

*John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor*

Harvey J. Reed, Director

Ohio Department of Youth Services



Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report

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Letter from the Director



Harvey J. Reed
Director

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

I am proud to present to you this 2013 Annual Report for the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS).

The report summarizes highlights from Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, a pivotal year for us in which we focused on our core mission to improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities.

As we approach a fresh start in FY 2014, I look forward to continuing our work to provide quality, data-driven rehabilitation and treatment to youth that will keep Ohio's communities safe. Our agency has demonstrated leadership in our reform efforts that have resulted in a one-year recidivism rate of 22.8%, a record low for DHS.

This report is intended to provide you with an overview of the important work underway at DHS and where we are headed. It includes some statistical information about the youth in our care and an overview of budget allocations.

As always, we need committed mentors and volunteers. All youth committed to DHS will eventually return to their communities. DHS encourages community partners to engage youth, both within DHS facilities and while they are on parole, in a variety of meaningful activities in an effort to teach the life skills youth need to be successful, crime-free adults. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to call our volunteer hotline at (614) 466-9318.

I would like to thank you for your support. Your dedication and positive comments help fuel our passion to make a difference in the lives of youth.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harvey J. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style.

DYS Overview

DYS operates four juvenile correctional facilities and five regional parole offices across the state. The agency also contracts with two private facilities. Youth adjudicated delinquent of a felony level offense are committed to DHS by one of Ohio's 88 juvenile courts.

DYS reaches thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DHS facilities and those on parole, DHS funds and supports 12 community corrections facilities and a total of 625 community programs throughout the state offering 85,000 youth (based on annual program admissions) opportunities and services to effect positive change. These range from prevention and diversion programs to residential treatment and community treatment in areas such as mental health, sex offending and substance abuse.

DYS has been reforming to more effectively serve youthful offenders and help them change their lives. At one time, facilities were crowded, options for serving youth were limited, and treatment was questionable. In many cases, youth left the system in worse shape than when they entered it.

The solution has been widespread reform efforts that are impacting every aspect of the Department, including youth assessment and placement, treatment within the facilities, processes for release and reentry, and parole supervision. Reducing admissions to large facilities, consistent with public safety, and building community capacity are the foundation of reform. With a smarter, not tougher, approach, DHS works to divert low to moderate risk youth to community options when appropriate, and serve higher risk youth in larger DHS facilities with a focus on expanded programming and increased youth accountability.

Our Mission

Improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities

Our Vision

A safer Ohio: one youth, one family and one community at a time

FY 2013 Highlights

Commitment to Ongoing Progress

- **Bringing Reform to Juvenile Justice**

Ohio is a national model for the reform that has been accomplished over the last five years. A class action lawsuit agreement called for reduced crowding, improved mental and medical health treatment, reduced violence, and better rehabilitation for youth. DYS used an internal master plan of 1,000 goals and objectives to chart the course for reform, and 99% of these have been completed.

During FY 2013, DYS continued the decrease in facility population. The year started with an average of 567 youth in DYS facilities in July 2012, and ended with an average population of 508 youth in June 2013. Facility placement is reserved for high-need youth who have not been successful in community treatment and are in need of intensive intervention and services. Youth are treated in full-service living units with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and a Strength-based Behavioral Management System.

- **Prioritizing Safety and Youth and Staff**

DYS is charged with the care and rehabilitation of Ohio's most violent youth. Facilities have been made safer with "Managing Youth Resistance" for use of force incidents. Violence is not tolerated, and youth receive consequences for inappropriate behavior, including internal sanctions. When appropriate, local prosecutors are asked to invoke Serious Youthful Offender (SYO) sentences. The biennial state budget signed into law for FY 2014—FY 2015 increases the penalty for assaulting a corrections or youth service staff from a fifth degree to a third degree felony.

With information from the National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2012 Report from the Bureau Justice Statistics, DYS is working to enhance awareness of sexual victimization, perpetrators and vulnerable times of day and locations. An Interagency Task Force on Sexual Misconduct was put into place by Governor Kasich to assist DYS in guarding against the opportunity for sexual misconduct to occur. Related projects currently in progress include climate monitoring, improving communication methods, enhancing security rounds, improving monitoring systems, better coordinating reporting and investigations with other agencies and cultural assessments.

- **Staff Training**

In late December 2012, the DYS Training Academy relocated to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Training Academy site. The move saves DYS \$300,000 annually, frees up state property in Delaware County for potential sale, and allows for shared service efforts between the two agencies.

In the near future, DYS will be implementing a back-to-basics approach in the field. All post-orders and operating procedures will be reviewed with the line staff who use them. The end result will be a safer and more efficient environment for youth and staff.

- **Achieving Excellence**

Reasonable and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors, known as RECLAIM Ohio, is a successful model for other states (Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, December 2012). The funding initiative encourages juvenile courts to develop or purchase a range of community-based options to meet the needs of each juvenile offender or youth at risk of offending. By diverting youth from DYS facilities, courts have the opportunity to increase the funds available locally through RECLAIM.

In June 2013, Ohio was distinguished as a "Comeback State" by the National Juvenile Justice Network. DYS was noted for its excellence for "reducing juvenile incarceration, benefitting kids, saving taxpayer money and keeping communities safe."

Commitment to Ongoing Progress - Continued

Achieving Excellence - Continued

The Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility was awarded reaccreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) in July 2012. After a rigorous review of all aspects of its operations, the facility achieved reaccreditation, demonstrating the staff's commitment to excellence.

- **Monitoring Reduced**

In January 2013, U.S. District Court Judge Algenon Marbley reduced court oversight due to the agency's gains relative to; access to counsel, use of force, general education, vocational education, dental services, grievances, reentry, regionalization, access to phones, training and classification. The order also terminated court oversight of intervention hearings and youth discipline, except for those youth with mental health needs. In June 2013, the Judge found that DYS demonstrated the ability to identify and address challenges through its quality assurance and improvement processes. Focused court monitoring continues for mental health services and the special management unit.

- **Advancing Mental Health and Juvenile Justice**

Director Reed serves as chair of the Ohio Interagency Task Force on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, which includes a wide range of professionals, organizations, public servants, families and other stakeholders who work to effectively meet the needs of juvenile-justice involved youth with mental health concerns. This work is important because youth committed to DYS present a variety of complexities, including a significant need for behavioral health services. Approximately half of all youth in DYS facilities are on the mental health caseload, and often have multiple disorders. Given the complexity and severity of needs, effectively treating these youth is challenging in the current juvenile justice system.

The Task Force delivered recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly and Supreme Court in October 2012, calling for an effective and integrative system of care in which the systems that may impact youth and their families work collaboratively to develop and improve the earlier identification of mental health needs and the service delivery and financing of systems and services responsive to the needs of youth.

Progress in FY 2013 includes the following:

- * Addressing youth-specific needs through the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition adopting a juvenile branch.
- * Preparing for the implementation of the Community Linkage program to help youth with behavioral health needs receive linkage to community behavioral health services and other supports.
- * Coordinating the implementation of a trauma screening tool for high-risk youth, which will be piloted at select detention centers.

- **Savings through Digitization**

In June 2013, the DYS Bureau of Records and Sentence Computation completed an extensive file scanning project. The task was accomplished by forming a team of DYS staff and retired DYS employees, which saved DYS more than \$815,000, as opposed to hiring a contracted vendor to provide the services. A total of 3.5 million images were scanned, eliminating 3,300 boxes of records, that were shredded. An additional cost savings was the ability to reduce the number of files requiring long-term storage.

Community Initiatives

- **Expanding Opportunities for Youth**

Youth leaving facilities and reentering their local communities often experienced housing and employment roadblocks. A Youthful Offender Release Identification Card is now provided to youth upon release to parole supervision. Obtaining this identification enables access to needed services that include housing, public assistance, education, treatment for medical, mental health and substance abuse issues.

The Collateral Sanctions Bill (S.B. 337) reduces collateral consequences, or those barriers that continue to impact juveniles, after incarceration. Now juvenile records can be sealed as intended, and youth are given a fresh start upon reentry into the community.

- **Empowering Communities**

Whenever possible, youth who are at lower risk to reoffend are served with appropriate treatment closer to family in their local communities. Targeted RECLAIM funds evidence-based interventions in communities where juvenile courts have committed the most youth to the Department. Participating courts commit to maintain or reduce DYS admissions by using community programs that are designed to reduce recidivism and have a long-term positive impact on public safety.

The Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ) Initiative allows for the identification and diversion of deep-end youthful offenders with serious behavioral health needs from DYS. BH/JJ funds the implementation of evidence-based treatment models. The six counties participating in both Targeted Reclaim and BH/JJ have reduced DYS admissions by 17.4% from July 2012 through June 2013.

- **Savings Reinvested**

In FY 2013, an agency savings of \$561,000 was reinvested to courts to enhance community programming for serving youth. In accordance with a provision in H.B. 153 to realign savings, and the agency's mission *to improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities*, the funds were reallocated in June 2013, to support existing court programming by providing evidence-based training for staff.

- **Victims Rights Expanded Through Roberta's Law**

Senate Bill 160, known as "Roberta's Law," took effect in March 2013. Roberta's Law expanded victim notification rights specified in Ohio Revised Code section 2930.16. The law requires that all victims of juvenile offenders admitted for offenses of violence must be automatically "opted in" to receive notification. This is important because not all victims remember to "opt in" for notification. In addition, the law increased the length of release and discharge review notices from 30 days to 60 days. Victims of youth admitted with felony 4 and 5 level offenses are still provided notification services upon the victims' request to be "opted in."

- **Achievement with Minority Business Enterprise**

For the first time in DYS history, the agency met and exceeded the 15% state requirement for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) spending. In FY 2013, the agency's MBE spending was more than 17%. The 17% spending rate is more than eight times higher than it was four years ago. This momentous and historic achievement is the result of the entire agency's determination and efforts to make MBE a priority at DYS. MBE, as well as Encouraging Diversity and Growth Enterprise (EDGE), are priorities of the Governor. The statewide requirement to spend 15% of our eligible budget with certified minority vendors is set forth in Ohio Revised Code 125.081.

Youth Give Back

- **Community Service**

During FY 2013, a total of 9,917 hours of community service were provided by youth in facilities, and 9,621 hours of community service were provided by youth on parole. At minimum wage in Ohio (\$7.85 an hour), community service provided by DYS youth during FY 2013 would equate to \$153,373.

DYS monitors and supports the development of productive partnerships with non-profit organizations, government agencies, schools and charitable groups throughout the state of Ohio with confirmed 501C3 not-for-profit tax status. Some of the agencies served by youth during the past year include the following:

Ronald McDonald House	Akron Children's Hospital	Hilltop Food Pantry
Shoes and Clothes for Kids	Suburban Pavilion Nursing	True North Ministries
Punderson State Park	Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State	Tinkers Creek State Park
Various gardens	Crayons to Computers	Stark County Family Court
Life Care Alliance	Village of Sugar Grove	Various churches
Various Senior Centers	Diversity Center of Northeast	Alcoholics Anonymous
DYS offices		

Youth are linked to community service based on individual needs and interests. Listed below are some of the projects completed by youth during the past year:

Assembling educational materials	Cleaning and maintenance	Creating greeting cards
Folding and sorting clothing	Landscaping and mowing	Performing clerical duties
Preparing and serving meals	Setting up and dismantling public events	Assisting with fundraisers
Shoveling snow	Stocking food pantries	Moving agency offices

Mentors and Volunteers

- **Second Chance Act Mentoring Program**

DYS was awarded a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to provide mentoring services to youth leaving DYS facilities and returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties. Mentoring begins four to six months prior to a youth's release and continues in the community for at least an additional six months. Mentoring services support a youth's reentry plan and assist with education, employment, housing, behavioral health treatment and other supportive services. True North Ministry, Men of Standards and Community for New Direction are our partner organizations supporting this effort. In FY 2013, a total of 97 youth were served by 51 mentors in the mentoring program.

- **Buckeye Reach**

Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope, known as Buckeye Reach, kicked off in the fall of 2012 with development and design input from the "Wise Men" Student Council at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility and Ohio State University (OSU) students. Book clubs, movie reviews, debates, games and meaningful discussions in small groups provide the opportunity for youth at Circleville and Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facilities to build critical thinking skills as they engage with OSU volunteers in this program. The Buckeye Reach volunteers are regarded as peer mentors who encourage educational goals and serve as positive role models for a total of 40 youth. Many of the OSU students also serve as pen pals, encouraging literacy and writing skills and further developing relationships with youth.

Mentors and Volunteers – Continued

- **Volunteers and Community Partnerships**

In addition to Buckeye Reach and the Second Chance Mentoring Partners (True North Ministry, Men of Standards and Community for New Direction), the following community partners provided volunteers and services during FY 2013:

Various churches	The Ridge Project
African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church	Action for Children
Kairos International Prison Ministry	Grinnell College
Vineyard Ministries	Valor Christian College
National Bible Bowl	Bill Glass Ministry
John Carroll University	Christ Community Chapel
Epiphany Ministries	Goodwill Industries
Junior Achievement	Son Reign Ministries

The agency sincerely appreciates volunteers' involvement and support of youth. Contributions of volunteers make lasting impressions on youth. Many volunteers and mentors selflessly go "the extra mile" and give of their time, energy and talent.

In FY 2013, volunteers provided 25,988 hours of service to youth in facilities and on parole. According to the Independent Sector, a leadership network of approximately 600 nonprofits, foundations, and corporate giving programs committed to advancing the common good, the 2012 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour is \$22.14. At this rate, volunteer hours provided to DYS during FY 2013 would equate to \$575,374.

Family Engagement

- **Empowering Families**

Family involvement is key for a young person's rehabilitation. In order to address the 50 percent of youth in DYS facilities who do not receive family visits, DYS established the Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected Project, known as CLOSE to Home, which provides free bus trips on a monthly basis. From July 2012 through June 2013, DYS provided a total of 59 bus trips with a total of 780 passengers.

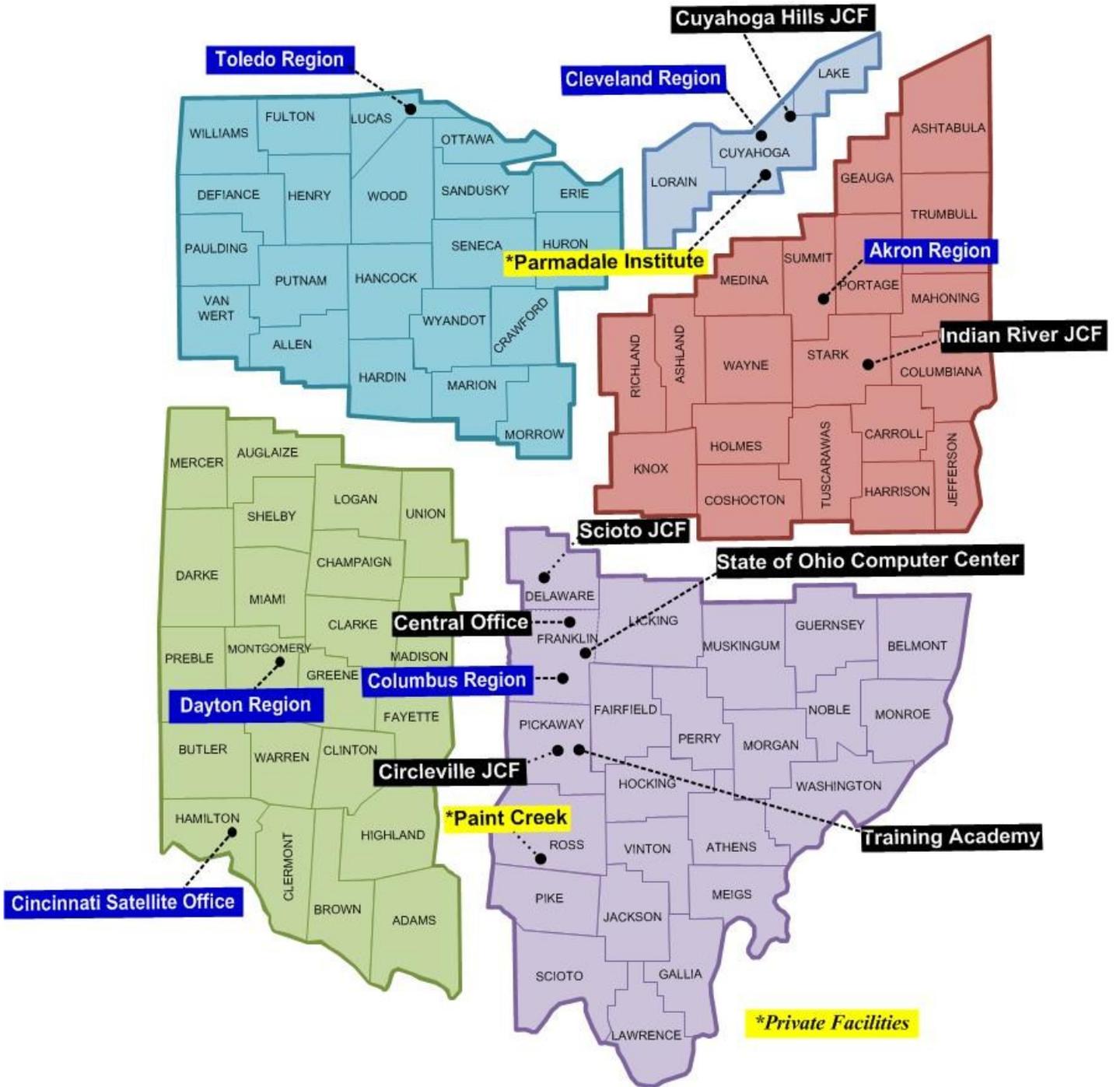
Seeking to help youth with limited support networks, the agency began a Family Finding program to assist previously disconnected youth with a network of people to provide permanency, meaningful relationships and support. Treating youth individually left out an important component: the family. With a greater emphasis on family involvement, Juvenile Parole Officers now use the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) model to include work with families while youth are still in facilities. Skill building sessions with families help to address ongoing issues in the home and empower families to hold youth more accountable.

The Video Communicator Project promotes family involvement using laptops and wireless technology. In FY 2013, the Video Communicator project was used for a total of 268 family visits, 384 reentry meetings and 206 staff meetings (between facility and parole staff) regarding youth.

- **Baby Elmo Program**

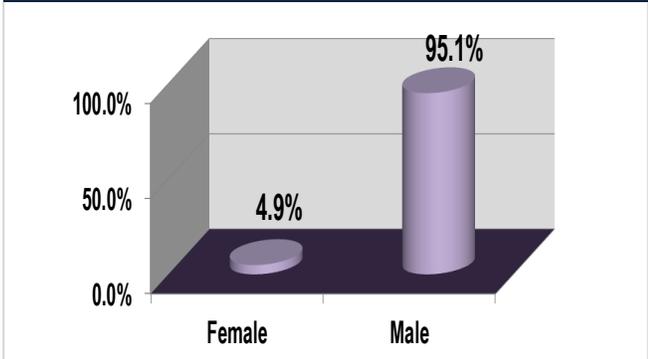
The Baby Elmo Program at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility is a parenting and structured visitation program to build bonds between children and their teen fathers. This is important because research indicates that the absence of a father figure has been linked to poor developmental outcomes. Youth Specialists teach and supervise the Baby Elmo Program. Activities focus on hands-on learning and building a relationship between the teen and his child, rather than just talking about parenting.

DYS Facilities and Regional Offices

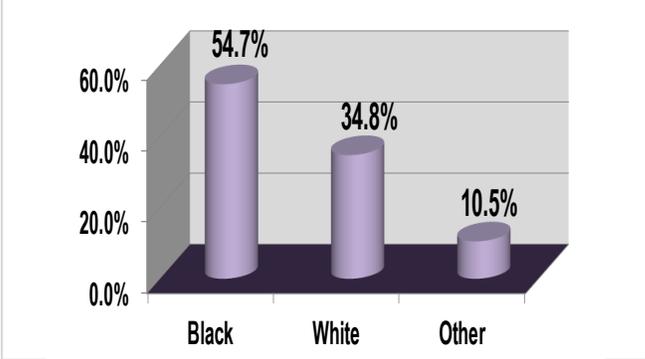


Statistics

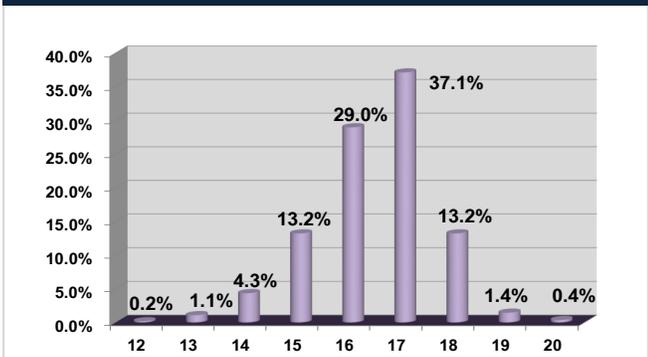
Admissions By Gender



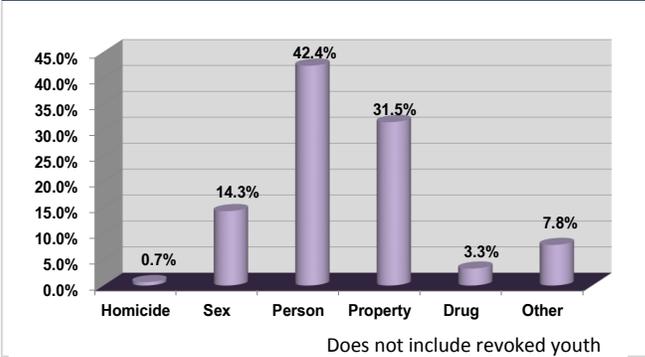
Admissions By Race



Admissions By Age



Admissions By Offense



FY 2013 Statistics

The average daily facility population was 535 youth. *(Includes DYS facilities, Paint Creek Youth Center, Parmadale Treatment Alternative and other contracted placements.)*

The average daily parole population was 515 youth.

The average length of stay for a youth in a DYS facility was 12.2 months.

The average length of stay on parole was 11.1 months.

A total of 836 students were served by the Buckeye United School District. 98 youth received their GEDs, and 51 youth obtained their high school diplomas. A total of 358 career technical certificates were awarded.

Admissions by County

1. Cuyahoga 17%	2. Franklin 13%	3. Lorain 6%
4. Lucas 6%	5. Hamilton 5%	6. Montgomery 5%

Average Facility Population by Sites

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility	110
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility	157
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility	145
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (male)	53
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (Female)	15
Other (Lighthouse Youth Center, Parmadale Treatment Alternative and other contracted placements)	55

FY 2013 Budget Expenditures: \$247,283,803

DYS/Private Facilities	\$102,219,396
Parole & Community Services	\$9,948,989
Juvenile Court Subsidies & Grants	\$77,205,805
Administrative Support	\$22,691,393
Debt Service	\$25,696,673
Capital—Physical Plant Improvements	\$9,521,547

Average Parole Population by Sites

Akron Regional Office	107
Cleveland Regional Office	120
Columbus Regional Office	88
Dayton Regional Office	117
Toledo Regional Office	82

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