



2006—2007

North Carolina Courts
Statistical and Operational Summary
of the Judicial Branch of Government

July 1, 2006—June 30, 2007



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Part I

The Present Court System

Representation of Indigent Persons

The state provides legal counsel for indigent persons in a variety of actions and proceedings, as specified in G.S. 7A-450 *et seq.* These include, among others, any case in which imprisonment, a suspended sentence, or a fine of \$500 or more is likely to be adjudged; juvenile proceedings that may result in confinement, transfer to superior court for trial on a felony charge, or termination of parental rights; proceedings alleging mental illness or incapacity that may result in hospitalization or sterilization; extradition proceedings; certain probation or parole revocation hearings; and certain requests for post-conviction relief from a criminal judgment.

Juveniles alleged to be within the jurisdiction of the court for allegations of delinquency or for other matters have the right to be represented by counsel in all proceedings, and are conclusively presumed to be indigent and thus entitled to state-appointed counsel. In delinquency matters, juveniles are represented by public defenders, where present, or by private counsel. Where a juvenile petition alleges that a juvenile is abused, neglected, or dependent, an indigent parent has a right to appointed counsel (G.S. 7B-602).

Commission on Indigent Defense Services

This thirteen-member Commission was created by the Indigent Defense Services Act of 2000. The Commission and its staff, the Office of Indigent Defense Services, are located within the Judicial Branch but exercise their prescribed powers independently from the AOC. The Commission and the director of the Office of Indigent Defense Services are responsible for establishing, supervising, and maintaining a system for providing legal representation and related services in all cases where indigent persons are entitled to representation at state expense.

Public Defenders

As of June 30, 2007, 21 counties were served by 14 public defender offices, in Defender Districts 1, 3A, 3B (Carteret County only), 10, 12, 14, 15B, 16A, 16B, 18, 21, 26, 27A, and 28. Public defenders are appointed by the senior resident superior court judge, and their terms are four years. By statute, public defenders are entitled to the numbers of assistants and investigators authorized by the Commission on Indigent Defense Services.

In public defender districts, most representation of indigents is handled by the public defender's office. However, in certain circumstances, such as a potential conflict of interest or when the proper administration of justice requires it, the court or the public defender

may assign private counsel to represent an indigent person.

Private Counsel

In areas of the state that are not served by a public defender office, representation of indigent persons is provided almost entirely by assignment of private counsel. Private counsel is assigned by the court, the Office of Indigent Defense Services, and in certain circumstances, the public defender. Compensation of private counsel is fixed in accordance with rules adopted by the Commission on Indigent Defense Services. The Commission on Indigent Defense Services has promulgated rules relating to the qualifications and appointment of counsel in capital cases and non-capital appeals.

Appellate Defender

Pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission on Indigent Defense Services, the appellate defender assigns counsel to represent indigent criminal defendants, juveniles, and parent-respondents who have a right to appeal adverse judgments entered in the Trial Division to the Supreme Court of North Carolina and to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. The appellate defender is appointed by the Commission. Assistant appellate defenders represent as many of these clients as possible, and generally are appointed in more complex cases. Clients not represented by the Office of the Appellate Defender are assigned to qualified private counsel. The Office provides consulting services to appointed appellate counsel and, in conjunction with the School of Government, conducts continuing legal education in appellate practice.

Capital Defender

Pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission on Indigent Defense Services, the capital defender assigns counsel to represent indigent defendants charged with potentially capital offenses, and reviews *ex parte* requests for expert funding in those cases. The capital defender is appointed by the Commission.

The capital defender supervises a number of regional assistant capital defenders based in Beaufort, Durham, Forsyth, and New Hanover counties. Assistant capital defenders are assigned to represent defendants charged with capital offenses whenever possible. Clients not represented by the Office of the Capital Defender are assigned to qualified private counsel or public defenders. The Office also provides consulting services and other support for private attorneys representing capital defendants.

Juvenile Defender

Based on a recommendation from the Commission on Indigent Defense Services, the General Assembly authorized the creation of a new statewide juvenile defender position in 2004. The Commission appointed the first juvenile defender in November 2004. The juvenile defender's primary responsibilities are to serve as a central resource and contact person for individual juvenile defenders and juvenile associations statewide; field questions from practitioners and perform case consultations as needed; develop ways to connect and support juvenile defense attorneys across the State; evaluate the existing systems and practices, and the current quality of representation, in various areas of the State; identify training needs and work with the UNC School of Government and other groups to formulate a long-term training plan; and develop and maintain a clearinghouse of materials on North Carolina juvenile law and practice. The juvenile defender is also undertaking a number of long-term responsibilities, such as developing uniform qualification standards, specialized performance guidelines, and caseload standards for juvenile defense attorneys.

Special Counsel

The state provides attorneys and supporting staff at each of the state's four mental health hospitals, for the representation of indigent patients in commitment or recommitment hearings before a district court judge. Each patient admitted to a mental health hospital pursuant to the civil commitment procedures of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is entitled to a judicial hearing soon after the initial admission, as well as periodic hearings to review the patient's commitment status. The Commission on Indigent Defense Services appoints attorneys to serve as special counsel.

Sentencing Services

The Community Penalties Act of 1983 created the Community Penalties Program to reduce prison overcrowding by providing judges with community sentencing options to be used in lieu of, and at less cost than, imprisonment. Effective July 1, 1991, the General Assembly transferred the Community Penalties Program from the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to the AOC. In 1999 and 2000, the General Assembly made revisions to the Program's purpose and changed its operational name to the Sentencing Services Program. The 2002 Appropriations Act reduced the Program's overall budget and transferred the Program to the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS). The General Assembly further reduced the Program's budget by an additional 30% in

the 2005 Appropriations Act and directed IDS to close low-performing programs. A mix of grant programs and state-operated programs continues to serve most of the state, under the direction of IDS.

Court-Ordered Arbitration

In 1989, following successful experience in a pilot program, the General Assembly authorized court-ordered, non-binding arbitration statewide. As of June 30, 2007, arbitration programs were operating in 72 counties.

In these counties, civil cases involving claims for money damages of \$15,000 or less are subject to court-ordered, nonbinding arbitration in accordance with the Supreme Court's "Rules for Court-Ordered Arbitration in North Carolina," pursuant to G.S. 7A-37.1. The Rules specifically exclude from arbitration certain property disputes, family law matters, estates, special proceedings, collections on an account, and class actions. Parties may, however, voluntarily submit many civil disputes to arbitration, with court approval.

By rule, the arbitration hearing is conducted within 60 days of the filing of the last responsive pleading. Parties may stipulate to an arbitrator; otherwise, the court appoints an arbitrator from its list of trained attorneys who have been approved to serve as arbitrators. An arbitrator is paid a fee by the court for each arbitration hearing.

As a rule, arbitration hearings take place in the courthouse and are limited to one hour. The hearings are conducted in a serious but relaxed atmosphere, with the rules of evidence serving only as a guide. Once the hearing is concluded, the arbitrator renders an award, which is filed with the court. A party dissatisfied with the award may proceed to a trial *de novo* by filing a written request with the court; otherwise, the court enters judgment on the award.

Family Court

Legislation in 1998 authorized the AOC to experiment with the concept of unified family courts. Implementation began in 1999 with Districts 14 (Durham County), 20 (Union, Stanly, Richmond and Anson Counties), and 26 (Mecklenburg County). In 2000, the program was expanded to Districts 5 (New Hanover and Pender Counties), 6A (Halifax County), and 12 (Cumberland County). In 2001, the program was further expanded to Districts 8 (Wayne, Lenoir and Green Counties) and 25 (Catawba, Caldwell and

Burke Counties). In 2004 and 2005, legislative funding permitted expansion in District 28 (Buncombe County) and District 10 (Wake County) respectively. Also in 2005, District 20, one of the original Family Court pilot sites, was split by legislative action. Both districts, Districts 20A and 20B, continue to have Family Court programs. At the end of FY 2006-07, there was a total of eleven Family Courts in eighteen counties that serve 40% of North Carolina's population. In 2007, the legislature approved funding for two new Family Court districts. Districts 3A (Pitt County) and District 19B (Montgomery, Moore, and Randolph Counties) will begin operation in early 2008. Another twelve districts have requested funding and are working on various stages of pre-implementation planning.

Family Courts coordinate the management of family law cases to ensure timely and efficient resolution of legal matters within established time standards. Family Courts also coordinate community and court programs that promote the best interest of the family and help families structure their own solutions. Examples of these programs include mediation for custody and family financial matters such as child support and equitable distribution; child planning conferences in abuse, neglect and dependency court; truancy diversion courts in schools and the court; and specialized domestic violence courts. One judge is assigned to hear all of the family's legal issues from filing until resolved. In addition, legal matters in different courts are assigned to one judge or judge team. For example, a family who has a custody action and a domestic violence action will be assigned to the same judge or judge-team.

In October 2006, the AOC published North Carolina's Unified Family Court: Best Practices Guidelines which identified specific, essential and successful practices identified in the seven years of Family Court experience in North Carolina. These best practices are based on recommendations from the Futures Commission report and grounded in the time standards and evaluation documents produced by the Family Court Advisory Committee.

Pending case age data for FY 2006-07 suggests the overall effectiveness of Family Court programs. As of June 30, 2007, the median age of pending domestic relations cases (excluding child support cases) was 121 days in Family Court districts and 310 days in non-Family Court districts. Also, during the same period, the percentage of domestic cases pending over one year was 26.6% in Family Court districts and 46.3% in non-Family Court districts.

Child Custody and Visitation Mediation

In 1983, the North Carolina General Assembly established and funded a child custody and visitation mediation pilot program in Judicial District 26 (Mecklenburg County). That action allowed North Carolina to join a national trend toward providing alternatives to the traditional adversarial system of dispute resolution. Alternatives were considered particularly desirable in custody litigation, where traditional litigation tends to increase stress in children and their parents, slows a post-separation reorganization of the family, and often leads to re-litigation. As of July 1, 2006, statewide expansion of the program had been approved subject to available funding. Currently, custody mediation services are provided in 36 of 41 judicial districts.

When parents separate, tremendous changes occur within the family. Many issues such as custody, visitation, child support, alimony, and division of property must be resolved. At times, the parents who are in conflict over these matters seek to have the court resolve their disputes.

Mediation is an alternate method of resolving the dispute. As part of the mediation process, a professionally trained neutral third party assists parents in developing an agreement that provides for the care of their children during and after separation. The goal of the process is to provide the litigants a forum to discuss parenting issues that involve both parents in the continuing care of their children. The agreement focuses on the children's needs as well as on the rights and responsibilities of both parents. The mediator will provide a process by which parents may discuss how the children will be cared for by each parent in the future.

In most cases where there is a pending motion or action for child custody or visitation in counties in which a mediation program operates, the petitioners are required to participate in mediation before participating in a traditional hearing or trial. Under G.S. 50-13.1 and G.S. 7A-494, this program provides a forum where parents can step back from their own conflict, focus on the best interests of their children, and structure the parameters for their newly defined family by developing mediated parenting agreements.

Drug Treatment Court

Drug Treatment Court (DTC) is an intensive, judicially supervised court sanction that targets high-risk, high-need offenders residing in the community. DTC uses a team of court and community professionals to

help ensure that North Carolina's alcohol and/or drug addicted offenders receive the intensive treatment they need to become healthy, law-abiding and productive family and community members. Adult DTC is an intermediate punishment in the community that targets repeat offenders (usually H and I felons). Family DTC works with parents and guardians who are in danger of termination of parental rights due to the abuse or neglect of their children. Juvenile DTC works with community-based, high-risk, high-need juvenile offenders whose drug and/or alcohol use is negatively impacting their lives at home, in school, and in their community.

The program typically lasts a minimum of one year and includes intensive outpatient treatment, frequent and random drug/alcohol testing, intensive case management, and for adult and juvenile offenders, probation supervision. The DTC participant works with the DTC team of community professionals to develop a single, comprehensive, treatment case plan addressing the individual's specific needs in regards to substance abuse, mental health, occupational/vocational, educational, housing, parenting and other areas of concern. Participants appear on a bi-weekly basis before a specially trained judge who monitors the individual's progress on his/her treatment plan. The judge may order sanctions and/or rewards as appropriate to promote success. There are adult drug treatment courts in sixteen districts (Districts 3A, 3B, 5, 9A, 10, 12, 14, 15B, 18, 19B, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28 and 29A), juvenile drug courts in five districts (Districts 10, 14, 19C, 21, and 26), and family dependency/drug treatment courts in nine districts (Districts 6A, 8, 12, 14, 15B, 20B, 26, 27A and 28).

Court Improvement Program

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) was established by grant as part of a federal initiative to support family preservation, prevention of child abuse, and services to families at risk. The grant, initially authorized by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, is to assess and improve court processes related to foster care and adoption.

The AOC has received federal funding for the program since 1995. These funds are distributed to districts for training and information programs for juvenile court and management assistance in developing and implementing court improvements, including working with judges to bring together juvenile court staff and others to improve court procedures and implement best practices. Such juvenile court improvements include implementing pilot projects to test the effectiveness of using juvenile court case

managers to process and handle child abuse and neglect cases, developing a juvenile court information collection and management system, reforming the Juvenile Code and policies and procedures for juvenile court proceedings, and supporting and co-sponsoring comprehensive skills-based training for judges and attorneys.

Business Court

In 1995, the North Carolina Supreme Court, by rule, designated a special superior court judge for complex business cases as a result of a recommendation by the North Carolina Commission on Business Laws and the Economy. Any superior or district court judge may recommend to the chief justice that a case be assigned to the business court on motion of a party or *sua sponte*. A recommendation is then sent to the chief justice, who decides if the case will be assigned as a complex business case. The chief justice may also assign a case to a special superior court judge for complex business cases as a Rule 2.1 case without the case being designated as a complex business case.

Unlike the normal superior court procedure of having the judge assigned under the rotation system to hold court for a particular week hear the issues on the calendar, the assignment of a case to business court results in one judge handling all of the pretrial matters as well as the trial of the case. This specialization allows the judge to develop proficiency in both the substantive law and case management issues that arise in complex business cases. Currently, North Carolina has three business courts located in Greensboro, Charlotte, and Raleigh.

Judicial Branch Commissions

The Judicial Standards Commission

The Judicial Standards Commission was established by the General Assembly pursuant to a constitutional amendment approved by the voters at the general election in November 1972. The Commission investigates complaints "concerning the qualifications or conduct of any justice or judge of the General Court of Justice" [G.S. 7A-377(a)]. The Commission receives and investigates complaints of judicial misconduct or incapacity, institutes formal proceedings, conducts hearings, and recommends appropriate disciplinary action to the Supreme Court (or the Court of Appeals, if a complaint involves a Supreme Court Justice). Upon recommendation of the Commission, the Supreme Court may censure or remove any judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform duties, habit-

ual intemperance, conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, or other conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute. In addition, upon the Commission's recommendation, the Supreme Court may remove any judge for mental or physical incapacity interfering with the performance of duties, when the incapacity is, or is likely to become, permanent.

The Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

The North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission consist of 30 members drawn from all three branches of government, all areas of the criminal justice system, and the public. The Commission was created by the General Assembly in 1990 to "... make recommendations to the General Assembly for the modification of sentencing laws and policies, and for the addition, deletion, or expansion of sentencing options as necessary to achieve policy goals" [G.S. 164-36].

Specifically, the Commission was directed to classify criminal offenses into felony and misdemeanor categories on the basis of their severity, recommend structures for use by a sentencing court in determining the most appropriate sentence to be imposed in a criminal case, develop a correctional population simulation model, recommend a comprehensive community corrections strategy and organizational structure for the state, and study and make additional policy recommendations. The Commission's work led to the passage and implementation of the Structured Sentencing Act, which was enacted during 1993 and modified during the extra ("crime") session of 1994. The Act applies to crimes committed on or after October 1, 1994. This sentencing system prescribes sentencing options for the court based on the severity of the offense and the prior record of the offender.

The Commission has the continuing duty to monitor and review the criminal justice and correctional systems and the juvenile justice system, and to make recommendations as necessary. In FY 2006-07, the Commission completed a study of the handling of youthful offenders in the criminal justice system. The Commission submitted its recommendations to the General Assembly in March 2007.

The Sentencing Commission completed its mandated biennial study of juvenile recidivism in May 2007, began its mandated biennial adult program evaluation with a report due in April 2008, and assisted the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission in preparing its parole eligibility reports. In addition, the Commission completed its work on the grant-supported Phase II of the "Juvenile-to-Adult Comprehensive Criminal History Study," tracking a sample of juveniles into the adult criminal system.

Each year, the Commission reviews proposed legislation introduced during the session, and reports on the

consistency of the proposed bills with Structured Sentencing, and on their potential impact on criminal and juvenile justice resources, particularly prisons. The Commission also prepares projections for future adult prison and probation populations and juvenile youth development center and probation populations.

N.C. Dispute Resolution Commission

The North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission (DRC) was established by G.S. 7A-38.2 in October of 1995. The Commission is charged with certifying and regulating the conduct of mediators and mediation trainers who serve the court's mediated settlement conference programs. In addition to its certification and regulatory responsibilities, the Commission also: helps to set public policy relative to dispute resolution; drafts proposed legislation, rules, rule revisions and forms; serves as a clearing house for information; and otherwise acts as a resource for mediators, lawyers, court staff and the public. Among the programs the Commission helps to support are: the Mediated Settlement Conference Program (mediation of civil actions filed in superior court), the Family Financial Settlement Program (mediation of equitable distribution and other family disputes filed in district court), and the Clerk Mediation Program (mediation of matters referred by Clerks of Superior Court, including guardianship and estate matters).

In accordance with G.S. 7A-38.2, the fifteen-members of the DRC include: five judges (at least two superior court and two district court judges), one clerk of superior court, two practicing attorneys who are not mediators, two certified superior court mediators, two certified family financial mediators, and three citizens knowledgeable about dispute resolution. Members serve three-year terms. Though the bulk of appointments to the Commission are made by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, appointments are also made by the Governor, the President *Pro Tem* of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the State Bar President. Members serve three-year terms. The Commission's chair is appointed by the Chief Justice and serves a two-year term. Members of the Commission are assisted in their work by a number of ex-officio Commission members, including liaisons appointed by the Industrial Commission, Administrative Office of the Courts, and the North Carolina Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section.

Mediators are neutral third parties who sit down with litigants and their attorneys in an effort to help them resolve their disputes. A mediator will expect the parties to treat one another civilly, will encourage parties to share information and to constructively talk about their dispute, will serve as agent of reality and work to get each side to see the dispute through the eyes of the other, and will encourage the parties to explore options for settlement and may even suggest possibilities. The

mediator will not decide the matter for the parties. Rather, the mediator's role is to help the parties themselves reach a consensus on how to settle their dispute.

If mediation is successful, the agreement reached will be reduced to writing and signed and eventually the case will be dismissed. Agreements reached in mediation typically remain confidential and are not shared with the court, except that Clerks must by law review agreements reached in certain types of cases, including guardianship and estate matters. If an agreement cannot be reached during mediation, the mediator simply advises the court or clerk that there has been an impasse and the matter proceeds to trial. However, even when there has been an impasse, parties and their lawyers sometimes continue the dialogue begun in mediation and are able to settle within days of their session. When there is an impasse, the mediator will not share information about what was discussed at mediation with the court or indicate why s/he thinks the case did not settle.

Mediated settlement conference programs are designed to operate at no cost to tax payers. Parties compensate the mediator for his or her services in scheduling the case for mediation and in conducting the procedure. However, fees will be waived in instances where the court or clerk has determined that a party is indigent or cannot pay the full fee. Because mediators serve as case managers -- scheduling cases for mediation, finding a location for the procedure, and reporting outcomes to the court, the time that court staff must devote to these programs is minimized, thereby conserving court time and resources. In keeping with this same "party-pay model", the Commission's expenses and those of its office are met through revenues generated by certification and certification renewal fees. So, again, tax dollars are conserved.

Currently, some 1,200 mediators are certified to conduct superior court mediations in North Carolina. There are 250 additional certified family financial mediators and 150 certified clerk program mediators. Over a hundred mediators hold dual or triple certifications. Mediators conducting superior court or clerk mediations must be certified. Family financial mediators need not be certified to work in the courts as long as they are serving as a result of having been selected by the parties. The Commission's certification is also recognized outside the courts and is used to help qualify mediators serving other entities including, the Industrial Commission and the federal trial courts.

The Commission operates an office in Raleigh that is staffed on a part-time basis. The office maintains the Commission's extensive web site at www.ncdrc.org and publishes its newsletter, *The Intermediary*.

N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission

The North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission, consisting of eight voting members, was created by the General Assembly in 2006. The Commission was created as an independent commission under the Judicial Department to "establish an extraordinary procedure to investigate and determine credible claims of factual innocence" [G.S. 15A-1461].

JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL (as of June 30, 2007)*

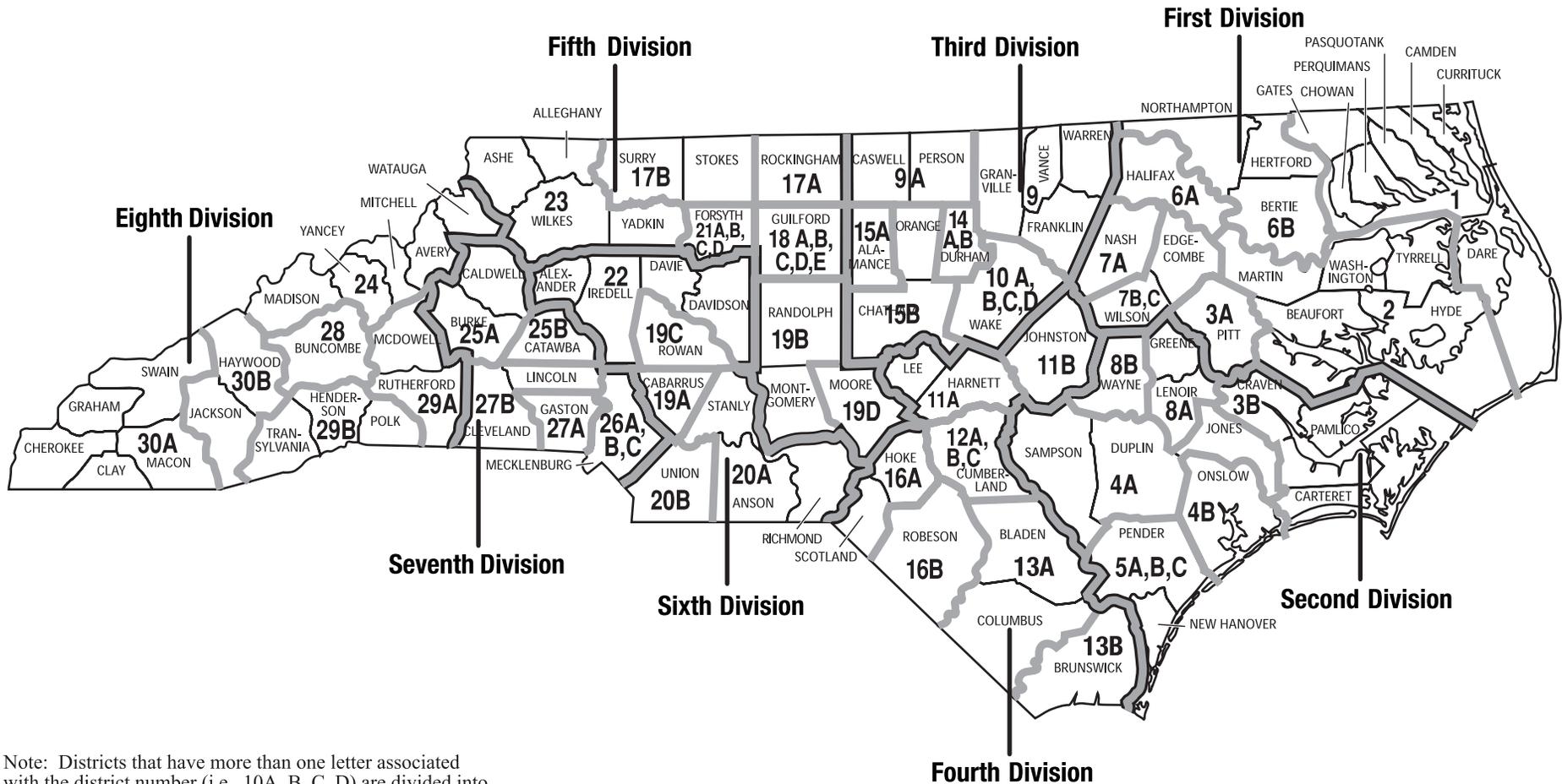
(includes FTEs for indigent representation)

FTEs Authorized	
	<u>SUPREME COURT</u>
7.00	Justices
39.75	Staff Personnel (Clerk's & Reporter's Offices, Law Clerks, Library)
7.00	Secretarial Personnel
	<u>COURT OF APPEALS</u>
15.00	Judges
52.00	Staff Personnel (Clerk's Office, Prehearing, Law Clerks)
15.00	Secretarial Personnel
	<u>SUPERIOR COURT</u>
109.00	Judges
144.00	Staff Personnel
95.50	Secretarial Personnel
	<u>DISTRICT COURT</u>
256.00	Judges
724.00	Magistrates
103.825	Staff Personnel
92.75	Secretarial Personnel
	<u>DISTRICT ATTORNEYS</u>
42.00	District Attorneys
571.00	Assistant District Attorneys (543.00 were authorized under G.S. 7A-60(a1) and 28.00 were grant-funded)
48.00	Staff Personnel (Investigators)
490.00	Other Personnel (Victim-Witness/Legal Assistants, secretarial positions)
	<u>CLERKS OF SUPERIOR COURT</u>
100.00	Clerks of Superior Court
2,389.75	Staff Personnel
	<u>GUARDIAN AD LITEM</u>
2.00	Program Administrator and Assistant Administrator
38.75	Regional Administrators (3) and District Administrators (35.75)
103.00	Staff Personnel
	<u>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS</u>
1.00	Administrative Officer of the Courts
6.00	Assistant Director (1), Deputy Director (1), and Officers (4)
387.75	Staff Personnel
	<u>COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES</u>
1.00	Clerk's of Superior Court Conference
9.00	District Attorney's Conference
2.00	Judicial Standards Commission
3.00	Innocence Inquiry Review Commission
2.00	Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
2.50	Dispute Resolution Commission
9.00	Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission
5,868.575	SUBTOTAL
	<u>INDIGENT REPRESENTATION</u>
15.50	Indigent Defense Services
	Appellate Defender
1.00	Assistant Appellate Defenders
14.00	Assistant Appellate Defenders
3.00	Secretarial Personnel
	Capital Defender
1.00	Assistant Capital Defenders
10.00	Assistant Capital Defenders
4.00	Capital Case Investigator
3.00	Secretarial Personnel
	Juvenile Defender
1.00	Assistant Juvenile Defenders
1.00	Secretarial Personnel
	Public Defenders
14.00	Assistant Public Defenders
200.00	Assistant Public Defenders
38.00	Staff Personnel
80.75	Secretarial Personnel
	Special Counsel at mental health hospitals
9.00	Special Counsel at mental health hospitals
4.00	Assistants to Special Counsel
4.00	Secretarial Personnel
	Sentencing Services
11.50	Sentencing Services
	Set-off Debt Collection (Receipt-Funded)
1.00	Set-off Debt Collection (Receipt-Funded)
415.75	SUBTOTAL INDIGENT REPRESENTATION
6,284.325	GRAND TOTAL

*Beginning with the FY 2004-05 printing of this report, Judicial Branch personnel are counted as full-time equivalents (FTEs) rather than positions. FTEs measure the percentage of time that an employee works.

North Carolina Superior Court

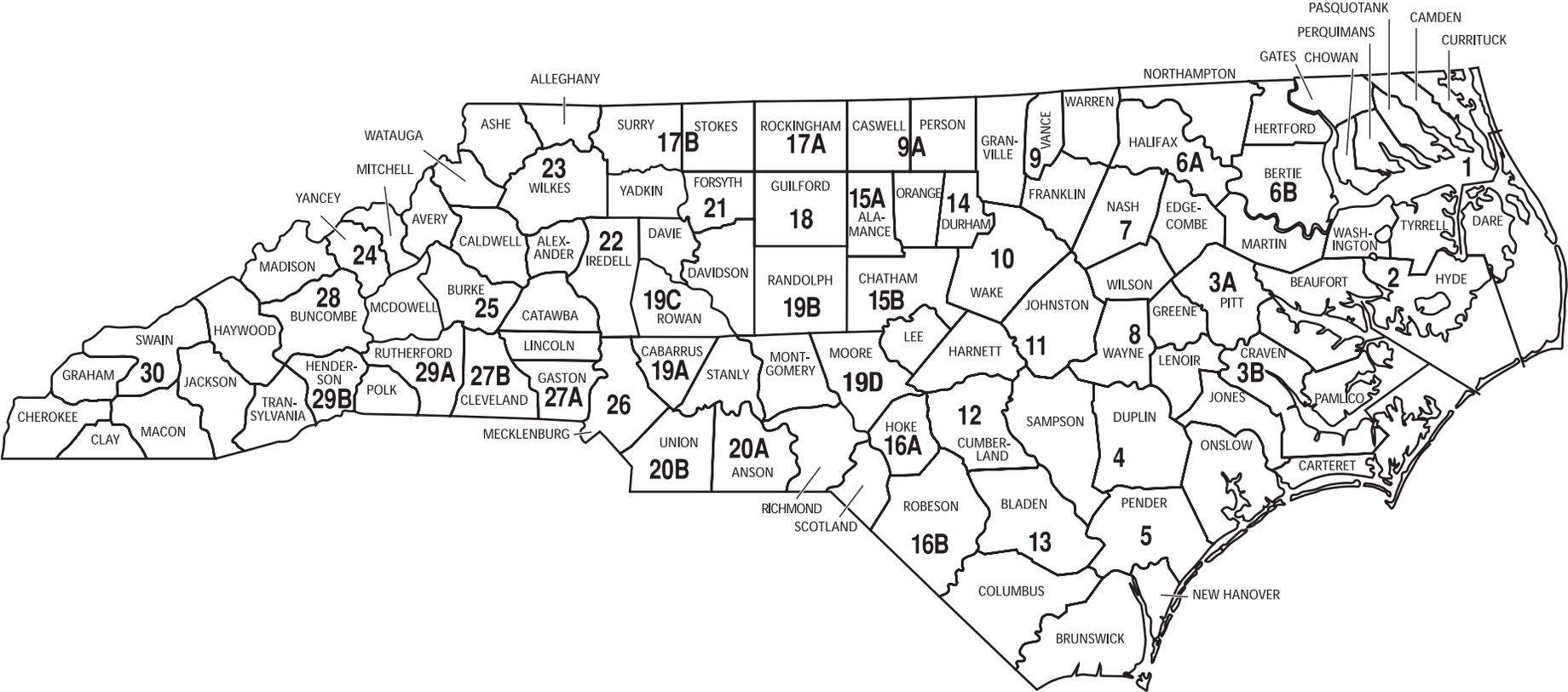
Effective June 30, 2007



Note: Districts that have more than one letter associated with the district number (i.e., 10A, B, C, D) are divided into separate districts for electoral purposes. For administrative purposes, they are combined into a single district.

North Carolina Prosecutorial Districts

Effective June 30, 2007



Part II

Court Resources

JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Budget Classifications	Subtotals	Totals	Percent* of Grand Total
Supreme Court (includes \$468,669 for print shop)		\$ 5,256,011	1.01%
Court of Appeals		7,023,269	1.35%
Superior Courts		37,103,571	7.14%
District Courts		78,667,177	15.13%
Clerks of Superior Court		119,646,188	23.01%
Office -- District Attorney	\$67,255,923		
District Attorneys' Conference	332,865		
Criminal Case Management Program	269,581		
Worthless Check Program	1,245,322		
District Attorney Offices		69,103,691	13.29%
Administrative Office of the Courts		45,656,095	8.78%
Court Information Technology Fund		2,063,008	0.40%
Equipment/Supply Fund		16,332,490	3.14%
Custody and Visitation Mediation Program	2,093,947		
Mediated Settlement Conferences	284,138		
Dispute Settlement Centers	1,723,711		
Court-Ordered Arbitration Program	637,935		
Dispute Resolution Programs		4,739,731	0.91%
North Carolina Drug Treatment Court		1,666,836	0.32%
Family Court Program		2,245,238	0.43%
Grant-Supported Projects		9,209,915	1.77%
Judicial Standards Commission		162,661	0.03%
N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission		25,144	0.01%
Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission		824,708	0.16%
Guardian ad Litem Services Program		10,935,775	2.10%
SUBTOTAL		410,661,508	78.97%
 REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENTS			
Assigned Private Counsel		\$66,684,340	12.82%
Private Counsel Contracts		\$926,513	0.18%
Legal Services to Inmates		\$3,262,213	0.63%
Public Defenders		\$22,798,995	4.38%
Support Services (expert witness fees, professional examinations, transcripts, investigators)		\$6,639,085	1.28%
Office of the Appellate Defender		\$1,444,442	0.28%
Special Counsel at Mental Health Hospitals		\$1,176,841	0.23%
Office of Indigent Defense Services		\$1,078,298	0.21%
Office of the Capital Defender		\$1,929,257	0.37%
Office of the Juvenile Defender		\$163,719	0.03%
Set-Off Debt Collection		\$88,542	0.02%
Subtotal Indigent Defense Services		106,192,245	20.42%
Grant in Aid--NC State Bar		501,500	0.10%
Sentencing Services Program		2,689,333	0.52%
SUBTOTAL REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENTS		109,383,078	21.03%
GRAND TOTAL		\$520,044,586	100%

**Amounts of Fees, Fines, and Forfeitures Collected by the Courts and
Distributed to Counties and Municipalities ***

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

County	Distributed to Counties				Distributed to Municipalities			TOTAL
	Facility Fees	Officer Fees	Jail Fees	Fines and Forfeitures	Facility Fees	Officer Fees	Jail Fees	
Alamance	\$302,509	\$124,055	\$77,609	\$1,072,056	\$0	\$44,383	\$0	\$1,620,612
Alexander	42,426	12,735	7,706	109,454	0	2,004	0	\$174,325
Alleghany	17,423	8,656	12,006	83,099	0	1,056	0	\$122,240
Anson	68,119	41,744	9,367	356,434	0	2,439	0	\$478,103
Ashe	35,444	20,234	10,039	100,782	0	2,136	0	\$168,635
Avery	29,652	11,668	5,262	125,548	0	1,528	0	\$173,658
Beaufort	143,887	53,642	23,015	438,675	0	15,039	0	\$674,258
Bertie	66,001	33,203	6,031	171,625	0	846	0	\$277,706
Bladen	95,525	45,450	15,117	181,777	0	2,657	0	\$340,526
Brunswick	224,728	124,061	24,468	425,776	0	220	0	\$799,253
Buncombe	382,847	163,805	67,871	1,548,900	0	44,295	0	\$2,207,718
Burke	199,782	44,521	29,600	704,806	0	23,963	0	\$1,002,672
Cabarrus	463,730	159,795	76,446	1,944,188	0	93,861	0	\$2,738,020
Caldwell	151,407	37,549	30,865	446,323	0	17,582	0	\$683,726
Camden	26,609	12,211	3,923	114,914	0	0	0	\$157,657
Carteret	221,075	64,316	38,632	651,162	0	22,967	0	\$998,152
Caswell	56,162	24,840	5,327	135,142	0	925	0	\$222,396
Catawba	209,651	52,514	25,892	1,138,600	129,624	55,002	0	\$1,611,283
Chatham	77,432	39,703	5,686	288,381	37,824	7,143	0	\$456,169
Cherokee	62,695	33,678	9,138	232,459	0	1,441	0	\$339,411
Chowan	28,934	13,346	5,571	97,401	0	4,080	0	\$149,332
Clay	23,560	11,965	3,798	72,568	0	0	0	\$111,891
Cleveland	217,728	98,402	35,339	555,182	0	18,194	0	\$924,845
Columbus	127,817	70,862	23,147	276,412	2,832	4,937	0	\$506,007
Craven	235,764	52,001	37,645	532,267	4,994	30,454	0	\$893,125
Cumberland	429,098	42,626	24,257	838,798	0	36,309	0	\$1,371,088
Currituck	101,035	40,184	12,663	313,601	0	0	0	\$467,483
Dare	221,644	54,333	8,596	1,035,167	0	30,325	0	\$1,350,065
Davidson	276,802	141,508	55,540	1,007,526	0	17,437	0	\$1,498,813
Davie	69,779	30,879	11,458	221,948	0	3,022	0	\$337,086
Duplin	204,554	56,322	19,677	585,445	0	13,967	0	\$879,965
Durham	529,597	304,928	6,509	1,599,446	0	87,356	0	\$2,527,836
Edgecombe	122,342	120,630	24,570	462,307	53,555	20,787	0	\$804,191
Forsyth	930,335	50,601	31,965	2,171,729	27,357	168,607	0	\$3,380,594
Franklin	128,219	89,920	15,895	423,957	0	10,758	0	\$668,749
Gaston	452,415	209,102	53,257	987,938	0	41,880	0	\$1,744,592
Gates	27,694	15,022	6,696	82,513	0	5	0	\$131,930
Graham	17,266	6,114	1,565	60,893	0	0	0	\$85,838
Granville	113,306	28,084	13,882	368,307	0	7,399	0	\$530,978
Greene	45,598	21,439	15,840	144,542	0	0	0	\$227,419
Guilford	1,248,225	113,378	75,304	2,932,402	0	206,124	0	\$4,575,433
Halifax	149,553	76,463	11,849	474,016	0	9,114	0	\$720,995
Harnett	139,378	65,797	33,964	484,937	6,486	9,487	0	\$740,049

**Amounts of Fees, Fines, and Forfeitures Collected by the Courts and
Distributed to Counties and Municipalities ***

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

County	Distributed to Counties				Distributed to Municipalities			TOTAL
	Facility Fees	Officer Fees	Jail Fees	Fines and Forfeitures	Facility Fees	Officer Fees	Jail Fees	
Macon	\$70,464	\$33,049	\$18,137	\$303,097	\$0	\$880	\$0	\$425,627
Madison	54,104	22,906	2,576	260,894	0	1,659	0	342,139
Martin	99,884	43,875	14,498	262,490	0	1,342	0	422,089
McDowell	129,220	44,557	13,376	391,960	0	13,827	0	592,940
Mecklenburg	2,096,289	1,008,156	6,446	4,425,986	0	317,879	0	7,854,756
Mitchell	23,887	9,209	18,587	109,945	0	2,123	0	163,751
Montgomery	77,724	46,321	27,253	318,307	0	6,445	0	476,050
Moore	267,413	59,718	42,909	805,685	288	31,068	0	1,207,081
Nash	176,298	181,554	63,829	669,783	82,310	20,847	0	1,194,621
New Hanover	430,345	49,405	5,475	1,535,287	0	67,642	0	2,088,154
Northampton	41,337	27,470	67,727	116,091	0	1,912	0	254,537
Onslow	388,062	177,812	1,916	1,083,314	0	62,227	0	1,713,331
Orange	195,793	70,713	4,319	750,622	14,995	32,021	0	1,068,463
Pamlico	20,779	7,828	19,146	56,476	0	26	0	104,255
Pasquotank	78,356	18,469	27,787	286,212	0	11,836	0	422,660
Pender	122,905	50,427	3,664	438,604	0	3,116	0	618,716
Perquimans	31,207	13,813	5,273	90,839	0	2,185	0	143,317
Person	80,789	59,642	70,574	207,693	0	6,468	0	425,166
Pitt	343,278	46,291	4,392	993,652	33,620	62,293	72	1,483,598
Polk	49,363	18,708	91,181	197,971	0	1,800	0	359,023
Randolph	317,393	117,504	17,496	1,454,101	0	29,563	0	1,936,057
Richmond	120,089	20,815	12,618	440,284	0	8,477	0	602,283
Robeson	196,580	60,296	39,684	956,430	40,856	15,058	5	1,308,909
Rockingham	197,905	49,685	52,979	519,856	108	19,011	0	839,544
Rowan	319,221	148,179	41,664	1,584,018	0	45,656	0	2,138,738
Rutherford	172,864	70,896	28,841	462,515	0	11,628	0	746,744
Sampson	199,404	89,533	12,919	806,894	0	6,700	0	1,115,450
Scotland	86,492	48,425	26,965	344,545	0	5,931	0	512,358
Stanly	165,649	25,115	28,909	584,022	0	23,092	0	826,787
Stokes	86,734	34,014	49,903	323,101	0	5,008	0	498,760
Surry	177,074	74,270	6,385	705,265	0	20,740	0	983,734
Swain	35,748	17,608	7,607	140,920	0	2,525	0	204,408
Transylvania	53,157	33,901	4,696	170,755	0	6,939	0	269,448
Tyrrell	50,054	21,287	17,292	153,263	0	0	0	241,896
Union	259,100	106,503	9,058	1,039,107	0	28,992	0	1,442,760
Vance	163,719	41,019	181,564	495,307	0	7,523	0	889,132
Wake	1,893,798	58,851	6,458	4,425,277	7,404	443,289	5	6,835,082
Warren	63,664	27,861	2,838	187,049	0	620	0	282,032
Washington	36,638	18,919	31,477	116,065	0	2,500	0	205,599
Watauga	121,796	44,886	33,186	396,892	0	15,071	0	611,831

COST AND CASE DATA ON REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENTS

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Number of Cases*	Total Cost
Assigned Private Counsel		
Capital offense cases	1,450	\$12,413,506
Adult cases (other than capital)	165,267	49,726,073
Juvenile cases	13,893	3,262,628
Guardian ad Litem	4,210	1,282,133
Totals	184,820	66,684,340
Private Counsel Contracts	5,332	926,513
Legal Services to Inmates		3,262,213
Public Defender Offices		
District 1	1,659	918,768
District 3A	2,836	1,010,380
District 3B (Carteret County)	1,390	311,206
District 10	7,835	1,928,790
District 12	5,007	1,516,777
District 14	9,276	1,883,466
District 15B	3,066	1,099,533
District 16A	2,186	739,120
District 16B	2,843	1,243,545
District 18	10,480	2,753,048
District 21	6,248	1,629,148
District 26	21,221	4,912,245
District 27A	5,330	1,655,710
District 28	5,394	1,197,260
Totals	84,771	22,798,995
Office of the Appellate Defender		1,444,442
Special Counsel at State Mental Health Hospitals		1,176,841
Support Services		
Transcripts, records, and briefs		621,305
Expert witness fees		2,272,827
Investigator fees		3,706,348
Interpreters (PAC & PD)		38,605
Total		6,639,085
Set-Off Debt Collection		88,542
Indigent Defense Services		1,078,298
Office of the Capital Defender		1,929,257
Office of the Juvenile Defender		163,719
TOTAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES		\$106,192,245

STATE MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL COMMITMENT HEARINGS

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

During 2006-07, the average cost per commitment hearing for representation by special counsel at the state's five mental health hospitals was \$49.16 (total cost of \$1,176,841 for 23,939 hearings)

The criteria and procedures for commitment to or discharge from a mental health hospital differ depending on whether the person is a minor or an adult, the reason for the commitment, and who is requesting the commitment. The applicable statutes should be consulted for further details

	Broughton	Cherry	Dorothea Dix*	John Umstead	Totals
Voluntary minors: Mentally ill or substance abusers (G.S.122C, Art.5, Part 3)					
Total Hearings	137	7	1,112	242	1,498
Commitment to hospital	88	3	355	189	635
Dismissal/discharge	49	4	757	53	863
Of total, number that were:					
Initial hearings	121	7	936	98	1,162
Contested hearings	0	0	6	7	13
Voluntary incompetent adults: Mentally ill or substance abusers (G.S.122C, Art.5, Part.4)					
Total Hearings	342	7	117	0	466
Commitment to hospital	295	6	101	0	402
Dismissal/discharge	47	1	16	0	64
Of total, number that were:					
Initial hearings	192	3	67	0	262
Contested hearings	1	3	13	0	17
Involuntary minors and adults: Mentally ill or mentally retarded with behavior disorder (G.S.122C, Art.5, Part.7)					
Total Hearings	3,876	3,758	6,123	6,208	19,965
Commitment to hospital	604	639	661	1,953	3,857
Commitment to outpatient clinic	439	736	748	996	2,919
Split commitment	971	1,022	629	1,538	4,160
Dismissal/discharge	1,862	1,361	4,085	1,721	9,029
Of total, number that were:					
Initial hearings	3,525	3,064	5,631	4,805	17,025
Contested hearings	129	180	160	740	1,209
Involuntary minors and adults: Substance abusers (G.S.122C, Art.5, Part.8)					
Total Hearings	200	531	402	877	2,010
Commitment to area authority	57	531	402	877	1,867
Dismissal/discharge	143	0	0	0	143
Of total, number that were:					
Initial hearings	200	506	399	876	1,981
Contested hearings	0	3	2	22	27
Total Hearings	4,555	4,303	7,754	7,327	23,939
Of total, number that were:					
Initial hearings	4,038	3,580	7,033	5,779	20,430
Contested hearings	130	186	181	769	1,266

*Dorothea Dix hospital hearing data has included the addition of Holly Hill cases since March 2003.

ASSIGNED AND CONTRACTED PRIVATE COUNSEL*
Fee Applications and Expenditures

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Number of Payments	Expenditures
<u>District 1</u>		
Camden	30	\$ 22,745
Chowan	142	159,769
Currituck	125	39,967
Dare	304	136,430
Gates	48	56,997
Pasquotank	348	413,528
Perquimans	62	91,931
District Totals	1,059	921,367
<u>District 2</u>		
Beaufort	1,499	440,938
Hyde	82	35,250
Martin	700	291,194
Tyrrell	137	45,241
Washington	307	183,177
District Totals	2,725	995,800
<u>District 3A</u>		
Pitt	3,509	1,459,416
<u>District 3B</u>		
Carteret	369	330,136
Craven	1,798	656,213
Pamlico	301	261,723
District Totals	2,468	1,248,072
<u>District 4A</u>		
Duplin	1,064	390,764
Jones	208	76,681
Sampson	1,849	701,104
District Totals	3,121	1,168,549
<u>District 4B</u>		
Onslow	3,543	1,107,392
<u>District 5</u>		
New Hanover	7,705	2,387,060
Pender	1,011	507,251
District Totals	8,716	2,894,311
<u>District 6A</u>		
Halifax	2,401	920,233
<u>District 6B</u>		
Bertie	455	173,336
Hertford	786	408,074
Northampton	515	268,464
District Totals	1,756	849,874
<u>District 7A</u>		
Nash	1,731	1,080,190
Wilson	1,579	843,188
District Totals	3,310	1,923,378

Assigned and Contracted Private Counsel, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Number of Payments	Expenditures
<u><i>District 7B</i></u>		
Edgecombe	1,397	718,311
 <u><i>District 8A</i></u>		
Greene	424	153,621
Lenoir	1,848	648,651
District Totals	2,272	802,272
 <u><i>District 8B</i></u>		
Wayne	2,778	924,439
 <u><i>District 9</i></u>		
Franklin	1,062	353,281
Granville	997	372,347
Vance	1,268	535,052
Warren	361	205,253
District Totals	3,688	1,465,933
 <u><i>District 9A</i></u>		
Caswell	488	160,386
Person	1,358	519,950
District Totals	1,846	680,336
 <u><i>District 10</i></u>		
Wake	11,924	4,292,771
 <u><i>District 11A</i></u>		
Harnett	2,784	1,011,219
Lee	1,702	633,542
District Totals	4,486	1,644,761
 <u><i>District 11B</i></u>		
Johnston	3,527	1,397,285
 <u><i>District 12</i></u>		
Cumberland	3,390	2,640,804
 <u><i>District 13</i></u>		
Bladen	1,112	413,382
Brunswick	2,564	978,057
Columbus	1,421	663,199
District Totals	5,097	2,054,638
 <u><i>District 14</i></u>		
Durham	5,007	2,389,483
 <u><i>District 15A</i></u>		
Alamance	3,415	1,188,733

Assigned and Contracted Private Counsel, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Number of Payments	Expenditures
<u>District 15B</u>		
Chatham	526	238,425
Orange	<u>1,022</u>	<u>458,933</u>
District Totals	1,548	697,358
 <u>District 16A</u>		
Hoke	340	281,601
Scotland	<u>593</u>	<u>470,516</u>
District Totals	933	752,117
 <u>District 16B</u>		
Robeson	3,554	2,058,344
 <u>District 17A</u>		
Rockingham	2,855	792,125
 <u>District 17B</u>		
Stokes	1,013	338,291
Surry	<u>1,993</u>	<u>549,428</u>
District Totals	3,006	887,719
 <u>District 18</u>		
Guilford	4,922	2,521,630
 <u>District 19A</u>		
Cabarrus	4,882	1,769,594
 <u>District 19B</u>		
Montgomery	897	376,104
Randolph	<u>3,199</u>	<u>1,257,997</u>
District Totals	4,096	1,634,101
 <u>District 19C</u>		
Rowan	4,735	1,542,991
 <u>District 19D</u>		
Moore	3,104	889,350
 <u>District 20A</u>		
Anson	1,247	512,908
Richmond	3,443	1,083,769
Stanley	<u>1,280</u>	<u>518,102</u>
District Totals	5,970	2,114,779
 <u>District 20B</u>		
Union	3,387	1,202,436
 <u>District 21</u>		
Forsyth	3,523	1,539,715

Assigned and Contracted Private Counsel, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Number of Payments	Expenditures
<u>District 22</u>		
Alexander	1,213	524,136
Davidson	4,954	1,369,629
Davie	1,088	487,852
Iredell	4,113	1,322,893
District Totals	11,368	3,704,510
<u>District 23</u>		
Alleghany	253	53,703
Ashe	628	177,193
Wilkes	2,287	595,651
Yadkin	896	212,767
District Totals	4,064	1,039,314
<u>District 24</u>		
Avery	404	147,118
Madison	428	122,955
Mitchell	301	85,750
Watauga	731	373,367
Yancey	417	146,319
District Totals	2,281	875,509
<u>District 25A</u>		
Burke	2,964	817,126
Caldwell	3,529	882,108
District Totals	6,493	1,699,234
<u>District 25B</u>		
Catawba	5,158	1,706,271
<u>District 26</u>		
Mecklenburg	11,543	4,328,940
<u>District 27A</u>		
Gaston	1,907	1,425,853
<u>District 27B</u>		
Cleveland	3,423	861,495
Lincoln	1,403	435,940
District Totals	4,826	1,297,435
<u>District 28</u>		
Buncombe	3,551	1,193,177
<u>District 29A</u>		
McDowell	1,733	508,119
Rutherford	2,747	796,694
District Totals	4,480	1,304,813

Assigned and Contracted Private Counsel, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Number of Payments	Expenditures
<i><u>District 29B</u></i>		
Henderson	3,144	1,093,110
Polk	575	175,616
Transylvania	783	329,005
District Totals	4,502	1,597,731
<i><u>District 30A</u></i>		
Cherokee	1,164	446,861
Clay	238	67,764
Graham	266	103,097
Macon	745	284,766
Swain	325	111,095
District Totals	2,738	1,013,583
<i><u>District 30B</u></i>		
Haywood	1,639	651,646
Jackson	857	302,219
District Totals	2,496	953,865
STATE TOTALS	193,357	74,230,652

*Prior year reports included only payments to attorneys; this year's data include payments to experts, investigators, and transcripts as well. Count of payments is not identical to the number of cases but is a count of the number of fee applications paid plus the number of cases closed as reported by contractors. Does not include payments to interpreters or appellate court copying charges.

**District totals may not match the sum of county expenditures due to rounding.

Part III

Caseload Data

- **Appellate Courts Data**
 - Supreme Court
 - Court of Appeals
- **Trial Courts Data**
 - Superior Court
 - District Court
- **Special Programs Data**
 - Arbitration
 - Child Custody and Visitation
 - Mediated Settlement Conferences
 - Family Financial Settlement Procedures
 - Drug Treatment Court
 - Sentencing Services

Part III, Section 1

Appellate Courts Data

- Supreme Court
- Court of Appeals

NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT

The following Supreme Court tables give filing (docketing) and disposition data on petitions, appeals, and other proceedings. These tables are based on data reported by the Clerk's office, which is responsible for entering and compiling the Court's data.

The first two tables in the Supreme Court subsection give ten-year trend data for appeals docketed and disposed and petitions docketed and allowed. The table following presents the Court's caseload inventory for FY 2006-07, broken down by the types of cases the Court hears. The following two tables summarize case activity in those cases reaching decision stage, and the disposition of petitions for review. The next table shows the various methods of dispositions of appeals -- signed opinion, per curiam opinion (unsigned), and dismissal or withdrawal -- as well as the types of disposition (e.g., affirmed, reversed, and so on). The final table gives Supreme Court processing times for appeals disposed by signed or per curiam opinion. For more information on the Supreme Court, see the summary on page 3 of this report.

APPEALS DOCKETED AND DISPOSED DURING THE YEARS 1997-98 – 2006-07

	Appeals Docketed	Appeals Disposed
1997-98	162	180
1998-99	164	196
1999-00	96	137
2000-01	130	89
2001-02	144	131
2002-03	138	142
2003-04	182	192
2004-05	234	239
2005-06	204	196
2006-07	246	214

PETITIONS DOCKETED AND ALLOWED DURING THE YEARS 1997-98 – 2006-07

	Petitions Docketed	Petitions Allowed
1997-98	547	78
1998-99	609	86
1999-00	577	39
2000-01	634	39
2001-02	662	37
2002-03	677	26
2003-04	678	30
2004-05	547	35
2005-06	672	25
2006-07	539	54

NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT
Caseload Inventory
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Pending 7/1/06	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/07
Petitions for Review*				
Civil domestic	0	0	0	0
Juvenile	5	26	19	12
Other civil	49	202	184	67
Criminal	105	310	324	91
Administrative agency decision	2	1	3	0
Total Petitions for Review	161	539	530	170
Appeals**				
Civil domestic	0	0	0	0
Petitions for review granted that became civil domestic appeals	0	0	0	0
Juvenile	3	15	9	9
Petitions for review granted that became juvenile appeals	1	0	1	0
Other civil	31	77	69	39
Petitions for review granted that became other civil appeals	8	13	12	9
Criminal, defendant sentenced to death	5	7	2	10
Other criminal	27	92	82	37
Petitions for review granted that became other criminal appeals	3	41	39	5
Administrative agency decision	0	1	0	1
Petitions for review granted that became appeals of administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0
Total Appeals	78	246	214	110
Other Proceedings				
Rule 16(b) additional issues re dissent		17	16	
Motions		712	674	
Total Other Proceedings		729	690	

*Petitions for review are cases in which the Court is asked to accept discretionary review of decisions of the Court of Appeals as well as other tribunals.

**The Appeals category comprises cases within the Court's appellate jurisdiction.

NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

SUBMISSION OF CASES REACHING DECISION STAGE

Cases Argued	
Civil domestic	0
Juvenile	9
Other civil	44
Criminal (death sentence)	3
Other criminal	33
Administrative agency decision	1
Total cases argued	90
Submissions Without Argument	
By motion of the parties (Appellate Rule 30(d))	0
By order of the Court (Appellate Rule 30(f))	0
Total submissions without argument	0
Total Cases Reaching Decision Stage	90

DISPOSITION OF PETITIONS

Petitions for Review	Granted*	Denied	Dismissed/ Withdrawn	Total Disposed
Civil domestic	0	0	0	0
Juvenile	0	18	1	19
Other civil	13	163	8	184
Criminal	41	204	79	324
Administrative agency decision	0	2	1	3
Post Conviction	0	0	0	0
Total Petitions for Review	54	387	89	530

*"Granted" includes order allowing relief without accepting the case as a full appeal.

**DISPOSITION OF APPEALS IN THE SUPREME COURT
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007**

Disposition by Signed Opinion

Case Types	Affirmed*	Affirmed in Part; Remanded in Part	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part; Remanded	Reversed	New Sentencing Hearing	Reversed and Remanded	New Trial
Civil domestic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other civil	6	0	0	0	0	7	0
Criminal (death sentence)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other criminal	3	2	1	2	0	7	0
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	13	2	1	2	0	14	0

Disposition by Per Curiam Opinion

Case Types	Affirmed*	Affirmed in Part; Remanded in Part	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part; Remanded	Reversed	Reversed and Remanded	Other	Discretionary Review Improvidently Allowed
Civil domestic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile	4	0	0	3	0	0	0
Other civil	11	1	2	3	2	2	5
Criminal (death sentence)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other criminal	4	2	0	2	6	0	1
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	19	3	2	8	8	2	6

*Includes No error

Disposition by Dismissal or Withdrawal

Case Types	Dismissed or Withdrawn	Dispensed or Remar
Civil domestic	0	
Juvenile	0	
Other civil	40	
Criminal (death sentence)	0	
Other criminal	91	
Administrative agency decision	0	
Totals	131	

**SUPREME COURT PROCESSING TIME
FOR APPEALS DISPOSED BY OPINION***

(Total time in days from docketing to opinion)

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Number of Cases	(Days) Median	(Days) Mean
Civil Domestic	0		
Petitions for review granted that became civil domestic appeals	0		
Juvenile	9	217	255
Petitions for review granted that became juvenile appeals	1	—	304
Other civil	32	245	273
Petitions for review granted that became other civil appeals	9	324	358
Criminal, defendant sentenced to death	2	281	281
Other criminal	15	280	367
Petitions for review granted that became other criminal appeals	15	576	515
Administrative agency decision	0		
Petitions for review granted that became appeals of administrative agency decision	0		
Total appeals disposed by opinion	83	294	330

* Only cases disposed by signed opinion or per curiam opinion are included.

NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

The three tables in the Court of Appeals subsection summarize filing and disposition activity in the Court of Appeals. These tables are based on data reported by the Clerk's office, which is responsible for entering and compiling the Court's data.

In addition to trend data for the past ten years, the following tables provide filings and dispositions for cases on appeal, petitions, and motions during FY 2006-07. "Cases on appeal" include cases appealed from district courts, superior courts, and administrative agencies. They are counted as appeals only after a record is filed with the Clerk's office and a docket number is assigned. The "petition" category includes petitions involving only the four "extraordinary" writs set out in Article V of the Rules of Appellate Procedure: certiorari, mandamus, prohibition, and supersedeas. "Motions" encompass any type of relief sought from the Court of Appeals, either in a case already filed with the Court of Appeals, or one on its way to the Court of Appeals, but not yet filed.

Cases on appeal represent the largest portion of the Court of Appeals' workload, since most are disposed by written opinion. The other methods of disposition, represented by the "Other Cases Disposed" category in the table at the bottom of the data page, include the court's dismissal of the appeal and the appealing party's withdrawal of the appeal.

FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS OF APPEALS AND PETITIONS DURING THE YEARS 1997-98 – 2006-07*

Fiscal Year	Filings	Dispositions
1997-98	2,135	2,108
1998-99	2,352	2,194
1999-00	2,268	2,057
2000-01	2,380	2,155
2001-02	2,388	2,441
2002-03	2,572	2,496
2003-04	2,674	2,562
2004-05	2,719	2,731
2005-06	2,707	2,973
2006-07	2,484	2,634

*Filings and dispositions shown here include appealed cases and petitions, but not motions.

FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS — July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Filings	Dispositions
Cases on appeal		
Civil cases appealed from district courts	379	
Civil cases appealed from superior courts	453	
Civil cases appealed from administrative agencies	140	
Criminal cases appealed from superior courts	651	
Totals	1,623	1,755
Petitions		
Allowed		138
Denied		741
Remanded		0
Totals	861	879
Motions		
Allowed		3,371
Denied		1,199
Remanded		0
Totals	4,106	4,570

Part III, Section 2

Trial Courts Data

- Superior Court
- District Court

TRIAL COURTS CASE DATA

This section presents summary data on the activity of the superior and district courts. The tables that follow provide statewide totals. Data for each district and county are provided throughout the year to local court officials and are available upon request from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and on the AOC website (www.nccourts.org).

The caseload inventory tables provide a statistical picture of caseload during the fiscal year. Inventory tables show the number of cases pending at the beginning of the year (July 1), the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed during the year, and the number of cases left pending at the end of the year (June 30). However, for certain case types, including estates and special proceedings in superior court, and civil magistrate cases, criminal motor vehicle cases, and infractions cases in district court, no begin-pending or end-pending data are maintained. Further, only filings data are collected for district court civil license revocations.

The tables also show the median ages of the cases pending at the end of the year, as well as the ages of cases disposed during the year. (Age data are not maintained on the case types identified above.) The median age of a group of cases is, by definition, the age of a hypothetical case that is older than 50% of the total set of cases and younger than the other 50%.

The tables that follow also provide statewide data on juvenile cases. This includes data on matters alleged in juvenile petitions filed, as well as data relating to adjudicatory hearings held, during the year.

Except for estates, special proceedings, and juvenile matters, caseload statistics come from the automated criminal, infraction, and civil modules of the AOC's Court Information System (CIS).

The case statistics in this trial courts section have been summarized from the automated filing and disposition case data, as well as from manually reported case data. Pending case information is calculated from the filing and disposition data. The accuracy of the pending case figures is, of course, dependent upon timely and accurate data on filings and dispositions.

Periodic comparisons by clerk personnel of their actual pending case files against the AOC's computer-produced pending case lists, followed by indicated corrections, are necessary to maintain accurate data in the AOC computer file. Yet, staff resources in the clerks' offices are not sufficient to make such physical inventory checks as frequently and as completely as would be necessary to maintain absolute accuracy in the AOC's computer files. Thus, it is recognized that there is some margin of error in the figures published in the following tables.

Another accuracy-related problem inherent in the AOC's reporting system is the lack of absolute consistency in the published year-end and year-beginning pending figures. The number of cases pending at the end of a reporting year should ideally be identical to the number of published pending cases at the beginning of the next reporting year. However, experience has shown that inevitably some filings and dispositions that occurred in the preceding year are not reported until the subsequent year. The later-reported data are regarded as being more complete and are used in the current year's tables, thereby producing some differences between the prior year's end-pending figures and the current year's begin-pending figures.

CASELOAD INVENTORY AND MEDIAN AGES OF SUPERIOR COURT CASES
July 1, 2006 — June 30, 2007

	Begin Pending	Filed	Disposed	End Pending	Median Ages (in days)*	
					Disposed Cases	Pending Cases
Civil Cases	19,892	27,091	27,762	19,221	193.0	169.0
Contract	4,053	6,019	6,103	3,969	156.0	155.0
Collect on Accounts	1,222	2,852	2,935	1,139	106.0	101.0
Motor Vehicle Negligence	5,668	6,194	6,548	5,314	303.0	178.0
Other Negligence	2,940	2,639	2,746	2,833	344.0	233.0
Real Property	1,422	1,138	1,264	1,296	351.5	240.0
Administrative Appeal	228	314	370	172	177.5	145.0
Other	4,359	7,935	7,796	4,498	121.0	148.0
Estates	—	62,028	60,306	—	—	—
Special Proceedings	—	121,093	107,830	—	—	—
Criminal Cases	86,971	152,879	146,407	93,443	197.0	249.0
Felonies	65,963	111,059	105,603	71,419	214.0	260.0
Murder	1,127	677	618	1,186	518.0	419.0
Manslaughter	81	93	96	78	292.0	228.5
Rape and First Degree Sex Offense	1,630	1,617	1,544	1,703	291.5	317.0
Other Sex Offenses	2,119	2,397	2,127	2,389	280.0	304.0
Robbery	3,386	4,855	4,740	3,501	233.0	243.0
Assault	2,128	2,612	2,671	2,069	252.0	290.0
Burglary and Breaking or Entering	6,894	15,483	14,558	7,819	186.0	226.0
Larceny	4,577	9,093	8,504	5,166	197.0	241.0
Arson and Burnings	278	348	360	266	212.5	327.5
Forgery and Utterings	1,243	1,727	2,058	912	251.0	256.0
Fraudulent Activity	6,422	11,335	10,211	7,546	204.0	274.0
Controlled Substances	20,915	34,432	33,330	22,017	236.0	271.0
Other	15,163	26,390	24,786	16,767	192.0	248.0
Misdemeanors	21,008	41,820	40,804	22,024	151.0	211.0
Impaired Driving Appeals	2,190	4,727	4,821	2,096	105.0	116.0
Other Motor Vehicle Appeals	2,978	5,854	5,734	3,098	131.0	117.5
Non-Motor Vehicle Appeals	6,897	12,442	12,465	6,874	191.0	294.0
Cases Originating in Superior Court	8,943	18,797	17,784	9,956	142.0	208.0

*On this table, criminal cases in superior court are aged from their original filing date, which was the district court filing date if the case originated in district court. (Data in annual reports and supplements prior to FY 1996-97 aged such cases from their filing date in superior court, and therefore excluded any time prior to transfer of such cases to superior court.)

MANNER OF DISPOSITION OF SUPERIOR COURT CASES

July 1, 2006 — June 30, 2007

	<u>Jury Trial</u>	<u>Judge Trial</u>	<u>Voluntary Dismissal</u>	<u>Final Order/ Judgment Without Trial</u>	<u>Clerk</u>	<u>Other</u>
Civil Cases	349	3,331	14,078	3,524	2,824	3,656
Contract	31	624	3,279	594	783	792
Collect on Accounts	1	278	743	359	1,189	365
Motor Vehicle Negligence	177	403	4,992	289	32	655
Other Negligence	73	221	1,749	205	13	485
Real Property	17	389	303	381	17	157
Administrative Appeal	2	127	119	54	0	68
Other	48	1,289	2,893	1,642	790	1,134
	<u>Jury Trial</u>	<u>Guilty Plea to Lesser Offense</u>	<u>to Charged Offense</u>	<u>DA Dismissal With Leave</u>	<u>Without Leave*</u>	<u>Other**</u>
Criminal Cases	2,535	11,704	59,353	5,630	48,587	18,598
Felonies	1,832	11,330	49,579	3,970	35,837	3,055
Murder	82	298	115	5	105	13
Manslaughter	5	20	50	0	17	4
Rape and First Degree Sex Offense	111	169	436	39	727	62
Other Sex Offenses	112	110	1,000	48	783	74
Robbery	148	1,136	1,933	66	1,412	45
Assault	121	747	755	69	941	38
Burglary and Breaking or Entering	130	1,575	8,800	424	3,518	111
Larceny	76	1,054	4,053	316	2,912	93
Arson and Burnings	12	71	151	14	107	5
Forgery and Utterings	8	150	992	188	703	17
Fraudulent Activity	72	576	5,558	458	3,453	94
Controlled Substances	468	3,528	15,852	1,509	11,592	381
Other	487	1,896	9,884	834	9,567	2,118
Misdemeanors	703	374	9,774	1,660	12,750	15,543
Impaired Driving Appeals	208	69	599	286	188	3,471
Other Motor Vehicle Appeals	48	104	1,300	403	2,051	1,828
Non-Motor Vehicle Appeals	309	116	2,559	441	3,870	5,170
Cases Originating in Superior Court	138	85	5,316	530	6,641	5,074

*"DA Dismissal Without Leave" includes Dismissals after Deferred Prosecution.

**"Other" includes Speedy Trial Dismissals.

CASELOAD INVENTORY AND MEDIAN AGES OF DISTRICT COURT CASES

July 1, 2006 — June 30, 2007

	Begin Pending	Filed	Disposed	End Pending	Median Ages (in days)	
					Disposed Cases	Pending Cases
Civil Cases	—	472,620	465,801	—	—	—
Civil Magistrate (Small Claims)	—	264,194	262,955	—	—	—
Civil District	80,843	208,426	202,846	86,423	62.0	134.0
URESА/UIFSA	257	404	382	279	121.0	263.0
Child Support (IV-D)	15,549	38,835	37,925	16,459	72.0	165.0
Child Support (Non IV-D)	7,767	5,569	5,525	7,811	203.0	472.0
Other Domestic Relations	28,128	87,792	86,353	29,567	44.0	159.0
<i>Subtotal Domestic Relations</i>	<i>51,701</i>	<i>132,600</i>	<i>130,185</i>	<i>54,116</i>	<i>56.0</i>	<i>197.0</i>
General Civil	27,430	72,205	69,095	30,540	86.0	92.0
Magistrate Appeal/Transfer	1,712	3,621	3,566	1,767	91.0	129.0
<i>Subtotal General Civil and Magistrate Appeal/Transfer</i>	<i>29,142</i>	<i>75,826</i>	<i>72,661</i>	<i>32,307</i>	<i>94.0</i>	<i>93.0</i>
Criminal Cases	—	1,654,871	1,637,997	—	—	—
Non-Motor Vehicle	232,875	636,751	637,891	231,735	83.0	88.0
Motor Vehicle	—	1,018,120	1,000,106	—	—	—
Infractions	—	808,384	803,467	—	—	—
Civil License Revocations	—	50,996	—	—	—	—

MANNER OF DISPOSITION OF DISTRICT COURT CASES
July 1, 2006 — June 30, 2007

	Jury Trial	Judge Trial	Voluntary Dismissal	Final Order/ Judgment w/o Trial	Clerk	Other
Civil Cases	173	56,225	26,032	46,396	37,122	36,898
URES/UIFSA	0	83	24	127	2	146
Child Support (IV-D)	13	9,191	3,116	16,652	70	8,883
Child Support (Non IV-D)	3	1,842	639	1,735	37	1,269
Other Domestic Relations	49	39,454	7,326	18,892	5,035	15,597
<i>Subtotal Domestic Relations</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>50,570</i>	<i>11,105</i>	<i>37,406</i>	<i>5,144</i>	<i>25,895</i>
General Civil	84	4,395	14,171	8,171	31,726	10,548
Magistrate Appeal/Transfer	24	1,260	756	819	252	455
<i>Subtotal General Civil and Magistrate Appeal/Transfer</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>5,655</i>	<i>14,927</i>	<i>8,990</i>	<i>31,978</i>	<i>11,003</i>

Probable Cause Matters (Felonies)

	Waiver	Guilty Plea*	Trial	DA Dismissal		Other	Heard and Bound Over	Probable Cause Not Found	Probable Cause Waived	Super- ceding Indictment	Total
				With Leave	Without Leave**						
Criminal Cases											
Non-Motor Vehicle	16,649	175,928	23,305	35,552	249,335	36,448	1,571	1,782	20,364	78,727	102,444
Motor Vehicle	<u>Waiver:</u>	147,756			<u>Non-Waiver:</u>	852,350					
Infractions	<u>Waiver:</u>	393,671			<u>Non-Waiver:</u>	409,796					

*Guilty Plea includes Guilty Plea Before a Magistrate and Guilty Plea/No Contest.

**DA Dismissal Without Leave includes Dismissals after Deferred Prosecution.

MATTERS ALLEGED IN JUVENILE PETITIONS

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Delinquent Offenses	24,537	25,652	25,232	25,537
Capital	3	13	8	12
Other Felony	6,972	7,203	7,181	7,298
Misdemeanor	17,562	18,436	18,043	18,227
Undisciplined Offenses	4,836	4,686	4,742	4,509
Truancy	794	701	747	715
Other*	4,042	3,985	3,995	3,794
Juvenile Conditions	12,947	13,970	14,022	13,495
Dependent	3,621	3,841	3,931	3,736
Neglected	5,853	6,510	6,770	6,452
Abused	1,199	1,343	1,149	1,030
Parental Rights Petition	2,274	2,276	2,172	2,277
Total Petitions	42,320	44,308	43,996	43,541
Children before Court for First Time	17,190	18,006	17,843	17,525

*Some examples of other undisciplined offenses include regular disobedience beyond parental control, regular presence in places where it is unlawful for juveniles to be, and running away from home

ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS FOR JUVENILE MATTERS

	Retained				Dismissed				Total			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Delinquency Hearings	16,216	17,246	15,803	16,134	9,467	10,510	10,734	11,544	25,683	27,756	26,537	27,678
Undisciplined Hearings	2,510	2,446	2,304	2,262	1,059	1,082	1,127	969	3,569	3,528	3,431	3,231
Dependency Hearings	3,924	4,435	4,794	4,183	752	745	943	920	4,676	5,180	5,737	5,103
Neglect Hearings	6,094	6,443	7,444	6,659	1,193	1,287	1,422	1,488	7,287	7,730	8,866	8,147
Abuse Hearings	924	1,009	991	965	336	360	409	330	1,260	1,369	1,400	1,295

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Parental Rights Terminated	1,679	1,806	1,781	2,012
Terminated	287	356	347	341
Total	1,966	2,162	2,128	2,353

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total Adjudicatory Hearings for Juvenile Matters	44,441	47,725	48,099	47,807

Part III, Section 3

Special Programs Data

- Arbitration
- Child Custody Mediation
- Mediated Settlement
Conferences
- Family Financial Settlement
Procedures
- Drug Treatment Court
- Sentencing Services

SPECIAL PROGRAMS DATA

This section presents data on six special programs of the N.C. Judicial Branch. The cases reported in these tables do not represent cases *in addition* to those reported in the trial courts section, but rather special programs (mostly alternative dispute resolution programs) for how certain types of cases are disposed or handled. The cases are set out separately here to summarize the program activity of six programs -- arbitration, custody mediation, mediated settlement conferences, family financial settlement procedures, drug treatment court, and sentencing services-- all of which are discussed in more detail in the description of the present court system in Part I.

ARBITRATION ACTIVITY*
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	<u>Cases Noticed for Arbitration</u>			Cases Arbitrated	<u>Summary of De Novo Appeal Activity</u>			
	District Court	Superior Court	Total		Appeals Filed	Trials	Dismissal/ Other	Pending 6/30/2007
District 1**								
Camden	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chowan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Currituck	14	0	14	10	0	0	0	0
Dare	24	0	24	7	0	0	0	0
Gates	7	0	7	3	0	0	0	0
Pasquotank	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Perquimans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District Totals	51	0	51	20	0	0	0	0
District 3A								
Pitt	49	0	49	38	5	2	1	2
District 3B***								
Carteret	22	0	22	7	1	2	3	6
Craven	43	0	43	20	5	5	4	6
Pamlico	4	0	4	5	0	0	0	1
District Totals	69	0	69	32	6	7	7	13
District 5								
New Hanover	336	0	336	126	20	7	9	4
Pender	71	0	71	16	2	1	1	0
District Totals	407	0	407	142	22	8	10	4
District 6A								
Halifax	18	0	18	9	4	1	3	0
District 8A								
Greene	4	0	4	4	1	1	0	0
Lenoir	28	0	28	14	4	0	1	3
District Totals	32	0	32	18	5	1	1	3
District 8B								
Wayne	51	0	51	38	16	6	6	4
District 10								
Wake	447	0	447	299	71	15	31	25
District 12								
Cumberland	989	0	989	281	41	16	17	8
District 13								
Bladen	5	0	5	3	1	0	0	1
Columbus	26	0	26	7	1	0	0	1
Brunswick	33	0	33	12	1	1	0	0
District Totals	64	0	64	22	3	1	0	2
District 14								
Durham	226	0	226	218	40	3	17	20
District 15A								

Arbitration Activity, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	<u>Cases Noticed for Arbitration</u>			Cases Arbitrated	<u>Summary of De Novo Appeal Activity</u>			
	District Court	Superior Court	Total		Appeals Filed	Trials	Dismissal/ Other	Pending 6/30/2007
District 16A								
Hoke	18	0	18	6	1	1	0	0
Scotland	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	0
District Totals	23	0	23	11	1	1	0	0
District 16B								
Robeson	18	0	18	4	0	0	0	0
District 17A								
Rockingham	24	0	24	24	4	2	0	2
District 18								
Guilford	213	0	213	116	23	3	8	12
District 19B								
Montgomery	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Randolph	3	0	3	2	1	0	0	1
District Totals	4	0	4	2	1	0	0	1
District 19C								
Rowan	39	0	39	39	12	0	7	5
District 19D								
Moore	3	0	3	4	0	0	0	0
District 20A								
Anson	15	0	15	7	1	0	0	1
Richmond	21	0	21	4	1	0	0	1
Stanly	64	0	64	31	7	3	0	4
District Totals	100	0	100	42	9	3	0	6
District 20B								
Union	76	0	76	30	12	1	3	8
District 21								
Forsyth	299	0	299	144	45	14	22	9
District 22								
Davidson	27	0	27	22	7	0	1	6
Iredell	38	0	38	27	6	3	0	3
Davie	6	0	6	6	2	0	0	2
Alexander	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	0
District Totals	75	0	75	56	15	3	1	11
District 23								
Alleghany	6	0	6	4	1	0	1	0
Ashe	13	0	13	8	0	0	0	0
Wilkes	34	0	34	18	6	1	1	4
Yadkin	39	0	39	17	5	0	1	4
District Totals	92	0	92	47	12	1	3	8
District 24								
Watauga	24	0	24	13	7	1	0	6

Arbitration Activity, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	<u>Cases Noticed for Arbitration</u>			<u>Cases Arbitrated</u>	<u>Summary of De Novo Appeal Activity</u>			
	<u>District Court</u>	<u>Superior Court</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Appeals Filed</u>	<u>Trials</u>	<u>Dismissal/Other</u>	<u>Pending 6/30/2007</u>
District 25A								
Burke	42	0	42	25	4	1	3	0
Caldwell	45	0	45	24	5	1	2	2
District Totals	87	0	87	49	9	2	5	2
District 25B								
Catawba	150	0	150	75	14	1	3	10
District 26								
Mecklenburg	553	0	553	561	189	40	23	126
District 27A								
Gaston	100	0	100	63	24	7	12	5
District 27B								
Cleveland	50	0	50	31	10	6	1	3
Lincoln	33	0	33	17	3	2	1	0
District Totals	83	0	83	48	13	8	2	3
District 29A**								
McDowell	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Rutherford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District Totals	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
District 29B								
Polk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Henderson	62	0	62	42	8	1	2	5
Transylvania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District Totals	62	0	62	42	9	1	2	6
District 30A								
Cherokee	66	0	66	8	1	0	0	1
Clay	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Graham	3	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
Macon	12	0	12	2	0	0	0	0
Swain	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	1
District Totals	83	0	83	15	4	2	0	2
District 30B								
Haywood	22	0	22	12	8	8	0	0
Jackson	17	0	17	12	10	5	0	5
District Totals	39	0	39	24	18	13	0	5
TOTALS	4,667	0	4,667	2,618	651	167	187	318

*Of the 2,618 cases arbitrated, 651, or 24.9% of these cases were appealed.

**District 1 and District 29A data for July 2006 - March 2007 did not contain trial de novo data.

***Pending numbers have been adjusted to reflect cases pending from the prior fiscal year.

CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION MEDIATION ACTIVITY

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Cases Pending 7/1/06	Cases Referred	Total Caseload	Parenting Agreement Drafted	Parenting Agreement Signed	Cases Mediated ****	Cases Not Mediated *****	Total Cases Disposed Through Mediation Office
District 3A								
Pitt	53	126	179	70	20	108	28	136
District 4*								
Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson	39	441	480	185	127	328	118	446
District 5								
New Hanover, Pender	38	647	685	173	74	316	304	620
District 6A								
Halifax	7	86	93	39	30	61	26	87
District 6B								
Bertie, Hertford, Northampton	19	63	82	19	14	31	32	63
District 8								
Greene, Lenoir, Wayne	37	161	198	104	60	152	46	198
District 9								
Franklin, Granville, Vance, Warren	25	141	166	69	32	139	24	163
District 9A								
Caswell, Person	4	47	51	19	14	41	9	50
District 10								
Wake	139	1,091	1,230	329	267	565	447	1,012
District 11**								
Harnett, Johnston, Lee	49	584	633	117	0	233	335	568
District 12								
Cumberland	180	1,092	1,272	335	242	539	652	1,191

CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION MEDIATION ACTIVITY
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Cases Pending 7/1/06	Cases Referred	Total Caseload	Parenting Agreement Drafted	Parenting Agreement Signed	Cases Mediated ****	Cases Not Mediated *****	Total Cases Disposed Through Mediation Office
District 13* Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus	1	490	491	392	154	435	49	484
District 14 Durham	25	288	313	85	68	170	110	280
District 15A Alamance	41	194	235	122	90	178	19	197
District 15B* Chatham, Orange	2	147	149	109	86	139	6	145
District 16A Hoke, Scotland	0	44	44	22	14	39	5	44
District 17A Rockingham	16	109	125	40	28	98	13	111
District 17B Stokes, Surry	20	146	166	49	34	130	20	150
District 18 Guilford	166	594	760	359	254	553	149	702
District 19A Cabarrus	38	185	223	110	100	164	17	181
District 19B* Montgomery, Moore, Randolph	14	326	340	226	187	298	29	327
District 19C Rowan	57	246	303	136	112	210	29	239

CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION MEDIATION ACTIVITY

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	Cases Pending 7/1/06	Cases Referred	Total Caseload	Parenting Agreement Drafted	Parenting Agreement Signed	Cases Mediated ****	Cases Not Mediated *****	Total Cases Disposed Through Mediation Office
District 20* Anson, Richmond, Stanly, Union	99	332	431	165	112	272	84	356
District 21 Forsyth	45	306	351	134	87	243	57	300
District 23 Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes, Yadkin	26	218	244	95	78	176	53	229
District 25 Burke, Caldwell, Catawba	70	682	752	283	182	459	222	681
40 District 26* Mecklenburg	11	1,891	1,902	377	234	706	694	1,400
District 27A Gaston	63	180	243	68	44	149	27	176
District 27B Cleveland, Lincoln	45	161	206	112	45	109	22	131
District 28 Buncombe	161	555	716	182	120	275	214	489
District 29A*** Rutherford, McDowell	0	91	91	41	24	57	19	76
TOTALS	1,490	11,664	13,154	4,566	2,933	7,373	3,859	11,232

The number of known statewide consent orders developed from parenting agreements is 132.

*Districts 4, 15B, 19B, 20, 26 pending numbers have been adjusted.

**District 11 agreements are generally signed in the attorneys' offices, not in the mediation office. Therefore, the mediation staff cannot capture accurate numbers on signed agreements.

***District 29A statistical report covers December 2006 to June 30, 2007.

****Cases mediated includes one face to face session with both parties. Mediation outcomes include full permanent parenting agreements, temporary agreements, partial agreements or modified agreements. Mediation sessions may also result in no signed agreements, or determinations that mediation is inappropriate (documented domestic violence, serious substance abuse, etc.). These numbers do not include orientation sessions.

*****Cases not mediated includes a party's failure to appear, a voluntary dismissal, court exemption, inappropriate cases (domestic violence, serious substance abuse, etc.), or consent order signed in lieu of a parenting agreement. In most districts, parties living 50 miles or more from the district are exempt from mediation.

MEDIATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES CASES
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Districts	Begin Pending	Submitted to Mediation	Ordered Removed	Disposed without Session	Resolved through Conference	Not Resolved through Conference	End Pending
1	144	201	26	54	93	53	119
2	80	95	6	50	15	23	81
3A	180	216	3	67	42	46	238
3B	502	124	0	91	38	58	439
4A	206	88	0	95	26	10	163
4B	51	116	0	29	31	30	77
5	971	444	0	185	71	64	1,095
6A	16	38	0	4	19	17	14
6B	35	58	12	15	15	17	34
7A	0	230	57	39	22	39	73
7B	118	175	11	49	74	57	102
7C	47	57	4	25	13	14	48
8A	26	98	1	47	19	11	46
8B	48	88	2	15	40	9	70
9	270	156	0	63	63	32	268
9A	0	51	0	6	10	7	28
10	573	958	25	530	282	241	453
11A	110	187	6	99	62	44	86
11B	328	471	4	320	81	67	327
12	128	382	61	176	126	77	70
13	316	223	0	98	53	32	356
14	540	411	1	40	97	52	761
15A	89	130	11	32	53	53	70
15B	147	66	6	16	11	10	170
16A	39	11	10	7	0	4	29
16B	33	60	0	6	67	20	0
17A	43	83	6	23	33	23	41
17B	74	101	8	39	30	34	64
18	593	757	7	116	248	237	742
19A	110	147	1	70	65	46	75
19B	52	140	10	44	49	34	55
19C	257	135	2	47	52	66	225
19D	194	120	0	26	14	18	256
20A	44	109	2	41	20	36	54
20B	79	151	10	44	80	47	49
21	566	435	0	40	125	104	732
22	955	311	4	71	109	79	1,003
23	69	129	7	47	50	37	57
24	206	196	13	10	100	19	260
25A	87	127	5	51	43	62	53

FAMILY FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES CASES
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Districts	Begin Pending 7/1/06	Ordered to Mediation Settlement Conference	Ordered to Judicial Settlement Conference	Submitted to other Settle. Proced.	Total Cases	Ordered Exempt from Settle. Proced.	Settled or Disposed without Settle. Proced.	Resolved through Settle. Procedure	Partially Resolved through Settle. Proced.	Not Resolved through Settle. Proced.	Cases Completing Settlement Procedure	End Pending 6/30/07
1	13	5	1	0	19	0	2	6	0	0	8	11
2	23	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
3A	0	14	0	0	14	2	4	0	0	0	6	8
3B	0	118	0	0	118	1	34	1	0	0	36	82
4	0	39	0	0	39	1	3	2	0	2	8	31
5	207	264	0	0	471	0	35	58	0	22	115	356
6A	8	15	8	0	31	3	4	9	1	10	27	4
6B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	14	49	1	0	64	1	13	17	2	16	49	15
9*	33	6	2	0	41	2	0	10	0	4	16	25
10	0	47	0	0	47	0	4	8	0	6	18	29
11*	130	106	0	1	237	17	91	46	20	19	193	44
12*	0	316	124	1	441	109	105	53	19	90	376	65
14*	36	26	29	0	91	0	33	25	2	20	80	11
16A	55	22	6	0	83	13	19	2	0	6	40	43
16B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17A	19	63	0	1	83	2	15	35	2	8	62	21
18	0	183	1	0	184	3	42	48	6	4	103	81
19A	101	85	9	0	195	0	84	12	0	10	106	89
19B	0	66	14	2	82	1	5	7	0	11	24	58
19C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20A*	31	44	0	0	75	0	10	20	2	8	40	35
20B	50	105	4	0	159	3	37	31	4	5	80	79
23	22	11	0	0	33	1	5	7	0	3	16	17
24	35	67	4	0	106	0	20	42	4	3	69	37
25	130	187	17	0	334	25	102	31	7	35	200	134
26	133	152	0	143	428	7	61	47	2	33	150	278
27A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27B	0	34	1	3	38	0	3	0	0	0	3	35
28**	0	22	0	0	22	0	1	0	0	0	1	21
29A	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
29B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	54	72	0	0	126	3	19	44	0	31	97	29
TOTALS	1,094	2,129	221	151	3,595	194	751	561	71	346	1,923	1,672

*Pending numbers have been adjusted.

**Statistics reported beginning April 1, 2007.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT ACTIVITY
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

District	Number Served ¹	Type of Drug Treatment Court (DTC)	Number of Exits ²	Of Exits, Percent Graduated	Of Exits, Percent Accessed More than Six Months of Treatment
District 3A					
Pitt	36	Post-sentence Adult DTC	11	18%	82%
District 3B					
Carteret	22	Post-sentence Adult Superior DTC	12	33%	75%
Craven	21	Post-sentence Adult Superior DTC	11	27%	45%
District 5					
New Hanover	103	Post-sentence Adult DTC	41	29%	78%
District 6A					
Halifax	11	Family DTC	3	33%	67%
District 8					
Lenoir	8	Family DTC*	0	—	—
Wayne	45	Family DTC	7	100%	100%
District 9A					
Person	64	Post-sentence Adult DTC	31	23%	32%
District 10					
Wake	49	Post-sentence Adult DTC	22	27%	64%
	21	Post-adjudication Youth DTC	4	25%	100%
District 12					
Cumberland	34	Pre-plea and Post-sentence Adult DTC	14	57%	93%
	22	Family DTC	1	100%	100%
District 14					
Durham	45	Post-sentence Adult DTC	15	13%	93%
	27	Post-adjudication Youth DTC	14	7%	86%
	32	Family DTC	11	27%	82%
District 15B					
Orange	27	Post-sentence Adult DTC	6	50%	50%
	23	Family DTC	10	10%	30%
District 18					
Guilford	48	Pre-plea Adult DTC	24	29%	50%
District 19B					
Randolph	39	Post-sentence Adult DTC	15	33%	73%
District 19C					
Rowan	36	Post-adjudication Youth DTC	16	69%	81%
District 20B					
Union	6	Family DTC	3	0%	33%
District 21					
Forsyth	74	Post-sentence Adult DTC	32	25%	53%
	24	Post-adjudication Youth DTC	11	18%	82%
District 24					
Avery/Watauga	34	Post-sentence Adult DTC	11	55%	64%
District 25					
Burke	7	Post-sentence Adult DTC*	0	—	—
Catawba	45	Post-sentence Adult DTC	25	56%	84%

DRUG TREATMENT COURT ACTIVITY, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

District	Number Served ¹	Type of Drug Treatment Court	Number of Exits ²	Of Exits, Percent Graduated	Of Exits, Percent Accessed More than Six Months of Treatment
District 26					
Mecklenburg	66	Pre-sentence (District A)	37	24%	51%
	73	Pre-sentence (District B)	43	33%	56%
	66	Post-sentence (DWIC)	32	59%	94%
	77	Post-sentence (DWID)	40	28%	65%
	60	Post-sentence Superior	44	18%	59%
	179	Family DTC Level I ³	120	—	48%
	74	Family DTC	42	38%	60%
	45	Post-adjudication Youth DTC	23	57%	74%
District 27A					
Gaston	11	Family DTC*	4	—	—
District 28					
Buncombe	60	Post-sentence Adult Superior DTC	31	42%	68%
	19	Family DTC	8	13%	63%

	TOTAL NUMBER SERVED	TOTAL NUMBER OF EXITS
ADULT	1050	497
YOUTH	153	68
FAMILY	430	209
TOTAL	1,633	774

¹The "Number Served" represents the number of participants who were active in court, or receiving court-ordered treatment for at least one day during the fiscal year.

²The "Number of Exits" represents participants who successfully graduated or who terminated from the program as "unsuccessful" during the fiscal year.

³Graduation is not part of the Mecklenburg Family DTC Level I mode.

*This court is a new court implemented within the fiscal year.

SENTENCING SERVICES PROGRAMS
(as of June 30, 2006)

Districts	Counties Served	Program Activity	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	Camden	Plans Opened	32 ³	60	10 ⁷	18	1 ⁸ No program	
	Chowan	Plans Prepared	19	44	4	13	0	
	Currituck	Plans Presented to Court	17	44	5	13	0	
	Dare							
	Gates							
2	Pasquotank							
	Perquimans							
	Beaufort	Plans Opened	89	30	40	29	1 ⁸ No program	
3A	Hyde	Plans Prepared	50	44	38	19	5	
	Martin	Plans Presented to Court	49	44	36	19	5	
	Tyrrell							
3B	Washington							
	Pitt	Plans Opened	126 ⁴	34	48	30	2 ⁸ No program	
		Plans Prepared	70	26	33	35	0	
4A & 4B		Plans Presented to Court	65	20	32	35	0	
	Carteret	Plans Opened	127	106	123	51	38	53
	Craven	Plans Prepared	40	38	53	40	29	40
5	Pamlico	Plans Presented to Court	39	37	52	39	28	39
	Duplin	Plans Opened	138	96	92	89	107	146
	Jones	Plans Prepared	90	75	50	48	72	93
5	Onslow	Plans Presented to Court	78	71	50	50	72	93
	Sampson							
	New Hanover	Plans Opened	141	79	107	95	64	50
5	Pender	Plans Prepared	101	75	71	67	29	36
		Plans Presented to Court	98	74	70	67	29	36



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