

Facts about OYA youth who have committed sex offenses (October 2014)

- Juvenile crime has been declining steadily for years throughout the U.S. and Oregon, resulting in fewer youth being committed to juvenile justice agencies.
- The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is contributing to this trend by placing the right youth in the right setting to receive the right treatment for the right amount of time. Research proves that juvenile justice systems should provide treatment in the least restrictive environments necessary to protect public safety. OYA is putting that into practice.
- From 2000 to 2013, the number of crimes committed by youth in OYA's care declined **nearly 60 percent**. "Person" crimes committed by youth in Oregon, which includes sex offenses, declined **58 percent** in the same period.
- OYA sex offender recidivism (relapse into criminal behavior) is about 3 percent. **That means 97 percent of OYA youth who have committed sex offenses do not commit new ones.** The recidivism rate for all OYA youth is about 22 percent, meaning **78 percent do not go on to commit new crimes.**
- Many youth who have committed sex offenses were sexually abused themselves, and many of their victims are siblings or other family members. OYA provides comprehensive treatment, both therapeutic and educational, to help offenders lead productive, crime-free lives.
- OYA is committed to public safety by holding at-risk youth accountable. The low recidivism rate for youth sex offenders means **they pose a low risk to public safety.**
- Research conducted over many years proves that youth who have committed sex offenses:
 - Are rarely predatory
 - Rarely reoffend
 - Respond well to treatment
- In Oregon, more than 567,000 students are currently enrolled in 197 school districts statewide. Fifty-five OYA youth sex offenders are enrolled in 24 of those districts.
- By law, OYA notifies school district superintendents by letter each time a youth who has committed a sex offense enrolls in a district. The letter includes the youth's name, offense, residence, identities of family members, and other information.
- OYA sex offenders are subject to several levels of adult supervision, including regular meetings with juvenile parole and probation officers. Youth also benefit from the structured and supervised environments of their schools and wherever they may be placed in the community, such as in a residential services program or foster home.