



# Highlights from the **2021** Annual Statistical Report

# Change in Cases Added, FY 20 to 21

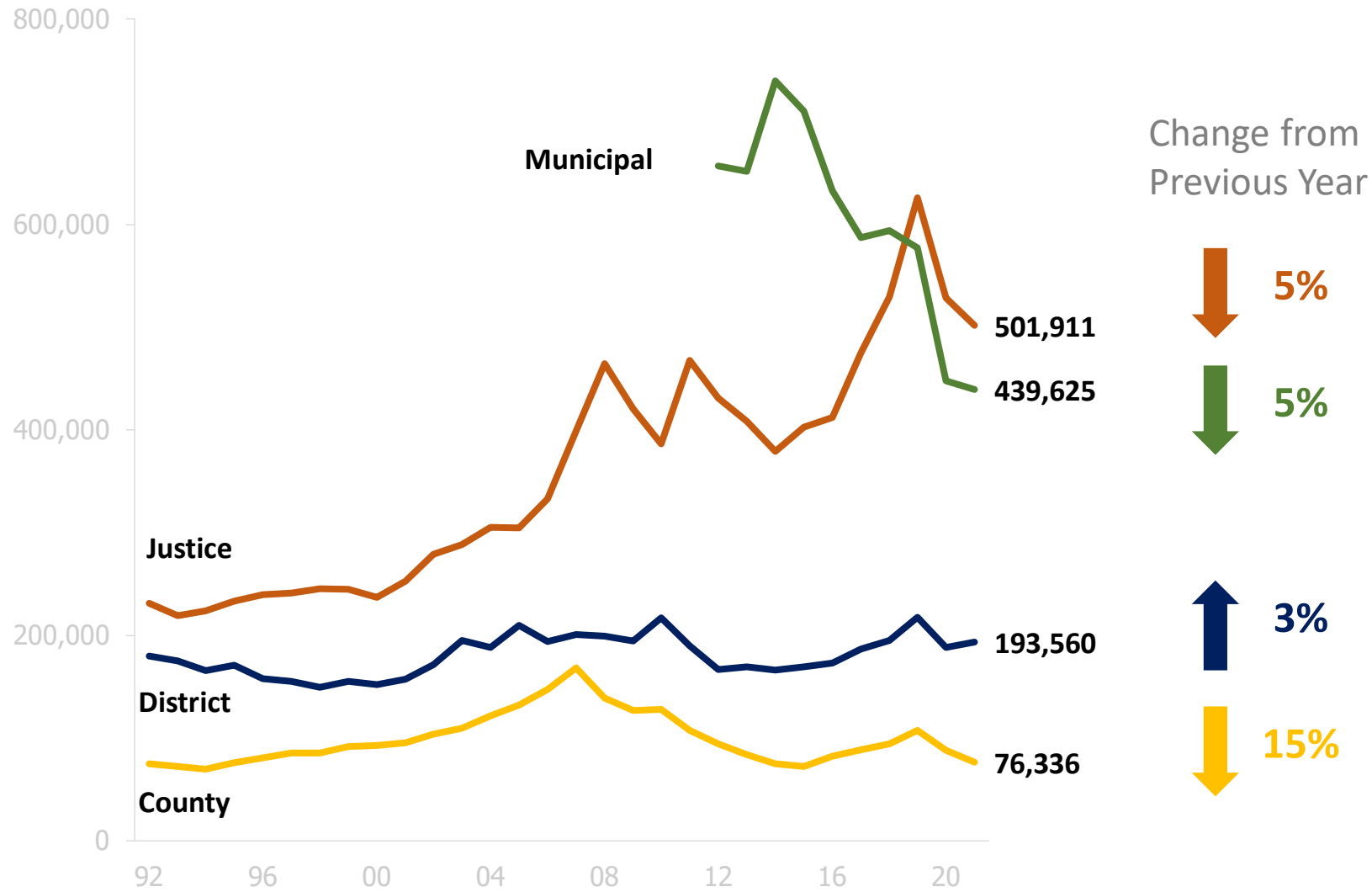
Supreme Court	↓	1 %	Court of Criminal Appeals	↓	3 %
Courts of Appeals	↓	18 %	District	↓	0.3 %
Statutory County	↓	3 %	Constitutional County	↑	2 %
Justice	↓	9 %	Municipal	↓	7 %



Civil

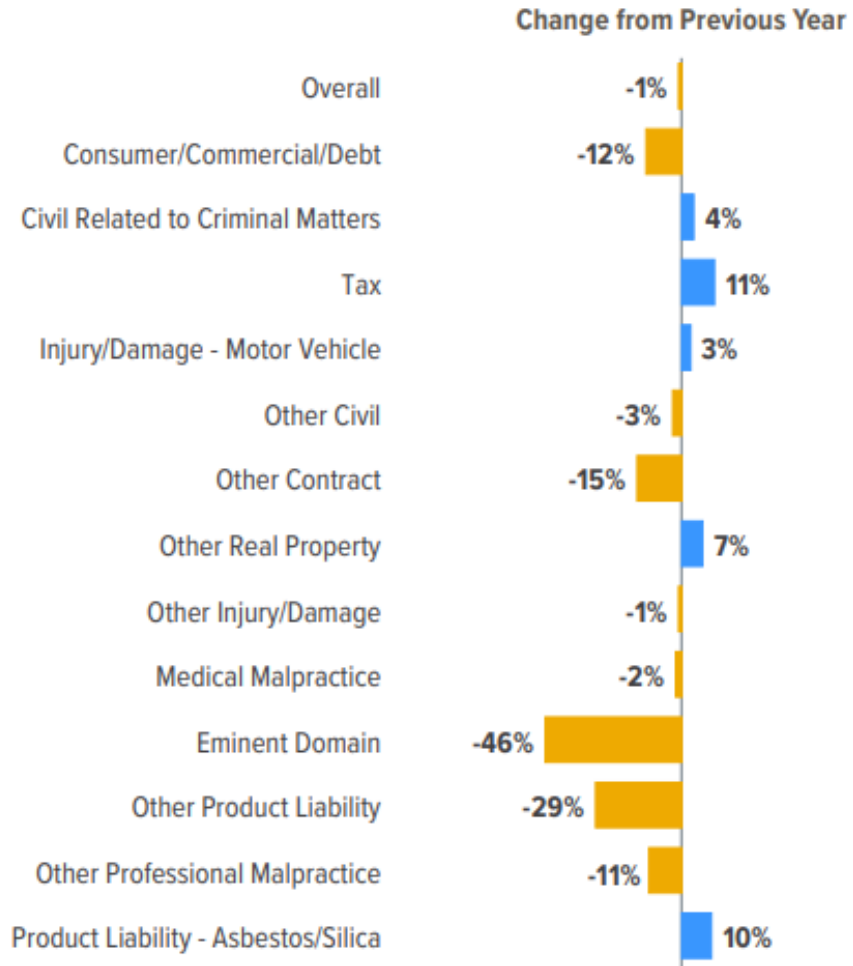


# New civil case filings continued to decline at every trial court level except for district.

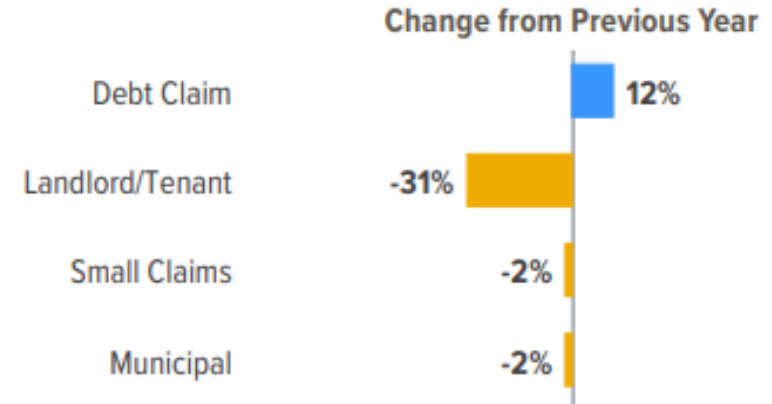


Filings increased in some case categories.

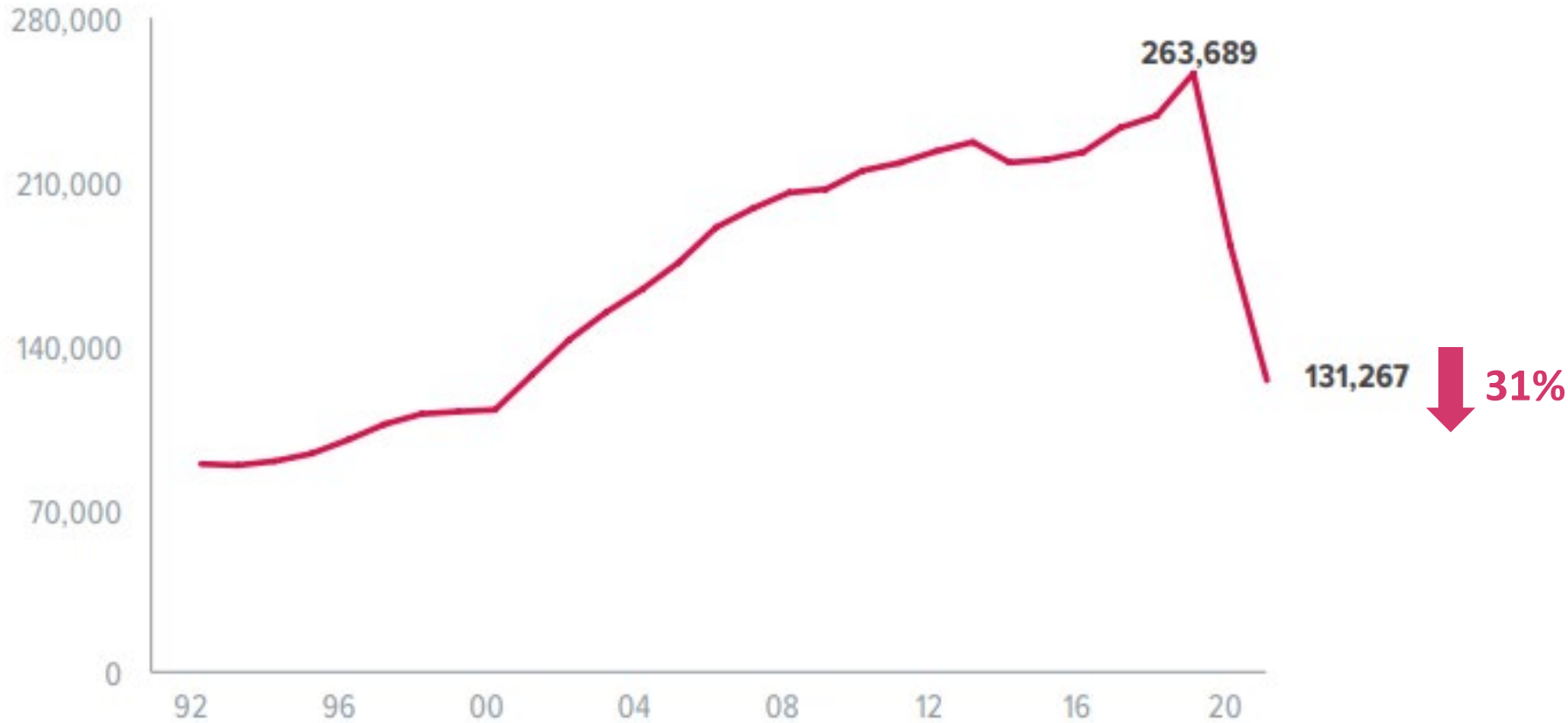
### District and County Courts



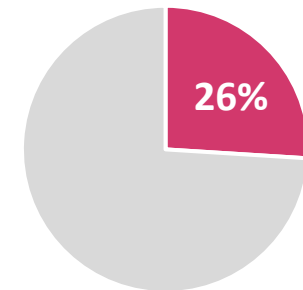
### Justice and Municipal Courts



After reaching an all-time high in 2019, new landlord/tenant cases filed in justice courts fell 28 percent in 2020 and another 31 percent in 2021. The number of cases filed in 2021 was the lowest since 2000.



Landlord/Tenant Cases as % of Justice Courts' Civil Caseload, 2021

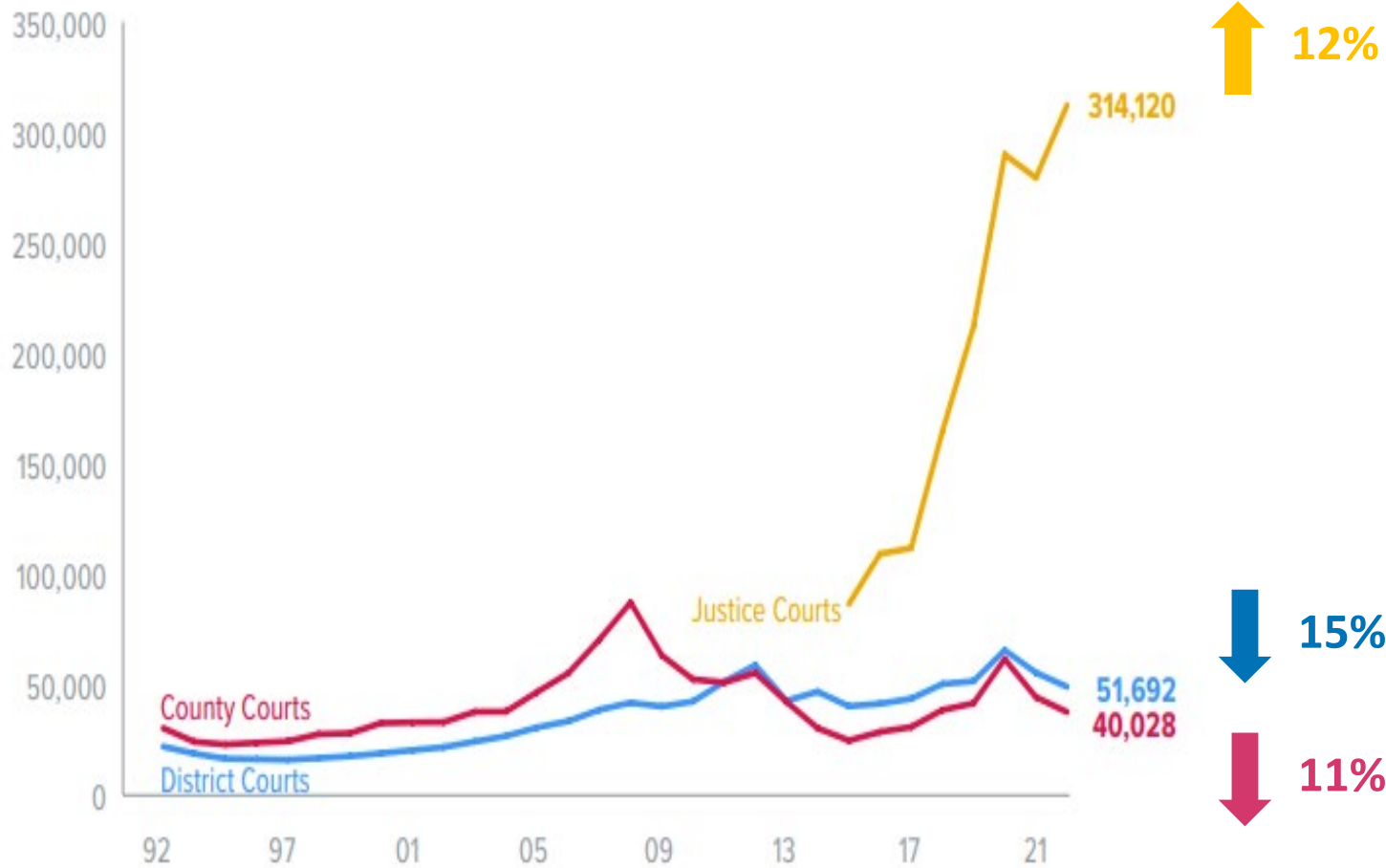


### New Landlord/Tenant Cases Filed by State Fiscal Year

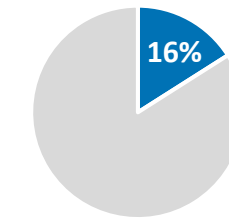
State FY	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
2018	17,727	23,509	18,976	17,544	22,162	20,365	18,957	15,999	20,583	18,727	23,329	24,531	242,409
2019	19,986	26,298	20,404	19,142	25,207	20,232	20,607	17,800	21,656	21,256	25,737	23,447	261,772
2020	23,030	26,628	18,924	23,039	25,120	22,133	14,304	1,540	2,933	14,581	9,359	8,262	189,853
2021	11,869	8,733	7,848	9,448	8,875	6,950	11,477	11,702	11,646	12,470	11,530	12,376	124,924
2022	13,591	15,267	14,687	15,213	17,895	18,697	23,003	5,145					123,498
<b>Difference from FY 21</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>6,534</b>	<b>6,839</b>	<b>5,765</b>	<b>9,020</b>	<b>11,747</b>	<b>11,526</b>						
							<b>53,153</b>						



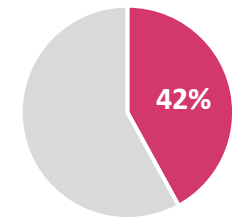
Debt cases continued to decline in the district and county courts but grew to an all-time high in the justice courts.



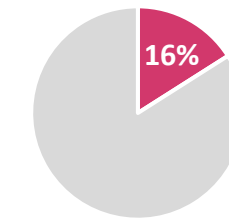
Debt Cases as % of Courts' Civil Caseload, 2021



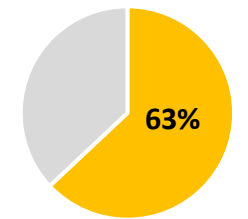
District Courts



County Courts at Law



County Courts



Justice Courts



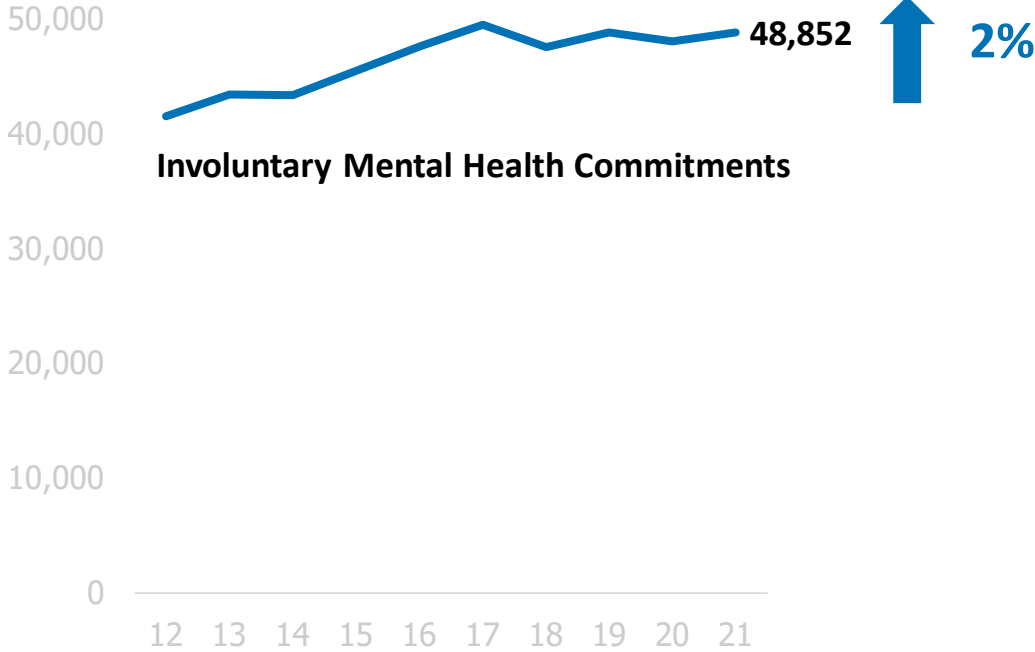
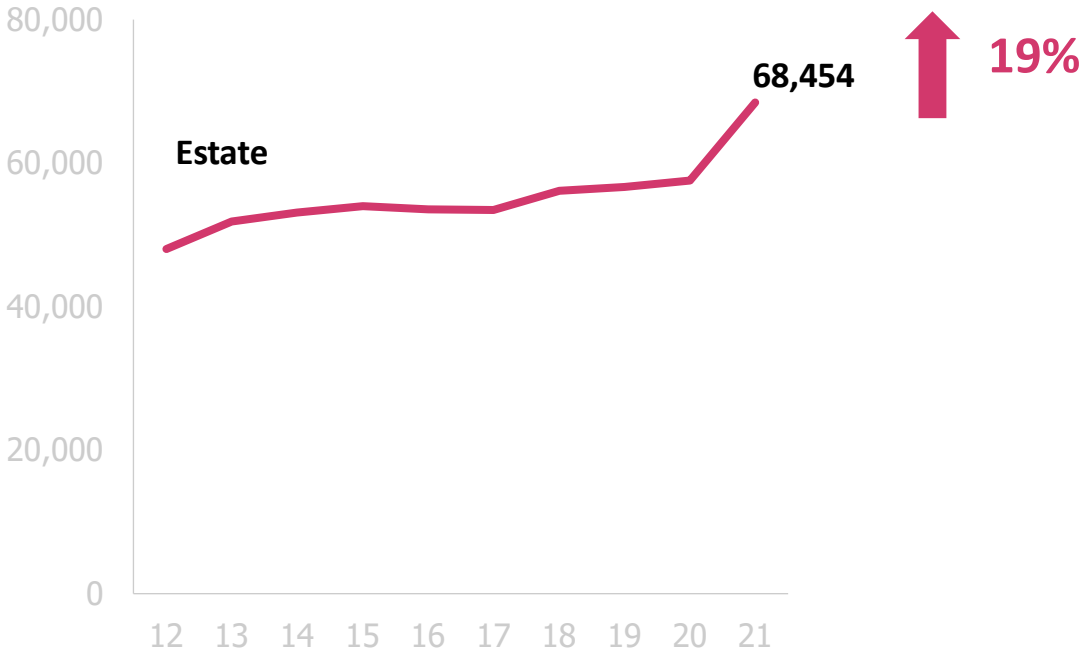


### New Debt Cases Filed by State Fiscal Year

State FY	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
2018	10,107	17,886	16,397	15,552	21,609	22,060	19,710	18,281	19,810	15,227	16,777	24,177	217,593
2019	18,920	22,395	20,509	22,147	27,288	22,558	24,149	28,576	25,409	25,513	27,525	30,281	295,270
2020	28,542	26,932	27,433	32,112	28,037	23,158	26,257	9,761	14,984	21,383	24,757	19,725	283,081
2021	22,401	19,950	21,801	30,032	27,474	24,366	34,767	31,056	28,780	22,731	25,304	23,267	311,929
2022	21,774	21,298	19,777	20,183	14,232	10,066	19,158						126,488
<b>Difference from FY 21</b>	<b>(627)</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>(2,024)</b>	<b>(9,849)</b>	<b>(13,242)</b>	<b>(14,300)</b>	<b>(15,609)</b>	<b>(54,303)</b>					



Estate cases and involuntary mental health commitments were 2 of the few categories in which filings increased during the pandemic.



# Family

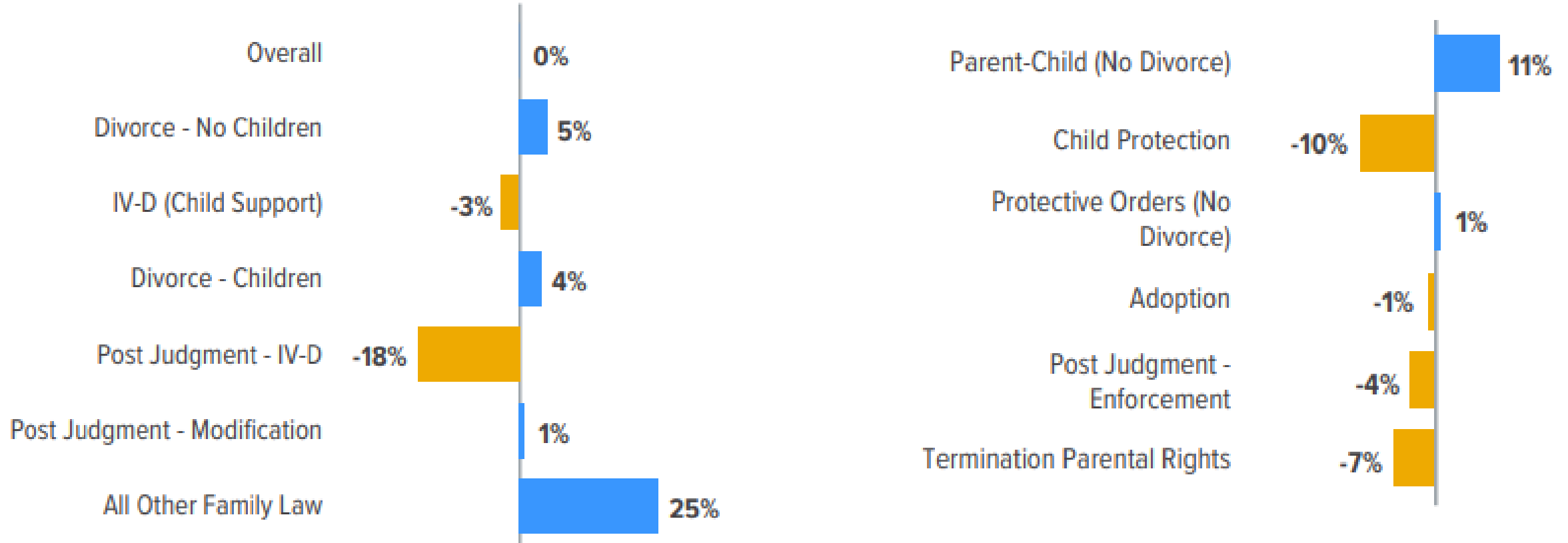


New family cases increased while post-judgment suits for modification or enforcement continued to decline.

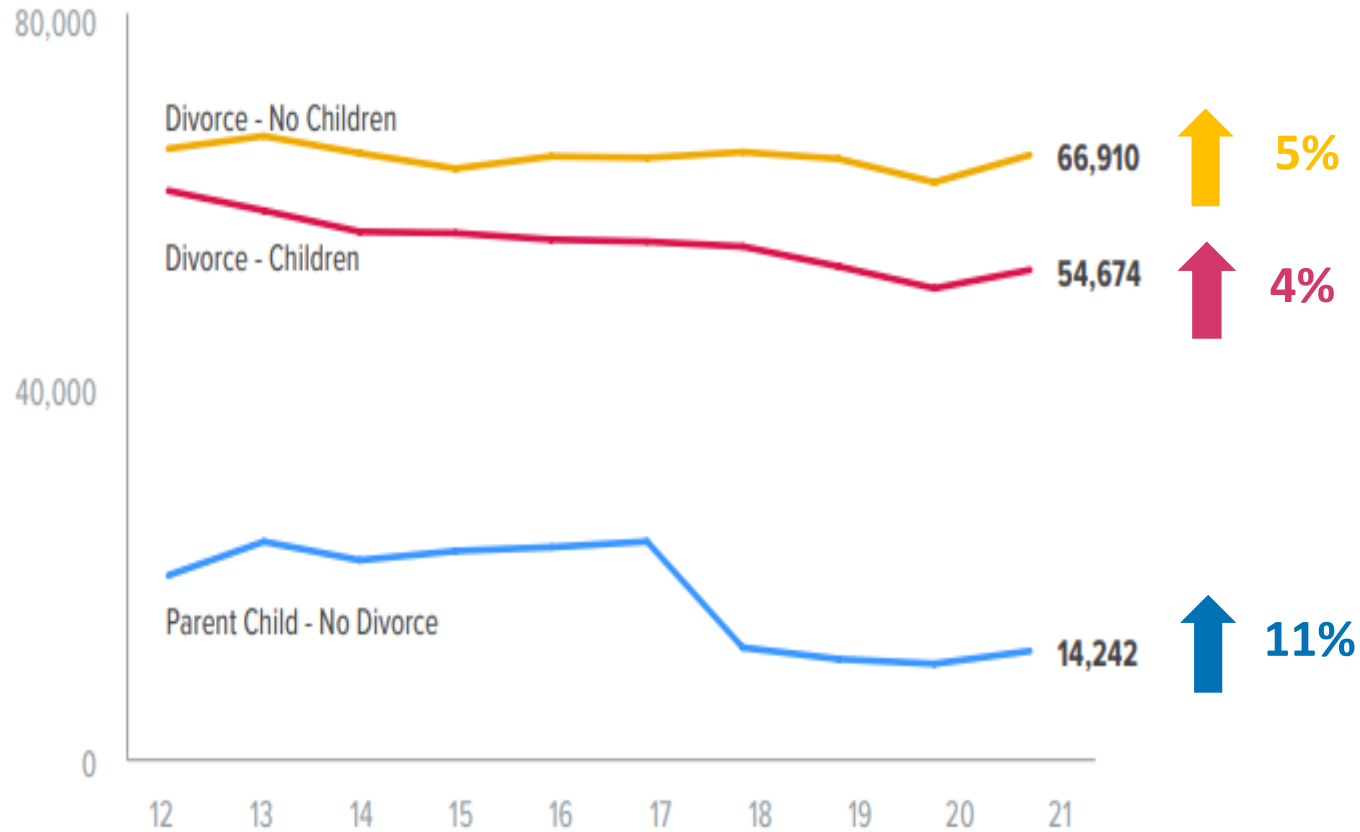


Filings decreased in half of case categories, but the most significant declines occurred in child support (IV-D) modification or enforcement cases.

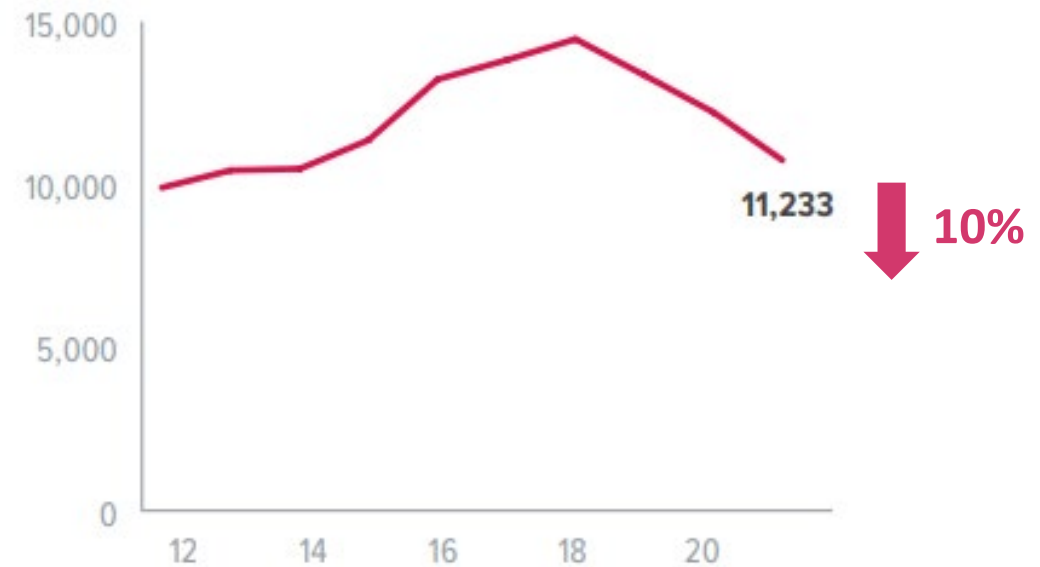
Change from Previous Year



New divorce cases and new parent-child cases not involving divorce increased from the previous year.



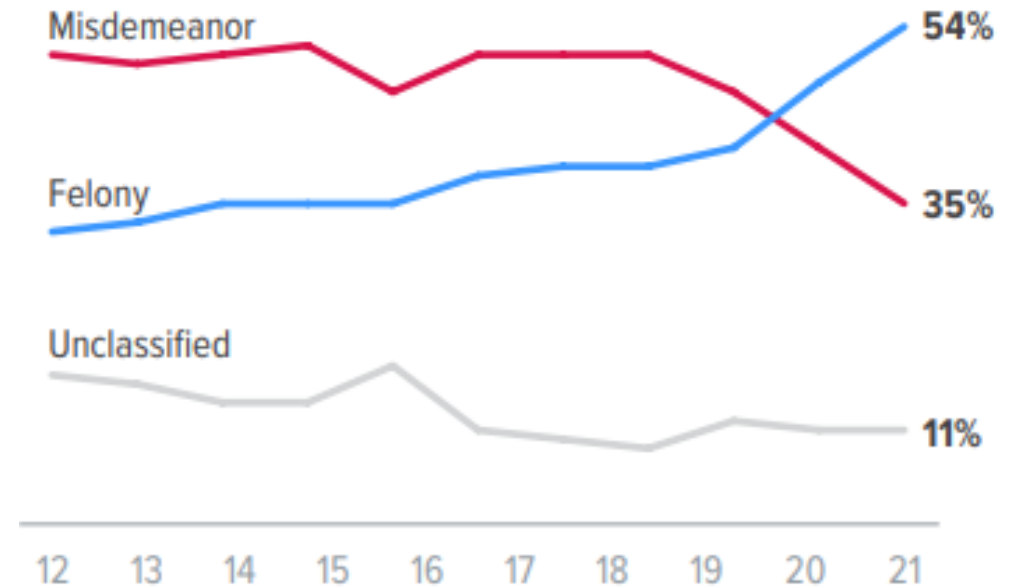
New child protection cases fell for the third year in a row to the lowest level since 2014.



# Juvenile

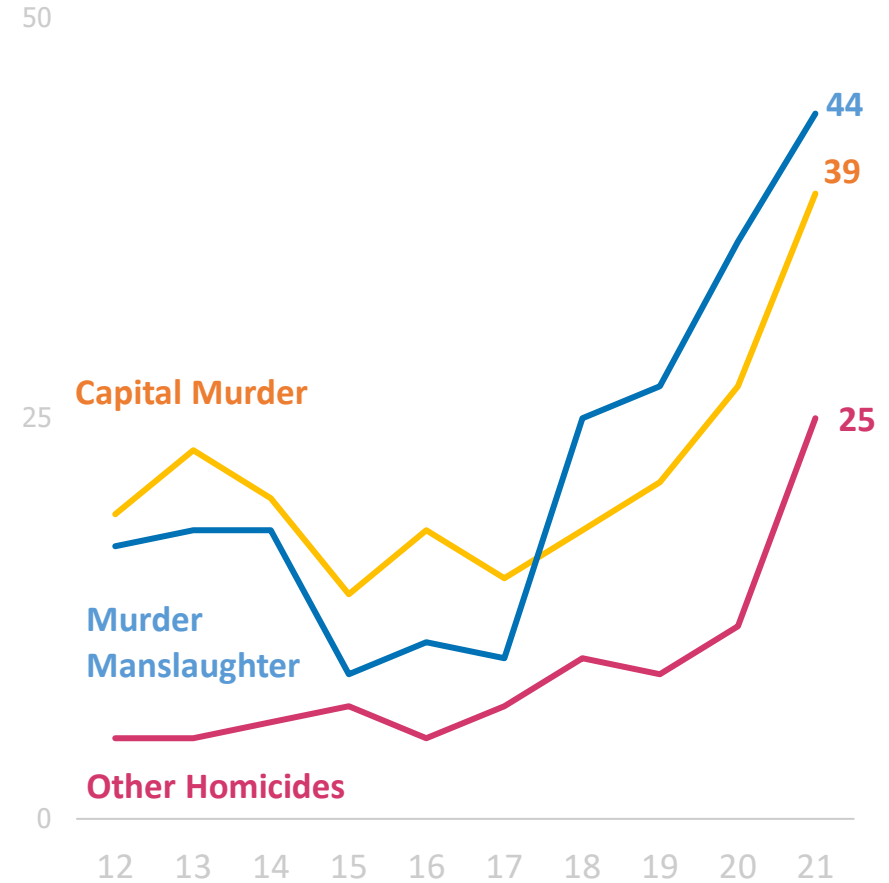
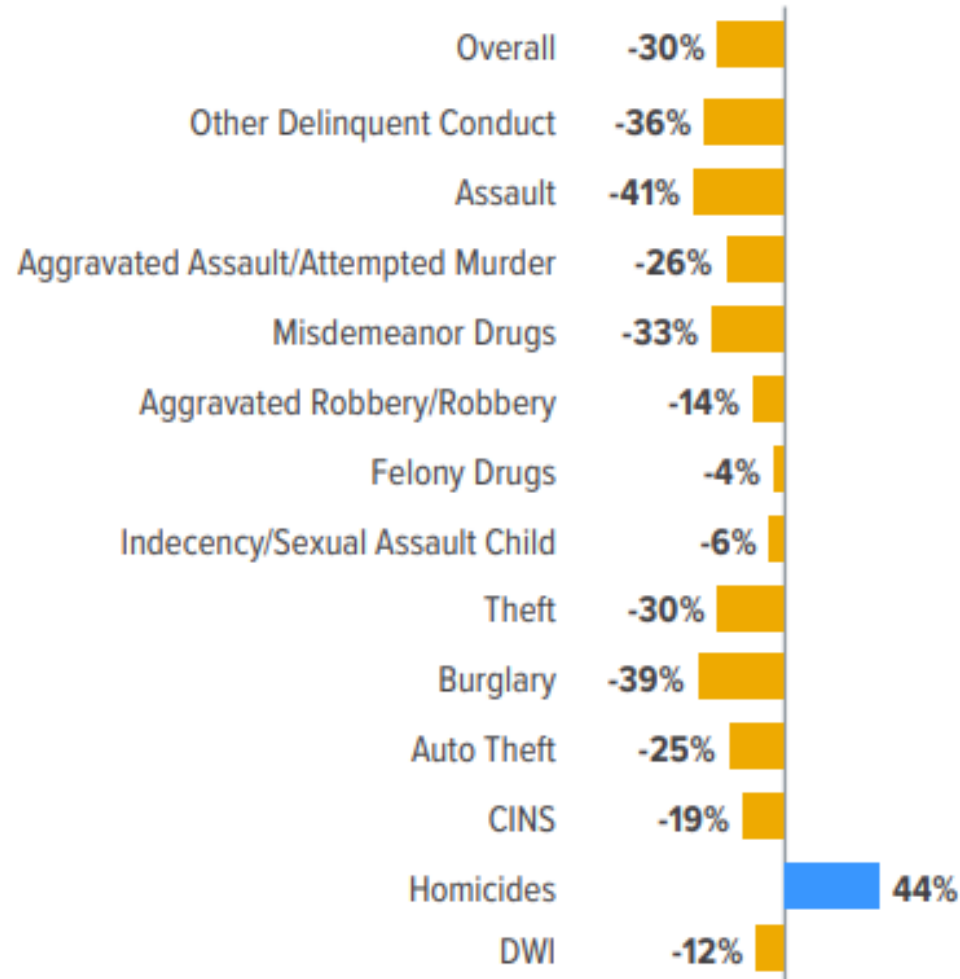


Since the peak in 2007, the number of juvenile cases filed has fallen 74 percent to the lowest level since 1993. For the second consecutive year, new delinquent conduct cases involving a felony offense exceeded those involving a misdemeanor.

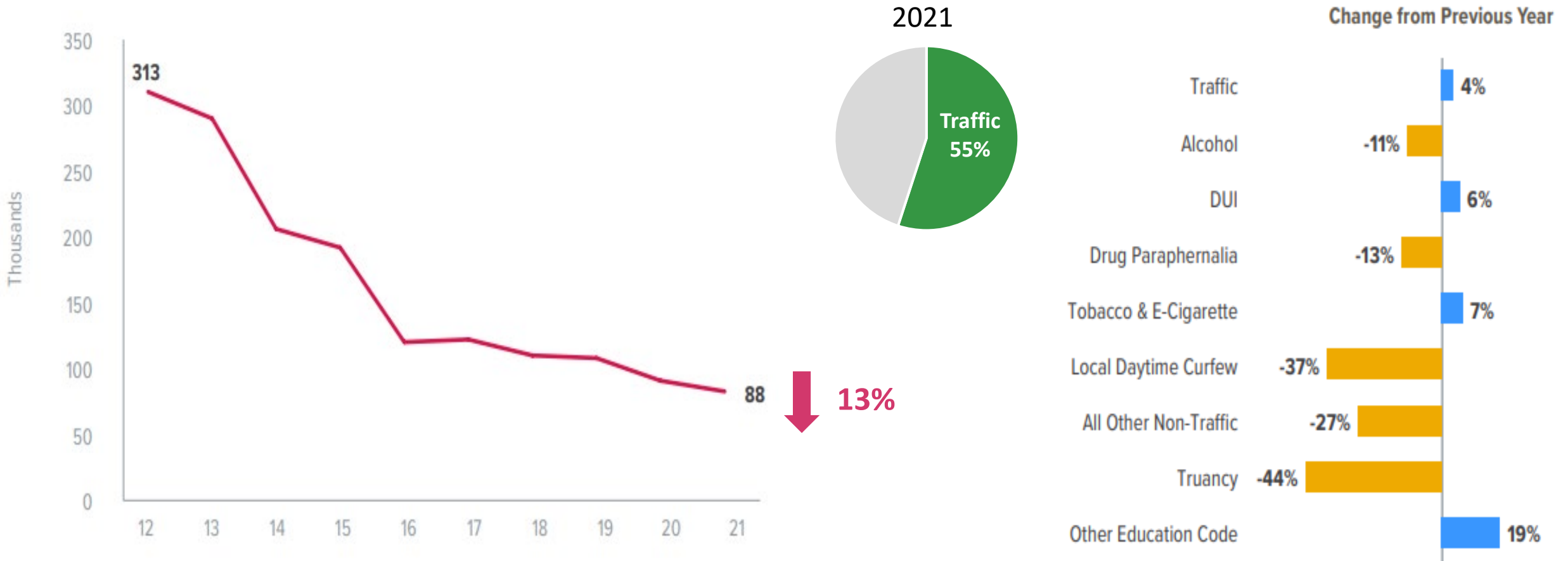




Filings declined in all categories except for homicides in 2021, with the largest declines in assault and burglary cases.



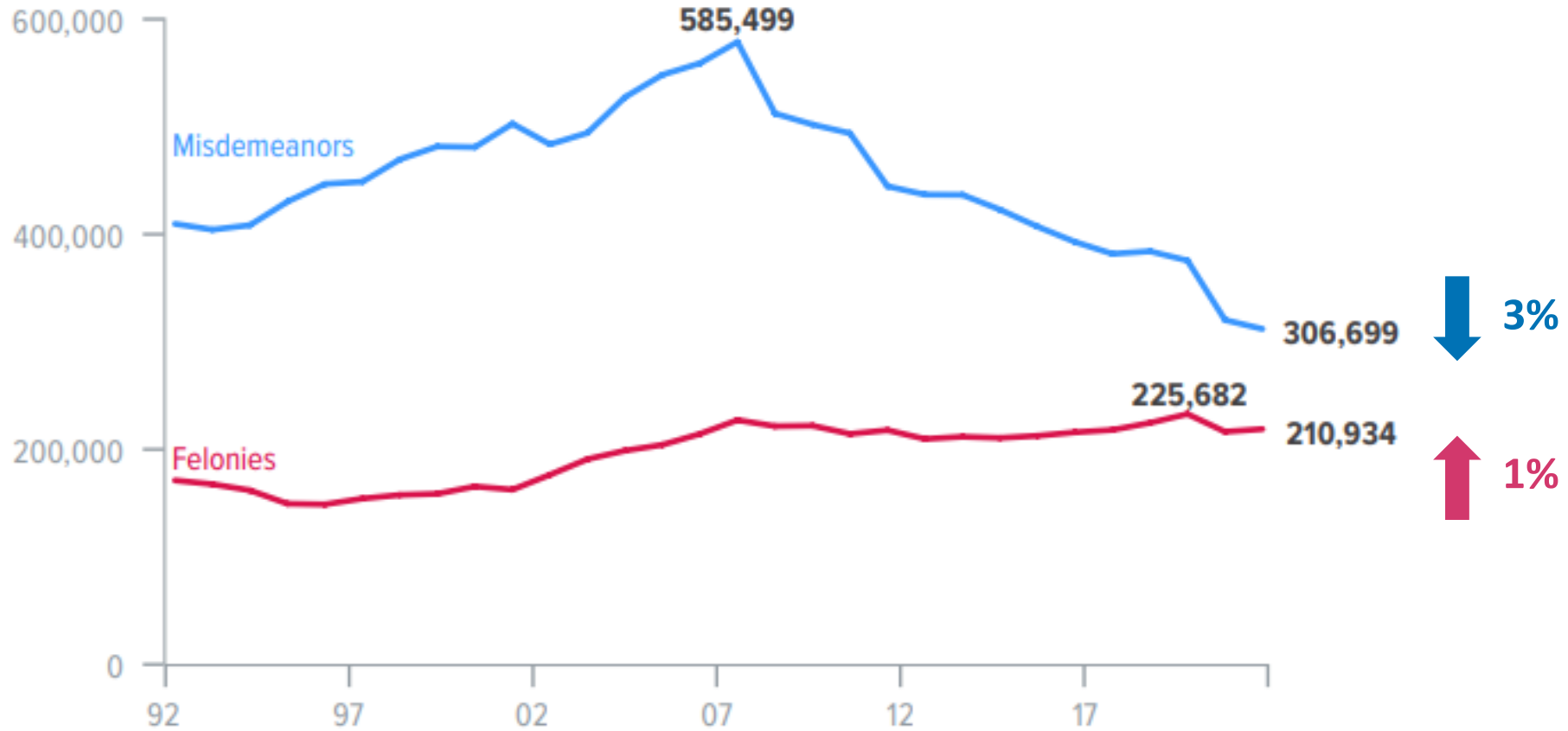
Cases involving juveniles or minors that were filed in justice and municipal courts declined in 2021. Filings declined 72 percent since 2012.



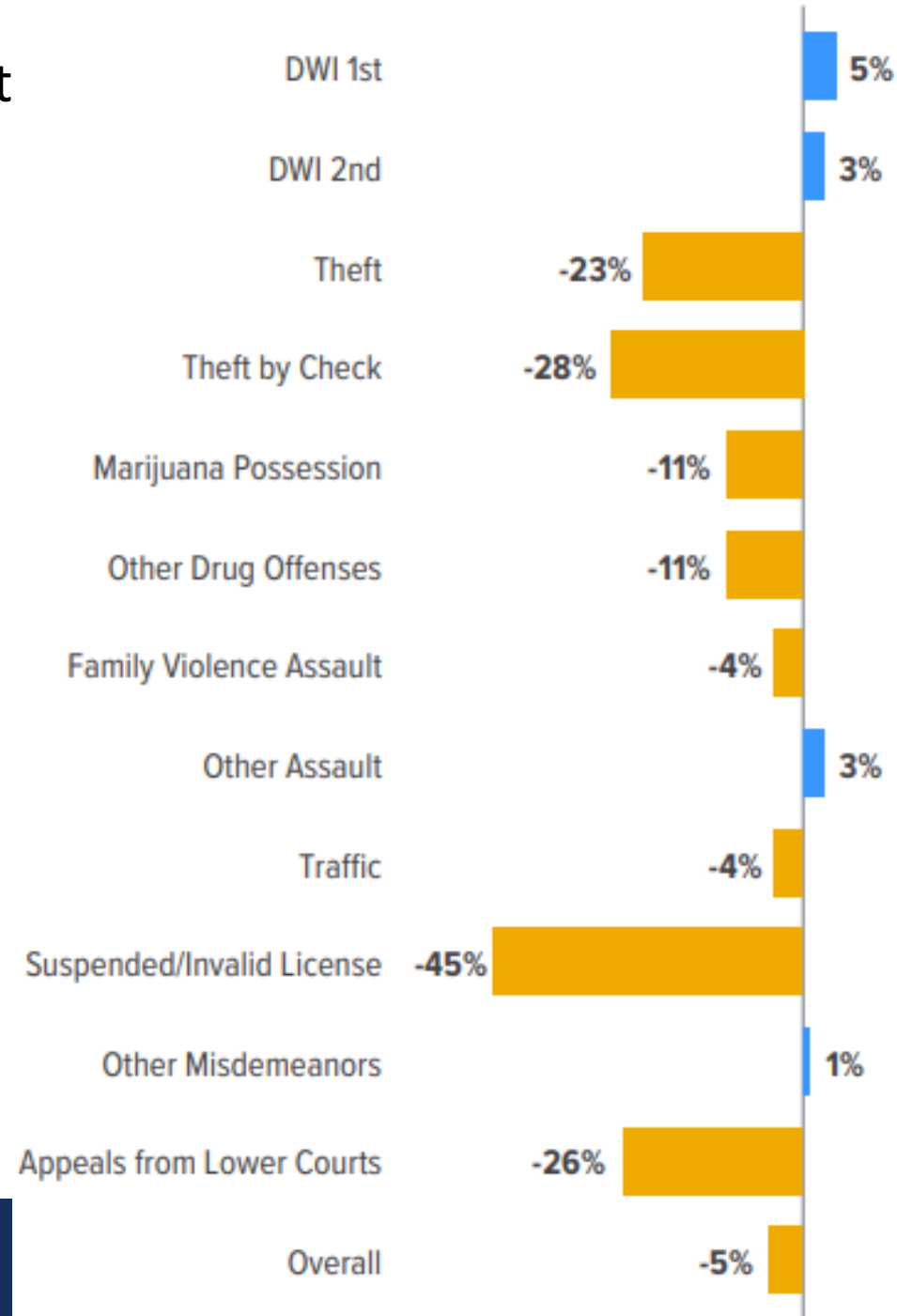
# Criminal



The number of new misdemeanor cases has been falling since 2007. The number of new felony cases reached an all-time high in 2019, declined in 2020 due to the pandemic but rebounded in 2021.

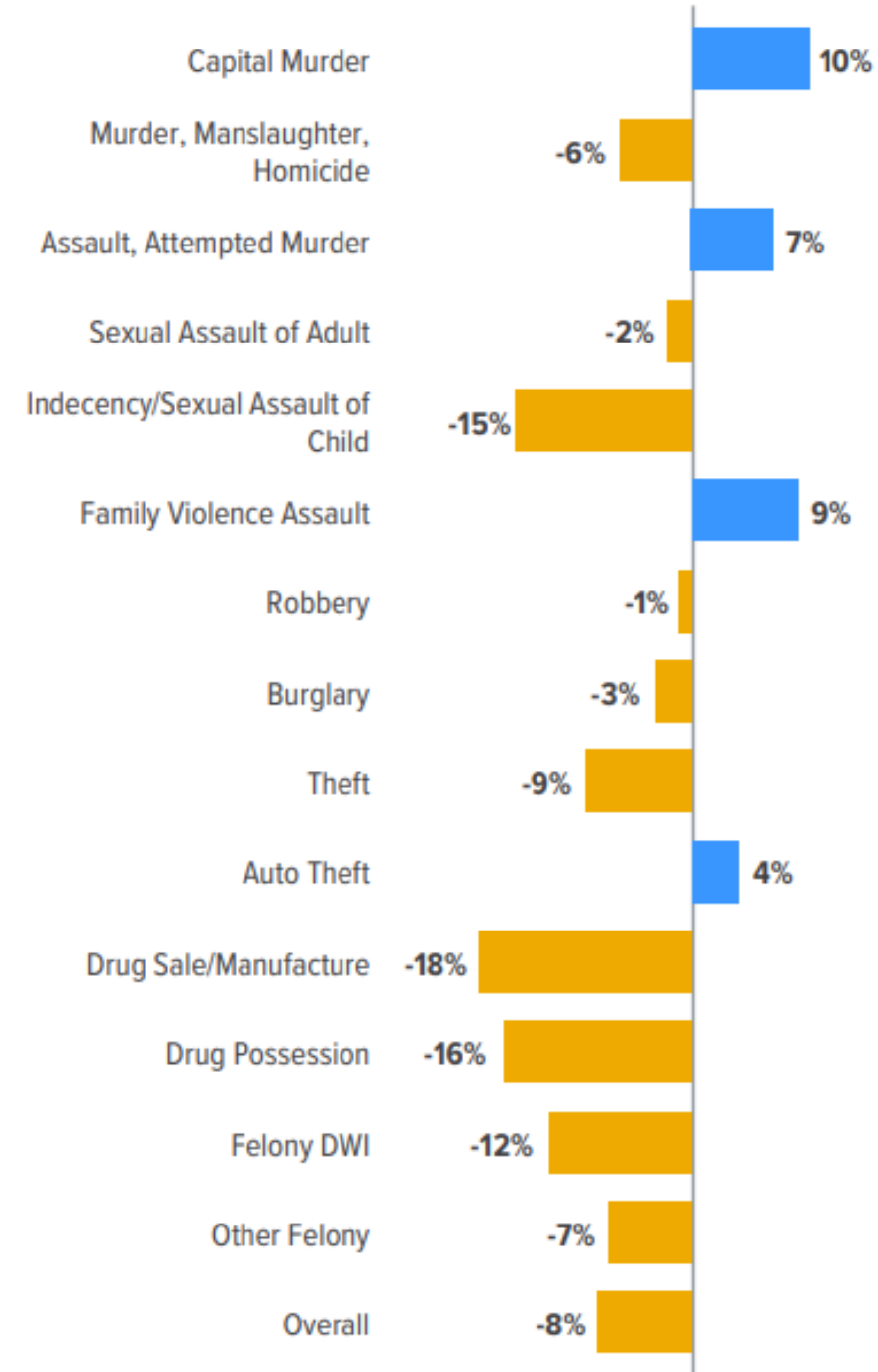
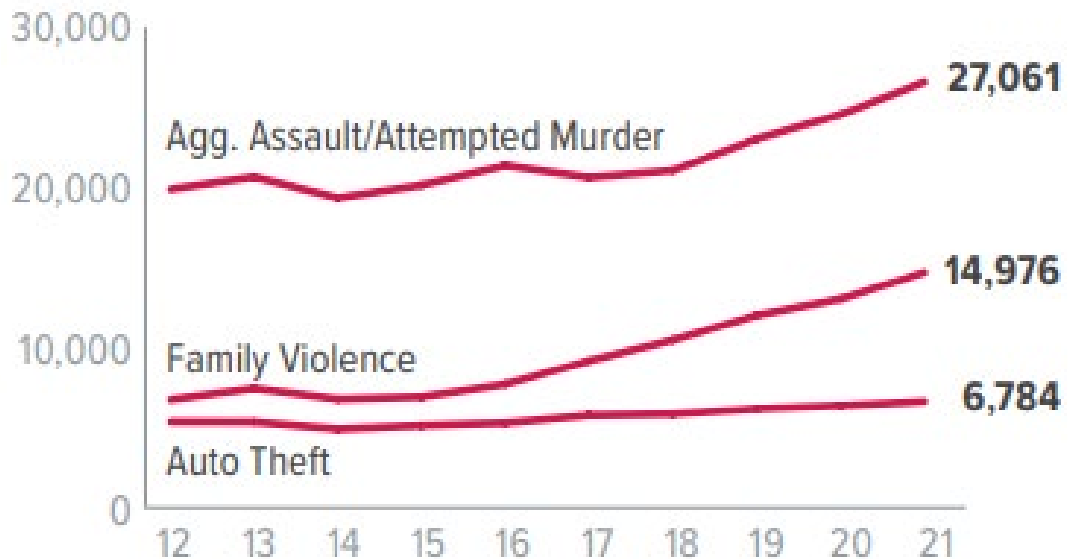


Over the last 5 years the only **misdemeanor** case types that have increased are assault cases and first DWI offenses.

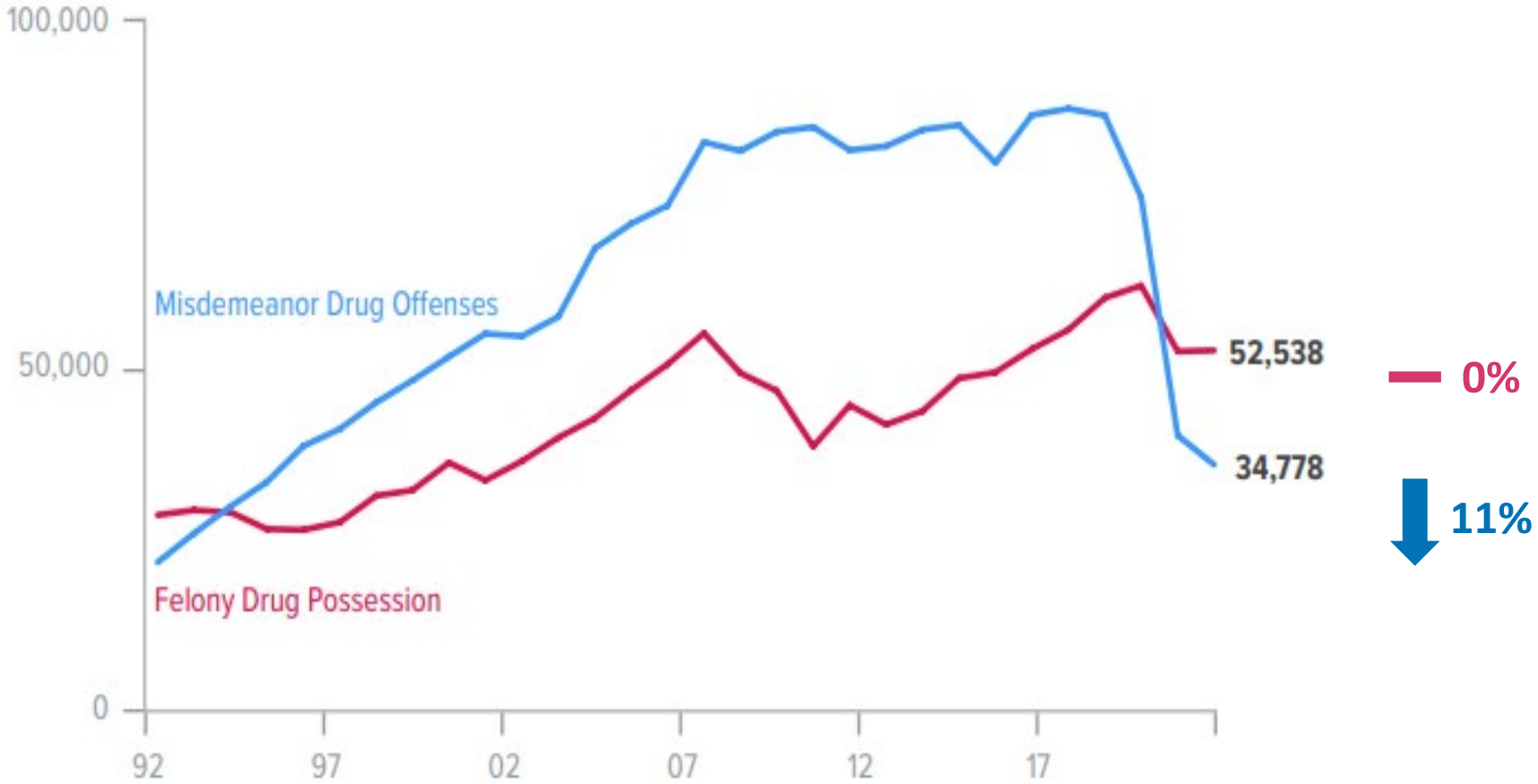


The steepest declines in **felony** cases occurred in drug cases and cases involving indecency or sexual assault of a child.

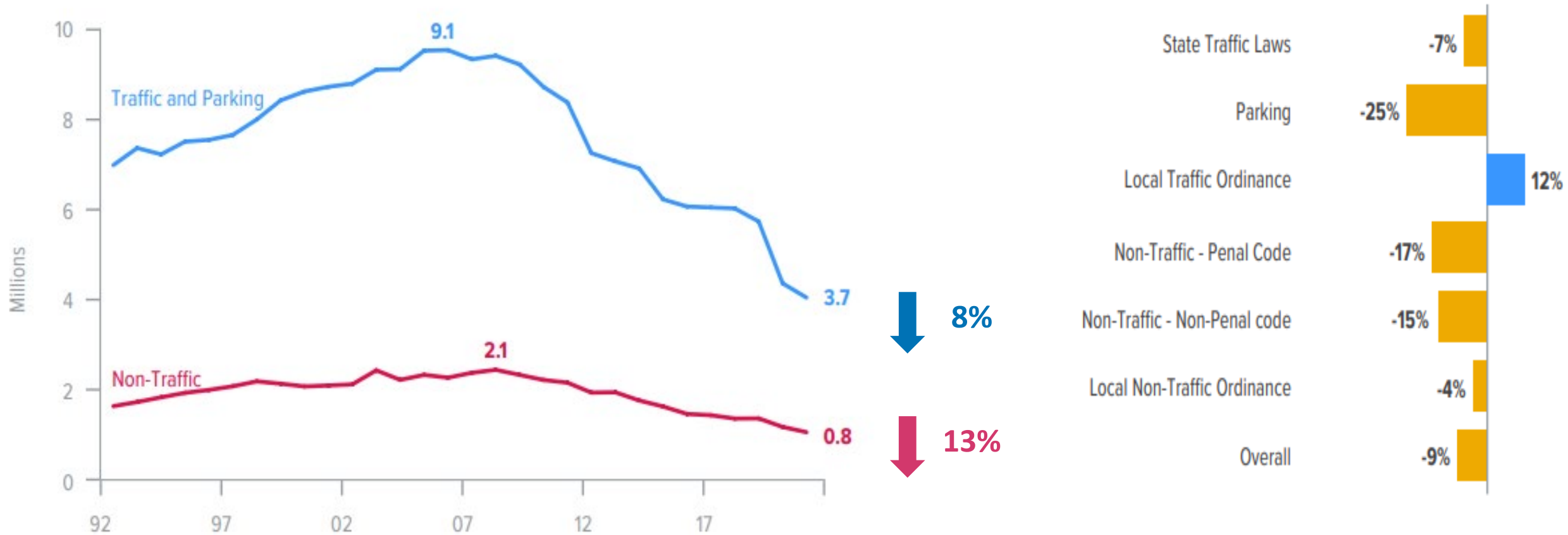
Aside from capital murder, aggravated assault/attempted murder, family violence, and auto theft were the only felony categories that increased in 2021.



New misdemeanor drug offense cases fell by almost half in 2020 due to continued decline in the prosecution of marijuana cases as well as an overall steep decrease in filed misdemeanor cases due to the pandemic. Unlike misdemeanor offenses, felony drug offenses increased in 2021.



Traffic and parking cases continued a 13-year decline that was intensified by the pandemic. 2021 filings were 59 percent lower than the peak in 2006 and was the lowest number since 1980. In 2021, non-traffic fine only misdemeanor cases were 64 percent lower than the peak number of filings in 2008 and was the second lowest number since 1979.

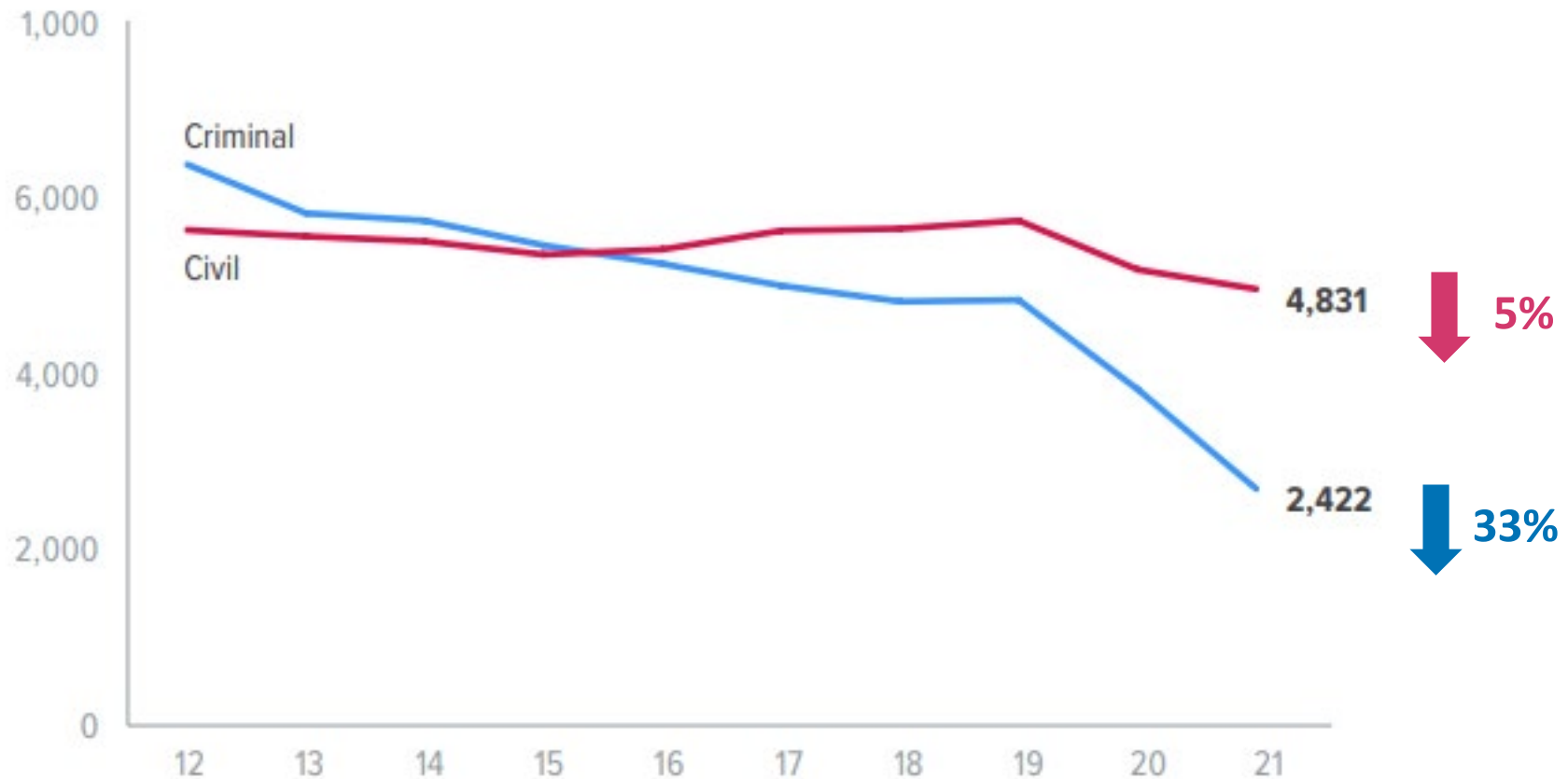




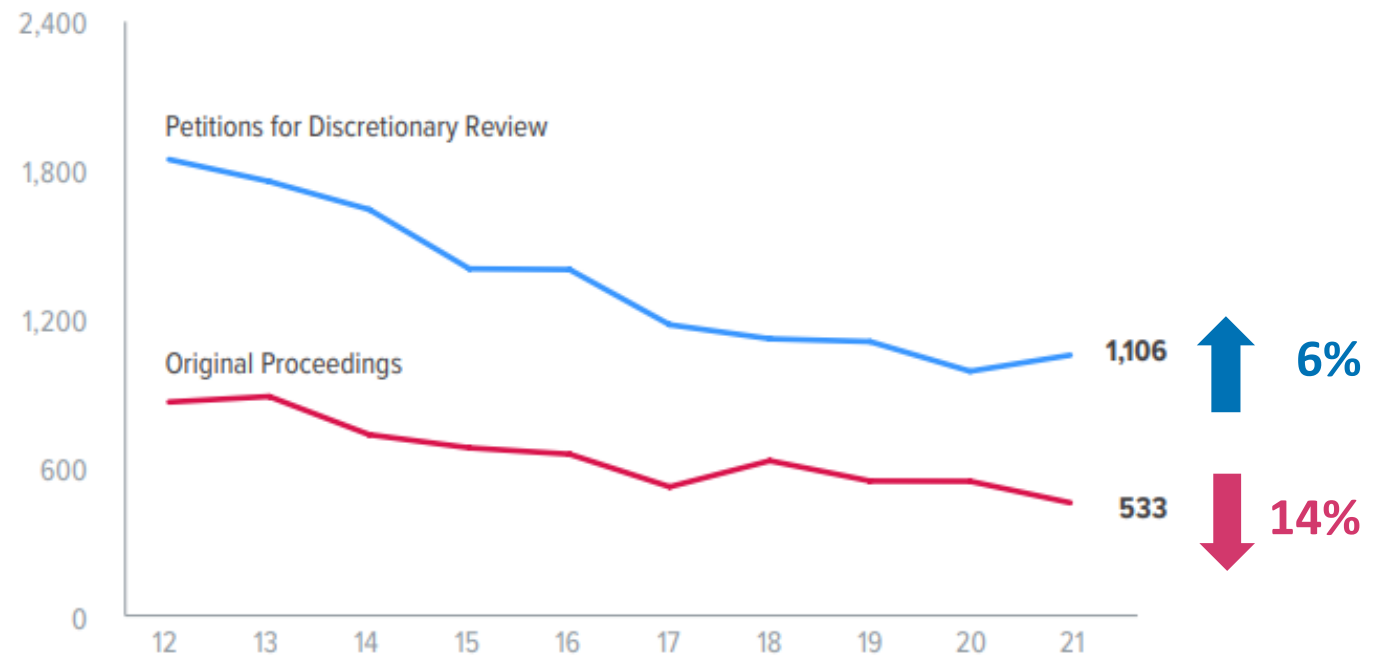
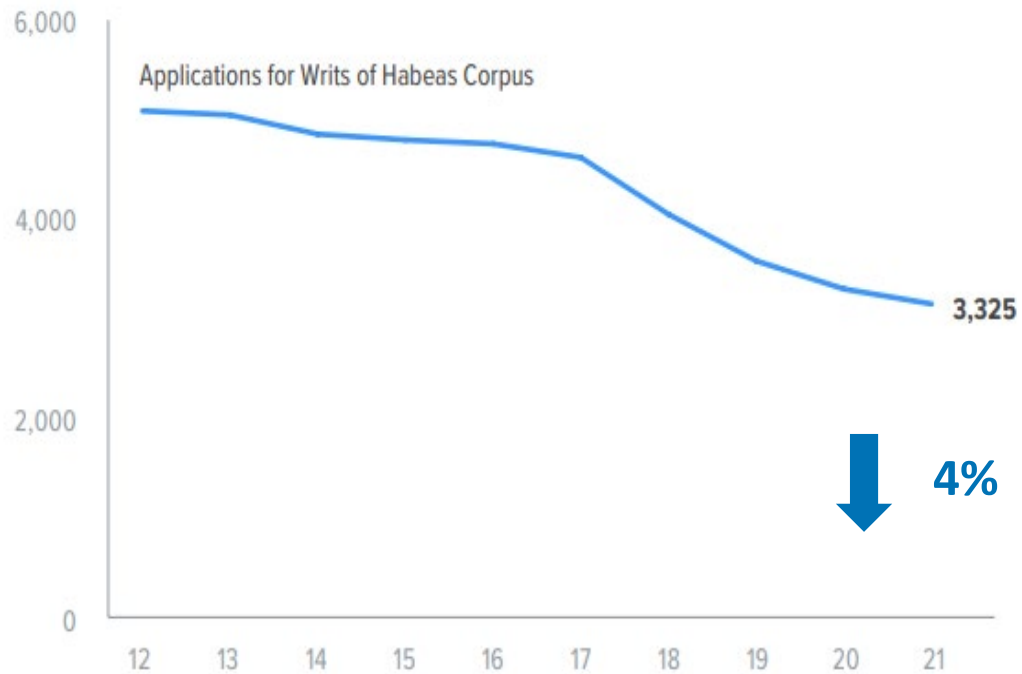
# Appellate



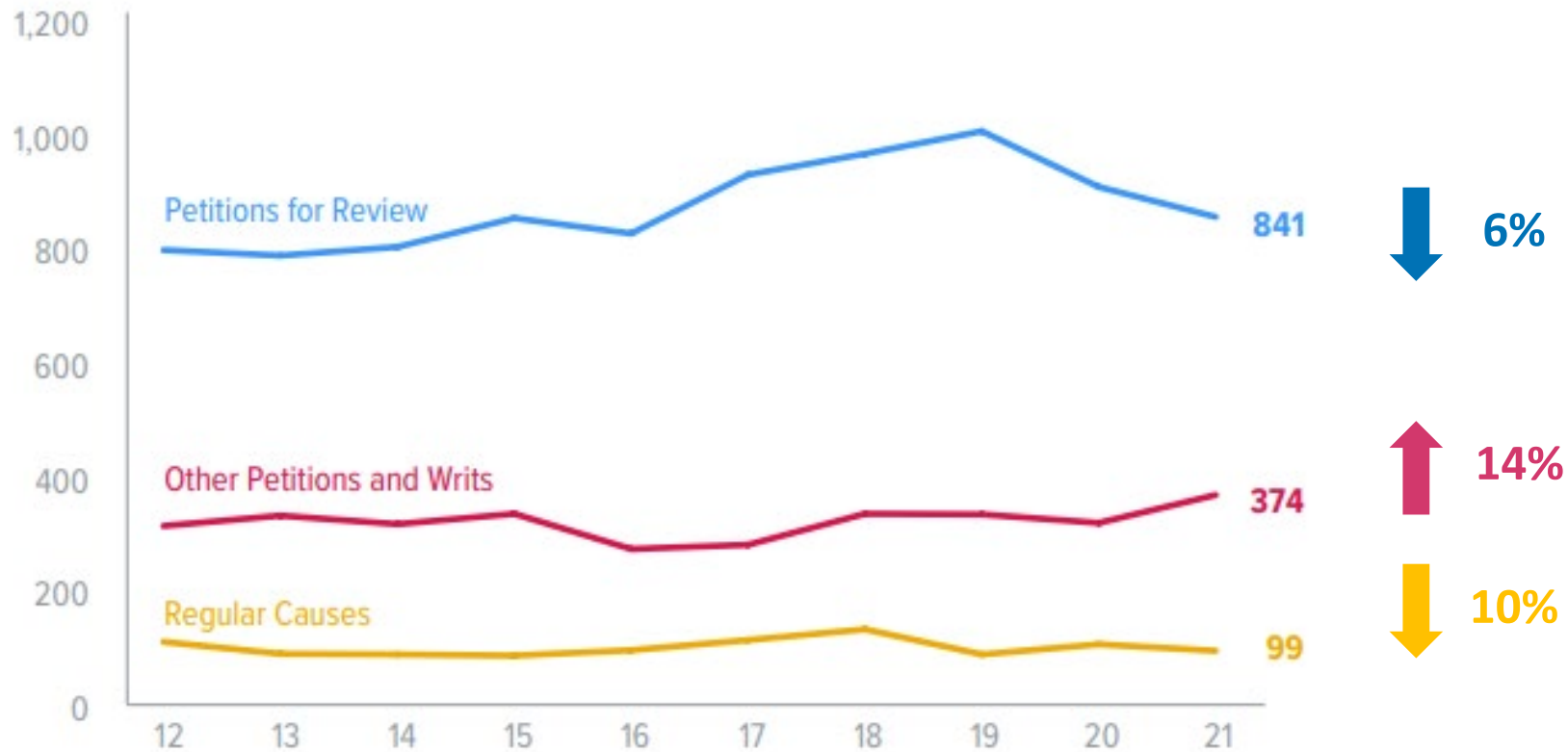
The number of criminal filings in the **Courts of Appeals** was the lowest since 1988. After the highest civil filing rate in the history of the courts of appeals in 2019, the number of civil cases declined during the pandemic.



In the **Court of Criminal Appeals**, applications for writs of habeas corpus declined to the lowest level since at least 2001. After declining during the previous year to the lowest level since at least 1989, petitions for discretionary review increased in 2021. Original proceedings declined to the lowest level since 1999.



Petitions for review, which account for the majority of the **Supreme Court's** caseload, declined for the second year in a row. Regular causes declined as well, while the number of other petitions and writs increased.



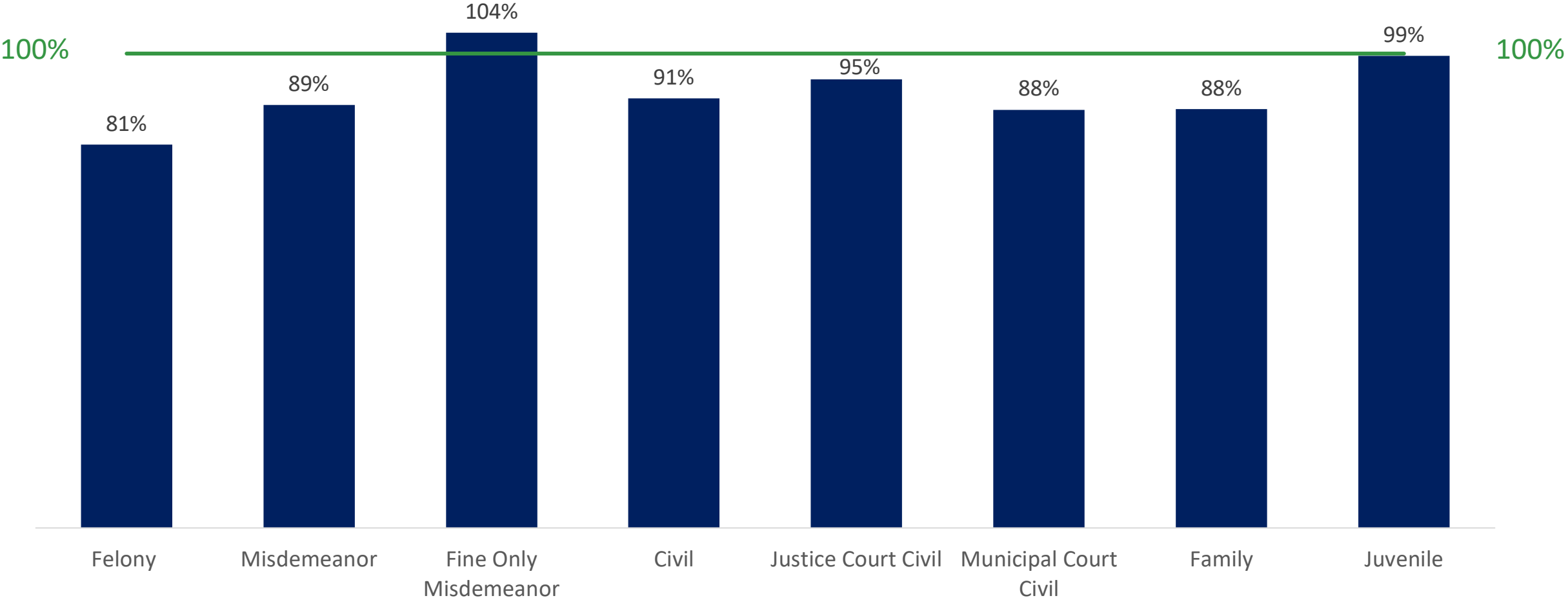


# Clearance Rates and Pending Caseload



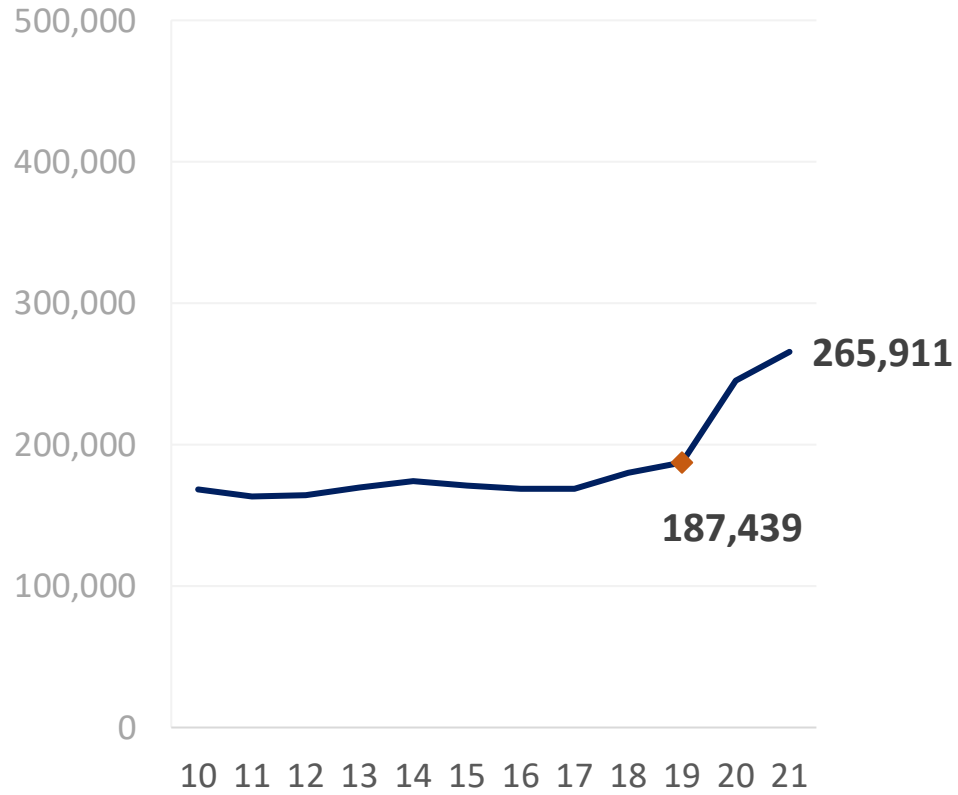
# Clearance Rates in Trial Court Case Types

March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021



# Active Pending Criminal Cases as of December 31

## District Courts

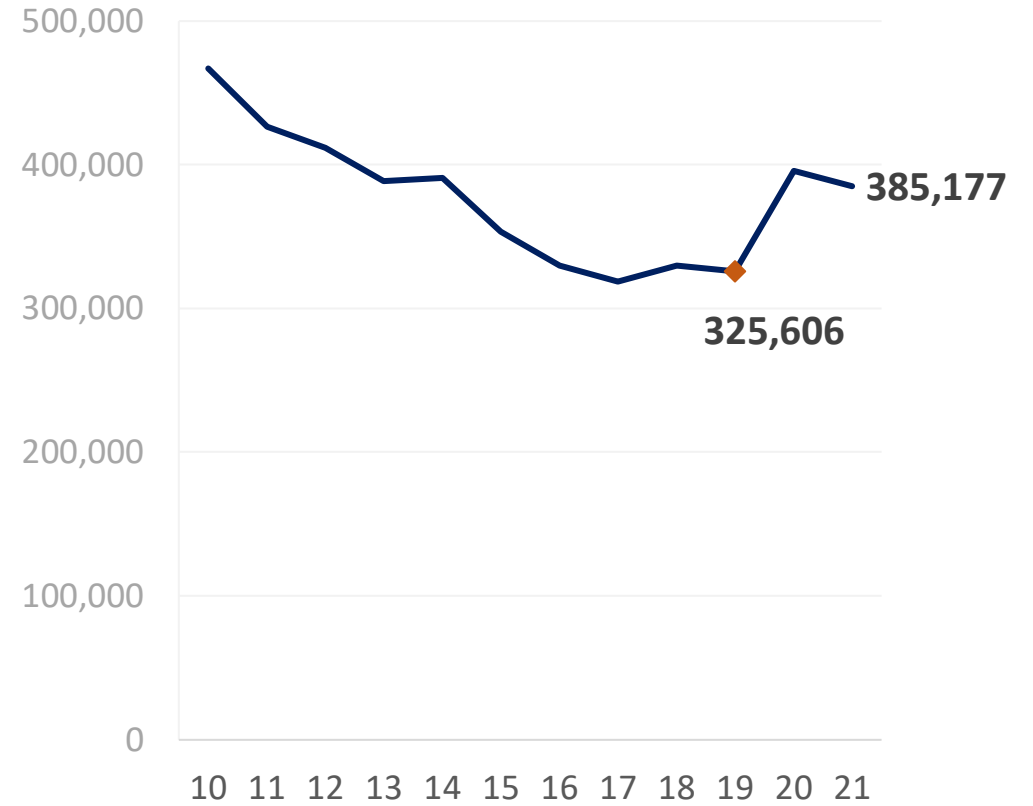


Change since 2019



42% 78,472 cases

## County Courts



18% 59,571 cases



# Top 5 Counties by Volume of Increase in Active Pending Criminal Cases from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021

## District

County	Volume	% Change
Harris	19,928	87%
Tarrant	5,813	67%
Bexar	3,939	56%
Travis	2,703	43%
Dallas	2,336	15%

34,719 44% of Total Backlog

## County

County	Volume	% Change
Harris	10,346	33%
Hidalgo	9,372	60%
Bexar	7,640	54%
Dallas	5,712	51%
Nueces	5,440	124%

38,510 65% of Total Backlog





# Top 5 Case Categories by Volume of Increase in Active Pending Criminal Cases from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

## Felony

Category	Volume	% Change
Other Felony	14,007	32%
Aggravated Assault/ Attempted Murder	11,997	61%
Drug Possession	10,359	24%
Assault - Family Violence	6,350	72%
Indecency with/ Sexual Assault of Child	2,683	30%

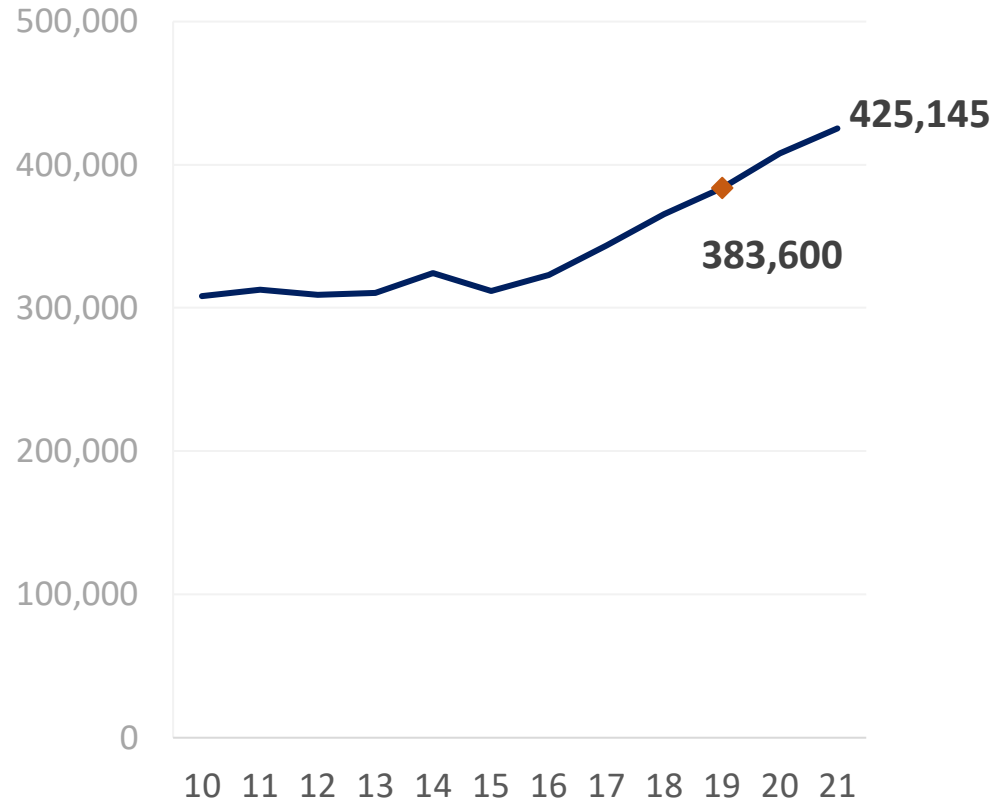
## Misdemeanor

Category	Volume	% Change
Other Misdemeanors	29,016	33%
DWI First Offense	17,822	24%
Assault - Family Violence	12,366	47%
Assault - Other	7,444	51%
Theft	4,647	17%



# Active Pending Civil Cases as of December 31

## District Courts



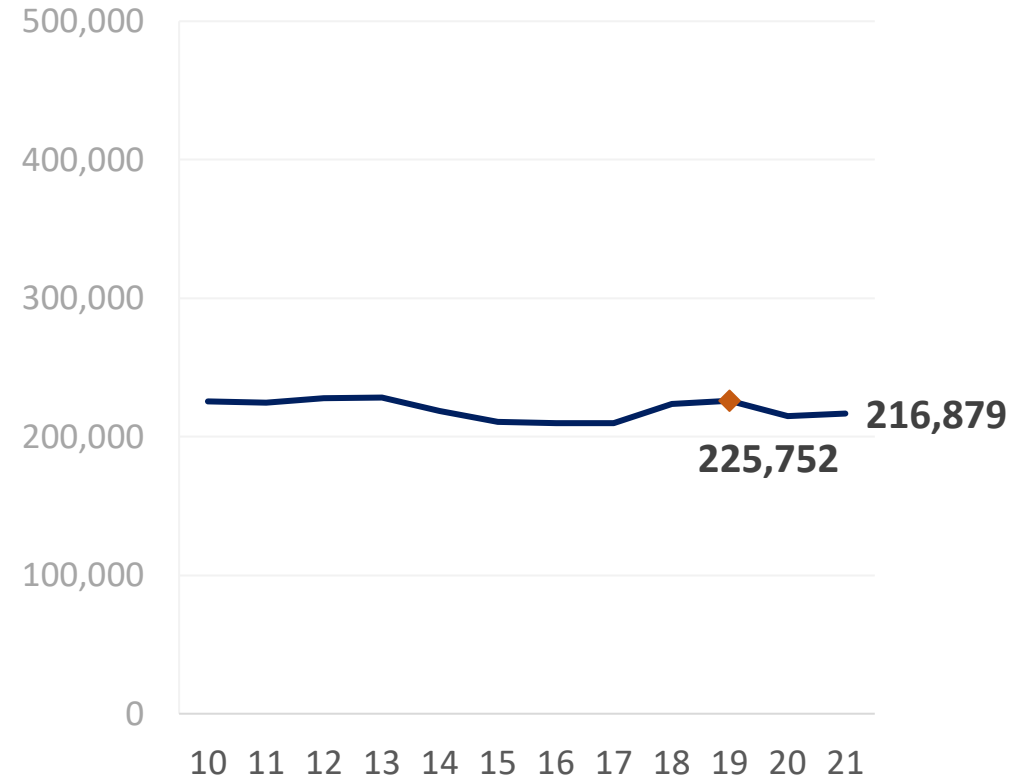
Change since 2019



11%

41,545 cases

## County Courts



4%

8,873 cases



# Top 5 Counties by Volume of Increase in Active Pending Civil Cases from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021

## District

County	Volume	% Change
Harris	13,344	20%
Bexar	7,328	30%
Tarrant	2,993	24%
Travis	2,747	13%
Hidalgo	950	5%

27,362 54% of Total Backlog

## County

County	Volume	% Change
Dallas	1,229	21%
Nueces	318	7%
Kaufman	311	39%
El Paso	286	7%
Brazoria	272	15%

2,416 37% of Total Backlog



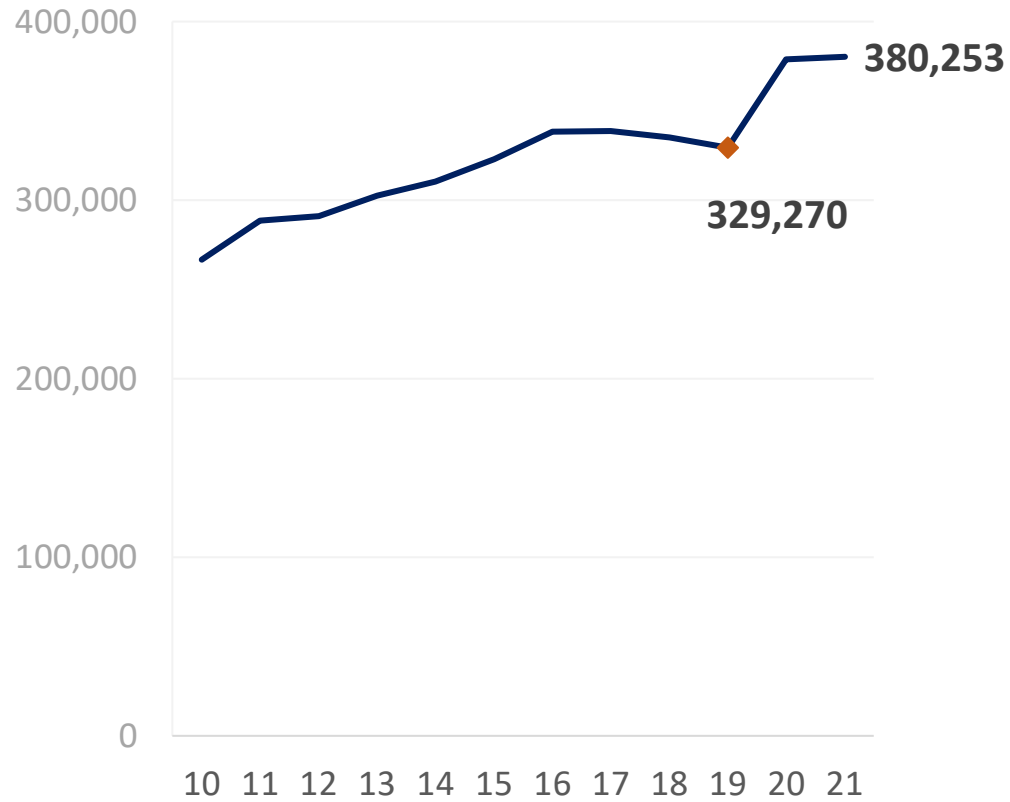
# Top 5 Case Categories by Volume of Increase in Active Pending Civil Cases from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

Category	Volume	% Change
Injury/Damage - Motor Vehicle	17,760	22%
Other Civil	6,830	10%
Other Injury/Damage	3,219	15%
Tax Cases	2,678	3%
Medical Malpractice	569	26%



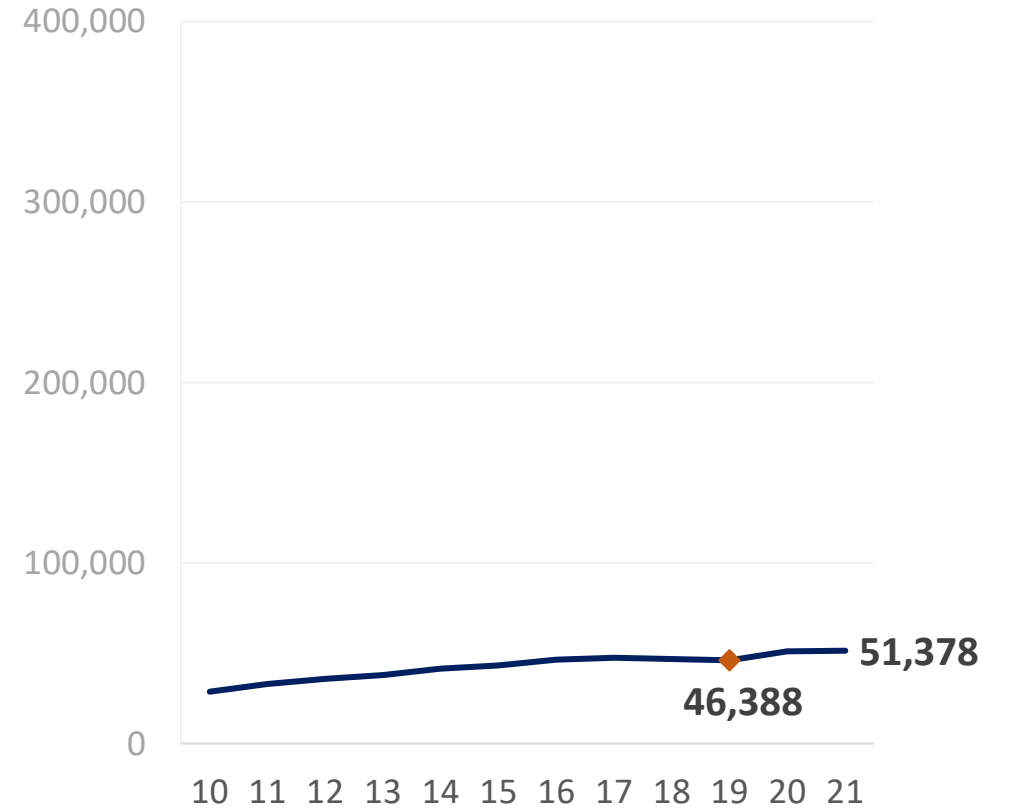
# Active Pending Family Cases as of December 31

## District Courts



Change since 2019 **↑** 15% 50,983 cases

## County Courts



**↑** 11% 4,990 cases



# Top 5 Counties by Volume of Increase in Active Pending Family Cases from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021

## District

County	Volume	% Change
Harris	7,715	21%
Bexar	7,231	30%
Dallas	4,315	9%
Travis	3,165	30%
Tarrant	2,946	18%

25,372 47% of Total Backlog

## County

County	Volume	% Change
Hidalgo	937	15%
El Paso	717	63%
Williamson	504	20%
Kaufman	480	127%
Galveston	269	17%

2,907 46% of Total Backlog



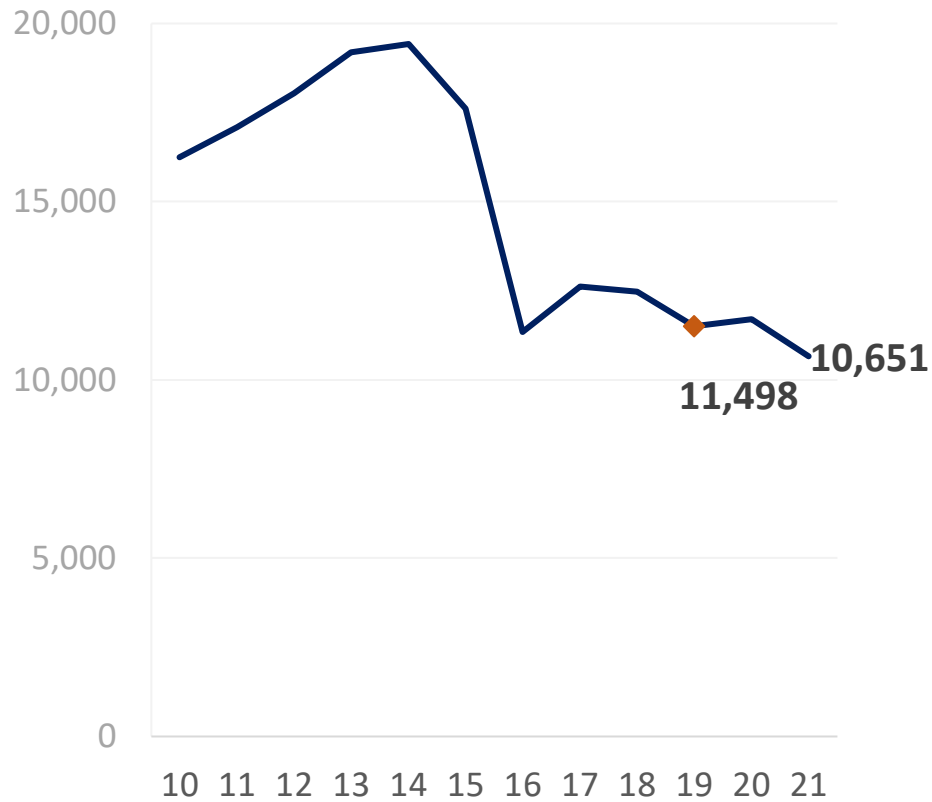
# Top 5 Case Categories by Volume of Increase in Active Pending Family Cases from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

Category	Volume	% Change
Divorce – No Children	14,354	33%
Divorce – Children	12,355	21%
Child Support Order	6,513	29%
Parent-Child, No Divorce	6,028	20%
Child Support - Paternity	4,276	25%



# Active Pending Juvenile Cases as of December 31

## District Courts



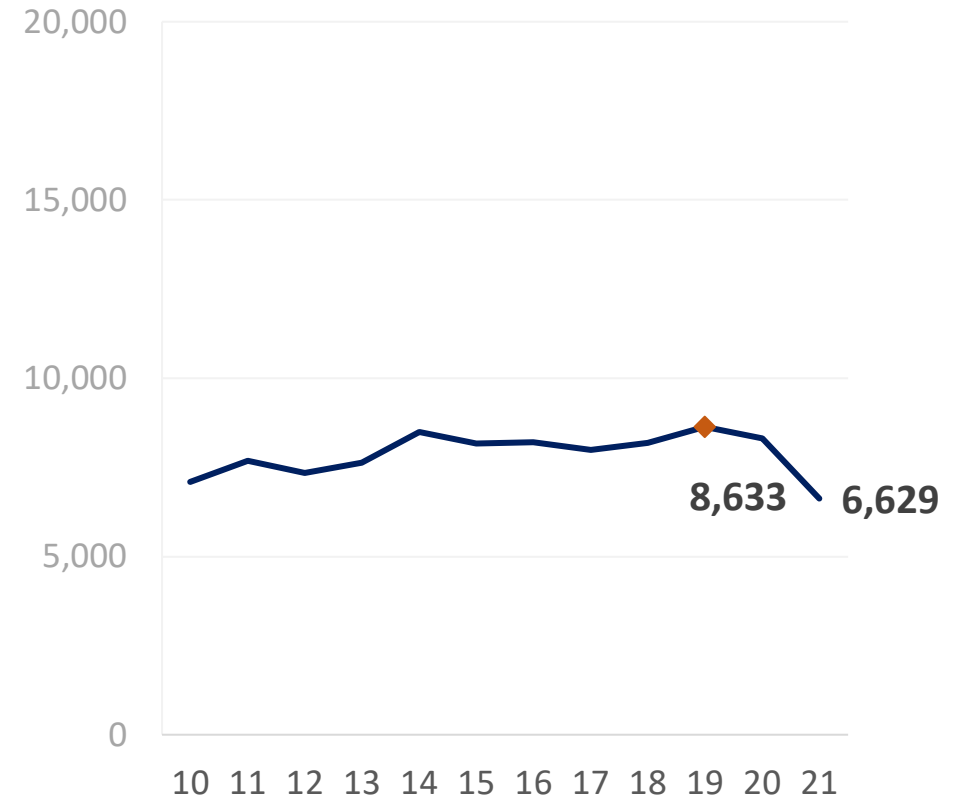
Change since 2019



7%

897 cases

## County Courts



23%

2,004 cases





# Top 5 Counties by Volume of Increase in Active Pending Juvenile Cases from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021

## District

County	Volume	% Change
Comal	143	21%
Brazos	97	30%
McLennan	41	9%
Bee	40	30%
Fannin	29	18%

350 56% of Total Backlog

## County

County	Volume	% Change
Denton	157	26%
Fort Bend	98	6%
Kerr	41	84%
Kleberg	29	725%
Ector	25	68%

350 51% of Total Backlog



# Only 5 Case Categories in which Volume of Active Pending Juvenile Cases Increased from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

Category	Volume	% Change
Aggravated Robbery/Robbery	123	17%
Indecency with/Sexual Assault of Child	66	6%
Murder/Manslaughter	23	79%
Capital Murder	10	29%
Other Homicides	8	67%

