

Oregon Youth Authority

AT A GLANCE

May 2025



We protect the public and keep communities safe.

As part of Oregon's juvenile legal system, we hold youth accountable and provide them with opportunities for reformation, either in the community on parole or probation, or inside secure facilities. We are responsible for youth ages 12 to 24 who commit crimes before age 18.

We serve youth who are unsuccessful at the county level, who need more services than the county can provide, or who commit very serious crimes.



We believe youth can change, and we provide them the means to do so.

Research shows that the human brain continues developing until at least our mid-20s, impacting judgment and decision-making for adolescents.

We provide youth with treatment, education, and other guidance to help them take responsibility for their behavior and learn how to act differently in the future. We do this in safe, supportive environments that will help them become responsible, community-minded citizens.



We use commonsense approaches guided by research on what works.

>> DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Providing equitable and culturally responsive services to meet the needs of all youth and communities, especially communities of color, and working to address disparities caused by policies and practices.

>> POSITIVE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Helping everyone develop in safe, secure, respectful, and supportive environments where everyone is held accountable and is connected to their community.

>> YOUTH REFORMATION SYSTEM

Using research, predictive analytics, and professional judgment to inform decisions across the juvenile legal continuum to reduce crime and improve outcomes.



Oregon Youth Authority
530 Center St. NE, Suite 500
Salem, OR 97301-3777
503-373-7205
oregon.gov/OYA

MISSION

OYA protects the public and reduces crime by holding youth accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

VISION

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

VALUES

Integrity
Professionalism
Accountability
Respect

Who are the youth in the system?

Most youth are served at the county level.

6,040

Total youth referred for criminal offenses in 2024 in Oregon.
Of those:



1,156

Were adjudicated and supervised by county juvenile departments that provide probation and detention services and connect youth with treatment, education, and services locally.



313

Were committed to OYA custody.

SOURCE: Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS):
JJIS Annual Reports -Youth and Referrals & Disposition
(Statewide 2024)



Youth come to OYA in two main ways.

1

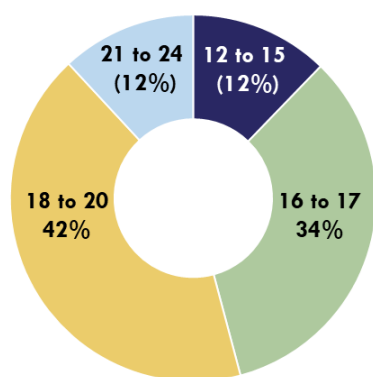
Through juvenile courts: A juvenile court judge commits them to OYA because they are not succeeding at the county level, they need more services than the county can provide, or they have committed very serious crimes.

2

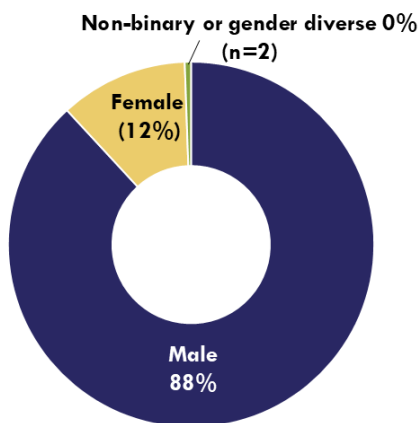
Through adult courts: A juvenile court judge waives their case to adult court due to the serious nature of their crimes, and the adult court commits them to the Oregon Department of Corrections. Because of their younger age, the youth can stay in OYA facilities until age 25.

Youth at OYA have diverse and complex needs.

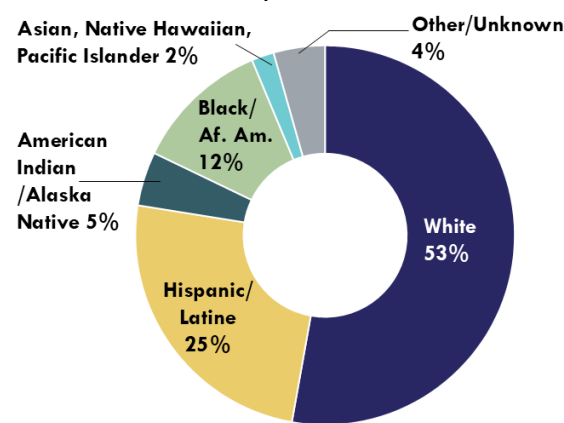
AGE



GENDER



RACE/ETHNICITY



SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

- More than 62% have diagnosed **mental health disorders**.
- The majority have dealt with **substance use or dependence**.
- 64% of female youth and 18% of male youth are **victims of sexual abuse**.
- 40% of female youth and 16% of male youth have a history of **suicide attempts**.

Oregon's Juvenile Legal System

Using the Right Gears to Rehabilitate Youth

The legal system is **like a bicycle** — it works best when it can use **different gears for different terrain**. Oregon has **many gears available to rehabilitate youth**, from county juvenile departments to community residential programs, to OYA facilities. By using all of the gears, we can better reach our destination: **youth who stop committing crimes and become productive members of their communities**.



What gears does OYA use?

>> CLOSE-CUSTODY FACILITIES

Nine secure facilities, known as close-custody facilities, create safe, supportive environments where youth are held accountable while receiving treatment, education, and other guidance for rehabilitation.



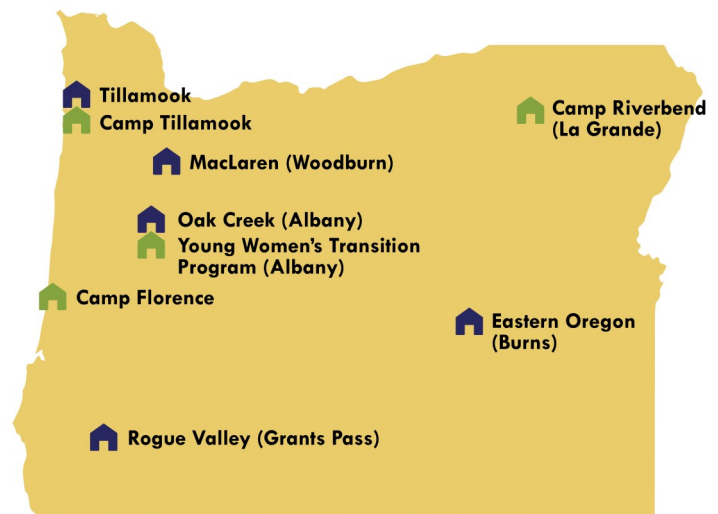
4 Youth Transitional Facilities



5 Youth Correctional Facilities

375

Youth living in these facilities



>> COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

The majority of youth in our custody live in community settings. Supervised by parole and probation officers, these youth live at home or in a variety of placements.

34

Residential treatment programs — OYA contracts with them for services

61

Foster or proctor homes — OYA runs its own foster care program

16

Field offices — juvenile parole/probation staff provide services and manage cases

515

Youth on parole or probation with OYA

>> SERVICES FOR REHABILITATION

We provide or connect youth with the services and support they need, including:

- Education and vocational training
- Treatment for negative or harmful behaviors
- Treatment for substance use disorders
- Medical and psychiatric care
- Mental health counseling and services
- Culturally responsive services
- Teaching positive social behaviors
- Teaching life skills and preparing for transition out of custody
- Recreational and enrichment activities

Community Partnerships

Working Together to Provide Services



Governmental Relationships

OYA works with many other legal-related agencies, state agencies, and governments to provide services. These include:

- County juvenile departments
- Courts and district attorneys
- Law enforcement agencies
- Oregon Department of Corrections
- Oregon Department of Education
- Oregon Department of Human Services
- Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon's Native American tribes
- Oregon Youth Development Council

Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS)

The Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) is a statewide electronic database designed to support a continuum of services among all members of Oregon's juvenile legal community.

JJIS is a collaborative partnership between OYA and Oregon's county juvenile departments.



Advisory Committees

Advisory committee members include OYA leaders and staff, families of youth, victim advocacy groups, social service agencies, and representatives of communities of color, faith communities, and the LGBTQ+ community.

- OYA Partnership Committee
- African American Advisory Committee
- Audit Committee
- AANHPI Advisory Committee
- Family Advisory Council
- Hispanic/Latino/a/x Advisory Committee
- LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee
- Native American Advisory Committee

Volunteers

About 100 volunteers provide supplemental programs at OYA facilities. Here are a few examples:

- Business professionals teaching skills for transition out of custody
- Community members helping youth train dogs
- Native American leaders mentoring youth and organizing pow wows
- Local churches donating items and providing faith services

