

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

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 Residential Services
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Delinquent youth in Florida can be ordered by a court into a residential treatment facility. Circuit judges determine the level of confinement appropriate for each youth. The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is responsible for placement of each youth in an appropriate program based on the youth's identified risk and needs.

In FY 2008-09, Residential commitment programs served more than 10,000 youths and had over 6,000 completions from the previous year. The success rate for residential completers was 54%, a three percentage point decrease from the previous year.

Youth are committed to residential programs for an indeterminate length of time and must complete individual treatment plan goals based on their rehabilitative needs as one of the requirements for release. Included in each youth's goals are educational and vocational services. Residential Services oversees all residential commitment programs. Residential facilities are divided within DJJ into three regions:

- North Region: Judicial Circuits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 14.
- Central Region: Judicial Circuits 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 18.
- South Region: Judicial Circuits 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20.

For each of the three regions, DJJ operates or contracts for the operation of a variety of residential programs to serve committed youth. Programs vary by restrictiveness level, defined in Section

985.03 (44), Florida Statutes (2008) as "...the level of programming and security provided by programs that service the supervision, custody, care, and treatment needs of committed children." Increased security, closer supervision, more intensive treatment, and longer lengths of stay characterize higher restrictiveness levels.

The statute designates four residential restrictiveness levels of commitment:

- Low-risk residential
- Moderate-risk residential
- High-risk residential
- Maximum-risk residential

A non-residential-commitment level, minimum-risk commitment, is also referenced in Section 985.03 (44). Minimum-risk commitment is managed through Probation and Community Intervention and is reported in that chapter of this report. These programs work with youth who remain in the community and participate at least 5 days per week in a day treatment program. This chapter focuses on only the four residential-restrictiveness levels.

Section 985.441 of the Florida Statutes (2006) directs the juvenile courts to commit an adjudicated youth to one of the restrictiveness levels based on the nature of the offense, security concerns, and treatment issues. Within the restrictiveness level chosen by the juvenile court, DJJ personnel choose a specific program to best meet the treatment and security needs of the youth. The specialty treatments include: mental health, substance abuse, dual diagnosis, and sex offender treatments, which are all delivered through gender-specific care. Residential programs with specialized beds receive funding from one or more of the following five sources:

- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT): Funding for RSAT Programs is provided by state general revenue. Programs receive \$25 per day, per bed in addition to the DJJ contracted per diem rate.
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Overlay Services (RSAT Overlay): Funding for RSAT Overlay Services is provided by state general revenue. Programs receive \$30 per day, per bed in addition to the DJJ contracted per diem rate.
- Specialty Mental Health Programs: Funding for Specialized Mental Health Services is provided by state general revenue. Programs receive a higher daily per diem rate depending on the level of treatment services provided, ranging from \$130-\$295 per day, per bed. These programs are designed for youth with serious to severe symptoms of mental health disorders, developmental disorders, and for juvenile sex offenders who are in need of a more intensive specialized treatment regimen.
- Mental Health Overlay Services (MHOS): Funding for Mental Health Overlay Services in programs is provided by state general revenue. Programs receive \$35 per day, per bed in addition to the DJJ contracted per diem rate.
- Behavioral Health Overlay Services (BHOS): Funding for Behavioral Health Overlay Services is provided by Medicaid and the Agency for Health Care Administration. Eligible non-secure residential programs receive \$35 per day, per bed in addition to the DJJ contracted per diem rate.

Program Evaluation

Quality Assurance Performance

Residential programs are evaluated through the Department's Quality Assurance (QA) process following a set of standards developed specifically for residential programs. Standards are based on the criteria set by national standards, state policy, and Florida Statutes.

The following table lists residential programs achieving an overall Commendable (80%-89%) or Exceptional (90%-100%) performance rating as a result of their QA review. Scoring Commendable or Exceptional is a great achievement for programs as they must show high performance in all areas and at every level of staff involvement (i.e., the adherence to policies and procedures exceed expectations and employees demonstrate a dedication to the high quality processes involved).

Commendable and Exceptional Residential Programs in FY 2008-09

Circuit	County	Program Name	Program Type	Score
5	Citrus	Camp E-Nini-Hassee	Specialized Beds	88%
13	Hillsborough	Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility	Specialized Beds	88%
1	Okaloosa	Okaloosa Youth Academy	Specialized Beds	88%
10	Polk	Avon Park Youth Academy	Specialized Beds	86%
9	Orange	Orange Academy	Specialized Beds	85%
11	Miami-Dade	Dade Juvenile Residential Facility	Specialized Beds	84%
13	Hillsborough	Falkenburg Academy	Specialized Beds	84%
19	Okeechobee	Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correctional Center High Risk	Specialized Beds	84%
19	Okeechobee	Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correctional Center Maximum Risk	Specialized Beds	84%
1	Santa Rosa	Santa Rosa Juvenile Residential Facility	Specialized Beds	84%
13	Hillsborough	Leslie Peters Halfway House	Specialized Beds	83%
13	Hillsborough	Riverside Academy	Specialized Beds	83%
18	Brevard	Francis Walker Halfway House	Specialized Beds	81%
12	Manatee	Palmetto Youth Academy	Specialized Beds	81%
1	Santa Rosa	Blackwater STOP Camp	None	80%
1	Santa Rosa	Camp E-Ma-Chamee	Specialized Beds	80%
19	Okeechobee	Eckerd Intensive Halfway House	Specialized Beds	80%
2	Jefferson	Monticello New Life	Specialized Beds	80%
18	Brevard	Space Coast Marine Institute	None	80%

Outcome Evaluation Performance

Program outputs and outcomes, including total releases, the percentage of youth adjudicated for offenses committed during placement (ODP), number of completions and completion rates, demographic characteristics, average length of stay, post-commitment services, and success rates, are presented for each commitment program that released youth within FY 2007-08. Fiscal year 2007-08 data are presented so that it is possible to track success (defined as no delinquent or criminal referrals/arrests that resulted in a juvenile adjudication or conviction) for one year from program completion. Summary data are presented in this chapter by individual program organized by program type and region.

During FY 2007-08, there were a total of 7,688 releases from residential commitment programs. The rate of offenses during placement was 5%; indicating approximately 1 in 20 youth are adjudicated or convicted for an offense that occurred while in a commitment program.

Characteristics of the youth served in residential commitment varied by program and restrictiveness level. For example, the average age at admission for youth increases as the restrictiveness level increases: 16.1 years for low-risk programs, 16.4 years for moderate-risk programs, 16.6 years for high-risk programs, and 17.0 years for maximum-risk programs. The extent and seriousness of youths' delinquency histories (as measured by the Average Prior Seriousness Index) also varied by restrictiveness level from 15.7 for youth completing low-risk restrictiveness programs to 43.6 for youth completing maximum-risk programs.

Overall, 54% of youth who completed their residential program in FY 2007-08 did not recidivate within one year after their return to the community. The success rate varied by restrictiveness level: 49% for low-risk programs, 55% for moderate-risk programs, 54% for high-risk programs, and 60% for maximum-risk programs.

Those completions that resulted in a successful outcome (did not recidivate) had less extensive delinquency histories than recidivists. Based on the data, males had lower success rates than females and black youth had lower success rates than white youth. Success rates increased with age.

In examining the time it takes for re-offending to occur, a consistent pattern has been observed over the last decade. The data demonstrate that if youth are going to recidivate within the first year, more than half will be rearrested within the first four months following program release. Among committed youth who recidivated in FY 2007-08, the majority (58%) were re-arrested by the end of the fourth month and 84% were re-arrested by the end of the seventh month.

Youth completing commitment programs spent, on average, between four months in low-risk residential programs to an average of 18 months in a maximum-risk residential program. The average length of stay increased by approximately five months with each increase in restrictiveness level. There was no significant difference in the average length of stay between recidivists and non-recidivists.

Outcome Summary for Youth Released in FY 2007-08

Program Area	Total Releases	Completions	% ODP	% Success
Low-Risk Residential Programs	806	724 (90%)	4%	49%
Moderate-Risk Residential Programs	5,050	4,326 (86%)	6%	55%
High-Risk Residential Programs	1,755	1,373 (78%)	5%	54%
Maximum-Risk Residential Programs	77	67 (87%)	4%	60%
Total Residential Programs	7,688	6,490 (84%)	5%	54%