewide)<sup>1</sup>

Fiscal Year	Delinquency Referrals Received <sup>2</sup>	Delinquent Youth Received	School-Related Referrals Received	School-Related Youth Received
2004-05	150,687	95,263	28,008	24,189
2005-06	150,104	94,244	25,708	23,070
2006-07	146,765	91,497	22,926	20,736
2007-08	144,705	89,776	21,289	19,362
2008-09	138,372	85,527	20,223	18,256
2009-10	121,689	75,382	18,467	16,784
2010-11	109,813	66,934	16,377	14,758
<b>7-Year Change</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>-42%</b>	<b>-39%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS)

<sup>2</sup> As reported in previous school referral studies, but do not match current Delinquency Profile.

## SCHOOL REFERRALS BY COUNTY

During FY2010-11, school-related referrals accounted for an average of 15% of all delinquency referrals handled by the Department of Juvenile Justice. Miami-Dade County, which is Florida's largest school district, recorded the highest actual number of school-related referrals (1,274).

Delinquency Referrals by Type and County (Fiscal Year 2010-11) <sup>1</sup>									
County	School-Related <sup>2</sup>	Not School-Related <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	% School-Related	County	School-Related <sup>2</sup>	Not School-Related <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	% School-Related
ALACHUA	321	1,207	1,528	21%	LAKE	317	1,354	1,671	19%
BAKER	52	141	193	27%	LEE	338	2,487	2,825	12%
BAY	178	909	1,087	16%	LEON	306	1,100	1,406	22%
BRADFORD	17	168	185	9%	LEVY	45	176	221	20%
BREVARD	395	2,457	2,852	14%	LIBERTY	2	25	27	7%
BROWARD	1,190	9,321	10,511	11%	MADISON	32	79	111	29%
CALHOUN	15	34	49	31%	MANATEE	458	2,069	2,527	18%
CHARLOTTE	106	604	710	15%	MARION	298	1,174	1,472	20%
CITRUS	91	393	484	19%	MARTIN	156	588	744	21%
CLAY	155	936	1,091	14%	MONROE	55	297	352	16%
COLLIER	269	983	1,252	21%	NASSAU	27	221	248	11%
COLUMBIA	59	301	360	16%	OKALOOSA	119	1,015	1,134	10%
DADE	1,274	8,892	10,166	13%	OKEECHOBEE	93	199	292	32%
DESOTO	19	215	234	8%	ORANGE	1,192	8,786	9,978	12%
DIXIE	4	45	49	8%	OSCEOLA	408	1,961	2,369	17%
DUVAL	459	4,091	4,550	10%	PALM BEACH	738	4,744	5,482	13%
ESCAMBIA	414	1,834	2,248	18%	PASCO	367	1,973	2,340	16%
FLAGLER	107	443	550	19%	PINELLAS	952	4,672	5,624	17%
FRANKLIN	2	59	61	3%	POLK	903	5,391	6,294	14%
GADSDEN	39	170	209	19%	PUTNAM	187	457	644	29%
GILCHRIST	18	54	72	25%	ST. JOHNS	206	673	879	23%
GLADES	6	34	40	15%	ST. LUCIE	437	1,262	1,699	26%
GULF	8	48	56	14%	SANTA ROSA	83	642	725	11%
HAMILTON	6	51	57	11%	SARASOTA	242	1,327	1,569	15%
HARDEE	23	218	241	10%	SEMINOLE	376	2,104	2,480	15%
HENDRY	70	213	283	25%	SUMTER	39	135	174	22%
HERNANDO	142	604	746	19%	SUWANNEE	66	177	243	27%
HIGHLANDS	148	711	859	17%	TAYLOR	11	75	86	13%
HILLSBOROUGH	1,160	7,395	8,555	14%	UNION	17	46	63	27%
HOLMES	10	51	61	16%	VOLUSIA	794	3,172	3,966	20%
INDIAN RIVER	145	625	770	19%	WAKULLA	31	152	183	17%
JACKSON	59	118	177	33%	WALTON	49	151	200	25%
JEFFERSON	10	34	44	23%	WASHINGTON	11	130	141	8%
LAFAYETTE	7	22	29	24%	OTHER <sup>5</sup>	44	1,241	1,285	3%
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,377</b>	<b>93,436</b>	<b>109,813</b>	<b>15%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

<sup>2</sup> Number of delinquency referrals received by DJJ that were identified as "school-related."

<sup>3</sup> Number of delinquency referrals received by DJJ that were not identified as "school-related."

<sup>4</sup> Total number of delinquency referrals received by DJJ during fiscal year 2010-11.

<sup>5</sup> Cases where the county of residence could not be determined.

## SCHOOL REFERRAL RATES BY COUNTY

During FY2010-11, there was an average of 12 school-related delinquency referrals to the Department of Juvenile Justice for every 1,000 students. Putnam and Okeechobee counties experienced the highest rates of school-related referrals (35 and 26 for every 1,000 students, respectively).

School Referrals Rates by County (Delinquency Referrals) FY 2010-11							
County	Student Population <sup>1</sup>	School Referrals <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	County	Student Population <sup>1</sup>	School Referrals <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>
ALACHUA	14,286	321	22	LAKE	21,199	317	15
BAKER	2,459	52	21	LEE	41,843	338	8
BAY	13,049	178	14	LEON	16,646	306	18
BRADFORD	1,555	17	11	LEVY	2,963	45	15
BREVARD	38,127	395	10	LIBERTY	711	2	3
BROWARD	137,626	1,190	9	MADISON	1,405	32	23
CALHOUN	1,088	15	14	MANATEE	22,096	458	21
CHARLOTTE	9,622	106	11	MARION	22,252	298	13
CITRUS	8,671	91	10	MARTIN	9,875	156	16
CLAY	19,909	155	8	MONROE	4,340	55	13
COLLIER	22,181	269	12	NASSAU	6,084	27	4
COLUMBIA	4,773	59	12	OKALOOSA	15,371	119	8
DADE	184,157	1,274	7	OKEECHOBEE	3,512	93	26
DESOTO	2,445	19	8	ORANGE	92,711	1,192	13
DIXIE	945	4	4	OSCEOLA	28,758	408	14
DUVAL	61,513	459	7	PALM BEACH	93,248	738	8
ESCAMBIA	20,345	414	20	PASCO	35,360	367	10
FLAGLER	7,014	107	15	PINELLAS	56,252	952	17
FRANKLIN	614	2	3	POLK	47,944	903	19
GADSDEN	2,705	39	14	PUTNAM	5,364	187	35
GILCHRIST	1,284	18	14	ST. JOHNS	16,834	206	12
GLADES	602	6	10	ST. LUCIE	20,793	437	21
GULF	1,090	8	7	SANTA ROSA	13,861	83	6
HAMILTON	834	6	7	SARASOTA	22,202	242	11
HARDEE	2,396	23	10	SEMINOLE	35,827	376	10
HENDRY	3,440	70	20	SUMTER	3,828	39	10
HERNANDO	12,360	142	11	SUWANNEE	3,094	66	21
HIGHLANDS	6,372	148	23	TAYLOR	1,426	11	8
HILLSBOROUGH	100,233	1,160	12	UNION	1,189	17	14
HOLMES	1,711	10	6	VOLUSIA	33,391	794	24
INDIAN RIVER	9,468	145	15	WAKULLA	2,419	31	13
JACKSON	3,515	59	17	WALTON	3,657	49	13
JEFFERSON	482	10	21	WASHINGTON	1,816	11	6
LAFAYETTE	552	7	13	OTHER	N/A	44	N/A
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,385,694</b>	<b>16,377</b>	<b>12</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Florida Department of Education, 2010-11 Survey 2 Data. Population of public schools (excludes labs) grades 6-12 during the 2010-11 school year.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

<sup>3</sup> Number of school related referrals per 1,000 students ((School Referrals/Student Population)\*1,000).

## SCHOOL REFERRAL RATES RELATIVE TO STUDENT POPULATION

For the purpose of this analysis, a school district is considered to have a low to average referral rate if its rate is less than or equal to the statewide average (12 referrals for every 1,000 students). School districts with a referral rate higher than 12 for every 1,000 students are considered to have a high referral rate. A review of Florida's school referral rates relative to student populations for FY2010-11 revealed the following:

### School Referral Rates by School District Size

District Size	Low Rates	High Rates
Small District	51%	49%
Medium District	47%	53%
Large District	77%	23%

School Referral Rates Relative to Student Populations Fiscal Year 2010-11					
Small School Districts <sup>1</sup>		Medium School Districts <sup>2</sup>		Large School Districts <sup>3</sup>	
Referral Rate		Referral Rate		Referral Rate	
Low - Average <sup>4</sup>	High <sup>5</sup>	Low - Average <sup>4</sup>	High <sup>5</sup>	Low - Average <sup>4</sup>	High <sup>5</sup>
LIBERTY	WALTON	SANTA ROSA	MARION	DADE	PINELLAS
FRANKLIN	CALHOUN	OKALOOSA	BAY	DUVAL	POLK
DIXIE	GILCHRIST	SARASOTA	OSCEOLA	TAYLOR	VOLUSIA
NASSAU	UNION	CLAY	LAKE	PALM BEACH	
HOLMES	GADSDEN	HERNANDO	LEON	LEE	
WASHINGTON	LEVY	COLLIER	ESCAMBIA	BROWARD	
HAMILTON	FLAGLER	ST. JOHNS	MANATEE	BREVARD	
GULF	INDIAN RIVER		ST. LUCIE	PASCO	
DESOTO	MARTIN		ALACHUA	SEMINOLE	
HARDEE	JACKSON			HILLSBOROUGH	
GLADES	HENDRY			ORANGE	
SUMTER	JEFFERSON				
CITRUS	BAKER				
BRADFORD	SUWANNEE				
CHARLOTTE	MADISON				
COLUMBIA	HIGHLANDS				
MONROE	OKEECHOBEE				
LAFAYETTE	PUTNAM				
WAKULLA					

<sup>1</sup> Districts with 10,000 or less middle & high school students

<sup>2</sup> Districts with 10,001 - 29,999 middle & high school students

<sup>3</sup> Districts with 30,000 or more middle & high school students

<sup>4</sup> Districts whose referral rate was less than or equal to 12 for every 1,000 students

<sup>5</sup> Districts whose referral rate was 13 or more for every 1,000 students

Sources: Student Population Data are derived from Florida Department of Education (DOE), 2010-11 Survey 2 Data; Population of public school students (excludes lab) in grades 6-12 during the 2010-11 school year. School-related delinquency referral data are derived from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

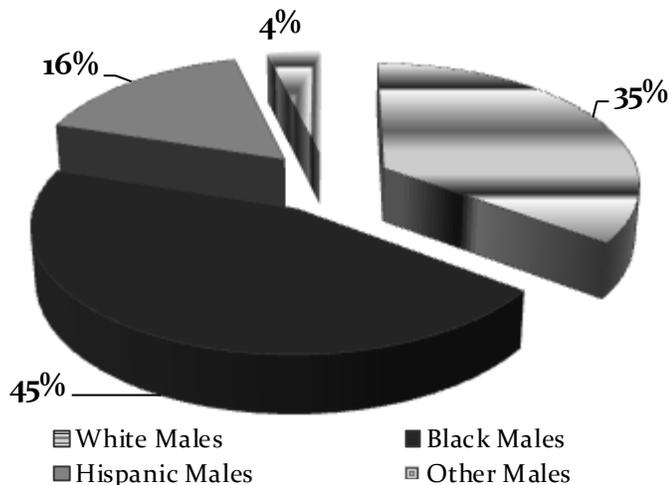
### SCHOOL REFERRAL DEMOGRAPHICS

A comparison of demographics suggests that minority youth are more likely to receive a school-related referral than their white counterparts. Of the 16,377 school-related referrals received by the Department during FY2010-11, 5,475 (30%) were for black males and 4,290 (27%) were for white males. Black females accounted for 2,112 (13%) and white females accounted for 1,373 (8%) of all school-related delinquency referrals. The table below presents demographics for referrals received for a school-related offense as well as other “non-school” delinquent offenses.

Intake Demographics for Referrals Received (Fiscal Year 2010-11)				
Demographic Group	School-Related Referrals	% of Total School-Related Referrals	Other Delinquency Referrals	% of Other Delinquency Referrals
White Males	4,290	26%	25,455	27%
White Females	1,373	8%	11,231	12%
Black Males	5,475	33%	28,456	30%
Black Females	2,112	13%	9,961	11%
Hispanic Males	1,965	12%	11,119	12%
Hispanic Females	571	3%	3,441	4%
Other Males	472	3%	2,926	3%
Other Females	119	1%	847	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,377</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>93,436</b>	<b>100%</b>

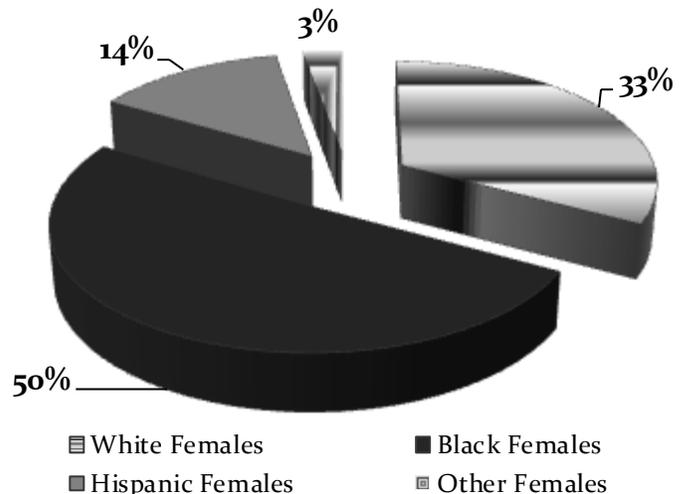
Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

#### School Referral Demographics (Males)



Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

#### School Referral Demographics (Females)

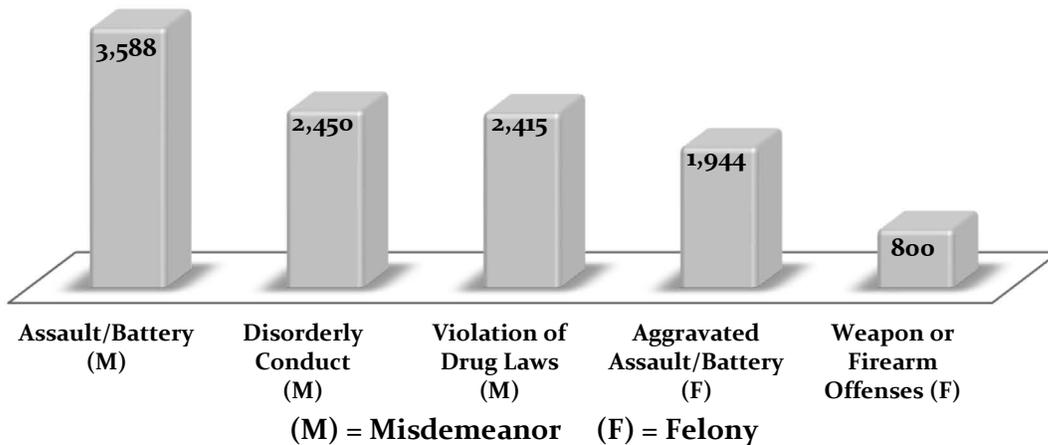


Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

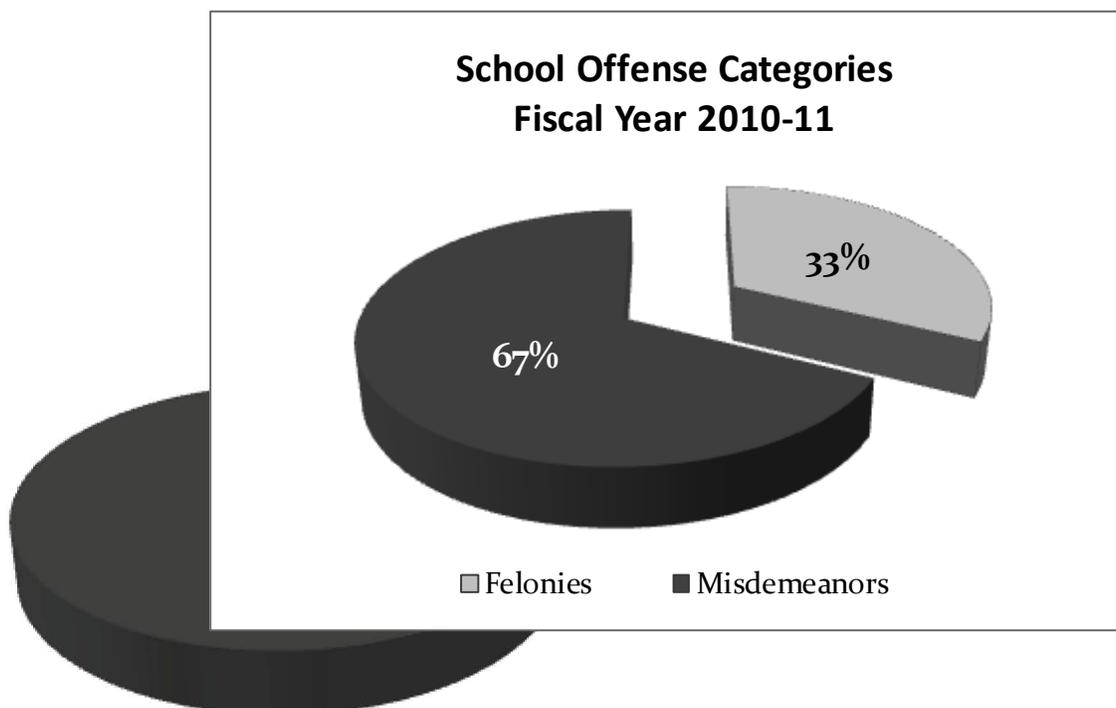
### TYPES OF DELINQUENCY IN SCHOOLS

The majority of school-related offenses were for misdemeanor assault/battery and disorderly conduct (22% and 15%, respectively). Misdemeanor and felony weapon offenses accounted for 5% and drug or alcohol-related offenses accounted for 19% of school-related referrals. The most common felony was aggravated assault/battery, representing 12% of all school referrals.

### Most Common School-Related Delinquency Referrals Fiscal Year 2010-11



During FY2010-11, 49% of all delinquency referrals received by the Department were for misdemeanors, 29% were for felonies, and 22% were some other types of offenses (violation of ordinances, violation of probation, etc). During the same time period, 67% of school-related referrals were for misdemeanors and 33% were for felonies.



## TYPES OF DELINQUENCY IN SCHOOLS (Continued)

During FY2010-11, misdemeanors (67%) were the most common type of offense referred to the Department. However, there are notable differences between counties, with the percentage of misdemeanor referrals ranging from 75% to 7%. The table below presents school referrals by offense category and county.

School Referrals by Type and County Fiscal Year 2010-11									
County	Misd. Offenses <sup>1</sup>	Felony Offenses	% Misd	% Felony	County	Misd. Offenses <sup>1</sup>	Felony Offenses	% Misd	% Felony
ALACHUA	86	233	27%	73%	LAKE	103	214	32%	68%
BAKER	11	41	21%	79%	LEE	80	258	24%	76%
BAY	34	142	19%	81%	LEON	62	244	20%	80%
BRADFORD	6	11	35%	65%	LEVY	17	28	38%	62%
BREVARD	115	280	29%	71%	LIBERTY	1	1	50%	50%
BROWARD	378	811	32%	68%	MADISON	7	25	22%	78%
CALHOUN	2	13	13%	87%	MANATEE	103	349	23%	77%
CHARLOTTE	27	78	26%	74%	MARION	87	210	29%	71%
CITRUS	22	69	24%	76%	MARTIN	40	116	26%	74%
CLAY	57	97	37%	63%	MONROE	6	47	11%	89%
COLLIER	69	198	26%	74%	NASSAU	11	16	41%	59%
COLUMBIA	24	35	41%	59%	OKALOOSA	23	95	19%	81%
DADE	563	706	44%	56%	OKEECHOBEE	28	65	30%	70%
DESOTO	2	17	11%	89%	ORANGE	429	756	36%	64%
DIXIE	3	1	75%	25%	OSCEOLA	155	253	38%	62%
DUVAL	240	218	52%	48%	PALM BEACH	285	449	39%	61%
ESCAMBIA	148	265	36%	64%	PASCO	138	228	38%	62%
FLAGLER	24	83	22%	78%	PINELLAS	292	660	31%	69%
FRANKLIN	1	1	50%	50%	POLK	303	589	34%	66%
GADSDEN	17	22	44%	56%	PUTNAM	63	124	34%	66%
GILCHRIST	3	15	17%	83%	ST. JOHNS	39	167	19%	81%
GLADES	0	6	0%	100%	ST. LUCIE	94	341	22%	78%
GULF	1	7	13%	88%	SANTA ROSA	30	52	37%	63%
HAMILTON	1	5	17%	83%	SARASOTA	80	162	33%	67%
HARDEE	4	19	17%	83%	SEMINOLE	119	255	32%	68%
HENDRY	22	48	31%	69%	SUMTER	11	28	28%	72%
HERNANDO	35	105	25%	75%	SUWANNEE	16	50	24%	76%
HIGHLANDS	51	97	34%	66%	TAYLOR	4	7	36%	64%
HILLSBOROUGH	377	781	33%	67%	UNION	10	7	59%	41%
HOLMES	5	5	50%	50%	VOLUSIA	251	541	32%	68%
INDIAN RIVER	10	132	7%	93%	WAKULLA	4	27	13%	87%
JACKSON	16	42	28%	72%	WALTON	3	46	6%	94%
JEFFERSON	2	8	20%	80%	WASHINGTON	3	8	27%	73%
LAFAYETTE	4	3	57%	43%	OTHER <sup>2</sup>	24	20	55%	45%
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,281</b>	<b>11,032</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>68%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Number of misdemeanor delinquency referrals received by DJJ that were identified as "school-related."

<sup>2</sup>Cases where the county of residence could not be determined.

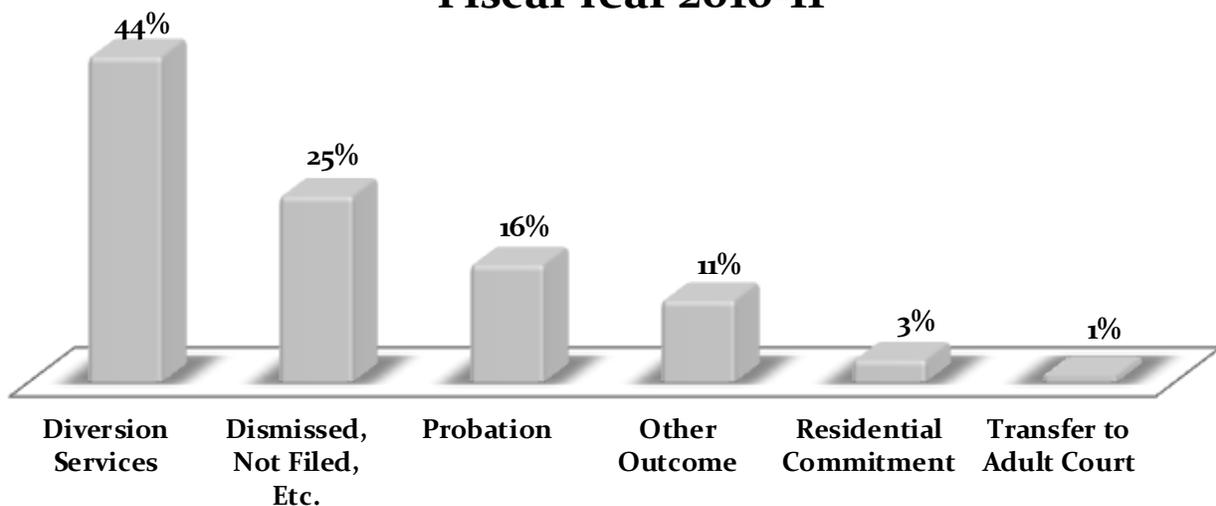
### CASE OUTCOMES (DISPOSITIONS) FOR SCHOOL OFFENSES

At the time of this report's publication, not all school-related referrals had been disposed of by the court. Primary court dispositions were available for 15,078 of the 16,377 school-related delinquency referrals received by the Department during FY2010-11. Of the school-related delinquency referrals, 69% were dismissed/not filed or received some type of diversion service.

#### Primary Case Dispositions Fiscal Year 2010-11

Disposition	Number of Cases	% of Total
Diversion Services	6,664	44%
Dismissed, Not Filed, Etc.	3,801	25%
Probation	2,392	16%
Other Outcome	1,658	11%
Residential Commitment	437	3%
Transfer to Adult Court	126	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,078</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### School Referral Case Dispositions Fiscal Year 2010-11



## DEMOGRAPHICS AND CASE OUTCOMES FOR SCHOOL OFFENSES

There are substantial differences in case outcomes for school offenses between white youth and their nonwhite counterparts. Black youth were substantially more likely to have their cases dismissed than their white counterparts. Black youth were involved in 50% of cases that were dismissed or not filed, compared to 31% for white youth. In addition, black males were much more likely to receive a commitment disposition or to have their cases transferred to adult court. Of the cases that resulted in a transfer to adult court, 59% involved a black youth.

### Case Disposition Demographics for School Referrals (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Disposition Type	White Male	White Female	Black Male	Black Female	Hispanic White Male	Hispanic White Female	Hispanic Black Male	Hispanic Black Female	Other Male	Other Female	Total
Diversión Services	1,946	711	1,689	871	900	270	41	14	160	62	6,664
Dismissed, Not Filed, Etc.	927	281	1,418	502	384	133	24	8	106	18	3,801
Probation	617	165	883	339	224	61	13	6	70	14	2,392
Other Outcome	399	130	627	218	168	47	13	2	45	9	1,658
Residential Commitment	106	12	232	35	27	3	5	1	14	2	437
Transfer to Adult Court	29	0	71	4	12	1	1	0	8	0	126
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>4,024</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>15,078</b>

### Case Disposition Demographic Percentages for School Referrals (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

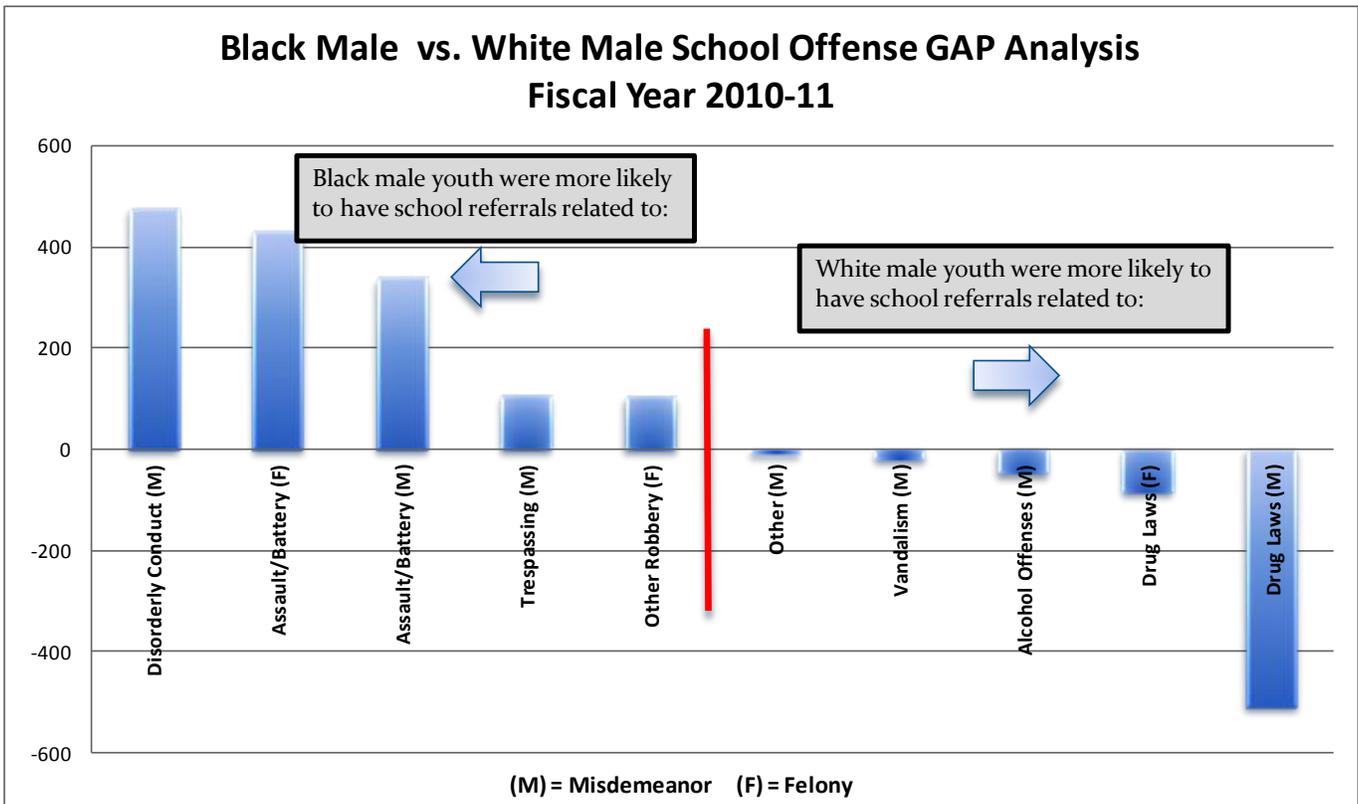
Disposition Type	White Male	White Female	Black Male	Black Female	Hispanic White Male	Hispanic White Female	Hispanic Black Male	Hispanic Black Female	Other Male	Other Female	Total
Diversión Services	29%	11%	25%	13%	14%	4%	1%	0%	2%	1%	100%
Dismissed, Not Filed, Etc.	24%	7%	37%	13%	10%	3%	1%	0%	3%	0%	100%
Probation	26%	7%	37%	14%	9%	3%	1%	0%	3%	1%	100%
Other Outcome	24%	8%	38%	13%	10%	3%	1%	0%	3%	1%	100%
Residential Commitment	24%	3%	53%	8%	6%	1%	1%	0%	3%	0%	100%
Transfer to Adult Court	23%	0%	56%	3%	10%	1%	1%	0%	6%	0%	100%
<b>% of Total Dispositions</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Case Dispositions by Race/Ethnicity Fiscal Year 2010-11

Disposition Type	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Diversión Services	40%	38%	18%	3%	100%
Dismissed, Not Filed, Etc.	32%	51%	14%	3%	100%
Probation	33%	51%	13%	4%	100%
Other Outcome	32%	51%	14%	3%	100%
Residential Commitment	27%	61%	8%	4%	100%
Transfer to Adult Court	23%	60%	11%	6%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### DIFFERENTIAL OFFENSE PATTERNS BASED ON DEMOGRAPHICS

There are substantial differences in the types of school offenses for white youth and their nonwhite counterparts. The Department determined that there was a much higher prevalence of black youth being charged with disorderly conduct and assault and battery compared to whites. In addition, there was a much higher frequency of drug and alcohol offenses among white youth compared to their non-white counterparts.



Disorderly conduct is a broad category used to describe a variety of minor offenses, but in the context of school-related delinquency, it is most commonly associated with the disruption of a school function or the disruption of school administration. Obstruction of justice is also a relatively broad category that is usually associated with resisting arrest without violence.

## SCHOOL OFFENSES AS GATEWAYS TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

A school offense was the gateway to the juvenile justice system for 8,541 youth (58% of all youth referred for a school offense) during FY2010-11. The percentage of school-related referrals that are for first-time offenders ranged from 0% to 100%.

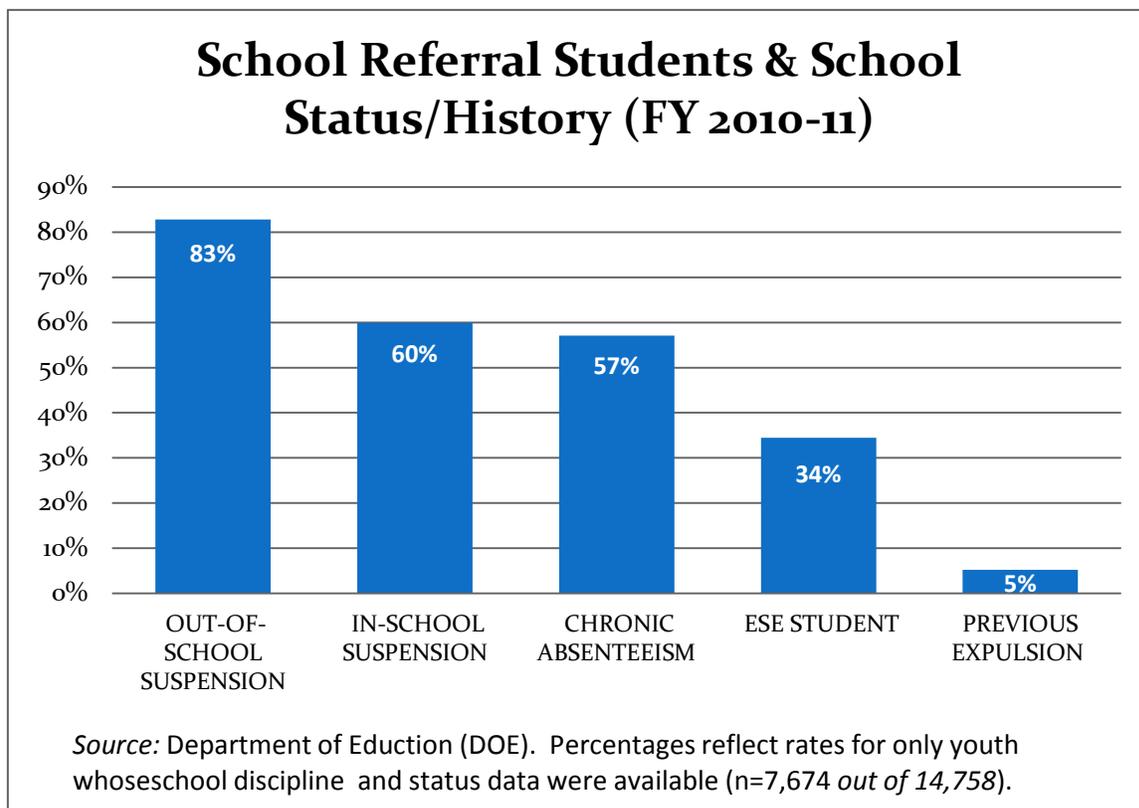
School-Related Referrals for First-Time Offenders by County Fiscal Year 2010-11							
County	School-Related Youth <sup>1</sup>	First Referral <sup>2</sup>	% First Referral	County	School-Related Youth <sup>1</sup>	First Referral <sup>2</sup>	% First Referral
ALACHUA	269	136	51%	LAKE	303	195	64%
BAKER	46	31	67%	LEE	311	204	66%
BAY	165	97	59%	LEON	275	164	60%
BRADFORD	17	10	59%	LEVY	41	29	71%
BREVARD	370	226	61%	LIBERTY	2	0	0%
BROWARD	1,083	597	55%	MADISON	29	22	76%
CALHOUN	14	10	71%	MANATEE	418	249	60%
CHARLOTTE	99	58	59%	MARION	270	135	50%
CITRUS	85	56	66%	MARTIN	132	76	58%
CLAY	137	87	64%	MONROE	52	33	63%
COLLIER	242	146	60%	NASSAU	26	15	58%
COLUMBIA	54	34	63%	OKALOOSA	106	57	54%
DADE	1,187	755	64%	OKEECHOBEE	84	46	55%
DESOTO	19	12	63%	ORANGE	1,065	665	62%
DIXIE	4	3	75%	OSCEOLA	379	262	69%
DUVAL	438	232	53%	PALM BEACH	632	277	44%
ESCAMBIA	372	231	62%	PASCO	334	192	57%
FLAGLER	104	70	67%	PINELLAS	791	343	43%
FRANKLIN	2	1	50%	POLK	779	378	49%
GADSDEN	37	27	73%	PUTNAM	145	83	57%
GILCHRIST	18	13	72%	ST. JOHNS	189	139	74%
GLADES	6	6	100%	ST. LUCIE	386	218	56%
GULF	8	6	75%	SANTA ROSA	79	45	57%
HAMILTON	6	5	83%	SARASOTA	221	123	56%
HARDEE	23	12	52%	SEMINOLE	337	202	60%
HENDRY	66	46	70%	SUMTER	38	25	66%
HERNANDO	129	72	56%	SUWANNEE	64	44	69%
HIGHLANDS	119	62	52%	TAYLOR	11	7	64%
HILLSBOROUGH	1,097	662	60%	UNION	17	12	71%
HOLMES	10	7	70%	VOLUSIA	714	418	59%
INDIAN RIVER	121	73	60%	WAKULLA	28	17	61%
JACKSON	43	22	51%	WALTON	44	20	45%
JEFFERSON	10	7	70%	WASHINGTON	10	4	40%
LAFAYETTE	7	4	57%	OTHER	39	26	67%
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,758</b>	<b>8,541</b>	<b>58%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Unduplicated number of youth received by DJJ with at least one school based delinquency referral.

<sup>2</sup> Unduplicated number of youth received by DJJ whose school-based offense was their first delinquency referral.

## STUDENT STATUS AND SCHOOL REFERRALS<sup>1</sup>

Analysts from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Department of Education (DOE) examined 14,758 youth who received a school-related referral during FY 2010-11 to determine the extent to which certain behaviors or statuses affect delinquency in schools. DOE analysts were able to match 7,674 of these youth to education status and discipline records. The results indicated that, for the youth for whom this information was available, a large percentage of youth who received a school-related delinquency referral had a prior history of truancy or suspension. Smaller proportions of these youth were identified in an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) status or were previously expelled from school.



<sup>1</sup> In the 2007-08 Delinquency in Schools report, the Department reported student status and discipline rates (percentages) based on the total number of youth who received a school-related delinquency referral. Department of Education (DOE) analysts are not able to match all DJJ youth to student records because of missing social security numbers or other data issues. For 2009-10, DJJ presents student discipline and status rates only for the youth where data between the two agencies are available. The resulting percentages are higher than what has been reported previously; however, we believe this is a more accurate way of reflecting results. This only affects information in the "Student Status" section of this report.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS AND DATA SOURCES

**CHRONICALLY ABSENT** – refers to a youth with 21 or more absences during a school year and within two years of being referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice for school-related delinquency. *Data Source: Florida Department of Education.*

**DELINQUENCY REFERRAL RECEIVED** – refers to a “case” involving a youth that has been received by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Local, state and federal law enforcement arrest and refer youth to the Department. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**DELINQUENT YOUTH RECEIVED** – refers to the unduplicated number of youth received by the Department of Juvenile Justice during the fiscal year. Some youth may be arrested and referred to the Department multiple times over the course of a single year. A youth with multiple delinquency referrals is only counted once in this category. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**DISMISSED, NOT FILED, ETC** – refers to cases that were ultimately dismissed, not filed or otherwise not pursued by the juvenile or adult court. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**DIVERSION SERVICES** – refers to cases disposed by the court to diversion services. Examples of diversion services include but are not limited to: civil citation, teen court, intensive delinquency diversion services (IDDS), and juvenile alternative services program (JASP). *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)** – refers to a student enrolled in or eligible for enrollment in the public schools in a district that requires special instruction. This can include services to take full advantage of or respond to educational programs and opportunities because of a physical, mental, emotional, social or learning exceptionality. *Data Source: Florida Department of Education.*

**FIRST REFERRAL** – refers to youth whose first delinquency referral was school-related. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**FISCAL YEAR** – the state of Florida fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

**IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION** – refers to youth who received one or more in-school suspension within two years of being referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice for school-related delinquency. After or during school detention is an example of an in-school suspension. *Data Source: Florida Department of Education (DOE).*

**OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION** – refers to a youth who received at least one out-of-school suspension within two years of being referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice for school-related delinquency. *Data Source: Florida Department of Education (DOE).*

**RATE (SCHOOL RERERRAL)** – refers to the number of school-related delinquency referrals for every 1,000 students in public school grades 6-12.

**RESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT** – refers to cases that were disposed to a Department of Juvenile Justice residential commitment placement. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**SCHOOL-RELATED REFERRALS RECEIVED** – refers to a “case” involving a youth that has been received by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice for an offense occurring on school grounds, a school bus, an official school bus stop, or a school event. Local, state and federal law enforcement arrest and refer youth to the Department. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**SCHOOL-RELATED YOUTH RECEIVED** – refers to the unduplicated number of youth received by the Department of Juvenile Justice during the fiscal year for an offense occurring on school grounds, a school bus, an official school bus stop, or a school event. Some youth may be arrested and referred to the Department multiple times over the course of a single year. A youth with multiple delinquency referrals is only counted once in this category. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**STUDENT POPULATION** – refers to the number of public school students in grades 6-12 during the 2008-09 school year. Student population figures do not include students participating in “virtual” schools or in some specialized schools, (i.e. FSU LAB, FAMU LAB, FAU LAB, UF LAB, Dozier, DEAF/BLIND or FLVA). *Data Source: Florida Department of Education (DOE), Survey 2 Data.*

**PREVIOUS EXPULSION** – refers to a youth who was expelled from a public school within two years of being referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice for school-related delinquency. *Data Source: Florida Department of Education (DOE).*

**PROBATION SERVICES** – refers to cases that were disposed to general juvenile probation. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**OTHER OUTCOME** – refers to cases that were not disposed at the time of this report or received some other outcome such as court fines or a judicial warning. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*

**TRANSFER TO ADULT COURT** – refers to cases that were transferred to adult court. The majority of transfers to adult court cases were direct-filed by local state attorneys. *Data Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).*