



**Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers  
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**Submitted by:  
Department of Public Safety  
Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice  
Juvenile Community Programs Section**

## Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers

Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers (JCACs) are the newest addition to the array of programs offered by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Introduced to the juvenile justice service continuum in 2015, and located strategically in the Central, Piedmont, and Western areas of the state, the centers provide short-term residential crisis intervention and assessment services to juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17, with the primary goal of developing a comprehensive clinical assessment to assist with matching youth to the most appropriate needed services in their communities. Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center, located in Butner, NC, opened in November 2015; Bridges Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center, located in Winston Salem, NC, opened in March 2016; and the Western Area Multi-Purpose Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center opened in October 2016. Two of the three sites are housed in former state and county detention centers, and one is located at a former youth development center. Each is designated to serve various regions of the state.

- **Eastern and Central Catchment Areas**  
Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center  
100 Dillon Drive, Butner, NC 27509
  - Capacity: 12
- **Piedmont Catchment Area**  
Bridges Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center  
5550 Sturmer Park Circle, Winston-Salem, NC 27105
  - Capacity: 8
- **Western Catchment Area**  
Western Area Multi-Purpose Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center  
20 Lees Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28806
  - Capacity: 9 (Blended Model: 5 Crisis Beds and 4 Secure Custody Beds)

The Crisis and Assessment Centers are designed to serve juveniles ages 10 to 17 for a length of stay of up to 30 days. Services include crisis intervention and assessment services with psychometric testing in the areas of education, behavior, personality, and intelligence. If indicated, additional assessments are provided for specific areas of need such as sexual predation, substance abuse, and trauma. Assessments are administered under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and licensed clinical case managers. Testing information is combined with information obtained through daily living aspects of the program, an evidence-based Model of Care that incorporates cognitive-behavioral techniques through daily interaction with the youth.

The centers provide a structured environment and include recreation, school, meals, individual rooms, group work, socialization skill-building, and counseling. This combination allows for a more complete look at the complex needs of youth and assists with identifying the youth's strengths, areas of concern, and goals.

All youth admitted to the centers are provided educational services in accordance with North Carolina's Standard Course of Study. The centers work closely with each youth's home school to coordinate educational services. The centers formally request, by letter, educational information

(school attendance, report cards, behavioral reports, IEPs, and 504 plans) for each youth. Because most admissions to the centers are planned, educational material may accompany youth to a center. Some youth access web-based instruction during their stays, while others work within lesson plans that are implemented by the centers' certified teachers. All centers employ certified, highly qualified instructors and work to keep youth up to date with coursework. IEP's and 504 plans are strictly followed.

Close communication with each youth's home school prevents a school withdrawal. Crisis and Assessment Center placements are generally deemed and coded as hospitalizations by local school data managers and are considered excused absences. Upon discharge, clients exit the centers with discharge information and supporting documentation which promotes ease of transition back to home schools.

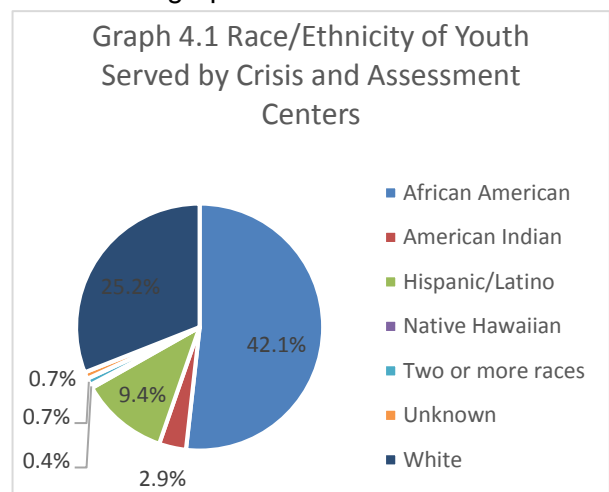
Approximately 29% of youth admitted to the Crisis and Assessment Centers receive special education services and have Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) at admission. In addition, 20% of youth admitted that did not have an IEP were found to be in need of one based on outcomes generated from educational and IQ testing administered to them at the centers—all of whom receive follow-up referral information to initiate appropriate special educational services upon discharge.

Based on a sampling of youth admissions to the centers, 50% were regularly attending schools, 23% had sporadic school attendance and 27% of the youth were not attending school—this includes expulsions, suspensions, youth not enrolled, and youth enrolled but not attending. The Crisis and Assessment Centers work towards re-engaging youth who may have lost interest in school and maintaining motivation of those that perform well in school. Class sizes are small and youth receive individualized attention and assignments that incorporate choice and positive reinforcement in the context of the Model of Care, which provides incentives and social skill rehearsal opportunities in the classroom instead of a punitive educational environment that may exist in the traditional classroom environment.

At discharge, the youth, family, and court counselor are provided a comprehensive clinical assessment and a user-friendly evaluation report, accompanied by clear and actionable recommendations and plan of care. The following are a few demographics of the Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers as noted in the March 1, 2018 report to the Chairs of House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety:

**Demographics for youth served in FY 16-17**

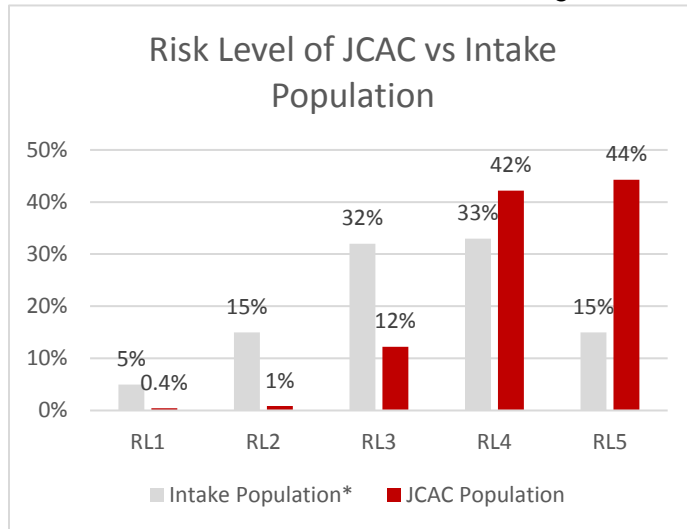
- 100% of youth served were under court supervision
- 278 youth were served; 52 of those served were in secure custody at the Western Area



### Multi-Purpose Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center

- Average age of youth served: 14.8 years old
- 71% of youth served were male
- 29% of youth served were female
- Average length of stay for youth: 36 days
- 95% of youth served by the assessment center were successfully discharged

The Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers served a total of 309 youth in fiscal year 2017-18, 244 youth receiving crisis and assessment services and an additional 65 juveniles receiving secure placements within the blended program model at the Western Area Multi-Purpose Crisis and Assessment Center. The majority of juveniles referred and admitted to the crisis and assessment centers are considered at a higher risk for reoffending than other juveniles at juvenile



court intake. While crisis and assessment centers generally serve Level II disposition juvenile offenders between the age range of 10 to 17, some admission criteria exceptions are made based on the immediacy of need and concern. The centers have proven to be invaluable for meeting the needs of very young juveniles in lieu of detention services. Also, particularly in a time of heightened attention to school safety, the centers have served as an immediate resource for juveniles that have posed a threat within the school environment.

Crisis and assessment centers provide an effective and cost efficient alternative to detention, and serve as an essential resource in the continuum of juvenile services. These centers promote continuity of care in the juvenile justice system, based on the use of the Model of Care, the same intervention model being used in detention and youth development centers across the state. Due to the limited length of stays for youth admitted to the centers and the primary type of service being delivered (assessment), recidivism is not tracked for this service. While services provided render valuable outcomes in meeting the assessment and crisis intervention needs of youth, assessment services are not intended to be evaluated to affect recidivism.