

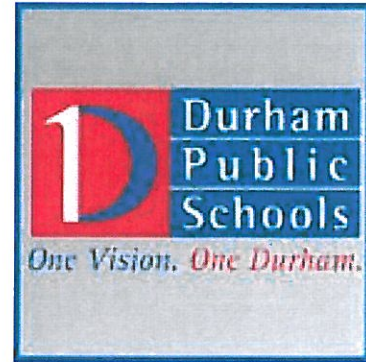


DURHAM



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CITY OF MEDICINE



Updated Gang Assessment

June 2014

*Juvenile Crime
Prevention Council
(JCPC)*

Durham County’s Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

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Durham County's Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

The North Carolina General Assembly, via General Statute 143B-543, seeks to develop community-based alternatives to youth development centers. Another priority of the legislature is to ensure that community based delinquency and substance abuse prevention strategies and programs are provided.

The N.C. Department of Public Safety¹ partners with Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils in each county to galvanize community leaders, locally and statewide, to reduce and prevent juvenile crime. JCPC board members are appointed by the county Board of Commissioners and meet monthly in each county. The meetings are open to the public, and all business is considered public information. The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice allocates approximately \$23 million to these councils annually. Funding is used to subsidize local programs and services.

Responsibilities of Each JCPC in North Carolina:

- Review the needs of juveniles in the county who are at risk of delinquency or who have been adjudicated undisciplined or delinquent.
- Review the resources available to address those needs
- Prioritize community risk factors
- Determine the services needed to address those problems areas
- Develop a request for proposal for services in need
- Submit a written funding plan to the county commissioners for approval
- Evaluate program performance
- Increase public awareness of the causes of delinquency and strategies to reduce the problem
- Develop strategies to intervene, respond to and treat the needs of juveniles at risk of delinquency
- Provide funds for treatment, counseling, or rehabilitation services.

¹ Information on the North Carolina JCPCs, their responsibilities, powers, duties, services and programs was taken from the NC Department of Public Safety website at:

<https://www.ncdps.gov/Index2.cfm?a=000003,002476,002483,002482>

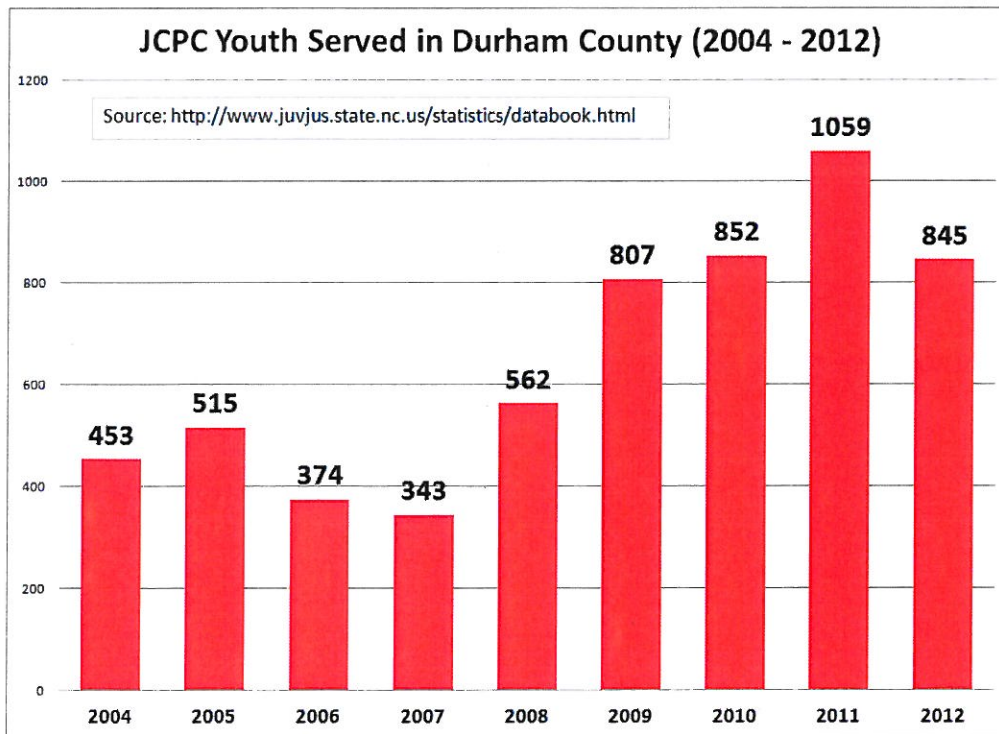
The Durham County JCPC received state funding in the amount of \$536,666 for Fiscal Year 2013-14. Local in-kind or cash matches brought the total available funding amount in Durham County to \$1,043,837.

The Durham County JCPC Annual Planning Committee reviews data gleaned from the Juvenile Risk Assessment instrument administered by Juvenile Court Counselors. The Juvenile Risk Assessment is an instrument used to predict the likelihood of the juvenile being involved in future delinquent behavior. It is completed after juveniles are referred with a complaint alleging that a delinquent act has occurred and prior to adjudication of the juvenile.²

Based on the risk & needs assessment of Durham County youth & resources, the Durham County JCPC determined that several services were needed to reduce and prevent delinquency in Durham. These services included a mix of restorative programs (such as Teen Court), assessment programs, clinical treatment programs and structured activity programs.

The chart below illustrates the numbers of Durham County youth served by JCPC programs from 2004 to 2012.

Chart E1 – JCPC youth served 2004 - 2012



² Copies of the Risk Assessment form and the Needs Assessment form are included at the end of this section

JCPC Risk and Needs Assessment and Percentage of Gang Members/Associates

Each fiscal year, risk and needs assessment data is published for each county in North Carolina. One of the data points is the number of assessments where a court-involved juvenile is classified as a gang member or associate. Since at least FY 2009-10 there has been a wide variance between the statewide percentage and the Durham County percentage of assessments where the juvenile was identified as a “gang member or associate”.

The table below illustrates this variance for the fiscal years 2009-10 to FY 2012-13.³

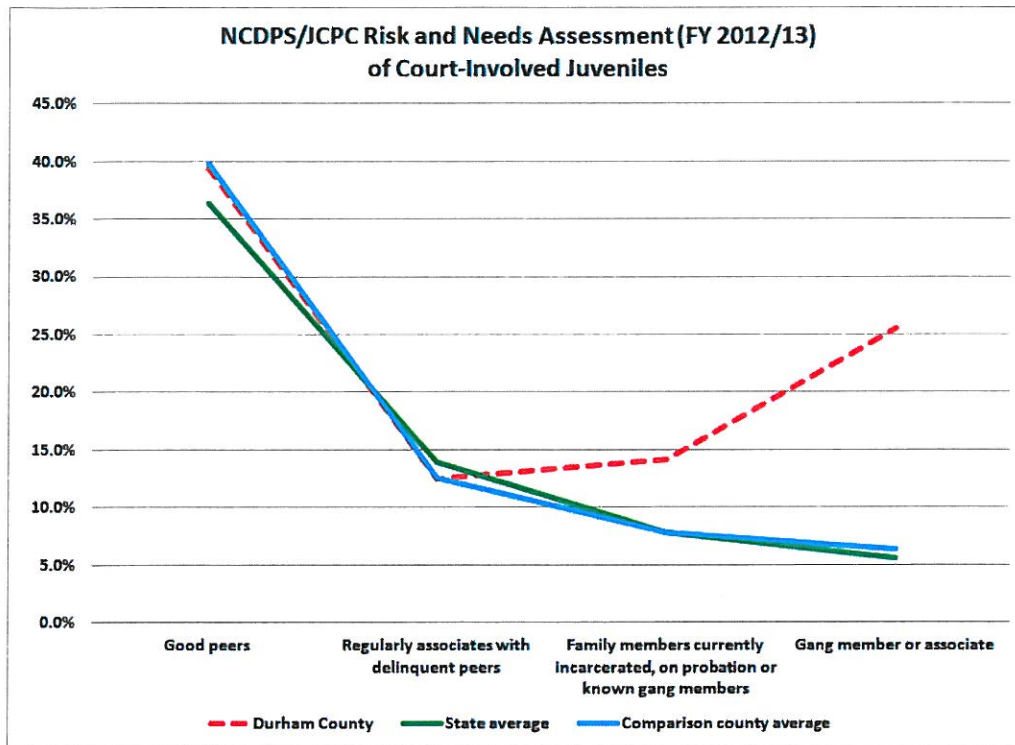
Table E1 – Percentage of court-involved juveniles who are gang members or associates

<i>Percentage court-involved juveniles identified as gang members or associates</i>				
	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13
State average	8%	7%	7%	6%
Durham County	18%	21%	21%	25%

The chart below looks at gang membership and other factors for FY 2012-13, and makes a comparison between Durham County, comparison counties and statewide averages. The six North Carolina counties were selected for comparison based on population, racial demographics, economic demographics and educational demographics. The six counties are: Cabarrus, Cumberland, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, and New Hanover.

³ This information is taken from published “Risk and Needs Assessments” from fiscal years 2009-10 to 2011-12. FY 2012-13 data was provided by Cindy Porterfield, North Carolina Department of Public Safety JCPC area consultant for Durham County on December 19, 2013

Chart E2 – JCPC Risk and Needs Assessment



Examination of the data reveals that Durham County is in line with the average of good peers and the numbers of those associating with delinquent peers is considered. However, Durham County court involved youth have a higher percentage of family members who are currently incarcerated, on probation or known gang members (14.1%) than the average of comparison counties (7.8%) or the statewide average (7.8%). And in FY 2012-13 a far greater percentage of court involved youth (25.5%) are classified as gang members or associates than the average for comparison counties (6.3%) or the statewide average (5.6%).

The data for numbers of gang members/associates in Durham County is of great interest because it is one of the few, if not the only, official measurements of juvenile gang members/associates in Durham County. It is important to note that that number of distinct juveniles falling into this classification for Durham County (n=128) in FY 2012-13 only includes juveniles who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system during that time frame. Other juveniles who had previous contact with juvenile justice or those who have had no juvenile justice contact may be gang members or associates,

yet are not part of the FY 2012-13 count.

There is some question as to the validity of the JCPC Risk and Needs Assessment data with regards to gang members and associates since there are a number of limitations and inconsistencies with the interview process. Data is collected by juvenile court counselors at the time of intake for *risk assessments* and is gathered as a court counselor continues to work with a child for the *needs assessment*. The information is then put into the North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN).

Do JCPC programs have an impact on reducing gang membership/association in Durham?

Given the limitations and inconsistencies of collecting data on gang membership/association, it is difficult to say with certainty that Durham County's JCPC programs are effective at reducing risk factors that contribute to the lure of gangs for Durham youth. The JCPC's main focus is "identifying community focused evidence-based strategies and services most likely to reduce/prevent delinquent behavior".⁴

Certainly, some funded programs (Parenting of Adolescents, for example) address the root problems that contribute to gang membership. All of the programs are monitored for results and program outcomes and each program must show evidence of being research-based. Many of the programs are focused on developing and strengthening effective and accessible alternatives to delinquent behavior, including gang membership/association.

Perhaps the funded program that most directly impacts gang membership is Project BUILD, which received \$93,599 of direct JCPC funding in FY 2013-14. This amount represents just over 17% of JCPC allocations for FY 2013-14. Project BUILD seeks to reduce gang activity in targeted communities by "providing highly structured case management through targeted outreach and intervention planning for high-risk gang-involved youth".⁵

Based on 3-year NC JOIN data, the Durham County JCPC has achieved measurable success in reducing detention admissions and YDC commitments as well as increasing the number of youth placed on diversion plans or contracts, but not enough data is collected and available to determine whether the funded programs as a whole have a significant impact on reducing gang membership or association.

⁴ Durham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council 2013-14 Annual Plan

⁵ Durham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council 2013-14 Annual Plan: A detailed description of Project BUILD can be found elsewhere in this report.

Risk Assessment Instrument

Risk Assessment, Page 1

NORTH CAROLINA ASSESSMENT OF JUVENILE RISK OF FUTURE OFFENDING

Juvenile Name (F, M, L)	DOB:
County of Residence:	
Juvenile Race: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Juvenile Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Date Assessment Completed:	Completed by:

Instructions: Complete each assessment item R1 to R9 using the best available information. Check the numeric score associated with each item response and enter it on the line to the right of the item. Total the item scores to determine the level of risk and check the appropriate risk level in R10. Identify the most serious current offense in R11. Assessment items R1-R5 are historical in nature and should be answered based on the juvenile's lifetime. Items R6 and R7 should be evaluated over the 12 months prior to the assessment. R8-R9 should be evaluated as of the time of the assessment. Use the Comments section at the end as needed for additional information or clarification.

R1.	Age when first delinquent offense alleged in a complaint: Check appropriate score and enter the actual age	Score
	a. Age 12 or over or no delinquent complaint	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Under age 12	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Actual age: _____	
R2.	Number of undisciplined or delinquent referrals to Intake (Referrals are instances of complaints coming through the Intake process. A referral may include multiple complaints; for example, breaking or entering and larceny, or multiple larcenies or other offenses that occur at one time.)	
	a. Current referral only	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. 1 Prior referral	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
	c. 2-3 Prior referrals	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	d. 4+ Prior referrals	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
R3.	Most serious prior adjudication(s). Enter the actual number of prior adjudications for each class of offense shown in b through e then check the score for <u>only</u> the most serious offense for which there has been a prior adjudication. The maximum possible score for this item is 4.	
	a. No Prior Adjudications	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Prior Undisciplined # of adjudications:	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Prior Class 1-3 misdemeanors # of adjudications:	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	d. Prior Class F-I felonies or A1 misdemeanors # of adjudications:	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
	e. Prior Class A-E felonies # of adjudications:	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
R4.	Prior Assaults: "Assault" is defined as any assaultive behavior, whether physical or sexual, with or without a weapon as evidenced by a prior delinquent complaint. Record the number of complaints for each assault category shown. Then check the score for the assault category with the highest numerical score. The maximum possible score for this item is 5.	
	a. No assaults	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Involvement in an affray # of complaints:	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Yes, without a weapon # of complaints:	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	d. Yes, without a weapon, inflicting serious injury # of complaints:	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
	e. Yes, with a weapon # of complaints:	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
	f. Yes, with a weapon inflicting serious injury # of complaints:	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
R5.	Runaways (from home or placement): "Runaway" is defined as absconding from home or any placement and not voluntarily returning within twenty-four (24) hours as evidenced by a complaint, motion for review, or from reliable information. Check appropriate score.	
	a. No	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Yes	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Actual number of runaway incidents: _____	
R6.	Known use of alcohol or illegal drugs during past 12 months: Do not include tobacco in scoring this item. Check appropriate score.	
	a. No known substance use	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Some substance use, need for further assessment	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Substance abuse, assessment and/or treatment needed	3 <input type="checkbox"/>

R7.	School behavior problems during the prior 12 months: Check appropriate score.	
	a. No problems (Enrolled, attending regularly)	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Minor problems (attending with problems handled by teacher/school personnel, or 1-3 unexcused absences/truancy)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Moderate problems (4 to 10 unexcused absences /truancy, or 1 or more in-school suspensions or 1 short-term suspension – up to 10 days)	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	d. Serious problems (more than 1 short-term suspension, or 1 or more long-term suspension, or more than 10 unexcused absences or expelled/dropped out.)	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
R8.	Peer relationships: Check appropriate score. Put check in the line following appropriate information	
	a. Peers usually provide good support and influence	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Youth is rejected by pro-social peers <input type="checkbox"/> , or youth sometimes associates with others who have been involved in delinquent/criminal activity but is not primary peer group <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Youth regularly associates with others who are involved in delinquent/criminal activity	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
	d. Youth is a gang member <input type="checkbox"/> or associates with a gang <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
R9.	Parental supervision: (Score the current responsible parental authority) Check appropriate score.	
	a. Parent, guardian or custodian willing and able to supervise	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Parent, guardian or custodian willing but unable to supervise	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Parent, guardian or custodian unwilling to supervise	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
R10.	TOTAL RISK SCORE	0

Check Risk Level: Low risk (0-7) Medium Risk (8-14) High Risk (15+)

R11. Completed before or after adjudication: (check) before after
 Most serious offense alleged /adjudicated in current complain/petition:

Statute number: _____

Class offense: A-E Felony F-I Felony, A1 Misdemeanor Class 1-3 Misdemeanor
 Undisciplined

Note: Risk level is to be considered along with the current offense.

COMMENTS:

NORTH CAROLINA ASSESSMENT OF JUVENILE NEEDS

Juvenile Name (F, M, L)		DOB:
County of Residence:		
Juvenile Race: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Juvenile Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Date Assessment Completed:	Completed by:	

Instructions: Complete each needs assessment item using the best available information. Check the score associated with the most appropriate item choice and enter the number on the line to the left of the item. Items that are of a current nature should be considered as of the time of the assessment unless a time period for consideration is noted. Assessment items that are historical in nature (Y6 and F5) should be answered based on the juvenile or family member's lifetime. Total the points for all items to determine the total need score and then check the appropriate needs level (low, medium or high). Complete the information source checklist. Finally, identify at least three priority needs for constructing a case plan and appropriate service interventions. Give additional information as needed in the Comments section.

YOUTH NEEDS

Score

Y1. Peer Relationships

- 0 a. Peers usually provide good support and influence.
- 2 b. Youth is rejected by pro-social peers.
- 3 c. Youth sometimes associates with others who have been involved in delinquent/criminal activity but this is not a primary peer group.
- 4 d. Youth regularly associates with others who are involved in delinquent/criminal activity.
- 5 e. Youth is a gang member or associates with a gang .

Name of gang _____

Y2. School Behavior/Adjustment

- 0 a. No problems. Youth is attending regularly , graduated , or has GED .
- 1 b. Minor problems. Work effort , or disciplinary problems that were handled by classroom teacher/school personnel or 1-3 unexcused absences/truancy .
- 3 c. Moderate problems. Youth has 4 to 10 unexcused absences , or received 1 or more in-school suspensions , or 1 short-term suspension (i.e. less than 10 days) .
- 4 d. Serious problems. Youth has dropped out of school , or been expelled , or received more than one short-term suspension , or one long-term suspension (10 days or more) , or has more than 10 unexcused absences .

Y3. General Academic Functioning

- 0 a. Generally functioning above or at grade level , or is placed in appropriate Exceptional Children's program .
- 3 b. Generally functioning below grade level. Needs an educational evaluation , or has identified Exceptional Children's needs that are unserved .

Check Assessed Exceptional Children's needs: Autism , Behaviorally Emotionally Disabled , Deaf/Blind , Gifted/Talented , Hearing Impaired , Mentally Disabled , Multi-handicapped , Orthopedically Impaired , Other Health Impaired , Pregnant Student , Specific Learning Disabled , Speech/Language Impaired , Traumatic Brain Injury , Visually Impaired

Y4. Substance Abuse within past 12 months. Do not consider tobacco in this item.

- 0 a. No known substance use.
- 1 b. Some substance use, need for further assessment.
- 3 c. Substance abuse, assessment and/or treatment needed.

Check all that apply: Denial Refusal of treatment
 Unmet need for treatment Prior treatment failures Currently in treatment

Describe substance abuse noted above by type: (check all that apply, leave blank if none)
 Cocaine Amphetamines Opiates Inhalants
 Alcohol Cannabinoids Other

Y5. Juvenile Parent Status

- 0 a. Juvenile is not a parent.
 1 b. Juvenile is a parent, but does *not* have custody of child.
 2 c. Juvenile is a parent or an expectant parent but has adequate childcare support.
 4 d. Juvenile is a parent or an expectant parent but inadequate childcare support.
 Number of children _____

Y6. History of Victimization by Caregiver Or Others

- 0 a. No history or evidence of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect or other criminal victimization.
 2 b. Victimization with appropriate support. History or evidence of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect or other criminal victimization with appropriate response to protect against subsequent victimization.
 3 c. Victimization without support. One or more incidents of victimization, failure to protect against subsequent victimization.
 Check all that apply to the youth: physical abuse , sexual abuse , emotional abuse , neglect , criminal victimization , other _____

Y7. Sexual Behavior During Past 12 Months

- 0 a. No apparent problem.
 2 b. Behavior that needs further assessment such as use of pornography , obscene phone calls , voyeurism , uses sexually explicit language or gestures or other _____.
 3 c. Engages in sexual practices that are potentially dangerous to self or others .
 4 d. Youth's sexual adjustment/behavior results in victimization of others . May use sexual expression/behavior to attain power and control over others .

Y8. Mental Health

- 0 a. No need for mental health care indicated.
 1 b. Has mental health needs that are being addressed.
 3 c. Behavior indicates a need for additional mental health assessment or treatment .
- Check all behaviors that apply:
- | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> | Self mutilation <input type="checkbox"/> | Sad <input type="checkbox"/> | Runs away <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Confused <input type="checkbox"/> | Hallucinations <input type="checkbox"/> | Anxious <input type="checkbox"/> | Fights <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sleep problems <input type="checkbox"/> | Eating problems <input type="checkbox"/> | Angry <input type="checkbox"/> | Restless <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Risk-taking/impulsive <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | |
- Diagnosis (from MH professional) _____

Y9. Basic Physical Needs/Independent Living

- 0 a. Youth is living with parents, guardian or custodian. Basic needs for food, shelter and protection are met.
 1 b. Youth is in temporary residential care or shelter or living independently with basic needs for food, shelter and protection being met .
 2 c. Youth is living with parents, guardian or custodian. Basic needs are not being met. Food needs not met , shelter needs not met , protection needs not met .
 3 d. Youth is living independently. Basic needs are not being met. Food needs not met , shelter needs not met , protection needs not met .

Y10. Health & Hygiene (exclude Mental Health Conditions)

- 0 a. No apparent problem.
 1 b. Youth has medical , dental , health/ hygiene education needs which do not impair functioning. Youth uses tobacco products .
 2 c. Youth has physical handicap or chronic illness that limits functioning and the condition is being treated.
 3 d. Youth has physical handicap or chronic illness that limits functioning and the condition is not being treated. Youth does not comply with prescribed medication or has an unmet need for prescribed medication .