

# YOUTH REFORMATION SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

Oregon Youth Authority | February 2021



## Using Data to Inform Decisions

The Youth Reformation System (YRS) uses data, research, and analytics to help the Oregon Youth Authority and county juvenile departments deliver the right services to the right youth for the right amount of time.

OYA launched YRS in 2013, and agency researchers have developed and implemented several tools aimed at improving youth outcomes.

The tools give juvenile justice professionals access to more accurate

and timely data about the risks, needs, and treatment progress for every youth in OYA custody.

Data from YRS does not replace OYA or county caseworkers' professional judgment — it is another tool to help them make better-informed decisions as they determine treatment needs, measure outcomes, and adjust services for youth.

# YRS

### >> Where the Data Comes From

- **The Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS)** is a statewide database of all youth in Oregon's juvenile justice system. OYA and the county juvenile departments all use JJIS.
- **More than 20 years of JJIS data** on demographics, referrals, adjudications, risk assessments, treatment services, and related information allows OYA to create tools that help inform decision-making.
- **OYA tests the accuracy** of YRS tools across race and gender to ensure they do not exacerbate racial and ethnic disparities. An external analysis found OYA's risk estimate tools predict outcomes equally well across all populations.

### >> Potential Benefits of YRS

- **Better ability** to identify which placements are most effective with particular types of youth.
- **Enhanced safety** for staff and youth; productive, crime-free youth; and safer communities.
- **Reduced recidivism** and victimization.
- **Improved cost-effectiveness** as OYA gains a better understanding of which interventions and treatments offer the best return on investment.



**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