SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

2019

AGENCY REPORT CARD

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 Letter from Director Freddie B. Pough

5 South Carolina Juvenile Justice Process

7 Agency Referral Data

9 Diversions and Arbitration

10 Probation & Parole

12 Regionalization

11 Agency Population Profile

13 Education and After-school Data

14 Accountability Data

15 Prevention Program Data

16 Juvenile Justice Trends

17 Volunteer

18 Store of Hope

FROM THE DIRECTO

FREDDIE B. POUGH
Executive Director

Hello, I'm Freddie B. Pough, Executive Director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, a cabinet agency serving youth offenders, their families and victims across the Palmetto State.

The 16th annual DJJ Report Card provides a statistical overview of the agency and information on the many ways we are empowering, educating, rehabilitating and protecting youth under our supervision. The Report Card is designed as an Agency "snapshot," and also serves as a supplement to the DJJ Data Resource Guide. Within this booklet, you'll learn about DJJ's role within the South Carolina Juvenile Justice System, and gain statistical analysis of how we serve the nearly 3500 agency-involved youth either in the community or confinement.

It's an honor to be Executive Director of DJJ. I work with a passionate, innovative team always looking for new and improved ways to embody our slogan of "empowering our youth for the future." From our accredited school district and youth work programs, to the many prevention and diversion initiatives taking place in communities across South

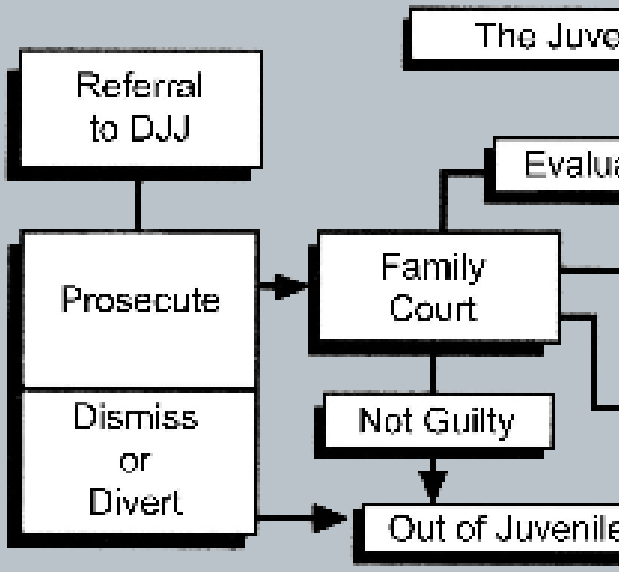
OR

Carolina, we take our role as public servants seriously.

In this year's Report Card, we see the continuation of many trends that we've seen in the last decade or more. Once again, the number of youth referred to DJJ dropped - by about 10% over last year. Looking at long-term trends, we've seen a 25% decline in referrals over just the last five years. Also, contrary to popular belief, only about 9% of youth cases involved violent or serious offenses. Meanwhile, 60% of all youth cases heard in family court resulted in Probation.

I thank you for taking the time to learn more about the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and our role in serving our state. I hope you find the information printed within useful and educational. Again, you can gain an even more detailed, robust look at our agency by checking out our annual Data Resource Guide. There you'll find detailed information and data for all five of our secure facilities, see how we're impacting communities in all 46 counties, as well as how we use wilderness/marine camps to change the trajectory of young peoples' lives. I proudly present to you the 2019 DJJ Report Card.

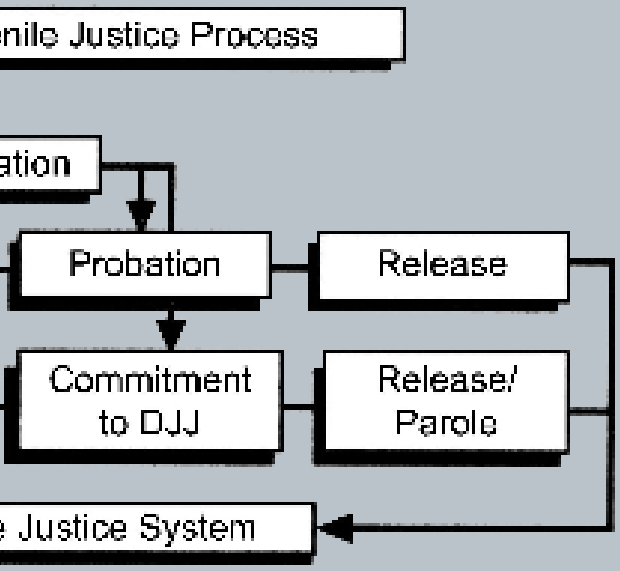
Executive Director, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice



Youth offenders usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a youth offender, DJJ makes recommendations to the solicitor's office regarding the case. The solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A solicitor may choose to divert youth to a community program, such as Juvenile Arbitration, or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or dismiss a case entirely.

If the solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This evaluation involves psychological, social and educational assessments conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim and community.



A family court judge may find that a youth offender is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the youth to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Upon indeterminate commitment, youth offenders will be given a time range or "guideline," determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ's own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile's offense and his or her history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile's behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Youth may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise youth on parole, much as they supervise those on probation.

REFERRALS

CASES REFERRED TO DJJ	
2018 - 2019	11,849
2017 - 2018	12,973
2016 - 2017	13,591
2015 - 2016	15,429
2014 - 2015	15,697

The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was Assault and Battery, 3rd Degree. Nine percent of all cases referred to DJJ involved violent and serious offenses.

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRAL TO DJJ

#1 Assault and Battery, 3rd
#2 Public Disorderly Conduct
#3 Simple Posses./Marijuana
#4 Truancy (status)
#5 Shoplifting

In FY 2018-2019, 11,849 cases were referred to DJJ, a 24.5% drop in the last five years.

The age breakdown for referrals to DJJ in FY 18/19 was 23% age 13 or younger, 43% age 14 or 15, and 34% age 16 or older.

The gender breakdown for FY 18/19 was 66% male and 34% female.

The racial breakdown for FY 18/19 was 57% Black, 38% White, 4% Hispanic, and 1% other race/ethnicity.

A case may consist of one or more offenses charged to a juvenile and processed together. The most serious offense is used to categorize a case when multiple offenses are involved.

DID YOU KNOW?

In FY 18/19, Solicitors diverted, dismissed, or did not prosecute over half of juvenile cases (52%). Forty-eight percent of the cases moved forward to the Family Court based on decisions to prosecute or issue rule to show cause petitions.

DIVERSION

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS

2018 - 2019	3,117
2017 - 2018	3,117
2016 - 2017	3,278
2015 - 2016	3,829
2014 - 2015	3,841

ARBITRATION

Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent youth offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

After a youth offender is referred to DJJ, a Solicitor may decide to "divert" that youth instead of pursuing further prosecution. Diverted youth can be monitored either by their home Solicitor's Office or by DJJ. DJJ tracks all agency-monitored diversions through what's called a "Behavior Contract." It's a binding agreement between the juvenile and DJJ wherein the youth agrees to complete established stipulations (in lieu of court) as a result of offenses that he/she is alleged to have committed. In FY 2018, 76% of youth successfully completed their DJJ-Monitored Diversion, meeting the guidelines specified in their Contract.

Total Referrals with a Decision of "DJJ Monitored Diversion" – 963
Total DJJ-Monitored Diversions Ended "Successfully" – 709

PROBATION & PAROLE

JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES

2018 - 2019	2,441
2017 - 2018	2,346
2016 - 2017	2,744
2015 - 2016	2,948
2014 - 2015	3,164

The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 2,441 youth offenders either on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

FAMILY COURT JUDICIAL DISPOSITIONS:

The Family Court disposed of 4,822 juvenile cases during FY 18/19. Probation was the primary disposition in 60% of the cases. Additionally, 8.0% of those probation cases also include a concurrent commitment or suspended commitment as part of the disposition.

During Fiscal Year 2018-19, an average daily population of 329 youth offenders were held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ.

DJJ participates in the Performance based Standards (PbS) project of the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators. This year, all of DJJ's secure facilities meet or exceed PbS standards.

OUR POPULATION

DJJ RECIDIVISM RATES:

FY 2014-2015 through FY 2017-2018 (Latest Year)

SCDJJ defines its Annual Recidivism Rate as: *Youth who are adjudicated for a new offense within one year of completing Arbitration, Probation or Commitment. This rate includes only those youths who were subsequently adjudicated (convicted) in the juvenile justice system. It does not include those who were subsequently convicted in the adult system.*

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Arbitration	5.4%	5.3%	4.1%
Probation	15.4%	12.9%	13.6%
Commitment	16.0%	13.9%	15.7%

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

Hardware Secure Custody	*329*
Staff Secure Wilderness Camps	*118*
Multi-Agency and Therapeutic Placements	*81*
Marine Programs	*50*
Mental Health Placements	*25*
Total:	*603*

REGIONALIZATION

SCDJJ's Regionalization Initiative represents a fundamental shift in how committed youth will be served by South Carolina's juvenile justice system.

DJJ currently has one central long-term commitment facility located in Columbia, SC and three regional Evaluation Centers located in Union, Ridgeville, and Columbia. The long-term care facility, called the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC), houses long-term committed youth. DJJ's three regional evaluation centers house youth up to 45 days who are awaiting a clinicalevaluation and/or family court disposition/sentencing. DJJ'sregionalization plan will create one centralized evaluation center for youth in Columbia at the current Midlands Evaluation Center. BRRC and the two remaining evaluation centers in Ridgeville and Union will be re-purposed as DJJ's long-term regional facilities.This will allow a smaller number of committed youth to be housed in each long-term facility, while also keeping them closer to their home communities.

POPULATION AT BRRC LONG-TERM FACILITY

2018 - 2019	122
2017 - 2018	113
2016 - 2017	107
2015 - 2016	105
2014 - 2015	117

OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

DJJ operates its own school district for detained or incarcerated youth, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Birchwood School, located in DJJ's long-term facility, is a comprehensive middle and high school offering Career and Technology Education (CATE) and academic courses. Post-secondary opportunities are also available for students. Graduate totals below include students who earned either their high school diploma or GED.

DJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES

2018 - 2019	103
2017 - 2018	136
2016 - 2017	148
2015 - 2016	94
2014 - 2015	38

> *The teachers, principals and staff don't just look at your past. They want to help you; care for you; love you. That's what motivated me to get my GED.*
>
> ***-Gabe***

ACCOUNTABILITY

Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm caused. In FY 2018-19, restitution was ordered in 398 new cases totaling $299,286. A total of $164,464 was paid to victims during the fiscal year.

Offenders are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they caused. In FY 2018-19, 891 new cases included orders for work service hours, which totaled 24,772 hours.

During the year, 19,481 hours were completed by offenders in their communities.

Victims of juvenile crime are given the opportunity to serve as speakers on victim impact panels. These panels allow victims to tell offenders face-to-face how the crimes impacted their lives. In FY 2018-19, 27 victim impact classes were held. 244 youth offenders attended these classes.

VICTIMS CONTACTED BY DJJ

Victims contacted: 46

RESTITUTION TO VICTIMS

# of Cases:	*1,119*
Amount Ordered:	*$299,286*
Amount Paid:	*$164,464*

RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY WORK SERVICE HOURS

# of Cases:	*2,912*
Hours Ordered:	*21,243.75*
Hours Worked:	*15,239.75*
$ Value:	*$110,488.19*

(calculated at minimum wage)

PREVENTION

DJJ staff, certified as instructors in the evidence-based U.S. Department of Justice's G.R.E.A.T. gang prevention curriculum, taught in 23 public school classes in FY 18-19, reaching 727 at-risk students.

DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) enrollment was 1,952 for its training classes in FY 2018-2019. Students at JRTC took classes in financial literacy, culinary arts, leadership, interviewing skills, public speaking, interpersonal skills and many other areas related to life skills and job placement.

Teen After-School Centers are programs providing mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. 4,291 students were served in FY17-18. The significant increase over the last few years is a result of the number of TASC sites growing from 25 at the beginning of FY 2014 to 44 sites by the end of FY 2018-19.

G.R.E.A.T.

# of school classes taught:	13
# of students:	727

YOUTH SERVED BY TASC

2018 - 2019	10,108 Youth
2017 - 2018	4,291 Youth
2016 - 2017	3,792 Youth
2015 - 2016	4,291 Youth
2014 - 2015	4,279 Youth

ENROLLMENT FOR JOB READINESS TRAINING CENTER (JRTC) CLASSES

2018 - 2019	1,952
2017 - 2018	1,798

TRENDS

Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990's. Over the past 20 years, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 58%. The number of cases includes youth offenders referred more than once during the fiscal year.

One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed to DJJ. The data below compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ over the past five years.

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles held at DJJ's Detention Center pending court action. Youth determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center in Columbia experienced a drastic drop in the daily population from its peak of 132 in 2005-2006. The facility was originally designed to hold up to 72 youth offenders. For nine of twelve months in FY18/19 the average population was at or below design capacity.

20-YEAR COMPARISON OF VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES IN SC

Year	# of Cases
2018 - 2019	1,124
1997 - 1998	2,877

CASES RESULTING IN COMMITMENT TO DJJ

Year	Number
2018-19	829
2017-18	914
2016-17	1,060
2015-16	1,174
2014-15	1,312

DAILY POPULATION OF JUVENILES HELD IN DJJ'S DETENTION CENTER

Year	Number
2018-19	58
2017-18	68
2016-17	67
2015-16	69
2014-15	74

VOLUNTEER

DJJ offered students in its school district numerous career and technology classes and certifications such as graphics arts, automotive collision repair, horticulture, culinary arts, parenting, carpentry, ServSafe, forklift, WorkKeys and welding.

FY 2018-19, 1,967 volunteers assisted DJJ. Citizen volunteers helped make our communities safer by contributing over 40 thousand hours of services, valuing nearly $1 million.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Active Volunteers:	500
One-Time Volunteers:	1,467
Hrs. Contributed:	23,894.75
Value:	$554,597.15 (calculated at $23.21/hr)*

**This hourly rate is promoted by the South Carolina Association for Volunteer Administration (SCAVA)*

A special thank you to the many donors, community partners, business associates and volunteers who make a difference in the lives of our youth.

(803) 896-9583
volunteerservices@djj.sc.gov

VISIT DJJ'S

STORE OF HOPE

3208 BROAD RIVER ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29210

Store Hours

Monday - Friday | 10am - 5:30pm

(803) 896-6286

facebook.com/djjstroreofhope

Offering youth-made and refurbished items - including home furnishings, woodcraft and metalcraft, decorative goods and much more!

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the state of South Carolina

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