

*North Carolina
Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission*

**JUVENILE RECIDIVISM
STUDY**

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JUVENILE RECIDIVISM STUDY



North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. JUVENILE RECIDIVISM STUDY DIRECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY	1
Introduction	1
The Juvenile Justice System	1
Intake Process.	2
Pre-Adjudicatory Hearings.	3
Adjudicatory Hearing.	4
Dispositional Hearing.	4
<i>Table 1.1 Juvenile Disposition Chart.</i>	5
Juvenile Recidivism Research Design	6
Comparative Juvenile Recidivism Studies	7
Data Sources.	8
Sample.	8
Independent Variables and Outcome Measures.	9
Analysis and Report Outline	9
II. THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CONTEXT: DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES AND SERVICES	10
Community-Based Programming	10
Detention Centers	12
<i>Table 2.1 Detention Centers</i>	12
Youth Development Centers	14
<i>Table 2.2 Youth Development Centers</i>	14
III. STATISTICAL PROFILE OF THE JUVENILE SAMPLE	19
Sample Subgroups	19
<i>Figure 3.1</i>	19
<i>Table 3.1</i>	20
<i>Table 3.2</i>	21
Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent and Disposed	21
<i>Table 3.3</i>	22
<i>Table 3.4</i>	23
Risk and Needs Assessment for Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed.	24
<i>Table 3.5</i>	24
<i>Table 3.6</i>	25
<i>Table 3.7</i>	26
<i>Table 3.8</i>	26
<i>Table 3.9</i>	28
IV. RECIDIVISM IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS	29
Definition of the Follow-up Period and Time at Risk as a Juvenile	29
<i>Figure 4.1</i>	29
Juvenile and Adult Recidivism	30

Subsequent Juvenile Complaints and Adult Arrests	30
<i>Table 4.1</i>	30
Subsequent Juvenile Adjudications and Adult Convictions	31
<i>Table 4.2</i>	31
Current Offense and Recidivism	31
<i>Table 4.3</i>	32
<i>Figure 4.2</i>	32
<i>Table 4.4</i>	33
Juvenile Commitment and Adult Arrests	34
<i>Table 4.5</i>	34
<i>Table 4.6</i>	35
<i>Table 4.7</i>	35
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed	36
<i>Table 4.8</i>	37
<i>Table 4.9</i>	38
<i>Table 4.10</i>	38
<i>Table 4.11</i>	39
<i>Table 4.12</i>	39
Multivariate Analysis: Correlates of Recidivism	39
<i>Table 4.13</i>	41
<i>Table 4.14</i>	43
 V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	 44
<i>Figure 5.1</i>	47
<i>Figure 5.2</i>	48
 APPENDIX A	 50
 APPENDIX B	 51
 APPENDIX C	 52

CHAPTER ONE
JUVENILE RECIDIVISM
STUDY DIRECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

Introduction

In the 2005 Session of the General Assembly, the legislature amended Chapter 164 of the General Statutes to direct the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Sentencing Commission) to conduct biennial juvenile recidivism studies on adjudicated youth in the state. (Session Law 2005-276, Section 14.19)

§ 164-48. Biennial report on juvenile recidivism.

The Judicial Department, through the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, shall conduct biennial recidivism studies of juveniles in North Carolina. Each study shall be based on a sample of juveniles adjudicated delinquent and document subsequent involvement in both the juvenile justice system and criminal justice system for at least two years following the sample adjudication. All State agencies shall provide data as requested by the Sentencing Commission.

The Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission shall report the results of the first recidivism study to the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriation Committees and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriation Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by May 1, 2007, and future reports shall be made by May 1 of each odd-numbered year.

This is the Sentencing Commission's first biennial report on juvenile recidivism, submitted to the North Carolina General Assembly on May 1, 2007, to serve as a baseline for future biennial studies of the State's juvenile recidivism rates.

The Juvenile Justice System

The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998, which became effective on July 1, 1999, brought about the first major changes to the juvenile justice system in twenty years. Notable changes included: the establishment of a consolidated Office of Juvenile Justice to coordinate and administer the juvenile justice system (which, in 2000, became the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – DJJDP), the creation of a dispositional chart for use with juveniles adjudicated delinquent, and the formation of local juvenile justice planning bodies (*i.e.*, Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils). Other changes were made which affected the processing of juveniles through the justice system.

In North Carolina, a juvenile can enter the jurisdiction of the juvenile court at age six. At the upper age limit, a juvenile who is alleged to have committed a delinquent offense prior to the age of sixteen comes under the purview of the juvenile court. The juvenile justice process begins with a complaint being lodged against a juvenile by a law enforcement officer or private citizen.

There are two types of complaints — the delinquent complaint alleges that a juvenile committed a criminal offense, while the undisciplined complaint alleges non-criminal behavior (*e.g.*, runaways, unlawful absences from school, beyond parental control). For purposes of this study, only juveniles who had a delinquent complaint will be discussed.

Intake Process

All juveniles who have a delinquent complaint formally brought against them go through the intake process, at which time the complaint is screened and evaluated by a DJJDP court counselor to determine, within a 30 day time frame, whether or not the complaint should be filed as a petition and set for a hearing before a juvenile court judge. When juveniles are charged with a non-divertible offense,¹ the complaint is automatically filed as a petition and set for a juvenile court hearing if the court counselor finds reasonable grounds to believe that the juvenile committed the offense. Further, in emergency situations when a petition is required in order to obtain a secure or nonsecure custody order, a magistrate can authorize the filing of a petition. If either of these circumstances occurs, the intake process is terminated.

For all other cases, the intake process follows its usual course, if practicable, with the court counselor evaluating the case by conducting interviews with the juvenile, the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian, the complainant, the victim, and any other persons known to have relevant information about the juvenile or the juvenile's family. Upon completing and reviewing the information gathered during the evaluation, the court counselor determines whether or not the complaint should be closed, diverted, or approved for filing as a petition and referred to court. In the cases where the court counselor makes the decision not to refer a juvenile to court (*i.e.*, closed or diverted cases), those juveniles generally have little, if any, delinquency history.

If the court counselor finds the juvenile not to be in need of any referrals or follow-up, then the case is *closed* with no further action. However, if the court counselor determines that the case should not be filed for court, but that the juvenile is in need of follow-up and referral to a community-based resource (*e.g.*, restitution, community service, counseling), the counselor can then *divert* the juvenile pursuant to a diversion plan that is developed in conjunction with the juvenile and the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian. It should be noted in the closed or diverted cases that the complainant has the right to request a review of the court counselor's decision by the district attorney. The district attorney then has the authority to either affirm the decision or direct the filing of the complaint for a court hearing.

Diversion plans are in effect for up six months from the date of the decision to divert the complaint. If a diversion plan needs to be more formalized, the court counselor, juvenile, and juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian may enter into a diversion contract. Following this time, the court counselor conducts periodic reviews to ensure the compliance of the juvenile and his/her family with the plan or contract. At any point prior to the end of the six month period, if the court counselor finds that the parties have not complied with the diversion plan or contract,

¹ Non-divertible offenses are defined in G.S. § 7B-1701 as murder, first- or second-degree rape, first- or second-degree sexual offense, arson, felony drug offense under Article 5 of G.S. Chapter 90, first-degree burglary, crime against nature, or a felony involving the willful infliction of serious bodily injury or which was committed by use of a deadly weapon.

the counselor may re-evaluate the decision to divert and subsequently file the complaint for a hearing before the juvenile court. Otherwise, the court counselor must terminate the juvenile's file in regard to the diverted matter within the allotted six month time frame.

Finally, if the court counselor determines that the juvenile's case should be referred to court, the counselor authorizes the filing of the complaint as a petition, and the clerk of court's office processes and schedules the case for a hearing. When the filed petition involves a felony offense, the court counselor is required to notify the principal of the school that the juvenile attends.²

Pre-Adjudicatory Hearings

Any juveniles who are alleged to have committed a felony are scheduled for a first appearance hearing before the court within 10 days of the filing of the petition. (Note: Pursuant to G.S. § 7B-1906, juveniles who are placed in secure custody are subject to the scheduling of court hearings to determine their continued detainment.) The court also has jurisdiction over the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian. At the first appearance hearing, the court informs the juvenile of the allegations in the petition, determines whether the juvenile is represented by an attorney, and informs the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian of their requirement to attend all hearings and of the consequences for failure to attend any scheduled hearings. Additionally, if applicable, the court informs the juvenile of the date of the probable cause hearing.

Probable cause hearings, which are conducted within 15 days of the juvenile's first appearance hearing, are held in all felony cases in which the juvenile was at least 13 years old when the alleged offense was committed. During these hearings, the district attorney's office must present evidence to the court that shows that there is probable cause to believe that the alleged offense was committed by the juvenile in question. If probable cause is not found, then the court shall either *dismiss* the proceeding, or find probable cause that the juvenile committed a lesser included offense (*i.e.*, misdemeanor) and proceed to the adjudicatory hearing, which can immediately follow the probable cause hearing or be set for another date. If probable cause is found and transfer to superior court is not statutorily required,³ the court then proceeds to a transfer hearing, which can occur on the same day.

At the transfer hearing, the court considers a number of factors in reaching a decision of whether the protection of the community and the needs of the juvenile will be served if the case is transferred to superior court. If the case is transferred to superior court and the juvenile is subsequently convicted, then the juvenile is subject to the same sentencing options that would apply to an adult. If the court retains jurisdiction and does not transfer the juvenile to superior court, the court proceeds to the adjudicatory hearing, which can immediately follow the transfer hearing or be set for a later date.

² G.S. § 7B-3101(a) also provides that the school principal be notified if the felony petition is dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor, or if the juvenile's case is transferred to superior court.

³ G.S. § 7B-2200 states that the court shall transfer to superior court all cases involving a Class A felony for which probable cause has been found.

Adjudicatory Hearing

The adjudicatory hearing allows for the judge to hear evidence from the district attorney, the juvenile's attorney, and the complainant in order to make a determination of whether or not the juvenile committed the act(s) alleged in the petition(s). It should be noted that no statement made by a juvenile to the court counselor during the intake process is admissible during the adjudicatory hearing. Furthermore, there is no statutory provision for jury trials in juvenile court. If the court finds that the allegations in the petition have not been proven "beyond a reasonable doubt," the petition is *dismissed* and the matter is closed. However, if the court finds that the allegations have been proven, then the juvenile is *adjudicated* delinquent and the court proceeds to the dispositional hearing. While the adjudicatory and dispositional hearings frequently occur on the same day, the dispositional hearing may be scheduled for another date.

Dispositional Hearing

The dispositional hearing marks the part of the process in which the court decides the sanctions, services, and conditions that will be ordered for the juvenile as a result of the adjudicated offense(s). G.S. § 7B-2500 states that the purpose of dispositions are "to design an appropriate plan to meet the needs of the juvenile and to achieve the objectives of the State in exercising jurisdiction, including the protection of the public." The judge is also directed statutorily to design a disposition that is based upon the following:

- The seriousness of the offense;
- The need to hold the juvenile accountable;
- The importance of protecting the public safety;
- The degree of culpability indicated by the circumstances of the case; and
- The rehabilitative and treatment needs of the juvenile indicated by a risk and needs assessment.

In the majority of cases, juvenile court judges use the predisposition report, which is prepared by the court counselor's office, in developing a disposition. A risk and needs assessment is also completed by a court counselor on all adjudicated juveniles⁴ and is attached to this report. This assessment contains information pertaining to the juvenile's social, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and educational history, as well as any factors indicating the probability of the juvenile engaging in future delinquency. (See Appendix A.) The court may consider other evidence, including hearsay evidence and other written reports that are found to be relevant, reliable, and necessary, to determine the needs of the juvenile and the most appropriate disposition.

As shown in Table 1.1, the court's selection of dispositional alternatives is governed by statute and contained in a graduated sanctions chart that classifies juvenile offenders according to the seriousness of their adjudicated offense and the degree and extent of their delinquent history.

⁴ Beginning in 2006, the risk and needs assessment was incorporated into the intake process for use in making the intake decision to approve or not approve a complaint for filing, as well as for use at disposition.

**Table 1.1
Juvenile Disposition Chart**

	DELINQUENCY HISTORY LEVELS		
OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION	LOW 0-1 points	MEDIUM 2-3 points	HIGH 4 or more points
VIOLENT Class A-E felonies	Level 2 or 3	Level 3	Level 3
SERIOUS Class F-I felonies Class A1 misdemeanors	Level 1 or 2	Level 2	Level 2 or 3
MINOR Class 1, 2, 3 misdemeanors	Level 1	Level 1 or 2	Level 2

The vertical axis of the chart provides three offense classifications that describe the gravity of the adjudicated offense, ranging from the most serious to the least serious offense:

- Violent – Adjudication of a Class A through Class E felony offense.
- Serious – Adjudication of a Class F through Class I felony offense or a Class A1 misdemeanor.
- Minor – Adjudication of a Class 1, 2, or 3 misdemeanor.

The horizontal axis is comprised of three levels of delinquency history. The delinquency history level for a juvenile is determined by calculating the sum of the points assigned to each of the juvenile’s prior adjudications and, if applicable, to the juvenile’s probation status. (*See Appendix B for more detailed information.*) The delinquency history levels are ranked in the following way:

- Low – No more than 1 point.
- Medium – At least 2, but not more than 3 points.
- High – At least 4 points.

Once the court has determined the offense classification and the delinquency history level for the juvenile, the dispositional level can be ascertained. Each cell within the chart indicates which of the dispositional levels are prescribed for a particular combination of offense classification and delinquency history level. There are three different dispositional levels — Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3, each of which offers its own list of dispositional alternatives from which a judge can select at least one. (*See Appendix C for a complete list of dispositional alternatives.*) In four of the grid cells, the court has the discretion to impose one of two authorized dispositional levels.

Level 1, or the Community dispositional level, offers less restrictive dispositional alternatives such as probation, curfew, non-residential and residential treatment programs, intermittent confinement (detention), restitution, and community service. Level 2, or the Intermediate dispositional level, must provide for at least one of the more restrictive alternatives such as intensive supervision probation, intensive treatment programs, and group home placements and may also provide for Level 1 dispositional options.⁵ Level 3, or the Commitment dispositional level, offers the most restrictive sanction, commitment to a Youth Development Center (YDC). A court exercising jurisdiction over a juvenile for whom a Level 3 disposition is authorized must commit the juvenile to the DJJDP for placement in a YDC.⁶ However, a court may impose a Level 2 disposition rather than a Level 3 disposition if the court submits written findings on the record that substantiate extraordinary needs on the part of the juvenile in question. More detailed information on YDC's as well as other programs available to youths involved in the juvenile justice system is presented in Chapter Two.

Juvenile Recidivism Research Design

The research design for the 2007 biennial juvenile recidivism study was first specified in the Sentencing Commission's 2005 "Report on the Proposed Methodology for Measuring Juvenile Recidivism in North Carolina" to the General Assembly⁷, as follows:

- The population to be studied for the first report includes juveniles adjudicated delinquent during the sample period of January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004.⁸
- Recidivism is defined as all subsequent delinquent complaints and adult arrests following the delinquent adjudication of the juveniles in the sample.
- Juveniles in the sample are tracked for a fixed two-year follow-up period from their first adjudication in the six-month sample period.⁹

In order to provide context for the sample of adjudicated juveniles, this first study also presents information on the profile and recidivism of juveniles brought to the attention of the juvenile justice system between January 1 and June 30, 2004, whose petitions were dismissed or whose complaints were closed or resulted in a diversion. The entire cohort studied consisted of 10,882 juveniles with at least one of these court actions within the six-month sampling period.

⁵ Pursuant to G.S. § 7B-2508(d), a court may impose a Level 3 disposition (commitment to a Youth Development Center), in lieu of a Level 2 disposition, if the juvenile has previously received a Level 3 disposition in a prior juvenile action. (Note: G.S. 2508(g) contains another exception that allows for juveniles who have been adjudicated of a Minor offense to be committed to a YDC if the juvenile has been adjudicated of four or more prior offenses.)

⁶ G.S. § 7B-2513(e) states that the DJJDP, following assessment of a juvenile, may provide commitment services to the juvenile in a program not located in a YDC or detention facility.

⁷ North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, *Report on the Proposed Methodology for Measuring Juvenile Recidivism in North Carolina Pursuant to Session Law 2004-124, Section 16.5*, Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2005.

⁸ Subsequent biennial studies of juvenile recidivism will be based on a twelve-month sample.

⁹ Subsequent biennial studies will have a three-year follow-up period.

Comparative Juvenile Recidivism Studies

The study of juvenile recidivism is a topic that has been approached and interpreted in a number of different ways by both North Carolina and other states, thus making it often difficult, if not impossible, to directly compare one state to another. Sampling frames, sampling sizes, and follow-up periods vary widely, as does the definition of recidivism. The most commonly used outcome measures of recidivism are: recommitment/rearrest, readjudication/reconviction, and recommitment/reincarceration. A publication from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (2005)¹⁰ showed the diversity that exists between 27 states in their reporting of juvenile recidivism. Some states chose only one outcome, while others used as many as three, or selected a different measure altogether (*e.g.*, new filing). Additionally, there are other methodological issues such as the characteristics of the sample (*e.g.*, only juveniles adjudicated for violent offenses, or only those committed to training schools), or tracking only through the juvenile years versus into adult criminality, that result in further differentiations between reported recidivism rates by states. Other legal and systemic differences between states can also make accurate comparisons difficult. An additional obstacle in comparing North Carolina's juvenile recidivism rate to rates for other states is the difference in age of adult jurisdiction. Since North Carolina is only one of three states that have this age set at 16, comparing this state with other states that include in their samples 16 and/or 17 years old juvenile delinquents is misleading with offenders in these age groups considered adults in this state.

In North Carolina, previous studies of juvenile recidivism have looked at different subgroups of the juvenile delinquent population using varying follow-up periods. The earliest recidivism study (Dean, 1992) looked at the rearrest rates for offenders released from the state's training schools.¹¹ In 1997, with a mandate from the General Assembly, the study of juvenile recidivism¹² was expanded to the group of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A – E (violent) felonies.¹³ In 2004, the Sentencing Commission completed a first of its kind *Juvenile-To-Adult Comprehensive Criminal History Study*, in which a group of delinquent juveniles from selected judicial districts were followed in order to track their criminal history from the juvenile justice system into the adult criminal justice system.¹⁴ The following is a brief summary of these reports:

- 1992 Dean Study: Of approximately 1,700 juveniles released from the state's training schools in 1988 and 1989, 51% had adult arrests within 30 months.

¹⁰ Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, "Juvenile Recidivism in Virginia," *DJJ Research Quarterly*, April, 2005.

¹¹ C.W. Dean, "Developing Risk Factor Scales for Institutionalized Juvenile Delinquents," Charlotte, NC: Department of Criminal Justice, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 1992.

¹² Recidivism was defined as having a subsequent juvenile adjudication for a delinquent offense or adult conviction for a criminal offense.

¹³ North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Recidivism of Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent for Offenses in the Class A-E Adult Felony Offense Categories: A Two-Year Follow-Up*, Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Research and Planning Division, 2004.

¹⁴ North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, *Juvenile-To-Adult Comprehensive Criminal History Study*, Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004. The study was made possible through a grant from the NC Governor's Crime Commission and with the assistance of the NC Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN).

- 2004 DJJDP Juvenile Recidivism Report (Class A - Class E Felonies): In a sample of 147 juveniles who had been adjudicated delinquent for a Class A – Class E felony, 28% had a subsequent complaint or adult arrest (recidivated). The follow-up period ranged from 24 to 30 months.
- 2004 Sentencing Commission Report: In a cohort of 2,062 juveniles with a first delinquent petition filed in 1997, 32% had a re-complaint and 44.3% had an adult arrest. The follow-up period ranged from 64 to 76 months.

To date only a few studies have followed juveniles from the juvenile to the adult systems; however, they have tended to limit their samples to the more serious, violent offenders. This current study is the first in North Carolina to look at an entire cohort of delinquent juveniles statewide, irrespective of their type of offense or disposition, and follow them through the two systems. Furthermore, this report takes a look at the risk and needs factors of the juveniles and assesses their probability of future recidivism. The comprehensive quality of the sample as well as the bridging of the two justice systems are components that set this study apart from other studies that have been done nationally.

Data Sources

Information for this report was collected from three sources:

- The North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN) — the DJJDP’s management information system contains information on all juveniles brought to court with a complaint; their demographic and social history information; current offense and disposition; and subsequent involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) automated database — the DOJ database includes information on fingerprinted adult arrests for the sample subjects.¹⁵
- Site visits — descriptive information was collected from visits to a select number of Youth Development Centers (YDC) and detention centers, augmented by interviews with statewide and local DJJDP staff and a review of relevant literature.

Sample

There were 10,882 juveniles identified in the DJJDP's automated database who were brought to juvenile court and had their complaint closed without further action, diverted, dismissed, or adjudicated between January 1 and June 30, 2004. The two-year fixed follow-up was calculated individually for each juvenile from the date of the event that prompted their inclusion in the sample. If a juvenile had more than one sample event during the sampling period, his/her case was grouped based on the most serious of these events, ranked from adjudicated to dismissed, diverted, and closed. If a juvenile had two or more of the same type event, the first event counted as the prompt for inclusion in the sample, while the additional events were counted as recidivistic.

¹⁵ Note that the age of majority in North Carolina for criminal matters is 16. Anyone 16 years of age or older at the time of committing an offense is charged and processed in adult court.

Independent Variables and Outcome Measures

Background information available for all cases was limited to basic demographic data and offense charges filed. A variety of additional background characteristics and juvenile justice factors were extracted from NC-JOIN for juveniles adjudicated and disposed within the sampling period.

The primary outcome measure of recidivism was defined as either a subsequent juvenile complaint and/or an adult arrest. Additional measures of recidivism included the offense severity of recidivistic events, as well as subsequent adjudications and convictions.

Analysis and Report Outline

Chapter Two presents a general overview of dispositional alternatives, especially focusing on community-based services and commitment options.

Chapter Three provides basic information for the 2,685 juveniles whose complaints were closed, the 2,685 juveniles who were diverted, the 1,132 juveniles whose petitions were dismissed, and the 4,380 juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent in North Carolina between January 1 and June 30, 2004. It also presents a more complete statistical profile of the 4,113 juveniles who were adjudicated and disposed, for whom the NC-JOIN database contains detailed court information as well as risk and needs assessments.

Chapter Four describes the sample's subsequent (*i.e.*, recidivistic) involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems during the two-year follow-up period and compares the outcome measures for the four subgroups. Chapter Four also utilizes multivariate analysis to explore the relationship between background and systemic factors and recidivistic outcomes for the sample. Finally, Chapter Five summarizes the findings of the report and offers some conclusions.

CHAPTER TWO

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CONTEXT: DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES AND SERVICES

In order to provide a framework for the statistical information contained in the report, this chapter presents a general overview of community-based program alternatives and commitment options available to some or all of the four groups of juveniles in the study sample. The following descriptions reflect the programs and services that have evolved since the 1999 enactment of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, which placed a stronger emphasis on the promotion of public safety, deterrence of juvenile delinquency, and accountability of both the juvenile and the parent. Information on programming is based on staff interviews with key DJJDP administrative and program staff as well as site visits to two Youth Development Centers (YDC's) and two detention centers during 2006. YDC's and detention centers were highlighted because they are the most restrictive alternatives for juvenile offenders. Additionally, since some of the YDC's are scheduled to begin converting to a new treatment-based model in early 2008, the visits provided an opportunity to examine the current operation of the YDC's to which the juveniles in this sample were committed.

Community-Based Programming

Juveniles from any of the four groups represented in the sample could have been referred to many of the programs or services that are found in the community. Youth whose cases were closed or diverted are often referred by a court counselor during the intake process. Referrals to community-based programming for the juveniles in the dismissed group can be initiated by a court counselor during the period prior to dismissal of the case by the court, while community-based services for juveniles adjudicated by the court can be facilitated by a court counselor prior to or as part of a disposition being imposed by the court.

A large portion of the community-based programming for youth involved in the juvenile justice system is a product of a partnership between the DJJDP and counties. As a requirement for receiving state funding for prevention, intervention, and treatment services, each county's board of county commissioners appoints a Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) to act as a local juvenile justice planning body. On an annual basis, each JCPC follows a planning process that includes a review of the needs of juveniles in their respective community and the availability of resources to address the needs. The risk and needs assessments completed by court counselors are one of the tools used in determining the types of programs that are needed in that location. The JCPC's then develop and advertise a request-for-proposal process, and submit a written plan of action for the expenditure of state funds to the county commissioners for their approval and submission to the DJJDP. In turn, the DJJDP reviews these plans and determines the state funding allotment that each county will receive for its programming for juveniles who are at risk for delinquency, who have been adjudicated delinquent, or who have been found to be undisciplined. Following the grant awards, DJJDP provides technical assistance to JCPC's and oversees the evaluation of all local programs and services that have received state funding.

While JCPC programs also serve youth who have had no involvement in the juvenile justice system (but are considered to be “at risk” for delinquent behavior), nearly 61% of the juveniles who participated in JCPC programs during FY 2004/05 had some level of involvement with the juvenile court.¹⁶ The juvenile court was the source for many of the referrals to JCPC programs. It should be noted that a majority of these programs could be considered Level 1 or Level 2 dispositional alternatives. (See Appendix C.)¹⁷ The types of programs that are offered by JCPC’s across the state generally fall under the following categories:

- Structured Activities
 - Parent/family/interpersonal skill building, tutoring, prevention, guided growth
- Community Day Programs
 - Mentoring, structured day programs
- Clinical Treatment
 - Home-based family, counseling, sex offender
- Restorative Services
 - Restitution, mediation/conflict resolution, teen court
- Assessment
 - Psychological services
- Residential
 - Group home, foster care, shelter care

In addition to the JCPC programs, there are several community initiatives that receive state funding through and report directly to the DJJDP. The Multipurpose Juvenile Home Program is composed of six facilities, located primarily in the eastern part of the state, which provide secure, non-institutional alternatives for delinquent youth who are awaiting a court hearing or are already on probation. The DJJDP provides state management and oversight of these group homes that are operated by the Methodist Homes for Children. The Eckerd Wilderness Camps have a contractual agreement with the DJJDP to operate seven camps in North Carolina. The camps serve juveniles with behavioral problems in a year-round, residential therapeutic setting, providing an alternative to more restrictive environments. The Support Our Students Program is an after-school initiative that provides support and guidance to middle school youth by offering academic assistance and constructive activities. The Governor’s One-On-One Program creates community alternatives for at-risk youth by promoting one-on-one mentoring relationships between community volunteers and youth. It is important to note that the Multipurpose Group Homes serve only juveniles who are pre-adjudicatory or post-dispositional while the other three programs have a more diverse group of juveniles, including those who are diverted or who have not had court involvement but are considered “at risk” youths.

¹⁶ Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Grant Report, Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, May 2006.

¹⁷ G.S. 143B-549 states that JCPC’s “shall ensure that appropriate intermediate dispositional options are available and shall prioritize funding for dispositions of intermediate and community-level sanctions for court-adjudicated juveniles under minimum standards adopted by the Department [DJJDP].”

Detention Centers

Detention centers are facilities which are approved to provide secure, temporary confinement and care for juveniles who must meet the statutorily defined criteria that are found in G.S. § 7B-1903. The majority of youths who are detained by the juvenile court are awaiting either their adjudicatory or dispositional hearing. However, juveniles can also be placed in secure custody following their dispositional hearing or as a condition of probation. Juveniles who are placed in secure custody must have regular hearings before a judge who determines the need for continued detainment.

There are 13 detention centers in the state, nine of which are operated by the DJJDP and four that are maintained at the county level. The detention centers are located throughout the state in both urban and rural areas. The following table lists the facilities, their respective bed capacities, and whether or not they are state or county operated. The total bed capacity for all of the detention centers is 302; however, a certain percentage of overage in each facility can be authorized by the director of DJJDP's detention services when needed.

Table 2.1
Detention Centers

Name	Location	# Beds	County or State Operated
Alexander	Taylorsville	24	State
Buncombe	Asheville	14	State
Cumberland	Fayetteville	18	State
Durham	Durham	14	County
Forsyth	Winston-Salem	16	County
Gaston	Dallas	24	State
Gatling	Huntersville	30	County
Guilford	Greensboro	48	County
New Hanover	Castle Hayne	18	State
Perquimans	Winfall	24	State
Pitt	Greenville	18	State
Richmond	Rockingham	30	State
Wake	Raleigh	24	State

While the detention centers have different capacities, they all have similar operating procedures and physical lay-outs. Some of the facilities are considerably older than others. For example, Buncombe was built in 1953, while Alexander was built in 2001. The Richmond Detention center, which is a former Department of Correction facility, deviates the most from the other facilities since it is the designated place for holding juvenile offenders who have been transferred to adult court and are awaiting their court hearing (*i.e.*, “bound-over” cases).

During FY 2004/05, more than 8,000 juveniles were detained in the thirteen centers with an average length of stay of 12 days.¹⁸ Nearly three-fourths of the admissions to the state-operated facilities were comprised of male offenders. With regard to racial composition, 55% of those admitted were African-American, 36% were white, and the remainder of the population included Native American, Hispanic, and multi-racial youth. Juveniles who were 14-15 years old represented 64% of the admissions to the state detention centers, followed by 16-18 year olds at 21%.

Since these are secure facilities, the outer doors of the detention centers remain locked at all times and the outdoor recreation areas are fenced. All interior doors also remain locked and can only be opened by staff. There is a control room, accessible only by staff, which contains a large glass window and cameras which provide limited observation of the areas within the detention center. A juvenile is generally brought to one of the detention centers by law enforcement or staff from a court counselor's office. Upon verification of the paperwork (*e.g.*, secure custody order, petition), detention staff frisk the juvenile, removing all jewelry and personal items and placing them in a bag which is given to the parent or guardian or returned to the youth upon his/her release. Following this, the juvenile undergoes a strip search, showers, and is given detention-issued clothing and flip-flops to wear. At this point, staff gather admissions data, which includes personal and medical information.

Within 72 hours of admission, juveniles are given a physical examination by medical personnel who are on contract and come regularly to the detention centers. Staff noted that there is a focus on maintaining a consistent, daily schedule for the detained youth with time being allotted for meals, academic classes, recreation, and programs and services. There are designated times throughout the week that juveniles are allowed visitation by approved family members and they are permitted to have at least one phone call per day.

Juveniles are always under the direct supervision of staff, except when they go into their locked room to sleep. Even then, staff indicated that they have a visual check of juveniles every 15 minutes. If a juvenile is considered to be a suicide risk, staff is instructed to immediately contact mental health personnel (whose services are contracted), and the juvenile is watched at all times by staff until he/she is seen and the threat of suicide is determined to be over. The rooms occupied by the youths have minimal furniture, and some are equipped with a toilet and sink. On some occasions, when a facility is at its upper limit in capacity, two juveniles may share a room. All of the centers are co-ed, with the exception of Gatling which houses only males. Although there are space constraints in most of the detention centers, and some of the rooms (*e.g.*, day rooms) are used for dual purposes, staff reported that every effort is made to keep female and male detainees separated.

Overall, most of the detention centers have the same types of positions but may vary in their number. Each detention center has a director who oversees the operation of the entire facility. The position of youth services technician is the one that is responsible for the direct care of and has the most interaction with the detained youth. It is also the position that has the highest rate of staff turnover. Other positions include the youth program assistant (who assists with

¹⁸ Information in this paragraph is from the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Report of the Nine State Juvenile Detention Centers, April 2006.

programming and supervisory responsibilities), human services coordinator, and the teacher(s). According to DJJDP personnel, the ratio of juveniles to staff ranges from 8:1 to 11:1 and can vary during the three work shifts. There are more staff on duty during the first and second shifts and a lower number of staff during the third shift when the juveniles are sleeping.

Because of the short-term aspect of detention, programs and services are somewhat limited within the centers. Academic classes represent the largest part of the programming within a detention facility. Since the detained youth are too diverse in ages and needs to do specific grade level instruction, teachers provide multi-level instruction in core subjects during weekdays. Since the coursework is developed from the Department of Public Instruction’s standard course of study, students returning to their home schools can receive credit for the work they completed during their detention stay. Staff noted a high incidence of juveniles experiencing problems with mental health and drug issues and advised that facilities offer differing levels of contracted mental health and substance abuse services. Finally, there are community volunteers who come into their respective detention centers and provide religious, educational, and recreational services.

Youth Development Centers (YDC)

A YDC is defined in G.S. § 7B-1501 as “a secure residential facility authorized to provide long-term treatment, education, and rehabilitative services for delinquent juveniles committed by the court to the Department [Department of Delinquency Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention].” It is the most restrictive, long-term dispositional alternative that is available to a juvenile court judge; consequently, it is utilized for the limited number of juveniles who are violent and/or chronic delinquents. Only juveniles adjudicated delinquent who are at least ten years old may be committed to a YDC. The length of a juvenile’s commitment must be at least six months; however, there are statutory provisions for extended jurisdiction for committed youth.¹⁹ As listed below, DJJDP operates five YDC’s in different parts of the state with a total of 510 beds.

**Table 2.2
Youth Development Centers**

Name	Location	# Beds	Population Served
Dillon	Butner	125 ²⁰	Males
Dobbs	Kinston	141	Males
Jackson	Concord	103 ²¹	Males
Samarkand	Eagle Springs	65	Females
Swannanoa	Swannanoa	76	Males

¹⁹ G.S. § 7B-2513.

²⁰ Number includes 55 beds designated for the Assessment and Treatment Planning Center.

²¹ Number includes 16 beds designated for the “Jackson Project,” a pilot program initiated by DJJDP in October 2005 that utilizes the new therapeutic model of care that DJJDP has adopted for its new YDC’s that are under construction.

Prior to the end of 2004, a committed juvenile's assignment to a facility was largely predicated on the seriousness of the offense. For example, sex offenders were generally sent to Dillon or Swannanoa since both YDC's offered specialized programming for that group. However, since that time the DJJDP has begun using a different, regionalized approach to assigning committed youth so that juveniles are housed as close to their home community as possible. This change is part of a major philosophical shift presently ongoing in DJJDP that will significantly alter the operation of the YDC's and, subsequently, a juvenile's commitment experience. Given the fact that these changes do not affect the committed youth in the sample, a fuller discussion of DJJDP's implementation of a new standardized model of care for their YDC's will be discussed later in the report.

All of the YDC's follow the same policies established by DJJDP but differ from each other in their physical settings, staffing patterns, and available programs and services. The YDC's are dated, with the newest one, Dillon, having been built 40 years ago. Many of the buildings contain "blind corners" which can pose safety concerns for both staff and juveniles. The majority of the facilities house juveniles in separate rooms; however, Dobbs' rooming arrangement is more like that of a dorm. While all of the centers are locked facilities, Dobbs and Samarkand do not have a fence surrounding their outer perimeters. Staff indicated that juvenile offenders who are considered a threat to public safety or who are at risk to run away are generally not sent to these facilities.

With regard to staff, while YDC's generally have the same types of positions, different staffing patterns exist for each individual facility. Every center has a facility director that oversees the entire operation of the YDC. In addition to the director and his/her administrative staff (*e.g.*, human resources, maintenance, etc.), there is a hierarchy of staff who oversee the daily operation of the units that house the juveniles. Two positions, the behavior specialist and the counselor technician, have the most direct interaction with the committed youth. Most of the DJJDP staff who were interviewed indicated that there has been an issue with staff turnover, especially in the counselor technician positions. It is worth noting that in the new model of care for YDC's these positions are eliminated and are replaced with a new position (*i.e.*, youth counselor) that requires a higher level of education and experience.

As previously noted, since the 1999 enactment of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, commitment to a YDC is reserved for juvenile offenders who are adjudicated for a serious and/or violent offense and especially repeat offenders in those groups. In 2004, there was still some separation of committed juveniles by age, with the younger ones being sent to Dobbs. According to DJJDP staff, gang activity in the form of graffiti, hand gestures, and dress has been present within YDC's since the late 1990's. YDC officials note that this activity has increased and is more varied, although there continues to be questions as to whether or not these groups fit the profile of a structured gang.

Following commitment to a YDC, youths are transported to one of two assessment centers operated within two of the YDC's. Since Samarkand is the only YDC for females (which reflects the low percentage of females who receive a commitment), all committed females are processed through the assessment component of Samarkand before they are integrated into the general population of the facility. All male offenders are taken to Dillon

where they are admitted to that facility's Assessment and Treatment Planning Center, which is separate from the areas serving the general population.

All committed juveniles arrive at their respective assessment centers with a packet of information that has been accumulated by a court counselor which includes court-related documents and summaries, family history, mental health information, immunization records, and a birth certificate. Youth remain in the assessment center for a four to six week period. During this time, they receive psychological, medical, substance abuse, educational, vocational, and religious assessments. Juveniles also participate in educational and basic skills classes. The results of the juvenile's testing are used to develop a service plan to be followed during the course of the commitment. This plan of care identifies the needs of the juvenile, the services to address the needs, and the steps and services to transition the juvenile from the YDC back to his/her home community. Each juvenile has his/her own team consisting of parents/guardians, court counselor assigned to work with the juvenile throughout the commitment and aftercare, selected YDC staff, and relevant parties from the community (*e.g.*, Department of Social Services worker, school personnel, etc.) who are involved in developing the plan. Family members are not allowed to visit during the assessment phase. However, once juveniles reach their permanently assigned YDC, they are allowed weekly visits from family members and others who are on a list approved by the supervising court counselor.

Once the assessment process has ended, a decision is made regarding whether the juvenile will serve his/her commitment in a YDC facility or in a non-YDC program. Changes in the juvenile laws resulting from the Reform Act allowed for commitments to be served in a program other than a YDC (G.S. § 7B-2513(e)). DJJDP staff indicated that these commitments, sometimes referred to as "community commitments," began occurring with more frequency in July 2004. Youth who have been assessed and found to be appropriate for non-YDC commitment programming are assigned to one of the service providers that has been identified as meeting the qualifications for this type of commitment. Community commitments operate in a similar way to YDC commitments in that there are regular reviews of service plans by a team, 24 hour supervision of a juvenile, and transitional planning for a juvenile's return to the community. If a juvenile violates the conditions of a community commitment, he/she can be placed in a detention center and ultimately committed by the court to a YDC. The Eckerd Wilderness Camp Program serves a majority of these committed youth.

Juveniles, upon their arrival to their designated YDC, are assigned to a social worker and to a new team consisting of the aforementioned community members and additional staff from their new YDC. Throughout the course of the juvenile's commitment, the team meets at least monthly to review the progress that is being made on the juvenile's individualized plan of care, make any necessary changes to the plan, and ensure that the youth is receiving the appropriate services needed to complete the plan's goals. With regard to the latter, while the goal of the DJJDP is to standardize and expand programming with the implementation of the new model of care, the availability of programs and services currently vary significantly between the five YDC's.

Educational programming is an important part of a juvenile's daily schedule at a YDC. DJJDP teachers are certified by the Department of Public Instruction and teach students year-

round. All YDC's offer the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for elementary and middle school youth (including those with special academic needs), as well as the coursework needed for the completion of a high school diploma. Juveniles over the age of 16 have the opportunity to work toward the completion of a General Education Development (GED) certificate offered on-site through participating community colleges. According to DJJDP staff, vocational education courses within the YDC's have declined since 2004, and there has been more of an emphasis on career exploration programming. A few YDC's still offer vocational courses such as automotive technology, landscaping, and carpentry on a limited basis. Each YDC offers some work opportunities at their respective campuses, many of which are maintenance-related. As juveniles move closer to their release, there are a limited number of jobs available away from the YDC campuses.

The YDC's offer varying degrees of mental health and substance abuse services. In 2004, the majority of the mental health programming was done by DJJDP staff who conducted many of the psychological assessments and individual and group counseling sessions. There were some services that were contracted through the local mental health centers before the mental health reform. Since the majority of sex offenders were assigned to Dillon or Swannanoa, specific sex offender programming was offered at these two facilities. While most of the YDC's offer some level of substance abuse services, staff reported that it was often difficult to provide adequate programming in this area. The remaining programs are largely social skills-based. DJJDP administrators noted that programming within the YDC's will be changing significantly when the new model of care is fully implemented. When that occurs, programs will become more standardized and the focus will move from the management of a juvenile's behavior to the facilitation of a change in the behavior.

The planning process for a juvenile's release from a YDC actually begins with the initial case planning that occurs while the youth is still in the assessment phase. As previously stated, juveniles' plans are reviewed on a regular basis throughout the commitment, and services and goals are altered as needed to best serve the needs of the youth and to prepare them for their transition from the YDC to their home community. Juveniles must have been in a YDC for at least six months before they are considered for a home visit. As the juvenile moves toward his/her release date, the court counselor assigned to the case takes the lead in ensuring that services are set up and ready for the juvenile upon return to the community. Staff interviewed at one of the YDC's indicated that preparing for the aftercare part of the commitment process is crucial and that more emphasis on the part of YDC staff regarding transition planning is needed.

A pre-release conference is scheduled at least 30 days prior to a juvenile's release to ensure that everything is in place. Juveniles who are released from a YDC or non-YDC facility are placed on post-release supervision for at least 90 days and up to one year, depending on factors such as age and seriousness of the offense. During this time, youth are on intensive supervision with a court counselor in their community and are subject to any conditions associated with the supervision. Violations of post-release supervision can result in a revocation and the return of a juvenile to a YDC.

In summary, juveniles who are served by community-based programming represent a varied group of youths ranging from non-court involved, "at risk" juveniles, to those who have

had minimal juvenile justice involvement (*i.e.*, closed or diverted cases) to juveniles who have more deeply penetrated the system (*i.e.*, adjudicated or disposed cases). The risk and needs assessment that is completed on juveniles is an important tool in determining the type and degree of services that should be developed, not only at the community level, but also within the more restrictive realm of the YDC's. Although the vast majority of juveniles who are involved in the juvenile justice system remain in the community (with some of these being placed intermittently in detention centers), more expanded and specialized services are required for the complex issues presented by the juveniles who are committed to youth development centers.

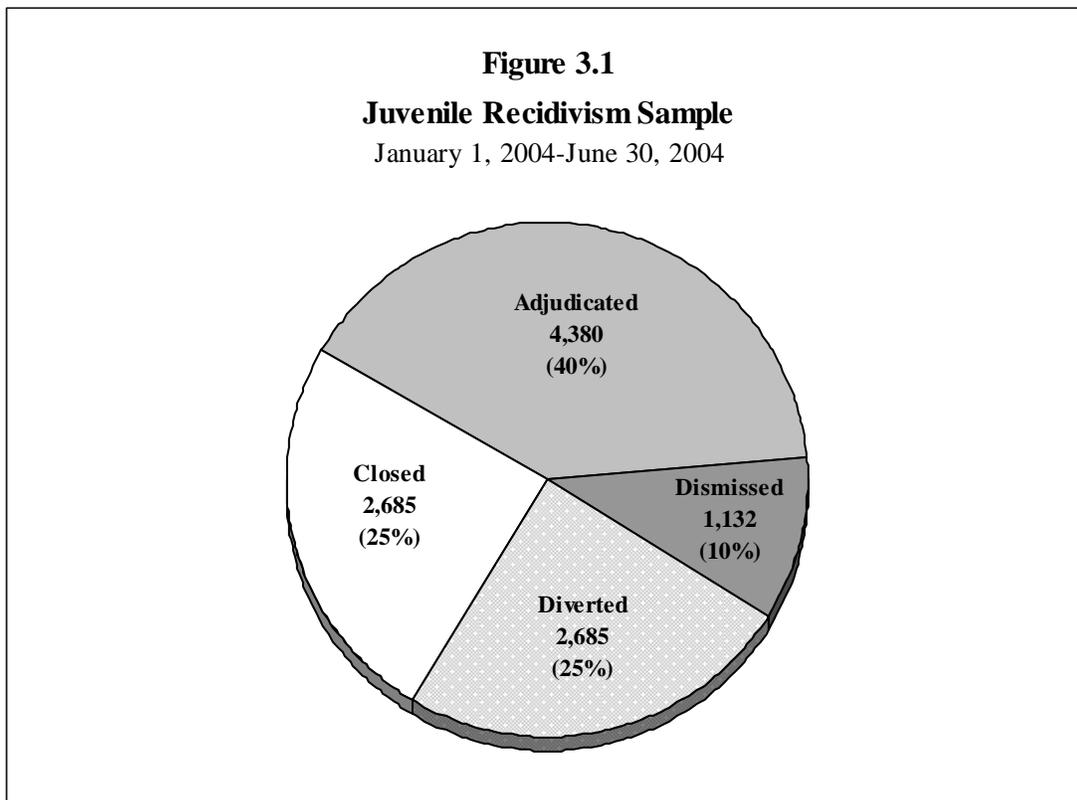
CHAPTER THREE

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF THE JUVENILE SAMPLE

This chapter profiles a cohort of juveniles processed in 2004, with varying degrees of involvement, through North Carolina's juvenile justice system. Based on their most serious level of involvement during the sampling period, they were grouped into: juveniles whose delinquent complaints were either closed, diverted, dismissed, or resulted in adjudication from January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004.²² Cases were grouped based on the most serious level of involvement for each juvenile within the original six-month sampling period.

Sample Subgroups

The DJJDP provided automated data from NC-JOIN on 10,882 juveniles: 2,685 juveniles whose cases were closed, 2,685 juveniles whose cases were diverted, 1,132 juveniles whose cases were dismissed, and 4,380 juveniles whose cases were adjudicated during the sampling period. (See Figure 3.1.)



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

²² Some of the statistics in this chapter were first presented in the Sentencing Commission's 2006 Progress Report on the Juvenile Recidivism Study Pursuant to Session Law 2005-276, Section 14.19. The findings are repeated here to provide context for the sample.

As mentioned in Chapter One, juveniles in the four groups were different in terms of the seriousness of their complaint and prior delinquent involvement, leading to different decisions about their processing and ultimate level of involvement with the court. Juveniles in the closed and diverted groups had very few felony complaints and were more likely to experience their first involvement with the system. Juveniles whose complaints were closed received no follow-up by a court counselor, while diverted juveniles were referred for further services in the community and were monitored by a court counselor for up to six months. Juveniles in the second two groups had a much higher rate of felony complaints, and were petitioned to the court for further action. Juveniles in both the dismissed and adjudicated groups had a higher likelihood of pre-adjudication detention, as well as some form of services prior to either a dismissal or adjudication of their case. Adjudicated juveniles might also have been exposed to services and supervision while awaiting their dispositional hearing.

The information available on closed, diverted, and dismissed cases was limited to basic demographic data and offense charges filed. Table 3.1 presents a distribution of demographic characteristics for the closed, diverted, dismissed, and adjudicated groups. The adjudicated and dismissed groups of juveniles had higher percentages of males and blacks, while the mean and median age for all groups was similar.

Table 3.1
Demographic Profile of Juveniles by
Level of Involvement

Demographic Profile	Level of Involvement				All
	Adjudicated	Dismissed	Diverted	Closed	
Age					
Mean	13.7	13.6	13.5	13.5	13.6
Median	14	14	14	14	14
Gender					
% Male	77.3	73.3	68.1	67.6	72.2
% Female	22.7	26.7	31.9	32.4	27.8
Race					
% Black	53.1	53.8	47.6	50.6	51.2
% Non-Black	46.9	46.2	52.4	49.4	48.8
Total	4,380 (40.2)	1,132 (10.4)	2,685 (24.7)	2685 (24.7)	10,882 (100.0)

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

A comparison of the groups with respect to their offense profile is provided in Table 3.2. Most serious offense at time of complaint was used to compare juveniles whose cases were

closed, diverted or dismissed; while information provided for the adjudicated group is based on most serious offense at time of adjudication. (Note too that a large portion of offenses in the Serious Offense Level are Class A1 assaultive misdemeanors.)

While the majority of juveniles in all four groups were charged with a misdemeanor, misdemeanors constituted the most serious charge in 80% of adjudicated cases and 81% of dismissed cases compared to about 98% of closed and diverted cases. Adjudicated juveniles and dismissed juveniles were also more likely to be charged with violent offenses (Offense Class A to E felonies) or serious offenses (Offense Class F to I felonies and Class A1 misdemeanors). These findings reflect both legal and court counselor considerations: continuing court processing for non-divertible and other serious felonies; closing the case or seeking diversion for some less serious juveniles, especially those charged with misdemeanors.

Table 3.2
Most Serious Offense by
Level of Involvement

Most Serious Offense	Level of Involvement				All
	Adjudicated	Dismissed	Diverted	Closed	
% Felony	20.1	19.3	2.4	1.7	11.1
% Misdemeanor	79.9	80.7	97.6	98.3	88.9
Offense level					
% Violent	2.3	3.4	0.0	0.1	1.3
% Serious	27.0	23.8	9.1	5.9	17.1
% Minor	70.7	72.8	91.0	94.0	81.6
Total	4,380	1,132	2,685	2,685	10,882

Note: For the adjudicated group, offense information is based on the most serious offense at adjudication. For the other subgroups, offense information is based on the most serious offense at time of complaint.
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent and Disposed

Of the 4,380 adjudicated juveniles in the sample, 4,113 (or 94%) had a disposition entered into the NC-JOIN database.²³ For these 4,113 juveniles, NC-JOIN contained detailed court information, risk and needs assessments, and some program assignments.

Felonies constituted the most serious adjudicated offense for twenty percent of the adjudicated juveniles. Table 3.3 shows that only 2.5% of this group was adjudicated for a violent offense, with 27.8% adjudicated for a serious offense and 69.7% for a minor offense. Seventy-seven percent were in the low delinquency history level, 12.5% were in the medium delinquency history level, and 10.5% were in the high delinquency history level. The single largest group of

²³ These include dispositions entered by August 2005 (the date of the NC-JOIN data extract) for juveniles adjudicated during January-June 2004.

juveniles had little or no delinquent history and was adjudicated delinquent for nonviolent misdemeanors. The more serious the adjudicated offense, the higher the delinquency history level – 24.5% of the juveniles adjudicated for a violent offense were in the highest delinquency history level, compared to 14.1% of the juveniles adjudicated for a serious offense and 8.6% of those adjudicated for a minor offense.

Table 3.3
Offense Level by Delinquency History Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Offense Level	Delinquency History Level			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Violent	66.7%	8.8%	24.5%	102 (2.5%)
Serious	71.1%	14.8%	14.1%	1,144 (27.8%)
Minor	79.7%	11.7%	8.6%	2,867 (69.7%)
Total	3,167 (77.0%)	512 (12.5%)	434 (10.5%)	4,113 (100.0%)

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 3.4 describes disposition levels for the adjudicated juveniles by offense level and delinquency history. Overall, 73.4% of the juveniles received a Level 1 disposition in the community, 23.3% received a Level 2 disposition in the community, and 3.3% received a Level 3 disposition (*i.e.*, commitment to YDC). The rate of Level 1 dispositions was highest for juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a minor offense and lowest for those adjudicated delinquent for a violent offense (85.2% and 8.8%, respectively). Conversely, the rate of Level 3 dispositions was highest for juveniles adjudicated for a violent offense and lowest for those adjudicated for a minor offense (34.3% and 1.4%, respectively).

Table 3.4
Disposition Levels by Offense Level and Delinquency History
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

OFFENSE LEVEL	DELINQUENCY HISTORY LEVEL			TOTAL
	Low 0-1 Point	Medium 2-3 Points	High 4+ Points	
Violent (Class A – Class E)	<u>Level 2/Level 3</u> Level 1: 8 (11.7%) Level 2: 49 (72.1%) Level 3: 11 (16.2%) n = 68	<u>Level 3</u> Level 1: 1 (11.1%) Level 2: 3 (33.3%) Level 3: 5 (55.6%) n = 9	<u>Level 3</u> Level 1: 0 (0.0%) Level 2: 6 (24.0%) Level 3: 19 (76.0%) n = 25	Level 1: 9 (8.8%) Level 2: 58 (56.9%) Level 3: 35 (34.3%) n = 102
Serious (Class F – Class A1)	<u>Level 1/Level 2</u> Level 1: 531 (65.5%) Level 2: 280 (34.5%) Level 3: 0 (0.0%) n = 811	<u>Level 2</u> Level 1: 20 (11.9%) Level 2: 147 (87.5%) Level 3: 1 (0.6%) n = 168	<u>Level 2/Level 3</u> Level 1: 14 (8.8%) Level 2: 85 (53.1%) Level 3: 61 (38.1%) n = 160	Level 1: 565 (49.6%) Level 2: 512 (45.0%) Level 3: 62 (5.4%) n = 1,139
Minor (Class 1 – Class 3)	<u>Level 1</u> Level 1: 2,233 (98.4%) Level 2: 34 (1.5%) Level 3: 2 (0.1%) n = 2,269	<u>Level 1/Level 2</u> Level 1: 162 (49.2%) Level 2: 163 (49.6%) Level 3: 4 (1.2%) n = 329	<u>Level 2</u> Level 1: 25 (10.4%) Level 2: 183 (75.9%) Level 3: 33 (13.7%) n = 241	Level 1: 2,420 (85.2%) Level 2: 380 (13.4%) Level 3: 39 (1.4%) n = 2,839
TOTAL	Level 1: 2,772 (88.1%) Level 2: 363 (11.5%) Level 3: 13 (0.4%) n = 3,148	Level 1: 183 (36.2%) Level 2: 313 (61.8%) Level 3: 10 (2.0%) n = 506	Level 1: 39 (9.2%) Level 2: 274 (64.3%) Level 3: 113 (26.5%) n = 426	Level 1: 2,994 (73.4%) Level 2: 950 (23.3%) Level 3: 136 (3.3%) n = 4,080

Note: Of the 4,113 juveniles adjudicated and disposed, there were 33 cases with missing values for disposition level.
 SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Risk and Needs Assessments for Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Prior to disposition, the DJJDP administers instruments to assess the risk and needs of all adjudicated juveniles. (For a broad overview of the information captured in the North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Risk of Future Offending and the North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Needs instruments, *see* Appendix A.) Data from the risk and needs assessment instruments were not available for 9.6% of the 4,113 sample juveniles who were adjudicated and disposed.

Table 3.5 lists select results of these assessments for the adjudicated and disposed sample. Most notable among the risk factors, 90.4% of the juveniles had school behavior problems, 55.2% had at least one prior intake referral, 37.2% had at least one prior adjudication, and only 63.5% had adequate parental supervision.

Table 3.5
Select Risk and Needs Indicators
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Risk Assessment (n = 3,775)	%
First Referral Before Age 12	15.7
Prior Intake Referrals	55.2
Prior Adjudications	37.2
Prior Assaults	26.5
Runaway	17.6
School Behavior Problems	90.4
Parental Supervision	63.5
High Risk	13.0
Needs Assessment (n = 3,798)	
Functioning at or Above Academic Grade Level or Is Placed in Appropriate Exceptional Children's Program	80.3
Juvenile Parent Status (<i>i.e.</i> , is a parent)	1.6
History of Victimization	21.1
Risky Sexual Behavior	9.1
Mental Health Needs	72.7
Basic Needs Are Being Met	99.3
Impaired Functioning (<i>i.e.</i> , medical, dental, health/hygiene)	0.9
Conflict in the Home	27.9
Disabilities of Parent, Guardian or Custodian	5.5
Household Substance Abuse	13.7
Family Criminality	38.6
High Needs	7.2
Combined Risk and Needs Measures (n = 4,113)	
Substance Use	39.4
Gang Affiliation	4.5
Positive Peer Relationships	22.3

Note: Of the 4,113 juveniles adjudicated and disposed, there were 338 cases with missing values for risk variables and 315 cases with missing values for needs variables.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

While the needs assessment instrument found that basic needs were being met for 99.3% of the adjudicated and disposed juveniles, the most frequently occurring need (72.7%) was for mental health services. Home-life needs were also evident, with 38.6% of the juveniles having criminality in their family, 27.9% experiencing conflict in the home, and 21.1% having some history of victimization. Combining risk and needs indicators, 39.4% of the adjudicated and disposed sample had substance abuse problems.

Close to half of the juveniles scored in the lowest levels of needs (49.1%) and risk (47.7%); and only a small group (3.8%) demonstrated both a high level of needs and risk. (See Table 3.6.) As expected, for the majority of juveniles there was a clear correlation between their needs and their risk of future criminality: almost 62% of the entire sample placed in the same level of needs and risk (as highlighted in the shaded diagonal cells of Table 3.6).

Table 3.6
Risk Level by Needs Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Risk Level	Needs Level			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	1,293 (34.8%)	462 (12.4%)	17 (0.5%)	1,772 (47.7%)
Medium	488 (13.1%)	860 (23.1%)	113 (3.0%)	1,461 (39.3%)
High	46 (1.2%)	298 (8.0%)	141 (3.8%)	485 (13.0%)
Total	1,827 (49.1%)	1,620 (43.7%)	271 (7.2%)	3,718 (100.0%)

Note: Of the 4,113 juveniles adjudicated and disposed, there were a total of 395 cases with missing values for risk level and needs level.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

There was some variation in the risk and needs levels of juveniles by their offenses. Forty-four percent of the juveniles adjudicated for a violent offense were low risk and 25.3% were high risk, while 49.0% of the juveniles adjudicated for a minor offense were low risk and only 11.3% were high risk. (See Table 3.7.) Conversely, only 39.1% of the juveniles adjudicated for a violent offense were low needs compared to 49.0% of the juveniles adjudicated for a minor offense, with little difference in the rate of juveniles with high needs between the three offense levels. (See Table 3.8).

Table 3.7
Offense Level by Risk Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Offense Level	Risk Level			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Violent	43.9%	30.8%	25.3%	91
Serious	44.5%	39.1%	16.4%	1,042
Minor	49.0%	39.7%	11.3%	2,643
Total	1,799 (47.7%)	1,483 (39.3%)	494 (13.0%)	3,776 (100.0%)

Note: Of the 4,113 juveniles adjudicated and disposed, 337 cases had missing values for risk level.
 SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 3.8
Offense Level by Needs Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Offense Level	Needs Level			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Violent	39.1%	52.9%	8.0%	87
Serious	50.1%	42.4%	7.5%	1,049
Minor	49.0%	43.9%	7.1%	2,662
Total	1,863 (49.1%)	1,661 (43.7%)	274 (7.2%)	3,798 (100.0%)

Note: Of the 4,113 juveniles adjudicated and disposed, 315 cases had missing values for needs level.
 SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 3.9 explores the relationship between offense level and disposition, controlling for the juvenile's risk level.²⁴ As first noted in Table 3.4, the rate of commitments to YDC increased stepwise with the seriousness of the offense: from 1.4% for minor offenses to 5.4% for serious offenses to 34.3% for violent offenses. A similar stepwise increase in Level 3 dispositions was evident between risk levels: the rate of commitments to YDC's was 0.3% for low risk juveniles, 1.9% for medium risk juveniles, and 17.9% for high risk juveniles. The effect of the risk score on YDC commitment seemed to hold when controlling for offense level. For juveniles adjudicated for a violent offense, the commitment rate increased with risk from 15.0% for low risk to 69.6% for

²⁴ It should be noted that prior adjudications increase not only a juvenile's risk score, but also his/her delinquency history level which, in turn, affects the juvenile's placement in the Juvenile Disposition Chart and exposure to the possibility of a YDC commitment.

high risk juveniles. For juveniles adjudicated for a serious offense, the parallel increase was from no commitments for low risk to 27.7% commitment for high risk juveniles; while for juveniles adjudicated for minor offenses the increase was from no commitments for low risk to 8.2% commitment for high risk juveniles.

Table 3.9
Dispositions by Offense Level and Risk
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

OFFENSE LEVEL	LOW RISK			MEDIUM RISK			HIGH RISK			TOTAL
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Violent	3 (7.5%)	31 (77.5%)	6 (15.0%)	3 (10.7%)	15 (53.6%)	10 (35.7%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (30.4%)	16 (69.6%)	91
Serious	304 (65.5%)	160 (34.5%)	0 (0.0%)	182 (44.9%)	214 (52.9%)	9 (2.2%)	23 (13.5%)	100 (58.8%)	47 (27.7%)	1,039
Minor	1,245 (96.9%)	40 (3.1%)	0 (0.0%)	870 (83.5%)	163 (15.6%)	9 (0.9%)	132 (45.2%)	136 (46.6%)	24 (8.2%)	2,619
TOTAL	1,552 (86.8%)	231 (12.9%)	6 (0.3%)	1,055 (71.5%)	392 (26.6%)	28 (1.9%)	155 (32.0%)	243 (50.1%)	87 (17.9%)	3,749

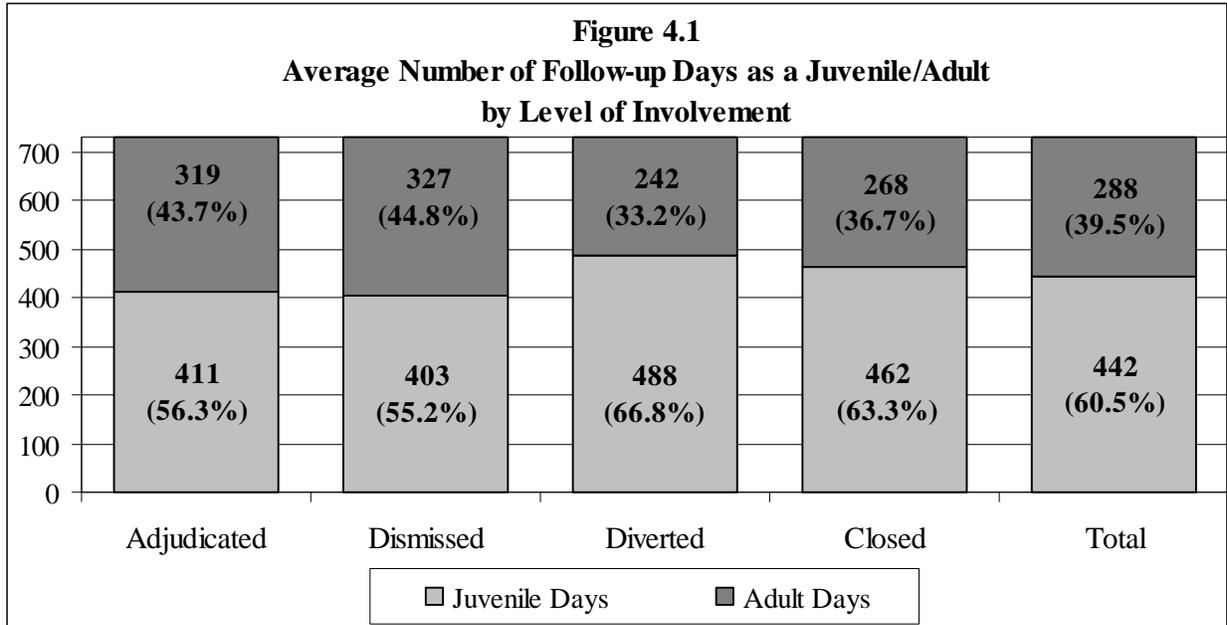
Note: Of the 4,113 juveniles adjudicated and disposed, there were a total of 364 missing values for disposition level and risk level.
 SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

CHAPTER FOUR

RECIDIVISM IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Definition of the Follow-Up Period and Time at Risk as a Juvenile

Each offender in the sample was followed for a period of two years to determine whether repeat involvement with the juvenile or adult criminal systems occurred. Given that the age of adult jurisdiction in North Carolina is 16, a large number of the juveniles in the original sample have become “adults” for criminal purposes during the follow-up. Figure 4.1 provides information on time at risk as a juvenile and as an adult during follow-up. Overall, the sample as a whole was at risk to be processed as a juvenile for 442 days, or 61% of the 730 follow-up days. The sample as a whole was at risk to be charged as an adult for an average of 288 days, or 39% of the remaining follow-up days. Juveniles whose cases were diverted or closed had a shorter average time at risk as adults in comparison to those adjudicated or dismissed.



Note: The follow-up period for each juvenile was a total of 730 days (two years).

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

A fixed follow-up period was used in an attempt to obtain the same “window of opportunity” for each juvenile to reoffend. However, in actuality the same window of opportunity was not necessarily available to each sample subject – some may have been committed to a detention center or YDC in the juvenile justice system, while others may have been incarcerated in local jails or in prison in the adult criminal justice system. While beyond the scope of this study, it is hoped that this issue will be addressed in future reports.

Juvenile and Adult Recidivism

The 10,882 juveniles included in the study all had a case that was adjudicated, diverted, dismissed, or closed within the sampling period of January-June 2004 (referred to as the “current” complaint or adjudication).²⁵ Subsequent complaints were used as the primary measure for juvenile recidivism, supplemented with information on subsequent adjudications. Arrests were used as the primary measure for adult recidivism, supplemented with information on subsequent convictions. Finally, a combined measure of subsequent juvenile complaints and/or adult arrests was compiled to indicate any recidivistic criminal involvement in either system.²⁶

Subsequent Juvenile Complaints and Adult Arrests

Table 4.1 presents the three measures of recidivism for the entire sample and the four subgroups. Of the 10,882 juveniles in the sample, 31.9% had at least one subsequent complaint, 17.5% had at least one adult arrest, and 42.4% had either or both forms of recidivism. Level of involvement was closely correlated with recidivism: the further a juvenile was processed in the juvenile justice system, the more likely that juvenile was to recidivate, with the combined recidivism rate ranging from 30.5% for the group with a closed complaint to 55% for the adjudicated group.

Table 4.1
Recidivism Rates for Juvenile Complaints and Adult Arrests
by Level of Involvement

Level of Involvement	Percent Subsequent Complaint	Percent Adult Arrest	Percent Overall Recidivism	Total
Adjudicated	39.7	26.4	55.0	4,380
Dismissed	31.2	18.4	42.7	1,132
Diverted	28.4	8.8	33.6	2,685
Closed	23.2	11.2	30.5	2,685
TOTAL	3,476 (31.9)	1,903 (17.5)	4,611 (42.4)	10,882 (100.0)

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

²⁵ As noted previously, if a juvenile had more than one sample event within the six-month sampling period, his/her case was grouped based on the most serious event (*i.e.*, adjudicated, dismissed, diverted or closed in order of seriousness). This method was used in order to determine the sampling event since the Sentencing Commission’s continuing legislative mandate is to report on the recidivism of juveniles adjudicated delinquent. This methodology to determine the sampling event must be considered when comparing recidivism rates among the sample subgroups.

²⁶ Tables referring to only juvenile recidivism, or only adult recidivism, state so specifically. Otherwise, the term “recidivism” in this chapter refers to having *either* a subsequent juvenile complaint, an adult arrest, *or both*.

Subsequent Juvenile Adjudications and Adult Convictions

Table 4.2 details subsequent adjudication and conviction rates for the entire sample and the four subgroups. As expected, while these rates were lower than those of complaints/arrests,²⁷ they indicated similar patterns – the more serious the level of involvement in the juvenile system, the higher the rate of subsequent adjudications/convictions. The combined re-adjudication/conviction rate for the sample was 26.7%, with 36.9% for the adjudicated group compared to 15.3% for the group with closed complaints.

Table 4.2
Recidivism Rates for Juvenile Adjudications and Adult Convictions
by Level of Involvement

Level of Involvement	Percent Subsequent Adjudication	Percent Conviction	Percent Overall Recidivism	Total
Adjudicated	30.0	9.3	36.9	4,380
Dismissed	19.5	6.9	25.4	1,132
Diverted	19.4	3.3	21.8	2,685
Closed	12.1	4.1	15.3	2,685
TOTAL	2,380 (21.9)	682 (6.3)	2,901 (26.7)	10,882 (100.0)

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Current Offense and Recidivism

As described in Chapter Three, while the most serious current charges for the majority of juveniles at all levels of involvement were misdemeanors, the relative percentage of felony charges was significantly higher for the dismissed and adjudicated cases (19% and 20% respectively) than for the diverted and closed cases (2% for each group). Juveniles whose most serious current charge (at complaint or adjudication) was a felony were more likely to recidivate than those charged with a misdemeanor – 61.1% and 40%, respectively. (See Table 4.3). Except for diverted juveniles, this finding held true for all levels of involvement as well, with the highest recidivism rate of 67.1% for juveniles adjudicated for a felony, and the lowest recidivism rate of 30.2% for juveniles with a closed misdemeanor complaint.

²⁷ Adjudication/conviction rates are always lower than complaint/arrest rates for two reasons: 1) due to cases being closed, dismissed or acquitted, and 2) due to a time lag between initial processing and court action, often falling outside the follow-up period.

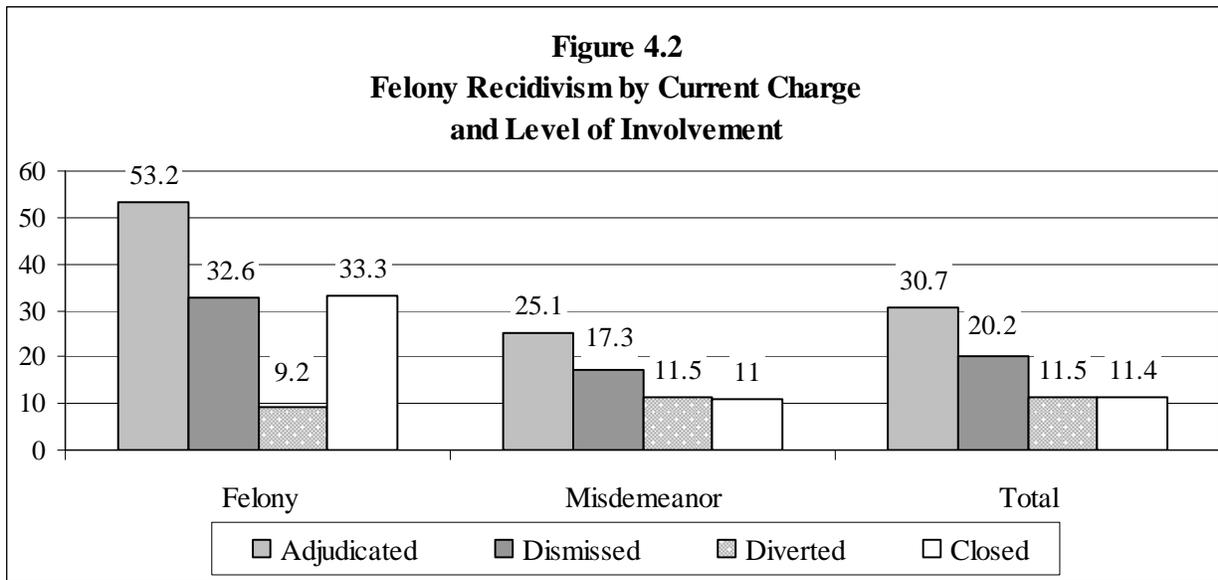
Table 4.3
Recidivism Rates by
Current Charge and Level of Involvement

Level of Involvement	Recidivism Rates for Juveniles with a:		Recidivism Rates
	Current Felony	Current Misdemeanor	
Adjudicated	67.1	51.9	55.0
Dismissed	48.6	41.3	42.7
Diverted	32.3	33.6	33.6
Closed	46.7	30.2	30.5
TOTAL	738 (61.1)	3,873 (40.0)	4,611 (42.4)

Note: The most serious adjudicated charge was used for the adjudicated group; the most serious charge at complaint was used for the other three groups.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

The relationship between the type of current and subsequent charges is explored in Table 4.4 and Figure 4.2. Within the two-year follow-up, 20% of the sample was charged with at least one recidivistic felony offense (either in a juvenile complaint and/or an adult arrest). The rate was highest for the adjudicated subgroup (30.7%) and lowest for the closed and diverted subgroups (11.4% and 11.5% respectively). A current felony charge was also more likely to lead to a subsequent felony charge: of those juveniles whose current charge was a felony, 46.4% also had a recidivistic felony charge, compared to 16.8% recidivistic felony charges for those whose current charge was a misdemeanor. (Note: The number of juveniles with closed or diverted felony complaints was too small to draw any definitive conclusions for these groups.)



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 4.4
Recidivistic Charge by Current Charge and
Level of Involvement

Level of Involvement	Current Charge								Total			
	Felony				Misdemeanor							
	Recidivistic Charge				Recidivistic Charge				Recidivistic Charge			
	Fel	Misd	None	Total	Fel	Misd	None	Total	Fel	Misd	None	Total
Adjudicated	53.2	13.0	33.8	879	25.1	26.1	48.8	3,501	30.7	23.5	45.8	4,380
Dismissed	32.6	14.7	52.7	218	17.3	22.7	60.0	914	20.2	21.2	58.6	1,132
Diverted	9.2	23.1	67.7	65	11.5	21.9	66.6	2,620	11.5	21.9	66.6	2,685
Closed	33.3	13.3	53.3	45	11.0	18.8	70.2	2,640	11.4	18.6	70.0	2,685
TOTAL	46.4	13.8	39.8	1,207	16.8	22.7	60.5	9,675	20.1	21.7	58.2	10,882

Note: The most serious adjudicated charge was used for the adjudicated group; the most serious charge at complaint was used for the other three groups.
 SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Juvenile Commitment and Adult Arrests

YDC's are the most severe sanction for adjudicated juveniles. Detention can occur either while a juvenile awaits adjudication and disposition; as part of secure custody; or as a condition of probation. One of the more consistent research findings links juvenile commitment to an increased probability of adult criminality. To examine this assertion, information was collected for each juvenile on commitments to a YDC and admissions to a detention center any time between the sampling period and the end of their follow-up period as a juvenile. Table 4.5 describes commitment rates for the four subgroups. Of the entire sample, 4.4% had one or more commitment to a YDC, with the highest rate of 9.2% for those in the adjudicated group. Twenty-seven percent of the sample had one or more admission to a detention center. The rate ranged from a high of 49% for the adjudicated group to a low of 8.9% for the group with a closed case.

Table 4.5
Commitment to Youth Development and Detention Centers
by Level of Involvement

Level of Involvement	YDC Commitment		Detention Center Commitment	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Adjudicated	402 (9.2%)	3,978 (90.8%)	2,146 (49.0%)	2,234 (51.0%)
Dismissed	32 (2.8%)	1,100 (97.2%)	263 (23.2%)	869 (76.8%)
Diverted	20 (0.7%)	2,665 (99.3%)	258 (9.6%)	2,427 (90.4%)
Closed	22 (0.8%)	2,663 (99.2%)	240 (8.9%)	2,445 (91.1%)
TOTAL	476 (4.4%)	10,406 (95.6%)	2,907 (26.7%)	7,975 (73.3%)

Note: This includes initial or subsequent commitments from the original sample event through the two-year follow-up period.

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Comparing adult arrest rates for juveniles in the sample who had no YDC commitments with those who had one or more YDC commitment seemed to confirm a statistical relationship between commitment and recidivism. (See Table 4.6.). Forty-seven percent of those with a YDC commitment had at least one subsequent adult arrest compared to 16% of those with no YDC commitments. This differential in adult recidivism rates held true for all four subgroups.

Table 4.6
Adult Arrests by Youth Development Center Commitment and
Level of Involvement

Level of Involvement	Adult Arrests for Juveniles with:		Adult Arrests
	YDC Commitment	No YDC Commitment	
Adjudicated	48.5	24.2	26.4
Dismissed	37.5	17.8	18.4
Diverted	40.0	8.6	8.8
Closed	40.9	11.0	11.2
TOTAL	224 (47.0)	1,679 (16.1)	1,903 (17.5)

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Similarly, a history of admissions to detention centers was in direct relationship with an increased probability of adult arrest. (See Table 4.7.). Thirty-two percent of those with at least one juvenile detention center commitment had one or more adult arrest, compared to 12% of those with no juvenile detention center commitments – again, a difference in recidivism rates found in all four levels of involvement.

Table 4.7
Adult Arrests by Detention Center Commitment and
Level of Involvement

Level of Involvement	Adult Arrests for Juveniles with:		Adult Arrests
	Detention Center Commitment	No Detention Center Commitment	
Adjudicated	34.1	19.1	26.4
Dismissed	28.9	15.2	18.4
Diverted	20.2	7.6	8.8
Closed	29.6	9.4	11.2
TOTAL	931 (32.0)	972 (12.2)	1,903 (17.5)

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

As mentioned in Chapter Three, 4,113 of the sample juveniles were adjudicated and disposed.²⁸ For this disposed group, additional information was available on their delinquency history, disposition type (including commitment to YDC), and risk and needs assessment scores. Table 3.4 in the previous chapter summarizes Offense-, Delinquency History, and Disposition Levels for these juveniles.

Table 4.8 presents the three recidivism measures for adjudicated and disposed juveniles by the class of their most serious adjudicated offense. Juveniles in the Serious Offense Level had the highest recidivism rate at 66.3%, followed by those in the Violent Offense Level with a 57.1% rate, and those in the Minor Offense Level with a 51.8% rate. There was no clear pattern by specific offense classes within each Offense Level. A difference in the “window of opportunity” to commit additional acts of delinquency might explain the difference between the recidivism rates of juveniles in the serious and violent offense levels. About one-third of the Violent Level juveniles were committed to a YDC (with an average stay of 18 months), compared to only about 5% of the Serious Level juveniles (with an average stay of 12 months), leaving the latter group more of the two-year follow-up time in the community. The recidivism rate, as expected, was lowest for the Minor Level group adjudicated for non-assaultive misdemeanors.

²⁸ Adjudication had to occur between January-June 2004; however, dispositions for that subgroup were included if they were imposed by August 2005.

Table 4.8
Recidivism Rates by Current Offense Class
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Offense Class	Percent Subsequent Complaint	Percent Adult Arrest	Percent Overall Recidivism	TOTAL
A	100.0	100.0	100.0	1
B1	10.0	15.0	20.0	20
B2	0.0	33.3	33.3	3
C	27.3	40.9	54.6	22
D	22.6	67.7	80.7	31
E	38.1	42.9	61.9	21
Violent Subtotal	24.5	44.9	57.1	98
F	25.0	35.7	50.0	28
G	56.1	64.9	91.2	57
H	41.9	53.0	71.7	466
I	35.3	40.2	62.0	184
A1	47.6	22.2	59.4	387
Serious Subtotal	43.1	40.5	66.3	1,122
1	36.9	22.5	50.1	1,468
2	44.7	17.2	53.6	1,138
3	38.3	25.1	53.3	287
Minor Subtotal	40.1	20.7	51.8	2,893
TOTAL	40.6	26.7	55.9	4,113

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Tables 4.9 and 4.10 highlight comparable patterns of increased recidivism rates based on the severity of prior delinquency and current disposition. The jump in recidivism rates was especially notable from Low Level to Medium Level Delinquency History, and from Disposition Level 1 to Level 2.

Table 4.9
Recidivism Rates by Delinquency History Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Delinquency History Level	Percent Subsequent Complaint	Percent Adult Arrest	Percent Overall Recidivism	TOTAL
Low	38.7	22.5	51.6	3,167
Medium	49.2	33.6	67.6	512
High	43.8	49.1	73.0	434
Total	1,668 (40.6)	1,096 (26.7)	2,298 (55.9)	4,113

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 4.10
Recidivism Rates by Disposition Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Disposition Level	Percent Subsequent Complaint	Percent Adult Arrest	Percent Overall Recidivism	TOTAL
1	39.2	21.1	51.1	2,994
2	46.3	39.4	67.9	950
3	30.9	58.8	77.2	136
Total	1,656 (40.6)	1,086 (26.6)	2,281 (55.9)	4,080

Note: Of the 4,113 adjudicated and disposed, 33 cases with no disposition level data were excluded.
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Recidivism rates were also found to vary by risk and needs scores. (See Tables 4.11 and 4.12.). Recidivism rates increased from 44% for low risk to 75.5% for high risk juveniles, and from 48.3% for low needs to 63.9% for high needs juveniles.

Table 4.11
Recidivism Rates by Risk Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Risk Level	Percent Subsequent Complaint	Percent Adult Arrest	Percent Overall Recidivism	TOTAL
Low	32.2	18.2	44.0	1,799
Medium	46.3	29.3	62.2	1,483
High	50.8	43.7	75.5	494
Total	1,517 (40.2)	979 (25.9)	2,088 (55.3)	3,776

NOTE: Of the 4,113 adjudicated and disposed, 337 cases with no risk level data were excluded.
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Table 4.12
Recidivism Rates by Needs Level
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Needs Level	Percent Subsequent Complaint	Percent Adult Arrest	Percent Overall Recidivism	TOTAL
Low	34.8	21.6	48.3	1,863
Medium	45.6	29.9	61.9	1,661
High	45.6	32.5	63.9	274
Total	1,532 (40.3)	989 (26.0)	2,103 (55.4)	3,798

NOTE: Of the 4,113 adjudicated and disposed, 315 cases with no needs level data were excluded.
SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Multivariate Analysis: Correlates of Recidivism

Previous sections of this chapter presented juvenile and adult recidivism rates for the sample, and provided a first look at variations in those rates by certain characteristics of the offense, the juveniles themselves, and the systemic factors related to their cases. This final section utilizes a multivariate modeling technique – logistic regression – to estimate the association of each of these factors (or independent variables) with the outcome measure of recidivism (the dependent variable), while controlling for the other variables included in the model.²⁹

Separate models were tested to determine how a set of independent variables was related to the probability of adult arrest and of overall recidivism. The probability of recidivism was estimated for: (1) the entire sample, and (2) adjudicated and disposed juveniles only. It should be noted that while the effects reported in this analysis may reveal the *existence of a relationship* between an independent variable such as age and a dependent (outcome) variable such as adult arrest, it does not necessarily imply a *causal relationship* between age and arrest.

Outcome Measures (Dependent Variables) Modeled:

- Adult arrest
- Adult arrest with at least one felony charge
- Recidivism – subsequent complaint, arrest, or both
- Felony recidivism – subsequent complaint, arrest, or both, with at least one felony charge

Independent Variables:

Variables available for the entire sample included gender, race, age at current offense, felony/misdemeanor charge at current offense, level of involvement in the juvenile justice system for current offense, and whether a juvenile had any YDC or detention center commitments during the follow-up period.

Additional variables available for the adjudicated/disposed group were disposition levels, risk scores, and needs scores.

Tables 4.13 and 4.14 display the estimated effects of the independent variables in each model on the outcome measure modeled. The effects listed need to be interpreted based on the following criteria: whether the effect of the variable is statistically significant (*i.e.*, with a relationship not likely to be the result of random chance) and, if so, the direction and magnitude of the variable's effect on the outcome.

²⁹ Logistic regression involves using the logit (*i.e.*, the logarithm of the odds) of an outcome occurring, an analysis most appropriate for regression models with a dichotomous dependent variable, such as Yes/No for any rearrest. Logistic model coefficients were converted into "effects" that indicate the estimated percentage increase or decrease in the probability of an outcome occurring in association with each independent variable for the average offender.

Table 4.13
Effect of Personal and Juvenile Justice Factors on Recidivism

Independent Variables	Model 1: Overall Recidivism (42.3%)	Model 2: Felony Recidivism (20.1%)	Model 3: Adult Arrest (17.4%)	Model 4: Adult Felony Arrest (13.4%)
Black	15.4%	12.3%	13.5%	9.7%
Male	15.2%	30.1%	20.4%	23.9%
Felony	10.9%	19.3%	17.0%	18.0%
Age at offense	<i>NS</i>	4.5%	6.7%	4.5%
Level of Involvement				
Adjudicated	Reference	Reference	Reference	Reference
Dismissed	-11.4%	-7.2%	-2.6%	<i>NS</i>
Diverted	-16.5%	-10.8%	-5.8%	-3.9%
Closed	-19.4%	-11.1%	-3.7%	-4.0%
Youth Development Center	n/a	n/a	7.1%	5.6%
Detention Center	n/a	n/a	18.4%	16.4%

Note: Models 3 and 4 have an adjustment added to account for the number of follow-up days in the adult system.
 SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Model 1 is the base model to estimate the contribution of all available factors to the overall recidivism of the entire sample. The average probability of recidivism was 42.3%. Being a male, for example, enhanced the probability of recidivism by 15.2% over that of being a female. Black juveniles, and those charged with a felony complaint also had an increased probability to recidivate compared to non-black juveniles and those charged with misdemeanors. On the other hand, all three levels of court involvement that did not result in adjudication significantly reduced the likelihood of recidivism when compared to adjudication.

Model 2 narrowed the question somewhat by estimating the probability for subsequent felony recidivism only (average probability of recidivism of 20.1%). Overall, the effects found were similar in direction to those in Model 1, with some changes in magnitude. While race and level of court involvement were still significant, the magnitude of their impact on felony recidivism was reduced somewhat. There were also three noteworthy differences in Model 2. Being male, and having a current felony complaint, both had an increased impact on felony recidivism; being older at the commission of the current offense had a moderate but statistically significant effect on felony recidivism.

Models 3 and 4 examined the probability of adult arrests (17.4% on average), and adult felony arrests only (13.4% on average), with the addition of two systemic variables: commitment to YDC and commitment to a detention center any time between commission of the current offense and the end of the follow-up period. These models included two adjustments. First, the outcome measures specified only adult recidivism to account for time periods juveniles might have spent committed to a YDC or detention center, thereby reducing their "window of opportunity" to recidivate as a juvenile. Second, a weight was used in each case to adjust for the number of days the juvenile spent as an adult out of the 730 follow-up days. The independent variables also used in Models 1 and 2 showed the same effects with similar direction but with reduced magnitudes, most likely due to the shortened time-frame. More importantly, both of the commitment variables were found to be significant, increasing a juvenile's probability for any adult arrest, as well as a felony adult arrest. In both Model 3 and 4 the magnitude of impact was greater for commitments to a detention center than to a YDC, a finding most likely indicative of the longer periods of time spent by juveniles in YDC's, reducing their window of opportunity to recidivate.

While the four models in Table 4.13 discuss findings for the entire sample, Table 4.14 focuses on juveniles adjudicated and disposed to assess the impact of the dispositions imposed as well as the risk and needs related factors on recidivism.³⁰ Model 5 estimated the effect of the independent variables on any recidivism for the adjudicated group (probability of 55.1% on average), while Model 6 estimated those effects on felony recidivism only (probability of 30.2% on average). The findings, in general, repeated the same patterns found in the first four models. Being assessed as high or medium risk greatly enhanced a juvenile's probability of recidivism (and felony recidivism) compared to juveniles assessed as low risk. Being in the range of medium needs increased the chance of recidivism compared to being in the low needs range; however, the effect of being high needs was not statistically significant.³¹ Finally, receiving intermediate or commitment level dispositions did not have a statistically significant impact on recidivism when compared to a community level disposition in either model.

³⁰ As noted earlier, in 2004 risk and needs assessments were administered only to adjudicated juveniles at the disposition phase, and therefore were not available for the other groups in the sample.

³¹ This might be due to the small number of juveniles (n=274, or 7.2% of the disposed group) identified as high need.

Table 4.14
Effect of Personal and Juvenile Justice Factors on Recidivism
Juveniles Adjudicated and Disposed

Independent Variables	Model 5: Overall Recidivism (55.1%)	Model 6: Felony Recidivism (30.2%)
Black	14.1%	13.3%
Male	14.4%	32.4%
Felony	13.7%	25.5%
Age at Offense	-1.4%	4.4%
Risk = Low	Reference	Reference
Risk = Medium	14.5%	12.3%
Risk = High	24.3%	27.6%
Needs = Low	Reference	Reference
Needs = Medium	7.2%	5.0%
Needs = High	<i>NS</i>	<i>NS</i>
Disposition Level = 1	Reference	Reference
Disposition Level = 2	<i>NS</i>	<i>NS</i>
Disposition Level = 3	<i>NS</i>	<i>NS</i>

SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

In summary, a number of findings stand out from the multivariate analysis. Two demographic variables, gender and race, were strongly correlated with recidivism, as was the seriousness of the current offense. Risk and needs scores, and their use in assessing a juvenile's disposition and treatment plan, seemed to be validated in their relationship with recidivism as well. Factors such as early age at first delinquent involvement, prior adjudications and assaults, school problems and peer relations – all components of risk – have a theoretically and empirically established link with criminal behavior. Measures of need such as family criminality and lack of supervision, a history of victimization, mental health and substance abuse problems, and conflict in the home, can also point to a troubled youth and increased delinquent involvement. On the other hand, juvenile recidivism was found to be lower when the systemic response of the courts was limited, either by processing and servicing juveniles short of adjudication or, if adjudicated, by refraining from the most restrictive forms of disposition such as commitment or detention.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The North Carolina General Assembly mandated the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission to prepare biennial reports on statewide rates of juvenile recidivism. (Session Law 2005-276, Section 14.19.) Previous studies on juvenile recidivism in North Carolina were all more limited in the scope of the offenses included, the dispositions studied, or the samples selected. This first report, submitted to the General Assembly on May 1, 2007, includes 10,882 juveniles who were brought to the attention of the juvenile justice system between January 1, 2004 and June 30, 2004 and whose complaints were adjudicated, dismissed, diverted, or closed. Juveniles with undisciplined complaints or petitions were not included in the sample. A two-year follow-up period was used, and the principal outcome measures of recidivism were defined as either a subsequent juvenile complaint and/or an adult arrest. Data on the sample were provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) management information system and the Department of Justice automated database. In addition, interviews with DJJDP administrative and program staff and site visits to select Youth Development Centers (YDC's) and detention centers were conducted for a description of dispositional alternatives and services provided to juveniles by the DJJDP and within the community.

Community-based programming is available to juveniles who are at risk to become involved in or who are involved in the juvenile justice system. One of the primary conduits for programs and service delivery to juveniles is through county based Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC's). Of the juveniles who were served by a JCPC program during FY 2004/05, almost 61% had either been diverted from court during the intake process or adjudicated by the juvenile court. Each county has a JCPC that uses a specified planning process for recommending programs that meet the identified risks and needs of juveniles in that locale.

The DJJDP annually allocates legislatively appropriated monies to the JCPC's to subsidize the selected programs and services that generally fall into one of three categories within a continuum of care: prevention, intervention, and treatment. Furthermore, the DJJDP offers technical and evaluative services to the JCPC's and their respectively funded programs. To improve program effectiveness, the DJJDP has established, with the help of experts in the field, a protocol for the evaluation of JCPC programs statewide. Through the use of this tool, which allows for the comparison of JCPC programs with research-based characteristics of effective juvenile justice programs, DJJDP began the process of assessing JCPC services in FY 2004/05.

An additional note about community-based programming involves the General Assembly's designation of grant funds for gang prevention during recent legislative sessions. These monies were made available to JCPC's for the development of prevention and intervention services for youth at risk for gang activity.

Apart from the JCPC programs, there are some community-based initiatives that report directly to the DJJDP. One of these programs, Eckerd Wilderness Camps, operates seven camps in a residential, therapeutic setting that provides services to a variety of juveniles with behavioral problems ranging from non-court-involved youths to those who are involved in the juvenile justice system. Those served within the juvenile system include a limited number of juveniles who have received a commitment from the court and are placed in programming not located in a YDC. In an effort to provide services within the community for the more serious youths, the 2004 Session of the General Assembly designated funds to enable select counties to develop demonstration projects that could provide services for youth who receive a YDC commitment or who are at risk to receive a YDC commitment.

Among the sanctions available to juveniles who are referred to court, detention centers and YDC's have the most restrictive environments. The nine state-operated and four county-operated detention centers located across the state offer secure, temporary confinement for juveniles who meet the statutory requirements to be detained. A juvenile court judge regularly reviews the cases of these juveniles to determine the need for continued secure custody. Most of the juveniles who are placed in a detention center are awaiting their adjudicatory or dispositional hearing, but they can also be held as a result of their dispositional hearing or as a condition of probation. During FY 2004/05, the average length of stay for a juvenile in a detention center was 12 days. Given the short-term nature of detention centers, there are few programs and services offered to detained juveniles outside of educational programming.

The five YDC's administered by the DJJDP represent the most severe dispositional alternative (*i.e.*, Level 3) available to a juvenile court judge, and are reserved for the most violent and/or repeat serious delinquents. Like detention centers, they are locked facilities, but juveniles in YDC's are subject to longer stays (*i.e.*, minimum of six months) and some additional programs and services. Prior to their final YDC placement, committed youths undergo a four to six week assessment where an initial plan of care is developed.

A regionalized approach to commitments has been adopted by DJJDP, placing juveniles in YDC's that are in closer proximity to the juvenile's family. Once juveniles are in a YDC, they are assigned to a treatment team consisting of selected YDC staff, their court counselor, parents, and any pertinent parties from the youth's home community. A treatment team meets regularly to review the juvenile's plan of care, monitor the juvenile's progress, and develop aftercare services as the youth moves toward transition back into the home community. Upon release from YDC, all juveniles are supervised by a court counselor on post-release supervision for at least 90 days.

The current YDC's are physically and technologically dated and programs, services, and staffing patterns are not consistent between the facilities. In 2003, the State Auditor reviewed YDC's and found the current facilities to have safety, security, and staffing issues. As a response to this report, DJJDP developed a plan to replace the

existing YDC's with smaller, updated facilities that would offer a standardized, therapeutic model of care. The model of care is based on the Teaching Family Model which includes cognitive behavioral skills building which focuses on changing the negative behaviors/attitudes of the committed youths. The model also features staff with upgraded training and qualifications, lower staff to juvenile ratio (*i.e.*, 1:4 during waking hours), and more varied and extensive programs and services. In 2005, DJJDP initiated the first pilot program utilizing this model of care within one of the existing YDC's, with a second pilot program beginning in 2006 at a different facility. Both programs have a capacity of 16 juveniles.

The General Assembly has endorsed the new YDC's by appropriating funds for the building of four 32 bed facilities and one 96 bed facility. At the writing of this report, four of these facilities are in the process of being constructed and are scheduled to open at the end of 2007. There is currently a recommendation from DJJDP and the Governor to the General Assembly for five additional 32 bed YDC's. Of particular interest in this recidivism study is the fact that its sample contains juveniles committed to the "old" YDC's which can serve as a baseline of comparison for future studies in which juveniles will have had a commitment experience in the "new," treatment-oriented YDC's.

For purposes of the study's statistical analyses, the 10,882 juveniles in the sample were divided into four groups based on the most serious level of involvement a juvenile reached within the six-month sampling period. Forty percent of the 10,882 juveniles had an adjudication, 10% had their petitions dismissed by the court, 25% had their complaints diverted with a plan or contract for further services, and 25% had their complaints closed without further action. Seventy-two percent of the sample juveniles were male, 51% were black, and their median age at the time of the offense was 14.

Throughout the analysis, a clear difference emerged between juveniles whose complaints were closed or diverted, and those who were dismissed by the court or adjudicated. Juveniles in the first two groups had very few felony complaints (approximately 2%) and were less likely to have been involved with the system. Diverted juveniles were referred for further services in the community and were monitored by a court counselor for up to six months; juveniles whose complaints were closed received no follow-up by a court counselor. Juveniles in the second two groups had a much higher rate of felony complaints (approximately 20%) and were more likely to have prior court involvement. Both dismissed and adjudicated juveniles had a higher likelihood of pre-adjudication detention as well as some form of services prior to either a dismissal or adjudication of their case. Adjudicated juveniles might have been further exposed to services and supervision while awaiting their dispositional hearing. The sample as a whole was primarily involved in non-assaultive misdemeanor offenses, with only about one percent of them charged with violent felonies.

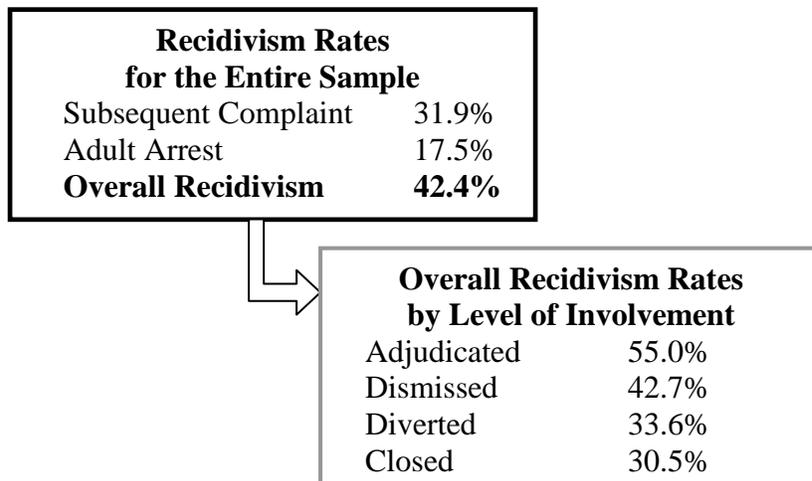
Of the 4,380 adjudicated juveniles, 4,113 had detailed dispositional information and risk and needs assessments available. There was a clear correlation between the needs of the juveniles and their risk of future criminality: 62% of the adjudicated and disposed group placed in the same level of risk and needs, with 35% identified as low

risk/low needs and 4% assessed as high risk/high needs. The majority of the juveniles were adjudicated for minor offenses, had little or no history of delinquency, and received a Level 1 disposition in the community. Only 2.5% of the adjudicated juveniles were involved in violent crimes, 10.5% were in the highest delinquency history level, and 3.3% were committed to a YDC. The probability of a YDC commitment increased with risk level, independent of the juvenile's offense level at adjudication.

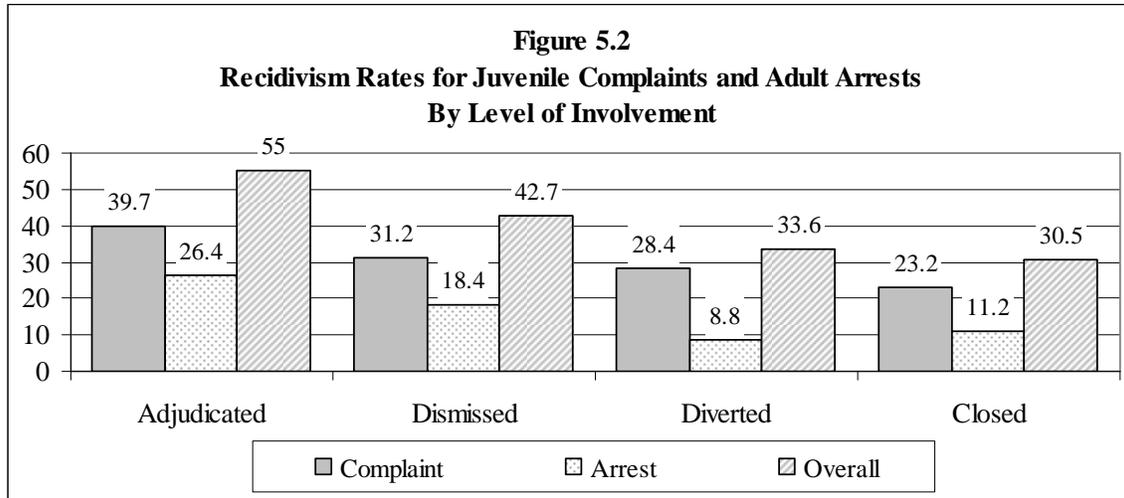
Sample juveniles were followed for two years from the date of the complaint resolution placing them in the sample, with many of them turning 16 and coming under adult jurisdiction in that period. Out of their 730 "window of opportunity" days to recidivate, the sample spent on average 442 days as juveniles and 288 days as adults. It should be noted that some youths might, in fact, have had less than 730 days "at risk" of recidivism if they had spent portions of that time in a detention center, YDC, jail, or prison.

Recidivism was defined as a subsequent complaint in the juvenile system and/or an arrest in the adult system. As shown in Figure 5.1, the overall two-year recidivism rate for the sample was 42.4% (31.9% subsequent complaint, 17.5% adult arrest). The recidivism rate corresponded closely with the juvenile's level of involvement in the system, and was highest for those adjudicated (55%) and lowest for those with their cases closed (30.5%). (See Figures 5.1 and 5.2.) A secondary measure of recidivism, that of subsequent adjudication and/or conviction, yielded similarly ordered, although lower, results. The overall rate for the sample was 26.7% of subsequent adjudication and/or conviction, with a high of 36.9% for the adjudicated group and 15.3% for the closed group.

**Figure 5.1
Juvenile Recidivism Rates**



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample



SOURCE: NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, 2004 Juvenile Recidivism Sample

Twenty percent of the sample had at least one felony charge within the follow-up period. However, the probability of felony recidivism seemed to vary both by whether the original sample complaint was a felony or misdemeanor, and by whether that complaint was adjudicated, dismissed, diverted or closed. The most likely group to be charged with subsequent felonies (at 53.2%) was that of adjudicated juveniles whose original sample charge was also a felony. That probability decreased for the lesser levels of court involvement and for juveniles with original misdemeanor sample complaints.

Commitment to a YDC or detention center anytime during the follow-up period seemed to correlate significantly with a juvenile's probability of adult recidivism. Adult arrest rates varied from 47% for those with a YDC commitment to 16% for those with no YDC commitment; and from 32% for those with some detention to 12% for those with no history of detention. This finding is especially noteworthy when considering the narrower window of opportunity available for committed juveniles (especially those in YDC's) to have an adult arrest within the two-year timeframe. While recidivism rates were highest for adjudicated youth, commitment increased the chance of an adult arrest significantly, independent of a juvenile's level of sample involvement.

Data on composite risk and needs measures were available for the adjudicated and disposed group. Both the assessed needs and risk of a juvenile showed a clear statistical relationship with recidivism in the expected direction. The higher a juvenile's needs or risk score, the greater the juvenile's chances of subsequent complaints and arrests – recidivism rates increased from 44% to 75.5% by level of risk, and from 48.3% to 63.9% by level of needs.

A number of findings emerged from a more statistically sophisticated analysis controlling simultaneously for all the variables available. A juvenile's gender, race, and the severity of the offense were all related to the various measures of recidivism in the study. The criminogenic factors captured in the risk and needs scores, such as early onset of delinquency or lack of parental supervision, have proven their predictive value in

assessing a juvenile's risk for future criminal involvement. And, finally, recidivism was lower when the systemic response of the court was less invasive, either by processing and treating youths short of adjudication or, if adjudicated, providing dispositions short of the most restrictive option of confinement.

In closing, this report has offered an overview of the juvenile justice system, a description of the programs and dispositional alternatives that serve juvenile delinquents, and a first-time, comprehensive look at recidivism among juveniles with adjudicated, dismissed, diverted and closed cases within the juvenile justice system. All of this information provides an empirical baseline and point of reference for the next report that is due in May 2009. Beginning with that report, the focus of the study will shift to adjudicated juveniles only, with the first sample including all cases adjudicated delinquent during FY 2004/05 and followed for a three-year period to measure their subsequent juvenile and adult recidivism.

APPENDIX A

Risk and Needs Assessment

The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's risk and needs assessment instruments (North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Risk of Future Offending and North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Needs) capture the following information:

Risk

- *Age when first delinquent offense alleged in a complaint*
- *Number of undisciplined or delinquent referrals to intake*
- *Most serious prior adjudication(s)*
- *Prior assaults*
- *Runaway*
- *Substance abuse*
- *School behavior problems*
- *Peer relationships*
- *Parental supervision*
- *Total risk score*

Needs

- *Peer relationships*
- *School behavior/adjustment*
- *General academic functioning*
- *Substance abuse*
- *Juvenile parent status (i.e., is a parent)*
- *History of victimization*
- *Sexual behavior*
- *Mental health*
- *Basic physical needs/independent living*
- *Health and hygiene*
- *Conflict in the home*
- *Supervision skills (of parent)*
- *Disabilities of parent, guardian or custodian*
- *Substance abuse by household members*

APPENDIX B

Juvenile Disposition Chart

	DELINQUENCY HISTORY LEVELS		
OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION	LOW 0-1 points	MEDIUM 2-3 points	HIGH 4 or more points
VIOLENT Class A-E felonies	Level 2 or 3	Level 3	Level 3
SERIOUS Class F-I felonies Class A1 misdemeanors	Level 1 or 2	Level 2	Level 2 or 3
MINOR Class 1, 2, 3 misdemeanors	Level 1	Level 1 or 2	Level 2

Offense Classification (G.S. § 7B-2508)

Violent – Adjudication of a Class A through E felony offense.

Serious – Adjudication of a Class F through I felony offense or a Class A1 misdemeanor.

Minor – Adjudication of a Class 1, 2, or 3 misdemeanor.

Delinquency History Levels (G.S § 7B-2507(c))

Points

For each prior adjudication of a Class A through E felony offense, 4 points.

For each prior adjudication of a Class F through I felony offense or Class A1 misdemeanor offense, 2 points.

For each prior adjudication of a Class 1, 2, or 3 misdemeanor offense, 1 point.

If the juvenile was on probation at the time of offense, 2 points.

Levels

Low – No more than 1 point.

Medium – At least 2, but not more than 3 points.

High – At least 4 points.

APPENDIX C

Dispositional Options

<u>LEVEL 1 COMMUNITY</u>	<u>LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE</u>	<u>LEVEL 3 COMMITMENT</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in-home supervision ▪ custody ▪ excuse from school attendance ▪ community-based program ▪ intensive substance abuse treatment program ▪ residential treatment program ▪ nonresidential treatment program ▪ restitution up to \$500 ▪ fine ▪ community service up to 100 hours ▪ victim-offender reconciliation ▪ probation ▪ no driver's license ▪ curfew ▪ not associate with specified persons ▪ not be in specified places ▪ intermittent confinement up to 5 days ▪ wilderness program ▪ supervised day program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ wilderness program ▪ residential treatment program ▪ intensive nonresidential treatment program ▪ intensive substance abuse treatment program ▪ group home placement ▪ intensive probation ▪ supervised day program ▪ regimented training program ▪ house arrest with or without electronic monitoring ▪ suspension of a more severe disposition w/conditions ▪ intermittent confinement up to 14 days ▪ multipurpose group home ▪ restitution over \$500 ▪ community service up to 200 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 month minimum commitment ▪ minimum 90 day post-release supervision