

QUICK FACTS: Juvenile Dispositions

FEBRUARY 2021

FISCAL YEAR 2020

- ⇒ Juvenile dispositions imposed in FY 2020 were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA).
- → There were 2,535 delinquent dispositions imposed, fewer than in previous years, due to changes in court operations.
- ⇒ 187 dispositions were imposed for 16- and 17-year-olds under the JJRA.
- ⇒ 65% of dispositions were for minor offenses.
- ⇒ 25% of serious offenses were for Class A1 misdemeanors.
- ⇒ The most common dispositions were for person and property offenses; few were for drug offenses.
- → Very few Level 3 dispositions (Commitment/Youth Development Center (YDC)) were imposed.

Offense Classification



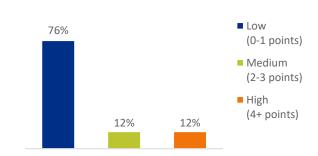
Dispositions by Adjudicated Offense Type

Offense Type	N	%
Person	1,000	39
Property	914	36
Drug	175	7
Other	446	18

Juvenile Characteristics

- The majority (79%) of juveniles were male.
- 49% of juveniles were Black, 35% were White, 10% were Hispanic, 1% were Native American, and 5% were Other.
- The average age at disposition was 15.
- Most (76%) juveniles had a low delinquency history level;
 68% had zero delinquency history points.
- Slightly over half (52%) of dispositions involved a juvenile adjudicated for a minor offense with a low delinquency history level.

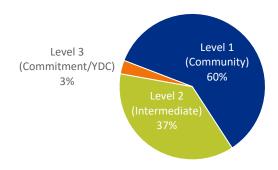
Delinquency History Level



Dispositions Imposed

- The majority (60%) of dispositions were Level 1.
- Of the 2,453 Level 1 and Level 2 dispositions, the most frequently imposed length of probation was 12 months (51%). The second most frequently imposed length was 6 months (28%).
- By statute, juveniles with a YDC disposition must be committed for a minimum of 6 months; the average length of stay for YDC exits was 14 months.
- The top 5 adjudicated offenses accounted for 34% of dispositions imposed in FY 2020.

Dispositions Imposed



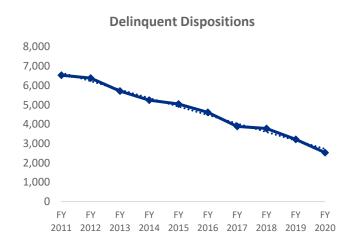
Top 5 Adjudicated Offenses

Offense	Class	N
Simple Assault	2	390
Misdemeanor Larceny	1	165
Disorderly Conduct at School	2	117
Communicating Threats	1	98
Breaking and/or Entering Buildings	1	92

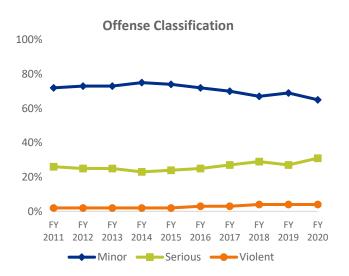
QUICK FACTS: JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS

FISCAL YEAR 2011 - FISCAL YEAR 2020

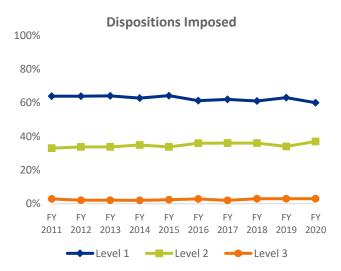
Over the past ten fiscal years, the number of delinquent dispositions has decreased 61% (from 6,533 in FY 2011 to 2,535 in FY 2020). Delinquent dispositions decreased 21% in the past fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



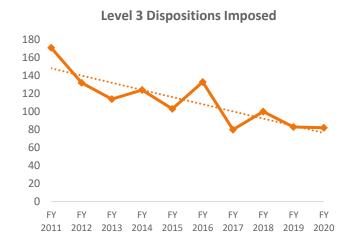
Over the past ten years, the distribution of dispositions by offense classification has remained stable. The majority of delinquent dispositions have been for minor and serious offenses, with totals ranging between 96% and 98%. Historically, violent offenses have comprised a very small percentage of delinquent dispositions.



The distribution of dispositions imposed has remained stable over the past decade. Level 1 dispositions have ranged between 60% and 64% of dispositions and Level 2 dispositions have ranged between 33% and 37% of dispositions.



Level 3 dispositions account for a very small percentage of overall dispositions. Although the number has fluctuated in recent years, Level 3 dispositions have decreased 52% since FY 2011. While it was expected that Level 3 dispositions would increase due to the implementation of JJRA, they decreased 1% (from 83 to 82) over the past fiscal year due to COVID-19.



NOTE: For FY 2011 to FY 2019, the age of juvenile jurisdiction was between 6 and 15 years at the time of the offense as set by statute. FY 2020 data capture the first 7 months of the JJRA implementation, which increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include most 16- and 17-year-olds (n=187). SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2010 – FY 2020 Disposition Simulation 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 annual Youth Development Center Population Projections and all other publications, see the Commission's website: www.NCSPAC.org