



Raise the Juvenile Age Update: Recommendation from the Youth Subcommittee

William Lassiter, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice

Department of Public Safety

Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

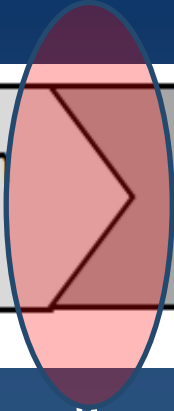
Juvenile Court Jurisdiction
Age 6 – Age 15

Adult Criminal Justice System
Age 16+

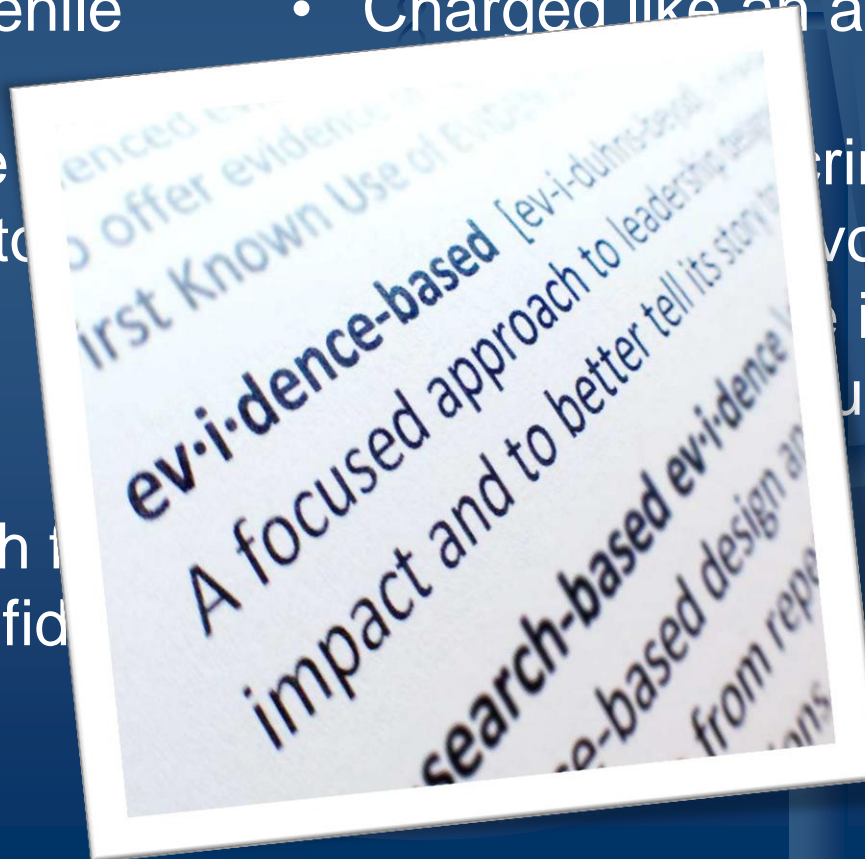
- Complaint in juvenile court
 - Heard in juvenile court
 - Parent required to be involved
 - Sanctions on a continuum
 - Confined in youth facility
 - Records are confidential
 - Avoids collateral consequences
- Charged like an adult
 - Held in jail
 - Convicted of a crime
 - Little parental involvement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

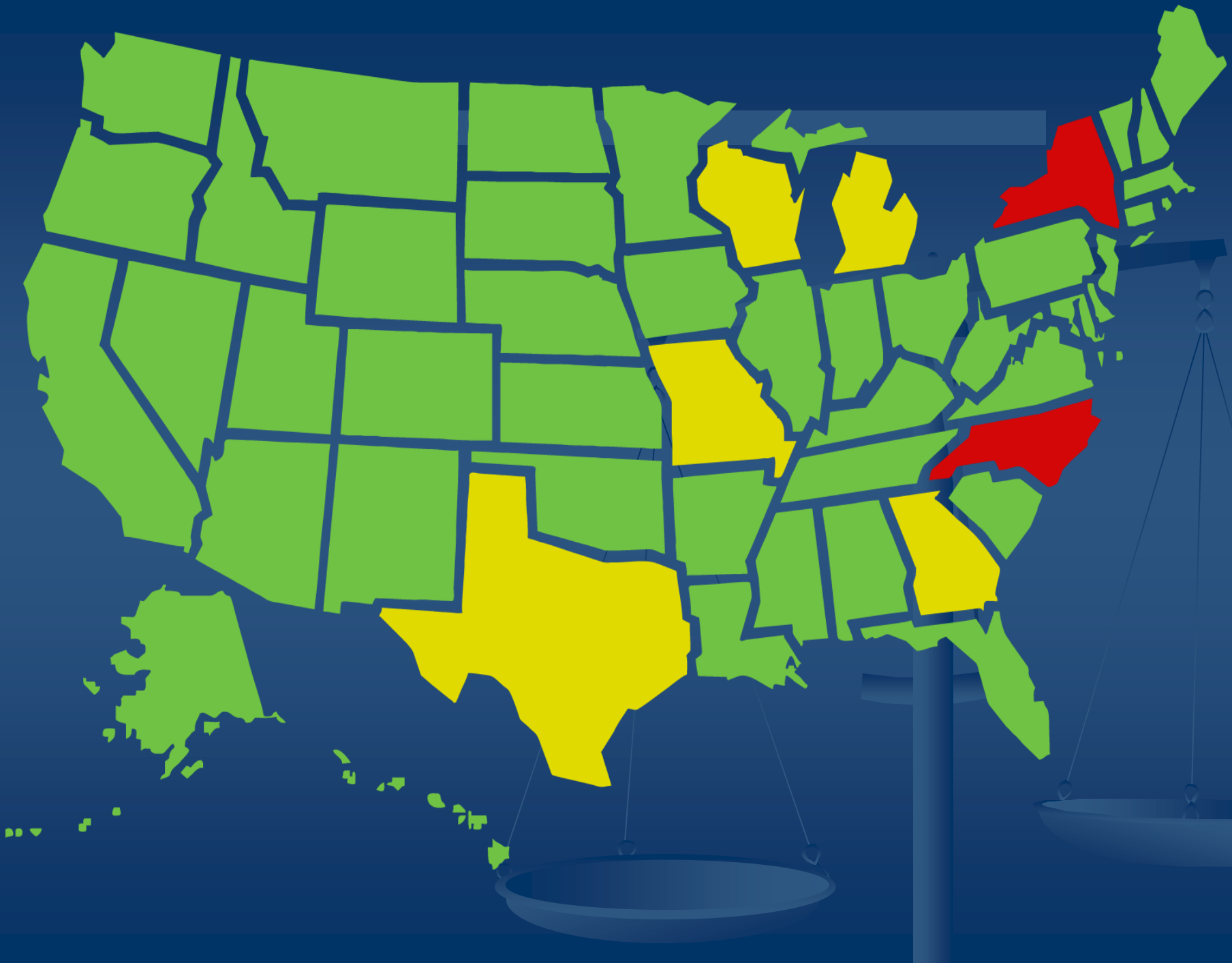
Juvenile Court Jurisdiction
Age 6 – Age 15

Adult Criminal Justice System
Age 16+



- Complaint in juvenile court
- Heard in juvenile court
- Parent required to be involved
- Sanctions on a continuum
- Confined in youth facilities
- Records are confidential
- Avoids collateral consequences
- Charged like an adult
- Crime involvement
- In prison
- Public



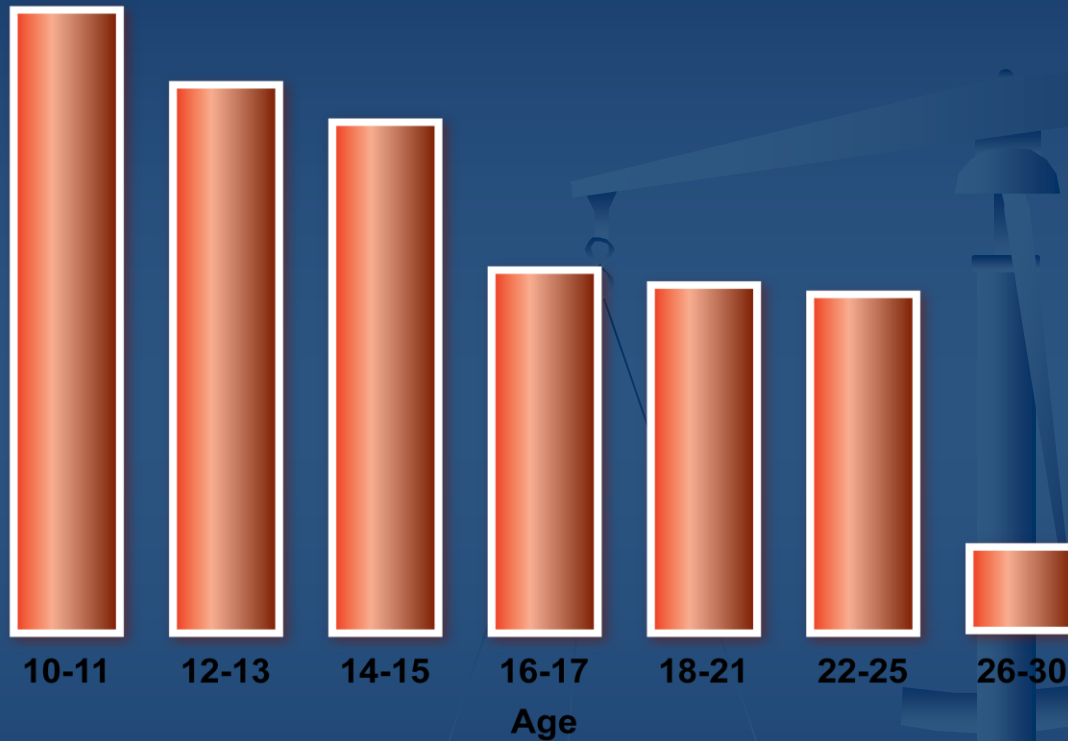


Most NC Youthful Offenders Commit Misdemeanors & Non-Violent Felonies

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Violent felonies | 3.3% |
| Misdemeanors | 80.4% |
| Non-violent felonies | 16.3% |

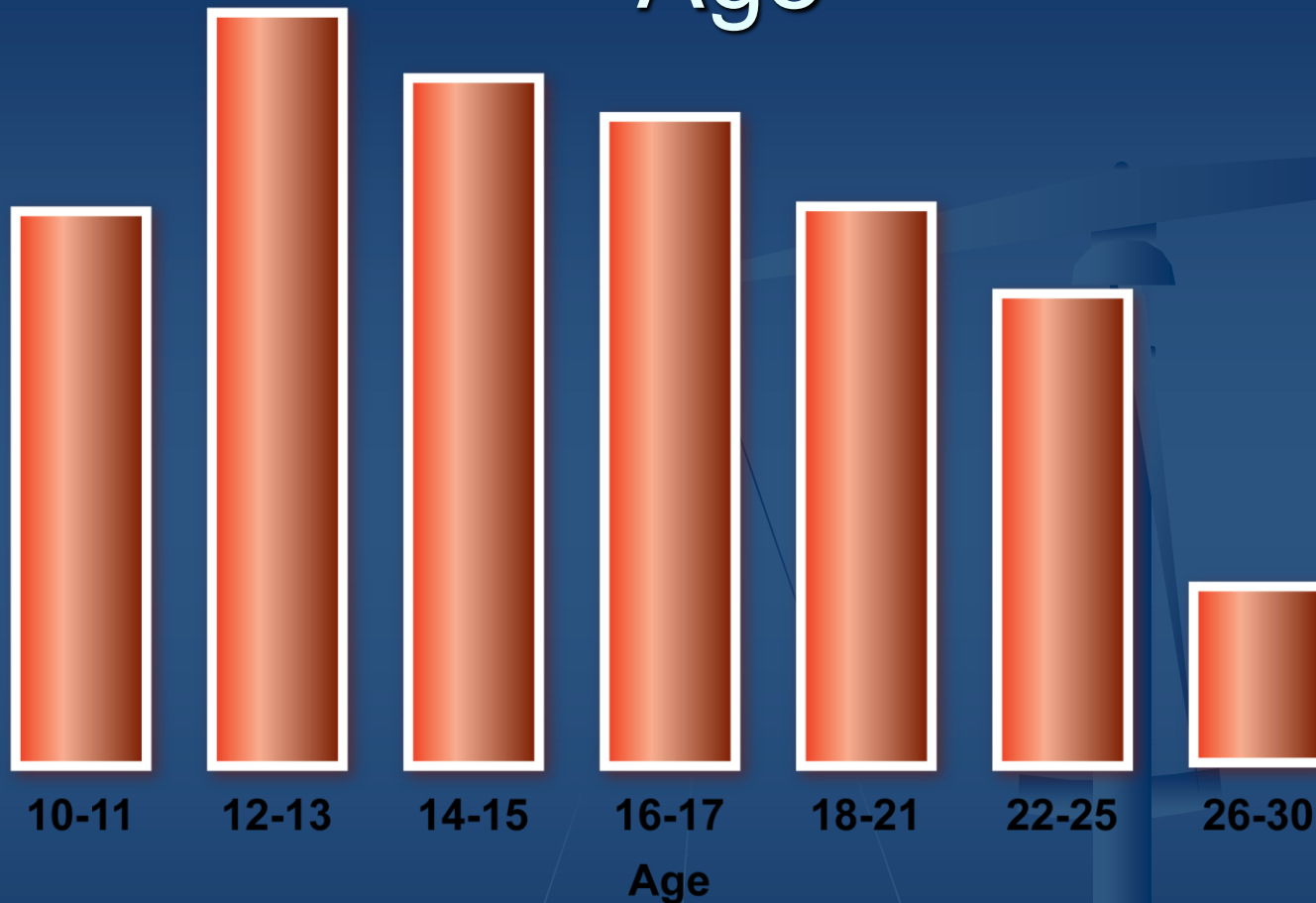


Impulsivity Declines with Age



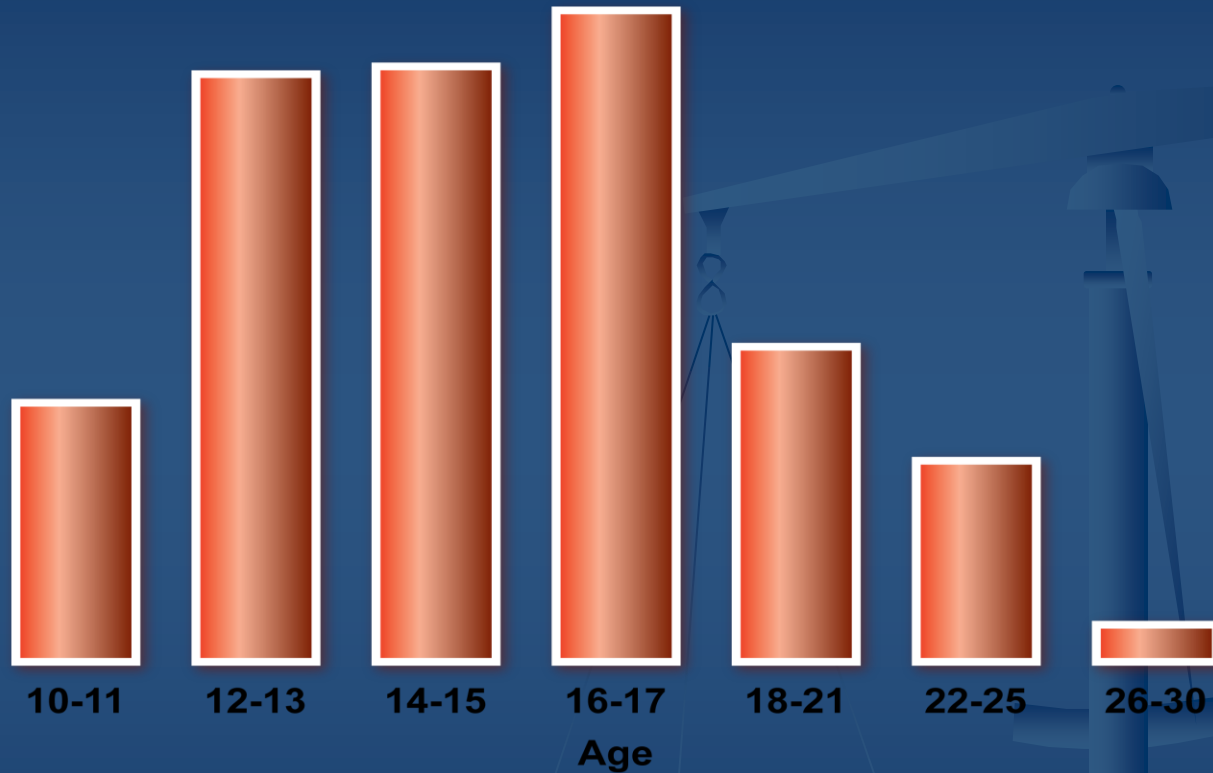
(Steinberg, et.al., 2008)

Sensation-seeking Declines with Age



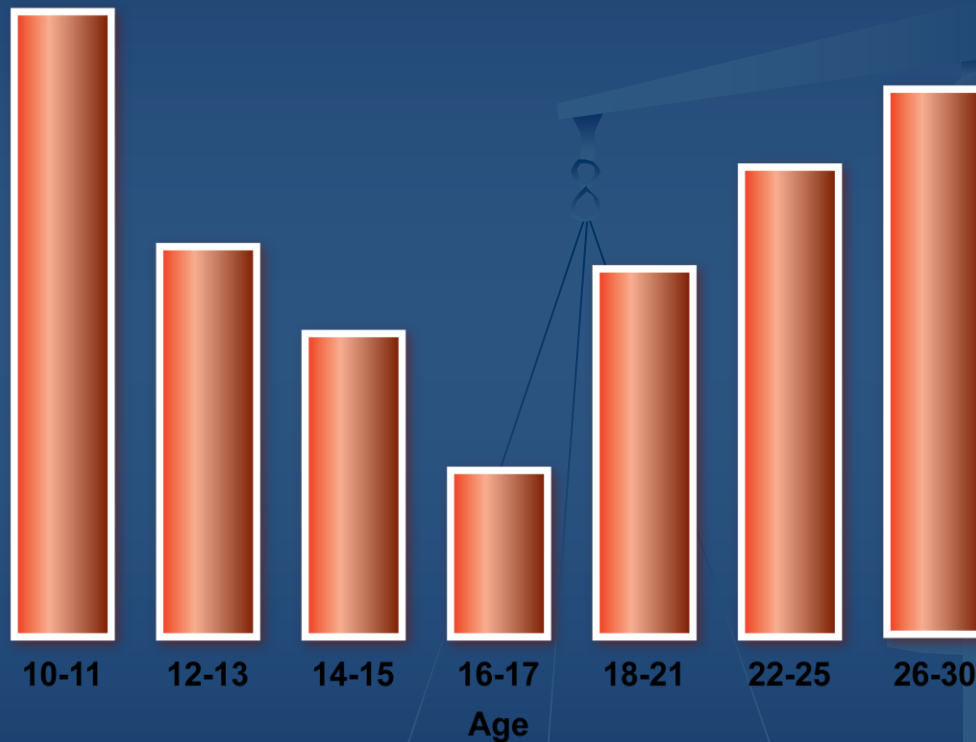
(Steinberg, et.al., 2008)

Preferences for Risk Peaks in Mid-Adolescence



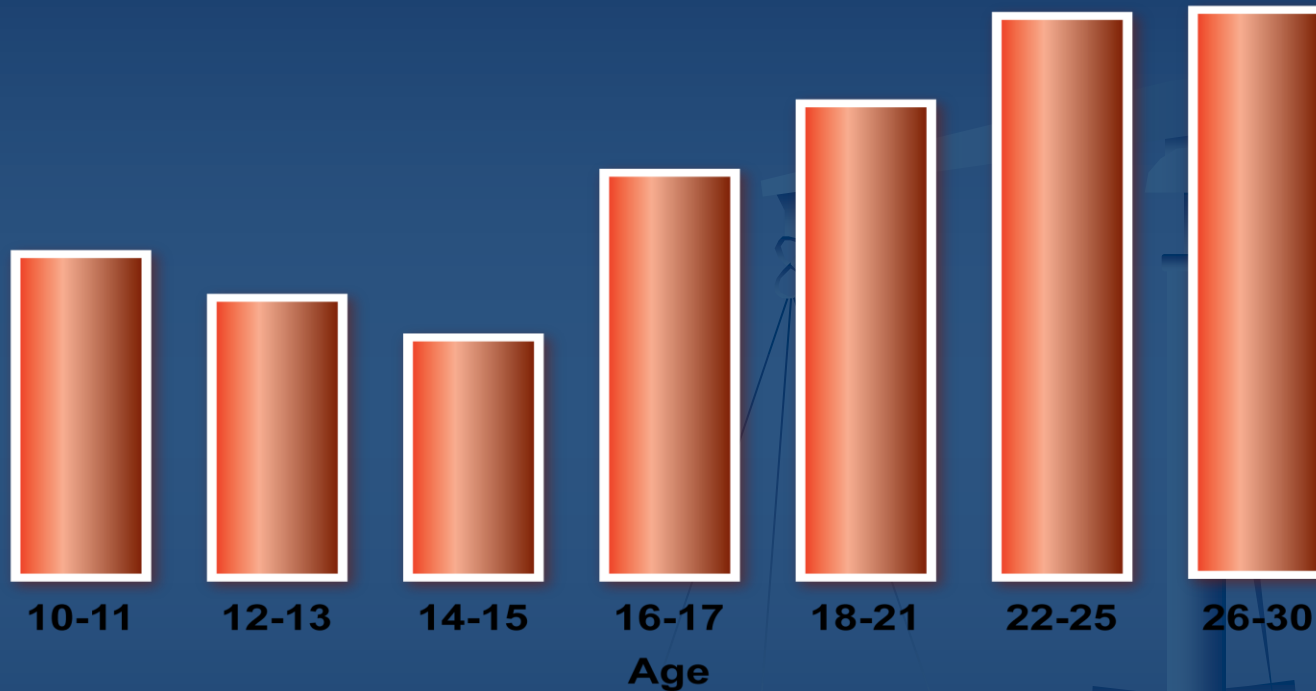
(Steinberg, et al., 2009)

Risk Perception Declines and then Increases After Mid-Adolescence



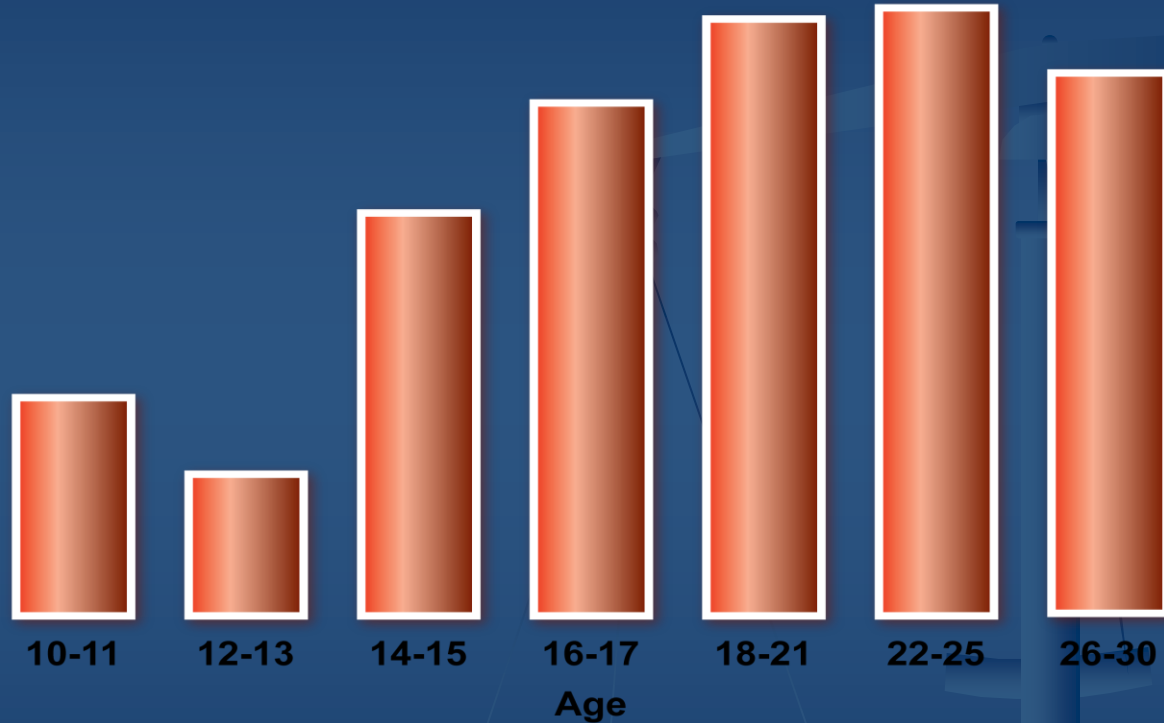
(Steinberg, et al., 2009)

Future Orientation Increases with Age



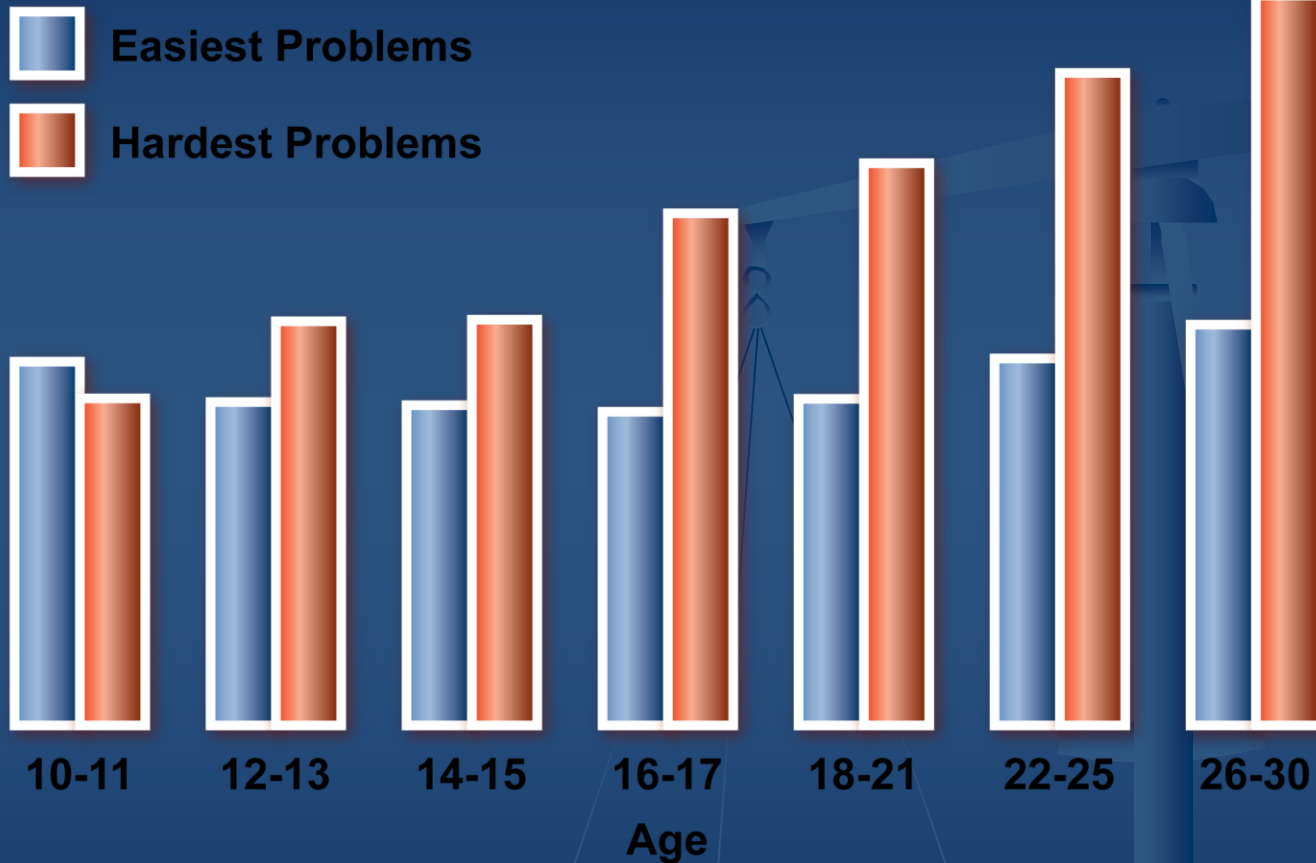
(Steinberg, et al., 2009)

Older Individuals Are More Willing to Delay Gratification



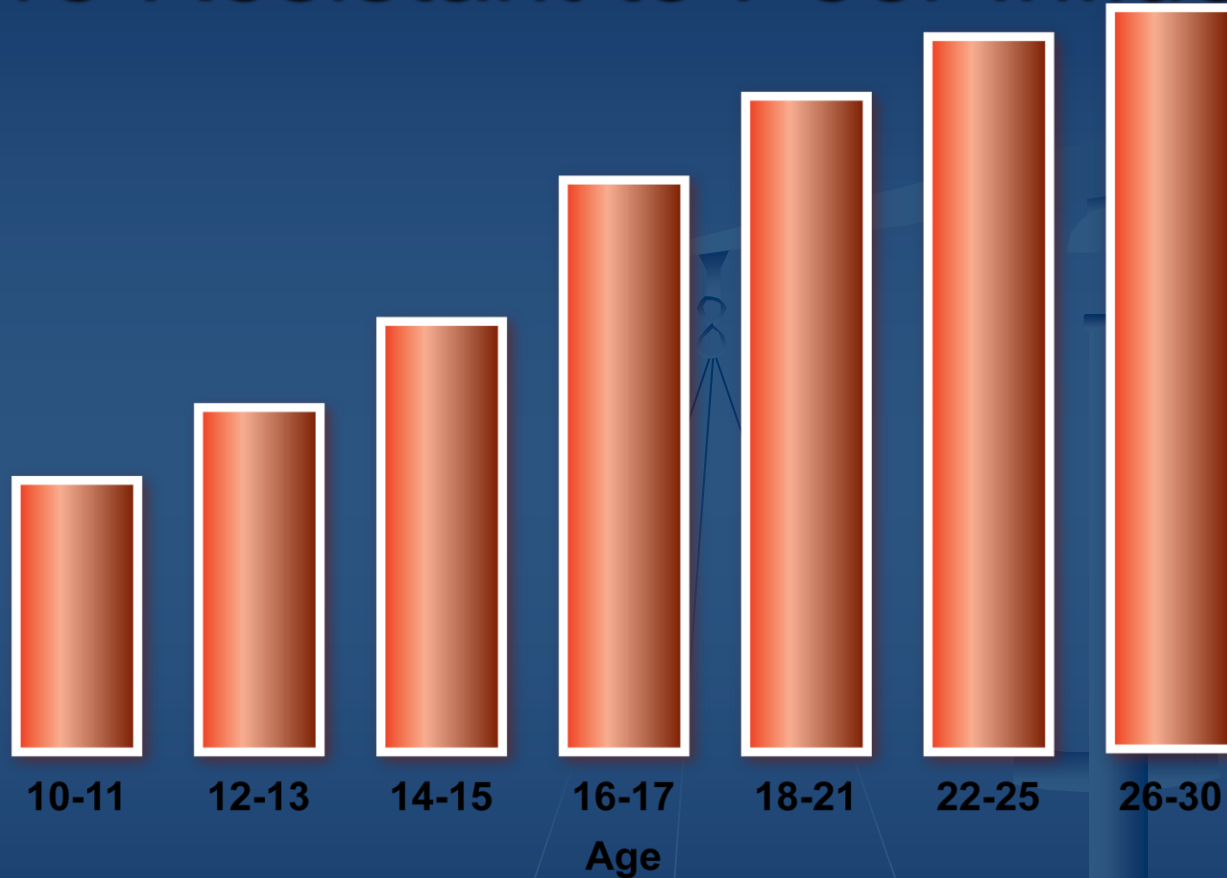
(Steinberg, et al., 2009)

With Age, Longer Time Spent Thinking Before Acting



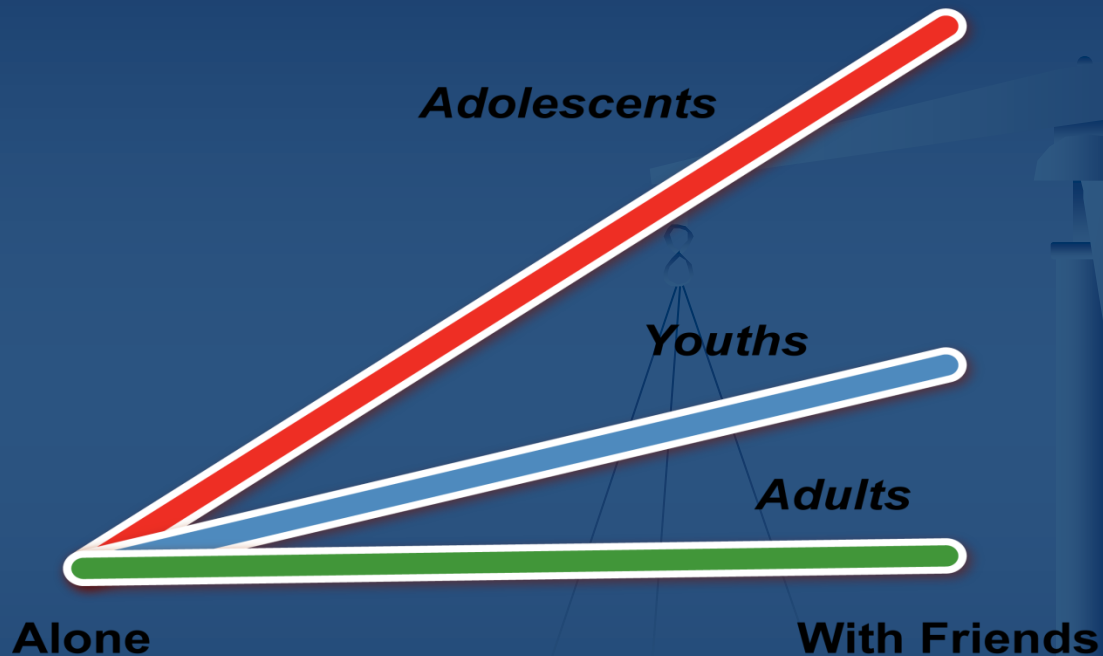
(Steinberg & Monahan, 2007)

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

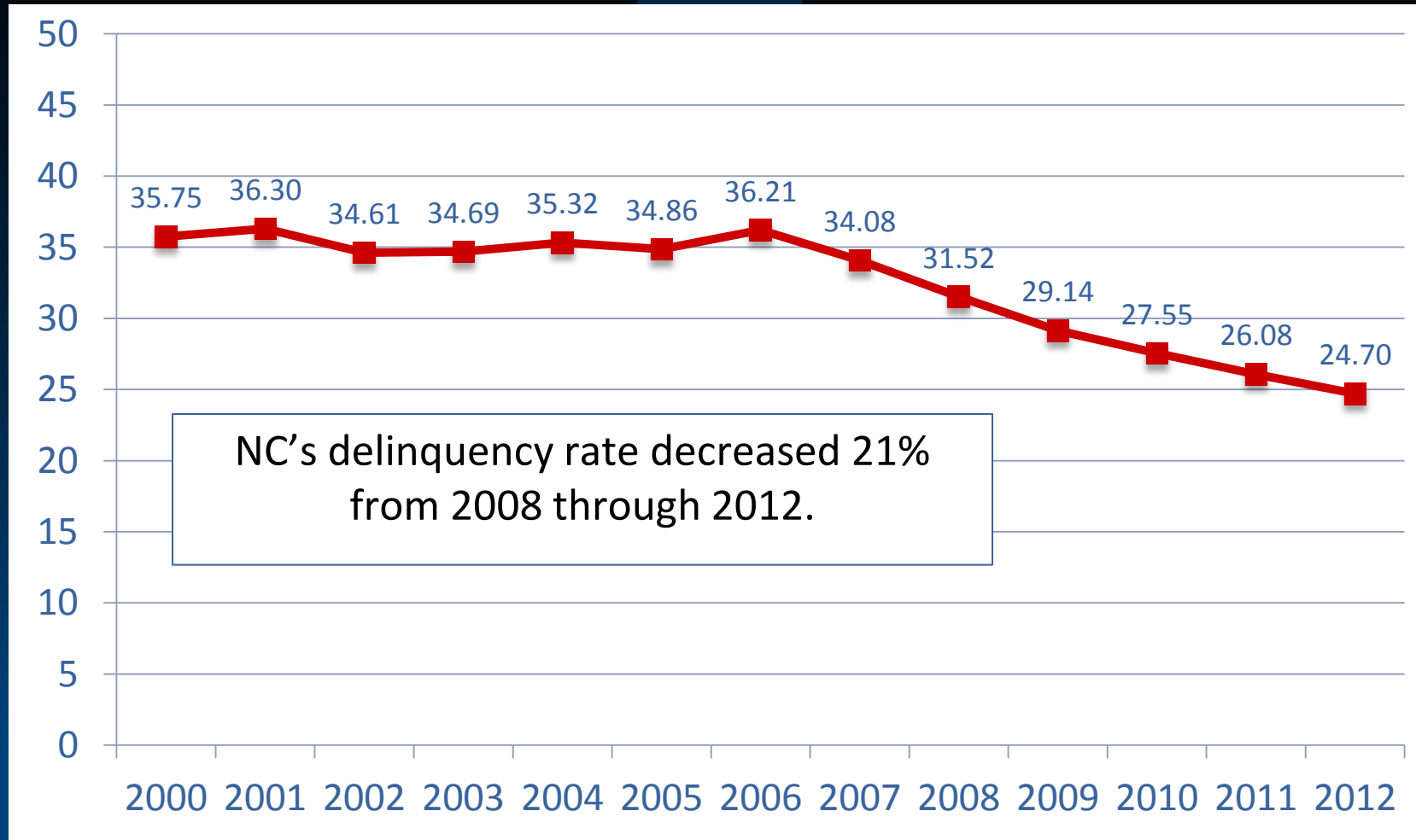


public
POLICY

- 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

2000-2012 Delinquency Rate

NC's juvenile delinquency rate* is at an all-time low.



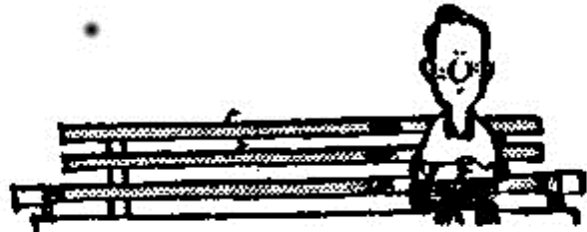
*Delinquency rate is defined as delinquent complaints received per 1,000 youth ages 6-15 (DPS, 2016).



THEN



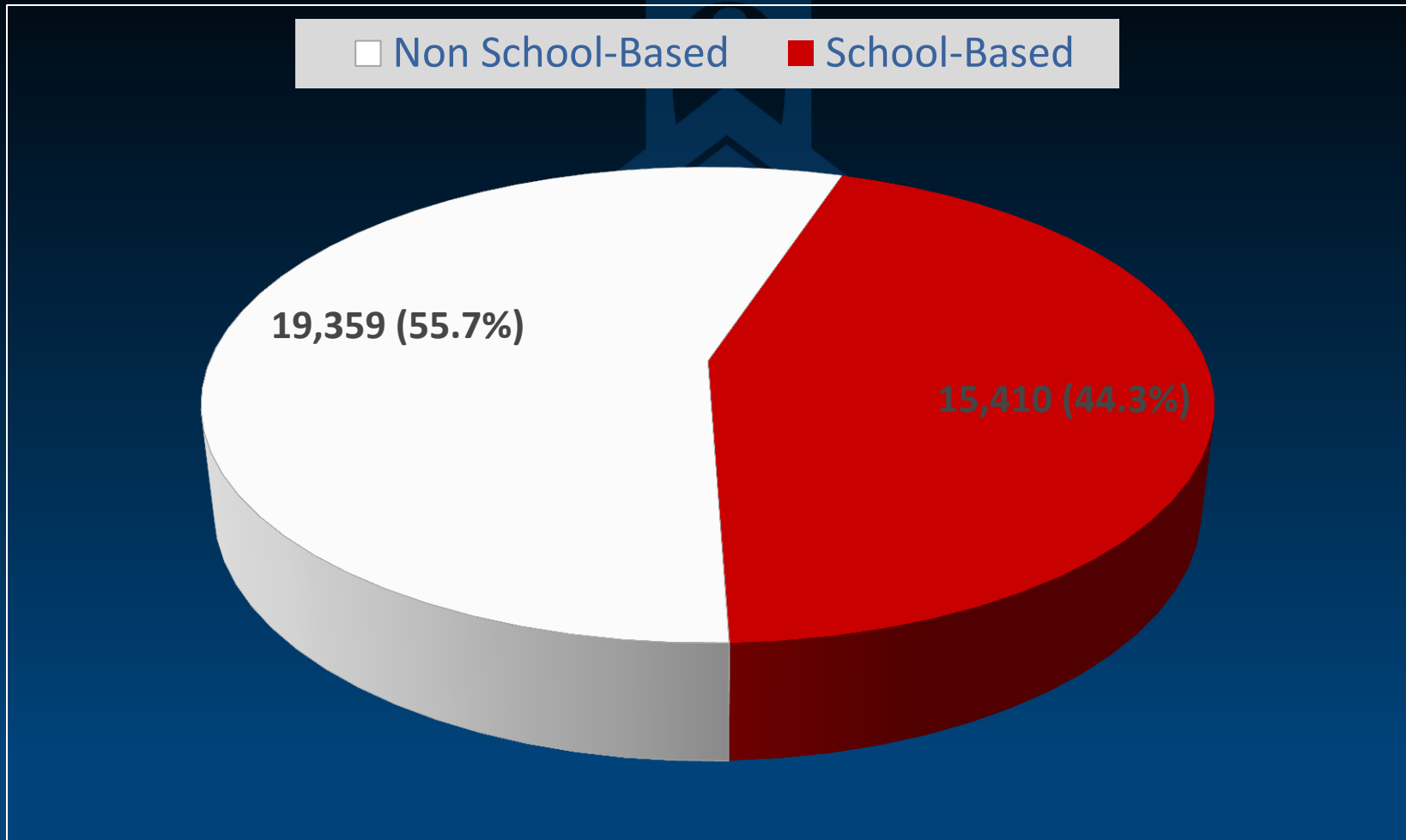
NOW



© 1998 MIKE SMITH—LAS VEGAS SUN

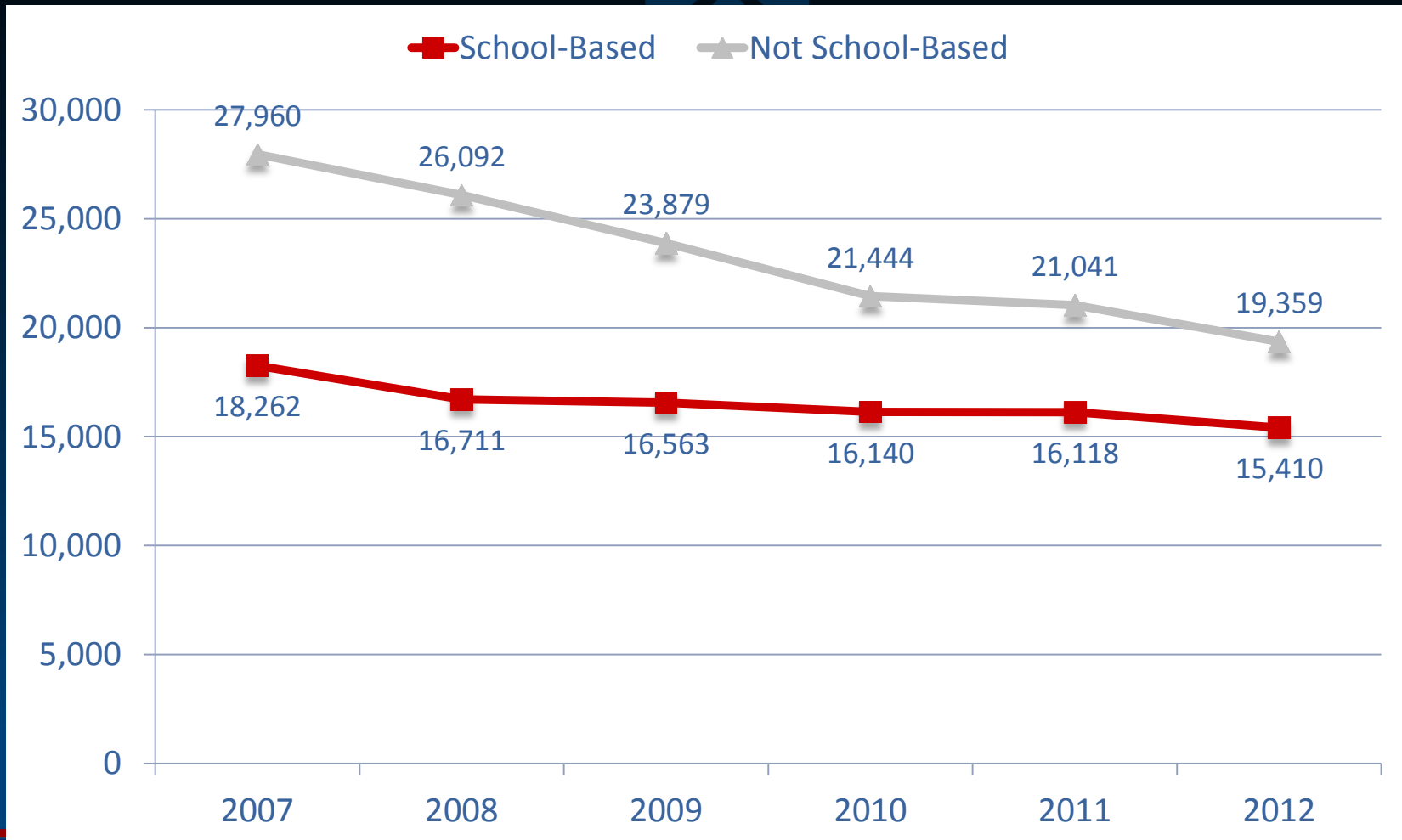
School-Based Offenses

In 2012, 44% of all complaints received were school-based.



School-Based Offenses

In 2012, 44% of all complaints received were school-based.



CONTACT INFORMATION

▶ William Lassiter

- william.lassiter@ncdps.gov

Special thanks to **N.C. Center for Safer Schools**
Jessica Smith
Committee Reporter & W.R. Kenan, Jr.
Distinguished Professor, School of Government,
UNC-Chapel Hill

References

Gardner, M. & Steinberg, L. (2005). Peer Influence on Risk-Taking, Risk Preference, and Risky Decision-Making in Adolescence and Adulthood: An Experimental Study. *Developmental Psychology*, 41, 625-635.

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.

Steinberg, L. & Monahan, K. (2007). Age Differences in Resistance to Peer Influence. *Developmental Psychology*, 43, 1531-1543.

Steinberg, L., Albert, D., Cauffman, E., Banich, M., Graham, S. & Woolard, J. (2008). Age Differences in Sensation Seeking and Impulsivity as Indexed by Behavior and Self-Report: Evidence for a Dual Systems Model. *Developmental Psychology*, 44, 1764-1778.

Steinberg, L., Graham, S., O'Brien, L., Woolard, J., Cauffman, E. & Banich, M. (2009). Age Differences in Future Orientation and Delay Discounting. *Child Development*, 80, 28-44.