

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 OPPAGA Provide to the Legislature?

- 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 Staff at OPPAGA

- Wide variety of degrees and professional experiences
- Most analysts hold graduate degrees; 15 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

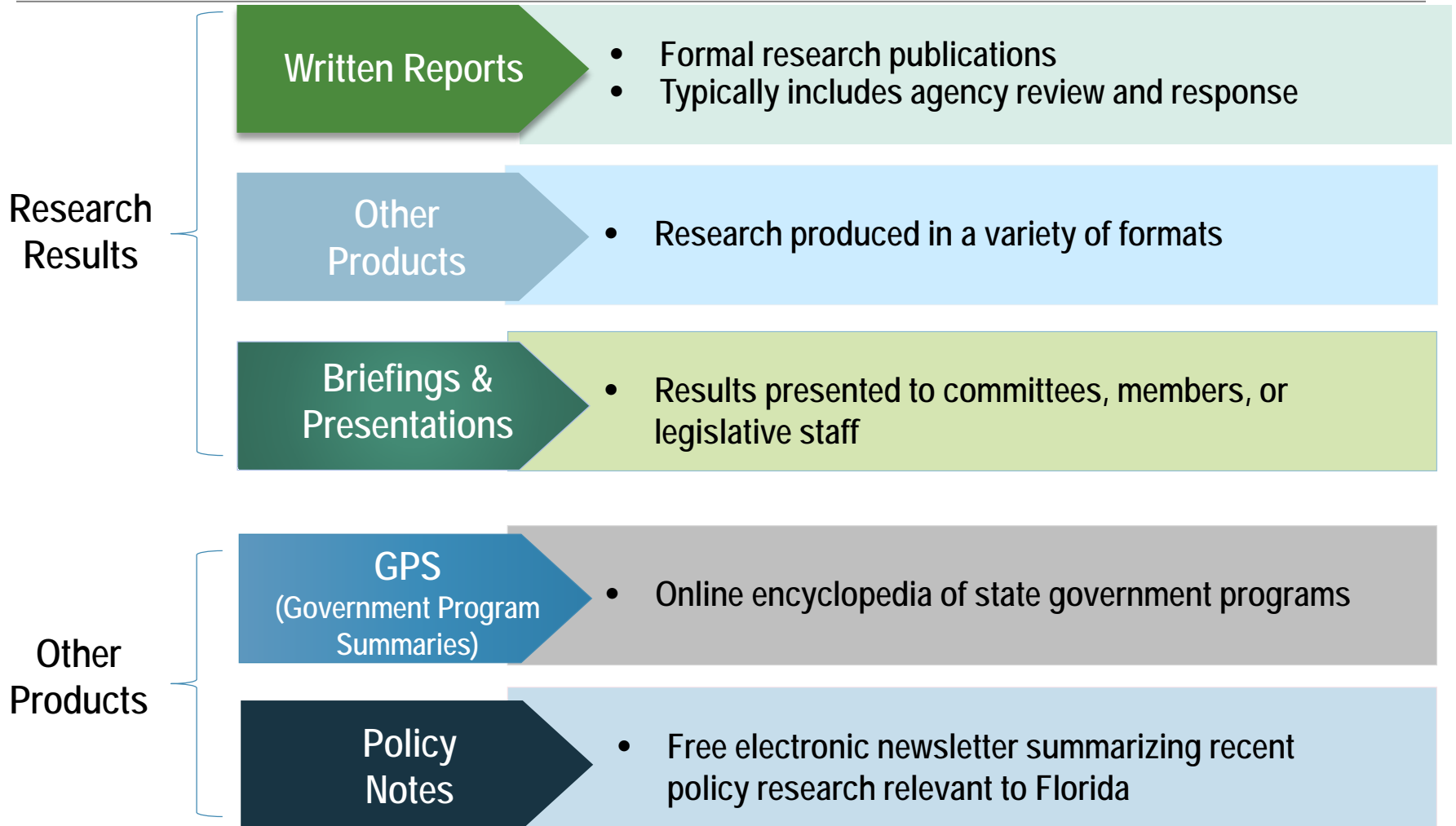
Quantitative

- 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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EDUCATION

[Homeless and Foster Youth Services](#)

[Encouraging Families to Visit a Literacy Website: A Randomized Study of the Impact of Email and Text Message Communication](#)

[Student Loan Default Patterns](#)

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

[Methodology for Rural and Small-City U.S. Transit Agency Peer Grouping](#)

[The Space Imperative: A Whole-Of-Nation Approach to a Sustainable, Secure, and Resilient Space Domain](#)

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

December 9, 2022



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Supporting Law Enforcement and Prosecution of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths](#)

In 2021, the United States recorded the highest number of deaths resulting from drug overdoses over a 12-month period. Synthetic opioids, including illicit fentanyl, were involved in 66% of these overdose deaths. Cuyahoga County's (Ohio) Medical Examiner's Office developed the Heroin Involved Death Investigation (HIDI) Protocol to support a safe, coordinated, and rapid response to active drug overdose death scenes. Per the protocol, alerts are sent to law enforcement investigators if the medical examiner suspects a death is related to opioid use or overdose. These alerts notify law enforcement of potential dangers and facilitate protection of the scene and collection of evidence. Researchers at Case Western Reserve University Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research examined the HIDI Protocol and determined that the protocol is an innovative, collaborative system of data protection, collection, and flow that supports overdose investigations. In addition, the researchers identified several opportunities for improvement, such as creating an office to track data flow and act as a repository for opioid overdose criminal case outcomes. The research team concluded that, with slight modifications, the HIDI Protocol could be implemented in other communities experiencing similar opioid overdose-related challenges. However, applications to other jurisdictions would need to consider potential risks and harms to individuals or groups and ethical considerations that may factor into use of the protocol. In addition, users should be aware of all relevant statutes, regulations, and/or governing judicial decisions related to the protocol's use.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

[How to Facilitate a Discussion about Child Sexual Exploitation in Your Community: A Facilitation Guide](#)

The purpose of this guide is to provide judges with guidance on how to convene a group of court and community stakeholders to address child sex trafficking on a local level. The guide is intended to help courts and community stakeholders understand and discuss what puts minors at risk for sexual exploitation, also known as on-ramps into the life of

Questions?

Contact Information

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FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS &
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OPPAGA supports the Florida Legislature by providing data, evaluative research, and objective analyses that assist legislative budget and policy deliberations.