

**Palm Beach County
Criminal Justice Commission
Annual Monitoring Report
Of**



Pride Misdemeanor Probation Services

October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005

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Data for this report was collected by and collated into report form by CJC staff and presented to the Probation Advisory Board on February 16, 2006.

PURPOSE

To monitor the County professional services contract with Pride Integrated Services, Inc., for the provision of misdemeanor probation services to Palm Beach County.

Charles E. Burton/ Chairman



MEMBERS

Ted Booras/ *State Attorney's Office*

Virginia Cataldo/ *U.S. Probation*

Steven A. Cohen/ *Private Defense Attorney*

Theresa Corner/ *Florida Dept. of Corrections*

Karen Heidtman/ *Clerk & Comptroller's Office*

Kay Oglesby/ *Ex-Offender Reentry*

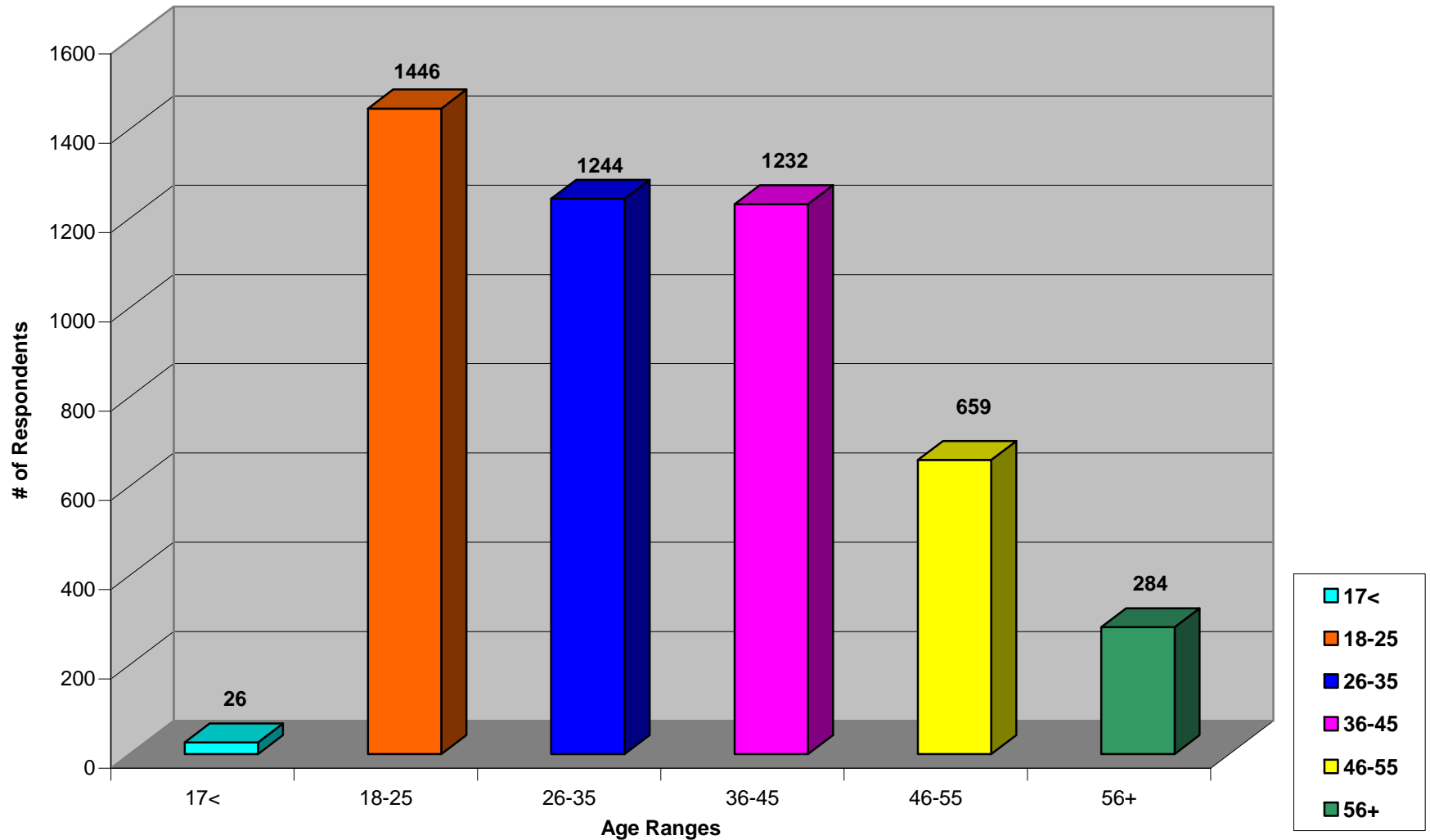
John Riviera/ Assistant Public Defender

**PROBATION ADVISORY BOARD
PRIDE MISDEMEANOR PROBATION SERVICES**

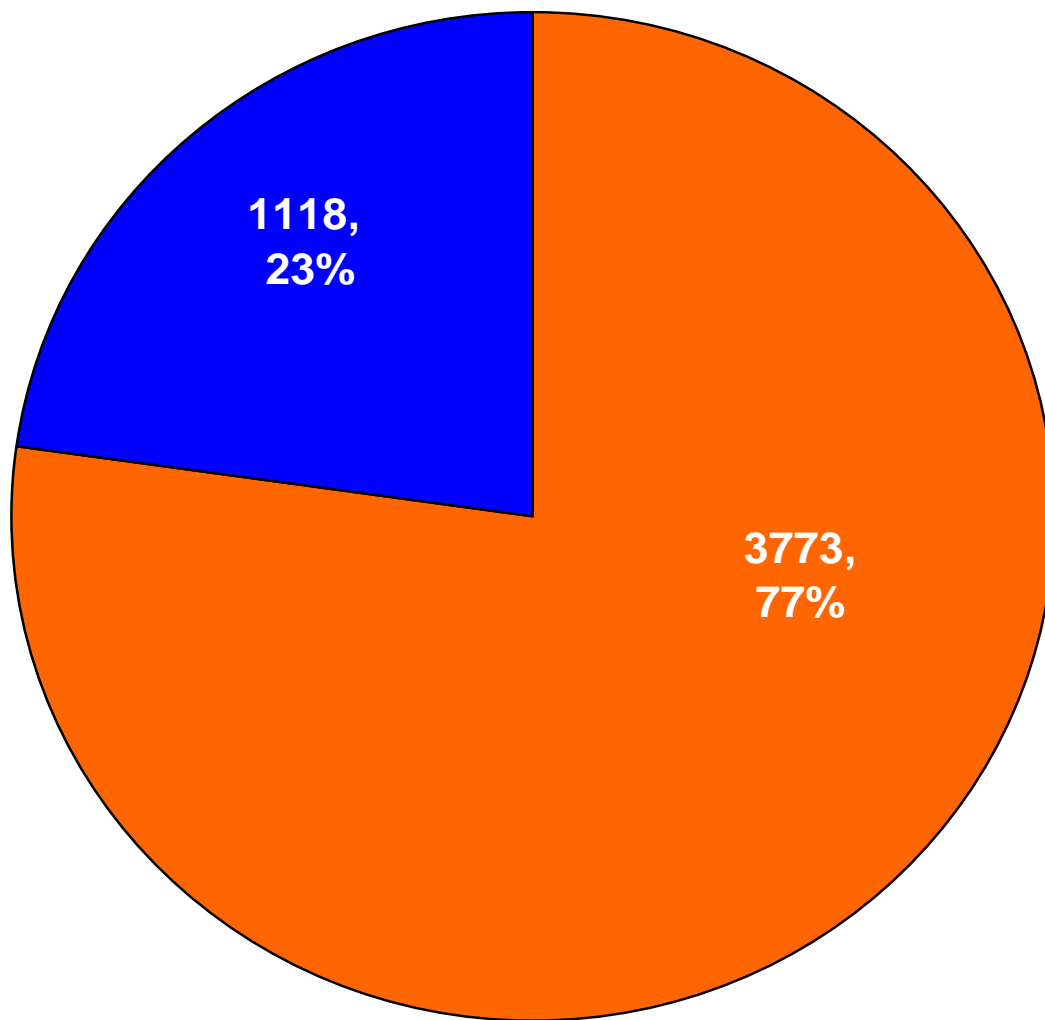
- In accordance with F.S. 948.15, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) with approval of the Chief Judge is required to oversee the delivery of misdemeanor probation services for the 15th Judicial Circuit County Court.
- On December 7, 1993, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners through a “Request for Proposal” (RFP) process and by resolution selected Pride Integrated Services, Inc., (Pride) as the provider of misdemeanor probation services to County Court.
- A requirement in the Professional Services contract between the BCC and Pride was the creation of a Probation Advisory Board (PAB) to monitor and report annually to the BCC via the Criminal Justice Commission of their findings.
- A total of 4891 probation clients were terminated during the monitoring period October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. A summary of the four Pride offices include:
 - 1) West Palm Beach Office
A total of 3045 clients were terminated at this office during the above period.
 - 2) Delray Beach Office
A total of 1057 clients were terminated at this office during the above period.
 - 3) Lake Park Office
A total of 593 cases were terminated at this office during the above period.
 - 4) Belle Glade Office

A total of 196 cases were terminated at this office during the above period.

Age



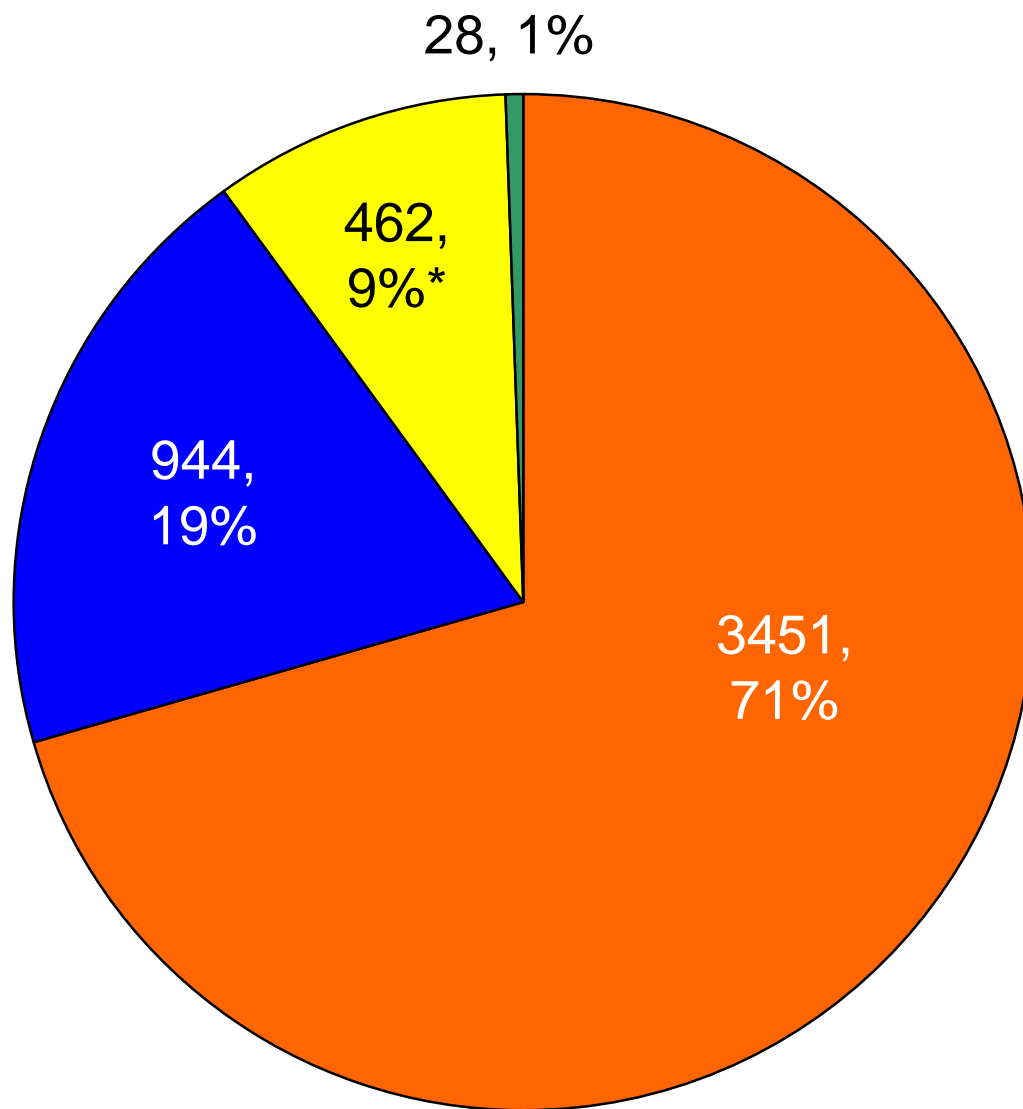
*Age Range= 14-84



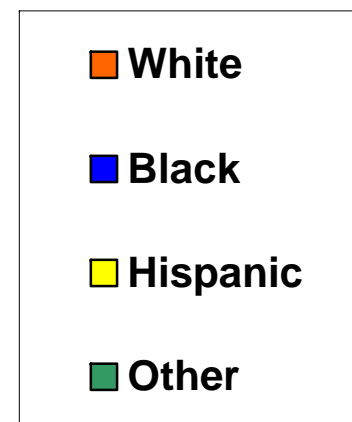
Gender

■ Male

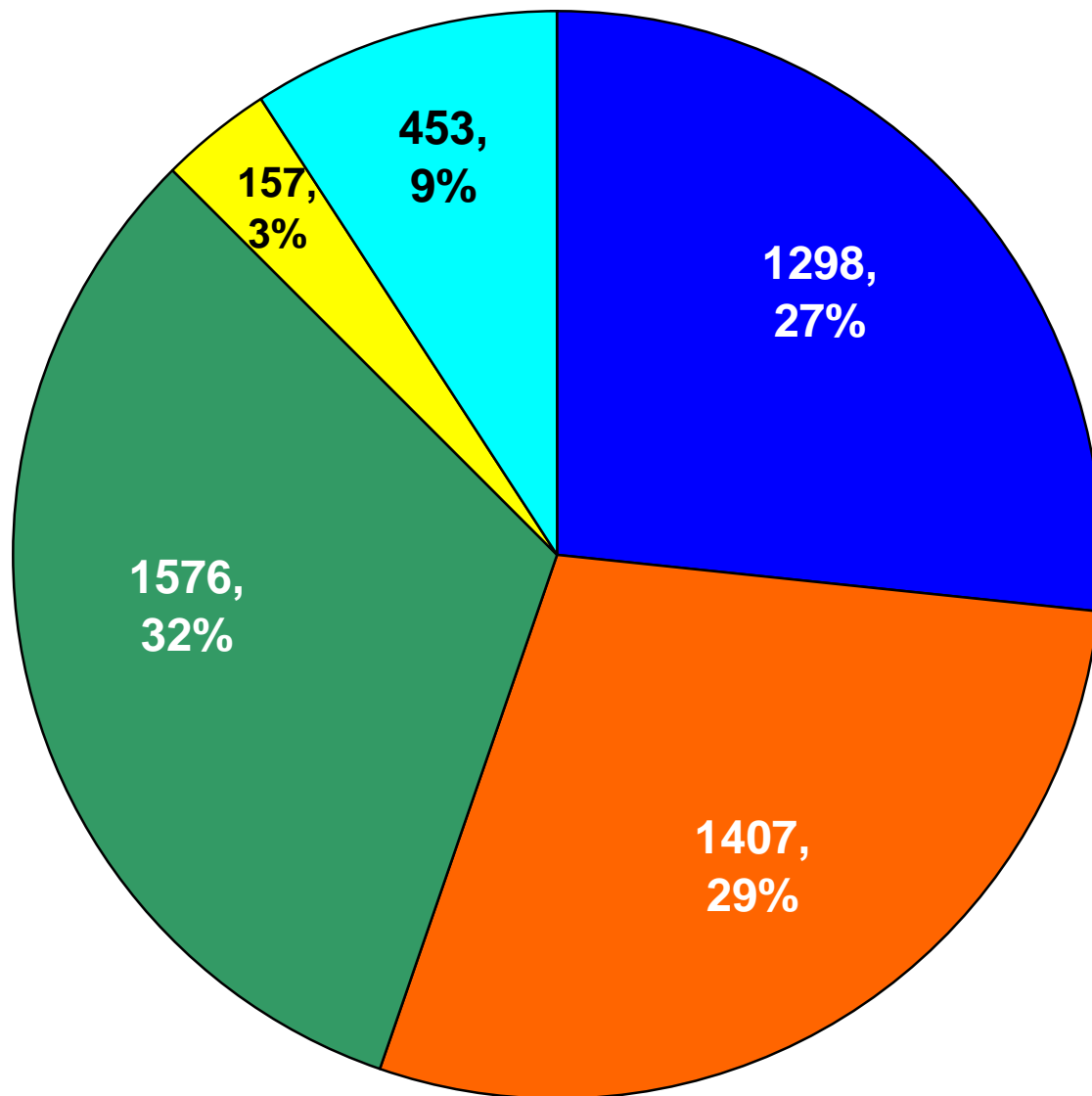
■ Female



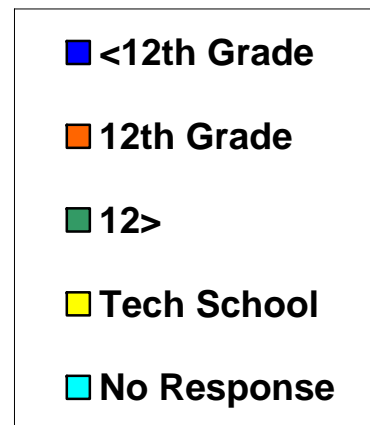
Race

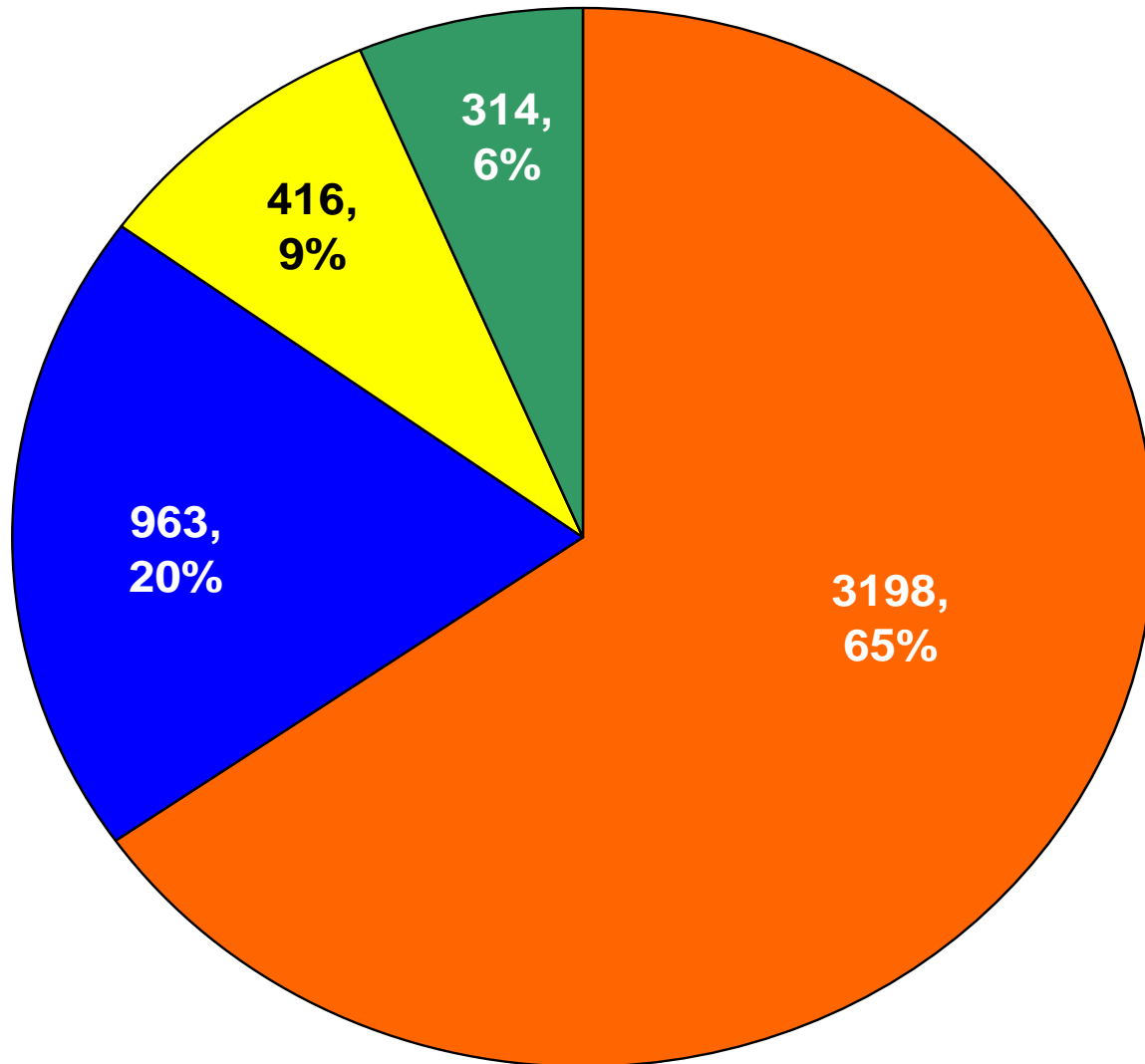


* Those who indicated their primary language as Spanish

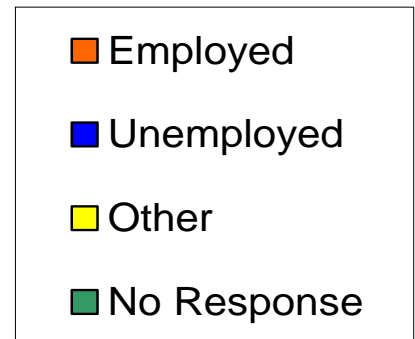


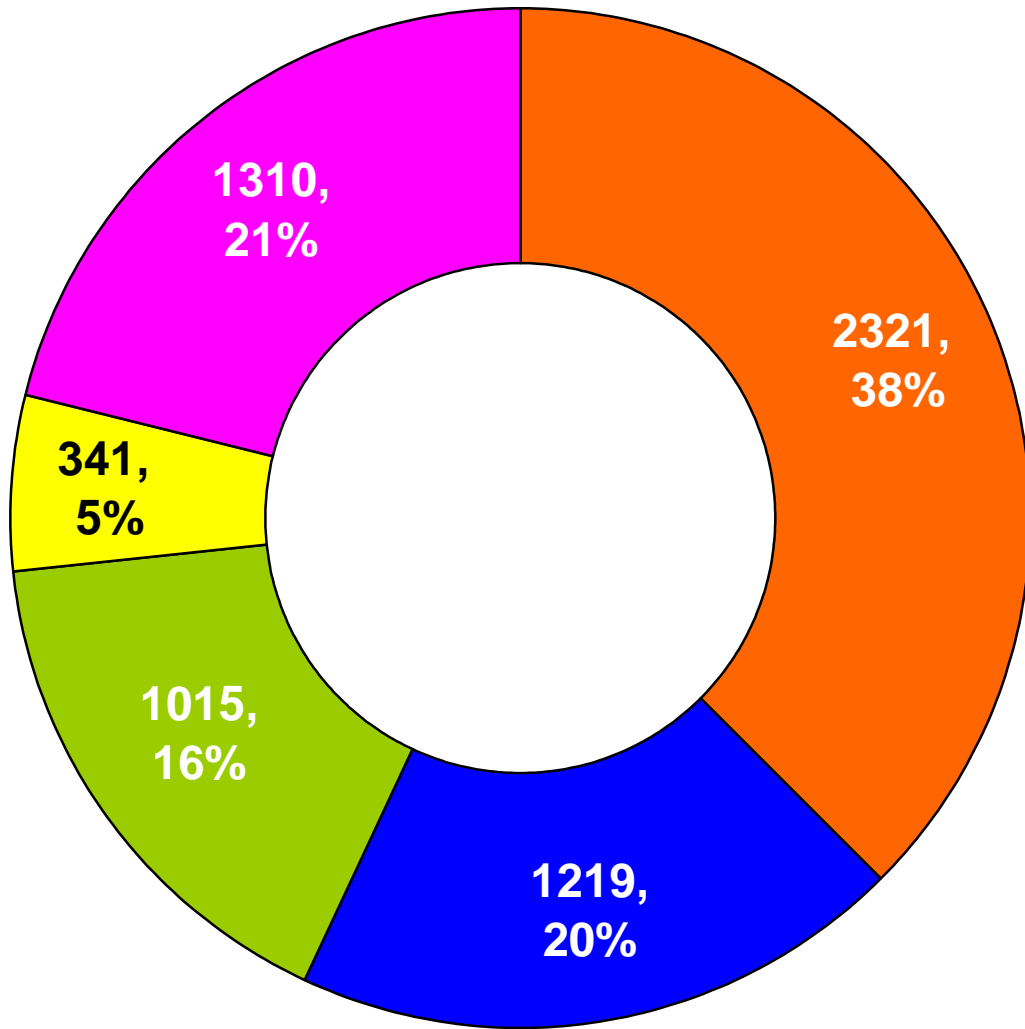
Education



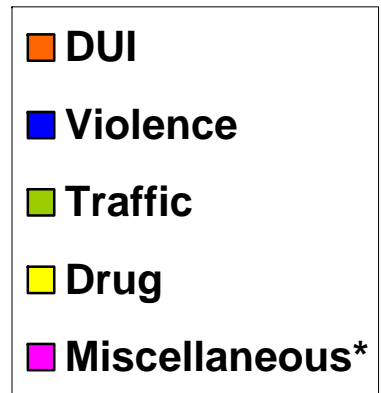


Employment



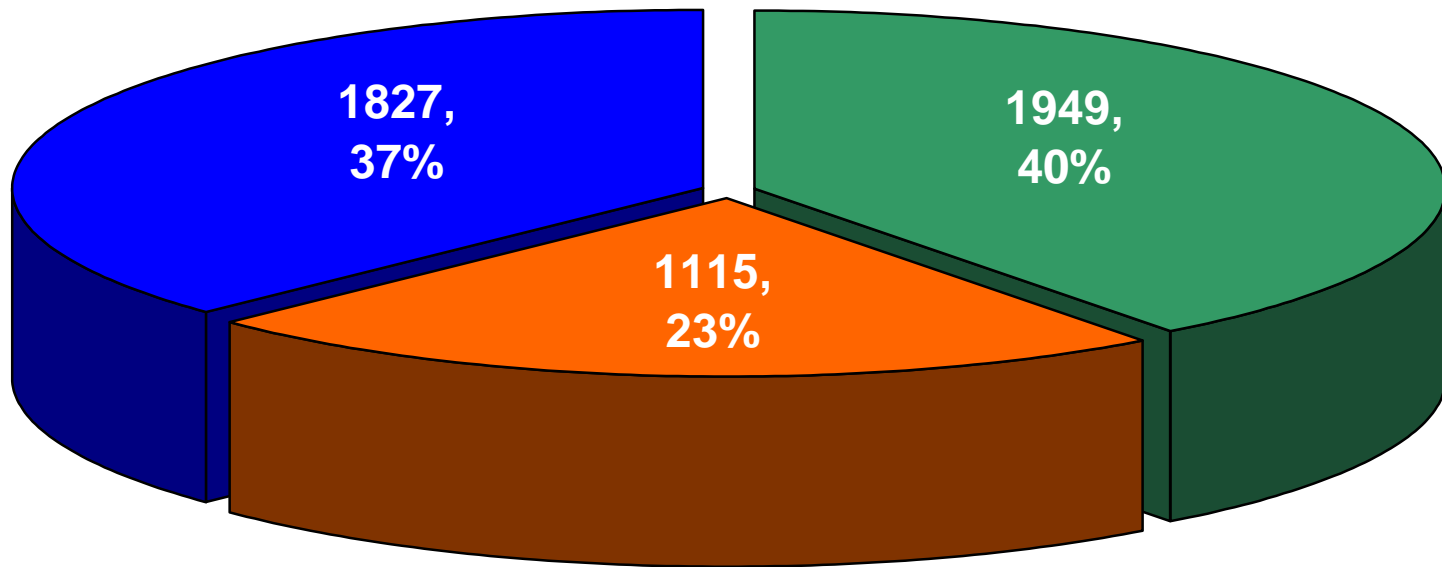


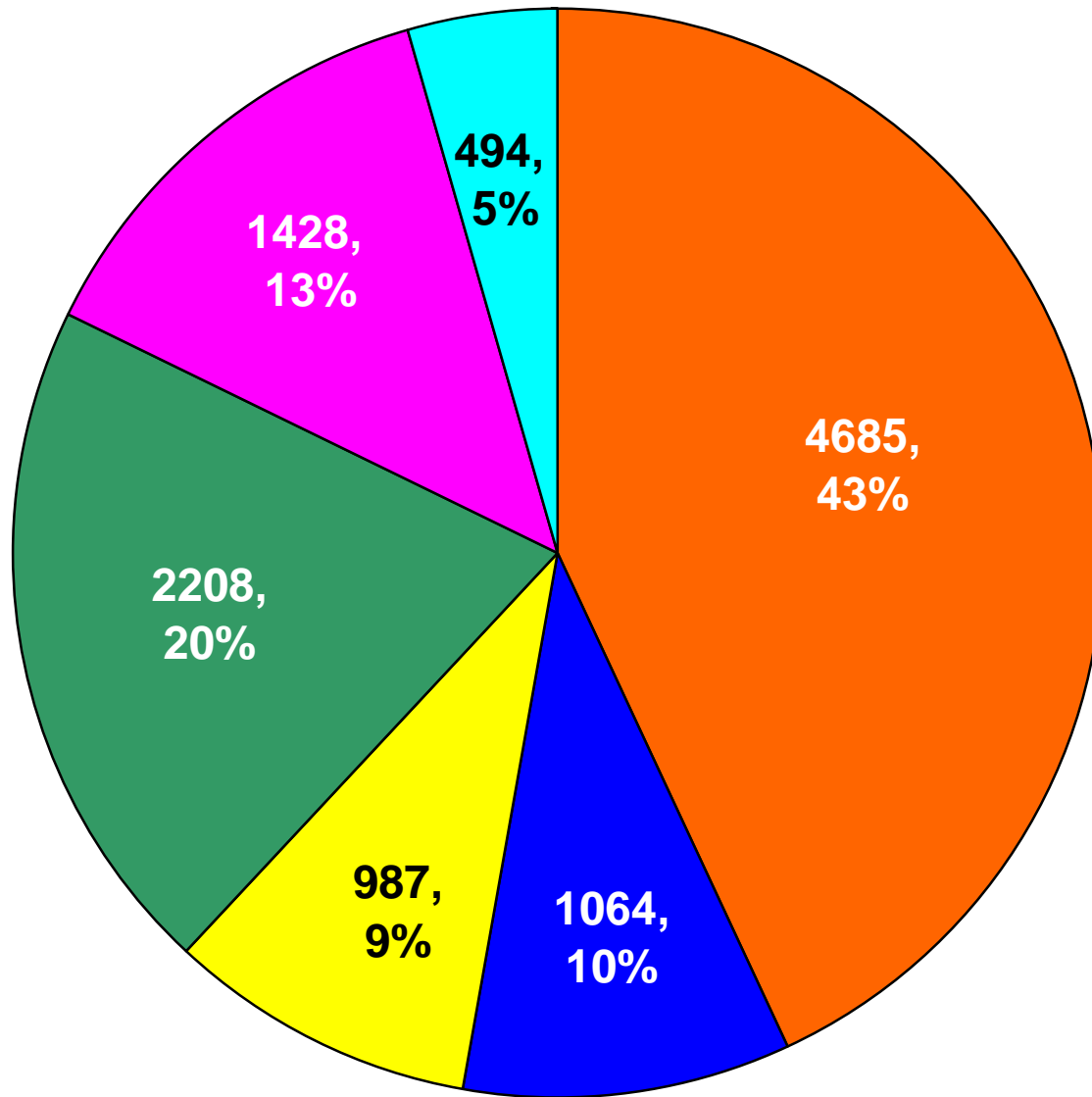
Present Charge



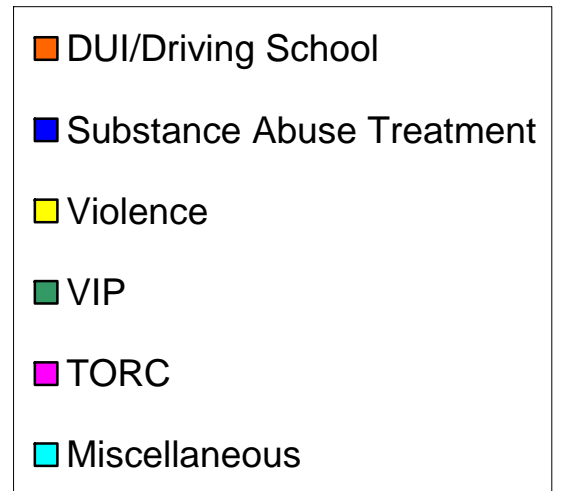
* Petty Theft, Retail Theft, Mischief, Trespassing, Resist Officer, Passing Worthless Checks

Prior Arrests

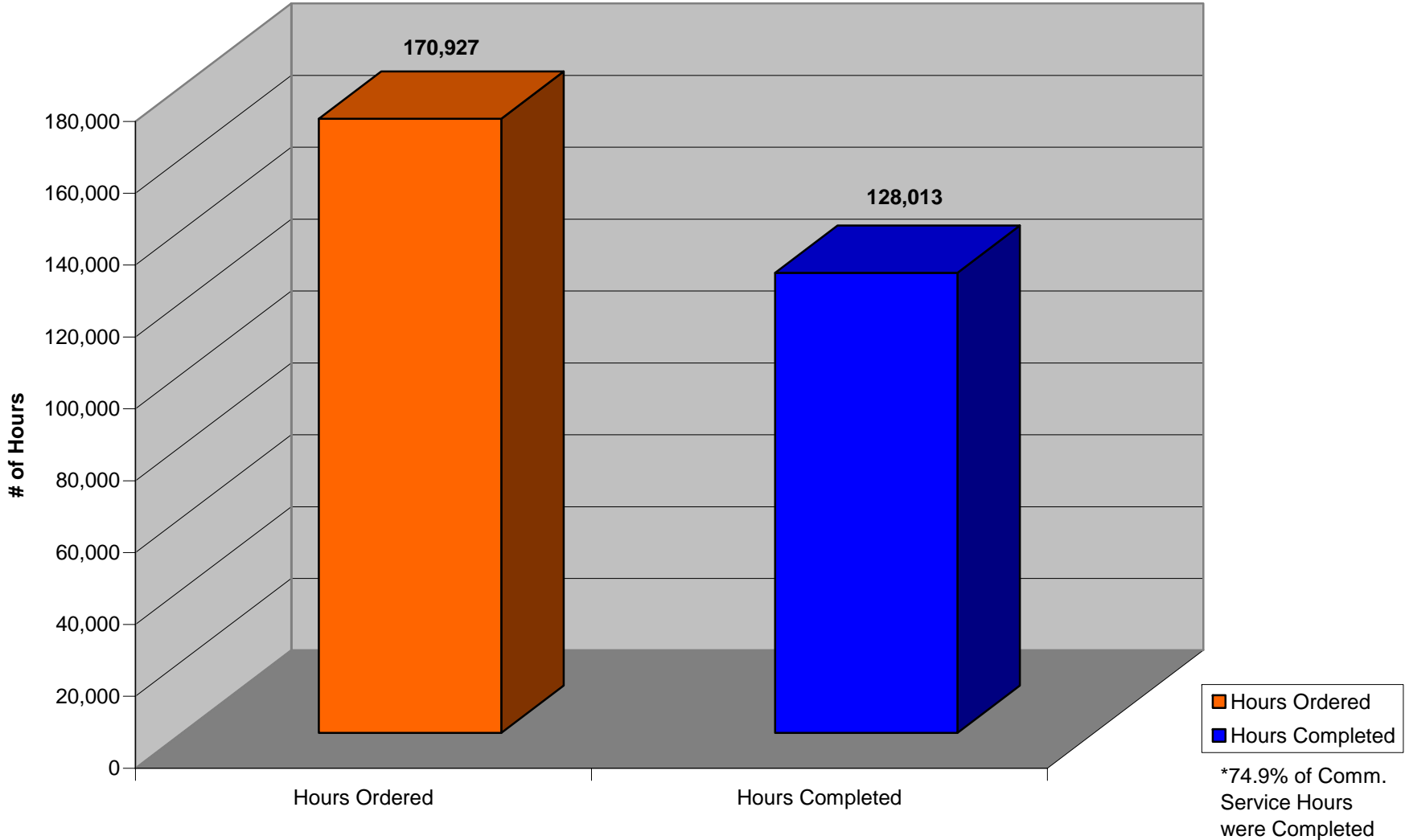




Treatment Type



Community Service Hours



FINDINGS:

- The Professional Services Contract with the County requires Pride to maintain a Probation Officer in every County Criminal Court division. This is done to ensure immediate contact after sentencing between a Pride Probation Officer and the offender. Probation conditions are explained and the probationer is then required to report to Pride probation office within usually seven days.
- During the initial office visit, a general history form is completed on every probationer. The Probation Officer once again provides a detailed explanation of the probation conditions including fines, court costs, restitution, treatment and supervision costs. The conditions and other general probation requirements are detailed in a Probationers Handbook which requires the probationer to sign off on.
- A Probationer Needs Assessment form is provided to every probationer to determine whether the probationer needs any direct services such as employment assistance, counseling, food or any other assistance. This survey consists of 14 questions and is provided to and completed by probationers on their initial office visit. If a need is expressed, the probationer is given a referral to the proper source.
- Pride is required to file a violation of probation (VOP) for non-compliance with any of the court-ordered probation conditions. The court exercises numerous options in handling probation violations including reinstatement of probation or revocation of probation and a sentence to include jail time.
- Pride enforced and verified all community service and restitution conditions. As a matter of Pride program policy, treatment and community service obligations require a letter of completion from the treatment provider or the recipient of the community service.
- Pride was very timely in their quarterly and annual reporting as required by the county professional services contract. Copies of probationer and financial reports are mailed concurrently to the Chief Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit, the Chair of the Probation Advisory Board and CJC staff assigned to the PAB.
- Pride is currently in compliance with the requirement to maintain a certificate of insurance of general liability and automobile policies with Palm Beach County included as additional insured. The present coverage extends until 8/7/06.
- In the original 1993 Pride–County Professional Services contract, Pride agreed to reimburse the County the sum of five thousand dollars per year (\$5,000), payable in two semi-annual installments, to offset the cost to the County of monitoring the contract. This continues in effect.

PROBATIONER AUDIT STATISTICS: 4891 Terminated Probationers
Demographic Probationers Percentages

Gender	Male	3773	77.0 %
	Female	1118	23.0
Race	White	3451	71.0%
	Black	944	19.0
	Hispanic	462	9.0
	Other	28	1.0
Age	<17	26	.05
	18 – 25	1446	29.6%
	26 – 35	1244	25.4
	36 – 45	1232	25.2
	46 – 55	659	13.5
	56 >	284	5.8
Employed	Employed	3198	65.4%
	Unemployed	963	19.7
	Other (ret/disabled)	416	8.5
	No response	314	6.4
Education	<12 th grade	1321	27.0%
	12 th grade (GED)	1418	29.0
	12>	1565	32.0
	Technical school	147	3.0
	No response	440	9.0
Prior convictions	None	1949	40.0%
	1	1115	23.0%
	2 or more	1827	37%

Present charge	DUI	2321	38.0%
	Violence	1219	20.0
	Traffic	1015	16.0
	Drugs	341	5.0
	Misc	1310	21.0
Community Service Hours Ordered	Yes	170,927	128,013
Community service completed	Yes		74.9%
Treatment type	DUI/ Driving school	4685	43.0%
	Substance abuse tx	1064	10.0
	Domestic violence & anger mgt	987	9.0
	VIP	2208	20.0
	Morgue tour	1428	13.0
	Misc	494	5.0

PROBATIONER DEMOGRAPHICS MEAN

Gender	Male	77.0%
Race	White	71.0%
Age	18 – 25	29.6%
Employment	3198 out of 4891	65.4%
Education	More than 12 th grade	32.0%
Prior convictions	1 or more prior convictions	2942/ 60.2%

PRIDE PROGRESS

Advisory Board

Pride continues to host the Probation Services Community Advisory Board (PSCAB) which meets quarterly. The mission of the PSCAB is to provide a forum to discuss and assess misdemeanor probation services, the needs of probationers as well as various services offered in the community that may address these needs. This effort has resulted in greater utilization of current resources as well as to identify areas where more assistance and services are needed. The Judiciary, State Attorney, Public Defender's Office, the Sheriff's Office, Clerk's Office and several community organizations participate.

Financial Officer Position

This position was developed to assist the clients with meeting their financial obligations. For many Pride clients, meeting the financial conditions of probation is overwhelming without a plan of action. The Financial Officer meets with clients to assist with the review of financial conditions, the development of payment plans and/or the completion of a financial affidavit to be considered for payment reductions, if necessary.

Technology Updates

During this past year, Pride updated their computer system and in doing so, expanded their capabilities. Pride is now better able to comply with the provisions contained in the Jessica Lundsford Act passed by state legislature in 2005 regarding sexual offenders. Pride is required by law to conduct a records search on all new misdemeanor probationers. Any probationer with a prior sexual offender designation must be monitored for a valid residence and any violation of residence or reporting requires immediate notification of the Sheriff's Office.

Multi-Year Contract

Effective December 6, 2005 Pride began the first year of a new three-year contract to provide misdemeanor probation services to Palm Beach County. Pride entered into their first contract with the county in December 1993 and has held the probation contract ever since. Pride currently provides services to misdemeanor offender through offices located in West Palm Beach, North County, Delray Beach and Belle Glade.

Restoration of Pride Belle Glade office

Pride's Belle Glade office sustained serious damage during this past hurricane season and was forced to conduct probation services administratively until this past December when the office was completely remodeled.

Job Bank Center

Pride developed a computer lab at their West Palm Beach office, 1310 N. Congress Avenue to increase employment assistance to defendants. The center includes three computers with established internet links to local employment services. This project was finalized in December 2005 and increased utilization is anticipated for 2006. Pride is hopeful that the computer access will be a beneficial tool to defendants seeking employment.

CONCLUSION

- Probationers are provided a Needs Assessment form during their first meeting with probation officers. Employment, counseling and other social service referrals are available for those who are in need. Probationers complete the form indicating what services they wish to access and appropriate referrals are then made
- The creation of a Financial Officer Position assists clients in formulating a pay plan and is intended to increase the collection of court fines and costs as well as cost of supervision fees.
- The creation of the Job Bank Center at the West Palm Beach office provides a link to employment services for those probationers who need employment assistance.
- Pride participated in every Probation Advisory Board (PAB) meeting this past year and collaborates very closely with PAB membership in addressing, assessing and improving the quality of probation services provided to the County.

✓ This audit finds that Pride is in compliance with the provisions of the probation services contract with Palm Beach County.