



State of Illinois
Department of Juvenile Justice

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice





Mission

The mission of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice is to enhance public safety and positive youth outcomes by providing strength-based individualized services to youth in a safe learning and treatment environment so that they may successfully reintegrate into their communities.

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Overview

of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

IDJJ was created by statute in 2006 as an independent agency charged with providing individualized services to youth in contact with the law – recognizing that they have different needs than adults – to help them return successfully to their communities.

Mission:

The Mission of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice is to enhance public safety and positive youth outcomes by providing strength-based individualized services to youth in a safe learning and treatment environment so that they may successfully reintegrate into their communities.

About IDJJ:

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) is a stand-alone state agency with administrative offices in Springfield and Chicago. Formerly part of the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC), IDJJ was created by statute in 2006 as an independent agency charged with providing individualized services to youth in contact with the law – recognizing that they have different needs than adults – to help them return successfully to their communities.

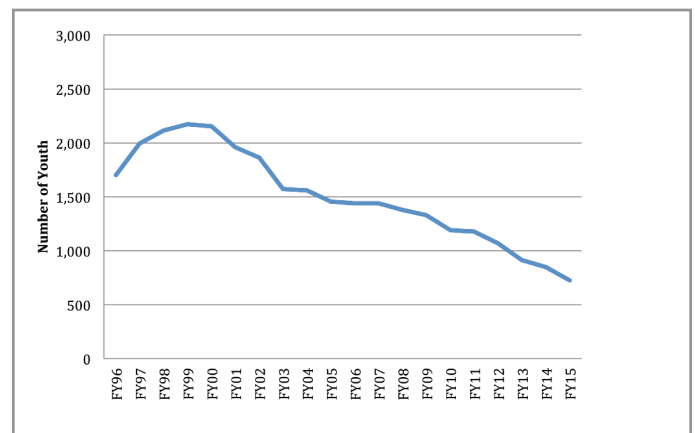
Population trends:

In the last full Fiscal Year (FY 2015), IDJJ held, on average each day, 725 youth in six secure facilities. IDJJ was also responsible for approximately 1,200 youth on Aftercare (juvenile parole) in Illinois' communities. Currently ninety-four percent of youth committed to IDJJ are male; six percent are female.

The population of the six youth facilities continues to decrease. Since FY 1999, IDJJ populations have been falling every year, and decreased more than 66 percent between FY 1999 and 2015. Even during the most recent fiscal year, IDJJ's population decreased more than seven percent, from the first day (July 1, 2014) to the last day of the fiscal year (June 30, 2015).

IDJJ Facility Population Trend Statewide: Fiscal Year 1996 – Fiscal Year 2015

Figure 01: Average Daily Population



Average daily population represents the average number of youth in facilities across all the days of the year.

Agges served:

IDJJ primarily serves and houses individuals committed to state custody through juvenile court delinquency proceedings. A small subset of individuals – less than 10 percent – under the age of 17 who are tried and convicted as adults in criminal court and who are also under age 17 when sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) can also be housed at IDJJ until they turn 21 years of age.

Youth can be committed to IDJJ if, at the time of their offense, they were at least 13 years of age and under 18. Youth are committed to IDJJ for an indeterminate sentence until the age of 21. In FY 2015, the average age of a youth residing in an IDJJ facility was 17.1 years old, and

the average age of a youth under IDJJ Aftercare supervision in the community was 18.1 years old.

Reasons for admittance:

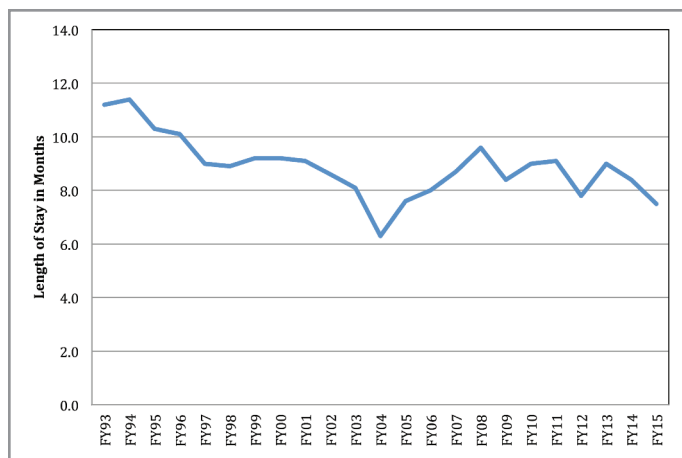
Juveniles adjudicated delinquent by a judge in one of Illinois’ circuit courts can be placed on probation, committed to IDJJ, or enrolled in other diversionary programs such as Redeploy Illinois. Juveniles committed to IDJJ have been adjudicated delinquent on a wide range of committing offenses, including misdemeanors¹ and felonies ranging from property and drug offenses to violent crimes. In addition, as described above, some youth convicted in adult court can also be housed in IDJJ facilities until their ultimate transfer to the DOC. During FY 2015, roughly one-third (35.2 percent) of youth committed to IDJJ were adjudicated delinquent of a Class 2 felony, which includes offenses such as robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle theft.

Average length of stay:

Youth committed to IDJJ in FY 2015 spent, on average, 7.5 months in facilities. For those that exited Aftercare in the same time period, they spent slightly more than a year (12.2 months) monitored in the community.

When examining length of stay in more detail, two patterns emerge. First, the average length of stay in IDJJ has decreased over the years. In FY 2015, youth spent nearly four months fewer in IDJJ facilities than they did in FY 1993. Despite the general downward trend, there were some years where fluctuations were seen.

Figure 02: Average Length of Stay by Fiscal Year

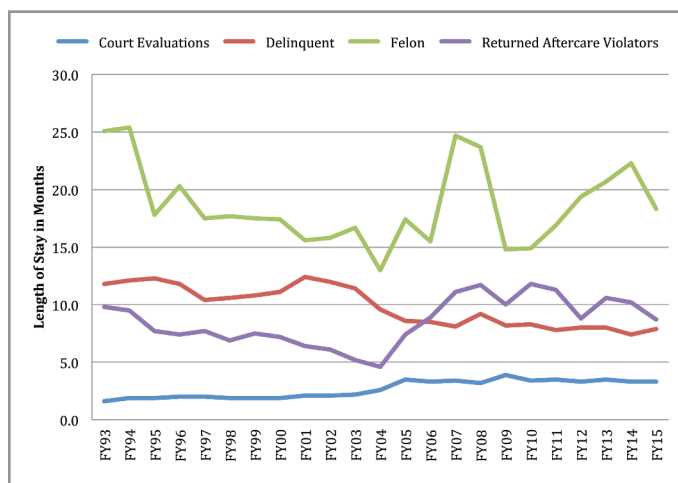


The graph illustrates the trend across time in length of stay in facility. Data summarizes the average number of months youth spend in a IDJJ facility per admission for all youth that exit during a Fiscal Year.

Youth are admitted to IDJJ facilities under four major classifications: delinquents, felons (youth committed from adult court), court evaluations, and returned Aftercare violators. Overall, most youth are admitted as delinquents; and therefore, the decrease in length of stay for delinquent youth has contributed most to the decrease in average length of stay. Delinquent length of stay increased slightly this Fiscal Year from last.

For other types of admissions to IDJJ, lengths of stay have stabilized or decreased. While court evaluation lengths of stay have increased over the years, they have stabilized in recent years. Youth admitted as felons have had unstable lengths of stay. There are few of these individuals released yearly; their small numbers lead to unstable estimates which may greatly change from year to year. Aftercare violator length of stay has decreased by 1.5 months from FY 2014 to FY 2015. This length of stay increased in the early 2000s, but it has been gradually trending downward since that time.

Figure 03: Average Length of Stay for Types of Youth



The graph examines average length of stay for four major types of admissions to IDJJ facilities: delinquents, felons, court evaluations, and returned Aftercare violators.

Services provided:

IDJJ assesses each youth’s individual needs during the intake process to determine appropriate services. All youth receive basic medical care, education, food, and housing. IDJJ also provides mental health and substance abuse services based on the individual treatment needs of the youth. Other recreational and volunteer programs are available and vary by facility.

¹ After January 1, 2016, misdemeanants can no longer be sentenced to IDJJ based on newly enacted legislation.

Illinois Youth Center (IYC) facilities statewide:

- IYC-Chicago
- IYC-Harrisburg
- IYC-Kewanee
- IYC-Pere Marquette
- IYC-St. Charles
- IYC-Warrenville

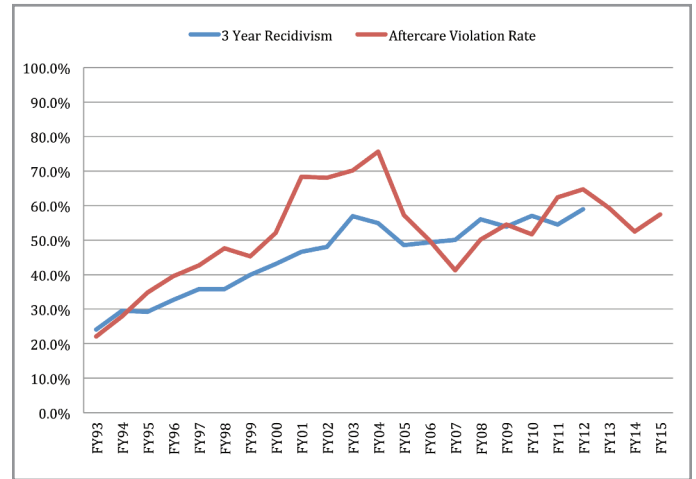
Aftercare violations and recidivism rates:

Recidivism rates measure the percentage of youth released from an IDJJ facility who return to an IDJJ facility within three years of their release because of, for example, a new commitment to IDJJ or an Aftercare violation. As these rates measure three years from release, the most recent rates are from youth that exited facilities in 2012. For those youth, 59 percent returned within three years.

The Aftercare violation rate measures the percent of youth exiting Aftercare in a year who are admitted back into a facility. Admission into a facility at the end of a stay on Aftercare means that a youth will be facing an Aftercare revocation hearing. However, to be clear, not all youth admitted back to a facility for Aftercare violations are found to be in violation of their Aftercare by the Prisoner Review Board (PRB). Those who the PRB determines not to be in violation or in violation but ready to be returned to the community are released.

Due to the manner that they are measured, recidivism and Aftercare violation rates will be closely related. Recidivism and Aftercare violation rates have increased since their tracking began. When Aftercare violations are lower, recidivism will be lower. Similarly, when Aftercare violation rates increase, recidivism will increase. Lower rates of recidivism in the early to mid-1990s were primarily due to low numbers of parole agents in Illinois supervising youth, and thus, fewer violations being detected.

Figure 04: Aftercare Violation and Recidivism Rates



The figure summarizes the recidivism rates and Aftercare violation rates for the Department.

Historical Summary

of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

Advocates emphasized the successes of other states, like Missouri, that were experiencing better outcomes – including lower recidivism rates – by implementing policies that were informed by adolescent development philosophies.

In 2005, supporters throughout Illinois worked to separate DOC's Juvenile Division into a separate state agency designed to focus on the needs of youth. Efforts were made to highlight research that outlined adolescent brain development and the developmental differences between adults and youth. Advocates emphasized the successes of other states, like Missouri, that were experiencing better outcomes – including lower recidivism rates – by implementing policies that were informed by adolescent development philosophies.

Senate Bill 92 was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor on November 17, 2005. Public Act 94-0696 became effective July 1, 2006 and created Illinois' first Department of Juvenile Justice.

This IDJJ enabling statute transferred certain rights, duties, powers, and functions from DOC's Juvenile Division to IDJJ. The language specified the intent to "create the Department of Juvenile Justice in order to provide treatment and services through a comprehensive continuum of individualized educational, vocational, social, emotional, and basic life skills to enable youth to avoid delinquent futures and become productive, fulfilled citizens." While the two agencies were legally separated in 2006, IDJJ was not equipped with sufficient resources to function independently of the adult-focused DOC. As a result, IDJJ continued to rely on DOC for various resources, including administrative shared fiscal services, training and parole functions. In the years that followed, IDJJ made slow gains towards independence.

IDJJ has only recently begun to establish its independence from its former parent agency in areas including staffing, policy and programmatic changes and research and evaluation. For example, IDJJ has now separated all

Aftercare operations from adult parole and has been building its own administrative infrastructure to develop vision and policies with a youth-oriented mindset.

In 2015, the Department developed, and is now implementing, a comprehensive operating plan to make significant progress in providing age-appropriate rehabilitative care that reduces recidivism and increases positive youth outcomes. Five core priorities outlined in the Department's Plan for Action are driving the Department's efforts to create safer communities and improve youth outcomes:

- *Right-Size*: Reduce the Use of Secure Custody for Low-Risk Youth
- *Rehabilitate*: Improve Programs to Meet the Needs of High-Risk Youth
- *Reintegrate*: Improve Programs to Ensure Successful Reentry
- *Respect*: Create a Safe and Respectful Environment for Youth and Staff
- *Report*: Increase Transparency and Accountability

General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriation spending for the Department:

FY 2016 GRF Appropriation	\$120,999,585*
FY 2015 GRF Appropriation	\$120,736,585
FY 2014 GRF Appropriation	\$119,391,600
FY 2013 GRF Appropriation	\$116,390,100
FY 2012 GRF Appropriation	\$123,819,700
FY 2011 GRF Appropriation	\$124,419,800
FY 2010 GRF Appropriation	\$117,664,300
FY 2009 GRF Appropriation	\$129,007,300
FY 2008 GRF Appropriation	\$126,334,800
FY 2007 GRF Appropriation	\$116,646,650

* FY 2016 includes spending authority provided by court order.

2015 Youth Snapshot Statistics

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

On the final day of the 2015 Fiscal Year², the Department housed a total of 698 youth throughout its six facilities. An additional 1194 youth were monitored in the community by Aftercare specialists. The following tables provide a snapshot of youth in facilities and on Aftercare on June 30th, 2015.

	Facility		Aftercare	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	691		1,193	
IYC-Chicago	89	13%		
IYC-Harrisburg	139	20%		
IYC-Kewanee	153	22%		
IYC-Pere Marquette	25	4%		
IYC-St. Charles	244	35%		
IYC-Warrenville	41	6%		
Sex				
Male	650	94%	1,100	92%
Female	41	6%	93	8%
Age				
Average Age	17.1		18	
16 Yrs. & Under	208	30%	135	11%
17 to 20	480	70%	1,057	89%
20.5 Yrs. & Over	0	0%	0	0%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	131	19%	300	25%
Black	467	68%	760	64%
Hispanic	91	12%	130	11%
American Indian	0	0%	2	0%
Asian	2	0%	1	0%

²June 30, 2015

	Facility		Aftercare	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Committing Counties				
Cook	327	47%	418	35%
Collar Counties	52	8%	74	6%
Metro-East	18	3%	40	3%
Central	159	23%	339	28%
Southern	34	5%	87	7%
Northern	101	15%	222	19%
Other	0	0%	13	1%
Jurisdiction*				
Juvenile Court Commitments	636	93%	1,165	100%
Criminal Court Sentences	47	7%	5	0%
Offense Class				
Murder	9	1%	3	0%
Class X Felony	70	10%	51	4%
Class 1	181	26%	267	22%
Class 2	238	34%	447	37%
Class 3	85	12%	233	20%
Class 4	83	12%	156	13%
Class A Misdemeanor	25	4%	23	2%
Class B	0	0%	0	0%
Class C	0	0%	0	0%
Unknown	0	0%	13	1%

* IDJJ houses individuals committed to state custody through juvenile court delinquency proceedings as well as a small number of individuals tried as adults & convicted in criminal court sentenced to the DOC when under age 17.

Mandates and Responsibilities

State statute requires IDJJ to accept juveniles committed to it by the courts of Illinois for care, custody, treatment, and rehabilitation.

IDJJ is also required by statute to:

- Maintain and administer all state juvenile correctional institutions, and establish and maintain institutions to meet the needs of the youth committed to its care.
- Identify the need for and recommend the funding and implementation of an appropriate mix of programs and services within the juvenile justice continuum (i.e., educational, vocational, substance abuse, and mental health services where appropriate).
(730 ILCS 5/3-2.5-20)

Federal Mandates – Youth Committed to IDJJ are entitled to:

- Special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (34 C.F.R. pt. 300).
- Protections and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (34 C.F.R. pt. 104).
- Protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (28 C.F.R. pt. 35).

Consent Decrees:

- In 2012, the American Civil Liberties Union, representing all youth residing in IDJJ youth centers, filed a class action lawsuit (*RJ v. Jones*) against the Department seeking improvements in three broad areas: Mental Health, Education, and General Safety and Welfare. A consent decree was entered by the federal court in April 2014.
- In 2013, IDJJ's Director was joined as a co-defendant in a lawsuit filed against the Prisoner Review Board (*MH v. Findley*). The lawsuit complained of due process violations and inadequate legal representation of youth during the Aftercare revocation hearing process. A consent decree was entered by the federal court in August 2014 to secure due process and provide legal counsel for youth who are subject to an Aftercare revocation hearing.

2015 Departmental Progress

This year, IDJJ developed a one-year action plan focusing on five core priorities. The Plan for Action provided a holistic review of the Department, its strengths, and its opportunities.

This year, through funding from the MacArthur Foundation and the support of Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) and the Vera Institute for Justice, IDJJ developed a one-year action plan focusing on five core priorities. The Plan for Action provided a holistic review of the Department, its strengths, and its opportunities. It also offered a focused, disciplined process for accelerating results.

IDJJ has advanced many of the key priorities outlined in the Plan for Action forward. IDJJ has reduced the number of youth in secure care, fully implemented Aftercare across the state, increased staff training and is now providing improved individualized support to youth both in its secure facilities and in the community while on Aftercare.

2015 highlights include:

Legislative Reforms: This summer, the General Assembly passed and Governor Rauner signed into law several bills to improve the state's juvenile justice system and help the Department begin to right-size the populations in its Youth Centers and on Aftercare. Highlights of these important bills include: excluding youth convicted of misdemeanors from being sentenced to IDJJ custody; clarifying the length of community supervision and ensuring that the length of time is consistent with research and evidence-based practices; eliminating automatic transfers from juvenile court to adult court of 15-year-olds accused of certain crimes, restoring judges' discretion to consider whether public safety and rehabilitation goals will be best addressed by the juvenile court system or the adult court system; and, prohibiting children under the age of 13 from

being held in a county detention facility unless there is no viable community-based alternative.³ Moving forward, these reforms may also likely impact facility lengths of stay, as IDJJ's population demographics will shift.

New Confinement Policies: This year, IDJJ formalized changes to how confinement from the general IDJJ population is used. The changes are consistent with national standards and incorporated in the Remedial Plan as part of the *RJ v. Jones* Consent Decree. The uses of confinement includes all situations in which a youth is separated from general population and programming, including medical holds, crisis status, investigative status, and administrative holds. Uses are defined and subject to specific decision-making criteria and parameters. Use of confinement for behavioral issues, including short-term cool down and time out, as well as extended behavioral holds, is limited to the period where the youth's behavior poses a threat to the safety of another youth, staff, or themselves. The rules ensure that confinement under any definition occurs in an appropriate and least restrictive location, for an appropriate period of time, and that youth continue to receive appropriate services while in confinement. Staff has received comprehensive training on the new policies.

Revocation Hearings: Under the *MH v. Findley* Consent Decree revocation procedures, all youth alleged to have violated the conditions of their Aftercare release must receive a preliminary revocation hearing within ten business days of their admission back to IDJJ and a final revocation hearing within 45 calendar days. At all stages

³The Governor signed the following bills into law in July and August of 2015: Senate Bill 1560, House Bill 2471, House Bill 2567, House Bill 3141 and House Bill 3718.

of the revocation process, youth are represented by appointed counsel unless they have hired their own attorney to represent them. They have a right to present evidence and witnesses in their defense and also to re-view IDJJ's evidence of a violation prior to the hearings. Both the hearing officer (at the preliminary hearing) and the Prisoner Review Board (PRB) member (at the final revocation hearing) must provide a detailed rationale for their decision, explaining if and how the evidence presented satisfies the requisite burden of proof. If dissatisfied with the PRB's decision, youth have a right to appeal. These new processes help ensure that youth are aware of their rights and are afforded due process protections throughout the entire revocation process.

Improved Data Collection, Collaboration, and Transparency: IDJJ is committed to increasing transparency and accountability, to strengthening its capacity to measure program effectiveness and their impact on youth outcomes, and to making expanded data available to the public for review. A cornerstone of this commitment was the development of a data management system that now enables IDJJ to better track youth progress, assess program effectiveness, and inform decision-making. IDJJ has also hired new staff, including a Data Manager and a Data Analyst, who are responsible for collecting and analyzing existing data and tracking that data against key measures. Much of this data is now available to the general public every month at www.illinois.gov/idjj.

Aftercare Program Implemented Statewide: The statewide rollout of IDJJ's Aftercare program, which received statutory authority⁴ in early 2014, was completed in 2015. Aftercare Specialists have replaced all IDOC adult parole officers who historically monitored IDJJ youth on large and blended caseloads. Aftercare is a key component of moving IDJJ toward a youth-focused intervention of rehabilitation and therapeutic services that support quality community supervision for all youth committed to IDJJ, and move away from an adult model of supervision. These specialists help identify, and make referrals to, substance abuse and mental health treatment and services; education and vocational programs; workforce development and job training; mentoring; and, anger management counseling. Aftercare Specialists also work to engage a youth's family in the re-entry planning process

much earlier. The goal is to provide better support and linkages to community-based services that increase successful re-integration and reduce recidivism.

Opening of the State's First Youth Day Reporting Center: In March, IDJJ opened the state's first juvenile Day Reporting Center in Cook County that helps provide support to youth released from a Department Youth Center. Open six days a week, the Center hosts a range of programs to promote positive behavior, including GED classes, vocational education and job development programs, as well as programs that focus on writing, performance, and other activities that build confidence and critical life skills, all created in partnership with community-based organizations. The Day Reporting Center also works with youth who struggle to follow the rules that govern their release through a new system of graduated sanctions and rewards. The Day Reporting Center provides a new alternative to keep low-risk youth in the community and help them get back on track if they violate the terms of their release, but do not engage in criminal activity. The Public Welfare Foundation has awarded a grant to IDJJ to provide assistance to help implement these post-release sanctions and supervision strategies. IDJJ is currently developing plans to expand the number of Day Reporting Centers statewide to continue its efforts to lower the number of youth who are returned to secure custody for minor, technical Aftercare violations.

Statewide Rollout of Positive Behavior Supports: Positive behaviors support is an approach that is used to improve a youth's behavioral success by employing non-punitive, proactive techniques. IDJJ has expanded its use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) statewide as its specific, evidence-based behavior management system. The tenets of this program are safety, responsibility, and respect. The facility-wide PBIS roll-out includes education, but goes beyond the classroom to include programming, security, and everyday interactions in the Youth Centers. The PBIS system allows staff to maintain accountability for youth and give fair and immediate feedback with a system that is relatively easy to use by staff. Implementing PBIS throughout the Youth Centers in IDJJ allows for a consistent, data-informed behavior modification system that focuses on positive reinforcement rather than on negative punishment.

⁴Authorized by Public Act 98-0558

Increased Staff Development and Training: The Department must have appropriate staffing levels, and staff must be well-trained to address the challenges they may face. This includes training in methods that defuse conflict and promote good behavior without resorting to drastic punishments. IDJJ conducted an anonymous survey of staff in every Youth Center in collaboration with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to learn more about staffs' specific training needs. One issue raised often was that many staff wanted more tools to work with youth in difficult and tense situations. One major step this year was the implementation of Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI) methods to provide staff with additional tools to de-escalate potentially harmful situations with high-needs populations. Approximately 425 staff have been trained on CPI to date. It will be rolled out to all facilities throughout 2016.

Creation of Community Forums and Partnerships: All Department Youth Centers have been holding community forums to engage community partners in IDJJ activities, resulting in the creation of new programs for youth. For example, a new partnership between the IYC-Pere Marquette facility and YouthBuild is giving young men the opportunity to qualify for trade certifications that may help them get jobs after release, and earn money as they learn these skills. At IYC-Harrisburg, IDJJ has partnered with Southern Illinois University's Touch of Nature Environmental Center to give youth experiential learning opportunities in horticulture and agricultural programming.

Department Challenges

& Opportunities for Growth

For many youth in the juvenile justice system, the greatest challenges occur upon release when they are returned to the same neighborhoods and societal pressures they faced before detention.

2015 was a year of significant progress for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice but the work is far from complete. Specifically, IDJJ must continue to ensure that placement of youth in its secure Youth Centers is reserved for only the highest risk youth, improve educational opportunities available within its facilities and provide additional community resources to help ensure successful reentry. The Department's major challenges and opportunities for growth in 2015 have focused on the following areas:

Litigation

- **Challenge:** Two significant lawsuits were brought before IDJJ in 2012 and 2013 that continue to have a demonstrative impact on Department operations.
 - In 2012, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), representing all youth residing in IDJJ youth centers, filed a class action lawsuit (*RJ v. Jones*) against the Department seeking improvements in three broad areas: education, mental health services, and general health and safety conditions. The Department negotiated a consent decree with the ACLU, and three court-appointment monitors are overseeing the Department's compliance.
 - In 2013, a lawsuit filed against the Prisoner Review Board (*MH v. Findley*), later joining IDJJ's Director as a defendant, complained of due process violations for youth involved in the Aftercare revocation hearing process. A court-approved consent decree was entered, and revocation hearings implementing the new processes commenced in January 2015. The consent decree imposes certain deadlines and procedures, including the appointment of legal counsel, to ensure that youths involved in revocation proceedings receive due process protections.
- **Opportunity:** Both suits have served as catalysts for assessing and improving conditions in IDJJ for youth and staff.
 - Under the supervision of the federal court and appointed monitors, the Department is in the process of implementing the requirements of a remedial plan and supplemental order for the RJ settlement. The Department has made considerable progress in several areas, including the roll-out of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) to develop individualized treatment plans and implementation of revised confinement policies designed to limit and closely track all incidents of youth placed in confinement.
 - IDJJ has continued to struggle to implement full-day school operations at IYC-St. Charles and IYC-Kewanee, an issue central to the RJ Consent Decree and Remedial Plan. The Department is working with key stakeholders, including the Illinois State Board of Education and local community college boards, to bring full-day, full-time school operations to fruition statewide.
 - As required by the MH Consent Decree, in January 2015, the Department, in collaboration with the Prisoner Review Board, began implementing new procedures for Aftercare revocation proceedings. Throughout the year, the Department has been continuously evaluating its processes and establishing best practices for satisfying the Consent Decree's deadlines and evidentiary requirements. In addition, the Department has hired two staff attorneys to manage and oversee the revocation process and monitor the Department's compliance with the Consent Decree's provisions.

- **Next Steps:**

- The Department is focusing its hiring efforts on security staff and education positions to support its compliance with the RJ Consent Decree’s programmatic and educational mandates, including minimum out-of-room time and full-day, full-time educational instruction.
- The Department continues to work with its court-appointed monitors to identify and rectify areas where the Department is falling short of Consent Decree requirements.
- A court order has been issued to allow IDJJ to continue operations as the State of Illinois’ budget negotiations continue.

Aftercare

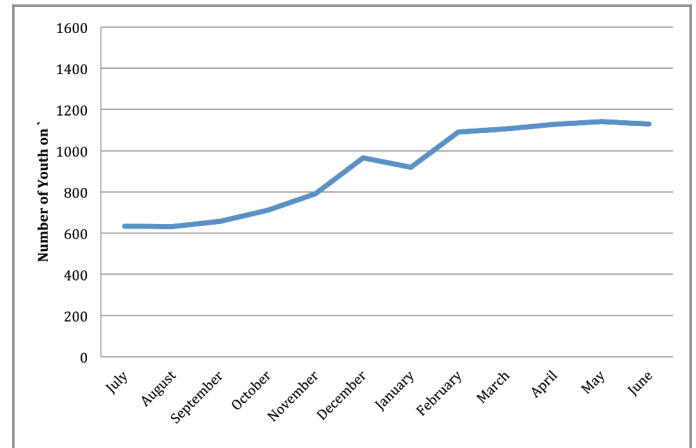
- **Challenge:** For many youth in the juvenile justice system, the greatest challenges occur upon release when they are returned to the same neighborhoods and societal pressures they faced before detention.
 - IDJJ must help ensure that these youth receive the placements, breadth of services, and supports they need. Aftercare specialists help youth who are required to have post-release supervision take advantage of a range of local services in their communities. Aftercare specialists also provide specific levels of supervision and monitoring according to a youth’s risk level.
 - While substantial progress has been made in the statewide implementation, IDJJ continues to struggle to find community partners with the capacity and experience to serve as pro-social supports for youth returning to their communities.
- **Opportunity:** The Department is continuing to strengthen the Aftercare system through solidifying placement resources and expanding resource networks.
 - To avoid large caseloads, IDJJ has increased the number of Aftercare specialists and worked with the Prisoner Review Board to remove youth from the Aftercare system who have made sufficient progress to be discharged.
 - As a result, the Department has been able to provide a higher level of care to youth who need it most.
- **Next Steps:**
 - To improve Aftercare’s effectiveness, the Department is working to increase training for staff and enhance tools for measuring and reporting progress of youth in the program.

- In the coming year, the Vera Institute of Justice, funded by the Public Welfare Foundation, will be working with Aftercare to regulate its use of Rewards/Sanctions and Supervision Levels.

Staffing

- **Challenge:** IDJJ has historically been understaffed since its separation from DOC, from administration to line staff.
 - While IDJJ has increased its hiring efforts, unique

Figure 05: Number of Youth on Aftercare in the Community



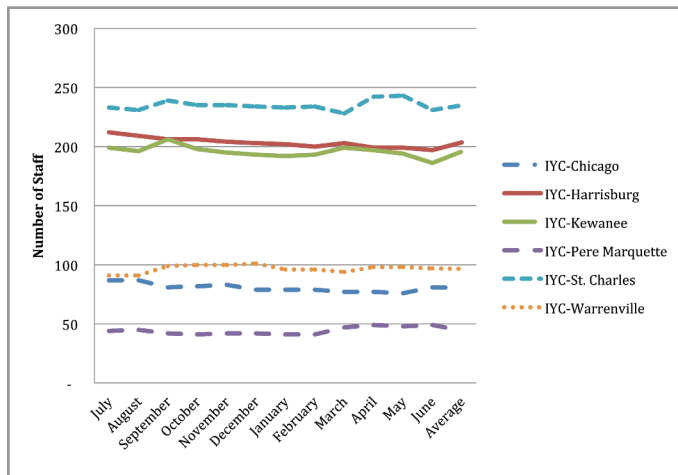
Number of youth monitored in the community on Aftercare in FY 2015. This increase is due in part to youth transitioning from IDOC Parole to IDJJ Aftercare as part of the statewide Aftercare rollout.

- staffing challenges – such as year-round school operations, facility locations, and bureaucratic hiring practices – have continued to present hurdles to full staffing.
- As a result, IDJJ has not yet met its hiring goals for education statewide and mental health positions at IYC-Kewanee. IDJJ also remains understaffed in security positions at both IYC-St. Charles and IYC-Kewanee.
- **Opportunity:** This year, IDJJ continued its progress in separating administrative operations by expanding its team.
 - New IDJJ positions now include a separate Chief of Professional Development & Training, Deputy General Counsel, Senior Policy Advisor, Medical Director, Data Analyst and two staff attorneys.
 - The Department has also made substantial progress at meeting best practice mental health caseload levels at all facilities except for IYC-Kewanee.

- **Next Steps:**

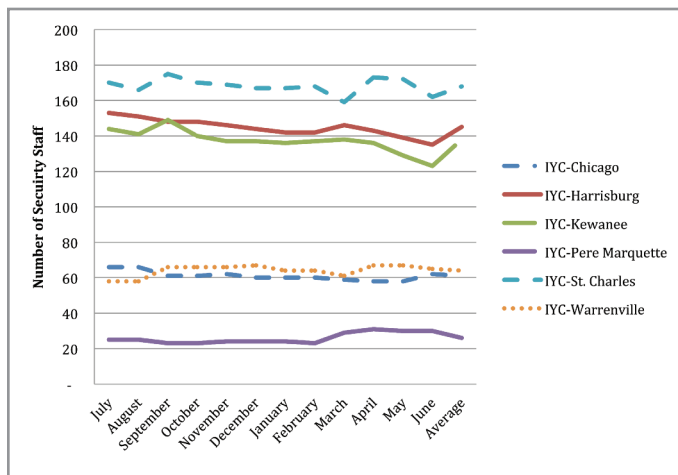
- IDJJ has substantially expanded its recruitment activities to fill teacher vacancies to bring the Department closer to the 10:1 student/teacher ratios for general education required in the consent decree.
- IDJJ will also begin running new employee onboarding classes year-round until the security staffing shortages are alleviated.

Figure 06: Number of Staff per Each Facility



Number of overall staff at a facility, not including school district employees and general office staff.

Figure 07: Number of Security Staff per Facility



Number of security staff per facility. This counts the number of staff on payroll for each month. These numbers can increase and decrease not only due to staff hiring and attrition, but also when staff are on leaves of absence.

Case Planning

- **Challenge:** IDJJ is committed to implementing proven strategies to help youth successfully return to their communities. Decades of research shows that validated risk assessment, personalized case planning, and access to a range of high-quality services and programming are core components of any effective juvenile justice intervention.
 - In addition to criminal behavior risks, nearly all (98.88 percent) of youth in IDJJ facilities have either mental health or substance abuse treatment needs, making accurate assessment, personalized case planning, and high quality services critical.
 - The Department is implementing the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) – currently used by juvenile probation departments across the state – to reliably identify youth's risks, needs and strengths, and the CaseWorks case planning system to develop clear plans for rehabilitation in Youth Centers and on Aftercare. The implementation of the YASI and CaseWorks system is a phased rollout:
 - The first phase of staff training focused on administering the YASI assessment and was completed in April. In May, intake staff began administering the YASI Pre-Screen for every youth admitted to IDJJ. A practice and troubleshooting period followed, and the second phase, case-planning training, was completed in October.
 - Full administration of the YASI assessment and CaseWorks case planning system began on November 2, 2015. Ongoing training and coaching will focus on engaging youth to set goals and effective case management strategies.
 - IDJJ is now working to ensure that every youth committed to IDJJ or released on Aftercare has a completed assessment and case plan.

- **Opportunity:** In 2016, each youth in IDJJ custody will have a personalized case plan, based on their individual YASI assessment results.
 - In addition, the Department will be integrating the YASI assessment and case planning software into its new data management system (Youth 360) to develop and store coordinated case plans for each youth.
 - These tools and resources will help staff coordinate case plans and consistent services for youth rehabilitation that begin in Youth Centers and continue on Aftercare.

- **Next Steps:**
 - IDJJ will develop quality assurance procedures to ensure that YASI assessment and case planning are fully implemented.
 - The Department is also working with the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts to develop an agreement to transfer historical YASI data from juvenile probation departments to IDJJ when youth are committed to the Department; and back to local communities when youth are returned.

School District

- **Challenge:** The IDJJ School District is unique among other school districts in Illinois in its organization, governance, funding, and oversight.
 - The School Board is an appointed board; teachers are certified but governed by the Personnel Code; and, the District operates in IDJJ's six Youth Centers which are geographically dispersed statewide.
 - Hiring teachers continues to be a struggle, due to the unique challenges such as a year-round school operation. As a result, IDJJ has not yet met educational requirements for full-time, full-day schooling as outlined in the RJ Consent Decree and Remedial Plan at IYC-Kewanee or IYC-St. Charles. Ensuring special education students have the supports they need has also been a chronic challenge.
- **Opportunity:** IDJJ has added four new members to the School Board this year to provide increased direction and oversight to the School District. The Department has begun to develop creative solutions to help provide positive learning environments for youth. For example:
 - IDJJ provides a "blended" educational program comprising traditional classroom opportunities as well as online virtual classrooms. Through the virtual learning opportunities, students can work at

their own pace and gain credit recovery, with teachers providing additional assistance when needed.

- The IDJJ school system is better coordinating services and revising schedules so that youth with special education needs get the additional support they need while still participating in regular education classes.
 - The leadership team has also made strengthening vocational education a priority so that youth have critical job and life skills when they are released. This year, two vocational education positions have been filled at IYC-Harrisburg, where they are developing programs in computer technology, culinary arts and horticulture. Other vocational positions are also in the process of being added at other facilities.
 - IDJJ is also piloting, at two Youth Centers, a computer tablet program that allows youth to take educational modules in a of subjects and to progress at their own pace. To date, IDJJ youth have completed over 2,500 modules.
- **Next Steps:**
 - In the last six months, IDJJ has expanded its recruitment activities to fill teacher vacancies to bring the Department closer to the 10:1 student/teacher ratios for general education and to move towards full-time school operations at all Youth Centers.
 - The Department is working to establish partnership agreements within the next six months with community colleges near the IYC-St. Charles and IYC-Warrenville facilities and the IYC-Harrisburg facility.
 - In addition, the Department is working with the University of Chicago Urban Lab to evaluate the possible expansion of its current pilot with Jail Education Solutions to use tablets to enhance learning opportunities and decrease behavioral incidents at IYC-Chicago and IYC-Warrenville.

Tracking Outcomes

While in the early stages of implementation, Youth 360 – the Department’s data management system – will enable IDJJ to better track youth progress, assess program effectiveness, and inform decision-making.

A central component of IDJJ’s Plan for Action is a commitment to increasing transparency and accountability, strengthening the Department’s capacity to measure program effectiveness and their impact on youth outcomes, and making expanded data available to the public for review.

Since its inception, IDJJ has struggled with data collection, management, and reporting. While in the early stages of implementation, Youth 360 – the Department’s data management system – will enable IDJJ to better track youth progress, assess program effectiveness, and inform decision-making.

Additionally, the Department has partnered with the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) to utilize Performance-based Standards (PbS), a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that holds juvenile justice agencies to the highest standards for operations, programs, and services. IDJJ receives PbS data reports for each of its six facilities bi-annually based on a random sampling of youth and staff at each facility. These reports cover several areas, including but not limited to safety, security, education, screenings, and assessments. In addition, the reports provide insight and data from other juvenile justice agencies across the country, allowing IDJJ to see how its outcomes compare to those of other states.

The data in this Annual Report is meant to provide a brief overview of the state of the Department during FY 2015. Therefore, it has been limited to aggregate data focusing on key indicators. It is important to note that the methodology and definitions for data collected internally and through PbS differ slightly and, therefore, may have some variances.

IDJJ now also releases a monthly public report that provides more data on specific facilities and Department processing. The issuance of these monthly reports marks a major step forward in IDJJ’s progress of more effectively informing stakeholders and the public about the Department’s operations and outcomes. Those reports can be found on IDJJ’s website at www.illinois.gov/idjj.

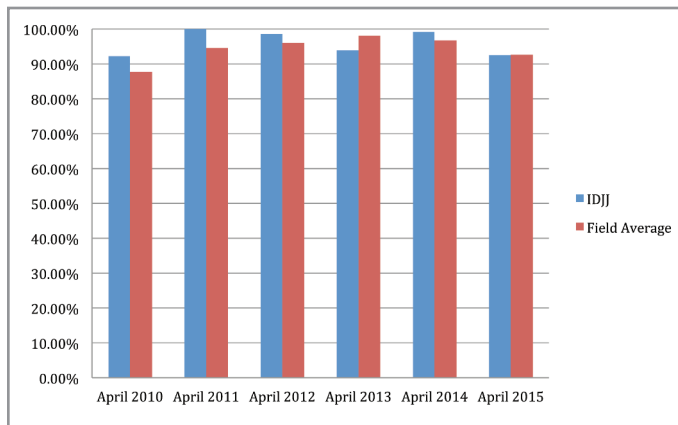
While releasing new data may raise additional questions, the Department believes that it is better to begin providing currently available information rather than waiting indefinitely for all the ideal systems to be in place. As IDJJ continues to improve its data collection and reporting systems, it will be able to provide additional information and more sophisticated analyses.

As IDJJ begins providing consistent, accurate information to the public, it hopes that this data will help facilitate a more informed and robust dialogue about the state of juvenile justice in Illinois.

Performance Based Standards Measures

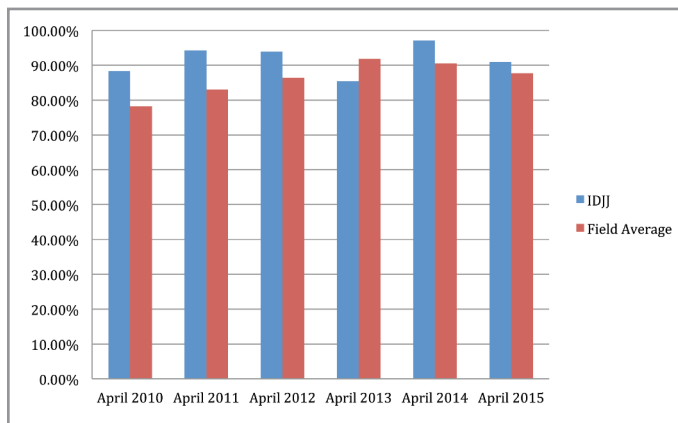
IDJJ has been engaged in the Performance-based Standards (PbS) program since 2009. For two months each year, facilities self-report data to the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators. The Council, with support from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, developed a variety of outcome and process measures that could be collected from juvenile correctional facilities. This data gives IDJJ the ability to

Figure 08: Percent of youth presented for admission who had a complete intake screening completed by trained or qualified staff



For all the periods of data collection, the Department has averaged over 90 percent of youth receiving complete intake screenings from its trained and qualified staff. For nearly every data collection period, this has been at or above the field average.

Figure 09: Percent of youths presented for admission who had a mental health intake screening completed by trained or qualified staff in one hour or less

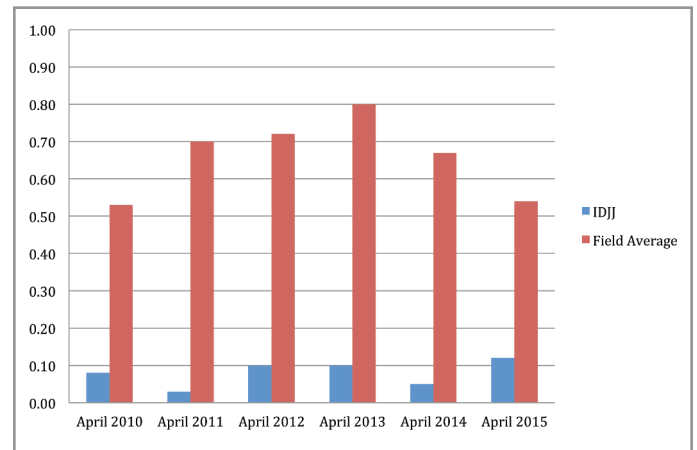


For each data collection period, the Department has 85 percent of youth receiving mental health screenings by its trained and qualified staff within one hour of admission to its facilities. For most time periods, the Department's numbers are above the field average.

track additional outcome measures and changes across time; moreover, it provides the ability to compare IDJJ to jurisdictions across the country (i.e. the "field average").

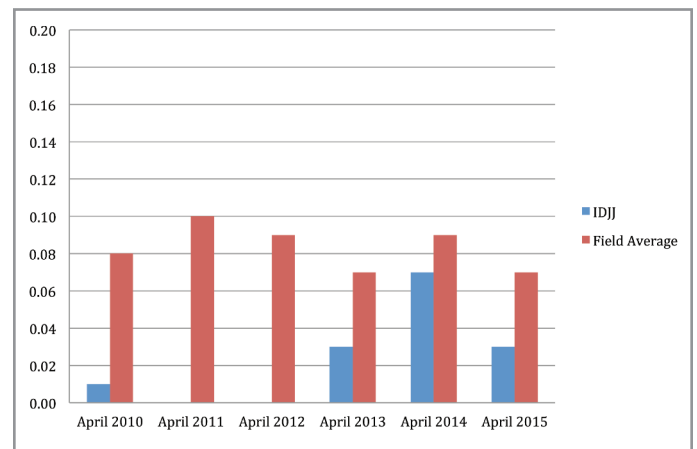
Data for PbS is presented in aggregate format, allowing the Department to examine its overall performance. Additionally, data is presented across time periods, which further allows IDJJ to observe changes occurring across time.

Figure 10: Physical restraint use per 100 person-days of youth confinement



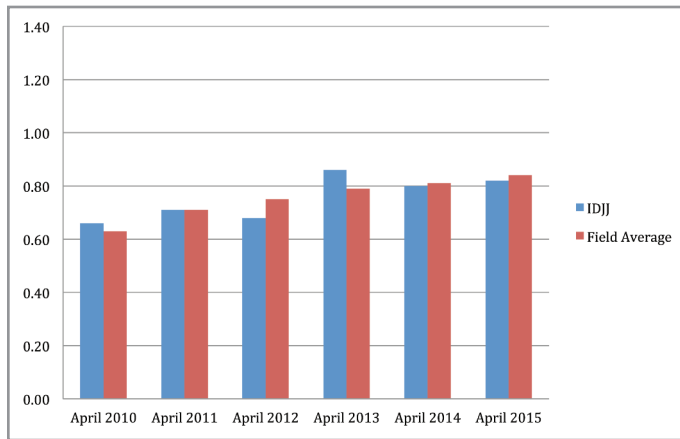
Use of physical restraints is rare in the Department. Department use is consistently well below the field average.

Figure 11: Chemical restraint use per 100 person-days of youth confinement



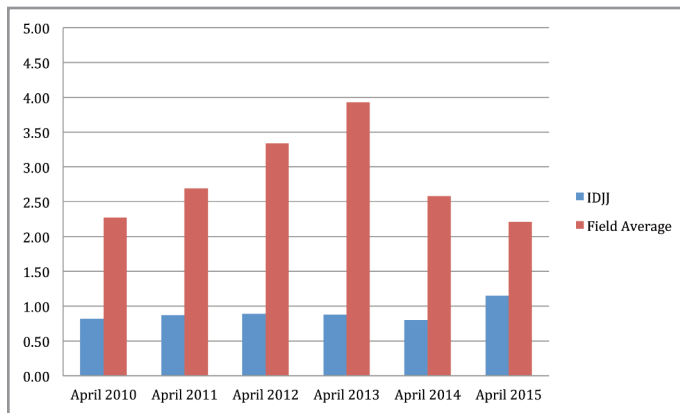
The use of chemical restraints is not common within the Department. Rates of use have been consistently lower than the field average.

Figure 12: Mechanical restraint use per 100 person-days of youth confinement



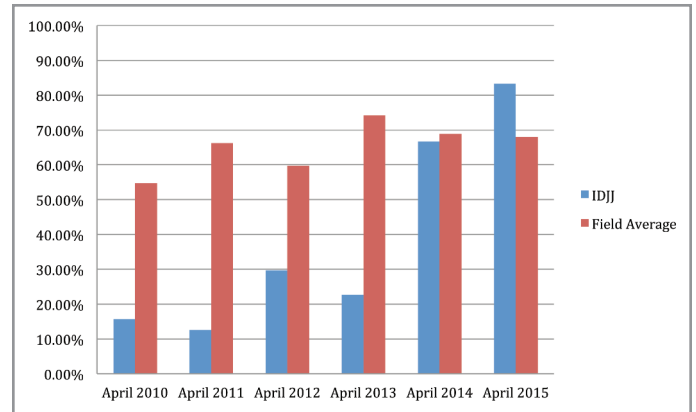
Use of mechanical restraints has been slightly elevated during the past several years. Nevertheless, the Department's average tends to be close to or at the field average.

Figure 13: Isolation, room confinement, and segregation/special management unit user per 100 person-days of youth confinement



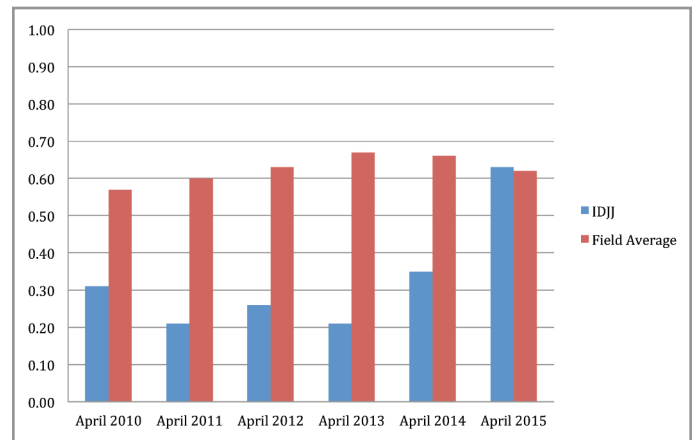
Generally, the Department reports lower rates of the use of isolation and confinement than the field average. This has been consistently found throughout the years.

Figure 14: Percent of isolation, room confinement, and segregation/special management unit cases terminated in four hours or less



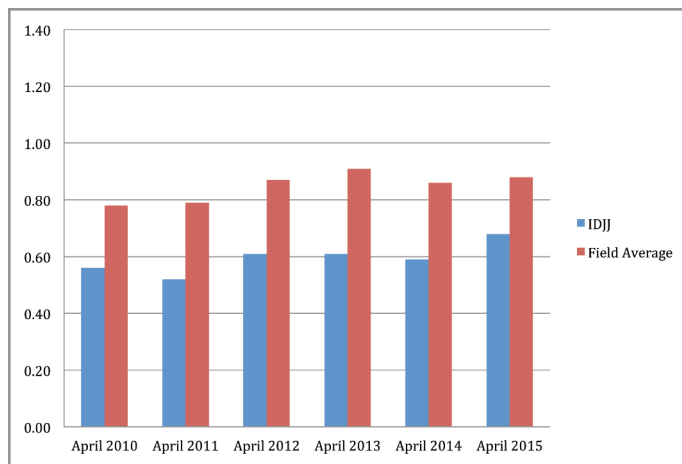
Although the rate of use of isolation and confinement has been increasing in the Department, the length of stay has greatly decreased. While previously less than a quarter of youth would be released from isolation and confinements in four hours, at present over three quarters of youth are. This is better than the field average.

Figure 15: Injuries to youth per 100 person-days of youth confinement



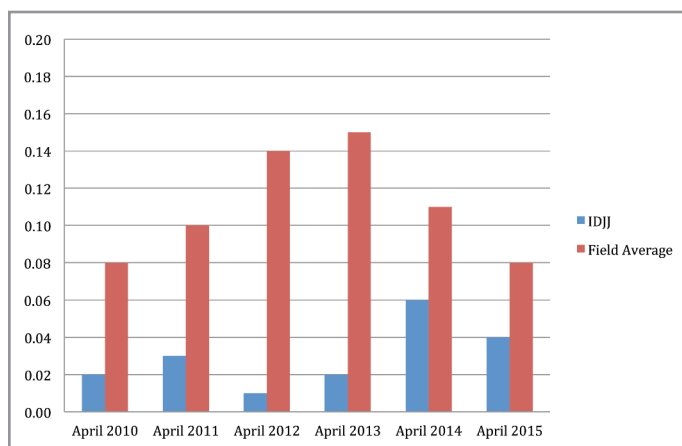
Injuries to youth measure the number of injuries youth report, whether accidental, caused by a disruption in the facility, or resulting from sports activities. Although the Department's numbers were higher during the last data collection period, the numbers tend to be lower than the field average.

Figure 16: Average daily ratio of direct care staff to youth



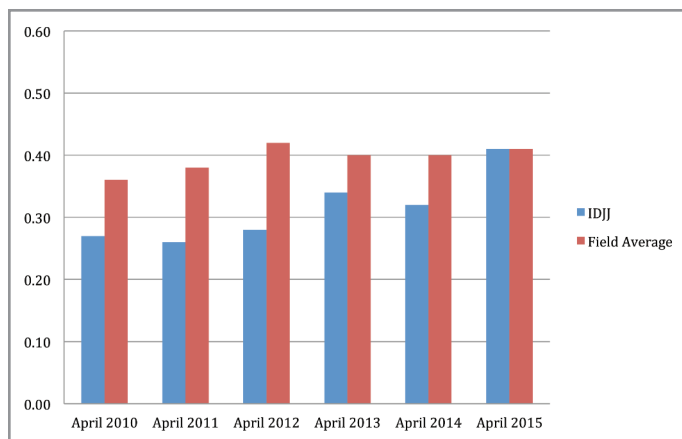
The daily ratio of direct care staff to youth has improved during recent years. However, the ratio is still below the field average.

Figure 17: Assaults on staff per 100 person-days of youth confinement



Assaults on staff are elevated for the past two data collection periods. However, the Department's rate is still below the field average.

Figure 18: Assaults and fights on youth per 100 person-days of youth confinement



Although the rate of assaults and fights was slightly higher during the last data collection period, the Department average tends to be lower than the field average.

Positive Youth Outcomes

IDJJ has begun putting systems in place to better track youth outcomes in 2015. IDJJ will continue tracking these outcome measures in years to come to provide for more thorough analysis.

Figure 19: Youth Educational Attainment in FY 2015

	8th Grade Diplomas	High School Diplomas	General Equivalency Degrees	Total Degrees
<i>IYC-Chicago</i>	4	0	12	16
<i>IYC-Harrisburg</i>	19	47	26	92
<i>IYC-Kewanee</i>	1	51	4	55
<i>IYC-Pere Marquette</i>	9	11	2	22
<i>IYC-St. Charles</i>	6	8	5	20
<i>IYC-Warrenville</i>	5	6	3	14
IDJJ Total	44	123	52	219

Each of the six IDJJ facilities provides school services. At all locations, except *IYC-St. Charles* and *IYC-Kewanee* where the Department faces staffing shortages, full-time, full-day school is offered. Blended learning is utilized with teachers combining on-line and in-person teaching methods. Generally, facilities that average longer youth stays (i.e., *IYC-Harrisburg* and *IYC-Kewanee*) have more youth receiving degrees than shorter stay facilities (i.e., *IYC-Pere Marquette*, *IYC-Warrenville*, and *IYC-Chicago*).

Figure 20: Number of Youth Receiving Treatment in FY 2015

	Mental Health		Substance Abuse
	Individual Treatment Average	Group Treatment Average	Substance Abuse Average
<i>IYC-Chicago</i>	33	31	23
<i>IYC-Harrisburg</i>	105	86	54
<i>IYC-Kewanee</i>	118	130	23
<i>IYC-Pere Marquette</i>	28	8	42
<i>IYC-St. Charles</i>	97	73	37
<i>IYC-Warrenville</i>	44	47	10
IDJJ Total	425	375	189

Individual treatment average is the average number of youth receiving individual treatment sessions from IDJJ mental health treatment staff in a given month. Group treatment average is the average number of treatment groups held at each facility in a month. Substance abuse average is the average number of youth receiving substance abuse treatment services each month. Each of the six IDJJ facilities offers mental health and substance abuse treatment services. Although all youth are initially evaluated to determine if services are needed, youth that are found to need mental health services are provided at least monthly contact with their counselors. Please note, these numbers do not include the number of times crisis services are provided to youth. Crisis services are available for all youth on an as needed basis.

Conclusion

Our team is strong and is well-positioned for the next season of IDJJ's history. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners and to forging new collaborations with an expanded network of juvenile justice champions.

When government leaders and juvenile justice advocates came together to create the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice in 2006, they had a grand and noble vision: that, because of the unique needs of youth, IDJJ would move from an adult-focused, punitive system to a youth-focused rehabilitative model of care designed to improve positive outcomes for youth while protecting public safety.

No one envisioned that it would take a decade to see that vision come to reality. And, while IDJJ has struggled to fully separate from adult corrections to see this vision realized, IDJJ is now making marked progress toward that goal.

IDJJ's Plan for Action has provided a framework and a process to catalyze change, and we are beginning to see the fruit of that work. IDJJ has made progress on our priorities to keep Illinois' communities safer while providing better services to youth in our care.

This year, we have reduced the number of youth in secure care in our Youth Centers. We also have taken steps forward to develop a coordinated, holistic model of care for each youth that enters IDJJ, have enhanced program-

ming and community partnerships. We have spent more time training our staff on important methods and best practices like non-physical de-escalation and are implementing best practice, data-based tools that are proven to help youth succeed.

But, there is still much work to be done, and we will not rest on our progress. We still face significant hiring barriers. Progress has been slower than we would like in onboarding new education staff and, specifically, mental health staff at IYC-Kewanee. IDJJ still needs more community partners to provide services and supports to help our youth on Aftercare succeed in their communities. And, while we have implemented evidenced-based screening and assessment tools, we have yet to have individual case plans in place for all youth. These will be three of our top priorities as we enter 2016.

Our team is strong and is well-positioned for the next season of IDJJ's history. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners and to forging new collaborations with an expanded network of juvenile justice champions. We know that, together, we can help produce better outcomes for youth in our care, and better outcomes for all of our communities.

Facility Profiles

**Illinois Youth Center at Chicago • Illinois Youth Center at Harrisburg
Illinois Youth Center at Kewanee • Illinois Youth Center at Pere Marquette
Illinois Youth Center at St. Charles • Illinois Youth Center at Warrenville**



Illinois Youth Center at Chicago

- **Opened:** July 1999
- **Capacity:** 130
- **Average population in 2015:** 75
- **Population:** Medium Juvenile Male
- **Average age:** 16.4
- **Available programs:** Substance abuse treatment, mental health services, parenting group and family therapy, medical services, academic programming, recreational activities (movies, tablets, board games, gym, field trips), Storycatchers/Firewriters Program, Film and Film Editing Class with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Safe Humane Animal Training Program, SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Crisis), Edovo Tablet pilot study.

- **Community partners:** Safe Humane (animal care and training), Living Word Christian Center (religious counseling), Urban Missionaries (religious counseling), StoryCatchers Theater, Apostolic Faith Church (religious counseling), Liberty Temple (religious counseling), Alcoholics Anonymous, Drug Out, Current Events Group, Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church (religious counseling), School of the Art Institute of Chicago (video production class), The Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (song writing workshop), Sharing Notes (classical music education), School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Jail Education Solutions/Edovo.

- **2015 programming highlights:**

- This summer youth at IYC-Chicago have had some great musical opportunities. A group went on a field trip to see a rehearsal for the Porgy & Bess musical at Ravinia. In addition, in July, the "Al Fine Little Big Band" performed for youth at IYC-Chicago and helped educate youth on traditional American Big Band Jazz.
- IYC-Chicago hosted an event celebrating the 20th Anniversary of PbS. The event began with youth and staff chanting "We Do P-B-S" with a house music backdrop and included a review of the Performance-based Standards model. The IYC-Chicago choir sang, "Somebody Prayed for Me," and the facility's acrobatics and dance teams also performed.

IYC-Chicago is a leased property that occupies the third floor of a rehabbed warehouse building on Chicago's West Side. The facility also serves as a drop-off center for all juvenile Aftercare violators in the greater Chicago area.



Illinois Youth Center at Harrisburg

- **Opened:** July 1983
- **Capacity:** 300
- **Average population in 2015:** 159
- **Population:** Medium Juvenile Male
- **Average age:** 17.1
- **Available programs:** Substance abuse treatment, education (high school diploma/GED), mental health services including individual and group counseling/therapy, SPARCS groups, access to YouthBuild (community based GED/vocational programming), community-based outings ranging from skill building (check writing, community college

access, nature trail building) to volunteer work at local food bank and working with local cities on various projects.

- **Community partners:** City of Harrisburg, City of Eldorado, City of Rosiclare, Southeastern Illinois College, People's Bank, Anna Bixby Center, Four C's Food Bank, Feed My Sheep Food Bank, Fountain View Nursing Home, YouthBuild, United Methodist Children's Home and Touch of Nature.

- **2015 programming highlights:**

- IYC-Harrisburg's Building Trades class had a new learning experience helping set the poles for a new picnic pavilion. Students helped fill the holes and tamped out the air bubbles. The facility's carpenter and painter explained what they were doing while working with the concrete and support poles. The men also described each step to the youth in detail so the youth learned about structure support.
- IDJJ expanded partnership with YouthBuild to launch YouthBuild programming at IYC- Harrisburg.

IYC-Harrisburg also serves as the Reception and Classification Center for all male youth from the Central and Southern regions of Illinois.



Illinois Youth Center at Kewanee

- **Opened:** November 2001
- **Capacity:** 354
- **Average population in 2015:** 182
- **Population:** Maximum Juvenile Male
- **Average age:** 17.6
- **Available programs:** Substance abuse education and treatment, juvenile sex offender treatment, special mental health treatment, education (high school diploma/GED), mental health services including individual and group counseling/therapy, anger management, social skills, life skills, sex education, criminal thinking groups, surviving Aftercare groups, leisure time services, chaplaincy (bible

study and services), work assignments, library services, youth council, behavior modification programs, special care unit (protective custody), telepsychiatry, restorative justice honor wing.

- **Community partners:** Freedom House (sexual assault crisis center), Literacy Volunteers of Illinois, Kewanee Police Department, Henry County Sheriff's Department, Black Hawk College East.

- **2015 programming highlights:**

- IYC-Kewanee conducted a chess championship that culminated in its first Chess Champion award. The facility organized chess matches on each wing and across youth populations in the facility. There was significant staff support from security, programming, and dietary staff to make the event a success.
- This year, for the Fourth of July, IYC-Kewanee celebrated with a festive BBQ and Bags Tournament. Bags were recently introduced to the youth at IYC-Kewanee through a purchase of four boards and bags through the PBIS program.

IYC-Kewanee includes a Medical Unit with six infirmary beds, and eight crisis cells. IYC-Kewanee is currently designated as a special treatment facility, focusing on treatment for youth with severe, acute mental health issues, substance abuse problems and problem sexual behaviors.



Illinois Youth Center at Pere Marquette

- **Opened:** March 1963
- **Capacity:** 40
- **Average population in 2015:** 32
- **Population:** Minimum Juvenile Male
- **Average age:** 16.6
- **Available programs:** Substance abuse education and treatment, education, GED attainment, special education, mental health services, YouthBuild participation, religious programming, Alcoholics Anonymous, work assignments and leisure activities.
- **Community partners:** Mayor of Grafton, Mayor of Jerseyville, Mayor of Alton, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville, Lewis & Clark Community College, Principia College, YouthBuild, Regional Office of Education (ROE#40), Call for Help, Inc., Two Rivers National Wildlife

Refuge, Pere Marquette State Park, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Great Rivers Land Trust, Senior Services Plus, Inc., Educational Opportunity Centers, Children’s Home & Aid, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Department of Motor Vehicles – Edwardsville, Hope Center, Adopt-A-Highway, Anti-Defamation League, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and Saint Louis University ROTC.

- **2015 programming highlights:**

- IYC-Pere Marquette has had 10 youth accepted into the YouthBuild program. Five of the youth have now earned their GEDs, eight youth have received their OSHA 10 certification, and nine have received their Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training in construction maintenance. In addition, eight have earned their first aid, CPR and AED certificates.
- In order to improve the relationship between IDJJ young men and law enforcement (police), IYC-Pere Marquette invited officers to come and talk to its youth. The forum gave the officers a chance to teach principles of being safe, responsible, and respectful if and when they come into contact with law enforcement. Youth were also given a chance to ask questions.

IYC-Pere Marquette is IDJJ’s only open campus facility. IYC-Pere Marquette is the first step-down juvenile facility totally dedicated to helping youth develop skills necessary to successfully reintegrate back into the community. Youth transition to IYC-Pere Marquette from other facilities approximately 90 days before release and benefit from more intense treatment-oriented programming and community-based learning opportunities, which provide a structured environment to help develop independent living skills and positive social skills.



Illinois Youth Center at St. Charles

- **Opened:** December 1904
- **Capacity:** 348
- **Average population in 2015:** 241
- **Population:** Medium Juvenile Male
- **Average age:** 17.1
- **Available programs:** Substance abuse education and treatment, education (eighth grade and high school diploma programs, online education, tutoring, literacy programs and vocational programs), GED attainment, special education, mental health services (individual and group therapy), medical services (dental and medical care, medical education), chaplaincy services (Torch program, religious services and mentoring), recreational programs (yoga, weight lifting, Wheaton College basket-

ball club, flag football, running club, softball, basketball, Teen Center, Student Council/Leadership Development).

- **Community partners:** Lord of Life Church (Torch Program & individual tutoring/mentors, Volunteer Summit meeting host), Kane County Young Life (Special Treatment Youth Mentoring), Wheaton College (tutoring and basketball club), Literacy Volunteers of America (educational tutoring, book club, mentoring), St. Rita's Church (Catholic Services), Mr. Usini Perkins & Husain Abdul Aziz-Chicago Youth Centers (Community Advocacy/Youth and Family Mentoring Services), Cynthia Bathurst – Safe Humane of Chicago, Dave Hummel (Comfort Dog Services), St. Charles Fire Department, St. Charles Police Department and Campton Hills Police Department.

- **2015 programming highlights:**
 - IYC-St. Charles held a Youth Conference Workshop Symposium. The five workshops youth attended were: expungements; coping skills; health; arts and creativity; and continued education. The symposium involved many community groups.
 - IYC-St. Charles added yoga, weightlifting, softball, and a running club to its list of recreational resources being offered through its Volunteer Services program. These additional recreational offerings are the result of the recent Volunteer Summit held in April in which several local organizations were represented and collectively discussed services offered.

IYC-St. Charles is the Reception and Classification Center for male youth entering IDJJ from the Northern part of Illinois. IYC-St. Charles is also designated as a special treatment facility, providing specialized treatment for youth with chronic mental health issues.



Illinois Youth Center at Warrenville

- **Opened:** January 1973
- **Capacity:** 78
- **Average population in 2015:** 36
- **Population:** Medium and Maximum Juvenile Female
- **Average age:** 16.6
- **Available programs:** Case management/counseling, chaplaincy programs (religious services, visitation, mentoring, bible studies and holiday activities), leisure time activities (sports, movies, games, cook outs, trivia/art/poetry contests, theatre writing, book club, exercise, knitting and motivational speakers), substance abuse intervention and treatment, education, special education, literacy volunteers, dog literacy program, vocational instruction, GED preparation, Storycatchers/Fabulous Females theatre group, Edovo Tablet pilot study, and medical and health care.
- **Community partners:** Storycatchers, Naperville Humane Society, Jump Start Literacy Volunteers – DuPage County, Regional Office of Education, College of DuPage – Criminal Justice Program, numerous religious groups (St. Irene Catholic, St. John A.M.E., Warrenville Bible Chapel, Elim Knitting, New Life Covenant, Resurrection Church, Chicago Church of God, Grace Church of DuPage).

- **2015 programming highlights:**

- IYC-Warrenville has begun hosting a “Read to a Dog” program with the Naperville Area Humane Society. The program features trainers and their pets that sit with special readers and allow each reader to have a positive experience reading aloud to a nonjudgmental, loving “person.” The teacher identifies the students who are best qualified for this experience and prepares the students in advance. When the dog and the trainer arrive, they are escorted to a classroom where they interact privately with the reader. After the student reads, the dog and trainer share rewards from the experience: bookmarks, color pages, stickers, and a note from the dog. The students have come to cherish these rewards and the effect on the readers has helped increase literacy among our challenged students. They look forward to the opportunity to read and they look back with increased self-esteem that they have accomplished a challenge.
- This year, Storycatchers Theatre and the Fabulous Females of Warrenville presented their second staged reading and performance of stories and songs called ERASING PAIN and their Fall Musical called BLACKOUT. FLASHBACK. ANOTHER MEMORY. These performances are based on compilations of personal stories authored by IYC-Warrenville girls, focusing on both betrayal and renewal of trust. The plays and staged readings are often healing for families, allowing parents and siblings to hear stories, some for the first time, from the girl’s point of view.

IYC-Warrenville serves as the Reception and Classification Center for all young women entering IDJJ. It is the only female facility in the Department.



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