

LEAP!
SECOLLEGE:
A RESEARCH COMPONENT FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECURE COLLEGE IN THE
MALTESE ISLANDS
CONFERENCE 2015

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The Chronic Offender Population

- The earlier the onset the longer the career
- Offending is part of a larger syndrome of antisocial behaviour
- Risk factors: failure in education; multiple family risk factors and socio-economic drawbacks
- A cycle of continuity: problem children grow into problem adults whom in turn bear problem children

What is a Secure College?

- A detention setting for young adults aged between 11 and 16
- Causes for entry in such a setting?
 - 1) Detention awarded by Law Courts
 - 2) Care orders
 - 3) Police Cases and Referral from Child Protection Services

The Local Context

Data sources pertain to Testa, S., (2012),
Formosa, S., (2007, 2014), and Formosa
Pace, J., (2003, 2014)

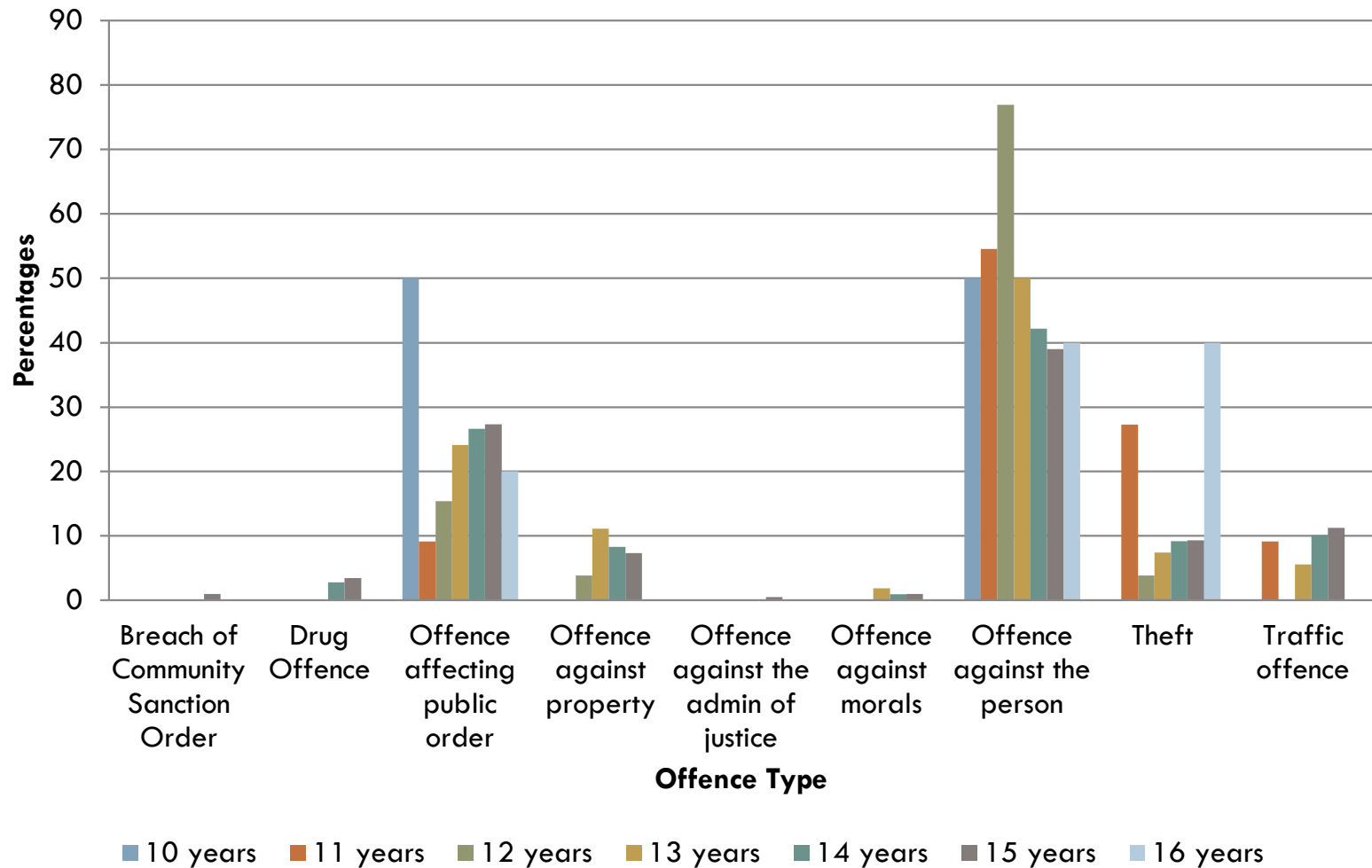
Juvenile Courts: Age-Sex: Juveniles aged 10 to 16 (2008 - 2012)

Age	Female %	Male %	Total %
10	1.0	0.3	0.5
11	1.9	2.9	2.7
12	6.7	6.2	6.3
13	16.2	12.1	13.1
14	27.6	26.1	26.5
15	45.7	51.1	49.8
16	1.0	1.3	1.2
Total	100	100	100

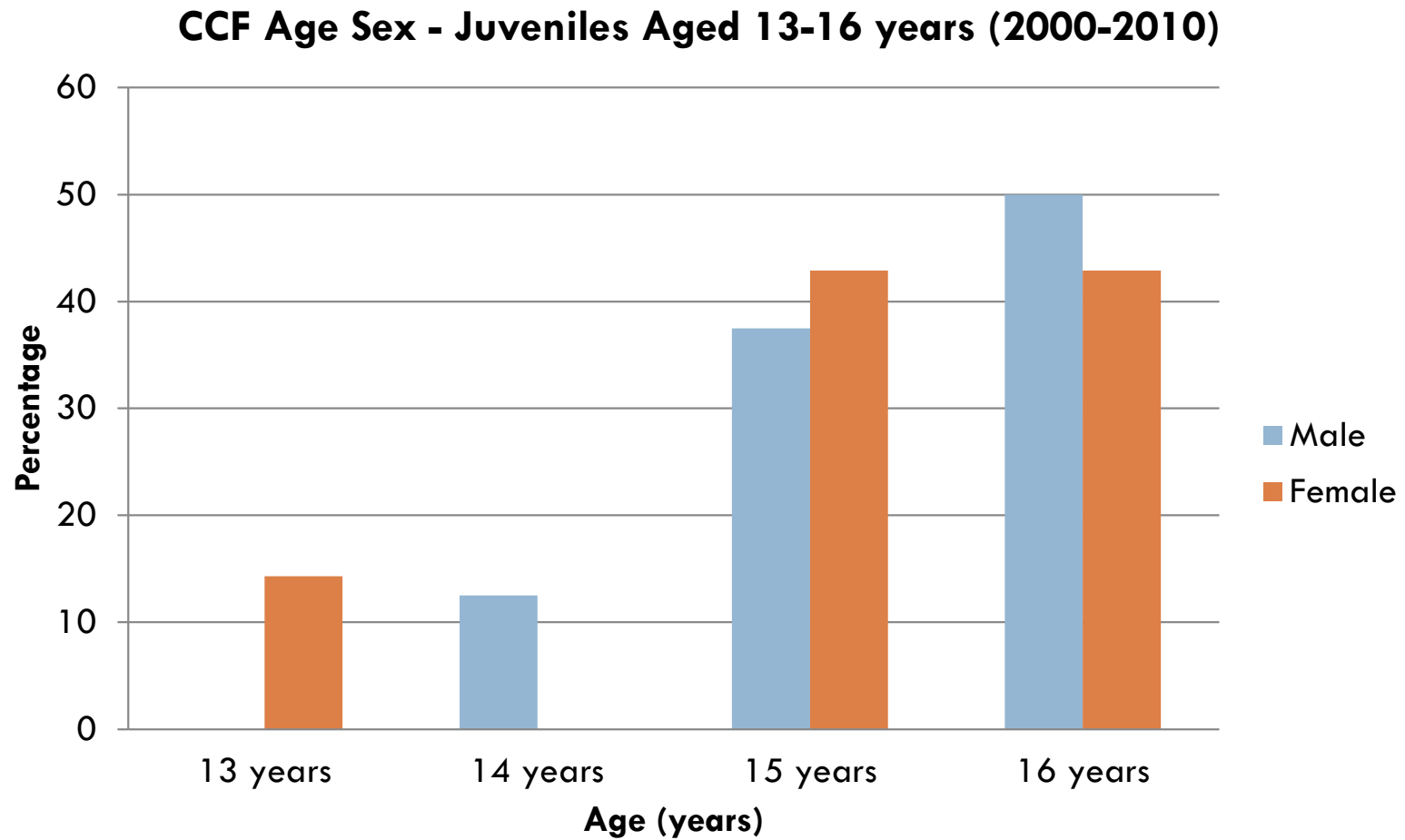
Age	Female Count	Male Count	Grand Total Count
10	1	1	2
11	2	9	11
12	7	19	26
13	17	37	54
14	29	80	109
15	48	157	205
16	1	4	5
Total	105	307	412

The Local Context

Offence Type - Juveniles aged 10-16 years

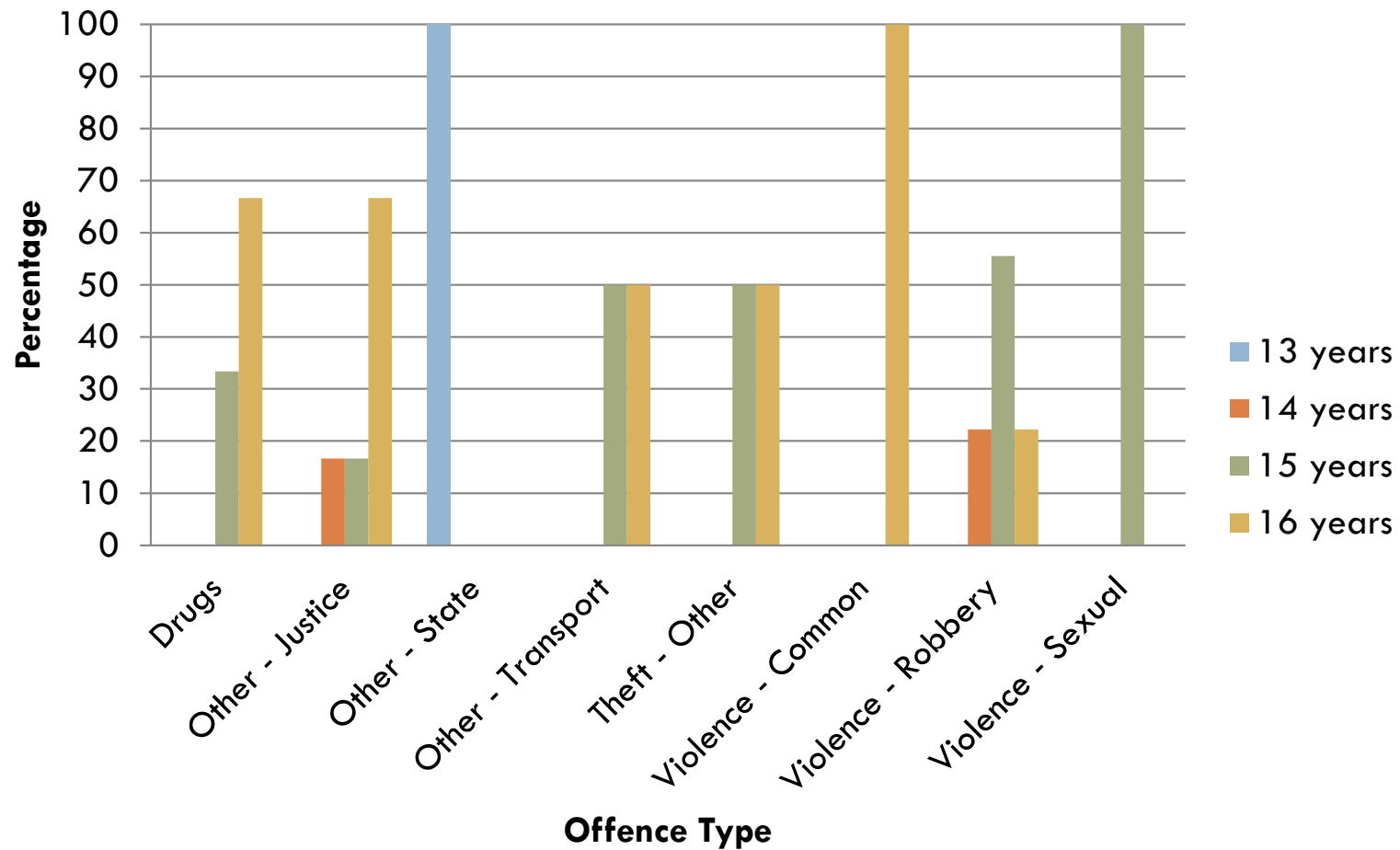


The Local Context

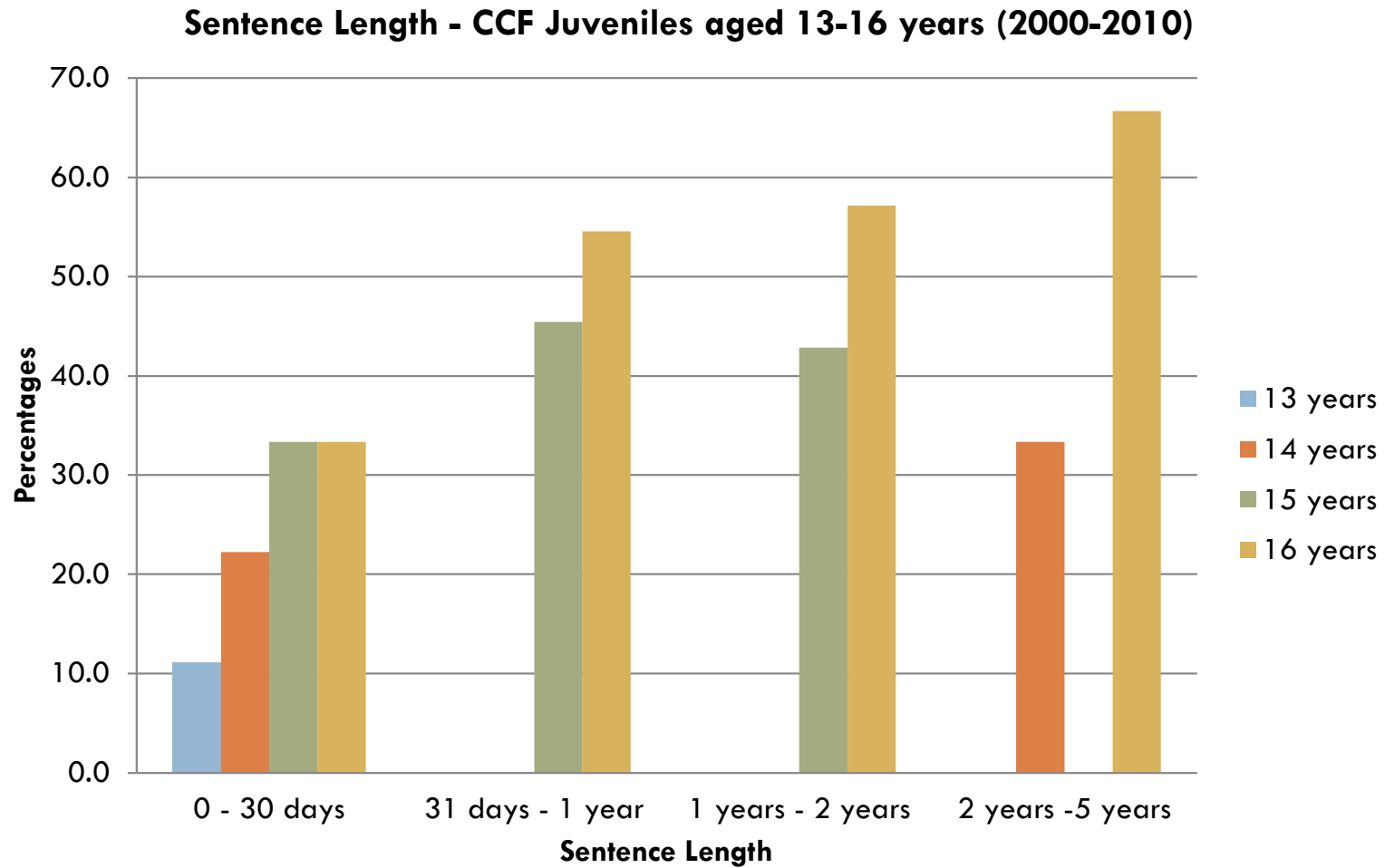


The Local Context

Offence Type - CCF Juveniles aged 13-16 years (2000-2010)



The Local Context



Secure College: an overview

Aim:

- reduce delinquency and offending in school aged children
- Providing a safe and secure environment for youths in crime
- Facilitate transition and reintegration within the community. Whenever possible children should live with their parent/s once they exit the college.
- A last resort: only when detention is deemed necessary by Law Courts, Police and Child Protection Services

Targeted Themes

- Child protection and rights of children
- Staffing and Training
- Care plan
- Strategies /Interventions
- Education
- Health
- Safety and security

Secure college: ethos

- A positive behavioural approach
- Individualised care plan should take the national minimum curriculum and youths' behavioural and emotional tendencies
- Running other parallel programmes for parents/caregivers and siblings
- Observation, monitoring and logging of behaviour, leave requests, punishments etc on a daily basis

A positive behavioural approach

1. Young people are free to share their thoughts and emotions
2. Free choice of clothing and room decor
3. Access to legal advice, spiritual director (freedom to practice)
4. Planning and preparation of a healthy and well balanced diet
5. Review of care plans in established time frames
6. Life skills: personal hygiene, money management and interpersonal skills
7. Disciplinary measures are aimed at the progressive development of self-control. Single separation: in case of immediate risk to self and others

Way Forward

- Identification of Client Group
- Drafting of a Strategy
- Official Proposal for Governmental Uptake
- Identifying the available assets and capacity
- Identifying available infrastructure
- Identifying best funding mechanism
- Targeting 2-4 years for implementation

SeCollege Outcomes

- Outcome A: Review of current processes
 - ▣ the state of affairs of the current safety and education issues related to children in need of control

- Outcome B: A strategy proposal
 - ▣ the requirements needed to establish and manage a SeCollege
 - ▣ a workable implementation plan

- Outcome C: A crime victimisation survey
 - ▣ the realities of victimisation with special focus on juvenile offender/victimisation

SeCollege Outcomes

- Outcome D: Identification of physical structure
 - ▣ a draft of the best-for-fit building structure that may serve as a SeCollege

- Outcome E: Post-research funding mechanisms
 - ▣ Potential source funding for programmes and projects that would aid the post-LEAP, SeCollege establishment

LEAP!

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THANK YOU

Thanks goes to the LEAP Project Leader, MEDE, MFSS , PPCD and the Component Team

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