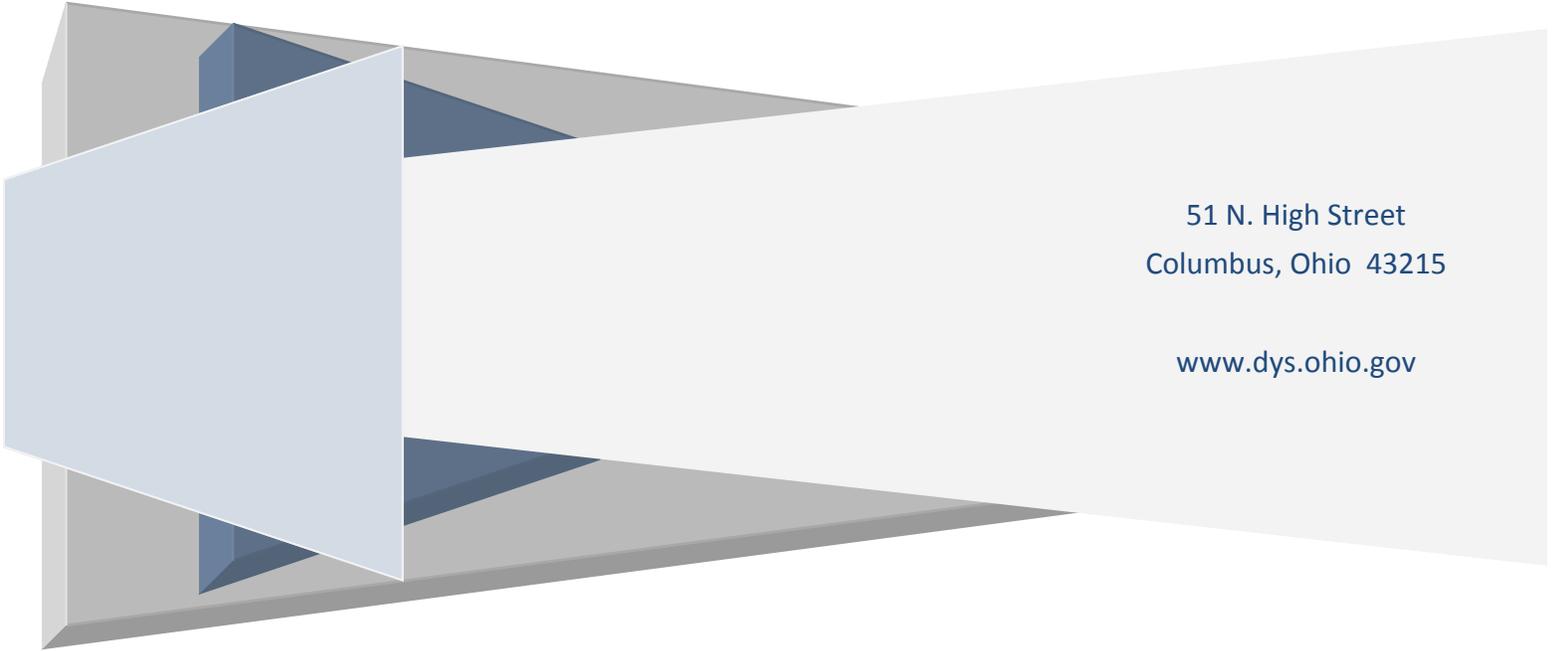


Ohio Department of Youth Services

# Annual Report

**Fiscal Year 2011**

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Harvey J. Reed, Director



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Columbus, Ohio 43215

[www.dys.ohio.gov](http://www.dys.ohio.gov)

## Director's Message



*Harvey J. Reed, Director*

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) reaches thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DYS facilities and those on parole, DYS funds and supports over 680 direct service programs throughout the state offering more than 130,000 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 experienced leadership changes in FY 2011 and continued to advance. Former Director Christine Money and Assistant Director Martha Spohn led the department in reform efforts prior to my arrival. On March 1, 2011, I was appointed Director of DYS by Governor Kasich. I was delighted to find so many hardworking and caring individuals devoted to Ohio's youth. The efforts of DYS staff, juvenile court judges, community partners, advocates and stakeholders are much appreciated.

During FY 2011, DYS supported community programming for low to moderate-risk youth who are better served in less restrictive and less costly community settings. We know from research that matching youth risk level with the least restrictive programming setting leads to better outcomes for youth, supports community safety and makes wise use of taxpayer dollars. The careful balance of supporting facility and community options has supported the impressive decline in facility population. The year started with an average of 947 youth in July 2010 and ended with an average population of 748 youth in June 2011.

Over the next year, we will find opportunities to improve the quality of services for youth as well as the value we provide to taxpayers. DYS staff will continue to strengthen the opportunities for positive youth development and rehabilitation in our facilities and will continue to build on initiatives to reach youth, support families and enhance community capacity to serve appropriate youth close to home. Along with our many stakeholders across the state, we will take our agency to the next level as we work to improve safety and security, enhance community capacity and prepare youth to successfully return to their communities.

***The MISSION of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is to encourage positive change in the lives of youthful offenders through collaborative partnerships and culturally relevant therapeutic and academic interventions that support public safety and prepare youth to lead productive lives.***

***The VISION of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is a safer Ohio through positive change in the lives of those impacted by our agency.***

## DYS Overview

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. DYS operates five juvenile correctional and rehabilitation facilities and provides parole services from five regional parole sites throughout Ohio for youth who have been adjudicated delinquent of a felony level offense and have been committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts.

Beyond youth in DYS facilities and those on parole, DYS has established a variety of community initiatives to reach youth, support families and build communities, including the following:

- The Ohio Youth Assessment System, a web-based system, provides objective assessment of youth risk to reoffend and promotes consistency in the determination of treatment and level of supervision for juvenile offenders.
- RECLAIM Ohio is a funding initiative that encourages juvenile courts to use a range of community-based options to meet the needs of juvenile offenders.
- Targeted RECLAIM provides additional funding for evidence-based and model programs in 6 metropolitan counties that reduce commitments to DYS.
- The Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice initiatives enhance the community's ability to locally serve juvenile offenders with serious behavioral health needs.
- The agency funds the operational costs of 12 Community Correctional Facilities which are operated by counties and used to treat lower-level felony delinquent youth who would otherwise be committed to a DYS facility. The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) promotes collaboration between systems to reduce secure confinement, improve public safety and make efficient use of resources.

## Services Offered

### **Within the Facilities:**

Committed to proven approaches, DYS uses evidence-based practices within facilities. According to the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is "the most evidence-based" form of intervention. CBT is incorporated into every housing unit at DYS. CBT focuses on targeting certain criminogenic factors youth might have and helps them to restructure, or change, the way they think and respond in various situations.

DYS strives to ensure youth receive developmentally appropriate, therapeutic and humane treatment that responds to their individual needs and reduces the likelihood of recidivism. Effectively treating the complex needs of youthful offenders is crucial. By enhancing the treatment milieu of facilities, the Department is supporting lasting change in the lives of youth.

### **On Parole:**

DYS Juvenile Parole Officers (JPO) have all been trained in Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). This model of supervision allows the JPO to target and discuss identified criminogenic needs, target the maladaptive attitudes and beliefs of youth, teach youth problem-solving skills and make appropriate referrals to the community. In addition to using this research-based approach, a pilot program has recently begun in the Dayton Regional Office to provide outreach and EPICS coaching to DYS families while the youth are still in a DYS facility. The family coaching sessions allow the JPO to teach parents or guardians a CBT approach in relating to and supervising their young person once he or she returns home.

### **Programming Overview:**

The agency is committed to offering quality programming to youth including education, mental health services, Strength-based Behavior Management, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, sex offender treatment, substance abuse treatment, medical services, recreation, life skills, mentoring, career technical training, reentry services, occupational therapy and specialized services for youth with cognitive limitations.



*Youth delivers graduation speech*

## Agency Highlights

### **J.P v. Taft and J.J. v. Ohio Department of Youth Services**

The U.S. District Court agreed to terminate the Court's supervision of a youth's access to an attorney required under *J.P. v. Taft*, as well as to dismiss the *J.J. v. Ohio Department of Youth Services* case focusing on the Release Authority. The Department of Youth Services (DYS) has made significant progress in both areas including full implementation of face-to-face release reviews done by the Release Authority, more inclusion of family members during release reviews and implementation of the Legal Assistance Program, which has been described as a national model. With the Court's recognition of the progress made comes the commitment to continue providing the same quality service to youth.

### **Video Conferencing**

DYS expanded the capacity for communication throughout the juvenile justice system, including DHS, juvenile courts and local juvenile facilities, by amending an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant that had been awarded by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. Initially, funds were awarded to purchase and install videoconferencing equipment in 15 courts. That number grew to 46 total sites by April 2011. The equipment is used to facilitate communication between youth, their families and the juvenile courts. In addition to the ongoing use of this technology, DHS will continue to provide the support needed to maintain this valuable and cost saving communications tool.

### **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy**

DYS launched the New Freedom-Phoenix curriculum in all DHS facilities. This program is used nationally and has been modified to be specifically relevant for DHS youth. This strength-based approach, based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, helps youth replace criminal thinking with pro-social thoughts and behavior.

### **Family Engagement**

The Video Communicator Project was expanded to promote family involvement, strengthen case management and help with reentry planning by utilizing webcam technology and wireless internet to connect youth with their families and community while still in a DHS facility. DHS began working with the Vera Institute of Justice to boost family and neighborhood support of youth. DHS staff have been receiving training on using tools that emphasize a family-focused approach to juvenile corrections and reentry.

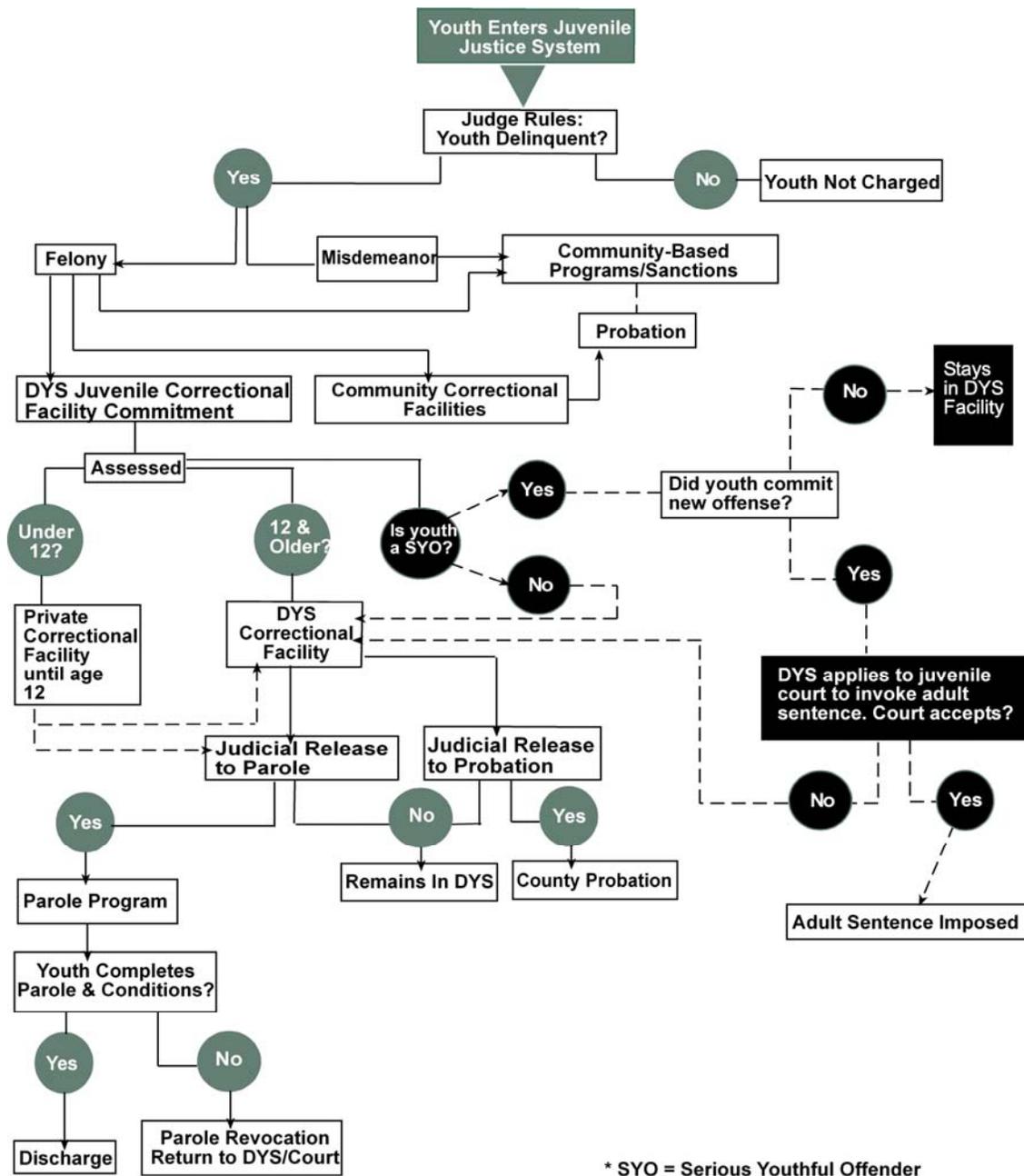
### **Community Partners**

DYS encourages community partners to engage youth in a variety of meaningful activities in an effort to teach the life skills youth need to be thriving adults. Over the past year, we have seen tremendous support and involvement from faith-based and community organizations in the lives of the youth committed to DHS. Despite the economic slowdown, volunteers provided nearly 40 thousand hours of service within DHS facilities and alongside youth on parole from July 2010 through June 2011. Although it is nearly impossible to measure the gift of volunteering, this contribution to DHS is valued at close to \$850,000.



*Holiday community services project*

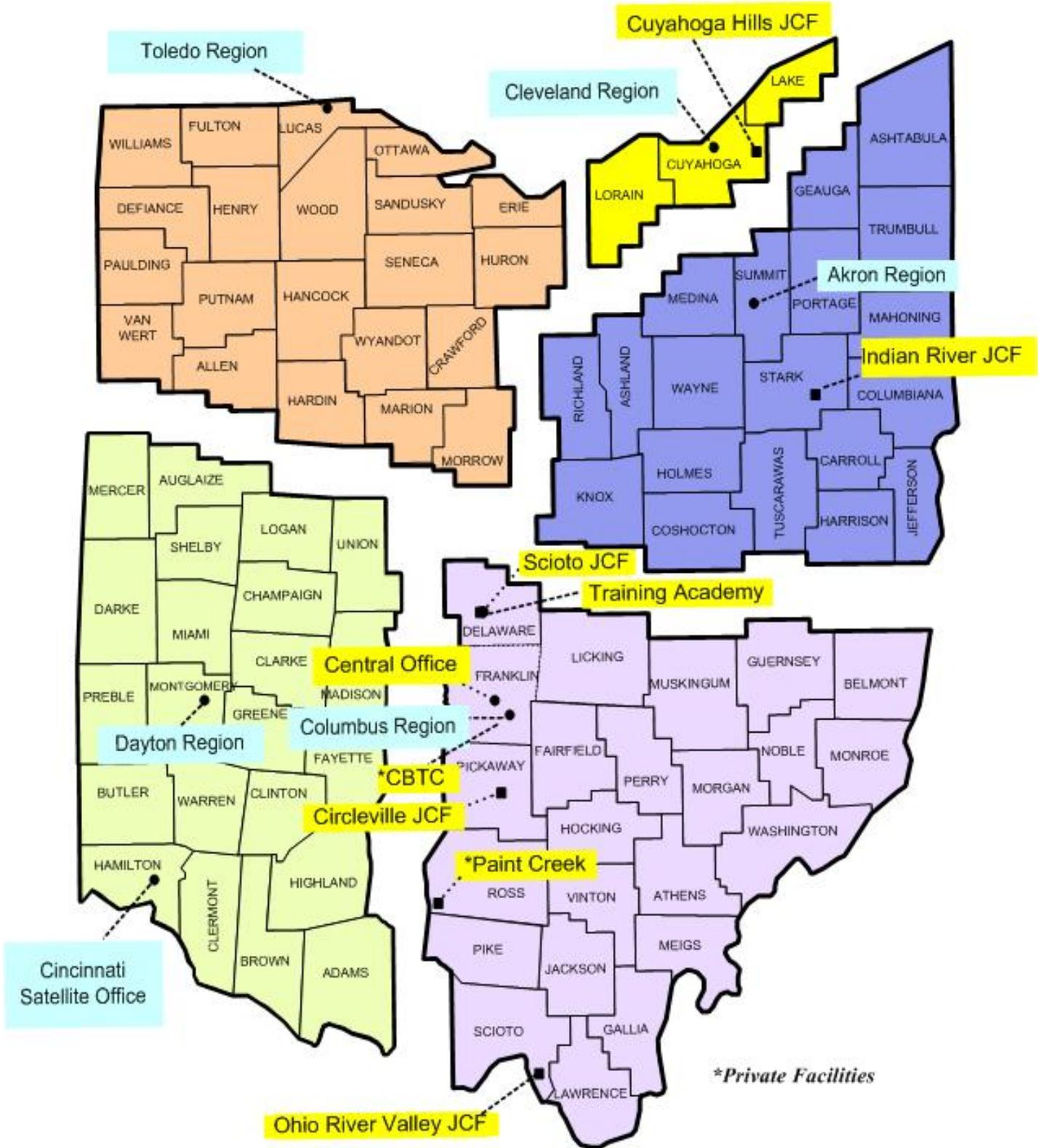
# Juvenile Justice Flow Chart



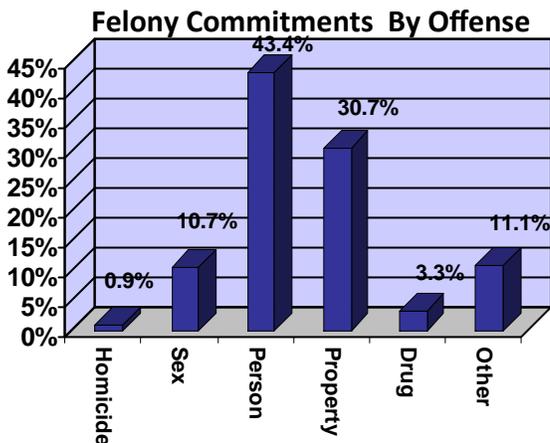
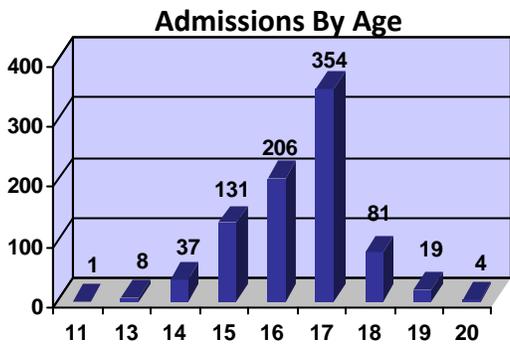
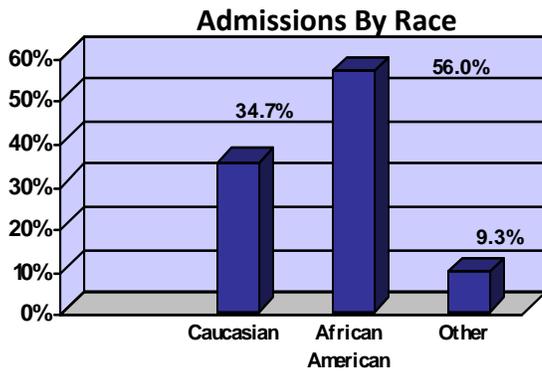
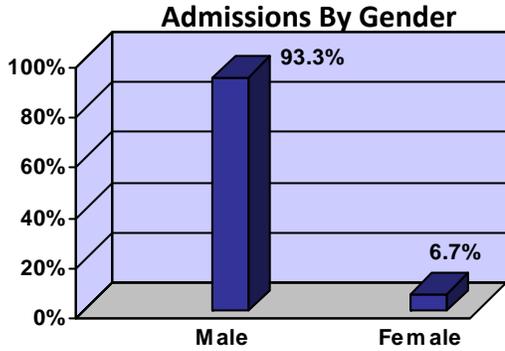
An **adjudication** is the final decision in a youth’s criminal case and is similar to a conviction in the adult court process.

A **commitment** is when a youth is committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services by the juvenile court. The total number of youth committed to DYS on a felony-level offense in FY 2011: 694

# DYS Facilities and Regional Offices



# Statistics



1. Cuyahoga 20.6%	2. Franklin 14.1%	3. Hamilton 6.2%
4. Ashtabula 5.5%	5. Summit 5%	6. Other Counties 48.6%

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility	120.3
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility	187.5
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility	188.4
Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility	141.6
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (male)	95.8
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (Female)	33.8

Akron Regional Office	147.1
Cleveland Regional Office	217.4
Columbus Regional Office	207.6
Dayton Regional Office	234.8
Toledo Regional Office	146.1

Institutions and Private Facilities	126,932,615.38
Parole & Community Services	34,339,230.93
Juvenile Court Subsidies & Grants	53,430,960.85
Administrative Support	23,674,132.45
Debt Service Tool	9,135,058.41
Capital Total	777,138.96

## Education

- During FY'2011, 173 youth received their GEDs, and 43 youth obtained their high school diplomas
- 102,373 hours of vocational instruction was offered to approximately 1,119 students
- The average level of a DYS youth in math is 6.8 grade and reading is 7.3 grade

## Average Population/Costs Per Day/Length of Stay

- The average daily facility population in FY 2011 was 823 (including Paint Creek and Columbus CBTC)
- The average daily parole population in FY 2011 was 953
- The average per diem cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender in a DYS facility was \$442.46
- The average length of stay for a youth in a DYS facility is 12.6 months
- The average length of stay for a youth on parole is 11.1 months

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SERVICES

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