

**OVERVIEW:
DEPT.
OF
H&SS,
DIV. OF
JUVENILE
JUSTICE**

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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February 22, 2005

The Honorable Lesil McGuire, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 120
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative McGuire:

This is in response to the Division of Juvenile Justice overview presented to the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, February 16, 2005.

- **Of the group of juveniles released from long-term institutionalization in DJJ secure facilities in 2002 who re-offended within a two year period, what is the breakdown of those who commit more serious crimes, less serious crimes or crimes that are of approximately of the same level of seriousness than the original offense(s) that resulted in institutionalization?**

Of the 106 youths released from treatment in FY 02, 62 (58%) had re-offended by the 24-month period following their release.

Of the 62 youths who re-offended, 44 (70.9%) had a DSM III/IV diagnosis prior to release. Of the 44 who did NOT re-offend in this time period, 27 (61.3%) had a DSM III/IV diagnosis prior to release

Of the 62 who re-offended:


- 32 (51.6%) committed a re-offense that was **less serious** than the offense that prompted the youth's original institution order.
- 27 (43.5%) committed a re-offense that was **about the same** seriousness as the offense that prompted the institution order.
- 3 (4.8%) committed a re-offense that was **more serious** than the offense that prompted the institution order.

- **What is the percentage of youths in the juvenile justice system with a substance abuse problem or a co-occurring substance abuse/mental health disorder?**

The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) did a one-day count on January 12, 2001 of all of the youths either in DJJ custody in the community or of DJJ youths incarcerated in a secure detention or long term treatment institution to determine the prevalence of mental health and/or substance abuse diagnoses as measured by a clinical diagnosis based on the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual). **The total number of youth counted was 1,318.** Forty-two percent of the youths had a DSM-IV diagnosis either related to mental health needs or substance abuse needs. Of that smaller group (n=558) 40% of this subset had a co-occurring substance abuse disorder as diagnosed by a clinician. Substance abuse includes cannabis (marijuana), alcohol and polysubstance abuse as the listed diagnosis.


If you have any questions, please contact me at 465- 12.

Sincerely,



Patty Ware
Director

cc: Representative Tom Anderson, Capitol Building, Room 408
Representative John Coghill, Capital Building, Room 204
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Capital Building, Room 432
Representative Pete Kott, Capital Building, Room 403
Representative Les Gara, Capital Building, Room 418
Representative Max Gruenberg, Capital Building, Room 112
Tony Newman, Program Officer, Division of Juvenile Justice
Sherry Hill, Special Assistant, DHSS Commissioner's Office



Division of Juvenile Justice Agency Mission (AS 47.12.010)

- Hold juvenile offenders accountable
- Promote safety and restoration of victims and communities
- Assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime



Juvenile System

- Delinquency Statutes/Regs: AS 47.12; AS 47.14; 7AAC 52; 7 AAC 54;
- Jurisdiction: Minors under age 18
- Waiver into Adult Court (47.12.030(a)):
 1. Age 16-17
 2. Unclassified/Class A felonies against person
 3. Class B felonies against person with deadly weapon- prior adjudication of similar crime required

Juvenile System (continued)

- Dual Sentencing (47.12.065; 47.12.120(j); 47.12.160)
 1. Age 16-17
 2. Felonies against person AND prior adjudication
 3. Sexual Abuse Minor 2nd Degree
 4. Subject to both juvenile court order and adult sentencing guidelines
 5. Adult sentence invoked if commits felony or misdemeanor against person or fails to follow conditions

Detention in the Juvenile System

- ❖ **Purpose (AS 47.12.240; 47.12.250):**
 - Protect the minor or community
 - Ensure attendance at court hearing
- ❖ **Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI)**
- ❖ **Detention Hearing within 48 hours**
 - JPO primary responsibility/ with D.A.

Options in the Juvenile System Judgments and Orders (AS 47.12.120)

- ❖ **Minor found delinquent by judge**
 - DHSS Custody- locked institution
 - "Supervisory custody"/ released to parent
 - DHSS Custody/ placed in non-detention setting (foster care, residential care)
 - Restitution order only

DJJ Data (FY '04)

FY2004 Delinquency Referral Summaries

Charge Type	Number of Reports	Percent of Total
Against Persons	1,159	19%
Property	3,026	49%
Public Order	333	5%
Drug/Alcohol	679	11%
Weapon	67	1%
Miscellaneous offenses	925	15%
Total	6,189	100%

DJJ Data Continued (FY '04)

Charge Class	Number of Reports	Percent of Total
Felony	1,941	31%
Misdemeanor	3,381	55%
Violation/Other	37	1%
Conduct/Probation Violation	830	13%
Total	6,189	100%

DJJ Core Services (Probation)

- Intake Investigation (legal sufficiency)
- Detention screening and decision
- Initiate formal court action
- Probation supervision and accountability (formal and informal); Restitution and CWS
- Victim Contact and case information
- Supervision during re-entry (aftercare)



DJJ Core Services

Detention and Long-Term Treatment

- Eight DJJ secure facilities- 288 beds
- Short-term (30 days) detention pending court hearing
- Long-term institutionalization for serious offenders
- Transition/ Step-Down services (Re-Entry)
- Performance-Based Standards (PbS)



Selected DJJ Performance Measures

Re-offense Data

- Closed probation cases: Average 22% tracked for two years; adult offenses not included
- Release from Facility: Average 37% (one year), increases to 58% for two years; adult offenses included

Performance Measures (continued)

- Restitution Collection at time of case closure for informal cases: \$144,140.73 for FY '04 (90% collection rate)
- Community Work Service: 23,720 hours completed out of 24,739 ordered (96% success rate)