

OPPAGA

The Legislature's Program Review Office

A Presentation to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

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OPPAGA

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability

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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

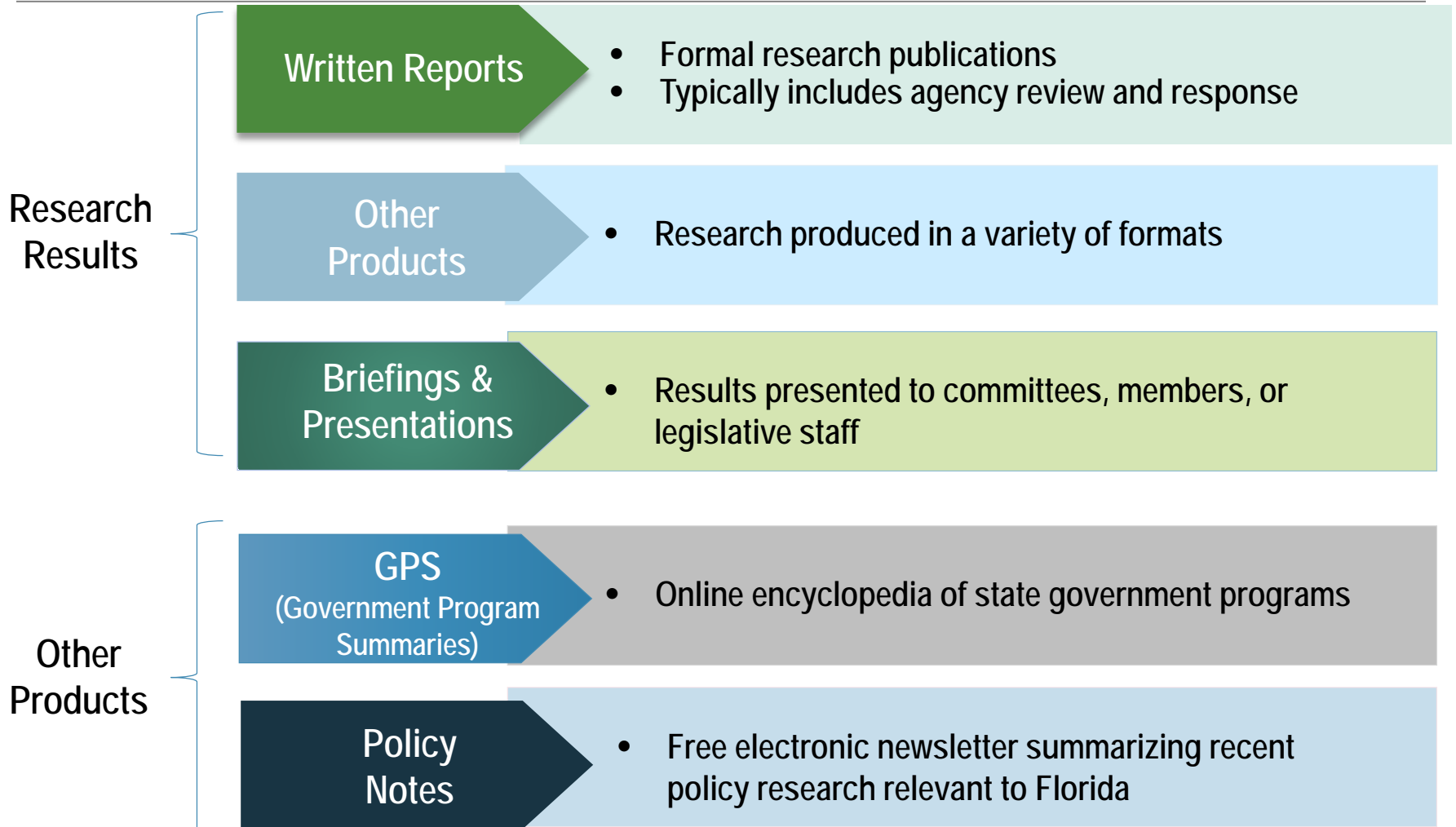
Quantitative

- Primary data through surveys
- Data from agencies and outside entities
- Statistical analysis and modeling

Examples of Recent Research



OPPAGA Products



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.



[Programs by Agency >](#)

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

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Race and Ethnicity of Violent Crime Offenders and Arrestees, 2018](#)

[Bureau of Justice Statistics Assessment of the Rape and Sexual Assault Pilot Test](#)



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 (60%), white people were underrepresented among offenders in non-fatal 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 (56%) or simple assault (59%). Black people were overrepresented among offenders in non-fatal violent crimes overall (29%) relative to their share of the U.S. population (13%). 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 serious 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



EDUCATION

[K-12 Education: Observations on States' School Improvement Efforts](#)

[How Can Teachers Make the Most of Professional Learning in the Summer?](#)

[Common Health Conditions in Childhood and Adolescence, School Absence, and Educational Attainment: Mendelian Randomization Study](#)



GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security Employee Morale: Some Improvements Made, but Additional Actions Needed to Strengthen Employee Engagement](#)

[\\$660 Billion Paycheck Protection Program and \\$220 Billion Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program Disbursed to Minority Communities in the Early Stages of COVID-19](#)

[Implementing Creating Moves to Opportunity](#)

[Employment Creation Potential, Labor Skills Requirements, and Skill Gaps for Young People: A South African Case Study](#)




HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Questions?

Contact Information

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FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS &
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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