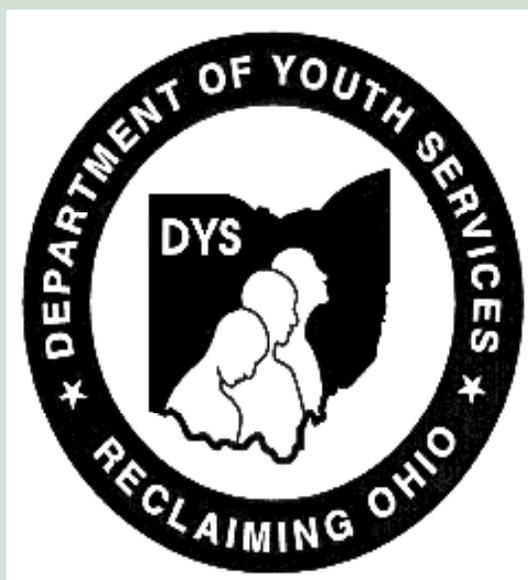


Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2003



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Bob Taft, Governor
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Fiscal Year 2003 was filled with both adversity and opportunity for the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

The state budget process led to changes in the nationally recognized RECLAIM (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) Ohio program. Because RECLAIM's success is based on a strong partnership with local officials, these modifications were developed with the help of a workgroup comprised of court administrators and staff and the support of the Ohio Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The budget legislation also included the creation of a RECLAIM Advisory Committee to oversee these changes. These efforts will lead to a more balanced approach and an improved funding structure for Ohio's juvenile justice system.

The department also modified internal operations to meet the mission of public safety and treatment of juvenile offenders. This effort resulted in the closures of the Riverview Juvenile Correctional Facility (Delaware), the Athens Regional Parole Office and staff reductions at all of the DYS correctional facilities, regional offices and central office. This agency-wide restructuring also included an evaluation of current staffing levels at all DYS sites and the development of a new staffing plan for our department that will take place in Fiscal Year 2004.

As part of these sweeping changes to the way we fulfill our duties, our department is also using this time to strategically plan for the future. This effort will allow for input from all levels of staff to define the goals and objectives of our agency. This process will officially begin in the upcoming fiscal year and we are very enthusiastic about this new process.

This Annual Report highlights the hard work of the men and women employed by DYS during Fiscal Year 2003 and I am proud to share it with you.

Mission

The Mission of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is to protect the public by reducing juvenile crime.

Vision

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.

Departmental Goals for FY 2003-2004

1. Maintain safe and secure juvenile correctional facilities.
2. Restructure agency functions to coincide with budgetary restrictions.
3. Continue to maintain American Correctional Association standards and move towards full accreditation of all DYS facilities, parole operations and Central Office.
4. Continue to strengthen relations with partners in the juvenile justice system.
5. Initiate a new agency-wide strategic planning process.
6. Modify the RECLAIM Ohio funding program for improved fiscal stability at the state and local level.

Departmental 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 where 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.

Community Correctional Facilities (CCF): A local, secure facility 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.

Detention Centers: Provides temporary placement for youthful offenders prior to formal judicial hearings and short-term dispositional placement.

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

Disposition: The sentence given to a youth for a criminal act / Similar to a sentence in the adult court process.

Indeterminate Sentence: Establishes minimum times for disposition, but does not pinpoint the end of the period to be served for the crime / 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.

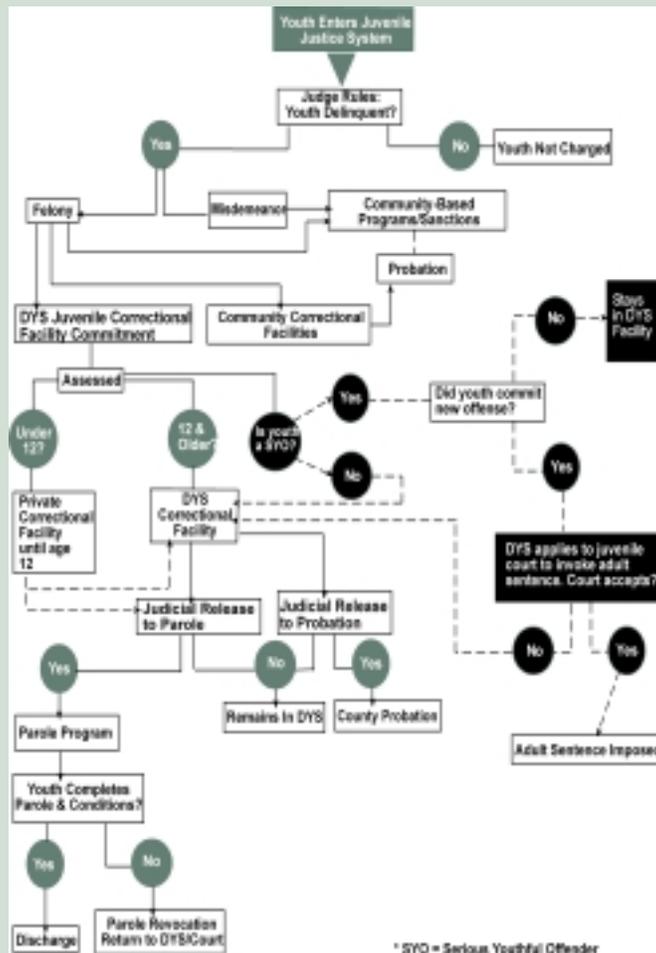
Recommitment: When a youth on DYS parole is adjudicated and committed to DYS for a new crime.

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

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.

Juvenile Justice Flow Chart



The New RECLAIM Formula

What is RECLAIM Ohio?

RECLAIM Ohio is a funding structure and policy which 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 at the local level.

History of RECLAIM

In response to a growing need for local alternatives for juvenile courts and overcrowding in DYS institutions, the RECLAIM Ohio initiative (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) was created on July 1, 1993, in House Bill 152. RECLAIM was implemented statewide in January 1995. From that time through June 2003, RECLAIM was operated as follows:

- n The juvenile courts received a yearly allocation (distributed monthly) from DYS for the local treatment of youthful offenders and at-risk youth.
- n From these allocations, deductions were made based on per diem costs for youth in the care of an institution or community corrections facility. The deduction for a bed in a DYS facility was 75% of the daily rate and the deduction for a Community Corrections Facility bed was 50% of the daily rate.

Each month, after the court's total incarceration costs were subtracted from the monthly allocation, any remaining funds were paid to the court for use in community-based programming.

Reinventing RECLAIM

For the State Fiscal Year 2004-2005 biennium budget, fiscal realities required DYS to restructure RECLAIM so that the infrastructure costs for the courts, community corrections facilities and juvenile correctional facilities were stable. The challenge was to maintain funding for all of these entities consistent with recent fiscal years, while retaining incentives similar to those already in place for the courts.

To address this need for change, DYS worked with juvenile court judges and other juvenile court staff, to develop a new approach. The result for State Fiscal Year 2005 was an annual formula that preserved much of the flexibility and incentives of RECLAIM. In order to facilitate a smooth transition, for State Fiscal Year 2004, RECLAIM funding to courts was based on funding earned in State Fiscal Year 2003 and a modified formula was used.

How the new RECLAIM Formula Works

Beginning with State Fiscal Year 2005, the allocations to the juvenile courts will be based on a four-year average of felony adjudications, with deductions for both DYS facilities and Community Corrections Facility bed day usage in the prior year. Unlike the original version of RECLAIM, the amount allocated is the actual amount a court will receive. There is no longer a per diem charge for beds used during the current year.

Under the formula, each court is given a number of "credits" based on the court's four-year average of youth adjudicated for felony offenses. Those credits are reduced by one credit for each chargeable DYS bed day used during the previous year and 2/3 credit for each chargeable community corrections facility bed day used during the previous year. Each court's percentage of the remaining credits statewide then translates into that court's percentage of the total RECLAIM funds allocated to the courts.

Impact of RECLAIM Ohio

Thanks to RECLAIM Ohio, more youth today are being served locally and families can participate more in their treatment. Juvenile Correctional Facilities are less crowded, and the department is focusing its programming and rehabilitative efforts on the more serious, repetitive, felony-level youth. Through the help of the RECLAIM Ohio program, DYS population is down from a high of more than 2,600 youth in May 1992 to less than 1,750 offenders in July 2003. Since the inception of RECLAIM in 1995, courts have retained over \$217 million dollars at the local level and served approximately 134,000 youth.

Program Highlights for Fiscal Year 2003

July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Division of Corrections

- n Youth in juvenile correctional facilities and on parole participated in community service activities. The community service efforts totaled over 300,000 hours. This was double the department's goal.
- n 349 youth received their General Equivalency Diploma (GED), and 56 youth graduated from DYS high schools.

Division of Finance & Planning

- n The division restructured office functions as part of their strategic planning process. This resulted in the section being reduced from four bureaus to two.
- n As part of the department's efforts to better manage resources during budget reductions, the Budget Advisory Group was formed. This body, which includes agency employees from all divisions, meets to evaluate the current resources needs of the department's operations.

Division of Human Resources

- n In conjunction with the state Office of Collective Bargaining, this division lead agency efforts to negotiate and finalize contracts with all four unions who represent DYS' employees.
- n To further reduce costs, Human Resources implemented a Workers' Compensation initiative to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses.

Division of Legal Services

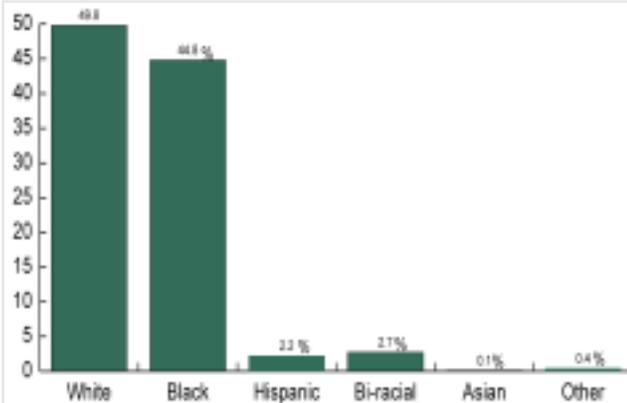
- n Legal Services developed a training video to advise all incoming offenders of their legal rights with respect to their criminal cases.
- n The Activity Management System (AMS), which tracks all incident reporting for the department, was expanded to include all regional parole offices. As a result of these changes, DYS can now track all activities related to youth and staff to better identify needs and issues relating to daily operations.

Division of Parole & Community Services

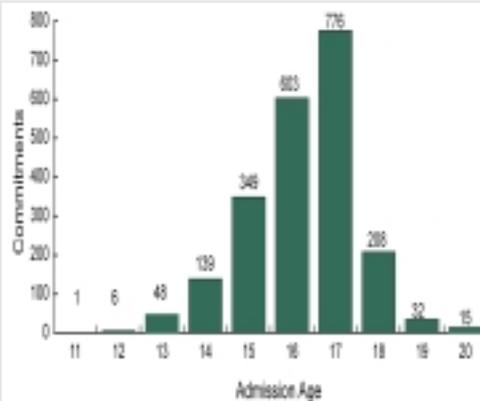
- n Partnerships for Success is a holistic, yet strategic, approach to building a community's capacity to prevent and respond effectively to child and adolescent problem behaviors. Twenty-three Ohio counties are currently planning and implementing locally driven evidenced-based, outcome-oriented strategies to prevent and respond to child and adolescent problem behaviors while promoting positive youth development.
- n AmeriCorps: A total of 1,845 juveniles participated in community service activities totaling 42,749 community service hours completed through this program. 92% of youth that completed the program did not incur any new offenses within 90 days of program completion.

2003 Statistical Information

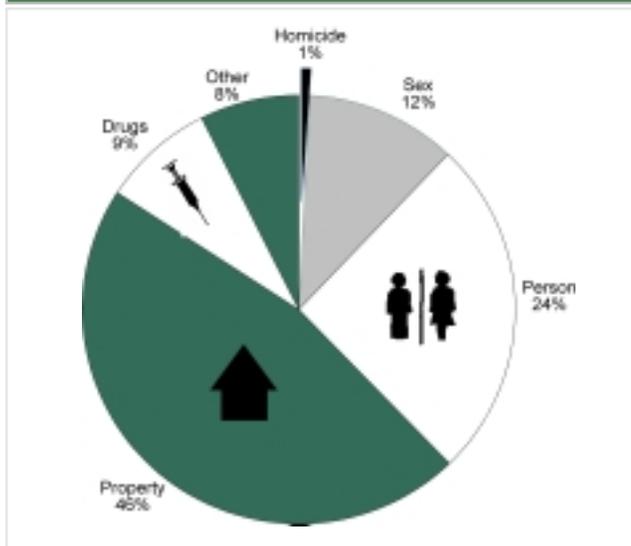
Commitment By Race



Intake By Age



Ofense Types



Recidivism Rates

Out of 630 youth released during the first quarter of FY 2003 (July - October):

17.9% recidivated after 3 months.
35.7% recidivated after 6 months.

The number of juveniles committed to DYS during fiscal year 2003 was: 2,177 (including 479 revocations)

Average age of a youth at admission was: 16.75 yrs.

Average age of a youth at discharge was: 18.67 yrs.

The average per diem cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender in a DYS conectional facility was: \$168.04

The number of juvenile conectional officers and direct care DYS facility-based staff was approximately: 1,343

Direct Care Staff/Offender Ratio was: 1:1.35

Parole Officer/Parolee Ratio was: 1:16.5

Average daily conectional facility population was: 1,811

Average daily parole population was: 1,994

The number of juveniles that were revocated in fiscal year 2003 was: 479

Commitments by gender: F = 10%
M = 90%

Fiscal Year Commitments

