

OPPAGA

A Legislative Research Office

**A Presentation to the Joint Legislative Auditing
Committee**



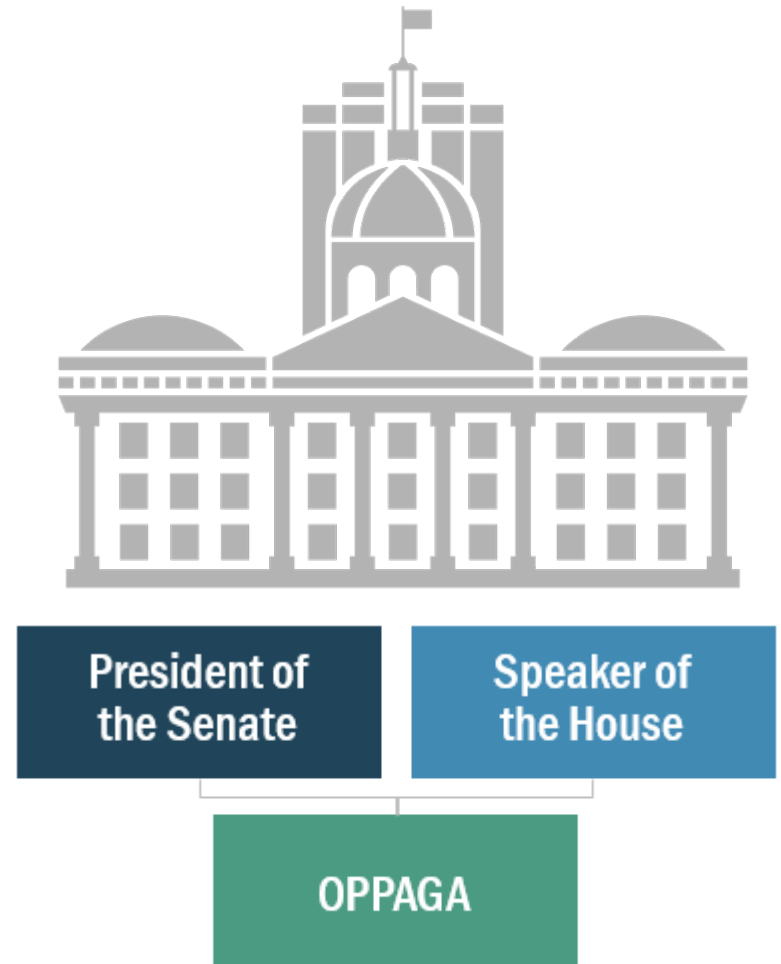
OPPAGA

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability

JANUARY 13, 2025

OPPAGA: A Legislative Research Office

- OPPAGA is a joint legislative unit, working for both the Senate and the House
- OPPAGA collaborates with legislative leadership and committee staff
- OPPAGA conducts work at the Legislature's direction



The Legislature Directs Projects in Three Ways

1

Law (legislation or budget proviso)

2

Senate or House leadership approval of member or committee/staff request

3

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (JLAC)

OPPAGA Provides the Legislature Several Services

- Gives the Legislature additional capacity to objectively assess programs and policies
- Maintains the ability to answer research questions across policy areas
- Designs methodologically complex and often original research
- Obtains data from multiple sources and conducts primary data collection
- Integrates and analyzes large and often confidential data sets
- Provides contract management services

OPPAGA Analysts Have Varied Backgrounds

- Wide variety of degrees and professional experiences
- Skill sets complement other legislative staff
- Hiring reflects evolving legislative demands for information

Four Policy Areas Conduct Research With Support From a Methodology Unit



Each Policy Area Covers Several Agencies



Criminal and Civil Justice

- Attorney General
- Capital Collateral Regional Councils
- Commission on Offender Review
- Correctional Medical Authority
- Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- Justice Administrative Commission
- Juvenile Justice
- Law Enforcement
- PRIDE Enterprises
- Public Defenders
- State Attorneys
- State Courts System



Education

- Florida Board of Governors
- Florida College System
- K-12 Education
- Lottery
- Non-Public Institutions
- School Districts
- State Board of Education
- State University System



Government Operations

- Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Business and Professional Regulation
- Citrus
- Commerce
- Environmental Protection
- Financial Services
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Governor's Office
- Management Services
- Military Affairs
- Public Service Commission
- Revenue
- State
- State Board of Administration
- Transportation
- Water Management Districts



Health and Human Services

- Children and Family Services
- Elder Affairs
- Health
- Health Care
- Persons with Disabilities
- Veterans' Affairs

The Office Uses Three Primary Research Approaches

Program Evaluation

- Identify a program's statutory responsibilities, costs, and expected outputs and outcomes
- Analyze qualitative and quantitative data to determine effectiveness, efficiency, and potential cost savings

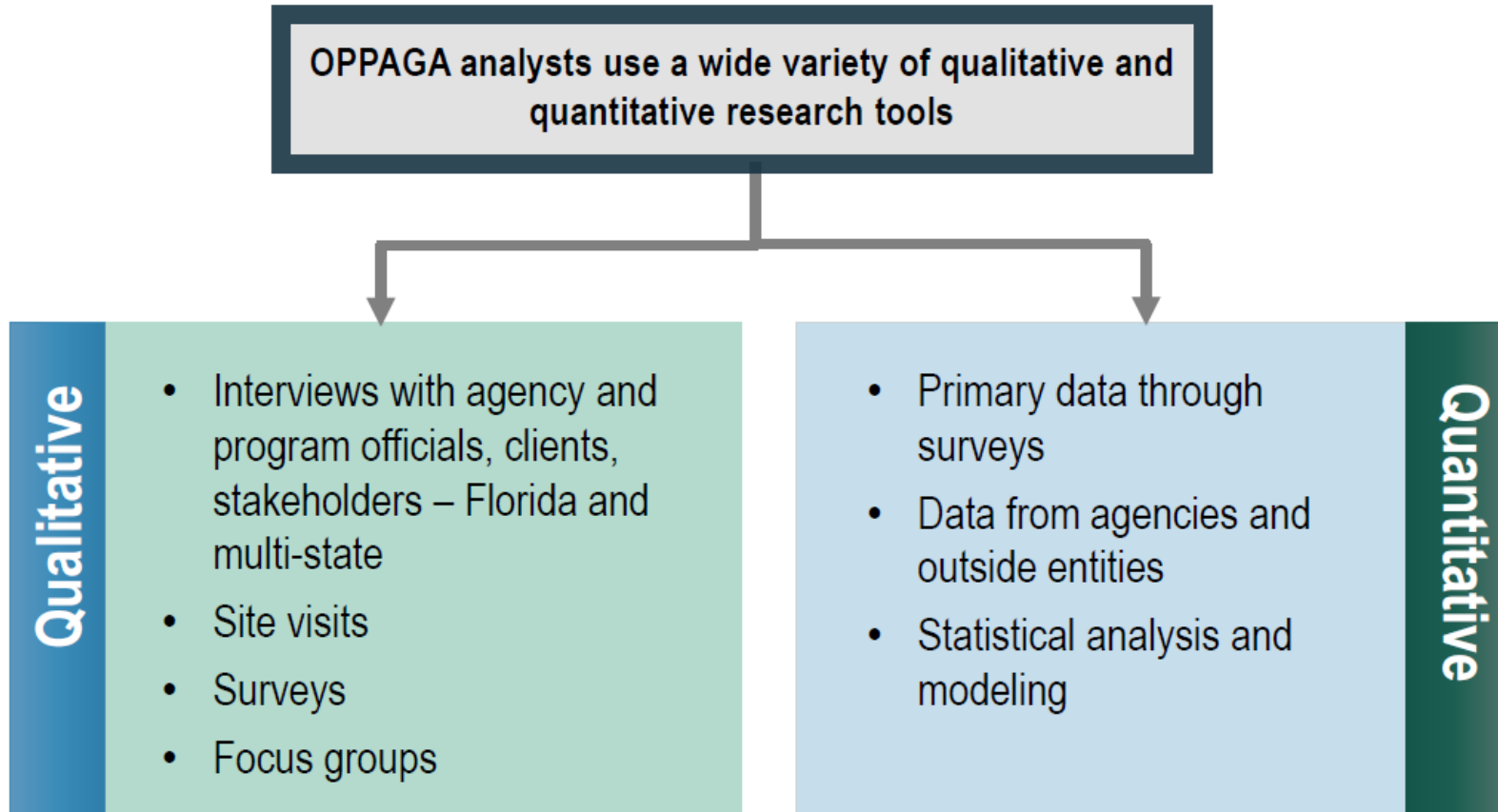
Policy Analysis

- Describe a public policy issue
- Evaluate available relevant research and ways other states have attempted to address the issue
- Identify and assess the advantages and disadvantages of various legislative policy options

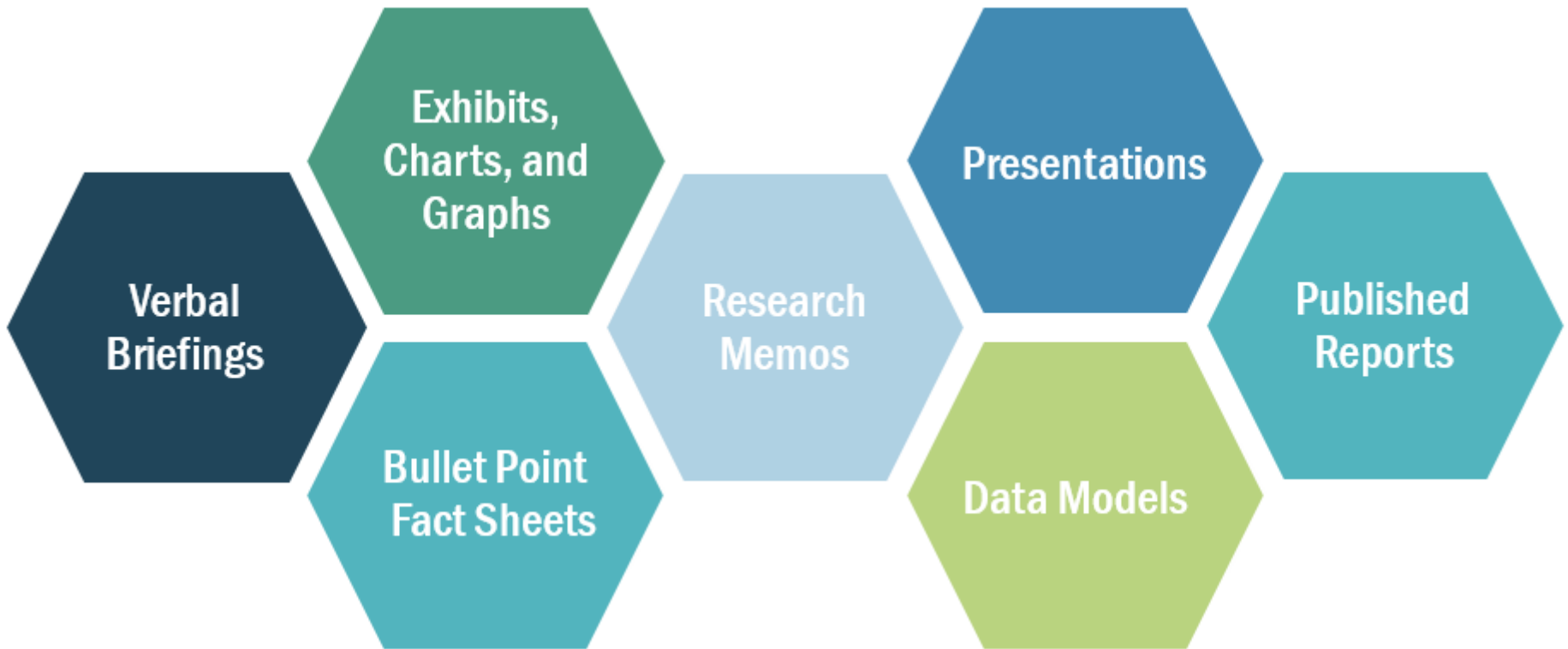
Information and Data

- Provide research information and qualitative and quantitative data

Analysts Use Numerous Qualitative and Quantitative Research Tools



Each Project Could Include Multiple Products



Recent Research Addressed a Wide Range of Topics

Affordable Housing

- Do Florida's cities and counties use affordable housing practices and policies that could be implemented statewide?

Statewide Career Articulation

- How many students enroll in programs included in statewide articulation agreements?




















Felony Theft Thresholds

- What are the felony theft thresholds in Florida and other states and how could Florida's thresholds be modified?

















Human Trafficking

- How many child victims of commercial sexual exploitation has DCF identified and what services have these children been provided?

Per Statute, OPPAGA Conducts Recurring Reviews

Law	Description	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
1. s. 288.0001, F.S.	Economic Development Programs (Annual – January 1)					
2. s. 907.044, F.S.	Effectiveness and Cost-Efficiency of Pretrial Release Programs (Annual – January 1)					
3. s. 215.474, F.S.	State Board of Administration Florida Growth Fund Investments (Annual – January 15)					
4. s. 24.123, F.S.	Lottery Efficiency and Effectiveness (Annual – January 31)					
5. s. 112.658, F.S.	Florida Retirement System Compliance with Protection of Public Employee Retirement Benefits Act (Annual - February)					
6. s. 409.16791, F.S.	Human Trafficking (Annual – July 1)					
7. s. 409.913(35), F.S.	Medicaid Fraud and Abuse (Biennial – January 31)					
8. s. 215.44(8), F.S.	State Board of Administration's Management of Investments (Biennial - March)					
9. s. 943.04353, F.S.	Sexual Predator and Sexual Offender Registration (Triennial – January 1)					
10. s. 125.0167(8), F.S.	Discretionary Surtax on Documents (Quinquennial – June 30)					
11. s. 812.014(7), F.S.	Threshold Amounts for Certain Theft Offenses–Theft (Quinquennial – September 1)					

Per Statute, OPPAGA Conducts Recurring Reviews

Law	Description	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
12. s. 812.015(11), F.S.	Threshold Amounts for Certain Theft Offenses—Retail and Farm Theft (<i>Quinquennial – September 1</i>)					
13. Ch. 2024-16, L.O.F.	Innovative Healthcare Solutions Revolving Loan Program (<i>Quinquennial - Starting October 1, 2030</i>)					
14. s. 420.0003(3)(d)1, F.S.	Affordable Housing—Other States (<i>Quinquennial – December 15</i>)					
15. s. 420.0003(3)(d)2, F.S.	Affordable Housing—Local Government (<i>Quinquennial – December 15</i>)					
16. s. 420.0003(3)(d)3, F.S.	Affordable Housing—State Government (<i>Quinquennial – December 15</i>)					
17. s. 212.055(11), F.S.	Discretionary Sales Surtaxes (<i>Ongoing, as needed, in even-numbered years</i>)					
18. s. 189.0695(2)(b), F.S.	Special Districts – 3 fire, 49 soil and water conservation, and 21 neighborhood improvement (<i>June 30, 2023; September 30, 2024; September 30, 2025; fire districts recur every 5 years</i>)					
19. s. 744.2112(5)(a), F.S.	Guardianship Trends (<i>October 15, 2024 – 2027</i>)					
20. s. 39.4092(4)(b), F.S.	Multidisciplinary Legal Representation (<i>December 1, 2022 – 2025</i>)					
21. s. 957.11, F.S.	Private Prison Contracts (<i>End of each contract period</i>)					
22. s. 932.7061, F.S.	Civil Asset Forfeiture Reporting (<i>Ongoing, as needed</i>)					

OPPAGA Manages Outsourced Research

- **OPPAGA negotiates and manages consulting contracts with vendors conducting research for the Legislature**
 - Management of all aspects of the process of procuring research services, from negotiation to contract execution to product delivery
 - Extensive contract management experience among staff, many of whom are Florida Certified Contract Managers
 - Technical and substantive expertise to evaluate the quality and efficiency of proposals
 - Contract management that focuses on the quality and timeliness of work products to ensure that the products meet legislative needs

Government Program Summaries

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



[Agency Profiles](#) >

What is contained in GPS summaries?

Generally, GPS summaries provide the following information.

- Agency purpose
- Agency funding
- References to other sources of agency information
- Agency contact information and links to other sites that may be of interest



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PolicyNotes

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

January 3, 2025



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Juvenile Court Statistics 2022](#)

This report describes delinquency and petitioned status offense cases handled in U.S. courts with jurisdiction over juvenile populations between 2005 and 2022. Characteristics are presented on an estimated 549,500 delinquency cases and 62,000 petitioned status offense cases handled in 2022. Key findings include that in 2022, juvenile courts handled about 1,500 delinquency cases per day. Though delinquency caseloads increased in 2022, the number of cases was below pre-pandemic levels for all offenses. The report also tracks caseload trends from 2005 to 2022, including case counts and rates, juvenile demographics, and offenses charged.

Source: *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

[An Interim Process and Outcome Evaluation of Oakland's Measure Z–Funded Services](#)

This interim evaluation report presents descriptive, process, and outcome findings regarding the Oakland Department of Violence Prevention's (DVP's) community healing and restoration strategy. Activities encompassed in this strategy are intended to help families affected by homicide and support neighborhoods and communities most impacted by group violence and gender-based violence. These services and activities help community members cope and heal in response to incidents of violence while strengthening social capital in neighborhoods as a protective factor against violence. The efforts under this strategy are reaching areas and populations most affected by violence while fostering community bonds. Between July 2022 and June 2024, the DVP assisted 156 individuals through its family-support services, most commonly providing case management, financial support, relocation, and funeral/vigil planning services. Additionally, 76 people received therapeutic support services and 69 people received restorative services focused on supporting families affected by violence over the same two-year period. In summer 2023, they occurred in nine locations over six consecutive weeks (54 total events) and in summer 2024, there were 31 events in eight locations. Each site was funded to host three events, and some hosted more either by stretching the DVP funding or supplementing it from other sources. In 2023 Town Nights events were attended by thousands of people, and they provided employment to an average of 185 young people each Friday.

Questions?

Contact Information

Kara Collins-Gomez

Coordinator

 (850) 717-0503

 collins-gomez.kara@oppaga.fl.gov

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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