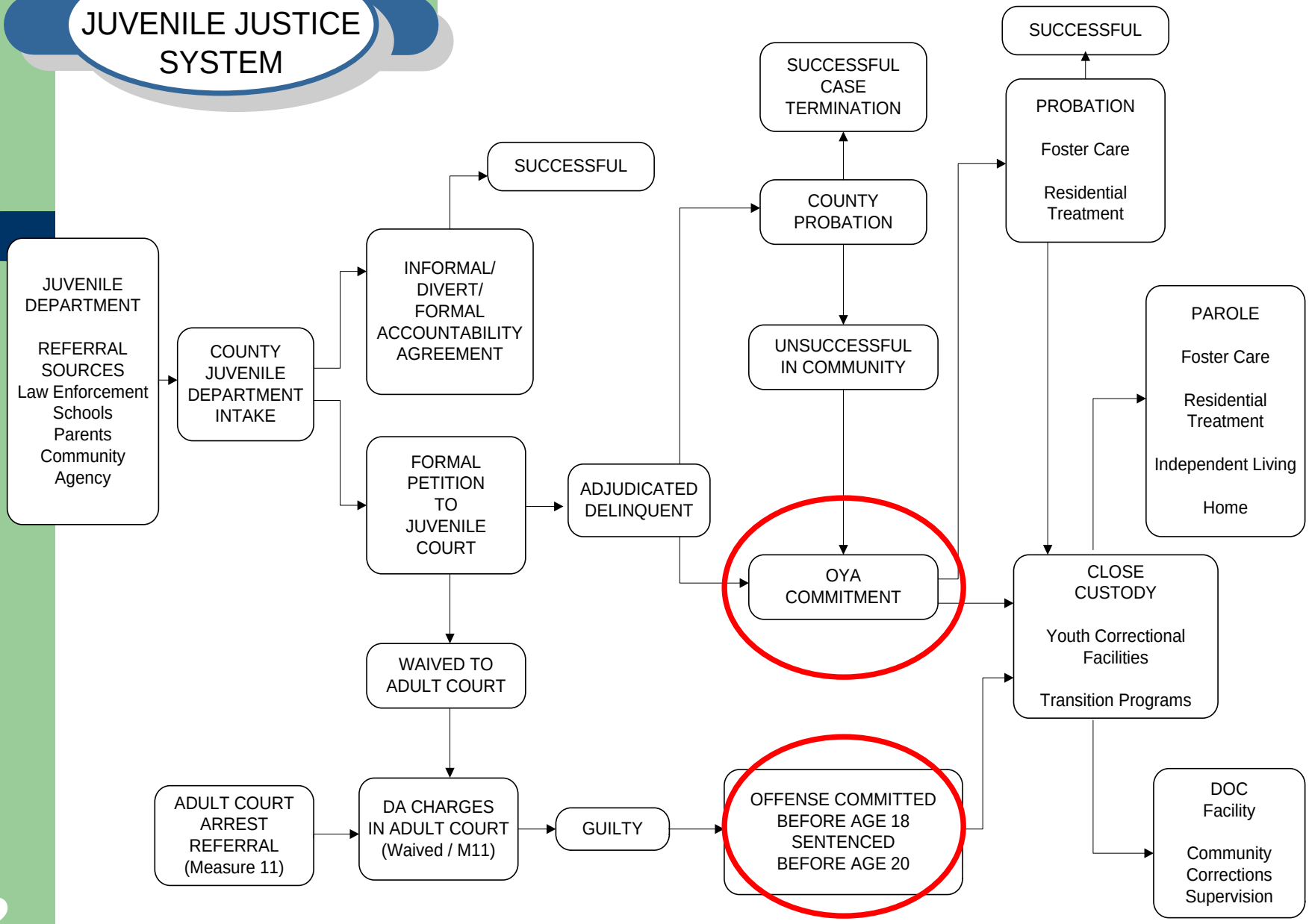
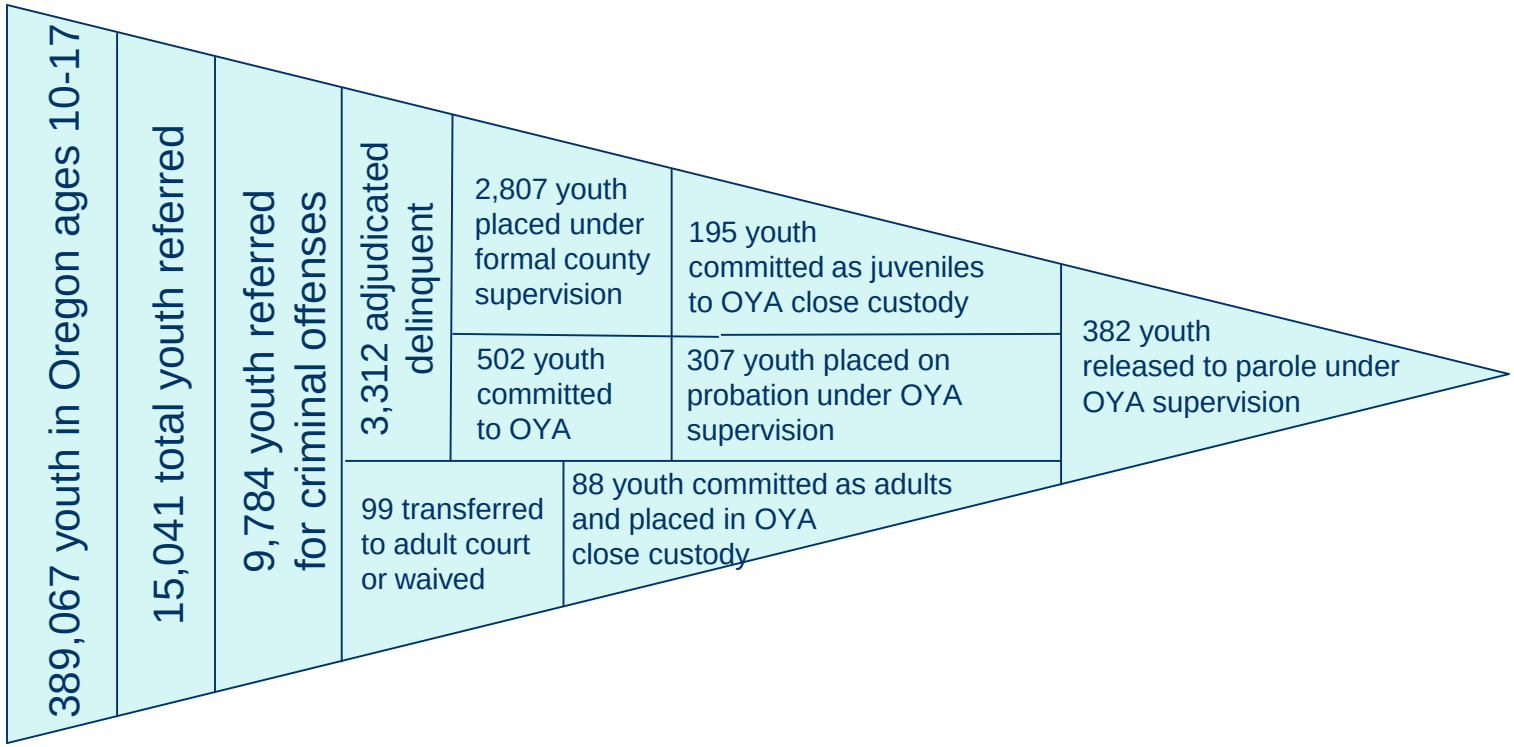
The Oregon Youth Authority – helping youth succeed and creating safer communities

OREGON'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

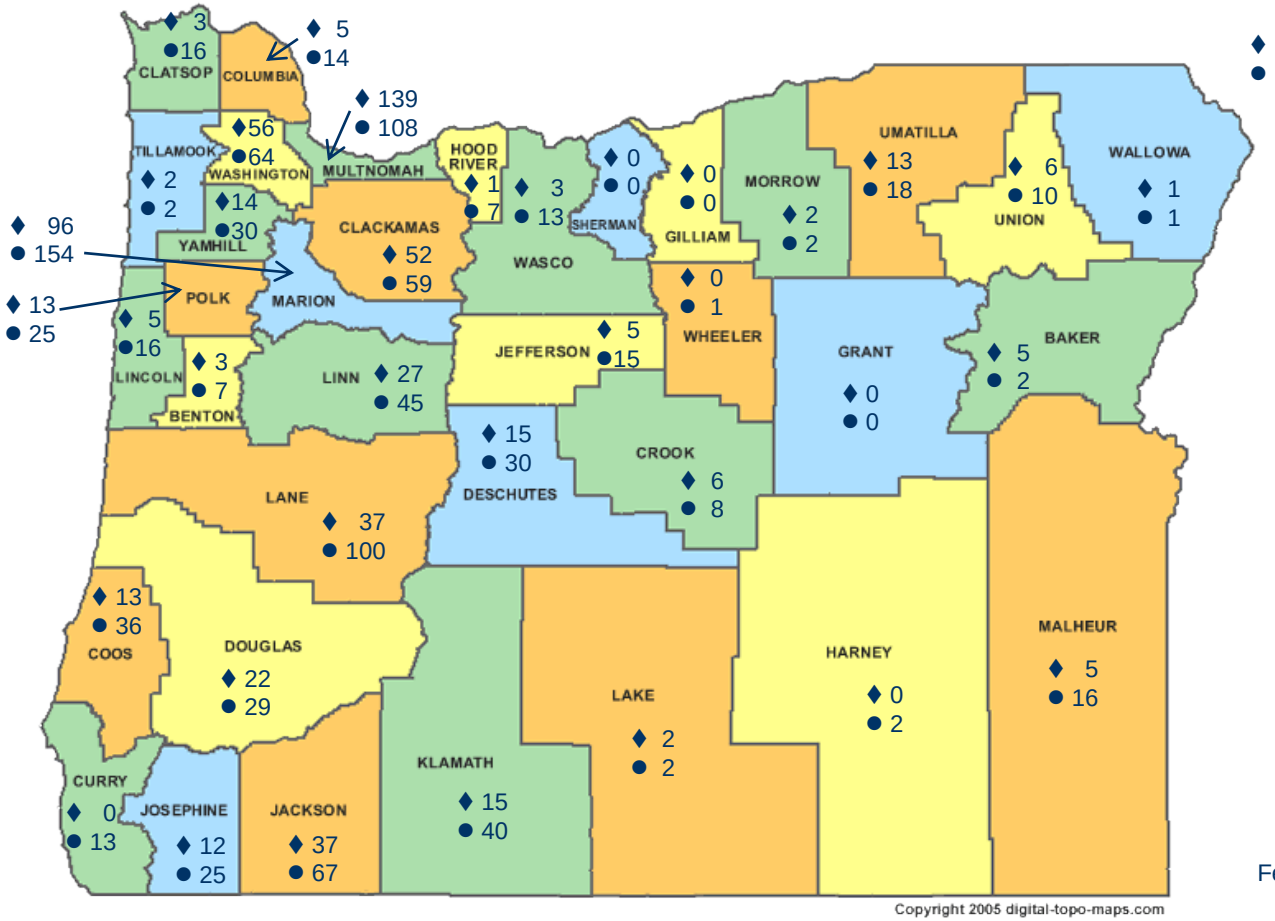


Oregon's Juvenile Justice System



Source: JJIS data for 2013

Youth offenders served by OYA



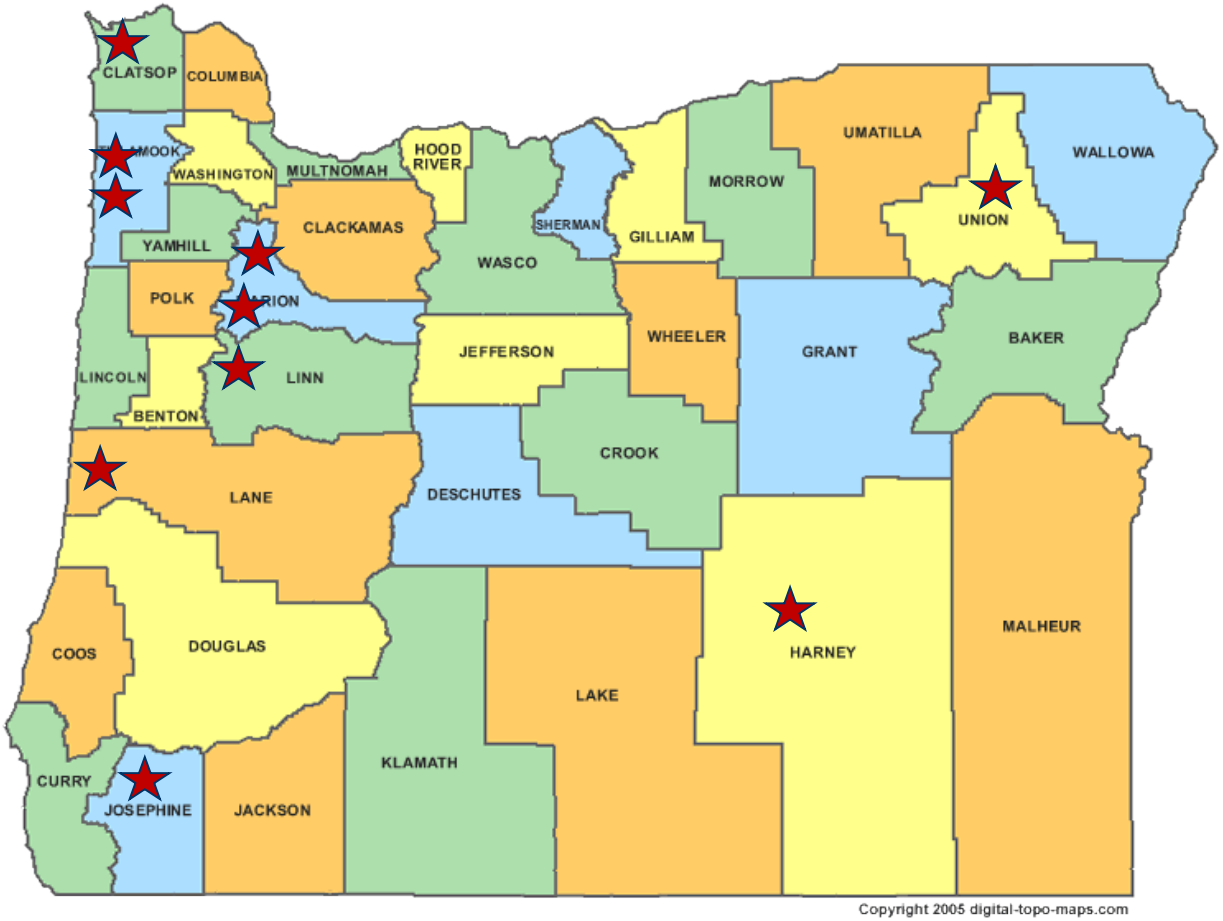
♦ Close Custody
● Probation/Parole

615: Total Close Custody

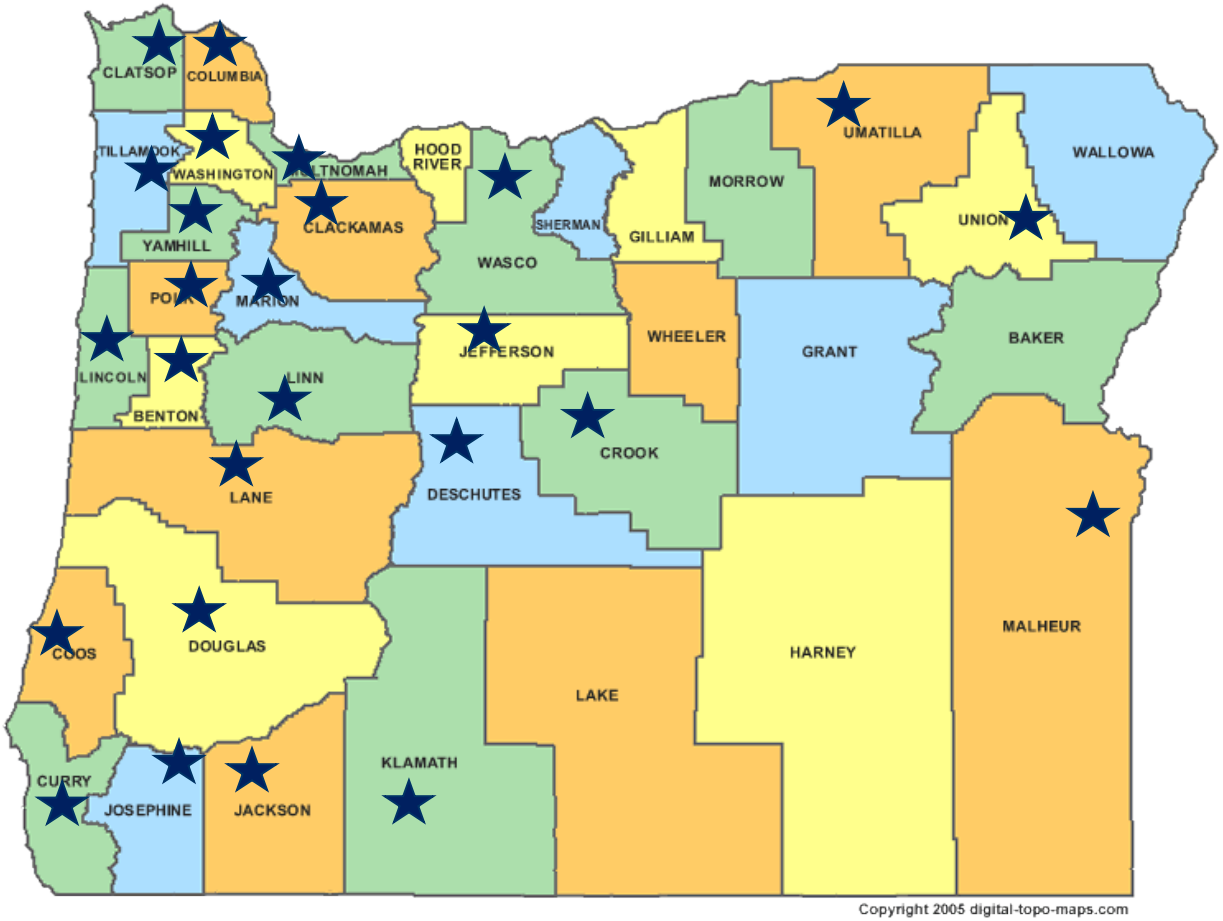
977: Total Community

February 10, 2014

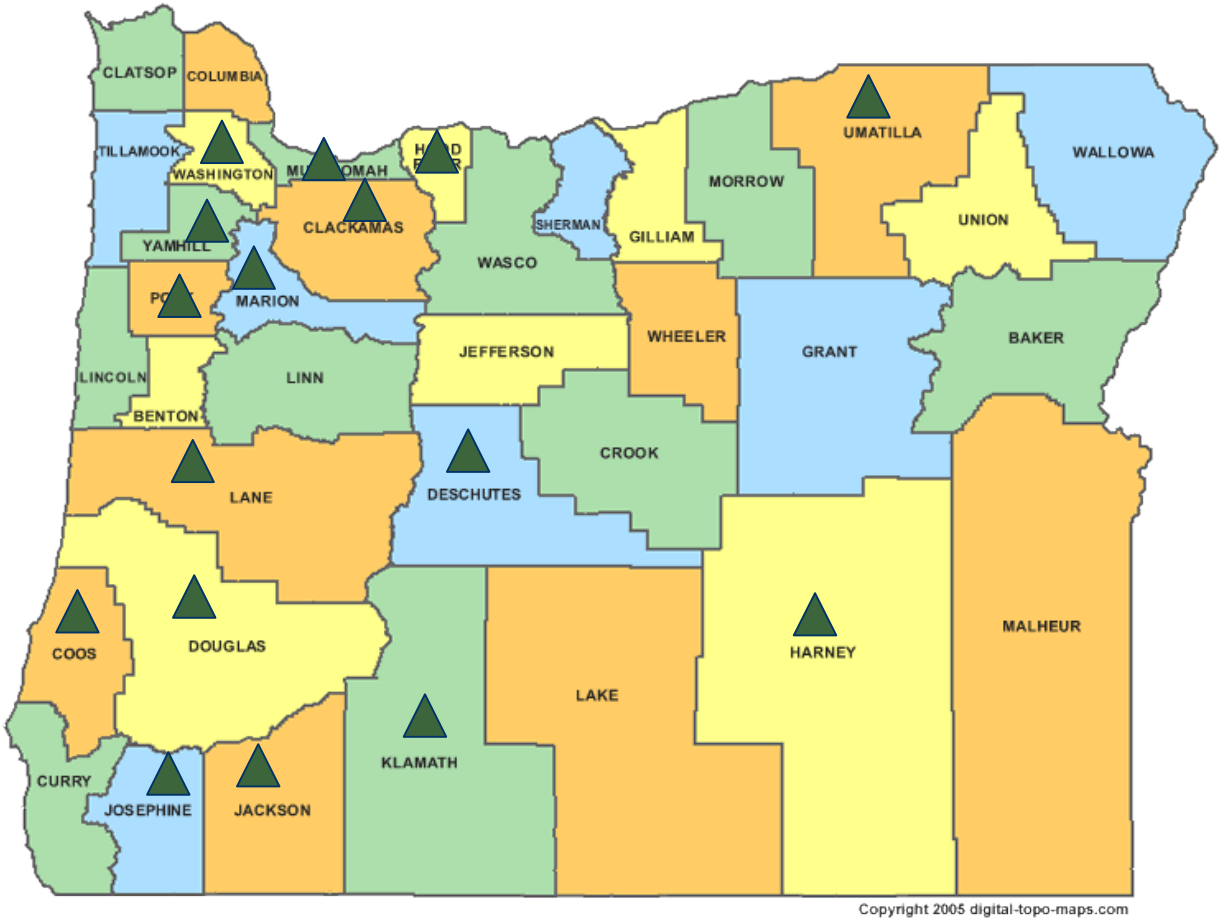
OYA close-custody facilities



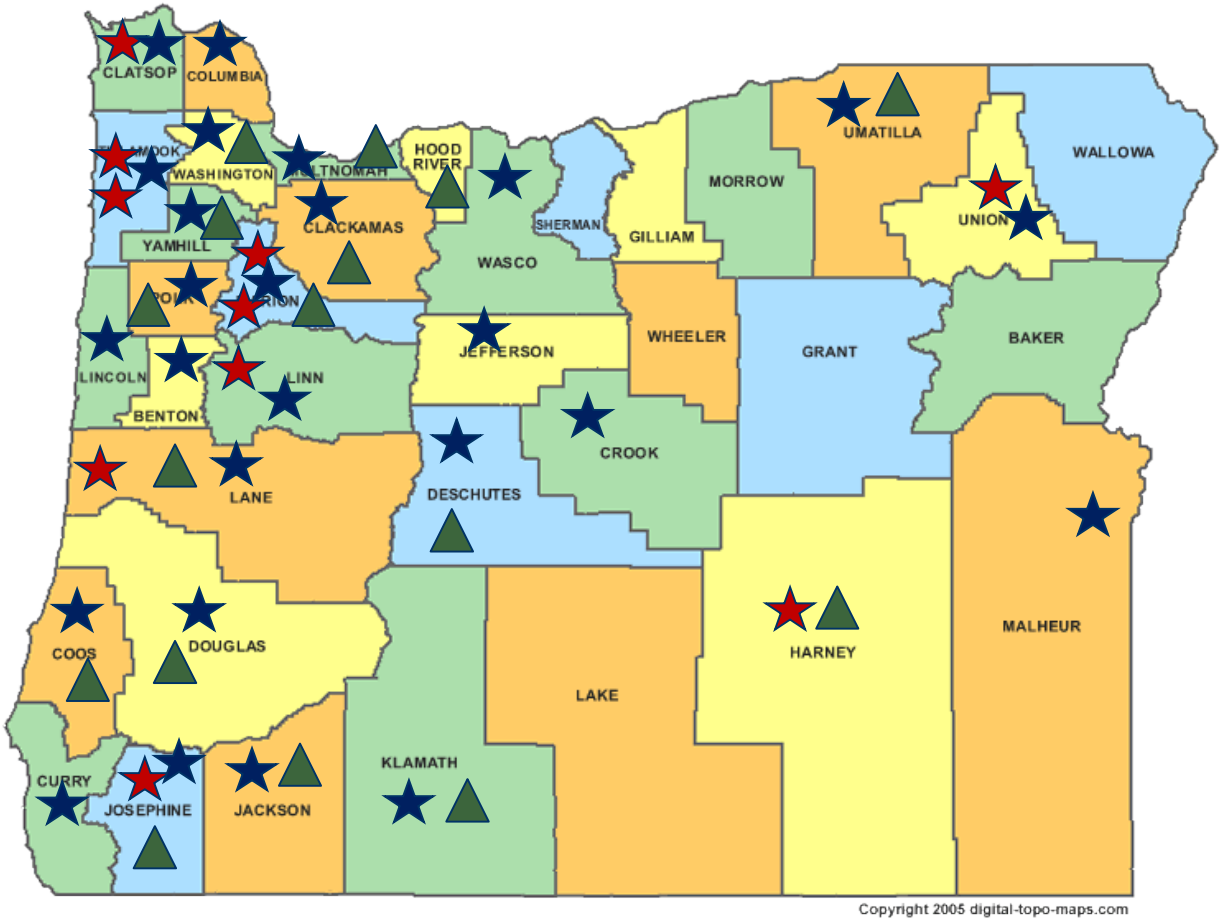
OYA probation and parole offices



OYA contracted residential treatment programs



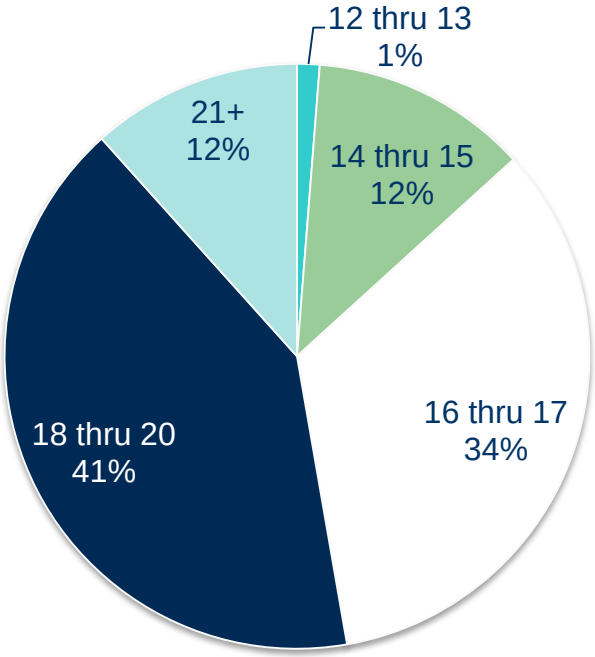
Combined service locations

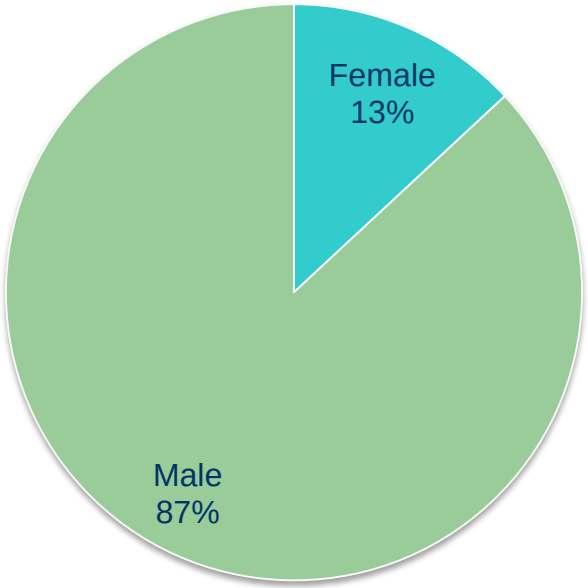


Youth offenders served by OYA

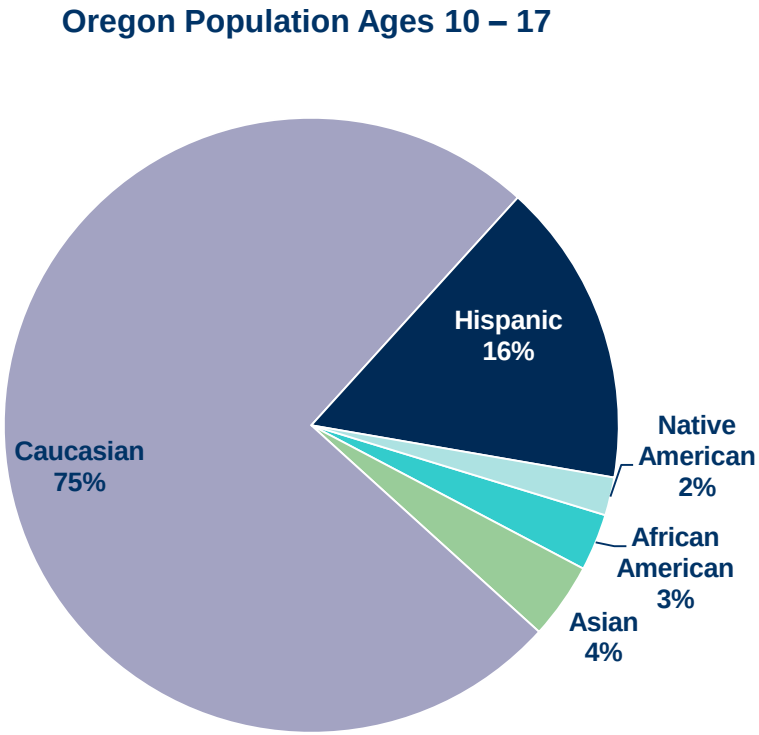
- The state's most delinquent youth offenders
- Ages 12 – 24
- Crimes committed prior to 18th birthday
- Crimes include murder, rape, arson, robbery, other violent crimes, and substance abuse
- OYA maintains legal and physical custody of youth offenders adjudicated to OYA by juvenile courts
- OYA has physical custody of youth offenders committed to DOC by adult courts and placed with OYA due to their age

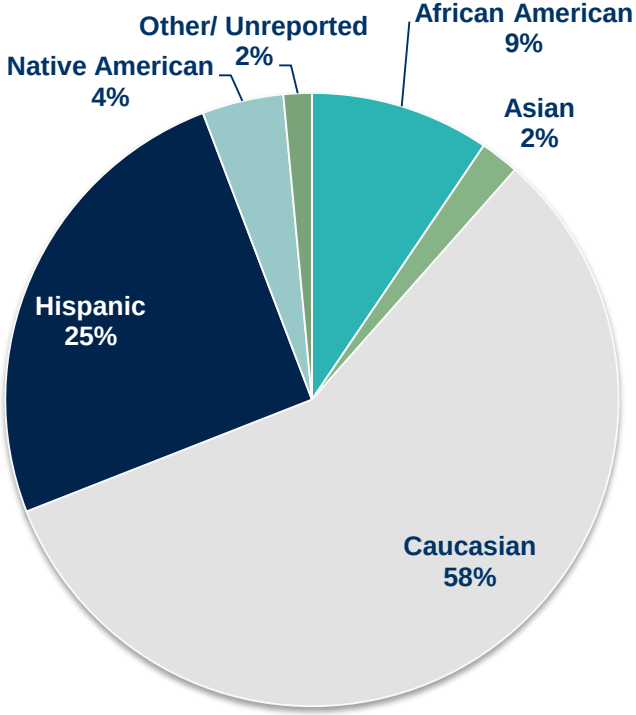
Youth offender profile: age and gender



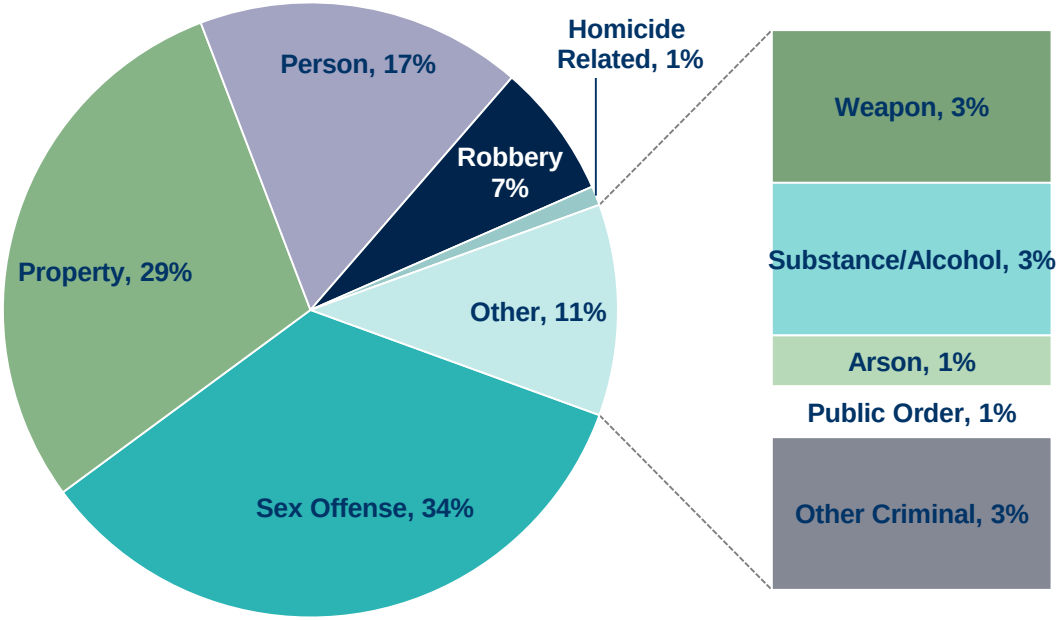


Youth offender profile: race and ethnicity

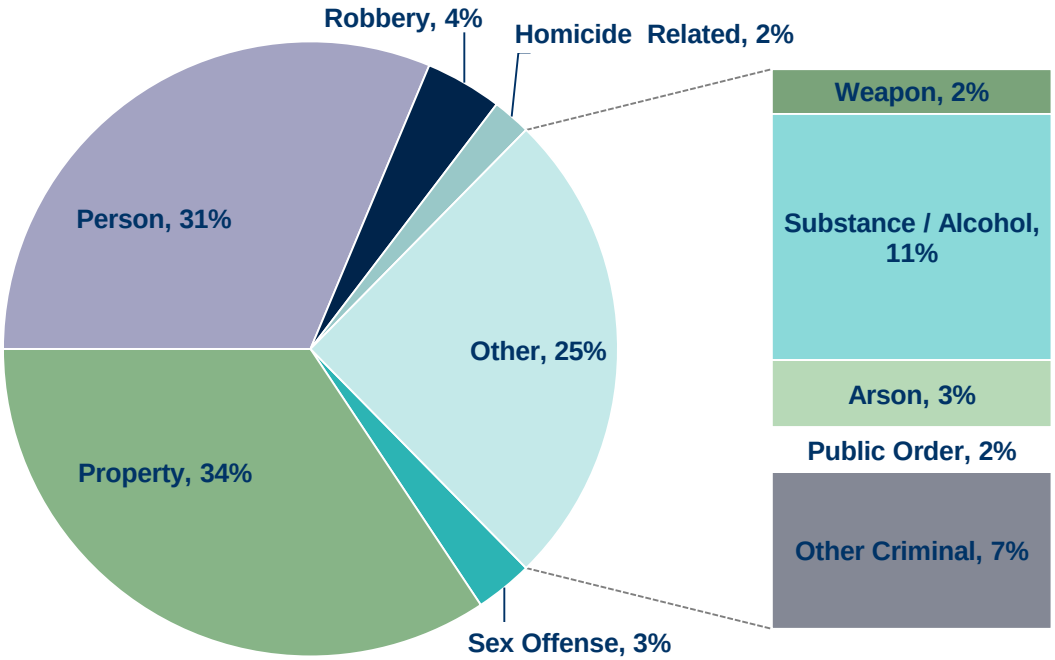




Youth offender profile: criminal activity, males



Youth offender profile: criminal activity, females



Youth offender profile: social characteristics

PERCENT MALES	CATEGORY	PERCENT FEMALES
69	Abused Alcohol or Drugs	81
58	Parents Abused Alcohol or Drugs	72
40	Diagnosed Mental Health Disorder Other than Conduct Disorder	65
48	Diagnosed Conduct Disorder	40
14	Sexually Abused	37
29	Special Education	35
6	Past Suicidal Behavior	21
14	Youth is a Parent	10

Myths and facts about youth offenders

Perception

- Once an offender, always an offender
- Sex offenders should be locked up a long time, because they will reoffend
- Spending money on treatment wastes resources
- It’s a waste of money to educate youth offenders

Reality

- Overall, more than 70% of offenders do not reoffend
- Just 4% of youth sex offenders commit another sex offense
- The return on investment ranges from 7:1 to 25:1
- The more education, the lower the recidivism rate

Oregon Youth Authority mission, vision and values

The **mission** of the Oregon Youth Authority is to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

The **vision** of the Oregon Youth Authority is that youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.

The **values** that guide the agency's decisions, actions and priorities are:

- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Accountability
- Respect

Building better lives

Key indicators of success

- Treatment progress
- Educational achievement
- Job-readiness

Building better lives: treatment

- Accountability
- Empathy
- Mental health treatment
- Drug and alcohol treatment
- Offense-specific treatment
- Violent offender treatment
- Restitution and community service
- Gang intervention
- Functional life skills
- Transition services

Treatment is a good investment

Returns on each $1 investment in youth

- $25 for life-skills training
  (University of Pennsylvania, 2008)
- $14 for functional family therapy
  (University of Pennsylvania, 2008)
- $11 for alcohol and drug treatment
  (NIH, 2004)
- $ 8 for crime-specific interventions
  (Wilder Foundation, 2007)
- $ 7 for multi-systemic behavioral therapy
  (Kleitz, Borduin and Schaeffer, 2010)

Building better lives: education

- Youth in OYA close custody are required to work toward a high school diploma or GED certificate
- Youth in close custody attend 220 days of school each year
- During 2013:
  - 123 youth in close custody received high school diplomas
  - 120 received vocational certificates
  - 44 received GED certificates
  - 4 earned two-year college degrees
  - 1 earned four-year undergraduate degree

Education is a good investment

Recidivism rates relative to education

The more education youth offenders receive, the less likely they will be to commit another crime

- 28% -- average recidivism rate
- 25% -- two-year college degree
- 13% -- four-year undergraduate degree
- 0% -- graduate degree

(Texas Department of Criminal Justice, 2002)

Building better lives: job skills

OYA offers a range of vocational education opportunities that offer certificates of completion:

- Barbering
- Carpentry
- Culinary arts
- Plumbing
- Veterinary care
- Wastewater treatment
- Welding
- Woodworking

Vocational education is a good investment

Youth with job skills contribute to society

Youth with jobs:

- Are able to pay taxes
- Need fewer social services
- Are less likely to commit future crimes

About Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility

Oak Creek YCF was one of several close-custody facilities built in the mid to late 1990s to serve youth offenders.

The facility design, which provides living units around an enclosed courtyard, is similar to that of the other regional close-custody facilities.

Today, Oak Creek serves 60 female youth in three living units.

Treatment and education programs offered at Oak Creek YCF

- The treatment programs at Oak Creek YCF provide the entire range of treatment services offered at OYA, with a focus on serving youth with cognitive or behavioral challenges.
- A small accredited on-site high school serves youth who still need to acquire high school diplomas or GEDs
- On-line college courses also are offered:
  - Youth may take free courses provided by some colleges
  - Youth may pay for courses if they have the money
  - Youth may apply for Pell grants
  - Youth not eligible for Pell grants may apply for scholarships through New Beginnings, a private OYA grant program funded by donations

Job-skills offered at Oak Creek YCF

- Vocational programs at Oak Creek include:
  - Building maintenance (e.g., custodial skills)
  - Culinary skills (e.g., food service worker and barista opportunities)
  - Greenhouse skills
  - Grounds maintenance
  - Industrial laundry worker
  - Library assistant
  - Physical education assistant
  - Community service and volunteer opportunities
  - Other trades
- Certificates are available in many of these programs

Helping youth succeed and creating safer communities

Through treatment, classroom education and vocational education, OYA helps youth succeed in reforming their lives.

Everyone benefits when OYA achieves its vision of seeing all youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.

Thank you

E-mail: oya.info@oya.state.or.us

Web: http://www.oregon.gov/OYA

Twitter: @OregonYouth