



COLORADO
Department of Corrections

Office of Planning & Analysis
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Youthful Offender System Fiscal Year 2015



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of Youthful Offender System (YOS)

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

- YOS shall benefit the state of Colorado by providing as a sentencing option for certain (male and female) youthful offenders a controlled and regimented environment that affirms the dignity of self and others, promotes the value of work and self-discipline, and develops useful skills and abilities through enriched programming.
- 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 was originally designed for violent youthful offenders between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of their offense who were direct filed or transferred as adults in accordance with Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) 19-2-517, C.R.S. 19-2-518 and C.R.S. 18-1.3-407. Effective October 1, 2009, the eligibility criteria for sentencing to YOS was expanded as a result of House Bill (HB) 09-1122 to include violent young adult offenders who commit class III through VI violent felony offenses between the ages of 18 and 19 at the time of their offense and who are sentenced prior to their 21st birthday. As a result of HB 09-1122, the Young Adult Offender sentencing statute, C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5 was passed into law.
- 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 (CDOC).
- Offenders sentenced to the youthful offender system are housed and serve their sentences in a facility specifically designed and programmed for the youthful offender system and offenders are housed separate from and not brought into daily physical contact with inmates older than twenty-four years sentenced to the department of corrections who have not been sentenced to the youthful offender system.
- Sentences to YOS are determinate, day-for-day. Offenders sentenced to YOS do not receive earned time or good time credit.

Admission & Population Characteristics

- The number of admissions declined from 111 in fiscal year (FY) 1996 to 54 in FY05. After a sharp increase in admissions during FY10, there has been an average of 58 admissions for the past three fiscal years, with 58 admitted in FY15.
- The average age of offenders admitted to YOS in FY15 was 19.2 years old.
- The median sentence to YOS for FY15 admissions was 4.6 years, while the median suspended adult sentence was 11.9 years.
- Violent offenders comprised 89% of the YOS admissions in FY15.
- Denver, Arapahoe, and El Paso counties had the highest number of commitments during FY15.
- The majority (88%) of YOS admissions in FY15 needed career and technical education and treatment for assaultiveness (89%) and substance abuse problems (60%). More than a third of YOS admissions in FY15 had mental health needs (43%) and medical needs (35%).

Completion Rates

- Overall sentence completion rates are found to be high. Since YOS was first established:
 - 78% of YOS offenders have successfully discharged their YOS sentence
 - 21% of YOS offenders have negatively terminated or had their YOS sentence revoked
- In FY15 there were 62 total releases. At 90%, the percentage of successful completions during fiscal year 2015, was higher than the overall success rate for YOS. For this cohort, only 10% negatively terminated or had their sentence revoked. Due to the small number of YOS offenders, yearly variations are expected and it is the overall rates of completion and release types that provide the most meaningful data on YOS offenders' success.

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 7% for all YOS offenders through FY15.
- Post-release recidivism rates, defined as new criminal activity that results in placement in the Department of Corrections (DOC) adult prison system following successful completion of their YOS sentence, were as follows:
 - 6% returned within 1 year
 - 19% returned within 3 years
 - 29% returned within 5 years

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OVERVIEW SUMMARY

Colorado Department of Corrections Mission Statement

To protect the citizens of Colorado by holding offenders accountable and engaging them in opportunities to make positive behavioral changes and become law-abiding, productive citizens.

Colorado Department of Corrections Vision Statement

Building a Safer Colorado for Today and Tomorrow.

Overview of YOS

YOS was established under the direction and control of the executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) by special legislation enacted in 1993 through Senate Bill (SB) 9. The 1993 special session of the Colorado Legislature was convened by Governor Roy Romer as part of a fourteen point plan for a comprehensive response to youth violence. In response to Governor Romer's call for innovative action, SB 93S-9 was developed and provided the state with a new "middle tier" sentencing option, whereby eligible youthful offenders could be sentenced as adults directly to the Youthful Offender System. YOS opened its doors in 1994 on the grounds of the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center (DRDC). In 1998, YOS was relocated to the grounds of the Colorado Mental Health Institute of Pueblo. In 2009, YOS sentencing consideration was expanded to include young adult offenders.

All YOS offenders 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. Public safety, academic achievement, rehabilitation, the development of pro-social behaviors, and re-entry planning are the primary focus within YOS. Sentences to YOS are determinate, day-for-day. Offenders sentenced to YOS do not receive earned time or good time credit.

A sentence to YOS consists of four distinct components or phases:

- **An Intake, Diagnostic, and Orientation (IDO) Phase:** Which is also referred to as the Orientation Training Phase (OTP) encompassing the first 30-45 days of the YOS sentence, during which time a thorough needs assessment and evaluation is completed, an individualized progress plan is developed, re-entry challenges are identified, and offenders are acclimated to the facility;
- **Phase I:** During which time a range of core programming, supplemental activities, treatment services, and educational and prevocational programs and services are provided to the offenders;
- **Phase II (Pre-Release):** Which is administered during the last three months of the period 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):** Which is administered for the period of community supervision that remains after the completion of Phase II and during which time the offender is closely monitored during reintegration into society. This phase serves as the final 6 to 12 months of a YOS sentence.

YOS utilizes a system of incentives and sanctions to motivate offenders. During the period of incarceration, privileges include, but are not limited to, televisions, radios, telephone calls, and access to free weights. Privileges are not available for an offender unless they have been earned under the merit system.

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. By creating YOS, Colorado stands at the forefront of the states in addressing and solving the problem of sentencing, managing, and rehabilitating violent youthful offenders.

It is the intent of the general assembly that:

- YOS shall benefit the state of Colorado by providing, as a sentencing option for certain male and female 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 C.R.S. 19-2-517, and have been convicted in the district court receive equitable treatment in sentencing, particularly in regard to the option of being sentenced to YOS. Accordingly, it is the general assembly's intent that necessary measures be taken by CDOC to establish separate housing for female and male offenders who are sentenced to YOS without compromising the equitable treatment of either.
- Offenders sentenced to the youthful offender system are housed and serve their sentences in a facility specifically designed and programmed for the youthful offender system and offenders are housed separate from and not brought into daily physical contact with inmates older than twenty-four years sentenced to the department of corrections who have not been sentenced to the youthful offender system.
- Offenders sentenced to YOS are sentenced as adults and are subject to all laws, CDOC's rules, regulations, and standards pertaining to adult offenders, except as otherwise provided in C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.

YOS System Eligibility

18-1.3-407: YOS is designed for violent youthful offenders who are between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of their offense, and less than 21 years old at time of sentencing; who commit class 2 through class 6 felony offenses; who are direct filed or transferred and sentenced as adults in accordance with C.R.S. 19-2-517/19-2-518; and who would otherwise be sentenced to and placed in one of the CDOC adult facilities.

18-1.3-407.5: Effective October 1, 2009, the eligibility criteria for sentencing to YOS was expanded as a result of House Bill (HB) 09-1122 to include violent young adult offenders who commit class 3 through 6 violent felony offenses between the ages of 18 and 19 at the time of their offense and who

are sentenced prior to their 21st birthday. As a result of HB 09-1122, the Young Adult Offender sentencing statute, C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5 was passed into law.

In order to sentence an offender to YOS, the court shall first impose a sentence to CDOC. The court shall thereafter suspend such sentence, conditional upon successful completion of a determinate (day-for-day) sentence to the YOS of not fewer than two years nor more than six years; except that a youthful offender convicted of a class 2 felony may be sentenced for a determinate period up to seven years. All YOS sentences include a mandatory 90 day period of intensive pre-release programming (Phase II) along with a mandatory 6 to 12 month period of community supervision (Phase III).

The following offenses are eligible for sentencing to YOS:

- Murder in the first degree, if 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;
- Vehicular homicide and vehicular assault; and
- Criminal attempt, conspiracy, solicitation, or complicity to any of the offenses listed above is 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 initial intent of 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 one year but no more than five 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 two years and the maximum not more than six 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 as a 3-month pre-release period prior to Phase III.

SB 94-155: This legislation expanded juvenile eligibility for YOS to include habitual juvenile offenders as defined in C.R.S. 19-1-103.

HB 96-1128: The three month Phase II pre-release 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 2 juvenile felons from being sentenced to YOS. Juveniles less than 16 years of age convicted of a class 2 felony that was not the result of a plea agreement, charged as a class 1 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 2 felony may be up to seven 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: Required 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 SB 99-131, 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 plead guilty to the lesser charge, which makes the defendant 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 C.R.S. 18-1.3-407, extending the age of sentencing from prior to the 19th birthday to prior to the 21st birthday and created §18-1.3-407.5, C.R.S. expanding the offenders eligible for YOS to include young adults.

HB 10-1413: This bill added language to C.R.S. 19-2-517, removing juveniles who are 14 and 15 years of age at the time of the offense from direct file consideration with the exception of murder in the first degree, any sexual offense that is enumerated as a crime of violence, any felony sexual offense, and if the offender is determined to be a habitual juvenile offender.

HB 12-1271: This bill amends the direct file statute to limit the offenses for which a juvenile may be subject to direct file to class 1 or 2 felonies to include a crime of violence felony or sex offenses if the juvenile has any previous felony adjudications and violent sex offenses. This bill limits direct filings to juveniles ages 16 to 17. After the juvenile is charged in district court, the juvenile may petition the adult court for a reverse-transfer hearing to transfer the case to juvenile court.

SB 13-216: This bill reauthorized HB 09-1122, which extends the age of sentencing from prior to the 19th birthday to prior to the 21st birthday and created §18-1.3-407.5, C.R.S. expanding the offenders eligible for YOS to include young adults.

HB 15-1292: This bill grants offenders serving life without the possibility of parole as a result of a direct file or transfer the right to a resentencing hearing. This bill only refers to offenses committed by juveniles between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 2006.

SB 15-182: This bill allows the Executive Director or his or her designee to transfer any offender age 24 or younger and sentenced to the Department of Corrections into and out of YOS for the purpose of public safety, academic achievement, rehabilitation, and the development of pro-social behavior or re-entry planning. Thus, allowing these offenders to participate in programming specifically developed for youthful offenders.

System Structure

Guiding Principles: 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 tiered system for swift and strict discipline for noncompliance.
- The system utilizes staff models and mentors to promote an offender's development of socially accepted attitudes and behaviors.
- The system provides offenders with instruction on problem-solving skills and incorporates 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 that result in a transition to pro-social behavior.
- 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 DRDC, 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, education (vocational and academic), 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, which, through modeling, mentoring, and other planned interventions, provide opportunities for the offender population 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.

Individualized Planning: Individualized planning is critically important 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 eight criminogenic needs and four general areas to be addressed during the offenders' sentence at YOS. The criminogenic needs include anti-social cognition, anti-social companions; anti-social personality or temperament, family/marital relationships, substance abuse, employment, education (academic/career and technical), and leisure/recreation activities. General information shared during the progress assessment includes mental health, medical, program compliance, 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 12 general areas, which detail individualized interventions for the offender.

The plan clearly outlines expectations associated with successful completion of the phases, which 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 every six months using the Supplemental Re-Entry Assessment Tool (SRT) and progress ratings are completed monthly by the progress team.

Re-entry: Re-entry services, including planning for employment, housing and medical needs, is begun in Phase II, and continues through supportive aftercare in Phase III.

Classification: In accordance with C.R.S. 17-1-104.3, the YOS facility is a secure level III (medium custody) correctional facility. Unlike the adult system, where offenders are placed into facilities according to their custody classification, YOS offenders' classification is based on their assigned phase and status level.

Cognitive Education

Peer Culture: It is widely known that peer groups can have a tremendous influence on adolescents. The peer culture at YOS is aimed to develop self-worth, significance, dignity, and responsibility in each individual as they become committed to the positive values of helping and caring for others. YOS

incorporates portions of a “positive peer culture” to develop positive values that promote individual change while allowing the opportunity to assist and support fellow peers and staff.

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

GGI: GGI is a specific learning technique practiced in Phases I and II. It is a group process that utilizes peer group support to identify, discuss, and change behavior. GGI is a step-by-step approach of using the elements of group dynamics and peer group support to assist offenders in the development of pro-social behaviors. The goal is to “guide” the group such that members begin to understand their cognitive 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 facilitator to discuss problems and attempt resolutions.

Quick Skills: Quick Skills is a cognitive-behavioral skill-building curriculum designed to assist the offender population in developing pro-social skills. The theoretical foundation of Quick Skills is cognitive restructuring, cognitive skills development, and structured skill building. Courses are taught independently or combined for a more comprehensive treatment unit. Offenders participate in courses at least weekly 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 courses and anger control. A wide range of learning skills including listening, asking for help, asking questions, saying thank you, being prepared, ignoring distractions, making corrections, bringing material to class, following instructions, contributing to discussions, and offering help are provided. Offenders in Phase I attend thinking traps, problem solving, and aggression replacement modules. Phase II modules include financial management and employment skills (getting hired) to those who will soon be released into the community.

Incentives and Sanctions

During the period of incarceration in the YOS, incentives and privileges are not available for an offender unless such privileges have been earned under a merit system. These privileges include, but are not limited to; televisions, radios, telephone calls, access to free weights and canteen limits. Privileges increase with the offender’s status level but can also be lost through unacceptable behavior or rule infractions. Offender status level is determined through progress team consensus according to the individual’s behavior and progress. As such, critical problems are identified and addressed. Accordingly, issues and problem areas ultimately affect status changes. Each offender must meet the minimum terms and conditions of his or 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 taken into account. With the exception of parental visits, all visits are considered privileges and must be earned by the offenders’ progress and status in YOS.



Parents Association: Parents of YOS 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 offenders sentenced to YOS. 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 through increased status. Higher status offenders have additional privileges. Phoenix status is the highest status attainable for YOS offenders. Offenders can obtain Phoenix status within seven months after placement in Phase I. Offenders in Phoenix status have access to an unlimited number of visits and telephone calls and enjoy additional privileges such as video games, a large screen television, access to free weights, DVD movies, guitars, and are allowed to purchase personal televisions for their rooms.

Therapeutic Interventions

A variety of therapeutic interventions are provided to offenders as dictated by their individualized needs. Participation and progress are measured through monthly progress team evaluations. Therapeutic services include mental health, substance abuse, anger management, and sex offender treatment and monitoring.

Mental Health Services: Mental health services are provided to offenders with the focus on meeting individual needs of the offender population. Emphases include intervention, assessment, and treatment 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 a psychological needs level of 3 or 4, or medication utilization, are assessed quarterly or monthly, 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, treatment groups and participates in monthly progress team evaluations.

Offender treatment needs are assessed using a standardized offender assessment battery, which examines an individual's criminal risk as well as addiction history. Treatment is delivered in a group

setting using the *Pathways to Self-Discovery and Change* curriculum developed by Milkman and Wanberg (2005). 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, four days per week, before moving to Phase II. During this part of the treatment program, offenders study the relationships between situations, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors which lead to their life patterns of substance use, delinquency, and crime. In later stages of the curriculum, offenders identify and modify their thinking errors, learn problem-solving skills, and overcome their resistance to change.

While in Phase II, prior to moving into the community, offenders are required to participate in a 12-week relapse prevention course, using the *Beat the Street: Clean and Sober in the City* curriculum, to address high risk situations, triggers and ways to combat relapse and recidivism.

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

The goal of the YOS Sex Offender Treatment and Monitoring Program (SOTMP) is to provide education and treatment that meet standards established and adopted by the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board. A comprehensive sex offender treatment program has been in place at YOS since 2000. The sex offender treatment program reinforces the goal of “No More Victims.” The facility program links with similar community based programs to provide continuity of care when the offender advances to Phase III.

The SOTMP program has adopted the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model for treatment of sex offenders within the Department of Corrections. The RNR model allows the treatment team to place the right offender into the right treatment group for maximum benefit. SOTMP has a cognitive-behavioral orientation that addresses topics such as victim empathy, personal responsibility, core beliefs and distorted thinking, among others. 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.

Education

The mission of the YOS education department is to develop compassionate, responsible, independent, educated and productive citizens through a quality education. The YOS Education Department provides a comprehensive program of 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 memo of understanding between YOS

Century High School and Pueblo City Schools enables offenders who meet the district's graduation requirements to receive their high school diploma through Pueblo City Schools.

Upon arrival at YOS, on average, offenders have obtained three high school credits. To meet graduation requirements, YOS offenders must obtain 22 high school 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, bringing an offender from three credits to 22 credits can present a challenge to the education department, particularly if the offender only has a two or three year sentence.

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 offenders in a challenging learning environment.

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 teacher 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 adherence to an individual education plan in coordination with a multi-disciplinary team of professionals. In FY15, 10 offenders received special education services, accounting for 25% of the academic enrollments. A total of four special education offenders received a high school diploma or GED during FY15.

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 secondary (grades 9 to 12) education courses or the GED prep classes. Placement is dependent upon grade and skill level as determined through the diagnostic process completed during the Orientation Training Phase, the age of the offender, number of previous high school credits earned and length of sentence. Academic education courses may include language arts and English, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education and health, and electives.

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. During FY15, 1576 total transcript qualifying vocational education credit hours were earned by approximately 120 offenders through their YOS career and technical education programs. YOS offers certificates in art, business, business computers, electronics, multi-media production, automotive, janitorial, barber/cosmetology, graphic arts, mobile lab, leisure, and re-entry classes.

College Courses: College courses are provided directly through Pueblo Community College. 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. To date, ten offenders have been released from YOS with an associate degree and one with a bachelor degree.

The ACT was administered in FY15. A total of 12 offenders tested in April 2015. The average YOS score was 19.67 compared to an average public school score of 20.7. Based upon the academic

education needs of the YOS population, the average YOS score is very favorable. Century High School has been challenged to meet or exceed the average public school ACT test score.

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

In FY15, there were 62 enrollments in academic courses, 127 enrollments in career and technical education courses, and 18 enrollments in the Pueblo Community College Mobile Learning Lab.

YOS offenders took advantage of the library services available to them. There were also 9,163 library books checked out of the YOS library and 991 interlibrary loan requests.

There were a total of 11 High School Diplomas and 3 GED Certificates awarded during graduation exercises held at Century High School in 2015. Figure 1 reflects the number of high school diplomas and GED Certificates issued since 2006. Changes to the GED test in 2014 have made it harder to achieve a passing grade.

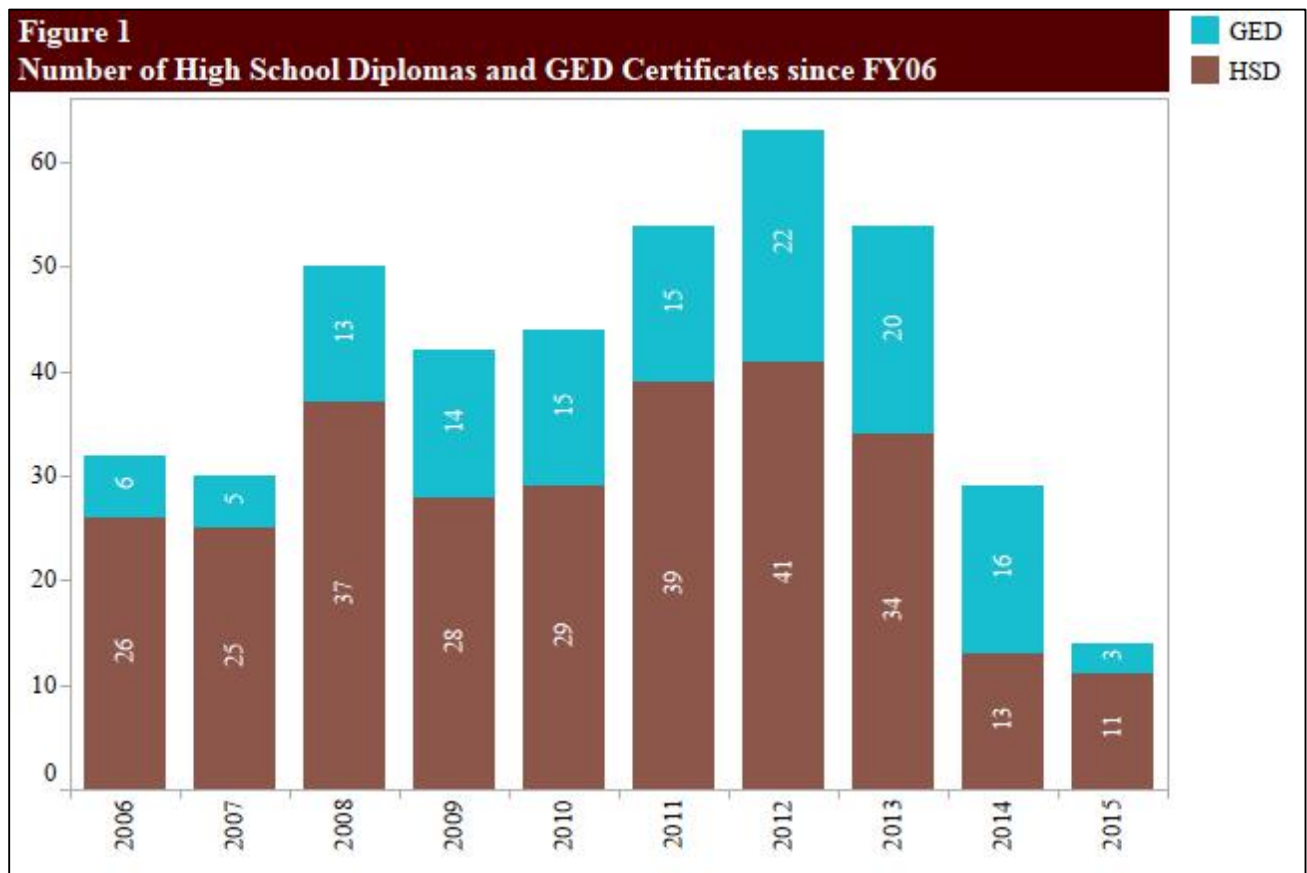
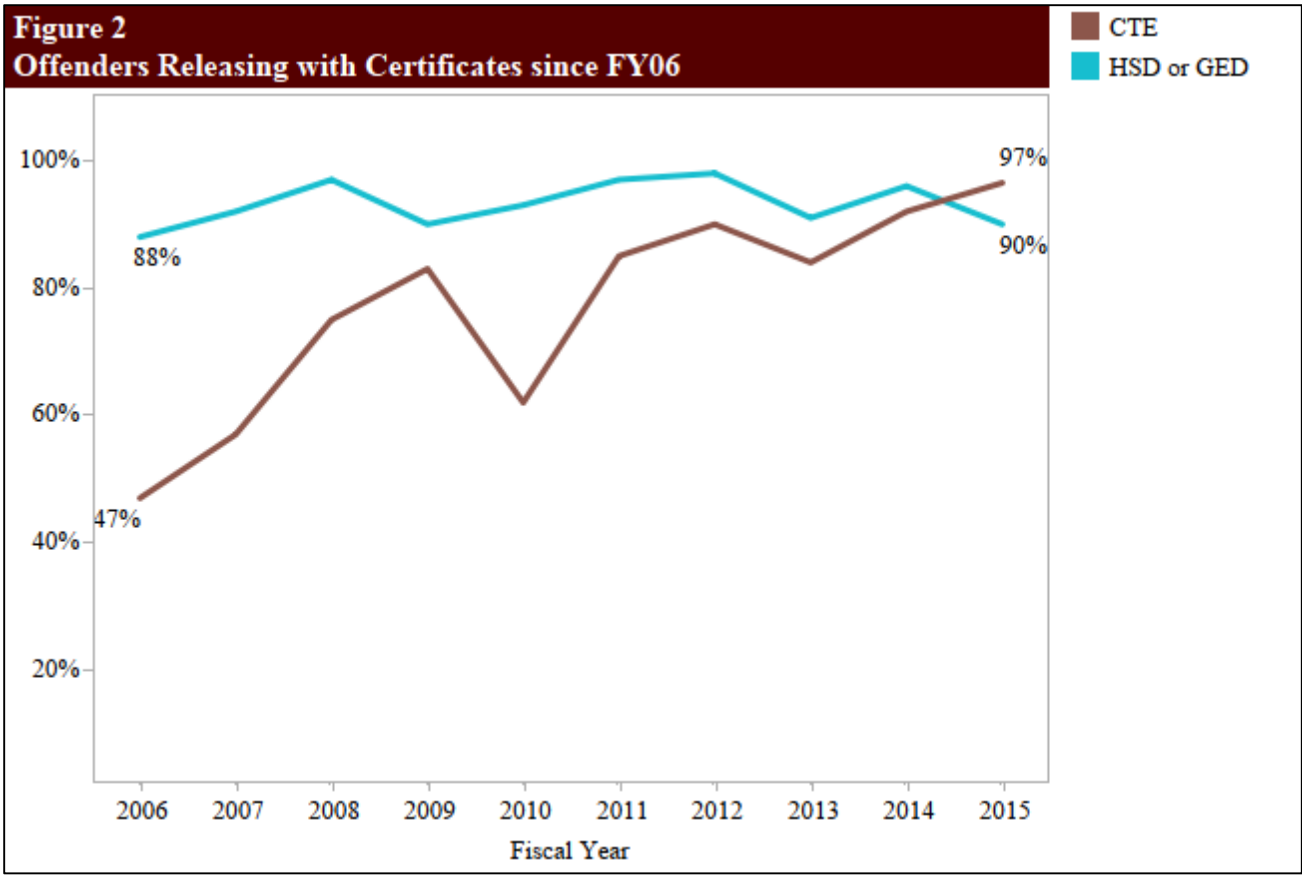


Figure 2 reflects the percent of YOS offenders released with a high school diploma or equivalent or a vocational certificate since 2006 and who have successfully completed Phase II and are moving on to Phase III.



Note. The year to year variation is a reflection of such factors as sentence length and learning ability. This figure only represents offenders who have successfully completed Phase II and are moving on to Phase III. (96.5% released with Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certificate, 90% released with HSD/GED)

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 and offers a mid-week service to offenders in Phase II. The Chaplain also makes weekly visits to the Intake Diagnostic and Orientation Unit to inquire about spiritual needs. Chaplains serve throughout the week and are involved with the Epiphany Weekend events and monthly reunions. Formal religious services are provided regularly to offenders in the facility; these include Protestant/Catholic church services, Jehovah’s Witness, and Ramadan among others. There were 158 services in FY15.



Other religious programs that are not formal services are meetings or faith group programs provided by organizations such as Epiphany and the Pikes Peak Christian Church. There were 116 non-formal

religious services in FY15. In the last FY, there were 12 non-religious programs, such as external speakers, provided to youthful offenders. In addition to chaplains, volunteers from the community donate their time to working with the offender population. Two hundred thirty-one volunteers provided 2,689 hours of service in FY15.

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

- Chaplain's Service
- Catholic Services
- Iron Man Bible Study
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Epiphany
- Story Time
- Amazing Facts Bible Study

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 female offender population and male-specific programs designed to better meet the needs of the male population.

Female-Specific Activities: Female offenders participate in many group sessions that are geared specifically towards 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.

There is currently a Chaplain's bible study held in the female unit on Tuesday evening. In addition to studying the Bible, the group discusses life issues and problems. Once a month, Epiphany holds a reunion in the female unit as well.

Construction of a Life Skills Lab was completed during FY11. This lab is available to the female offenders at least one day per week, providing an opportunity for the offenders to learn daily meal preparation, budgeting, shopping, cooking and cleaning.

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. Life skills classes are also offered to the male offenders while in Phase II. The Life Skills Lab provides the male offenders in Phase II with the opportunity to 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

YOS ensures that all offenders receive standard programs and services such as screening, cognitive education and employment. However, specialized services including sex offender and mental health treatment are also provided if the offender has needs in these areas. Table 1 further explains the programs by indicating when each is available to the offender.

Table 1
Core Program Interventions

Core Activities	IDO / OTP	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Security Threat Group Screening & Assessment	✓			
Mental Health Screening & Assessment	✓			
Sex Offender Screening & Assessment	✓			
Substance Abuse Screening & Assessment	✓			
Education Screening & Assessment	✓			
Criminal History Screening & Assessment	✓			
Janitorial Class	✓	✓		
Health Education Class		✓		
Physical Regimentation	✓	✓	✓	
Positive Peer Culture	✓	✓	✓	
Quick Skills	✓	✓	✓	
Guided Group Interaction		✓	✓	
Academic Program – Remedial Education	✓	✓	✓	✓
Academic Program – High School	✓	✓	✓	✓
Academic Program – Post Secondary		✓	✓	✓
Academic Program – Vocational Training		✓	✓	✓
Employment		✓	✓	✓
Anger Management Classes		✓	✓	✓
Drug and Alcohol Classes		✓	✓	✓
Mental Health Individual Counseling	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sex Offender Treatment & Monitoring		✓	✓	✓
Independent Living Skills	✓	✓	✓	✓
Self Help Groups / Group Therapy		✓	✓	✓
Impact of Crime on Victims		✓	✓	
7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens		✓		
Thinking for a Change		✓		✓
Volunteer Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inspirational Recreation		✓	✓	
Community Service			✓	✓
Transition Services			✓	
Leisure Time Re-Entry Classes		✓	✓	

YOS COMPONENTS/PHASES

By statute, YOS consists of four distinct phases, which are; OTP, Phase I, Phase II and Phase III; each with a different focus.

Orientation Training Phase (OTP)

Intake: Upon intake, offenders are transported from county jail to DRDC in Denver where the following are completed: intelligence alert checklist, emergency notification, picture identification, DNA collection and fingerprinting. The offenders are then transported to the Intake Diagnostic and Orientation (IDO) unit of YOS, where they undergo a thorough and comprehensive battery of intake assessments and orientation to the expectations of the YOS.

Assessment: During the first 30-45 days, a thorough and complete assessment is conducted which consists of the following content areas:

- A review of criminogenic needs:
 - Anti-social cognition
 - Anti-social companions
 - Anti-social personality or temperament
 - Family and/or marital
 - Substance abuse
 - Employment
 - School
 - Leisure and/or recreation
- Criminal history (checks for warrants or detainers, current and prior)
- History of violent, aggressive and/or assaultive 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, arrest affidavits, and state and federal criminal justice databases. Other

history (e.g., education, treatment, placement, etc.) may be further validated via phone contact or written correspondence.

Zero Day Activities: Zero Day activities consists of approximately 60 minutes of instruction/demonstration and 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 in shape for the season. The physical exercises and activities that the offenders undergo are designed to challenge and condition 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, have achieved their first accomplishment at YOS.

Orientation: Orientation occurs during the first 30 days of intake and participation is required by all offenders in order to advance to Phase I. Orientation includes thorough discussions of the full scope of activities which occur in each phase of a YOS 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, four cognitive distortions, 12 problem areas
- Criteria for termination from YOS
- Redirecting destructive energies
- Developing pro-social rapport between staff and offenders

Throughout the first 30-45 days, when not involved in orientation or diagnostic activities, the offender participates in highly structured and regimented physical activities. The limitation of idle time through physical activity 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, based on the Level of Risk Treatment priorities identified in the Prison Intake Tool (PIT) and the Level of Service Inventory (LSI). 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.

The staffing team reviews educational development and placement in addition to identifying 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. 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, recreation and laundry. Offenders have the opportunity to attend post-secondary courses in conjunction with having a work assignment. Apprenticeship programs are available through the Colorado Department of Labor to include food service and maintenance.

Daily Schedules: The following outlines a typical daily schedule for an offender in Phase I:

- 05:30 - Wake up to standing, formal count.
- 06:00 - Begin personal hygiene, daily chores and prepare for morning meal.
- 06:30 - Breakfast—two units at a time- remaining units continue with personal hygiene and chores
- 07:00 - Breakfast complete – continue cleaning personal space and personal hygiene
- 08:20 - 1st hour class or report to work
- 09:20 - 2nd hour class
- 10:20 - 3rd hour class
- 10:30 - Formal count (conducted during 3rd hour class)
- 11:30 - All offender students and workers return to living unit to prepare for lunch.
- 11:45 - Lunch – two units at a time
- 12:45 - 4th hour class
- 13:45 - 5th hour class or report to work
- 14:45 - 6th hour class
- 15:45 - 7th hour class
- 16:00 - Formal count
- 16:00 - Homework – for those offenders not attending GGI groups that day
- 16:50 - School day ends – all offender students and workers return to unit
- 17:30 - Dinner – two units at a time
- 18:00 - Evening programs (religious programs, college classes, recreation time)
- 20:30 - End evening programs – return to unit to complete hygiene, homework etc.
- 20:30 - Evening Snacks (in the living unit)
- 20:30 - Chores (cleaning and organize personal space) and personal hygiene
- 21:00 - Standing formal count – read/study in room
- 22:00 - Lights out

Family Support: Parental involvement is an essential component of successful sentence completion and community re-entry. To encourage family support, a detailed parent packet is mailed to each offender's parents or legal guardians upon intake. The packet contains general information about YOS and is intended to encourage parental support, participation and input which will 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 open lines of communication with parents who have concerns, questions or issues which may arise regarding their son or daughter. Additionally, YOS works closely with a volunteer committee comprised of parents who have children incarcerated in YOS. This Parents Association provides the time and resources needed to host special functions. In addition, they have implemented a phone tree for information sharing.

Phase II (Pre-Release)

The last three 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: This phase is intended to provide direct supervision of offenders to ensure offender compliance through incentives and sanctions with the goal of maintaining public safety. Staff is utilized as mentors and role models to provide support and encouragement to foster positive social interaction and pro-social behaviors. Also important is the reinforcement of the Phase I goal of replacing criminal thinking and previous value systems with socially acceptable norms to enable the offender to participate in pro-social community activities. Offenders continue to receive a full range of services in Phase II but with greater emphasis on services which facilitate successful re-entry 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, and 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 which assists in career planning by providing labor market information and assistance with applications and resumes. This phase helps offenders improve skills, such as goal setting, self-esteem, listening, assertiveness, interviewing, 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
- Money and credit
- Stress and health
- Interviewing skills
- Job progression
- Decision making
- Strengths
- Celebrating success

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 which 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 by using a computer simulated baby. The program also discusses abstinence and sexually transmitted diseases.

Community Service: All offenders sentenced to YOS are required to complete meaningful community service while in Phase II and Phase III. The YOS facility works closely with local community agencies in providing an average of 700 hours meaningful community service opportunities each month.

Transitional Services: Transition team meetings occur during Phase II to evaluate, coordinate, and finalize a comprehensive and tailored community supervision and re-entry 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
- 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, also referred to as Phase III, is the final component of a YOS sentence that allows the offender to transition from a facility setting to the community. Phase III provides intensive supervision and surveillance as well as holds the offender to a high level of accountability while living within the community. It is designed to ensure close offender monitoring and supervision by incorporating intensive community parole officer (CPO) contact and counseling sessions which enhance public safety. CPOs, in conjunction with contract case managers, assist offenders in the areas of residency, employment, education, therapy, and re-entry services. Phase III employees use evidence-based practices to instill compliant behavior, teach self-discipline, and provide the appropriate programs and services to assist with the offender's transition back to the community.

Services Provided: Phase III emphasizes an interactive partnership of county, state, and community agencies; offering an array of support services which provide a comprehensive community supervision program 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 program participation, measurable attainment of defined goals and objectives, and increasingly pro-social community involvement.

YOS Phase III contracts with community based service providers to provide an evidence-based approach to the offender's rehabilitation. These contracted services provide support to offenders while completing their incarceration through the Community Transition Program, Independent Living, and Family Preservation.

Community Transition Program operates as an emancipation program and operates in a stand-alone residential setting, much like a community corrections center, by providing a step-down process for offenders to transition from a secure facility to the community. Offenders can progress to either the Independent Living or Family Preservation components of Phase III. The Community Transition Program provides support services to offenders with meals, clothing, sleeping arrangements, transportation, and medical assistance. This program also provides employment, substance abuse treatment, education, cognitive education, community activities, and case management services.

Family Preservation allows offenders to transition from the facility or the Community Transition Program to their parent(s), family, or designated sponsor. In this component, parents, family or sponsors are considered integral in developing and implementing the community supervision plan and are included in establishing a family and community support system for the offender. The concept is to build a team approach with a commitment from the parents, family or sponsor to cooperate and to support the YOS offender in achieving the goals of community reintegration. The contracted services support the offender with education, cognitive education, community activities, and case management. In addition, the contracted provider assists the offender in securing employment to increase the chance of successful reintegration and reduced recidivism rates.

Independent Living is a portion of Phase III and allows the offender to transition directly from the YOS facility or in most cases, from the Community Transition Program, to living independently in the community. This component is designed for those individuals who lack family support, or for individuals for whom returning home is not conducive to successful re-entry. This contracted support service assists the offender in securing an apartment, furniture, food, and other essentials necessary to live on their own. Additional services include: case management, cognitive education, employment and education services, social/recreational activities, and community service.

Contracted day reporting services serve to support the Family Preservation and Independent Living components by providing a means for daily call-ins from offenders. In addition, the vendors may provide additional services as needed such as additional urinalysis, breathalyzer, medication monitoring, and antabuse.

Contracted mentoring services serve to support offenders by recruiting, training, interviewing, and matching both one-on-one and group mentor volunteers to offenders located in YOS Phase II and Phase III. The contractor monitors each match through discharge of the offender's YOS sentence. The role of the mentor is to support and encourage offenders to participate in Circles of Support and Accountability, in addition to providing mentor or life coaching services to the offenders. These services are provided in Denver and Ft. Collins.

Table 2
Phase III Community Supervision FY15

Region	Number of Offenders	Family Preservation	Independent Living*
Northern	19	5%	95%
Central	17	100%	0%
Southern	11	27%	73%
Western	6	83%	17%

Note. Independent Living totals include offenders who successfully completed the Community Transition Program.

Phase III offenders are 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 and sex offender treatment. Offenders participate in individual counseling specifically for this age group and level of development. Monthly reports assist in keeping CPOs up-to-date on each 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/career and technical education enrollment, acquisition of financial aid and attainment of student support services.

Employment 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 a work ethic, 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 CPO supervision in the Denver Metro area, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Grand Junction.

Table 3
Phase III Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY15
Average Daily Population	43
Offender Employment Rate	63%
Phase III Completion	42
Phase III Revocations	5

Completion of the YOS Sentence

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

Revocation/Termination

Offenders who cannot successfully complete their sentence to YOS or who fail to comply with the terms and conditions of YOS may be returned to district court for revocation proceedings. Any offender returned to the district court because he or she cannot successfully complete the sentence to 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 YOS, shall receive imposition of the original sentence to the DOC.

STAFFING

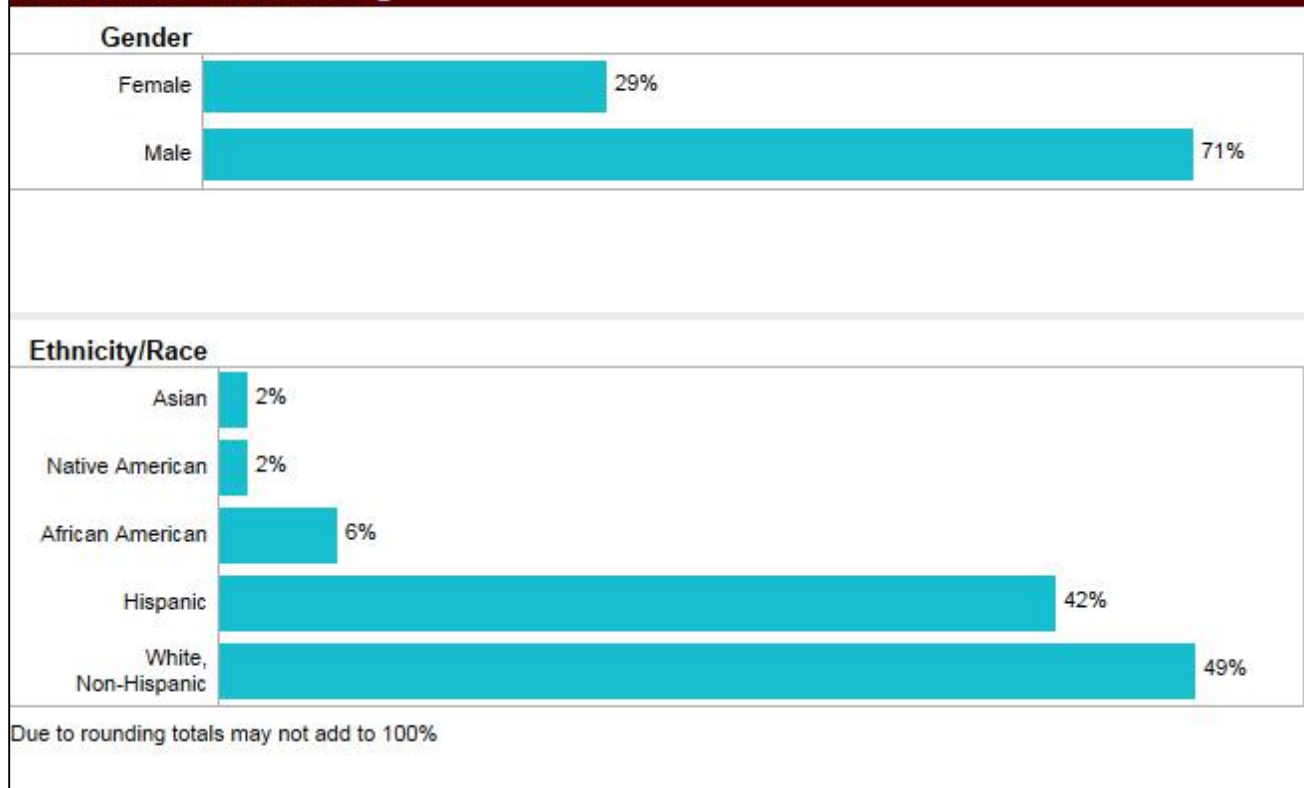
In staffing YOS, the executive director of the CDOC shall ensure employees are experienced and trained in the treatment of YOS offenders or will be trained in the treatment of YOS offenders prior to working with this population. Employees are trained to act as role models, mentors and are the best equipped to enable 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 YOS.

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 offenders to acquire skills and abilities which enable them to grow and develop into successful, productive citizens. Perhaps more so than in the adult system, staff working with YOS offenders must be able to perform multiple functions. YOS staff members are selected for their professionalism, attitude, and 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 171.4 full time employee (FTE) positions currently assigned to the YOS facility. The administrative staff includes 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.

Figure 3
YOS Phase I and II Staffing



Community Staff

YOS Phase III Supervisor: The YOS Phase III Supervisor oversees Phase III staff and secures and develops statewide community-based resources and support programs for offenders transitioning from the facility portion of the YOS facility to Phase III. These resources, programs, 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 Phase III Supervisor works with approved treatment providers to develop services that meet the needs of the offenders and monitors the implementation and effectiveness of their services.

CPOs: Intensive community supervision is provided by Community Parole Officers (CPOs) 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 CPO fulfills many roles and performs many functions in the supervision of YOS 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 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 (C.R.S. 18-1.3-407) requires YOS employees to have experience working with YOS offenders or receive the proper training prior to working with this population. To meet this mandate, YOS requires all staff to complete additional YOS/Adolescent specific training requirements annually. This training includes courses in:

- Reviewing administrative regulations 1600-01
- Educational opportunities specific to YOS.
- Cognitive Intervention Program
 - 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
 - Progress teams
- Code of penal discipline (COPD) and YOS
- Case management planning and implementation
- Special education
- Suicide prevention
- Adolescent development
- Neglected, sexually and physically abused youth
- Management of, and programming for, sex offenders
- Adolescent nutrition
- Quick skills
- Cultural awareness
- Crisis prevention and intervention
- Housing and physical plant
- Policy and procedure
- Substance abuse services
- Mental health issues
- Gender-specific issues

YOS COSTS

Actual costs were examined for YOS over five fiscal years (see Table 4). Costs are presented separately for the facility portion, the community supervision phase, and jail backlog as well as for the entire system. Offender costs per day (see Table 5) were calculated using the average daily population (ADP). The FY15 ADP for facility supervision was 188 and community supervision was 43.

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

Table 4
YOS Annual Program Costs by FY¹

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
IDO, Phase I and Phase II	\$13,426,293	\$13,792,642	\$14,134,592	\$14,833,388	\$14,501,356
Phase III (Community)	\$1,990,565	\$1,698,016	\$1,687,655	\$1,556,556	\$1,813,101
External Capacity (Jail Backlog)	\$62,548	\$42,792	\$37,578	\$54,255	\$38,546
YOS TOTAL	\$15,479,406	\$15,533,450	\$15,859,825	\$16,444,199	\$16,353,003

Table 5
YOS Cost Per Day for FY15

	Facility	Clinical Services	Administrative	Total
IDO, Phase I and Phase II	\$195.73	\$3.90	\$11.17	\$210.80
Phase III (Community Supervision)	\$111.68	\$0	\$3.84	\$115.52
External Capacity (Jail Backlog)	\$52.80	\$0	\$0	\$52.80

The ADP for community supervision experienced an increase during the last couple years, presumably as offenders who became eligible for YOS as the result of C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5, progressed through the system. YOS is still more costly than many of the DOC facilities. This rate is explained largely by the high staff-to-offender ratio and intensive education and treatment services, which results in successful outcomes and a low recidivism rate.

¹ Source: Colorado DOC Finance and General Administration

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

IDO/OTP, Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III

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

- Ensure individual treatment is offered for offenders who are exhibiting ongoing mental health issues.
- Continue to have meaningful contacts with the offenders through weekly meetings with their Individual Advisor and Bi-Monthly meetings with their Primary Advisor.
- Continue to evaluate and align educational services to correspond with an older offender population and the increased need for vocational, career and technical education.
- Continue to collaborate 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.
- Continue to identify and implement all available offender apprenticeship programs and opportunities to be offered at YOS.
- Track offenders sentenced under Senate Bill 15-182 to ensure programmatic needs are met.
- Review Administrative Regulation 1600-4, Offenders Transferred to Youthful Offender System, to ensure policy is meeting the intent of Senate Bill 15-182.
- Continue to focus on providing evidenced based cognitive programs to meet the needs of offenders.
- Evaluate current budgetary spending and performance of long-term private service partnerships to ensure YOS is receiving effective and efficient service from contract providers.
- Ensure that all recommendations for revocation are thoroughly reviewed to determine whether there are other available interventions that can take place prior to revocation.
- Continue to develop a plan to convert a trailer into a mobile learning lab. YOS currently contracts with Pueblo Community College to provide a mobile welding lab and instructor to YOS offenders. YOS was fortunate to be able to acquire a trailer which will be converted into a mobile lab. The trailer will be renovated to allow for several types of learning labs. This will provide yet another avenue for offenders to learn valuable skills to utilize upon re-entry.
- With the completion of the gymnasium, Offenders now have an indoor area to recreate in during inclement weather. The additional space for the general library will allow greater opportunity for offenders to utilize that service.
- A Pueblo campus laundry will open which will service YOS as well as San Carlos Correctional Facility (SCCF) and the La Vista Correctional Facility (LVCF). Laundry will no longer be transported to Canon City for processing. LVCF will employ their female offenders to run the facility.
- Virtual classes will be implemented with the fall school semester beginning in September 2015. Offenders who are unable to physically be in the classroom will be able to participate in classes via this system.

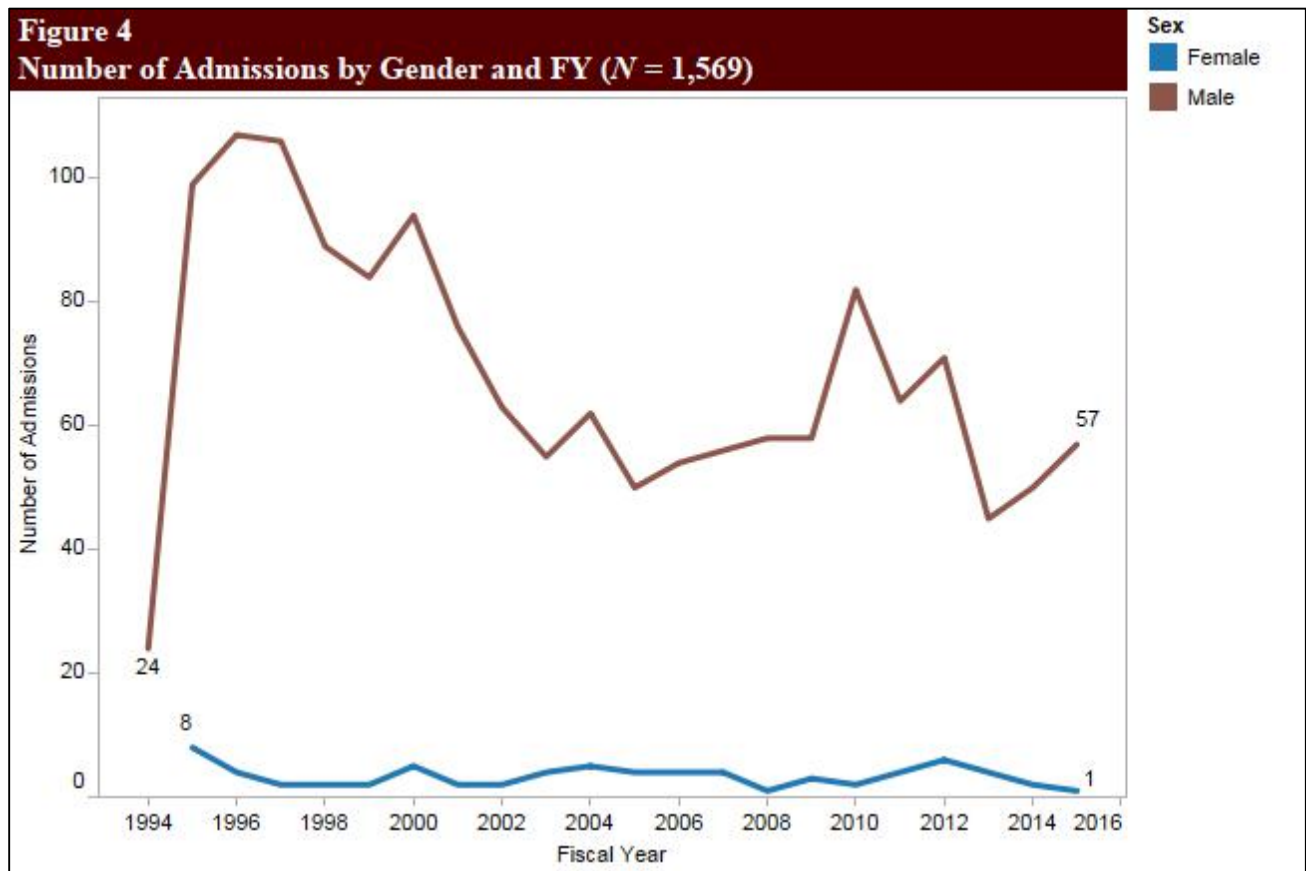
Overall Considerations

The DOC continues to work with district attorneys, public defenders, private attorneys, and judges to increase awareness about the YOS sentencing option and ensuring consistent, appropriate, and timely sentencing under YOS statutory provisions. Tours of the YOS facility are routinely scheduled and conducted for attorneys, judges, and advocacy groups. YOS continues to maintain accreditation through the American Correctional Association (ACA). YOS will continue to work with approved community treatment providers to develop and increase volunteer programs available to offenders in all phases of YOS. YOS continues to seek the acquisition of Building 20 from the Department of Human Services. With the 2006 YOS/PMC transition, the available IDO beds were significantly reduced and remained on the grounds of the old YOS campus. The long-term master plan identified Building 20 as becoming available to the DOC to provide high security beds for remediation services for all phases of YOS, including Phase III, as well to bring the intake process and orientation training phase onto the YOS campus within one hard perimeter, which is critical to the on-going success and collaboration of services available to the YOS offender population.

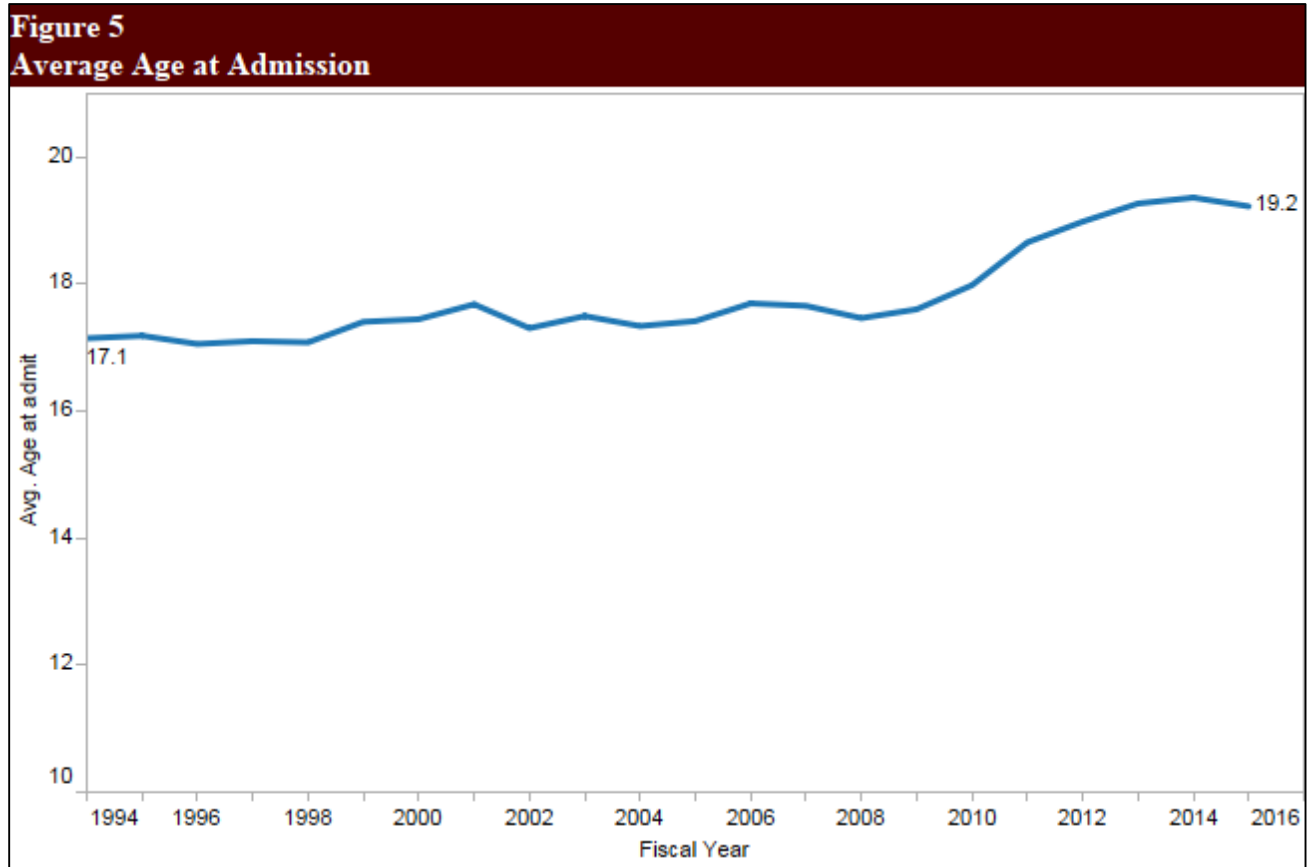
OFFENDER PROFILE

Admission Characteristics

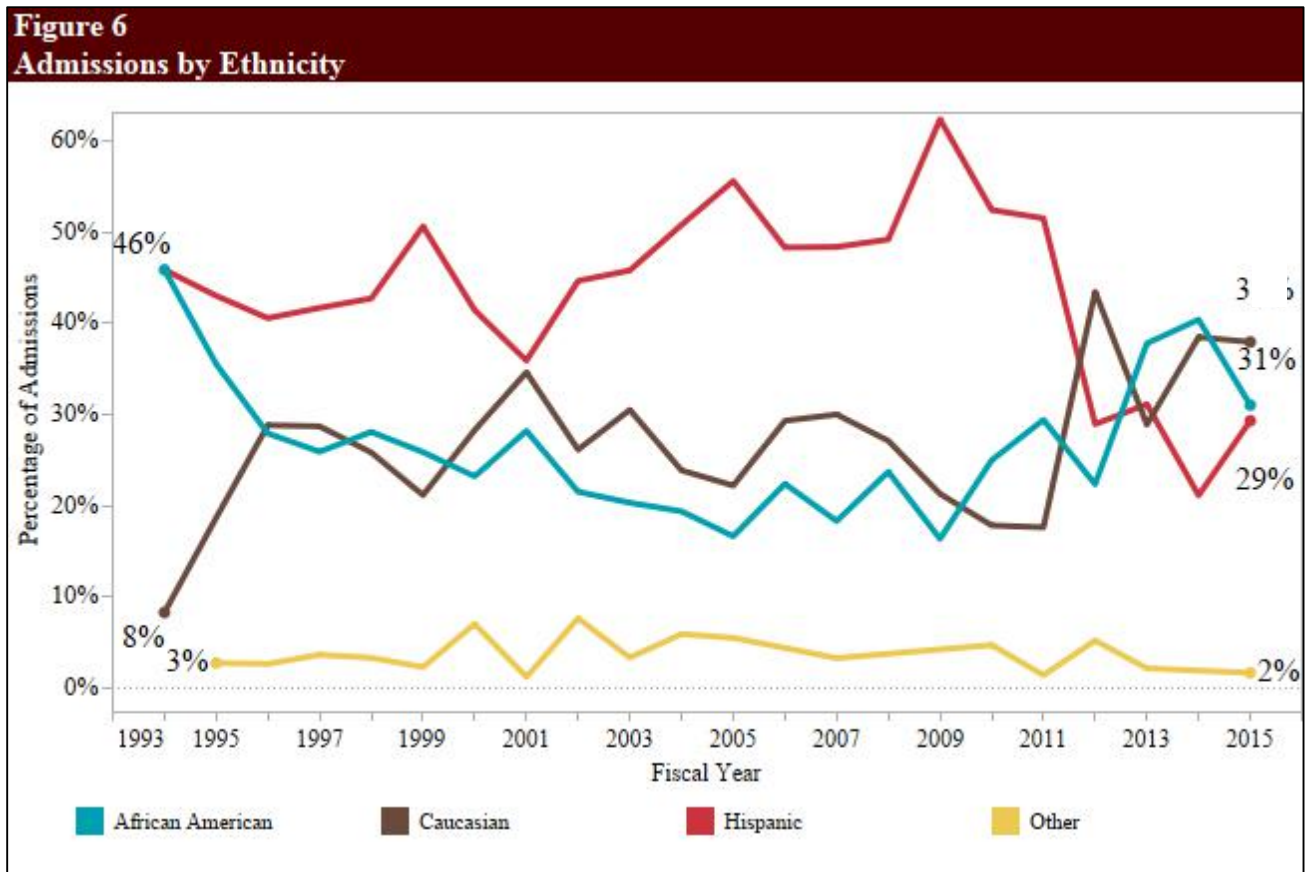
Youthful offender admissions to YOS, from its inception in 1994 through the end of FY15 were used to create a profile for the population. During this time, a total of 1,569 individuals were admitted, of which 4% were females. Figure 4 shows the number of admissions each year by gender. While YOS admissions in FY 13 dropped to the lowest number since the inception of the program FY14 and FY15 admissions indicate an upward trend. The decrease in admissions during FY 13 may be due to young adult offenders (i.e., 18 and 19 at offense date) not being eligible for sentencing to YOS from November 2012 through April 2013, due to a sunset clause in CRS 18-1.3-405.5 (HB09-1122). SB13-216 was signed May 2013 reauthorizing CRS 18-1-3-407.5, which has allowed these young adult offenders to be eligible for admission to YOS again. It should be noted that due to the small population of YOS, year to year variations are expected.



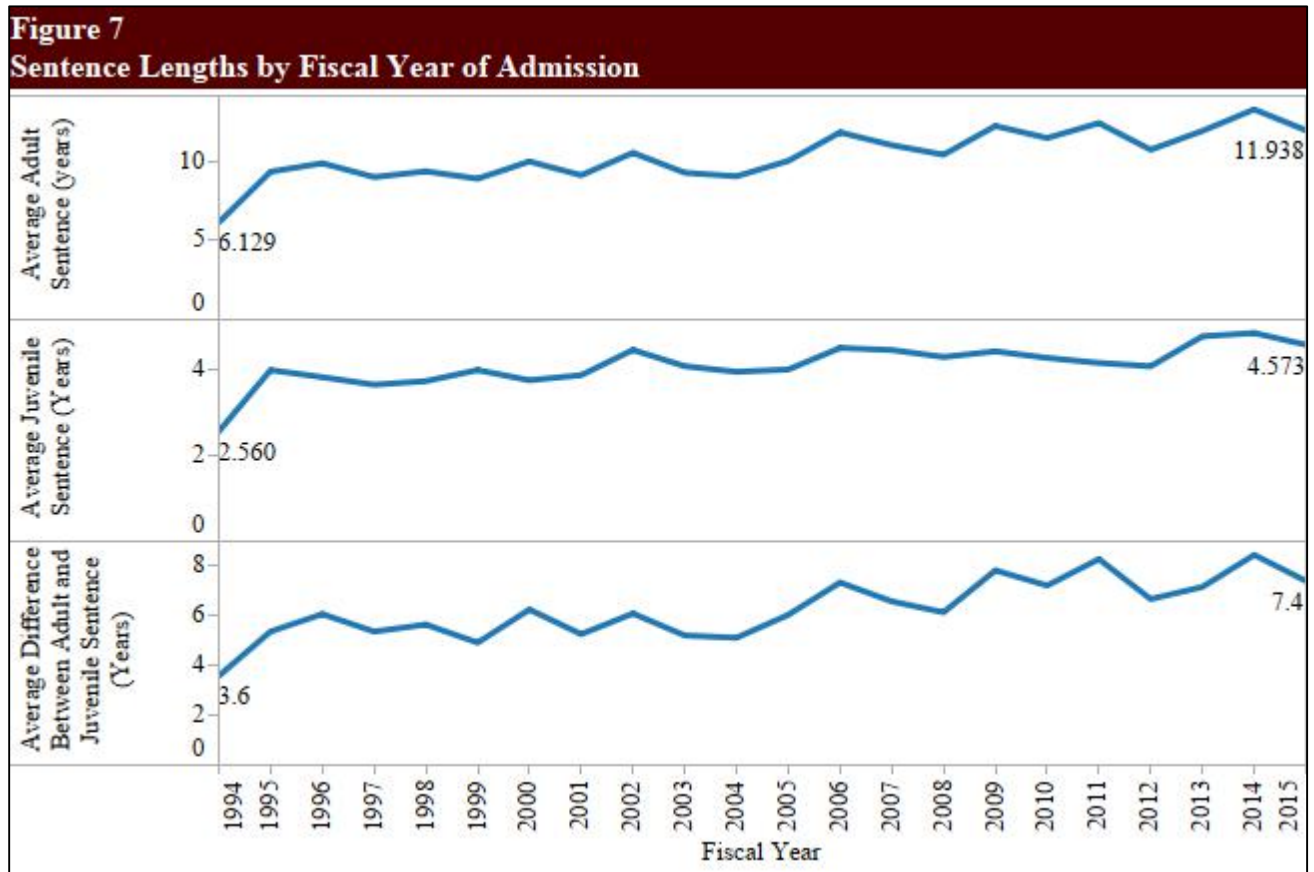
Demographic Characteristics: Pursuant to C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5, implemented October 1, 2009, offenders at the age of 18 or 19 at the time of their offense are eligible for YOS. Additionally, HB 10-1413 removed 14 and 15 year olds (with the exception of certain offenses) from direct file consideration. As a result of both pieces of legislation, the average age of offenders has increased over the last several years (as shown in Figure 5), with 19.2 being the average age of admission for FY 2015.



The ethnicity of new admissions has fluctuated year to year, as shown in Figure 6. Hispanic admissions, which experienced a sharp decline in 2012 and 2014, has ticked back up to 29% in FY15. Caucasians, at 38% overtook African Americans at 31% as the highest represented admission ethnicity in FY15. The “Other” category at 2% includes Native American and Asian offenders.



Sentence and Crime Data: The data indicates that the average differences between YOS and adult sentences have grown larger over time. For example, in 1994 YOS sentences averaged less than four years shorter and in FY15 YOS sentences averaged 7.4 years shorter than suspended adult sentences (as shown in Figure 7).



Figures 8 and 9 depict the felony class and most serious crime committed by offenders admitted to YOS. Class 3 and 4 felonies comprised the greatest percentage of admissions every fiscal year. The percentage of class 2 felonies has slightly increased in recent years. Class 5 felonies slightly increased from last FY. As shown in Figure 9, aggravated robbery and assault have consistently been the most common crimes of admitted offenders. The frequency of other offenses appears sporadic with no identifiable patterns.

Figure 8
Felony Class by Fiscal Year of Admission

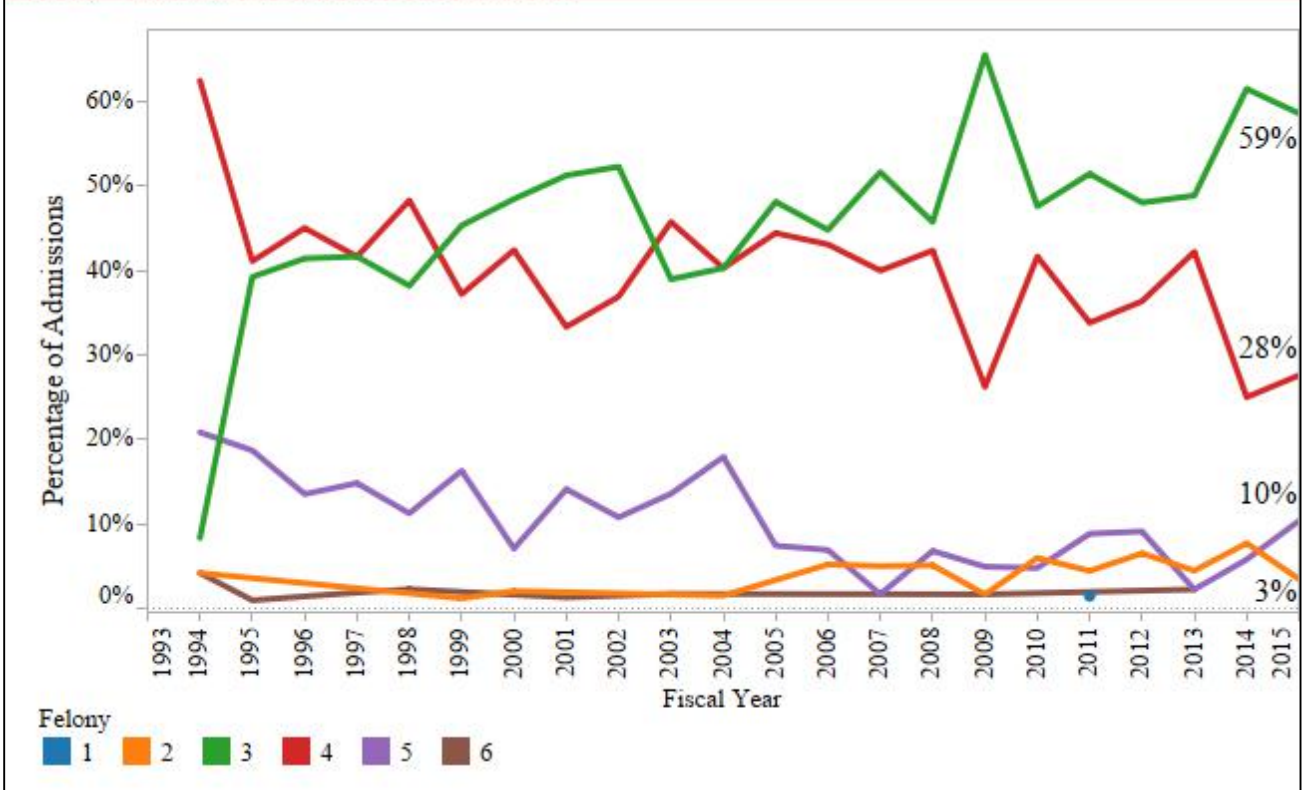
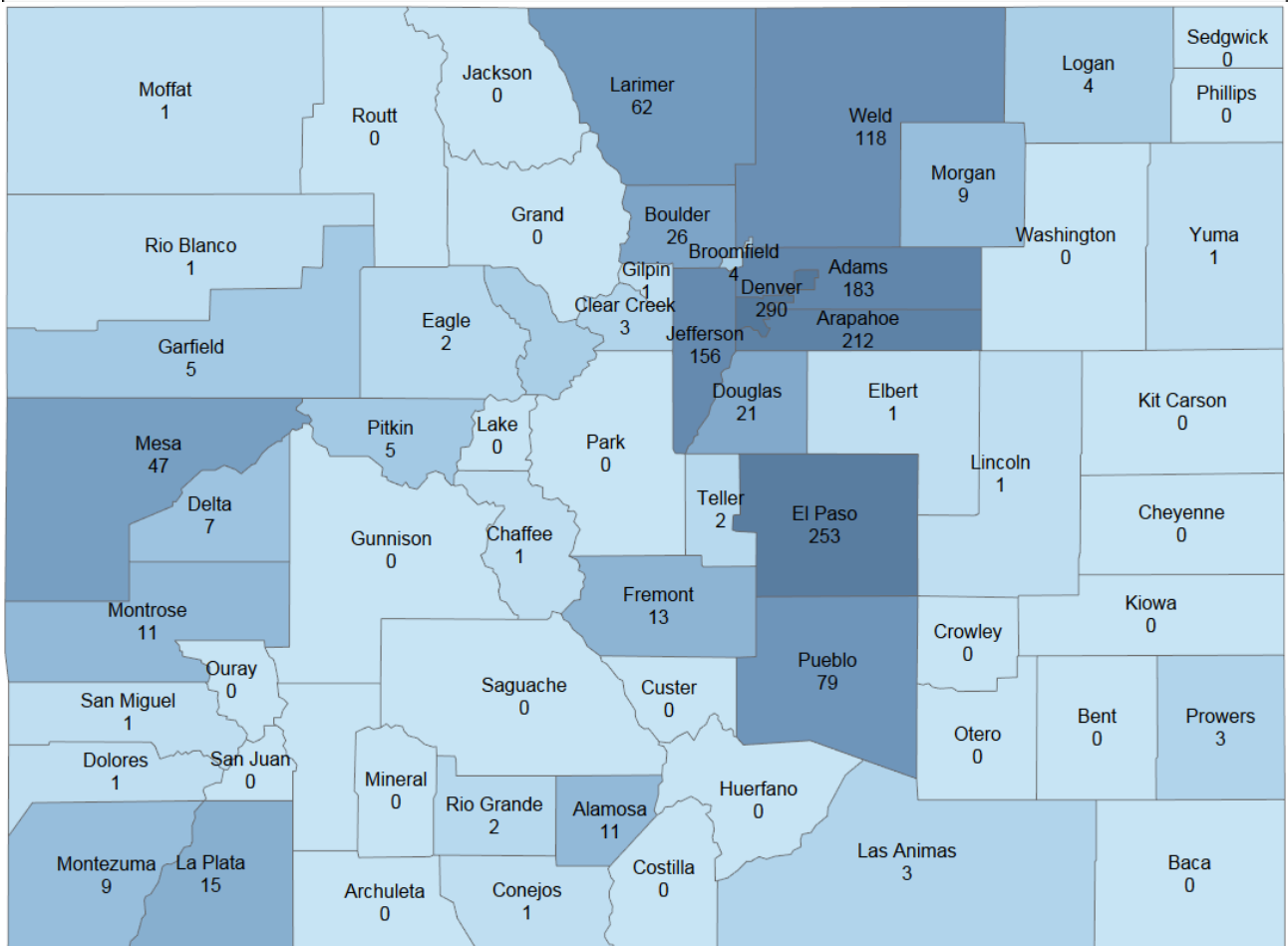


Figure 9
Most Serious Crime by FY of Admission

Aggravated Robbery	13	17	17	21	15	11	20	25	26	25	19	22	25
2nd Degree Assault	15	12	13	7	14	20	13	24	12	14	12	2	9
1st Degree Assault	4	10	8	6	12	7	13	13	7	9	7	9	6
Burglary	4	4	2	1	5	8	4	1	3	10	1	4	5
Murder	3	1	1	4	4	6	3	9	3	4	1	5	6
Escape	2	3	4	2	1		1	1	3	3		2	1
Homicide	3	3		4	2	2	3	2	1	1	1		1
Menacing	3	4	2	1		1		1	2	5		1	1
Other	2	5	2	1	1				3	2	1	2	
Kidnapping	4	2		2	1	1			3	1		3	
Substance Abuse	3			1	1			2	2	2	1	1	1
Weapons		1	2	3	2	1	1	1			1		
Motor Vehical Theft		3	3	1		1			1				1
Wrongs to Children	1			1	1	1	3			1	1	1	
Arson				1	1			4	1				
Theft	2	1		1				1					
Sexual Assault		1		1					1				
Extortion													1
Organized Crime													1
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015

From the inception of YOS through FY15, Denver and El Paso counties have had the highest number of commitments to YOS with 290 and 253 commitments respectively. 25 counties have had 0 offenders committed to YOS while 24 have had less than 10 committed over the course of its existence. 9 counties have had between 10 and 100 commitments while 6 counties have had over 100 commitments.

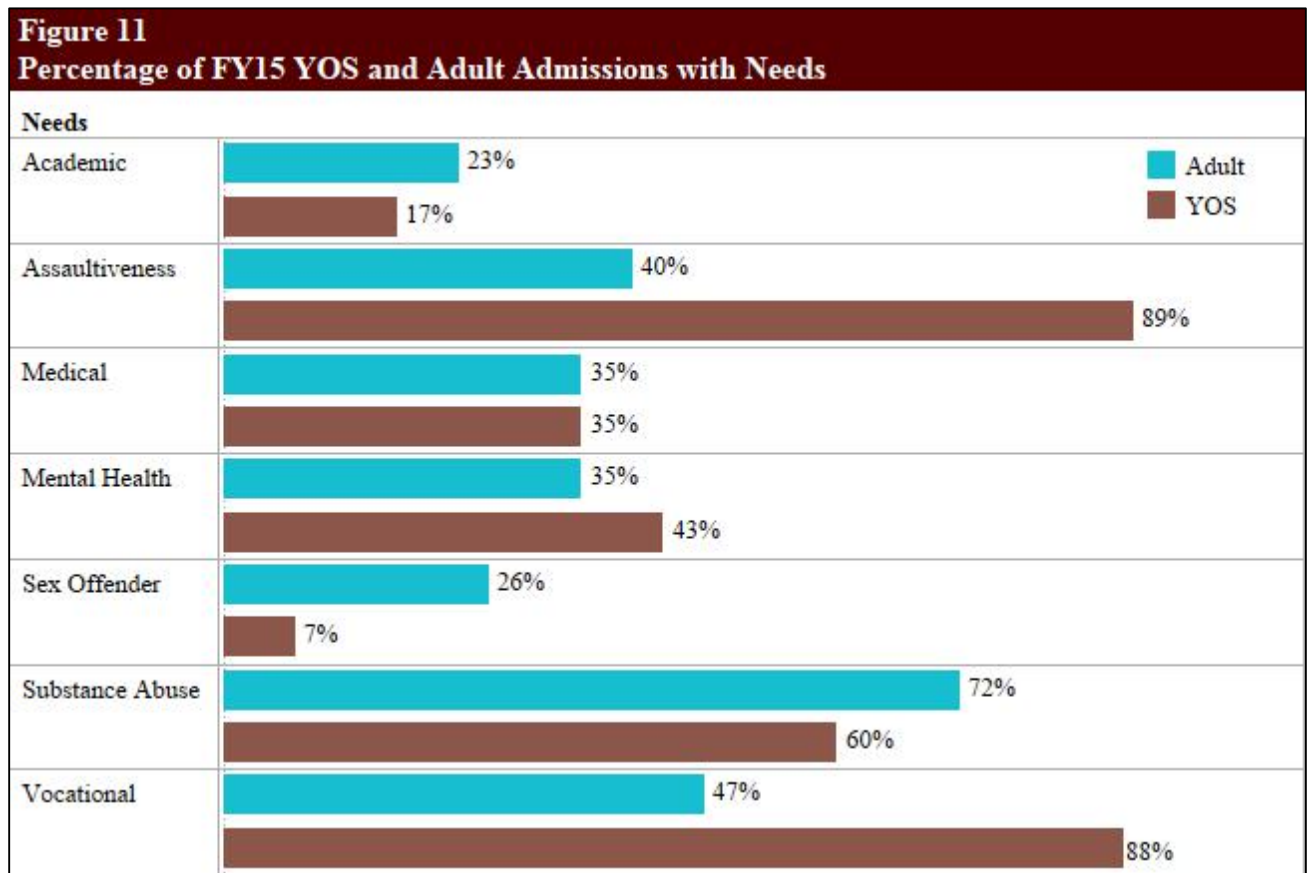
Figure 10
County Commits since YOS Inception



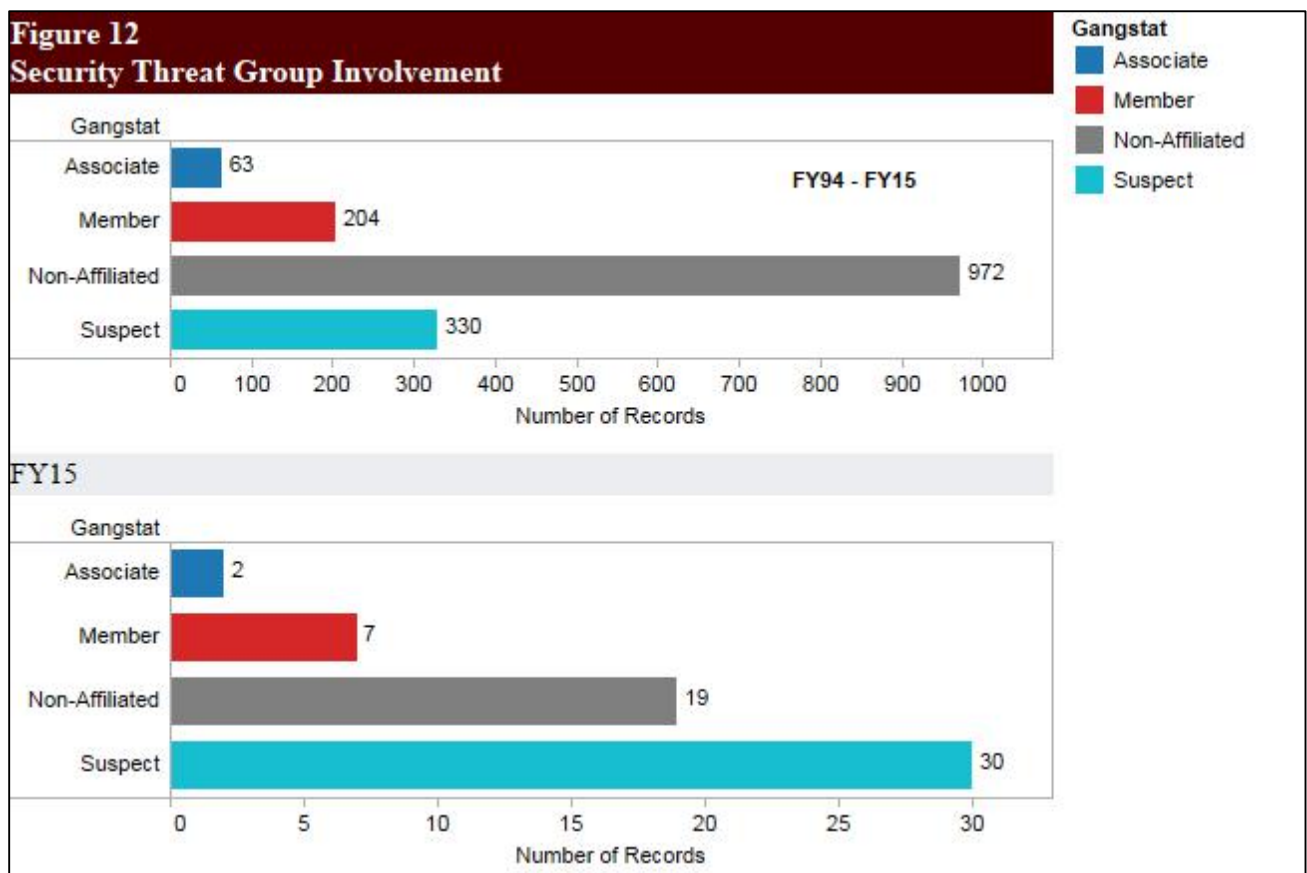
Risk and Needs: Criminal risk and need for YOS offenders is assessed by the LSI-R or Level of Supervision Inventory-Revised. The average LSI-R score was 27.

YOS 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 who scored 3 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 3 through 5 indicate the need for treatment.

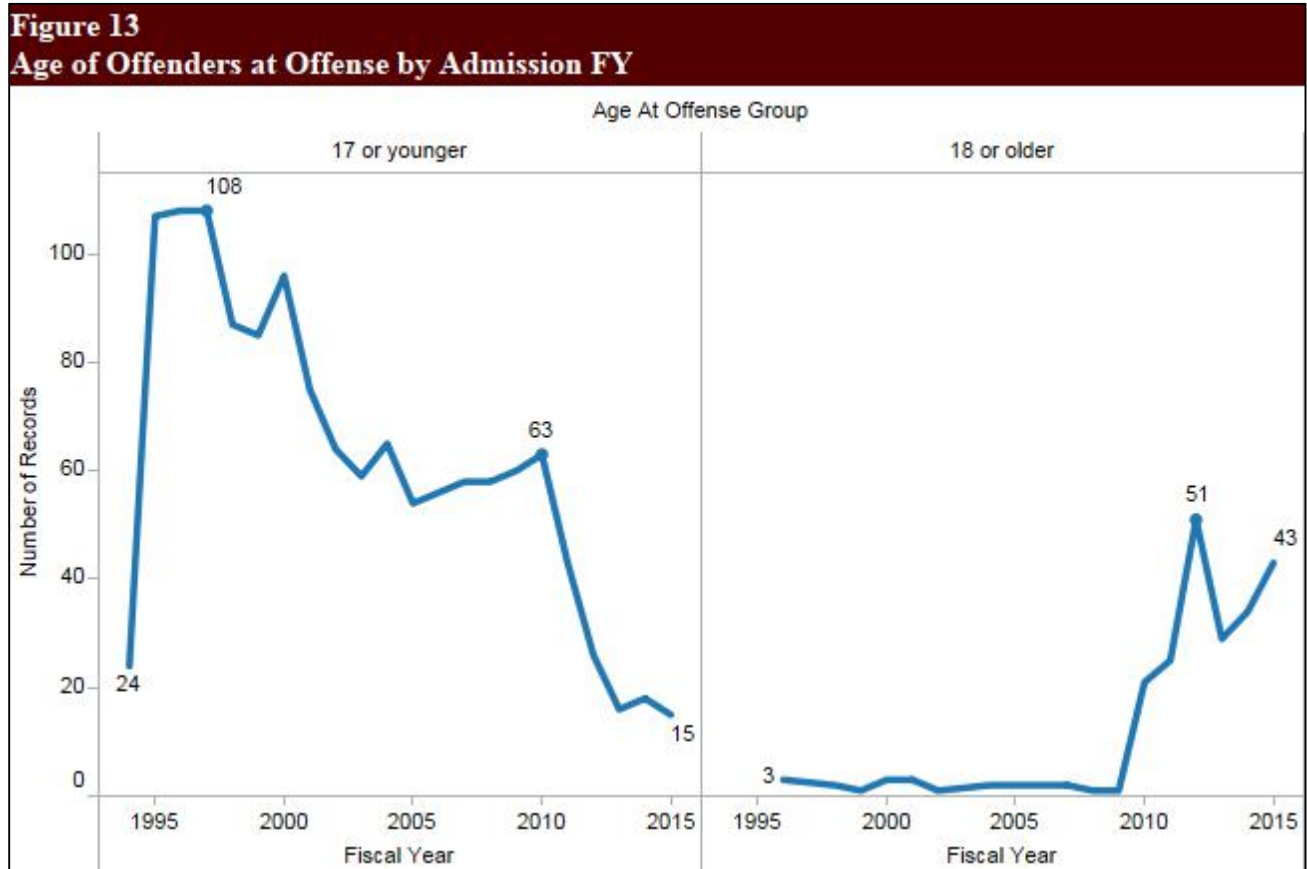
Figure 11 displays the percentage of offenders with needs across seven domains. In comparison to the adult DOC population, YOS offenders have greater needs in, assaultiveness, mental health, and vocational areas.



Security Threat Group (STG) Involvement: Involvement in STGs, or gangs, is recorded for YOS offenders. There are three levels of STG involvement: member, associate, and suspect. These 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. In FY15, out of the 58 admissions, 39 (67%) had a suspected or confirmed gang affiliation. From FY94-FY15, out of the 1569 admissions, 597 (38%) had a suspected or confirmed gang affiliation (See Figure 12 for the status breakdown). For those with STG involvement, the most common affiliations for FY15 admissions to YOS were Bloods (28%), Crips (23%) and Surenos (10%).

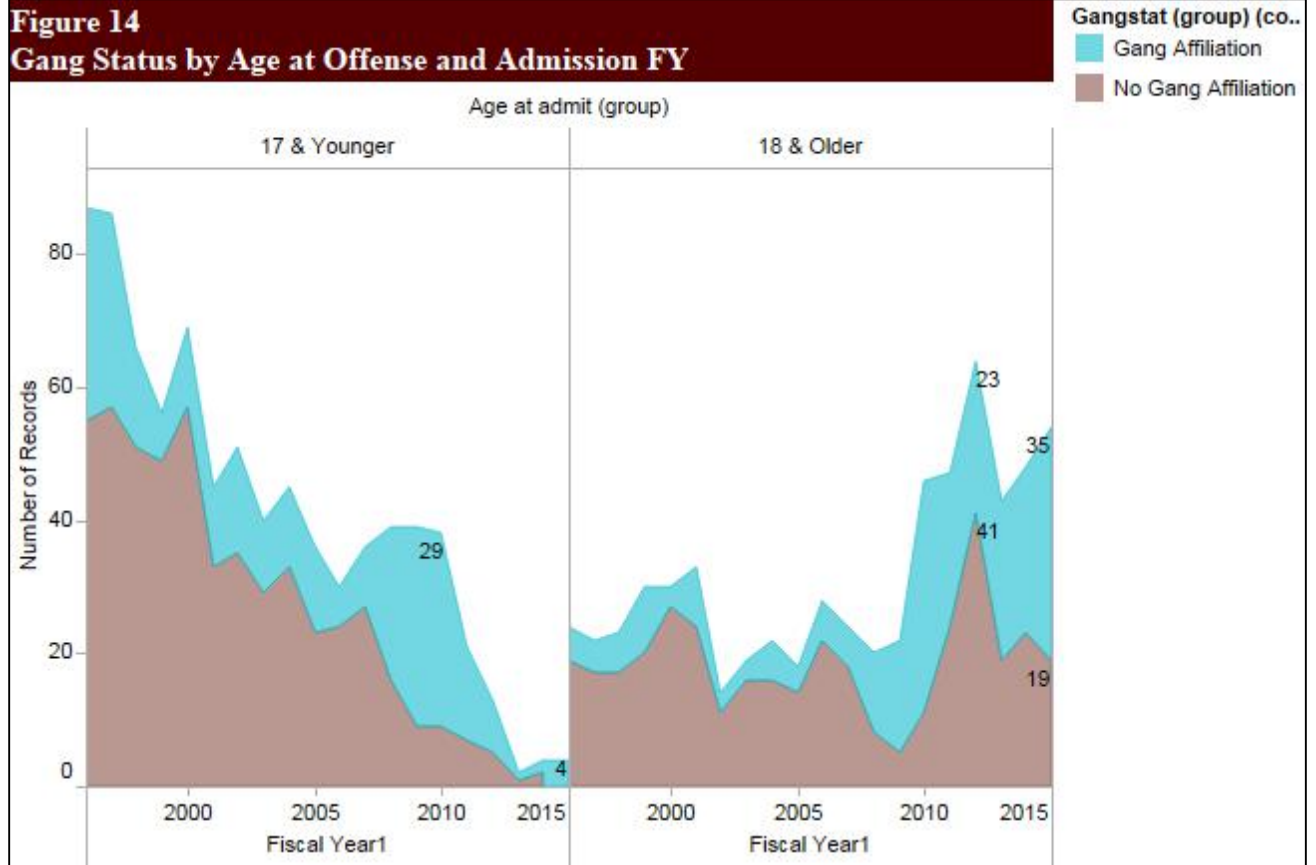


Age Group Differences: Since C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5 was implemented October 1, 2009, offenders at the age of 18 or 19 at the time of their offense have been eligible for YOS in addition to those who are between the ages of 14 and 17 as designated in C.R.S. 18-1.3-407. Thus YOS consists of two different populations, juvenile offenders who committed crimes of such severity and were charged as adults, and youthful offenders, who while technically adults at the time of offense, received a sentence to YOS instead of a regular DOC facility. Discretion exercised to send an offender to YOS is done at different points of the criminal justice system: at the level of the District Attorney who may charge the juvenile offender as a juvenile or an adult, and at the level of the sentencing judge who can determine if the youthful offender should be given the opportunity to serve his or her sentence at YOS or be directly sentenced to an adult facility. Because this legislation is relatively new, its long-term effects on the YOS population cannot yet be determined, but already some small differences between the two groups of offenders have emerged. In FY 2015 15 offenders aged 17 years or younger were committed along with 43 offenders who were 18 years or older.



Note. The percentages shown represent the percentage of offenders who committed violent crimes for their YOS conviction.

The age of offenders at offense, shown in Figure 13, has changed significantly over the course of the YOS program. Offenders who committed their offense aged 17 and younger used to make up the majority of admissions, with 108 admissions in fiscal year 1997. The age distribution has reversed and since fiscal year 2012, offenders who committed their offences at age 18 and older make up the majority of yearly admissions to the YOS program.

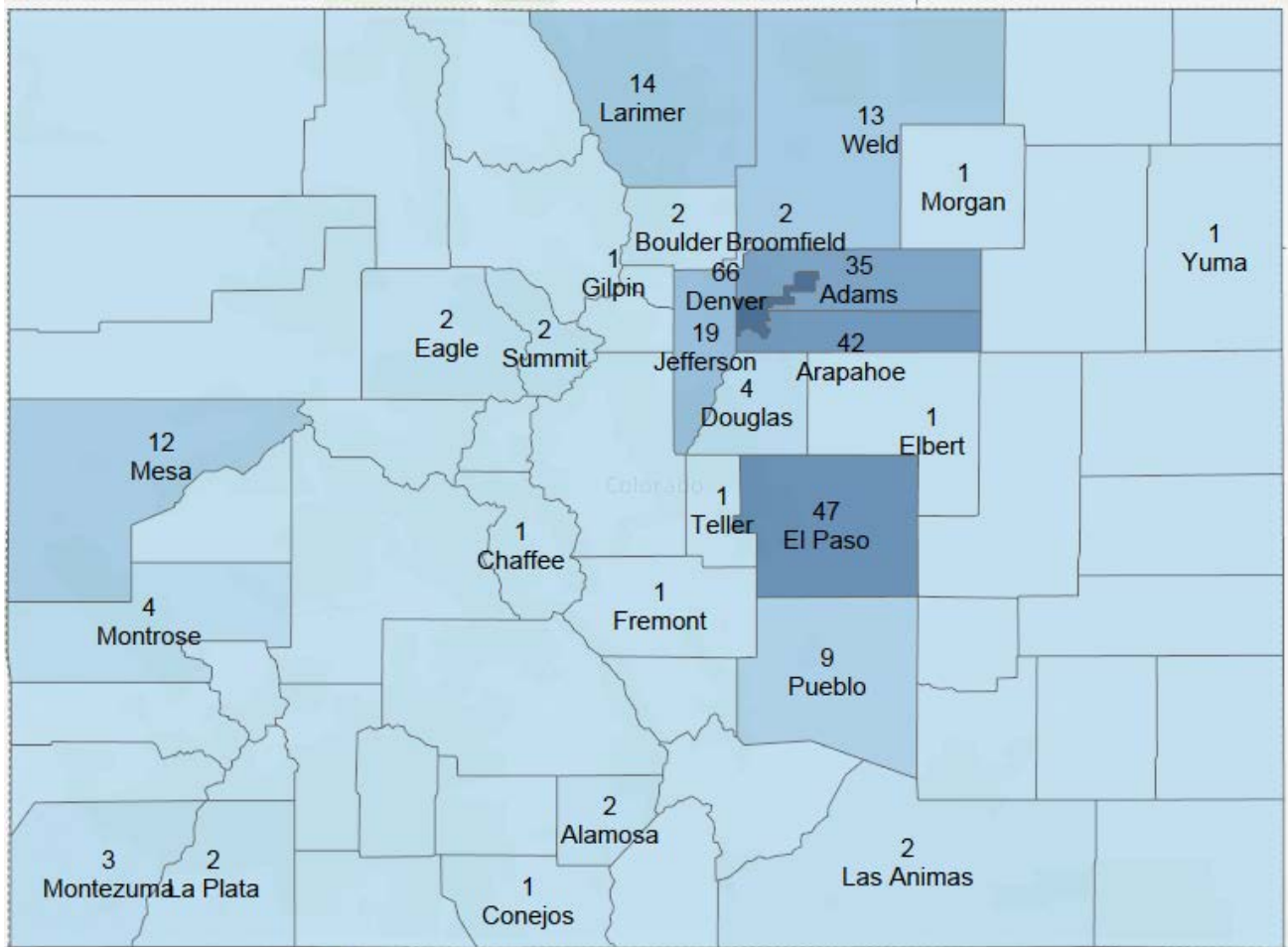


In Figure 14 gang status was compared between groups of offenders who committed their offense at 17 and younger and 18 and older. Offenders suspected of gang affiliation are included in the affiliated category. The percentage of offenders 18 and older who are affiliated with a gang has grown over the last five years. In the past year this is also true for offenders 17 and younger. Overall the number of offenders affiliated or suspected of gang affiliation has increased across both age groups across time.

Year-End Population

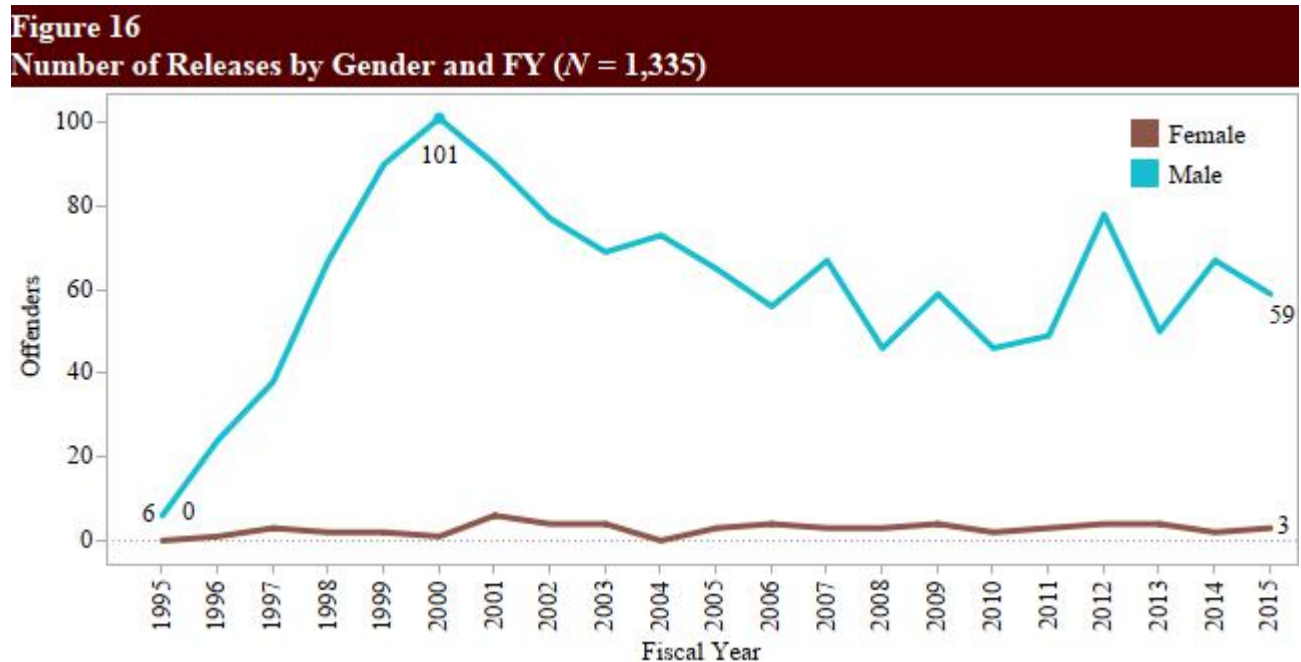
During fiscal year 2015, there were a total of 290 offenders in YOS. Figure 15 maps the originating county location of YOS offenders. The highest number of offenders came from Denver (66), El Paso (47), Arapahoe (42) and Adams (35) for a combined 190 (66%) of the total.

Figure 15
Current County Commits



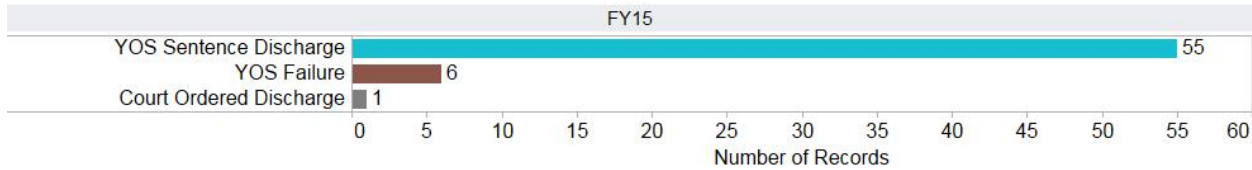
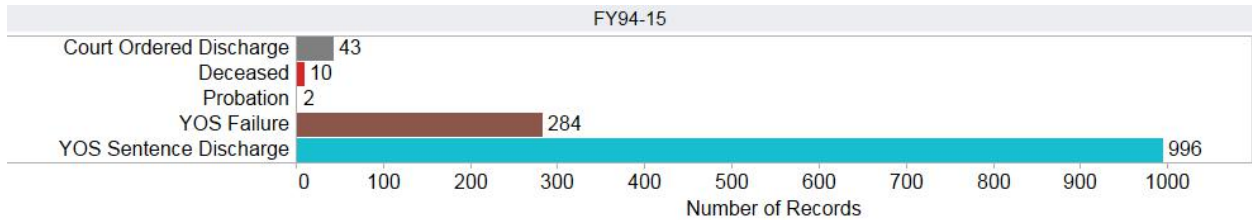
YOS Releases

1,335 offenders have released from YOS since the program began. Figure 16 presents the number of releases across gender for each fiscal year.



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. Reconsideration describes offenders sentenced to YOS who were removed by the courts through a court order discharge, released to appeal bond, or released to probation. Judicial reconsideration resulting in a transfer to adult prison may include an additional conviction that makes the offender ineligible for YOS, such as identification of the offender not meeting the age requirements.

Figure 17
Release Types



- Rls Typ**
- Court Ordered Discharge
 - Deceased
 - Probation
 - YOS Failure
 - YOS Sentence Discharge

From the inception of YOS through FY 2015, 996 offenders have achieved a YOS sentence discharge, along with 43 receiving court ordered discharges and 2 to probation. In FY15 56 offenders (93%) successfully completed their sentence (55 had a YOS sentence discharge and 1 had a court ordered discharge).

Figure 18
Release Types by Year

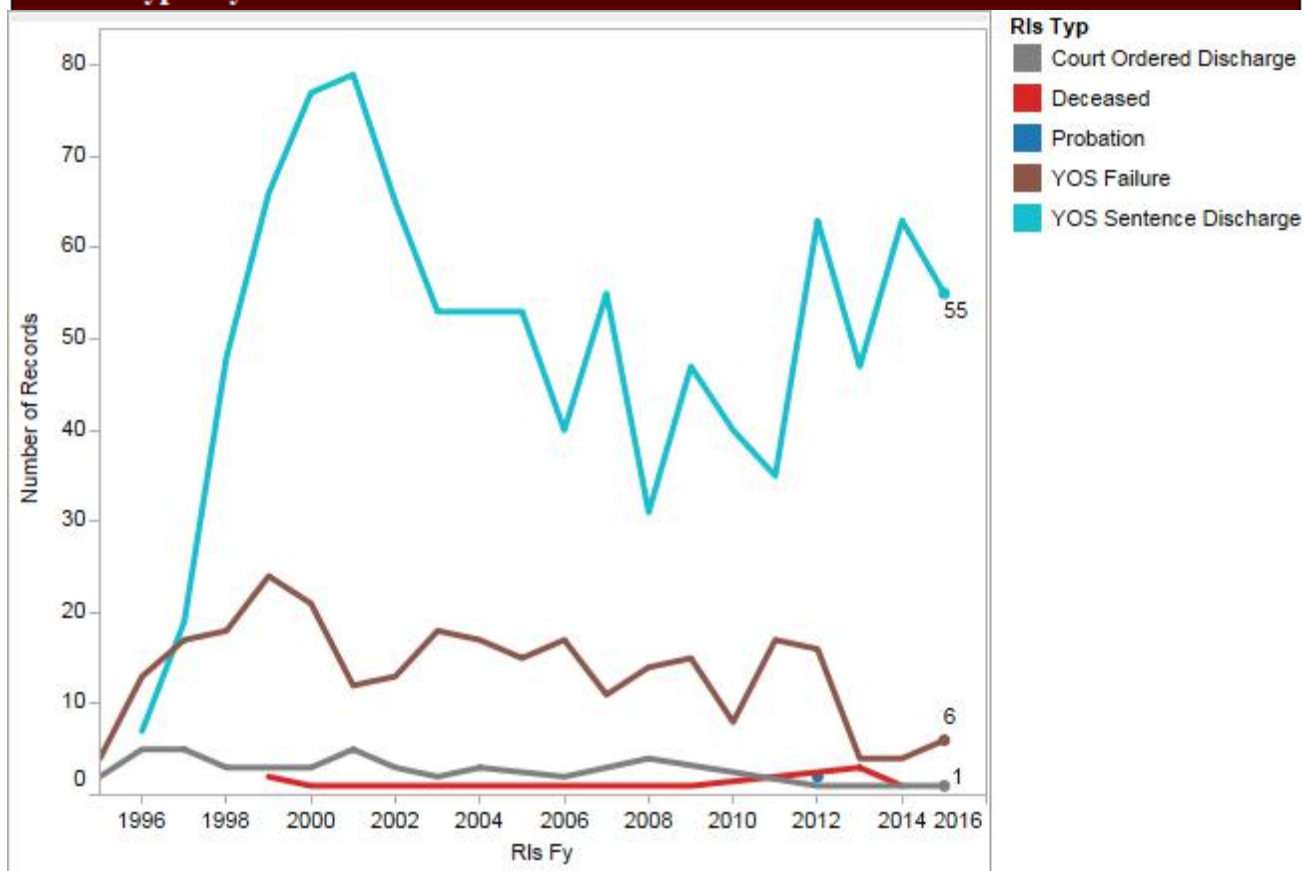
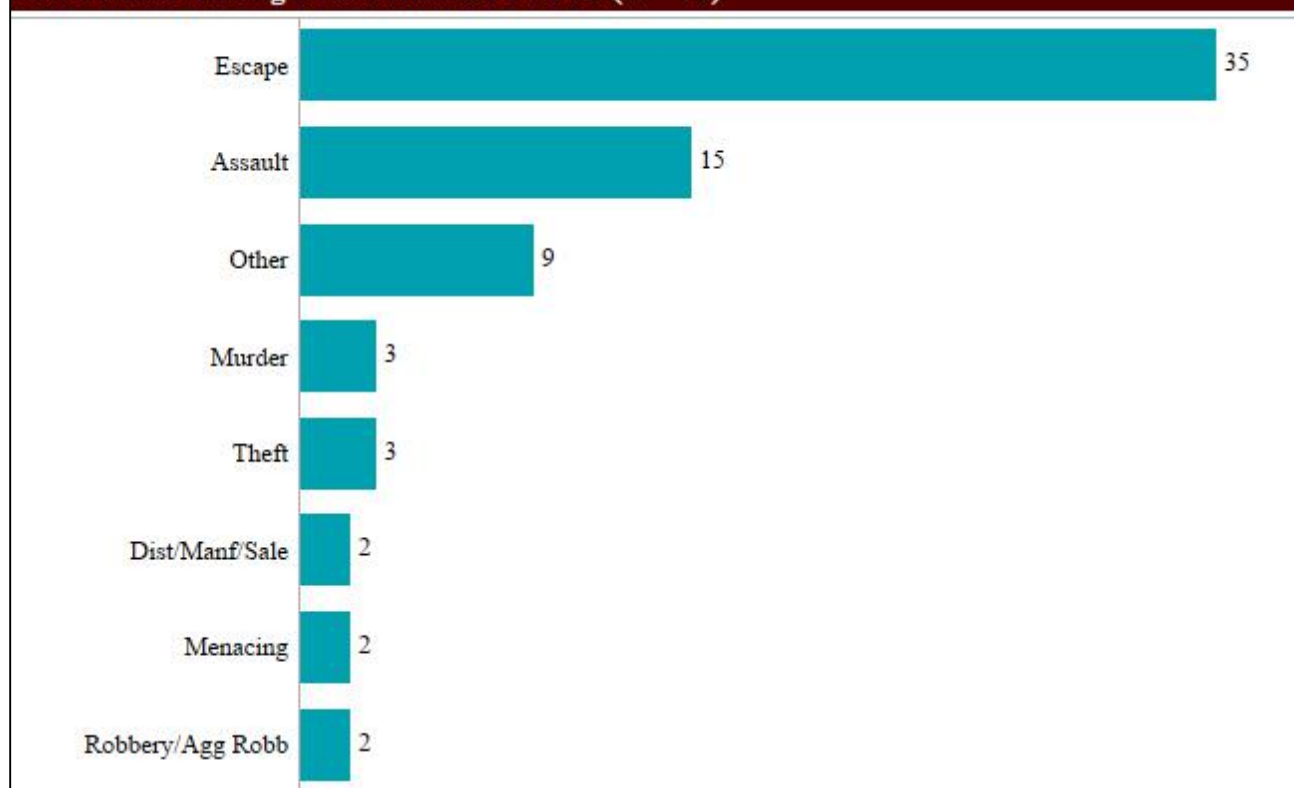


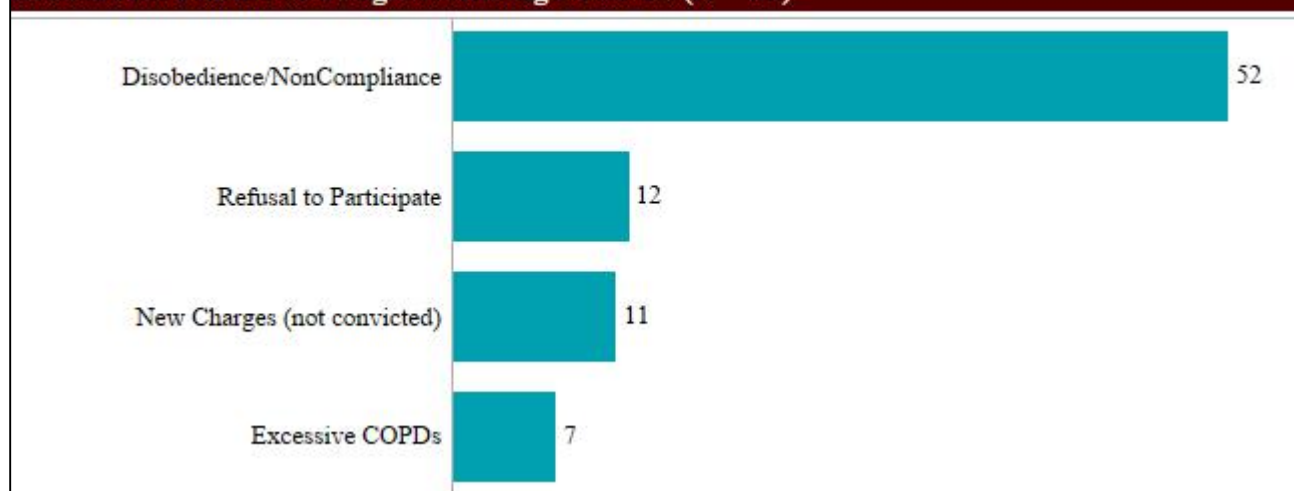
Figure 18 graphically demonstrates the release types across fiscal years for YOS offenders. It is clearly evident that the YOS program has seen a significant level of sustained success, with offenders achieving success and discharging their sentences at a much higher rate than any other outcome.

Figure 19
New Crimes Among YOS Failures FY04-15 (N = 71)



Note. Other category includes Accessory to a Crime, Introduction of Contraband, Possession, and Riots in Detention Facilities.

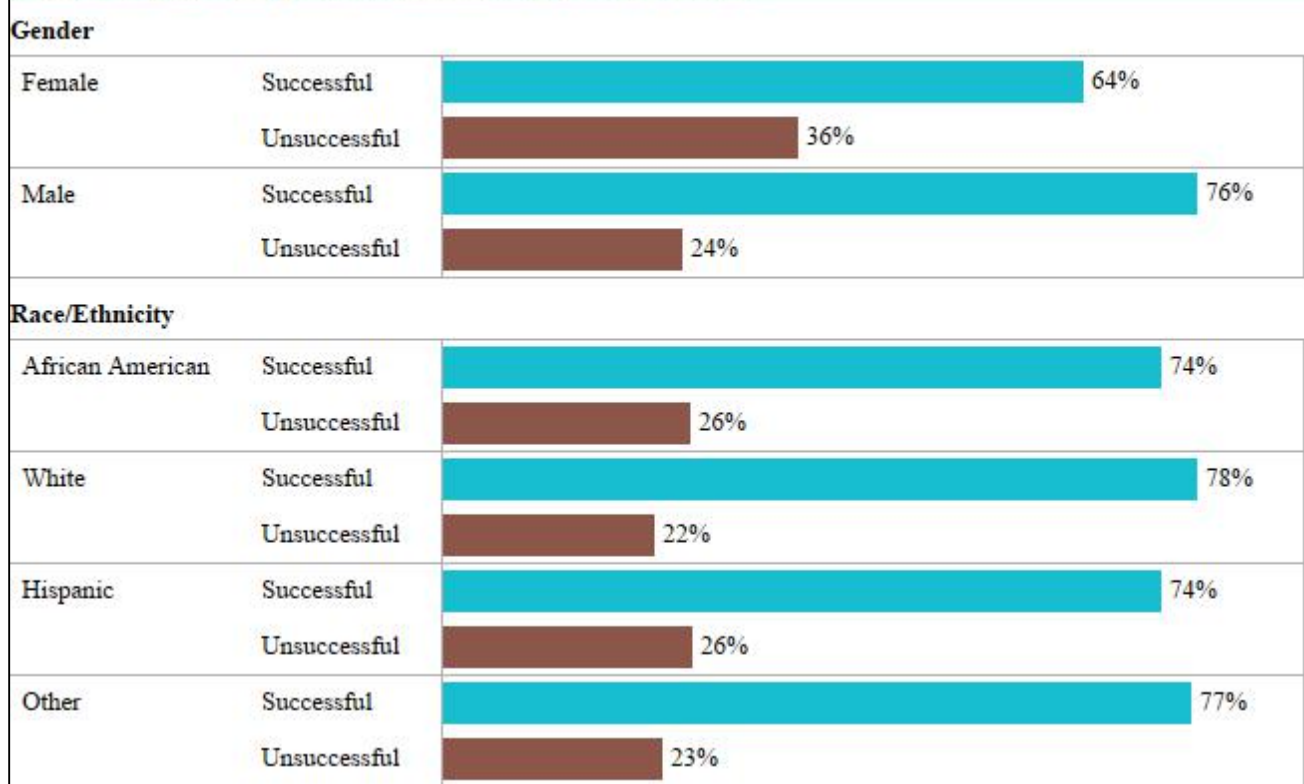
Figure 20
Reasons for Failure to Progress Among FY04-15 (N = 82)



Note. One offender did not progress because he was unable to complete orientation due to medical issues.

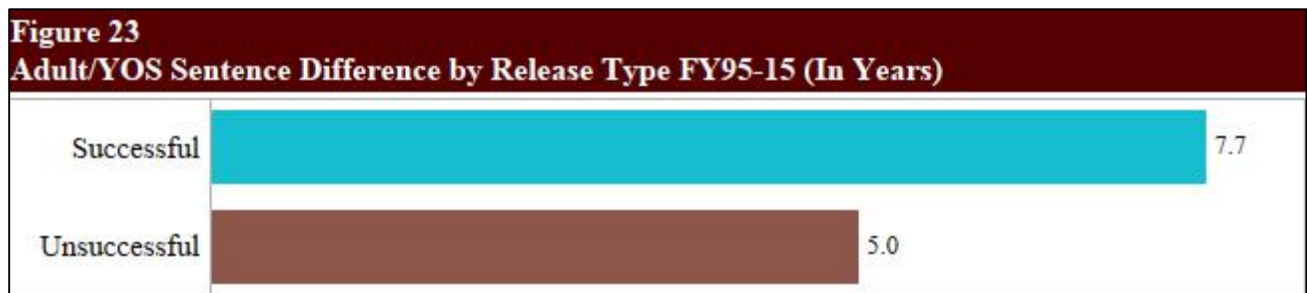
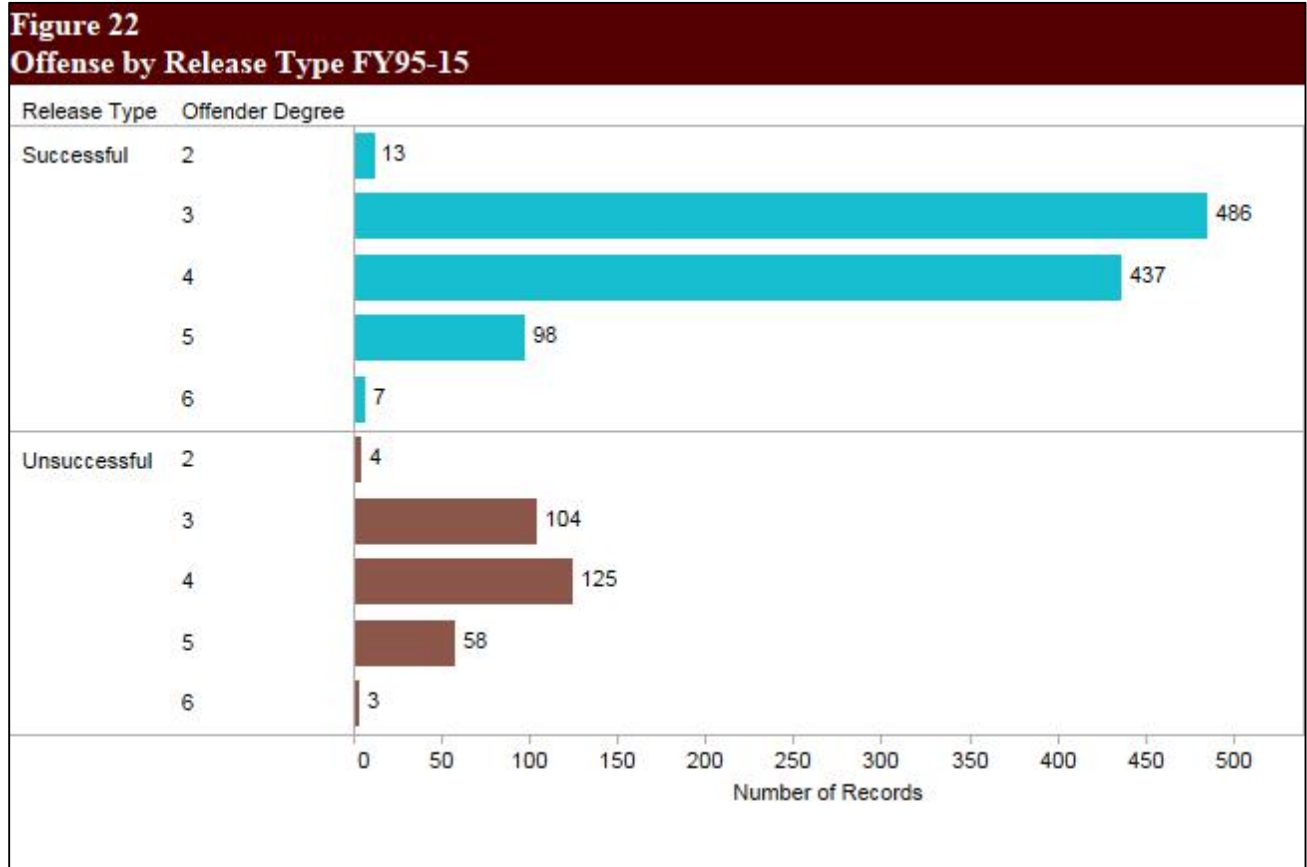
Data from offenders released in fiscal years 2004 through 2015 were analyzed to better understand the reasons that offenders had their YOS sentence revoked. Of the 153 offenders who unsuccessfully terminated from YOS from FY 2004-2015, 71 (46%) were charged with new crimes (see Figure 19) and 82 (54%) failed to progress (see Figure 20).

Figure 21
Demographic Categories by Release Type for FY95-15

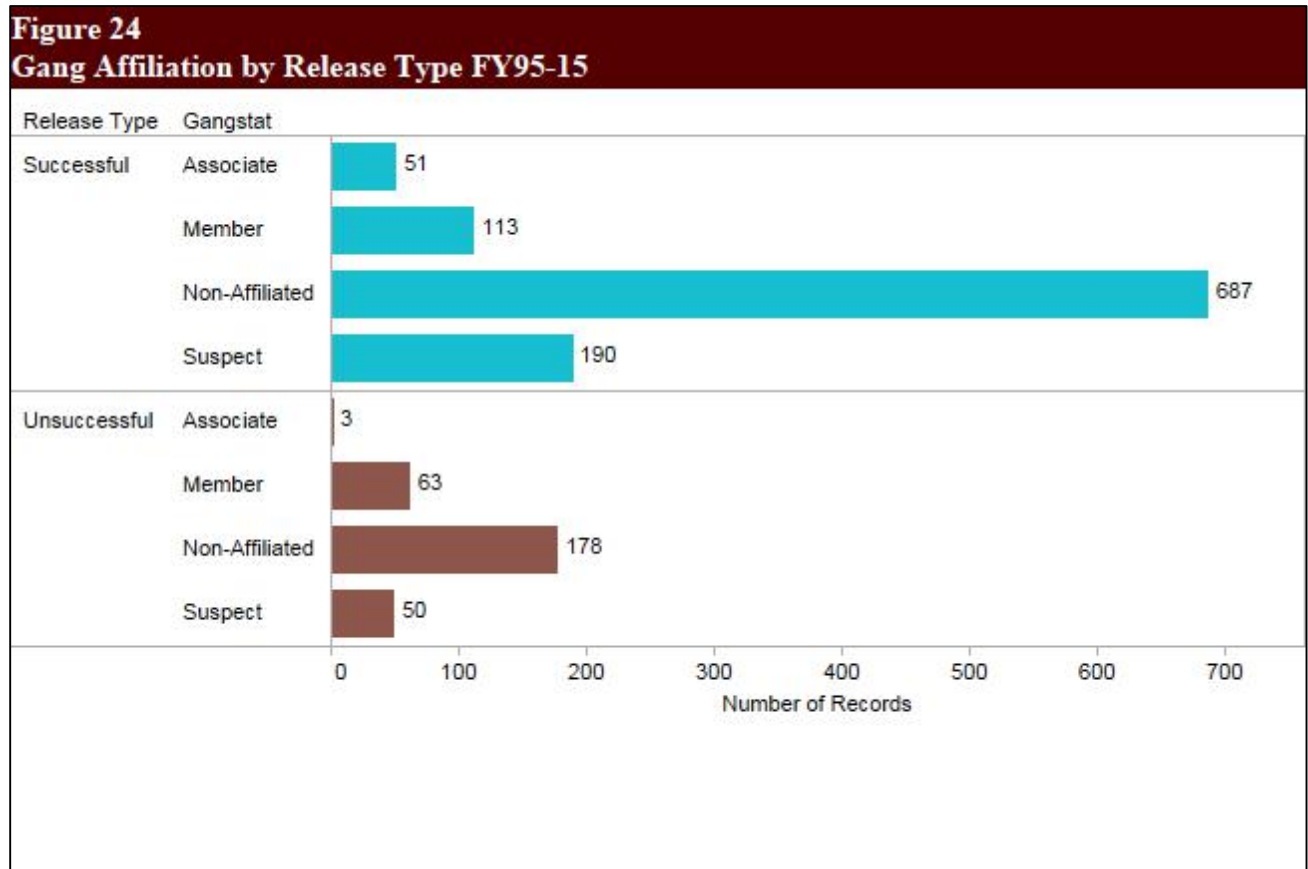


As shown in Figure 21, offenders who successfully discharged their sentence were compared to those who terminated unsuccessfully. Roughly three quarters of all groups completed successfully. A higher percentage of male offenders (76%) successfully completed compared to female offenders (64%). Successful completions differ slightly between ethnicities with 74% of African Americans, 78% of Whites, 74% of Hispanics and 77% of Others completing successfully.

It is interesting to note that offenders who have committed more serious offenses are more likely to successfully complete YOS compared to those with lesser offenses (Figure 22). Offenders who successfully release also received more time off their adult sentence (Figure 23).



As displayed in Figure 24, successful completions were more common among offenders non-affiliated with gangs than both suspected and identified gang members.



RECIDIVISM

Pre-release and post-release recidivism were analyzed for YOS completions (see Table 6). Pre-release recidivism is defined as a new conviction for an offense that occurred during an offenders YOS sentence that resulted in his or her termination from YOS. This rate was based on all YOS releases within a release cohort and as such represents a portion of the terminations/revocations noted in Figures 18 and 19. Post-release recidivism is defined as new criminal activity that resulted in placement in the DOC adult prison system following successful completion of their YOS sentence. Recidivism rates for YOS offenders are remarkably low, especially considering that they are a high-risk population.

Table 6
Cumulative Recidivism Rates

	Number at risk	Number of returns	Percentage of returns
Pre-Release Recidivism			
FY95-15	1,285	94	7%
Post-Release Recidivism			
1 year	941	54	6%
3 year	834	158	19%
5 year	758	219	29%

CONCLUSION

The YOS continues to be a nationally recognized comprehensive “middle-tier” model of incarceration combined with rehabilitation programs and services designed to meet the unique needs of offenders who have been adjudicated and sentenced as adults to the DOC. In accordance with C.R.S. 18-1.3-407, and C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5, these offenders have been afforded the opportunity to complete a sentence with YOS and upon successful completion of the YOS sentence; the longer adult DOC sentence is satisfied.

Whether offenders are sentenced to YOS as a result of direct file (C.R.S. 19-2-517), transfer hearing (19-2-518), determination of eligibility to receive a YOS sentence (C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5), or transferred (SB15-182), they have been given the opportunity to participate in specialized programs and services specifically designed to address the criminogenic needs of this high-risk violent offender population through evidence-based practices.

YOS experienced an increased average daily population with the implementation of C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5, which provided YOS sentencing consideration for certain 18- and 19-year old offenders. However, HB 10-1314 removed 14- and 15-year old juveniles from direct file consideration, with exceptions as noted in the legislative authority section. YOS was successful in having SB 13-216 reinstated in May 2013, which reauthorized C.R.S. 18-1.3-407.5 to allow 18 and 19 year old young adults who commit violent and/or non-violent crimes the opportunity to be sentenced to YOS. YOS will continue to evolve academic education and career and technical education to meet the needs of the changing population and to ensure the cognitive education, therapeutic intervention and specialized services remain relevant and available.



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