

Ohio Department of Youth Services

***Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2004***



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**Bob Taft, Governor
Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director**



Director's Message

In spite of strained economic times, the Ohio Department of Youth Services continued in 2004 to participate in new initiatives. Through the Family and Children First Cabinet Council, the Department has partnered with the Departments of Mental Health, Job and Family Services, and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services to examine the needs of children with behavioral health problems. This initiative known as Access to Better Care (ABC), will enhance cooperation among state agencies and bring greater understanding in dealing with the behavioral health needs of children, adolescents and their families in their home communities.

The RECLAIM Ohio subsidies and the Youth Services grant continue to be successful. In FY 04, counties were able to use DYS subsidies for local programs to rehabilitate youth and prevent delinquency in their communities. RECLAIM Ohio remains a model program in the United States and a fine example of the power and effectiveness of state and local cooperation.

The Partnerships for Success (PfS) program expanded by eight counties in FY 04, bringing the total number of counties participating to twenty-eight. PfS is a strategic approach to building capacity within counties to effectively prevent and respond to child and adolescent problem behaviors, while promoting positive youth development.

Overall, it gives me great pleasure to report that DYS employees remain hardworking and dedicated to fulfilling our mission of enhancing public safety by holding youthful offenders accountable and providing opportunities for rehabilitation.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is to enhance public safety by holding youthful offenders accountable and providing opportunities for rehabilitation.

VISION STATEMENT

A safer Ohio through positive change in the lives of those impacted by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Reasoned & Equitable Community & Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors

The Department of Youth Services provides all 88 Ohio counties with \$30 million in funds each year through the RECLAIM Ohio subsidy. These funds help subsidize local opportunities for the treatment and rehabilitation of each county's youthful offenders.

Since the inception of RECLAIM in 1995, courts have retained over \$274 million dollars at the local level and served thousands of youth. Today more youth are being served locally allowing their families to actively participate in their treatment thanks to RECLAIM Ohio. As a result, the population within DYS has decreased over 30% from an unmanageable high of more than 2,600 youth in May 1992 to less than 1,800 offenders in July 2004. Because of the reduction, DYS is now focusing its programming and rehabilitative efforts on the more serious, repetitive felony-level youth.

RECLAIM and the Courts

"The Gallia County Juvenile Court would have extreme problems operating without RECLAIM funding. RECLAIM allows our court to operate community based programs including, probation supervision, education services, wrap around coordination, drug testing, communications, employee educational training, occasional respite, community service and other needed programming to keep youth out of DYS institutions and foster placement."

**Greg Shrader, CPM, Director
Gallia County Probate/Juvenile Court**

"In 1993 (before RECLAIM OHIO) Lucas County committed 244 youth to the Ohio Department of Youth Services and revoked ODYS parole on another 30 youth. In 2003 (after RECLAIM OHIO) we committed 70 and revoked another six youth. This significant reduction in commitments was done without compromising the safety of the community because RECLAIM made it possible for us to create corrections services in the community."

**Judge Jim Ray
Lucas County**

"The RECLAIM Ohio project has challenged our court staff to take a critical look at placements, to tap its creativity, and launch and support an after-school program, and several other initiatives designed to reduce placements and better serve the needs of high-risk youth and their families. Our county simply could not afford to provide these services without the influx of critical RECLAIM funds."

**Judge Brad Culbert
Sandusky County Juvenile Court**

"Given the fact Ohio is a community based service system for unruly and delinquent children, RECLAIM Ohio is indispensable. RECLAIM Ohio has enabled the Hocking County Juvenile Court to develop and implement prevention, diversion, intervention, treatment and rehabilitation programming for the youth and their families of our community. A diversion program has consistently shown an 82% success rate among the youth completing the program and not coming into the system. A restitution program with the local food bank has enabled youth to repay victims by moving approximately a million pounds of food per month, and preparing and delivering meals to shut-ins, elderly and handicapped."

**Judge Frederick E. Mong
Hocking County Juvenile Court**

"Since its inception, RECLAIM has been a life saver and life line for Greene County Juvenile Court and the youth we serve. It has allowed this court to provide services and programs that we believe otherwise would not have been fiscally available to us. Clearly, as a result, we have been able to reduce commitments to DYS and reduce other out-of-home placements, as well. In our opinion, the authors of RECLAIM should be proud of their creation not only in general concept, but in the view of its practical application. Bottom line! RECLAIM has been very, very good to Greene County Juvenile Court and its client population."

**Jan A. White, Court Administrator
Green County Juvenile Court**

Types of Juvenile Correctional Facilities

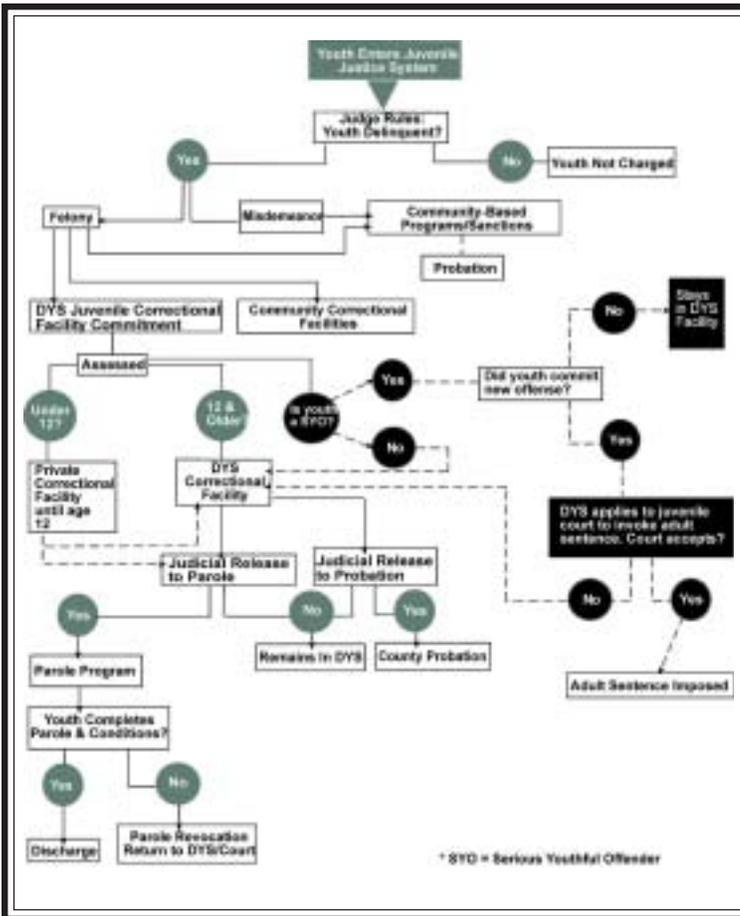
DYS Juvenile Correctional Facility: A state-operated correctional facility for juveniles between the ages of 10 to 18 years of age who have committed felony level offenses (F1 - F5).

Lighthouse Youth Center - Paint Creek: A private, non-profit residential treatment facility for males between the ages of 15 and 18 years old, committed by the state for felony 1 or 2 offenses.

Community Correctional Facility (CCF): Local, secure county-operated facilities for juvenile offenders who would otherwise have been committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Programs focus on family involvement and establishing positive ties to the community. CCFs are fully-funded by DYS.

Detention Centers: County-operated facilities that provide temporary placement for youthful offenders prior to formal judicial hearings and placement.

Rehabilitation Centers: County-operated facilities that provide non-felony specific programs that focus on crime prevention for juvenile offenders and aim to reduce their involvement with local courts.



DYS Definitions

Adjudication: The final decision for a youth's pending criminal case, similar to a conviction in the adult court process.

Blended Sentence: A disposition in which a juvenile offender can be given both a juvenile and adult sentence for a crime. The adult time is held in abeyance and is not enforced unless the youth commits an additional criminal act or does not comply with rehabilitation during the juvenile portion of the punishment.

Commitment: When a youth is sent to the Ohio Department of Youth Services for incarceration and custody by a juvenile court judge.

Discharge: When a youth is taken off parole status with DYS and is no longer considered under DYS custody.

Disposition: The sanction given to a youth for a criminal act, similar to a sentence in the adult court process.

Intermediate Sentence: Establishes minimum times for disposition, but does not pinpoint the end of the period to be served for the crimes. Offenders committed to DYS do not have proposed dates for release.

Recidivism: Any involvement by a DYS youth with the courts, adult courts and correctional system or law enforcement. Examples include: arrest, revocation, recommitment or being sent to a local county jail.

Recommitment: When a youth on DYS parole is adjudicated and committed to DYS for a new crime.

Release: When a youth is released from a DYS juvenile correctional facility and is placed back into the community on parole or county probation.

Revocation: When a youth violates a condition of his/her parole and is sent back to a DYS juvenile correctional facility.

Life Within the System

EDUCATION:

The Department of Youth Services is one of 613 chartered school districts in the state of Ohio. All eight of the DYS correctional facilities house year-round schools that involve Ohio Department of Education certified principals, teachers and support staff. Educational programs emphasize academic and skill development and are coordinated with institutional and aftercare programs.

In addition to basic academics, each school offers Special Education, Career and Technical Education, and GED Programs.

FY2004 Education Statistics

- **51 DYS youth obtained their High School Diploma**
- **297 DYS youth received their GED**
- **3,226 DYS youth participated in a career tech program**

PROGRAMMING:

Youth are involved in various types of programming throughout their stay with DYS. Youth participate in group sessions such as substance abuse prevention, sex offender treatment and anger management. The focus of all programming is rehabilitation, re-education and re-socialization. There is a strong emphasis on replacing the offender's thinking pattern to result in new responsible behaviors. The goal is not to just teach about errors in thinking, but to lead the offender to internalize responsible thinking and victimology as a barrier to future offending.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Over 170,000 community service hours were achieved by DYS youth during FY2004.

Community service is considered a critical component of rehabilitation within the facility and also throughout parole. DYS youth are involved in a broad range of community service projects throughout the year and they take great pride in the projects they complete. Community service serves many purposes for the youth including understanding their responsibilities as citizens in the community and improving self-esteem. Some projects include planting and growing a vegetable garden for local soup kitchens, creating toys and crafts for elementary schools, and making posters, cards and Holiday decorations for the needy. Organizations such as area schools, Ronald McDonald House and Children's Hospital have been direct beneficiaries of community service by DYS youth.



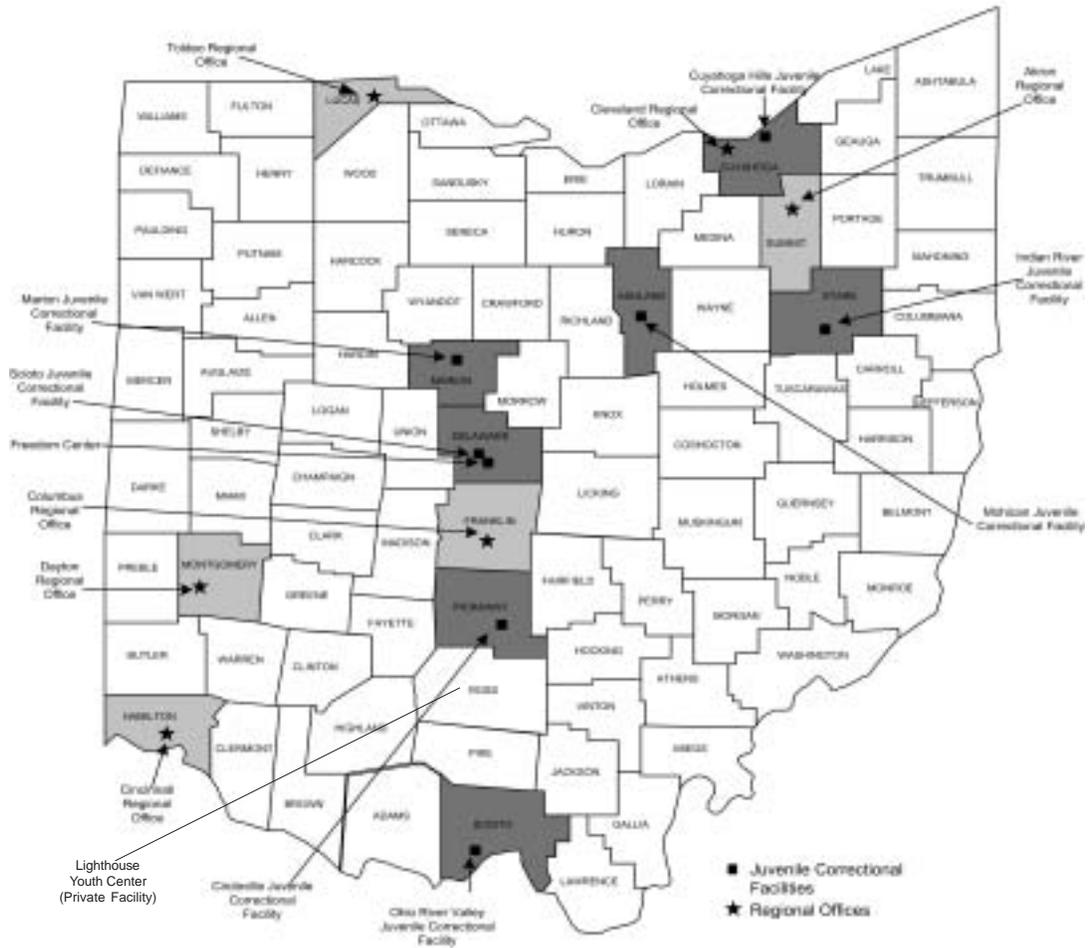
Freedom Center youth crochet blankets for the homeless.

Parole

When youth committed to DYS facilities are released to parole, the three elements of rehabilitation continue. Education, programming and community service are part of every youth's parole experience, as well as their life within the facilities. While on parole, each youth is supervised by DYS staff in one of the six regional field offices. The parole period is viewed as a transitional phase. Youth continue to receive programming services provided by DYS and non-residential providers while learning to integrate back into society.

A balanced approach to supervision is the key to the success of a paroled youth. The primary components are community protection, accountability and competency development.

DYS Facilities and Regional Parole Offices



Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

640 Island Road • Circleville, Ohio 43113 • (740) 477-2500

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

4321 Green Road • Highland Hills, Ohio 44128 • (216) 464-8200

Freedom Center

8101 Dublin Road • Delaware, Ohio 43015 • (740) 881-3337

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

2775 Indian River Road • Massillon, Ohio 44647 • (330) 837-4211

Lighthouse Youth Center - Paint Creek

1071 Tong Hollow Road • Bainbridge, Ohio 45612 • (740) 634-3095

Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility

332 E. Marion-Williamsport Road • Marion, Ohio 43302 • (740) 223-2400

Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility

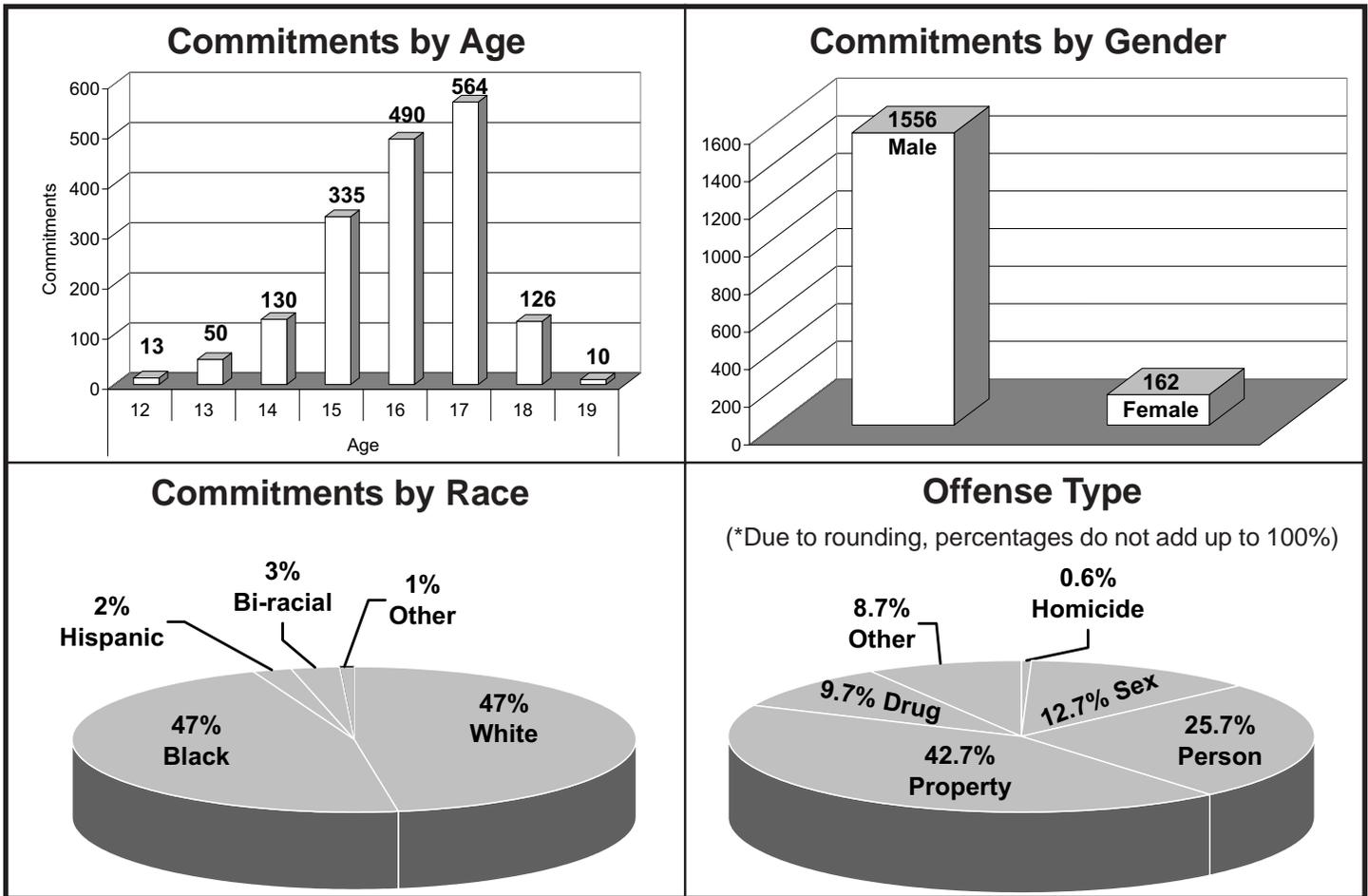
1012 ODNR Mohican 51 • Perrysville, Ohio 44864 • Phone: (419) 994-4127

Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility

4696 Gallia Pike • P.O. Box 1000 • Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629 • (740) 354-7000

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

5993 Home Road • Delaware, Ohio 43015 • (740) 881-3250



Recidivism Rates

Out of 575 youth released during the first quarter of Calendar Year 2003 (January - March):

15.8% recidivated after 3 months
 35.8% recidivated after 6 months

The number of juveniles committed to DYS (including 441 revocations) during fiscal year 2004 was:

	2,159
The average length of stay in a facility was:	10.4 Months
The average length of stay on parole was:	11.7 Months
The average age of a youth at admission was:	16.7 years
The average age of a youth at discharge was:	18.6 years
The average per diem cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender in a DYS correctional facility was:	\$158.46
Direct Care Staff / Offender ratio was:	1:1:33
Parole Officer / Parolee Ratio was:	1:18:8
The average daily correctional facility population was:	1,778
The average daily parole population was:	1,713
Commitments by gender:	Females 9.4% Males 90.6%



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