

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH PROJECT February 2021

Introduction

A study of seven School Justice Partnerships was conducted in Summer 2020. This was the first study conducted of School Justice Partnerships by the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. The study was performed by Neisha Williams, a Ph.D. candidate and graduate research assistant, as part of an internship through the State of North Carolina Internship Program.

Ms. Williams analyzed school discipline data for seven counties where School Justice Partnerships had been established for at least two years prior to July 1, 2020, which included: Brunswick, Greene, Lenoir, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Stanly, and Wayne Counties. The oldest program included in the study was implemented in New Hanover County on November 2, 2015 and was the first School Justice Partnership in North Carolina. The newest program included in the study was implemented in Stanly County on July 1, 2018.

Findings

The study evaluated the impact of School Justice Partnerships on school-based offenses in the seven counties using data from the following sources: calendar year data from the Juvenile Justice Section of the <u>North Carolina Department of Public Safety</u>; school discipline data from the <u>North Carolina Department of Public Instruction</u>; and <u>Race Equity Cards</u> developed by the <u>Southern Coalition for Social Justice</u>. A school-based offense is one that occurs on school grounds, school property, at a school bus stop, at an off-campus school sanctioned event, or where the school is the victim.

Overall, five of the seven counties experienced a decrease in the number of school-based offenses from the year prior to the implementation of the School Justice Partnership to 2020, while two counties experienced a slight increase in school-based offenses in 2020. It is noteworthy that the North Carolina Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, also known as "Raise the Age," became effective December 1, 2019. This legislation increased the maximum age of the juvenile court jurisdiction to require that 16- and 17- year-olds be prosecuted in juvenile court for most offenses. Until December 1, 2019, all 16- and 17- year-olds in North Carolina were automatically prosecuted in adult criminal court, regardless of the offense. As a result, the school-based complaint data used in this study does not include 16- and 17- year-olds for time periods prior to December 1, 2019 but does include them in the 2020 calendar year data. It is possible that this change contributed to the increase in school-based complaints to juvenile court, as reported by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, for Greene and Wayne Counties. However, it is recommended that other factors are explored locally, such as a change in school policy or administration.



Percent Change in School-Based Offenses							
Brunswick	79% decrease from 2016 to 2020						
Greene	24% increase from 2017 to 2020						
Lenoir	74% decrease from 2017 to 2020						
Mecklenburg	39% decrease from 2016 to 2020						
New Hanover	23.4% decrease from 2016 to 2020						
Stanly	20.3% decrease from 2017 to 2020						
Wayne	15.1% increase from 2017 to 2020						

The study also showed that, on average, black students are more likely than their peers to be referred to juvenile delinquency court based on 2019 calendar year data. These results are consistent with statewide data, which shows that black students are disproportionately represented in North Carolina's juvenile justice system.

Court Referrals for Black Students						
Brunswick	2x more likely to receive court referral					
Greene	1.4x more likely to receive court referral					
Greene	1.4X more likely to receive court referral					
Lenoir	1.9x more likely to receive court referral					
Mecklenburg	2x more likely to receive court referral					
New Hanover	4x more likely to receive court referral					
Stanly	2.5x more likely to receive court referral					
Wayne	1.6x more likely to receive court referral					

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North Carolina Judicial Branch



Conclusion

The results of this study were provided to the chief district court judge of each county included in the study in order to facilitate program review and evaluation by local School Justice Partnership stakeholders. To continue efforts to assess the impact of School Justice Partnerships in North Carolina, the Office of General Counsel and Court Programs Division of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts intend to develop a statewide plan for data collection and analysis.

Brunswick County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 7/1/2017 Number of Schools: 19

Year	Total Minor	% Change	Total Serious	% Change	Total Delinquent	% Change
2016	340	-	66	-	409	-
2017	187	-45%	92	39.39%	288	-29.58%
2018	144	-23%	36	-60.87%	189	-34.38%
2019	146	1%	43	19.44%	202	6.88%
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of DPS Complaints:

Minor (Class 1-3): Misdemeanors (e.g., shoplifting, disorderly conduct)

Serious (Class F-I): Felony (e.g., serious property or weapons)

Delinquent: Sum of delinquent complaints

*total delinquent includes complaints for offenses unrelated to SJPs (i.e., infraction and violent).

Summary of School Based Offenses:

	School Based Offenses	% Change
2016	366	-
2017	141	-61.48%
2018	110	-21.99%
2019	81	-26.36%
2020	74	-8.64%

-Missing data *Unable to calculate Shaded cells= Active SJP % total offenses=Percent of total school-based offenses

Brunswick County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 7/1/2017 Number of Schools: 19

School Based Offense Demographic Breakdown

		C	Offense	by Ge	nder			
	Male	% Change	% of total Offenses	Female	% Change	% of total Offenses		<=10 years
2016	270	-	74%	96	-	26.23%	2016	43
2017	84	-69%	60%	57	-40.6%	40.43%	2017	5
2018	78	-7%	71%	32	-43.9%	29.09%	2018	6
2019	66	-15%	81%	15	-53.1%	18.52%	2019	<5
2020	59	-11%	80%	15	0%	20.27%	2020	<5

			Offense by Age											
_		<=10 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	11-13 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	14 to 15 years	% Change	% of total Offenses				
	2016	43	-	11.75%	121	-	33.1%	202	-	55.19%				
	2017	5	-88.4%	3.55%	34	-72%	24.1%	102	-49.5%	72.34%				
	2018	6	20%	5.45%	66	94.1%	60%	38	-62.75%	34.55%				
	2019	<5	*	*	54	-18%	66.7%	25	-34.21	30.86%				
	2020	<5	*	*	20	-63%	27%	38	52%	51.35%				

	Brunswick County School Demographics									
Year	Total Enrolled	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White						
2016	12,369	15%	12.5%	66.7%						
2017	12,409	15.1%	12.8%	66.1%						
2018	12,458	15%	13.3%	65.3%						
2019	12,524	14.2%	14%	64.9%						
2020			-							

	Offense by Race										
	Black	Black % % of total Hispanic/ % % of total White % % of total Change Offenses Latino Change Offenses Change Offenses Offenses									
2016	110	-	30.1%	34	-	9.29%	195	-	53.28%		
2017	46	-58%	32.6%	9	-73.5%	6.38%	75	-61.5%	53.19%		
2018	21	-54%	19.1%	18	1%	16.36%	66	-12%	60%		
2019	23	9.5%	28.4%	10	-44.4%	12.35%	42	-36.4%	51.85%		
2020	20	-13%	27%	11	10%	14.86%	36	-14.3%	48.65%		

-Missing data

*Unable to calculate

Shaded cells= Active SJP % total offenses=Percent of total school-based offenses

Greene County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 3/16/2018 Number of Schools: 6

Summary of DPS Complaints:

Total % Total % Total % Year Minor Change Serious Delinquent Change Change 2017 48 27 21 _ _ 2018 31 14.81% 11 -47.61% 43 -10.42% 2019 32 3.23% 12 9.09% 44 2.33% 2020 ---_ --

Minor (Class 1-3): Misdemeanors (e.g., shoplifting, disorderly conduct)

Serious (Class F-I): Felony (e.g., serious property or weapons)

Delinquent: Sum of delinquent complaints

*total delinquent includes complaints for offenses unrelated to SJPs (i.e., infraction and violent).

Summary of School Based Offenses:

	School Based Offenses	% Change
2017	25	-
2018	49	96%
2019	22	-55.10%
2020	31	40.91%

-Missing data *Unable to calculate Shaded cells= Active SJP % total offenses=Percent of total school-based offenses

Greene County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 3/16/2018 Number of Schools: 6

School Based Offense Demographic Breakdown

		Offense by Gender									
	Male	Male % Change % of Female % total Change 0 Offenses Offenses									
2017	16	-	64%	9	-	36%					
2018	32	1%	65.31%	17	88.89%	34.69%					
2019	19	-40.63%	86.36%	<5	*	14%					
2020	22	15.79%	70.97%	9	*	29.03%					

		Offense by Age										
	<=10 years	% Change	% of total	11-13 years	% Change	% of total	14 to 15	% Change	% of total			
	ycurs	chunge	Offenses	years		Offenses	years		Offenses			
2017	6	-	24%	<5	-	*	16	-	64%			
2018	7	16.67%	14.29%	13	*	26.53%	29	81.25%	59.18%			
2019	<5	*	*	5	-61.54%	22.73%	16	-44.83%	72.73%			
2020	0	*	0	20	300%	64.52%	9	-43.75%	29.03%			

	Greene County School Demographics										
Year	Total Enrolled	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White							
2017	3,091	36.7%	31.2%	29.9%							
2018	3,016	36.5%	31%	30.2%							
2019	2,922	36.9%	31.7%	28.9%							
2020			-								

		Offense by Race										
	Black	% Change	% of total Offenses	Hispanic/ Latino	% Change	% of total Offenses	White	% Change	% of total Offenses			
2017	17	-	68%	<5	0%	*	5	*	20%			
2018	33	94.1%	67.3%	<5	0%	*	13	160%	26.53%			
2019	11	-67%	50%	<5	0%	*	8	-38.5%	36.36%			
2020	13	18.2%	41.9%	8	*	25.81%	10	25%	32.26%			

-Missing data *Unable to calculate Shaded cells= Active SJP % total offenses=Percent of total school-based offenses

Lenoir County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 3/16/2018 Number of Schools: 17

% % Total Year Total % Total Change Change Change Minor Serious Delinguent 93 170 2017 69 _ _ 2018 62 -33.33% 35 -49.28% 100 -41.18% 2019 65 4.84% 54 54.29% 29% 129 2020 _ -_ ---

Summary of DPS Complaints:

Minor (Class 1-3): Misdemeanors (e.g., shoplifting, disorderly conduct)

Serious (Class F-I): Felony (e.g., serious property or weapons)

Delinquent: Sum of delinquent complaints

*total delinquent includes complaints for offenses unrelated to SJPs (i.e., infraction and violent).

	School Based Offenses	% Change
2017	100	-
2018	56	-44%
2019	32	-42.9%
2020	26	-18.8%

Lenoir County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 3/16/2018 Number of Schools: 17

School Based Offense Demographic Breakdown

		Offense by Gender										
	Male	% Change	% of total Offenses	Female	% Change	% of total Offenses						
2017	84	-	84%	16	-	16%						
2018	45	-46%	80%	11	-31.3%	19.64%						
2019	23	-49%	72%	9	-18.2%	28.13%						
2020	13	-43%	50%	13	44.44%	50%						

		Offense by Age										
	<=10 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	11-13 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	14 to 15 years	% Change	% of total Offenses			
2017	<5	-	*	39	-	39%	58	-	58%			
2018	0	*	0%	15	-62%	26.8%	41	-29.31%	73.21%			
2019	<5	*	*	6	-60%	18.8%	25	-39.02%	78.13%			
2020	0	*	0%	10	66.7%	38.5%	9	-64%	34.62%			

	Lenoir County School Demographics									
Year	Total Enrolled	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White						
2017	8,646	47.3%	13.5%	35.6%						
2018	8,520	46.6%	13.7%	35.7%						
2019	8,517	46.7%	14%	34.9%						
2020			-							

		Offense by Race										
	Black	% Change	% of total Offenses	Hispanic/ Latino	% Change	% of total Offenses	White	% Change	% of total Offenses			
2017	56	-	56%	8	-	8%	32	-	32%			
2018	46	-18%	82.1%	<5	*	*	6	-81.3%	10.71%			
2019	29	-37%	90.6%	<5	*	*	<5	*	*			
2020	19	-34%	73.1%	0	*	0%	6	*	23.08%			

Mecklenburg County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 1/28/2016 Number of Schools: 160-176

Summary of DPS Complaints:

Year	Total Minor	% Change	Total Serious	% Change	Total Delinquent	% Change
2015	2,263	-	1,055	-	3,492	-
2016	2028	-10.38%	1121	6.26%	3,271	-6.33%
2017	2,089	3.01%	1,243	10.88%	3,523	7.70%
2018	1,417	-32.17%	928	-25.34%	2,530	-28.19%
2019	963	-32.04%	614	-33.84%	1,788	-29.33
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-

Minor (Class 1-3): Misdemeanors (e.g., shoplifting, disorderly conduct)

Serious (Class F-I): Felony (e.g., serious property or weapons)

Delinquent: Sum of delinquent complaints

*total delinquent includes complaints for offenses unrelated to SJPs (i.e., infraction and violent).

	School Based Offenses	% Change
2015	-	-
2016	866	-
2017	801	-7.51%
2018	592	-26.09%
2019	323	-45.44%
2020	528	63.47%

Mecklenburg County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 1/28/2016 Number of Schools: 160-176 School Based Offense Demographic Breakdown

		Offense by Gender									
	Male	% Change	% of total Offenses	Female	% Change	% of total Offenses					
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-					
2016	709	-	82%	157	-	18.13%					
2017	629	-11%	79%	172	9.55%	21.47%					
2018	469	-25%	79%	123	-28.5%	20.78%					
2019	258	-45%	80%	65	-47.2%	20.12%					
2020	399	55%	76%	129	98.46%	24.43%					

				Off	ense b	y Age			
_	<=10 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	11-13 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	14 to 15 years	% Change	% of total Offenses
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	39	-	4.5%	281	-	32.4%	546	-	63.05%
2017	49	25.64%	6.12%	241	-14.2	30.1%	511	-6.41%	63.8%
2018	48	-2%	8.11%	206	-14.5	34.8%	338	-33.86%	57.09%
2019	14	-70.8%	4.33%	101	-51%	31.3%	208	-38.46%	64.4%
2020	17	21.43%	3.22%	128	26.73%	24.2%	278	33.65%	52.65%

	Med	Mecklenburg County School									
	Demographics										
Year	Total Enrolled	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White							
2015	-	-	-	-							
2016	145,444	39.7%	22%	29.4%							
2017	146,571	39%	23%	28.6%							
2018	146,693	38.1%	24.1%	28%							
2019	147,639	37.5%	24.9%	27.6%							
2020			-								

		Offense by Race										
	Black	% Change	% of total Offenses	Hispanic/ Latino	% Change	% of total Offenses	White	% Change	% of total Offenses			
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2016	671	-	77.5%	115	-	13.28%	65	-	7.51%			
2017	632	-6%	78.9%	100	-13%	12.48%	51	-21.5%	6.37%			
2018	446	-29%	75.3%	64	-36%	10.81%	66	29.41%	11.15%			
2019	259	-42%	80.2%	42	-34.4%	13%	16	-75.8%	4.95%			
2020	431	66.4%	81.6%	72	71.43%	13.64%	18	12.5%	3.41%			

New Hanover County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 11/2/2015 Number of Schools: 41-43

Summary of DPS Complaints:

Year	Total Minor	% Changa	Total Serious	% Changa	Total Delinquent	% Change
	IVIIIIOI	Change	Senous	Change	Deiinquent	Change
2014	347	-	92	-	452	-
2015	243	-29.97%	114	23.91%	369	-18.36%
2016	238	-2.06%	140	22.81%	388	5.15%
2017	265	11.34%	66	-52.86%	350	-9.79%
2018	198	-25.28%	75	13.64%	280	-20%
2019	216	9.09%	138	84%	383	36.79%
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-

Minor (Class 1-3): Misdemeanors (e.g., shoplifting, disorderly conduct)

Serious (Class F-I): Felony (e.g., serious property or weapons)

Delinquent: Sum of delinquent complaints

*total delinquent includes complaints for offenses unrelated to SJPs (i.e., infraction and violent).

	School Based Offenses	% Change
2014	-	-
2015	-	-
2016	141	-
2017	189	34.04%
2018	110	-41.8%
2019	133	20.91%
2020	108	-18.8%

New Hanover County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 11/2/2015 Number of Schools: 41-43 School Based Offense Demographic Breakdown

	Offense by Gender									
	Male	% Change	% of total Offenses	Female	% Change	% of total Offenses				
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-				
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-				
2016	94	-	67%	47	-	33.33%				
2017	112	19%	59%	77	63.83%	40.74%				
2018	76	-32%	69%	34	-55.8%	30.91%				
2019	106	39%	80%	27	-20.6%	20.3%				
2020	86	-19%	80%	22	-18.5%	20.37%				

		Offense by Age										
	<=10 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	11-13 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	14 to 15 years	% Change	% of total Offenses			
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2016	<5	-	*	46	-	32.6%	92	-	65.25%			
2017	<5	*	*	86	87%	45.5%	99	7.61%	52.38%			
2018	9	*	8.18%	38	-56%	34.5%	63	-36.36%	57.27%			
2019	20	122.22%	15.04%	68	78.9%	51.1%	45	-28.57%	33.83%			
2020	<5	*	*	27	-60%	25%	62	37.78%	57.41%			

	New Hanover County School								
	Demographics								
Year	Total Enrolled	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White					
2014	-	-	-	-					
2015	-	-	-	-					
2016	25,901	20.6%	12.1%	61.6%					
2017	26,096	19.7%	13.1%	61.1%					
2018	25,994	19.1%	13.7%	60.8%					
2019	25,834	18.4%	14.3%	60.7%					
2020			-						

	Offense by Race										
	Black	% Change	% of total Offenses	Hispanic/ Latino	% Change	% of total Offenses	White	% Change	% of total Offenses		
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2016	90	-	63.8%	10	-	7.09%	34	-	24.11%		
2017	126	40%	66.7%	12	20%	6.35%	37	8.82%	19.58%		
2018	70	-44%	63.6%	5	-58.3%	4.55%	28	-24.3%	25.45%		
2019	101	44.3%	75.9%	18	260%	13.53%	10	-64.3%	7.52%		
2020	72	-29%	66.7%	12	-33.3%	11.11%	19	90%	17.59%		

Stanly County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 7/1/2018 Number of Schools: 20-22

Year	Total Minor	% Change	Total Serious	% Change	Total Delinquent	% Change
2017	74	-	64	-	138	-
2018	51	-31.08%	61	-4.69%	114	-17.39%
2019	42	-17.65%	50	-18.03%	99	-13.16%
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of DPS Complaints:

Minor (Class 1-3): Misdemeanors (e.g., shoplifting, disorderly conduct)

Serious (Class F-I): Felony (e.g., serious property or weapons)

Delinquent: Sum of delinquent complaints

*total delinquent includes complaints for offenses unrelated to SJPs (i.e., infraction and violent).

	School Based Offenses	% Change
2017	59	-
2018	47	-20.3%
2019	26	-44.7%
2020	47	80.77%

Stanly County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 7/1/2018 Number of Schools: 20-22

School Based Offense Demographic Breakdown

		Offense by Gender									
	Male	% Change	% of total Offenses	Female	% Change	% of total Offenses					
2017	43	-	73%	16	-	27.12%					
2018	40	-7%	85%	7	-56.3%	14.89%					
2019	21	-48%	81%	5	-28.6%	19.23%					
2020	31	48%	66%	16	220%	34.04%					

		Offense by Age										
	<=10 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	11-13 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	14 to 15 years	% Change	% of total Offenses			
2017	11	-	18.64%	21	-	35.6%	27	-	45.76%			
2018	<5	*	*	24	14.3%	51.1%	20	- 25.93%	42.55%			
2019	0	*	0%	18	-25%	69.2%	8	-60%	30.77%			
2020	<5	*	*	26	44.4%	55.3%	15	87.5%	31.91%			

	Stanly County School Demographics								
Year	Total Enrolled	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White					
2017	8,373	13.3%	8.6%	69.7%					
2018	8,226	13.8%	8.8%	68.9%					
2019	8,422	14.1%	9%	68.2%					
2020			-						

		Offense by Race									
	Black	% Change	% of total Offenses	Hispanic/ Latino	% Change	% of total Offenses	White	% Change	% of total Offenses		
2017	25	-	42.4%	5	*	8.47%	29	-	49.15%		
2018	11	-56%	23.4%	5	0%	10.64%	30	3.45%	63.83%		
2019	9	-18%	34.6%	0	-1%	0	17	-43.3%	65.38%		
2020	17	88.9%	36.2%	<5	*	*	23	35.29%	48.94%		

Wayne County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 4/12/2018 Number of Schools: 31-33

Year	Total Minor	% Change	Total Serious	% Change	Total Delinquent	% Change
2017	128	-	115	-	251	-
2018	97	-24.22%	79	-31.30%	178	-29.08%
2019	96	-1.03%	68	-13.92%	175	-1.69%
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of DPS Complaints:

Minor (Class 1-3): Misdemeanors (e.g., shoplifting, disorderly conduct)

Serious (Class F-I): Felony (e.g., serious property or weapons)

Delinquent: Sum of delinquent complaints

*total delinquent includes complaints for offenses unrelated to SJPs (i.e., infraction and violent).

	School Based Offenses	% Change
2017	66	-
2018	60	-9.1%
2019	45	-25%
2020	76	68.89%

Wayne County SJP Impact Snapshot SJP implemented: 4/12/2018 Number of Schools: 31-33

School Based Offense Demographic Breakdown

	Offense by Gender							
	Male	% Chang e	% of total Offenses	Female	% Change	% of total Offenses		
2017	50	-	76%	16	-	24.24%		
2018	25	-50%	42%	35	118.75%	58.33%		
2019	26	4%	58%	19	-45.7%	42.22%		
2020	53	104%	70%	23	21.05%	30.26%		

	Offense by Age									
	<=10 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	11-13 years	% Change	% of total Offense s	14 to 15 years	% Change	% of total Offenses	
2017	<5	*	*	19	-44.1%	28.8%	45	-13.5%	68.18%	
2018	0	*	0	14	-26.3%	23.3%	46	2.2%	76.67%	
2019	0	0	0	15	7.1%	33.3%	30	-34.8%	66.67%	
2020	<5	*	*	18	20%	23.7%	41	36.7%	53.95%	

	Wayne County School Demographics						
Year	Total Enrolled	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	White			
2017	1,8321	34.9%	22.1%	37.8%			
2018	1,8301	35.3%	22.9%	36.7%			
2019	1,8273	35.5%	23.5%	35.7%			
2020			-				

	Offense by Race								
	Black	% Change	% of total Offenses	Hispanic/ Latino	% Change	% of total Offenses	White	% Change	% of total Offenses
2017	43	-	65.2%	<5	-	*	19	-	28.79%
2018	47	9.3%	78.3%	<5	*	*	<5	*	*
2019	26	-45%	57.8%	5	*	11.11%	14	*	31.11%
2020	45	73.1%	59.2%	<5	*	*	29	107.14%	38.16%