

Guilford County Gang Assessment: The OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model

Section: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency



Guilford County DJJDP Data Summary

According to North Carolina's Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) data for calendar year 2009, Guilford County had the 16th highest delinquent rate in the State at 40.21 per 1,000 youth ages 6-15 years old. The juvenile delinquency rate is defined as the number of delinquent complaints received by court services offices per 1,000 youths ages 6-15 years old (NCDJJDP, 2010).¹⁰³ The statewide delinquency rate has declined over the past three years and was at a 10-year low in 2009, at 29.14 delinquent complaints per 1,000 youths ages 6-15 years old (NCDJJDP, 2010).¹⁰⁴

NC DJJDP tracks all juvenile complaints filed by each county in North Carolina. When a complaint is filed against a juvenile, a court counselor must complete a risk assessment with the juvenile. As a way to track self-reported gang membership, the risk assessment includes questions about whether the juvenile identifies as a gang member OR associates with a gang. In addition to tracking gang membership or association, DJJDP also tracks demographics of the juvenile, whether the complaint was a school-based offense, and whether a School Resource Officer (SRO) filed the complaint.

For purposes of this report, the Guilford County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) provided DJJDP data for Guilford County for three consecutive fiscal years (FY) (2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09). A summary of data for FY 2008-2009 as well as comparisons across the three years are provided. The dataset is limited to only delinquent complaints and does not include status offenses such as truancy, runaway, and ungovernable.

FY 2008-2009 Guilford County DJJDP Data

Over the NC DJJDP FY 2008-2009, Guilford County received a total 2744 juvenile complaints, reflecting a 4.8% decrease from 2007-2008. A little more than three quarters (76.6%) of complaints involved male juveniles, while 23.4% involved females. Three quarters (74.6%) of complaints involved African American juveniles, with the remainder involving White (21%), Latino (2.6%), Asian (0.8%), Multi-racial (0.6%), Native American (0.2%), and Other or Unknown juveniles (0.5%).

Table 33 provides a breakdown of complaints as reported by law enforcement agencies in each of three major Guilford County jurisdictions and other agencies, including those against gang-involved juveniles. Other agencies include agencies such as Gibsonville Police Department, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Emergency Management Services, etc. While the Greensboro Police Department reported the most juvenile complaints (representing 60.4% of all juvenile complaints), High Point complaints involved the highest percentage of crimes committed by

¹⁰³ North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009). *2009 Annual Report*. North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Retrieved from http://www.ncdjjdp.org/resources/pdf_documents/annual_report_2009.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009). *2009 Annual Report*. North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Retrieved from http://www.ncdjjdp.org/resources/pdf_documents/annual_report_2009.pdf.

juveniles determined to be gang-involved (representing 12.6% of all juvenile crime in High Point).¹⁰⁵

Figure 20: Total # of Complaints Received - DJJDP Guilford County

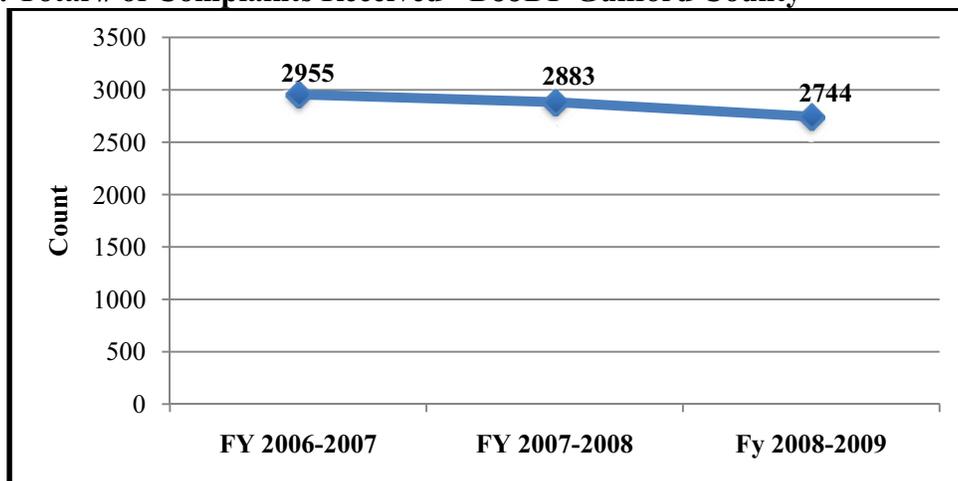


Table 33: Total Complaints and Individual Gang Membership/Association by Law Enforcement Jurisdiction – FY 2008-2009

	Total Complaints Received	Gang Associate or Member - Yes
Greensboro Police Department	1616	8.6% (139/1616)
High Point Police Department	554	12.6% (70/554)
Guilford County Sheriff's Office	505	4.6% (23/505)
Other agencies	69	8.7% (6/69)

Of the 2744 juvenile complaints received in Guilford County in FY 2008-2009 as reported by the NC DJJDP, 8.7% (238) involved an individual who was determined to be a gang member or associating with a gang.¹⁰⁶ When compared with previous years, this was a 2.1% reduction from FY 2007-2008.. Seventy-five individual gang-related juveniles were responsible for the 238 complaints. Complaints per individual ranged from one to 19, with 3.2 complaints per individual being the average. The majority of the gang-related juveniles were male (90.7%), three quarters

¹⁰⁵ Per DJJDP, this data is intended to display the juvenile delinquency those identified as "gang members" or "associates with gangs" participated in. This data by no means is intended to reflect "gang-related crime". There are no juvenile offenses in statute specified for gang-related events.

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were African American (74.9%), almost one-tenth (9.3%) were Latino, 6.7% were White, 5.3% were Multi-racial, 1.3% were Asian, 1.3% were Native American, and race/ethnicity was unknown for 1.3%.

Figure 21: Gang Associate or Member - Guilford County DJJDP Risk Assessment

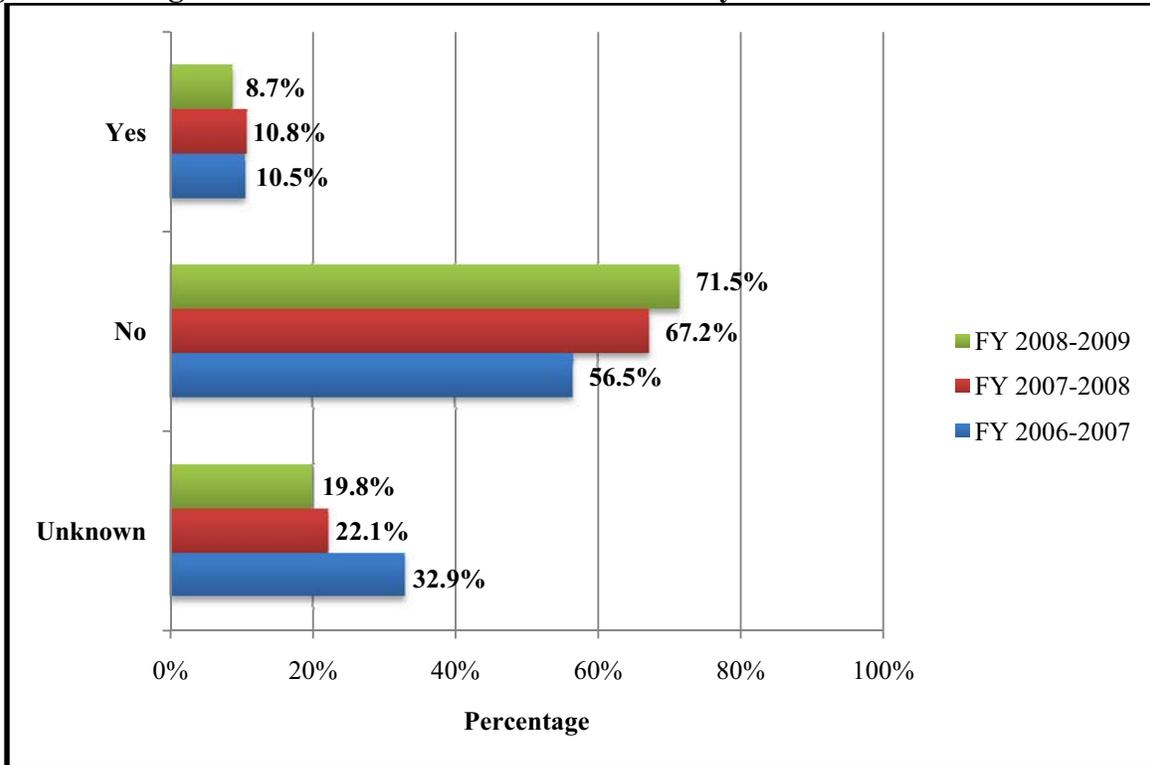
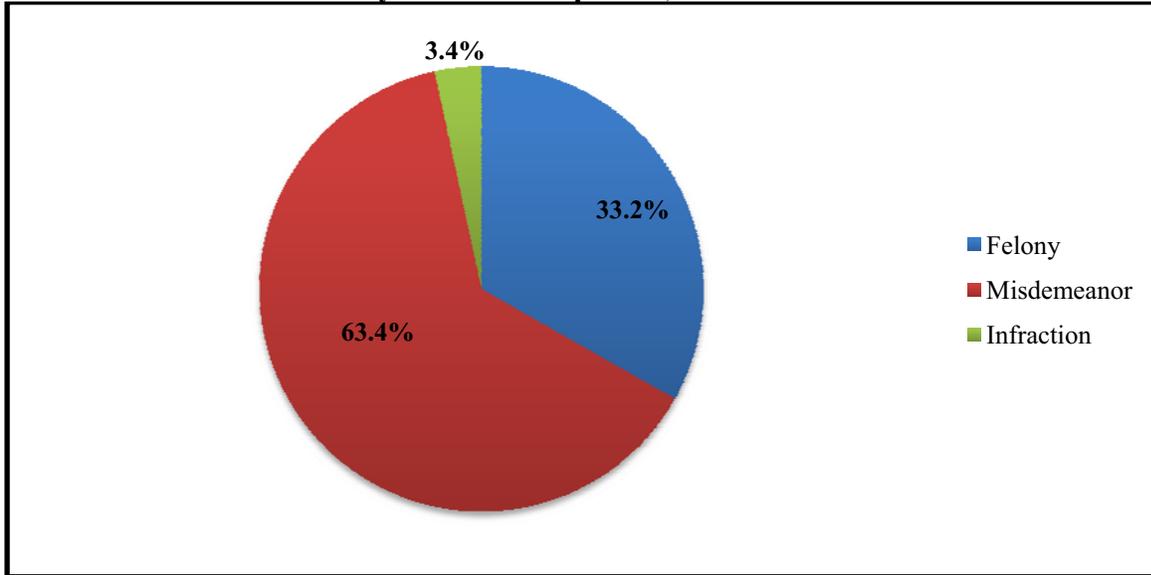


Figure 22: Charge types involving young people who were reportedly gang members or associates – Guilford County DJJDP Complaints, FY 2008-2009



Of the 238 juvenile complaints involving individuals who were identified as being a gang member or associating with a gang in FY 2008-2009:

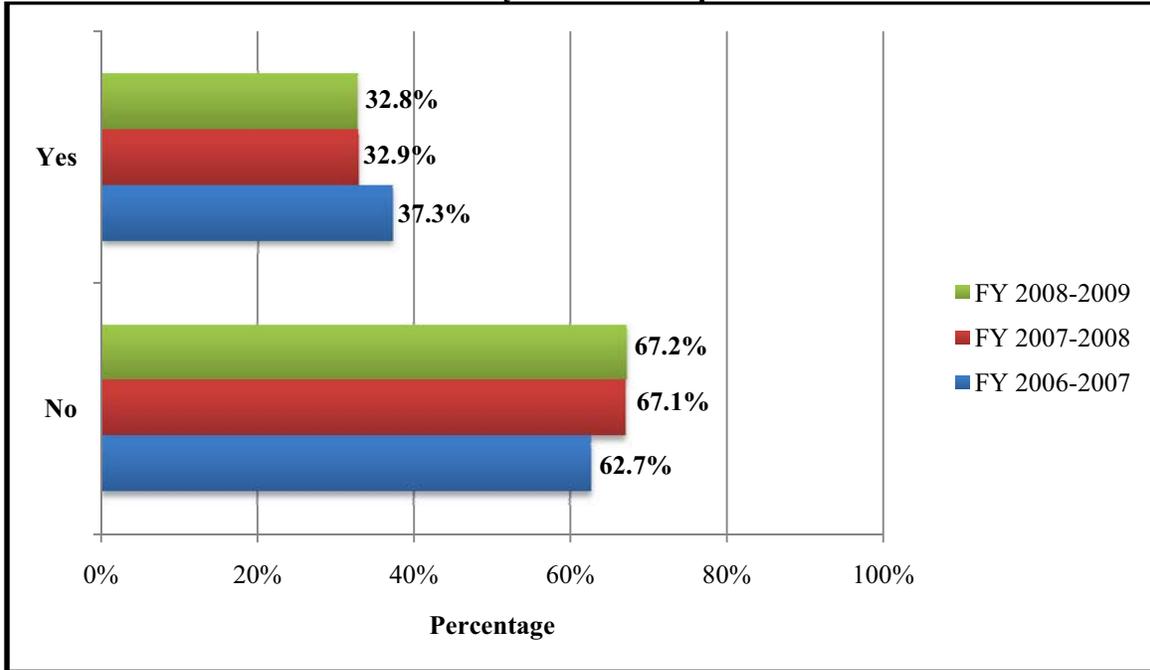
- Nearly two-thirds (63.4%) were for misdemeanor offenses
- One-third (33.2%) were for felony offenses
- 3.4% were for infractions

Of the 238 juvenile complaints involving individuals who were identified as being a gang member or associating with a gang in FY 2008-2009, the top three most frequently charged offenses were:

- Simple assault – 8.8% (21/238)
- Felony breaking and entering – 6.7% (16/238)
- Second degree trespass – 5.9% (14/238)

Of the 238 juvenile complaints involving individuals who were identified as being a gang member or associating with a gang in FY 2008-2009, 32.8% were school-based offenses . The percentage of school-based juvenile complaints involving gang members or associates has remained roughly the same from 2006-2009.

Figure 23: School-based offenses involving young people who were reportedly gang members or associates - Guilford County DJJDP Complaints¹⁰⁷



The 78 school-based juvenile complaints involving gang members or associates during FY 2008-2009 were from 22 middle and high schools across Guilford County. The high schools with the most school-based gang-related complaints were:

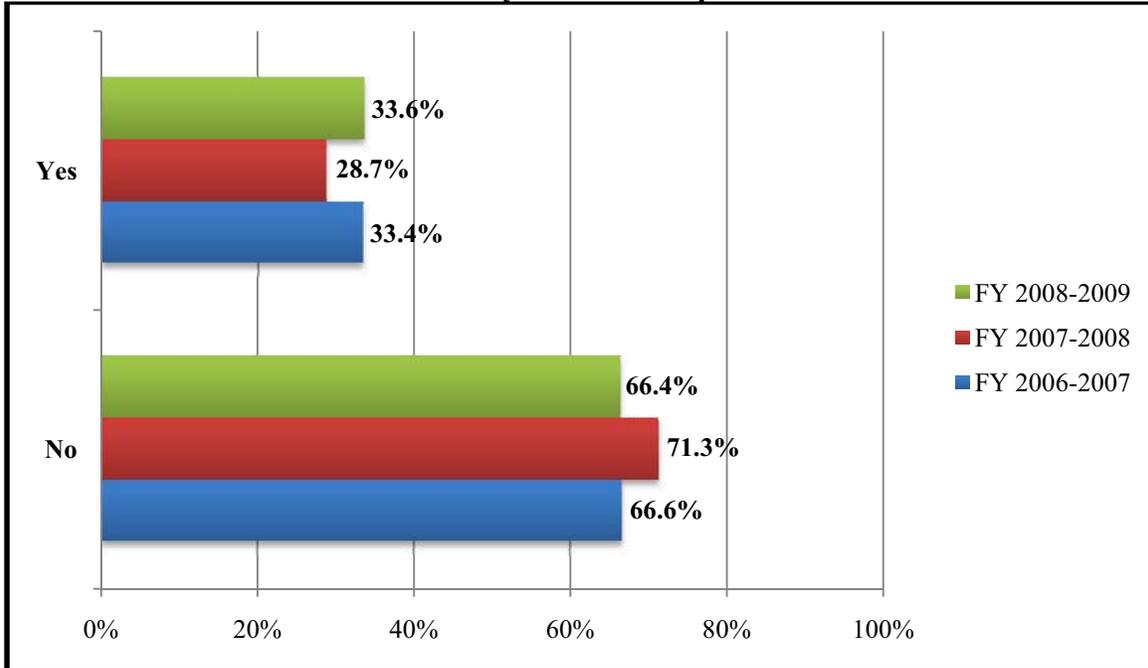
- High Point Central High School – 10 complaints
- Scales Academy – 7 complaints
- Southwest Guilford High School and Eastern Guilford High School – 6 complaints each

The three middle schools with the most school-based gang-related complaints were:

- Ferndale Middle School – 6 complaints
- Southwest Middle School – 4 complaints
- Allen Middle School – 3 complaints

¹⁰⁷ School-based offenses are defined as those which occur on school grounds, school property (buses, etc.), at a school bus stop, or at an off-campus school-sanctioned event (field trips, athletic competitions, etc.) or whose victim is a school (such as a false bomb report). School includes any public or private institution providing elementary (K-8), secondary (9-12), or post-secondary (community college, trade school, college, etc.) education but excludes home schools, preschools, and day cares.

Figure 24: SRO-filed complaints involving young people who were reportedly gang members or associates - Guilford County DJJDP Complaints



Of the 238 juvenile complaints involving individuals who were identified as being a gang member or associating with a gang in FY 2008-2009, 33.6% were filed by a School Resource Officer (SRO). The percentage of juvenile complaints filed by School Resource Officers (SROs) involving young people who were gang members or associates was higher during FY 2008-2009 than in FY 2007-2008.

Detention Information

The NC DJJDP reports data concerning juvenile detentions in each county in their annual County Databooks (<http://www.djjdp.org/statistics/databook.html>). In 2009, there were 74,864 youth ages 6-17 residing in Guilford County. Of those, 380 distinct juveniles were detained representing a detention rate of 5.08 per 1000 juveniles. There were 634 new detention admissions in 2009, representing a new admission rate of 8.47 per 1000 juveniles in the county. Compared to all other NC counties, Guilford County has the 12th highest detention rate and the 7th highest new juvenile detention admission rate in the state.

More recent data within the NC JOIN system presented at a recent Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meeting has noted that, as of June 2010, Guilford County has the highest commitment rates to Youth Detention Centers among all counties in North Carolina.¹⁰⁸ An ad hoc committee has been formed under the direction of the Guilford County Chief Court Counselor, Mr. Stan Clarkson, to understand in more detail potential contributors to this finding.

¹⁰⁸ Clarkson, S. (July, 2010). Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meeting minutes. Guilford County, NC.