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.

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.
YRS Tools

Escalation to OYA
This tool estimates the likelihood that a youth will escalate from county probation to an OYA placement. The tool provides two scores: one that shows the probability a youth will escalate to OYA due to committing a new crime, and one that shows their probability of escalating on a probation violation.

Predicted Success Rates
This tool provides scores estimating the probability that a youth will be successful in each of three environments: on county probation, at an OYA community placement, or at an OYA youth correctional facility.

NOTE: These scores are only available for male youth. Success is defined as no recidivism within three years of commitment to probation or release from close custody.

Types of Escalation
- Escalation on a new crime
- Escalation on a probation violation

Three Estimates of Success
- County probation
- OYA community placement
- OYA youth correctional facility

Youth Placement Scores
This tool helps juvenile parole and probation officers match youth with community residential programs that have a history of being effective with similar youth. Scores are given to show the likelihood a youth would succeed at specific programs.

NOTE: Success is defined as no recidivism within three years of commitment to probation or release from close custody.