

Project Safe Students in Schools

An Early Intervention Program and
partnership between the
Duval County Public Schools and the
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Students in the News...



**Loaded Gun Found on Bus,
Florida Times Union 03-21-2007**

Other Effects of Classroom Disruption

Teachers link unruly classes, academic slide

S.12.04 RW.

Middle and high school educators see discipline as a serious problem, according to survey.

By **BEN FELLER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The way teachers see it, today's classroom environment often deserves a D — as in disrespectful, distracting and disheartening enough to drive many of them away.

Most teachers in middle and high schools say misbehavior by a handful of children is such a disruptive, pervasive force that a majority of students suffer for it, a study released Tuesday said.

Although schools have become better at responding to serious offenses, such as guns and drugs on campus, the cumulative problem of routine unruly behavior is undermining academic achievement, says the report by Public Agenda, a non-partisan research group. Most teachers say they contend with students who disrespect them, cheat, show up late and harass others.

"If you start totaling up the hours that teachers could be teaching and students could be learning, it's just staggering," said Public Agenda president Ruth Wooden.

More than three in four teachers said they could do their job more effectively if not for discipline problems; more than eight in 10 said most students suffer because of a few troublemakers. Nevertheless, the time spent on crowd control is not the kind of problem that generates public attention or outrage among policymakers, the study said.

HITTING HOME

First Coast reports

Northeast Florida schools districts are required to report in-school offenses to the state. To view a particular school system's report for the past school year, go to Jacksonville.com, keywords: school discipline.

It is a struggle, however, that gives teachers second thoughts about their choice of careers.

About a third of teachers have considered quitting because of student indiscipline, according to the study, which surveyed both teachers and parents.

Tina Dove, a teacher of six years, used to head home drained with frustration after dealing with disruptive students. A no-nonsense disciplinarian, as she put it, Dove still lost patience with the classroom struggle and took time off this year.

"If you have a child in your classroom who is difficult to work with, and they are setting a tone, you can have anything from a five-minute distraction to the loss of half a class period," said Dove, who lives in Alexandria, Va.

The biggest cause of student behavior problems, according to both teachers and parents, is that too many parents fail to teach their kids discipline. Meanwhile, schools have less time to teach social skills or to free kids for recess or exercise, said Jerald Newberry, who directs the health and safety division at the National Education Association, the nation's largest teachers' union.

The study was based on a mail survey of 725 public

Bad behavior

Talking, horseplay and treating teachers with a lack of respect were some of the top concerns about public school students, according to parents and teachers in a recent poll.

Percentage of teachers and parents who think problems are 'very' or 'somewhat' serious

Teachers Parents

Disrupting class by talking and horseplay



Students treating teachers with a lack of respect



Cheating



Showing up late to class



Bullying and harassment



Note: 725 teachers and 600 parents interviewed; margin of error \pm 4 percentage points
Source: Public Agenda

The Associated Press

middle and high school teachers and a phone survey of 600 parents of public school students in grades five through 12. Both had had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points. The study was financed by Common Good, a bipartisan legal reform coalition.

@ To get a copy of the report, go to www.publicagenda.org.

SRO Incidents/Arrests 2006-2007 School Year

■ Felony Arrests	328
■ Misdemeanor Arrests	443
■ Juvenile Civil Citations	176
■ Firearm Related Incidents	17
■ Weapon Related Incidents	93

2006 – 2007 Firearm Related Incidents in our Schools

17 Incidents

■ Douglas Anderson School of the Arts	1
■ Edward H. White	3
■ Englewood High School	1
■ First Coast High School	2
■ Frank Peterson Academy	1
■ Ft. Caroline Middle School	1
■ Highlands Middle School	1
■ Mandarin High School	1
■ Matthew Gilbert Middle School	1
■ Raines High School	1
■ Ramona Elementary School	1
■ Ribault Middle School	1
■ Twin Lakes Elementary School	1
■ Wolfson High School	1
Total	17

2007 – 2008 Firearm Related Incidents in Our Schools

14 Incidents

■ Raines High School	1
■ Sandalwood High School	1
■ Terry Parker High School	1
■ Andrew Jackson High School	2
■ Ed White High School	2
■ Robert E. Lee High School	2
■ First Coast High School	1
■ Forrest High School	3
■ Ribault High School	1
Total	14

2007-2008 Firearm Related Incidents In Our Schools

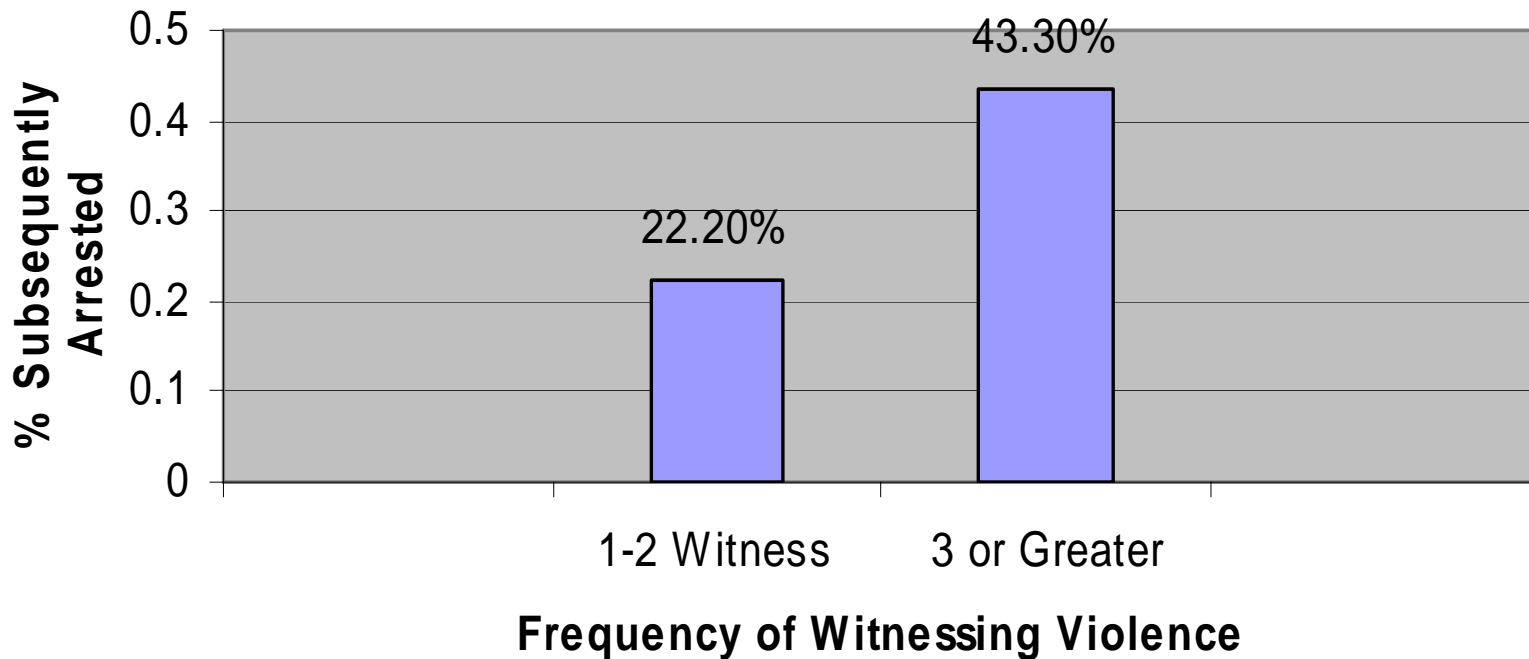
- 14 incidents year to date
- All 14 resulted in arrests
- 13 handguns
- 1 shotgun

Problems

- Early intervention structures are dramatically absent in Jacksonville
- Offenders are more abruptly violent earlier in "criminal career"
- 2005-2006 2,008 Juvenile offenders arrested; 1,217 of these were first arrests for violent crimes (60.1 %)

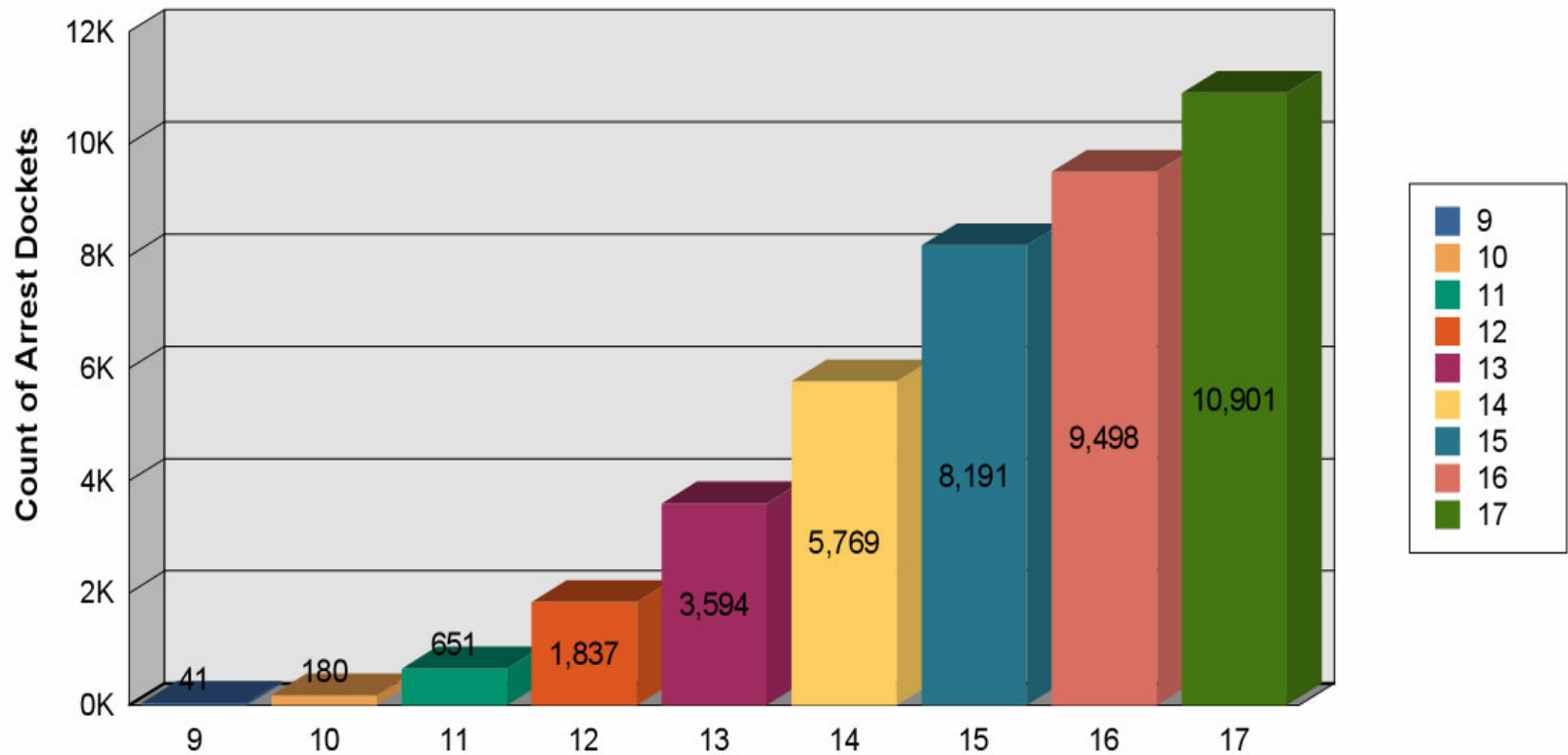
Why Early Violence Matters

% of Jacksonville Juveniles Who Witnessed Violence
*** Random Sample Subsequently Arrested**



Count of Arrest Dockets Ages 9-17

For Years (2001-2006)



Project Safe

Students in Schools

Mission Statement

Safety is a fundamental part of our educational system

Providing safe schools ensures learning and teaching within an environment that fosters responsibility, respect and academic excellence

Objective

To establish a pro-active and consistent method of assessing students who have been identified through defined behavioral parameters

Goals

- Provide a safe and secure learning environment where teachers can teach and students can learn
- Provide prompt, intensive, individualized and effective intervention strategies to “Break the Cycle” of unacceptable behavior (SROs do not discipline)
- Focus on reducing violence, the threat of violence, and the fear of violence in schools

Facts

- Classroom discipline is a responsibility of teacher/school administration
- Classroom discipline issues addressed via lower level student code of conduct violations
- SRO is responsible for behavior beyond ordinary classroom discipline issues

SROs in the Schools

- The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has 48 SROs in Duval County Middle Schools & High Schools
- Currently
 - 18 High Schools
 - 25 Middle Schools
 - 1 Middle/High School
 - 2 Alternative School
- Each school has one SRO assigned (with the exception of Sandalwood and Mandarin High Schools, which have two each.)



Well Trained SROs

- SROs & SRO Sergeants have been certified through an extensive 40-hour basic SRO training course (Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute)
- 40 Hour Crisis Intervention Training
- Every year, the SROs attend a minimum of an additional 32 hours of training



Training Includes:

- Administration & Orientation
- SRO Programs/Models/Philosophies
- Legal Aspect
- Education
- Exceptional Students
- Counseling/Interview Techniques
- Substance Abuse
- Personal Crisis Identification & Intervention
- Emergency Management
- Gang Identification and Intervention
- Mentoring Programs
- Student Option for Success Program (SOS)
- Availability of Social Service Resources

SRO School Management

- “Project Safe Students in Schools” is an effective tool to help the SROs manage their individual campuses to ensure they are as safe and conducive to learning as possible
- The JSO and the DCPS have an obligation and commitment to ensure that is a reality

Project Admission Criteria

- Any student with a minimum of 5 total points through any combination of referrals (specified SIMS Level II, and all Level III and IV) and interaction with JSO officers
- Total points will be retained for a 30 day time period. Violations (other than arrests) older than 30 days will not be included in the calculation

Total Number of Students Admitted

- Maximum of 5 students on the SRO's Project Safe Students in Schools Intervention Log sheet each month
- The SRO will meet each student a minimum of 3 times within 30 days (the meetings will be logged and tracked)
- The parents of these students will receive phone calls & letters advising them that their child has been identified and admitted in the Project Safe Students in Schools Early Intervention Program
- The parents will be ENCOURAGED to contact the SRO with any questions
- Parents may refuse the initiated contacts by the SRO
- A brochure explaining "Project Safe Students in Schools" will be mailed to all parents when their child is entered into the program

Retention of Records

- JSO will retain all student data provided by DCPS at the Police Memorial Building in accordance with public records laws and JSO record retention procedures
- SROs/Guidance Counselors will receive their copy of students admitted to the program (marked, "do not duplicate") and will be required to destroy the old Intervention Log Sheet when the new Intervention Log is distributed

Management of SIMS Data

- J.S.O. Crime Analysis Unit will process the download from DCPS, merge with JSO contacts, and create the Intervention Log Sheet for each school

Ranking Offenses

Categories Score

Specified SIMS Level II	1
All SIMS Level III	2
All SIMS Level IV	3
Juvenile Civil Citation (Curfew, Drug and Teen Court)	4
JSO Truancy Contact	5
JSO Arrest Civil	6
JSO Arrest County	7
JSO Arrest Circuit	8
JSO Arrest Federal	9

Specified Student Code of Conduct Violations

- 2.03 - Simple Battery upon Students
- 2.05 - Fighting (mutual combat, mutual altercation)
- 2.06 - Vandalism
- 2.07 - Stealing or Use of Counterfeit Bills
- 2.08 - Possession of Stolen Property
- 2.09 - Threats of Extortion
- 2.10 - Trespassing
- 2.11 - Possession of Fireworks, Firecrackers, Smoke Bombs, or other Similar Items
- 2.14 - Sexual Harassment
- 2.16 - Directing Obscene, Profane, or Offensive Language, or Gestures to School District Employee or Agent
- 2.18 - Simple Assault on School District Employee or Agent
- 2.19 - Multiple Class II Offenses
- 2.21 - Possession of Firearm Facsimiles
- 2.30 - Bullying

Advantages of Program:

- Early, effective intervention with students making bad decisions; Intervention is positive and supportive
- Reducing classroom disruptions; safer learning environment
- Motivating students to higher achievement

School Resource Officer / Guidance Counselor

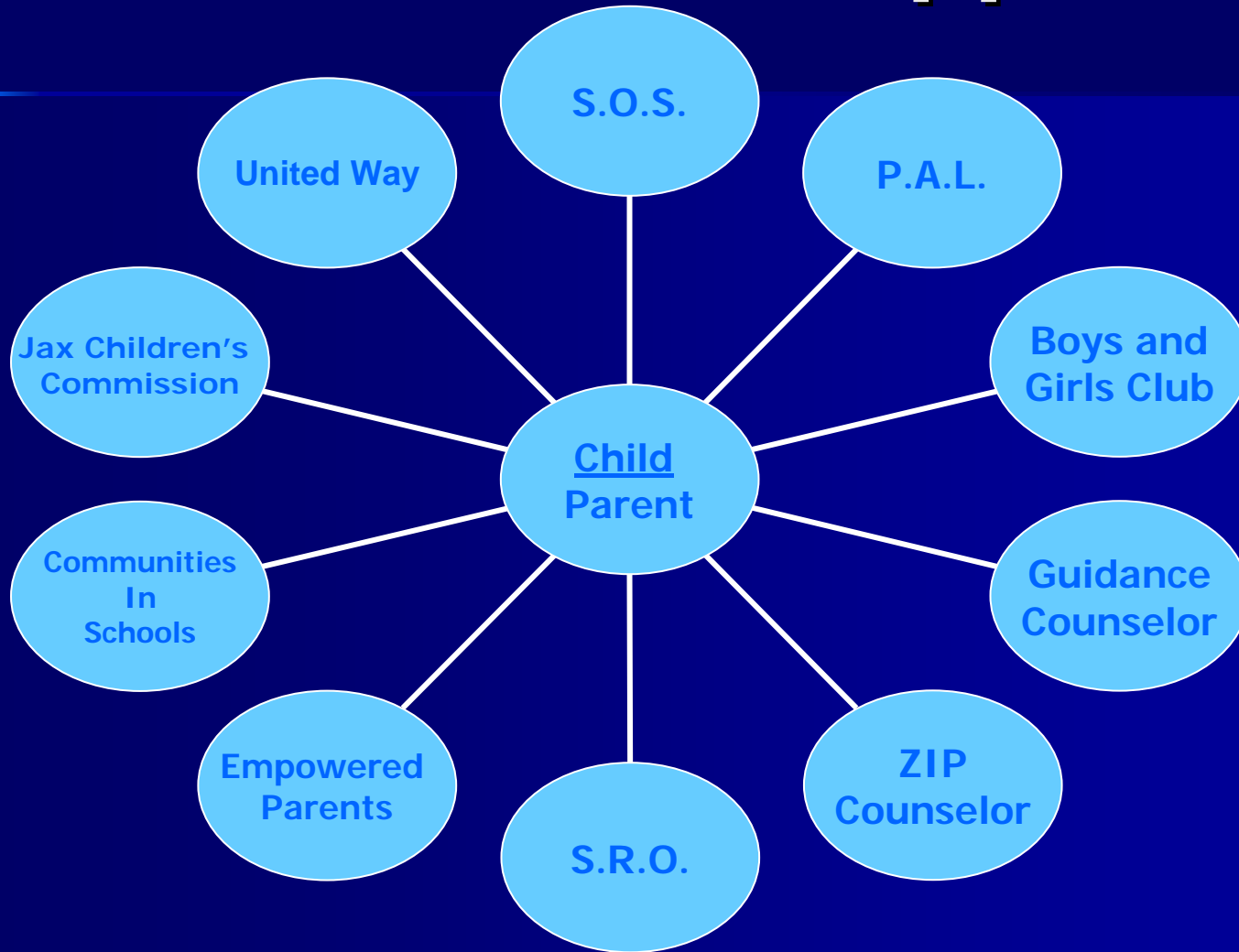
SRO will meet with the student three times a month and:

- Coordinate with the School's Guidance Counselor to link student (and family) to available services/resources
- Mentor the student towards improving performance and conduct
- Document meetings in a JSO web-based program

Linkages and Referrals

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office will work with the Duval County Public School system to develop a comprehensive list of services available in the community, for children and their parents who wish to take advantage of them

Resources and Support



Mentoring Resources

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graph TD; A[Mentoring Resources] --- B[Jacksonville Children's Commission]; A --- C[United Way/Full Service Schools]; A --- D[Communities In Schools]; A --- E[P.A.L. (Police Athletic League)]; A --- F[Y.C.C. (Youth Crisis Center)];
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Jacksonville Children's Commission

United Way/Full Service Schools

Communities In Schools

P.A.L. (Police Athletic League)

Y.C.C. (Youth Crisis Center)

Project Safe Students in Schools (Information)

- Educational information on JSO and DCPS websites
- Educational materials for parents regarding available resources
- Phone calls/letters to parents
- SRO/Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Project Safe Students in Schools information will be included in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook (School Board) for School Year

Case Study

Top 5 Conferences

8/1/2003 – 1/31/2004

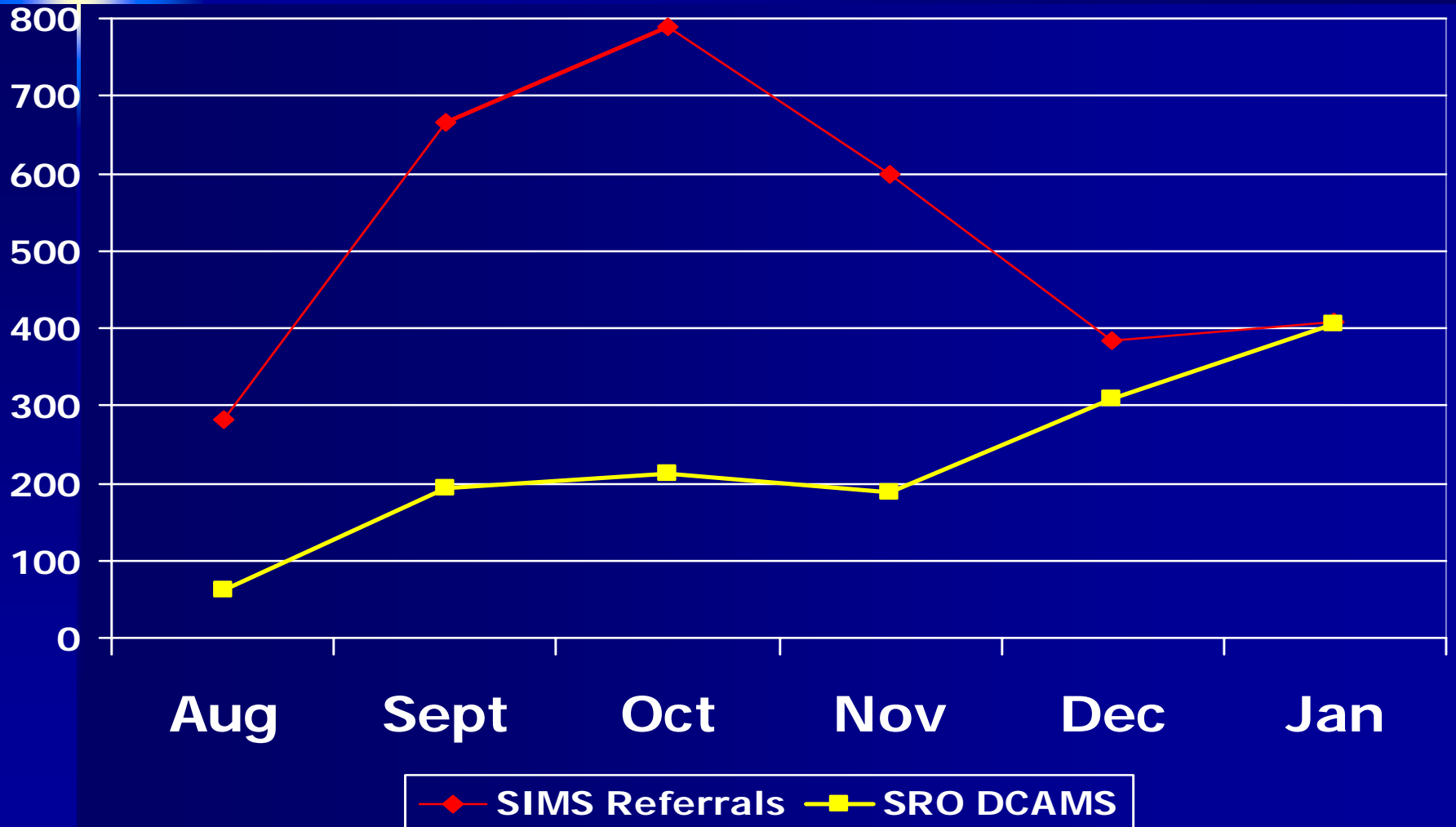
■ Student Conferences	1, 082	79.21%
■ Faculty Conferences	157	11.49%
■ Parent Conferences	91	6.66%
■ Truancy Follow Up	12	0.88%
■ Outside Referral	9	0.66%
■ Home Visit	8	0.59%

2004 Data

Case Study

DCAMS vs. Referrals

8/1/2003 – 1/31/2004



Case Study

Student Conduct Violations

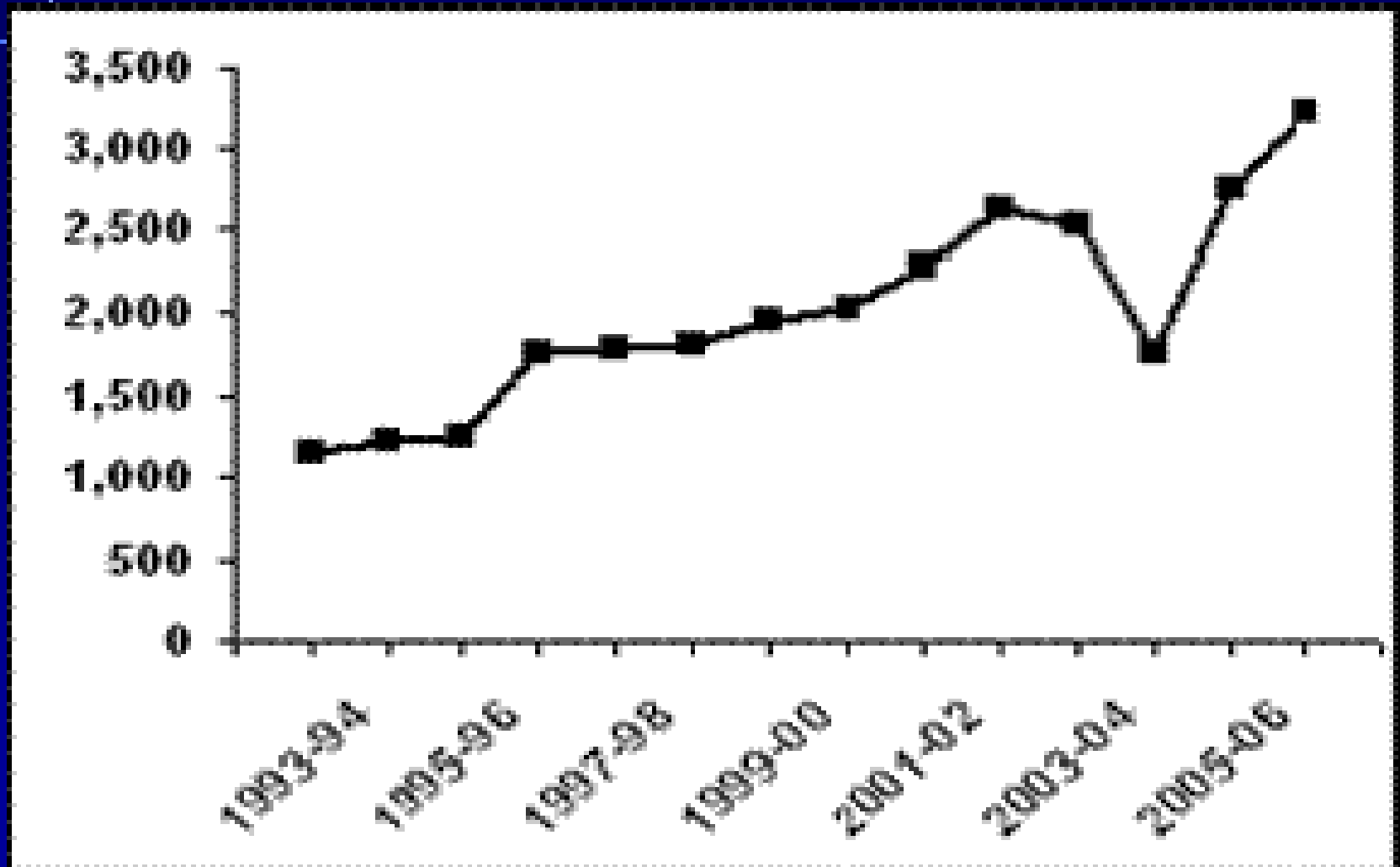
2003-2004

Year	Total violations	Total school population	Violations per 1,000 students	Elementary school violations	Middle school violations	High school violations
1992-93	1,144			80	480	584
1993-94	1,218	119,404	10.2	74	533	611
1994-95	1,235	121,255	10.2	81	534	620
1995-96	1,751	123,426	14.2	154	810	787
1996-97	1,791	125,685	14.2	136	944	711
1997-98	1,820	126,696	14.4	71	553	1,196
1998-99	1,971	127,235	15.5	189	983	799
1999-00	2,044	125,453	16.3	252	922	870
2000-01	2,284	124,339	18.4	218	1,186	880
2001-02	2,624	126,695	20.7	364	1,345	915
2002-03	2,531	128,452	19.7	301	1,219	1,011
2003-04	1,772	127,965	13.8	220	777	775
2004-05	2,750	127,469	21.6	265	1,388	1,097
2005-06	3,236	129,800	24.9	362	1,613	1,261

Case Study

Student Conduct Violations

2003-2004

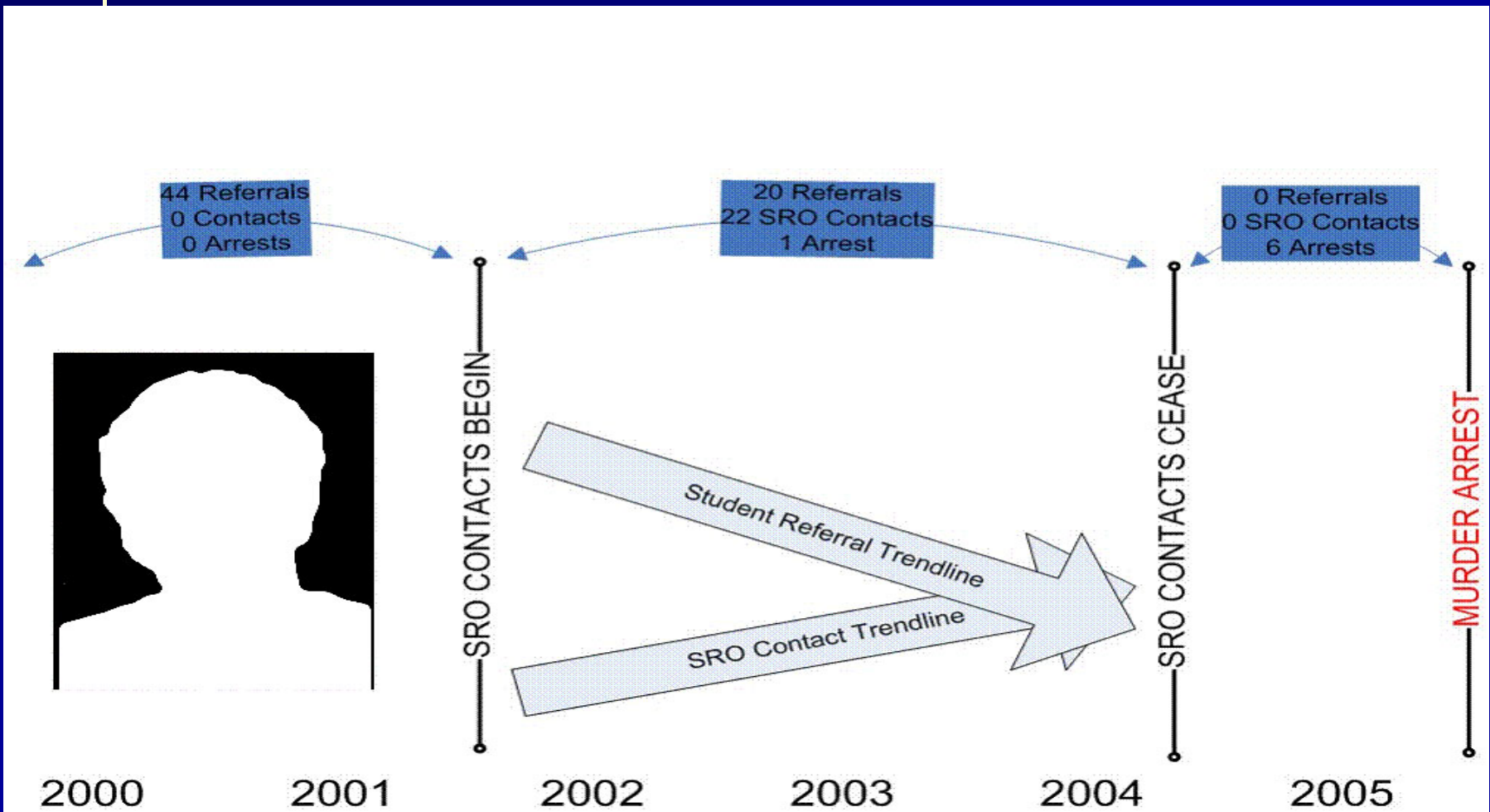


Case Study

DCPS Student

- 2002-2003 DCPS Middle School 7th Grade student, good attendance
- 2003-2004 Jacksonville Alternative School 06-21-2004, attended 14 days and quit
- 2004-2005 Totally withdrew from school

MURDER: In the Summer of 2005, DCPS Student and two associates kidnapped a woman from the Arlington area, bound and gagged her, drove her to another part of Arlington where they shot her and stole her vehicle



MARS vs. Project Safe Students in Schools

MARS

- Parental Notification optional
- Data; List kept by SRO in schools
- All SIMS Level I - IV calculated
- Removed "Offender List" and any terms which might label a student

Project Safe Students in Schools

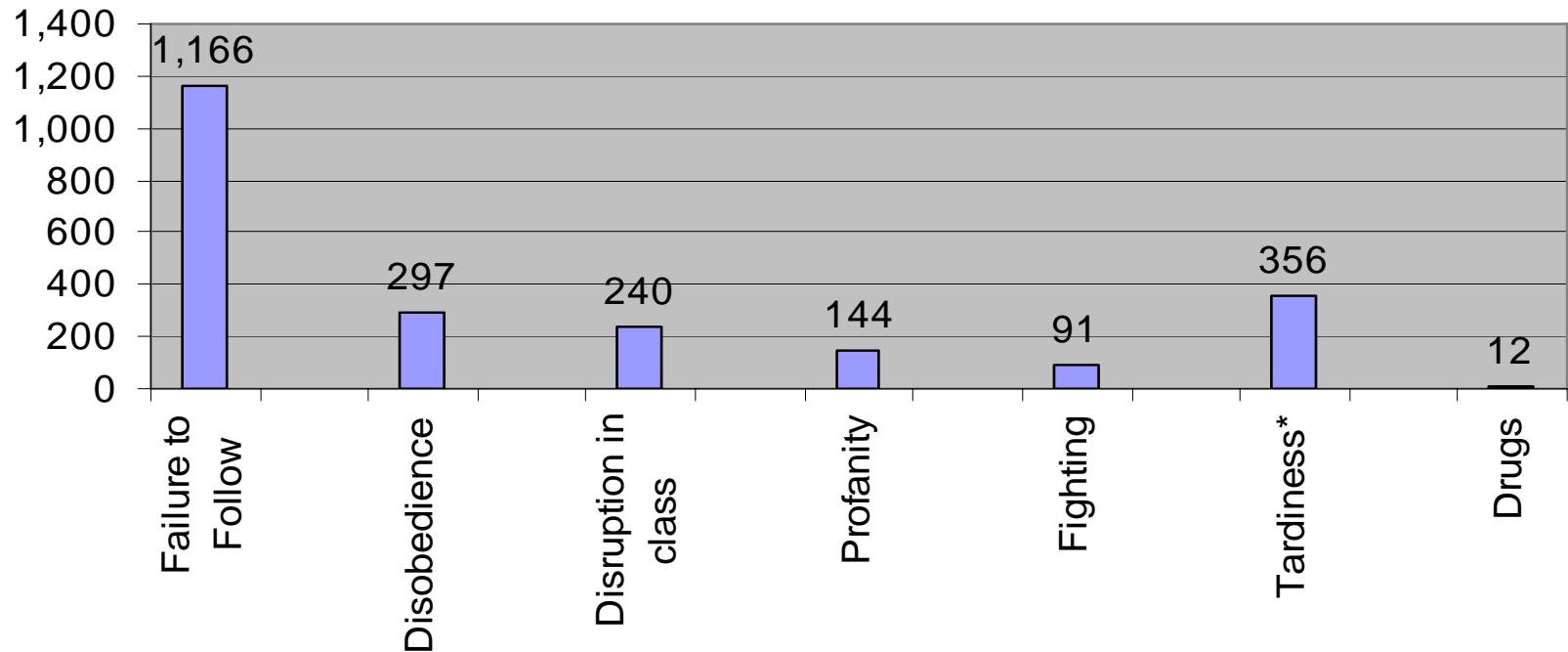
- Parental Notification mandatory
- Data; Intervention Log Sheet is destroyed monthly by SRO, and stored data according to Public Records
- Specified SIMS Level II (14 of 26 violations used for calculation)
- All SIMS Level III & IV and JSO Contacts/Arrests used for calculation
- Maximum of 5 students on Intervention Log Sheet (ILS) each month
- Training enhanced for SRO focused on services and intervention
- Guidance Counselor engaged
- Project Safe Students in Schools information provided in Student Code of Conduct Manual
- Pamphlet/letter to send home explaining program

Follow-up & Review

- Project Safe Students in Schools is an EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM aimed at helping students who are making poor decisions
- The program is not criminal in nature
- None of the records associated with PSSS become permanent records of any student and will not adversely affect the student in any way, shape, form, or manner and will be destroyed in accordance with public records laws

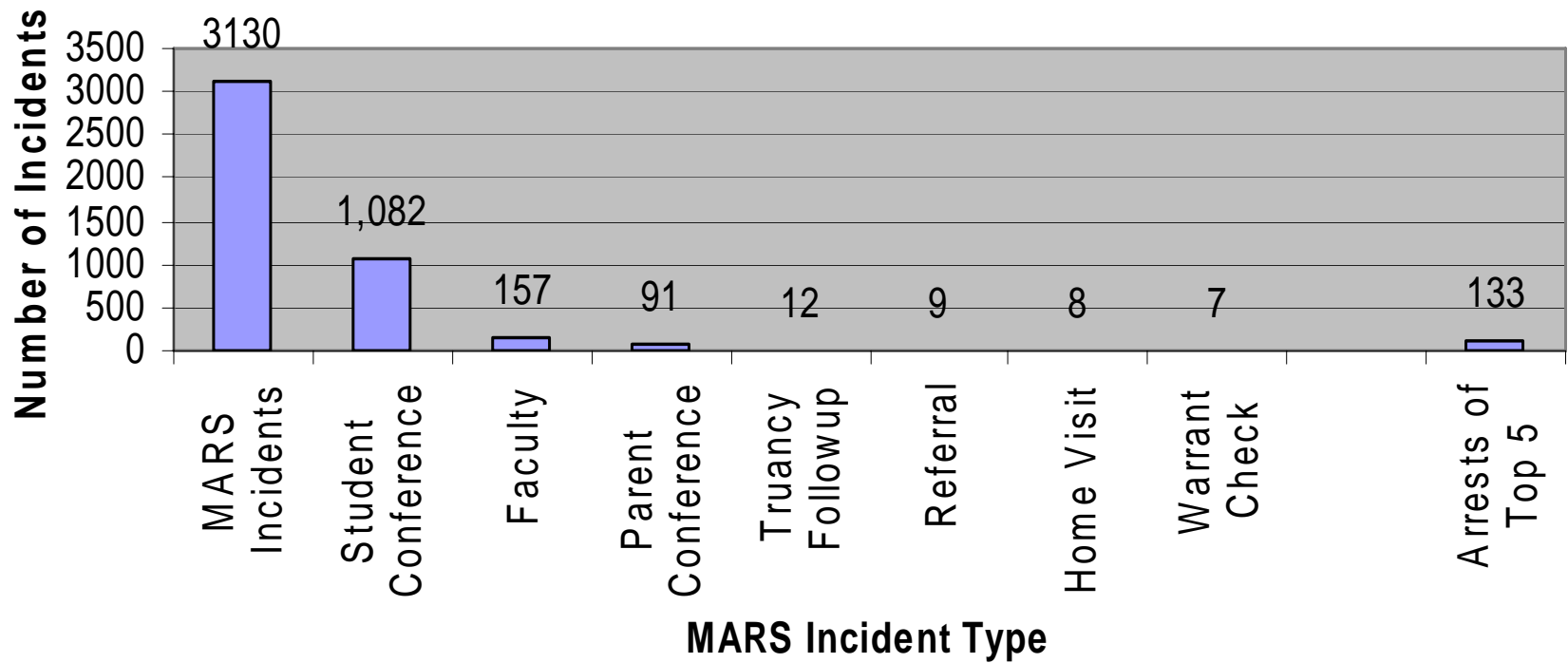
MARS Data

Leading Offenses * Top 5 "Offenders" * MARS, Fall 2003



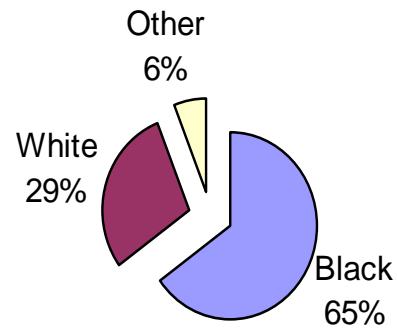
MARS Data

MARS Incidents Versus Arrests, Fall 2003



Previous Concerns

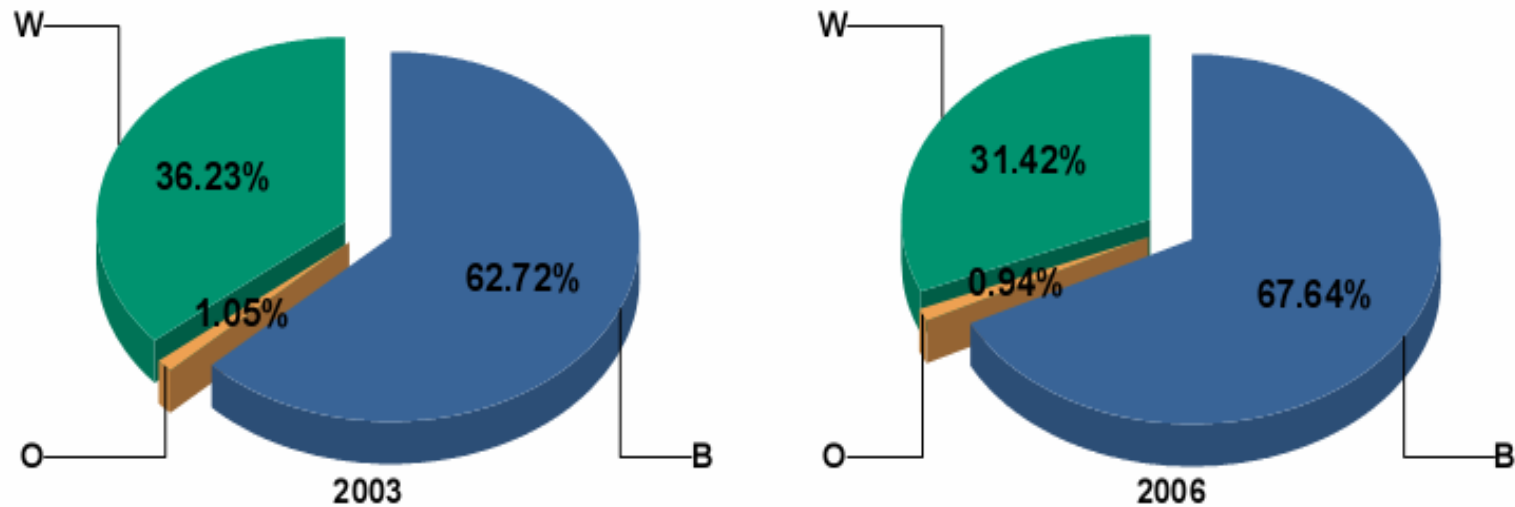
MARS Top 5 "Offenders" by Race, Fall 2003



Juveniles Arrested by Race 2003 and 2006

Juveniles Arrested by Year by Race

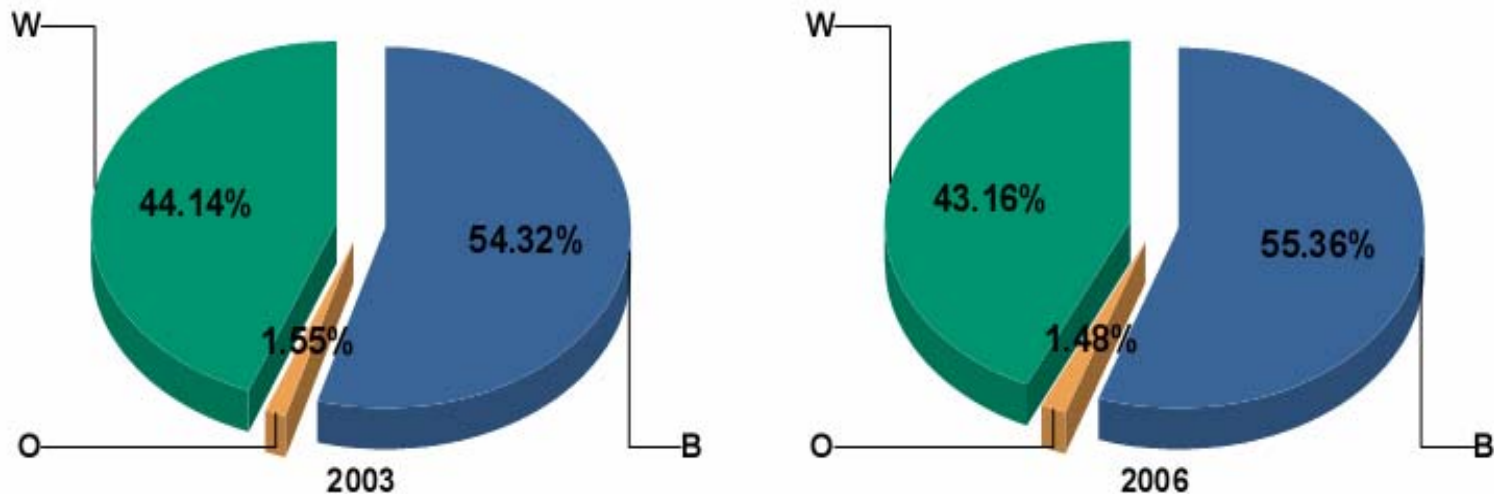
Juveniles Age 6-17 Years (Duval County 2003-2006)



Juveniles Arrested for Property Crimes by Race 2003 and 2006

Juveniles Arrested for Property Crime by Year by Race

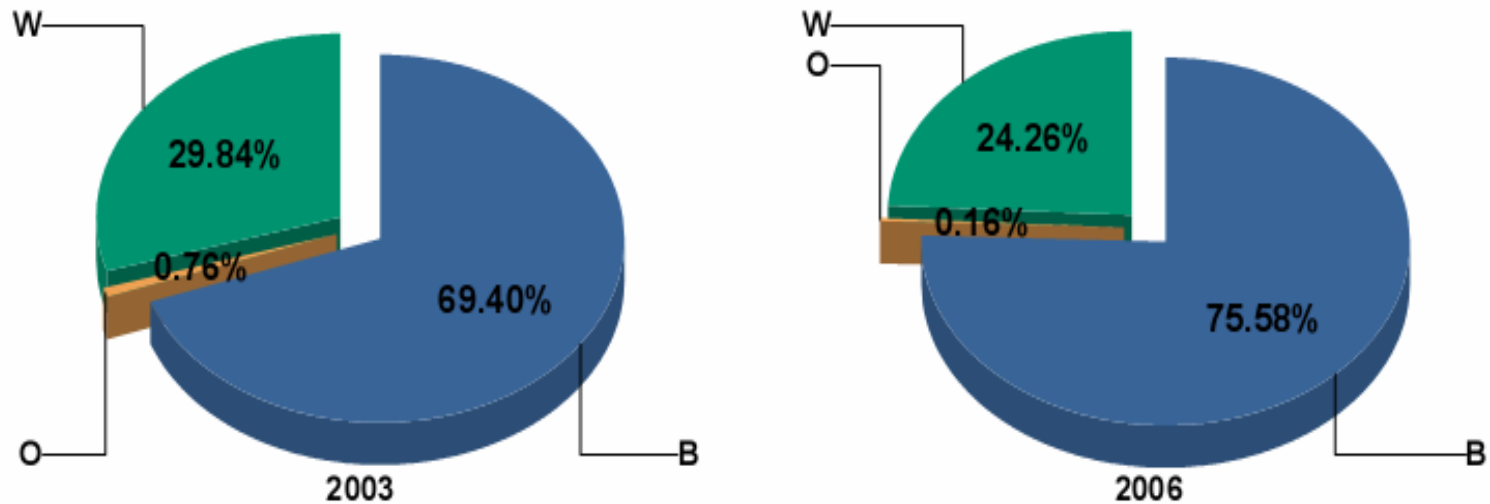
Juveniles Age 6-17 Years (Duval County 2003-2006)



Juveniles Arrested for Violent Crimes by Race 2003 and 2006

Juveniles Arrested for Violent and Violent Non-Felony Crime by Year by Race

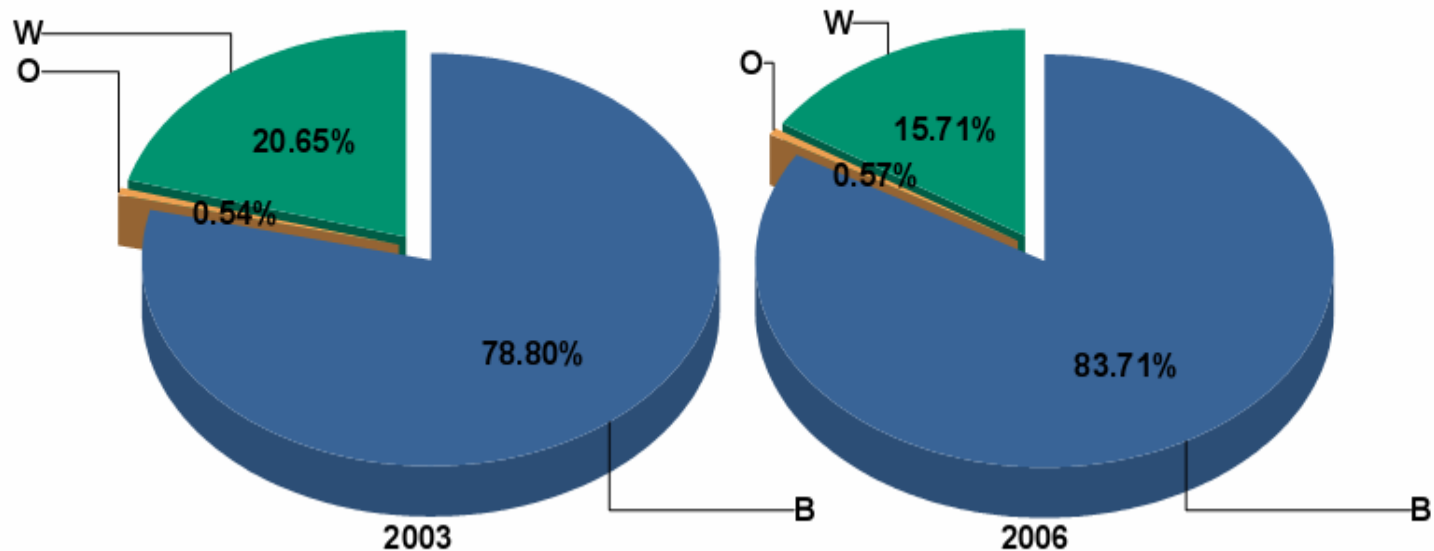
Juveniles Age 6-17 Years (Duval County 2003-2006)



Juveniles Arrested for Gun Related Crime by Race 2003 and 2006

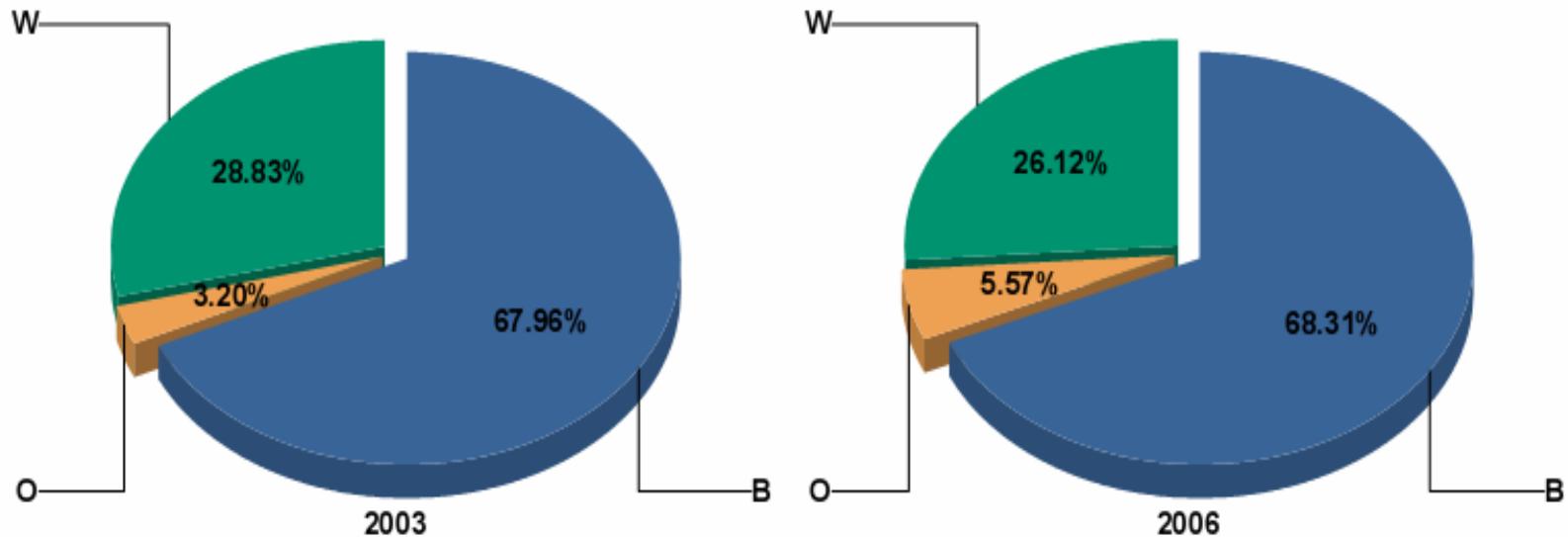
Juveniles Arrested for Gun Related Crime by Year by Race

Juveniles Age 6-17 Years (Duval County 2003-2006)



Juvenile Gun Shot Victims by Race 2003 and 2006

Gun Shot Victims by Year by Race



Project Safe Students in Schools

- All the mechanisms are in place
 - SIMS data set (DCPS)
 - Crime Analysis Unit (JSO)
 - School Resource Officers (JSO)
 - Social Service Resources
- History indicates that program was successful
- CAN WE AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER

Questions?