

Ohio Department of Youth Services

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www.state.oh.us/dys



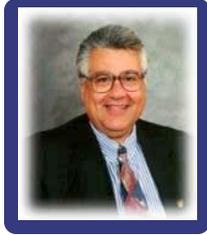
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2002

Bob Taft, Governor

Maureen O'Connor, Lt. Governor

Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director

A Message from the Director



The Ohio Department of Youth Services faced a very difficult time during Fiscal Year 2002. The state budget situation affected us tremendously, as it did with all other agencies. Many initiatives were put on hold and a statewide hiring freeze was put in place (except for essential security positions) to keep the agency in line with revenues.

Although we faced, and continue to face, tough economic times, the agency has continued its mission of protecting the public by holding juvenile felons accountable for their actions. Our population saw a significant drop in commitments from county juvenile courts as the statewide number of adjudications dipped below 10,000 for the first time in over ten years. Although the population in DYS facilities went down, the average length of stay increased due to the toughening of laws to require longer and mandatory minimum sentences.

With the support of Governor Bob Taft, the General Assembly passed two major pieces of legislation that dramatically changed our system. First, Senate Bill 3 (Hottinger – R Newark) created a Juvenile Sex Offender Registration and Notification (JSORN) provision in the Ohio Revised Code. This new law is based on the Megan's Law concept for adults that require certain juvenile sex offenders to register with local law enforcement when they are released and local communities to be notified. The second law completely revamped the juvenile code section that had not been updated in nearly thirty years. Senate Bill 179 (Latta-R Bowling Green) enhances public safety by creating a blended sentencing provision while lowering the minimum age a youth could be sent to DYS to ten years old. Under this new law, youth that are charged with a heinous crime will be given the same level of due process rights as an adult. This enables the juvenile court judge to impose both a juvenile and adult sentence on the youth. The youth can be committed to DYS with the adult sentence set aside. If the youth completes his/her commitment to DYS with no problems, the adult sentence is not imposed. However, if the youth creates a substantial risk to the safety or security of the institution, community or victim, the judge has the ability to impose the adult sentence and he/she will be transferred to a Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections prison to serve the remainder of the adult portion of the sentence.

We are proud of our accomplishments during this last fiscal year as we faced many challenges. Our agency will continue to serve the citizens of Ohio to the best of our ability by protecting the public and striving to reduce juvenile crime. Please accept this report on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director
Ohio Department of Youth Services

DYS Mission

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

DYS 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.

DYS Correctional Facilities DYS Regional Offices

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

640 Island Road Circleville, OH 43113
 ph: (740) 477-2500 Fax: (740) 420-9816

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

4321 Green Road Highland Hills, OH 44128
 ph: (216) 464-8200 Fax: (216) 464-3540

Freedom Center

Residential Treatment Center
 8101 Dublin Road Delaware, OH 43015
 ph: (740) 881-3337 Fax: (740) 881-3389

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

2775 Indian River Road Massillon, OH 44647
 ph: (330) 837-4211 Fax: (330) 837-4740

Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility

332 E. Marion-Williamsport Rd.
 Marion, OH 43302
 ph: (740) 223-2400 Fax: (740) 223-2522

Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility

1012 ODNR Mohican 51, Perrysville, OH 44864
 ph: (419) 994-4127 Fax: (419) 994-3441

Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility

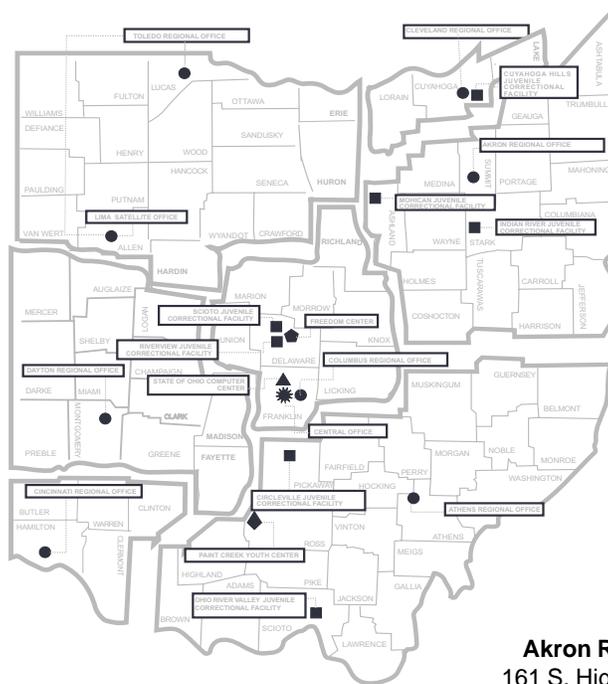
4696 Gallia Pike
 P.O. Box 1000 Franklin Furnace, OH 45629
 ph: (740) 354-7000 Fax: (740) 354-7022

Riverview Juvenile Correctional Facility

7990 Dublin Road Delaware, OH 43015
 ph: (740) 881-3550 Fax: (740) 881-6129

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

5993 Home Road Delaware, OH 43015
 ph: (740) 881-3250 Fax: (740) 881-5944



Akron Regional Office

161 S. High St., Suite 100
 Akron, Ohio 44308
 ph: (330) 643-3040 Fax: (330)643-1436

Athens Regional Office

19 East Circle Drive, Room 220
 Athens, Ohio 45701
 ph: (740) 594-2205 Fax: (740) 593-5877

Cleveland Regional Office

615 West Superior Avenue, Suite 860
 Cleveland, Ohio 44113
 ph: (216) 787-3350 Fax: (216) 787-3685

Columbus Regional Office

1040 Alum Creek Dr.
 Columbus, Ohio 43209
 ph: (614) 466-4676 Fax: (614) 752-7492

Cincinnati Regional Office

PNC Bank Building Corporate Towers
 7162 Reading Road, Suite 400
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45237
 ph: (513) 396-5340 Fax: (513) 351-2124

Dayton Regional Office

1133 South Edwin C. Moses Blvd. Suite 400
 Dayton, Ohio 45408
 ph: (937) 285-6525 Fax: (937) 285-6708

Toledo Regional Office

One Government Center, Suite 1016
 Toledo, Ohio 43604
 ph: (419) 245-3040 Fax: (419) 245-2784

Juvenile Justice Flow Chart

RECLAIM Ohio

With the inception of the RECLAIM Ohio program just a few years ago, Ohio's juvenile justice system was revolutionized. Local juvenile courts were given better control over funds and programming of how youthful offenders should be treated while considering the needs and standards of the community. The State of Ohio benefited by establishing standards for rehabilitation and an increased awareness of the costs and concerns of operating juvenile correctional facilities.

RECLAIM (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) Ohio is a nationally recognized funding alternative which encourages courts to develop or purchase a range of community based options to meet the needs of each juvenile offender.

This program represents a unique partnership between state and local juvenile justice and corrections. Under RECLAIM, funds that were once allocated for the operation of state facilities are instead given to every county for the treatment of youthful offenders. Giving money to local courts allows community leaders to determine how funds should be used for the sentencing of these offenders.

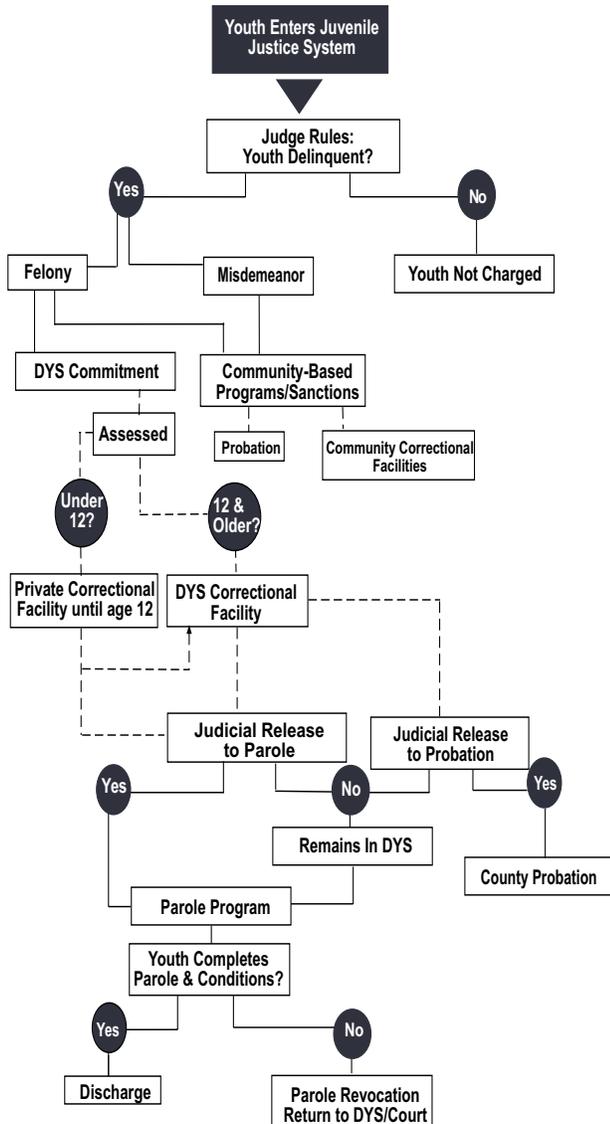
RECLAIM monies can be used to fund traditional sanctions like probation and electronic monitoring or for more specialized services like substance abuse classes. Since 1990, counties have seen a 69% increase in the amount of local funding available to fund local sentencing options for juvenile offenders. In fiscal year 2002, over \$31 million dollars was retained at the local level to provide programming for youthful offenders.

DYS has also benefited from the implementation of RECLAIM Ohio by reducing overcrowding in juvenile facilities and allowing the department to focus its treatment on the more serious, felony-level offenders being committed to its custody. To estimate how well programs are working for the offenders committed to the department, DYS tracks recidivism (youth again re-entering the criminal courts) for the youth released from their custody every year.

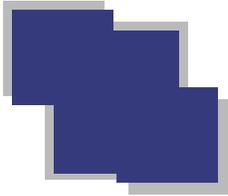
In fiscal year 2002, 648 youth (or 15.9%) of the 2,336 offenders released from DYS custody recidivated within 3 months and 35.8% recidivated within 6 months.

DYS' definition of recidivism includes any arrest, re-incarceration, or court adjudication, at the juvenile or adult levels. It is important to remember that a youth could be considered a recidivist without being committed. DYS uses a much more broad and encompassing definition of recidivism than other states in an effort to truly represent if youth are successfully returning to society.

RECLAIM Ohio is improving the way Ohio addresses the needs of juvenile offenders. Whether this is through increased services at the local level for less violent offenders or focusing state efforts to meet the needs of Ohio's most serious youthful felons in state correctional facilities, RECLAIM Ohio supports local decision-making functions and addresses the true costs of incarceration and treatment of juvenile offenders.



Impact of Recent Legislation



Senate Bill 179

Effective: January 1, 2002

Sponsor: Senator Robert Latta – Bowling Green (R)

Senate Bill 179 updated Ohio's Juvenile Code for both the courts and the juvenile correctional system. This new law created two significant changes that impacted the Department of Youth Services.

The bill lowered the jurisdictional age for commitments to DYS from age 12 to age 10 for high-level felony offenders. This change has created new programming and fiscal requirements for the secure placement of these youth. Based on the requirements included in the Ohio Revised Code and Governor Taft's Executive Order on this subject, DYS must place any youth under the age of 12 in a private placement facility and must not house these offenders in DYS juvenile correctional facilities until they reach twelve years old. Although courts did not place any youth under twelve in DYS custody during Fiscal Year 2002, the department anticipates that some younger felony offenders may be committed in the current fiscal year.

Senate Bill 179 also established the concept of blended sentencing for juvenile felony offenders. Blended sentences allow juvenile courts to impose an adult sentence, but hold the sentence in abeyance providing the youth successfully completes a juvenile disposition. This modification to the Ohio Revised Code allows judges more flexibility in sentencing youthful offenders who might otherwise be bound over to adult court. Since the bill became effective at the beginning of this year, DYS received eight offenders with a blended sentence classification during FY 2002.

Senate Bill 3

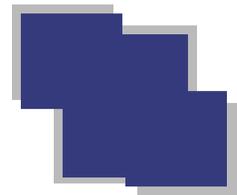
Effective: January 1, 2002

Sponsor: Senator Jay Hottinger – Newark (R)

Another piece of legislation that affected the juvenile justice system was Senate Bill 3. Senate Bill 3 establishes a Juvenile Sex Offender Registration and Notification (JSORN) process for the State of Ohio.

Modeled after the adult Megan's law, JSORN establishes a sex offender registration for youthful offenders. Although the requirements may vary depending on the type of classification imposed, youth who are subject to this registration must comply with the same types of laws as their adult counterparts. This means not only registering their residence, but also notifying local law enforcement of any changes and regularly verifying their addresses.

Because approximately a quarter of the youth in DYS juvenile correctional facilities are juvenile sex offenders, Senate Bill 3 may have a tremendous impact on the operations of the department. The full effect of this legislation will take several years of research to track these youth once they are released from secure confinement and are placed back into the community.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS)?

The Ohio Department of Youth Services is the juvenile corrections system for the State of Ohio. DYS is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts. DYS operates eight correctional and rehabilitation facilities and provides parole services from seven regional sites.

2. Do youth attend school while incarcerated in a DYS facility?

Yes. Any youth who does not hold a GED or high school diploma must attend school. Under the Ohio Constitution, DYS is mandated to provide education. DYS operates its own chartered school district in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Department of Education's standards.

3. Does DYS give facility tours?

Yes. Prior approval for the site being visited is required. No one under the age of 18 years is permitted into a DYS facility, unless it is through a judge's order.

4. Does DYS license foster, group homes, or halfway houses?

No. Licenses may be obtained through the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services' Licensing Division.

5. What types of youth are sent to DYS facilities?

A judge in any Ohio juvenile court can commit a youth to DYS for committing a felony offense. Examples include: Burglary, Rape, Theft or Murder. A judge cannot commit a status offender (a youth who is truant, a runaway, violates curfew or is in possession of alcohol) or a misdemeanor offender to DYS.

6. What is a Community Corrections Facility (CCF)?

A CCF provides residential community-based treatment to juvenile offenders who would have been committed to DYS, but were not, based on judicial discretion. CCF's offer specific types of programming such as education, job training and readiness, mental health services and substance abuse counseling. A CCF offers an environment that fosters family involvement and establishes positive ties to the community because the youth is housed closer to home.

7. Does DYS operate a boot camp for children who are misbehaving or are unruly in the home?

No, the Ohio Department of Youth Services does not operate any boot camps. However, DYS provides state and federal funds to the counties for preventative programs. It is up to the counties to determine how and where the funds will be best utilized. The following agencies can provide assistance relative to preventative programming efforts:

- ◆ *The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services*
- ◆ *The juvenile court in your county*
- ◆ *The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA)*

8. What does RECLAIM Ohio stand for? What is the RECLAIM program?

Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors.

Frequently Asked Questions

RECLAIM Ohio is a funding initiative that allows juvenile judges to send youth to local treatment, programming and probation facilities, instead of committing them to DYS. The RECLAIM Ohio program provides appropriate supervision to felony offenders in an effort to deter more serious criminal behavior. With the various alternative options available to judges, Ohio counties are able to provide public safety, treatment and various program initiatives to youthful offenders in a more cost effective manner.

9. How many people are employed at DYS?
Approximately 2,100.

10. What happens when a youth turns 21 years old? Can he/she be sent to the adult system?
When a youth turns 21 years of age and has completed his commitment with DYS, he/she will be released from the custody of the department. Under Ohio law, jurisdiction is relinquished at this age. On the other hand, if a youth is committed to DYS and a blended sentence (an adult sentence that can be held in abeyance providing the youth successfully completes their juvenile disposition) has been imposed, it is possible that he/she could serve an adult sentence if the youth does not successfully complete their commitment with DYS.

11. Why are juvenile offenders and their records exempt from public laws?
Per Ohio Revised Code 5139.05 (D,) "Records maintained by the department of youth services pertaining to the children in its custody shall be accessible only to department employees, except by consent of the department or upon the order of the judge of a court of record." These records shall not be considered "public records," as defined in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code.

12. Under what conditions does the Release Authority recommend an Early Release?

In general, the Release Authority recommends an early release if a youth's Pre-Release Date is less than the minimum sentence date, and the youth was not committed for a category one (Aggravated Murder, Attempted Aggravated Murder, Murder or Attempted Murder) or two (Kidnapping, Rape, Voluntary Manslaughter, Involuntary Manslaughter, Felonious Sexual Penetration, Aggravated Arson, Aggravated Robbery or Aggravated Burglary) offense. Other information, such as the youth's level of security risk, institutional behavior, and rehabilitative progress are also taken into consideration.

13. What services does the Office of Victim Services provide to juvenile victims of crime?

- ◆ *Notifies victims when a youth has been committed to DYS;*
- ◆ *Notifies victims of their rights:*
 - ◆ *The right to designate a victim representative;*
 - ◆ *The right to be notified of periodic release, revocation, and discharge reviews;*
 - ◆ *The right to participate in release proceedings and the actions necessary to exercise those rights;*
 - ◆ *The right to confidentiality;*
 - ◆ *Provide information about DYS policies and procedures and the status of youth in custody;*
 - ◆ *Present victim advocacy concerns to the Release Authority.*



Community Service

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) set a new record for the number of community service hours completed during Fiscal Year 2002. Youth from DYS correctional facilities and regional parole offices performed various community services as part of their rehabilitation and as a way for them to give back to the community.

The original goal of 100,000 hours was almost doubled with 192,249 hours. This goal was achieved by having youth participate in projects such as making educational materials for Cincinnati schools, tapping maple trees for syrup with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in Richland county, and working with First Lady Hope Taft for Habitat for Humanity in Allen county. On average, seventy-seven percent of juveniles committed to DYS were involved in this rehabilitation process.

“Community service is a fundamental part of rehabilitation for our youth,” said Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director of the Ohio Department of Youth Services. “It’s wonderful to see that our youth and staff have worked so hard to exceed their goal,” he added.

The services provided by DYS youth benefit Ohio’s communities. Not only do the juveniles increase their emotional and social development while giving back to the community, their services allow public and private community organizations to complete labor-intensive projects. For more information on how DYS youth can participate in community service projects, please contact Chris Baker, Community Services Administrator at (614) 752-9773.



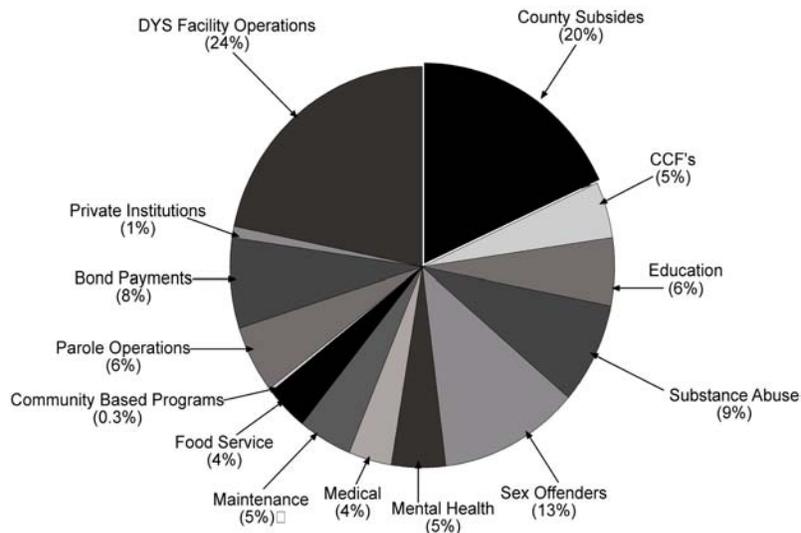
Youth make education materials for Cincinnati schools.



Youth tap maple trees for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

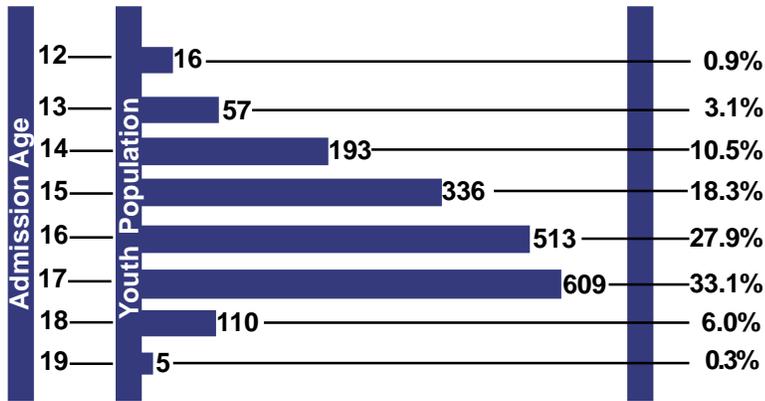
FY 02 Expenditures by Program

EDUCATION	\$ 14,073,149
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	\$ 19,591,853
SEX OFFENDERS	\$ 27,428,062
MENTAL HEALTH	\$ 11,101,785
MEDICAL	\$ 9,676,431
FOOD SERVICE	\$ 9,096,456
MAINTENANCE	\$ 10,108,374
COMMUNITY BASED OPTIONS PROGRAM	\$ 686,959
PAROLE OPERATIONS	\$ 15,847,320
BOND PAYMENTS	\$ 17,003,741
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS	\$ 2,774,345
DYS FACILITY OPERATIONS	\$ 49,581,510
TOTAL DYS OPERATIONS	\$ 186,969,985
RECLAIM OHIO FUNDS TO COUNTIES	\$ 33,382,453
DETENTION SUBSIDY	\$ 342,497
REHAB SUBSIDY	\$ 111,230
BLOCK GRANT SUBSIDY	\$ 18,558,579
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES	\$ 11,633,253
TOTAL COUNTY OPERATIONS	\$ 64,028,011
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 250,997,997



Statistical Data

Intake By Age



Total Youth Population=1,840

Commitment By Gender



Male = 90%



Female = 10%

Commitment By Race

Caucasian	50.2%
African-American	46.9%
Hispanic	2.1%
Other	0.8%

Average Length of Stay

The average length of stay was 10.7 months.

Recidivism Rates

Out of 648 youth released during the first quarter of FY 02:

15.9% recidivated after 3 months.

35.8% recidivated after 6 months.

Recidivism

A youth is considered to have recidivated if he or she violates probation, is re-arrested, adjudicated for a new offense, committed to a DYS facility, or comes into any contact with the juvenile justice system.

The number of juveniles committed to DYS during fiscal year 2002 was:	1,840
Average age of a youth at admission was:	16.4 yrs
Average age of a youth at institutional release was:	17.4 yrs
Average age of a youth at discharge was:	18.7 yrs
The average per diem cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender in a DYS institution was:	\$157.37
The number of officers and direct care DYS institution-based staff was approximately:	1558
Direct Staff/Offender Ratio was:	1:1.2
Parole Officer/Parolee Ratio was:	1:18.5
Average daily institutional population was:	1886
Average daily parole population was:	2184
The number of juveniles that were revoked in fiscal year 2002 was:	496

Offense Types

