## QUICK FACTS: JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS

November 2023

## FISCAL YEAR 2023

⇒ There were 3,435 delinquent dispositions imposed in FY 2023, a 16% increase from FY 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA

ENTENCING AND OLICY ADVISORY

C O M M I S S I O

- ⇒ The majority of dispositions were for minor offenses (e.g., Class 1-3 misdemeanors); 24% of Serious offenses were Class A1 misdemeanors.
- ⇒ The most common dispositions were for person and property offenses; the least were for drug offenses.

**Offense Classification** 

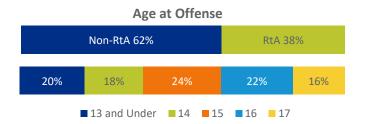


#### **Adjudicated Offense Type**

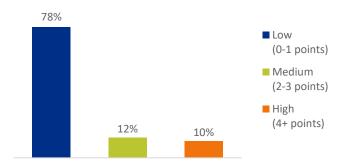
Offense Type	Ν	%
Person	1,451	42
Property	1,129	33
Other	617	18
Drug	238	7

**Juvenile Characteristics** 

- The majority (80%) of juveniles were male.
- 53% of juveniles were Black, 32% were White, 10% were Hispanic, and 5% were Other.
- The average age at offense was 15; 38% of juveniles were 16-17 years old (i.e., the Raise the Age [RtA] population).
- The majority of juveniles (78%) had a Low delinquency history level; 69% had zero delinquency history points.
- Nearly half (47%) of dispositions involved a juvenile adjudicated for a Minor offense with a Low delinquency history level.



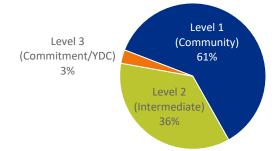
#### **Delinquency History Level**



**Dispositions Imposed** 

- 61% of dispositions imposed were Level 1.
- Of the 3,329 Level 1 and Level 2 dispositions, the most frequently imposed length of probation was 12 months (45%). The second most frequently imposed length was 6 months (32%).
- Very few (3%) Level 3 dispositions (i.e., Commitment/Youth Development Center [YDC]) were imposed.
- By statute, juveniles with a Level 3 disposition must be committed to a YDC for a minimum of 6 months; the average length of stay was 13 months.
- The top 5 adjudicated offenses accounted for 27% of dispositions imposed in FY 2023.

#### **Dispositions Imposed**



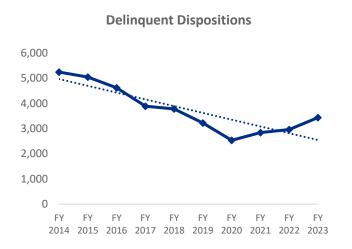
#### **Top 5 Adjudicated Offenses**

Offense	Class	Ν
Simple Assault	2	422
Misdemeanor Larceny	1	148
Communicating Threats	1	137
Possess Handgun by Minor	1	109
Breaking and/or Entering (Felony)	Н	105

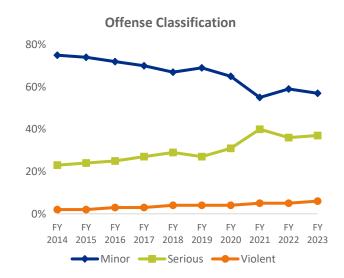
# **QUICK FACTS: JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS**

### FISCAL YEAR 2014 – FISCAL YEAR 2023

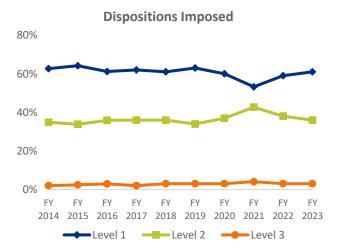
Delinquent dispositions have decreased 34% over the past ten years (from 5,240 in FY 2014 to 3,435 in FY 2023). The return to more normal pre-pandemic operations and implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA) contributed to increases in delinquent dispositions of 4% in FY 2022 and 16% in the past fiscal year.



The majority of delinquent dispositions have been for Minor and Serious offenses (totals ranging between 94% and 98%). Violent offenses have remained at 6% or under the past ten fiscal years.



After a decrease in Level 1 dispositions and an increase in Level 2 dispositions in FY 2021, those dispositions have returned to pre-pandemic distributions. The 15% increase in Level 2 dispositions in FY 2021 could be reflective of a shift in focus during the pandemic to more serious cases.



Level 3 dispositions continued to account for a very small percentage of overall dispositions. The number has fluctuated in recent years, including a 6% increase over the past fiscal year (100 in FY 2022 to 106 in FY 2023); however, Level 3 dispositions have decreased 15% overall since FY 2014.



NOTE: For FY 2014 to FY 2019, the age of juvenile jurisdiction was between 6 and 15 years at the time of the offense as set by statute. FY 2020 data captured the first 7 months of the JJRA implementation, which increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include most 16- and 17-year-olds. Every year following includes a full year of empirical data on JJRA.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, FY 2014 – FY 2023 Disposition Simulation Data.

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#### The Honorable Charlie Brown, Chairman Michelle Hall, Executive Director

For the NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's annual Youth Development Center Population Projections and all other publications, see the Commission's website: www.NCSPAC.org.