



Juvenile Justice

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Division of
Adult Correction and
Juvenile Justice



COMPREHENSIVE MAP

Juvenile Justice facilities in North Carolina

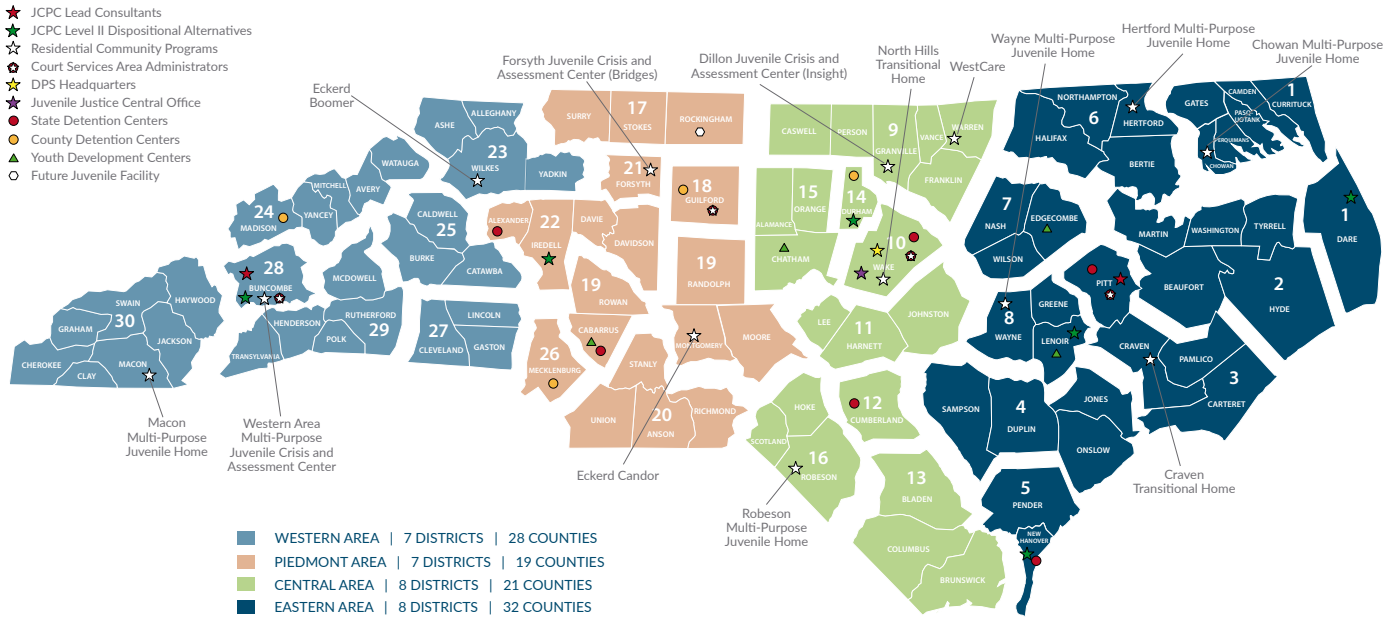


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William Lassiter,
Deputy Secretary
Division of Adult Correction
and Juvenile Justice

Dear Citizens of the State of North Carolina

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Juvenile Justice section, I am pleased to present our 2019 Annual Report. This year's report highlights the successes of the juvenile justice system in North Carolina and looks to the future of the system under the historic raise the age legislative change that went into effect on Dec. 1 of this year. Highlighted below are just a few of the many initiatives the juvenile justice system implemented this year to meet our mission of serving the right child at the right time in the right service.

For years, researchers, advocates, parents, policymakers and court officials have argued that the right place with the right services for 16 and 17-year-olds is in the juvenile justice system. Thanks to the historic passage of the "Raise the Age" legislation in 2017 and its implementation this year those juveniles are now being provided the right services to both meet their needs and to make North Carolina a safer place for all our citizens. Extending original jurisdiction of the juvenile court to 16 and 17-year-olds (better known as "**Raise the Age**") allows young people who commit non-violent crimes in North Carolina to no longer automatically be charged in the adult criminal justice system. The 'Raise the Age' initiative became law only through a strong, bipartisan coalition of support from all three branches of government, law enforcement and advocacy organizations, which continues today. Juvenile Justice worked with the UNC-School of Government and juvenile-serving agencies and partners to implement training, policy, forms, processes, strategic planning, age-appropriate programming and facility openings to meet the needs of the more than 8,000 16 and 17-year-old juveniles expected to be served under juvenile jurisdiction in 2020.

Also this year we furthered our mission to serve the right juveniles, at the right times and in the right settings by the creation of the **Juvenile Justice Service Directory**. The Service Directory provides juvenile court counselors with an inventory of programs and services in which to refer juveniles; and serves as the foundation to Service Matching (discussed below). Standardized information has been collected on 1,800 active program/services ranging in type—basic needs to long-term residential. The Service Directory is available now in two online locations—CJLEADS for law enforcement and court officials; and the DPS website for parents, school officials and other local stakeholders.

In the coming year the Service Directory will become a powerful tool to allow our staff to improve Service Matching. The information collected in the Service Directory aligns with the Juvenile Justice risk/needs tool. Electronic matches will be available for juvenile court counselors to select programs that target the characteristics of the individual juveniles on their caseload. We also anticipate that the Service Directory and service matching will assist in conducting gap analyses to strengthen the comprehensive program continuum.

The Juvenile Justice section also this year put in place a new Visual Analytics tool, to aid in knowing what services are best for a particular juvenile at what time. Visual Analytics is a web-based tool that helps Juvenile Justice leaders to analyze recidivism outcomes on specific juvenile populations. The tool and data construction marries every juvenile ever served in the system based on juvenile outcomes/dynamics (i.e., diversion success, court dispositions, length of stay) with adult arrests and convictions. These variables commingled provide context as to which juveniles benefit from experiences in particular settings. This tool is expected to help inform policy and practice decisions, as we endeavor to evaluate programs and service responses to bring about successful interventions.

North Carolina has long been touted as a pioneer in having a robust statewide database of juveniles that collects processes and outcomes of the system. This data system is a powerful decision-making tool that helps the section make the right placements for children across our state. This system is known as **NC-JOIN**—the North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network—and it houses confidential juvenile case management information, including tracking of juvenile movements, court orders and processes, program assignments/referrals, and case notes. It has become an essential tool in providing the data necessary in making decisions on the appropriate use of resources to help fund and direct services for youth involved in prevention and intervention efforts both at the state and local levels. NC-JOIN underwent an expansive re-write to continue its valuable functionality (**NC JOIN 2**), including changes related to Raise the Age in November 2019, to allow for the processing of 16 and 17-year-old juveniles' offenses in the system.

The juvenile justice system in North Carolina strives to collaborate with our local partners in community-based programs, courts, schools, mental health, social services and law enforcement to find the right service, for the right child, at the right time. The three major units of the Juvenile Justice section: Court Services, Community Programs and Facility Operations—combine to create a comprehensive approach to preventing, intervening and responding to youth delinquent behavior. The effectiveness of this system is defined by the collaborative approach made by these three units to create safer communities and work with our state's most at-risk populations by providing them with the tools they need to be successful.

I am truly proud of the work of our juvenile justice professionals across North Carolina and I am excited to share with you the many successes of the Juvenile Justice section so that you, the citizens of our state, can be proud of the efforts taking place on your behalf.

2019: The Year of Implementation

Opening the Curtains on Two Years of Hard Work and Preparation

Deputy Secretary William Lassiter and professionals from every discipline within Juvenile Justice celebrated the arrival of Dec. 1, 2019. That day capped more than two years of planning and preparation for the start of the Raise the Age era here in North Carolina. In addition to this landmark event, extensive groundwork toward several other significant undertakings was laid in 2019, a monumental year in the history of juvenile justice in North Carolina.

Major Accomplishments and Areas of Advancement for the year include:

Raise the Age Implementation

Effective Dec. 1, 16 and 17-year-old individuals who commit crimes in North Carolina are no longer automatically charged in the adult criminal justice system. The 'Raise the Age' initiative became law through a strong, bipartisan coalition of support from three primary areas including government officials, law enforcement and community advocacy organizations. Juvenile Justice staff members worked with the UNC-School of Government and other juvenile-serving agencies and partners to create and implement training, policy, forms, processes, strategic planning, age-appropriate programming and facility openings to meet the needs of the more than 8,000 16 and 17-year-olds projected to be served under juvenile jurisdiction during calendar year 2020.

Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Service Directory

Designed to match programs and services with at-risk juveniles and their families across the state, it is hoped that the Service Directory will help create the foundation on which to construct our primary mission: to serve the right juveniles, at the right times and in the right setting. To date, more than 1,800 active providers are listed in the database, offering a full range of services, from basic behavioral needs to long-term residential care. The SD is now available in two online locations—CJLEADS for law enforcement and court officials; and the DPS website for parents, school officials and other local stakeholders. This tool can be publicly accessed at: <https://www.ncdps.gov/juvenile-justice/service-directory/>

Service Matching Initiative

North Carolina Juvenile Justice is adopting and integrating the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) risk/needs/service planning tool into the Juvenile Justice (NC-JOIN) database. Service matching, or the ability of the YASI assessment tool to automatically cross-reference

criteria-specific provider information collected in the new Service Directory with risk/needs criteria from individual assessments, will provide the staff with a resource to target specified characteristics and typologies of juvenile offenders under supervision. This will allow staff to better match individual juveniles to programming; conduct service gap analyses; and administer the comprehensive continuum of care more efficiently. The results from Service Matching will allow juvenile court counselors (JCC) to provide better assistance to the juveniles and families on their caseload.

Visual Analytics (VA)

Visual Analytics is a meaningful, web-based business analytics tool designed to aid Juvenile Justice leadership in analyzing recidivism outcomes for (user-specified) offender populations. Based on juvenile outcomes/dynamics (i.e., diversion success, court dispositions, length of stay) the VA tool cross-references data for each juvenile ever served in North Carolina's juvenile justice system against adult arrests and convictions, to provide visual context for determining which offender-types benefit from experiences in a particular setting. This online analytics tool has produced a great deal of information to-date, and will be mined for actionable improvements to juvenile justice processes. It is anticipated that this tool will help inform policy and practice decisions, evaluate programs and prescribe service responses to effect successful interventions.

Business Analytics

Juvenile Justice utilizes several tools to streamline functionality and efficiency of reporting, including cross-platform processing of information from the NC-ALLIES and NC-JOIN statewide databases with the Pentaho and Sisense business platforms. This integration of software allows for data collected from a variety of sources to be merged into regular and relevant analysis and reporting. Access to reliable, up-to-the-minute information is available to Juvenile Justice management, to more clearly illustrate Raise the Age impact/effects, allowing for more precise, meaningful refinements to existing plans as implementation continues.

NC-JOIN v2

Since its inception, the North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN) has been an essential tool for providing decision-making data to state and local juvenile justice professionals. Designed to securely house confidential juvenile case management information, the database is used to steer appropriate resource and funding allocations for youth prevention and intervention services. This platform underwent an expansive rewrite in 2019 to upgrade functionality, included many Raise the Age-related enhancements to adequately process 16 and 17-year-old juveniles' offenses within the Juvenile Justice record-keeping system.

JUVENILE JUSTICE **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**



Through its Juvenile Community Program Section, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety provides a comprehensive network of community-based programs and services to engage youth and families with sound, evidence-based approaches and effective case management to help prevent and reduce juvenile crime and delinquency in North Carolina. Located in all 100 counties across the state, these jointly-funded partnerships produce a continuum of care needed to address the family, peer and social issues surrounding delinquent behavior in our communities.

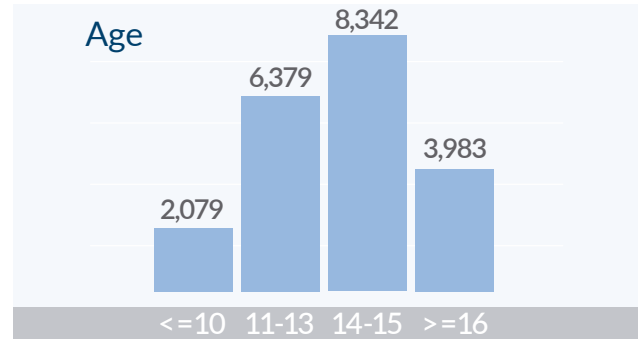
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Accomplishments

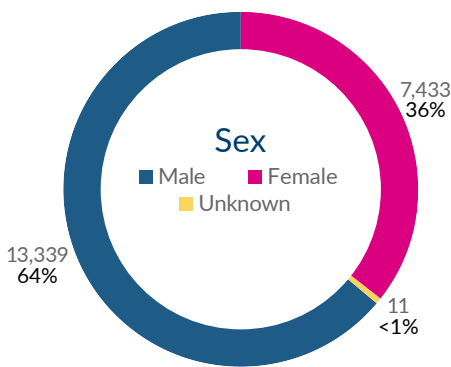
- A bill to modify juvenile crime prevention councils is pending with the state Senate after its passage by the state House. This bill contains language supported by the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee that would remove current disposition-level restrictions by contracted programs. If enacted, service eligibility for contracted program services will no longer depend upon a specific Level II disposition. The bill addresses Juvenile Crime Prevention Council membership, two-year funding cycles (to align with a biennial budget) and the provision of cross-district/county collaborative work with the funding of JCPC programs—helpful particularly for very rural regions of North Carolina where blended county JCPC funds can support needed programming.
- Completed two-tiered JCPC planning process in FY18-19, in anticipation of Raise the Age JCPC expansion funding. This planning has eased the allocation of expansion dollars for counties, so they can quickly and efficiently meet the service needs for the older population being served.
- In collaboration with IT staff, enhanced NCALLIES, the process used by programs to apply online for JCPC funding, in preparation for Raise the Age expansion and the need for regionalized services; to offer support to all 100 counties by issuance of an administrative order to “waive” local county match requirement for Raise the Age expansion dollars in FY19-20; and for development of the multi-county program agreement function.
- Prepared and submitted to DPS Purchasing and Contracts in fall 2019 a Request for Proposals (RFP) for gender-specific short-term residential treatment for a 20-bed facility in Vance County, with expansion of at least 10-bed capacity to serve the Piedmont/Western regions.
- Released Post Release Supervision (PRS)/ Stepdown reentry support model in Cumberland County. The model is designed to assist youth with reentry to the local education authority (LEA) and support vocational skill development and job placement.
- Requested permission to expand the transitional living model to the Forsyth site, completing tasks necessary to ready the transitional home site, located behind the current Crisis and Assessment Center on property already leased from local government.
- Completed JCPC Policy revision to accommodate changes due to Raise the Age.
- Developed RFP to support Alternatives to Detention—pre-trial release model for a targeted juvenile population. Researched models that would include appropriate risk-screening tools to assist the courts with client selections. Program goals are to reduce unnecessary detention stays; ensure appropriate services linkage including mental health and other wraparound services; provide opportunities for youth to remain under juvenile jurisdiction; and prevent deeper penetration into the criminal justice system.
- Scheduled release of a Multi-purpose Group Home RFP in June 2020 to address needs of the Central and Piedmont Area judicial districts to better serve the Level II juvenile population. The Juvenile Community Programs Section currently administers five multi-purpose group homes statewide serving adjudicated 10 to 17-year-olds that require intensive intervention services.
- Increased bed capacity at Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center in Butner and Bridges Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center located in Winston-Salem by two and four beds, respectively.
- In conjunction with Clinical Services and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), researched models that provide a form of supportive housing for the Raise the Age population. Housing as an intervention operates under the concept that individuals with safe and secure housing are more likely to seek and succeed at obtaining mental health services, maintaining employment and becoming contributing members of the community.

YOUTH SERVED

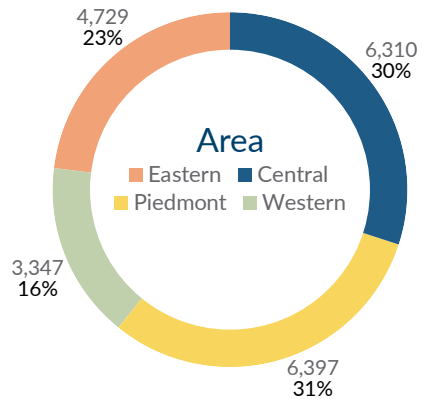
by JCPC Programs



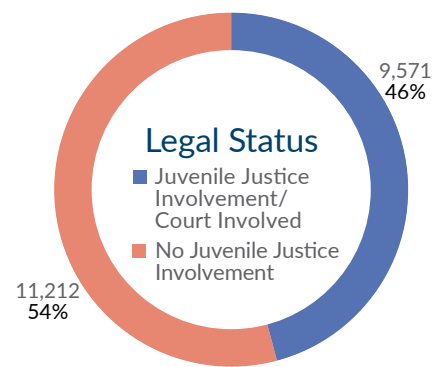
Youth Served by JCPC Programs by Age



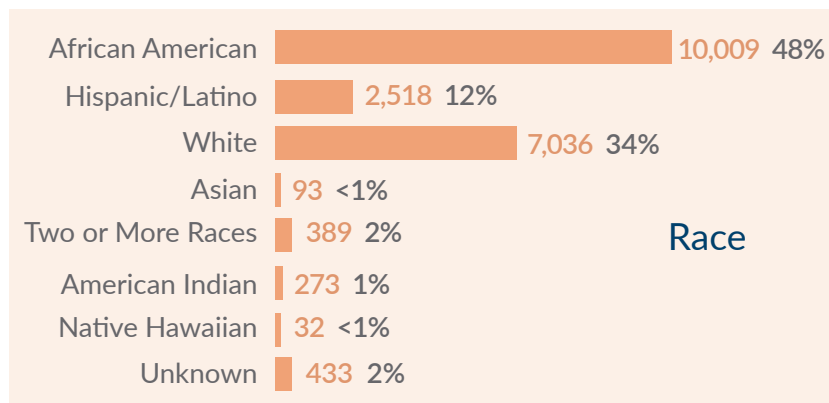
Youth Served by JCPC Programs by Sex



Youth Served by JCPC Programs by Area



Youth Served by JCPC Programs by Legal Status



Youth Served by JCPC Programs by Race/Ethnicity



At-Risk Recidivism Rate: 13% (2-years post program completion)



Youth Served by JCPC Program Type

Program Type	Youth Served
Restitution/Community Service	4,546
Interpersonal Skill Building	3,913
Teen Court	2,978
Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	1,580
Juvenile Structured Day	1,447
Parent/Family Skill Building	1,089
Assessments	926
Individual Counseling	825
Meditation/Conflict Resolution	748
Mentoring	683
Experiential Skill Building	541
Temporary Shelter Care	292
Substance Abuse Counseling	236
Home-Based Family Counseling	229
Runaway Shelter Care	212
Family Counseling	195
Group Counseling	137
Vocational Skills	83
Sexual Offender Treatment	64
Specialized Foster Care	30
Group Home Care	29
Temporary Foster Care	0
Total	20,783

Youth Served by JCPC Programs per Legal Status

Legal Status	Youth Served
Adjudicated Delinquent Disposition Pending	161
Adjudicated Undisciplined Disposition Pending	96
Commitment	29
Continuation Services	32
Court Counselor Consultation	331
Deferred Prosecution	373
Diversion Plan/Contract	4,028
Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)	3
N/A – No Juvenile Justice Involvement	10,881
Petition Filed	536
Post Release Supervision	29
Probation	4,053
Protective Supervision	231
Total	20,783

Youth Served by Program Funding Source

Funding Source	Youth Served
JCPC Funds	20,783
Community-Based Contractual Services	465
JCPC Alternatives to Commitment Programs	119
Residential Contractual Services	741
JCPC Level II Dispositional Alternatives	247
Total	22,355

Youth Served by Contract Residential Programs

Residential Programs	Youth Served
Crisis and Assessment Centers (Bridges, Insight and Western Area Multipurpose)	298
Eckerd Short-Term Residential Program	260
WestCare Female Residential	57
Multipurpose Group Homes	98
Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes	28
Total	741

JUVENILE JUSTICE **COURT SERVICES**



Within the continuum of services approach that North Carolina uses to identify, reduce and control delinquent and undisciplined behavior, Juvenile Justice Court Services professionals form the bridge between the community, local law enforcement and the complimentary programs and services available to assist youth and their families. These dedicated teams across the state receive and process allegations, provide intake services, case management services, identify programming to address developmental needs and work to establish proper post-release aftercare to maintain public safety.

COURT SERVICES

Accomplishments



- Amended Court Services policies, forms and procedures, and created flowcharts of new processes consistent with Raise the Age statutory requirements and advice from the UNC-School of Government.
- Trained counselors in new intake procedures, coordinated question and answer sessions with managers and supervisors at the management planning conference in Winston-Salem, and distributed electronic versions of Raise the Age-related tools and publications from UNC-School of Government.
- Coordinated with IT the necessary new Raise the Age processes for inclusion in NC-JOIN, the Juvenile Online Information Network.
- Divided oversight of transportation teams with Facility Operations to provide more localized support to court counselors in delivering juvenile transportation needs. This redesign is intended to provide relief to Juvenile Court Services in the area of transportation as two staff are required to provide secure custody transport across individual districts per Juvenile Justice safety protocol. Providing specialization

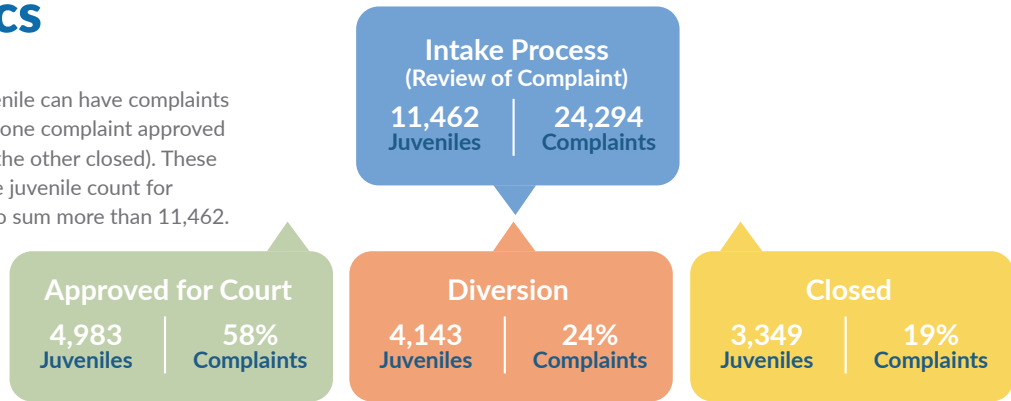
will further enhance the delivery of case management that may be provided in the field, while maximizing the effectiveness of the 97 new court counselor positions received through General Assembly funded support.

- Created and implemented a screening tool into NC-JOIN—in collaboration with NC GangNET and in consultation with Dr. Buddy Howell with the National Youth Gang Center—in response to the juvenile gang suppression requirements written into state law. Staff have been trained by law enforcement and Corrections' trainers in recognizing signs of gang affiliation.
- Worked with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to provide revisions to juvenile AOC forms.
- Worked with members of the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee (Heather Taraska and Eric Zogry); LaToya Powell, assistant legal counsel at the Administrative Office of the Courts; Jacqui Greene from the UNC-School of Government; Rachel Larsen from the Conference of District Attorneys, and the DPS Office of the General Counsel to develop Raise the Age policy implementation decisions while endeavoring to do no harm.

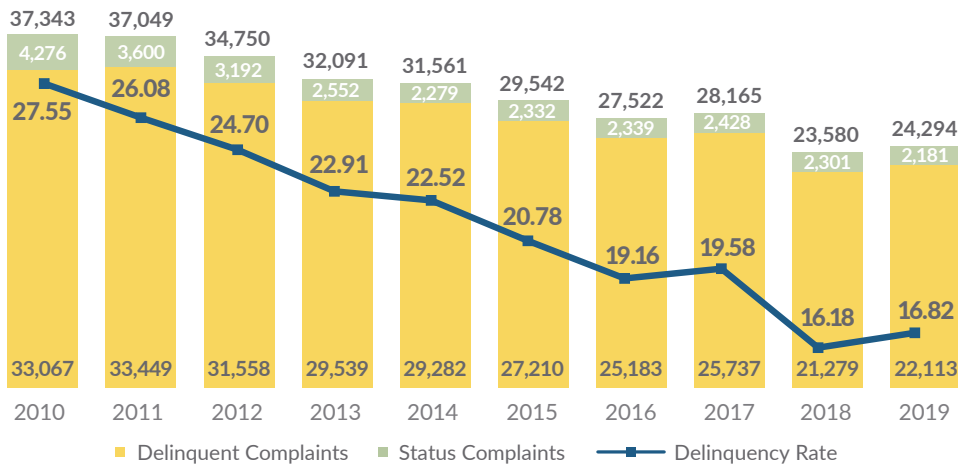


Complaint Demographics

Over the course of a year, a juvenile can have complaints receive multiple outcomes (e.g., one complaint approved for court, another diverted and the other closed). These decision combinations cause the juvenile count for approved, diverted and closed to sum more than 11,462.



Complaints Received and Delinquency Rate (CY 2010-2019)



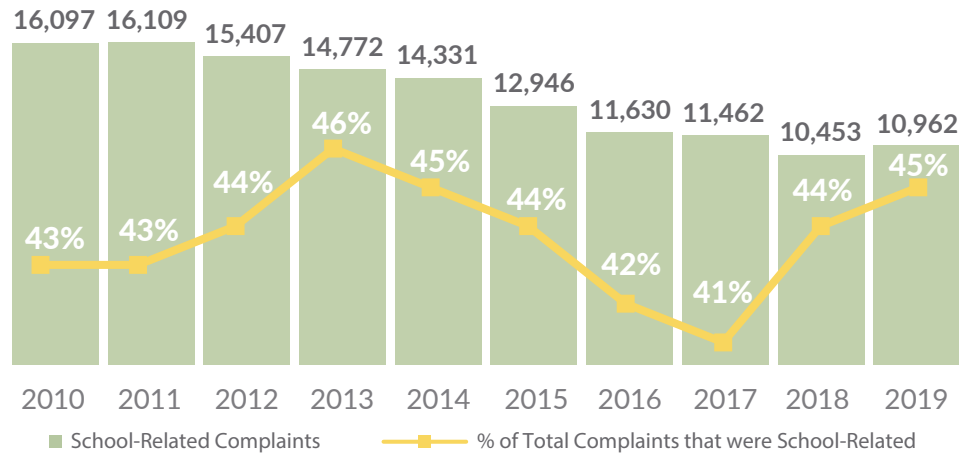
The delinquency rate is based on the population of juveniles aged 6 to 15. In the 2020 annual report, the delinquency rate will include ages 16 and 17 to account for the expanded juvenile jurisdiction.

Gang-Affiliated Youth Trends (CY 2010-2019)



Juvenile and School-Based Offenses

Percentage of School-Based Complaints (CY 2010-2019)



There was a 32% decrease in school-based offenses between 2010 and 2019.

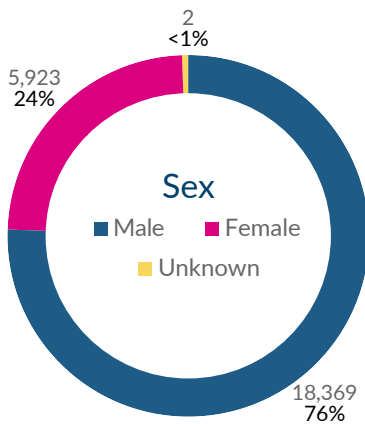
Top 10 Juvenile Offenses: CY 2019

Charged Offense (M) misdemeanor (F) felony	Complaints
Larceny (M)	1,273
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	1,156
Simple Affray (M)	1,037
Communicating Threats (M)	1,036
Truant <16 (Status)	954
Break or Enter a Motor Vehicle (F)	948
Breaking and/or Entering (F)	653
Injury to Real Property (M)	600
Resisting Public Officer (M)	591

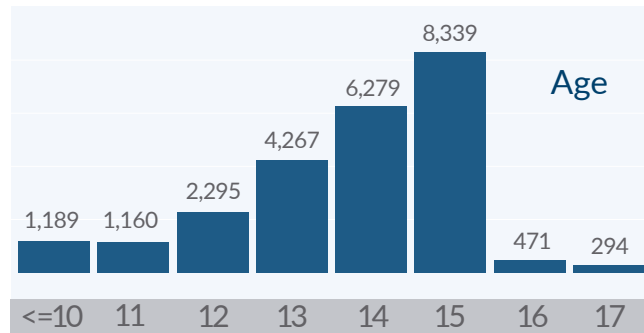
Top 10 School-Based Offenses: CY 2019

Charged Offense (M) misdemeanor (F) felony	Complaints
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	1,153
Simple Affray (M)	932
Truant <16 (Status)	920
Communicating Threats (M)	757
Assault School Employee / Volunteer (M)	378
Possession of Weapons Other Than Firearms and Explosives on School Grounds (M)	374
Assault Government Official / Employee (M)	342
Larceny (M)	309
Simple Possession Schedule VI Controlled Substance (M)	274

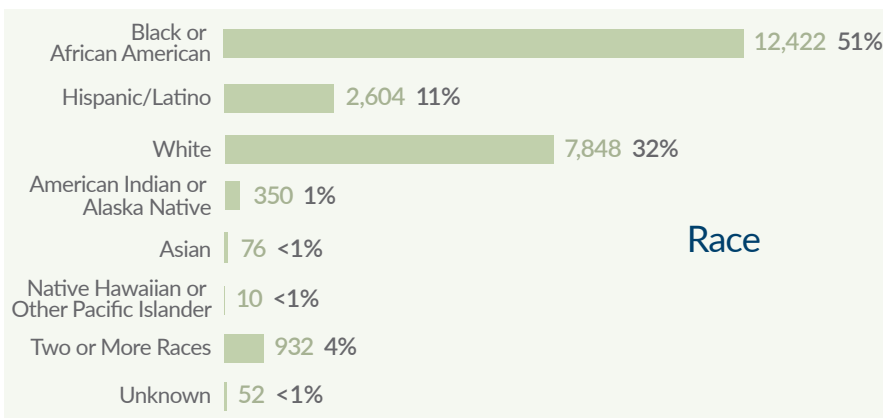
Juvenile Complaints Received



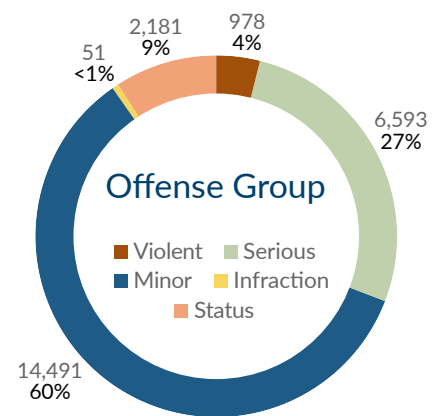
Juvenile Complaints Received by Sex



Juvenile Complaints Received by Age



Juvenile Complaints Received by Race/Ethnicity



Juvenile Complaints Received by Offense Group

Expanded Jurisdiction

What is Juvenile Justice seeing from the older population during the transition?

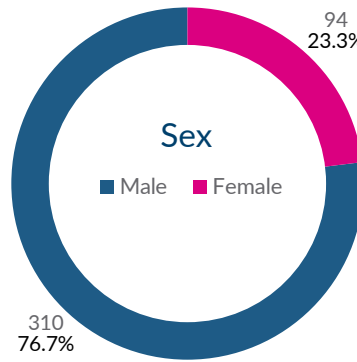


Below are early statistics to help understand how the older population is appearing in the Juvenile Justice system at the start of Raise the Age.

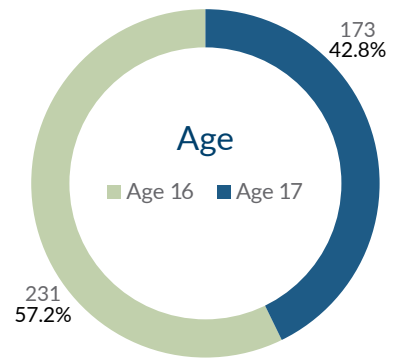
Complaints for 16 and 17-year-olds

1 Month Into Raise the Age

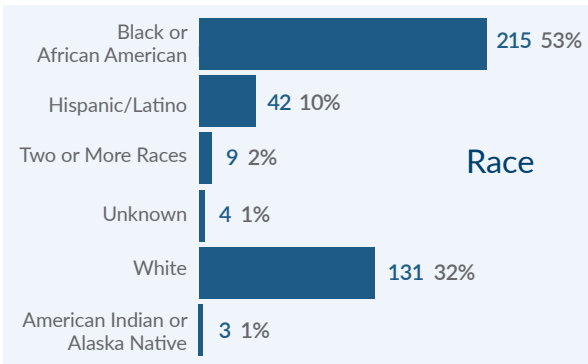
In the first month of expanded jurisdiction, 404 complaints for 234 distinct 16-and-17-year-olds were received.



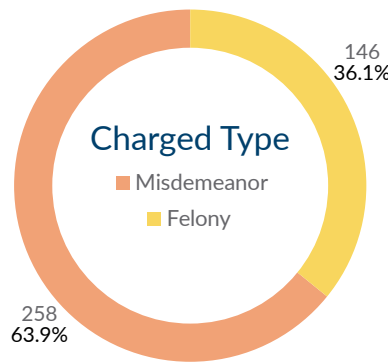
Complaints by Sex



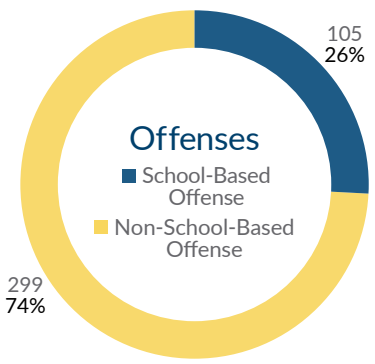
Complaints by Age



Complaints by Race/Ethnicity



Complaints by Charged Type



School-Based Offenses

This data covers only the first month of the expanded juvenile jurisdiction and cannot be assumed to be indicative of long-term trends. The [Raise the Age website](#) will remain updated.

JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITY OPERATIONS



North Carolina's Juvenile Justice system maintains short-term and long-term facilities to house, educate, treat and care for youth who are engaged with the legal system. These centers provide for the holistic well-being of our troubled youth in a safe, secure setting that promotes the needed stability to develop positive habits and life skills before they re-enter communities across the state. Included among the services provided are proper nutrition, educational advancement, medical and dental treatment and social development skills.

FACILITY OPERATIONS

Accomplishments

- Prepared for projected population increases following implementation of Raise the Age: 64% statewide increase in population served, YDC increase of 62 beds, and 106% increase in detention beds (2,516 admissions: 420 Class A-G felony admissions and 2,096 Class H-3 misdemeanor admissions) (at least 151 beds for Class A-G felony admissions and at least 60 beds for Class H-3 misdemeanor admissions).
- Restructured transportation services within Juvenile Justice, allocating 18 transportation teams to Court Services, and 11 transportation teams for Facility Operations. Transportation teams will be located at each facility. Purchased transportation vehicles and began hiring transportation drivers allocated through funding from the General Assembly in S.L. 2019-229, Raise the Age Funding.
- Worked with DPS internal systems support to repair the C.A. Dillon driveway and cottages to allow for a 20-bed detention facility, initially opening with 10 beds. Furnished and equipped the facility and coordinated the provision of medical and food services. Began hiring positions allocated in S.L. 2019-229, Raise the Age Funding.
- Worked with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and the Madison County Sheriff's Office to secure 72 and 19 detention beds, respectively. The Mecklenburg Sheriff's Office will operate the complex formerly known as Jail North with 24 beds. As the number of excluded youth decreases over time, the number of beds available to youth originating under juvenile jurisdiction will increase. Staff with the Madison County Sheriff's Office have begun graduating from the BASIC training program. Mecklenburg County staff received a two-week orientation delivered by Juvenile Justice trainers and started BASIC in January 2020 at their training facility. BASIC training is delivered by the NC Department of Public Safety, Office of Staff Development and Training (OSDT), with adjunct support from Juvenile Justice trainers. Both facilities have begun admitting youth.
- The legislature has invested resources into the construction of a 60-bed youth development center in Rockingham County. The property has been purchased, and Juvenile Justice is working to secure a contractor to construct the building. This effort has been slowed by the successful economy and thus dearth of experienced secure custody facility builders. The Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee will reassess costs of the 114 needed positions in Rockingham Youth Development Center upon securing a final contract and plan.
- Implemented age-appropriate restorative justice programming to reduce recidivism through a pilot at Edgecombe Youth Development Center. The next planned facility to receive this programming is Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center.

Anticipated following implementation of Raise the Age

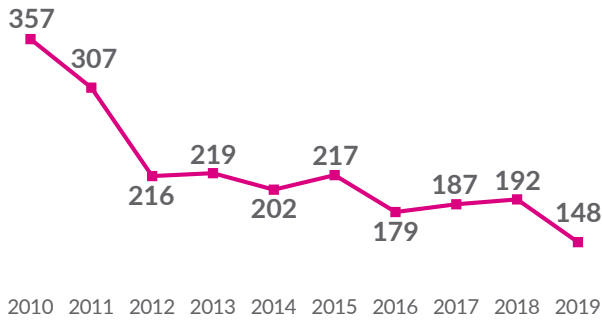
64% statewide
increase in population served

YDC increase of **62** beds

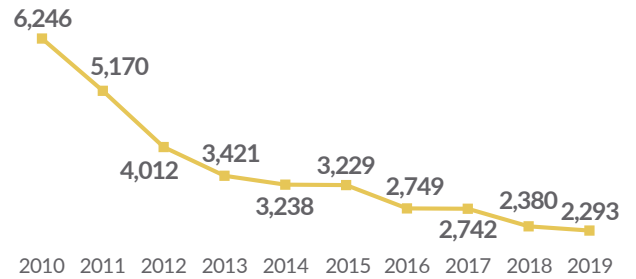
More than 106%
increase in detention beds



Youth Development Center Commitments 2010-2019

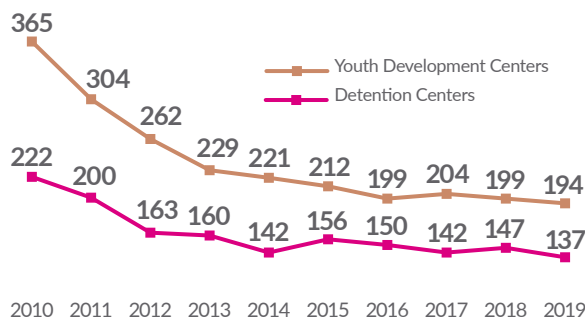


Juvenile Detention Center Admissions 2010-2019

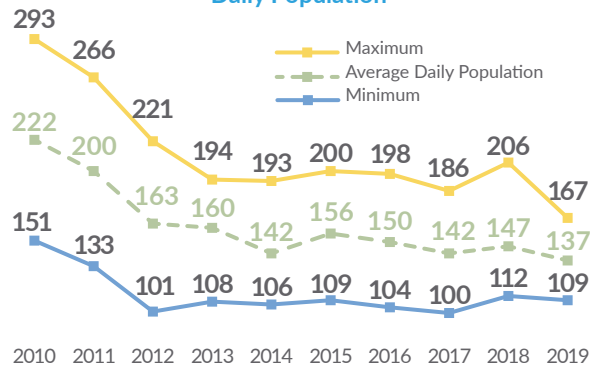


There was a 63% decrease in detention center admissions between 2010 and 2019.

Average Daily Population for Juvenile Detention Centers and Youth Development Centers 2010-2019



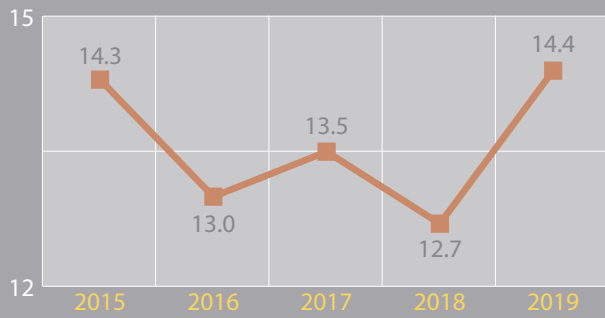
Juvenile Detention Minimum and Maximum Daily Population



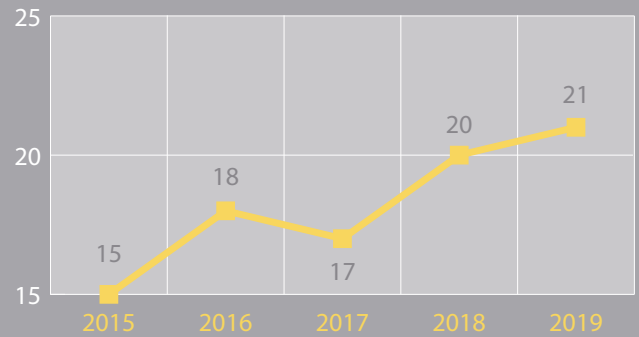
State ADP for Detention will not approximate to the sum of per facility ADP due to Madison and Mecklenburg being open for only a short time in the year. State ADP was calculated for the whole year.

Average Length of Stay

in Youth Development Centers (Months) 2015-2019



in Juvenile Detention (Days) 2015-2019



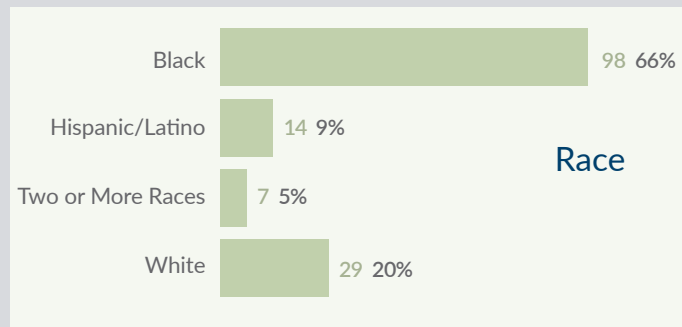
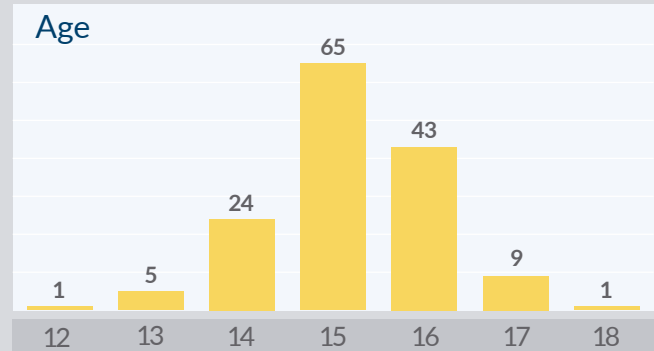
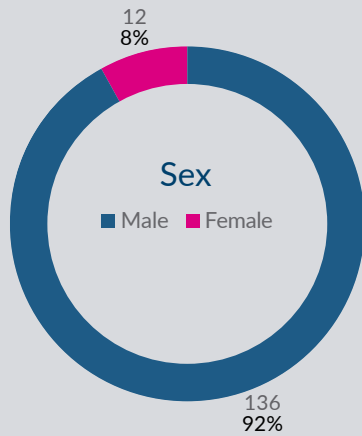
Facility Types	Facility	Capacity	Average Daily Population
Youth Development Centers	Chatham	32	31.8
	Edgecombe	44	35.1
	Lenoir	44	28.3
	Stonewall Jackson	128	98.4
State-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Alexander	24	19.5
	Cabarrus	30	24.2
	Cumberland	18	13.4
	New Hanover	18	12.5
	Pitt	18	13.4
	Wake	24	14.4
County-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Durham	14	8.3
	Guilford	44	30.6
	Madison *	19	4.8
	Mecklenburg **	24	3.3

*Madison Facility ADP calculated from open date of November 25, 2019

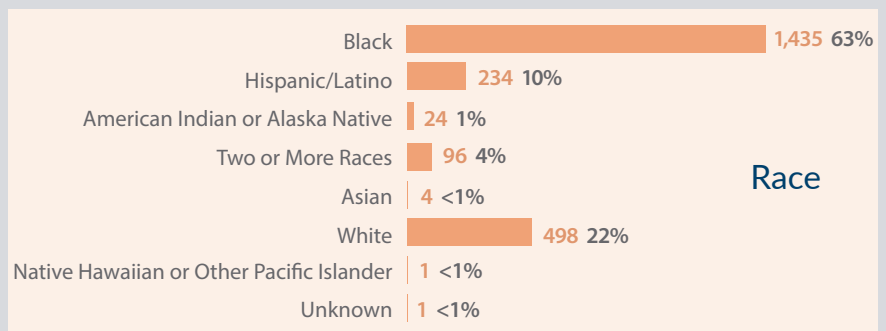
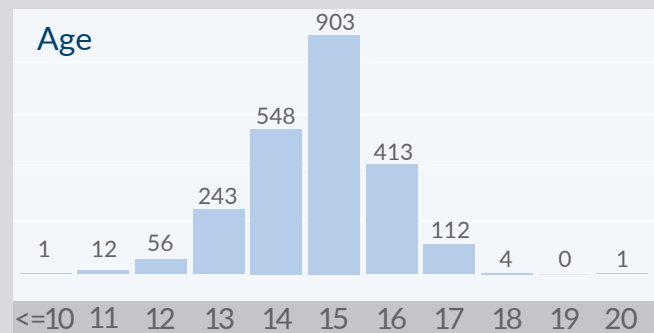
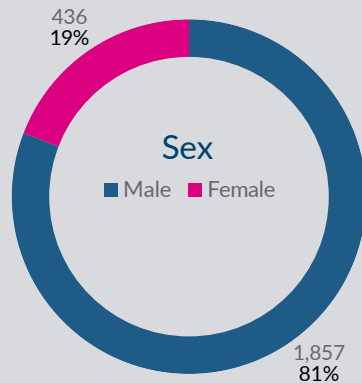
**Mecklenburg Facility ADP calculated from open date of December 23, 2019



Youth Development Center Commitments



Juvenile Detention Center Admissions



JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINICAL SERVICES & PROGRAMS

This area of North Carolina Juvenile Justice provides clinical, medical and complementary services and programming to ensure the youth in juvenile justice facilities and diversion programs receive the appropriate treatment and developmental interventions.

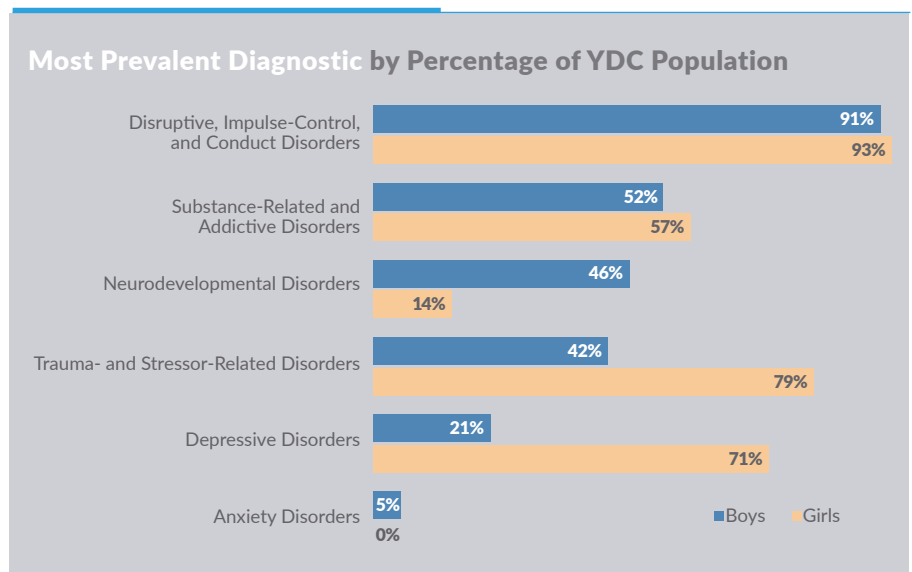
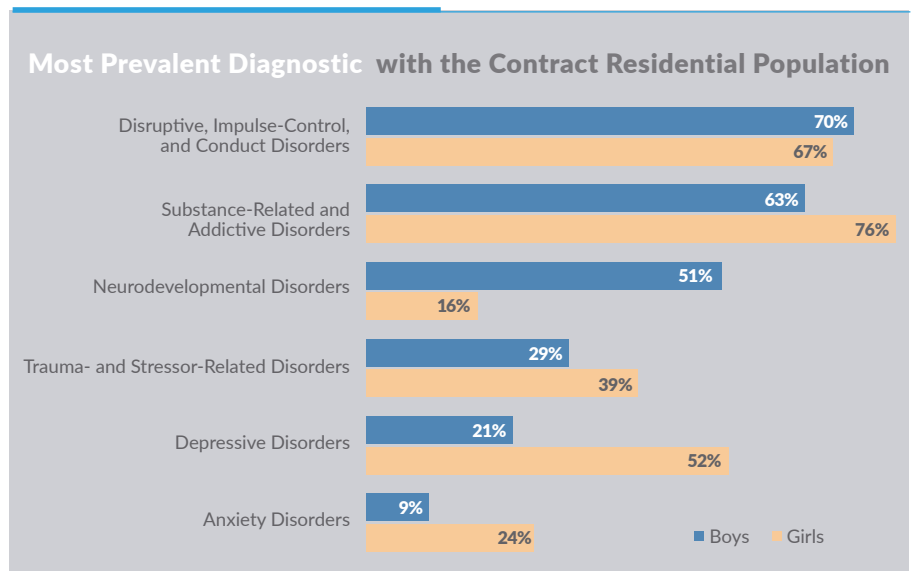
- Juveniles committed to North Carolina’s juvenile justice system in 2019 presented with multiple and complex behavioral health needs. A representative point-in-time survey of youth confined in youth development centers on Dec. 31, 2019 revealed that:

- 98 percent carried at least one mental health diagnosis, with 48 percent holding at least one substance use diagnosis;
- 48 percent had co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders;
- 93 percent had more than one mental health disorder;
- 55 percent were taking prescribed psychotropic medication (69% of girls and 53% of boys); and
- Youth committed to YDCs had an average of three distinct mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnoses, and in some cases as many as eight.

- These findings are in line with diagnostic trends found over recent years in this population. Notably, the rate of substance use disorders has continued to show a decline within the YDC population, a trend that started in 2015. Substance use disorders were present in 74% of the YDC population in 2015. That rate dropped to 64% in 2016, to 60% in 2017, to 55% in 2018, and to 52% in 2019, a 30% decrease over the past five years.

93%
OF JUVENILES

had more than one mental health disorder



Most Prevalent Mental Health and Substance Use Diagnostic Categories



91%

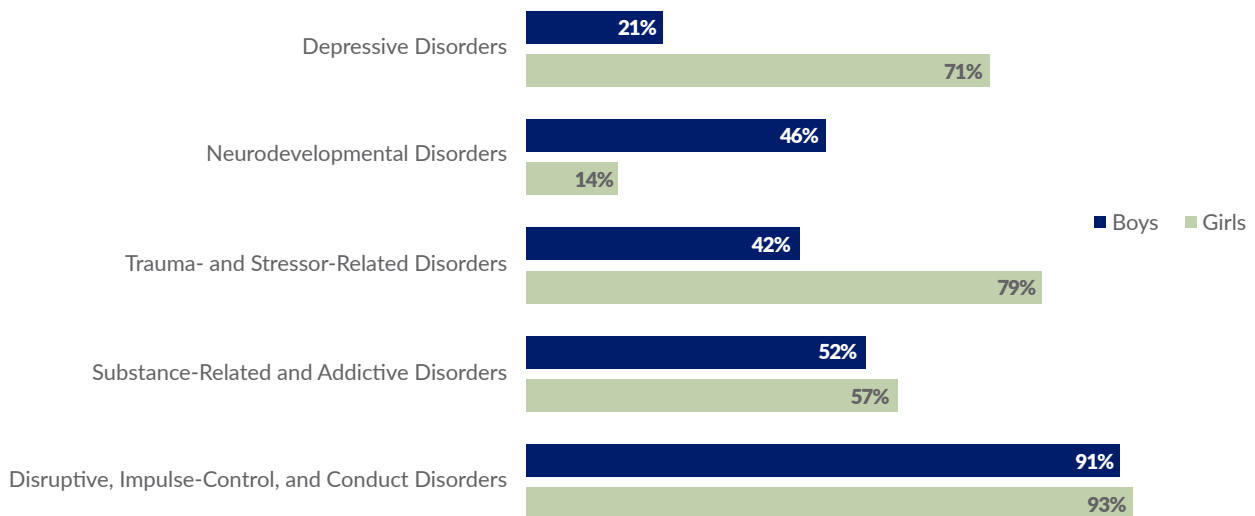
of delinquent youth confined in YDCs carry a least one diagnosis

The most frequent categories of diagnoses within the 2019 population of YDC youth, found after completion of a comprehensive evaluation using a battery of standardized tests by a psychologist, were within the category of Disruptive, Impulse-Control and Conduct Disorders. These diagnoses describe problems of self-control manifested in behaviors that violate the rights of others and/or bring an individual into conflict with rules, laws or authority figures, so it is not surprising that 91% of delinquent youth confined in YDCs carry at least one diagnosis within this class. The second most frequently found diagnoses, Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, were present in 52% of the YDC population and more often in boys than girls. Of these, the clear majority (88%) were Cannabis-Related Disorders, a trend that has held steady over recent years. Diagnoses classified as Neurodevelopmental Disorders, disorders that manifest early in life and are characterized by developmental deficits that affect personal, social, academic or vocational functioning, were next. Neurodevelopmental Disorders were diagnosed in 43% of the YDC population,

and far more often in boys than girls. The most frequently diagnosed disorders within this category were Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), found in 31%, and Specific Learning Disorders, found in 11%, all of whom were male. Another 8% met criteria for mild or moderate Intellectual Developmental Disorder.

The fourth most frequent diagnostic class found among the 2019 YDC population was Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders, present in 48% of the YDC population. Disorders within this class arise in response to exposure to one or more traumatic or stressful life events. There was a marked discrepancy in the frequency of these problems by gender: like last year, Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders were twice as common in girls than boys, troubling four out of every 10 boys and eight out of every 10 girls in a YDC. The fifth most common class of mental health disorders, Depressive Disorders, showed a similar trend. Depressive Disorders were more than three times more common in girls than boys, with rates of 71% and 21% percent, respectively.

MOST PREVALENT DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES by Percentage of YDC Population



Most Prevalent Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Diagnoses

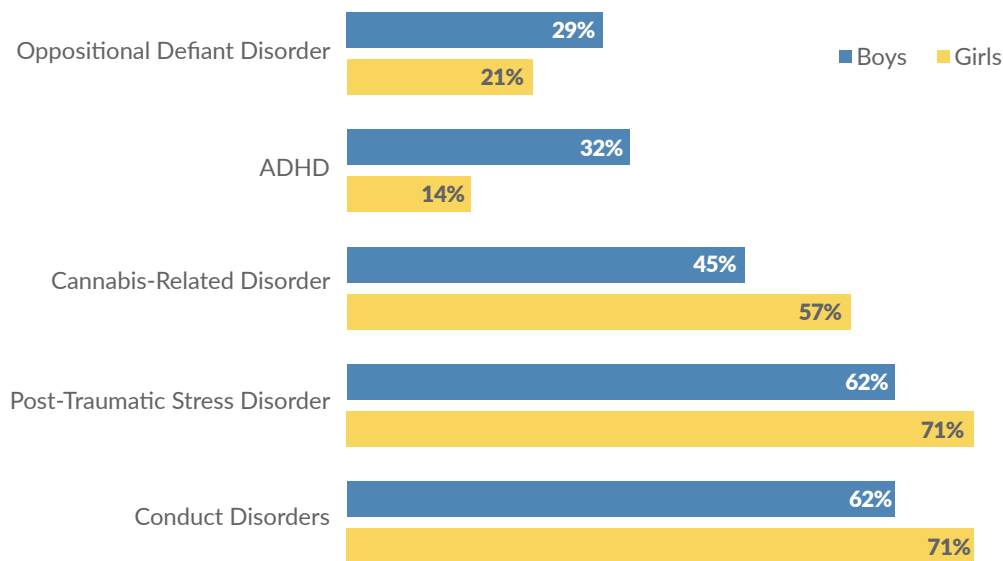
63%

Conduct Disorder present in the YDC population

Across diagnostic categories, the most common behavioral health diagnosis found in the 2019 YDC population was Conduct Disorder, present in 63% of the youth. Conduct Disorder presents with a persistent pattern of behavior that encroaches upon the rights of others or violates major societal norms via aggressive conduct, conduct that causes property loss or damage, deceitfulness or theft, and/or serious violations of rules. The next most common diagnosis, Cannabis-Related Disorder, was present in 46% of the YDC youth, followed by full and partial Post-Traumatic Stress

Disorder, present in 43%. As depicted in the chart below, both were more prevalent in girls than boys. Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was next, present in 31% overall, but especially in males (32% of boys and 14% of girls). The fifth most common diagnosis overall, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), is characterized by a frequent and persistent pattern of anger and irritability, argumentative and defiant behavior, or vindictiveness. ODD was present in 28% of the population and was slightly more common in boys than girls.

MOST PREVALENT DIAGNOSES by Percent of the YDC Population





Health Services

- Continued oral health partnership with N.C. Public Health to place sealant on juveniles' teeth, many of whom have very limited or nonexistent history of preventive oral health care. The sealant, which protects teeth for a minimum of 10 years, positively impacts long-term and overall health, and decreases the risk of inflammation as youths age. Overall, 68 juveniles received dental exams at no cost to Juvenile Justice; and 66 of those juveniles received tooth sealants.
- Developed a partnership with the pediatric departments at Duke and UNC universities' medical schools for provision of primary care and health management during weekly clinics from pediatric residents and faculty to youth in residency at Dillion Regional Juvenile Detention Center. Duke University has committed to provide this care at no cost, as it will be using the location as a clinical rotation site for medical residents.

Health Care Cost Containment via appropriate medical provider mix, use of telehealth and generic medications

- Continued to contain health care costs where feasible.

a) Juvenile Justice Health Care Services works with contractual vendors to utilize generic medications when available and appropriate per the medical provider.

b) Leverages telehealth for youth development center psychiatric services in hard-to-staff locations, providing comparable service and health outcomes. Currently Chatham, Stonewall Jackson and Edgecombe YDC use telehealth during psychiatric clinics.

c) Use of mid-level medical providers, providing referral to physicians and specialists as needed, has resulted in cost savings and greater continuity of care due to availability and duration of interactions with youth.

Clinical treatment/programming includes medical, psychiatric, dental, psychological, substance abuse, recreational, spiritual and case management services for justice-involved youth.

JUVENILE JUSTICE EDUCATION SERVICES

Juvenile Justice Education Services (JJES) serves a diverse population of students and provides instruction and activities that support their goals for a successful transition back to their community. Depending upon the individual student's academic standing and personal goals, he/she will receive instruction aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, which leads to a standard high school diploma; or work toward obtaining their high school equivalency (HSE) by passing all sections of the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET); or enroll in a web-based post-secondary course.

Our classrooms are led by North Carolina licensed teachers who provide personalized instruction, incorporating direct instruction as well as supplemental web-based instruction through the Edgenuity

platform. While most students are enrolled in their core curriculum courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies), there is also an opportunity to take career and technical education (CTE) courses such as Career Management, Personal Finance, Entrepreneurship, Horticulture or Principles of Business. Students who are pursuing their HSE diploma receive instruction from a community college instructor through partnerships established between the youth development centers (YDC) and the local community college. Students who qualify for special education services receive support from highly qualified Exceptional Children's (EC) teachers and/or related service providers as stated in their individual education program (IEP), per the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

STUDENTS RELEASED FROM YDC IN 2019:

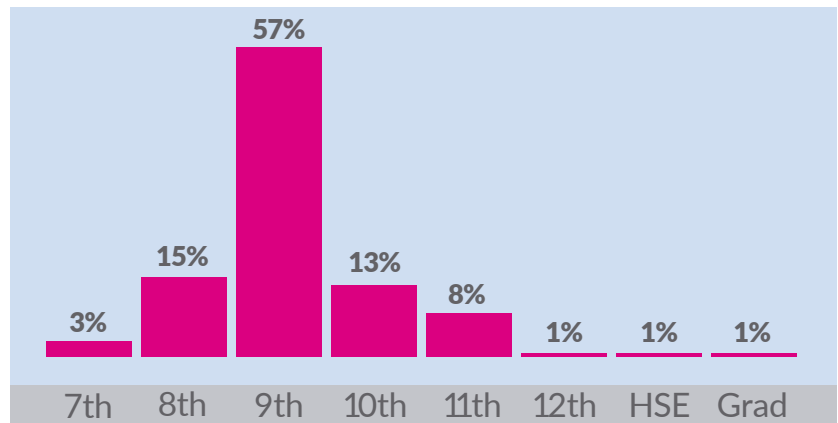
GRADE LEVEL AT TIME OF COMMITMENT

Approximately **75%** of our students were in the 9th grade or below

Approximately **37%** of our students were repeating a grade level

More than **30%** of students were more than one year behind their graduation cohort

Approximately **44%** were identified as requiring special education services or additional academic support through a 504 plan

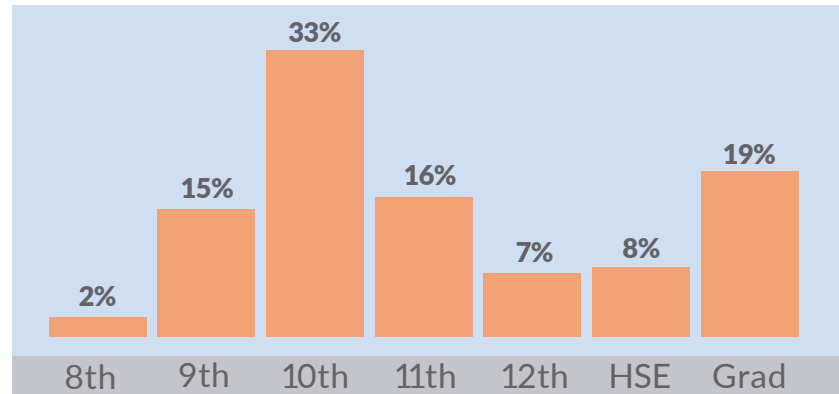


"HSE" represents students who were pursuing their High School Equivalency prior to commitment; "Graduated" represents students who graduated prior to commitment

- JJES and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) continued to strengthen their partnership by coordinating collaborative learning opportunities for JJES teachers facilitated by NCDPI content area consultants. These quarterly work sessions focused on effective instructional practices aligned to the state's content standards.
- In addition to the academic instruction, students can also engage in career preparation opportunities. A partnership between Juvenile Justice and the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) was initiated in 2018 and continued to evolve in 2019 to provide an opportunity for students to receive pre-employment transition services (PETS), which focuses on career exploration, post-secondary

continued to page 26

**STUDENTS RELEASED
FROM YDC IN 2019:
GRADE LEVEL AT TIME
OF RELEASE**



86%

of the students released from YDCs in 2019 had been promoted at least one grade level or graduated with a high school diploma or passed all sections of the HiSET exam.

HSE represents students who were enrolled in HiSET preparation at the YDC but were unable to complete all sections of the test to obtain their HSE diploma; "Graduated" represents students who graduated with a high school diploma or passed all sections of the HiSET exam

counseling, workplace readiness, self-advocacy and work-based learning. Through this partnership, students who qualify for VR services are connected to their local VR office upon their transition to the community. Additional career certification programs were implemented based on the capacity and student population at each facility. Teachers also supplemented core academic instruction with curriculum from Project Discovery to teach students skills in career readiness and soft-skill development in areas such as financial literacy, problem-solving, workplace literacy and cleaning maintenance, along with other topics.

- Stonewall Jackson YDC offered students an opportunity to earn certifications in commercial greenhouse operations through a continuing partnership with 100 Gardens, and in information technology industry-recognized certifications in fiber optic cabling and telecommunications through the C-Tech program.
- Stonewall Jackson YDC became an official SAT testing site and 11 students were able to take the test.
- Three students from Stonewall Jackson YDC participated in the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) Western Regional Math Competition in 2019. One student advanced to the state-level competition and earned Honorable Mention for his project titled, "The Use of Analytics in the National Basketball Association: Calculating the Player Efficiency Ratings of the Current NBA Los Angeles Starting Five Using John Hollinger's PER Formula."
- At Edgcombe YDC, 16 students completed a course in Green Energy; five students completed the Introduction to Telecommunications training; and 22 students obtained their ServSafe certification (national certification for food handling and management).

JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY//IT//ADMINISTRATION

Department of Information Technology

- The primary focus of the NCDPS Juvenile Justice DIT team in 2019 was completing the two-year development of the enhanced NC-JOIN v.2 application, the N.C. Juvenile Online Information Network. This extensive overhaul of the web-based application's existing platform facilitated major improvements in data quality, reporting and statistical purposes.
- After a March rollout of NC-JOIN v.2, the DIT team released 24 progressive updates and maintenance releases to fix and enhance all areas of NC-JOIN, including the new Gang Assessments and Indictment functionality.
- Additional assistance was provided to support the launch of Raise the Age, including adding fields in NC-JOIN to include updates for Community Programs multi-county agreement functionality; YDC resource projections; juvenile recidivism; JCPC effectiveness; and supervisor review.

Stakeholder Training



Juvenile Justice and the UNC-School of Government worked together to provide stakeholder training across the state in advance of Raise the Age implementation. Originally, seven trainings of 150 people each were planned. Two were added quickly in response to high demand following the original announcements. More than 5,000 stakeholders across the state received training in the fall of 2019. UNC-SOG's Jacqui Greene delivered a three-hour "nuts and bolts" presentation with scenario-based learning regarding the core elements of RtA (what changed, and what remained the same), followed by a one-hour implementation update delivered by William L. Lassiter, deputy secretary of Juvenile Justice. Law enforcement, judges, magistrates, clerks/deputy clerks, district attorneys/assistant DAs, juvenile defenders, other court officials, schools, mental health/DSS, JJ personnel and service providers attended.

- The implementation guide, law enforcement card, process flowchart, brief videos and training webinars are available through UNC-School of Government at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/resources/microsites/juvenile-law/resources-and-links-raise-age>. Also at that site is a video resulting from collaboration between Police Chief Jeffrey Ledford, Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee member, and UNC-SOG. The video is one in a series providing Raise the Age implementation information in bite-sized pieces to consume. Additional law enforcement training is planned for various association conferences throughout the beginning of 2020. Frequently Asked Questions are available at <https://nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/raise-the-age-faqs/>.
- UNC-SOG, the Juvenile Defender/Office of Indigent Defense, Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Conference of District Attorneys also provided subject matter—specific training to defenders; judges, magistrates and clerks; and district attorneys/ADAs. Online and printed training materials were produced and distributed



School Justice Partnerships

North Carolina is working to implement school justice partnerships (SJPs) in all 100 counties. The Administrative Office of the Courts reported 18 SJPs established in North Carolina, while many other counties/districts are convening meetings between partners to further local efforts that meet local needs. The SJP toolkit, factsheet, updated data and information, and other resources are available at <https://www.nccourts.gov/programs/school-justice-partnership/sjp-resources>. The JJAC is interested in studying outcomes of these partnerships. In Clayton County, Georgia, implementation is credited with an 83% decrease in referrals to juvenile court, a 43% decrease in referrals of youth of color to juvenile court, and a 24% increase in graduation rates.



Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

The first changes to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) federal legislation in 16 years came in late December 2018, shifting from Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) to the new Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) moniker. Court Services worked to ensure that all staff clearly understood how the updated legislation pertains to recommended best practices for education and awareness in the North Carolina Juvenile Justice system. Training sessions were conducted in counties and districts across the state and attended by both Juvenile Justice staff and local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) members. This effort has already received positive feedback from JCPCs, local governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, community stakeholders and RED coordinators from other states seeking guidance.

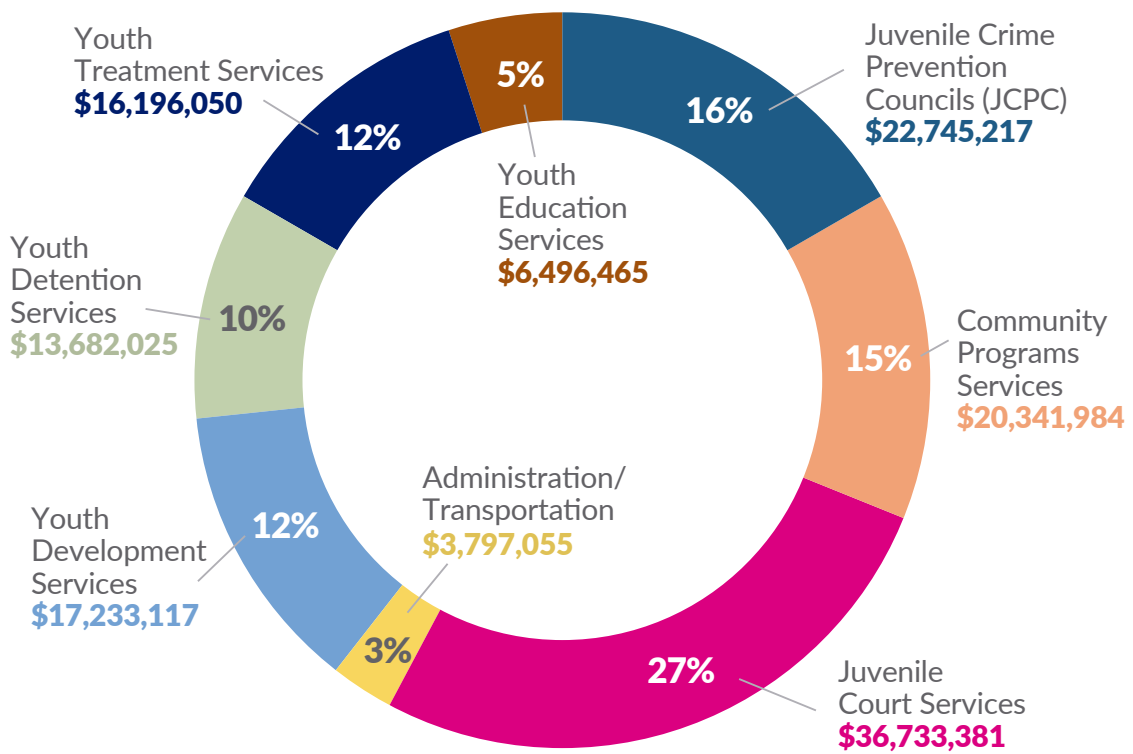
Court Services staff traveled to the annual "Hill Day" event in Washington, D.C., to represent North Carolina Juvenile Justice on Capitol Hill and discuss North Carolina's accomplishments with elected officials.

RED was also the focus of the North Carolina Juvenile Services Association (NCJSA) fall 2019 conference.

Reentry to Resilience (R2R)

- Reentry to Resilience (R2R) is a three-phase program managed through a partnership with the local nonprofit organization, Communities in Schools of North Carolina, and financially supported by a Second Chance Act grant from OJJDP.
- **Phase 1:** Youth Support Counselor (YSC) begins their work with a youth within 30 days of YDC commitment;
- **Phase 2:** YSC continues working with youth to prepare for reentry and engage in reentry planning;
- **Phase 3:** YSC facilitates community support to youth and family for 12 months post-release.
- This program began in 2019 and it provided intensive support to youth returning from a youth development center (YDC) to Cumberland, Durham, Guilford and Wake counties in the following areas:
 - Enrolling youth in school and providing academic support (e.g., tutoring, learning labs);
 - Preparing youth for career and workforce readiness (e.g., vocational education placement, mock interviews, job shadowing/placement);
 - Connecting youth to afterschool and pro-social supports (e.g., sports, service learning, mentoring);
 - Connecting youth to healthcare support, (if needed).
- Note: Original funding for this program provided for expansion into Mecklenburg and Nash Counties for 2020.
- In October 2019, Juvenile Justice was awarded an additional Second Chance Act grant that will provide funding to make curriculum adjustments to meet developmental needs of transition age youth following the implementation of "Raise the Age" legislation on Dec. 1, 2019.

2019 Appropriations



Employees and Staffing



Juvenile Justice Employees			
Section	Total Number of Staff *	Number of Criminal Justice Certified Staff*	% of Staff that are Criminal Justice Certified
Community Programs	22	—	—
Court Services	597	505	85%
Facility Services (Includes Education/Health/Clinical)	741	584	79%
Transportation Services	64	38	59%
Administration	16	—	—
Total	1,440	1,127	78%
Raise the Age Staffing Expansion			
Community Programs – Level II Contractual	6		
Court Services	97		
Facility Services	49		
Transportation	15		
Administration (Training/Data/HR)	12		
Raise The Age Staffing Total	179		

*does not include “Raise the Age” positions that are part of the 179 new full-time employee allocation (S.L. 2019-229).

Raising The Bar Awards

Raising the Bar Awards are presented annually to acknowledge staff members who make significant contributions to the Juvenile Justice mission, and below we recognize the 2019 recipients for their dedication and hard work.



DAWN THOMAS
Clinical Services



GINA ISLEY
Clinical Services



WILLIAM DELOATCH
Facilities/Edgecombe YDC



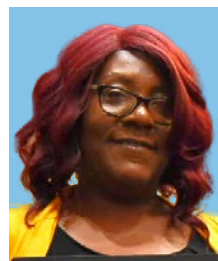
ROBIN DONTA
Health Services



ERIN HICKEY
Administration/Central Office



WALTER AYCOCK
Information Technology



DENISE BOND
Community Programs



DR. MONICA CURRIE
Education



PAUL POLLOCK
Court Services



DISTRICT 27
Court Services



TASHA JONES BUTTS
Court Services



VANESSA HOVIS
Court Services

Working Together To Strengthen North Carolina's Youth and Families



Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

