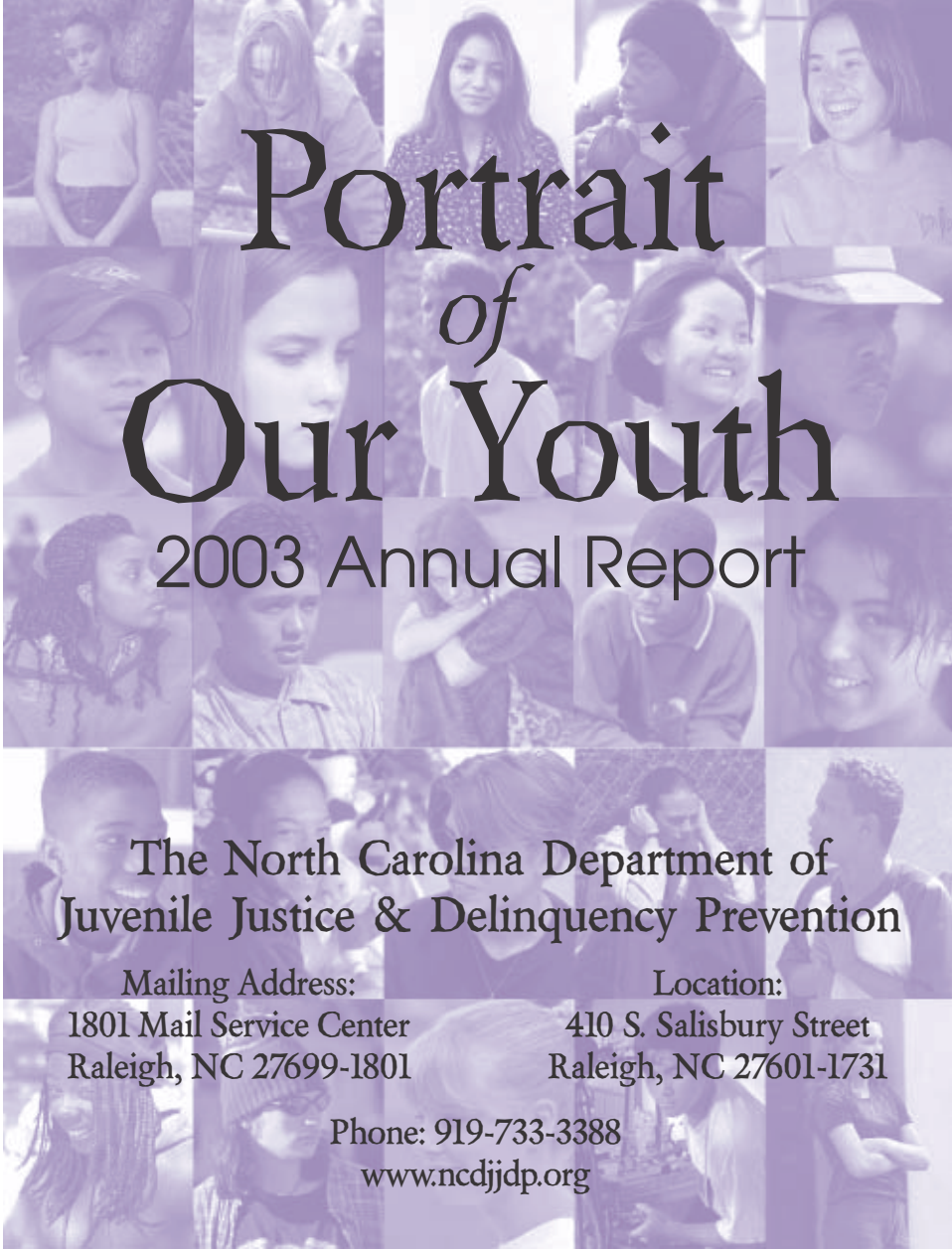


Portrait *of* Our Youth

2003 Annual Report

The North Carolina Department of
Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention



Portrait *of* Our Youth

2003 Annual Report

The North Carolina Department of
Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR



March 31, 2004

Dear North Carolinians:

I am pleased to present the 2003 Annual Report for the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP). Since its creation in 2000, DJJDP has worked to build a comprehensive juvenile justice system in North Carolina. Our juvenile justice system is an extension of our education system where programs and facilities across the state work together to maintain public safety, reduce and prevent juvenile crime, and give troubled youth a chance to find success.

In the short time that the DJJDP has been in existence as a department, North Carolina has become nationally recognized as a leader in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Our comprehensive strategy system is working, and other states are looking to duplicate our success. Juvenile crime is lower than when my administration began, and admissions to our youth development centers are at an all-time historic low for the State. One hundred Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, made up of community leaders like yourselves, are seeing success in their communities. The Councils are developing delinquency prevention plans that are keeping youth out of trouble and out of youth development centers.

Through DJJDP's efforts, North Carolina's most troubled youth are seeing success in the classroom and are getting the help they need to become productive members of North Carolina's workforce. I look forward to continued work with the Department to keep North Carolina safe, to ensure that our children become productive citizens, and to provide treatment and education for youth in need.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Easley".

Michael F. Easley





STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
1801 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1801

Michael F. Easley
Governor

George L. Sweat
Secretary

March 31, 2004

Dear Friends of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:

The 2003 Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Annual Report: *Portrait of Our Youth* focuses on what's most important: our youth. For the first time in the history of North Carolina juvenile justice, computerized data collection and analysis are enabling us to paint a realistic portrait of the youth we serve, and this report presents that portrait.

The following pages reveal the many challenges we must meet to fulfill our obligations of promoting public safety and reducing and preventing juvenile delinquency and crime. The portrait offers information that will guide us as we shift away from a correctional model to a holistic therapeutic one in which counseling and teaching are emphasized.

An audit released in May, 2003, pointed out that DJJDP has seen much progress since its establishment three years ago. The leadership of Governor Mike Easley has enabled DJJDP to make this progress. With youth development center admissions at an unprecedented low and juvenile crime lower than when Governor Easley took office, we can be proud of our prevention efforts, Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils and programs, court counselors, and youth development center staff. But we cannot be satisfied. We know there is much work ahead as we endeavor to create the best comprehensive juvenile justice system in the nation.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you in 2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George L. Sweat".

George L. Sweat
Secretary



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The North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: 2003 Annual Report Introduction



The 2003 Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Annual Report: *Portrait of our Youth* presents a realistic portrait of the youth we serve in North Carolina's juvenile justice system. Much of the data in the report is remarkable because, for the first time in our state's history, we can begin to tell the stories of our youths' lives.



The data you will read in the following pages gives you information about the crimes youth commit and the locations where those crimes occur. More importantly, it provides information about factors that may contribute to delinquent behavior. The year 2003 marks the second year of collecting risk and needs data on every court-involved youth in the state. With this data, we are able to track education and mental health challenges as well as information about the youths' families and peers. This year also marks a full year of assessment and treatment planning data on new admissions to our youth development centers (YDCs). These detailed assessments are used by our staff to develop individualized treatment plans for our youth once they enter the YDCs. The data we now have access to paints a challenging portrait of our youth, but it enables us to make decisions that can positively impact them.



We accomplished much in 2003. As the data in this report reflects, the needs of youth in the juvenile justice system are vast, and they present many challenges. It's up to our state to take this data and make decisions which will create success.



The North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Accomplishments: 2003

Reducing Juvenile Crime

Juvenile crime has decreased 2% since 2001.

Fewer Admissions to YDCs

Since 1998, there has been a 65% decrease in Youth Development Center (YDC) admissions.



Keeping Youth Out of Court

Forty-six percent of all youth who had complaints filed against them in 2003 were diverted away from juvenile court with diversion plans and contracts.

Helping All Youth Succeed in Education

Each of the five YDC schools met the state and local accountability goals set forth in the North Carolina ABCs of Public Education accountability program.

Treating Youth Based on Their Needs

This year marks a full year that DJJDP's Assessment and Treatment Planning Centers (ATPCs) have been in operation. The ATPCs enable the Department to collect much needed data on committed youth needs and base its treatment decisions on those needs.

Using Technology Wisely

NC-JOIN, the Department's first information network system, rolled out statewide in 2003. North Carolina is one of very few states that have a web-based information system for the collection of juvenile data.

Keeping Our Schools Bully Free

DJJDP - Center for the Prevention of School Violence (DJJDP-Center) initiated a statewide anti-bullying campaign with the development and distribution of the "Bullies Don't Belong" calendar to all NC schools.

Addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System

DJJDP worked with the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University to assist in the development of an action plan for DJJDP's disproportionate minority efforts.

Meeting Afterschool Needs

A Harvard University study of afterschool programs across the U. S. has labeled DJJDP's Support Our Students (SOS) program as one of the best in the nation. More than 15,000 youth participated in NC afterschool programs in 2003.



Making Sure Programs are Effective

DJJDP developed a standardized program evaluation protocol (SPEP) in partnership with Dr. James C. Howell, a nationally recognized juvenile justice criminologist, and Dr. Mark Lipsey, Director of the Center for Evaluation and Research Methodology, Vanderbilt University. This protocol will help Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPCs) develop and fund the most effective programs for their communities.



Helping Youth Succeed

Seventy-one youth received GEDs in 2003 while in a YDC. Twenty of these students applied and received community college scholarships.

Preparing Youth for the Job Market

DJJDP opened a career resource center at Stonewall Jackson YDC. The center will help youth prepare for the job market and find success upon release from YDCs.



Taking the Therapeutic Approach to Treatment

DJJDP emphasized its therapeutic treatment objective by placing a clinical director and social work supervisors at all YDCs. Staff members are instrumental in ensuring the integrity of treatment plans.

Working to Keep Kids in School

The DJJDP – Center for the Prevention of School Violence completed Project EASE (Educational Alternatives to Suspension and Expulsion) which involved ten school wide efforts impacting 534 instructional staff members and 7,196 students.

Serving All of North Carolina

In 2003, all one hundred North Carolina counties contacted and received services from the DJJDP – Center for the Prevention of School Violence.

Developing New Leaders

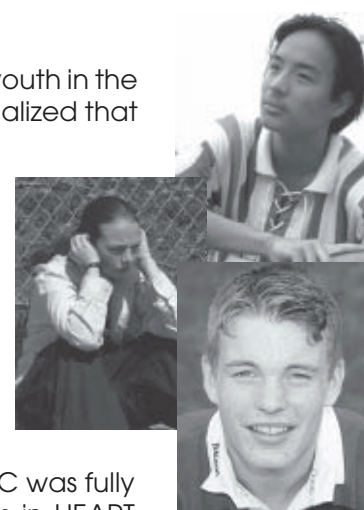
In the summer of 2003, DJJDP hosted two youth leadership forums for at-risk youth in the state. The youth visited colleges, learned about government history, and realized that with the right attitude and motivation they are bound for success.

Serving Youth Through New Initiatives

In 2003, DJJDP received over \$2.5 million in grant funds to support projects across the juvenile justice continuum. These projects are designed to provide direct care services and impact approximately 12,335 youth in a variety of programmatic areas. Over 1,500 staff from DJJDP and other agencies will be trained as a result of these grants.

Achieving Success

The HEART (Holistic Enrichment for At-Risk Teens) Program at Samarkand YDC was fully implemented in 2003 and graduated six girls by year's end. Participants in HEART report a decrease in symptoms of mental health disorders and a new interest in continuing their educations beyond high school.



Path of Juvenile Justice in North Carolina



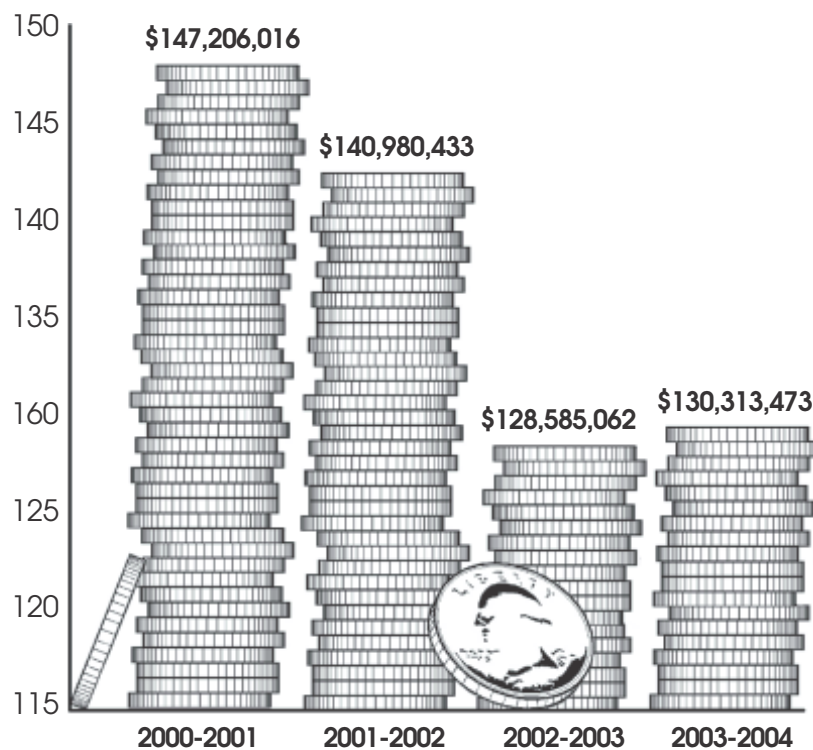
Path of Juvenile Justice in North Carolina: 2003

The Path of Juvenile Justice in North Carolina: 2003 illustrates how youth move through the juvenile justice system.

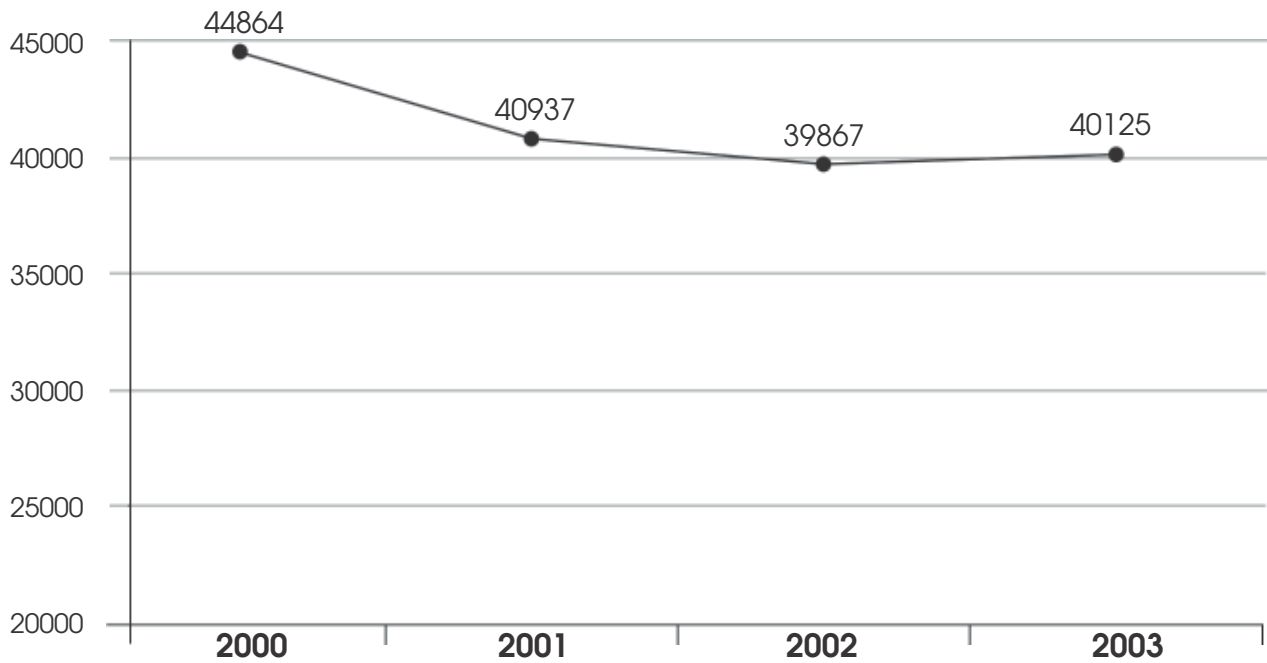
1. In 2003, an estimated 1.4 million youth were of school age in North Carolina and attended public, charter or private schools. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Center for the Prevention of School Violence (DJJDP - Center) touched the lives of these youth through services provided to all schools in North Carolina.
2. Approximately 94,000 youth encountered North Carolina's juvenile justice system through interaction with Juvenile Crime Prevention Council services, other community programs (Support Our Students; mentoring programs; multipurpose juvenile homes; Eckerd Camps; Camp Woodson), juvenile court services, and the DJJDP-Center.
3. 30,598 youth received intake services provided by juvenile court counselors.
 - 3a. 13,992 youth out of the 30,598 youth were diverted from court and served in community programs.
 - 3b. 16,606 youth out of the 30,598 youth were referred to juvenile court.
4. 16,436 youth were served by supervision/probation (8,377 supervision/probation cases were added in 2003 to 8,059 existing supervision/probation cases).
5. 478 youth were admitted to youth development centers which is an all-time low for North Carolina.

Most youth who travel on the Path of Juvenile Justice in North Carolina receive services in their own communities. Those who receive services outside their own communities typically return to their communities after receiving services.

DJJDP State Appropriation

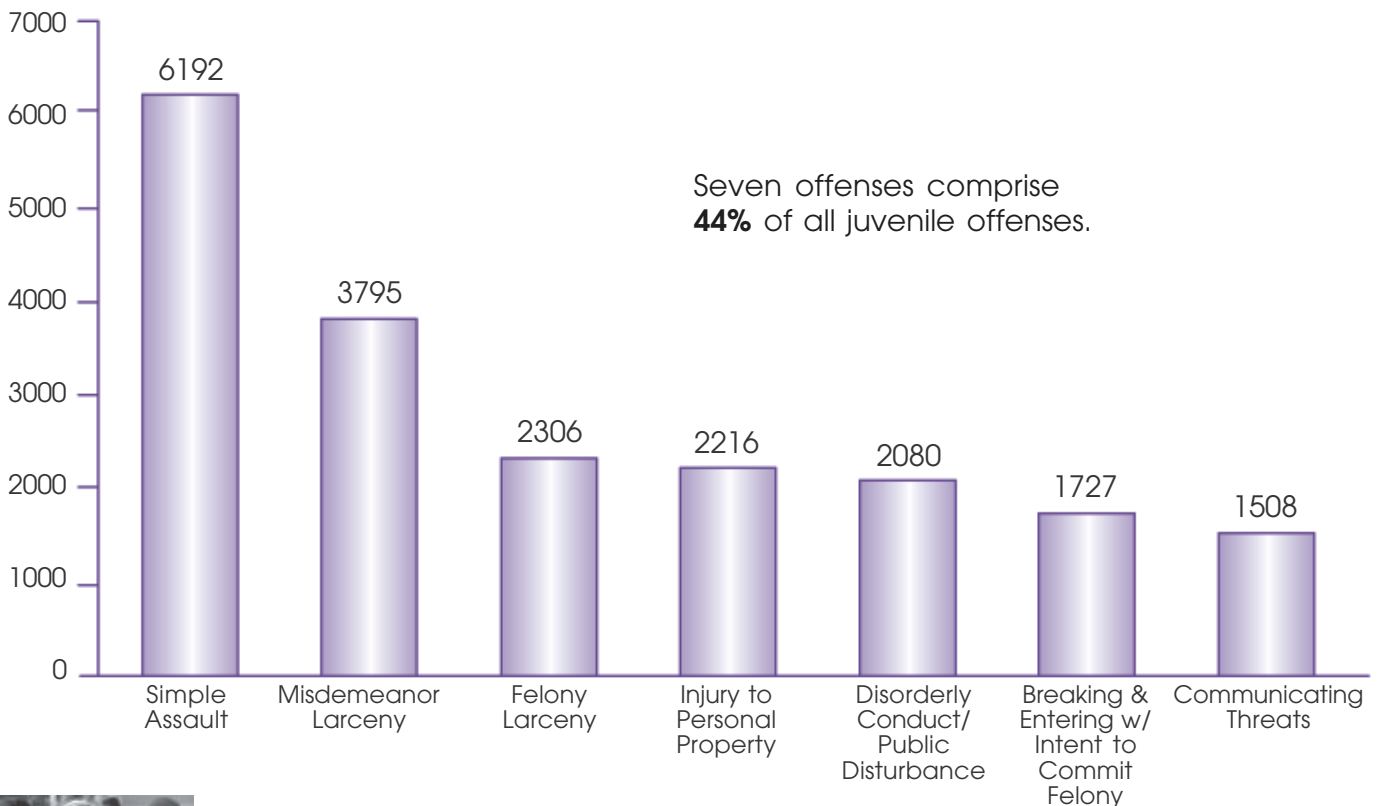


Juvenile Crime: 2000-2003



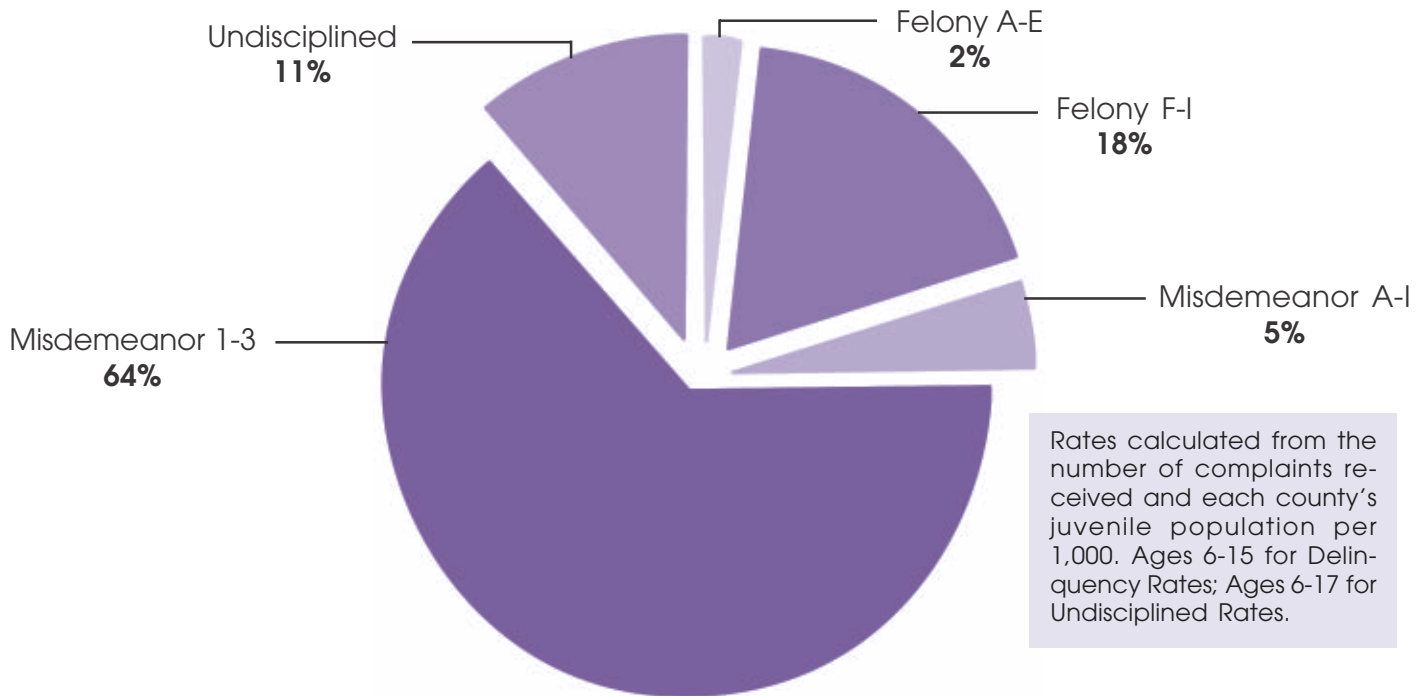
The 2000 figure reports the total decisions for all complaints as was reported in the 2000 Annual Report (page 41). This figure included both delinquent and undisciplined complaints. The figures since 2001 represent only delinquent complaints. Since 2001, juvenile crime has decreased 2 percent. Additional information can be found in the statewide offense report on pages 22 and 23.

Most Common Juvenile Offenses by Type: 2003



Complaints Received: 2003

n=45,083



Rates calculated from the number of complaints received and each county's juvenile population per 1,000. Ages 6-15 for Delinquency Rates; Ages 6-17 for Undisciplined Rates.

The following 15 counties reported the highest number of complaints received.

1. Mecklenburg	4875
2. Wake	2641
3. Guilford	2287
4. Cumberland	2098
5. Onslow	1354
6. Gaston	1239
7. New Hanover	1209
8. Forsyth	1056
9. Robeson	1030
10. Catawba	1003
11. Alamance	983
12. Buncombe	879
13. Pitt	871
14. Craven	814
15. Wayne	800

The following 15 counties reported the highest rate* of delinquency.

1. Pamlico	78.80
2. Tyrrell	72.02
3. Person	61.38
4. Craven	58.61
5. Onslow	57.23
6. Edgecombe	56.05
7. Stokes	53.02
8. New Hanover	52.52
9. Scotland	50.93
10. Halifax	49.92
11. Carteret	49.76
12. Alamance	49.42
13. Wilkes	49.05
14. Brunswick	48.27
15. Harnett	47.67

The following 15 counties reported the highest rate* of undisciplined behavior.

1. Stokes	14.37
2. Jackson	13.85
3. Scotland	12.85
4. Hoke	11.16
5. Macon	10.00
6. Tyrrell	9.95
7. Wilkes	9.62
8. Currituck	9.61
9. Pasquotank	8.83
10. Cherokee	8.82
11. Vance	8.37
12. Haywood	8.37
13. Martin	8.13
14. Graham	7.83
15. Buncombe	7.77

A total of 45,083 delinquent and undisciplined complaints were received across the state in 2003.

*Note: Rates in lower populated counties are sensitive to minor fluctuations and atypical events. In Pamlico County, 34% of the complaints received were committed by three juveniles on one day.

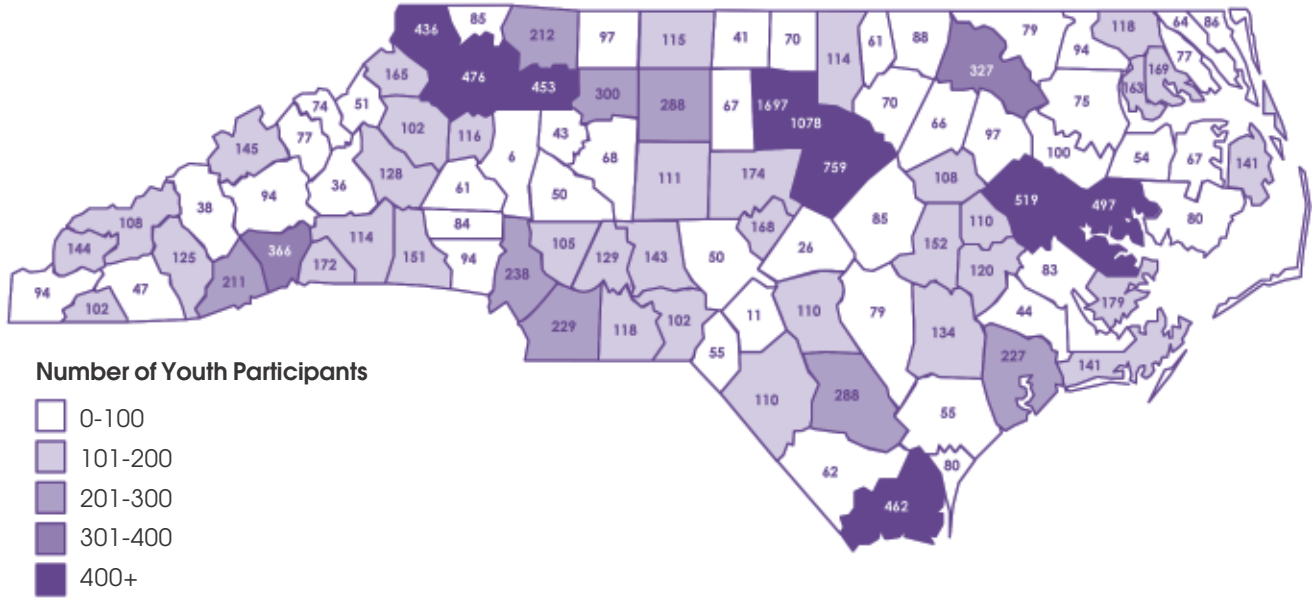
Juvenile State Rates:

Delinquency Rate	34.69
Undisciplined Rate	3.70

More county data can be found at www.ncdjjdp.org.

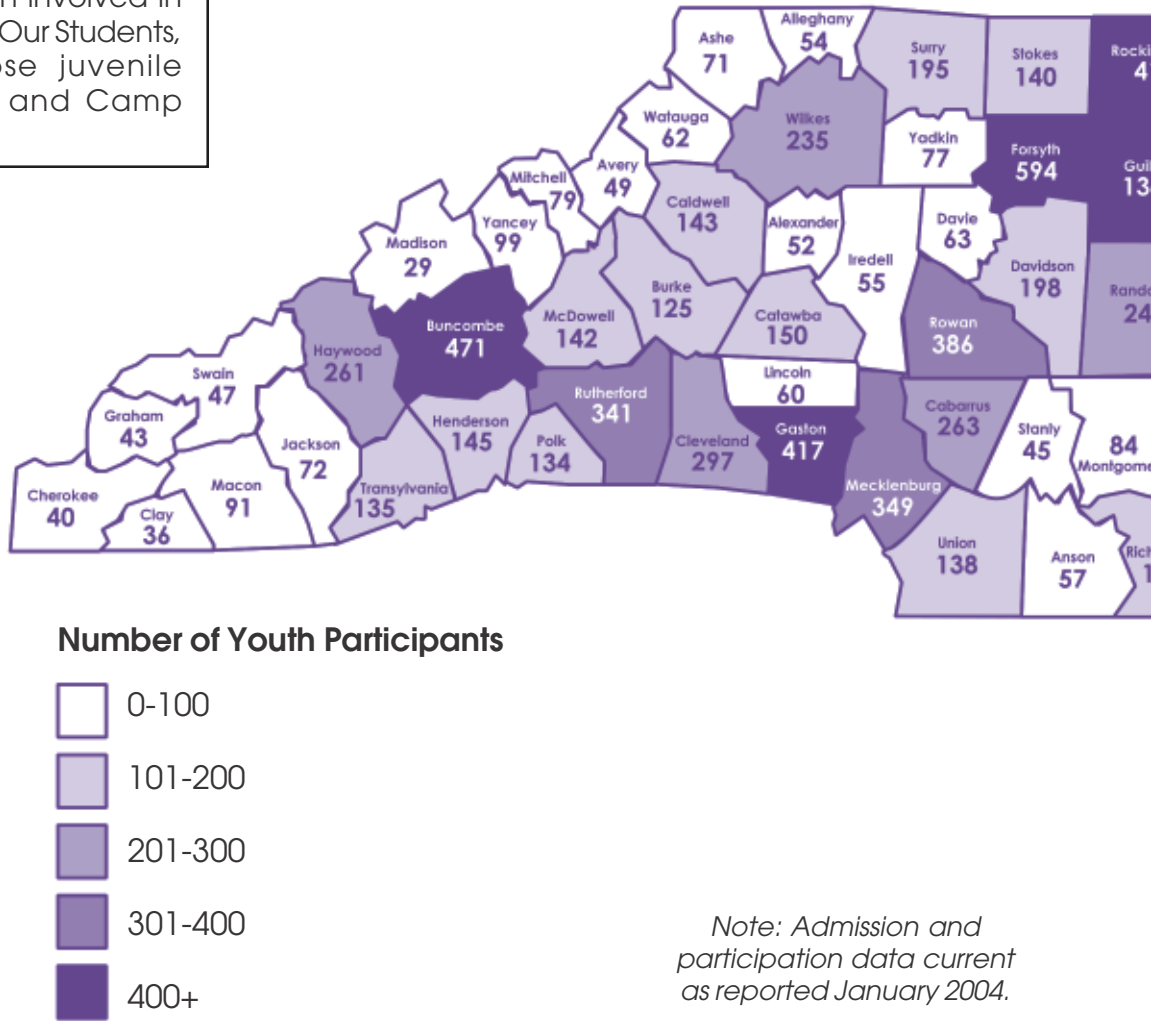


Community Program Participation: Youth Participants by County



Community Program Participation reflects the number of youth involved in such programs as Support Our Students, mentoring, multipurpose juvenile homes, Eckerd Camps and Camp Woodson.

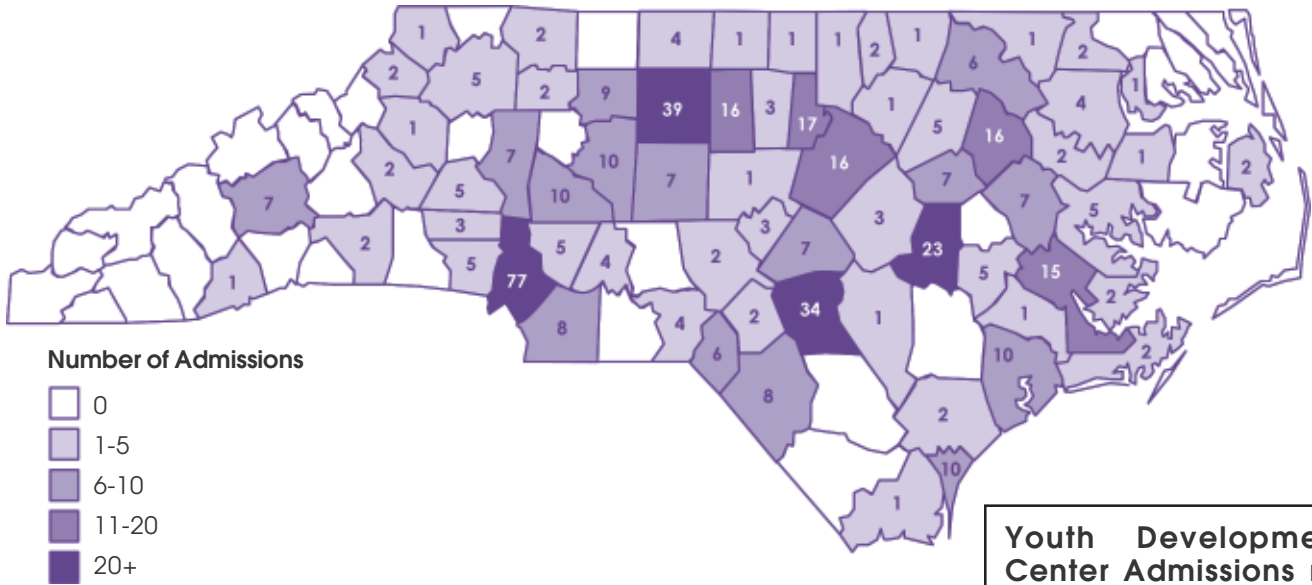
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funded



Note: Admission and participation data current as reported January 2004.

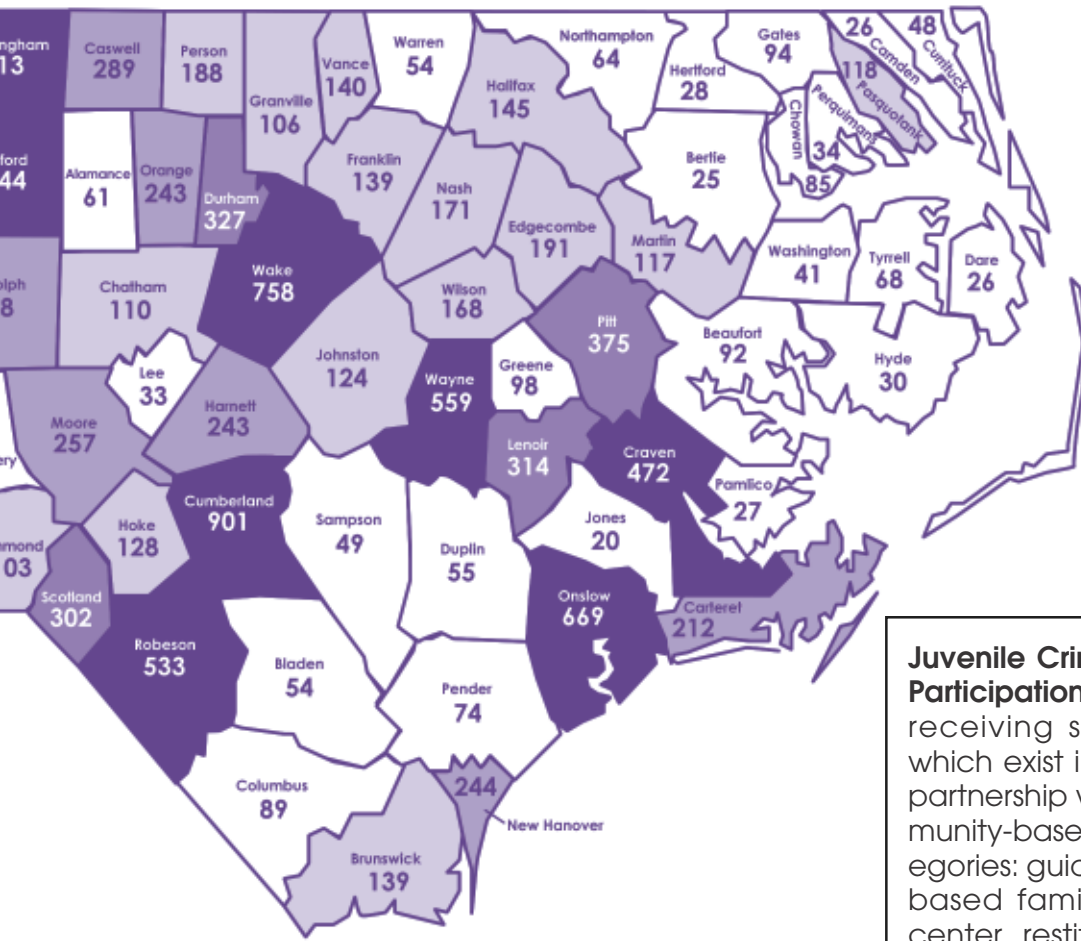


Youth Development Centers: Admissions by County



Youth Development Center Admissions reflect the number of youth assigned to one of the five secure residential facilities authorized to provide long-term education, treatment, and rehabilitative services to delinquent youth committed by the court to DJJDP.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Program Participation: Youth Participants by County



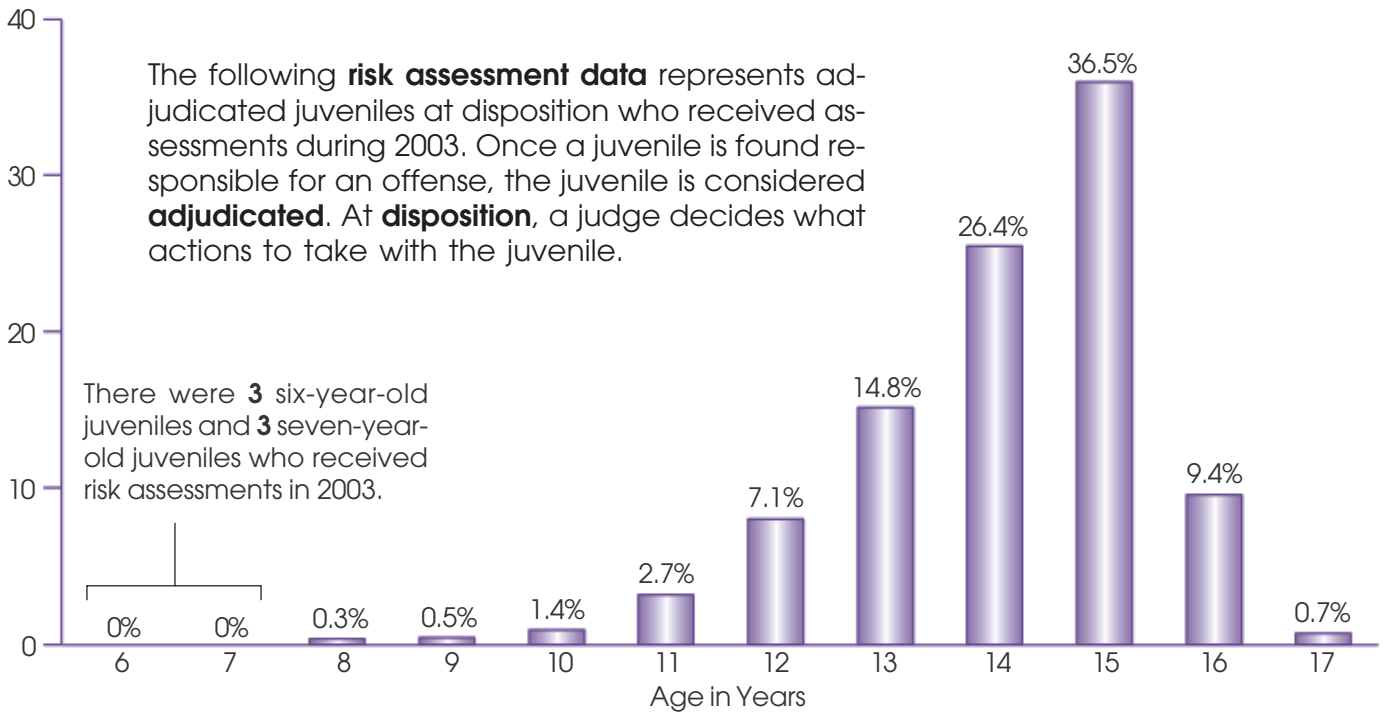
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Participation reflects the number of youth receiving services provided by JCPCs which exist in each county. JCPCs work in partnership with the state to develop community-based services in the following categories: guided growth, counseling, home-based family, psychological, treatment center, restitution and restorative justice.

More county data can be found at www.ncdjjdp.org.



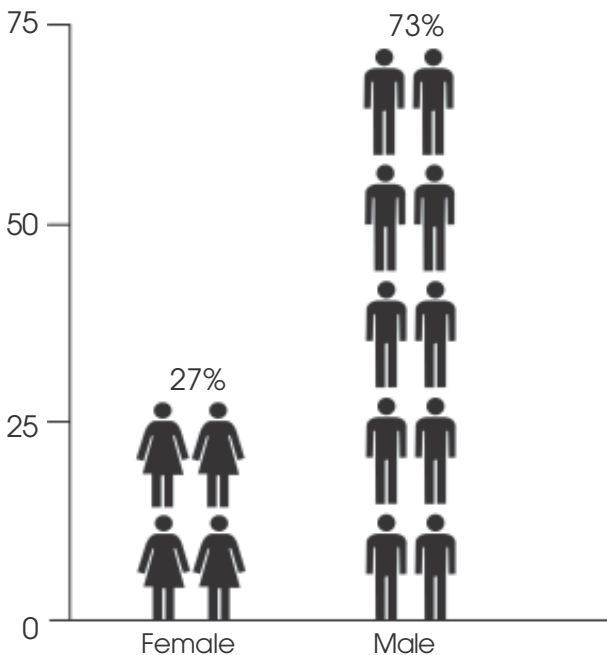
Age of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments

n = 8034



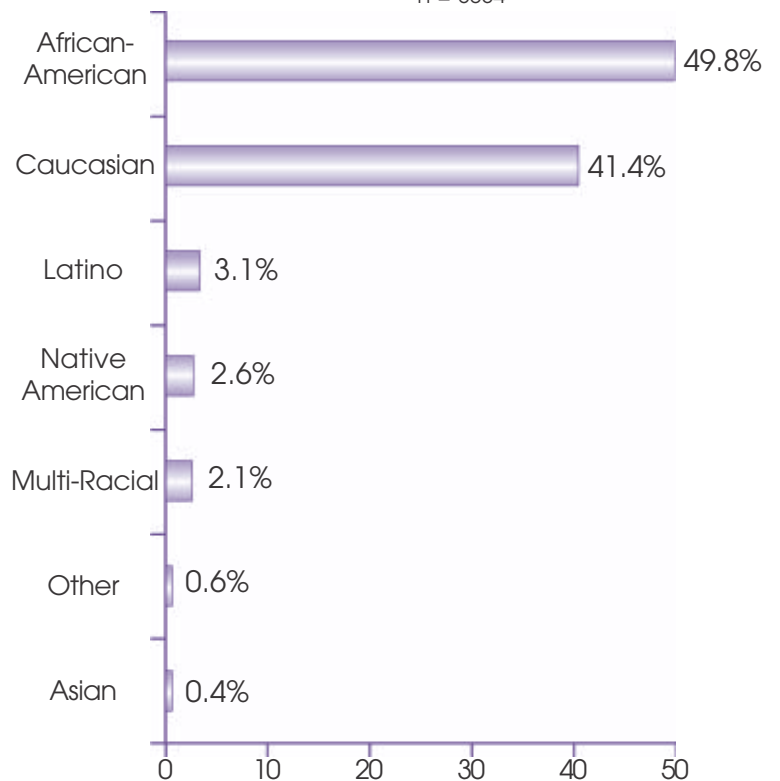
Gender of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments

n = 8034



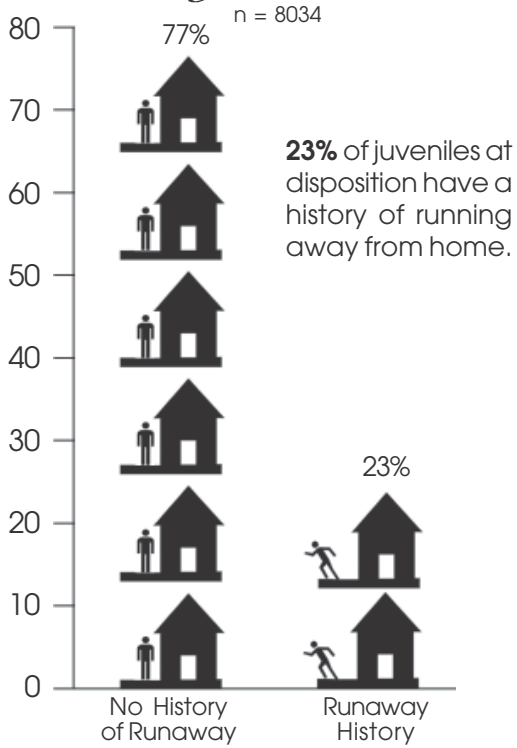
Ethnicity of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments

n = 8034

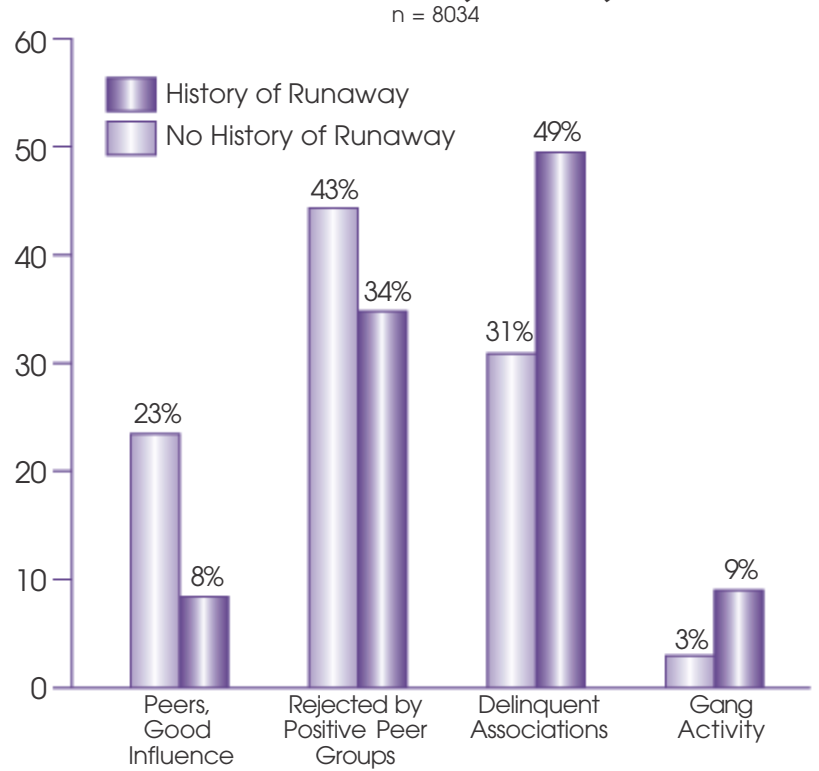


More Risk Assessment data can be found at www.ncdjjdp.org.

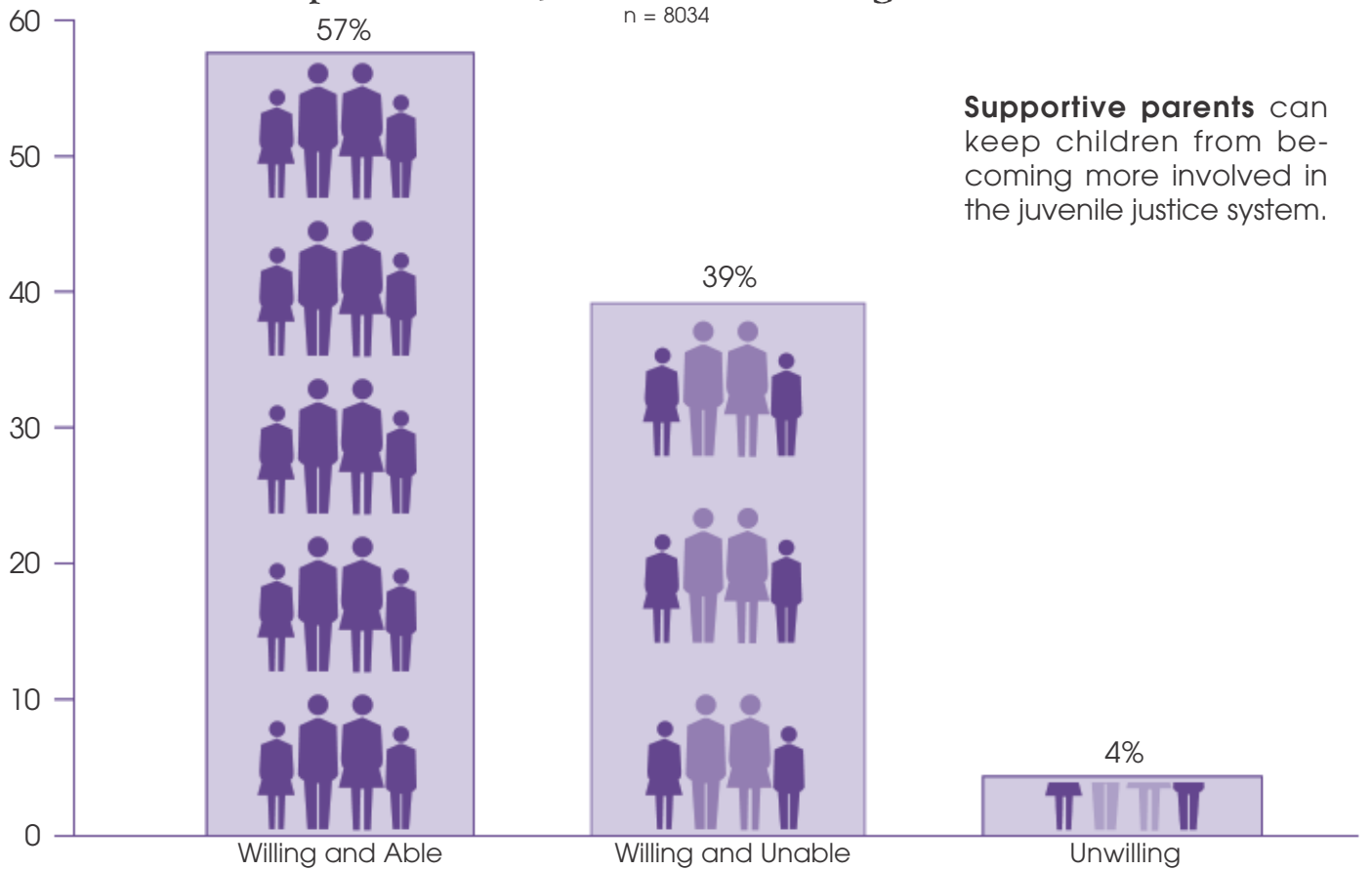
Runaway History of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments



A Comparison of Peer Relationships and Runaway History

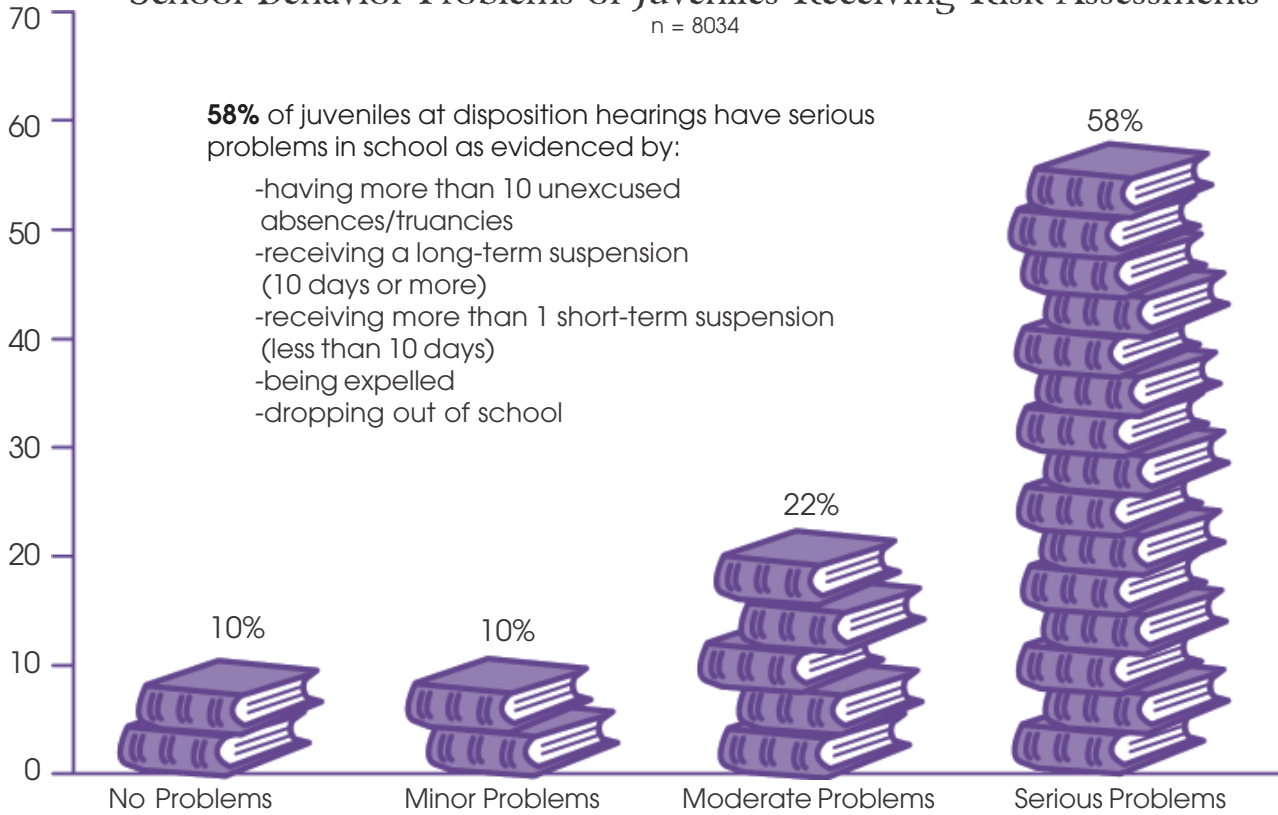


Parental Supervision of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments



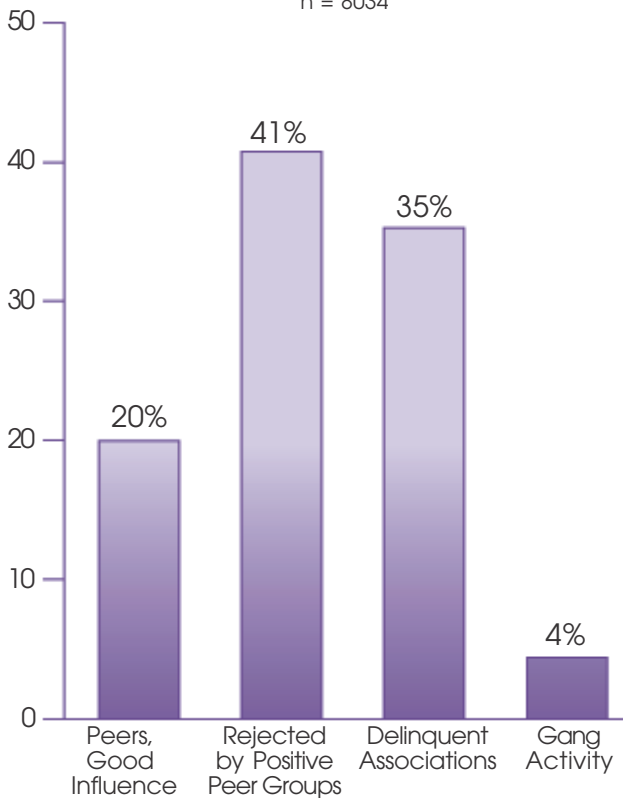
School Behavior Problems of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments

n = 8034



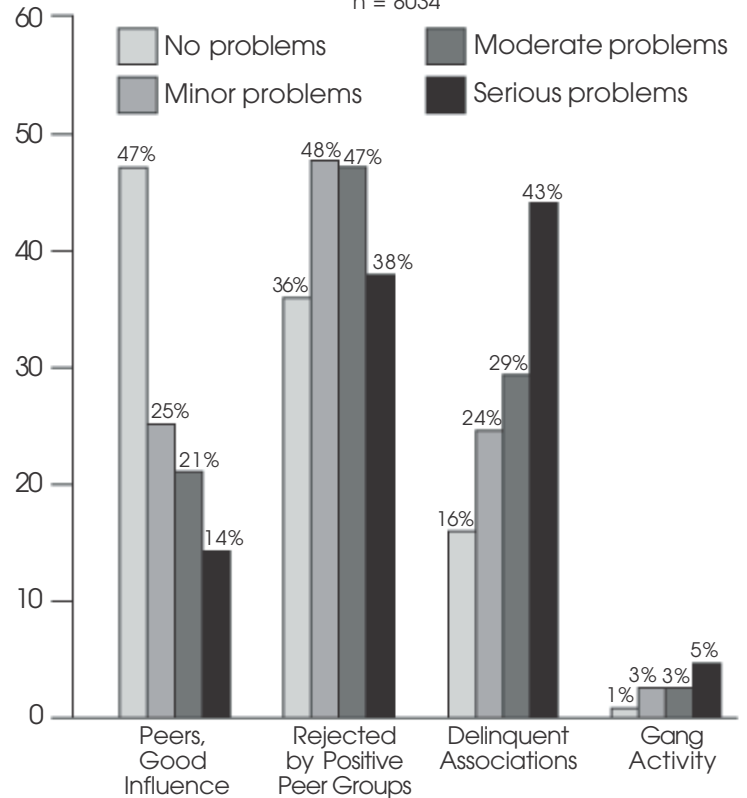
Peer Relationships of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments

n = 8034

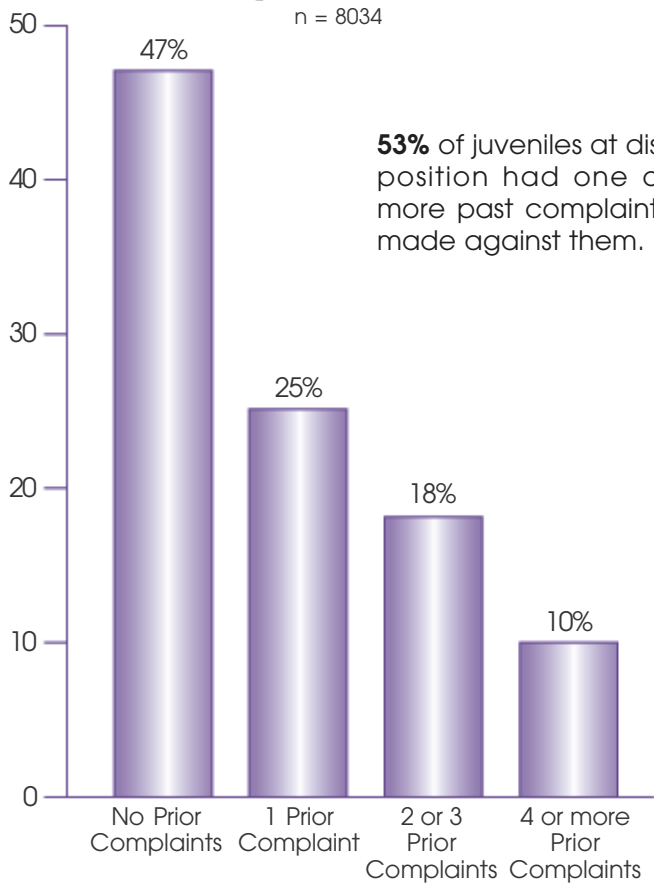


A Comparison of Peer Relationships and School Behavior Problems

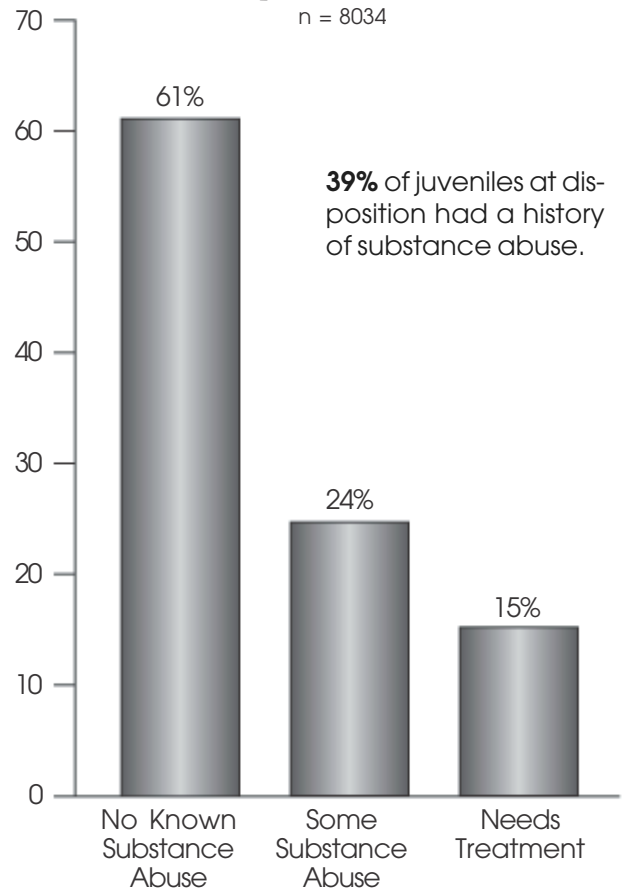
n = 8034



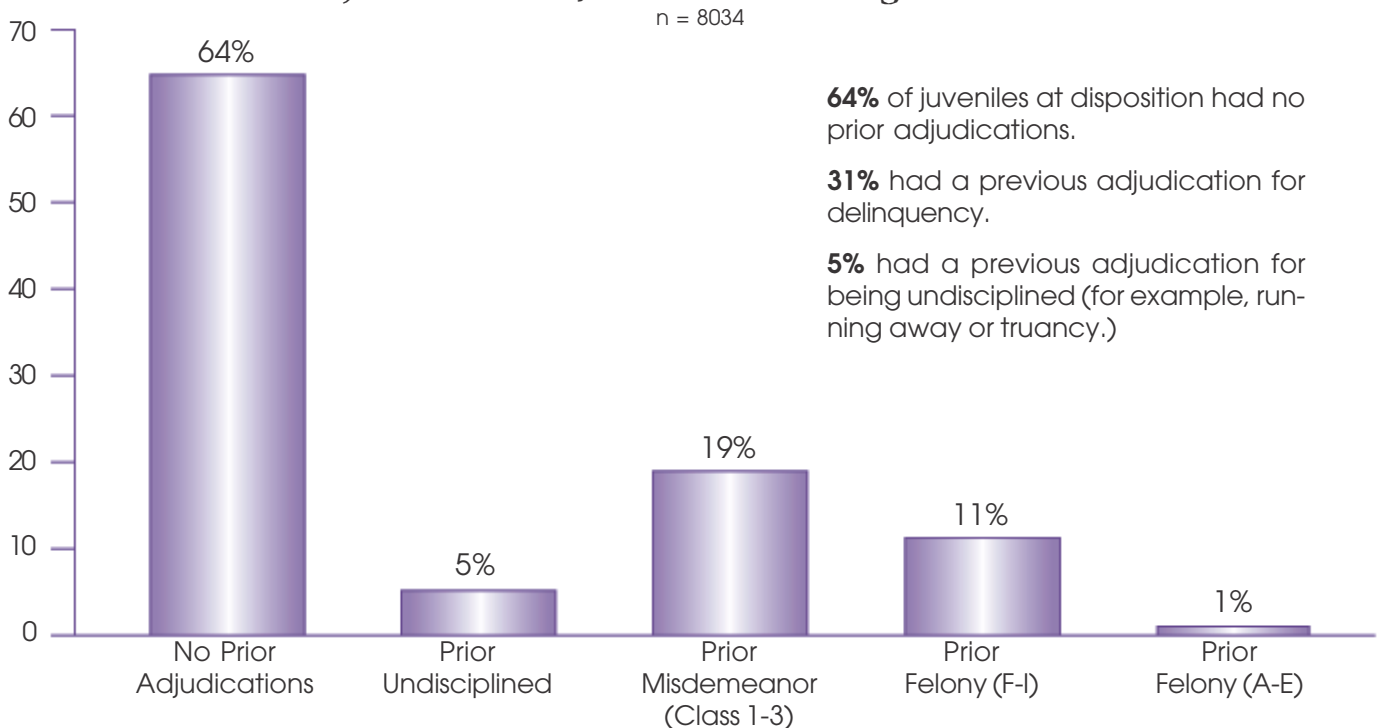
Complaint History of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments



Substance Abuse of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments



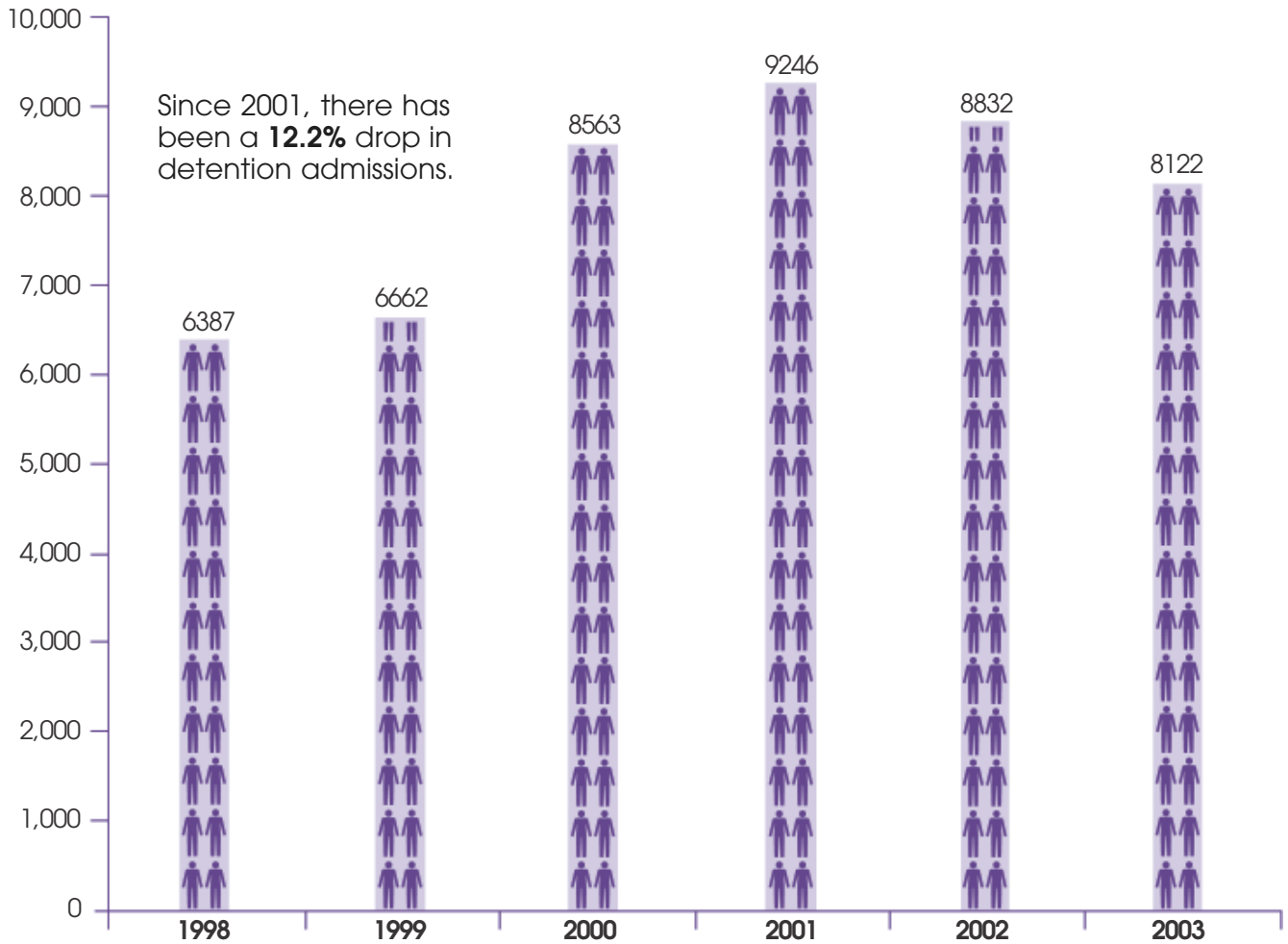
Prior Adjudications of Juveniles Receiving Risk Assessments



More Risk Assessment data can be found at www.ncdjjdp.org.

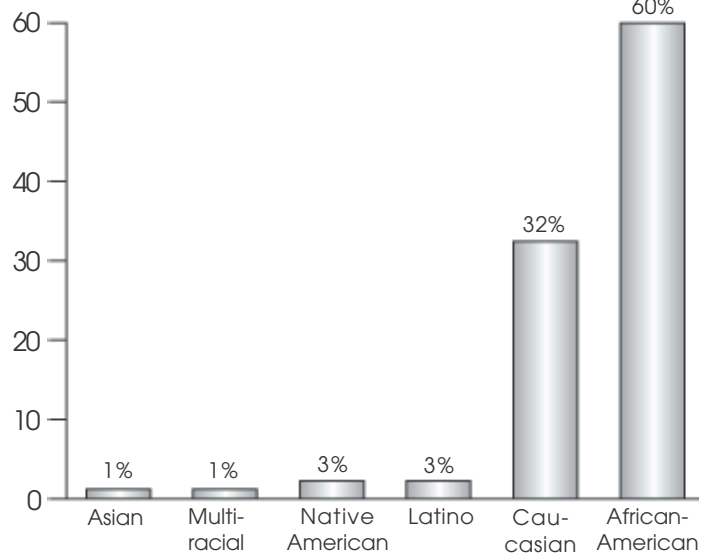
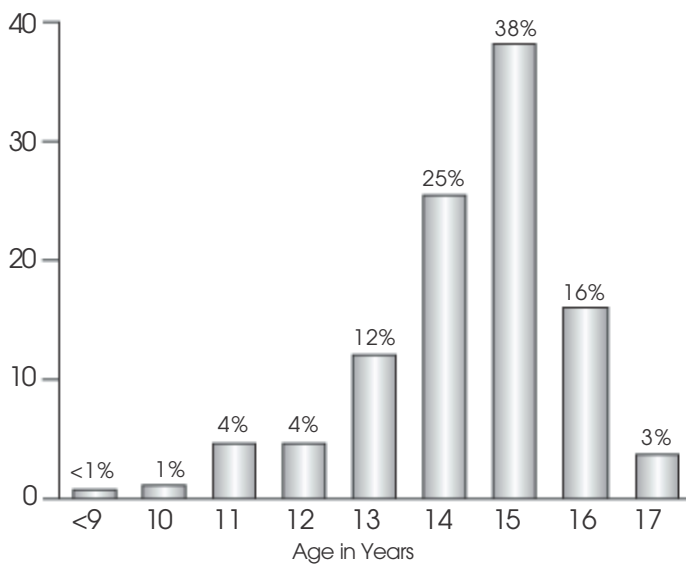


Detention Center Admissions



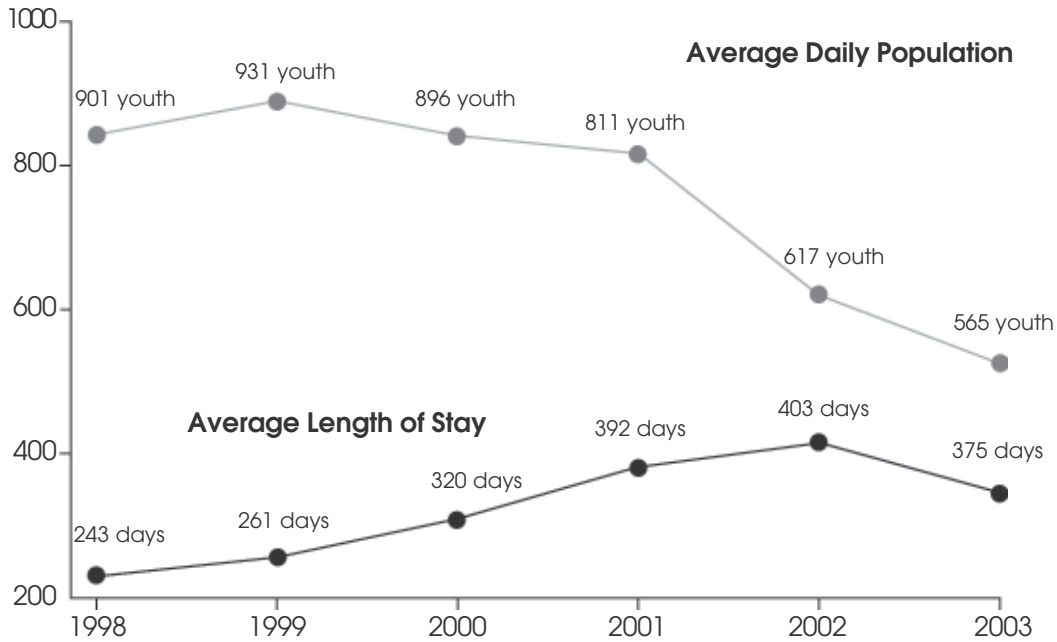
Detention Center Admissions By Age
n = 8122

Detention Center Admissions By Ethnicity
n = 8122



More Detention Center data can be found at www.ncdjjdp.org.

Youth Development Center Trends

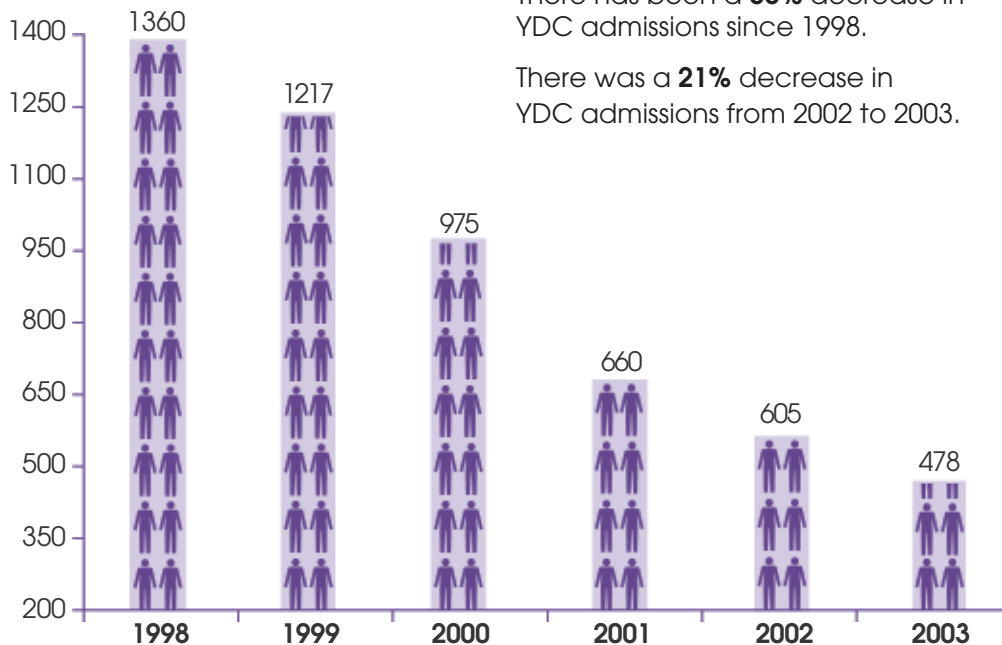


There has been a 37.4% drop in the Average Daily Population in YDCs since 1998.

There was a 54.3% increase in the Average Length of Stay in YDCs since 1998; however, the Average Length of Stay declined by 6.9% from 2002 to 2003.

2003 is the first year since the Juvenile Justice Reform Act during which a decrease in both the Average Daily Population and the Average Length of Stay occurred.

Youth Development Center Admissions



There has been a **65%** decrease in YDC admissions since 1998.

There was a **21%** decrease in YDC admissions from 2002 to 2003.

YDC Admissions: Top 10 Offenses

1. Larceny, felony
2. Breaking or entering with intent to commit felony
3. Assault on an officer or employee of the state
4. Armed robbery/ Attempted armed robbery
5. Possession of stolen vehicle
6. Assault with a deadly weapon
7. Breaking or entering vehicle
8. Controlled substance - sell/deliver
9. Felonious possession of stolen goods
10. Assault inflicting serious injury

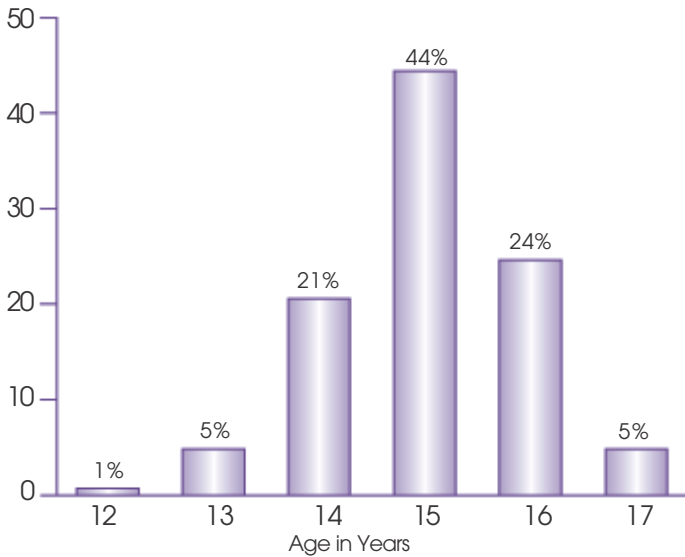
More Youth Development Center data can be found at www.ncdjjdp.org.



Our 2003 report marks the first full year of **Assessment and Treatment Planning Center (ATPC) Data**. When a juvenile is committed to a Youth Development Center (YDC), the youth undergoes health, education, and mental health assessments. These assessments help determine the best treatment plans for the youth.

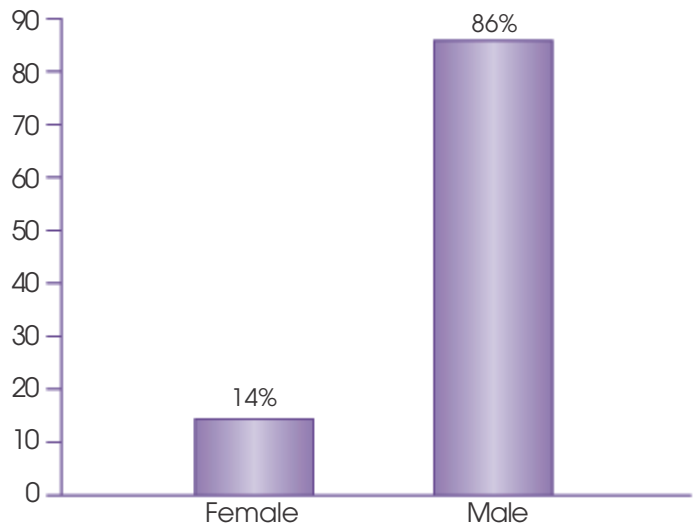
2003 YDC Admissions By Age

n = 478



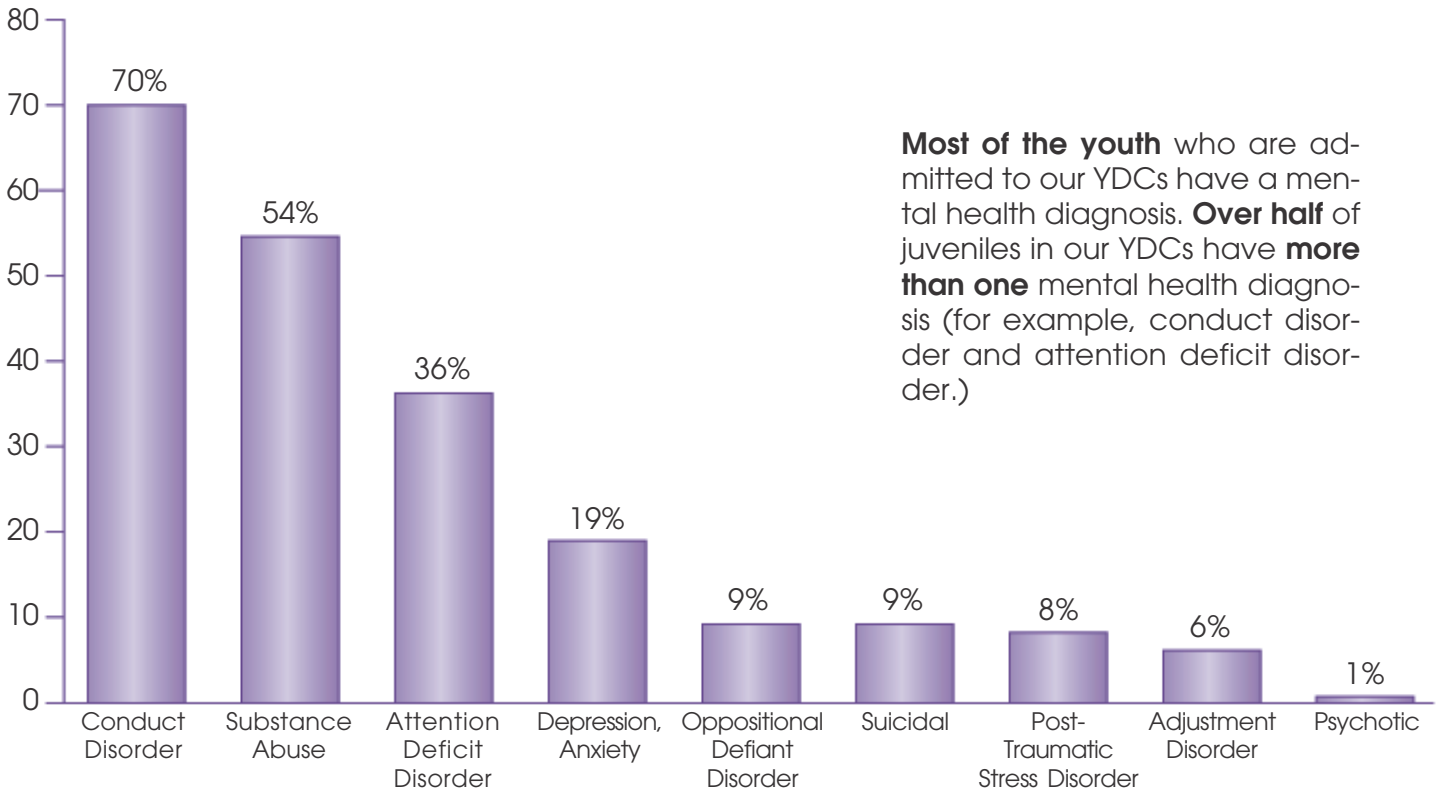
2003 YDC Admissions By Gender

n = 478



Mental Health Diagnoses of 2003 YDC Admissions

n=478

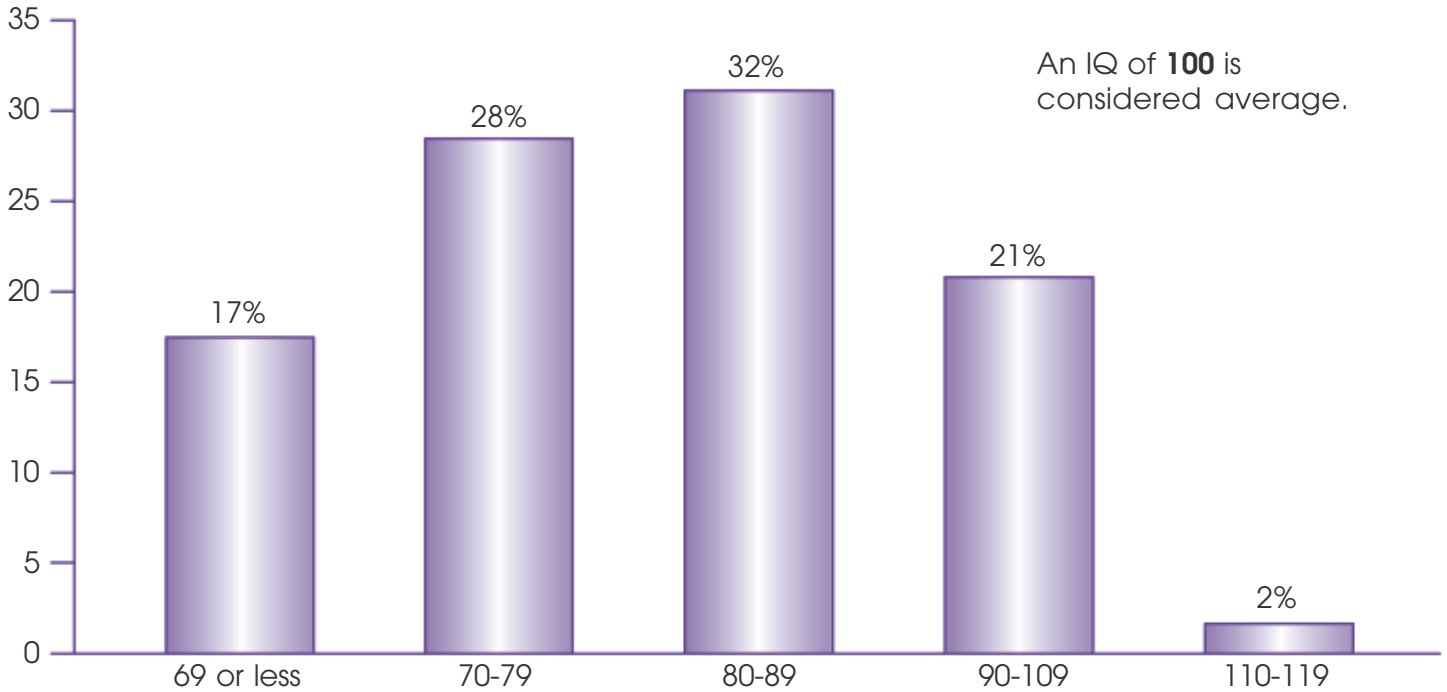


Most of the youth who are admitted to our YDCs have a mental health diagnosis. **Over half** of juveniles in our YDCs have **more than one** mental health diagnosis (for example, conduct disorder and attention deficit disorder.)



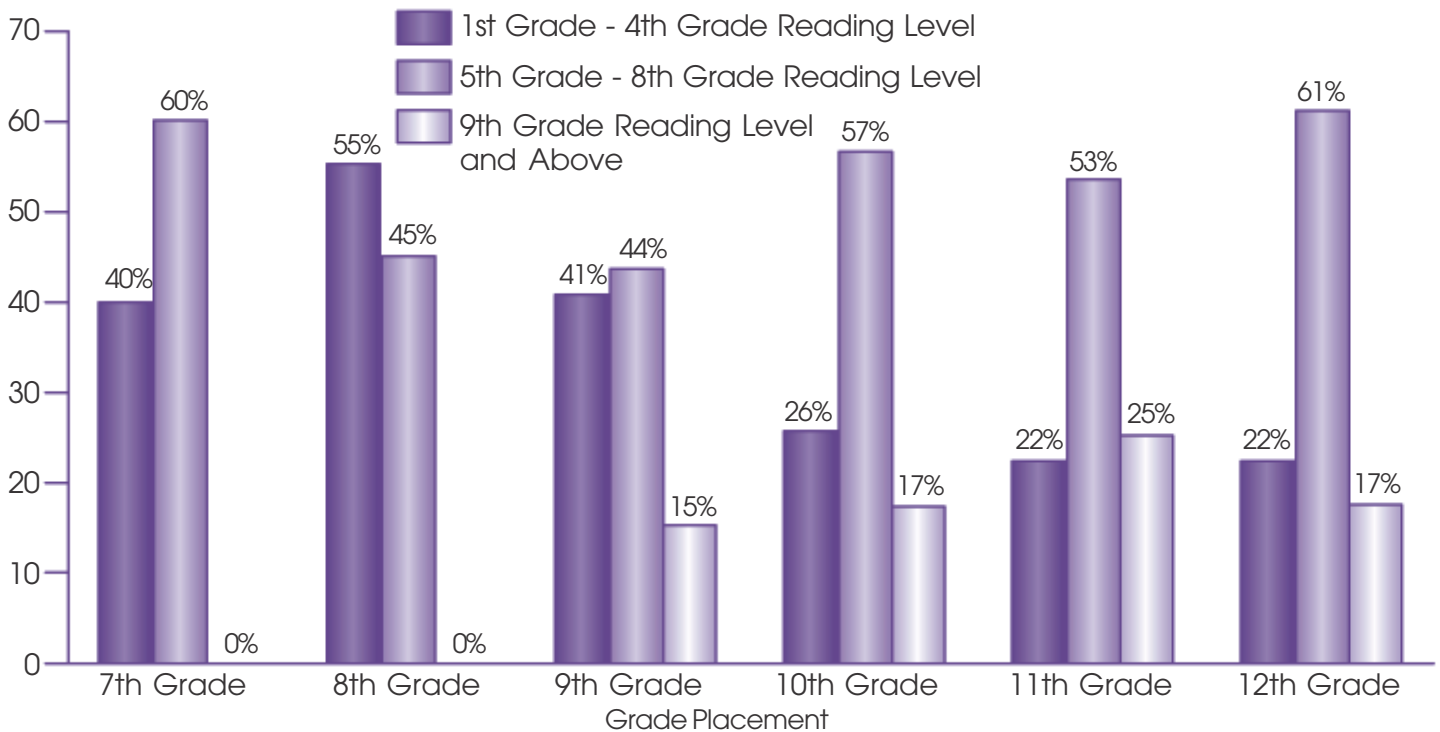
Full Scale IQ of 2003 YDC Admissions

n=395



Reading Level & Grade Placement of 2003 YDC Admissions

n=436



More information can be found at www.ncdjjdp.org.



Statewide Offense Report: 2003

Description (G.S. Number)	Complaints	Description (G.S. Number)	Complaints
Felony A-E		Felony F-I	
Armed Robbery (14-87)	180	Larceny, felony (14-72)	2306
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree (14-27.4)	134	Breaking or entering, with intent to commit felony (14-54(a))	1727
Assault with deadly weapon, inflicting serious injury (14-32(b))	73	Breaking or entering vehicle (14-56)	821
Kidnapping (14-39)	71	Felonious possession of stolen goods (14-71.1)	623
Sexual Offense, 2nd Degree (14-27.5)	58	Controlled substance - possession with intent to manufacture/ sell/deliver (90-95(a)(1))	414
Burglary, 1st Degree (14-51)	45	Possession of stolen vehicle (20-106)	289
Rape, 1st Degree (14-27.2)	44	Common law robbery (14-87.1)	182
Assault with deadly weapon, with intent to inflict serious injury (14-32(a))	42	Crime against nature (14-177)	102
Discharging firearm on an occupied property (14-34.1)	41	Possess controlled substance, felony (90-95(a)(3))	75
Rape, 2nd Degree (14-27.3)	28	Obtain property by false pretenses (14-100)	74
Assault with deadly weapon, with intent to kill (14-32(c))	26	Burning personal property (14-66)	64
Arson, 1st Degree (14-58)	24	Possess weapon at school (F) (14-269.2)	61
Murder, 1st Degree (14-17)	9	Burglary, 2nd Degree (14-51)	58
Manslaughter, Voluntary (14-18)	2	Counterfeit controlled substance - sell or deliver (90-95(a)(2))	45
Murder, 2nd Degree (14-17)	1	Financial card fraud (14-113.13)	40
Other Class B felonies	19	Receiving stolen goods, felony (14-71)	31
Other Class C felonies	10	Break coin or currency machine (subsequent offense only) (14-56.1)	26
Other Class D felonies	23	Arson, 2nd Degree (14-58)	16
Other Class E felonies	39	Taking indecent liberties with children (14-202.1)	12
TOTAL	869	Possess weapon of mass destruction (14-288.8)	10
		Credit card forgery (14-113.11)	4
		Manslaughter, Involuntary (14-18)	3
		Other Class F felonies	75
		Other Class G felonies	149
		Other Class H felonies	597
		Other Class I felonies	293
		TOTAL	8097



Statewide Offense Report: 2003

Description (G.S. Number)	Complaints
Misdemeanor A-1	
Assault on an officer or state employee (14-33(c)(4))	900
Assault with a deadly weapon (14-33(c)(1))	677
Assault on school employee (14-33(c)(6))	258
Assault by pointing a gun (14-34)	112
Assault on child under twelve (14-33(c)(3))	89
Other Class A1 misdemeanors	155
TOTAL	2191
Misdemeanor 1-3	
Simple assault (14-33(a))	6192
Larceny, misdemeanor (14-72)	3795
Injury to personal property (14-160)	2216
Disorderly conduct/ public disturbance (14-288.4)	2080
Communicating threats (14-277.1)	1508
Injury to real property (14-127)	1502
Possession of weapon at school (M) (14-269.2)	1139
Resisting arrest (14-223)	981
Other traffic offenses	949
Simple affray (14-33(a))	947
Possession of controlled substance, misdemeanor (90-95(a)(3))	939
Shoplifting (14-72.1)	821
Trespassing, 2nd degree (14-159.13)	639
Possessing stolen goods (M) (14-71.1)	618
Possession of marijuana (90-95(d)(4))	606
Breaking and entering (M) (14-54(b))	552
Drug paraphernalia (90-113.22)	458
Driving without license (20-7(a))	372
Unauthorized use of automobile (14-72.2)	330

Description (G.S. Number)	Complaints
Misdemeanor 1-3 (continued)	
Concealed weapons (14-269(a))	138
Purchase or possession of wine or mixed beverage (18B-302(b)(2))	131
Trespassing, 1st Degree (14-159.12)	126
Purchase or possession of malt beverages (18B-302(b)(1))	123
Indecent exposure (14-190.9)	87
Harrassing phone calls (14-196)	81
Giving false information to an officer (14-225)	62
Break coin or currency machine (14-56.1)	29
Receiving stolen goods (M) (14-71)	27
Setting fire to woods or fields (14-137)	13
Credit card theft (14-113.9)	12
Other Class 1 misdemeanors	658
Other Class 2 misdemeanors	384
Other Class 3 misdemeanors	131
TOTAL	28646
Local Ordinances	
Local ordinances, citations, etc.	193
TOTAL	193
Undisciplined	
Ungovernable	2333
Runaway	1339
Truant	1338
Found in places unlawful for juvenile	71
Other Undisciplined	6
TOTAL	5087
STATE TOTAL	45083



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