



# School Justice Partnerships:

A Program to Keep Kids in School and Out of Court

NC State Board of Education Fall Planning and Work Session

November 6, 2019



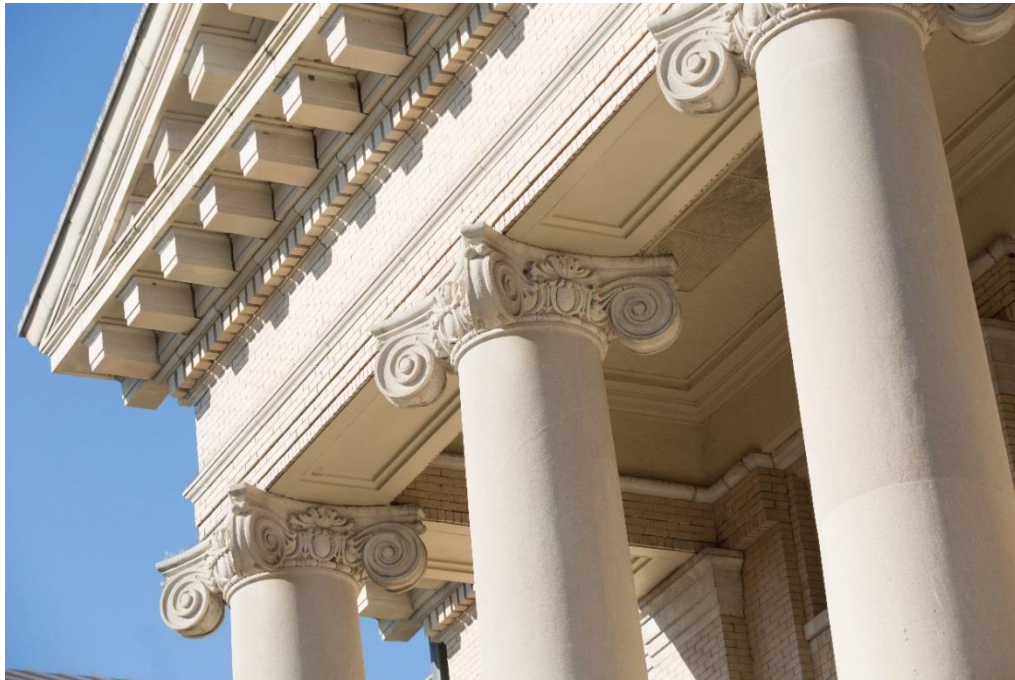
School Justice  
Partnership  
NORTH CAROLINA

# “Raise the Age”



- Enacted in July 2017
  - Based on recommendation by the Chief Justice’s Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice (NCCALJ)
- Increases the maximum age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 to 18
  - **96%** of 16 and 17-year-olds convicted in adult court will move to juvenile court
- “Raise the Age” is a top priority for the NC Judicial Branch

# School Justice Partnerships



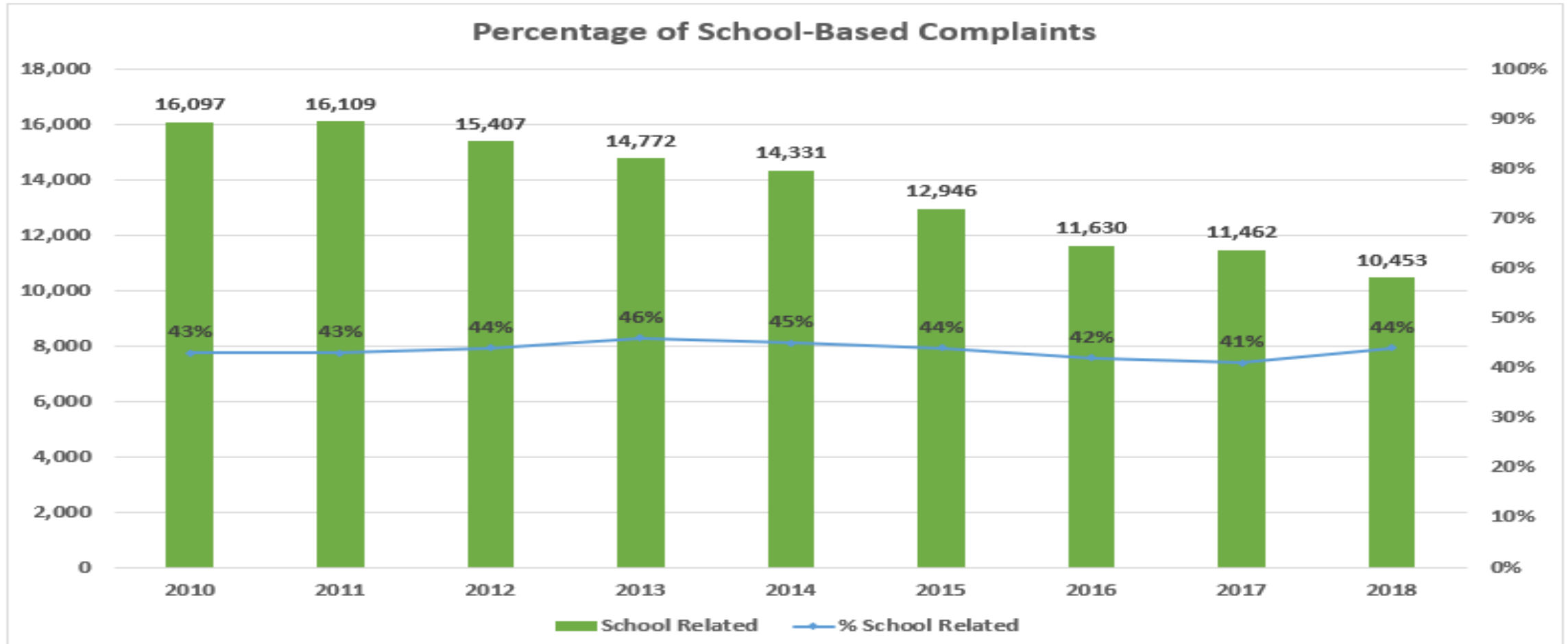
- “Raise the Age” authorizes statewide expansion of SJPs in order to reduce:
  - In school arrests;
  - Out of school suspensions; and
  - Expulsions.



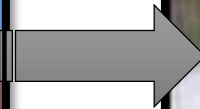
# What is a School Justice Partnership?

- Collaboration among local stakeholders to help students succeed in school and prevent negative outcomes for youth and communities.
- **Main Goal** = keeping kids in school and out of court for minor misconduct.

# NC School-Based Complaints



# the School to Prison Pipeline (STPP)



# Potential Impact



- Lower Academic Achievement
  - Suspension increases the risk that a student will repeat a grade or drop out of school.
  - One suspension triples the likelihood a child will become involved in the juvenile justice system.
    - *Breaking Schools' Rules*. Tony Fabelo, et. al (2011)
- Higher Recidivism
- Permanent Criminal Record for 16 & 17-year-olds
- Outcomes worsen with deeper involvement in court system

# Disproportionality



- Exclusionary discipline practices disproportionately impact certain groups of students:
  - Youth of Color
  - Black Students
  - Students with Disabilities
  - Male Students

# Racial Disparities



## Youth of Color

- 2.5x more likely to be referred to juvenile court than white youth
- 1.5x more likely to be placed in secure confinement than white youth

## Black Students

- 4x more likely to be suspended or expelled than white students
- 3.7x more likely to be referred to juvenile court than white students

### Sources:

2018 Juvenile Justice Annual Report, NC Department of Public Safety.

2018 NC Racial Equity Report Card, Youth Justice Project NC.

# Other Disparities



## Students with Disabilities

- More than twice as likely to be suspended

## Male Students

- Are roughly half of the student population but receive 73% of STS and 80% of LTS

# SJPs Produce Better Outcomes



- Eliminates harmful collateral consequences of court involvement
- Provides accountability through age-appropriate consequences
- Improves school safety and school climate
- Improves student academic achievement
- Reduces disparate impact

# HOW DO SJPs Work?



- Chief district court judge serves as the “convener”
- As conveners, judges bring the relevant stakeholders together to collaborate
- Key Stakeholders include but are not limited to:
  - Juvenile Justice Personnel
  - Law Enforcement Officials
  - School Superintendent
  - School Administrators
  - School Board Attorneys
  - Prosecutors and Juvenile Defenders
  - Parents and Family Partners

# The Goal



- To adopt an SJP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that:
  - Sets clear guidelines for the roles of law enforcement and school officials in responding to student misconduct
  - Limits the use of court referrals and suspension for minor student misconduct
  - Implements a **Graduated Response Model**
  - Meets the needs of the local community
  - Includes input from all community partners
- The Model SJP MOU is simply a starting point, if needed.

# The Toolkit



- A resource for convening stakeholder meetings with tools designed to help local communities establish an SJP.
- What's included?
  - Research on effective school discipline
  - Evidence based strategies and programs
  - Model MOU and other templates
  - Sample graduated response model
  - Sample data collection and monitoring plan

# NC Counties with an SJP



- Beaufort County (October 2019)
- Brunswick County (July 2017)
- Greene County (March 2018)
- Franklin County (October 2019)
- Lenoir County (March 2018)
- Martin County (October 2019)
- Mecklenburg County (January 2016)
- New Hanover County (November 2015)
- Stanly County (July 2018)
- Washington County (September 2019)
- Wayne County (April 2018)
- Whiteville City Schools (July 2019)

❖ *Several more counties are in the process of establishing SJPs but have not yet adopted an MOU.*

# The Results



- Clayton County, GA “School Referral Reduction Protocol” (Judge Steven Teske)
  - MOA implemented in 2004
  - **67.4%** reduction in school based referrals
  - **43%** reduction in referrals of youth of color
  - **73%** reduction in serious weapons on campus
  - **24% increase** in graduation rates
- New Hanover County, NC (est. 2015)
  - Higher graduation rates
  - **67%** reduction in school-based referrals since 2013-2014
  - In 2017-2018, **24%** of students referred to an SRO entered the court system
    - Prior to the SJP, it was **86%** of students

# Brunswick County

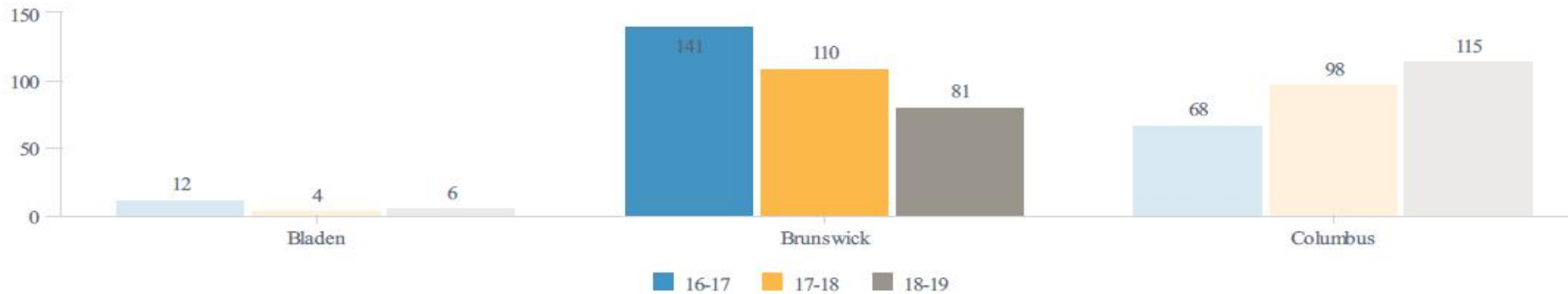
(total school-based complaints)



## DELINQUENT SCHOOL-BASED COMPLAINTS



SBO by Districts

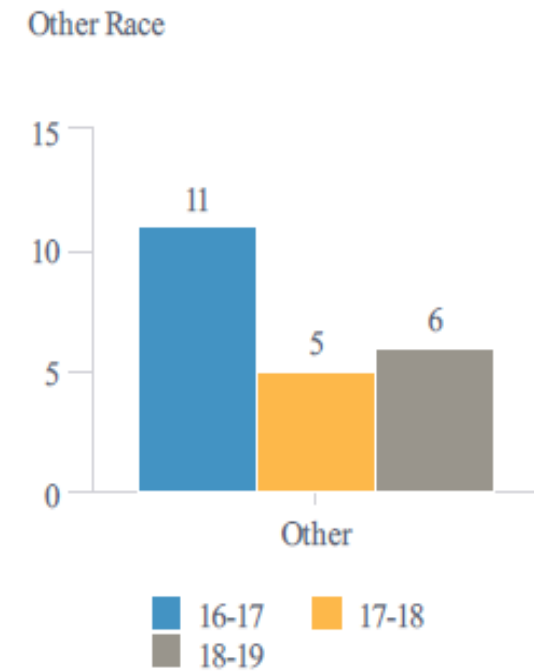
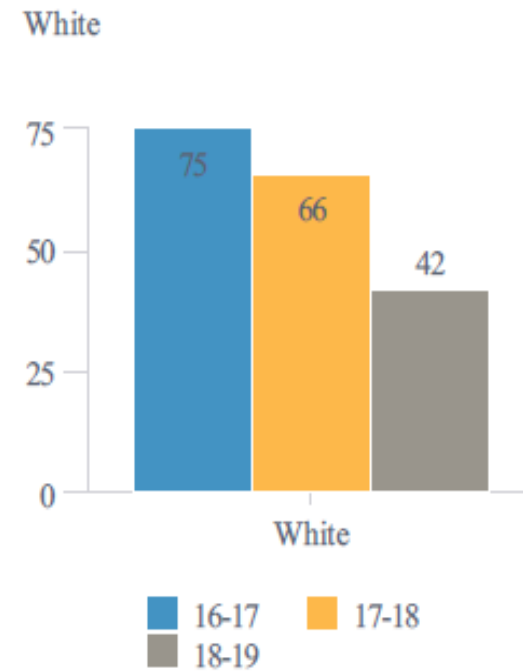
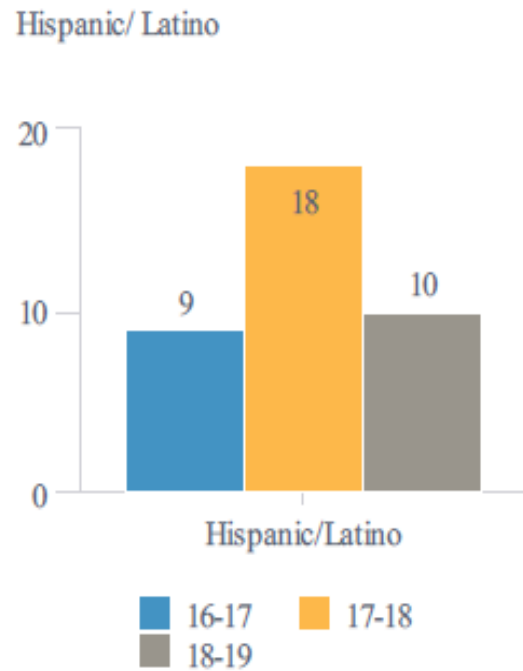
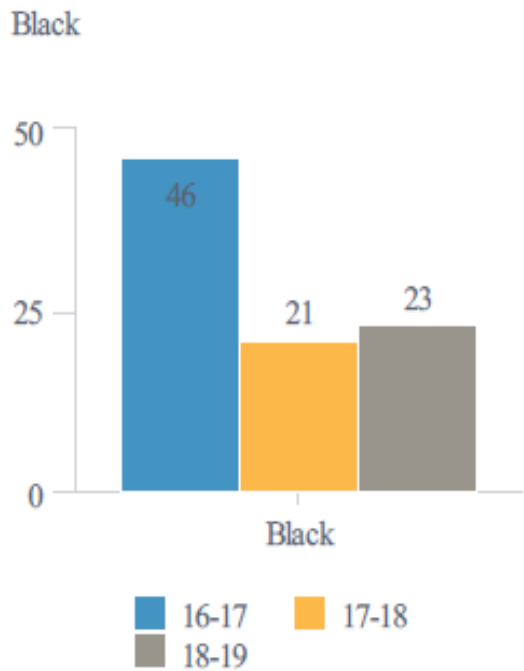


# Brunswick County

(school-based complaints by race)



Filters County Brunswick

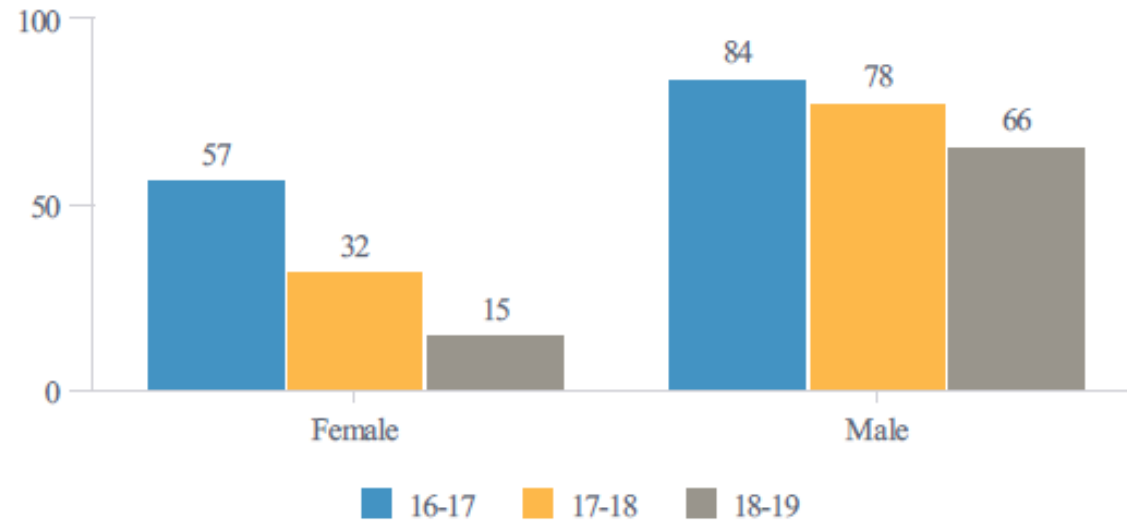


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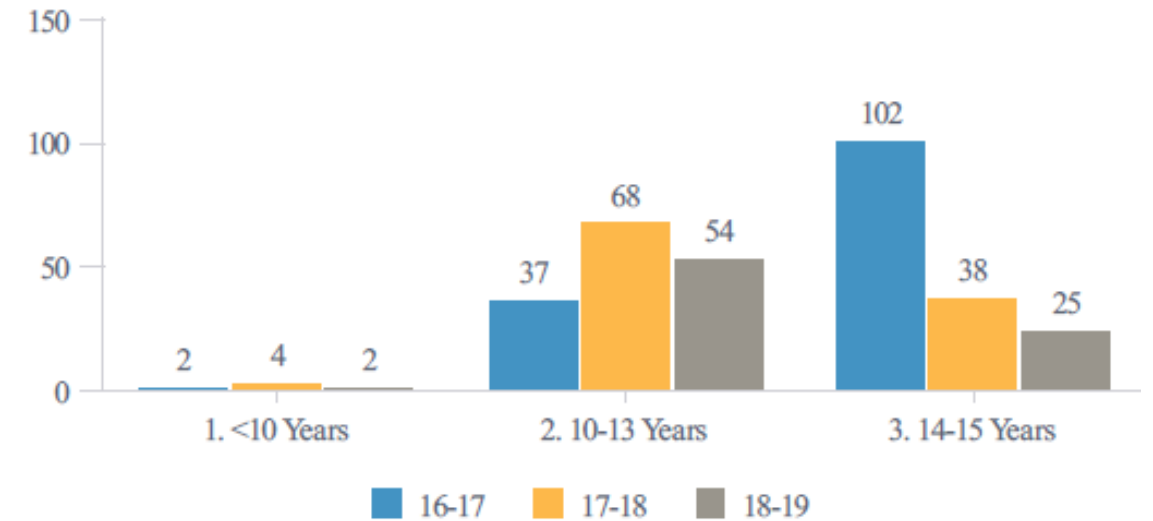
(school-based complaints by gender, age)



By Gender



By Age

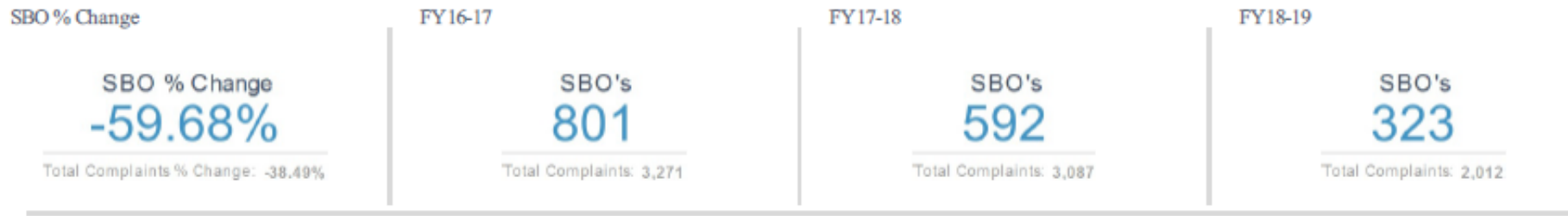


# Mecklenburg County

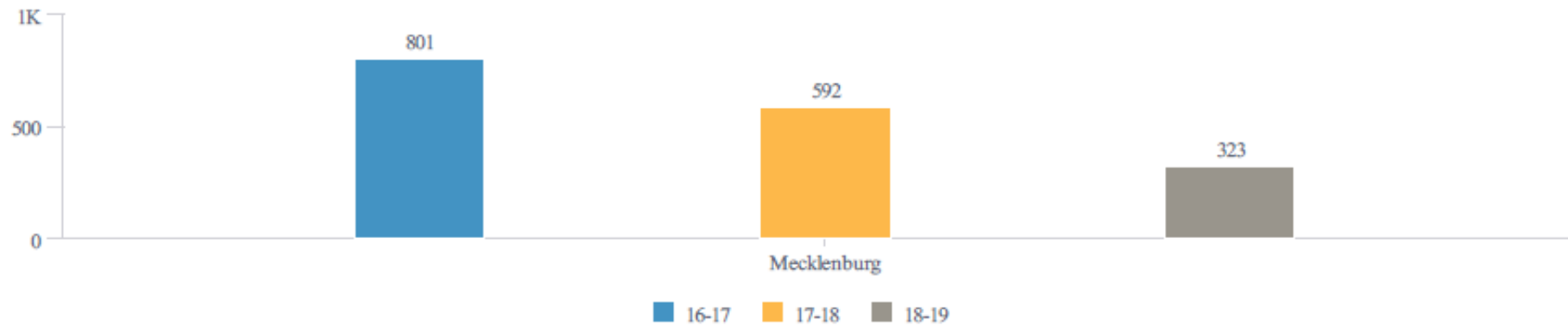
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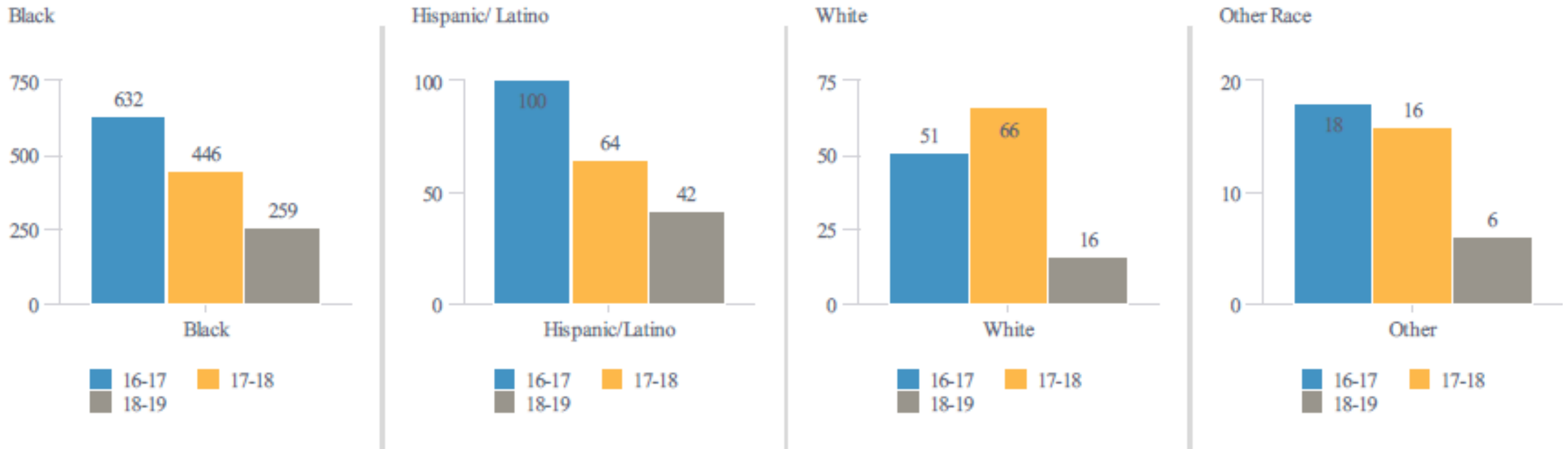


# Mecklenburg County

(school-based complaints by race)



Filters County Mecklenburg

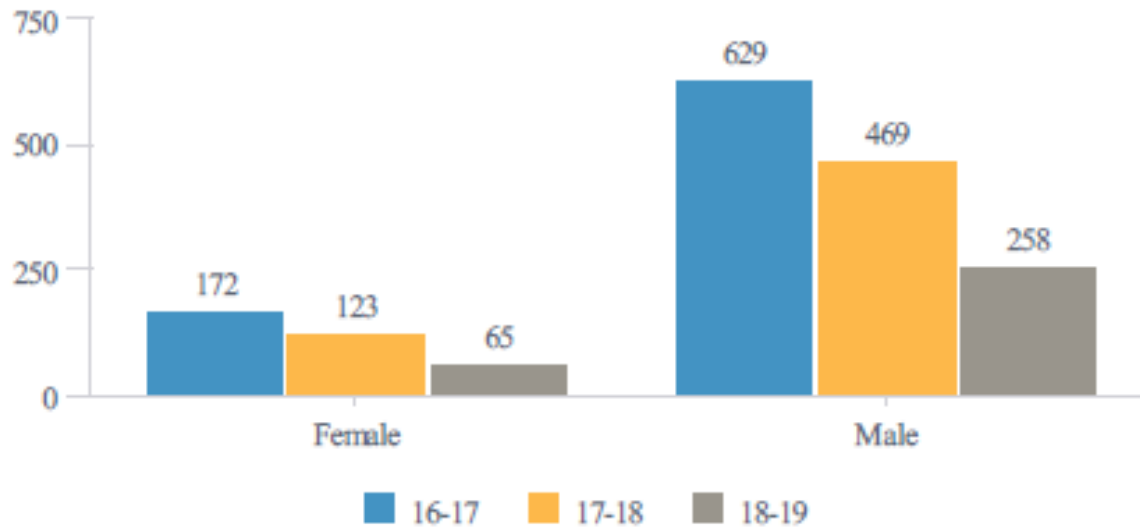


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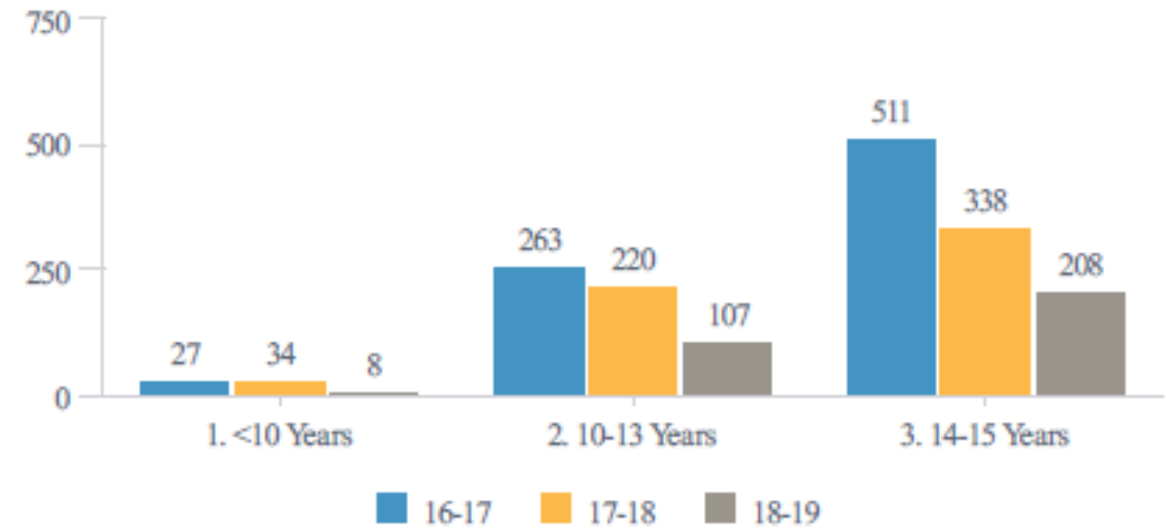
(school-based complaints by gender, age)



By Gender



By Age



# Access the Toolkit



- Visit [SJP.NCCOURTS.GOV](https://www.sjp.nccourts.gov) to obtain a copy of the Toolkit and other SJP resources, such as:
  - SJP Fact Sheet
  - List of existing SJPs with links to each county's MOU
  - Statewide data on school-based offenses
  - News articles and videos
- To learn more about SJP North Carolina, you may also contact the NCAOC at [SJP@NCCOURTS.ORG](mailto:SJP@NCCOURTS.ORG).



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