

2.1 Crime

2.1.1(a) Crime rate

Measurement: The crime rate reported by states and counties is the number of index crimes per 100,000 resident population. Index crimes - the best indicators of changing crime trends - include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft. Numbers reflect only those crimes reported to law enforcement agencies and, therefore, are an undercount of the number of crimes actually committed. According to a national crime victimization survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, only 40% of crimes committed in the United States are reported. This percentage may vary among states and counties.

Explanation: Crime violates our sense of right and wrong, imposes grave personal losses, and causes people to fear for their safety in our own communities.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida – Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp

2.1.1(b) Broward County's ranking in crime rate

Measurement: Broward County is ranked among Florida's 67 counties based upon the index crime rate described in 2.1.1(a) above. Crime rates are not necessarily comparable among counties for two major reasons. First, crimes involving tourists are counted in reported crimes but tourists are not counted in the county's resident population. As a result, Broward County's crime rate probably is

somewhat inflated compared to other counties not experiencing substantial numbers of visitors. Second, counties may vary in the extent to which people report crimes to the police.

Explanation: Florida's national ranking in crime rate can affect how residents, tourists and companies perceive the state as place to live, visit or do business.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida – Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp

2.1.2 Violent crime rate

Measurement: The violent crime rate reported by all states is the number of violent index crimes per 100,000 resident population. Violent index crimes are murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery and aggravated assault. Numbers reflect only those crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Rates for forcible sex offenses in 1980 and 1985 are not presented because in 1988 this category was expanded to include not only forcible rape, but also forcible sodomy and fondling. The latter two offenses were previously counted as aggravated assault. The rates for aggravated assault are presented for all years because these rates continued to rise even though forcible sodomy and fondling were no longer counted after 1988.

Explanation: Because violent crimes involve personal confrontation between perpetrator and victim, they are considered more serious than other index crimes.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida – Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp

2.1.3 Non-violent crime rate

Measurement: The non-violent crime rate is reported by all states as the number of non-violent index crimes per 100,000 resident population. Non-violent index crimes are burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft. Numbers reflect only those crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Larceny includes grand and petty larceny.

Explanation: Non-violent crimes can impose significant losses in personal property and violate our sense of security in our own homes and communities.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida – Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp

2.2 Crime Victimization

2.2.1 Violent crime victimization

Measurement: The percentage of households victimized by a violent crime within the past five years is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "Have you or has anyone in your household been the victim of a violent crime in the past 5 years?" Possible responses are "yes" and "no."

Explanation: Because many crimes are unreported, survey information on victimization is important to consider in assessing prevalence of crime.

Broward data source: Quality of Life Assessments of Broward County, Florida, by Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska (1997 – Q32, 1999/2000 –



Q33, 2002 – Q34),
www.sfrpc.com/ccb/prchome.htm.

2.3 Perception of Crime

2.3.1 Perception of neighborhood crime

Measurement: People age 18 and older are surveyed by telephone about their perception of neighborhood crime. Specifically the survey asks, "Within the past year or two, do you think that the problem of crime in your neighborhood has been getting better, getting worse, or has it stayed about the same?"

Possible responses are getting better, getting worse, stayed about the same or don't know. The survey's sampling error is $\pm 2.2\%$.

Explanation: People's concern about crime often is based on their perception of its frequency rather than on actual crime rates.

Broward data source: Quality of Life Assessments of Broward County, Florida, by Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska (1997 – Q118, 1999/2000 – Q121, 2002 – Q122),
www.sfrpc.com/ccb/prchome.htm.

Florida data source: Florida International University, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Institute for Public Opinion Research, *The FIU/Florida Poll* (www.fiu.edu/org/ipor/IPORProj.htm). The sampling error for this survey is $\pm 3\%$.

2.4 Alcohol and Drugs

2.4.1 Driving under the influence (DUI)

Measurement: Drinking and driving and riding with a drinking driver are measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and

older. Specifically the survey asks, "During the past month, how many times have you driven when you've had perhaps too much to drink?" and "During the past month, how many times have you ridden with a driver who has had perhaps too much to drink?"

Explanation: Driving under the influence is a major cause of traffic deaths and injuries, which can be prevented by more responsible consumption of alcohol and by not letting friends drive after having too much to drink.

Broward data source: Quality of Life Assessments of Broward County, Florida, by Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska (1997 – Q53/Q54, 1999/2000 – Q44/Q45, 2002 – Q44/Q45),
www.sfrpc.com/ccb/prchome.htm.

Florida data source: Florida International University, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Institute for Public Opinion Research, *The FIU/Florida Poll* (www.fiu.edu/org/ipor/IPORProj.htm). The sampling error for this survey is $\pm 3\%$.

2.4.2 Alcohol-related traffic crashes

Measurement: The alcohol-related traffic fatality rate is (1) the number of traffic deaths attributed by the law enforcement at the scene of the accident to alcohol, divided by (2) the population, multiplied by (3) 100,000. The percentage of traffic crashes that were alcohol related is the (1) number of traffic crashes attributed by the law enforcement officer at the scene of the accident to alcohol, divided by (2) the total number of traffic crashes, multiplied by (3) 100. The use of alcohol may be determined by a blood or breath test, observation (e.g., slurred speech, smell of alcohol) or a field sobriety test (e.g., walking heel-to-toe).

Explanation: Driving under the influence is a major cause of traffic deaths and injuries, which

can be prevented by more responsible consumption of alcohol and by not letting friends drive after having too much to drink.

Data source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Florida Traffic Crash Facts* (annual), available online at www.hsmv.state.fl.us/reports/crash_facts.html

2.4.3 Drug arrests

Measurement: Drug arrests include the arrest of any person by state or local law enforcement agencies for the unlawful cultivation, manufacturing, possession, sale, purchase, distribution, transportation or importation of any controlled drug, narcotic substance or drug paraphernalia. Not only illegal drugs but also legal drugs used for illegal purposes are counted. Notices to appear in court as well as physical arrests are included. Arrests made by federal agencies, such as the Coast Guard and Drug Enforcement Agency, are excluded. The increase in drug arrests may reflect not only criminal behavior but also the increased effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in apprehending violators.

Explanation: People are concerned about the influence of illegal drugs on their children and on the level of crime in their communities.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida – Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual). Arrest data is available online for the total population at www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp. The breakout between juveniles and adults is available online only for the State of Florida. Comparable data for Broward County was supplied through a special report provided by the Broward Sheriff's Office.



2.5 Juvenile Arrests

2.5.1 Juvenile arrests for violent crimes

2.5.2 Juvenile arrests for non-violent crimes

Measurement: The juvenile arrest rate reflects the extent to which children are picked up by the police and charged with crimes. The same child may be arrested more than one time. Arrests are counted for index crimes only - the best indicator of changing crime trends. After a juvenile is arrested, the state attorney may dismiss the charges for lack of evidence, refer the youth to a circuit judge for a hearing, or divert the youth from the court system through alternatives such as counseling, drug treatment or repayment to the victim. Changes in juvenile arrest rates may reflect changes in police activity (e.g., crackdowns on juveniles) as well as changes in delinquent behavior. Because of data availability constraints, the juvenile arrest rate uses slightly different age groups for arrests (ages 11-17) and the population (ages 10-17). Only a very small number of arrests involve children aged 10. Therefore, the age group discrepancy does not significantly affect the rate reported.

Explanation: Juvenile arrests reflect the success or failure of our families and communities to raise law-abiding children. They also serve as an indicator of future crime trends.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida – Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual). Arrest data is available online for the total population at www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp. The breakout between juveniles and adults is available online only for the State of Florida. Comparable data for Broward County was supplied through a special report provided by the Broward Sheriff's Office.

2.6 Juvenile Delinquents

2.6.1 Juvenile delinquency

Measurement: An adjudicated delinquent is someone under age 18 who, according to the court, has committed an offense that would be considered a crime if committed by an adult. Excluded are cases dismissed by the judge for lack of evidence and cases where judgment is withheld to give the youth another chance before having delinquency entered on his or her record. The number of delinquency referrals or cases received are those reported and used by the Department of Juvenile Justice to track offenses/referrals from law enforcement. The number of cases is counted by "unduplicating" the number of referrals reported on the client information system by client identifier and date; however, it can represent more than one offense/referral per client per year. Presented here is the number of youths referred, which is determined by counting only the most serious offense for which a youth is charged during any fiscal year, an accurate unduplicated count. Years refer to the period beginning in October of a given year and ending in September of the year specified.

Explanation: Public safety, family relationships and the future of our youth all suffer when children become criminals.

Data source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Data and Research, *Profile of Delinquency Cases and Youths Referred* (annual); data available online at www.djj.state.fl.us/statsresearch/index.html

2.6.2 Juvenile commitments

Measurement: The commitment rate reflects the number of youth younger than age 18, who

have committed a delinquent act or violation of law and have been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The purpose of commitment is to give the state active control over delinquent youths and to provide for their custody, care, training, treatment and furlough into the community. A commitment ends when the delinquent youth is released by the Department or reaches the age of 19. Serious or habitual youth offenders can be held until age 21. Following commitment, placement is made in a proper residential or non-residential program, such as boot camp, training school or day treatment. Increasing juvenile commitment rates may reflect increases in the number of beds available in commitment programs as well as a higher incidence of delinquent behavior. Years refer to the period beginning in October of a given year and ending in September of the year specified.

Explanation: Public safety, family relationships and the future of our youth all suffer when children become juvenile delinquents.

Data source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Data and Research, *Profile of Delinquency Cases and Youths Referred* (annual); data available online at www.djj.state.fl.us/statsresearch/index.html

2.6.3 Serious juvenile offenders

Measurement: Serious juvenile offenders are delinquents who pose a greater danger to public safety because they have committed a felony against persons. Specifically, they include felony offenses such as murder / manslaughter, attempted murder / manslaughter, sexual battery, armed robbery, other robbery, aggravated assault and battery, resisting arrest with violence, felony drug offenses, and shooting or throwing a deadly missile into an occupied dwelling or vehicle.



The numbers presented here are youth counts for referrals received.

Explanation: Serious crimes committed by youth have a substantial impact on families and communities.

Data source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Data and Research, *Profile of Delinquency Cases and Youths Referred* (annual); data available online at www.djj.state.fl.us/statsresearch/index.html

2.7 Juveniles in the Adult System

2.7.1 Juveniles in the adult correctional

Measurement: Generally, youth under age 18 are referred to the adult criminal justice system when charged with very serious crimes or when their criminal behavior has continued despite treatment in the juvenile justice system. The count reflects the number of juveniles who are placed in adult prisons operated by the state. The 2000 numbers are for Broward Juveniles placed in state prisons. Youths placed on probation or under community control after their release from prison are excluded. Also excluded are youth incarcerated in local jails or federal prisons.

Explanation: Public safety, family relationships and the future of our youth all suffer when children become criminals.

Data source: Florida Department of Corrections, Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics.

2.8 Abuse and Neglect

2.8.1 Child abuse and neglect

Measurement: Child abuse or neglect is defined as harm or threatened harm to a child's

physical or mental health by the acts or omissions of a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare (Section 415.503(1), Florida Statutes). A child is any person under the age of 18 years. Numbers of reports data had been categorized as follows: (a) unfounded report - a report in which the investigation determines that no indication of abuse or neglect exists, (b) an indicated report - a report in which the investigation determines that some indication of abuse or neglect exists, or the protective investigator determines that abuse or neglect has occurred but is not able to identify the perpetrator. No perpetrator is named in reports closed with an indicated classification, or (c) confirmed report - a report in which the investigation determines that abuse or neglect has occurred and the perpetrator is identified. A preponderance of credible evidence is required in order to classify a report as confirmed. Currently the Family Services Response System (FSRS), a non-adversarial response to reports of child abuse and neglect, through a process of assessing the risk to the child and family and, when appropriate, delivering services to remove the risk to the child and support the integrity of the family, has become the vehicle for all reports. Prior to October 1, 1995, districts, at their option and under an approved plan, could handle some or all child abuse and neglect reports as FSRS cases. Since October 1, 1995 with the legislative elimination of classification, all reports are closed as FSRS cases. Within the FSRS category reports can be closed as no indication, some indication, or verified. The numbers of maltreatments represent counts of abuse, neglect, or threatened harm. A maltreatment is counted each time it occurs in a category, a victim may have several maltreatments per report and a report may contain several victims. An alleged

maltreatment is used in reference to an unconfirmed statement made by a reporter to the Florida Abuse Hotline of suspected abuse, neglect, or threatened harm to a child. A confirmed report is a proposed confirmed report that has been determined to be valid after a hearing for which the alleged perpetrator had failed to request amendment or expunction within the time allotted for such request. A proposed confirmed report was when a child protective investigation alleged that abuse or neglect occurred and which identified the alleged perpetrator, and some indication was identified when the investigation determined that there were some indicator that abuse, neglect, or threatened harm occurred. Data here represents the fiscal year numbers of victims for alleged reports and for verified or some indication (at least one finding) in a report of abuse, neglect or threatened harm. There may be more than one report per victim per year. The rate is found by dividing the number of victims by the annual population aged 0 to 17 years.

Explanation: Abuse and neglect threatens the lives, health, and safety of children and teaches violence and poor parenting to future generations.

Data source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Family Safety and Preservation, Child Protective Services, *Children Identified as Victims in Reports Locked* (total of "Verified" and "Some Indication" Unduplicated Count). This report is available only on the DCF/BSO Intranet.

2.8.2 Abuse and neglect of adults with disabilities

Measurement: An adult with a disability is a person aged 18 to 59 who "suffers from a condition of physical or mental incapacitation due to a developmental disability, organic brain



damage, or mental illness, or one who has one or more physical or mental limitations that restrict his ability to perform normal activities of daily living" (Section 415.102(8), Florida Statutes). The indicators reflect reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Florida Abuse Hotline at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Verified reports are reports that (1) have been investigated by a DCF worker and (2) found to show evidence of abuse, neglect or exploitation, regardless of whether a perpetrator was identified.

Explanation: Abuse, neglect and exploitation threaten the health, safety and welfare of adults who may be especially vulnerable because of their disabilities.

Data source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Adult Protective Services, Office of Family Safety and Preservation.

2.8.3 Elder abuse and neglect

Measurement: Abuse, neglect or exploitation of an aged person occurs when (1) someone inflicts non-accidental physical or psychological injury; (2) fails to provide care and services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the aged person; or (3) acts improperly in their management of an aged person's funds, assets or property (Section 415.502(1)(9)(12), Florida Statutes). It can occur in a home or institutional setting. A person 60 years of age or older who is suffering from the infirmities of aging as manifested by organic brain damage, advanced age, or other physical, mental or emotional dysfunctioning to the extent that the person is impaired in his/her ability to adequately provide for his/her own care or protection. The indicators reflect reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Florida Abuse Hotline at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Verified reports are reports that (1) have been

investigated by a DCF worker and (2) found to show evidence of abuse, neglect or exploitation, regardless of whether a perpetrator was identified.

Explanation: Abuse, neglect and exploitation threaten the health, safety and welfare of adults who may be especially vulnerable because of their age.

Data source: Florida Department of Children and Families, *Adult Protective Services Annual Statistical Report* (annual), Table 9.

2.9 Domestic Violence

2.9.1 Domestic violence incidents

2.9.2 Domestic violence criminal homicides

Measurement: Domestic violence is any assault, battery or other criminal offense committed by a household or family member that causes injury or death to another household or family member. Crimes of domestic violence can involve (a) people related by blood or marriage, (b) people who have a child in common, or (c) people who have lived together under the same roof, regardless of whether they were ever married or related (Section 741.30(1)(b), *Florida Statutes*). The crime is defined by the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, not the place where the crime occurs. The domestic violence crime rate is (1) the number of offenses involving domestic violence that are reported to state or local law enforcement agencies divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100,000. Because many domestic violence crimes are unreported, this rate should be considered an underestimate of the actual occurrence of domestic violence in Broward County. The domestic violence criminal homicide rate is the number of people killed by a household or family member,

divided by the county population, multiplied by 100,000.

Explanation: In Florida, domestic violence accounts for about 25% of murders, manslaughter offenses, forcible sex offenses and aggravated assaults. It also is the single major cause of injury to women – more frequent than auto accidents, rapes and muggings combined.

Data source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida – Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp

2.10 Recidivism

2.10.1 Repeat offenders

Measurement: Adult recidivism is defined as the rate at which state prison releases commit another crime and return to the adult correctional system after their release from state prison. Standard recidivism is measured over a two-year period – from the time of release to the time a new crime is committed. Released inmates returned to prison for technical violations are excluded because new crimes present the greatest threat to public safety. Also excluded are state prison inmates released to another state after serving time in Florida prisons. Inmates at federal prisons are not counted in this indicator. This indicator reflects inmates released to Broward County from a Department of Corrections institution.

Explanation: Public safety is affected by whether criminals continue to commit crimes after release from prison.

Data source: Florida Department of Corrections, Bureau of Research and Data Analysis.



2.10.2 Juvenile repeat offenders

Measurement: Juvenile recidivism is defined as the percentage of juveniles released from juvenile justice programs who are subsequently adjudicated for committing another crime. Recidivism is measured over a one-year period – from the time of release to the time a new crime is committed – for juveniles released during the first six months of each year. Diversion programs, such as community service and victim restitution, provide juveniles an alternative to going to court and are generally ordered by state attorneys for first or minor offenses. Community control, non-residential commitment and residential commitment are increasingly restrictive placements in the juvenile justice system ordered by a judge. Juveniles under age 18 in the adult correctional system are excluded.

Explanation: Public safety is affected by whether juveniles continue to commit crimes after their release from programs designed to prevent or deter delinquent behavior.

Florida data source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Research and Data.

2.11 Education of Offenders

2.11.1 Literacy of adult offenders

Measurement: The literacy of state prison inmates is measured by the administration of the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE). This is a nationally standardized test measuring reading, math computation, applied math, language and spelling. The percentage of prison inmates who are literate is defined as the percentage who score at or above the ninth grade level. The data presented here is for inmates in the prison population who were

convicted in Broward County and were tested on the specified dates. The percentages are results of tests administered on June 30, 1996 and June 30, 1997.

Explanation: Literacy improves an inmate's chances for gainful employment after release.

Data source: Florida Department of Corrections, Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics.

2.11.2 Vocational training of releases

Measurement: Vocational training includes on-the-job training to state prison inmates provided by either the Department of Corrections or Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc. (PRIDE). The duration of training ranges from 400 to 900 hours or more, depending on the program. Inmates who completed vocational training are those who receive a certificate of achievement, based on the work supervisor's assessment of specific job and employability skills learned by the inmate. This indicator reflects the percent of inmates who were convicted in Broward County that were released from the Department of Corrections with a vocational certificate.

Explanation: Employment after release from prison can help prevent ex-offenders from committing further crimes.

Data source: Florida Department of Corrections, Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics.

2.12 Ex-offender Employment

2.12.1 Employment one year after release

Measurement: Employment after release from prison is measured by using social security numbers to match released inmates with

employees on the Unemployment Compensation Program database maintained by the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security. A releasee is considered employed if he or she is working for a public or private employer in Florida during the October-December quarter of the year following the year of release. The data presented here represents the percentage of ex-offenders released to Broward County who were employed or enrolled in school full-time during the October-December quarter of the year following release.

Explanation: Employment reduces the likelihood of returning to crime after release from prison.

Data source: Florida Department of Education, Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program.

2.13 Disaster Protection

2.13.1 Evacuation time

Measurement: Broward County is one of the most hurricane vulnerable areas in the United States. Six months of the year are known as hurricane season, however, virtually every month has historically experienced the effects of hurricanes. Evacuation is taken to mean those protective actions taken by those persons in areas potentially affected by storm surge, and those persons residing in mobile homes to relocate out of the potentially damaged area and into a safer area.

Explanation: Evacuating from the potentially affected areas can mean the difference between life and death. Storm surge is the most deadly component of a hurricane.



Data source: Broward County Emergency Management Division, *Broward County Coastal Evacuation Plan*.

2.13.2 Shelter space

Measurement: The American Red Cross and the Broward County Department of Human Services are responsible for shelter activities in Broward County. The American Red Cross National Policy is a commitment to shelter 20% of the ordered evacuating population. The coastal high hazard area is divided into three evacuation zones based on the intensity of storms, with higher categories representing more severe storms. Based on these projections the County does not experience a shelter deficit.

Explanation: Temporary shelter capacity, away from the coastal high hazard area, is essential to accommodate the population ordered to evacuate when hurricanes approach.

Broward data source: Broward County Department of Human Services.

2.13.3 Shelter space for persons with special needs

Measurement: Recognizing the need and complexity of the issue of providing hurricane shelter for persons with special needs, Broward County has established a specific emergency support function to deal with the issue. Broward County Department of Human Services is responsible for the registration and management of the County Special Needs Shelter Program. The Department of Human Services has identified and maintains a list of 1,200 shelter spaces. All shelters are opened for any category of storm.

Explanation: Temporary shelter capacity, away from the coastal high hazard area, is essential to accommodate the special needs population when hurricanes approach.

Broward data source: Broward County Department of Human Services.

2.14 Traffic Crashes

2.14.1 Traffic crashes

2.14.2 Deaths in traffic crashes

2.14.3 Injuries in traffic crashes

Measurement: Traffic accidents are collisions on publicly traveled roads that are reported to law enforcement agencies. Excluded are relatively minor (short-form) collisions, which are not entered into the traffic crash database. Deaths include motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians killed in these collisions. When one or more injuries occur, the law enforcement officer at the scene of the accident judges whether the injury is (1) possible, (2) non-incapacitating or (3) incapacitating. Rates are the number of crashes (deaths or people injured), divided by the county population, multiplied by 100,000.

Explanation: Traffic accidents threaten the personal safety of people on our roads and highways.

Data source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Florida Traffic Crash Facts* (annual), available online at www.hsmv.state.fl.us/reports/crash_facts.html

2.15 Injuries

2.15.1 Deaths from unintentional injuries

Measurement: This indicator presents deaths due to unintentional injuries (i.e., falls, drownings, and motor vehicle crashes).

Explanation: Injuries are one of the leading causes of death in Florida. Injury prevention

can reduce pain and loss as well as medical costs.

Data source: Florida Department of Health, Public Health Indicators Data System (PHIDS), available online at www9.myflorida.com/planning_eval/phstats/index.html.

2.15.2 Deaths from firearms

Measurement: Deaths from firearms are deaths from homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings that involved a handgun, rifle or shotgun. Unintentional shootings accounted for a small percentage of cases.

Explanation: Misuse of firearms was the leading cause of injury death in Florida (1993).

Data source: Florida Department of Health, Public Health Indicators Data System (PHIDS), available online at www9.myflorida.com/planning_eval/phstats/index.html.

2.16 Boating Accidents

2.16.1 Boating accidents

2.16.2 Boating deaths

2.16.3 Boating injuries

Measurement: Boating accidents are collisions, fires, sinking, capsizing, falls overboard and similar incidents involving recreational watercraft. Boats are broadly defined as all watercraft including Jet Skis, Wave Runners, Sea Doos, or similar equipment. Commercial boating accidents are excluded. Registered boats include motorized boats only. There were 47,994 vessels registered in Broward County in 2002, of which 45,726 were recreational vessels.

Explanation: As a peninsula with year-round boating, Florida has a high number of



recreational boating deaths relative to other states. Many of these deaths could be prevented if boating operators and passengers used safe boating practices.

Data source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, *Boating Accident Statistics* (annual), available online at <http://floridaconservation.org/law/boating/>

