

2017 Gun Arrest Report for Durham, North Carolina

Adults ages 16 - 25

Introduction

The following report provides information on gun arrests of adults between the ages of 16 and 25 in Durham, North Carolina for the 2017 calendar year. The data source for this report is a pdf file provided to the author on February 16, 2018 by Jason Schiess, the Durham Police Department's Analytics Services Manager.

The cohort of those between the ages of 16 and 25 was selected because that is the prime age for gang activity.¹ Adult gun arrests in Durham in 2017 involved suspects between the ages of 16 and 72, with 49% of those suspects being between the ages of 16 and 25.

The following fields from the file provided by Mr. Schiess were used for this report:

- Arrest Date
- Name
- Age at Time of Arrest
- Charge Description
- Incident Offense

Fields available, but not used in the report, included the name, case number and whether the charge was a felony or misdemeanor.

This report only examines arrests made by the Durham Police Department. It does not include arrests made by other agencies such as the Durham County Sheriff's Office, the North Carolina Central University Police Department and the Duke University Police Department.

Background

Prior to 2017, Durham Police Department had a grant-funded position that collected data on gun crimes and posted monthly reports to the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) portion of the Durham Police Department website. Those reports also included information as to whether the firearm associated with the arrest was stolen or not. With the termination of the grant-funded position, these reports are no longer posted.

Using the posted PSN data, this author generated a report entitled "*Gun Crime and Gun Arrests in Durham 2010 – 2015*" which can be accessed [here](#) . Because of the different data collection techniques used for those years, the 2017 report cannot be merged with the previous report. In addition, the 2017

¹ This report is being generated as part of the overall Gang Reduction Strategy data collection effort. This report does not provide information on how many suspects are identified as validated gang members by GangNet or the Durham Police Department Records Management System (RMS).

report does not contain information as to whether the firearm associated with the arrest was stolen or not.

The data provided for 2017 contains some incidents where a gun was in the possession of the suspect at the time of arrest, but no gun crime was noted. For example, a suspect may have been arrested on the charge of “failure to appear” and had a weapon in his/her possession at the time. These types of incidents are excluded from this report.

Suspect Information – Ages 16 to 25

There were 136 gun crime arrests of suspects between the ages of 16 and 25. The 136 arrests involved 129 unique suspects. No race or ethnicity information on suspects was provided in the DPD file.

- 7 suspects were arrested on gun charges 2 times in 2017
- 1 suspect was arrested on gun charges 3 times in 2017

The table below illustrates the age distribution of those arrested on gun charges (16 – 25).

<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage (Ages 16 – 25)</u>
age 16-19	48	35%
age 20-22	44	32%
age 23-25	44	32%

Males accounted for 91% of unique individuals arrested and females accounted for 9% of the arrests.

Information on Charges

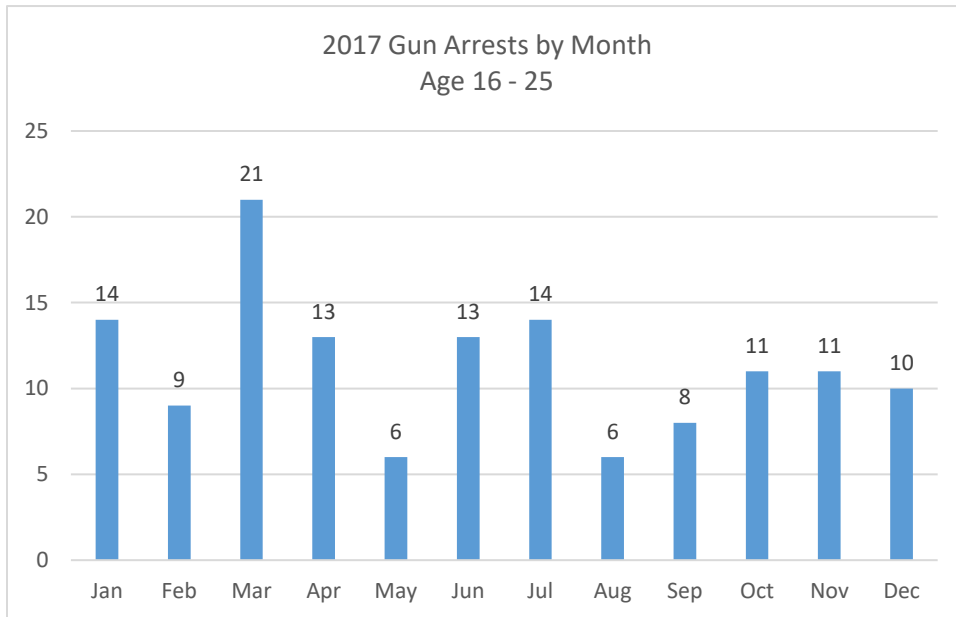
There were 166 gun charges associated with the 136 gun arrests. The most common charge was “*carrying a concealed weapon*” and it was noted in 68 of the arrests (50%). Of those charged with carrying a concealed weapon, 33 (49%) were charged at the same time with some type of drug offense. Co-occurring drug charges (46) were associated with 34% of all gun arrests (ages 16-25).

The table below illustrates the 9 types of gun charges in 2017, and the number of those charges for suspects between the ages of 16 and 25.

<u>Charge Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Carrying a concealed weapon	68
Robbery with a dangerous weapon	30
Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon	26
Assault with a dangerous weapon	11
Discharging a firearm within the city limits	10
Possession of a firearm by a minor	7
Assault by pointing a gun	6
Discharging a weapon into occupied property	5
Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill	3

Month When Gun Charges were filed

As illustrated by the chart below, there was a wide variance in monthly charges, for a low of 6 in May and August to a high of 21 in March.



Summary

Adults between the ages of 16 and 25 were arrested by the Durham Police Department on gun charges 136 times in calendar year 2017.

The percentage of suspects in gun crimes between the ages of 16 and 25 appears to be on a downward trend for the past three years.² In 2015 they comprised 61%, in 2016 they comprised 57% and in 2017 they comprised 49% of gun charge arrests.

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March 30, 2018

² As noted earlier, data was collected somewhat differently in 2017 than in previous years.