

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association - OJDDA

Juvenile Departments are Key Public Safety Partners

County juvenile departments work to provide effective delinquency interventions with youth so that our communities are safer. Our work promotes accountability to crime victims and our communities. Last year, we managed over 22,044 delinquent youth involved in the juvenile justice system. This accounts for over 94% of all of the referred youth in Oregon.

Early intervention is critical because these youth are committing serious crimes similar to those seen in adult corrections. We respectfully request that the Oregon State Legislature continue funding existing levels of Basic Services and Diversion funds.

Resources for County juvenile departments must be maintained to the highest extent possible so that high-risk youth have opportunities to become productive citizens, and the public is kept safe from dangerous juvenile offenders that require secure confinement.



Investments in Juvenile Justice Get Results

Across the state, investments in evidence-based practices (EBP) at the county level remain the best way to reduce juvenile crime and its associated costs. The outcomes achieved by county juvenile departments prove that previous investments have been wise choices:

Improving Public Safety

- Between 1998 and 2009 juvenile criminal referrals declined by 42% (over 25,000 fewer referrals) while Oregon's actual youth population increased
- The recidivism rate (frequency of re-offense) declined nearly 8% during that same time period

Accountability to Victims and the Community

- Approximately \$850,000 in victim restitution paid by juvenile offenders under county supervision in 2009
- Over 200,000 hours of unpaid community service performed by juvenile offenders under county supervision in 2009

Did you know that Oregon County Juvenile Departments...

- Manage 94% of all delinquent youth referred across the state
- Have reduced chronic juvenile offenders from 7.2% to 5.1%
- Helped taxpayers avert \$49 million dollars in criminal justice costs through aggressive reductions in juvenile recidivism



**Oregon's Leading
Voice in Juvenile
Justice**

Juvenile Justice is Crime Prevention



Over 22,044 delinquent youth were managed by county juvenile departments in 2009.

A significant source of funding for county juvenile departments are the Basic Services and Diversion funds administrated by the Oregon Youth Authority and passed through to the counties. Although Basic Services and Diversion funds comprise less than 6% of the total OYA budget, these funds provide critical resources for county juvenile departments, establishing the first line of defense in successfully intervening with and preventing delinquent behavior.

These resources fund essential elements of delinquency programs for the vast majority of high-risk offenders supervised in local communities including:

- Detention
- Out-of-home placements
- Substance abuse treatment
- Sex offender treatment
- Cognitive behavioral interventions
- Mental health treatment
- Community service and restitution payment programs
- Gender and culturally specific programming.

These interventions are proven to prevent youth from entering not only OYA close custody, but the adult justice system as well.

OJDDA Policy Recommendations for System Improvements and Cost Savings

1. Preserve County level funding to safely manage the majority of juvenile offenders in local communities.

Many states across the country are actually *increasing* local funding for community-based programs, not only for the cost benefit, but because the recidivism outcomes are better when youth can be provided intervention and correctional treatment locally, closer to families.

2. Cap parole revocations to a maximum of 90 days

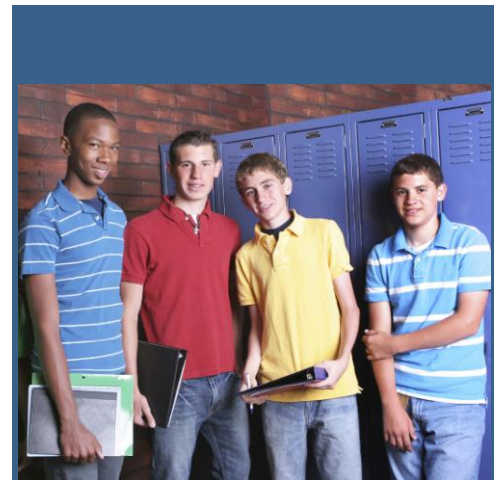
The 2010 Juvenile Justice Symposium report shows 30% (130 beds on average) of the 425 discretionary beds available to counties are occupied by youth revoked from a conditional release in the community. OJDDA proposes the development of specialized, shorter-term close custody programming for these youth to better focus on underlying causes of their relapse in the community.

3. Reduce length of stay in Youth Correctional Facilities

With fewer close custody beds available, the same number of youth could still be served by *reducing length of stay and intensifying treatment* over a shorter period of time. For example, the average length of stay for male sex offenders in close custody is 741 days compared to 332 days for males with non-sex offenses. The OYA 2010 Length of Stay Study found that longer lengths of stay for sex offenders did not improve recidivism.

4. Reduce number of lower-risk juveniles committed to community residential programs

Revise residential placement criteria to a risk-based model and establish a goal that 90% of residential placements must be high-risk and/or chronic offenders.



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