



# MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES FACT SHEET



## ABOUT DYS

As the juvenile justice agency for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Youth Services (DYS) promotes positive change in youth in our care and custody by providing a comprehensive and coordinated program of delinquency prevention and services to youth or committed to DYS by juvenile courts.

**Commissioner:**  
Peter Forbes

## STAFFING

**846** employees

**613 (72.5%)** male, **233 (27.5%)** female;  
**420 (48.1%)** minorities; **40 (4.7%)** veterans

The average age of the DYS employee is **43**

**76%** of the DYS workforce is direct care staff (working in the DYS residential programs and the district offices).

## LOCATIONS



### Main Office

600 Washington St,  
Boston, MA 02111

**43** hardware and staff secure residential programs

**Three (3)** Reception Centers

**Three (3)** Independent Living Programs

**Nine (9)** Overnight Arrest Sites

**21** District Offices and **Two (2)** Satellite Offices

**Phone:** (617) 727-7575

**Website:** [www.mass.gov/dys](http://www.mass.gov/dys)

## State Facts (FY 2019)

DYS serves youth between the ages of **12-21** who have been adjudicated delinquent, adjudicated as a youthful offender, or placed in DYS detention programs while awaiting a future court date.

**387** committed youth served by DYS

- o **87%** were male and **13%** female
- o **18%** Caucasian; **26%** Black; **46%** Hispanic; Multi-ethnic **4%**, Asian **1%**, American Indian **1%**, Native Hawaiian **1%**, **3%** choose not to identify
- o **25%** of youth were first time commitments
- o **17.5** was the average age of the DYS committed population

**1078** admissions to DYS detention programs

- o **80%** were male and **20%** female
- o **27%** White, **27%** African American, **41%** Hispanic, **2%** Multi-Ethnic, **1%** Asian, **1%** American Indian, **1%** other, **2%** Choose not to identify
- o **16.4** was the average age at detention admission
- 941** overnight arrest admissions

## Key Services

### Youth Engaged in Services (YES):

This initiative seeks to increase positive youth outcomes and reduce recidivism for DYS-involved youth by continuing to provide support to youth during the highest risk period for recidivism—which is the first six months post-discharge. Youth discharging from DYS are offered continuing case management and other transitional supports such as housing, clinical services, continued education, treatment and/or job training in exchange for their voluntary YES agreement.

### Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative

DYS has championed Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) a system wide reform effort to place juvenile justice involved youth in the right place for the right reasons. DYS continues to collaborate with public safety, juvenile justice and child welfare partners, the judiciary, local school districts, and community partners to develop and implement strategies to reduce use of secure detention for lower risk youth.

## DYS Educational Services By the Numbers (FY 2019)



### MCAS Results (DYS program students without disability)

**100%** passed the 10th grade English Language Arts MCAS

**81%** passed the 10th grade Math MCAS

**62%** passed the 10th grade Science MCAS

### MCAS Results (DYS program students with disability)

**91%** passed the 10th grade English Language Arts MCAS

**53%** passed the 10th grade Math MCAS

### GED/Hi-Set results

**95** youth earned their High school Diploma and **72** youth passed the GED/Hi-Set

For the fourth consecutive year, the Hi-Set pass rate for DYS youth **979%** exceeded the pass rate for all of Massachusetts students (**75%**) who took the Hi-Set exam.

**98** youth participated in Post-Secondary classes

### For School Year 2018-2019

**167** youth attaining their HS diplomas or Hi-Set  
**68** were enrolled in Post-Secondary classes