

## FISCAL YEAR 2022 SAMPLE

- ⇒ The study examined 5,448 juveniles with a delinquent complaint who exited the juvenile justice system in FY 2022 after diversion, probation, or commitment to a Youth Development Center (YDC).
- ⇒ Recidivism included all subsequent delinquent complaints and adult arrests and was tracked during juvenile justice involvement as well as a two-year follow-up period.
- ⇒ As a result of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA), 34% of the sample were 16-17 years old at offense.

### Juvenile Profile

- Most juveniles were male (73%); 43% were White and 42% were Black. The average age at offense was 15 years.
- More than one-third had at least one prior complaint (35%).
- Over half (54%) of juveniles were assessed as low risk; 43% of juveniles were assessed with moderate strengths.
- Average length of juvenile justice involvement varied across groups – the diversion group spent the least amount of time in the system (4 months) compared to the probation (11 months) and commitment groups (12 months).
- 74% of the sample had a misdemeanor offense; 42% had a school-based offense.

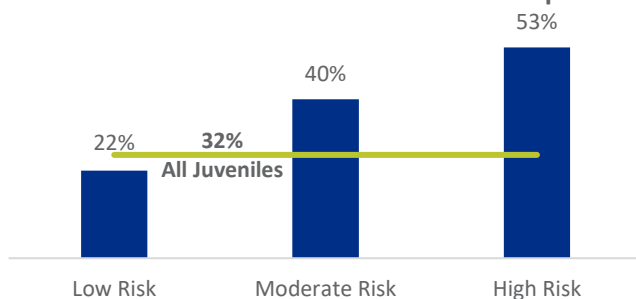
### Top 3 Charged Offenses

Type of Offense	Class	N	%
Simple Assault	2	834	15
Simple Affray	2	310	6
Misdemeanor Larceny	1	188	3

### Recidivism

- Overall, 15% had recidivism during their juvenile justice involvement, 32% during the two-year follow-up, and 39% during either or both time periods.
- Multivariate analysis revealed the strongest predictor of recidivism during the two-year follow-up was recidivism during juvenile justice involvement.
- Juveniles with at least one prior complaint had higher recidivism rates than juveniles with no prior complaints.
- Recidivism rates increased as risk level increased.

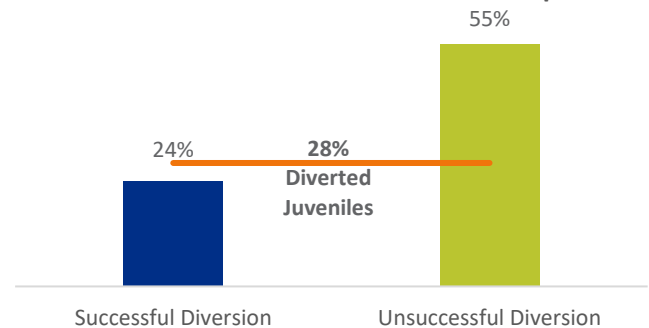
### Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



### Diverted Juveniles

- Of the 3,241 diverted juveniles, 2,782 had successful diversion and 459 had unsuccessful diversion.
- The unsuccessful diversion group was assessed at higher risk levels and had a higher percentage of prior complaints compared to the successful diversion group.
- Only 11% of diverted juveniles recidivated during their juvenile justice involvement.
- Juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion had higher recidivism rates than those with a successful diversion.
- Multivariate analysis showed the strongest predictor of recidivism was having an unsuccessful diversion.

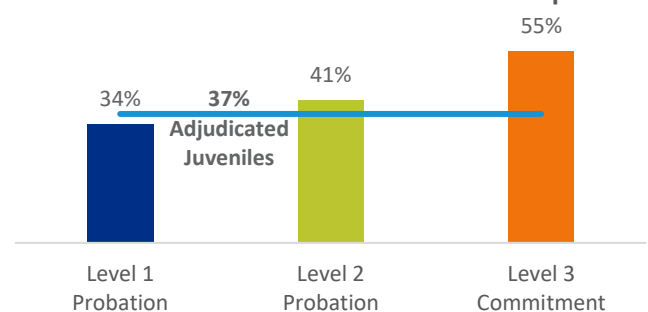
### Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



### Adjudicated Juveniles

- Of the adjudicated juveniles, 2,064 exited probation (1,324 Level 1; 740 Level 2) and 143 exited a YDC (Level 3).
- 86% of Level 1 probationers had a misdemeanor offense, while 67% of Level 2 probationers and 92% of committed juveniles had a felony offense.
- 21% of Level 1 probationers, 28% of Level 2 probationers, and 6% of committed juveniles (due to confinement) had recidivism during juvenile justice involvement.
- Committed juveniles had the highest recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up compared to probationers.
- For adjudicated juveniles, one of the strongest predictors of recidivism was having a higher delinquency history level.

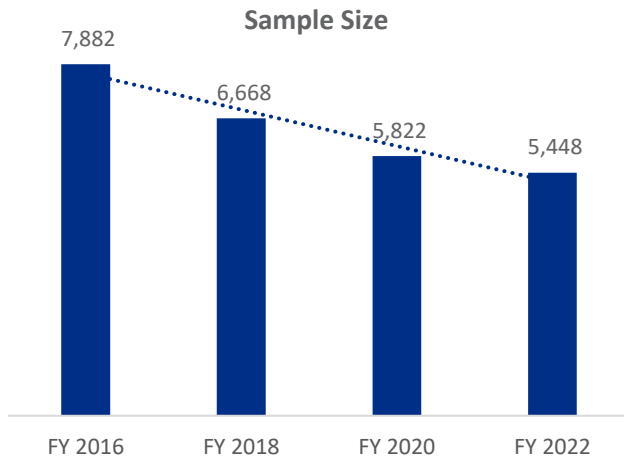
### Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



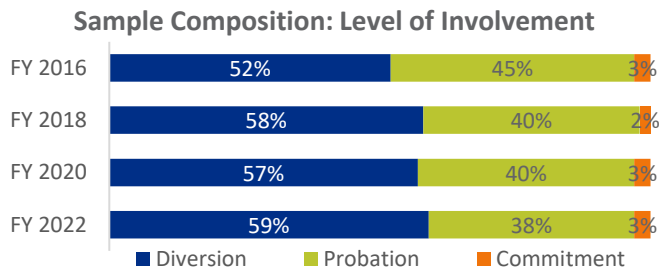
# QUICK FACTS: JUVENILE RECIDIVISM

## FISCAL YEAR 2016 – FISCAL YEAR 2022 SAMPLES

The sample size decreased 30% from FY 2016 to FY 2022. The probation group had the largest decrease (42%), while the diversion group had the smallest decrease (20%).



Across the same time period, the diversion group increased from 52% to 59%, while the probation group decreased from 45% to 38%. The commitment group remained about the same.

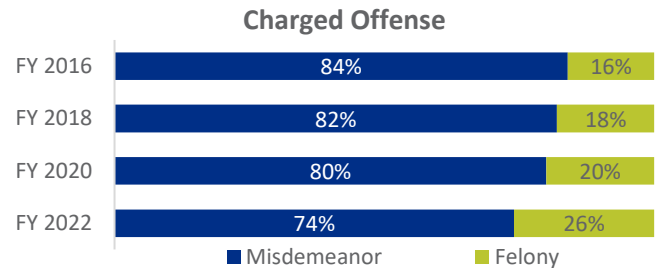


While the JJRA went into effect in FY 2020, very few juveniles from the new population were in the FY 2020 sample (4%); however, 34% of juveniles in the current sample were 16-17 years old at the time of offense.

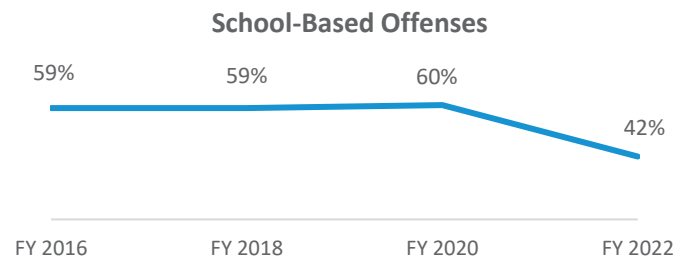
### Age at Offense

Sample	≤12 Years	13-15 Years	16-17 Years
FY 2016	20%	80%	--
FY 2018	21%	79%	--
FY 2020	21%	75%	4%
FY 2022	14%	52%	34%

The overall percentage of juveniles charged with a felony has increased, mostly driven by the probation group.

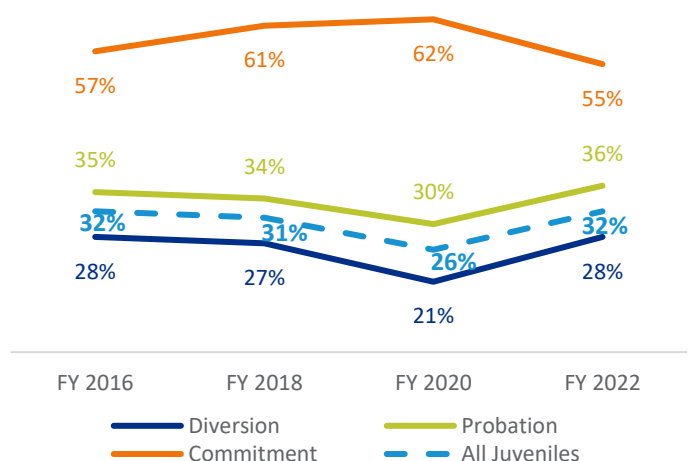


In FY 2016, school-based offenses accounted for 59% of offenses; they accounted for less than half in FY 2022. Along with decreases in misdemeanors, this change may represent a shift in system prioritization to more serious offenses.



Historically, recidivism rates have increased along with level of involvement. For the FY 2022 sample, recidivism rates returned to pre-pandemic levels, even with the expanded jurisdiction following the JJRA and a possible shift in system prioritization.

### Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2016 – FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Report Data

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**The Honorable Charlie Brown, Chairman**  
**Michelle Hall, Executive Director**

For the NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's *Juvenile Recidivism Study: FY 2022 Juvenile Sample* and other publications, see the Commission's website: [www.NCSPAC.org](http://www.NCSPAC.org)