

OVERVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CHILDREN'S AUTHORITY

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Director

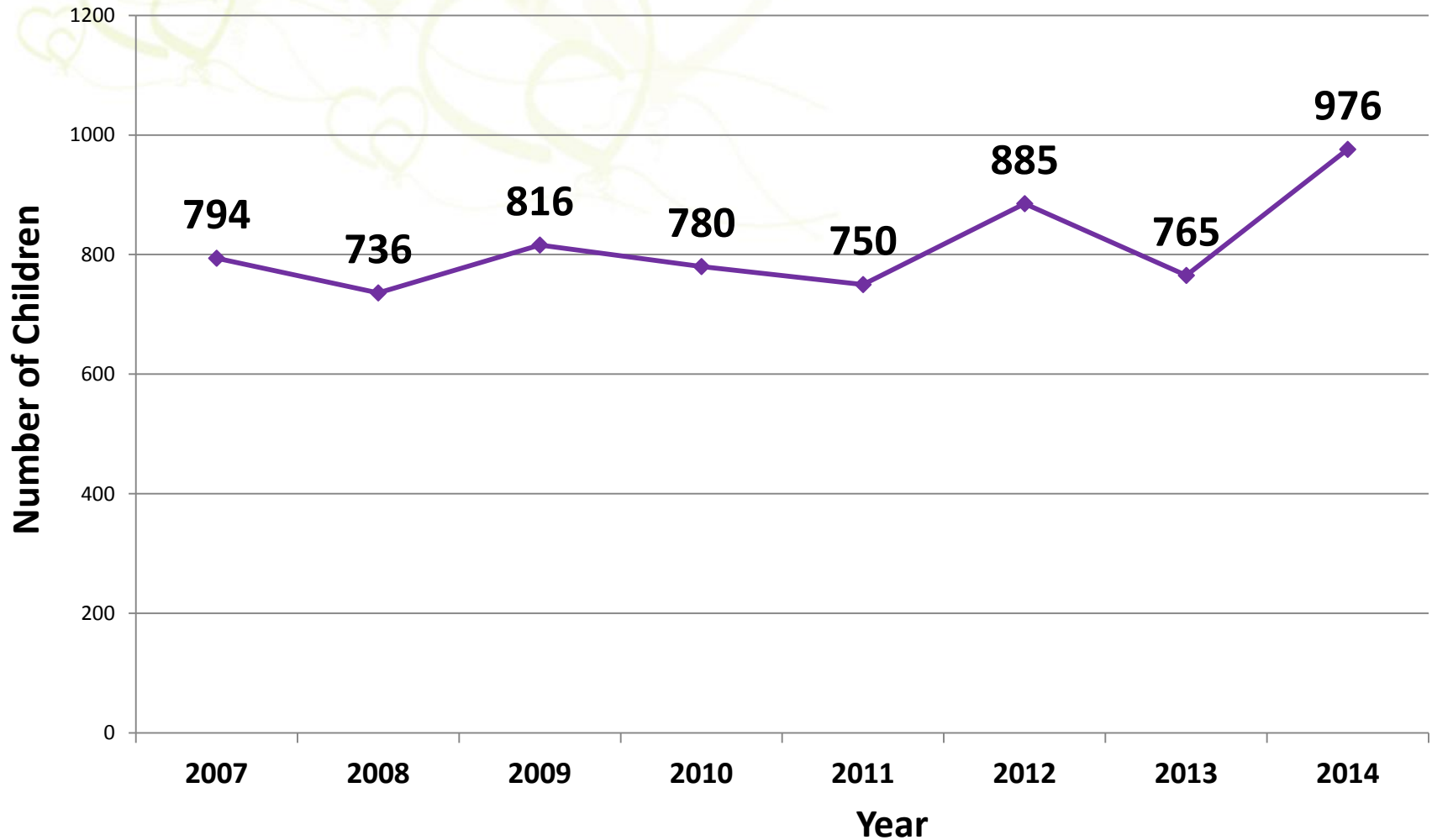
Outline

- Current Situation
- Strategic Framework
- Key Functions

Current Situation

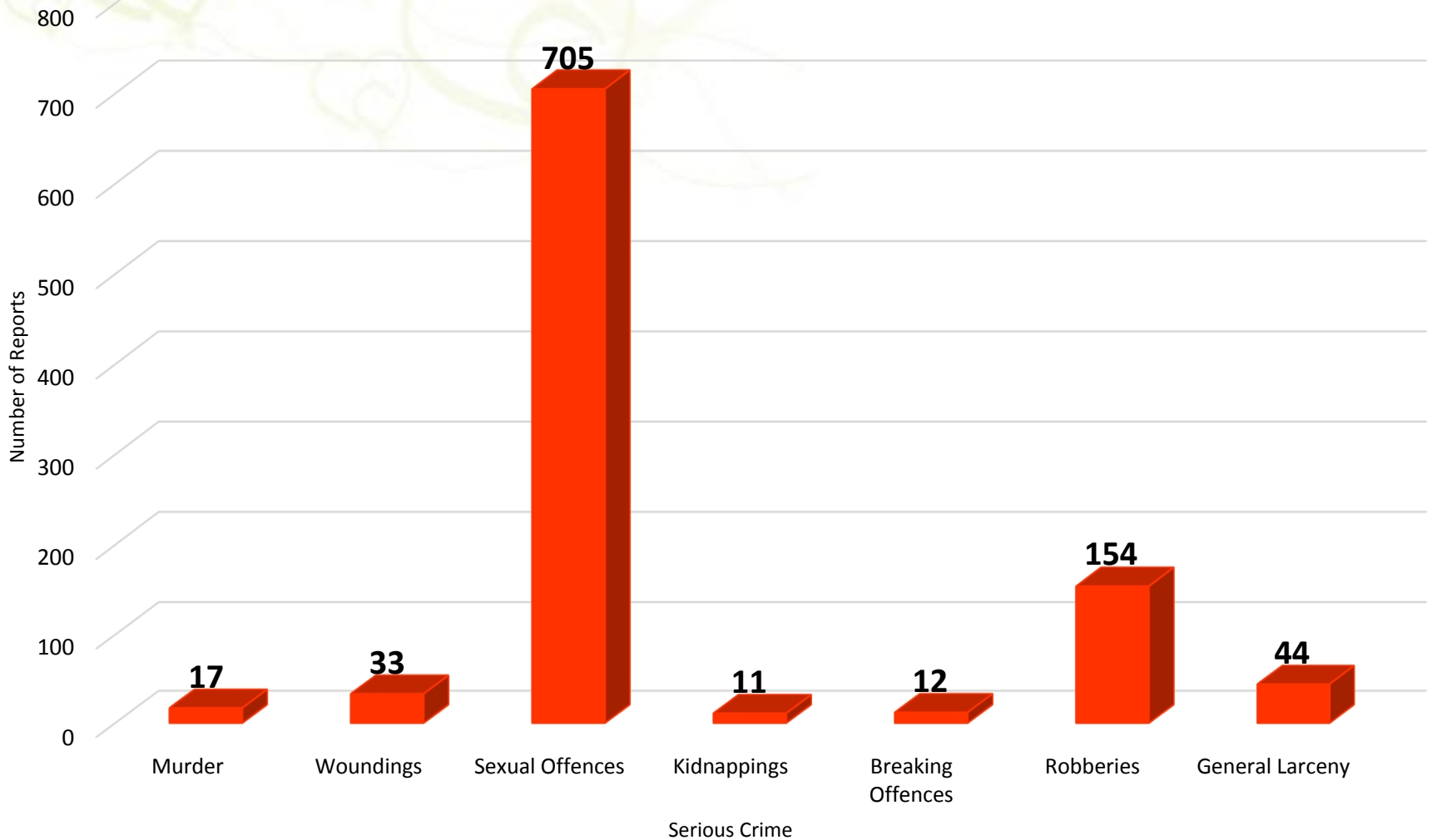


Serious Crimes Committed Against Children 2007 – 2014



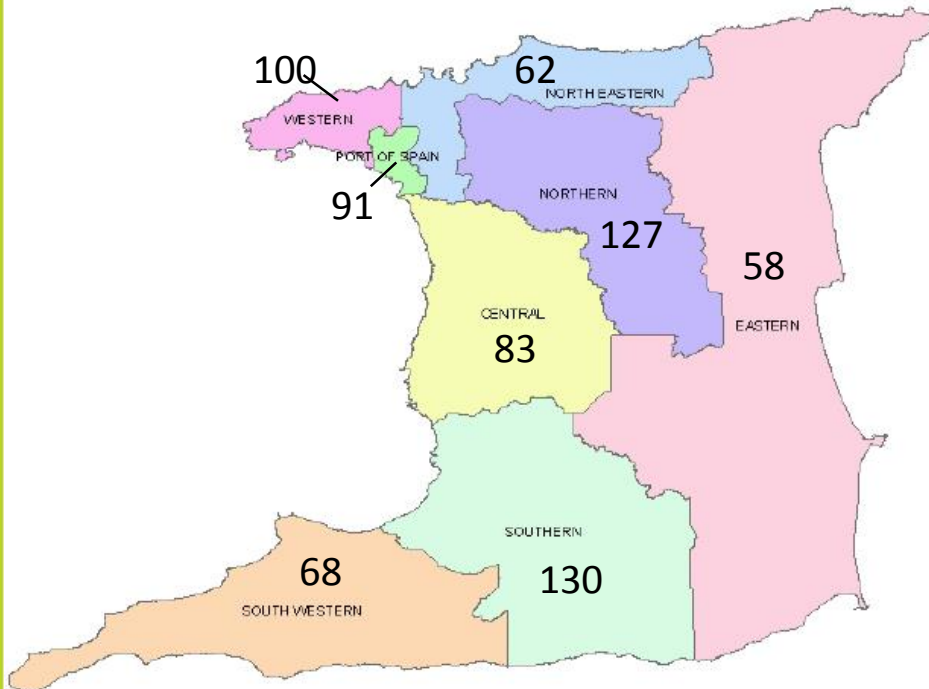
Source: CAPA - Crime and Problem Analysis Branch

Serious Crimes Committed Against Children 2014

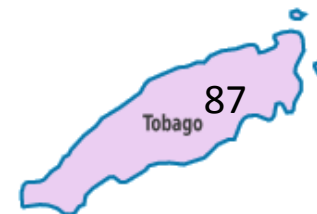
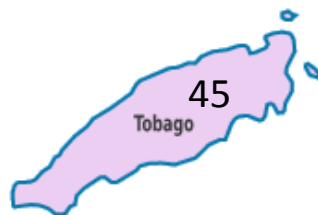
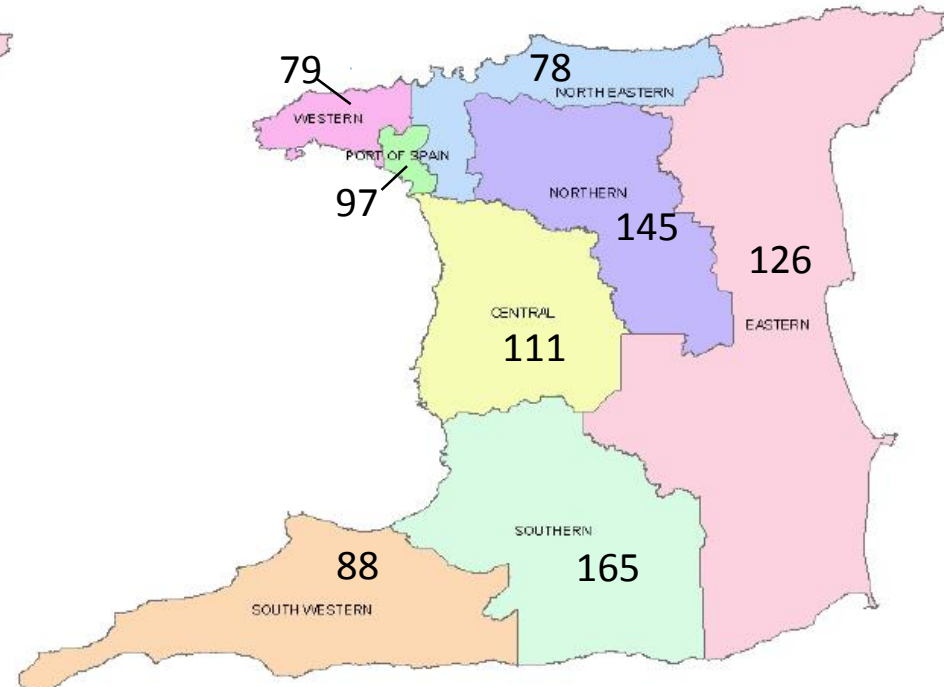


Serious Crimes Committed Against Children, 2013 and 2014 by Police Divisions

2013

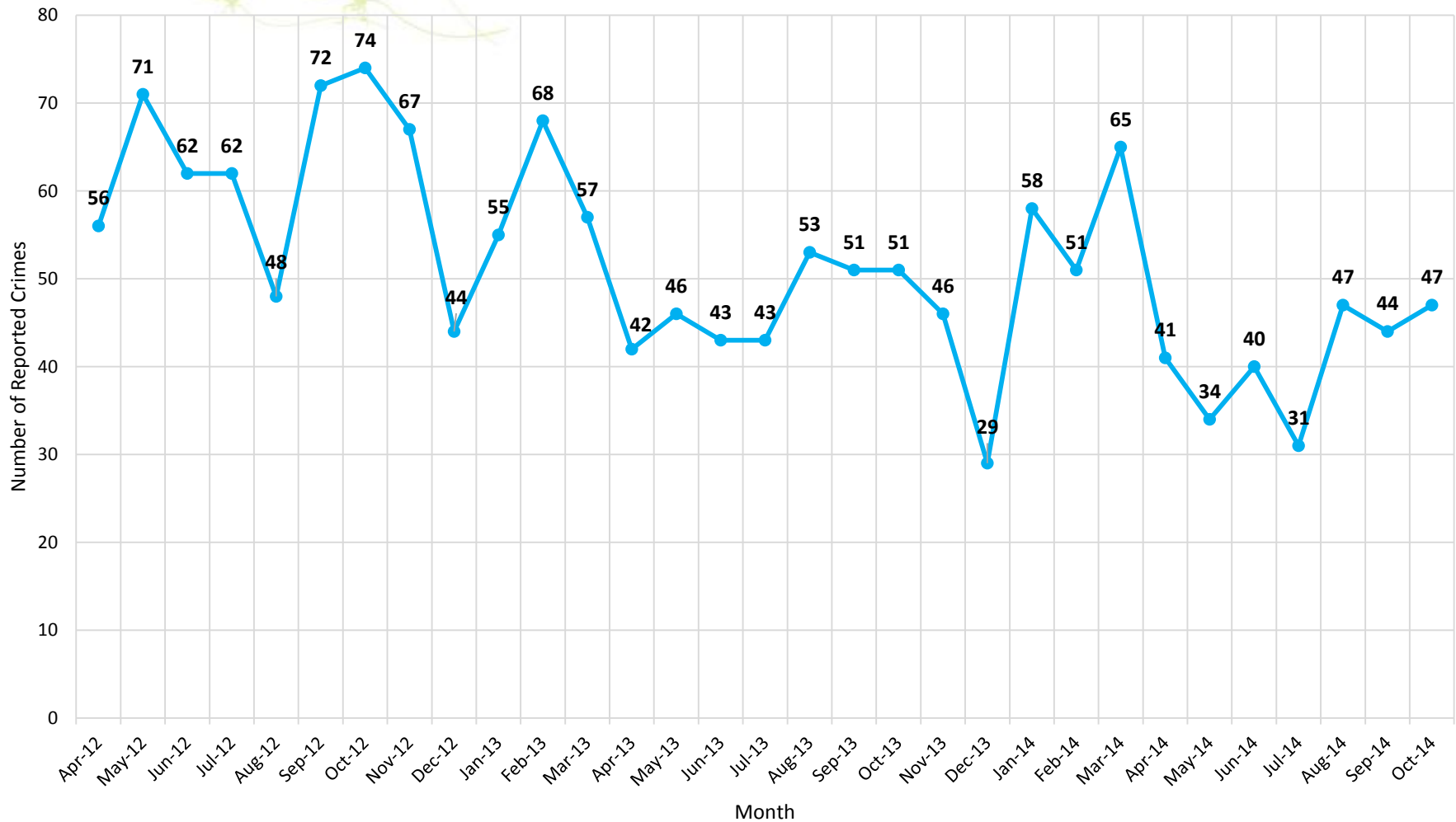


2014

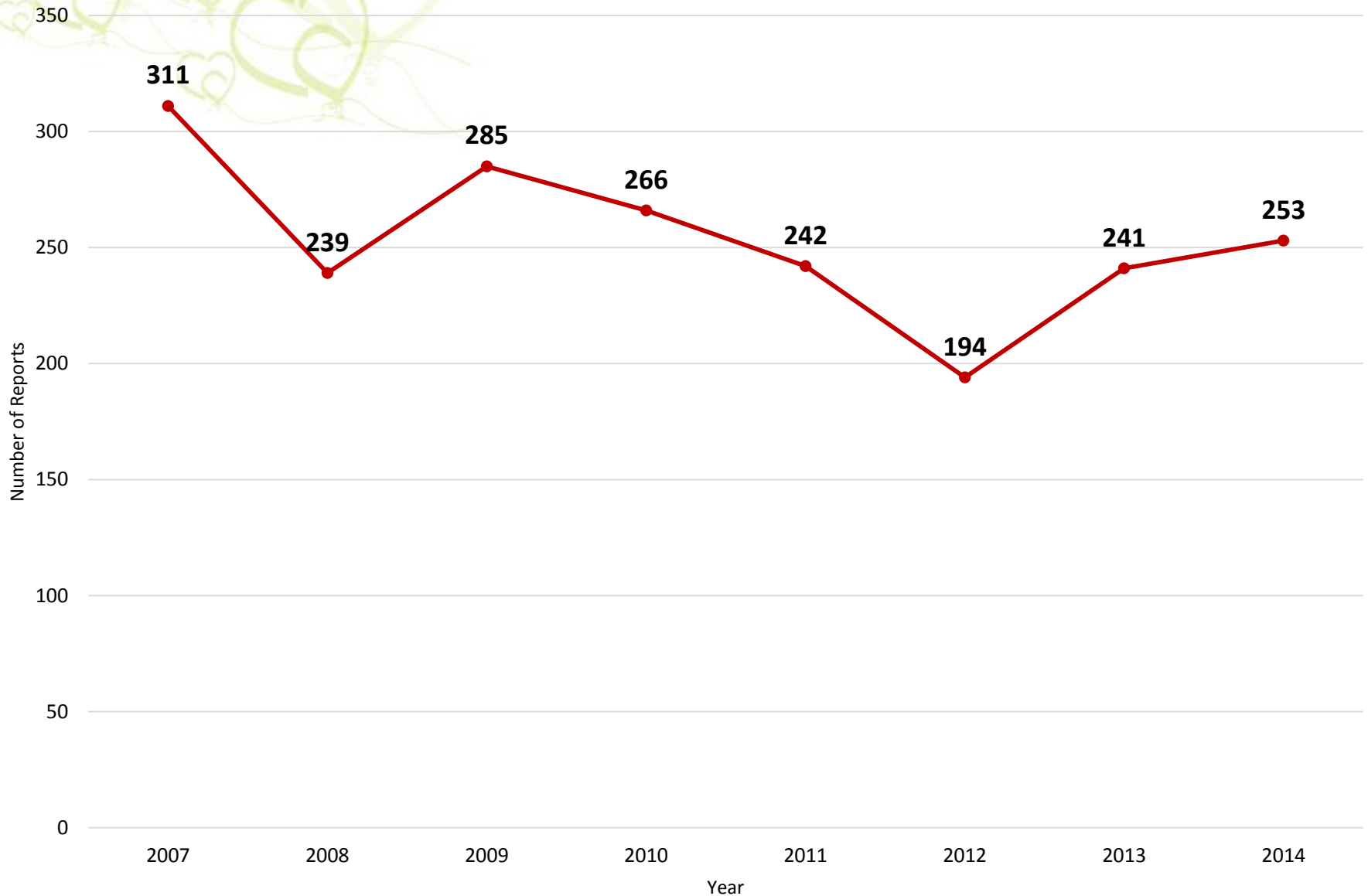


Serious Crimes Committed Against Children, 2012 - 2014

Number of Serious Crimes Committed Against Children for the Period April 2012 to October 2014

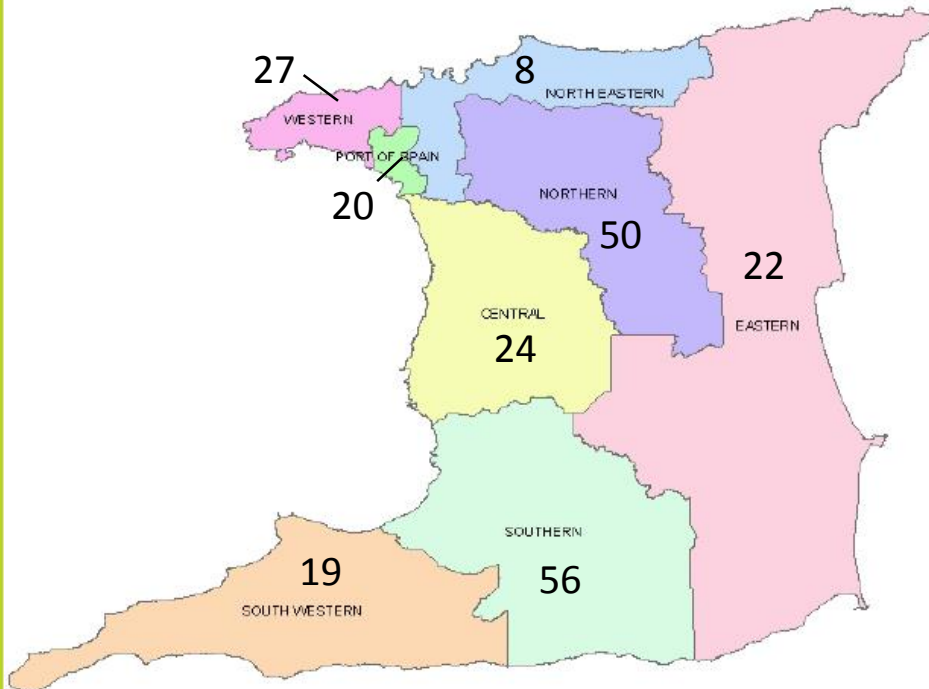


Serious Crimes Committed By Children, 2007-2014

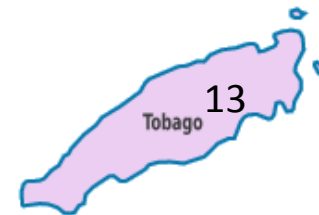
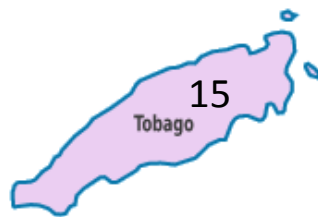
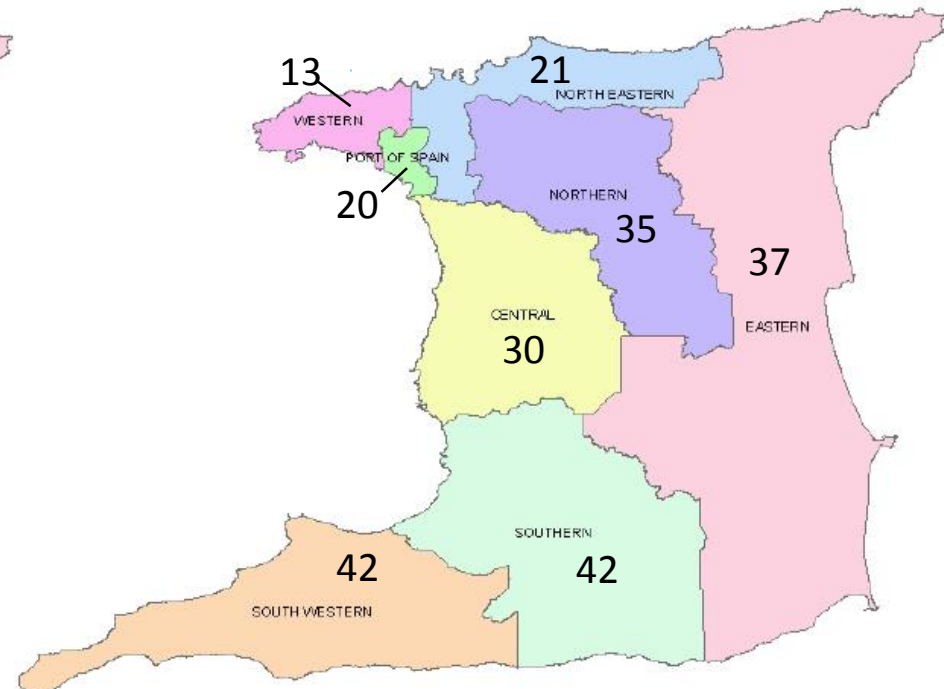


Serious Crimes Committed By Children, 2013 and 2014 by Police Divisions

2013



2014



Strategic Framework



Child Protection Issues

Abandonment

Children "beyond control"

Child sexual abuse

Children received into care and diagnosed as mentally ill

Child prostitution

Assault/ battery of children

Causing a child to watch a sexual act or image

Exposure to and injury/death by ammunition

Engaging in sexual activity in presence of child

Risk of burning

Child in frequent company of a criminal or prostitute

Neglect

Sexual touching

Female genital mutilation

Exposure to moral danger

Absence of fit parent or guardian

Sexual grooming

Sexual penetration

Ill treatment

Children involved with dangerous drugs

Child pornography

Destitution/ begging/ loitering

Inciting child to engage in sexual activity with humans and animals

Child cruelty

Injury by firearm or ammunition

Vision & Mission

Vision

The hub in the child protection sector, contributing to a society where all children are valued, protected, nurtured and empowered to attain their full potential.

Mission

A child-centred, family-focused organisation safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children in need of care and protection. Working collaboratively to advocate for the rights of the child, conduct assessments, facilitate and regulate care.

Philosophy

Prioritisation of a **FAMILY ENVIRONMENT** or **FAMILY RE-INTEGRATION** where possible, appropriate and in the best interest of the child.

**BUILD CAPACITY WITHIN
THE FAMILY**

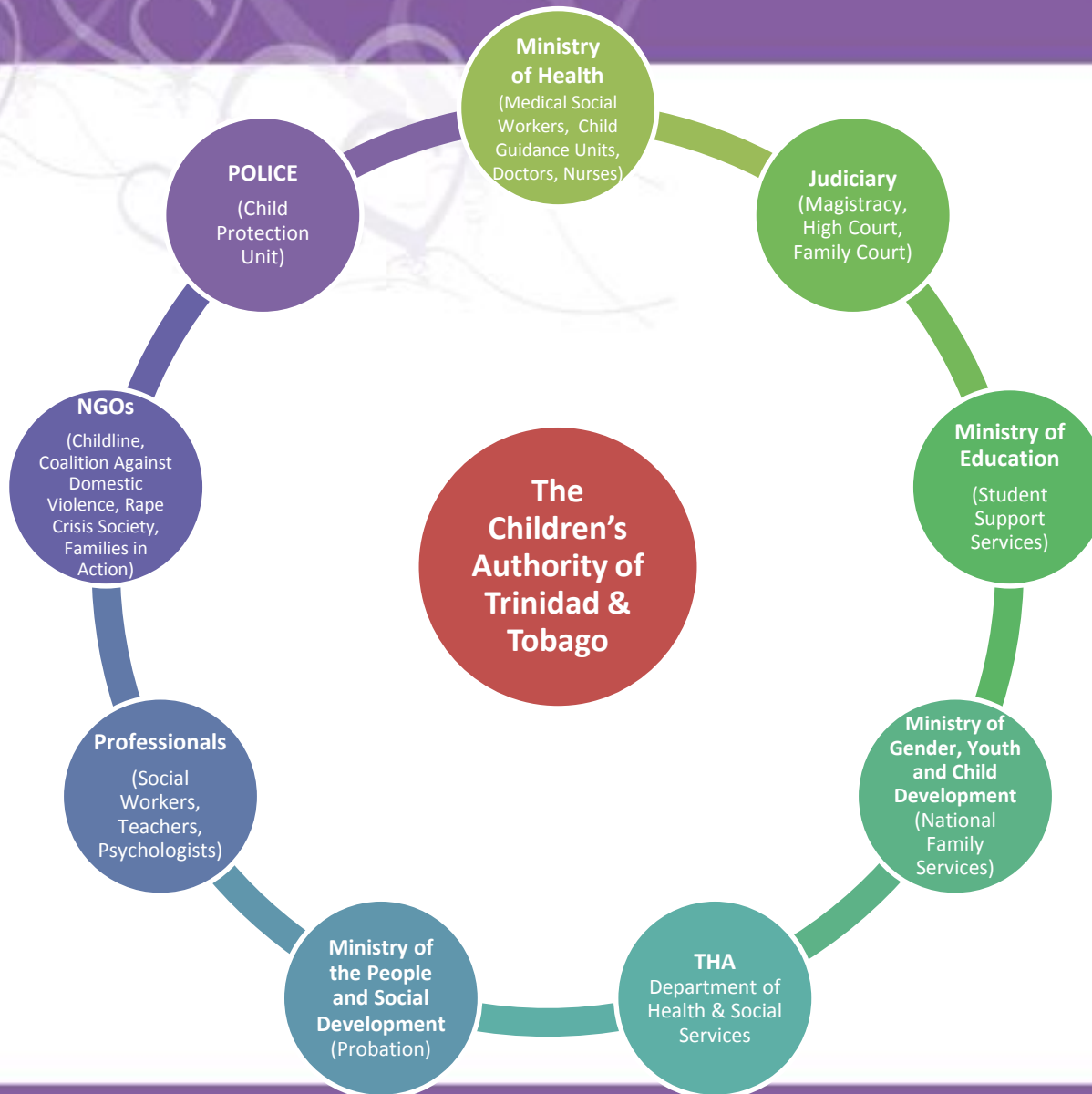


**FOSTER CARE OR
ADOPTION**



COMMUNITY RESIDENCES

Child Protection is Everyone's Business

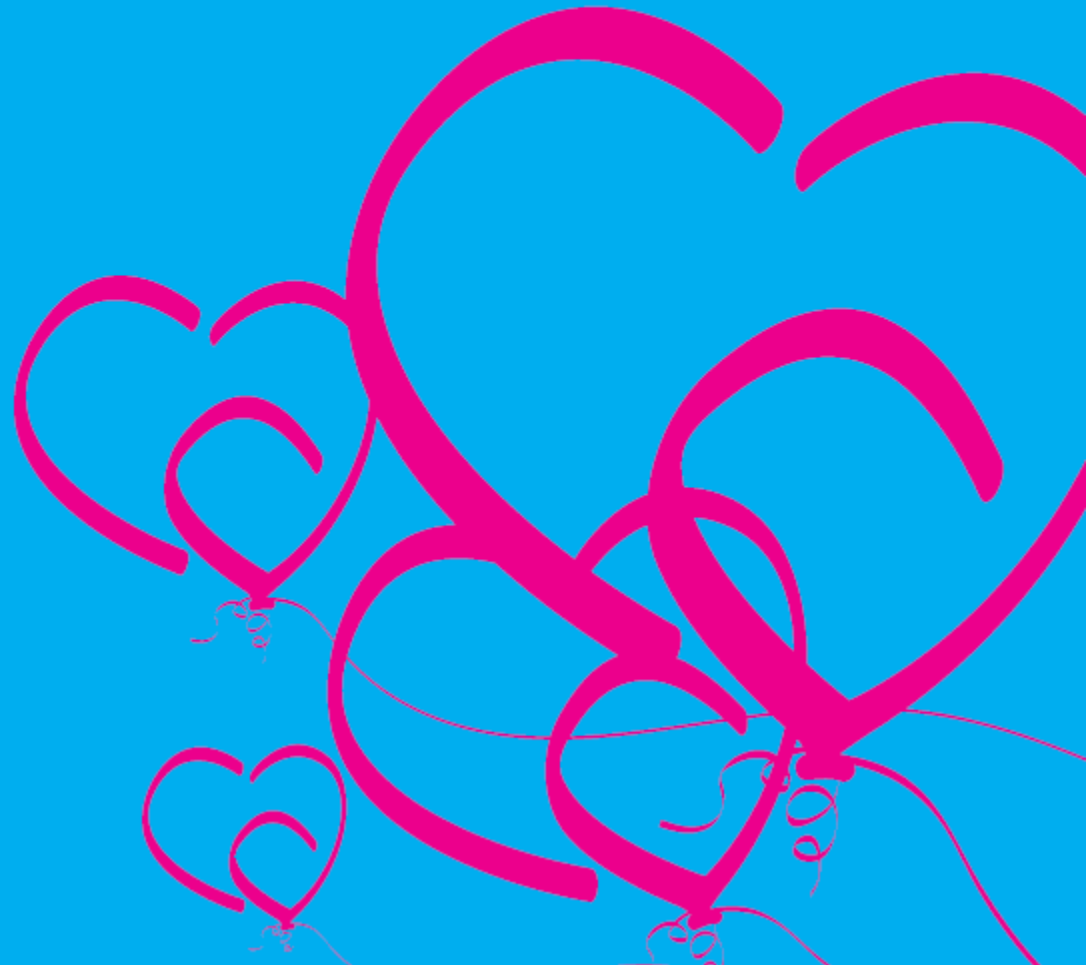


Child Protection is Everyone's Business

Sessions conducted with:

- Children
- Media
- School Supervisors, Principals, Teachers
- Social Workers, Medical Professionals
- Government Agencies, Permanent Secretaries
- Psychologists, Police
- Tobago Stakeholders (THA, Media, Principals, Police, Social Workers, Teachers, Doctors, Nurses)
- Judges, Magistrates, Registrars
- Managers of Community Residences, Foster Parents

Key Functions



Receiving Reports

- Robust reporting mechanism established
- Child Protection Information Management System operational
- 996 Hotline launched



Key Functions

- Receiving reports
- Managing Places of Safety
- Investigating reports
- Assessing children
- Determining appropriate placement
- Managing the Foster Care and Adoption Systems
- Licensing and monitoring Community Residences
- Supporting the Youth Justice System

Managing Places of Safety

- Place of Safety established
- Calming, child friendly space
- Can accommodate 20 children



Investigating Reports

- Investigation Teams created
- Police Child Protection Unit (CPU) established
- Emergency Response mechanism in place



Assessing Children

- 'One stop shop' to reduce system re-traumatisation and insensitivity
- Multi-disciplinary, therapeutic, child-friendly approaches
- Centres established





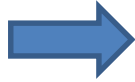
Child in need of care and protection

After Registry and Investigation processes, child is brought to the Assessment Centre.

Social worker delivers treatment plan to child and relevant parties.

Necessary referrals made for follow-up services.

Continued monitoring by the Children's Authority.



Assessment Centre

Child may be sent to the Child Reception Area or Play room.

Joint clinical interview by social worker and psychologist.

In-depth interviews with child & accompanying adult.



Implementation of Treatment Plan



Police

CPU Officer is called in for cases involving summary and indictable offences.

Forensic interview and recording of examination of trauma on the child, and suitability of means and approach.



At any stage, professionals may detect that the presenting problem warrants psychiatric evaluation.



Medical Evaluation

Checks physical condition, detects and treats any injuries.

Collection of patient data.



Psychological Evaluation

Treatment.

FORENSIC INTERVIEW ROOM WITH ONE-WAY MIRROR



Mt. Hope Assessment Centre

MEDICAL EXAMINATION ROOM



MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE CONFERENCE ROOM



Determining Appropriate Placement

- The Authority believes that a family environment is the best place for a child.
- As such, family reintegration will be prioritised where possible, appropriate and in the child's best interest.
- New package allows for more placement options:
 - Foster Care
 - Adoption
 - Community Residences



Managing the Foster Care System

- Transition from pilot Foster Care system to new system underway
- Received 30 new applications
- Recruitment of new Foster Care providers underway



Managing the Adoption System

- Transition underway from Adoption Board (MGYCD) to Children's Authority
- Engagement of 90+ prospective adopters from previous system has begun
- Sensitisation sessions planned for prospective adopters



Licensing and Monitoring Community Residences

- Engaged key stakeholders
- Conducted Baseline Study and Initial Assessment of Community Residences
- Executed workshops to develop standards, regulations and licensing regime
- Performed Gap Analysis exercise
- Facilitated training workshops to close gap
- Advocated for Grant and Subvention
- Conducting Pre-inspection visits
- Ready to begin receiving applications



Supporting the Juvenile Justice System

- Facilitate access to assessments to identify areas of risk in their lives, and guide the interventions that are necessary for their rehabilitation
- Regulate rehabilitation centres
- Partner with agencies on transforming Juvenile Justice System



5 Things I dislike

- when visitors come and describe children as orphan ✓✓✓✓✓
- when visitors sitting and looking at us while eating ✓✓✓✓✓
- when children in school calling us homeless and saying hurtful things to us about living in a hq. ✓✓✓✓✓
- when caregivers embarrass us in front of visitors ✓✓✓✓✓
- when visitors drop off expired snacks and drinks, and clothing. ✓✓✓✓✓

Thank You



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