Connections
To Bad Outcomes
& Best Practices

Dr. Ken Seeley
Blueprints
Pre-Conference

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What is NCSE?

The National Center for School Engagement

- Theory of Change is based on the interaction of Attendance Attachment and Achievement
- Promoting truancy prevention and school success
- Provide training, evaluation and technical assistance
- NCSE is a hosted by the Colorado Foundation for Families and Children

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Truancy Overview

- Currently no national definition
- NCLB requires state definition of truancy
- NCLB requires states collect truancy rates (not only attendance rates)

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Truancy and Delinquency
Youth Ages 12-15

Onset of Serious Property Crimes *

Class Skipper   **4.69 times as likely**

Minor Truant (1-3 Days)   **5.17 " " "**

Moderate Truant (4-9Days)   **11.46 " " "**

Chronic Truant (> 9 Days)   **21.53 " " "**

*** Dr. Kimberly Henry, American Society of Criminology, Nov 2005**

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Effect of Truancy on Later Delinquency in Youth Ages 12-15

Onset of Serious Assault Crimes

Class Skipper   4.12 times as likely

Minor Truant (1-3 days)   4.03

Moderate Truant (4-9 days) 6.84

Chronic Truant (> 9 days)   12.15

Truancy and Drug Use

Onset of Marijuana Use By Age 14

Class Skipper   4.11 times as likely

- Minor Truant (1-3 days)   7.17

- Moderate Truant (4-9 days) 12.37

- Chronic Truant (> 9 days)   16.08

Latest Research on Truancy and Drugs
Henry, K and Thornberry, T. 2008 (In Press)

- Truancy is the most significant of all risk factors to predict first time marijuana use

- Truancy predicted 97% of first time drug use

- Linear relationship between truancy and amount of alcohol and drug use (The greater the # of truant days, the greater the use)

- Truancy occurs in pairs as does delinquency

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TRAIN Data Background

➢ **The following data are based on 595 students entered into an online database (TRAIN) from all 7 demonstration sites from the National Truancy Reduction Demonstration Programs Evaluation (OJJDP 2000-2005).**
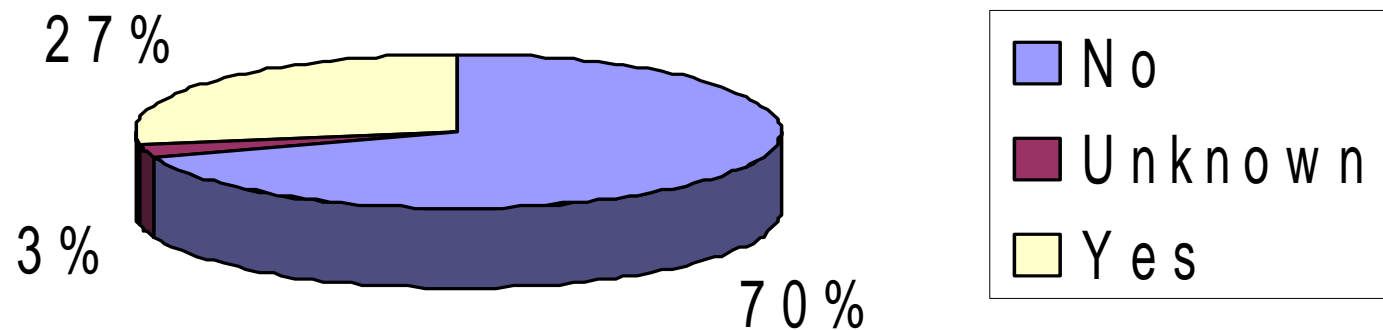
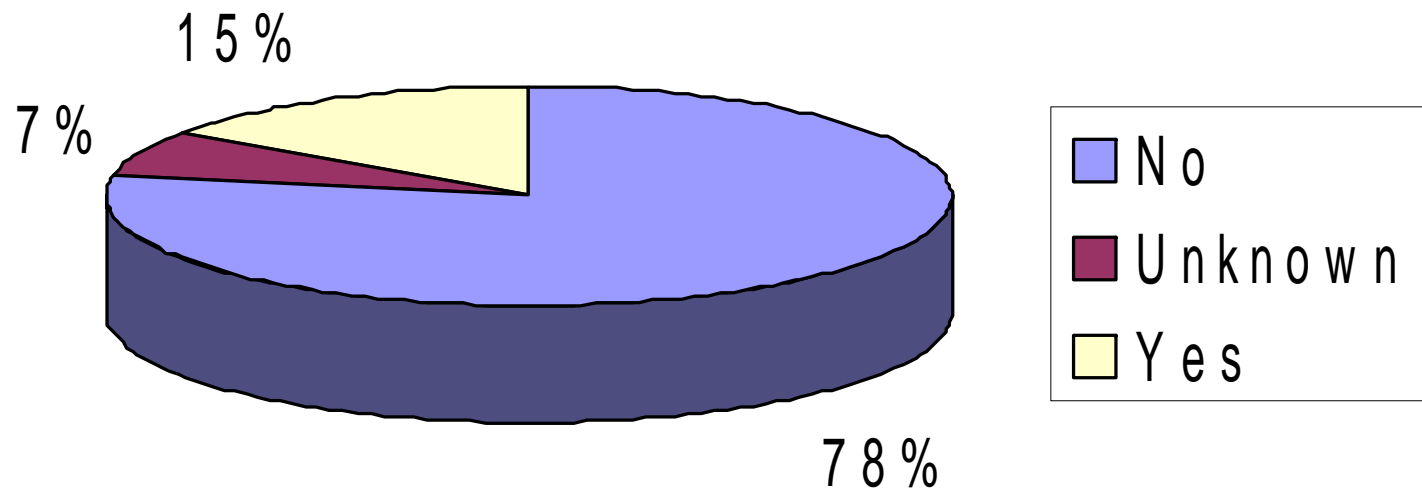NCSE | National Center for School Engagement

Gender
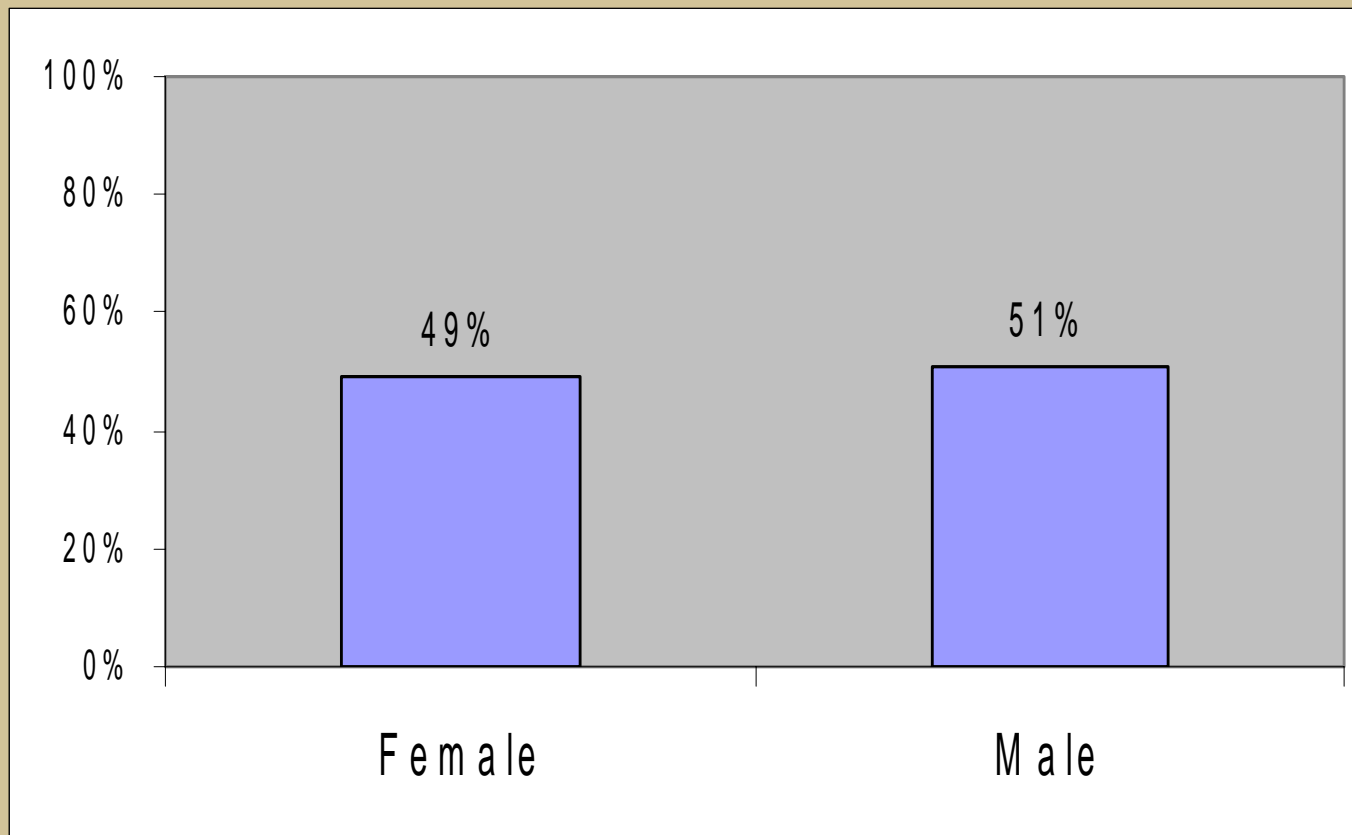
School Discipline Problems

27%

3%

70%

Legend:
- No
- Unknown
- Yes

Note: 284 students had information filled out for this category.

Juvenile Justice Involvement

Attendance

➢ **Since the project's inception, the average excused absence rate [dropped from 4.37 at intake to 3.55 at the first update](#) for the population as a whole.**

➢ **The average [unexcused absence rate dropped from 14.64 at intake to 7.40](#) [at the first update.](#)**
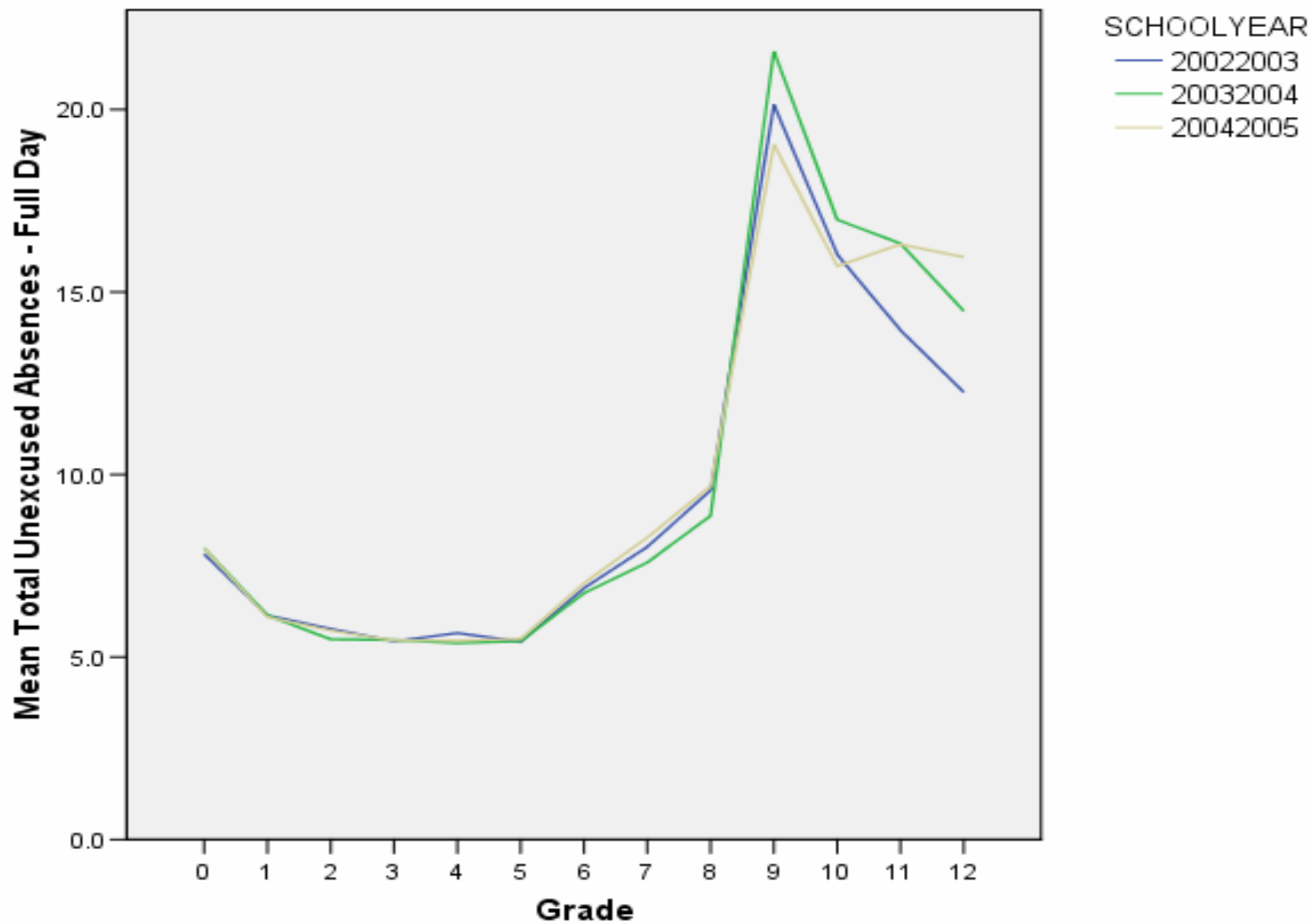
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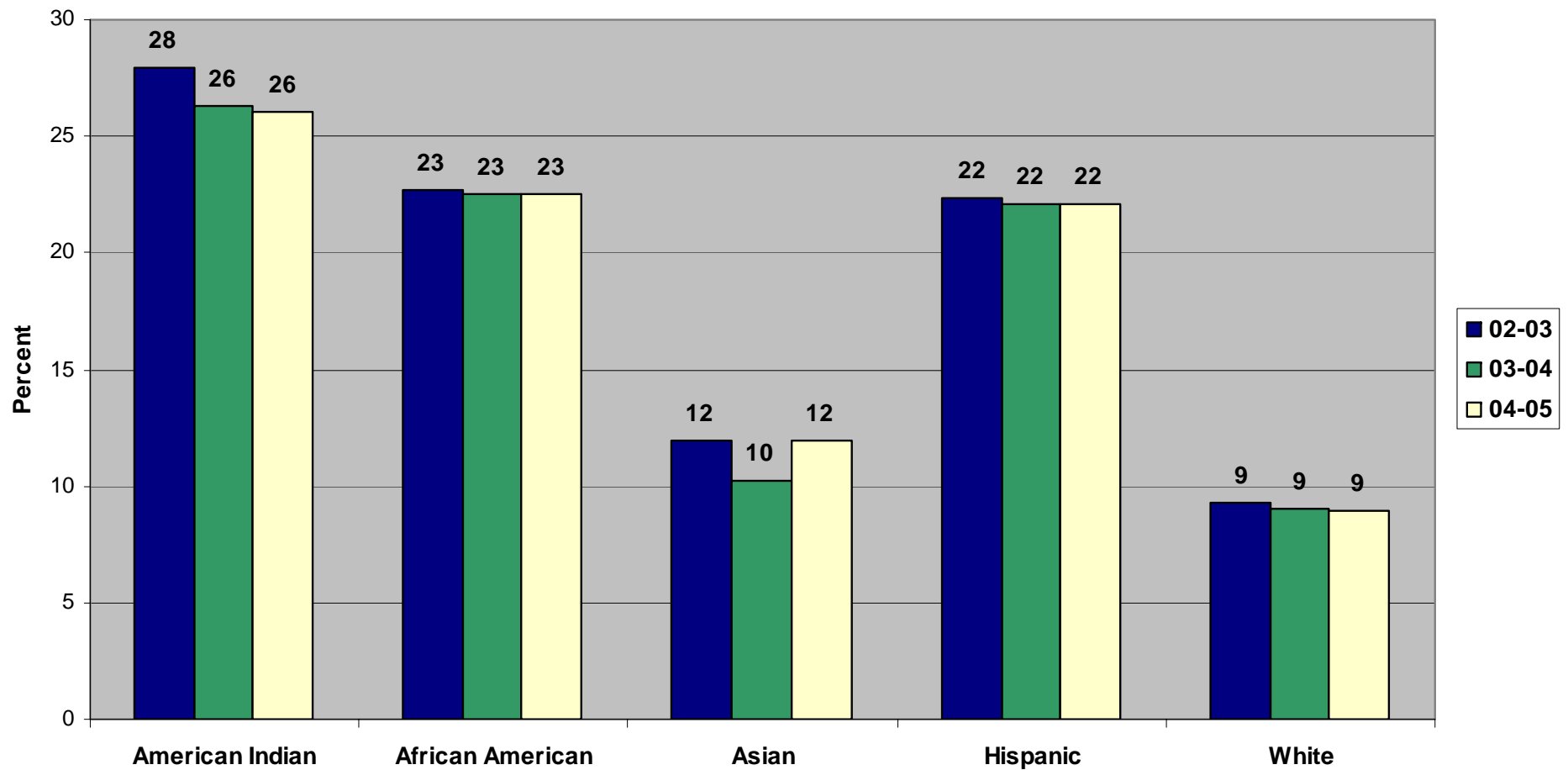
The Denver Data

- Collected data from Denver Public Schools to assess prevalence of truancy
- This gives a better indication than attendance rates or drop out statistics
- Surprising results

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Average Unexcused Absences by Grade

Incidents of Crime by Youth (10-17)
School Year 04-05
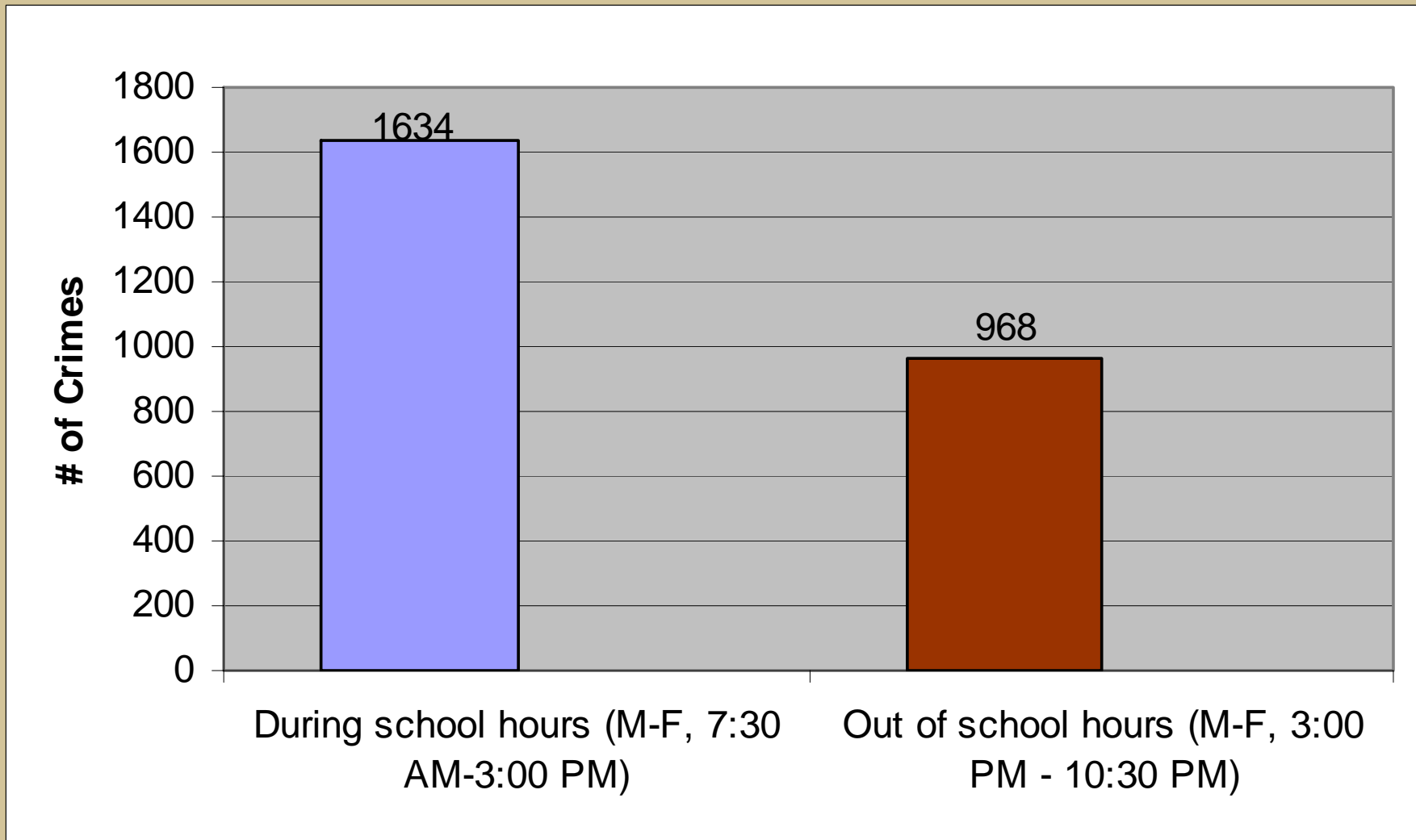
Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Chart 1: Washington
Juvenile ARY and Truancy Petition Filings *(left axis)* **and Juvenile Arrest Rates** *(right axis)*
for 1995 through 2002
filing data: annual AOC Report of the Courts of Washington
arrest data: annual GJJAC Juvenile Justice Report
01-07-05

Legend:
— ARY Filings
······ Truancy Filings
– – Arrest Rate/ 1000 Juv.

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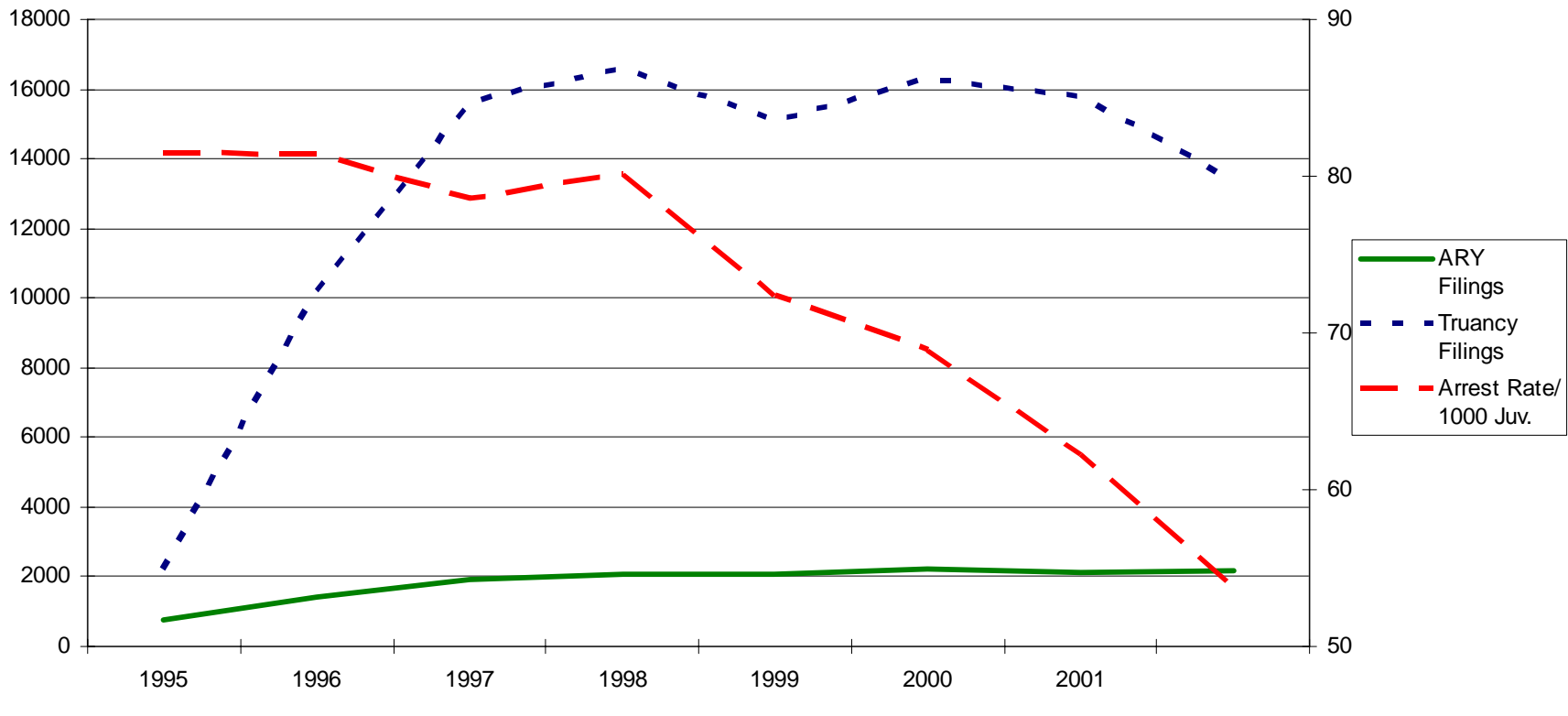
Impact on Delinquency from Truancy + Diversion Program in Jacksonville

YEAR	JUVENILES SENTENCED TO FLORIDA STATE PRISON	JUVENILES SENTENCED TO DUVAL COUNTY JAIL
1994	47	201
1995	39	105
1996	8	85
1997	29	132
1998	18	149
1999	27	72
2000	16	35
2001	26	39
2002	16	35
2003	23	33
2004	5	22

Effective Practices to Reduce Truancy

Evidence Based Practice

And

Practice Based Evidence

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Levers for Change

- Federal No child Left Behind Law

- Attendance = School Funding

- High Stakes Achievement Testing

- Truancy Reduction ⬇ Day time crime

- Truancy Reduction ⬇ Court Costs

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CASASTART

- 8 Strategies

- 3 Key Meetings

- 3 Key Partnerships

8 Strategies

- Mentoring
- Community-Enhanced Policing & Enforcement
- Education Services
- After School and Summer Activities
- Family Services
- Case Management
- Incentives
- Criminal/Juvenile Justice Intervention
- YOUTH SUCCESS

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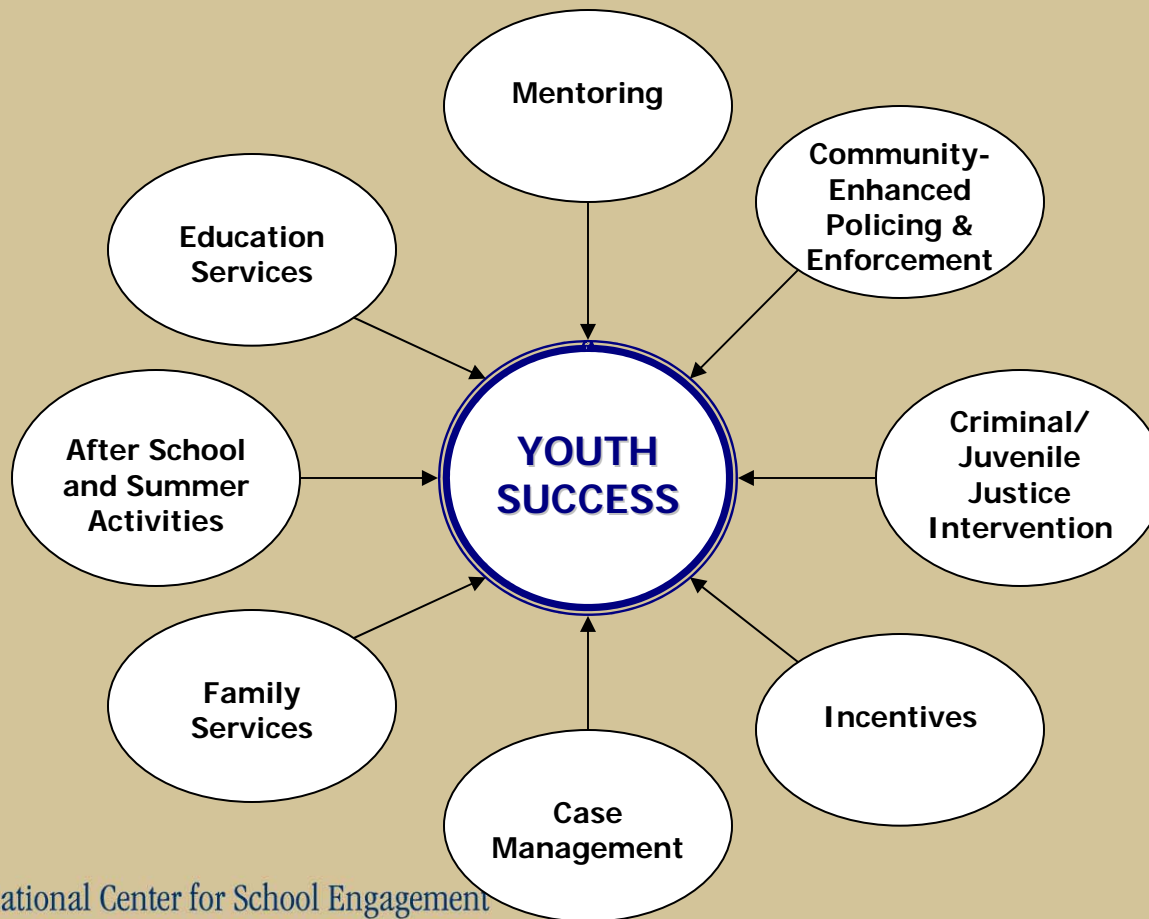
3 Meetings

- ## Case Conference

  YOUTH FOCUS: Case manager, key personnel in the school, and law enforcement meet twice a month to problem solve around issues that arise with youth participants

Administrative Meeting

PROGRAM FOCUS: CASASTART Program Manager meets with Principal and Police to discuss challenges and successes at the school level

Advisory Council Meeting

POLICY FOCUS: Key decision-makers in the community attend this meeting. They are charged with addressing broader community issues related to substance abuse, delinquency and other trends affecting youth, as well as developing policies and securing funding to support the program.

3 Partnerships

- Schools
  - Provide office and meeting space
  - Refer students eligible for CASASTART
  - Participate in 3 key meetings of CASASTART
  - Share information regarding youth grades, attendance, conduct

- Human Service Organization/Lead Agency
  - Act as lead agency – hire, manage, and train staff to implement program
  - Facilitate communication and collaboration between partners, coordinate 3 key meetings
  - Maintain client records & data

- Police Department
  - Make connections with youth in the program
  - Share information regarding youth and crime
  - Establish safe corridors to and from school
  - Participate in 3 key meetings

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Convene Stakeholders to
Design A Community
Response

Develop Public Policy &
Funding Strategies

**Engage Youth
and Parents**

Provide "tools for
Schools" tools and best
practices in
Attendance,
Attachment, and
Achievement

Attendance

Attachment

Principal's Leadership
Institute to support
innovation and develop
next generation of
leaders

Youth
Success

Create "Triple A"
Schools to recognize
excellence and
innovation

**Increased
Family
Involvement**

Achievement

**Coordinate &
Integrate
programs**

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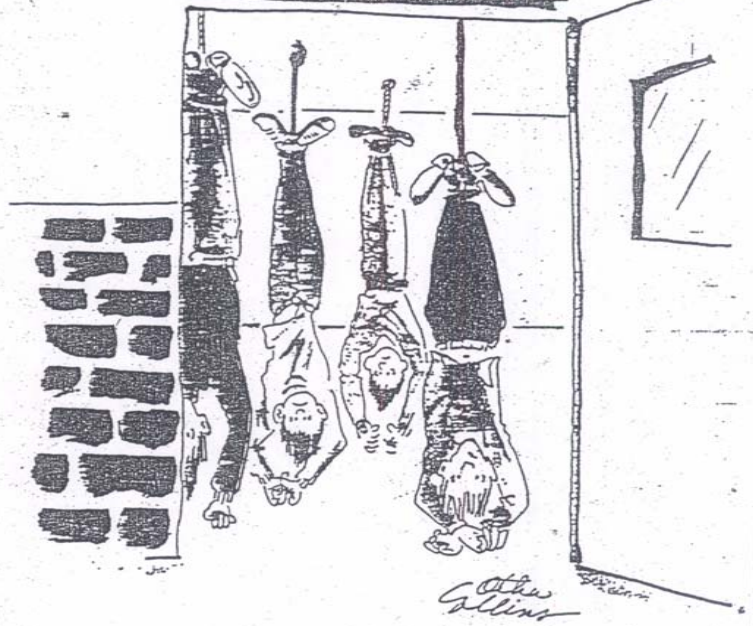
State/County/Municipal Practices

- File CHINS/PINS
- File D&N
- Withhold TANF
- Daytime curfew
- Subpoena school records

- School revenue based on average daily enrollment
- Include school truancy rates in report card
- Claim revenues for students with truancy petition

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Court Sanctioning Practices

- Fine parents & students
- Arrest parents
- Contempt citations
- Suspend driver's license
- Detention
- Community service

- Court ordered family or individual therapy
- Court ordered tutoring or health services
- Waive fines with improved attendance

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School Practices

- School F grading
- No Extra Curric. Act.
- Suspension/expulsions
- Employ truancy officers
- Grading on participation

- Change Ed. Placement
- Appeals processes
- Consistent attendance policy and practice known by all (students, parents, staff, community agencies)

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Addressing Push Out- Fade Out Practices

- Push out policies and practices are the things that schools and community agencies do that cause students to disengage and drop out

- Fade out students are those who are on track academically, but not engaged in school

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Changes Needed to Avoid Push-outs

- **End out of school suspensions for being truant**
- **Finance Schools by average daily attendance not one day counts**
- **Document attendance and truancy by school & set goals for engagement and attachment**
- **Eliminate courts detention for truancy**
- **Remove attendance as a factor in grading**
- **Start secondary schools later in the day**
- **Provide partial credit and credit recovery options for students**
- **Conduct a push out "policy audit "**
- **Raise compulsory attendance age to 18**

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The Push Out Policy Audit*

- Review dropout ages grades and circumstances
- Review attendance policies & how implemented
- Grade retention/social promotion policies
- Grading policies district/school/teacher
- Over promotion of GED alternative to graduation
- Over use of Alternative Schools for struggling students
- Standardized testing use for promotion or push out
- Teacher preparedness & credentials

*(Balfanz,.R and MacIver, M. 2008 in Press)

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NCSE – Fostering Triple A Schools: Leadership. Tools. Policy.

Inform/Advocate Policy

NCSE Principals Triple A Leadership Institute

•Tier 1 – Best and Brightest

•Tier 2 – Emerging Leaders

NCSE Triple A Tools for Schools

•School Triple A Self Assessments and Student Surveys

•Evaluation tools – TRAIN

•Toolkit of evidence based strategies in each of the "A's"

•Online training and leadership networking

•Model policies

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