

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Update

The specific questions posed by the Medical Care Advisory Committee are:

1) Where do these youth go once released? Do they live with family, on the street, etc?

Where youth go to live once they are released is not information that we have in our information system (JJIS). We do know, however, their next program placement following completion of a residential commitment program (if they have one). A completion indicates that a youth is being released from a residential commitment program back into the community and includes the following release reasons: completed, to aftercare, max term served, and aged out. Youth with a release reason of 'max term served' and 'aged out' are direct discharges for which there is no subsequent placement information available.

In FY 2010-11, which is the most recent completion/release information available, 5,737 youth were released from residential programs. Of those youth, 90% (n=5,184) completed. The recidivism rate was 41%.

Based on information in the Department's juvenile justice information system (JJIS), we do know what county the youth goes back to (based on the youth's home county that is entered into the JJIS) as well as the next program type of the youth's next placement. The attached sheet contains a table that shows the number of youth that completed a residential program in FY 2010-11 by youth's home county and a breakdown of what their next program placement was. *(Note: "End DJJ Custody" is not a physical placement, rather a placeholder status indicating that the youth is no longer in the Department's custody. "Other" includes the following statuses: abscond, JAC JARC JIF, intake processing, and intake on call screening.)*

2) What is the percentage of youth that return to DJJ facilities or enter the criminal justice system?

Of the 5,184 youth that completed a residential program in FY 2010-11, 41% (n=2,111) recidivated (reoffended) within twelve months of program completion. The Department's official recidivism definition is a subsequent adjudication or conviction within twelve months of program completion (as of 2011, violations of community supervision are no longer counted as recidivism). Without controlling for youth who were not old enough to be processed as an adult, of the 41% of the recidivists:

- 31% (n=649) of the youth had a subsequent residential commitment placement,
- 24% (n=505) of the youth were put on adult probation, and
- 15% (n=320) of the youth had an adult prison placement.