

# JUVENILE RECIDIVISM STUDY:

FY 2022  
SAMPLE

# JUVENILE RECIDIVISM STUDY: FY 2022 JUVENILE EXIT SAMPLE

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2025 JUVENILE RECIDIVISM STUDY .....</b>	<b>i</b>
FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample .....	i
Diverted Juveniles .....	ii
Adjudicated Juveniles.....	ii
Conclusions .....	iii
 <b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	 <b>1</b>
The Juvenile Justice System .....	1
Juvenile Jurisdiction .....	1
Intake Process .....	2
Pre-Dispositional Hearings.....	3
Probable Cause Hearing' .....	3
Transfer Hearing .....	3
Adjudicatory Hearing .....	3
Dispositional Hearing.....	4
Overview of the Process .....	4
Dispositional Alternatives .....	4
Research Design and Methodology .....	5
Sample.....	6
Age at Offense .....	7
Defining Recidivism .....	7
Data Sources .....	9
Report Outline.....	9
 <b>CHAPTER TWO: FY 2022 JUVENILE RECIDIVISM SAMPLE .....</b>	 <b>11</b>
Statistical Profile .....	11
Geographic Areas .....	11
Personal Characteristics.....	12
Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts .....	13
Prior Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation .....	14
Charged Offense .....	14
Offense Category and Age at Offense.....	17
Risk Assessment .....	18
Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	20
Juvenile and Adult Recidivism.....	21
Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement.....	21
Recidivism during Two-Year Follow-Up .....	22
Geographic Areas and Recidivism.....	24
Personal Characteristics and Recidivism.....	25
Prior Complaints and Recidivism .....	26
Prior Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation .....	26
Charged Offense and Recidivism .....	27
Risk Assessment and Recidivism .....	28
Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement and Recidivism .....	29
Overall Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement and Two-Year Follow-Up.....	30
Additional Outcomes .....	31

Confinement to a Detention Center and/or a Youth Development Center .....	31
Juvenile Transfers to Superior Court .....	32
Summary .....	32
<b>CHAPTER THREE: DIVERTED JUVENILES .....</b>	<b>35</b>
Statistical Profile .....	35
Geographic Areas .....	36
Personal Characteristics.....	36
Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts .....	37
Charged Offense .....	38
Risk Assessment .....	40
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation during Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	42
Juvenile and Adult Recidivism .....	44
Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement.....	44
Recidivism during Two-Year Follow-Up Period.....	45
Diversion Profile and Recidivism.....	46
Geographic Areas and Recidivism.....	47
Personal Characteristics and Recidivism.....	47
Prior Complaints and Recidivism .....	48
Charged Offense and Recidivism .....	49
Risk Assessment and Recidivism .....	49
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation and Recidivism .....	50
Overall Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement and Two-Year Follow-Up.....	51
Summary .....	52
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: ADJUDICATED JUVENILES .....</b>	<b>54</b>
Statistical Profile .....	54
Geographic Areas .....	55
Personal Characteristics.....	56
Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts .....	57
Adjudicated Offense .....	57
Risk Assessment.....	62
Juvenile Justice Involvement Profile .....	64
Probation Supervision .....	64
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation during Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	65
Youth Development Center Commitment .....	67
Juvenile and Adult Recidivism .....	67
Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement.....	67
Recidivism during Two-Year Follow-Up .....	68
Geographic Areas and Recidivism.....	70
Personal Characteristics and Recidivism.....	71
Prior Complaints and Recidivism .....	71
Adjudicated Offense, Delinquency History, and Recidivism.....	72
Risk Assessment and Recidivism .....	74
Juvenile Justice Involvement Profiles and Recidivism .....	75
Probation Supervision and Recidivism.....	76

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation and Recidivism .....	77
Youth Development Center Commitment and Recidivism .....	78
Overall Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement and Two-Year Follow-Up.....	78
Summary .....	78
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS .....</b>	<b>82</b>
Logistic Regression Analysis Variables .....	83
Dependent Variables .....	83
Independent Variables.....	83
Model Limitations .....	83
Logistic Regression Results and Interpretation.....	84
Recidivism Outcomes for All Juveniles .....	84
Recidivism Outcomes for Diverted Juveniles.....	86
Recidivism Outcomes for Adjudicated Juveniles .....	87
Summary .....	88
<b>CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>90</b>
Summary .....	90
Diverted Juveniles.....	91
Adjudicated Juveniles .....	92
Trends .....	92
Conclusions .....	94
<b>APPENDIX A: JUVENILE DISPOSITION CHART AND DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES .....</b>	<b>100</b>
Juvenile Disposition Chart.....	101
Dispositional Alternatives for Delinquent Juveniles .....	102
<b>APPENDIX B: FY 2022 CLOSED AND DISMISSED JUVENILES .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: JUVENILE ADJUDICATIONS AND ADULT CONVICTIONS .....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>APPENDIX D: GLOSSARY OF MAJOR TERMS AND VARIABLES .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>APPENDIX E: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE FY 2022 SAMPLE .....</b>	<b>120</b>
Geographic Tables.....	121
Juveniles with Gang Involvement .....	123
Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI).....	124
Juvenile Complaints and Adult Arrests .....	125
<b>APPENDIX F: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE FY 2022 ADJUDICATED JUVENILES .....</b>	<b>126</b>

## TABLES

Table 1.1: Recidivism Defined .....	8
Table 1.2: FY 2022 Sample Descriptions and Recidivism Time Periods .....	8
Table 2.1: Age.....	13
Table 2.2: Charged Offense.....	16

Table 2.3: Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels by Sex.....	19
Table 2.4: Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels.....	20
Table 2.5: Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement.....	20
Table 2.6: Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement.....	22
Table 2.7: Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	22
Table 2.8: Recidivism Rates by Personal Characteristics: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	25
Table 2.9: Recidivism Rates by Charged Offense: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	28
Table 2.10: Recidivism Rates by Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	30
Table 2.11: Juvenile Profile of the FY 2022 Sample .....	33
Table 3.1: Age.....	37
Table 3.2: Charged Offense.....	39
Table 3.3: Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels by Sex.....	41
Table 3.4: Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels.....	42
Table 3.5: JCPC Participation by Program Category.....	43
Table 3.6: Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement.....	45
Table 3.7: Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	45
Table 3.8: Recidivism Rates by Personal Characteristics: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	48
Table 3.9: Recidivism Rates by Charged Offense: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	49
Table 3.10: Profile of Diverted Juveniles .....	52
Table 4.1: Adjudicated Juveniles.....	54
Table 4.2: Age.....	57
Table 4.3: Charged Offense by Adjudicated Offense .....	58
Table 4.4: Adjudicated Offense.....	60
Table 4.5: Risk, Needs, and Strengths Levels by Level of Involvement .....	63
Table 4.6: Risk, Needs, and Strengths Levels by Sex.....	63
Table 4.7: Risk and Strengths Levels .....	64
Table 4.8: Level 1 and Level 2 Probation Profile .....	65
Table 4.9: JCPC Program Participation by Categories.....	66
Table 4.10: Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement.....	68
Table 4.11: Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	69
Table 4.12: Recidivism Rates by Personal Characteristics: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	71
Table 4.13: Recidivism Rates by Adjudicated Offense: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	73
Table 4.14: Recidivism Rates by the Juvenile Disposition Chart: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	74
Table 4.15: Recidivism Rates by Level 1 and Level 2 Probation Profile: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	76
Table 4.16: Profile Summary of Adjudicated Juveniles.....	79
Table 5.1: Independent Variables .....	83
Table 5.2: Effect of Personal and Juvenile Justice Factors on Recidivism: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	85
Table 5.3: Key Predictors of Recidivism Across All Models: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	89
Table B.1: Profile of FY 2022 Closed and Dismissed Juveniles.....	104
Table C.1: Recidivism by Combined Juvenile Adjudications and Adult Convictions.....	107
Table C.2: Subsequent Juvenile Adjudications, Adult Convictions, and Combined Recidivism.....	107
Table C.3: Recidivism by Combined Juvenile Adjudications and Adult Convictions and Jurisdiction.....	108
Table E.1: Distribution of Juveniles by Geographic Area/District .....	121
Table E.2: Recidivism Rates by Geographic Area/District: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	122
Table E.3: Profile of FY 2022 Juveniles with Gang Involvement .....	123
Table E.4: Recidivism Rates for Juveniles with Gang Involvement .....	124
Table E.5: Juveniles with a YASI .....	124



Table E.6: Subsequent Delinquent Complaints, Adult Arrests, and Combined Recidivism by Level of Involvement .....	125
Table E.7: Recidivism Rates by Legal Jurisdiction and Level of Involvement.....	125
Table F.1: Needs and Strengths Levels by Level of Involvement .....	129
Table F.2: Number of Adjudicated Juveniles by Adjudicated Offense Classification and Delinquency History Level.....	129

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Recidivism Rates for North Carolina’s Diverted and Adjudicated Juveniles .....	i
Figure 2: Recidivism Rates for Diverted Juveniles .....	ii
Figure 3: Recidivism Rates for Adjudicated Juveniles .....	iii
Figure 1.1: FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample .....	6
Figure 1.2: Age at Offense for the FY 2022 Sample .....	7
Figure 2.1: Geographic Areas .....	12
Figure 2.2: Sex and Race/Ethnicity .....	12
Figure 2.3: Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts .....	13
Figure 2.4: Prior JCPC Program Participation .....	14
Figure 2.5: Top 3 Charged Offenses .....	15
Figure 2.6: Top 3 Charged Offenses by Offense Category .....	17
Figure 2.7: Offense Category of Charged Offense by Age at Offense.....	17
Figure 2.8: Risk Level.....	18
Figure 2.9: Prescreen Strengths Level.....	19
Figure 2.10: Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement by Charged Offense .....	21
Figure 2.11: Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	21
Figure 2.12: Months to First Recidivist Event for Juveniles with Recidivism .....	23
Figure 2.13: Most Serious Recidivist Event by Offense Type: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	24
Figure 2.14: Number of Recidivist Events by Offense Category: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	24
Figure 2.15: Recidivism Rates by Geographic Areas: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	25
Figure 2.16: Recidivism Rates by Prior Complaints: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	26
Figure 2.17: Recidivism Rates by Prior JCPC Program Participation: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	27
Figure 2.18: Recidivism Rates by Risk Level and Prescreen Strengths Level: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	29
Figure 2.19: Recidivism Rates by Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	29
Figure 2.20: Overall Recidivism Rates .....	31
Figure 2.21: Recidivism Rates for FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample .....	34
Figure 3.1: Diversion Outcomes by Diversion Type .....	35
Figure 3.2: Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	36
Figure 3.3: Geographic Areas .....	36
Figure 3.4: Sex and Race/Ethnicity.....	37
Figure 3.5: Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts.....	38
Figure 3.6: Top 3 Charged Offenses .....	38
Figure 3.7: Top 3 Charged Offenses by Offense Category .....	40
Figure 3.8: Risk Level.....	40
Figure 3.9: Prescreen Strengths Level.....	41
Figure 3.10: JCPC Program Participation .....	42
Figure 3.11: JCPC Program Participation Completion by Categories .....	43
Figure 3.12: Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	44

Figure 3.13: Most Serious Recidivist Event by Offense Type: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	46
Figure 3.14: Number of Recidivist Events by Offense Category: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	46
Figure 3.15: Recidivism Rates by Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	47
Figure 3.16: Recidivism Rates by Geographic Areas: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	47
Figure 3.17: Recidivism Rates by Prior Complaints: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	48
Figure 3.18: Recidivism Rates by Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	50
Figure 3.19: Recidivism Rates by Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	50
Figure 3.20: Recidivism Rates by JCPC Program Participation: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	51
Figure 3.21: Overall Recidivism Rates.....	51
Figure 3.22: Recidivism Rates for Diverted Juveniles .....	53
Figure 4.1: Geographic Areas.....	56
Figure 4.2: Sex and Race/Ethnicity.....	56
Figure 4.3: Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts.....	57
Figure 4.4: Top 3 Adjudicated Offenses.....	59
Figure 4.5: Offense Category of the Adjudicated Offense .....	61
Figure 4.6: Top 3 Adjudicated Offenses by Offense Category .....	61
Figure 4.7: Delinquency History Level.....	62
Figure 4.8: Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	64
Figure 4.9: JCPC Program Participation Completion by Categories.....	66
Figure 4.10: Level 3 Commitment Profile .....	67
Figure 4.11: Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement .....	68
Figure 4.12: Most Serious Recidivist Event by Offense Type: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	69
Figure 4.13: Number of Recidivist Events by Offense Category: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	70
Figure 4.14: Recidivism Rates by Geographic Areas: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	70
Figure 4.15: Recidivism Rates by Prior Complaints: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	72
Figure 4.16: Recidivism Rates by Risk, Needs, and Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	75
Figure 4.17: Recidivism Rates by Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	76
Figure 4.18: Recidivism Rates by JCPC Program Participation: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	77
Figure 4.19: Recidivism Rates by JCPC Program Categories: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	77
Figure 4.20: Overall Recidivism Rates.....	78
Figure 4.21: Recidivism Rates for Adjudicated Juveniles.....	81
Figure 5.1: Probability of Recidivism for All Juveniles: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	86
Figure 5.2: Probability of Recidivism for Diverted Juveniles: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	87
Figure 5.3: Probability of Recidivism for Adjudicated Juveniles: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	88
Figure 6.1: Recidivism Rates for North Carolina's Diverted and Adjudicated Juveniles.....	91
Figure 6.2: North Carolina Juveniles: Sample Size .....	92
Figure 6.3: North Carolina Juveniles: Sample Composition.....	93
Figure 6.4: Recidivism Rates for North Carolina Juveniles by Sample Year: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	94
Figure 6.5: North Carolina Juveniles and Recidivist Events: Two-Year Follow-Up.....	95
Figure 6.6: North Carolina Juveniles: School-Based Offense .....	96
Figure 6.7: North Carolina Juveniles: Charged Offense by Type.....	96
Figure 6.8: Recidivism Rates for North Carolina Juveniles by Risk Level: Two-Year Follow-Up .....	98
Figure 6.9: Recidivism Rates for North Carolina Juveniles by Sample Year .....	99

## **ACRONYMS**

<b>CCH</b>	Computerized Criminal History
<b>DJJDP</b>	Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year
<b>G.S.</b>	General Statute
<b>JCPC</b>	Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
<b>JJ</b>	Juvenile Justice
<b>JJI</b>	Juvenile Justice Involvement
<b>JJRA</b>	Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act
<b>NCALLIES</b>	A Local Link to Improve Effective Services
<b>NC-JOIN</b>	North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network
<b>PRS</b>	Post-Release Supervision
<b>RtA</b>	Raise the Age
<b>SBI</b>	State Bureau of Investigation
<b>SBO</b>	School-Based Offense
<b>SJPs</b>	School Justice Partnerships
<b>SRO</b>	School Resource Officer
<b>S.L.</b>	Session Law
<b>YASI</b>	Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument
<b>YDC</b>	Youth Development Center

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

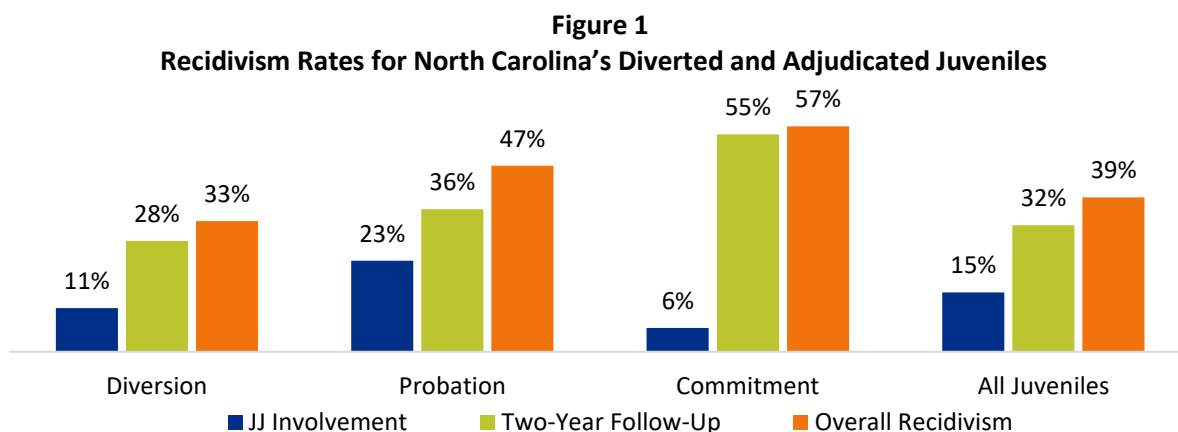
### 2025 JUVENILE RECIDIVISM STUDY

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During the 2005 Session, the North Carolina General Assembly amended Chapter 164 of the General Statutes to direct the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (Sentencing Commission) to conduct biennial juvenile recidivism studies on adjudicated youth in the state. The 2025 report, which marks the tenth biennial report, focuses on a cohort of juveniles exiting North Carolina's juvenile justice system from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 by their level of involvement and tracks juveniles for recidivism (i.e., delinquent complaints and/or adult arrests) during their juvenile justice involvement, in addition to the fixed two-year follow-up from their sample exit.

### FY 2022 JUVENILE RECIDIVISM SAMPLE

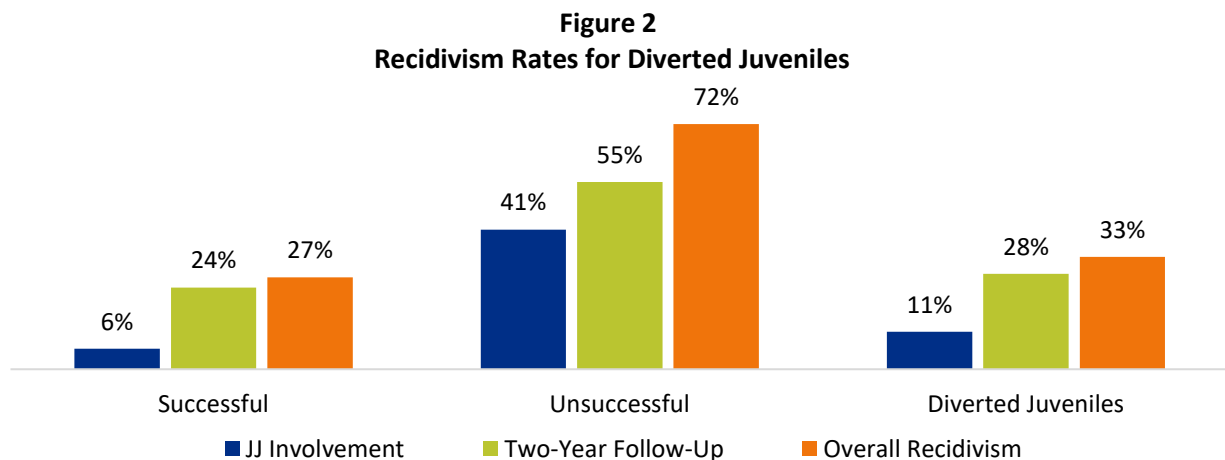
- The 5,448 juveniles in the sample were brought to the attention of the juvenile justice system with at least one delinquent complaint and exited the system in FY 2022 following diversion (n=3,241), probation (n=2,064), or commitment to a Youth Development Center (YDC) (n=143).
- The sample included a roughly equal split between White and Black juveniles (43% and 42% respectively); 73% were male and 66% were 15 years of age and younger.
- Three-quarters (74%) of juveniles had a misdemeanor as their most serious charged offense although there were variations by group (90% of diverted juveniles, 54% of the probation group, and 6% of the commitment group).
- Diverted juveniles were assessed at lower risk and higher strengths levels than adjudicated juveniles. Recidivism rates increased as risk level increased and as strength level decreased.
- Overall, 15% had recidivism during juvenile justice (JJ) involvement, 32% during the two-year follow-up, and 39% during either time period (see Figure 1). Recidivism rates increased as the level of juvenile justice involvement increased.
- Multivariate analysis (a statistical technique used to analyze how multiple factors, taken together, affect the probability of recidivism) indicated that the probability was highest for juveniles who recidivated during juvenile justice involvement, were assessed as moderate risk, or were nonwhite.



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## DIVERTED JUVENILES

- Of the 3,241 juveniles who exited diversion in FY 2022, 86% successfully completed their diversion plan or contract. Juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion (14%) had their complaint filed as a petition in juvenile court.
- Juveniles with unsuccessful diversion had a higher percentage of prior complaints compared to juveniles with successful diversion (22% and 16% respectively). Juveniles with at least one prior complaint had higher recidivism rates than juveniles with no prior complaints.
- Juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion were assessed at higher risk levels and lower strengths levels than juveniles with a successful diversion. Correspondingly, a higher percentage of juveniles with a successful diversion were assessed as low risk and with high strengths.
- Juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion had much higher recidivism rates during the follow-up periods (see Figure 2). Multivariate analyses revealed that having an unsuccessful diversion was the strongest predictor of recidivism during the two-year follow-up (increasing the probability as much as 20%). The higher recidivism rates for juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion are not unexpected given their higher levels of risk and lower levels of strengths.



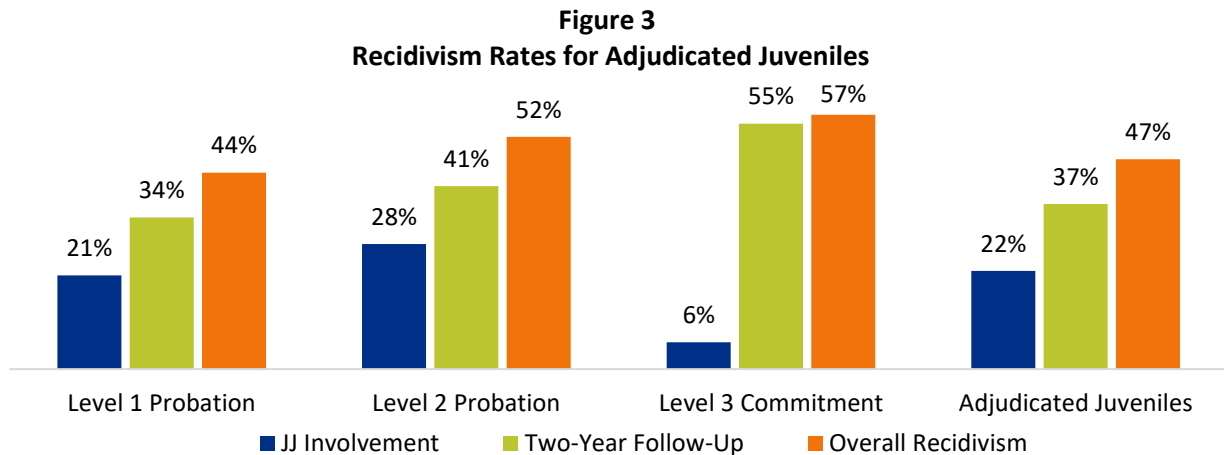
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## ADJUDICATED JUVENILES

- Of the 2,207 juveniles adjudicated delinquent, 2,064 exited supervised probation (1,324 with a Level 1 and 740 with a Level 2 disposition) and 143 exited a YDC (Level 3 disposition) in FY 2022.
- As the seriousness of the juvenile's disposition increased, the percentage of males and older juveniles increased. Prior contacts with the juvenile justice system, along with risk and needs levels, also increased. These characteristics excluding age were linked to higher recidivism rates.
- Most juveniles with a Level 1 disposition had a misdemeanor as their most serious adjudicated offense (86%), while over two-thirds of the Level 2 disposition group (67%) and most of the Level 3 commitment group (92%) had a felony as their most serious offense.
- Juveniles in the commitment group entered a YDC most frequently due to a new crime (59%); the remainder entered a YDC due to revocation of probation (26%) or post-release supervision (15%).
- As shown in Figure 3, juveniles with Level 2 probation had the highest recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement; committed juveniles had the lowest rates during this time period due

to their confinement. Committed juveniles had the highest recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up, followed by juveniles in the Level 2 and Level 1 probation groups respectively.

- Multivariate analyses revealed that delinquency history was a strong predictor of recidivism. Compared to juveniles with low delinquency history, juveniles with medium or high delinquency history had higher recidivism during the two-year follow-up period (increasing the probability as much as 13%).



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## CONCLUSIONS

- The sample size has decreased 30% from the FY 2016 to the FY 2022 sample. The internal sample composition, which is important to consider as context for changes in recidivism rates, also shifted. The diversion group increased (from 52% to 59%), while the probation group decreased (from 45% to 38%). The percentage of committed juveniles remained about the same.
- The Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act added a new population of 16- and 17-year-olds and extended the number of years available for youth to be under juvenile jurisdiction. Only 4% of the FY 2020 sample included juveniles age 16-17 years old at offense, that percentage increased to 34% for the FY 2022 sample. Importantly, this change did not lead to increased recidivism beyond previous levels (i.e., when jurisdiction was limited to 15 and younger). In fact, the number of juveniles with recidivism and the number of recidivist events decreased during this time.
- From FY 2016 to FY 2022 samples, misdemeanor offenses decreased (84% to 74%) as did school-based offenses (59% to 42%). These trends indicate successful intervention by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) along with other efforts (e.g., School Justice Partnerships) to bring only the more serious offenses to the juvenile justice system.
- The lowest recidivism rates corresponded to the lowest levels of intervention by the juvenile justice system, particularly by intervening with youth short of adjudication. These findings suggest that the most efficient investment of sufficient resources is in the community.
- A direct relationship was observed between juveniles' assessed risk and their recidivism, with recidivism generally increasing as risk levels increased.

The Sentencing Commission looks forward to working collaboratively with the DJJDP to further understand the factors contributing to juvenile recidivism in North Carolina, and combining any lessons learned to make improvements to the juvenile justice system in North Carolina.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

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In the 2005 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly, the legislature amended Chapter 164 of the General Statutes to direct the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Sentencing Commission) to conduct biennial juvenile recidivism studies on adjudicated youth in the state:

**§ 164-48. Biennial report on juvenile recidivism.<sup>1</sup>**

The Judicial Department, through the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, shall conduct biennial recidivism studies of juveniles in North Carolina. Each study shall be based on a sample of juveniles adjudicated delinquent and document subsequent involvement in both the juvenile justice system and criminal justice system for at least two years following the sample adjudication. All State agencies shall provide data as requested by the Sentencing Commission.

The Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission shall report the results of the first recidivism study to the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriation Committees and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriation Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by May 1, 2007, and future reports shall be made by May 1 of each odd-numbered year.

This is the Sentencing Commission's tenth biennial report on juvenile recidivism, submitted to the General Assembly on May 1, 2025, and focuses on a cohort of juveniles exiting North Carolina's juvenile justice system from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 by their level of involvement. These data reflect the laws and practices in place during this time.

## THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

In order to provide context for this study, the following sections describe the juvenile justice system, starting with eligibility (i.e., jurisdiction) and the processing of juveniles within the system.

### Juvenile Jurisdiction

Prior to the North Carolina General Assembly's passage of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA) in 2017, the age of juvenile jurisdiction was under 16 years.<sup>2</sup> The JJRA increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction so that most 16- and 17-year-olds facing criminal charges may have their cases disposed through the juvenile justice system rather than the adult criminal justice system.<sup>3</sup> Raising the age of

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<sup>1</sup> N.C. Gen. Stat. (hereinafter G.S.) 164-48 (2023).

<sup>2</sup> North Carolina Session Law (hereinafter S.L.) 2017-57, s. 16D.4. Additional information can be found at: [https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/inline-files/JuvenileReinvestmentFactSheet\\_05012017.pdf](https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/inline-files/JuvenileReinvestmentFactSheet_05012017.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> In addition, the JJRA includes other provisions intended to affect who comes in contact with the juvenile justice system, such as school-justice partnerships designed to reduce school-based referrals to juvenile courts and juvenile justice training for law enforcement officers. See S.L. 2017-57, s. 16D.4.(aa) and (bb).

juvenile jurisdiction (RtA) increased the number of youth in the juvenile justice system by adding a new population of 16- and 17-year-olds and by extending the number of years available for youth to be under jurisdiction of the system.

### Intake Process<sup>4</sup>

All juveniles enter the juvenile justice system by having a formal complaint lodged by a law enforcement officer or a private citizen. There are two types of complaints – the delinquency complaint alleges that a juvenile committed a criminal offense, while the undisciplined complaint alleges noncriminal behavior (e.g., running away, unlawful absences from school, incorrigible behavior within the home). For purposes of this study, only juveniles who had a delinquency complaint are discussed.

Any juvenile who is subject to a delinquency complaint must go through the intake process for the complaint to be screened and evaluated by a juvenile justice court counselor. The court counselor has up to 30 days to determine if a complaint should be handled outside the court or if a complaint should be filed as a petition and set for a hearing before a juvenile court judge. The length and extent of the intake process is based primarily on whether a juvenile is alleged to have committed one of the most serious offenses (i.e., nondivertible offenses as defined by statute<sup>5</sup>) and/or whether a juvenile is confined in a detention center. During the intake phase, a court counselor conducts interviews with the juvenile, the parent, guardian, or custodian legally responsible for the juvenile, and other individuals who might have relevant information about the juvenile.

Beginning in 2021, a new intake assessment was incorporated into the intake process for use with the initial decision to approve or not approve a complaint for filing, as well as for use at disposition and case planning/management – the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI). The YASI prescreen tool is administered to all juveniles at intake. A YASI full assessment is completed to provide additional insights on the juvenile’s needs and strengths if the juvenile scores moderate or high risk or was approved for juvenile court. These assessments contain information (or domains) pertaining to the juvenile’s legal history, family, social, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and educational/employment history, as well as factors indicating the probability of the juvenile engaging in future delinquency. Upon reviewing the information gathered during the evaluation, the court counselor determines if the complaint should be closed, diverted, or approved for filing as a petition and brought before the court.<sup>6</sup>

If the court counselor decides that a case does not require further action, either by some form of follow-up by a court counselor or through a court hearing, the case is deemed closed. Closed cases constitute the lowest point of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

When a court counselor determines that a juvenile’s case should not be brought to court, but that the juvenile is in need of follow-up and referral to a community-based resource (e.g., restitution, clinical treatment), the counselor can then divert the juvenile pursuant to a diversion plan that is developed in

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<sup>4</sup> G.S. Chapter 7B, Article 17.

<sup>5</sup> Nondivertible offenses are defined in G.S. 7B-1701 as murder, first- or second-degree rape, first- or second-degree sexual offense, arson, felony drug offense under Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, first-degree burglary, crime against nature, or a felony involving the willful infliction of serious bodily injury or which was committed by use of a deadly weapon.

<sup>6</sup> Dynamic factors such as needs and strengths can change over time. By policy, the DJJDP staff readminister the full assessment every 90 days to track each juvenile’s progress for case management. For purposes of this study, the YASI closest to the event that placed the juvenile in the sample was selected with preference for a full assessment. In Chapters Two and Three, only the risk and prescreen strengths are reported. In Chapter Four, risk, needs, and strengths from the full assessment are reported.



conjunction with the juvenile and the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian. If a more formal diversion plan is needed, the court counselor, juvenile, and juvenile's responsible party enter into a diversion contract. Both the plan and the contract are in effect for up to six months, during which time a court counselor conducts periodic reviews to ensure the compliance of the juvenile and their parent, guardian, or custodian. Compliance with the recommendations of the plan or contract results in the finalization of the juvenile's diversion. If the parties fail to comply, the counselor may reevaluate the decision to divert and subsequently file the complaint as a petition in juvenile court. If a court counselor concludes, at any point in the intake process, that the juvenile would be best served by referring the case to court, the counselor can authorize the filing of the complaint as a petition and schedule it for a hearing before a juvenile court judge.

## Pre-Dispositional Hearings

### **Probable Cause Hearing<sup>7,8</sup>**

Probable cause hearings are held for all felony petitions in which the juvenile was at least 13 years old at the time of the alleged offense. During these hearings, the district attorney's office must present sufficient evidence to the court that shows there is probable cause to believe that the alleged offense was committed by the juvenile in question. If probable cause is not found, the court may either dismiss the proceeding or find probable cause that the juvenile committed a lesser included offense (e.g., a misdemeanor) and proceed to the adjudicatory hearing, which can immediately follow the probable cause hearing or be set for another date. If probable cause is found and transfer to superior court is not statutorily required (e.g., non-Class A felonies), the court may proceed to a transfer hearing, which can occur on the same day.

### **Transfer Hearing<sup>9</sup>**

At the transfer hearing, the court considers a number of factors in reaching a decision on whether the juvenile's case will be transferred to superior court. If the case is transferred, the juvenile is tried as an adult and is subject to the adult sentencing options. If the judge retains juvenile court jurisdiction and does not transfer the juvenile to superior court, the case then proceeds to the adjudicatory hearing, which can immediately follow the transfer hearing or be set for a later date.

### **Adjudicatory Hearing<sup>10</sup>**

The adjudicatory hearing allows for the court to hear evidence from the district attorney, the juvenile's attorney, and their witnesses in order to make a determination of whether or not the juvenile committed the act(s) alleged in the petition(s). If the court finds that the allegations in the petition have not been proven "beyond a reasonable doubt," the petition is dismissed and the matter is closed. If the court finds that the allegations have been proven, the juvenile is adjudicated delinquent and the court proceeds to the dispositional hearing.

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<sup>7</sup> Prior to a probable cause hearing, a juvenile with a felony petition is scheduled for a first appearance hearing during which a judge determines whether the juvenile has an attorney and provides the juvenile and parent or responsible party with information pertaining to the allegation and future hearings.

<sup>8</sup> G.S. 7B-2202.

<sup>9</sup> G.S. 7B-2203.

<sup>10</sup> G.S. Chapter 7B, Article 24.

## Dispositional Hearing

### Overview of the Process<sup>11</sup>

At the dispositional hearing, which may or may not occur on the same date as the adjudicatory hearing, the court decides the sanctions, services, and conditions that will be ordered for the juvenile as a result of the adjudicated offense(s). G.S. 7B-2500 states that the purposes of a disposition are “to design an appropriate plan to meet the needs of the juvenile and to achieve the objectives of the State in exercising jurisdiction, including the protection of the public.”

In most cases, juvenile court judges use the predisposition report, which is prepared by the court counselor’s office, in developing a disposition. One of the components of the predispositional report is the juvenile’s completed risk and needs assessment.

The court’s selection of dispositional alternatives is governed by statute through a graduated sanctions chart that classifies juvenile adjudicated delinquent according to the seriousness of their adjudicated offense (vertical axis) and the degree and extent of their delinquent history (horizontal axis). (See Appendix A for more detailed information.)

### Dispositional Alternatives<sup>12</sup>

After reviewing the information provided by the court counselor’s office, juvenile court judges have three dispositional levels available to them in which to dispose the juvenile’s case – a Level 1 or community disposition, a Level 2 or intermediate disposition, and a Level 3 or commitment disposition. It is noteworthy that many of the community-based programs for adjudicated youth who can receive a Level 1 or 2 disposition are funded through Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) allocations.<sup>13</sup>

A Level 1 or community disposition offers the court less restrictive dispositional alternatives such as probation, community-based programs, nonresidential and residential treatment programs, community service (up to 100 hours), restitution (up to \$500), and sanctions that place specific limitations on a juvenile (e.g., curfew, no association with specified persons, not be in specified places). A Level 1 disposition may include intermittent confinement in a detention center for up to five 24-hour periods.<sup>14</sup>

A Level 2 or intermediate disposition is generally more restrictive than a Level 1 disposition. Level 2 dispositional alternatives include options such as intensive probation, group home placements (e.g., multipurpose group homes), regimented training programs, and house arrest. For a Level 2 disposition, a juvenile can be ordered to make restitution that is in excess of \$500 or perform up to 200 hours of community service. The court can also utilize any Level 1 dispositional option for a juvenile adjudicated at Level 2. Several Level 2 options are available for Level 1 dispositions as well. Wilderness programs

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<sup>11</sup> G.S. Chapter 7B, Article 25.

<sup>12</sup> Appendix A contains a complete list of dispositional alternatives for all three levels.

<sup>13</sup> The Sentencing Commission also has a mandate to evaluate the effectiveness of JCPC programs. See <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/effectiveness-of-juvenile-crime-prevention-council-jcpc-programs>.

<sup>14</sup> Detention centers are facilities that are approved to provide secure, temporary confinement and care for juveniles who meet statutorily defined criteria. In addition to utilizing a detention placement as a dispositional alternative, juveniles can also be detained by the court pending their adjudicatory or dispositional hearing, or their adult hearing following the transfer of the case from juvenile court. Because of the short-term nature of detention, programs and services offered in these centers are limited.

serve juveniles with behavioral problems in a year-round, residential therapeutic environment.<sup>15</sup> Supervised day programs, which allow a juvenile to remain in the community through a highly structured program of services, also represent an alternative that is available at both Level 1 and Level 2 dispositional levels. In addition, the court can impose confinement in a detention center on an intermittent basis for up to fourteen 24-hour periods.

A Level 3 or commitment disposition provides the most restrictive sanction available to a juvenile court judge – commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) for placement in a Youth Development Center (YDC). A YDC, as defined in G.S. 7B-1501(29), is “a secure residential facility authorized to provide long-term treatment, education, and rehabilitative services for delinquent juveniles committed by the court to the Division [DJJDP].” Unless a youth is under the age of 10, a court exercising jurisdiction over a juvenile for whom a Level 3 disposition is authorized must commit the juvenile to the DJJDP for placement in a YDC.<sup>16</sup> However, the DJJDP, following assessment of a juvenile, may provide commitment services to the juvenile in a program not located in a YDC or detention facility (i.e., community placement).<sup>17</sup> Another exception gives the court discretion to impose a Level 2 disposition rather than a Level 3 disposition if the court makes written findings that substantiate extraordinary needs on the part of the juvenile in question. The length of a juvenile’s commitment must be at least six months; however, there are statutory provisions for extended jurisdiction for committed youth.<sup>18</sup> Upon completion of their term of commitment, juveniles are subject to a minimum of 90 days of post-release supervision (PRS). The DJJDP currently houses approximately 210 committed juveniles in five YDCs.<sup>19</sup>

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This is the fourth biennial report to employ the current methodology that included:

- Using an exit sample of juveniles following their juvenile justice (JJ) involvement with a delinquent complaint that was either diverted from the court, adjudicated with a Level 1 or 2 disposition and placed on probation, or adjudicated with a Level 3 commitment,
- Tracking those juveniles during their sample involvement with the juvenile justice system and for a fixed two-year follow-up period following their sample involvement exit, and
- Defining recidivism as all subsequent delinquent complaints and adult arrests during each independent time period examined.

The current methodology allows juveniles to be tracked both *during* and *following* their involvement with the juvenile justice system. This allows for better examination of the timing of recidivism – did it occur while a juvenile was involved with the system (e.g., under supervision) or did it occur following his or her exit from involvement with the juvenile justice system? Differences that exist between recidivism that occurs during involvement compared to after involvement can also be examined. Most importantly,

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<sup>15</sup> Wilderness camps serve a diverse group of juveniles, including those displaying problematic behavior who are not court-involved.

<sup>16</sup> Pursuant to G.S. 7B-2508(d), a court may impose a Level 3 disposition (commitment to a YDC) in lieu of a Level 2 disposition if the juvenile has previously received a Level 3 disposition in a prior juvenile action. Additionally, G.S. 7B-2508(g) allows for juveniles who have been adjudicated of a minor offense to be committed to a YDC if the juvenile has been adjudicated of four or more prior offenses.

<sup>17</sup> G.S. 7B-2513(e).

<sup>18</sup> G.S. 7B-2513(a).

<sup>19</sup> NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s *Committed Youth Report*.

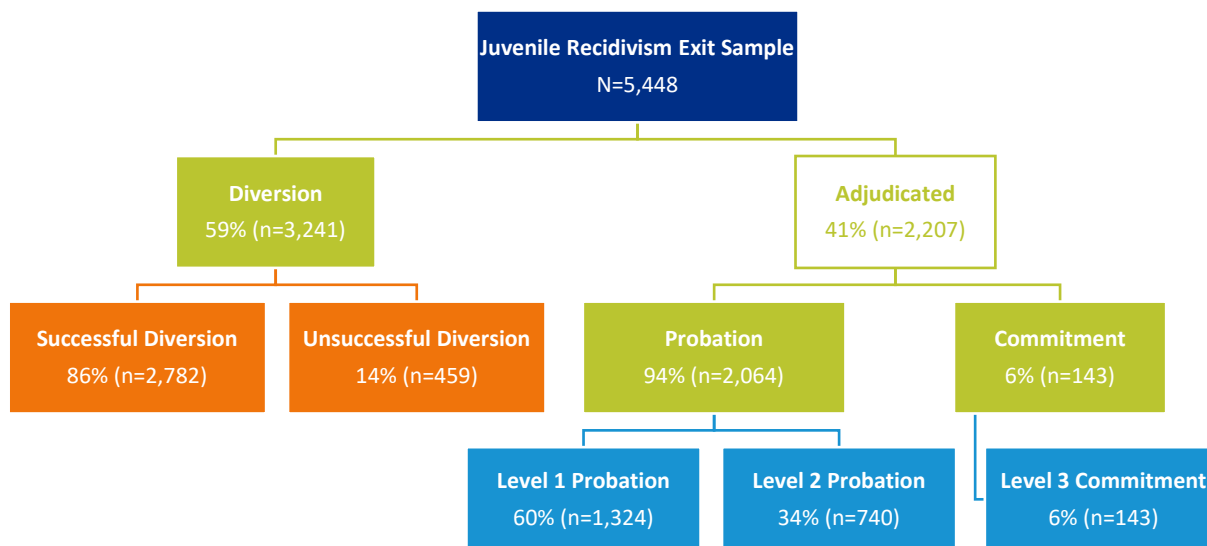
the ability to control for the order and timing of recidivist events allows for greater understanding of the effect of the totality of system involvement (i.e., all interventions and programs) on recidivism.

With the incorporation of an exit sample methodology, direct comparisons between recidivism rates cannot be made with reports prior to the 2019 report due to the differences in sample selection and time periods studied.

## SAMPLE

The sample includes 5,450 juveniles identified in the DJJDP's automated juvenile justice database who exited the juvenile justice system in FY 2022 following diversion for a delinquent complaint (n=3,241) or, for those adjudicated delinquent and with a disposition imposed, following probation in the community (n=2,064) or commitment in a YDC facility (n=143).<sup>20</sup> (See Figure 1.1.) If more than one exit occurred during the fiscal year, the juvenile was assigned to one of these groups based on the most serious event, as ranked from YDC commitment (most serious) to probation disposition to diversion (least serious).<sup>21</sup> Juveniles whose case was closed at intake or whose case was dismissed either prior to or at the adjudicatory hearing were examined separately from the FY 2022 sample. (See Appendix B for summarized information about these two groups of juveniles.)

**Figure 1.1**  
**FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

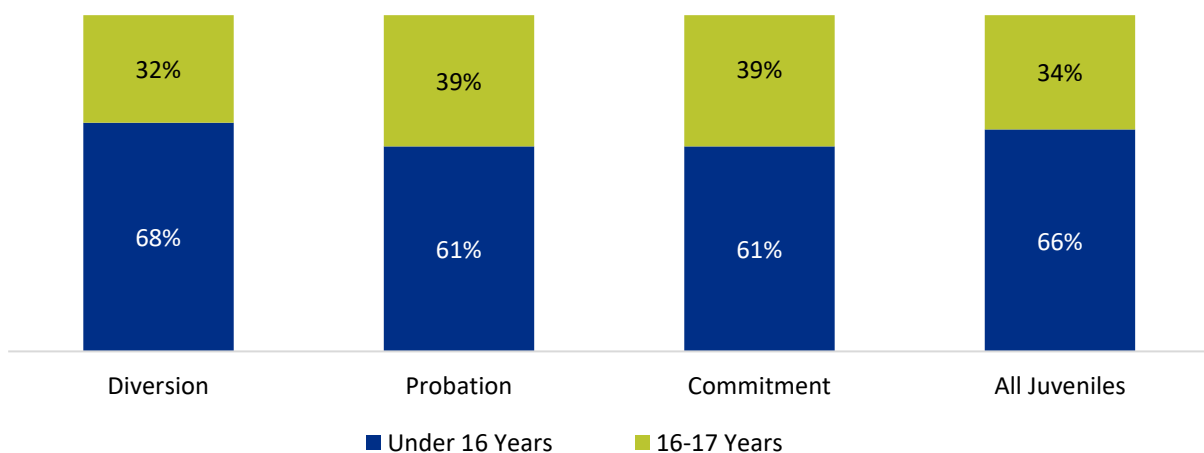
<sup>20</sup> Juveniles whose most serious alleged complaint was for an infraction, local ordinance violation, or misdemeanor traffic offense were excluded from the sample.

<sup>21</sup> If the court finds that a juvenile has violated the conditions of probation, the court may order a new disposition at the next higher level on the disposition chart, including Level 3 commitment (G.S. 7B-2510). If the court determines that a juvenile has violated the terms of PRS, the court may revoke PRS and impose an indefinite term of at least 90 days (G.S. 7B-2516).

## Age at Offense

This sample included juveniles who were affected by the increased age of juvenile jurisdiction following the implementation of the JJRA. Thirty-four percent (34%) of the sample were 16 or 17 years at the time of their alleged offense that placed them in the sample (see Figure 1.2). A higher percentage of adjudicated juveniles were older (16-17 years) at the time of offense (39% for both the probation and commitment groups) compared to juveniles in the diversion group (32%). While descriptive statistics and recidivism rates will be reported by age, this study should not be considered an evaluation of the effectiveness of the increased age of juvenile jurisdiction.

**Figure 1.2**  
**Age at Offense for the FY 2022 Sample**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## DEFINING RECIDIVISM

There is no single official definition of recidivism. Researchers have used a variety of definitions and measurements for juvenile recidivism. Some define recidivism using only data from the juvenile justice system (i.e., complaints, adjudications, commitments), while other researchers expand recidivism to include the adult criminal justice system (i.e., arrests, convictions, incarcerations). Therefore, in comparing recidivism of juveniles, readers are well advised to be sure that the same definitions and measurements are used for all groups. Official records from police, courts, and juvenile justice agencies are the source of most research on juvenile recidivism. For juveniles included in a recidivism study, different types of records will indicate different rates of recidivism.

The Sentencing Commission tracks recidivism in both the juvenile justice system and the adult criminal justice system. The primary outcome measure of recidivism was defined as having either a delinquent juvenile complaint and/or an adult arrest and included a measure of offense seriousness (i.e., felony or misdemeanor). Although the juvenile complaint and/or adult arrest had to occur within the follow-up periods examined (i.e., juvenile justice involvement (JJI) or two-year follow-up period), the date the alleged offense occurred could have been prior to the start of follow-up. Additional measures of recidivism included the offense severity of recidivist events (i.e., felony or misdemeanor), as well as adjudications and convictions (see Appendix C). Data on infractions, local ordinances, process offenses,

and misdemeanor traffic offenses were excluded from all recidivism measures. Table 1.1 summarizes the recidivism measures.<sup>22</sup>

**Table 1.1**  
**Recidivism Defined**

Recidivism	Definition	Data Source
<b>Juvenile Complaint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsequent offense referred to juvenile justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention</li> </ul>
<b>Adult Arrest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fingerprinted arrest in NC that occurred after juvenile reached the age of criminal majority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Bureau of Investigation</li> </ul>
<b>Juvenile Adjudication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsequent adjudication in juvenile justice system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention</li> </ul>
<b>Adult Conviction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conviction resulting from fingerprinted arrest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Bureau of Investigation</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

With an exit sample, a juvenile's delinquent and/or criminal behavior (i.e., recidivism) can be examined during their involvement with the juvenile justice system separately from the two-year follow-up period. The two-year follow-up is a fixed period calculated individually for each juvenile following exit, while the juvenile's involvement with the juvenile justice system varies individually and between groups. Table 1.2 provides a summary of the three groups and the *start* of the recidivism period examined during juvenile justice involvement and during the two-year follow-up.

**Table 1.2**  
**FY 2022 Sample Descriptions and Recidivism Time Periods**

Level of Involvement	Description	Start of Recidivism Period	
		JJ Involvement (JJ Entry)	Two-Year Follow-Up (JJ Exit)
<b>Diversion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles whose diversion plan or contract ended in the FY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start date of diversion plan/contract</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One day after diversion exit date</li> </ul>
<b>Probation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles exiting probation in the FY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposition date (i.e., probation start date)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One day after probation exit date</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles released from a YDC facility in the FY after commitment ordered due to a new offense, violation of probation, or revocation of PRS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposition date (i.e., commitment date)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One day after commitment release date</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

The time period available for recidivism during juvenile justice involvement varied widely between the three groups. As designed, juveniles who were diverted had a shorter period of involvement with the

<sup>22</sup> In calculating total number of recidivist events, only one complaint and only one adult arrest were counted per day if multiple complaints or arrests occurred on the same day. The same methodology was also employed for recidivist adjudications and/or convictions.

juvenile justice system (an average of 4 months) than juveniles who were adjudicated and disposed (an average of 11 months for juveniles supervised on probation and an average of 12 months for juveniles committed to a YDC). The two-year follow-up period for recidivism started one day following exit from the juvenile justice involvement period for all three groups. A fixed follow-up period was used in an attempt to obtain the same “window of opportunity” for each juvenile to reoffend. However, for both time periods examined, the window of opportunity to reoffend may vary if confinement occurred during follow-up (i.e., admission to a detention center, commitment to a YDC, confinement in local jail or in prison).

## DATA SOURCES

The following automated data sources were used to provide comprehensive information for the juvenile recidivism sample:

- North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN), the DJJDP’s management information system for juvenile justice, contains data on all juveniles brought to court with delinquent and undisciplined complaints received in a juvenile court counselor office. This database was used to provide information on demographic and social history; risk, needs, and strengths of the juvenile; delinquent offense and disposition; and prior, current, and subsequent involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- A Local Link to Improve Effective Services (NCALLIES), the DJJDP’s management information system for JCPC and other program data, was used to obtain information on the sample’s participation in those programs.
- The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation’s (SBI) Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system was used to provide information on fingerprinted adult arrests and convictions. All felony arrests and certain misdemeanor arrests are fingerprinted (G.S. 15A-502).

A case profile was constructed for each juvenile based on the data obtained from these data sources. The final data set for this study consists of nearly 300 items of information (or variables) for the sample of 5,450 juveniles exiting the juvenile justice system between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 and followed during their juvenile justice involvement and for two years after this involvement.<sup>23</sup>

## REPORT OUTLINE

This report marks the tenth biennial report on statewide rates of juvenile recidivism and continues the methodology implemented in the 2019 report. The study follows a sample of 5,450 juveniles who *exited the juvenile justice system* in FY 2022 to determine whether subsequent involvement in either the juvenile justice system and/or criminal justice system (i.e., recidivism) occurred.

Chapter Two provides a statistical profile of the three groups comprising the FY 2022 sample (including personal characteristics, delinquency history, most serious charged offense, risk assessment, and JCPC program participation) and includes a summary of their subsequent involvement in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. The analyses in this chapter provide information on the sample and also offer a comparative look at the characteristics and recidivism of juveniles in each of the three groups.

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<sup>23</sup> Definitions for primary analysis variables and key terms are provided in Appendix D.

Chapter Three offers a more detailed examination of juveniles with a diversion plan or contract. The chapter focuses on a comparison of juveniles with a successful diversion to those with an unsuccessful diversion as defined by post-diversion approval for court. A profile of the two groups and their subsequent recidivism is provided.

Chapter Four provides a further examination of juveniles adjudicated delinquent and placed in one of the three dispositional levels, focusing on juveniles exiting from probation with either a Level 1 or 2 disposition and juveniles exiting a YDC commitment (e.g., Level 3 disposition). The chapter offers a descriptive comparison of the groups in terms of their personal characteristics and delinquency history, as well as their recidivism.

Chapter Five incorporates the information from previous chapters and considers how multiple factors, taken together, affect the probability of recidivism using multivariate analysis. Analyses examine the FY 2022 sample overall and by group (i.e., diverted and adjudicated juveniles). Multiple models were examined to determine how a variety of independent variables (e.g., sex, race/ethnicity, age) may be related to the probability of recidivism.

Finally, Chapter Six summarizes the findings of the report and offers some policy implications and conclusions.



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## CHAPTER TWO

### FY 2022 JUVENILE RECIDIVISM SAMPLE

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Chapter Two profiles a cohort of juveniles exiting North Carolina’s juvenile justice system from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 by their level of involvement. As specified in the legislative mandate, this cohort includes juveniles adjudicated delinquent; however, a significant portion of juveniles are diverted from juvenile court. These diverted juveniles are also included as part of the cohort studied to provide a more complete examination of how the juvenile justice system handles juveniles brought to its attention due to delinquent behavior. This chapter provides a statistical profile of the sample that includes personal characteristics, prior contacts with the juvenile system, most serious charged offense, and risk and prescreen strengths assessment. Juvenile justice and criminal justice outcomes for the sample during their juvenile justice involvement and during a two-year follow-up period are also examined, with a focus on subsequent complaints and/or adult arrests by level of involvement, personal characteristics, most serious charged offense, and additional outcomes (e.g., confinement or juvenile transfers to superior court).<sup>24</sup>

## STATISTICAL PROFILE

All the 5,448 juveniles studied in the sample were brought to the attention of the juvenile justice system with at least one delinquent complaint. They exited the system in FY 2022 from one of three levels of involvement examined – diversion (n=3,241 or 59%), probation (n=2,064 or 38%), or commitment to a YDC (n=143 or 3%). For the diversion group, the court counselor determined that the juvenile’s case may be diverted from court, while the court counselor determined it was in the best interest of the juvenile in the probation and commitment groups to file a petition for court. Those juveniles had their delinquent complaint(s) adjudicated and disposed in juvenile court, and they were either supervised in the community with a Level 1 or Level 2 disposition (i.e., probation) or placed in confinement with a Level 3 disposition (i.e., commitment). Chapter Two focuses on these three groups and the overall sample. While these groups will be compared throughout this chapter, it should be noted that some results should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of juveniles in the commitment group (3% of the sample).

### Geographic Areas

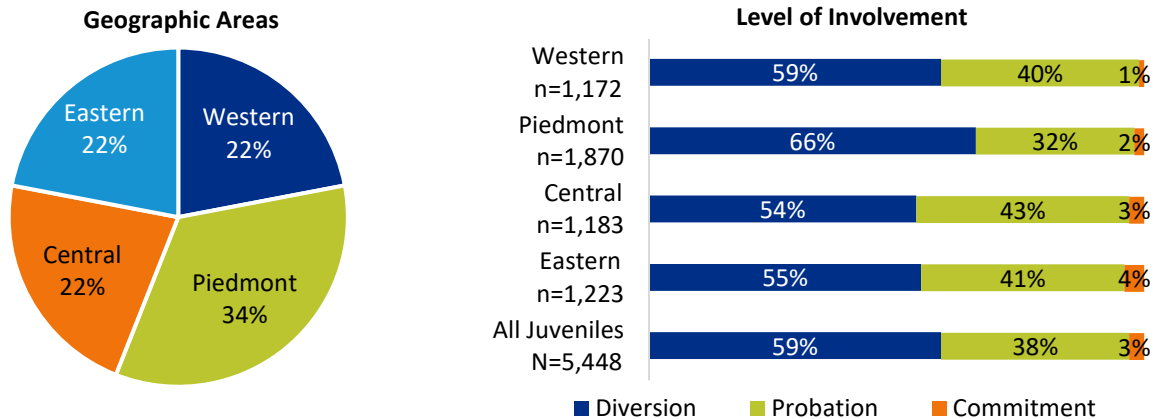
Figure 2.1 examines the distribution of the FY 2022 sample by the four geographic areas of the state – Western, Piedmont, Central, and Eastern.<sup>25</sup> The highest percentage of the sample were in the Piedmont area (34%), with juveniles in the remaining three areas equally distributed at 22% each. The Piedmont area had the highest percentage of juveniles in the diversion group (66%). The Western area had the smallest percentage of juveniles in the commitment group (1%).

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<sup>24</sup> See Appendix D for detailed definitions of recidivism and other key terms.

<sup>25</sup> See Appendix E, Table E.1 for the distribution by geographic areas, districts, and counties. For a detailed map of the four areas, the districts, and the specific counties within those areas, see the DJJDP’s *Annual Report 2023* <https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice/datastatisticsreports#AnnualReports-5369>.

**Figure 2.1**  
**Geographic Areas**

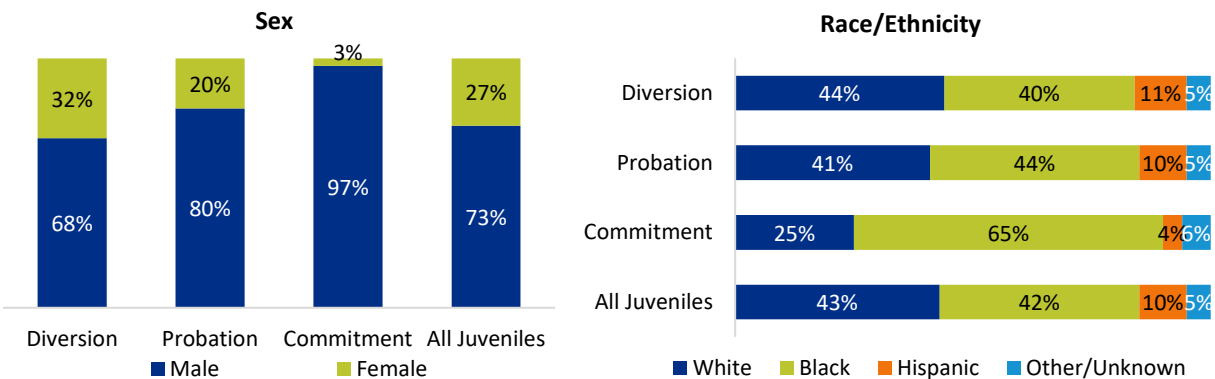


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Personal Characteristics

Figure 2.2 and Table 2.1 examine personal characteristics by level of involvement. Seventy-three percent (73%) of juveniles were male; the commitment group had the highest percentage at 97%. Forty-three percent (43%) of the juveniles in the sample were Black, 42% were White, 10% were Hispanic, and 5% were identified as other or unknown. The commitment group also had the highest percentage of Black juveniles (65%) compared to the diversion and probation groups (40% and 44% respectively). Over half of the juveniles (52%) were 13-15 years old at time of offense. The diversion group had a higher percentage of juveniles 12 years or younger and a lower percentage of juveniles 16-17 years or older compared to the other two groups (see Table 2.1). Age at juvenile justice exit was also provided by age category. Juveniles in the diversion group were younger than juveniles in the probation and commitment groups.

**Figure 2.2**  
**Sex and Race/Ethnicity**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

**Table 2.1**  
**Age**

	<b>Diversion</b> n=3,241 %	<b>Probation</b> n=2,064 %	<b>Commitment</b> n=143 %	<b>All Juveniles</b> N=5,448 %
<b>Age at Offense</b>				
12 Years and Younger	17	8	6	14
13-15 Years	51	53	55	52
16-17 Years	32	39	39	34
<i>Average Age</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>Age at JJ Exit</b>				
12 Years and Younger	13	2	0	8
13-15 Years	47	25	10	38
16 Years and Older	40	73	90	54
<i>Average Age</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>16</i>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts

It is important to examine whether juveniles had prior contact with the juvenile justice system to gain an understanding of frequency of interaction with the system. Figure 2.3 provides the percentage of juveniles with prior juvenile justice contacts by level of involvement. For all measures of prior juvenile justice contacts examined, the more involved a juvenile was in the juvenile justice system the more prior contacts the juvenile had. Over one-third (35%) of the sample had at least one delinquent complaint prior to sample entry. As expected, juveniles diverted from court had a lower percentage with a prior complaint (17%) than juveniles who were adjudicated and disposed (58% for probation and 97% for commitment). Twelve percent (12%) of juveniles had at least one prior adjudication and 13% had at least one prior confinement.

**Figure 2.3**  
**Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts**

<b>Diversion</b>	<b>Probation</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>All Juveniles</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•17% prior complaint</li> <li>•3% prior adjudication</li> <li>•1% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•58% prior complaint</li> <li>•21% prior adjudication</li> <li>•27% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•97% prior complaint</li> <li>•80% prior adjudication</li> <li>•97% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•35% prior complaint</li> <li>•12% prior adjudication</li> <li>•13% prior confinement</li> </ul>

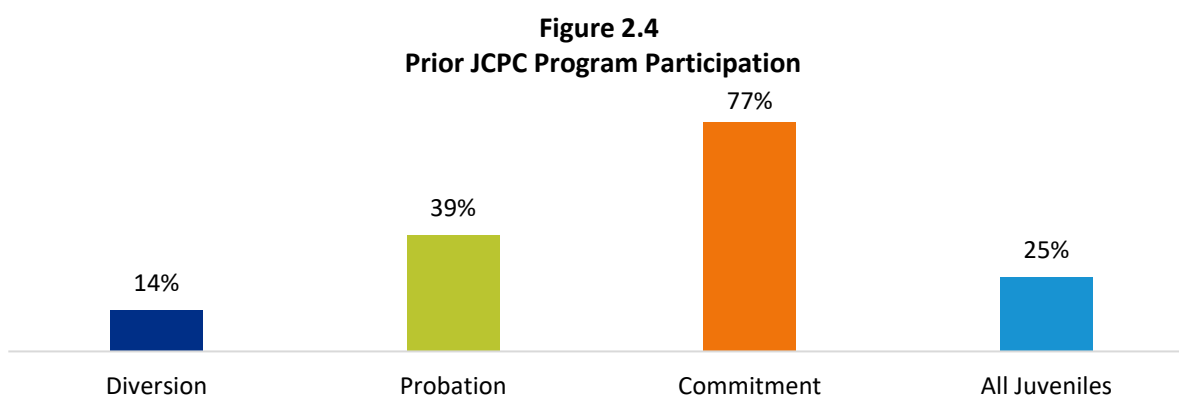
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Of the 1,884 juveniles with at least one prior complaint, most were in the probation group (64%). Examination of the most serious prior offense indicated 63% of juveniles had a misdemeanor offense as their most serious prior complaint. The diversion group had a higher percentage of misdemeanor offenses (84%) as their most serious prior complaint compared to the probation and commitment groups (58% and 21% respectively). Juveniles in the commitment group had the highest percentage with a felony as their most serious prior complaint (79%).

## Prior Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation

JCPC programs are funded in all 100 counties. These programs are funded annually through a partnership between state, county, and local governments. The purpose of JCPC programs is to address delinquency behavior for juveniles who are involved with the juvenile justice system (i.e., court-involved juveniles) and juveniles who are “at-risk” of juvenile justice involvement. The FY 2022 sample is court-involved by sample definition; however, some of the sample may have participated in a JCPC program prior to their juvenile justice involvement as an at-risk juvenile.<sup>26,27</sup>

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the sample had a prior JCPC program participation (see Figure 2.4). The commitment group had the highest percentage (77%) of juveniles who had participated in a JCPC program, while the diversion group had the lowest percentage (14%).



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Charged Offense

The most serious charged offense is defined as the most serious offense alleged in the complaint (hereinafter referred to as charged offense).<sup>28</sup> Figure 2.5 provides the most common offenses for juveniles in the sample. The top 3 offenses accounted for 24% of charged offenses for the sample, all of which are misdemeanors. The top 3 offenses for the diversion and probation groups were misdemeanors, while the top 3 offenses for the commitment group were all felonies.

Table 2.2 provides a comparison between the groups with respect to the offense profile. Nearly three-fourths of juveniles (74%) had a misdemeanor as their most serious charged offense. Most of the diversion group (90%) and over half (54%) of the probation group had a misdemeanor offense compared to only 6% of the commitment group. Forty-one percent (41%) of juveniles in the commitment group had a Violent offense (Class A through Class E felonies).<sup>29</sup> While 45% of the probation group and 58% of

<sup>26</sup> For detailed information about the JCPC funding process and programs, see the Sentencing Commission’s JCPC Effectiveness reports at <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/juvenile-crime-prevention-council-jcpc-program-effectiveness-reports>.

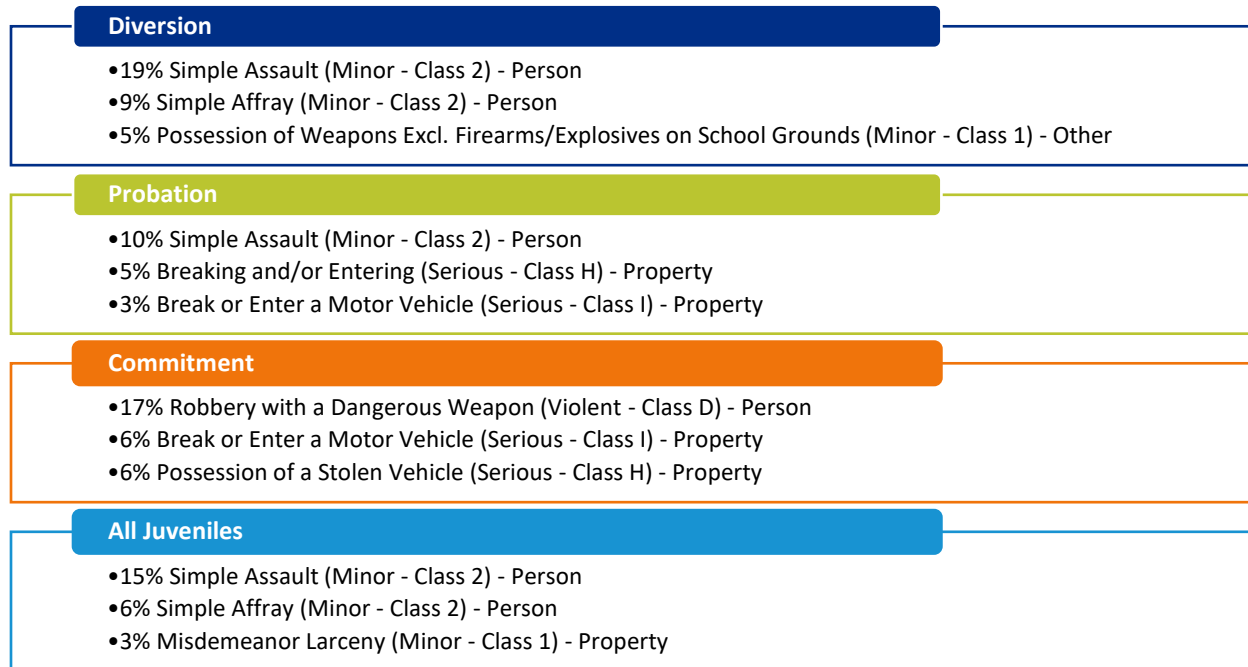
<sup>27</sup> The DJJDP also provided services to juveniles through other funding sources separate from JCPC. These state-funded sources were Residential Contractual Services, Community-Based Contractual Services, and Intensive Intervention Services. There were 28 juveniles who received prior services from these other funds: 2 juveniles in the diversion group, 16 juveniles in the probation group, and 10 juveniles in the commitment group.

<sup>28</sup> See Chapter Four for the adjudicated offense classification for juveniles in the probation and commitment groups.

<sup>29</sup> See Chapter One for a discussion of offense classification within the Juvenile Disposition Chart.

the commitment group had a Serious offense (Class F through Class I felonies, Class A1 misdemeanors), only 16% of the diversion group had a Serious offense.<sup>30</sup>

**Figure 2.5**  
**Top 3 Charged Offenses**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Charged offenses were also grouped into four offense categories: person, property, drug, and other. As shown in Table 2.2, the most common type of offense, regardless of whether it was a felony or misdemeanor, was person (42%), followed by property (30%), other (18%), and drug (10%). Figure 2.6 provides the top 3 offenses by each offense category. Of the person offenses, most (79%) were for a misdemeanor offense. The top person offenses were simple assault and simple affray. Over half of the property offenses (53%) were misdemeanors. The top property offenses were misdemeanor larceny and injury to real property. With 83% of drug offenses being misdemeanors, the most common offenses were simple possession of Schedule VI controlled substance and simple possession marijuana. Almost all (95%) of the offenses categorized as other were misdemeanors. The most common offenses in the other category were possession of a weapon excluding firearms/explosives on school grounds (BB/air gun, certain knives, brass knuckles, razors/blades, etc.) and disorderly conduct at school.

Forty-two percent (42%) of juveniles had a school-based offense (SBO).<sup>31</sup> Over half of juveniles with diversion (59%) had an SBO, while 19% of juveniles with probation had an SBO. Juveniles in the commitment group had the lowest percentage of SBOs (3% or n=5). As juveniles age increased, SBOs decreased (from 57% for 12 years and younger to 29% for 16-17 years). Of the 2,295 juveniles with an

<sup>30</sup> Of the 518 Serious offenses for the diversion group, 195 (or 38%) were for Class A1 misdemeanors. For the probation and commitment groups, 17% and 8%, respectively, of the Serious offenses were for Class A1 misdemeanors.

<sup>31</sup> See also the Sentencing Commission's special report on school-based offenses and juvenile recidivism for the FY 2018 juvenile recidivism sample: [https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/documents/publications/SPAC-2021-SBO-Special-Report-Web\\_0.pdf?VersionId=ycRJtzf.54b2A3LOju7hsQ3oOTyBFgl](https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/documents/publications/SPAC-2021-SBO-Special-Report-Web_0.pdf?VersionId=ycRJtzf.54b2A3LOju7hsQ3oOTyBFgl).

SBO, 89% were referred to the juvenile system by a law enforcement officer serving as a School Resource Officer (SRO). Examination of these SBO by groups found that 90% of complaints for the diversion group, 80% for the probation group, and 80% (out of 5 juveniles) for the commitment group were referred by an SRO.

Juvenile court counselors must conduct a gang assessment<sup>32</sup> on all youth 12 years of age or older at intake as part of their duty to evaluate complaints.<sup>33</sup> Ninety-three percent (93%) of juveniles received the gang assessment, ranging from a low of 76% for the commitment group to a high of 99% for the diversion group. Of the 4,853 juveniles with a completed gang assessment, 93% had a gang score of zero (0), 4% had a score of 1 or 2, and 3% scored 3 or higher (i.e., high enough to be considered gang involved). As shown in Table 2.2, the commitment group had the highest percentage of gang-involved juveniles (19%).

**Table 2.2**  
**Charged Offense**

<b>Charged Offense</b>	<b>Diversion</b> n=3,241 %	<b>Probation</b> n=2,064 %	<b>Commitment</b> n=143 %	<b>All Juveniles</b> N=5,448 %
<b>Offense Type</b>				
Felony	10	46	94	26
Misdemeanor	90	54	6	74
<b>Offense Classification</b>				
<b>Violent</b>				
Class A-E Felonies	<1	8	41	4
<b>Serious</b>				
Class F-I Felonies	16	45	58	28
Class A1 Misdemeanor				
<b>Minor</b>				
Class 1-3 Misdemeanors	84	47	1	68
<b>Offense Category</b>				
Person	44	37	48	42
Property	22	41	47	30
Drug	11	9	3	10
Other	23	13	2	18
<b>School-Based Offense</b>				
No	41	81	97	58
Yes	59	19	3	42
<b>School Resource Officer</b>				
No	10	20	20	11
Yes	90	80	80	89
<b>Gang Involvement</b> (12 Years and Older)	1	5	19	3

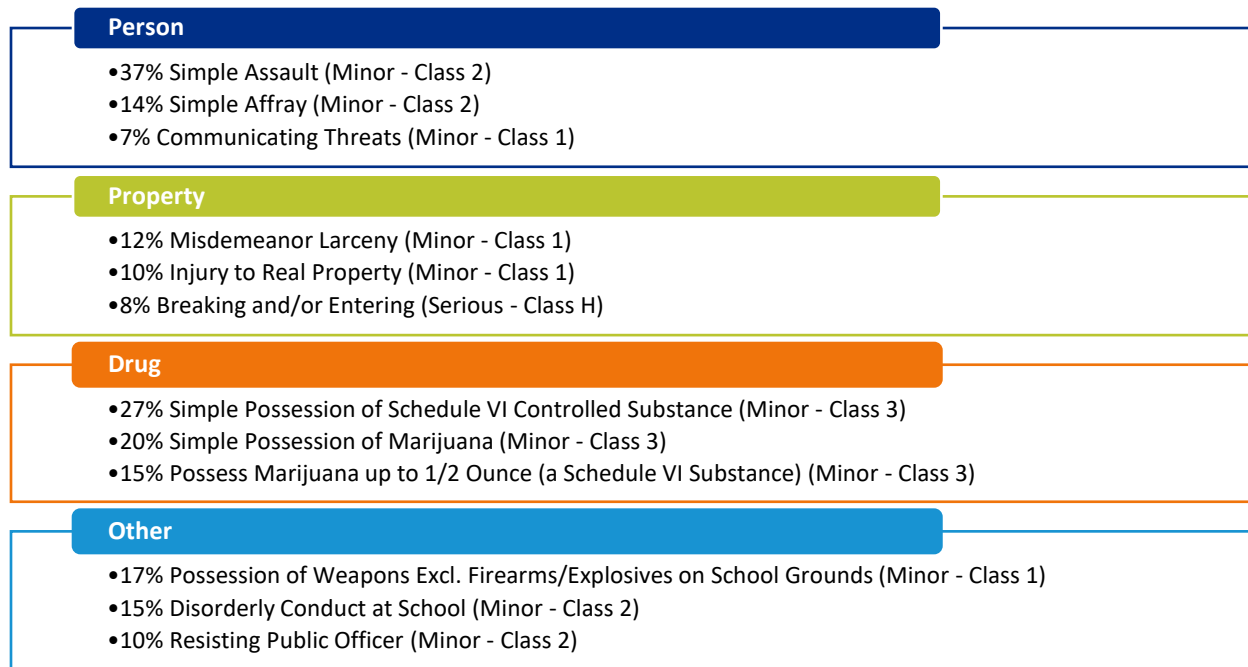
Note: Four (4) juveniles were alleged to have committed a Violent offense (Class A through Class E felony). There were 367 juveniles 12 years or older who were missing a gang assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

<sup>32</sup> See Appendix E, Table E.3 for a summary profile of gang involved juveniles and Table E.4 for recidivism and gang involvement.

<sup>33</sup> G.S. 7B-1702

**Figure 2.6**  
**Top 3 Charged Offenses by Offense Category**

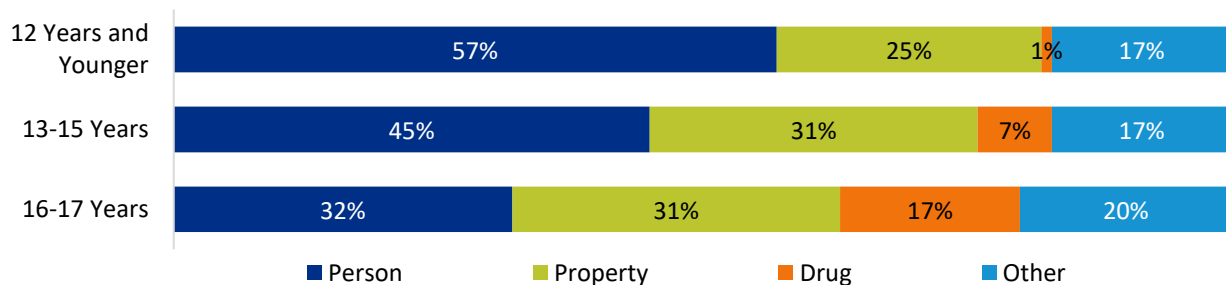


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Offense Category and Age at Offense

Figure 2.7 contains information on age at offense in relation to the category of the charged offense. As juveniles age increased, the distribution of charged offense types shifted. Person offenses decreased as juveniles age increased – 57% for juveniles aged 12 years and younger compared to 32% for juveniles aged 16-17 years. Conversely, drug offenses increased as juveniles age increased.

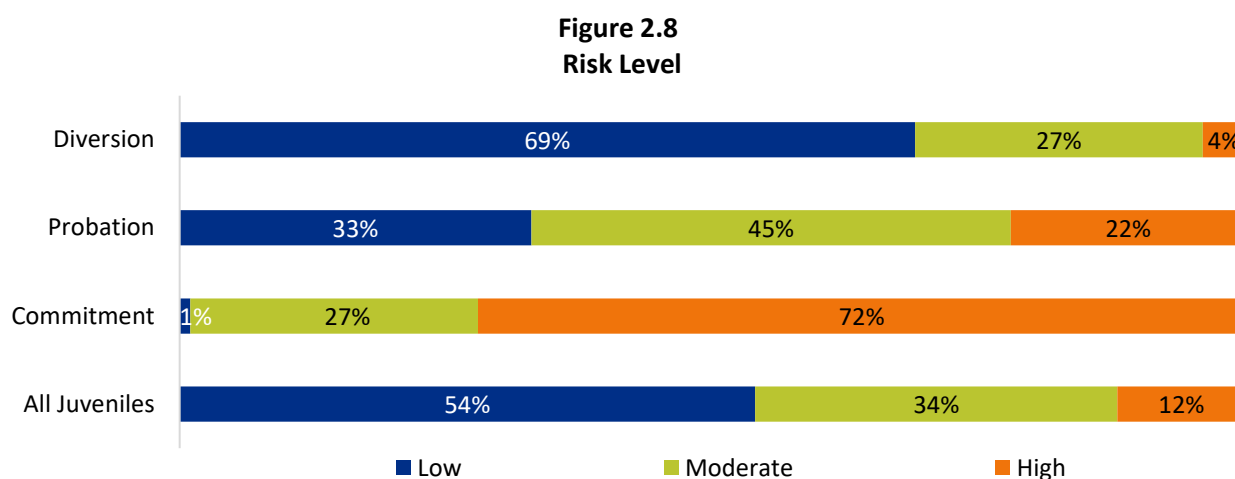
**Figure 2.7**  
**Offense Category of Charged Offense by Age at Offense**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Risk Assessment

Based on the YASI as described in Chapter One, juveniles are placed in one of three risk levels – low, moderate, and high risk.<sup>34</sup> Figure 2.8 shows the risk distribution for each group and for the entire sample. Over half (54%) of the sample were assessed as low risk, 34% were moderate risk, and 12% were high risk. As expected, risk level increased as the level of juvenile justice involvement increased. A lower percentage of juveniles in the diversion group were assessed as high risk (4%) compared to juveniles in the probation group (22%) and the commitment group (72%). Conversely, a higher percentage of juveniles in the diversion group were assessed as low risk (69%) compared to the other groups (33% for the probation group and 1% for the commitment group).



Note: Thirty-six (n=36) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

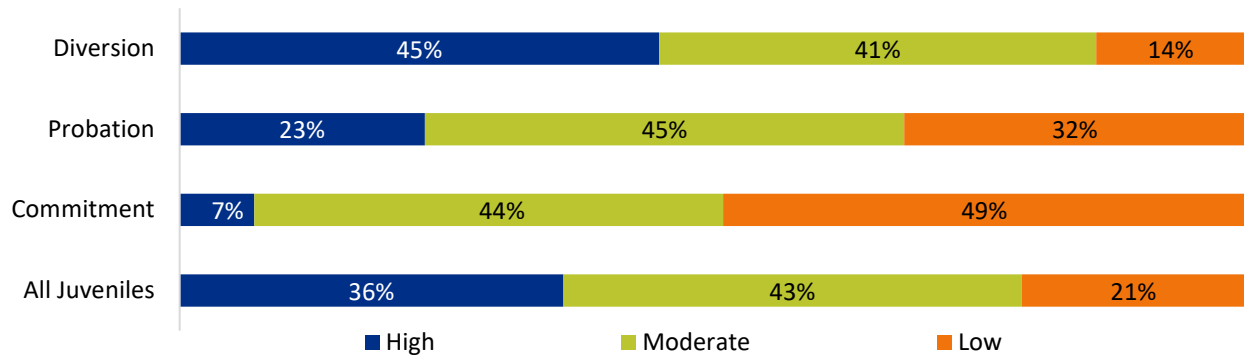
The YASI also identifies a juvenile's strengths, or protective factors<sup>35</sup> against future delinquency, to help inform case management. Based on the prescreen assessment, juveniles are placed in one of three levels of strengths – low, moderate, and high. Thirty-six percent (36%) of the sample was assessed with high strengths, while 43% had moderate strengths and 21% had low strengths (see Figure 2.9). Strength level decreased as the level of juvenile justice involvement increased. A lower percentage of juveniles in the diversion group were assessed as having low strengths (14%) compared to juveniles in the probation group (32%) and the commitment group (49%). Conversely, a higher percentage of juveniles in the diversion group were assessed at high strengths (45%) compared to the other groups (23% for the probation group and 7% for the commitment group).

<sup>34</sup> YASI assessments were completed within 52 days on average. The risk and strengths findings in this chapter include juveniles who had a prescreen assessment completed; only 28 juveniles in the diversion group and 8 juveniles in the probation group did not have a prescreen assessment completed. See Table E.5 in Appendix E for more details about assessment completion and average time to assessment.

<sup>35</sup> For example, a juvenile spending time with peers who has a positive pro-social influence or a juvenile who attends school regularly are considered positive strengths that can be capitalized on in case planning.



**Figure 2.9**  
**Prescreen Strengths Level**



Note: Thirty-six (n=36) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

As mentioned in Chapter One, the YASI levels are based on individual scores by sex. Table 2.3 provides risk and strengths levels by sex. Generally, a higher percentage of females were assessed as low risk and with high strengths compared to their male counterparts.

**Table 2.3**  
**Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels by Sex**

Risk Level	N	Low %	Moderate %	High %
Male	3,966	47	38	15
Female	1,446	73	23	4
Prescreen Strengths Level	N	High %	Moderate %	Low %
Male	3,966	29	46	25
Female	1,446	55	34	11

Note: Thirty-six (n=36) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 2.4 provides the intersection of risk and strengths levels and the percentage of juveniles with each combination. The highest percentage of juveniles were assessed as low risk with high strengths (31%), followed by juveniles assessed as low risk with moderate strengths (20%), and juveniles assessed as moderate risk with moderate strengths (19%). The least frequent point of intersection was for juveniles assessed as high risk and high strengths (<1% or n=18).

**Table 2.4**  
**Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels**

Risk Level	N	Strengths Level			All Juveniles N=5,412 %
		High n=1,941 %	Moderate n=2,312 %	Low n=1,159 %	
<b>Low</b>	2,918	31	20	3	<b>54</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	1,834	4	19	11	<b>34</b>
<b>High</b>	660	<1	4	8	<b>12</b>
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,412</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Thirty-six (n=36) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement

Table 2.5 provides information on the length of involvement, which reflects juvenile justice practices and policies associated with the seriousness of the charged offense. Consequently, the length of involvement increased across the three groups – the diversion group spent the least amount of time, on average, in the system compared to the probation and commitment groups (4, 11, and 12 months respectively).

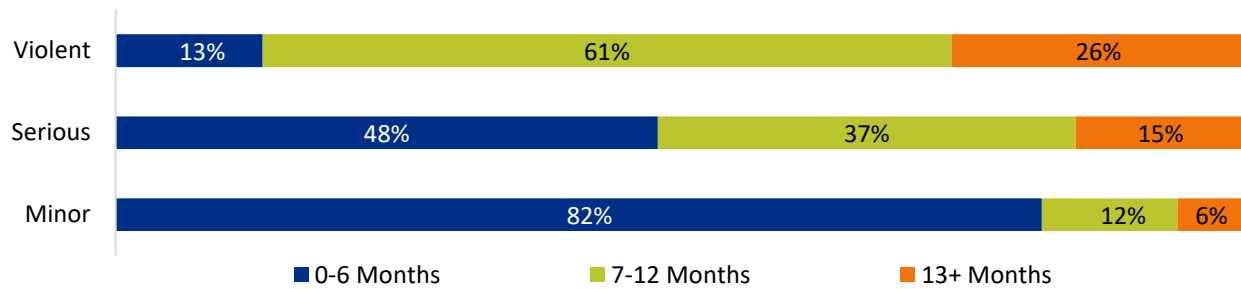
**Table 2.5**  
**Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement**

	Diversion n=3,241	Probation n=2,064	Commitment n=143	All Juveniles N=5,448
<b>Length of JJ Involvement</b>	%	%	%	%
0-3 Months	40	3	2	25
4-6 Months	60	22	10	44
7-12 Months	0	51	57	21
13+ Months	0	24	31	10
<b>Overall Average in Months</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 2.10 examines the length of involvement by offense classification for the sample. Juveniles with a Violent offense spent the longest amount of time in the juvenile justice system (61% at 7-12 months and 26% at 13 months or more) compared to juveniles with a Serious offense (37% at 7-12 months and 15% for 13 months or more). Juveniles with a Minor offense spent the least amount of time in the juvenile justice system (82% at 6 months or less).

**Figure 2.10**  
**Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement by Charged Offense**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

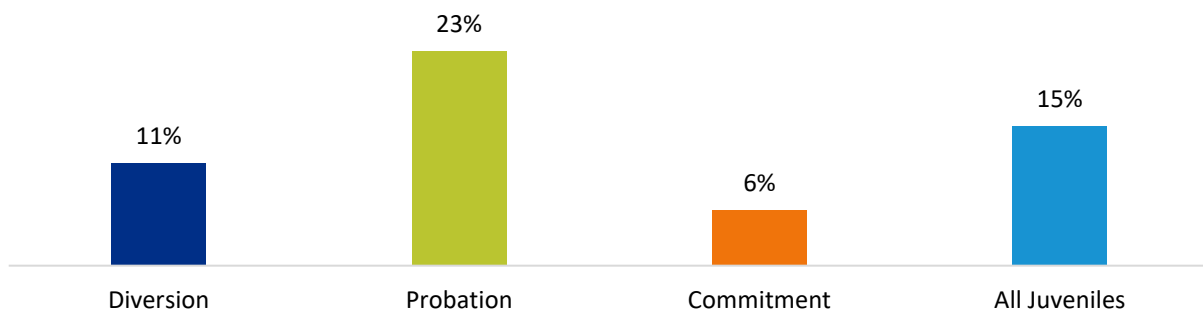
## JUVENILE AND ADULT RECIDIVISM

Subsequent complaints were used as the primary measure for juvenile recidivism, supplemented with information on subsequent adjudications. Fingerprinted arrests were used as the primary measure for adult recidivism, supplemented with information on convictions. A combined measure of subsequent juvenile complaints and/or adult arrests was compiled to indicate any recidivist involvement in either system.<sup>36</sup> Recidivism rates are only reported when there are 25 or more juveniles in a specific category.

### Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement

As discussed in Chapter One, recidivism rates are examined at two points in time – during juvenile justice involvement and during the two-year follow-up. Figure 2.11 and Table 2.6 contain information on recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement. Fifteen percent (15%) of juveniles had a delinquent complaint and/or an adult arrest during their juvenile justice involvement. Juveniles on probation had the highest recidivism rate at 23% followed by juveniles in the diversion group at 11%. Juveniles in the commitment group had the lowest recidivism rate at 6%. The low recidivism rate for the commitment group was not unexpected since juveniles were confined in a YDC with minimal opportunity to recidivate during that time period.

**Figure 2.11**  
**Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

<sup>36</sup> The primary recidivism measure was supplemented by a similar measure for subsequent juvenile adjudications and/or adult convictions. See Chapter One for details on this recidivism measure. See Appendix E, Tables E.6 and E.7 for recidivism rates reported individually for subsequent complaints and adult arrests as well as juvenile jurisdiction.

The 836 juveniles with at least one recidivist event during juvenile justice involvement accounted for 1,370 subsequent complaints or adult arrests (see Table 2.6). Over half (55%) had a misdemeanor as their most serious recidivist offense. Over two-thirds (78%) of the diversion group had a misdemeanor as their most serious recidivist offense compared to 39% of the probation group. While only a portion of the commitment group had a recidivist event while committed to a YDC (6%), all 9 juveniles had a felony as their most serious recidivist event compared to the other two groups. For juveniles with any recidivism, the first recidivist event occurred an average of 3 months after sample entry. The diversion group tended to recidivate slightly earlier than the other groups at 2 months compared to probation and commitment groups at 4 and 3 months respectively.

**Table 2.6**  
**Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement**

Level of Involvement	N	Recidivism #	Total Recidivist Events #	Most Serious Recidivist Offense		Months to Recidivism Avg.
				Felony %	Misdemeanor %	
<b>Diversion</b>	3,241	345	385	22	78	2
<b>Probation</b>	2,064	482	974	61	39	4
<b>Commitment</b>	143	9	11	100	0	3
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>3</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Recidivism during Two-Year Follow-Up

Table 2.7 examines recidivism rates by level of involvement during the one-year and two-year follow-up periods. Less than one quarter (22%) of the sample had at least one subsequent delinquent complaint and/or arrest during the one-year follow-up and 32% during the two-year follow-up. Juveniles in the commitment group had higher recidivism rates compared to juveniles in the diversion and probation groups. It should be noted that 95% of the juveniles exiting from a YDC (i.e., commitment group) were supervised on PRS for the first 90-days of their release.

**Table 2.7**  
**Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up**

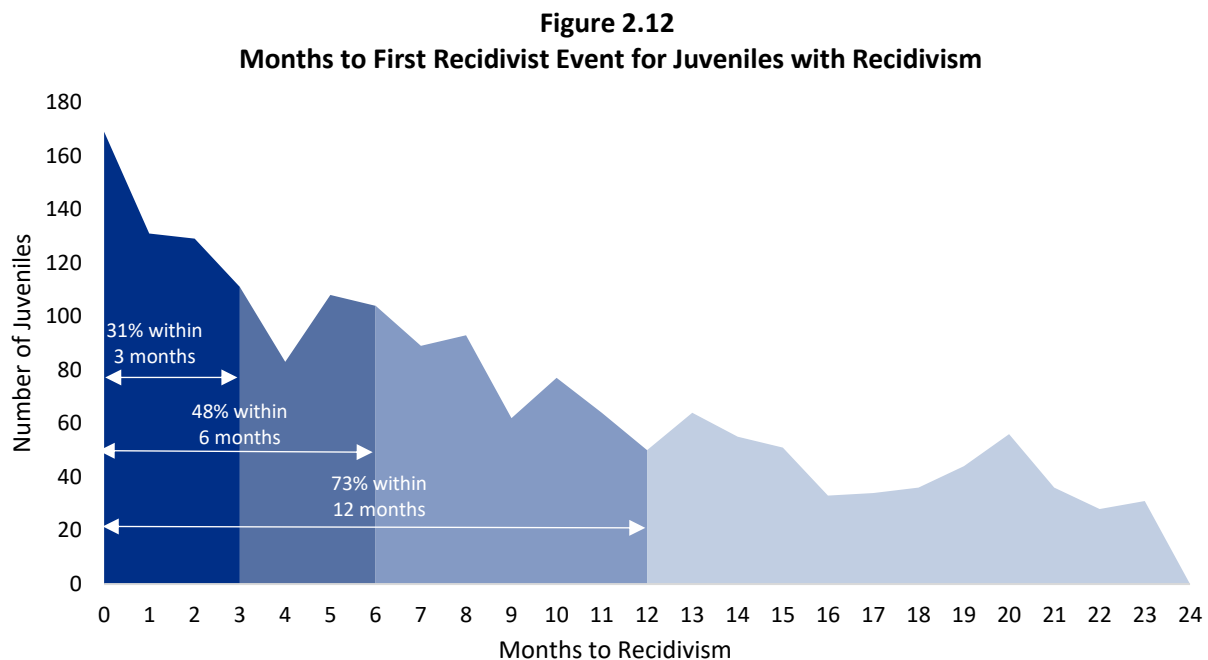
Level of Involvement	N	Recidivism #	Recidivism		Total Recidivist Events #	Months to Recidivism Avg.
			One-Year Follow-Up %	Two-Year Follow-Up %		
<b>Diversion</b>	3,241	915	20	28	1,806	8
<b>Probation</b>	2,064	744	25	36	1,601	8
<b>Commitment</b>	143	79	41	55	220	7
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3,627</b>	<b>8</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 2.7 also provides information on the total number of recidivist events for juveniles who had a subsequent juvenile complaint, an adult arrest, or both during the follow-up period. The 1,738 juveniles with any recidivism accounted for a total of 3,627 recidivist events. The diversion group accounted for

the highest volume of subsequent complaints and/or adult arrests at 1,806, followed by the probation group at 1,601. For juveniles with recidivism, the average number of recidivist events was 2. Juveniles in the commitment group had a higher average number of recidivist events at 3, while the other two groups averaged 2.

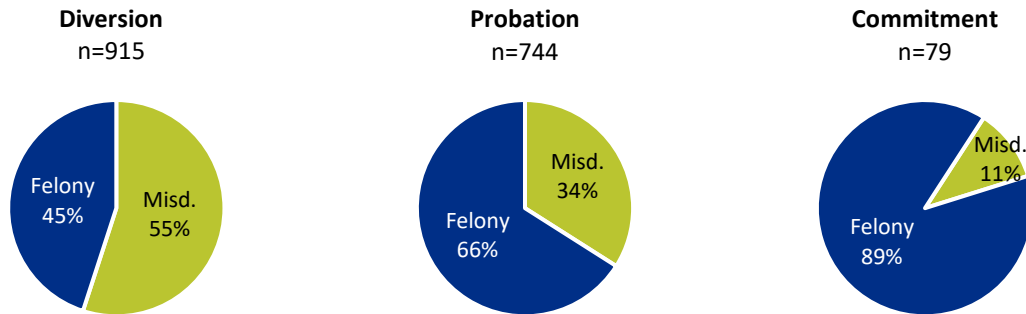
For juveniles with at least one subsequent delinquent complaint and/or arrest, the first recidivist event occurred within an average of 8 months (see Table 2.7). There was little variation for the timing of the first event by level of involvement. The commitment group tended to recidivate, on average, at 7 months, while the probation or diversion groups recidivated at 8 months each. Of the juveniles with recidivism, 31% recidivated within 3 months, 48% within 6 months, and 73% within 12 months (see Figure 2.12).



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Over half (56%) had a felony as their most serious recidivist offense. Figure 2.13 examines the most serious recidivist offense by group. Juveniles in the diversion group were less likely to have a felony as their most serious recidivist offense (45%) compared to juveniles in the probation and commitment groups (66% and 89% respectively).

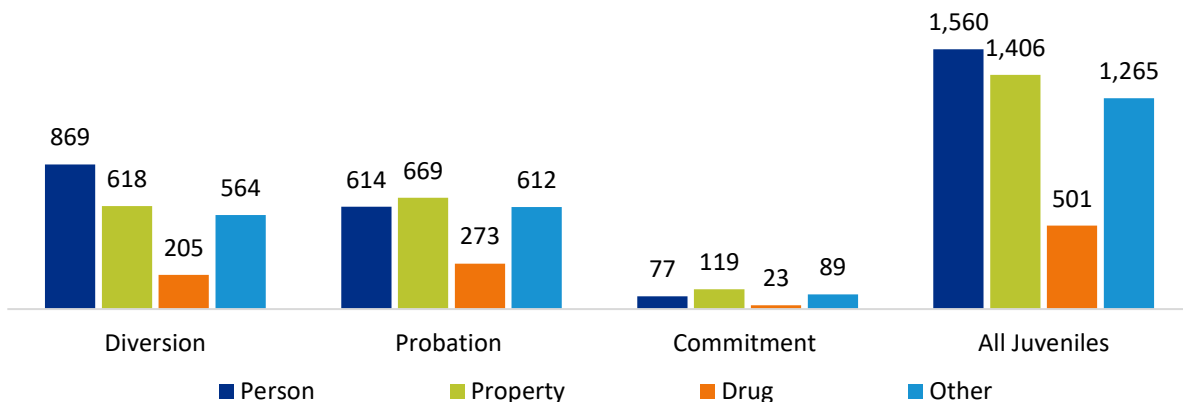
**Figure 2.13**  
**Most Serious Recidivist Event by Offense Type: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Recidivist events were also categorized based on offense category, as shown in Figure 2.14. Person and property offenses comprised the largest volume of recidivist events for the entire sample and for the diversion and probation groups, while drug offenses comprised the lowest volume of recidivist events.

**Figure 2.14**  
**Number of Recidivist Events by Offense Category: Two-Year Follow-Up**



Note: Multiple offense categories may be linked to a recidivist event. As a result, the number of recidivist events by offense category cannot be added to equal the total number of recidivist events.

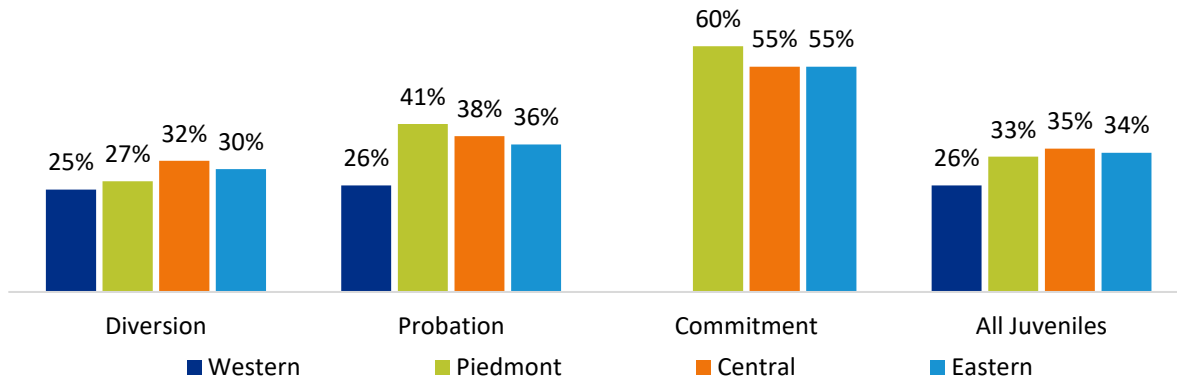
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Geographic Areas and Recidivism

Recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up by geographic areas are shown in Figure 2.15.<sup>37</sup> Juveniles in the Western area had the lowest recidivism rates (26%), while juveniles in the other three areas had similar recidivism rates, ranging from 33% to 35%. Juveniles in the commitment group from the Piedmont area had the highest recidivism rates (60%) compared to the recidivism rates of juveniles in the Central and Eastern areas (55% each).

<sup>37</sup> See Appendix E, Table E.2 for recidivism by geographic areas, districts, and counties.

**Figure 2.15**  
**Recidivism Rates by Geographic Areas: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Personal Characteristics and Recidivism

Table 2.8 provides recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up by personal characteristics: sex, race/ethnicity, and age at offense. Males had higher recidivism rates than females (35% and 22% respectively). Black juveniles had the highest recidivism rates at 42%, followed by juveniles in the other or unknown category (35%), Hispanic juveniles (26%), and White juveniles (23%). Juveniles 13-15 years at offense had the highest recidivism rates compared to the other age categories (12 years and younger and 16 years and older) for the sample and for the diversion group. There was no recidivism pattern by age for juveniles in the probation and commitment groups.

**Table 2.8**  
**Recidivism Rates by Personal Characteristics: Two-Year Follow-Up**

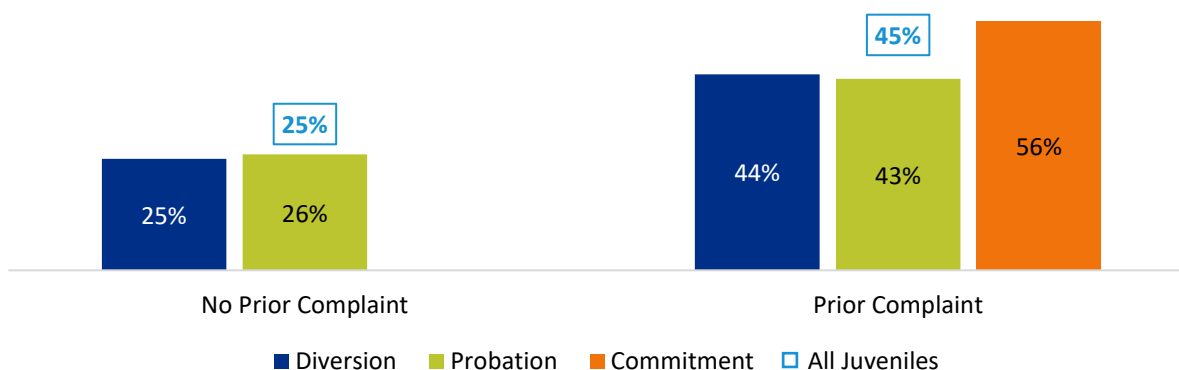
Personal Characteristics	N	Diversion n=3,241 %	Probation n=2,064 %	Commitment n=143 %	All Juveniles N=5,448 %
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	3,991	32	39	56	35
Female	1,457	21	26	--	22
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	2,312	21	25	33	23
Black	2,300	37	47	62	42
Hispanic	558	23	29	--	26
Other/Unknown	278	29	43	--	35
<b>Age at JJ Exit</b>					
12 Years and Younger	440	25	38	--	26
13-15 Years	2,071	33	38	--	35
16 Years and Older	2,937	23	35	53	31
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Prior Complaints and Recidivism

Figure 2.16 examines recidivism rates for juveniles with at least one prior complaint in comparison to juveniles with no prior complaint before sample entry. Forty-five percent (45%) of juveniles with at least one prior complaint had a subsequent complaint and/or adult arrest compared to 25% of juveniles with no prior complaint, with similar findings for the diversion and probation groups. Juveniles in the commitment group who had prior complaints had substantially higher recidivism rates than the other two groups.<sup>38</sup>

**Figure 2.16**  
**Recidivism Rates by Prior Complaints: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Prior Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation and Recidivism

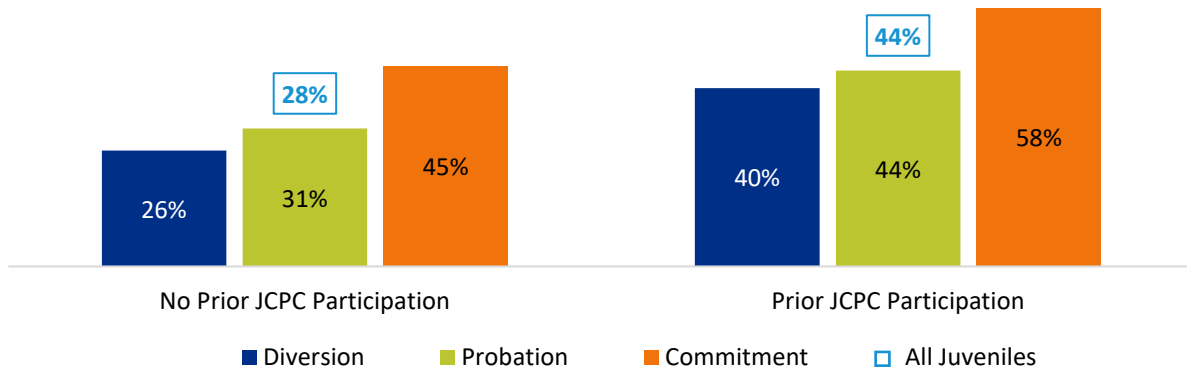
Figure 2.17 examines recidivism rates for juveniles who participated in at least one prior JCPC program in comparison to juveniles with no prior JCPC program participation.<sup>39</sup> Forty-four percent (44%) of juveniles with a prior JCPC program had a subsequent complaint and/or adult arrest compared to 28% of juveniles with no prior JCPC program, with similar findings by level of involvement.

<sup>38</sup> Four (4) juveniles in the commitment group had no prior complaint; too few to report meaningful recidivism rates.

<sup>39</sup> Of the 28 juveniles who had prior participation in programs other than JCPC programs, 36% had a subsequent complaint and/or adult arrest during the two-year follow-up.



**Figure 2.17**  
**Recidivism Rates by Prior JCPC Program Participation: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Charged Offense and Recidivism

In Table 2.9, recidivism rates are examined by the most serious charged offense and by level of involvement. Juveniles with a felony offense had higher recidivism rates compared to juveniles with a misdemeanor offense (35% and 31% respectively). There were slight differences in recidivism rates based on offense type for juveniles in the diversion and probation groups. In examining recidivism rates by offense classification, the more serious the offense the higher the recidivism rates. Juveniles with a Violent or Serious offense had the highest recidivism rates (36% and 35% respectively). Juveniles with a Minor offense had the lowest recidivism rates (31%). The recidivism rates for juveniles with a Serious or Minor offense were similar for both the diversion and probation groups. Juveniles in the probation group with a Violent offense had the lowest recidivism rates. For the commitment group, juveniles with a Serious offense had higher recidivism rates than juveniles with a Violent offense.

Juveniles with property offenses had the highest recidivism rates compared to the other three offense categories and represented the highest recidivism rates for the diversion and commitment groups.

Juveniles in the diversion and probation groups had slightly lower recidivism rates if their offense was an SBO compared to those whose offenses were non-SBO. This finding held for the entire sample. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of juveniles with an SBO were referred to the juvenile system by a law enforcement officer functioning as an SRO. Juveniles with an SRO referral had higher recidivism rates compared to juveniles without an SRO referral (29% and 22% respectively). Juveniles with an SRO referral had higher recidivism rates compared to juveniles with a non-SRO referral.

A small percentage (3%) of juveniles were assessed as being gang involved. At the two-year follow-up, juveniles with gang involvement had higher recidivism rates compared to the sample (62% and 32% respectively).

**Table 2.9**  
**Recidivism Rates by Charged Offense: Two-Year Follow-Up**

<b>Charged Offense</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Diversion</b> n=3,241 %	<b>Probation</b> n=2,064 %	<b>Commitment</b> n=143 %	<b>All Juveniles</b> N=5,448 %
<b>Offense Type</b>					
Felony	1,402	29	34	56	35
Misdemeanor	4,046	28	37	--	31
<b>Offense Classification</b>					
<b>Violent</b>	235	--	31	50	36
Class A-E Felonies					
<b>Serious</b>	1,525	30	35	60	35
Class F-I Felonies					
Class A1 Misdemeanor					
<b>Minor</b>	3,698	28	38	--	31
Class 1-3 Misdemeanors					
<b>Offense Category</b>					
Person	2,269	28	30	52	30
Property	1,634	31	40	63	37
Drug	538	25	27	--	25
Other	1,007	27	45	--	32
<b>School-Based Offense</b>					
No	3,153	30	37	55	35
Yes	2,295	27	34	--	28
<b>School Resource Officer</b>					
No	261	22	19	--	22
Yes	2,034	27	37	--	29
<b>Gang Involvement</b> (12 Years and Older)	130	--	59	--	62
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>

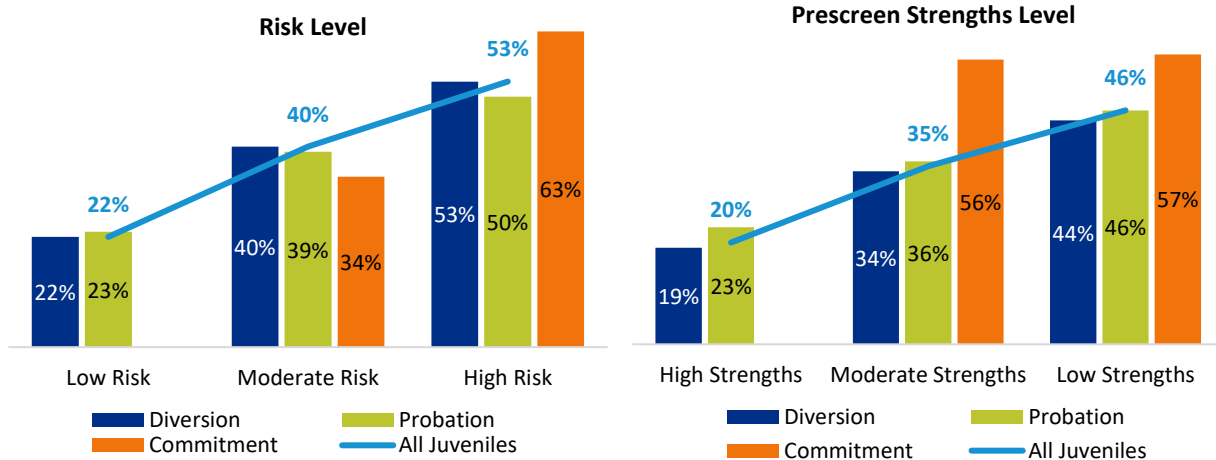
Note: Four (4) juveniles were alleged to have committed a Violent offense (Class A through Class E felony). There were 367 juveniles 12 years or older who were missing a gang assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Risk Assessment and Recidivism

Figure 2.18 explores the relationship between risk level and recidivism. As expected, low risk juveniles had the lowest recidivism rates (22%) compared to high risk juveniles (53%). The same pattern was found for strengths level by level of involvement – as strength level decreased, recidivism rates increased. However, that pattern did not hold true for the commitment group; there was little difference in the recidivism rates for the commitment group for those assessed as moderate or low strengths.

**Figure 2.18**  
**Recidivism Rates by Risk Level and Prescreen Strengths Level: Two-Year Follow-Up**

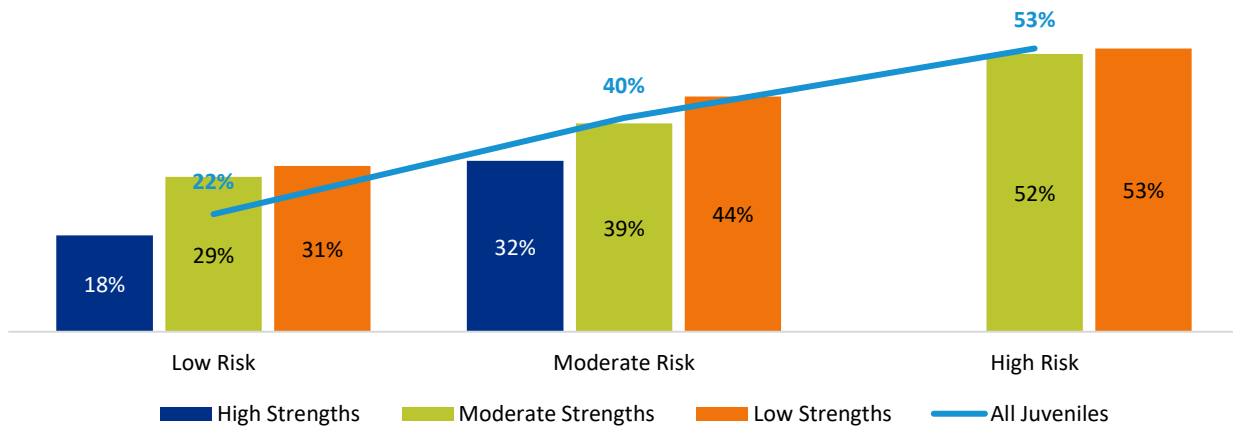


Note: Thirty-six (n=36) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 2.19 provides recidivism rates by risk and strengths levels. Juveniles assessed as low risk and with high strengths (18%) had lower recidivism rates compared to juveniles assessed as low risk with moderate or low strengths (29% and 31% respectively). Juveniles assessed as moderate risk with high strengths (32%) had lower recidivism rates compared to juveniles with moderate or low strengths (39% and 44% respectively). For high risk juveniles, the recidivism rates by strengths level had almost no differences for those juveniles assessed with moderate or low strengths.

**Figure 2.19**  
**Recidivism Rates by Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up**



Note: Thirty-six (n=36) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement and Recidivism

Generally, recidivism rates increased the longer juveniles were involved with the juvenile justice system (see Table 2.10); however, this pattern did not hold once specific groups were examined. The diversion group, which had the shortest average length of involvement (4 months), had higher recidivism rates for

the shortest length of involvement (0-3 months) compared to the longer length of 4-6 months (31% and 27% respectively). Probationers who had 13 or more months of juvenile justice involvement (43%) had higher recidivism rates compared to the probation group with a shorter length of involvement (35% for 7-12 months, 32% each for 4-6 months and 0-3 months). For the commitment group, recidivism rates were the almost same for the two lengths reported (56% and 55%).

**Table 2.10**  
**Recidivism Rates by Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement: Two-Year Follow-Up**

<b>Length of JJ Involvement</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Diversion</b> n=3,241 %	<b>Probation</b> n=2,064 %	<b>Commitment</b> n=143 %	<b>All Juveniles</b> N=5,448 %
0-3 Months	1,344	31	32	--	31
4-6 Months	2,423	27	32	--	28
7-12 Months	1,143	--	35	56	36
13+ Months	538	--	43	55	44

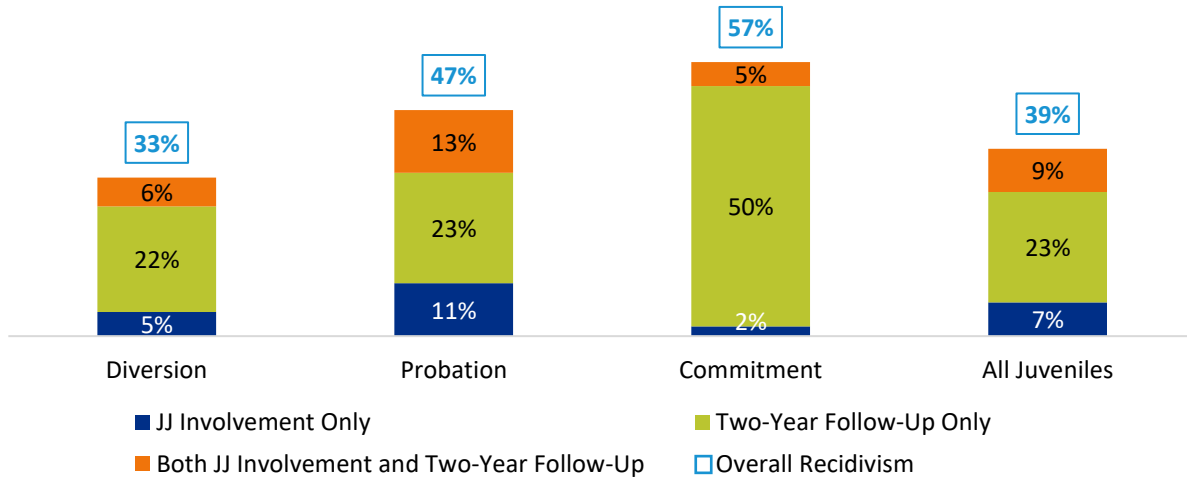
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Overall Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement and Two-Year Follow-Up

Figure 2.20 combines the recidivism rates in Figure 2.11 and Table 2.7 to examine when recidivist activity occurred – during juvenile justice involvement only, the two-year follow-up only, or whether the juvenile recidivated in both time periods. The overall recidivism rates were computed by adding together the rates for juveniles with recidivism during juvenile justice involvement only, during two-year follow-up only, and during both time periods.

Over half of juveniles (23%) with any recidivism (39%) recidivated during the two-year follow-up. A similar percentage of juveniles recidivated either during juvenile justice involvement only or during both time periods (7% and 9% respectively). The probation group had the highest recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement only (11%) and during both recidivism time periods (13%) compared to the diversion group (5% and 6% respectively) and the commitment group (2% and 5% respectively). The commitment group had the highest overall recidivism rate, while the diversion group had the lowest (57% and 33% respectively). The recidivism rate for the probation group was between the diversion and commitment groups.

**Figure 2.20**  
**Overall Recidivism Rates**



Note: Overall recidivism rates were computed by adding together the rates for juveniles with recidivism during juvenile justice involvement only, during two-year follow-up only, and during both time periods.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES

### Confinement to a Detention Center and/or a Youth Development Center

Admission to a detention center can occur while a juvenile awaits adjudication and disposition, or it may be imposed as a condition of probation.<sup>40</sup> Of the entire sample, 471 juveniles (10%) had at least one admission to a detention center during the two-year follow-up – 233 juveniles in the diversion group, 194 in the probation group, and 44 in the commitment group.

Commitment to a YDC is the most serious sanction available in the juvenile justice system for juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent. Of the juveniles in the sample, 56 juveniles had one or more commitments to a YDC during the two-year follow-up. A YDC commitment during follow-up was not linked to the sample event and could have resulted either from a delinquent complaint during juvenile justice involvement or from a delinquent complaint that occurred during the follow-up period. During the two-year follow-up, the probation group had the most juveniles with a YDC commitment (23 juveniles) compared to the diversion group (14 juveniles) and the commitment group (19 juveniles).

Examining a sample of juveniles as they exit the juvenile system reduces the likelihood of occurrence for detention admissions and YDC commitments during the follow-up period, as juveniles age out of the juvenile system. A more complete analysis of their confinement during the two-year follow-up would include adult confinement (e.g., local jails<sup>41</sup> and state prisons).

<sup>40</sup> Detention admissions during juvenile justice involvement are examined further in Chapter Four.

<sup>41</sup> North Carolina does not have a statewide, automated system for jail data.

## Juvenile Transfers to Superior Court

As mentioned in Chapter One, juveniles alleged to be delinquent with a felony offense may be transferred to superior court for trial as adults under certain circumstances. There were 118 juveniles who were transferred to adult court during the two-year follow-up period. The probation group had the highest number of juveniles transferred at 58, followed by the diversion group at 41. The commitment group had 19 juveniles who were transferred to adult court. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the juveniles transferred had a Violent offense as their most serious offense transferred, with the remaining offenses being Serious offenses. All offenses transferred were felonies. The most common classes transferred were Class D (24%) and Class A (19%). The average time to transfer was 11 months. No information is available about findings of guilt or innocence or dispositions in transfer proceedings.

## SUMMARY

Chapter Two examined the FY 2022 juvenile sample (N=5,448) as a whole and by three levels of juvenile justice involvement (i.e., diversion [59%], probation [38%], YDC commitment [3%]). A statistical profile of the juveniles was provided and included a description of their prior, current, and recidivist contacts with the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. (See Table 2.11 for a summary of the sample profile and Figure 2.21 for a summary of the recidivism rates.) Two points of time were examined for recidivism – during juvenile justice involvement and during the two-year follow-up period. Recidivism was defined as having a juvenile complaint and/or arrest during the time periods examined.

Across the geographic areas of the state, most juveniles were in the Piedmont area (34%). When examined by group, most juveniles in the diverted group resided in the Piedmont area (66%), the highest percentage in the probation group were in the Central area (43%), and the highest percentage in the commitment group were in the Eastern area (4%). Juveniles from the Central area had the highest recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up, while juveniles from the Western area had the lowest.

As the seriousness of level of involvement increased (i.e., from diversion to probation to commitment), the percentage of males and older juveniles increased. Males had higher recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up. Recidivism rates peaked at 13-15 years by age at juvenile justice exit; however, no strong pattern emerged by level of involvement based on age.

Three measures were used to examine prior contacts with the juvenile justice system – prior complaints, adjudications, and confinement (i.e., detention admission and/or YDC commitment). As the seriousness of level of involvement increased, prior contacts with the juvenile justice system increased for all measures. The percentage of juveniles with prior contacts increased with age, overall and by group. Juveniles who had prior contacts with the juvenile justice system also had higher recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up, regardless of group.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the sample had a prior participation in a JCPC program, with the commitment group having the highest percentage. Juveniles with a prior JCPC program had higher recidivism rates than juveniles who did not participate in a JCPC.

Most juveniles (74%) had a misdemeanor as their most serious charged offense; nearly all juveniles in the commitment group had a felony offense (94%). Only the probation and commitment groups had any Violent offenses as their most serious charged offense. Person offenses were the most common type of

offenses for the diverted and commitment group; the probation group's most common offense was property offenses. Juveniles with a felony offense, a Violent offense classification, or a property offense had higher recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up when compared to their counterparts. No clear pattern in recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up was found by charged offense for the three groups. Only 3% of the sample were gang involved; however, nearly two-thirds (62%) of the gang involved juveniles had recidivism during the two-year follow-up.

**Table 2.11**  
**Juvenile Profile of the FY 2022 Sample**

Juvenile Profile	Diversion n=3,241	Probation n=2,064	Commitment n=143	All Juveniles N=5,448
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>				
Male	68%	80%	97%	73%
White	44%	41%	25%	43%
16 Years and Older at JJ Exit	40%	73%	90%	54%
Avg. Age at JJ Exit	15 Years	16 Years	17 Years	16 Years
<b>Prior Complaint</b>	17%	58%	97%	35%
<b>Prior JCPC Program Participation</b>	14%	39%	77%	25%
<b>Charged Offense</b>				
Misdemeanor	90%	54%	6%	74%
Person	44%	37%	48%	42%
School-Based	59%	19%	3%	42%
<b>Risk Level</b>				
Low	69%	33%	1%	54%
Moderate	27%	45%	27%	34%
High	4%	22%	72%	12%
<b>Strengths Level</b>				
High	45%	23%	7%	36%
Moderate	41%	45%	44%	43%
Low	14%	32%	49%	21%
<b>Avg. Length of JJ Involvement</b>	4 Months	11 Months	12 Months	7 Months

Note: Of the 2,269 person offenses, 79% were misdemeanor offenses.

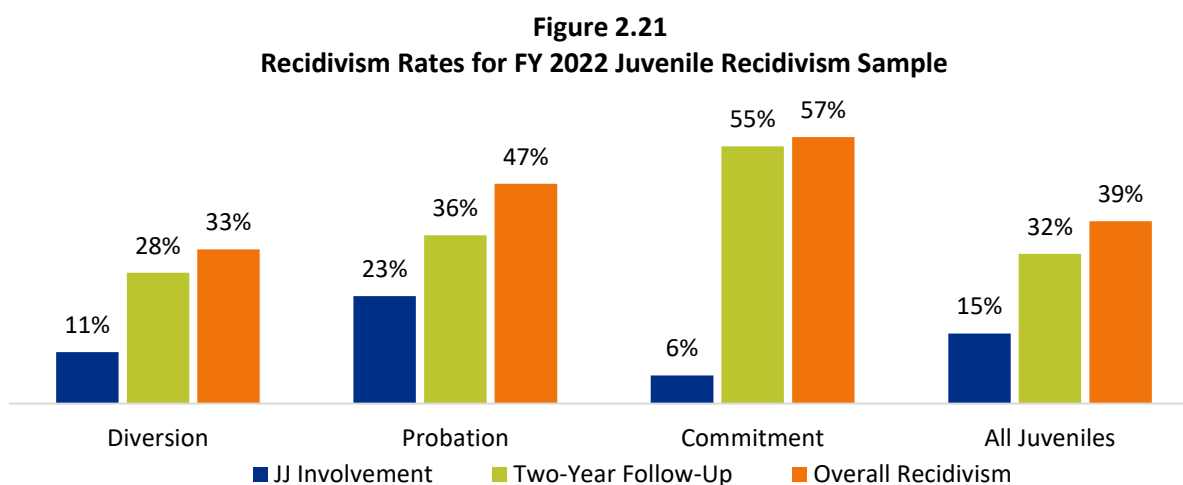
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

The DJJDP implemented a new assessment tool (YASI) in 2020, and this is the first study to report findings based on that instrument for risk and prescreen strengths. Juveniles who exited from a YDC in FY 2022 were mostly assessed as high risk and had lower strengths compared to juveniles who exited from probation or diversion. Juveniles assessed as low risk or high strengths had the lowest recidivism rates, while juveniles assessed as high risk or low strengths had the lowest recidivism rates. Juveniles with high strengths had lower recidivism rates for all levels of risk.

The amount of time juveniles spent in the juvenile justice system increased along with level of involvement. Diverted juveniles spent the shortest amount of time in the juvenile system (an average of 4 months), while juveniles who were committed to a YDC spent the longest time (12 months). Recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up increased as the length of involvement increased.

Differences in recidivism rates and length of involvement were found between the three groups; however, additional data (e.g., exit reasons for the probation group) are needed to fully understand the relationship between the length of juvenile justice involvement and recidivism.

Figure 2.21 summarizes recidivism rates for the FY 2022 sample during juvenile justice involvement and the two-year follow-up period. Recidivism rates increased as level of juvenile justice involvement increased – juveniles in the commitment group had the highest recidivism rates of the three groups during the two-year follow-up. This stair-step pattern of higher recidivism rates as level of involvement increased was also found for overall recidivism rates – juveniles with the least juvenile justice involvement had the lowest overall recidivism rates (33% for the diversion group), while juveniles with more juvenile justice involvement had the highest overall recidivism rates (47% for the probation group and 57% for the commitment group). The probation group had the highest recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement. Juveniles in the commitment group had the lowest recidivism during their juvenile justice involvement due to their confinement in a YDC, followed by the diversion group. During the two-year follow-up period, the diversion group had the lowest recidivism rates.



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

As described in this chapter, juveniles with the least amount of contact with the juvenile justice system had the lowest recidivism rates, while juveniles with the most contact had the highest recidivism rates. Differences within these groups are examined in more detail in Chapter Three for the diversion group by successful or unsuccessful completion and in Chapter Four for adjudicated juveniles (probation and commitment groups) by disposition level.



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## CHAPTER THREE

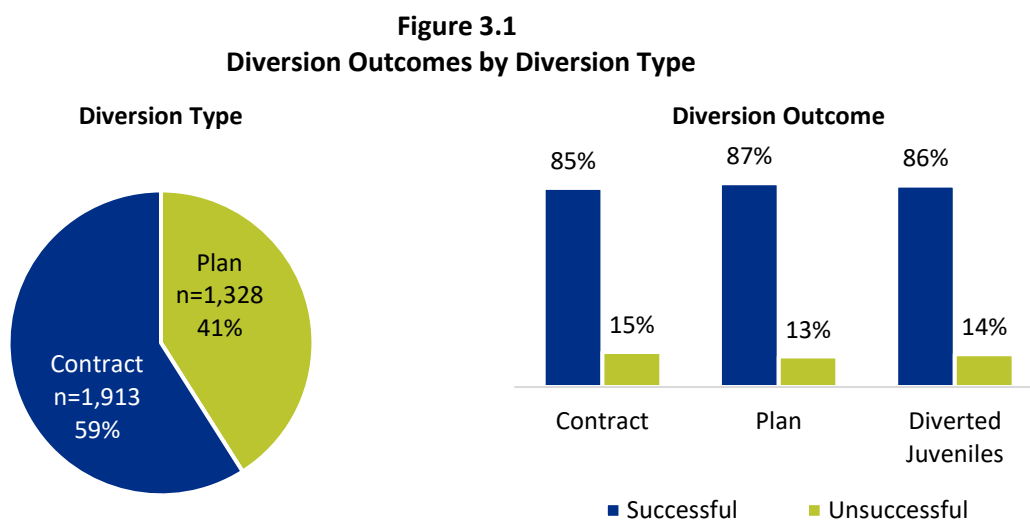
### DIVERTED JUVENILES

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This chapter focuses on the 3,241 juveniles who exited diversion in FY 2022.<sup>42</sup> As described in Chapter One, diversion is used when a court counselor determines that a case should not be brought to court, but that a juvenile is in need of follow-up and referral to a community-based resource. Juveniles are either diverted pursuant to a diversion plan (less formal) or a diversion contract (more formal). Compliance with the plan or contract results in finalization of the juvenile's diversion with no petition filed for their complaint, while noncompliance could later result in the filing of the complaint as a petition in juvenile court. For this analysis, these outcomes are defined as successful diversion and unsuccessful diversion, respectively, and are used as a comparison throughout the chapter when providing a description of FY 2022 diversion exits and their prior, current, and recidivist involvement in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

## STATISTICAL PROFILE

As shown in Figure 3.1, 59% of juveniles who exited diversion in FY 2022 had a diversion contract and the remainder had a diversion plan (41%). Most juveniles successfully completed their plan (87%) or contract (85%). Juveniles have up to 6 months to complete the terms of their diversion plan or contract. The successful group (n=2,782) averaged 4 months to completion, while those with an unsuccessful diversion (n=459) averaged 3 months before exiting due to noncompliance.



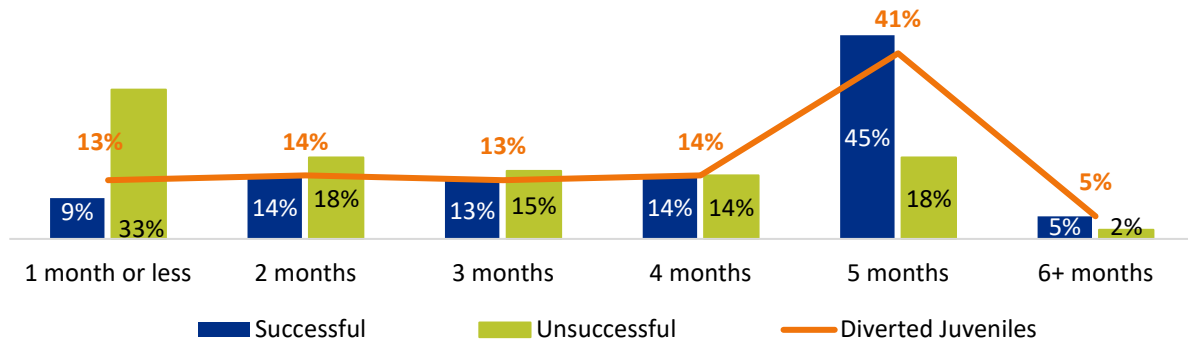
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

As shown in Figure 3.2, 51% of the unsuccessful group failed to comply with the diversion terms within the first 2 months. Conversely, more than half (59%) of the successful group completed the terms of their diversion within 4 or 5 months.

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<sup>42</sup> See Appendix D for detailed definitions of recidivism and other key terms.

**Figure 3.2**  
**Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement**

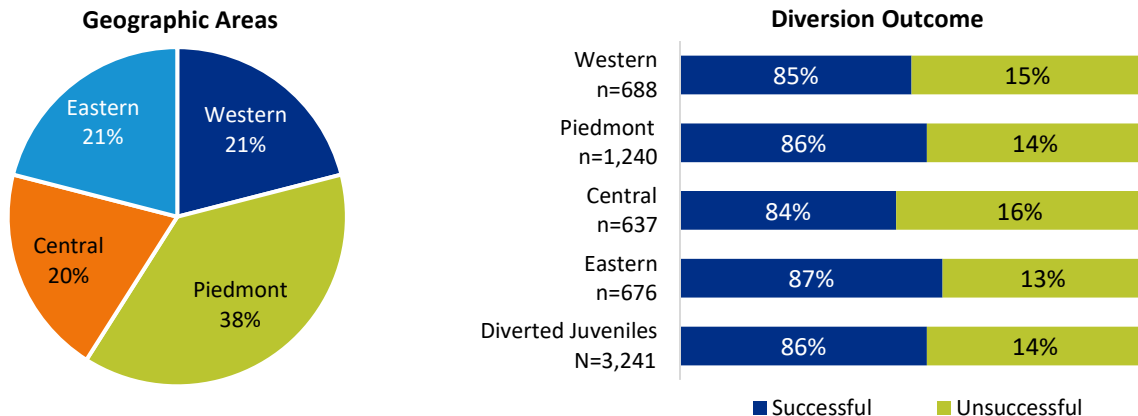


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Geographic Areas

Figure 3.3 examines the distribution of the diversion group by the four geographic areas of the state – Western, Piedmont, Central, and Eastern. The highest percentage of diverted juveniles were in the Piedmont area (38%), with juveniles in the remaining three areas almost equally distributed (21% in the Eastern and Western areas and 20% in the Central area). Similar percentages of juveniles in each geographic area had successful diversion (ranging from 84% to 87%) and unsuccessful diversion (ranging from 13% to 16%).

**Figure 3.3**  
**Geographic Areas**

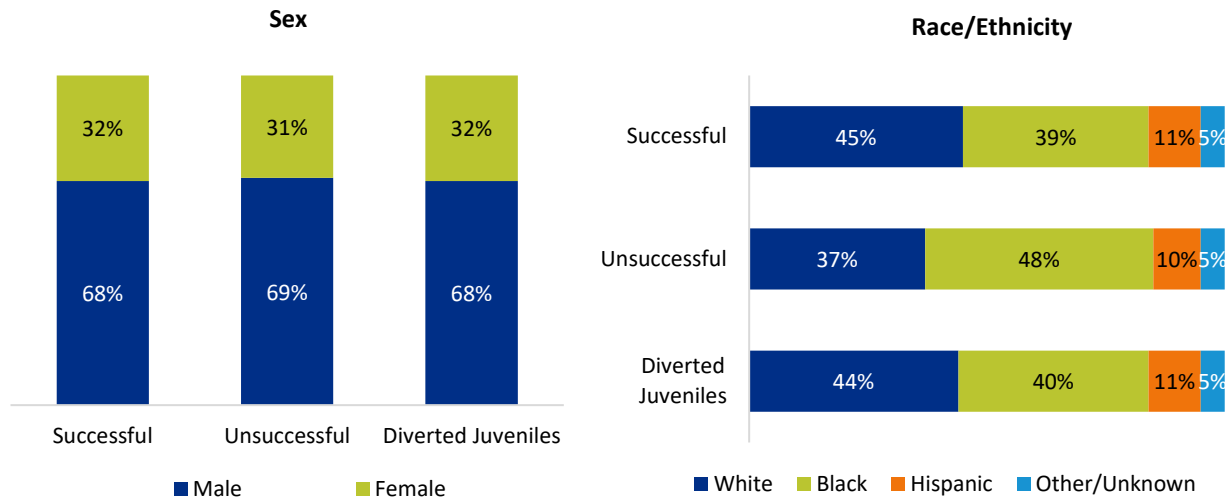


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Personal Characteristics

Figure 3.4 examines personal characteristics by type of diversion. Sixty-eight percent (68%) were male. White juveniles comprised the highest percentage of the successful group (45%), followed by Black juveniles (39%). Black juveniles represented almost half of the unsuccessful group (48%).

**Figure 3.4**  
**Sex and Race/Ethnicity**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 3.1 provides the distribution of age at offense and juvenile justice exit by categories. Juveniles who were 13-15 at time of offense were the largest age category overall (51%). The successful group had a higher percentage of juveniles who were 12 years and younger and a higher percentage of juveniles 16-17 years old at age of offense compared to the unsuccessful group.

**Table 3.1**  
**Age**

	Successful n=2,782 %	Unsuccessful n=459 %	Diverted Juveniles N=3,241 %
<b>Age at Offense</b>			
12 Years and Younger	18	12	17
13-15 Years	49	63	51
16-17 Years	33	25	32
<i>Average Age</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>
<b>Age at JJ Exit</b>			
12 Years and Younger	13	8	13
13-15 Years	46	60	47
16 Years and Older	41	32	40
<i>Average Age</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts

In order to gain an understanding of frequency of interaction with the system, information on prior juvenile justice contacts is provided in Figure 3.5. A higher percentage of the unsuccessful group had prior complaints compared to the successful group. However, it is important to note that, overall, most

diverted juveniles did not have prior contacts with the juvenile justice system; 83% of diverted juveniles had no prior complaints. There were few differences in the percentages of juveniles with prior adjudications and confinements between the groups; very few had prior adjudications (3%) or prior confinements (1%). Examination of most serious prior offense indicated that 84% had a misdemeanor offense as the most serious prior complaint.

**Figure 3.5**  
**Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts**

Successful	Unsuccessful	Diverted Juveniles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•16% prior complaint</li> <li>•3% prior adjudication</li> <li>•1% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•22% prior complaint</li> <li>•4% prior adjudication</li> <li>•2% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•17% prior complaint</li> <li>•3% prior adjudication</li> <li>•1% prior confinement</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Charged Offense

Figure 3.6 provides the most common offenses for the diversion group, all of which are misdemeanors. The top 3 offenses accounted for 33% of delinquent complaints for the diversion group. The top offense for both groups was simple assault, followed by simple affray, both Class 2 misdemeanors.

**Figure 3.6**  
**Top 3 Charged Offenses**

Successful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•19% Simple Assault (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•9% Simple Affray (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•5% Possession of Weapons Excl. Firearms/Explosives on School Grounds (Minor - Class 1) - Other</li> </ul>
Unsuccessful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•20% Simple Assault (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•7% Simple Affray (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•6% Misdemeanor Larceny (Minor - Class 1) - Property</li> </ul>
Diverted Juveniles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•19% Simple Assault (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•9% Simple Affray (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•5% Possession of Weapons Excl. Firearms/Explosives on School Grounds (Minor - Class 1) - Other</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 3.2 provides a comparison of the groups with respect to their offense profile. Very few differences were found between the successful group and the unsuccessful group. Most juveniles in the diversion group had a misdemeanor as their most serious charged offense (90%). Sixteen percent (16%) of the diversion group were alleged to have committed a Serious offense (Class F through I felonies and Class A1 misdemeanors). These findings reflect both legal restrictions and court counselor considerations for

seeking diversion for juveniles with less serious offenses (especially misdemeanors). Nondivertible and other serious felonies typically result in the filing of a petition.

Offenses were also grouped into four offense categories: person, property, drug, and other. The successful group had a higher percentage of person offenses and a lower percentage of property offenses than the unsuccessful group. Figure 3.7 provides the top 3 offenses for each category.

More than half (59%) of diverted juveniles had an SBO (see Table 3.2). The unsuccessful group were less likely to have an SBO than the successful group (54% and 59% respectively). Of the SBOs, most complaints (90%) were referred by an SRO, with little variation between the two groups.

Juvenile court counselors must conduct a gang assessment on all youth 12 years of age or older at intake as part of their duty to evaluate complaints. Only 1% (or n=23) of diverted juveniles were gang involved.

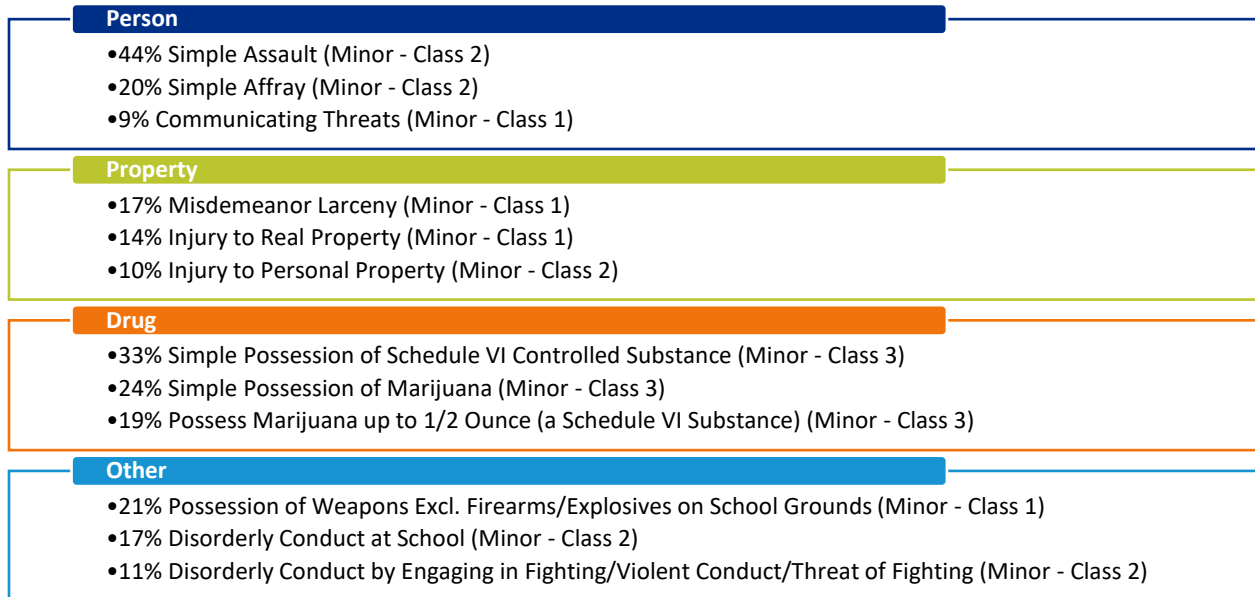
**Table 3.2**  
**Charged Offense**

<b>Charged Offense</b>	<b>Successful</b> n=2,782 %	<b>Unsuccessful</b> n=459 %	<b>Diverted Juveniles</b> N=3,241 %
<b>Offense Type</b>			
Felony	10	10	10
Misdemeanor	90	90	90
<b>Offense Classification</b>			
<b>Serious</b>			
Class F-I Felonies	16	16	16
Class A1 Misdemeanors			
<b>Minor</b>			
Class 1-3 Misdemeanors	84	84	84
<b>Offense Category</b>			
Person	45	40	44
Property	21	28	22
Drug	11	10	11
Other	23	22	23
<b>School-Based Offense</b>			
No	41	46	41
Yes	59	54	59
<b>School Resource Officer</b>			
No	9	11	10
Yes	91	89	90
<b>Gang Involvement</b> (12 Years and Older)	1	2	1

Note: Four (4) juveniles were alleged to have committed a Violent offense (Class A through Class E felony). Of the person offenses, only 137 of the 1,427 offenses were for a felony offense. There were 236 juveniles were missing a gang assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

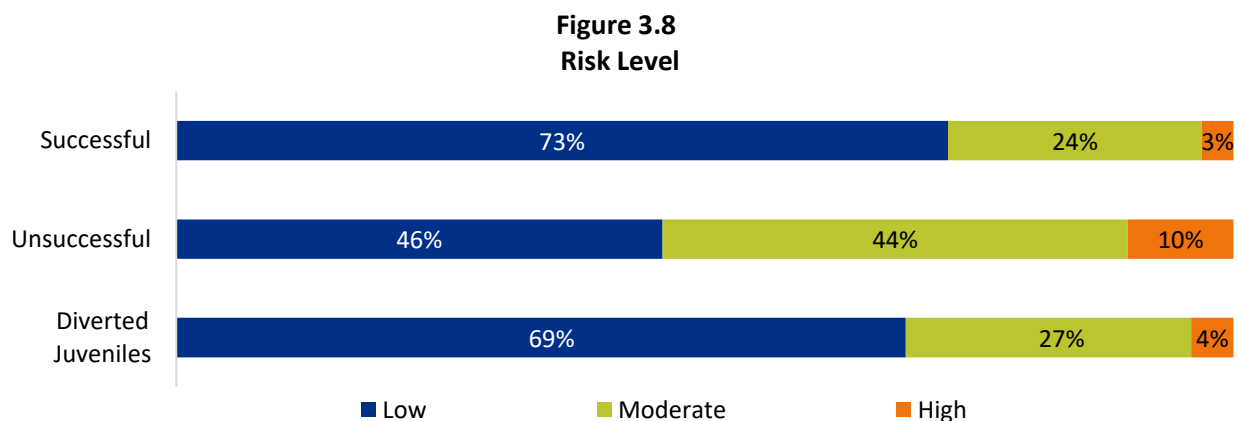
**Figure 3.7**  
**Top 3 Charged Offenses by Offense Category**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Risk Assessment

Based on the YASI, juveniles are placed in one of three risk levels – low, moderate, and high risk (see Figure 3.8).<sup>43</sup> More than two-thirds (69%) of diverted juveniles were assessed as low risk, 27% were moderate risk, and 4% were high risk. The unsuccessful group had a higher percentage in the high risk category compared to the successful group (10% and 3% respectively). Conversely, a higher percentage of juveniles in the successful diversion group were assessed as low risk (73%) compared to the unsuccessful diversion group (46%).



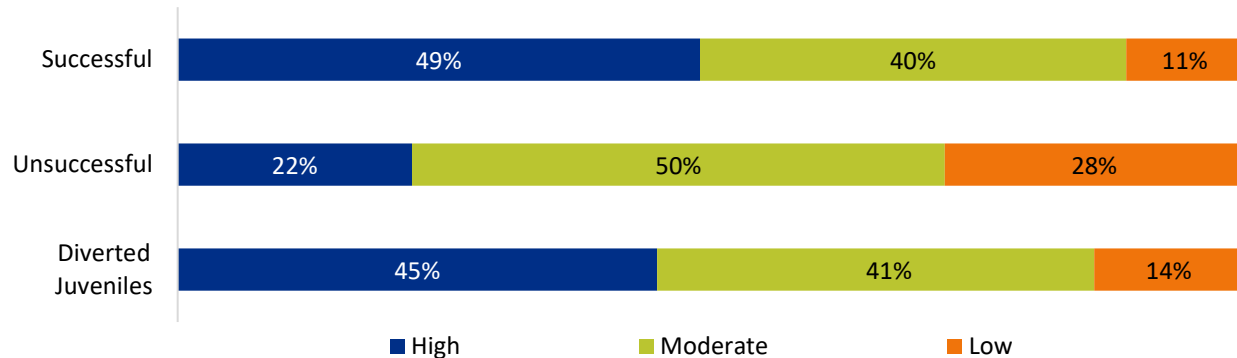
Note: Twenty-eight (n=28) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

<sup>43</sup> YASI assessments were completed within 14 days on average. The risk and strengths findings in this chapter include juveniles who had a prescreen assessment completed; only 21 juveniles in the successful group and 7 juveniles in the unsuccessful group did not have a prescreen assessment completed.

The YASI also identifies a juvenile's strengths or protective factors against recidivating (see Figure 3.9). Based on the prescreen assessment, juveniles are placed in one of three levels of strengths – low, moderate, and high (see Figure 3.11). Forty-five percent (45%) were assessed with high strengths, while 41% had moderate strengths and 14% had low strengths. The unsuccessful group had more than double the percentage of juveniles assessed with low strengths compared to the successful group (28% and 11% respectively). Conversely, a higher percentage of the successful group were assessed as having high strengths (49%) compared to the unsuccessful group (22%).

**Figure 3.9**  
**Prescreen Strengths Level**



Note: Twenty-eight (n=28) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 3.3 examines risk level and prescreen strength level by sex. In examining risk level by sex, a higher percentage of males were assessed as high risk (5%) and a lower percentage as low risk (63%) compared to females (1% assessed as high risk and 83% assessed as low risk). A lower percentage of males were assessed as high strengths (37%) compared to females (62%).

**Table 3.3**  
**Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels by Sex**

Risk Level	N	Low %	Moderate %	High %
Male	2,185	63	32	5
Female	1,028	83	16	1
Prescreen Strengths Level	N	High %	Moderate %	Low %
Male	2,185	37	46	17
Female	1,028	62	31	7

Note: Twenty-eight (n=28) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 3.4 shows the intersection of risk and strengths levels and the percentage of juveniles with each combination. Juveniles assessed as low risk with high strengths comprised the greatest percentage (42%), followed by juveniles assessed as low risk with moderate strengths (25%), and juveniles assessed as moderate risk with moderate strengths (15%). The least frequent point of intersection was for juveniles assessed as high risk and high strengths (<1% or n=3).

**Table 3.4**  
**Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels**

Risk Level	N	Strengths Level			Diverted Juveniles N=3,213 %
		High n=1,452 %	Moderate n=1,326 %	Low n=435 %	
<b>Low</b>	2,230	42	25	2	<b>69</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	867	3	15	8	<b>27</b>
<b>High</b>	116	<1	1	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Diverted Juveniles</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>

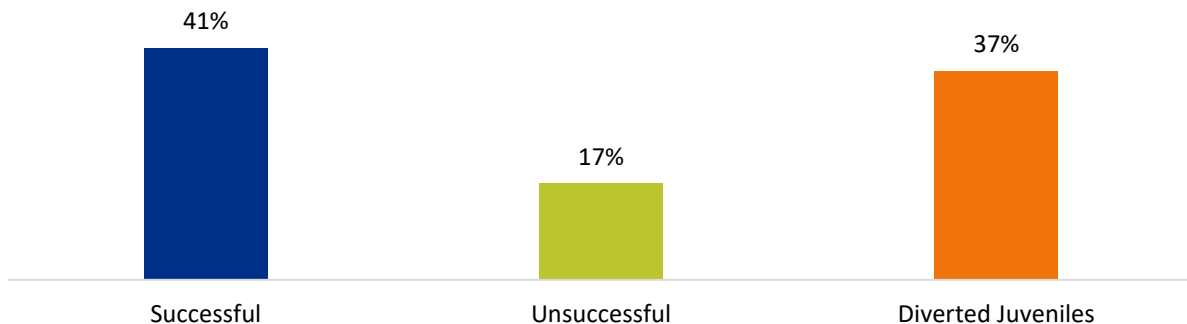
Note: Twenty-eight (n=28) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation during Juvenile Justice Involvement

Figure 3.10 shows JCPC program participation during juvenile justice involvement. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of diverted juveniles participated in a JCPC program, with the successful group having higher participation (41%) than the unsuccessful group (17%). Of those who participated in a JCPC program (n=1,205), 78% participated in one JCPC program, 20% participated in two JCPC programs, and 2% participated in three or more.

**Figure 3.10**  
**JCPC Program Participation**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

While there are over 500 individual JCPC programs across the state, four program categories were analyzed for this study.<sup>44</sup>

- **Clinical** treatment programs offer help to a juvenile and/or the juvenile's family to solve problems through goal-directed planning, such as counseling and home-based family counseling.

<sup>44</sup> Assessments and/or evaluations funded through JCPC funds were excluded from the analysis since they are not considered a program.



- **Residential** programs are services are delivered in a residential setting, such as group home care and specialized or temporary foster care.
- **Restorative** programs seek primarily to address or repair harm caused by an incident or offense by inviting those most impacted by the offense to participate in a process to identify and repair the harm and address unmet needs, such as teen court and mediation/conflict resolution.
- **Structured** programs (including community day programs) offer skill-building activities in a non-residential setting, such as mentoring and vocational skills development.

Table 3.5 shows JCPC program participation by program category. Most juveniles who participated in a JCPC program were in restorative programs (31%). A small percentage were in the other JCPC programs (7% in structured programs and <1% in residential programs).

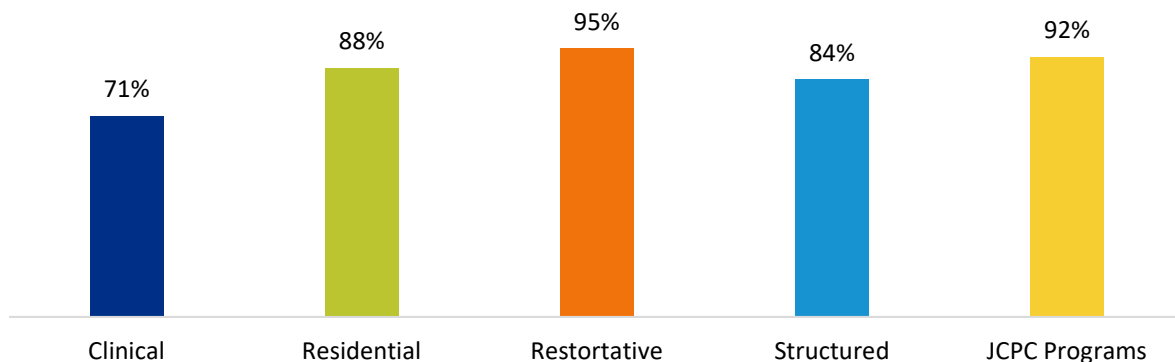
**Table 3.5**  
**JCPC Participation by Program Category**

Diversion Outcome	N	Clinical		Residential		Restorative		Structured	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Successful	2,782	63	2	6	<1	959	34	191	7
Unsuccessful	459	3	1	2	<1	58	13	22	5
<b>Diverted Juveniles</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>7</b>

Note: Juveniles may have participated in more than one JCPC program category. As a result, the number of juveniles within each JCPC program category cannot be added to equal the total number of JCPC programs.  
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

As shown in Figure 3.11, most juveniles who participated in a JCPC program completed their program (92%). Juveniles participating in restorative programs had the highest completion rate (95%), while those in clinical programs had the lowest completion rate (71%).

**Figure 3.11**  
**JCPC Program Participation Completion by Categories**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

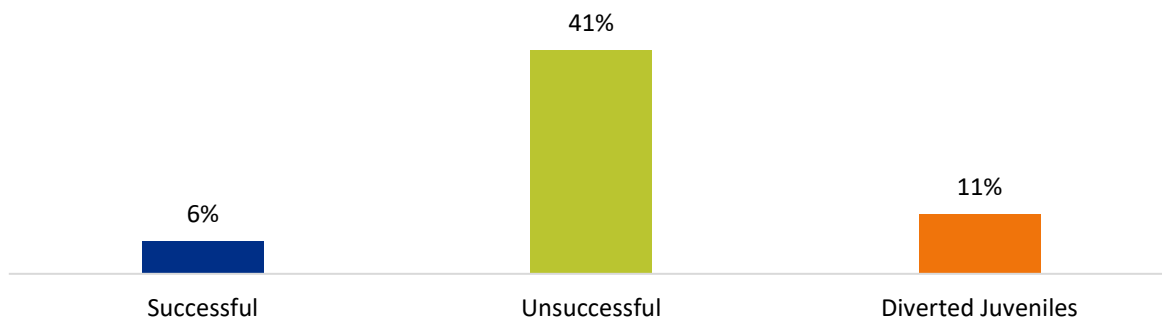
## JUVENILE AND ADULT RECIDIVISM

As described in Chapter One, juveniles in the sample were tracked during their juvenile justice involvement and for a fixed two-year follow-up period to determine whether subsequent involvement with the juvenile justice or adult criminal justice systems occurred. A combined measure of subsequent juvenile complaints and/or adult arrests was compiled to indicate any recidivist involvement in either system (i.e., “recidivism”). Recidivism rates are only reported when there are 25 or more juveniles in a specific category.

### Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement

While Figure 3.12 and Table 3.6 provide recidivism rates for diverted juveniles during juvenile justice involvement, it should be noted that diverted juveniles had a relatively short length of time in the system (an average of 4 months) in which to recidivate. Overall, 11% of diverted juveniles had a subsequent complaint or arrest during juvenile justice involvement. A small percentage of juveniles in the successful diversion group (6%) had a subsequent complaint or arrest during this time period. The unsuccessful group had a substantially higher recidivism rate during juvenile justice involvement (41%). Although they are likely related, no data are available to determine whether their recidivism was the reason for an unsuccessful diversion.

**Figure 3.12**  
**Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Among juveniles who recidivated, the first recidivist event occurred an average of 2 months after the beginning of the diversion period (see Table 3.6). Seventy-eight percent (78%) had a misdemeanor as their most serious recidivist offense. A higher percentage of the unsuccessful group had a felony as their most serious recidivist event compared to the successful group (29% and 13% respectively).

**Table 3.6**  
**Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement**

Diversion Outcome	N	Recidivism		Most Serious Recidivist Offense		Months to Recidivism Avg.
		#	%	Felony %	Misdemeanor %	
Successful	2,782	158	6	13	87	2
Unsuccessful	459	187	41	29	71	2
<b>Diverted Juveniles</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Recidivism during Two-Year Follow-Up Period

Table 3.7 examines recidivism rates for diverted juveniles during the two-year follow-up period. The unsuccessful group had substantially higher recidivism rates for the one-year and two-year follow-up periods (43% and 55% respectively) compared to the successful group (16% and 24% respectively). These findings are not unexpected given that the unsuccessful group had a higher risk level compared to the successful group.

**Table 3.7**  
**Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up**

Diversion Outcome	N	Recidivism #	Recidivism		Total Recidivist Events #	Months to Recidivism Avg.
			One-Year Follow-Up %	Two-Year Follow-Up %		
Successful	2,782	662	16	24	1,217	9
Unsuccessful	459	253	43	55	589	6
<b>Diverted Juveniles</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>8</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

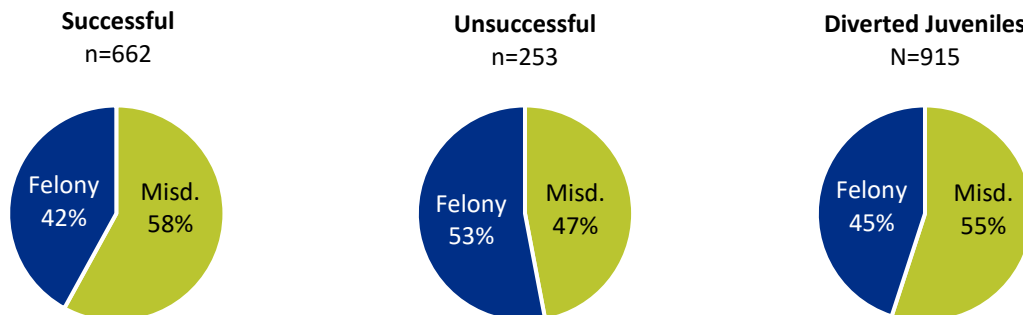
For juveniles with at least one subsequent delinquent complaint and/or arrest, the first recidivist event occurred an average of 8 months after the beginning of the follow-up period. The timing of the first recidivist event was longer for the successful group (9 months) compared to those with an unsuccessful diversion (6 months). Over one-fourth (26%) of the successful group recidivated within 3 months compared to nearly one-half (48%) of the unsuccessful group. Within 12 months, the percentage had increased to 70% for the successful group and 79% for the unsuccessful group.

The 915 juveniles with recidivism accounted for a total of 1,806 recidivist events, with an average of 2 recidivist events overall and by group. Consistent with their larger number, the successful group accounted for a higher volume of recidivist events at 1,217.

Over half (55%) of juveniles who recidivated had a misdemeanor as their most serious recidivist offense (see Figure 3.13). Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the successful group had a misdemeanor as their most

serious recidivist offense, while 53% of the unsuccessful group had a felony as their most serious recidivist offense.

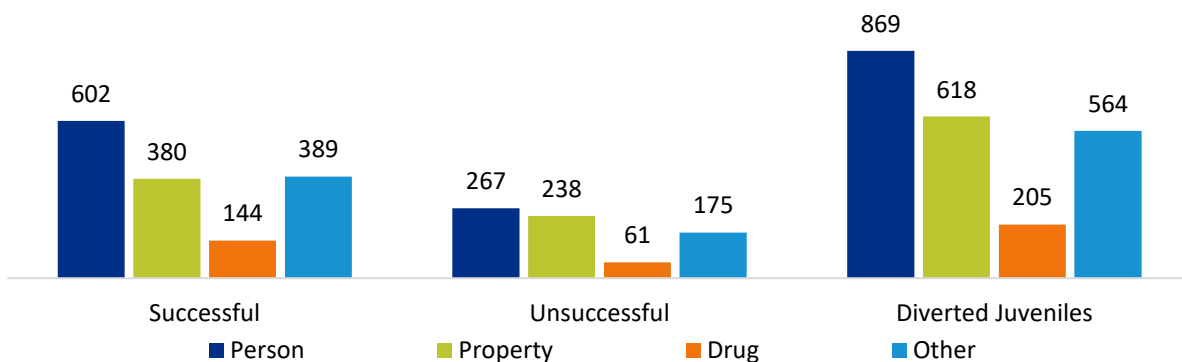
**Figure 3.13**  
**Most Serious Recidivist Event by Offense Type: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

As shown in Figure 3.14, person and property offenses comprised the largest volume of recidivist events for diverted juveniles, while drug offenses comprised the lowest volume of recidivist events.

**Figure 3.14**  
**Number of Recidivist Events by Offense Category: Two-Year Follow-Up**



Note: Multiple offense categories may be linked to a recidivist event. As a result, the number of recidivist events by offense category cannot be added to equal the total number of recidivist events.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

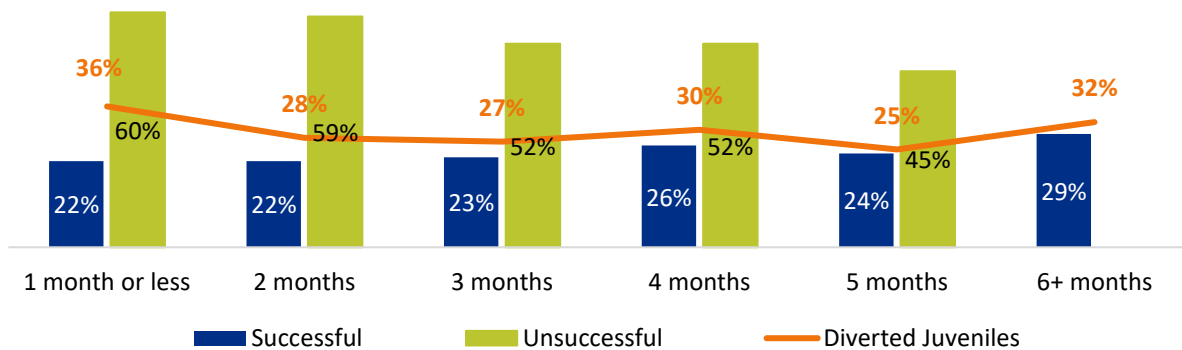
## Diversion Profile and Recidivism

Little difference was found in recidivism rates between juveniles with a diversion contract and juveniles with a diversion plan. Of juveniles with a diversion contract, 21% had a subsequent complaint and/or adult arrest during the one-year follow-up and 28% during the two-year follow-up compared to juveniles with a diversion plan at 19% and 28% respectively.

Figure 3.15 examines recidivism rates by the average length of time on diversion. Juveniles who had a shorter period of diversion (1 month or less) had the highest recidivism rates (36%). The unsuccessful group had the highest recidivism rates for each month examined compared to the successful group.

Recidivism rates decreased for the unsuccessful group the longer juveniles were involved with their diversion plan or contract, while recidivism rates for juveniles in the successful group fluctuated.

**Figure 3.15**  
**Recidivism Rates by Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement: Two-Year Follow-Up**

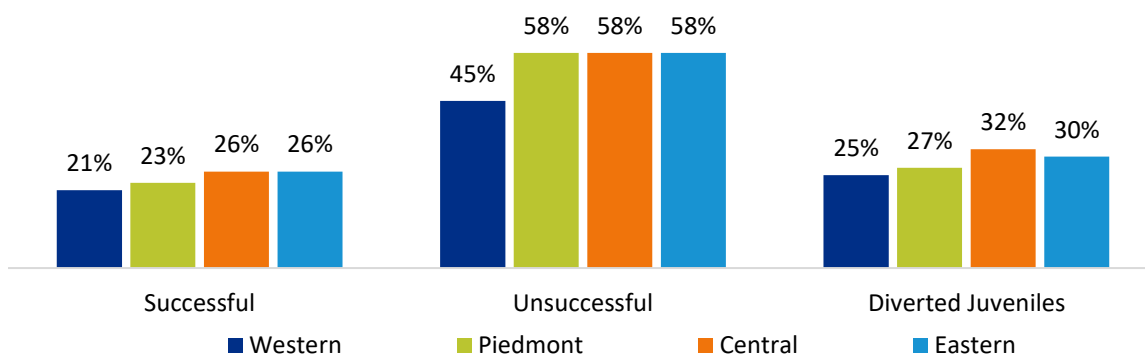


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Geographic Areas and Recidivism

Diverted juveniles in the Central part of the state had the highest recidivism rates (32%), while juveniles in the Western area had the lowest recidivism (25%) (see Figure 3.16). The successful group in the Western area had the lowest recidivism rates (21%), while juveniles in the remaining areas had very similar rates (ranging from 23% to 26%). The unsuccessful group in the Western area also had the lowest recidivism rates (45%) compared to the remaining areas (58% for each).

**Figure 3.16**  
**Recidivism Rates by Geographic Areas: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Personal Characteristics and Recidivism

Recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up are examined by personal characteristics in Table 3.8. The unsuccessful group had higher recidivism rates than those with a successful diversion for all categories of personal characteristics examined. Consistent patterns were found when examining recidivism rates by personal characteristics for the two groups. Males were more likely to recidivate

than females. Black juveniles had the highest recidivism rates compared to the other race/ethnicity categories. Juveniles 13-15 years at juvenile justice exit had the highest recidivism rates.

**Table 3.8**  
**Recidivism Rates by Personal Characteristics: Two-Year Follow-Up**

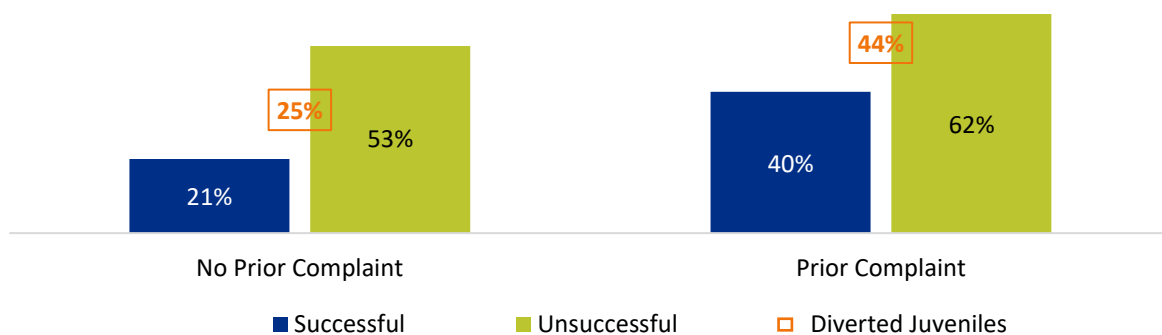
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Successful</b> n=2,782 %	<b>Unsuccessful</b> n=459 %	<b>Diverted Juveniles</b> N=3,241 %
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	2,203	27	60	32
Female	1,038	17	44	21
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White	1,428	17	48	21
Black	1,303	32	64	37
Hispanic	341	20	43	23
Other/Unknown	169	26	--	29
<b>Age at JJ Exit</b>				
12 Years and Younger	406	23	51	25
13-15 Years	1,538	28	59	33
16 Years and Older	1,297	18	50	21
<b>Diverted Juveniles</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>28</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Prior Complaints and Recidivism

Figure 3.17 examines the linkage between prior involvement with the juvenile justice system and recidivism. Juveniles with a prior complaint had higher recidivism rates than those with no prior complaint (44% and 25% respectively). Juveniles both overall and by group had higher recidivism rates if they had a prior complaint compared to their counterparts with no prior complaints. Often differences in recidivism rates between groups are minimized when prior juvenile justice involvement is taken into account; however, irrespective of prior involvement with the juvenile justice system, the unsuccessful group had higher recidivism rates than the successful group.

**Figure 3.17**  
**Recidivism Rates by Prior Complaints: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Charged Offense and Recidivism

In Table 3.9, recidivism rates are examined by characteristics of the charged offense. Recidivism rates for the unsuccessful diversion group were consistently higher than those of the successful diversion group when examining recidivism by offense characteristics. For the unsuccessful diversion group, juveniles had higher recidivism rates if they had a felony, a Serious offense, a property offense, or a non-SBO compared to their counterparts in those categories. For the successful diversion group, there were few differences in recidivism rates by charged offense.

**Table 3.9**  
**Recidivism Rates by Charged Offense: Two-Year Follow-Up**

<b>Charged Offense</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Successful</b> n=2,782 %	<b>Unsuccessful</b> n=459 %	<b>Diverted Juveniles</b> N=3,241 %
<b>Offense Type</b>				
Felony	327	23	65	29
Misdemeanor	2,914	24	54	28
<b>Offense Classification</b>				
<b>Serious</b>				
Class F-I Felonies	518	24	64	30
Class A1 Misdemeanors				
<b>Minor</b>				
Class 1-3 Misdemeanors	2,719	24	53	28
<b>Offense Category</b>				
Person	1,427	24	54	28
Property	725	25	59	31
Drug	345	20	55	25
Other	744	23	52	27
<b>School-Based Offense</b>				
No	1,343	25	60	30
Yes	1,898	23	51	27
<b>School Resource Officer</b>				
No	183	18	48	22
Yes	1,715	24	52	27
<b>Diverted Juveniles</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>28</b>

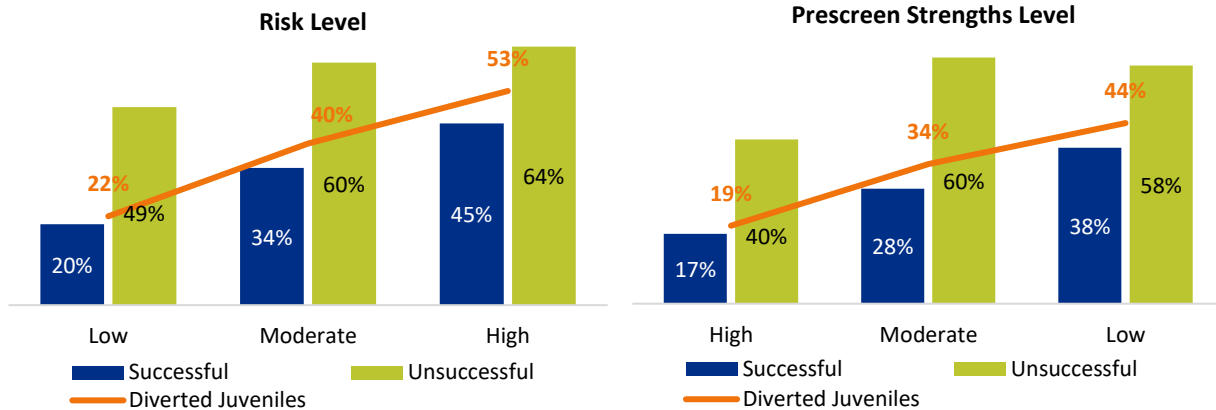
Note: Four (4) juveniles were alleged to have committed a Violent offense (Class A through Class E felony); too few to report meaningful recidivism rates.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Risk Assessment and Recidivism

Figure 3.18 explores the relationship between risk level and recidivism. As expected, a stair-step progress is shown with risk; as risk level increased, recidivism rates increased (22% for low risk and 53% for high risk). A similar pattern was also found by strengths level; as strengths level decreased, recidivism rates increased (19% for high strengths and 44% for low strengths). The strengths pattern held true for the successful diversion group; the unsuccessful group did not see the same pattern.

**Figure 3.18**  
**Recidivism Rates by Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up**

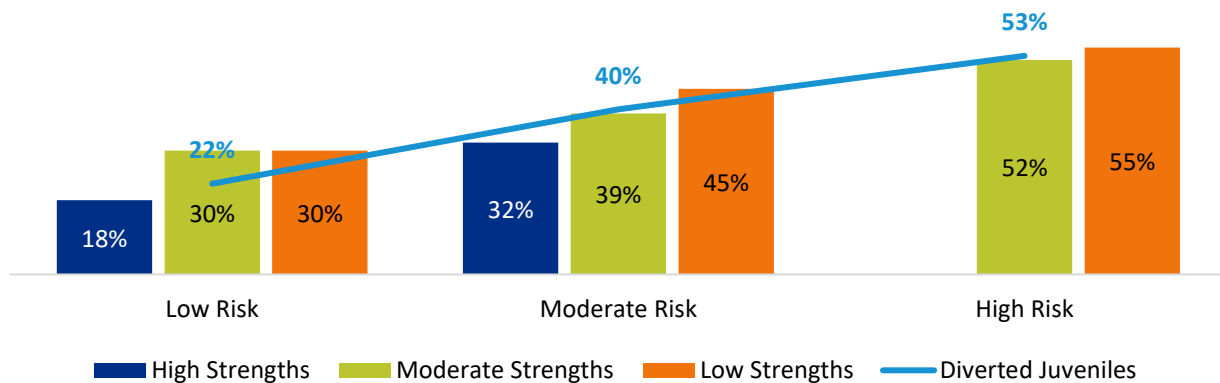


Note: Twenty-eight (n=28) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 3.19 provides recidivism rates by risk and strengths levels. Juveniles assessed as low risk and with high strengths (18%) had lower recidivism rates compared to juveniles assessed as low risk with moderate or low strengths (30% each). Juveniles assessed as moderate risk with high strengths (32%) had lower recidivism rates compared to juveniles with moderate or low strengths (39% and 45% respectively). For high risk juveniles, the recidivism rates by strengths level had little difference for those juveniles assessed with moderate or low strengths (52% and 55% respectively).

**Figure 3.19**  
**Recidivism Rates by Risk and Prescreen Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up**



Note: Twenty-eight (n=28) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk/strengths assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

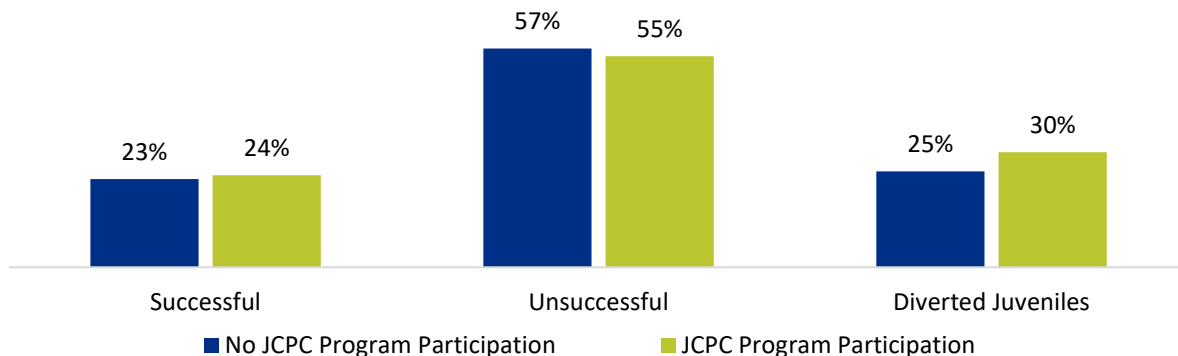
### Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation and Recidivism

Figure 3.20 examines recidivism rates for juveniles who participated in at least one JCPC program in comparison to juveniles with no JCPC program participation. Thirty percent (30%) of juveniles with JCPC program participation during juvenile justice involvement had a subsequent complaint and/or adult arrest compared to 25% of juveniles with no JCPC program participation. Juveniles in the unsuccessful diversion group who participated in a JCPC program had similar recidivism rates compared to juvenile with no JCPC (55% and 57% respectively).



Recidivism rates varied by JCPC program category (18% for clinical, 24% for restorative, and 32% for structured). There were too few juveniles in residential programs to report recidivism rates (n=8).

**Figure 3.20**  
**Recidivism Rates by JCPC Program Participation: Two-Year Follow-Up**

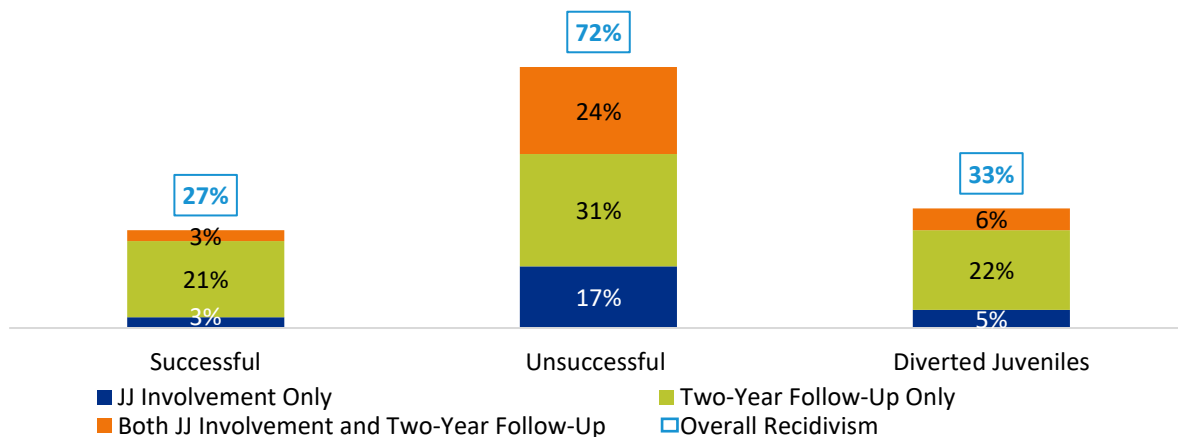


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Overall Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement and Two-Year Follow-Up

Figure 3.21 further examines when recidivist activity occurred – during juvenile justice involvement only, during the two-year follow-up only, or during both time periods. Two-thirds of juveniles (22%) with any recidivism (33%) recidivated during the two-year follow-up. A similar percentage of juveniles recidivated either during juvenile justice involvement or during both time periods (5% and 6% respectively). The unsuccessful group had the highest recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement (17%) and during both recidivism time periods (24%) compared to the successful group (3% each).

**Figure 3.21**  
**Overall Recidivism Rates**



Note: Overall recidivism rates were computed by adding together the rates for juveniles with recidivism during juvenile justice involvement only, during two-year follow-up only, and during both time periods.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## SUMMARY

Chapter Three provided a statistical profile of juveniles who exited diversion in FY 2022 and included an examination of their prior, current, and recidivist involvement in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. The chapter focused on a comparison of juveniles who successfully completed their diversion plan or contract (successful diversion) with juveniles who did not comply with their diversion terms and had their original complaint filed as a petition in juvenile court (unsuccessful diversion). (See Table 3.10 for a summary of the diversion profile and Figure 3.22 for a summary of the recidivism rates.) For recidivism, juveniles were tracked during two periods – during juvenile justice involvement and during a fixed two-year follow-up period.

A higher percentage of diverted juveniles (59%) had a diversion contract (more formal) compared to juveniles with a diversion plan (less formal). A similar percentage of juveniles with a diversion contract or plan successfully completed their diversion terms (85% and 87% respectively). Recidivism rates were the same for juveniles with a diversion contract and juveniles with a diversion plan (28% each).

**Table 3.10**  
**Profile of Diverted Juveniles**

Diversion Profile	Successful n=2,782	Unsuccessful n=459	Diverted Juveniles N=3,241
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>			
Male	68%	69%	68%
White	45%	37%	44%
13-15 Years Old at JJ Exit	46%	60%	47%
Avg. Age at JJ Exit	15	15	15
<b>Prior Complaint</b>	16%	22%	17%
<b>Diversion Contract</b>	59%	61%	59%
<b>Charged Offense</b>			
Misdemeanor	90%	90%	90%
Person	45%	40%	44%
School-Based	59%	54%	59%
<b>Risk Level</b>			
Low	73%	46%	69%
Moderate	24%	44%	27%
High	3%	10%	4%
<b>Prescreen Strengths Level</b>			
High	49%	22%	45%
Moderate	40%	50%	41%
Low	11%	28%	14%
<b>Avg. Length of JJ Involvement</b>	4 months	3 months	4 months
<b>JCPC Program Participation</b>	41%	17%	37%

Note: Of the 1,424 person offenses, 90% were misdemeanor offenses.

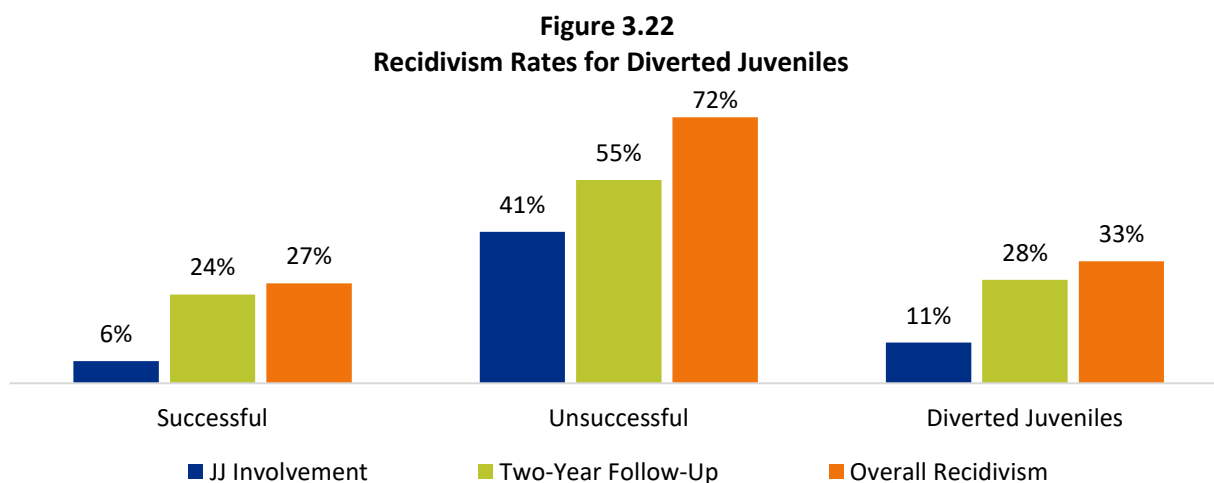
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Across the geographic areas of the state, 38% of the diverted juveniles were in the Piedmont area. The successful group varied by geographic area; the Eastern area had the highest percentage of the successful group (87%), while the Central area had the highest percentage with unsuccessful diversion (16%). Overall and by group, diverted juveniles in the Western area had the lowest recidivism rates.

Over two-thirds (68%) of diverted juveniles were male. The successful group had a higher percentage of White juveniles compared to the unsuccessful group. The greatest percentage of juveniles were between 13-15 years old, with the highest percentage in the unsuccessful diversion group. Average age at exit from juvenile justice was 15 years old. Ninety percent (90%) of juveniles in each group had a misdemeanor as their most serious charged offense. Recidivism rates for the unsuccessful group were higher across all characteristics examined.

Most (69%) diverted juveniles were assessed as low risk but with some variation between groups (73% for the successful group and 46% for the unsuccessful group). Less than half of diverted juveniles were assessed with high strengths (45%); the unsuccessful group had the highest percentage assessed with low strengths (22%) compared to the successful group (11%). An incremental increase in recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up was found by risk level (from lowest to highest) and strengths level (from highest to lowest). Juveniles with high strengths had lower recidivism rates overall and by group.

As shown in Figure 3.22, the unsuccessful group had much higher recidivism rates during the follow-up periods examined – 41% with recidivism during juvenile justice involvement and 55% with recidivism during the two-year follow-up period. The higher recidivism rates for the unsuccessful group during both time periods examined are not unexpected due to their higher levels of risk.



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

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## CHAPTER FOUR

### ADJUDICATED JUVENILES

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In accordance with the Sentencing Commission’s legislative mandate to study adjudicated juveniles, this chapter focuses on 2,207 juveniles adjudicated delinquent (hereinafter referred to as adjudicated juveniles) by their disposition levels.<sup>45</sup> The adjudicated juveniles were comprised of 2,064 juveniles who exited supervised probation and 143 juveniles who exited a YDC in FY 2022 (see Table 4.1). Juveniles who exited probation had supervised probation imposed as part of their Level 1 (community) or Level 2 (intermediate) disposition. Juveniles who exited a YDC in FY 2022 had a Level 3 (YDC commitment) disposition imposed resulting from a new crime, a probation violation, or a PRS revocation. While these three groups will be compared throughout this chapter, it should be noted that some results should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of juveniles in the Level 3 group.

**Table 4.1**  
**Adjudicated Juveniles**

Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,207	94% Levels 1 and 2 Probation (n=2,064)	60% Level 1 Probation (n=1,324)
		34% Level 2 Probation (n=740)
	6% Level 3 Commitment (n=143)	

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## STATISTICAL PROFILE

As discussed in Chapter One, a Level 1 or community disposition offers the court less restrictive dispositional alternatives such as probation, community-based programs, nonresidential and residential treatment programs, community service (up to 100 hours), restitution (up to \$500), and sanctions that place specific limitations on a juvenile (e.g., curfew, no association with specified persons, not be in specified places). A Level 2 or intermediate disposition is generally more restrictive than a Level 1 disposition. Level 2 dispositional alternatives include options such as intensive probation, group home placements (e.g., multipurpose group homes), regimented training programs, and house arrest. The court can also utilize any Level 1 dispositional option for a juvenile adjudicated at Level 2. Several Level 2 options that offer a more restrictive environment for adjudicated juveniles are available for Level 1 dispositions as well (see Chapter One for further details).

While there are five types of supervision statutorily authorized for juveniles who come to the attention of the juvenile justice system,<sup>46</sup> this report focuses on one type: probation imposed as a dispositional option for juveniles adjudicated delinquent (i.e., probation group). Juveniles are ordered by the court to be placed on probation for a period not to exceed one year from the date entered. The court may extend probation for an additional period of one year after notice and a hearing.<sup>47</sup> The juveniles placed

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<sup>45</sup> See Chapter One for a description of the juvenile justice process and Appendix D for detailed definitions of recidivism and other key terms.

<sup>46</sup> The five types of supervision are (1) dispositional alternatives for undisciplined juveniles (G.S. 7B-2503), (2) conditions of protective supervision for undisciplined juveniles (G.S. 7B-2504), (3) dispositional alternatives for delinquent juveniles (G.S. 7B-2506), (4) commitment of delinquent juveniles to Department (G.S. 7B-2513(j)), and (5) post-release supervision (G.S. 7B-2514).

<sup>47</sup> G.S. 7B-2510(c).

on probation were supervised under the policies and procedures in effect during FY 2022. Once a juvenile is placed on probation, the role of the court counselor is to ensure the juvenile's compliance with the court's recommendations and sanctions and, equally important, to address the juvenile's needs – while protecting the public's safety. A juvenile is placed on one of four levels of supervision: Low, Standard, Enhanced, or High/Intensive.<sup>48</sup> The levels of supervision primarily indicate the frequency of contact with a court counselor that a juvenile's individual circumstances warrant, with Low being the lowest level and High/Intensive being the highest. While this report focuses on court-ordered probation as a dispositional alternative, the juvenile court judge usually orders other alternatives in addition to probation.

A Level 3 or YDC commitment is the most restrictive disposition available to the judge. Juveniles placed in a YDC are primarily those who have been adjudicated delinquent for a Violent or Serious offense or those with higher delinquency history levels. Juveniles can also be committed to a YDC following a probation violation or PRS violation. Juveniles with a Level 3 disposition are committed for a minimum of 6 months and receive 3 months of PRS following release. The length of stay beyond the initial 6 months is determined by the DJJDP based on the needs of the juvenile while committed. For the FY 2022 sample, juveniles must be at least 10 years old in order to be placed in a YDC and can remain in a YDC until they are 18 years old, and in some cases until the age of 21.

All juveniles in a YDC receive core treatment and programming services to develop an individualized service plan for each youth to identify goals, the means to achieve them, and the ways to measure progress toward goal attainment. These include treatment programming and various services (i.e., education, nutrition, health, mental health, substance use, chaplaincy, and recreation). These services are based on a cognitive-behavioral treatment approach, using strength-based rewards and consequences – rather than punishment and sanctions – to address the juvenile's behavior. Information was unavailable about the juvenile's core treatment and programming services received while confined in a YDC for the sample studied.

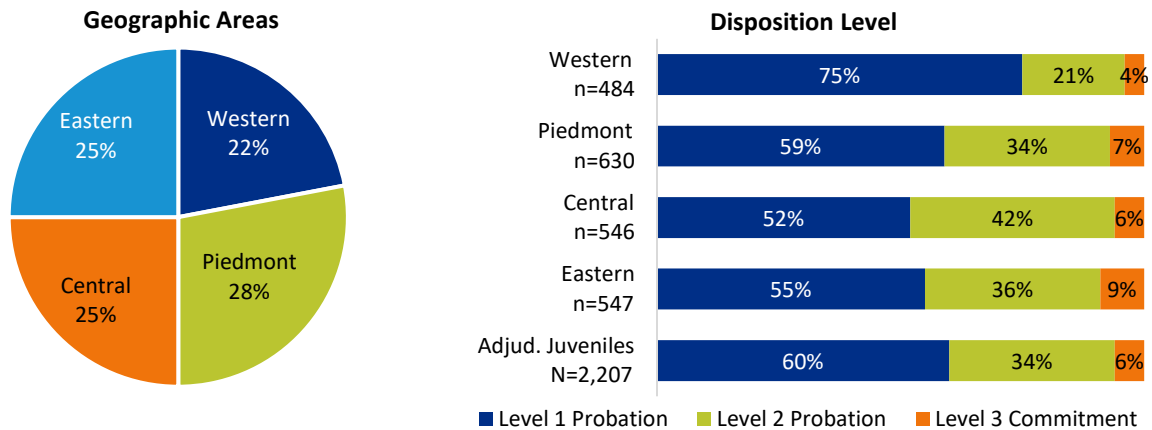
## Geographic Areas

Figure 4.1 examines the distribution of the FY 2022 sample by the four geographic areas of the state – Western, Piedmont, Central, and Eastern. The highest percentage of adjudicated juveniles were in the Piedmont area (28%); the lowest percentage were in the Western area (22%). The Western area had the highest percentage of juveniles in the Level 1 probation group (75%) compared to the other three areas (59% for Piedmont, 55% for Eastern, and 52% for Central). The Western area had the lowest percentage of juveniles with Level 3 commitments (4%). The Central area had the highest percentage of juveniles with a Level 2 probation (42%).

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<sup>48</sup> See Appendix F for the Court Services Case Management Standards Chart.

**Figure 4.1**  
**Geographic Areas**

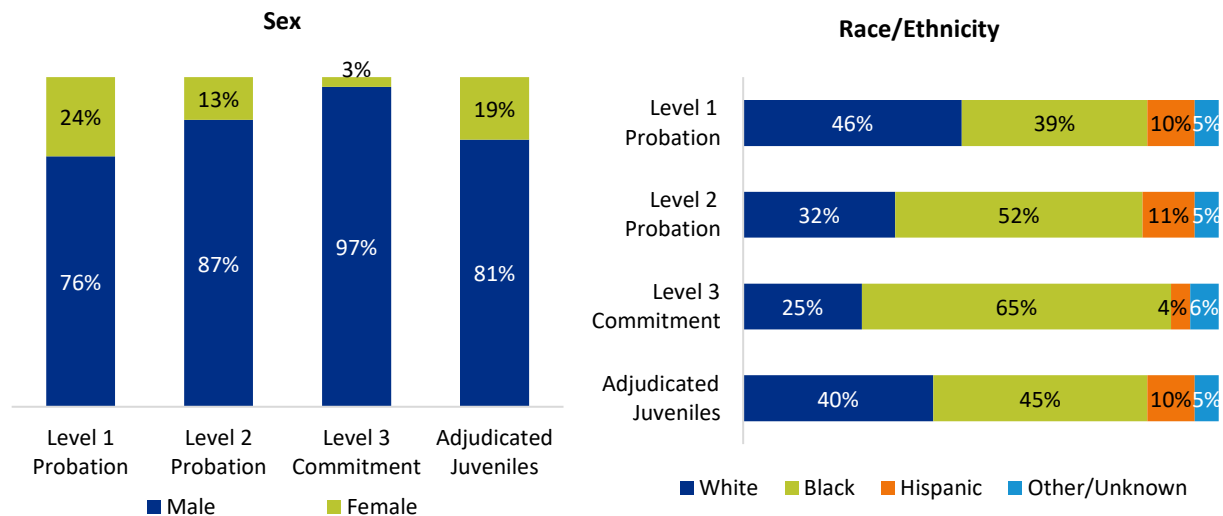


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Personal Characteristics

Figure 4.2 and Table 4.2 examine the personal characteristics for each of the three disposition levels. There were more males than females in each of the disposition levels; the percentage of males also increased as the seriousness of the disposition increased. Forty-five percent (45%) of juveniles were Black. The percentage of Black juveniles increased as the seriousness of the disposition increased.

**Figure 4.2**  
**Sex and Race/Ethnicity**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 4.2 provides the distribution of age at offense and juvenile justice exit by categories. Fifty-three percent (53%) of juveniles were 13-15 years at the time of offense, while 39% of juveniles were 16-17 years. The lowest percentage of juveniles (8%) were 12 years and younger. There were similar findings by disposition level. Juveniles with a Level 1 probation were younger than the other two groups, while juveniles in the Level 3 commitment group were the oldest.

**Table 4.2**  
**Age**

	<b>Level 1 Probation</b> n=1,324 %	<b>Level 2 Probation</b> n=740 %	<b>Level 3 Commitment</b> n=143 %	<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b> N=2,207 %
<b>Age at Offense</b>				
12 Years and Younger	10	6	6	8
13-15 Years	54	51	55	53
16-17 Years	36	43	39	39
<i>Average Age</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>Age at JJ Exit</b>				
12 Years and Younger	2	<1	0	2
13-15 Years	30	16	10	24
16 Years and Older	68	84	90	74
<i>Average Age</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>16</i>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts

It is important to examine whether juveniles had contact with the juvenile justice system prior to their probation entry or YDC commitment to gain an understanding of frequency of interaction with the system. As discussed in Chapter Two, juveniles in the probation and YDC groups had more contacts with the juvenile justice system than juveniles in the diversion group. When examined by disposition level, juveniles with a Level 1 disposition had the lowest percentage with prior contacts compared to juveniles with a Level 2 probation disposition or Level 3 commitment (see Figure 4.3).

**Figure 4.3**  
**Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts**

<b>Level 1 Probation</b>	<b>Level 2 Probation</b>	<b>Level 3 Commitment</b>	<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•48% prior complaint</li> <li>•8% prior adjudication</li> <li>•14% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•76% prior complaint</li> <li>•45% prior adjudication</li> <li>•51% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•97% prior complaint</li> <li>•80% prior adjudication</li> <li>•97% prior confinement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•61% prior complaint</li> <li>•25% prior adjudication</li> <li>•32% prior confinement</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Forty-six percent (46%) of the 1,337 juveniles with a prior complaint had a felony offense as their most serious prior complaint. Juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had a higher percentage of felony offenses (79%) as their most serious prior complaint compared to those with a Level 1 or Level 2 probation (28% and 58% respectively).

### Adjudicated Offense

The court orders sanctions, services, and conditions for juveniles based on the offense classification of their adjudicated offense(s) and their delinquency history. Table 4.3 examines the relationship of the

offense classification of the most serious *charged* offense compared to the most serious *adjudicated* offense. Ten percent (10%) of juveniles were *charged* with a Violent offense, while 6% were *adjudicated* of a Violent offense. Forty-six percent (46%) of juveniles were *charged* with a Serious offense, while 39% were *adjudicated* of a Serious offense. Finally, 44% of juveniles were *charged* with a Minor offense compared to 55% of juveniles *adjudicated* of a Minor offense. As indicated in the shaded cells, most juveniles were *adjudicated* of an offense within the same offense classification as initially *charged*; for example, over two-thirds (78%) of juveniles *charged* with a Serious offense were *adjudicated* of a Serious offense.

**Table 4.3**  
**Charged Offense by Adjudicated Offense**

Charged Offense Classification	N	Adjudicated Offense Classification			Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,207 %
		Violent n=135 %	Serious n=816 %	Minor n=1,211 %	
<b>Violent</b> Class A-E Felonies	231	58	33	8	10
<b>Serious</b> Class F-I Felonies Class A1 Misdemeanor	1,007	0	78	22	46
<b>Minor</b> Class 1-3 Misdemeanors	969	0	<1	100	44
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: The shaded cells indicate the percentage of juveniles who were charged with and adjudicated of an offense within the same offense classification.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 4.4 compares the most common adjudicated offenses for the three disposition levels. Juveniles who exited probation with a Level 1 disposition had misdemeanors as their top 3 offenses (accounting for 26% of their adjudications), while juveniles with a Level 2 or Level 3 disposition had felonies as their top 3 offenses.



**Figure 4.4**  
**Top 3 Adjudicated Offenses**

<b>Level 1 Probation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•16% Simple Assault (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•6% Misdemeanor Larceny (Minor - Class 1) - Property</li> <li>•4% Injury to real property (Minor - Class 1) - Property</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2 Probation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•6% Felony Breaking and/or Entering (Serious - Class H) - Property</li> <li>•5% Common Law Robbery (Serious - Class G) - Person</li> <li>•5% Break or Enter Motor Vehicle (Serious - Class I) - Property</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 Commitment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•12% Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon (Violent - Class D) - Person</li> <li>•6% Common Law Robbery (Serious - Class G) - Person</li> <li>•6% Break or Enter Motor Vehicle (Serious - Class I) - Property</li> </ul>
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•11% Simple Assault (Minor - Class 2) - Person</li> <li>•5% Misdemeanor Larceny (Minor - Class 1) - Property</li> <li>•3% Felony Breaking and/or Entering (Serious - Class H) - Property</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 4.4 summarizes the offense profile for the three groups. Most juveniles with a Level 1 disposition (86%) had a misdemeanor as their most serious adjudicated offense. Juveniles with a more serious disposition (i.e., Levels 2 and 3) were more frequently adjudicated of a felony offense (67% and 92% respectively). Juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had the highest percentage with a Violent offense (32%). Sixty-seven percent (67%) of juveniles in both the Level 2 probation and Level 3 commitment groups were adjudicated of a Serious offense compared to a much lower percentage of the Level 1 probation group (21%).<sup>49</sup> A higher percentage of juveniles in the Level 1 probation group (24%) had an SBO compared to the other two groups (10% for Level 2 probation and 3% for Level 3 commitment). Of juveniles with an SBO, 83% of Level 1 and 71% of Level 2 groups were referred by an SRO. Juvenile court counselors must conduct a gang assessment on all youth 12 years of age or older at intake as part of their duty to evaluate complaints. Only 6% of adjudicated juveniles were gang involved; juveniles with a Level 3 disposition had a higher percentage of gang involved juveniles (19%) as compared to the Level 1 and Level 2 disposition groups (3% and 9% respectively).

<sup>49</sup> See Chapter One for a discussion of offense classifications in the Juvenile Disposition Chart. Of the 271 Serious offenses for the Level 1 probation group, 84 (or 31%) were Class A1. For the Level 2 probation and Level 3 commitment groups, 17% and 11%, respectively, of the Serious offenses were for Class A1 misdemeanors.

**Table 4.4**  
**Adjudicated Offense**

<b>Adjudicated Offense</b>	<b>Level 1 Probation n=1,324 %</b>	<b>Level 2 Probation n=740 %</b>	<b>Level 3 Commitment n=143 %</b>	<b>Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,207 %</b>
<b>Offense Type</b>				
Felony	14	67	92	37
Misdemeanor	86	33	8	63
<b>Offense Classification</b>				
<b>Violent</b>				
Class A-E Felonies	<1	12	32	6
<b>Serious</b>				
Class F-I Felonies	21	67	67	39
Class A1 Misdemeanor				
<b>Minor</b>				
Class 1-3 Misdemeanors	79	21	1	55
<b>School-Based Offense</b>				
No	76	90	97	82
Yes	24	10	3	18
<b>School Resource Officer</b>				
No	17	29	20	20
Yes	83	71	80	80
<b>Gang Involvement (12 Years and Older)</b>	3	9	19	6

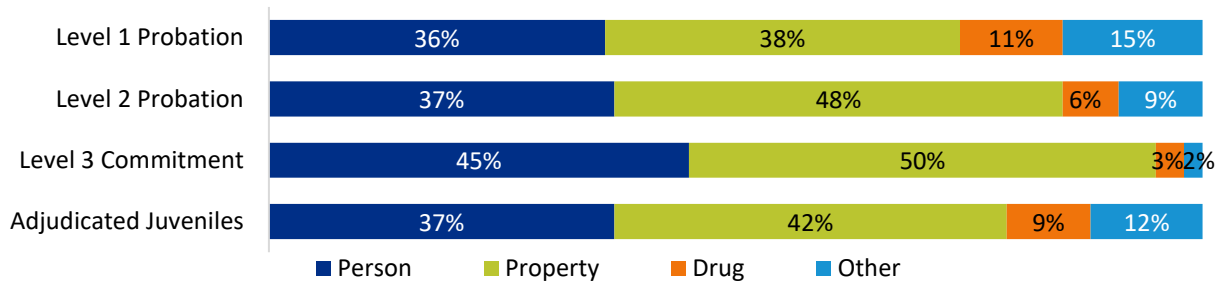
Note: Only 5 juveniles in the Level 3 commitment group had an SBO, with 4 of the 5 SBOs referred by an SRO.

There were 359 juveniles 12 years or older who were missing a gang assessment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Adjudicated offenses were grouped into four offense categories: person, property, drug, and other (see Figure 4.5). Forty-two percent (42%) of adjudicated juveniles had a property offense, followed by person offenses (37%). Only 31% of the 813 person offenses were for a felony offense. Other and drug offenses represented the lowest percentages of offenses (12% and 9% respectively). Juveniles in the Level 3 group had the highest percentage with property and person offenses compared to the other two groups. Juveniles with more serious dispositions had the highest percentages with a property offense compared to juveniles with a less serious disposition. The Level 1 probation group had the highest percentage with other offenses compared to the remaining two groups. Figure 4.6 provides the top 3 offenses for each category.

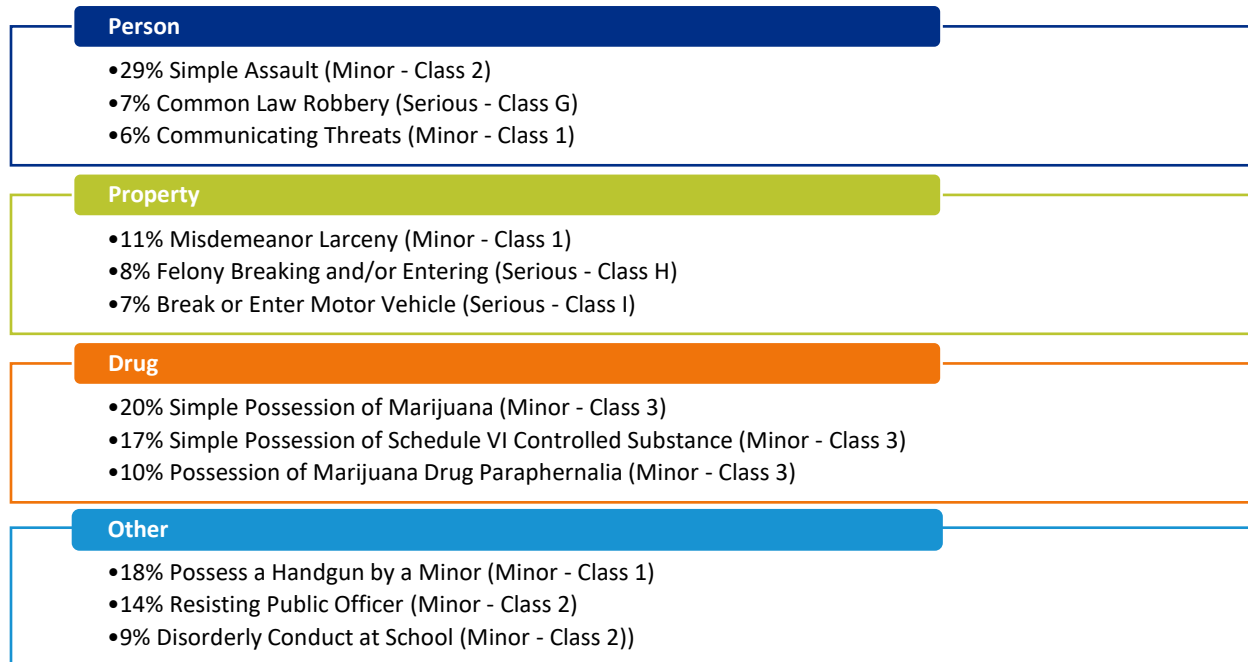
**Figure 4.5**  
**Offense Category of the Adjudicated Offense**



Note: Of the 249 felony person offenses, 37 were for Level 1 probation, 157 for Level 2 probation, and 55 for Level 3 commitment.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

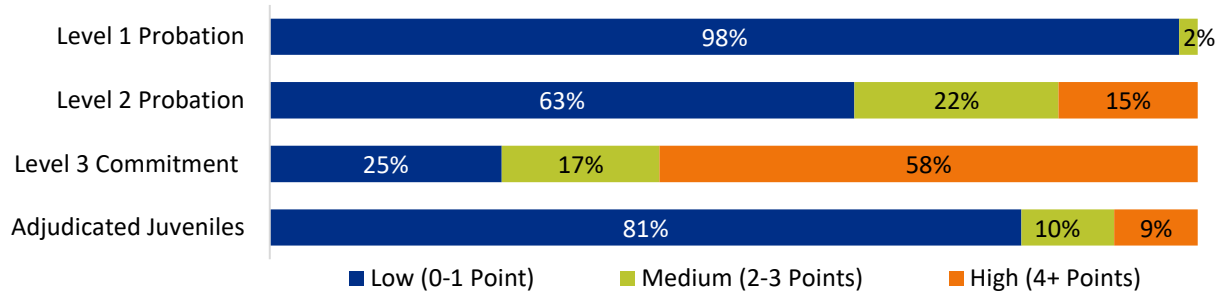
**Figure 4.6**  
**Top 3 Adjudicated Offenses by Offense Category**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Judges use delinquency history to determine the appropriate disposition for the juvenile along with the seriousness of the adjudicated offense. Figure 4.7 shows that a majority of juveniles adjudicated had Low delinquency history (81%); however, that percentage reflects the large number of juveniles with a Level 1 disposition whose delinquency history was almost all Low (98%). Consistent with the juvenile dispositional chart, juveniles with a Level 2 or Level 3 disposition had a higher percentage in the High delinquency history level (15% and 58% respectively) compared to juveniles in the Level 1 group (n=1 or less than 1%).

**Figure 4.7**  
**Delinquency History Level**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Risk Assessment

Based on the YASI (discussed in Chapter One), court counselors administer a full assessment to all juveniles approved for court to assess the risk of future delinquency and to determine the individual needs of the juvenile.<sup>50</sup> Table 4.5 examines the risk, needs, and strengths levels based on the YASI assessment.

Juveniles were placed in one of three levels of risk from low risk to moderate risk to high risk. Forty-four percent (44%) of juveniles were assessed as moderate risk, which was the highest percentage for both Level 1 and Level 2 groups (46% and 44% respectively). A higher percentage of juveniles with a Level 1 disposition (40%) were assessed as low risk compared to the other two groups (21% for Level 2 probation group and 1% for Level 3 commitment group). As expected, juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had the highest percentage assessed as high risk (72%).

Juveniles were placed in one of six levels for assessed needs;<sup>51</sup> however, the six levels were combined to three levels for this report. Almost half (46%) of juveniles were assessed with low needs, while only 15% of juveniles were assessed as high needs. As seen with risk level, the percentage of juveniles with higher needs increased (from low to moderate to high) as the severity of disposition level increased (from Level 1 to Level 2 to Level 3).

Finally, juveniles were assessed to identify any protective factors or strengths that would help with their compliance and success with the case management plan. Juveniles with a full assessment were also placed in one of six levels based on their strengths score; similar to needs, these levels were combined into three for this report. Forty-five percent (45%) of juveniles were assessed with moderate strengths, followed by 38% with high strengths and 17% with low strengths. Juveniles in the Level 1 group had a higher percentage (44%) with high strengths compared to the Level 2 and Level 3 groups (33% and 11% respectively). Juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had the highest percentage (35%) with low strengths compared to the probation group (20% for Level 2 and 13% for Level 1).

<sup>50</sup> YASI assessments were completed within 107 days on average. The risk, needs, and strengths findings in this chapter include juveniles who had a full assessment completed; only 8 juveniles in the probation group did not have a full assessment completed (4 in Level 1 and 4 in Level 2). Of the 2,199 juveniles with a YASI assessment, there were 3 juveniles in the Level 1 probation group that only had a prescreen assessment completed. See Table E.5 in Appendix E for more details about assessment completion and average time to assessment.

<sup>51</sup> See Table F.1 in Appendix F for the six levels of needs and strengths.

**Table 4.5**  
**Risk, Needs, and Strengths Levels by Level of Involvement**

<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Low %</b>	<b>Moderate %</b>	<b>High %</b>
Level 1 Probation	1,320	40	46	14
Level 2 Probation	736	21	44	35
Level 3 Commitment	143	1	27	72
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Needs Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Low %</b>	<b>Moderate %</b>	<b>High %</b>
Level 1 Probation	1,317	52	37	11
Level 2 Probation	736	42	41	17
Level 3 Commitment	143	14	50	36
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Strengths Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>High %</b>	<b>Moderate %</b>	<b>Low %</b>
Level 1 Probation	1,317	44	43	13
Level 2 Probation	736	33	47	20
Level 3 Commitment	143	11	54	35
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>17</b>

Note: In the probation group, there were 8 juveniles missing risk, needs, and strengths levels and an additional 3 juveniles missing needs and strengths levels.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

As mentioned in Chapter One, the YASI levels are based on individual scores by sex. Table 4.6 provides risk, needs, and strengths levels by sex. Generally, a higher percentage of females were assessed as low risk, low needs, and with high strengths compared to their male counterparts.

**Table 4.6**  
**Risk, Needs, and Strengths Levels by Sex**

<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Low %</b>	<b>Moderate %</b>	<b>High %</b>
Male	1,781	27	45	28
Female	418	49	40	11
<b>Needs Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Low %</b>	<b>Moderate %</b>	<b>High %</b>
Male	1,778	41	42	17
Female	418	70	26	4
<b>Strengths Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>High %</b>	<b>Moderate %</b>	<b>Low %</b>
Male	1,778	33	49	18
Female	418	61	28	11

Note: In the probation group, there were 8 juveniles missing risk, needs, and strengths levels and an additional 3 juveniles missing needs and strengths levels.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 4.7 examines the intersection of assess risk with strengths. The highest percentage of juveniles were assessed as moderate risk with moderate strengths (24%) or as low risk with high strengths (23%).

The lowest percentages were juveniles assessed with low risk and low strengths and with high risk and high strengths (each at 1%).

**Table 4.7**  
**Risk and Strengths Levels**

Risk Level	N	Strengths Level			Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,196 %
		High n=836 %	Moderate n=988 %	Low n=372 %	
Low	687	23	8	1	<b>31</b>
Moderate	965	14	24	6	<b>44</b>
High	544	1	13	10	<b>25</b>
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

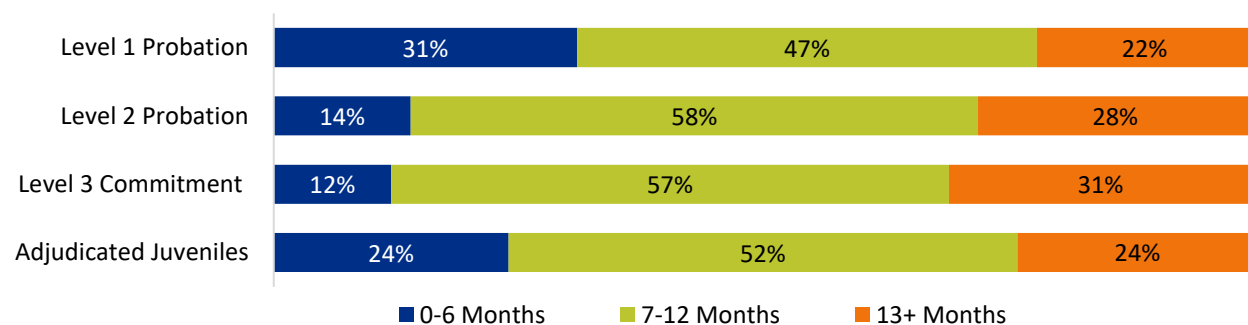
Note: In the probation group, there were 8 juveniles missing risk, needs, and strengths levels and an additional 3 juveniles missing needs and strengths levels.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Juvenile Justice Involvement Profile

This section presents information about adjudicated juveniles and their involvement with the juvenile system – length of involvement for all three groups, probation supervision level and detention admissions for the Level 1 and Level 2 probation groups, and YDC entry and commitment types for the commitment group. On average, juveniles in the Level 1 probation group had the shortest involvement with the juvenile justice system (11 months), similar to the Level 2 probation and Level 3 commitment groups (each at 12 months). A higher percentage of juveniles with a Level 2 probation or a Level 3 commitment spent 13 or more months on probation or in confinement (28% and 31% respectively) compared to Level 1 probation group (22%). (See Figure 4.8.)

**Figure 4.8**  
**Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Probation Supervision

Table 4.8 provides additional information on supervision level at juvenile justice exit and information on detention admissions during juvenile justice involvement. A majority of juveniles on probation (76%) exited probation while on Standard supervision. A somewhat higher percentage of juveniles with a Level

1 disposition exited while on Standard supervision compared to Level 2 (78% and 73% respectively). Conversely, a higher percentage of juveniles with a Level 2 disposition exited probation on Enhanced probation (16%) compared to the Level 1 group (9%).

During juvenile justice involvement, 17% of juveniles had an admission to a detention center (as also shown in Table 4.8). A higher percentage of juveniles with a Level 2 disposition had a detention admission compared to juveniles with a Level 1 disposition. These detention admissions could have been due to a new complaint or failure to appear, among other reasons. However, a portion were due to intermittent confinement – a sanction available for noncompliance with the conditions of probation.<sup>52</sup> A low percentage of juveniles with either a Level 1 or Level 2 disposition had a detention admission due to intermittent confinement (3% and 7% respectively).

**Table 4.8**  
**Level 1 and Level 2 Probation Profile**

	<b>Level 1 Probation</b> n=1,315 %	<b>Level 2 Probation</b> n=736 %	<b>All Probation</b> N=2,051 %
<b>Supervision Level at JJ Exit</b>			
High/Intensive	1	1	1
Enhanced	9	16	11
Standard	78	73	76
Low	12	10	11
<b>Any Detention Admission</b>	13	23	17
Intermittent Confinement	3	7	5

Note: This table excludes 13 juveniles who were supervised out of state for a portion or all of their supervision.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

#### *Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program Participation during Juvenile Justice Involvement*

Table 4.9 shows probation program participation during juvenile justice involvement for the Level 1 and Level 2 probation groups.<sup>53</sup> Fifty-five percent (55%) participated in a JCPC program. A higher percentage (56%) of the Level 1 group participated in a JCPC program compared to juveniles with a Level 2 disposition (52%). Of those juveniles who participated in a JCPC program (n=1,127), 66% participated in one JCPC program, 24% participated in two JCPC programs, and 10% participated in three or more JCPC programs.

While there are over 500 individual JCPC programs across the state, four program categories were analyzed for this study.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>52</sup> As mentioned in Chapter One, a Level 1 disposition may also include intermittent confinement in a detention center for up to five 24-hour periods, while the court can impose confinement on an intermittent basis for up to fourteen 24-hour periods for juveniles with a Level 2 disposition.

<sup>53</sup> The DJJDP also provided services to juveniles through other funding sources separate from JCPC. These state-funded sources were Residential Contractual Services, Community-Based Contractual Services, and Intensive Intervention Services. There were 118 juveniles in the probation group who received services from these other funds: 52 juveniles in the Level 1 group and 66 in the Level 2 group.

<sup>54</sup> Assessments and/or evaluations funded through JCPC funds were excluded from the analysis since they are not considered a program.

- **Clinical** treatment programs offer help to a juvenile and/or the juvenile's family to solve problems through goal-directed planning, such as counseling and home-based family counseling.
- **Residential** programs are services are delivered in a residential setting, such as group home care and specialized or temporary foster care.
- **Restorative** programs seek primarily to address or repair harm caused by an incident or offense by inviting those most impacted by the offense to participate in a process to identify and repair the harm and address unmet needs, such as teen court and mediation/conflict resolution.
- **Structured** programs (including community day programs) offer skill-building activities in a non-residential setting, such as mentoring and vocational skills development.

As shown in Table 4.9, 45% of the probation group participated in restorative programs, followed by structured programs (18%). Very few juveniles were in residential programs (2%).

**Table 4.9**  
**JCPC Program Participation by Categories**

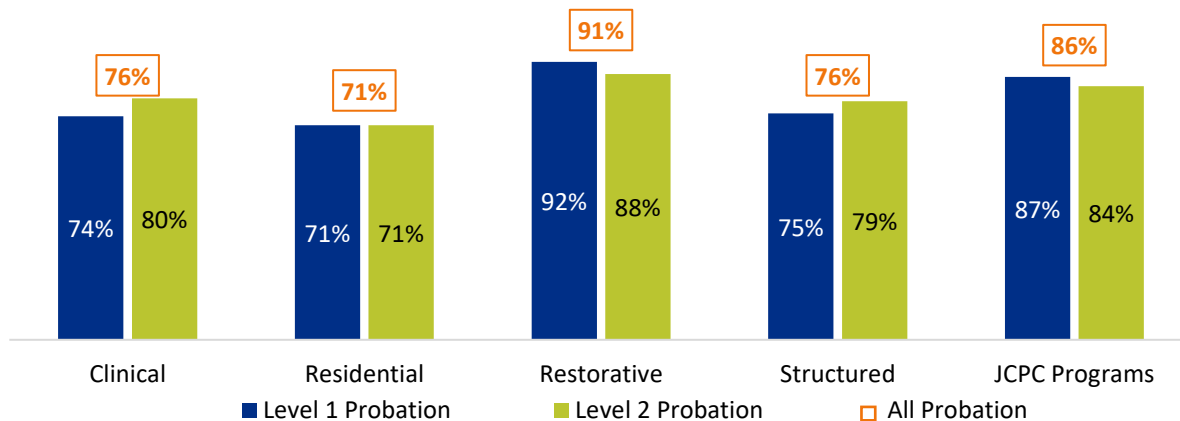
Disposition Level	N	Clinical		Residential		Restorative		Structured		JCPC Programs	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Level 1 Probation	1,324	84	6	21	2	623	47	244	18	744	56
Level 2 Probation	740	64	9	14	2	296	40	131	18	383	52
All Probation	2,064	148	7	35	2	919	45	375	18	1,127	55

Note: Juveniles may have participated in more than one JCPC program category. As a result, the number of juveniles within each JCPC program category cannot be added to equal the total number of JCPC programs.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 4.9 provides JCPC program completion rates. Most JCPC participants completed their program (86%). Juveniles participating in restorative programs had the highest completion rate (91%), while those in residential programs had the lowest completion rate (71%). Juveniles with a Level 2 disposition had a lower completion rate (84%) compared to juveniles with a Level 1 disposition (87%). Completion rates for each JCPC program varied by disposition level.

**Figure 4.9**  
**JCPC Program Participation Completion by Categories**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample



## Youth Development Center Commitment

Descriptive information was also available for the Level 3 commitment group – specifically, the type of YDC entry, the commitment type, and if juveniles were released from a YDC onto PRS. Juveniles may enter a YDC due to adjudication for a new crime, violation of probation, or revocation of PRS. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of juveniles entered a YDC due to a new crime, followed by juveniles who entered due to a violation of probation (26%) and juveniles who entered due to a revocation of PRS (15%). (See Figure 4.10.) Juveniles who entered a YDC due to a new crime spent the longest time in a YDC on average (13 months) compared to those who entered due to a probation violation (11 months) or due to a PRS revocation (9 months). The most common YDC commitment type was a new commitment (77%). Almost all juveniles with a Level 3 commitment (95%) were placed on PRS upon release from a YDC.

**Figure 4.10**  
**Level 3 Commitment Profile**

YDC Entry Type	YDC Commitment Type	Released onto PRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 59% New Crime</li><li>• 26% Probation Violation</li><li>• 15% PRS Revocation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 77% New Commitment</li><li>• 8% Recommitment</li><li>• 15% PRS Revocation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 95% PRS</li><li>• 5% No PRS</li></ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

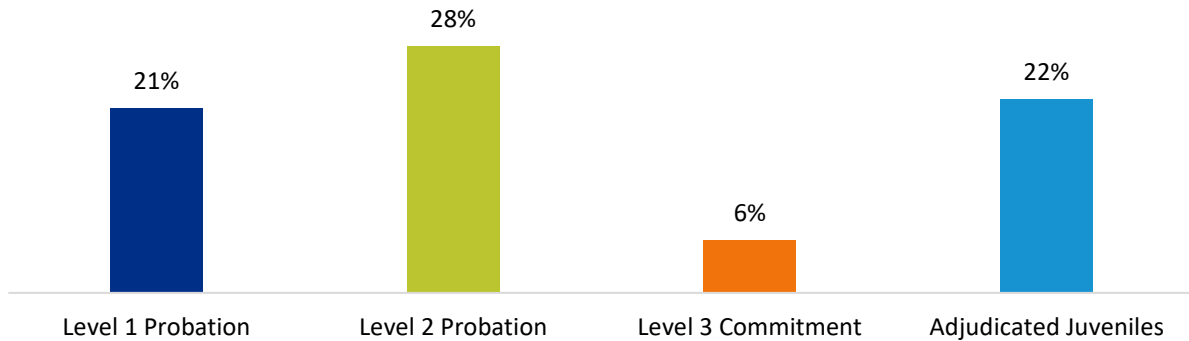
## JUVENILE AND ADULT RECIDIVISM

Subsequent complaints were used as the primary measure for juvenile recidivism, supplemented with information on adjudications that resulted from those recidivist complaints. Arrests were used as the primary measure for adult recidivism, supplemented with information on convictions. A combined measure of subsequent juvenile complaints and/or adult arrests was compiled to indicate any recidivist involvement in either system. Recidivism rates are only reported when there are 25 or more juveniles in a specific category.

### Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement

As discussed in Chapter One, recidivism rates are examined at two points in time – during juvenile justice involvement and during the two-year follow-up. Figure 4.11 and Table 4.10 contain information on recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement. Twenty-two percent (22%) of juveniles had a delinquent complaint and/or an adult arrest during juvenile justice involvement. Juveniles with Level 2 probation had the highest recidivism rate at 28% compared to 21% of juveniles with Level 1 probation. Not surprisingly, juveniles in the commitment group had the lowest recidivism rates at 6% since they were confined in a YDC and had the least opportunity to recidivate.

**Figure 4.11**  
**Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

The 491 juveniles with at least one recidivist event during juvenile justice involvement accounted for 985 subsequent complaints or adult arrests. Among juveniles who recidivated, the first event occurred an average of 4 months after the start of their probation supervision or YDC commitment (see Table 4.10). The Level 1 and Level 2 disposition groups had their first recidivist event at 4 months, while juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had their first recidivist event at 3 months on average. Sixty-two percent (62%) had a felony as their most serious recidivist offense. A lower percentage of the Level 1 probation group had a felony as their most serious recidivist offense (53%) compared to the other two groups (Level 2 probation with 71% and Level 3 commitment with 100%). While the Level 3 commitment group had all felonies for their most serious recidivist offense, there were only nine (9) juveniles who had a subsequent complaint or adult arrest during their confinement in a YDC.

**Table 4.10**  
**Recidivism Rates: Juvenile Justice Involvement**

Disposition Level	N	Recidivism #	Total Recidivist Events #	Most Serious Recidivist Offense		Months to Recidivism Avg.
				Felony %	Misdemeanor %	
Level 1 Probation	1,324	272	532	53	47	4
Level 2 Probation	740	210	442	71	29	4
Level 3 Commitment	143	9	11	100	0	3
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Recidivism during Two-Year Follow-Up

Table 4.11 provides recidivism rates for the one-year and two-year follow-up periods by disposition level. Juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had higher recidivism rates than juveniles with Level 1 or Level 2 probation. Juveniles with a Level 2 disposition had higher recidivism rates than juveniles with a Level 1 disposition during the one-year follow-up (30% and 22% respectively) and the two-year follow-up (41% and 34% respectively).

**Table 4.11**  
**Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up**

Disposition Level	N	Recidivism #	Recidivism		Total Recidivist Events #	Months to Recidivism Avg.
			One-Year Follow-Up %	Two-Year Follow-Up %		
Level 1 Probation	1,324	444	22	34	928	9
Level 2 Probation	740	300	30	41	673	8
Level 3 Commitment	143	79	41	55	220	7
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>8</b>

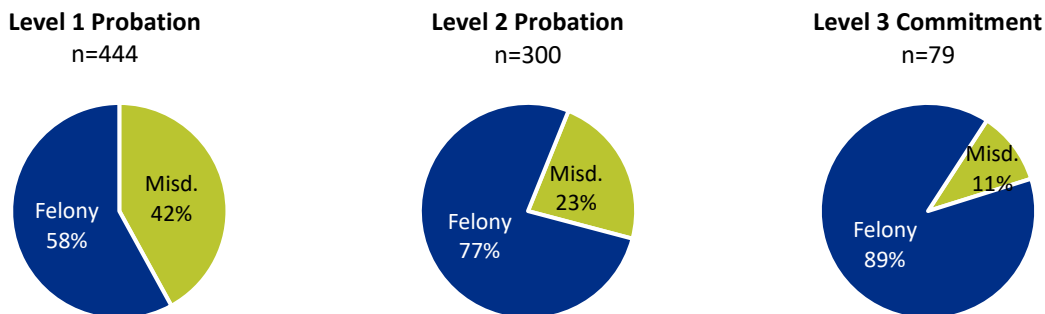
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Information on the total number of recidivist events for those juveniles who had a subsequent juvenile complaint, an adult arrest, or both during the follow-up period is also provided in Table 4.11. The 823 juveniles with at least one subsequent complaint and/or adult arrest accounted for a total of 1,821 recidivist events, an average of 2 recidivist events per juvenile. Although juveniles in the Level 1 probation group had a lower recidivism rate than juveniles in the Level 3 commitment group, they accounted for a higher volume of recidivist events due to their larger sample size. Juveniles with Level 1 or Level 2 probation had an average of 2 recidivist events compared to juveniles with a Level 3 commitment who averaged 3 recidivist events during the two-year follow-up.

For juveniles who had at least one subsequent delinquent complaint and/or arrest, the first recidivist event occurred an average of 8 months after the beginning of the follow-up period. Juveniles in the Level 3 group recidivated 1-2 months earlier at 7 months compared to juveniles in the Level 2 group at 8 months and the Level 1 group at 9 months. Of the 823 juveniles with a recidivist event, 30% recidivated within 3 months, 48% within 6 months, and 74% within 12 months.

Sixty-eight (68%) of adjudicated juveniles had a felony as their most serious recidivist offense. As shown in Figure 4.12, juveniles in the Level 1 group were less likely to have a felony as their most serious recidivist offense (58%) compared to juveniles in the Level 2 and Level 3 groups (77% and 89% respectively).

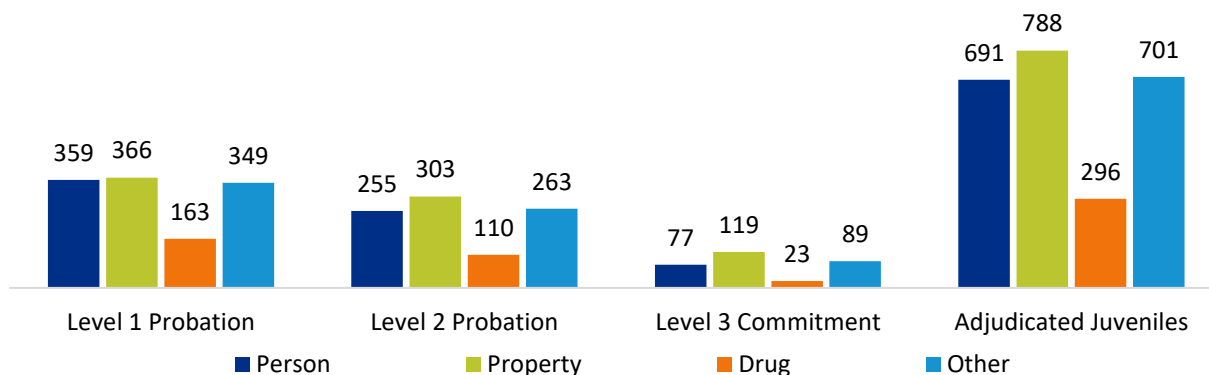
**Figure 4.12**  
**Most Serious Recidivist Event by Offense Type: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Recidivist events were also categorized based on offense category, as shown in Figure 4.13. Property and other offenses comprised the largest volume of recidivist events for adjudicated juveniles, while drug offenses comprised the lowest volume of events.

**Figure 4.13**  
**Number of Recidivist Events by Offense Category: Two-Year Follow-Up**



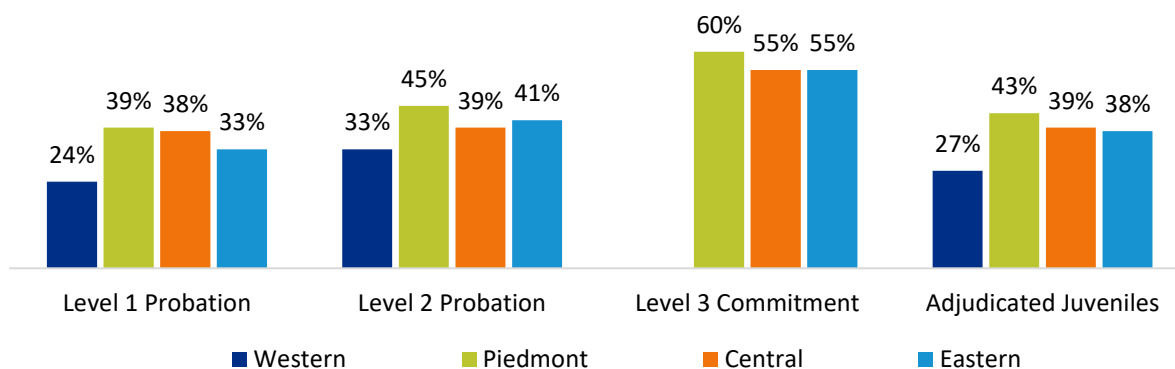
Note: Multiple offense categories may be linked to a recidivist event. As a result, the number of recidivist events by offense category cannot be added to equal the total number of recidivist events.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Geographic Areas and Recidivism

Recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up by geographic areas are shown in Figure 4.14. Juveniles in the Western area had the lowest recidivism rates (27%), while juveniles in the Piedmont area had the highest (43%). The Level 1 probation group in the Western area had the lowest recidivism rates (24%), while their counterparts in the Piedmont and Central areas had the highest recidivism rates (39% and 38% respectively). For the Level 2 probation group, juveniles in the Piedmont area (43%) had higher recidivism rates compared to the other geographic areas. Finally, juveniles in the Level 3 commitment group (63%) in the Piedmont area had the highest recidivism rates as compared to the other geographic areas.

**Figure 4.14**  
**Recidivism Rates by Geographic Areas: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Personal Characteristics and Recidivism

Recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up are examined by personal characteristics in Table 4.12. In general, juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had higher recidivism rates than juveniles with a Level 1 or Level 2 probation disposition for all categories of personal characteristics examined. Similar patterns of recidivism rates by personal characteristics were found across groups. Males had higher recidivism rates compared to females. Black juveniles had the highest recidivism rates compared to the other race/ethnicity categories.

There was little variation in recidivism rates for adjudicated juveniles by age at juvenile justice exit (ranging from 37% to 39%). Comparing the three groups, juveniles who were 16 years and older at exit had lower recidivism rates compared to younger juveniles in the Level 1 probation group, while the recidivism rates were similar for Level 2 probation group (42% for 13-15 years and 40% for 16 years and older).

**Table 4.12**  
**Recidivism Rates by Personal Characteristics: Two-Year Follow-Up**

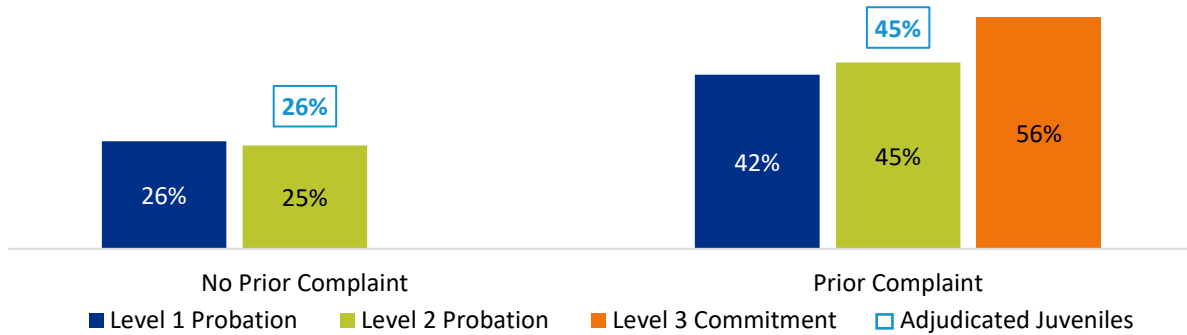
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Level 1 Probation n=1,324 %</b>	<b>Level 2 Probation n=740 %</b>	<b>Level 3 Commitment n=143 %</b>	<b>Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,207 %</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	1,788	36	43	56	40
Female	419	26	27	--	26
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	884	26	23	33	25
Black	997	44	51	62	49
Hispanic	217	25	36	--	30
Other/Unknown	109	40	48	--	45
<b>Age at JJ Exit</b>					
12 Years and Younger	34	39	--	--	38
13-15 Years	533	37	42	--	39
16 Years and Older	1,640	32	40	53	37
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>37</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Prior Complaints and Recidivism

Figure 4.15 examines recidivism rates for juveniles with at least one prior complaint in comparison to juveniles with no prior complaint. Juveniles with a prior complaint had higher recidivism rates than those with no prior complaint (45% and 26% respectively). This pattern held when examining recidivism by disposition level.

**Figure 4.15**  
**Recidivism Rates by Prior Complaints: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Adjudicated Offense, Delinquency History, and Recidivism

In Table 4.13, recidivism rates are examined by the characteristics of the most serious adjudicated offense. For adjudicated juveniles, there was little difference in recidivism rates by offense type and offense classification (ranging from 37% to 38%). Juveniles with Levels 1 and 2 probation who had a misdemeanor offense or a Minor offense had higher recidivism rates compared to juveniles who had a felony offense or a Serious offense.

Juveniles with other and property offenses had the highest recidivism rates compared to the remaining offense categories; that pattern held for juveniles with a Level 1 and Level 2 disposition. Juveniles with an SBO had lower recidivism rates compared to juveniles who did not (34% and 38% respectively). No pattern in recidivism rates was found for juveniles by disposition level who had an SBO compared to those who did not have an SBO. Juveniles who were gang involved had higher recidivism rates compared to the overall rate for the sample (60% and 37% respectively).

**Table 4.13**  
**Recidivism Rates by Adjudicated Offense: Two-Year Follow-Up**

<b>Adjudicated Offense</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Level 1 Probation n=1,324 %</b>	<b>Level 2 Probation n=740 %</b>	<b>Level 3 Commitment n=143 %</b>	<b>Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,207 %</b>
<b>Offense Type</b>					
Felony	816	29	37	57	38
Misdemeanor	1,391	34	47	--	37
<b>Offense Classification</b>					
<b>Violent</b>	135	--	30	54	38
Class A-E Felonies					
<b>Serious</b>	861	29	38	57	37
Class F-I Felonies					
Class A1 Misdemeanor					
<b>Minor</b>	1,211	35	55	--	37
Class 1-3 Misdemeanors					
<b>Offense Category</b>					
Person	813	29	33	52	32
Property	926	37	47	62	42
Drug	192	27	24	--	26
Other	276	42	52	--	44
<b>School-Based Offense</b>					
No	1,810	33	41	55	38
Yes	397	34	32	--	34
<b>School Resource Officer</b>					
No	78	25	--	--	21
Yes	319	36	43	--	37
<b>Gang Involvement</b>	107	60	58	--	60
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>37</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 4.14 provides recidivism rates by the intersection of adjudicated offense classification and delinquency history level.<sup>55</sup> Recidivism rates increased as delinquency history level increased. Recidivism rates were lowest for juveniles adjudicated of a Violent offense who had a low delinquency history level (26%) and highest for juveniles adjudicated of a Minor offense who had a high delinquency history (65%).

<sup>55</sup> See Table F.2 in Appendix F for the number of juveniles at each intersection of adjudicated offense classification and delinquency history level.

**Table 4.14**  
**Recidivism Rates by the Juvenile Disposition Chart: Two-Year Follow-Up**

Adjudicated Offense Classification	N	Delinquency History Level			Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,207 %
		Low n=1,797 %	Medium n=217 %	High n=193 %	
<b>Violent</b>	135	26	--	56	<b>38</b>
<b>Serious</b>	861	31	52	57	<b>37</b>
<b>Minor</b>	1,211	35	46	65	<b>37</b>
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>37</b>

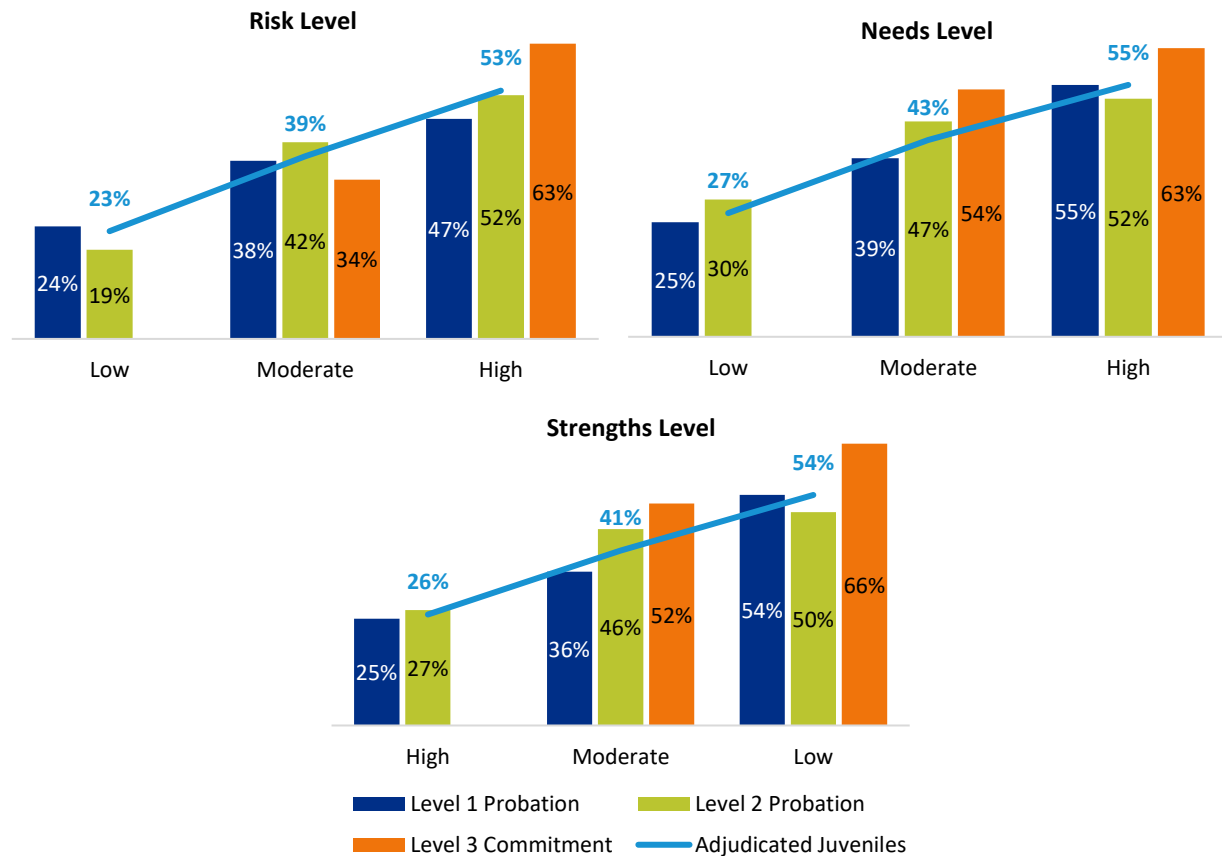
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Risk Assessment and Recidivism

Figure 4.16 explores the relationship between recidivism and risk, needs, and strengths levels. As expected, low risk juveniles had the lowest recidivism rates compared to high risk juveniles, while juveniles assessed as moderate risk had recidivism rates in the middle. The relationship between needs level and recidivism rates was similar with an incremental, stair-step progression of recidivism rates as needs level increased from low to high. Decreasing recidivism rates were found between juveniles with high strengths, moderate strengths, and low strengths. For juveniles assessed as low risk, low needs, and with high strengths, their recidivism rates ranged from 23% to 27%. For juveniles assessed as moderate risk, moderate needs, and with moderate strengths, their recidivism rates ranged from 39% to 43%. For juveniles assessed as high risk, high needs, and with low strengths, their recidivism rates ranged from 53% to 55%.



**Figure 4.16**  
**Recidivism Rates by Risk, Needs, and Strengths Levels: Two-Year Follow-Up**



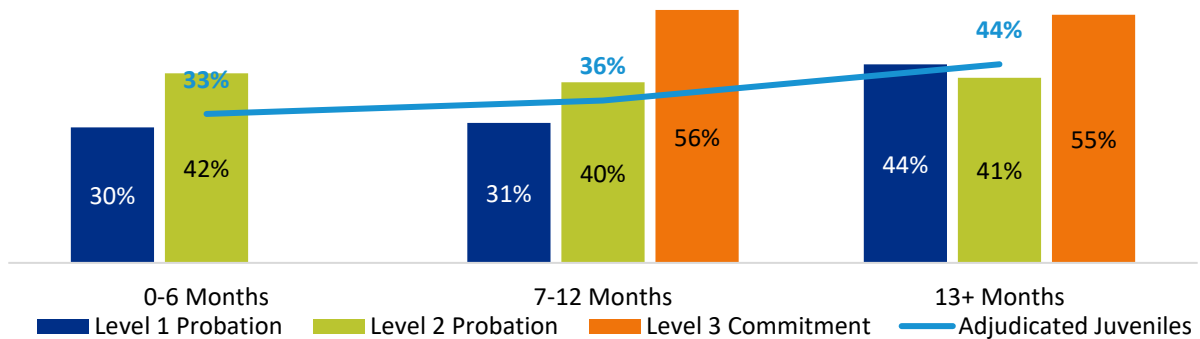
Note: In the probation group, there were 8 juveniles missing risk, needs, and strengths levels and an additional 3 juveniles missing needs and strengths levels.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Juvenile Justice Involvement Profiles and Recidivism

Figure 4.17 provides recidivism rates by length of probation supervision for the Level 1 and Level 2 probation groups and by length of confinement for the Level 3 commitment group. While recidivism increased as length of involvement increased for adjudicated juveniles (33% for 0-6 months to 36% for 7-12 months to 44% for 13 months or more), no clear pattern emerged by disposition level.

**Figure 4.17**  
**Recidivism Rates by Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement: Two-Year Follow-Up**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

#### *Probation Supervision and Recidivism*

Recidivism rates increased as intensity of supervision level increased (see Table 4.15). Juveniles who exited probation on Enhanced supervision had the highest recidivism rates (57%) compared to juveniles who exited probation with Standard or Low supervision. Notably, the Level 2 probation group had higher recidivism rates compared to Level 1 group at all levels of supervision.

Juveniles who had a detention admission during juvenile justice involvement had higher recidivism rates than those who did not have a detention admission. Juveniles in the Level 2 probation group with a detention admission had higher recidivism rates compared to juveniles in the Level 1 group with a detention admission (54% and 50% respectively).

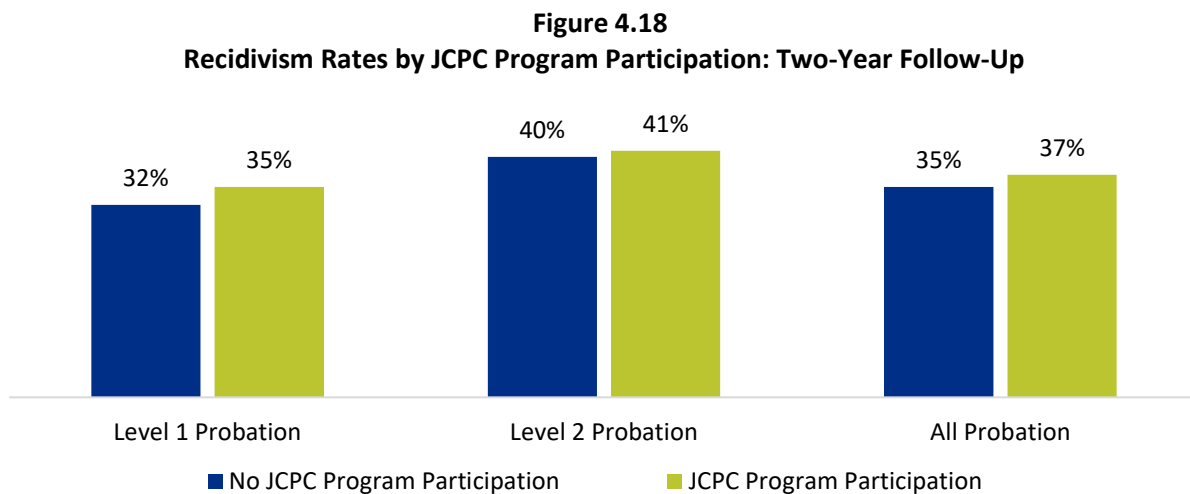
**Table 4.15**  
**Recidivism Rates by Level 1 and Level 2 Probation Profile: Two-Year Follow-Up**

	N	Level 1 Probation n=1,315	Level 2 Probation n=736	All Probation N=2,051
<b>Supervision Level at JJ Exit</b>		%	%	%
High/Intensive	22	--	--	--
Enhanced	232	56	58	57
Standard	1,565	33	37	34
Low	232	24	38	28
<b>Any Detention Admission</b>				
No	1,598	31	37	33
Yes	323	50	54	52
<b>All Probation</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>

Note: Findings exclude 13 juveniles who were supervised out of state for all or a portion of their court-ordered supervision. For detention admissions, there were 130 juveniles who turned 18 years and were excluded.

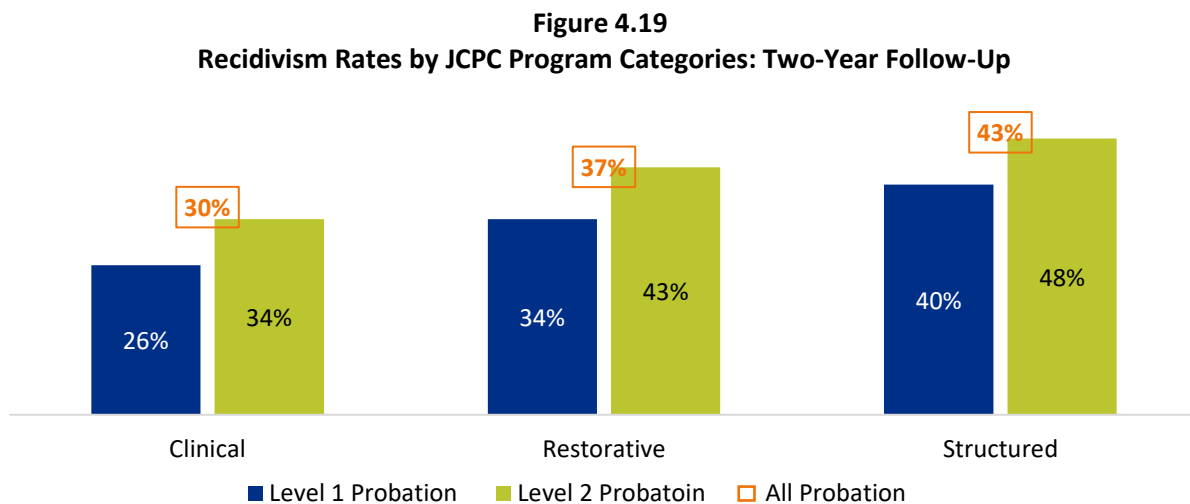
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 4.18 examines recidivism rates for juveniles with a Level 1 or Level 2 probation disposition who participated in at least one JCPC program during juvenile justice involvement in comparison to juveniles with no JCPC program participation.<sup>56</sup> There were few differences overall and between the two probation groups.



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 4.19 examines recidivism by JCPC program categories. Juveniles with a Level 2 disposition had higher recidivism rates for three of the program categories compared to juveniles with a Level 1 disposition.



Note: Thirty-five (35) juveniles who participated in residential programs were excluded from the figure since there were too few to report recidivism rates by disposition level; the recidivism rate for the 35 juveniles was 40%.

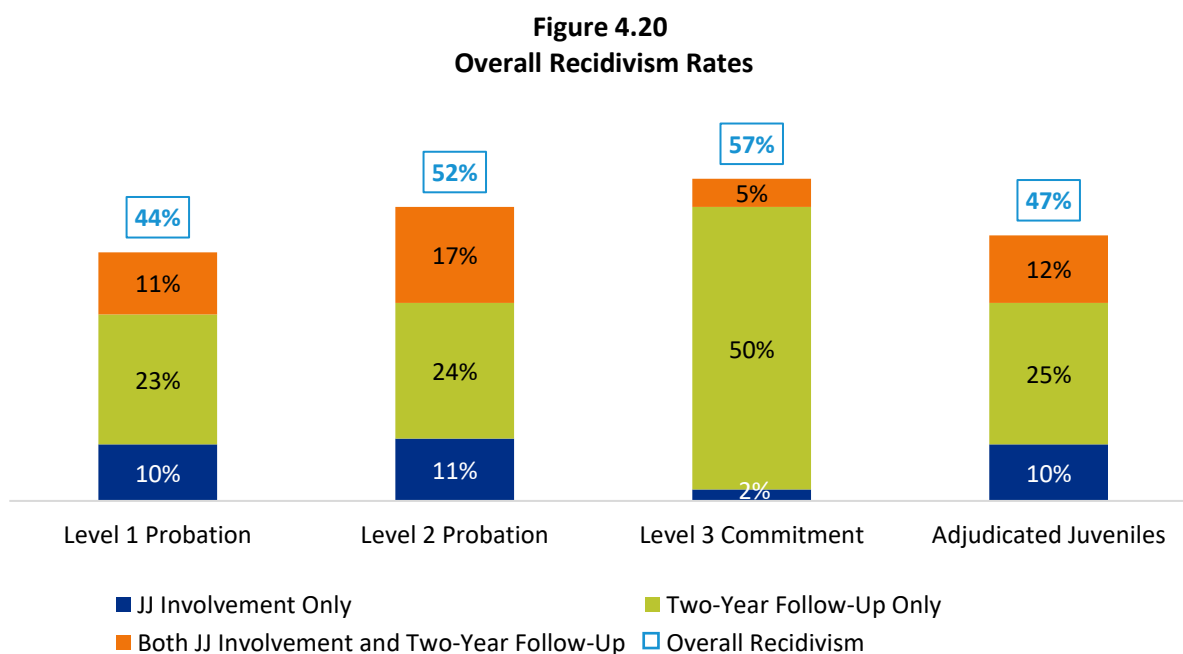
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

<sup>56</sup> Of the 118 juveniles who participated in a juvenile justice program funded through funds other than JCPC, 40% had a recidivist event during the two-year follow-up, 35% of the Level 1 probation group and 44% of the Level 2 probation group.

Juveniles with a Level 3 commitment who entered a YDC following adjudication for a new crime had similar recidivism rates compared to juveniles who entered a following a violation of their probation (52% and 53% respectively). Juveniles who entered a YDC due to PRS revocation had too few to examine recidivism.

### Overall Recidivism during Juvenile Justice Involvement and Two-Year Follow-Up

Figure 4.20 combines the recidivism rates during the time periods discussed in Tables 4.10 and 4.11 to examine when recidivist activity occurred – during juvenile justice involvement only, the two-year follow-up only, or during both time periods. Forty-seven percent (47%) of adjudicated juveniles recidivated during the two-year follow-up, accounting for 25% of the overall recidivism rate. Nearly equal percentages of juveniles recidivated either during juvenile justice involvement only or during both time periods (10% and 12% respectively). Juveniles in the Level 3 commitment group recidivated primarily during the two-year follow-up (50% of the 57% overall recidivism rate for the committed juveniles). Juveniles in the Level 1 and 2 probation groups had higher recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up compared to during juvenile justice involvement only and in both time periods. For the Level 1 and Level 2 groups, the differences between the time periods were not as pronounced compared to juveniles in the Level 3 commitment group.



Note: Overall recidivism rates were computed by adding together the rates for juveniles with recidivism during juvenile justice involvement only, during two-year follow-up only, and during both time periods.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## SUMMARY

Chapter Four examined adjudicated juveniles (N=2,207) who exited the juvenile justice system in FY 2022 with a Level 1 (n=1,324) or Level 2 (n=740) probation disposition or a Level 3 commitment to a YDC

(n=143) and compared the three groups. A statistical profile was provided and included personal characteristics and prior, current, and recidivist contacts with the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. (See Table 4.16 for a summary of the sample profile and Figure 4.21 for a summary of the recidivism rates.) Two points of time were examined for recidivism – during juvenile justice involvement and during the two-year follow-up period, as well as an overall recidivism rate.

**Table 4.16**  
**Profile Summary of Adjudicated Juveniles**

Adjudicated Juveniles Profile	Level 1 Probation n=1,324	Level 2 Probation n=740	Level 3 Commitment n=143	Adjudicated Juveniles N=2,207
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>				
Male	76%	87%	97%	81%
Black	39%	52%	65%	45%
16 Years and Older at JJ Exit	68%	84%	90%	74%
Avg. Age at JJ Exit	16 Years	17 Years	17 Years	16 Years
<b>Prior Complaint</b>	48%	76%	97%	61%
<b>Adjudicated Offense</b>				
Misdemeanor	86%	33%	8%	63%
Property	38%	48%	50%	42%
Gang Involved (12+ Years)	3%	9%	19%	6%
<b>Risk Level</b>				
Low	40%	21%	1%	31%
Moderate	46%	44%	27%	44%
High	14%	35%	72%	25%
<b>Needs Level</b>				
Low	52%	42%	14%	46%
Moderate	37%	41%	50%	39%
High	11%	17%	36%	15%
<b>Strengths Level</b>				
High	44%	33%	11%	38%
Moderate	43%	47%	54%	45%
Low	13%	20%	35%	17%
<b>JJ Involvement Profile</b>				
Avg. Length of JJ Involvement	11 Months	12 Months	12 Months	11 Months
Standard Supervision Level	78%	73%	n/a	76%
JCPC Program Participation	56%	52%	n/a	55%
YDC Entry: New Crime	n/a	n/a	59%	n/a

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Across the geographic areas of the state, 28% of the adjudicated juveniles were in the Piedmont area. When examined by disposition level, juveniles in the Level 1 probation group had the highest percentage in the Western area (75%), the Central area had the highest percentage in the Level 2 probation group (42%), and the Eastern area had the highest percentage in the commitment group (9%).

Adjudicated juveniles from the Piedmont area had the highest recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up, while juveniles from the Western area had the lowest.

As disposition level increased (i.e., from Level 1 probation to Level 2 probation to Level 3 commitment), the percentage of males and older juveniles increased. Males had higher recidivism rates than females during the two-year follow-up, while there was little variation in recidivism rates for adjudicated juveniles by age at juvenile justice exit.

Three measures were used to examine prior contacts with the juvenile justice system – prior complaints, adjudications, and confinement. As the seriousness of the disposition level increased, prior contact with the juvenile justice system for all measures also increased. Juveniles with prior contacts with the juvenile justice system also had higher recidivism rates for all three groups during the two-year follow-up.

Nearly two-thirds of adjudicated juveniles (63%) had a misdemeanor as their most serious adjudicated offense; however, most of the Level 3 commitment group had a felony as their most serious adjudicated offense (92%). The Level 2 probation and Level 3 commitment groups had higher percentages adjudicated with a Violent offense than the Level 1 probation group. Juveniles in the Level 2 probation and Level 3 commitment groups had a higher percentage of property offenses than juveniles with a Level 1 probation disposition. There was little difference in recidivism rates by offense type and offense classification (ranging from 37% to 38%).

Comparing the risk and strengths levels by disposition level, higher percentages of juveniles who exited from a YDC were assessed as high risk with moderate needs and strengths, while higher percentages of juveniles with a Level 2 disposition were assessed as moderate risk with low/moderate needs and moderate strengths. Finally, higher percentages of juveniles with a Level 1 disposition were assessed as low risk with low needs and high strengths compared to the other two groups. An incremental increase in recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up was found by risk level, needs level, and strengths level (from lowest to highest) for all three groups. Juveniles with high strengths had lower recidivism rates for all levels of risk.

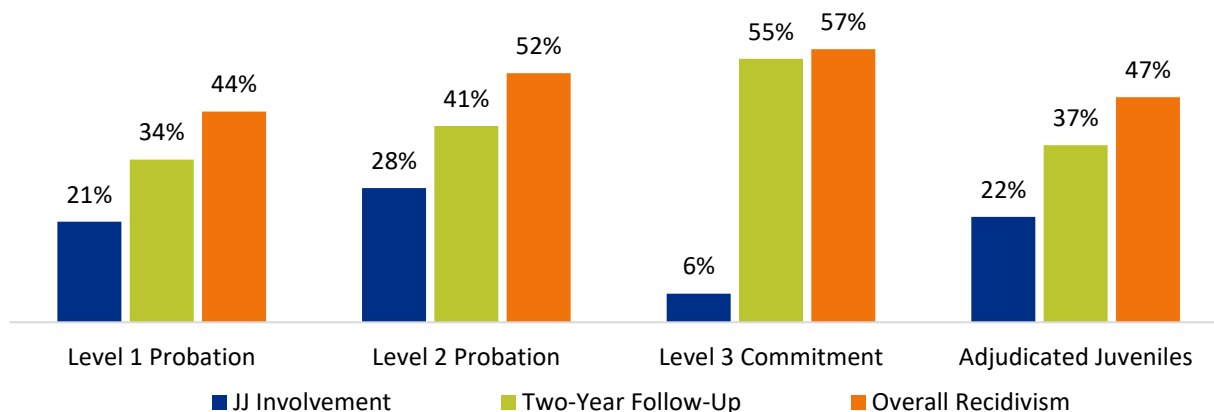
For the probation group, over three-fourths (76%) were supervised under Standard supervision. Only 22 juveniles exited supervision under High/Intensive supervision (highest level). Examination of recidivism rates by supervision level that juveniles under Enhanced supervision had the highest recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up compared to the other three levels of supervision – Standard and Low (lowest level).

Over half (55%) of the Level 1 and Level 2 probation groups participated in a JCPC program – a higher percentage of the Level 1 group participated in a program compared to the Level 2 group. There were few differences in the recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up overall and between the disposition levels for juveniles who participated in a JCPC program and those juveniles who did not participate.

A majority of Level 3 commitment juveniles (77%) entered a YDC as a first commitment. Fifty-nine percent (59%) entered a YDC due to a new crime, 26% entered due to a violation of probation, and the remainder (15%) entered due to a revocation of PRS. There was little difference in recidivism rates by YDC entry type (52% for new crime and 53% for probation violation).

Figure 4.21 summarizes recidivism rates during both follow-up periods and provides a measure of overall recidivism. Juveniles with Level 2 probation had higher recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement (i.e., probation supervision), while committed juveniles had the lowest recidivism rates due to their confinement in a YDC during that time period. Recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up period and overall recidivism rates increased as the seriousness of the disposition increased. Generally, the Level 3 commitment group had the highest recidivism rates, followed by the Level 2 probation group; the Level 1 probation group had the lowest recidivism rates.

**Figure 4.21**  
**Recidivism Rates for Adjudicated Juveniles**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

A limitation in the examination of adjudicated juveniles by disposition level is the lack of data to fully examine supervision and YDC confinement periods. For juveniles placed on supervised probation, the types of violations and responses to those violations and the reason(s) the juvenile exited probation (e.g., successful completion, aged out, violation of probation) would be informative in understanding the findings further. Information about core treatment and programming services received while confined in a YDC would contribute to a more complete understanding of recidivism rates for committed juveniles.

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## CHAPTER FIVE: MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

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Throughout this report, recidivism (e.g., delinquent complaint and/or adult arrest) is described in association with various single factors (e.g., prior juvenile justice contacts, risk level, offense type). These bivariate relationships were examined in Chapter Two for the sample by diversion, probation, and commitment, in Chapter Three for diverted juveniles by successful and unsuccessful diversion, and in Chapter Four for adjudicated juveniles by disposition level. Chapter Five incorporates the information from those chapters and considers how multiple factors, taken together, affect the probability of recidivism using multivariate analysis.<sup>57</sup>

Multivariate analysis is a statistical tool used to estimate the relationship between a set of independent variables (e.g., sex, race/ethnicity, age) and a dependent variable (i.e., recidivism), while also quantifying the singular contribution of each of the variables in the model.<sup>58</sup> For example, this type of analysis allows for a determination of whether level of involvement (i.e., diversion, probation, commitment) has any statistically significant relationship with a juvenile's probability of recidivism, controlling for other factors such as age, sex, race/ethnicity, or offense type. The reported effects provide information about the strength of the relationship (how strongly the factor affects the probability of recidivism), as well as the direction of the relationship (whether the factor increases or decreases the probability of recidivism). *Note that, although these analyses may reveal that a relationship exists, it does not necessarily mean that an independent variable is the cause of the particular outcome. Rather, it indicates a statistical association, which may or may not be due to a causal relationship.*

Using logistic regression, multiple models assess the relationship between independent variables and the probability of recidivism.<sup>59</sup> The probability of recidivism is examined for all juveniles using variables found in Chapter Two. The probability of recidivism by diversion outcome (e.g., successful diversion, unsuccessful diversion) is examined for the diverted juveniles, while the probability of recidivism is examined for adjudicated juveniles by disposition level (e.g., Level 1 Community, Level 2 Intermediate, Level 3 Commitment). Additionally, variables unique to diverted juveniles (found in Chapter Three) and adjudicated juveniles (found in Chapter Four) are used to model the probability of these recidivism measures.

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<sup>57</sup> See Appendix D for detailed definitions of recidivism and other key terms.

<sup>58</sup> Given that a relationship between *all* variables is modeled in multivariate analysis, findings in this chapter may differ slightly from the bivariate findings summarized previously in the report.

<sup>59</sup> Logistic regression is a type of multivariate analysis that estimates the logit (i.e., the logarithm of the odds) of an outcome occurring. This analysis is most appropriate for regression models with a dichotomous dependent variable, such as whether recidivism occurred.



# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ANALYSIS VARIABLES

## Dependent Variables

The logistic regression analyses in this chapter model one dependent variable which is a combined measure of subsequent juvenile complaints and/or adult arrests during the two-year follow-up period.

## Independent Variables

As shown in Table 5.1, independent variables were included based on the sample (i.e., diverted juveniles or adjudicated juveniles) being modeled. Independent variables in each of the models include a juvenile's personal characteristics, risk level, prior juvenile justice contacts, offense type, and recidivism during juvenile justice involvement. Models for diverted juveniles highlight information about their diversion, while models for adjudicated juveniles provide information regarding their adjudication.

**Table 5.1**  
**Independent Variables**

All Juveniles	
Personal Characteristics	Risk Level
Male	Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts
Nonwhite	Prior Complaint
Age at JJ Exit	Prior Confinement
Charged Offense	Prior Adjudication
Offense Type – Felony	Level of Involvement
School-Based Offense	Recidivism during JJI
Diverted Juveniles	Adjudicated Juveniles
Diversion Profile	Adjudicated Offense
Diversion Type – Contract	Adjudicated Profile
Diversion Outcome – Approved for Court (Unsuccessful)	Delinquency History Level
JCPC Program Participation during JJI	Disposition Level
Length of JJI	Length of JJI

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Model Limitations

Since observations with missing data on any single variable were excluded from the logistic modeling process, the number of juveniles in the sample in the previous chapters does not match the number of juveniles in the multivariate analyses.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>60</sup> The number of missing observations was due to missing information for risk level (Model 1 n=36, Model 2 n=28, and Model 3 n=8). Sensitivity analyses using missing indicator models confirmed the robustness of these models.

## LOGISTIC REGRESSION RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 5.2 displays the estimated effect of each independent variable on the probability of recidivism during the two-year follow-up period.<sup>61</sup>

### Recidivism Outcomes for All Juveniles

Model 1 (see Table 5.2) shows the results of the logistic regression analyses predicting recidivism during the two-year follow-up period for all juveniles. Personal characteristics of the juvenile played a significant role in predicting recidivism. The probability of recidivism was higher for male juveniles (+10%) and nonwhite juveniles (+15%). Age was also a strong predictor of recidivism, with each year increase in age decreasing the probability of recidivism by 2%.

In examining prior juvenile justice contacts, juveniles with a prior complaint had an increased probability of recidivism (+11%). The offense type of the most serious charged offense and if the offense was a school-based offense were also predictive of recidivism. Compared to juveniles charged with a misdemeanor offense, the probability of recidivism was lower for juveniles with a felony offense (-5%). Juveniles with a school-based offense also had a lower probability of recidivism (-4%).

The risk level of the juvenile played a significant role in predicting recidivism. Compared to juveniles assessed as low risk, the probability of recidivism was higher for juveniles assessed as moderate risk (+15%) and high risk (+12%).

Interestingly, the level of involvement (i.e., diversion, probation, commitment) was not a significant predictor of recidivism. To examine this relationship further, risk and prior juvenile justice contacts were removed from the model. With the removal of these variables, level of involvement became significant. This revealed that level of involvement is closely tied to risk and prior juvenile justice contacts.

Recidivism during juvenile justice involvement was one of the strongest predictors of recidivism during the two-year follow-up period for Model 1. Juveniles who recidivated during juvenile justice involvement had a much higher probability of recidivism during the two-year follow-up period (+19%).

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<sup>61</sup> The results in Table 5.2 present the transformed logistic regression parameter estimates (i.e., marginal effects) for the independent variables to show their effect on the actual probability of the occurrence of the dependent variable. The R-squared represents the proportion of variation in the dependent variable explained by the independent variable(s). A higher R-squared indicates that the model better fits the data; the max R-squared has an adjusted scale that can reach a maximum value of 100% unlike the R-squared which has a lower maximum value.

**Table 5.2**  
**Effect of Personal and Juvenile Justice Factors on Recidivism: Two-Year Follow-Up**

Independent Variables	Average Recidivist Probability: Two-Year Follow-Up		
	Model 1 All Juveniles n=5,412	Model 2 Diverted Juveniles n=3,213	Model 3 Adjudicated Juveniles n=2,199
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>			
Male	10%	9%	10%
Nonwhite	15%	13%	18%
Age at JJ Exit	-2%	-2%	-3%
<b>Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts</b>			
Prior Complaint	11%	13%	10%
Prior Adjudication	N.S.	-	-
Prior Commitment	N.S.	-	N.S.
<b>Charged Offense</b>			
Offense Type – Felony	-5%	N.S.	-8%
School-Based Offense	-4%	N.S.	N.S.
<b>Risk Level</b>			
Low	Reference	Reference	Reference
Moderate	15%	13%	15%
High	12%	9%	12%
<b>Level of Involvement</b>			
Diversion	Reference	-	-
Probation	N.S.	-	-
Commitment	N.S.	-	-
<b>Recidivism during JJI</b>	19%	16%	16%
<b>Length of JJI</b>	-	N.S.	N.S.
<b>Diversion Profile</b>			
Diversion Type - Contract	-	N.S.	-
Diversion Outcome – Approved for Court	-	20%	-
JCPC Program Participation during JJI	-	N.S.	-
<b>Adjudicated Profile</b>			
Delinquency History Level			
Low (0-1 points)	-	-	Reference
Medium (3-4 points)	-	-	10%
High (4+ points)	-	-	13%
Disposition Level			
Level 1 (Community) - Probation	-	-	Reference
Level 2 (Intermediate) - Probation	-	-	N.S.
Level 3 (Commitment)	-	-	N.S.
<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Max Rescaled R<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>

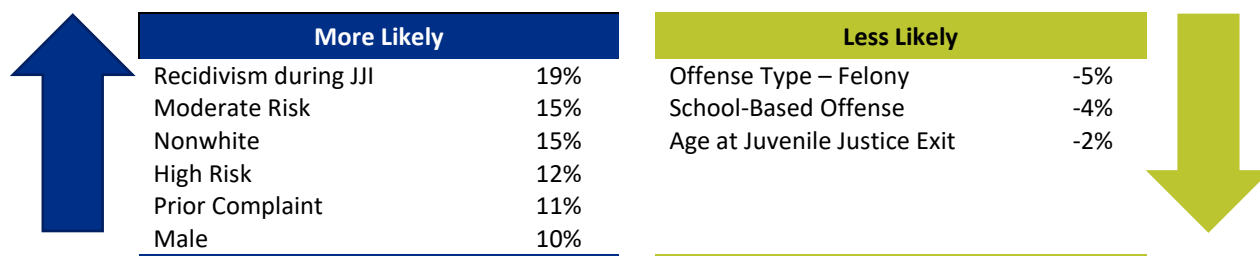
Note: “N.S.” indicates the estimated effects were not statistically significant. Juveniles with missing data were excluded from the analysis. Variables excluded from a specific model are indicated by a hyphen (-). For categorical and dichotomous independent variables, the results are interpreted in relation to the reference category. Model 3 (Adjudicated Juveniles) reports the adjudicated offense.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Figure 5.1 provides a summary of significant predictors of recidivism for all juveniles in order of magnitude. Juveniles who recidivated during juvenile justice involvement, assessed as moderate risk,

and were nonwhite had the highest likelihoods of recidivism during the two-year follow-up. Juveniles who had a felony offense, a school-based offense, or who were older were less likely to recidivate during the two-year follow-up.

**Figure 5.1**  
**Probability of Recidivism for All Juveniles: Two-Year Follow-Up**



Note: For categorical and dichotomous independent variables, the results are interpreted in relation to the reference category. The reported effects reflect changes to the average probability.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Recidivism Outcomes for Diverted Juveniles

Model 2 (see Table 5.2) shows the results of the logistic regression analyses predicting recidivism during the two-year follow-up period for diverted juveniles. Personal characteristics of the juvenile played a significant role in predicting recidivism. The probability of recidivism was higher for male juveniles (+9%) and nonwhite juveniles (+13%). Age was also a strong predictor of recidivism, with each year increase in age decreasing the probability of recidivism by 2%.

Juveniles with at least one prior complaint had an increased probability of recidivism (+13%). Neither of the charged offense variables (most serious charged offense type and school-based offense) were significant predictors of recidivism for diverted juveniles.

The risk level of the juvenile played a significant role in predicting recidivism. Compared to juveniles assessed as low risk, the probability of recidivism was higher for juveniles assessed as moderate risk (+13%) and high risk (+9%).

Compared to juveniles with a successful diversion, juveniles who had unsuccessful diversion and were approved for court had significantly higher recidivism (+20%) – the strongest predictor of recidivism for the diverted juvenile model.<sup>62</sup> The higher probability for this group is expected, since unsuccessful juveniles had their case referred to juvenile court due to noncompliance. The other diversion profile variables explored (diversion type and JCPC program participation during juvenile justice involvement) were not significant predictors of recidivism.

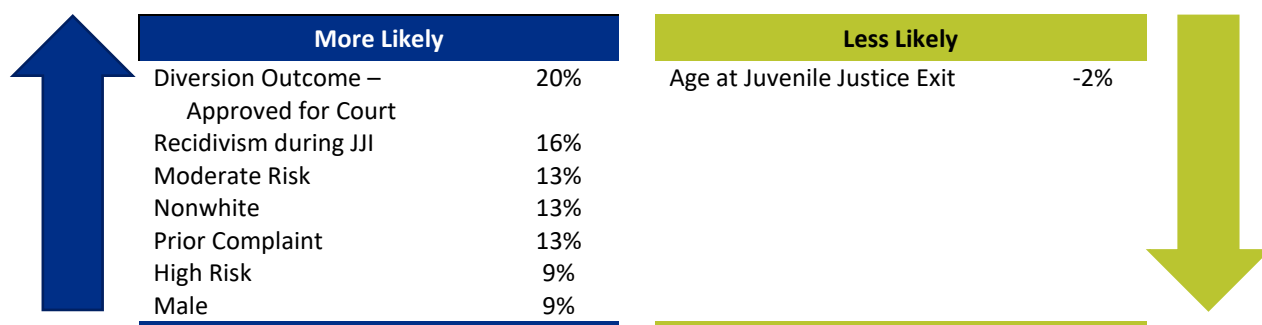
Recidivism during juvenile justice involvement was another strong predictor of recidivism during the two-year follow-up period for the diverted juvenile model. Juveniles who recidivated during juvenile justice involvement had a higher probability of recidivism during the two-year follow-up period (+16%).

<sup>62</sup> Juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion had a petition filed by a court counselor due to non-compliance with a diversion plan/contract for the juvenile's sample complaint.

However, the length of juvenile justice involvement was not a significant predictor of recidivism for diverted juveniles.

Figure 5.2 provides a summary of significant predictors of recidivism for diverted juveniles in order of magnitude. Juveniles who had an unsuccessful diversion, recidivated during juvenile justice involvement, were assessed as moderate risk had the highest likelihoods of recidivism during the two-year follow-up. Only one variable, age, was associated with decreased probability of recidivism during the two-year follow-up. Juveniles who were older were less likely to recidivate during the two-year follow-up.

**Figure 5.2**  
**Probability of Recidivism for Diverted Juveniles: Two-Year Follow-Up**



Note: For categorical and dichotomous independent variables, the results are interpreted in relation to the reference category. The reported effects reflect changes to the average probability.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

### Recidivism Outcomes for Adjudicated Juveniles

Model 3 (see Table 5.2) shows the results of the logistic regression analyses predicting recidivism during the two-year follow-up period for adjudicated juveniles. Similar to the other two models, the probability of recidivism was higher for male juveniles (+10%) and nonwhite juveniles (+18%). Age was also a strong predictor of recidivism, with each year increase in age decreasing the probability of recidivism by 3%.

In examining prior juvenile justice contacts, juveniles with a prior complaint had an increased probability of recidivism (+10%). The offense type of the most serious adjudicated offense was also predictive of recidivism. Compared to juveniles adjudicated with a misdemeanor offense, the probability of recidivism was lower for juveniles with a felony as the adjudicated offense (-8%). A school-based offense was not a predictor of recidivism for adjudicated juveniles.

The risk level of the juvenile played a significant role in predicting recidivism. Compared to juveniles assessed as low risk, the probability of recidivism was higher for juveniles assessed as moderate risk (+15%) and high risk (+12%).

Delinquency history level was examined to determine whether delinquency history was a significant predictor of recidivism. Compared to juveniles with a low delinquency history level, juveniles with a medium delinquency history level and a high delinquency history level had a higher probability of recidivism (+10% and +13% respectively). Disposition level was also examined but was not statistically significant.

Juveniles who recidivated during juvenile justice involvement had a much higher probability of recidivism during the two-year follow-up period (+16%). As with the other models, this was one of the strongest predictors of recidivism during the two-year follow-up. However, the length of juvenile justice involvement was not a significant predictor of recidivism for adjudicated juveniles.

Figure 5.3 provides a summary of significant predictors of recidivism for adjudicated juveniles in order of magnitude. Juveniles who were nonwhite, recidivated during juvenile justice involvement, and were assessed as moderate risk had the highest likelihoods of recidivism during the two-year follow-up. Juveniles who were adjudicated with a felony offense or who were older were less likely to recidivate during the two-year follow-up.

**Figure 5.3**  
**Probability of Recidivism for Adjudicated Juveniles: Two-Year Follow-Up**

More Likely		Less Likely	
Nonwhite	18%	Offense Type – Felony	-8%
Recidivism during JJI	16%	Age at Juvenile Justice Exit	-3%
Moderate Risk	15%		
High Delinquency History	13%		
High Risk	12%		
Male	10%		
Medium Delinquency History	10%		
Prior Complaint	10%		

Note: For categorical and dichotomous independent variables, the results are interpreted in relation to the reference category. The reported effects reflect changes to the average probability.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## SUMMARY

Chapter Five examined how multiple factors, taken together, affect the probability of recidivism for juveniles in the FY 2022 sample. Generally, multivariate analyses revealed a significant relationship between recidivism and a juvenile’s personal characteristics, prior juvenile justice contacts, offense type, and risk level.

Although predictors of recidivism varied across the models, certain variables were fairly consistent in predicting the probability of recidivism for juveniles during the two-year follow-up: recidivism during juvenile justice involvement, race/ethnicity, sex, age, risk level, and prior complaint (*see* Table 5.3). Not only were these findings consistent across the three models, but they were also consistent with the bivariate descriptive findings in Chapter 2, Chapter 3, and Chapter 4.

**Table 5.3**  
**Key Predictors of Recidivism Across All Models: Two-Year Follow-Up**

<b>Recidivism during JJI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles who had recidivism during juvenile justice involvement had a higher probability of recidivism during the two-year follow-up (as much as 19%).</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonwhite juveniles had a higher likelihood of recidivism than White juveniles (as much as 18% higher).</li> <li>Male juveniles had a higher likelihood of recidivism than female juveniles (as much as 10% higher).</li> <li>Recidivism probabilities decreased as age increased (as much as 3% lower per each year of age).</li> </ul>
<b>Risk Level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles with moderate or high risk had a higher probability of recidivism compared to juveniles with low risk (as much as 15% higher for moderate risk and as much as 12% higher for high risk).</li> </ul>
<b>Prior Complaint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles with a prior complaint had a higher probability of recidivism compared to those without a prior complaint (as much as 13% higher).</li> </ul>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2021 Correctional Program Evaluation Data

Separate analyses of diverted juveniles and adjudicated juveniles identified the nuanced differences in factors that affect the recidivism of these two groups. The multivariate analysis for diverted juveniles revealed that as compared to juveniles with successful diversion, diverted juveniles who had unsuccessful diversion (i.e., were approved for court) had much higher recidivism (+20%). The multivariate analysis for adjudicated juveniles identified that delinquency history level as a strong predictor of recidivism. As compared to juveniles with low delinquency history, juveniles with medium or high delinquency history had higher recidivism (+10% and +13% respectively). Overall, these multivariate analyses showed both common and differentiated predictors of recidivism between the models and between groups (i.e., diverted juveniles and adjudicated juveniles).

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## CHAPTER SIX

### CONCLUSIONS

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During the 2005 Session, the North Carolina General Assembly expanded the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s mandate to include the preparation of biennial reports on statewide rates of juvenile recidivism. (S.L. 2005-276, Section 14.19.) This marks the tenth biennial report, submitted to the legislature on May 1, 2025. This year’s report continues the use of an exit sample methodology, first employed in the 2019 report, which allows recidivism for juveniles to be tracked during two periods of time – during their juvenile justice involvement and for a fixed two-year follow-up from their sample involvement exit. Recidivism was defined broadly to include all delinquent complaints and adult arrests.

### SUMMARY

The study followed a sample of 5,448 juveniles who were brought to the attention of the court with a delinquent complaint and exited the juvenile justice system between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Additional information for this report included gang involvement, JCPC program participation, a new risk assessment (the YASI) that assesses strengths in addition to risk and needs, and multivariate analyses that measure the relationship between multiple independent variables (e.g., sex, age) and recidivism.

In line with decisions made within the juvenile justice system, the FY 2022 sample was categorized into three groups – diversion (59%), probation (38%), or commitment (3%). The legislative mandate specifies that juveniles adjudicated delinquent be studied; the probation and commitment groups represent those juveniles. In addition, the examination of juveniles whose delinquent complaints were diverted from court offers a more complete look at how the juvenile justice system handles delinquent behavior.

Nearly three-fourths of the sample (73%) were male. The percentage of White and Black juveniles were almost equal (43% and 42% respectively). The average age at the time of the offense was 15 years. Juveniles were largely charged with misdemeanors (74%); very few (only 4%) were charged with a violent offense. Over one-third (35%) of juveniles had at least one prior delinquent complaint and one-fourth (25%) participated in a JCPC program prior to sample entry. Over half (54%) were assessed as low risk; 43% were assessed as having moderate strengths. Juveniles spent an average of 7 months in the juvenile justice system (4 months for diverted juveniles, 11 months for juveniles exiting probation, and 12 months for juveniles released from a YDC).

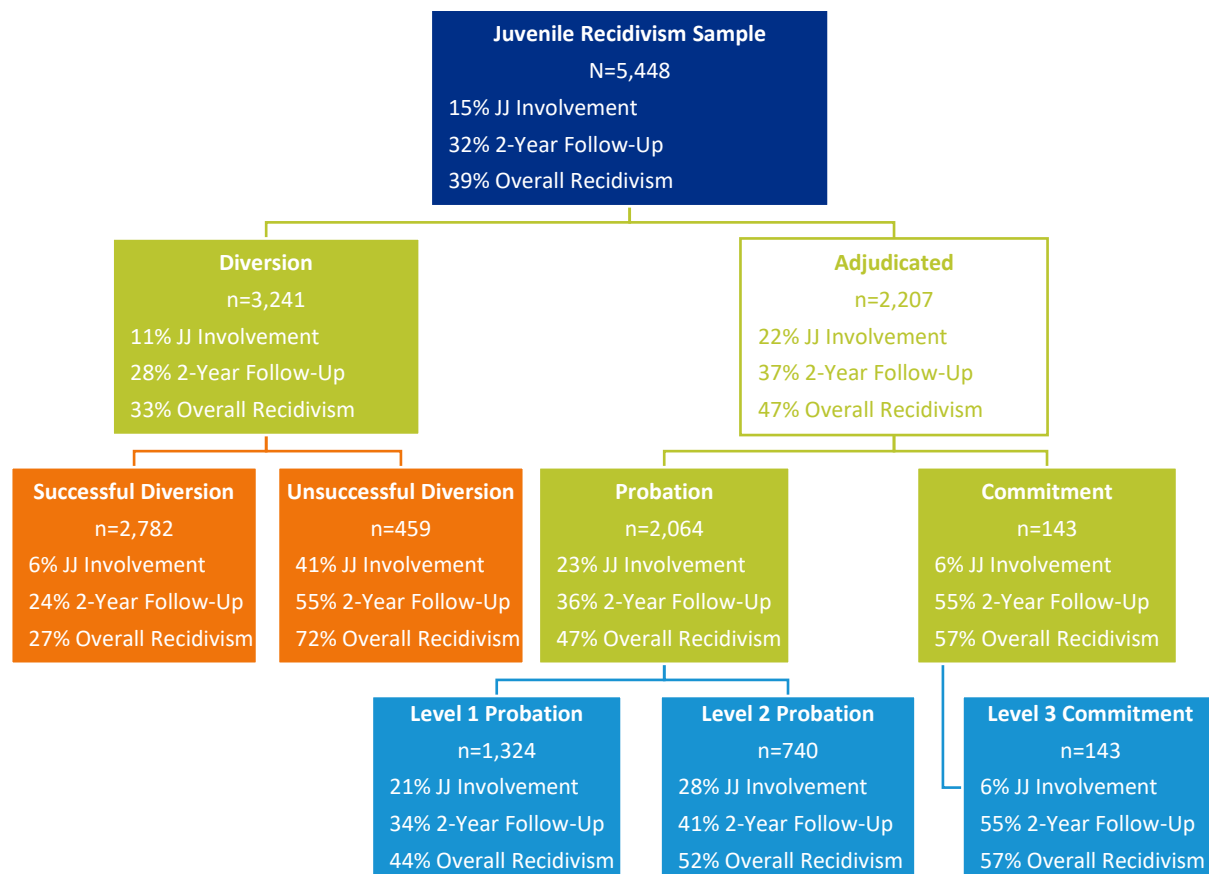
Juveniles in the commitment group had the lowest recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement (6%), likely due to their confinement in a YDC. (See Figure 6.1.) Diverted juveniles also had low recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement (11%), while juveniles on probation had the highest recidivism rates during that time period (23%). Recidivism during the two-year follow-up period revealed a relationship between the level of involvement and likelihood of recidivating. Recidivism rates ranged from 28% for diverted juveniles (least serious) to 36% for juveniles placed on probation to 55% for committed juveniles (most serious).

Overall recidivism (i.e., recidivism during juvenile justice involvement and/or two-year follow-up) generally reflected similar patterns to recidivism during the two-year follow-up; the deeper the



involvement of youth in the juvenile justice system, the higher the rates of recidivism (33% for the diversion group, 47% for the probation group, and 57% for the commitment group). All three groups were more likely to recidivate during the two-year follow-up than during juvenile justice involvement.

**Figure 6.1**  
**Recidivism Rates for North Carolina's Diverted and Adjudicated Juveniles**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## Diverted Juveniles

This report explored the differences between juveniles who completed diversion successfully (n=2,782) compared to those who did not complete diversion successfully, and had their complaint approved for court (n=459). Juveniles in the two groups had similar demographic characteristics and charged offense profiles. Juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion had much higher recidivism rates during each of the follow-up periods examined (see Figure 6.1). Higher recidivism rates for juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion were not surprising, given their higher levels of risk and lower levels of strengths. It is also possible that recidivism that occurred during their juvenile justice involvement was a contributing reason for their unsuccessful diversion; however, this cannot be determined because an exit reason for unsuccessful diversion is not captured in NC-JOIN.

## Adjudicated Juveniles

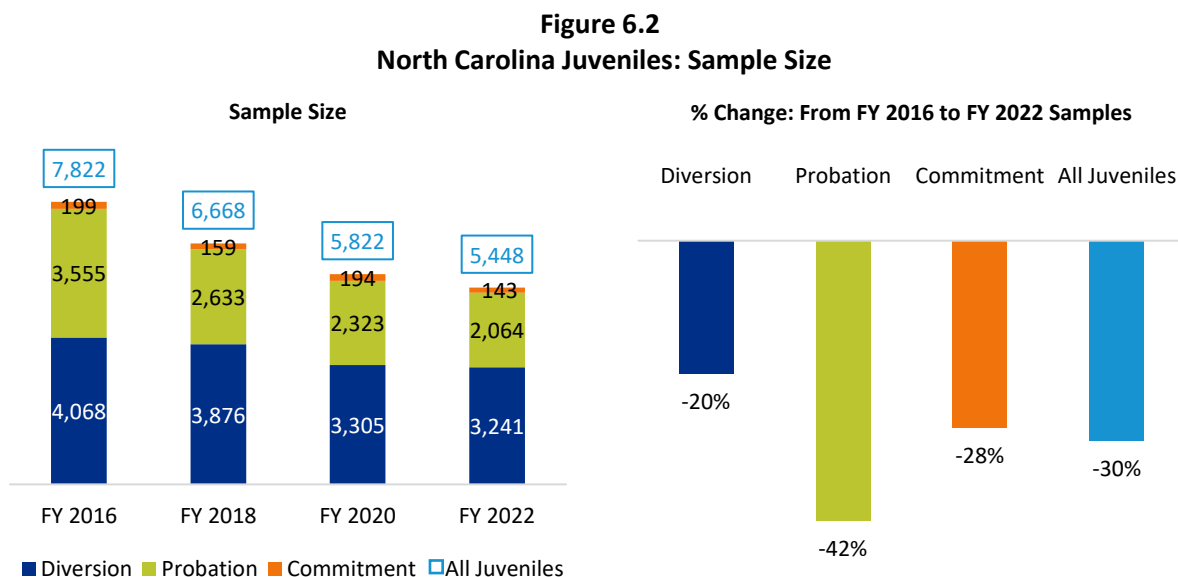
Adjudicated juveniles were examined by disposition level imposed – Level 1 probation, Level 2 probation, and Level 3 commitment. As the seriousness of the disposition increased, the percentage of juveniles who were male, Black, adjudicated with a felony, and assessed as higher risk, higher needs, and lower strengths also increased. Juveniles with Level 2 probation had higher recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement, while juveniles with a Level 3 commitment had the highest recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up (see Figure 6.1).

For the probation group, 76% were supervised under Standard supervision. Juveniles under Enhanced supervision – the second highest level of supervision requiring more contacts with the court counselor – had the highest recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up compared to the remaining two levels of supervision – Standard and Low (lowest level).

While the commitment group had higher recidivism rates than the probation group, it is important to note that juveniles in the commitment group were assessed with the highest risk, the highest needs, and the lowest strengths of these two groups. Additionally, commitment to a YDC is generally reserved for the most difficult juveniles and most serious situations. For these reasons, it is not surprising that the commitment group would have higher recidivism rates.

## TRENDS

As shown in Figure 6.2, there was a 30% decrease in sample size from the FY 2016 sample to the FY 2022 sample. The probation group had the largest decrease in size (42%) followed by the commitment group (28%), while the diversion group had the smallest decrease (20%). The commitment group is subject to large percentage fluctuations due to its small sample size. Declines in the samples occurred before, during, and following the pandemic, suggesting this is an actual trend and not artificially brought about by factors outside the system.

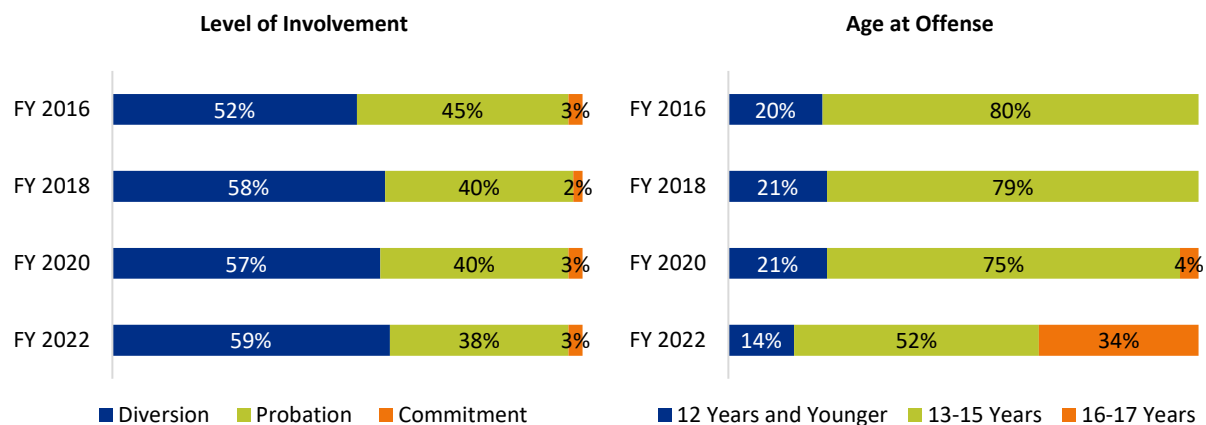


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2016 – FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Samples

The internal sample composition, which is important to consider as context for changes in recidivism rates, has shifted over the past four studies (see also Figure 6.3). The percentage of juveniles in the diversion group has increased over this time period (from 52% to 59%), while the percentage of juveniles in the probation group has decreased (from 45% to 38%). The percentage of juveniles committed to a YDC has remained about the same.

In addition, the implementation of the JJRA added a new population of 16- and 17-year-olds and extended the number of years available for youth to be under the jurisdiction of the system. While the JJRA went into effect during the FY 2020 sample timeframe, very few juveniles from this new population were in the FY 2020 sample (4%); however, over one-third (34%) of juveniles in the FY 2022 sample were 16-17 years old at the time of their offense.

**Figure 6.3**  
**North Carolina Juveniles: Sample Composition**

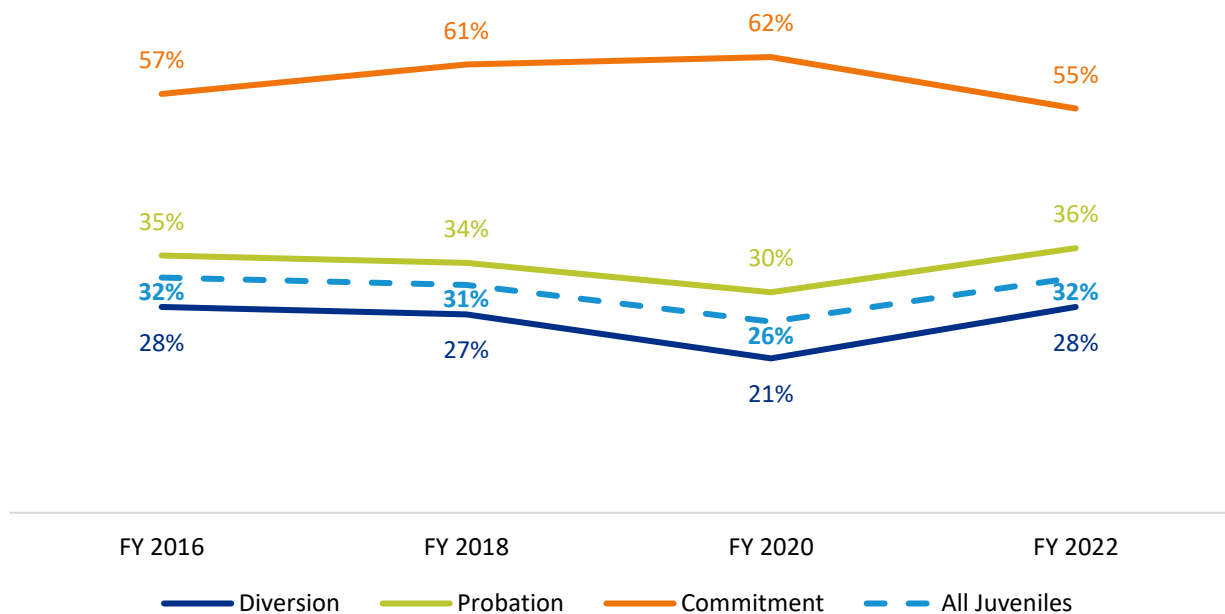


SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2016 – FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Samples

Recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up were remarkably similar for three of the four sample years, with the exception of the commitment group (see Figure 6.4). For the FY 2020 sample overall and for the diversion and probation groups, recidivism rates were lower compared to the other samples as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>63</sup> Recidivism rates for the FY 2022 sample have returned to pre-pandemic rates. For the past four studies, recidivism rates increased by seriousness of level of involvement, with the diversion group having the lowest recidivism rates and the commitment group having the highest recidivism rates.

<sup>63</sup> For detailed information about the pandemic's effect on the FY 2020 sample, see Chapters One and Five of the Sentencing Commission's *Juvenile Recidivism Study: FY 2020 Sample* (2023): <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/previous-juvenile-recidivism-studies>.

**Figure 6.4**  
**Recidivism Rates for North Carolina Juveniles by Sample Year: Two-Year Follow-Up**



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

## CONCLUSIONS

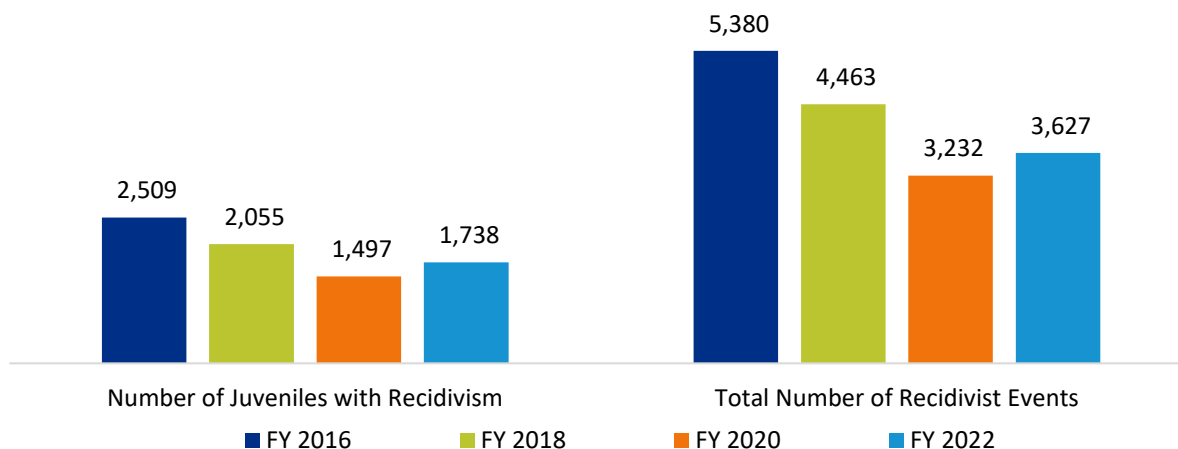
While recidivism rates have returned to pre-pandemic levels, it is important to consider the broader context of the system along with the findings presented in this report. The JJRA went into effect during the time between the Commission’s past two studies on juvenile recidivism. While complaints received to the juvenile justice system increased post-JJRA,<sup>64</sup> this report indicates that the expanded jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system did *not* lead to increases in recidivism rates beyond the historical rates of only juveniles up to age 15. This is remarkable, given the larger eligible pool of inclusion in the juvenile justice system, coupled with the fact that juveniles can remain under juvenile justice jurisdiction for longer. In fact, in this sample, there were fewer juveniles overall, the majority were diverted, and a comparable percentage had a recidivist complaint or arrest compared to pre-JJRA time periods.

The decreasing sample size over the past four Sentencing Commission studies (as discussed above), by itself, is noteworthy in that fewer juveniles with a diverted or adjudicated complaint is a net positive. This finding mirrors other nationwide trends in fewer juvenile arrests for the under 18 population. More importantly, however, and related, is the relationship between the smaller sample size and the rates of recidivism. An examination of the *volume* of recidivist juveniles (see Figure 6.5) revealed that, outside of the 2020 study (affected by the pandemic), there has been a 31% decrease in the number of juveniles with a recidivist event (2,509 in FY 2016 compared to 1,738 in FY 2022). In addition, the volume of recidivist events was 33% lower compared to FY 2016 (down from 5,380 to 3,627 in FY 2022). These findings held for the sample overall and by group. While the rates of recidivism have remained steady,

<sup>64</sup> See the DJJDP’s 2023 Annual Report at <https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice/datastatisticsreports#AnnualReports-5369>.

fewer juveniles with recidivism *and* fewer overall instances of delinquent complaints and/or adult arrests can be considered a success for public safety.

**Figure 6.5**  
**North Carolina Juveniles and Recidivist Events: Two-Year Follow-Up**



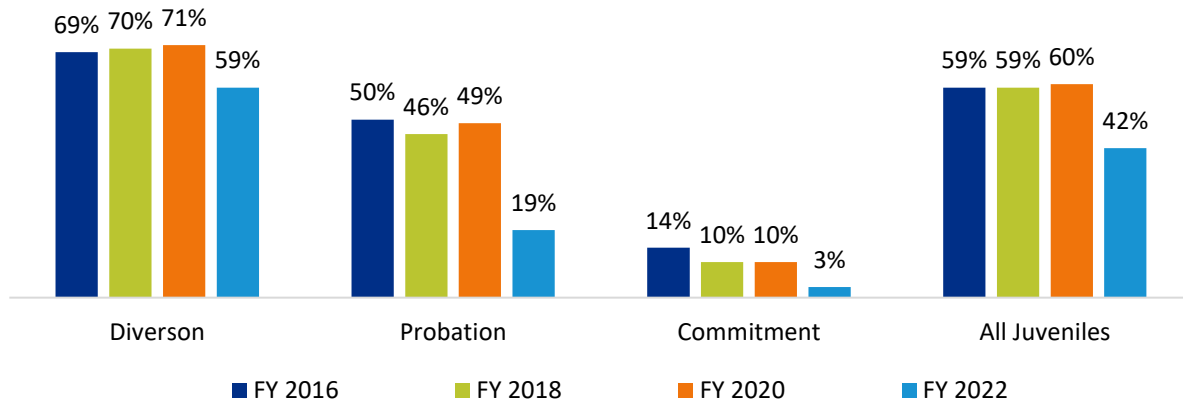
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2016 – FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Samples

Aside from volume, the nature of complaints being brought to the system’s attention deserves examination. Several data points suggest that efforts to bring only those more serious offenses and ones that cannot be handled in a different manner to the attention of the system are having an effect.

School Justice Partnerships (SJPs)<sup>65</sup> were designed to reduce the number of offenses referred to the justice system by schools, and instead handled by the schools themselves. When examined on the aggregate, it appears that SJPs are reducing SBOs, at least for the juvenile recidivism sample. Historically, school-based offenses represented the majority of charged offenses; that trend changed dramatically for this sample, both overall and by group (see Figure 6.6). In FY 2016, SBOs accounted for 59% of offenses for the sample; in FY 2022 they accounted for less than half (42%). The most striking change was within the probation group, which decreased from 50% SBOs in FY 2016 to 19% in FY 2022. This change is important because in past studies, and in this report, recidivism rates for juveniles with SBOs tended to be lower, a finding which is supportive of strategies to use lower levels of intervention without risk to public safety. An important caveat to this finding is the effect of age on school-related referrals and SBOs. The percentage of older juveniles (16-17 years old) in future samples may continue to increase as more time passes following the implementation of the JJRA. As juveniles age beyond school age, and beyond juvenile jurisdiction, SBOs may continue to have a reduced role at the complaint, diversion, and adjudication stages. Additional time and study are needed to understand how age, SBOs, and recidivism are interrelated.

<sup>65</sup> The School Justice Partnership is a group of stakeholders from schools, law enforcement, and the court system who develop and implement effective strategies to address student misconduct within the school system and the community rather than by a referral to the justice system. See <https://www.nccourts.gov/programs/school-justice-partnership>.

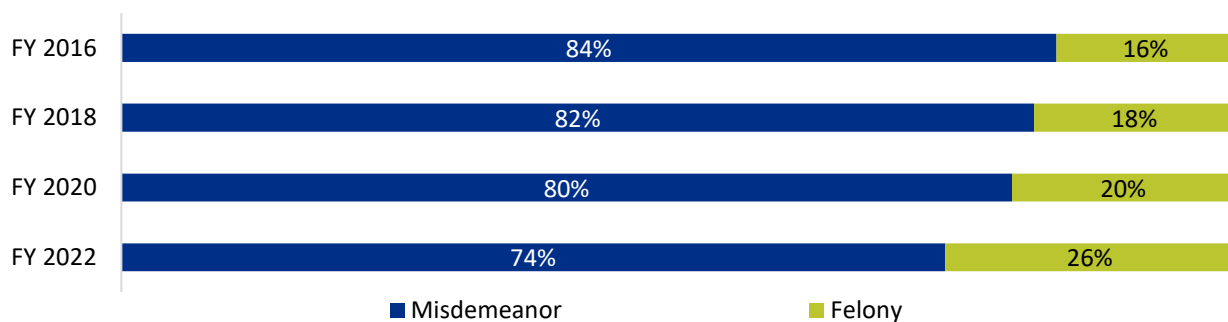
**Figure 6.6**  
**North Carolina Juveniles: School-Based Offense**



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

The composition by offense type (i.e., felony/misdemeanor) has also changed, with the FY 2022 sample having a lower percentage of charged misdemeanor offenses. Misdemeanor offenses still comprised the vast majority of offenses for the diverted group (90%), and while misdemeanor offenses still represented over half of offenses for the probation group (54%), felony offenses increased from the previous sample (from 29% in FY 2020 to 46% in FY 2022). (See Figure 6.7.) These changes may reflect a shift in the prioritization of resources towards more serious offenses, as well as strategies that are directed toward less serious offenses (e.g., SJPs, diversion). This trend is consistent with national trends that show a downward shift in misdemeanors. Given these factors, it stands to reason that felonies would comprise a larger percentage of offenses for a smaller sample, as well as one that includes fewer misdemeanors.

**Figure 6.7**  
**North Carolina Juveniles: Charged Offense by Type**



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

Digging deeper beyond the broad context and explanation for current recidivism rates, a key finding from this study and previous Commission reports suggests that recidivism corresponded with the juvenile's level of involvement in the juvenile justice system, which could have bearing on policy-related issues for juvenile justice. The analyses in this report revealed that the lowest rates of recidivism corresponded to the lowest levels of involvement with the juvenile justice system, particularly by intervening with youth short of adjudication. It is important to recognize that there are several possible

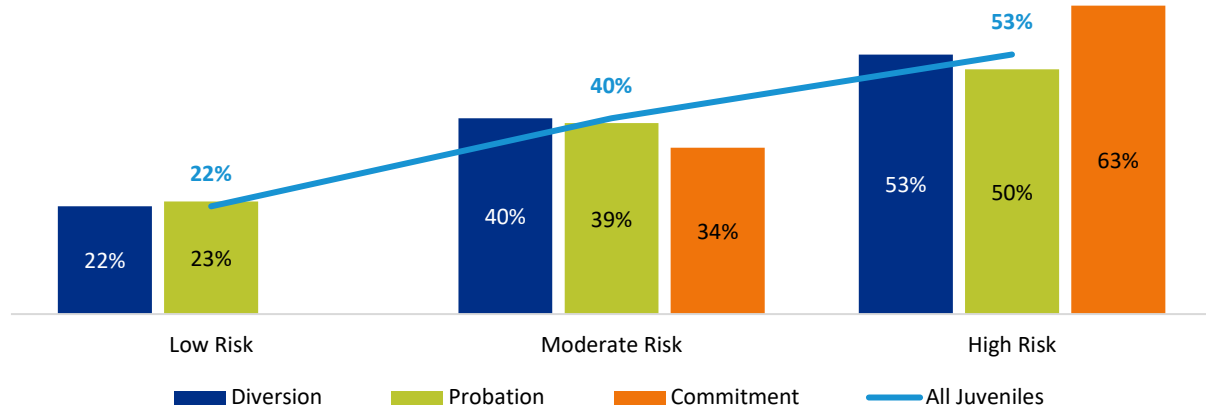
explanations for this. While the depth of the system's response may contribute to a juvenile's probability of reoffending, another possibility is that the system's increasingly restrictive responses are elicited by the highest risk and highest need youth affected by complex external factors (e.g., family life, mental health needs, etc.) that are beyond the scope of this study. The explanation to recidivistic behavior, more likely, lies in some interaction of all of these factors.

Whatever the reason for the relationship between deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system and recidivism, this report and past report findings indicate the most efficient and effective investment of sufficient resources is in the community, at the front-end of the juvenile justice system. Community resources are more easily accessible to juveniles and their families and have a proven track record of successfully intervening with the complex issues associated with delinquent youth. More intensive resources (e.g., commitment to a YDC) should be reserved for juveniles with the more serious offenses (e.g., Violent or Serious), higher delinquency histories, and highest assessed risk and used only when all other options are exhausted. As shown by the very small percentage of the sample and low number of juveniles in the commitment group in the past four studies, the DJJDP uses this resource sparingly. The profile of these youth, as described above, suggests this type of intervention may be necessary for the complexity of needs these juveniles have, as well as due to their risk and the seriousness of their offense.

Along with the long-standing relationship between level of involvement and recidivism, findings are presented in this report using logistic regression to examine the relationships between multiple factors on recidivism, while holding all variables constant. Notably, level of involvement was *not* found to be a significant predictor of recidivism. Further examination revealed that prior contact with the juvenile justice system (i.e., prior complaints) negated the effect of system response (e.g., diversion vs. adjudication vs. commitment) to delinquent behavior in predicting recidivism. While seemingly counter to previous Commission research related to level of involvement, this finding supports the underlying premise: more contact (in this case, having a prior complaint) with the system tends to lead to worse outcomes. Other factors, also measuring system involvement in different ways, *were* found to significantly predict recidivism. For diverted juveniles, being approved for court (i.e., unsuccessful diversion) led to a 20% increased probability of recidivism. For adjudicated juveniles, as delinquency history increased, the probability of recidivism increased. These factors, taken together, continue to suggest that efforts to reduce contact with the system may yield better outcomes for juveniles.

This report includes the first examination of the newly implemented risk assessment tool (effective January 1, 2021), the YASI, which includes an assessment of strengths in addition to risk and needs. An accurate identification of risk allows for the juvenile justice system to appropriately intervene with certain juveniles – those more likely to reoffend – while diverting others who pose less of a public safety risk. Under this new screening tool, a direct relationship was observed between juveniles' assessed risk and their recidivism (see Figure 6.8). As risk levels increased, so did recidivism rates; this finding held across all three groups. When examined using multivariate analysis, risk level was also a significant predictor of recidivism for the sample, as well as by group (i.e., diverted, adjudicated), with moderate and high risk juveniles having an increased probability of recidivism compared to low risk juveniles.

**Figure 6.8**  
**Recidivism Rates for North Carolina Juveniles by Risk Level: Two-Year Follow-Up**



Note: Thirty-six (n=36) juveniles or 1% were missing a risk assessment.

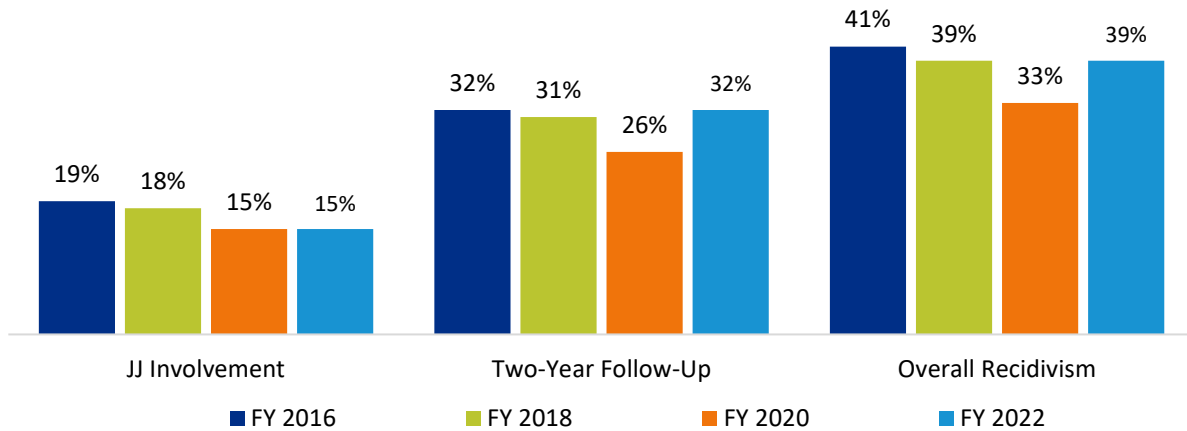
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

The YASI also focuses on the strengths and protective factors of the juvenile through the development of an individualized service plan that allows for continued assessment of the juvenile while receiving services under the DJJDP, as well as the accurate identification of needs. While strengths and needs levels should not be used to predict recidivism, an accurate assessment of both is an essential component in identifying the proper treatment programs and/or services, as well as determining whether the appropriate juveniles are being targeted for programs and/or services. This report found a relationship between prescreen strengths (available for all juveniles) and recidivism; juveniles with high strengths had lower rates of recidivism. Multivariate analyses revealed both strengths and needs were closely tied to risk (and therefore were not included in the modeling); however, these metrics are primarily utilized for service planning and, for this report, to enrich the profile of juveniles and provide context for recidivism findings.

By and large, most juveniles examined in this report did *not* have subsequent involvement (i.e., recidivist complaint and/or arrest) with either the juvenile or criminal justice systems. For those that did, a higher percentage had recidivism during the two-year follow-up (32%), versus during juvenile justice involvement (15%). (See Figure 6.9.) Comparing across samples and by timeframe, with the exception of FY 2020, overall recidivism and recidivism rates during juvenile justice involvement have decreased slightly, while recidivism rates during the two-year follow-up have remained the same.



**Figure 6.9**  
**Recidivism Rates for North Carolina Juveniles by Sample Year**



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

Additional data for the three groups – diversion, probation, and commitment – would enhance the analysis and findings and should also be considered for future studies:

- YASI domain information would provide greater insight into the specific risk, strengths and needs factors that might contribute to outcomes but were not available for examination and inclusion in this cycle.
- Inclusion of a diversion exit reason in NC-JOIN would enable a more complete examination of juveniles with an unsuccessful diversion by risk and needs and provide useful insight into appropriate targeting of resources for juveniles diverted from juvenile court.
- More information about juveniles on probation, specifically the types of violations and responses to those violations, and the reason(s) the juvenile exited probation (e.g., successful completion, aged out, violation of probation) would offer greater understanding of the findings for juveniles who exited probation (particularly relating to supervision level and to timing of recidivism).
- Information about core treatment and programming services received while confined in a YDC would contribute to the understanding of committed juveniles' behavior while confined and their outcomes (i.e., recidivism) upon their release.
- Finally, the inclusion of these data may provide insight to the optimal length of juvenile justice involvement for adjudicated juveniles.

The Sentencing Commission looks forward to working collaboratively with the DJJDP to further understand the factors contributing to juvenile recidivism in North Carolina, and combining any lessons learned to make improvements to the juvenile justice system in North Carolina.

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## APPENDIX A

### JUVENILE DISPOSITION CHART AND DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES

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# JUVENILE DISPOSITION CHART

**Juvenile Disposition Chart**

Offense Classification	Delinquency History Level		
	Low 0-1 point	Medium 2-3 points	High 4 or more points
<b>Violent</b> Class A-E felonies	Level 2 or 3	Level 3	Level 3
<b>Serious</b> Class F-I felonies Class A1 misdemeanors	Level 1 or 2	Level 2	Level 2 or 3
<b>Minor</b> Class 1-3 misdemeanors	Level 1	Level 1 or 2	Level 2

## Offense Classification (G.S. 7B-2508)

Violent – Adjudication of a Class A through E felony offense.

Serious – Adjudication of a Class F through I felony offense or a Class A1 misdemeanor.

Minor – Adjudication of a Class 1, 2, or 3 misdemeanor.

## Delinquency History Levels (G.S. 7B-2507)

### Points

For each prior adjudication or conviction of a Class A through E felony offense, 4 points.

For each prior adjudication or conviction of a Class F through I felony offense or a Class A1 misdemeanor offense, excluding conviction of the motor vehicle laws, 2 points.

For each prior misdemeanor conviction of impaired driving (G.S. 20-138.1), impaired driving in a commercial vehicle (G.S. 20-138.2), and misdemeanor death by vehicle (G.S. 20-141.4(a2)), 2 points.

For each prior adjudication or conviction of a Class 1, 2, or 3 misdemeanor, excluding conviction of the motor vehicle laws, 1 point.

If the juvenile was on probation at the time of the offense, 2 points.

### Levels

Low – No more than 1 point.

Medium – At least 2, but not more than 3 points.

High – At least 4 points.

# DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR DELINQUENT JUVENILES

## Dispositional Alternatives for Delinquent Juveniles (G.S. 7B-2502 and G.S. 7B-2506)

Level 1 Community	Level 2 Intermediate	Level 3 Commitment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation and treatment</li> <li>• In-home supervision</li> <li>• Custody of parent, guardian, etc.</li> <li>• Custody of DSS</li> <li>• Excuse from school attendance</li> <li>• Community-based program</li> <li>• Intensive substance abuse treatment program</li> <li>• Residential treatment program</li> <li>• Nonresidential treatment program</li> <li>• Restitution up to \$500</li> <li>• Fine</li> <li>• Community service up to 100 hours</li> <li>• Victim-offender reconciliation</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• No driver's license</li> <li>• Curfew</li> <li>• Not associate with specified persons</li> <li>• Not be in specified places</li> <li>• Intermittent confinement up to 5 days</li> <li>• Wilderness program</li> <li>• Supervised day program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation and treatment</li> <li>• Wilderness program</li> <li>• Residential treatment facility</li> <li>• Intensive nonresidential treatment program</li> <li>• Intensive substance abuse program</li> <li>• Group home placement</li> <li>• Intensive probation</li> <li>• Supervised day program</li> <li>• Regimented training program</li> <li>• House arrest</li> <li>• Suspension of more severe disposition w/conditions</li> <li>• Intermittent confinement up to 14 days</li> <li>• Multipurpose group home</li> <li>• Restitution over \$500</li> <li>• Community service up to 200 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 month minimum confinement in a youth development center</li> <li>• Minimum 90 days post-release supervision</li> </ul>

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## APPENDIX B

### FY 2022 CLOSED AND DISMISSED JUVENILES

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**Table B.1**  
**Profile of FY 2022 Closed and Dismissed Juveniles**

		<b>Closed</b> N=4,096	<b>Dismissed</b> N=1,359
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>			
Male	%	61	76
Race/Ethnicity			
White	%	31	30
Black	%	55	55
Hispanic	%	9	10
Other/Unknown	%	5	5
Age at Offense			
12 Years and Younger	%	15	8
13-15 Years	%	47	43
16-17 Years	%	38	49
<b>Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts</b>			
Prior Complaint	%	17	39
Prior Adjudication	%	6	16
Prior Confinement	%	4	13
<b>Most Serious Charged Offense</b>			
Offense Type			
Misdemeanor	%	93	51
Offense Classification			
Violent (Class A-E Felony)	%	<1	12
Serious (Class F-I Felony, Class A1 Misd.)	%	13	45
Minor (Class 1-3 Misdemeanor)	%	87	43
Crime Category			
Person	%	48	41
Property	%	17	35
Drug	%	8	7
Other	%	27	17
School-Based Offense	%	61	22
School Resource Officer Referral	%	88	85
Gang Involvement (12 Years and Older)	%	1	3
<b>Risk Assessment Completed</b>	%	58	73
<b>Juvenile Justice Involvement (JJI)</b>			
Prior JCPC Program Participation	%	14	26
Length of JJI (Months)	Avg.	0	6
JCPC Program Participation during JJI	%	1	13
Recidivism Rates during JJI	%	1	18
<b>Transfers to Superior Court</b>			
During JJI or Two-Year Follow-Up	#	60	105
<b>Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up</b>			
One-Year Follow-Up	%	18	27
Two-Year Follow-up	%	27	38
Months to First Recidivist Event	Avg.	9	8
Number of Recidivist Events	Avg.	2	3
<b>By Personal Characteristics</b>			
Gender			
Male	%	31	43
Female	%	21	25

*continued*

**Table B.1**  
**Profile of FY 2022 Closed and Dismissed Juveniles**

		<b>Closed</b> N=4,096	<b>Dismissed</b> N=1,359
<b>Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up</b>			
<b>By Personal Characteristics <i>continued</i></b>			
Race/Ethnicity			
White	%	18	23
Black	%	34	48
Hispanic	%	21	34
Other	%	24	39
<b>By Juvenile Justice Contacts</b>			
Prior Complaint			
No	%	22	28
Yes	%	51	55
<b>By Most Serious Charged Offense</b>			
Offense Type			
Felony	%	34	44
Misdemeanor	%	27	34
Offense Classification			
Violent (Class A-E Felony)	%	--	49
Serious (Class F-I Felony, Class A1 Misd.)	%	34	41
Minor (Class 1-3 Misdemeanor)	%	26	33
Crime Category			
Person	%	27	37
Property	%	32	43
Drug	%	26	40
Other	%	24	34
School-Based Offense			
No	%	31	41
Yes	%	25	28
School Resource Officer Referral			
No	%	19	16
Yes	%	26	30
Gang Involvement (12 Years and Older)			
No	%	23	36
Yes	%	--	71
<b>By JCPC Program Participation</b>			
Prior JCPC Program Participation			
No	%	24	33
Yes	%	45	54
JCPC Program Participation during JJI			
No	%	27	38
Yes	%	44	39
<b>Summary of Recidivism Rates</b>			
During JJI	%	1	18
During Two-Year Follow-Up	%	27	38
Overall Recidivism: JJI and/or 2-Yr Follow-Up	%	27	46

Note: Risk and strengths levels were not reported due to the high percentage of juveniles with missing assessments, 42% for the closed group and 27% for the dismissed group. Recidivism rates are only reported when there are at least 25 juveniles in a specific category.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

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## APPENDIX C

# JUVENILE ADJUDICATIONS AND ADULT CONVICTIONS

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**Table C.1**  
**Recidivism by Combined Juvenile Adjudications and Adult Convictions**

Juvenile Justice Involvement				
Level of Involvement	N	Any Recidivism		Average Months to Recidivism
		#	%	
Diversion	3,241	5	<1	3
Successful	2,782	5	<1	3
Unsuccessful	459	0	0	--
Probation	2,064	241	12	6
Level 1 Probation	1,324	130	10	7
Level 2 Probation	740	111	15	5
Commitment	143	18	13	1
All Juveniles	5,448	264	5	6

<b>Two-Year Follow-Up</b>						
<b>Level of Involvement</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Average Months to Recidivism</b>	<b># of Juveniles with Any Recidivism</b>	<b>Total # Recidivist Events</b>	<b>One-Year Follow-up %</b>	<b>Two-Year Follow-up %</b>
<b>Diversion</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>
Successful	2,782	10	232	302	5	8
Unsuccessful	459	3	312	428	65	68
<b>Probation</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>
Level 1 Probation	1,324	11	201	256	8	15
Level 2 Probation	740	11	125	163	10	17
<b>Commitment</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

**Table C.2**  
**Subsequent Juvenile Adjudications, Adult Convictions, and Combined Recidivism**

<b>Juvenile Justice Involvement</b>						
<b>Level of Involvement</b>	<b>Juvenile Adjudication</b>		<b>Adult Conviction</b>		<b>Adjudication and/or Conviction</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Diversion</b>	3,197	<1	210	0	3,241	<1
<b>Probation</b>	1,926	12	561	2	2,064	12
<b>Commitment</b>	133	14	41	0	143	13
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,256</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Two-Year Follow-Up</b>						
<b>Level of Involvement</b>	<b>Juvenile Adjudication</b>		<b>Adult Conviction</b>		<b>Adjudication and/or Conviction</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Diversion</b>	3,029	17	1,297	2	3,241	17
<b>Probation</b>	1,509	14	1,514	8	2,064	16
<b>Commitment</b>	102	13	129	13	143	20
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>16</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

**Table C.3**  
**Recidivism by Combined Juvenile Adjudications and Adult Convictions and Jurisdiction**

<b>Juvenile Justice Involvement</b>					
Level of Involvement		Juvenile System Only n=4,636	Juvenile and Adult Systems n=618	Adult System Only n=194	Adjudication and/or Conviction N=5,448
	<b>N</b>	%	%	%	%
<b>Diversion</b>	3,241	<1	0	0	<1
<b>Probation</b>	2,064	13	12	1	12
<b>Commitment</b>	143	17	3	--	13
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Two-Year Follow-Up</b>					
Level of Involvement		Juvenile System Only n=2,509	Juvenile and Adult Systems n=2,128	Adult System Only n=811	Adjudication and/or Conviction N=5,448
	<b>N</b>	%	%	%	%
<b>Diversion</b>	3,241	20	13	4	17
<b>Probation</b>	2,064	21	13	15	16
<b>Commitment</b>	143	--	16	22	20
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>

Note: Recidivism rates are only reported when there are at least 25 juveniles in a specific category.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

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APPENDIX D

GLOSSARY OF MAJOR TERMS AND VARIABLES

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## GLOSSARY OF MAJOR TERMS AND VARIABLES<sup>66</sup>

**Adjudicated Juveniles:** A juvenile who has been found, beyond a reasonable doubt, by a judge in juvenile court to have committed a violation of criminal law. For this study, adjudicated juveniles refer to youth with a probation disposition imposed (Level 1 or Level 2 probation) or youth who received a Level 3 commitment.

**Adjudicated Offense:** The offense the juvenile has been found to have committed by a judge. Analysis provided on adjudicated offenses in Chapter Four.

**Adjudication:** An adjudication is a finding by a judge, following an adjudicatory hearing, that a juvenile committed a delinquent act or is undisciplined. This report only includes delinquent adjudications. Data on infractions, local ordinances, process offenses (e.g., curfew violation, probation violation, failure to appear), and misdemeanor traffic offenses were excluded. Adjudications were examined during the following time periods: prior, current (probation and commitment groups only), and recidivism. Adjudications and adult convictions were combined to create a secondary recidivism measure.

**Age:** Age in years as measured at different time periods during juvenile justice involvement. Age was reported as an average or categorized by the following groups: 12 and younger, 13-15, 16-17 or 16 and older.

- **Age at JJ Entry:** The age of the juvenile at the start of the diversion plan/contract or at the date of the dispositional hearing for juveniles in the probation and commitment groups.
- **Age at JJ Exit:** The age of the juvenile at exit from juvenile justice involvement (i.e., diversion plan/contract ended, probation supervision ended, or released from a YDC), which is also the start of the two-year follow-up period.
- **Age at Offense:** The age of the juvenile at the time the alleged charged offense occurred.

**Arrest:** A record of a fingerprinted arrest in North Carolina that occurred after a juvenile reached the age of criminal majority. Data on infractions, local ordinances, process offenses (e.g., curfew violation, probation violation, failure to appear), and misdemeanor traffic offenses were excluded. An arrest for which an offender was not fingerprinted (e.g., a misdemeanor offense for which fingerprinting is not required), indictment without an arrest, or failure to find a match for an offender in the SBI's CCH database results in the lack of an arrest record. The lack of an arrest record was interpreted as the lack of an arrest. Adult arrests and delinquent complaints were combined to create the primary recidivism measure and were tracked during the follow-up periods.

**Charged Offense:** The most serious offense alleged in the complaint. Analysis provided on charged offenses in Chapter Two for the sample and Chapter Three for the diversion group.

**Complaint (Juvenile):** A formal complaint lodged by a law enforcement officer or private citizen to the DJJDP. This study only included delinquent complaints. Data on infractions, local ordinances, process

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<sup>66</sup> The DJJDP's web page (see <https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice/juvenile-justice-terminology#Commitment-1746>) was accessed to define several of the terms included in the glossary.

offenses (e.g., curfew violation, probation violation, failure to appear), and misdemeanor traffic offenses were excluded. Complaints were examined during the following time periods: prior, current (i.e., the complaint that placed the juvenile in the sample), and recidivism. Delinquent complaints and adult arrests were combined to create the primary recidivism measure and were tracked during the follow-up periods.

**Computerized Criminal History (CCH) System:** The management information system containing information on all fingerprinted arrests and convictions of adults (and juveniles waived to adult jurisdiction) from North Carolina law enforcement agencies and courts as maintained by the SBI. It is the source of all recidivist arrest and conviction information for the sample.

**Confinement:** A confinement could be a detention center admission or a YDC commitment or both. Generally, juveniles who had a YDC commitment also had a detention center admission.

**Conviction (Adult):** A conviction for an offense in the North Carolina adult court system that occurred after a juvenile reached the age of criminal majority. Data on infractions, local ordinances, process offenses (e.g., curfew violation, probation violation, failure to appear), and misdemeanor traffic offenses were excluded. Adult convictions and juvenile adjudications were combined to create a secondary recidivism measure and were tracked during the follow-up periods.

**Detention Center:** Juvenile detention centers are secure facilities that temporarily house youth alleged to have committed a delinquent act or to be a runaway. Youth are generally placed in a juvenile detention center while awaiting a court hearing, or until another placement can be found, either in a community-based program or service or in a YDC. Because of the short-term nature of detention, programs and services offered in these centers are limited. Detention centers also house youth who are under 18 years of age who either have been transferred to superior court and are awaiting trial as an adult or have been sentenced as an adult to probation and are serving a period of confinement in relation to that sentence; however, these youth are not under the jurisdiction of the DJJDP.

**Disposition Level:** Juvenile court judges have three dispositional levels available in which to dispose the juvenile's case: a Level 1 or Community disposition, a Level 2 or Intermediate disposition, and a Level 3 or Commitment disposition. Chapter Four uses disposition level to compare the three levels by demographic information and recidivism. Also see Level 1 Probation, Level 2 Probation, and Level 3 Commitment.

- **Level 1:** A Level 1 or Community disposition offers the court less restrictive dispositional alternatives such as probation, community-based programs, nonresidential and residential treatment programs, community service (up to 100 hours), restitution (up to \$500), and sanctions that place specific limitations on a juvenile (e.g., curfew, no association with specified persons, not be in specified places).
- **Level 2:** A Level 2 or Intermediate disposition is generally more restrictive than a Level 1 disposition. Level 2 dispositional alternatives include options such as intensive probation, group home placements (e.g., multipurpose group homes), regimented training programs, and house arrest. For a Level 2 disposition, a juvenile can be ordered to make restitution that is in excess of \$500 or to perform up to 200 hours of community service.

- **Level 3:** A Level 3 or Commitment disposition is the most restrictive sanction available to a juvenile court judge – commitment to the DJJDP for placement in a YDC.

**Diversion:** At the completion of an intake evaluation, if there is need for referral (e.g., restitution, clinical treatment) and follow-up, which may be accomplished without court intervention, the court counselor may retain the complaint and develop a diversion plan with the juvenile and their responsible party (i.e., parent, guardian, or custodian). This process diverts the juvenile from court while still holding the child and family accountable through a plan or contract. Both the plan and the contract are in effect for up to six months, during which time a court counselor conducts periodic reviews to ensure compliance. A diversion plan is less formal than a diversion contract.

**Diversion Outcome:** Diversion outcome is classified as successful or unsuccessful. The diversion outcome depends on whether juveniles complete the terms of their diversion plan or contract within a 6-month timeframe. Chapter Three uses diversion outcome as a comparison for diverted juveniles and their statistical profile and recidivism. For this report, unsuccessful diversion resulted in a petition filed in juvenile court.

- **Successful Diversion:** Juveniles have up to 6 months to complete the terms of their diversion plan or contract. A completed plan or contract within 6 months is a successful diversion. Compliance with the recommendations of the plan or contract results in the finalization of the juvenile's diversion.
- **Unsuccessful Diversion:** Unsuccessful diversion is a result of exiting due to noncompliance. If the parties fail to comply, the counselor may reevaluate the decision to divert and subsequently file the complaint as a petition in juvenile court. Noncompliance with the terms of diversion may result in a petition filed in juvenile court.

**Follow-Up Periods:** Recidivist events were tracked in two time periods: during juvenile justice involvement, which varied for each juvenile, and during a fixed period after exiting the juvenile justice system. The age of the juvenile determined whether the juvenile was tracked in the juvenile justice system, adult criminal justice system, or both systems.

- **Juvenile Justice Involvement:** A varied period of time calculated individually for each juvenile from their entry to their exit from the juvenile justice system for the event that placed the juvenile in the sample.
- **One-Year Follow-up:** A fixed period of time (one year) calculated individually for each juvenile one day after their exit from the juvenile justice system.
- **Two-Year Follow-up:** A fixed period of time (two years) calculated individually for each juvenile one day after their exit from the juvenile justice system.

**Gang Involvement:** The criminal gang assessment determines criminal gang involvement and ensures appropriate referrals based on the need for gang prevention or intervention. A score of 3 or higher indicates gang involvement on the 9-item assessment.

**Geographic Area:** The four geographic areas of the state – Western, Piedmont, Central, and Eastern. See the DJJDP’s 2023 *Juvenile Justice Annual Report* located at <https://www.ncdps.gov/division/juvenile-justice/2023-jjdp-annual-report/download?attachment> for a map of the areas, districts, and counties.

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC):** JCPC programs are funded in all 100 counties. These programs are funded annually through a partnership between state, county, and local governments. The purpose of JCPC programs is to address delinquency behavior for juveniles who are involved with the juvenile justice system (i.e., court-involved juveniles) and juveniles who are “at-risk” of juvenile justice involvement. Program participation during two time periods was examined.

- **Prior JCPC:** JCPC program participation examined for each juvenile prior to the event that placed the juvenile in the sample (i.e., beginning date of the diversion plan or contract, adjudication hearing date for probation, commitment date to a YDC). The sample is court-involved by sample definition; however, some of the sample may have participated in a JCPC program prior to their juvenile justice involvement as an at-risk juvenile.
- **JCPC during Juvenile Justice Involvement:** JCPC program participation examined for each juvenile while participating in a diversion plan/contract or while on supervised probation (i.e., probation group).

**JCPC Program Category:** The Community Programs Section of the DJJDP divides JCPC programs into six categories: evaluation or assessment; clinical treatment; residential services; restorative; structured activities; and community day programs. For this report, four categories were analyzed: clinical treatment, residential services, restorative, and structured (structured activities combined with community day programs).

- **Evaluation or Assessment:** Services that offer one or more particular evaluation or assessment to provide diagnosis and treatment intervention recommendations for youth. Psychological assessments can assist court counselors and judges in recommending the most appropriate consequences and treatment for court-involved youth. The assessment category was excluded from this report. See the Sentencing Commission’s *Effectiveness of Programs Funded by Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils* report at <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/juvenile-crime-prevention-council-jcpc-program-effectiveness-reports> for explanation of its exclusion.
- **Clinical Treatment (Clinical):** Programs that offer professional help to a juvenile and/or the juvenile’s family to solve problems through goal-directed planning. Treatment may include individual, group, and family counseling, or a combination. It may have a particular focus such as sexual behavior or substance use treatment. Services may be community- or home-based.
- **Residential Services (Residential):** Programs where services are delivered in a residential setting (i.e., group home care, runaway shelter, specialized or temporary foster care).
- **Restorative:** Programs that seek primarily to address or repair harm caused by an incident or offense by inviting those most impacted by the offense to participate in a process to identify and repair the harm and address unmet needs. Services include restitution/community service, medication/conflict resolution, or teen court.

- **Structured Activities (Structured):** Programs that offer skill-building activities in a nonresidential setting. Programs may offer these skills to juveniles and/or their parents for the purpose of enhancing personal enrichment, skills, or abilities in a particular area. Examples include mentoring, tutoring/academic enhancement, parent/family skill building. This category was combined with Community Day programs for this report (i.e., Structured).
- **Community Day Programs (Structured):** A multi-component, community-based, nonresidential program structure that provides closely supervised intervention and prevention services for delinquent, undisciplined, diverted at intake, and at-risk youth. Programs work in cooperation with the local school system(s) to provide structured educational enrichment and/or on-site educational programs; and provide a balance between education and treatment. (i.e., juvenile structured day). This category was combined with Structured Activities programs for this report (i.e., Structured).

**JCPC Program Completion:** Program completion refers to one of the following three outcomes: (1) successful completion (juveniles who had a high level of participation and completed most of their goals); (2) satisfactory completion (juveniles who had an acceptable level of participation and met some of their goals); and (3) higher level of care required (JCPC program providers did everything they could to address the needs of their juvenile participants). Reasons a participant did not complete the program can either reflect negative behavior by the juvenile (e.g., failure to comply with program rules) or an administrative or other neutral reason for termination (e.g., removed by parents).

**Juvenile Justice Involvement:** Juvenile justice involvement refers to the time between the entry and exit from diversion, probation, or commitment to a YDC. Juvenile complaints and/or adult arrests tracked during this period are referred to as recidivism. Also see Follow-Up Periods.

- **Length of Juvenile Justice Involvement:** Length of involvement varied by juvenile. The length was averaged and classified into categories for the entire sample, diverted juveniles, and adjudicated juveniles.

**Juvenile Justice Programs (Non-JCPC Funded):** The DJJDP provides services to juveniles through other funding sources separate from JCPC. These state-funded sources are Residential Contractual Services, Community-Based Contractual Services, and Intensive Intervention Services. The time periods examined were prior programs for all juveniles in the sample and programs during juvenile justice involvement for the diversion and probation groups.

**Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA):** The JJRA, which went into effect December 1, 2019, increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction so that most 16- and 17-year-olds facing criminal charges may have their cases disposed through the juvenile justice system rather than the adult criminal justice system. In addition, the JJRA includes other provisions intended to affect who comes in contact with the juvenile justice system, such as school-justice partnerships designed to reduce school-based referrals to juvenile courts and juvenile justice training for law enforcement officers. Also see Raise the Age (RtA).

**Legal Jurisdiction:** The system(s) (i.e., juvenile justice system and adult criminal justice system) in which a juvenile's recidivism is tracked during follow-up, depending on the age of the juvenile.

- **Juvenile System Only:** Juveniles who were tracked in only the juvenile system for recidivism based on their age. Juveniles are considered to be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court if



they have had no prior convictions and are not older than 17 years at the time that they are alleged to have committed an offense.

- **Juvenile and Adult Systems:** Juveniles who were tracked in both the juvenile and adult systems for recidivism based on their age.
- **Adult System Only:** Juveniles who were tracked solely in the adult system for recidivism based on their age. For purposes of this report, juveniles are considered under the jurisdiction of the adult system if they are a certain age and committed a specific offense (e.g., juveniles who are at least 13 and alleged to have committed a Class A felony must be transferred to the adult system, juveniles who are 16 or 17 and alleged to have committed a Class A through Class G felony begin in the adult system) or individuals above the age of 18.

**Level 1 Probation:** Term used in Chapter Four to compare adjudicated juveniles: a Level 1 or Community disposition that included probation. Also see Disposition Level.

**Level 2 Probation:** Term used in Chapter Four to compare adjudicated juveniles: a Level 2 or Intermediate disposition that included probation. Also see Disposition Level.

**Level 3 Commitment:** Term used in Chapter Four to compare adjudicated juveniles: a Level 3 or Commitment to the DJJDP for placement in a YDC. Also see Disposition Level.

**Needs Level:** A needs score is computed for each juvenile, which is used to place the juvenile in one of six levels of need: very low, low, moderate, high moderate, high, very high. For this report, the six levels were combined into three levels: low (very low + low), moderate (moderate + high moderate), or high (high + very high). The levels are determined separately by sex (i.e., male, female). Juveniles with the full assessment were also assessed for needs. See also Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument.

**NC A Local Link to Improve Effective Services (NCALLIES):** The DJJDP's management information system for JCPC data that was used to obtain information on program participation.

**NC Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN):** The DJJDP's management information system for juvenile justice, which contains data on all juveniles brought to court with delinquent and undisciplined complaints received in a juvenile court counselor office. This database was used to provide information on the sample's prior, current, and subsequent involvement in the juvenile justice system.

**Offense Category:** Offenses were broadly classified into the following categories: person, property, drug, and other. Each offense category may consist of both felony and misdemeanor offenses.

- **Person:** An offense against the person involving force or threat of force. Most common examples of person offenses for juveniles are simple assault, simple affray, and communicating threats.
- **Property:** Violation of criminal laws pertaining to property. Most common examples of property offenses for juveniles are misdemeanor larceny, injury to real property, and felony breaking and/or entering.

- **Drug:** Violation of laws pertaining to controlled substances. Most common examples of drug offenses for juveniles are simple possession of Schedule IV controlled substances, simple possession of marijuana, and possess marijuana up to ½ ounce.
- **Other:** An offense not categorized as a person, property, or drug offense. Most common examples of other offenses for juveniles include possession of weapons (excluding firearms or explosives on school grounds), disorderly conduct at school, and resisting public officer.

**Offense Classification:** The juvenile justice system adjudicated offense classification, which contains three classifications – Violent (e.g., Class A through Class E felonies), Serious (e.g., Class F through Class I felonies and Class A1 misdemeanors), and Minor (e.g., Class 1 through Class 3 misdemeanors).

**Offense Type:** The seriousness of the offense for complaints and/or arrests was broadly classified into two categories: felony and misdemeanor.

**Overall Recidivism:** Overall recidivism refers to combining recidivism that occurred during juvenile justice involvement with recidivism in the two-year follow-up to account for recidivism across both time periods. Overall recidivism rates were computed by adding together the rates for juveniles with recidivism during juvenile justice involvement only, during two-year follow-up only, and during both time periods.

**Post-Release Supervision (PRS):** A type of juvenile court supervision that begins following a juvenile's release from a YDC. This supervision lasts a minimum of 90 days and up to one year based on the juvenile's specific PRS plan.

**Probation:** The status of a juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent, is subject to specified conditions under the supervision of a juvenile court counselor and may be returned to the court for violation of those conditions during the period of probation. Juveniles are ordered by the court to be placed on probation for a period not to exceed one year from the date entered. The court may extend probation for an additional period of one year after notice and a hearing. Supervised community probation is often used as alternative to placing a juvenile in a YDC or a detention center. Also see Supervision Level.

**Race/Ethnicity:** Race/ethnicity of the juvenile (i.e., White, Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Asian, two or more races, or unknown). Generally, race/ethnicity was categorized as White, Black, Hispanic, and other/unknown for this study. Race and ethnicity are a combined measure in the DJJDP's automated system (NC-JOIN).

**Raise the Age (RtA):** Raise the Age is a term commonly used to describe the increased age of juvenile jurisdiction that went into effect with the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act – most 16- and 17-year-olds facing criminal charges may have their cases disposed through the juvenile justice system rather than the adult criminal justice system. The increase in the age of juvenile jurisdiction applies to 16- and 17-year-olds at the time of their alleged offense who have no prior adult convictions. Juveniles charged with Class A through Class G felonies are transferred to adult court, while juveniles charged with Class H or Class I felonies or non-motor vehicle misdemeanors may remain in juvenile court (motor vehicle offenses were excluded). This change in jurisdiction applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2019. Effective December 1, 2024, 16- and 17-year-olds with violent offenses (Class A-E felonies) are processed in the adult system. Since the effective date occurs after the FY 2022 sample was selected

(juvenile justice exits during July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022), juveniles 16 and 17 years at offense with violent offenses were included in the sample. Also see Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA).

**Recidivism:** In general, the reoccurrence of delinquent or criminal activity. In this study, recidivism was defined in terms of contacts with the North Carolina juvenile justice and/or adult criminal justice system, with the primary measure defined as having either a delinquent juvenile complaint and/or an adult arrest during the follow-up periods examined. Additional measures of recidivism included adjudications and convictions. Data on infractions, local ordinances, process offenses, and misdemeanor traffic offenses were excluded from all recidivism measures.

- **Total Number of Recidivist Events:** The total number of recidivist events for juveniles who had a subsequent juvenile complaint, an adult arrest, or both during the follow-up period. In calculating total number of recidivist events, only one subsequent complaint or adult arrest was counted per day if multiple complaints or arrests occurred on the same day. This also applies to recidivist events for subsequent adjudications and/or convictions.
- **Months to Recidivism:** The number of months (typically reported as an average) from sample entry to several events tracked during the follow-up periods examined. Each measure must occur during the follow-up period and is based on the first date the specific event occurred. The number of months to each measure is calculated separately.
- **Most Serious Recidivist Offense:** The seriousness of the recidivist offense for complaints and/or arrests was broadly classified into two categories: felony and misdemeanor.

**Risk Level:** A risk score is computed for each juvenile using the YASI, which is used to place the juvenile into one of three levels of risk (low, moderate, or high) to indicate risk of delinquent behavior. The levels are determined separately by sex (i.e., male, female). See also Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument.

**Sample:** Juveniles who exited the juvenile justice system between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 following diversion for a delinquent complaint or, for those adjudicated delinquent and with a disposition imposed, following probation in the community or commitment in a YDC. The sample groups are described as follows:

- **Diversion Group:** A diversion is the referral of a juvenile to a community-based program or service, prior to the filing of a juvenile petition, which provides an alternative to court. Juveniles are either diverted pursuant to a diversion plan (less formal) or a diversion contract (more formal). Compliance with the plan or contract results in finalization of the juvenile's diversion with no petition filed for their complaint, while noncompliance could later result in the filing of the complaint as a petition in juvenile court. For this sample, diversion refers to juveniles whose diversion plan or contract ended in FY 2022. See also Diversion.
- **Probation Group:** Probation is a dispositional alternative for delinquent juveniles who requires the juvenile to be supervised by a juvenile court counselor and follow specific terms or conditions ordered by the court. Juveniles who exited probation had supervised probation imposed as part of their Level 1 (Community) or Level 2 (Intermediate) disposition. For this sample, probation refers to juveniles who exited probation in FY 2022.

- **Commitment Group:** Commitment is a dispositional option for delinquent juveniles who requires a juvenile to be committed to a YDC. For this sample, commitment refers to juveniles released from a YDC in FY 2022 after commitment ordered due to a new offense, violation of probation, or revocation of PRS.

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** As defined by the NC Department of Public Instruction, a school resource officer is “a certified law enforcement officer who is permanently assigned to provide coverage to a school or a set of schools.”<sup>67</sup> For purposes of this report, the complaint was an SRO referral if the complaint was referred to the DJJDP by a law enforcement officer functioning as an SRO.

**School-Based Offense (SBO):** A school-based offense is an offense that occurs on school grounds, school property (e.g., buses), at a school bus stop, or at an off-campus school-sanctioned event (e.g., field trips, athletic competitions) or whose victim is a school (such as a false bomb report). School includes any public or private institution providing elementary (grades K-8), secondary (grades 9-12), or post-secondary (e.g., community college, trade school, college) education, but excludes home schools, preschools, and daycares.

**Sex:** Sex of the juvenile (i.e., male or female designation).

**Strengths Level:** A strengths score is computed for each juvenile, which is used to place the juvenile in one of six levels of strengths: very high, high, high moderate, moderate, low, very low. For this report, the six levels were combined into three levels: high (high + very high), moderate (moderate + high moderate), or low (very low + low). The levels are determined separately by sex (i.e., male, female). Juveniles with the full assessment were assessed for strengths. *See also Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument.*

**Strengths Level (Prescreen):** A strengths score is computed for each juvenile, which is used to place the juvenile in one of three levels of strengths: high, moderate, low. The levels are determined separately by sex (i.e., male, female). The prescreen score and level are determined from the prescreen tool given at intake. *See also Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument.*

**Supervision Level:** A juvenile is placed on one of four levels of supervision: Low, Standard, Enhanced, or High/Intensive. The levels of supervision primarily indicate the frequency of contact a juvenile’s individual circumstances warrant, with Low requiring the fewest contacts and High/Intensive requiring the most contacts. *Also see Probation.*

**YDC Commitment Type:** Commitment type indicates if the juvenile had previous YDC commitments, categorized broadly into three categories – new commitment (e.g., first YDC commitment), recommitment (e.g., prior YDC commitments due to an adjudication of a new offense or violation of probation), and PRS revocation (e.g., post-release supervision decision for noncompliance upon release from a YDC).

**YDC Entry Type:** The reason for which a juvenile entered a YDC categorized broadly into three categories – adjudication of a new offense, violation of probation, and PRS revocation.

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<sup>67</sup> *See* <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/center-safer-schools/school-resource-officers> for the definition and additional information about SROs in North Carolina schools.

**Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI):** Implemented on January 1, 2021, an intake assessment tool administered by the DJJDP intake counselor for use in initial decision to approve or not approve a complaint for filing, as well as for use at disposition and case planning/management. The YASI prescreen tool is given to all juveniles at intake. Depending on their score (if moderate or high risk) or further involvement with the juvenile justice system, a YASI full assessment is completed to provide additional insights on the juvenile's needs and strengths. These assessments contain information (or domains) pertaining to the juvenile's legal history, family, social, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and educational/employment history, as well as factors indicating the probability of the juvenile engaging in future delinquency. Upon reviewing the information gathered during the evaluation, the court counselor determines if the complaint should be closed, diverted, or approved for filing as a petition and brought before the court.

**Youth Development Center (YDC):** YDC is a secure residential facility that provides long-term treatment, education, and rehabilitative services for delinquent juveniles committed by the court to the DJJDP. This type of commitment is the most restrictive, intensive dispositional option available to the juvenile courts in North Carolina. The structure of the juvenile code limits this disposition to those juveniles who have been adjudicated for violent or serious offenses or who have a lengthy delinquency history.

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APPENDIX E

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE  
FY 2022 SAMPLE

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# GEOGRAPHIC TABLES

**Table E.1**  
**Distribution of Juveniles by Geographic Area/District**

Juvenile Justice Area/District/County	All Juveniles N	Diversion n	Probation n	Commitment n
<b>Eastern Area</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>District 1:</b> Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans Counties	155	115	40	0
<b>District 2:</b> Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington Counties	122	84	35	3
<b>District 3:</b> Carteret, Craven, Pamlico, Pitt* Counties	261	150	96	15
<b>District 4:</b> Duplin, Jones, Onslow,* Sampson Counties	179	80	91	8
<b>District 5:</b> New Hanover,* Pender Counties	141	88	48	5
<b>District 6:</b> Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton Counties	85	52	30	3
<b>District 7:</b> Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson Counties	148	65	82	1
<b>District 8:</b> Greene, Lenoir, Wayne Counties	132	42	76	14
<b>Central Area</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>District 9:</b> Caswell, Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, Warren Counties	72	30	40	2
<b>District 10:</b> Wake County*	257	152	97	8
<b>District 11:</b> Harnett, Johnston, Lee Counties	209	114	86	9
<b>District 12:</b> Cumberland County*	135	46	81	8
<b>District 13:</b> Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus Counties	132	85	45	2
<b>District 14:</b> Durham County*	54	34	19	1
<b>District 15:</b> Alamance,* Chatham, Orange* Counties	222	120	100	2
<b>District 16:</b> Hoke, Robeson, Scotland Counties	102	56	45	1
<b>Piedmont Area</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>District 17:</b> Rockingham, Stokes, Surry Counties	280	173	101	6
<b>District 18:</b> Guilford County*	214	99	100	15
<b>District 19:</b> Cabarrus,* Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Rowan* Counties	243	123	110	10
<b>District 20:</b> Anson, Richmond, Stanly, Union* Counties	344	262	76	6
<b>District 21:</b> Forsyth County*	122	65	56	1
<b>District 22:</b> Alexander, Davidson,* Davie, Iredell* Counties	492	404	86	2
<b>District 26:</b> Mecklenburg County*	175	114	58	3
<b>Western Area</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>District 23:</b> Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes, Yadkin Counties	158	71	84	3
<b>District 24:</b> Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey Counties	73	43	29	1
<b>District 25:</b> Burke, Caldwell, Catawba* Counties	225	98	122	5
<b>District 27:</b> Cleveland, Gaston,* Lincoln Counties	240	166	69	5
<b>District 28:</b> Buncombe County*	152	112	37	3
<b>District 29:</b> Henderson,* McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania Counties	218	113	104	1
<b>District 30:</b> Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties	106	85	21	0
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>143</b>

Note: Urban counties are indicated by an asterisk (\*); urban counties combine the definitions of urban county (an average population density of 250 people per square mile) and regional city/suburban counties (an average population density between 250 and 750 people per square mile). Densities calculated by the NC Rural Center using the 2020 US Census. See [county data](#) published by the NC Rural Center and a [message from their president](#) regarding 2020 Census updates.

Source: NC Department of Commerce; and NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

**Table E.2**  
**Recidivism Rates by Geographic Area/District: Two-Year Follow-Up**

<b>Juvenile Justice Area/District/County</b>	<b>All Juveniles</b> N=5,448 %	<b>Diversion</b> n=3,241 %	<b>Probation</b> n=2,064 %	<b>Commitment</b> n=143 %
<b>Eastern Area</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>District 1:</b> Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans Counties	30	30	33	--
<b>District 2:</b> Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington Counties	36	31	46	--
<b>District 3:</b> Carteret, Craven, Pamlico, Pitt* Counties	33	33	33	--
<b>District 4:</b> Duplin, Jones, Onslow,* Sampson Counties	35	38	32	--
<b>District 5:</b> New Hanover,* Pender Counties	23	18	29	--
<b>District 6:</b> Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton Counties	40	38	37	--
<b>District 7:</b> Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson Counties	36	23	46	--
<b>District 8:</b> Greene, Lenoir, Wayne Counties	40	33	37	--
<b>Central Area</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>District 9:</b> Caswell, Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, Warren Counties	40	23	50	--
<b>District 10:</b> Wake County*	33	28	39	--
<b>District 11:</b> Harnett, Johnston,* Lee Counties	37	32	43	--
<b>District 12:</b> Cumberland County*	26	22	27	--
<b>District 13:</b> Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus Counties	32	28	38	--
<b>District 14:</b> Durham County*	44	53	--	--
<b>District 15:</b> Alamance,* Chatham, Orange* Counties	38	38	37	--
<b>District 16:</b> Hoke, Robeson, Scotland Counties	39	34	44	--
<b>Piedmont Area</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>District 17:</b> Rockingham, Stokes, Surry Counties	22	19	26	--
<b>District 18:</b> Guilford County*	47	38	57	--
<b>District 19:</b> Cabarrus,* Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Rowan* Counties	31	23	35	--
<b>District 20:</b> Anson, Richmond, Stanly, Union* Counties	24	17	45	--
<b>District 21:</b> Forsyth County*	48	45	50	--
<b>District 22:</b> Alexander, Davidson,* Davie, Iredell* Counties	32	30	38	--
<b>District 26:</b> Mecklenburg County*	43	39	47	--
<b>Western Area</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>District 23:</b> Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes, Yadkin Counties	27	21	30	--
<b>District 24:</b> Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey Counties	18	19	17	--
<b>District 25:</b> Burke, Caldwell, Catawba* Counties	26	17	32	--
<b>District 27:</b> Cleveland, Gaston,* Lincoln* Counties	29	29	25	--
<b>District 28:</b> Buncombe County*	28	30	22	--
<b>District 29:</b> Henderson,* McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania Counties	23	22	24	--
<b>District 30:</b> Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties	26	28	--	--
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>55</b>

Note: Urban counties are indicated by an asterisk (\*); urban counties combine the definitions of urban county (an average population density of 250 people per square mile) and regional city/suburban counties (an average population density between 250 and 750 people per square mile). Densities calculated by the NC Rural Center using the 2020 US Census. See [county data](#) published by the NC Rural Center and a [message from their president](#) regarding 2020 Census updates. Recidivism rates are only reported when there are at least 25 juveniles in a specific category. Source: NC Department of Commerce; and NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample



# JUVENILES WITH GANG INVOLVEMENT

**Table E.3**  
**Profile of FY 2022 Juveniles with Gang Involvement**

Profile of Juveniles with Gang Involvement		Gang Involved N=130
<b>Personal Characteristics</b>		
Male	%	93
Race/Ethnicity		
White	%	9
Black	%	83
Hispanic	%	6
Other/Unknown	%	2
Age at Offense		
12 Years and Younger	%	4
13-15 Years	%	51
16-17 Years	%	45
<b>Prior Juvenile Justice Contacts</b>		
Prior Complaint	%	78
Prior Adjudication	%	40
Prior Confinement	%	58
<b>Most Serious Charged Offense</b>		
Offense Type		
Felony	%	55
Offense Classification		
Violent (Class A-E Felony)	%	16
Serious (Class F-I Felony, Class A1 Misd.)	%	42
Minor (Class 1-3 Misdemeanor)	%	42
Crime Category		
Person	%	37
Property	%	41
Drug	%	4
Other	%	18
School-Based Offense	%	17
<b>Risk Level</b>		
Low	%	8
Moderate	%	32
High	%	60
<b>Prescreen Strengths Level</b>		
High	%	8
Moderate	%	32
Low	%	60
<b>Juvenile Justice Involvement</b>		
Prior JCPC Program Participation	%	48
JCPC Program Participation	%	38
<b>Gang Involvement Score</b>	Avg.	4

Note: One (1) of the gang involved juveniles was missing risk level and prescreen strength level.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

**Table E.4**  
**Recidivism Rates for Juveniles with Gang Involvement**

Gang Involvement Indicators	N	% with Gang Indicator	JJ Involvement		Two-Year Follow-Up	
			#	%	#	%
Self-Admitted Gang Member	66	51	26	39	38	58
Youth Identified as Gang Member	112	86	46	41	69	62
Prior Criminal Gang Activity	58	45	27	47	35	60
Adopted Gang Symbols, Hand Signs, Graffiti	84	65	32	38	54	64
Displayed Gang Colors or Dress Style	67	52	29	43	43	64
Possessed Gang Physical Evidence	33	25	12	36	22	67
Has Gang Tattoos or Markings	19	15	8	--	13	--
Adopted Gang Language or Terminology	53	41	21	40	36	68
Promoted Gang Activity on Social Media	57	44	22	39	34	60
<b>Gang Involved Juveniles</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>62</b>

Note: Recidivism rates are only reported when there are at least 25 juveniles in a specific category.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

## YOUTH ASSESSMENT AND SCREENING INSTRUMENT (YASI)

**Table E.5**  
**Juveniles with a YASI**

Level of Involvement	N	No YASI		Prescreen YASI Risk and Prescreen Strengths		Full YASI Risk, Needs, and Strengths		Days to Completed YASI
		#	%	#	%	#	%	Avg.
<b>Diversion</b>	3,241	28	1	1,184	37	2,029	63	14
<b>Probation</b>	2,064	8	<1	3	<1	2,053	100	108
<b>Commitment</b>	143	0	0	0	0	143	100	93
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>52</b>

Note: Due to the lower percentage of juveniles in the diversion group with a full YASI assessment, information was provided on the risk and prescreen strengths for the entire sample, while for adjudicated juveniles (probation and commitment groups) information was reported on the full YASI assessment (risk, needs, and strengths).

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

# JUVENILE COMPLAINTS AND ADULT ARRESTS

**Table E.6**

**Subsequent Delinquent Complaints, Adult Arrests, and Combined Recidivism by Level of Involvement**

Juvenile Justice Involvement					
Level of Involvement	Juvenile Complaint		Adult Arrest		Recidivism Complaint and/or Arrest
	N	%	N	%	N %
<b>Diversion</b>	3,197	11	211	2	3,241 11
<b>Probation</b>	1,925	23	583	14	2,064 23
<b>Commitment</b>	134	7	41	0	143 6
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,256</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,448 15</b>

Two-Year Follow-Up					
Level of Involvement	Juvenile Complaint		Adult Arrest		Recidivism Complaint and/or Arrest
	N	%	N	%	N %
<b>Diversion</b>	3,027	27	1,304	12	3,241 28
<b>Probation</b>	1,514	28	1,522	25	2,064 36
<b>Commitment</b>	102	45	130	40	143 55
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>4,643</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5,448 32</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

**Table E.7**

**Recidivism Rates by Legal Jurisdiction and Level of Involvement**

Juvenile Justice Involvement					
Level of Involvement		Juvenile System Only n=4,636	Juvenile and Adult Systems n=618	Adult System Only n=194	Recidivism Complaint and/or Arrest N=5,448
	N	%	%	%	%
<b>Diversion</b>	3,241	11	5	2	11
<b>Probation</b>	2,064	23	27	13	23
<b>Commitment</b>	143	8	0	--	6
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>

Two-Year Follow-Up					
Level of Involvement		Juvenile System Only n=2,509	Juvenile and Adult Systems n=2,128	Adult System Only n=811	Recidivism Complaint and/or Arrest N=5,448
	N	%	%	%	%
<b>Diversion</b>	3,241	32	25	13	28
<b>Probation</b>	2,064	38	36	35	36
<b>Commitment</b>	143	--	60	37	55
<b>All Juveniles</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>

Note: Recidivism rates are only reported when there are at least 25 juveniles in a specific category.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

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## APPENDIX F

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE FY 2022 ADJUDICATED JUVENILES

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## Court Services Case Management Standards Chart

**Note: Each juvenile should be evaluated individually.  
This chart represents the most common situations.**

Case Management Levels	Low	Standard	Enhanced	High/Intensive
Maximum Caseload #	40	30	20	10
<u>Minimum</u> time spent working on behalf of youth & family (week/month)	45 minutes/3 hours	1 hour/4 hours	1.5 hours/6 hours	3 hours/12 hours
Typical Risk Level	R1-R2	R2-R3	R3-R4	R4-R5
Typical Needs Level	Low	Low-Medium	Medium-High	Medium-High

### Initial Case Management Standards

Felony School Notification	Before school starts next day (V)/5 days (W)	Before school starts next day (V)/5 days (W)	Before school starts next day (V)/5 days (W)	Before start school next day (V)/5 days (W)
Deliver & Review Conditions/Expectations (Court Supervision Only)	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 7 calendar days
Make Referrals & Program Assignment	W/in 10 calendar days	W/in 10 calendar days	W/in 10 calendar days	W/in 7 calendar days
Court F/F Contact (Juvenile)	Immediately after court	Immediately after court	Immediately after court	Immediately after court
Court F/F Contact (Parent)	Immediately after court	Immediately after court	Immediately after court	Immediately after court
Juvenile Contact (Phone)	W/in 10 calendar days	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing
Parent Contact (Phone)	W/in 10 calendar days	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing
Juvenile Contact (F/F)	W/in 30 days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 7 calendar days
Parent Contact (F/F)	W/in 30 days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 7 calendar days
Home Visit (HV)	W/in 30 days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 7 calendar days
After school hours/weekend (F/F)	-----	Based on Case Staffing	W/in 14 calendar days	W/in 7 calendar days
Collateral Contact	W/in 10 calendar days	W/in 10 calendar days	W/in 10 calendar days	W/in 7 calendar days
YDC Social Worker*	--	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days**
Service Planning Meeting*	--	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days**
Juvenile Family Datasheet (JFDS)	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 14 calendar days
Risk & Needs and Summary (unless completed within the last 30 calendar days)	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 5 calendar days
Initial Service Plan (ISP)	--	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 10 calendar days
File Review	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 30 calendar days	W/in 10 calendar days

Continuous Case Management Standards				
Felony School Notification (FSN)	Before school starts next day (V)/5 days (W)	Before school starts next day (V)/5 days (W)	Before school starts next day (V)/5 days (W)	Before start school next day (V)/5 days (W)
Juvenile Contact (Phone)	1 every 30 calendar days	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing
Parent Contact (Phone)	1 every 30 calendar days	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing	Based on Case Staffing
Juvenile Contact (F/F)	Based on Case Staffing	1 every 30 calendar days	1 every 30 calendar days	1 every 7 calendar days
Parent Contact (F/F)	Based on Case Staffing	1 every 60 calendar days	1 every 30 calendar days	1 every 14 calendar days
Home Visit (HV)	Based on Case Staffing	1 every 60 calendar days	1 every 30 calendar days	1 every 14 calendar days
After school hours/weekend	--	Based on Case Staffing	1 every 60 calendar days	1 every 30 calendar days
Collateral Contact (Phone or F/F)	1 every 30 calendar days	1 every 30 calendar days	1 every 30 calendar days	1 every 30 calendar days
Updated JFDS	As information changes	As information changes	As information changes	As information changes
Program Assignment Updates	As information changes	As information changes	As information changes	As information changes
Risk & Needs and Summary (Update)	Every 90 calendar days	Every 90 calendar days	Every 90 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days
Updated Service Plan (USP)	Every 90 calendar days	Every 90 calendar days	Every 90 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days
File Review	Every 30 calendar days	Every 90 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days
YDC Social Worker	--	Every 30 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days
Service Planning/CFT Meeting	--	Every 30 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days	Every 30 calendar days
NC-JOIN Case Note Entry	W/in 5 business days	W/in 5 business days	W/in 5 business days	W/in 5 business days
Termination Review	30 days prior to term	30 days prior to term	30 days prior to term	30 days prior to term

\*Upon commitment

\*\*Community Placement only

**Table F.1**  
**Needs and Strengths Levels by Level of Involvement**

Needs Level	N	Very Low %	Low %	Moderate %	High Moderate %	High %	Very High %
Level 1 Probation	1,317	34	18	22	15	6	5
Level 2 Probation	736	23	19	21	19	10	8
Level 3 Commitment	143	5	9	19	31	17	19
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
Strengths Level	N	Very High %	High %	High Moderate %	Moderate %	Low %	Very Low %
Level 1 Probation	1,317	22	22	24	19	9	4
Level 2 Probation	736	15	18	25	22	13	7
Level 3 Commitment	143	4	8	24	29	20	15
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>

Note: In the probation group, there were 8 juveniles missing risk, needs, and strengths levels and an additional 3 juveniles missing needs and strengths levels.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

**Table F.2**  
**Number of Adjudicated Juveniles by Adjudicated Offense Classification and Delinquency History Level**

Adjudicated Offense Classification	Delinquency History Level			Adjudicated Juveniles
	Low	Medium	High	
<b>Violent</b> Class A-E Felonies	91	19	25	<b>135</b>
<b>Serious</b> Class F-I Felonies Class A1 Misdemeanor	639	105	117	<b>861</b>
<b>Minor</b> Class 1-3 Misdemeanors	1,067	93	51	<b>1,211</b>
<b>Adjudicated Juveniles</b>	<b>1,797</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>2,207</b>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2022 Juvenile Recidivism Exit Sample