



**North Carolina Department of Public Safety**  
**Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice**

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Reuben F. Young, Interim Chief Deputy Secretary  
William L. Lassiter, Deputy Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chairs of House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety  
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety  
Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

**FROM:** Erik A. Hooks, Secretary *EAH*  
Reuben F. Young, Interim Chief Deputy Secretary *Reuben F. Young*

**RE:** Annual Evaluation of Community Programs

**DATE:** March 1, 2018

*Pursuant to G.S. 143B-811, The Department of Public Safety shall conduct an annual evaluation of the community programs and of multipurpose group homes. In conducting the evaluation of each of these, the Department shall consider whether participation in each program results in a reduction of court involvement among juveniles. The Department shall also determine whether the programs are achieving the goals and objectives of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, S.L. 1998-202.*

*The Department shall report the results of the evaluation to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by March 1 of each year. (2013-360, s. 16D.1.)*

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**Annual Evaluation of Community Programs and Multipurpose Group Homes Report  
Submitted March 1, 2018**

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**Submitted by:  
Department of Public Safety  
Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice  
Juvenile Community Programs Section**

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**Section I – Introduction**

This report is required by General Statute § 143B-811 which states:

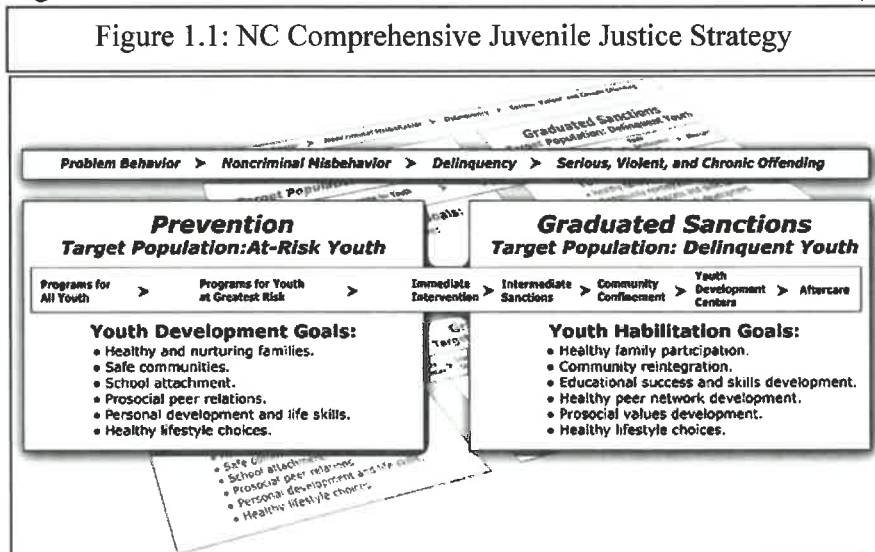
*The Department of Public Safety shall conduct an annual evaluation of the community programs and of multipurpose group homes. In conducting the evaluation of each of these, the Department shall consider whether participation in each program results in a reduction of court involvement among juveniles. The Department shall also determine whether the programs are achieving the goals and objectives of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, S.L. 1998-202.*

*The Department shall report the results of the evaluation to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by March 1 of each year. (2013-360, s. 16D.1.)*

In FY 11-12, the Department developed and implemented new evidence-based contractual services for youth receiving a Level II disposition. After six (6) years of data collection and analysis, the Department is pleased to announce that these new contractual services have accomplished the goals set forth by the North Carolina General Assembly through targeting those juveniles most at-risk, providing a cost efficient alternative to youth development centers and detention centers, and reducing the number of juveniles likely to reoffend.

**Targeted Approach**

Figure 1.1 below illustrates how Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) funded programs form the



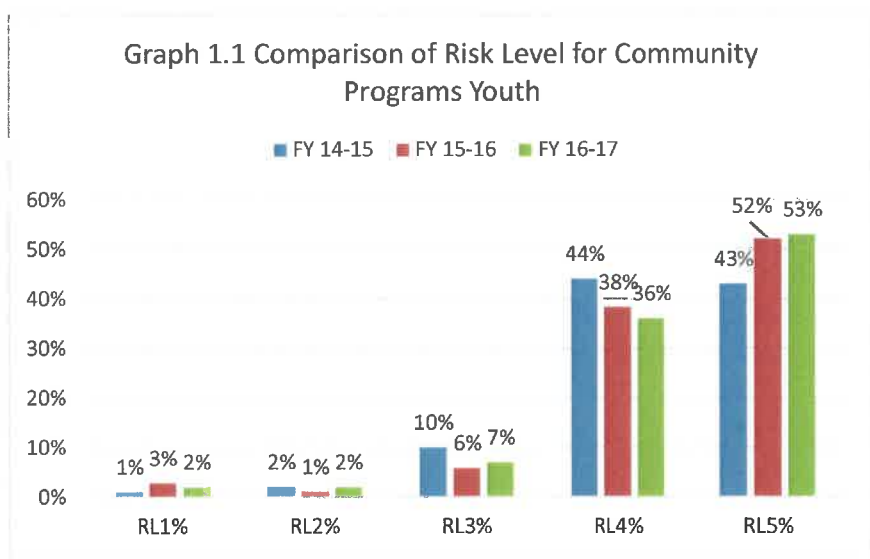
foundation of North Carolina’s comprehensive juvenile justice strategy, which allows judges, court counselors, district attorneys, and law enforcement to have access to the right dispositional alternatives, for the right child, at the right time. State contractual services fill the gaps in local communities where JCPCs dollars are not abundant enough to serve higher risk juveniles who need intensive services in order to protect the

public and to habilitate the juvenile. Having these separate funding sources is imperative to ensure youth are not forced deeper into the system which comes at a far greater cost to the state.

The Department of Public Safety’s Juvenile Community Programs Section contracts with a number of providers engaged to provide a variety of programming as allowed through *Session Law 2011-391, Section 41*. These contracts and JCPC-endorsed programs are designed to target youth who are at greater risk of further involvement in the juvenile justice system including commitment to a state-operated youth development center. These programs specifically target youth who have received a Level II disposition or demonstrate heightened risk factors for recidivism. Their risk scores, obtained from the North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Risk for Juvenile Offending (NCAR, see Appendix A) are used as a predictor for recidivism and prompts us to provide a systematic response appropriate that youth’s or juvenile’s level of risk.

The Department has been utilizing NCAR tool since 2001, and though the risk assessment instrument had been validated, it had not been re-normed since the inception of its use. In response to the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s (SPAC) report, *The Effectiveness of Programs Funded by Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils*, released on May 1, 2015 and the recommendations made therein, the department conducted an internal validation study of the assessment tool for the purpose of re-norming the instrument.

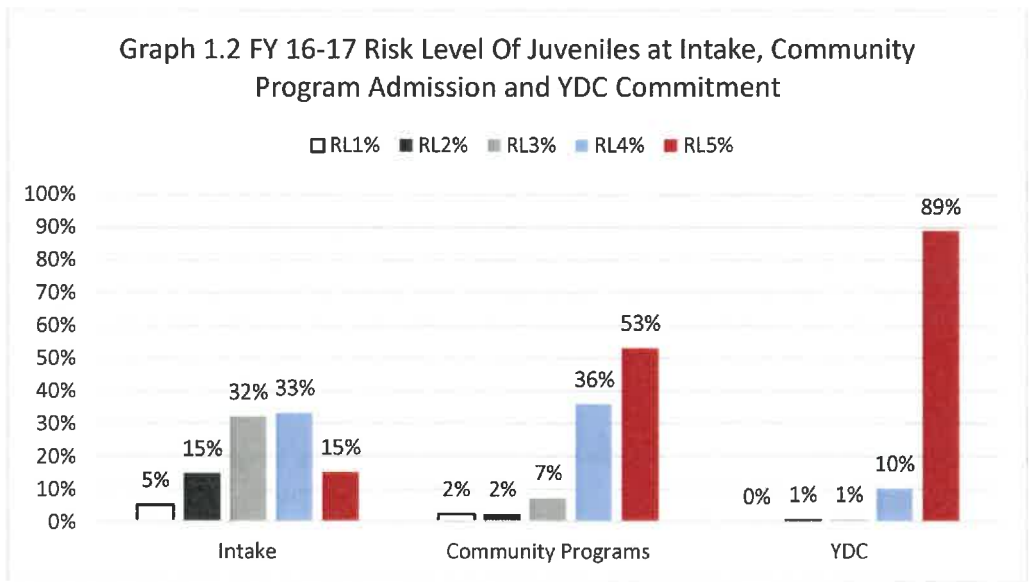
Prior to this re-norming, a juvenile’s risk for re-offending score ranges were identified as 3 distinct categories of risk: Low (0-7 pts), Medium (8-14 pts) or high (15+ pts), however, with the completion of this re-norming process, risk levels will now reflect 5 distinct risk levels (RL) to more accurately reflect the risk of a juvenile recidivating: RL1 (lowest), RL2, RL3, RL4, and RL5 (highest). These newly re-normed groupings are statistically



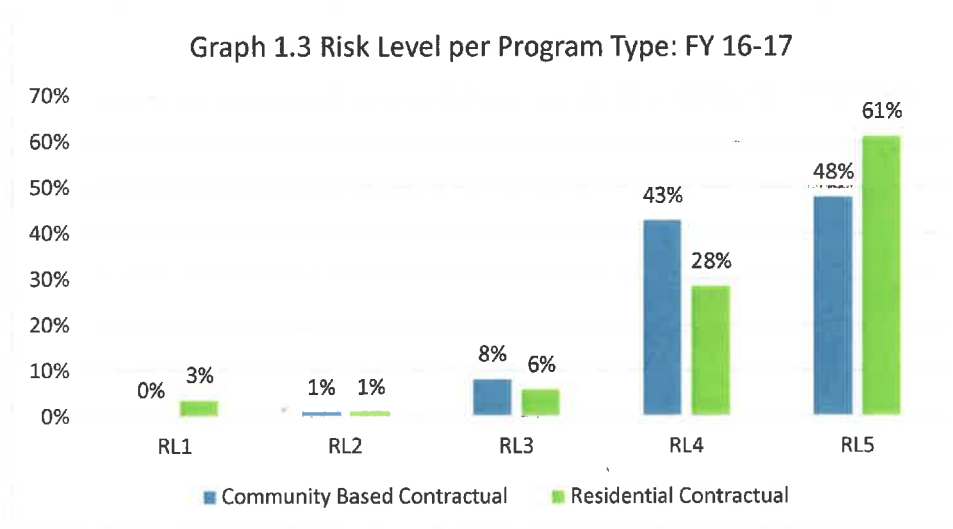
sound in their ability to predict the risk of reoffending based on the internal study (see Appendix B). The re-normed instrument now more accurately reflects the risk for reoffending for youth assessed. To demonstrate this, Graph 1.1 compares re-normed risk score percentage totals for FY14-15, FY15-16, and FY 16-17 clearly indicating a shift toward serving higher risk youth.

Graph 1.2 below compares the levels of risk for youth at Intake (JJ entry), at admission to a Community Programs contracted service, and at admission to a youth development center (committed juvenile). Data clearly indicates that the programs highlighted in this report are serving those youth with higher risk for recidivating. In fact, the vast majority (96%) of youth served by these programs were at medium to high risk (RL3, RL4 and RL5) for reoffending, meaning these programs are working with a youth population who without these services would be expected to reoffend.

The department recognizes that youth receiving a Level II disposition may have varying levels of risk for reoffending. Although the majority of youth risk scores were considered medium to high risk for reoffending, there were some youth (4%) that presented with a low risk factors for reoffending, but instead, had high need indicators for specific services. The department chooses to take a comprehensive approach by matching services to not only to the youth’s level of risk for reoffending but to the youth’s needs indicators as well.



The overall approach, however, has been to serve as many youth who fall within the medium to high risk range by matching their service needs to the most appropriate service, either to cost efficient/community-based contractual services or residential programming, reserving the use of this option for those juveniles on the high end of the risk spectrum. Graph 1.3 below illustrates this prioritization.



The trend continues to show a shift in the increase of RL5 youth served in residential contractual services. The majority of youth who recidivate 12 months post discharge are RL4 and RL5 with minor offenses. Additional research further supports the range of offenses committed by these youth were minor offenses with 59% categorized as Class 1-3 misdemeanors for FY16-17.

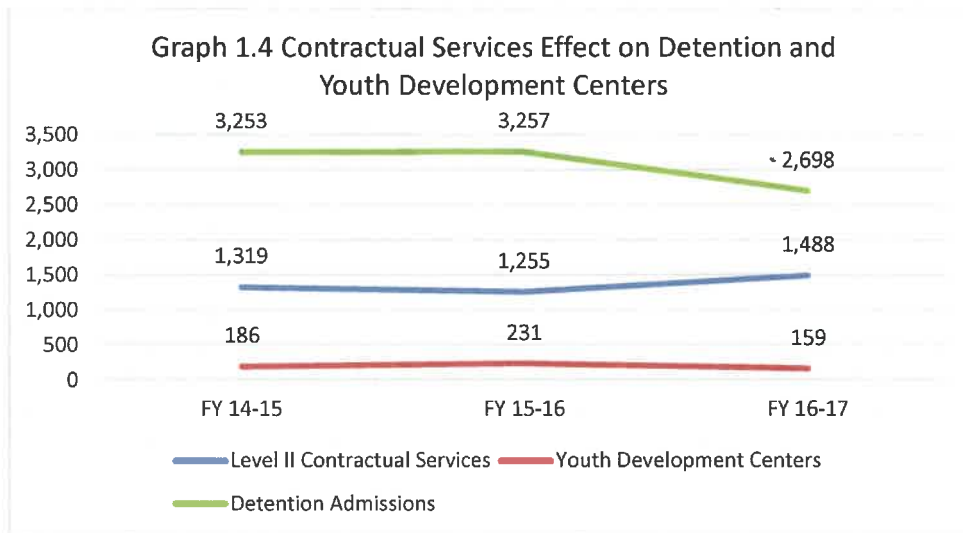
**Cost Efficient Alternative**

Through the implementation of these Level II contractual services, the Department has been able to achieve significant cost savings as compared to youth development centers. Table 1.1 below compares the average cost of serving youth in a Level II contracted service (residential and community-based) versus serving a youth in a youth development center for FY 16-17.

**Table 1.1 Cost Comparison - Contractual Services versus Annual Youth Development Center Cost**

<b>Program Cost vs. Youth Development Center Cost</b>	<b>FY 16-17 Cost per Youth</b>
<b>Level II Community-Based Program:</b> JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs and AMIkids Community-Based	\$4,669
<b>Level II Residential Program:</b> Bridges Crisis and Assessment Center, Insight Crisis and Assessment Center, Western Area Multipurpose Crisis and Assessment Center, Eckerd Short-Term Residential Programs, WestCare NC Girls Program, Multipurpose Group Homes, Craven Transitional Home and North Hills Transitional Home	\$19,296
Youth Development Center	\$106,878

With more emphasis on programming designed to serve the medium to high risk/high needs of adjudicated youth, the Level II contractual services continue to play an important role in helping reduce the number of youth development center commitments and detention admissions for the last three (3) years. Graph 1.4 below indicates how the number of youth development center commitments and detention admissions are impacted by the department’s efforts to instead serve youth in Level II contractual services.



### Recidivism Summary

Table 1.2 below reflects youth served by these new contractual services in FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 and how many incurred additional adjudications and/or convictions. This analysis showed 16% of those juveniles served by a Juvenile Community Programs Section contractual service who could be followed for a full six months post-discharge received an additional adjudication or an adult conviction and 26% received an additional adjudication or an adult conviction at 12 months post-discharge.

**Table 1.2: Juvenile Community Programs – Recidivism**

All Community Programs, Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	1,453	1,114
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	139	152
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	10%	14%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	100	146
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	7%	13%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	235	290
<b>Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>26%</b>

Note: 4 juveniles had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 6 month period

Note: 8 juveniles had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12 month period



In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2012/13*<sup>1</sup>, 21.0% of juveniles who were adjudicated received an additional adjudication or conviction within 12 months.

### **Conclusions**

Contractual services have proven they are targeting the appropriate youth, providing cost efficient services, and helping reduce the number of youth development center and detention admissions.

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<sup>1</sup> Juvenile Recidivism Study, FY 2013 Juvenile Sample, Raleigh, NC. Table 4.6, page 55, found at <http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Publication/Recidivism/JuvenileRec.asp>

**Section II**  
**JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs**

## JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs

### Overview

Six years ago the Department focused on providing a mechanism by which local communities could address gaps in services for Level II adjudicated youth. To this end, the Department established an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process that engages the local JCPC and its stakeholders with seeking those services best matching the needs of this targeted Level II youth population. Request for Proposals are annually designed to identify high risk youth and their criminogenic needs and match them with evidence-based, best practice models to effectively reduce juvenile delinquency. Services provided often serve youth within multiple counties within a judicial district, demonstrating the collaborative efforts of multiple Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils in order to build the local juvenile justice service continuum. The Community Programs Section continues to embrace the local community in its effort to develop effective programming to meet the needs of these targeted youth through the JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs.

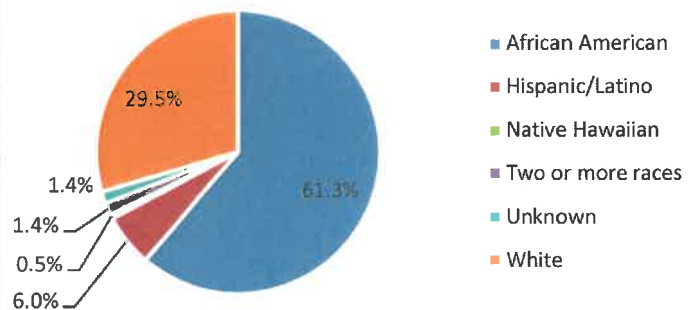
### Number of Youth Served

JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs served 217 youth during FY 2016-2017 and Table 2.1 indicates the number of youth served by JCPC-Endorsed Level II program type. Graph 2.1 represents the percentage of youth served by JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs by race/ethnicity.

**Table 2.1:** Youth served by Program Type

Program Type	Youth Served
Experiential Skill Building	66
Restitution/Community Service	48
Juvenile Structured Day	44
Home Based Family Counseling	35
Sex Offender Treatment	16
Family Counseling	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>

**Graph 2.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by JCPC Endorsed Level II Programs**



**Cost Comparison**

**Table 2.2:** The cost per youth comparison for JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs versus annual youth development center cost.

<b>Program vs Youth Development Center</b>	<b>Cost</b>
FY 16-17 JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs	\$4,253
FY 16-17 Youth Development Center	\$106,878

**Recidivism**

This study measured the recidivism rates for youth completing programs in FY15-16 and FY16-17. Of the 305 youth who could be measured at 6 months post-discharge 33 or 11% received a new adjudication and 21 or 7% received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism at 6 months post discharge was 18%.

There were 238 youth who were served by these programs that could be measured at 12 months. Forty (40) or 17% received a new adjudication and 31 or 13% received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism as 12 months post-discharge is 30%. See Table 2.3.

**Table 2.3:** JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs – Recidivism

<b>JCPC-Endorsed Level II Dispositional Alternatives, Recidivism</b>		
<b>Post-Discharge Time Frame</b>	<b>0 to 6 Months</b>	<b>0 to 12 Months</b>
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 and 12 Months	305	238
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	33	40
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	11%	17%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	21	31
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	7%	13%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	54	71
<b>Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>30%</b>

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2012/13*<sup>2</sup>, 21.0% of juveniles who were adjudicated received an additional adjudication or conviction within 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> Juvenile Recidivism Study, FY 2013 Juvenile Sample, Raleigh, NC. Table 4.6, page 55, found at <http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Publication/Recidivism/JuvenileRec.asp>

## **Conclusion**

The report demonstrates that during its sixth year of operations JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs were able to serve a significant number of high risk/high needs youth in their home communities in a cost efficient manner versus placement in a youth development center.

**Section III**  
**Community-Based Contractual Programs**

## **AMIkids North Carolina Family Services – Community-Based Services**

### **Overview**

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice contracts with AMIkids North Carolina Family Services, Inc. (AMIkids) to provide Functional Family Therapy (FFT). FFT is an evidence-based program for adjudicated juveniles and their families serving 89 of North Carolina's 100 counties. In October 2015, the expansion of FFT services in Central and Western regions resulted in the addition of two additional catchment areas for a total of five (5). FFT offices are strategically located in Durham, Greenville, Morganton, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem with one office in each of the catchment areas.

FFT is an in-home family and community-based model that promotes the use of strong motivational and engagement techniques which emphasize behavioral change and skill building. Considerable research has shown that FFT substantially increases youth and family communication, interaction, and problem-solving, while promoting involvement with positive peers and activities. In addition, this evidence-based model has been shown to improve relationships with teachers and the involved youth's commitment to school. Overall, the family unit is strengthened with a renewed sense of hope and expectation. FFT significantly reduces the frequency and intensity of family conflicts that are often characteristic in families with delinquent youth. In short, FFT has shown to be effective in supporting positive change in the lives of delinquent youth and their families.

All FFT therapists hold a minimum of a master's degree in a licensable human service field such as Counseling, Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Social Work. All FFT therapists must complete forty hours of certification training through FFT LLC, and participate in weekly clinical supervision with their certified FFT site supervisor to ensure model fidelity.

### **Youth Profile**

AMIkids delivers FFT to male and female juveniles who are at medium and high risk of reoffending, while exception is made for some Level I youth on a case-by-case basis with high needs indicators. Typically, youth were adjudicated for person and/or property offenses and have often been previously served through one or more other types of community-based intervention programs. A majority of youth referred to FFT presented school disciplinary problems that resulted in both short and long-term suspensions and family discord. Other frequently noted characteristics of these youth included substance abuse, gang involvement, and mental health diagnosis.

## **Service Capacity**

AMIkids has the capacity to serve 190 youth and their families at any given time (34 each within the East, Central, and West catchment areas as well as 44 within each of the South and Piedmont catchment areas). AMIkids is contracted to serve 570 youth and their families in a year. Per FFT standards, the average length of service for each youth/family enrolled in FFT is estimated at 4-5 months and the average number of sessions that each youth/family are expected to receive is 12 to 14.

### **Length of service data:**

- Average number of sessions for completed cases: 13.4
- Average length of service for completed cases: 126 days

### **Referrals received in FY 16-17:**

- Total number of referrals from 27 judicial districts: 536

### **Measurable Objectives:**

- 79% of youth terminated successfully or satisfactorily completed services as intended by the program design
- 83% of youth terminated demonstrated enhanced family functioning as a result of program services
- 81% of youth terminated showed improvement in replacement behaviors
- 79% of youth terminated demonstrated improvement in targeted skills identified in the individual service plan
- 81% of youth terminated reduced specific problem behaviors presented at referral and targeted in the individualized service plan
- 88% of youth terminated had no new adjudications for a compliant with an offense date after the admission date

### **Program Effectiveness Based on FFT's Youth Outcome Measure Questionnaires**

- 95% of youth reported in general, their family has changed for the better since they began counseling
- 94% of youth reported their family has changed its communication for the better
- 96% of youth reported their behavior has changed for the better
- 93% of youth reported their parents improved their parenting skills
- 90% of youth reported their parents changed their ability to supervise them for the better
- 93% of youth reported a change in family conflict level for the better



**Program Effectiveness Based on FFT’s Parent Outcome Measure Questionnaires**

- 94% of parents reported in general, their family has changed for the better since they began counseling
- 95% of parents reported family has changed its communication for the better
- 93% of parents reported their adolescent’s behavior has changed for the better
- 94% of parents reported improvement in their parenting skills
- 92% of parents reported a change in their ability to supervise their adolescent for the better
- 93% of parents reported a change in family conflict level for the better

**Cost Comparison**

**Table 3.1:** The cost per youth comparison for AMIkids North Carolina Family Services versus youth development centers.

<b>Program vs. Youth Development Center</b>	<b>Cost</b>
FY 16-17 AMIkids North Carolina Family Services	\$4,820
FY 16-17 Youth Development Center	\$106,878

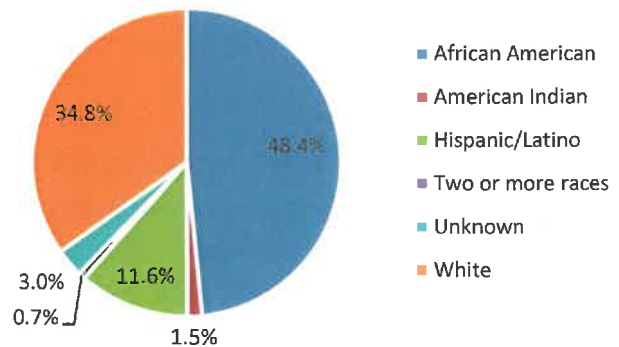
**Demographic Information about the Youth Served during FY 16-17**

- Total number of youth served by the program between FY16-17 was 597
- The average age of the youth served in the program was 15.3
- 454 or 76% of youth served were male
- 143 or 24% of youth served were female

**Outputs and Process Measures**

- 76% of those admitted into the program successfully completed the full course of FFT
- 94% of completed cases in which the youth remains in the home upon termination
- 92% of completed cases in which the youth was enrolled in an educational program or working
- 81% of all completed cases in which the youth acquired no probation violations during program

**Graph 3.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by AMIkids North Carolina Family Services**



## Recidivism

FY15-16 and FY 16-17 recidivism data compiled by the Department shows that of the 795 youth who had been in post-discharged status from AMIkids for more than six months, 63 youth or 8% had received a new adjudication and 41 youth or 5% had received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 13%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 584 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Seventy-six youth (76) or 13% received a new adjudication and 58 youth or 10% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 22%. See Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2:** AMIkids North Carolina Family Services Recidivism

<b>North Carolina Family Services (AMI), Recidivism</b>		
<b>Post-Discharge Time Frame</b>	<b>0 to 6 Months</b>	<b>0 to 12 Months</b>
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	795	584
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	63	76
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	8%	13%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	41	58
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	5%	10%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	101	130
<b>Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>22%</b>

Note: 3 juveniles had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 6 month period

Note: 4 juveniles had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12 month period

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2012/13*<sup>3</sup>, 21.0% of juveniles who were adjudicated received an additional adjudication or conviction within 12 months.

## Conclusions

The findings reflected in this report demonstrate that AMIkids North Carolina Family Services, through its delivery of the evidence-based service model of Functional Family Therapy, has successfully implemented services in 89 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Services to youth and families increased in FY16-17 by 15% from FY 15-16 surpassing their projected to serve number of 570 by 27. Outcome and recidivism data at 6 and 12 months post discharge reflects very positive results with 87% and 78% of youth, respectively having no new adjudications or convictions.

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<sup>3</sup> Juvenile Recidivism Study, FY 2013 Juvenile Sample, Raleigh, NC. Table 4.6, page 55, found at <http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Publication/Recidivism/JuvenileRec.asp>

**Section IV**  
**Residential Contractual Programs**

## Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers

### Overview

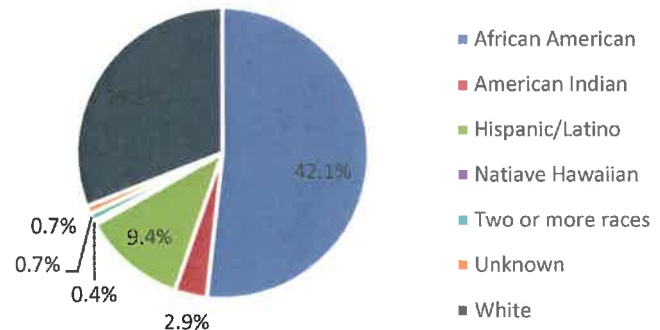
The North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice newest short-term residential services model has proven to be a cost-effective alternative for youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system. The Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers (JCAC) are strategically located in the Central, Piedmont, and Western areas of the state. These centers provide a comprehensive clinical assessment with the primary goal of matching the youth to the most appropriate services in their community. The assessment takes place under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and licensed clinical case managers. The length of stay ranges between 14 and 30 days.

The Juvenile Assessment Centers serve Level II offenders between the ages of 10 and 17. Some exceptions are made for offenders that are not in the Level II category. The services provided by the JCAC include a systematic evaluation with testing in the areas of education, behavior, personality, and intelligence. As indicated, additional testing is provided in particular areas such as sexual predation, substance abuse, and trauma. Testing information is combined with information obtained through the daily living aspects of the program. This combination allows for a more complete look at the youths strengths, areas of concern, and goals. At discharge the youth, family, and court counselor are provided a comprehensive and user-friendly evaluation report accompanied by clear and actionable recommendations. The facilities provide a structured environment including recreation, school, meals individual rooms, group work, socialization skills, and counseling.

### Demographics for youth served in FY 16-17

- 100% of youth served were under court supervision
- 278 youth were served and 52 of which were in secure custody at the Western Area Multi-Purpose Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center
- 14.8 was the average age of youth served
- 71% of youth served were male and 29% female
- The average length of stay for youth was 36 days
- 95% of assessment center youth served were successfully discharged

Graph 4.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Crisis and Assessment Centers



### **Cost Comparison**

**Table 4.1:** The cost per youth comparison for crisis and assessment centers versus youth development centers.

<b>Program vs. Youth Development Center</b>	<b>Cost</b>
FY 16-17 Crisis and Assessment Centers	\$10,356
FY 16-17 Youth Development Center	\$106,878

### **Conclusions**

Crisis and assessment centers provide an effective and cost efficient alternative to detention. The inclusion of the three (3) new crisis and assessment centers serves as an effective resource in the continuum of juvenile services, while reducing the overall cost per youth for residential services from approximately \$25,000 in FY 15-16 to \$19,000 in FY 16-17. The Model of Care is the treatment model utilized within crisis and assessment centers; however, assessment services are not considered a therapeutic treatment intervention intended to effect recidivism. Due to the typical length of stay of less than 30 days and use of assessments in service delivery, recidivism is not tracked for this service.

## **Eckerd Connects Short-Term Residential Programs**

### **Overview**

FY 16-17 marked the sixth year of a contractual partnership with Eckerd to provide short-term residential programming as a Level II court ordered disposition. Eckerd’s residential program model offers a complete rehabilitative experience delivered in an average of 4 to 6 months to adjudicated male youth, ages 13 to 17, referred by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. These services are delivered on two campuses: Candor, located in Montgomery County, and Boomer, located in Wilkes County.

Eckerd’s short-term residential treatment concept combines promising and evidence-based practices with a strong family transition component. Intensive, short-term services include individualized treatment and academic plans that combine formal and experiential education, vocational education, community service, behavioral health, and family counseling designed to address the youth’s behavioral challenges through a strength-based approach. Youth also receive accredited education on-site and work together in small group settings with assigned counselors.

### **Youth Profile**

All referrals made to these short-term residential programs are males possessing a Level II disposition and assessed as medium or high risk, and defined as serious, chronic juvenile offenders. Typically these youth have had multiple adjudications for person and property offenses and have received multiple community-based interventions. These youth also have histories of significant school discipline problems, often resulting in short and long-term suspensions. Other indicators found in these youth include histories of substance abuse, gang involvement, unmet mental health needs, and family discord.

### **Service Capacity**

The Eckerd campuses at Candor and Boomer are contracted to serve 70 youth at a time and approximately 167 youth annually. Both campuses are designed to serve juveniles referred statewide—Eckerd Boomer primarily serves youth referred from the piedmont and western region counties while Eckerd Candor primarily serves youth referred from the central and eastern region counties of the state.

### **Cost Comparison**

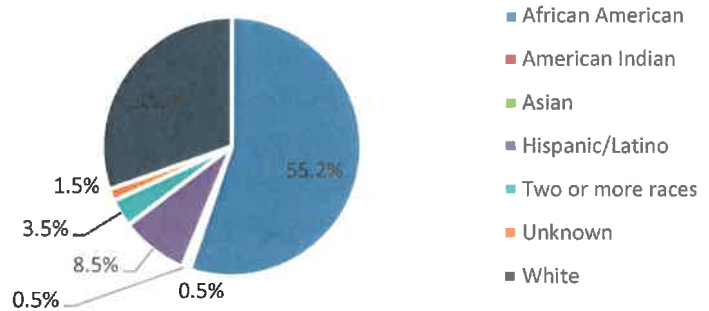
**Table 4.2:** The cost per youth comparison for Eckerd Short-Term Residential services versus youth development centers.

<b>Program vs. Youth Development Center</b>	<b>Cost</b>
FY 16-17 Eckerd Short-Term Residential	\$25,266
FY 16-17 Youth Development Centers	\$106,878

**Demographics for youth served in FY 16-17**

- 100% of youth served were under court supervision and received a Level II disposition by the court
- 201 youth were served in FY 16-17
- 137 youth were discharged in FY 16-17 of which 70% completed the program successfully
- 185 of the 201 youth served were between the ages of 14-17

Graph 4.2 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Eckerd Connects



**Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 16-17**

**Academic Growth**

The majority of youth served by Eckerd in FY 16-17 achieved academic progress through experiential learning. Eckerd administers the STAR Reading and Math Assessment as a way to measure academic progress in reading and math. Youth are given a pre-test upon their arrival and post-test at their completion. For youth successfully completing the program in FY 16-17, results show an average increase in reading scores of 1.8 grade levels and an average increase in math scores of 2.6 grade levels. See Table 4.3. These are youth that completed the program successfully, and at intake, presented below average in scoring.

**Table 4.3 Academic Growth –STAR Reading and Math Assessment Average Test Score**

Subject	Average Grade Level at Intake	Average Grade Level at Exit	Average Grade Level Improvement
Reading	5.4	7.2	1.8
Mathematics	5.9	8.5	2.6

**Mental Health Gains**

Mental Health gains are measured by The Youth Outcome Questionnaire – Self Report (YOQ - SR) a brief 64-item self-report measure of treatment progress for adolescents (ages 12 – 18) receiving mental health intervention. The YOQ-SR is meant to track actual change in functioning as opposed to assigning diagnoses. The YOQ-SR is completed at intake, at discharge, and as needed throughout the course of services. The instrument domains address intrapersonal distress, somatic complaints, interpersonal relations, social problems, behavioral dysfunction and suicidal ideation. The YOQ has very strong reliability with a .79-.84 test/retest rate (OQ Analyst, 2007). Of those youth successfully completing the program in FY 16-17, 100% showed mental health gains. These are youth that completed the program successfully who at the time of intake presented in the clinical range.

## Social Skill Gains

Social skills gains are measured by the Social Skill Improvement System (SSIS). This instrument, by Pearson Assessments, is a pre/post measure of social skills (interpersonal behaviors that help the individual in society), normed by age and gender. The SSIS assesses both positive and problem social skills behavior. Specific categories assessed are as follows: (1) Social Skills which include cooperation, empathy, assertion, self-control, responsibility, communication, and engagement, and (2) Problem Behaviors including externalizing behavior (aggression), hyperactivity/inattention, bullying, and internalizing behavior (sadness, anxiety). This instrument serves a dual purpose of (1) providing important structured feedback for individual service plan development, and (2) providing an outcome assessment instrument to gauge the success of wraparound services rendered. Of those youth who successfully completed the Eckerd Short-Term Residential programs, 100% showed social skills gains. These are the youth that completed the program successfully, while at the time of intake initially presented with below average scoring in Social Skills.

## Recidivism

FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 recidivism data shows that of the 273 youth who had been in post-discharged status from Eckerd Short-Term Residential for more than six months, 26 youth or 10% received a new adjudication and 21 youth or 8% received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 17%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 199 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Twenty-six (26) youth or 13% received a new adjudication and 33 youth or 17% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 29%. See Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4: Eckerd Short-Term Residential – Recidivism**

<b>Eckerd Short-Term Residential, Recidivism</b>		
<b>Post-Discharge Time Frame</b>	<b>0 to 6 Months</b>	<b>0 to 12 Months</b>
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	273	199
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	26	26
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	10%	13%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	21	33
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	8%	17%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	46	57
<b>Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>29%</b>

Note: 1 juvenile had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 6 month period

Note: 2 juveniles had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12 month period



In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2012/13*<sup>4</sup>, 21.0% of juveniles who were adjudicated received an additional adjudication or conviction within 12 months.

### **Conclusion**

Eckerd Short-Term Residential facilities provide intensive, residential services to Level II serious and/or chronic, juvenile offenders with elevated risks and needs that have not been able to change behavior through multiple community-based interventions. This residential program often serves as the final intervention before a youth is committed to a youth development center. Ultimately, some of the highest risk youth in the state are served at the Eckerd Short-Term Residential Programs. The results of this analysis show that these short-term residential programs are achieving positive outcomes for youth who are served, with 71% of those participating in the program not reoffending at 12 months post completion.

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<sup>4</sup> Juvenile Recidivism Study, FY 2013 Juvenile Sample, Raleigh, NC. Table 4.6, page 55, found at <http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Publication/Recidivism/JuvenileRec.asp>

## Multi-Purpose Group Homes

### Overview

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice currently contracts with Methodist Home for Children, Inc., to operate five multi-purpose group homes that provide secure non-institutional alternatives to a youth development center and secure detention. The five (5) homes are located in Chowan, Hertford, Wayne, Robeson, and Macon Counties. These eight-bed facilities feature the Model of Care Program, recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as a Promising Practice, which addresses antisocial behaviors by implementing a social and life skills curriculum that has been individualized for each youth. Implementation involves consistent and continuous behavioral teaching and the practice of selected skills. This focus on practice and skills meets the learning-style needs of each youth and leads to an internalization of skills and the values of honesty, respect, responsibility, empowerment, compassion and spirituality. Each home is staffed with a program manager, residential counselors, a certified teacher, and a family counselor that works with youth and their families. The homes serve court ordered, Level II youth in the judicial districts they are located.

### Youth Profile

Youth being referred to the multi-purpose group homes have received a Level II court ordered disposition. Typically, these males and females have had multiple adjudications for person and property offenses and have received multiple community-based interventions. These youth have also experienced significant school discipline problems resulting in short and long-term suspensions. Other characteristics found in these youth include substance abuse, gang involvement, mental health needs, and family discord.

### Service Capacity

The Multi-Purpose Group Homes are contracted to serve forty (40) youth at a time and approximately eighty (80) youth annually. The homes are located in rural judicial districts and serve as an alternative to detention and youth development centers.

### Cost Comparison

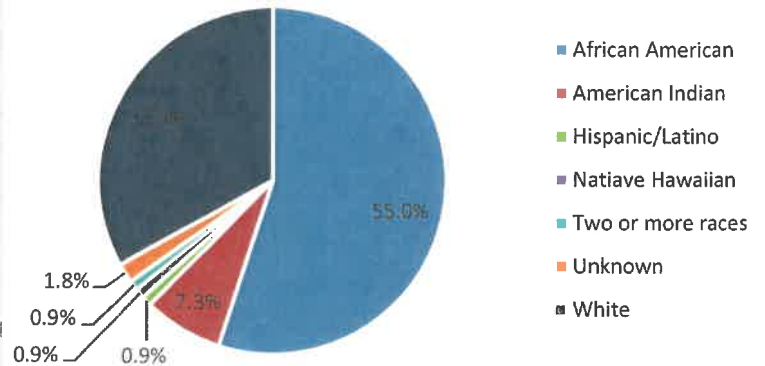
**Table 4.5:** The cost per youth comparison for Multi-Purpose Group Home Services versus youth development centers.

<b>Program vs. Youth Development Center</b>	<b>Cost</b>
FY 16-17 MPGH Residential Program	\$26,463
FY 16-17 Youth Development Centers	\$106,878

**Demographics for youth served in FY 16-17**

- 100% of youth served were under court supervision
- 109 youth were served in FY 16-17 and 13 of these youth were under secure custody at the Macon County Multi-Purpose Group Home
- Services at the Wayne County Multipurpose Group Home were disrupted for a 10 month period due to Hurricane Matthew
- 85% of youth served completed the program successfully
- 15 was the average age of youth being served in the Multi-Purpose Group Homes
- 75% of youth served were male, 25% female

Graph 4.3 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Multi-Purpose Group Homes



**Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 16-17**

**Academic Growth**

Results indicate significant improvements in reading and math as evidenced by *Wide Range Achievement Test* (WRAT) scores. Youth are tested on their reading ability upon entry into the program and at several intervals while in residence. During FY 16-17, the *Wide Range Achievement Test* was administered to 80 youth. See table below for the average improvement youth were able to make.

**Table 4.6:** Academic Growth - Wide Range Achievement Test

Subject	Average Grade Level at Admission	Average Grade Level at Discharge	Average Grade Level Improvement
Reading	7.88	9.32	1.44
Mathematics	5.75	6.7	0.95

**Change in Risk & Protective Factors**

The information provided in the table below reflects data from the *Risk and Protective Factors Worksheet* for youth served during FY 16-17. Risk factors are evidence-based characteristics that increase the likelihood of a youth being at high risk for committing delinquent acts and, therefore, needing continuous services to manage functioning. Likewise, protective factors are characteristics that protect the youth and reduce this risk.

This assessment is completed for each youth at admission and at discharge. The categories listed represent a set of protective factors that have a positive correlation to youth resiliency and success.

The data show a significant positive increase in critical protective factors for youth while in care. The Risk & Protective Factors was administered for 88 youths. See Table 4.7.

**Table 4.: Change in Risk & Protective Factors**

Category	Admission	Discharge
Regular contact with parent, relative or caregiver	83%	87%
Involvement with mentor or adult friend (non-family)	25%	33%
Acceptance of Authority	58%	60%
School Performance is at Grade Level	69%	71%
Reading Ability	62%	80%
Age appropriate social behavior	69%	79%
Youth has Positive Self-Image	40%	80%
Empathetic towards others	42%	67%
Appropriate friends	42%	58%
Religious Community Involvement	17%	49%
Good Personal Health Habits	75%	76%
Decision-making Skills	23%	47%
Honesty Behavior	29%	58%
Substance-Free Behavior	40%	69%
Personal Development Activities	52%	58%

### Youth Outcome Survey

In order to follow the progress of program-served youth, the contracted provider conducts outcome surveys up to twelve months post discharge from the continuing care program. These surveys help all parties understand the success of post-discharged youth served through a Multipurpose Juvenile Home. Listed in Table 4.8 below are data from the surveys completed during FY 16-17.

**Table 4.8: Provider’s Outcome Survey**

Living in a safe home environment that is either in the child’s permanent home or the next logical, most appropriate setting towards a permanent home	96%
Maintaining a positive on-going relationship with a caring, responsible adult	92%
Attending School/Work regularly	82%
Avoided Criminal Activity	83%
Engaged in Positive Development Activities	81%
Attended Routine Health Appointments	94%
Attending Mental Health Appointments or Participating in Treatment	83%

Following substance abuse recovery plan	67%
Regularly participating in pro-social community activities	83%

### **Recidivism**

FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 recidivism data shows that of the 141 youth who had been in post-discharged status from Multi-purpose Group Homes for more than six months, 17 youth or 12% received a new adjudication and 7 youth or 5% received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 17%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 109 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Sixteen (16) youth or 15% received a new adjudication and 12 youth or 11% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 26%. See Table 4.9.

**Table 4.9: Multi-purpose Group Home Recidivism**

<b>Multipurpose Group Homes, Recidivism</b>		
<b>Post-Discharge Time Frame</b>	<b>0 to 6 Months</b>	<b>0 to 12 Months</b>
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	141	109
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	17	16
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	12%	15%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	7	12
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	5%	11%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	24	28
<b>Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>26%</b>

Note: 2 juveniles had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12 month period

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2012/13*<sup>5</sup>, 21.0% of juveniles who were adjudicated received an additional adjudication or conviction within 12 months.

### **Conclusions**

Multi-purpose Group Homes continue to be an invaluable resource to judicial districts and local communities serving as an alternative to committing youth to a youth development center. The recidivism results are extremely positive given the risk and need levels of youth served.

<sup>5</sup> Juvenile Recidivism Study, FY 2013 Juvenile Sample, Raleigh, NC. Table 4.6, page 55, found at <http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Publication/Recidivism/JuvenileRec.asp>

## **WestCare North Carolina Girl's Short-Term Residential Program**

### **Overview**

The WestCare North Carolina Girls Program is a gender responsive, short-term, residential treatment option for adolescent females between 13 and 17 years of age. The average length of stay ranges between 4 and 6 months. Service expansion occurred in FY16-17 increasing capacity from 16 to 20 beds for adjudicated Level II offenders referred by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. The program is licensed as a Residential Child Care Facility by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services.

The primary goal of the WestCare North Carolina Girls Program is to assist adolescent females with learning and developing life coping and social skills for successful family reunification and re-integration back into their respective communities. Family support services are an integral component of the program. Individualized service plans guide the development of the services based on the need to facilitate the social and emotional growth within each adolescent. Residents have the following services available on-site:

- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment
- Educational Services (The WestCare Girls Academy provides educational services and curricula aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Classes are administered by a licensed Special Education teacher.)
- Health Care
- Life and Social Skills Education and Practice
- Psychological, Psychiatric, and Social Assessments
- Recreation (Exercise, Outdoor Activities, Drama, Art, and Creative Expression)
- Substance Abuse Education
- Trauma Informed Care

### **Youth Profile**

All referrals originate with a Juvenile Court Counselor and undergo a comprehensive review by a WestCare Clinicians, Social Workers, and Education staff. Typically, those admitted have had multiple adjudications for person and property offenses and have received more than one community-based intervention. A significant number of these adolescents have also experienced school discipline problems resulting in both short and long-term suspensions. Other characteristics found in the referred population include: trauma, substance abuse, gang involvement, mental health diagnosis, and family discord. The most common traumatic event disclosed during the length of stay is sexual abuse either assault or rape.

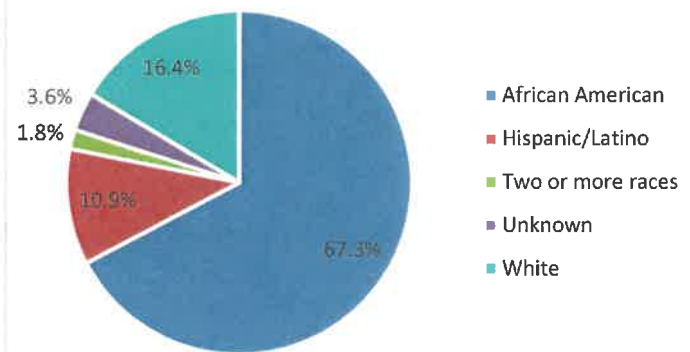
**Table 4.10:** The cost per youth comparison for the WestCare North Carolina Girls Program versus youth development centers.

<b>Program vs. Youth Development</b>	<b>Cost</b>
FY 16-17 WestCare North Carolina Girls Program	\$22,285
FY 16-17 Youth Development Center	\$106,878

**Demographics for youth served in FY 16-17**

- A total of 55 clients were provided services
- 100% of the youth served were under court supervision
- 100% of the youth served were between the ages of 13-17
- 42 clients were discharged through June 2017 and 8 of the 42 youth were discharged due to psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations
- Discharged youth had an 83% successful completion rate
- The average length of stay for discharged clients was 135 days
- The average age of the population was 16.4 years

**Graph 4.4 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by the WestCare Girls Program**



**Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 16-17**

Multiple assessments were used at intake and discharge to measure growth. Below are some of the highlights achieved by the youth at WestCare.

- 100% of clients participated in therapeutic and educational didactic groups, house governance meetings, recreation activities, school, life skills practices, job functions, and post-discharge planning.
- 78% of clients showed decreased symptoms of depression from intake to discharge (*Beck Depression Inventory*).
- 68% of clients showed increased self-esteem from intake to discharge (*Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale*).
- Clients in the program advanced an average of almost three full grades. See Table 4.11 below.

**Table 4.11: Academic Growth – Woodcock Johnson Average Test Score**

Subject	Average Grade Level at Admission	Average Grade Level at Discharge	Average Grade Level Improvement
Reading	8.2	11.5	3.3
Mathematics	6.4	9.9	3.5
Writing	9.1	12.7	3.6

**Life Skills**

- 64% could read a bus schedule, use public transportation, develop a budget, and cook 5 basic meals.

**Job Skills**

- 95% of clients who successfully completed the program created a professional resume at discharge.

**Discharge Data**

- 86% of those clients who successfully completed the program were reunified with their family at discharge.

**Recidivism**

FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 recidivism data shows that of the 74 youth who had been in post-discharged status from WestCare for more than six months, ten (10) youth or 14% received a new adjudication and four (4) youth or 5% received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 19%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 56 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Seven (7) youth or 13% received a new adjudication and six (6) youth or 11% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 23%. See Table 4.12.

**Table 4.12: WestCare North Carolina Girls Program Recidivism**

<b>WestCare North Carolina Girls Program, Recidivism</b>		
<b>Post-Discharge Time Frame</b>	<b>0 to 6 Months</b>	<b>0 to 12 Months</b>
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	74	56
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	10	7
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	14%	13%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	4	6
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	5%	11%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	14	13
<b>Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>23%</b>



In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2012/13*<sup>6</sup>, 21.0% of juveniles who were adjudicated received an additional adjudication or conviction within 12 months.

### **Conclusions**

The outcome and recidivism data from the WestCare North Carolina Girls Program is positive and reflects noteworthy change in the youth's adjustments and effective services addressing trauma related issues. Outcome data for academic attainment showed significant gains in reading, mathematics, and reading with youth improving on average by 3 grade levels during their residency in the program for FY16-17.

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<sup>6</sup> Juvenile Recidivism Study, FY 2013 Juvenile Sample, Raleigh, NC. Table 4.6, page 55, found at <http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Publication/Recidivism/JuvenileRec.asp>

**Section V**  
**Transitional Services**

## **Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes**

### **Overview**

FY 16-17 marked the sixth year of operation for the Craven Transitional Independent Living Program (male only) located in New Bern, NC and the third year of operation for the North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program (female only) located in Raleigh, NC. Both are six to twelve month residential programs that help youth leaving a youth development center and/or a Level II residential program build the skill sets they need to live independently. The Craven Home can serve six youth at a time and approximately 16 youth annually; and the North Hills Home can serve five (5) youth at a time and approximately 10 youth annually.

Major program components of these transitional homes, include education, employment, group activities, money management, mental health services, substance abuse counseling, community volunteering and independent living group activities.

With the assistance of on-site staff and community partners, the youth learn how to budget, meal plan, develop a resume, interview for a job, negotiate salary, manage a cell phone, earn their driver's license and open a bank account.

### **Youth Profile**

All referrals made to the Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes are under post-release supervision or under probation transitioning from a Level II residential program. Typically these youth have had significant juvenile court involvement including multiple adjudications for person and property offenses prior to their commitment to a youth development center or court ordered placement into a Level II residential program. Other characteristics found in these youth include substance abuse, gang involvement, and family discord. However, the youth selected for placement have expressed a desire to make significant life changes and cannot return to their home communities due to safety concerns.

### **Cost Comparison**

**Table 5.1:** The cost per youth comparison for Craven and North Hills Transitional Home versus youth development centers.

<b>Program vs. Youth Development Center</b>	<b>Cost</b>
FY 16-17 Craven and North Hills Transitional Home	\$29,610
FY 16-17 Youth Development Center	\$106,878

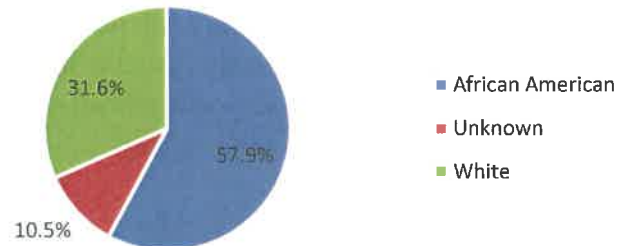
## Demographics of Youth Served during FY 16-17

### Craven

In FY 16-17 a total of 19 youth were served. Sixteen were discharged from youth development centers and two (2) youth came from Detention.

- 100% were males
- 16.5 was the average age of youth being served

Graph 5.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Craven Transitional Independent Living Program

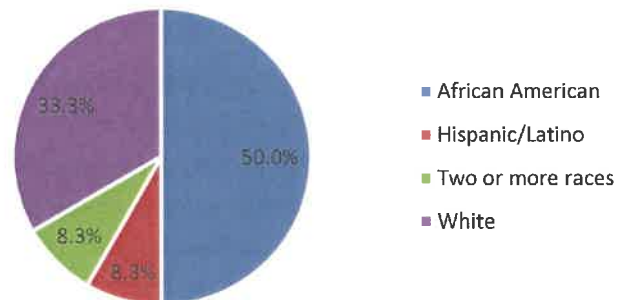


### North Hills

A total of 12 youth served were served. Four (4) youth were discharged from a youth development center and 7 youth were discharged from residential placement. One (1) youth came from Detention.

- 100% were females
- 16 was the average age of youth being served

Graph 5.2 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program



## Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 16-17

### Academic Achievement

During their stay at the Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes, youth have a choice of four educational tracks that include community college classes, vocational trade, GED, or high school. Youth who are participating in a vocational trade can also complete their GED or high school curriculum at the same time. The education track is determined after interviewing youth to determine career goals and interest and assessment of youth's previous academic achievements. The Transitional Living Specialist will monitor the progress the youth are making on their decided tracks to ensure youth are able to make their discharge plans.

Craven Community College has developed an effective relationship with the Craven Transitional Home by letting the youth partner with them in certain trades while obtaining their GED or high school diploma. For North Hills, effective partnerships have been established with Sanderson High School, Wake Technical College and YES Program operated through Community Partnerships Inc.

### **Education Participation:**

#### **Craven Transitional Independent Living Program**

Out of 19 youth served at Craven last year, 19 participated in educational programming. Fifteen youth completed educational tracks with some youth completing more than one.

- 7 completed GED
- 3 Completed High School
- 10 Completed Trades or Certificates
  - 1 completed ServSafe Certification
  - 6 completed Forklift Operation Trade
  - 2 completed Small Engine Repair Trade
  - 1 completed Welding Certification

#### **North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program**

Out of the 12 youth that were served, eleven (11) participated in an educational track. One (1) youth did not participate due to the length of stay in the program. Of the 11 youth participating in educational tracks, the following identifies each educational track and the number participating in each:

- 7 obtained their high school diploma while in the program
- 1 participated and attended Sanderson High School
- 7 participated in On-Line High School through Penn Foster
- 1 attended On-Line High School through Plato
- 1 attended On-Line High School through Grad Point
- 1 youth attended Wake Technical Community College due to prior attainment of a GED

### **Employment:**

The Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes strive in having every youth employed while working through the program. The programs teach and enhance job seeking skills from the moment a youth enters the home. During the first level of the program, youth are working on how to search for appropriate jobs. The Transitional Living Specialist work with each youth on how to navigate search engines, build resumes, fill out on-line applications and dress for seeking job applications. Next, the Specialist works with youth on how to obtain employment by going through practice job interviews, how to dress for an interview, what questions to ask during an interview, and how to negotiate a salary.

After a youth is offered a job, staff will work with the youth on their employment skills to ensure they are becoming effective employees. Employment is a core component of the transitional home as it empowers the youth by giving them confidence and improving their self-esteem as well as allowing them to be a positive contributor to the community and workforce.

**Employment Results:**

**Craven Transitional Independent Living Program**

Of the 19 youth served, 16 were employed (three youth were ineligible due to length of stay in the program)

- 1 youth worked in Construction
- 2 youth worked in Customer Service
- 13 youth worked in the Food Industry

**North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program**

Of the 12 youth served, 10 of the youth obtained employment (two youth were ineligible due to length of stay in the program)

- 8 youth worked in the Food Industry
- 2 youth worked in the Retail Industry

**Recidivism**

The data provided in Table 5.2 below represents promising results. Youth leaving the Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes only had a 15% recidivism rate at 6 months post discharge, and only a 20% recidivism rate at 12 months post discharge. These results are truly significant given the delinquency histories and backgrounds the youth possessed. The data indicates that intense educational and vocational services being delivered at the Transitional Homes, coupled with separating the youth from their home environments are significantly reducing recidivism rates.

**Table 5.2: Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes Recidivism**

<b>Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes, Recidivism</b>		
<b>Post-Discharge Time Frame</b>	<b>0 to 6 Months</b>	<b>0 to 12 Months</b>
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	40	30
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	0	0
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	0%	0%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	6	6
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	15%	20%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	6	6
<b>Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2012/13*<sup>7</sup>, 21.0% of juveniles who were adjudicated received an additional adjudication or conviction within 12 months.

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<sup>7</sup> Juvenile Recidivism Study, FY 2013 Juvenile Sample, Raleigh, NC. Table 4.6, page 55, found at <http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/spac/Publication/Recidivism/JuvenileRec.asp>

**NORTH CAROLINA ASSESSMENT OF JUVENILE RISK OF FUTURE OFFENDING**

<b>Juvenile Name (F, M, L)</b>		<b>DOB:</b>
<b>SS#:</b>	<b>County of Residence:</b>	
<b>Juvenile Race:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
<b>Juvenile Gender:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
<b>Date Assessment Completed:</b>	<b>Completed by:</b>	

**Instructions:** Complete each assessment item R1 to R9 using the best available information. Circle the numeric score associated with each item response and enter it on the line to the right of the item. Total the item scores to determine the level of risk and check the appropriate risk level in R10. Identify the most serious current offense in R11. Assessment items R1-R5 are historical in nature and should be answered based on the juvenile's lifetime. Items R6 and R7 should be evaluated over the 12 months prior to the assessment. R7-R9 should be evaluated as of the time of the assessment. Use the Comments section at the end as needed for additional information or clarification.

**R1. Age when first delinquent offense alleged in a complaint:** Circle appropriate score and enter the actual age. **Score**

a. Age 12 or over or no delinquent complaint	0	
b. Under age 12	2	
Actual age:		

**R2. Number of undisciplined or delinquent referrals to Intake** (Referrals are instances of complaints coming through the Intake process. A referral may include multiple complaints; for example, breaking or entering and larceny, or multiple larcenies or other offenses that occur at one time.)

a. Current referral only	0
b. 1 Prior referral	1
c. 2-3 Prior referrals	2
d. 4+ Prior referrals	3

**R3. Most serious prior adjudication(s).** Enter the actual number of prior adjudications for each class of offense shown in b through e then circle the score for only the most serious offense for which there has been a prior adjudication. **The maximum possible score for this item is 4.**

a. No Prior Adjudications		0
b. Prior Undisciplined	# of adjudications:	1
c. Prior Class 1-3 misdemeanors	# of adjudications:	2
d. Prior Class F-I felonies or A1 misdemeanors	# of adjudications:	3
e. Prior Class A-E felonies	# of adjudications:	4

**R4. Prior Assaults:** "Assault" is defined as any assaultive behavior, whether physical or sexual, with or without a weapon as evidenced by a prior delinquent complaint. Record the number of complaints for each assault category shown. Then circle the score for the assault category with the highest numerical score. **The maximum possible score for this item is 5.**

a. No assaults		0
b. Involvement in an affray	# of complaints:	1
c. Yes, without a weapon	# of complaints:	2
d. Yes, without a weapon, inflicting serious injury	# of complaints:	3
e. Yes, with a weapon	# of complaints:	4
f. Yes, with a weapon inflicting serious injury	# of complaints:	5

**R5. Runaways (from home or placement):** "Runaway" is defined as absconding from home or any placement and not voluntarily returning within twenty-four (24) hours as evidenced by a complaint, motion for review, or from reliable information. Circle appropriate score.

a. No	0
b. Yes	2
Actual number of runaway incidents	

**R6. Known use of alcohol or illegal drugs during past 12 months:** Do not include tobacco in scoring this item. Circle appropriate score.

a. No known substance use	0
b. Some substance use, need for further assessment	1
c. Substance abuse, assessment and/or treatment needed	3



**R7. School behavior problems during the prior 12 months: Circle appropriate score.**

a. No problems (Enrolled, attending regularly)	0
b. Minor problems (attending with problems handled by teacher/school personnel, or 1-3 unexcused absences/truancy)	1
c. Moderate problems (4 to 10 unexcused absences /truancy, or 1 or more in-school suspensions or 1 short-term suspension – up to 10 days)	2
d. Serious problems (more than 1 short-term suspension, or 1 or more long-term suspension, or more than 10 unexcused absences or expelled/dropped out)	3

**R8. Peer relationships: Circle appropriate score. Put check in the line following appropriate information.**

a. Peers usually provide good support and influence	0
b. Youth is rejected by pro-social peers ____, or youth sometimes associates with others who have been involved in delinquent/criminal activity but is not primary peer group	1
c. Youth regularly associates with others who are involved in delinquent/criminal activity	3
d. Youth is a gang member or associates with a gang	5

**R9. Parental supervision: (Score the current responsible parental authority) Circle appropriate score.**

a. Parent, guardian or custodian willing and able to supervise	0
b. Parent, guardian or custodian willing but unable to supervise	2
c. Parent, guardian or custodian unwilling to supervise	3

**R10.**

<b>TOTAL RISK SCORE</b>	
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Check Risk Level:      RL1-lowest risk (0)      RL2 (1-2)      RL3 (3-5)  
     RL4 (6-12)      RL5-highest risk (13-30)

**R11. Completed before or after adjudication: (check) before \_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_**

Most serious offense alleged /adjudicated in current complaint/petition	
Statute number	
Class offense: <input type="checkbox"/> A-E Felony <input type="checkbox"/> F-I Felony, A1 Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Class 1-3 Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Undisciplined	

Note: Risk level is to be considered along with the current offense.

**COMMENTS:**

**PURPOSE:** In May of 2015, the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (SPAC) completed their biennial recidivism report of juveniles in North Carolina. Using a sample of juveniles adjudicated delinquent during FY 2010-2011, the SPAC reported that recidivism, measured by having either a subsequent juvenile complaint or an adult arrest during a three-year follow-up period, ranged between 20% and 75%. Based upon a review of these rates and risk scores, the SPAC concluded that current assessed risk levels may not reflect accurately the true risk of assessed juveniles. Subsequently in September of 2015, a report on the findings and related recommendations were presented to the Secretary and Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (DACJJ), respectively, for review and consideration. This memo presents the findings and recommendations of a collaborative review of the Juvenile Risk Assessment scores and recidivism rates conducted by Commission and Division staff to address the first recommendation of the Commission that “DACJJ revisit and adjust the risk levels for juveniles in the juvenile justice (JJ) system using available data.”

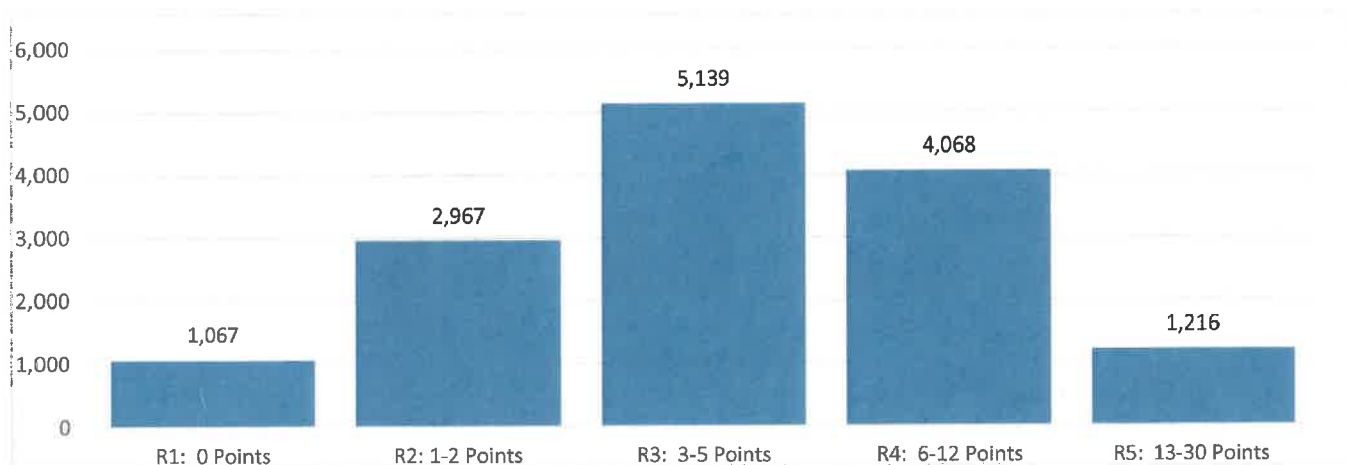
**SUMMARY:** Commission staff provided to staff of the Rehabilitative Programs and Services Section of DACJJ recidivism and risk score statistics from the 2015 Juvenile Recidivism Study. Included in these figures were the percentages of juveniles by risk score who, based on the definition provided in the report, recidivated within one and three years of being brought to court with a delinquent complaint that was adjudicated, dismissed, diverted, or closed during the sample period. Based upon a consideration of summary recidivism statistics for each risk score (e.g., mean, median, standard deviation) and the proportion of juveniles with each score who had complaints that were approved for court, SPAC and DACJJ staff agreed upon a division of risk scores into discrete ascending levels of risk that appeared independent of one other. SPAC staff, in consultation with DACJJ staff, ran a series of statistics using the recidivism data to test the robustness of these observed risk levels.

The results of these tests indicate that five levels of risk are reliably distinguished within the FY 2010-2011 sample of juveniles. The test results show that the revised grouping of risk scores produce three clear, non-overlapping distributions of risk within the 75% of the juvenile population who are currently classified “low-risk”. Of these “low-risk” youth, 12% had recidivism outcomes that were the same as those in the next to highest level of risk. Furthermore, the statistics indicate that these revised risk levels coincide with court-related outcomes for juveniles. Indeed, 89% of juveniles in the highest level of risk (Level 5, 13-30 points) were approved for court, with 72% being adjudicated while only 20% of youth in the lowest level of risk (Level 1, 0 points) were approved for court and only 13% adjudicated. Finally, the tests confirm that the risk score obtained from the *North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Risk of Future Offending* (Juvenile Risk Assessment) reliably predicts recidivism outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. Using the risk score as the only predictor of recidivism, that score correctly predicted whether the juvenile would be re-arrested or receive a new complaint, or neither (i.e., did not recidivate) for 68% of the youth in the sample. These findings were evident using either one-year or three-year recidivism rates.

Recidivism rates of youth assessed with the Juvenile Risk Assessment indicate that a revision to current risk levels will better distinguish between juveniles who are more likely to be re-arrested or have a new complaint filed within one and

three years of system involvement. In fact such revision will allow the Juvenile Justice Section to better distinguish the recidivism risk of the majority (75%) of juveniles who are presently assessed “low risk”. Adoption and implementation of these new risk levels will not only improve the Division’s ability to prioritize higher-risk youth for programs, but also create the foundation to address the remaining recommendations from the Commission.

**FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF JUVENILES BY RISK LEVEL**



The distribution of juveniles in each level of risk creates a relatively normal distribution within the population. At either extreme relatively few youth are in the highest (8.4%) or lowest (7.4%) category of risk. The largest percentage of juveniles (35.6%) fall into the middle risk category, with the remaining falling in an adjacent higher or lower category of risk. Most (90%) of the 75% who currently fall into the “low risk” category would be shifted to slightly higher risk categories; approximately 12% would move to risk level 4, the second highest level of risk.

**TABLE 1: RECIDIVISM RATES BY RISK LEVEL: ONE YEAR AND THREE YEAR RATES WITH 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVALS**

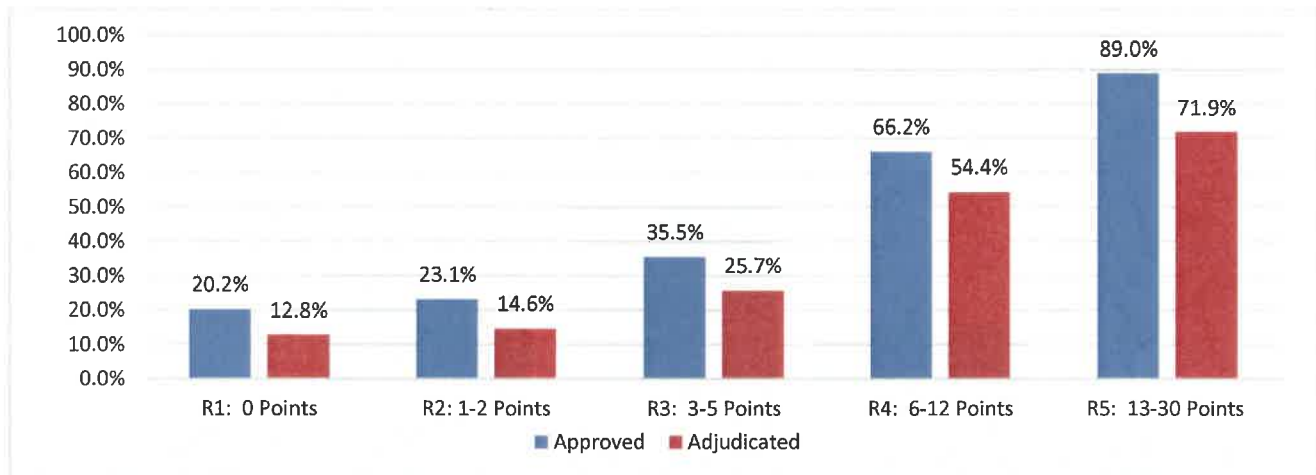
Risk Level	Points	1 Year Rate/95% Interval		3 Year Rate/ 95% Interval		Percent Population
R5-Highest Risk	13-30	49.0%	47%-52%	70.0%	68%-73%	8.4%
R4	06-12	38.0%	37%-40%	56.0%	54%-57%	28.1%
R3	03-05	23.0%	22%-24%	40.0%	38%-41%	35.6%
R2	01-02	14.0%	13%-15%	27.0%	25%-29%	20.5%
R1-Lowest Risk	00	9.0%	7%-11%	20.0%	17%-22%	7.4%

One-year ( $r=0.24$ ) and three-year ( $r=0.33$ ) recidivism rates for juveniles are positively and statistically significantly associated with these recommended risk levels. That is to say as the risk level increases from low to high (i.e., 1-5), the recidivism rate also increases. Indeed, approximately 49% and 70% of juveniles in the highest risk level (Level 5) were re-arrested or had a new compliant filed within one or three years of justice system involvement, respectively. Conversely, only 9% and 20% of juveniles in the lowest risk level (Level 1) had the same outcomes over the same period of time.

Furthermore, these levels do not overlap. The 95% confidence intervals imply that Level 1 juveniles in future years will recidivate as frequently as these, but almost never as high as the least risky Level 2 juveniles recidivate. For example, based on this sample and assuming current justice system behavior, it is unlikely that the highest expected three-year

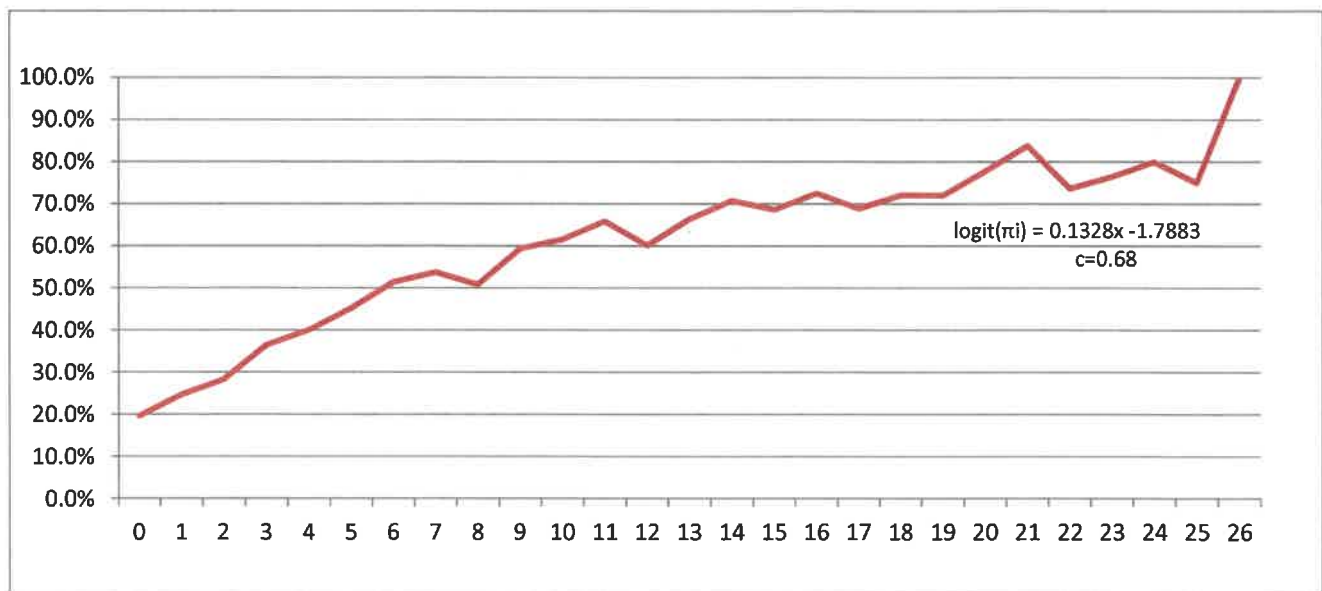
recidivism rate of Level 1 juveniles (22%) will be the same or greater than then lowest expected three-year recidivism rate of Level 2 juveniles (25%). The same is true for each level of risk compared to the others.

**FIGURE 2: JUVENILES COURT DECISIONS BY RISK LEVEL**



Court decisions for these juveniles are similarly associated with the recommended risk assessment levels. Juveniles with points coinciding with Level 5 risk were most likely to have complaints approved for court (89.0%) and to have those complaints adjudicated (71.9%). There are steep and significant differences between youth in Risk Levels 5, 4, 3, and 2 relative to each other; as risk level decreases so does the proportion of juveniles with cases approved and adjudicated. While Level 1 juveniles were the least likely juveniles in any risk level to have complaints approved for court (20.2%) and adjudicated (12.8%), the differences between the percentages of Level 1 and Level 2 juveniles’ court outcomes were relatively close. It is likely that some proportion of youth in Risk Level 1 come into the system accused of non-divertible offenses. By definition, these complaints must be approved for court.

**FIGURE 3: RELEVANCE OF JUVENILE RISK ASSESSMENT SCORE**



As with the original risk levels, which were derived from the points scored on the assessment, these revised levels are also underpinned by total assessment points. As reflected in the association between risk level and recidivism rates, risk scores are positively and statistically significantly related to recidivism outcomes. The association was verified using a univariate logistic regression model ( $\text{logit}(\pi_i) = 0.1328x - 1.7883$ ). Total assessment points were statistically significantly predictive of the recidivism outcome. For each point scored on the assessment, the likelihood that the juvenile would recidivate increased 14.2% (13.2% to 15.2%, 95% CI) at one year and by 15.3% (14.3% to 16.3%, 95% CI) at three years. For either model, the AUC was greater than 0.61 ( $c=0.680$  and  $c=0.672$ , respectively), which is the cut-off point for a functionally predictive model. That is to say, using the risk score as the only predictor of recidivism, the score correctly predicted whether the juvenile would be re-arrested or receive a new complaint or not recidivate in approximately 68% of the youth sampled. These statistics provide support for the continued validity of the Juvenile Risk Assessment, which in turn supports the proposed risk levels.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Recidivism rates of youth assessed with the Juvenile Risk Assessment presented in the 2015 Juvenile Recidivism Study conducted by the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Commission and further summarized in a report to DACJJ indicate that a revision to current risk levels is necessary. Revised risk levels will better distinguish between juveniles who are more likely to be re-arrested or have a new complaint filed within one and three years of system involvement. In fact, these results of additional analyses conducted collaboratively between Commission and Division staff show that a revision to existing risk levels will allow the Juvenile Justice Section to better distinguish the recidivism risk of the majority (75%) of juveniles who are presently assessed “low risk”. The statistics point to five increasing risk levels for system-involved juveniles. These analyses further provide support for the continued validity of the Juvenile Risk Assessment total score as a predictor of risk for recidivism and demonstrate the existence of normally-distributed, distinct, and non-overlapping risk levels. Furthermore, the statistics show these proposed levels are also positively and strongly associated with recidivism and court decision outcomes. Adoption and implementation of these recommended risk levels will not only improve the Division’s ability to prioritize higher-risk youth for programs, but also create the foundation to address the remaining recommendations from the Commission.

