

Juvenile Justice 2017 Annual Report

RAISE the RANGE

The graphic features the word 'RAISE' in a light grey, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word 'the' is written in a smaller, grey, lowercase sans-serif font, slanted to the left. The word 'RANGE' is the central focus, rendered in a large, bold, light green sans-serif font. A blue arrow with a white-to-blue gradient shaft points upwards through the center of the letter 'A' in 'RANGE'.

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HISTORY MADE IN 2017

as North Carolina Raises the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction

For decades, advocates and policy makers in North Carolina worked to increase the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 to 18 in the Tar Heel state. And finally last year, as Deputy Secretary William Lassiter jokingly explains during presentations on the topic, “it only took about 100 years” of perseverance, research, study and education on this topic; and a strong, bipartisan coalition of support, including all three branches of government, as well as law enforcement and advocacy organizations; to enact the historic [Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act](#) in 2017.

North Carolina began 2017 as the last state to automatically charge individuals 16-years-old and above in the adult criminal justice system. Building upon the foundation of the 2016 Juvenile Reinvestment Report that came from the N.C. Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice, House Bill 280, or the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, was introduced in March. By the time the legislature adjourned in June, as part of the budget the General Assembly changed the law so that beginning in December 2019 non-violent offenders under the age of 18 will be accommodated in juvenile courts rather than being tried as adults. This allows young offenders to make amends and move on to pursue academic and professional opportunities with fewer setbacks from criminal records.

“We don’t want young people to be held back for life because of one bad decision,” Gov. Cooper said. “We want them and their families to work with our juvenile justice system so we can get them on the right path.”

To commemorate the historic occurrence, on July 28, 2017, before a standing-room-only crowd of legislators and former lawmakers, Juvenile Justice staff and advocates watched as Gov. Cooper signed a [proclamation](#) declaring the day “In Recognition of Raising the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction.”

“I’m excited about the change in juvenile jurisdiction, because we know that children charged with crimes are better served within the juvenile justice system,” said Secretary Erik A. Hooks of the Department of Public Safety. “Our Juvenile Justice Section professionals are knowledgeable in adolescent behavior and target programming toward reducing recidivism of juveniles with developing brains.”

William Lassiter, deputy secretary for Juvenile Justice, says planning is now underway for this momentous change in the juvenile justice system. “We appreciate the change in juvenile jurisdiction, and the faith of Governor Cooper and the General Assembly in the quality, professional services the Juvenile Justice Section provides to the children of North Carolina. We are working now to ensure we implement this initiative correctly, for the benefit of all.”

Following passage of the legislation, juvenile justice leaders from across the state got right to work planning for implementation, beginning with a three-day conference in mid-September. Staff members provided feedback on how they think “[Raise the Age](#)” should be implemented, and began developing work plans for the critical tasks involved throughout the juvenile justice continuum of services.

In November, Juvenile Justice leadership began conducting individual district meetings with stakeholders including the judiciary, law enforcement, school systems and other community leaders to provide education and get local feedback on the legislation’s potential impacts. During these meetings, Deputy Secretary Lassiter described why the legislation was needed; provided details on each aspect of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act; discussed potential changes that may be needed in the law; and fielded questions and recommendations from attendees. At least one meeting will eventually take place in each of the state’s 30 juvenile court districts; two individual meetings in separate locations may be needed in larger districts.

Information gleaned during these meetings will be brought forward to the newly formed [Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee](#), which is tasked by statute with developing a specific implementation plan for raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction, monitoring implementation and as needed, and providing additional recommendations to the General Assembly. The JJAC’s inaugural meeting was held in December.

“Over the next two years of planning, training and then on through implementation, the commitment of our staff, partners, stakeholders and JJAC, to ensuring that Raise the Age is implemented properly – through necessary funding and other resources – will be critical,” said Lassiter. “The juvenile justice system as currently constituted is working for our children and communities, and I look forward to serving an expanded population of our children, for the long-term benefit of us all.”

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Initiated tracking of case consultations** provided to law enforcement officers seeking assistance or guidance in handling a juvenile in the community. This will enable Court Services to inform officers of calls received by juvenile justice from other officers on a juvenile under investigation.
- **Reopened** the newly renovated Lenoir YDC.
- **Provided trauma-focused services** to more than 90 youth through Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS), and to 29 youth through individual treatment using Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT). 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.
- **Reopened the Wayne County Multi-Purpose Group Home**, which closed the previous year following completion of repairs necessitated due to flooding damages incurred during Hurricane Matthew.
- **Installed a new dormitory at Eckerd Boomer**, and renovated the WestCare North Carolina Girls Academy.
- **Continued to work with schools employing resource officers** and school districts to prevent unnecessary complaints going to court through consultation, diversion services and special local initiatives such as school-based court counselors.
- **Introduced telehealth** to provide access to psychiatric care for juveniles to effectively and efficiently serve committed youth.
- **Implemented motivational interviewing (MI) training** for court counselor supervisors and designated court services staff to promote effective interviewing and engagement of youth and their families from intake throughout supervision.
- **Established that the fidelity of delivery** of the Model of Care (MOC) therapeutic intervention (through which direct care staff help juveniles in our YDCs acquire pro-social skills with guided rehearsal and coaching) has improved within YDCs. MOC training/fidelity management efforts in 2017 included training 131 employees; development of an online training course; and facilitation of a four-day training and planning session in Advanced MOC Supervision Management Training for YDC directors and facility operations leadership.
- **Five students from Stonewall Jackson YDC** participated in the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) Western Regional Math Fair; one student qualified for the state level NCCTM Math Fair and earned honorary mention.
- **Increased use of electronic monitoring via GPS** to more precisely monitor youth on an almost real-time basis. This effective tool offers a low-cost alternative to secure detention, allowing youth to remain in their communities.
- **Completed integration of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)**—a data-driven rating system used to evaluate the impact of juvenile justice programs on reducing recidivism—into all programming within Community Programs. This includes training, identification of primary services, and two quality of service evaluations for all JCPC, Level II Dispositional Alternatives, JCPC Alternatives to Commitment and state contracted programs.
- **As part of the Raise the Age initiative**, section staff are collaborating with the Justice Academy to revise Juvenile Law for Basic Law Enforcement Training.

JUVENILE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Through its Juvenile Community Programs Section, the Department of Public Safety works to provide North Carolinians with a comprehensive strategy to help 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.

Juvenile Community Programs consists of the following core components:

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Programs

are funded through a state and local partnership in all 100 counties. These partnerships produce almost 600 programs that create a local continuum of needed sanctions and services to address the issues of delinquent juveniles, those juveniles most likely to become delinquent, and their families.

Statewide Residential Contractual Services

are intensive, short-term residential services that include individualized treatment and academic plans that combine formal and experiential education, vocational education, community service, behavioral health and family counseling designed to address the youth's behavioral challenges. Residential contractual services include crisis and assessment centers; multipurpose and transitional group homes; and short-term residential.

Non-Residential Contractual Services

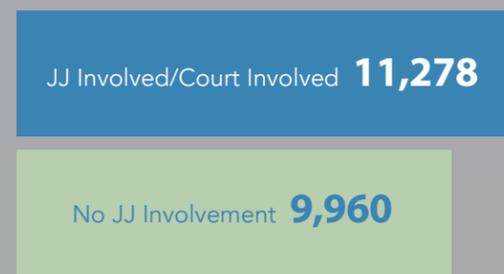
are additional services provided by contracted agencies, such as Functional Family Therapy, an evidence-based intervention for working with adjudicated youth and their families in a home-based dispositional alternative to a detention facility.

The combination of community-based services, evidence-based contractual services, and effective case management has been proven to be a winning cost-effective strategy in keeping communities safe in comparison to housing youth in youth development centers.

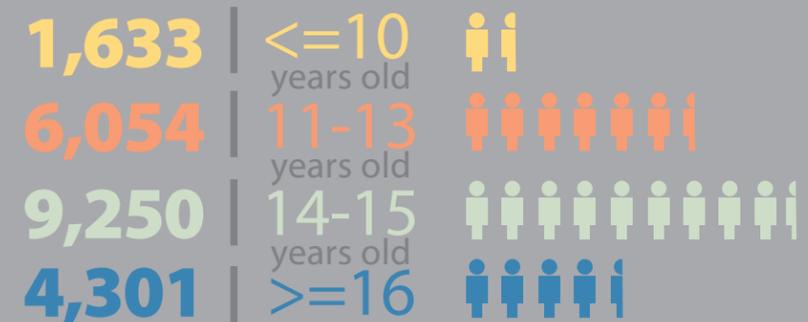
Juveniles Served in Community Programs



By Court Status



By Age



JCPC Youth Served by Program Type

Program Type	Youth Served
Restitution/Community Service	5,123
Interpersonal Skill Building	3,608
Teen Court	3,421
Juvenile Structured Day	1,327
Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	1,242
Parent/Family Skill Building	1,154
Assessments	1,015
Individual Counseling	783
Experiential Skill Building	703
Mentoring	649
Meditation/Conflict Resolution	530
Substance Abuse Counseling	301
Runaway Shelter Care	292
Family Counseling	223
Vocational Skills	203
Home-Based Family Counseling	191
Temporary Shelter Care	190
Sexual Offender Treatment	104
Group Counseling	75
Group Home Care	68
Specialized Foster Care	31
Temporary Foster Care	5
Total	21,238

Funding Source	Youth Served
JCPC Funds	21,238
Community-Based Contractual Services	597
JCPC Alternatives to Commitment Programs	111
Residential Contractual Services	674
JCPC Level II Dispositional Alternative	217
Total	22,837

Residential Program Type	Youth Served
Crisis and Assessment Centers (Bridges, Insight and Western Area Multipurpose)	278
Eckerd Short-Term Residential Program	201
WestCare Female Residential	55
Multipurpose Group Homes	109
Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes	31
Residential Total	674

JCPC Youth Served by Legal Status

Legal Status	Youth Served
Adjudicated Delinquent Disposition Pending	179
Adjudicated Undisciplined Disposition Pending	108
Commitment	26
Continuation Services	95
Court Counselor Consultation	389
Deferred Prosecution	506
Diversion Plan/Contract	4,215
Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)	1
N/A – No JJ Involvement	9,960
Petition Filed	559
Post Release Supervision	36
Probation	4,880
Protective Supervision	284
Total	21,238

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Juvenile Court Services provides intake and supervision services for undisciplined and delinquent juveniles within a continuum of services that affords care and control.

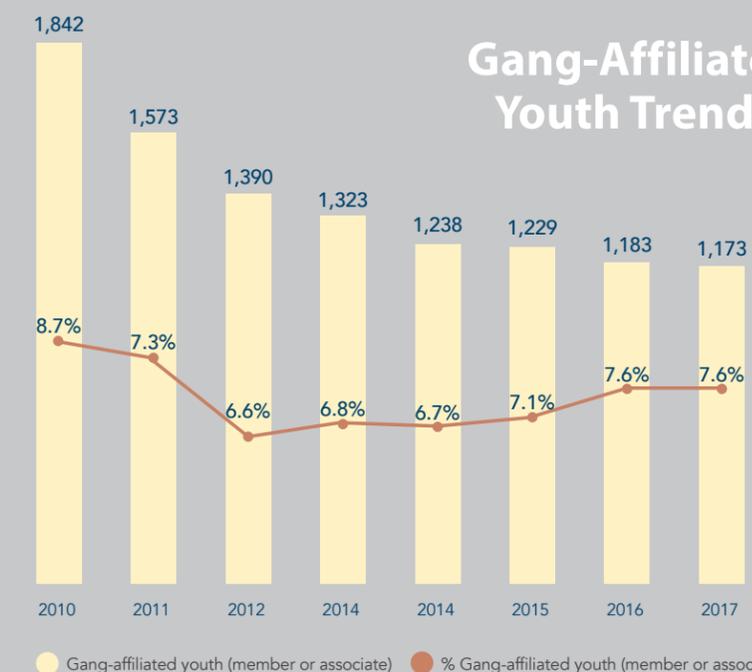
Juvenile Court Services staff members:

- provide consultations and guidance to law enforcement, parents and community agency staff regarding services available and legal processes that may be appropriate for an individual juvenile or situation in the community
- receive and process complaints alleging delinquent and undisciplined behavior by juveniles within the community;
- assess the risks and needs of the juvenile to serve community safety and the individual needs of the juvenile, and provide a foundation for service planning and referrals;
- recommend to judges the need for secure detention for juveniles being referred by law enforcement or who have violated terms of probation;
- divert from court and provide case management for those youth who present lower risk to the community and whose service needs can be met through referrals to community agencies and resources without formal court intervention;
- make recommendations to court based on assessments and other information gathered to guide the court in setting requirements as a part of the court orders at disposition;
- provide case management as part of supervision for youths on probation to assure the delivery of appropriate services while assuring compliance with court orders;
- and provide aftercare, case management and post-release supervision to juveniles returning to the community following a commitment to a youth development center.

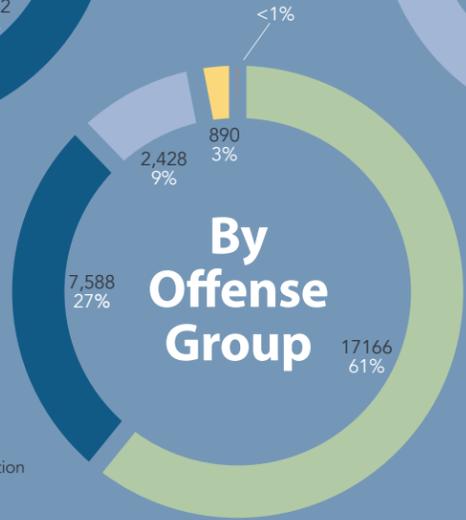
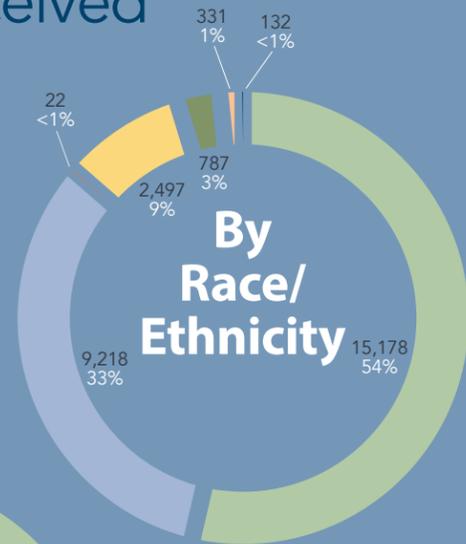
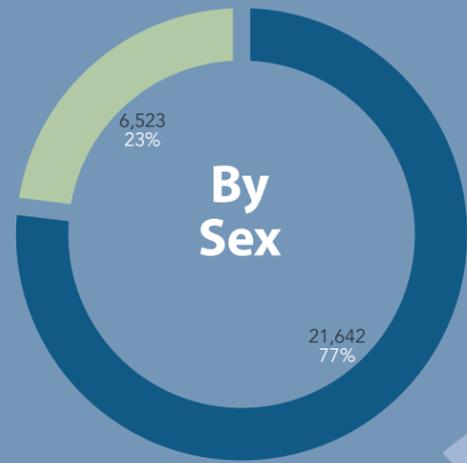
Juvenile Offenses and Complaints

Top 10 Juvenile Offenses of 2017		
Offense		Complaints
(M) misdemeanor	(F) felony	
Simple Assault (M)		2,903
Larceny (M)		1,934
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)		1,304
Break or Enter a Motor Vehicle (F)		1,291
Breaking and/or Entering (F)		1,154
Simple Affray (M)		1,044
Communicating Threats (M)		871
Injury to Real Property (M)		828
Truant < 16 (Status)		825
Larceny after Breaking or Entering (F)		698

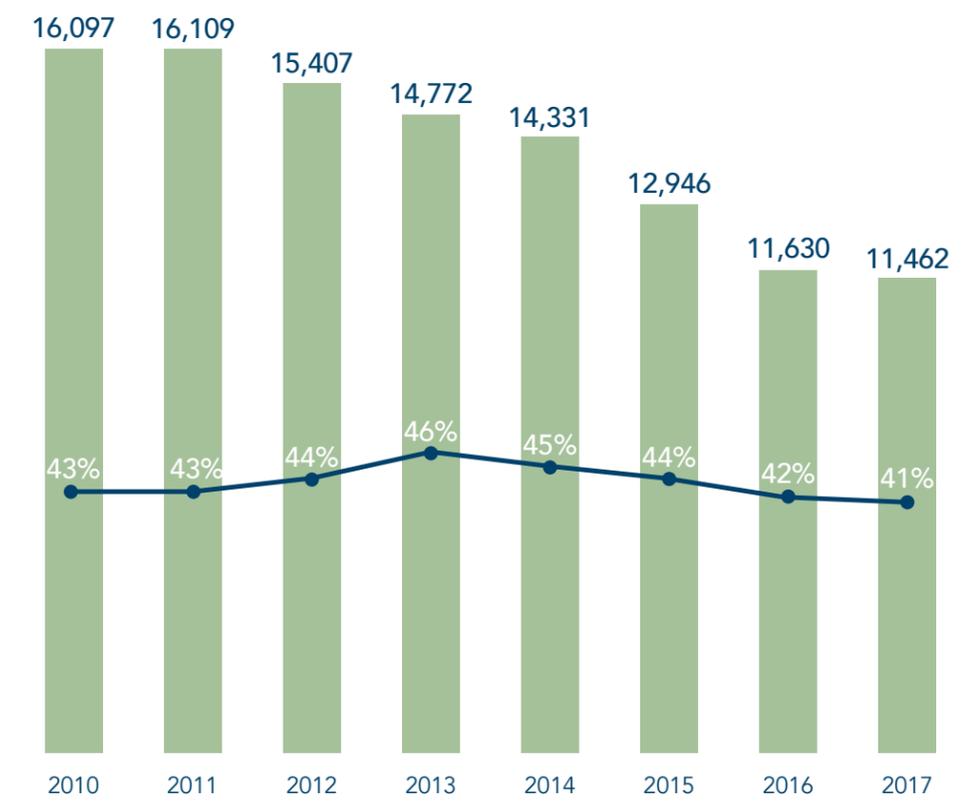
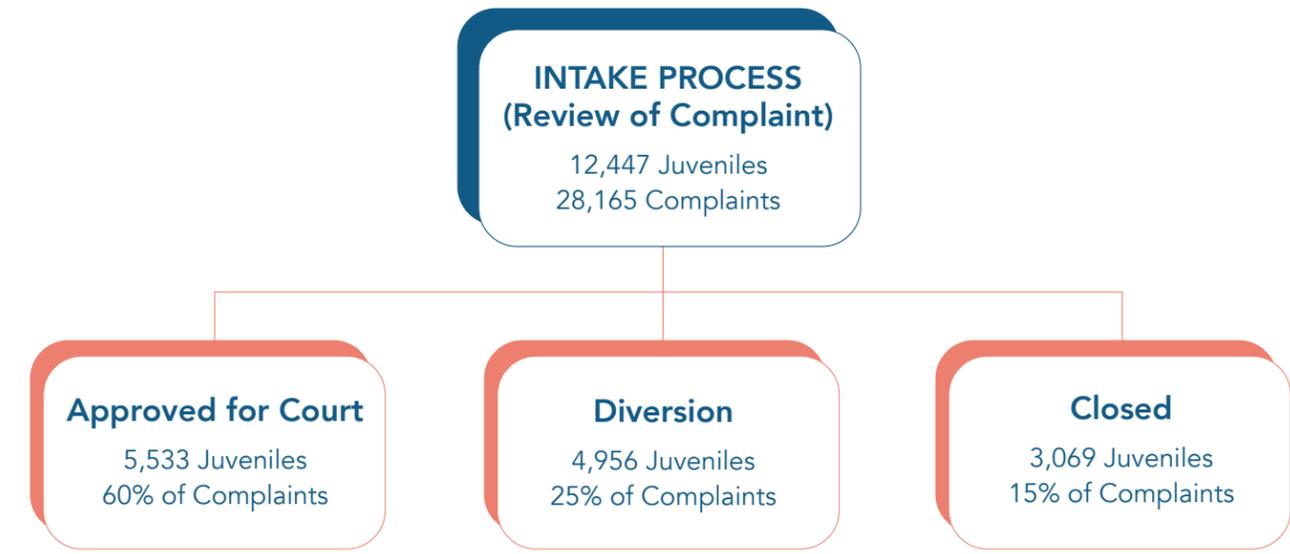
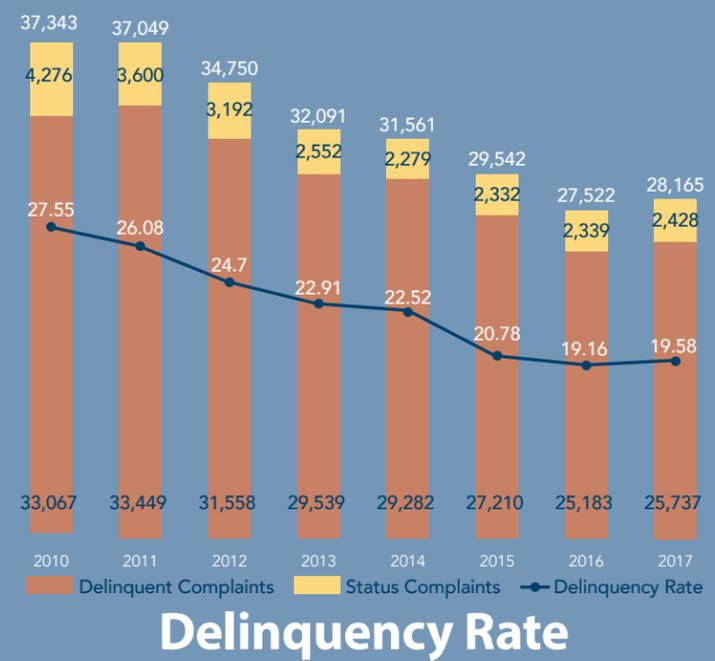
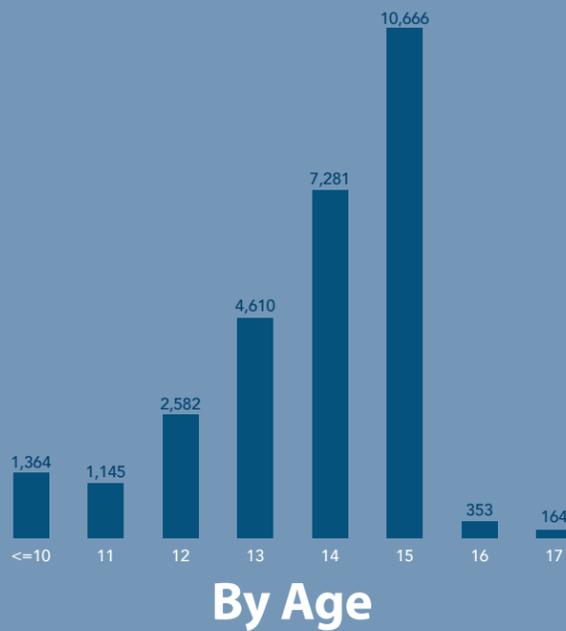
Top 10 School-Based Offenses of 2017		
Offense		Complaints
(M) misdemeanor	(F) felony	
Simple Assault (M)		1,729
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)		1,303
Simply Affray		955
Truant < 16 (Status)		784
Communicating Threats (M)		601
Larceny (M)		524
Weapons on Educational Property/Aid (M)		406
Assault Government Official/Employee (M)		380
Simple Possession Schedule VI		352
Assault School Employee/Volunteer		302



Complaints Received



- Female
- Male
- Minor
- Serious
- Status
- Violent
- Infraction



Percentage of School-Based Complaints

JUVENILE FACILITY OPERATIONS

Juvenile Facility Operations operates two types of secure centers for youths in North Carolina: juvenile detention centers and youth development centers.

Juvenile Detention Centers

temporarily house youths alleged to have committed a delinquent act or to be a runaway. Youth 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 in a local residential or treatment service, or in a youth development center.

Youth Development Centers

are secure facilities that provide education and treatment services to prepare committed youth to successfully transition to a community setting. 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

Child Nutrition

Youth development centers and juvenile detention centers participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Juvenile Nutrition Services features a team of professionals assigned to the Central Office that work to ensure compliance with federal and state nutrition standards and menu-planning approaches. This team works collaboratively with center food service supervisors and their staff along with center directors and other staff to ensure optimal nutritional outcomes for youth. Youth's nutritional literacy is targeted as an education goal while promoting healthy food consumption at the centers.



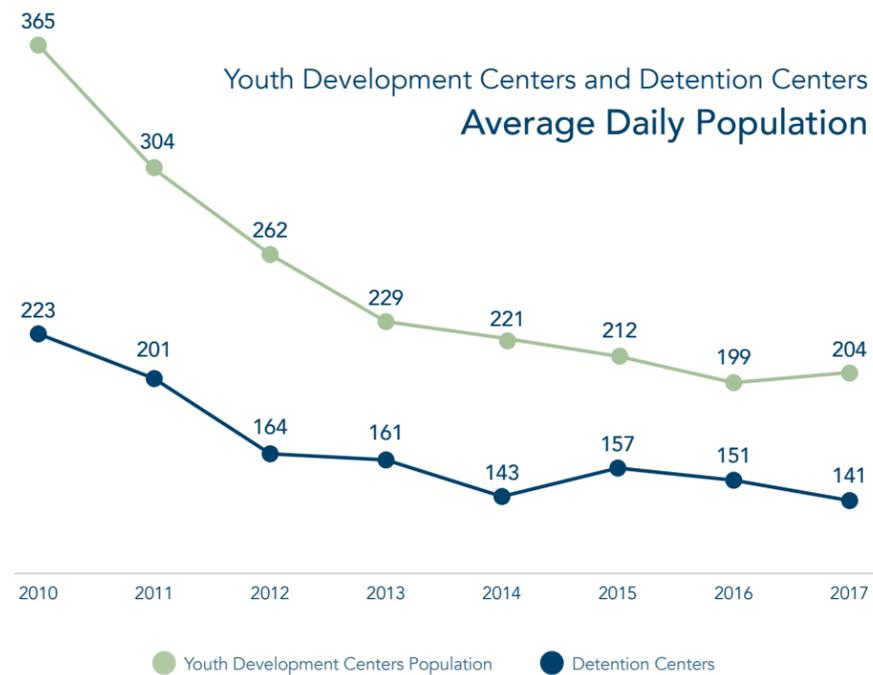
Medical

Juvenile Health Services is dedicated to meeting the health and health education needs of the youth in our juvenile justice facilities. Professional medical staff screen and assess youth upon admission, develop healthcare plans and provide appropriate interventions and/or follow-up that may include referral for specialty assessment and intervention. Oversight and management of health care services in juvenile justice facilities are provided by supervisory medical staff assigned to the Central Office. These staff are responsible for health care services evaluation, problem identification, solution recommendations and the facilitation of needed changes and supports to provide positive health outcomes for youth. Guidance to center staff also focuses on the provision of appropriate health education and health skill development, acknowledging that adolescence is a unique and critical stage of human development. Health literacy and competence is a pervasive focus.

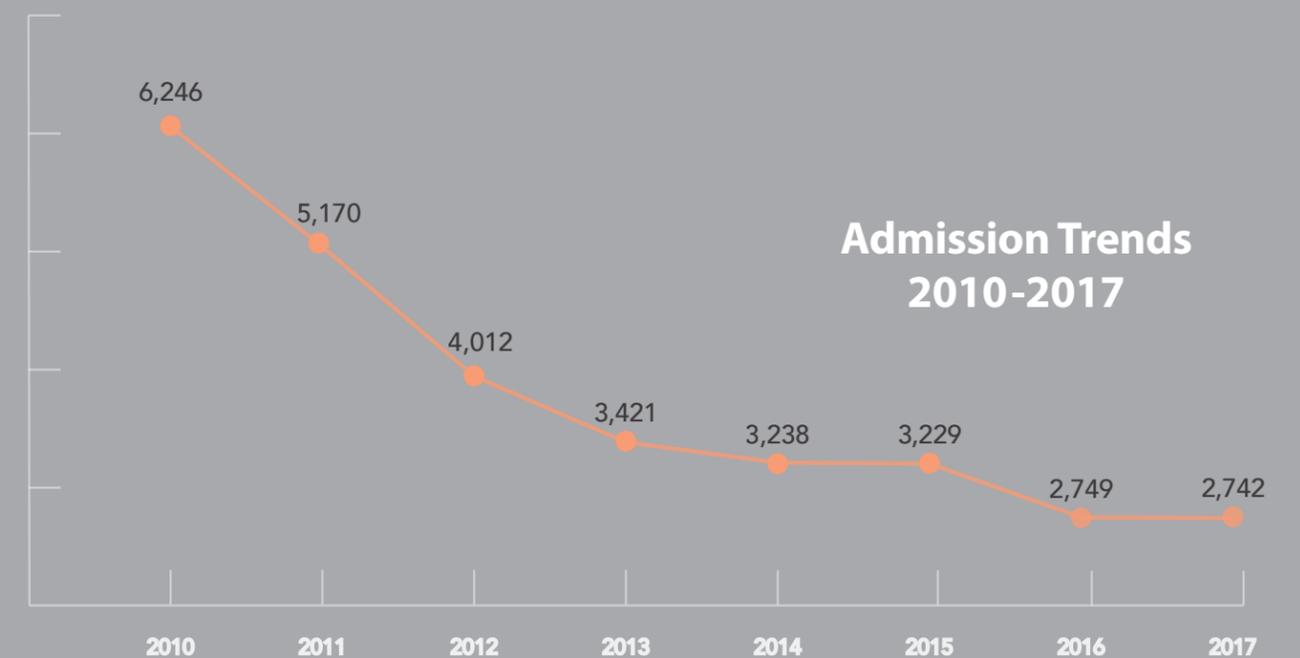
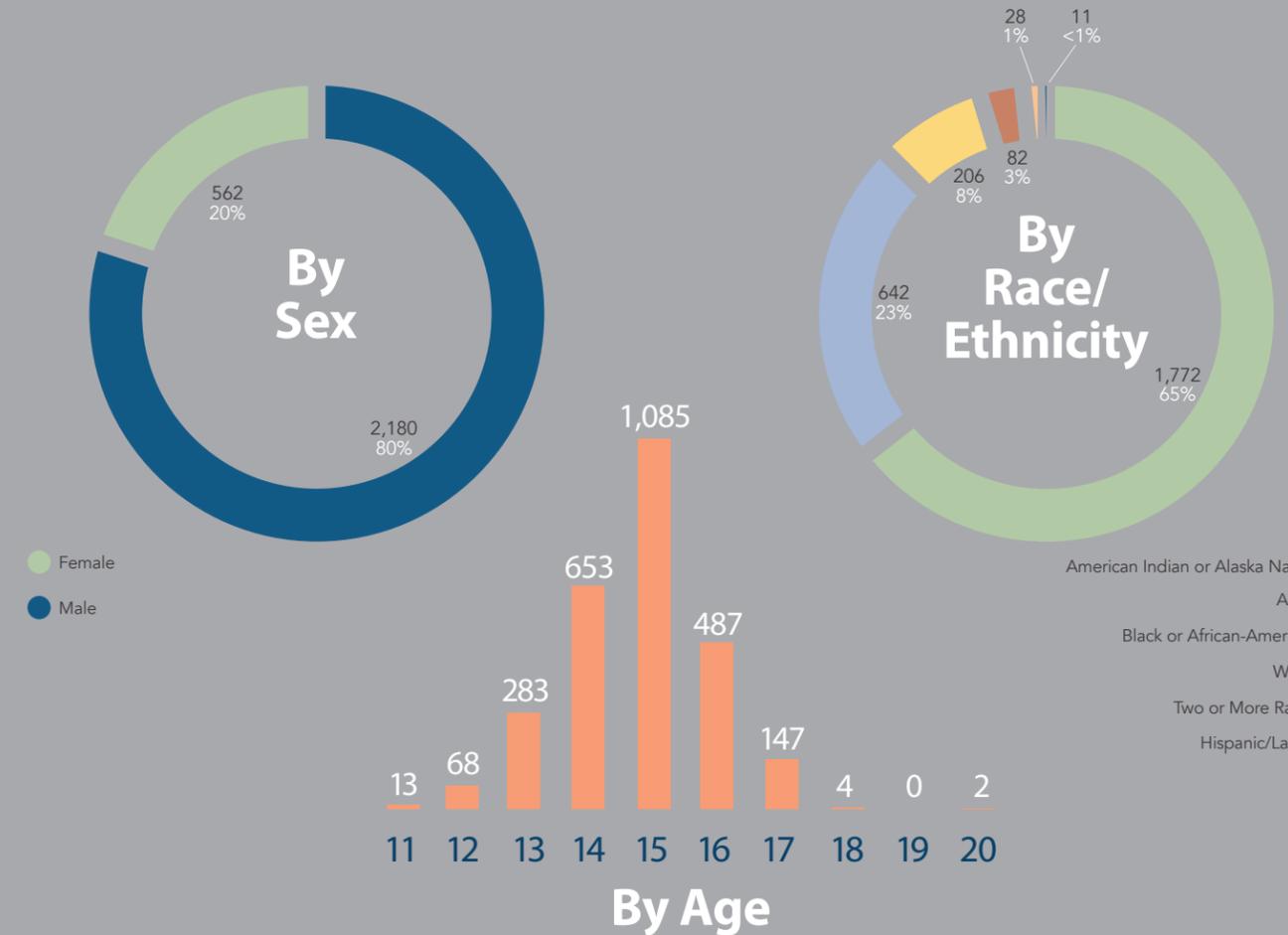
Juvenile Facilities in North Carolina

Facility Types	Funding Source	Capacity	ADP
Youth Development Centers	Chatham	32	26.0
	Dobbs/Lenoir*	44	27.9
	Edgecombe	44	26.7
	Stonewall Jackson	128	101.6
	Alexander	24	19.23
Juvenile Detention Centers	Cabarrus	30	27.38
	Cumberland	18	13.45
	New Hanover	18	13.8
	Pitt	18	14.15
	Wake	24	14.75
County-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Durham	14	8.84
	Guilford	44	29.86

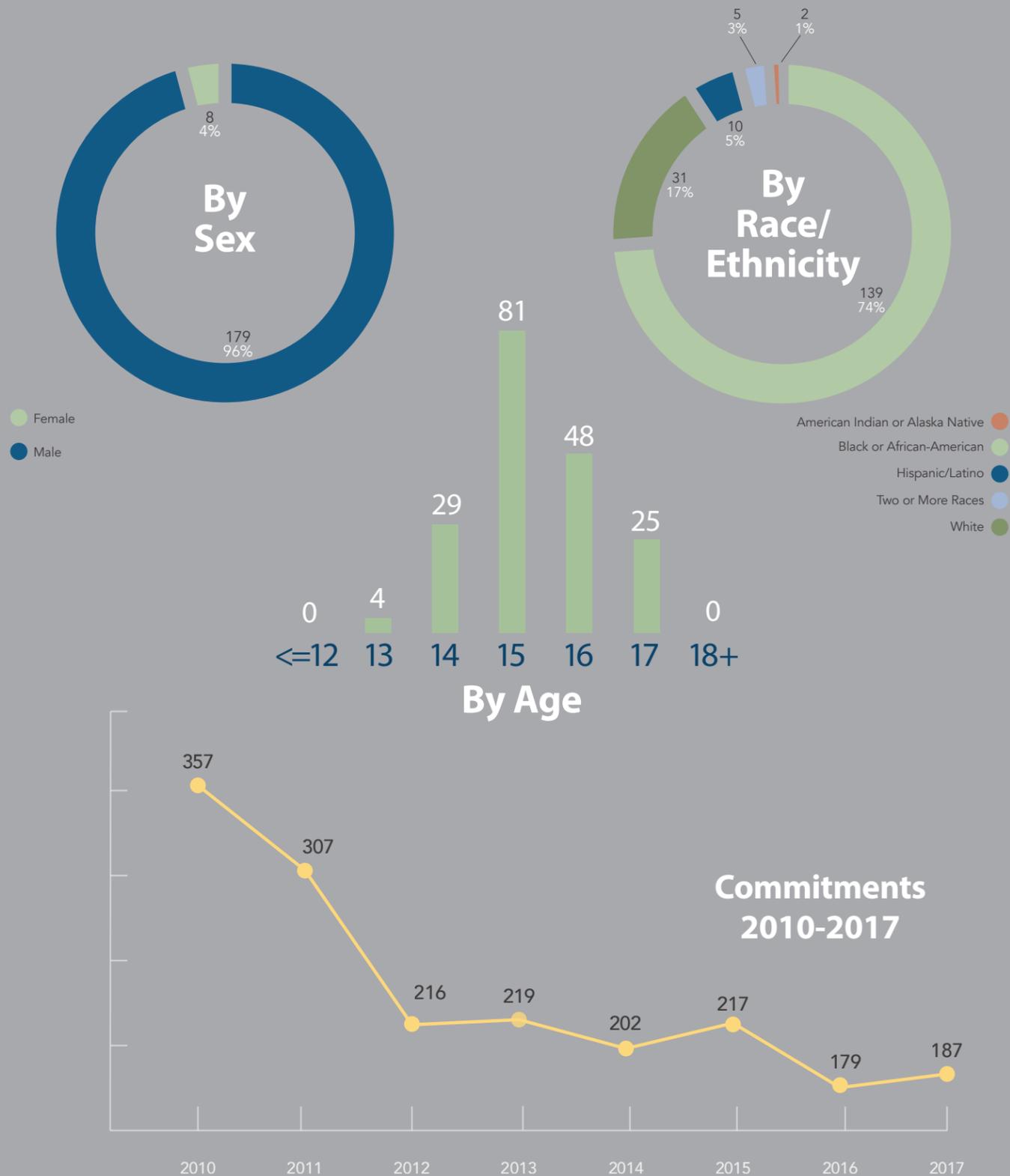
*Dobbs closed at 12:59 pm on May 15, 2017. Lenoir opened at 1 pm on May 15, 2017.



Detention Center Admissions



Youth Development Center Commitments



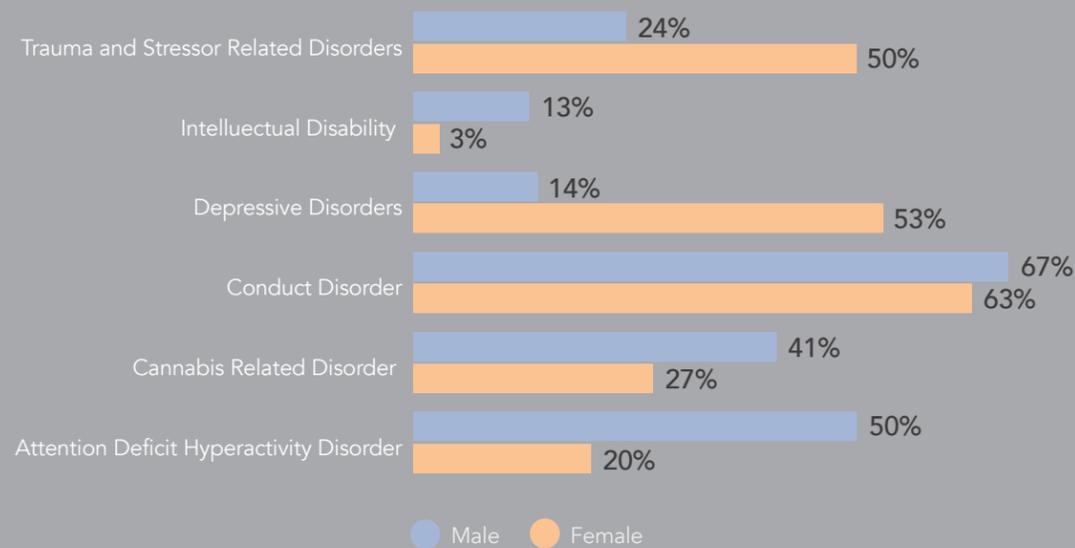
CLINICAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Clinical Services and Programs ensures appropriate clinical treatment and youth development interventions for youth served in juvenile justice facilities and programs.

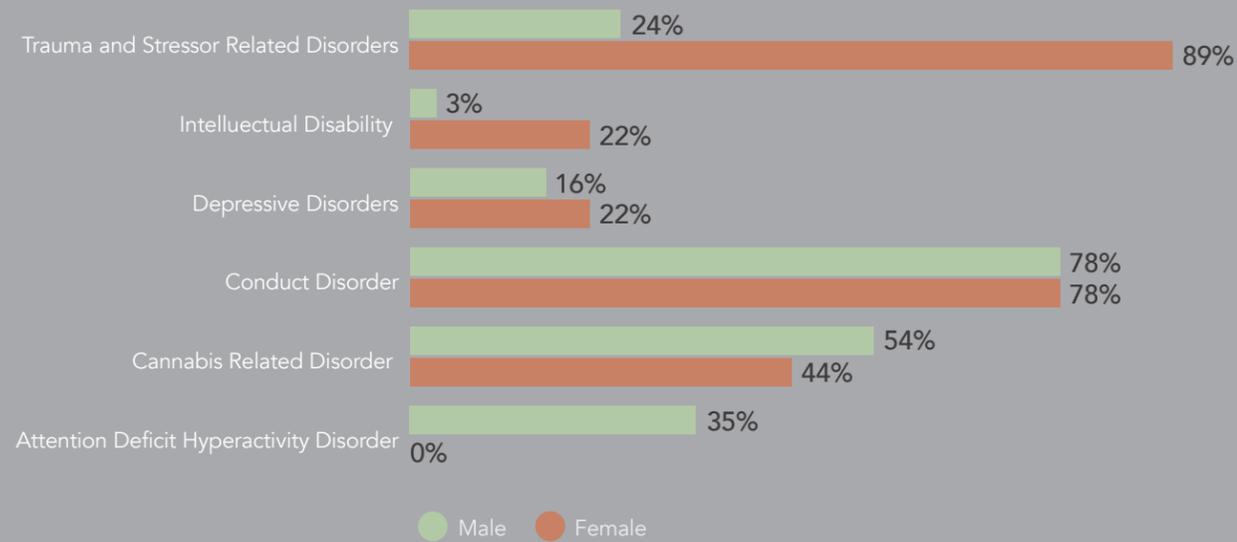
Clinical treatment/programming includes mental health, substance use, recreational, spiritual and case management services:

- 100 percent of committed youth had at least one mental health or substance use diagnosis in 2017.
- 72 percent of committed youth had more than one diagnosis.
- Committed youth had an average of three distinct mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnoses. Approximately 43 percent of committed youth were prescribed psychotropic medication in 2017.
- Of those with substance use disorders, 99 percent had a co-occurring mental health disorder. This indicates that when a committed youth has an substance use disorder (SUD), he/she almost invariably has a mental health disorder (MHD).
- Of those with a mental health disorder, 55 percent had a co-occurring substance use disorder.

Community Programs Population Mental Health Diagnoses



Youth Development Center Population Mental Health Diagnoses



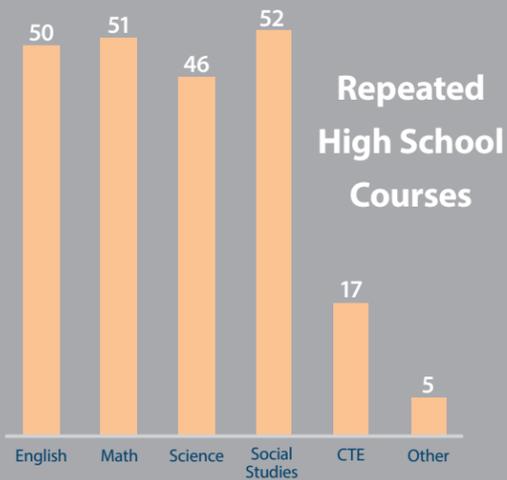
EDUCATION

Monitored and supported areas include Curriculum and Instruction, Exceptional Children’s Services, Student Support Services and Teacher Quality/Professional Development

Juvenile Education Services (JES) features a team of qualified professionals assigned to the Central Office. They provide administrative oversight and support to school principals, licensed teachers and other school educational staff to ensure quality educational services and adherence to state and federal guidelines and requirements. Monitored and supported areas include Curriculum and Instruction, Exceptional Children’s Services, Student Support Services

and Teacher Quality/Professional Development. This team works collaboratively with staff at the youth development centers, juvenile detention centers and contracted community residential programs to ensure optimal education and re-entry outcomes for youth. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) provides programmatic consultation and guidance to JES Central Office staff.

Education in Fall Semester of 2017

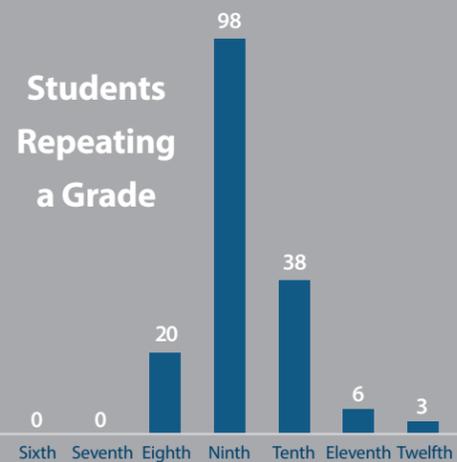


40% of courses taken were repeated.

Approximately 40 percent of the courses in which students were enrolled during the 2017 fall semester had been failed by the students in their previous school setting.

Credits Earned by Content Area

During the fall semester of 2017, 84 percent of the high school courses in which students were enrolled had been successfully passed.



47% of students were repeating a grade level.

Juvenile Justice education staff work to identify the gaps in a student's education to help build critical foundational skills to support grade-level promotion and graduation. During the fall semester of 2017, approximately 47 percent of students were repeating a grade-level.

HiSET Results



20% of population were HSE students.

During the 2017 fall semester, approximately 20 percent of students in YDCs were enrolled in a high school equivalency (HSE) program focused on preparing them to obtain their HSE certificate by passing five content area sub-tests of the HiSET exam. To meet the minimum standards for obtaining a HSE certificate, students must score at least 8 points on the reading, math, science and social studies tests, at least 2 points on the writing test and have a combined score of at least 45 points. To be identified as College and Career Ready (CCR), the student must score at least 15 points on the reading, math, science and social studies tests, and at least 4 points on writing test.

JUVENILE REENTRY SYSTEM REFORM GRANT

Communities in Schools Reentry to Resilience (R2R) Pilot Program.

The R2R pilot program consists of a program of enhanced reentry services focusing on educational and career success for juvenile justice-involved youth returning to their home communities from confinement YDCs and short-term residential facilities. Following OJJDP approval, a sole source contract was established with Communities in Schools (CIS) in mid-March.

Since that time, CIS hired and trained two Youth Development Specialist Coordinators; developed a juvenile-justice-specific program and training handbook addressing the educational and vocational needs of reentering and transitioning youth in state custody; and developed a local resource map, contacts and a knowledge of the reenrollment processes within the pilot districts of Wake, Durham, Cumberland and Guilford counties. The R2R program began working with youth in the summer of 2017, and by year's end, was serving 41 youth: 21 in the YDC Commitment Phase of the program, five within the 90 Days Pre-Release Phase of the program, and 15 in the Post-Release Phase of the program.

Juvenile ReEntry System Reform Grant *continued*

Grant Baseline Outcomes Data Analyses.

The Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) is assisting Juvenile Justice measure the impact of the work with youth by analyzing data from multiple sources, with an eventual aim to include employment, education, health and behavioral health data service utilization databases in such analyses.

1. Completed development of the baseline dataset consisting of 927 youth leaving youth development centers (YDCs) and juvenile justice-funded short-term residential programs in FY 12-13 and 13-14.
2. Completed recidivism analysis output on 927 juveniles served in YDCs and juvenile justice-funded short-term residential programs through matching of juveniles with data entries in CJ LEADS.
3. Submitted Memoranda of Agreement to GDAC for its use in brokering data-sharing agreements with DHHS-DMH and DPI.

Construction of Typologies of Youth.

The Research Triangle Institute (RTI), with assistance from SAS, is examining data from all youth involved in our system since 2011 to determine what characteristics of youth cluster together within our population. Once identified, these clusters (or “typologies”) will lead to examination of whether certain types of program and services are more effective for some typologies than others. This will allow for development of a service matching system that will identify the types of programs that most effectively and efficiently meet each youth’s unique treatment needs, based on how youth with similar profiles have responded to programs in the past. Progress made in 2017 includes identification of data elements for inclusion in analyses; development of technical requirements for analysis files; and preparation of data files for analysis. Typology development will begin in early 2018.

Service Directory.

SAS, in partnership with the GDAC, spent much of 2017 assisting with the development of an electronic directory of the services and programs that address the criminogenic needs of juvenile justice-involved youth and their families. In 2017:

- Electronically and manually resolved tens of thousands of records.
- Developed a unique service directory classification system (SDCS) – with 227 program types and a corresponding data dictionary for each class – through adaptation of the Association of Information and Referral Services (AIRS) Taxonomy.
- Rolled out SDCS to staff via six regional trainings; field staff together classified more than 5,000 program records using the SDCS.
- Developed the program entry template for the Service Directory; taught staff through regional trainings how to use the template and offered ongoing technical assistance as service directory program entries were completed for more than 1,800 programs.
- Finalized program data following review and imposition of data quality procedures.
- Began importing Service Directory records into NC-JOIN’s program assignments section.
- Began development of User Interface business requirements to incorporate Service Directory program records into NC-JOIN.
- Community Programs participated in two phases of the Reentry Service Directory project whereby all consultants and contract managers provided over 600 entries on active programs to the database.

Family Engagement.

In 2017, the subcommittee continued its review of current policies and practices along the juvenile justice continuum to develop recommendations for improving family engagement. New partners joined the subcommittee, including representatives from Pinnacle Family Services and Alliance Disability Advocates. The focus of the subcommittee’s work has been on the following:

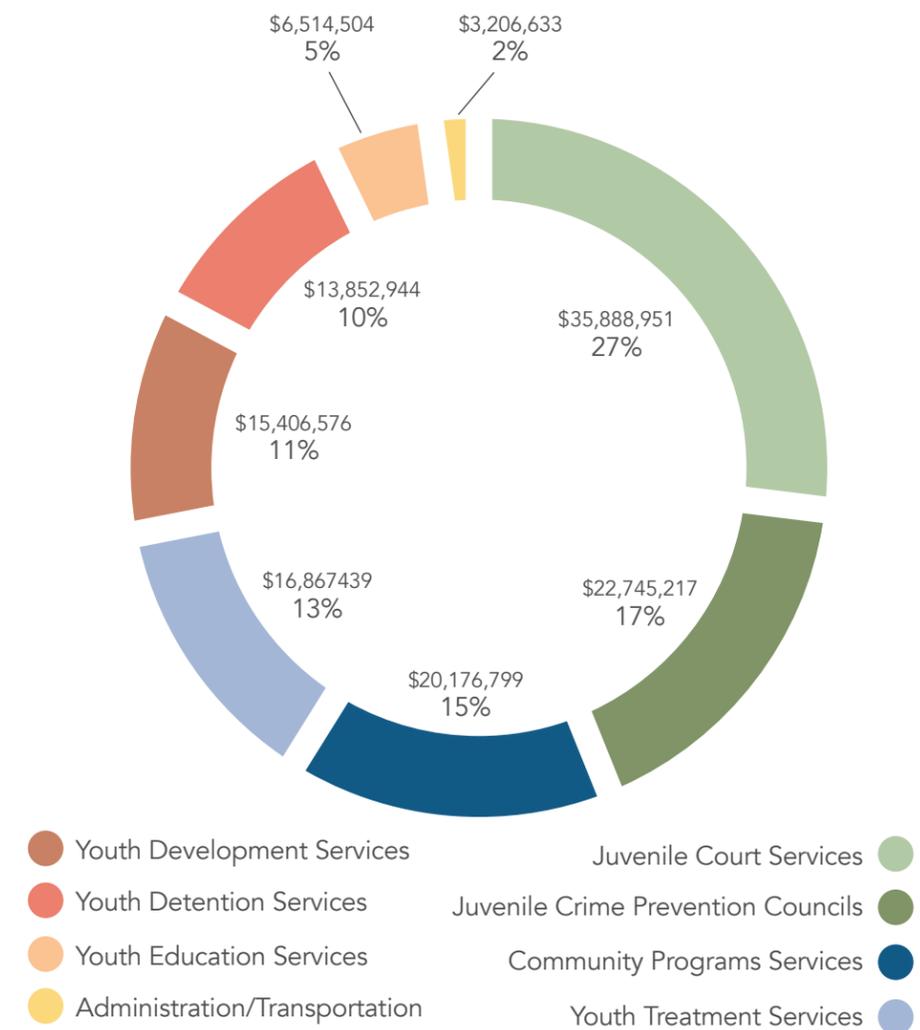
- Development of a reentry handbook for youth and parents that contains information to prepare youths for transition to the community, discusses barriers they may face, outlines their rights and provides resources and contact information for assistance. The handbook discusses education, employment, housing, healthcare and expungement of a juvenile record, and is designed to be distributed to youth and parents during the reentry planning period.
- Needs of Juvenile Justice-involved LGBT youths. The subcommittee is considering the need to address protections for LGBT youths involved in the juvenile justice system through training, education and policy.
- The policy committee will continue to review YDC policy to look for areas where family engagement can be incorporated into YDC policy.
- Drafting a family engagement curriculum to be used to train juvenile justice staff.

ADMINISTRATION, POLICY, TRAINING, AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Section	Juvenile Justice Employees	
	Total Number of Staff	Number of Criminal Justice Certified Staff
Community Programs	23	—
Court Services	535	451
Facility Services (includes Education/Health/Clinical)	672	541
Transportation Services	52	16
Administration	12	—
Total	1,294	1,008 or 77%

JUVENILE JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS

Juvenile Justice Appropriations 2016-2017





Juvenile Justice Central Office

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Director Juvenile Community Programs:
Cindy Porterfield

Director Juvenile Facility Operations:
Jim Speight

Director Juvenile Court Services:
Michael Rieder

Director Juvenile Clinical Services and Programs:
Dr. Jean Steinberg

Director of Juvenile Education Services:
Adam Johnson

For additional information, please visit our website at: <https://www.ncdps.gov/juvenile-justice>