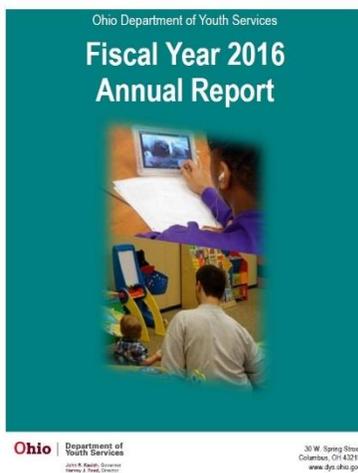


## August 2016 Annual Report Highlights Progress at DYS



We just published our [Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report](#), which provides an opportunity to share with you the many extraordinary ways we have been moving forward – progress we are determined to build upon. We can sense the pride in our facilities, regional parole offices and community partnerships, and I hope you agree, as you read through the pages of the report.

A healthy juvenile justice agency serves an important role in supporting public safety when it strikes a proper balance between serving youth in the community and placing those youth with the highest level of needs in facilities for rehabilitation. The professionals on our team are dedicated to achieving that balance and providing the best services for every youth impacted by our system. Our young people deserve nothing less.

Thanks to a continuum of programs and interventions for youth, we have been able to help youth get back on track while keeping them close to home and involving their families in treatment. The *Columbus Dispatch* featured an [article](#) regarding the use of community programs to reduce the number of youth incarcerated as well as an [article](#) about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the highly successful RECLAIM Ohio. A [publication](#) from the Schubert Center for Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University detailed Ohio's efforts to advance cost-effective, evidence-based practices for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Ohio is also a national leader in treatment and rehabilitation. In fact, this was persuasively confirmed again in 2015 when Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility won top honors from the national Performance-based Standards Learning Institute for the second time in three years. The primary criterion for this award is treating youth like they are our own, which at the Department of Youth Services is central to our core values. With this value in mind, the department has been at the forefront of eliminating solitary confinement as a sanction for youth and instead holding youth accountable in ways that result in learning. Our commitment to high

standards for helping youth was also demonstrated by the American Correctional Association's reaccreditation of Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Our progress is only possible with the continued support of families, the juvenile courts, volunteers and many partnering agencies. We remain committed to providing an efficient, top-notch juvenile justice agency that helps youth achieve productive, crime-free lives.