The Oregon Youth Authority – helping youth succeed and creating safer communities
Oregon’s Juvenile Justice System

389,067 youth in Oregon ages 10-17

15,041 total youth referred

9,784 youth referred for criminal offenses

3,312 adjudicated delinquent

2,807 youth placed under formal county supervision

195 youth committed as juveniles to OYA close custody

502 youth committed to OYA

307 youth placed on probation under OYA supervision

88 youth committed as adults and placed in OYA close custody

382 youth released to parole under OYA supervision

99 transferred to adult court or waived

307 youth placed on probation under OYA supervision

Source: JJIS data for 2013
Youth offenders served by OYA

615: Total Close Custody
977: Total Community

February 10, 2014
OYA close-custody facilities
OYA probation and parole offices
OYA contracted residential treatment programs
Combined service locations
Youth offenders served by OYA

- The state’s most delinquent youth offenders
- Ages 12 – 24
- Crimes committed prior to 18th birthday
- Crimes include murder, rape, arson, robbery, other violent crimes, and substance abuse
- OYA maintains legal and physical custody of youth offenders adjudicated to OYA by juvenile courts
- OYA has physical custody of youth offenders committed to DOC by adult courts and placed with OYA due to their age
Youth offender profile: age and gender

- Female: 13%
- Male: 87%

Age distribution:
- 12 thru 13: 1%
- 14 thru 15: 12%
- 16 thru 17: 34%
- 18 thru 20: 41%
- 21+: 12%

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Youth offender profile: race and ethnicity

Oregon Population Ages 10 – 17

- Caucasian: 75%
- Hispanic: 16%
- Native American: 2%
- African American: 3%
- Asian: 4%
- Other/ Unreported: 2%

African American: 9%
Asian: 2%
Native American: 4%
Hispanic: 25%
Caucasian: 58%
Youth offender profile: criminal activity, males

- Sex Offense, 34%
- Property, 29%
- Person, 17%
- Other, 11%
- Robbery, 7%
- Homicide Related, 1%
- Weapon, 3%
- Substance/Alcohol, 3%
- Arson, 1%
- Public Order, 1%
- Other Criminal, 3%

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Youth offender profile:
criminal activity, females

- Person, 31%
- Property, 34%
- Other, 25%
- Other Criminal, 7%
- Sex Offense, 3%
- Robbery, 4%
- Substance / Alcohol, 11%
- Arson, 3%
- Public Order, 2%
- Weapon, 2%
- Homicide Related, 2%
# Youth offender profile: social characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCENT MALES</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>PERCENT FEMALES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Abused Alcohol or Drugs</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Parents Abused Alcohol or Drugs</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Diagnosed Mental Health Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other than Conduct Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Diagnosed Conduct Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sexually Abused</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Past Suicidal Behavior</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Youth is a Parent</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Myths and facts about youth offenders

Perception
- Once an offender, always an offender
- Sex offenders should be locked up a long time, because they will reoffend
- Spending money on treatment wastes resources
- It’s a waste of money to educate youth offenders

Reality
- Overall, more than 70% of offenders do not reoffend
- Just 4% of youth sex offenders commit another sex offense
- The return on investment ranges from 7:1 to 25:1
- The more education, the lower the recidivism rate
The **mission** of the Oregon Youth Authority is to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

The **vision** of the Oregon Youth Authority is that youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.

The **values** that guide the agency’s decisions, actions and priorities are:

- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Accountability
- Respect
Building better lives

Key indicators of success

- Treatment progress
- Educational achievement
- Job-readiness
Building better lives: treatment

- Accountability
- Empathy
- Mental health treatment
- Drug and alcohol treatment
- Offense-specific treatment

- Violent offender treatment
- Restitution and community service
- Gang intervention
- Functional life skills
- Transition services
Treatment is a good investment

Returns on each $1 investment in youth

- $25 for life-skills training (University of Pennsylvania, 2008)
- $14 for functional family therapy (University of Pennsylvania, 2008)
- $11 for alcohol and drug treatment (NIH, 2004)
- $8 for crime-specific interventions (Wilder Foundation, 2007)
- $7 for multi-systemic behavioral therapy (Kleitz, Borduin and Schaeffer, 2010)
Building better lives: education

- Youth in OYA close custody are required to work toward a high school diploma or GED certificate
- Youth in close custody attend 220 days of school each year
- During 2013:
  - 123 youth in close custody received high school diplomas
  - 120 received vocational certificates
  - 44 received GED certificates
  - 4 earned two-year college degrees
  - 1 earned four-year undergraduate degrees
Education is a good investment

Recidivism rates relative to education

The more education youth offenders receive, the less likely they will be to commit another crime

- 28% -- average recidivism rate
- 25% -- two-year college degree
- 13% -- four-year undergraduate degree
- 0% -- graduate degree

(Texas Department of Criminal Justice, 2002)
Building better lives: job skills

OYA offers a range of vocational education opportunities that offer certificates of completion:

- Barbering
- Carpentry
- Culinary arts
- Plumbing
- Veterinary care
- Wastewater treatment
- Welding
- Woodworking
Vocational education is a good investment

Youth with job skills contribute to society

Youth with jobs:

- Are able to pay taxes
- Need fewer social services
- Are less likely to commit future crimes
For more information

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