

FISCAL YEAR 2018 SAMPLE

- ⇒ The study follows 6,668 juveniles with a delinquent complaint who exited the juvenile justice system in FY 2018 following diversion, probation, or commitment to a YDC.
- ⇒ Recidivism includes all subsequent delinquent complaints and adult arrests and is tracked during juvenile justice involvement as well as a two-year follow-up period.
- ⇒ Raise the Age and the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect the current study; future reports will be able to examine the effects of both on the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile Profile

- Juveniles averaged 14 years of age at offense. Most were male (72%) and 48% were black.
- Few were classified at the lowest (4%) and highest (11%) risk levels; most (63%) were assessed as having low needs.
- Over one-third had at least one prior complaint. 82% had a misdemeanor offense; 59% had a school-based offense.
- Length of juvenile justice involvement was shortest for diverted juveniles and longest for committed juveniles.

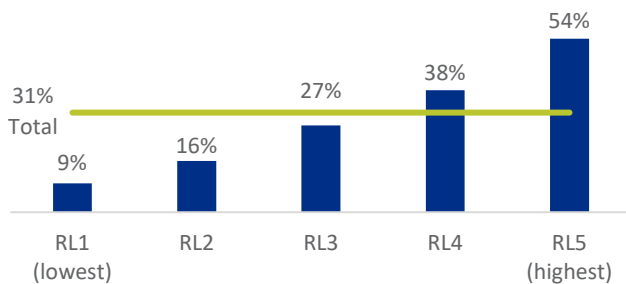
Top 5 Juvenile Offenses

Type of Offense	Class	N	%
Simple Assault	2	1,090	16
Misdemeanor Larceny	1	517	8
Simple Affray	2	416	6
Disorderly Conduct at School	2	394	6
Felony Breaking and Entering	H	285	4

Recidivism

- Overall, 18% had recidivism during their juvenile justice involvement, 31% during the two-year follow-up, and 39% during either or both time periods.
- Juveniles with at least one prior complaint had higher recidivism rates than those with no prior complaints.
- Recidivism increased as risk level and needs level increased.

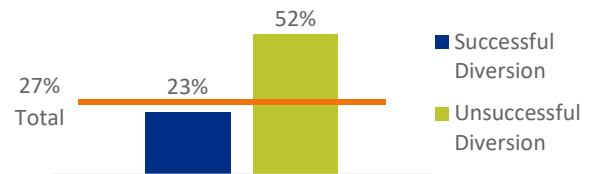
Recidivism Rates by Risk Level: Two-Year Follow-Up



Diverted Juveniles

- Of the 3,876 diverted juveniles, most (87%) successfully completed their diversion plan or contract.
- Juveniles with a successful diversion spent an average of 4 months in the juvenile justice system compared to an average of 3 months for those with an unsuccessful diversion.
- Only 11% of diverted juveniles recidivated during their juvenile justice involvement.
- Juveniles with unsuccessful diversions had higher recidivism rates compared to those with successful diversions.

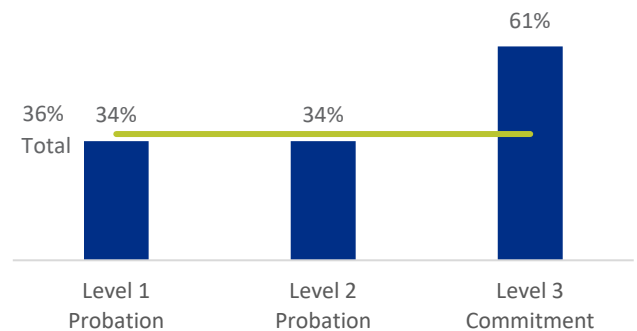
Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



Adjudicated Juveniles

- Of the adjudicated juveniles, 2,633 exited probation (Level 1: 2,044; Level 2: 589) and 159 exited a YDC facility (Level 3).
- Level 1 probationers, on average, had the shortest involvement in the system (12 months) compared to Level 2 probationers and committed juveniles (each at 13 months).
- 70% of probationers had a misdemeanor offense while 85% of committed juveniles had a felony offense.
- 28% of Level 1 probationers, 36% of Level 2 probationers, and 8% of committed juveniles (due to their confinement) had recidivism during juvenile justice involvement.

Recidivism Rates: Two-Year Follow-Up



Note: Direct comparisons between recidivism rates in this report and reports prior to 2019 cannot be made due to methodological differences.
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2018 Juvenile Recidivism Exit Sample

For the NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's *Juvenile Recidivism Study: FY 2018 Juvenile Sample* and all other publications, see the Commission's website: www.NCSPAC.org.