



# Juvenile Justice

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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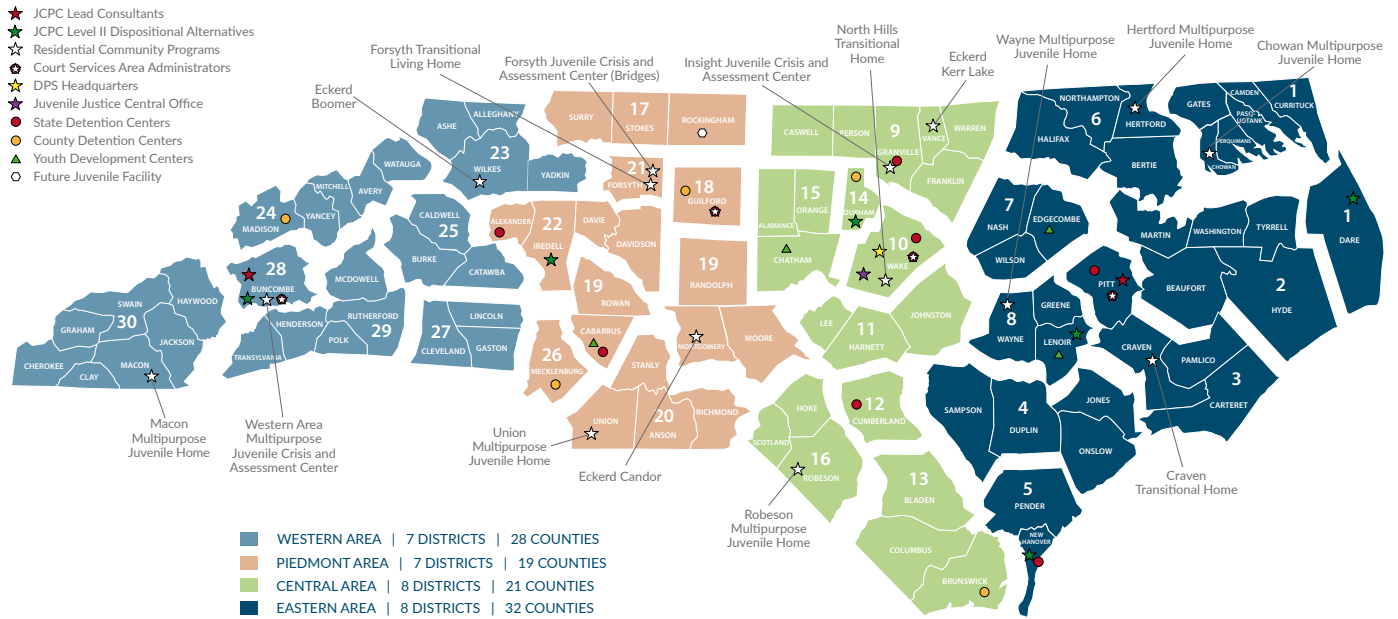


Division of  
Adult Correction and  
Juvenile Justice



# COMPREHENSIVE MAP

## Juvenile Justice facilities in North Carolina



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

## Residents of North Carolina

I am pleased to present the 2020 Juvenile Justice Annual Report, on behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Section.

The word **“commitment”** can mean a promise, obligation, duty, responsibility, dedication and/or devotion to a task. I witness all these characteristics and more daily with our Juvenile Justice staff and employees of our partnering agencies. They have shown they are among the most committed people I know, tackling the difficulties that came our way during the unparalleled year that was 2020. These challenges included successfully implementing Raise the Age, while also dealing heroically with a global pandemic and its associated restrictions and safety concerns that brought significant impacts to the criminal justice system.

As the year began, we were in the first early stage of implementing Raise the Age, the long-anticipated law that in December 2019 extended original jurisdiction of the juvenile court to 16 and 17-year-olds. The new law allows young people who commit non-violent crimes in North Carolina to no longer automatically be charged in the adult criminal justice system. During 2020, Raise the Age allowed approximately 4,300 16- and 17-year-olds to avoid prosecution as adults, and instead be adjudicated and receive services in the juvenile justice system. You can learn more about Raise the Age implementation on page 6 of this report.

Juvenile Justice staff continued working throughout 2020 to develop and implement age-appropriate programming for all juveniles, and to grow detention capacity throughout North Carolina. The push to increase the number of detention beds grew even more urgent following ratification of Session Law 2020-83, which requires that juveniles under the age of 18 who do not qualify for juvenile jurisdiction to be housed in juvenile detention centers instead of jail.

In late winter/early spring 2020, the coronavirus pandemic and its associated restrictions and safety concerns brought global and local impacts to Juvenile Justice, North Carolina’s judicial system and community program providers.

Juvenile Justice established on March 12 a broad multi-disciplinary team that instituted changes to operations and procedures within juvenile facilities and offices beginning in mid-March. These

operational adjustments included efforts to keep or bring facility populations as low as possible, but also to protect those juveniles who must be held in secure custody. Changes included such items as suspending visitation and volunteer activities at all juvenile justice facilities, until conditions are deemed safe, and handling necessary court hearings via videoconference, to reduce potential exposure opportunities for juveniles and staff members to COVID-19.

We also increased efforts to use alternatives to detention (such as electronic monitoring, home confinement, community-based programs, etc.) when appropriate for juveniles with nonviolent complaints who are awaiting adjudication within juvenile court. We reviewed juvenile cases for those who might be appropriate for release and brought them to the attention of the detaining judges for approval of release to community-based services. More information on Juvenile Justice actions in response to the global pandemic can be found on page 4, or online at <https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice/juvenile-justice-info-covid-19>.

And as 2020 rolled to a close—despite the additional juveniles added to the system under Raise the Age—commitments to youth development centers continued to decrease. Fewer youths reached this deep end of the juvenile justice system compared to 2019, and in fact, in the past 11 years the number of juveniles committed to a YDC has dropped by 60%. We also saw a continuing decrease in detention admissions in 2020, which in the past 10 years has dropped by 54%. These reductions in confinement were accompanied by a continued trend of historically low rates of juvenile crime. When comparing the pre-Raise the Age age group of 6 to 15-year-olds, the juvenile delinquency rate decreased from 16.82 in 2019 to 12.05 in 2020, the lowest juvenile delinquency rate on record by far. The statewide delinquency rate for the juvenile justice system in 2020, which fully includes 6 through 17-year-olds, was 18.08.

I am truly awestruck by our juvenile justice professionals, all heroes, who dedicated themselves to keeping our juveniles and their colleagues healthy and safe amid the coronavirus pandemic. I am proud to share their achievements and successes, all in support of the safety and well-being of the children, families and communities of North Carolina.

# 2020: Operating During a Pandemic

On March 12, 2020, Juvenile Justice partnered with Prison's incident command team to identify an incident commander and core response team while establishing a broader multi-disciplinary team to plan for, prepare for, respond to and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations, especially in facility operations.

## The key missions for the command teams were:

- Procuring supplies to provide staff and juveniles with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Reviewing the latest research and guidance to ensure operations were consistent with best practices; and
- Modifying policies and practices to account for the virus and minimize its impact on staff and youth.

Juvenile Justice embraced technology to facilitate telehealth, family visitation and virtual court appointments to reduce movement in and out of facilities while, at the same time, made a concerted effort to reduce the populations of youth development centers and juvenile detention centers through the use of alternatives to detention and escalated case reviews. Technology further assisted with a temporary transition to remote learning for all youth in facilities while plans for socially distanced in-person learning could be developed and implemented.

This use of technology helped youth maintain vital contacts with their families and communities, as well as continuous engagement with education and service providers to minimize interruption to routine and program progression, while minimizing opportunities for potential exposure to the coronavirus. Clinical staff worked closely with Facility Operations' management to ensure that any youth who needed quarantine or medical isolation would be provided ample enrichment activities and be carefully monitored.

Where possible, Juvenile Justice utilized technology to conduct job interviews and other meetings. Managers determined whether interviews would be conducted via telephone. Teleconferencing was utilized for all non-essential meetings.

Due to the pandemic, Juvenile Justice suspended all classroom-based portions of in-service training for the remainder of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This in-service exemption for classroom training was active for the remainder of 2020. Staff still needed to complete all in-service courses offered through the Learning Management System (LMS). Child Nutrition and Juvenile Minority Sensitivity Training become LMS-based training events for FY 2020-21. Staff also worked with their supervisors to maintain any CPR/First Aid certification when it was safe to do so.



The JJ incident response team evaluated all areas of operations continually against emerging guidance, consulting with internal and external experts throughout the pandemic to maximize both Juvenile Justice's therapeutic mission and the protection of staff and juveniles. Entrance screening protocols were developed for staff, and screening and testing protocols were implemented for juveniles. All staff and juveniles were required to wear the cloth masks provided by DPS.

Personal protective equipment kits were assembled by staff in Raleigh for distribution to all staff and youth. These PPE kits contained the gloves, gowns, shoe covers, face shields and cloth masks needed for staff to interact with youth who tested positive for COVID-19 while they are in isolation at a Juvenile Justice facility. Community Programs facilities, Court Services vehicles and transportation vehicles also received the kits.

Supply delivery routes and routines were established to permit both standing weekly supply runs to each JJ work location to ensure adequate supplies of PPE and cleaning products were on hand, but also to permit rapid deliveries if a situation at a site required additional equipment. Increased cleaning regimens were implemented in all juvenile justice workspaces.

A COVID-19 response folder was built on a shared network drive to allow every staff member access to the most current information and operational memos to help manage the flow of information. All sections of Juvenile Justice offered their expertise, staff and creative ideas to help the section respond to the pandemic with the physical safety and emotional well-being of staff and juveniles in mind.

Each Juvenile Justice section was directly affected by the pandemic. However, they found ways to deal with the direct effects of COVID-19 and developed creative and practical solutions to issues.

## Community Programs

- Instituted COVID-19 hazard-pay to all state-level contracts for direct-care staff at 14 Community Programs residential sites.
- Established continuity of work with all 100- county governments during the pandemic by obtaining virtual platform licensure for all Community Programs staff to support ongoing legislatively mandated JCPC county planning and completion of local county JCPC program funding processes.
- Installed fiber optic videoconferencing technology at all residential sites to support family engagement and telehealth needs during the pandemic.
- Provided guidance to state contracted residential providers via juvenile justice operational memoranda, especially regarding staff and juvenile COVID-19 screening protocols, quarantine and visitation in accordance with CDC and local public health guidelines.
- Provided discretionary funding to JCPC providers for technology enhancements to support continuity of service delivery to youth.
- Granted a six-month extension on the completion of 2019-20 consultant monitoring reports to ensure staff/provider safety.
- Continued to support program referral needs by offering non-interrupted residential placement options for youth most at-risk of being committed to YDCs.

## Court Services

- Temporarily suspended home visits by court counselors in favor of telephone contacts.
- Suspended YDC campus visits by court counselors in favor of telephone contacts.
- Required the use of telephone/videoconferencing for service planning and post release supervision planning meetings.
- Suspended drug and alcohol screenings.
- Temporarily limited intake conferences to telephone or videoconferencing.
- Temporarily suspended home evaluations for interstate compact cases.
- Temporarily suspended airport surveillance by court counselors for interstate compact juveniles travelling through North Carolina.

## Facility Operations

- Suspended visitation, except for legal visitation.
- Prohibited all non-essential volunteers, contractors and vendors from entry.
- Suspended community visits, including home passes.
- Prohibited contact sports during juvenile recreation periods.
- Required COVID-19 testing and 14 days of quarantine for all youth entering a juvenile detention center.
- Enhanced inter-facility juvenile transfer requirements to those necessary and introduced a quarantine-upon-transfer requirement.
- Introduced enhanced cleaning regimes and social distancing requirements.
- Introduced screening requirements for essential volunteers, contractors and vendors.
- Suspended policy requirements surrounding pre-release notifications to permit for increased efficiencies and faster releases for approved juveniles.
- Juvenile Justice loaned a tablet to students who did not have access to a device at home to continue coursework after leaving the facility. This was provided for students who exited a YDC from the end of the school year (April-June, 2020).



## Health Services

- Consulted with facility medical providers to determine which off-site medical appointments could be rescheduled/provided through a different medium.
- Hired additional nursing support through contract agencies to enhance our capacity to provide both treatment and education.
- Developed a COVID-19 fact sheet and Medical Discharge Summary to provide to juveniles being released from detention or a youth development center.
- Instituted weekly briefings for center medical staff.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

# Raise The Age Year 1

Despite the challenges of a new law, as well as the first-in-a-century pandemic, the initial year of "Raise the Age" implementation went well for the Juvenile Justice section.

The Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (S.L. 2017-57) raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction for most offenses to age 18. Since Dec. 1, 2019, 16- and 17-year-olds who commit crimes in North Carolina are no longer automatically charged in the adult criminal justice system. During the first year of implementation, Raise the Age allowed approximately 4,200 16- and 17-year-olds to avoid prosecution as adults, and instead be adjudicated in the juvenile justice system. In the past, that age group would have been part of the adult correctional system with a criminal record, and all the restrictions that come with that.

Raise the Age allows charges against 16- and 17-year-olds to be heard in the juvenile justice system if they were arrested for non-violent crimes classified as low-level felonies and/or misdemeanors, not including Chapter 20 motor vehicle offenses. Cases where juveniles are charged with higher-level and/or violent felonies can be transferred to adult court. Any case of a juvenile charged as an adult will be heard in an adult court.

By including 16- and 17-year-olds under juvenile jurisdiction with its focus on rehabilitation, the state endorsed a practice that is not only effective in reducing crime but also is cost-effective. And it is utilized in the majority of other states.

### As part of the Raise the Age planning process, several goals were outlined to ensure success during implementation:

1. Create and maintain open lines of communication to accept feedback and solutions;
2. Be responsive to outliers, process challenges and capacity issues;
3. Provide legislative and implementation updates regularly;
4. Put in place tools to ensure continued training resource availability;
5. Implement age-appropriate programming; and
6. Grow detention capacity throughout the state.

**the RAISE AGE** allowed approximately **4,200** 16- and 17-year-olds to avoid prosecution as adults, and instead be adjudicated in the juvenile justice system

During 2020, Juvenile Justice worked to achieve these goals through established infrastructure, and benefited greatly from continued involvement of stakeholders, community leaders, legislators and the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee.

The Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee issued an off-schedule report in September that provided legislative and funding recommendations, as well as a data update on Raise the Age and impacts from COVID-19. The JJAC's Minimum Age subcommittee continued research and discussions in order to propose raising the minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction. The Legislative Issues and Legal Revisions subcommittee began work on a lengthy list of statutory changes needed, including setting conditions of release, conforming changes to age of maximum commitment, addressing the indictment process, and transfer hearings.

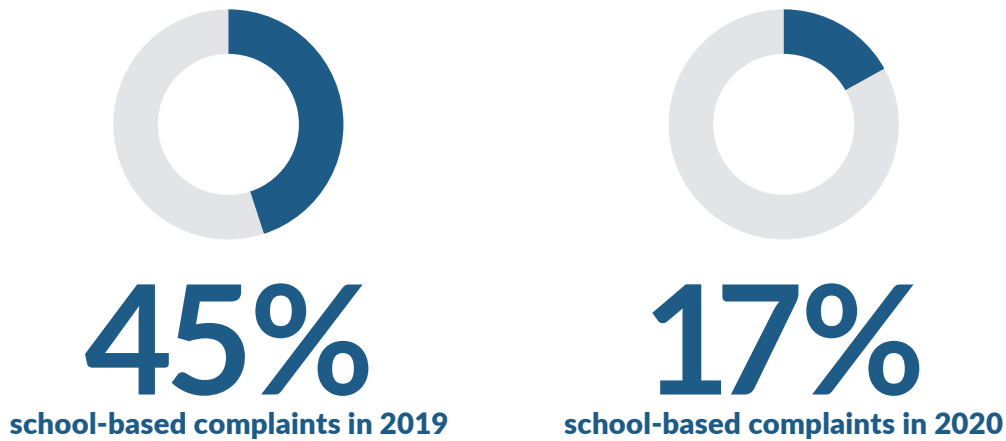
Justice Reinvestment, a concept previously implemented in the adult correctional system, supports saving money and reducing crime by moving resources to the front end of the system to reduce the more costly expenditures associated with deep-end secure custody stays. By providing services early on that are targeted to the juvenile's individual needs, Juvenile Justice professionals reduce the likelihood that juveniles will reoffend. Research supports limiting how many contacts a juvenile has with the juvenile justice system and the treatment duration to the amount the specific juvenile needs.

In August 2020, House Bill 593 required juveniles under the age of 18 who did not qualify for juvenile jurisdiction to be housed in juvenile detention centers instead of jail until they turn 18. That meant more beds were needed as there were 190 juvenile detention beds statewide, 132 of which were operated in state facilities.

Juvenile Justice is working on renovating state facilities (Dillon and Perquimans). Mecklenburg, Madison and Brunswick counties added detention beds. As of Dec. 31, 2020, there were 323 across the state, 178 of which are operated by the state. More are planned to keep up with the projected population increases faced by juvenile facilities.

## Complaints Impact from COVID

School-Based Offenses



School-based complaints composed 45% of all complaints in calendar year 2019, and typically represent over 40% of all complaints each year. However, when schools were closed in March of 2020 for the pandemic response, the number of complaints received dramatically decreased and represent only 17% of all complaints received in 2020, which includes both open and closed school months.

## Impacts of Coronavirus

COVID-19 presented a challenge in measuring how Raise the Age implementation matched with anticipated results. Prior to the pandemic, Juvenile Justice projected a 64% increase in criminal complaints coming into the system compared to the previous year due to the addition of 16-and 17-year-olds. However, because of school closings during the pandemic, the increase was only about 38%. School-based complaints accounted for 45% of all complaints in 2019 but fell to just 17% in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Statistics show that juvenile crimes changed during the pandemic. Property crimes were up while person-on-person crimes were down. Without in-person education taking place in the age group, disorderly conduct at school charges dropped, but an upward shift occurred in theft charges. Firearm theft charges rose by 200%.

JJ received a slightly higher number of felony Class A-G complaints and juveniles than expected. Fewer misdemeanor complaints were filed than expected. The average number of complaints per youth was higher for the youth ages 16 and older than for younger juveniles.

The risk of reoffending score was dependably higher for older youth, resulting in a higher rate of detention for older youth. Further, court delays and school closures likely impacted length of stay in secure

custody and the number of complaints received as school-based complaints made up 45% of all complaints. The detention population stayed longer at least partially due to a larger proportion of that population being composed of transfers to superior court, who have a 250+ day average stay compared to a 25-day average stay for youth in the juvenile system.

With the pandemic in 2020, county leadership reached out to Juvenile Justice regarding localized increases in crimes involving theft from and of motor vehicles in several counties in the state. Because local law enforcement reached out to problem solve, the result was a collaboration between Juvenile Community Programs, Fayetteville Police Department trainers, and other counties' law enforcement staff to implement Educating Kids on Gun Violence (EKG) programming in Forsyth and Guilford counties.

Unrelated to the Raise the Age (RtA) population, but a trend that occurred simultaneous to RtA implementation, is the significant decrease in complaints for undisciplined juveniles for status offenses (all ages). Status offenses are offenses that are considered crimes due to the juvenile's age (e.g., truancy, runaways, etc.). During 2020, there was a 29% decrease in the filing of undisciplined complaints (2,181 in 2019 compared to 1,542 in 2020).

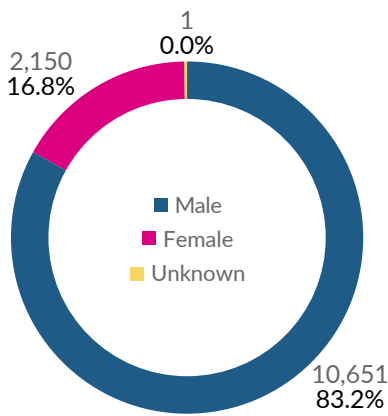
# Complaints for 16 and 17-year-olds

2020 – 1 Year Into Raise the Age

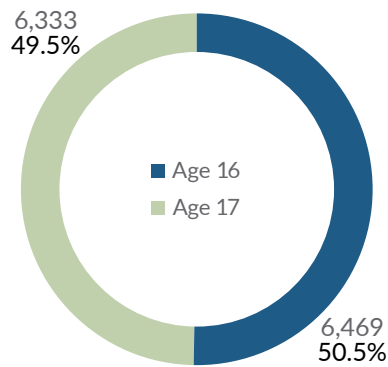
Below are early statistics to help understand how the older population is appearing in the Juvenile Justice system for the first year of Raise the Age.

Projected vs Received Complaints

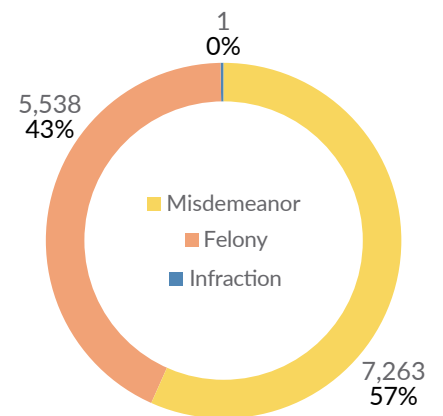
	Projected Complaints	Complaints Received	Projected % Received
<b>RtA</b>	<b>22,314</b>	<b>12,802</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>RtA A-G</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>103%</b>
<b>RtA H-3</b>	<b>21,041</b>	<b>11,486</b>	<b>55%</b>



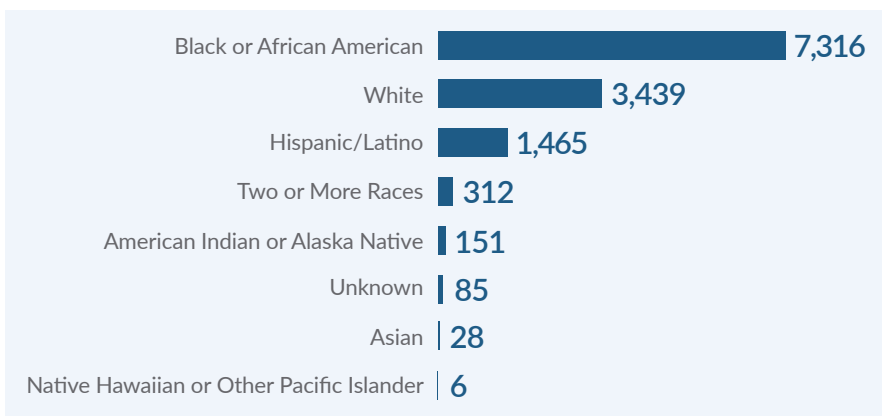
Complaints by Sex



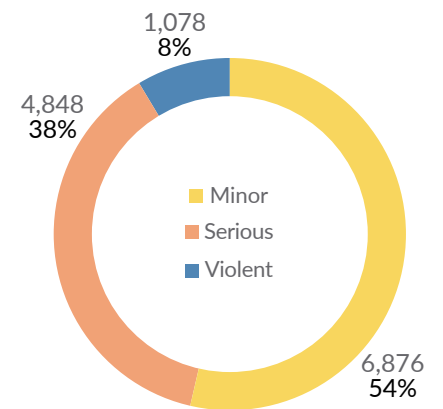
Complaints by Age



Complaints by Charged Type



Complaints by Race/Ethnicity

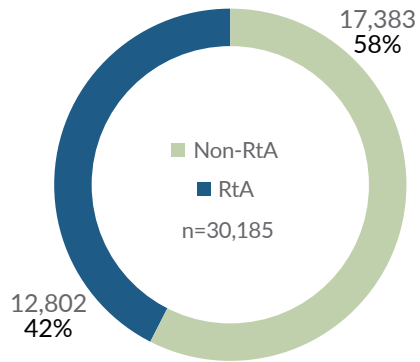


Complaints by Charged Group



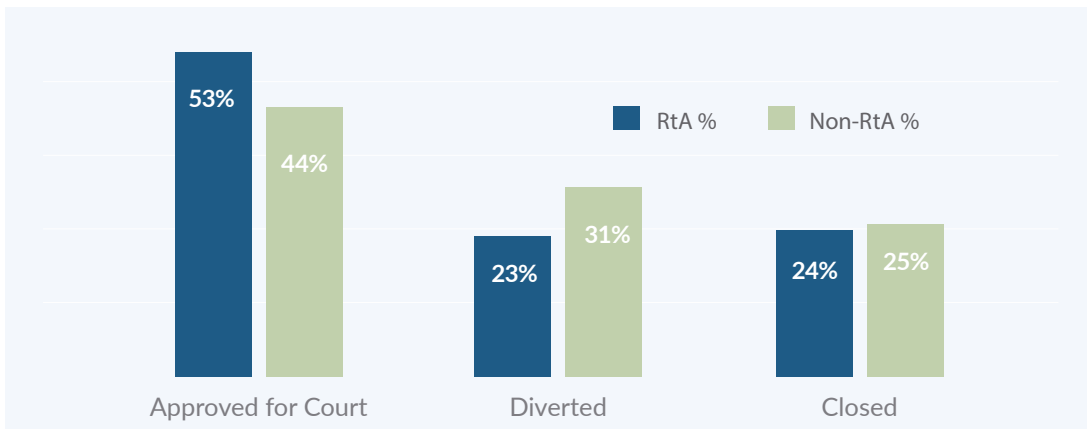
## Complaints by RtA and Non-RtA

2020 – 1 Year Into Raise the Age

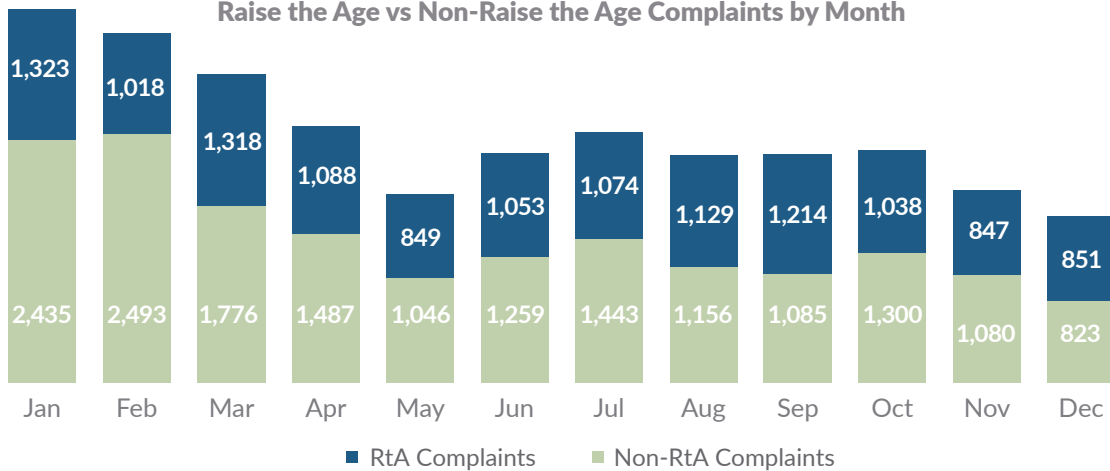


Complaints by Age Designation

### Distinct Juveniles by Hierarchical Complaint Decision



### Raise the Age vs Non-Raise the Age Complaints by Month

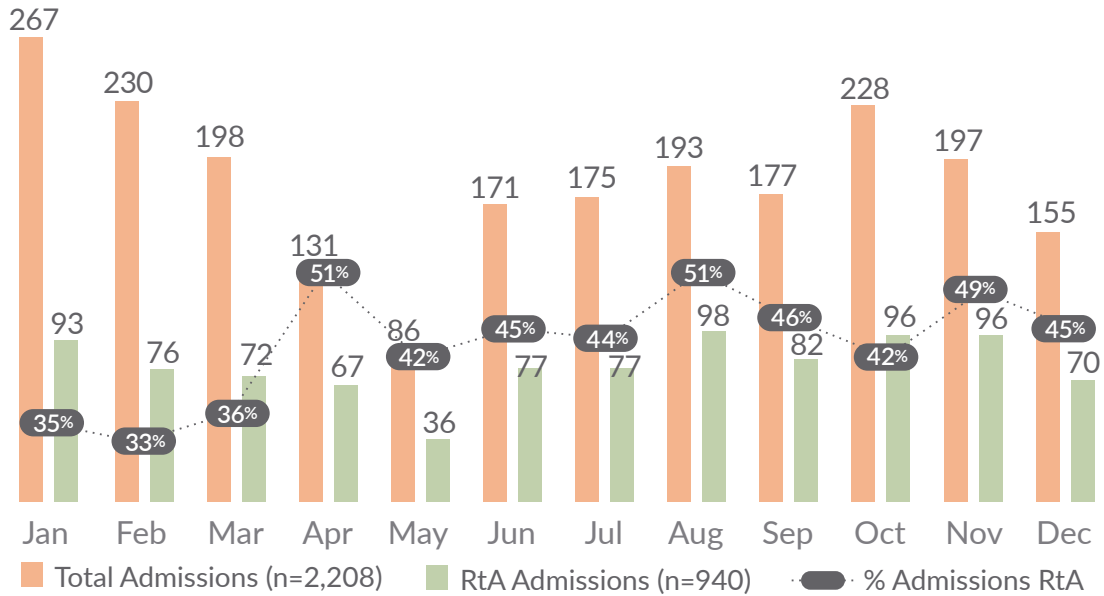




# RtA Detention and Offenses

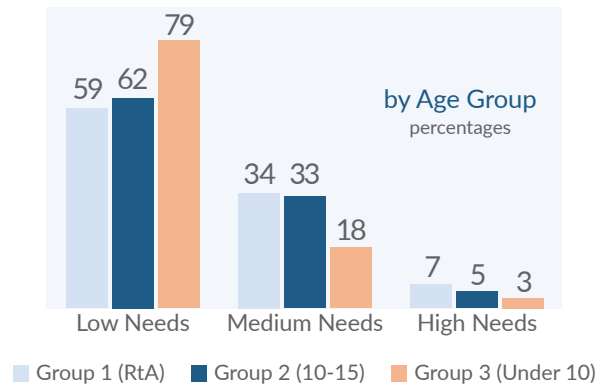
2020

Detention Admissions: Total by Month, Raise the Age Admissions and Percentage

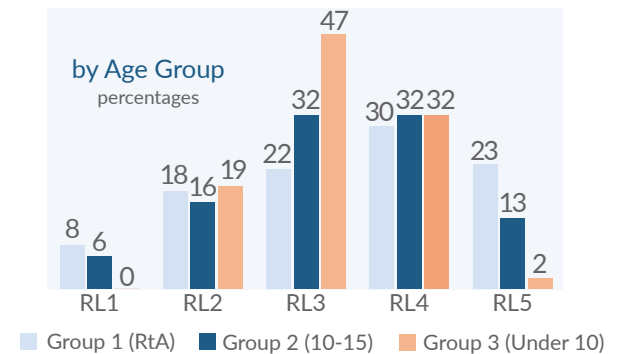


RTA Top 10 Juvenile Offenses	
Charged Offense	Complaints
(M) misdemeanor (F) felony	
Break or enter a motor vehicle (F)	1,363
Larceny (M)	833
Simple assault (M)	816
Robbery with dangerous weapon (F)	485
Resisting public officer (M)	421
Possess handgun by minor (M)	380
Larceny of motor vehicle (F)	322
Injury to real property (M)	318
Breaking and/or entering (F)	315
Injury to personal property (M)	296

Distinct Juveniles' Maximum Needs Assessment



Distinct Juveniles' Maximum Risk Assessment



## JUVENILE JUSTICE

# RISE-UP Initiative

Repair Harm, Imagine Change, Strengthen Communities,  
Enable Healing, Understanding Others, and Promoting Accountability

Following implementation of Raise the Age in December 2019, one of the challenges presented to the Juvenile Justice system was the need for programming that addressed the unique needs and issues pertinent to the emerging adult population.

Emerging adulthood is typically defined as a developmental phase between adolescence and young adulthood. This phase represents distinct physical and neurodevelopmental changes that present several challenges to the justice system, including the highest rate of substance usage, the highest rate of most aggressive and violent behavior, and the lowest rate of engagement with community-based treatment programming.

With this in mind, in 2017, the Youth Development Center programming subcommittee began meeting with the goal of development and implementation of age-appropriate programming to meet the anticipated needs for the coming change in juvenile jurisdiction. That work resulted in the development of the RISE-UP (Repair Harm, Imagine Change, Strengthen Communities, Enable Healing, Understanding Others, and Promoting Accountability) initiative.

The RISE-UP pilot initiative started in September 2020 at Edgecombe Youth Development Center. The staff and youth were trained in the initiative, handbooks were distributed to all youth and staff, and all interested youth were able to obtain employment. A partnership with Campbell University Law School's Restorative Justice clinic resulted in an initial one week-long circle facilitator training with selected staff. Restorative justice consultants remain engaged in ongoing facilitated dialogue with youth who have received sanctions for

wrongdoing on campus. Implementation evaluations have been initiated and the pilot will be reviewed along established data points (behavioral and clinical) to assess effectiveness.

The core of the RISE-UP restorative justice program guides the youth through five steps of accountability. These include:

1. Understanding how your behavior affects others;
2. Acknowledging that you had some amount of choice in your behavior;
3. Understanding the impact of your actions;
4. Taking steps to repair the harm and make amends; and
5. Making changes necessary to avoid such behavior in the future.

The initiative uses two main restorative practices: circles and facilitated dialogue. Circles are community building and problem-solving spaces that utilize a "talking piece" to encourage all participants to have an equal voice in the dialogue. Facilitated dialogues are used in an incident where wrongdoing occurred and both parties can sit down, with a trained facilitator, to discuss the harm that occurred and what steps are needed to repair the harm. Youth are also assigned restorative justice staff teams at the start of this process to assist in understanding and working through the assigned restorative practices.

Several longitudinal studies, including the comprehensive Pathways to Desistance study, support the pattern that reduction in criminal recidivism among this age-

group is directly connected to increased psychosocial maturation. The three components of psychosocial maturity most linked to recidivism are impulse control, perspective taking and the ability to take personal responsibility for one's actions. The RISE-UP initiative was developed with the focus of addressing these three aspects of psychosocial maturity in a way that is effective and accessible for this age group.

The RISE-UP program also incorporates components of financial literacy and motivational interviewing to provide support, communication, and skill-building to the restorative justice framework. The RISE-UP financial literacy component is an applied skills-based curriculum that emphasizes "real-life" scenarios for the youth. The youth development center offers various jobs on campus that the youth for which the youth will be able to apply and interview. The available jobs have behavioral prerequisites and responsibility requirements. Timesheets are submitted for the work and an electronic wage is earned and placed into a virtual bank account. Available funds can be used to purchase a wide range of incentive items.

In addition, the youth will be responsible for paying bills that include housing, medical, food/groceries, mandatory savings and childcare (if applicable). Spontaneous incentives will also be randomly provided as a reinforcement of responsible, prosocial behavior and choices

Motivational interviewing is the other interpersonal component of the RISE-UP initiative. Motivational interviewing is a widely known evidence-based approach for staff-directed conversations with youth that elicit less resistance and more change talk.

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## JUVENILE JUSTICE **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

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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.

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## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

# Accomplishments

### Raise the Age (RtA) Expansion Efforts Continue Despite the Pandemic

Despite the many unknowns and shifts in how we worked in 2020, the year brought an unprecedented level of strong collaboration and successful RtA program expansion. Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils successfully expanded restorative justice practice models into their program service continuums by the end of the fiscal biennium, creating access to these diversion and early intervention models in almost all North Carolina counties. New restorative justice programs models such as sentencing circles, truancy and victim-offender mediation, and teen courts were funded. County access to such models grew from 60 to 99 counties during the two-year biennium.

Amendments to existing contracts allowed for an increase of six additional crisis and assessment beds—two at Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center in Butner and four at Bridges located in Winston-Salem. Similarly, contract amendments allowed for the May 2020 opening of an additional six-bed transitional living residential model in Winston-Salem. To overcome health and safety barriers during the COVID-19 pandemic, a “virtual” open house substituted for the in-person event that occurs normally for newly developed sites ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2nvxj-WZIM&feature=youtu.be> )

Community Program remains on target to meet its 66 RtA residential bed projection by the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

### Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – Grant Initiatives

#### Reentry to Resiliency initiative (R2R)

Community Programs continued work with the Reentry to Resiliency initiative, funded through an OJJDP Second Chance Grant awarded to the department in 2019. This project, a collaborative effort between Community Programs and Facility Operations, aims to ensure success for juveniles reentering communities upon release from youth development centers. Overseen and implemented by Communities in Schools, in 2020 the project served over 30 children

in four counties: Wake, Durham, Guilford and Cumberland. Reentry to Resiliency provides enhanced approaches to transitioning youths from youth development centers to their home counties, with a strong focus on appropriate educational and vocational placements. Programming through this unique initiative begins upon a juvenile’s admission to a YDC, offering relationship building with the juvenile and their family during the time of the juvenile’s commitment. The program focuses strongly on transition back into the school environment, offering educational and job placement supports. Efforts are underway to expand the project to four additional counties: Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson and Mecklenburg. The OJJDP grant also supports an intensive evaluation of the program’s fidelity and outcomes, work conducted by RTI, in hopes of having the model recognized by [Crimesolutions.gov](https://www.crimesolutions.gov) as a “promising practice” program model.

#### Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

- Continued the expansion efforts for Raise the Age programming with all 100 county governments.
- Developed web-based trainings and YouTube video teaching modules for program provider staff to allow ongoing accessibility to training in lieu of scheduled in-person training events.
- Educated provider staff on how to perform the full North Carolina Assessment of Risk (NCAR) instrument. The instrument will now be administered for all youth admissions into JCPC and state-contracted funded programs. This policy decision was necessary to maintain continuity of risk level data for completion of standardized program evaluation protocol (SPEP) scoring in the section.
- Facilitated YASI training for all program providers in preparation for the use of this new risk and needs assessment tool by Juvenile Justice. YASI assessment results are required as part of program referral information shared
- Offered discretionary funds to JCPC-funded programs to upgrade technology to stay engaged with children and families.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

# Accomplishments

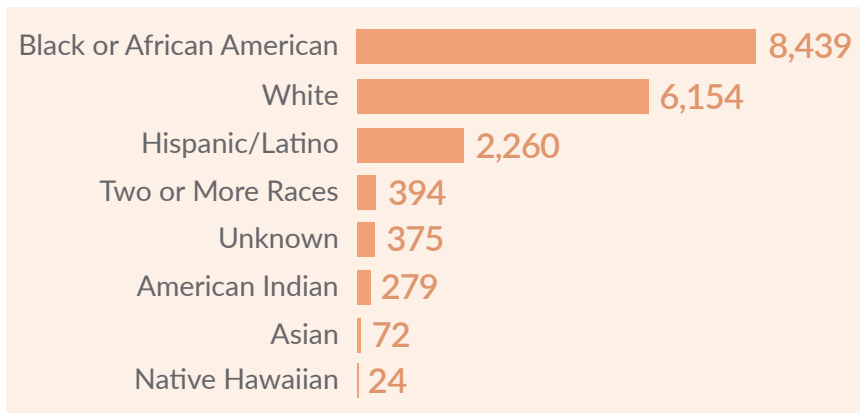
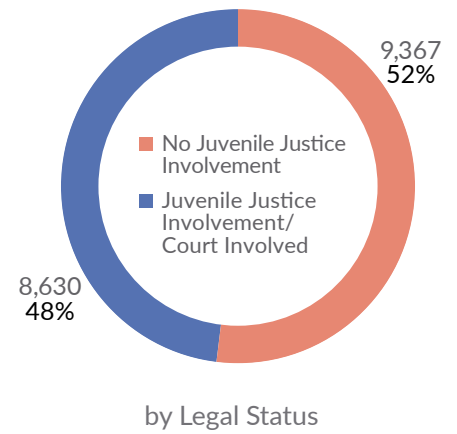
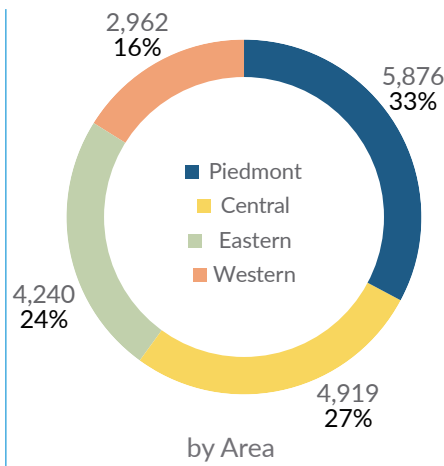
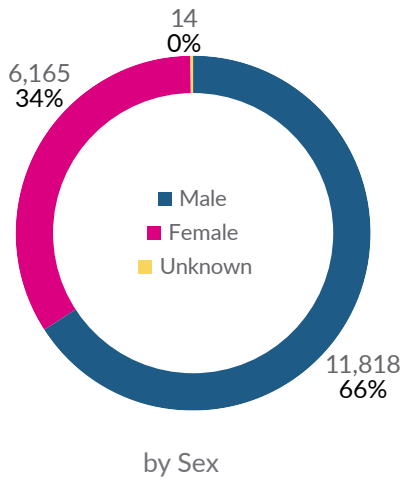
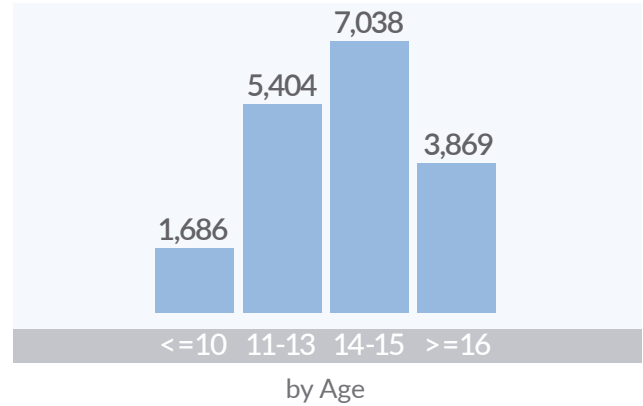


### Community Programs Contracts

- Completed analysis for all state-level contracts through the Results First Initiative. Through this initiative, the Office of Strategic Partnerships connected Community Programs staff with professors at the UNC School of Government for assistance. This work involved a deep analysis of the JCPC county-match formula, proposed adjustments based on specific variables, and county percentage match adjustments.
- Awarded contract for Gender-Specific Short-Term Residential Programming in September. It required extensive contract transition monitoring and additional campus upgrades and repairs.
- Began planning for the Eastern Area Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center located in the Green Cottage on Dobbs Campus in Kinston. The residential program will provide additional crisis and assessment services for eastern North Carolina.
- Installed teleconference technology at all residential program sites to support family engagement and telehealth during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Instituted changes made to state statute that allows for program assignment using legislatively appropriated funding stream based on juvenile needs instead of disposition levels to qualify for services.
- Advised legislative changes, adopted in September 2020 via HB593, whereby Level II Dispositional funds and Alternative to Commitment funds were combined and renamed as Intensive Intervention Service funds. This change offers a greater opportunity to provide needed programming to a greater range of juveniles based on assessed needs of juveniles instead of imposing limitations on the program entry based on disposition level.
- Expanded coverage for problematic sexual behavior (PSB) treatment across 26 counties in the western and Piedmont areas using evidence-based PSB-CBT (cognitive behavioral therapy) model development in collaboration with Child Treatment Program and the Center for Child and Family Health. The goal was to develop the North Carolina Childhood PSB Clinical Advisory Board and the Community Childhood PSB Clinical Advisory Board to assure that children, adolescents and families have timely access to evidence-based clinical assessment, treatment, intervention and support services for PSB in their community. Also, the use of PSB-CBT clinical data could support the development of policies, program, strategies and legislation to meet state and local child and adolescent PSB program goals.

## Youth Served in JCPC Programs

2020



by Race/Ethnicity



### Youth Served by JCPC Program Type FY 2019-2020

Program Type	Youth Served
Restitution/Community Service	3,883
Interpersonal Skill Building	3,706
Teen Court	2,740
Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	1,450
Assessments	1,125
Parent/Family Skill Building	824
Individual Counseling	722
Juvenile Structured Day	628
Mediation/Conflict Resolution	600
Mentoring	562
Experiential Skill Building	370
Temporary Shelter Care	244
Home Based Family Counseling	220
Substance Abuse Counseling	211
Runaway Shelter Care	183
Family Counseling	175
Vocational Skills	165
Group Counseling	80
Sexual Offender Treatment	63
Group Home Care	26
Specialized Foster Care	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,997</b>

### Youth Served by Program Funding Source FY 2019-2020

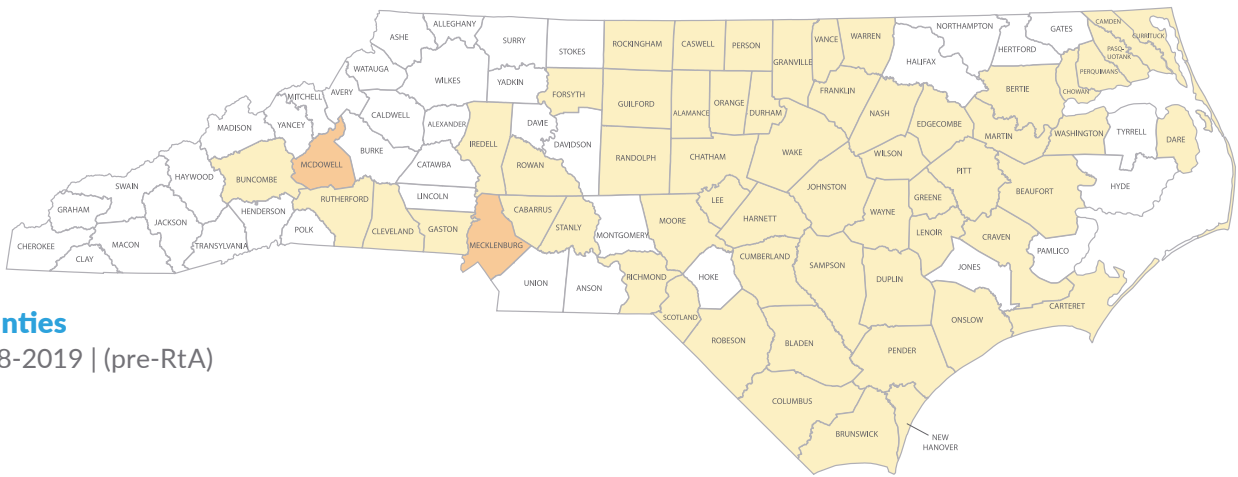
Funding Source	Youth Served
JCPC Funds	17,997
Residential Contractual Services	687
Community-Based Contractual Services	415
JCPC Level II Dispositional Alternatives	174
JCPC Alternatives to Commitment Programs	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,389</b>



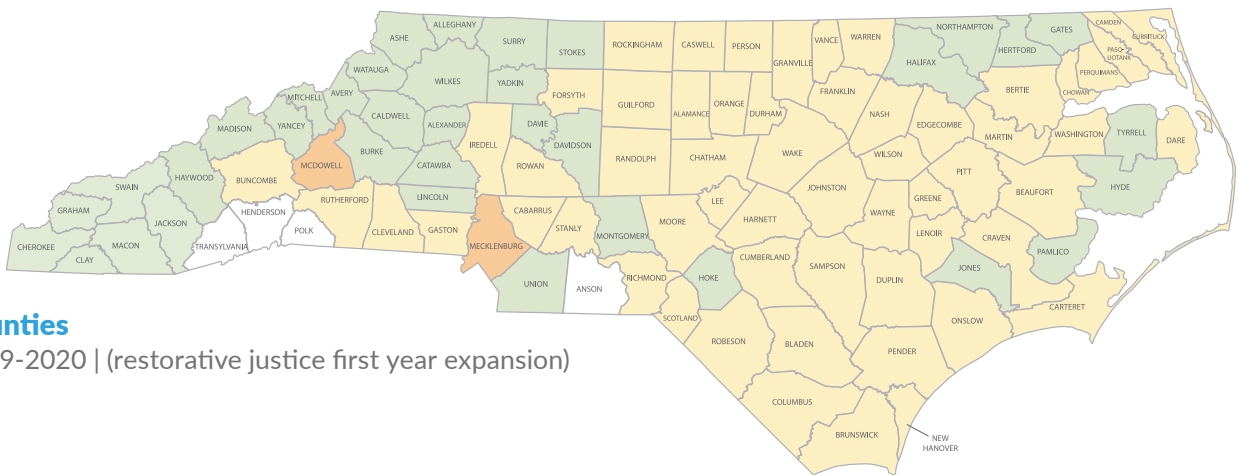
## Teen Courts

The first map shows the number of counties that had access to Teen Courts funded by JCPC and other funding revenues prior to RtA. There were 60 identified programs (yellow). With RtA expansion dollars, the section was able to expand teen courts and/or other restorative justice models in the 1st and 2nd year (green).

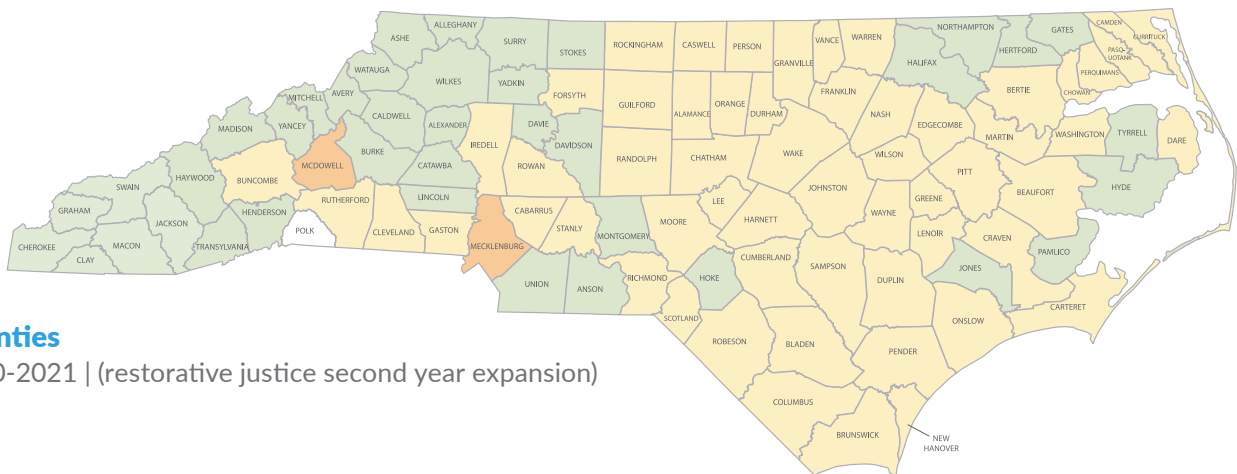
■ funded by JCPC    ■ RtA expansion    ■ funded by other sources



**60 counties**  
FY 2018-2019 | (pre-RtA)



**96 counties**  
FY 2019-2020 | (restorative justice first year expansion)



**99 counties**  
FY 2020-2021 | (restorative justice second year expansion)

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## JUVENILE JUSTICE **COURT SERVICES**

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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 complementary 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

### Implementation of Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI)

Juvenile Justice began preparation for the integration of the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) risk/needs/service planning tool into the Juvenile Justice database (NC-JOIN) on Jan. 1, 2020. Juvenile Justice trained more than 500 staff to administer the YASI screening, assessment and service planning tools despite the pandemic and health restrictions.

The YASI and Service Directory integration will also begin matching services to domains of need starting in early 2021. This integration will automatically cross-reference criteria-specific service/provider information collected in the Service Directory with risk/needs criteria from individual assessments. Staff will then be provided with a service/program that targets 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 to provide better assistance to the juveniles and families on their caseloads.

### Continued Development and Enhancement of the Juvenile Justice Service Directory

The Service Directory was designed to match programs and services with at-risk juveniles and their families across the state. During 2020, on average more than 1,500 active services/providers were available on any given day in the Service Directory database, offering a full range of services from basic

needs to long-term residential care. The Service Directory is available in three online locations—CJLEADS for law enforcement, justice agencies and court officials; the DPS website ( <https://www.ncdps.gov/juvenile-justice/service-directory/> ) for parents, school officials and other local stakeholders; and NC-JOIN for selection and service planning by court counselors. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2021, the Service Directory will be integrated within the YASI for enhanced service planning and service-to-need matching.

### Motivational Interviewing to Build Rapport and Engage Youth to Make Behavioral Changes

Court Services recognizes and commits to utilizing motivational interviewing (MI) as a best practice to work with youth and families. This commitment began in 2016 and has grown over the last few years. MI is not a counseling approach, but a means of communication designed to mobilize an individual's internal desire for change and to resolve ambivalence for continued change. Having a juvenile successfully fulfill the terms of supervision, while also recognizing the importance of changing their behavior, thinking and attitudes help reduce the probability of future delinquent and criminal behavior. Court Services provides MI training to all new staff and then coaches all staff on the use and development of their MI skills with youth and families. During 2020, adjustments due to the pandemic were made to conduct training in a semi-virtual manner and ensure that one-on-one coaching continued with staff. Six trainings were provided to 134 new court counselors during 2020.

### Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health (JJBH)

The Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health state team supports local planning teams working to increase access, improve treatment and engage the community for JJ-involved youth with behavioral health issues and their families. In 2020, the state team supported 21 local JJBH teams involving 96 counties. Juvenile Justice supports the work of both the state and local teams by involving staff from multiple sections to work collaboratively with child-serving state partners and stakeholders. During 2020, more than 28 trainings were provided through the support and assistance of the JJBH. JJBH has been focused on encouraging and supporting the use of evidence-based practices/evidence-based treatments and opportunities to increase access and effective services to juvenile justice-involved youth and their families.

### Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)

Despite the pandemic, the NC Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) office, in collaboration with the Court Services district offices across the state, were able to process and supervise more than 263 cases transferred from other states. North Carolina led the nation in airport surveillances as ICJ worked with Transportation to provide surveillance for 37 juveniles traveling through the state. Additionally, Juvenile Justice transportation teams returned to or from North Carolina more than 108 juveniles in 2020.



### Electronic Monitoring (EM)

The pandemic and implementation of Raise the Age (RtA) affected the operations of Court Services in 2020. Raise the Age was in its infancy stage of implementation at the start of the global pandemic. In response to both RtA and COVID-19 came an increased need for the use of electronic monitoring (EM). To better serve the RtA population and to reduce the number of juveniles in congregate living detention facilities due to COVID-19, electronic monitoring utilization and the number of juveniles served on EM increased by 22% in 2020. Court Services staff and EM vendor personnel had to work under adverse conditions to ensure no decline occurred in electronic monitoring services provided to youth within Juvenile Justice. The increase in the use of EM units required additional coordination, monitoring and responses, which Juvenile Justice staff were able to accomplish.

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

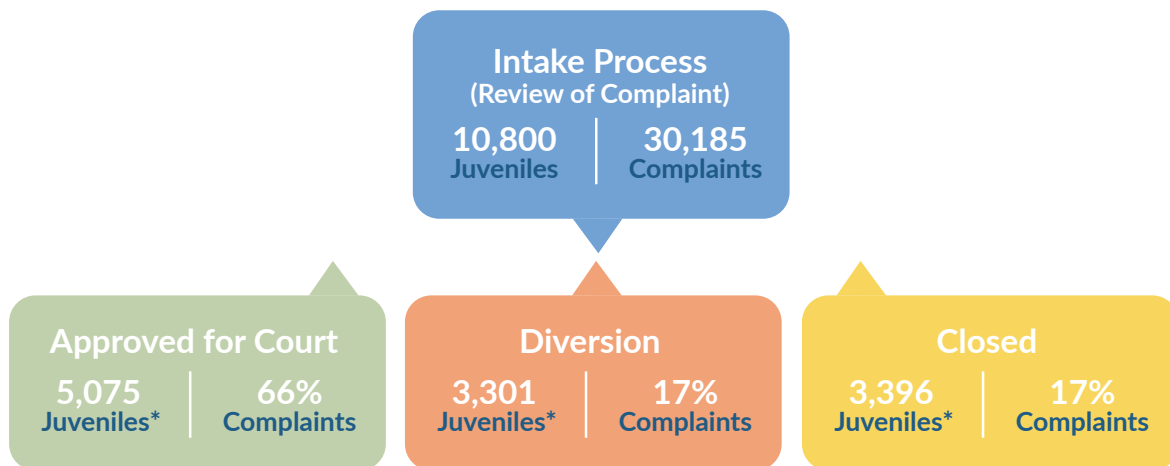
COVID-19 did not stop Juvenile Justice from providing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) education, training and awareness in 2020 with the use of videoconferencing technology. Accomplishments in 2020 included:

- Established or reestablished five RED committees in Wake, Lenoir, Wayne, Forsyth and Pitt counties to address ways to improve racial equity for youth.
- Court Services District 25 established a Diversity Awareness and Staff Development Committee.
- Juvenile Minority Sensitivity Training (JMST) and test was transferred to a virtual training due to the pandemic to ensure staff were able to complete this mandated training.

- Provided virtual JMST training and testing to 351 Court Services and other Juvenile Justice staff who are required to complete the training annually.
- RED presentations/training provided to the following:
  - Governor’s Crime Commission JJ Planning Committee members and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention staff;
  - GCC RED Subcommittee;
  - Western Region Juvenile Justice Substance Abuse Mental Health Partnerships quarterly meeting;
  - Juvenile Justice executive management team; and
  - More than 150 JCPC members, Court Services staff, and county government officials.

## Complaint Demographics

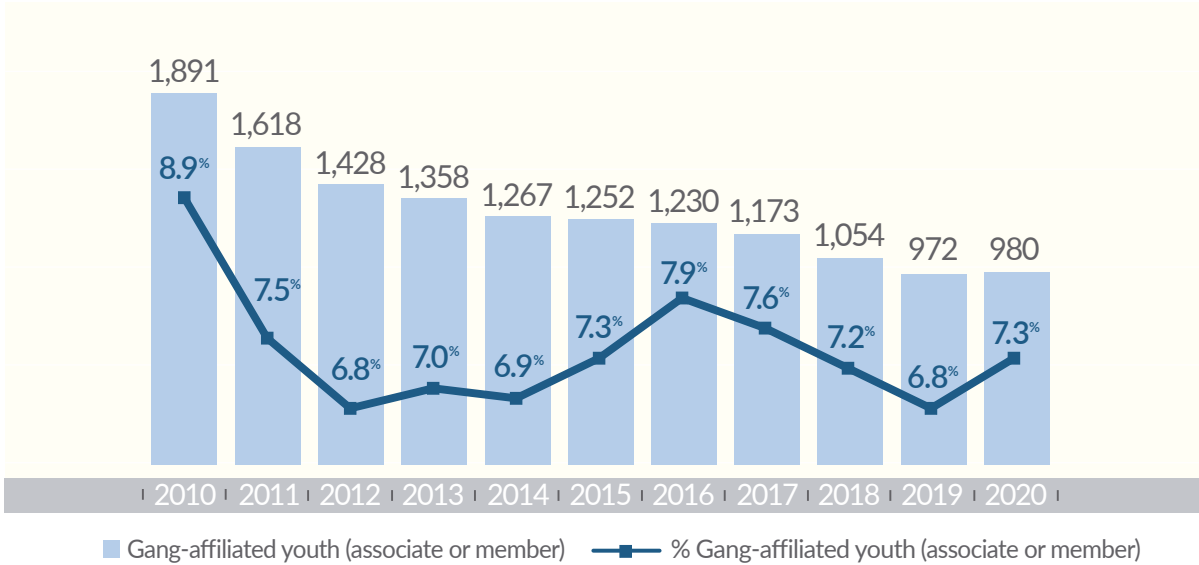
\*A juvenile can have complaints receive multiple outcomes over the course of a year (e.g., one complaint approved for court, another diverted, and another closed). The combinations cause the juvenile count for approved, diverted and closed to sum more than 10,800.



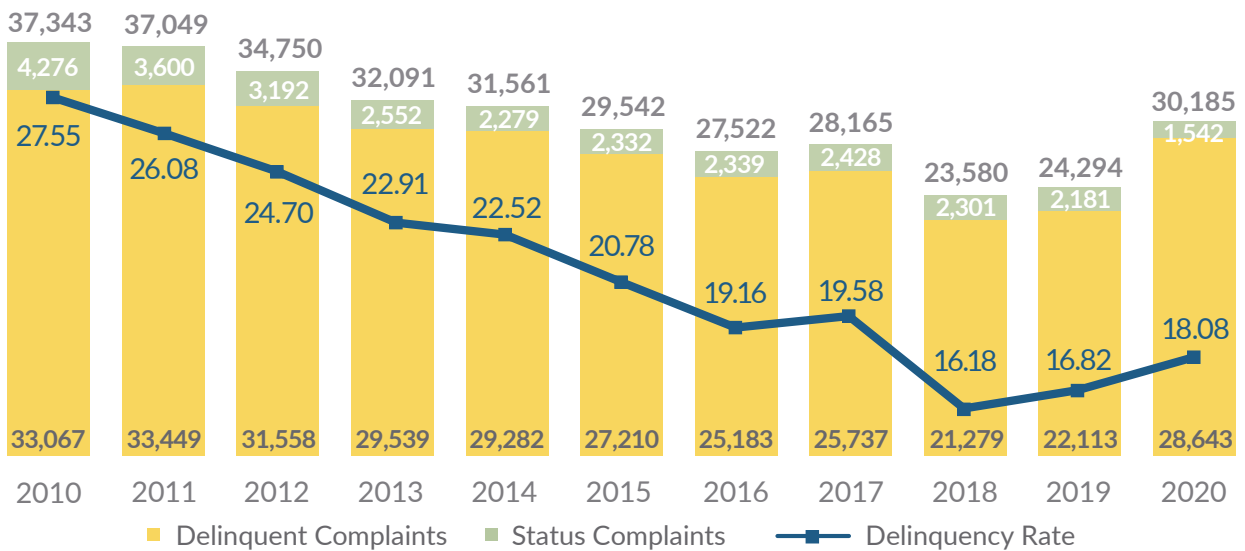
# Gang-Affiliated Youth and Complaints Received

2010-2020

## Gang-Affiliated Youth Trends



## Complaints Received and Delinquency Rate

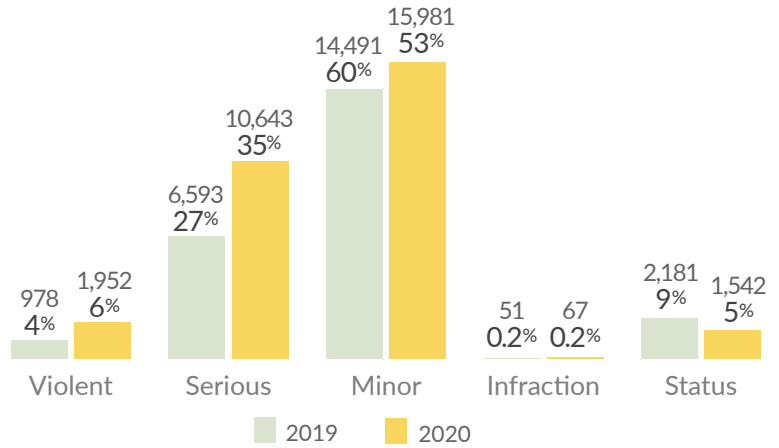


The statewide delinquency rate for the juvenile justice system in 2020 was 18.08, and for the first time is based on the population of juveniles aged 6 to 17. As such, data for 2020 will be baseline going forward.

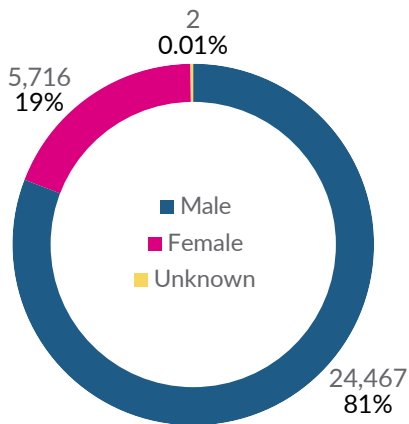
When comparing the pre-Raise the Age age group of 6 to 15-year-olds, the juvenile delinquency rate decreased from 16.82 in 2019 to 12.05 in 2020, the lowest juvenile delinquency rate on record by far.

# Complaint Demographics

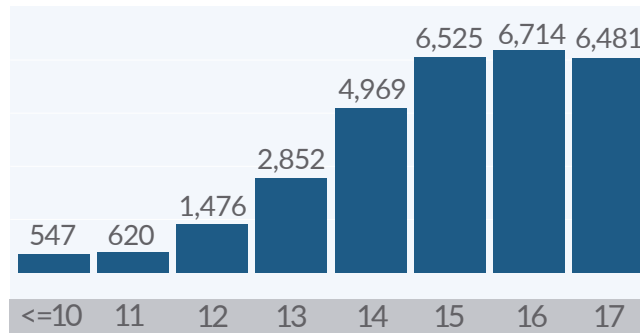
2020



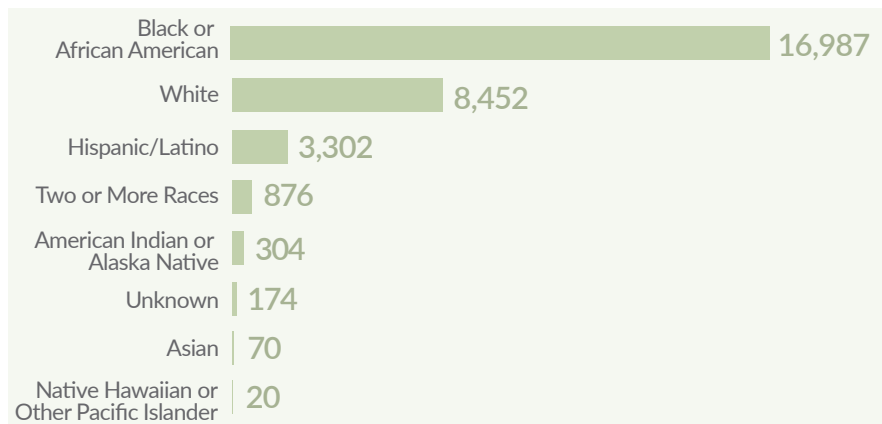
Complaints by Offense Group - Percentage



Complaints Received by Sex



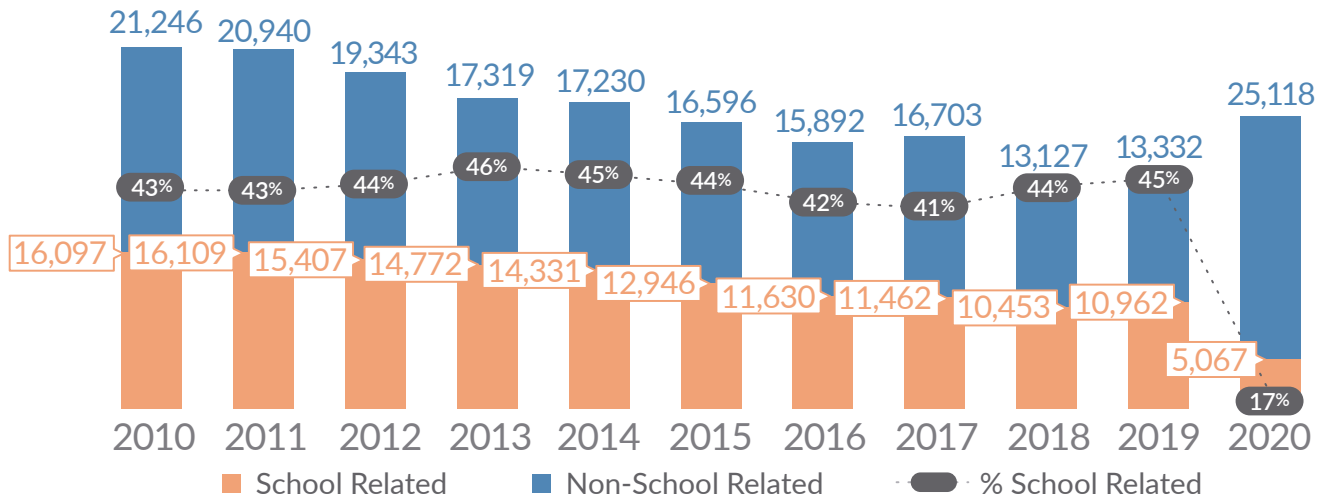
Complaints Received by Age



Complaints Received by Race/Ethnicity

## Juvenile and School-Based Offenses

Percentage of School-Based Complaints (CY 2010-2020)



\*Note that SBO complaints in this report include status offenses. Other published reports focus on delinquent SBOs only.

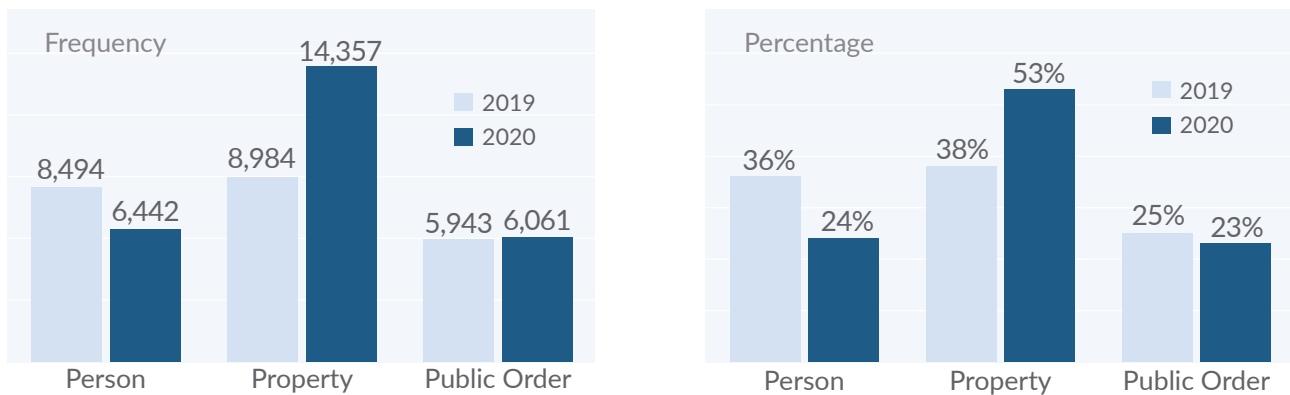
### Top 10 School-Based Offenses: CY 2020

Charged Offense	Complaints
(M) misdemeanor (F) felony	
Simple Assault (M)	696
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	561
Truant <16 (Status)	425
Simple Affray (M)	296
Communicating Threats (M)	287
Assault School Employee / Volunteer (M)	175
Simple Possession Schedule VI Controlled Substance (M)	168
Assault Government Official / Employee (M)	129
Communicating a Threat of Mass Violence on Educational Property (F)	123
Resisting Public Officer (M)	120



Top 10 Juvenile Offenses: CY 2020			
Offense	Complaints	Distinct Juveniles	Complaints per juvenile
Break or enter a motor vehicle (F)	2,939	566	5.2
Simple assault (M)	2,205	1,812	1.2
Larceny (M)	1,920	1,012	1.9
Resisting public officer (M)	916	804	1.1
Injury to real property (M)	901	681	1.3
Larceny of motor vehicle (F)	858	481	1.8
Breaking and or entering (F)	847	549	1.5
Robbery with dangerous weapon (F)	785	376	2.1
Communicating threats (M)	676	556	1.2
Injury to personal property (M)	669	442	1.5

**Offenses by Crime Group**  
CY 2019 vs CY 2020



During 2020, the property crime group increased significantly as a proportion of total complaints received (from 38% in 2019 to 53% of complaints received in 2020).



# 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 troubled youth in a safe, secure setting that promotes the needed stability to develop positive habits and life skills before they reenter 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

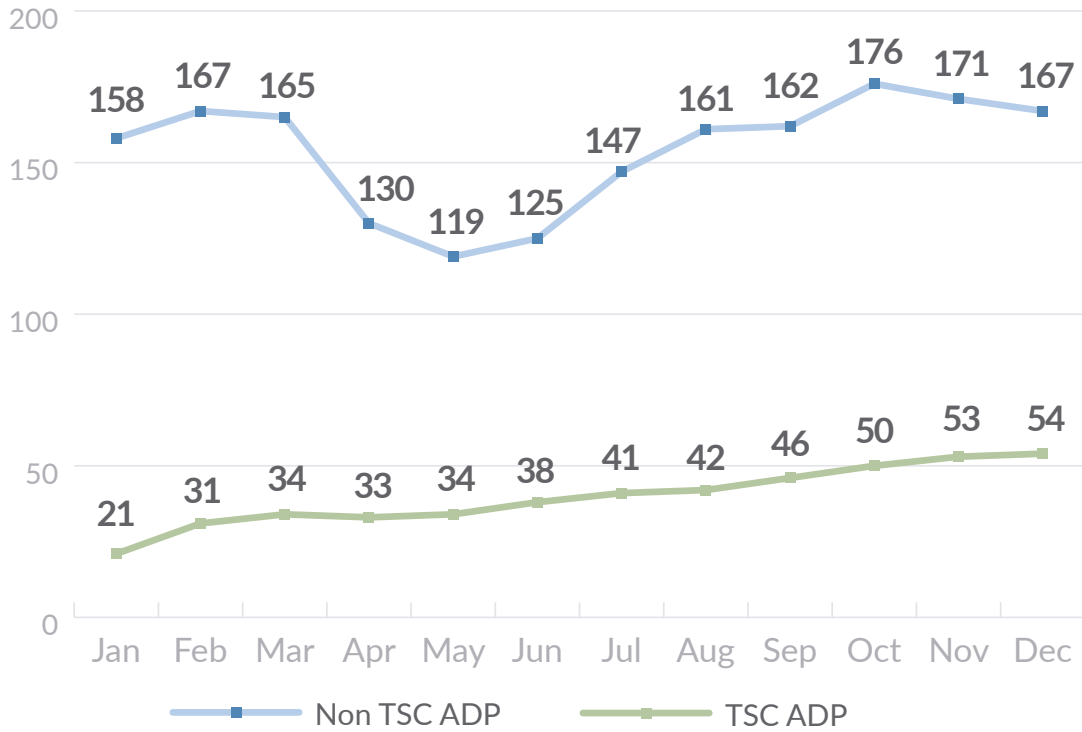
- In conjunction with NCWorks/NextGen, the students at Wake Juvenile Detention Center participated in a virtual career day. The interactive activities included:
  - Simulated job interviews;
  - Simulated truck driving software;
  - Personality and career inventories;
  - Dress for Success activities (students dressed a mannequin); and
  - Motivational speakers.
- From May 2018-May 2020, Chatham YDC youth incorporated a youth string ensemble with the help of Bethany Uhler, a UNC-Greensboro doctoral student. Because of the success of the program, the students not only learned how to play string instruments, but they also performed at the following venues:
  - Greensboro Symphony (twice);
  - UNC-G doctoral graduation ceremony;
  - Raise the Age conference in Winston-Salem; and
  - Numerous concerts on campus, including graduation ceremonies and awards programs.
- The dog therapy program at New Hanover JDC provided much-needed stress reduction to youth. A dog came to the facility daily with its handler and made rounds while receiving attention. The dog would meet and greet new admissions, helping reduce any anxiety and/or anger they may have experienced. The dog also helped reduce the stress created by the pandemic, as well as taught how positive interactions with service animals could lead to positive interactions with people. Staff also took advantage of quality time with the dog during the stressful times.
- The Therapeutic Garden at Cumberland JDC was completed for juveniles and staff in the fall after about a year's worth of work. A basketball/volleyball court and dirt walking track were transformed into a mental and physical oasis for juveniles and facility staff. This area has beautiful painted murals representing diversity, unity and peace on the outside brick walls. The basketball court is painted deep blue with inspirational words around the court. There is a wonderful water feature along with trees, flower beds, raised garden beds, two pergolas with concrete pads, new picnic tables, park benches to sit and enjoy the outside beauty and listen to the relaxing sound of the water feature.
- Dillon JDC reopened in January after being closed for several years. Detention bed expansion took place, which also meant the facility began hiring teachers, new staff and nurses. As part of the reopening, renovations took place for the A and B cottages and the Administration building.
- Despite the pandemic, Cabarrus YDC was able to provide necessary programming using safety protocols. Transition services have been in place to connect juveniles with services in the community upon release. The facility is an official SAT testing site for juveniles interested in applying to college but testing did not occur during 2020 due to the pandemic. The horticulture program continued in a limited capacity due to staffing through 100 Gardens in Charlotte. The C-Tech program that normally teaches juveniles fiber optics and copper cabling was not offered due to staffing shortages.



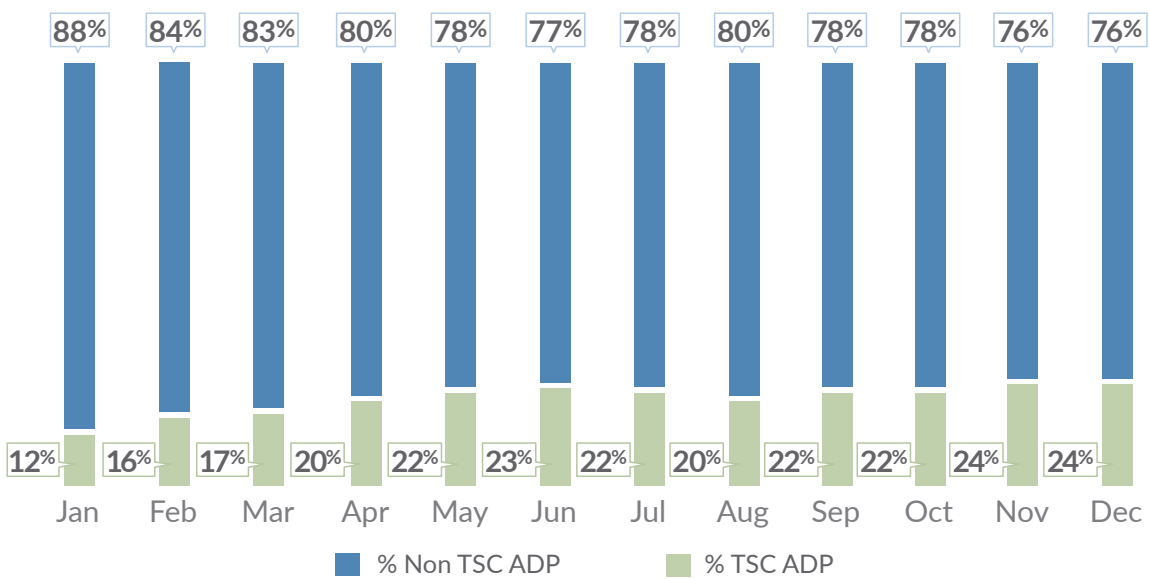
# Average Daily Detention Population

2020

Non-Transfers to Superior Court and Transfers to Superior Court



Non-Transfers to Superior Court and Transfers to Superior Court Percentages

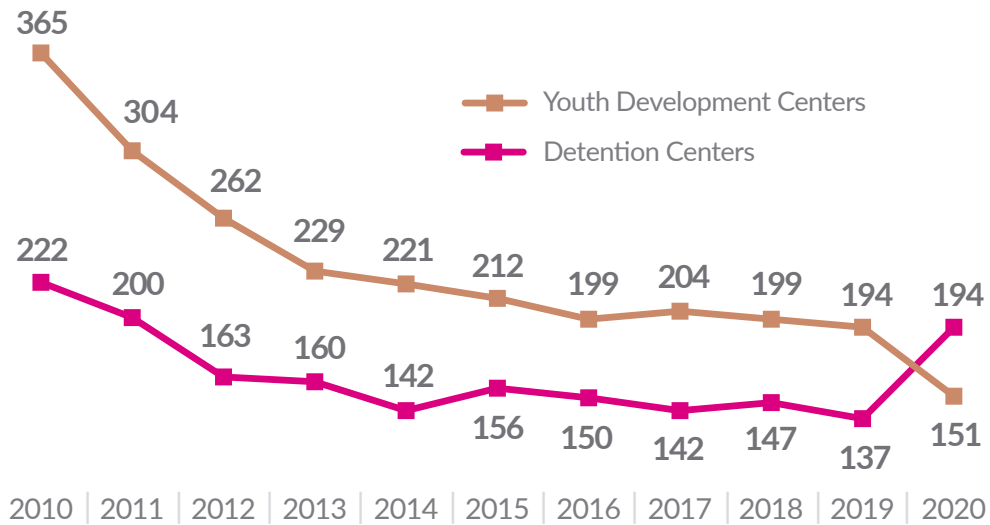




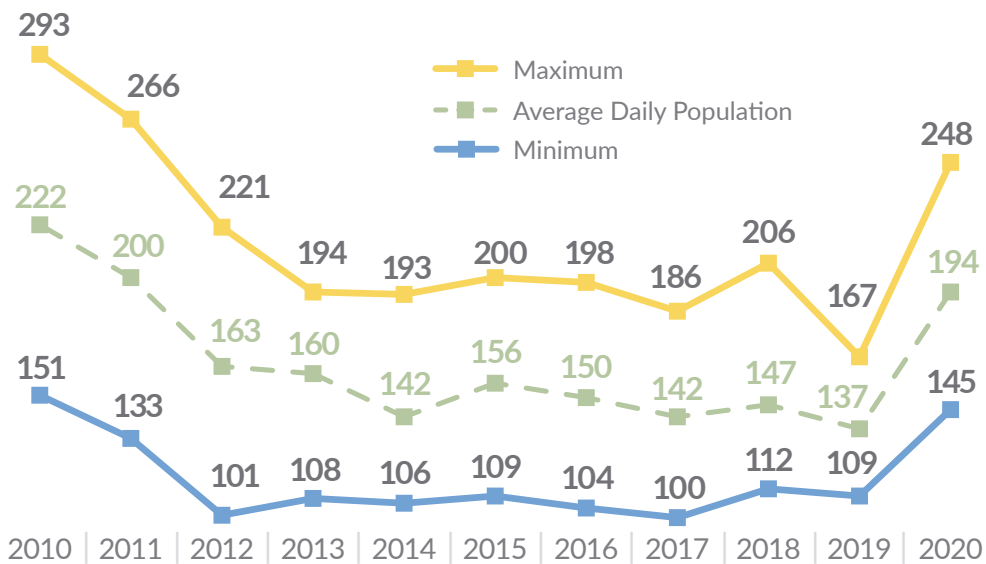
# Average Daily Population

2010-2020

### Juvenile Detention Centers and Youth Development Centers



### Juvenile Detention Minimum and Maximum Daily Population



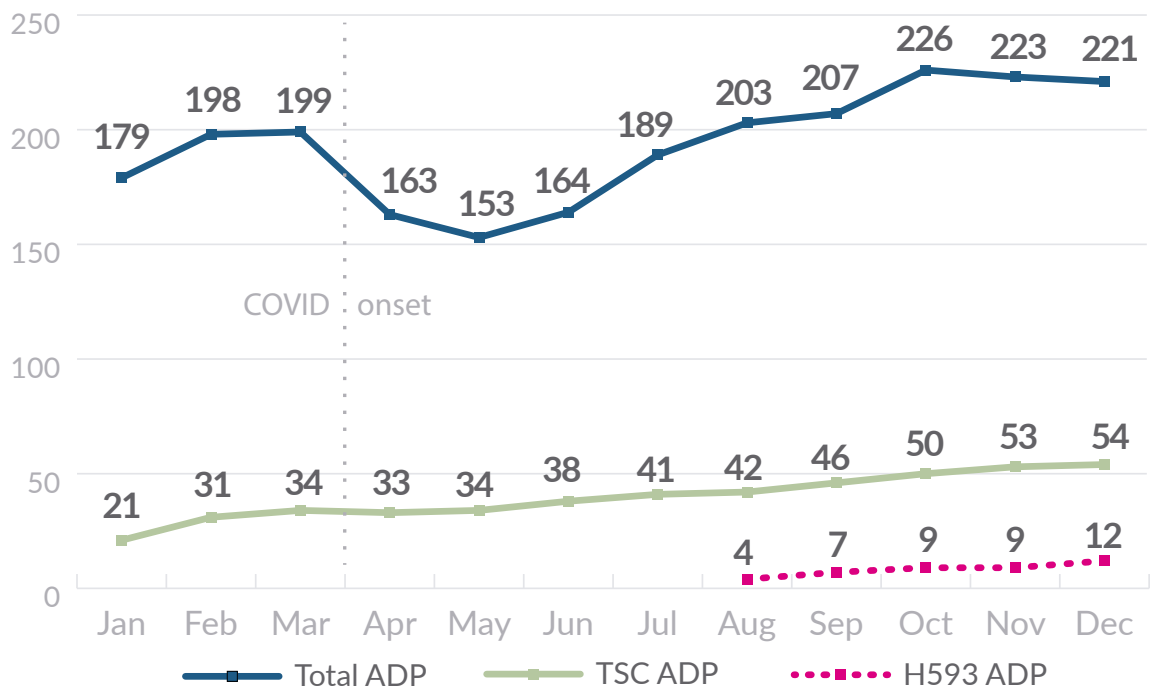
## Detention

### 2020

The average daily population in detention centers dipped soon after various pandemic-related closures commenced. Significant efforts went into reducing the juvenile detention population in a safe way during the pandemic. As a result of legislation that took effect on August 1, 2021 (S.L. 2020-83), criminal court youth are housed in juvenile detention until their 18th birthday. Criminal court youth typically stay significantly longer in detention than do youth under juvenile jurisdiction. As the number of criminal court youth increases in juvenile detention, so does the average daily population.



**Detention Average Daily Population (ADP) by Month**  
 Total, H593 Criminal Court Youth, and Transfers to Superior Court Youth



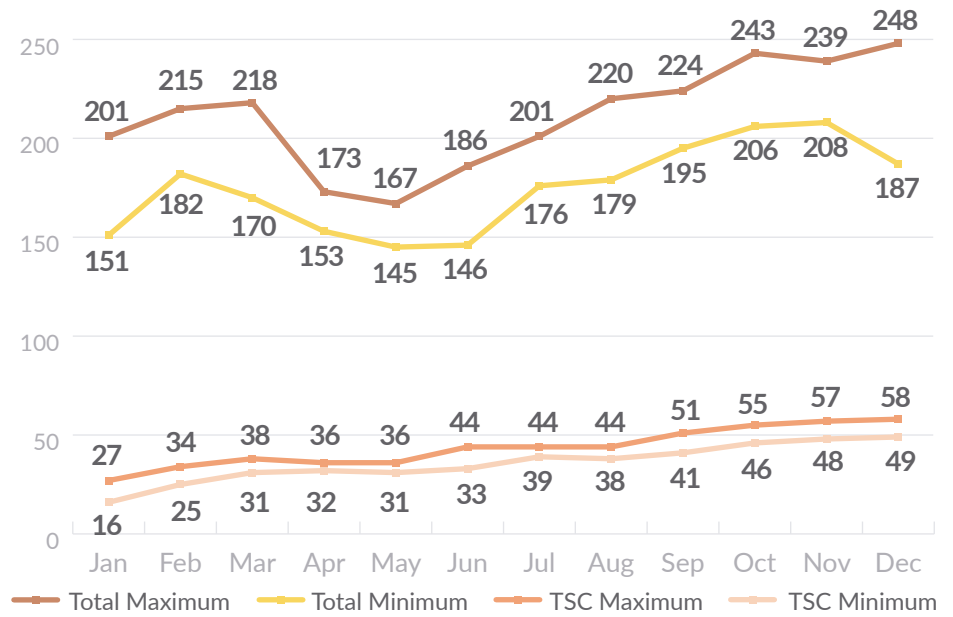
# Detention and Transfer

2020

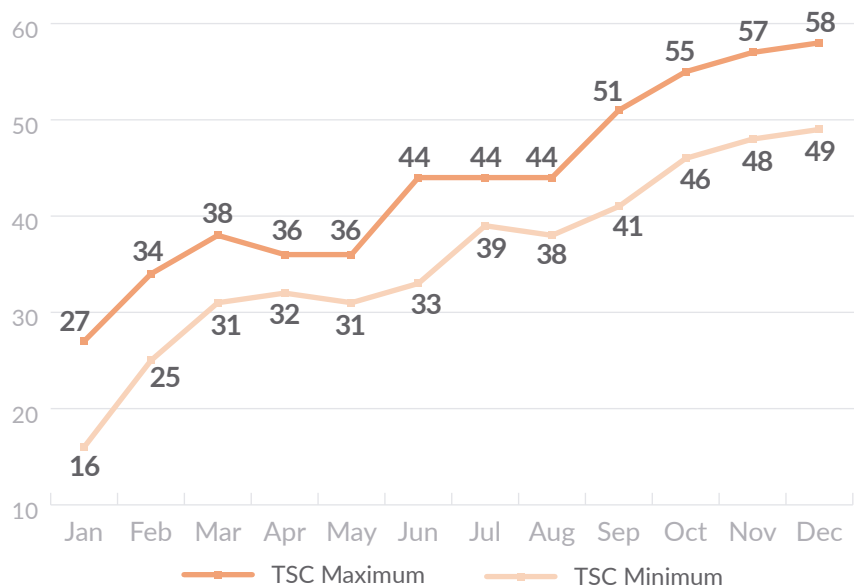
The number of transfers to superior court youth housed in detention continues to increase, consistent with “Raise the Age” requirements for addressing felony offense class A through G’s. Longer stays due to court closings and hearing availability during the pandemic affected detention bed needs in 2020.

## Juvenile Detention Minimum and Maximum by Month

Total Population and Transfer to Superior Court Population

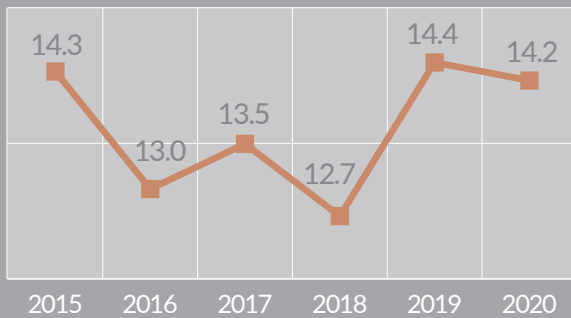


## Transfer to Superior Court Minimum and Maximum by Month

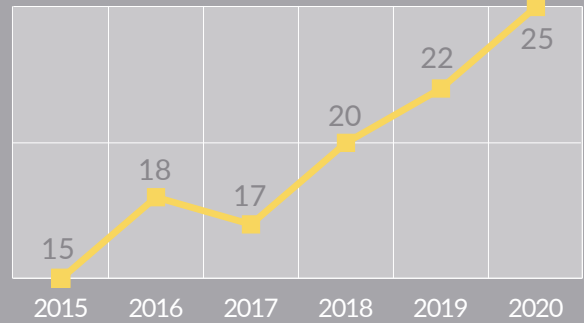


## Average Length of Stay

in Youth Development Centers (Months) 2015-2020



in Juvenile Detention (Days) 2015-2020



Facility Type	Facility	Capacity	Average Daily Population
Youth Development Centers	Cabarrus	128	77.9
	Chatham	32	23.9
	Edgecombe	44	27.0
	Lenoir	22	22.0
State-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Alexander	24	21.6
	Cabarrus	30	22.2
	Cumberland	18	13.9
	Dillon*	20	11.3
	Dobbs/Lenoir^^	22	8.2
	New Hanover	18	14.1
	Pitt	18	16.1
County-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Wake	24	19.5
	Brunswick**	12	5.2
	Durham	14	11.4
	Guilford	44	25.5
	Mecklenburg^	56	23.6

\*Dillon facility ADP calculated from open date of January 28, 2020. Facility opened with 10 beds and expanded capacity to 20 beds in July 2020.

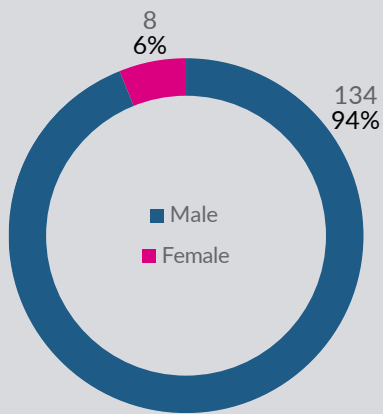
\*\*Brunswick facility ADP calculated from open date of November 16, 2020. ^Mecklenburg changed bed capacity from 24 to 56 in June 2020.

^^Dobbs/Lenoir opened July 13, 2020 with 12 beds. In August 2020, capacity was expanded to 22 beds.

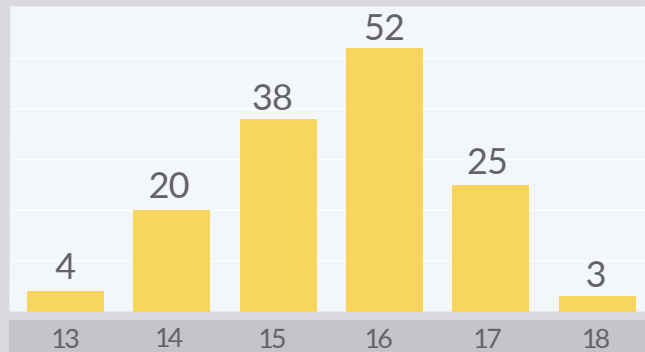


## Youth Development Center Commitments

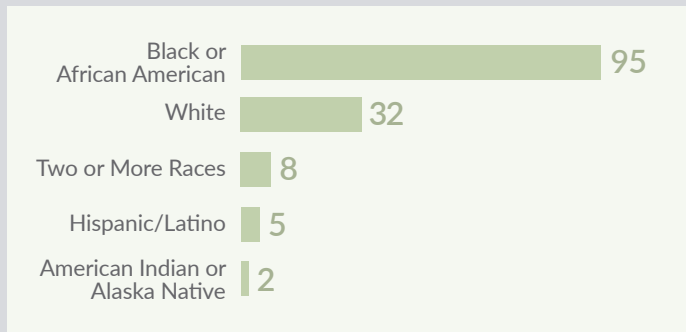
2020



Commitments by Sex

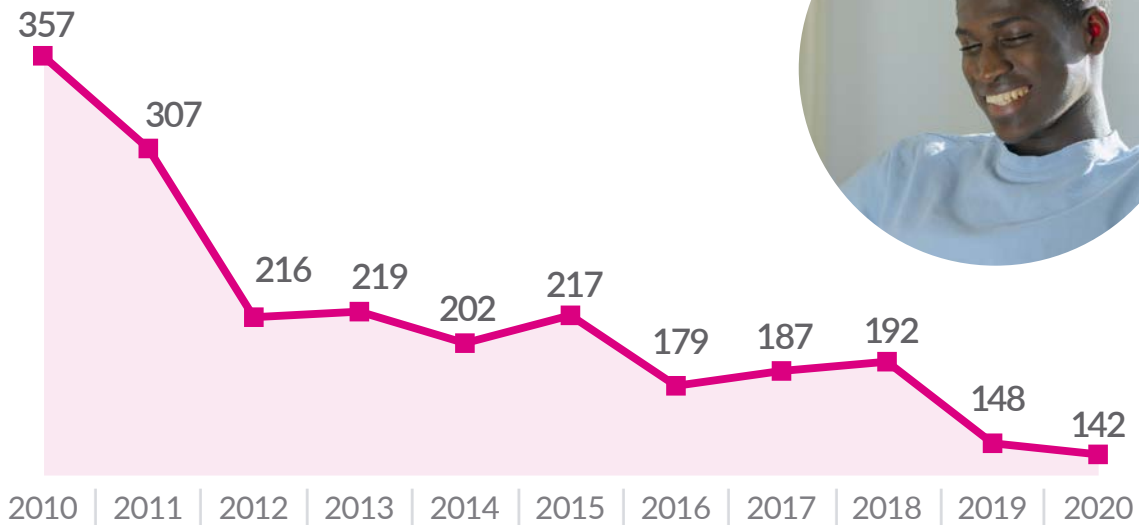


Commitments by Age



Commitments by Race/Ethnicity

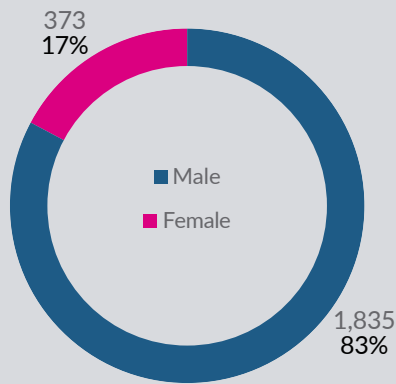
### Commitments 2010-2020



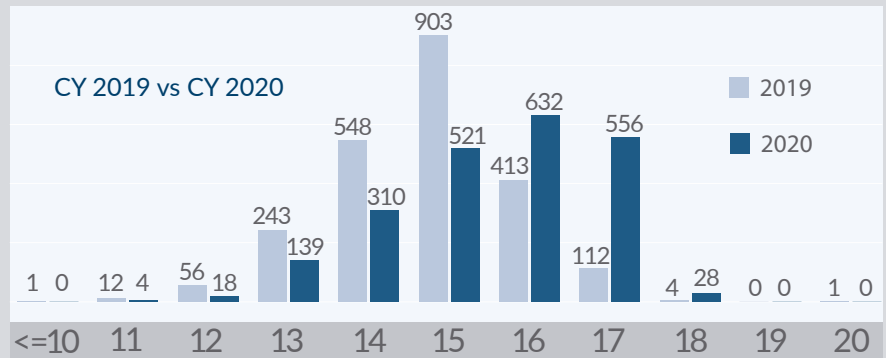


### Juvenile Detention Center Admissions

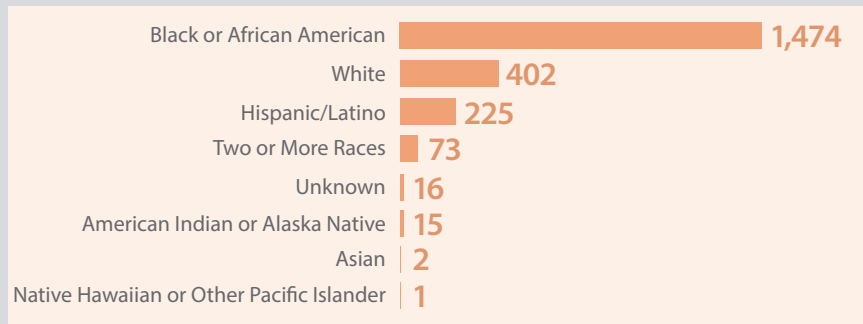
2020



Admissions by Sex

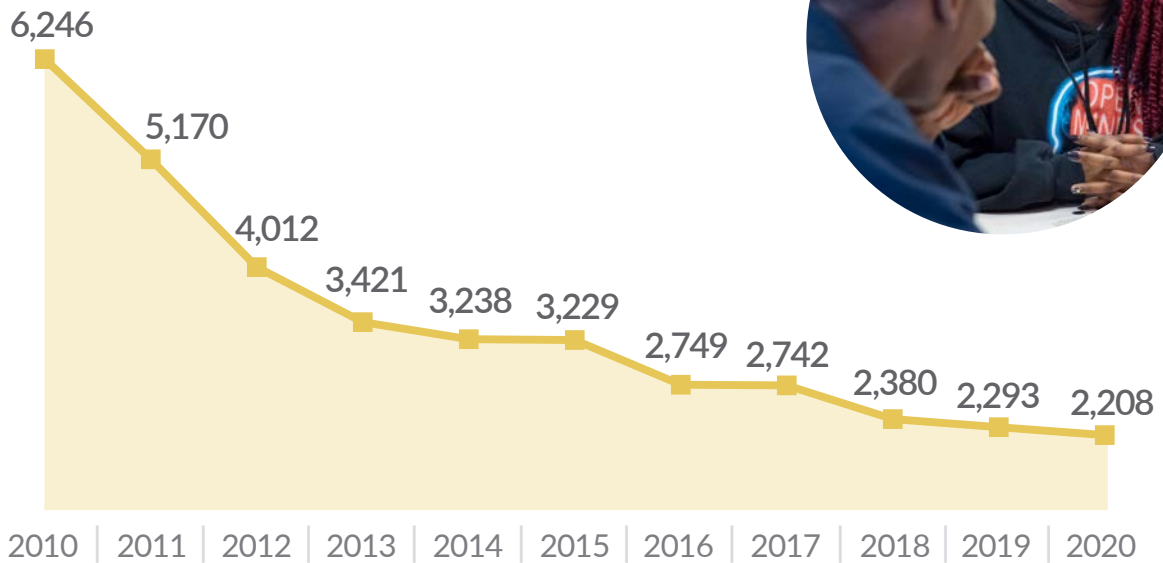


Admissions by Age



Admissions by Race/Ethnicity

### Admissions 2010-2020



## JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINICAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING in Youth Development Centers

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 2020 presented multiple and complex behavioral health needs. A representative point-in-time survey of youth confined in youth development centers on Dec. 31, 2020, revealed that:

- 96% carried at least one mental health diagnosis, with 46 percent holding at least one substance use diagnosis;
- 48% had co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders;
- 78% had more than one mental health disorder;
- 46% were taking prescribed psychotropic medication (60% of girls, 45% 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. Substance use disorders were present in 74% of the YDC population in 2015. That rate fell to 64% in 2016, to 60% in 2017, and to 55% in 2018, 48% in 2019, and 46% in 2020.

**96%** OF JUVENILES  
committed to YDC had at least one  
mental health diagnosis

## Most Prevalent Mental Health and Substance Use Diagnostic Categories

**78%**

**OF DELINQUENT YOUTH CONFINED TO A YDC**

had more than one mental health disorder

The most frequent categories of diagnoses within the 2020 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 86% of delinquent youth confined in YDCs carry at least one diagnosis within this class.

The second most frequent found diagnoses were 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. Trauma- and stressor-related disorders were twice as common in girls than boys, with 100% of girls fitting into this category and 49% of boys. The third most frequently found diagnoses, substance-

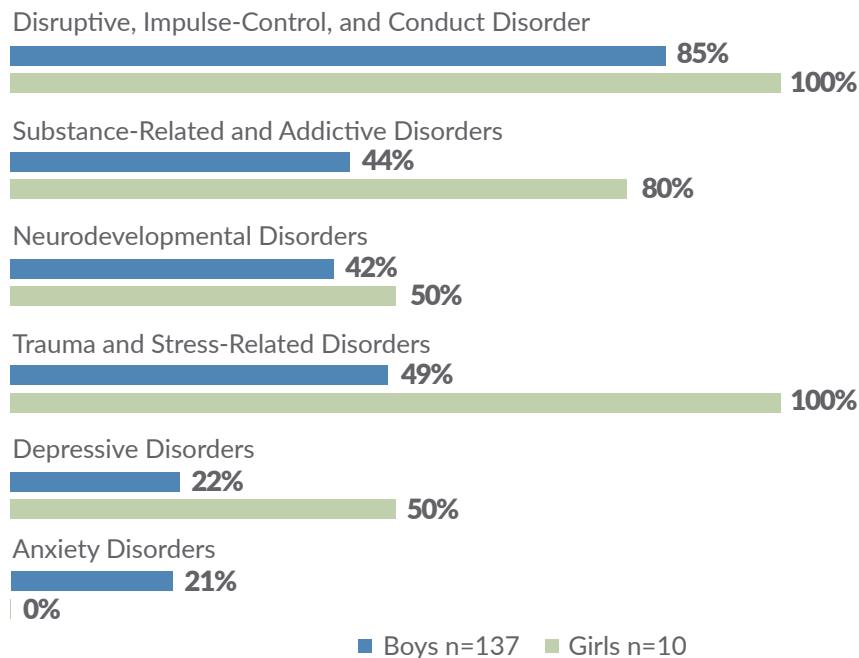
related and addictive disorders, were present in 46% of the YDC population. Of these, 91% were cannabis-related disorders.

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. The most frequently diagnosed disorders within this category were attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), found in 35%, and specific learning disorders, found in 14%. Another 8% met criteria for borderline intellectual functioning or mild intellectual developmental disorder.

The fifth most common class of mental health disorders, depressive disorders, showed a similar trend. Depressive disorders were more than twice as common in girls than boys, with rates of 50% and 22%, respectively.

The most common diagnostic classes found among youth in YDCs in 2020 are summarized in the chart below.

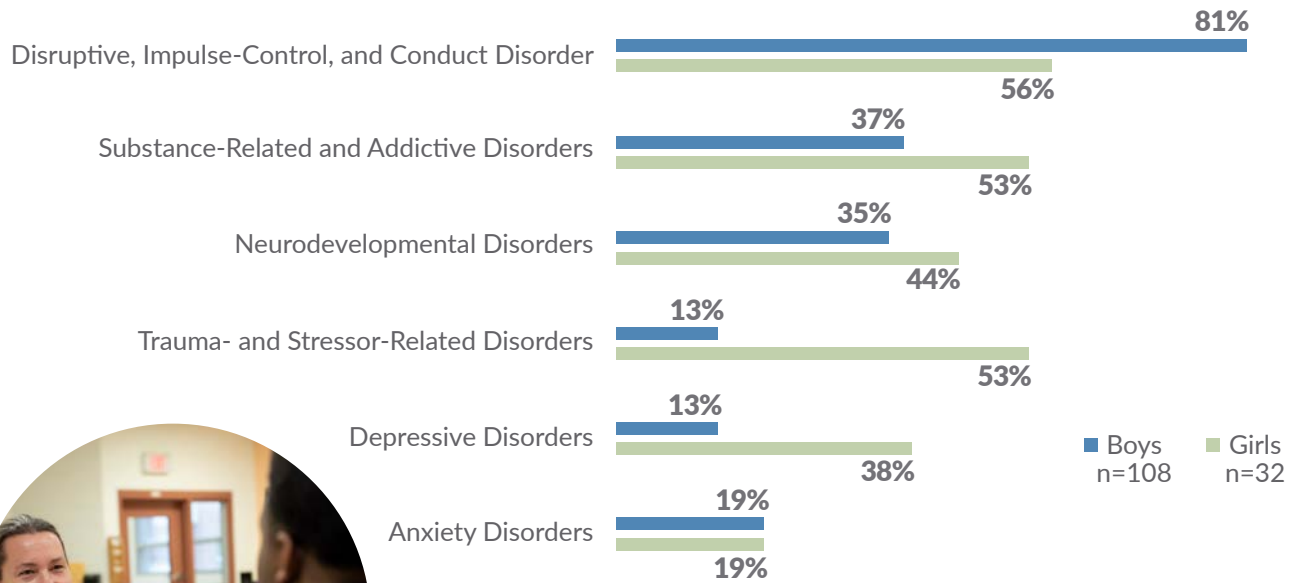
### Most Prevalent Diagnostic Categories by Percentage of the 2020 YDC Population



## Diagnostic Categories continued

In comparison, the most common diagnostic classes found among youth in Community Programs' residential contractual facilities in 2020 are summarized in the chart below.

### Most Prevalent Diagnostic Categories with the 2020 Contract Residential 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 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). Together, the youth and his or her team 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 approximately 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 YDC 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 Mental Health and Substance Use Specific Diagnoses

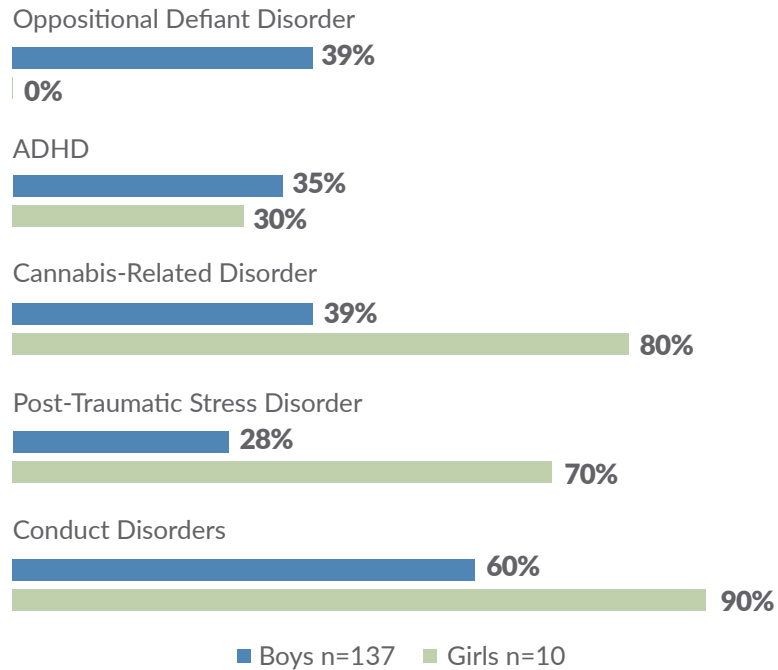
# 62%

Conduct Disorder present in the YDC population

Across diagnostic categories, the most common behavioral health diagnosis found in the 2020 YDC population was conduct disorder, present in 62% 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 42% of the YDC youth, followed by 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 36% of the YDC population and, as depicted below, was far more prevalent in boys (39%) than girls (0%). ADHD was present in 35% of youth. The fourth most common diagnosis was post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which was present in 31% of the YDC population, but prevalence varied vastly by gender. While PTSD was diagnosed in 28% of boys in a YDC, prevalence in girls was nearly three times higher (70%).

#### Most Prevalent Diagnoses by Percent of the 2020 YDC Population



# 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 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. In 2020, almost half (48%) of students upon entry scored below the sixth-grade level in their broad reading and math skills.

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).



**Approximately 86%**  
of our students were in the  
9th grade or above

**Approximately 62%**  
of our students were behind their  
graduation cohorts

**Approximately 37%**  
were identified as requiring special  
education services or additional  
academic support through a 504 plan

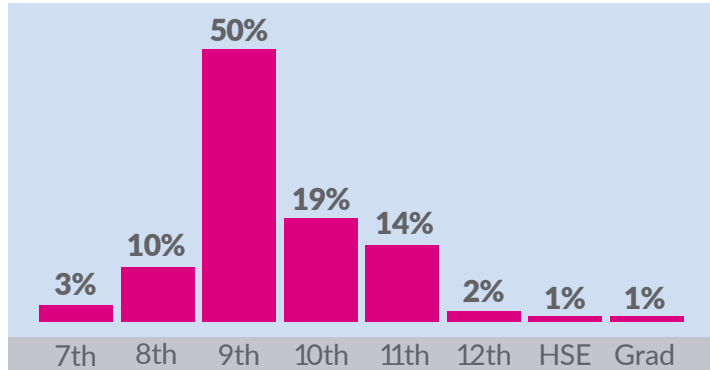
- JJES and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) continued to strengthen its partnership by coordinating collaborative learning opportunities for JJES teachers, facilitated by NCDPI content area consultants. These work sessions were held quarterly, utilizing a virtual platform and focused on effective instructional practices aligned to the state's content standards and implementing strategies to address the students' social-emotional learning needs.
- In January and February, Cumberland, Wake and Pitt juvenile detention centers partnered with Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development to pilot a week-long leadership training program for some of their students who were at least 16 years old. This program focused on developing students' awareness and skills in areas such as leadership skills, effective communication, conflict resolution, self-confidence and efficacy, culture and diversity awareness, innovation and motivation, goal setting and accountability. Students engaged in presentations, activities and role-played scenarios. The feedback from the students, program instructors and

facility staff was positive. JJ will look for opportunities to expand this pilot to additional detention centers in 2021.

- The state DIT worked to improve technology access for the students and staff. Greater access to a reliable network and devices promise to provide a greater opportunity to personalize educational and treatment experiences. This project was anticipated to be completed in Spring 2020, but due to the pandemic, priorities were shifted. The wireless staff network for each location was able to be completed, but work on the student network was postponed. It is anticipated to be completed by the fall of 2021.
- In December, JJES was able to reschedule C-Tech instructor training for staff at Edgecombe YDC, Lenoir YDC and the Eckerd Connects locations. This week-long training was initially scheduled for March but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The staff who received this training are now certified to use the C-Tech curriculum to train and certify students in areas of network cabling, telecommunications and residential audio/visual systems.

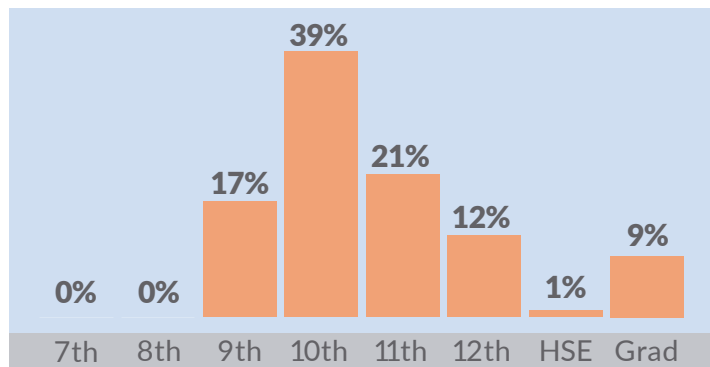
### Students Released from YDC in 2020 Grade Level at Time of Commitment

"HSE" represents students who were pursuing their high school equivalency prior to commitment; "Graduated" represents students who graduated prior to commitment



### Students Released from YDC in 2020: Grade Level at Time of Release

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

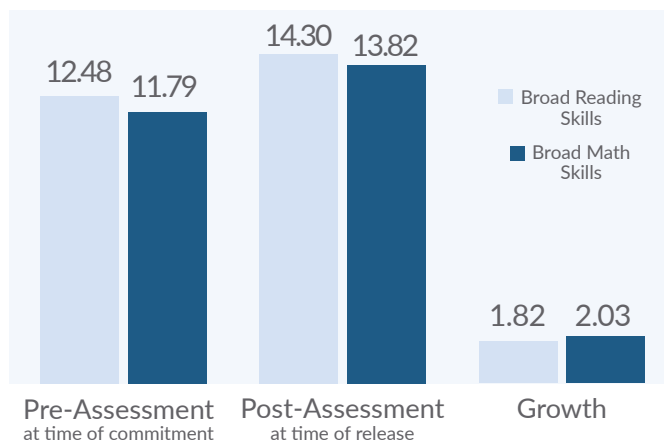


### Students who were released demonstrated growth in their broad reading and math skills

(as measured by the Woodcock Johnson IV Assessment)

Approximately  
**39%**

of students who were released were administered both a pre- and post-assessment (COVID)



#### At time of commitment:

- On average, students demonstrated reading skills relative to those of a 12 year old
- On average, students demonstrated math skills relative to those of a 11 year old

#### At the time of release:

- On average, students demonstrated reading skills relative to those of a 14 year old
- On average, students demonstrated math skills relative to those of a 13 year old

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

# DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- The Juvenile Justice DIT team integrated NC-JOIN with the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), constructing a seamless user interface to create the YASI assessment for juveniles. Like most assessments, YASI calculates a juvenile's risk and needs levels. However, unlike the assessments it is replacing, it also measures a juvenile's strengths. This allows a more complete evaluation of a juvenile who has been in treatment. YASI also targets specific domains of need for a juvenile so the treatment plan can be tailored for their most pressing needs.
- The Service Directory was integrated into NC-JOIN to provide counselors with an up-to-date list of resources available in their counties. The Service Directory is a web-based application that allows programs that serve juveniles to list their services in a statewide directory used by not only juvenile court counselors but the general public to find locally available resources. The programs are reviewed by juvenile justice staff and assigned to domains of need that are addressed by the programs. In NC-JOIN, the Service Directory programs and the domains they address are matched with outcomes of the YASI assessment for a court counselor to know the programs available in their area to address the specific needs of the juveniles with which they work.
- NC-JOIN was updated and implemented in August 2020 in accordance with HB 593 that allows all 16- and 17-year-old adult offenders to be placed in juvenile detention facilities. Prior to that, a 16 or 17 year old that was in the adult system was detained in a local jail. The NC-JOIN updates were necessary to provide and track admission records for the adult offenders separately from the juvenile population.
- Supervisor review functionality was added to NC-JOIN in August 2020 to allow supervisors to review juvenile-specific information to ensure policy compliance. Juvenile Justice policies govern the treatment planning for juveniles based on their risk and needs levels. Each juvenile under supervision has a case management level that dictates the frequency and intensity of contact between the juvenile court counselor, the juvenile and their family. NC-JOIN tracks those contacts and compares them with the assigned case management level to produce a report for supervisors to review to ensure compliance with standards.





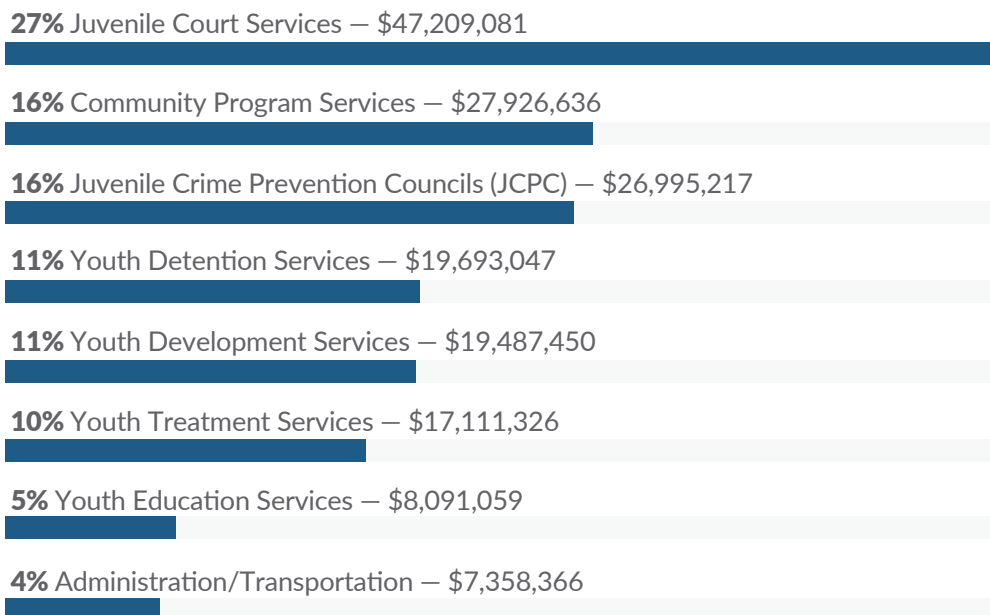
## Employees and Staffing

2020

Juvenile Justice Employees			
Section	Total Number of Staff	Number of Criminal Justice Certified Staff	% of Staff that are Criminal Justice Certified
Community Programs	28	0	0%
Court Services	695	601	86%
Facility Services (Includes Education/Health/Clinical)	726	576	79%
Transportation Services	75	58	77%
Administration	27	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>80%</b>

## Appropriations

2020



## Raising The Bar Awards

2020

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 2020 recipients for their dedication and hard work.



**REGINA ARROWOOD**

Community Programs



**ARNEISHA CROSSEN**

Court Services



**CANDICE MOORE**

Court Services



**WALTER DUBIANSKY**

Information Technology



**KRISTIE PURVIS**

Clinical Services



**TENA SONKO**

Facilities/Cumberland JDC



**DAWN THOMAS**

Facilities/Cumberland JDC



**COVID-19 CORE RESPONSE TEAM**

JJ Central Office



**Working Together  
To Strengthen  
North Carolina's  
Youth and Families**



Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

3010 Hammond Business Place,  
Raleigh, NC, 27603



919-733-3388  
[www.ncdps.gov/juvenile-justice](http://www.ncdps.gov/juvenile-justice)