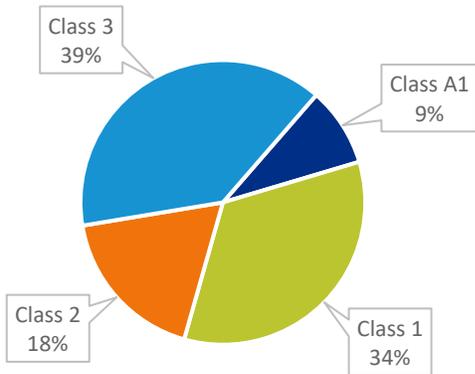




## FISCAL YEAR 2023

- ⇒ During FY 2023, 103,010 sentences for misdemeanor convictions (including 40,887 for Class 2 and Class 3 traffic offenses) were imposed under Structured Sentencing.
- ⇒ The majority (39%) of misdemeanor convictions were for Class 3 offenses.
- ⇒ Most misdemeanor convictions were for a traffic offense (44%), while the fewest were for a person offense (9%). The most frequently convicted offense was driving while license revoked (non-DWI).
- ⇒ 26% of convictions resulted in an Active punishment.

Offense Class Distribution

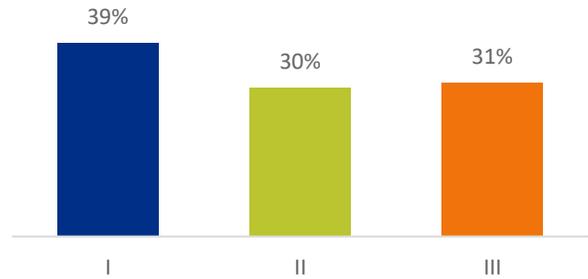


Crime Type	N	%
Person	8,311	9
Property	15,183	16
Drug	13,319	14
Public Order	16,346	17
Traffic	41,962	44

### Offender Characteristics

- The majority of misdemeanor offenders were male (73%).
- 47% of offenders were White, 41% were Black, 7% were Hispanic, 1% were Native American, and 4% were Other.
- The average age of offenders was 35 at conviction.
- 39% of convictions were for offenders in Prior Conviction Level I (i.e., offenders with no prior convictions).

Prior Conviction Level Distribution



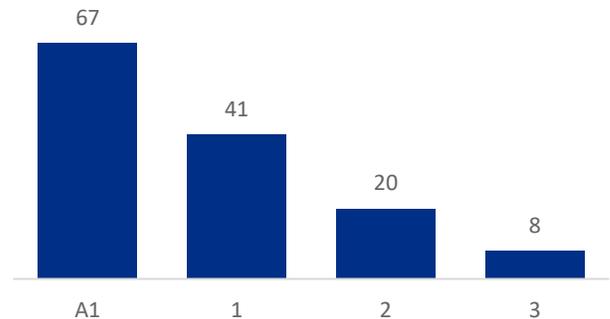
Top 5 Convictions

Conviction	Class	N
DWLR Non-DWI Revocation	3	15,364
Misdemeanor Larceny	1	7,907
Possess Drug Paraphernalia	1	6,466
Speeding	3	5,489
Reckless Driving to Endanger	2	4,316

### Punishment

- 26% of misdemeanor convictions resulted in an Active punishment, 2% resulted in an Intermediate punishment, and 72% resulted in a Community punishment.
- Convictions for Class A1 and Class 1 misdemeanors accounted for the highest percentages of active sentences imposed relative to other offense classes (36% each).
- The average active sentence length was 33 days.
- 87% of offenders with active sentences received credit for time served.

Average Active Sentence by Offense Class (in Days)

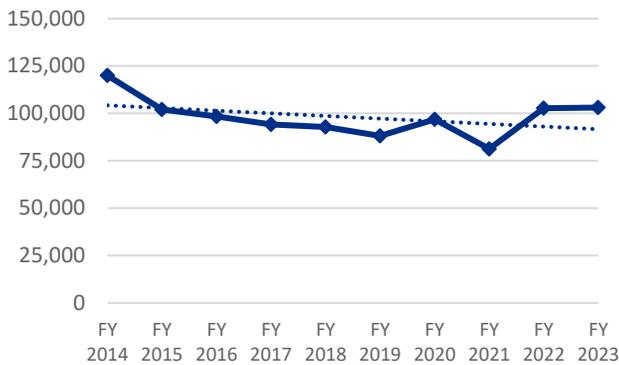


# QUICK FACTS: MISDEMEANOR CONVICTIONS

## FISCAL YEAR 2014 – FISCAL YEAR 2023

From FY 2019 to FY 2020, the inclusion of Class 2 and 3 traffic convictions resulted in a 10% net increase in misdemeanor convictions. Following declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic, misdemeanor convictions have increased 27% since FY 2021. Misdemeanor convictions increased less than 1% over the past fiscal year.

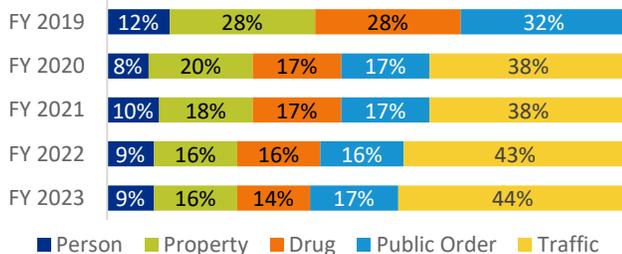
**Total Misdemeanor Convictions**



Note: Misdemeanor convictions in FY 2014 – FY 2019 exclude Class 2 and 3 traffic offenses, while FY 2020 - FY 2023 misdemeanor convictions include Class 2 and Class 3 traffic offenses.

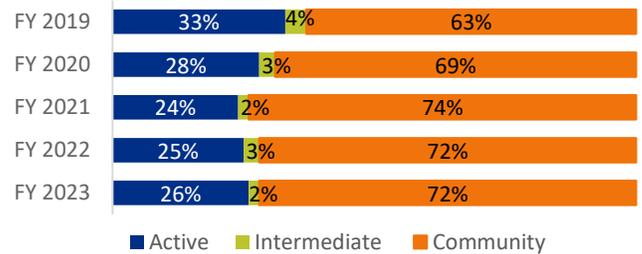
The composition of misdemeanor convictions by crime type changed substantially with the addition of Class 2 and Class 3 traffic offenses in FY 2020, with traffic offenses now accounting for the largest percentage of misdemeanor convictions (44%). Previously, public order offenses comprised most of the misdemeanor convictions.

**Crime Type**



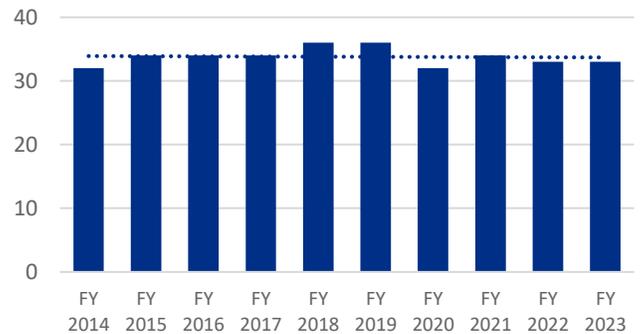
The percentage of convictions with an Active punishment imposed decreased from 33% in FY 2019 to 26% in FY 2023, while the percentage of Community punishments imposed increased. This change reflects the sentencing of Class 2 and 3 traffic offenses which are less likely to receive Active punishment and more likely to receive Community punishment.

**Type of Punishment Imposed**



The average active sentence imposed for all misdemeanor convictions has been relatively stable over the past ten years, ranging from a low of 32 days to a high of 36 days. The average active sentence imposed was 33 days in FY 2023.

**Average Active Sentence (in Days)**



In each year since FY 2020, nearly three-fourths of active sentences equaled the amount of credit for time served (with an average of 25 days in FY 2023), potentially indicating a sentence to time served.

Note: Figures in this publication generally exclude misdemeanor convictions that did not fit within the appropriate cell in the Misdemeanor Punishment Chart. SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2014 – FY 2023 Statistical Report Data

**NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission**  
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**The Honorable Charlie Brown, Chairman**  
**Michelle Hall, Executive Director**

For the NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s *Structured Sentencing Statistical Report for Felonies and Misdemeanors* and all other publications, see the Commission’s website: [www.NCSPAC.org](http://www.NCSPAC.org).