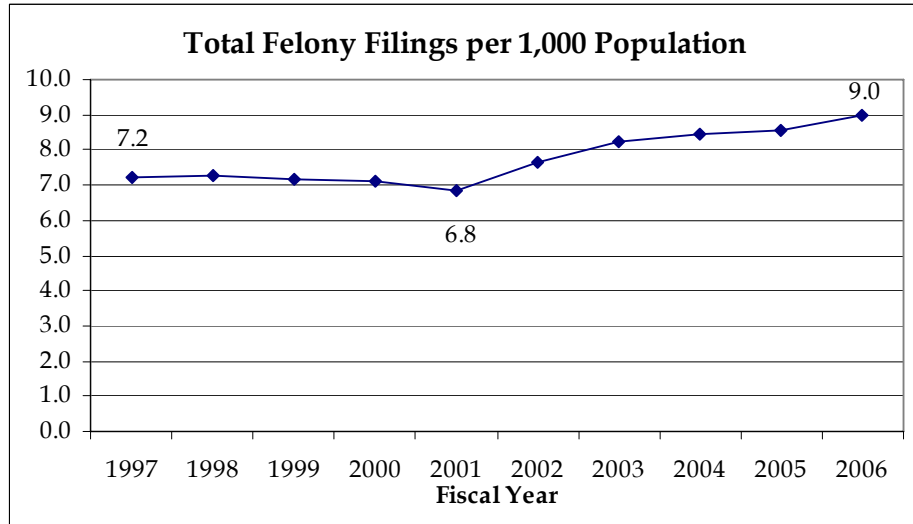


New Felony Cases Filed in Texas District Courts Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006

The number of felonies filed in the state’s district courts increased by an average of 4.2 percent per year over the past decade and 6.3 percent per year over the past five years. Part of this trend can be attributed to population growth. (The state’s population increased an average of 1.9 percent per year over the past decade.) In comparison, felony filings in Texas increased an average of 2.5 percent, or nearly 0.3 filings, per year over the past decade to 9.0 filings per 1,000 population in 2006.

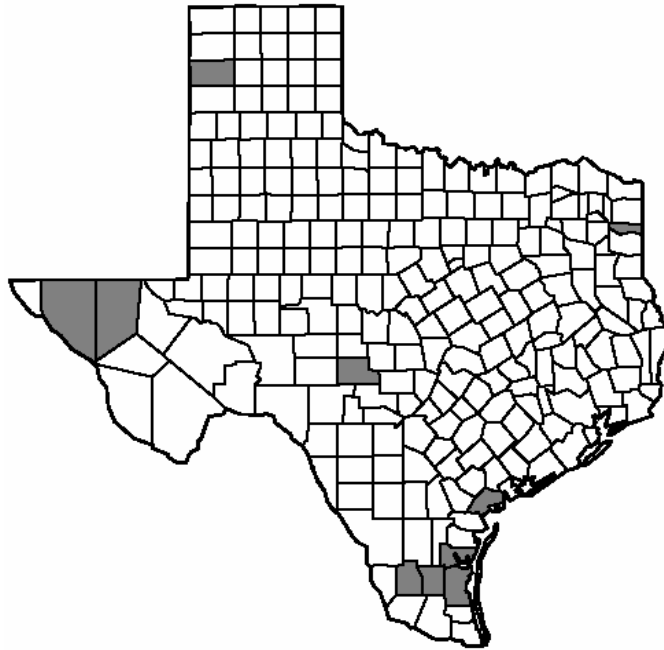


Approximately 48 percent of all felony cases over the past decade were filed in the five largest counties—Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis—yet none of these counties placed in the top ten counties with the highest per capita felony filings per year. Brooks County had the highest per capita felony filing rate with an average of 53.4 cases filed per 1,000 citizens per year over the past decade. Hudspeth County had the next highest average with 51.1 felony cases filed per 1,000 citizens per year over the past decade.¹ Half of the top ten counties with the highest felony filing rates per capita were located in South Texas.

County	Counties with Highest Average Rate of Felony Cases Filed per 1,000 Population per Year Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006
Brooks	53.4
Hudspeth	51.1
Kenedy	40.3
Kleberg	20.3
Oldham	20.1
Marion	18.2
Jim Hogg	17.2
Refugio	17.0
Kimble	16.3
Culberson	16.2
Statewide Average	7.7

¹ Data for Hudspeth County was not available for felony cases filed in fiscal years 2003 or 2004.

**Counties with Highest Average Rate of Felony Cases
Filed per Year per 1,000 Population
Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006**



Martin County had the largest average increase in felony filings per capita (84.1 percent per year) over the past ten years.² However, the county's felony caseload was relatively small—ranging from 22 cases filed in 1997 to 44 cases filed in 2004.

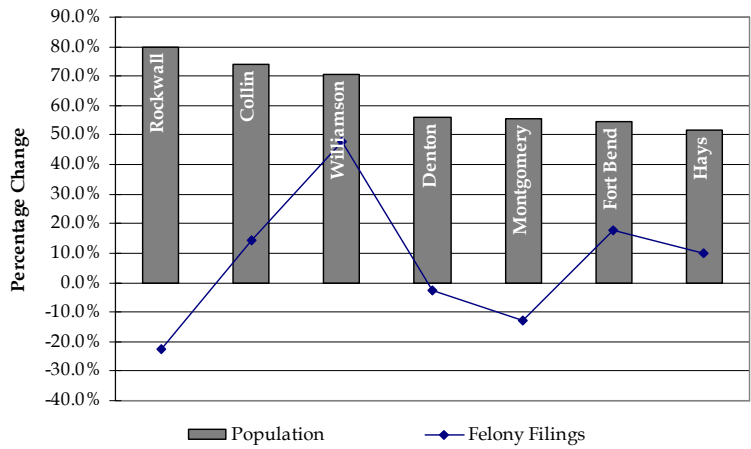
Live Oak County experienced the largest average decrease in felony filings per 1,000 citizens, with an average reduction of 6.2 percent per year.

Of the seven counties experiencing population growth of 50 percent or more over the past decade, all but three also saw an increase in

**Counties with Greatest Average Percentage Change per Year in Felony Filings per 1,000 Population
Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006**

Increase		Decrease	
Martin	84.1%	Live Oak	-6.2%
Hemphill	80.5%	Frio	-5.5%
Crane	74.2%	Waller	-5.0%
Kenedy	68.1%	Comal	-4.3%
Red River	62.4%	Refugio	-3.7%

**Counties with Population Increase Over 50 Percent and Average Annual Percentage Change in Felony Filings
Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006**



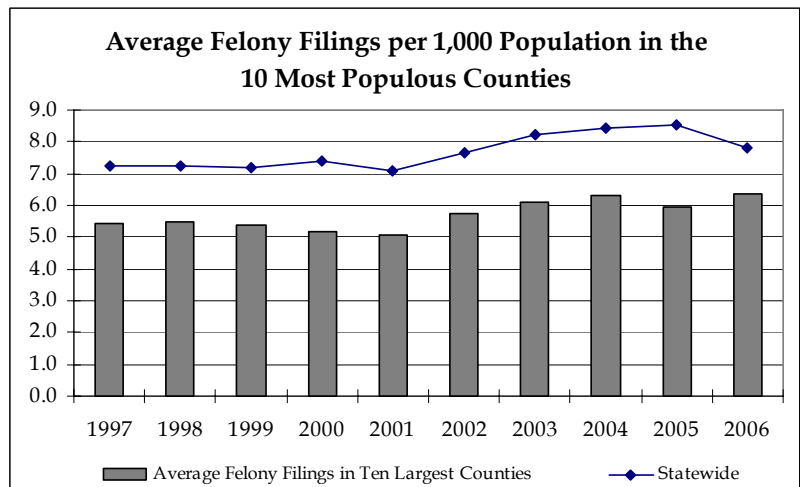
² Eastland County was not included due to inaccurate data reported for FY 1998.

felony filings per capita. Williamson County had the highest increase in felony filings with an increase of nearly 48 percent per year. Interestingly, Rockwall and Collin counties experienced similar population growth (approximately 80 percent per year and 74 percent per year, respectively) and are next to one another bordering Dallas County, but Rockwall County's per capita filing rate fell nearly 23 percent per year while Collin County's rate increased more than 14 percent per year over the past decade.

Substantial fluctuations in felony filings have occurred in many Texas counties over the past decade. Harris County's total felony filings in 2003 increased by 3,832 additional cases (13 percent) in 2002 and then once again increased by another 2,099 in 2004 after a decrease in 2003. El Paso County experienced a population increase of over 9,000 in 2005 but had a reduction of 2,481 felony filings from 2004. Smaller counties also saw fluctuations in the number of felonies filed in their courts. Briscoe and McMullen counties saw large increases in their total felony filings in 2005 (550 percent and 900 percent, respectively) and both subsequently decreased in 2006 (79.9 percent and 60 percent, respectively).

Felony filings in Bandera County doubled from fiscal years 2002 and 2003 to 148 and thereafter have kept steady with approximately 140 new cases per year.

The number of felonies filed per capita in the 10 most populous counties—Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, El Paso, Hidalgo, Collin, Denton, and Fort Bend—increased by an average of nearly 6 percent per year over the past decade and 14 percent per year over the past five years. While felony filings per capita grew rather substantially in these counties over the decade, the rate of felony filings per capita for this group was lower than the statewide average. Individually, however, Harris, Dallas, and El Paso counties were, on average, 1.3 filings per capita higher each year than the statewide average. Dallas County had the highest per capita felony filing rate with an average of 9.7 cases filed per 1,000 citizens per year over the past decade.



County	Average Number of Felony Cases Filed per 1,000 Population per Year in the 10 Most Populous Counties Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006
Dallas	9.7
Harris	9.0
El Paso	8.3
Tarrant	7.0
Hidalgo	5.8
Bexar	5.6
Fort Bend	4.4
Denton	3.7
Collin	3.6
Travis	0.4
Statewide Average	7.7

Average Percentage Change per Year in Felony Filings per 1,000 Population in the 10 Most Populous Counties Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006	
County	Percentage Change
Hidalgo	41.1%
El Paso	21.7%
Fort Bend	17.8%
Travis	17.2%
Collin	14.3%
Bexar	13.7%
Harris	9.4%
Tarrant	7.3%
Dallas	0.2%
Denton	-2.8%

Hidalgo County, however, had the largest increase in felony filings per capita over the past ten years among the ten most populous counties (41.1 percent per year). Only one of the ten counties experienced a decrease in their felony filings per capita over the past decade—felony filings in Denton County decreased an average of 2.8 percent per year.