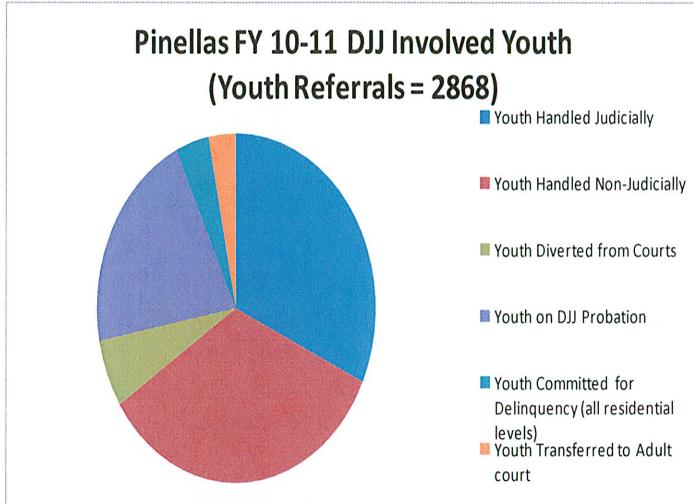


# JUVENILE JUSTICE

# INDICATORS

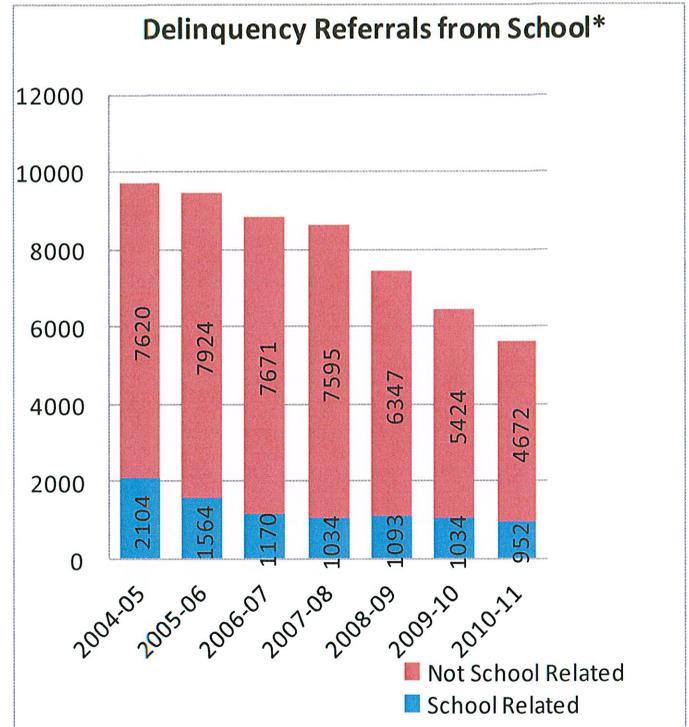
## DJJ INVOLVEMENT/ARRESTS

PJAC Admission Data for 2010 was 6,582 youth presented for admission; and 6,340 youth admitted.



## SCHOOL DELINQUENCY REFERRALS

Although the school delinquency referral rates have declined over the last 7 years, Pinellas is still considered a district with a high referral rate relative to its student populations.<sup>ii</sup>



Delinquency Cases Received (Number)				
2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
9,488	8,860	8,629	7,440	6,458

Delinquency Cases Committed (Number)				
2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
743	565	578	429	330

\* "Referral" means a delinquency case that involves offenses that occurred on school grounds, a school bus (or bus stop), or at an official school event and sent to DJJ for handling.

## GANG INVOLVEMENT

Prevalence of gang involvement in Pinellas County in 2011 was 5.1%. 5% of middle school students and 5.2% of high school students reported ever having belonging to a gang. 11.8% of middle school students and 11% of high school students reported that at least 1-4 of their best friends belong to a gang.<sup>i</sup>

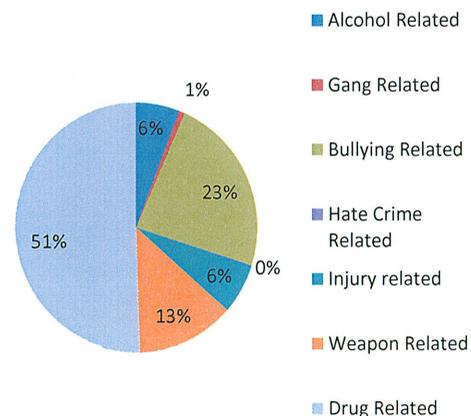
### Number of Documented Gangs

County	# of Documented Gangs
Hillsborough	194
Pasco	35
Pinellas	27
Manatee	20

### Documented Gang-Affiliated Persons

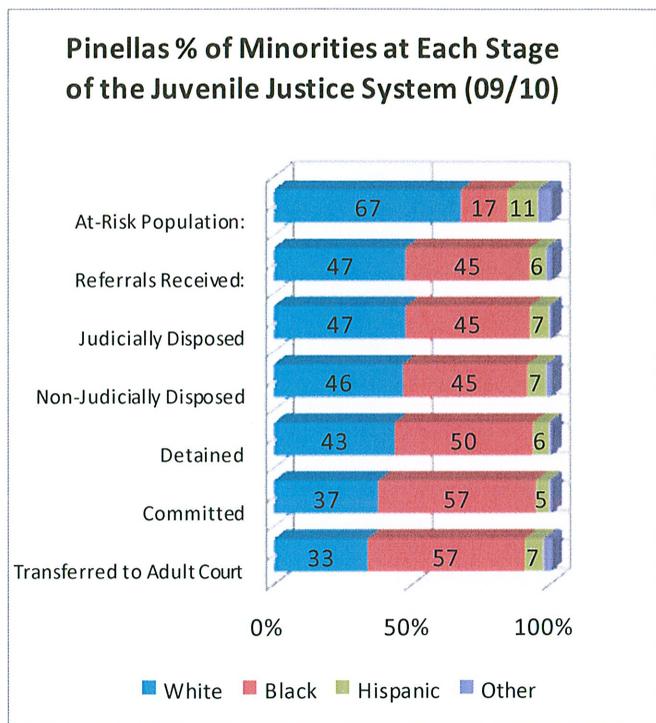
County	2010	2011
Hillsborough	6,976	4,228
Pasco	420	241
Pinellas	943	885
Manatee	1,200	1,060

## 08/09 Crime in Pinellas County Schools



## RACIAL AND ETHNIC INEQUITY IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Inequitable representation of youth of color occurs throughout the juvenile justice system.



### Black Youth

In Pinellas, the rate of black youth referred was 3.8 times higher than the rate of white youth referred in FY 2009-10. Black youth in Pinellas County were less likely to be judicially disposed, less likely to be detained, more likely to be committed, and less likely to be tried as adults.<sup>iii</sup>

### Hispanic Youth

The rate of Hispanic youth referred was .9 times lower than that of white youth referred in FY 2009-210. Hispanic youth were more likely to be judicially disposed, less likely to be detained, more likely to be committed, and more likely to be tried as adults.<sup>iv</sup>

## GENDER

Girls represent a growing segment of the juvenile justice population. Girls from minority groups are over-represented in the juvenile justice system.<sup>v</sup>

The growing number of girls in the juvenile justice system and the high rates of exposure to violence among these girls pose special challenges to the juvenile justice system. Girls who are victims of extreme abuse often act out in ways that cause them to be arrested, and subsequently they are routinely criminalized by the juvenile system.<sup>vi</sup> Among a sample of incarcerated youth, girls were 50% more likely to be suffering from PTSD than the equivalent male population.<sup>vii</sup>

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Studies show Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) youth are disproportionately incarcerated and gay boys are held in custody longer than non-gay boys for similar behavior.<sup>viii</sup>

Additionally, studies have shown LGBT youth who are incarcerated experience significantly higher rates of bullying and physical and psychological abuse.<sup>ix</sup>

## OVERLAP BETWEEN CHILD WELFARE & JUVENILE JUSTICE

Studies have found that child abuse and neglect increase the risk of being arrested by 55% and increase the risk of being arrested for violent crime by 96%.<sup>x</sup>

In Pinellas County, from 2005-2009, 26.9% of juveniles entering juvenile detention had a previous child abuse investigation that found abuse.

## YOUTH IN ADULT JAILS

Studies show that youth held in adult facilities are 36 times more likely to commit suicide and are at the greatest risk of sexual victimization.<sup>xi</sup> In 2008, The U.S. Department of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that transferring youth to the adult criminal justice system does not protect the community and substantially increases the likelihood that youth will re-offend.<sup>xii</sup>

A 2001 analysis in Florida found that, even after controlling for race, initial charge, and age, youth receiving adult sanctions were 4.90 times more likely to re-offend, including technical violations, and 2.26 times more likely to re-offend, excluding technical violations.<sup>xiii</sup>

A 2002 study, also found that youth receiving juvenile sanctions had lower recidivism rates than youth receiving adult sanctions.<sup>xiv</sup>

Florida leads the nation in transfers of youth to adult court.<sup>xv</sup> In 2010-2011, Circuit 6 was 2<sup>nd</sup> in state in number of transfers of youth to adult court. Pinellas County alone ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Florida in number of transfers of youth to adult court.

Number of Youth Transferred to Adult Court					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Direct File	325	331	400	304	253
Invol. Judicial Waiver	1	4	2	0	1
Indictment	0	1	2	1	0
% Youths Transferred to Adult Court by Race					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Black	54.5%	55.3%	54.5%	52.1%	53.5%
Hispanic	6.1%	4.0%	4.2%	5.5%	8.0%
White	38.0%	40.3%	39.0%	38.8%	33.8%
Other	1.5%	0.5%	2.4%	3.6%	4.8%

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

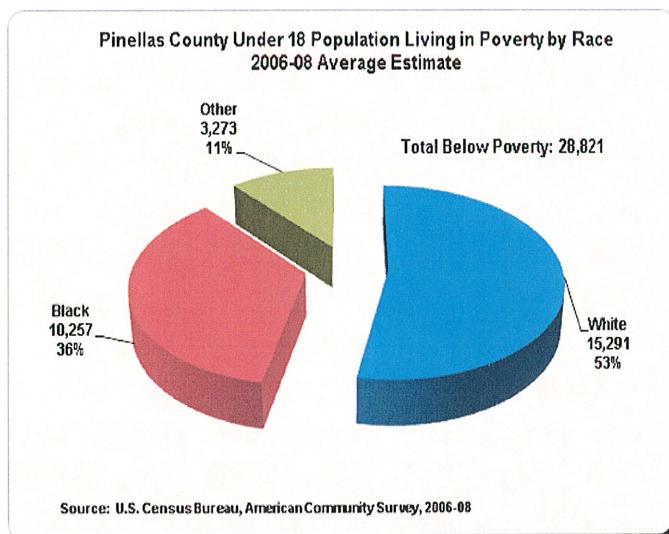
## POVERTY RATES

Neighborhoods with concentrated poverty impede children from socializing, having positive role models, and other factors crucial for healthy child development.

Percentage of Pinellas Population Below Poverty Level – Total Population (2009) was 13.3

Percentage of Pinellas Population Below Poverty Level – Under Age 18 (2009) was 18.7

### Pinellas County Poverty by Race/Ethnicity



The majority of minorities who reside in Pinellas County live in the Southern portion (St. Petersburg), which also has higher rates of poverty. In Pinellas County, four out of the top five zip codes for youth under 18 living in poverty are in South County. The same is true for youth involved in the DJJ system. The same top five zip codes of DJJ involved youth are the same top five zip codes for Single Female Households. Again four out of five are in South County.

During 2006-08, the percentage of black youths under 18 living in poverty (black youths in poverty/total black youths) was more than triple that of white youths (37.7% vs. 12.0%). The percentage of Hispanic youths in poverty was 25.7%, more than twice that of whites.

## FAMILY HISTORY OR CURRENT INCARCERATION

Studies indicate that parental incarceration creates additional challenges for children and families often resulting in: Financial instability and material hardship; instability in family relationships and structure, and residential mobility; school behavior and performance problems; shame, social and institutional stigma<sup>xvi</sup>.

Pinellas County DJJ Involved Youth ( Self Reporting on Pre & Full PACT) <sup>xvii</sup>	
	% of Youth
Family History or Current Incarceration	60.9%

## FAMILY INCOME/UNEMPLOYMENT

Recent research confirms a causal link between family income and young children’s academic achievement and later success, underscoring the critical importance of helping families maintain an income source during spells of unemployment.<sup>xviii</sup>

In Florida, 12% of children have at least one unemployed parent, ranking Florida 37<sup>th</sup> worst out of 50 states.<sup>xix</sup>

In Pinellas, the 2010 unemployment rate was 12.4% which was 4.9% more than the previous year.<sup>xx</sup>

## HOUSING INSTABILITY

In Florida, 10% of children have been affected by foreclosure since 2007, ranking Florida 49<sup>th</sup> worst out of 50 states.<sup>xxi</sup>

The increased number of foreclosures within our at-risk communities has put many community members in the need to rent housing. The percent of income spent on housing is the leading indicator of housing affordability in the United States. Households paying over 30% of their income in housing costs are considered cost burdened. In 2012, a family in Florida without a housing subsidy must make \$18.56 an hour (\$41,574.40 annually) to afford a two-bedroom unit at the fair market rent while not spending more than 30% of their household income. This would require an individual earning minimum wage in Florida to work 97 hours a week to meet fair market rent prices.

While the estimated median annual income for Pinellas County in 2011 was above the amount needed for the fair market rent (\$43,882), individuals living in poverty have much lower income levels, making housing unaffordable.

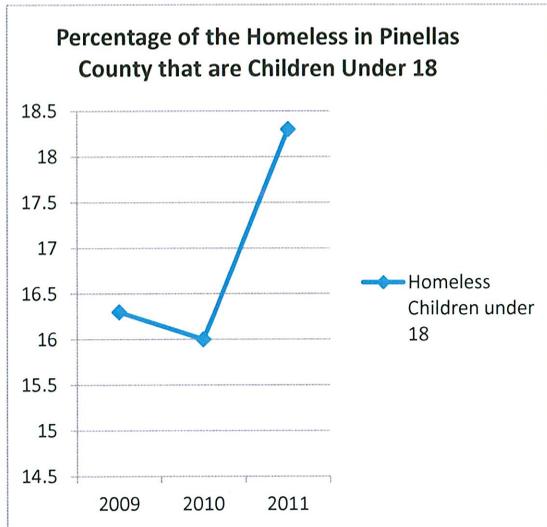
A family of three living at exactly 100% FPL earns \$19,090 annually and would be able to spend only \$477.25 a month on rent in order to not be considered cost burdened.

## HOMELESSNESS

The Tampa Bay area has the nation's highest proportion of homeless people.<sup>xxii</sup>

In Pinellas County, children under the age of 18 made up 18.3% of the 2011 homeless, up from 16% in 2010.<sup>xxiii</sup>

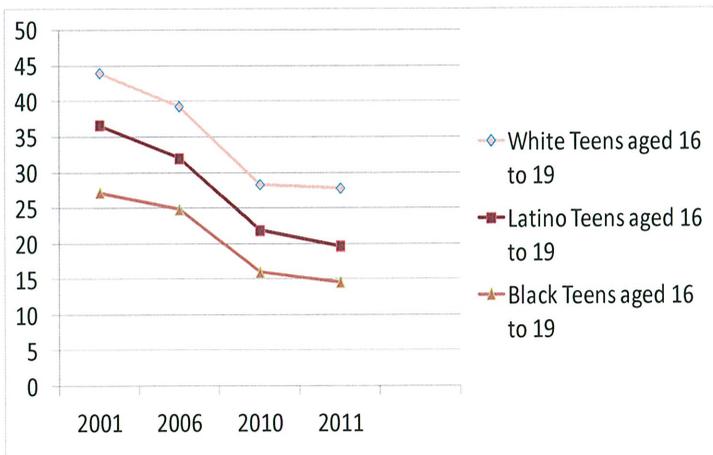
In 2009-2010, the Pinellas School District reported 2,110 students were without stable housing, 71.2 percent doubled up with others, perhaps sleeping on the couches of family members or friends. Others lived in motels, in emergency or transitional housing, or in cars, parks and campgrounds, or shelters or awaiting foster care.<sup>xxiv</sup>



In 2011, 26.6% of the total homeless population was households with children.<sup>xxv</sup>

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Percent of Teens Employed (National)<sup>xxvi</sup>**



Nationally, youth unemployment in 2011, is the lowest level of youth employment since World War II.

Youth and young adults under age 25 make up nearly a third of all unemployed people in the nation.

Racial disparities exist across employment access for youth.

Just 20 out of every 100 Latino teens are employed today, as compared to 33 in 2001.

A mere 15 out of every 100 black teens are employed today, as compared to 26 in 2001.

# HEALTH INDICATORS

## LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

A child born at low birth weight is about 50 percent more likely to score below average on measures of both reading and mathematics at age 17.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Between 2005 and 2009, 8% of the babies born in Pinellas County had low birth weight rates.<sup>xxviii</sup>

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Pinellas had the state's 16<sup>th</sup> highest infant mortality rate in the period 2006-08. The rate of infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Pinellas, 8.4, was 17% higher than the statewide percentage of 7.2.<sup>xxix</sup>

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Studies have shown that the quality of early childhood development programs has broad impacts on the well-being of children, including reduced rates of teen pregnancy, better health, lower drug use, reduced criminal activity, and increases in lifetime earnings.

Nationally, only about 3 percent of eligible infants and young children (0-3) are enrolled in Early Head Start.<sup>xxx</sup>

## TRAUMA

Many of the youth in the juvenile justice system have been exposed to myriad traumatic events, either as victims or as witnesses. Consequently, many of these youths develop PTSD and other mental disorders, which then impact their ability to achieve normal developmental milestones in a timely manner.<sup>xxxi</sup>

Exposure to trauma also increases the risk of illicit substance use and subsequent victimization among girls, who may wind up in the juvenile justice system.<sup>xxxii</sup>

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Pinellas had the eighth highest domestic violence rate in Florida per 1,000 population in the period 2007-09.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

DJJ Involved Youth Self Reporting Domestic Violence on Full PACT (N = 2,101) <sup>xxxiv</sup>			
2006	2007	2008	2009
20.1%	20.9%	18.3%	16.4%

## UNINSURED

In 2010, approximately 11.4% of the county's population was uninsured (~104,486 individuals).<sup>xxxv</sup>

## MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Studies have reported that about two-thirds of incarcerated youths have mental health disorders and about 1 in 5 has a severe disorder.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

## CHILD ABUSE /MALTREATMENT

Verified Abuse per 1,000 Youth Population (2009)	Children Removed From Home per 1,000 Youth Population (2009)	Children in In-Home Care per 1,000 Youth Population (2009)	Children in Out-of-Home Care per 1,000 Youth Population (2009)
18.0	4.6	3.9	7.6

In 2009, 19.6% of Florida youths had a founded child abuse investigation with DCF Child Welfare System.

Nearly 11% of the infants in Pinellas have been reported as maltreated, 75% higher than the statewide rate of 6%. Pinellas had the seventh highest infant maltreatment percentage in Florida for the period 2007-09.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

In 2008-09, the Circuit 6 Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan reported over 11,000 serious findings of verified child abuse in Pinellas with the majority occurring in children 0-8 years old.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

In 2010, there were 756 dependency petitions filed, 1,788 dependency cases reopened and 114 terminations of parental rights cases filed in Pinellas County.

## PARENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) found that over 8.3 million children under 18 years of age (11.9 percent) lived with at least one parent who was dependent on or abused alcohol or an illicit drug during the past year.<sup>xxxix</sup>

In Pinellas County, substance abuse by parents accounted for the great majority of abuse allegations (6,003) with 1,184 verified allegations of child abuse associated with substance misuse.<sup>xl</sup>

In 2010, child abuse investigations in Pinellas County with an allegation of Substance Misuses were 29%.

The number of child abuse investigations with allegations of substance use has increased an overall 20.8% from 2008 to 2010 in Pinellas County.

Statewide, an estimated 1,300 new babies were treated for withdrawal in 2010, a 30% increase over 2009.<sup>xli</sup>

In Pinellas County, the number of newborns going through withdraw due to drug addicted mothers (alcohol not included) was 153. From 2009 to 2010 in Pinellas County, the number of newborns addicted to drugs increased by an overall 34.2% and from 2008 to 2010 (2 years) the number more than doubled.<sup>xlii</sup>

According to Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA), in 75% of the cases the staff noted substance abuse as a major contributing factor leading to the filing of the dependency petition. In Pinellas County 122 child removal cases were caused directly by prescription drug abuse of the parents from September 2010 to February 2011.

From 2009 to 2011, calls from Pasco and Pinellas to the child abuse hot line about parents on pain pills have increased 600%<sup>xliii</sup>

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The misuse and abuse of prescription drugs is an increasing concern in Pinellas County. The District 6 Medical Examiner's Office data states that in Pinellas County in 2010, there were 244 decedents where Oxycodone was identified as present at the time of death or the cause of death. In 2010, a Pinellas County resident died every 36 hours with oxycodone either present or the cause of death. There were 170 decedents where Alprazolam was identified as present at the time of death or the cause of death.

Marijuana is the second most commonly used drug among Pinellas County youth with a past 30-day prevalence rate of 15.5% compared to the statewide average of 13.0%. The percentage of high school students in Pinellas County who reported using marijuana at age 13 or under was 14.3% versus 11.3% statewide.<sup>xliv</sup>

## **TEEN BIRTH RATES**

In 2008, 1035 teen births among girls age 10-19 years old occurred, ranking Pinellas 8<sup>th</sup> out of 26 Florida Counties.

# EDUCATION INDICATORS

## POVERTY'S IMPACT

Young people who drop out of school are much more likely to be unemployed, living in poverty, incarcerated, unhealthy and single parents.<sup>xiv</sup>

At age four, children who live in very low-income families are 18 months behind the developmental norm for their age, and by age 10 the gap is still present.<sup>xlvi</sup>

Low-income children are also at a greater risk of not completing high school, limiting future employment opportunities that translate into lower wages.

Pinellas County Students Eligible to Participate in Free/Reduced Lunch (Percent)				
2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
40.3%	40.5%	40.8%	43.5%	48.0%

## SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM

In 2010-11, 13% of Pinellas Students Missed at least 32 days, the worst numbers for big districts in Florida.<sup>xlvii</sup>

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND DROPOUT RATES

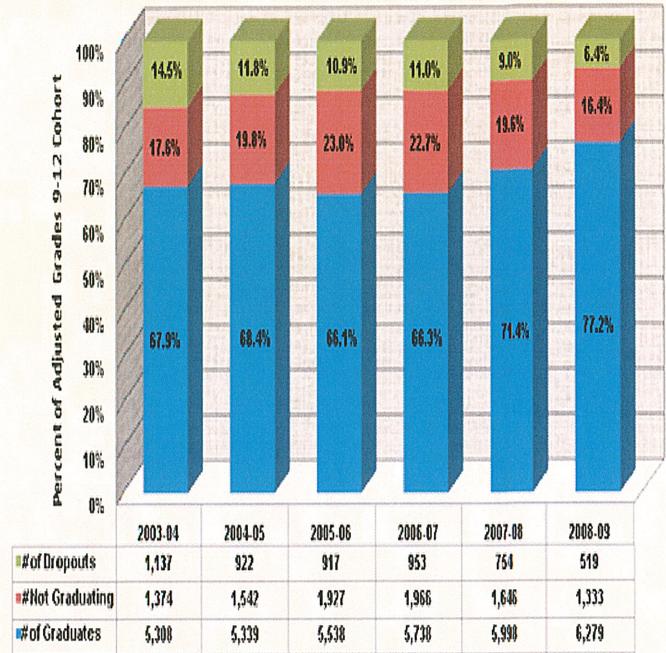
A high school dropout earns about \$260,000 less over a lifetime than a high school graduate, paying about \$60,000 less in taxes.

High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than graduates to be arrested in their lifetime.

Pinellas County Graduation Rate (Rate per 100)				
2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
67.0	67.3	74.4	80.6	78.8

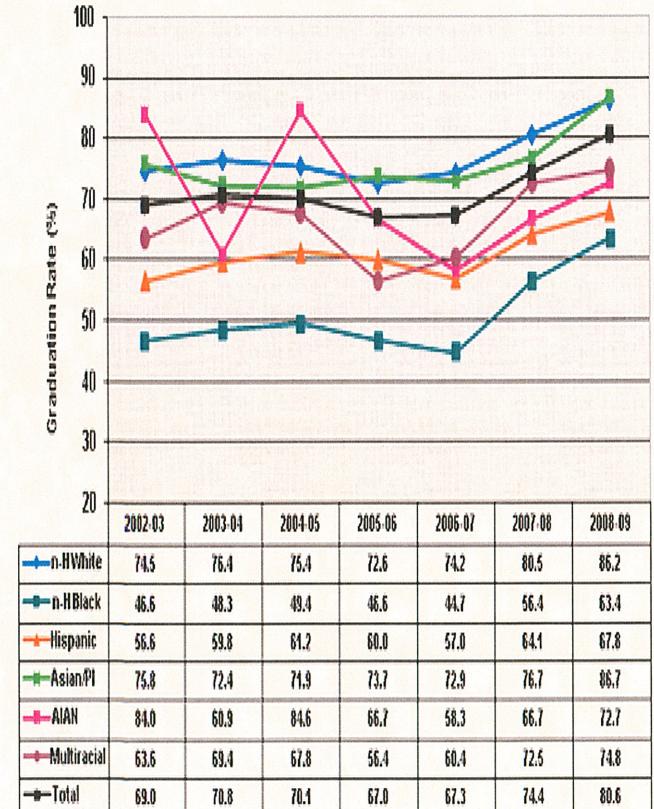
Pinellas County Dropouts (Number)				
2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
2,022	1,707	1,010	1,140	1,275

Pinellas County Public High School NGA Graduate Profile 2003-04 to 2008-09



Source: Florida Department of Education, 2003-04 to 2008-09

Pinellas County Florida High School Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity 2002-03 to 2008-09



Source: Florida Department of Education, 2002-03 to 2008-09

- <sup>i</sup> [http://www.floridagangreduction.com/flgangs.nsf/pages/MHAS8SFQ9F/\\$file/Gang\\_Report\\_2011\\_WebFinal.pdf](http://www.floridagangreduction.com/flgangs.nsf/pages/MHAS8SFQ9F/$file/Gang_Report_2011_WebFinal.pdf)
- <sup>ii</sup> <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/delinquency-in-schools>
- <sup>iii</sup> [http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/research2/reportcard2011\\_final.pdf?sfvrsn=0](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/research2/reportcard2011_final.pdf?sfvrsn=0)
- <sup>iv</sup> *ibid*
- <sup>v</sup> Chesney-Lind, M. (February, 2001). What about girls? Delinquency programming as if gender mattered. *Corrections Today*, 38-45.
- <sup>vi</sup> Simkin, S. and Katz, S. (2002). Criminalizing abused girls. *Violence against Women*, 8(2), 1474-1499.
- <sup>vii</sup> Steiner, H., Garcia, I.G., & Mathews, Z. (1997). Posttraumatic stress disorder in incarcerated juvenile delinquents. *Journal of American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 36(3), 357-365.
- <sup>viii</sup> Soler, M. et. al., *Lessons for a New Era*, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy, 2010.
- <sup>ix</sup> Beck, et. al., *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth 2008-2009*, BJS, 2010.
- <sup>x</sup> *Back on Track: Supporting Youth Reentry from Out-of-House Placement to the Community*, Youth Reentry Task Force of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition, 2009.
- <sup>xi</sup> *Key Facts: Youth in the Justice System*, Campaign for Youth Justice, June 2010.
- <sup>xii</sup> *Key Facts: Youth in the Justice System*, Campaign for Youth Justice, June 2010.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office. Re-Arrest Rates Among Youth Sentenced in Adult Courts: Evaluation Report for Juvenile Sentencing Advocacy Project. 15 Oct. 2001. 12 Oct. 2006
- <sup>xiv</sup> Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. A DJJ Success Story: Trends In Transfer of Juveniles to Adult Criminal Court. 08 Jan. 2002. 05 Oct. 2006. pg. 2.
- <sup>xv</sup> [http://jeffreybutts.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/databit2012\\_051.pdf](http://jeffreybutts.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/databit2012_051.pdf)
- <sup>xvi</sup> Hairston, C. F. (2007); Hanlon, T. E., Blatchley, R. J., Bennett-Sears, T., O'Grady, K. E., Rose, M., & Callaman, J. M. (2005). Vulnerability of children of incarcerated addict mothers: Implications for preventive intervention. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27, 67– 84.
- <sup>xvii</sup> <http://www.pinellascounty.org/justice/pdf/Juveniles%20who%20are%20involved%20with%20the%20Department%20of%20Juvenile%20Justice%20System%20Final.pdf>
- <sup>xviii</sup> *2011 KidsCount Data Book, America's Children, America's Challenge Promoting Opportunity for the Next Generation*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 10.
- <sup>xix</sup> *Ibid*, page 15.
- <sup>xx</sup> *US Bureau of Labor Statistics*.
- <sup>xxi</sup> *2011 KidsCount Data Book, America's Children, America's Challenge Promoting Opportunity for the Next Generation*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 12.
- <sup>xxii</sup> The State of Homelessness in America 2012 National Alliance to End Homelessness, page 48.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2011CouncilReport.pdf>
- <sup>xxiv</sup> [https://www.pcsb.org/images/stories/Homeless/files/2009-10\\_Homeless\\_demographics.pdf](https://www.pcsb.org/images/stories/Homeless/files/2009-10_Homeless_demographics.pdf)
- <sup>xxv</sup> <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2011CouncilReport.pdf>
- <sup>xxvi</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor, Employment-Population Ratio.
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Naomi Breslau, Nigel S. Paneth and Victoria C. Lucia, "The lingering academic deficits of low birth weight children," *Pediatrics*, Vol. 114, No. 4 (October 2004), pp. 1035-1040.
- <sup>xxviii</sup> [http://www.jwbpinellas.org/system/medias/1122/original/Economic\\_Impact\\_Report\\_HHS\\_41912.pdf](http://www.jwbpinellas.org/system/medias/1122/original/Economic_Impact_Report_HHS_41912.pdf)
- <sup>xxix</sup> *FL MIECHV Updated State Plan, Community's Needs and Risk Factors*, Department of Health and Department of Children and Families; June 8, 2011; page 25.
- <sup>xxx</sup> W. Steven Barnett and Clive Belfield, "Early Childhood Development and Social Mobility," *Future of Children* 16, no. 2 (Fall 2006): 85; National Head Start Association; and National Women's Law Center.
- <sup>xxxi</sup> Arroyo, W. (2001). PTSD in children and adolescents in the juvenile justice system. S. Eth (Ed). *Review of psychiatry*, 20 (1),: *PTSD in Children and Adolescents* (1st ed.), pp. 59-86. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.
- <sup>xxxii</sup> Trauma among Girls in the Juvenile Justice System National Child Traumatic Stress Network NCTSNet.org
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> *FL MIECHV Updated State Plan, Community's Needs and Risk Factors*, Department of Health and Department of Children and Families; June 8, 2011; page 25.
- <sup>xxxiv</sup> <http://www.pinellascounty.org/justice/pdf/Juveniles%20who%20are%20involved%20with%20the%20Department%20of%20Juvenile%20Justice%20System%20Final.pdf>
- <sup>xxxv</sup> [http://www.jwbpinellas.org/system/medias/1122/original/Economic\\_Impact\\_Report\\_HHS\\_41912.pdf](http://www.jwbpinellas.org/system/medias/1122/original/Economic_Impact_Report_HHS_41912.pdf)
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> Kathleen Skowryra and Joseph J. Coccozza, *A Blueprint for Change: Improving the System Response to Youth with Mental Health Needs Involved with the Juvenile Justice System*, National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (June 2006), at [www.ncmhjj.com/Blueprint/pdfs/ProgramBrief\\_06\\_06.pdf](http://www.ncmhjj.com/Blueprint/pdfs/ProgramBrief_06_06.pdf).
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> *Ibid*; page 25.
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> *Ibid*; page 25.
- <sup>xxxix</sup> (NSDUH Report, April 16, 2009).
- <sup>xl</sup> *Ibid*; page 25.
- <sup>xli</sup> *St. Petersburg Times*, May 14, 2011.
- <sup>xlii</sup> Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration.
- <sup>xliiii</sup> (*St. Petersburg Times*, June 3, 2011)
- <sup>xliiv</sup> (FYSAS, 2010).
- <sup>xlv</sup> The Silent Epidemic, Perspectives of High School Dropouts, a report by Civic Enterprises in association with Peter D. Hart Research Associates for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2006. [www.civcenterprises.net/pdfs/thesilentepidemic3-06.pdf](http://www.civcenterprises.net/pdfs/thesilentepidemic3-06.pdf)
- <sup>xlvi</sup> *2011 KidsCount Data Book, America's Children, America's Challenge Promoting Opportunity for the Next Generation*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 18.
- <sup>xlvii</sup> Florida Department of Education