



# ANNUAL REPORT FY2016



*Broward County Human Services Department  
Office of Justice Services*

## Office of Justice Services

The Office of Justice Services (OJS) is responsible for planning, coordinating, administering and evaluating comprehensive, community-based, alternative programs to reduce the over-reliance on expensive, ineffective arrest and incarceration of youth and adult offenders. OJS provides direct services, coordination, technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations, engages in community outreach, and manages the countywide data.

OJS performs this work through:

- Juvenile Civil Citation
- Juvenile Predisposition Services
- Adult Civil Citation

OJS provides programs and services that divert juvenile and adult offenders from the criminal justice system. This is possible through collaborative partnerships with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, local Law Enforcement Agencies, Broward County Children's Services Administration, Children's Services Council of Broward County, 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and other community stakeholders.

**VISION:** A nationally recognized change agent that promotes equity-based justice systems reform through advocacy and evidence-based practices.

**MISSION:** To serve as the lead agency responsible for managing processes and promoting systemic change to redirect misdemeanor youth and adult offenders away from the justice system through prevention, intervention, collaboration, coordination, and systems management to ensure equity and strength-based services that improves client outcomes and opportunities.

**GOALS:** The three overarching goals of OJS are to:

- 1) Reduce the overreliance of expensive and ineffective institutionalization of youth and adult offenders.
- 2) Establish a seamless network of service linkages, communications, and partnerships with community stakeholders.
- 3) Be a catalyst for change in leadership through trainings, research and evaluation.

## Juvenile Civil Citation

The Juvenile Civil Citation (JCC) program is an alternative to arrest for juveniles committing non-serious misdemeanor offenses, and is an option for the first three offenses committed. The program ensures swift and appropriate consequences including, but not limited to: community service, drug screening(s), letter of apology, restorative justice conferencing, and anger management classes. Juvenile Civil Citation works to ensure that non-violent juvenile offenders are expeditiously held accountable, supervised and receive appropriate intervention and treatment services.

### Parent Testimonial

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*“I feel very appreciative of you for your effort, thoughtfulness, and professionalism. I want to thank you for helping my daughter and me in guiding us to successfully navigate the system. When youth made the choice to steal and was detained, I felt worried for her (I was freaking out) and overwhelmed with adding one more thing to my plate. Your calm and professional demeanor along with taking the time to listen patiently to my concerns, and explain the program thoroughly and clearly gave me much support during this difficult time.*

*You have given youth resources to be successful in the completion of the program and move forward with her life. She will be graduating from high school this year and is making plans for the future. I feel so grateful to you and the program; were it not for decisions made by you as to how to handle my daughter's case, perhaps her plans would not become a reality. I want to respectfully request that you share my email with your supervisor and program administrators in hopes that this program and you are acknowledged.”*

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### Snapshot of Our Population Served in Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16)

In FY16, there were 930 citations issued by law enforcement officers in Broward County. 914 youth enrolled during the year, and of those, only 65 of the youth served previously participated in a civil citation program. JCC is responsible for collecting and reporting juvenile civil citation from all participating law enforcement agencies. Although the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) continues to manage their own civil citation program, as of January 2016, FLPD began providing JCC with their juvenile citation data. As such, Countywide and jurisdictional data reports are maintained and provided.

The following figures are a breakdown of the citations received.

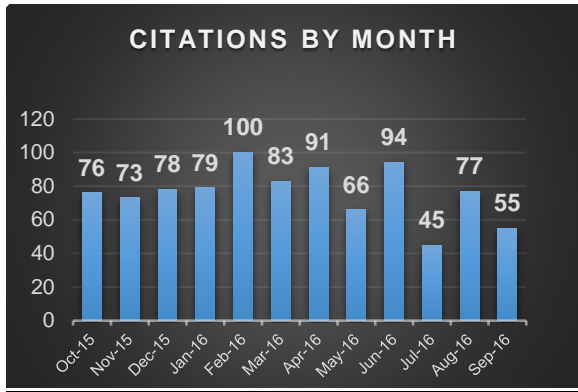


Figure 1 – Citations received by month. This does not include the 13 from FLPD.

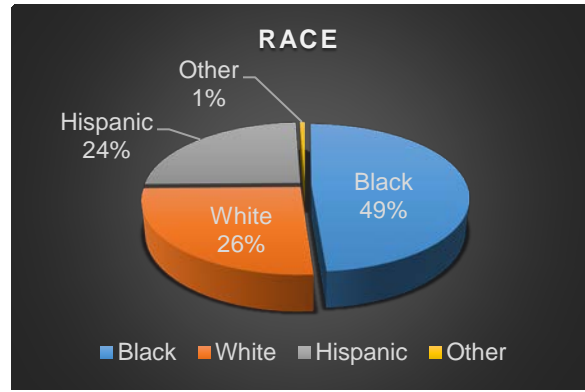


Figure 3 – Youth of color continue to make up the majority of citations issued. 49 percent of the youth issued citations were Black and 24 percent were Hispanic.

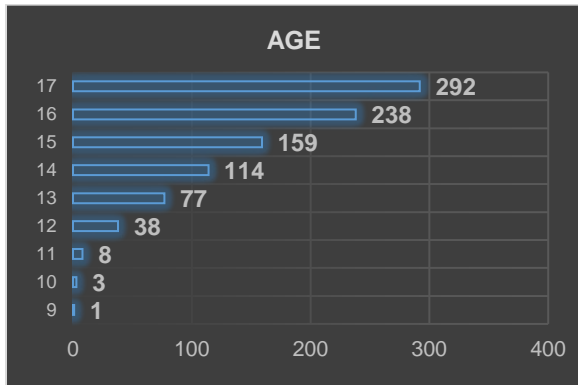


Figure 2 - The youngest youth referred was 9 years old. 74 percent of youth enrolled were between ages 15-17 with the majority (31 percent) being 17 years old.

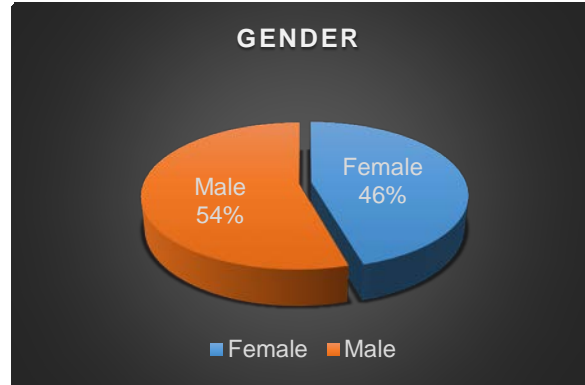
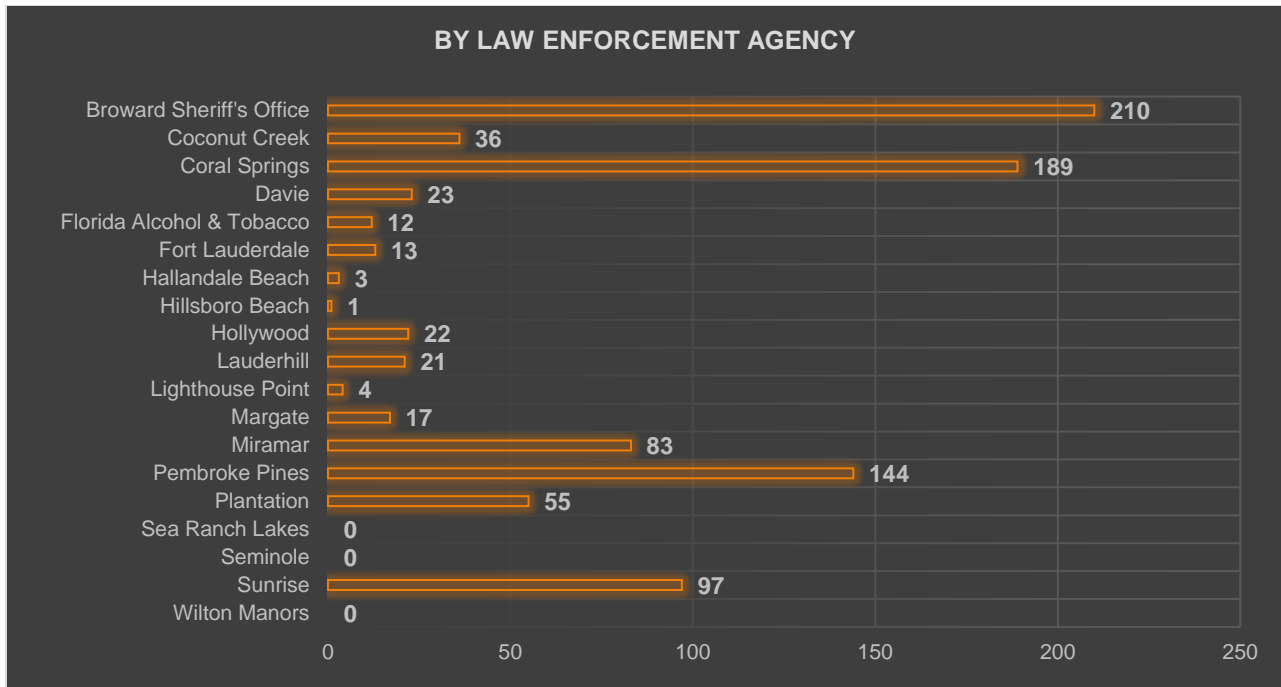
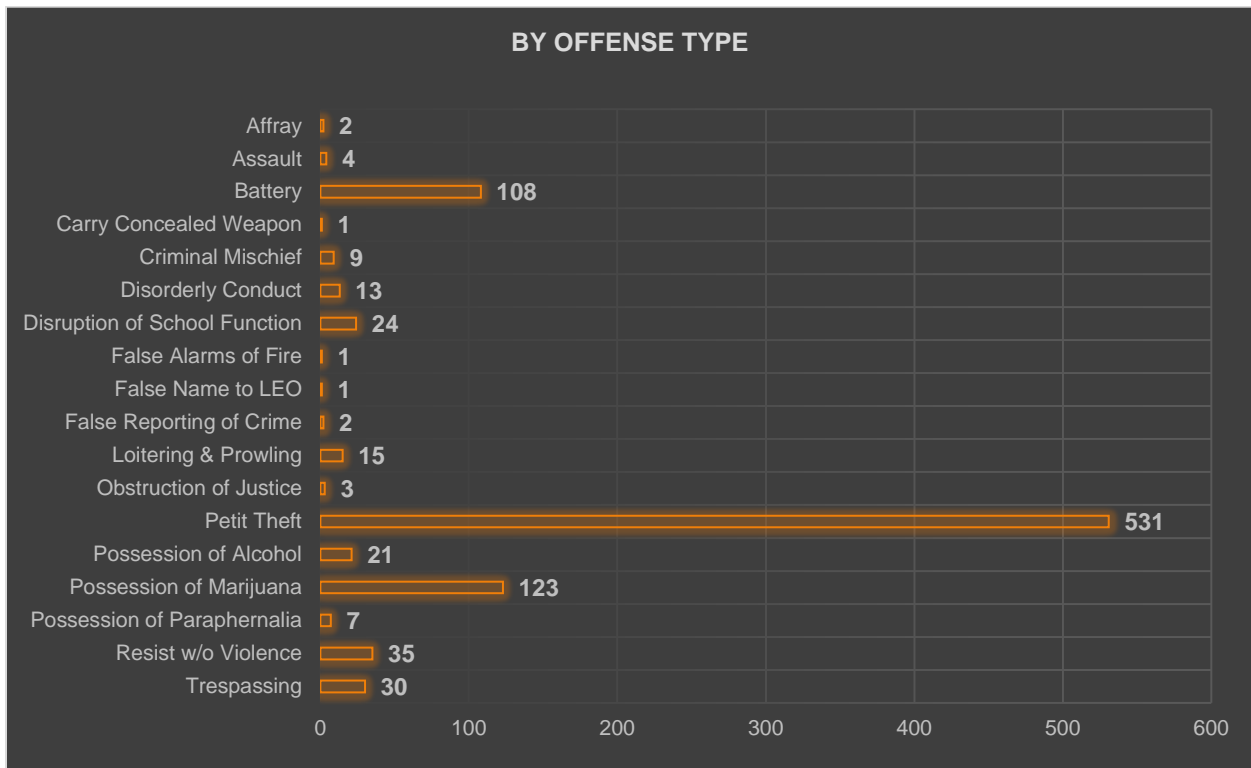


Figure 4 - Males represent 54 percent of citations issued and females 46 percent.



**Figure 5 - During FY16, Broward Sheriff's Office, Coral Springs Police Department, Pembroke Pines Police Department, Sunrise Police Department and Miramar Police Department continue to issue the highest number of citations.**



**Figure 6 - Petit Theft (57 percent), Marijuana Possession (13 percent), and Battery (12 percent) remain the top three offenses.**

*Program Success* – The County began coordinating the countywide Juvenile Civil Citation process in 2012. Since that time, the program’s successful completion rate remains steady at 90 percent.

*Recidivism* – The recidivism rate remains less than 2 percent. In other words, 98 percent of youth did not re-offend within 12 months of program completion.

*Cost Avoidance* – Given the sustained success and increased utilization, there is continued and significant tax payer cost avoidance by having youth participate in the Juvenile Civil Citation Program rather than being arrested and processed through the juvenile justice system. According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJJ), it costs taxpayers \$5,000 per arrest, compared to \$386 per civil citation. Based on 914 youth referred to the program this fiscal year, JCC saved taxpayers approximately \$4,217,196 just this fiscal year. Moreover, since 2011 approximately 3,520 civil citations have been served, saving taxpayers over **\$16.2 million dollars**.



*Decline in Statewide Arrests* – In the press release, “Lowest Juvenile Arrests in More Than 40 Years”, Governor Rick Scott reported overall misdemeanor offenses decreased by 15 percent with an overall decline of 40 percent in the past 5 years. There was also a 14 percent decline in the number of civil citations referred between FY15 to FY16; however, utilization of civil citation by law enforcement officers is up 2%.

*Civil Citation Utilization* – As of FY16, Broward County is ranked number 3 in the State of Florida for civil citation utilization. 72 percent of eligible civil citation youth in Broward County received a civil citation, compared to only 70 percent the year prior.

*Missed Opportunities* – Although there is a steady statewide decline of juvenile arrests, there are still missed opportunities. A missed opportunity refers to those youth who meet criteria for a civil citation; however, were arrested instead. In Broward County in FY16,

there were 356 missed opportunities, which accounted for 28 percent of eligible civil citation youth. In addition, approximately 1/3 of those missed opportunities were related to Domestic Violence offenses.

## Juvenile Predisposition Services

The Juvenile Predisposition Services (JPS) program was established under the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), in partnership with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit, to create a coordinated continuum of care that keeps the community safe, supports positive youth development, keeps families together through an array of services, and bridges the gap between the youth's arrest and the disposition of their court case.

JPS offers a strategic alternative to youth incarceration that increases the juvenile's likelihood of future success and productivity. JPS advocates to keep these youth at home, while safely providing them with holistic, coordinated, and accessible services that are intensive, individualized, and family focused. Participants can receive services that include, but are not limited to Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) group sessions, individual counseling, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment, alternative education programs, job training and placement, recreation and cultural activities, youth leadership, and parent support programs.

### Parent Testimonials

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*“JPS is there to support you every step of the way. They not only helped my son, but the entire family.”*

*“JPS helped my daughter make better decisions about what's right and wrong.”*

*“Going to jail would have destroyed my child. JPS gave us hope and a second chance.”*

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## Snapshot of Our Population Served in FY16

JPS began receiving referrals on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. During FY16, JPS received 54 referrals. The following figures are a breakdown of the served youth.

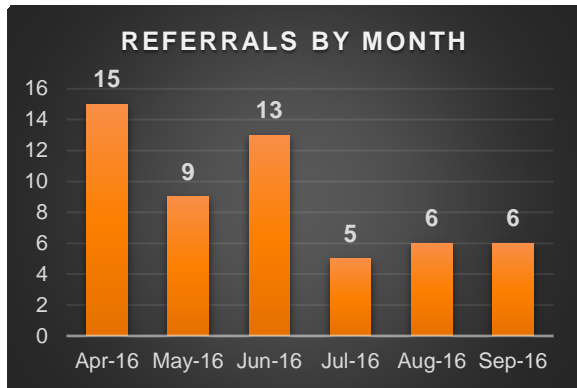


Figure 7 – JPS referrals by month.

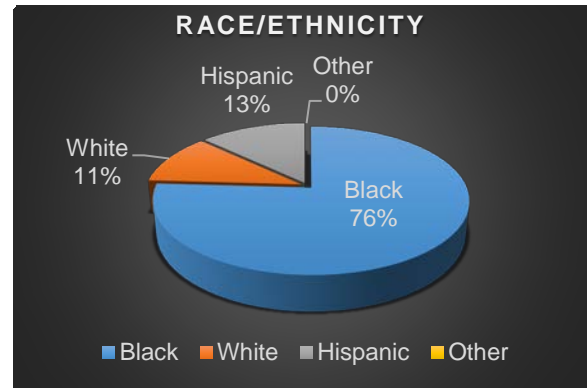


Figure 9 – JPS referrals by race/ethnicity. 76 percent of the youth referred were Black.

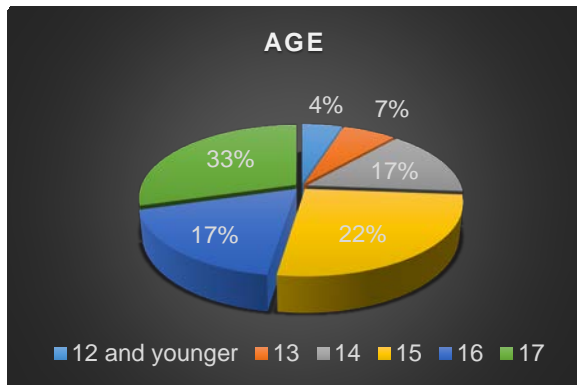


Figure 8 – JPS referrals by age. 50 percent of the youth referred were under the age of sixteen.

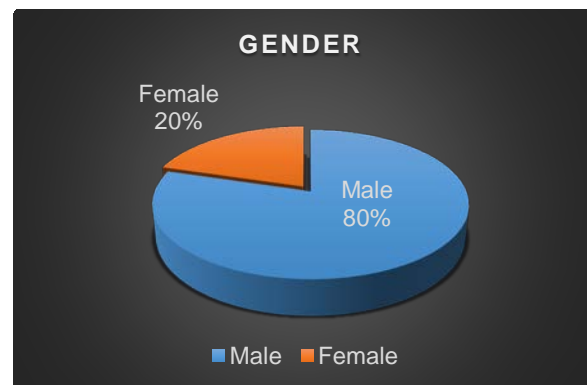


Figure 10 – JPS referrals by gender. 80 percent of the youth referred were males.

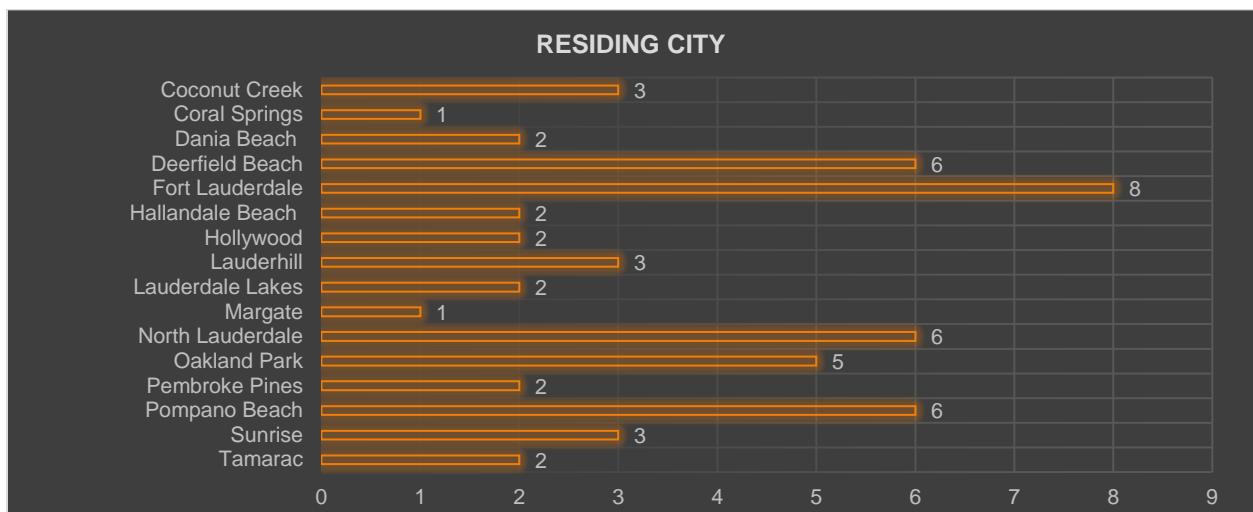


Figure 11 – JPS referrals by residing city. Fort Lauderdale, Deerfield Beach, North Lauderdale and Pompano Beach were the top municipalities where youth resided.



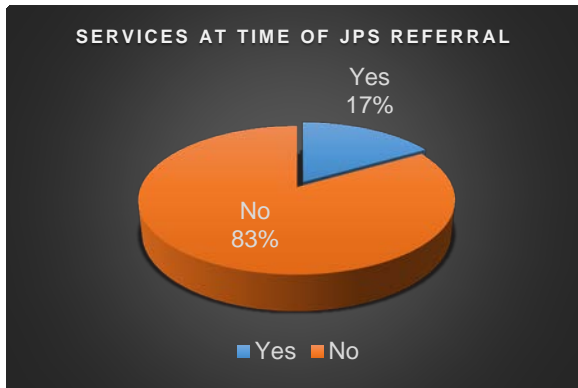


Figure 12 – JPS referrals by services. 83 percent of the youth were not in services at time of referral.

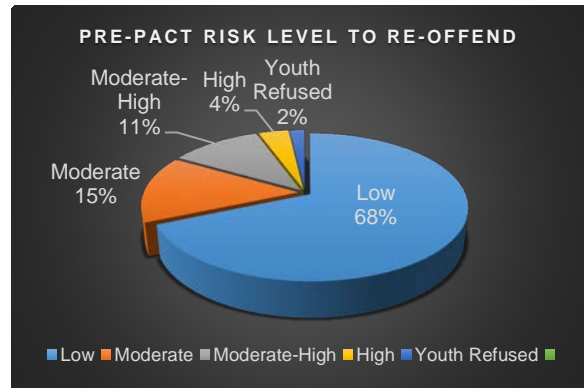


Figure 13 – JPS referrals by Pre-PACT Risk Level to Re-Offend. 68 percent of the youth referred scored low on the Pre-PACT Risk Level to Re-Offend.

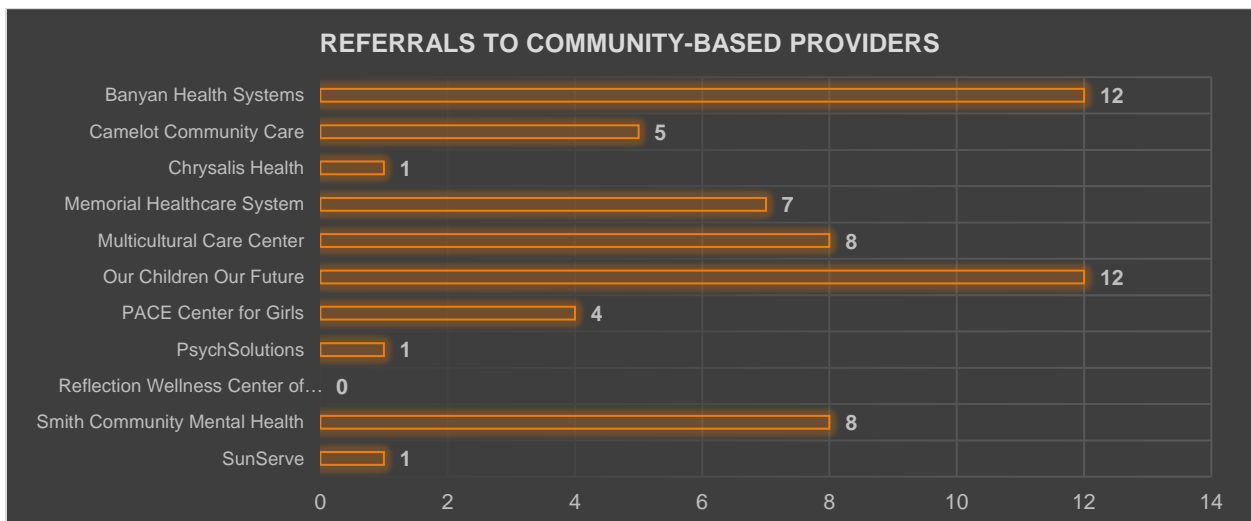


Figure 14 – JPS referrals sent to community-based service providers. Some youth were referred to more than one provider.

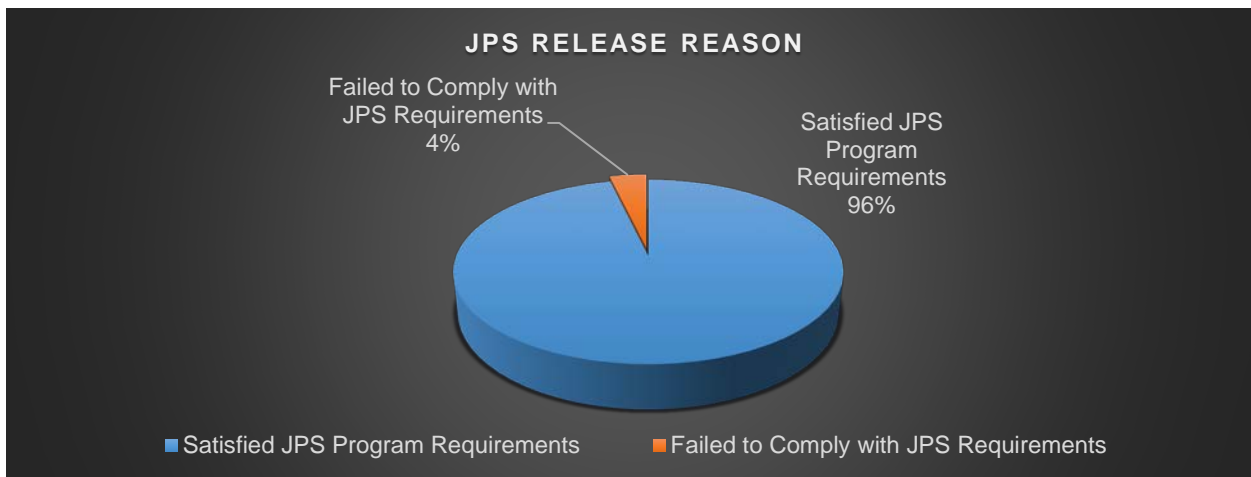


Figure 15 – Based on the youth released from JPS during FY16, 96 percent satisfied the JPS program requirements.

## Adult Civil Citation

The Adult Civil Citation program was created to implement, manage and coordinate a countywide adult “cannabis” citation process in Broward County. The Adult “Cannabis” Civil Citation program allows for a law enforcement officer to issue a citation in lieu of arrest to an individual in possession of twenty (20) grams or less of Cannabis. Participants can choose to pay a fine, complete community service, or complete an educational program. It is important to note that only Broward Sheriff’s Office is participating in the County’s Cannabis Civil Citation program within the municipalities they service. The other independent Law Enforcement Agencies have either elected to implement their own programs within their municipalities, or are not offering Cannabis Civil Citation at all.

### Snapshot of Our Population Served in FY16

The Broward Sheriff’s Office issued the first Cannabis Citation on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. During August and September 2016, 22 Citations were issued.

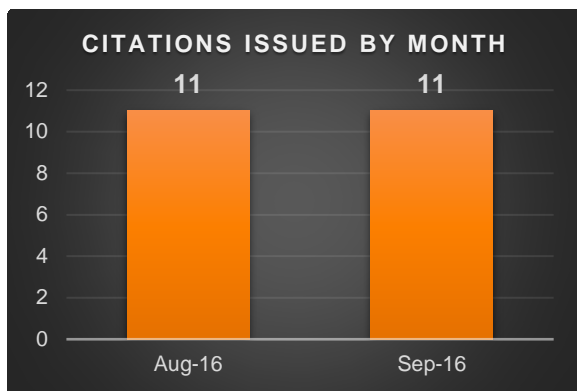


Figure 16 – Citations received by month.

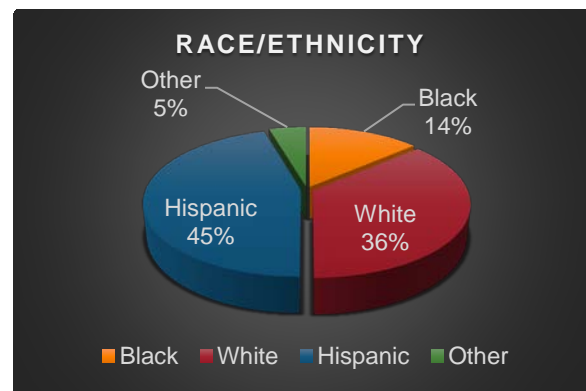


Figure 18 – 64 percent of the adults cited were adults of color.

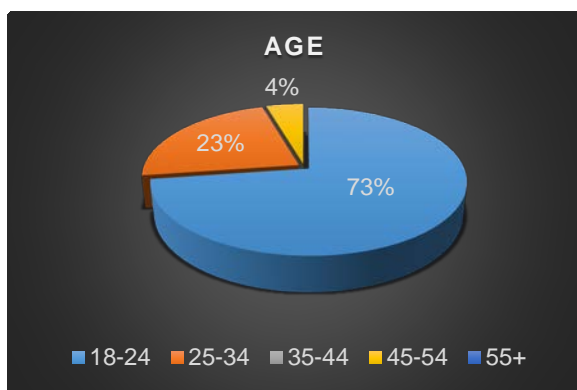


Figure 17 – 73 percent of the adults cited were between the ages of 18-24.

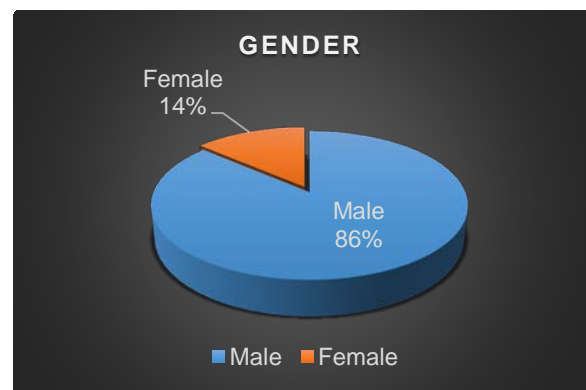


Figure 19 – 83 percent of the adults cited were male.

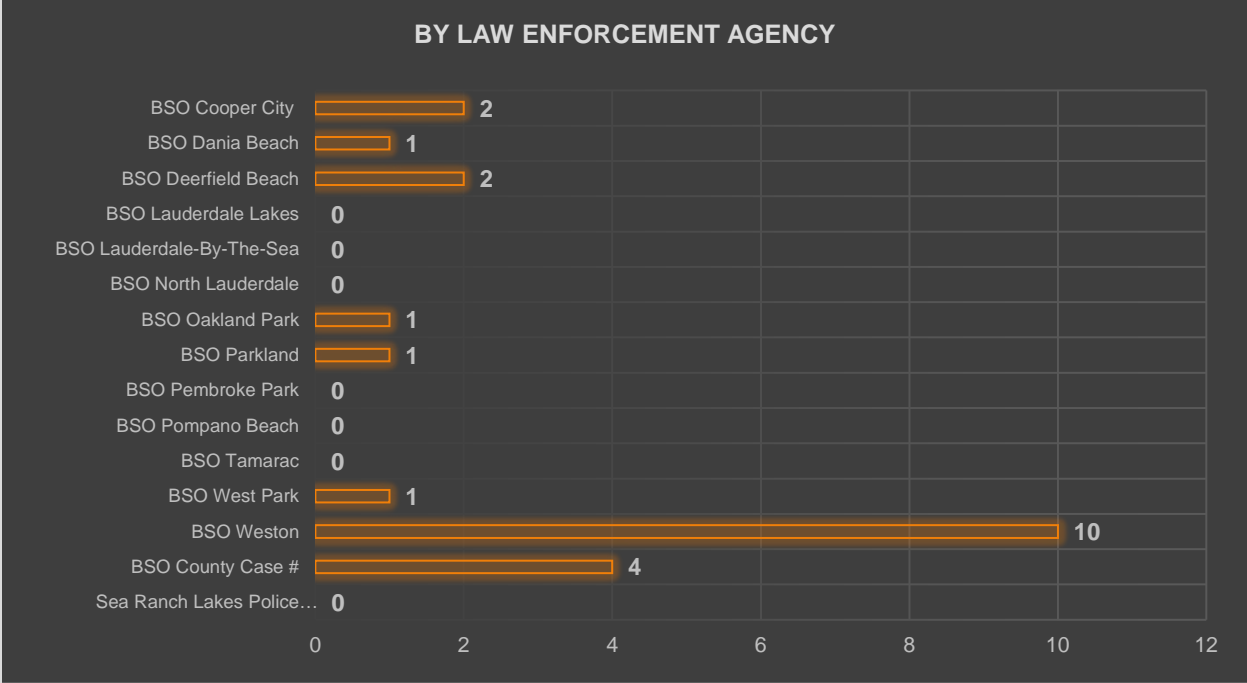


Figure 20 – All citations received during FY16 were issued by BSO.

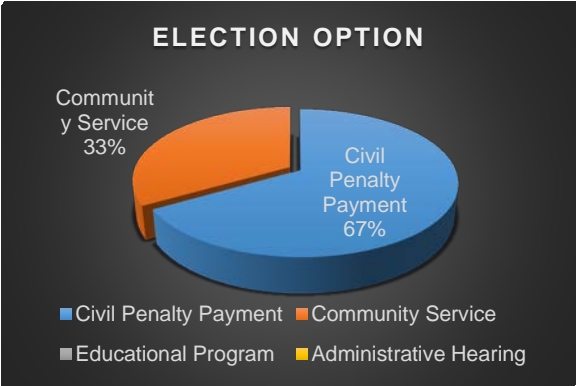


Figure 21 – Based on the citations received during FY16, 67 percent elected to pay the civil penalty and 33 percent elected to perform community service hours. There were no elections for the educational program or the administrative hearing.

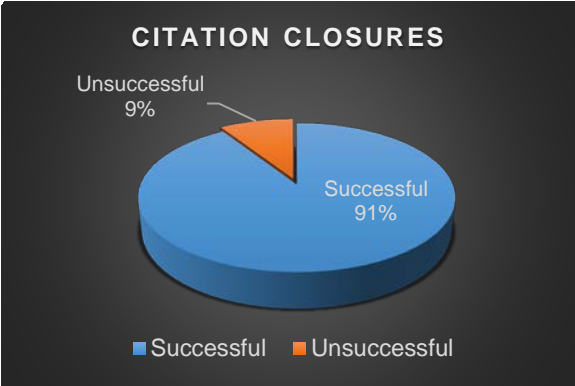


Figure 22 – Based on the citations closed during FY16, 91 percent successfully satisfied the citation requirement. The one citation termination, which resulted in the 9 percent unsuccessful rate was for failing to respond to the citation. The adult did not make an election.

## Community Events, Outreach and Engagement

*Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Adult Civil Citation (February 2016)*



**Pictured (L-R): Regenia Walker (Office of Justice Services) and Shawn Eager (Office of Justice Services).**

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*Coalition for Juvenile Justice: Redefining Leadership: Engaging Youth, Communities, and Policymakers to Achieve Better Juvenile Justice Outcomes (April 2016; Washington, D.C.)*



**Pictured (L-R): Regenia Walker (Office of Justice Services) and Tamica Gaynor (Office of Justice Services).**

*Atlantic Technical Center-Arthur Ashe Jr. Campus' Annual Community Health Fair (July 2016)*



**Pictured (L-R): Shawn Eager (Office of Justice Services), Rilwan Adigun (Office of Justice Services), Suzanne Bailey (Office of Justice Services) and Gerlande Felix (Office of Justice Services).**

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*Broward County Dependency Court Improvement Project (July 2016)*



**Pictured (L-R): Regenia Walker (Office of Justice Services), Janice Charlassier (DJJ) and Shawn Eager (Office of Justice Services).**

*Healthy Community Zone, 2nd Annual Celebration (October 2016)*



**Pictured (L-R): Leslie Rodriguez (Office of Justice Services), Shawn Eager (Office of Justice Services), Guithele Ruiz-Nicolas (Human Services Department) and Suzanne Bailey (Office of Justice Services), Not pictured – Kimberly Strong (Office of Justice Services).**

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*2016 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference in Orlando, FL (December 2016)*



**Pictured (L-R): Broward County/17th Circuit RED Team: 17th Circuit Courts: Judge Michael J. Orlando (Chairperson, Juvenile Delinquency Division) Judge Carlos Rebollo (Juvenile Delinquency Division), Kimm Campbell (Human Services Department) Regenia Walker (Office of Justice Services) Suzanne Bundy (Human Services Department), Andrea Webster (DJJ JDAI Coordinator, 17th Circuit), David Watkins (Broward Schools - Office of Equity & Academic Attainment), Nordia Sappleton, (Broward Schools - Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention).**

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