

Presentation of State Attorney's Office
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A Peek at 2013 * Juvenile Offense Data and the Impact of Heat Wave Summer Programs

Gainesville City Commission
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Teen Action

“...particularly when confronted with stressful or emotional decisions, teenagers are more likely to act impulsively, on instinct, without fully understanding or analyzing the consequences of their actions.”

- Dr. David Fassler, a psychiatry professor at the University of Vermont College of Medicine

Teen Actions

- ▶ Experts say that even at ages 16 and 17, when compared to adults, juveniles on average are more:
 - impulsive
 - aggressive
 - emotionally volatile
 - likely to take risks
 - reactive to stress
 - vulnerable to peer pressure
 - prone to focus on and overestimate short-term payoffs and underplay longer-term consequences of what they do
 - likely to overlook alternative courses of action
- ▶ *Research doesn't absolve teens but offers some explanation for their behavior.*

Summer Heatwave

- ▶ What it is...
- ▶ A three-prong program for 13–18 year olds, 8 weeks each summer, Monday – Friday, 5 – 9 pm, 242 teens this summer, 2013:
 - Heatwave Basketball Program with Life Skills
 - Operation Respect Yourself Pool Parties
 - Teen Lounges at 3 Recreation Centers

...*that focuses on character building* and provides meaningful activities for teens during the summer months while bringing neighborhoods together.

The Partnership

1. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Programmers, Role Models and Mentors
2. Gainesville Police Department – School Resource Officers, Role Models and Mentors
3. State Attorney’s Office – Collects and Analyzes Data, Advocate for Programs
4. Community Citizens – Life Skills Instructors, Role Models and Mentors

YOUR Character Counts

<http://www.charactercounts.org/>

1. Caring
2. Responsibility
3. Citizenship
4. Trustworthiness
5. Fairness
6. Respect

Number of Juvenile Offenses

Year	# of Offenses/number of youth, Alachua County Only	Change in Offenses from Previous Year
2000	2373	n/a
2008	1823 /1,239	-208
2009	1562 /1,046	-261
2010	1382 / 979	-180
2011	1311 / 836 youth 616 youth were charged with only one offense, (74%) 194 youth committed 2-4 offenses, (23%) 26 youth committed 5 or more offenses (3%) 171 offenses	- 71
2012	1208 / 792 youth	-103
2013* <i>Jan 1-Aug 18</i>	~690 / 475 youth 363 youth were charged with only one offense, (76%) 99 youth committed 2-4 offenses, (21%) 13 youth committed 5 or more offenses (3%) [92 offenses]	<i>Expected decrease</i>

Month Juvenile Offense Occurred

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Jan	82	115	104	121	133	141	153
Feb	81	91	101	118	140	169	206
Mar	116	89	116	153	164	192	218
Apr	111	113	120	135	154	150	156
May	94	119	125	135	131	148	165
Jun	65	106	85	106	142	155	160
Jul	106**	82	105	125	130	139	166
Aug	50*	85	86	85	92	136	153
Sep	*	121	137	109	141	161	201
Oct	*	95	120	107	134	152	217
Nov	*	106	102	98	99	153	121
Dec	*	86	110	90	102	127	115
Total	N/A	1,208	1,311	1,382	1,562	1,824	2,031

Gender of Juvenile: 2013*

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Female	208	29.5%
Male	496	70.5%

Age of Juvenile Offenders

Age	Frequency	%
6-9	9	1.7%
10	11	1.6%
11	9	1.3%
12	63	9%
13	64	9%
14	98	14%
15	135	19.5%
16	156	22.6%
17	145	21%
Total	690	

86% of ALL juvenile offenses in 2013* involved a youth between the ages of 13-18.

2013* Juvenile Offenses

2013* Juvenile offenses	ALL Juv Cases (n=704)	Offenses committed by youth Registered in Heat Wave
January	82	2
Feb	81	4
March	116	1
April	111	6
May	94	2
June	65	1
July	106	19*
August	50*	2
Total to date	667 95%	37 5%

Types of Offenses Committed by Youth in HeatWave

	Frequency	Percent
Affray	2	5%
Burg	2	5%
Crim Mis	1	2.6
Drug	1	2.6
Drug M	3	8%
DV	1	2.6
GF Inf LE	1	2.6
G Theft	14	37
Loiter	1	2.6
Other	1	2.6
PERS	3	8%
Ptheft	3	8%
Robbery	1	2.6
ROWOV	1	2.6
Trespass	3	8%
Total	38	100%

Testimonial from HeatWave Participant

“I really liked playing basketball in HeatWave. It keeps you from getting into trouble. I really liked my coach and the team I played on. I didn't mind the life skills stuff either.”

15 year old male in HeatWave Program

What Youth Want

All young people need
safe places to go,
worthwhile things to do,
a sense of belonging,
a sense of competence,
a feeling of hope,
and relationships with people
who can help
make a difference in their lives

Questions? Comments?