



Oregon Youth Authority

Issue Brief

January 2015

How youth move through the juvenile justice system

10

Number of OYA close-custody facilities

650

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises in close custody

550

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises in community residential treatment and foster care settings

450

Approximate number of youth offenders OYA supervises who live independently or at home in communities

323

Total Funds, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2013-2015

88

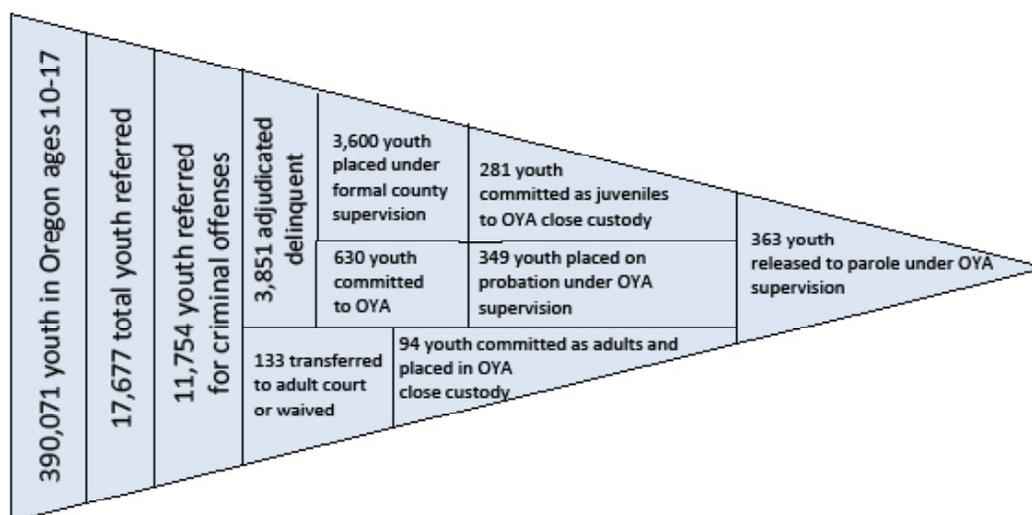
Approximate percent of OYA's budget spent locally in facilities and communities

Entering the juvenile justice system

Youth who commit crimes in Oregon usually are first referred to county juvenile departments. During 2012 approximately 15,000 youth were referred to county juvenile departments for criminal behavior.

A youth who receives a referral may be put on one of several paths — a formal accountability agreement with the county juvenile department, county probation, commitment to Oregon Youth Authority probation for out-of-home placement, commitment to an OYA close-custody facility, or sentencing to the Oregon Department of Corrections. A majority of youth offenders are successful on county probation. But, if lower-level sanctions and supervision are unsuccessful, the offender may be moved to a higher level of accountability.

Of the 15,000 youth referred to county juvenile departments in 2012, juvenile courts adjudicated approximately 3,850 as delinquent. Of those, fewer than 16 percent were committed to OYA — 281 were placed in a youth correctional facility and 349 were committed to OYA probation. An additional 94 were sentenced as adults to DOC's legal custody.



Source: JJIS, 2012

Determining the level of accountability

Whether a youth offender is placed with the county juvenile department, committed to OYA, or sentenced to DOC depends on a number of factors. These include the seriousness of the crime and the youth's age, risk to reoffend, and protective factors such as motivation to change, school performance, and whether parents are engaged and supportive.

Oregon

Youth Authority

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Mission

The Oregon Youth Authority protects the public and reduces crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.



Vision

Youth who leave OYA will go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.



Core Values

Integrity
Professionalism
Accountability
Respect



Director

Fariborz Pakseresht



Deputy Director

Joe O'Leary



Key Service Areas

Business Services
Community Services
Facility Services
Health Services
Information Services
Treatment Services

Offenders who are adjudicated in juvenile court before age 18 and are determined to need out-of-home care or placement in a youth correctional facility can be committed to OYA. Commitments can range from 30 days for a Class C misdemeanor (such as criminal mischief III) to much longer for a Class A felony (such as rape or attempted murder). No commitment to OYA can extend beyond the youth's 25th birthday.

Offenders ages 15 and older charged with Measure 11 crimes go to adult court and, if convicted, are sentenced to DOC. Youth 18 and younger who are convicted through adult court can be placed in an OYA close-custody facility until age 25, but remain in the legal custody of DOC. DOC offenders still in OYA close custody as they approach their 25th birthday are transferred to an adult correctional institution.

When committing a youth to OYA the judge can order the offender to complete specified court-ordered treatments, sanctions and conditions. The offender also will be required to pay court-ordered restitution to identified victims. The Oregon Department of Justice's Child Support Division may order the offender's parents to pay child support while the youth is in close custody, foster care, or residential treatment.

If a judge orders a youth to be placed in OYA close custody, the youth will go to an OYA intake facility for assessment and assignment to an appropriate youth correctional facility (YCF). OYA operates two intake facilities — one at Hillcrest YCF in Salem for males and one at Oak Creek YCF in Albany for females.

When a judge commits a youth to OYA probation with out-of-home placement, the youth will be screened and placed to meet his or her risk and need factors. Placement options include community residential treatment programs and foster care. Matching youth to appropriate services is based on a variety of evaluations including a risk/needs assessment that identifies criminogenic risk factors and protective factors influencing the youth's likelihood to reoffend.

Monitoring a youth's progress

As soon as a youth is committed to OYA, the agency assigns a juvenile probation and parole officer (JPPO) to the youth. The JPPO provides oversight consistency throughout the youth's time with OYA, whether the youth is on probation, in close custody, in a community residential treatment program, in foster care, or paroled to home or independent living. The JPPO maintains primary case management responsibilities throughout the youth's commitment to OYA. A multidisciplinary team (MDT) composed of the JPPO, treatment providers, the youth, his or her family, and others meets quarterly to review the youth's progress in treatment.

Preparing for transition to the community

When the MDT considers a youth ready for parole, it makes a recommendation to the youth correctional or transitional facility. These requests are reviewed by the superintendent or camp director and the parole supervisor. The superintendent or camp director is designated to authorize parole and sign the order. OYA has authority to approve, deny or revoke parole, the length of which depends on how long the judge committed the youth to OYA and the youth's behavior, engagement with treatment, and related factors.

A youth may be paroled to a residential treatment program, foster care, or home. The youth agrees to conditions such as continued participation in treatment, school attendance, employment, and community service. OYA oversees approximately 50 residential programs, 40 foster homes, and numerous contracted community-based out-patient treatment providers across the state.

The goal, from the moment a youth is placed under OYA's care and custody, is to help that youth go on to lead a productive, crime-free life after they leave the agency.