



Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief

January 2015

Health care services for youth in OYA close custody

10

Number of OYA close-custody facilities

650

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises in close custody

550

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises in community residential treatment and foster care settings

450

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises who live independently or at home in communities

323

Total Funds, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2013-2015

88

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

Overview

- ▲ OYA uses a centralized system of health care management that ensures the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health care delivery.
- ▲ Medical professionals are in charge of all health care decisions for youth.
- ▲ OYA provides a level of health care consistent with community standards.

Delivering health care

Most youth who come to the Oregon Youth Authority have no primary care physician. In most cases they have not received health care in years or have received health care only from hospital emergency departments and urgent care clinics. For these youth, their first true regular health care begins when they are placed in OYA's care and custody.

All youth receive a health care assessment when they arrive in close custody. Health care begins at intake – at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Salem for males and at Oak Creek YCF in Albany for females. Medical professionals conduct complete physical, dental, and mental health examinations, and collect youths' medical histories.

Youth are caught up on immunizations. Pap smears are provided for females per recommended guidelines. Screenings are offered for sexually transmitted diseases, and an OB/GYN is contracted to provide prenatal care to pregnant young women at the Oak Creek facility. Blood work is done based on indications, and young women are checked for anemia.

Non-urgent services such as glasses are delayed until youth have left the intake unit and have been assigned to an OYA facility. If a youth is ill or requires surgery, a nurse will notify the family if such contact is authorized.

Throughout a youth's stay in close custody, OYA medical professionals stress prevention. This includes monitoring moles, teaching youth how to perform self-exams, promoting avoidance of drugs and tobacco, educating youth about oral hygiene, discussing safe sex, and talking about the importance of diet and exercise, and the health risks of obesity.

Oregon

Youth Authority

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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 will go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.



Core Values

Integrity

Professionalism

Accountability

Respect



Director

Fariborz Pakseresht



Deputy Director

Joe O'Leary



Key Service Areas

Business Services

Community Services

Facility Services

Health Services

Information Services

Treatment Services

Staffing health care

OYA's assistant director for Health Services, with the assistance of a nurse manager, oversees delivery of health care at all 10 close-custody facilities.

The two largest facilities, Hillcrest YCF in Salem and MacLaren YCF in Woodburn, each has a physician on staff. Contract physicians or nurse practitioners regularly visit youth at other facilities. Dentists also are on staff at Hillcrest YCF and MacLaren YCF, and on contract with the other facilities. All facilities except Camp Florence Youth Transition Facility (YTF) are assigned one or more nurses. OYA contracts with a local clinic and a dentist to provide health care services for the 25 youth at Camp Florence YTF.

OYA contracts for pharmacy services and uses lower-cost generic medications whenever possible. Staff members monitor administration of prescribed medications. OYA also contracts with psychiatrists, hospitals, testing laboratories, mobile radiology services, and other specialists and specialty services as needed. The agency employs qualified mental health professionals who assess, evaluate, and care for youth with mental health issues, and provide a link between mental health and corrections treatment.

Paying for health care

To support youths' successful treatment and education, OYA provides the cost-effective standard of care that prevails in the community. The agency does not pay for cosmetic issues, dental braces, orthodontics or contact lenses.

OYA receives a limited budget from the state General Fund to provide medical services to youth housed in OYA facilities. Federal law prohibits Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) payments for incarcerated individuals except for overnight hospitalizations. In the rare instance that a youth is covered by private health insurance, that insurance may pay for some health care services.

For youth on probation or parole in the community, health care costs are the responsibility of the youth, the youth's parents, the Oregon Health Plan, or other insurance.