

**South Carolina**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
JUVENILE JUSTICE

# 2016 REPORT CARD



**South Carolina**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
JUVENILE JUSTICE

**DJJ**  
**WHERE CHANGE IS POSSIBLE**



DJJ's director and the new homeowner cut the ribbon on DJJ's third Habitat for Humanity home.

A DJJ juvenile performs with the SC Philharmonic.



A DJJ woodworking student presents a custom made bowl to Governor Haley.

# From the Director

**Editor's Note: Director Murray resigned from her post on January 27, 2017. Inspector General Freddie Pough is serving as Acting Director.**



Sylvia Murray  
DJJ Director

Welcome to our 13th annual South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Report Card. The Report Card provides the public with more than just numbers, graphs and charts. It is a clear and concise testament to how we are working to make DJJ better, protecting the public, preventing juvenile crime, rehabilitating our youth and offering services to benefit every citizen of South Carolina. I am proud of the work done over the last year by our nearly 1,500 employees across the great state of South Carolina.

Change is hard. Change is difficult. But we are doing it. In last year's DJJ report Card I said we would find ways to improve and move forward as an agency. Several security incidents in early 2016 at DJJ's Broad River Road Complex caused us all to take a long hard look at ourselves. Do we make changes? Are we going to let the incidents define and possibly cripple us? Or are we going to accept the challenges and embrace opportunities to make DJJ a better place? I made the choice and changes to make us be better.

We improved staffing, safety and security concerns across DJJ. We made the steps to move forward with changes. It was the best and only choice to do.

I can tell you now that DJJ is better than last year because of improving physical security of agency facilities, implementing a new juvenile progressive discipline system, improvements to staffing, training and improved treatment, support, cooperation and communication. Our employees are doing more and feel safer. Recent PbS studies reflect approximately 90% of our employees feeling safer due to the changes during the last year. This is fabulous news and allows DJJ to continue to lean toward embracing a strong reform agenda for juvenile justice and directly improve outcomes for youth in custody or supervision.

DJJ also seeks to continue agency gains in reducing juvenile incarceration and crime while improving job training opportunities for youth under agency supervision. These efforts are instrumental in preparing our youth for today's changing workforce and provide an alternative to continued criminal activity.

In developing a reform agenda for South Carolina, we continue to embrace the mantra, "Change is Possible." I recognize change is not only possible in the lives of the youth under agency supervision, but also that DJJ itself must adapt and change to better serve the needs of our youth and our citizens.

Focusing on several key areas of reform and improvement, DJJ strives to create an environment where these youth can realize a better alternative to the path formerly embarked on—an environment where job training and a strong, solid education give our young people hope for a better future beyond their time with DJJ.

One of the gauges of DJJ’s success in South Carolina is a continuing and drastic decline in the number of young people referred to DJJ and committed to DJJ custody. During FY 2015, DJJ received 1,312 juveniles into custody for placement in long-term facilities or alternative programs. This number of annual admissions to custody is a significant reduction from the baseline of FY 2011 (31.3 percent). The dramatic decrease is the result of DJJ implementing a number of calculated strategies, including:

- Use of classification processes to assess risk of youth in all stages of the juvenile justice process;
- Regular review of the risk status of youth in confinement;
- Investment in promising alternatives to incarceration;
- Implementation of best practices in supervising delinquent youth in the community; and
- Transfer of resources to the intake/prevention/diversion level in order to challenge youth with programs and services to prevent further penetration into the juvenile justice system.

In addition to these unique strategies, DJJ demonstrates an ongoing commitment to offering youth opportunities to change their lives in permanent and meaningful ways, such as with job training. The long term effects of providing job training to youth include lowering crime and improving individual outcomes for youth and their families. DJJ made a substantial increase during the 2015-2016 evaluation year by placing over 600 youth into jobs or paid internships.

I am so very proud of our accomplishments over the last year. We worked hard to make changes at DJJ and our responsibility to each other, our juveniles and the communities of South Carolina is to stay the course of positive change. We still have more change to do, but I know we are on the right path!

And so I present to you, the citizens of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice 2016 Report Card.



Sylvia Murray  
 Director, South Carolina  
 Department of Juvenile Justice

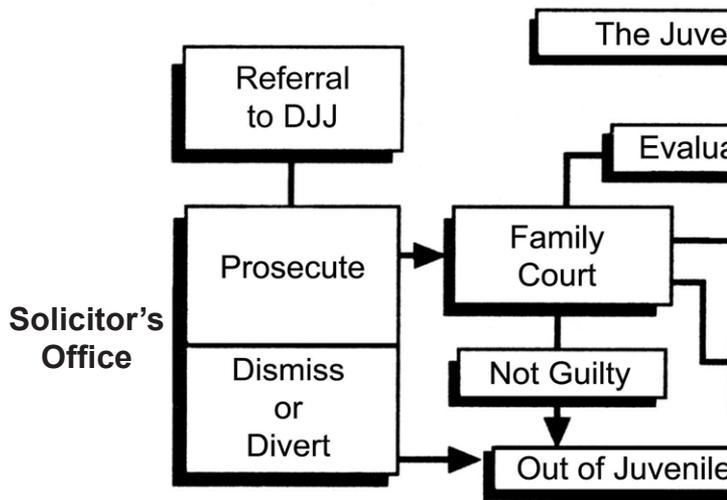


Director Murray, DJJ teens attend interment ceremony for veterans.

A DJJ juvenile learns to fish on the SC Dept. of Natural Resources fishing simulator.



Birchwood High School Principal Lyles stands with the 2016 Mr. Birchwood.

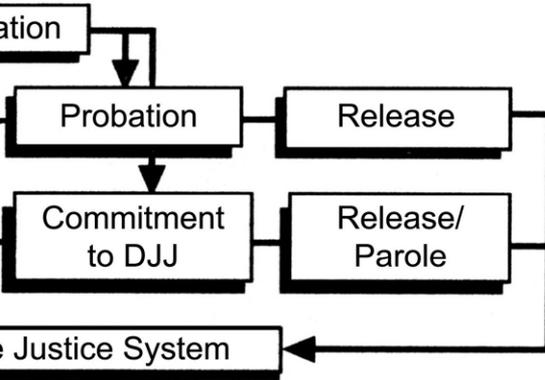


Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. 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 juvenile, 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 a juvenile 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 juveniles 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.

## Juvenile Justice Process



A family court judge may find that a juvenile 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 juvenile 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, a juvenile 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.

Juveniles 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 juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ’s website at:  
[www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php](http://www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php)

## A Report Card to Our Citizens

### CUSTOMER SERVICES

#### Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

##### Cases

###### Referred to DJJ

2015 - 2016	15,429
2014 - 2015	15,697
2013 - 2014	16,429
2012 - 2013	16,754
2011 - 2012	17,180

**CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ:** In FY 2015-2016, 15,429 cases were referred to DJJ, a 10% drop in the last five years. Data collected by DJJ at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 67 percent of cases closed involved males and 56 percent involved African-Americans. The average age was 15 years old.

##### Five Most Frequent Offenses Associated with Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Assault and Battery, 3rd
- #2 Disturbing Schools
- #3 Shoplifting
- #4 Public Disorderly Conduct
- #5 Simple Posses./Marijuana

**FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ:** The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was Assault and Battery, 3rd Degree. 8% of all cases referred to DJJ involved violent and serious offenses.

##### Offenders Diverted by Juvenile Arbitration Programs

2015 - 2016	3,829
2014 - 2015	3,841
2013 - 2014	4,078
2012 - 2013	4,234
2011 - 2012	4,041

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

##### Average Daily Population FY 2015-16

Hardware Secure Custody	373
Staff Secure Wilderness Camps	177
Multi-Agency and Therapeutic Placements	163
Marine Programs	77
Mental Health Placements	53
<b>Total:</b>	<b>843</b>

**AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ:** During Fiscal Year 2015-16, an average daily population of 373 juveniles was 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. Typically, each year, we rank among the highest scoring facilities in the country.

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

### Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

#### Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

2015 - 2016	2,948
2014 - 2015	3,164
2013 - 2014	3,474
2012 - 2013	3,495
2011 - 2012	3,819

#### JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

**CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES:** The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 2,948 juvenile offenders either on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

#### Youth Served by TASC

2015 - 2016	4,291 Youth
2014 - 2015	4,279 Youth
2013 - 2014	1,653 Youth
2012 - 2013	1,156 Youth
2011 - 2012	1,091 Youth

#### TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. 4,291 students were served in FY15-16. The significant increase seen over the last two years is a result of the number of TASC sites going from 25 at the beginning of FY 2014 to 38 sites by the end of FY 2015-16.

#### DJJ School District Graduates

2015 - 2016	94
2014 - 2015	38
2013 - 2014	92
2012 - 2013	117
2011 - 2012	116

#### SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES: DJJ

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

Graduation numbers are back up after dropping significantly in FY 2015 as DJJ adopted the new Common Core Standards based GED test (which also saw drastic drops in passing rates nationally when it was introduced).

DJJ's Birchwood School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Post-secondary opportunities are also available for students.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark (Repairing the harm to victims and community)

**Restitution to Victims**

# of Cases:	1,397
Amount Ordered:	\$327,775
Amount Paid:	\$201,429

**RESTITUTION:** Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. In FY 2015-16, restitution was ordered in 1,397 new cases totaling \$327,775. A total of \$201,429 was paid to victims during the fiscal year.

**Restorative Community Work Service Hours**

# of Cases:	1,272
Hours Ordered:	32,413
Hours Worked:	24,728
\$ Value:	\$179,278 (calculated at minimum wage)

**WORK SERVICE:** Offenders are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they have caused. In FY 2015-16, 1,272 new cases included orders for work service hours, which totaled 32,413 hours. During the year, 24,728 hours were worked by offenders in their communities.

**Victims Contacted by DJJ**

Victims contacted 2015 - 2016	5,723
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**VICTIMS:** 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 their crimes have impacted their lives. In FY 2015-2016, 67 victim impact classes were held. Records show that 523 juvenile offenders attended these classes.

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## COMPETENCY—A Restorative Benchmark (Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

### G.R.E.A.T.

# of school classes taught:	15
# of students:	378

**DJJ STAFF TEACH G.R.E.A.T. ANTI-GANG CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** 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 15 school classes in FY 15-16, reaching 378 at-risk students.

### Class Enrollment For Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) Classes

2015 - 2016	1,029
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### JOB READINESS TRAINING:

In its third year of operation, DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) had a total enrollment of 1,029 for its training classes in FY2016. Students at JRTC took classes in financial literacy, culinary arts, leadership, interviewing skills, public speaking, interpersonal skills and in many other areas related to life skills and job placement.

### Youth Completing a Job Readiness Training Program in the Community

2015 - 2016	475
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During fiscal year 2015-16, 475 youth completed job readiness training in DJJ's eight community job readiness training sites, located throughout the state (capacity was 480.)

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

### Citizen Participation

Active Volunteers:	452
One-Time Volunteers:	2,007
Hrs. Contributed:	29,408.75
Value:	\$621,700.97
(calculated at \$21.14/hr)*	

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COMPETENCY:** During FY 2015-16, 2,459 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ. Citizen volunteers helped make our communities safer by contributing nearly 30,000 hours of services.

\* This figure for calculating volunteer value is promoted by the South Carolina Association of Volunteer Administration (SCAVA)



## COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark (Protecting the public)

### 20-Year Comparison of Violent & Serious Juvenile Cases in South Carolina

Year	# of Cases
2015-16	1,257
1995-96	3,077

### VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:

Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990's. Since then, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 65% percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

### Cases Resulting in Committment to DJJ

Year	Number
2015-16	1,174
2014-15	1,312
2013-14	1,364
2012-13	1,374
2011-12	1,470

**TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE:** One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed to DJJ. This table compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ over the past five years.

### Daily Population of Juveniles Held in DJJ's Detention Center

Year	Number
2015-16	69
2014-15	74
2013-14	69
2012-13	69
2011-12	64

**DETENTION:** Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center pending court action. Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center has seen a drastic drop in the daily population from its peak of 132 in 2005-2006.

However, DJJ has also seen a slight increase in detentions since FY 2011-12, which is especially concerning in light of the fact that Greenville County recently opened their own juvenile detention center in the Fall of 2013, which should have produced a significant drop in DJJ detentions.



When in Columbia, please visit DJJ's

# *Store of Hope*

3208 Broad River Road (across from the BiLo)  
Columbia, SC

And like us on Facebook at our  
Store of Hope Facebook page!

## **Store Hours**

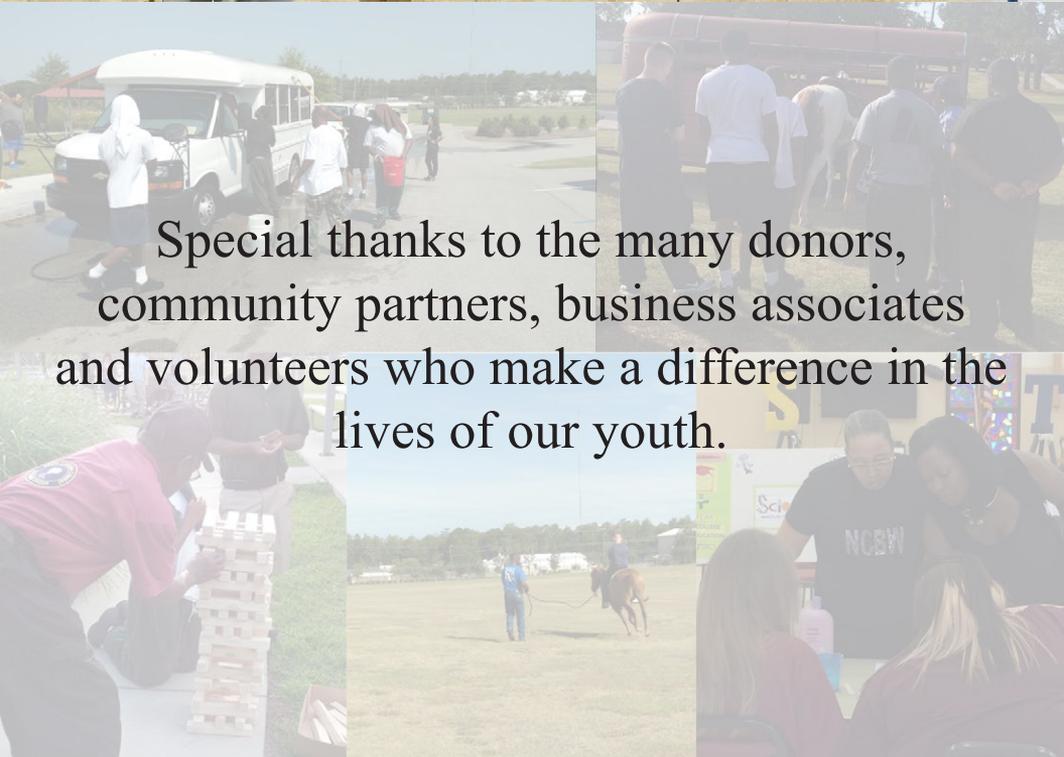
Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
and the 3rd Saturday of each month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

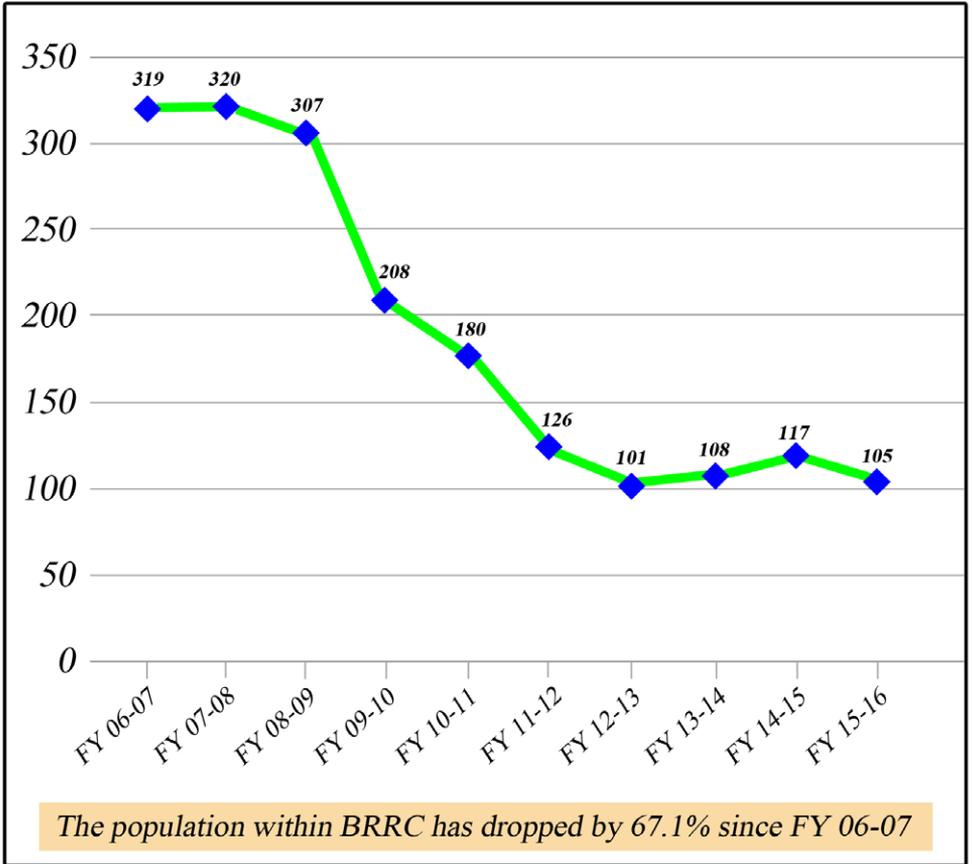




Special thanks to the many donors,  
community partners, business associates  
and volunteers who make a difference in the  
lives of our youth.



# ***Decline in Population within the BRRC*** ***(Last 10 Years)***



For more information contact:  
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice  
(803) 896-9749  
[www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj)

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Title IX – Inspector General's Office – 803-896-9595  
Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484



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