



**SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
Research Brought to Life.

Palm Beach County Youth Violence Prevention Project

Dr. Bill Bales

**Center for Criminology and Public Policy
Research**

**Steering Committee Meetings
West Palm Beach, July 28-29, 2005**

Presentation Outline

- Purposes of the Project
- Research Questions to be Answered
- Data Sources
- Initial Findings
- Future Analyses

Purposes of the Project

- 1. Determine the historical and current trends of violent crime in Palm Beach County, particularly aimed at predicting youth violence and incidents involving firearms**
- 2. Identify ways to decrease the amount of violent youth crime within Palm Beach County**

Purposes of the Project

- 3. Ensure that local agencies are involved in identifying and prioritizing evidence based violence prevention strategies throughout Palm Beach County.**

Including the following agencies:

- Prevention**
- Law Enforcement**
- Courts**
- Correctional**

Research Questions to be Answered

General Crime Trends

1. **What are the 15 year crime trends in Palm Beach County?**
2. **What are the 10 year violent crime trends involving firearms in Palm Beach County?**
3. **How do the crime trends within Palm Beach County compare to crime trends in 5 similar Counties in Florida?**

Research Questions to be Answered

Offender and Victim Characteristics in Palm Beach County

4. What are the characteristics of the individuals arrested for murder since 2000?
 - Have their characteristics changed over time?
5. What are the characteristics of the victims of violent crimes committed with firearms since 2000?

Research Questions to be Answered

Targeting Violent Crime in Palm Beach County

6. Where in Palm Beach County are crimes involving firearms most likely to occur?
(Forthcoming)
7. Where in Palm Beach County are murders most likely to occur?
(Forthcoming)
8. What violent crime preventions strategies are found to be effective in other urban areas throughout the country?
(Forthcoming)

Data sources

- **Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)
Part I Crimes – Offenses**
 - ◆ All reported crimes 1990-2004
 - ◆ Part I Crimes include: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft
 - ◆ Violent crimes with firearms 1996-2004
 - ◆ Murders 1990-2004
 - ◆ Palm Beach comparisons with Broward, Duval, Pinellas, Orange, Hillsborough

Data sources

■ Florida Department of Law Enforcement – Arrests

- ◆ Computerized Criminal History data (Rap Sheets)
- ◆ All arrests in Palm Beach County 1990-2005
- ◆ Statewide arrest histories for all persons arrested in Palm Beach County

Data sources – cont.

■ Local Law Enforcement

- ◆ 29 separate municipalities, Sheriff's Office, School District, and FAU data
- ◆ All violent felonies with the use of a firearm
- ◆ Offender and victim characteristics, locations of crime and addresses of individuals

Data sources – cont.

■ Local Medical Examiner

- ◆ Murder victims 1999-2005, ages 30 years and younger
- ◆ Characteristics, biographical information, toxicology results, home address

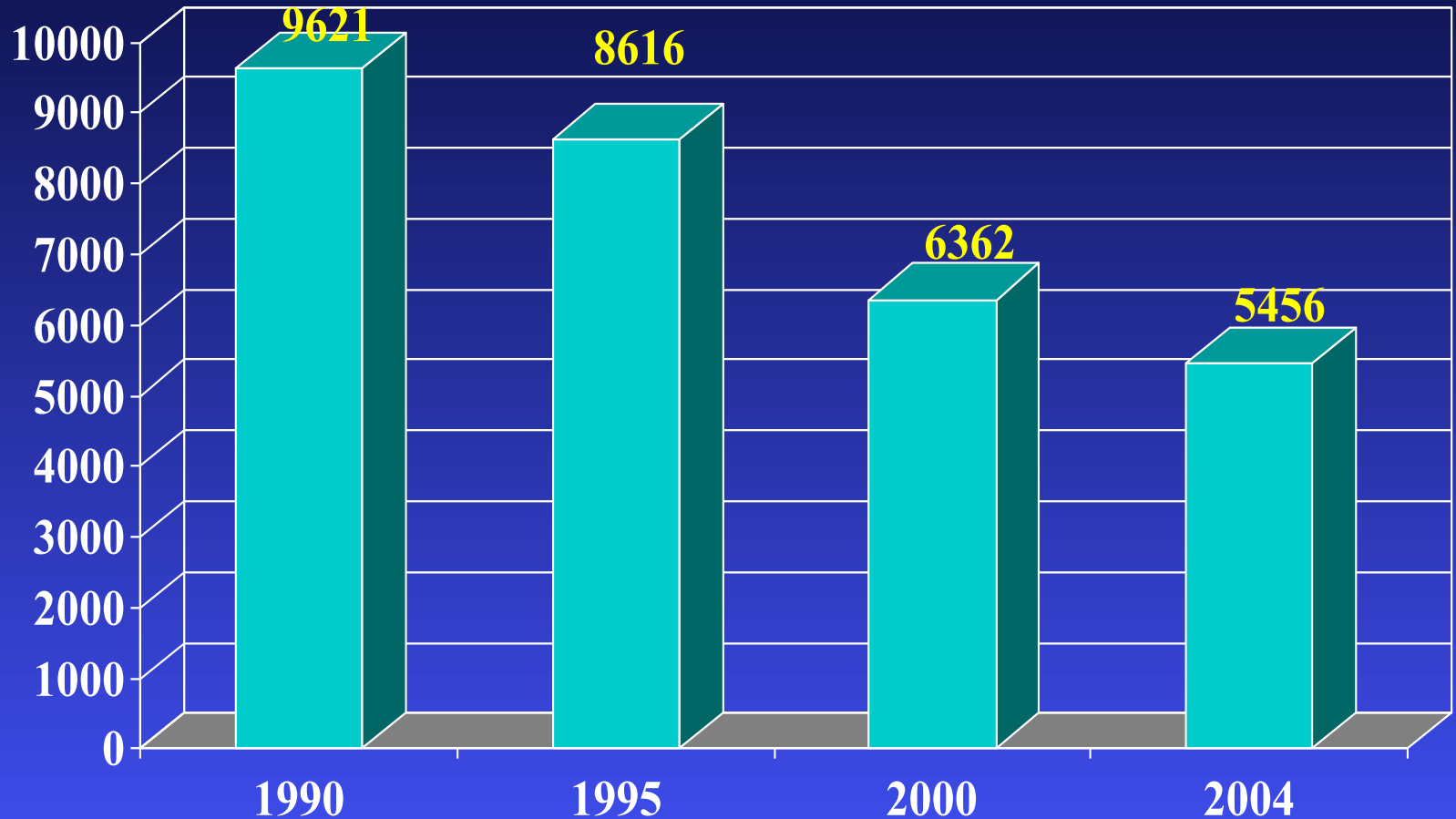


SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Research Brought to Life.

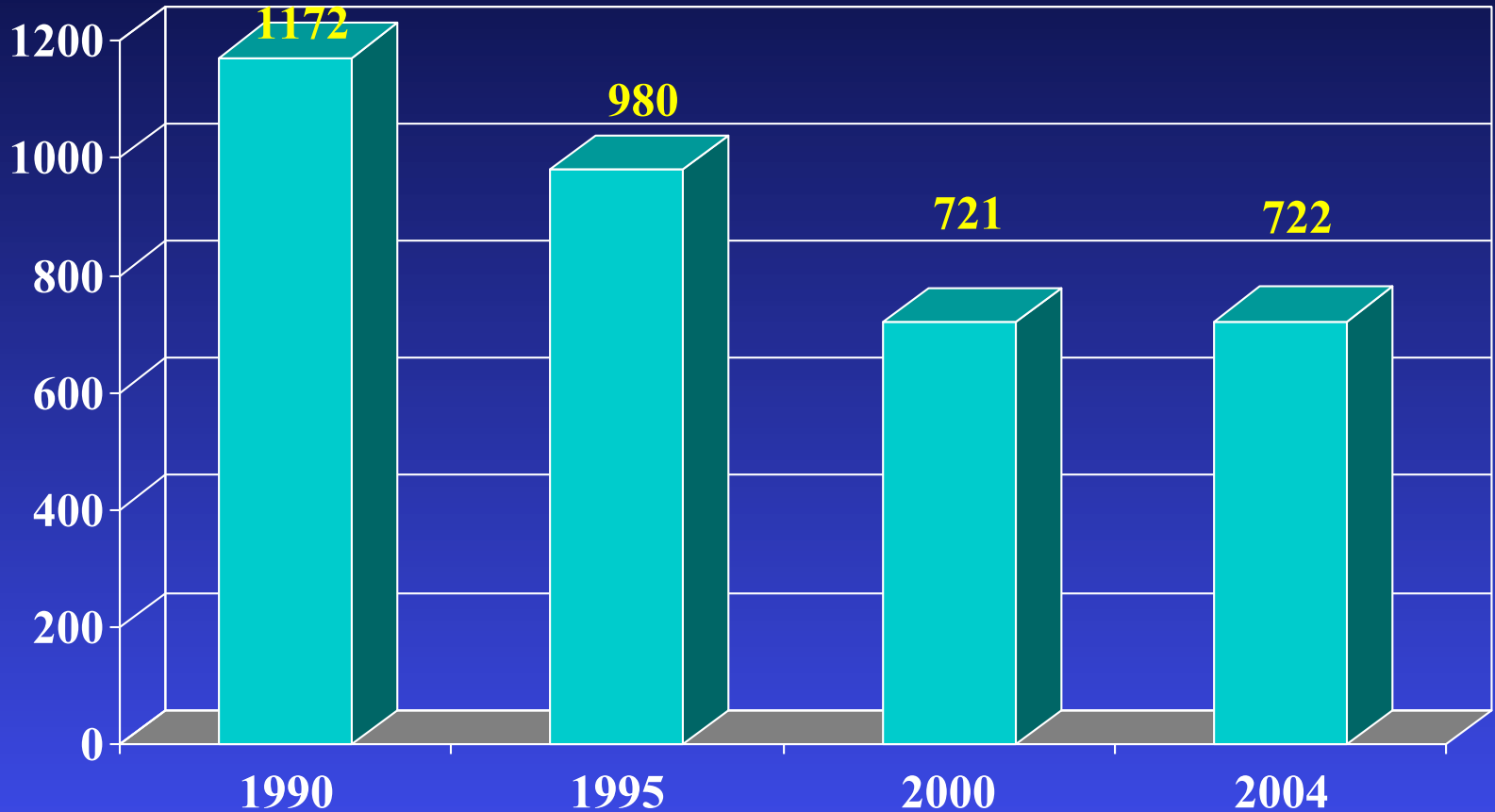
Historical Crime Trends for Palm Beach County 1990-2004

Overall Crime Rates in Palm Beach County: Per 100,000



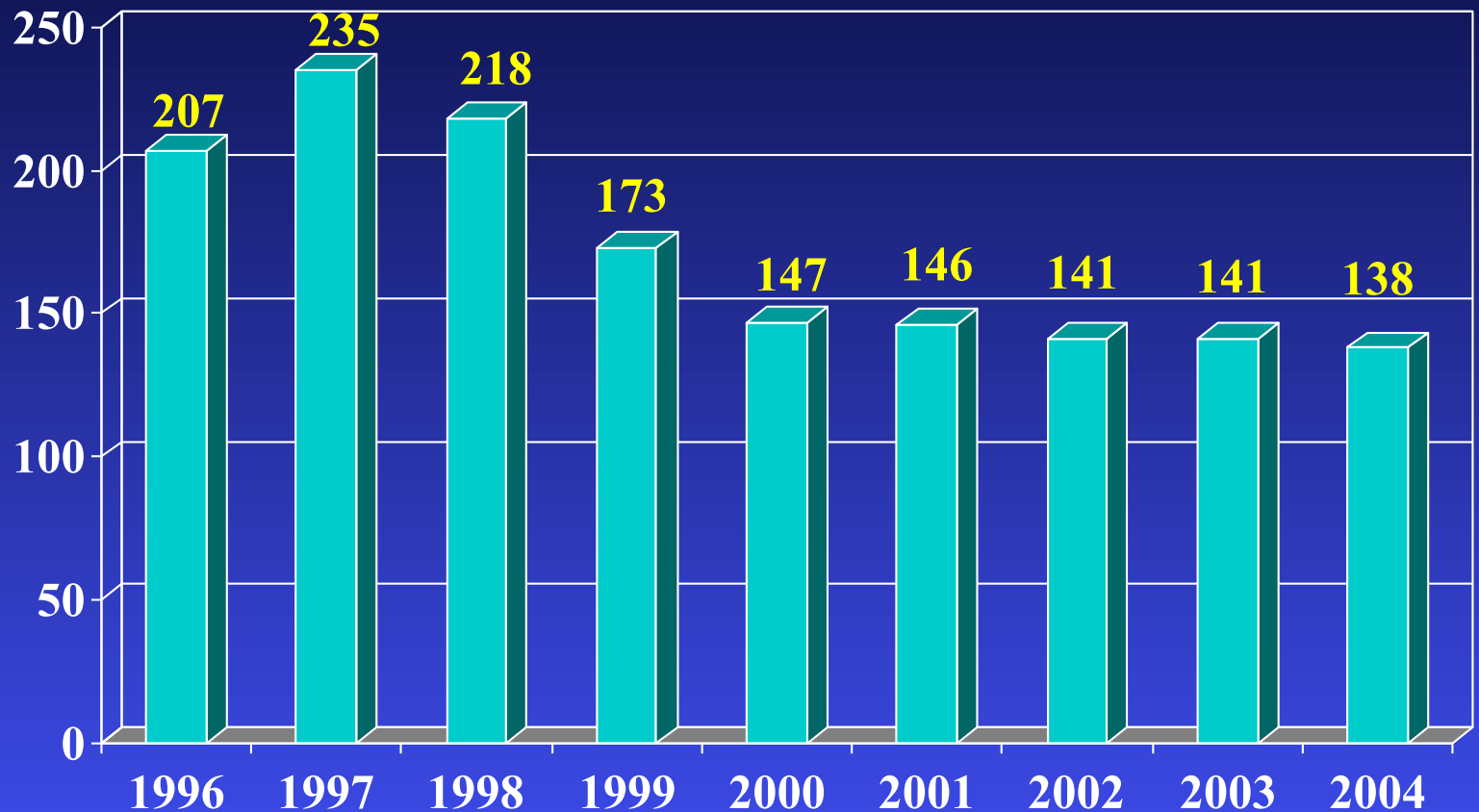
Data Source: UCR

Violent Crime Rates in Palm Beach County: Per 100,000



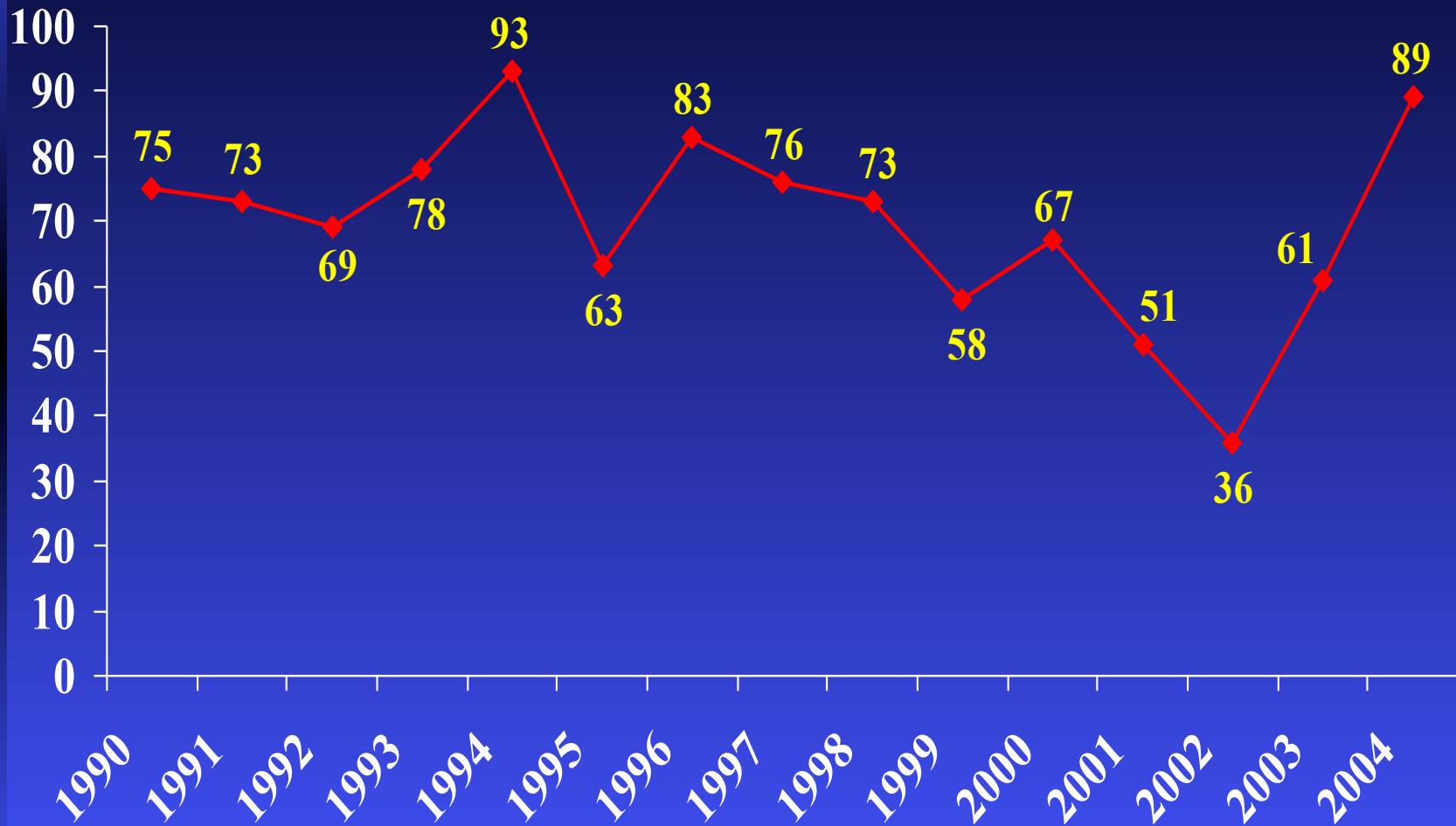
Data Source: UCR – Murder, Sexual Battery, Robbery, Aggravated Assault

Violent Crime Rates Involving Firearms in Palm Beach County: Per 100,000



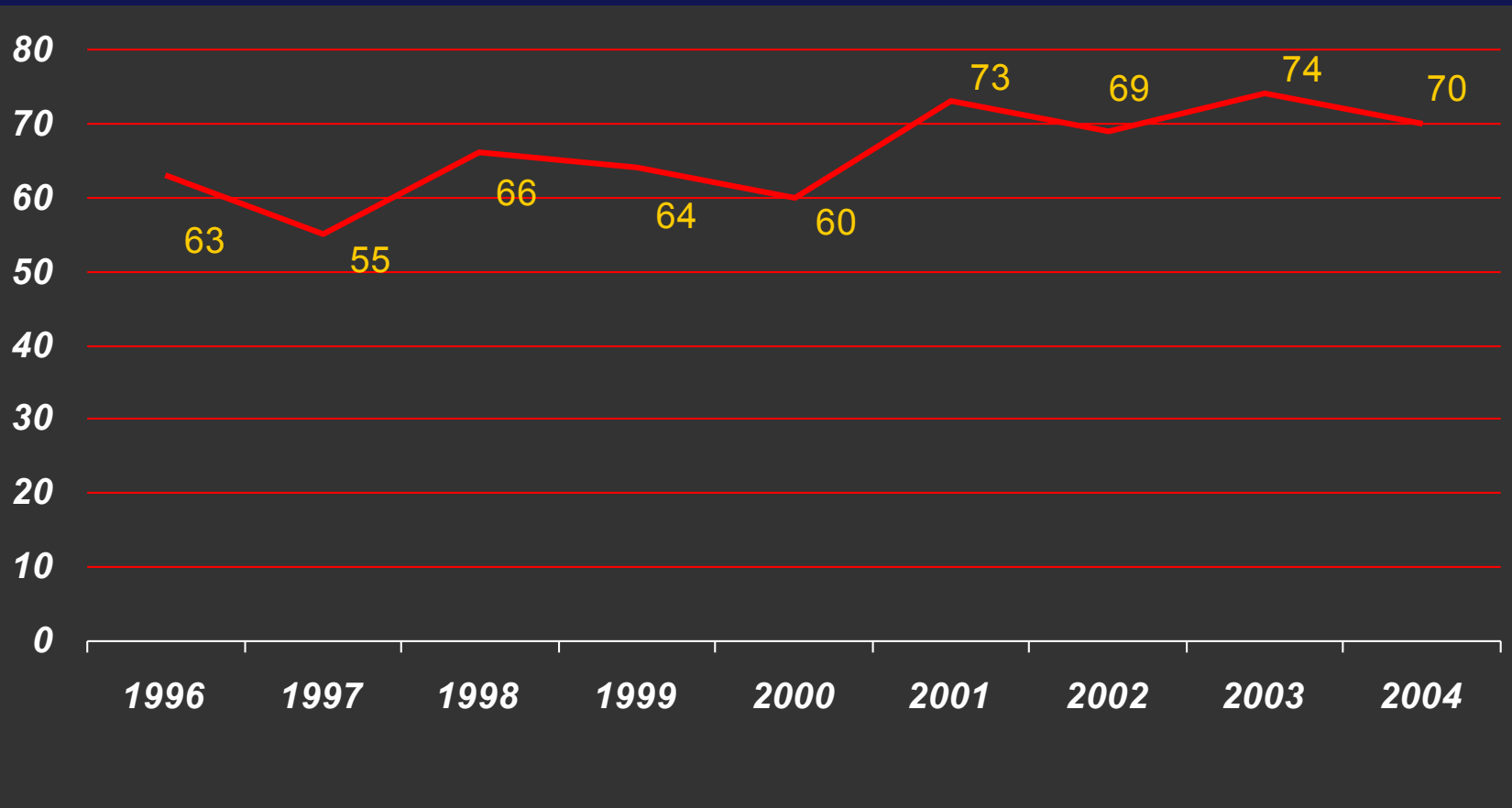
Data Source: UCR

Number of Murders in Palm Beach County



Data Source: UCR (1990-2004)

Percent of Murders Involving Firearms in Palm Beach County

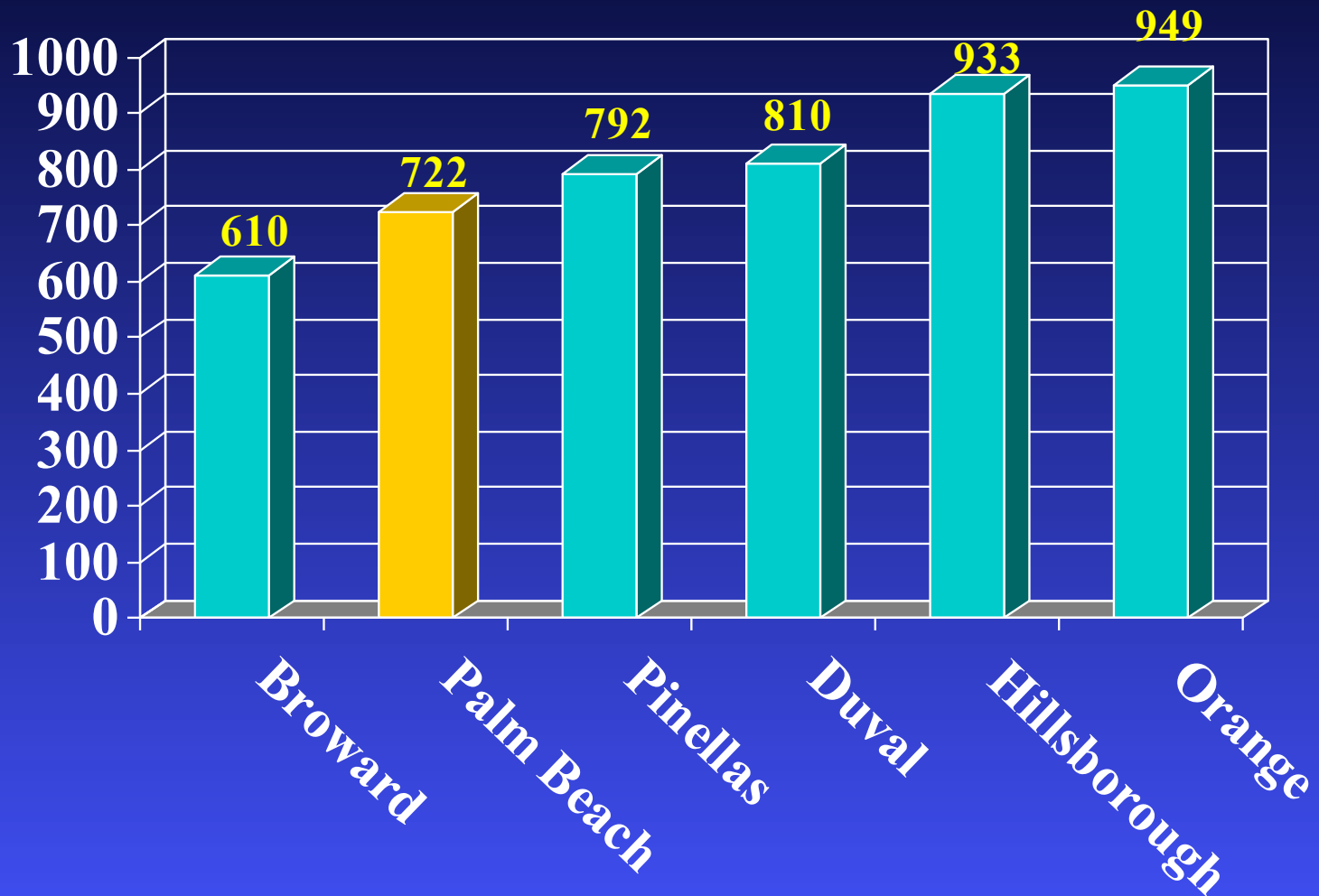


Data Source: UCR (1996-2004)



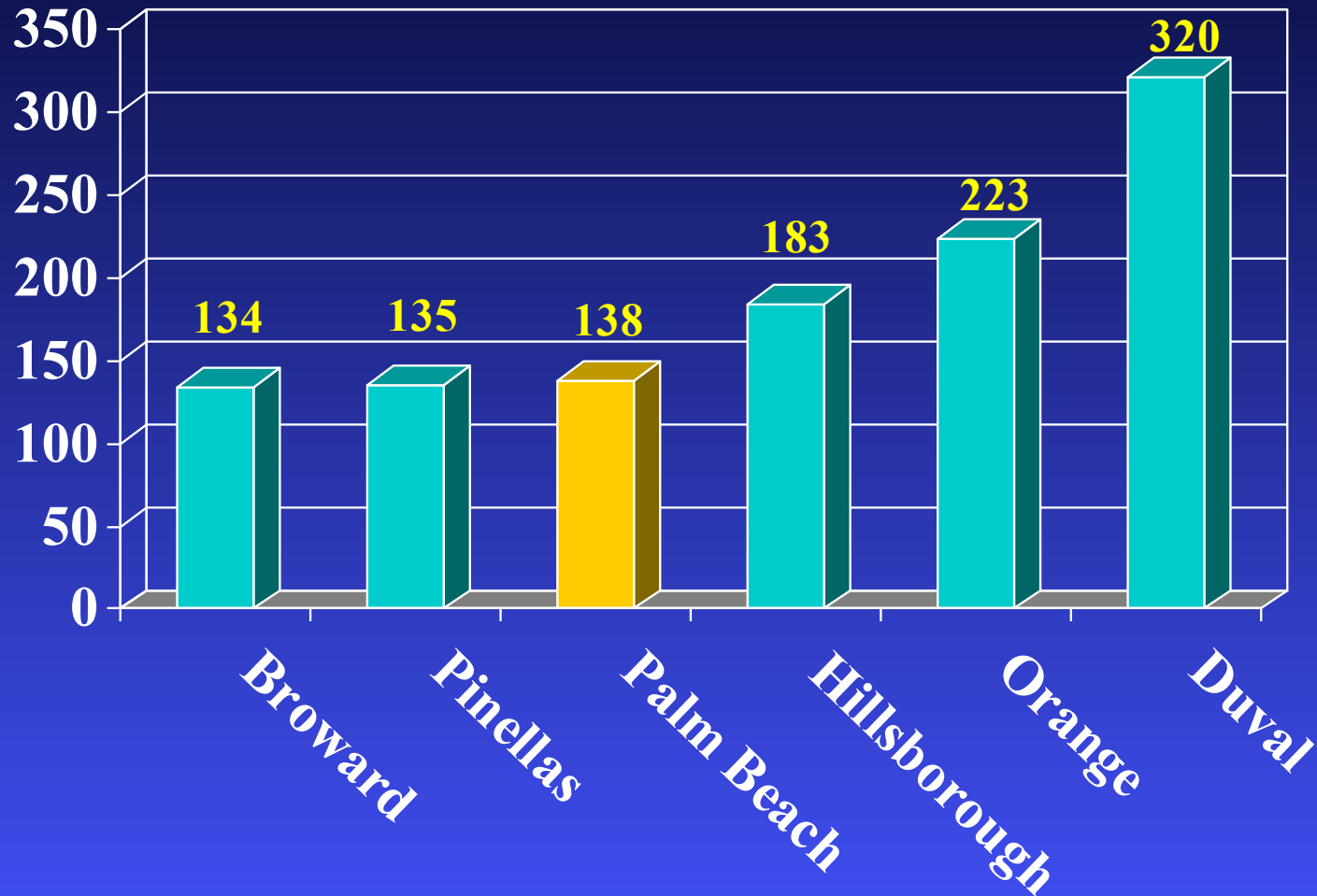
Crime Trends: Palm Beach County Compared to Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, and Pinellas Counties

Violent Crime Rate 2004: Per 100,000



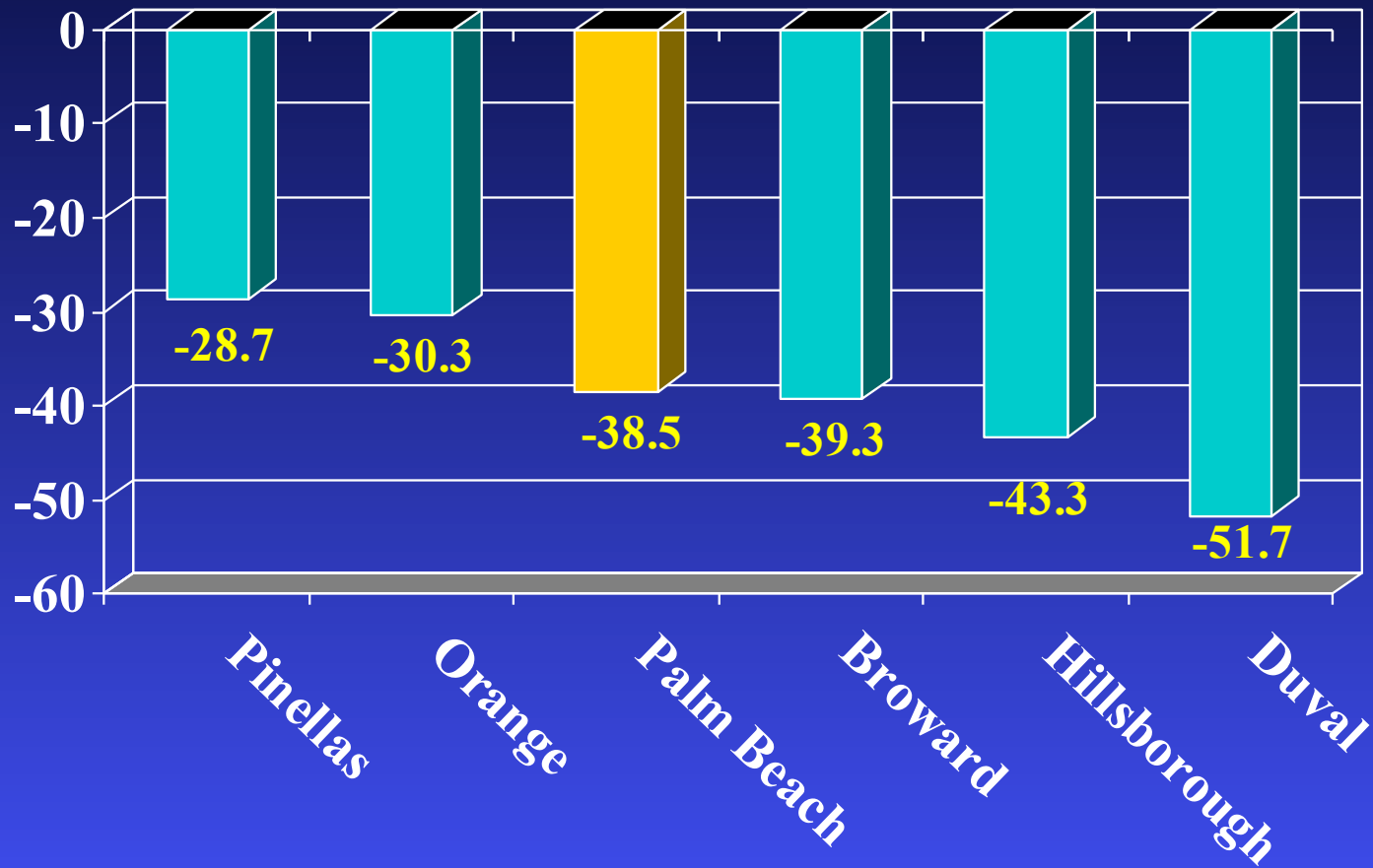
Data Source: UCR

Violent Crime Rate Involving Firearms 2004: Per 100,000



Data Source: UCR

Percent Change from 1999 to 2004 in Violent Crime Rates



Data Source: UCR (1999-2004)

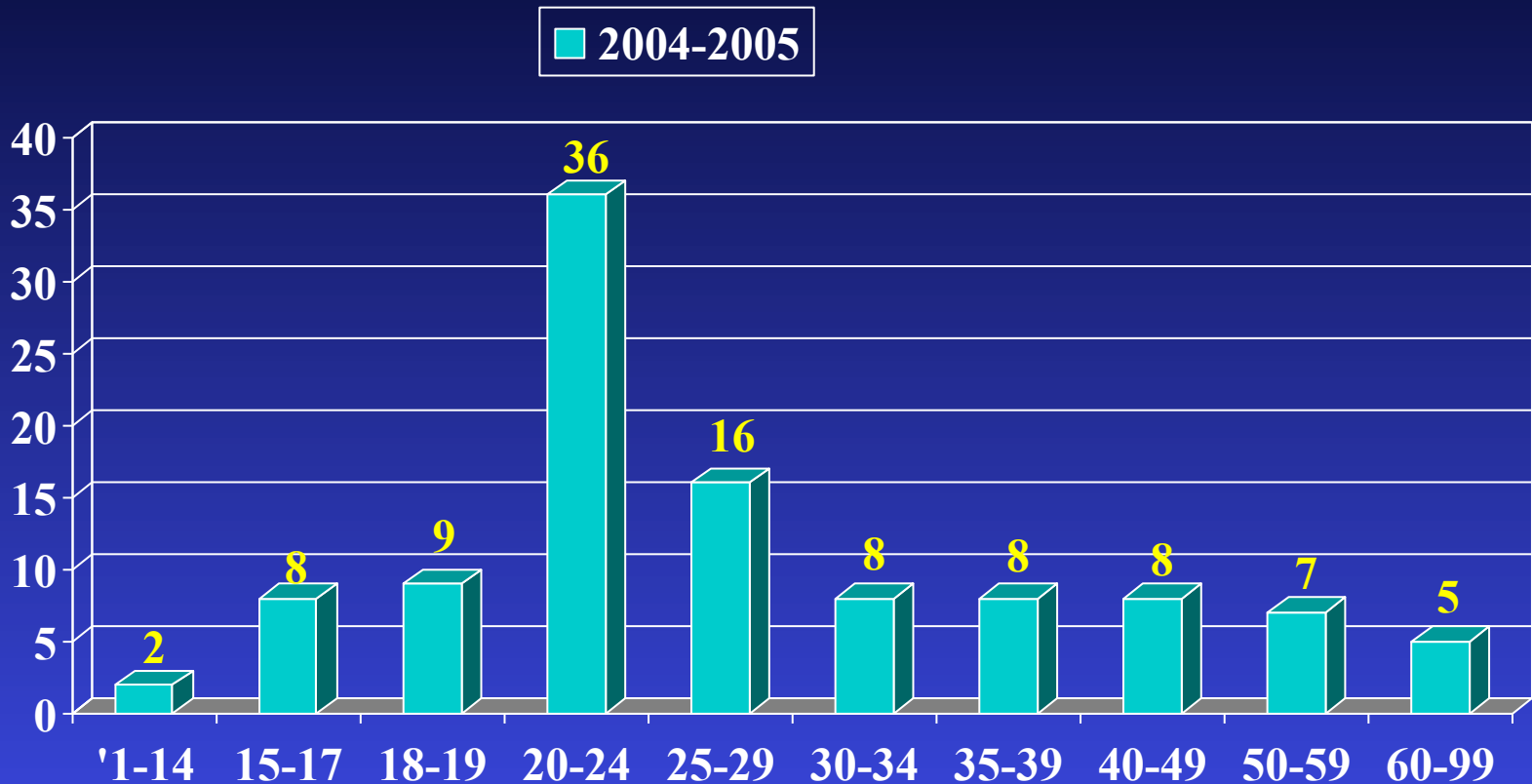


SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Research Brought to Life.

Characteristics of Individuals Arrested for Murder in Palm Beach County

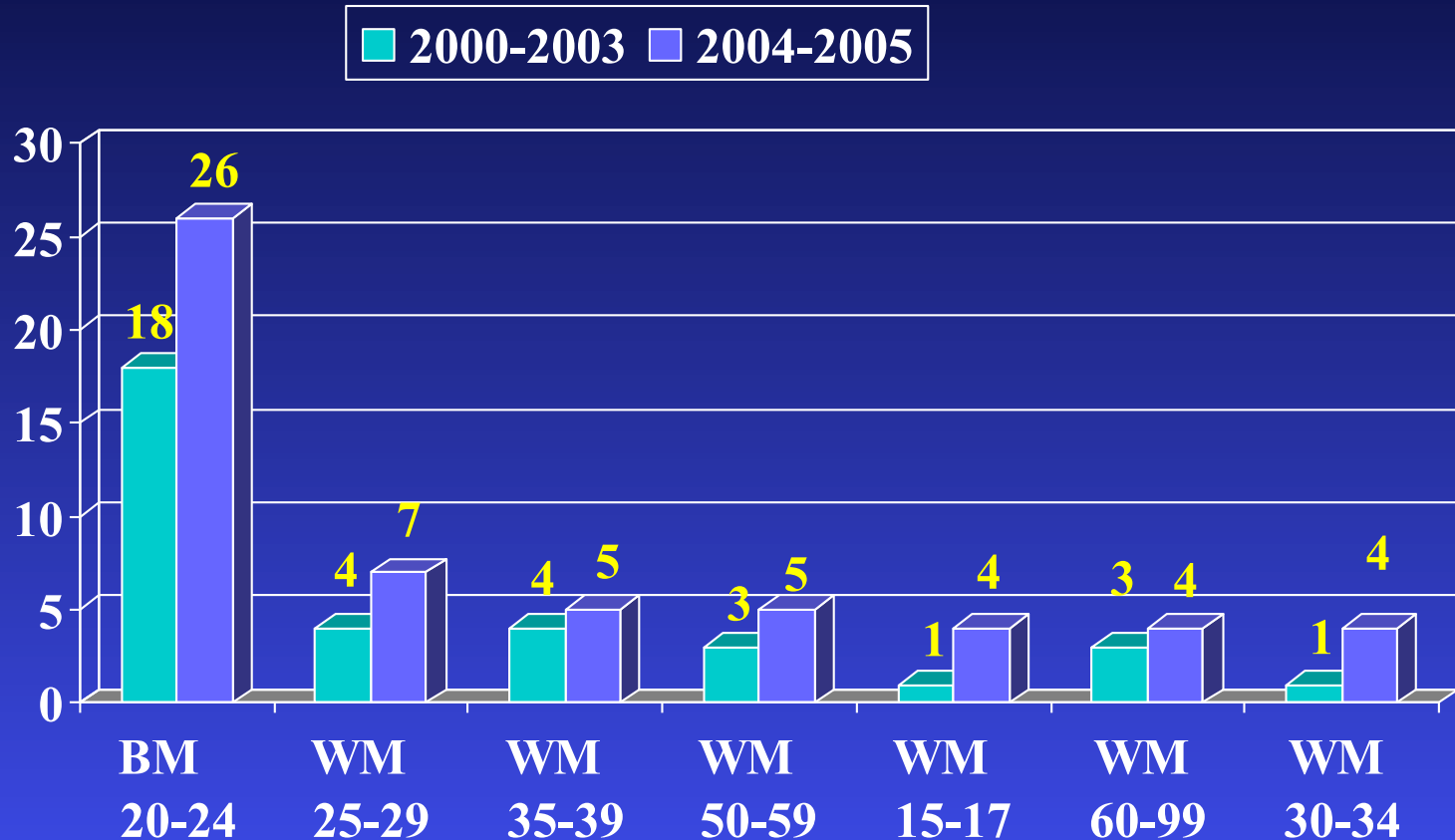
Murder Rates by Age Groups



Data Source: FDLE Computerized Criminal History Records

Percent of Murder Arrests by Demographic Groups

Figure shows demographic categories that increased from 2000/2003 to 2004/2005

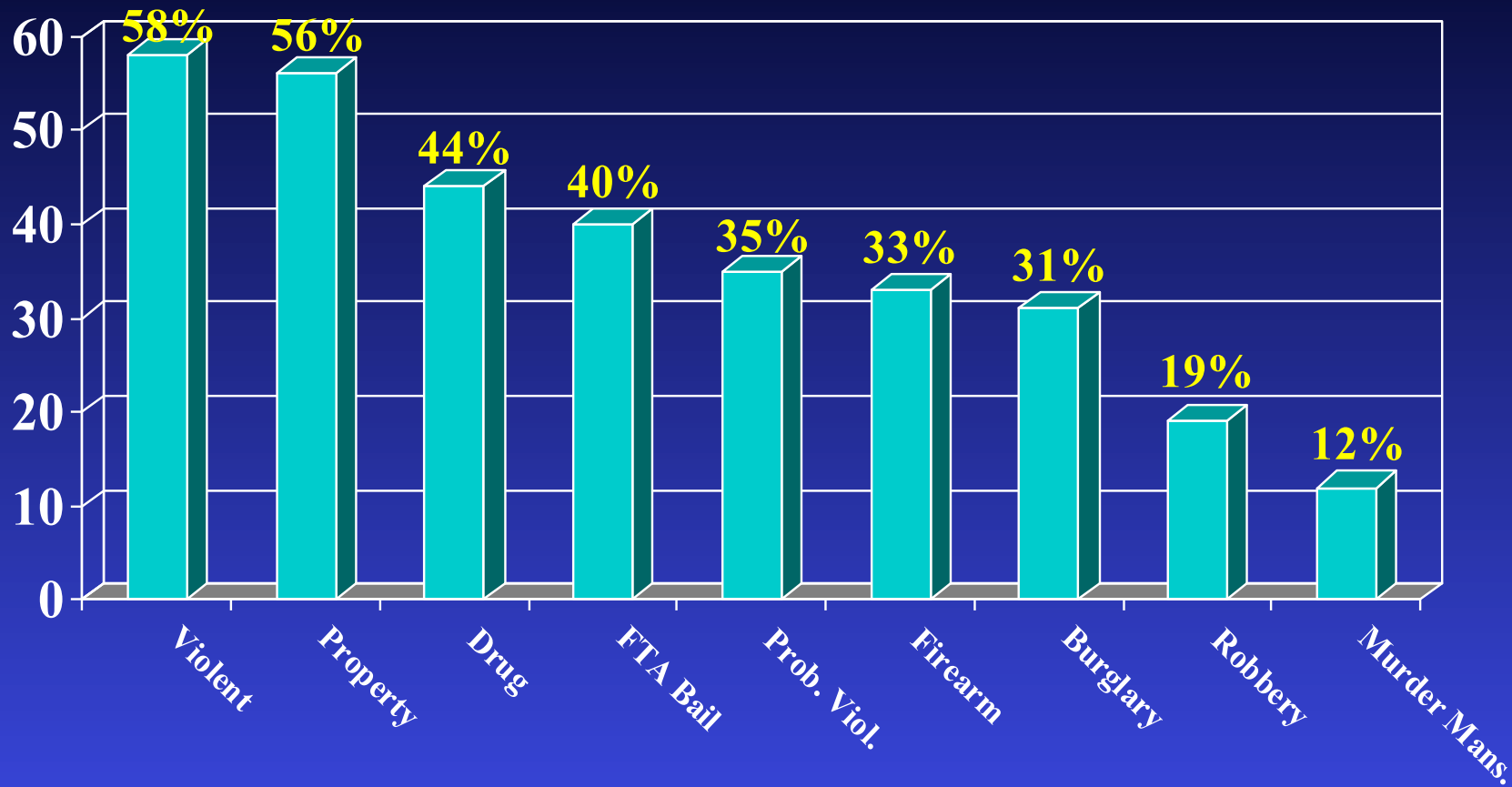


Average Number of Prior Arrest Charges for Individuals Arrested for Murder in Palm Beach County



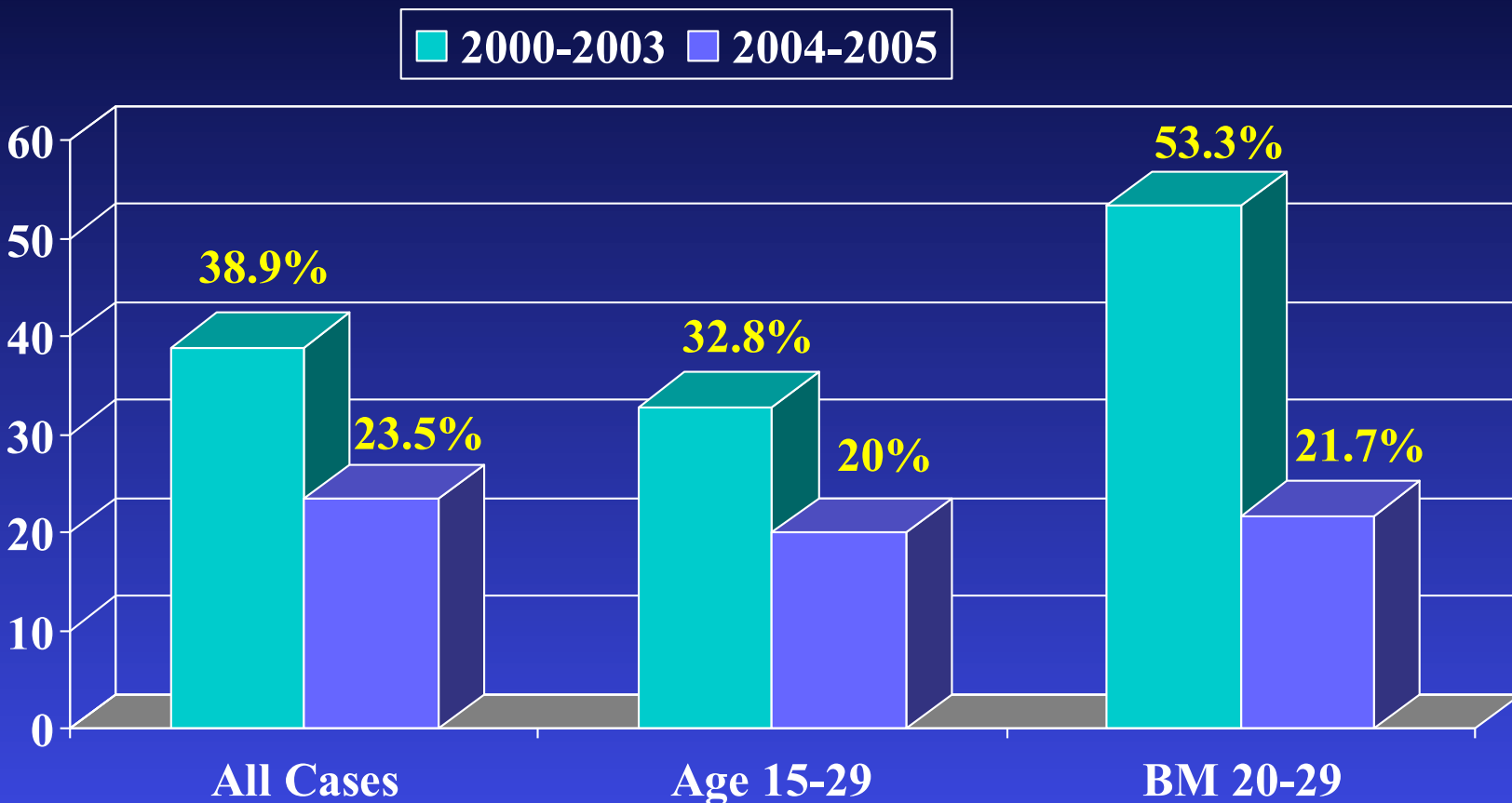
Data Source: FDLE Computerized Criminal History Records

Percent of Individuals with Prior Offenses Arrested for Murder in Palm Beach County (2004-2005)



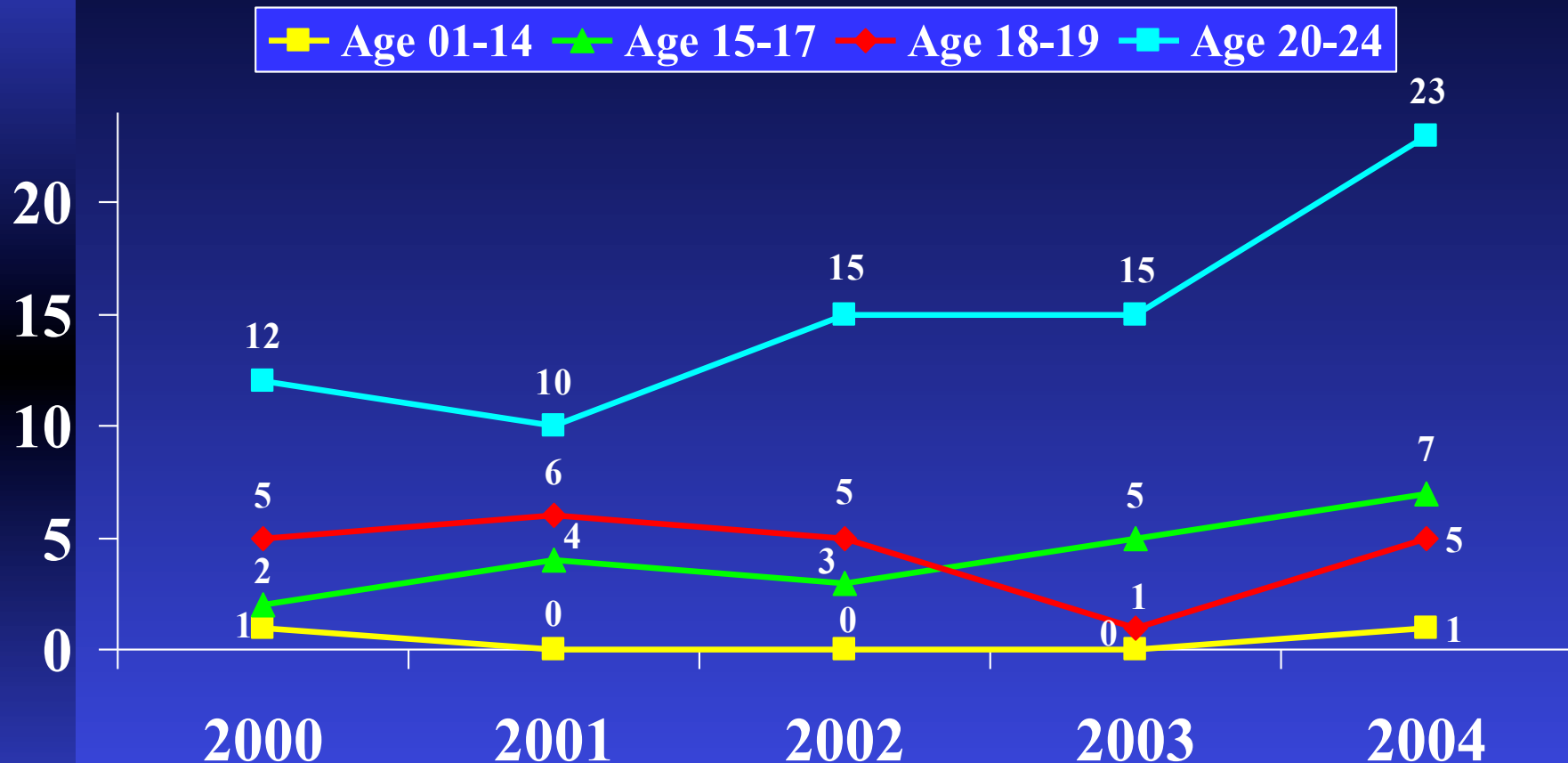
86% of the individuals arrested for murder in 2004-2005 had prior arrest records

Percent of Arrested Murderers with Prior Offenses Outside of Palm Beach County



Data Source: FDLE Computerized Criminal History Records

Murder Arrest Data by Age



Data Source: FDLE Computerized Criminal History Records

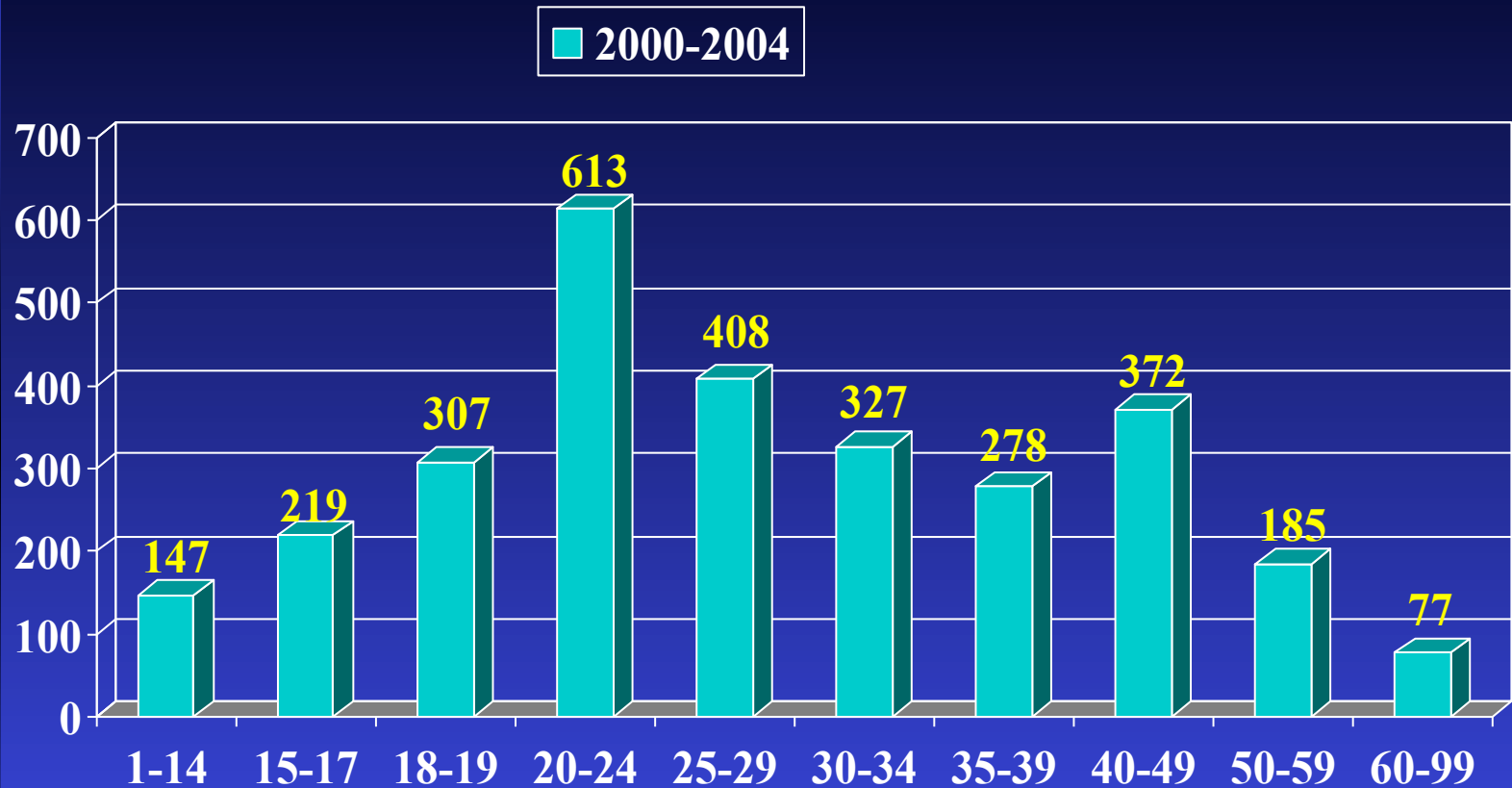


SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Research Brought to Life.

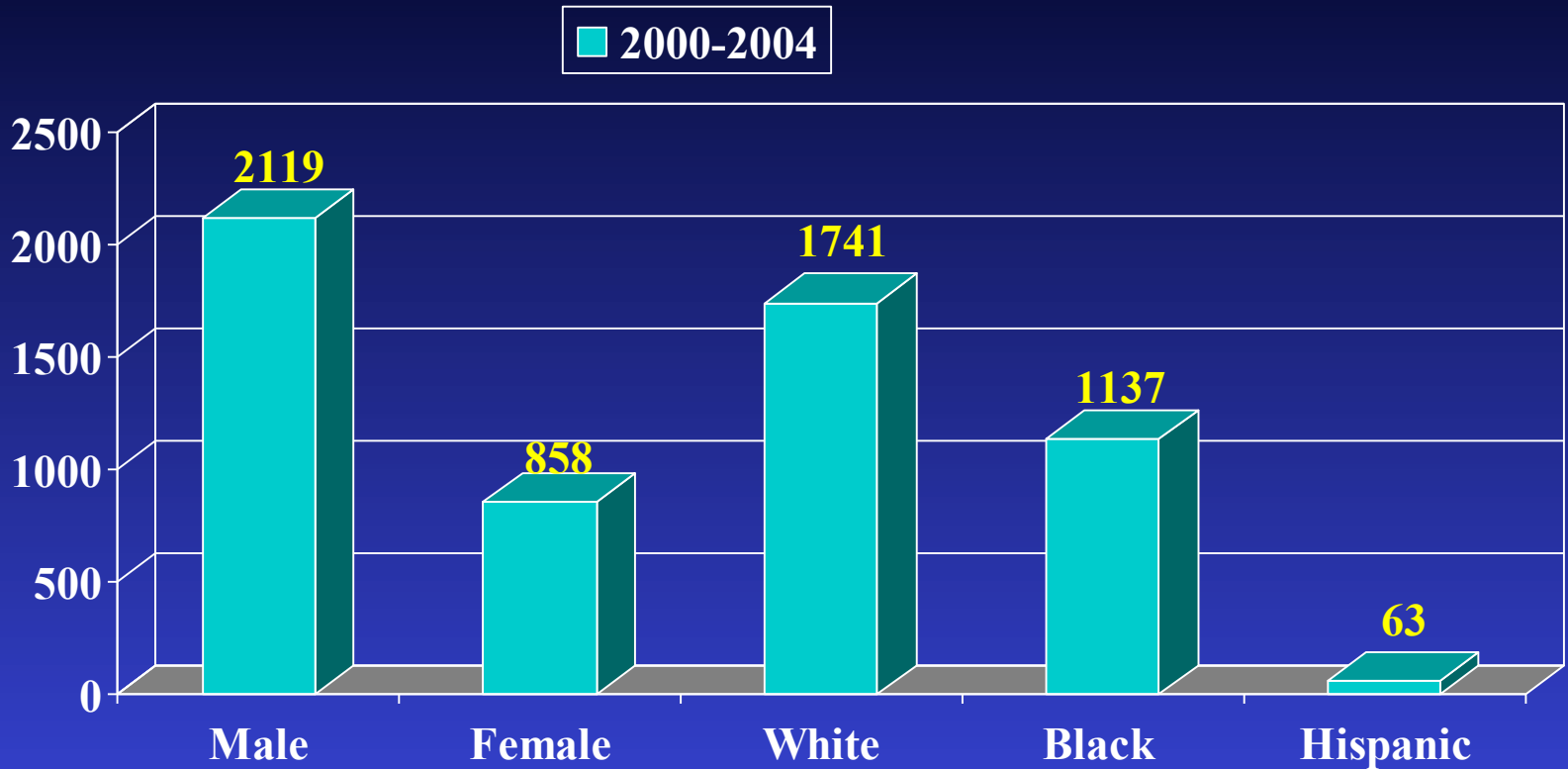
Characteristics of Victims of Violent Crimes Committed with a Firearm in Palm Beach County

Victims of Violent Crimes Committed with a Firearm by Age Groups



Data Source: Local Law Enforcement Records

Victims of Violent Crime Committed with a Firearm by Gender and Race



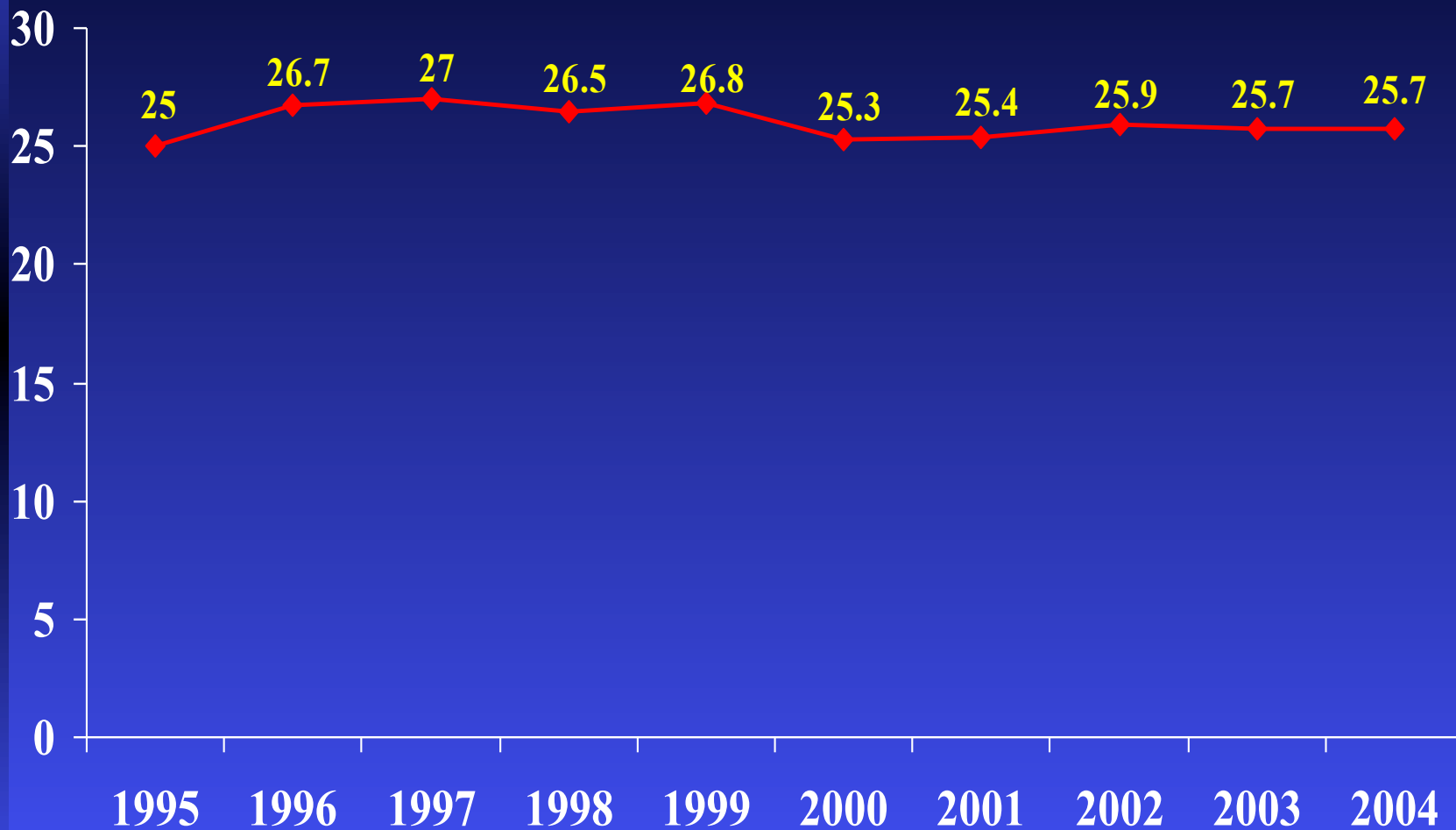


SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Research Brought to Life.

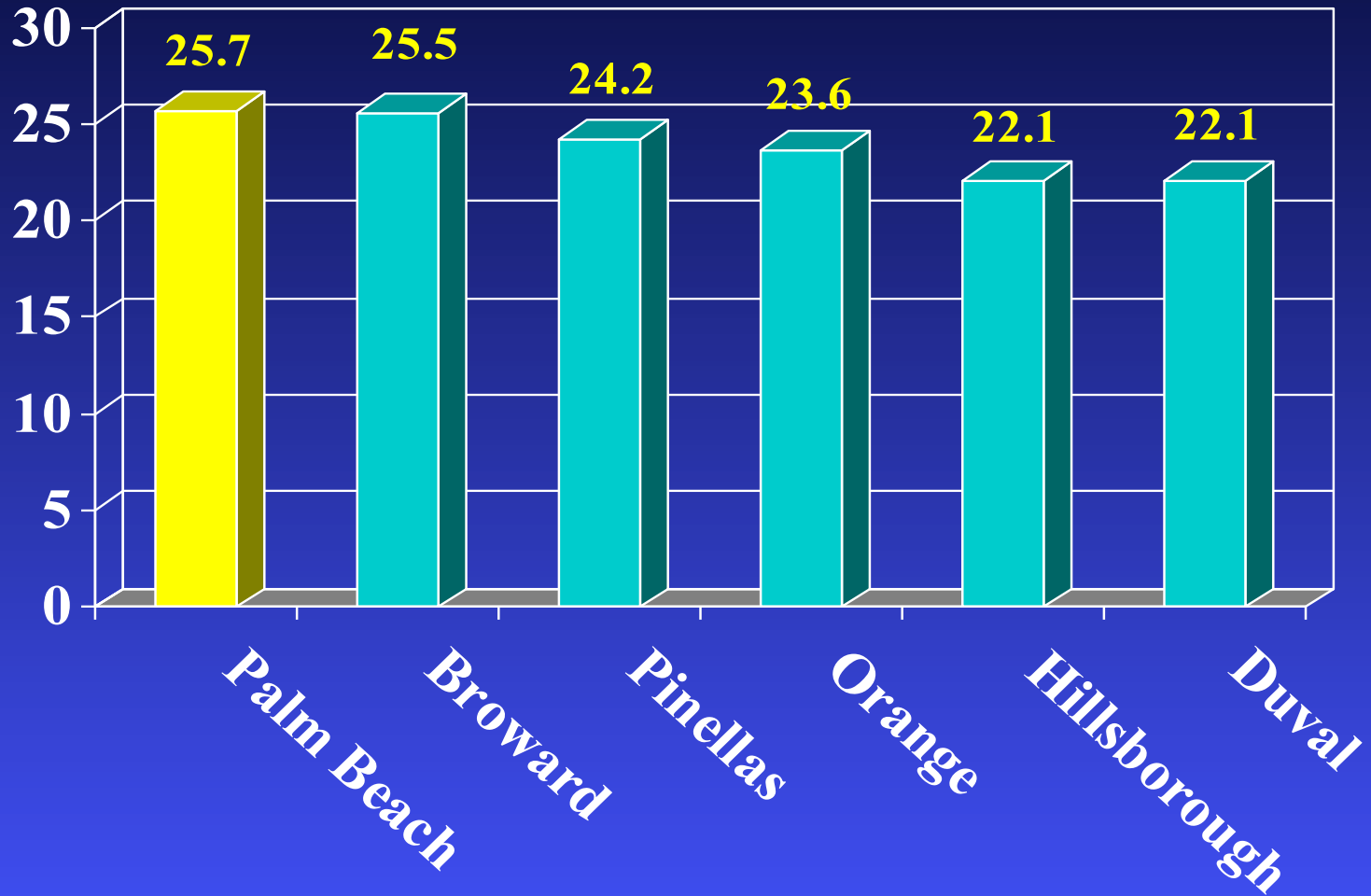
Law Enforcement Resources

Rate of Certified Law Enforcement Officers in Palm Beach County: Per 10,000



Data Source: FDLE

2004 Rate of Certified Law Enforcement Officers across Six Counties: Per 10,000



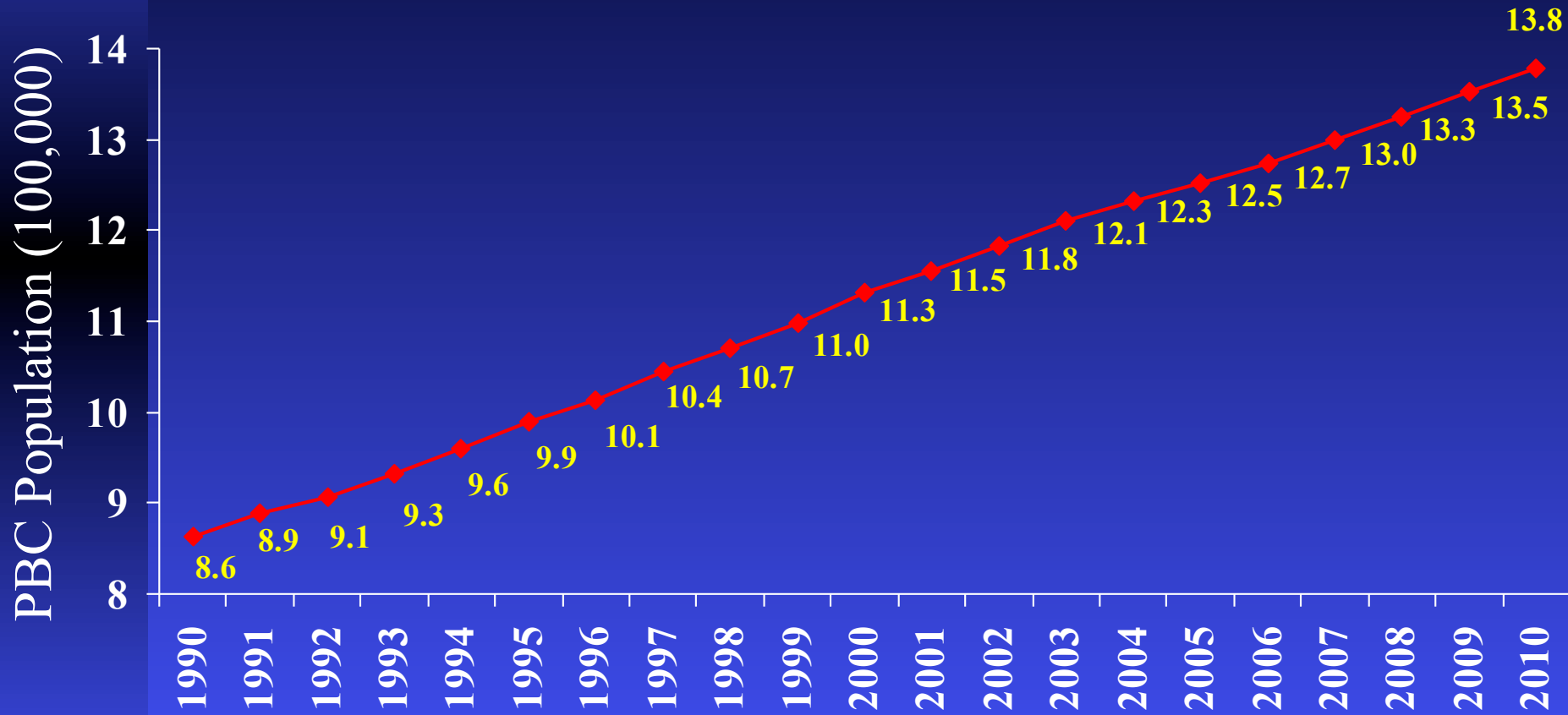
Data Source: FDLE



SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Research Brought to Life.

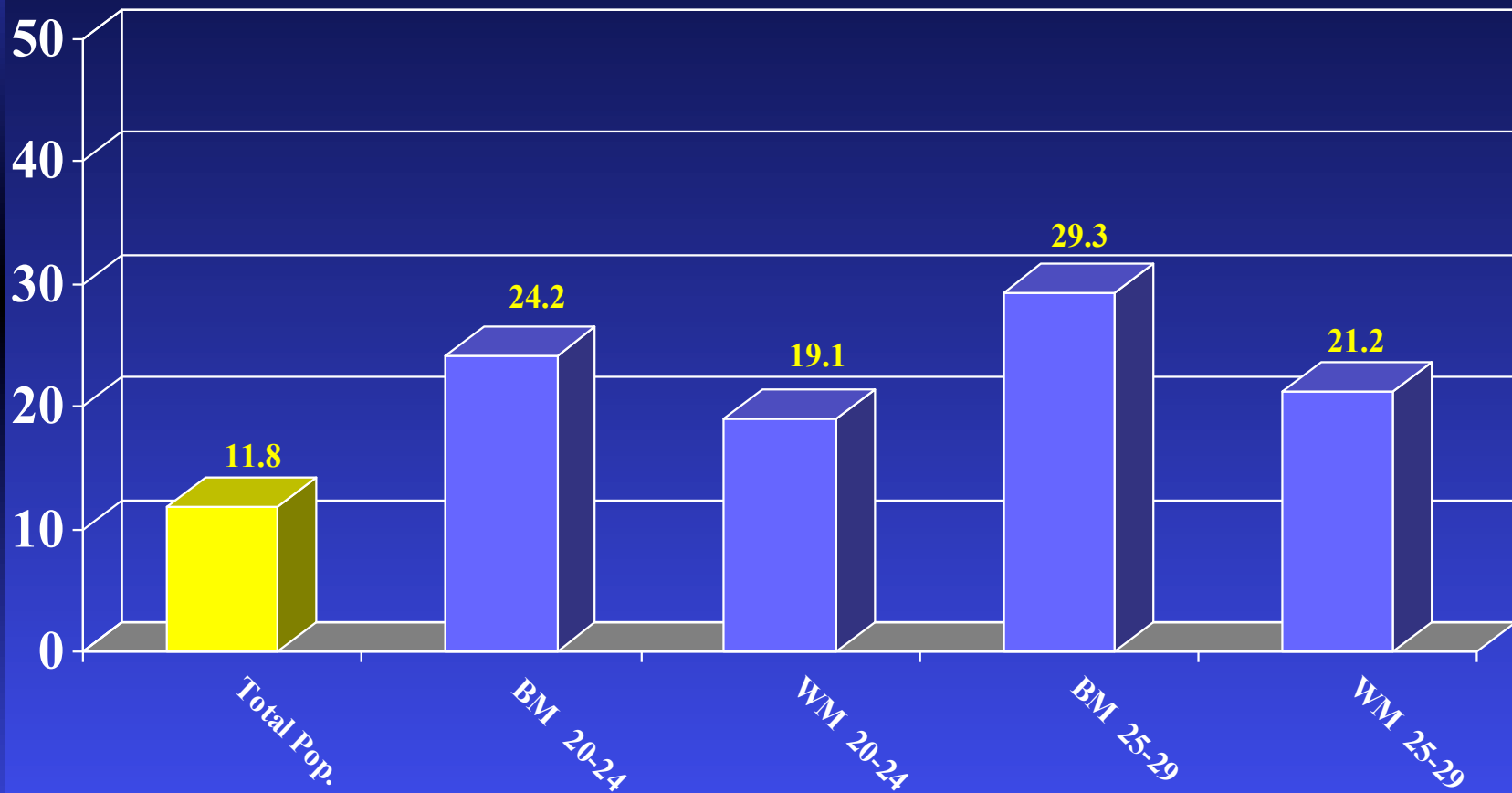
Census Population Growth in Palm Beach County

Palm Beach County Population 1990-2010



Data Source: University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research

Percent of Growth by Offender Demographic Groups: 2004-2010





Future Data Analysis

Victim demographics compared with offender demographics

Victim toxicology reports

Crime location mapping

Offender and victim residence mapping

Offender and victim profile to include contacts with DCF, DJJ, School District, and place of birth

Case Sampling for Qualitative Research?