

YOS ANNUAL REPORT



Fiscal Year
2008 - 2009

Colorado Department of Corrections
Office of Planning & Analysis

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to recognize the contributions of past authors of the Colorado Department of Corrections Youthful Offender System (YOS) annual reports. Much of the description and history of the YOS originated from those earlier reports. The following individuals made annual contributions and are recognized for their dedication and work on this project.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of Youthful Offender System (YOS)

- ❖ YOS opened its doors in 1994 on the grounds of the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center (DRDC). In 1998 YOS was relocated to Pueblo, on the grounds of the Colorado Mental Health Institute of Pueblo.
- ❖ YOS is designed for violent youthful offenders who are between the ages of 14 and 18 at the time of their offense; who commit class II thru class VI felony offenses; who are direct filed or transferred as adults in accordance with CRS 19-2-517, 19-2-518 & CRS 18-1.3-407; and who would otherwise be sentenced to and placed in one of our Colorado Department of Corrections adult facilities.
- ❖ CRS 18-1.3-407.5 was created as a result of HB09-1122. Effective October 1, 2009, the eligibility criteria for sentencing to YOS was expanded to include young adult offenders.
- ❖ Public safety, academic achievement, rehabilitation, the development of pro-social behaviors, and re-entry planning are the primary focus within YOS.
- ❖ YOS is under the direction and control of the executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections.
- ❖ Sentences to YOS are determinate, day-for-day. Offenders do not receive earned time or good time credit.

Population Characteristics

- ❖ The number of admissions declined from 111 in fiscal year (FY) 1996 to a low of 54 in FY05. YOS admissions increased to 61 in FY09.
- ❖ The average age of offenders admitted to YOS is 16.8 years old.
- ❖ The average sentence to YOS is 4.0 years, which is 5 years shorter on average than the original adult sentence imposed by the courts.
- ❖ Violent offenders compose 82% of the YOS admissions in FY09.
- ❖ Adams and Denver counties had the highest number of offenders sentenced to YOS during FY09.
- ❖ The majority of YOS offenders need academic, career and technical education and treatment for anger management and substance abuse problems. Mental health needs are higher than those found in the adult population with more than a quarter of FY09 admissions identified as having mental health needs.

Completion Rates

- ❖ Sentence completion rates were found to be high:
 - 72% successfully discharged their YOS sentence
 - 24% negatively terminated or had their YOS sentence revoked
 - 4% had sentence reconsiderations

Recidivism

- ❖ Pre-release recidivism, defined as a new conviction for an offense that occurred during an offender's YOS sentence that resulted in his or her termination from YOS, was 8% for all YOS releases through FY08.
- ❖ Post-release recidivism rates, defined as new criminal activity that results in placement in the CDOC adult prison system following successful completion of their YOS sentence, were as follows:
 - 7% returned within 1 year
 - 21% returned within 3 years
 - 31% returned within 5 years
- ❖ Recidivism rates of all YOS releases are substantially lower than the adult population, even when combining pre-release and post-release recidivism rates.

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OVERVIEW SUMMARY

Mission Statement

The mission of the YOS is to provide a controlled, regimented and secure environment which ensures public safety. The YOS promotes the value of education (academic and vocational), self-discipline, and develops pro-social skills and abilities through an individualized phased system which includes supportive aftercare.

Vision Statement

Contributing to Successful Offender Re-entry for a Safer Colorado.

Overview of Youthful Offender System

The YOS was established within the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) under special legislation enacted in 1993, through Senate bill 9. The 1993 special session of the Colorado Legislature was convened to address youth violence. Senate bill 93 S9 provided the state with a new sentencing option whereby eligible youthful offenders could be sentenced as adults, and serve their sentence in a controlled and regimented environment that affirms dignity of self and others, promotes values of work and self-discipline, and develops useful skills and abilities through enriched programming. YOS blends security, treatment, case management, and re-entry to provide a comprehensive “middle-tier” correctional sentencing option.

❖ YOS has four distinct components or phases:

- Orientation Training Phase (OTP) encompasses the first 30-45 days which includes intake, diagnostic, and orientation (IDO) during which a needs assessment is completed, an individualized progress plan is developed, re-entry challenges are identified, and youthful offenders are acclimated to the facility.
- Phase I offers a range of core programming, educational services, treatment services, and supplemental activities to youthful offenders.
- Phase II (Pre-Release) is administered during the last three months of institutional confinement continuing the re-entry focus and providing a foundation for an effective and well-planned transition to Phase III.
- Phase III (Community Supervision) is the final six to twelve months of a YOS sentence. This phase takes place in the community and continues the re-entry focus while monitoring the youthful offender’s reintegration back into society.

❖ YOS uses a system of incentives and sanctions to motivate youthful offenders.

Intent of the General Assembly

The general assembly recognized that the increased number of violent juvenile crimes is a problem faced by all the states of this nation. By creating the YOS, Colorado stands at the forefront of the states in addressing and solving the problem of violent juvenile offenders.

It is the intent of the general assembly that:

- The YOS shall benefit the state of Colorado by providing, as a sentencing option for certain youthful offenders, a controlled and regimented environment that affirms dignity of self and others, promotes the value of work and self-discipline, and develops useful skills and abilities through enriched programming.
- Female and male offenders for whom charges have been directly filed in the district court, in accordance with CRS 19-2-517, and who have been convicted in the district court receive equitable treatment in sentencing, particularly in regard to the option of being sentenced to the YOS. Accordingly, it is the general assembly's intent that necessary measures be taken by the Department of Corrections to establish separate housing for female and male offenders who are sentenced to the YOS without compromising the equitable treatment of either.
- Youthful offenders sentenced to the YOS are housed and serve their sentences in a facility specifically designed and programmed for the YOS and that youthful offenders so sentenced be housed separate from and not brought into daily physical contact with adult inmates sentenced to the Department of Corrections.
- Youthful offenders sentenced to the YOS are sentenced as adults and are subject to all laws, Department of Corrections rules, regulations, and standards pertaining to adult inmates, except as otherwise provided in CRS 18-1.3-407.

Youthful Offender System Eligibility

C.R.S. 18-1.3-407

The YOS was designed for violent youthful offenders who are between the ages of 14 and 18 at the time of their offense, and less than 19 years old at time of sentencing; who commit class II through class VI felony offenses; who are direct filed as adults in accordance with CRS 19-2-517 and who would otherwise be sentenced to and placed in one of our Colorado Department of Corrections adult facilities.

As of October 1, 2009, CRS 18-1.3-407 was revised to extend the sentencing age from less than 19 years old at the time of sentencing to less than 21 years old at the time of sentencing.

C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5

Effective October 1, 2009, and as a result of HB09-1122, a young adult offender who is at least 18 years of age, but less than 20 years of age at the time the crime is committed and less than 21 years of age at the time of sentencing, may be eligible for sentencing to the YOS.

In order to sentence a juvenile or young adult to the YOS, the court shall first impose a sentence to the Department of Corrections. The court shall thereafter suspend such sentence conditioned upon successful completion of a determinate (day-for-day) sentence to the YOS of not fewer than two (2) years nor more than six (6) years; except that an individual convicted of a class 2 felony may be sentenced for a determinate period up to (7) seven years. All YOS sentences include a mandatory period of pre-release (90 days), and community supervision (6 to 12 months).

The following offenses are eligible for sentencing to YOS:

- Murder in the first degree, if committed during the commission of or attempt to commit arson, robbery, burglary, kidnapping, sexual assault or escape resulting in a plea agreement to a class 2 felony.
- Crimes of violence as defined in C.R.S. 18-1.3-406 (formerly 16-11-309), including crimes against an at-risk adult or at-risk juvenile, first or second degree assault, kidnapping, aggravated robbery, first degree arson, first degree burglary, escape, and criminal extortion;
- Felonies involving the use or possession and threatened use of a deadly weapon; and
- Vehicular homicide and vehicular assault.
- Criminal attempt, conspiracy, solicitation, or complicity to any of the offenses listed above are also eligible for YOS sentencing.
- Juvenile offenders with histories of delinquent acts, which would constitute felonies and habitual juvenile offenders as defined in C.R.S. 19-1-103, are specifically identified in the statute as eligible for YOS.

Legislative Authority

The original legislation establishing YOS was enacted in SB 93S-9, with several legislative revisions passed subsequently to modify and improve the YOS. The more significant pieces of legislation are discussed below.

- SB 93S-9:** Signed into law on September 23, 1993, the original legislation provided for a determinate sentence to YOS of at least 1 year but no more than 5 years to be followed by an additional mandatory parole period of 12 months.
- SB 94-201:** The sentencing structure was changed such that the minimum sentence is at least 2 years and the maximum not more than 6 years. The 12 month parole period was eliminated and a two-phased community supervision component was added, transferring supervision authority from the Colorado Parole Board to the Division of Community Corrections within CDOC. Community supervision was set at 6 to 12 months of the total sentence, with Phase II operating for a 3-month transitional period prior to Phase III.
- SB 94-155:** This legislation expanded the juveniles eligible for YOS to include habitual juvenile offenders as defined in C.R.S. 19-1-103.
- HB 96-1128:** The 3-month Phase II prerelease supervision, which previously applied to the community supervision portion of the sentence, was changed to the period of incarceration.
- SB 99-130:** This legislation eliminated the provision that previously precluded class two juvenile felons from being sentenced to YOS. Juveniles less than 16 years of age convicted of a class two felony that was not the result of a plea agreement charged as a class one felony and without a conviction or adjudication for a crime of

violence became eligible for YOS under this legislation. The YOS sentence for a class two felony may be up to 7 years.

- SB 99-131:** The original legislation (SB93S-9) established a sunset provision for YOS of June 30, 1999. This legislation extended the repeal date for five years to June 30, 2004.
- SB 00-140:** Minor changes to YOS were provided through this legislation. A pre-sentence investigation must be conducted prior to sentencing a juvenile to YOS. Funding for sex offender treatment services was also provided for youthful offenders with a history of committing a sexual offense or any other offense with an underlying factual basis of a sexual offense. Offenders may be transferred to another facility for up to 60 days for diagnostic validation of mental illness or developmental disabilities. This legislation specified that the district court shall review the offender's sentence within 120 days after notification when CDOC has determined the offender is not able to complete the YOS program.
- SB 01-015:** Require the CDOC to notify local law enforcement in the jurisdiction where an offender will be placed for Phase III. Local law enforcement may appeal the placement with the executive director as the final authority.
- SB 04-123:** This legislation reauthorized YOS, removing the sunset provision established in SB99-131, which slated the program to close on June 30, 2004. The facility was changed from a level V to a level III facility and the capacity was capped at 256 beds.
- SB 08-066:** This bill reduced first degree murder to a class 2 felony if the defendant was under 18 years of age at the time of the offense, was convicted as an adult, and did not commit or assist in committing the homicidal act. It made a defendant convicted of class 2 felony first degree murder eligible for sentencing to YOS.
- HB 08-1132:** This bill allows sex offenders and individuals needing mental health treatment in YOS to obtain appropriate treatment by allowing YOS to offer juvenile and adult treatment models to provide comprehensive and appropriate treatment for sex offenders. The bill also made mental and other health services available to YOS clients without parental consent.
- HB 09-1122:** This bill added language to CRS 18-1.3-407 extending the age of sentencing from prior to the 19th birthday to prior to the 21st birthday and created CRS 18-1.3-407.5 expanding the offenders eligible for YOS to include young adults. This legislation contains a repeal date for three years to October 1, 2012.

System Structure

Guiding Principles: The YOS is based upon the following guiding principles:

- The system provides for teaching offenders self-discipline by providing clear consequences for inappropriate behavior;

- The system includes a daily regimen that involves offenders in physical training, self-discipline exercises, educational and work programs, and meaningful interaction, with a component for a tiered system for swift and strict discipline for noncompliance;
- The system utilizes staff models and mentors to promote within an offender the development of socially accepted attitudes and behaviors;
- The system provides offenders with instruction on problem-solving skills and should incorporate methods to reinforce the use of cognitive behavior strategies that change offenders' orientation toward criminal thinking and behavior;
- The system promotes the creation and development of new group cultures among offenders which result in a transition to pro-social behavior; and
- The system provides offenders the opportunity to gradually reenter the community while demonstrating the capacity for self-discipline and the attainment of respect for the community.

Facility Location: Originally located in the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center, YOS was moved to the grounds of the Colorado Mental Health Institute of Pueblo in 1998. YOS is situated on a campus with 10 buildings designated for housing units, high school, treatment programs, recreation, food service, and administrative offices.

Staffing: YOS is comprised of a community of concerned employees committed to the principles of adolescent development, who, through modeling, mentoring, and other planned interventions provide opportunities for youthful offenders to acquire skills and abilities that enable them to grow and develop into successful, productive citizens.

Components / Phases: YOS consists of four distinct components or phases designed to provide a continuum of core programming and specialized services tailored to each individual's needs. The phases as defined in statute are outlined in the YOS Components/Phases portion of this document.

Positive Peer Culture: YOS is founded on the premise that peers can exert powerful influence over each other, and therefore it draws on the milieu to set positive values that promote individual change.

Guided group interaction (GGI) is a specific technique practiced in Phases I and II. It is a group process that utilizes peer group pressure to change behavior. GGI is a step-by-step approach of using the elements of group dynamics and the peer group to assist offenders in the development of pro-social behaviors. The goal is to "guide" the group such that members begin to understand their thinking errors and how those errors affect their behavior and relationships with others. Offenders meet in groups at least three evenings per week, with their coach, to discuss problems and attempt resolutions.

Individualized Planning: Individualized planning is equally as important as the positive peer culture for each offender's successful outcome. The offender works with a progress team to develop an individualized plan, also known as the progress assessment summary. The plan identifies 12 general areas to be addressed during the offenders' sentence at YOS: cognitive education, work, academic education, career and technical education, mental health, substance abuse, medical, conduct/behavior/program compliance, family/social relationships, criminal behavior, obstacles or barriers to transition, and case manager comments and recommendations. The progress team identifies a specific problem, goal, and current objectives, in each of the twelve general areas, which detail individualized interventions for the offender.

The plan clearly outlines expectations associated with successful completion of the phases that are measurable and observable. The criteria specifically address minimum requirements for attendance and participation in facility activities, achievement of satisfactory monthly progress ratings by the individual and primary advisor, and development of pro-social behaviors. The plan is updated for each offender biannually and progress ratings are completed monthly by the progress team.

Re-entry: Re-entry challenges are identified during the initial assessment, included in the individualized progress assessment summary, and evaluated monthly during progress team reviews. YOS provides a continuum of core programming and specialized services that begins in the Orientation Training Phase and continues through supportive community supervision provided in Phase III.

Classification: In accordance with CRS 17-1-104.3, the YOS facility, is a secure level III (Medium Custody Level) correctional facility. Unlike the adult system where offenders are placed into facilities according to their custody classification, youthful offenders' classification is based on their assigned phase.

Incentives and Sanctions

During the period of incarceration in the YOS, incentives and privileges including, but not limited to, visitation, telephone calls, televisions, radios, and canteen items, are not available for an offender unless such privileges have been earned under a merit system. Privileges increase with the offender's status level but can be lost through unacceptable behavior or rule infractions. Offender status level is determined through progress team consensus according to the individual's progress. As such, critical problems are identified and addressed, and accordingly, issues and problem areas ultimately affect status changes. Each offender must meet the minimum terms and conditions of his / her sentence, show positive progress, and attain the minimum required goals prior to moving to the next status level.

Visiting: The offender visiting program is designed to ensure that all special considerations, including travel time, relationships, facility needs, family issues, and problems can be met. All visits are considered privileges earned by offenders' progress and status in YOS. Although contact visits are the standard, offenders who are housed in the special management unit may be limited to non-contact visits.

Parents Association: Parents of youthful offenders have developed a Parents Association which provides support for offenders and parents. The Parents Association works together with the



YOS Administration to bring families together by providing scheduled events and activities for offenders and their families, and to provide a support group for parents of youthful offenders. An annual barbeque is sponsored by the Parents Association which is held on the YOS campus and allows offenders and their parents or guardians to enjoy a meal and visit in a secure but supportive environment.

Phoenix Status: Positive behavior is rewarded by increased status and with higher status comes an increase in privileges. Phoenix status is the highest status attainable for YOS offenders. They can obtain phoenix status in seven months after placement in Phase I. Offenders attaining phoenix status enjoy unlimited number of visits and telephone calls as well as activities in the “Phoenix Den”. The Phoenix Den is a recreational area, only open to phoenix status offenders, which offers video games, pool table, large screen television and access to free weights.

Remediation: Remediation is a temporary classification action for offenders who have failed to demonstrate acceptable behaviors, skills, norms, directives, or other alternative interventions used to correct inappropriate behaviors. The offenders who are disruptive in the facility and serve as a negative influence are separated from their peers by being placed in a special management unit located in IDO. Remediation is utilized to redirect offenders who disrupt the facility, especially those youthful offenders who maintain criminal thinking and undercut the intent of YOS.

Remediation is available throughout the offender’s YOS commitment, including Phase I, II, and III, until discharge of sentence. Remediation is designed as a progressive discipline for typically short time periods, ranging from 7 to 28 days. Offenders continue to receive educational services during the remediation process.

Special Management Unit (SMU): SMU is the most secure area of YOS, designed to manage offenders pending investigation, staffing for revocation, awaiting revocation or disposition of criminal charges. Offenders with a chronic lack of progress may face a revocation recommendation that results in placement in SMU. Offenders in punitive segregation or those on removal from population (RFP) for security reasons are also housed in SMU. Punitive segregation can extend up to 60 days while RFP has a 10 day maximum. In SMU, there is a three-tiered level system based on an offender’s behavior, with a status review every 7 days. Each level has specific time frames for the offenders to demonstrate appropriate behavioral expectations, providing an increase in privileges with each level.

Therapeutic Interventions

A variety of therapeutic interventions are provided to offenders as dictated by their individualized needs and participation and progress is measured through monthly progress team evaluations. Therapeutic services include mental health, substance abuse, sex offender treatment and monitoring, anger management, Guided Group Interaction (GGI) groups, and Quick Skills cognitive courses.

Mental Health Services: Mental health services are provided to offenders with the focus on meeting individual needs of the offender population. An emphasis on intervention, assessment and treatment is utilized to ensure the greatest degree of active offender participation and achievement of individual goals and objectives.

Initial screenings for psychological needs are completed by mental health professionals using psychometric assessments, a review of documentation, medical reviews, and offender interviews. Offenders who are identified with moderate to severe mental health needs, as determined by psychological needs level of 3 or 4, and may be on medication, are assessed at least quarterly or monthly, respectively, by a mental health professional.

Psycho-educational and cognitive restructuring programs are designed to assist offenders in the development of pro-social and self management skills. The Colorado Extended Anger Management Program, which is a mandatory program for all offenders at YOS, includes skill development in anger management, stress management, assertiveness, victim awareness, and communication.

Substance Abuse Services: Treatment services are provided to substance abusing offenders by a certified addiction counselor. The counselor conducts assessments and treatment groups and participates in monthly team evaluations.

Offenders' treatment needs are assessed using a standardized offender assessment battery, which examines individuals' criminal risk as well as addiction histories. Treatment is delivered in a group setting using the Pathways to Self Discovery and Change¹ curriculum developed by Milkman and Wanberg. This curriculum operates from a cognitive-behavioral perspective challenging offenders to address their criminal and addictive thinking. Participants examine factors that may influence them to relapse or repeat their criminal behavior.

Offenders are placed in treatment groups during Phase I, where they are required to complete a 16 week course at 4 days per week prior to moving to Phase II. During this part of the treatment program, offenders initially study the relationships between situations, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that lead to their life patterns of substance use, delinquency, and crime. In later stages of the curriculum, they identify and modify their thinking errors, learn problem solving skills, and overcome their resistance to change.

¹ Milkman, H.B. & Wanberg, K.W. (2005). *Pathways to Self-Discovery and Change: Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents*. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Phase II offenders enroll in the Aftercare program to conclude the Pathways curriculum, which focuses on the role of drugs and alcohol in peer development as well as in relation to criminal behavior. Offenders are taught to recognize the harmful effects of continued substance use and to understand the varying degrees of abuse and dependence.

Sex Offender Treatment and Monitoring Program (SOTMP): The YOS provides sex offender treatment services for offender who are sentenced to the YOS and who have a history of committing any sex offense as defined in section 16-11.7-102 (3), C.R.S., or who have a history of committing any other offense, the underlying factual basis of which includes a sex offense.

The goal of the YOS SOTMP is to provide education and treatment that meet standards established and adopted by the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board. SOTMP has been in place at YOS since 2000 and strives to eliminate future victimization. An intense sex offender treatment program for identified sex offenders, SOTMP includes assessment, review, and treatment through individual and group counseling over an extended period. The facility program links with similar community-based programs to provide continuity of care when the offender advances into Phase III.

SOTMP has a cognitive-behavioral orientation and strict requirements for participation. Treatment topics involve victim issues, empathy, personal responsibility, core beliefs, and distortions in thinking, among others. Therapists are responsible for assessing the offender's treatment needs and making programmatic recommendations based on clinical judgment of the offender's eligibility and progress in treatment.

Areas of Treatment: Treatment is seen as a progressive process. Offenders recommended for offense specific treatment will be under the program umbrella throughout the duration of their YOS sentence. Sex offense specific treatment does not begin until SOTMP Stage I-A.

- Pre-Treatment Group: A Woulda/Coulda/Shoulda workbook has been developed referencing the Woulda/Coulda/Shoulda book written by Freeman and DeWolf. This workbook will be used as the curriculum for the Pre-Treatment Group at YOS. During this group, participants begin a process of looking at the connection between thinking patterns and behavior. Individuals are assigned to the pre-treatment group as they enter YOS and remain assigned for the duration of that specific semester.
- Orientation Group: DOC core curriculum Basic Mental Health [Areas of study] Thought Process, assertiveness training, program solving, distorted thinking, anger management, personal responsibility, stress management. SOTMP will address issues of denial, education of what constitutes a sex offense, and complete offense specific program screening for treatment progression.
- SOTMP Stage I-A Group: Group introduction and start-up, contract, testing, and treatment plan. Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Road to Recovery-Tactics, healthy thinking and RSA (Rational Self Analysis), classification of sex offenders (fixated, regressed, power, anger, sadistic), Victim Impact.
- SOTMP Stage I-B Group: Sexual Addition – core beliefs, sex education, social skills (communication styles), relationship skills-myths and thinking errors, cycle-narrative-behavior chain, final project-final test-exit interview.

- SOTMP Stage II Group: Personal change contract, sexual history, polygraphs testing, personal history of abuse cycle, safety planning, and journaling group. Individuals remain in treatment through YOS Phase II until release to Phase III, Community Supervision.

Cognitive-Behavioral Redirection: Redirection training includes guided group interaction (GGI) groups, seven levels of confrontation, conditions of feedback, mentoring and role modeling, and individual and family interaction.

Quick Skills: Quick Skills is a cognitive skill building curriculum designed to assist the offender population in developing social skills. Courses are taught independently or combined for a more comprehensive treatment unit. Offenders participate in courses at least monthly depending on their specific plan and problem areas.

The Quick Skills courses are delivered in OTP, Phase I, and Phase II. In OTP, offenders attend the seven basic learning skills class which discusses a wide range of learning skills including listening; asking for help, asking questions and saying thank you; being prepared and ignoring distractions; making corrections and bringing material to class; following instructions and contributing to discussions; and offering help. Offenders in Phase I attend four modules: problem solving, thinking traps, aggression replacement, and anger control. Phase II teaches employment skills and financial management to those who will soon be releasing to the community.

Education

The mission of the YOS education department is to develop compassionate, responsible, independent and productive citizens through quality education. The YOS Education Department is a comprehensive program that provides academic, career and technical education and cognitive classes, supported by special education and Title 1 services.

All YOS educational programs are approved by the Colorado Department of Education or the Colorado Community College System and are taught by credentialed and licensed instructors. YOS has a high school on grounds known as Century High School. A letter of agreement between YOS Century High School and Pueblo City Schools is in effect, enabling offenders who meet the districts graduation requirements to receive their high school diploma, through Pueblo School District 60.

Upon arrival at YOS, on an average, offenders have obtained three high school credits. In August of 2008, Pueblo City Schools increased requirements from 22 to 28 high



school credits to meet graduation requirements. As a result, graduation requirements for Century High School increased from 22 to 24 credits, per standards set forth by Pueblo City Schools. Although YOS offenders attend school year-round and complete three semesters during a 12 month period, the two additional high school credits required will certainly present a significant challenge for the average student entering YOS and will bring a new challenge to the education department at YOS.

The teacher-to-student ratio is maintained at 1:10 or better. Small classes and a variety of individual and group activities provide the individualized attention and instruction needed to actively engage at-risk youthful offenders in a challenging learning process.

Special Education: YOS offers special education services designed to provide unique instructional assistance for qualifying offenders comparable to that which is offered in the public school system. A certified special education teacher in IDO conducts an assessment with follow up by a licensed special education teacher who assists regular classroom teachers. Special education services are designed to meet federal and state guidelines regarding the development and follow-up of an individual education plan in coordination with a multi-disciplinary team of professionals.

In FY09, 26 offenders received special education services, accounting for 25% of the academic enrollments. A total of 33 special education offenders received a high school diploma or GED during the last three fiscal years.

Title 1: Title 1 is a federally funded grant that was created to assist individuals who are functioning academically two grades below the norm in reading, writing and/or math, based on chronological age. YOS utilizes the targeted assistance program available through Title 1 for the 20 to 30 lowest functioning students and provides them appropriate Title 1 learning opportunities.

Academic Education: Every YOS offender who has not received a GED or earned a high school diploma prior to arrival at YOS is enrolled in either pre-secondary remedial classes or secondary (grades 9 to 12) education courses. Placement is dependent upon grade and skill levels as determined through the diagnostic process completed during the Orientation Training Phase.

- Language Arts and English
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- Physical Education and Health
- Electives: Art, Keyboarding

Career and Technical Education: YOS career and technical education programs are approved by the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). All YOS career and technical instructors are credentialed in their



specific trade, and up to 45 hours of Colorado Educational Center course work is transferable to a community college toward an Associate of Applied Science Degree. YOS offers certificates in:

- Business
- Business Computers
- Electronics
- Multi Media Production
- Automotive
- Janitorial
- Barber/Cosmetology

College Courses: College courses are provided through Pueblo Community College in conjunction with the Colorado Incarcerated Offenders Post-secondary Program (CIOPP) grant. Offenders also have the option to participate in correspondence courses; however, the expense falls to the offender or his/her family. With the options available, the offenders have the capability to acquire an associate degree, depending upon their motivation and sentence length. Six offenders have been released from YOS with an Associate Degree.

The ACT was administered in FY 2009. A total of 19 offenders tested during the June session. Of those offenders taking the ACT test, nine were high school graduates, seven had received their GED and three were seniors in Century High School.

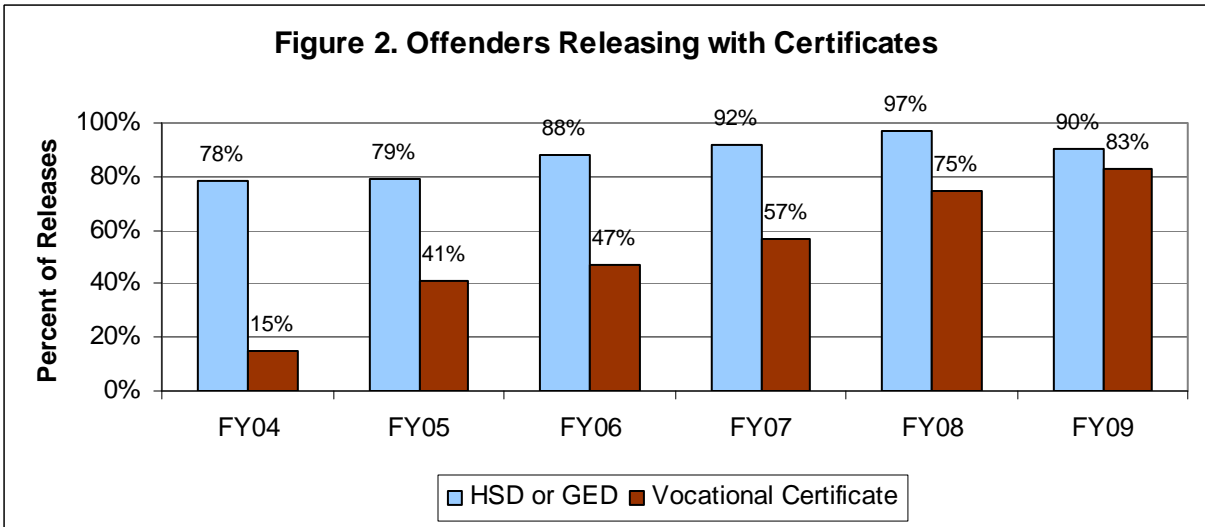
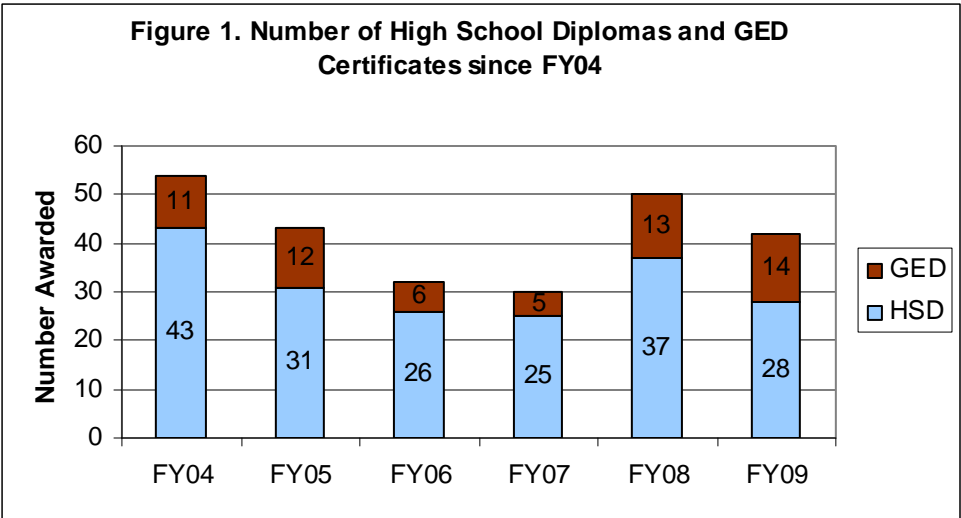
Performance Measures: As one of the primary goals of YOS, participation in academic and career and technical education courses is very high. Enrollments are as follows:

- Academic enrollments = 143 in FY09
- Career and Technical Education enrollments = 96 in FY09
- College courses = 68 in FY09

YOS offenders took advantage of the library services available to them. Below is the number of library books checked out during FY09:

- 6,012 YOS library
- 525 interlibrary loan requests

There were a total of 28 High School Diplomas and 14 GED Certificates awarded during graduation exercises held at Century High School in 2009. Figure 1 reflects the number of high school diplomas and GED Certificates issued since 2003. Figure 2 reflects the percent of YOS offenders releasing with a high school diploma or equivalent or a vocational certificate.



Volunteer and Chaplain Services

Chaplains provide religious services and counsel to offenders as they are needed. The YOS Chaplain provides a formal religious service on Sunday evenings to both the male and female offenders. He also serves throughout the week and is involved with the Epiphany Weekend events and monthly reunions. This past year Chaplain Dave served:

- o 1,184 hours in FY09

Formal religious services are provided regularly to offenders in the facility; these include Protestant/Catholic church services, Jehovah’s Witness; and Muslim/Islamic based Ramadan among others. The numbers of services provided were:

- 130 in FY09

Other religious programs that are not formal services are meetings or faith group programs provided by organizations such as New Horizon and Epiphany. These services totaled:

- 123 in FY09

Non-religious programs, such as external speakers, were provided to youthful offenders:

- 50 in FY09

In addition to chaplains, volunteers from the community donate their time to working with the offender population. Their contributions are summarized below:

- 294 volunteers provided 3,881 hours of service in FY09

The following community volunteer programs are available in OTP, Phase I and Phase II:

- United Bible Study
- Catholic Services
- Iron Man Bible Study
- Inspirational Recreation
- Epiphany
- Inside Out Dad
- Story Time

Phase III provides volunteer and mentoring services through the Community Circles of Accountability and Support. The main goal of the Circles of Accountability and Support is to identify needs and teach clients how to connect to community resources, so that when services have ended they have the skills to independently access necessary resources. The circles are comprised of at least four community volunteers, with a goal of six volunteers at each circle. Currently the circles are held regularly on Monday evenings in Ft. Collins at a YOS contract vendor's location. The circles have also started in the Denver metro area, but are held on a need basis and can occur on any day of the week. Mentoring services, provided by United Way, add an additional element to the circles by providing the offender with additional support from a volunteer that is assigned to a particular offender.

Gender Specific Activities

Male and female offenders are housed and managed separately; however, the facility, sentence structure, and phases are essentially the same. YOS has female-specific programs and services designed to better meet the needs of the young female offender population and male-specific programs designed to better meet the needs of this population.

Female-Specific Activities: Female offenders participate in many group sessions that are geared to their learning and individual female adolescent development. Services by outside agencies are

provided in conjunction with mental health staff to ensure psychotherapy is reinforced by all providers and that continuity of care issues are protected.

Mental health providers conduct a weekly group with exercises that require full group participation. Topics of discussion include: self esteem, goals, relationships, core beliefs, and coping with the past, along with a group which incorporates past, present, and future decisions in dealing with grief and loss.

Inspirational recreation is offered on Saturdays in the Building 26 yard or all purpose room with Mennonite volunteers. A variety of different activities and sports is offered with the goal to teach teamwork. Also provided are group discussions about inspirational topics and stories.

A new sewing program will be implemented by one of the YOS academic teachers in September 2009. This class will span at least three school semesters and will teach skills from basic personal sewing to professional seamstress and commercial upholstery.

In the past, the Girl Scouts of Pueblo provided year-round support by offering a LIFE (Leadership Influencing Future Endeavors) and a Healthy Relationships group. Due to some reorganization within the Girl Scouts of Pueblo, these classes are no longer available. However, the YOS volunteer coordinator has been in contact with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of Pueblo in an attempt to bring similar learning opportunities to the female population during FY10.

Male-Specific Activities: Male offenders participate in many group sessions that are geared to their learning and individual development. Services by outside agencies are provided in conjunction with mental health staff to ensure psychotherapy is reinforced by all providers and that continuity of care issues are protected.

Mental health providers conduct group exercises that require full group participation. Topics of discussion include: self esteem, goals, relationships, core beliefs, and coping with the past, along with a group which incorporates past, present, and future decisions in dealing with grief and loss.

Inspirational recreation is offered on Saturdays in the yard with Mennonite volunteers. A variety of different activities and sports is offered with the goal to teach teamwork. Also provided are group discussions about inspirational topics and stories.

Like skills classes are also offered to the male offenders while in Phase II. Males learn how to prepare meals, use coupons and maintain cleanliness. Responsibility, taking direction and being respectful to peers and staff are additional values taught in the class.

Core Program Interventions

Table 1. Core Program Interventions

CORE ACTIVITIES	IDO / OTP	PHASE I	PHASE II	PHASE III
Security Threat Group Screening & Assessment	X			
Mental Health Screening & Assessment	X			
Sex Offender Screening & Assessment	X			
Substance Abuse Screening & Assessment	X			
Education Screening & Assessment	X			
Criminal History Screening & Assessment	X			
Janitorial Class	X	X		
Health Education Class	X	X		
Physical Regeneration	X	X	X	X
Positive Peer Culture	X	X	X	
Quick Skills	X	X	X	X
Guided Group Interaction		X	X	
Academic Program – Remedial Education		X	X	X
Academic Program – High School		X	X	X
Academic Program – Post Secondary		X	X	X
Academic Program – Vocational Training		X	X	X
Employment		X	X	X
Anger Management Classes		X	X	X
Drug and Alcohol Classes		X	X	X
Mental Health Individual Counseling	X	X	X	X
Sex Offender Treatment & Monitoring		X	X	X
Independent Living Skills	X	X	X	X
Self Help Groups / Group Therapy		X	X	X
Impact of Crime on Victims		X	X	
Volunteer Services	X	X	X	X
Inspirational Recreation		X	X	
Girl Scouts		X	X	
Baby-Think-It-Over			X	
Community Service			X	X
Transition Services			X	

YOUTHFUL OFFENDER SYSTEM COMPONENTS / PHASES

By statute, the YOS consists of the following components or phases:

- An intake, diagnostic, and orientation program; also referred to as the orientation training phase, or OTP.
- Phase I, during which time a range of core programs, supplementary activities, and educational and prevocational programs are provided to youthful offenders;
- Phase II, which may be administered during the last three months of the period of institutional confinement and during which time the Department of Corrections is authorized to transfer a youthful offender to a twenty-four-hour custody residential program that serves youthful offenders.
- Phase III, which is to be administered for the period of community supervision that remains after the completion of phase II and during which the youthful offender is monitored as the offender reintegrates into society.

Orientation Training Phase

Intake Day: On intake day, the offenders are transported from county jail to the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center (DRDC) in Denver where picture identification and fingerprints are obtained. The offenders are then transported to YOS in Pueblo where an initial assessment is completed prior to zero day.

Zero Day:

- The first day of the Orientation Training Phase.
- Zero day consists of approximately 60 minutes of highly regimented physical activity, similar to any regular high school athletic practice ~ but not as rigorous as a “two-a-day” practice that many high school athletic departments use to get their athletes into shape for the season.
- The physical exercise that the offenders undergo is designed to immerse the offender both mentally and physically to drain destructive energies, break down negative gang affiliation and activity, and begin to develop pro-social rapport between YOS employees and the offenders.
- Offenders learn that the rigors of zero day are completed quickly and as a team they have achieved their first accomplishment at YOS.
- Although this day may be extremely difficult for some of the individuals who have not recently participated in any type of healthy, physical activity; zero day by no means defines the Youthful Offender System as this is one day of a 2-7 year sentence.

Assessment: During the first 30 days, a complete assessment is conducted that consists of the following content areas:

- Criminal history (checks for warrants or detainers, current and prior)

- History of violent or aggressive behavior
- Gang involvement
- Attitude toward authority
- Escape history
- Behavioral problems
- Educational aptitude and achievement level
- Education / school history
- Work history and aptitude
- Social and family history
- Sexual offender history
- History of drug and alcohol use and treatment
- Mental health (historical and current)
- Physical health (historical and current)

Standardized testing instruments are administered by trained assessment staff to identify and evaluate each offender sentenced to YOS for deficiencies and needs in the areas listed above. Use of standardized testing is supplemented by a focused interview with the offender to verify or elaborate on information collected through testing. Documentation is obtained from court documents, pre-sentence investigation reports, and state and federal criminal justice databases (i.e., CCIC, NCIC, and CICJIS). Other history (e.g., education, treatment, placement, etc.) may be further validated via phone contact or written correspondence.

Orientation: Orientation occurs during the first 30 days and participation is required by all offenders in order to advance to the next phase. Orientation includes a thorough discussion of the full scope of activities that occur in each phase of their sentence. This activity provides basic information regarding:

- Explanation of YOS sentencing
- Expectations and criteria for successful completion of YOS
- Rules, regulations, and sanctions
- Group behavioral norms
- Confidentiality of information including limits to confidentiality
- Responsibilities to attend programs and activities
- Methods of confrontation
- Criteria for termination from YOS
- Redirecting destructive energies
- Developing pro-social rapport between staff and offenders

Throughout the first 30 days, when not involved in orientation or diagnostic activities, the offender participates in highly regimented physical activities. Although somewhat less rigorous in later phases, physical fitness is emphasized throughout the entire YOS sentence.

Initial Plan: At the conclusion of the assessment process, a multi-disciplinary staffing team meets to develop the initial individualized plan, known as the progressive assessment summary (PAS). The PAS is prepared with re-entry in mind and identifies the specific, individualized needs of the offender. The team may include the following staff: assessment lieutenant/treatment

team coordinator, primary advisor, educational assessment specialist, clinical staff, certified addiction counselor, sex offender treatment team, intelligence officer, and correctional officers / drill instructors.

This staffing committee reviews educational development and placement and identifies special education service needs; cognitive skills; substance abuse and other treatment issues; family support; behavior problems; custody concerns; criminal history; release dates; gang or security threat group (STG) issues; and other information to familiarize all members of the team with the offender. At this staffing the offender is introduced to members of the team that he or she may not have met yet, most notably his or her primary advisor. The primary advisor will acquaint the offender with the expectations of Phase I and will continue to guide the individual during the next phase to ensure adequate progress and participation.

Phase I

The longest portion of the YOS sentence is served in Phase I which may extend from 8 to 75 months, depending on their sentence. This phase is also where the most intensive service delivery occurs.

Phase I utilizes an open unit management approach to offender management. Living units are staffed by multi-disciplinary teams with security, discipline, education, treatment, and behavior modification being the shared responsibility of each staff member. Each unit serves as a small community where incentives are utilized to suppress anti-social behaviors and reinforce pro-social behavior and positive application of cognitive thinking skills. Progress team staff members share in the skills training and education responsibilities.

Employment: Offenders with a high school diploma or GED are required to attend post-secondary career and technical education classes or work in the facility. Job assignments exist in food service, maintenance, janitorial services, teacher aide, library aide, and laundry. Offenders may also opt for a work assignment while taking post-secondary courses. The average number of offenders employed during FY09 totaled 51. Apprenticeship programs are available through the Colorado Department of Labor to include office management, food service, and maintenance. The Colorado Department of Corrections is in the process of creating apprenticeship opportunities for teacher aide and library aide positions which YOS will utilize as soon as the opportunity becomes available.

The following outlines a typical day in Phase I:

- 0500 - Wake up to standing, formal count. Make bed, clean and organize personal space.
- 0530 - Begin personal hygiene (one room at a time) and prepare for morning meal
- 0600 - Breakfast – two units at a time (remaining unit continues with personal hygiene)
- 0700 - Breakfast complete – continue cleaning personal space and personal hygiene
- 0725 - 1st hour class or report to work
- 0820 - 2nd hour class
- 0915 - 3rd hour class
- 1010 - 4th hour class

1015 - Formal count (conducted during 4th hour class)
1105 - All offender students and workers return to living unit to prepare for lunch
1110 - Lunch – two units at a time
1200 - Lunch complete – take care of personal hygiene
1215 - 5th hour class or report to work
1310 - 6th hour class
1405 - 7th hour class
1500 - 8th hour class
1550 - School day ends – all offender students and workers return to unit
1600 - Formal count and GGI groups (groups of 12-15 meet 3 times per week)
1600 - Homework – for those offenders not attending GGI groups that day
1645 - Prepare for evening meal
1700 - Dinner – two units at a time
1740 - Dinner complete
1800 - Evening programs (religious programs, college classes, recreation time)
2000 - End evening programs – return to unit to complete hygiene, homework etc.
2020 - Evening Snacks (in the living unit)
2030 - Chores (cleaning and organize personal space) and personal hygiene
2100 - Standing formal count – read/study in room
2230 - Lights out

Family Preservation: Parental involvement is an essential component of YOS. As part of family preservation, a parent packet is mailed to the parents/guardians during the initial Orientation Training Phase. The packet contains general information about YOS and is intended to encourage parental participation and input that result in improved communication among offenders, parents, and staff. In turn, better communication facilitates stronger relationships with parents who are a critical support system for the offenders while they are incarcerated as well as when they return to the community.

On a daily basis, the YOS Management team maintains lines of communication with parents who have concerns, questions or issues that may arise regarding their son or daughter. Additionally, YOS supports a volunteer committee, Parents Association. The Parents Association provides the time and resources needed to host special functions and they have implemented a phone tree for information sharing.

Phase II (Pre-Release)

The last 3 months of an offender's incarceration is served in Phase II. The date of progression to Phase II is determined by the YOS Placement Committee. The Placement Committee assesses each offender's progress in education, cognitive course work, facility employment history, progression in the Behavior Management Program/Level System and overall abilities for predicting a successful transition back into the community. Phase II is located on the YOS campus in Pueblo and offenders remain under direct 24-hour supervision while in the facility and while on scheduled appointments/activities in the community.

Phase II is intended to:

- Provide direct supervision of offenders to ensure offender compliance through incentives and sanctions with the goal of maintaining public safety.
- Utilize staff as mentors and role models to provide support and encouragement to foster positive social interaction and pro-social behaviors.
- Reinforce the Phase I goal of replacing criminal thinking and previous value system with socially acceptable norms that enable the youthful offender to participate in pro-social community activities.

Youthful offenders continue to receive a full range of services in Phase II but with greater emphasis on services which facilitate successful reentry into the community, including job development, life-skills training, and education. The core activities in Phase II include education, Impact of Crime on Victims, relapse prevention, treatment groups, independent living skills, employment services, community service projects, pro-social outings and transitional services.

Education / Employment: The education component in Phase II is designed to build upon the academic skills acquired in Phase I in order to prepare them for the academic, vocational, or occupational challenges of community living.

Academic classes continue for offenders who have not yet obtained a high school diploma or GED. For those with high school certification, preparation for college entrance exams (ACT and SAT) is available. Phase II provides the services of an educational advisor who facilitates the application process for federal and state grants, scholarships, support services, and assistance with post-secondary needs. Male offenders who are 18 years of age or older are required to enroll with Selective Service to qualify for state and federal grants and vouchers.

All Phase II offenders participate in a monthly employment seminar that assists in career planning by providing labor market information and assistance with applications and resumes. This phase helps youthful offenders improve upon skills, such as goal setting, self-esteem, listening, assertiveness, interviewing skills, and job seeking skills.

The education component in Phase II is not restricted to academic and vocational skills. The curriculum seeks to improve offender's effectiveness in many essential life roles, such as employee, parent, family member, and member of society. Coursework places emphasis on the following:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Goal setting | First impressions |
| Time management | Assertiveness |
| Communication | Exploring interests |
| Stress and health | Strengths |
| Interviewing skills | Job progression |
| Decision making | Celebrating success |
| Money and credit | |

Phase II staff assist offenders in securing birth certificates, social security cards, and Colorado identification cards that will be necessary when applying for jobs. Courses in writing skills focus on resumes, cover letters, and felony explanation letters for prospective employers.

Independent Living Skills: Offenders prepare for community living by participating in independent living skill coursework that is part of the Cognitive Intervention core curriculum. To facilitate a successful community reentry, offenders meet with community agencies to plan for future transition.

Offenders are required to attend a nutrition class where they are taught skills in food planning and preparation. Additionally, budgeting and personal safety are discussed as important parts of independent living. They are also required to prepare a budget, which is discussed during the monthly transitional meetings.

All Phase II offenders are required to complete a resume, cover letter and felony explanation letter. These documents are reviewed monthly during Progress Team Reviews. While in the facility, offenders are responsible for chores and maintenance similar to requirements they will experience in the community.

Baby – Think It Over Program: Phase II offenders participate in the Baby – Think It Over Program, which requires each offender to adopt the role of a parent. By exploring the emotional, financial, and social consequences of parenting, this program introduces offenders to the responsibilities of caring for an infant. The program also discusses abstinence and sexually transmitted diseases.

Community Service: Youthful offenders are required to complete 100 hours of meaningful community service, with a maximum of 40 hours in Phase II and a minimum of 60 in Phase III. Offenders in Phase II have been involved in the following Pueblo community service projects:

- Pueblo County Health Department Food Distribution Center
- Pueblo Nature Center and Trail
- Martin Luther King Museum
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Washington Head Start/SER Head Start
- John Newman School System
- Pueblo West Swallows Charter Academy
- Pueblo County Probation, Choices & Consequences Program
- Pueblo County Park and Recreation
- Therapeutic Riding and Education Center (TREC)
- Girl Scouts Inc.
- Colorado State University at Pueblo

Transitional Services: Transition team meetings occur during Phase II to evaluate, coordinate, and finalize a comprehensive and tailored community supervision and reentry plan for Phase III. The initial meeting takes place during the first two weeks of the offender's entrance into Phase II. The second and third meetings are then scheduled approximately 30 days apart. Meetings are attended by Phase I, II, and III staff; mental health, SOTMP therapist, and/or medical staff as needed; educational advisor; the offender; family members; and appropriate community providers. The plan addresses the following components:

- Family preservation, emancipation, or independent living skills
- Academic and vocational education
- Employment history and abilities
- Drug and alcohol counseling
- Community service
- Mentoring
- Recreational activities
- Groups for pro-social behavior
- Gang affiliation and history of participation
- Medical history
- YORP grant eligibility
- Criminal history and propensity to re-offend
- Behavioral history at any correctional facility
- Cognitive educational accomplishments
- SOTMP participation (if applicable)
- Offender's Phase III plan and goals for successful community reentry

The offender actively participates in implementation of the Phase III plan after its development. Phase II offenders are transported to meet and tour Phase III community providers, take college entrance exams, enroll in school, attend college orientations, apply for financial aid, drop off employment applications, schedule interviews, attend job fairs, and actively participate in the process of leasing an apartment.

Phase III (Community Supervision)

YOS Community Supervision is the component that transitions the offender back to the community from the YOS institution. This phase is highly structured, intensely supervised and closely monitored to ensure for public safety and to facilitate the habilitation and re-entry of the YOS offender. Phase III emphasizes an interactive partnership of county, state and community agencies, offering an array of support services that provide comprehensive Community Supervision services statewide. These services assist the offender and his/her family in the areas of residency, employment, education, therapy, and re-entry services. A graduated decrease in supervision intensity accompanies positive participation, measurable attainment of defined goals and objectives, and increased pro-social community involvement.

Phase III is designed to ensure close offender monitoring and supervision by incorporating intensive Community Parole Officer contacts and counseling sessions that enhance public safety. Phase III has three (3) levels of community supervision. The three levels allow the Community Parole Officer to adjust the intensity of supervision and contacts in response to behavior, participation, and degree of risk demonstrated by the offender. In order to ensure compliance to State Statutes, program rules, and to enhance public safety, Community Parole Officers notify local law enforcement no later than thirty days prior to community placement.

Contracted services allow for daily itinerary call-ins, random urinalysis, treatment, and employment services. Community Parole Officers have been trained to implement the Colorado

Young Offender - Level Service Inventory (CYO-LSI) to determine areas of needs and risk associated with each offender. To enhance public safety, YOS Community Supervision implements an array of electronic surveillance devices. Electronic monitoring consists of a field monitoring device, transmitter, and ankle bracelet, which verifies curfew compliance, and notifies when curfews are violated or in the event of an escape. Out of home verification is possible with a portable monitoring device. In special cases, Phase III has access to Global Positioning Satellite (GPS), allowing the offender's movement to be monitored anywhere on the globe in either real time or in recorded time by wearing and carrying an electronic signaling device.

Community Parole Officers meet routinely with community-based providers, family/sponsors and therapists to monitor the offender's progress, and to discuss changes to their supervision plan. An array of sanctions, including remediation to the YOS facility, remediation to emancipation program, and arrest, are actions the YOS Community Supervision phase may implement as an immediate response to non-compliant behavior. These actions hold offenders to a high level of accountability, and teach offenders that there will be immediate and appropriate consequences for their actions, all of which enhance public safety.

An important feature incorporated into the YOS Community Supervision Subprogram is a comprehensive menu of contracted community-based support services. The support services increase supervision, assist offenders in adjusting to community life and prepare them to live independently beyond their YOS commitment. YOS Community Supervision has three residency options for offenders returning to the community. The options are family preservation, the community transition program, and independent living, which are delivered through contracted community-based service providers.

Family Preservation: Provides services to assist the offender and his/her family or sponsor adjust to the transition back into the home. Family preservation is based on the findings of the Community Parole Officer who determines appropriateness of the home, degree of support, and environmental conditions. Family preservation services utilize a parent-centered, child focused model to ensure the family/sponsor takes an active role in establishing household expectations, rules, and chores, encourages participation in family social/recreational activities, and instills sanctions for household violations. Case management, cognitive education, employment and educational services, social/ recreational activities, and community service are provided with this option.

Community Transition Program: Provides short-term placement in a contracted supervised halfway house. This program is divided into two subprograms: Phase IIIA and emancipation. The Phase IIIA subprogram provides structured step down programming to assist the offender being released from the facility. Community transition is designed to provide services to the majority of offenders being released into the community, before they are placed into the community. The transitional services provided include an employment component such as an intern program or vocational instruction to better prepare offenders to secure a career. The emancipation subprogram prepares the offender, who cannot or should not return home, for independent living. Emancipation is designed as a gradual, phased step-down process, which begins with adult supervised community living and progresses to subsidized independent living

with close and frequent surveillance and monitoring. Returning Phase III offenders to dysfunctional families, gang territory, or an unstable environment will expose offenders to negative influences, which place the offenders at greater risk of re-offending. Case management, cognitive education, employment and educational services, social/ recreational activities, and community service are provided with this option.

Independent Living: Independent living services are subsidized initially by the Division of Adult Parole, Community Corrections, and YOS as offenders typically have little or no income, little savings, lack employment or credit history, and have no family financial assistance. These services assist the offender in securing an apartment, furniture, food and other essentials necessary to live on their own. Supervision and monitoring of the offender is appropriately intensified to ensure appropriate compliance. Case management, cognitive education, employment and educational services, social/recreational activities, and community service is provided with this option.

Table 2. Phase III Community Supervision FY09

Region	No. of Offenders	Family Preservation	Independent Living*
Northern	18	5.56%	94.44%
Central	24	62.5%	37.5%
Southern	9	66.67%	33.33%
Western	0	0.0%	0.0%

*Independent Living totals include offenders who discharged from the Emancipation Program

Community service is required of all offenders during the YOS Community Supervision phase. Community service allows the offender to give something back to society and exposes him/her to higher social and moral values.

Each Phase III offender is evaluated for the most appropriate mental health/substance abuse treatment, which is administered through a network of DOC Approved Treatment Providers. These providers conduct groups in anger management, domestic violence, substance abuse, sex offender treatment, and offenders participate in individual counseling specific for this age group and level of adolescent development. Monthly reports help keep Community Parole Officers up to date on the offender's progress.

Adult Basic Education (GED preparatory) is required for every offender who has not attained his/her GED or high school diploma. Post high school education is available depending on the offender's abilities and motivation. Contracted community-based service providers assist the offender with academic and vocational enrollment, acquisition of financial aid and attainment of student support services.

Employment, if only part-time, in Phase III is required of all offenders during the YOS Community Supervision phase. Contracted community-based service providers help the offender find and maintain meaningful employment. Employment teaches the offender work ethics, develops self-confidence and provides the offender with money for self-sufficiency and restitution payment.

The YOS community supervision phase has contracted community based services and Community Parole Officer supervision in the Denver Metro area, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Grand Junction.

Table 3. Phase III Performance Measures

Phase III Performance Measure	FY09
Average daily population	35
Offender employment rate	33%
Average Community service hours completed	97.15
Restitution payments	36.75%
Phase III completion	42
Phase III revocations	9

Completion of the Youthful Offender System Sentence

Upon the successful completion of the programs and services offered throughout the offender’s sentence at the YOS, including the mandatory period of community supervision, the initially imposed and suspended adult sentence shall have been fulfilled.

Revocation / Termination

Offenders who fail to meet or comply with the terms and conditions of their YOS sentence are returned to district court for revocation proceedings.

Any offender returned to the district court because he or she failed to successfully complete the sentence to the YOS for reasons other than mental illness or a developmental disability, or because he or she fails to comply with the terms or conditions of the YOS, shall receive imposition of the original sentence to the Department of Corrections.

STAFFING

In staffing the YOS, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections shall ensure that employees are experienced and trained in the treatment of youthful offenders or will be trained in the treatment of youthful offenders prior to working with such population, and are trained to act as role models and mentors, and are best equipped to enable the YOS to meet and achieve the YOS guiding principles. The executive director shall make a recommendation to the department of personnel regarding the classification of positions taking into account the level of education and training required for such positions, and shall have final approval on the hiring and transferring of employees for the YOS.

The YOS is comprised of a community of concerned employees committed to the principles of adolescent development, who, through modeling, mentoring, and other planned interventions provide opportunities for youthful offenders to acquire skills and abilities that enable them to grow and develop into successful, productive citizens. Perhaps more so than in the adult system, staff working with youthful offenders must be able to perform multiple functions. YOS staff members are selected for their experience working with adjudicated adolescent populations; and for their potential to mentor, coach, and provide training to offenders and jointly facilitate counseling sessions and programmatic activities.

Facility Staff

There are 172.9 FTE positions currently assigned to the YOS facility. Among the administrative staff are the Warden and Associate Warden along with administrative personnel including the Administrative Services Manager, Operations Manager, High School Principal (Teacher III), and other support employees. Custody and Control encompasses correctional officers who provide direct offender supervision, offender management, security for the facility, and supervision of line staff. Additionally, they facilitate Quick Skills classes and GGI sessions with offenders. Clinical services staff administers medical, mental health and therapeutic interventions while the education employees are responsible for direct and supportive educational services for offenders. Food service and physical plant employees provide meals for the offenders and ground maintenance for the facility as well as direct supervision of offenders working in those areas. Central impact positions include an investigator, legal representative, and researcher not physically located at the YOS facility.

Table 4. YOS Phase I and Phase II Staffing

Gender	FY09
Male	63.8%
Female	36.2%
Ethnicity	
African American	6.2%
Asian	.6%
Hispanic	40.7%
Native American	1.7%
White, Non-Hispanic	50.8%

Community Staff

YOS Phase III Program Administrator: The YOS Phase III Program Administrator secures and develops statewide community-based resources and support services for youthful offenders transitioning from the facility portion of the YOS facility to the community supervision phase. These resources and services are designed to meet the individual needs of each offender in the areas of education, financial aid, vocational training, support services, therapy, employment, housing, independent living, and community service. The YOS Program Administrator works with providers to develop services that meet the needs of the offenders and monitors the implementation and effectiveness of their services.

Community Parole Officers (CPO): Community supervision is provided by Community Parole Officers who are Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) certified and adhere to supervision standards that are set in Colorado Revised Statute and CDOC Administrative Regulation. The Community Parole Officer fulfills many roles and performs many functions in the supervision of youthful offenders that are atypical and unique. The CPO is responsible for offender supervision in the community, responds to attempted escapes and critical incidents, makes arrests, administers disciplinary procedures, and removes offenders from the community as necessary. In addition to these traditional functions, the CPO also participates in unique responsibilities such as the development of the community supervision plan and serves as a mentor and role model to the youthful offenders under their supervision.

Staff Training and Development

Like all CDOC employees working with offenders, YOS employees are required to attend the CDOC Basic Training Academy and maintain a minimum of 40 hours of subsequent training each year in subjects and courses that enhance career development specific to their professional status.

The YOS sentencing statute (CRS 18-1.3-407) require YOS employees to have experience working with youthful offenders or receive the proper training prior to working with this population. YOS has established a 40 hour orientation training program for new staff to meet this mandate. This training includes courses in:

- Reviewing administrative regulations 1600-01 and 1600-03
- Educational opportunities specific to YOS.
- Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP)
 - Mission statement & guiding principles
 - Legal issues
 - Positive peer culture and cognitive education
 - Resisting peer pressure
 - Cognitive distortions
 - Anger management
 - Thinking errors & problem solving
 - Levels of confrontation
 - Huddle-up format

- Social-skills training
- Interview skills
- Conditions of feedback
- Guided group interaction (GGI)
- Progress teams
- Code of penal discipline (COPD) and YOS
- Case management planning and implementation-progress assessment summary (PAS)
- Special education
- Suicide prevention
- Adolescent development
- Neglected, sexually and physically abused youth
- Management of, and programming for, sex offenders
- Adolescent nutrition
- Quick skills overview
- Cultural awareness
- Crisis prevention and intervention
- Housing and physical plant
- Policy and procedure
- Substance abuse services
- Mental health issues
- Gender-specific issues

YOUTHFUL OFFENDER SYSTEM COSTS

Actual costs were examined for YOS over 3 fiscal years (FY) (see Table 5). Total annual costs and costs per day per inmate are presented separately for the facility portion, the community supervision phase, and jail backlog as well as total costs. Inmate costs per day were calculated using the average daily population (ADP). The ADP for facility supervision was 176 in FY07, 174 in FY08, and 178 in FY09. ADP was lower for community supervision with 24 in FY07, 26 in FY08, and 29 in FY09.

Cost categories incorporated in IDO, Phase I and Phase II include personal services, operating, contract services, education contracts, drug and alcohol treatment, sex offender treatment, mental health, and purchase of services (CMHIP), medical expenses and central administration. The Phase III cost categories include personal services, operating, contract services and central administration.

Table 5. YOS Costs by Fiscal Year²

	FY07		FY08		FY09	
	Total Annual Cost	Inmate Cost Per Day	Total Annual Cost	Inmate Cost Per Day	Total Annual Cost	Inmate Cost Per Day
IDO, Phase I and Phase II	\$12,082,901	\$188.64	\$12,673,710	\$199.01	\$13,503,573	\$207.84
Phase III (Community Supervision)	\$1,594,933	\$182.07	\$1,844,311	\$193.81	\$1,945,854	\$183.83
External Capacity (Jail Backlog)	\$79,526	\$54.47	\$20,868	\$57.02	\$22,781	\$31.21
YOS TOTAL	\$13,757,360	\$184.76	\$14,538,889	\$197.63	\$15,472,208	\$202.82

Although the YOS moved to a smaller campus, resulting in a decrease in the purchase of services agreement with CMHIP and a reduction in the actual inmate cost per day, YOS is still more costly than most of the CDOC facilities. This rate is explained largely by the high staff to offender ratio and intensive education and treatment services.

² Source: Colorado Department of Corrections Finance and General Administration

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

IDO / OTP, Phase I, and Phase II

Continue assessment of YOS with emphasis on the following items for IDO / OTP, Phase I, and Phase II:

- Ensure the CYO-LSI assessment continues to be completed during the Orientation Training Phase and provide YOS employees with training to interpret the assessment data for optimal use during Phase I and Phase II.
- Ensure that 100% of the offender population receives anger management services prior to placement in Phase II.
- Develop a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy class targeted for offenders who have completed anger management classes but continue to exhibit anger problems.
- Train all case managers in core traditional practices while focusing on case management services unique to YOS.
- Develop and update the progressive assessment summary (PAS) as an individualized plan with an emphasis on re-entry.
- Evaluate and align educational services to correspond with the skill level and age of the YOS population, while achieving 24 high school credits as required by Pueblo City Schools.
- Continue to work in conjunction with Pueblo City Schools to develop and maintain the required high school curriculum to ensure YOS offenders receive a high school diploma, issued by Pueblo City Schools, upon completion of all high school credits.
- Increase professional development for YOS teachers in the areas of special education, response to intervention (RTI), interpreting assessment data, and instructing GED coursework.
- Continue to develop relationships with labor trade unions. Provide required documentation and training to offenders that will enable them to meet the minimum qualifications required by trade unions.
- Develop a grant writing team at YOS to identify and research available grants for this unique population.
- Continue to obtain certification for all drill instructors.
- Develop a tracking system that will identify the unique needs associated with the offenders received as a result of HB09-1122.
- YOS continues to seek funding for the construction of a **Multi-Use Support Building**: With the 2006 YOS/PMC transition, the new YOS facility and offender population were left without an indoor recreation facility. Prior to the transition, the YOS facility had a 9,890 square foot (sf) recreation facility built and designed specifically to meet the unique needs of the youthful offender population. Currently, the inability to provide appropriate recreation for YOS offenders, particularly in the winter months creates the potential for significant management problems. In addition, the management of offender's free time can be better structured, and an indoor recreation facility will assist in meeting School District 60's Physical Education requirements.

Phase III

Continue assessment of YOS with emphasis on the following items for Phase III:

- Establish, develop and coordinate a cognitive education training program utilizing the National Institute of Corrections, Thinking for a Change curriculum.
- Provide at least six volunteer training courses, throughout the fiscal year, to train volunteers on safety and security issues while working with offenders in the community.
- Ensure all Phase III employees receive updated Colorado Young Offender Level of Supervision Inventory (CYO-LSI) training.
- Explore motivational interviewing by the Community Parole Officer in an effort to communicate more efficiently with offenders.
- Evaluate current budgetary spending and performance of long-term private service partnerships to ensure YOS is receiving effective and efficient service.
- Strive to improve the performance of private service partnerships through the use of auditing the performance and providing feedback to the private service partnership.
- Conduct research on Phase III revocations to determine basis and implement changes to the current system based on recommendations from the research.
- Provide timely responses to the DOC Public Information Officer to increase public awareness of YOS Phase III.

Overall Considerations

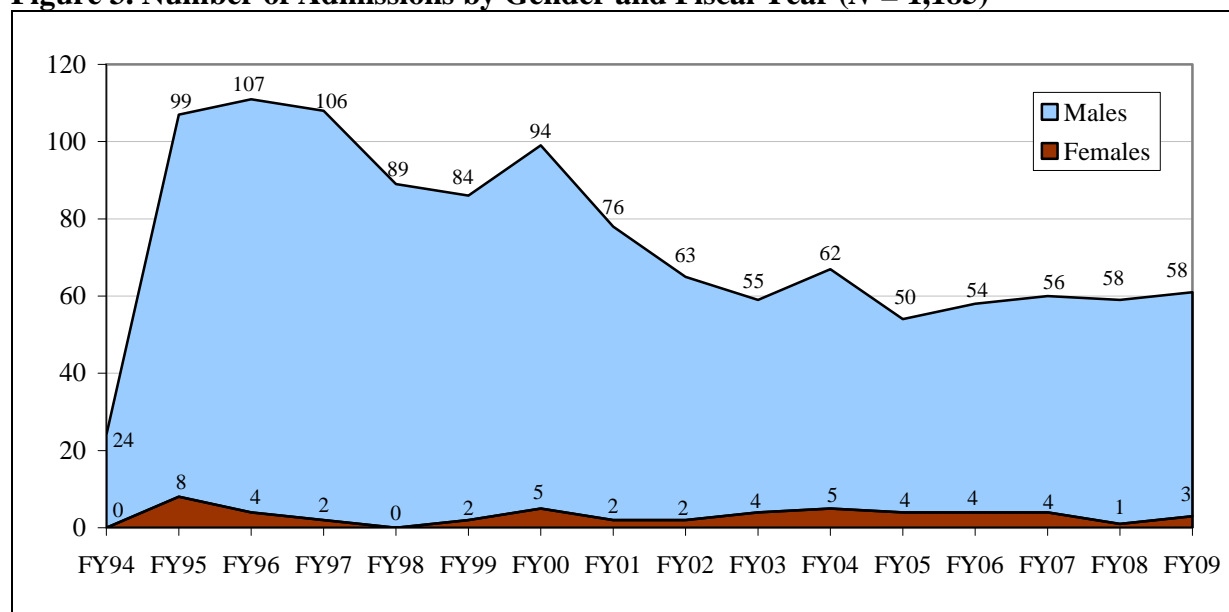
- The CDOC continues to work with district attorneys, public defenders, private attorneys, and judges to increase awareness about the YOS sentencing option and ensures consistent, appropriate, and timely sentencing under the YOS statutory provisions. Tours of the YOS facility are routinely scheduled and conducted for attorneys, judges, and advocacy groups. Informational packets shall be provided upon request.
- YOS continues to maintain 100% compliance and accreditation through the American Correctional Association (ACA).
- YOS will continue to work with community providers to develop and increase services available to offenders in all phases of YOS.
- Ensure the YOS WebPages are reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis to increase positive public awareness.
- YOS continues to seek the acquisition of Building 20 from DHS. With the 2006 YOS/PMC transition, the available Intake, Diagnostic, and Orientation beds were significantly reduced and remained on the grounds of the old YOS Campus. The long term master planning identified bldg. 20 as becoming available to the CDOC, and utilized to provide high security beds for remediation services for all phases of YOS, including Phase III, as well as bringing the intake process and orientation training phase onto the YOS campus, within one hard perimeter, which would enhance the continuity of services available to the YOS offender population.

OFFENDER PROFILE

Admission Characteristics

Youthful offender admissions to YOS, from its inception in 1994 through the end of FY09, were used to profile the population. During this time, a total of 1,185 individuals were admitted, of which 4% were females. This number excludes one offender who was sentenced to YOS in FY07 but was never admitted to DOC. Figure 3 shows the number of admissions each year by gender. FY05 witnessed the lowest annual rate of admissions of all years for which the facility was fully operational.

Figure 3. Number of Admissions by Gender and Fiscal Year (N = 1,185)



Data were obtained from the Department of Corrections information system (DCIS) to profile YOS admissions across demographic, criminal history, needs, and STG involvement variables. Data is presented for FY09 along with the overall statistics for the entire population.

Demographic Characteristics and Criminal History. YOS population characteristics remained relatively stable, with only minor changes over time, as shown in Table 6. The most notable change was an increased number of Hispanic offenders and violent offenders admitted in FY09 when compared to all YOS admissions. Violence is defined broadly, describing the general nature of the offense rather than the statutory definition found in CRS 18-0.3-406 in order to be consistent with the reporting of adult crimes of DOC admissions. Other changes over time appear to be sporadic and may not be indicative of an actual trend.

As described earlier, an adult sentence is imposed on all youthful offenders, which is suspended conditional upon their completion of the YOS sentence. The data indicate that since the inception of YOS, sentences averaged nearly six years shorter than if served in the adult population.

All YOS admissions are currently assessed on the Colorado Young Offender – Level of Supervision Inventory (CYO-LSI), a measure of criminal risk and need. CYO-LSI data were not available for admissions prior to FY05. The mean CYO-LSI score for admissions from FY05 through FY09 was 41.5 ($SD=9.8$) on the scale which ranges from 0 to 84 points, which classifies them in the highest risk category using standardized norms.

Table 6. Admission Characteristics

	FY09 (<i>n</i> = 61)		FY 94 - 09 (<i>N</i> = 1,185)	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Race/ethnicity				
Hispanic	38	62%	541	46%
African American	10	16%	296	25%
European American	13	21%	308	26%
Asian American	0	0%	23	2%
Native American	0	0%	16	1%
Age at Admit				
14	1	2%	17	1%
15	3	5%	104	9%
16	8	13%	274	23%
17	28	46%	478	40%
18	20	33%	290	25%
19	1	2%	22	2%
Mean (St. Dev.)	17.1 (0.9)		16.8 (1.0)	
# with Children	12	20%	122	10%
Violent Offenders				
Violent	56	92%	971	82%
Nonviolent	5	8%	213	18%
Felony Class				
Class I	0	0%	0	0
Class II	1	2%	15	1%
Class III	40	66%	529	45%
Class IV	16	26%	489	41%
Class V	3	5%	141	12%
Class VI	1	2%	10	1%
	Median (<i>SD</i>)		Median (<i>SD</i>)	
YOS Sentence (years)	4.6 (1.3)		4.0 (1.5)	
Adult Sentence (years)	12.6 (5.8)		9.8 (5.7)*	

Note. Data missing on 1 case for ethnicity and crime data.

* Adult sentence excludes 2 sex offenders with lifetime supervision sentences.

Additional criminal history data were collected to examine county of commitment (see Figure 4) and type of crime for offenders' most serious offense (see Figure 5). In FY09, Adams, Denver and Pueblo counties had the highest utilization of YOS. Compared to past years, Jefferson and Weld counties had markedly lower utilization in FY09. The most frequent crime categories in FY 09 were aggravated robbery and 1st and 2nd degree assault.

Figure 4. Commitments per County

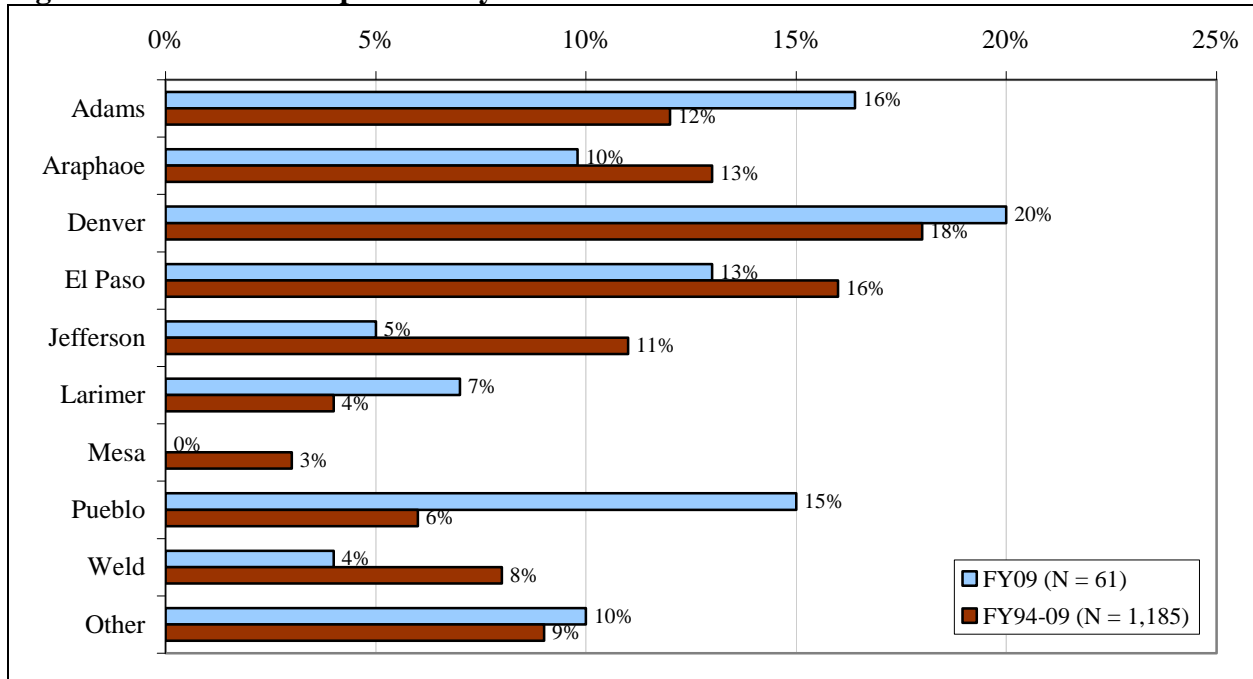
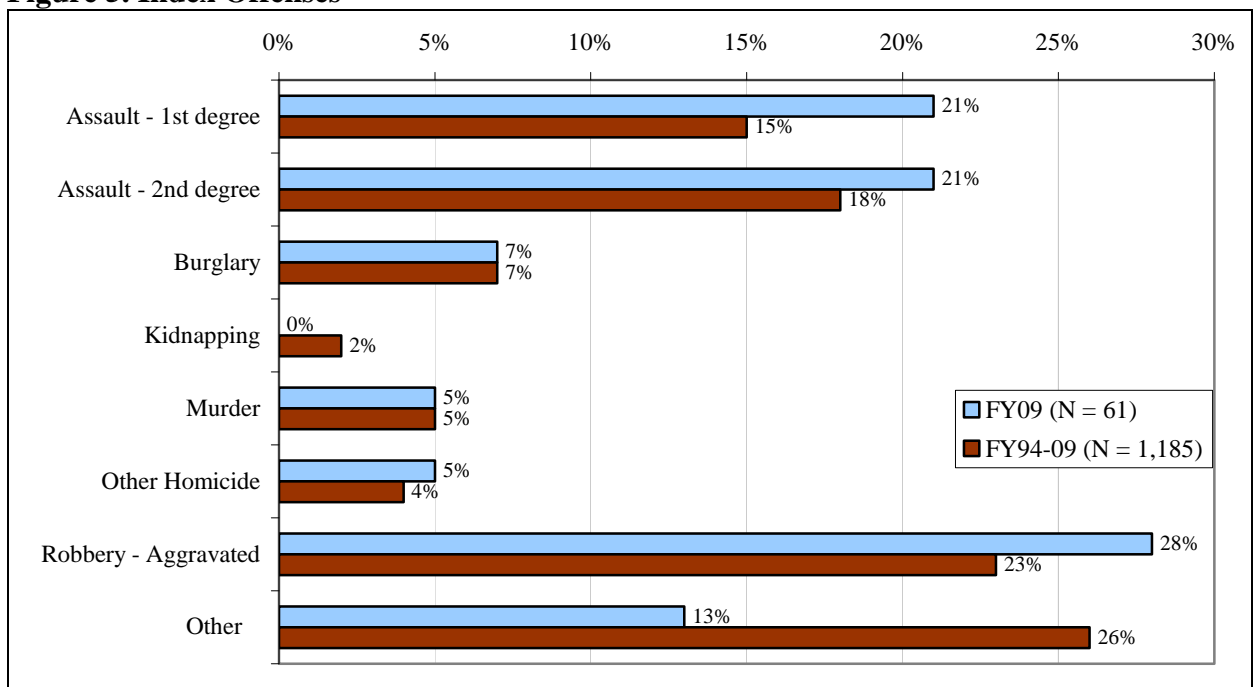


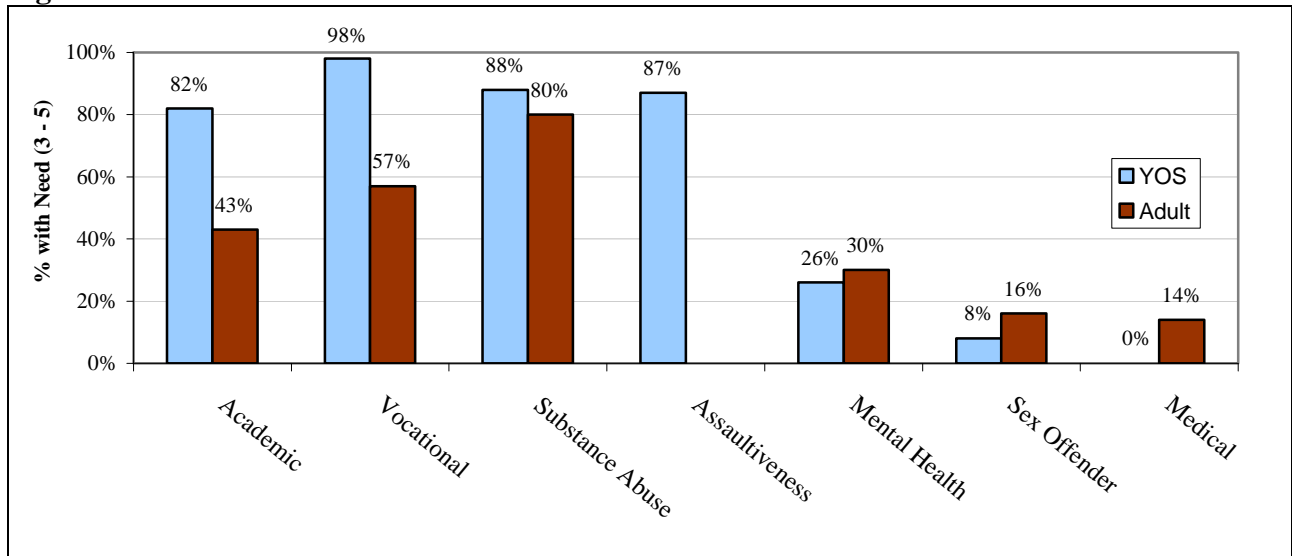
Figure 5. Index Offenses



Needs. Youthful offenders are assessed on several dimensions to determine individual needs. Needs levels are rated on a 5-point scale where higher scores are indicative of more serious needs. Typically, offenders scoring three or greater are identified as having treatment needs in that area. Although the sex offender needs level is not rank-ordered in severity as are the other scales, scores of three through five indicate the need for treatment.

Figure 6 displays the percent of offenders with needs across seven domains. In comparison to the adult CDOC population, youthful offenders present greater needs in academic, vocational, and assaultiveness areas and lower needs in sex offender and medical areas. They rate similar to adults on substance abuse and mental health needs.

Figure 6. Needs Levels for FY09 Admissions^a



^a No data available on assaultiveness level for adults.

Security Threat Group (STG) Involvement. Involvement in STG's, or gangs, is recorded in DCIS for YOS offenders. There are three levels of STG involvement: member, associate, and suspect. Levels are ascertained by field intelligence officers who rate offenders' involvement across 11 items (e.g., self admission, moniker, gang tattoos, and identification by law enforcement). Each item carries a weight ranging from 5 to 20 points, and summative scores determine STG involvement.

Historically, most YOS offenders claim no STG affiliation upon intake (see Table 7). However, 77% of FY09 admissions have STG status, which is considerably higher than the 31% seen among all YOS admissions. For those with STG involvement, the most common affiliations in YOS have been Crips (36%), Surenos-13 (23%), Bloods (18%), and Folk (5%).

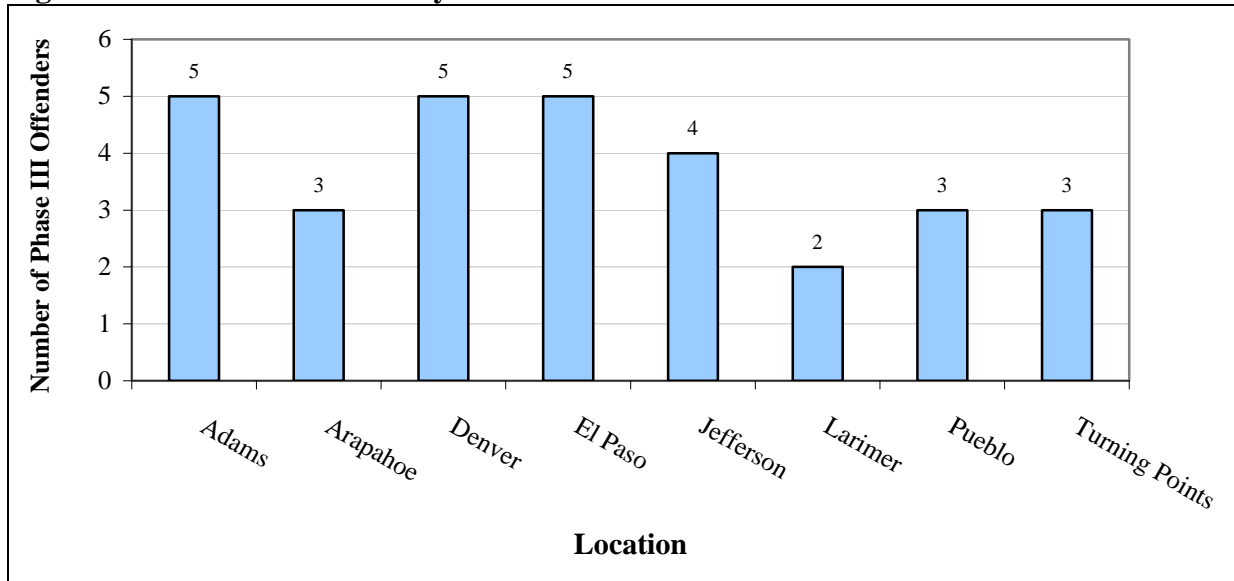
Table 7. STG Involvement by Fiscal Year

	FY09 (n = 61)		FY 94 – 09 (N = 1,185)	
	n	%	n	%
Member	1	2%	171	14%
Associate	10	16%	40	3%
Suspect	36	59%	163	14%
None	14	23%	811	68%

Year-End Population

The YOS population as of June 30, 2009 was obtained, excluding the jail backlog population. There were a total of 217 offenders in YOS, with 9 offenders in the IDO/OTP phase, 14 on RFP or Remediation, 148 offenders in Phase I, 13 offenders in Phase II, and 30 offenders in Phase III. Figure 7 presents the location of Phase III offenders by county. An additional 3 offenders were off grounds or in jail backlog.

Figure 7. Phase III Offenders by Location

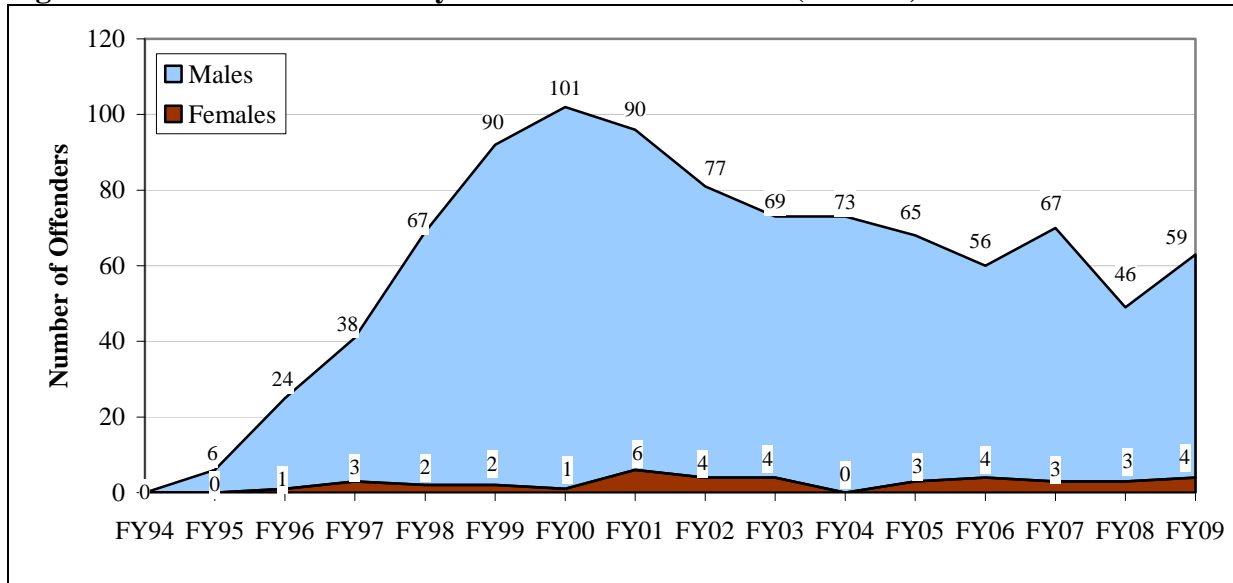


Note. As of June 30, 2009 one Phase III offender was at the YOS facility in Pueblo and one escaped.

Youthful Offender System Releases

From inception through FY09, YOS releases totaled 968, leaving 217 offenders still serving their sentence within YOS. Figure 8 presents releases across gender for each fiscal year since inception. Releases have declined since FY00 other than a slight increase in FY07 and FY09, reflective of the admission rates.

Figure 8. Number of Releases by Gender and Fiscal Year (N = 968)



There are four primary release types: successful discharge, termination/revocation, reconsideration and deceased. Successful discharge describes offenders who completed their YOS sentence. Termination or revocation includes offenders who were removed from YOS for failure to meet the terms and conditions of their sentence, continuing violent or criminal behavior, quitting, failure to progress, or new criminal charges; upon revocation the original adult prison sentence is imposed by the courts. Reconsiderations describe offenders sentenced to YOS who were removed by the courts through a court order discharge, release to appeal bond, or release to probation. Judicial reconsideration resulting in a transfer to adult prison may include an additional conviction that is not eligible for YOS, such as identification of the offender not meeting the age requirements.

Table 8 presents release types for FY09 and for YOS's duration. The vast majority of offenders successfully completed their sentence, although a significant number terminated unsuccessfully and had their YOS sentence revoked. Nonetheless, the completion rate is not atypical for an intensive residential correctional facility that emphasizes a positive peer culture.

Table 8. Release Types

	FY09 (n = 63)		FY 94 - 09 (N = 968)	
	n	%	n	%
Successful discharge	47	75%	693	72%
Termination/ revocation	15	24%	229	24%
Reconsideration	0	0%	40	4%
Deceased	1	2%	6	1%

Data from offenders released in fiscal years 2004 through 2009 were analyzed to better understand the reasons that youthful offenders have their YOS sentence revoked. Of the 88 offenders who terminated from YOS during that 5-year period, 45 (51%) were charged with new crimes (see Table 9) and 43 (49%) were terminated for failure to progress (see Table 10).

Table 9. New Crimes by Offenders Released in FY 2004-2009 (N = 45)

Offense Type	<i>n</i>	%
Assault	12	27%
Distr/Manu/Sale of Class I-II Controlled Substance	2	4%
Escape	20	44%
Menacing	2	4%
Murder (2 nd Degree)	2	4%
Robbery/Aggravated Robbery	2	4%
Theft	2	4%
Other ^a	3	7%

^a Includes Accessory to a Crime, Introduction of Contraband, and Riots in Detention Facilities.

Table 10. Reasons for Failure to Progress Among Offenders Released in FY 2004-2009 (N = 43)^b

Reasons for Failure to Progress	<i>n</i>	%
Excessive COPDs	5	12%
Disobedience/Non-Compliance	25	60%
New charges (not convicted)	4	10%
Refusal to Participate	8	19%

^b One offender received a sentence that made him ineligible for YOS after being sentenced to YOS but before being placed at YOS.

Offenders who successfully discharged their sentence were compared to those who terminated unsuccessfully (see Table 11). Successful completers were more likely to be male, have more serious, violent crimes, and have no STG involvement than unsuccessful YOS participants. The outcome that youthful offenders with the most serious crimes have higher completion rates is an important finding, although STG involvement seems to have a detrimental effect on completion rates.

Table 11. Release Profile by Completion Type

	Successful Discharges (<i>n</i> = 693) ^a		Terminations/ Revocations (<i>n</i> = 229)		<i>p</i>
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	
Gender					<.05
Male	672	97%	214	93%	
Female	21	3%	15	7%	
Race/ethnicity					n.s.
Asian American	19	3%	0	0%	
African American	175	25%	63	28%	
Caucasian	191	28%	55	24%	
Hispanic	297	43%	107	47%	
Native American	10	1%	4	2%	
Felony class					<.01
Class II	5	1%	0	0%	
Class III	307	44%	79	34%	
Class IV	296	43%	96	42%	
Class V	77	11%	52	23%	
Class VI	7	1%	2	1%	
Violent offender					<.01
Violent	573	83%	171	75%	
Nonviolent	119	17%	58	25%	
STG involvement					<.01
Member	84	12%	56	25%	
Associate	27	4%	0	0%	
Suspect	67	10%	28	12%	
None	515	74%	145	63%	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Age at admit	16.8	1.0	16.9	1.0	n.s.
YOS sentence	3.8	1.4	3.8	1.4	n.s.
Adult sentence	9.5	5.4	8.4	5.3	n.s.

^a One offender is missing race/ethnicity and crime data.

RECIDIVISM

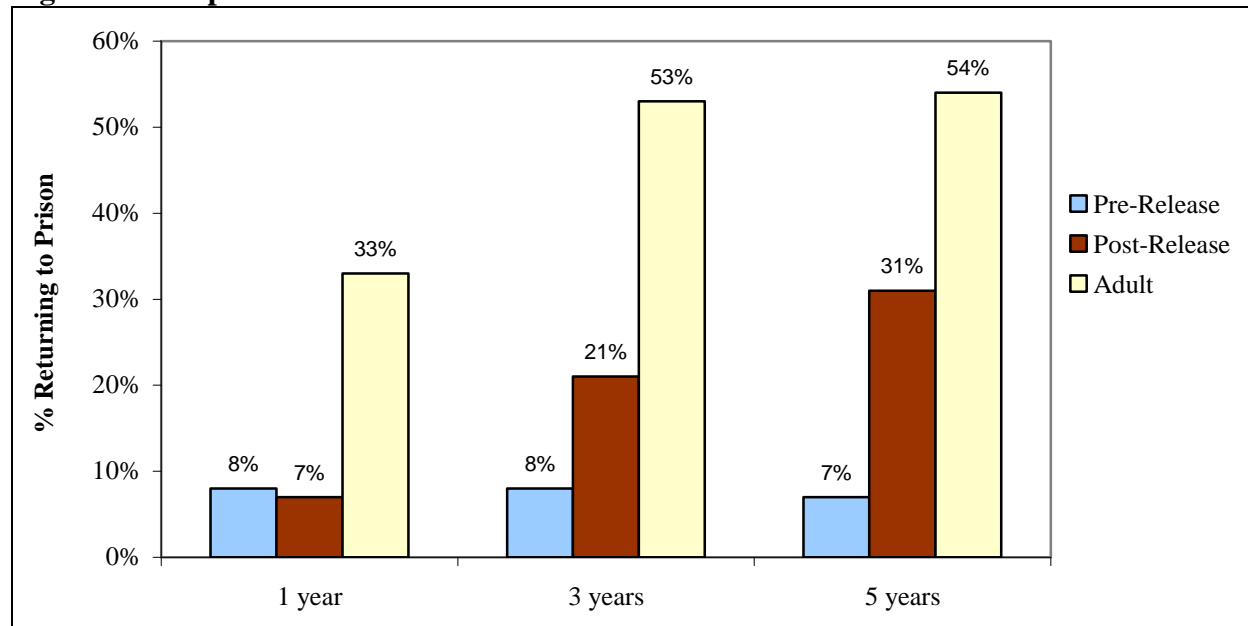
Pre-release and post-release recidivism was analyzed for YOS completions. Pre-release recidivism is defined as a new conviction for an offense that occurred during an offender's YOS sentence that resulted in his or her termination from YOS. This rate is based on all YOS releases within a release cohort and as such represents a portion of the terminations/revocations noted in Table 8. Post-release recidivism is defined as new criminal activity that results in placement in the CDOC adult prison system following successful completion of their YOS sentence.

Table 12. Cumulative Recidivism Rates

Time at Risk	Release Cohort	Pre-Release Recidivism			Post-Release Recidivism		
		# at risk	# returns	% returns	# at risk	# returns	% returns
1 year	FY95 – 08	905	74	8%	686	46	7%
3 year	FY95 – 06	786	65	8%	593	126	21%
5 year	FY95 – 04	658	47	7%	498	153	31%

Recidivism rates for the YOS offenders are remarkably low, particularly considering that they are a high risk population. In fact, recidivism rates are considerably lower than those of the adult CDOC population. Figure 9 compares YOS recidivism rates to adult return rates³.

Figure 9. Comparison of YOS and Adult Recidivism Rates



³ O'Keefe, M. & Barr, B. (2009). *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2008*. Technical Report. Colo Spgs, CO: Dept. of Corrections.

CONCLUSION

YOS continues to be a nationally recognized comprehensive “middle-tier” model of incarceration combined with habilitation programs and services designed to meet the individual needs of violent youthful offenders who have been adjudicated, direct filed and sentenced as adults to the CDOC, in accordance with CRS 19-2-517, 19-2-518, and 18-1.3-407.

A new Colorado Revised Statute, 18-1.3-407.5, will become effective October 1, 2009. This new statute will expand the age eligibility range to encompass Young Adult offenders who are 18 or 19 at the time they commit their offense. YOS currently has an average incarceration age of 19.5, and although this new statute may expand the average age of YOS offenders, the initial needs are projected to be similar to the current population. YOS will track the needs of this new population so that education, vocation, and trade skills can be adjusted as needs and funding allows.

Since the inception of YOS, the cost associated with the specialized programs, services and resources necessary to address the individual needs of this unique, high-risk, violent offender population has been an area of concern. Historically, YOS has operated at about 70% of capacity and the implementation of CRS 18-1.3-407.5 will increase the pool of offenders eligible for sentencing to YOS, resulting in an increased average daily population (ADP) and ultimately decreasing the cost per day for offenders sentenced to YOS.

The implementation of CRS 18-1.3-407.5 should result in making YOS cost comparable to other DOC Level III facilities. YOS is preparing for the challenge to continue to provide pro-social skills, education and supportive after-care necessary to provide for successful re-entry into the community. Although the cost associated with incarcerating youthful offenders and young adult offenders may become less of an issue, YOS will track and report the impact from CRS 18-1.3-407.5. These results will be gathered and assessed prior to the repeal date of October 1, 2012, to ensure that the Department of Corrections continues to meet the initial intent of the YOS. The continued and on-going success and low recidivism rates that set YOS apart from traditional correctional facilities will remain our focus.

