

**Youth Needs Assessment**  
**Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Use**  
**Hernando County, Florida**



*A project of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Substance Abuse Reinvestment Planning Grant*

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## PROJECT BACKGROUND

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LSF Health Systems (LSF), the Managing Entity of the Northeast Region of Florida, worked with community stakeholders in Hernando County to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant (CJMHSARG) Program that passed legislature in 2007 to address the unmet mental health and substance use needs of Hernando County youth that are leading to involvement in the juvenile justice system, and often extending into the adult criminal justice system. LSF was awarded the planning grant that began November 1, 2017 with the goal of developing a strategic plan to implement initiatives that increase public safety, avert increased spending on criminal justice, and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services for juveniles who have a mental illness, a substance abuse disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders and who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal or juvenile justice systems.

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## BACKGROUND OF NEED

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The CJMHSARG population of focus is Hernando County youth that experience emotional or behavioral health issues that place them at greater risk for entering the criminal justice system. Often youth who exhibit delinquent behaviors that can lead to involvement in the juvenile justice system are affected by a series of risk factors, including individual factors, family factors, peer group factors, school-related factors, or community environmental factors. Florida's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the University of Florida conducted "The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the Lives of Juvenile Offenders" study with data from 64,329 juvenile offenders in Florida from 2007 to 2012 to determine the extent of ACEs in the population. Results were obvious, youth offenders in Florida have high rates of ACEs. Only 2.8% of the youth reported no childhood adversity. The study measured the following ACEs: emotional and physical neglect; and five types of family dysfunction: witnessing a mother being abused, household substance abuse, household mental illness, losing a parent to separation or divorce, and having an incarcerated household member. Youth that reported higher rates of experiences, were also more likely to re-offend. In Hernando County, there are a series of indicators that are relevant to consider when determining the extent of services needed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system including high poverty rates among youth, trauma among youth and families, lack of services to address needs, and so on. To assist the Hernando CJMHSARG Youth Strategic Planning Committee, extensive data has been collected on risk factors and service gaps to foster comprehensive plans action with research-based decisions.

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## HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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In 2016 in Hernando County, the estimated population by the US Census Fact Finder showed 176,797 residents, of which 32,120 were under 18 years of age. Of the residents under 18, 23.9% met the federal guidelines for poverty, higher than the Statewide average of 23.3%. In 2016, it was estimated that 9% of youth under the age of 18 in Hernando County did not have health insurance. In the 2016/17 school year,

there were 22,448 students enrolled in Hernando County Schools preK-12. Of those youth, 62.8% were economically disadvantaged, above the statewide average of 56.5%. Hernando County students present a population that is more racially and ethnically diverse than the countywide population as a whole. In the 2016/17 school year 65.5% of those enrolled were White, compared to the county rate of 80.1%, 7.7% of students were African American, compared to the countywide rate of 4.9%, and 20.0% of students were Hispanic, compared to 11.6% of persons countywide, (US Census and Florida Department of Education).

In the 2016/17 fiscal year, there were 532 youth intakes (arrests) in Hernando County, (if a youth was given more than one charge at time of intake, only the most serious charge is included in the number). There were 333 youth arrested in Hernando County (even if a youth had more than one day of arrests in the year, they are only captured here once). The most common charges by Hernando County youth were for misdemeanor assault and battery, the same for Circuit 5. In the 2015/2016 fiscal year, African American youth in Hernando County were arrested at a rate above their white peers, (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice). In the 2014/2015 fiscal year, the average rate of arrests per youth who were arrested was 1.6 arrests per year. Among youth who were dually involved in both the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Families, the rate of arrests per youth rose to 3.3 in Hernando County, higher than the Statewide average of 2.4. Hernando County has a diversion program for youth, “Teen/Youth Court”, where youth who are first time misdemeanants are diverted to the court to face a jury of their peers who then determine sanctions for their crime and if completed, the arrest does not go on their record. In the 2016/17 fiscal year, the Florida department of Juvenile Justice reported that 206 youth in Hernando county met the criteria for the diversion program, with 116 of those youth being diverted and 90 receiving an arrest.

The below table provides an overview of the top 9 zip codes in Hernando County with the most reported incidents to the juvenile justice system in the 2016/2017 fiscal year, as well as the percent of 5 to 17 years olds from each zip code involved with the juvenile justice system, and poverty rates of 5 to 17 years olds residing in each zip code.

**TABLE 1. HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH ARRESTS IN THE 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR BY TOP 9 ZIP CODES COMPARED TO ESTIMATED RATES OF ARREST BY YOUTH AGES 5 TO 17 AND ESTIMATED RATES YOUTH AGES 5 TO 17 IN POVERTY IN ZIP CODES USING 2016 POPULATION ESTIMATES**

Area	Zip Code	# Arrests 2016/17 Fiscal Year	# Youth Arrested 2016/17 Fiscal Year	Estimated # of 5 to 17 Year Olds Living in Zip Code	Estimated % of youth Arrested by Zip Code of Residence	Estimated % of 5 to 17 Year Olds in Poverty by Zip Code of Residence
Spring Hill	34606	106	71	2,759	2.6%	32.5%
Spring Hill	34608	92	57	5,512	1.0%	31.4%
Spring Hill	34609	92	57	6,564	0.9%	8.4%
Brooksville	34601	86	51	2,864	1.8%	24.9%
Brooksville	34602	34	14	1,051	1.3%	46.3%
Brooksville	34604	29	16	1,463	1.1%	32.3%
Brooksville	34613	29	18	1,789	1.0%	17.4%
Spring Hill	34607	23	18	868	2.1%	29.7%
Brooksville	34614	17	13	1,016	1.3%	12.0%

Source: Data collected from 2016/17 Fiscal Years arrests from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and US Census Fact Finder population estimates in 2016. The data presented compares 2016/2017 fiscal year data to 2016 calendar year estimates and should be viewed as estimates.

Each school year, data is collected at the school-level in the State to determine the rates of criminal incidents on school campuses. In the 2015/16 school year, there were 911 reported incidents in Hernando County schools among which 514 were reported to law enforcement. The 3 most common incidents types were for “fighting”, “physical attack”, and “threat/intimidation”. The school arrest rates per every 1,000 students enrolled in Hernando County Schools was above the statewide rate, yet lower than Lake, Sumter, and Marion Counties in circuit 5, (Florida Department of Education and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice).

Zip Code of School	School Type	Total Incidents	Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement		Incidents Alcohol or Drug Related	% Economic Disadvantaged	% Minority Population
			#	%			
County Level	Alternative School for At Risk Youth	97	92	94.8%	13	81.9%	40.2%
34613	High School	89	32	36.0%	7	66.2%	35.1%
34601	High School	88	65	73.9%	16	65.2%	29.5%
34601	Middle School	76	12	15.8%	4	75.0%	34.9%
34614	High School	74	65	87.8%	9	60.3%	26.4%
34608	K-8 School	65	53	81.5%	3	71.7%	43.5%
34606	Middle School	64	37	57.8%	2	72.1%	36.1%
34613	Middle School	63	18	28.6%	1	67.7%	32.4%
34604	High School	50	30	60.0%	12	48.6%	35.2%
34609	Middle School	48	42	87.5%	3	55.8%	41.4%
34609	High School	45	13	28.9%	7	56.8%	35.1%
34601	Elementary School	25	13	52.0%	1	75.2%	28.8%
34602	Elementary School	25	2	8.0%	0	85.7%	39.6%
34614	K-8 School	24	20	83.3%	6	57.4%	19.9%
34613	Elementary School	21	0	0.0%	0	78.6%	26.1%
34601	Elementary School	16	3	18.8%	1	83.2%	44.2%
34609	K-8 School	14	8	57.1%	0	40.0%	29.2%
34606	Elementary School	10	1	10.0%	0	85.2%	34.3%
34609	Elementary School	8	3	37.5%	1	62.2%	37.8%
34604	Elementary School	4	4	100%	1	44.8%	33.3%
34609	Elementary School	3	1	33.3%	0	78.5%	43.8%
34606	Elementary School	2	0	0.0%	0	87.7%	34.3%
34609	Elementary School	0	0	0.0%	0	69.2%	37.0%

Source: Florida Department of Education

- Of the incidents recorded at Hernando high schools in the 2016/17 school year, the high school with the highest rate of incidents also had the highest rate of economically disadvantaged youth.
- Of the incidents recorded at Hernando K-8 Schools in the 2016/17 school year, the K-8 school with the highest rate of incidents also had the highest rate of economically disadvantaged youth and minority population.
- Of the incidents recorded at Hernando middle schools in the 2016/17 school year, the middle school with the highest rate of incidents also had the highest rate of economically disadvantaged youth.
- Of the incidents recorded at Hernando elementary schools in the 2016/17 school year, one of the two elementary school with the highest rate of incidents also had the highest rate of economically disadvantaged youth.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH

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The impact of untreated mental health and substance abuse disorders has been an ongoing concern in Hernando County among numerous sectors of the community that work to support the health and wellness of Hernando youth and families. Data from Hernando County shows a population where many youths are underserved, under resourced, and are at serious risk from a series of consequences from untreated emotional and behavioral issues, including increased risk of involvement in the criminal justice system.

Data collected by LSF prior to award of the CJMHSR reinvestment grant showed that completed suicide rates in Hernando County exceeded state rates; for the period of 2013-2015, Hernando County suicide rate for all ages was 20.6 per 100,000 compared to the state rate of 14.1. In 2015, suicide rates for youth 0-17 in Hernando County was more than double the rate for Florida (3.0 per 100,000 compared to 1.4 per 100,000) as documented by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics (Florida Charts, 2015). From 2010 to 2015, the hospitalization rate for mental health reasons for those aged 0-17 years in Hernando County increased nearly ten-fold and is now almost twice the state rate. Currently in Hernando County there is one mental health provider for every 1,490 residents or 1490:1, (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings). This is more than double the statewide average of persons versus mental health care providers where the average is 1 mental health provider for every 750 residents or 750:1, and well above the national average of 360 persons to every 1 mental health provider.

Substance use issues among Hernando County youth has been evident among parents, schools, and community professionals, however a lack of funding for extensive prevention, intervention and treatment is an ongoing barrier. For those youth who report recent substance use, there is a higher correlation to delinquent behaviors and involvement in the criminal justice system than their non-using peers. The 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) delinquency profile, for example, showed that of the Hernando County high school students who reported marijuana use in the past month, 9.2% reported they had been arrested in the past year. Among their peers who had never smoked marijuana, that percentage drops to 0.7%. Additionally, the 2016 FYSAS data shows that middle and high school students report higher rates of friends who have been in trouble because of alcohol or other drugs in Hernando County compared to statewide averages, (39.5% vs. 35.2%, respectively).

Also alarming in Hernando County is the rate at which youth are increasing the use of "hard drugs". The rates at which overdoses are affecting youth in Hernando County, while not fatal, are apparent. In 2016, among calls to Florida's Poison Control Centers, there were 83 calls from 13 to 19 year olds in Hernando County. Of those, 66 were from opioids, prescription medications, and "street" stimulants. Also alarming are calls for youth ages 6 to 12 years old, where 6 calls were for analgesics, 5 from cold and cough medicines, 4 from antidepressants, 4 from stimulants and street drugs, and 3 from sedatives or hypnotics. In 2016, BayCare Behavioral Health, the public substance abuse treatment provider, reported that of the youth who entered services, the most common drug of choice after marijuana was methamphetamine. Twenty youth reported it was opioids.

Co-occurring issues present among Hernando County's youth as well. Analysis from the 2016 FYSAS reveals that Among Hernando 10 to 17 year olds who reported past 30-day alcohol use, nearly half (47.1%) reported being depressed most days in the past year. Among those who reported marijuana use, over half (52.1%) reported being depressed most day in the past year, (2016, FYSAS analysis). Of all youth who

entered treatment services in 2017 at BayCare Behavioral Health, the majority of substance users reported mental illness as their primary service need.

## CONCERNS FOR ADULTHOOD

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It is evident that the untreated mental health and substance use needs of Hernando County youth are extending into adulthood. Prior to the award of the CJMHSARG to focus on Hernando youth, LSF Health Systems was awarded the opportunity to focus on adults after requests from Hernando partners for help. The group identified that a large population of adults in the criminal justice system in Hernando County have experienced these shortfalls in care. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office reports that mental health and substance abuse disorders, homelessness, a lack of a high school education (including lack of reading/writing skills), and lack of basic life and work skills (employment history, social, cooking, cleaning, hygiene, etc.) are prevalent among those who are incarcerated. Data collected from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division, stated that there is an average of 10,116 admissions into the jail each year. The average daily population is 527 inmates with an average length of stay of 41 days. Approximately 41% (216) of the inmate population is estimated by jail personnel to have some mental health and/or substance abuse disorder, though do a lack of resources for proper screening that percentage is likely underreported. The average percentage of inmates on psychotropic medications in 2015 was 15.42%.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

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Part of the CJMHSARG planning phase is to conduct an assessment of local services and identify gaps where if the community intervened, juvenile justice involvement could be avoided. A comprehensive assessment was conducted, with key points collected through interviews and research including:

### Prevention and Intervention Programs

- Though there are stakeholders working on prevention, there is not an evidenced-based curriculum regarding substance use prevention that reaches all county schools- currently 5 receive the program.
- There are no schoolwide programs implemented that teach youth about mental illness, however there are opportunities available in the community for both youth and families.
- There are numerous universal prevention efforts and prosocial opportunities throughout the county, including school and community-based projects, though many stakeholders report more is needed for youth and families, especially in areas of high risk.
- Mentoring programs are offered through the county through 3 providers, however many mentioned the need for increased opportunities and the success mentoring can bring at-risk youth.

### Outpatient Treatment and Support Services

- There is one publically funded behavioral health treatment provider for youth which includes psychiatry, individual counseling, group counseling, and case management services.
- A second agency that currently provides healthcare services in the County will be providing publically funded services soon, extent available has not yet been determined.

- There are 20 individuals/agencies in the county that provide at least one service for youth with mental, emotional, and/or behavioral needs. Though financial barriers are evident due to reports from providers and families.
- There are 2 school-based programs for youth with emotional and behavioral issues in the district, as well as districtwide alternative school. The district also provides a series of assessments and interventions determined on the individual level.
- There were 8 support groups identified that youth and families can attend for emotional or behavioral issues.
- Hernando County has only one residential treatment center that is for boys ages 13 to 19 with juvenile justice involvement.
- Hernando County does not have a youth inpatient facility for those experiencing a mental health crisis.
- There are 3 crisis shelters available youth may access- one for runaways, one for domestic violence, and one for homelessness (with family members).

#### Service Gaps

- The largest problem regarding care for youth with mental health or substance use issues reported by community stakeholders is a lack of services. This includes services on the school-level, services for youth whose families either do not have insurance or have insurance but still cannot afford care, and the lack of local, residential and inpatient services for youth.
- Of parents/caregivers who reported they have a youth with a mental health need who participated in the survey released by the CJMHSARG Needs Assessment Committee, 87.7% did not think there was enough mental health services in the county for youth and 84.9% did not believe wait times for services were reasonable. Only 38.4% reported they are always able to get the care they need for their youth.
- Service providers, school staff, law enforcement, government employees, and healthcare providers all mentioned the waitlist for youth services, mainly psychiatry, is long (3 to 4 months), as there is only one Board certified youth psychiatrist in the county for families who need financial assistance.



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# INTRODUCTION

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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

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In May of 2017, LSF Health Systems applied for a Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Reinvestment Grant Program planning grant with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Substance Use and Mental Health, on behalf of Hernando County, Florida. The Program was created by the 2007 Florida Legislature by s. 394.656, F.S., with the purpose provide funding to counties to plan, implement, or expand initiatives that increase public safety, avert increased spending on criminal and juvenile justice systems, and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services for adults and juveniles who have a mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders, who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal or juvenile justice systems.

LSF Health Systems (LSF) was awarded the one-year planning grant, beginning November 1st, 2017, focused on Hernando County juveniles with the goal of developing and submitting a Strategic Plan to initiate systemic change for the identification, intervention, and treatment of the Target Population. The resulting Strategic Plan must identify opportunities to intercept Hernando County juveniles from the criminal justice system at the earliest point possible while promoting public safety and must identify specific strategies to divert individuals from judicial commitment to community-based service programs.

As part of the award, applicants are responsible to conduct an initial needs assessment, including clear delineation of the Target Population. The goals and objectives of the needs assessment process in Hernando County include: (1) Assess current substance abuse and mental health services available for those involved with the criminal justice and behavioral health systems; (2) Analyze the local service gaps for the target population; and (3) Develop a strategy for collecting recommendations from key stakeholders that address the county waitlist for substance abuse and mental health services putting the target population at risk of entering or re-entering the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.

For purposes of the award, the description of the target population per the Department of Children and Families includes the following detail:

*Youth who are “at-risk” of involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice systems have factors associated with possible delinquent behaviors that can lead to involvement in the juvenile justice system, including individual factors, family factors, peer group factors, school-related factors, or community environmental factors.*

To assist in accomplishing this goal, LSF contracted with the Hernando County Community Anti-Drug Coalition, informally known as the Hernando Community Coalition (HCC), to lead the assessment process through the development of a Needs Assessment Committee to include local stakeholders, collect both qualitative and quantitative data of relevant factors in Hernando County, and present the findings within 90 days of contract award so project partners can utilize the findings to develop a strategic plan of action. A wide range of community organizations, agencies, and community members were invited to participate from numerous sectors of the community, to share their unique perspectives and provide insights into their interactions with Hernando County youth and families who are at risk for involvement in the criminal justice system.

## PARTNERS, COMMITTEE, PARTICIPANTS

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All of the following organizations contributed to the resources and data collected throughout the assessment, either through participation on the Needs Assessment Committee, providing data sets or resource descriptions, and/or participating in Key Informant Interviews or Focus Groups:

BayCare Behavioral Health	Hernando County Government
Bayfront Health Brooksville/Spring Hill	Hernando County Sheriff Office
Boys and Girls Club	Hernando County Schools
Brooksville Police Department	LSF Health Systems
Crescent Community Clinic	NAMI Hernando
Florida Department of Children and Families	Office of the State Attorney, Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida
Florida Department of Health- Hernando County	Florida
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	The Dawn Center
For Each 1, Reach 1 Mentoring Program	University of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute
Florida National Guard Civil Ops	
Hernando Community Coalition	YMCA of the Suncoast

## ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

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The CJMHSR Reinvestment grant has provided Hernando County stakeholders the opportunity to further examine the scope and dynamics of youth involvement in the criminal justice system and determine the impact of mental, emotional, and behavioral issues youth are experiencing that contribute to crime, as well as identifying other community systems affected, such as schools and hospitals, the availability of solutions, and identify paths for linkages and gaps of service for those most in need. The extent of the problem, however, is not easy to identify due to schools, agencies, organizations, etc. often having to work in a silo due to privacy issues, lack of staff time to identify other persons involved with a youth, knowledge of all services available, how to best utilize other resources to help, how to best collaborate with other groups while still meeting the needs of their own workplace, and so on.

To further understand the scope of issues, we began by asking:

- How often are youth in Hernando County involved in the criminal justice system? Do we differ from other areas? What are they types/severity of offenses?
- How prevalent are youth emotional and behavioral issues in Hernando County? Do we differ from other areas?
- How prevalent is substance use among Hernando County? Do we differ from other areas?
- How often do youth who have emotional and mental health issues also use substances?
- How prevalent are untreated mental health and substance use issues among Hernando County youth involved with the juvenile justice system?
- What are the services and supports we have in place for Hernando County youth?
- Are youth receiving services before they enter the system? If no, why not?
- Are youth committing the crimes that lead to juvenile justice involvement because of their emotional and mental health issues?
- What are the supports we have in place to prevent youth from further involvement in the system, once they enter?
- Are youth committing crimes because they are “high” on substances or because they want to obtain substances?
- Are there patterns seen in the youth that are reoffending and/or committing serious crimes?

## DATA COLLECTION COMPONENTS

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To better understand the relationships between emotional and behavioral issues among youth in Hernando County and the impact on those most vulnerable for entering the criminal justice system, extensive data collection was conducted by numerous methods and sources including:

### Resource Inventory

- Hernando Cares Behavioral Health Resource Guide (Hernando Prevention Partnership)
- A Parent's Guide for Troubled Children (Hernando County Sheriff Office)
- Hernando Detention Center's Reentry Resource Packet (Hernando County Sheriff Office)
- Hernando Resource Directory (LSF Health Systems)
- Extensive online research
- Committee member knowledge

### Agency Reports and Records

- Agency for Health Care Administration Detailed Discharge Data, Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics & Assessment, reports generated by WellFlorida; using Population Estimates System
- Baker Act Reporting Center, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy
- BayCare Behavioral Health, service records
- Bayfront Health Spring Hill Hospital, Substance Exposed Newborn records
- Brooksville Police Department
- Florida Charts, Social and Economic Factors, and Population Characteristics
- Florida Department of Alcohol Beverages and Tobacco, Licensing records
- Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Safe Families Network Data Mart
- Florida Department of Education, PK-12 Public School Data Publications and Reports
- Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics & Assessment, Health Indicators System (generated by WellFlorida)
- Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics
- Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Traffic Crash Reports
- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Delinquency Profile, Delinquency in Schools, Disproportionate Minority Contact Reports, PACT Profile, DJJ-DCF Profile of Dually-Served Crossover Youth
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Uniform Crime Report
- Florida Medical Examiners Commissioners Reports
- Hernando Community Coalition
- Hernando County Schools
- Hernando County Sheriff's Office
- LSF Health Systems
- Robert Wood Johnson Health Rankings
- Springbrook Hospital
- University of Florida- Florida Drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking System
- US Census Data/ US Census Fact Finder
- US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates- Prepared by WellFlorida Council, 2017
- WellFlorida Council

### Survey Data

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Community Teen Norms Survey (Hernando Community Coalition, Hernando County Schools)
- Hernando Parents Norms Survey (Hernando Community Coalition)
- Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Education)

- Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (Florida Departments of Health, Education, Children and Families, and Juvenile Justice)
- Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (Florida Department of Health’s Bureau of Tobacco Prevention and Control)  
*CJMHSA Planning Grant Specific Survey*
- Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents and Caregivers of Youth (CJMHSA Youth Needs Assessment Committee)
  - 97 usable surveys collected from Hernando County parents/caregivers with a youth with a mental illness or substance abuse disorder.

**Key Informant Interviews included 16 professionals from the following sectors**

- DJJ Probation Officers
- Healthcare Professionals
- Law Enforcement Officers- including community policing and school resource officers
- State Attorney’s Office
- School Staff (Educators and Guidance Counselors)
- Behavioral Health Treatment Providers
- Youth- Serving Organizations

**Focus Groups Sessions:**

- One session with parents of youth were in a Juvenile Detention Center
- Once session with youth who were in a Juvenile Detention Center
- Two sessions with Hernando high school students

**REPORT LAYOUT**

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Data collected through the different methods and sources are included throughout the assessment under the various topic areas. Sections include:

Area Description

- Section Introduction
- County Demographics and Socioeconomic Factors
- Hernando County Student Demographic

Examining the Problem

- Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System Among Hernando County Youth*
- Youth Arrest Data
- Prevalence of Youth Mental Illness
- Prevalence of Youth Substance Use
- Impact of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse on the Juvenile Justice System

Resource Assessment

- Resource Inventory
- Identified Service Utilization
- Gaps in Service- Community Input

Risk and Protective Factors

- Section Overview
- Protective Factors
- Risk Factors

Additional Consequences

Considerations/ Recommendations

- System Challenges Reported by Hernando Stakeholders
- Recommendations for System Improvements from Hernando Stakeholders

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## AREA DESCRIPTION

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## SECTION OVERVIEW

Located on the central-west coast of Florida, 45 miles north of Tampa, Hernando County is bounded by the Gulf of Mexico on the west, Orlando 50 miles to the east, and Gainesville 100 miles north. It is a transitioning suburban/rural county and is part of the 9-county "Nature Coast", yet lies within the census-designated Tampa Bay metropolitan area. The population of Hernando County has been increasing for years, with 2015 to 2016 showing an increase of over 8,000 new residents. Countywide demographics are depicted throughout this section, including overall population, youth, and public-school profiles.

## COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

TABLE 2. OVERVIEW OF HERNANDO COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS COMPARED TO STATE OF FLORIDA, 2016 ESTIMATES

	Hernando County		Florida
	Estimated Number	Percent	Percent
Total population	176,797		20,984,4000
Male	85,023	48.1%	48.90%
Female	91,774	51.9%	51.1%
Population by Age	Estimated Number	Percent	Percent
Under 5 years	7,868	4.5%	5.5%
5 to 9 years	9,206	5.2%	5.6%
10 to 14 years	9,791	5.5%	5.7%
15 to 19 years	9,873	5.6%	5.9%
20 to 24 years	8,742	4.9%	6.5%
25 to 34 years	16,663	9.4%	12.7%
35 to 44 years	18,007	10.2%	12.2%
45 to 54 years	22,820	12.9%	13.8%
55 to 59 years	12,960	7.3%	6.7%
60 to 64 years	12,343	7.0%	6.2%
65 to 74 years	26,136	14.8%	10.5%
75 to 84 years	15,791	8.9%	6.0%
85 years and over	6,597	3.7%	2.6%
Population by Race	Estimated Number	Percent	Percent
White	158,419	89.6%	75.9%
Black or African American	9,301	5.3%	16.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	401	0.2%	0.3%
Asian	1,955	1.1%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	47	0.0%	0.1%
Some other race	2,558	1.4%	2.5%
Two or more races	4,116	2.3%	2.5%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE	Estimated Number	Percent	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	20,459	11.6%	24.1%
Not Hispanic or Latino	156,338	88.4%	75.9%

Source: US Census Fact Finder

**TABLE 3. POVERTY IN HERNANDO COUNTY COMPARED TO FLORIDA STATEWIDE PERCENTAGES, 2010- 2016**

YEAR	Hernando County			Florida
	Total Population	Number in Poverty	Percent in Poverty	Percent in Poverty
2012	171,492	31,705	18.5%	17.2%
2013	172,275	26,818	15.6%	17.1%
2014	173,753	26,629	15.3%	16.6%
2015	176,355	25,217	14.3%	15.8%
2016	173,848	27,175	15.6%	16.1%
<b>Under Age 18</b>				
2012	32,751	9,437	28.8%	25.6%
2013	32,508	8,310	25.6%	24.8%
2014	32,272	7,862	24.4%	24.2%
2015	32,542	7,977	24.5%	23.4%
2016	32,120	7,691	23.9%	23.3%
<b>Ages 5 - 17 in Families</b>				
2012	24,778	6,591	26.6%	24.1%
2013	24,654	5,923	24.0%	23.5%
2014	24,566	5,667	23.1%	22.9%
2015	24,688	5,782	23.4%	22.0%
2016	24,498	5,649	23.1%	22.3%

US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2011-2015, Prepared by WellFlorida Council, 2017

**TABLE 4. EDUCATION ATTAINMENT LEVELS OF HERNANDO COUNTY RESIDENTS, 2016**

	Total Estimate	% Estimate	% Males Estimate	% Females Estimate
Percent high school graduate or higher		87.0%	85.3%	88.6%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher		16.4%	16.6%	16.3%
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY AGE GROUP</b>				
Population 18 to 24 years	12,167			
Less than high school graduate	1,779	14.6%	17.0%	12.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	4,891	40.2%	46.4%	33.7%
Some college or associate's degree	5,001	41.1%	33.6%	48.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	496	4.1%	3.0%	5.2%
Population 25 years and over	131,317			
Less than 9th grade	4,693	3.6%	4.1%	3.1%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	12,333	9.4%	10.6%	8.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	48,116	36.6%	36.8%	36.5%
Some college, no degree	30,702	23.4%	22.9%	23.8%
Associate's degree	13,932	10.6%	9.1%	12.0%
Bachelor's degree	14,414	11.0%	11.1%	10.9%
Graduate or professional degree	7,127	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%
<b>MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2016 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>				
Population 25 years and over with earnings	30,753			
Less than high school graduate	19,818			
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	27,087			
Some college or associate's degree	30,937			
Bachelor's degree	40,247			
Graduate or professional degree	46,941			

Source: US Fact Finder

**TABLE 5. HOUSING OVERVIEW OF HERNANDO COUNTY COMPARED TO FLORIDA STATEWIDE AVERAGES, 2016**

	Hernando County		Florida
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total Housing Units	84,768		
Occupied housing units	70,918	83.70%	80.8%
Vacant housing units	13,850	16.30%	19.2%
Value of Owner-Occupied Units			
Less than \$50,000	7,821	14.1%	9.8%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	16,124	29.2%	17.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	12,873	23.3%	16.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	8,647	15.6%	15.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	6,425	11.6%	18.9%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	2,579	4.7%	13.9%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	661	1.2%	5.8%
\$1,000,000 or more	176	0.3%	2.0%
Median (dollars)	\$112,300		\$166,800
MORTGAGE STATUS			
Owner-occupied units	55,306		
Housing units with a mortgage	29,062	52.5%	58.7%
Housing units without a mortgage	26,244	47.5%	41.3%
GROSS RENT			
Occupied units paying rent	14,412		
Less than \$500	754	5.2%	6.4%
\$500 to \$999	8,802	61.1%	40.8%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	4,222	29.3%	35.5%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	398	2.8%	11.8%
\$2,000 to \$2,499	127	0.9%	3.4%
\$2,500 to \$2,999	48	0.3%	1.2%
\$3,000 or more	61	0.4%	1.1%
Median (dollars)	\$904		\$1,032
No rent paid	1,200		121,740

Source: US Census Fact Finder

**TABLE 6. HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS OF HERNANDO COUNTY RESIDENTS, 2014- 2016**

	With health insurance coverage	With private health insurance	With public coverage	With no health insurance	Under 18 with no health insurance
Hernando County					
2014 Estimate	143,047	95,351	80,271	28,971	4,764
2014 Percent	83.2%	83.2%	46.7%	16.8%	14.3%
2015 Estimate	147,060	96,267	82,779	25,901	3,701
2015 Percent	85.0%	55.7%	47.9%	15.0%	11.1%
2016 Estimate	150,621	97,721	84,086	24,284	2,982
2016 Percent	86.1%	55.9%	48.1%	13.9%	9.0%
Florida					
2016 Estimate	16,409,867	11,728,520	7,067,477	3,211,340	362,988
2016 Percent	3.6%	59.8%	36.0%	16.4%	8.9%

Source: US Fact Finder



## HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

**TABLE 7. DEMOGRAPHICS OF HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 12,  
2016/17 SCHOOL YEAR**

	Hernando	Florida
Total Students- preK-12	22,448	2,832,180
Percent Female	49.0%	48.7%
Percent Disabled	13.9%	13.6%
Percent with ELL Status	2.5%	10.2%
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	62.8%	56.5%
Race/Ethnicity		
Percent White	65.4%	38.1%
Hispanic	20.0%	33.1%
Black	7.7%	22.1%
Asian	1.7%	2.7%
American Indian	0.3%	0.3%
Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.2%
Two or More Races	4.8%	3.5%

Source: Florida Department of Education

**TABLE 8. HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLMENTS, PRE-K THROUGH 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE,  
2013/14 THROUGH 2017/18 SCHOOL YEAR**

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<i>Grade Level</i>	# of Students	# of Students	# of Students	# of Students	# of Students
0-PK	241	265	281	294	315
KG	1,546	1,609	1,509	1,641	1,572
First	1,675	1,598	1,553	1,523	1,652
Second	1,626	1,691	1,607	1,620	1,581
Third	1,687	1,731	1,828	1,713	1,746
04-Fourth	1,608	1,642	1,664	1,698	1,663
05-Fifth	1,551	1,623	1,693	1,667	1,726
06-Sixth	1,725	1,644	1,679	1,687	1,734
07-Seventh	1,780	1,656	1,647	1,695	1,740
08-Eighth	1,776	1,766	1,677	1,683	1,766
09-Ninth	1,733	1,799	1,820	1,711	1,689
10-Tenth	1,741	1,748	1,821	1,831	1,752
11-Eleventh	1,663	1,693	1,716	1,802	1,800
12-Twelfth	1,716	1,625	1,677	1,733	1,712
TOTALS	22,068	22,090	22,172	22,298	22,448

Source: Florida Department of Education

- From the 2013/14 to the 2018/19 school year, Hernando County school enrollment has increased 1.7%.

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## EXAMINING THE PROBLEM

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YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, THE PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE NEEDS, AND THE IMPACT OF EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

## INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH

The data presented in this section provides us an overview of youth criminal activities that have been identified by law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and Hernando County Schools, including intakes (arrests) into the system, types of offenses, utilization of Hernando’s diversion program, Youth/Teen Court, and involvement in juvenile justice programs.

### YOUTH ARREST DATA

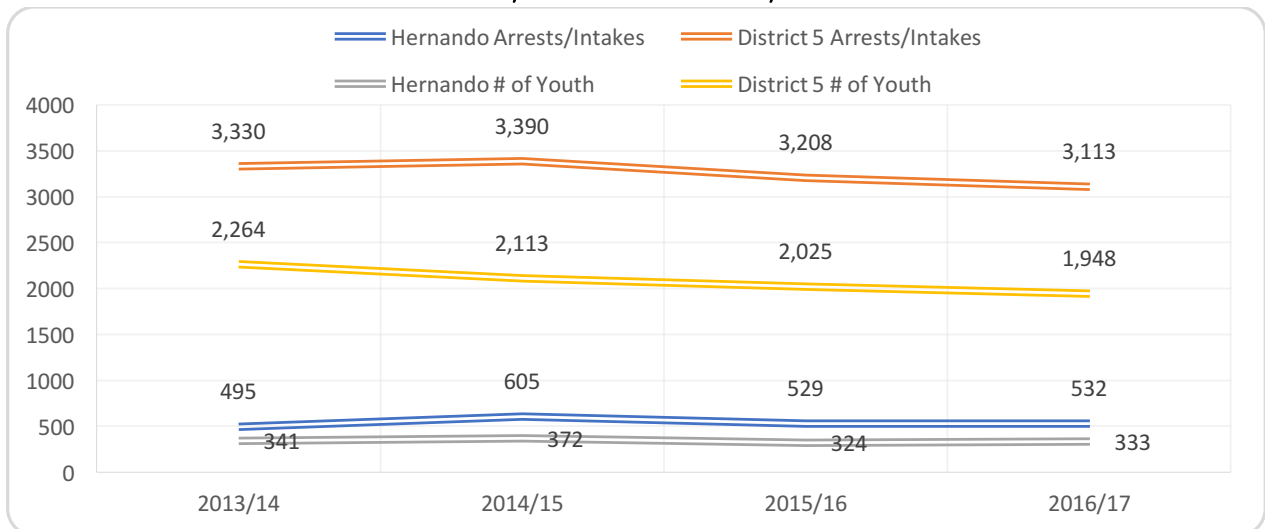
**TABLE 9. NUMBER OF ARRESTS/INTAKES IN AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY, CIRCUIT 5, AND FLORIDA YOUTH, FY 2016/17**

	Hernando		Circuit 5		Florida	
	# Intakes	# Youth	# Intakes	# Youth	# Intakes	# Youth
Number of Intakes	532	333	3,113	1,946	64,824	35,309
Number of Diversions	301	364	1,152	1045	15,290	14,131
Number of Probation	82	59	547	432	14,312	11,366

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

- In the 2016/17 DJJ fiscal year, there were 532 intakes (arrests) in Hernando County. If a youth was given more than one charge at time of intake, only the most serious charge is captured).
- In the 2016/17 DJJ fiscal year, there were 333 youth arrested in Hernando County (even if a youth had more than one day of arrests in the year, they are only captured here once).

**FIGURE 1. TREND OF INTAKES AND YOUTH IN HERNANDO COUNTY COMPARED TO CIRCUIT 5, 2013/14 THROUGH 2016/17**



Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

- The number of youth arrested in Circuit 5 has been steadily decreasing over the past few years, with the 2013/14 fiscal year having the highest number of youth arrested in the four-year period.

**TABLE 10. OFFENSES BY TYPE AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH, FY 2016/2017**

	<b>Hernando</b>	<b>Circuit 5</b>
Misdemeanor Offense	280	1,229
Assault/Battery	127	485
Sex Offenses	2	11
Petit Larceny	40	196
Weapon/Firearm	3	14
Drug Offense	28	224
Vandalism	18	77
Trespassing	7	46
Disorderly Conduct	38	115
Alcohol Offenses	3	10
Loitering Prowling	2	14
Hunt Fish Boat Laws	--	1
Obstruct Justice	9	55
Other Misdemeanors	3	9
<b>Felony Offenses</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1,125</b>
Murder/Manslaughter	--	2
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter	--	4
Sexual Battery	5	30
Kidnapping	1	10
Other Felony Sex Offense	3	18
Armed Robbery	8	38
Aggravated Assault/Robbery	46	250
Other Robbery	2	17
Arson	1	4
Weapon/Firearm	5	75
Burglary	74	407
Auto Theft	9	94
Grand Larceny (except auto)	12	114
Felony Drug	11	68
Fraud Forgery Counterfeiting	3	11
Felony Vandalism	2	26
Stolen Property	2	9
Escape	--	3
Obstruct Justice		12
Other Felony	1	16
Other Offenses	67	599
Non-Felony Traffic Offenses	--	2
Violation of Probation LEO	--	8
Violation of Probation New-Law	18	122
Violation of Probation Non-Law	16	226
Contempt of Court	8	27
Prosecution Preventions Deferred	25	216

Note- if a youth had more than one arrest on same day, only most serious offense is included.

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

- The most common charge in the 2016/17 fiscal year by Hernando County youth was for misdemeanor assault and battery, the same for Circuit 5.

## YOUTH PROBATION

Every youth under the age of 18 charged with a crime in Florida is referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice. All youth are assigned a Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO). Hernando JPOs are charged with monitoring compliance of sanctions and connecting youth with local service providers. If a youth does not successfully complete their probation, they may be committed to a residential commitment facility. Examples of sanctions youth may need to complete include: restitution (payment) to the victim(s); no victim contact; community service hours; letter of apology to the victim(s); curfew; forfeiture of driver's license; avoid contact with co-defendants, friends, or acquaintances who are deemed to be inappropriate associations; referrals to local social service agencies; and substance abuse or mental health counseling.

**TABLE 11. CIRCUIT 5 JUVENILES ASSIGNED TO PROBATION OFFICERS, 2013/14 TO 2016/17 FISCAL YEARS**

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Citrus	57	44	32	31
Hernando	39	82	66	59
Lake	134	124	126	104
Marion	252	258	263	222
Sumter	8	22	24	16

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Delinquency Profile

## YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM

Hernando County has one youth diversion/civil citation program currently in place for youth that are first time offenders, Hernando County Youth Court, or “Teen Court”, run by the 5th Judicial Circuit Court. The program is run by our youth for our youth. Juvenile offenders, between the ages of 10 and 17, who have committed a misdemeanor crime, have their cases heard by a jury of their peers. They perform the roles of prosecuting and defense attorneys, bailiff, clerk and jury. A local volunteer attorney presides as Judge. Cases heard in Youth Court are crimes such as shoplifting, possession of alcohol or marijuana, criminal mischief, battery, and many other misdemeanor offenses. Referral to the program is from law enforcement, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the State Attorney’s Office and requires family involvement.

**TABLE 12. HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH FIRST TIME OFFENDERS DIVERTED TO TEEN COURT, 2014/15 -2016/17 FISCAL YEAR, COMPARED TO FLORIDA DIVERSION PROGRAMS STATEWIDE, 2016- 2017**

	Hernando			Florida
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17
Eligible Youth	225	178	206	17,826
Arrested	106	86	90	8,005
Issued a Civil Citation	119	92	116	9,821
% Civil Citation	53%	52.0%	56.0%	55.0%

Eligible Youth - First time misdemeanant (excluding sex offenses and firearms) with no history of civil citation. Local policy or practice may include additional eligibility criteria not measured in this report.

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Civil Citation and Other Similar Diversion Program Dashboard

## YOUTH COMMITMENT PROGRAMS

Residential facilities are for youth who are required by a judge to stay in the care of the Department of Juvenile Justice for an extended time. There are facilities located throughout Florida. A youth's placement depends on the commitment plan, not on the location of the arrest. Youth can be located through their Juvenile Probation Officer. All residential programs are operated by contracted providers.

**TABLE 13. YOUTH PLACED IN A DJJ COMMITMENT PROGRAM FROM CIRCUIT 5 COUNTIES, 2013/14- 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR**

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Citrus	17	15	7	14
Hernando	11	12	12	10
Lake	30	41	41	44
Marion	64	56	65	88
Sumter	3	4	4	2

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

## RACIAL ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE DJJ SYSTEM

According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, The Disproportionate Minority Contact/Racial Ethnic Disparity (DMC/RED) Benchmark Report provides counties with assessment of the DMC/RED issue in Florida and within its 67 counties. Statewide information is presented with interactive, dynamic filtering enabling the user to make appropriate comparisons across judicial areas. Data included in this report are structured uniformly to identify potential DMC/RED issues within each county and to assist professionals in making interventions within a relatively homogenous context.

When the Relative Rate Index (RRI) is higher than 1, the rate of occurrence for minority youth is greater than the rate of occurrence for white youth at that point in the Juvenile Justice continuum of services. When the RRI is less than 1, the rate of occurrence for minority youth is less than that for white youth.

**TABLE 14. HERNANDO COUNTY COMPARED TO FLORIDA RATES OF DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT/ RACIAL ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, 2015/16**

	Hernando		Florida	
	Black	Hispanic	Black	Hispanic
Arrest RRI	2.9	0.6	3.3	0.6
Diversion RRI	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6
Detention RRI	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.4

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

- African American youth in Hernando County were arrested at a rate above their white peers in the 2015/16 Fiscal year.

## INCIDENTS IN HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOLS

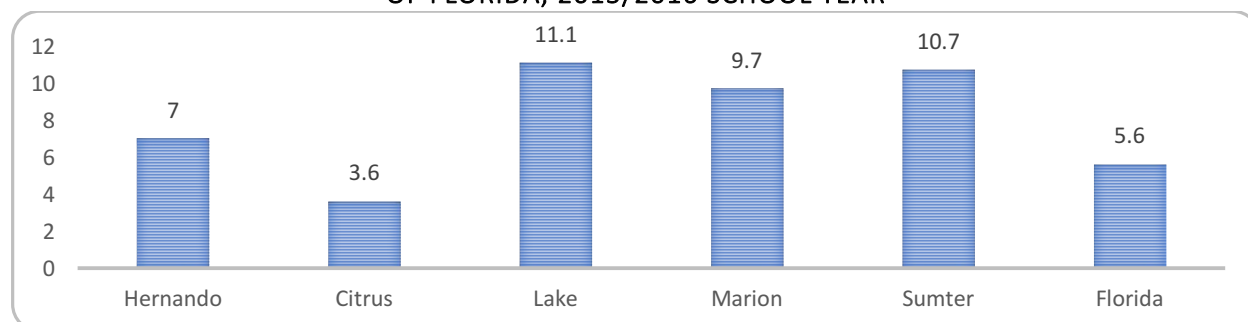
TABLE 15. TYPES OF HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL STUDENT INCIDENTS COMPARED TO FLORIDA STATEWIDE INCIDENTS, 2015/16 SCHOOL YEAR

Type of Incident	Hernando School Incidents	Hernando School Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement	Florida Incidents
Alcohol	20	18	1,191
Arson	2	2	100
Battery	4	4	2,516
Breaking and Entering/Burglary	5	5	287
Bullying	35	10	2,867
Disruption on Campus	12	12	3,395
Drug Sales, Except Alcohol	4	4	552
Drug Use/Possess Except Alcohol	61	58	6,300
Fighting	172	100	21,957
Harassment	53	16	1,832
Hazing	0	0	6
Homicide	0	0	0
Kidnapping	0	0	2
Larceny/Theft/Motor Vehicle	12	10	2,045
Other Major Offenses	51	24	2,696
Physical Attack	154	96	10,342
Robbery	0	0	167
Sexual Assault	1	1	25
Sexual Battery	0	0	28
Sexual Harassment	42	22	1,805
Sex Offenses	22	16	1,581
Threat/Intimidation	139	69	4,314
Tobacco	101	35	4,902
Trespassing	5	1	546
Vandalism	6	1	782
Weapons Possession	10	10	1,786
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>72,024</b>

Source: Florida Department of Education, School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR)

- In the 2015/16 school year, the 3 most common incidents in the schools by type by Hernando youth were for “fighting”, “physical attack”, and “threat/intimidation”.

FIGURE 2. SCHOOL ARREST RATES PER 1,000 STUDENTS FOR CIRCUIT 5 COUNTIES AND STATE OF FLORIDA, 2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR



Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

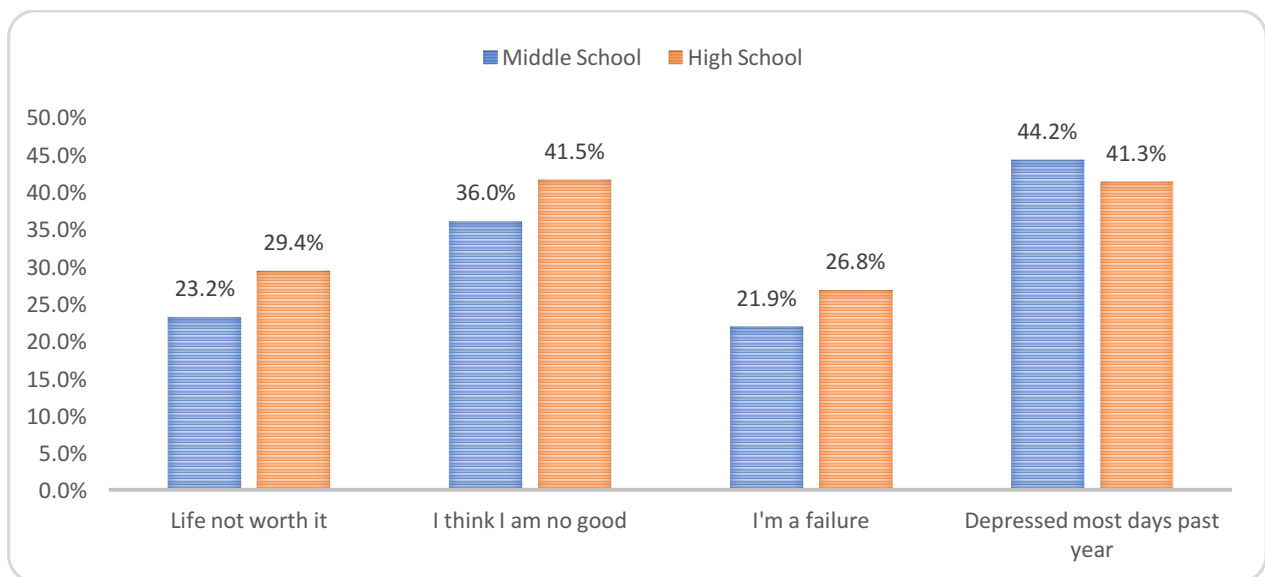
- Hernando County Schools arrest rates per 1,000 students were above the statewide rate in 2015/16.

## PREVALENCE OF YOUTH MENTAL ILLNESS

Defining the terms and differences among mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders is not always clear. According to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, among children and youth the term “Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) refers to those who have a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder in the past year, which resulted in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits the child’s role or functioning in family, school, or community activities. There are currently not any surveys used on a national level that have an indicator for SED, complicating how to determine the prevalence in communities. Roughly 13 to 20% of children are determined to have a mental health disorder by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. SAMHSA identifies a series of common mental health disorders relating to anxiety, attention deficit, conduct, depression, schizophrenia, and trauma.

Hernando County, like the nation, does not have a tool used to determine the prevalence of emotional or mental health needs, therefore determining the overall prevalence reported by youth is not obtainable spanning across symptoms and disorders. The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, does however, ask middle and high school students on the county-level every other year a series of depression indicators. Results from the indicators showed that many youths in Hernando County felt low self-worth, did not feel life was worth it, and experience high rates of depression in 2016.

**FIGURE 3. PERCENT OF HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED “YES” TO DEPRESSION INDICATORS, 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Depression Indicator Analysis

- Youth in Hernando County report high rates of feeling depressed most days in the past year, (over 2 out of every 5 middle and high school students). Additionally, nearly 1 out of every three high school students felt that life is not worth it.



The Florida Department of Health and Education implements the Youth Risk Behavior Survey every other year at the State-level to monitor priority health-risk behaviors that contribute substantially to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth, which contribute to patterns in adulthood. Although the report is not available at the county-level for Hernando County, statewide data captures middle and high school students who report suicidal ideations or suicide attempts.

**TABLE 16. FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORT SUICIDAL IDEATIONS OR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS, 2017**

Past 12 months before survey	Total Students	% of Female Students	% of Male Students	Highest percentage among Race/Ethnicities
Percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide	13.8%	9.5%	18.1%	14.9%- Hispanic or Latino
Percentage of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide	10.7%	14.1%	7.3%	11.0%- White
Percentage of students who attempted suicide	7.6%	8.9%	6.1%	8.2%- Hispanic or Latino
Percentage of students who had a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%	2.9%-Asian

Source: Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## PREVALENCE OF YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE

This section depicts self-reported alcohol and other drug use among Hernando County middle and high students. Before determining the full impact of substance use on the criminal justice system, understanding the scope of use was seen as important step, as on its own, alcohol (for persons under 21), tobacco (persons under 18), and other drug use is against the law. The main tool used to gauge youth alcohol and other drug use in the State is the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) which is administered every year in the State, with county-level data available in even years. In addition to reports run by the State, the HCC requests information by grade to fulfil obligations of federally funded coalitions.

### ALCOHOL

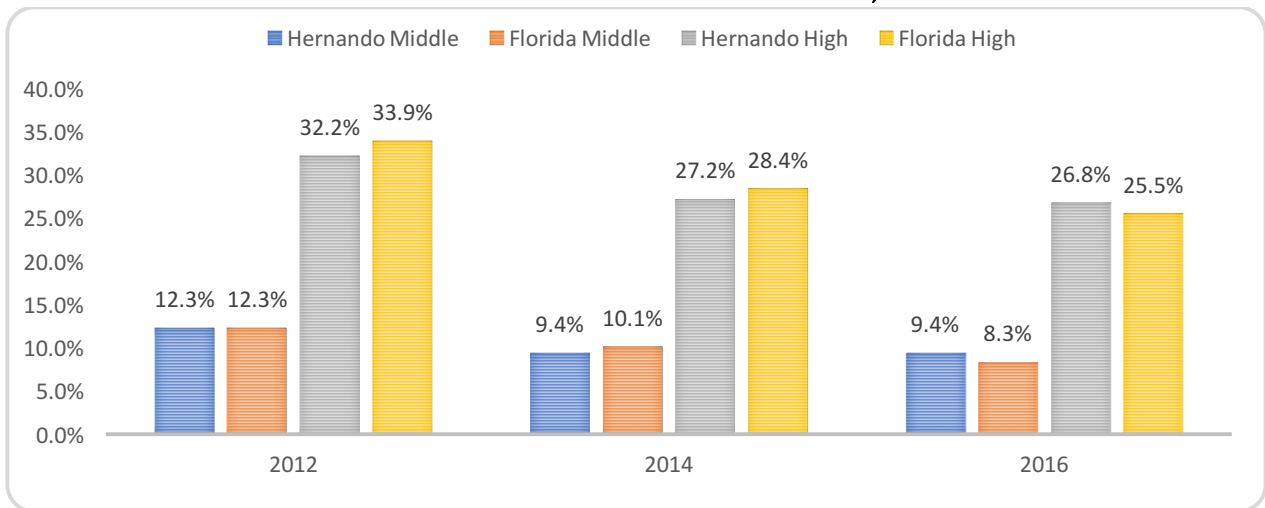
**TABLE 17. PAST 30-DAY ALCOHOL USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL, 2012-2016**

GRADE	2012	2014	2016
6th	2.3%	3.9%	8.3%
7th	14.9%	5.0%	4.7%
8th	20.2%	19.1%	14.8%
9th	26.8%	23.2%	21.9%
10th	26.1%	26.0%	27.0%
11th	32.9%	29.8%	24.8%
12th	44.7%	30.7%	34.3%
All Middle School	12.3%	9.4%	9.4%
All High School	32.2%	27.2%	26.8%
ALL (Middle and High)	23.6%	19.5%	19.5%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- Past 30-day alcohol use among Hernando County middle and high school students decreased from 2012 to 2016 overall, however rates have increased among 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

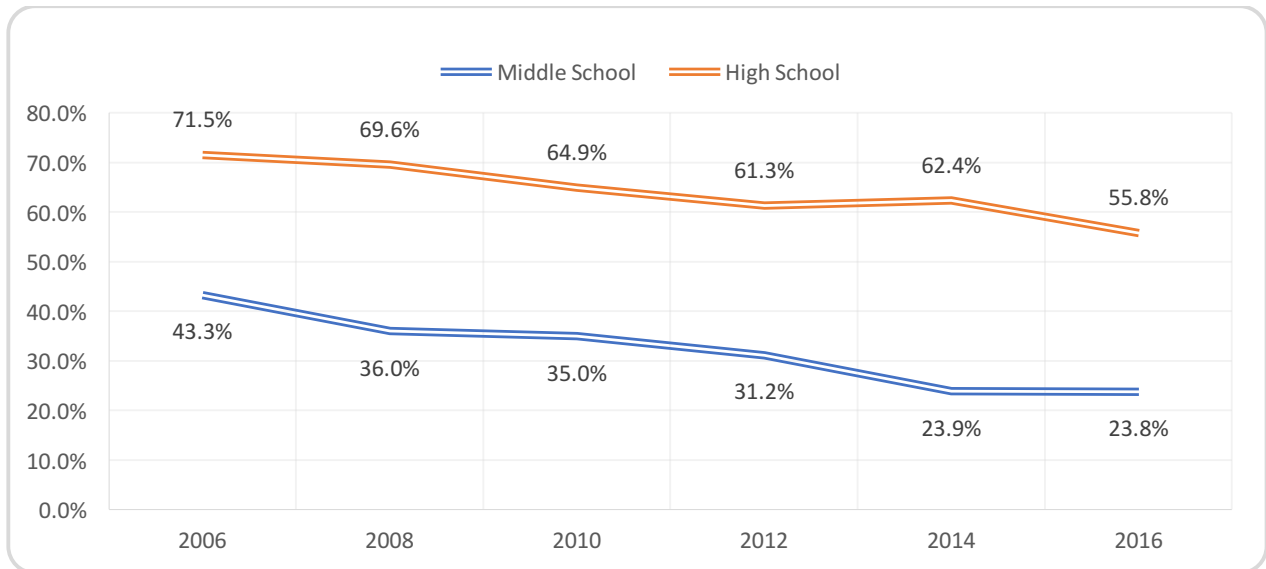
**FIGURE 4. PAST 30-DAY ALCOHOL USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPARED TO STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2012-2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, Hernando County middle and high school students reported slightly higher rates of past 30-day alcohol use than students statewide.

**FIGURE 5. LIFETIME ALCOHOL USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2006- 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- From 2006 to 2016, the percent of Hernando County high school students reporting ever using alcohol has decreased by 22%, and among middle school students by an overall 45%.

## MARIJUANA

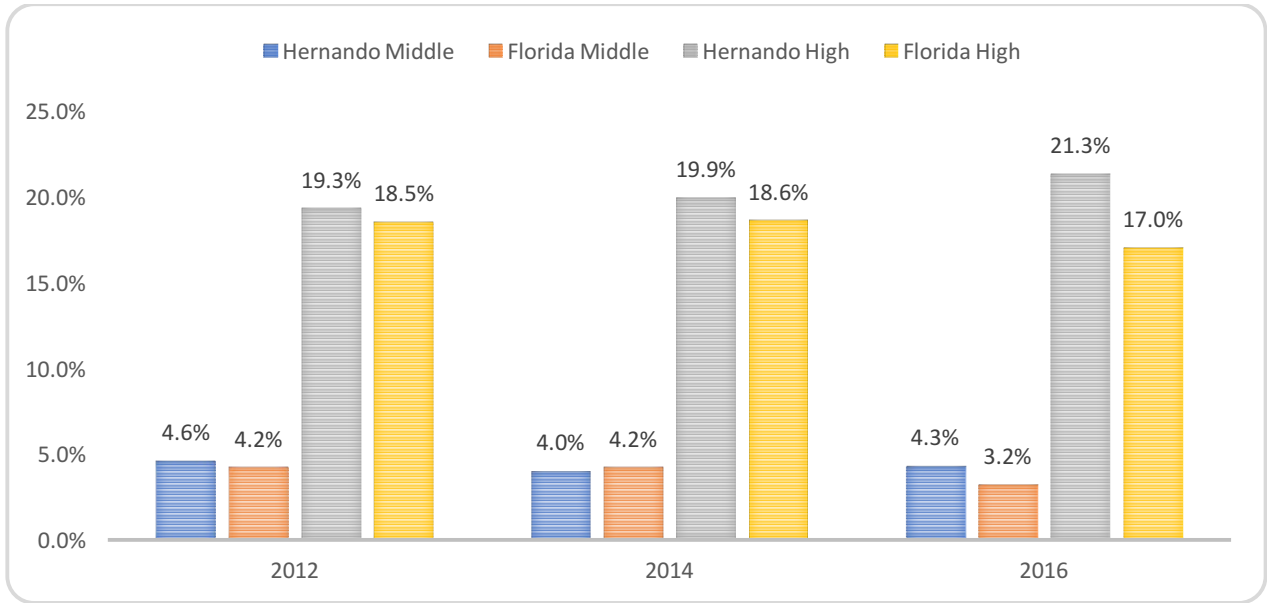
**TABLE 18. PAST 30-DAY MARIJUANA USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL, 2012-2014**

GRADE	2012	2014	2016
6th	1.2%	0.7%	0.4%
7th	4.8%	2.0%	5.6%
8th	7.7%	9.3%	6.8%
9th	14.8%	15.8%	21.5%
10th	17.4%	17.2%	24.0%
11th	24.9%	19.7%	16.8%
12th	19.9%	28.2%	23.0%
All Middle School	4.6%	4.0%	4.3%
All High School	19.3%	19.9%	21.3%
ALL (Middle and High)	13.0%	13.0%	14.1%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- Past 30-day marijuana use has decreased among Hernando County 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, however has increased among 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

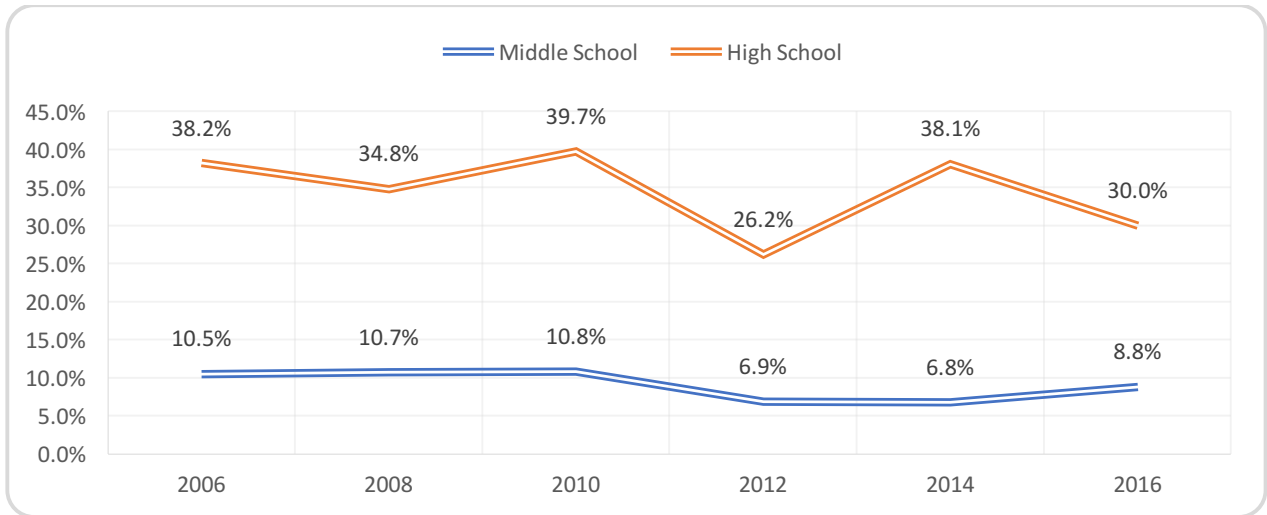
**FIGURE 6. PAST 30-DAY MARIJUANA USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPARED TO STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2012-2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016 in Hernando County, middle and high school students reported marijuana use levels of above Florida statewide averages.

**FIGURE 7. LIFETIME MARIJUANA USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2006- 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- Lifetime use rates of marijuana decreased among Hernando high school students from 2014 to 2016, however increased among middle school students.

TOBACCO/E-CIGARETTES

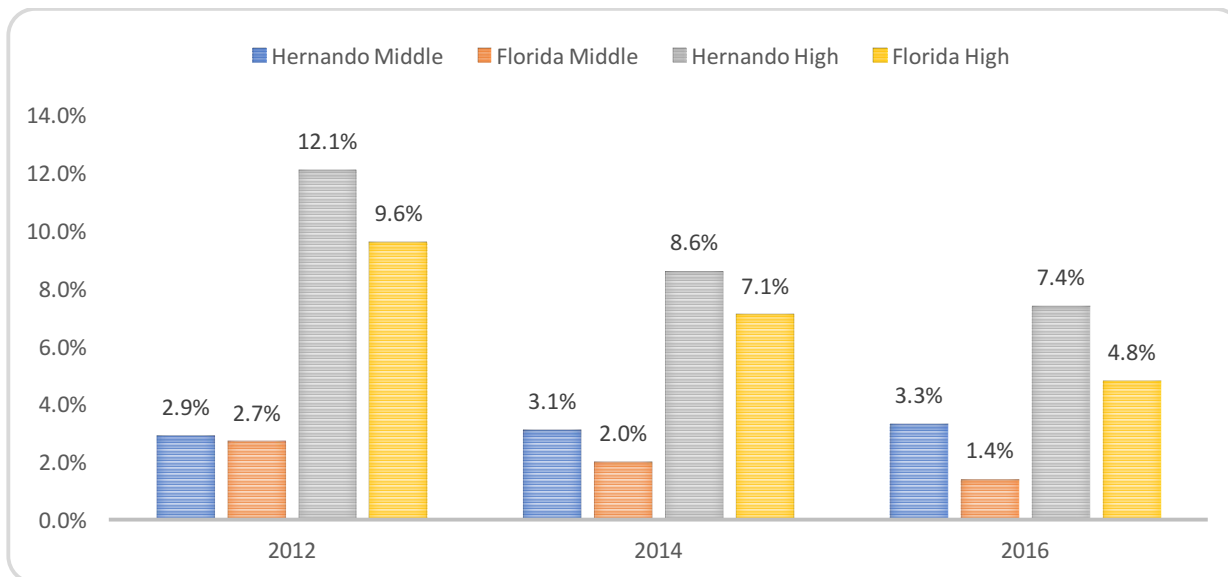
**TABLE 19. PAST 30-DAY CIGARETTE USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL, 2012-2014**

GRADE	2012	2014	2016
6th	1.7%	1.3%	4.1%
7th	2.3%	2.0%	2.8%
8th	4.6%	6.0%	3.0%
9th	7.7%	4.4%	5.9%
10th	8.2%	5.5%	10.0%
11th	20.9%	9.0%	6.8%
12th	12.1%	17.0%	6.7%
All Middle School	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%
All High School	12.1%	8.6%	7.4%
ALL (Middle and High)	8.1%	6.2%	5.7%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- From 2012 to 2016 in Hernando County, past 30-day cigarette use rates decreased among 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, however increase among 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

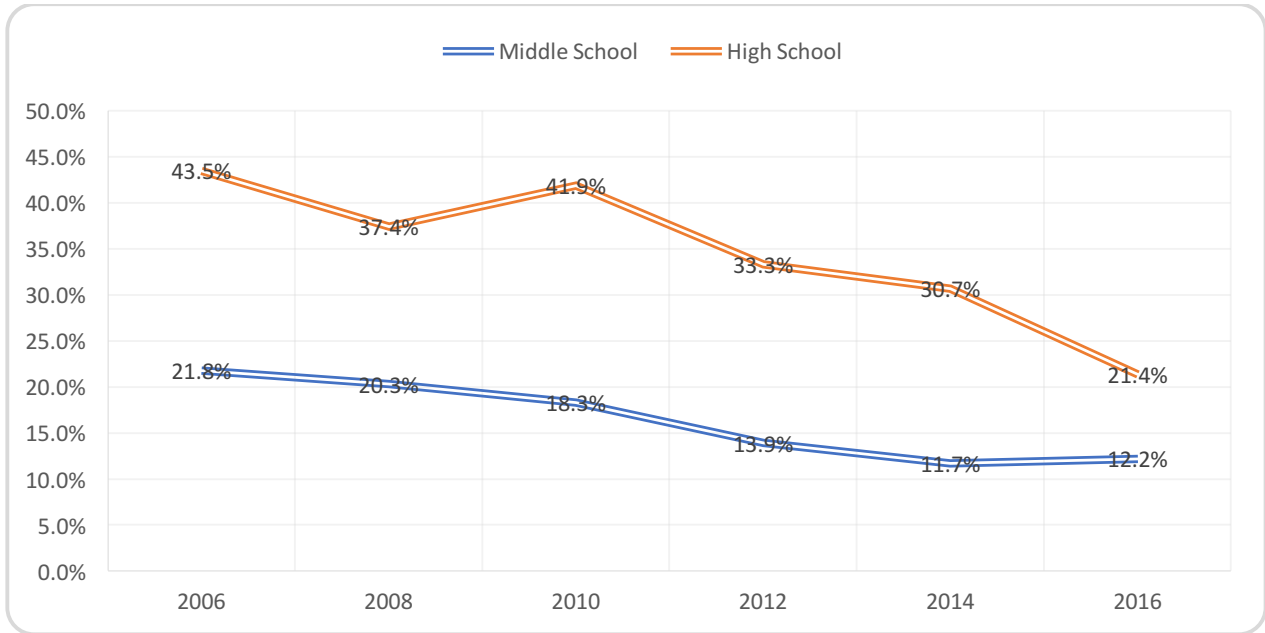
**FIGURE 8. PAST 30-DAY CIGARETTE USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPARED TO STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2012-2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016 in Hernando County, middle and high school students reported past 30-day cigarette use rates above Florida statewide averages.

**FIGURE 9. LIFETIME CIGARETTE USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2006- 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- Since 2006, there have been significant decreases in the amount of Hernando middle and high school students that report trying cigarettes in their lifetime.

**TABLE 20. PAST 30-DAY USE OF OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND E-CIGARETTES AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENTS AND FLORIDA STUDENTS STATEWIDE AGES 11-17, 2012- 2016**

	2012		2014		2016	
	County	State	County	State	County	State
Currently use cigars	7.4%	6.5%	6.7%	5.1%	2.3%	3.4%
Currently use smokeless tobacco	3.7%	3.0%	3.6%	3.0%	1.1%	2.2%
Currently use hookah	3.2%	4.1%	8.3%	7.1%	5.1%	4.8%
Currently use electronic vaping	2.9%	2.3%	9.1%	7.2%	15.2%	11.6%

Source: Florida Youth Tobacco Survey

- In 2016 in Hernando County, 15.2% of 11 to 17 year olds reported using electronic cigarettes, higher than statewide averages.
- The rates of Hernando County students ages 11 to 17 who have used cigars and smokeless tobacco have decreased from 2012 to 2016.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

**TABLE 21. PAST 30-DAY PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL, 2012-2014**

GRADE	2012	2014	2016
6th	0.6%	2.6%	1.2%
7th	3.1%	3.6%	4.4%
8th	1.2%	3.6%	0.9%
9th	2.9%	6.0%	2.2%
10th	3.9%	5.8%	4.1%
11th	1.9%	4.0%	3.3%
12th	3.4%	8.4%	0.7%
All Middle School	1.7%	3.3%	2.2%
All High School	3.0%	6.0%	2.6%
ALL (Middle and High)	2.4%	4.9%	2.4%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- From 2014 to 2016 in Hernando County, the percent of 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who report prescription drug use in the past 30-days without a doctor's order has decreased, however use has increased among 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

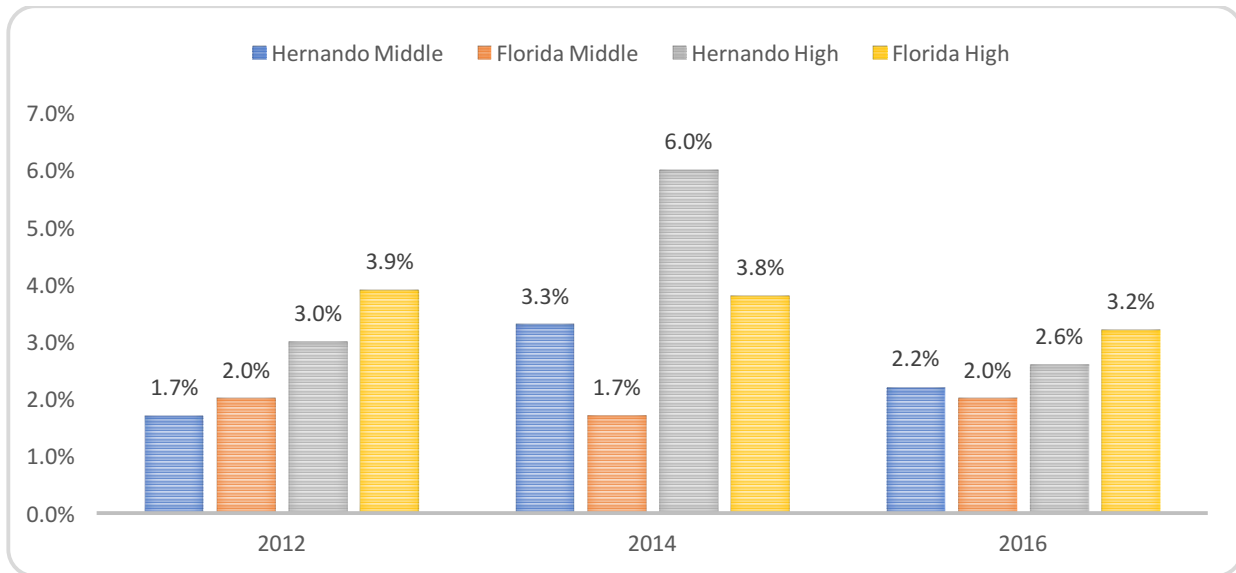
**TABLE 22. LIFETIME USE OF SELECTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS BY HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENTS AND FLORIDA STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2016**

	Hernando		Florida	
	Middle	High	Middle	High
Depressants	3.9%	8.9%	2.2%	6.5%
Prescription Pain Relievers	3.5%	6.2%	3.3%	5.8%
Prescription Amphetamines	2.5%	4.7%	1.3%	4.7%
Steroids (without a doctor's order)	0.8%	1.3%	0.6%	0.5%
Over-the-Counter Drugs	4.1%	6.5%	3.2%	5.3%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- Compared to students statewide in 2016, Hernando County middle school student reported higher rates of trying at all prescription drugs identified on at least one occasion in their lifetime.
- Among Hernando high school students, rates of trying a prescription on at least one occasion in their lifetime for a non-medical use was higher than statewide peers for depressants, prescription pain relievers, steroids and over the counter drugs. Rates of prescription amphetamines were at the statewide level.

**FIGURE 10. PAST 30-DAY USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENTS AND FLORIDA STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, the amount of Hernando County high school students who reported using prescription drugs without a doctor’s order in the past 30-days fell below Florida statewide averages; however the middle school student rate, though decreasing, remained above statewide averages.

**OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS**

**TABLE 23. LIFETIME USE OF SELECTED SUBSTANCES BY HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENTS AND FLORIDA STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2016**

	Hernando		Florida	
	Middle	High	Middle	High
Synthetic Marijuana	--	3.6%	--	4.9%
Inhalants	8.5%	4.6%	6.4%	4.6%
Flakka	--	2.1%	--	1.0%
Club Drugs	1.3%	3.3%	0.7%	3.0%
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	2.2%	7.0%	1.0%	4.8%
Methamphetamine	1.0%	1.5%	0.5%	0.8%
Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	1.4%	1.9%	0.8%	2.5%
Heroin	1.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%
Needle to Inject Illegal Drugs	--	1.2%	--	0.8%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note -- = data not available

- The most common illicit drug used by Hernando high school students in 2016 other than alcohol, marijuana, or tobacco was depressants, and inhalants among middle school students.



## IMPACT OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice screens youth upon entrance into the system to determine needs. Data collected from the Positive Assessment Change Tool (PACT) was last released for the 2013/14 fiscal year. The data provides self-reported risk factors among youth offenders. The following table includes only youth who were given a PACT assessment in the fiscal year, and a youth is only included one time, regardless of different days of the arrest in the fiscal year. If a youth was arrested more than once in the fiscal year, the PACT data included is from the day with the most serious offense.

**TABLE 24. HERNANDO YOUTH WHO REPORT SELECTED RISK FACTORS AT TIME OF ARREST COMPARED TO CIRCUIT 5 AND FLORIDA, 2013/14 FISCAL YEAR**

	Hernando County (n=296)	Circuit 5 (n=1,940)	Florida (n=37,959)
% Used Drugs	40.5%	32.9%	37.2%
% Used Alcohol	21.1%	19.7%	15.3%
% History of Mental Health Problems	31.4%	28.2%	19.8%
% History of Physical Abuse	15.9%	12.9%	9.9%
% History of Sexual Abuse	4.4%	6.5%	5.2%
% History of Runaway	20.6%	18.3%	22.0%

Source: Department of Juvenile Justice

- Hernando County youth who received a PACT assessment in the 2013/14 Fiscal Year reported higher rates of drug use, alcohol use, history of mental health problems, and history of physical abuse than peers in both Circuit 5 and the Florida statewide averages.
- The rate of youth offenders who report a history of running away from home is higher among Florida youth statewide than Hernando County, but youth in Hernando reported rates higher than Circuit 5.

## REPORTED IMPACT FROM PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS

**TABLE 25. HERNANDO COUNTY CAREGIVERS OF YOUTH WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUE BELIEFS OF IMPACT MH/SA ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, 2017**

Please respond to the following:							
	Yes/Agree		No/Disagree		Unsure		N=
Youth with mental illness involved with the criminal justice system is a problem in Hernando County.	64.6%	62	2.1%	2	33.3%	32	96
Youth with substance abuse issues involved with the criminal justice system is a problem in Hernando County.	63.1%	60	4.2%	4	32.6%	31	95

Source: Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/Guardians Survey, for CJMHPA Reinvestment Grant, Hernando Community Coalition

- Of the 96 Hernando County parents and caregivers who have a youth with a mental illness or substance abuse issue under their care, 64.6% believed mental illness and 63.1% believed substance use are a problem among youth involved in the criminal justice system.

**TABLE 26. HERNANDO PARENT/CAREGIVER REPORTED IMPACT OF YOUTH UNDER THEIR CARE’S MENTAL ILLNESS ON CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT, 2017**

A youth under my care’s...	Responses (n=69)	
<i>Please check all that apply:</i>	% Agree	Count
Mental health issue is well managed	29.0%	20
Receives(d) help for their mental illness and has never had legal issues	62.3%	43
Receives(d) help and has never been involved with law enforcement for anything resulting from their mental illness	43.5%	30
Has not received any professional help but has not had any issues at school, with law enforcement, or legal issues from mental illness	7.3%	5
None apply	17.4%	12

Source: Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/ Guardians Survey, for CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant, Hernando Community Coalition

- Of the 69 parents and/or caregivers who were eligible for the survey question, 56.5% reported involvement with the law enforcement resulting from mental illness.

**TABLE 27. IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, VIEWS FROM HERNANDO STAKEHOLDERS, 2017**

Community Input: Key Informant Interviews, December 2017
<b>Question Asked: How does mental health/substance abuse needs impact youth involved with the criminal justice system in Hernando County?</b>
<p><b>Major impact on System: Trauma</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For children involved with the DCF system that are removed from the home, there is so much trauma and not a lot of services to support them.</li> <li>• Big issues are trauma related – kids with family instability issues who when they are young they are in DCF because of parent substance abuse or parent physical abuse. Often when children are returned to their parents, there is no respect or trust and they act out- only way of control.</li> <li>• The impact of substance use and mental illness on the court is quite big. Often parents are in the system themselves and are victims.</li> <li>• Sometimes steal to support their addictions or end up in places where they could be further victimized.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Major impact on system: Lack of services and sanctions early on</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of crisis unit means more kids get arrested because there is nowhere else that can handle their violence stemming from mental health issues.</li> <li>• Because of limited treatment options, sometimes youth have to get in trouble before they receive any care because there is no other way to service them depending on the family situation.</li> <li>• Sometimes, there is no other way to save their life than get them committed.</li> <li>• If a family does not have Medicaid, it can be really hard to find somewhere. Can’t use SIPP. And families need to figure it out. Private insurance doesn't really help, kids don't get help until in the system.</li> <li>• The biggest mental health facility in Hernando is the County Jail.</li> <li>• We have teen court, but judged by their peers and kids can be brutal. Kids running it do their best, but causes some stress. For instance, a kid gets an arrest for shoplifting and says they are going to kill themselves- now peers know about it and it gets around.</li> <li>• Revolving door. There are some outpatient services if the parents can afford it, but not much.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Major impact on system: Parent/family substance use:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drugs contribute to crime deep into the family. Parents with addiction problems have strained relationships with their kids who argue and lash out at each other.</li> <li>• The same kids are committing the majority of crimes, and a lot have mental health, family, and social issues. See the same families a lot. Need to find a way to break the cycle.</li> </ul>

Source: Key Informant Interviews, 2017, for CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant, Needs Assessment Committee, HCC

**TABLE 28. PARENTS/CAREGIVERS WITH DJJ INVOLVED YOUTH IN HERNANDO COUNTY REPORTED BELIEFS ON IF EMOTIONAL AND/OR BEHAVIORAL ISSUES CONTRIBUTED TO ARRESTS, 2017**

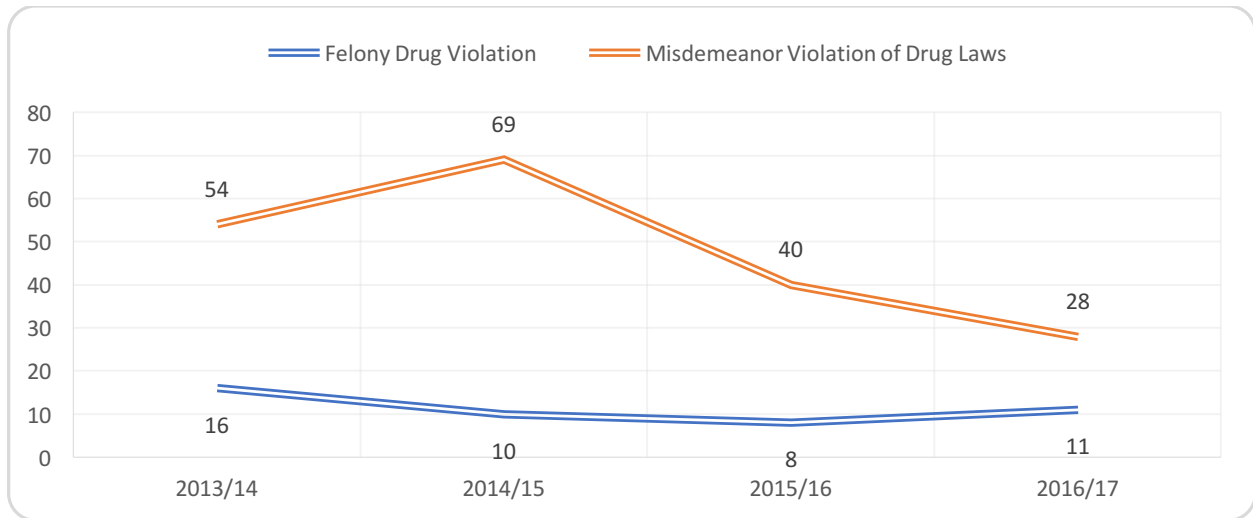
Community Input: Responses from Focus Groups of Parents and Caregivers and Youth with Department of Juvenile Justice Involvement, December 2017	
<b>TOPIC: Emotional and behavioral issues that may have contributed to youth involvement in the juvenile justice system identified.</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian Responses:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One caregiver (grandparent) didn't think they contributed. "Have had some mental health issues, but I think it is the internet that has got him in trouble –curiosity. He went to counseling for anger issues- was back and forth between both parents. He has something they call "tunnel vision". Arrested for acting out inappropriate behavioral with younger siblings. Charged him with a ton of stuff- only 12."</li> <li>• One parent thought issues had to stem from when her mom passed away. Had a Baker Act then. No diagnosis. "She went to BayCare for like a week. She was trying to cut herself, but wasn't bad, just for attention. Wasn't really going to hurt herself. Used a butter knife- couple scratches. Got in DJJ system because because she got mouthy".</li> <li>• One parent said child had experienced both substance use and mental health issues before entering system, but believed substance abuse contributed to arrest- theft.</li> </ul>	
<b>Youth Responses:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Got arrested because a girl started screaming at me, tried to say no but she wouldn't stop. She had been harassing me on social media. She grabbed my hair, and I blacked out and beat the crap out of her. My step-mom called 911, and made the girl call the police. Have a lot of family fighting- me and my step-mom and older sister. My family has problems. I didn't get raised the right way and I'm trying now to teach myself. Used to drink a lot of alcohol. Only drink here and there now. My family made me upset, so I'd drink. Then I'd get in a fight with them while drinking, and a neighbor would call the police.</li> <li>• "My mental health. When I first got arrested, the bus driver said I hit her and called the police. Hard time controlling anger."</li> <li>• "I did a lot of bad things in the past. Just started smoking weed young and doing dumb stuff with dumb friends and never got help for it until recently. Used to take basketball seriously and want to again. Failed third grade and started smoking the second time. Made bad decisions- sometimes wonder what it would be like if I never started smoking."</li> <li>• "Yes, my mom said I was trying to burn down the house and kill little sisters. I wasn't trying to do that. I had just gotten out of jail and wanted my phone my mom locked in the car. I told her if she didn't get it I would burn the house down, and she took it seriously. Called the police- got Baker Act- and whatever."</li> <li>• "I've never really been to the hospital where they tell you what kind of mental issues you have, but I know I have them. There is a lot of things wrong with me. But I don't know- probably."</li> <li>• One youth did not think substance use contributing to their DJJ involvement. "No, all I use is weed. Weed calms me down. Drugs make me smart- don't make me do bad things. All I ever used is weed and it is almost legal and good for you. Cures cancer. I have bi-polar issues and helps my insomnia."</li> <li>• One youth reported marijuana use had contributed, "Weed is only thing I do and that has brought a lot of trouble to my life. Not what my arrests were for, but I was high when I got in trouble."</li> <li>• One youth stated drug use did not contribute, just their choices.</li> <li>• All youth stated anger issues contributing Baker Act and Arrest.</li> </ul>	

Source: Focus Groups, 2017, for CJMHSR Reinvestment Grant, Needs Assessment Committee, Hernando Community Coalition

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG CRIMES AND INCIDENTS

In addition to crimes committed because of youth who are experiencing an emotional or behavioral issue, are crimes committed to the alcohol and drug use itself. Alcohol is against the law for anyone who is under the age of 21 in the State of Florida. Recreational marijuana use and non-medical prescription drug use are crimes for all ages. Youth using alcohol and other drugs, without any identified consequences, impacts the juvenile justice system and has associated costs for communities.

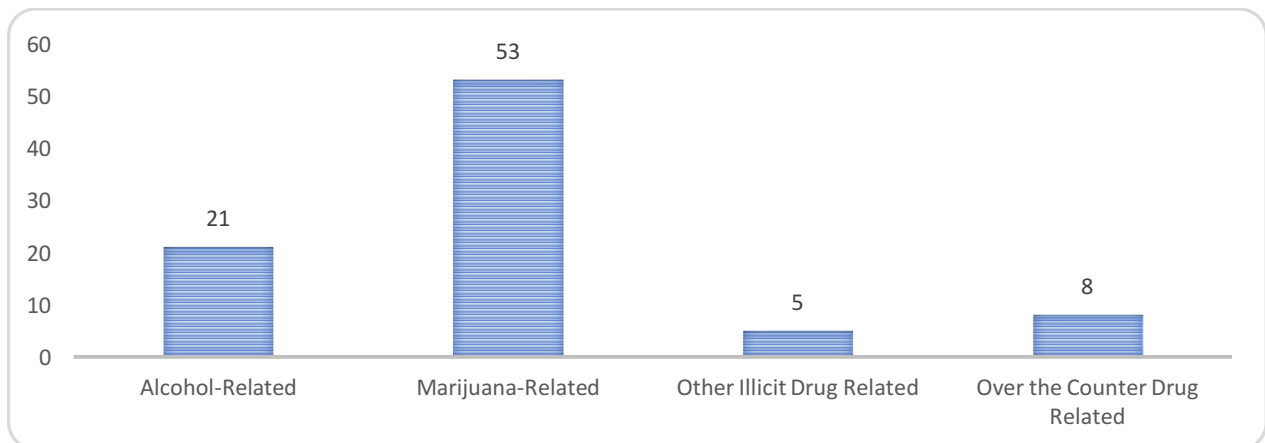
**FIGURE 11. JUVENILE DRUG OFFENSES IN HERNANDO COUNTY, 2013/14 – 2016/17 FISCAL YEARS**



Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

- Felony drug charges among Hernando County youth have remained relatively the same over the past few fiscal years, where arrests for misdemeanors have been decreasing since the 2014/15 fiscal year.

**FIGURE 12. INCIDENTS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ON HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL CAMPUSES, 2015/16 SCHOOL YEAR**

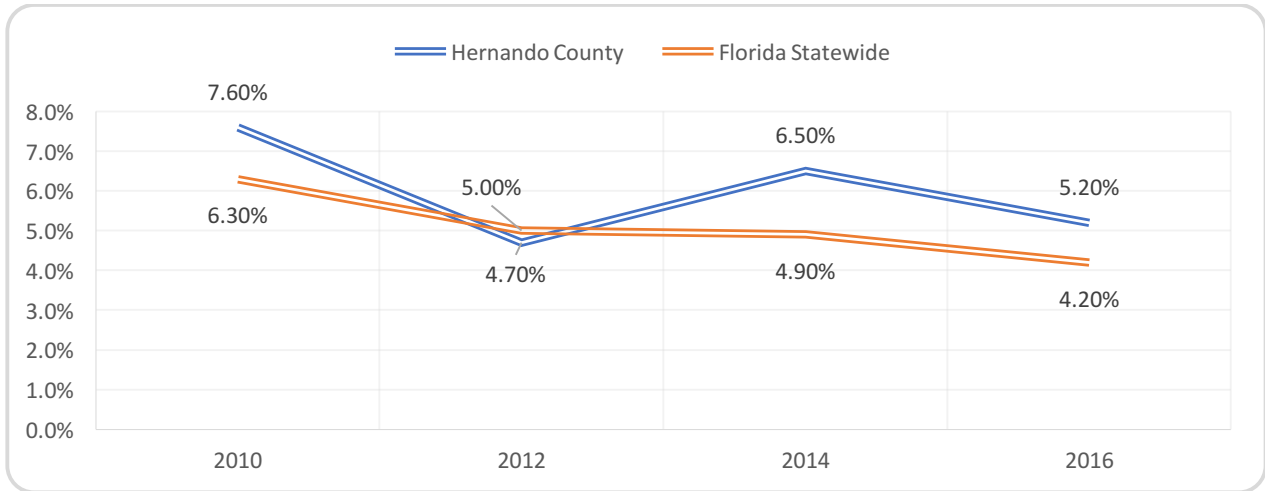


Source: Florida Department of Education, SESIR reports

- Of the incidents reported to the Department of Education, the most common drug offense was marijuana related.

## YOUTH REPORTED DELINQUENT AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS RELATED TO ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

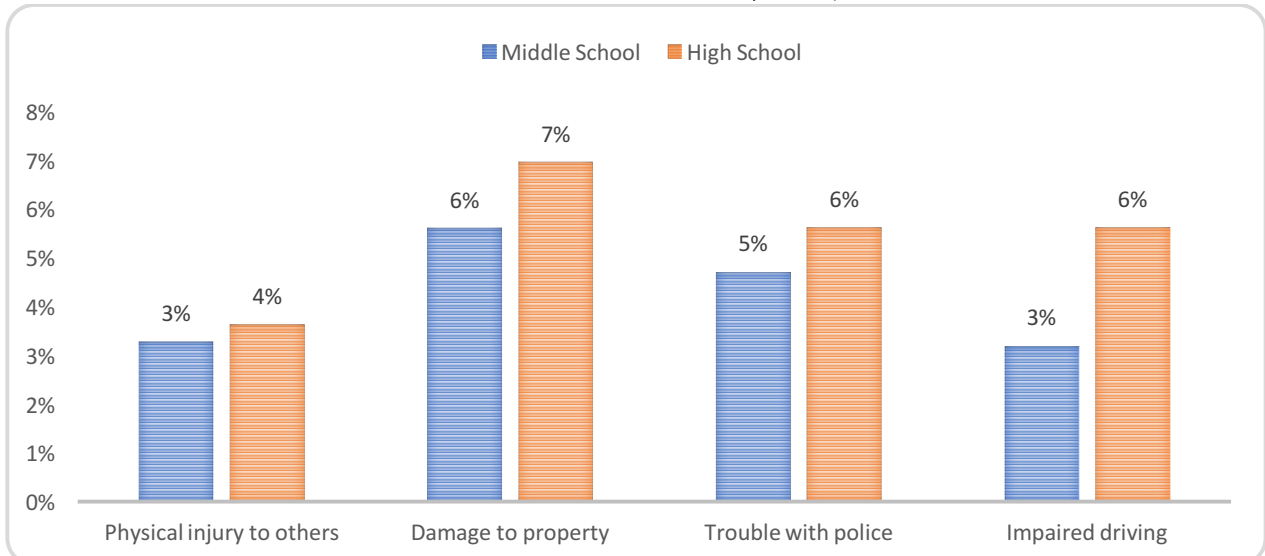
**FIGURE 13. HERNANDO COUNTY AND FLORIDA MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORT SELLING DRUGS IN THE PAST YEAR**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, youth in Hernando County middle and high schools reported higher rates of selling drugs in the past year than Florida statewide averages.

**FIGURE 14. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THAT REPORT ALCOHOL USE HAS CAUSED DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS, 2016/17 SCHOOL YEAR**



Source: Community Teen Norms Survey

- Damaging property is the most common reported delinquent behavior that alcohol use contributed to among Hernando middle and high school students.

The following tables depict the rates of youth who report criminal/delinquent behaviors (beyond alcohol and drug use) comparing those students who report they do not use alcohol or other drugs compared to students who report recent use. Students who report alcohol and other drug report much higher rates of delinquent and criminal behaviors than their non-using peers.

**TABLE 29. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS BY ALCOHOL USE LEVEL, 2016**

	Middle School			High School		
	Never Drank Alcohol	Drank Past Month- Not Binge	Binge Drank- Past 2 Weeks	Never Drank Alcohol	Drank Past Month- Not Binge	Binge Drank- Past 2 Weeks
Ever Belonged to a Gang	1.3%	5.4%	16.2%	1.0%	1.2%	8.5%
Carried a Handgun- Past Year	2.3%	12.0%	27.8%	4.4%	4.2%	13.9%
Attacked Someone to Hurt Them- Past Year	2.1%	20.6%	39.5%	2.5%	3.7%	20.7%
Sold Illegal Drugs- Past Year	0.4%	8.8%	33.2%	1.9%	10.5%	28.6%
Attempted to Steal a Vehicle- Past Year	0.4%	1.4%	7.2%	0.0%	2.0%	7.1%
Been Arrested- Past Year	0.3%	4.3%	16.7%	1.3%	3.6%	8.7%
Been Suspended from School- Past Year	7.1%	19.6%	36.7%	4.4%	12.9%	16.0%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Subject Area Crosstab Reports

**TABLE 30. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS BY MARIJUANA USE LEVEL, 2016**

Percent	Middle School		High School	
	Never Used Marijuana	Used in Past Month	Never Used Marijuana	Used in Past Month
Ever Belonged to a Gang	2.3%	6.6%	0.6%	6.4%
Carried a Handgun- Past Year	4.2%	22.7%	3.3%	7.8%
Attacked Someone to Hurt Them- Past Year	5.7%	34.1%	4.4%	20.9%
Sold Illegal Drugs- Past Year	0.2%	27.0%	0.5%	26.6%
Attempted to Steal a Vehicle- Past Year	0.5%	6.7%	0.7%	2.2%
Been Arrested- Past Year	1.3%	10.4%	0.7%	9.2%
Been Suspended from School- Past Year	14.4%	46.9%	9.1%	38.2%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Subject Area Crosstab Reports

**TABLE 31. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS BY ILLICIT DRUG USE LEVEL OTHER THAN MARIJUANA, 2016**

	Middle School		High School	
	Never Used Illicit Drugs (Other Than Marijuana)	Used in Past Month	Never Used Illicit Drugs (Other Than Marijuana)	Used in Past Month
Ever Belonged to a Gang	1.9%	6.3%	1.8%	6.2%
Carried a Handgun- Past Year	3.9%	19.6%	3.8%	12.7%
Attacked Someone to Hurt Them- Past Year	5.9%	17.9%	5.5%	22.4%
Sold Illegal Drugs- Past Year	0.3%	14.8%	3.3%	22.8%
Attempted to Steal a Vehicle- Past Year	0.3%	14.8%	3.3%	22.8%
Been Arrested- Past Year	1.9%	1.6%	1.3%	13.9%
Been Suspended from School- Past Year	14.3%	34.8%	14.6%	18.7%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Subject Area Crosstab Reports

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## RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

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IDENTIFIED MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
FOR HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH AND FAMILIES, SERVICE UTILIZATION, AND  
IDENTIFIED GAPS

## RESOURCE INVENTORY

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The Hernando Community Coalition and the Youth CJMHSA Needs Assessment Committee conducted an extensive assessment of services and supports currently available for Hernando County youth including prevention, intervention, residential, and crisis services. To do this, the group utilized the Hernando Cares Behavioral Health Resource Guide (developed by Hernando Prevention Partnership: Bayfront Health, Hernando Community Coalition, NAMI Hernando, the Dawn Center, New Visions, and the Pasco/Hernando State College), the Hernando County Sheriff Office's, A Parent's Guide for Troubled Children and the Detention Center's Reentry Resource Packet, LSF Health Systems Hernando Resource Directory, and extensive online searches and Committee member knowledge. The services included serve Hernando County youth, and in some instances, both youth and families.

To best examine the different resources currently in place in Hernando County, this section is divided by type of service, however classification was not without its challenges. For instance, there are service providers in the county who provide more than one opportunity for youth and families, and some services are not available at all in Hernando County for youth to utilize locally. For the sake of determining the impact of mental health and substance use in the youth criminal justice system, categories align with familiar terminology in the behavioral health field, yet include additional supports that help address the emotional and behavioral needs of youth.

**Note:** Resources available often change. For an ongoing list of mental health or substance abuse services for Hernando County youth or adults, visit [hernandocares.org](http://hernandocares.org), to view or download the Hernando Cares Behavioral Health Resource Guide which is updated quarterly.

Or, you can search [UnitedWayHernando.org/211](http://UnitedWayHernando.org/211) and get connected to Hernando's free database of a wide variety of local resources or call 2-1-1 to speak to a trained representative 24-7.

### ***Categories include:***

- **Prevention and Intervention:** Educational and informational opportunities surrounding emotional and behavioral health.
- **Outpatient/Treatment Services:** This includes counseling and therapies for emotional and behavioral issues, family support services, and local support groups.
- **Residential Services:** Treatment/programs for troubled youth that involve overnight stays away from the home.
- **Crisis Services/Inpatient Hospitalization:** Crisis stabilization units, inpatient hospital stays for mental health and/or substance abuse, and emergency shelters.

### ***Section Limitations:***

Services or opportunities not included in the assessment in detail for youth and families, but are certainly relevant to the health and wellness of any community, include in-depth looks in primary health services, homeless services, and assistance for families in need such as food pantries, housing assistance, and clothing services. An additional limitation is services provided by the Hernando County School District in detail to each of the District's 22 schools.



# PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Preventing mental and/or substance use disorders and related problems in children, adolescents, and young adults is critical to Americans’ behavioral and physical health. Behaviors and symptoms that signal the development of a behavioral disorder often manifest two to four years before a disorder is present. In addition, people with a mental health issue are more likely to use alcohol or drugs than those not affected by a mental illness.”* Further, *“if communities and families can intervene early, behavioral health disorders might be prevented, or symptoms can be mitigated.”*

The following tables presents the prevention and intervention services identified in Hernando County, free of charge, including presentations, classes/courses, trainings to provider and community groups to improve services and help enhance peer and family support, as well as noted collaborations that disseminate educational information and work towards community change strategies.

Prevention services are defined as “Universal Prevention”, meaning outreach is aimed at the entire population or sub-groups of a population such as pregnant women, children, the elderly, etc. and are delivered to large groups without any prior screening needed via direct prevention (face-to-face educational sessions) or indirect prevention (community change initiatives such as campaigns, environmental strategies, etc.).

Early intervention services are targeted to individuals or to a subgroup of the population whose risk of developing mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders is significantly higher than average. Interventions can identify individuals who are experiencing early signs of substance abuse, and other related problem behaviors associated with risk and target them with special programs.

**TABLE 32. IDENTIFIED HERNANDO COUNTY IDENTIFIED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES**

Type	Provider/Description	Where and/or Who?	Substance Use	Mental Illness	Coping Skills
8-Hour Training	Mental Health First Aid- designed to give members of the public key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis provided by NAMI Hernando, BayCare Behavioral Health, and Hernando Community Coalition	Offered once a month for those who register	Yes	Yes	
Educational Course	Too Good for Drugs Program- BayCare Behavioral Health provides alcohol and drug prevention education for youth in partnership with Hernando County Schools.	Currently 5 schools	Yes		Yes
Educational Course	NAMI Basics is a free 6-week education program for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents living with mental illness. The course covers basic brain biology, causes, symptoms, communication skills, problem-solving and advocating for your child with providers, schools, and juvenile justice systems	For Hernando residents who register for course	Yes	Yes	Yes

Type	Provider/Description	Where and/or Who?	Substance Use	Mental Illness	Coping Skills
Educational Class	NAMI Hernando provides Parents and Teachers As Allies is a free, on-site presentation is led by a team consisting of a young adult with a mental health condition, a parent and a teacher. The 90-minute program will share how to: Understand the difference between “bad behavior” and symptoms of a mental health condition; Recognize early warning signs; Communicate and partner with families effectively; Link to community services quickly; and Create a supportive learning environment for all students.	For Teachers and school personnel	Yes	Yes	Yes
Educational Class	Know the Law- SRO's provide one hour educational course on laws surrounding alcohol and other drugs, as well as other delinquent behaviors in a partnership between the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Hernando County Schools, and the Hernando Community Coalition	Participating middle and high schools	Yes		
Educational Class	AlcoholEDU- one hour online course on underage drinking provided through the Hernando Community Coalition and Hernando County Schools.	5 high Schools (9 <sup>th</sup> graders)	Yes		Yes
Educational Class	NAMI Hernando provides Ending the Silence, a free classroom presentation, where students get to see the reality of living with a mental health condition. During the 50-minute presentation, a young adult living with mental illness and a family member tell their stories about mental health challenges, including what hurt and what helped.	Upon request for schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substance Abuse Intervention Classes	Youth written up for first substance offense or referred by a school go to District's Substance Abuse Education classes. Services include assessments, crisis interventions, educational support for student and parent's referral assistance.	Hernando Schools	Yes		Yes
Outreach, Information Dissemination, Community Change	The Hernando Community Coalition offers a series of events, presentations, educational materials, social norming and media campaigns, and environmental change strategies, over 50 local partners	County-level	Yes	Yes	Yes
Outreach, Information Dissemination	BayCare Behavioral Health's CHAT outreach team focuses on 4 areas: building healthy/safe communities, expanding prevention services, empowering people to make healthy choices, eliminating health disparities.	County-level	Yes	Yes	Yes
Outreach, Information Dissemination, Community Change	Tobacco Free Partnership of Hernando County works to decrease tobacco and vaping use through media promotion, events, health fairs, and environmental change- over 30 members, under HCC.	County-level	Yes		Yes
Outreach, Information Dissemination, Community Change	MADD Provides underage drinking and drinking and driving prevention programming, as well advocating for policy changes	Regional level	Yes		

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The following programs present prosocial opportunities for youth and support families in Hernando County, while encouraging peer, school, family, and/or community bonding. Programs identified provide support for behavioral health issues and/or educational opportunities for youth in fun, caring, supportive environments.

**TABLE 33. HERNANDO PROSOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT INCORPORATE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL ISSUES**

Providers/ Organizers	Type	Description	For/Serves
Big Brother Big Sisters	Mentor Program	Matches children with caring adult mentors who provides support to the child and child's family. Mentors can volunteer at school, tutor a child, or participate in fun activities with the child.	Hernando youth ages 5 to 13
Boys and Girls Club of Hernando County	Before/After School Program, as well as Summer Camp	Offers a variety programs for children, such as sports, tutoring, classes, delinquency prevention help, camps, art activities, mentoring, and job linkage.	7 school age (before and after) sites at elementary, K-8, and middle schools and 5 preschools
For Each 1 Reach 1 Mentoring Program, Inc.	Mentoring Program	Mentoring, Education, Tutoring, Parent Boot Camp, Military Structured program, summer program, book club, homework assistance.	Youth and families in Hernando County
Hernando Community Coalition, YMCA of the Suncoast	Alcohol and Drug Free Events	Friday Night Done Right- No. Alcohol. No Dope. events one Friday a month hosted at the YMCA with fun events for teens such as kickball, swim nights, corn hole tournaments, as well as alcohol and other drug messaging and education.	Open to all middle and high school students in Hernando County.
Hernando Community Coalition, Tobacco Free Partnership, Hernando County Schools	Youth Clubs (middle and high school ages)	Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) members work to prevent tobacco use and addiction. SWAT gives teens tools that empower youth to take control of the fight against Big Tobacco.	Middle and high school students- 8 school-based clubs and one community club all Hernando County youth can join.
Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Eckerd Youth Alternatives, the Florida Sheriffs Association	Summer Camp	R.O.A.R. sessions teach young people about citizenship, leadership, cooperation, respect and environmental responsibility. Counselors and deputies reinforce the importance of rules and laws through games, team sports, crafts and demonstrations.	Youth ages 6 to 12 in Hernando County
YMCA of the Suncoast	Before/After School Programs/ Summer Camps	Before- and after-school care at the YMCA with activities that help youth learn, grow and thrive. YMCA Programs include character development, international education, health and fitness, environmental awareness, school readiness, diversity, and community service.	School age program at 9 locations- age depending Summer camp 5 to 12

Along with the programs and activities in the above table, other prosocial opportunities occur in a community-based or school setting such as youth sports leagues and art classes at the YMCA or school sports and clubs. School-based clubs and leagues vary by each location.

## OUTPATIENT TREATMENT / THERAPY / COUNSELING SERVICES

Outpatient Services are provided to varying degree determined by program, treatment model, etc. and at different types of service locations. The main thing they all share is that is no overnight stay. Some services are based in community treatment centers, some located in hospitals, outpatient clinics, private offices for a solo or group practice, and some can be in a school, at home, or online. They can range from one appointment a month to intensive programs that are a few hours each day- and lengths of programs can vary widely as well. Services can be provided to an individual, a family, or in a group setting. The following tables present an overview of the outpatient services for emotional and behavioral needs identified in Hernando County. Though many providers were captured during the inventory process from neighboring counties that can provide services for Hernando County youth, agencies were only included in this section if they were identified as providing services in Hernando County.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES IN HERNANDO COUNTY

This section does not include services provided by Hernando County Schools. School-based services are reviewed in the “School Support Services” section. In the following two tables, a provider may have more than one specialist/practitioner providing services and may offer more than one service type. Additionally, though the inventory efforts were wide scale, services may have been omitted. Data included is in regard to services offered by the following providers:

- Achieve Wellness Group
- Advanced Counseling Services
- Annette L Becklund, MSW, LCSW & Assoc LLC
- BayCare Behavioral Health
- Hernando County School District (not included in payor source table)
- Behavioral Health Associates
- Catherine Mara, LCSW
- Cindy Chwalik, Counselor
- Clemente Counseling
- Counseling and Consultative Services, LLC
- Denise Schonwald, LLC
- Dory Headlee Llc
- Ginger Santiago, Counselor, MS, LMHC
- Jim Striegel, Counselor, MS, LMHC
- Operation PAR Inc.
- Pathways Counseling Center
- Premier Community Healthcare
- The Dawn Center
- The LaPorta Center
- Trauma and Counseling Solutions
- Wellspring Counseling Center
- Youth and Family Alternatives

**TABLE 34. NUMBER OF PROVIDERS IN HERNANDO COUNTY SERVING YOUTH BY SERVICE TYPE**

Mental Health Medication Prescriber	Substance Abuse Medication Prescriber	Mental Health Services Counseling/Therapy	Substance Use Services Counseling/Therapy	Co-occurring MH-SA Counseling/Therapy	Anger/Behavior Management Counseling/Therapy	Abuse/Trauma/Victims Counseling/Therapy	Family Counseling/Therapy	Case Management
3	1	19	8	7	11	14	10	2

**TABLE 35. PAYMENT TYPES ACCEPTED BY SERVICE TYPE AVAILABLE IN HERNANDO COUNTY**

	Funded by Gov't, Agency, nonprofit (for those who qualify)	Self-pay (client/ caregiver pays out of pocket)	Self-pay with sliding scale (based on income)	Accepts Private Insurance (at least one type)	Accepts Public Insurance- Kidcare, Medicaid, Medicare (at least one type)
Mental Health Medication Prescriber	2	3	3	3	3
Substance Abuse Medication Prescribers	--	1	--	1	1
Mental Health Counseling/Therapies	3	18	13	15	12
Substance Use Counseling/Therapies	1	8	5	8	4
Co-occurring Services for Mental Health/Substance Use	1	6	6	6	2
Anger/ Behavior Management Counseling/ Therapies	3	11	9	9	8
Abuse/Trauma/Victims Counseling	3	11	10	10	8
Family Counseling/Therapies	1	11	8	8	7
Case Management	2	2	2	2	2

**FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**

**TABLE 36. ADDITIONAL OUTPATIENT SUPPORT PROVIDERS/PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES INCLUDING EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL SERVICES**

Provider	Type	Description
Children's Advocacy Center	Child welfare/ abuse/social services	Provides free therapy to children who are victims of alleged physical or sexual abuse, victims of neglect, human trafficking victims, drug endangered children, or children who witness domestic violence.
Kids Central, Inc	Services for abused/neglected/a bandoned children and their families	Develops and manages a comprehensive, community-based system-of-care for abused, neglected, and abandoned children and their families. Promotes the welfare of expectant mothers, babies, children, families and young adults through prevention services, in-home care, foster care, and adoption.
The Dawn Center	Services for abused children or those who witnessed family abuse.	Resource for youth that has experienced or been a witness to Teen Dating Violence, Family Violence or Sexual Violence. Also, a resource for legal needs for injunction for protections if needed. Note* Counseling for youth was included in the "Abuse/Trauma/Victims" category in provider table.
United Way of Hernando County	Array of services and support for local programs	Program Services with focus areas that fall under Health, Education, Financial Stability, and Basic Needs/Crisis Prevention. Children Initiatives include encouraging health and wellness, physical and emotional care, promoting financial stability and self-sufficiency, and crisis intervention. United Way also provides free outreach services such as 2-1-1 (referral program), Lend a Hand Hernando (volunteer recruitment portal), Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Born Learning Trails, Student Board and Stuff the Bus.
Youth and Family Alternatives-Family Help	Juvenile Justice program- Case Management Services	A juvenile justice prevention program designed to assist families who have a child that is a runaway, truant, and/or ungovernable or at-risk of these behaviors. Services are aimed at preventing youth from entering the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system by providing an array of services to strengthen the family.

## SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

**StarF.I.S.H.** (Facilitation Individual Success and Hope) is a program for elementary and middle-aged children enrolled in Hernando County Public Schools with a current IEP or 504 plan who require more intensive treatment, structure, and supervision that can be offered in a traditional classroom setting. This is for students who have not been successful with previous attempted interventions in the classroom. The program includes emotional and behavioral supports and programming from BayCare Behavioral Health. Students are referred from school guidance counselors and the program is supported through government and community-based support.

**PACE School for Girls** will be opening in January 2018 in Hernando County. PACE is a prevention, diversion and early intervention program, designed specifically for girls in middle and high school. Sponsored by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and other state funding, PACE aims to help girls with various risk factors to succeed academically while meeting their individual needs. PACE is a free, voluntary program for girls in middle or high school, ages 11-18. Because of its voluntary mission, no one can be mandated to attend PACE, even while in the Juvenile Justice system. Most of the girls come from district schools, attend PACE from 18-21 months, and then return to their former school. Classes will be held in portables at John D. Floyd Elementary, 3139 Dumont Ave. in Spring Hill.

In addition to the services listed above, Hernando County Schools provides guidance counselors at each location and the Hernando County Sheriff's Office provide a School Resource Officer at K-8, middle, and high schools in the district. The District provides screening and assessments, interventions, mentoring and referral services.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups are meetings of members who provide help and understanding to persons with shared experiences. Often times, people feel more comfortable sharing with others who they feel they can talk freely without judgement. There are both support groups that are organized and managed by members only and then groups that are facilitated by a professional.

**TABLE 37. SUPPORT GROUPS BY TYPE AND PURPOSE IN HERNANDO COUNTY**

Name	Type	Serves/Purpose	Mental Health	Substance Use	Personal Recovery
Al-Anon	Organization	Family members of alcoholics		Yes	
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)	Organization	All who wish to recover from alcoholism; some closed meetings		Yes	
Celebrate Recovery Vineyard	Single Site	Christ-centered program for substance abuse recovery- open to all		Yes	Yes
Crosspoint Church	Single Site	Christ-centered program for substance abuse recovery- open to all		Yes	Yes
NAMI Connection	Organization	Weekly recovery support group for people living with mental illness- open to all	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAMI Family Support	Organization	Safe groups of families helping other families who live with mental health challenges	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northcliffe Baptist Church	Single Site	Christ-centered program for substance abuse recovery- open to all		Yes	Yes
Narcotics Anonymous (NA)	Organization	All persons recovering from drug addiction		Yes	

## RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT / SERVICES

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, residential treatment programs provide intensive help for youth with serious emotional and behavior problems. While receiving residential treatment, children temporarily live outside of their homes and in a facility where they can be supervised and monitored by trained staff. Residential treatment programs for behavioral health typically vary in length of stay depending on the program, type of disorder, co-occurring issues, etc. In the State of Florida, there are residential facilities throughout the State for youth who are required by a judge to stay in the care of the Department of Juvenile Justice for an extended time known as DJJ Commitment Programs. A youth's placement depends on the commitment plan, not on the location of the arrest.

**Hernando County has only one residential treatment facility for youth.** Criteria for the facility includes:

- Must be a boy aged 13-19 involved in the juvenile justice system who needs mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment. Though a youth does not need to be referred by the DJJ, the facility also serves as a DJJ Commitment Program. The program is sponsored by Eckerd Connects and the State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Services range from anger management, social and vocational skills training, and counseling.

Hernando County youth who need residential services and do not fit the criteria of the local facility, must seek treatment elsewhere. The list below are facilities that were identified throughout Circuit 5 and the Tampa-St. Petersburg Metropolitan Area.

**TABLE 38. EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH NEAR HERNANDO COUNTY**

County/ Provider	Facility Type	Serves	Services/Counseling/Therapy Types					Payment Options
			Mental Health	Substance Abuse	Behavioral	Family	Victim/Trauma/Abuse	
<b>Hillsborough:</b> Agency for Community Treatment Services	Substance Abuse Treatment Center	All genders ages 13 to 17	Yes	Yes		Yes		Uniform fee schedule, sliding scale. Services not refused to anyone based on inability to pay. Accepts private and public insurance
<b>Hillsborough:</b> Children's Home Network- Kids Village	Specialize in children who are victims of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.	All genders ages 6 to 17	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Program is state funded
<b>Lake:</b> LifeStream Behavioral Center-Turing Point Ranch	Therapeutic group home for girls with distinct emotional and behavioral challenges	Girls ages 15 to 17	Yes		Yes			

County/ Provider	Facility Type	Serves	Services/Counseling/Therapy Types					Payment Options
			Mental Health	Substance Abuse	Behavioral	Family	Victim/ Trauma/ Abuse	
<b>Lake:</b> Lakeland Grace Academy	Christian-based program designed for girls defiant and rebellious girls.	Girls ages 13 to 17	Yes		Yes		Yes	Must meet criteria. Pay for attendance. Lower cost than typical boarding schools since non-profit. Typically, insurance does not help. May be scholarships/loan.
<b>Pasco:</b> BayCare Behavioral Health	Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP)	All genders 6 to 18	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Medicaid Waiver Program
<b>Pinellas:</b> Brookwood Florida	Group home for girls who have suffered abuse, neglect, homelessness and family dysfunction	At-Risk Girls ages 13 to 21	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	HUD funded program
<b>Pinellas:</b> Operation PAR	Substance Abuse Treatment Center	All genders 13 to 17	Yes, if co- occur	Yes	Yes	Yes		Accepts TANF, affordable treatment

## CRISIS / HOSPITAL INPATIENT SERVICES

Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) are small inpatient facilities of less than 16 beds for people in a mental health crisis whose needs cannot be met safely in residential service settings. CSUs may be designed to admit on a voluntary or involuntary basis when the person needs a safe, secure environment that is less restrictive than a hospital. CSUs try to stabilize the person and get him or her back into the community quickly. In the State of Florida, facilities that offer these services may be a designated “Baker Act Receiving Facility”, where individuals are taken involuntarily if they are considered a “danger to self or others”.

For a person that needs intensive treatment, they may go to a private psychiatric hospital that may have specialty units for eating disorders, geriatric concerns, child and adolescent services, as well as substance abuse services. A person may also go to a general medical and surgical hospital that has a psychiatric inpatient unit and/or a substance abuse unit, such as a designated floor. Facilities may also offer detoxification services and/or rehabilitation. Hospital detox is typically based in, or in close proximity to, the psychiatric department. Patients are typically in a lock down status and are isolated or quarantined on a particular floor or corridor of the hospital. They are usually prohibited from contact with family and friends during the detox. Some hospitals offer a medically managed detox which involves specific medications that will alleviate some of the discomfort from withdrawal symptoms, as well as medication to combat anxiety and to help the patient rest. Private detox is available in both medically managed and non-medical programs. Private medical detox, like in hospital settings, uses medication to help the patient through the withdrawal process, as comfortably, safely and effectively as possible. A private detox facility is generally more upscale than a hospital setting.



**Hernando County does not have a youth inpatient facility.** Youth who receive a Baker Act Initiation (must be experiencing a mental health crisis) are taken to Springbrook Hospital, however leave the facility within 6 hours as the hospital is not licensed to serve adolescents. Youth are transported to surrounding areas (typically Lake, Marion, Orange, and Pasco Counties) where a bed is available.

Spring Gardens Detox, a private detox facility, is located in Spring Hill, Florida, which provides Medical stabilization services for people with drug, alcohol, and health related issues.

**TABLE 39. EMERGENCY CARE FACILITIES FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS OR IN NEED OF DETOX SERVICES IN HERNANDO COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

Name	County	About/Services	Ages	Mental Health	Substance Use
Spring Gardens Detox	Hernando County	Medical stabilization service for people with drug, alcohol, and health related issues.	All		Yes
Springbrook Hospital	Hernando County	Intensive Treatment Services also known as Critical Care Unit provides crisis stabilization and symptom reduction for individuals 18 years or older who are in acute psychiatric distress. This service treats patients both voluntary and involuntary patients in acute crisis who require immediate assistance in a secure, safe and structured environment. Springbrook Hospital is a Baker Act receiving facility which address both mental health and substance abuse issues.	Adults, but Baker Act youth are originally taken here. Youth leave within 6 hours	Yes	Yes
GracePointe-Children's Emergency Services	Hillsborough County	In-patient treatment programs for those experiencing a mental health emergency needing 24-hour care in a safe supportive environment. 28-beds.	5 to 17	Yes	
LifeStream Behavioral Center	Lake County	Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)- six beds for children and adolescents. Each CSU provides short-term inpatient treatment to individuals with a serious, acute psychiatric illness. Examples include suicidal thoughts/feelings, violent behavior, persons who are court ordered for evaluation or other severe psychiatric disturbances that cannot be addressed on an outpatient basis.	All youth	Yes	
Tampa Community Hospital-The Oasis	Hillsborough County	The Oasis at Tampa Community Hospital is Hillsborough County's only hospital based detox unit in Tampa.	All youth		Yes
The Centers	Marion County	Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit serves children in distress who may be in danger of harming themselves or others due to a mental health emergency. 12 beds are available and short-term inpatient treatment.	All youth	Yes	
Windmoor Health Care Psychiatric Hospital	Pinellas County	Full range of psychiatric and chemical dependency services, offering intensive treatment and dual diagnosis issues. Responding to a critical need statewide, Windmoor Healthcare of Clearwater has developed an affordable 28-day inpatient program for those with alcohol drug abuse, and compulsive gambling additions.	All	Yes	Yes

## SHELTERS

Emergency and homeless shelters are places for people to go when they cannot stay in their home, lost their home/do not have a home. The difference between the two are that typically an emergency shelter is for someone fleeing a violent situation and a homeless shelter offers housing at night for those who need a safe place to sleep.

**TABLE 40. HERNANDO EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

Name	Purpose	Serves	Additional Services
The Dawn Center	Dawn Center of Hernando County is a certified domestic and sexual violence center providing no cost supportive services for victims/ survivors to heal and plan their futures. 24-hour crisis line. Provides group and individual counseling.	All victims	Group and individual counseling; Legal advocacy and court accompaniment; Prevention Education and Community Awareness
Jericho Road Ministries	Emergency Shelter is available on a first come first serve basis. Nights are limited only by availability. Transients must be free from alcohol and drugs. We do not hold or reserve beds for transient or program clients. It is strongly recommended that you call the shelter to check availability before arriving at facilities.	Men, Women, and Families	Transients will be provided a shower, basic toiletries, meal, change of clothes for their stay, a bed for the evening and participate in chapel services.
New Beginnings Youth Shelter	Runaway/youth crisis program for troubled or at-risk youth (Hernando, Citrus, Sumter). Youth and Family Alternatives	Youth ages 10 to 17	Daily meals and safe lodging; clothing/ personal hygiene items; individual and family counseling; information and referrals

## IDENTIFIED SERVICE UTILIZATION

In the previous section, we worked to identify services and supports available for youth in Hernando County and where applicable, surrounding areas. This section works to provide a synopsis of the rates of youth and families who receive prevention education related to symptoms of mental illness and alcohol and other drugs, the rates at which community resources are being utilized that are in place to support youth and families in the community either through pro-social opportunities or specialized services for those in need, youth being treated for mental health or substance use disorders by community providers, and rates of youth receiving crisis services.

Section limitations: Identifying all of the persons served for all of the services listed in the previous section was not possible due to the timeframe of the project. Additionally, not all agencies who provide services collect information in an outcome-based manner or by person served. However, the section does provide important indicators such as the amount of youth are receiving Baker Act Initiations, the rates of youth receiving services through publicly funding treatment services, numbers of youth who receive evidence-based prevention and interventions each year, rates of youth who needed to utilize the emergency shelter, and so on.

## PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICE UTILIZATION

**TABLE 41. OVERVIEW OF IDENTIFIED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICE UTILIZATION BY PROVIDERS**

Period	Program Name or Type	Provider(s)/Data Source	Number of Activities, Classes, etc.	Served	Mental Illness Addressed	Substance Use Addressed
2016/17	Mental Health First Aid Training	BayCare Behavioral Health, Hernando Community Coalition, NAMI Hernando	6 trainings	79 participants	Yes	Yes
2016/17	Too Good for Drugs	BayCare Behavioral Health, Hernando County Schools.	68 classes	1,033 youth 109 adults	Yes	Yes
2016/17	Know the Law Educational Class	School Resource Officers-Hernando Sheriff's Office, Hernando County Schools, Hernando Community Coalition	6 schools	1,853 youth		Yes
2016/17	AlcoholEDU-Educational Class	Hernando Community Coalition and Hernando County Schools.	5 high Schools (9 <sup>th</sup> graders)	711 Students		Yes
2015/16	Student Assistance Prevention Program	Hernando County Schools, Exceptional Student Support Services	64 student classes; 16 parent classes	308 students 164 parents		Yes

In addition to the direct-service prevention utilization, many agencies participate in local health promotion and social norming activities for prevention purposes, though reach is not as easy to gauge. For instance, the partners of the Hernando Community Coalition in the 2016/17 Fiscal Year provided the following reach with messaging/efforts, however duplications of persons reached are typically unknown:

- Over 150,000 impressions on Facebook with alcohol and other drug prevention messaging
- Participated in over 30 community events and presentations with 9,847 youth and 7,087 adults
- 5,093 Deterra Drug Deactivation Systems were distributed (in-home safe disposal kits for Rx drugs)

- Social norming at health and school fairs promoting “most youth don't need alcohol and other drugs to have a good time messaging” reaching 1,445 youth
- Social norming efforts promoting most parents are not ok with their teen drinking, even at other houses, resulting in over 311,782 media impressions, and 1,385 parents reached out events
- Anti-bullying messaging resulting in over 175 school buses with 5 images per bus, 600 youth reached at Fox Chapel and West Hernando Middle Schools

**TABLE 42. OVERVIEW OF IDENTIFIED COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM UTILIZATION IN HERNANDO COUNTY**

Period	Name or Type	Provider(s)/Data Source	Number of Activities, Classes, etc.	Served
2016/17	Alcohol and Drug Free Events	Hernando Community Coalition, YMCA of the Suncoast- Friday Night Done Right- No. Alcohol. No Dope. Youth Campaign events	14 events	890 youth attendees
2016/17	Students Working Against Tobacco Youth Clubs	Hernando Community Coalition, Tobacco Free Partnership, Hernando County Schools	9 schools; 90 club meetings/events	Over 160 youth members
2016	Mentor Program	Big Brother Big Sisters of Hernando County data from Tampa Annual Report	Youth ages 5 to 13	22 youth served
2017	Before/After School Program, as well as Summer Camp	Boys and Girls Club of Hernando County annual projections	12 Club facilities throughout Hernando County	Approx. 1,300 young people per year

## OUTPATIENT / THERAPY / COUNSELING SERVICE UTILIZATION

### IDENTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES UTILIZED

**TABLE 43. YOUTH SERVED AT BAYCARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN HERNANDO COUNTY FOR MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES, 6-MONTH PERIOD, JULY- DECEMBER 2017**

Important Note: Youth identified in either the mental health or substance use data set may have co-occurring mental health and substance use needs, however determined one category to be their primary concern. Additionally, the agency switched to new a Medical Health Record system thereby data before July 1, 2017 is no longer comparable.

Distinct Youth Seen	July- December 2017
Primary Concern Mental Health	1,058
Primary Concern Substance Use	30

Source: BayCare Behavioral Health

**TABLE 44. YOUTH WHO RECEIVED A PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION AT BAYCARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BY PRIMARY CONCERN, 6-MONTH PERIOD, JANUARY – JUNE 2017**

Youth Seen	January- June 2017
Primary Concern Mental Health	1,452
Primary Concern Substance Use	31

Source: BayCare Behavioral Health

**TABLE 45. HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH SERVED BY BAYCARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BY PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE AT INTAKE INTO TREATMENT, 2016**

Primary Reported Drug Choice	Youth
Alcohol	22
Benzodiazepine	2
Cough suppressant	1
Crack	3
Heroin	4
Marijuana/Hashish	43
Methamphetamine	25
Opiates and Synthetics	16
Other Hallucinogens	1
Other Stimulants	1
Other choices not selected: Cocaine; LSD; Other Sedatives or Hypnotics; Methadone	0

Source: BayCare Behavioral Health

- In 2016, of the 118 youth who received substance use services at BayCare, marijuana was the most common primary drug choice identified at intake, followed by methamphetamine.

**TABLE 46. HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH RECEIVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BY SERVICE TYPE THROUGH LSF HEALTH SYSTEMS, 2015/16 FISCAL YEAR**

SERVICE	Available in Hernando County?	Number Served	Placed on a Waitlist
<b>TOTAL Children Served: 1,183</b>			
Children Crisis Stabilization	no	12	0
Children Mobile Crisis Support	yes	28	0
Children Residential Treatment Levels I-IV	yes	1	0
Children Case Management	yes	28	0
Children Outpatient	yes	563	0
Children Recovery Support Provided by Certified Peer Recovery Specialists	yes	1	0
Children Medical Services	yes	550	15

Source: LSF Health Systems Clients Data report

**TABLE 47. NUMBER OF PRIMARY TREATMENT ADMISSIONS AMONG NORTHEAST FLORIDA JUVENILES, YOUNG ADULTS, AND ADULTS, JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016**

	Age 17 and Under	Young Adults 18-25	Ages 26-34	Ages 35 plus	Total
Alcohol	38	341	1,179	3,415	4,973
Marijuana	1,097	530	510	379	2,516
Rx Opioid	11	640	1,751	950	3,352
Heroin	4	187	499	289	979
Cocaine	8	147	293	500	949
Methamphetamine	13	77	205	131	426

\*Northeast Region includes 23 counties- served through DCF and LSF Health System providers

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, James N. Hall, Epidemiologist, The Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities, Nova Southeastern University

**TABLE 48. COUNSELING PROVIDED BY YOUTH AND FAMILY ALTERNATIVES TO HERNANDO COUNTY YOUTH, 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR**

	Admissions	Exits	Served	Average Length of Stay (in days)
All youth	68	90	113	132.3
<i>Demographic Characteristics of Youth Admitted in 2016/17 Fiscal Year (n=68)</i>				
	Ages 0-7	Ages 8-11	Ages 12-14	Ages 15-17
Age Group	11	17	26	44
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Gender	34	34	0	
	Black	White	Other Unknown	% Hispanic
Race/Ethnicity	4	62	2	13%

Source: Youth and Family Alternatives, Florida Network of Youth & Families Services

Note: Counseling services are provided to youth who enter the New Beginning Youth Shelter by need

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES UTILIZED**

**TABLE 49. THE DAWN CENTER SERVICE UTILIZATION, 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR**

Program Type	2016/17 Numbers Reached	
Outreach Support Group	267 attendees	
New Sexual Violence Program	89 participants	32 forensic exams
Legal Advocacy Program	302 advocacy sessions	164 injunction assistance/court accompaniment for survivors
Child Welfare Program	90 direct referrals involving 156 children	316 consultations & technical assistance support sessions with child welfare professionals

Source: The Dawn Center Annual Report

**IDENTIFIED SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES UTILIZED**

**TABLE 50. HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENTS PRE-K-12TH EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT DATA WITH AN EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL DISABILITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2016-17**

	White	Black or African American	Hispanic /Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	Total
Emotional/Behavioral Disability	84	25	21	-	1	-	7	138

Source: Florida Department of Education

- In the 2016/17 school year there were 138 students with a determined emotional/behavioral disability with Exceptional Student status.

The following table presents data from the Hernando School District of youth who were given an assessment after personnel learned of threats of homicide or suicide. Interventions are then provided to youth based off of results to reduce incidents of violence and crisis, prior to Baker Act or criminal acts.

**TABLE 51. DATA FROM SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS GIVEN TO YOUTH WHO WERE REFERRED FOR HOMICIDAL OR SUICIDAL CONCERN, OR SELF-MUTILATION**

8- Month Period	For Death Threats of Others	For Death Threats of Self	For Self-Mutilation	Youth Baker Acts from Schools
Aug-16	11	19	1	1
Sep-16	26	32	7	7
Oct-16	9	33	6	6
Nov-16	16	30	6	6
Dec-16	6	18	1	1
Jan-17	19	28	3	3
Feb-17	14	32	7	7
Mar-17	2	8	1	1
Total in 8-month period	110	207	34	32

Source: Hernando County Schools

## IDENTIFIED CRISIS SERVICES/ HOSPITALIZATIONS

### BAKER ACT AND INVOLUNTARY HOSPITALIZATIONS

Springbrook Hospital is the only local Baker Act Receiving Facility in the County; however, the hospital is not licensed to provide services to youth, therefore within 6 hours, youth are transferred out of the County to surrounding areas where a bed is available. Springbrook Hospital did not report data (though have begun now) to the Baker Act Report Center for inclusion into the Annual Reports, however reported the following:

Baker Act Initiations by Calendar Year reported by Springbrook Hospital:

- 2013: 1,564 involuntary examinations provided
- 2014: 1,438 involuntary examinations provided
- 2015: 1,465 involuntary examinations provided

Additionally, roughly 19 to 29% of the involuntary examinations each year were for children.

**TABLE 52. INVOLUNTARILY EXAMINATIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF HERNANDO COUNTY REPORTED BY OUT OF COUNTY PROVIDERS, ALL AGES, 2015/16 FISCAL YEAR**

Facility	Type	City	County	Total Involuntary Examinations	% of Total
Medical Center of Trinity- West Pasco	Private	New Port Richey	Pasco	196	20.1%
North Tampa Behavioral Health	Private	Wesley Chapel	Pasco	140	14.4%
University Behavioral	Private	Orlando	Orange	120	12.3%
Central Florida Behavioral Hospital	Private	Orlando	Orange	102	10.5%
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center	Public	Lutz	Pasco	63	6.5%
Baycare Behavioral Health	Public	New Port Richey	Pasco	60	6.2%
The Vines Hospital	Private	Ocala	Marion	41	4.2%
The Centers	Public	Ocala	Marion	28	2.9%
Combined for 25 or Less	NA	NA	NA	224	23.0%
			TOTAL	974	100%

Source: The Baker Act Data, The Florida Mental Health Act, Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Annual Report

**TABLE 53. INVOLUNTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18, FY 2010/11- 2015/16**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Hernando	290	227	301	348	395	331
Citrus	192	231	203	270	270	313
Lake	332	396	440	449	479	638
Marion	674	613	772	768	844	835
Total Statewide	21,752	24,836	26,808	30,348	32,626	32,475

Notes: Sumter not included in report due to small size.. Springbrook Hospital information not included, though youth may be captured by second location. Source: The Baker Act Data, The Florida Mental Health Act, Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Annual Report, Prepared for the Florida Department of Children and Families, Baker Act Reporting Center, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy.

### HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

The data prepared in the following table was done so by WellFlorida Council in 2017 as part of the CJMHSR Reinvestment planning grant serving the adult population in Hernando County, led by LSF Health Systems.

*Hospitalization types in their analysis included:*

-Procedure with principal diagnosis of mental illness	-Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence, left against medical advice
-Acute adjustment reactions and psychosocial dysfunction	-Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence with rehabilitation therapy
-Depressive neuroses	-Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence w/o rehabilitation therapy with
-Neuroses except depressive	-Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence w/o rehabilitation therapy w/o MCC
-Disorders of personality and impulse control	
-Psychosis	
-Behavioral & Developmental Disorders	
-Other mental disorders diagnoses	

**TABLE 54. NUMBER AND RATE OF HOSPITALIZATIONS PER 1,000 YOUTH AGES 0-17 FOR MENTAL HEALTH REASONS FOR DISTRICT 5 COUNTIES AND FLORIDA**

Year	Hernando County		Citrus County		Lake County	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2010	34	1	25	1.1	77	1.3
2011	81	2.4	34	1.5	80	1.3
2012	274	8.1	52	2.4	90	1.5
2013	340	10.1	40	1.8	99	1.6
2014	287	8.5	67	3.1	109	1.7
2015	350	10.5	76	3.6	107	1.7
Year	Marion County		Sumter County		Florida	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2010	92	1.4	5	0.6	14,913	3.7
2011	77	1.2	6	0.7	17,024	4.3
2012	44	0.7	3	0.3	18,480	4.6
2013	67	1	4	0.4	20,209	5
2014	61	0.9	16	1.6	21,578	5.3
2015	97	1.5	7	0.7	21,980	5.3

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration Detailed Discharge Data, 2010-2015; Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics & Assessment, reports generated by WellFlorida; using Population Estimates System; <http://www.Floridacharts.com>; (February 2, 2017). Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2017.

- In 2015, the rate of hospitalizations for youth ages 0 to 17 was nearly double the statewide rate.



IDENTIFIED CRISIS SHELTER UTILIZATION

TABLE 55. YOUTH STAYS AT HERNANDO’S EMERGENCY SHELTER, NEW BEGINNINGS YOUTH SHELTER, YOUTH AND FAMILY ALTERNATIVES, 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR

	Admissions	Exits	Served	Average Length of Stay (in days)
All youth	176	176	182	15.43
<i>Demographic Characteristics of Youth Served (n=176)</i>				
	Ages 11-12	Ages 13-14	Ages 15-16	Age 17
Age Group	29	55	68	24
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Gender	97	79	0	
	Black	White	Other Unknown	% Hispanic
Race/Ethnicity	26	131	19	13%

Source: Youth and Family Alternatives, Florida Network of Youth & Families Services

THE DAWN CENTER CRISIS SERVICE UTILIZATION, 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR

Program Type	2016/17 Numbers Reached	
Shelter Program Support Services	Bed Nights 13,895	41,685 Meals Served
Shelter Program Persons Served	295 Adults Served	201 Children Served
Shelter Program Support Group	579 Group Attendees	
24/7 Helpline	1,015 Domestic Violence Calls	108 Sexual Violence Calls

Source: The Dawn Center Annual Report

## GAPS IN SERVICE – COMMUNITY INPUT

When identifying the services and supports available for youth in Hernando County that address mental, emotional, and behavioral needs and rates of services being provided, one of the major tasks of the assessment process was to identify gaps or barriers to services that may be contributing to youth involvement in the juvenile justice system and if addressed, may help reduce rates of criminal behaviors.

Throughout December 2017, data was collected through a series of Key Informant Interviews and Focus Groups with local professionals from different sectors of the community who interact with Hernando’s youth, caregivers of youth involved with the juvenile justice system, and youth involved in the juvenile justice system, as well youth who attend Hernando County high schools.

### PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS- IDENTIFIED GAPS IN SERVICE

#### PARENTS AND CAREGIVER SURVEY RESPONSES

The CJMHSYA Youth Needs Assessment Committee conducted a survey to determine first hand experiences for caregivers of youth with identified substance abuse or mental health needs and their experiences in navigating systems and receiving care. Respondents had to meet certain criteria to participate in the survey, as well as the sets of questions they were asked based off their responses.

**TABLE 56. HERNANDO PARENT AND CAREGIVERS WHO REPORT RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION BY SOURCE TYPE**

Please select the sources your household has received educational information from regarding mental illness and substance use, (Check all that apply):					
	Mental Health		Substance Use		Total
Healthcare professionals	93.1%	54	27.6%	16	58
Schools	63.6%	21	60.6%	20	33
Community organizations	71.4%	20	53.6%	15	28
Government Agencies	70.0%	14	70.0%	14	20
Law Enforcement	66.7%	12	66.7%	12	18
Courts	58.3%	7	83.3%	10	12
Treatment providers	97.9%	46	38.3%	18	47
Online	94.9%	37	56.4%	22	39
None	60.0%	15	96.0%	24	25
			Total Persons Responding		93

Source: Hernando CJMHSYA Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017, Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/Guardians

- Of the 93 Hernando parents or caregivers with youth under their care who have a mental illness or and/or substance use disorder, the most common source reported for receiving educational information was regarding mental health was from treatment providers. Of the reported sources for substance use information, the most commonly reported source was through the courts.

**TABLE 57. HERNANDO PARENT/CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH UNDER THE CARE, 2017**

<b>Question: Please select what applies to your experiences in Hernando County</b>							
	Yes/Agree		No/Disagree		Don't Know		(n=)
There are enough mental health care service providers to serve youth in need.	12.3%	9	78.1%	57	9.6%	7	73
Wait times are reasonable for scheduling appointments with mental health providers.	15.1%	11	74.0%	54	11.0%	8	73
A youth under my care has seen a counselor at their school for mental health issues.	47.9%	35	49.3%	36	2.7%	2	73
A youth under my care has received skills in alternative practices to manage mental health issues such as mindfulness, meditation, yoga, etc.	45.2%	33	47.9%	35	6.9%	5	73

Note: Only persons who had a youth under their care with mental health needs qualified to answer.

Source: Hernando CJMHS Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017, Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/Guardians

- Only 12.3% of parents or caregivers in Hernando County that have a youth with mental health needs believe there are enough service providers in the area to serve youth in need and only 15.1% agree that wait times are reasonable.

**TABLE 58. HERNANDO PARENT/CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES GETTING SERVICES FOR A YOUTH UNDER THEIR CARE, 2017**

<b>The youth under my care is always able to get the mental health services they need, when they need them.</b>			
Answer Choices		Responses (n=73)	
	Yes	38.4%	28
	No	53.4%	39
	Have not tried to get treatment	8.2%	6
<b>If no or haven't tried to get treatment, please explain why not. Check all that Apply.</b>		<b>N=45 respondents</b>	
	No services available	48.9%	22
	No appointments available	55.6%	25
	Cost	17.8%	8
	Transportation/can't get there	8.9%	4
	Child care needed for other children	8.9%	4
	Have to work, job demands	26.7%	12
	Turned away or denied service	22.2%	10
	Other	33.0%	15

Note: Only persons who had a youth under their care with mental health needs qualified to answer.

Source: Hernando CJMHS Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017, Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/Guardians

- Of the 73 survey respondents, only 38.4% reported they are always able to get the mental health services needed for the youth under the care.
- The most common hindrances identified among the remaining 45 individuals were “no appointments available”, followed by “no services available”. Additionally, 15 of the 45 respondents selected “Other”, with their feedback provided including:

- No help in the school system.
- Child not ready. (2 respondents)
- Limited providers will see children for mental health in Hernando County.
- Long wait times to schedule appt. The facilities available in the area are not suitable for children. The type of people that frequent that facility do not behave in ways appropriate for children to be around.
- Only appointments are during school hours and in other counties.
- Appointments took too long to get; only medication management available; no residential placement except runaway shelter available; ex-parte order was only other option unless arrested; treatment not intense enough.
- Have been providing support at home.
- Lack of experience with trauma/foster care/mental illness by providers.
- Insurance has no providers willing to see child for said issue.
- Many mental health providers do not accept insurance. Additionally, my child has OCD and it is difficult to find mental health providers who specialize in OCD. Many state they treat the illness but are not true experts in the field. The first specialist we saw was \$250 a session. It's also hard to find mental health counselors who specialize in ERP which is beneficial for people with OCD.
- No help at school. Doctors only help is medication. They seem underqualified to give other options for help with treatment. Only one mental health provider in the area covered for low income aka Medicaid.
- Appointments take my child out of school too much.
- More education and support needs to be done from outside sources in the school. Someone needs to accompany parent to IEP meetings.

**TABLE 59. HERNANDO PARENT/CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES GETTING NEEDED MEDICATIONS FOR THE YOUTH UNDER THEIR CARE'S MENTAL ILLNESS**

<b>I am always able to get the medications needed for the youth under my care's mental illness.</b>		
<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses (n=73)</b>	
Yes	61.6%	45
No	19.2%	14
Not Applicable	19.2%	14
<b>Those who answered no were asked to explain why not, check all that apply.</b>		<b>N= 14 respondents</b>
<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses (n=14)</b>	
Don't have or can't get prescription from a doctor	28.6%	4
Cost	21.4%	3
Transportation/can't get to pharmacy	7.1%	1
Other (reasons not provided)	64.3%	9

Note: Only persons who had a youth under their care with mental health needs qualified to answer.

Source: Hernando CJMHSA Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017, Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/Guardians

**TABLE 60. HERNANDO PARENT/CAREGIVER RESOURCES NEEDED TO BETTER MANAGE YOUTHS MENTAL ILLNESS**

Please select any resources needed to manage the youth under your care’s mental illness that you currently do not have. Check all that apply.		
Answer Choices	Respondents (n=70)	
Doctor or health care provider	25.7%	18
Medication	14.3%	10
Health insurance	12.9%	9
Information about mental illness that I can understand	20.0%	14
Legal aid or lawyer	11.4%	8
Housing and/or food	10.0%	7
Transportation	14.3%	10
Support from family, friends, community	31.4%	22
Not Applicable, I have all of the resources needed	32.9%	23
Other (please specify)	18.6%	13

Note: Only persons who had a youth under their care with mental health needs qualified to answer.

Source: Hernando CJMHS Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017, Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/Guardians

- Of the 70 parents/caregivers who responded, nearly 1/3 reported they have all of the resources they need to manage the youth in their cares mental illness. Among those who responded they did not, the most common gaps identified were 1) need support from family, friends, community; 2) need a doctor or health care provider; and 3) information about mental illness that I can understand.
- Additionally, 13 respondents provided comments. Items that were mentioned more than once are noted:
  - Time to go to all appointments;
  - School therapy/help from school; (3)
  - I have all the resources; however, my ex will not allow our daughter to see a counselor. Due to us sharing 50/50 custody I need his permission to have her seen;
  - Providers that will take insurance; (2)
  - Respite care; (2)
  - Lack of knowledge of others, negative social stigma; (2)
  - Doctors available who care to do more work with how to help them other than just putting them on medication. There's more to it than that;
  - About to lose insurance as it’s going up from \$20 to \$230;
  - Outside sources needed to accompany parents and help educate schools at IEP and individual cases.

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## DJJ INVOLVED FOCUS GROUPS

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**TABLE 61. PARENTS/CAREGIVER OF YOUTH OR YOUTH WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE NEEDS EXPERIENCES WITH SERVICES PRIOR TO DJJ INVOLVEMENT**

<b>Community Input: Responses from Focus Group of Parents/Caregivers with Youth Under Their Care that Have Department of Juvenile Justice Involvement, December 2017</b>
<b>TOPIC:</b> Experiences with services for child’s mental health and/or substance issues prior to juvenile justice system involvement.
<b>Important Note:</b> Prior to the child receiving a Baker Act Initiation, only one youth had received services for anger management. The majority of comments below are in regard to a Baker Act. None of the youth received substance abuse treatment prior to entering the juvenile justice system.
<b>Parent/Guardian:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prior to Baker Act: One child received counseling for anger issues. “Had him on some medication, but didn't make him feel good, went off of it.”</li></ul>
<b>Comments Regarding the Baker Act Process:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All of the caregivers had a youth under their care who had been given a Baker Act Initiation.</li><li>• Baker Act- kept them there for a week- gave them some medication- but not a diagnosis.”</li><li>• Baker Act- gave him Prozac, but he stopped takin it. Didn't like it. In hospital for 2 days.</li><li>• Nobody explains the process.</li><li>• One caregiver mentioned the child was Baker Acted prior to arrest and after that, had no issues getting services for counseling at BayCare.</li><li>• One caregiver commented no one in the family was aware of issues until Baker Act.</li></ul>
<b>Youth Responses – Only Spoke to Baker Act Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baker Acted twice- terrible experience – handcuffed- put into little room until you join everyone else. Then go to sleep, wake up eat breakfast, go back to sleep, watch TV. There for a week both times.</li><li>• Baker Acted- A lot of crazy people there (in Orlando). All you do is wake up at 7, go back to room for a couple hours. Then go to a class for a couple hours where they ask you your coping skills. Then go to lunch. A lot of people there that creep you out. People talk about how they want to kill themselves- I didn't want to do any of that.</li><li>• Baker Acted- went to Gainesville- Made me wake up at 6- took blood pressure, then back to bed until eight. Ate breakfast in one big room- where we were the whole time.</li><li>• Baker Acted for only one night. They thought I was crazy, but not crazy. Went to Central- then Springbok- then went to Lutz-Baycare. Talked to psychiatrist in the morning and realized I wasn't crazy and then my dad came and picked me up.</li><li>• Kid wouldn't stop talking to me. Felt bad and didn't want to be mean, knew the kid had problems, just wanted me to a puzzle with him, but was so annoying. Making me crazy. I did three puzzles with him before that. Can’t have phone, shoes.</li><li>• Can’t have strings on your clothes. Can’t have phone anywhere.</li><li>• Tied me down to a bed because a girl said she tried hit her and I didn't.</li></ul>

Source: Focus Groups, Hernando CJMHS Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017

**TABLE 62. EXPERIENCES WITH SERVICES SINCE DJJ INVOLVEMENT BY PARENTS/CAREGIVER OF YOUTH, OR YOUTH WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE NEEDS, 2017**

<p><b>Community Input: Responses from Focus Group of Parents/Caregivers with Youth Under Their Care That Have Department of Juvenile Justice Involvement, December 2017</b></p>
<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Experiences/Challenges faced for mental health and/or substance abuse issues since juvenile justice system involvement.</p>
<p><b>Parent/Guardian Responses</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One challenge identified is that the caregivers would like a diagnosis. Knowing what the issue is would help parents.</li> <li>• Waiting for services- JDAC. One parent reported waiting over a month, but everything else is good.</li> <li>• Would like to sit down as a family and get counseling, understand what the issues are. They send papers home, but that's it. Parents/caregivers don't know what is going in the counseling session.</li> <li>• One parent reported the youth started going to BayCare for follow-up and did substance abuse treatment for marijuana there. No issues there- the child was going.</li> <li>• One parent reported child was going to BayCare once a week for group and an individual once a month. Behavior is definitively improving. Parent reported they are setting policies at home, but it's hard because I'm not home from work until 6pm. But counseling is helping. Reported "Want her to be better than me".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Youth Perspective- Since DJJ Involvement:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I take anger management and used to have a therapist. Took pills but stopped taking them. Didn't like the way they made me feel. But now take a pill for bi-polar and they really help a lot. Been on probation on and off for three years. Don't feel like I am getting anything from the classes. Got arrested again and had to start classes all over again. Want to pay off whole probation so I can get off."</li> <li>• "My dad took me to Psychiatrist at BayCare. Haven't been in there in a while. I was on the run for a while and before that they gave me Prozac pills, but I barely took them, didn't see the need. Went to church a little- brought God in my life."</li> <li>• "Got kicked out of school for substance use. Went to the 16-week program. Used my friends pee. Then had an individual session and didn't think I would have a test, but did, and failed and had to start the whole 16-weeks over when all I had left was 2 weeks, so I just stopped going."             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Another youth asked if they were required to go through probation and response was "I don't know, but then did get 3-days Out of School Suspension for not going".</li> </ul> </li> <li>• "In drug classes right now, they don't really teach you anything. Talk about stuff not related to drugs- like how you feel, not how drugs make you feel. They don't really help me. Make me want to do more drugs. Re-started class three times already because you restart for a new arrest. Talk about stupid stuff- your feelings- and everyone talks at the same time and you can't concentrate- all different ages. Don't want to talk about certain stuff with 12-year-old kids. I smoked pot, but quit after arrested."</li> <li>• "Have Anger Management at Baycare and Nature Coast. And I have a counselor. Just started going as a result of getting arrested. My dad thinks they will be helpful, he took them too."</li> <li>• "Had to take substance abuse program from requirement of probation. Got drug tested there. Then the school wanted to drug test too but my mom said no, she already gets drug tested."</li> </ul>

Source: Focus Groups, Hernando CJMHS Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017

## HERNANDO STAKEHOLDERS- COMMUNITY INPUT

The following feedback was provided through 16 Key Informant Interviews conducted as part of the project to hear firsthand accounts from community professionals as needs they see among Hernando County youth regarding youth mental health and substance use issues. Interviewees included representatives from the following stakeholders: The Department of Juvenile Justice; Healthcare Professionals; Law Enforcement Officers- including Community Policing and School Resource Officers; The State Attorney’s Office; School Staff including Educators and Guidance Counselors; Behavioral Health Treatment Providers; and Youth-Serving Organizations.

When discussing the needs of Hernando youth, two factors that were universally addressed by interviewees in some fashion, were the lack of a Baker Act Receiving Facility for youth and a lack of a Juvenile Detention Center in Hernando County. Youth who require either are transported to surrounding areas where beds for their placement can be located. It should also be noted that although all thought the lack of Baker Act facility for youth was a hindrance, not all viewed the lack of Juvenile Detention Center as one. A few participants believed this may be better for youth, as they do not then return to live with those they meet in detention.

**Community Input Table Description:** Common themes emerged regarding what mental health and substance use needs are present in Hernando County. Responses have been grouped below by order of most common topic area identified, followed by details provided on the topic, again, in order of most reported.

**TABLE 63. COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER REPORTS OF YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE NEEDS IN HERNANDO COUNTY, 2017**

Community Input: Key Informant Interviews, December 2017
<b>Question Asked:</b> From your perspective, what mental health/substance use needs do youth in the Hernando County community have?
<b>Topic: Lack of services available to treat behavioral health issues</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more certified psychiatrists. There is only public provider who has a 3 to 4-month waitlist.</li> <li>• Lack of outpatient service providers at no or low cost- only one main provider in the County. (Note: Many persons noted that they believed public provider was doing what they can with funding available to them/good job, just not enough services for needs of community)</li> <li>• Need inpatient, residential treatment options for behavioral health issues for youth in Hernando County</li> <li>• See many youths with untreated trauma, depression, anxiety, self-harm, impulsivity</li> <li>• Little sanctions placed on youth (and families) as they go through multiple arrests due to lack of services to provide</li> <li>• Schools have little resources to address mental health and substance use- not enough guidance counselors per school, designated therapists, only 2 substance abuse specialists for district</li> <li>• Lack of follow-up services for youth that have been Baker Acted</li> <li>• Access to primary care, which leads to referrals to behavioral health providers</li> </ul>
<b>Topic: “Issues within the family unit”</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was the second topic most identified, detailed results are included in the Family Risk Factors section.</li> </ul>



**Topic: Financial barriers**

- Families without insurance
- Families have insurance, but still cannot afford co-pays
- Lack of affordable/free, quality services
- Lack of funding for services in the schools, communities, etc. leading to stressed, overworked workforce

**Topic: Lack of education and Community awareness**

- Need education for youth and families on what mental illness is, how to identify
- Need more education for community (both families and professionals) on alternatives to medication treatment
- Need education for parents on why medications prescribed are important
- Need more education for youth on risk vs. benefit of drug use for someone their age
- Need coping skills
- Need education for parents of what is expected of youth in high schools, very different from middle school  
(Note: Numerous agencies mentioned that were providing education/awareness, but need increased resources to reach/impact all)

**Topic: Cross-system collaboration and communication barriers**

- Issues related to privacy
- Issues related to flow of services- need more collaboration
- Need more explanation to youth on what is happening to them when Baker Acted
- Need more “cross-system/provider/ family support”

**Topic: Lack of additional community supports**

- Need more affordable prosocial activities for youth
- Need more mentoring
- Need more volunteering opportunities for youth
- More prevention/early intervention for youth involved with the system

Source: Key Informant Interviews, Hernando CJMHS Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017

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## RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

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FACTORS IN HERNANDO COUNTY THAT CONTRIBUTE TO, OR REDUCE THE RISK OF,  
YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

## SECTION OVERVIEW

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According to the Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health CJMHSR Reinvestment Grant Request for Proposals, youth who are “at-risk” of involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice systems have factors associated with possible delinquent behaviors that can lead to involvement in the juvenile justice system, including individual factors, family factors, peer group factors, school-related factors, or community environmental factors.

In simple terms, a “risk factor” is anything that increases the chances that a person will suffer harm. Opposite of risk factors, are supports in a community that decrease the potential harmful effects of a risk factor, known as “protective factors”. There is not a perfect diagram of how if certain protective factors are present in a community, there will be no risk factors, but it is clear that in areas where many risk factors cluster together, often among the most disadvantaged children, the more risk factors identified for a youth the more chances of involvement in the criminal justice system. Research also suggest that it is unlikely that a single risk factor will lead to delinquency.

To help determine the factors that are leading to involvement in the juvenile justice system among Hernando County youth, this section reviews data sets related to identified risk and protective factors of mental illness and substance use among youth, as well as the factors identified for juvenile delinquency. To do that, research from the following sources related to risk and protective factors has been utilized to assess Hernando County:

- Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Risk and Protective Factors for Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Across the Life Cycle
- Development Services Group, Inc. 2015. “Protective Factors for Delinquency and “Risk Factors for Delinquency”.” Literature review. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey
- The Communities That Care® Prevention Strategies Guide
- Youth.gov
- World Health Organization, Risks to Mental Health
- Center for Disease Control, Youth Violence Prevention

Among risk and protective factors, models group the five areas or “domains” together differently, but all address individual, family, peer, school-related, and community environmental factors. Assessing the risk and protective factors that are contributing to mental, emotional, and behavioral issues among communities can help identify best fit prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies to decrease the likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system.

## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Protective factors, also known as “assets,” are conditions that buffer children and youth from exposure to risk by either reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way that young people respond to risks. During the resource assessment, a series of resources or “protective factors” in place throughout Hernando County that correlated to mental health, substance use, and juvenile justice involvement prevention were identified and included within the community support section. This section examines youth reports of protective factors, including involvement with groups/activities, and family, school, and community opportunities and rewards. Data collection for this section comes from the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, which divides protective factors into Peer and Individual, Family, School, and Community Domains. Additionally, the only peer and individual protective factor is for religiosity- involvement and religion and religious organizations. As the target population for this project is youth “at-risk” for entering the juvenile justice system, increased data collection per the 5 domains in presented in the following risk factor session.

### PEER AND INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIVE FACTORS

FIGURE 15. OVERVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL AND PEER PROTECTIVE FACTORS

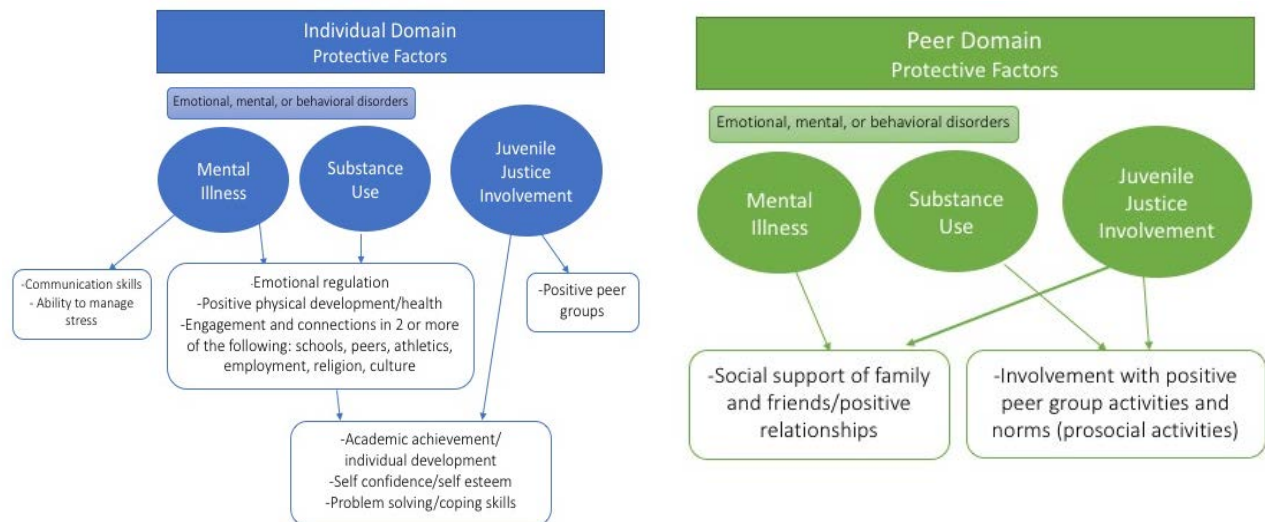


TABLE 64. PREVALENCE OF RELIGIOUSLY AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016

	2014 Hernando	2016 Hernando	2016 Florida
Middle School Students- Religiosity	36%	41%	49%
High School Students- Religiosity	48%	44%	57%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note: It is better to have higher scores on the protective factor scale

- Among Hernando middle school students, 41% of youth reported a high level of protection for religiosity in 2016, which increased from 2014 but remains below the statewide average.
- Among Hernando high school students, 44% of youth reported a high level of protection for religiosity in 2016, a decrease from 2014 and below the statewide average.

FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS

FIGURE 16. OVERVIEW OF FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS

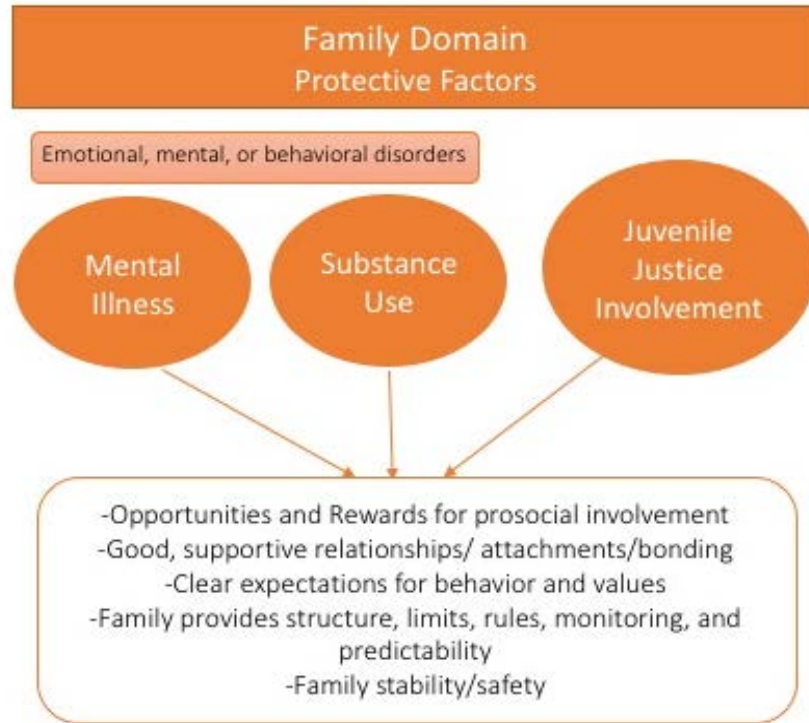


TABLE 65. PREVALENCE OF FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS REPORTED BY HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2014-2016, COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016

	2014 Hernando	2016 Hernando	2016 Florida
Middle School- Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	55%	68%	60%
Middle School- Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	50%	60%	56%
High School- Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	57%	54%	59%
High School- Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	50%	52%	56%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note: It is better to have higher scores on the protective factor scale.

- Among Hernando middle school students, the percent of youth that reported a high level of protection for family opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement increased from 2014 to 2016, now both above the statewide averages.
- Among Hernando high school students, the percent of youth that reported a high level of protection for family prosocial involvement decreased from 2014 to 2016, and was below the statewide average in 2016. Hernando high school students reported increased rates for high levels of protection for family rewards for prosocial involvement from 2014 to 2016, however was also below the statewide average in 2016.

## SCHOOL-RELATED PROTECTIVE FACTORS

FIGURE 17. OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL-RELATED PROTECTIVE FACTORS

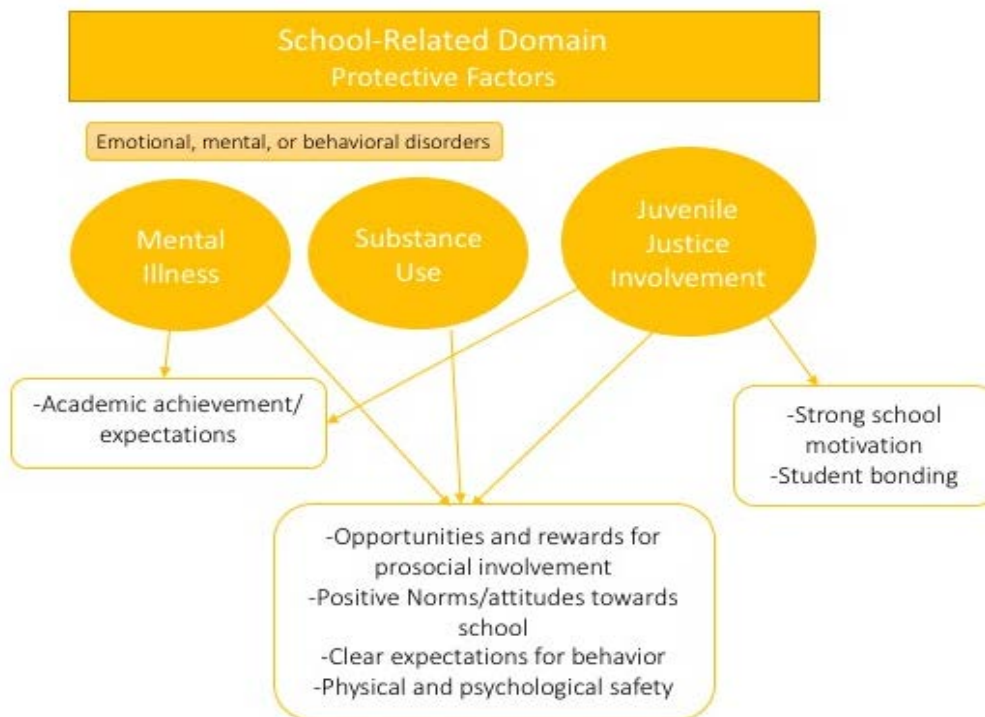


TABLE 66. PREVALENCE OF SCHOOL PROTECTIVE FACTORS REPORTED BY HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2014-2016, COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016

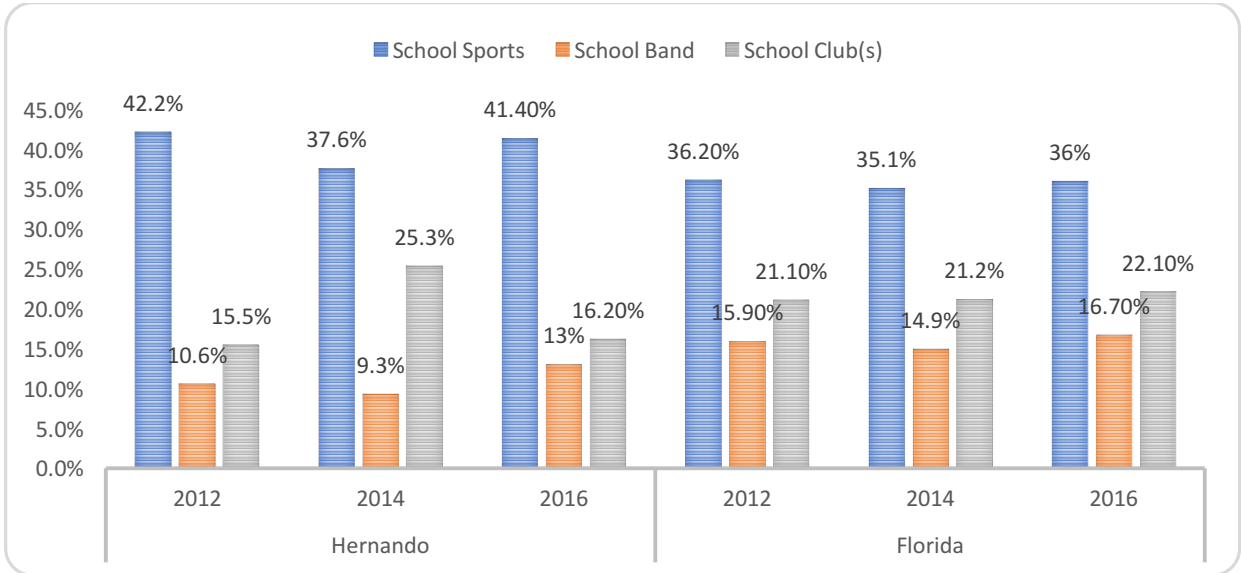
	2014 Hernando	2016 Hernando	2016 Florida
Middle School- School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56%	52%	53%
Middle School- School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	55%	53%	49%
High School- School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	50%	58%	63%
High School- School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	59%	56%	59%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note: It is better to have higher scores on the protective factor scale.

- Among Hernando middle school students, the percent of youth that reported a high level of protection for school opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement decreased from 2014 to 2016, with opportunities below the statewide averages.
- Among Hernando high school students, the percent of youth that reported a high level of protection for school opportunities for prosocial involvement increased from 2014 to 2016, but below the statewide average in 2016.
- Among Hernando high school students, the percent of youth that reported a high level of protection for school rewards for prosocial involvement decreased from 2014 to 2016, below the statewide average in 2016.

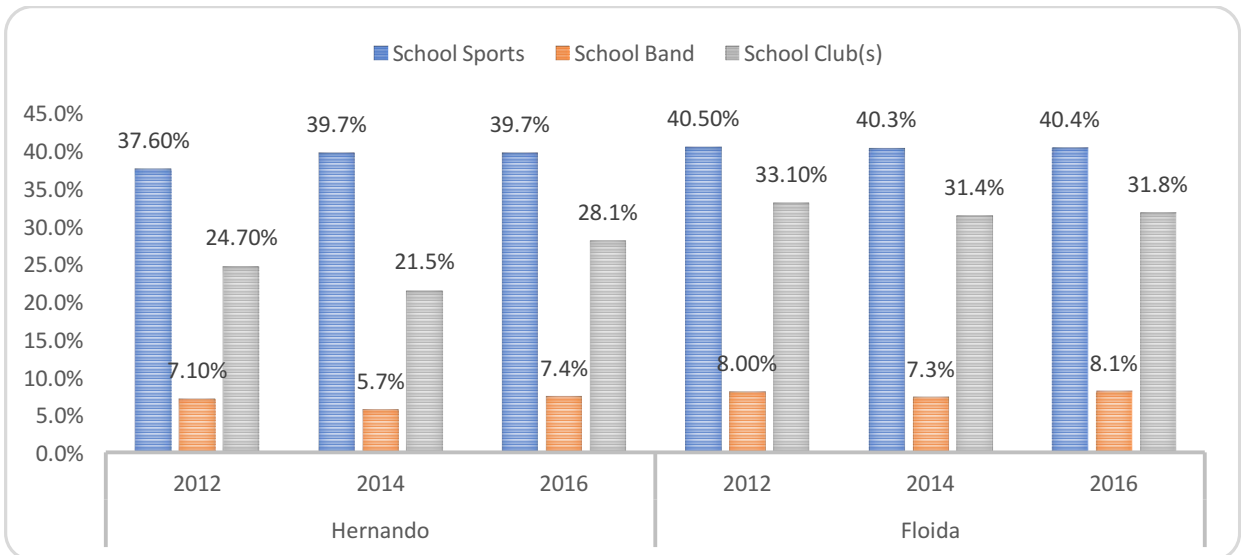
**FIGURE 18. PERCENTAGES OF HERNANDO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2012- 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016 in Hernando County, middle school students reported higher rates of involvement in school sports than statewide peers, but less involvement in school band and school-based clubs.
- From 2014 to 2016, the percent of Hernando middle school students who reported participating in school sports and school band increased.

**FIGURE 19. PERCENTAGES OF HERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2012- 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, the percent of Hernando County high school students who reported participating in school sports, school band, and school-based clubs were below statewide averages, however rates of Hernando high school students who reported participating in school band and school-based clubs increased from 2014 to 2016.

COMMUNITY-ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIVE FACTORS

FIGURE 20. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY-ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIVE FACTORS

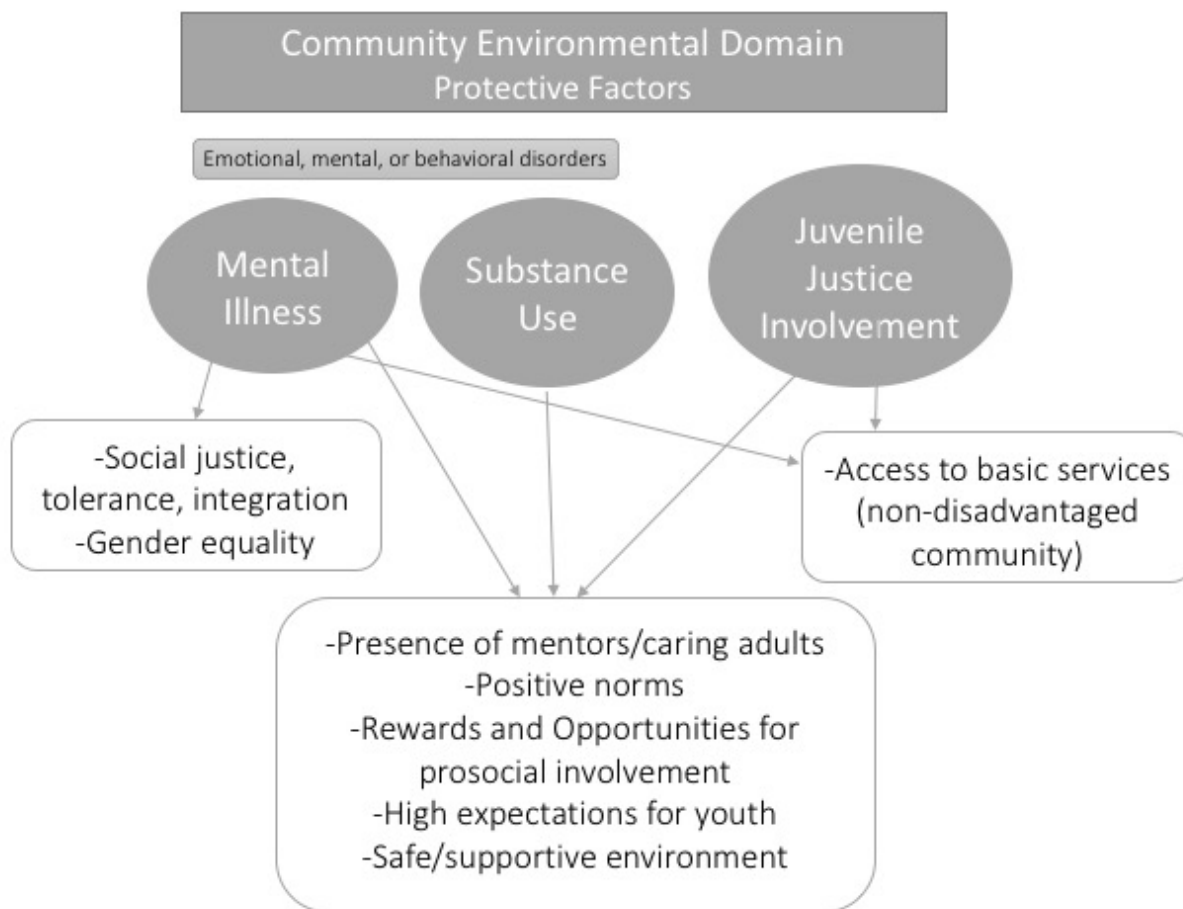


TABLE 67. PREVALENCE OF COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE FACTORS REPORTED BY HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2014-2016

	2014 Hernando	2016 Hernando	2016 Florida
Middle School- Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	44%	44%	46%
High School- Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	59%	74%	69%

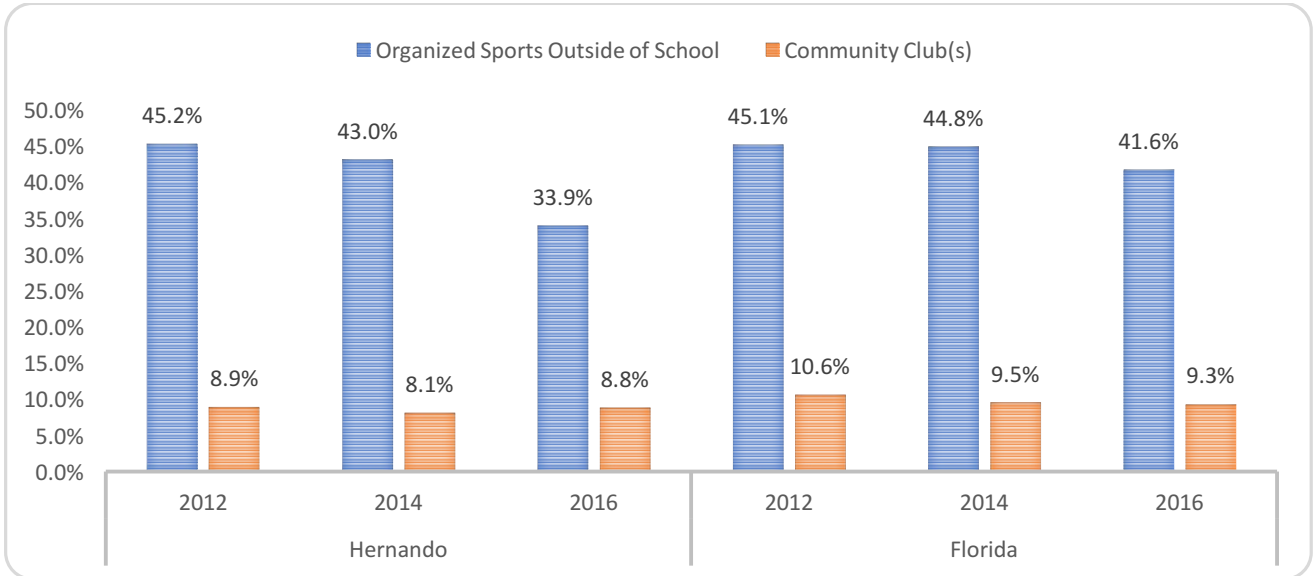
Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note: It is better to have higher scores on the protective factor scale.

- Among Hernando middle school students, the percent of youth that reported a high level of protection for community rewards for prosocial involvement remained the same from 2014 to 2016, below the statewide average in 2016.
- Among Hernando high school students, the percent of youth that reported a high level of protection for community rewards for prosocial involvement significantly increased from 2014 to 2016, above the statewide average in 2016.



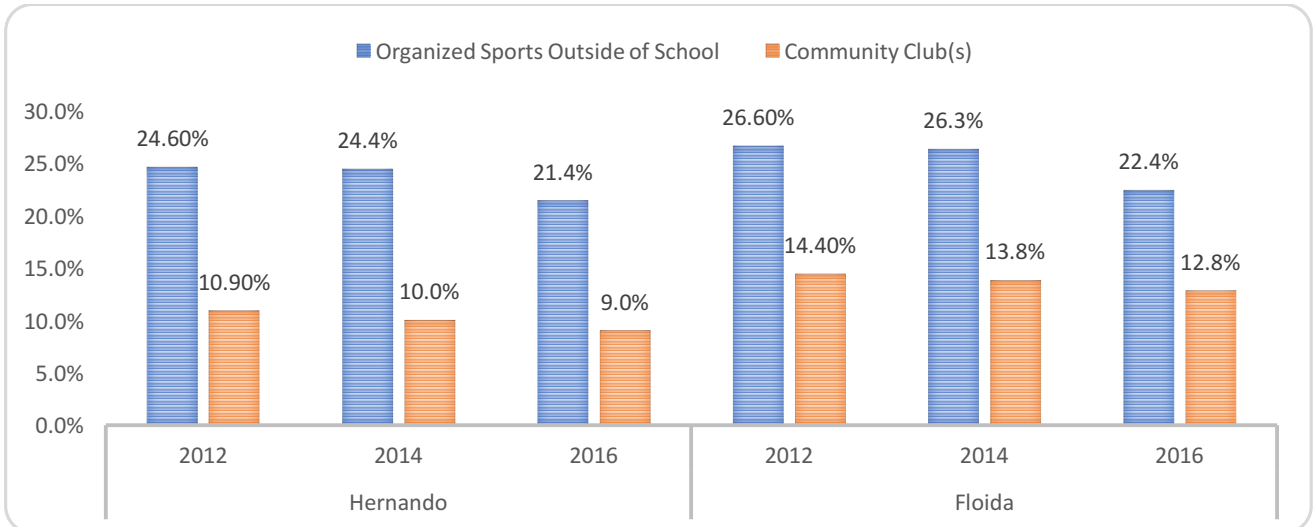
**FIGURE 21. PERCENTAGES OF HERNANDO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2012- 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The percent of Hernando County middle school students who reported participation in sports outside of the school decreased from 2012 to 2016, whereas community club participation increased from 2014 to 2016, though still below the statewide average.

**FIGURE 22. PERCENTAGES OF HERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2012- 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The percent of Hernando County high school students who reported participation in sports outside of the school and community-based clubs decreased from 2012 to 2016, and were below the statewide averages in 2016.

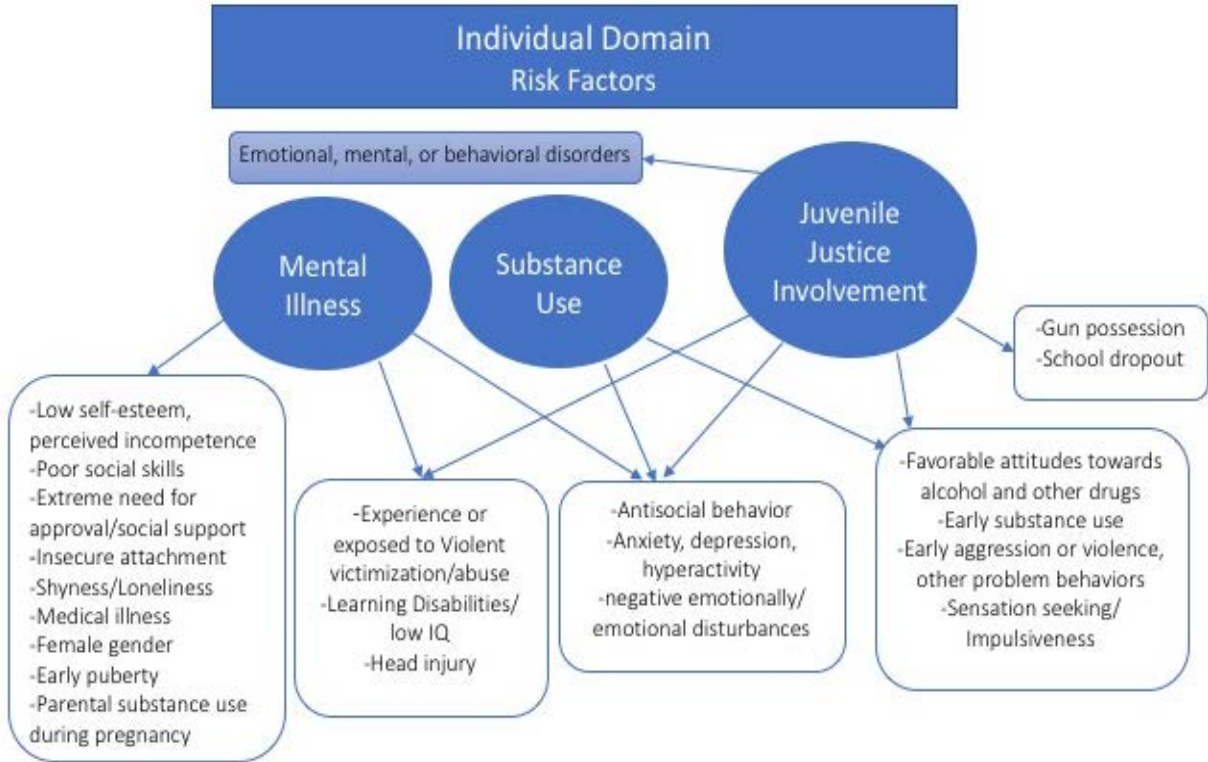
# RISK FACTORS

Risk factors are conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved the criminal justice system, and experiencing mental, emotional or behavioral issues. Throughout the needs assessment process, data was collected from local surveys, statewide reports, agency records and reports, and a series of key informant interviews and focus groups to assist the CJMHSARG Strategic Planning Committee in identifying factors that are contributing to the mental health and substance use of Hernando youth, ultimately leading to juvenile justice involvement. Data collected is provided by risk factor domain, including individual, family, peer, school-related, and community environmental factors. It is important to note that not all of the indicators in a particular domain may have a corresponding data source, however this does not mean that the indicator is not present in Hernando County, but may be due to the limitations of the process including time or gaps in data.

## INDIVIDUAL RISK FACTORS

This section looks at what can be classified as Individual Risk Factors, that vary among youth, and stemming from many origins such as genetics, early moral development, personality traits, negative life events, and attitudes toward delinquency (Wong, Slotboom, and Bijleveld 2010; Hodgins, Kratzer, and McNeil 2001).

FIGURE 23. OVERVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL RISK FACTORS



**TABLE 68. PERCENT OF HERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORT EARLY INITIATION OF SELECTED DRUG USE, 2008-2016, COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016**

	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2016 Florida
Try alcohol	32.6%	27.2%	24.5%	23.8%	21.4%	19.4%
Drink monthly	5.5%	6.3%	5.8%	4.6%	4.3%	3.5%
Smoke cigarettes	22.5%	24.4%	17.4%	15.9%	11.3%	9.3%
Smoke marijuana	11.3%	12.8%	12.5%	14%	13.4%	10.6%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The percent of Hernando County high school students who report early initiation of trying alcohol, drinking monthly, and cigarette use has been steadily declining since 2008, however were all still above statewide averages in 2016. Early initiative of marijuana use peaked in 2014 and was higher than statewide averages in 2016.

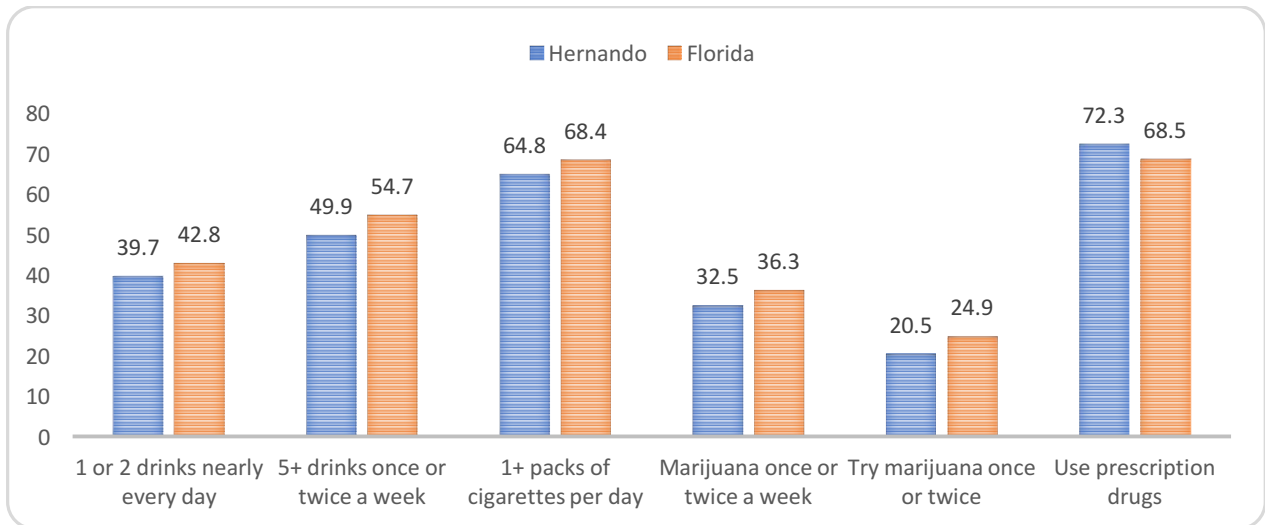
**TABLE 69. PERCENT OF HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR SOMEONE THEIR AGE USE ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016**

	Hernando Middle	Hernando High	Florida Middle	Florida High
Smoke cigarettes	5.3%	14.6%	4.4%	12.3%
Drink alcohol regularly	12.5%	37.5%	11.2%	35.5%
Smoke marijuana	11.7%	41.2%	10.3%	37.7%
Smoke synthetic marijuana	10.2%	13.9%	6.9%	11.4%
Use other illicit drugs	3%	6.3%	2.5%	6.4%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The percent of Hernando County students who do not believe alcohol and other drug use is wrong was above Florida statewide averages in all categories except high school “use other illicit drugs”.

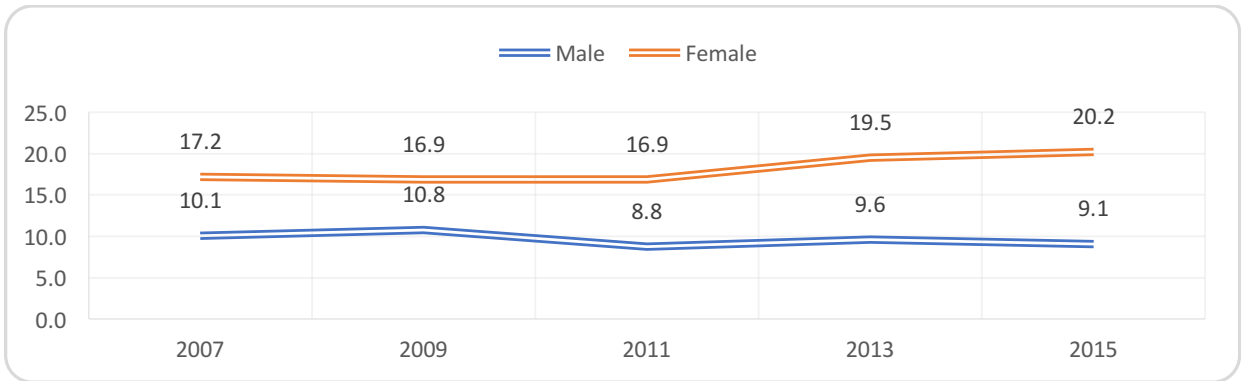
**FIGURE 24. PERCENT OF HERNANDO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO PERCEIVE GREAT RISK OF HARM OF SELECTED DRUGS COMPARED TO STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, middle and high school students in Hernando County perceived less risk of harm in using alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana than peers statewide, however did perceive a higher risk of harm in using prescription drugs.

**FIGURE 25. FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO PURPOSELY HURT THEMSELVES WITHOUT WANTING TO DIE, 2007 – 2015**



Source: Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey

- Among Florida students, one out of every five female high school students reported self-harm behaviors.

**TABLE 70. HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENT AND FLORIDA STUDENTS STATEWIDE DISCIPLINES BY TYPE, 2014/15 - 2015/16 SCHOOL YEAR**

Discipline Description	Hernando 14/15	Hernando 15/16	Florida 15/16
Expelled Without Continuing Educational Services	17	*	290
Expelled with Continuing Educational Services	*	*	281
Suspension In-School	2,956	2,889	193,048
Suspension Out-of-School	1,583	1,487	151,124
Placement in Alternative Educational Setting	*	*	7,078
Physical Restraint	*	*	636
Other SES IR Defined	348	259	19,426
Change in Placement	*	*	125
Corporal Punishment	*	*	1,526

Source: Florida Department of Education. Data for groups less than 10 are displayed with an asterisk (\*)

- In the 2015/16 school year, there were no students expelled from Hernando County Schools, compared to 17 youth the previous year. Additionally, school suspensions, both in and out, decreased.

**TABLE 71. PERCENTAGES OF HERNANDO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED ENGAGING IN DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016**

	Hernando County			Florida		
	Middle	High	Total	Middle	High	Total
Carrying a handgun	6.7%	5.2%	5.9%	5.0%	5.8%	5.5%
Selling drugs	2.6%	7.2%	5.2%	1.6%	6.0%	4.2%
Attempting to steal a vehicle	1.1%	1.7%	1.4%	1.0%	1.5%	1.3%
Being arrested	1.1%	3.7%	2.6%	1.9%	2.8%	2.4%
Taking a handgun to school	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.7%	0.6%
Getting suspended	8.3%	7.3%	7.7%	10.6%	9.1%	9.8%
Attacking someone with intent to harm	5.8%	8.5%	7.3%	6.2%	6.1%	6.1%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, 2016

- In 2016, Hernando County youth reported higher rates of delinquent behaviors (whether or not they were caught) than statewide averages for carrying a handgun, selling drugs, attempting to steal a vehicle, being arrested, and attacking someone with intent to harm.

**TABLE 72. PERCENT OF HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED BULLYING OTHERS COMPARED TO STATEWIDE AVERAGES, 2016**

	Hernando		Florida Statewide	
	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School
Physically bullied others in past 30 days	6.2%	5.7%	7.6%	4.9%
Verbally bullied others in past 30 days	15.1%	10.1%	14.3%	10.4%
Cyber bullied others in past 30 days	2.6%	3.4%	3.6%	4.1%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, 2016

- In 2016, Hernando middle school students reported higher rates of verbally bullying others while high school students reported higher rates of physically bullying others that Florida statewide averages.

**TABLE 73. HERNANDO COUNTY AND STATE OF FLORIDA RATES OF ABUSE AMONG CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 11, 2015- 2016**

	2015		2016		2016
	County Number	County Rate	County Number	County Rate	State Comparison
Children Experiencing Child Abuse Ages 5-11	129	990.6	114	867.6	930.3
Children Experiencing Sexual Violence Ages 5-11	7	53.8	9	68.5	56.9

Source, Florida Charts, Department of Children and Families, Florida Safe Families Network Data Mart

- Rates of child abuse and sexual violence against children ages 5 to 11 years old were higher in Hernando County than the State of Florida in 2016.

**TABLE 74. HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENTS PRE-K- 12TH EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT DATA BY EXCEPTIONALITY, 2016-17**

Type of Impairment	White	Black or African American	Hispanic /Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	Total
Orthopedically Impaired	20	2	6				2	30
Speech Impaired	230	19	34	2	1	2	9	297
Language Impaired	225	40	129	4	2		14	414
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	14	3	10				1	28
Visually Impaired	12		2	1				15
Emotional/Behavioral Disability	84	25	21		1		7	138
Specific Learning Disability	695	136	216	2			51	1,100
Hospital/Homebound	17		5				2	24
Autism Spectrum Disorder	181	18	46	6			9	260
Developmentally Delayed	135	23	40	2		3	12	215
Other Health Impaired	169	18	57	2			11	257
Intellectual Disability	98	15	32	6			6	157
ALL EXCEPTIONALITIES	2,366	321	683	50	5	7	164	3,596

Source: Florida Department of Education

## FAMILY RISK FACTORS

Factors at the family level are related to family structure, support, and functioning (Wong, Slotboom, and Bijleveld 2010; Hoeve et al. 2012)

FIGURE 26. OVERVIEW OF FAMILY RISK FACTORS

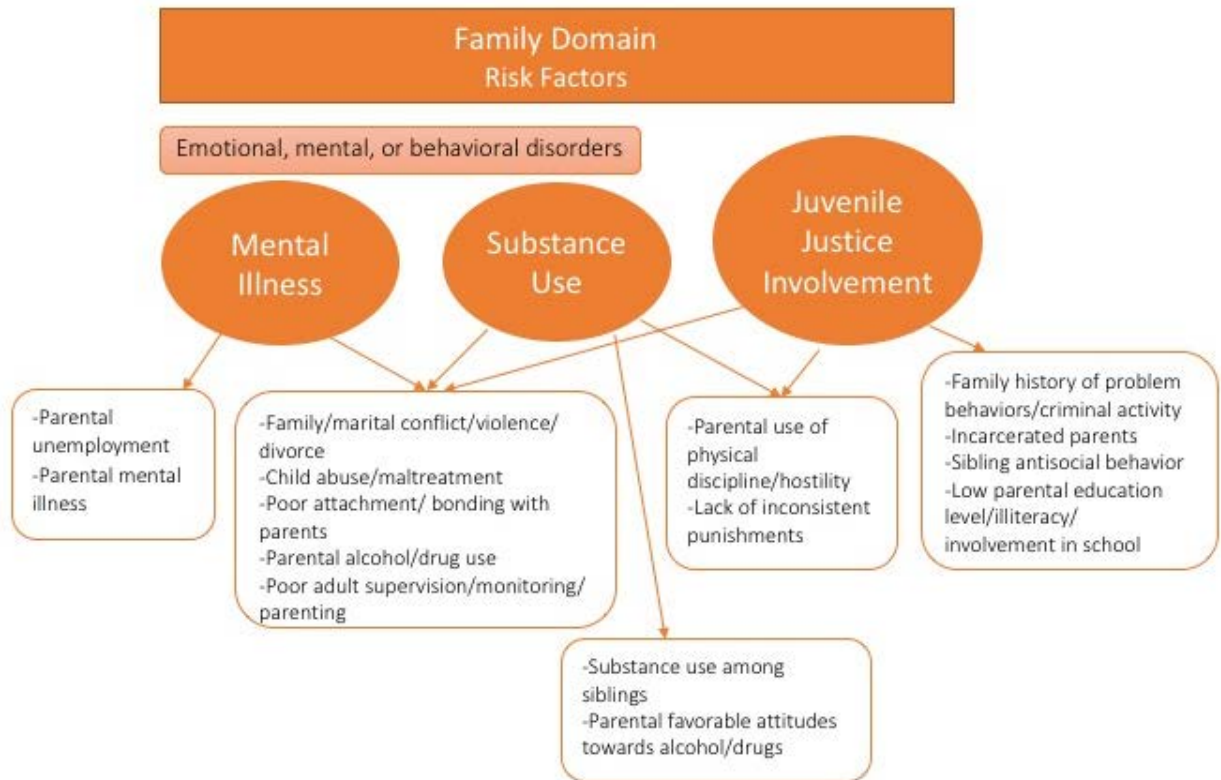


TABLE 75. PREVALENCE OF RISK FACTORS REPORTED BY HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2014-2016, COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016

	2014 Hernando	2016 Hernando	2016 Florida
Middle School- Poor Family Management	37%	33%	40%
Middle School- Family Conflict	42%	38%	38%
High School- Poor Family Management	37%	40%	38%
High School- Family Conflict	40%	38%	33%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note: It is better to have lower scores on the risk factor scale

- Among Hernando middle school students, the percent of youth that report a high level of risk for poor family management and family conflict decreased from 2014 to 2016, and poor family management is better than Florida statewide averages.
- Among Hernando high school students, the percent of youth that report a high level of risk for poor family management increased from 2014 to 2016, with rates worse than the statewide average.
- The percent of high school students that report a high level of risk for family conflict decreased from 2014 to 2016, with rates better than the statewide average.

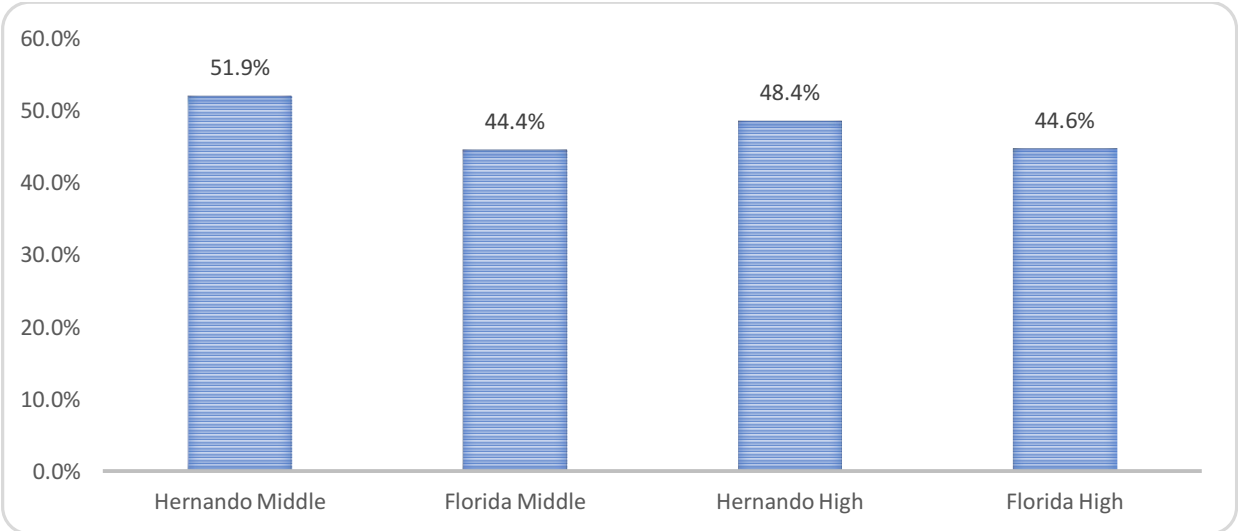
During the CJMHSARG assessment process, a series of key informant interviews were conducted with Hernando County stakeholders from the Courts, Department of Juvenile Justice, Healthcare Professionals, Law Enforcement Officers, School Resource Officers, School Counselors and Educators, Behavioral Health Treatment Providers, and Youth Serving Organizations. Many noted issues within the family unit leading to unmet needs of youth in Hernando County, which they believed were contributing to youth involvement in the juvenile justice system. The following table includes the most commonly identified family risk factors.

**TABLE 76. PERCEPTION OF FAMILY RISK FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO UNMET EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL NEEDS OF YOUTH BY HERNANDO STAKEHOLDERS, 2017**

Community Input: Key Informant Interviews, December 2017
Question Asked: From your perspective, what mental health/substance use needs do youth in the Hernando County community have?
Reponses related to: Issues within the family unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of parental/caregiver support for youth (parental accountability)</li> <li>• Many multi-generational substance users (including sellers/drug makers such as meth)</li> <li>• Parents/caregivers have their own untreated mental health and substance use issues</li> <li>• Parents are in denial of extent of child’s mental health or substance use issues or do not see substance use as an issue</li> <li>• Unaddressed family trauma, parents also in the system, some victims themselves</li> <li>• Parents are busy, have to work and cannot get youth to care, have other childcare issues and transportation issues</li> </ul>

Source: Key Informant Interviews, Hernando CJMHSA Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017

**FIGURE 27. HERNANDO COUNTY AND FLORIDA MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORT HAVING FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN OR ARE NOW IN JAIL OR PRISON, 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016 in Hernando County, middle and high school students reported higher rates of having family members in jail or prison than students statewide.
- Over half of Hernando middle school students report having a family member that is now, or has been in jail or prison.

**TABLE 77. PERCENT OF BABIES BORN ADMITTED TO THE NICU AT BAYFRONT HEALTH SPRING HILL HOSPITAL FOR NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME, 2014 – 2016**

	2014	2015	2016
Percent of babies born with NAS	24%	17.8%	24%

Source: Bayfront Health Spring Hill Hospital

- Roughly one in four babies born at Bayfront Health in 2016 suffered from NAS- withdrawal from prescription or illegal drugs.

**TABLE 78. HERNANDO COUNTY ADULTS RECEIVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BY SERVICE TYPE THROUGH LSF HEALTH SYSTEMS, 2015/16 FISCAL YEAR**

<i>Service Type</i>	Available in Hernando County?	Number Served	Placed on a Waitlist
Adult Crisis Stabilization	yes	81	0
Adult Mobile Crisis Support	yes	1,306	0
Adult Case Management	yes	402	0
Adult Outpatient	yes	826	0
Adult Medical Services	yes	1241	20
Total Adults Served:		3,856	

Source: LSF Health Systems

**TABLE 79. SELF-REPORTED HEALTH INDICATORS FOR HERNANDO COUNTY ADULTS, 2013 AND 2016, COMPARED TO FLORIDA 2016**

Indicator	Hernando County		Florida
	2013	2016	2016
Health Status & Quality of Life			
Adults who said their overall health was "fair" or "poor"	23.1%	22.0%	19.5%
Adults who said their overall health was "good" to "excellent"	76.9%	78.0%	80.5%
Adults with good physical health	81.3%	82.1%	87.1%
Adults who had poor physical health on 14 or more of the past 30 days	18.7%	17.9%	12.9%
Adults with good mental health	86.6%	85.6%	88.6%
Adults who had poor mental health on 14 or more of the past 30 days	13.4%	14.4%	11.4%
Adults whose poor physical or mental health kept them from doing usual activities on 14 or more of the past 30 days (Among adults who have had at least one day of poor mental or physical health)	20.0%	27.6%	18.6%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey

- The percent of adults who reported good mental health in Hernando County was below the statewide average in 2016.



**TABLE 80. HERNANDO COUNTY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE PER 100,000 POPULATION COMPARED TO STATE OF FLORIDA, 2016**

	County Number	County Rate	State Comparison
Children 5-11	96	730.6	426
Children 12-17	74	596.5	412.8

Source: Florida Charts, Department of Children and Families, Florida Safe Families Network Data Mart

- In 2016, Hernando County rates of youth in foster care were higher than rates statewide.

**TABLE 81. HERNANDO COUNTY AND STATE OF FLORIDA RATES OF YOUTH DUALY INVOLVED WITH DJJ AND DCF**

	DJJ Involved	DCF and DJJ Involved	DJJ Involved	DCF and DJJ Involved
	Hernando		Florida	
Arrests	595	46	72,015	3,051
Youth	374	15	40,783	1,428
Average Arrests Per Youth	1.6	3.3	1.8	2.4
<i>Race/Ethnicity of Those Arrested</i>	Hernando		Florida	
Percent White	67%	80%	39%	38%
Percent Black	19%	7%	45%	50%
Percent Hispanic	14%	13%	16%	12%
Percent Other	--	--	1%	0%

Source: Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families- Profile of Dually-Served Crossover Youth

- Of the 374 youth that were arrested in Hernando County in the 2014/15 fiscal year, 15 of those youth were currently involved in “out of home” protective services placements through the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The difference in average arrests in the year per youth was 1.6 for all of the youth who entered the DJJ system, compared to a rate of 3.3 for youth that were dually involved with DJJ and DCF. Additionally, youth who are dually-involved average a higher rate of arrests in Hernando County than youth dually involved statewide.

**TABLE 82. TOTAL NUMBER AND RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSE OF HERNANDO COUNTY, SURROUNDING COUNTIES, AND FLORIDA, 2013-2015**

Area	2013		2014		2015	
	Number	Rate Per 100,000	Number	Rate Per 100,000	Number	Rate Per 100,000
Hernando County	1,062	605.1	1,073	605.1	968	543.8
Citrus County	975	687.1	925	650.6	853	596.8
Lake County	1,580	517.6	1,546	496.8	1,560	488.6
Marion County	2,518	745	2,428	710.7	2,506	731
Sumter County	140	133.9	240	216.9	288	243
Florida	108,030	559.2	106,882	546.8	107,666	542.1

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics & Assessment, reports generated by WellFlorida; using the Health Indicators System; <http://www.Floridacharts.com>; (February 2, 2017).

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2017

- The rate of domestic violence offenses in Hernando County was above Florida averages in 2015.

**TABLE 83. EDUCATION ATTAINMENT LEVELS OF HERNANDO COUNTY RESIDENTS VERSUS THOSE IN POVERTY, 2016**

	Total	% Estimate	% Males Estimate	% Females Estimate
Percent high school graduate or higher		87.0%	85.3%	88.6%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher		16.4%	16.6%	16.3%
<b>POVERTY RATE FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER FOR WHOM POVERTY STATUS IS DETERMINED BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL</b>				
Less than high school graduate		23.9%	23.2%	24.6%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)		14.3%	13.0%	15.4%
Some college or associate's degree		11.3%	8.5%	13.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher		6.5%	5.8%	7.1%
<b>MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2016 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>				
Population 25 years and over with earnings	30,753			
Less than high school graduate	19,818			
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	27,087			
Some college or associate's degree	30,937			
Bachelor's degree	40,247			
Graduate or professional degree	46,941			

Source: US Fact Finder

- The highest level of poverty by education level and gender for persons over the age of 25 in Hernando County are females with less than a high school degree.

## PEER RISK FACTORS

Factors in the peer domain are related to peer norms and attachment, socialization, and interactions with peers (Hoeve et al. 2009).

FIGURE 28. OVERVIEW OF PEER RISK FACTORS

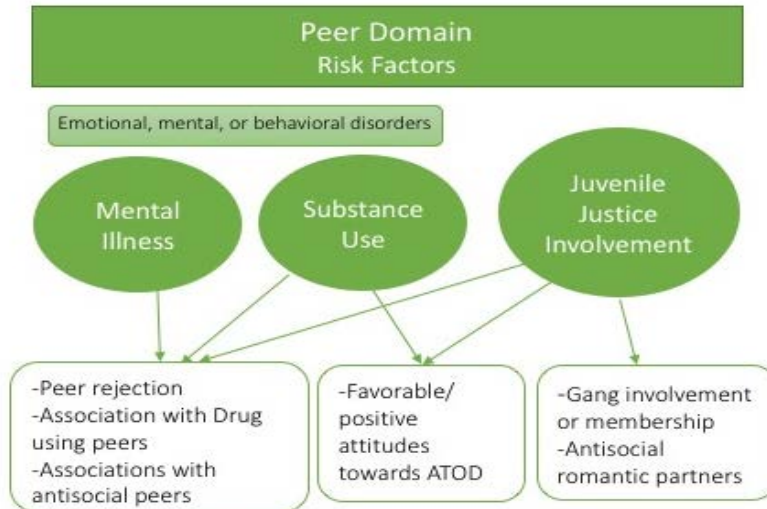


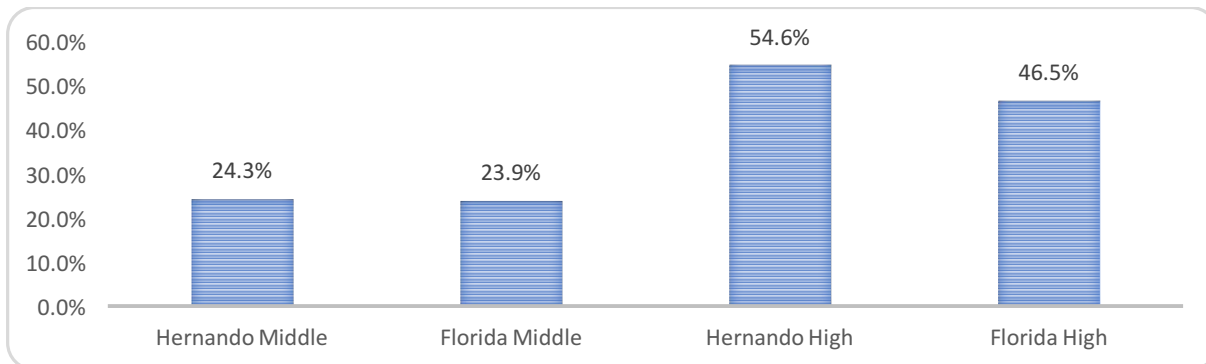
TABLE 84. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PERCEPTIONS OF PEER USE OF SELECTED DRUGS COMPARED TO ACTUAL REPORTED USE, 2016/17 SCHOOL YEAR

<i>N= 1,394 students</i>	Percent of Students Who Reported Past 30-Day Use	Percent of Perceived Student Use in Past 30 Days	Percent of Students Who Believe More than 50% of Students Used Past 30-Days
Smoked cigarettes?	11%	58%	17%
Had at least one drink of alcohol?	25%	70%	39%
Used marijuana?	21%	67%	32%

Source: Community Teen Norms Survey

- Students perceive that their peers are using alcohol and other drugs at higher rates than they actually are. For instance, 25% of students reported using alcohol in the past 30-days, yet students perceived that 70% of their peers used alcohol in the past 30-days.

FIGURE 29. HERNANDO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HAVE FRIENDS WHO HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, Hernando County middle and high school students reported higher rates than students statewide of having friends who had been on trouble because of alcohol or other drugs.

**TABLE 85. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TYPICAL DRINK WHEN SOCIALIZING COMPARED TO PERCEPTION OF PEER TYPICAL DRINK, 2016/17 SCHOOL YEAR**

N= 1,394 students	Self-Reported Actual	Perceived Typical Student
bottled water	28%	18%
sports drink	12%	12%
pop/soda	40%	46%
tea	6%	2%
coffee	3%	3%
juice	4%	3%
milk	1%	2%
alcohol	4%	11%
other	2%	3%

Source: Community Teen Norms Survey

- Although 4% of Hernando middle and high school students reported that they typically drank alcohol when hanging out with their friends, they believed that 11% of teens engaged in this behavior.

**FIGURE 30. PAST AND CURRENT GANG INVOLVEMENT REPORTED BY HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPARED TO STATEWIDE AVERAGES, 2016**

	Middle School		High School	
	Hernando	Florida	Hernando	Florida
Have you ever belonged to a gang?	4.4%	3.3%	3.1%	3.5%
Did that gang have a name?	28.6%	23.4%	15.1%	14.1%
Are you a gang member now?	--	--	1.9%	2.0%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The percent of Hernando County middle and high school students who report they have ever belonged to data is just above the statewide averages.

**TABLE 86. REASONS FOR JOINING A GANG, REPORTED BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HAVE EVER BELONGED TO A GANG, AMONG HERNANDO AND FLORIDA STATEWIDE YOUTH, 2016**

	Hernando	Florida
Fun and excitement	6.1%	5.0%
Protection	4.8%	4.2%
Friend or relative in a gang	1.9%	4.1%
Forced to join	0.0%	1.1%
To get respect	2.2%	3.5%
Money	3.3%	3.8%
To fit in better	0.5%	1.2%
Other reasons	3.7%	5.9%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The most common reason for joining a gang among Hernando County high school students was for fun and excitement, followed by protection and money.

To help further examine norms and what high school students in Hernando see at their schools in regard to behavioral issues, the CJMHSARG needs assessment process including focus groups at two area high schools.

**TABLE 87. FOCUS GROUP RESPONSES FROM HERNANDO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON PERCEPTIONS OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS, 2017**

<b>Responses from youth focus groups- 2 Hernando High Schools, 2017</b>	
<b>Question: What percent of your peers do you believe use alcohol and/or other drugs?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 to 25% overall in schools, but peers are higher- 60 to 80%.</li> <li>• 65% to 80%, what they see from going to parties and social media.</li> </ul>
<b>Question: Of the peers you hear of using substances, what are the common you hear of being used?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol is most used- easiest to get; Marijuana second most common; Pills- Xanax; Shrooms, acid.</li> <li>• Kids talk about smoking. Smoke pot and tobacco in bathrooms. Weed, alcohol, hooka pens, vaping. Not hard-core drugs. Also, now we have medical marijuana- if it makes you feel better than probably ok.</li> </ul>
<b>Question: Do you see a lot of violence at your school? What are the reasons you hear for fights? Do you hear of a lot of bullying?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few fights every now and then, some “sucker punches”, not really a fight though.</li> <li>• Normally because someone hurts someone else somehow. He say, she say- gossip, rumors- relationship fights- lots of boyfriend/girlfriend.</li> <li>• Fights get broken up quickly, Young kids 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Fights about girls and relationships. Guys. A lot drama around boyfriend. Social media – a lot of it is nasty.</li> <li>• Bullying is not really that common in high school.</li> <li>• Bullying middle school not so much high school.</li> </ul>
<b>Question: What are common types of crimes you hear about other youth committing?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stealing, vandalism, Little things like candy, some phones stolen, Older teens- paraphernalia.</li> <li>• Drug crimes, DUI, petty theft, cookies from lunch. Food theft. Nothing major.</li> </ul>
<b>Question: Do you often of hear of your peers being in trouble at school?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every day- word spreads- people in trouble post it on social media or others do- lots of students on Lunch detention or In-school Suspension.</li> <li>• Kids who have behavior problems get in a lot of trouble. Kids are rude to the teachers- they have no control. It’s very disruptive. They think mental health problems could cause some of the behavior that they see.</li> </ul>

Source: Key Informant Interviews, Hernando CJMHSA Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017

## SCHOOL-BASED RISK FACTORS

Factors at the school level are typically related to school attendance, academic performance, and attachment and commitment to school (Wong, Slotboom, and Bijleveld 2010).

FIGURE 31. OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL-RELATED RISK FACTORS

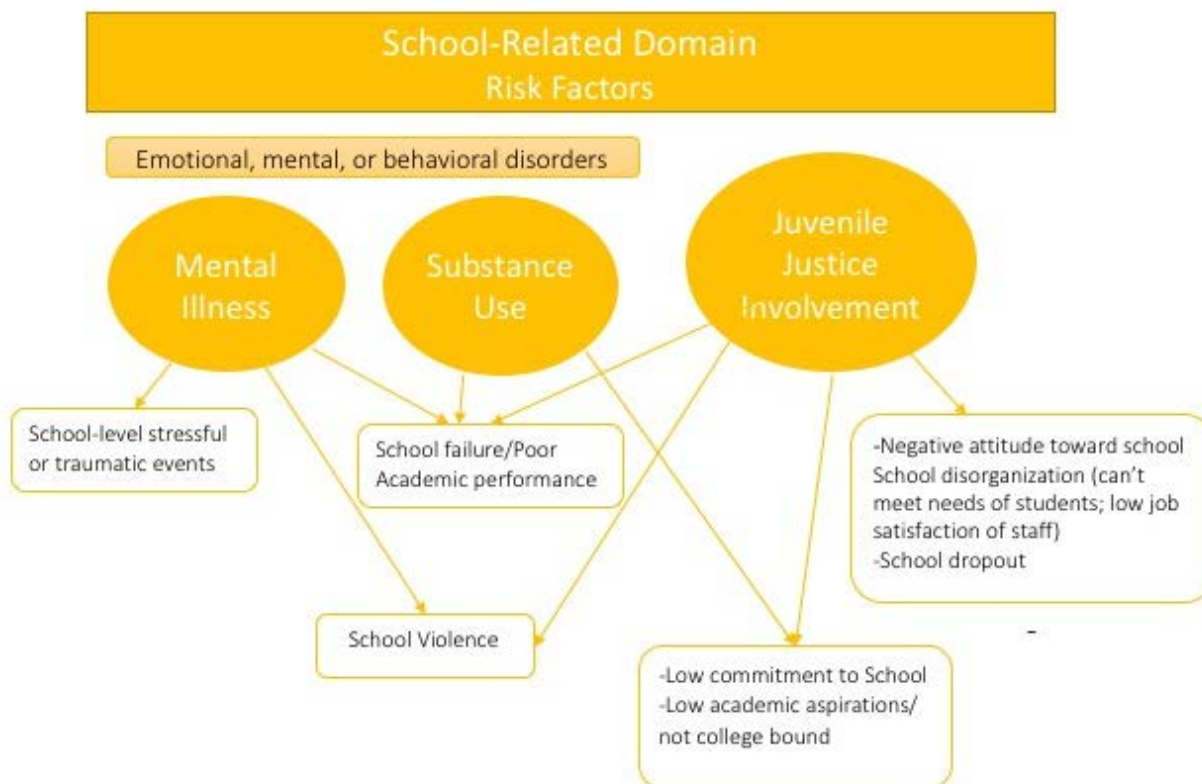


TABLE 88. PREVALENCE OF SCHOOL-BASED RISK FACTORS REPORTED BY HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2014-2016, COMPARED TO STUDENTS STATEWIDE, 2016

	2014 Hernando	2016 Hernando	2016 Florida
Poor Academic Performance	41%	44%	42%
Lack of Commitment to School	54%	55%	53%
Poor Academic Performance	40%	42%	44%
Lack of Commitment to School	59%	58%	54%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note: It is better to have lower scores on the risk factor scale

- Among Hernando middle school students, the percent of youth that report a high level of risk for poor academic performance and lack of commitment to school increased from 2014 to 2016, both worse than statewide rates in 2016.
- Among Hernando high school students, the percent of youth that report a high level of risk for poor academic performance increased from 2014 to 2016, whereas lack of commitment decreased; both were worse than statewide rates in 2016.

**TABLE 89. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SCHOOL PERFORMANCE BY ALCOHOL USE LEVEL, 2016**

Percent	Middle School			High School		
	Never Drank Alcohol	Drank in Past Month, Not Binge	Binge Drank in Past 2 Weeks	Never Drank Alcohol	Drank in Past Month, Not Binge	Binge Drank in Past 2 Weeks
Mostly Ds and Fs- Past Year	6.0	4.2	20.1	5.0	3.5	5.7
Mostly Cs- Past Year	14.8	18.5	15.5	19.0	20.2	27.0
Mostly As and Bs- Past Year	79.2	77.3	64.3	76.0	76.3	67.3
Skipped At least one day past year	23.8	44.1	60.8	20.8	45.1	57.3

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Subject Area Crosstab Reports

- Hernando County Middle and High School students who report recent binge drinking report lower rates of A’s and B’s, as well higher rates of skipping school, then peers who have never used alcohol.

**TABLE 90. HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SCHOOL PERFORMANCE BY MARIJUANA USE LEVEL, 2016**

Percent	Middle School		High School	
	Never Used Marijuana	Used in Past Month	Never Used Marijuana	Used in Past Month
Mostly Ds and Fs- Past Year	6.2	17.1	3.9	9.6
Mostly Cs- Past Year	14.6	19.3	18.7	29.4
Mostly As and Bs- Past Year	79.2	63.6	77.4	61.1
Skipped At least one day past year	25.5	60.5	24.3	57.1

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Subject Area Crosstab Reports

- Hernando County middle and high School students who report marijuana use report lower rates of A’s and B’s, as well higher rates of skipping school then their peers who have never used marijuana.

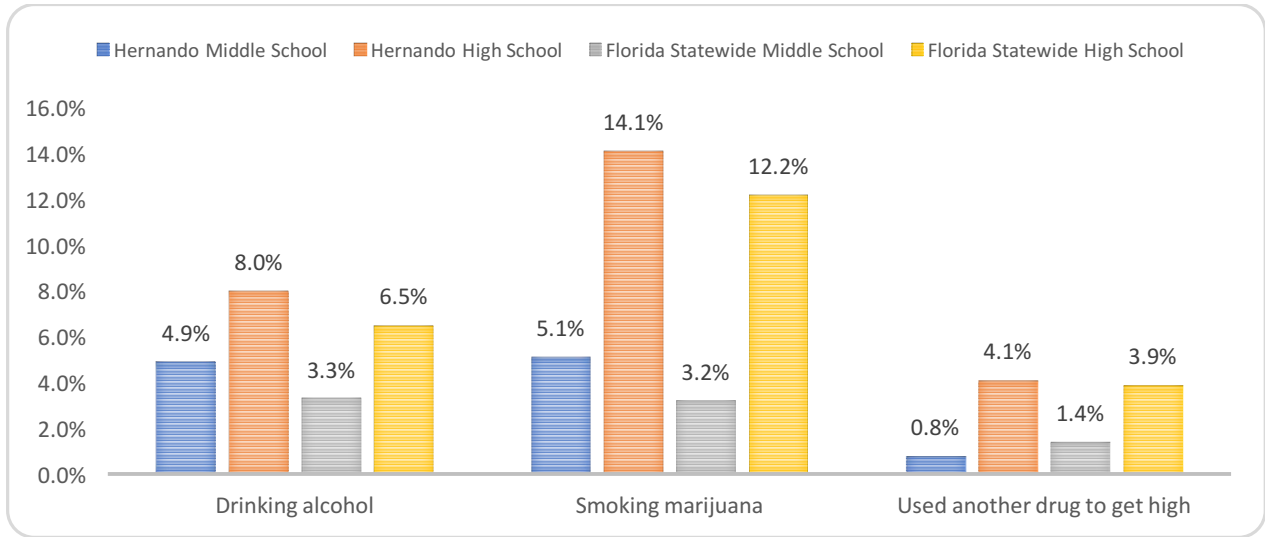
**TABLE 91. PERCENT OF HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO REPORTED BEING BULLIED COMPARED TO STUDENTS STATEWIDE AVERAGES, 2016**

	Hernando		Florida Statewide	
	Middle	High	Middle	High
Skipped school because of bullying	12.3%	11.9%	7.6%	8.2%
Was kicked or shoved in past 30 days	20%	11.7%	19.6%	8.1%
Was taunted or teased in past 30 days	40.2%	23.9%	35.3%	22.5%
Was victim of cyber bullying in past 30 days	10.2%	10.9%	7.8%	7.6%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, middle school and high school students in Hernando County reported higher rates of being physically, verbally, or cyberbullied than Florida students statewide.

**FIGURE 32. HERNANDO AND FLORIDA STATEWIDE YOUTH WHO REPORT ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG USE BEFORE OR DURING SCHOOL IN THE PAST YEAR, 2016**



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016, Hernando County middle and high school students reported higher rates of using alcohol and marijuana before or during school than peers statewide.

**TABLE 92. HERNANDO COUNTY GRADUATION RATES COMPARED TO STUDENTS STATEWIDE BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHICS, 2015/16 SCHOOL YEAR**

	2015-16 Hernando	2015-16 State
<b>Overall Graduation Rate</b>	81.8%	80.7%
<b>Disability Status</b>		
Non-disabled	84.3%	83.1%
Disabled	56.1%	61.6%
<b>Economic Status</b>		
Not Economically Disadvantaged	87.3%	87.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	75.5%	74.4%
<b>ELL Status (English Learning Student)</b>		
Non-ELL	81.8%	82.2%
ELL	58.5%	62.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	82.2%	85.1%
Hispanic	76.3%	79.5%
Black	77.6%	72.3%
Two or More Races	86.4%	82.7%
Asian	89.7%	91.9%
American Indian	NA	76.5%
Pacific Islander	NA	84.7%

Source: Florida Department of Education

- The 2015/16 school year indicates that youth who have higher economic statuses, are non-disabled, or English is their first language are more likely to graduate from high school both in Hernando County and the State of Florida.



**TABLE 93. HERNANDO COUNTY STUDENTS ABSENT 21 DAYS OR MORE COMPARED TO CIRCUIT 5 COUNTIES AND FLORIDA STATEWIDE AVERAGES, 2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR**

District Name	Enrollments	Absent 21 Days or Over	% Absent 21 or More Days
FLORIDA	3,157,431	318,787	10.10%
CITRUS	17,508	1,935	11.05%
HERNANDO	24,984	3,680	14.73%
LAKE	47,627	6,351	13.33%
MARION	50,821	5,824	11.46%
SUMTER	9,470	855	9.03%

Source: Florida Department of Education

- Hernando County students report higher rates of being absent 21 days or more than students statewide or other counties in Circuit 5.

**TABLE 94. IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE NEEDS ON DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS/ CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS, VIEWS FROM HERNANDO STAKEHOLDERS, 2017**

Community Input: Key Informant Interviews, December 2017
<p><b>Question Asked:</b> How does mental health/substance abuse needs impact youth delinquent behaviors and criminal activities in schools?</p>
<p><b>Major Impacts: Untreated Mental Illness, Anger and Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lot of youth have anger issues- are bipolar, etc. which causes them to get into fights. Fighting is how kids are communicating.</li> <li>• Anger management is needed for many kids- they want to save face, look strong- but they lack coping skills.</li> <li>• There is a direct correlation between mental health and delinquent behaviors. Kids skip school, not attentive to school work, drive and motivation is gone.</li> <li>• The rising mental health needs contribute to behaviors that affect overall wellbeing of individuals. With healthy living being one our primary focuses, it is difficult to help someone’s overall wellbeing who is experiencing mental illness symptoms. Without access to resources, and appropriate resources, needs aren’t addressed to the extent they need to be. The unaddressed needs then create increased delinquent behaviors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Major Impacts: Substance Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance abuse education is needed. Kids are handing out pills. Lot of kids don't want to open up and shut down and they think they can take a pill and feel better- this what they see at home.</li> <li>• Both kids and parents do not see marijuana use as a problem because it has become so normal. But it is still illegal, so parents using are promoting an illegal behavior and not making the connection that they are doing so.</li> <li>• Kids are committing crimes to pay for drugs as many don't have financial resources, such as theft. Especially once addicted- we see a lot of that in the district.</li> </ul>

Source: Key Informant Interviews, 2017, for CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant, Hernando Community Coalition

## COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS

Factors at the community level are generally related to the physical environment, economic and recreational opportunities, existing social supports, and other characteristics or structures that affect successful community functioning (Kaufman 2005; Reingle, Jennings, and Maldonado-Molina 2011).

FIGURE 33. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS

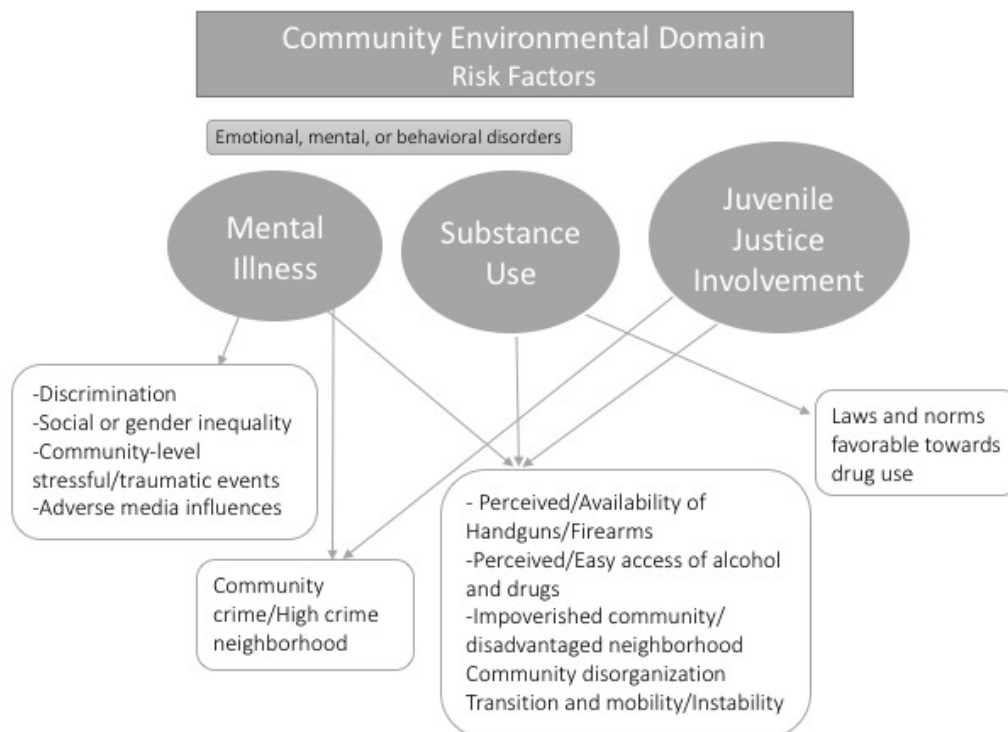


TABLE 95. PREVALENCE OF COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS REPORTED BY HERNANDO COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH STUDENTS, 2014-2016, COMPARED TO FLORIDA, 2016

	2014 Hernando Middle	2016 Hernando High	2016 Florida Middle	2014 Hernando High	2016 Hernando High	2016 Florida High
Community Disorganization	52%	45%	42%	53%	54%	44%
Transitions and Mobility	55%	58%	59%	66%	62%	61%
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	42%	39%	37%	39%	35%	31%
Perceived Availability of Drugs	43%	36%	37%	37%	34%	27%
Perceived Availability of Handguns	29%	27%	24%	52%	43%	36%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Note: It is better to have lower scores on the risk factor scale

- Among Hernando middle school students, the percent of youth that report a high level of risk for improved for community disorganization, laws and norms favorable to drug use, perceived ability of drugs, and perceived ability of handguns from 2014 to 2016.
- Among Hernando high school students, the percent of youth that report a high level of risk for improved for transition and mobility, laws and norms favorable to drug use, perceived ability of drugs, and perceived ability of handguns from 2014 to 2016.

**TABLE 96. RATE OF ARRESTS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS IN HERNANDO COUNTY, COMPARED TO CIRCUIT 5 COUNTIES AND FLORIDA, 2015 - 2016**

<i>Arrest rater per 100,000 population</i>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Hernando County	4,000.1	4,147.6
Citrus County	3,139.9	3,039.4
Lake County	2,927.6	2,706.9
Marion County	4,223.6	3,509.8
Sumter County	2,421.0	2,931.4
Florida	3,901.4	3,605.7

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

- Hernando County rates of arrest per 100,000 population were the highest in District 5 in 2016 and above the Florida statewide rate.

**TABLE 97. HERNANDO COUNTY ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS AND VIOLATIONS, 2010- 2015**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Drug / Narcotic Arrests	908	859	1,343	772	804	1,024
DUI Arrests	329	376	375	279	197	317

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

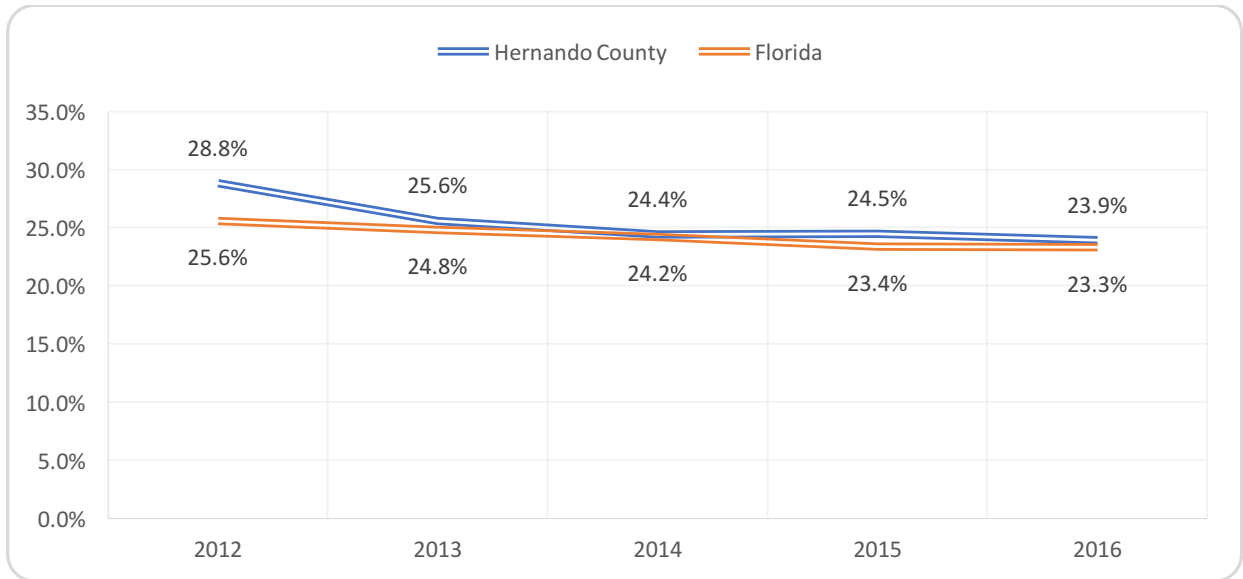
- From 2015 to 2016 in Hernando County, drug arrests increased by 27% and DUI arrests increased by 60.9%.

**TABLE 98. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS IN POVERTY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, BY ZIP CODE TABULATION AREA, HERNANDO COUNTY AND FLORIDA, 2011-2015**

Area	Estimated Households	Estimated # in Poverty	Estimated % in Poverty
34601 Brooksville	8,529	1,628	19.1%
34602 Brooksville	2,692	574	21.3%
34604 Brooksville	3,667	558	15.2%
34606 Spring Hill	11,559	1,680	14.5%
34607 Spring Hill	3,848	473	12.3%
34608 Spring Hill	12,469	2,018	16.2%
34609 Spring Hill	14,651	1,512	10.3%
34613 Brooksville	8,098	901	11.1%
34614 Brooksville	2,454	285	11.6%
34661 Nobleton	129	0	0.0%
Hernando County	70,452	10,054	14.3%
Florida	7,300,494	1,100,556	15.1%

Prepared by: WellFlorida Council, 2017: Although the American Community Survey(ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates for 2011-2015, the 2010 Census provides the official counts of the population and housing units for the nation, counties, cities, and towns. The American Community Survey is a sample of data taken over a time period and should not be compared to other sources of data. Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 5-Year Estimates

**FIGURE 34. HERNANDO COUNTY POVERTY RATES OF PERSONS 18 AND UNDER COMPARED TO FLORIDA PERSONS 18 AND UNDER STATEWIDE, 2012- 2016**



Source: US Fact Finder

- In 2016, poverty rates of among Hernando County persons 18 and under were just above the statewide averages.

**TABLE 99. NUMBER OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS PER RESIDENT**

	Hernando County	Florida	US
Mental Health Providers per resident	1,490:1	750:1	360:1

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Health Rankings

- Hernando County has 49.7% less mental health service providers that then Statewide average and 75.9% less than the United States average.

**TABLE 100. REPORTED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY ADULTS, 2013 - 2016**

Health Care Access & Coverage Indicator	Hernando		Florida
	2013	2016	2016
Adults who could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost	19.6%	17.6%	16.6%
Adults who had a medical checkup in the past year	73.1%	79.8%	76.5%
Adults who have a personal doctor	83.7%	79.1%	72.0%
Adults with any type of health care insurance coverage - BRFSS	87.2%	85.3%	83.7%
<b>Adults who have Medicare (65 or over and for certain disabled people)</b>	--	48.8%	37.9%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey

**TABLE 101. USUAL SOURCE OF ALCOHOL AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY AND FLORIDA STUDENTS STATEWIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DRINKERS IN PAST 30-DAYS, 2012 -2016**

	Hernando			State of Florida		
	2012	2014	2016	2012	2014	2016
Bought in a store	2.8%	7.9%	5.7%	10.7%	8.1%	8.3%
Bought in a restaurant, bar, or club	0.6%	0%	1.8%	2%	1.7%	1.6%
Bought at a public event	0%	0%	2.2%	0.7	0.8%	0.7%
Someone bought it for me	26.4%	21.9%	19.3%	17.8	17.5%	14.7%
Someone gave it to me	46.3%	37.6%	43.7%	43.7	43%	44.8%
Took it from a store	0%	2.9%	0%	0.3	0.3%	0.3%
Took it from a family member	8.7%	10.2%	11.3%	9.1%	11%	11.7%
Some other way	15.2%	19.5%	16%	15.6%	17.5%	17.8%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The most common location reported by Hernando County high school students for obtaining alcohol was by “someone gave it to me” followed by “someone bought it for me”.

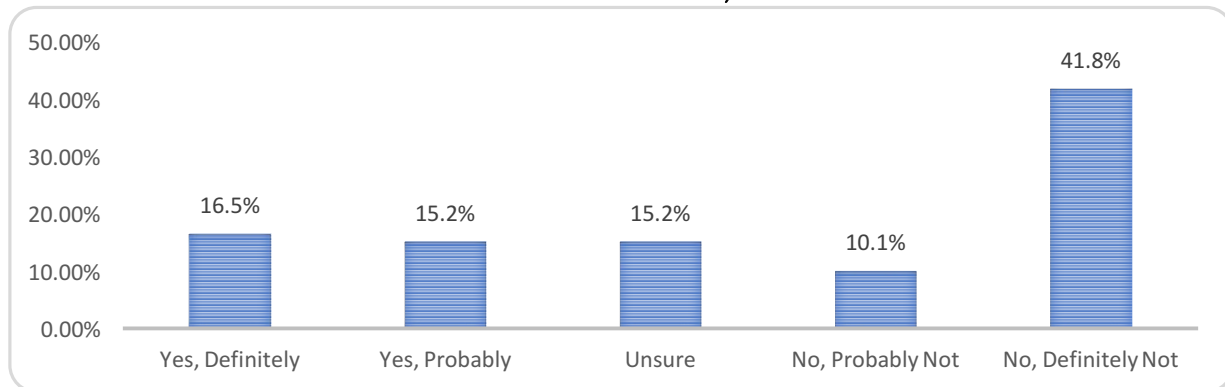
**TABLE 102. USUAL LOCATION OF ALCOHOL USE AMONG HERNANDO COUNTY AND FLORIDA STUDENTS STATEWIDE- HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DRINKERS IN PAST 30-DAYS, 2012 -2016**

Percent	Hernando			State of Florida		
	2012	2014	2016	2012	2014	2016
My home	30.3%	34.1%	35.3%	27.8%	32.5%	37.7%
Another person's home	49.1%	51.9%	49.6%	48.7%	46.3%	40%
Car or other vehicle	0.3%	0%	0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%
Restaurant, bar, or club	2.5%	0.8%	0.8%	3.5%	2.7%	2.7%
Public place	3.4%	0.8%	1.2%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%
Public event	4.4%	3.3%	0.5%	2.1%	1.6%	1.6%
School property	0.6%	3.7%	1.3%	1%	1.2%	1.3%
Some other place	9.4%	5.4%	11.2%	11.2%	10.3%	11.1%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- The most common drinking location reported among Hernando County high school students who reported past 30-day use was at “another person’s home”, followed by “my home”.

**FIGURE 35. HERNANDO COUNTY PARENTS WHO REPORT KNOWING OTHER PARENTS WHO HOST OPEN HOUSE PARTIES, 2017**



Source: No One’s House Parent Survey, HCC, n=79 parents

- 31.7% of Hernando parents surveyed believed they knew of parents that allow parties with underage drinking in their homes.

**TABLE 103. ALCOHOL LICENSES IN HERNANDO COUNTY, 2015- 2016**

	On-Premise License	Off-Premise License	Total
2015	170	143	313
2016	158	146	304

Source: Florida Department of Alcohol Beverages and Tobacco

**TABLE 104. TOBACCO LICENSES IN HERNANDO COUNTY, 2015- 2016**

	With Alcohol License	Without Alcohol License	Total
2015	175	30	205
2016	149	35	184

Source: Florida Department of Alcohol Beverages and Tobacco

**TABLE 105. ALCOHOL COMPLIANCE CHECK RESULTS, 2011-2015**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Checks	37	52	81	93	82	82
Did not sell	31	45	67	82	70	66
Percent Compliant	83.7%	86.5%	82.7%	88.2%	85.4%	80.5%

Source: The Hernando County Sheriff’s Office and the Brooksville Police Department

- The compliance rate of alcohol retailers during compliance checks remains above 80% in Hernando County, however had the lowest rate of compliance in 2016.

**TABLE 106. HERNANDO COUNTY ALCOHOL VENDORS WITH NO SALES TO MINORS SIGNAGE POSTED, 2013- 2016**

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of Stores with Age Control Signs Outside	54.9%	85.0%	77.7%	40.5%
Percentage of Stores with Age Control Signs Inside	80.2%	95.0%	58.1%	62.1%

Source: Environmental Scan data, Hernando Community Coalition

- Many Hernando retailers do not have warning signs posted that you must be 21 to purchase alcohol.

**TABLE 107. GAS STATIONS/CONVENIENCE STORES AND LIQUOR STORES SALES PRACTICES OF SELECTED DRUG PRODUCTS, 2016**

<i>N=24 stores scanned</i>	Percent of Stores that Sold Product
Paraphernalia such as pipes, bowls, or bongs	0%
Candy flavored tobacco	95.8%
Electronic Cigarettes	66.6%
Liquor filled candies	0.0%
Synthetic marijuana or herbal incense such as K2 Spice or bath salts	0.0%
Hookahs	0.0%

Source: Environmental Scan data, Hernando Community Coalition

- Of the 24 stores scanned, 2/3rds had electronic cigarettes available.

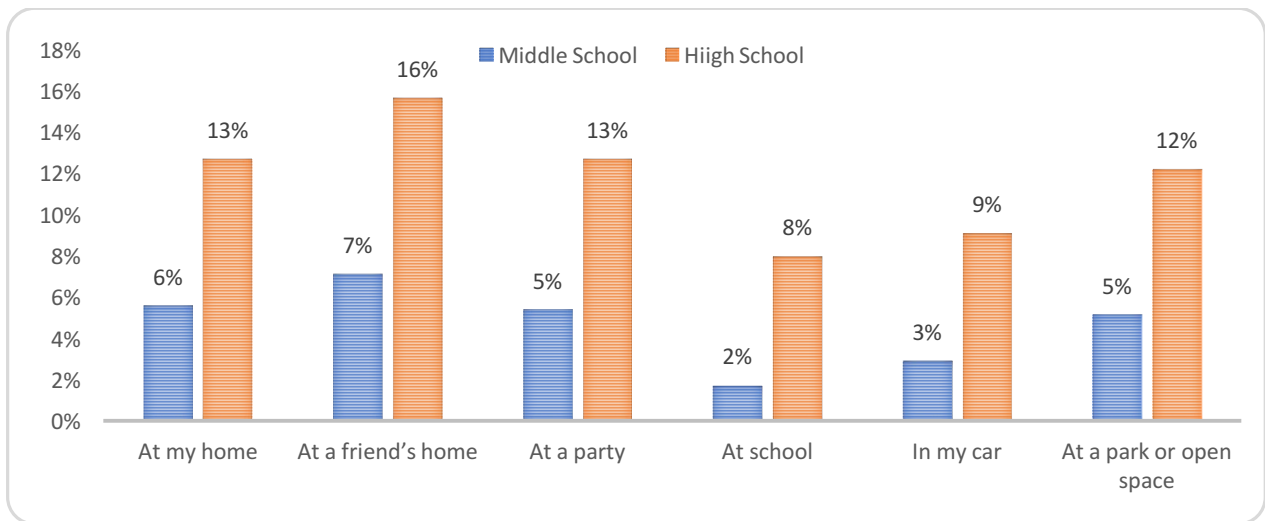
**TABLE 108. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO RELATED SIGNAGE AT HERNANDO GAS STATION/ CONVENIENCE STORES, 2016**

	Gas Station/ Convenience Stores (n=32)	% Alcohol or Tobacco
Number of Signs Outside of the Store	496	
Number of Alcohol-Related Signs Outside of the Store	188	38%
Number of Tobacco-Related Signs Outside of the Store	128	25.8%
Number of Signs Inside of the Store	1,245	
Number of Alcohol-Related Signs Inside of the Store	482	38.7%
Number of Tobacco-Related Signs Inside of the Store	345	27.7%

Source: Hernando Community Coalition, Environmental Scan data

- Of the 32 stores scanned in Hernando County, 63.8% of signage outside of the stores was alcohol or tobacco related and 66.4% of signage inside of the stores was alcohol or tobacco related.

**FIGURE 36. LOCATION OF YOUTH MARIJUANA USE IN THE PAST 30-DAYS, 2014/2015**



Source: Community Teen Norms Survey. Note: Students could choose more than one option.

- Among Hernando middle and high school students in 2014/2015 school year, the most common location for using marijuana was “at a friend’s home”.

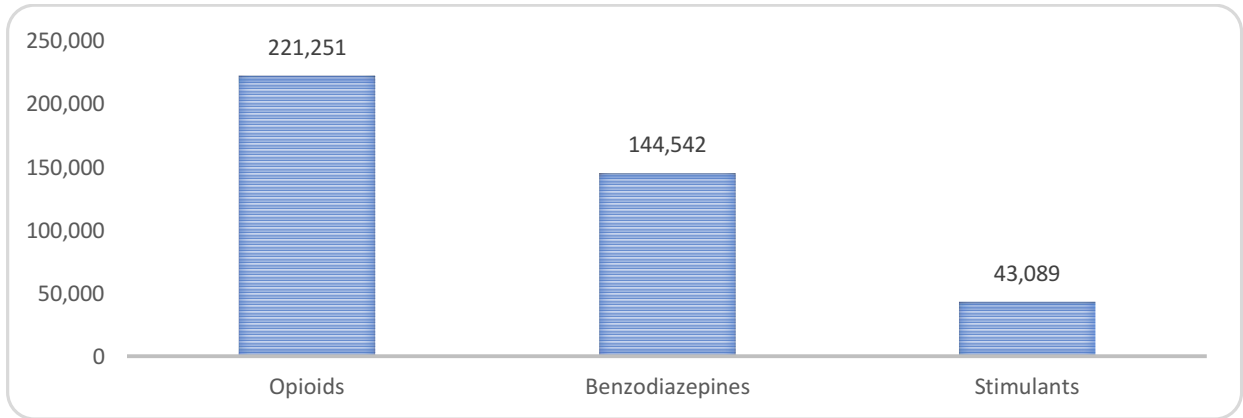
**TABLE 109. USUAL SOURCE OF MARIJUANA AMONG YOUTH IN THE PAST 30-DAYS, 2014/2015**

	Middle School	High School
I did not smoke marijuana in the past 30 days	85%	74%
I grow my own	4%	7%
A family member gave it to me	3%	2%
A friend gave it to me	4%	7%
I bought it from another student	1%	4%
I bought it from an adult	0%	1%
Other	3%	5%

Source: Community Teen Norms Survey

- The most common sources of marijuana among Hernando County middle and high school students were, “I grow my own” and “a friend gave it to me”.

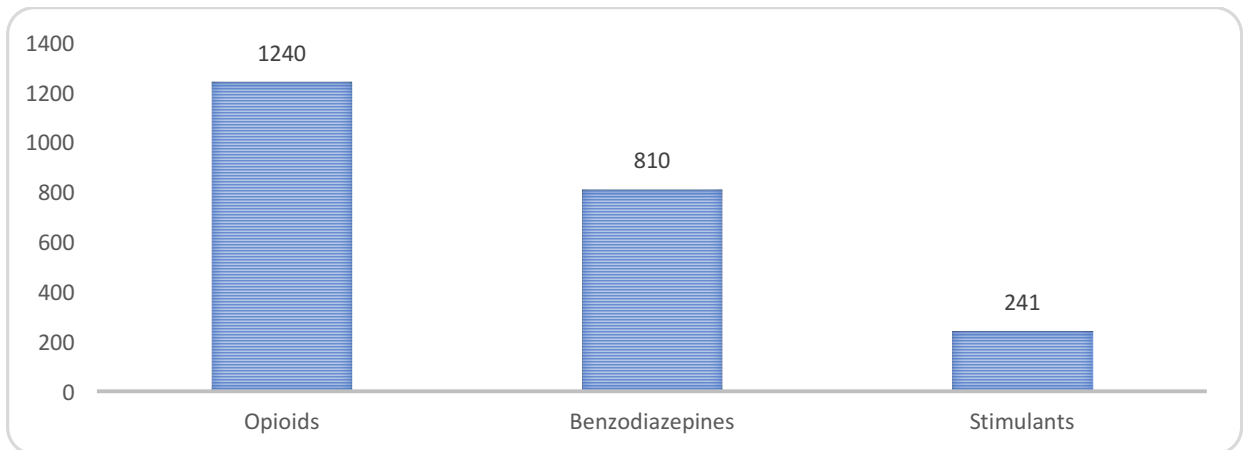
**FIGURE 37. NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS WRITTEN BY TYPE IN HERNANDO COUNTY, 2015**



Source: University of Florida- Florida Drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking System

- A total of 408,802 prescriptions for opioids, benzodiazepines, and stimulants were written by prescribers in Hernando County in 2015.

**FIGURE 38. RATE OF PRESCRIPTIONS WRITTEN IN HERNANDO COUNTY PER EVERY 1,000 RESIDENTS, 2015**



Source: University of Florida- Florida Drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking System

- In 2015 in Hernando County, prescriptions for opioids were written at a rate that is above every person in the county receiving a prescription in the year.



## ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES

In addition to involvement in the criminal justice system, mental health issues and substance use contribute to a series of other negative consequences impacting families and communities, including loss of life. This section briefly reviews the latest data regarding teen behaviors related to driving under the influence and riding in the car with other impaired, as well as injuries and loss of life from impaired driving (all ages), rates of overdose in the community from substance use not previously reported, and rates of suicide.

**TABLE 110. ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA IMPAIRED DRIVING BEHAVIORS OF HERNANDO AND FLORIDA STATEWIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2012-2016**

	Hernando			State of Florida		
	2012	2014	2016	2012	2014	2016
<b>Alcohol</b>						
Riding in a vehicle	18.4%	16.9%	15.4%	21.4%	18.1%	16.4%
Driving a vehicle	6.4%	5.7%	4.7%	8.1%	6.6%	5.4%
<b>Marijuana</b>						
Riding in a vehicle	22.4%	23.9%	23.6%	25.4%	23.5%	22.7%
Driving a vehicle	9.7%	11.1%	11.7%	11.2%	10.9%	10.3%

Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- In 2016 in Hernando County, high school students reported lower rates of driving under the influence of alcohol or riding in the car with someone who had been drinking alcohol than statewide averages, however rates of for marijuana were higher in Hernando County than statewide averages.

**TABLE 111. ALCOHOL AND DRUG RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES IN HERNANDO COUNTY, ALL AGES, 2013- 2016**

	2014	2015	2016	% Change 2015-2016	3 Year Average
Alcohol Confirmed Crashes	35	44	39	-11.4%	39
Alcohol Confirmed Fatalities	3	4	3	-25.0%	3
Alcohol Confirmed Injuries	28	34	39	+14.7%	34
Drug and Alcohol Confirmed Crashes	0	2	3	+50.0%	2
Drug and Alcohol Confirmed Fatalities	0	2	2	0.0%	1
Drug and Alcohol Confirmed Injuries	0	0	3		1
Drug Confirmed Crashes	6	9	4	-55.6%	6
Drug Confirmed Fatalities	1	1	0	0.0%	1
Drug Confirmed Injuries	8	15	1	-93.33%	8

Source: Florida Department of High Safety and Motor Vehicles

- In 2016 in Hernando County, 5 persons lost their life from a car crash with confirmed alcohol and/or alcohol and drugs in combination.

**TABLE 112. HERNANDO COUNTY SUICIDE RATES BY AGE, 2012-2016**

	19 and under	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 plus	Total
2012	0	1	3	3	8	7	5	4	0	31
2013	2	2	8	7	8	5	4	3	1	40
2014	0	2	4	5	6	4	1	8	1	31
2015	1	1	6	5	9	7	4	4	2	39
2016	0	1	1	9	7	6	8	3	3	38

Source: Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report

**TABLE 113. NUMBER OF CALLS TO POISON CONTROL FOR TOP 15 EXPOSURE CATEGORIES BY AGE GROUP OF SELECTED EXPOSURES IN HERNANDO, 2015- 2016**

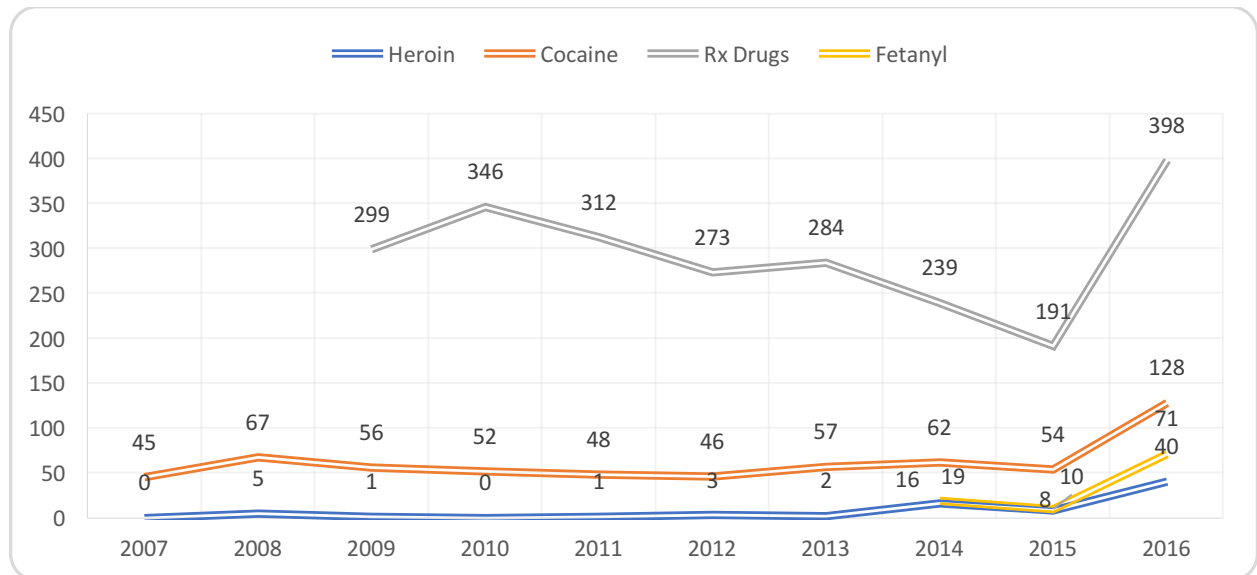
	2015			2016		
	6 to 12	13-19	All Ages	6 to 12	13-19	All Ages
Analgesics	3	26	171	6	22	138
Sedative/Hypnotics	3	15	130	3	14	118
Antidepressants	1	9	69	4	15	74
Alcohols	1	5	61	-	4	66
Antihistamines	-	3	34	4	7	41
Dietary Supplements/Herbals/Homeopathic	3	-	-	3	0	36
Cold and Cough Preparations	3	10	33	5	3	
Stimulants and Street Drugs		9	44	4	3	33
Total Call for Selected Drug Types	14	77	542	29	68	506
TOTAL EXPOSURE CALLS	52	97	1,120	78	83	1,088
Percent Related to Selected Drugs	28.4%	79.4%	48.4%	37.2%	81.9%	46.5%

Source: Florida Poison Control Centers

Note: Selected substances were chosen from top 15 exposure categories reported per year. An exposure type indicated with “-”, may have had an associated call(s), however the amount did not qualify for the 15 type threshold.

- In Hernando County, 81.9% of calls among 13 to 19 year olds in the top 15 reported categories were from drugs that can be abused.
- The most common calls to poison control were for analgesics in both 2015 and 2016.

**TABLE 114. DRUGS IDENTIFIED AT TIME OF DEATH AS EITHER THE “CAUSE” OF DEATH OR “PRESENT” AT THE TIME OF DEATH IN DISTRICT 5, 2007-2016, OR WHEN FIRST REPORTED**



Source: Florida Medical Examiners Commissioners Report

- Alarming, the rates of persons who died with heroin, cocaine, prescription drugs, and fentanyl in their system during a toxicology report substantially increased from 2015 to 2016 and all drug types were at the highest rate on record from either 2007 or until first reported out in by county-level.

# CONSIDERATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout the needs assessment process, data was collected from community members who have been involved with the juvenile justice system, as well as stakeholders who interact with or serve Hernando County youth. The following information collected provides further insight the target population through personal accounts and reported challenges and recommendations that should be considered when determining next steps.

**TABLE 115. CAREGIVER AND DJJ INVOLVED YOUTH EXPERIENCES WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, 2017**

<b>Community Input: Responses from Focus Group of Parents/Caregivers with Youth Under Their Care That Have Department of Juvenile Justice Involvement, December 2017</b>	
<b>Topic: Experiences with the Juvenile Justice System.</b>	
<b>Parent/Caregiver Perspective</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Happy to have probation officer! Example: got extra math help from the teacher for the youth.”</li> <li>• “Probation gives a set of guidelines- home by 8, can’t hang out with other kids who are in trouble. Up to parent to implement. It’s so helpful having the probation officer behind you. Can’t discipline kids the way we were when we were kids- so good to have the back up.”</li> <li>• “Probation officer has been supportive, there for me, doing her best. Great people.”</li> <li>• “After arrest, it was months until anything was decided. 11 trips to the court house before anything happened. When we called we didn't know he was going to be arrested- just came and took him- didn't know what was going on.”</li> <li>• “I was ashamed as a parent because I didn't raise him to act like that. Don't think they should throw the book at them, but something was wrong. I believe the system is fair and just, but it always depends on the circumstances. There is so many issues to put in place.”</li> </ul>	
<b>Youth Perceptive</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “They don't let you tell how you feel- only chance to tell your whole side of the story is in front of the judge- where you are scared. You should be able to have a lawyer without paying \$6000. Someone who could hear the whole side of the story.”</li> <li>• “Cops told me I was going to go home, but then next thing I know headed to Ocala.”</li> <li>• “You don’t get a phone call when you get arrested, they don't read your rights.”</li> <li>• “Handcuffs are really, really tight.”</li> </ul>	
<b>Experiences in Detention Centers:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Bored as hell. Baker Act wasn't that bad. JDC was terrible. They didn't give me a mattress and made me sleep on concrete. In jail people bang on the walls on night. Don't get a pillow. Two little sheets.”</li> <li>• “Made me go in confinement after girls jumped me and I didn't even do anything. Soap made me breakout. Only get hygiene once a day in the morning right before breakfast. Clothes don't fit. Girls are aggravating and talk crap. Just want to fight you. Everyone fights over the television. Read books all day. Get a phone call once a week.”</li> <li>• “It was really cold, can’t use phone, sit in a cell all by yourself. They were being so mean when they were taking my mug shot. I was trying to be nice. Smashed my hands while fingerprinting.”</li> <li>• “90 degrees in my cell.”</li> </ul>	

Source: Focus Groups, Hernando CJMHS Youth Needs Assessment Committee, 2017

## HERNANDO COUNTY PARENT AND CAREGIVERS BELIEFS ON MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, 2017

Please respond to the following:							
	Yes/Agree		No/Disagree		Unsure		N=
Mental illness is a major problem among youth in Hernando County.	78.1%	75	4.2%	4	17.1%	17	96
Substance abuse is a major problem among youth in Hernando County.	67.4%	64	2.1%	2	30.5%	29	95
Youth with mental illness involved with the criminal justice system is a problem in Hernando County.	64.6%	62	2.1%	2	33.3%	32	96
Youth with substance abuse issues involved with the criminal justice system is a problem in Hernando County.	63.1%	60	4.2%	4	32.6%	31	95
There is enough education provided to youth and families in Hernando County on mental illness.	11.6%	11	80.0%	76	8.4%	8	95
There is enough education provided to youth and families in Hernando County on substance abuse.	17.9%	17	64.2%	61	17.9%	17	95

Source: Hernando County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Survey for Parents/ Guardians Survey, for CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant, Hernando Community Coalition

- Of the 96 Hernando County parents and caregivers asked who have a youth with a mental illness or substance abuse issue, 64.6% believed mental illness and 63.1% believed substance use are a problem amount youth involved in the criminal justice system.

### SYSTEM CHALLENGES REPORTED BY HERNANDO STAKEHOLDERS

In this section, we look at systematic challenges reported by local professionals involved in youth services identified during the CJMHSARG Key Informant Interviews. Many of the challenges overlap the section related to mental health needs of youth, identified in the “gaps in services” portion of the report.

#### **Parent/Family Involvement/Accountability:**

- Parental engagement can be challenging due to several barriers including but not limited to (1) parent’s lack of understanding of the child’s mental health diagnosis/ treatment, (2) parent’s instability in the basic needs (housing, income, transportation), (3) parent’s frustration with navigating services, (4) lack of attachment to the child, etc.
- Inability to hold parents accountable for meeting their own mental health needs.
- Lack of parental support to help them cope with feelings of isolation, shame and embarrassment. Parents may not have the right tools or coping skills to help their child.
- Generational cycles of mental health, substance abuse, and child abuse.

#### **Lack of Services/Affordability:**

- There is a need for early identification, intervention, and to co-locate mental health services and service providers in the local schools.
- Overall lack of service providers in the county with the flexibility or desire to work with difficult populations.
- Lack of services and service providers in the mental and behavioral health continuum of care.

- Lack of mental and behavioral health services for “at-risk” youth – runaways, truants, etc.
- Lack of a mental health court for youth – thus they are processed through the delinquency system.
- Families lack financial resources.
- Difficulties in navigating services through health insurance plans and meeting “prior authorizations” or “medical necessity” criteria to obtain services.
- Lack of services provided to youth through the DJJ Regional Detention Center during the 21-day detention period.
- Delinquency court does not always adequately address the youth’s mental health or substance abuse issues because it was not necessarily designed to.
- Need more resources for adults as well as youth in this community.

**Lack of Mandates/Sanctions/Accountability for Youth:**

- Lack of DJJ diversionary options for youth.
- Lack of ability to hold youth and parents accountable for the youth’s mental/ behavioral health treatment.
- Lack of a comprehensive assessment of the youth’s needs so that the right interventions can be obtained as early as possible.

**Interagency Data Sharing and Collaboration Issues:**

- Barriers to information sharing – HIPPA, FERPA, lack of parental consent or court orders authorizing information sharing.
- Lack of parental engagement in the youth’s education/ school.
- Educational requirements/standards placed on schools do not necessarily lend ability for schools to focus on children’s mental/ behavioral health.
- See it all over, staff is very altruistic and concerned about the success of the students. They don't want to interfere with their future success and chances of going to college, etc., so they often give kids first, second, and third chances. But cannot address the needs of the kids and treating their underlining issues.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FROM HERNANDO STAKEHOLDERS

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- Create a local Juvenile Assessment Center that could conduct a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the youth.
- A lot of times for parents, when it comes to mental health, substance use, or crime, they feel they have to defend it because otherwise they have done something wrong as a parent. People can be judgmental. We need to be proactive and educate and remove those barriers- reframe the perspective of what we have- and remove stigmas from mental health, substance use, and criminal justice issues.
- See a lot of co-occurring issues without a comprehensive approach. Need more drug screening, intensive courts keeping them on track. No services for juveniles that are committing crimes. A judge keeping them on track would be helpful.
- Really need a counselor for every grade level to support teachers.

- Need services for youth that are inpatient where they have a chance to recover and not be in the same environment that brought them there.
- Mental health court might help with mandated treatment.
- Parents need more education and understanding how to navigate the system and why attention seeking behaviors can lead to involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Law enforcement needs more alternatives to arrest and the flexibility to put a person into services rather than arrest or Baker Act them.
- Aim to reduce stigmatization of mental and behavioral health and promote connection to services.
- Need for rigorous communication and collaboration protocols for multi-agency youth.
- Institute an evidenced-based model for parental engagement for parents whose children are residing in in-patient programs.