

*North Carolina
Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission*

**JUVENILE-TO-ADULT
COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL
HISTORY STUDY**

Prepared By

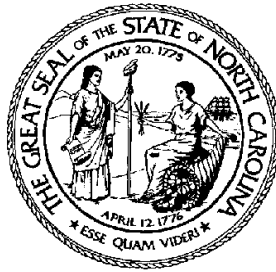
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*Project Funded by a Grant from
the Governor's Crime Commission*

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North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

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CHAPTER ONE
HISTORY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE IN NORTH CAROLINA AND REVIEW OF
JUVENILE RECIDIVISM LITERATURE¹

Purpose of the Study

The North Carolina General Assembly has directed the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) in the North Carolina Juvenile Code (N.C.G.S. § 7B-3300) to report on an annual basis the recidivism rates for juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent for Class A through Class E felonies. The General Assembly has also directed the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (NCSPAC) to study adult recidivism on a biennial basis (1998 Session Law, Section 16.18). While these reports provide a snapshot of subsequent criminal behavior by a sample of offenders, they fall short in providing the wealth of information that could come from linking juvenile delinquent behavior with adult criminal behavior. Bearing this in mind, NCSPAC, working with the Criminal Justice Information Network under a grant from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, designed this comprehensive study to create an information link between the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system for a two-fold purpose:

1. to develop a model by which individual criminal history records could be constructed starting at the point of a juvenile's first involvement with the juvenile justice system, and
2. to identify factors that may be correlated with recidivism by tracking a cohort of juveniles² from their first involvement with the juvenile justice system into early adult involvement with the criminal justice system.

As the first of its kind in North Carolina, this study provides an in depth profile of juveniles involved with the juvenile justice system, documenting the level and severity of continuing criminal behavior through the early adult years. It also serves as a baseline for future juvenile-to-adult recidivism studies. In addition, the 1997 cohort entered the juvenile justice system prior to the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998. As such, the cohort serves as a natural comparison group for juveniles adjudicated delinquent under the reform.

¹This chapter was prepared with the assistance of Dr. James Howell and Dr. Charles W. Dean working under a contract with the Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN). Dr. Dean compiled a chronology of North Carolina juvenile justice legislation and practices. Dr. Howell completed a comprehensive literature review of juvenile delinquent recidivism studies in various states.

² According to N.C.G.S. § 7B-1501(7), a delinquent juvenile is defined as "any juvenile who, while less than 16 years of age but at least 6 years of age, commits a crime or infraction under State law or under an ordinance of local government, including violation of the motor vehicle laws."

History of Juvenile Justice in North Carolina

Twentieth century history of North Carolina's legislative attempts to deal with juvenile offenders can be roughly divided into three phases: Statewide Programs (1909 - 1975); Community-Based Alternatives (1975 - 1999); and Post-Juvenile Justice Reform Act (1998 to present).

Statewide Programs (1909 - 1975)

The early history of North Carolina's efforts to deal with troublesome juveniles is characterized by a long series of legislative changes, studies and frustration over intractable problems. But the problems of rural-urban inequities, minority over-representation, organizational fragmentation and inadequate resources persisted despite a consistently high level of interest and concern by citizens, legislators, judges and professional services workers.

The Probation Courts Act of 1915 established juvenile jurisdiction in the adult courts, and also provided for county paid juvenile probation officers, separate trials, separation of juvenile records, and commitments to juvenile detention and training schools. The Probation Courts Act was repealed by legislation in 1919 that established a statewide juvenile court with jurisdiction over juveniles under age 16 who were delinquent, dependent or neglected. The first juvenile correctional institution had already been established, in Concord in 1909, as a result of 17-year campaign by the Board of Charities and Public Welfare and Kings Daughters. It was called the Stonewall Jackson Manual Training and Industrial School. The Samarkand Manor for girls was opened in 1918, after a vigorous campaign by a minister in Eagle Springs. Only two of 27 child caring facilities received black children in the 1920s; a facility for black delinquents was opened in Charlotte in 1925. In the same year, the State Federated Negro Women's Club provided funds to establish the Efland home for Girls, near Hillsboro.

North Carolina programs for juvenile offenders continued to develop slowly and suffer from lack of support through the 1950s and 1960s. A 1956 National Probation and Parole Association study found no statewide diagnostic and treatment services in the state, no specialized staff for juvenile counseling and probation services in the community, and inadequate administrative controls over probation resulting in wide differences in quality and quantity of services. The study report recommended a statewide system of special courts for juveniles and families, organized on a district basis.

A 1972 report by the North Carolina Bar Association, entitled *As the Twig is Bent*, highlighted grave deficiencies throughout the state's juvenile justice system, the most serious being excessive inappropriate commitments to custody-oriented training schools. The system was said to be disorganized, and uncoordinated, with no continuity of care, no aftercare, and inadequate medical services. It concluded a complete overhaul of the system was required.

Community-Based Alternative Programs (1975 - 1998)

Prevention and rehabilitation programming for juveniles in North Carolina received a major boost from the Community-Based Alternatives (CBA) legislation enacted in 1975. The intent of this legislation was to develop viable alternatives to placement in juvenile correctional institutions in order to reduce the number of youngsters committed by the juvenile courts to the training schools. The statute also provided for development of CBA programs for the purposes of delinquency prevention. The remainder of this section describes briefly CBA programming that existed between 1975 and 1998, when the new Juvenile Justice Reform Act was enacted into law.

The CBA legislation required that programs be planned and organized at the county level (Collins, Dean, et al., 1995). Funds were distributed to each county based upon the relative proportion of its 10 to 17 year-old population. Each county was to appoint a CBA Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) with representation from a diversity of public and private agencies and citizens. The YSACs were required to review annually the needs of troubled youth in the county; develop and fund programs approved by the county, and monitor funded programs. In addition, they were required to develop two distinct continuums of services for families and youth: 1) a juvenile justice continuum, consisting of services for the courts' clients; and 2) a delinquency prevention continuum, consisting of programs that address some of the social causes of delinquency, and provide services for a cross-section of youth with a diversity of problems. The CBA programs embodied many of the intervention principles in the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, including use of the least restrictive alternative, locating programs near juvenile offenders' homes and communities, parental involvement in programs, and use of alternatives to confinement for non-offenders.

The most widely used programs in 1993-1994 (in the order of most clients served) were counseling (31% of clients), restitution (19%), temporary shelter care (8%), and psychological evaluation (7%). Other less commonly used programs included "guided growth," the Governor's One on One volunteer program, home-based family services, group homes and specialized foster care. Thus CBA program emphasis was placed on non-residential programs. Interviews with staff and others indicated a pressing need for more structured and intensive programs for serious and violent offenders, such as therapeutic residential treatment and intensive supervision probation (Collins, Dean, et al., 1995).

In the mid-1990s, CBA programs served nearly 40% of court-involved youth (Governor's Crime Commission, 1997). Between 65% and 70% of the children served by CBA programs were court-referred. In addition, other juveniles were referred by school systems and other agencies in an attempt to keep the children out of court. CBA funding totaled about \$30 million per year in the mid-1990s, with about half of this coming from state funds. The remainder came from federal, local, and private sources. The \$15 million state contribution for CBA programs was reached in 1995, when the legislature added \$5 million for restitution programs.

An evaluation of outcomes for some 15,000 youths served in CBA programs during 1989-1994 (Collins, Dean, et al., 1995) found that about half of the sample had been referred to court for a delinquent offense and half of the sample consisted of "youth at risk." Thus, a fairly low recidivism rate would be expected because of this mixture. The study found that, while in a CBA program, only 13% of the served youth experienced new problems at home, at school, or with the court, and only 2% were committed to a training school. Follow-up data were not collected on new offenses, and no comparisons were made between youth served by CBA programs versus others referred to juvenile courts or committed to training schools.

Post-Juvenile Justice Reform Act (1998 to present)

In September 1997, Governor James Hunt established the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Crime and Justice to conduct a comprehensive review of the juvenile justice system in light of growing concerns about escalating trends in juvenile crime. As noted in the Commission's final report (The Governor's Commission on Juvenile Crime and Justice, 1998), from 1979 to 1996, the violent arrest rate increased by 172%; weapons offenses increased seven-fold and drug arrests doubled. It was felt that the juvenile justice system, outdated and overburdened, was not adequately addressing the new challenges presented by increasingly more violent juvenile offenders. The Commission's final report contained 61 recommendations intended to 1) prevent juvenile delinquency and 2) interrupt the development of youth violence and victimization. Its overall emphasis was on accountability. Juveniles should be held accountable for their behavior; parents should be held accountable to support their children; and, state and local agencies should be held accountable to provide coordinated, effective responses to delinquent and undisciplined behavior with special emphasis on juvenile crime prevention.

Of particular concern for the Commission was the imposition of dispositions for juveniles adjudicated delinquent. Under the Juvenile Code, the juvenile justice system was offender-based, requiring the judge to impose the least restrictive disposition appropriate to the seriousness of the offense, degree of culpability, and the age and prior record of the juvenile. Public safety was not a major determining factor in setting a disposition. With its emphasis on accountability and public safety, the Commission recommended that the primary factors to be considered when setting disposition should be the seriousness of the offense and the risk of continued delinquent behavior, the degree of culpability, and the rehabilitative needs of the juvenile.

Considering this significant shift in focus, the Governor requested that the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (NCSPAC) assess the impact of the recommended changes regarding the dispositions for delinquent adjudications. In response, NCSPAC conducted a simulation analysis using case reviews of a random sample of 1,500 juveniles across the state whose cases were adjudicated during the first half of 1997.³ The simulation "resentenced" the

³ See North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, Proposed Changes to the North Carolina Juvenile Justice System – An Impact Analysis, May 1998.

sample population of juveniles to a disposition within the parameters proposed by the Governor's Commission and projected future population dispositions to assess immediate and long-term shifts in juvenile justice resources.⁴ Most significantly, the study found that the policy recommendations of the Governor's Commission resulted in a more selective commitment of juveniles to training schools (lower admissions but longer projected stays) and a greater reliance on intensive community-based sanctions.⁵

The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 (the Reform Act)⁶ incorporated the final recommendations of the Governor's Commission. The purpose of the legislation was to provide: (1) protection to the public; (2) crime and delinquency deterrence; (3) an effective intake system for screening and evaluating complaints and referral of juveniles, when appropriate, to community-based resources; and (4) uniform procedures ensuring fairness, equity, and procedural speed for juveniles and protection of the constitutional rights of juveniles, parents and victims. (N.C.G.S. § 7B-1500) Three significant changes to the juvenile justice system resulted from the Reform Act: (1) the creation of a cabinet-level agency; (2) the creation of a dispositional chart for setting dispositions for juveniles adjudicated delinquent; and, (3) the creation of local Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC).

Creation of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Prior to the Reform Act, two state agencies were responsible for serving juveniles adjudicated delinquent. The Juvenile Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts within the Judicial branch was responsible for intake, probation and aftercare services. The Division of Youth Services of the Department of Health and Human Services within the Executive branch operated the state's institutional and training school facilities and provided oversight to state-funded community-based alternative programs. As reported by the Governor's Commission in its final report (The Governor's Commission on Juvenile Crime and Justice, 1998), this dual agency system resulted in many problems including coordination lapses in case management of juveniles committed to and released from training school, communication barriers and restrictions on information sharing between agencies. The intent of creating a single cabinet-level agency was to ensure coordination and efficiency within the juvenile justice system and to increase accountability to juveniles served by the agency.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at 13.

⁶ The 1998 Juvenile Justice Reform Act was codified in N.C.G.S. § 7B.

The Creation of a Dispositional Chart

Prior to the 1998 reform, judges were required to consider primarily the needs of the juvenile, and dispositional alternatives such as detention and training school could not be imposed unless other less restrictive dispositional alternatives were explored and exhausted, or considered and determined to be inappropriate. The Reform Act abandoned this “least restrictive standard” and created a two-dimensional chart whereby appropriate dispositional alternatives for a particular juvenile were identified based on the juvenile’s current offense and delinquency history. The new system became effective for offenses committed on or after July 1, 1999. The result was a graduated sanctions model of dispositions that took into account the seriousness of the offense and emphasized offender accountability and public safety.

JUVENILE DISPOSITION CHART

OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION	DELINQUENCY HISTORY LEVEL		
	LOW 0 - 1 pts	MEDIUM 2 - 3 pts.	HIGH 4+ pts.
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 - 3 misdemeanors	Level 1	Level 1 or 2	Level 2

Setting a disposition for juveniles adjudicated delinquent under the Reform Act is a four-step process:

1. Determine the offense classification for the current adjudication.
2. Determine the delinquency history level for the juvenile.
3. Determine the authorized disposition level(s) based on the offense classification and delinquency history.
4. Determine the appropriate disposition(s) within the specified disposition level.

Step 1 - Determine the offense classification for the current adjudication: Offenses are assigned to one of 13 offense classes and further assigned to one of three offense classifications as follows: (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2508(a))

- Violent - Adjudication of a Class A through Class E felony offense
- Serious - Adjudication of a Class F through Class I felony offense or a Class A1 misdemeanor offense
- Minor - Adjudication of a Class 1 through Class 3 misdemeanor offense

Step 2 - Determine the delinquency history level for the juvenile: The delinquency history level for a juvenile adjudicated delinquent is determined by calculating the sum of the points assigned to each of the juvenile's prior adjudications and to the juvenile probation status, if any. Points are assigned based on offense class as follows: (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2507(b))

- Class A through E felony offense 4 points
- Class F through I felony offense or Class A1 misdemeanor 2 points
- Class 1, 2, or 3 misdemeanor offense 1 point
- Probation at time of offense 2 points

Based on the total number of points, the delinquency history level is determined as follows: (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2507(c))

- Low – No more than 1 point
- Medium – At least 2 but not more than 3 points
- High – At least 4 points

Step 3 - Determine the authorized disposition level(s) : The dispositional chart is based on a graduated sanctions model with three disposition levels: Level 1 (Community), Level 2 (Intermediate) and Level 3 (Commitment).⁷ A disposition level is authorized for each combination of offense classification and delinquency history level. (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2508(f)) Where two dispositions are authorized, the judge has discretion to impose either of the two disposition levels.

Step 4 - Determine the appropriate disposition(s) within the specified disposition level: In choosing among statutorily permissible dispositions, the judge selects a disposition that is designed to protect the public and to meet the needs and best interests of the juvenile based upon:

1. The seriousness of the offense;
2. The need to hold the juvenile accountable;
3. The importance of protecting public safety;
4. The degree of culpability indicated by the circumstances of the particular case; and
5. The rehabilitative and treatment needs of the juvenile as indicated by a risk and needs assessment. (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2501)

As a whole, the dispositional chart represents a major departure from the method of setting dispositions prior to the Reform Act. The new dispositional structure shifted focus away from the offender-based “least restrictive standard” to an offense-based system designed to (1) protect public safety, (2) emphasize the accountability and responsibility of the juvenile and the parent for the juvenile's conduct, and (3) provide the appropriate consequences, treatment, training and rehabilitation to assist the juvenile toward becoming a nonoffending, responsible, and productive member of the community. (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2500)

⁷ See Appendix A for a description of the types of dispositional alternatives available at each disposition level.

The Creation of Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils

The Reform Act replaced the Youth Services Advisory Committees (YSACs) with Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPCs). The new JCPCs are similar to the YSACs in structure and broad community representation. Each council has a membership of not more than 25 persons, all of whom are appointed by county boards of commissioners. The JCPCs are made up of representatives of the full array of county governmental, social service, and education agencies, youth, and representatives of the juvenile justice system, the faith community, and the business sector. The JCPCs are charged with developing a comprehensive delinquency prevention plan; they also manage the funding process, ensuring that a wide variety of services are available, consistent with the array of dispositions (services and sanctions) provided in the 1998 statute (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2506, 7B-2508; see Dawes and Ross, 2000, p. 4). JCPC programs are statutorily mandated to address major risk factors for delinquency (prevention programs) and provide treatment/rehabilitation for court-involved youth.⁸

DJJDP also provides an array of prevention and intervention programs in various locations that often supplement the JCPC funded prevention/early intervention activities or serve as main interventions for higher risk youths. The programs for higher risk youths also serve as alternatives to confinement in Youth Development Centers (formerly called training schools) or to facilitate community reintegration following confinement.⁹

Summary of North Carolina's Juvenile Justice System

The early history of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs in North Carolina was characterized by benign neglect. Progressive programming commenced with the enactment of the Community-Based Alternatives (CBA) legislation in 1975. Noticeable improvements were soon made in the quality of delinquency prevention and juvenile justice system programs. Concerns about the increase in juvenile crime, particularly violent crime, coupled by a juvenile justice system ill-equipped to manage the growing number of increasingly more serious juvenile offenders, brought about the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998. Further program improvements appear to have been made following enactment of the reform. There is evidence that effective types of interventions are being used (Lipsey et al., 2002); however, it remains to be seen if these are used in an effective manner.

⁸ See Appendix A for a discussion of JCPC programs.

⁹ See Appendix A for a discussion of DJJDP programs.

Juvenile Justice System Recidivism Studies: A Review

Most juvenile justice system recidivism studies in the U.S. have studied juvenile offenders released from either probation or juvenile correctional facilities; few studies have examined combined groups. In one of the few combined groups studies, Rivers and Trotti (1989) conducted a study of 39,250 males born between 1964 and 1971 who had official delinquency records in South Carolina. The researchers traced the number of these youth who were incarcerated or placed on probation as adults. Time at risk varied from approximately 1 year for the 1971 cohort to approximately 8 years for the 1964 cohort. The study found that institutionalization as a juvenile substantially increased the chances that a delinquent would reoffend as an adult. The recidivism rate for delinquent youth who were never institutionalized was 14%, compared with 46% for youth who were institutionalized. Moreover, this percentage increased with each additional institutionalization, to a rate of 67% for youth with four or more institutionalizations. The study also found an increase in recidivism rates with increased delinquency referrals and increased delinquency adjudications.

The second South Carolina study (Rivers and Trotti, 1995) was a continuation of a 1989 longitudinal study. The results revealed that within 11 years of adult eligibility, 33% of the youths had become part of South Carolina's adult probation or prison system and an additional 7% were in the prison or probation systems of other states. Those who successfully avoided prison or probation were most likely to have been referred only once or twice without penetrating the juvenile justice system to the point of adjudication or institutionalization. Eighty-two percent of males incarcerated as juveniles became part of the prison or probation systems of South Carolina or other states. In contrast, 60% of the male juveniles who penetrated the system only to family court did not go on to become adult offenders. The findings of this study are commonly seen in others that studied the two juvenile justice system components separately: recidivism rates are far higher among youths handled in juvenile correctional facilities than in juvenile courts.

Juvenile Correctional Facility Recidivism Studies

In the correctional facility recidivism studies, post-release recidivism rates for juvenile correctional populations range from about 55% to 90% (Austin et al., 1991; Krisberg and Howell, 1998), and prior placement in a juvenile correctional facility is one of the strongest predictors of returning (Krisberg and Howell, 1998). The following are widely cited, large-scale juvenile correctional facility recidivism studies.

Recidivism rates for offenders held in the California Youth Authority (CYA) facilities are perhaps the highest in the country (Krisberg and Howell, 1998; Visher et al., 1991). This is attributable, in part, to the fact that the facility population contains a higher rate of violent offending young adults as well as juveniles; the age range is 15-25. In the most comprehensive follow-up study conducted to date, of youths paroled from the CYA, Haapanen (1990) followed parolees for approximately 15 years following their release in the 1960s. More than 96% continued to be arrested well into their adult years. In another follow-up study of youths released from the CYA, Visher et

al. (1991) found that nearly 9 out of 10 among a random sample of the inmates (including juveniles and young adults) recidivated within 3 years following their release.

Tollett (1987) examined recidivism among a cohort of 1,664 youths released from a variety of Florida juvenile correction programs in 1984. Recidivism was defined as having been placed on probation or confined in an adult or juvenile facility within one year of the date of exit from the original juvenile corrections placement. During this period 44% of the sample were convicted (or had sustained delinquency petitions) for new charges. The study does not indicate how many others were arrested and whether these charges resulted in convictions. However, only 26% of the group were recommitted to a correctional facility in the one-year period. Tollett also found that two non-residential programs had the lowest failure rates and that the worst results were recorded for youths released from Florida's most secure juvenile facilities. An NCCD study found that 79% of those released from Utah's secure juvenile facilities were arrested in the subsequent twelve months (Austin et al., 1990). A study of youths released from the Massachusetts training schools before they were replaced by small community-based facilities, revealed rates of subsequent arraignments of 66% (Coates et al., 1978). This same Harvard University study revealed that the failure rate of youths placed in the early community-based programs was 74%. However, later research involving a cohort of Massachusetts youths released from the community-based programs in the mid-1980s reported a rearraignment rate of 51% (Austin et al., 1991).

The most comprehensive nationwide data on juvenile correctional facility recidivism was generated in the OJJDP Juveniles Taken Into Custody Research Program (JTIC) (Krisberg et al., 1996). The JTIC project tracked individual youths entering and exiting juvenile corrections in 35 states. By examining those states that report comparable data each year, it was possible to calculate the proportion of youths who exited a youth corrections system and who were readmitted to that same system within one year of their release dates. This is a very conservative measure of failure. It is limited to those juveniles whose new crimes or probation violations result in commitments to state juvenile institutions and does not cover youth who are transferred to the adult system or who "age out" of the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. Notwithstanding these limitations, the JTIC database shows a robust rate of juvenile recidivism.

There were twenty states in the JTIC reporting program that share age 18 as the upper age of juvenile jurisdiction, permitting readmission rates to be calculated over a reasonable time period. Of the 8,057 youths released in 1992 (who were younger than 17 years and thus had at least one more year's eligibility to be sent back to the juvenile corrections system), 27% were readmitted within one year of their release. Male readmission rates were much higher than for females (28% and 16%, respectively). Property and drug offenders had the highest failure rates. There was a strong relationship between the number of prior correctional commitments and readmission rates.

A review of juvenile justice correctional recidivism studies yielded several observations (Krisberg and Howell, 1998). First, incarceration may increase the likelihood of recidivism. For example, in an Arkansas study (Tollett and Benda, 1999), youths remained in the community 41

fewer days with each additional prior commitment. Second, although intensive correctional interventions do not stop criminal careers, these interventions may slow the rate and severity of offending. Third, while there is some instability or lack of predictability in offending rates, the best prediction one could make is that over time serious offenders continue to offend, albeit at lower frequency rates and with less serious offenses. Finally, the juvenile court appears to be most effective in curtailing the criminal careers of serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders. Court-linked community programs are more effective than institutional-based programs--even for serious and violent juvenile offenders (Lipsey and Wilson, 1998; Lipsey et al., 2000).

Juvenile Court Recidivism Studies

Of course, certain juvenile court systems are more effective than others. One of the earliest comprehensive studies, carried out in Arizona and Utah juvenile courts (Snyder, 1988; see Snyder and Sickmund, 1995, p. 158), found that 56% of all court referrals returned for a new offense. However, recidivism increased from 41% among first-time referrals to 79% for offenders with eight prior referrals. Second, a St. Louis study (Curry and Decker, 2000) found that only 38% of more than 1,300 children referred to the juvenile court in 1994 were referred again for a delinquent offense over the next three years. Third, a Washington State study (Barnoski et al., 1997) of 8,000 probationers found that only 27% recidivated (measured by subsequent court referrals) with a felony offense. Fourth, in a Missouri county-wide study of 475 first-time referrals to juvenile court (Minor et al., 1997), one-third (33%) recidivated (subsequent court referrals) and 84% of these juveniles were diverted in response to the second referral. These studies are representative of juvenile court recidivism studies, which typically show fairly low recidivism rates regardless of the measure that is used.

Other juvenile court studies examined recidivism of subgroups of offenders. In a sample of 3,164 juveniles referred in the first six months of 1987, researchers examined the proportion of serious and chronic offenders who had arrest records in early adulthood (Schumacher and Kurz, 1999). The study revealed that over half (53%) had arrest records. In a follow-up study of all youths in the state of Washington who turned age 18 in 1988 (Barnoski et al., 1997), only 9% of the minor juvenile offenders had adult felony convictions in criminal court. In contrast, about one-fourth (23%) of the middle-risk offenders were convicted of adult felonies, as were 41% of the chronic serious offenders. However, more than half (55%) of the chronic violent offenders had felony convictions in criminal court by age 25.

Juvenile Justice System Recidivism Studies in North Carolina

Seven statewide juvenile justice system recidivism studies have been made recently in North Carolina. Two studies examined samples of youths released from training schools. The remaining five studies included youths in both juvenile courts and the YDCs.

The first study (Dean, 1992; Dean et al., 1996; Fortos, 1994) of nearly 1,700 juveniles

released from the state's training schools in 1988 and 1989, found that 51% had arrests within 30 months, and 80% were arrested within 60 months. More than one-fourth (29%) of the total sample were convicted in criminal court and 10% were sentenced to confinement for their first adult arrest (Fortos, 1994).

Since 1997, annual recidivism rates for juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A - Class E felonies have been required to be reported to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. In this mandate, recidivism is defined as having a subsequent juvenile delinquent adjudication or adult conviction. The following is a brief summary of the five juvenile recidivism reports to date.

- In 1997, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) completed the initial study. AOC researchers found a recidivism rate of 30% for a sample of 128 juveniles who had been adjudicated delinquent for a Class A - Class E felony in Fiscal Year 1995-96.¹⁰ The follow-up period ranged from two to 25 months.
- In 1999, the second in this series of reports was completed by the newly created Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). The report sites a recidivism rate of 17.3% for a sample of 278 juveniles who had been adjudicated delinquent for a Class A - Class E felony in Calendar Year 1996 and Calendar Year 1997.¹¹ The follow-up period for this sample ranged from nine to 33 months.
- In 2000, OJJ reported a recidivism rate of 14.5% for a sample of 173 juveniles who had been adjudicated delinquent for a Class A - Class E felony in Calendar Year 1998.¹² The follow-up period ranged from nine to 25 months.
- In 2001, Stevens Clarke followed up on a random sample of 288 youths who were released from North Carolina Youth Development Centers (formerly known as training schools) in 1996. Clarke's study measured recidivism in terms of adult criminal charges filed after release and criminal convictions. On average, the youths had been released for about 41 months. More than 88% of the sample recidivated, either with felony charges, misdemeanor charges, or both types of charges, and 67% received felony charges. Fifty-eight percent of the sample was convicted of adult crimes and more than a third (37%) went to state prison. About half of those who went to prison did so because of a probation revocation.
- In 2002, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (formerly known as the Office of Juvenile Justice) reported a recidivism rate of 21% for a sample of 85 juveniles who had been adjudicated delinquent for a Class A - Class E felony in the first six months of 1999. The follow-up period ranged from 2.5 to 3.5 years.

¹⁰ The sample was drawn from 29 of North Carolina's 39 judicial districts.

¹¹ The sample was drawn from 33 of North Carolina's 39 judicial districts.

¹² The sample was drawn from 38 of North Carolina's 39 judicial districts.

The most recent study was conducted by researchers (Fraser et al., 2002) at the University of North Carolina as part of a risk assessment instrument validation study. Researchers found that, overall, about one-third of a sample of adjudicated juveniles recidivated (measured by re-adjudication) within nine months. Looking at recidivism rates as measured by a subsequent court referral, low risk delinquent juveniles had a recidivism rate of 20%; medium risk delinquent juveniles had a recidivism rate of 34%; and high-risk delinquent juveniles had a recidivism rate of 45%.

Because of differences in samples and study methods, only one overall conclusion can be drawn from these studies: *recidivism among total samples in the North Carolina's juvenile courts is relatively low, while recidivism rates among youths released from the YDCs are relatively high.* The current study was designed to provide a more comprehensive view of recidivism in North Carolina's juvenile justice system by examining both groups of offenders in a combined sample.

CHAPTER TWO METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

Research Methodology

Sample

The sample selected for this study consists of juveniles whose first delinquent petition was filed with the Clerk of Court in 1997. The sample was drawn from six of North Carolina's 39 judicial districts and represents a majority of the juvenile offenders with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997.¹³ While the sample districts were selected to represent both rural and urban counties in order to account for regional and geographic variations, as a practical matter, it was also necessary to consider the availability of historical court records and willingness of local court officials to participate in the study. In North Carolina, youth aged 6 to 15 who commit a criminal offense fall under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.¹⁴ Offenses committed on or after a juvenile's sixteenth birthday fall under the adult criminal justice system. Calendar Year 1997 was chosen as the sample year to allow time for most of the juveniles in the sample to age into the adult criminal justice system. The 1997 cohort was comprised of 2,062 juveniles.

Data Collection: Juvenile Justice-Related Information

One of the practical problems in studying North Carolina's juvenile justice system is the lack of a statewide computerized database containing information about complaints, petitions, adjudications and dispositions. For purposes of this study, it was necessary to develop a data collection instrument to capture relevant information from court files on juveniles in the cohort.¹⁵

¹³ The selected sites included: District 4 (Onslow County), District 10 (Wake County), District 11 (Harnett and Johnston Counties), District 18 (Guilford County), District 21 (Forsyth County) and District 26 (Mecklenburg).

¹⁴ In North Carolina, a juvenile case may be transferred to superior court if the juvenile was at least 13 years old at the time of the offense and the alleged offense was a felony. Juvenile cases must be transferred to superior court if the juvenile was at least 13 years old at the time of the offense and the alleged offense was first degree murder (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2200).

¹⁵ In the original design of the study, juvenile court counselors' files were to be the source of data rather than clerk of court files. Court counselors' files were the preferred source for a variety of reasons. First, delinquent complaints (*e.g.*, arrests) are filed with the court counselor's office, not with the clerk of court. Since the study's purpose was to follow a cohort of first-time juvenile offenders in 1997, it would have been ideal to start with the first delinquent complaint rather than the first delinquent petition (*e.g.*, charge) filed with the clerk of court. As a result, it is possible that the 1997 cohort contains juveniles who are not true first-time offenders. Second, court counselors' files contain rich information about each juvenile above and beyond the offense and disposition-related information contained in court files. Court counselors typically collect information about the juvenile's family, school performance, peer relationships, substance abuse problems and mental health problems. With the addition of this information to the study, a more complete portrait of each juvenile could be drawn, particularly when looking at factors related to subsequent adult criminal justice system involvement. While the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was supportive of this study and allowed access to the court counselors' files, it was discovered that historical files were not consistently available and/or accessible.

This instrument, the *Juvenile-to-Adult Comprehensive Criminal History Survey Instrument*, was based on three former instruments developed, tested and implemented by the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (NCSPAC) for previous research projects (*See* Appendix B). The revised instrument was pre-tested in two judicial districts. The primary data elements of the instrument were captured from petition, adjudication and disposition court forms and included:

- identifying information (name, date of birth, sex, social security number)
- first petition charge(s) filed in 1997
- adjudicated offense(s) resulting from the first petition event
- disposition(s) ordered in response to the first petition event
- all petition charges(s) filed subsequent to the first petition filed in 1997
- all subsequent adjudicated offense(s)
- all subsequent disposition(s) ordered

Data for the 1997 cohort were collected by a research team comprised of former clerks of court and volunteers with the Guardian ad Litem Program. Although familiar with court forms related to juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system, the research team received additional training and instruction about completing the survey instrument. Completed instruments were returned to NCSPAC for coding and editing. A computerized database containing delinquency information about each of the 2,062 cohort subjects was created. It is important to note that petitions and/or adjudications occurring in other judicial districts were not collected; therefore, delinquency history may be incomplete for those juveniles who committed offenses in other jurisdictions.

Data Linking: Adult Criminal Justice-Related Information

Using a follow-up period of approximately five years (January 1997 through April 2003), juveniles in the cohort were matched into the following three automated data sources to track the accumulation of criminal history from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system:¹⁶

- The State Bureau of Investigation's Division of Criminal Information (DCI) data provided fingerprinted arrest information for juveniles in the cohort who were subsequently arrested as adults during the follow-up period. Although fingerprinting practices vary across the state, in general, offenders arrested for any felony or serious misdemeanor offense are fingerprinted.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts' Automated Criminal Information System (ACIS) data entered by court clerks provided information on adult charges, convictions and sentences imposed in District and Superior Court during the follow-

¹⁶ Identifiers used to perform the match included: name, date of birth, race, sex and social security number.

up period. This database also provided information on charges, convictions and sentences imposed for juveniles transferred from District (Juvenile) Court to Superior Court.

- The Department of Correction's Offender Population Unified System (OPUS) data provided additional information such as adult social history, program participation, and length of stay information for offenders who were incarcerated.

After compiling data from these sources, a final data set containing a comprehensive criminal history for each of the 2,062 cohort subjects was created and forms the basis of the analysis in this study.

Analysis

The comprehensive criminal history data set is the source for this detailed study of recidivism from involvement in the juvenile justice system through involvement in the criminal justice system during early adulthood. This rich data source provides an initial glimpse of the degree to which juveniles progress from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system. This being the first juvenile-to-adult recidivism study conducted in North Carolina, the findings contained in the following four chapters serve as a baseline for future studies. Chapter Three presents an in-depth descriptive statistical profile of the 1997 cohort, and aggregate statistics about juveniles who recidivated while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. Chapter Four addresses the issue of subsequent involvement in the adult criminal justice system. Chapter Five utilizes multivariate techniques to assess the relationship between recidivism as measured by subsequent adult arrest and personal, offense-related and disposition-related factors. Finally, Chapter Six offers a summary of the study's approach and main findings, and closes with some concluding thoughts on juvenile-to-adult recidivism in North Carolina.

CHAPTER THREE DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Definitions

This chapter contains detailed statistical information about the juvenile cohort. In terms of laying groundwork for this chapter, a few key concepts and terms are important to introduce.

The Juvenile Cohort

The purpose of this study was to determine juvenile and adult recidivism rates for a cohort of first-time juvenile offenders in 1997. One of the first tasks in designing this project was to clearly define what constitutes a first-time juvenile offender. A first-time juvenile offender may be defined as one having a first delinquent complaint, a first delinquent petition, or a first delinquent adjudication. In general, juvenile delinquent cases are processed from complaint to petition to adjudication and disposition much like criminal cases are processed from arrest to charge to conviction and sentencing. In the original design of this study, a first-time juvenile offender was defined as one having a first delinquent complaint (*i.e.*, arrest) in Calendar Year 1997. This definition is more inclusive, capturing information on juveniles prior to any diversions from the juvenile justice system. However, as a practical matter, it was not possible to capture information at the complaint stage given a variety of data collection limitations (*See Chapter Two*). *As a result, the cohort includes juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in Calendar Year 1997.* It is important to note that, using this definition, juveniles in the cohort may not be true first-time offenders given that it is not known if a previous delinquent complaint resulted in diversion from the system.

Processing Delinquent and Criminal Cases

Juvenile Justice System

Complaint ⇒ Petition ⇒ Adjudication ⇒ Disposition

Criminal Justice System

Arrest ⇒ Charge ⇒ Conviction ⇒ Sentence

Counting Petitions, Adjudications and Dispositions

For purposes of this report, the terms petition, adjudication and disposition refer to *events related to an outcome on one day of court*. For example, a juvenile had two petitions filed on

different days; however, both petitions were disposed of on the same day of court. While the juvenile had two petitions, they represent one petition event or, for purposes of this study, one petition with two charges. Similarly, there are cases where multiple adjudications are consolidated for disposition on the same day of court. For purposes of this study, the consolidated adjudications count for one adjudication event related to one disposition event, or one adjudication with multiple offenses and one disposition.

The Sample and Follow-up Periods

Calendar Year 1997 was chosen as the sample period in order to allow most of the juveniles in the cohort to age into the adult criminal justice system. As a practical matter, it was not possible to draw the sample from an earlier year given that juvenile court records were not consistently available across the state due to local record retention practices.

The follow-up period for the cohort began with the filing of the first delinquent petition in 1997 and ended in April 2003, ranging from about 64 months to 76 months. It is important to note that the follow-up period is a confounding factor in any study attempting to track juveniles from the juvenile justice system to the criminal justice system since age defines the follow-up period under each system. Juveniles entering the juvenile justice system at 15, for example, have a shorter follow-up period under the juvenile justice system and, conversely, a longer follow-up period under the criminal justice system. For this reason, the varying follow-up period is important to bear in mind when looking at the recidivism measures contained in this chapter and Chapter Four.

Recidivism

Important to any recidivism study is the definition of the term. This study looks at two measures of recidivism:

- juvenile recidivism - subsequent involvement in the juvenile justice system following the first delinquent petition filed in 1997. This includes subsequent petition(s), adjudication(s), and commitment(s) to training school.
- adult recidivism - any involvement in the criminal justice system following the first delinquent petition filed in 1997. This includes arrests, charges, convictions and incarcerations.

The analyses and discussion in this chapter focus on the cohort's involvement in the juvenile justice system and can be loosely divided into three sections. The first section provides a detailed profile of the cohort of first-time juvenile offenders, including demographic, offense-related and disposition-related information. In particular, this section highlights information pertaining to the first delinquent petition filed in 1997 (*i.e.*, the charge that placed the juvenile in the sample). The second section addresses the topic of juvenile recidivism. In this section, the delinquency history of each juvenile was analyzed to measure juvenile recidivism for the cohort in terms of 1) re-petition, 2) re-adjudication, and 3) re-commitment to training school. The third section further explores each

juvenile’s delinquency history during the follow-up period. This last section contains summary information about the cohort’s juvenile justice career, including the most serious adjudicated offense and types of dispositions ordered while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. This section also contains offense and disposition-related information by race and gender.

First-time Offender Profile

Demographic Characteristics

The cohort was comprised of 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in Calendar Year 1997. For those cases where demographic information was available, 73.8% (n=1,502) were male, 59.3% (n=1,031) were black and the average age at first offense was 13.5 years. While 59% of the juveniles were 14 or 15 years old at the time of their first offense, a full 10% were under the age of 12 (See Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Juveniles with First Delinquent Petition Filed in 1997
Age at First Offense

Age	Percent
6 - 11	10.1
12	11.9
13	18.5
14	26.4
15	33.0
16+	0.1
Total	2,059 100.0

NOTE: Age was missing for 3 cases.

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

First Delinquent Petition Charge

Looking at the first delinquent charge, Table 3.2 shows the most serious type of charge for juveniles with a delinquent petition filed in 1997. This represents the charge that placed the juvenile in the sample. For the majority of juveniles (67.1%), a charge for a misdemeanor offense was the most serious petition charge. Nearly 28% of the juveniles were charged with a non-violent felony offense. Only about five percent were charged with a violent felony offense.

**Table 3.2: Juveniles with Delinquent Petition Filed in 1997
First Petition Charge**

Most Serious Charge	Number Percent
Violent Felony (Class A - Class E)	105 5.1
Non-Violent Felony (Class F - Class I)	574 27.8
Misdemeanor (Class A1 - Class 3)	1,383 67.1
TOTAL	2,062 100.0

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 3.3 shows the most serious charge type (felony, misdemeanor) and category (person, property, drug, public order, local ordinance) for juveniles with a delinquent petition filed in 1997. Charges involving property offenses were the most common regardless of charge type. Nearly 75% of juveniles with a first petition filed for a felony fell in the property category; about 44% of juveniles with a first petition filed for a misdemeanor fell in this category.

**Table 3.3: Juveniles with Delinquent Petition Filed in 1997
First Petition Charge: Most Serious Offense Type and Category**

Most Serious Petition Charge Type	Most Serious Petition Charge Category					
	Person	Property	Drug	Public Order	Local Ordinance	TOTAL
	n %	n %	n %	n %	n %	n %
Felony	70 10.3	506 74.5	71 10.5	32 4.7	-	679 32.9
Misdemeanor	472 34.1	605 43.8	93 6.7	202 14.6	11 0.8	1,383 67.1
TOTAL	542 26.3	1,111 53.9	164 8.0	234 11.3	11 0.5	2,062 100.0

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Misdemeanor larceny was the most common charge with 15.4% of the cohort with a most serious petition charge for this offense. Seven other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common charges: simple assault (12.5%), assault inflicting serious injury/assault with a deadly

weapon (4.5%), assault on a government employee (4.3%), misdemeanor breaking and/or entering (3.0%), injury to personal property (2.7%), possession of a weapon (other than a firearm) on school grounds (2.7%), and injury to real property (2.6%). Only two of the 10 most common charges involved felony offenses: breaking and/or entering (8.2%) and auto theft (4.7%).

First Adjudication from First Delinquent Petition

Of the 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997, 1,502 (72.8%) were adjudicated delinquent; 554 (26.9%) were dismissed; and, 6 (0.3%) were transferred to Superior Court for prosecution as adults. Of the 554 juveniles whose petition was dismissed, 416 (75.1%) were charged with a misdemeanor as their most serious offense; 118 (21.3%) were charged with a non-violent felony offense; and, 20 (3.6%) were charged with a violent felony offense. All six juveniles transferred to superior court for prosecution as adults were charged with violent felony offenses.¹⁷

Table 3.4 shows the most serious offense for the 1,502 juveniles adjudicated delinquent as a result of the 1997 petition. About 78% of the juveniles were adjudicated delinquent for a misdemeanor as their most serious offense. Nearly 19% were adjudicated delinquent for a non-violent felony offense while only 3% were adjudicated delinquent for a violent felony offense.

**Table 3.4: Juveniles with Delinquent Petition Filed in 1997
Adjudication from First Delinquent Petition**

Most Serious Offense	Number Percent
Violent Felony <i>(Class A - Class E)</i>	50 3.4
Non-Violent Felony <i>(Class F - Class I)</i>	283 18.8
Misdemeanor <i>(Class A1 - Class 3)</i>	1,169 77.8
TOTAL	1,502 100.0

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

¹⁷ Of the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort, a total of 14 were transferred to superior court for prosecution as adults. Twelve of the cases involved violent felony charges (Class A - Class E) and the remaining 2 cases involved non-violent felony charges (Class F - Class I).

Table 3.5 shows the most serious offense type (felony, misdemeanor) and category (person, property, drug, public order, local ordinance) for the 1,502 juveniles adjudicated delinquent as a result of the 1997 petition. The same pattern holds for adjudicated offenses as petition charges: property offenses were the most common regardless of offense type. Nearly 73% of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a felony fell in the property category; about 48% of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a misdemeanor fell in this category.

**Table 3.5: Juveniles with Delinquent Petition Filed in 1997
Adjudication from First Delinquent Petition: Most Serious Offense Type and Category**

Most Serious Adjudicated Offense Type	Most Serious Adjudicated Offense Category					
	Person	Property	Drug	Public Order	Local Ordinance	TOTAL
	n %	n %	n %	n %	n %	n %
Felony	38 11.4	242 72.7	38 11.4	15 4.5	-	333 22.2
Misdemeanor	347 29.7	562 48.1	80 6.8	170 14.5	10 0.9	1,169 77.8
TOTAL	385 25.6	804 53.5	118 7.9	185 12.3	10 0.7	1,502 100.0

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Looking at specific offenses making up the top 10 most serious adjudicated offenses, simple assault was the most common. Simple assault was the most serious adjudicated offense for 12.6% of the 1,502 juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent. Seven other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common adjudicated offenses: larceny (9.1%), shoplifting (5.5%), misdemeanor breaking and/or entering (3.6%), injury to real property (2.6%), possession of a weapon (other than firearm) on school grounds (2.6%), assault on a government employee (2.5%), and unauthorized use of a motor-propelled conveyance (2.2%). Only two of the 10 most common adjudicated offenses involved felonies: breaking and/or entering (3.8%), and auto theft (2.1%).

First Disposition Ordered from First Delinquent Petition

Table 3.6 shows the types of dispositions ordered for the 1,502 juveniles whose 1997 petition resulted in an adjudication. The numbers shown in the table represent the number of juveniles ordered to each type of disposition. Note that juveniles were ordered to multiple disposition types. The most common types of dispositions ordered included probation (78.1%), community service (46.1%), restitution (25.7%), substance abuse treatment (25.5%), mental health/developmental disabilities assessment, treatment or counseling (24.4%), and intermittent confinement (15.3%). Other conditions of probation included orders not to associate with specified people and/or be in specified places (54.4%), orders not to associate with the victim (39.4%), and curfew (36.9%). Only

11 (0.7%) juveniles were committed to training school. Of those committed to training school, four were adjudicated delinquent for a violent felony offense; four were adjudicated delinquent for a non-violent felony offense; and the remaining three were adjudicated delinquent for a misdemeanor offense. An additional 43 (2.9%) juveniles were subsequently committed to training school as the result of a violation of the terms of probation. Of these juveniles, three were adjudicated delinquent for a violent felony offense; 16 were adjudicated delinquent for a non-violent felony offense; and, 24 were adjudicated delinquent for a misdemeanor.

**Table 3.6: Juveniles with Delinquent Petition Filed in 1997
Adjudication from First Delinquent Petition: Disposition Types Ordered**

Disposition Type	Number Percent	Disposition Type	Number Percent
Probation (including intensive supervision probation and other types of supervision)	1,248 83.1	Substance Abuse Treatment	383 25.5
No Association with Specified People/Places	816 54.4	Counseling (individual, family, life skills, family preservation, sex offender, other)	386 25.7
Community Service	691 46.1	Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Assessment, Treatment, Counseling	366 24.4
No Association with Victim	591 39.4	Intermittent Confinement (detention at the discretion of the court counselor)	229 15.3
Curfew	554 36.9	Out-of-home Placement (foster care, another relative, group home, boot camp program, wilderness program)	96 6.4
Restitution	386 25.7	Commitment to Training School	11 0.7

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

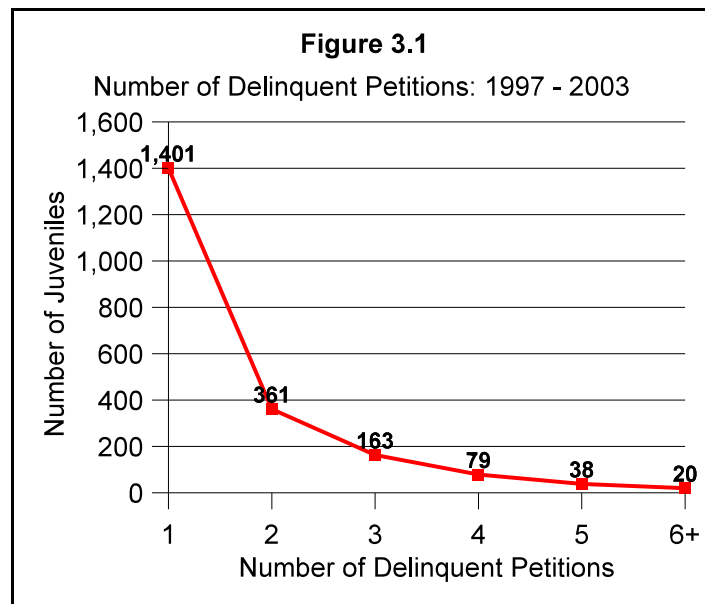
Juvenile Recidivism

Beyond providing a profile of first-time juvenile offenders, this study looks at juvenile recidivism, that is, subsequent involvement in the juvenile justice system following the first petition filed in 1997. It is possible to measure juvenile recidivism in a variety of ways given that complete delinquent histories were compiled for each of the juveniles in the cohort starting with the first delinquent petition. In this study, juvenile recidivism is measured by the following:

- re-petition: a subsequent delinquent petition filed following the original delinquent petition in 1997;
- re-adjudication: a subsequent delinquent adjudication following the first adjudication; and
- re-commitment: a subsequent commitment to training school following a previous commitment.

Juvenile Recidivism: Re-Petition

Figure 3.1 shows the number of delinquent petitions filed for the cohort during the follow-up period. Of the 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997, 1,401 (67.9%) had no other delinquent petitions filed; 661 had one or more subsequent delinquent petitions filed, or a recidivism rate of 32%. Of the 661 with at least one subsequent petition, 361 or about 18% of the cohort, had only two petitions. Less than 1% of the cohort had six or more petitions. Of course, age is a factor limiting the number of petitions a juvenile may accrue given that juveniles at least 16 years of age who commit criminal offenses are prosecuted as adults.

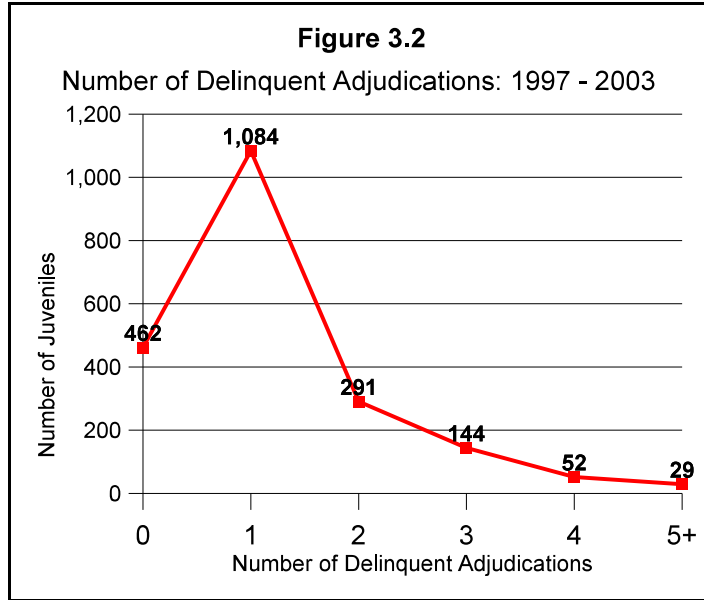


Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Juvenile Recidivism: Re-Adjudication

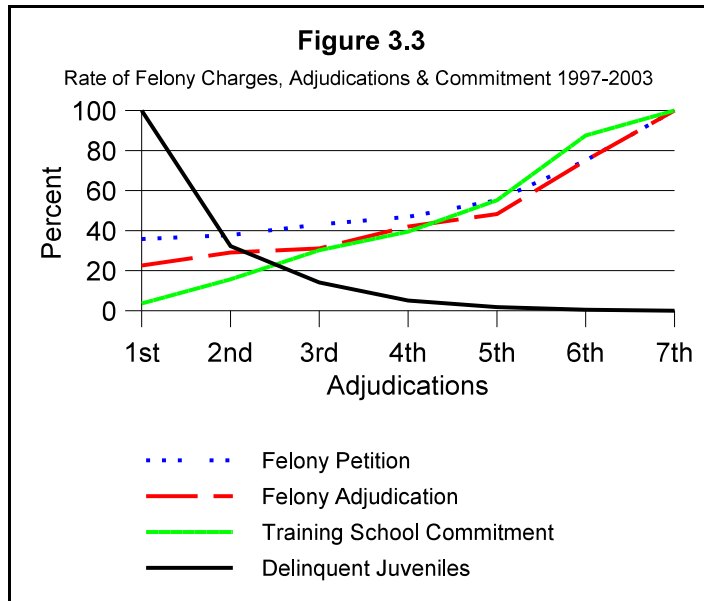
While 1,502 juveniles in the cohort were adjudicated delinquent for offenses related to the first petition in 1997, an additional 98 juveniles whose first delinquent petition was dismissed were subsequently returned to juvenile court and adjudicated delinquent on new charges. As such, a total of 1,600 (77.6%) juveniles in the cohort had at least one delinquent adjudication during the follow-

up period. Figure 3.2 shows the number of delinquent adjudications during the follow-up period. Of the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort, 462 (22.4%) were never adjudicated delinquent during the follow-up period; 1,084 (52.6%) had only one delinquent adjudication. The remaining 516 (25%) juveniles had two or more delinquent adjudications during the follow-up period, or a re-adjudication rate of about 32%. Again, age is a factor limiting the number of adjudications that can be accrued.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

In addition to the number of petitions and adjudications, this study looked at the progression of offense seriousness. Figure 3.3 shows the level of involvement in the juvenile justice system for the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort while under juvenile court jurisdiction. The graph charts the rate of felony petitions, felony adjudications and training school commitments relative to the number of juveniles involved. A definite pattern emerges with the rates tracking each other and increasing with each subsequent adjudication. It appears that the deeper a juvenile’s involvement in the system, the greater the rate of involvement with felony offenses, resulting in a higher rate of training school commitment. However, with each subsequent adjudication, fewer juveniles were involved. These data appear to show that there is a relatively small group of juveniles who persist in more serious delinquent behavior and for whom commitment to training school is more likely.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Juvenile Recidivism: Re-Commitment to Training School

Of the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort, 225 (10.9%) were committed to training school while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system (See Figure 3.4). Common offenses for

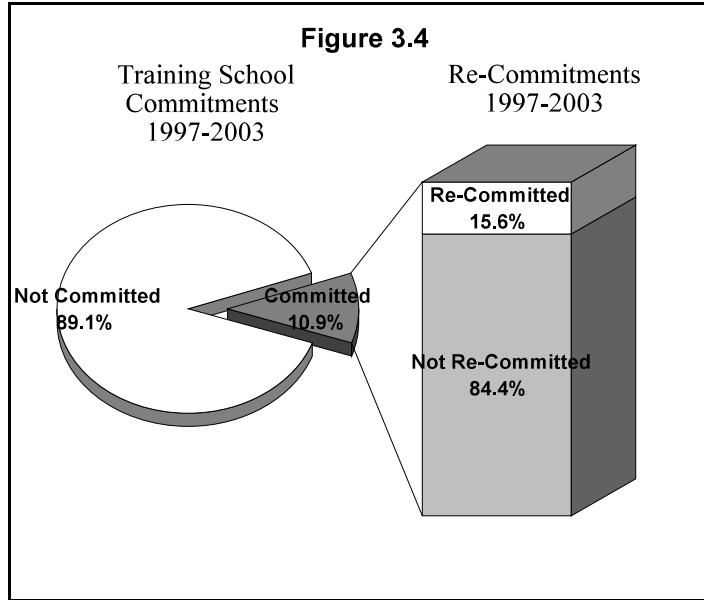
which juveniles were committed to training school included: simple assault, auto theft, felony breaking and/or entering, misdemeanor larceny, assault on a government employee, assault inflicting serious injury/assault with a deadly weapon, and possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver cocaine. Of the 225 who were committed, 35 (15.6%) were re-committed.

A Summary of the Cohort’s Juvenile Justice Career

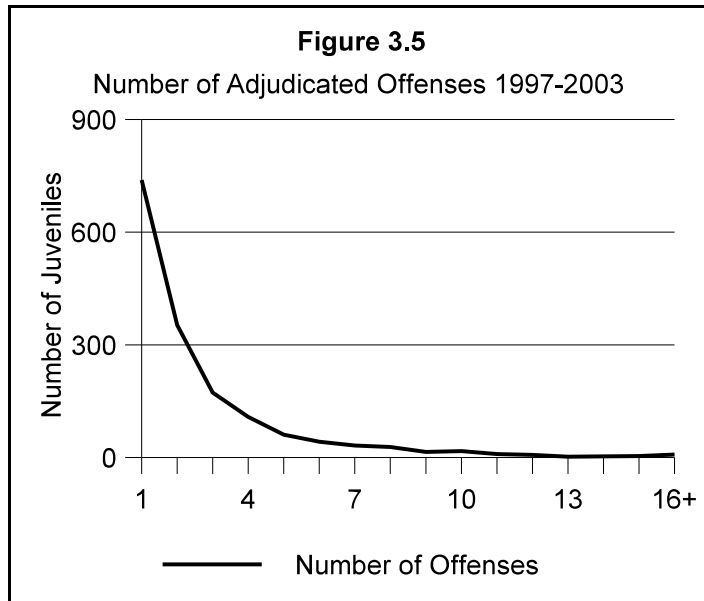
The last section of this chapter provides summary information about the juveniles in the cohort who accrued a delinquency history. That is, information contained in this section pertains to the 1,600 juveniles in the cohort who were adjudicated delinquent at least once following the 1997 petition. This section looks at the most serious adjudicated offense and types of dispositions ordered while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. This section also looks specifically at the most serious adjudicated offense and most restrictive disposition ordered (*i.e.*, commitment to training school) with respect to race and gender.

Most Serious Adjudicated Offense: 1997 - 2003

Figure 3.5 shows the distribution of the total number of adjudicated offenses for the 1,600 juveniles with at least one delinquent adjudication. About 46% (n=738) were adjudicated delinquent for one offense. About 79% (n=1,264) were adjudicated delinquent for three or fewer offenses. Three percent (n=50) were adjudicated delinquent for 10 or more offenses.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 3.7 shows the most serious adjudicated offense for juveniles in the cohort who were adjudicated delinquent at least once. This offense represents the most serious adjudicated offense for each juvenile while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. Offenses are shown by type (felony, misdemeanor) and category (person, property, drug, public order, local ordinance). Of the 1,600 juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent, the majority (67.4%) had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a misdemeanor. The remaining 32.6% had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a felony. Regardless of offense type, the most common offense category was property. Seventy-two percent of juveniles with a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony and 47.5% of juveniles with a most serious adjudicated offense for a misdemeanor fell in the property offense category.

**Table 3.7: Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent 1997 - 2003
Most Serious Adjudicated Offense**

Most Serious Adjudicated Offense Type	Most Serious Adjudicated Offense Category					
	Person	Property	Drug	Public Order	Local Ordinance	TOTAL
	n %	n %	n %	n %	n %	n %
Felony	49 9.4	376 72.0	77 14.8	20 3.8	-	522 32.6
Misdemeanor	328 30.4	512 47.5	87 8.1	147 13.6	4 0.4	1,078 67.4
TOTAL	377 23.6	888 55.5	164 10.3	167 10.4	4 0.2	1,600 100.0

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Looking at specific offenses making up the top 10 most serious adjudicated offenses, simple assault was the most common. Simple assault was the most serious adjudicated offense for 12.6% of the 1,600 juveniles in the cohort who were adjudicated delinquent. Six other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most serious adjudicated offenses: larceny (12.1%), shoplifting (5.5%), misdemeanor breaking and/or entering (4.4%), assault on a government employee (3.7%), injury to real property (3.1%), and assault inflicting serious injury/assault with a deadly weapon (2.8%). Three of the most serious adjudicated offenses involved felonies: breaking and/or entering (7.4%), auto theft (5.6%), and larceny (2.8%).

Table 3.8 shows the most serious adjudicated offense for juveniles in the cohort with respect to race and gender. Again, the offense represents the most serious adjudicated offense for each juvenile while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. As the table shows, a greater proportion of black juveniles than non-black juveniles had a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony. Nearly 38% of black juveniles had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a felony while only 30% of non-black juveniles were adjudicated of the same. An even greater difference is

apparent when looking at gender. About 38% of males had a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony while only about 16% of females had a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony.

**Table 3.8: Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent 1997 - 2003
Race, Gender and Most Serious Adjudicated Offense**

	Most Serious Adjudicated Offense		TOTAL n %
	Felony n %	Misdemeanor n %	
Black	321 37.9	525 62.1	846 59.3
Non-black	174 30.0	407 70.0	581 40.7
Male	458 38.3	738 61.7	1,196 75.6
Female	60 15.5	326 84.5	386 24.4

NOTE: Race was missing for 173 cases and gender was missing for 18 cases.

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Dispositions Ordered: 1997 - 2003

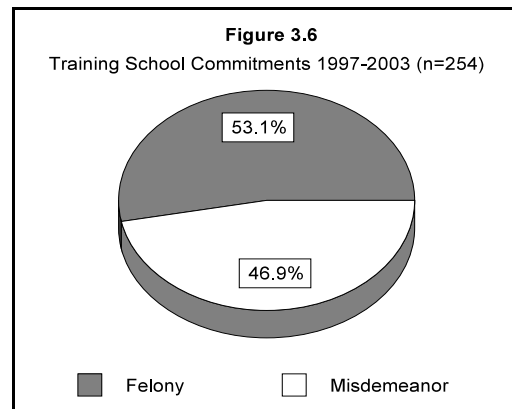
Table 3.9 shows the types of dispositions ordered for the 1,600 juveniles in the cohort with at least one delinquent adjudication while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. The numbers shown in the table represent the number of adjudicated juveniles ordered at least once to each type of disposition. Probation was the most common disposition type ordered (82.8%). About one-third of the juveniles were ordered to some type of counseling and/or treatment. Intermittent confinement (detention at the discretion of the court counselor) was ordered for nearly 26% of the juveniles. About 15% of the juveniles were placed in foster care, a group home, a wilderness program, a boot camp or with a relative.

**Table 3.9: Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent 1997 - 2003
Disposition Types Ordered**

Disposition Type	Number Percent	Disposition Type	Number Percent
Probation (including intensive supervision probation and other types of supervision)	1,325 82.8	Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Assessment, Treatment, Counseling	521 32.6
No Association with Specified People/Places	949 59.3	Restitution	492 30.8
Community Service	842 52.6	Counseling (life skills, family preservation, sex offender)	454 28.4
Curfew	709 44.3	Intermittent Confinement (detention at the discretion of the court counselor)	408 25.5
No Association with Victim	706 44.1	Out-of-home Placement (foster care, another relative, group home, boot camp program, wilderness program)	244 15.3
Substance Abuse Treatment	578 36.1	Commitment to Training School	225 14.1

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

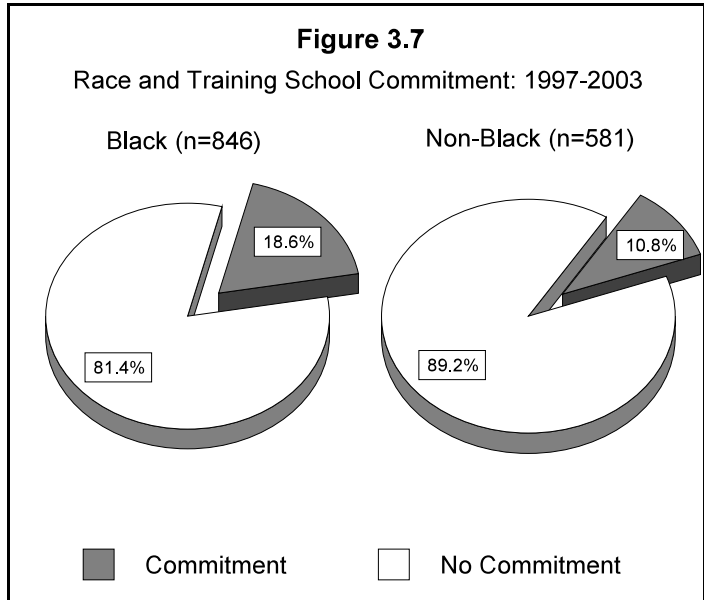
The most restrictive type of disposition, commitment to training school, was ordered for 225 (14.1%) of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent. These 225 juveniles accounted for 263 total commitments. Of the 263 commitments, 254 were offense-related (direct commitment from juvenile court or the result of a violation of the terms of probation); nine were revocations of a conditional release. Of the 254 offense-related commitments, about 53% involved felonies (See Figure 3.6).



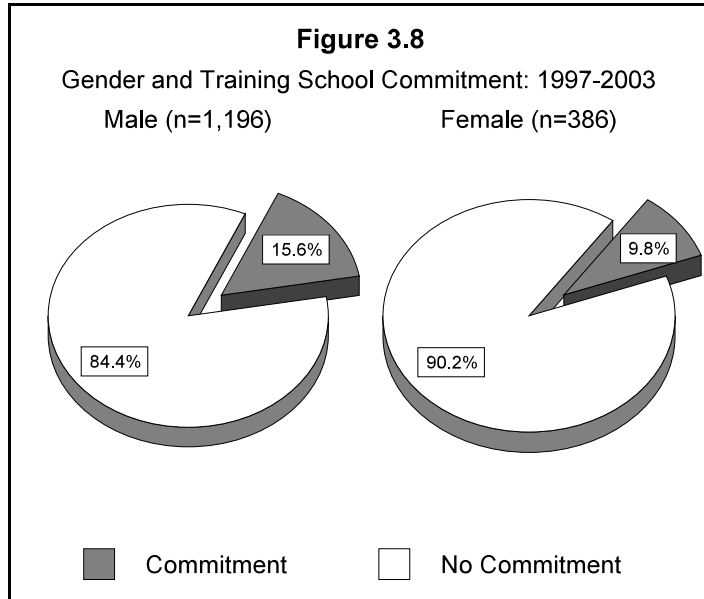
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

The commitment rate by race is shown in Figure 3.7. The commitment rate for black juveniles was higher than for non-black juveniles, 18.6% (n=157) and 10.8% (n=63), respectively. Looking at the offense-related commitments by race, 54.4% (n=98) of the black commitments and 52.2% (n=36) of the non-black commitments involved a felony offense (See Table 3.10).

Figure 3.8 shows the training school commitment rate for the 1,600 adjudicated juveniles in the cohort with respect to gender. The commitment rate for males was higher than for females, with a 15.6% (n=187) commitment rate for males compared to a 9.8% (n=38) commitment rate for females. Looking at the 254 offense-related commitments by gender, 59.6% (n=127) of the male commitments involved a felony offense compared to 19.5% (n=8) of female commitments (See Table 3.10).



Note: information about race was missing for 173 cases.
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset



Note: information about gender was missing for 18 cases.
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

**Table 3.10: Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent 1997 - 2003
Training School Commitments: Race, Gender and Offense Type**

	Most Serious Adjudicated Offense Resulting in Training School Commitment		TOTAL n %
	Felony n %	Misdemeanor n %	
Black	98 54.4	82 45.6	180 72.3
Non-black	36 52.2	33 47.8	69 27.7
Male	127 59.6	86 40.4	213 83.9
Female	8 19.5	33 80.5	41 16.1

NOTE: Race was missing for 5 commitments.

SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Summary of Findings

The purpose of this study was to determine juvenile and adult recidivism rates for a cohort of first-time juvenile offenders in 1997. Information was collected on all delinquent petitions, adjudications and dispositions for each juvenile in the 1997 cohort. Below is a summary of the major findings about the cohort’s juvenile justice system involvement described in this chapter.

1997 Cohort Profile

- The cohort was comprised of 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in Calendar Year 1997. For those cases where demographic information was available, 73.8% were male, 59.3% were black and the average age at first offense was 13.5 years.
- With regard to the first delinquent charge for the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort, the majority (67.1%) were charged with a misdemeanor as their most serious charge. Nearly 28% were charged with a non-violent felony offense and only about five percent were charged with a violent felony offense. Charges involving property offenses were the most common regardless of charge type (felony or misdemeanor).

- Of the 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997, 1,502 (72.8%) were adjudicated delinquent; 554 (26.9%) were dismissed; and, (0.3%) were transferred to superior court for prosecution as adults. About 78% of the juveniles were adjudicated delinquent for a misdemeanor as their most serious offense. Nearly 19% were adjudicated delinquent for a non-violent felony offense while only 3% were adjudicated delinquent for a violent felony offense. As found with petition charges, adjudications for property offenses were the most common regardless of offense type (felony or misdemeanor).
- For the 1,502 juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent as a result of the 1997 petition, the most common disposition types included probation (78.1%), community service (46.1%), restitution (25.7%), substance abuse treatment (25.5%), mental health/developmental disabilities assessment, treatment or counseling (24.4%), and intermittent confinement (15.3%). Only 11 (0.7%) juveniles were committed to training school.

Juvenile Justice Career: Delinquency History

- Of the 1,600 juveniles in the cohort who were adjudicated delinquent at least once following the 1997 petition, the majority (67.4%) had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a misdemeanor. Regardless of offense type (felony, misdemeanor), the most common offense category was property.
- A greater proportion of black juveniles than non-black juveniles had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a felony (38% and 30%, respectively). A greater proportion of males than females had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a felony (38% and 16%, respectively).
- Probation was the most common disposition (82.8%) ordered for the 1,600 juveniles who had at least one delinquent adjudication following the 1997 petition. The most restrictive type of disposition, commitment to training school, was ordered for 225 (14.1%) of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent. These 225 juveniles accounted for 263 total commitments. Of the 263 commitments, 254 were offense-related (direct commitment from juvenile court or the result of a violation of the terms of probation); nine were revocations of a conditional release. Of the 254 offense-related commitments, about 53% involved felonies.
- The commitment rate for black juveniles was higher than for non-black juveniles (18.6% and 10.8%, respectively). Looking at the offense-related commitments by race, 54.4% of the black commitments and 52.2% of non-black commitments involved a felony offense. The commitment rate for males was higher than for females (15.6% and 9.8%, respectively). Looking at the 254 offense-related

commitments by gender, 59.6% of the male commitments involved a felony offense compared to 19.5% of female commitments.

Juvenile Recidivism

- Re-Petition - Of the 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997, 1,401 (67.9%) had no other delinquent petitions filed; 661 had one or more subsequent delinquent petitions filed, or a re-petition rate of 32%.
- Re-Adjudication - Of the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort, 462 (22.4%) were never adjudicated delinquent during the follow-up period; 1,084 (52.6%) had only one delinquent adjudication. The remaining 516 (25%) juveniles had two or more delinquent adjudications during the follow-up period, or a re-adjudication rate of about 32%.
- Re-Commitment - Of the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort, 225 (10.9%) were committed to training school. Of the 225 committed, 35 (15.6%) were re-committed.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUBSEQUENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Chapter Three provides detailed information about the 1997 juvenile cohort's involvement in the juvenile justice system including several measures of juvenile recidivism. This chapter focuses on the cohort's involvement in the adult criminal justice system or adult recidivism. The chapter can be divided into two sections. The first section contains information on adult arrests, charges, convictions, and sentences for the cohort and the second section looks at factors related to adult recidivism using multivariate analysis.

For purposes of this study, adult recidivism is measured by any involvement in the adult criminal justice system following the 1997 delinquent petition including adult arrests, charges, convictions and incarcerations. Two data sources were used to complete adult criminal histories for the 2,062 cohort cases:

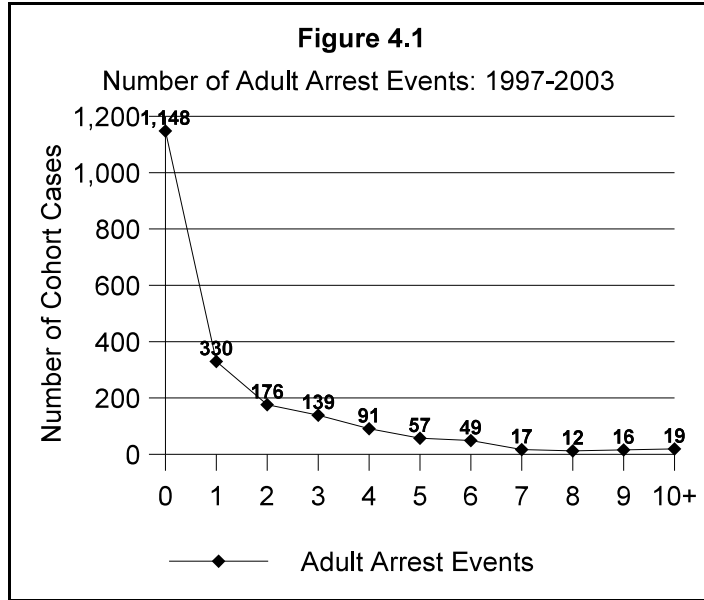
- The Division of Criminal Information (DCI) with the State Bureau of Investigation maintains a statewide database containing information on all fingerprinted arrests and resulting convictions. Local fingerprinting practices vary by jurisdiction but, in general, arrests involving felony offenses and serious misdemeanors are fingerprinted.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts maintains its Automated Criminal Information System (ACIS) which contains information on all adult charges, convictions and sentences.

For each cohort case, the follow-up period started with the filing of the 1997 delinquent petition and ended in April 2003. The follow-up period ranged from about 64 months to 76 months. As stated in Chapter Three, the follow-up period is a confounding factor in any study attempting to track juveniles from the juvenile justice system to the criminal justice system since age defines the follow-up period under each system. Juveniles entering the juvenile justice system at 15, for example, have a shorter follow-up period under the juvenile justice system and, conversely, a longer follow-up period under the criminal justice system. For this reason, the varying follow-up period is important to bear in mind when looking at the recidivism measures contained in this chapter.

Adult Arrest

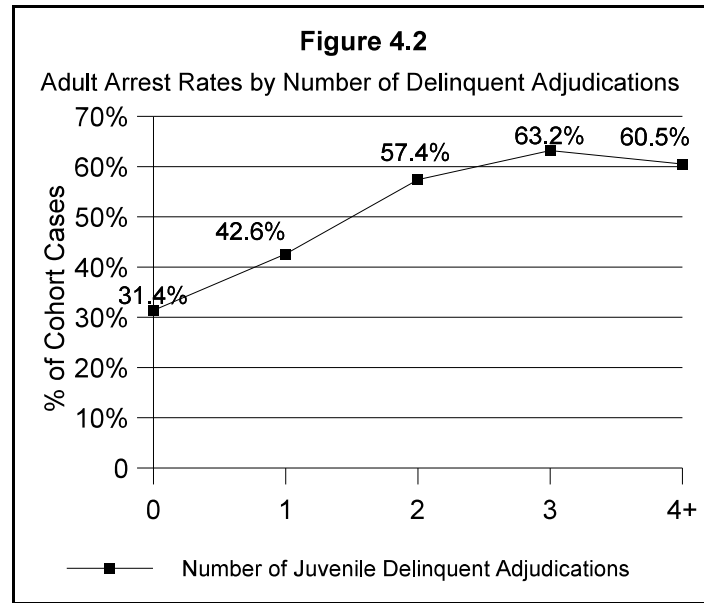
Figure 4.1 shows the number of adult arrest events during the follow-up period. *Adult arrest events are counted by date of arrest meaning that all arrests occurring on the same date of arrest are counted as one arrest event.* Of the 2,062 cohort cases, 1,148 (55.7%) cases had no adult arrests during the follow-up period. The remaining 914 had at least one adult arrest or a recidivism rate of 44.3%. Of the 914 cohort cases with at least one arrest, 36% (n=330) had one adult arrest during the follow-up period. Nearly 19% (n=170) had more than four arrests.

Figure 4.2 shows the adult arrest rate by the number of juvenile delinquent adjudications for the 1997 cohort. Cohort cases having had a delinquent petition filed in 1997 without ever having been adjudicated delinquent had the lowest adult arrest rate (31.4%). Looking at the chart, a definite pattern emerges with arrest rates increasing as the number of delinquent adjudications increases. The pattern breaks for cases with four or more adjudications where the rate drops to 60.5%. These cases were probably the youngest in the cohort, having had enough time in the juvenile justice system to accrue four or more adjudications and yet not a lot of time to show up in the adult criminal justice system.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

For the cases with at least one adult arrest, 66.5% (n=591) were black, 83.6% (n=754) were male and the average age at first adult arrest was 17.¹⁸ Table 4.1 shows the distribution of the 914 cohort cases by age at first adult arrest. About 45% of the cases were 16 years old at the time of their first adult arrest. Another 26% were 17 years old at the time of their first adult arrest. Less than 2% of cohort cases were 21 at the time of their first adult arrest. Given that about 71% of the cohort cases with an adult arrest were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first arrest, it appears that those who were arrested as adults were likely to do so quickly. For these cases, there was no crime-free period between involvement in the juvenile justice system and subsequent involvement in the criminal justice system.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

¹⁸ Information about race was missing for 25 cases. Information about gender was missing for 12 cases.

**Table 4.1: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Age at First Adult Arrest**

Age	Number Percent
16	412 45.1
17	239 26.2
18	141 15.4
19	70 7.6
20	40 4.4
21	12 1.3
Total	914 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.2 shows the distribution of cohort cases by age at first adult arrest and number of delinquent adjudications. Looking at the number of delinquent adjudications for the cohort cases with an adult arrest, about 16% (n=145) were never adjudicated delinquent.¹⁹ Nearly 69% (n=629) of cases had one or two delinquent adjudications. While most of the adult recidivists were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first adult arrest, a greater proportion of those with the most extensive juvenile delinquency histories compared to those with less extensive delinquency histories were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first adult arrest. For example, nearly 90% (n=44) of adult recidivists with at least four delinquent adjudications were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first adult arrest while 65% of those with only one delinquent adjudication were 16 or 17 at the time of their first adult arrest.

¹⁹ As juveniles, these cases had a first delinquent petition filed in 1997 which was dismissed and had no other juvenile court involvement.

**Table 4.2: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Age at First Adult Arrest and Number of Juvenile Delinquent Adjudications**

Age at First Arrest	Number of Juvenile Delinquent Adjudications					Total
	0	1	2	3	4+	
16	52 35.9	197 42.7	85 50.9	50 54.9	28 57.1	412 45.1
17	42 29.0	105 22.7	48 28.7	28 30.8	16 32.7	239 26.2
18	24 16.5	81 17.5	21 12.6	12 13.2	3 6.1	141 15.4
19	20 13.8	37 8.0	10 6.0	1 1.1	2 4.1	70 7.6
20	4 2.7	34 7.4	2 1.2	-	-	40 4.4
21	3 2.1	8 1.7	1 0.6	-	-	12 1.3
Total	145 15.9	462 50.5	167 18.3	91 10.0	49 5.3	914 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

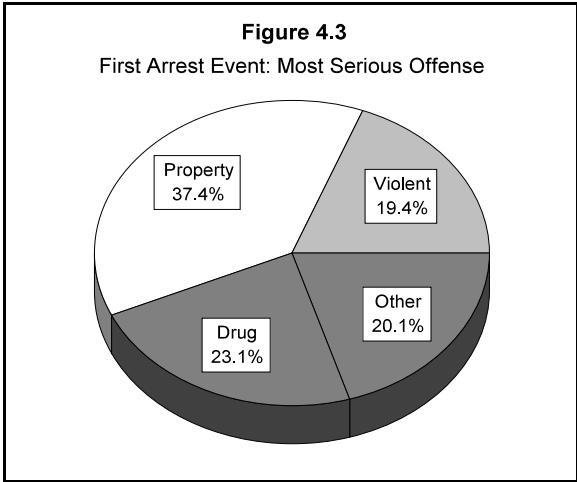
Figure 4.3 shows the distribution of the most serious offense involved in the first adult arrest event.²⁰ The most common arrests involved property offenses with 342 (37.4%) cohort cases falling in this category. About 23% were arrested for a drug offense and about 19% were arrested for a violent offense.

Figure 4.4 shows the distribution of the total number of offenses for the 914 cases with at least one adult arrest. This represents the total number of offenses for which each adult recidivist

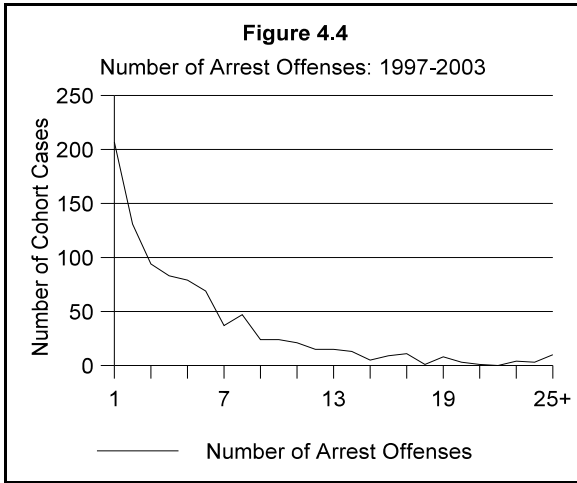
²⁰ The classification of offenses as violent, property, drug and “other” was a very broad categorization. For example, felony assaults and misdemeanor assaults were both considered violent offenses. The violent offense category included offenses such as murder, rape, voluntary and involuntary manslaughter, indecent liberties with a child and other sexual assaults, kidnaping, robbery, arson and other burning offenses. The property offense category included offenses such as burglary, breaking and/or entering, larceny, fraud, forgery and/or uttering, receiving and/or possessing stolen goods, and embezzlement. The drug offense category included trafficking of controlled substances and other offenses involving the sale, delivery, manufacture or possession of controlled substances. The “other” offense category included offenses not categorized as violent, property or drug. Examples include prostitution, obscenity, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

was arrested during the follow-up period. About 23% (n=207) were arrested for one offense. Slightly over half were arrested for four or fewer offenses. Nearly 16% (n=143) were arrested for 10 or more offenses.

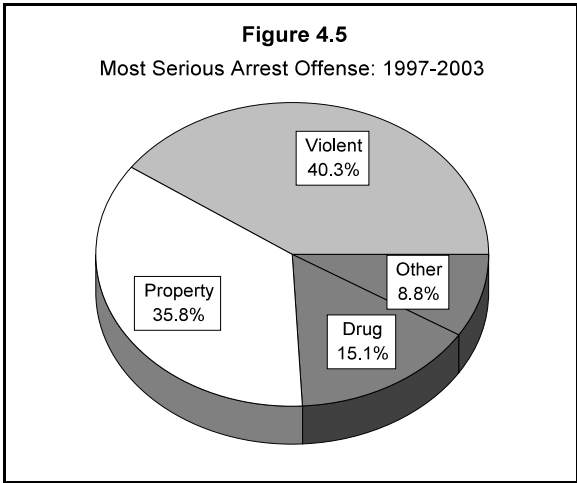
Figure 4.5 shows distribution of the most serious offense for which adult recidivists were arrested during the follow-up period. Compared to the distribution of the most serious offense involved in the first arrest, this distribution shifts toward a greater proportion of adult recidivists having an arrest for a violent offense when looking at all arrests during the follow-up period. About 40% of adult recidivists were arrested for a violent offense as their most serious offense during the follow-up period. Nearly 36% of adult recidivists were arrested for a property offense as their most serious offense and about 15% were arrested for a drug offense as their most serious offense during the follow-up period. These data seem to suggest a progression in offense seriousness for the cohort cases with continued criminal behavior.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Database



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

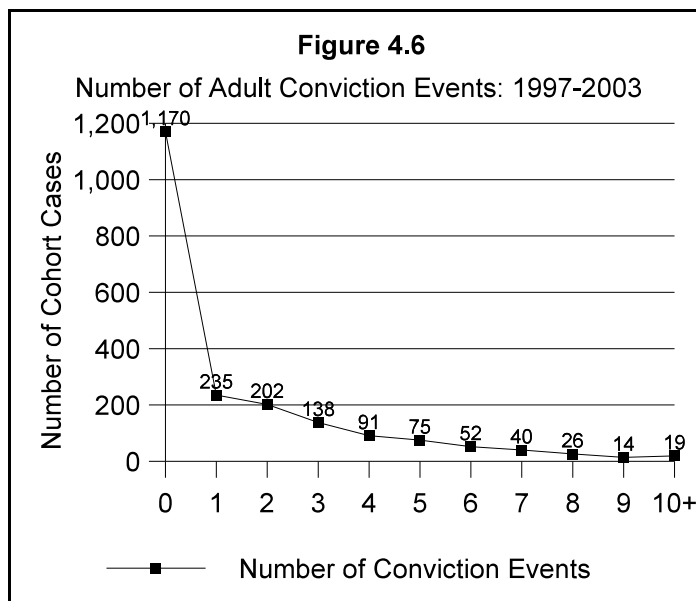
Adult Convictions

Court data were analyzed to identify subsequent adult charges, convictions and sentences for the cohort during the follow-up period. Of the 2,062 cohort cases, 1,301 (63.1%) were identified as having at least one adult charge during the follow-up period. This included charges for felony offenses, misdemeanor offenses, traffic offenses, and infractions. Looking at convictions, 1,111 (53.9%) cases were convicted as adults at least once during the follow-up period. These convictions involved felony offenses, misdemeanor offenses, traffic offenses, and infractions. Of particular interest in terms of adult

recidivism were those cohort cases convicted of felony or misdemeanor offenses during the follow-up period. Of the 2,062 cohort cases, 892 were identified as being convicted of a felony or misdemeanor offense or a recidivism rate of 43.3%. It should be noted that cases convicted of serious traffic offenses (Class 1 misdemeanors) were included in the adult recidivist group.²¹ Cases involving convictions for non-serious traffic offenses were not included. The remainder of this section focuses on the 892 adult recidivist cases with at least one felony or misdemeanor conviction during the follow-up period.

Figure 4.6 shows the number of adult conviction events involving a felony or misdemeanor offense. *A conviction event is comprised of all offenses for which an offender is convicted on a given day of court and is characterized by the most serious convicted offense.* Of the 2,062 cohort cases, 1,170 (56.7%) cases had no felony or misdemeanor convictions during the follow-up period. The remaining 892 (43.3%) cases had at least one adult conviction. Of the 892 adult recidivists, about 49% (n=437) had one or two convictions during the follow-up period. About 2% (n=19) of the cases had 10 or more adult convictions. For the cases with at least one conviction, 61.8% (n=551) were black, 84.2% (n=743) were male and the average age at first conviction was 17.²²

Figure 4.7 shows the adult conviction rate by the number of juvenile delinquent adjudications for the 1997 cohort. Cohort cases having had a delinquent petition filed in 1997 without ever having



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

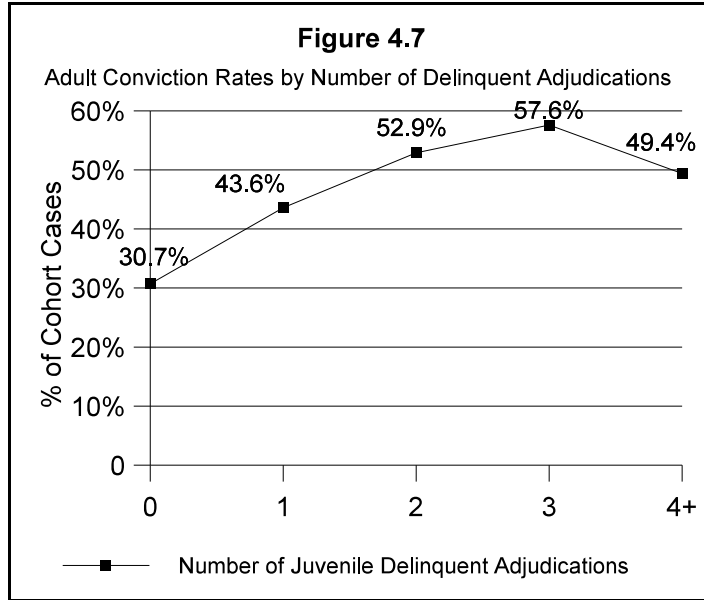
²¹ Class 1 traffic offenses include driving while license revoked, operate vehicle with no insurance, hit and run/fail to stop where property damage is involved, hit and run/leave the scene where property damage is involved, hit and run/leave the scene where personal injury is involved, and use of a red or blue light.

²² Information about gender was missing for 10 cases.

been adjudicated delinquent had the lowest adult conviction rate (30.7%). As seen with adult arrest rates, a definite pattern emerges with conviction rates increasing as the number of delinquent adjudications increases. The pattern breaks for cases with four or more adjudications where the rate drops to 49.4%. These cases were probably the youngest in the cohort, having had enough time in the juvenile justice system to accrue four or more adjudications and yet not a lot of time to show up in the adult criminal justice system.

First Conviction Event

Looking at the first conviction event, Table 4.3 shows the most serious type of charge for the 892 adult recidivists. For the majority of cases (70.3%), a charge for a misdemeanor offense was the most serious type of charge. Nearly 25% of the cases were charged with a non-violent felony offense and about five percent were charged with a violent felony offense.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

**Table 4.3: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
First Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Charge**

Most Serious Charge	Number Percent
Violent Felony <i>(Class A - Class E)</i>	46 5.2
Non-Violent Felony <i>(Class F - Class I)</i>	219 24.5
Misdemeanor <i>(Class A1 - Class 3)</i>	627 70.3
TOTAL	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.4 shows the most serious charge type (felony, misdemeanor) and category (person, property, drugs, public order) involved in the first conviction event. Overall, the most common

offense category was public order with 40.7% of cases falling in this category.²³ For cases with a most serious charge involving a felony, the most common offense category was property with 47.1% of cases falling in this category. For cases with a most serious charge involving a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with nearly 55% of cases falling in this category.

**Table 4.4: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
First Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Charge Type and Category**

Most Serious Charge Type	Most Serious Charge Category				TOTAL n %
	Person n %	Property n %	Drug n %	Public Order n %	
Felony	56 21.1	125 47.2	65 24.5	19 7.2	265 29.7
Misdemeanor	94 15.0	108 17.2	81 12.9	344 54.9	627 70.3
TOTAL	150 16.8	233 26.1	146 16.4	363 40.7	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Misdemeanor larceny was the most common charge with 6.4% of the cases with a most serious charge for this offense. Seven other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common charges: no operator’s license (5.7%), speeding (4.6%), possession of drug paraphernalia (4.2%), possession of marijuana up to 0.5 ounce (4.2%), simple assault (3.8%), second degree trespass (3.8%), and resisting public officer (3.1%). Only two of the 10 most common charges involved felony offenses: breaking and/or entering (4.0%) and larceny of motor vehicle (2.6%).

Turning to conviction information about the first conviction event, Table 4.5 shows the most serious convicted offense for the 892 adult recidivists. About 77% of adult recidivists were convicted of a misdemeanor offense as their most serious offense. Nearly 15% of the cases were convicted of a non-violent felony offense and about two percent were convicted of a violent felony offense. Note that the most serious convicted offense for nearly six percent of the adult recidivists

²³ This category includes Class 1 traffic offenses such driving while license revoked, operate vehicle with no insurance, hit and run/fail to stop where property damage is involved, hit and run/leave the scene where property damage is involved, hit and run/leave the scene where personal injury is involved, use of red or blue light, and Class 2 traffic offenses such as no operator’s license, speeding, reckless driving to endanger, reckless driving/wanton disregard, license not in possession, no registration card, expired registration card, and fail to exhibit/surrender driver’s license. In total, there were 114 (12.8%) adult recidivists whose first conviction event involved a most serious charge for a Class 1 or Class 2 traffic offense.

involved an infraction.²⁴

**Table 4.5: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
First Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Convicted Offense**

Most Serious Offense	Number Percent
Violent Felony <i>(Class A - Class E)</i>	21 2.3
Non-Violent Felony <i>(Class F - Class I)</i>	130 14.6
Misdemeanor <i>(Class A1 - Class 3)</i>	690 77.4
Infraction	51 5.7
TOTAL	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.6 shows the most serious convicted offense type (felony, misdemeanor, infraction) and category (person, property, drugs, public order) involved in the first conviction event. Overall, the most common offense category was public order with 42.8% of cases falling in this category.²⁵ For cases with a most serious conviction for a felony, the most common offense category was property with 39.1% of cases falling in this category. For cases with a most serious conviction for a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with about 46% of cases falling in this category.

²⁴ While the first conviction for these 51 cases involved an infraction, they were included in the adult recidivist group for a subsequent conviction involving a felony or misdemeanor.

²⁵ This category includes Class 1 traffic offenses such driving while license revoked, operate vehicle with no insurance, hit and run/fail to stop where property damage is involved, hit and run/leave the scene where property damage is involved, hit and run/leave the scene where personal injury is involved, use of red or blue light, and Class 2 traffic offenses such as no operator’s license, speeding, reckless driving to endanger, reckless driving/wanton disregard, license not in possession, no registration card, expired registration card, and fail to exhibit/surrender driver’s license. In total, there were 127 (14.2%) adult recidivists whose first conviction event involved a most serious conviction for a Class 1 or Class 2 traffic offense.

**Table 4.6: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
First Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Convicted Offense Type and Category**

Most Serious Convicted Offense Type	Most Serious Convicted Offense Category				TOTAL n %
	Person n %	Property n %	Drug n %	Public Order n %	
Felony	41 27.1	59 39.1	38 25.2	13 8.6	151 16.9
Misdemeanor	97 14.0	164 23.8	111 16.1	318 46.1	690 77.4
Infraction	-	-	-	51 100.0	51 5.7
TOTAL	138 15.5	223 25.0	149 16.7	382 42.8	892 100.0

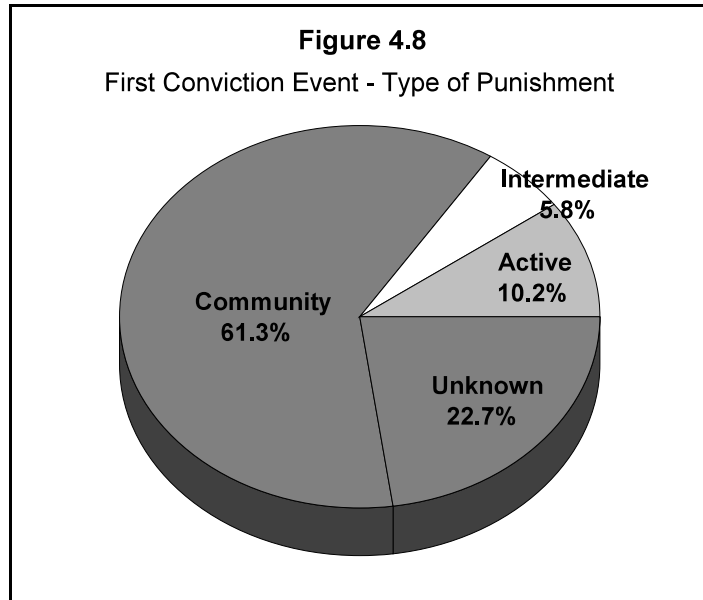
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Misdemeanor larceny was the most common offense with 9.1% of the cases with a most serious conviction for this offense. Eight other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common convicted offenses: possession of marijuana up to 0.5 ounce (5.9%), no operator’s license (5.7%), possession of drug paraphernalia (5.5%), simple assault (4.6%), second degree trespass (3.8%), resisting public officer (3.6%), speeding (2.8%), and possession (underage) of a malt beverage/unfortified wine (2.4%) . Only one of the 10 most common convicted offenses involved a felony offense: breaking and/or entering (2.4%).

Looking at sentences imposed as a result of the first conviction event, Figure 4.8 shows that 10.2% (n=91) of adult recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment; 5.8% (n=52) received an intermediate punishment, and 61.3% (n=547) received a community punishment.²⁶ Of the 91 cases receiving an active punishment, 33 (36.3%) were convicted of a felony and the remaining 58 (63.7%) were convicted of a misdemeanor. The average minimum sentence imposed

²⁶Under Structured Sentencing, offenders are sentenced to an active, intermediate or community punishment based on the severity of the convicted offense (*i.e.*, the offense class of the most serious convicted offense) and prior criminal history. An active punishment requires that an offender be sentenced to a local jail facility or state prison. In general, active punishments are reserved for offenders convicted of a serious offense and/or those with an extensive criminal history. An intermediate punishment requires that an offender be sentenced to a term of supervised probation with at least one of the following conditions: special probation which includes a term of imprisonment, residential program (*e.g.*, substance abuse treatment), house arrest with electronic monitoring, intensive probation, or day reporting center. The least restrictive type of punishment is a community punishment. A community punishment may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: supervised or unsupervised probation, outpatient drug/alcohol treatment, community service, restitution or fine.

was 10.6 months for adult recidivists receiving an active punishment. There was one offender convicted of first degree murder whose sentence was life without parole. Note that for 202 (22.7%) cases the punishment type was unknown. Fifty-one of these cases involved infractions where an active, intermediate or community punishment can not be imposed. It is not clear why punishment information was not available for the remaining 151 cases (148 cases involving misdemeanor offenses and 3 cases involving felony offenses). It is possible that a fine or court cost was ordered for these cases without a type of punishment being specified.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Most Serious Conviction Event

Looking at the most serious conviction event during the follow-up period, Table 4.7 shows the most serious type of charge for the 892 adult recidivists. For the 235 (26.3%) adult recidivists with only one adult conviction during the follow-up period, this charge is the same as the charge involved in the first conviction. For the remaining 657 (73.7%) adult recidivists with two or more adult convictions, this charge is the most serious charge associated with the most serious conviction event during the follow-up period. About 55% of adult recidivists had a most serious charge for a felony offense. Nearly 14% were charged with a violent felony and about 41% were charged with a non-violent felony. The remaining 45.1% of adult recidivists had a most serious charge involving a misdemeanor offense. In general, it appears that the 892 adult recidivists were involved in increasingly more serious offenses during the follow-up period. For example, only 29.7% of adult recidivists had a most serious charge involving a felony in their first conviction event while about 55% had a most serious charge involving a felony during the follow-up period. Specifically, 24.5% (n=219) of adult recidivists had a most serious charge involving a non-violent felony in their first conviction event while 41.2% (n=368) had a most serious charge involving a non-violent felony during the follow-up period. For charges involving violent felony offenses, only 5.2% (n=46) of adult recidivists had a most serious charge for a violent felony in their first conviction event while nearly 14% (n=122) had a most serious charge involving a violent felony during the follow-up period.

**Table 4.7: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Most Serious Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Charge**

Most Serious Charge	Number Percent
Violent Felony <i>(Class A - Class E)</i>	122 13.7
Non-Violent Felony <i>(Class F - Class I)</i>	368 41.2
Misdemeanor <i>(Class A1 - Class 3)</i>	402 45.1
TOTAL	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.8 shows the most serious charge type (felony, misdemeanor) and category (person, property, drugs, public order) involved in the most serious conviction event during the follow-up period. Overall, the most common offense category was property with 29.4% of cases falling in this category. For cases with a most serious charge involving a felony, the most common offense category was property with 35.7% of cases falling in this category. For cases with a most serious charge involving a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with nearly 44% of cases falling in this category.²⁷ Looking at the first conviction event, 40.7% of the 892 adult recidivists had a most serious charge for a public order offense. This compares to 25% of the adult recidivists with a most serious charge for a public order offense during the follow-up period. It appears that the cohort changed from being largely involved in misdemeanor public order offenses to felony offenses, fairly evenly divided into the person (n=130), property (n=175), and drug (n=138) categories.

Felony breaking and/or entering was the most common charge with 7.5% of the cases with a most serious charge for this offense. Five other felony offenses comprise the 10 most common charges: armed robbery (6.2%), possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine (5.5%), sell cocaine (2.9%), larceny (2.0%), and possession of stolen goods/property (2.0%). Four of the 10 most common charges involved misdemeanor offenses: misdemeanor larceny (5.3%), possession of drug paraphernalia (4.6%), driving while license revoked (3.6%), and assault on a female (2.6%).

²⁷ There were 5 (0.6%) adult recidivists whose most serious conviction event involved a most serious charge for a Class 1 traffic offense.

**Table 4.8: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Most Serious Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Charge Type and Category**

Most Serious Charge Type	Most Serious Charge Category				TOTAL n %
	Person n %	Property n %	Drug n %	Public Order n %	
Felony	130 26.5	175 35.7	138 28.2	47 9.6	490 54.9
Misdemeanor	75 18.7	87 21.6	64 15.9	176 43.8	402 45.1
TOTAL	205 23.0	262 29.4	202 22.6	223 25.0	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Turning to conviction information about the most serious conviction event during the follow-up period, Table 4.9 shows the most serious convicted offense for the 892 adult recidivists. Nearly 57% of adult recidivists were convicted of a misdemeanor offense as their most serious offense. The remaining 43% were convicted of a felony as their most serious offense. About 8% of the cases were convicted of a violent felony offense and about 35% were convicted of a non-violent felony offense. Again, data show that many of the 892 adult recidivists appear to have been involved in increasingly more serious offenses during the follow-up period. For example, about 17% of adult recidivists had a most serious conviction for a felony in their first conviction event compared to a felony conviction rate of 43% during the follow-up period. Specifically, only 14.6% (n=130) of adult recidivists were convicted for a non-violent felony in their first conviction event while about 35% (n=315) had were convicted of a non-violent felony during the follow-up period. Looking at convictions for violent felony offenses, only 2.3% of the adult recidivist had a most serious convicted offense involving a felony in their first conviction event compared to 8.2% of the adult recidivists with a most serious conviction for a felony during the follow-up period.

**Table 4.9: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Most Serious Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Convicted Offense**

Most Serious Offense	Number Percent
Violent Felony (Class A - Class E)	73 8.2
Non-Violent Felony (Class F - Class I)	315 35.3
Misdemeanor (Class A1 - Class 3)	504 56.5
TOTAL	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.10 shows the most serious convicted offense type (felony, misdemeanor) and category (person, property, drugs, public order) involved in the most serious conviction event during the follow-up period. Overall, the most common offense categories were property and public order with 28.4% of cases falling in each of these category. For cases with a most serious conviction for a felony, the most common offense category was property with 32.2% of cases falling in this category. For cases with a most serious conviction for a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with 39.5% of cases falling in this category.

**Table 4.10: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Most Serious Adult Conviction Event - Most Serious Convicted Offense Type and Category**

Most Serious Convicted Offense Type	Most Serious Convicted Offense Category				TOTAL n %
	Person n %	Property n %	Drug n %	Public Order n %	
Felony	106 27.3	125 32.2	103 26.6	54 13.9	388 43.5
Misdemeanor	80 15.9	128 25.4	97 19.2	199 39.5	504 56.5
TOTAL	186 20.8	253 28.4	200 22.4	253 28.4	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Misdemeanor larceny was the most common offense with 7.2% of the cases with a most serious conviction for this offense. Five other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common convicted offenses: possession of drug paraphernalia (6.6%), driving while license revoked (3.6%), possession of marijuana up to 0.5 ounce (3.1%), assault on a female (2.5%), and simple assault (2.1%). Four of the 10 most common convicted offenses involved felony offenses: breaking and/or entering (5.8%), possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine (3.8%), armed robbery (3.7%), and common law robbery (3.3%).

Table 4.11 shows the most serious convicted offense during the follow-up period with respect to race. Black recidivists had a higher rate of felony conviction relative to non-black recidivists. During the follow-up period, nearly 49% (n=268) of black recidivists were convicted of a felony offense while about 35% (n=120) of non-black recidivists were convicted of a felony. The table also shows the most serious convicted offense during the follow-up period with respect to gender. Male recidivists had a much higher rate of felony conviction relative to their female counterparts. During the follow-up period, nearly 49% (n=362) of male recidivists were convicted of a felony while only about 17% (n=24) of female recidivists were convicted of a felony.

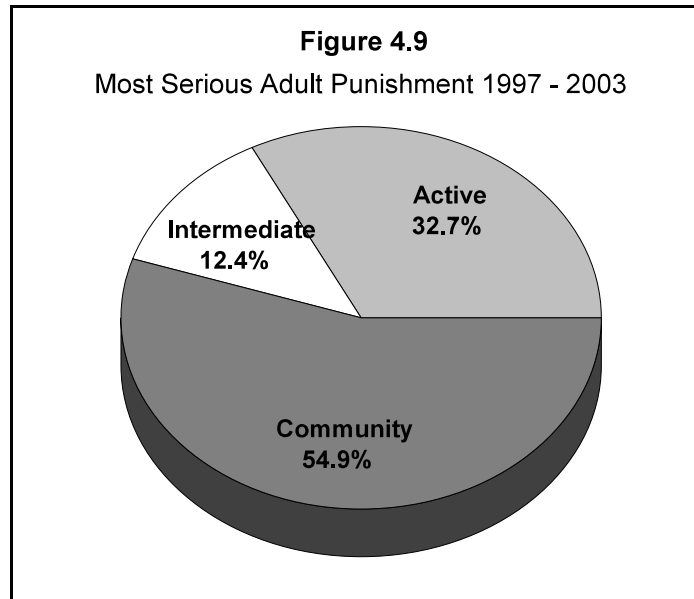
**Table 4.11: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Most Serious Adult Conviction Event - Race, Gender and Most Serious Convicted Offense**

	Most Serious Convicted Offense		TOTAL n %
	Felony n %	Misdemeanor n %	
Black	268 48.6	283 51.4	551 61.8
Non-black	120 35.2	221 64.8	341 38.2
Male	362 48.7	381 51.3	743 84.2
Female	24 17.3	115 82.7	139 15.8

NOTE: Information about gender was missing for 10 cases.
SOURCE: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Most Serious Punishment Type

Looking at punishment types imposed during the follow-up period, Figure 4.9 shows that 32.7% (n=275) of adult recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment; 12.4% (n=104) received an intermediate punishment, and 54.9% (n=461) received a community punishment. The chart excludes 52 adult recidivists whose punishment type was unknown.



Note: 52 cases were excluded from analysis due to missing information about punishment type.

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.12 shows the convicted offense information associated with the most serious punishment imposed during the follow-up period. Of the 275 adult recidivists who received an active (prison or jail) punishment, 51.3% were convicted of a felony with about 21% being convicted of a violent felony offense and about 30% being convicted of a non-violent felony offense. Excluding the one case receiving a sentence of life without parole, the average minimum sentence imposed for those who received an active punishment was 18.2 months. The remaining 48.7% of adult recidivists who received an active punishment were convicted of a misdemeanor. Nearly all of the 104 adult recidivists who received an intermediate punishment were convicted of a felony (93.3%). Conversely, most of the 461 adult recidivists who received a community punishment were convicted of a misdemeanor (82.7%).

**Table 4.12: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Most Serious Adult Punishment Imposed and Associated Convicted Offense**

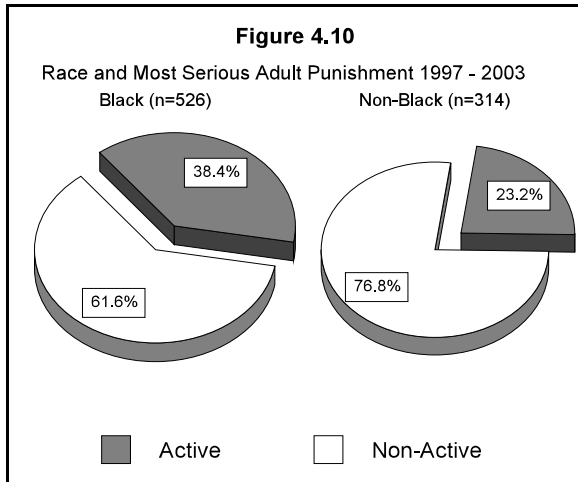
Convicted Offense	Most Serious Punishment Imposed 1997 - 2003			TOTAL n %
	Active n %	Intermediate n %	Community n %	
Violent Felony (Class A - Class E)	58 21.1	6 5.8	1 0.2	65 7.7
Non-Violent Felony (Class F - Class I)	83 30.2	91 87.5	79 17.1	253 30.1
Misdemeanor (Class A1 - Class 3)	134 48.7	7 6.7	381 82.7	522 62.2
TOTAL	275 32.7	104 12.4	461 54.9	840 100.0

Note: 52 cases were excluded from this analysis due to missing punishment type.

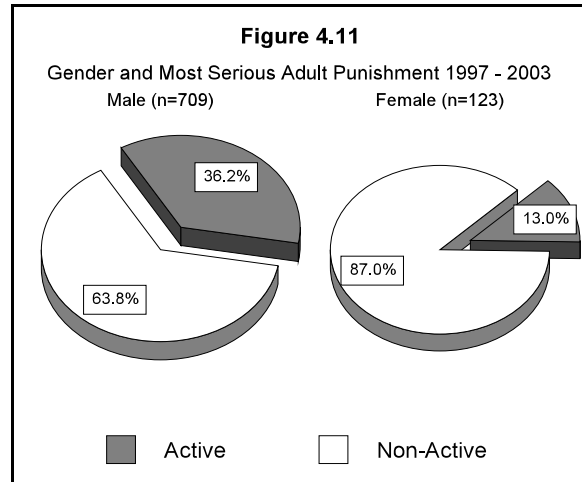
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset.

Figure 4.10 shows the most serious punishment imposed by race during the follow-up period. A greater proportion of black recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment relative to non-black recidivists. During the follow-up period, about 38% (n=202) of black recidivists received an active punishment while about 23% of non-black recidivists received an active punishment.

Figure 4.11 shows the most serious punishment imposed by gender during the follow-up period. A greater proportion of male recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment relative to female recidivists. During the follow-up period, about 36% (n=257) of male recidivists received an active punishment compared to 13% (n=16) of their female counterparts.



Note: 52 cases were excluded from analysis due to missing information on punishment type.
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

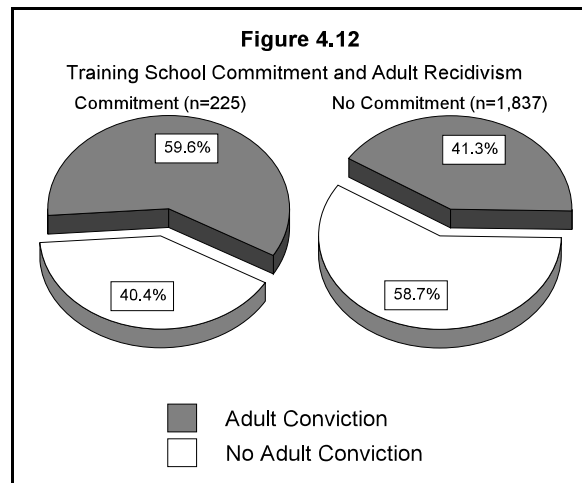


Note: 60 cases were excluded from analysis due to missing information on gender and punishment type.
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Juvenile Dispositions Ordered and Adult Conviction

Table 4.13 shows adult conviction rates for select juvenile disposition types ordered for the 1,600 juveniles in the cohort with at least one delinquent adjudication while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. The numbers shown in the table represent the number of adjudicated juveniles ordered at least once to each type of disposition and the rate of subsequent adult conviction. Note that no information was available about the degree of program participation, only that the disposition type was ordered. Adult arrest rates ranged from a low of 33.3% (n=7) for juveniles ordered to a boot camp to a high of 61.4% (51) for juveniles placed on intensive supervision.

Of special interest in this study was the outcome, in terms of adult recidivism, for the cohort cases committed to training school as juveniles. A total of 225 cohort cases were committed to training school at least once while under juvenile court jurisdiction. Of these, 134 (59.6%) were identified as having an adult conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense. Figure 4.12 compares the adult recidivism rates for cohort cases with a training school commitment to those not committed as juveniles. While nearly 60% of cohort cases with a training school commitment were subsequently convicted as adults, only about 41% of cases not committed to training school were convicted as adults.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

**Table 4.13: Juveniles Adjudication Delinquent 1997 - 2003
Juvenile Disposition Types and Adult Conviction Rates**

Juvenile Disposition Type	No Adult Conviction n %	Adult Conviction n %
Boot Camp	14 66.7	7 33.3
Sex Offender Counseling/Treatment	40 56.3	31 43.7
Restitution	264 53.7	228 46.3
Community Service	451 53.6	391 46.4
Counseling (individual, life skills, in-home/family preservation, Willie M.,Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities)	400 53.3	350 46.7
Out-of-home Placement (DSS, foster care, a relative, multi-purpose group home)	106 53.0	94 47.0
Eckerd Wilderness Camp	25 52.1	23 47.9
Probation	687 52.0	634 48.0
Vocational/Educational Program	43 50.0	43 50.0
Mentoring Program	51 49.5	52 50.5
Intermittent Confinement (detention at the discretion of the court counselor)	201 49.3	207 50.7
Substance Abuse Treatment (outpatient, residential, drug treatment court)	257 45.4	309 54.6
Commitment to Training School	91 40.4	134 59.6
Intensive Supervision Probation	32 38.6	51 61.4

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.14 shows the most serious adult conviction type for cohort cases by previous training school commitment. Adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment had a higher rate of felony conviction compared to adult recidivists without a previous commitment. Of the 134 adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment, about 58% were convicted of a felony during the follow-up period. Of the 758 adult recidivists with no previous commitment, about 41% were convicted of a felony during the follow-up period.

**Table 4.14: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Training School Commitment and Most Serious Adult Conviction Type**

	Most Serious Conviction Type		TOTAL n %
	Felony n %	Misdemeanor n %	
Training School Commitment	78 58.2	56 41.8	134 15.0
No Training School Commitment	310 40.9	448 59.1	758 85.0
TOTAL	388 43.5	504 56.5	892 100.0

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Table 4.15 looks beyond juvenile disposition type and adult conviction type, adding information about the most serious delinquent adjudicated offense type. This information was added to characterize the adult recidivists by the kind of juvenile offenders they were. The table shows that adult recidivists whose most serious juvenile adjudication was for a felony were more likely to be convicted of a felony if committed to training school as juveniles. Specifically, 63.7% (n=58) of adult recidivists whose most serious juvenile adjudication was for a felony who were committed to training school were subsequently convicted as adults of a felony compared to 50.5% (n=93) of adult recidivists who were not committed to training school. The table also shows that adult recidivists whose most serious juvenile adjudication was for a misdemeanor were more likely to be convicted of a felony if committed to training school as juveniles. Specifically, 46.5% (n=20) of adult recidivists whose most serious juvenile adjudication was for a misdemeanor who were committed to training school were subsequently convicted as adults of a felony compared to 38.4% (n=166) of adult recidivists who were not committed to training school. These data suggest that there is some effect of training school commitment on the seriousness of the subsequent adult conviction, regardless of the type of juvenile offender.

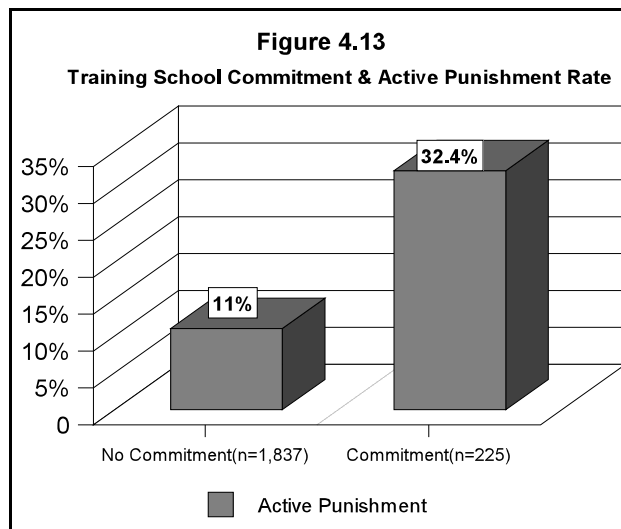
**Table 4.15: Adult Recidivists from the 1997 Juvenile Cohort
Most Serious Adult Conviction Type, Most Serious Delinquent Adjudication Type,
Most Serious Juvenile Disposition**

Most Serious Adult Conviction	Most Serious Delinquent Adjudication and Most Serious Disposition Type				TOTAL	
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Commitment n %	No Commitment n %
	Commitment n %	No Commitment n %	Commitment n %	No Commitment n %		
Felony	58 63.7	93 50.5	20 46.5	166 38.4	78 58.2	259 42.1
Misdemeanor	33 36.3	91 49.5	23 53.5	266 61.6	56 41.8	357 57.9
TOTAL	91 100.0	184 100.0	43 100.0	432 100.0	134 100.0	616 100.0

Note: This table includes the 750 cohort cases with at least one juvenile delinquent adjudication and at least one subsequent adult conviction.

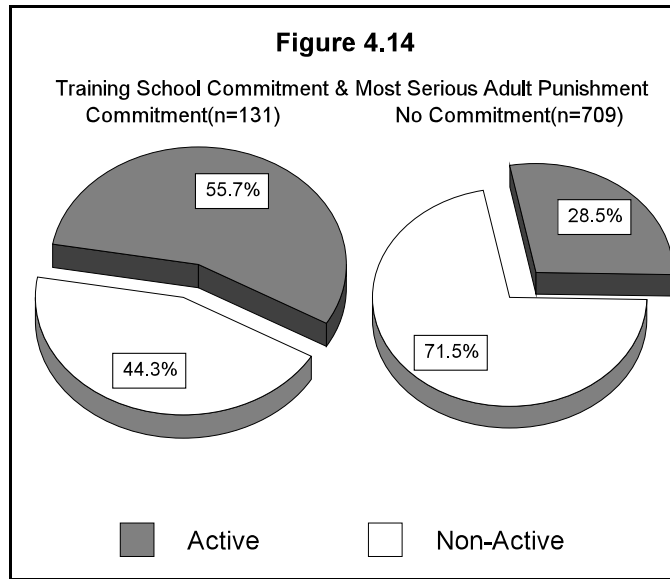
Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Figure 4.13 compares the most serious punishment imposed during the follow-up period for cohort cases by previous training school commitment. Of the 225 cohort cases with a previous training school commitment, about 32% (n=73) were subsequently incarcerated as adults. This compares to an incarceration rate of 11% (n=202) for the 1,837 cohort cases with no previous commitment.



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Finally, Figure 4.14 compares the most serious punishment imposed during the follow-up period for adult recidivists by previous training school commitment. Information shown in this figure differs from Figure 4.13 in that it focuses only on those cohort cases with at least one adult conviction, not the entire cohort. As the figure shows, a greater proportion of adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment received an active (jail or prison) punishment relative to adult recidivists with no previous commitment. During the follow-up period, nearly 56% (n=73) of adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment received an active punishment compared to about 29% (n=202) of adult recidivists with no previous commitment.



Note: 52 cases were excluded from analysis due to missing information about punishment type.

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

Summary of Findings

Adult Arrests

- Of the 2,062 juvenile cohort cases, 1,148 (55.7%) cases had no adult arrest during the follow-up period. The remaining 914 had at least one adult arrest during the follow-up period, or a recidivism rate of 44.3%.
- Cohort cases having had a delinquent petition filed in 1997 without ever having been adjudicated delinquent had the lowest adult arrest rate (31.4%). In general, arrest rates increased as the number of delinquent adjudications increased.
- Of the cohort cases with at least one adult arrest, 66.5% were black, 83.6% were male and the average age at first adult arrest was 17. While most of the adult recidivists were 16 or 17 at the time of their first adult arrest, a greater proportion of cases having the most extensive juvenile delinquent histories compared to those with less extensive histories were 16 or 17 at the time of their first adult arrest. It appears that there is little or no crime-free period for those cohort cases who persist in criminal behavior.
- Looking at the most serious offense involved in the first adult arrest, 37.4% of adult recidivists were arrested for a property offense; 23.1% were arrested for a drug offense; 19.4% were arrested for a violent offense; and, 20.1% were arrested for an “other” offense. A greater proportion of adult recidivists (40.3%) had an adult arrest for a violent offense as their most serious offense during the follow-up period. Nearly 36% of the cases were arrested for a property offense as their most serious offense and about 15% were arrested for a drug offense as their most serious offense during the follow-up period. These data suggest a progression in offense seriousness for the cohort cases with continued criminal behavior.

Adult Convictions and Punishments Imposed

- Of the 2,062 juvenile cohort cases, 892 were identified as having at least one adult conviction involving a felony or misdemeanor during the follow-up period, or a recidivism rate of 43.3%.
- Cohort cases having had a delinquent petition filed in 1997 without ever having been adjudicated delinquent had the lowest adult conviction rate (30.7%). As found with adult arrest rates, convictions rates increased as the number of delinquent adjudications increased.
- Of the 892 adult recidivists, 61.8% were black, 84.2% were male and the average age at first conviction was 17.

- With regard to the most serious offense involved in the first conviction, 77.4% of adult recidivists were convicted of a misdemeanor offense; 16.9% were convicted of a felony offense; and, 5.7% were convicted of an infraction. Overall, the most common offense category was public order with 42.8% of cases falling in this category. For adult recidivists with a most serious conviction for a felony, the most common offense category was property with 39.1% of cases falling in this category. For adult recidivists with a most serious conviction for a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with 46.1% falling in this category.
- Ten percent of adult recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment as a result of their first conviction while six percent received an intermediate punishment and 61% received a community punishment.
- During the follow-up period, 56.5% of adult recidivists had a most serious conviction for a misdemeanor offense and 43.5% had a most serious conviction for a felony offense. With respect to race, black recidivists had a higher rate of felony conviction (48.6%) relative to non-black recidivists (35.2%). A much greater difference is apparent with respect to gender with 48.7% of male recidivists being convicted for a felony compared to 17.3% of female recidivists. Overall, the most common offense categories were property and public order with 28.4% of cases falling in these categories. For adult recidivists with a most serious conviction for a felony, the most common offense category was property with 32.2% of cases falling in this category. For adult recidivists with a most serious conviction for a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with 39.5% falling in this category. As found with adult arrests, these data suggest a progression in offense seriousness for the cohort cases with continued criminal behavior.
- With regard to the most serious punishment imposed during the follow-up period, 32.7% of adult recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment; 12.4% received an intermediate punishment; and 54.9% received a community punishment. About 51% of adult recidivists who received an active punishment were convicted of a felony with the remaining 49% being convicted of a misdemeanor. The average minimum sentence imposed for those who received an active punishment was 18.2 months. Nearly all of the 104 adult recidivists who received an intermediate punishment were convicted of a felony (93.3%). Conversely, most of the 461 adult recidivists who received a community punishment were convicted of a misdemeanor (82.7%). With respect to race, a greater proportion of black recidivists (38%) compared to non-black recidivists (23%) received an active punishment during the follow-up period. An even greater difference is seen with respect to gender with 36% of male recidivists receiving an active punishment compared to 13% of female recidivists.

- Of special interest in this study was the outcome, in terms of adult recidivism, for the cohort cases committed to training school as juveniles. A total of 225 cohort cases were committed to training school at least once while under juvenile court jurisdiction. Of these, 134 were identified as having an adult conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense, or an adult recidivism rate of 59.6%. While nearly 60% of cohort cases with a previous training school commitment were subsequently convicted as adults, only about 41% of the cohort cases with no previous commitment were convicted as adults. Adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment had a higher rate of felony conviction compared to adult recidivists without a previous commitment. Of the 134 adult recidivists with a training school commitment, about 58% were convicted of a felony during the follow-up period. Of the 758 adult recidivists with no previous commitment, about 41% were convicted of a felony during the follow-up period. Of the 225 cohort cases with a previous training school commitment, about 32% were subsequently incarcerated as adults. This compares to an incarceration rate of 11% for the 1,837 cohort cases with no previous commitment. Finally, a greater proportion of adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment were incarcerated as adults relative to adult recidivists with no previous commitment. During the follow-up period, nearly 56% of adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment were incarcerated compared to about 29% of adult recidivists with no previous commitment.

This chapter presented detailed information about those cohort subjects who became subsequently involved in the adult criminal justice system. Chapter Five goes beyond these descriptive statistics, using multivariate analysis to untangle the relationship between a variety of personal and juvenile justice factors and subsequent adult arrest.

CHAPTER FIVE MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

Multivariate Analysis: Likelihood of Arrest

This chapter offers a look at the effects of various factors on the likelihood of subsequent adult arrest. In order to explore possible factors related to a delinquent juvenile's likelihood of adult arrest, a regression model was developed.

What is a Regression Model?

A regression model is a statistical tool used to estimate the association of a number of independent variables (*e.g.*, gender, race, offense type) with a dependent variable (*e.g.*, adult arrest), apart from the contribution of any of the other variables in the model. This type of analysis allows for a determination of whether adjudicated offense type, for example, has any relationship with a juvenile's probability of subsequent adult arrest, controlling for other factors such as sex, race or disposition type. It also indicates the relative importance of other factors.

Using logistic regression, a model was developed to determine how a variety of independent variables (*e.g.*, sex, race, offense seriousness, disposition type) may be related to the probability of adult arrest for the 1997 juvenile cohort.²⁸ *Although the analysis may reveal a relationship exists, it does not necessarily mean that an independent variable is the cause of a particular outcome. Rather, it indicates a statistical association, which may or may not be due to a causal relationship.*²⁹

Independent Variables Used in the Regression Model

The independent variables used in the regression model can be loosely divided into three categories.³⁰

1. Personal Characteristics

- *Gender*
- *Race*
- *Time under Adult Criminal Justice Jurisdiction*
- *Urban*

²⁸ Logistic regression involves regression using the logit (*i.e.*, the logarithm of the odds) of an outcome occurring. This type of analysis is most appropriate for regression models with a dichotomous dependent variable such as being arrested or not.

²⁹ The effects were converted from logistic model coefficients and indicated the estimated increase or decrease in the probability of an outcome occurring which is associated with each independent variables for the average individual. See Aldrich and Nelson (1984: 41-44) for further information on converting logistic coefficients to "effects." Logistic coefficients for each model are available from the Sentencing Commission upon request.

³⁰ See Appendix C for definitions of each of the independent variables used in the regression model.

2. Delinquent Offense Information

- *Number of Delinquent Petitions Filed*
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Felony*
- *Delinquent Adjudication for an Offense Against a Person*
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Property Offense*
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Drug Offense*
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Public Order Offense*
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Local Ordinance*
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Sex Offense*

3. Juvenile Dispositions Ordered

Each of these disposition variables reflect whether a juvenile's disposition(s) included at least one assignment to each type while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

- *Probation*
- *Community Service*
- *Restitution*
- *Mentoring Program*
- *Vocational or Educational Program*
- *Counseling*
- *Substance Abuse Treatment*
- *Sex Offender Treatment*
- *Intensive Supervision Probation*
- *Out of Home Placement*
- *Detention*
- *Eckerd Wilderness Camp*
- *Boot Camp*
- *Commitment to Training School*

Table 5.1 presents the estimated effects of each independent variable on a juvenile's probability of being subsequently arrested as an adult during the follow-up period. Of the 2,062 delinquent juveniles in the 1997 sample, 2,048 were included in this analysis. Fourteen cases were excluded from analysis due to transfer from the juvenile justice system to the criminal justice system for prosecution as adults. For purposes of discussion, only estimated effects that are statistically significant – that is, it is highly unlikely that they are the result of random variation in sampling or chance – are reviewed.

Overall, the analysis revealed that about 44% of delinquent juveniles were subsequently arrested as adults during the follow-up period and that this outcome was related to a number of personal, delinquent offense-related and juvenile disposition-related factors. The values presented in Table 5.1 indicate the approximate change in the probability of adult arrest associated with each independent variable relative to a reference category. For example, males were 24.8% more likely to be subsequently arrested as adults than females. Race was another personal characteristic that

increased a juvenile's chance of adult arrest. Black juveniles were 15.7% more likely than non-black juveniles to be subsequently arrested as adults. Although the chance of arrest is clearly greater for black juveniles than non-black juveniles, it is not clear why this is the case. This may be due to other socioeconomic factors that are related to race and that increase the likelihood of offending. For example, it is possible that race is masking the effect of other factors such as level of education, family composition, household income, employment status, or degree of parental supervision. With the addition of other socioeconomic factors to the model, the magnitude of the effect for race may be diminished, although not completely eliminated.

The length of time under the jurisdiction of the adult criminal justice system was included in the model for two reasons. First, since this independent variable indicates the number of months between a juvenile's sixteenth birthday and the end of the follow-up period, it is an indirect indication of each juvenile's age and was included as a demographic factor. More importantly, it was included as a control variable. Juveniles with less time under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system had less opportunity to be arrested as adults. Without controlling for the varying follow-up period under the adult criminal justice system, younger delinquent juveniles would appear to have better outcomes in terms of adult arrest. For example, the descriptive statistics presented earlier (*e.g.*, Figure 4.2) appear to show that adult arrest rates for delinquent juveniles with the most delinquent adjudications start to decline. However, these juveniles tended to be the youngest in the sample, with less follow-up time under the criminal justice system and a shorter window of opportunity to be arrested as adults.

Controlling for all other factors, the more delinquent petition events, the greater the probability of subsequent adult arrest. Looking at specific offense types, juveniles adjudicated delinquent for an assaultive offense were nearly 10% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were not. Similarly, juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a property offense were about 9% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were not. Juveniles classified as sex offenders were nearly 31% less likely to be arrested as adults than other delinquent juveniles. It is possible that these juveniles, given the severity of the offense, were more closely monitored than other juveniles, resulting in their better outcomes in terms of adult arrest. It is also possible that some of these juveniles were committed to training school during the follow-up period, removing them from the pool of juveniles eligible for adult arrest.

Few juvenile disposition types appear to have an effect on subsequent adult arrest. Note that the model accounts for the severity of the adjudicated offense(s) and degree of juvenile justice system involvement as measure by the length of juvenile justice jurisdiction and the number of delinquent petition events. As such, the effects on the probability of adult arrest shown for each disposition type cannot necessarily be explained by the type of juvenile offender typically ordered to that disposition type. For example, juveniles ordered to pay restitution were 7.3% less likely to be arrested as adults than those not ordered to pay restitution. A possible explanation for this finding might be that those juveniles ordered to pay restitution are less serious, less chronic offenders. However, the model accounts for offense seriousness, the length of juvenile justice jurisdiction and

the number of delinquent petition events and statistically evens the playing field in terms of these factors. So, beyond the type of juvenile offender assigned to pay restitution, restitution appears to reduce the likelihood of adult arrest. Juveniles ordered to participate in some sort of substance abuse assessment, counseling and/or treatment (*e.g.*, outpatient program, residential program, drug treatment court) were about 8% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were not ordered to this type of disposition. The chronic nature of substance abuse may be a possible explanation of this finding. Finally, juveniles committed to training school were nearly 10% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were never committed to training school. It appears that being committed to training school increases the likelihood of adult arrest and that this effect can not necessarily be explained by the type of delinquent juveniles committed to training school as the model, to some degree, accounts for this factor.

Table 5.1
Effects of Demographic Factors, Delinquent Offense-Related Factors and
Juvenile Disposition Types on Adult Arrest

Estimated Effect on Probability
of:

Being Arrested as an Adult
Following Involvement in the
Juvenile Justice System

(N=2,048)

Average probability of being
arrested as an adult following
involvement in the juvenile justice
system=44.3%

Independent Variables

Demographic

Male	24.8%
Black	15.7%
Time Under the Adult Criminal Justice System (months)	0.8%
Urban	NS

Delinquent Offense-related

Number of Delinquent Petition Events	5.3%
Most Serious Adjudication for a Felony	NS
Any Most Serious Adjudication-Person	9.7%
Any Most Serious Adjudication-Property	9.1%
Any Most Serious Adjudication-Drug	NS
Any Most Serious Adjudication-Public Order	NS
Any Most Serious Adjudication-Local Ordinance	NS
Sex Offender	-30.7%

Table 5.1 (continued)
Effects of Demographic Factors, Delinquent Offense-Related Factors and
Juvenile Disposition Types on Adult Arrest

Juvenile Disposition Types Ordered

Probation	<i>NS</i>
Community Service	<i>NS</i>
Restitution	-7.3%
Mentoring Program	<i>NS</i>
Vocation/Education Program	<i>NS</i>
Counseling	<i>NS</i>
Substance Abuse Treatment	8.1%
Sex Offender Treatment	<i>NS</i>
Intensive Supervision Probation	<i>NS</i>
Out of Home Placement	<i>NS</i>
Detention	<i>NS</i>
Eckerd Wilderness Camp	<i>NS</i>
Boot Camp	<i>NS</i>
Training School Commitment	9.8%

Notes:

1. *NS* indicates that the effect is not statistically significant at 0.05.
2. The effects shown are the estimated effects on probability for offender with mean probability in data set.

Summary of Findings

Personal characteristics, delinquent offense-related factors and juvenile disposition types were found to influence the probability of subsequent adult arrest. Factors increasing a juvenile's probability of subsequent adult arrest included: being male, being black, having more delinquent petition events, being adjudicated delinquent for a felony offense, being adjudicated delinquent for a property offense, being ordered to participate in substance abuse assessment/counseling/treatment, and being committed to training school. Factors decreasing a juvenile's probability of subsequent adult arrest included: being adjudicated delinquent for a sex offense and being ordered to pay restitution.

CHAPTER SIX SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Purpose of the Study

The North Carolina General Assembly has directed the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) in the North Carolina Juvenile Code (N.C.G.S. § 7B-3300) to report on an annual basis the recidivism rates for juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent for Class A through Class E felonies. The General Assembly has also directed the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (NCSPAC) to study adult recidivism on a biennial basis (1998 Session Law, Section 16.18). While these reports provide a snapshot of subsequent criminal behavior by a sample of offenders, they fall short in providing the wealth of information that could come from linking juvenile delinquent behavior with adult criminal behavior. Bearing this in mind, NCSPAC, working with the Criminal Justice Information Network under a grant from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, designed this comprehensive study to create an information link between the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system for a two-fold purpose:

1. to develop a model by which individual criminal history records could be constructed starting at the point of a juvenile's first involvement with the juvenile justice system, and
2. to identify factors that may be correlated with recidivism by tracking a cohort of juveniles from their first involvement with the juvenile justice system into early adult involvement with the criminal justice system.

As the first of its kind in North Carolina, this study provides an in-depth profile of juveniles involved with the juvenile justice system, documenting the level and severity of continuing criminal behavior through the early adult years. It also serves as a baseline for future juvenile-to-adult recidivism studies. In addition, this study's cohort entered the juvenile justice system in 1997, prior to the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998. As such, the cohort serves as a natural comparison group for juveniles adjudicated delinquent under the reform.

The sample selected for this study consists of juveniles whose first delinquent petition was filed with the Clerk of Court in 1997. The sample was drawn from six of North Carolina's 39 judicial districts and represents a majority of the juvenile offenders with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997. Calendar Year 1997 was chosen as the sample year to allow time for most of the juveniles in the cohort to age into the adult criminal justice system. The 1997 cohort was comprised of 2,062 juveniles.

One of the practical problems in studying North Carolina's juvenile justice system is the lack of a statewide computerized database containing information about complaints, petitions, adjudications and dispositions. For purposes of this study, it was necessary to develop a data

collection instrument to capture relevant information from court files on juveniles in the cohort. The primary data elements of the instrument were captured from petition, adjudication and disposition court forms and included:

- identifying information (name, date of birth, sex, social security number)
- first petition charge(s) filed in 1997
- adjudicated offense(s) resulting from the first petition event
- disposition(s) ordered in response to the first petition event
- all petition charges(s) filed subsequent to the first petition filed in 1997
- all subsequent adjudicated offense(s)
- all subsequent disposition(s) ordered

From this information, a computerized database of the 2,062 juvenile cases was created for the purpose of linking juvenile records to adult criminal justice records, creating a complete criminal history for each case.

Juveniles in the cohort were matched into three automated data sources to track the accumulation of criminal history from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system. As a result, a final data set was created containing a comprehensive criminal history for each of the 2,062 cohort subjects and forms the basis of the analysis in this study. The following data sources were used to capture adult criminal history information:

- The State Bureau of Investigation's Division of Criminal Information (DCI) data provided fingerprinted arrest information for juveniles in the cohort who were subsequently arrested as adults during the follow-up period. Although fingerprinting practices vary across the state, in general, offenders arrested for any felony or serious misdemeanor offense are fingerprinted.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts' Automated Criminal Information System (ACIS) data entered by court clerks provided information on adult charges, convictions and sentences imposed in District and Superior Court during the follow-up period. This database also provided information on charges, convictions and sentences imposed for juveniles transferred from District (Juvenile) Court to Superior Court.
- The Department of Correction's Offender Population Unified System (OPUS) data provided additional information such as adult social history, program participation, and length of stay information for offenders who were incarcerated.

The follow-up period ranged from about 64 months to 76 months, starting in 1997 with the filing of the first delinquent petition and ending in April 2003. The follow-up period is a confounding factor in any study attempting to track juveniles from the juvenile justice system to the

criminal justice system since age defines the follow-up period under each system. Juveniles entering the juvenile justice system at 15, for example, have a shorter follow-up period under the juvenile justice system and, conversely, a longer follow-up period under the criminal justice system. For this reason, the varying follow-up period is important to bear in mind when looking at the recidivism measures.

First Delinquent Petition Filed in 1997

The cohort was comprised of 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in Calendar Year 1997. For those cases where demographic information was available, 73.8% were male, 59.3% were black and the average age at first offense was 13.5 years. Looking at the first delinquent petition charge, the most serious charge for the majority (67.1%) involved a misdemeanor offense. Nearly 28% were charged with a non-violent felony with only about five percent being charged with a violent felony. Charges involving property offenses were the most common, regardless of the type of charge. Nearly 75% of juveniles with a first delinquent petition for a felony fell in the property category; about 44% of juveniles with a first delinquent petition for a misdemeanor fell in this category. Misdemeanor larceny was the most common charge. Seven other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common charges.

Of the 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997, 1,502 (72.8%) were adjudicated delinquent; 554 (26.9%) were dismissed; and, 6 (0.3%) were transferred to Superior Court for prosecution as adults. About 78% of the juveniles were adjudicated delinquent for a misdemeanor as their most serious offense. Nearly 19% were adjudicated delinquent for a non-violent felony offense while only 3% were adjudicated delinquent for a violent felony offense. The same pattern holds for adjudicated offenses as petition charges: property offenses were the most common regardless of offense type. Nearly 73% of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a felony fell in the property category; about 48% of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a misdemeanor fell in this category. Simple assault was the most serious adjudicated offense. Seven other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common adjudicated offenses.

The most common types of dispositions ordered as a result of the first delinquent adjudication included probation (78.1%), community service (46.1%), restitution (25.7%), substance abuse treatment (25.5%), mental health/developmental disabilities assessment, treatment or counseling (24.4%), and intermittent confinement (15.3%). Other conditions of probation included orders not to associate with specified people and/or be in specified places (54.4%), orders not to associate with the victim (39.4%), and curfew (36.9%). Only 11 (0.7%) juveniles were committed to training school.

Juvenile Justice Involvement 1997 - 2003

While 1,502 juveniles in the cohort were adjudicated delinquent for offenses related to the first petition in 1997, an additional 98 juveniles whose first delinquent petition was dismissed were

subsequently returned to juvenile court and adjudicated delinquent on new charges. As such, a total of 1,600 (77.6%) juveniles in the cohort had at least one delinquent adjudication during the follow-up period. Of the 1,600 juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent during the follow-up period, the majority (67.4%) had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a misdemeanor. The remaining 32.6% had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a felony. Regardless of offense type, the most common offense category was property. Seventy-two percent of juveniles with a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony and 47.5% of juveniles with a most serious adjudicated offense for a misdemeanor fell in the property offense category. Simple assault was the most serious adjudicated offense. Six other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most serious adjudicated offenses.

The most restrictive type of disposition, commitment to training school, was ordered for 225 (14.1%) of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent during the follow-up period. These 225 juveniles accounted for 263 total commitments. Of the 263 commitments, 254 were offense-related (direct commitment from juvenile court or the result of a violation of the terms of probation); nine were revocations of a conditional release. Of the 254 offense-related commitments, about 53% involved felonies.

The issues of race and gender were of special interest to this study. Looking at the most serious adjudicated offense during the follow-up period, a greater proportion of black juveniles than non-black juveniles had a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony. Nearly 38% of black juveniles had a most serious adjudicated offense involving a felony while only 30% of non-black juveniles were adjudicated of the same. An even greater difference is apparent when looking at gender. About 38% of males had a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony while only about 16% of females had a most serious adjudicated offense for a felony. Turning to training school commitment rates, a greater proportion of black juveniles relative to non-black juveniles were committed to training school, 18.6% and 10.8%, respectively. Of the offense-related commitments, 54.4% of the black commitments and 52.2% of non-black commitments involved a felony offense. Considering commitment rates by gender, the commitment rate for males was higher than for

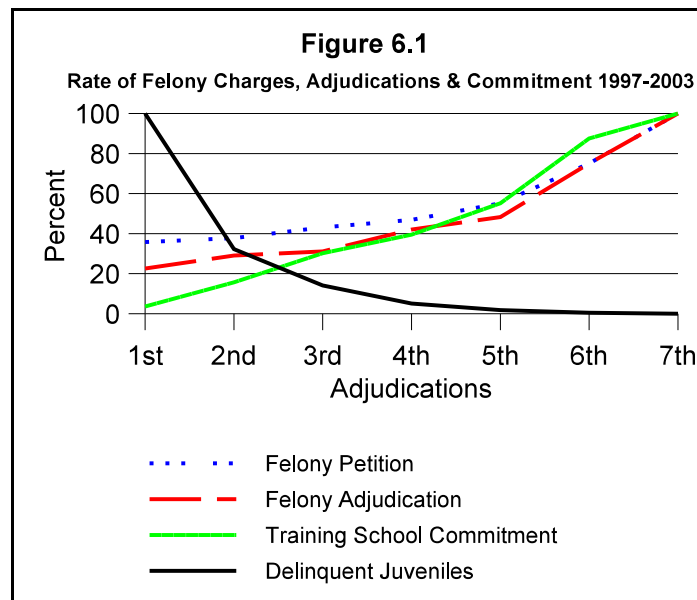
Juvenile Recidivism

- *Re-Petition* - Of the 2,062 juveniles in the 1997 cohort, 661 juveniles had one or more subsequent delinquent petitions filed during the follow-up period, or a re-petition rate of 32%.
- *Re-Adjudication* - Of the 1,600 juveniles in the 1997 cohort with at least one delinquent adjudication, 516 had two or more delinquent adjudications during the follow-up period, or a re-adjudication rate of 32%.
- *Re-Commitment* - Of the 225 juveniles in the 1997 cohort who were committed to training school during the follow-up period, 35 (16%) were re-committed.

females, with a 15.6% commitment rate for males compared to a 9.8% commitment rate for females. Of the 254 offense-related commitments, 59.6% of the male commitments involved a felony offense compared to 19.5% of female commitments.

Juvenile Justice Involvement: Summary and Conclusions

In general, juveniles who become involved in the juvenile justice system could be described as non-serious offenders with a relative few who develop lengthy delinquent careers. Looking at the level of involvement in the juvenile justice system and offense seriousness during the follow-up period for the 2,062 juveniles in the cohort, it appears that there is a relatively small group of juveniles who persist in more serious delinquent behavior and for whom commitment to training school is more likely (See Figure 6.1).



Source: 2003 Comprehensive Criminal History Dataset

This study also points to race and gender differences in terms of offense seriousness and training school commitment rates. Felony adjudication rates tended to be higher for black juveniles and males relative to non-black juveniles and females. The same pattern holds true for training school commitment rates with a higher commitment rate for black juveniles and males relative to non-black juveniles and females. These race and gender differences call for more in-depth analyses that consider other important factors (*e.g.*, school performance, family composition, household income, parental supervision, peer relationships, program participation). These factors may provide a more complete picture of each juvenile, beyond race and gender, which may enhance our understanding of these apparent differences.

Finally, juveniles in the cohort became involved in the juvenile justice system prior to the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998. The reform represented a major change in juvenile justice in North Carolina, calling for the selective use of training school resources for serious, chronic juvenile offenders and for the re-organization of community-based programming that prioritizes the needs of delinquent juveniles over other at-risk juveniles. Most of the juveniles in the cohort were not subject to the new reform before “aging-out” of the system. As such, findings from this study serve as a baseline for future studies looking at the impact of the 1998 reform.

Adult Arrest

Of the 2,062 cohort subjects, 1,148 (55.7%) had no adult arrests during the follow-up period. The remaining 914 had at least one adult arrest, or a recidivism rate of 44.3%. Cohort subjects having had a delinquent petition filed in 1997 without ever having been adjudicated delinquent had the lowest adult arrest rate (31.4%). In general, adult arrest rates increased as the number of delinquent adjudications increased.

Of the cohort subjects with at least one adult arrest, 66.5% were black, 83.6% were male and the average age at first adult arrest was 17. Given that about 71% of the cohort subjects with an adult arrest were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first arrest, it appears that those who were arrested as adults were likely to do so quickly. For these cases, there was little or no crime-free period between involvement in the juvenile justice system and subsequent involvement in the criminal justice system. While most of the adult recidivists were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first adult arrest, a greater proportion of those with the most extensive juvenile delinquency histories compared to those with less extensive delinquency histories were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first adult arrest. For example, nearly 90% of adult recidivists with at least four delinquent adjudications were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their first adult arrest while 65% of those with only one delinquent adjudication were 16 or 17 at the time of their first adult arrest.

Looking at the most serious offense involved in the first adult arrest, 37.4% of adult recidivists were arrested for a property offense; 23.1% were arrested for a drug offense; 19.4% were arrested for a violent offense; and, 20.1% were arrested for an “other” offense. Comparing the most serious offense involved in the first adult arrest to the most serious offense during the follow-up period, a much greater proportion of adult recidivists (40.3%) had an adult arrest for a violent offense during the follow-up period. This data suggest a progression in offense seriousness for the cohort subjects with continued criminal behavior.

Adult Convictions and Punishments Imposed

Of the 2,062 cohort subjects, 1,170 (57%) had no felony or misdemeanor convictions during the follow-up period. The remaining 892 had at least one adult conviction, or a recidivism rate of 43%. Cohort subjects having had a delinquent petition filed in 1997 without ever having been

adjudicated delinquent had the lowest adult conviction rate (31%). As seen with adult arrest rates, conviction rates increased as the number of delinquent adjudications increased.

Regarding the first conviction event, about 77% of adult recidivists were convicted of a misdemeanor offense as their most serious offense. Nearly 15% of the cases were convicted of a non-violent felony offense and about two percent were convicted of a violent felony offense. Note that the most serious convicted offense for nearly six percent of the adult recidivists involved an infraction. For cases with a most serious conviction for a felony, the most common offense category was property with 39.1% of cases falling in this category. For cases with a most serious conviction for a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with about 46% of cases falling in this category. Overall, the most common offense category was public order with about 43% of cases falling in this category. Looking at specific offenses, misdemeanor larceny was the most common convicted offense. Eight other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common convicted offenses.

About 10% of adult recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment as a result of their first conviction; nearly 6% received an intermediate punishment; and about 61% received a community punishment. Of those receiving an active punishment, 36% were convicted of a felony and the remaining 64% were convicted of a misdemeanor. The average minimum sentence imposed was 10.6 months for adult recidivists receiving an active punishment. There was one offender convicted of first degree murder whose sentence was life without parole. The punishment type for nearly 23% of the cases was unknown. Some of these cases involved infractions where an active, intermediate or community punishment can not be imposed. For the other cases, it is possible that a fine or court costs were ordered without a type of punishment being specified.

During the follow-up period, nearly 57% of adult recidivists were convicted of a misdemeanor offense as their most serious offense. The remaining 43% were convicted of a felony as their most serious offense. It appears that many of the 892 adult recidivists became involved in increasingly more serious offenses during the follow-up period. For example, only 17% of adult recidivists had a most serious conviction for a felony in their first conviction event compared to a felony conviction rate of 43% during the follow-up period. Specifically, only 15% of adult recidivists were convicted for a non-violent felony in their first conviction event while about 35% had were convicted of a non-violent felony during the follow-up period. Only 2% of the adult recidivist had a most serious conviction for a violent felony in their first conviction event compared to 8% with a most serious conviction for a felony during the follow-up period.

Looking at convictions during the follow-up period by specific offense categories, it appears that the adult recidivists became more diversified in the types of convicted offenses compared to the first conviction event. The bulk (43%) of adult recidivists had a most serious conviction involving a public order offense in the first conviction event. However, during the follow-up period, conviction rates were nearly evenly divided between the person, property, drug and public order categories. For cases with a most serious conviction for a felony, the most common offense category

was property with 32% of cases falling in this category. For cases with a most serious conviction for a misdemeanor, the most common offense category was public order with 39% of cases falling in this category. Misdemeanor larceny was the most common offense. Five other misdemeanor offenses comprise the 10 most common convicted offenses.

During the follow-up period, 33% of adult recidivists received an active (jail or prison) punishment; 12% received an intermediate punishment, and 55% received a community punishment. Of the adult recidivists who received an active punishment, 51% were convicted of a felony with about 21% being convicted of a violent felony offense and about 30% being convicted of a non-violent felony offense. Excluding the one case receiving a sentence of life without parole, the average minimum sentence imposed for those who received an active punishment was 18.2 months. Over the follow-up period, the average active sentence length increased by nearly 8 months. Since sentence type and length are determined by the seriousness of the offense and the offender's criminal history, the increase in the average sentence length is another indication of the escalation in offense seriousness and accumulation of criminal history for the adult recidivists.

The issues of race and gender continued to be of interest when looking at subsequent involvement in the adult criminal justice system. Black recidivists had a higher rate of felony conviction relative to non-black recidivists. During the follow-up period, nearly 49% of black recidivists were convicted of a felony offense while about 35% of non-black recidivists were convicted of a felony. Male recidivists had a much higher rate of felony conviction relative to their female counterparts. During the follow-up period, nearly 49% of male recidivists were convicted of a felony while only about 17% of female recidivists were convicted of a felony.

Race and gender differences were also found with regard to incarceration rates. A greater proportion of black recidivists received an active punishment relative to non-black recidivists. During the follow-up period, about 38% of black recidivists received an active punishment while about 23% of non-black recidivists received an active punishment. A greater proportion of male recidivists received an active punishment relative to female recidivists. During the follow-up period, about 36% of male recidivists received an active punishment compared to 13% of their female counterparts.

Of special interest in this study was the outcome, in terms of adult recidivism, for the cohort cases committed to training school as juveniles. The following are key findings with respect to training school commitment and subsequent involvement in the criminal justice system:

- Of the 225 cohort cases with a previous training school commitment, about 60% were identified as having an adult conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense. This compares to an adult conviction rate of about 41% for the 1,837 cohort cases with no previous commitment. Of the 225 cohort cases with a previous training school commitment, about 32% were subsequently incarcerated as adults. This

compares to an incarceration rate of 11% for the 1,837 cohort cases with no previous commitment.

- Adult recidivists who had a previous training school commitment had a higher rate of felony conviction compared to adult recidivists without a previous commitment, 58% and 41%, respectively. Finally, a greater proportion of adult recidivists with a previous training school commitment were incarcerated as adults relative to adult recidivists with no previous commitment, 56% and 29%, respectively.

Multivariate Analysis: Likelihood of Adult Arrest

In order to explore possible factors related to a delinquent juvenile's likelihood of adult arrest, a regression model was developed. Overall, the analysis revealed that about 44% of delinquent juveniles were subsequently arrested as adults during the follow-up period and that this outcome was related to a number of personal, delinquent offense-related and juvenile disposition-related factors.

Males were about 25% more likely to be subsequently arrested as adults than females. Race was another personal characteristic that increased a juvenile's chance of adult arrest. Black juveniles were nearly 16% more likely than non-black juveniles to be subsequently arrested as adults.

Controlling for all other factors, the more delinquent petition events, the greater the probability of subsequent adult arrest. Considering specific offense types, juveniles adjudicated delinquent for an assaultive offense were nearly 10% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were not. Similarly, juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a property offense were about 9% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were not. Juveniles classified as sex offenders were nearly 31% less likely to be arrested as adults than other delinquent juveniles.

Few juvenile disposition types appear to have an effect on subsequent adult arrest. Juveniles ordered to pay restitution were 7.3% less likely to be arrested as adults than those not ordered to pay restitution. Juveniles ordered to participate in some sort of substance abuse assessment, counseling and/or treatment (*e.g.*, outpatient program, residential program, drug treatment court) were about 8% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were not ordered to this type of disposition. Finally, juveniles committed to training school were nearly 10% more likely to be arrested as adults than those who were never committed to training school.

Subsequent Involvement in the Adult Criminal Justice System: Summary and Conclusions

This study provides the first comprehensive look at the issue of juvenile recidivism in North Carolina in terms of subsequent juvenile justice system and criminal justice system involvement. By creating an information link between the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems, a complete criminal history was created for each of the 2,062 subjects in the 1997 cohort.

Looking at subsequent involvement in the adult criminal justice system, or adult recidivism, it is important to bear in mind the varying follow-up period for each cohort case. The follow-up period ended in April 2003, allowing most of the 1997 cohort to “age” into the jurisdiction of the adult criminal justice system. However, the follow-up period is a confounding factor in any study attempting to track juveniles from the juvenile justice system to the criminal justice system since age defines the follow-up period under each system.

While 44% of cohort cases had at least one adult arrest and 43% of the cases had accumulated at least one adult conviction during the follow-up period, these rates are likely to increase with a longer follow-up period. A full 10% of the cohort subjects were under the age of 12 at the time of their first delinquent petition in 1997 and had limited, if any, time under the adult system. These young offenders tended to have the most extensive delinquency histories and, given the data showing that adult arrest and conviction rates increase relative to the number of juvenile delinquent adjudications, will probably have high rates of subsequent involvement in the adult criminal justice system.

Several common themes emerged for those cohort subjects subsequently involved in the adult criminal justice system. While adult recidivists were most often convicted of misdemeanor offenses, a relatively large group became involved in increasingly more serious offenses during the follow-up period. They also became more diversified in the types of convicted offenses and were incarcerated

Adult Recidivism: Subsequent Involvement in the Criminal Justice System

Of the 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997:

- 914 cases had at least one adult arrest during the follow-up period, or a recidivism rate of 44%.
- 892 cases had at least one adult conviction during the follow-up period, or a recidivism rate of 43%.
- 275 (13%) cases were incarcerated as adults during the follow-up period. The average sentence length imposed was 18.2 months. The incarceration rate for cohort cases with a previous training school commitment was nearly three times the rate for cohort cases with no previous commitment. Of the 225 cases with a previous training school commitment, 32% were incarcerated as adults compared to an incarceration rate of 11% for the 1,837 cases with no previous commitment.

at an increasingly higher rate with a longer average minimum sentence. Differences in felony conviction rates and incarceration rates were found with respect to race and gender. Black recidivists and male recidivists had a higher rate of felony conviction relative to non-black recidivists and female recidivists. Following this trend, black recidivists and male recidivists had a higher incarceration rate compared to non-black recidivists and female recidivists.

A particularly striking finding was the apparent impact of a previous training school commitment on subsequent adult conviction and incarceration. About 60% of the 225 cohort subjects with a previous training school commitment were subsequently convicted as adults compared to only 41% of the remaining cohort subjects with no previous commitment. More alarming is the fact that the incarceration rate for the 225 cohort subjects with a previous training school commitment was nearly three times higher than the rate for the remaining 1,837 subjects with no previous commitment, 32% and 11%, respectively.

These descriptive statistics are further supported by findings from the multivariate analysis looking at the effects of various personal, delinquent offense-related and juvenile disposition-related factors on the likelihood of adult arrest. Black juveniles and males had a much greater probability of subsequent adult arrest than non-black juveniles and females. Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for an assaultive offense or property offense were also more likely to be subsequently arrested as adults. Conversely, juveniles classified as sex offenders were less likely to be arrested. Being ordered to pay restitution appears to reduce a juvenile's chance of subsequent adult arrest. Factors that appear to increase a juvenile's chance of subsequent adult arrest include being ordered to participate in a substance abuse program and being committed to training school.

As a baseline study, this report provides a foundation for further analysis. The following is a short list of possible issues to explore:

- Due to data limitations, it was not possible to look at the level of juvenile justice and criminal justice system involvement with respect to other qualitative factors such as socioeconomic characteristics, or program intensity, duration or participation. The addition of this information may enhance our understanding of why race, gender and training school commitment appear to be related to subsequent adult criminal justice system involvement.
- The cohort should be followed over a longer period, increasing the criminal justice system follow-up period for the youngest cases.
- It would be interesting to explore the larger issue of the effect of previous juvenile justice system involvement on subsequent involvement with the criminal justice system. For example, it may be possible that adult offenders with previous juvenile justice system involvement become known by local law enforcement, district attorneys and judges, increasing the chance of subsequent adult arrest, conviction and incarceration.

- A related topic is the impact of the accumulation of adult criminal history at ages 16 and 17. As data show, most of the cohort subjects who became subsequently involved in the adult criminal justice system were 16 or 17 at the time of their first arrest. In most states, adult criminal justice jurisdiction begins at 18. The younger age threshold for adult prosecution and a sentencing system based, in part, on criminal history, may set young offenders in North Carolina on a path toward more severe punishment, particularly with regard to prosecution as habitual felons, relative to youthful offenders in other states.
- Finally, the 1997 cohort was involved in the juvenile justice system prior to the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998. As such, the cohort serves as a natural comparison group for evaluation of the changes brought about by the reform. For example, the reform called for a more selective use of training school for primarily violent, chronic juvenile offenders, virtually excluding misdemeanor offenders from commitment. Comparing the pre-reform cohort to a post-reform cohort may indicate whether targeting these resources had an impact on subsequent adult arrest, conviction and incarceration.

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APPENDIX A:
DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES
JCPC PROGRAMS
DJJD PROGRAMS

DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES

Level 1 (Community)

- Probation
- In-home supervisionCustody
- Excuse from school attendance
- Intensive substance abuse treatment program
- Residential treatment program
- Non-residential treatment program
- Restitution up to \$500
- Fine
- Community Service up to 100 hours
- Victim-offender reconciliation program
- No NC driver's license
- Curfew
- No association with specified persons
- Not be in specified places
- Intermittent confinement (detention) up to 5 days
- Wilderness program
- Supervised day program

Level 2 (Intermediate)

Any of the Level 1 dispositional alternatives plus at least one of the following:

- Wilderness program
- Residential treatment program
- Intensive nonresidential treatment program
- Intensive substance abuse program
- Group home placement
- Intensive supervision probation
- Supervised day program
- Regimented training program
- House arrest with or without electronic monitoring
- Intermittent confinement (detention) up to 14 days
- Multipurpose group home
- Restitution over \$500
- Community Service up to 200 hours
- Suspension of a more severe disposition

Level 3 (Commitment)

- Commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for placement in a Youth Development Center

JCPC Programs

After-school prevention programs--These programs include personal and social counseling (individual and group), family counseling; positive learning experiences to enhance the educational experience; family visits with a focus on crisis prevention and conflict resolution; leadership workshops, group cultural and vocational workshops; social skill development; and academic tutoring.

Counseling services--These services typically consist of individual counseling targeting specific behavioral problems (e.g., in school, family, and community domains). These programs often serve both adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth. Services are normally provided at school or in the home. Typical training techniques are instruction, modeling of behavior, practice and rehearsal, feedback, and reinforcement.

Home-based family services--These services typically include short term, intensive services involving the entire family, intended to prevent family dissolution, delinquent and undisciplined behavior by empowering families to become more functional and self-sufficient. Services may include parenting skills training, problem solving skills, and communication skills training. Services may also include training for the parent(s) of the juvenile in child management skills such as communicating with adolescents, providing positive reinforcement, positive discipline, and resolving conflicts.

Structured day treatment--These are treatment programs for juvenile offenders that provide supervision, treatment, and sentencing options to the court within the framework of one program. Services may be offered on a graduated basis including after-school, evenings, on weekends, and also during the school day for those with education components. Services may include individual and family counseling, substance abuse treatment, restitution (often combined with community service), tutoring, alternative education, vocational training, and structured activities.

Mediation programs--These programs typically include individual counseling. The product may be a written conflict resolution agreement and some cognitive-behavioral treatment, helping youth understand that wrong behavioral choices carry consequences. Programs of this type may also include conflict resolution, communication skills, and parenting skills for parents in dysfunctional families.

DJJDP Funded Programs

Prevention Programs

The Support our Students (SOS) Program is a community based after-school initiative that provides support and guidance to young people by involving them in constructive activities to keep them focused and out of trouble. The SOS Program provides high quality after-school activities for school-aged children through grants to neighborhood and community-based organizations in 99 counties. These programs provide comprehensive, collaborative delivery of services by public and non-public agencies to these children. The SOS Program also links young people with caring adults in their community, who serve as positive role models. The adults help them with homework and organize clubs and athletic activities in a structured setting designed for positive learning experiences.

The Governor's One on One program is implemented in 59 programs in 62 counties.

Local program coordinators recruit, screen and match adult volunteers (who agree to spend at least four hours a week for one year in a one to one relationship) with a troubled young person. More than 8 out of 10 youth are referred to the program by juvenile courts or law enforcement. Mentoring is the major program intervention. A primary objective of the One on One program is to serve as an intervention to prevent or reduce delinquency involvement.

Early Intervention

Teen Courts function as a diversion program for minor juvenile offenders. There currently are 32 teen court programs in the State. Adult volunteers train youth volunteers to act as officials of the court who hear complaints and determine appropriate sanctions for peers who have admitted committing an offense that would be considered a misdemeanor if committed by an adult. Professional adult staff provides supervision of the court proceedings and any subsequent imposition of community service or restitution. Offenders are given the opportunity to resolve their charges without obtaining an official court record.

Community-Based Treatment

Court supervision of adjudicated juveniles across the state is structured in three graduated levels: standard supervision, modified supervision, and intensive supervision. Intensive Supervision, to which youth with elevated recidivism risk are assigned, uses an interdisciplinary team in designing and implementing intensive supervision and services. Step-down supervision and services are also provided as the offender's behavior improves. Some urban courts have designed even more highly-structured intensive probation supervision programs, coupled with comprehensive treatment plans, for offenders at elevated risk of becoming serious, violent, chronic offenders.

The MAJORS (Managing Access for Juvenile Offender Resources and Services) program is a joint initiative between the Substance Abuse Services Section of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (DMHDDSA) and the DJJDP. The

purpose of this program is to develop and implement proactive, innovative transitional and continuing care services for juvenile offenders that blend the control measures of court requirements, sanctions, and community service with substance abuse intervention strategies at the points of pre-trial, probation, secure custody, confinement, and transitional services following confinement. The two target groups for this initiative are: 1) juvenile offenders on probation in their communities, and 2) juvenile offenders released from Youth Development Centers (YDCs) or residential treatment to their local communities. Adolescents enrolled in the MAJORS program receive a variety of services ranging from individual and family therapy to group therapy, mentoring and tutoring services. MAJORS programs are operational in 12 sites.

Multipurpose Juvenile Homes provide secure non-institutional alternatives to secure detention and YDCs. DJJDP contracts with private providers to operate the homes. Six eight-bed facilities opened in 1993. The homes provide at least double staff coverage 24 hours a day plus a certified teacher and full-time family counselor, providing up to 30 days of care for juveniles awaiting trial and up to 240 days for youth on probation as a treatment placement. In addition to reducing confinement and detention, other major objectives of the homes are to reduce referrals to juvenile court, out of school suspensions, and runaway behavior.

Seven Eckerd Wilderness Camps serve boys and girls, ages 10 through 17, with behavioral problems. The camps are year-round, staff-secure, residential therapeutic programs, providing an alternative to more restrictive programs. Counselors-teachers live with the youth in small groups of ten. Programming is designed to promote self-esteem, personal responsibility, communication skills, and self-discipline. Group activities are the medium for problem solving and interpersonal skill development.

Camp Woodson is a therapeutic adventure-based camping program that serves as a short term, voluntary, pre-release program for juveniles returning to their home community from the Youth Development Centers on "conditional release." Thus, it is structured as an aftercare program; serving mainly as a transitional step-down program for youths released from the YDCs, to facilitate community reintegration. Students are drawn from North Carolina's five YDCs and from selected judicial districts in both the eastern and western parts of the state. The program operates in wilderness areas throughout the state utilizing both state and national parks. In addition to outdoor, adventure-based activities, offenders receive a great deal of therapeutic intervention consisting of a combination of the traditional Outward Bound group development model and individual behavior management, including anger management, reality therapy, and cognitive-behavioral techniques, that are administered to control offenders and prepare them for community reintegration.

APPENDIX B:

**JUVENILE-TO-ADULT
COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL HISTORY
SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

**JUVENILE-TO-ADULT COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL HISTORY
SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

INCLUDE ALL “97J” FILES THAT ALLEGED DELINQUENCY.

IN ADDITION, PLEASE INCLUDE CASES TRANSFERRED TO SUPERIOR COURT.

DO NOT INCLUDE CASES WHERE THE JUVENILE WAS TRANSFERRED INTO OUR SAMPLE COUNTY AFTER BEING ADJUDICATED IN ANOTHER COUNTY (I.E. JUST FOR DISPOSITION).

INCLUDE CASES WHERE THE JUVENILE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTY AFTER BEING ADJUDICATED IN OUR SAMPLE COUNTY. RECORD NEW COUNTY AND “J” NUMBER IF AVAILABLE.

SECTION I ☞ GENERAL INFORMATION

DISTRICT: _____ COUNTY: _____ FILE NUMBER: 97 J _____

JUVENILE’S NAME: _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST “NICKNAME”

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___

DATE OF BIRTH: ___ ___ / ___ ___ / ___ ___
MONTH DAY YEAR

RACE: WHITE BLACK HISPANIC NATIVE AMERICAN ASIAN
 OTHER UNKNOWN

GENDER: MALE FEMALE

SECTION II ⌘ 1ST ADJUDICATION & DISPOSITION INFORMATION

1. PETITION CHARGES (IN THIS SECTION, PLEASE FILL IN THE PETITION CHARGE INFORMATION.)

PETITION CHARGE (TEXT)	# OF COUNTS	GENERAL STATUTE	TYPE OF OFFENSE (CIRCLE ONE)	OFFENSE CLASS	DATE OF OFFENSE	PETITION DATE
1.			F M			
2.			F M			
3.			F M			
4.			F M			
5.			F M			

CASE DISMISSED

TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTY

DEFERRED PROSECUTION

2. ADJUDICATED OFFENSES (IN THIS SECTION, PLEASE FILL IN THE OFFENSE INFORMATION FOR WHICH THE JUVENILE WAS ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT.)

ADJUDICATED OFFENSE (TEXT)	# OF COUNTS	GENERAL STATUTE	TYPE OF OFFENSE (CIRCLE ONE)	OFFENSE CLASS	DATE OF ADJUDICATION	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
1.			F M			
2.			F M			
3.			F M			
4.			F M			
5.			F M			

3. FINAL DISPOSITION IMPOSED

DISPOSITION: (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY. SEE ATTACHMENT B FOR A LIST OF DISPOSITIONS)

A (IN MONTHS) _____	G	L	Q	V	AA
B (IN HOURS) _____	H	M	R	W	BB
C (AMOUNT) _____	I	N	S	X	CC
D (AMOUNT) _____	J	O	T	Y	DD
E (IN MONTHS) _____	K	P	U	Z	EE
F (IN MONTHS) _____					GG
FF (DEFINITE COMMITMENT, IN MONTHS) _____				XX	

4. POST-DISPOSITION INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> MOTION FOR REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> FOUND IN VIOLATION OF PROBATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO MODIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MODIFIED / NO COMMITMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> MODIFIED / COMMITMENT
		COMMITMENT DATE ____ / ____ / ____ MONTH DAY YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSFERRED	COUNTY _____	“J” NUMBER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> TERMINATION		DATE ____ / ____ / ____ MONTH DAY YEAR

SECTION III ⌘ SUBSEQUENT INVOLVEMENT # _____

Complete this section only if the juvenile had subsequent involvements with the juvenile justice system.

1. PETITION CHARGES (IN THIS SECTION, PLEASE FILL IN THE PETITION CHARGE INFORMATION.)

PETITION CHARGE (TEXT)	# OF COUNTS	GENERAL STATUTE	TYPE OF OFFENSE (CIRCLE ONE)	OFFENSE CLASS	DATE OF OFFENSE	PETITION DATE
1.			F M			
2.			F M			
3.			F M			
4.			F M			
5.			F M			

Was this juvenile under supervision at the time the alleged offense was committed?

Y N Unknown

CASE DISMISSED

TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTY

DEFERRED PROSECUTION

2. ADJUDICATED OFFENSES (IN THIS SECTION, PLEASE FILL IN THE OFFENSE INFORMATION FOR WHICH THE JUVENILE WAS ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT.)

ADJUDICATED OFFENSE (TEXT)	# OF COUNTS	GENERAL STATUTE	TYPE OF OFFENSE (CIRCLE ONE)	OFFENSE CLASS	DATE OF ADJUDICATION	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
1.			F M			
2.			F M			
3.			F M			
4.			F M			
5.			F M			

3. FINAL DISPOSITION IMPOSED

DISPOSITION: (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY. SEE ATTACHMENT B FOR A LIST OF DISPOSITIONS)

A (IN MONTHS) _____	G	L	Q	V	AA
B (IN HOURS) _____	H	M	R	W	BB
C (AMOUNT) _____	I	N	S	X	CC
D (AMOUNT) _____	J	O	T	Y	DD
E (IN MONTHS) _____	K	P	U	Z	EE
F (IN MONTHS) _____					GG
FF (DEFINITE COMMITMENT, IN MONTHS) _____					XX

4. POST-DISPOSITION INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> MOTION FOR REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> FOUND IN VIOLATION OF PROBATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO MODIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MODIFIED / NO COMMITMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> MODIFIED / COMMITMENT
		COMMITMENT DATE ___ / ___ / ___
		MONTH DAY YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSFERRED	COUNTY _____	“J” NUMBER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> TERMINATION	DATE ___ / ___ / ___	
	MONTH DAY YEAR	

5. OTHER INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> NEW LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> MIXED (OLD LAW & NEW LAW)	
DELINQUENCY LEVEL	<input type="checkbox"/> LOW	<input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM
		<input type="checkbox"/> HIGH
OFFENSE LEVEL	<input type="checkbox"/> MINOR	<input type="checkbox"/> SERIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> VIOLENT
DISPOSITION LEVEL	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
		<input type="checkbox"/> 3

SECTION IV ⌘ TRANSFER CASE INFORMATION

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF THIS OFFENSE WAS TRANSFERRED TO SUPERIOR COURT

1. PETITION CHARGES (IN THIS SECTION, PLEASE FILL IN ALL PETITION CHARGE INFORMATION FILED PRIOR TO CASE BEING TRANSFERRED TO SUPERIOR COURT. SEE ATTACHMENT A FOR A LIST)

PETITION CHARGE (TEXT)	# OF COUNTS	GENERAL STATUTE	TYPE OF OFFENSE (CIRCLE ONE)	OFFENSE CLASS	DATE OF OFFENSE	PETITION DATE
1.			F M			
2.			F M			
3.			F M			
4.			F M			
5.			F M			

TRANSFER DATE: _____ / _____ / _____
MONTH DAY YEAR

2. REASON(S) FOR TRANSFER

<p>ACCORDING TO COURT DOCUMENTS, THIS CASE WAS TRANSFERRED TO SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> AGE OF JUVENILE <input type="checkbox"/> NATURE OF THE OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE WAS ESPECIALLY VIOLENT, AGGRESSIVE, PREMEDITATED, OR WILLFUL <input type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE'S PRIOR RECORD <input type="checkbox"/> PRIOR ATTEMPTS TO REHABILITATE THE JUVENILE <input type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE WOULD NOT BENEFIT FROM SERVICES PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE JUVENILE COURT'S JURISDICTION <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SAFETY <input type="checkbox"/> PRIOR PLACEMENT IN TRAINING SCHOOL <input type="checkbox"/> CO-DEFENDANT(S) IN SUPERIOR COURT <input type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE'S MATURITY <input type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE'S INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING <input type="checkbox"/> AGE OF VICTIM <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER, SPECIFY _____ <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN

APPENDIX C:

**DEFINITIONS OF
INDEPENDENT VARIABLES
USED IN THE REGRESSION MODEL**

DEFINITIONS OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES USED IN THE REGRESSION MODEL

Personal Characteristics

- *Gender* - Male or female
- *Race* - Race was collapsed into two categories: black or non-black. White, Hispanic, Asian and American Indian cohort cases as well as cases with an “other” or “unknown” race were included in the non-black category.
- *Time under Adult Criminal Justice Jurisdiction* - This variable reflects the time (in months) between a juvenile’s sixteenth birthday and the end of the follow-up period, or the window of time in which a juvenile could be arrested as an adult. This variable is also an indication of each juvenile’s age. Cohort subjects with more time under the adult criminal justice system were older when they entered the system; subjects with less time under the adult criminal justice system were younger when they entered the system.
- *Urban* - This variable indicates whether the judicial district where the delinquent case was disposed was urban or rural. Urban districts included District 10 (Wake County), District 18 (Guilford County), District 21 (Forsyth County) and District 26 (Mecklenburg County). Rural districts included District 11 (Johnston and Harnett Counties) and District 4 (Onslow County).

Delinquent Offense Information

- *Number of Delinquent Petitions Filed* - This variable represents the total number of petition events while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Felony* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for a felony offense while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Delinquent Adjudication for an Offense Against a Person* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for an assaultive offense while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. This includes both felony and misdemeanor offenses.
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Property Offense* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for a property offense while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. This includes both felony and misdemeanor offenses.

- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Drug Offense* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for a drug offense while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. This includes both felony and misdemeanor offenses.
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Public Order Offense* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for a public order offense while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. This includes both felony and misdemeanor offenses.
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Local Ordinance* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for a local ordinance while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. Local ordinances are misdemeanor offenses.
- *Delinquent Adjudication for a Sex Offense* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for a sex offense while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. This category of offenses includes those offenses for which adult offenders are required to register with law enforcement agencies (e.g., first degree rape/sexual offense, second degree rape/sexual offense, attempted rape or sexual offense, intercourse/sexual offense with certain victims, incest between near relatives, taking indecent liberties with children).

Juvenile Dispositions Ordered

Each of these disposition variables reflect whether a juvenile's disposition(s) included at least one assignment to each type while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

- *Probation* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was placed on probation while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Community Service* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to perform community service while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Restitution* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to pay restitution while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Mentoring Program* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to participate in a mentoring program while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Vocational or Educational Program* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to participate in a vocational or educational program while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

- *Counseling* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to participate in some type of counseling (e.g., individual counseling, family counseling, mental health/development disabilities assessment, counseling and/or treatment, life skills training and/or counseling, Willie M. program, in-home/family preservation counseling) while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Substance Abuse Treatment* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to receive outpatient substance abuse assessment, counseling and/or treatment, residential substance abuse treatment, or ordered to participate in drug treatment court while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Sex Offender Treatment* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to receive a sex offender assessment and/or treatment while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Intensive Supervision Probation* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was placed on intensive supervision probation while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Out of Home Placement* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was placed out of his/her home (e.g., placement in the custody of the Department of Social Services, in foster care, with a relative, in a multipurpose group home) while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Detention* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile's court counselor had the authority to place the juvenile in a detention facility while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Eckerd Wilderness Camp* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to participate in Eckerd Wilderness Camp or other therapeutic camp while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Boot Camp* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was ordered to participate in a boot camp or a regimented training program while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.
- *Commitment to Training School* - This variable indicates whether a juvenile was committed to training school while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.