



Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention  
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



# Annual Report

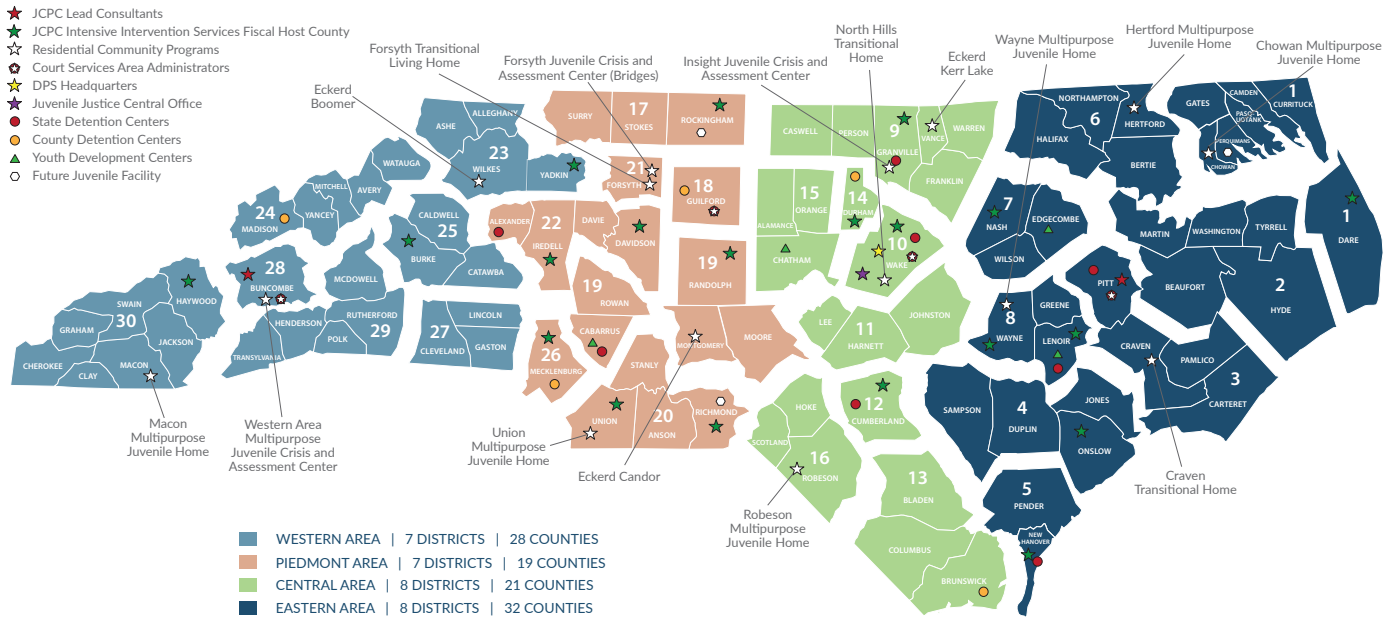
2021





# COMPREHENSIVE MAP

## Juvenile Justice facilities in North Carolina



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

NC Comprehensive Map	2	Juvenile Detention Center Admissions	16
Letter from Deputy Secretary Lassiter	3	Facilities	17
Year in Review	4-5	Average Daily Population	18
Comprehensive Strategy	6	Youth Development Center Commitments	19
Youth Served	7-8	Clinical Services and Programming	20-23
Decision Outcomes	9	Meeting the Complex Needs of YDC Youth	23
Complaints Received	10-11	Education Services	24-25
Juvenile School-Based Offenses	12-13	Employees and Staffing	26
Gang Affiliated Youth Trends	13	Appropriations	26
Raise The Age Offenses	14	Training	27
Detention	15		



**William Lassiter**  
Deputy Secretary, Division of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention

## Residents of North Carolina

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 Annual Report, on behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

I am so thankful for the outstanding work of our staff to protect public safety and improve the lives of juveniles and their families in North Carolina, all while facing year two of a global pandemic that came in waves and surges. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, our heroes throughout the division tackled daily the logistics involved with the efforts to protect the health and safety of staff members and youths in juvenile justice facilities and Court Services offices, aided this year by the advent of the coronavirus vaccines.

History was once again made in 2021 when North Carolina “raised the floor” of its minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction from age 6 to age 10, with some limited exceptions for 8 and 9-year-olds. Ratification of Senate Bill 207 in August set the minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction, as of December 2021, to age 10 for all undisciplined offenses and most delinquent offenses. This change in law would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and collaborative efforts of many stakeholders in the juvenile justice system.

### History was once again made in 2021 when North Carolina “raised the floor” of its minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction from age 6 to age 10.

This year also marked the North Carolina juvenile justice system’s second year of Raise the Age implementation. Overall, the delinquency rate decreased, and fewer complaints were received in 2021 than in 2020. Forty-four percent of all complaints received in 2021 were linked to 16 and 17-year-olds.

We saw an increase in detention admissions in 2021, which was clearly related to the increase in age of juvenile jurisdiction, and legislation from 2020 that calls for non-jurisdictional juveniles to be held in juvenile detention rather than county jails. Admissions of juveniles 16 years of age and older have increased by 183% since implementation of Raise the Age in late 2019, while admissions of juveniles younger than 16 years-old have been cut nearly in half during that same period. The increase in admissions, coupled with staffing issues related to recruitment and retention issues—and staff out-of-work temporarily on quarantine/isolation related to COVID-19 exposure—led to capacity issues in some detention centers. Renovation to former centers (Perquimans, Richmond and Dillon) are underway, along with the construction of the Rockingham Youth Development Center, which should help provide relief.

In 2021 we also saw the transition to in-house delivery of basic training courses for juvenile justice officers and juvenile court counselors. Juvenile Justice staff and qualified professionals are now delivering both basic and in-service training to Juvenile Justice staff, with end-of-course testing handled through the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

And finally, this past fall, the state budget reestablished Juvenile Justice as a standalone division within the Department of Public Safety, rather than a section within the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Renamed the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, DJJDP returns to the same organizational structure within DPS it had at the department’s consolidation in 2012. The transition back to a division should be completed by July 2022.

Through pandemic, jurisdictional, programmatic and organizational changes, I am honored to lead such a dedicated group of juvenile justice professionals. I am proud to join them as they strive to support the safety and well-being of the children, families and communities of North Carolina.

# JUVENILE JUSTICE YEAR IN REVIEW

The staff of Juvenile Justice continued its heroic work during the second year of the global coronavirus pandemic in 2021. At the same time, North Carolina experienced historic change related to the juvenile justice system with the ratification of Session Law 2021-123 (Senate Bill 207), which brought:

- An **increase in the minimum age of jurisdiction from age 6 to age 10** for all undisciplined offenses (e.g., truancy, runaways and other status offenses) and most delinquent offenses. An 8- or 9-year-old who either has a prior court judgment (adjudication) of delinquency or who commits a felony A through G offense will remain under juvenile jurisdiction.
- **Creation of a juvenile consultation mechanism for youth ages 6 through 9** who are not subject to juvenile jurisdiction and have committed a crime or infraction, whereby court counselors are empowered to provide case management, service referrals, screenings, assessments, community resources and programming to the young child and the parent without exposing that young child to court processes they do not understand. These youth are defined as “vulnerable juveniles.”
- **Prosecutorial discretion** in whether to transfer a 16- or 17-year old to superior court for a felony class D, E, F or G offense.
- Updates to law regarding a court’s authority to order a **comprehensive clinical/mental health assessment** for adjudicated delinquent youth with suspected mental illness (i.e., severe emotional disturbance), developmental disability or intellectual disability prior to entering a disposition/consequence. A multi-system care review team may be created for these youth who are subject to a youth development center disposition or placement in a psychiatric residential treatment facility to recommend a plan for care.

## YOUTH ASSESSMENT AND SCREENING INSTRUMENT (YASI)

Court Services and the Department of Information Technology fully implemented the YASI, a juvenile assessment tool that measures risk, needs and protective factors in at-risk and juvenile justice-involved youth. It replaces a former risk-and-needs tool used for 20 years. YASI was integrated with NC-JOIN and went live on Jan. 1, 2021. YASI is part of the CaseWorks application that helps JJ staff build a comprehensive treatment plan to serve Juvenile Justice-involved youth, while working in NC-JOIN.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICE DIRECTORY

Court Services and the Department of Information Technology also integrated the Service Directory program inventory within the YASI for the purpose of needs-to-service matching. The Service Directory’s program entries were imported into the YASI service plan tool and enable court counselors to select matched programs within the Service Directory to address specific domain(s) of need.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

The second School Safety Summit hosted by DPS in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction was held at UNC-Greensboro on Aug. 2. At this year’s event, 229 virtual and in-person attendees witnessed Gov. Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein, DPS Interim Secretary Casandra Hoekstra, Administrative Office of the Courts Director Andrew Heath, State Superintendent Catherine Truitt, Center for Safer Schools Director Karen Fairley, Chief Deputy Susan Gale Perry of the Department of Health and Human Services, and many other statewide and local leaders commit to school safety and describe their organization’s role in promoting safe schools for all students.

## GUN VIOLENCE/FIREARM PREVENTION

While juvenile crime in North Carolina continues to trend downward, an alarming new trend has been identified: juveniles being charged with firearm crimes. Prior to Raise the Age (implemented in late 2019), firearm offenses made up 4% of all juvenile offenses. In calendar year 2021, firearm offenses made up 13% of all juvenile offenses. Juveniles classified as Raise the Age youth (16 and 17-year olds) make up two-thirds of juvenile firearm complaints. Almost one in five juvenile firearm complaints are for possession of a handgun by a minor.

Factors at play here may include youths looking for ways to support their families during the tough times that accompanied the pandemic, by stealing what they can easily sell, including firearms. Additionally, there has also been an increase in first-time gun ownership among adults, who may not employ effective gun storage and safety techniques, which is allowing these guns to easily end up in the hands of children.

To counter these trends, the Department has reached out to its local partners to see what prevention and intervention strategies could be put in place. One example is a training program coordinated through the Fayetteville Police Department called Educating Kids about Gun Violence (EKG). Goals of this interactive training for youth are to equip students with the knowledge necessary to make better



decisions than picking up and using weapons, lower gun-related violence in neighborhoods, and reduce the likelihood that students who are in juvenile justice facilities will become involved in gun-related crimes after transitioning back to their communities. EKG is targeted to middle school-aged juveniles and increases their firearm awareness while also increasing a positive relationship with law enforcement in their area.

The training and other programming has been presented in partnership with Juvenile Justice to staff at the Cumberland Juvenile Detention Center, to law enforcement and other officials in areas seeing increases in youth gun violence. In 2022, Juvenile Justice plans to seek \$1 million to invest in programming to educate youth and families about the dangers of guns and responsible gun ownership.

## YEAR TWO: RAISE THE AGE

And finally, this year also marked the North Carolina juvenile justice system's second year of Raise the Age implementation. On Dec. 1, 2019, the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (S.L. 2017-57) raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction for most offenses to age 18. Raise the Age allows charges against 16- and 17-year-olds to be heard in the juvenile justice system if they are charged with non-violent crimes classified primarily as low-level felonies and/or misdemeanors. Overall, the delinquency rate decreased between 2020 and 2021, and the number of complaints received dropped by 5.4%.

Nearly one-third (32%) of juveniles served by Community Programs are age 16 or older. Forty-four percent of all delinquent complaints received in 2021 were linked to 16 and 17-year-olds, also known as "Raise the Age" youth, and nearly half (48%) of YDC commitments were for Raise the Age youth.



# JUVENILE JUSTICE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

The N.C. Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) works to provide the state of North Carolina with a comprehensive strategy that helps prevent and reduce juvenile crime and delinquency. This strategy focuses to strengthen families, promote delinquency prevention, support core social institutions, intervene immediately and effectively when delinquent behavior occurs, and identify and control the small group of serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders in the local communities.

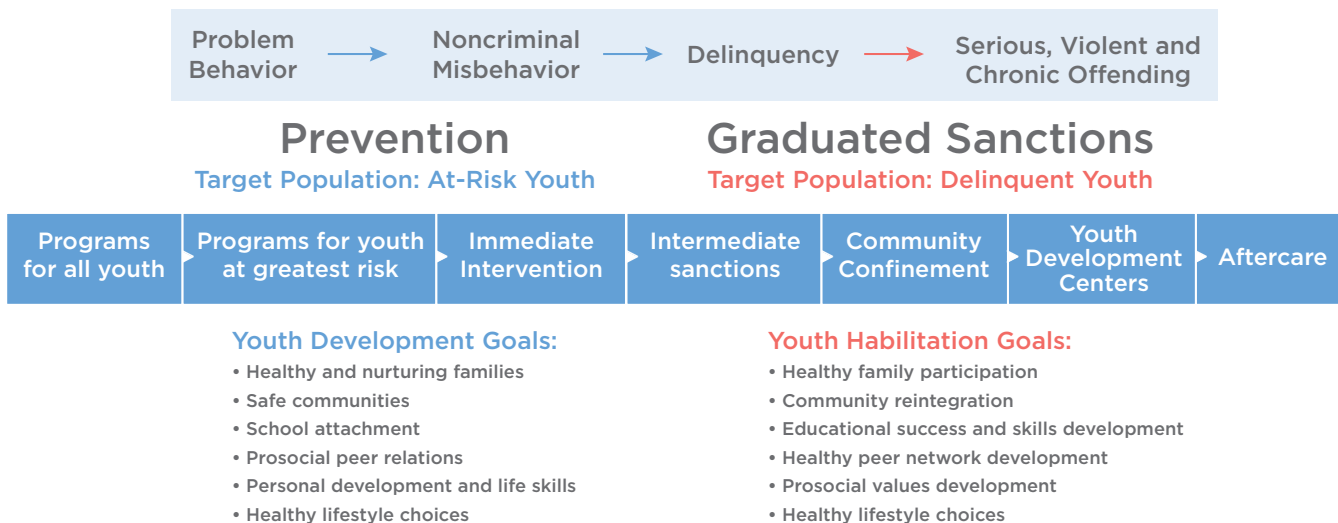
The Division provides a full continuum of public safety interventions involving all children and youth ages 10-17 either at-risk, alleged to or have been found to have committed an undisciplined or criminal offense.

The Division uses a comprehensive strategy rooted in social science and evidence-based practices throughout the continuum to achieve its outcomes (Howell, 2009). The Strategy allows for a system of graduated responses based on a youth's seriousness of risk/behavior or crime, their history of offending, coupled with the needs of the youth and their family or support systems within their local communities. DJJDP's philosophy is that to be evidence-based and effective, the most successful way to approach risk and problem behaviors in youth is through effective prevention, treatment,

education and accountability-based sanctions that are used in graduated levels and guided by professional, strategic leadership through a tapestry of local and state partnerships. This approach requires effectual partnerships in local jurisdictions and values close relationships with families, local resources, law enforcement and the courts to achieve the most effective levels of impact before seeking "state resources" through institutionalizing youth in detention or youth development centers.

Data is presented throughout this report to mirror DJJDP's philosophy of use of graduated sanctions with youth. The initial dataset displays data associated with the early stages of the continuum (focusing on the programs targeted at the youth at greatest risk of entering the juvenile justice system and those receiving beginning or intermediate sanctions or dispositions, through Juvenile Community Programs). The following dataset encompasses information regarding those entering the juvenile justice system through their alleged delinquent behavior, through Juvenile Court Services; and finally data is provided describing those juveniles whose delinquency behaviors led to secure custody, the most stringent sanction within the juvenile justice system. Also included is data related to clinical services, education and the administrative functions of DJJDP.

## NC's Comprehensive Strategy for Juvenile Delinquency

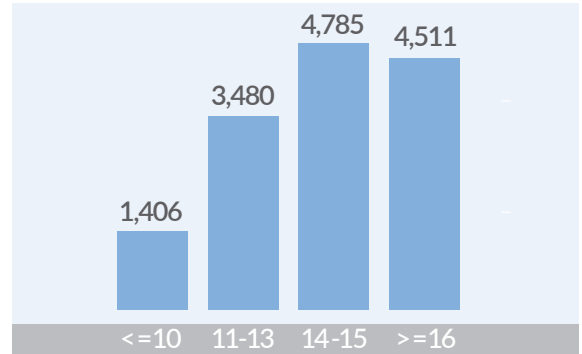


## Youth Served in JCPC Programs

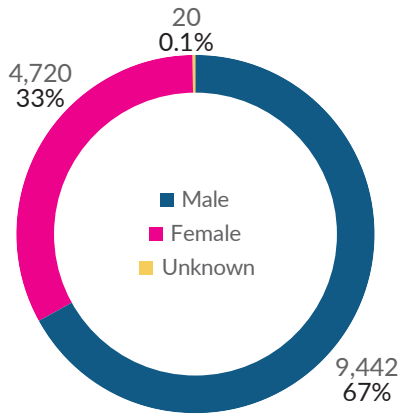
2021

The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention partners with Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils in each county to galvanize community leaders, locally and statewide, to reduce and prevent juvenile crime. JCPC board members are appointed by the county Board of Commissioners and meet monthly in each county.

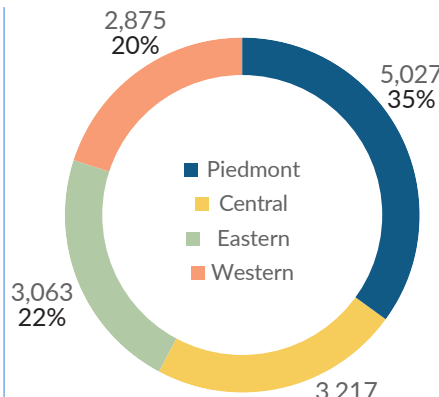
Programming and services funded through JCPCs, targeted in each county to address the problem areas, risks and needs of its juvenile population, include: assessment, clinical treatment, structured day programs, residential programs, restorative justice, mentoring and skill-building programs.



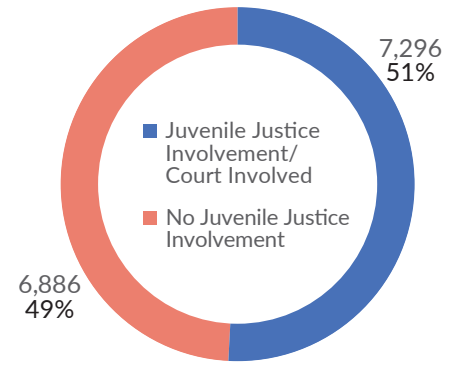
by Age



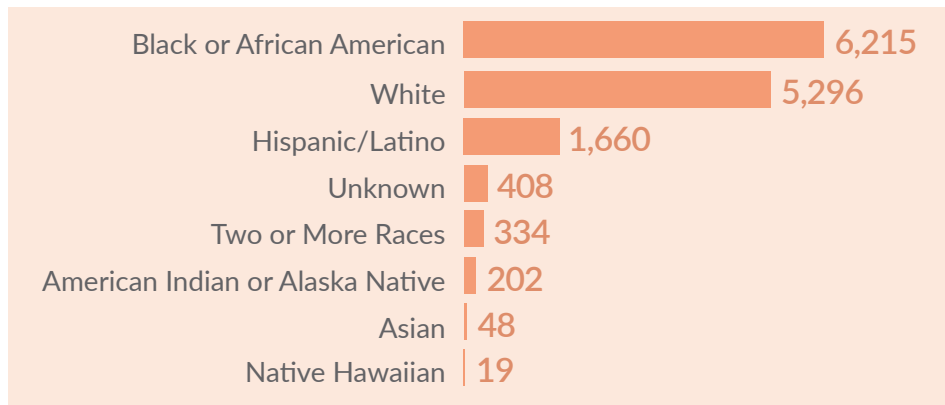
by Sex



by Area



by Legal Status



by Race/Ethnicity



### JCPC Youth Served by Program Type FY 2020-2021

Program Type	Youth Served
Assessments	972
Experiential Skill Building	271
Family Counseling	168
Group Counseling	96
Group Home Care	35
Home-Based Family Counseling	222
Individual Counseling	712
Interpersonal Skill Building	2,912
Juvenile Structured Day	336
Mediation/Conflict Resolution	621
Mentoring	580
Parent/Family Skill Building	726
Restitution/Community Service	3,229
Runaway Shelter Care	106
Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior	62
Specialized Foster Care	22
Substance Abuse Counseling	224
Teen Court	1,393
Temporary Shelter Care	220
Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	904
Vocational Skills	371
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,182</b>

### Youth Served by Funding Source FY 2020-2021

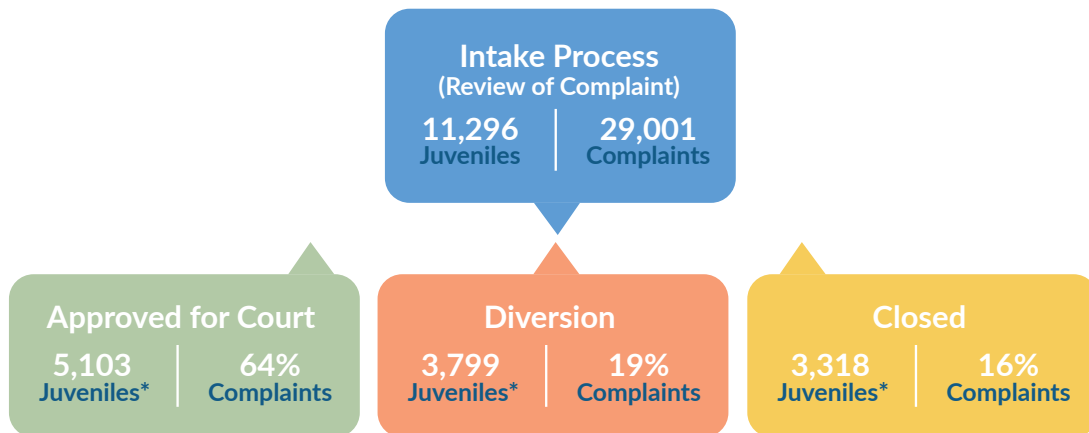
Funding Source	Youth Served
JCPC Funds	14,182
JCPC Level II Dispositional Alternatives	272
JCPC Alternatives to Commitment Programs	150
Community-Based Contractual Services	310
Residential Contractual Services	724
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,638</b>



## Decision Outcomes

Juvenile complaints received by DJJDP have three potential outcomes following an intake evaluation. Complaints can either be:

- (1) approved for court (become a petition), requiring the juvenile charged with the complaint to appear in court;
- (2) diverted, which means the juvenile and legal guardian agree to enter into a diversion plan or contract potentially including programming/services;
- (3) closed, meaning the complaint does not need to go to court or be diverted. If the conditions of a diversion plan or contract are met, the complaint does not go to court. If the conditions are not met, the complaint may be approved for court.



\* A juvenile can have complaints receive multiple outcomes over the course of a year (e.g., one complaint approved for court, another diverted and another closed). The combinations cause the juvenile count for approved, diverted and closed to sum more than 11,296.

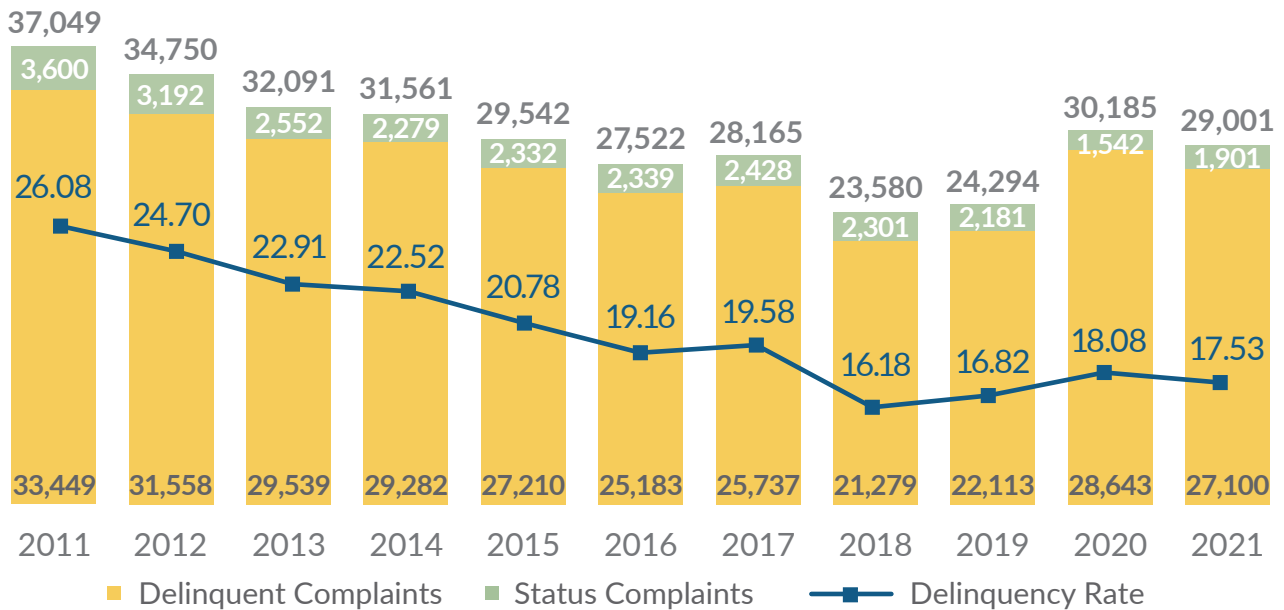
## Complaints Received

2011-2021

The statewide delinquency rate for the juvenile justice system in 2021 was 17.53, down from 18.08 in 2000, the baseline year for a delinquency rate that included the population of juveniles aged 6 to 17 following implementation of “Raise the Age” at the end of 2019. When comparing the pre-Raise the Age age group of 6 to 15-year-olds, the juvenile delinquency rate decreased from 12.05 in 2020 to 11.16 in 2021, the lowest juvenile delinquency rate on record by far.



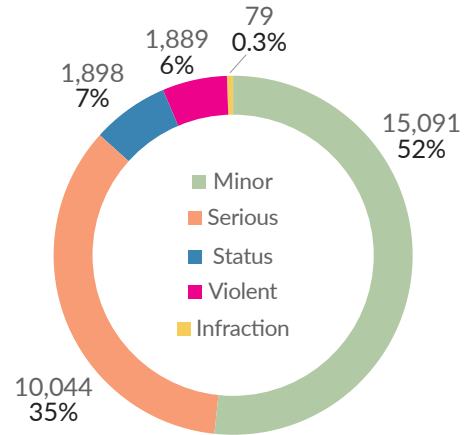
Complaints Received and Delinquency Rate



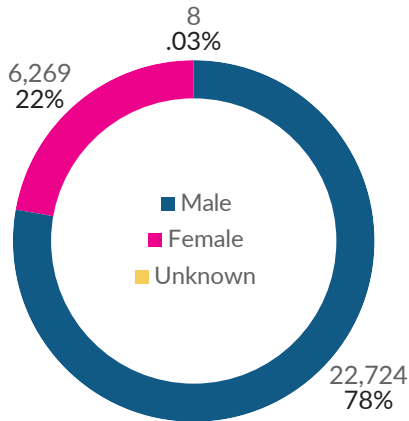
# Complaints Received

2021

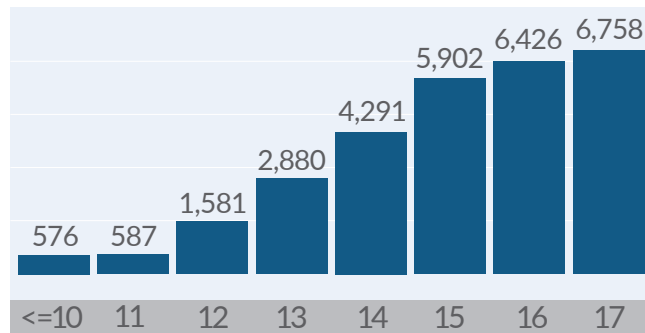
A complaint is a written allegation that a juvenile is delinquent or undisciplined, which is submitted to a juvenile court counselor for evaluation. Most complaints are for minor offenses. Status offenses are offenses that are based on the youth's age (e.g., runaway, truancy, etc.). The 2022 Annual Report will reflect the change in minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction whereby much fewer complaints for youth under age 10 will be represented along with the addition of vulnerable juvenile consultations for youth under age 10.



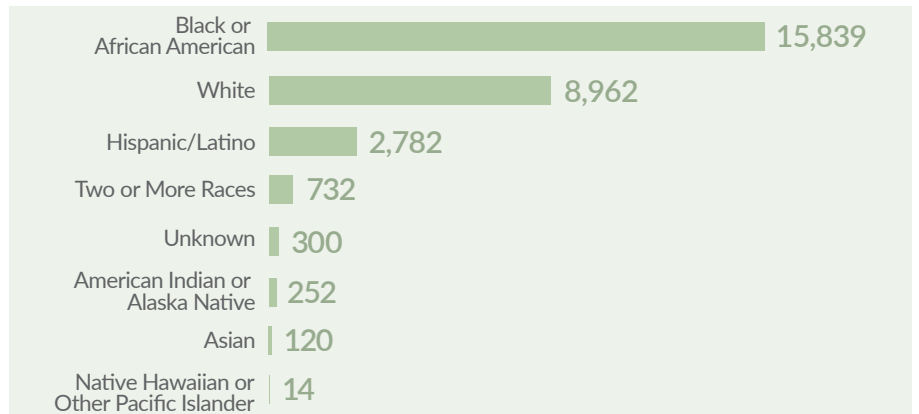
Juvenile Crime and Offenses



Complaints Received by Sex



Complaints Received by Age



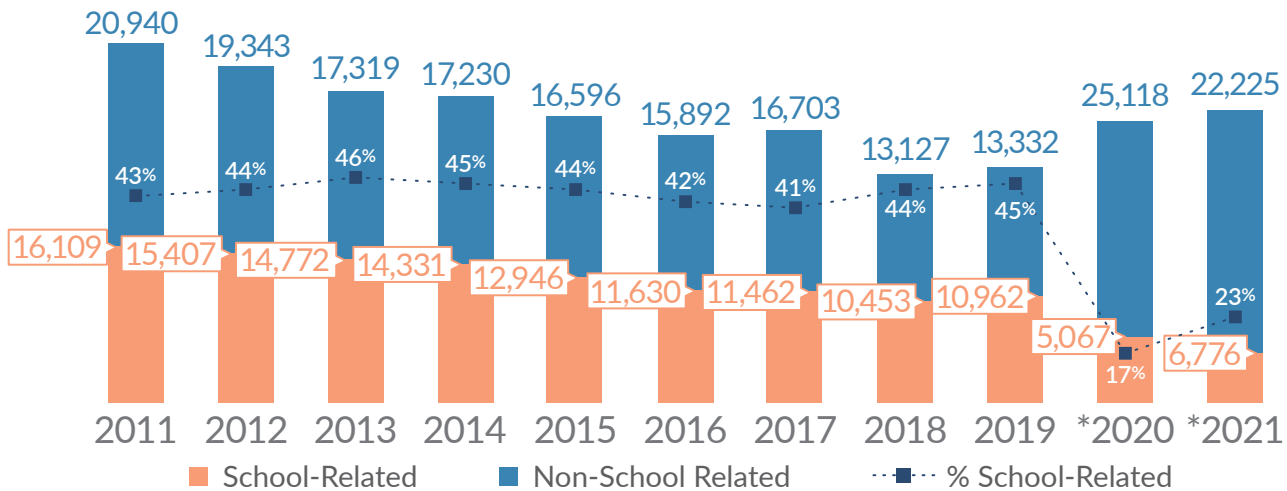
Complaints Received by Race/Ethnicity



# Juvenile School-Based Offenses

A School-Based Offense is an offense that occurs on school grounds, school property (buses, etc.), at a school bus stop, or at an off-campus school-sanctioned event (field trips, athletic competitions, etc.) or whose victim is a school (such as a false bomb report). School includes any public or private institution providing elementary (K-8), secondary (9-12), or post-secondary (community college, trade school, college, etc.) education, but excludes home schools, preschools and day cares.

School-Related and Non-School Related Complaint Trend

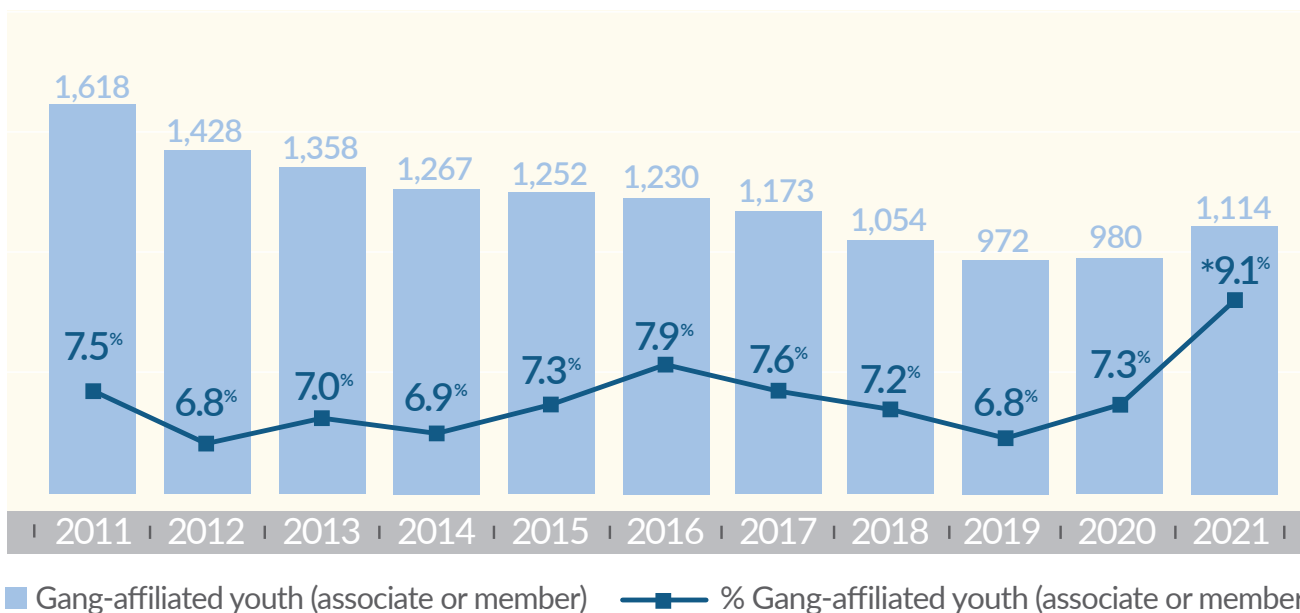


\*School-based offenses decreased in 2020 and 2021 largely in part due to the coronavirus pandemic and accompanying school closures.

Top 10 School-Based Offenses: CY 2021	
Charged Offense	Complaints
(M) misdemeanor (F) felony (S) status offense	
Simple assault (M)	1,055
Truant < 16 (S)	670
Simple affray (M)	663
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	536
Possession of weapons other than firearms and explosives on school grounds (M)	363
Communicating threats (M)	352
Assault government official / employee (M)	183
Simple possession schedule VI controlled substance (M)	180
Disorderly Conduct by engaging in fighting or other violent conduct or in conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence (M)	169
Communicating Threat of Mass Violence on Educational Property (F)	154

Top 10 Juvenile Offenses: CY 2021			
Offense (M) misdemeanor (F) felony (S) status offense	Complaints	Distinct Juveniles	Complaints per juvenile
Simple assault (M)	2,501	2,005	1.2
Break or enter a motor vehicle (F)	2,420	476	5.1
Larceny (M)	1,225	725	1.7
Resisting public officer (M)	885	773	1.1
Simple affray (M)	812	772	1.1
Injury to real property (M)	801	619	1.3
Communicating threats (M)	749	607	1.2
Truant < 16 (S)	727	696	1.0
Larceny of motor vehicle (F)	711	423	1.7
Possess handgun by minor (M)	682	574	1.2

### Gang-Affiliated Youth Trends

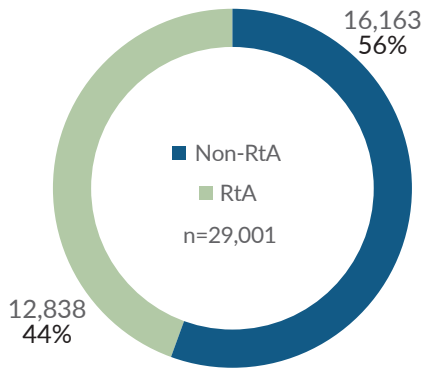


\* The 2021 slight increase in gang-identified juveniles is due to fewer juveniles assessed and a small increase in juveniles identified as gang-involved.

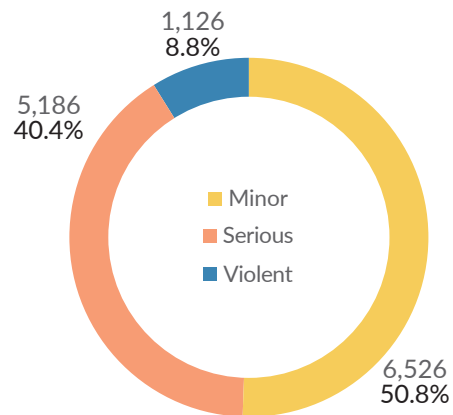
## Raise The Age Offenses

2021

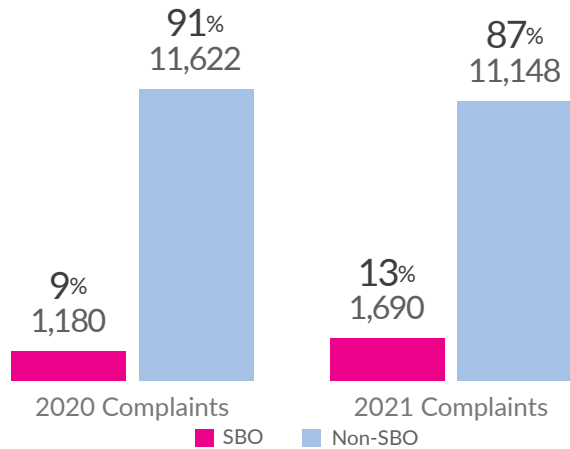
On Dec. 1, 2019, the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (S.L. 2017-57) raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction for most offenses to include 16 and 17 year olds under juvenile jurisdiction. Raise the Age allows charges against 16- and 17-year-olds to be heard in the juvenile justice system if they are charged with non-violent crimes classified as low-level felonies and/or misdemeanors



Complaints by RtA and Non-RtA Designation



Complaints for 16-17-year-olds by Charged Group



Raise the Age: School-Based Offenses

# Detention

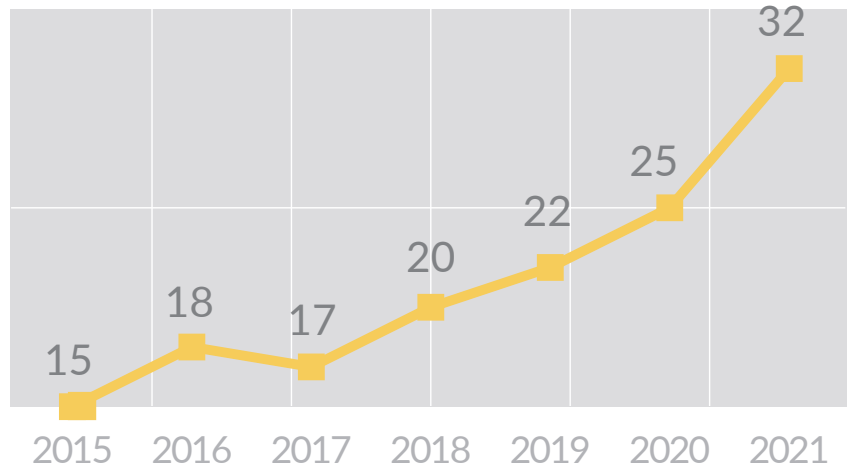
## 2021

Legislation (S.L. 2020-83) resulted in all youth under the age of 18 who are ordered to be detained in secure custody, to be housed in a juvenile detention center instead of jail, ensuring compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This population includes juveniles classified as “Criminal Court Youth” who are not subject to juvenile court jurisdiction, but rather are charged/sentenced outside of the juvenile justice system.

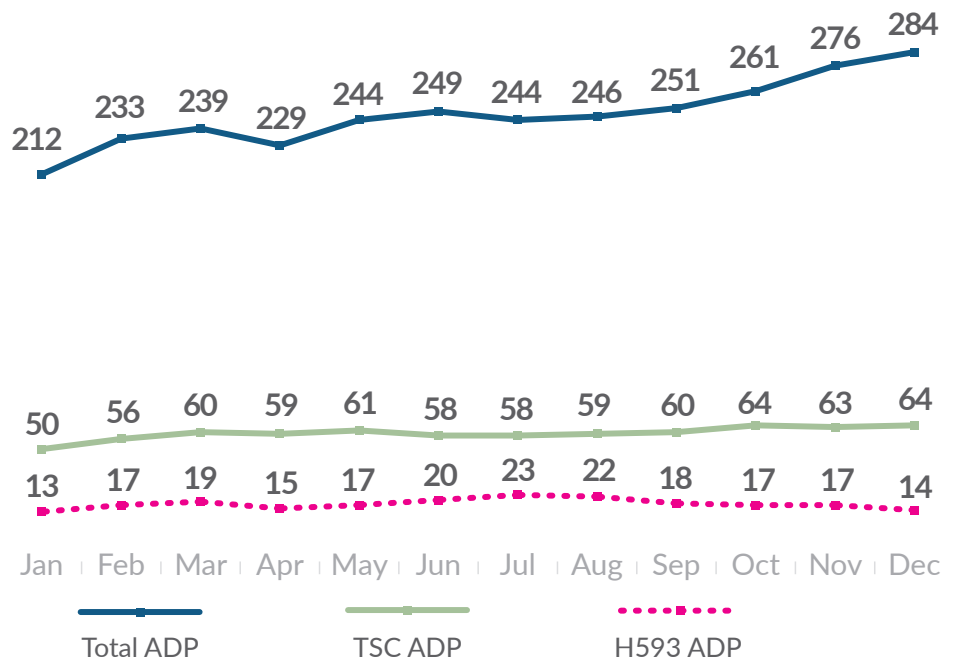
By statute some offenses must be heard from beginning to end in the criminal court (adult) system, despite the youth being under the age of 18. Included in this population is also “Transfers to Superior Court,” which are cases involving youths who are transferred from juvenile to superior court due to the severity of their charges. Those with certain prior adult convictions; emancipated youth and youth aged 16 or 17 alleged to have committed a Chapter 20 motor vehicle offense are excluded from juvenile jurisdiction, but are housed in juvenile detention when a secure custody order is issued, and thus are counted in the population for average length of stay. Transfers and superior court youth have a longer length of stay as their cases proceed through the adult system, causing an overall increase in length or stay.

Detention admissions have only increased 10% since 2020; however, length of stay has increased 28% since 2020 (from 25 days to 32 days) because youth transferred to superior court are held for much longer in juvenile detention (in excess of 160 days) than juvenile jurisdiction youth, and thus are weighting the average length of stay upwards and requiring the addition of more bed space.

Average Length of Stay in Detention (Days)  
CY 2015-2021



Detention Average Daily Population by Month  
Total, H593 and Transfers to Superior Court Youth CY 2021

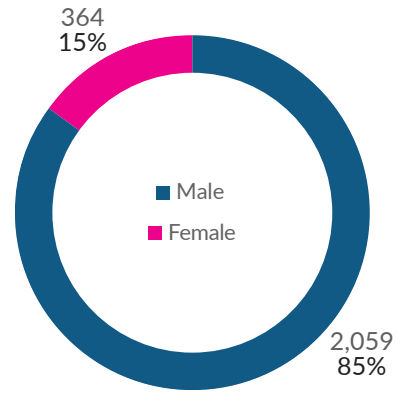




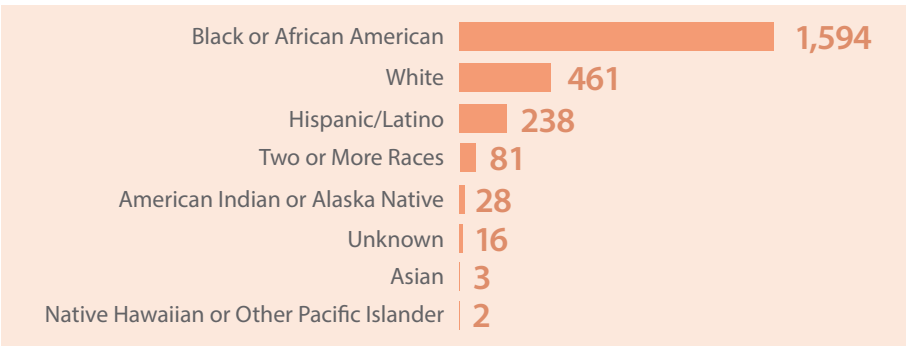
# Juvenile Detention Center Admissions

2021

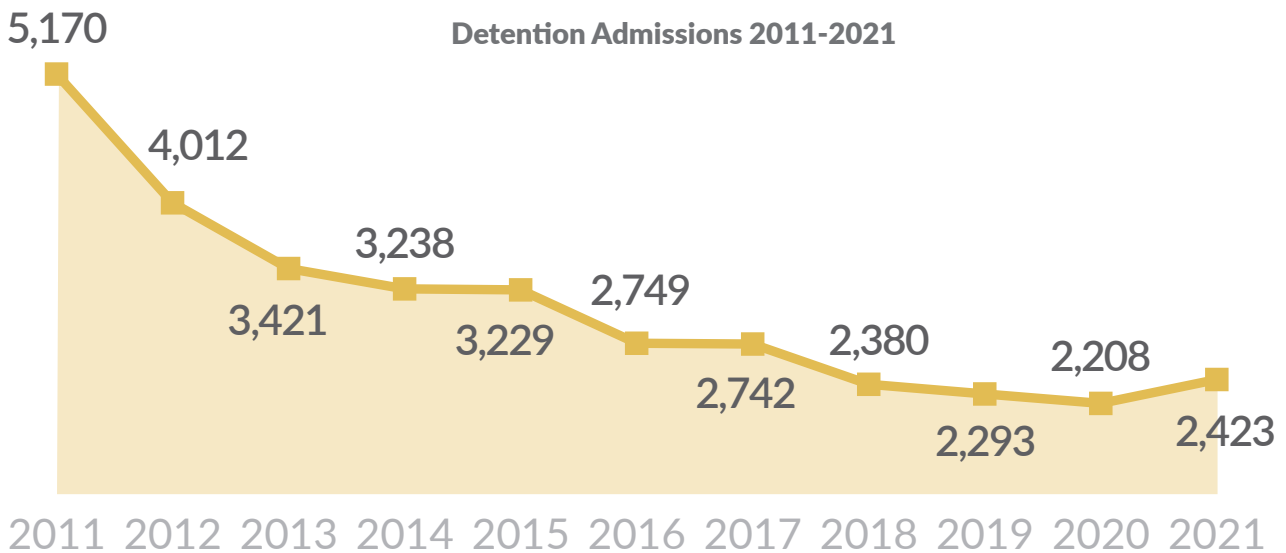
Juvenile detention centers are secure facilities that temporarily house youths alleged to have committed a delinquent act or to be a runaway. Youths are generally placed in a juvenile detention center while awaiting a court hearing, or until another placement can be found, either in a community-based program or service or in a youth development center following commitment.



Admissions by Sex



Admissions by Race/Ethnicity



Detention Admissions 2011-2021





Facility Type	Facility	Capacity	Average Daily Population
Youth Development Centers	Cabarrus	128	73.4
	Chatham	32	25.9
	Edgecombe	44	29.3
	Lenoir	22	20.3
State-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Alexander	24	22.2
	Cabarrus-Kirk	30	24.2
	Cabarrus-McWhorter	16	11.9
	Cumberland	18	15.7
	Dillon	24	18.8
	Dobbs/Lenoir	22	9.6
	New Hanover	18	14.9
	Pitt	18	15.8
	Wake	24	20.8
County-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Brunswick	12	7.6
	Durham	14	9.3
	Guilford	44	24.4
	Madison	19	10.4
	Mecklenburg	72	53.5

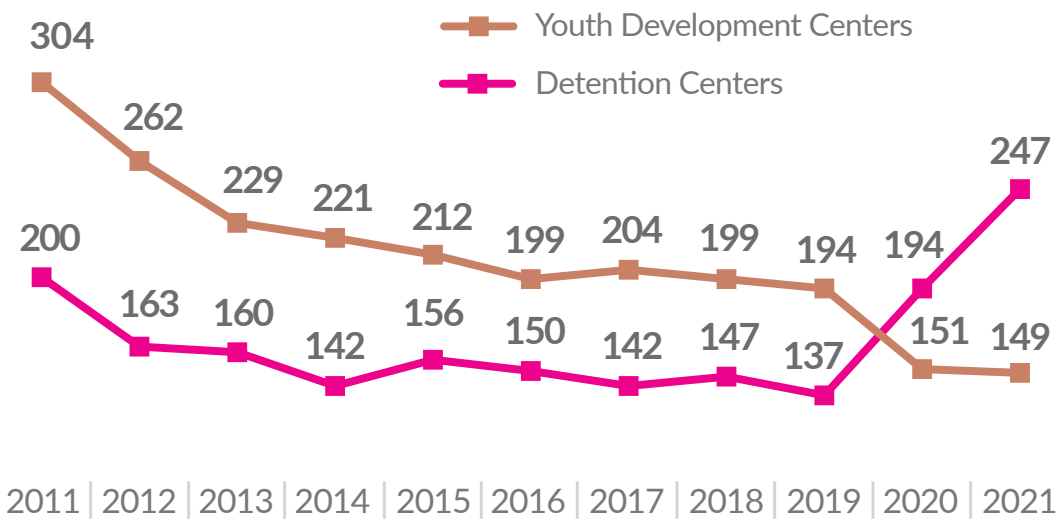
Bed capacity for county-operated facilities during 2021 fluctuated based on facility repair, staffing and/or pandemic-related challenges. The posted detention center bed capacity is not necessarily the true capacity for periods of 2021.



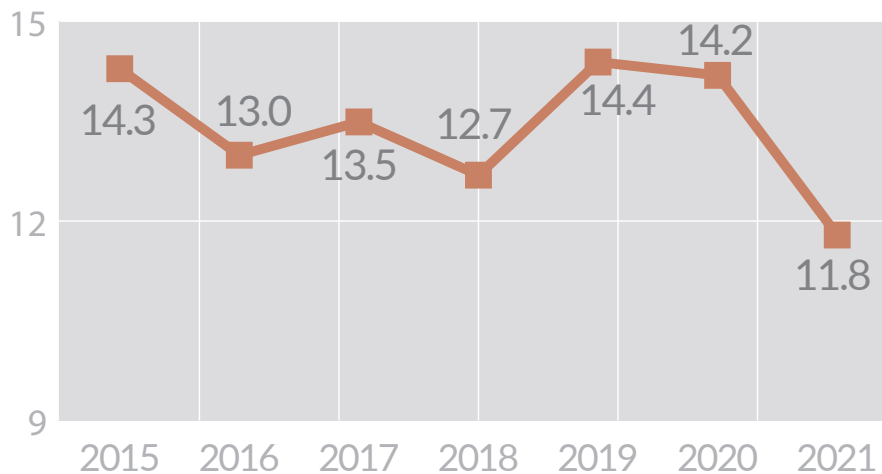
## Average Daily Population

On any given day in 2021 you could find 149 juveniles who had been committed to a YDC, slightly fewer than in 2020. In 2021, the average length of time a youth spent in commitment status is 11.8 months, a sharp decrease from 2020, at least partially due to commitment release procedure changes during the pandemic.

Youth Development Center (YDC) and Detention Center (DC) ADP by Year 2011-2021



Average Length of Commitment (in Months) in Youth Development Centers 2015-2021

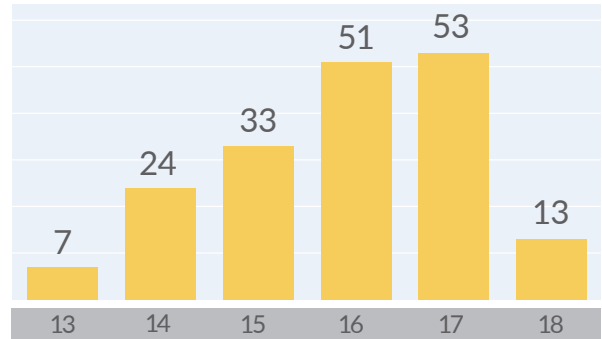


# Youth Development Center Commitments

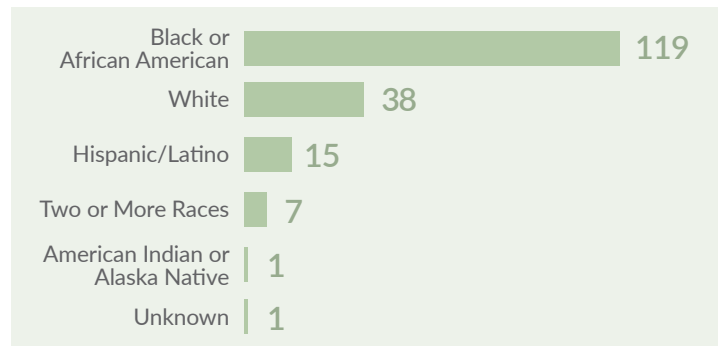
2021

Youth development centers are secure facilities that provide education and treatment services to prepare committed youth to successfully transition to a community setting. Youth receive educational, recreation, vocational, mental and physical health, nutritional and risk/needs specific programming in youth development centers.

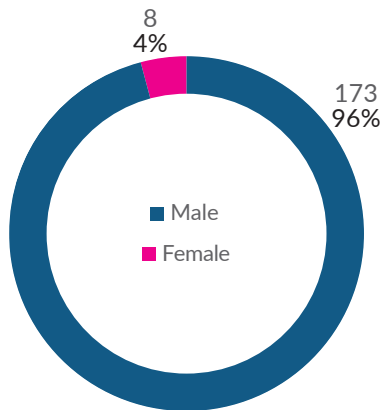
This type of commitment is the most restrictive, intensive dispositional option available to the juvenile courts in North Carolina. The structure of the juvenile code limits this disposition to those juveniles who have been adjudicated for violent or serious offenses or who have a lengthy delinquency history.



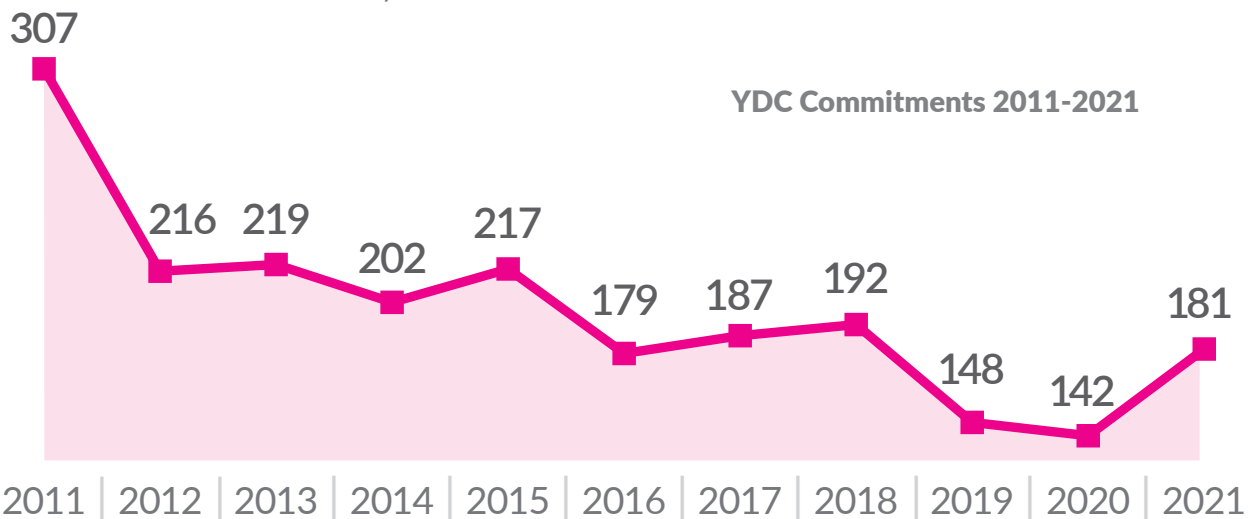
Commitments by Age



Commitments by Race/Ethnicity



Commitments by Sex



YDC Commitments 2011-2021

## Clinical Services and Programming by Youth Development Centers

Juveniles committed to North Carolina's juvenile justice system in 2021 presented with multiple and complex behavioral health needs. A representative point-in-time survey of youth confined in youth development centers on Dec. 31, 2021, revealed that:

- 100% carried at least one mental health diagnosis, with 51% percent holding at least one substance use diagnosis;
- 51% had co-occurring mental health and substance use diagnoses;
- 80% percent had more than one behavioral health diagnoses;
- 45% were taking prescribed psychotropic medication (51% of girls and 40% 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 nine.

These findings are largely similar to diagnostic trends found over recent years in this population, with one exception: the rate of substance use disorders has been steadily declining among the YDC population since 2015, and 2021 is the first year that a small increase was observed from the previous three years. In 2015 substance use disorders were present in 74% of the YDC population. That rate fell to 64% in 2016, to 60% in 2017, to 55% in 2018, 48% in 2019, 46% in 2020, and 51% in 2021.



# 100%

**JUVENILES**  
committed to YDC had at least  
one mental health diagnosis

# 51%

**JUVENILES**  
with at least one  
substance use diagnosis

# 89%

## OF DELINQUENT YOUTH

have at least one mental health disorder

The most frequent categories of diagnoses within the 2021 population of YDC youth, found after completion of a comprehensive evaluation using standardized assessment tools 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 89% percent of delinquent youth confined in YDCs carry at least one diagnosis within this class (88% of males and 100% of females).

The second most frequently found category of diagnoses was trauma- and stressor-related disorders, present in 51% of the YDC population. Disorders within this class arise in response to exposure to one or more traumatic or stressful life events. A marked discrepancy is seen in the frequency

of these problems by gender: trauma- and stressor-related disorders were twice as common in girls than boys, with 100% of girls fitting into this category and 48% of boys. New to the 2021 point-in-time survey was the administration of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) inventory to all youths residing in the YDC. Adverse Childhood Experiences are scored from 0-10 and categorize different traumatic events that an individual was exposed to prior to the age of 18. The average ACE score for all youth in the YDC was 2.78. Statistically significant differences were seen in female students who scored an average of 3.3 and males who scored an average of 2.3 adverse events. Statistical differences were seen in the results from the ACE inventory when broken down by race or ethnicity.

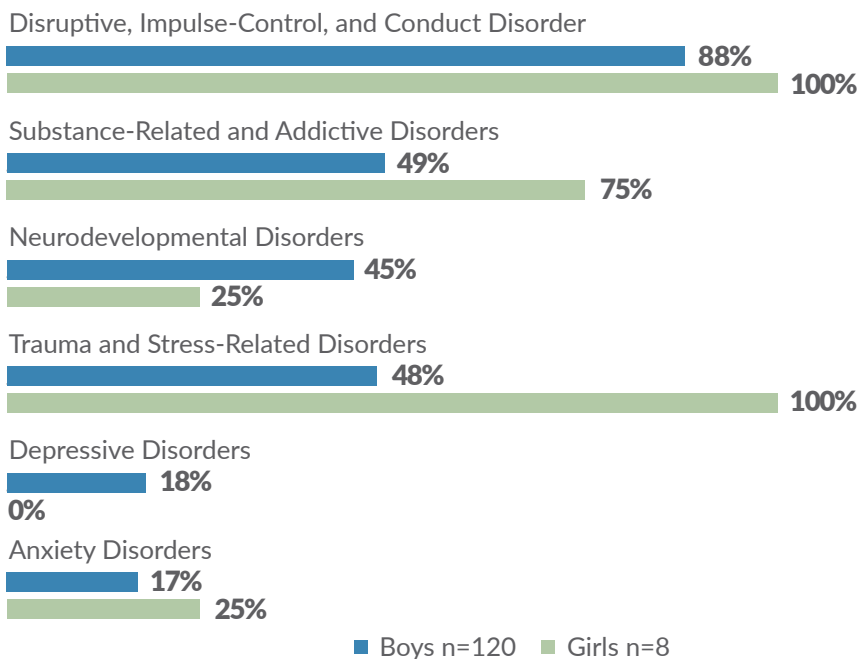
The third most frequently found category of diagnoses, substance-related and addictive disorders, were present in 51% of the YDC population (49% males and 75% females). Of these, 100% were cannabis-related, 1% were opioid or alcohol -related, and less than 1% were reported hallucinogen or stimulant abuse.

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 44% of the YDC population (45% of males and 25% of females). The most frequently diagnosed disorders within this category were attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), found in 42% of the YDC population (41% of males and 25% of females).

Both anxiety disorders (24% of YDC population) and depressive disorders (23% of YDC population) were virtually tied for the fifth most common diagnostic category found in the YDC population.

The most common diagnostic classes found among youth in YDCs in 2021 are summarized in this chart.

### Most Prevalent Diagnostic Categories by Percentage of the 2021 YDC Population



■ Boys n=120 ■ Girls n=8



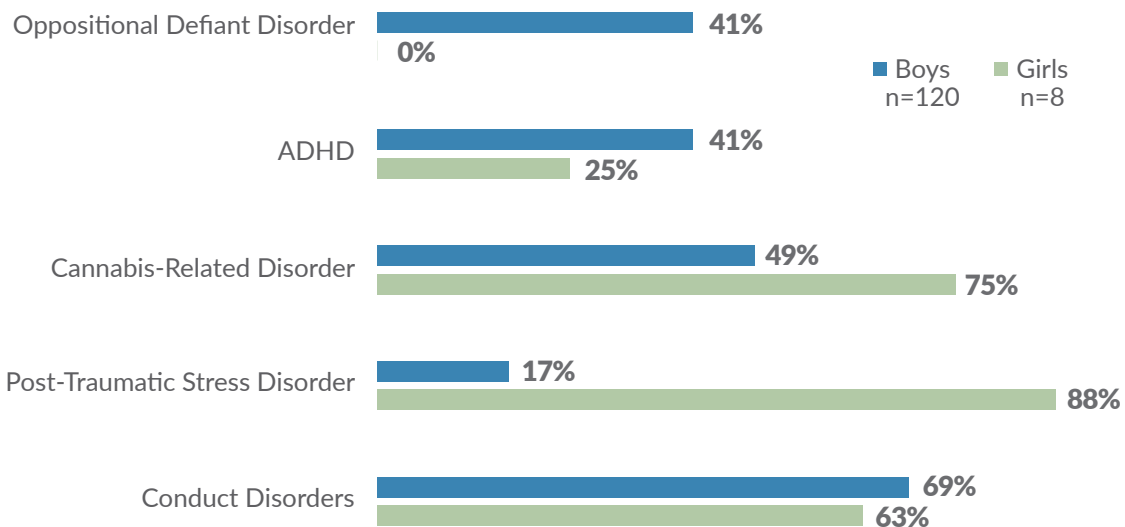
**69%**  
**CONDUCT DISORDER**  
 present in the YDC population

Across diagnostic categories, the most common behavioral health diagnosis found in the 2021 YDC population was conduct disorder, present in 69% of the youth (69% of males and 63% of females). 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 51% of the YDC youth, followed by attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), present in 42%. The fourth most common diagnosis

was oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). ODD is characterized by a frequent and persistent pattern of anger and irritability, argumentative and defiant behavior, or vindictiveness. ODD was present in 38% of the YDC population and, as depicted below, was far more prevalent in boys (41%) than girls (0%). The fifth most common diagnosis was post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which was present in 21% of the YDC population, but its prevalence varied vastly by gender. While PTSD was diagnosed in 17% of males in a YDC, prevalence in female was more than five times higher at 88%.



**Most Prevalent Diagnoses by Percentage of YDC Population**



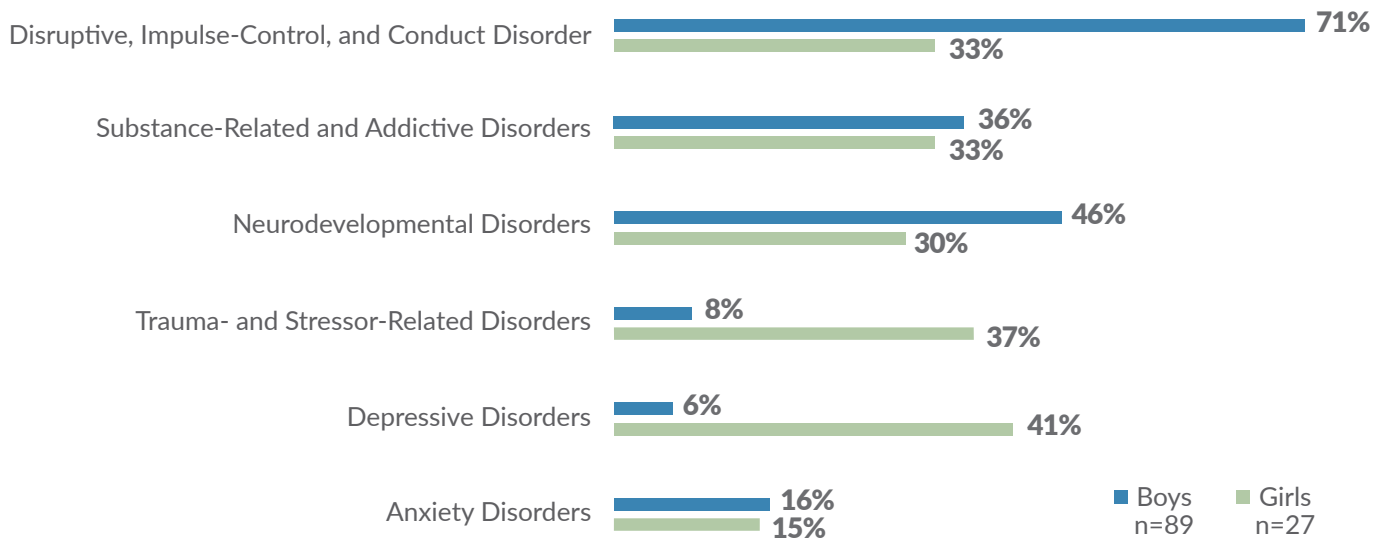
## Meeting the Complex Needs of Youth Committed to a YDC

To meet the complex needs of youth committed to a period of confinement in a YDC, a licensed mental health clinician (LMHC) and social worker are assigned to work with each youth. LMHCs provide evidence-based individual, group and family therapy (where possible) to the youth on their caseloads, and social workers serve as case managers. Youth are also assigned at arrival to a service planning team that includes their social worker, LMHC, medical staff, education staff, the youth, their parent(s)/guardian(s), the youth’s court counselor, direct care staff, and others as appropriate (e.g., a substance abuse counselor). The youth and his or her team together devise a service plan based on multidisciplinary assessment data within 30 days of commitment that includes goals, skills to be acquired during their stay, and ways of tracking progress. The team meets at a minimum every 30 days to assess progress on service planning goals (including educational, behavioral, attitudinal,

readiness for change, substance abuse, family, mental health, relapse prevention and reentry planning). Progress on service planning goals is used to determine readiness for release.

LMHCs at each YDCs have been trained in a variety of evidence-based mental health treatments to address the behavioral health needs of committed youth on their caseloads. Juvenile Justice currently has LMHCs fully trained via the NC Child Treatment Program to provide trauma-focused cognitive behavior therapy (TF-CBT) and Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS) at each YDC. These services provide opportunities, support and guidance for youth to develop skills needed to recognize, tolerate and recover from extreme distress, to improve self-awareness of sensations and bodily states and emotion regulation, and to improve interpersonal and self-management skills.

### Most Prevalent Diagnostic with the Contract Residential Population



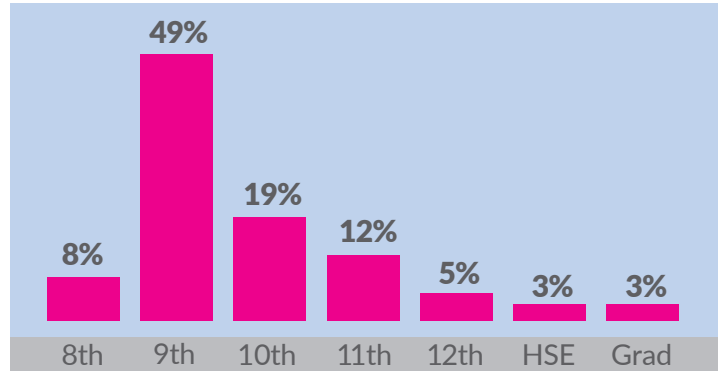
## Education Services

Juvenile Justice Education Services (JJES) serves a diverse population of students and provides instruction and activities that support students' goals for a successful transition to their communities. Depending on the 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; Instruction toward obtaining their high school equivalency (HSE) by passing all sections of the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET); or Enrollment in a web-based post-secondary course.

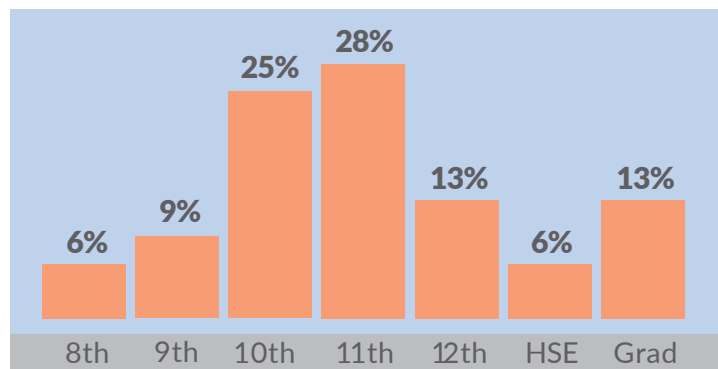
Upon entry to a youth development center (YDC), students' reading and math skills are assessed through the Woodcock Johnson IV assessment.

Juvenile Justice classrooms are led by state-licensed teachers who provide personalized instruction, incorporating direct instruction as well as supplemental web-based instruction. While most students are enrolled in their core curriculum courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies), they also have the 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 YDC and the local community college. Students who qualify for special education services receive support from 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 2021  
Grade Level at Time of Commitment**

“HSE” represents students who were pursuing their high school equivalency prior to commitment; “Grad” represents students who graduated prior to commitment

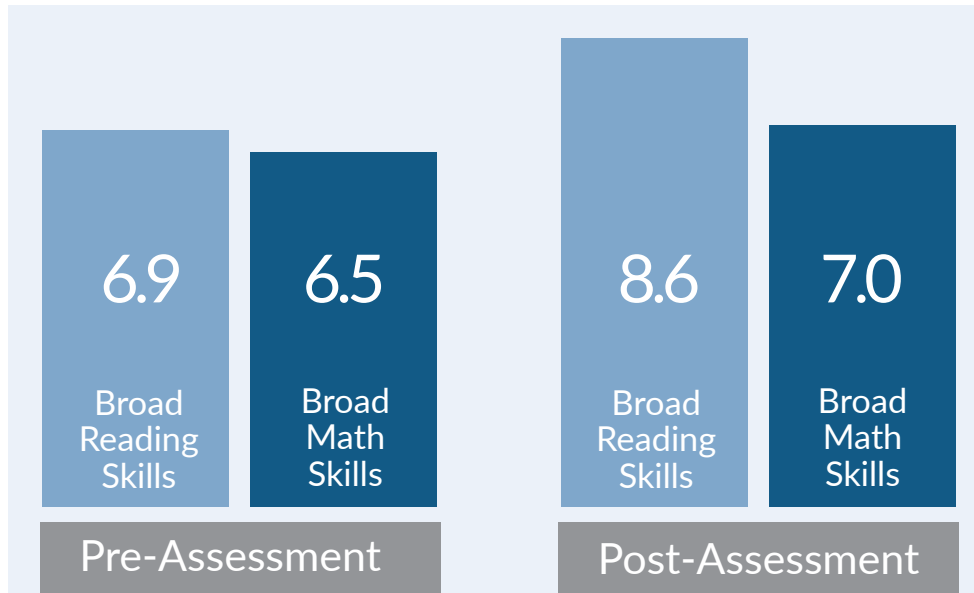


**Students Released from YDC in 2021:  
Grade Level at Time of Release**

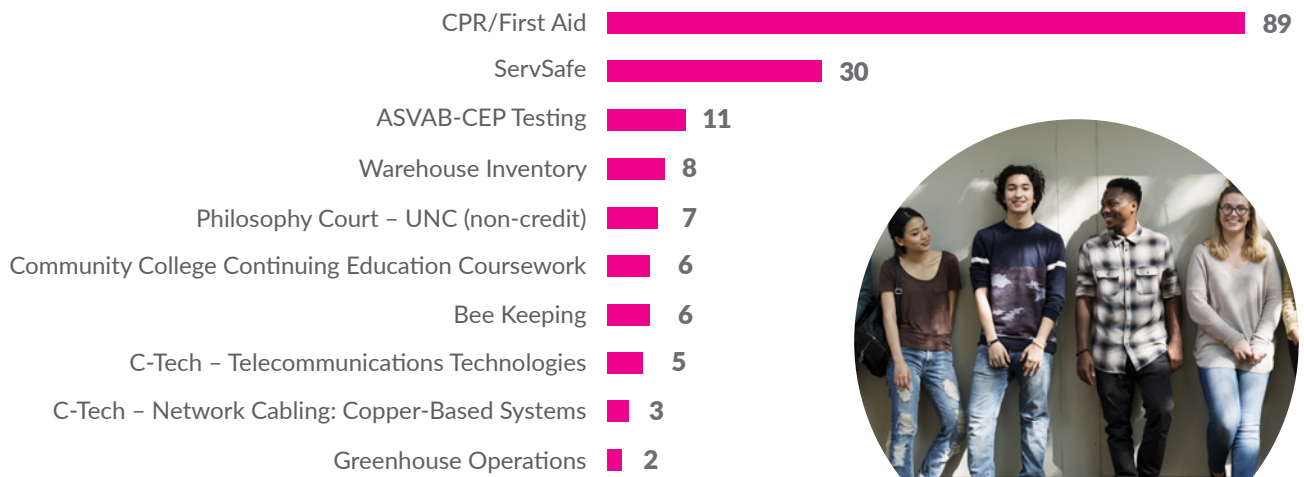
“HSE” represents students who were pursuing their high school equivalency prior to commitment; “Grad” represents students who graduated prior to commitment.



**Pre-and-Post-Assessment Broad Skills:**  
Average Grade Equivalency



**Students Participating in**  
Career Preparation and Post-Secondary Programs, Certifications and Credentials





## Employees and Staffing

2021

Juvenile Justice Employees			
Section	Total Number of Staff	Number of Criminal Justice Certified Staff	% of Staff that are Criminal Justice Certified
Community Programs	30	0	0%
Court Services	692	597	86%
Facility Services (Includes Education/Health/Clinical)	724	578	80%
Transportation Services	74	58	78%
Administration	35	0	0%
Total	1,555	1,233	79%

## Appropriations

2021

**28%** Juvenile Court Services – \$47,692,683

**18%** Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) – \$29,617,136

**17%** Community Program Services – \$27,810,936

**11%** Youth Development Services – \$17,946,379

**10%** Youth Treatment Services – \$17,376,303

**9%** Youth Detention Services – \$14,638,881

**4%** Administration – \$7,197,856

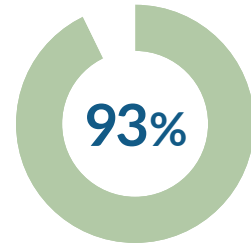
**4%** Youth Education Services – \$6,020,783

## Basic Training Certification Exam Pass Percentages 2021

The Staff Development and Training unit in the Juvenile Justice section became responsible for the delivery of basic training for juvenile justice officers and juvenile court counselors beginning in July 2021. The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission provides end-of-course testing for basic training. Juvenile Justice now delivers both basic and in-service training to Juvenile Justice staff. To maintain employment, all Juvenile Justice officers and court counselors must demonstrate course proficiency with passing scores on end-of-course testing within one year of their appointment to the Basic Training School.



55 out of 55  
juvenile justice  
counselors passed



49 out of 53  
juvenile justice  
officers passed

Title			
Class Type	Total Number of Trainees	Total Number Passed	% of Students Passed
Juvenile Court Counselors	55	55	100%
Juvenile Justice Officers	53	49	93%



