

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER POPULATION PROJECTIONS: FISCAL YEAR 2021 TO FISCAL YEAR 2025

INTRODUCTION

North Carolina General Statutes §§ 164-40(b) and 164-42.1(b) direct the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission to develop a computerized simulation model to be used to prepare Youth Development Center (YDC) population^{1,2} projections and to help assess North Carolina's long-term resource needs for juvenile dispositions. The projections are prepared in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety's Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (DACJJ). The computer simulation model used to project the juvenile population relies on empirical information about how juveniles are processed through the juvenile justice system using data extracted from the North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN), DACJJ's juvenile management information system.

RAISE THE AGE AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC

For the current projection, two major factors (one expected and one unexpected) played a role in the development and accuracy of the projection: the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA) and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2017, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the JJRA.³ Beginning December 1, 2019, the JJRA increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction so that most 16- and 17-year-olds (hereinafter RtA population) facing criminal charges may have their cases disposed through the juvenile justice system rather than the adult criminal justice system.⁴ In addition, the JJRA included other provisions intended to affect who comes in contact with the juvenile justice system, such as school-justice partnerships designed to reduce school-based referrals to juvenile courts and juvenile justice training for law enforcement officers.⁵

The changes to the juvenile justice system due to the JJRA were expected to have an impact on YDC admissions, YDC releases, and length of stay (LOS) – all critical factors in projecting the YDC population. It was anticipated that raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction would increase the number of youths in the juvenile justice system by adding a new population of 16- and 17-year-olds and by extending the number of years available for youth (juveniles 15 years and younger) to be under the jurisdiction of the

¹ Pursuant to G.S. 7B-2513(a), a court exercising jurisdiction over a juvenile for whom a Level 3 disposition is authorized may not commit the juvenile to DACJJ for placement in a YDC unless the youth is 10 years old or older.

² Throughout this document, any reference to the YDC population includes juveniles on-campus and off-campus (e.g., home visit, community commitment, hospitalization, escape).

³ North Carolina Session Law (hereinafter S.L.) 2017-57, s. 16D.4. Additional information can be found at: https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/inline-files/JuvenileReinvestmentFactSheet_05012017.pdf.

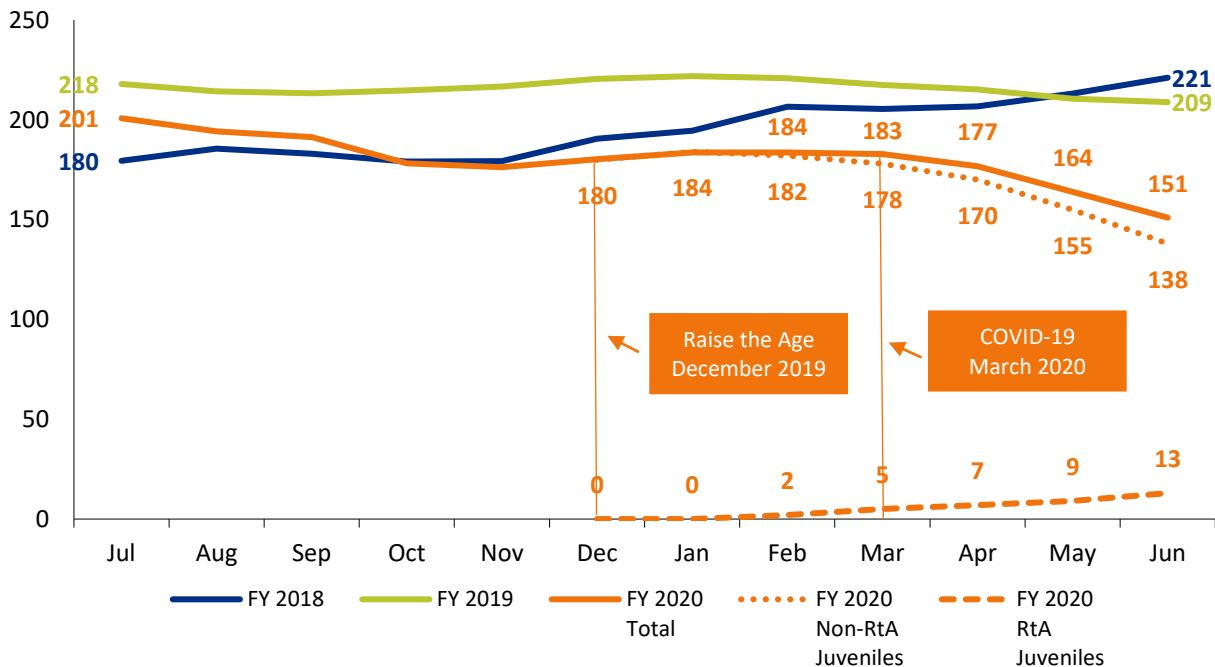
⁴ The increase in the age of juvenile jurisdiction applies to 16- and 17-year-olds at the time of their alleged offense who have no prior adult convictions and are charged with Class H or Class I felonies or non-motor vehicle misdemeanors. This change in jurisdiction applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2019.

⁵ S.L. 2017-57, s. 16D.4.(aa) and (bb).

system; however, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the juvenile justice system stalled the anticipated JJRA impact.

Overall, delinquent dispositions decreased by 21% from FY 2019 to FY 2020. Dispositions for juveniles 15 years or younger (hereinafter non-RtA) decreased 27% from FY 2019 to FY 2020 due primarily to the pandemic. RtA juveniles accounted for 7% of dispositions after the JJRA implementation; however, the extent of the impact of the pandemic on the RtA population is unknown. Figure 1 examines the average monthly YDC population for the three most recent fiscal years and by RtA populations for FY 2020. It also shows the impact the pandemic had on the YDC population, with the non-RtA population decreasing from March to June and the RtA population increasing slowly during the same time period. Two primary responses to the pandemic that affected juvenile complaints and dispositions were the closure of schools, a major referral source for juvenile complaints, and changes in courthouse operations. While some of these institutions have fully reopened (virtually and/or in-person), the pandemic continues to affect the juvenile justice system into FY 2021 and will likely impact the accuracy of the projections.

Figure 1
Average Monthly YDC Population by Fiscal Year and by Raise the Age



SOURCE: NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

YDC POPULATION PROJECTIONS AND CAPACITY

The Sentencing Commission prepared YDC population projections for all non-RtA juveniles adjudicated delinquent and disposed on or after July 1, 2020 (new population) and for all juveniles committed to a YDC as of June 30, 2020 (YDC stock population), the beginning of the current projection period. The combined projections consider the decline of the stock population and the increase in the new YDC population (new YDC commitments that occur through the imposition of a Level 3 disposition or as a result of a probation violation or a revocation of post-release supervision (PRS)). The projected population of RtA juveniles is based on a partial year of delinquent dispositions and a partial year of adult convictions since these youth were represented in both adult and juvenile systems during FY 2020. Table 1 shows the projected YDC population and capacity over the five-year projection period. YDC capacity was provided by DACJJ. The YDC population is predicted to be 169 for FY 2021 and 235 for FY 2025.⁶ A comparison of the projections with YDC capacity indicates that the projected YDC population will be within available YDC capacity during all projection years. The YDC stock population was 151 on June 30, 2020, and 150 on December 31, 2020.⁷

The current projection is lower than the previous projection because of an increase in the rate of YDC releases, a decrease in YDC admissions, and a decrease in the YDC stock population as the starting point for the projections. Substantial changes (i.e., the pandemic) from year to year on key components of the projections (e.g., admissions, releases, and LOS) can affect their accuracy. To account for the impact of the pandemic on the projections, an adjustment was made to the first and second year of the projection period based on the decrease in juvenile dispositions from FY 2019 to FY 2020.

Figure 2 illustrates the historical accuracy of the first year of the juvenile resource projections for the previous five projections in relation to the actual minimum and maximum YDC populations for each fiscal year. Given the small population of juveniles in YDCs and the substantial fluctuations in the population over the course of the year, the accuracy of the juvenile projections is assessed by examining the projected population within the context of the lowest and highest YDC populations over the fiscal year. Ideally, the projection should be closer to the highest population of the fiscal year. In examining the projections since FY 2016, the projected YDC population was typically within the range of the lowest and highest YDC populations for any given fiscal year.

⁶ Separate housing units are required for male and female juveniles. Of the projected YDC beds needed for each year of the five-year projections, 92% are for males.

⁷ North Carolina Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice's *Committed Youth Report* (2020).

Table 1
Youth Development Center (YDC) Population Projections and Capacity

Fiscal Year	YDC Population as of June 30 ⁸				YDC Capacity ^{10,11,12}	Difference between Current Projection and Capacity ¹³
	Previous Combined Projection	Non-RtA Juvenile Justice Population	RtA Juvenile Justice Population	Current Combined Projection ⁹		
2021	230	143	71	169	226	57
2022	236	147	83	205	226	21
2023	244	146	84	230	321	91
2024	247	146	85	231	321	90
2025	N/A	148	87	235	321	86

Note: Prepared in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety's Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

⁸ Juveniles on-campus and off-campus (e.g., home visit, community commitment, hospitalization, escape) are included in the projections.

⁹ An adjustment based on the decrease in delinquent dispositions was applied to FY 2021 and FY 2022 to account for the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

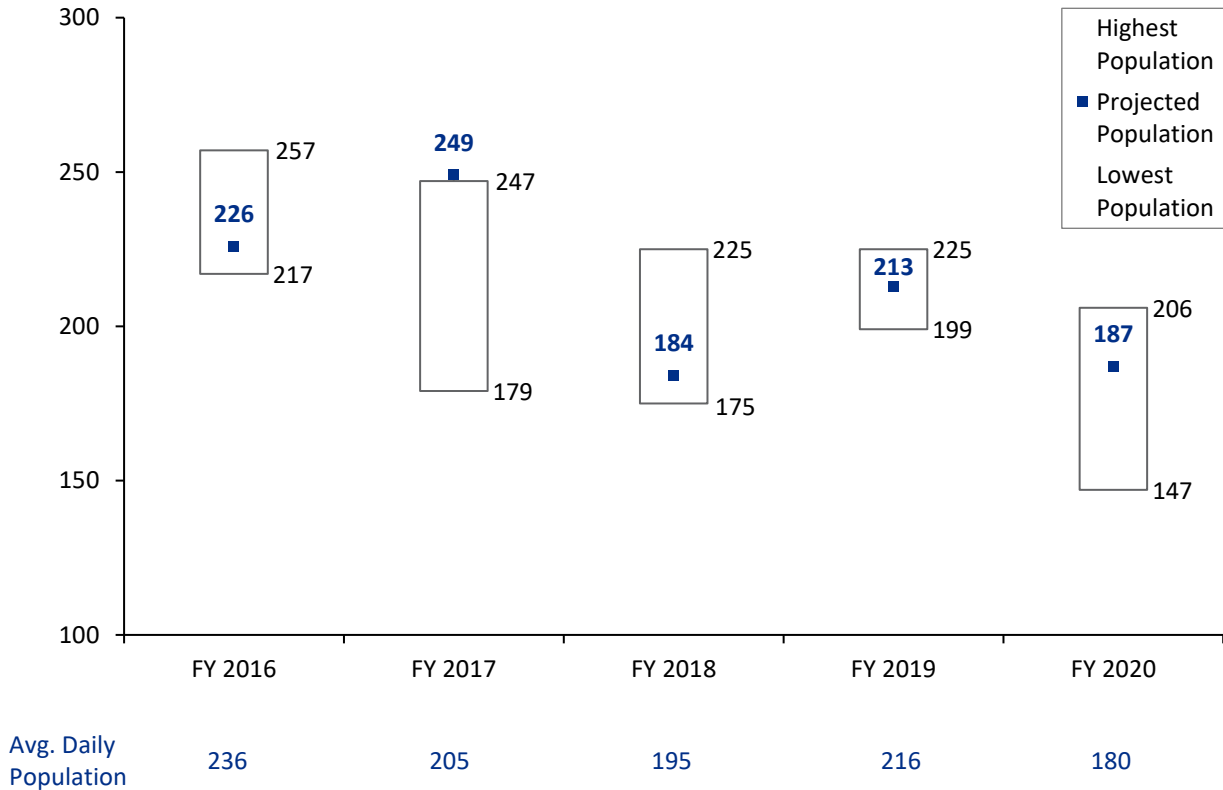
¹⁰ YDC capacity is contingent on staffing patterns to meet required ratios. It does not include community commitment placements or transition step-down beds, which are alternatives to YDC placement for some juveniles in this population, for all or part of commitment.

¹¹ Thirty-five renovated beds are scheduled to open on the C.A. Dillon campus in December 2022, representing only 6 months of availability during FY 2023, to be used either for detention or commitment purposes.

¹² Per S.L. 2017-57, a new YDC will be constructed (Section 36.2 (d)) and is expected to open in March 2023. This 60-bed facility is designed to allow for flexible use of housing units, either for detention or commitment purposes.

¹³ Positive numbers indicate that the current projected population is lower than capacity, while negative numbers indicate that the current projected population is higher than capacity.

Figure 2
A Comparison of the Actual Minimum and Maximum Population with the Projected YDC Population
FY 2016 to FY 2020 Projections



Note: YDC population figures (projected and actual) include juveniles on-campus and off-campus (e.g., home visit, community commitment, hospitalization, escape).
 SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission; NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

ASSUMPTIONS

The projections are based on the assumptions provided in Table 2 that were determined using empirical data from the most recent fiscal year (FY 2020) with a few noted exceptions and are assumed to remain throughout the five-year projection. The estimate for the number of RtA juveniles under juvenile jurisdiction originates from both juvenile disposition and adult conviction data and assumes that juveniles will be equally likely to receive an adjudication as an adult conviction. The growth rates are

based on census projections for North Carolina’s youth population,¹⁴ juvenile justice indicators,¹⁵ and the implementation of the JJRA beginning in 2019.

Table 2
Assumptions for the FY 2021 to FY 2025 Projections

	Non-RtA Juvenile Justice Population	RtA Juvenile Justice Population
Growth Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% in Year 1 • 0% in Year 2 • 0% in Year 3 • 1% in Year 4 • 1% in Year 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% in Year 1 • 0% in Year 2 • 1% in Year 3 • 2% in Year 4 • 2% in Year 5
YDC Admission Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of all YDC admissions resulted from a delinquent complaint • 40% from a probation violation • 10% from a revocation of PRS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumed same YDC admission type as non-RtA juveniles
Lag-time¹⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 months for probation violations • 5 months for PRS revocations 	Five-year (FY 2016 to FY 2020) averages applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 months for probation violations • 5 months for PRS revocations
Level 3 Dispositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% in CY 2020
YDC Length of Stay¹⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 months for all adjudicated juveniles 	Five-year (FY 2016 to FY 2020) averages applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 months for juveniles with a Serious (Class H-A1) offense • 7 months for juveniles with a Minor (Class 1-3) offense
COVID-19 Adjustment <i>(applied to current combined projection)</i>	Applied based on the decrease in dispositions from FY 2019 to FY 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21% estimated for Year 1 • 11% estimated for Year 2 	

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission; NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Although the five-year projections account for the increase in the age of juvenile jurisdiction, the projections assume no other changes in judicial or prosecutorial behavior. In addition, the projections do not incorporate any potential increases or decreases in the YDC population due to budgetary or policy-driven changes implemented by DACJJ and/or other agencies that provide services for juveniles.

¹⁴ www.demog.state.nc.us (2020).

¹⁵ In FY 2016, the rate of delinquent complaints was 21 per 1,000 juveniles compared to a rate of 15 per 1,000 in FY 2020 for non-RtA juveniles, with overall declines noted since the late 1990s (DACJJ). The rate of delinquent complaints for RtA juveniles was 44 per 1,000 juveniles in FY 2020 after the JJRA implementation. From CY 2014 to CY 2018, overall arrests for index crimes committed by non-RtA juveniles decreased 40%, while overall arrest rates for index crimes committed by RtA juveniles decreased 17% from CY 2017 to CY 2018 (*Crime in North Carolina – 2018*, State Bureau of Investigation, <http://crimereporting.ncsbi.gov>). Overall, delinquent complaints (Class A-I felonies and Class A1-3 misdemeanors) decreased 27% from FY 2016 to FY 2020. Delinquent complaints for non-RtA juveniles decreased 4% from FY 2019 to FY 2020, while RtA juveniles accounted for 26% of the increase in delinquent complaints from FY 2019 to FY 2020. (DACJJ).

¹⁶ Median values were used to account for the time between probation violation or PRS revocation and commitment to a YDC.

¹⁷ Average YDC LOS was used for juveniles committed to a YDC for a new adjudication, a probation violation or a revocation of PRS.

COMPONENTS OF YDC POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The Juvenile Disposition Chart (see Table 3), the empirical data from the latest available fiscal year (for non-RtA and RtA juveniles), and the June 30, 2020 YDC stock population form the basis of the five-year resource projections and are detailed in the following sections.

FY 2020 Juvenile Delinquent Dispositions

This section highlights the information on the 2,535 delinquent dispositions in FY 2020,¹⁸ including offense classification, delinquency history level, and disposition level.¹⁹ The court’s selection of dispositional alternatives is governed by statute through a graduated sanctions chart that classifies juvenile offenders according to the seriousness of their adjudicated offense (i.e., offense classification) and the degree and extent of their delinquent history (i.e., delinquency history level). A Level 1 or community disposition offers the court less restrictive dispositional alternatives (e.g., probation, community-based programs). A Level 2 or intermediate disposition is generally more restrictive than a Level 1 disposition and includes options such as intensive probation, group home placements (e.g., multipurpose group homes), regimented training programs, and house arrest. A Level 3 or commitment disposition provides the most restrictive sanction available to a juvenile court judge – commitment to the DACJ for placement in a YDC.

Table 3
Juvenile Disposition Chart

Offense Classification	Delinquency History Level		
	Low 0-1 Points	Medium 2-3 Points	High 4 or More Points
Violent Class A-E Felonies	Level 2 or 3	Level 3	Level 3
Serious Class F-I Felonies Class A1 Misdemeanors	Level 1 or 2	Level 2	Level 2 or 3
Minor Class 1, 2, 3 Misdemeanors	Level 1	Level 1 or 2	Level 2

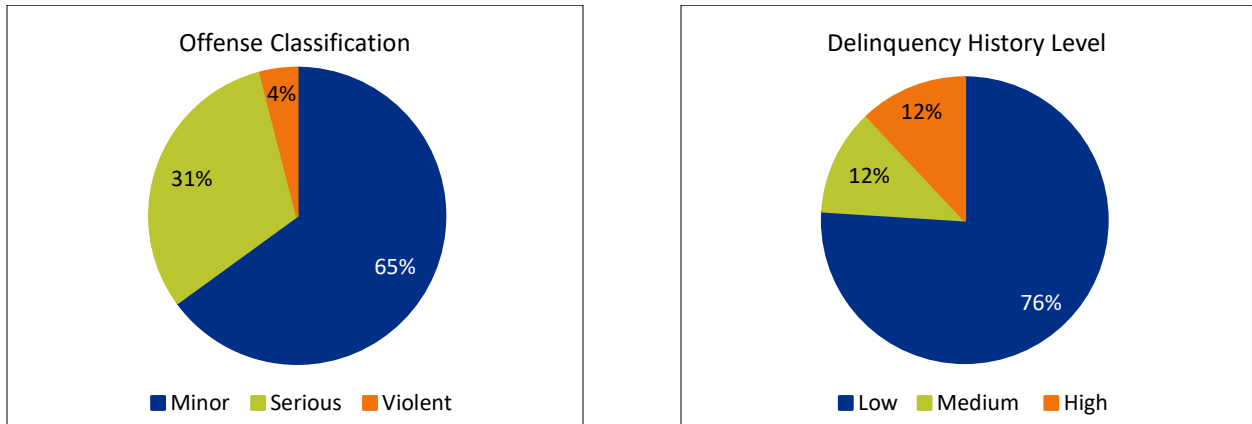
Figure 3 shows the distribution of the 2,535 delinquent dispositions by offense classification and delinquency history level. Of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent in FY 2020, 4% were adjudicated for a violent offense, 31% for a serious offense, and 65% for a minor offense.²⁰ Further, 76% of the dispositions involved a juvenile with a low delinquency history level, 12% involved a juvenile with a medium delinquency history level, and 12% involved a juvenile with a high delinquency history level.

¹⁸ The 2,535 delinquent dispositions highlighted in this section include both non-RtA (n=2,348) and RtA (n=187) juveniles.

¹⁹ A delinquent disposition is identified from NC-JOIN records as the disposition imposed for the most serious adjudicated offense for a given disposition hearing date during a fiscal year.

²⁰ Overall, 72% (or n=1,834) of the 2,535 dispositions were for misdemeanor offenses. Of the 785 adjudications for a serious offense, 25% (or n=197) were for Class A1 misdemeanor offenses. The remainder were for Class F-I felony offenses.

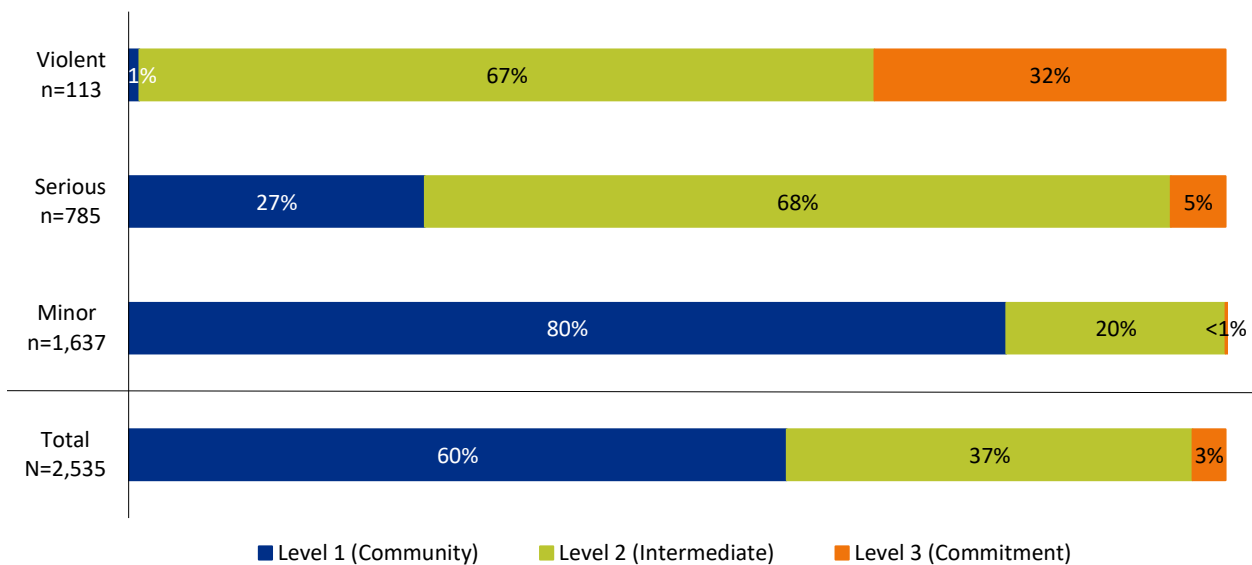
Figure 3
Dispositions by Offense Classification and Delinquency History Level
Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2020 Disposition Simulation Data

Figure 4 summarizes dispositions imposed in FY 2020 by offense classification and disposition level. Overall, the court ordered Level 1 dispositions for 60% of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent, Level 2 dispositions for 37% of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent, and Level 3 dispositions for 3% of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent. Juveniles adjudicated for a minor offense were most likely to receive a Level 1 disposition (80%). Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a violent or serious offense were more likely to receive a Level 2 disposition (67% and 68% respectively). Of the 82 Level 3 dispositions in FY 2020, 44% (n=36) were the result of an adjudication for a violent offense, 54% (n=44) for a serious offense, and 2% (n=2) for a minor offense.

Figure 4
Dispositions by Offense Classification and Disposition Level
Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2020 Disposition Simulation Data

Table 4 shows how judges used dispositional resources given each combination of offense classification and delinquency history level. As indicated by the vertical “Total” column, the likelihood of the imposition of a Level 3 disposition increased as the seriousness of the offense classification increased (also see Figure 4). Similarly, the likelihood of the imposition of a Level 3 disposition increased as the delinquency history level increased. Overall, half (n=1,247) of the 2,535 dispositions involved juveniles with low delinquency history levels who were adjudicated for minor offenses (Class 1-3 misdemeanors).

Table 4
Dispositions by the Dispositional Chart for Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent

Offense Classification	Delinquency History Level			Total
	Low 0-1 Point	Medium 2-3 Points	High 4+ Points	
Violent A-E Felonies	Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 1 (1%) Level 2: 55 (81%) Level 3: 12 (18%) n = 68	Level 3 Level 2: 9 (60%) Level 3: 6 (40%) n = 15	Level 3 Level 2: 10 (38%) Level 3: 16 (62%) n = 26	Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 1 (1%) Level 2: 76 (67%) Level 3: 36 (32%) n = 113 (4%)
Serious F-I Felonies A1 Misd.	Level 1/Level 2 Level 1: 192 (40%) Level 2: 287 (60%) Level 3: 1 (<1%) n = 480	Level 2 Level 1: 6 (6%) Level 2: 90 (91%) Level 3: 3 (3%) n = 99	Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 1 (1%) Level 2: 101 (78%) Level 3: 27 (21%) n = 129	Level 1/Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 210 (27%) Level 2: 531 (68%) Level 3: 44 (5%) n = 785 (31%)
Minor 1-3 Misd.	Level 1 Level 1: 1,197 (96%) Level 2: 50 (4%) n = 1,247	Level 1/Level 2 Level 1: 34 (19%) Level 2: 142 (81%) n = 176	Level 2 Level 1: 1 (1%) Level 2: 105 (97%) Level 3: 2 (2%) n = 108	Level 1/Level 2 Level 1: 1,302 (80%) Level 2: 333 (20%) Level 3: 2 (<1%) n = 1,637 (65%)
Total	Level 1/Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 1,471 (77%) Level 2: 433 (22%) Level 3: 14 (1%) n = 1,918 (76%)	Level 1/Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 40 (13%) Level 2: 269 (84%) Level 3: 10 (3%) n = 319 (12%)	Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 2 (1%) Level 2: 238 (80%) Level 3: 58 (19%) n = 298 (12%)	Level 1/Level 2/Level 3 Level 1: 1,513 (60%) Level 2: 940 (37%) Level 3: 82 (3%) N = 2,535 (100%)

Note: In FY 2020, there were 87 dispositions (or 3%) with a disposition not specified by the dispositional chart. However, it must be noted that certain provisions of the juvenile code allow a judge to impose a disposition other than those specified by the chart. Under G.S. 7B-2508(e), judges may find “extraordinary needs” and impose a lower level disposition. Under G.S. 7B-2508(d), juveniles adjudicated delinquent for an offense with a previous Level 3 disposition may be committed to a YDC. Under G.S. 7B-2508(g), juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a minor offense with four or more prior adjudications may be committed to a YDC. Finally, under G.S. 7B-2508(g1), juveniles adjudicated for an offense that the court finds beyond a reasonable doubt was committed as part of criminal gang activity as defined in G.S. 7B-2508.1 shall receive a disposition one level higher than would otherwise be provided for the class of offense and delinquency history level.

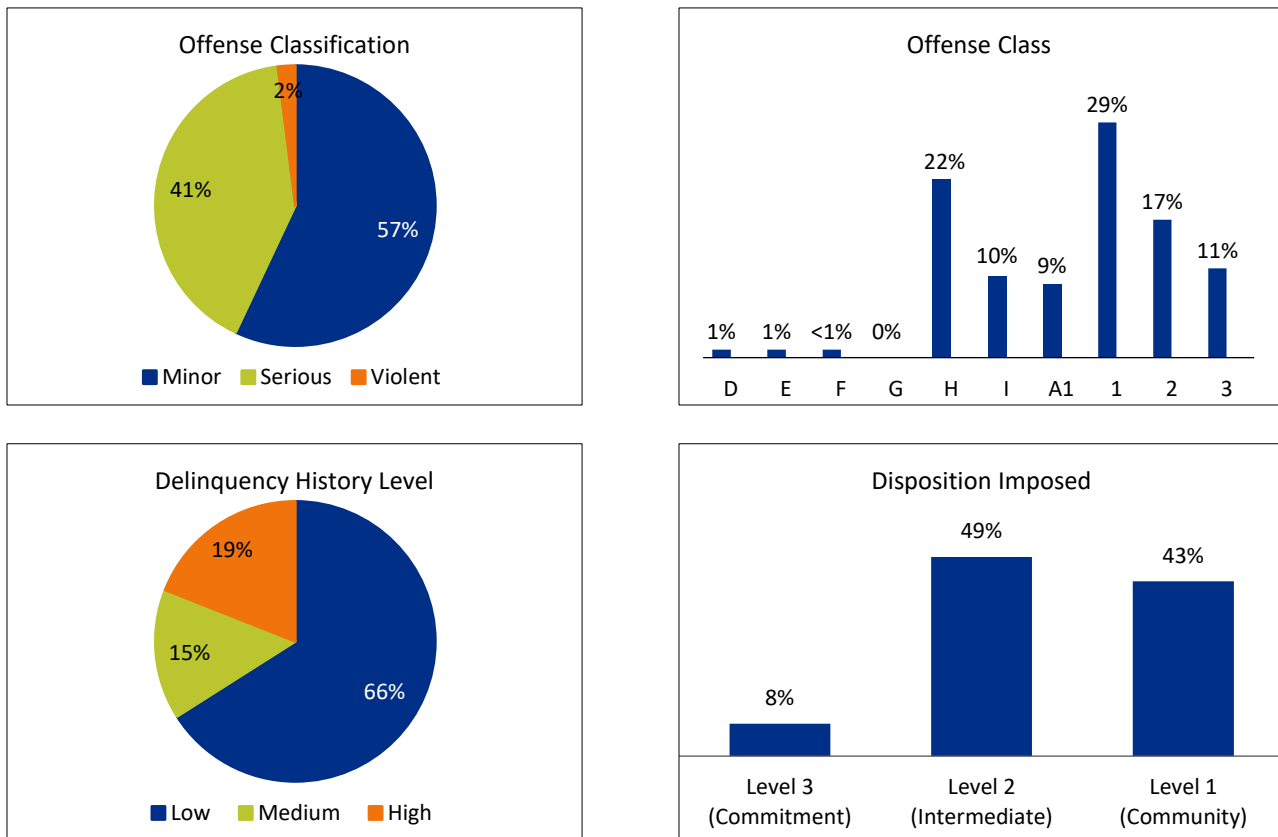
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2020 Disposition Simulation Data

FY 2020 Dispositions for RtA Juveniles

As noted previously, a partial year of data was available for RtA juveniles adjudicated and disposed in FY 2020 (n=187). Figure 5 examines RtA juveniles separately. These data should be interpreted with caution as the number of RtA juveniles is small; data captured are during the first 7 months of the JJRA implementation and the pandemic likely affected how the RtA juveniles were processed in the juvenile justice system.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of RtA juveniles were adjudicated of a minor offense and almost 3% were adjudicated of a felony higher than a Class H (see Figure 5). Most (66%) had a low delinquency history level. Nearly half (49%) of the RtA juveniles had a Level 2 disposition imposed, while 8% received a Level 3 disposition. Compared to all juveniles adjudicated and disposed in FY 2020 (see Figures 3 and 4), RtA juveniles were adjudicated with more serious offenses, had higher delinquency history levels, and were more likely to receive a Level 2 or Level 3 disposition.

**Figure 5
Dispositions by Offense Classification and Class, Delinquency History, and Disposition Level
RtA Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent (N=187)**

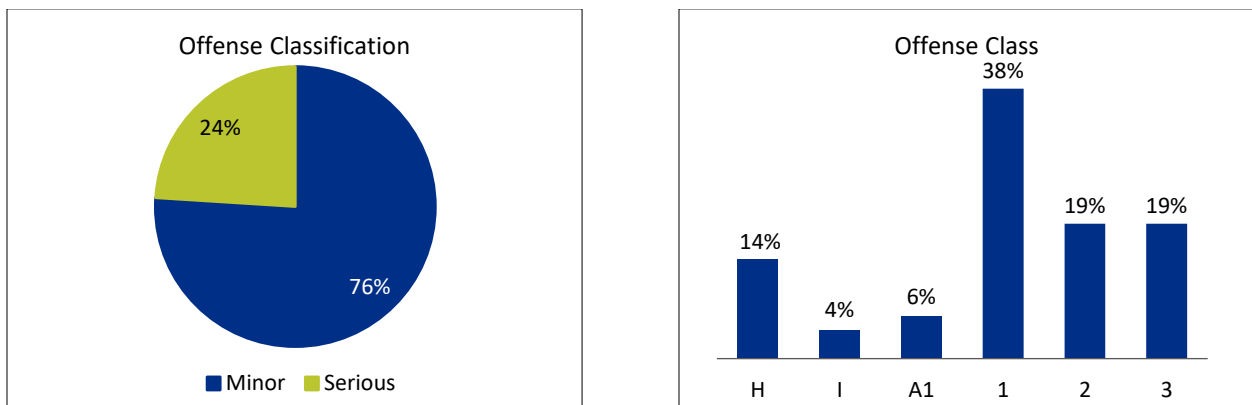


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2020 Disposition Simulation Data

FY 2020 Convictions for 16- and 17-Year-Olds

As previously noted, the projection uses adult conviction data to estimate the number of 16- and 17-year-olds who were under adult jurisdiction prior to December 1, 2019. These convictions were combined with the RtA juveniles to develop the projected RtA population. In FY 2020, 1,913 16- and 17-year-olds were convicted of Class H or Class I felonies or non-motor vehicle misdemeanors. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the eligible convictions by offense classification and offense class. Of the 1,913 16- and 17-year-olds, 24% were convicted of a serious offense (excluding Classes F and G) and 76% were convicted of a minor offense. Further, the majority (38%) of the convictions were Class 1 misdemeanors. Overall, 82% of convictions were for misdemeanors, while 18% were for felony offenses.

**Figure 6
Convictions by Offense Classification and Offense Class**



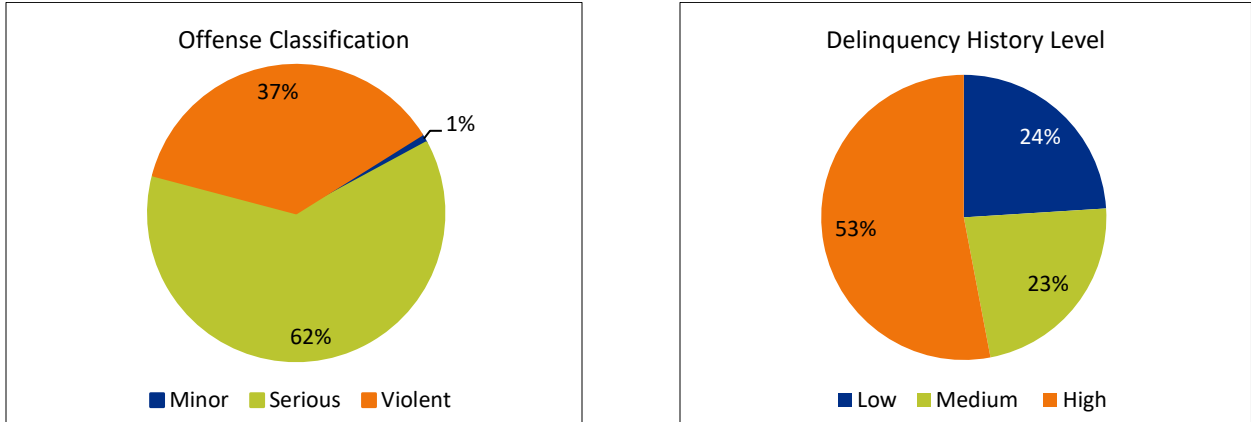
NOTE: The serious offenses exclude Class F and Class G felonies and the minor offenses exclude motor vehicle offenses.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2020 Felony and Misdemeanor Statistical Report Data

YDC Stock Population on June 30, 2020

The committed population or stock population – which represents the starting point of the projection – is the number of juveniles committed to a YDC as of June 30, 2020, the beginning of the current projection period. Figure 7 shows the distribution of the 151 juveniles committed to a YDC on June 30, 2020 by offense classification and delinquency history level. Most of the committed juveniles (95%) were adjudicated with a felony as their most serious offense; 37% were adjudicated for a violent offense, 62% for a serious offense, and 1% for a minor offense. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the juveniles had a high delinquency history level, 23% had a medium delinquency history level, and 24% had a low delinquency history level. Overall, 59% were committed to a YDC due to a new delinquent complaint, 35% for a probation violation, and 6% for a revocation of PRS. Eleven percent (11% or n=16) of the YDC population on June 30, 2020, included RtA juveniles.

Figure 7
YDC Stock Population



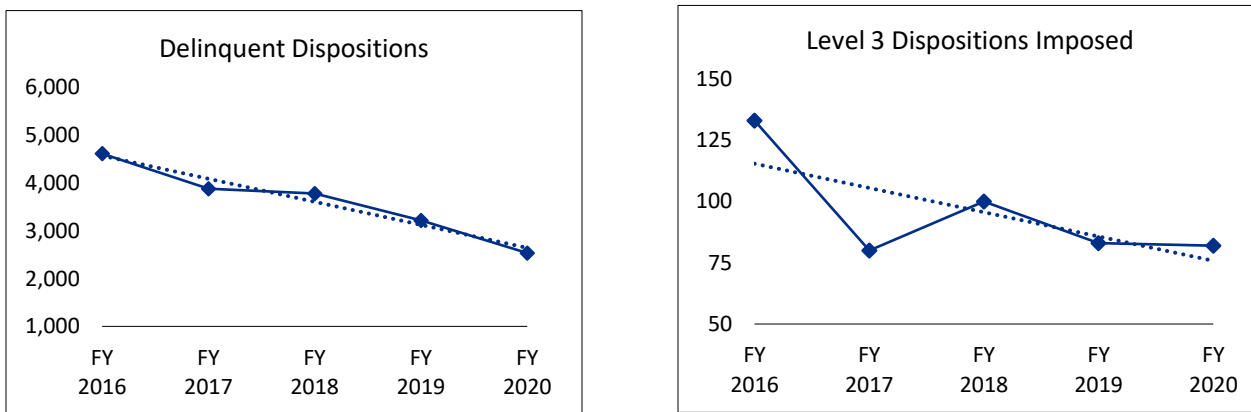
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2020 Disposition Simulation Data

Juvenile Justice Trends

Changes in the juvenile justice system that affect the number of YDC admissions, the number of YDC releases, or the YDC LOS directly impact the accuracy of the projections. This section highlights juvenile justice statistics showing the year-to-year variations in several key components used to produce the projections.

Figure 8 presents trend data on delinquent dispositions and Level 3 dispositions imposed. Over the past five fiscal years, the number of delinquent dispositions has decreased 30% (from 4,614 in FY 2016 to 2,535 in FY 2020). Delinquent dispositions decreased 21% in the past fiscal year. Level 3 dispositions imposed have generally trended downward, although with fluctuations, over the past five years. Notably, the number of Level 3 dispositions fluctuated between a high of 133 in FY 2016 and a low of 80 in FY 2017.

Figure 8
Juvenile Disposition Trends



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2016 - FY 2020 Disposition Simulation Data

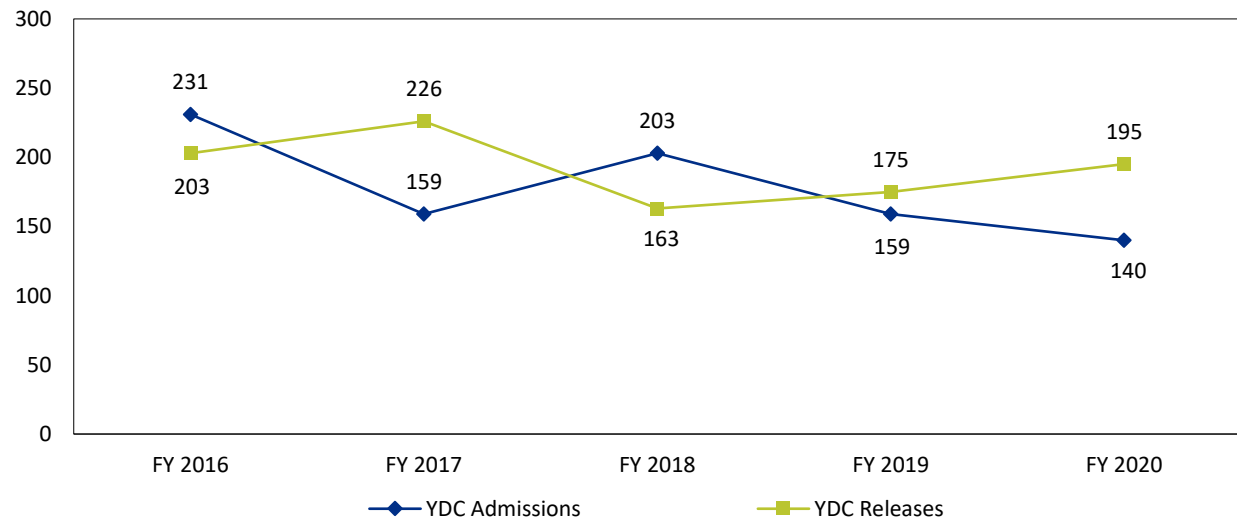
Over the past five years, YDC admissions and releases have fluctuated widely (see Table 5 and Figure 9). FY 2017 was notable for a 31% decrease in admissions and an 11% increase in releases compared to the year before. In FY 2020, admissions decreased by 12% and releases increased by 11%. In FY 2020, the average number of YDC admissions per month was 12, while the average number of YDC releases per month was 16; there were a total of 140 YDC admissions and 195 YDC releases.

Table 5
YDC Admissions and Releases

Fiscal Year	YDC Admissions			YDC Releases		
	Total Number	Percent Change	Average Number Per Month	Total Number	Percent Change	Average Number Per Month
2016	231	24	19	203	-2	17
2017	159	-31	13	226	11	19
2018	203	28	17	163	-28	14
2019	159	-22	13	175	7	15
2020	140	-12	12	195	11	16

SOURCE: NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Figure 9
YDC Admissions and Releases



SOURCE: NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

The LOS for committed juveniles has remained fairly stable compared to the declines in delinquent dispositions and the fluctuations in Level 3 dispositions, YDC admissions, and YDC releases. In FY 2020, the overall average LOS was 14 months, with little variance noted over the past five fiscal years (see Table 6). The average LOS for juveniles adjudicated for a violent offense was 17 months, the average LOS

for juveniles adjudicated for a serious offense was 14 months, and the average LOS for juveniles adjudicated for a minor offense was 9 months.

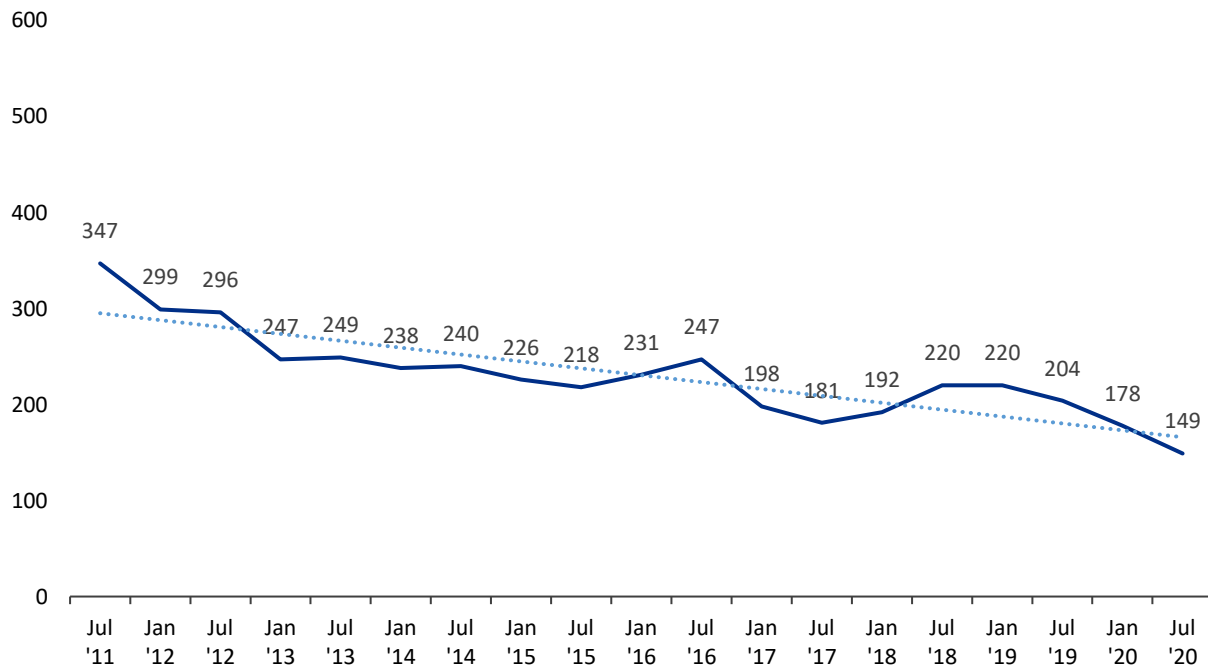
Table 6
Average Length of Stay for YDC Releases

Juveniles Adjudicated of a:	Length of Stay (in months) by Fiscal Year					% Change	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	FY 2019 to FY 2020	FY 2016 to FY 2020
Violent Offense	17	16	16	16	17	6	0
Serious Offense	13	14	12	12	14	17	8
Minor Offense	10	8	7	7	9	29	-10
Overall	14	13	13	14	14	0	0

SOURCE: NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Figure 10 provides a historical examination of North Carolina’s YDC population. The YDC population has decreased 57% in the past ten years. The leveling of the population between FY 2013 and FY 2016 was followed by another period of decline in population in FY 2017. FY 2018 showed an uptick in the population with declines beginning again in FY 2019.

Figure 10
YDC Population Trends: July 2011 to July 2020



SOURCE: NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, *Committed Youth Report*