



Bill Owens  
Governor

# Colorado Department of Corrections

## STATISTICAL BULLETIN

For more information contact:  
Office of Planning & Analysis  
Office (719) 226-4374  
e-mail address: kristi.rosten@state.co.us



John W. Suthers  
Executive Director

BULLETIN OPA 00 - 1

February 1, 2000

### Office of Planning and Analysis

The Office of Planning and Analysis exists within the Colorado Department of Corrections to provide research, information and data analysis services. The office also monitors population projections, analyzes legislative impact studies, oversees the administrative regulations, and conducts program and system evaluations as directed by statute or executive priority.

### General Statistics, Reporting And Evaluation Unit

The General Statistics, Reporting and Evaluation Unit within the Office of Planning and Analysis analyzes data, evaluates programs and conducts research for internal management and external criminal justice use. This unit gathers, compiles and analyzes data for a multitude of agencies and purposes.

### About this Bulletin

This publication is intended to provide an overview of statistical information and findings generated by this unit. Dissemination of this information to staff and other interested individuals will be provided through this periodical publication.

## YOUTHFUL OFFENDER SYSTEM

The Youthful Offender System (Y.O.S.), established through legislation passed in 1993, is a program designed for certain violent youthful offenders under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections, but separate from the adult prison system. Juvenile offenders receive a suspended adult prison sentence and a sentence to Y.O.S. ranging from two to seven years to include a period of community supervision. Upon completion of the Y.O.S. sentence, including community supervision, the offender's sentence is discharged. If the Y.O.S. program is not completed, the sentence to prison is reinstated and the offender is admitted to the adult prison system.

The Youthful Offender System consists of four phases as defined in statute which are summarized below:

### ❖ IDO

An intake, diagnostic, and orientation program in which the offender is assessed in various content areas. Part of the IDO process includes participation in a modified military-type boot camp.

### ❖ Phase I

During this phase, a range of core programs, supplemental activities and educational and vocational programs are provided to youth offenders.

### ❖ Phase II

Administered during the last three months of confinement where offender is transferred to a twenty-four hour custody residential program.

### ❖ Phase III

Period of community supervision where offender is monitored and reintegrated back into society.

## ❖POPULATION❖

The total population of the Youthful Offender System as of June 30, 1999, was 292.

63.4% of the total offenders are currently in IDO/Phase I.

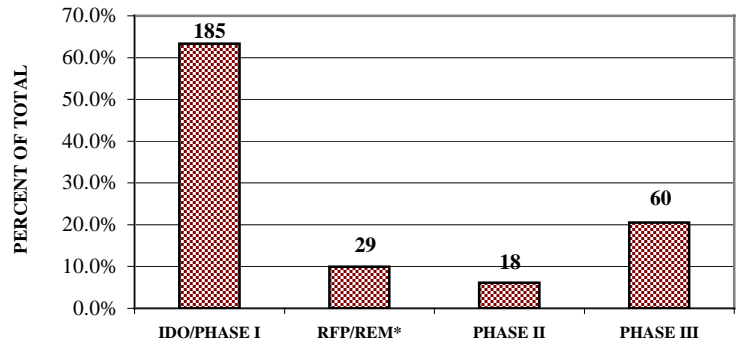
The population consists of 284 males and 8 females.

Over 50% of offenders are currently either 18 or 19 years of age.

El Paso County is the highest sentencing county with 60 offenders.

## POPULATION

As of June 30, 1999



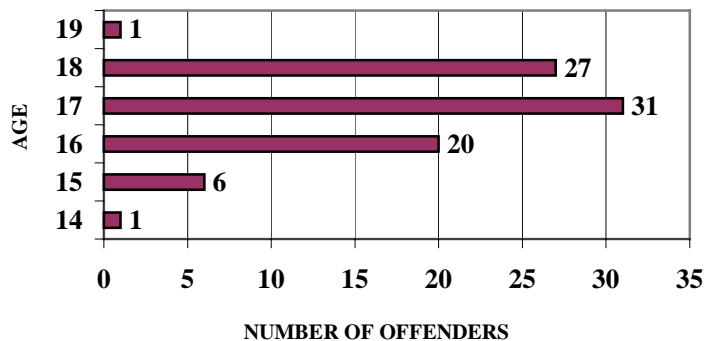
\*Removal from Population/Remediation

## ❖ADMISSIONS❖

Fiscal Year 1998-99 admissions to the Youthful Offender System totaled 86 offenders, 84 males and 2 females. The largest age group of admissions was the 17 year old category (36.0%) followed closely by the 18 year old age group (31.4%).

The commitments came from 18 different counties. Of these 86 commitments, El Paso and Denver counties accounted for over 40% of the total.

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 ADMISSIONS  
BY AGE GROUP**  
(N=86)



**FISCAL YEAR 1999 ADMISSIONS  
COUNTY OF COMMITMENT**

COUNTY	NO. OF ADMISSIONS	% OF TOTAL
El Paso	21	24.4%
Denver	15	17.4%
Adams	10	11.6%
Jefferson	8	9.3%
Pueblo	6	7.0%
Weld	6	7.0%
Arapahoe	5	5.8%
Boulder	2	2.3%
LaPlata	2	2.3%
Mesa	2	2.3%
Rio Grande	2	2.3%
Delta	1	1.2%
Douglas	1	1.2%
Fremont	1	1.2%
Larimer	1	1.2%
Lincoln	1	1.2%
Montezuma	1	1.2%
Morgan	1	1.2%

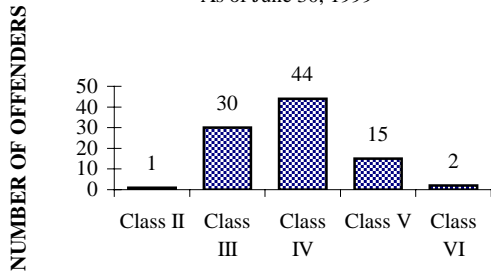
### Admission Highlights

- Over 45% of these offenders were convicted of a class 3 felony.
- The mean age at admission was 17 years of age.
- Nearly 49% of admissions were Hispanic.
- El Paso County was responsible for 24.4% of the admissions.
- The most serious crime of assault comprised 30.3% of the total admissions.

## ❖ **RELEASES** ❖

Fiscal Year 1998-99 releases from the Youthful Offender System totaled 92 offenders, 90 males and 2 females.

**RELEASES BY FELONY CLASS\***  
As of June 30, 1999



\*Class I felons are not eligible for the Y.O.S. program.

### FY 1999 Release Highlights

- ⇒ Offenders sentenced as Class IV felons accounted for the largest group of releases.
- ⇒ 44.6% of offenders released were either Anglo or African-American.
- ⇒ 33 offenders were 19 years of age upon release.

## Releases to Date

The types of releases from the Youthful Offender System to date include:

- **Sentence Discharge** - Offender has served the entire Y.O.S. sentence imposed.
- **Termination/Revocation** – Offender was removed from program for non-compliance, violent behavior, or failure to progress in the program. Original adult prison sentence was imposed.
- **Judicial Reconsideration** – Offender was removed by court through a court ordered discharge, release to appeal bond, release to probation, or transfer to adult prison.
- **Deceased** – Includes homicide, suicide, natural, accidental and other deaths.

In fiscal year 1999, sentence discharge accounted for 71.8% of releases, while termination/revocation represented 26.1%.

### RELEASES FROM YOUTHFUL OFFENDER SYSTEM

RELEASE TYPES	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999
Sentence Discharge	0	7	19	48	66
Termination/Revocation	4	12	17	18	24
Judicial Reconsideration	2	6	5	3	0
Deceased	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>92</b>

## ❖ **RECIDIVISM** ❖

The Department of Corrections defines recidivism by administrative regulation as the return to prison in Colorado for either criminal activity or technical violations of parole, probation or non-departmental community placement within three years of release.

Of the 140 who had discharged their Y.O.S. sentence since fiscal year 95-96, 17 have been returned to the Department of Corrections, sentenced as adults for a new felony conviction.

## ❖ **REOFFENSE** ❖

The 140 total sentence discharges were monitored to determine the rate of reoffense. This research shows:

- 64 offenders (45.7%) have no criminal activity to date.
- 17 offenders (12.1%) were sentenced to the Department of Corrections for a new felony.
- 12 offenders (8.6%) received new felony convictions without prison placement.
- 47 offenders (33.6%) have other criminal activity or are pending charges.

### RECIDIVISM RATES FOR Y.O.S. DISCHARGES

As of December 31, 1999

Release Year (FY)	Number of Releases	Number of Returns	Percent Returned	Ave. Time Out (months)
1995-1996	7	2 *	28.6%	28.3
1996-1997	19	5 *	26.3%	18.6
1997-1998	48	6	12.5%	5.4
1998-1999	66	4	6.1%	6.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>12.3</b>

\*Two offenders, one released in FY 97, returned more than 3 years after release and would not normally be reported as recidivists.