



# JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM BASICS



## **Big picture**

**Intake and diversion**

**Court processing**

**Dispositional alternatives**

**Residential Settings**

**Mental Health and JJ**



BIG PICTURE

# Who is eligible

## Offenses at 8 and 9

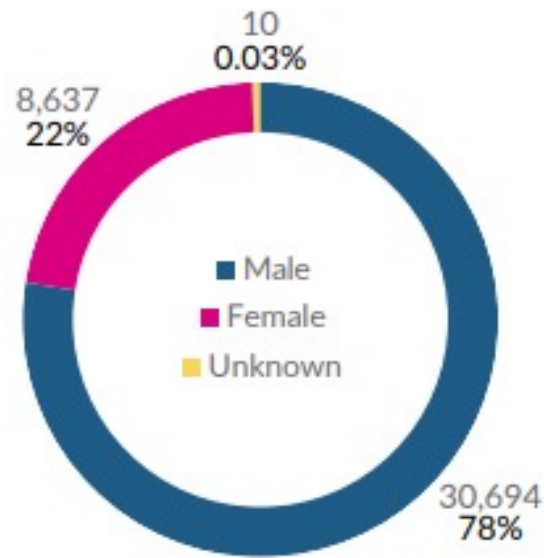
- A – G felony or any offense if previous adjudication

## Offenses at 10 - 15

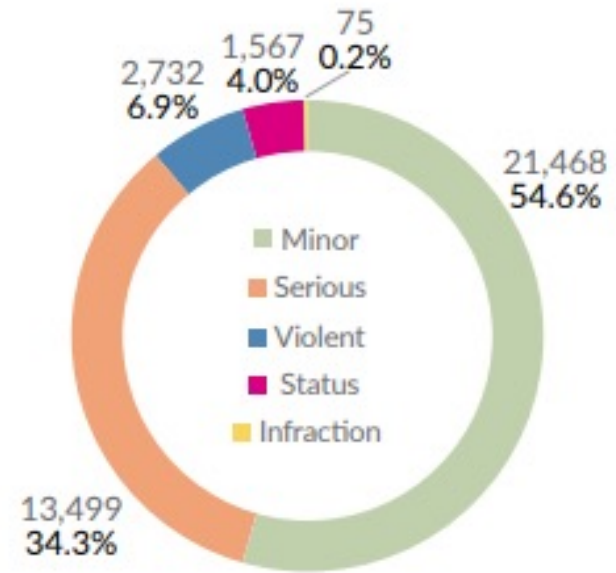
- Everything

## Offenses at 16/17

- F – I felonies and misdemeanors
- No motor vehicle offenses
- A – E felonies could be sent to juvenile court from superior court



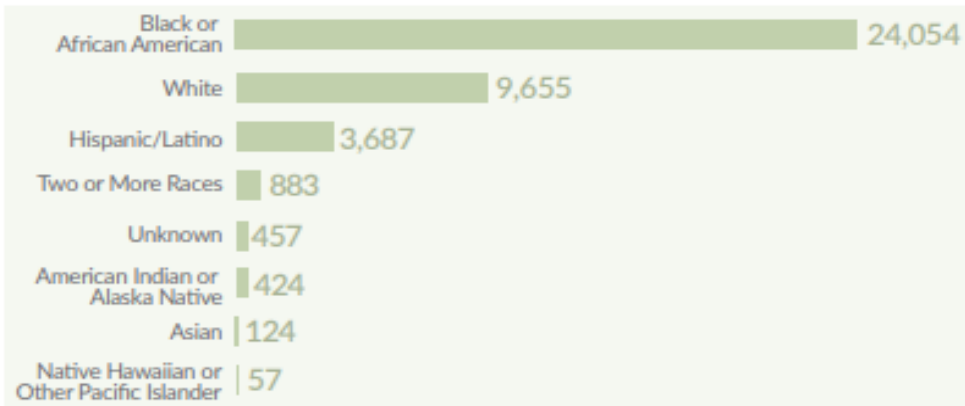
Complaints Received by Sex



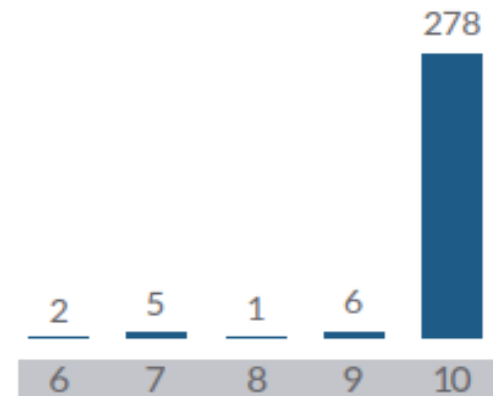
Juvenile Crime and Offenses

# WHO IS ACTUALLY INVOLVED

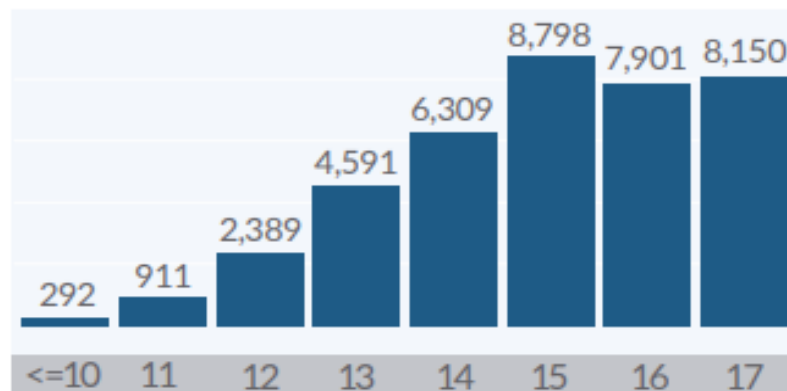
All data in this presentation are from the NC Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 2023 Annual Report available at <https://www.ncdps.gov/division/juvenile-justice/2023-jjdp-annual-report/download?attachment>



Complaints Received by Race/Ethnicity




Complaints Received by Age <=10





**CIVIL CASES  
WITH  
CRIMINAL LAW**



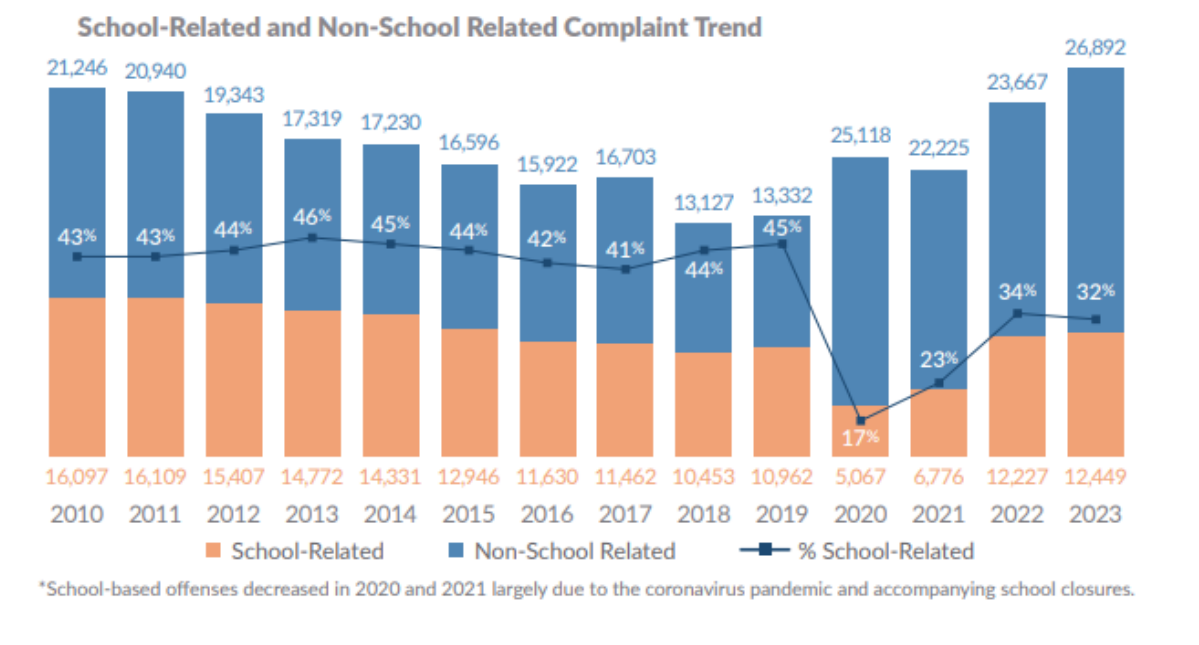
**CASES CAN MOVE  
FROM JUVENILE  
TO CRIMINAL  
AND/OR FROM  
CRIMINAL TO  
JUVENILE**



A photograph showing two hands clasped together on a wooden surface. The hand on the left is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. The hand on the right is wearing a dark, long-sleeved sweater with horizontal stripes. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "MOST YOUTH REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY, SOME ARE IN SECURE SETTINGS" is overlaid in white, bold, uppercase letters on the right side of the image.

**MOST YOUTH REMAIN  
IN THE COMMUNITY,  
SOME ARE IN SECURE  
SETTINGS**

# SCHOOLS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE



# SCHOOLS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Top 10 School-Based Offenses: CY 2023

Charged Offense	Complaints
(M) misdemeanor (F) felony (S) status offense	
Simple assault (M)	2,477
Simple affray (M)	1,371
Disorderly Conduct at School (M)	1,132
Communicating threats (M)	675
Possession of weapons other than firearms and explosives on school grounds (M)	659
Truant < 16 (S)	596
Simple possession schedule VI controlled substance (M)	393
Communicating Threat of Mass Violence on Educational Property (F)	355
Assault government official / employee (M)	319
Disorderly Conduct by engaging in fighting or other violent conduct or in conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence (M)	272



# The Players

- Prosecutor (District Attorney)
- Attorney for the juvenile
- The juvenile as respondent (and decision maker)
- The parent, guardian, or custodian of the juvenile
- Court counselors (DJJ)



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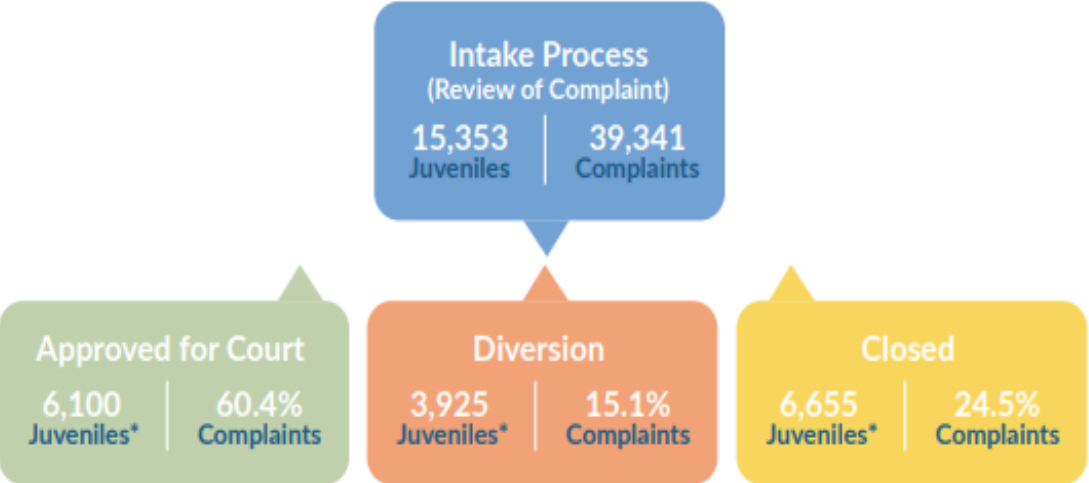
**Mental Health and JJ**

# Intake

1. Complaint to court counselor
2. Some must be filed as petitions in court, most can be closed, diverted, or approved for filing



# INTAKE





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# Preliminary Procedures

- **First appearance**
- **Probable Cause**
- **Capacity issues may be raised**
- **Discovery and negotiations may occur**

# ADJUDICATION

Is the juvenile responsible for the charged offense(s) beyond a reasonable doubt?

# DISPOSITION

What should happen as a result of the adjudication?

## **Post - Disposition**

- Violation hearings**
- Other motions for review**
- Termination of probation**
- Termination of jurisdiction**



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# Range of Dispositional Options

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**No disposition (dismissal)**

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**DSS custody**

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**Probation supervision (with terms and conditions)**

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**Community service**

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**Restitution**

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**Days in detention**

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**Out of home non secure settings**

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**Secure juvenile facilities**



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Detention    Secure (cells that lock, barbed wire fencing)

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Intended to be short-term

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Education

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Nurse

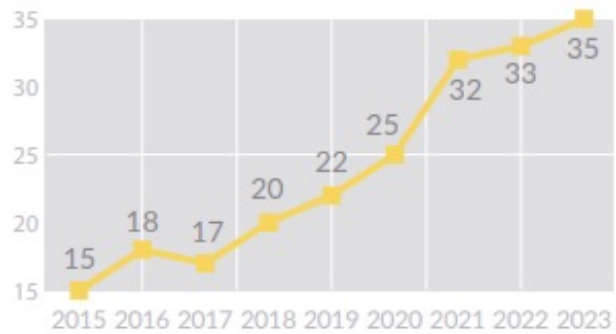
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Outdoor rec space

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Average Length of Stay in Detention (Days)  
CY 2015-2023



Detention Average Length of Stay (Days) - CY 2023

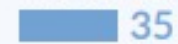
Transfers to Superior Court



Non-Transfers to Superior Court



All Detention Exits



A group of approximately ten people, mostly women, are standing in a line on the steps of a yellow house with white trim and dark shutters. They are wearing various jackets and sweaters. The house has a small porch with a white railing. The background shows green foliage.

**MULTIPURPOSE GROUP HOMES,  
TRANSITIONAL RESIDENTIAL HOMES,  
CRISIS AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS**

# ECKERD PROGRAMS



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTERS



Facility Type	Facility	Capacity	Average Daily Population
Youth Development Centers	Cabarrus	64	62.0
	*Chatham	24 32	28.5
	Edgecombe	44	42.4
	*Lenoir	22 32	27.0
State-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	Alexander	24	32.1
	Cabarrus	62	71.8
	Chatham	8	7.4
	Cumberland	18	23.9
	*Dillon	35 45 47 70	50.1
	*Dobbs/Lenoir	22 12	16.4
	New Hanover	18	22.2
	Pitt	18	24.2
	Richmond Jenkins	24	5.3
	Wake	24	26.9
County-Operated Juvenile Detention Centers	*Brunswick	12 10	9.8
	Durham	14	12.6
	Foothills	15	8.7
	Guilford	44	32.4
	*Madison	19 25	28.6

\*Facilities indicating multiple capacity counts throughout 2023 reflect 1) changes from YDC to DC beds, 2) openings/closures due to staffing, renovation, or other operational needs.



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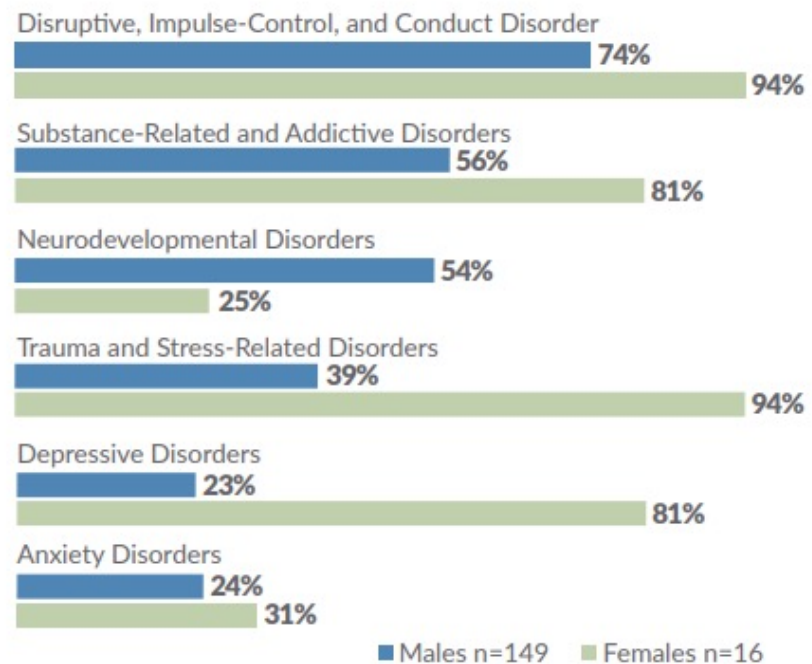
**Dispositional alternatives**

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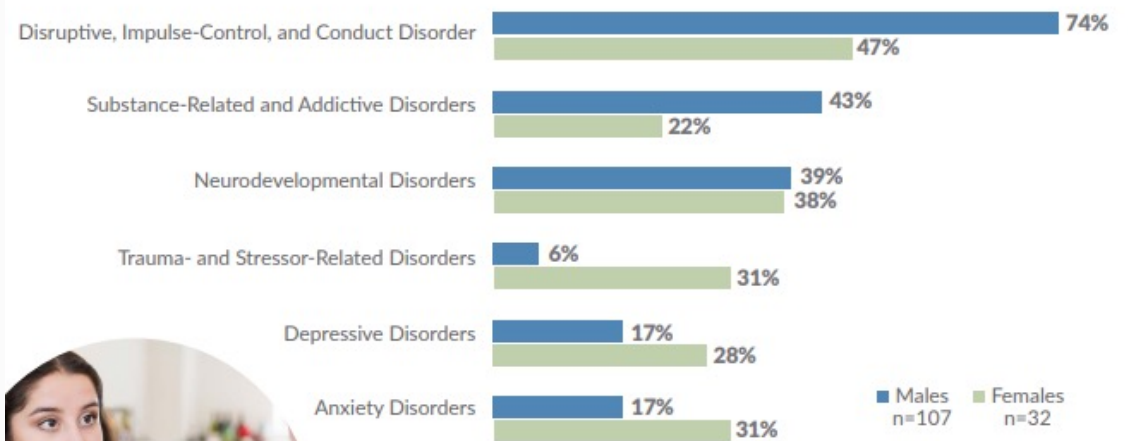
# SIGNIFICANT MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AMONG JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

**Most Prevalent Diagnostic by Percentage of the 2023 YDC Population**



# SIGNIFICANT MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AMONG JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

## Most Prevalent Diagnostic with the Contract Residential Population





# Trauma and Juvenile Justice

- 2/3 justice-involved youth have complex histories of trauma “including exposure to neglect, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, family and community violence, traumatic losses, and disrupted relationships with primary caregivers.”
- Complex Trauma Treatment Network of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (2016). Complex trauma: In juvenile justice-system involved youth. Los Angeles, CA, & Durham, NC: National Center for Child Traumatic Stress  
([file:///I:/jacqui22/teaching/Adolescent%20health%20law%20conference/complex\\_trauma\\_in\\_juvenile\\_justice\\_system\\_involved\\_youth.pdf](file:///I:/jacqui22/teaching/Adolescent%20health%20law%20conference/complex_trauma_in_juvenile_justice_system_involved_youth.pdf))



# Contact Information

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