



Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Annual Report 2022





COMPREHENSIVE MAP

Juvenile Justice facilities in North Carolina

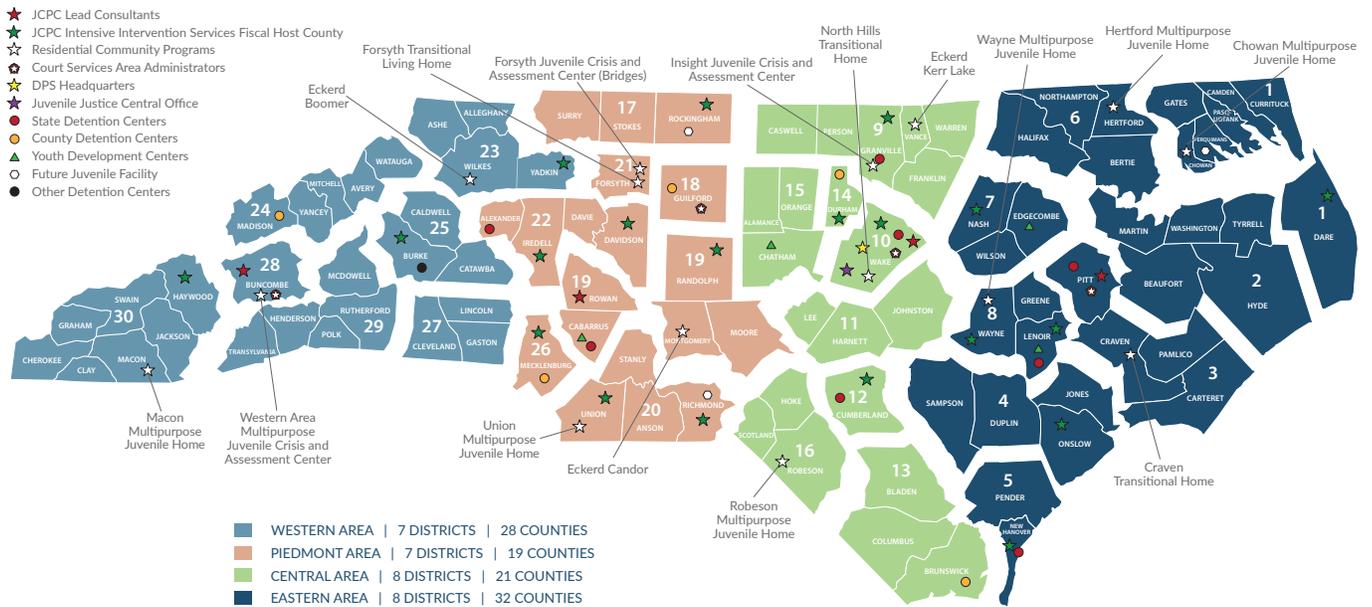


TABLE OF CONTENTS

NC Comprehensive Map	2	Juvenile Detention Center Admissions	15
Letter from Deputy Secretary Lassiter	3	Detention	16
Year in Review	4-5	Youth Development Center Commitments	17
Comprehensive Strategy	6	Average Daily Population	18
Youth Served	7-8	Capacity & Staffing	19-20
Decision Outcomes	9	Clinical Services and Programming	21-23
Complaints Received & Delinquency Rate	10	Education Services	24-25
Complaints Received	11	Employees and Staffing	26
Juvenile School-Based Offenses	12	Appropriations	26
Gang Affiliated Youth Trends	13	Basic Training	27
Raise The Age Offenses	14		



Residents of North Carolina:

It is my pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report, on behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP).

2022 was a year of amazing accomplishments and fresh challenges, achieved and handled with enthusiasm, commitment and grace by the outstanding staff of DJJDP, in their work to protect public safety and improve the lives of juveniles and their families in North Carolina.

We saw a marked increase in the state's overall delinquency rate in 2022, which rose by 49%. More complaints were received in 2022 than in 2021. As was the case in 2021, in 2022 44% of all complaints received were linked to 16 and 17-year-olds, known as the 'Raise the Age' population.

We saw an increase in detention admissions in 2022, related to the increase in age of juvenile jurisdiction, and the legislative mandate that calls for non-jurisdictional juveniles to be held in juvenile detention rather than county jails. Admissions of juveniles have increased 7% since 2021. On an average day in 2022, 27% of the juvenile detention population were youth who were transferred to superior court to have their cases heard in the adult system. On average, youth who are transferred to superior court stay 113 days longer in juvenile detention than their juvenile justice system counterparts. The increase in admissions, increase in transfer to superior court youth, the loss of detention beds upon the closure of the Mecklenburg Juvenile Detention Center in November, and rising staff recruitment and retention issues brought ever-increasing capacity issues to state juvenile detention centers. Renovation to former centers (Perquimans, Richmond and Dillon) are underway, as is construction of the Rockingham Youth Development Center, slated to open in late 2023. We hope to see additional stress on the system at least partially relieved upon the opening of the first of these detention facilities, projected to be in mid-2023.

To accomplish its statutorily mandated tasks, hiring direct care staff became the Division's top priority. To assist with staffing issues, DJJDP's Human Resources unit worked with local hiring managers and DPS Human Resource staff to conduct hiring events across the state. As a result of the pandemic's "Great Resignation," both JJDP Facilities and Court Services sections suffered larger vacancy rates than is typical. At the end of 2022, the Division's vacancy rate overall stood at 29%. The vacancy rate for Youth Counselor Techs was 40%; for Youth Services Behavioral Specialists, it was 58%; and for Court Counselors, it was 27%.

These staffing circumstances led the Division to take extraordinary and unprecedented actions in 2022 to ensure the safety and well-being of juveniles in our care, and staff in our facilities. DJJDP utilized certified staff from throughout the Division to ensure proper staff coverage within our facilities; researched the feasibility of bringing on temporary employees and staff from our contracted residential programs to fill in staffing gaps; brought on non-certified staff to work in facilities

in a non-supervision role to free certified staff from administrative functions; and began paying a monthly special assignment bonus to all staff who work 75% of their time during a month physically at a DJJDP facility, to recognize the additional workload and the reassignment of many of our staff to fill the gaps in facilities.

During the legislative session DJJDP was granted funds to implement a **comprehensive electronic health record** for state-run juvenile secure custody facilities. The record will digitize all health and behavioral records, improve the delivery of services to juveniles, strengthen the connection to both internal and external providers, and bring DJJDP into compliance with federal requirements.

JJDP completed the first-year cycle of a five-year SAMSHA grant to provide **Mental Health Awareness Training** for DJJDP staff and community partners. In year one DJJDP certified 43 staff to lead the Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Training, train 152 DJJDP staff and community partners, and replaced the current mental health training curriculum for JJ basic training with the evidence informed YMHFA course.

Juvenile Justice Community Programs and the Office of State and Budget Management concluded their three-year joint project on JJDP Community Programs statewide contractual services using the **Results First Model** and published project results in spring 2022. The analysis of these specific contractual programs shows they serve to reduce recidivism among high-risk juveniles and decrease the associated victim, societal and justice system costs.

Cumberland County embarked on the **Breakthrough Series Collaborative** with Georgetown University in September 2021, as just one of five jurisdictions from across the country selected to address racial and ethnic disparities in a local juvenile court system. In spring 2022, the collaborative convened in Washington, DC, to complete the five-day certificate program, to help guide the local juvenile court system into thinking "outside of the box" in creating new processes and systematic change to racial and ethnic disparities.

In 2022, DJJDP established its **internal PREA Office** under the section of Analysis, Research, and External Affairs. The office, consisting of a manager and coordinator, is charged with maintaining and enhancing the efforts of NCDPS to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement settings through a program of prevention, detection, response and reporting.

And finally, following legislative action, DJJDP returned to the same organizational structure within DPS it had at the department's consolidation in 2012.

I am humbled to lead our team of dedicated juvenile justice professionals. I am proud to join them and our stakeholders in efforts to support the safety and well-being of the children, families and communities of North Carolina.

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

JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was a year of challenges and progress for the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. While unprecedented staffing and capacity challenges presented a constant struggle for DJJDP staff, Division employees continued to put their best foot forward, always striving to foster positive opportunities for the youth in our care.

Historic vacancy rates in direct care positions, coupled with capacity issues at juvenile detention centers and youth development centers, placed a tremendous strain on the state's juvenile justice system in 2022. To accomplish its statutorily mandated tasks, hiring direct care staff has consistently been the division's top priority.

In December, the Division's overall vacancy rate stood at 29%. The vacancy rate for youth counselor technicians was 40%; for youth services behavioral specialists, it was 58%; and for juvenile court counselors, it was 27%. In 2022 alone, DJJDP saw a 15% increase in its average direct care vacancy rate – from 30% in January to 45% in December.

To alleviate these staffing shortages, the division worked throughout the year with local hiring managers and DPS Human Resource staff to conduct hiring events across the state. This hiring push was accompanied by strong recruitment marketing efforts across a variety of platforms.

In addition to these efforts, the division also took extraordinary and unprecedented measures to ensure adequate staffing, including:

- Reassignment of certified staff from throughout the Division to temporary assignments in DJJDP facilities;
- Reassignment of non-certified staff to work in facilities in non-supervision roles to free certified staff from administrative functions;
- The implementation of a variety of bonuses, including sign-on, retention and a special bonus for those who spend more than 75% of their monthly working time in a facility;
- Researching the feasibility of bringing on temporary employees and staff from contracted residential programs to fill in staffing gaps;
- Seeking salary increases, a step pay plan and compression relief for JJDP employees.

PLANNING FOR EXPANSION

With capacity strained at existing DJJDP facilities, the division is overseeing simultaneous construction projects and renovations of existing facilities statewide to alleviate that pressure:

- Rockingham Youth Development Center – Located in Reidsville, this state-of-the-art facility is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023. This 60-bed facility may function as a multi-use facility, including providing juvenile detention services
- Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center – Closed in 2012 due to budgetary restrictions and falling detention numbers, this facility is currently undergoing renovations with a reopening date tentatively set in Spring 2024.
- Richmond Juvenile Detention Center – In the design phase as 2022 came to an end, Richmond Juvenile Detention Center is anticipated to open sometime in 2025. A portion of Richmond Correctional Institution is receiving renovations to offer temporary juvenile detention services until Richmond JDC opens.

JJDP PREA OFFICE ESTABLISHED

In anticipation of the creation of the Department of Adult Correction in January 2023, DJJDP established its own internal PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Office under the section of Analysis, Research, and External Affairs. The office, consisting of a manager and coordinator, is charged with maintaining and enhancing the efforts of NCDPS to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement settings through a program of prevention, detection, response and reporting. The office is responsible for all aspects of the program, including managing audit activities and the Governor's certification of compliance.

EXPANDED TRAINING

DJJDP successfully launched its internal BASIC training school and delivered seven consecutive Juvenile Justice Officer and Juvenile Court Counselor classes in 2022. In April 2022, JJDP conducted its first Restraint, Control, and Defense Techniques instructor training program, and all attendees passed certification requirements.

The Staff Development and Training Section has also developed an in-service training program for law enforcement partners. Law enforcement partners are eligible to receive a maximum of 24 hours of in-service training to complement practical knowledge and skills acquired during the Juvenile Justice Officer Basic Training School Program.

SAFE STORAGE AWARENESS PLANNING

In 2022, DJJDP, in partnership with the Governor's Office and others, began planning a public awareness campaign to address the issue of safe firearm storage. This campaign will work with local elected officials, local law enforcement, schools and various nonprofit or community groups to present a unified message on the importance of responsible firearm storage. Plans for this project include the launch of a new website and an extensive public awareness/marketing campaign to educate North Carolinians about the importance of safely storing firearms.

RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING

During October and November, Juvenile Court Services (JCS) conducted 14 racial equity trainings, providing instruction to approximately 474 Juvenile Justice staff and community partners, including law enforcement officers. Slightly more than half of the participants in the racial equity training during these two months were staff from juvenile detention centers and youth development centers.

YASI IMPLEMENTATION

Building on the implementation of the YASI (Youth Assessment Screening Instrument) in 2021, DJJDP has had several staff certified as Master Trainers. These staff have worked in partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide YASI training for district court judges, including reference materials. Court Services staff are now able to provide officers of the court with the YASI Trauma Index, along with the YASI Wheel, which shows the court the domains that need work from the juvenile and family, and progression toward goals. The JJDP Community Programs sections has also facilitated regional YASI trainings for service providers across the state.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING

DJJDP completed the first-year cycle of a five-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant to provide Mental Health Awareness Training for DJJDP staff and community partners. In year one, DJJDP certified 43 staff to lead the Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Training; trained 152 DJJDP staff and community partners; and replaced the current mental health training curriculum for JJ basic training with the evidence-informed YMHFA course. In addition to the YMHFA training, DJJDP has worked closely with North Carolina Families United to develop a training course that will focus on the lived experience of justice involvement for both juveniles and families.

EXPANDED ELECTRONIC ROOM CHECKS

Throughout 2022, DJJDP-assigned DIT staff worked closely with four Juvenile Justice facilities to develop and implement a tablet-based application in a pilot program to conduct juvenile room checks. The application uses QR codes attached to each of the doors at the facilities to identify and report the status of the juvenile while in their rooms as directed by policy. After invaluable feedback from the staff at the pilot sites, the JJDP DIT team proceeded to complete and release the app to production. The ERC application went live August 2022 in all state-operated Juvenile Justice detention and youth development centers.

TRAFFIC TEEN COURT PILOT EXPANSION

A 2021 teen traffic court pilot made possible through partnership between the Administrative Office of the Courts and DJJDP Community Programs section expanded to eight counties in 2023. The pilot began in Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus counties has now expanded to Rockingham, Durham, Guilford, Randolph and Cumberland counties. The model allows the district attorney to divert specific approved Chapter 20 motor vehicle violations to a modified teen court model, allowing youth to learn responsibility to self and others while operating motor vehicles.



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.

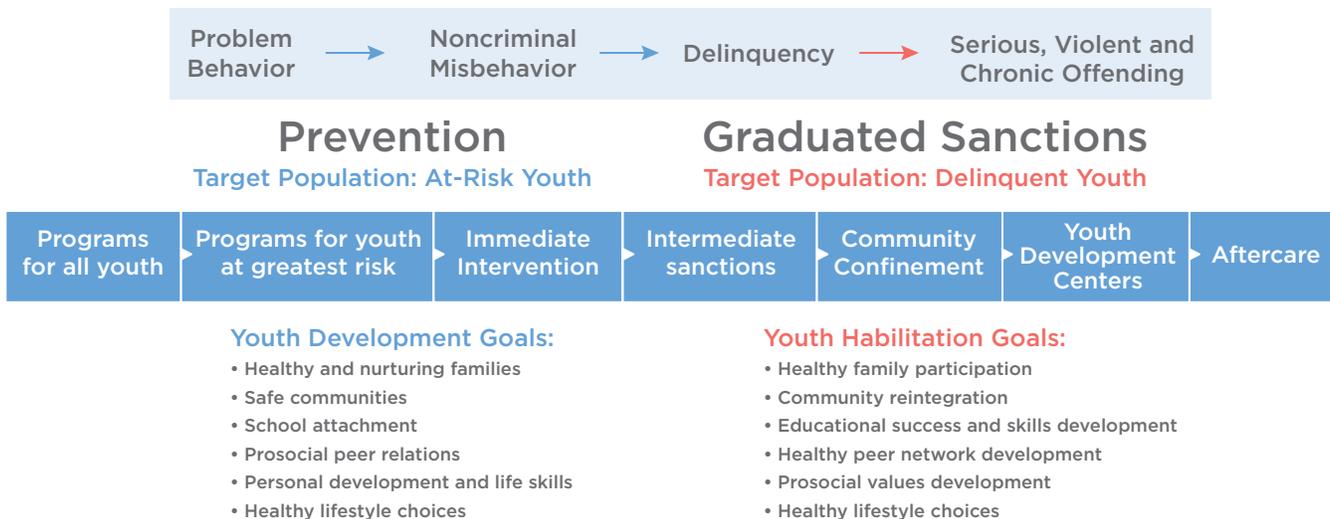
The Division provides a full continuum of public safety interventions involving all children and youth ages 10-17 either at-risk, alleged to or have been found to have committed an undisciplined or criminal offense.

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

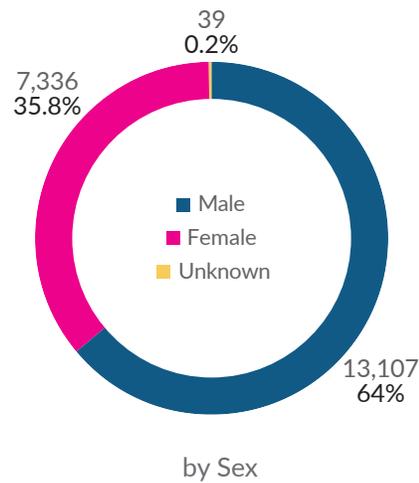
2022

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 county boards of commissioners and meet monthly in each county.

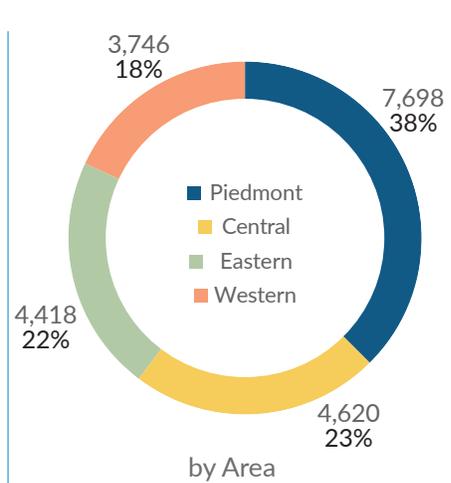
Programming and services funded through JCPCs, targeted in each county to address the problem areas, risks and needs of its juvenile population, include: assessment, clinical treatment, structured day programs, residential programs, restorative justice, mentoring and skill-building programs.



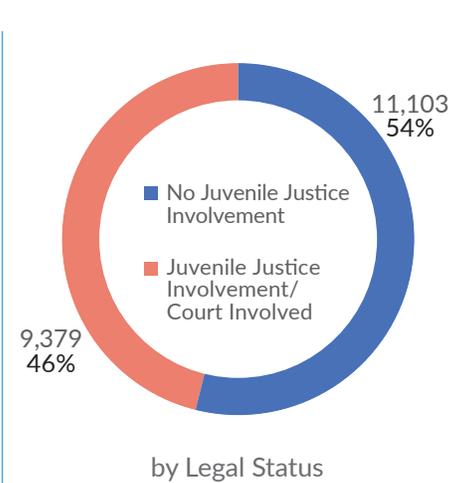
by Age



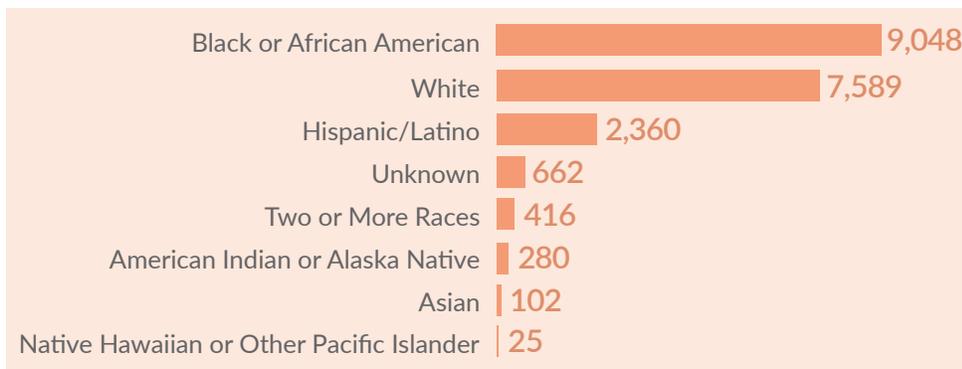
by Sex



by Area



by Legal Status



by Race/Ethnicity



JCPC Youth Served by Program Type FY 2022

Program Type	Youth Served
Assessments	1,257
Experiential Skill Building	261
Family Counseling	262
Group Counseling	170
Group Home Care	51
Home-Based Family Counseling	311
Individual Counseling	804
Interpersonal Skill Building	4,454
Juvenile Structured Day	530
Mediation/Conflict Resolution	969
Mentoring	608
Parent/Family Skill Building	845
Restitution/Community Service	4,177
Runaway Shelter Care	153
Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior	57
Specialized Foster Care	16
Substance Abuse Counseling	320
Teen Court	3,365
Temporary Shelter Care	246
Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	1,145
Vocational Skills	481
Total	20,482

Youth Served by Funding Source FY 2022

Funding Source	Youth Served
JCPC Funds	20,482
Intensive Intervention Services	397
Community-Based Contractual Services	274
Residential Contractual Services	714
Total	21,867

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. 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.;
- (3)** closed, meaning the complaint does not need to go to court or be diverted. Closed on this page of data means closed at intake. Period.



* 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 14,804.

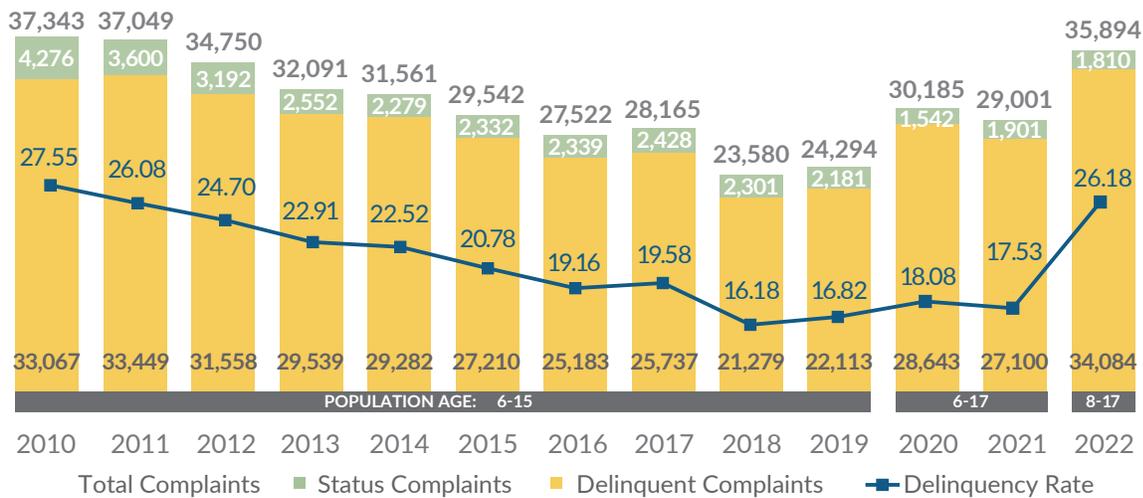


Complaints Received & Delinquency Rate 2010-2022

Due to significant legislative juvenile jurisdictional changes, the juvenile justice system experienced upper and lower age boundary modifications. These changes require different age ranges for the respective years since implementation.

- Pre-2019, the age of juvenile jurisdiction was 6-15.
- Dec. 1, 2019: Upper boundary change from age 15 to age 17 (Raise the Age)
- December 1, 2021: Lower boundary change from age 6 to age 10 with some exceptions for 8-9 year-olds (Raise the Minimum Age)

As of 2022, these two legislative changes were in effect for the full year, placing the age of juvenile jurisdiction at 10-17, with exceptions for 8-9 year olds.



The number of 16 and 17-year-old juveniles served in Community Programs has increased steadily since Raise the Age implementation. We have seen a 57.5% increase since FY20. Raise the Age juveniles are more likely to receive intensive community intervention services.

Commitments to youth development centers have not risen significantly, but the proportion of YDC commitments that are Raise the Age juveniles now exceeds the proportion that were younger than age 16 on the date of their offense.

Approximately 49% of Raise the Age juveniles are approved for court, compared to 39% of non-RtA juveniles (hierarchical intake decision).

School-based offenses decreased during the coronavirus pandemic and its accompanying school closures. Youth age 16 or 17 on date of offense (RtA juveniles) made up 23% of all school-based offenses in 2022 compared to 9% in 2020.

Forty-four percent of all complaints received in 2022 were linked to 16 and 17-year-olds. The increase in delinquency rate is similar at 49%.

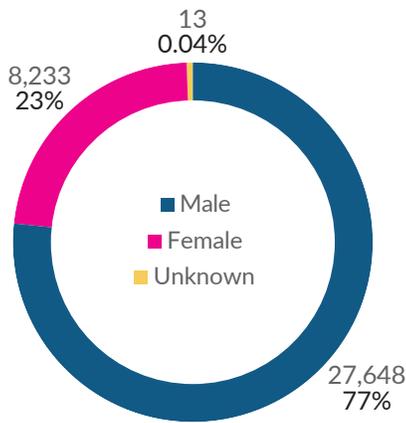
The juvenile delinquency rate for 2022 is 26.18, and may reflect full implementation of the added Raise the Age population, along with the reduction in 6 and 7-year-olds who are now served through vulnerable juvenile consultation instead of through juvenile jurisdiction (approximately 100-300 complaints regarding juveniles under age 10 occurred annually, prior to raising the minimum age).

Complaints Received

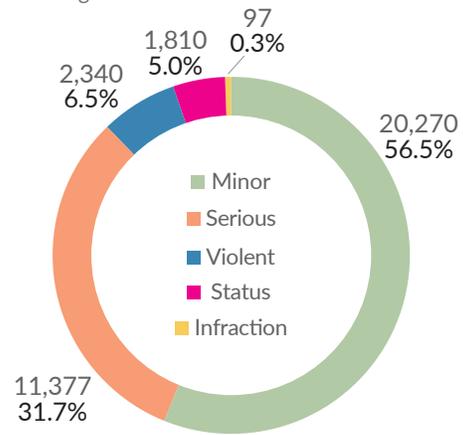
2022

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.).

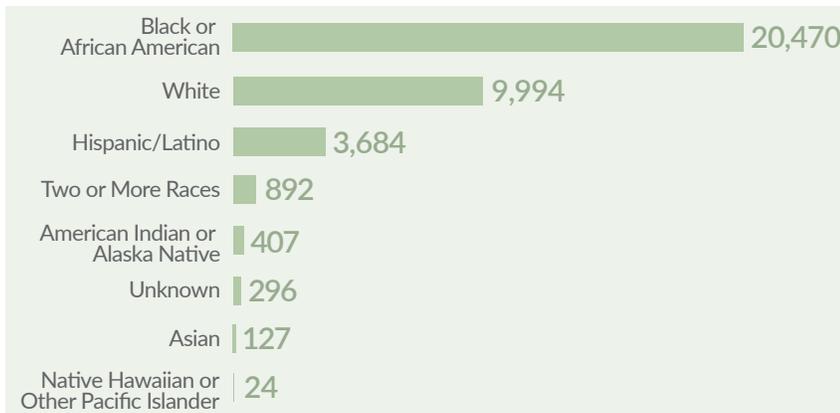
The 2022 Annual Report reflects the change in minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction, whereby fewer complaints for youth under age 10 are represented, along with the addition of vulnerable juvenile consultations for youth under age 10.



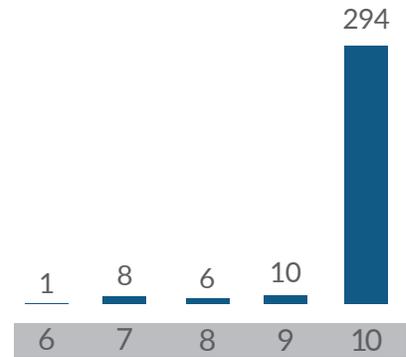
Complaints Received by Sex



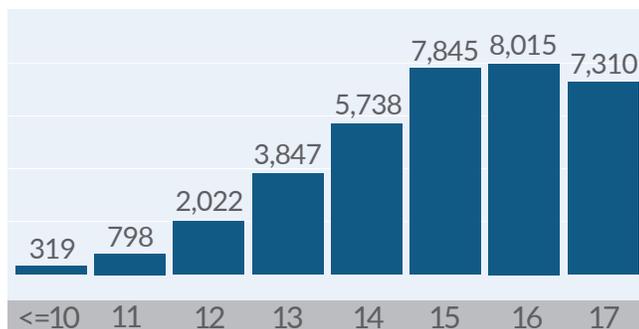
Juvenile Crime and Offenses



Complaints Received by Race/Ethnicity



Complaints Received by Age <=10



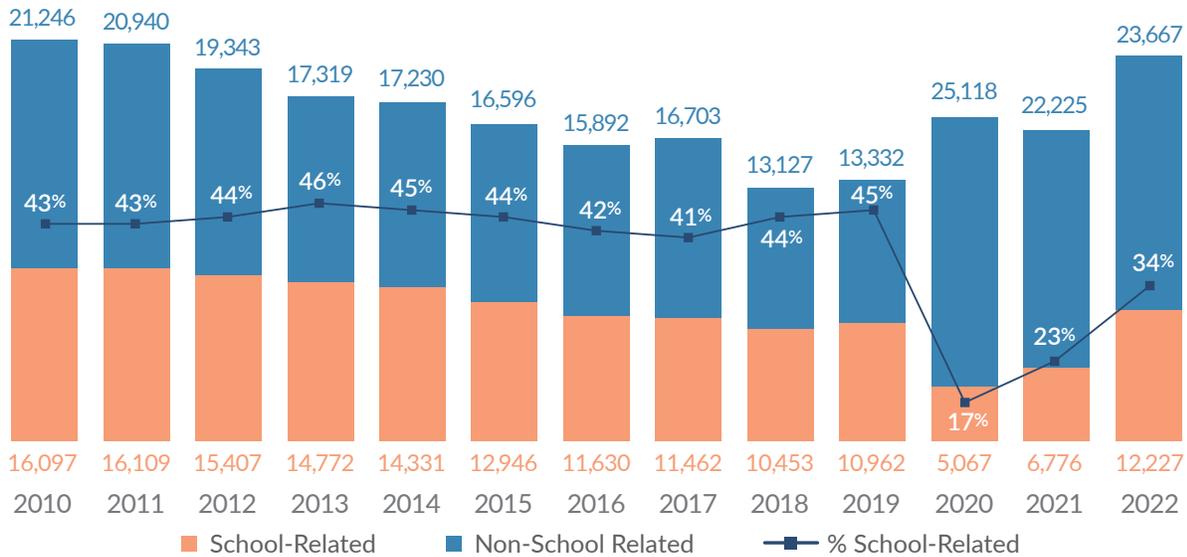
Complaints Received by Age



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



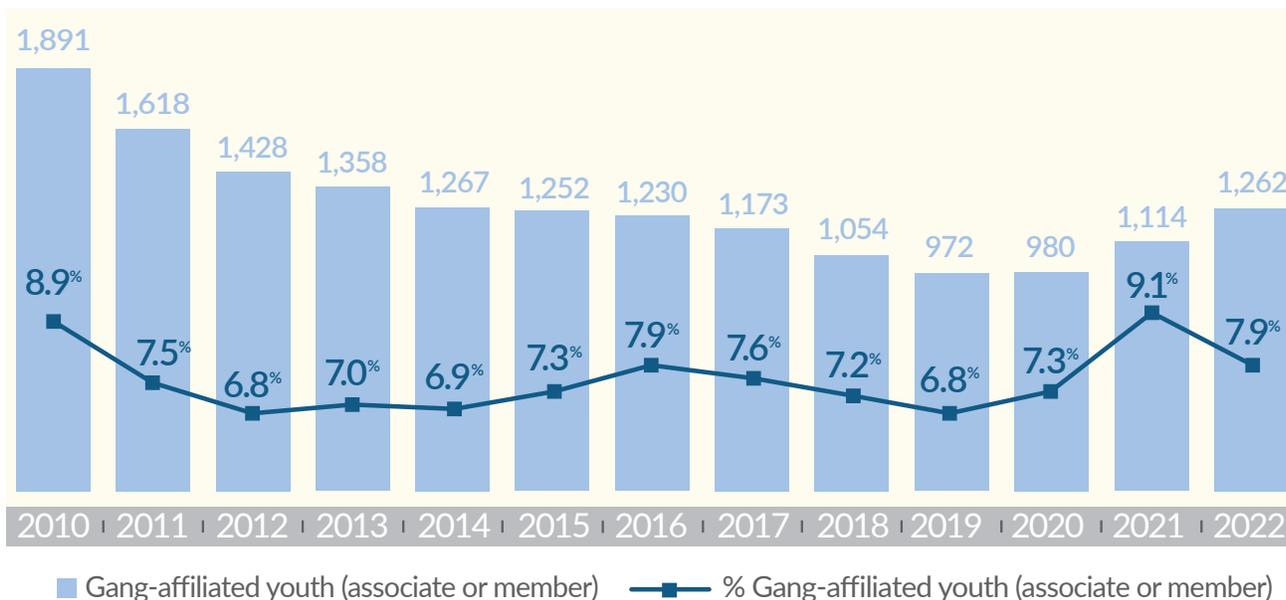
*School-based offenses decreased in 2020 and 2021 largely due to the coronavirus pandemic and accompanying school closures.

Top 10 School-Based Offenses: CY 2022

Charged Offense	Complaints
(M) misdemeanor (F) felony (S) status offense	
Simple assault (M)	2,211
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	1,331
Simple affray (M)	1,173
Possession of weapons other than firearms and explosives on school grounds (M)	681
Truant < 16 (S)	645
Communicating threats (M)	621
Communicating Threat of Mass Violence on Educational Property (F)	392
Simple possession schedule VI controlled substance (M)	315
Assault government official / employee (M)	297
Disorderly Conduct by engaging in fighting or other violent conduct or in conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence (M)	286

Top 10 Juvenile Offenses: CY 2022			
Offense (M) misdemeanor (F) felony (S) status offense	Complaints	Distinct Juveniles	Complaints per juvenile
Simple assault (M)	3,909	3,234	1.2
Break or enter a motor vehicle (F)	1,646	437	3.8
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	1,344	1,194	1.1
Simple affray (M)	1,276	1,200	1.1
Larceny (M)	1,244	856	1.5
Resisting public officer (M)	1,158	1,035	1.1
Communicating threats (M)	1,052	858	1.2
Larceny of motor vehicle (F)	945	495	1.9
Injury to real property (M)	933	675	1.4
Possess handgun by minor (M)	810	686	1.2

Gang-Affiliated Youth Trends

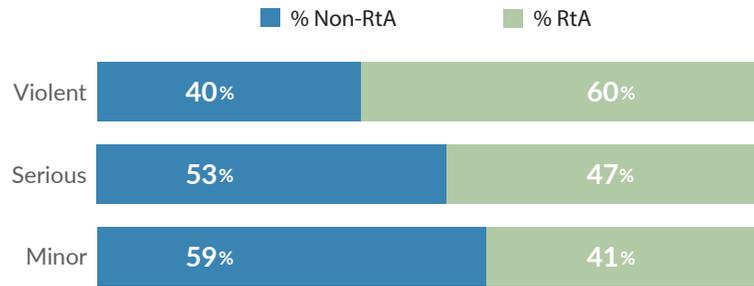


* The 2021 slight increase in gang-identified juveniles is due to fewer juveniles assessed and a small increase in juveniles identified as gang-involved.

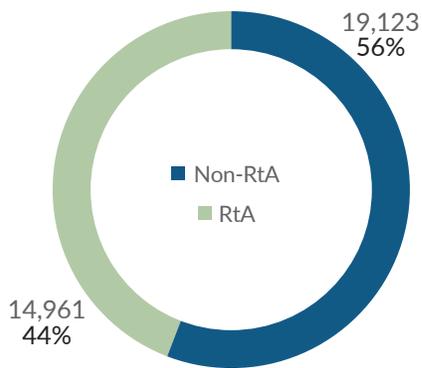
Raise The Age Offenses

2022

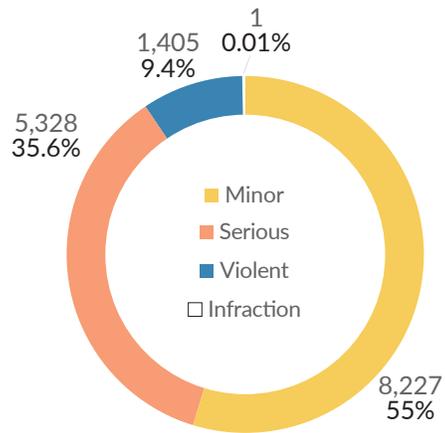
On Dec. 1, 2019, the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (S.L. 2017-57) raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction for most offenses to include 16- and 17-year-olds under juvenile jurisdiction. Raise the Age allows charges against 16- and 17-year-olds to be heard in the juvenile justice system if they are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



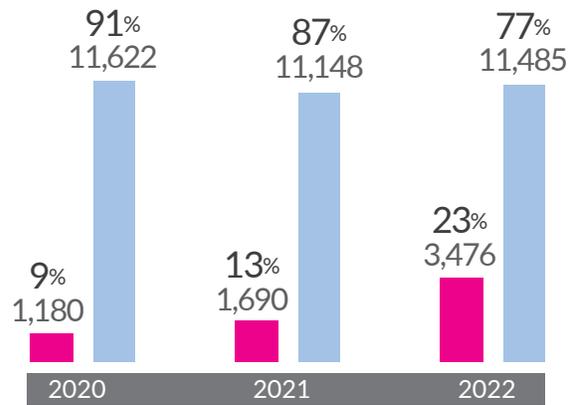
Non-RtA and RtA Proportions by Offense Class Group



Complaints by RtA and Non-RtA Designation



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

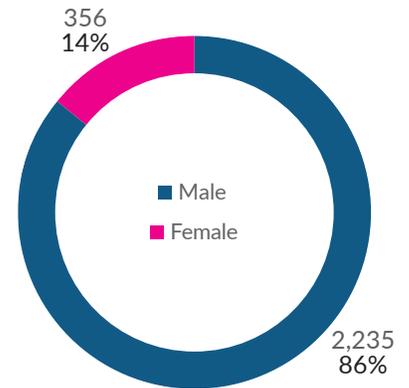


Raise the Age: School-Based Offenses

Juvenile Detention Center Admissions

2022

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.

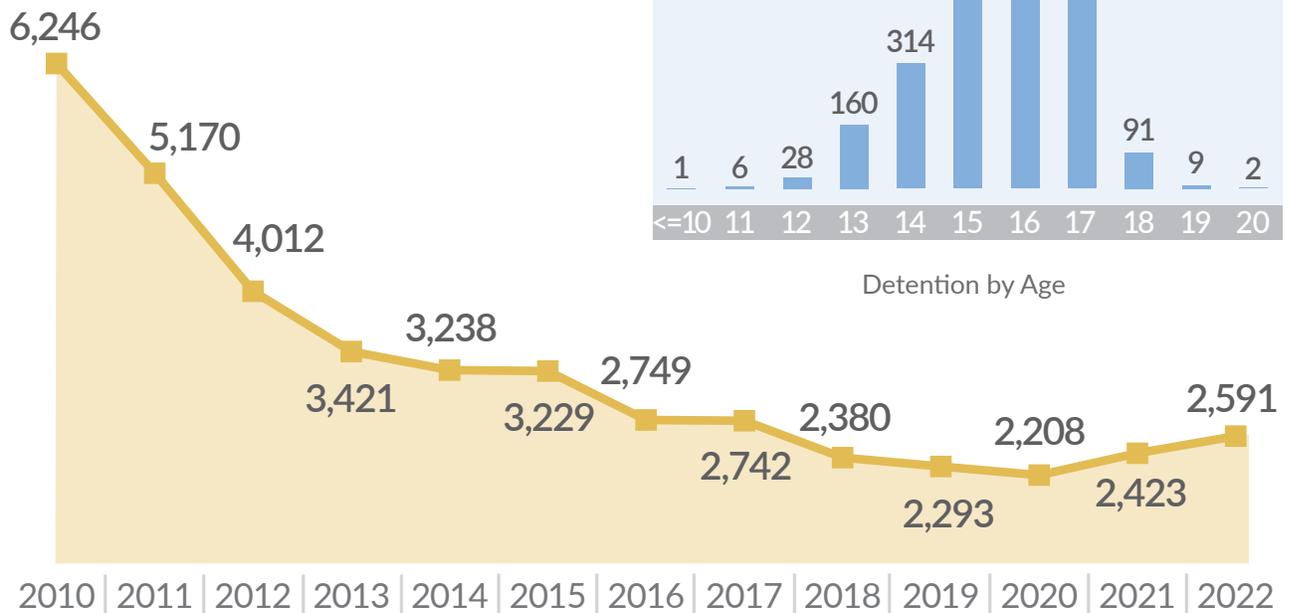


Admissions by Sex



Admissions by Race/Ethnicity

Detention Admissions 2010-2022



Detention by Age



Detention

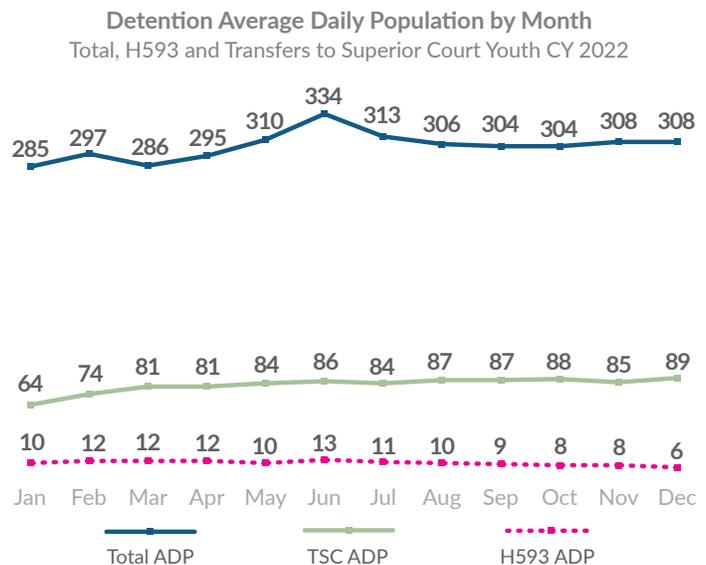
2022

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.

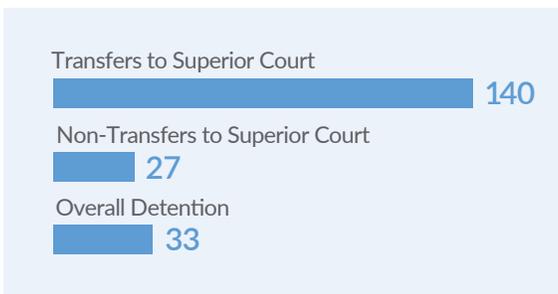
By statute some offenses must be heard from beginning to end in the criminal court (adult) system (H593), despite the youth being under the age of 18. Included in this population is also "Transfers to Superior Court," (TSC) which are cases involving youths who are transferred from juvenile to superior 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 of stay over time in juvenile detention.

Detention admissions have increased 17% since 2020; however, length of stay has increased 32% since 2020 due to transfer to superior court length of stay being longer than juvenile justice system youth stays in detention.

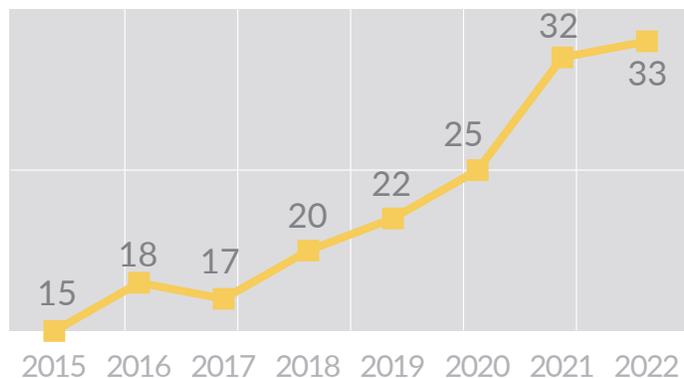
Year	Average Length of Stay (in days)
2015	15
2016	18
2017	17
2018	20
2019	22
2020	25
2021	32
2022	33



Detention Average Length of Stay (Days)
CY 2022



Average Length of Stay in Detention (Days)
CY 2015-2022

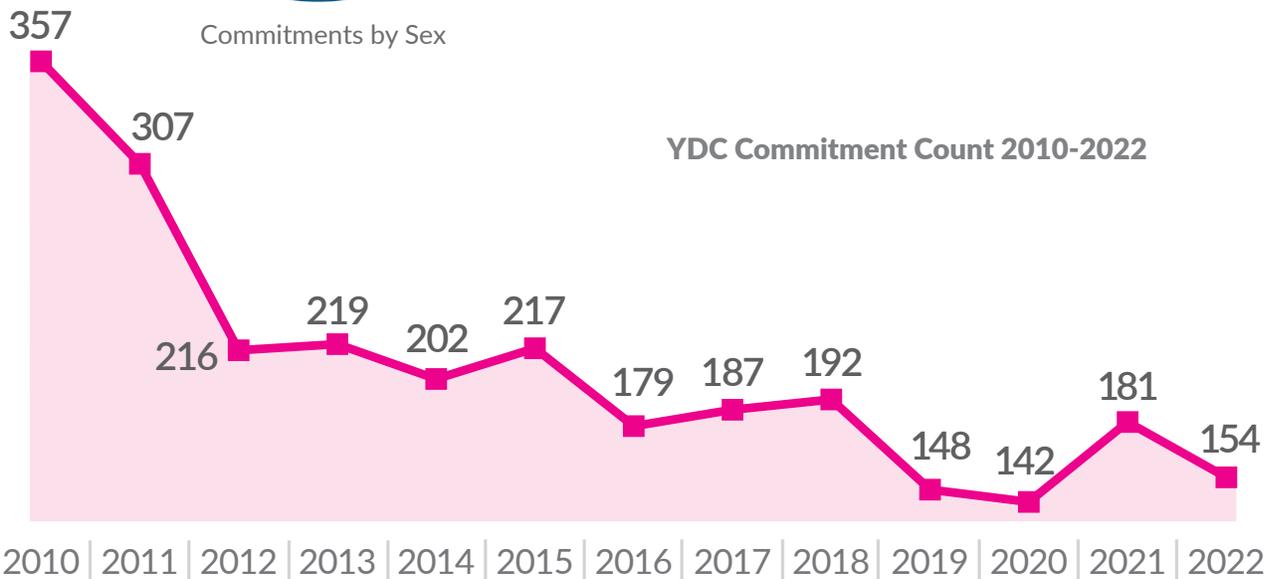
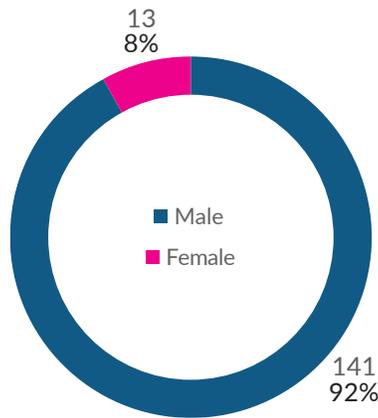
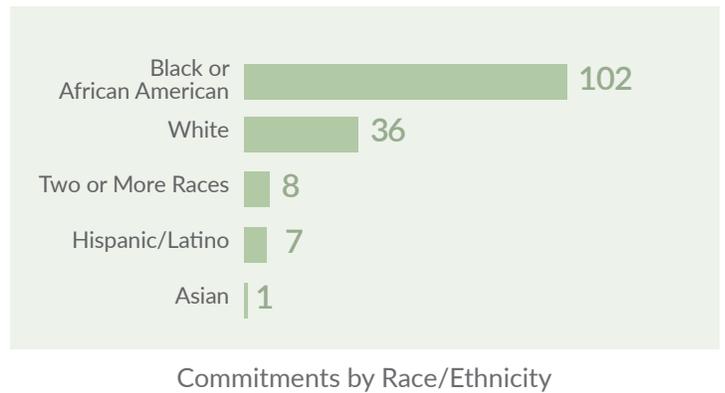
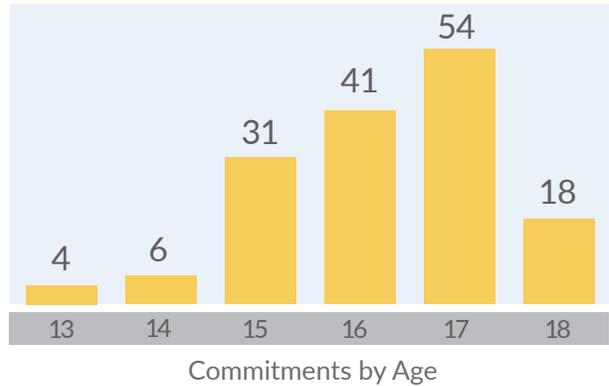


Youth Development Center Commitments

2022

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.

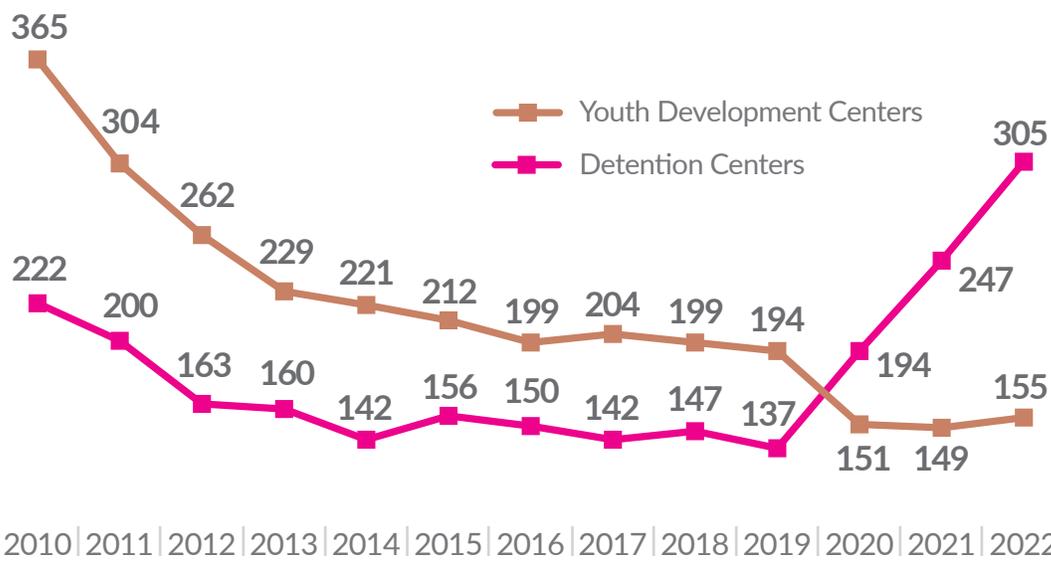




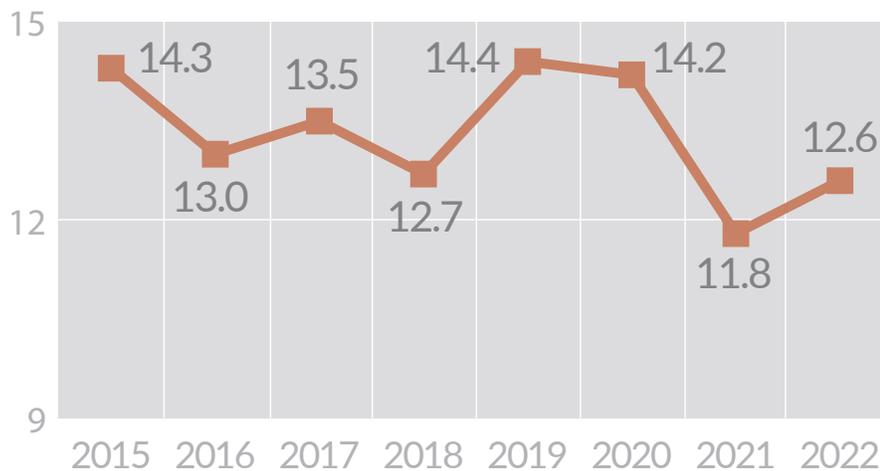
Average Daily Population

On any given day in 2022, you could find 155 juveniles who had been committed to a YDC, and the average length of time a youth is in commitment status is 12.6 months

Youth Development Center (YDC) and Detention Center (DC) ADP by Year 2010-2022



Average Length of Commitment (in Months) in Youth Development Centers 2015-2022



Capacity & Staffing

2022

As detention admissions and length of stay have steadily increased since 2020, DJJDP has also been losing direct care staff at an alarming rate. In 2022 alone, the vacancy rate for direct care staff increased by 15%, from 30% in January to 45% in December. These factors, combined with the closure of the 75-bed Mecklenburg Juvenile Detention Center in December, have placed a tremendous strain on the system's detention capacity. For the third year in a row, detention average daily population exceeds the youth development center average daily population.

Within the Youth Development Center category, the Chatham facility capacity split shows that part of the year the center was used to house only YDC youth (32 beds), which was changed to 24 youth when eight beds were converted to JDC beds (indicated in the area encompassed in the table by state-operated juvenile detention centers).

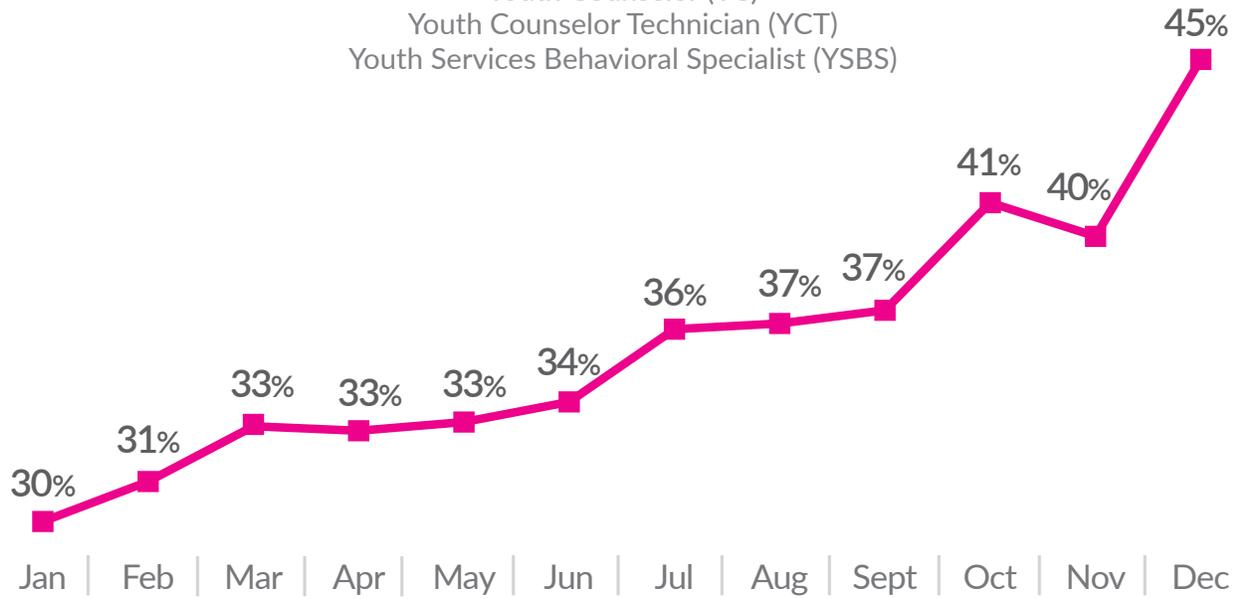
Facility Type	Facility	Capacity	Average Daily Population
Youth Development Centers	Cabarrus	96	69.0
	Chatham	32 24	26.1
	Edgecombe	44	38.9
	Lenoir	22	21.6
State-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Alexander	24	24.8
	Cabarrus	62	46.4
	Chatham	8	6.6
	Cumberland	18	17.9
	Dillon	35	31.4
	Dobbs/Lenoir	22	18.4
	New Hanover	18	16.9
	Pitt	18	19.1
	Wake	24	23.0
County-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Brunswick	12	9.7
	Durham	14	10.1
	Foothills	15	14.5
	Guilford	44	27.9
	Madison	19	14.9
	Mecklenburg center closed in Nov. 2022	72	46.2

2022 Vacancies for Direct Care Staff - Percentages

Youth Counselor (YC)

Youth Counselor Technician (YCT)

Youth Services Behavioral Specialist (YSBS)



Clinical Services and Programming by Youth Development Centers

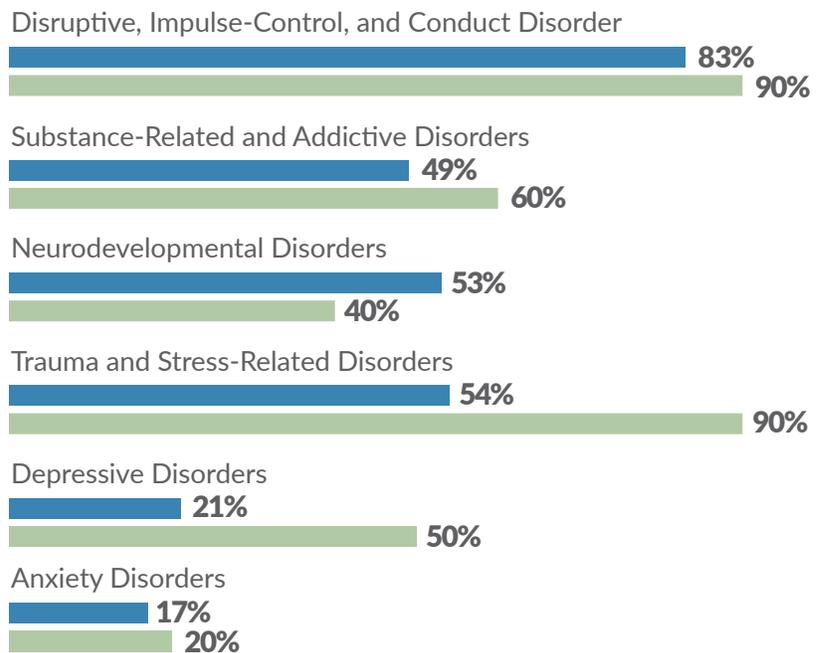
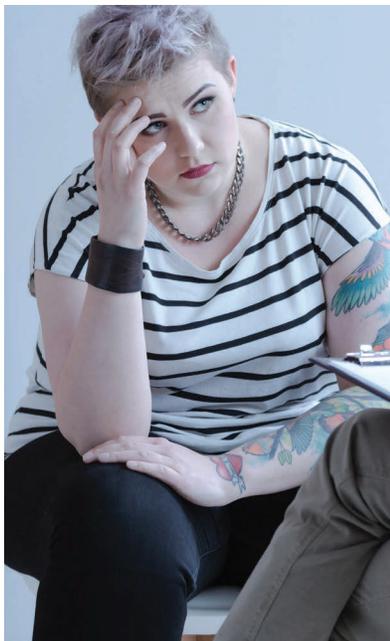
Juveniles committed to North Carolina’s juvenile justice system in 2022 presented with multiple and complex behavioral health needs. A representative point-in-time survey of youth confined in youth development centers on Dec. 31, 2022 (150 males and 10 females), revealed that:

- 99% carried at least one mental health diagnosis;
- 48% had co-occurring mental health and substance use diagnoses;
- 38.8% were taking prescribed psychotropic medication (4.4 % of girls and 34.4 % of boys);
- youth committed to YDCs had an average of four distinct mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnoses, and in some cases as many as eleven.

These findings are 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 with the exception of a small increase that was previously noted in 2021. The 2022 data was still higher than 2019 and 2020 but slightly decreased from the previous year. 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, 51% in 2021, and 49% in 2022.

The most frequent categories of diagnoses within the 2022 population of YDC youth, found after completion of a comprehensive evaluation using standardized assessment tools by a licensed mental health clinician, 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

Most Prevalent Diagnostic by Percentage of the 2022 YDC Population



■ Males n=150 ■ Females n=10



with rules, laws, or authority figures. The 2022 data indicated that 84% percent of youth confined in YDCs carry at least one diagnosis within this class (83% of males and 90% of females) followed by Oppositional Defiant Disorder which accounted for 34% of the population (35% of males and 20% of females). There was a statistical difference noted when this category of diagnoses was analyzed by racial category and showed that African American/Black youth were approximately twice as likely to have a diagnosis of Conduct Disorder as their Caucasian/White counterparts. The second most frequently found category of diagnoses was trauma- and stress-related disorders, present in 56% 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 stress-related disorders were twice as common in females than males, with 90% of females fitting into this category and 54% of males.

The 2022 point-in-time survey administered 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. Empirical evidence has consistently shown that a higher ACE score is directly related to an increased risk of delinquency, fighting, dating violence, mental health issues, physical health issues, and suicidal ideation and attempts. The average ACE score for all youth in the YDC was 3.2. Statistically significant differences were seen in YDC committed female youth who reported

experiencing an average of 5.4 events while YDC committed males reported an average of 3.0 adverse events before the age of 18. The average ACEs score for juveniles who take psychotropic medication is 3.5 which is .5 points higher than the score for youth who are not prescribed medication.

The third most common diagnostic category was neurodevelopmental disorders. Disorders within this class manifest early in life and are characterized by developmental deficits that affect personal, social, academic, or vocational functioning. Neurodevelopmental disorders were diagnosed in 52% of the YDC population (53% of males and 40% of females). The most frequently diagnosed disorders within this category were attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), found in 45% of the YDC population (47% of males and 10% of females).

Substance-related and addictive disorders, reported in 49% of the YDC population (49% males and 60% females), were the fourth most common diagnostic category. Of these, 97% were cannabis-related and less than 1% were opioid, alcohol-related, hallucinogen or stimulant abuse.

Depressive disorders (23% of YDC population) and anxiety disorders (17% of YDC population) were the fourth and fifth most common diagnostic category for the YDC population.

There was a statistical significance in the distribution by racial/ethnic group with African American/Black and Hispanic/Latino juveniles receiving a lower score than Caucasian youth.

A representative point-in-time survey of youth confined in the contract residential population (CRP) on Dec. 31, 2022 (100 males and 26 females), revealed that:

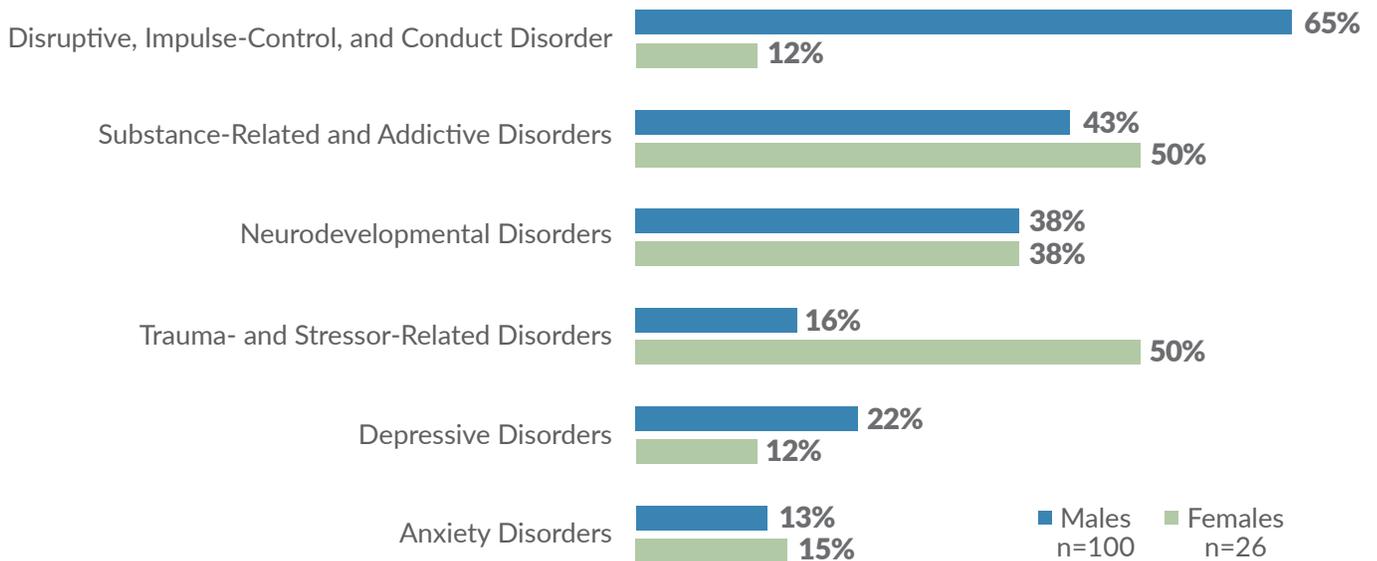
- 86.5% carried at least one mental health diagnosis
- 41% had co-occurring mental health and substance use diagnoses;
- 21.4% were taking prescribed psychotropic medication (34.6% of females and 18% of males) and;
- youth in CRP had an average of 2.2 distinct mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnoses, and in some cases as many as six.

The most frequent categories of diagnoses within this group of youth were within the category of disruptive, impulse-control and conduct disorders. In other words, 54% percent of the contract

residential population carry at least one diagnosis within this class (65% of males and 11.5% of females). This category is followed by substance-related and addictive disorders with 44% (50% of females and 43% of males). CRP females were mostly diagnosed with disruptive, impulse-control and conduct disorders and trauma and stress related disorders (50%).

The 2022 point-in-time survey administered the ACE inventory to all youths residing in the CRP. The average ACE score for all youth in the CRP was 3.2. Statistically significant differences were seen in CRP female youth who reported experiencing an average score of 4.5 while CRP males reported an average score of 2.8 before the age of 18. ACE scores were higher for Black or African American juveniles. The average ACEs score for juveniles who take psychotropic medication is 3.5 which is .4 points higher than the score for youth who are not prescribed medication.

Most Prevalent Diagnostic with the Contract Residential Population





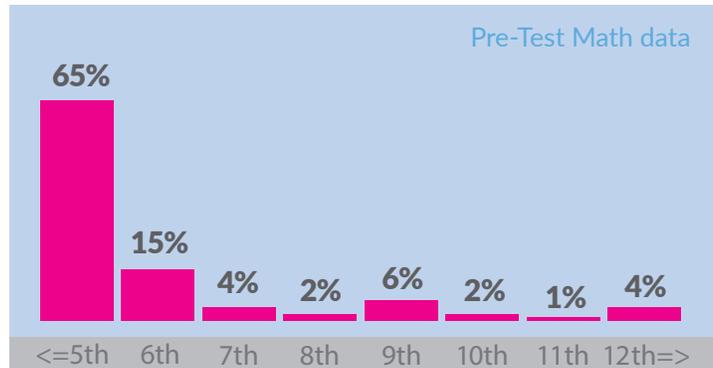
Education Services

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:

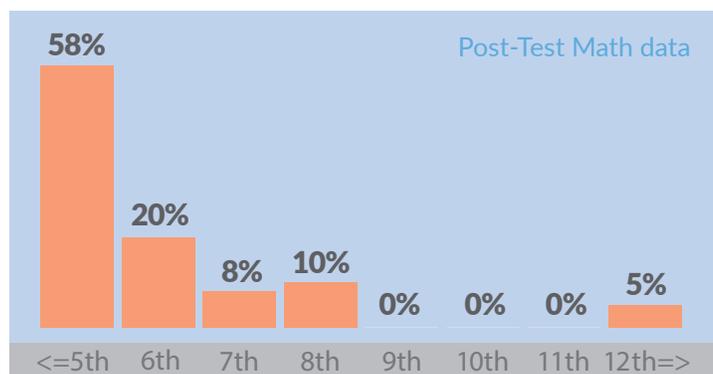
Instruction aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, which leads to a standard high school diploma; Instruction toward obtaining their high school equivalency (HSE) by passing all sections of the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET); or Enrollment in a web-based post-secondary course.

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).



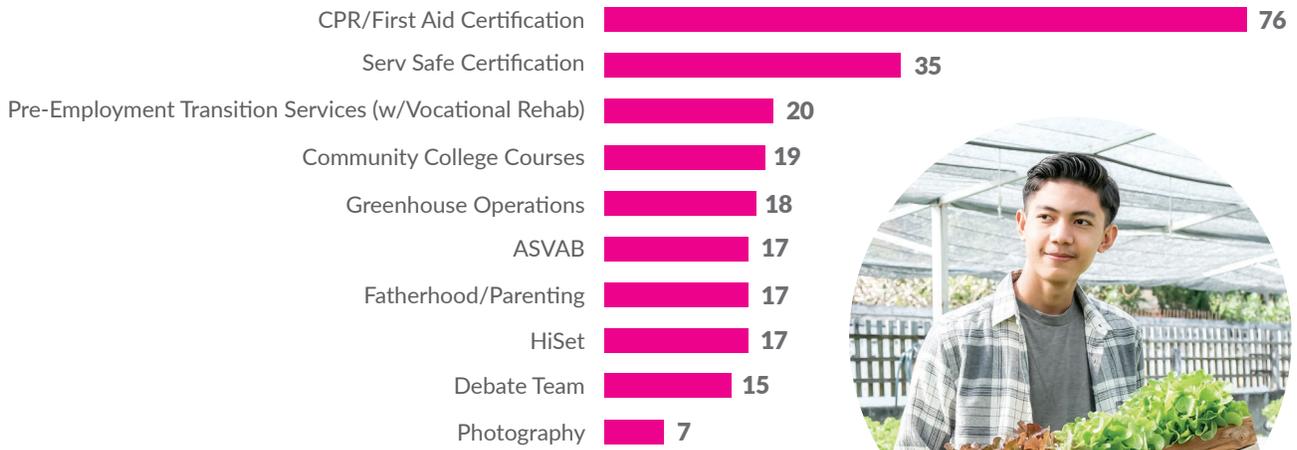
Students Entering YDC in 2022, Grade Level at Time of Commitment



Students Released from YDC in 2022: Grade Level at Release

Students Participating in

*Career Preparation and Post-Secondary Programs, Certifications and Credentials



*Youth may participate in more than one career preparation and post-secondary program.





Employees and Staffing

2022

Juvenile Justice Employees			
Section	Total Number of Staff	Number of Criminal Justice Certified Staff	% of Staff that are Criminal Justice Certified
Community Programs	31	0	0%
Court Services	687	585	85%
Facility Services (Includes Education/Health/Clinical)	764	613	80%
Transportation Services	73	60	82%
Administration	67	0	0%
Total	1,622	1,258	78%

Appropriations

2022

28.8% Juvenile Court Services – \$48,714,141

17.3% Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) – \$29,338,209

17.3% Community Program Services – \$29,242,047

10.9% Youth Development Services – \$18,455,173

9.8% Youth Treatment Services – \$16,596,067

7.5% Youth Detention Services – \$12,697,404

4.6% Administration – \$7,819,678

3.8% Youth Education Services – \$6,421,163

Basic Training Certification Exam Pass Percentages 2022

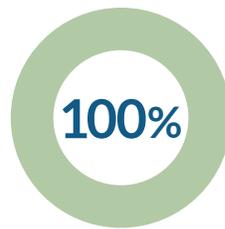
The Staff Development and Training unit in the Juvenile Justice section is responsible for the delivery of basic training for juvenile justice officers and juvenile court counselors.

The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission provides end-of-course testing for basic training.

DJJDP 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.



Juvenile Justice Officers passed



Juvenile Court Counselors passed

All Classes			
Class Type	Total # Trainees	Total # Passed	% Passed
Females	74	71	95.95%
Males	72	67	93.06%
Total	146	138	94.52%
Juvenile Justice Officers	100	92	92.00%
Juvenile Court Counselors	35	35	100.00%



Who do you see when
you look in the mirror?