

FISCAL YEAR 2020 SAMPLE

- ⇒ The study follows 5,822 juveniles with a delinquent complaint who exited the juvenile justice system in FY 2020 following diversion, probation, or commitment to a Youth Development Center (YDC).
- ⇒ Recidivism includes all subsequent delinquent complaints and adult arrests and is tracked during juvenile justice involvement as well as a two-year follow-up period.
- ⇒ While Raise the Age and the pandemic occurred during the sample timeframe, both had limited effects on the sample.
- ⇒ The pandemic had a considerable effect on recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up; rates decreased from 31% for the FY 2018 sample to 26% for the FY 2020 sample.

Juvenile Profile

- Juveniles averaged 14 years of age at offense. Most juveniles were male (73%) and 43% were Black.
- Few were classified at the lowest (3%) and highest (10%) risk levels; most (65%) were assessed as having low needs.
- Almost one-third had at least one prior complaint. 80% had a misdemeanor offense; 60% had a school-based offense.
- Length of juvenile justice involvement was shortest for diverted juveniles and longest for committed juveniles.

Top 3 Juvenile Offenses

Type of Offense	Class	N	%
Simple Assault	2	998	17
Disorderly Conduct at School	2	350	6
Simple Affray	2	344	6

Recidivism

- Overall, 15% had recidivism during their juvenile justice involvement, 26% during the two-year follow-up, and 33% during either or both time periods.
- Juveniles with at least one prior complaint had higher recidivism rates than those with no prior complaints.
- Recidivism increased as risk level and needs level increased.

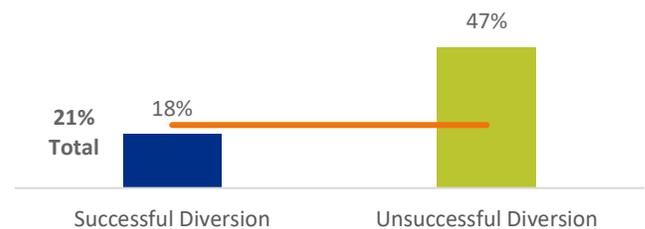
Recidivism Rates by Risk Level: Two-Year Follow-Up



Diverted Juveniles

- Of the 3,305 diverted juveniles, most (90%) successfully completed their diversion plan or contract.
- Juveniles with a successful diversion spent an average of 4 months in the juvenile justice system compared to an average of 3 months for those with an unsuccessful diversion.
- Only 9% of diverted juveniles recidivated during their juvenile justice involvement.
- Juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion had higher recidivism rates compared to those with a successful diversion.

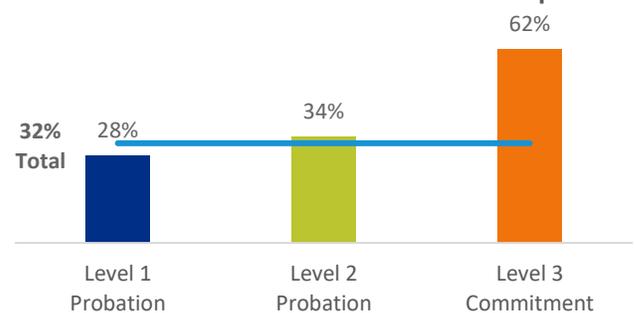
Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



Adjudicated Juveniles

- Of the adjudicated juveniles, 2,517 exited probation (Level 1: 1,787; Level 2: 536) and 194 exited a YDC facility (Level 3).
- Level 1 probationers, on average, had the shortest involvement in the system (11 months) compared to Level 2 probationers and committed juveniles (14 months each).
- 75% of probationers had a misdemeanor offense, while 91% of committed juveniles had a felony offense.
- 23% of Level 1 probationers, 28% of Level 2 probationers, and 11% of committed juveniles (likely due to their confinement) had recidivism during juvenile justice involvement.

Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



Note: Direct comparisons between recidivism rates in this report and reports prior to 2019 cannot be made due to methodological differences.
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2020 Juvenile Recidivism Exit Sample

For the NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's *Juvenile Recidivism Study: FY 2020 Juvenile Sample* and all other publications, see the Commission's website: www.NCSPAC.org.