

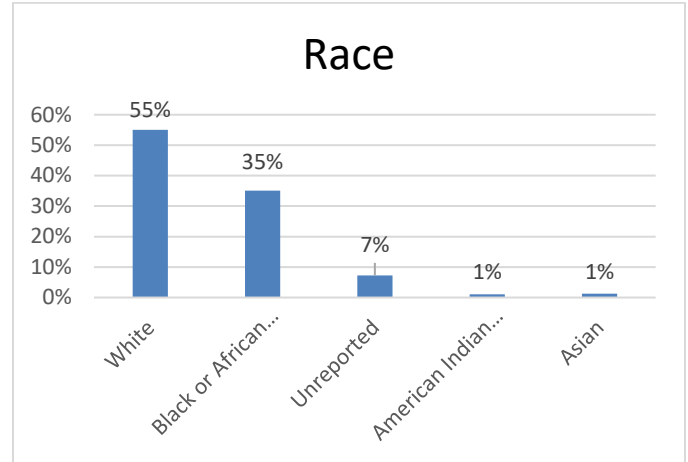
# North Carolina Drug Education School Annual Report: SFY 2018

NC Drug Education Schools (DES) provide a statewide system authorized by NC General Statute 90-96.01 to operate as a sentencing alternative for persons with drug offenses. Other non-justice involved people are also referred to DES for education and early intervention. The goal for a student upon completion of the program, is that he or she will be able to identify a personal plan reflective of an informed self-assessment; thus resulting in the elimination, avoidance and/or reduction of substance use and related consequences up to and including criminal justice recidivism. In 2017 a new standardized, evidence-based curriculum was implemented. The North Carolina DES Participant Journal is based on the delivery method of *Interactive Journaling*®, a research-demonstrated tool for assisting individuals in making behavioral changed. The Change Companies® has continued to develop the practice of *Interactive Journaling*® as a method for delivering evidence-based content into the hands of individuals working to make life changes.

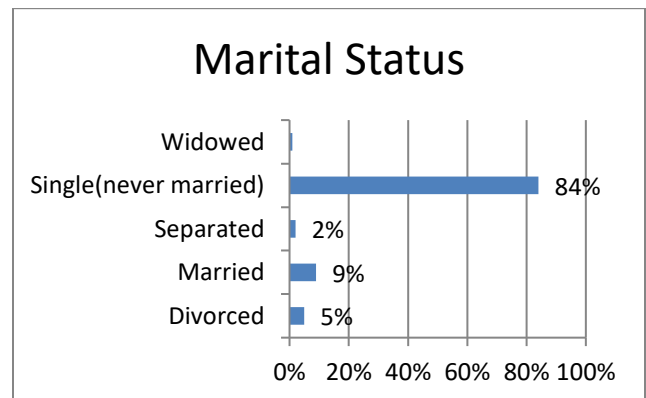
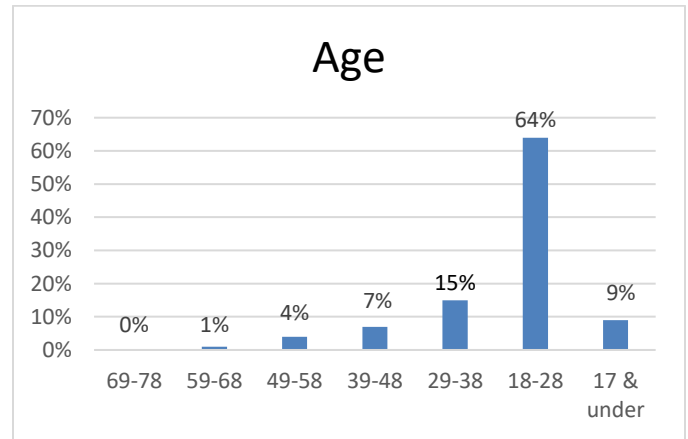
Demographic and other standardized information is collected from each student who enters a Drug Education School. This information is collected at intake and upon completion of the program. This report reflects findings from the information obtained during fiscal year 2017-2018 from the 2452 students enrolled.

## Demographics

Seventy-one percent (71%) of all DES students were male and sixty-four (64%) were between the ages of 18 and 28. Most participants were single or had never been married. Slightly less than half of attendees had a high school diploma or GED and over half identified as white/caucasian.

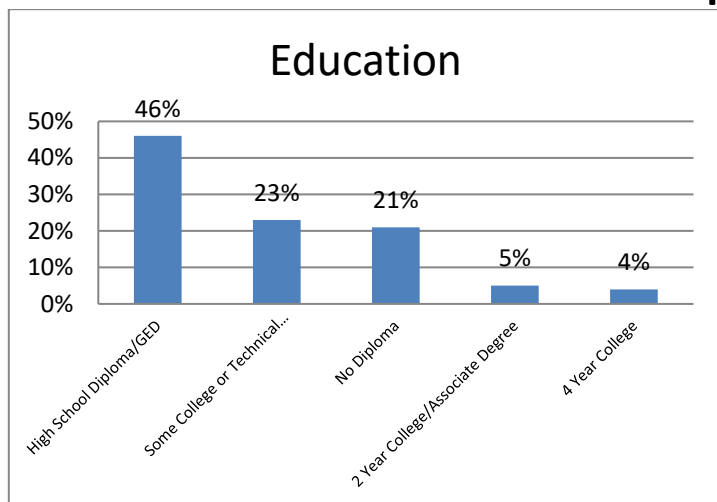


\*less than 1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander



\*Less than 1% of participants were widowed

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## Upon Completion of DES program:

- 38% of enrollees were eligible to have their record expunged (based on enrollees referred under G.S. 90-96)
- 62% reported the class was 'very helpful' in decreasing alcohol use
- 76% reported the class was 'very helpful' in reducing illegal drug use

## Percentage of DES Students by County

Counties not listed had no students or less than 1% of total students.

County	Number of Students	Percentage
Mecklenburg	300	12%
Union	189	8%
Guilford	174	7%
Cleveland	171	7%
Forsyth	154	6%
Pitt	149	6%
Rowan	130	5%
Gaston	128	5%
Cabarrus	109	4%
Durham	95	4%
Lincoln	93	4%
Davidson	81	3%
Alamance	66	3%
Rutherford	64	3%
Iredell	51	2%
Randolph	49	2%
New Hanover	47	2%
Catawba	44	2%
Stanly	42	2%
Wilkes	39	2%
Moore	35	1%
Surry	23	1%
Rockingham	21	1%
Buncombe	18	1%
Richmond	16	1%
Yadkin	16	1%
Cherokee	14	1%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2318</b>	<b>95%</b>

## Other Key Findings

### Upon Admission to DES:

- 38% of enrollees were convicted of possession of a scheduled substance
- 11% were convicted of having drug paraphernalia
- 8% had 'other' drug related charges
- 2% was convicted of being underage while consuming alcohol
- Less than 1% were convicted of having toxic vapors
- 90% of enrollees had zero (0) prior convictions
- 50% were employed full-time, 21% part-time, 15% unemployed, 13% unemployed & not seeking work, 1% seasonal work
- 58% were referred by the court for DES and 25% were referred by the probation department, 15% were referred by an attorney, remaining were referred by other sources (e.g., community service provider, self, parent, school)

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## Summary

Drug Education School in North Carolina works with individuals with drug offenses to reduce future use of substances and subsequent adverse consequences. During the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, North Carolina's Drug Education Schools were attended in majority by single white males between the ages of 16 and 28. Most had also obtained at least their high school diploma or GED prior to entering the program. Students coming into DES were likely to not have previous convictions (90%) and were referred primarily by the court or probation department. Ninety-nine percent (98.7%) of students successfully completed the DES program. Per student self-report the course had a positive impact on their lives and helped to assist in the reduction of using alcohol and illegal drugs. These findings will be used to monitor and improve the current program. The graph below provides a snapshot of the growing utilization of Drug Education School over the past nine (9) years. DES student enrollment has decreased slightly 3% from FY 2016-2017 and increased 67.3% since FY 2009-2010. A listing of current Drug Education Schools can be found [here](#).

## DES Student Enrollment over the past nine (9) Fiscal Years

