Raise the Juvenile Age Update: Recommendation from the Youth Subcommittee

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Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

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Juvenile Court Jurisdiction  
Age 6 – Age 15

- Complaint in juvenile court
- Heard in juvenile court
- Parent required to be involved
- Sanctions on a continuum
- Confined in youth facility
- Records are confidential
- Avoids collateral consequences

Adult Criminal Justice System  
Age 16+

- Charged like an adult
- Held in jail
- Convicted of a crime
- Little parental involvement
- Serves sentence in prison
- All records are public
- Severe collateral consequences
- Complaint in juvenile court
- Heard in juvenile court
- Parent required to be involved
- Sanctions on a continuum
- Confined in youth facility
- Records are confidential
- Avoids collateral consequences

- Charged like an adult
- Held in jail
- Convicted of a crime
- Little parental involvement
- Serves sentence in prison
- All records are public
- Severe collateral consequences
Most NC Youthful Offenders Commit Misdemeanors & Non-Violent Felonies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent felonies</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanors</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-violent felonies</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impulsivity Declines with Age

(Steinberg, et.al., 2008)
Sensation-seeking Declines with Age

(Steinberg, et.al., 2008)
Preferences for Risk Peaks in Mid-Adolescence

(Steinberg, et al., 2009)
Risk Perception Declines and then Increases After Mid-Adolescence

(Steinberg, et al., 2009)
Future Orientation Increases with Age

(Steinberg, et al., 2009)
Older Individuals Are More Willing to Delay Gratification

(Steinberg, et al., 2009)
With Age, Longer Time Spent Thinking Before Acting

(Steinberg & Monahan, 2007)
With Age, Individuals Become More Resistant to Peer Influence

(Steinberg & Monahan, 2007)
Peers Increase Risky Driving among Teenagers and College Students, but Not Adults

(Gardner & Steinberg, 2005)
Teens:

- Engage in greater risk-taking behavior
- Less ability to regulate behavior
- More responsive to peer influence
- Less able to weigh long-term consequences
- More sensitive to rewards, especially immediate ones
- Less able to control impulsive behaviors & choices
- Less responsive to threat of criminal sanctions
• Teens are less culpable than adults
• Most teens mature out of crime
• Non-punitive responses (family support, counseling, job skills, etc.) available in juvenile system work best
• Positive peer influences (prosocial peers & adults versus hardened criminals) matter
NC’s juvenile delinquency rate* is at an all-time low.

NC’s delinquency rate decreased 21% from 2008 through 2012.

*Delinquency rate is defined as delinquent complaints received per 1,000 youth ages 6-15 (DPS, 2016).
In 2012, 44% of all complaints received were school-based.

Non School-Based: 19,359 (55.7%)
School-Based: 15,410 (44.3%)
In 2012, 44% of all complaints received were school-based.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Distinguished Professor, School of Government,
UNC-Chapel Hill
References


NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice’s Rehabilitative Programs and Services Section: January 28, 2016. Statistics Request: 2000-2014 Delinquency Rate (Rate is of delinquent complaints per 1,000 youth age 6-15). Reference Table 1 of SR1601-24.

