



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

State Facts

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.

- 787** committed youth served by DYS
 - o **87%** were male and **13%** female
 - o **18%** Caucasian; **26%** Black; **46%** Hispanic; < **1%** Asian; **9%** Other
 - o **89%** 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%** Caucasian; **27%** Black; **41%** Hispanic; **1%** Asian; **4%** Other
 - o **16.4** was the average age at detention admission

941 overnight arrest admissions

*Committed and Detention numbers for DYS FY 2019

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

For School Year 2018-2019

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

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