

Ohio Department of Youth Services

Annual Report Fiscal Year 1997

George V. Voinovich, Governor

Nancy P. Hollister, Lt. Governor

Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director

Carol Rapp Zimmermann, Assistant Director

Executive Staff

“We are committed to giving youth the skills and competencies needed to live crime free.”
 – Geno Natalucci-Persichetti



Director
 Geno Natalucci-Persichetti



Assistant Director
 Carol Rapp Zimmermann

Chairman of Release Authority
 Rex Zent

Communications
 Kevin Miller



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Deputy Director General Counsel



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 James Hieneman, Ohio River Valley Youth Center
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 Don Feldkamp, Training Institution Central Ohio
 Carol Trowbridge, Freedom Center
 Kathy Rotolo, Opportunity Center*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is to ensure public safety by providing and supporting a range of effective and cost effective services that hold youth accountable for their actions and gives them the skills and competencies they need to live crime free.

Vision Statement

In order for all Ohioans to live peaceful and crime free lives, DYS will take on a leadership role assisting youthful offenders in redirecting their lives toward responsible citizenship.



Ohio Department of Youth Services

Dear Fellow Ohioans:

As a recognized leader in the field of juvenile corrections, the Ohio Department of Youth Services has strived to enhance and strengthen the family. Through its innovative efforts, DYS has experienced a drop in the number of youth incarcerated in its correctional facilities. At a time when most states are engaged in costly prison building, this is truly a remarkable feat.

The department's bold steps toward changing the juvenile corrections business have brought new and effective strategies to enhance the rehabilitation of youthful offenders. Through the nationally acclaimed

RECLAIM Ohio program and our involvement in the Family and Children First Initiative, we have been able to join hands with other professionals at the state and local level in a combined effort to strengthen Ohio families.

We're proud of the many accomplishments highlighted in this annual report. I congratulate the staff for its outstanding effort and look forward to the continued innovations which have made DYS a leader in juvenile corrections nationwide.

Sincerely,

Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director

Youth Profile

During fiscal year 1997 2,533 juveniles were committed to DYS (excluding 614 juveniles whose commitments were revoked).



Average age at admission of a youth was 15.9 yrs.

The average *per diem* cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender in a DYS institution was \$121.

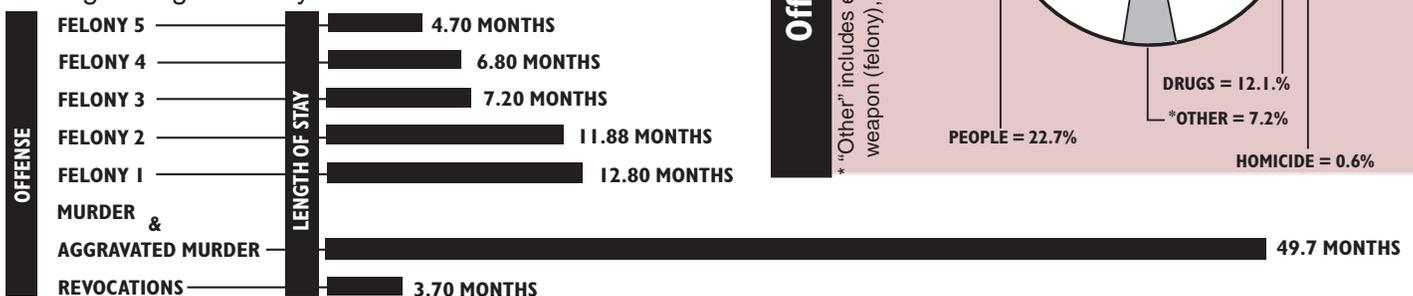


Direct Staff/Offender Ratio 1 : 2
Average daily institutional population was 2,096.

The number of officers and direct care DYS institution-based staff was approximately 1,888.

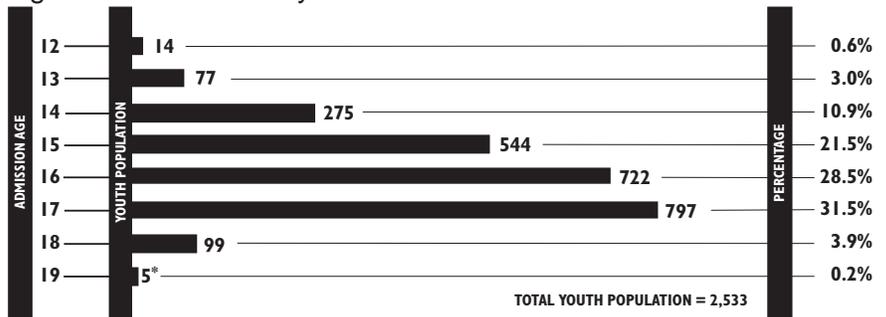
Parole Officer/Parolee Ratio 1 : 20
Average daily parole population was 2,559.

Average Length of Stay

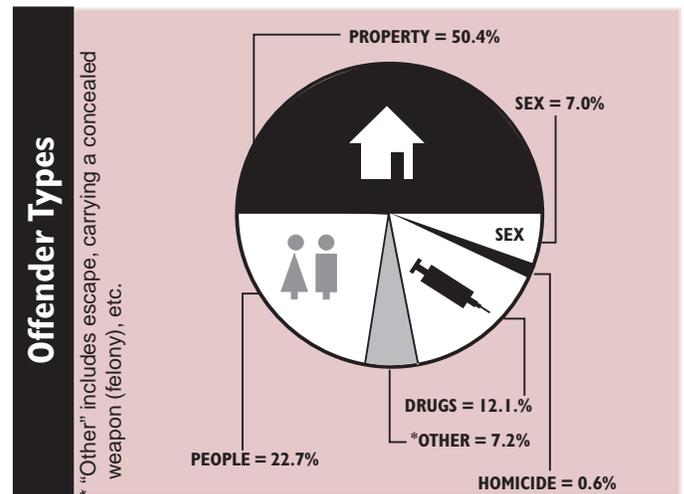


Any felony level offender who is between the ages of 12 and 18 may be committed by the court to the Department of Youth Services.

Age Distribution Felony Commitments



*DYS received these youth after their 19th birthdate due to delayed court decisions.

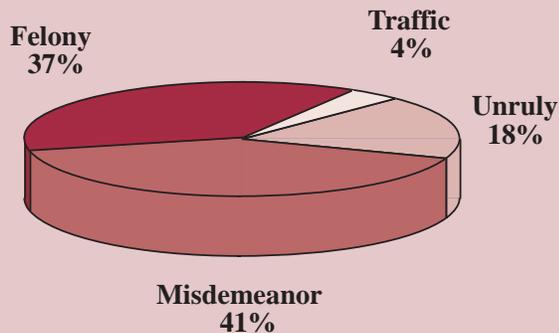


RECLAIM *Ohio*

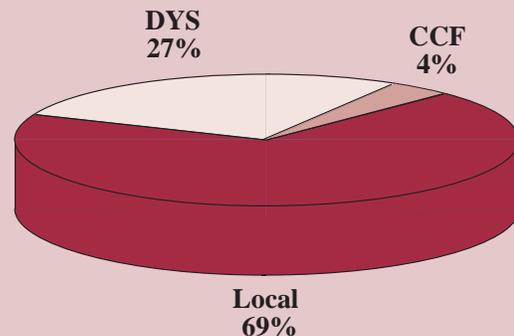
The RECLAIM Ohio Program (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) was established on July 1, 1993, in H.B. 152, as part of Governor Voinovich's Family and Children First Initiative. The Program is designed to provide juvenile judges with a means to improve the quality and range of services available to youthful offenders in their own communities. This national benchmark reduces overcrowding in state correctional facilities by increasing the number of youth being served in community programs.

Prior to the implementation of RECLAIM Ohio, DYS was allocated separate funding for state juvenile institutions. The counties had no control over the funds and therefore committing an offender to DYS appeared "free" to the courts. Under RECLAIM Ohio, counties receive a yearly allocation, which is distributed monthly, from DYS for the treatment of youthful offenders. Funds, which had been previously allocated specifically for operating institutions, community corrections facilities, and private facilities, are now pooled and distributed to Ohio's 88 counties.

The average age of youth served in RECLAIM Ohio during FY 1997 at the time of admission was 15.3 years, with nearly half of all youth under the age of 16. More than 37% of all the youth admitted to RECLAIM Ohio programs were felony offenders.



Youth served locally through RECLAIM Ohio during the year in relation to the youth served in DYS and community corrections facilities in FY 1997.



Replicating the Innovation

During FY 97, DYS received approval from the Controlling Board to utilize lapsed funds in the amount of \$350,000 for Challenge Grants. These grants were made available to selected counties which were interested in implementing RECLAIM Ohio programs, but were unable to do so because of limited resources in the county. Ten counties benefited from the Challenge Grants in FY 1997. County recipients of the grant included Allen, Butler, Coschocton, Hardin, Lawrence, Licking, Lucas, Muskingum, Pike and Stark.

Also in 1997, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University recognized the RECLAIM Ohio initiative as one of the 25 most innovative programs in government. Harvard awarded a Ford Foundation Grant to the department to establish a RECLAIM Academy.

The academy has welcomed many juvenile correctional leaders throughout the United States to learn how to implement RECLAIM Ohio in their own state.

Thanks to RECLAIM Ohio youth are being served locally where families can participate actively in their treatment. Locally, some alternative programs include day treatment, alternative schools and intensive probation. Due to RECLAIM Ohio, institutions are less crowded, and DYS is focusing its rehabilitation efforts toward more serious, repetitive, felony-level youth in Ohio. Since the statewide implementation in 1995, more than 30,000 youth have been served in local programs throughout Ohio.



Release Authority to Improve Juvenile Parole System

In FY 1997, The Ohio General Assembly, with assistance from the Department of Youth Services, passed a new law which dramatically changes the juvenile justice system. The law enables a more coherent and focused release process for felony level juvenile offenders moving from institutions to supervised parole in the community. An independent Release Authority will be housed within DYS to make decisions regarding release from an institution and discharge from parole of youth who are past their minimum sentence. The Release Authority will be composed of five members, appointed by the DYS Director.

In addition, victims will now have a voice. An Office of Victim Services will be established under this new law which notifies victims when a youth is being reviewed for release or discharge. Victims, their families and advocates will have the opportunity to participate in the release and discharge process. The office will provide answers to questions about an offender's status within DYS, and facilitate, where possible, the victim's participation in the release and discharge decision making process.

Financial Report

Line Items	Disbursement FY 97	%
470-401 Care & Custody	\$128,989,104	65
470-402 Community Program Services	\$7,281,253	4
470-404 Vocational Rehabilitation	\$250,000	
470-405 County Program Development	\$740,000	
470-412 Lease Rental Payments	\$9,774,786	5
470-502 County Youth Facility Maint.	\$8,062,396	4
470-510 Youth Services	\$19,957,408	10
472-321 Parole Operations	\$10,863,010	5
474-321 Facility Activation	\$2,379,235	1
476-321 Americorp	\$117,107	
477-321 Administrative Operations	\$12,935,252	6
147 & 175 State NGRF	\$7,832,741	
321 Federal NGRF	\$14,544,219	
4A2, 4G6, 479 Rotary NGRF	\$544,956	
Total	\$224,271,467	

Footnote: FY 97 Disbursements include FY 96 expenditures made during FY 97 Capital Costs equals \$4,158,373
 \$17,166,554 of 470-401 Line Item was distributed to counties
 Line Item 470-401 includes \$386,361 from 470-413 Preventative Maintenance

Quality Service Reaches New High in FY 1997

Since the beginning of the quality initiative in 1991, DYS has been on the leading edge of implementing the Quality Services through Partnership (QStP) concept. Tremendous progress has been made toward becoming a total quality agency. Ninety-eight percent of all DYS employees have completed the basic QStP training and 116 staff members have become facilitators for Continuous Improvement Process Teams.

Some Highlights in 1997:

- n A three-day basic QStP training component was incorporated into the pre-service training for all new DYS employees.
- n More than 67 Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) teams took shape in 1997 working on improving communication, treatment, security, food service, training and various other processes.

In review, 1997 was a year of building upon the agency's successes, and broadening the vision for the future.

The Department of Youth Services' FY 97 budget increased 9.0% over FY 96. This increase, coupled with significant increases over the previous three fiscal years, enabled the department to make meaningful advances in Ohio's juvenile correctional system.

Foremost among these advances was the continuing implementation of RECLAIM Ohio, a funding initiative which enables juvenile courts to develop community-base programs for youthful offenders.

Other program highlights in FY 97

- n increased funding for the operation of nine community corrections facilities statewide;
- n the opening of several new facilities including a center for mentally retarded and medically fragile youth, and a 200-bed facility in southern Ohio;
- n and continued commitment to expanding mental health services to youth through the hiring of several psychological assistants.