

Agenda:

Impact of Court
Appearance

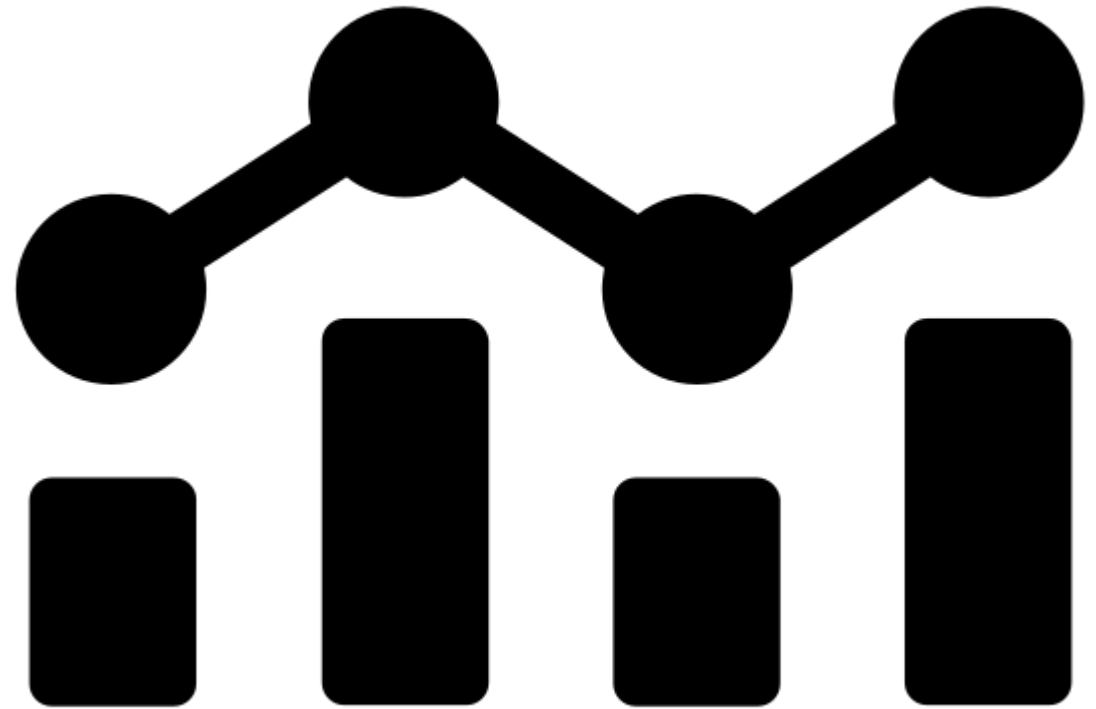
Policy Solutions

Improving Appearance

Improving Responses to
Missed Appearance

Court Appearance Matters

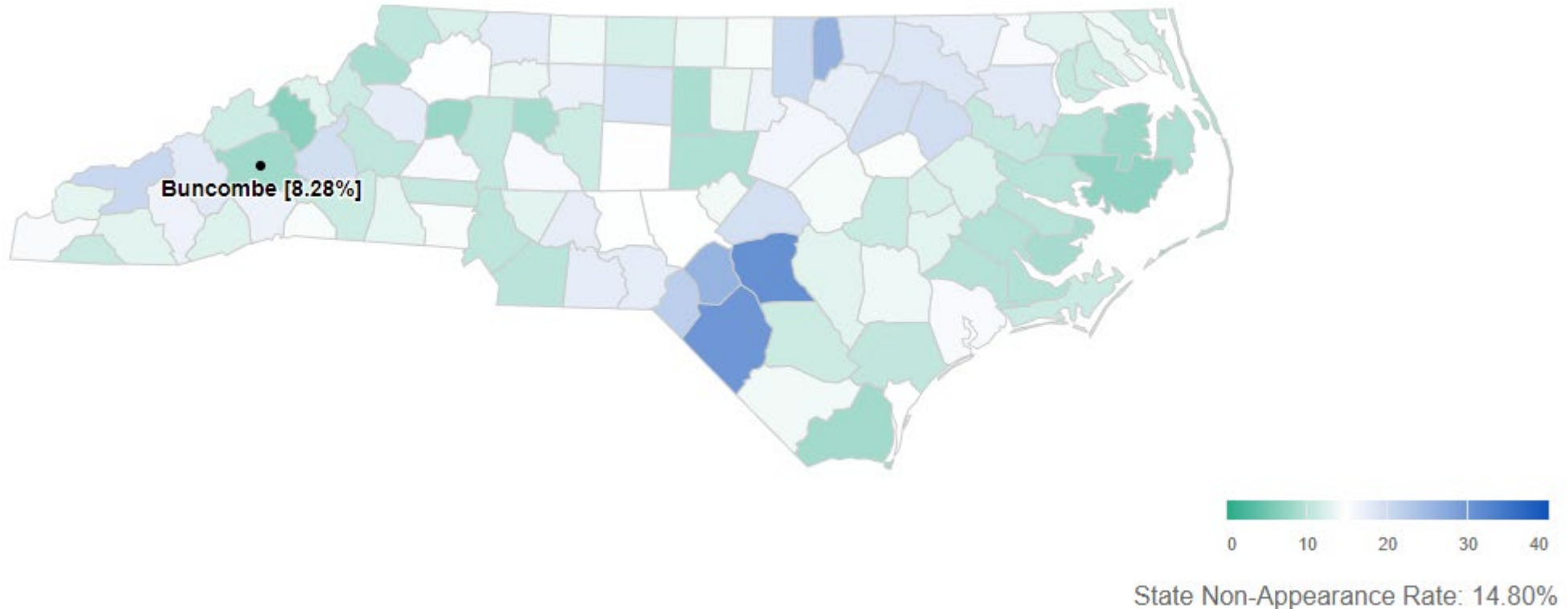
Data Review

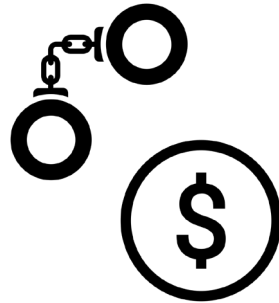
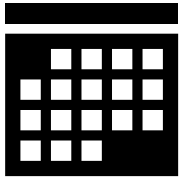
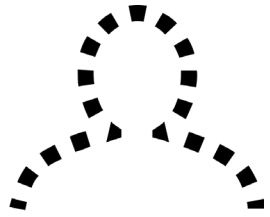




About **1 in 12** criminal incidents in Buncombe County had at least **one missed court appearance**

Nonappearance rates by county for North Carolina criminal incidents, 2018-2021







Most common nonappearances were for **administrative traffic offenses**

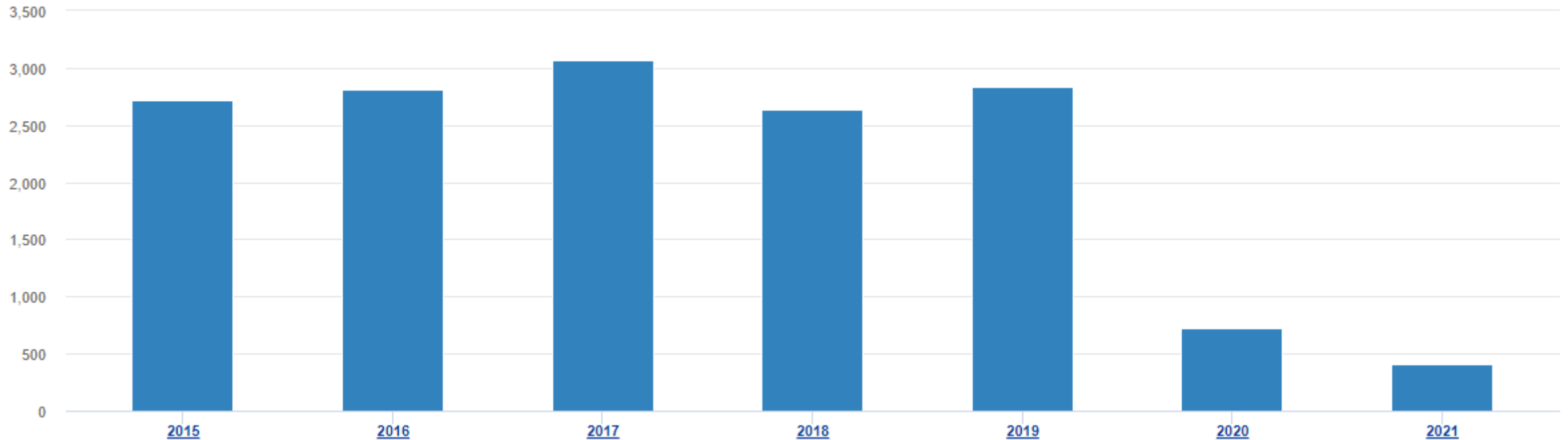
Nonappearances by Offense, 2018-2021

Underlying Offense	Count
Expired Registration Card or Tag	1,175
Driving While License Revoked - Not Impaired	905
No Operator's License	799
Operating a Vehicle with No Insurance	540
Speeding	489

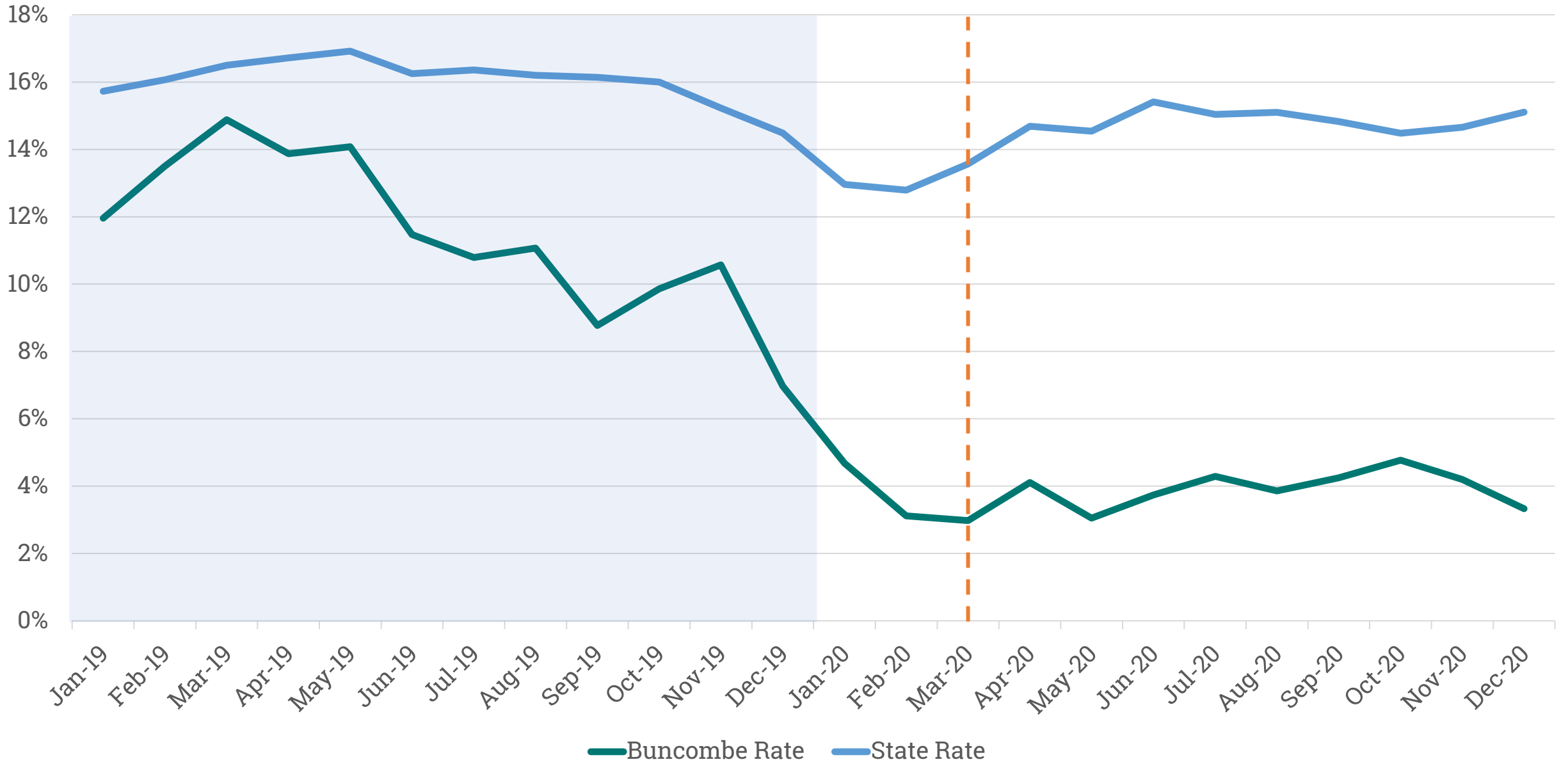


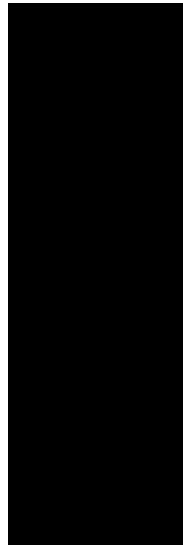
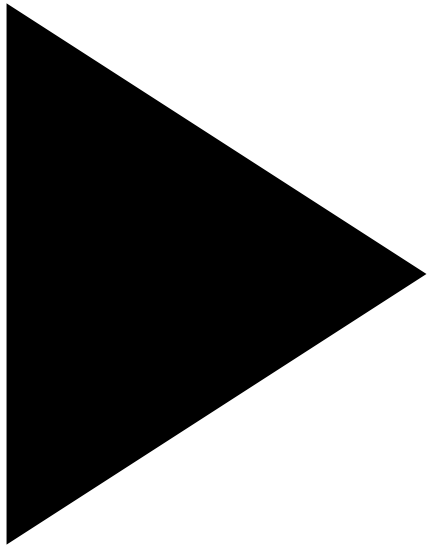
Court nonappearances **dropped** in 2020, even before the March stay at home order

Number of nonappearances by incident initiation year for Buncombe County, 2015-2021

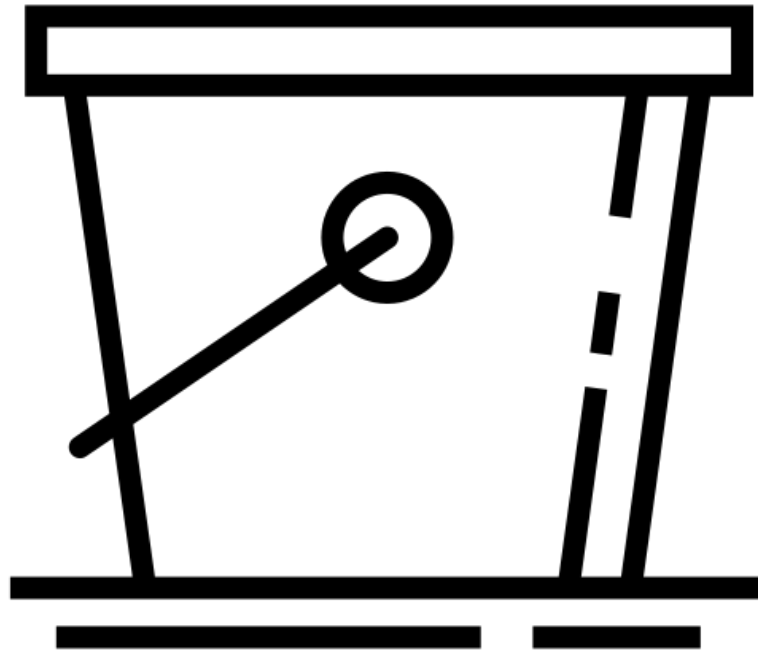


Nonappearance Rates for Criminal Incidents Initiated 2019-2020

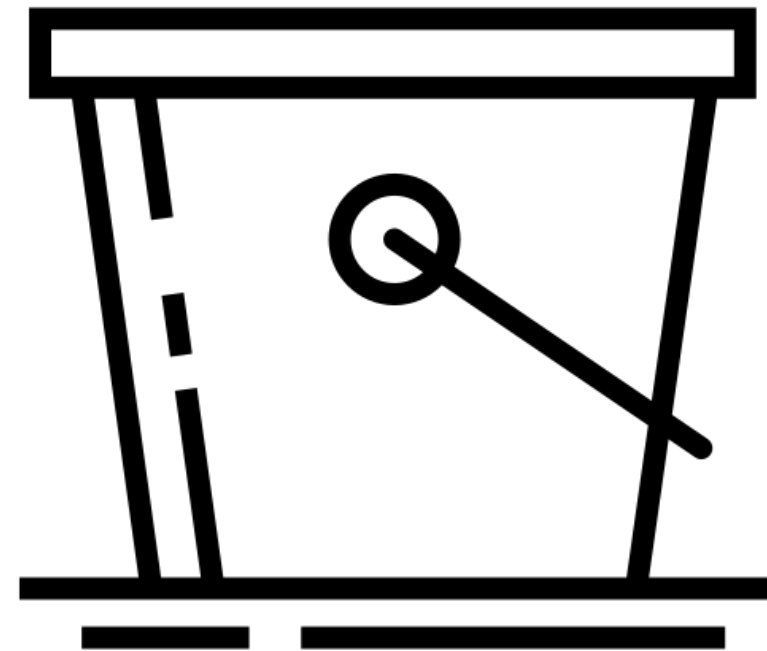




Improving Court Appearance



Improving Responses to Missed Appearance



Policy Solutions

Steps to Increase Court Appearance



	New Hanover	Orange	Robeson
Improve text message reminders for court	✓	✓	✓
Design law enforcement "palm cards" with helpful links and information		✓	✓
Offer support with transportation to court		✓	✓
Reduce wait times for hearings with block scheduling		✓	
Formalize and expand options for remote or virtual participation in court	✓	✓	✓
Launch diversity and inclusion initiatives to foster community trust		✓	
Set benchmarks for reducing disposition times and continuances	✓	✓	

Sign up for court date reminders!



Step 1: Know your case number.

If you don't know your case file number, you can find it by looking up your case details online. Go to nccourts.gov/court-dates to find your case file number, county, and other details about your case.

Step 2: Enroll online.

Take a picture of the below QR code, then enter your county and case number. You can choose to receive text-message or email reminders about your upcoming court date. Standard message rates apply but the service is free. Anyone can enroll!



Don't forget! Missing has consequences.

If you don't show up to court or resolve your case, you may be **arrested**. For many traffic violations, if you fail to appear your **driver's license will be revoked**.

Policy Solutions

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Set benchmarks for reducing disposition times and continuances	✓	✓	

MAKE A PLAN. COME TO COURT.

ROBESON COUNTY

Find your court date and location
at the top of your citation.



COURT LOCATIONS

**IF YOU MISS YOUR
COURT DATE, YOU MAY
BE ARRESTED AND/OR
YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE
MAY BE REVOKED**



Scan the QR code with your cell
phone camera to sign up for
text message reminders for
your court date!



HAVE A QUESTION?



FIX IT ONLINE

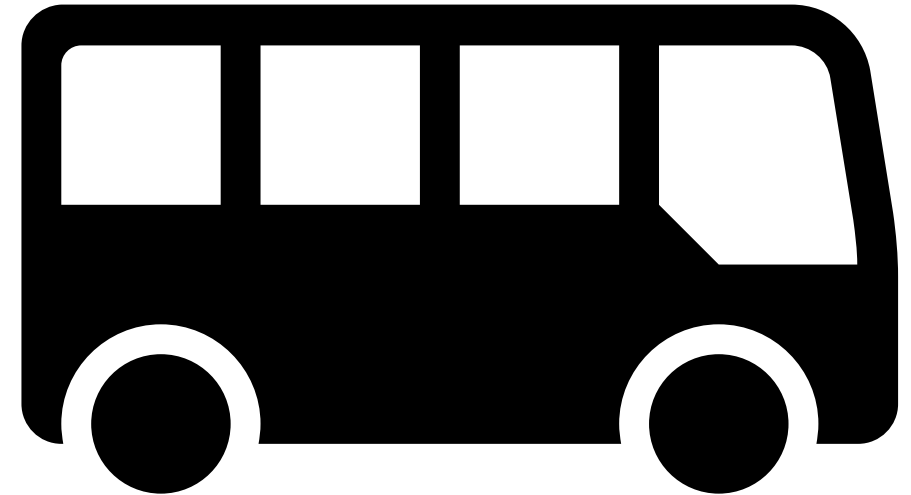
Some cases can be handled online.
Go to nccourts.gov/services and
click Citation Services to see if your
case is eligible.

Transportation Support

Rideshare apps

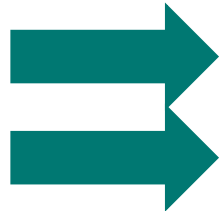
Access & affordability

County transportation
program

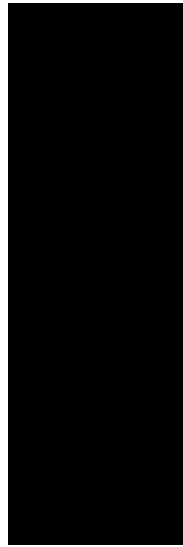
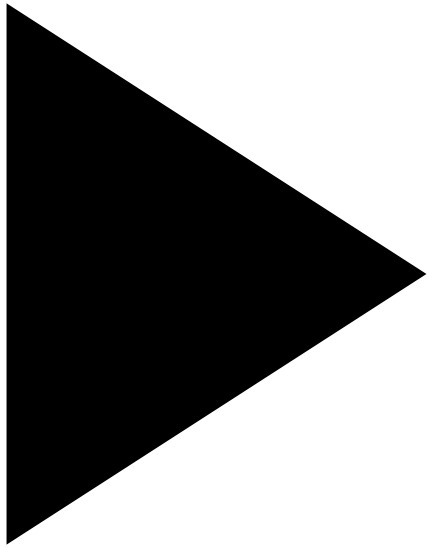


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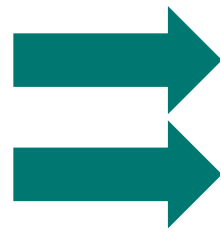
- ✓ Indicates new or improved policies prioritized in the project.
- ✓ Indicates pre-existing initiatives.





Policy Solutions

Better Responses to Nonappearance



	New Hanover	Orange	Robeson
Implement walk-in hours for people to resolve missed court appearances	✓	✓	
Reduce unnecessary orders for arrest through a nonappearance bench card	✓	✓	
Implement a grace period before issuing some orders for arrest		✓	✓
Provide driver's license restoration support	✓	✓	✓
Partner with service providers to help high-needs populations get to court	✓	✓	

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ORANGE COUNTY BENCH CARD

Responses to Non-Appearances in Criminal District Court

Date	
Judge's Name	
Defendant's Name	
Case Number(s)	

Step 1: Should the non-appearance be excused?

- Yes. **EXCUSED.** Re-set court date with notice to defendant and counsel, if represented
[FORM COMPLETE]
- No. **UNEXCUSED** [GO TO STEP 2]

Step 2: Is the matter before you for a charge or probation violation that is a non-DWI Class 1-3 misdemeanor OR technical probation violation?

- Yes [GO TO STEP 3]
- No.
 - Issue an OFA setting conditions, which can include money bond, in your discretion
 - Written promise
 - Custody release/pretrial services
 - Unsecured bond \$ _____
 - Secured bond \$ _____
 - Exercise discretion, decline to issue OFA & reschedule court date for other reasons:

[FORM COMPLETE]

Step 3: Is there a prior unexcused non-appearance in this case or do you know of a prior unexcused non-appearance in another pending case?

- Yes.
 - Issue an OFA setting conditions, which can include money bond, in your discretion
 - Written promise
 - Custody release/pretrial services
 - Unsecured bond \$ _____
 - Secured bond \$ _____
 - Exercise discretion, decline to issue OFA & reschedule court date for other reasons:

[FORM COMPLETE]

- No: re-set court date with notice to defendant and counsel, if represented
[FORM COMPLETE]

- Judge did not use process. Check this box when judge exercises discretion and declines to follow the recommended decision-making process.

Note: All Chapter 20 cases except Impaired Driving and Driving While License Revoked (DWLR) will go to the "20-day failure box." DWLR cases are subject to additional DWLR procedures adopted by the Senior Resident by Administrative Order Oct. 2020.

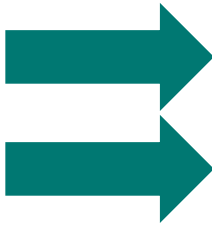
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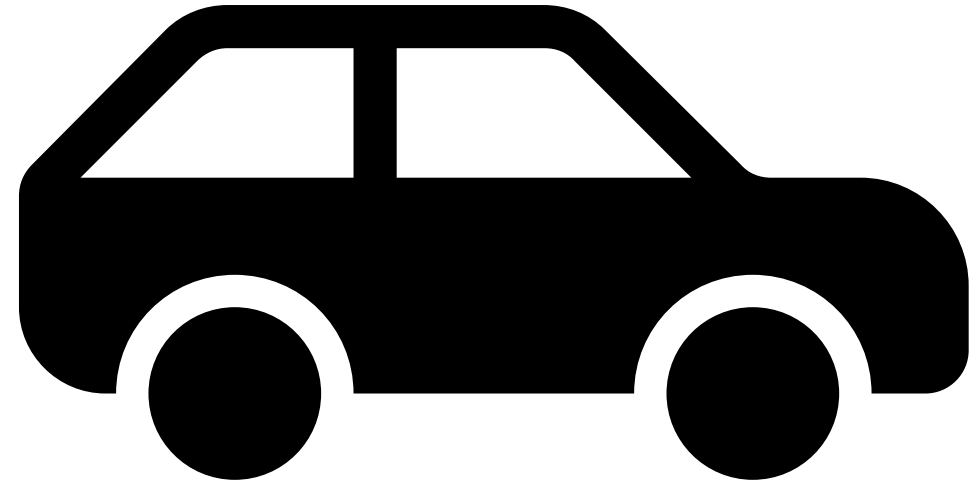


Driver's License Restoration

Fines and fees are a barrier

Periodic review and waiver of old fines and fees

Ability to pay





SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Criminal Justice Innovation Lab

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School of Government

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