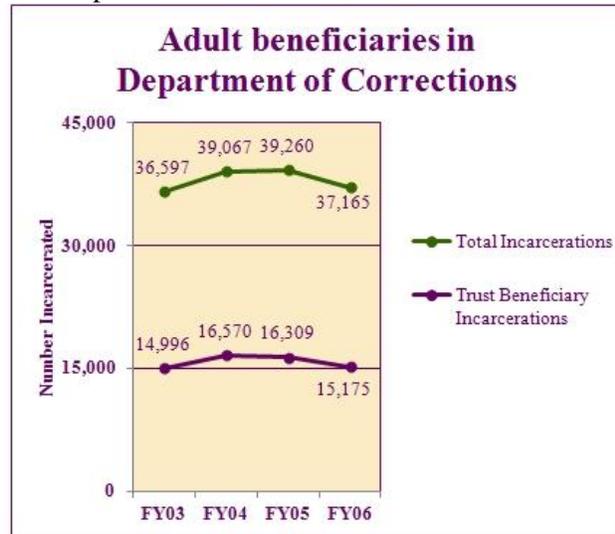
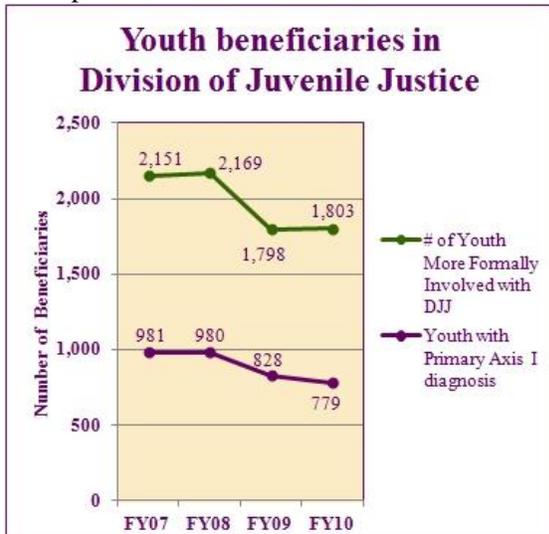


## Overview

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Disability Justice Focus Area is aimed at reducing the involvement and recidivism of Trust beneficiaries in the criminal justice system. Trust beneficiaries include people with mental illness, chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injury.

## Problem

- 43 percent of youth involved with the juvenile justice system are Trust beneficiaries.<sup>1</sup>
- 42 percent of individuals incarcerated in the Alaska Department of Corrections are Trust beneficiaries.<sup>2</sup>



- Incarcerated beneficiaries:
  - have more difficulty adjusting to incarceration
  - tend to commit more frequent violations of prison rules
  - are more likely to be victimized by other prisoners
  - spend a disproportionate amount of time in custody
  - are at increased risk for re-incarceration for technical violations of their conditions of release (which do not constitute a crime) due to inadequate release planning for re-entry into Alaska communities.
- Hundreds of beneficiaries are incarcerated each year for their “safety” under AS 47.37 because detoxification services are not available.
- Trust beneficiaries are at increased risk of financial, physical and sexual victimization and exploitation because they are more vulnerable.

## Budget priorities for FY14

- Increasing capacity for Department of Corrections offender reentry programs – *Assess, Plan, Identify, and Coordinate (APIC)* and *Institutional Discharge Plus (IDP<sup>+</sup>)* programs
- Expanding therapeutic courts to targeted communities
- Increasing Department of Corrections mental health clinical capacity
- Increasing community treatment capacity statewide for therapeutic court participants.

## For additional information, contact:

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<sup>1</sup> FY10 DSM-IV-TR Summary, Division of Juvenile Justice, Department of Health & Social Services

<sup>2</sup> Study of Trust Beneficiaries in the Alaska Department of Corrections – 2007 (Hornby Zeller Associates)