



South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

# REPORT CARD

for 2013





DJJ youth work with staff and volunteers to learn job skills



## A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

### *From the Director*



Margaret H. Barber  
DJJ Director

Ten years ago, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice stepped up accountability to the public when the first “Juvenile Justice Report Card” was published. Ten years later, the Report Card is a mainstay. As this marks the 10th anniversary, I have taken special note this year of how far this agency has come in the last decade. We’ve come from a time of a federal lawsuit, high populations of incarcerated youth, and few options for alternative placements to a very different and reformed juvenile justice agency.

Of course, we have drastically reduced our population behind the fence (down 56% in the last decade), seen drastic reductions in violent juvenile crime (now at its lowest point in 20 years), and created numerous intervention programs aimed at crime prevention. These are impressive accomplishments, ones that benefit South Carolina, and make the lives of our citizens and young people much safer and brighter than they were at the turn of the 21st century.

Among the numerous programs that we have begun at DJJ, and which we continue to support, perhaps none has as much potential for improving the lives of our young people as our job readiness training programs for incarcerated and other at-risk youth. From our ongoing efforts to create more Teen After School Centers across the state with Job Readiness Training components, to our various career and technology programs available through our Birchwood School and Youth Industries Program, DJJ is working to prepare our youth for careers and vocations so that they can become productive and law-abiding citizens. Giving a troubled or at-risk youth a viable way to earn money and build a life outside of a gang or criminal enterprise will go a long way towards reducing crime even further in South Carolina.

To further enhance that goal, DJJ has opened its Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Columbia. The center provides vocational and employability training to youth across the state. We are proud to say that the training offered by the center will be available for use by youth who are behind the razor wire and those under DJJ’s supervision in communities throughout South Carolina, at specific locations where classes will be rendered through video conference links. With DJJ offices in every county and private providers’ facilities where juveniles have video conferencing ability, this will mean that the JRTC will be able to provide the same learning experience to as many young people as possible, regardless of where they

are physically located. This center will join our existing employability programs as yet another option that we can offer to our youth who want encouraging options and a chance to better themselves. Youth are also being encouraged to give back to their communities through their work, and have begun service projects like crafting urns for the remains of unclaimed veterans and building Adirondack chairs alongside volunteers to benefit local charities as part of our ongoing “Chairs4Charity” project.

Indeed, as an agency, we have achieved numerous other accomplishments over this last year. The number of new juvenile cases has decreased. We experienced a 2.5% decline this year and an average 4.3% per-year decline over the last 10 years. There has also been a continued significant decline in cases sent to DJJ for evaluation, a 26.6% decline in the last five years. And this year, for the first time in the modern agency’s history, average daily population behind the fence at our Broad River Road Complex dropped to under 100 juveniles for five of 12 months. These are encouraging signs of a juvenile justice system headed in the right direction.

Additionally, DJJ is taking innovative steps that will result in the agency becoming more environmentally focused, with an outcome of cost-efficiency. The agency has developed several programs aimed at making the agency more energy efficient and “green.” We also will continue to re-develop and reuse our existing office space to consolidate our facilities, as a cost-saving measure, as well as improve campus ascetics for future generations, to ensure continued productive use.

Of course, there are still areas for improvement. Admissions to DJJ’s Detention Center increased for the second consecutive year. This increase has primarily been due to a spike in admissions from one county, however, and this should likely be a temporary anomaly. However, the Detention Center continues to operate well within its designed operational capacity.

Looking back on the last 10 years of this Report Card, and the agency’s remarkable development over that time, it is clear that this 10th Anniversary edition marks a particularly great day in the history of South Carolina’s juvenile justice system, and a truly great day in South Carolina as well. We are encouraged that the next 10 years will be as bright as the last 10 years have been!



Director, South Carolina  
Department of Juvenile Justice

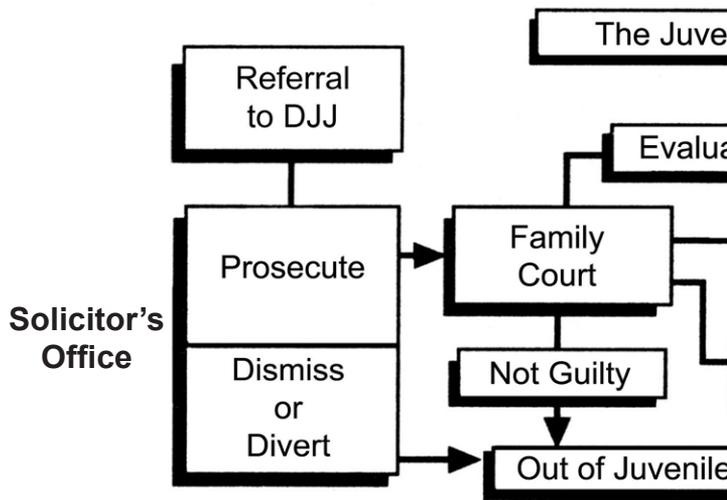
DJJ JROTC student receives a flag at a recent internment for unclaimed military veterans. DJJ youth built urns for the ceremony.



DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) Grand Opening

(below) Youth and volunteers build DJJ's second Habitat for Humanity Home



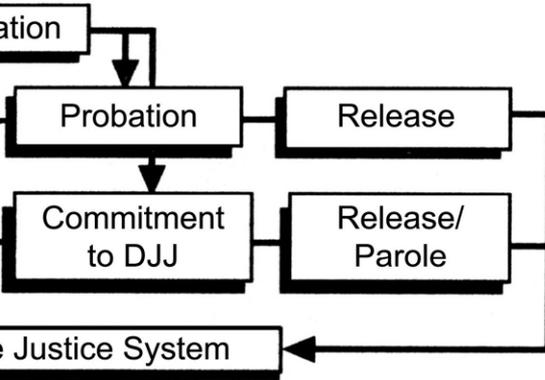


Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties.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

JUVENILE JUSTICE

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

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

#### Cases

##### Referred to DJJ

2012 – 2013	16,754
2011 – 2012	17,180
2010 – 2011	18,114
2009 – 2010	20,394
2008 – 2009	23,111

**CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ:** In FY 2012-13, 16,754 cases were referred to DJJ, a 27.5% drop in the last five years. Data collected by DJJ at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 70 percent of cases closed involved males and 57 percent involved African-Americans. The average age was 16 years old.

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

- #1 Assault and Battery, 3rd
- #2 Shoplifting
- #3 Disturbing Schools
- #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. Only 8.3% of all cases referred to DJJ involved violent and serious offenses.

#### Offenders Diverted by Juvenile Arbitration Programs

2012 – 2013	4,234
2011 – 2012	4,041
2010 – 2011	4,115
2009 – 2010	4,631
2008 – 2009	5,470

**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 2012-13

	<u>2012-2013</u>
Hardware Secure Custody (committed and noncommitted)	369
Staff Secure Wilderness Camps	186
Multi-Agency and Therapeutic Placements	210
Marine Programs	84
Mental Health Placements	<u>48</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>897</b>

**AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ:** During Fiscal Year 2012-13, an average daily population of 369 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, four DJJ facilities achieved Level 4, the highest possible PbS rating, ranking them in the top six to twelve percent of participating PbS facilities in the country.

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

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

#### Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

2012 - 2013	3,495
2011 - 2012	3,819
2010 - 2011	4,293
2009 - 2010	4,388
2008 - 2009	4,973

#### JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

**CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES:** The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 3,495 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

#### Youth Served by TASC

2012-2013	1,156 Youth
2011-2012	1,091 Youth
2010-2011	1,010 Youth
2009-2010	656 Youth
2008-2009	*460 Youth

\*Program was eliminated

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

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. After being eliminated in the mid-year budget cuts of 2008, 24 TASC sites were restored in fiscal year 2010. A record 1,156 students were served in 2013. DJJ's new TASC Job Readiness For Teens (TASC-JRT) program (which also provides students with vocational training) was created in July, 2011.

#### DJJ School District Graduates

2012 - 2013	117
2011 - 2012	116
2010 - 2011	120
2009 - 2010	143
2008 - 2009	147

#### 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. For the tenth year, DJJ's school district received the "Palmetto Gold" award. The passing rate for the General Equivalency Degree (GED) test at DJJ schools is 73%, exceeding the national passing rate of 72%. DJJ's Birchwood School is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark

### (Repairing the harm to victims and community)

#### Restitution to Victims

# of Cases:	1,609
Amount Ordered:	\$528,933
Amount Paid:	\$317,956

**RESTITUTION:** Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. In FY-2012-13, restitution was ordered in 1,609 new cases totaling \$528,933. A total of \$317,956 was paid to victims during the fiscal year.

#### Restorative Community Work Service Hours

# of Cases:	1,487
Hours Ordered:	41,697
Hours Worked:	29,619 (71%)
\$ Value:	\$ 214,737 (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 2012-13, 1,487 new cases included orders for work service hours, which totaled 41,697 hours. During the year, 29,619 hours were worked by offenders in their communities.

#### Victims Contacted by DJJ

Victims contacted 2012-2013	4,627
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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 2012-2013, 19 victim impact panels were held. Records show that 260 juvenile offenders attended these panel presentations and were able to hear from victims.

Additionally, juveniles receive training in victim empathy. In FY 2012-2013, 89 victim impact classes were held in 22 different DJJ county offices. A total of 693 juvenile offenders took part in these victim impact 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 elementary school classes:	22
# of middle school classes:	4
# of students:	574

### DJJ STAFF TEACH G.R.E.A.T. ANTI-GANG

**CURRICULUM IN PUBIC 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 22 elementary and 4 middle school classes in FY 12-13, reaching 574 at risk students.

**JOB READINESS TRAINING:** During fiscal year 2012-13, 39 youth at DJJ's Broad River Road Complex and 221 youth in the community completed job readiness training in the DJJ school district.

Additionally, another indicator of job readiness is certificates. During the 2012-2013 school year:

- 7 students were enrolled in a technical school
- 21 students received certification in forklift operation
- 21 students received the OSHA cards (safety)
- 16 students received their American Welding Society (AWS) welding certifications
- 19 students completed a welding program in Beaufort
- 40 students received their Work Keys cards (reflects math, reading and reading for information capability)
- 65 students received their ServSafe certifications (handling food safely)
- 14 certifications were awarded as part of the Auto Collision Repair class.

### Youth Completing a Job Readiness Training Program

2012 – 2013	260
2011 – 2012	297
2010 – 2011	160
2009 – 2010	33
2008 – 2009	36

### Citizen Participation

# of Volunteers:	1,901
Hrs. Contributed:	29,453
Value:	\$486,866 (calculated at \$16.53/hr)*

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COM-

**PETENCY:** During FY 2012-13, 1,901 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 29,453 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)

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

Year	# of Cases
2012-13	1,394
1994-95	3,589

### 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 61% percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

### Table A Juveniles Committed to the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2012-13	1,374
2011-12	1,470
2010-11	1,910
2009-10	1,977
2008-09	1,953

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

### Table B Daily Population Juveniles Held in DJJ's Detention Center

Year	Number
2012-13	69
2011-12	64
2010-11	85
2009-10	99
2008-09	108

**DETENTION:** Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center pending court action (seen in Table B). 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 had a drop in the daily population from its peak in 2005-2006. This drop correlated with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center.

### Recidivism Rate Juvenile Offenders on Probation/Parole or in Arbitration Programs

Recidivism Rate
15%

**LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR:** Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Historically, eighty-five percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.



When in Columbia, please visit DJJ's

# *Store of Hope*

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

## Store Hours

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

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

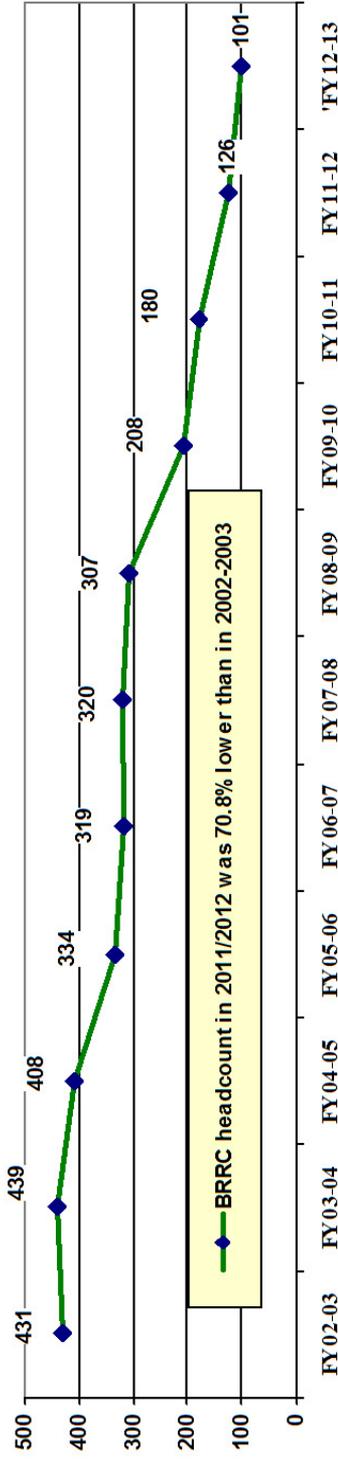


**Special Thanks to the Many Donors, Community Partners, Business Associates  
and Volunteers Who Make a Difference in the Lives of our Youth.**



The "Chairs4Charity" Project unveils chairs built by DJJ youth for charity. August, 2013

#### IV. Decline of Population within the BRRC: 2003 - 2013



In January 2013, DJJ reached a historical low of 77 youth incarcerated at the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC)

For more information contact:  
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice  
(803) 896-9518  
[www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj)

The printing of this document was generously supported by the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina Law School.

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