



Performance-based Standards

Committed to treating all youths in custody as one of our own.

Mitigating the High Cost of Confinement

Juvenile confinement comes with a hefty price tag:

- The Justice Policy Institute (JPI) found that the most expensive confinement option for a youth can cost nearly \$150,000 per year. JPI data showed that in 33 states and jurisdictions, taxpayers can spend \$100,000 or more per year on a single youth's confinement;¹
- While the number of youths in custody in the United States is dropping steadily, there are about 54,000 youths locked up on any given day, which costs taxpayers a total of between \$5.4 - \$8.1 billion; and²
- In addition to the direct expenses of confining young offenders, JPI estimated the United States incurs \$8-12 billion in long-term costs such as loss of future earnings, loss of tax revenue and increased reliance on public assistance.¹

Making Facilities Safe Reduces Costs

Agencies responsible for the deep-end of the juvenile justice system – secure facilities and residential programs that remove youths from the community for treatment – have little control over the youths placed in their care by the courts. However they can keep the costs of confinement down through safe and sound facility management. Some of the most expensive costs incurred result from injuries to youths and staff: medical attention, emergency care, overtime pay and worker's compensation. Performance-based Standards (PbS) is a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that holds agencies to the highest standards for operations, programs and services and guides facilities to ensure safety as the foundation for improving the lives of incarcerated youths.

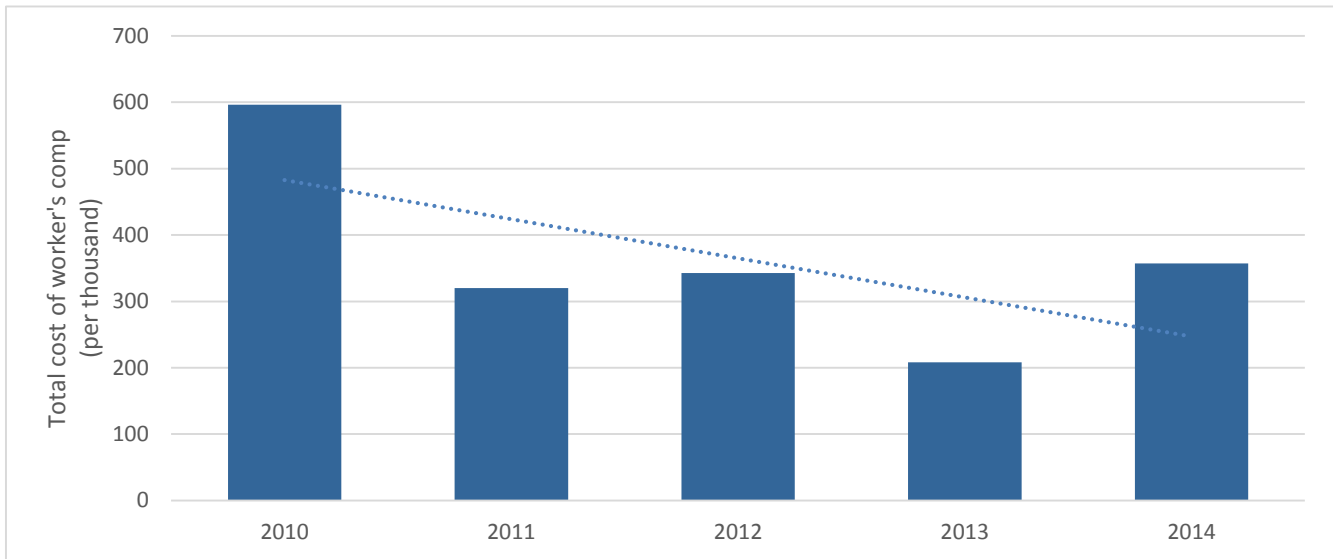
The Indiana Division of Youth Services (DYS), within the Department of Corrections, has been participating in PbS since 2008 and continually focused efforts to ensure youths, staff and families feel safe and the facilities minimize practices and behaviors that lead to injuries. DHS has reduced its worker's compensation costs by 40 percent over the last five years.

DYS serves all 92 counties in Indiana, operating four secure care facilities serving about 450 adjudicated youths a year. In 2010, the agency paid \$596,405.76 in worker's compensation and in 2014, DHS paid \$357,275.97. The amount dropped to an all-time low of \$208,097.08 in 2013.

"I attribute the reductions to PbS and its impact on improving conditions of confinement and reducing incidents of violence and staff and youth injuries," said Michael Dempsey, DHS director.



Total cost of worker's compensation paid by Indiana DYS



How Your Jurisdiction Can Save Money with PbS

The Indiana DYS example is just one of many ways PbS can help juvenile agencies save money in addition to achieving better outcomes for youths, staff and families. To have your facility or jurisdiction join PbS, visit <http://pbstandards.org/about-us/how-to-join>.

PbS was started 20 years ago by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to improve the conditions and quality of life in the approximately 2,800 confinement facilities and programs across the country. PbS' success and effectiveness was recognized when selected a winner of the 2004 Innovations in American Government Award by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. More than 200 correction, detention, assessment and community-based facilities and programs participate in PbS in 34 states.

PbS recognizes that juvenile facilities and programs across the country come in various sizes with unique challenges; PbS focuses on educating, supporting and guiding sites to use the data-driven improvement model and provide data quality assurance before they become part of the field. For the first two data collections, new sites receive intensive training and mentoring services to help implement PbS and enhance meaningful participation in a timely and effective manner.

¹ Justice Policy Institute. (2014). *Sticker Shock: Calculating the Full Price Tag for Youth Incarceration*. Washington DC: Author.

² Weiss, G. (2013). *The Fourth Wave: Juvenile Justice Reforms for the Twenty-First Century*. New York: National Campaign to Reform State Juvenile Justice Systems.