

Juvenile Crime and Delinquency in Durham County
A Four-Year Study
2011 - 2014

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Background

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety annually publishes a **Databook** that contains information on juvenile crime and delinquency in all North Carolina counties. The data source for this information is NC JOIN, a web-based system that allows staff at various points in the state's juvenile justice system to track the progress and placement of youth being served by various programs and facilities.

This report looks at Durham County statistics compared with statewide statistics. Realizing that there are vast differences within North Carolina counties (population, poverty rates, and racial demographics) a set of six (6) comparison counties with similarities to Durham County was also identified.

1) Comparison Counties

The comparison counties selected were Cabarrus, Cumberland, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford and New Hanover. The table below provides demographic information on these counties as well as Durham County.¹

County	Population	% Black	% Hispanic	% Population in Poverty
Durham	267,587	38.0	13.5	18.8
Cabarrus	178,011	15.3	9.4	13.0
Cumberland	319,431	36.7	33.4	18.0
Forsyth	350,670	26.0	12.0	16.4
Gaston	206,086	15.3	5.9	20.5
Guilford	488,406	32.5	7.1	17.7
N. Hanover	202,667	14.8	5.3	18.1

2) Violent Class A-E Crimes

Violent Class A-E crimes include person and violent offenses (i.e., robbery, kidnapping, attempted murder, etc.). These crimes are relatively rare, with a 4-year annual average of 797 occurrences statewide. For that reason caution should be exercised in making any conclusions about numbers of these crimes at a county level.

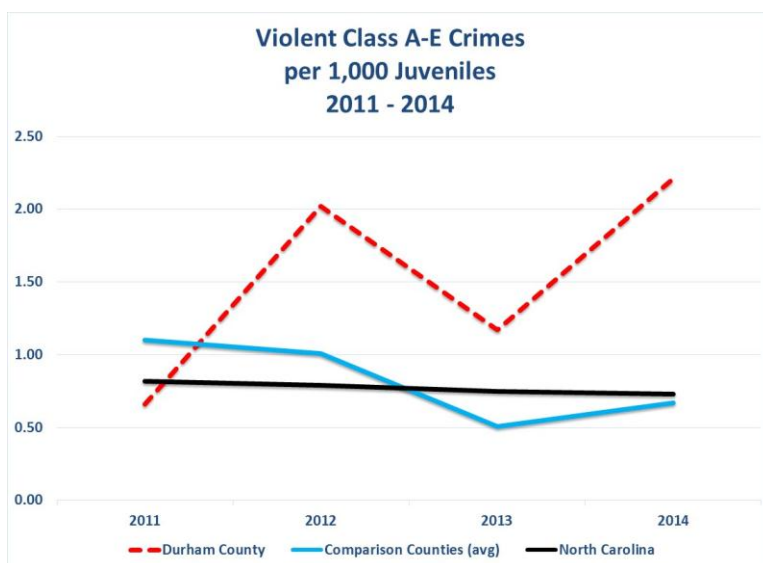
As the table² and chart below illustrate, wide variances from year to year are common. Nevertheless, these crimes are of significant concern in communities due to their violent nature, and thus should not be ignored.

For the past three years, the rate of Violent Class A-E crimes in Durham County have been consistently higher than statewide averages and averages of comparison counties.

¹ All census data is for 2010 and was retrieved from <http://www.usa.com/>

² Rate per 1000 calculations throughout this report were performed with annually updated population figures for juveniles ages 10-17, as recorded in the DataBooks

County	Violent Crimes ages 10-17 (2011)	Rate/1000 (2011)	Violent Crimes ages 10-17 (2012)	Rate/1000 (2012)	Violent Crimes ages 10-17 (2013)	Rate/1000 (2013)	Violent Crimes ages 10-17 (2014)	Rate/1000 (2014)
Durham	16	0.66	49	2.02	29	1.17	56	2.21
Cabarrus	16	0.71	5	.023	6	0.27	5	0.22
Cumberland	94	2.52	44	1.21	27	0.74	53	1.47
Forsyth	17	0.45	30	0.79	21	0.55	18	0.47
Gaston	17	0.75	23	1.01	13	0.47	12	0.53
Guilford	54	1.02	47	0.90	42	0.80	34	0.64
N. Hanover	20	1.13	54	1.91	2	0.11	12	0.66
NC	844	0.82	814	0.79	772	0.75	758	0.73

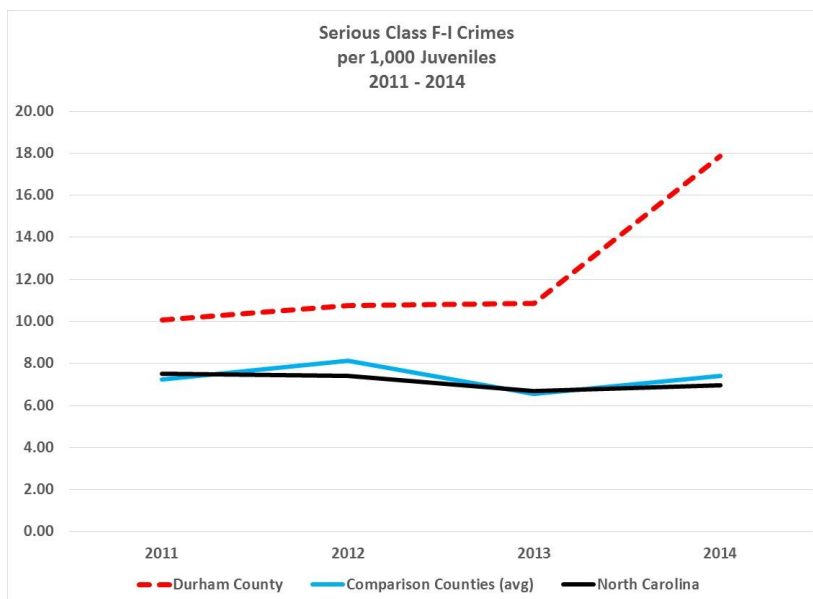


3) Serious Class F-I Crimes

Serious Class F-I crimes include serious property or weapons offenses as well as A1 misdemeanors and assaults. These crimes are much more plentiful than Violent Class A-E crimes, with a 4-year annual average of 7,350 occurrences statewide.

As the table and chart illustrate, Durham County consistently has higher levels of these types of crimes than comparison county averages or statewide averages. In 2014 Serious Class F-I crimes committed by Durham County juveniles increased significantly, while comparison county averages and the statewide average remained stable.

County	Serious Crimes ages 10-17 (2011)	Rate/1000 (2011)	Serious Crimes ages 10-17 (2012)	Rate/1000 (2012)	Serious Crimes ages 10-17 (2013)	Rate/1000 (2013)	Serious Crimes ages 10-17 (2014)	Rate/1000 (2014)
Durham	243	10.06	261	10.75	269	10.86	452	17.86
Cabarrus	96	4.26	62	2.79	42	1.86	104	4.53
Cumberland	390	10.44	298	8.17	352	9.66	358	9.93
Forsyth	350	9.18	413	10.91	227	5.98	404	10.60
Gaston	207	9.14	188	8.29	126	5.57	102	4.52
Guilford	498	9.42	433	8.26	395	7.51	519	9.80
N. Hanover	18	1.01	184	10.35	156	8.71	92	5.07
NC	7,744	7.50	7,597	7.42	6,868	6.68	7,178	6.96



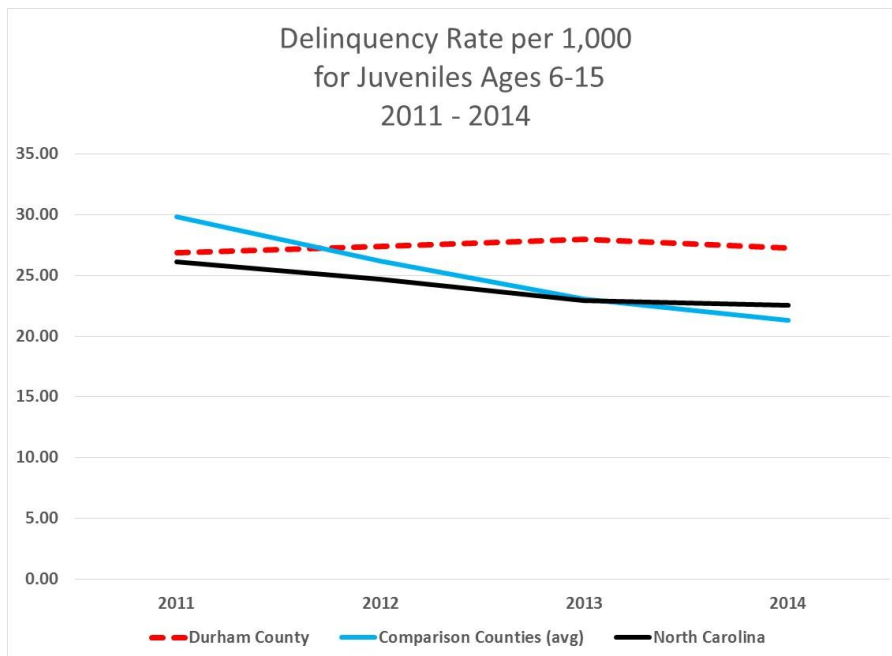
4) Delinquency Rates for Ages 6 - 15

Delinquency can be defined as participation in illegal behavior by minors. The delinquency rate is usually calculated by rate of offenses per 1,000 youth. In the Databook rates are shown for youth ages 6 to 15.

Delinquency rates for Durham juveniles were very similar to comparison county and statewide rates in 2011. Since then however, rates for Durham County have trended slightly upward, while rates for the others have trended downward.

Data seems to indicate that while Durham County youth have delinquency rates somewhat similar to comparison counties and to statewide rates, Durham County youth appear to be disproportionately involved in violent and/or serious crimes.

County	Delinquency Rate Per 1,000 Ages 6-15 (2011)	Delinquency Rate Per 1,000 Ages 6-15 (2012)	Delinquency Rate Per 1,000 Ages 6-15 (2013)	Delinquency Rate Per 1,000 Ages 6-15 (2014)
Durham	26.84	27.38	27.97	27.26
Cabarrus	15.86	9.66	9.81	11.77
Cumberland	38.74	33.68	36.17	27.97
Forsyth	27.27	28.31	19.32	24.96
Gaston	30.37	25.85	19.32	17.37
Guilford	31.64	24.60	24.87	26.35
N. Hanover	35.06	34.75	28.84	19.56
NC	26.08	24.70	22.91	22.52



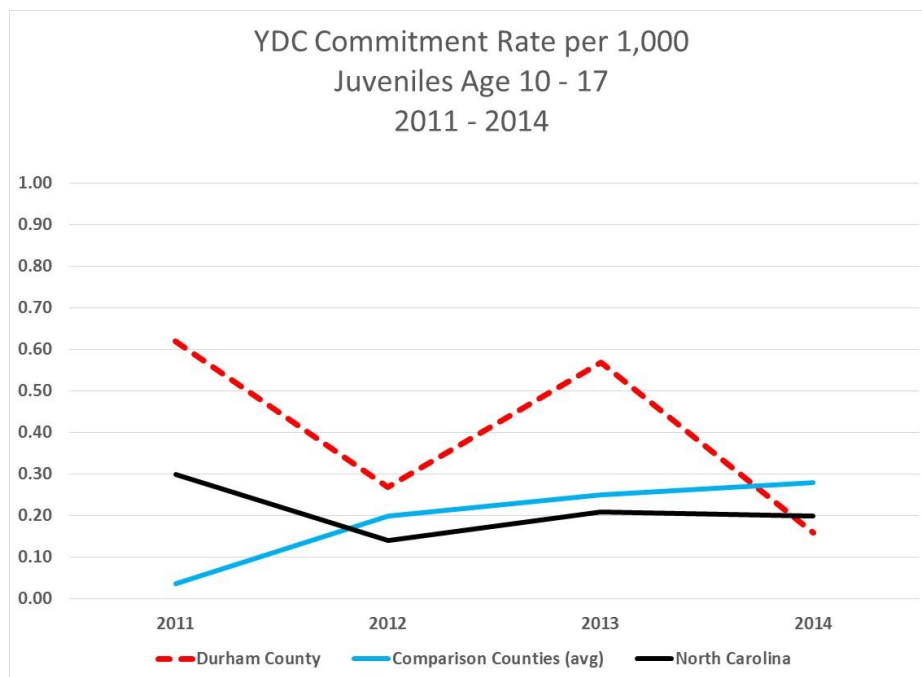
5) Youth Detention Center (YDC) Commitment Rates for Ages 10 – 17

YDCs are secure custody facilities with a therapeutic program focus. A YDC commitment indicates that a youth has been committed for at least six months. YDC commitments are typically measured by a rate of commitment per 1,000 youth, age 10 to 17.

YDC commitment rates are similar to violent crime rates in that they are somewhat rare when compared against the entire juvenile population. Large variations in rates may be seen from year to year. Despite these limitations, the data does provide a picture of YDC usage.

There appears to be no correlation between violent or serious crime rates and the rates of YDC commitment for Durham County.

County	YDC Commitment Rate Per 1,000 Ages 10-17 (2011)	YDC Commitment Rate Per 1,000 Ages 10-17 (2012)	YDC Commitment Rate Per 1,000 Ages 10-17 (2013)	YDC Commitment Rate Per 1,000 Ages 10-17 (2014)
Durham	0.62	0.27	0.57	0.16
Cabarrus	0.13	0.09	0.18	0.04
Cumberland	0.91	0.35	0.25	0.58
Forsyth	0.18	0.12	0.16	0.08
Gaston	0.00	0.06	0.27	0.09
Guilford	0.42	0.21	0.32	0.19
N. Hanover	0.56	0.37	0.33	0.72
NC	0.30	0.14	0.21	0.20



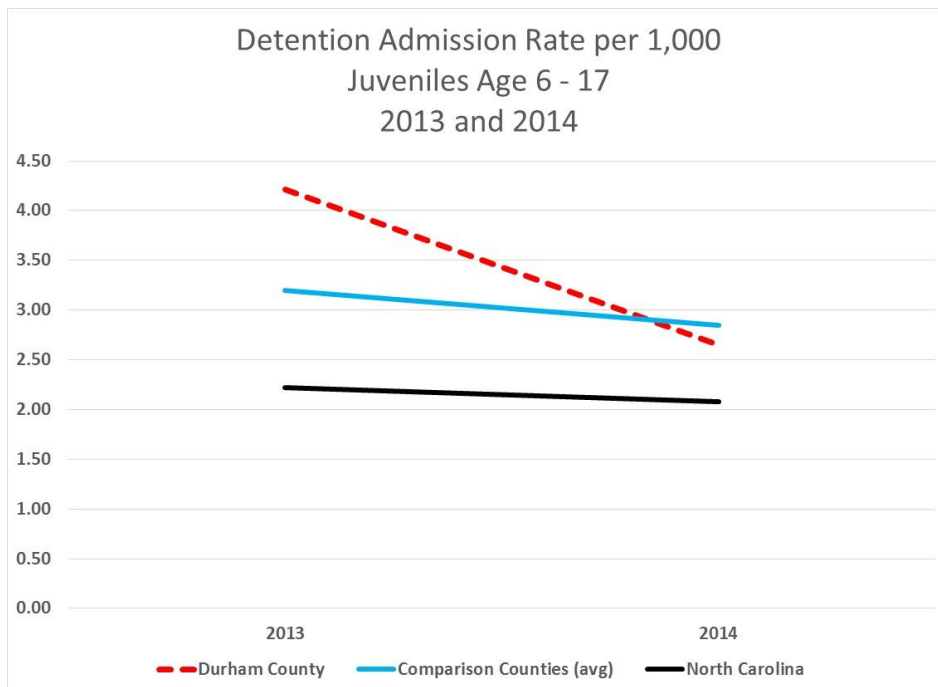
6) Detention Admission Rates for Ages 6 - 17

Detention admission rates reflect how many juveniles are placed in detention and are calculated by the number of detention admissions per 1,000 youth ages 6 to 17. **The NCDPS Databooks only have this data for the years 2013 and 2014.**

The table below indicates a wide variance of rates, from a high of 6.44 (Cumberland County – 2013) to a low of 0.36 (Cabarrus County – 2014).

Durham County had significantly higher rates in 2013, but these rates declined in 2014 to below the average rate of comparison counties.

County	Detention Rate Per 1,000 youth Ages 6-17 (2013)	Detention Rate Per 1,000 youth Ages 6-17 (2014)
Durham	4.21	2.65
Cabarrus	0.59	0.35
Cumberland	6.44	4.67
Forsyth	2.49	2.13
Gaston	3.84	4.54
Guilford	3.50	3.15
N. Hanover	2.32	2.25
NC	2.22	2.08



7. Summary

Data in this report seems to support the theory that **Durham juveniles are involved in violent and serious crimes at rates that are disproportionate to rates of comparison counties and statewide levels.**

Delinquency rates for Durham juveniles are slightly higher than comparison county and statewide rates for the past three years. YDC and detention admission rates for Durham County juveniles are currently very similar to comparison county and statewide rates.

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