Distinguished Conference Participants,

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center is pleased to welcome you to the 2014 South Florida Haitian-American Community Agenda Conference. The first conference was held almost 15 years ago, when many of you present today, came together to take an honest and deliberate look at our cherished community and assess our condition. We examined the issues to be addressed and together we put forward achievable solutions.

Two of the significant results of this assessment are Sant La, your host organization and The Little Haiti Cultural Center, your host venue for today’s conference. Hence, Sant La is a direct response to the identified need for a community resource center; just as the Little Haiti Cultural Complex is a response to the absence of a comprehensive cultural center, recognized 15 years ago.

The Haitian Lawyers Association (HLA) is another entity that has made reverberating changes in the Haitian Community since the first conference. HLA scholarships help finance education for young Haitian-Americans on the legal track and HLA also hosts a television program utilized to educate the Haitian community about the unlicensed practice of law, another concern identified in our first collaboration.

Haitian-Americans have achieved increased visibility, because we have channeled our voices to speak in unison to local officials. For example, in 2011 the Haitian-American Forum, the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition and Sant La joined forces to form the Haitian-American Task Force on Redistricting, in response to the results of the 2000 Census. The goal was to increase the participation rate of members of the Haitian community, while protecting the voting power of Haitian-Americans and thus our voice in the midst of the state’s redistricting.

Fifteen years ago, we highlighted the need for Haitian American media owners. Today, there are two such viable enterprises. We also underscored the meager representation of Haitian-Americans in governmental institutions. Today there are many appointed representatives in local government and we have had a total of 25 elected officials in the region, including many trailblazers. Our community boasts many firsts, with the most notable including Phillipe Derose, the very first Haitian American elected to public office in the United States.
Phillip Brutus, the first Haitian American male elected to the Florida State Legislature; Yolly Roberson, the first Haitian-American female elected to the Florida State Legislature; Joe Celestin, the first Haitian-American Mayor of North Miami; Fred Seraphin, the first Haitian-American Judge in the United States. These pioneers represent a traversable path for future cadres of Haitian-American hopefuls in the political arena. Yes, it is important to celebrate successes, such as the Haitian Refugee Immigrant Fairness Act, a landmark piece of legislation hard-fought in 1998 by the Haitian American Grassroots Coalition. Temporary Protective Status (TPS) was granted to Haitians in the wake of the devastating earthquake of 2010. However, we continue to hit roadblocks in seeking family reunification for Haitian nationals and this will remain so until we succeed in advocating for comprehensive immigration reform.

Our plates are full with a panoply of issues: our growing elderly population; insufficient youth development programs and services which has resulted in alarming indicators; we are losing our celebrated education ethic; our families are torn by socio-economic woes; too many men and women have succumbed to preventable and other chronic conditions; our business corridors lack financial investment; many in our legendary workforce run the risk of being left behind because they are not prepared for the demands of today's job market; our community institutions, including the media, deserve more financial support; and the need to create, protect and preserve wealth in our community is an imperative, as is our philanthropy.

Indeed, there is much work to be done. Some of that work comprises challenges that have arisen because of the amazing progress we have made as a community since the first conference. Nonetheless, fifteen years later, it is time to review where we are and update the agenda. Remember that everything we have achieved as a community before and since the first conference, every victory we have known has been hard-fought. We can do it again; We can do more!

Thank you for being the pillars that make us successful as a minority and immigrant group. Thank you for being here today and for accepting this rendez-vous with history. Let's get to work and Let's get the job done!
CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsor
County Commissioner Jean Monestime

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Dr. Smith Joseph
Radio Mega
Conference Host Committee Members
HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jacqueline Arnoux
Marie Florence Bell
Sandy Dorsainvil
Leonie Hermantin
Thamara Labrousse
Farrah Larrieux
Jeff Lozama
Gepsie M. Metellus
Paola Pierre
Magaly Prezeau
Lesly Prudent
Maxo Sinal
Jean Soufrant
Donard St. Jean
Ludnel St-Preux
Manoucheka Thermitus
Jean-Marc Villain
MORNING PROGRAM

8:00 AM  Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM  Welcome
Thamara Labrousse, Host Committee Member

Opening Prayer
Reverend Vensen Ambeau, Pastor
Allen Chapel AME Church

Opening Remarks
Gepsie M. Metellus
Executive Director, Sant La

Greetings and Order of the Day
Sandy Dorsainvil,
Director, Little Haiti Cultural Complex

9:30 AM  Concurrent Sessions I
(Please Refer to Pages 12-13)
Small Work Groups to Create Action Goals

11:00 AM  Concurrent Sessions II
(Please Refer to Pages 14-15)
Small Work Groups to Create Action Goals

12:30  Luncheon
Recognition of Sponsors and Participating Organizations
Donard St. Jean, Host Committee Member

Keynote Address: County Commissioner Jean Monestime
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Marie Florence Bell,
Host Committee Member
AFTERNOON PROGRAM

2:00–4:30 PM  Critical Issues Panels  
(Please Refer to Pages 16-19)  
Introductions by:  
Manoucheka Thermitus, Host Committee Member  
Magaly Prezeau, Host Committee Member

4:45-5:45 PM  Plenary Session  
Workgroup Reports on  
Recommendations and Resolutions  
Farrah Larrieux,  
Host Committee Member

Closing Remarks  
Ludnel St-Preux,  
Deputy Director, Sant La

5:45–7:00PM  Closing Reception  
Celebrating Haitian-American  
Elected Officials  
Sandy Dorsainvil

We would love to hear from you. Please share your thoughts and comments at: info@santla.org

You will also receive a formal evaluation questionnaire. When you receive it, please share your honest opinions about today’s event.
About the Facilitators

Amina Dubuisson is a Nurse Administrator

Daniel Belizaire Calixte is Executive Director of The Haitian Elderly Center

Martine Poitevien is a Public Health Specialist at the University of Miami

Dr. Charlene Desir is an Adjunct Professor of Educational Psychology at Nova Southeastern University

Leonie M. Hermantin is a Planning and Development Consultant

Schiller Jerome, is a South Florida-based Haitian American entrepreneur.

Beatrice Louissaint is the CEO of the South Florida Minority Supplier Development Council

Joann Milord is Executive Director of the North East Second Avenue Partnership

Pierre Nazon Beaulière is host of programming on Radio Mega and Voice of America

Dr. Guerda Nicolas is professor of Education Psychology at The University of Miami

Eveline Pierre is Executive Director of the Haitian Heritage Museum

Shirley Plantin Pierre, Esq. is President and CEO of Family Impressions Foundation Inc.

Sabrina Salomon, Esq. is an attorney in private practice and member of the Haitian Lawyers Association

Magaly Prezeau is CEO of Community Access Center in Broward County
About the Moderators

Alex St. Surin is a career journalist, owner of Radio Mega and host of its flagship show, Carrefour

Gepsie M. Metellus, is Executive Director of Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center

Thamara Labrousse, is Executive Director of The Miami Workers’ Center

Jean Marc Villain is a Finance and Economic Development Consultant

About the Resource Persons

Sandy Dorsainvil is Cultural Arts Executive

Thamara Labrousse is a Non-profit Executive

Farrah Larrieux is a Public Relations Professional

Jeff Lozama is a local Entrepreneur

Paola Pierre, is a Human Resource Consultant

Lesly Prudent is a Public Administrator

Maxo Sinal is a Public Affairs Consultant

Jean Soufrant is a Community Organizer

Donard St. Jean is a Tech Entrepreneur

Ludnel St-Preux is non-profit Executive

Manoucheka Thermitus is a Health Care Executive
THANK YOU!

In-Kind Contributors

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Cola Couronne
Dade Institute of Technology
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Florida Blue
Grey Goose
Haitian Culinary Alliance
Haitian Ibo Club of Miami Dade College
Humana
Island TV
Marie F. Bell and Associates
Miami-Dade Public Schools
North Shore Medical Center
Team Sant La
Thelar Management Group
Trilateral Investments
United Teachers of Dade
David Webberman and Webberman Foods
THANK YOU!
Participating Community Organizations

Association of Exchange and Development of Activities and Partnerships
Caribbean American Visual Cultural Preservation Center for Haitian Studies
Center for Information and Orientation Community Access Center
Family Impressions of Florida Inc.
Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida
Haitian American Community Development Corporation
Haitian American Forum
Haitian Heritage Museum
Haitian American Leadership Organization
Haitian Historical Museum and Archives
Haitian Lawyers Association
Haitian Medical Association
Haitian American Nurses Association
Haitian American Professionals Coalition
Haitian American Youth of Tomorrow
Little Haiti Cultural Complex
Little Haiti Optimist
Miami Workers Center
North East Second Avenue Partnership (NE2P)
Notre Dame d’Haiti Catholic Church
Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council
Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center
Sosyete Koukouy, Miyami
The Haitian Elderly Center
Concurrent Sessions I  
9:30-11:00 a.m.  

Participants in each of the following sessions will work to formulate strategic action goals

**Educational Attainment, Room A**  
**Dr. Charlene Desir, Facilitator**

This session will address the challenges in schools with a notable Haitian student population as well as the challenges in the surrounding neighborhoods. The group will also consider the circumstances (home, social, personal, community) that hinder achievement of Haitian students and examine available educational opportunities for adult Haitians.

**Children/Youth/Women and Families, Room B**  
**Shirley Plantin Pierre, Esq., Facilitator**

This session will examine the state of the support that children, youth, women, and families receive on an exclusive basis. The session will also evaluate the state of the resources available to each group as well as the visibility of said resources. Group members will consider problems facing children/youth/women/families individually while also acknowledging the problems that overlap.

**Arts, Culture, Sports, and Recreation, Room C**  
**Eveline Pierre, Facilitator**

This session will address the conservation, display, promotion and distribution of Haitian art and culture. It will also focus on support for safe and clean spaces where Haitian youth and adults can play sports and participate in recreational activities.
Concurrent Sessions I
9:30–11:00 a.m.

Participants in each of the following sessions will work to formulate strategic action goals

Aging and Elders, Room D
Dr. Guerda Nicolas and Mr. Daniel Belizaire Calixte, Co-Facilitators

This session will focus on the issues that plague Haitian elders, the resources that are available to disperse information about health risks, care centers, recreation centers, and retirement facilities. The session will also analyze the state of the retirement facilities that have a great deal of Haitian residents as well as the support available to Haitian families that choose to care for their elders at-home.

Creating and Protecting Wealth, Room E
Schiller Jerome, Facilitator

This session will focus on proven strategies for creating, maintaining and protecting wealth. The group will consider strategies and tactics to enable the community to evolve from savings to asset-building.
Concurrent Sessions II
11-12:30 p.m.

Participants in each of the following sessions will work to formulate strategic action goals

Politics, Policy and Advocacy, Room A
Sabrina Salomon, Facilitator

This session will analyze Haitian presence at the local, state, and federal level of government. It will address policies that affect the community as well as policies needed to move the Haitian community forward. It will also examine the channels available and/or needed in order to advocate for policies that benefit the Haitian community. The session will also look at the community’s participation in politics at the local, state, and federal levels.

Media and Public Affairs Session, Room B
Pierre Nazon Beauliere, Facilitator

This session will look at the state of Haitian-run media (radio, television, print, and online). It will also examine the presence, depiction and perception of Haitians in non-Haitian media outlets. The group will consider actions and strategies to strengthen this important sector of the Haitian community.
Concurrent Sessions II
11-12:30 p.m.

Participants in each of the following sessions will work to formulate strategic action goals

**Economic and Workforce Development, Room C**
Beatrice Louissaint and Joann Milord, Co-Facilitators

This session will address the money coming into and going out of the Haitian community. It will look at Haitian-run businesses as well as investments and resources needed. Group members will also consider employable skills desired in the Haitian workforce. It will also focus on nourishing entrepreneurship in young Haitians, especially in the area of entertainment and lucrative online platforms such as YouTube, Vine and blogging.

**Health and Wellness, Room D**
Martine Poitevien and Amina Dubuisson, Co-Facilitators

This session will focus on progress and conditions of the community’s overall health. The group will consider strategic action goals to promote healthy behaviors, wellness, good nutrition and physical activity in the Haitian community.

**Crime, Delinquency, Safe Neighborhoods, Room E**
Leonie M. Hermantin, Facilitator

This session will center on the crime, delinquency and gang activity in the Haitian Community. It will also consider the increased predatory practices and financial crimes that plague the community. The session will also examine the availability of programs that curb/prevent juvenile delinquency and address the elements needed to make our neighborhoods safer.
Critical Issues Panel A-1, Gallery
2:00-4:30 p. m.

Community Philanthropy
Gepsie Metellus, Moderator

This panel will explore the importance, need and strategies to promote and increase philanthropy in the Haitian community of South Florida.

Panelists:

Ira Kurzban, Esq. is a successful Miami attorney, a long-time friend and supporter of Haiti and the Haitian Community of South Florida. Ira’s involvement in the community spans decades. One of the pioneer immigration advocates, he successfully represented Haitian refugees in the United States Supreme Court on many occasions. He has represented the Haitian governments of President Aristide and Preval for 13 years.

Sumner Hutcheson, III is a veteran executive and fundraiser with over forty years of experience. He has worked with many charities including the United Way, The United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and United Arts. In the past several years, he has served as Vice President for University Advancement at Florida Memorial, Bethune-Cookman and Florida International Universities. As a leader in these organizations, Sumner has worked with staff and volunteers to raise over 250 million dollars.

Mireille Louis Charles is currently Executive Director of the Green Family Foundation, a private non-profit organization dedicated to supporting social programs ranging from health and development to cultural preservation. Mireille joined the Green Family Foundation following a 20-year career in both stewardship and development at United Way of Miami-Dade, the largest not-for-profit organization in Miami-Dade.
Critical Issues Panel A-2, Gallery
2:00-4:30 p.m.

Strategic Alliances and Collaboration
Thamara Labrousse, Moderator

This panel will discuss the need and strategies for developing, maintaining and nurturing strategic alliances and collaborations for the betterment of the community.

Panelists:

Commissioner Ronald Brisé was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Charlie Crist in July 2010 and was reappointed by Governor Rick Scott for a term through January 2018. He served as Commission Chairman in 2012-2013. Before this appointment, he represented District 108 in the Florida House of Representatives for four years. During his tenure, Commissioner Brisé was named Democratic Whip and served as Vice Chairman of the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators.

Marie Florence Bell is a public affairs consultant with many years of experience working with in both the policy and political arenas. Highlights of her career and experiences include serving as a member of the Judicial Nominating Committee, Executive Director of the Miami Dade County Public Schools Oversight Committee and Chairperson of Governor Jeb Bush's Haiti Advisory Group.

Maxo Sinal is president of Sinal Consulting Group, LLC. He is an administrator and project manager with expertise in broadcasting and marketing. Mr. Sinal has more than 12 years track-record in the development of strategies and policies that reach various groups and bridge the communication gaps between entities. He is experienced in the development, implementation and management of projects for local governments, private and non-profit institutions, as well as political candidates at state, county and municipal levels.
Critical Issues Panel B-1, Auditorium  
2:00-4:30 p.m.

Diaspora! What’s in a Name?  
Alex St. Surin, Moderator

What is the Haitian Diaspora? What is the promise of the Diaspora? What are the challenges and opportunities for the Haitian Diaspora?

Panelists:

Minister Francois Guillaume II, currently serves as Minister of Haitians living abroad. Prior to that, he was Consul General of Haiti in Miami, following many successful years as the Executive Director of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, who organized multiple missions to Haiti to improve relations with Haitians in Haiti and to promote trade, investments, and job creation in Haiti.

Leonie M. Hermantin is a planning and development consultant who has spent the past decade working in Haiti and with Haiti-based organizations in development, education, empowerment of women and girls and civic engagement. She is an active member of the Haitian-American community of South Florida and has led the charge in addressing many of its key issues.

Gerard Metellus is a resident of South Florida whose community involvement spans decades. He has been a radio host, commentator on economic and political issues, involved in shaping the community’s early political advocacy, and in initiating socio-cultural and political activities. He currently serves as the Regional Coordinator of OPL (Organisation du Peuple en Lutte) an active political party in Haiti.

Mayor Lucie Tondreau a South Florida community leader whose involvement spans decades as a radio and television hostess, a fierce advocate for the rights of Haitian immigrants, a vocal presence in the many battles waged by the Haitian community in South Florida. Most recently, she served as Mayor of the City of North Miami.
Critical Issues Panel  B-2, Auditorium
2:00-4:30 p.m.

Deep Dive with Trailblazers
Jean Marc Villain, Moderator

Former Haitian-American elected officials, the first in their respective posts, discuss the current state of our community and provide their unique insight about the way forward against the challenges ahead.

Panelists:

**Representative Phillip Brutus**, was the first Haitian-American male elected to the Florida House of Representatives. He is an active member of the Haitian-American community in South Florida and is currently an attorney in private practice.

**Mayor Joe Celestin**, is the first Haitian-American elected mayor of the city of North Miami. He is an entrepreneur with many years of successful business ventures.

**Mayor Phillipe Derose** is the first Haitian-American elected to office in the United States. He has served on the El Portal Village Council, prior to being elected Mayor. He subsequently moved to the City of North Miami Beach, where he continued a success political career until his retirement in 2013.

**Representative Yolly Roberson** is the first Haitian-American woman elected to the Florida House of Representatives. She is an attorney in private practice.
Sant La’s Mission is to empower, strengthen and stabilize South Florida’s Haitian-American community. Our services are the pillars of self-sufficiency and integration for this immigrant population.

They include:
- Information, Referral and Care Coordination to access and navigate county wide services.
- Employability and Job Placement
- Re-employment Assistance
- Financial Security and Tax Preparation
- Health, Wellness and access to safety-net benefits
- Parenting for Positive Youth Development
- Educational Attainment
- Scholarship support
- Community education, and Civic Engagement
Little Haiti Cultural Complex
Welcomes the 2014 Haitian American Community Agenda Conference Participants

LittleHaitiCulturalComplex
WhereArtisticExpressionSoars

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Proud to be in the Haitian American Community of South Florida and proud to support this important community initiative
Green family Foundation supports Progress, Vision and Leadership in South Florida’s Haitian-American Community
Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida

Building strong partnerships to promote business and economic development in the Haitian-American Communities of Florida
Haitian American Professionals Coalition

Promoting collaboration among professional organizations in South Florida
Working together for an economically stronger Haitian American community

Providing Access to Community Resources in South Florida!
Magaly Prezeau and staff are pleased to support this important community process.
We stand together for Vision, Community Service, Leadership, and Advocacy

Promoting health and wellness in the Haitian Community of South Florida through healthy collaborations!
Welcome to this important community retreat. I pledge to work with all of you to improve the Haitian American Community of South Florida.
Commissioner Jean Monestime believes that there is no greater gift than the gift of service to others.

He was first elected to the Miami-Dade County Commission, District 2 on November 2, 2010. He is the first Haitian-American to serve on the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. District 2 includes portions of the City of Miami, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Opa-Locka, and the unincorporated areas of Liberty City, Biscayne Gardens and North Central Dade. Since his successful election in 2010, Commissioner Monestime has focused on job creation, safe neighborhoods and building stronger communities throughout his District.

Commissioner Monestime is President of Jacob–Monestime & Associates, LLC, a full service real-estate and Insurance company located in North Miami. He is also a small business consultant, and Adjunct Professor of Management at the University of Phoenix, South Florida Campus. During the previous eight years, he was President and CEO of MJM Capital Realty, Inc. He is also a former Miami-Dade Public Schools teacher.

Commissioner Monestime is a former Councilman and Vice-Mayor of the City of North Miami. During his tenure, he was awarded the Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce Quality of Life Improvement Award for the year 2003. He has served on several boards including The North Miami Mayor’s Economic Task Force, the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency, and The Minimum Housing Appeal Board. He also represented the City of North Miami at both the Florida League of Cities and the National League of Cities and served on Business, Transportation and Economic Development committees and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Subcommittee.

His long-standing community involvement includes the African-American NON-GROUP, HAAP, NAACP, National Black MBA Association, Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition, Turner Tech High School Academy of Finance Board, HAPAC, Little Haiti Optimist Club, and HAHS. He also served on the Governor’s Haiti Advisory Group and the Zone Schools Advisory Committee for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. In recognition of his contributions to many organizations and causes, he has received numerous honors and awards.

A member of Eden SDA Church since 1981, Commissioner Monestime has served the church as Youth Director, Music and Choir director and First Elder (church leader). He has lectured, presented dozens of seminars, and has been a guest on several radio and TV programs to discuss issues related to Community Leadership, Business and Financial Matters, and Local Government. Jean Monestime has been a consistent advocate for equal justice and economic development.

Commissioner Monestime obtained his MBA from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business & Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University. He also received a bachelor’s degree in Finance from Florida International University.

Commissioner Jean Monestime, his wife Kettia and their two sons, Darnell & Clarence are long-time residents of District 2.
Joanna E.
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An important step to build on our past successes as a community.

Association des Médecins Haïtiens à l’Étranger
Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad

Fostering Partnerships for the health and well-being of the Haitian-American Community of South Florida
RELEVANT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The Haitian Community of South Florida by the Numbers

Data Sources:
The Migration Policy Institute
The 2012 American Community Survey
Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department
Florida Department of Health

Haitian Americans in Broward and Miami-Dade County
Almost half (46%) of all Haitians in the US reside in Florida, making them the second largest ethnic group in South Florida.
The Haitian population is also the youngest, with over a quarter of all Haitian foreign born migrating to the US in 2000 or later.
Nearly forty-two percent (42%) are between twenty-five and forty-four years old, while close to twenty percent (20%) are 17 years old or younger.
Though believed to be an under representation, data shows that there are more than 123,001 first and second generation Haitians in Miami-Dade, and more than 113,116 in Broward.
Median Household Income for those living in Broward is higher than those in Miami-Dade.

Haitian Americans and Education
In terms of academic achievement, Haitian immigrants were concentrated in the middle of the education continuum.
In 2012, 28.5 percent of the 438,867 Haitian-born adults age 25 and older had some college education or an Associate’s degree compared to 18.4 percent among the 31.9 million foreign-born adults.
An additional 16.9 percent of Haitian immigrants had a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 27.1 percent among all foreign-born adults.

Haitian Americans and Home Ownership
Homeownership is found to be lower for Haitian households; less than half (47 percent) were owner-occupied, compared with 66 percent of total U.S. households.
The population holds high regards for home-ownership, but are typically overrepresented in low wage jobs, creating a dire need for affordable housing resources.
RELEVANT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Haitian Infant Mortality Rate
In Dade, from 2006 to 2008, Haitian birth rate was 5.6%, however, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 births was 6.8 compared to 5.1 white infants and 4.0 Hispanic infants.
In Broward, from 2008 to 2010, Haitian birth rate in eight highly populated zip codes (33064, 33065, 33068, 33309, 33311, 33312, 33319 and 33351) were 3,463 or 12% of all births, however, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 births for Haitians was an alarming 21.66 (Florida Department of Health) compared to 7.47 for white infants.

HIV/AIDS in the Haitian Population
In 2009, according American Community Survey Haitians represent 1% of the Black population in Florida, however, represent 15% of the black population who are HIV positive.
In Broward County, the percentage of Haitians with HIV was 21%, 23% in Miami-Dade County of the black HIV-positives, and 29% in Palm Beach.

Miami-Dade Juvenile Crime Statistics by persons of Haitian descent
Of the 4,472 juvenile arrests in 2013, there were 409 Haitian juveniles. Of these offenses: 33 drug related; 117 property vandalism; 102 violent offenses; 23 considered unknown; 134 “other”.

Broward County Haitian Community Child Investigations and Victim Demographics for 2010-11
There were 1,433 victims of child maltreatment in the Haitian community with ages ranging from 0 – 18 years.

Of this number 300 were females and 1,127 were males and 6 were unknown. The total number of Haitian child investigations was 1,008.
RELEVANT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The Haitian American Community in the US

Data Sources:
Migration Policy Institute
American Community Survey 2012, US. Census Bureau

Population Size
In 2012, approximately 606,000 Haitian immigrants resided in the United States. Of them, 50 percent were naturalized citizens, which was higher than the 46 share naturalized among all immigrants.

The major metropolitan areas where Haitian immigrants resided include the greater Miami, New York, Boston, Orlando, and Atlanta areas.

Diaspora:
The Haitian Diaspora in the United States is comprised of approximately 954,000 individuals who were either born in Haiti or report Haitian ancestry, according to tabulation of data from the Census Bureau’s pooled 2008-12 ACS.

Remittances
According to World Bank data, total remittances sent to Haiti via formal channels equaled $1.6 billion in 2012, representing 21 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The amount of remittances received by Haiti increased tenfold since the late 1980s.

Health
The foreign-born population from Haiti was almost as likely to be insured as the overall immigrant population. Haitian immigrants were less likely to have private health insurance coverage, but more likely to have public health insurance coverage than the total foreign-born population in the United States.
RELEVANT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

TPS DESIGNATION
Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, which claimed many tens of thousands of lives (estimates vary from 46,000 to 316,000) and displaced more than 1.5 million people initially, Haiti was added by the U.S. government to the list of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designated countries. TPS beneficiaries are temporarily granted relief from deportation and given work authorization until their TPS designation expires. For Haiti, TPS has been extended through January 22, 2016. To date, TPS has been offered to about 58,000 qualifying Haitian immigrants living in the United States.

Income: Haitian immigrants were as likely to live in poverty (i.e., with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level) as immigrants from the Caribbean (about 21 percent each).