

Prepare Offenders to Reintegrate Back Into the Community

Through a

Community Offender Probation and Education Unit

C.O.P.E. Unit



Bridge to Success

2010 Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in
Problem Oriented Policing Submission

Summary

Prepare Offenders to Reintegrate Back Into the Community in Fort Myers, Florida

Scanning

Every day offenders are released back into our communities from state, county, and federal correction institutions with little or no supervision. With each person that is released into the community who is not prepared or informed of the available resources to aide them in a successful integration to be successful in life, many will fail and fall back into their old habits and return to a life of crime.

Analysis

The Fort Myers Police Department has observed many offenders return to their community, only to fail without the proper resources and guidance needed to be a productive community member. In an effort to analyze why offenders our agency conducted the following steps:

- ▶ Identified all repeat offenders who are being released from prison under supervision or end of sentence (EOS).
- ▶ Members of the Police Department met with the Public Safety Coordination Council which represents law enforcement, corrections, States Attorney, Public defenders officers, court administration and probation offices.
- ▶ Gathered information on all available resources within our community willing to participate with our program.

Response

In an effort to prepare offenders to reintegrate back into the community Chief Baker initiated a new program within our agency – Community Offender Probation and Education Unit (C.O.P.E. Unit). The purpose of the new unit is to:

- ▶ Develop a strategy to determine what role and function the Police Department would play in this initiative.
- ▶ Work diligently with state, county, and federal probation agencies to monitor offenders.
- ▶ Make contact with each offender and provide them with a list of programs and services available to them.
- ▶ Conducted a needs assessment survey with individuals currently on probation.
- ▶ Conduct repeated follow-ups with offenders to determine progress and/or needs.
- ▶ Ensure compliance of all offenders.

Assessment

Quantitative results of our C.O.P.E. Unit's efforts are still to be determined and analyzed; the short-term effects indicate that the Fort Myers Police Department has taken a step in the right direction to reduce recidivism. The C.O.P.E. Unit has been able to:

- ▶ Work diligently with state, county, and federal probation offices.
- ▶ Supervise all offenders being released into our community.
- ▶ Provide each offender with a brochure of the available resources.
- ▶ Direct the offender to the proper service providers.
- ▶ Market the program to potential providers.
- ▶ Partner with Human Service providers to meet the offender's needs.
- ▶ Garner support and educate local government entities.
- ▶ Developed a data driven database to monitor offenders and track recent contacts & activity.

Project Description

Prepare Offenders to Reintegrate Back Into the Community in Fort Myers, Florida

Scanning

The Fort Myers Police Department, like most agencies has been successful solving crimes and identifying offenders. The Police Department has worked closely with the States Attorney's Office to ensure successful prosecution and sought to remove offenders from the community.

While there has been significant success in this aspect, there has been a lack of preparedness with law enforcement on how to assist offenders who reintegrate back into the community. Traditional probation efforts have limited manpower and resources to monitor each offender. Some offenders are released from state, county, and federal correction institutions and return to the communities from which they came, with no sanctions or supervision.

Studies have indicated that most offenders are ill prepared to reintegrate back into the community. Some offenders lack reading and writing abilities, job skills, and life skills that are necessary for a successful transition back into society. Some still struggle with alcohol and substance abuse and are not aware of programs that are available to them.¹

Finding and maintaining a job is a critical dimension of successful reentry. Research has shown that employment is associated with lower rates of re-offending, and higher wages are associated with lower rates of criminal activity.²

¹ For a detailed description of the challenges of prisoner reentry, see Travis, Solomon, and Waul, 2001 and Council of State Governments and Re-Entry Policy Council, 2005.

² Bernstein and Houston, 2000; Western and Petit, 2000

However, formerly incarcerated people face tremendous challenges finding and maintaining legitimate job opportunities because of low levels of education, limited work experience and vocational skills, poor attitudes, and a general reluctance of employers to hire people with convictions.³

Often this ill preparedness leads to offenders falling back into old habits and re-offending. Chances of success are very limited for an offender who is not prepared or informed of available resources to aide in a successful reintegration into the community. With each person that is released into the community without the necessary skills to be successful in life, recidivism for most is a very real possibility if not a probability.⁴ Community-based care is critical to an individual's long-term success after release.⁵

Things such as food, clothing, shelter, and employment (that many of us take for granted) for them seem unattainable; this is very difficult on an individual that is trying to turn their life around. Many offenders give up and return to a life of crime.

Analysis

The Police Department first gathered information on all offenders being released back into the community. Crime statistics were then analyzed to see how many releases had re-offended and were arrested after release. There are few if any success stories among the offenders released back into the community. For many years this problem has been an ongoing cycle of arrest, release, and re-offend. The Fort Myers Police Department like many law enforcement agencies observed many offenders return to their community, only to fail without the proper resources and guidance needed to be a productive community member.

³ Holzer, Raphael, and Stoll, 2004

⁴ Recidivism is defined in a variety of ways by researchers and correctional systems as a measure of return to criminal activity

⁵ Petersilia, 2004; Andrews et al., 1990; Gaes et al., 1999

State, county, and federal probation offices were contacted to discuss efforts the Police Department would like to make within the City of Fort Myers. Faced with limited staffing and an overabundance of offenders to monitor, each probation office was also looking at reintegration efforts to aid in the transition back into the community. Each probation office was also re-thinking its strategies and trying to find ways to assist those being released.

In an effort to determine what the needs are of offenders upon their release from jail or prison, a roundtable discussion was set up between the Fort Myers Police Department and the probation offices. The reoccurring topics of safety and security came up time and time again. In order for each offender to be successful they need to be secure within themselves, with their families, and have available resources. These resources were very simply, yet for some, very distant if not unattainable. Each person needs shelter, food, clothing and a job to care for themselves and their families. Yet many walked away from correctional facilities without a place to live, or a job to support themselves – much less a family.

A meeting was also held with members from the Lee County Human Services Council to determine what other services needed to be fulfilled. From the onset there was significant interest from members of the Human Services Council. Many board members and participants were either providers or advocates of those being released from jail or prison, and were seeing first hand the effects of release without preparation. Many of the members echoed the same observations: a need for education, life skills training, job skills, training, assistance obtaining a drivers license, and assistance find suitable living arrangements.

Underlying conditions also played a significant role in this process, with a depressed economy and an exceptionally high unemployment rate for the Fort Myers/Lee County area, which was 13% and above since January 2009.⁶ Many providers of services for alcohol and substance abuse reported to the Police Department that requests for services were at an all time high. Food pantries and soup kitchens were providing record amounts of meals and seeing many families at their doors.

The overall analysis of the problem revealed that while reintegration efforts are essential while the person is still in custody, there is a significant necessity to those who are currently being released or about to be released. Without intervention and cooperation among law enforcement, probation offices, and services providers; those being released face many uncertainties and failures.

Response

There needed to be a program that worked exclusively with those leaving jail or prison that would create consistent and positive interaction with law enforcement officers. The officers would need to provide each offender with a list of available resources and providers that support the program. The Police Department essentially needed to be a conduit of information to those being released.

In an effort to prepare offenders to reintegrate back into the community. In July of 2009, Chief Baker initiated a new program within our agency – Community Offender Probation and Education Unit (C.O.P.E. Unit). The purpose of our new program is to promote public safety in our community and positive offender change through effective supervision, combining enforcement with the education of programs, and services available to at risk offenders.

⁶ Bureau of Labor Statistics

We first needed to develop a strategy to determine what role and function the Police Department would play in this initiative. Officers would then need to be selected who were willing to think outside the box and move away from the traditional role of law enforcement when dealing with ex-offenders. It was determined that officers would also need to have Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which would assist when dealing with persons in crisis mode.

The Police Department needed to find service providers who were willing to partner with the Police Department and support the program. Services providers would be selected from: adult education providers, vocational rehabilitation providers, substance and alcohol abuse services, faith based providers, mental health providers, soup kitchens and local food pantries. The Police Department put together a brochure of the service providers that agreed to assist us with our new program. (See Appendix A – C.O.P.E. Brochure).

A solid relationship would need to be established with state, county, and federal probation offices that would enable police officers and probation officers to work in a cooperative effort to monitor and assist those that wanted and needed assistance. Several meetings were held with each of the probation offices that gave all parties the opportunity to meet face to face to discuss the development of the program and strategies that could be implemented. It was also made very clear that no offender would be given a free pass in the event they violated the law or had violation of the conditions of their probation. Offenders needed to know they would still be held accountable for their actions and were still subject to arrest should they violate the law.

Selection of the officers to work the program was established and interviews were held to meet with each officer who applied for the position. Each officer assigned to the unit understood our agencies goals, expectations, and what our agency hoped to accomplish. Officers would be

required to meet with each and every offender released from jail or prison, in addition the officers would also need to contact each person who had completed their sentences and no longer had probation sanctions placed upon them (end of sentence – EOS).

Once officers began conducting community control checks to verify that the offender did live at this address, they needed a way to document the community control checks and make notes after each check was conducted. A more detailed, user-friendly system needed to be developed.

Officers with the C.O.P.E. Unit and the ITS Department created a web-based site to host all the information they gather on prison releases. The web site is a successful tool utilized to assist the officers with monitoring the offenders, while allowing them to track the intelligence information they gather on each individual. This page is located within the web-based applications and creates a layered map of each offender's address. An icon is clicked on any given offender and it provides an up to date photograph, address, and date of last community control check. The web site also allows for an overlay of crimes that have occurred within a specific date range, this allows officers to cross-reference the crimes against previous offenders and possibly develop a suspect. This byproduct was not planned, but has proven useful and has resulted in the arrest of one offender for a series of commercial burglaries. This web site is easily accessible by all members of the Fort Myers Police Department. (See Appendix B)

The C.O.P.E. Unit conducted a needs assessment survey with individuals currently on probation in an effort to ensure the resources we had available would meet the needs they require for a successful transition back into the community. (See Appendix C) Over 450 offenders were individually surveyed and could remain anonymous. The Fort Myers Police Department and Dr.

Tina Gelpi of Florida Gulf Coast University developed the survey. The Needs Assessment survey gave a better snapshot of the services that were needed and provided insight in their family needs, education level, job skill level, transportation needs, age and sex breakdown, as well as age. (See Appendix D)

Officers with the C.O.P.E. Unit make initial contact with every offender released into the community, and they meet several times per week with offenders that are being supervised. The C.O.P.E. Unit Officers provides offenders with information on services and programs available to assist them with a successful transition into our community while ensuring public safety.

Assessment

Since initiating our new program, our officers have experienced a significant increase in support from the many programs, services, and agencies involved. (See Appendix E) Our C.O.P.E. Officers have worked diligently with state, county, and federal probation offices to ensure compliance of all offenders. (See Appendix F) Probation Officers are more aware of the needs of each individual offender, and understand that services and resources are needed for a successful reintegration into the community.

Previously incarcerated individuals or those in recovery who have been successful at turning their lives around can serve an important role in the transition process. Peer mentors carry significant weight and influence. In fact, research has found that support from other recovering peers, especially in the context of substance addiction, may be more effective in reducing recidivism than clinical staff or correctional officers.⁷ Our officers have experienced this first hand. (See Appendix G)

⁷ Wexler, 1995; Broome et al., 1996.

While quantitative results of C.O.P.E.'s effort are still to be determined and analyzed, the short-term effects indicate that the Fort Myers Police Department has taken a step in the right direction to reduce recidivism. Locally efforts to introduce reintegration efforts countywide have taken shape. The Fort Myers Police Department is an active member of the Community Reintegration Council, which is a sub-council of the Lee County Human Services Council. Together these two councils work to better the lives of those in need by effectively designing a community-based plan for current and future human service needs in Lee County.

The Fort Myers Police Department has received numerous calls regarding C.O.P.E. from citizens outside the jurisdiction of the City of Fort Myers inquiring about our program and requesting information or asking to participate in C.O.P.E. No person is turned away and each offender or family member is provided a resource guide via mail or website. Many local providers are also seeking to be included in this program and provide services to those in need.

Recently, the C.O.P.E. program was presented and discussed at the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference held on Captiva Island. Adult educators who are also focused on reintegration efforts attended the session on C.O.P.E. The Police Department was able to discuss its efforts and success, while giving the audience insight on how the program was started and the goals we have established for the C.O.P.E. Unit. The program gives officers one on one contact with potential students who are then given a direct contact with the Lee County School District - Adult General Education Programs. The ability to have immediate contact with a representative with the school district is vital to the education needs of the potential students. This contact eliminates automated systems and the loss of potential students who may become frustrated with such systems. This also lends itself to the student avoiding procrastination and taking the first times to obtaining the education necessary to succeed.

The C.O.P.E. Unit works very hard to build a trust with the offenders and this trust has enabled officers to gather intelligence for locating fugitive individuals along with receiving information regarding ongoing criminal activity. Offenders and their families have been very positive about our new unit. Families are pleased that law enforcement is assisting their family member with opportunities available to them that will enhance the quality of their lives. Whether they experience difficulty with drug or alcohol abuse, or need assistance with education, job training or counseling; the services and programs are available.

Agency and Officer Information

Key Project Team Members

Lieutenant Jim Mulligan
Officer Chris Mainous
Officer Mike Tomaselli
Officer Tim McCormick

Project Contact Person

Douglas E. Baker
Chief of Police
Fort Myers Police Department
2210 Widman Way
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 321-7727
(239) 321-7723

Choice, not circumstances, determines your success. Anonymous

APPENDIX A (Inside of Brochure)

Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT)

PO Box 60401, Fort Myers 33906

239-939-3112 (24/7 Hotline)

Provides assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through shelter, advocacy, counseling, support groups, information, and referrals.

Adult and Community Education/Lee County School District

2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers 33966

239-939-6310

Provides information about classes for adults, such as GED preparation, computer skills, English as a second language, literacy, and foreign languages.

After the Rain in Southwest Florida

2580 First Street, Fort Myers 33901

239-334-6261

Provides 15 beds for women for life skills and substance abuse recovery.

African Caribbean American Center (AFCAAM)

3681 Michigan Avenue, Fort Myers 33916

239-461-0233

Provides after school reading program for grades K-5; mentoring groups for youth age 11-17 years; Boy Scouts.

Agency for Workforce Innovation (WIA)

4150 Ford Street Extension, Fort Myers 33916

239-931-8201

Provides services for job seekers including job placement assistance, employability skills training, and unemployment claims filing.

Aim Target Programs, Inc.

3677 Central Avenue, Suite H, Fort Myers 33901

239-939-3363

Provides outpatient alcohol and drug evaluation, treatment and education, random drug testing, domestic violence education, anger management groups, and support groups for victims of domestic violence.

Ann's Restoration House

599 Carolina Avenue, Fort Myers 33905

239-694-0877

Provides transitional housing for men only.

Community Cooperative Ministries – Soup Kitchen

3429 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers 33916

239-332-7687

Provides a soup kitchen for homeless and needy families.

239-656-7796

Cornerstone Ministries

3220 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Fort Myers 33916

239-337-4140

Provides food, clothing, work training, literacy training, back-to-school supplies for low-income families, youth groups, and church services.

Elijah's Coat

3580 Fowler Street, Fort Myers 33901

239-940-5466

Provides pastoral counseling, recovery support, case management, court advocacy, inmate re—entry, life skills, employment coaching, and family support.

Eternal Homes

4231 Desoto Avenue, Fort Myers 33905

239-693-7911

Provides transitional and emergency housing for men only. Family support, parenting and recovery support coach, individual service outreach case management, transportation, support groups, and employment coaching.

Fort Myers Rescue Mission

6900 Mission Lane, Fort Myers 33916

239-334-7365

Provides a faith-based homeless shelter for women and children and a soup kitchen.

Friendship Baptist Church – Reverend James Bing

2030 Palm Avenue, Fort Myers 33901

239-334-1557

Grace Community Center

4151 Hancock Bridge Parkway, North Fort Myers 33903

239-574-7161

Provides court approved weekly parenting classes, free GED classes, Tuesday night recovery mtgs. & worship services (6:30pm), Sunday worship (10am), food pantry, thrift store. 3rd Saturday morning of each month, various community outreach programs including some free health screenings and free haircuts. Some of these service may also be available through the month.

Hanna House

2715 Guava Street, Fort Myers 33916

239-693-7911

Provides transitional and emergency housing for females only. Family support, parenting and recovery support coach, individual service outreach case management, transportation, support groups, and employment coaching.

High Tech Central

3800 Michigan Avenue, Fort Myers 33916

239-334-4544

Occupational, technical training, job preparation, and GED preparation.

Lee Mental Health Center, Inc.

2789 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers 33905

239-275-3222 (General) 239-275-4242 (Emergency Services)

Provides a broad array of mental health services for children and adults at the Ruth Cooper Campus and Vista Campus.

NAACP

Southwest Florida Enterprise Center

3903 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Suite K, Fort Myers 33916

239-936-2352

Assists to re-enfranchise former felons who have served their sentence. Assists in providing voter registration, voter education, and identifies and provides referrals for former inmates and their families through collaborative partnerships.

Narcotics Anonymous

PO Box 50375, Fort Myers 33905

1-866-389-1344

Offers support groups for those recovering from drug addiction.

Nations Association

4625 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers 33905

239-332-7575

Provides a soup kitchen, food, prescription drug and clothing assistance, and job training. Summer program for inner city youth.

The Salvation Army/Red Shield Lodge

2400 Edison Avenue, Fort Myers 33901

239-332-7575

Provides meals, emergency shelter for women and children, residential treatment programs, GED for eligible persons, and medical care to people in need.

Southwest Florida Addiction Services, Inc. (SWFAS)

3763 Evans Avenue, Fort Myers 33901

239-332-6937

Provides prevention programs, support groups, outpatient and residential services to those impacted by alcohol and drug abuse.

United Way

7275 Concourse Drive, Fort Myers 33908

239-433-2000

Neighborhood resource center assists in locating social and health services.

Vocational Rehabilitation – FL Department of Education

4150 Ford Street Extension, Suite 3, Fort Myers 33916

239-278-7150

13971 N. Cleveland Avenue, Suite 8, North Fort Myers, 33903

(Outside of Brochure)

The purpose of C.O.P.E. is to assist prison releasees reentering society. This brochure has been put together with you and your family in mind. The definition of opportunity is, "a good chance for advancement or progress." By serving your time, you've reached a fork in the road and you have the opportunity to leave the past behind you. Should you experience difficulty with drug or alcohol abuse, or need assistance with education, job training or counseling, please feel free to contact our social service partners listed here. Our goal at the Fort Myers Police Department is to achieve safe streets and communities while encouraging you to take advantage of services you may need. We understand and recognize the importance of family who can assist you in rejoining society. They too are encouraged to participate.

Chief Douglas Baker

Success – "The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed."

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

FORT MYERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2210 Widman Way
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-321-7700
www.fmpolice.com



Fort Myers Police Department

Community Offender, Probation and Education Unit (C.O.P.E.)



Bridge to Success

***Helpful information for you
and your family to succeed.***


APPENDIX B

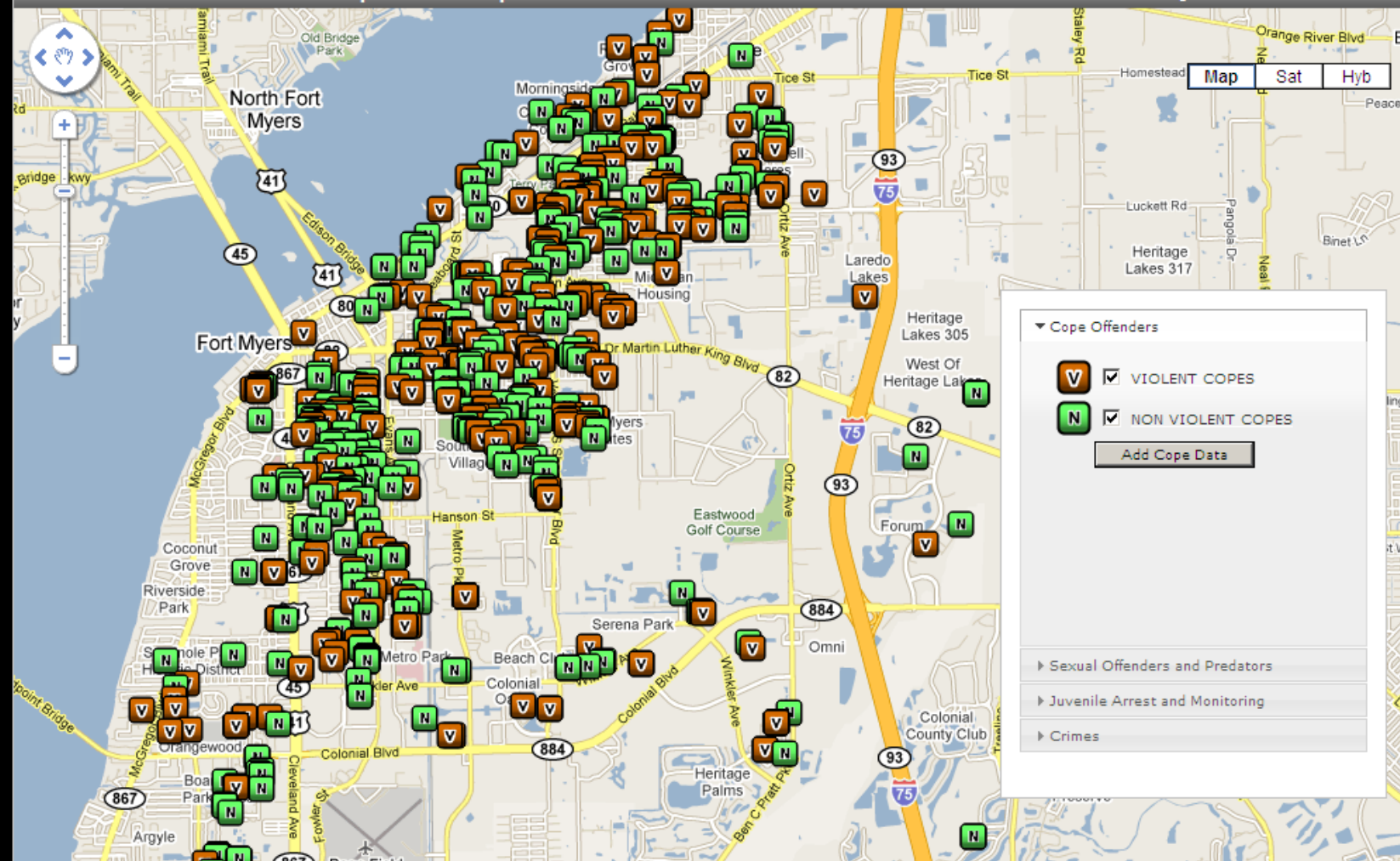
HONOR ETHICS ACCOUNTABILITY RESPECT TEAMWORK

FMPD Web Apps

DataDriven Applications

Home Detectives Compstat Operations Administration Professional Standards TQM





Map Sat Hyb

▼ Cope Offenders

V VIOLENT COPES

N NON VIOLENT COPES

Add Cope Data

▶ Sexual Offenders and Predators

▶ Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring

▶ Crimes

HONOR ETHICS ACCOUNTABILITY RESPECT TEAMWORK

FMPD Web Apps

DataDriven Applications

Home Detectives Comstat Operations Administration Professional Standards TQM

The map displays various neighborhoods in Fort Myers, including North Fort Myers, Fort Myers, East Dunbar, and Laredo Lakes. Crime locations are marked with blue icons labeled 'B', 'A', and 'R'. A legend on the right side of the map provides the following information:

- Cope Offenders
- Sexual Offenders and Predators
- Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring
- Crimes
 - B** BURGLARY
 - A** STOLEN VEHICLE
 - R** ROBBERY

Date range: 05/01/2010 to 05/24/2010. A 'Create Incidents' button is located at the bottom of the legend.

HONOR ETHICS ACCOUNTABILITY RESPECT TEAMWORK
FMPD Web Apps
DataDriven Applications

- Home
- Detectives
- Compstat
- Operations
- Administration
- Professional Standards
- TQM

The map displays a geographic area around Fort Myers, Florida, with numerous colored markers representing crime incidents. The markers are color-coded: blue for Burglary (B), orange for Stolen Vehicle (A), and red for Robbery (R). A sidebar on the right provides filtering options:


- Cope Offenders
 - Sexual Offenders and Predators
 - Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring
- Crimes
 - BURGLARY
 - STOLEN VEHICLE
 - ROBBERY

Additional sidebar elements include date range selection (05/01/2010 to 05/24/2010) and a 'Create Incidents' button. The map interface includes navigation controls like a compass and zoom slider, and map style options (Map, Sat, Hyb).

Home Detectives Compstat Operations Administration Professional Standards TQM

Map Sat Hyb

Checked: null
Address: 3973
CHERRYBROOK LOOP,
33966
Name: AMBURGEY,
JOSEPH V
Off Type: Violent
[Edit This Record](#)



▸ Cope Offenders
▸ Sexual Offenders and Predators
▸ Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring
▼ Crimes

- BURGLARY
- STOLEN VEHICLE
- ROBBERY

05/01/2010
05/24/2010

Create Incidents

APPENDIX C

C.O.P.E. Needs Assessment Survey

The purpose of this survey is to collect information for a better understanding of the needs of those individuals reentering the community from jail. This survey may be used to select individuals, with their approval, for further interviewing.

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

1. Primary Language:

- English
- Spanish
- Creole
- Other _____

2. Ethnicity:

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian American
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Multi-Racial
- Other _____

3. Age:

- Under 20
- 20-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65 and over

4. Relationship Status:

- Never married
- Separated
- In a committed relationship
- Married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Other _____

5. Do you have any kids?
- Yes, how many? _____
 - No
6. Were they living with you prior to entering jail?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not applicable
 - Other _____
7. Highest level of education you have completed:
- Elementary
 - Middle School
 - Some high school
 - Earned high school diploma
 - Earned GED
 - Some college
 - Earned Associate's Degree
 - Earned Bachelor's Degree
 - Earned Master's Degree
 - Alternative Learning Center
 - Royal Palm Exception School
8. Your work status prior to entering jail:
- Employed, if so please check one of the following.
 - Full-time
 - Part-time
 - Self-employed, Type of work _____
 - Student
 - Homemaker
 - Caregiver - If so for whom? _____
 - Volunteer
 - Retired
 - Unemployed
 - Other _____
9. Living situation prior to entry into jail:
- Lived alone
 - Lived with family or significant other
 - Lived with friend/roommate
 - Did not have a permanent residence
 - Other _____

10. Were you ever a victim of Domestic Violence?

- Yes
- No

11. Were you ever a Foster Child?

- Yes
- No

12. Do you have any of the following disabling conditions?

- Learning Disability
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Mental Health Problems/Mental Illness
- Drug Use
- Alcohol Use
- Other
- No, I do not have a disabling condition

13. What is the status of your driver's license?

- Current
- Suspended
- Out of state
- Never had one
- Other _____

14. Do you have a Florida state ID?

- Yes
- No
- Other, including having lost your Florida state ID _____

15. What is your primary mode of transportation upon exiting jail?

- Own car
- Bus
- Bicycle
- Walk
- Rely on family or friends
- No transportation
- Other _____

16. Did you have housing set up after exiting jail?

- Yes, please specify: _____
- No

17. Do you plan on living in this area after exiting?

- Yes
- No

18. Services you would be interested in since leaving jail (please list):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (Bus pass/Car) | <input type="checkbox"/> Job training _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary housing/Aid (Emergency) | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing placement (Permanent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Daycare/Child care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Health care/Dental/Vision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer assistance/Food stamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Material goods (Clothing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Case management | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal justice/Legal aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (GED) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

19. Why were you in jail/prison?

20. Have you been in jail before? Yes, how many times? _____ No

21. Were you a juvenile offender? Yes No

22. Were you monitored as a juvenile by the Fort Myers Police Department JAM unit?

- Yes
- No

23. How much time remains in your current sentence? _____

24. What are your plans since exiting jail? (Please describe)

25. What are your interests/hobbies? (please list)

26. What is important and meaningful for you? (please list)

27. Do you receive any of the following forms of income? (Check all that apply)

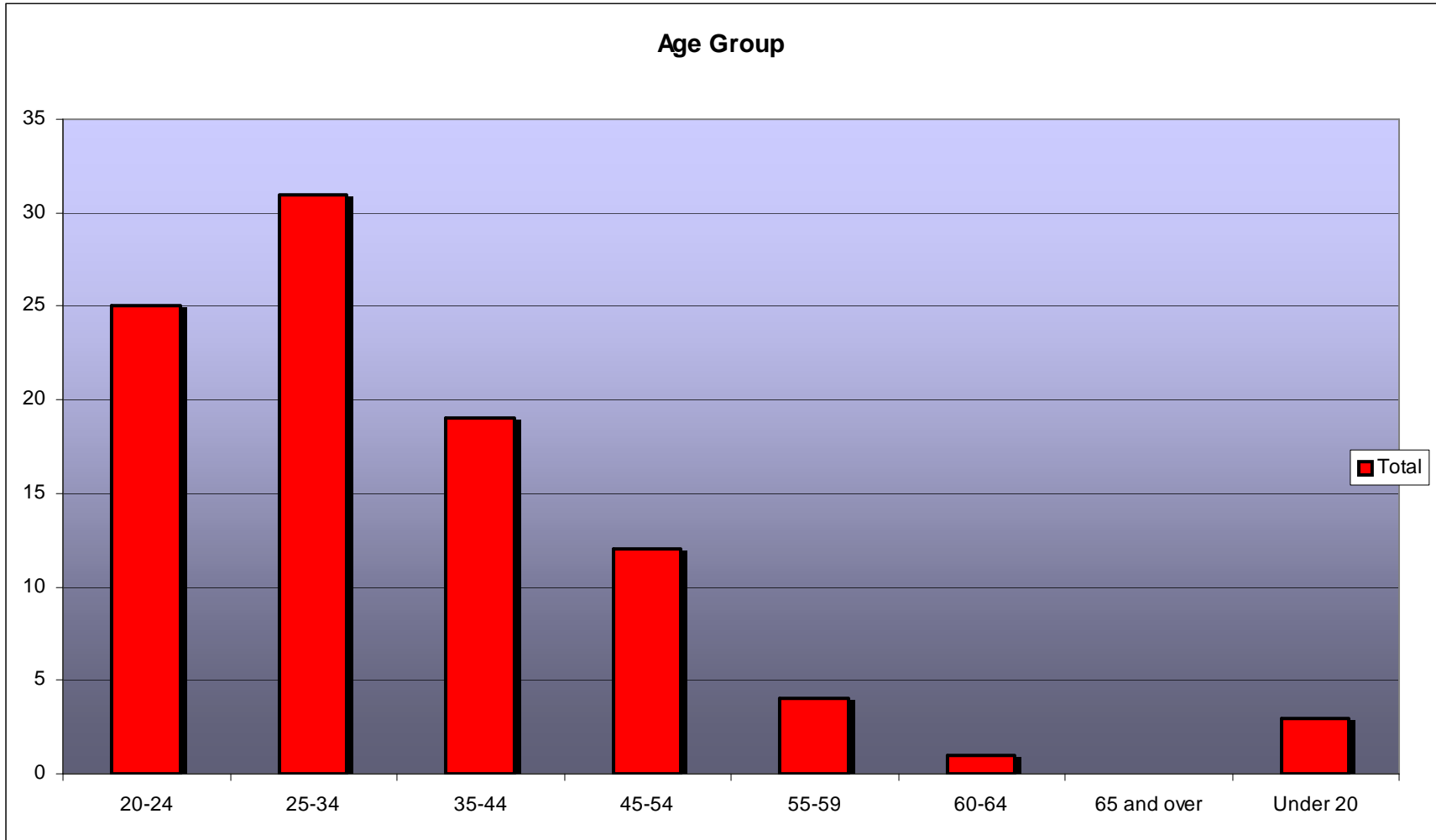
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earned income | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's pension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment | <input type="checkbox"/> Job pension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social security | <input type="checkbox"/> Child support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social security disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Alimony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other sources: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private disability insurance | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workers' comp | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> No financial resource |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement fund | |

28. Would you be interested in being further interviewed for this study?

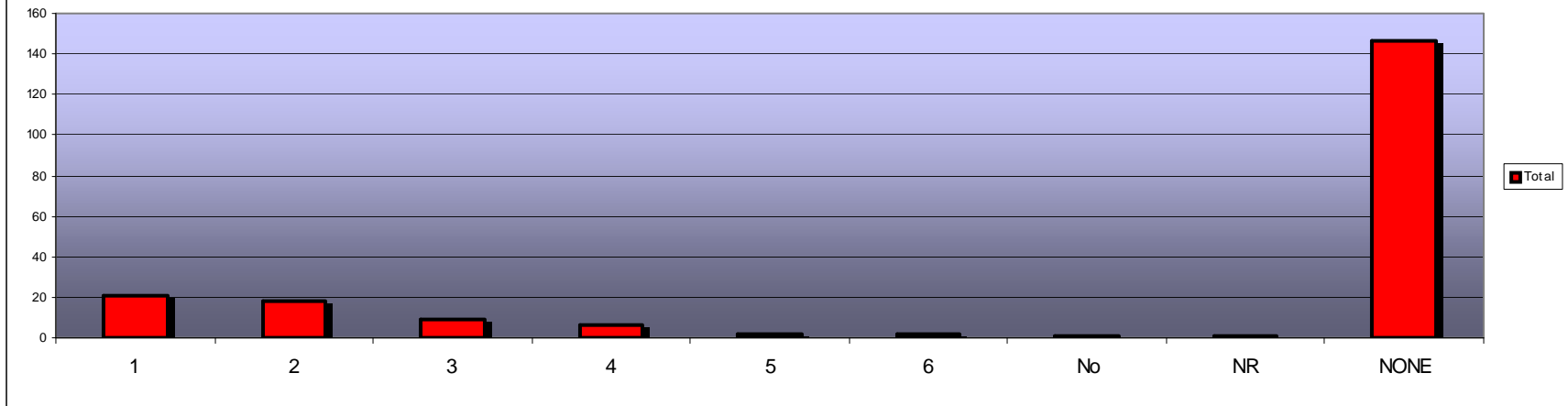
- Yes
- No

Thank you for completing this survey.

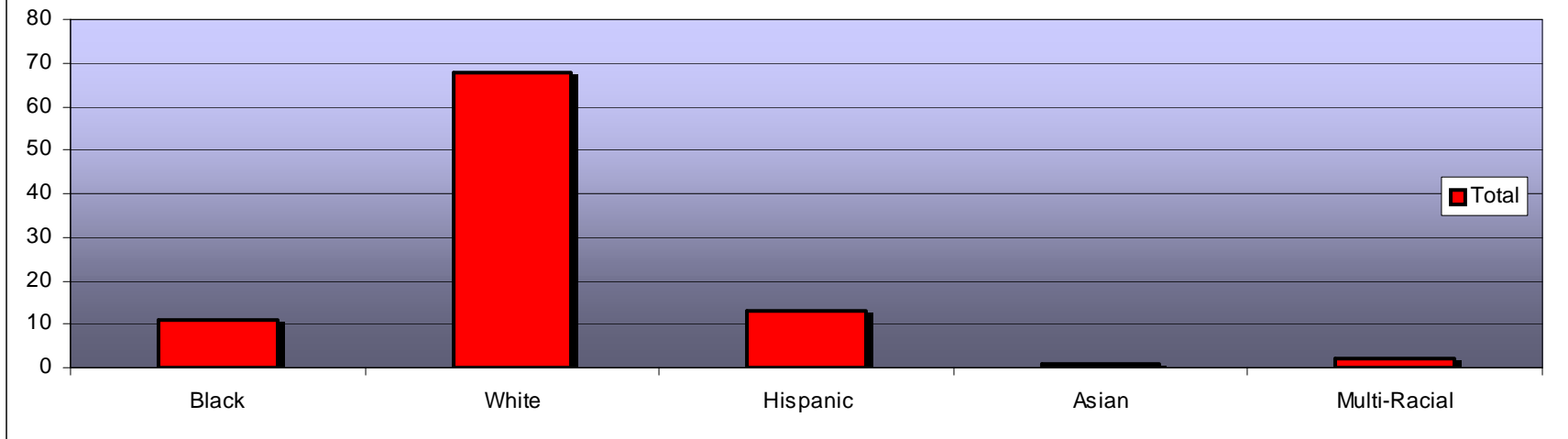
APPENDIX D



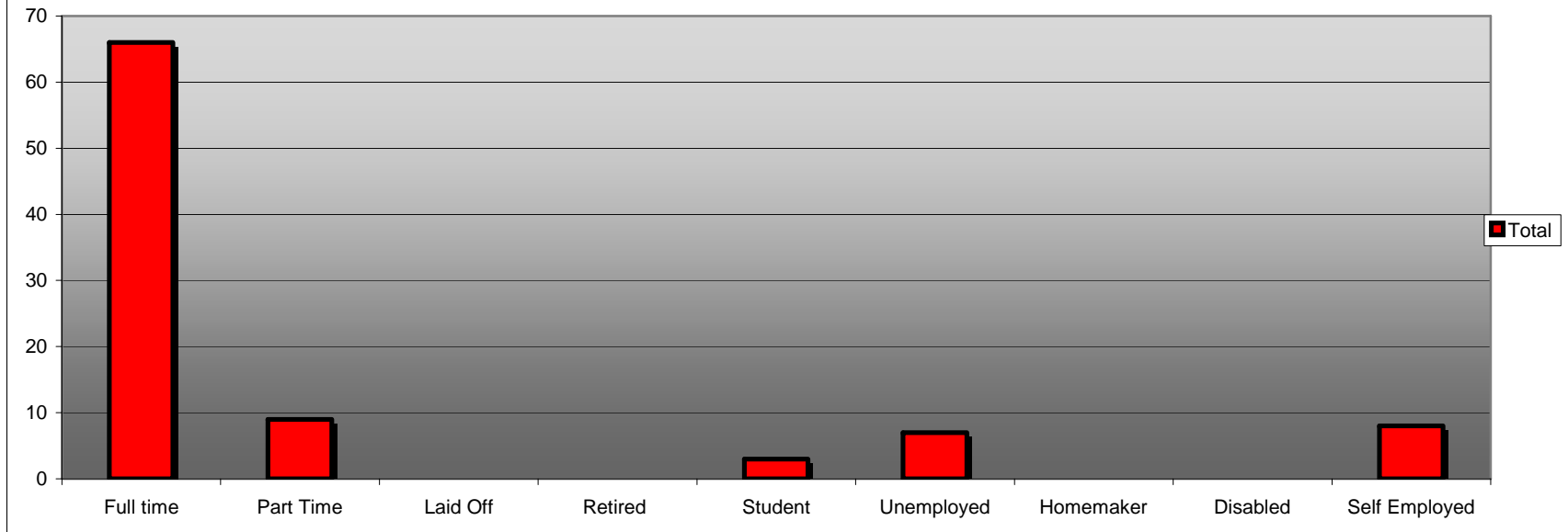
Children



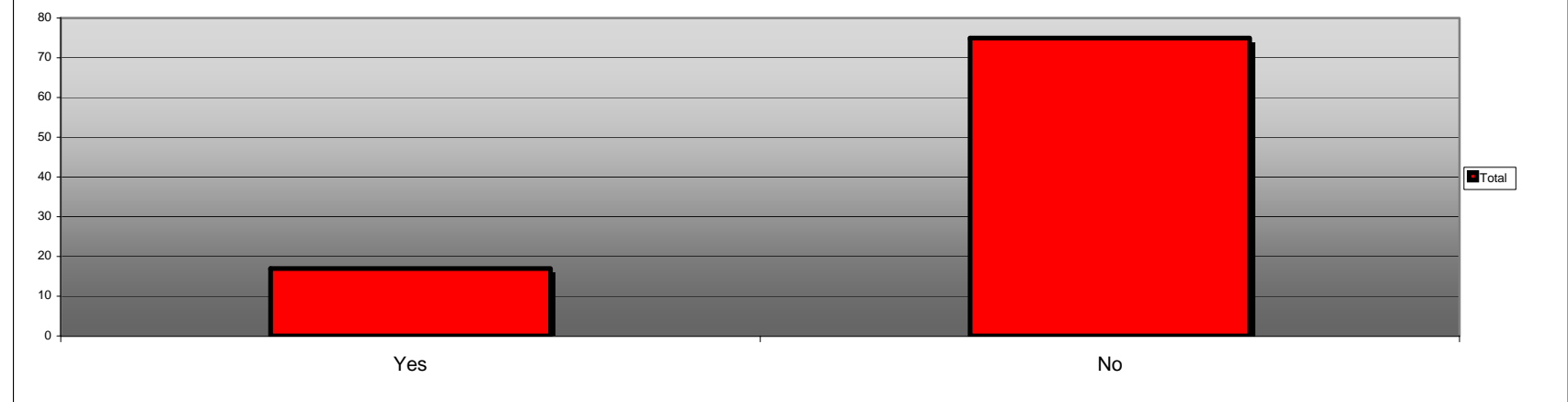
Ethnicity



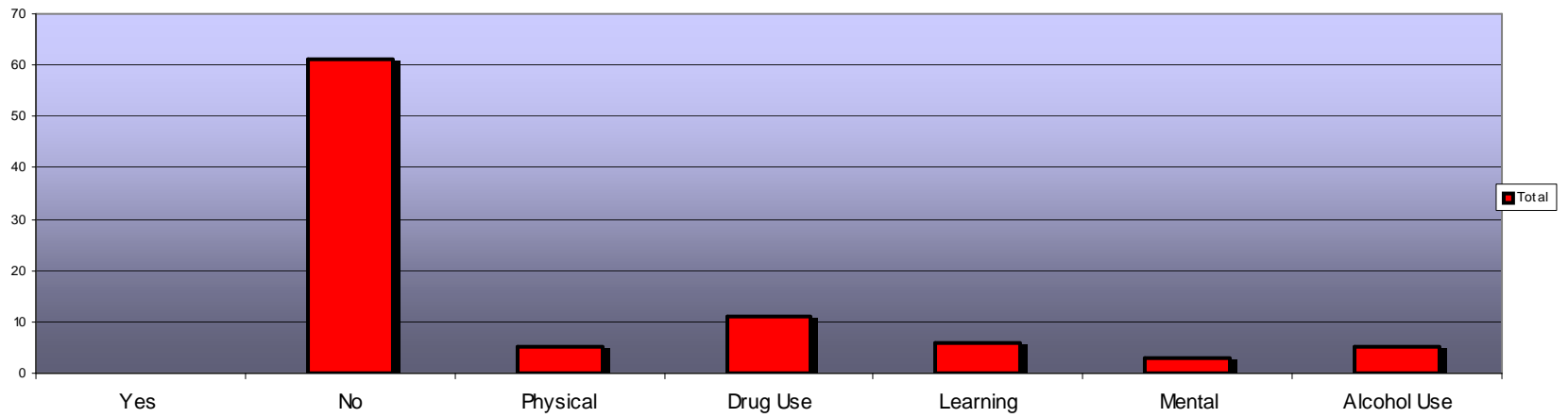
Work Status



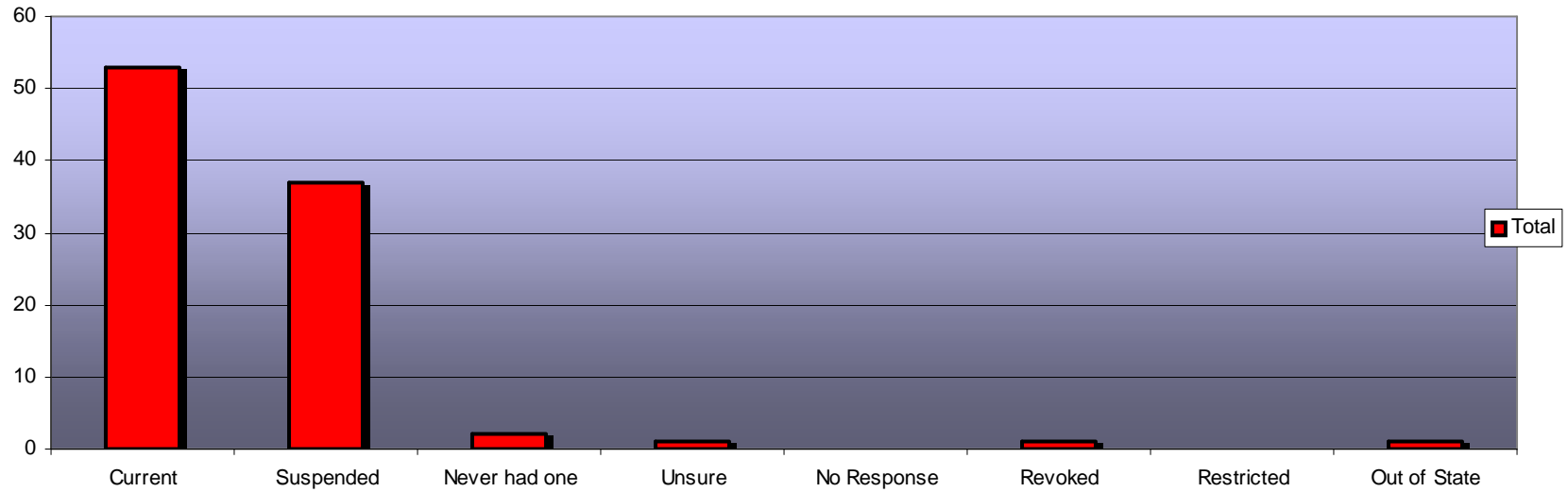
Domestic Violence Victim



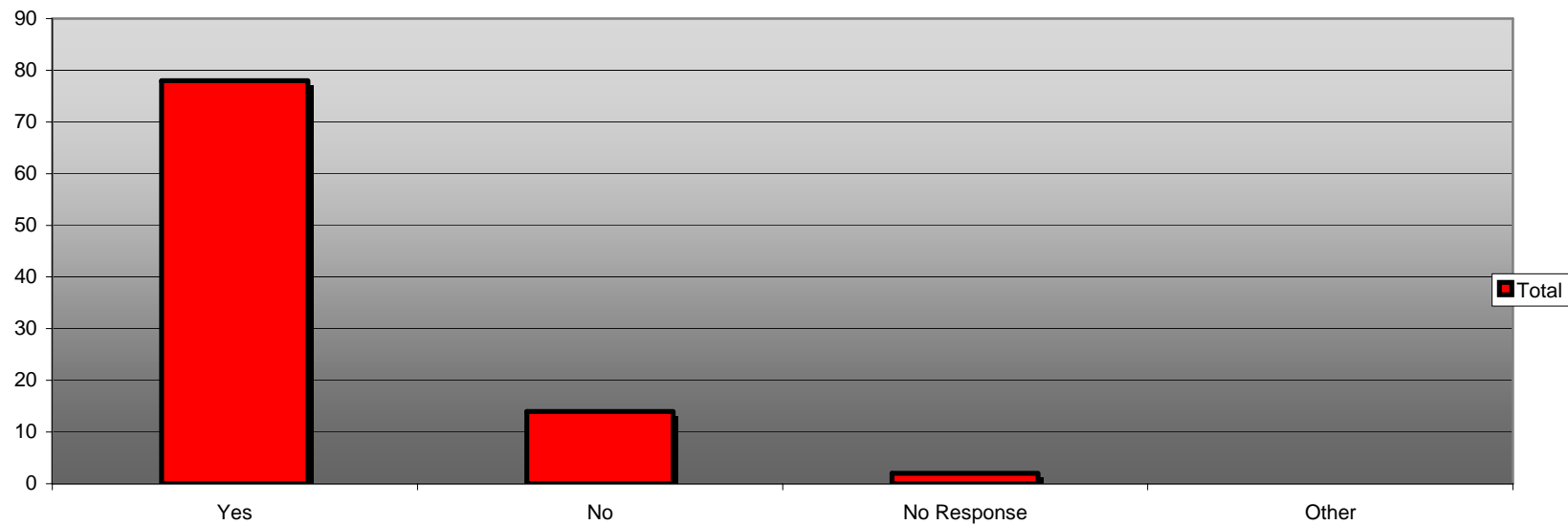
Disabiliies



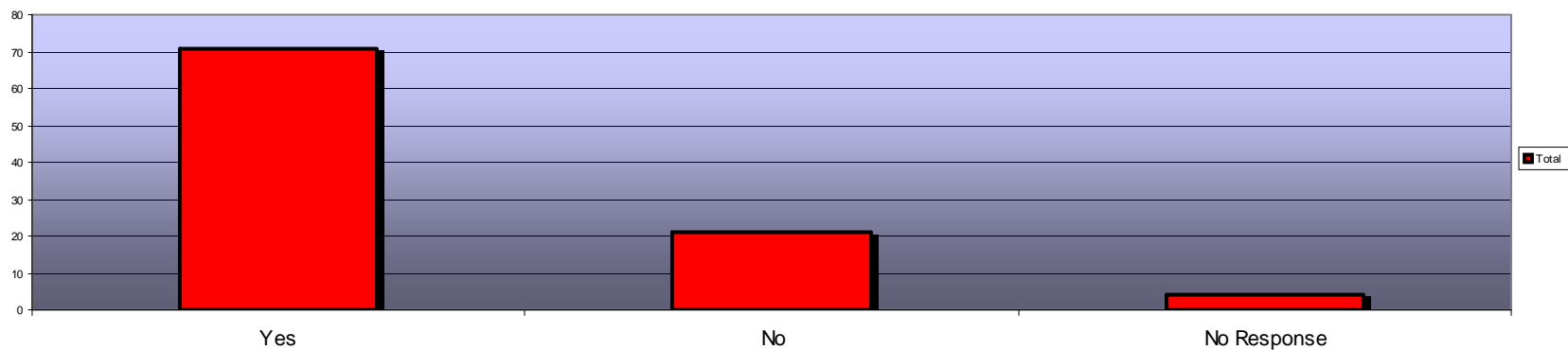
Drivers License Status



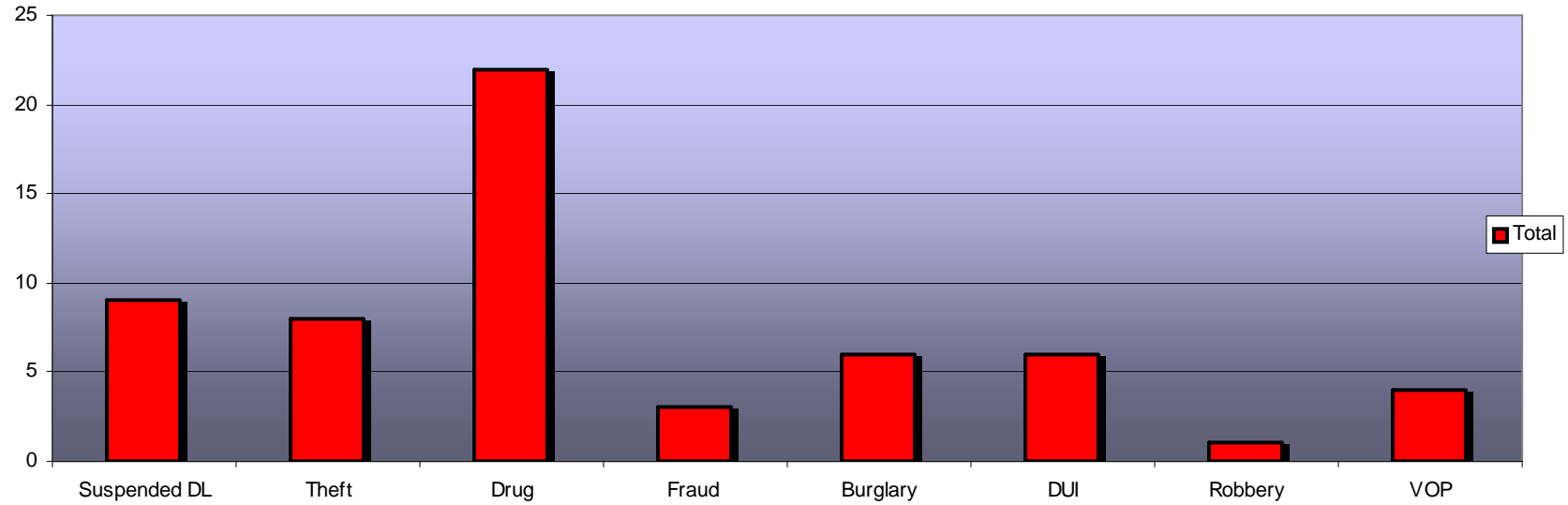
Florida Identification



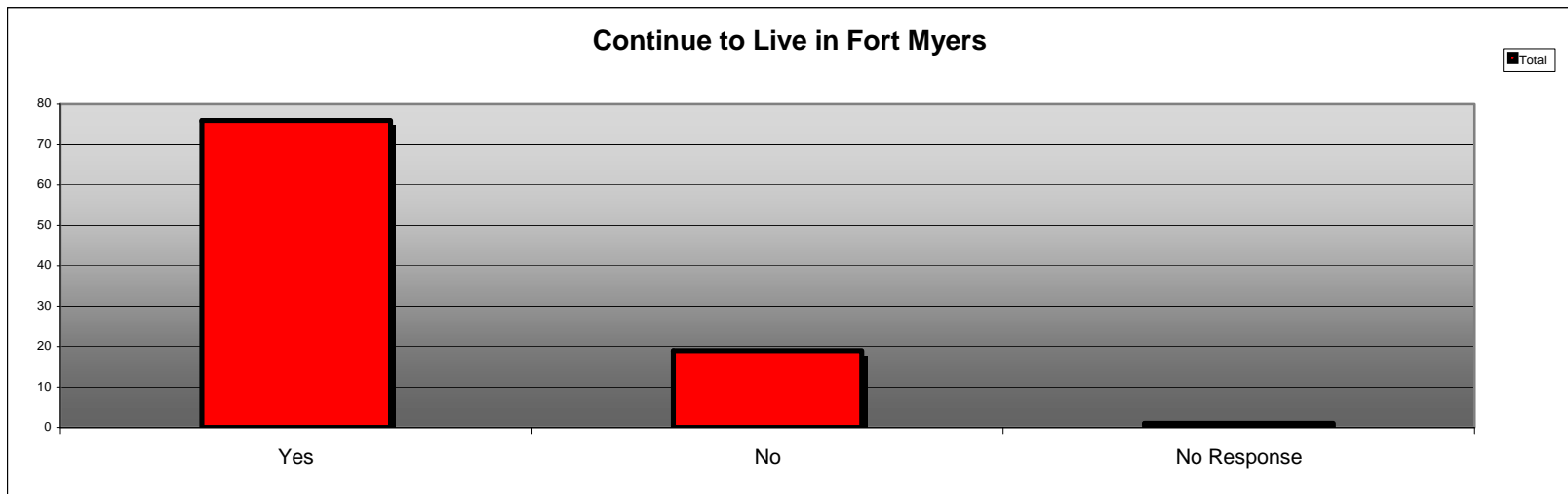
Housing Available after Release



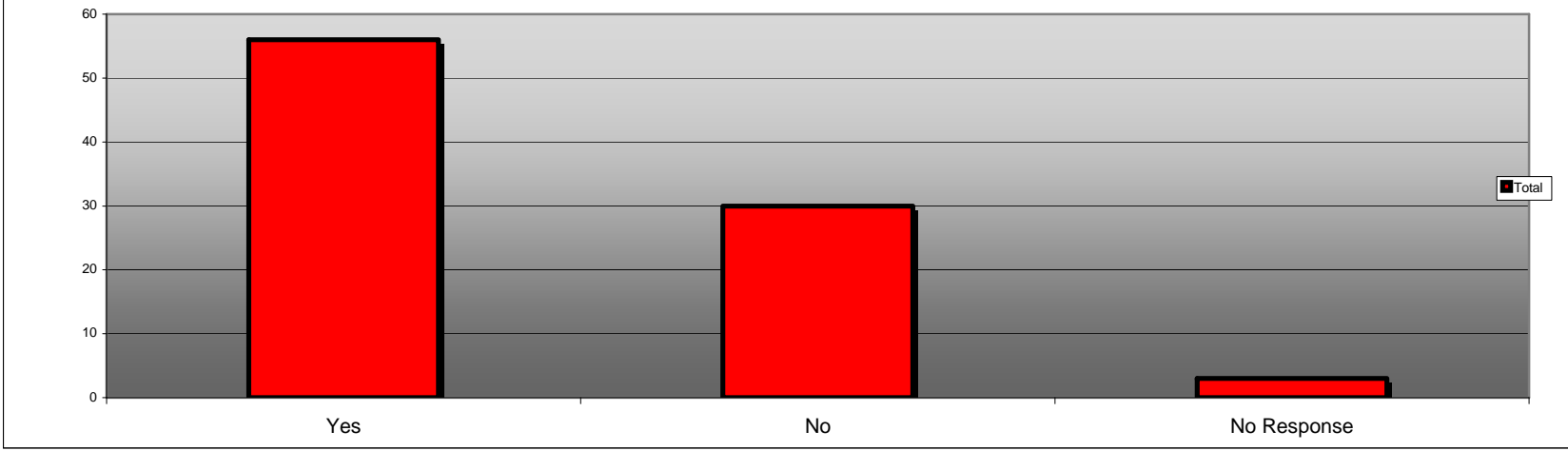
Reason for Incarceration



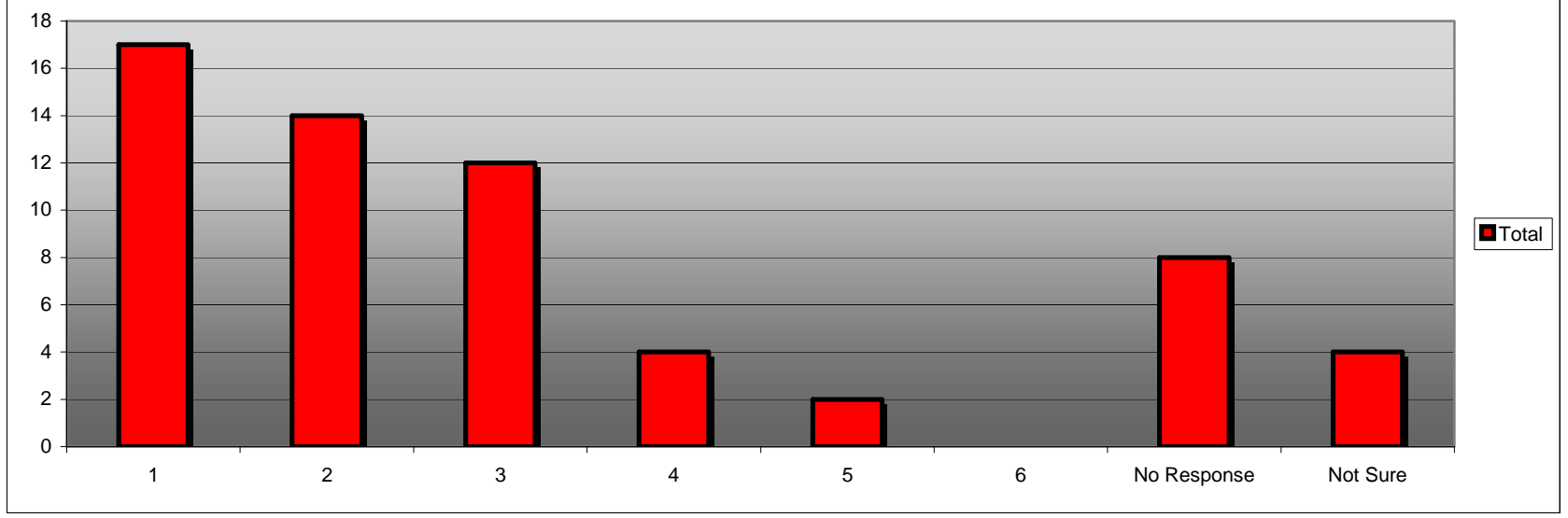
Continue to Live in Fort Myers



Jail Prior



Prior Times Incarcerated



APPENDIX E



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

2855 COLONIAL BLVD. ♦ FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33966-1012 ♦ (239) 334-1102 ♦ WWW.LEESCHOOLS.NET

May 17, 2010

Chief Douglas E. Baker
Ft. Myers Police Department
2210 Widman Way
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

STEVEN K. TEUBER, J.D.
CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT 4
ELINOR C. SCRICCA, PH.D.
VICE CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT 5
ROBERT D. CHILMONIK
DISTRICT 1
JEANNE S. DOZIER
DISTRICT 2
JANE E. KUCKEL, PH.D.
DISTRICT 3
JAMES W. BROWDER, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT
KEITH B. MARTIN, ESQ.
BOARD ATTORNEY

Chief Baker:

On behalf of Lee County Adult Education, I want to commend the Ft. Myers Police Department on your re integration efforts through the development of the Community Offender Probation and Education (C.O.P.E) Program.

In my position with the Lee County School District's Adult Education Program, I have had the opportunity to work directly with you and the C.O.P.E. officers. Many of the individuals served by the C.O.P.E. program are in need of continuing their education to earn their Florida High School Diploma, which is possible through our department. The C.O.P.E. officers have shared information on visits with participants about our education program. This information may not have otherwise reached the participant. I rode along with a C.O.P.E officer one afternoon for home visits and saw first hand the efforts the Ft. Myers Police Department makes to successfully re integrate recently released citizens. One individual I met realized he was very close to earning his Florida High School Diploma after speaking with me. Prior to this conversation, he had no idea how to continue his education to earn his diploma.

The advantages of the C.O.P.E. program are numerous and wide spread. Community members, along with participants, benefit greatly. The C.O.P.E. officers connect participants recently released with the various human service agencies that can dramatically increase their successful re entry into society. Without information provided through this program, participants would likely remain unaware of services locally available to support their efforts to become productive citizens of society. It stands to reason the recidivism rate will in turn decrease with successful re entry through the support of the C.O.P.E. program.

The C.O.P.E. program is a win-win for Lee County.

Sincerely,

Susan Chastain
Lee County School District
Career, Technical, and Adult Education
Adult General Education Programs

APPENDIX F



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of CORRECTIONS

Governor
CHARLIE CRIST

Secretary
WALTER A. McNEIL

An Equal Opportunity Employer

4415 Metro Parkway, Suite 310, Fort Myers, Florida, 33916

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us>

Chief Douglas Baker
Fort Myers Police Department
2210 Widman Way
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Dear Chief Baker,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for creating the COPE unit and relay just how valuable it has been to our operations and the public.

Since the COPE unit began, we have enjoyed a tremendous sharing of resources which has enabled our staff to work more efficiently and serve the public more effectively. Some of the resources we now share are the offender residence and inmate release lists that our agency provides to your officers enabling them to know quickly where the offenders live and who is returning to the community. Once that information is received, the COPE unit has been making home visits which reduce my staff's workload allowing them to divert resources to other areas. It also has a significant impact on the offenders who see that we are now working as a team. This is just good law enforcement.

Another area of success is our staff working closely together to ensure that warrants are served quickly. Prior to COPE, warrants would languish un-served for months and sometimes years. Since the inception of this unit, our agency relays this information to the COPE unit and within days, sometimes hours, the warrant is served and the offender is incarcerated.

The rapport we now enjoy with your agency is exceptional. Members of COPE frequently stop by our offices and we are able to share intelligence which has proven invaluable in a number of cases. The COPE members have generously shared their phone numbers and we have made contact at all hours of the day, night and weekends. Whenever we make contact they are ready and willing to provide assistance regardless of whether or not they are on duty at the time. I have personally experienced this on one occasion when I contacted Officer Mainous on his day off and he couldn't have been more

forthcoming with assistance. Where we once worked separately and autonomously, we now work as a very strong team.

I believe the offenders now see law enforcement personnel in a different light altogether. They are beginning to understand that we are most interested in returning them to the community to become productive citizens. However, they also clearly understand that if they don't take advantage of the resources available, through our team work, they will quickly be held accountable.

We are pleased at the success of the COPE program thus far and remain a willing and active partner. I sincerely thank you for your vision and generosity for creating COPE.

Respectfully,



Pamela Donelson, Circuit Administrator
Department of Corrections
Twentieth Judicial Circuit

APPENDIX G



Celestina VanRivers

Celeste was originally charged with Trafficking, Manufacturing, and Possession of Cocaine in 1999. These charges were all reduced to conspiracy, and she was sentenced federally to 10 years in prison. Celeste served prison time in Tallahassee at F.C.I from 1999-2003 and was released to a halfway house. In 2004 when released from the halfway house, Celeste began her probation term. While on probation, Celeste gained employment with a local trash pickup company and worked her way up to supervisor within 2 years of employment. She is very proud of that accomplishment. Celeste enrolled at Vo-Tech for CNA prep. Initially she was turned down for a Pell Grant, but was persistent in writing letters and making phone calls and convinced the decision makers to issue the grant. She also used this same persistence with the State of Florida to allow a convicted felon with narcotics charges to obtain state certification as a nurse's aide. Celeste obtained employment with the Lee Memorial Health System at HealthPark Hospital. In January 2009, Celeste completed her probation without any violations and was released from supervision. She put aside her career to focus on education and is currently enrolled at Edison College full time with an anticipated 2012 graduation in the RN curriculum. Celeste aspires to become a traveling nurse and see the world.

Celeste is a motivational speaker and speaks to local schools, churches, and the prison releases at the Salvation Army. Celeste has worked with the C.O.P.E. unit by speaking with "troubled" youths at the ALC in Fort Myers. Celeste also speaks with the children in the Fort Myers Police COPS KIDS program. Celeste also is a personal resource the COPE unit utilizes for one on one counseling with special cases. Celeste has never asked for anything in return for her assistance.