Background on OPPAGA

What is OPPAGA?
- Non-partisan legislative agency that provides data, evaluative research, and objective analyses to assist legislative budget and policy deliberations
- Created in 1994 by the Government Performance and Accountability Act
- Representative of a widely recognized legislative support profession

Who determines OPPAGA’s research projects?
- Currently authorized under Joint Rule Three
- Conducts research as directed by state law, the presiding officers, or the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee
What Does Your OPPAGA Contribute?

- Provides the Legislature the independent capacity to assess programs and policies
- Designs and carries out methodologically complex and often original research
- Maintains the capacity to answer research questions across policy areas
- Analyzes large and often confidential data sets, integrating data from multiple agencies
- Provides contract management services
The People at OPPAGA

- Wide variety of degrees and professional experiences
- Most analysts hold graduate degrees; 14 hold PhDs or JDs
- Skill sets complement other legislative staff
- Hiring reflects evolving legislative demands for information
- Contact information in packet
OPPAGA Conducts Research in 4 Policy Areas With Support From Methodology
Conducting Research

OPPAGA analysts use a wide variety of qualitative and quantitative research tools

**Qualitative**
- Interviews with agency and program officials, clients, stakeholders – Florida and multi-state
- Site visits
- Surveys
- Focus groups

**Quantitative**
- Primary data through surveys
- Data from agencies and outside entities
- Statistical analysis and modeling
Examples of Recent Research

- Human Trafficking
- Organ Transplants
- Restorative Justice
- Florida Growth Fund
- Economic Development
- 1920 Ocoee Violence
- Exertional Heat Illness
- Lottery
- Higher Ed Facilities
OPPAGA Products

Research Results

- **Written Reports**
  - Formal research publications
  - Typically includes agency review and response

- **Other Products**
  - Research produced in a variety of formats

- **Briefings & Presentations**
  - Results presented to committees, members, or legislative staff

Other Products

- **GPS (Government Program Summaries)**
  - Online encyclopedia of state government programs

- **Policy Notes**
  - Free electronic newsletter summarizing recent policy research relevant to Florida
Government Program Summaries

Government Program Summaries (GPS) is a free resource that provides descriptive information on over 200 state agencies and programs. For fiscal data, GPS links to Transparency Florida, which includes continually updated information on state agencies' operating budgets and expenditures.

What is contained in GPS summaries?

Generally, GPS summaries provide the following information.

- Program purpose
- Program funding
- Program updates
- References to other sources of program information
- Agency contact information and links to other sites that may be of interest
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Race and Ethnicity of Violent Crime Offenders and Arrestees, 2018

This report compares the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program data on incidents of non-fatal violent crime to data from Bureau of Justice Statistics’ National Crime Victimization Survey to determine if arrest differences by race and ethnicity can be attributed to differences in criminal involvement. It examines offenders’ characteristics as reported by victims in the National Crime Victimization Survey and provides information on racial and ethnic disparities beyond an arrestee and population-based comparison. Relative to their share of the U.S. population (6%), white people were underrepresented among offenders in nonfatal violent crimes overall (52%). They accounted for 45% of offenders involved in aggravated assaults and 31% of offenders involved in robbery. They were not underrepresented to a statistically significant degree among offenders involved in rape or sexual assault (50%) or simple assault (59%). Black people were overrepresented among offenders in nonfatal violent crimes overall (29%) relative to their share of the U.S. population (12%). Half of all offenders involved in robbery (51%), a third involved in aggravated assault (34%), and more than a fifth involved in simple assault (23%) and rape or sexual assault (22%) were black. Hispanic offenders were involved in non-fatal violent crimes (16%) nearly proportionate to their representation in the U.S. population (18%). Hispanics were underrepresented to a statistically significant degree among offenders involved in simple assault (13%). Among other racial groups, Asians (6% of the U.S. population) were consistently underrepresented among violent offenders, except for their involvement in rape or sexual assault (5%). Between 1% and 2% of offenders involved in robbery, aggravated assault, or simple assault were Asian.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics Assessment of the Rape and Sexual Assault Pilot Test

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics funded this research to develop and test a new methodology for measuring rape and sexual assault, with the goal of collecting more accurate statistics on the nature and frequency of those crimes. This pilot test provided important findings that have helped to inform the bureau’s ongoing efforts to improve the measurement of rape and sexual assault in the National Crime Victimization Survey. The pilot test surveyed a total of about 5,800 females ages 18 to 49 across five metropolitan statistical areas in 2014 and 2015: Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Phoenix. Through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, state and local law enforcement agencies report incidents of rape and sexual assault to the FBI, but these data are limited to cases where the offender is an adult male. The pilot test asked women if they had ever been raped or sexually assaulted from a non-probabilistic sample of households containing female respondents. The pilot test found that more than 1% of women reported a non-fatally injurious rape or sexual assault in the past year. The findings suggest that the current data collection methodology undercounts the occurrence of these crimes.
Questions?
Contact Information

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OPPAGA supports the Florida Legislature by providing data, evaluative research, and objective analyses that assist legislative budget and policy deliberations.