



Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief

June 2015

Keeping youth safe while in OYA's care and 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

The Prison Rape Elimination Act

- ▲ Congress unanimously approved the 2003 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to improve the safety of the nation's incarcerated adults and youth.
- ▲ PREA applies to all public and private facilities that house adult and juvenile offenders, and covers not only rape, but all physical and verbal sexual abuse.
- ▲ PREA standards apply to all Oregon Youth Authority close-custody facilities.

Setting and enforcing safety standards

OYA exercises a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual, physical, emotional, and other types of harm or threats of harm to all youth in its close-custody facilities and under community supervision. Trained investigators examine all reports of abuse or threats of harm to youth or staff. The agency also ensures youth, staff, and families understand the reporting process and why it matters.

In addition, OYA must ensure that each of the 10 facilities operated by the agency is audited at least once during each three-year period. To date, all of the audited facilities operated by OYA have been certified as compliant by trained and certified PREA auditors.

- ▲ All three of the agency's facilities that were audited in 2014 were certified as compliant in March 2015.
- ▲ MaLaren Youth Correctional Facility, the largest of the OYA facilities, was the first to be audited and to meet compliance. Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility and Camp Tillamook Youth Transition Facility also were certified as compliant March 2015.
- ▲ Four audits are scheduled to be conducted in 2015. These will take place at Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility, the agency's only female facility; Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility; Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility; and Camp Florence Youth Transition Facility.
- ▲ The agency has absorbed the costs associated with the audit process and obtaining compliance with the standards without new resources.
- ▲ OYA has implemented agency-wide policies and principles of conduct, and standardized and clarified expectations of all employees, contractors, and volunteers.
- ▲ Each of the three audits conducted to date has cost the agency approximately \$7,465, excluding the time agency staff devoted to the interviews and associated work.

Oregon

Youth Authority

530 Center Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-3765
Reception: 503-373-7205
En Espanol: 503-373-7205
Web: www.oregon.gov/OYA



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

- ▲ The PREA standards require agencies to comply with a staffing ratio of 1:8 during waking hours and 1:16 during sleeping hours, and have mandated this staffing ratio be adopted and implement prior to October 1, 2017. OYA currently does not have funding for this ratio and has not been allocated additional funds to meet compliance with this standard.

Reporting abuse

OYA urges anyone who sees or suspects abuse, harassment, or victimization of any kind to report it promptly. Reporting options include the following:

- ▲ Call the (PSO) toll-free hotline at 800-315-5440.
- ▲ Send an e-mail to PSO at professionalstandards.office@oya.state.or.us.
- ▲ Complete and submit an OYA complaint form, which can be found at www.oregon.gov/oya/pages/psocomplaints.aspx.
- ▲ Mail a letter to:
Oregon Youth Authority
Professional Standards Office
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301-3765

Investigating reports of abuse

All reports of abuse are investigated. Every effort is made to protect the confidentiality and safety of the victim during and after the investigation.

PSO tracks all reports of abuse to determine patterns and to assess a need for corrective action. The status of all allegations and the outcomes of investigations are tracked in a PSO database and are reported monthly and annually to OYA's leadership.

In addition, reports of victimization are documented in the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). JJIS is a statewide integrated electronic information database designed, developed, and implemented to support services and shared responsibility among all members of Oregon's juvenile justice continuum.

OYA continues to vigorously strengthen its reporting, investigating, and tracking systems to ensure the agency maintains full compliance with all PREA standards, other laws, and agency policies and procedures. Ensuring the safety of the youth in OYA's custody is the agency's top priority.