



CITY OF MICANOPY



CITY OF NORTH PORT



CITY OF DESTIN



CITY OF STUART



CITY OF CAPE CORAL



2016

STATE OF THE CITIES

INTRODUCTION

In many ways, 2016 was a year of stark contrasts. Floridians shared in the exhilaration of seeing almost two dozen fellow citizens earn medals at the Summer Olympics in Rio, and in the shock and mourning of the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history. We were inundated with campaign communications and threatened by a tiny insect carrying an even tinnier but devastating virus. We watched waterways turn green with algae and saw record numbers of tourists spend their green in the state.

Florida's cities came together to celebrate, to mourn and to get to work. Across the state, city leaders reached out to their neighbors when disaster struck to provide aid and comfort, and built collaborative relationships to address the state's most pressing problems. This is what our citizens expect us to do, and what we were built to do.

The following is an overview of the current state of Florida cities and, in some cases, how they have changed over the past six years. The results are based on the annual CityStats survey, produced by the Florida League of Cities Center for Municipal Research and Innovation. The Center serves as the primary source of local government research and resources at the League. Data is collected from various research institutes across the state and nation, as well as through the CityStats survey.

In Florida, a city, town or village is a municipal government. There is no legal difference between the three. In this document, the words municipality and city are used interchangeably.

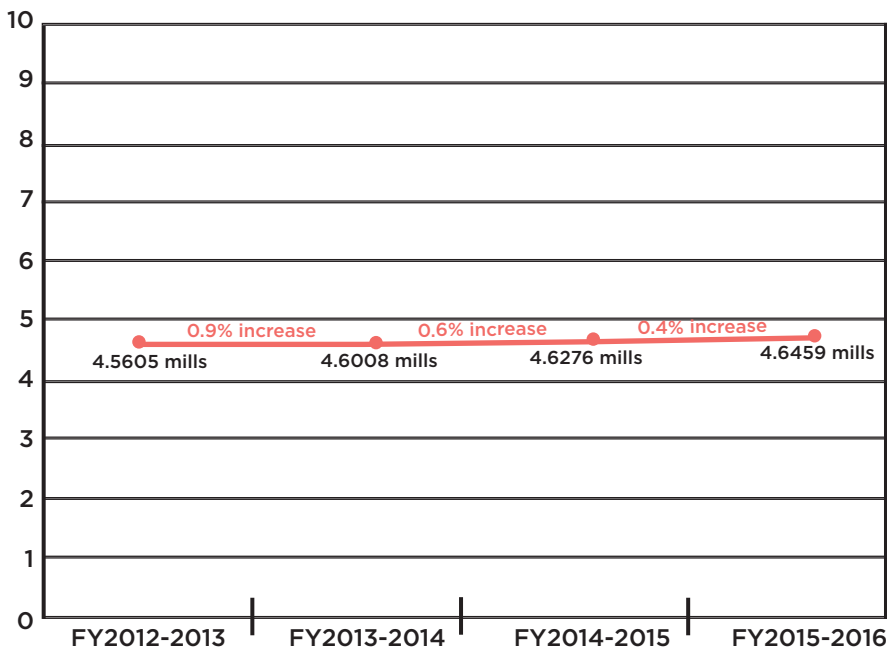
BUDGET, ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Property tax (or ad valorem tax) remains an important component of most municipal revenue streams, though several state constitutional amendments have made it less and less adequate to fund even the basic services municipal residents expect. Combining property tax revenue with service taxes, building permits, franchise and impact fees, state and federal grant funding, and interest earnings, Florida's cities have managed to meet what overall have been modest rising costs. In some cases, they have expanded or added services desired by their residents, without significant increases in millage rates.

NATIONAL STAT:

Based on construction, consumer and producer price indexes, the year-over-year "cost-of-living" increase - or municipal cost index - to run a municipal government from November 2015 to November 2016 was 1.84%. Between 2011 and 2016, the average increase to the municipal cost index was 1.6% annually. (municipal cost index as compiled by *American City & County* magazine)

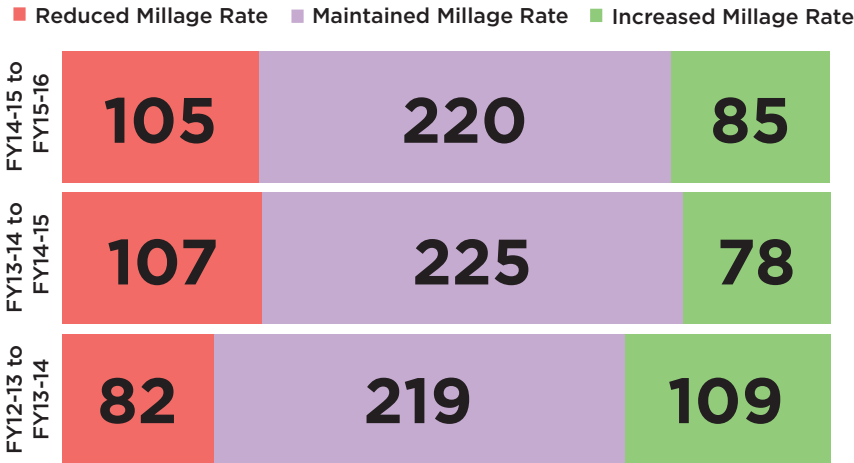
AVERAGE STATEWIDE MILLAGE RATES



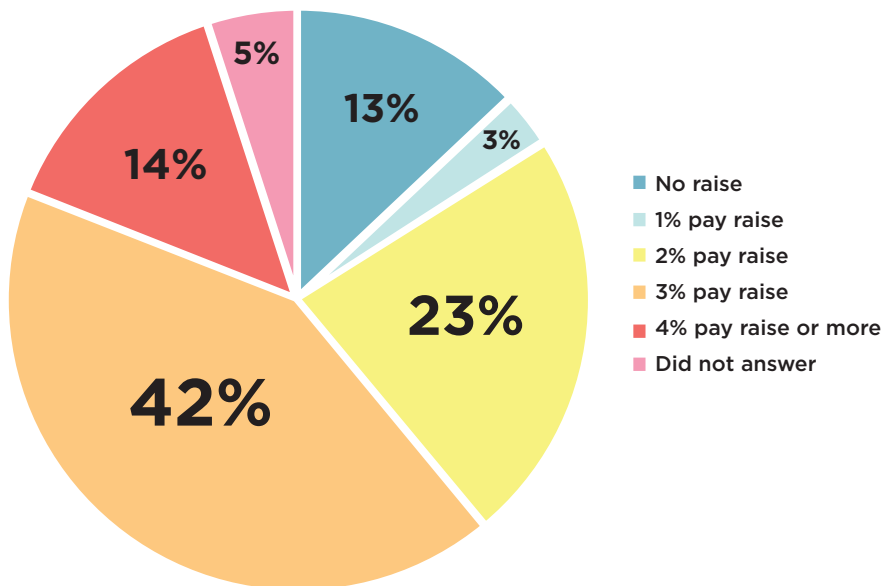
The vast majority of Florida's municipalities either held their millage steady or decreased it between FY2014-2015 and FY2015-2016, continuing a pattern evident since at least FY2012-2013. Over that same period, the cumulative increase in the statewide average municipal millage rate was less than a tenth of a mill.



MUNICIPAL MILLAGE RATE CHANGES NUMBER OF CITIES YEAR-TO-YEAR

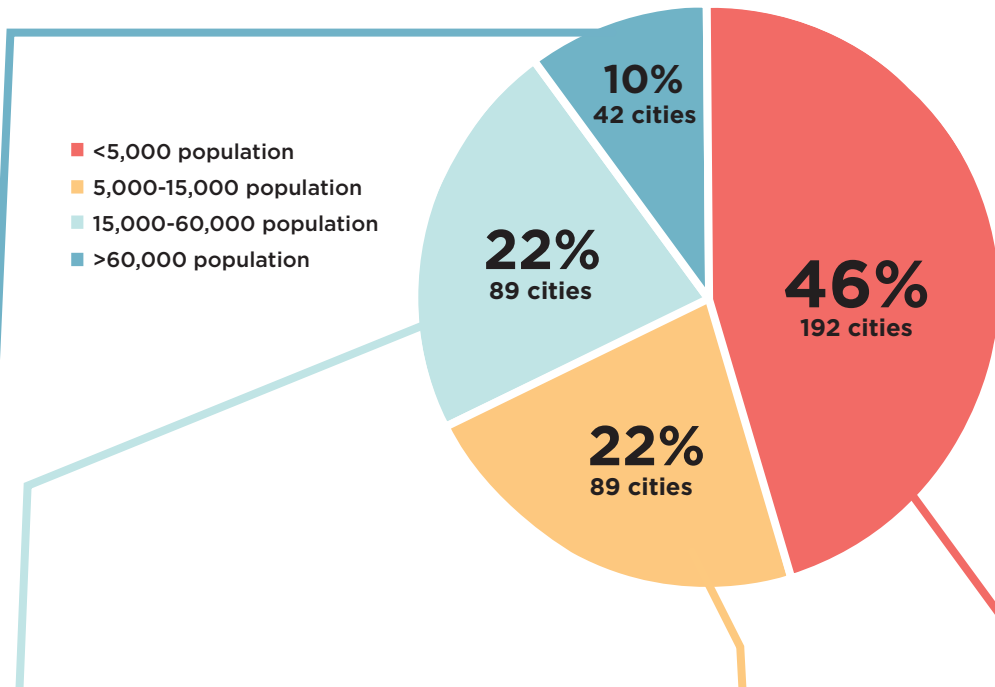


2016 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE PAY RAISES AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE



Many of Florida's cities reduced their workforces and did not give raises during the Great Recession. More recently, most cities have been able to provide modest raises to most of their employees. In FY 2015-2016, the vast majority of those raises were for 3% or less. More than one city in 10 did not give any raises to their employees overall.

PERCENT OF CITIES WITHIN EACH POPULATION RANGE



The size of the municipal workforce varies primarily based on the size of the city (in population and in land area) and the range and level of the services the city provides. As these charts make clear, city population makes a big difference... as it should.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY SIZE OF MUNICIPAL POPULATION 2012-2016

1 PERSON = 10 ACTUAL PEOPLE

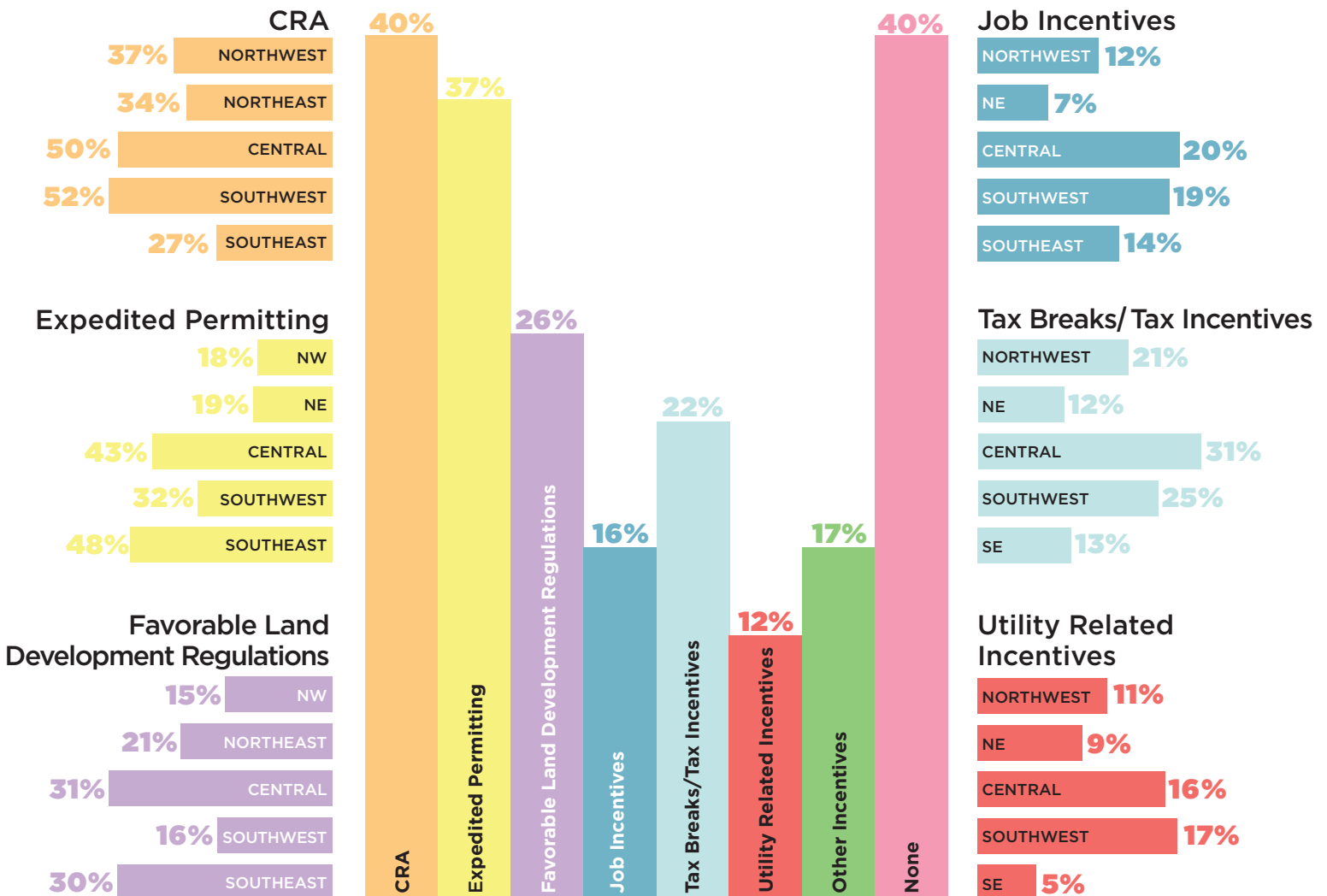


As the Florida League of Cities pointed out in 2010, “Cities are the hub of economic development. Energetic cities are where entrepreneurs start and expand businesses and where ambitious people move to launch careers and raise families.”¹ Cities across the state take their role as economic engines seriously, adopting a variety of different strategies to foster growth and economic opportunity.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

AVERAGE PERCENTAGES 2012-2016



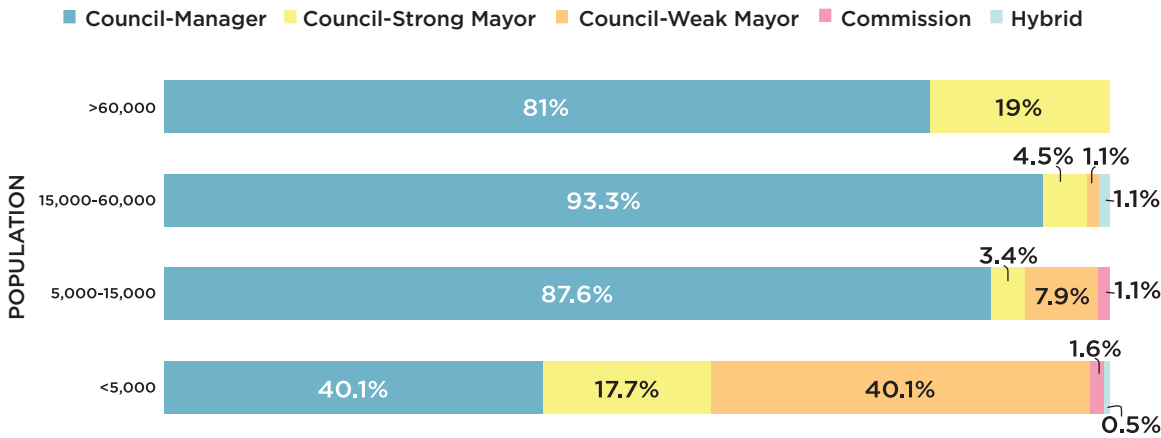
¹Improving the Lives of Florida's Citizens: Toward a New Era of State and City Partnerships. Florida League of Cities, 2010.

GOVERNANCE

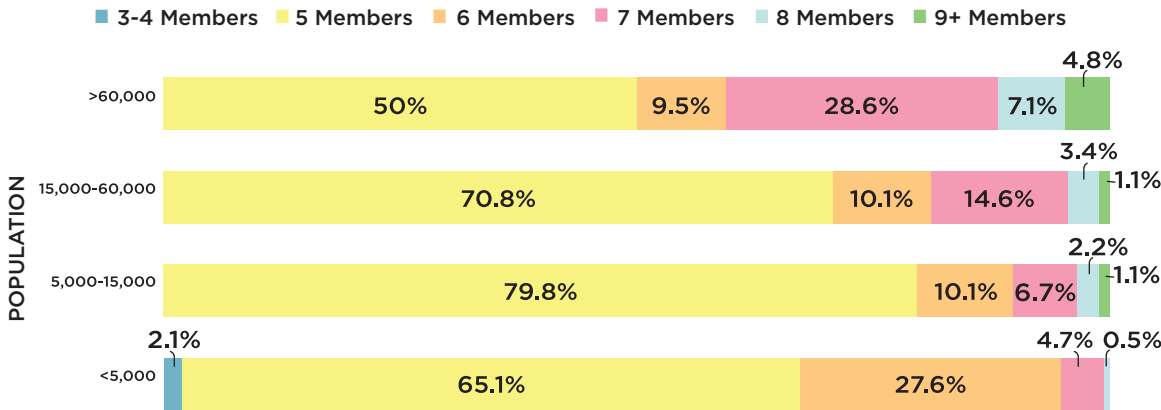
FORM OF GOVERNMENT

In Florida, as nationally¹, the most common form of municipal government is the council-manager form. Roughly two-thirds of all of Florida's cities have adopted this form. The council-weak mayor and council-strong mayor forms structure most of the remaining cities. Most cities' councils have five members.

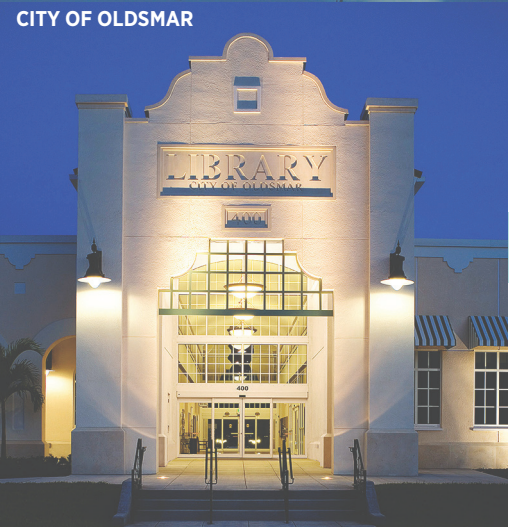
FORMS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT BY POPULATION RANGE



SIZE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BY POPULATION RANGE



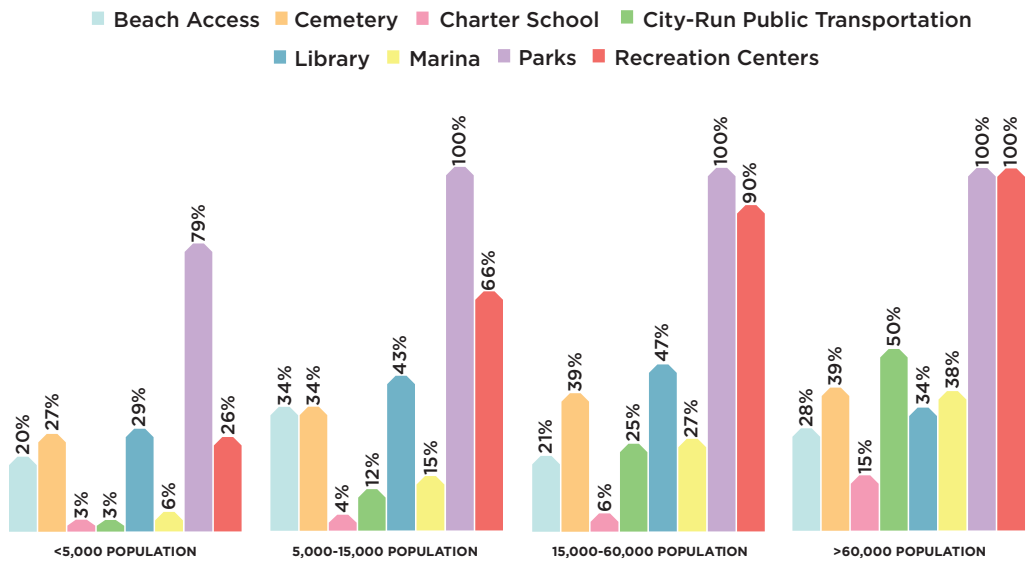
¹Municipal Form of Government, 2011. ICMA.
http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/303954/ICMA_2011_Municipal_Form_of_Government_Survey_Summary



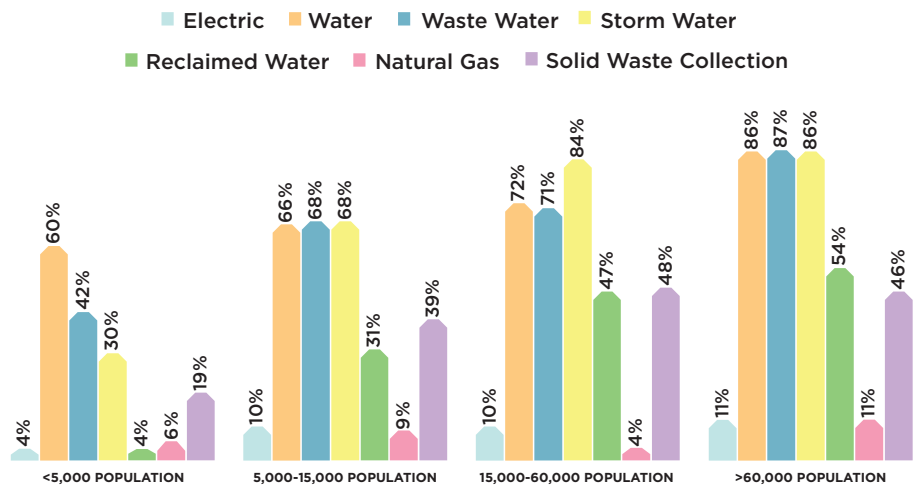
MUNICIPAL SERVICES, UTILITIES & PUBLIC SAFETY

City service levels are as unique as the needs of their citizens. Cities place a high priority on quality-of-life services like parks and recreation with more than 90% providing city parks and 60% providing recreation centers. Well over two-thirds of municipalities provide basic services like garbage collection, police and fire protection services and some level of water service. Some cities also provide services such as libraries, cemeteries, marinas, public transportation, electric and natural gas utilities and charter schools.

CITIES WITH CITY-RUN SERVICES AVERAGE PERCENTAGE 2014-2016



CITIES WITH UTILITIES SERVICES AVERAGE PERCENTAGE 2012-2016

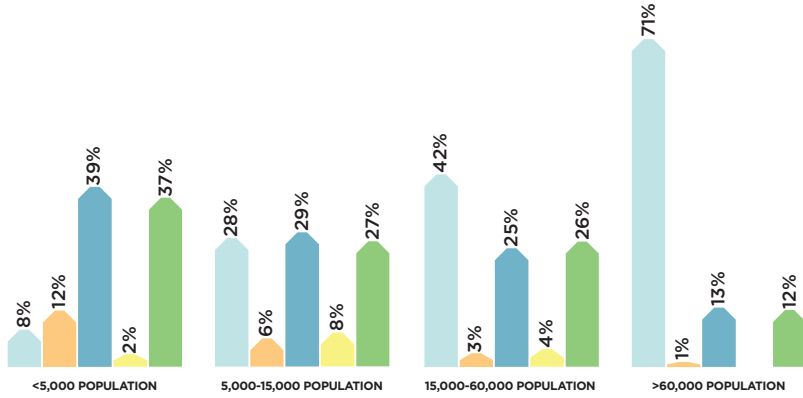


CITIES WITH PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE 2014-2016

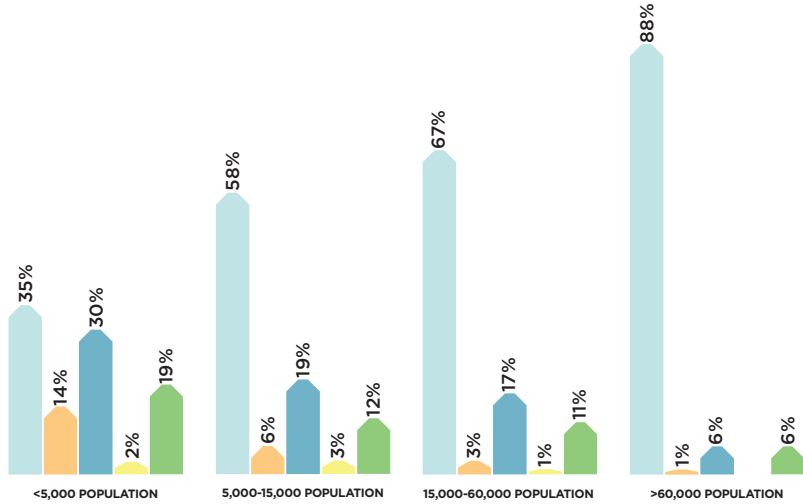
HOW EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

■ Directly by City
 ■ Contracted Out to Another City
 ■ Contracted Out to the County
 ■ Contracted Out to a Private Entity
 ■ Not Provided



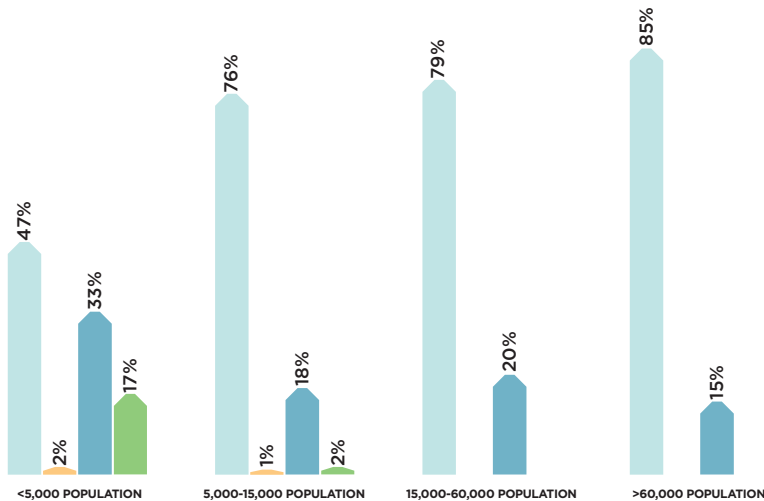
HOW MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

■ Directly by City
 ■ Contracted Out to Another City
 ■ Contracted Out to the County
 ■ Contracted Out to a Private Entity
 ■ Not Provided



HOW MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

■ Directly by City
 ■ Contracted Out to Another City
 ■ Contracted Out to the County
 ■ Not Provided



ABOUT THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES CENTER FOR MUNICIPAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Center is the primary source of local government research and resources at the Florida League of Cities. It serves as a link between Florida's public policy researchers and municipal governments, bridging the gap between academics and public policy makers and administrators. The Center conducts multiple surveys annually, the cornerstone being the CityStats Survey.

CITYSTATS SURVEY

Unless otherwise noted, all information included in the State of the Cities is from Florida League of Cities' CityStats Surveys, 2011-2016 and 2015-2016 MiniSurvey Series.

The FLC Center for Municipal Research and Innovation has conducted the CityStats survey since 2011. The survey consists of approximately 40 questions about municipal operations, budgets, policies and services. In 2016, surveys were collected from 298 of Florida's then 411 municipalities, equaling 73 percent of all cities and 76 percent of the total statewide municipal population.

The Center's MiniSurvey Series is intended to gather pertinent, targeted data on a narrow topic through a brief 5-10 question format. MiniSurveys are sent electronically to all 412 Florida cities with varying response rates.

Copies of the survey questions and lists of respondents are available upon request. Individual municipal profiles and the League's "Find a Peer City" database are available for viewing on the League's website at www.floridaleagueofcities.com/research

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