



Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief

December 2011

How youth move through the juvenile justice system

10

Number of OYA close-custody correctional and transition facilities

750

Approximate number of youth offenders supervised in OYA close-custody facilities

1,075

Approximate number of youth offenders supervised by OYA in communities

302

Total Funds, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

258

General Fund, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

87

Approximate percent of OYA's budget spent locally in facilities and communities

Entering the juvenile justice system

Youth who commit crimes in Oregon usually are first referred to county juvenile departments. During 2009 slightly more than 15,000 youth were referred to county juvenile departments for criminal behavior.

A youth who receives a referral may be put on one of several paths — a formal accountability agreement with the county juvenile department, county probation, commitment to Oregon Youth Authority probation for out-of-home placement, commitment to an OYA close-custody facility, or sentencing to the Oregon Department of Corrections. A majority of youth offenders are successful on county probation. But, if lower-level sanctions and supervision are unsuccessful, the offender may be moved to a higher level of accountability.

Of the 15,000 youth referred to county juvenile departments in 2009, juvenile courts adjudicated approximately 5,000 as delinquent. Of those 5,000, fewer than 15 percent were committed to OYA — 406 were placed in a youth correctional facility and 334 were committed to OYA probation. An additional 139 were sentenced as adults to DOC's legal custody.

Determining the level of accountability

Whether a youth offender is placed with the county juvenile department, committed to OYA, or sentenced to DOC depends on a number of factors. These include the seriousness of the crime combined with the youth's risk and protective factors such as motivation to change, school performance, and whether parents are engaged and supportive.

Offenders ages 15 and older charged with Measure 11 crimes go to adult court and, if convicted, are sentenced to DOC. Youth 18 and younger who are convicted through adult court can be placed in an OYA close-custody facility until age 25, but remain in the legal custody of DOC. DOC offenders still in OYA close custody as they approach their 25th birthday are transferred to an adult correctional institution.

Offenders who are adjudicated in juvenile court before age 18 and are determined to need out-of-home care or placement in a youth correctional facility can be committed to OYA. Commitment length may not exceed the time specified in statute. Commitments can range from 30 days for a Class C misdemeanor (such as criminal mischief III) to 20 years for a Class A felony (such as rape I or attempted murder). Offenders committed to a close-custody facility must be adjudicated on a minimum of a Class A misdemeanor. No commitment to OYA can extend beyond the youth's 25th birthday.

With an order of commitment to OYA the judge also can order the offender to complete specified court-ordered sanctions and conditions. The offender also will be required to pay court-ordered restitution to identified victims. The Oregon Department of Justice's Child Support

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Mission

The Oregon Youth Authority protects the public and reduces crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.



Vision

Youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.



Core Values

Integrity
Professionalism
Accountability
Respect



Director

Colette S. Peters



Deputy Director

Fariborz Pakseresht



Assistant Director
for Business Services

Jean Straight



Assistant Director
for Community Services

Philip Cox



Assistant Director
for Facility Services

Karen Daniels

Division may order the offender's parents to pay child support while the youth is in close custody, foster care, or residential treatment.

If a judge orders a youth to be placed in state close custody, the youth will go to an OYA intake facility for assignment to an appropriate youth correctional facility (YCF). OYA operates two intake facilities — one at Hillcrest YCF in Salem for males and one at Oak Creek YCF in Albany for females. Close-custody facilities are located in Burns, Grants Pass, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn (for males), and Albany (for females).

When a judge commits a youth to OYA probation with out-of-home placement, the youth will be screened and placed to meet his or her risk and need factors. Placement options include community residential treatment programs and foster care. Matching youth to appropriate services is based on a variety of evaluations including a risk/needs assessment that identifies criminogenic risk factors and protective factors influencing the youth's likelihood to reoffend.

Delivering treatment and education services

As soon as a youth is committed to OYA, the agency assigns a juvenile probation and parole officer (JPPO) to the youth. The JPPO provides oversight consistency whether the youth is on probation, in close custody, in a community residential treatment program, in foster care, or paroled to home. The JPPO maintains primary case management responsibilities throughout the youth's commitment to OYA.

Youth offenders in close-custody and community programs receive evidence-based treatment (e.g., mental health care, alcohol and drug treatment, sex offender treatment, aggression replacement therapy, and other programming based on each youth's individual needs) to help them change their thinking and behavior patterns. A multidisciplinary team (MDT) composed of the JPPO, treatment providers, the youth, his or her family, and others meets quarterly to review the youth's progress.

Close-custody facilities operate year-round schools that offer access to online post-secondary education. Youth in community programs attend either local or special-programming schools. Older youth in close custody have access to a variety of vocational education training programs to help prepare them for eventual release into the community.

Preparing for parole and release

OYA operates transitional facilities in Florence, La Grande, and Tillamook (for males) and Albany (for females). These programs provide step-down transitional options for youth who need additional support prior to consideration for parole.

When the MDT considers a youth ready for parole, it makes a recommendation to the youth correctional or transitional facility. These requests are reviewed by the superintendent or camp director and the parole supervisor. The superintendent or camp director is designated to authorize parole and sign the order. OYA has authority to approve, deny or revoke parole, the length of which depends on how long the judge committed the youth to OYA and the youth's behavior, engagement with treatment, and related factors.

A paroled youth agrees to conditions that may include living independently, with family, in foster care, or in a residential treatment facility. OYA oversees approximately 40 foster homes, approximately 50 residential programs, and numerous contracted community-based out-patient treatment providers across the state. Although neither foster care nor residential facilities are secure, a youth's decision to run away constitutes a violation of parole and may result in a return to close custody or other sanctions.

Overall, 71 percent of youth who leave OYA go on to lead crime-free lives. OYA continues to improve treatment and other programming to increase that number.