

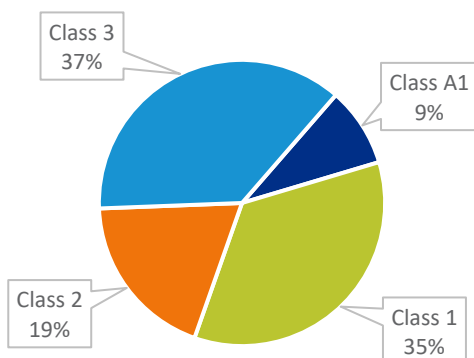
QUICK FACTS: MISDEMEANOR CONVICTIONS

FEBRUARY 2022

FISCAL YEAR 2021

- ⇒ During FY 2021, 81,276 sentences for misdemeanor convictions (including 26,412 for Class 2 and Class 3 traffic offenses) were imposed under Structured Sentencing. FY 2021 is the second year in which Class 2 and 3 traffic convictions were included.
- ⇒ The volume of misdemeanor convictions continued to decline as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⇒ The majority (37%) of misdemeanor convictions were for Class 3 offenses.
- ⇒ Most misdemeanor convictions were for either a traffic offense (38%) or a property offense (18%).
- ⇒ 24% of convictions resulted in an Active punishment.

Offense Class Distribution



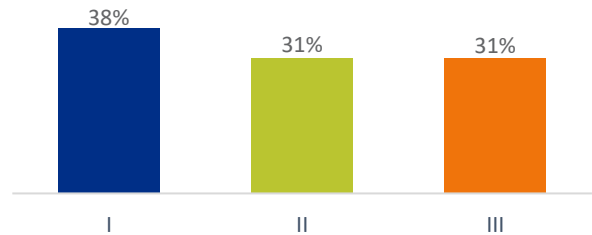
Convictions by Type of Offense

Type of Offense	N	%
Person	7,664	10
Property	14,675	18
Drug	14,024	17
Public Order	13,233	17
Traffic	30,396	38

Offender Characteristics

- The majority of misdemeanor offenders were male (73%).
- 51% of offenders were White, 39% were Black, 6% were Hispanic, 2% were Native American, and 2% were Other.
- The average age of offenders was 35.
- 38% of convictions were for offenders in Prior Conviction Level I (i.e., offenders with no prior convictions).

Prior Conviction Level Distribution



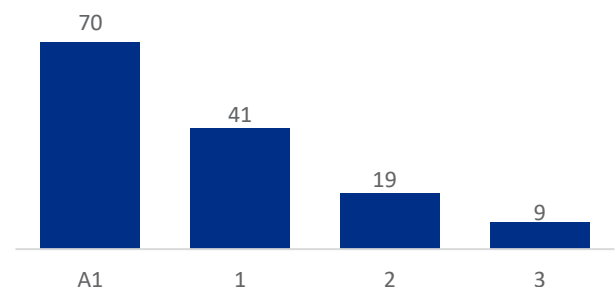
Top 5 Misdemeanor Convictions

Offense	Class	N
DWLR Non-DWI Rev.	3	10,636
Larceny of Property	1	7,509
Possess Drug Paraphernalia	1	5,513
Reckless Driving to Endanger	2	3,665
Assault on a Female	A1	3,263

Punishment

- 24% of misdemeanor convictions resulted in an Active punishment, 2% resulted in an Intermediate punishment, and 74% resulted in a Community punishment.
- Convictions for Class A1 misdemeanors accounted for the highest percentages of Active sentences imposed relative to other offense classes (36%).
- The average Active sentence length was 34 days.
- 86% of offenders with Active sentences received credit for time served.

Average Active Sentence
by Offense Class (in Days)

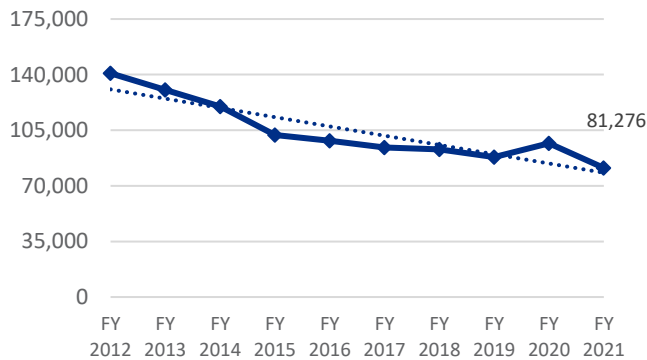


QUICK FACTS: MISDEMEANOR CONVICTIONS

FISCAL YEAR 2012 – FISCAL YEAR 2021

In FY 2021, there were 81,276 misdemeanor convictions (including 26,412 for Class 2 and Class 3 traffic offenses). From FY 2019 to FY 2020, the inclusion of Class 2 and 3 traffic convictions resulted in a 10% net increase in misdemeanor convictions. However, as a result of the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the court system, misdemeanor convictions declined 16% from FY 2020 to FY 2021 (from 96,812 to 81,276).

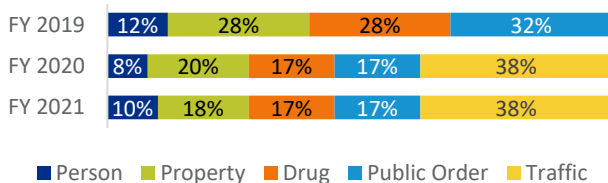
Total Misdemeanor Convictions



Note: Misdemeanor convictions in FY 2012 – FY 2019 exclude Class 2 and 3 traffic offenses. FY 2020 and FY 2021 misdemeanor convictions include Class 2 and Class 3 traffic offenses.

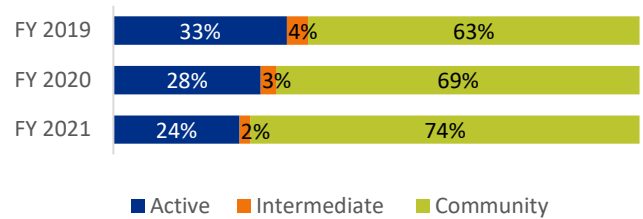
The composition of misdemeanor convictions by offense type has changed substantially with the addition of Class 2 and Class 3 traffic offenses in FY 2020, with traffic offenses now making up the majority (38%). Previously, public order and property offenses comprised most of the misdemeanor convictions.

Type of Offense



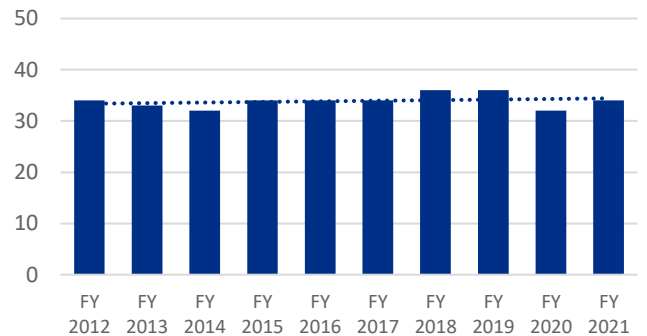
With the addition of Class 2 and Class 3 traffic misdemeanors in FY 2020 and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the distribution of punishment type has shifted. The percentage of Active punishment imposed decreased from 28% in FY 2020 to 24% in FY 2021, while the percentage of Community punishments imposed increased over this period.

Type of Punishment Imposed



The average Active sentence imposed for all misdemeanor convictions has been relatively stable over the past ten years, ranging from a low of 32 days (FY 2014 and FY 2020) to a high of 36 days (FY 2018 and FY 2019).

Average Active Sentence (in Days)



Active sentences imposed equal to credit for time served remained the same from FY 2020 to FY 2021 (73%). For those convictions where an active sentence equaled time served, the average time served increased from 21 days in FY 2012 to 26 days in FY 2021.

Note: The following categories of misdemeanor convictions are excluded: driving while impaired offenses; cases disposed of by a magistrate; and local ordinance offenses. Figures in this publication generally exclude misdemeanor convictions that did not fit within the appropriate cell in the Misdemeanor Punishment Chart. SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2012 – FY 2021 Statistical Report Data

NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission
 PO Box 2448 | Raleigh, NC 27602
 (919) 890-1470

The Honorable Charlie Brown, Chairman
Michelle Hall, Executive Director

For the NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's *Structured Sentencing Statistical Report for Felonies and Misdemeanors* and all other publications, see the Commission's website: www.NCSPAC.org.