



# BROWARD CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PLAN

"PARTNERING TO CREATE CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING"

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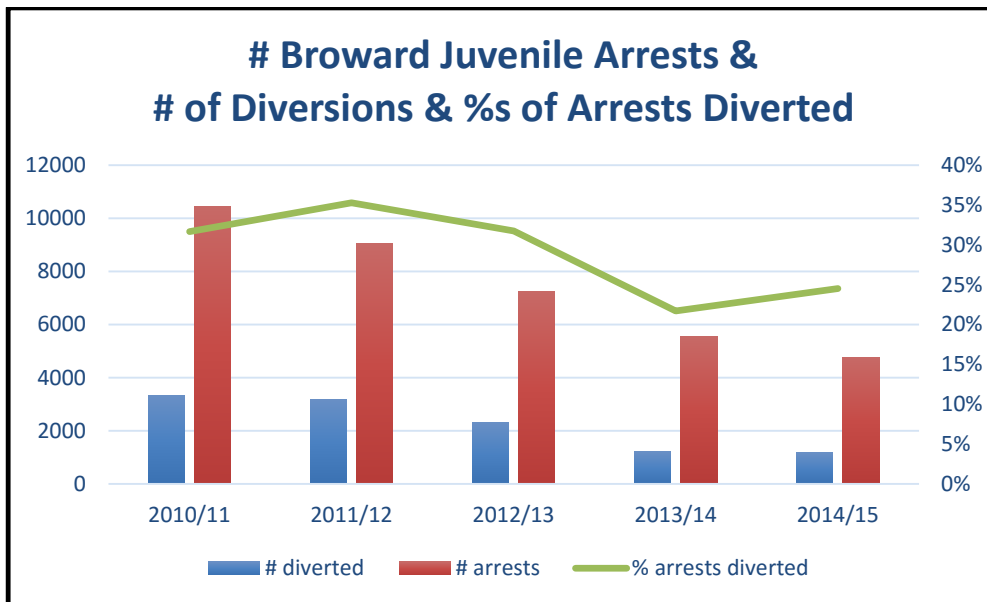


## TURN THE CURVE REPORT DIVERSION COALITION

**POPULATION RESULT:** Broward youth who have contact with law enforcement for less serious charges are accountable for their behavior and stay out of deeper involvement in the Juvenile Justice system, experience positive youth and family development, and have victim and community empathy and awareness.

**Service System Result:** The Broward Diversion Coalition (BDC) promotes positive youth development, accountability and responsibility through education for youth, families, communities and law enforcement; and collaborate service system enhancement to strengthen alternatives to Juvenile Arrest and/ or Prosecution.

### INDICATORS



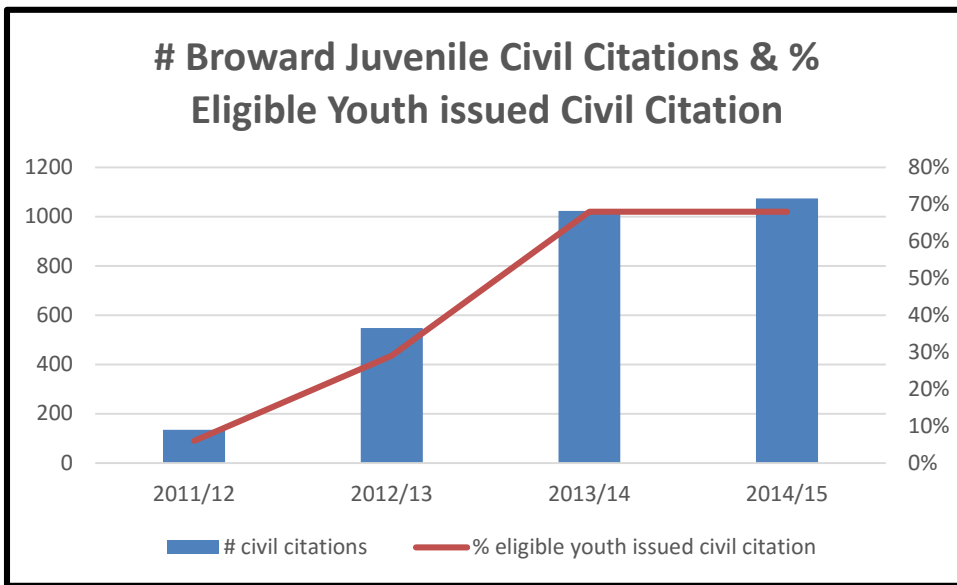
Source: FDJJ Delinquency Profile SFY 2014/15



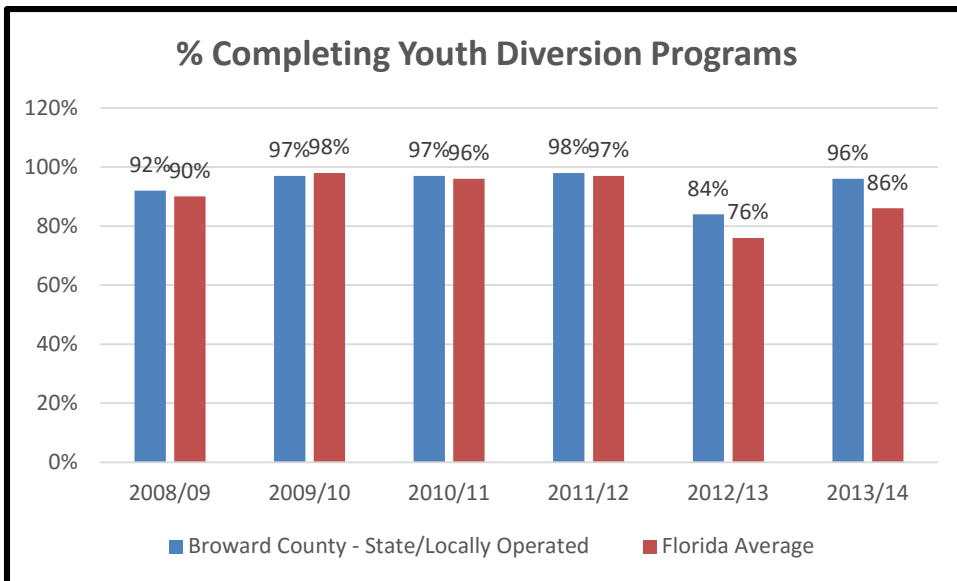
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Source: FDJJ Civil Citation Dashboard



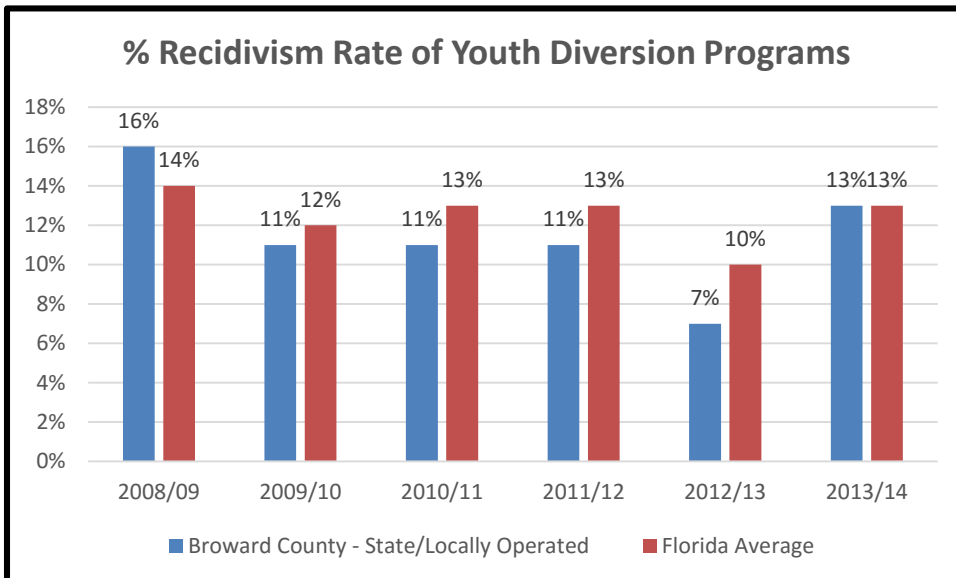
Source: FDJJ Comprehensive Accountability Reports (CAR); Broward excludes Teen Court but State Average based on total raw numbers of all programs includes Teen/Drug Courts & programs with less than 15 youth; note: 2013/14 is most recent year data from 2014/15 Report



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## PARTNERS

### Actual

- 2-1-1 Broward
- Adopt-a-Cop
- BBHC/OCP2
- Boys Town
- Broward County Court Circuit 17
- Broward County Public Schools
- Broward Sheriff's Office
- Camelot Community Care
- ChildNet
- Children's Services Council of Broward
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Harmony Development Center
- Henderson Behavioral Health
- Juliana Gerena, P.A. & Associates
- Juvenile Diversion Alternative Program
- Legal Aid
- Memorial Healthcare System
- Broward County Government
  - Civil Citation Program
  - Juvenile Predisposition Services

### Potential

- Multicultural Care Centers
- Nova Southeastern University Law School
- PACE Center for Girls
- Public Defenders Office Circuit 17
- Rite Aid and you
- Starting Place
- State Attorney's Office Circuit 17
- SunServe
- Team S.O.Y.
- Teen Court
- Urban League of Broward County
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Faith-Based Partners



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## STORY BEHIND THE CURVE

- Lack of enough financial support for diversion and civil citation as prevention tools
- The way we did business changed; civil citation and the PROMISE Program were implemented to prevent youth from being arrested.
- Moved away from Zero Tolerance policies in the schools
- Lack of pro-social opportunities at schools and in the community
- Reasons for arrests (crime trends) have changed locally, diversion providers are seeing more car thefts
- There are difficulties with access to services and activities for youth in the community
- Youth want opportunities to develop leadership skills
- Entry jobs are going to adults, not youth

## BEST IDEAS – WHAT WORKS

- Promoting communication and collaboration among juvenile justice service providers and stakeholders in Broward County
- Sharing information and best practices among the juvenile justice service providers and stakeholders
- Collectively identifying and addressing issues and concerns and create practical solutions
- Ensuring uniformity, consistency and equity among juvenile justice service providers, as appropriate for comparable activities
- What could work to do better, Partner Contributions, No Cost/Low Cost Ideas
- Connect with faith-based community resources for youth to participate in beyond diversion and civil citation services
- Make more internships and employment opportunities available for youth

## ACTION STEPS

- Enhance Integrated Data System and Data Sharing
- Connect Civil Citation, Diversion, and Promise data to better serve youth via data sharing MOUs.
- Update and inform the community on the difference between civil citation, diversion and the PROMISE Program
- The Justice Project: connect diversion providers with law enforcement and provide Restorative Justice Circle training and group homes.
- Infuse the Restorative Justice model and practice into the schools
- Standardize the process of collecting restitution and working with crime victims

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Legal Aid Hotline (2006)
- Diversion FAQ's (2006)
- Expunction (2007)
  - FDLE Website/Forms (2007)
  - Legal Aid help for completion of forms (2007)



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- Workshops (started in 2009)
- Directory of community service sites (2006)
- TCAP Research Study (2007)
  - Looking @ recidivism rates diversion v. probation
  - And time-lapse between first arrest and contact with court or diversion
  - Revealed that most kickbacks were due to "unable to locate"
- Kickback form (2007)
  - Accountability
  - Information for court personnel
- NTA's from the JAC (2007)
  - Coordination of cancellations and court reminders with Court Administration personnel
  - Reduced pick-up orders
  - Reduced need for prosecutors to call providers for case status
- Community service best practices = Concept of Service Learning (2007)
- Notice of Expected Completion Process with SAO (2007)
- Working with crime victims (2007)
  - Documented efforts to locate/engage victims
  - Victim impact statement
  - Victim's compensation fund
- Linking foster care and diversion (2007)
  - Issues related to Crossover kids (2007)
  - Foster kids' police reports marked "foster care" by JAC staff
  - Childnet liaison is established (2008)
  - Training for advocates to better understand diversion
- Standardized diversion notification letter - SAO (2007)
- In-court re-diversions (2007)
- Collaboration between Diversion Coalition and JJ Strategic Plan Subcommittee (2008)
- Information Sharing between diversion providers and judges (2008)
  - Judges have brochures for all programs
  - Judges have contacts for all programs
- Education about Zero Tolerance Issues (2008)
- Broward County Public Schools begins attending coalition meetings (2008)
- Programs share forms (releases, etc.) 2008
- Expunction workshops (2009)
- CSC New DAY RFP opened up civil citation slots in 5 different program throughout the county (2010).
  
- Collaboration with JAT
  - to release psycho-social assessments to programs (2010)
  - to coordinate appropriate diversion program referrals based on juvenile needs



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- Programs share information, know strengths of each program, and communicate with SAO for transfers to other programs based on client's needs.
- Collaboration with community agencies
  - Volunteer Broward – programs trained for volunteer opportunities
  - Women in Distress – free workshops for diversion projects
  - Legal Aid
  - 211 Broward
- SAO establishes courtesy diversion supervision with SAO in Miami-Dade County (2011)
- Collaboration with Public Defender (2012)
  - Weekes will attempt to engage parents who refuse diversion
- SAO established courtesy supervision with IDDS of Palm Beach County (2012)
- Bold Justice, a Broward Faith Based Coalition of over 1,800 members, received data on Broward Civil Citation and encouraged the City of Hollywood to increase civil citation efforts (2014).
- Office of Civil Citation was granted funds to provide payment of expunction application fees for juveniles. Implementation of funds for juvenile expunction began in August 2014.
- Standardized Civil Citation Referral Process
- Created Minimum Quality Standards for Service System (Civil Citation & Diversion Programs)
- Effectively Managed Diversion and Civil Citation Shift (Data & Service Systems)
- Effectively integrated the SBBC PROMISE Program into the service system

## HISTORY

Originally formed in 2003 as an Advisory Board for the Urban League's Crime Prevention & Intervention Program, Project Embrace, the Coalition began bringing together provider agencies to share information and develop community service opportunities to help diverted youth fulfill their service requirements in meaningful ways. Over the past decade, the Diversion Coalition has grown to include The State Attorney's Office (SAO), and a diversity of other major stakeholders and community partners, including Dept. of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Broward County Court Administration, Dept. of Children and Families (DCF), Broward County Schools, Children's Services Council (CSC) of Broward County, Legal Aid, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) and other Law Enforcement entities, ChildNet, and Florida Atlantic University (FAU), in addition to all of the major provider agencies for delinquency diversion services in Broward.

The work of the group has grown to include many important collaborative projects that strengthen the continuum of services for youth and enhance the juvenile justice system. The Diversion Coalition is not a mandated entity, receives no funding and is open to any interested parties. It is a unique group of dedicated passionate professionals who meet monthly to share knowledge, resources and expertise in order to empower the juvenile justice system to best serve the youth and community.