

Ohio Department of Youth Services

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Annual Report Fiscal Year 2000

Bob Taft, Governor

Maureen O'Connor, Lt. Governor

Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director

Carol Rapp Zimmermann, Assistant Director

Director's Letter



Fiscal Year 2000 was a step towards the future for the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

DYS went "Back to the Basics" as we worked towards implementation of the American Correctional Association's standards at all of our institutions and regional offices. This effort will ensure

quality performance at all levels of our agency. A daily commitment to this process is needed for success and our employees began embracing this new initiative in FY 2001. Although this will be an ongoing challenge for us, a commitment to professional standards will strengthen the pride we have in our work with delinquent youth.

We also began operations at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility (MaJCF) in July. MaJCF represents the newest technology available to juvenile corrections and promotes training and life skills for those offenders assigned to this facility. With the creation of Marion's Special Unit, we are also equipped to deal with the most serious youthful offenders who have either serious mental health problems or who have displayed severe behavioral disorders. By putting these offenders in a separate and secure housing unit, we are better able to address their needs through intensive treatment and programming.

As we continue to prepare for the future, the lasting success of The RECLAIM program continues to be the hallmark of our efforts at DHS in partnership with the juvenile courts. Developed to empower local judges with more options and alternatives in sentencing juveniles, this initiative improves the ability to treat adjudicated youth in Ohio's court system. Using RECLAIM money to develop local options, courts continue to direct non-dangerous youth to community programs and sanctions.

DYS continues to move forward, and we are proud to share our progress with you.



DYS Mission & Vision

DYS 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 youthful offenders accountable for their actions and gives them the skills and competencies they need to live crime free.

DYS VISION STATEMENT

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

Education Highlights

- 494 youth received their General Equivalency Diploma (GED).
- 64 youth graduated with diplomas from DHS high schools.
- 84 youth participated in correspondence classes for college credit.
- In March of 2000, eight DHS youth passed all five sections of Ohio's 12th Grade Proficiency Test and were awarded a \$500 stipend for postsecondary education studies. Six other youth received recognition for achieving an Honors score on one or more subsections of Ohio's 12th Grade Proficiency Test.
- The DHS Bureau of Education co-hosted the first ever Alternative Schools Summit with the Ohio Department of Education and the Attorney General's Office.
- The Life Skills/Pre-Release curriculum for the MaJCF Transition Unit was developed and implemented.
- In cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, an Information Technology Skills Training Program for DHS and other court involved youth was developed in Cuyahoga County.

Program Highlights

Mental Health Services

- During FY 2000, Mental Health Services were solidified and a comprehensive plan for mental health service delivery within the department was developed.
- A classification and tracking system was initiated to monitor the mental health population and to address shifts in service needs for the DHS population.
- Mental Health units have been established at five DHS facilities, with a unit for violent mentally ill offenders scheduled to open at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility (MaJCF) next year.

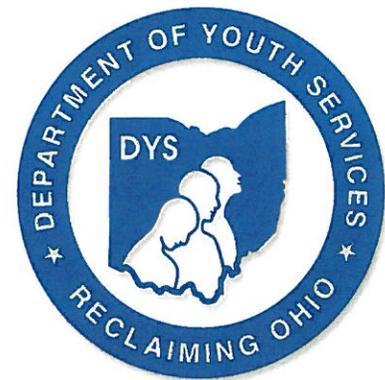
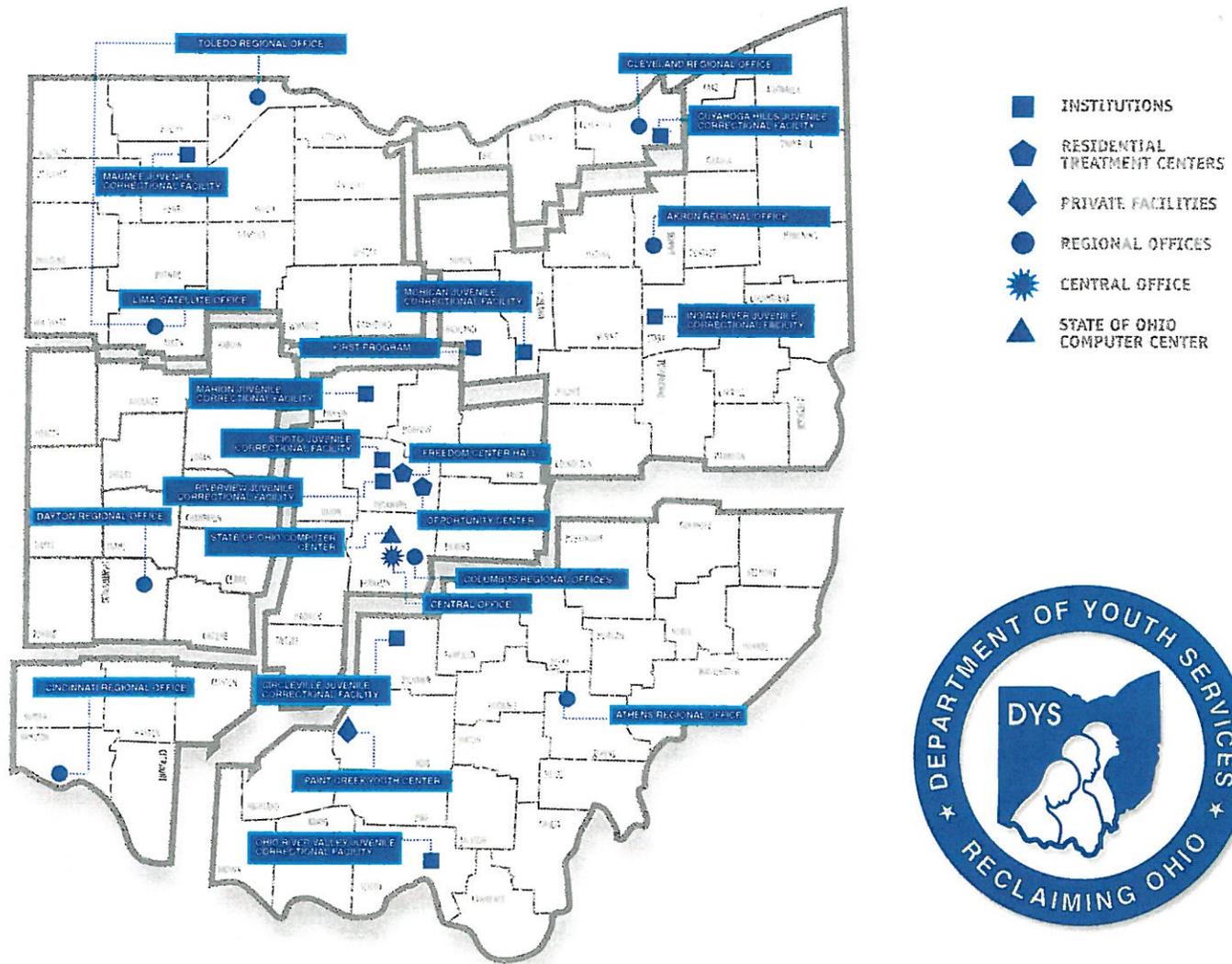
Substance Abuse Services/Medical Services

- The primary focus for Substance Abuse Services was participation in the work of the DYScovey 2000 Committee, which was responsible for creating guidelines for the delivery of substance abuse programming department wide.
- Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility completed their first year as the Therapeutic Community (TC), and is on track in their quest to become a national model for juvenile corrections in this area.
- During FY 2000, 24-hour nursing care was phased in for all institutions.

Office of Victim Services

- In FY 2000, the Office of Victim Services worked with various statewide, victim advocate organizations to create an offense-specific victim awareness curriculum for the DHS population. This program describes the impact of the crime upon victims through stories, interactive exercises, and videos. The goal of the awareness project is to educate offenders about the short and long-term consequences of their crimes upon society. Currently, Riverview Juvenile Correctional Facility is serving as the pilot site for this program. DHS anticipates expanding this innovative approach to victim issues in the coming fiscal year.

Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities



Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility Opening

The Department successfully opened a new maximum-security facility in Marion, Ohio. The opening and dedication ceremony was celebrated June 16, 2000. Governor Taft, along with many local officials and guests of the community, attended the ceremony in early June.

With a budget of approximately \$14 million dollars annually, the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility (MaJCF) will not only rehabilitate the male youth incarcerated there, but it will also infuse new state dollars into the local economy. MaJCF will create an additional 307 new jobs, 67% being individuals from the Marion county area. This means that an additional \$1 million will be infused into the economy of the Marion area.

At a cost of \$40 million, the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility is constructed on approximately 25-acres of land, within a secure perimeter fence, on a 70-acre site. The facility is equipped with a state-of-the-art touch screen security system, which integrates door controls, fire alarms, intercoms, fence detection and personal protection functions.

The maximum-security building houses 36 youths in self-contained units, and has its own classroom and small gym area. The transitional/independent living unit houses 60 youths, and provides independent living training, such as cooking, laundry and other basic life skills.

The Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility will not only hold youth accountable for committing felony level crimes, but it will also focus on vocational education and job training skills that they will need to be successful once they are released back into the community. The occupational trainings that are available to youth include: barbering, print shop, materials handling, auto shop, office technology, personal development and graphic arts.

With this new facility, the Department of Youth Services continues to be a recognized leader in juvenile corrections.

A Commitment to Accreditation: Why is it so valuable?

As an agency, the Department of Youth Services embraced a commitment to getting "back to basics" in Fiscal Year 2000. One of the key steps toward achieving this goal is evaluating how well our Institutions, Regional Offices and Central Office are operating. Being committed to pursuing accreditation with the American Correctional Association will ensure our commitment to doing the basics well. The American Correctional Association (ACA) is a multi-disciplinary organization of professionals representing all facets of corrections & criminal justice. ACA serves as the umbrella organization that sets the standard for all areas of corrections. Although this goal was developed in FY 1999, it will be a lengthy process to receive accreditation across the DYS system.

The requirements of the accreditation process are the same for all types of agencies in every level of government including state, county, federal, and private institutions. All programs and facilities

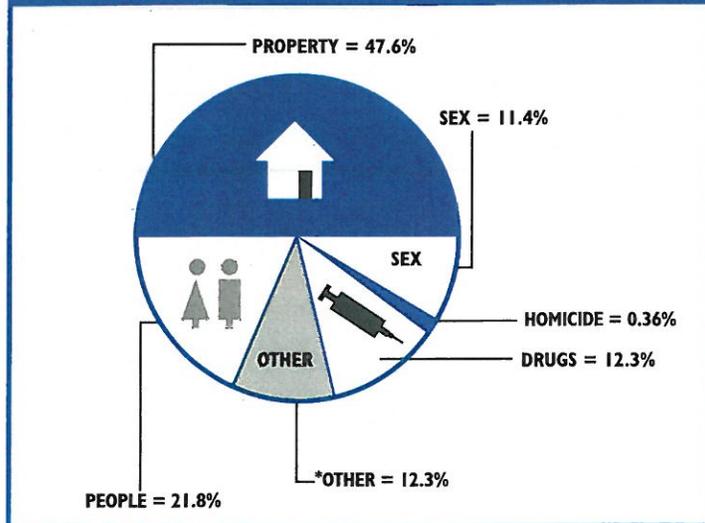
sign a contract, conduct a self-evaluation, and have a standards compliance audit by trained ACA consultants prior to an accreditation decision by the Board of Commissioners.

This will be an ongoing challenge for us. It will be an opportunity for all our site staff to analyze the effectiveness of their operations and compare them with the best standards in the corrections business. Once this is accomplished, it will lead to greater support from the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government and in doing so, provide the basis for the improvement of services, facilities, and programs for Ohio's juvenile offenders.

Although only 15% of juvenile correctional facilities are accredited nationwide, our goal is to become a fully accredited agency in four years.

Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Report Data

Offense Types



Youth Profile

During fiscal year 2000 2,533 juveniles were committed to DYS (excluding 614 juveniles whose commitments were revoked).

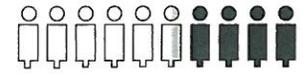
Commitments

Female 8% Male 92%



Average age at admission of a youth was 16.3 yrs.
The average per diem cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender in a DYS institution was \$135.

Caucasian 49.9%
African-American 44.8%
Other 5.3%



Direct Staff/Offender Ratio 1 : 2

Average daily institutional population was 2,030.

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

Parole Officer/Parolee Ratio 1 : 17

Average daily parole population was approximately 1,950.

Disbursements FY 2000

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

Average Length of Stay

