

Ohio Department of Youth Services

Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report



Ohio

**Department of
Youth Services**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Harvey J. Reed, Director

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Letter from the Director



This year's Annual Report provides an opportunity to share with you the many extraordinary ways the Ohio Department of Youth Services has been moving forward – progress we are determined to build upon. We can sense the pride in our facilities, regional parole offices and community partnerships, and I hope you agree, as you read through the pages of this report.

A healthy juvenile justice agency serves an important role in supporting public safety when it strikes a proper balance between serving youth in the community and placing those youth with the highest level of needs in facilities for rehabilitation. The professionals on our team are dedicated to achieving that balance and providing the best services for every youth impacted by our system. Our young people deserve nothing less.

Thanks to a continuum of programs and interventions for youth, we have been able to help youth get back on track while keeping them close to home and involving their families in treatment. The *Columbus Dispatch* featured an [article](#) regarding the use of community programs to reduce the number of youth incarcerated as well as an [article](#) about the 20th anniversary of the highly successful RECLAIM Ohio. A [publication](#) from the Schubert Center for Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University detailed Ohio's efforts to advance cost-effective, evidence-based practices for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Ohio is also a national leader in treatment and rehabilitation. In fact, this was persuasively confirmed again in 2015 when Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility won top honors from the national Performance-based Standards Learning Institute for the second time in three years. The primary criterion for this award is treating youth like they are our own, which at the Department of Youth Services is central to our core values. With this value in mind, the department has been at the forefront of eliminating solitary confinement as a sanction for youth and instead holding youth accountable in ways that result in learning. Our commitment to high standards for helping youth was also demonstrated by the American Correctional Association's reaccreditation of Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Our progress is only possible with the continued support of families, the juvenile courts, volunteers and many partnering agencies. We remain committed to providing an efficient, top-notch juvenile justice agency that helps youth achieve productive, crime-free lives.

I hope you enjoy this Annual Report. Also remember that you can always follow our progress at www.dys.ohio.gov, on [Facebook](#), or on [Twitter](#). We look forward to an incredible next year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harvey J. Reed".

Harvey J. Reed
Director

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights



Path to Safer Facilities - Path to Safer Communities

DYS continued to prioritize increasing preventative measures, enhancing meaningful activities for youth, and engaging family members and other partners.

The department's core responsibility is to help youth succeed when returned to their communities. DYS concentrated on preparing youth for a lifetime of success through heightened reentry efforts with the goal of every youth leaving the facilities with a solid plan to complete education and/or secure employment.

Family Engagement

DYS recognizes the importance of interaction between youth and their families. The [CLOSE to Home Project](#) (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected) provides free transportation to help connect youth with their families. In FY 2016, DYS provided a total of 78 bus trips that served 795 family members.

The Video Communicator Project promotes family involvement using laptops and wireless technology. In FY 2016, the Video Communicator was used for 170 family visits, 154 reentry meetings, and 347 staff meetings (between facility and parole staff) regarding youth.



DYS expanded opportunities for families to connect with youth. All facilities now offer visitation to family members seven days a week. Facility tours are also offered to family members. Virtual tour videos, available at www.YouTube/OhioDYS, allow families to catch a glimpse of facilities.

The Baby Elmo Program, in place at all three juvenile correctional facilities, is a parenting and structured visitation program to build bonds between children and their incarcerated teen fathers. Last year, the baby Elmo served 25 youth and their young children.

Successful PREA Audits

In September 2015, Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility successfully completed the [Prison Rape Elimination Act \(PREA\) audit](#), certified through the Department of Justice. The facility was found to have fully complied with all PREA standards. In addition, the Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services, Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio, Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, and West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center were audited and found in full compliance.

College Opportunities for Youth

Facility and parole staff provided numerous opportunities for youth to participate in college tours. In addition to tours provided for individuals, youth from all three juvenile correctional facilities toured The Ohio State University in May 2016.

DYS continued a notable program that offers youth a smoother path from a juvenile correctional facility to post-secondary education. The agency's partnership with Ashland University offered off-campus courses at all of the facilities to youth who were already graduated from high school or who have earned a GED.

Highlights Continued



Youth Linked to Jobs

During the year, 9 youth from Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility and 5 youth from Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility had the opportunity to work at local restaurants. These youth graduates (who met criteria) had the chance to begin a job that can continue upon release, gain employment skills, and save money for independent living, all while supervised by DYS staff.

Give Back Through Community Service

Community service provides meaningful activities for youth to give back to society while learning new skills.

During FY 2016, a total of 15,153 hours of community service were provided by youth in facilities, and 3,322 hours of community service were provided by youth on parole. At minimum wage in Ohio (\$8.10 an hour), community service provided by DYS youth would equate to \$149,648.

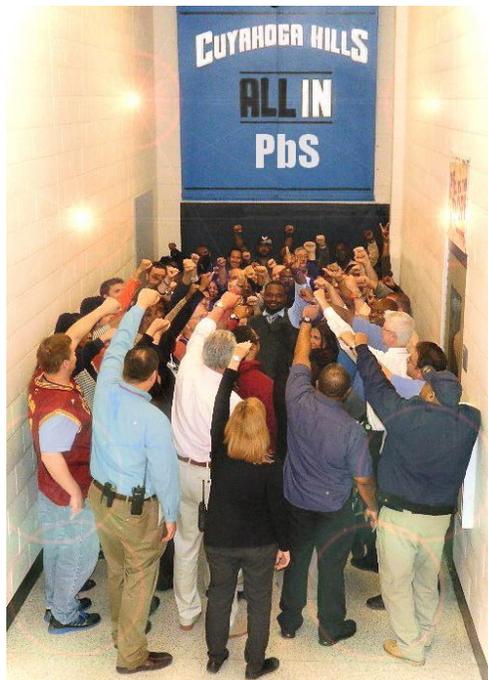


*Highlights Continued***Sites Reaccredited**

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility was awarded re-accreditation with an achievement of 100% in mandatory standards and 98.9% non-mandatory standards from the American Correctional Association in August 2015. Also, four Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) were also awarded final approval on reaccreditation, and all four received 100% in both mandatory and non-mandatory standards: Oakview Juvenile Residential Center, Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility, and Multi-County Juvenile Attention System Community Corrections Facility.

**Cuyahoga Hills JCF Receives National Award**

In August 2015, Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility was named the winner of the national Performance-based Standards Learning Institute Barbara Allen-Hagen Award for the second time in three years. The award was presented in recognition of how the facility has embraced adolescent research, supported in a safe and nurturing environment, and engaged youth in meaningful, strength-based programming. A [video](#) created by PbS explains further.



*Highlights Continued***Investing in Community Programs**

DYS provided funding and technical assistance for a [continuum of programs](#) and interventions that serve youth closer to their families and in the least restrictive, appropriate setting. This included statewide support of juvenile courts and county partners through RECLAIM Ohio, Targeted RECLAIM, Competitive RECLAIM, the Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative (more follows), Youth Services Grant, Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ), and CCFs. These community investments provided youth with the intensity of treatment and community supervision that matched their risk to reoffend.

Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative Established

In an effort to reserve detention placement for the right youth, address challenges of troubled youth early, and improve detention services and conditions of confinement, the agency awarded a total of \$1.8 million in funding to assist 28 counties through the agency's new [Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative](#). Implementation grants help fund physical plant enhancements as well as expand alternatives to secure detention, services and supports provided within the facilities.

Alternative Placements for Youth

DYS uses a continuum of residential facilities to meet the individualized treatment, education, and behavioral health needs of youth. [Alternative placement options](#) provide the treatment and services youth need to become responsible young men and women. In FY 2016, these included the following sites:

- Applewood Centers
- Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek
- Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services
- Pomegranate Health Systems

Alternative placements served a total of 156 youth during FY 2016.



*Highlights Continued***Community Corrections Facilities**

[CCFs](#) served a total of 696 youth during FY 2016. The average length of stay in CCFs was 7.27 months.

There are 12 CCFs throughout the State of Ohio which are used by juvenile and family court judges when committing youth adjudicated for a felony offense. These include the following sites:

- Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
- Hocking County Community Residential Center
- Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio
- Multi-County Juvenile Attention System Community
- Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility
- Perry/Multi-County Juvenile Facility
- Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services
- Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
- Lucas County Youth Treatment Center
- North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center
- West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
- Oakview Juvenile Residential Center

Services for Victims

DYS has an Office of Victim Services (OVS) that is responsible for ensuring that the rights of crime victims of DYS youth are recognized and honored. OVS provides written notification of potential or actual status changes of youth, information and support, victim-offender dialogue opportunities, victim advocacy through linking victims with the Release Authority, and referrals. The office offers a support hotline that victims can call for free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 872-3132.

In FY 2016, OVS provided 4,825 written notices of potential or actual status changes of youth and managed 1,632 victim-related phone calls. During the year, a total of 134 youth successfully completed the Victim Awareness Curriculum, and 23 staff were trained to facilitate the Victim Awareness Curriculum.

Supporting Staff

Staff are the most important resource of any correctional system, and it is critical for staff to be healthy in order for youth to get healthy. The agency used Critical Incident Stress Management to support staff when they experienced trauma, Peer Assistance to help staff with personal issues, and Desert Waters™ to improve culture by addressing correctional fatigue through awareness, validation, and a variety of tools. During FY 2016, a total of 1,674 staff engaged in Peer Assistance for a total of 2,779 contacts, while 1 debriefing and 5 crisis management briefings were conducted.

In May 2016, an agency-wide [employee recognition program](#) was held. Laura Melnick, Business Office Manager at the Northern Parole Region/District 3, was named Employee of the Year. Cesar Vanderpool, Jr., Youth Specialist at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, was named Youth Specialist of the Year.

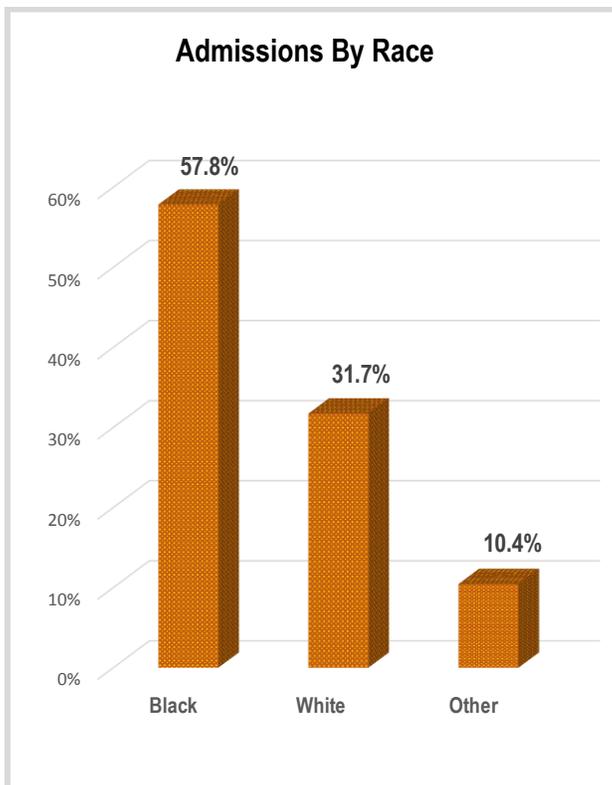
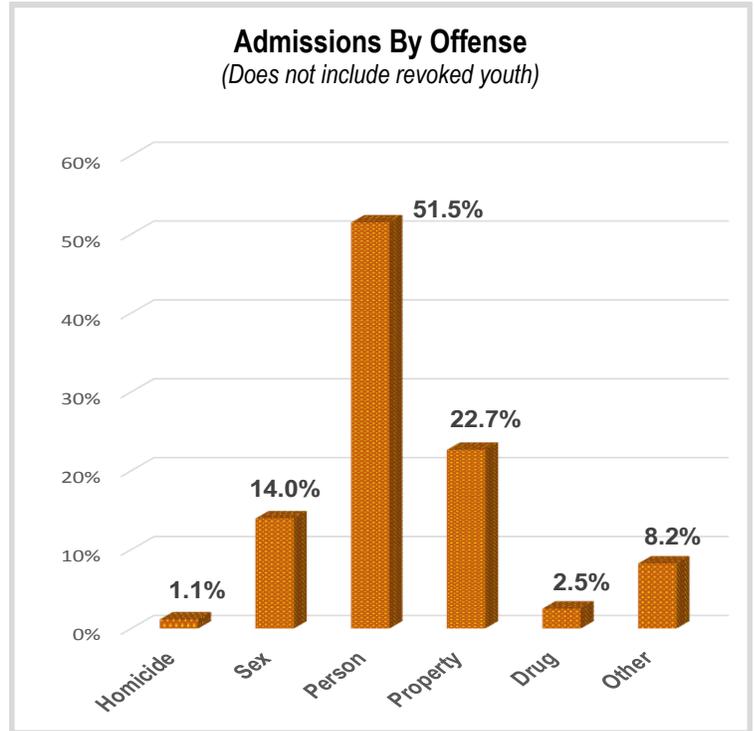
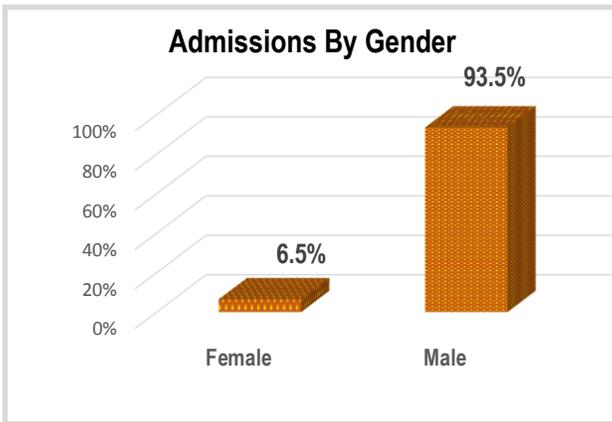
Reducing Recidivism

The department's reform efforts are paying off when it comes to breaking the cycle of crime. The one-year recidivism rate was 19.9% for those youth released in 2014 while the three-year rate was 46.5% for those youth released in 2012.

Site Visit with National Reentry Resource Center

In February 2016, DYS and an interbranch group of juvenile justice stakeholders gathered for a site visit with the National Reentry Resource Center to discuss ways to further reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth. This collaborative work will continue during FY 2017.

Statistics

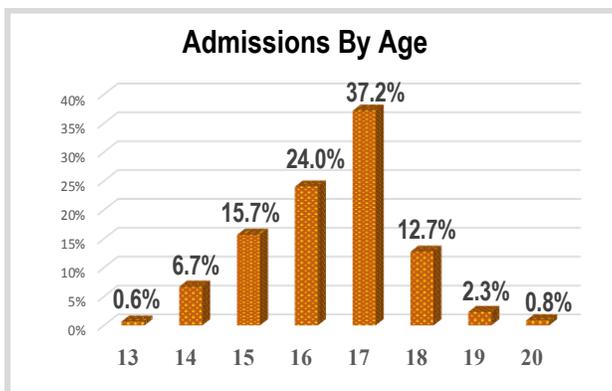


Admissions By County

Cuyahoga	Hamilton	Franklin	Montgomery	Lucas
21.9%	12.3%	9.2%	5.8%	4%

Average Daily Facility Population By Sites

Applewood Centers	6
Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services	8
Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility	138
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility	136
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility	134
Lighthouse Youth Center -Paint Creek	48
Pomegranate	9



Average Daily Parole Population

Northern and Southern Regional Offices	310
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Education

A total of 692 students were served by the Buckeye United School District. 57 youth received their GEDs, and 32 youth obtained their high school diplomas. A total of 327 career technical certificates were awarded. A total of 1,213 high school credits were earned.

Statistics Continued

FY 2016 Expenditures: To be determined – not available until November 2016		
Administrative Support / Capital-Physical Plant	X%	To be determined November 2016
Improvements	X%	To be determined November 2016
Community Corrections Facilities	X%	To be determined November 2016
Debt Service	X%	To be determined November 2016
Facilities	X%	To be determined November 2016
Juvenile Court Subsidies and Grants	X%	To be determined November 2016
Parole	X%	To be determined November 2016
Alternative Placements	X%	To be determined November 2016

