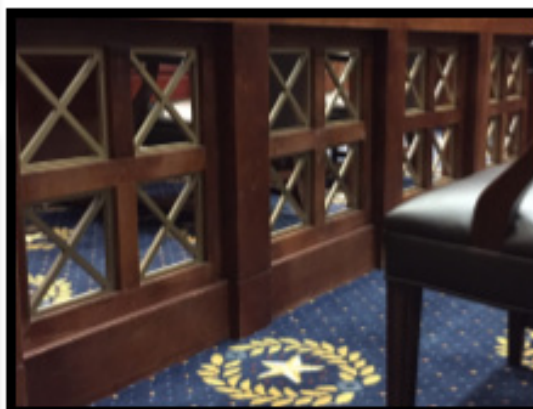
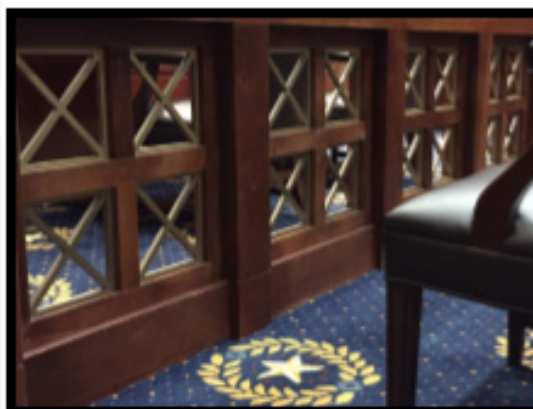
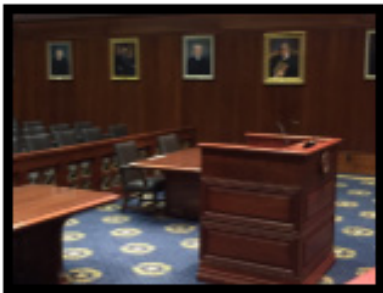
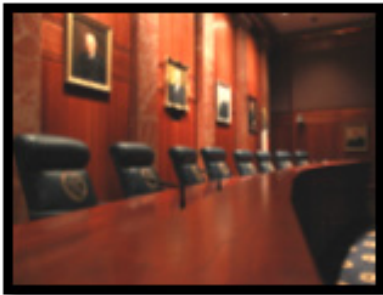


ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE TEXAS JUDICIARY



Fiscal Year 2014

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Office of Court Administration

A Message from the Administrative Director



David Slayton

In his State of the Judiciary address to the 84th Texas Legislature, Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht said, "The Texas Judiciary is committed to upholding the rule of law. It is committed to a court system that is fair, efficient, and just, interpreting and applying the law guided by fixed principles. And it is committed to a justice system that is accessible to all, regardless of means."

Every day thousands of judges, clerks, court coordinators and court personnel across the state work to carry out the commitments outlined by the Chief. This work, in part, can be measured by statistics reported to the public each year in the *Annual Statistical Report for the Texas Judiciary*.

The judiciary is committed to transparency, accountability and the public that we serve. We hope you find this report informative and a good reflection of the Judiciary's mission to be "fair, efficient and just."

Some of the highlights from the 2014 Annual Statistical Report:

- The more than 3200 judicial officers in the state disposed of approximately 10,030,724 million cases.
- The Supreme Court had the lowest number of causes pending since FY 2005.
- The Court of Criminal Appeals issued 457 opinions.
- 11,101 cases were filed in the courts of appeals, the lowest number since FY 2009.
- Child support orders have increase 476 percent since 1991.
- Divorce cases based on population decreased 30 percent since FY 1995
- 6,781 protective orders were issued.
- 95 percent of criminal convictions were by plea, with the highest conviction rate for felony DWI cases and the lowest for aggravated assault/attempted murder cases.
- 3.1 percent of all cases went to trial.
- Litigants were self-represented in 19.4 percent of family law cases.
- Mental health case filings increased 11.4 percent since FY 2011.
- 32,000 juvenile cases were added to court dockets, the lowest since FY 1995.
- There were more than 50,000 active guardianship cases and 391 certified guardians.
- Education code violations declined 80.2 percent in Justice Courts and 88 percent in Municipal Courts since FY 2013.
- Failure to Attend School Cases filed in Justice Courts decreased 16 percent to 57,829 cases, the lowest since FY 2004.

Texas Courts: A Descriptive Summary



As reflected on page 3, there were 3,171 elected (or appointed, in the case of most municipal judges) judges in Texas as of September 1, 2014. In addition, there were more than 140 associate judges appointed to serve in district, county-level, child protection, and child support (Title IV-D) courts, as well as numerous magistrates, masters, referees and other officers supporting the judiciary. More than 300 retired and former judges were also eligible to serve for assignment.

The basic structure of the present court system of Texas was established by an 1891 constitutional amendment. The amendment established the Supreme Court as the highest state appellate court for civil matters, and the Court of Criminal Appeals, which makes the final determination in criminal matters. Today, there are also 14 courts of appeals that exercise intermediate appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases.

District courts are the state trial courts of general jurisdiction. The geographical area served by each district court is established by the specific statute creating that court.

In addition to these state courts, the Texas Constitution provides for a county court in each county, presided over by the county judge. The county judge also serves as head of the county commissioners court, the governing body of the county. To aid the constitutional county court with its judicial functions, the Legislature has established statutory county courts, generally designated as county courts at law or statutory probate courts, in the more populous counties.

The Texas Constitution also authorizes not less than one nor more than 16 justices of the peace in each county. The justice courts generally have exclusive jurisdiction of civil matters when the amount in controversy does not exceed \$200 and concurrent jurisdiction with the county courts when the amount in controversy exceeds \$200 but does not exceed \$10,000. They also have jurisdiction in misdemeanor cases where punishment upon conviction may be by fine only.

By statute, the Legislature has created municipal courts in each incorporated city in the state. These courts have original jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances and concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts over misdemeanor state law violations, limited to the geographical confines of the municipality. Municipal courts also have civil jurisdiction limited to a few specific types of cases.

Trials in the justice courts and most municipal courts are not of record, and appeals therefrom are by new trial (“trial *de novo*”) to the county court, except in certain counties, where the appeal is to a county court at law or to a district court. When an appeal is by trial *de novo*, the case is tried again in the higher court, just as if the original trial had not occurred.

Jurisdiction of the various levels of courts is established by constitutional provision and by statute. Statutory jurisdiction is established by general statutes providing jurisdiction for all courts on a particular level, as well as by the statutes establishing individual courts. Thus, to determine the jurisdiction of a particular court, recourse must be had first to the Constitution, second to the general statutes establishing jurisdiction for that level of court, third to the specific statute authorizing the establishment of the particular court in question, fourth to statutes creating other courts in the same county (whose jurisdictional provisions may affect the court in question), and fifth to statutes dealing with specific subject matters (such as the Family Code, which requires, for example, that judges who are lawyers hear appeals from cases heard by non-lawyer judges in juvenile cases).



Court Structure of Texas

September 1, 2014

State Highest Appellate Courts

Supreme Court
(1 Court – 9 Justices)

- Final appellate jurisdiction in civil and juvenile cases

Court of Criminal Appeals
(1 Court – 9 Justices)

- Final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases

State Intermediate Appellate Courts

Courts of Appeals
(14 Courts – 80 Justices)

- Intermediate appeals from trial courts in their respective courts of appeals districts

State Trial Courts of General and Special Jurisdiction

District Courts
(458 Courts – 458 Judges)

- Original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$200, divorce, title to land, contested elections
- Original jurisdiction in felony criminal matters
- Juvenile matters
- 13 district courts are designated *criminal district courts*; some others are directed to give preference to certain specialized areas
- 360 districts containing one county and 98 districts containing more than one county

County Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

County-Level Courts
(510 Courts – 510 Judges)

Constitutional County Courts (254)	Statutory County Courts (239)	Statutory Probate Courts (18)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original jurisdiction in civil actions between \$200 and \$10,000 Probate (contested matters may be transferred to District Court) Exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanors with fines greater than \$500 or jail sentence Juvenile matters Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All civil, criminal, original and appellate actions prescribed by law for constitutional county courts In addition, jurisdiction over civil matters between \$200 and \$200,000 (some courts may have higher maximum jurisdiction amount) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited primarily to probate matters

Local Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

Justice Courts¹
(817 Courts – 817 Judges)

- Civil actions of not more than \$10,000
- Small claims
- Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only (no confinement)

Municipal Courts^{1, 2}
(926 Courts – 1,288 Judges)

- Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only (no confinement)
- Exclusive original jurisdiction over municipal ordinance criminal cases³
- Limited civil jurisdiction

1. All justice courts and most municipal courts are not courts of record. Appeals from these courts are by trial *de novo* in the county-level courts, and in some instances in the district courts.
 2. Some municipal courts are courts of record—appeals from the courts are taken on the record to the county-level courts. As of March 2014, 158 courts indicated that they were a court of record; a list is posted at <http://www.txcourts.gov/media/848130/Municipal-courts-of-record-2015.xlsx>.
 3. An offense that arises under a municipal ordinance is punishable by a fine not to exceed: (1) \$2,000 for ordinances that govern fire safety, zoning, and public health or (2) \$500 for all others.

Funding of the Texas Judicial Branch

The State provides funding for salaries and operating costs of the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals and 14 intermediate appellate courts. The State funds a base salary for district judges and salary supplements for certain constitutional and statutory county court judges, as well as salaries, salary supplements, retirement and other payroll-related benefits for certain prosecutors. The State also pays for or supplements some other expenses of the judicial branch, including juror pay, basic civil legal services, indigent defense, electronic filing, and special prosecution units. Most counties supplement the base salary of judges of the intermediate appellate courts and district courts. Counties pay the operating costs of district courts, as well as the base salary of judges, full salaries of other staff, and operating costs for constitutional county courts, county courts at law, and justice courts. Cities finance all costs related to the operation of municipal courts, including judges' salaries.

In FY 2014, original state appropriations for the Texas judicial system increased by 20.7 percent from the previous fiscal year and accounted for approximately 0.39 percent of all state appropriations (\$388,375,252 of the \$100,766,914,201 appropriated from all funds in FY 2014). Nearly 57 percent of the financing for the judicial system came from General Revenue. Another 19.8 percent came from dedicated General Revenue funds, such as the Fair Defense Account and the Judicial and Court Personnel Training Fund, while the remaining amounts came from other special funds, including the Judicial Fund, and federal funds.

Salaries for district judges accounted for 16.9 percent of appropriations for the judicial system, and judicial retirement and benefits comprised another 10.5 percent.

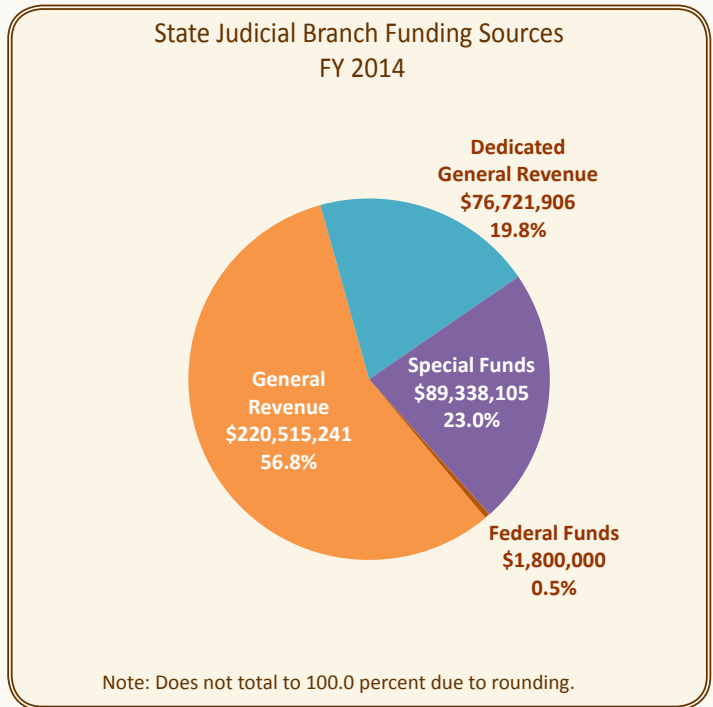


Figure 1 - State Judicial Branch Funding Sources

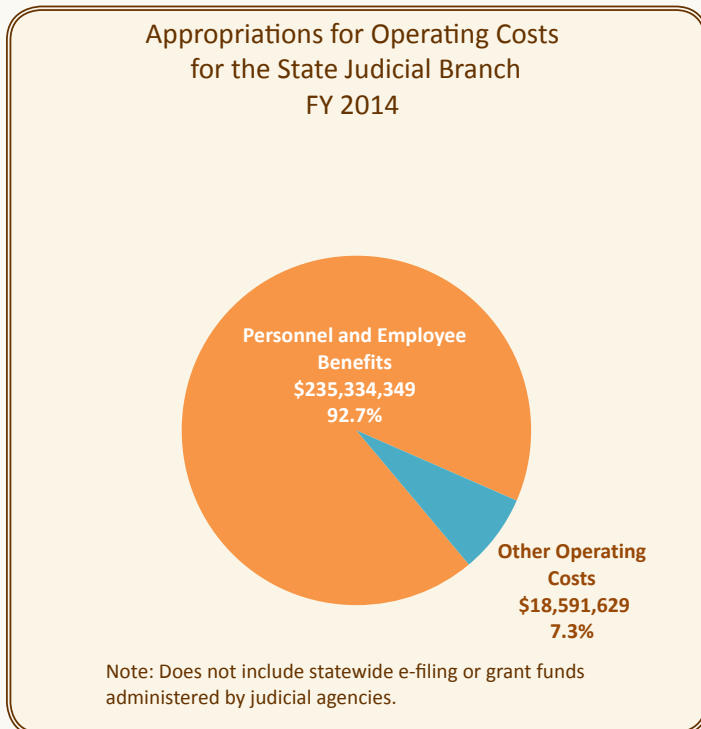


Figure 2 - Appropriations for Operating Costs for the State Judicial Branch

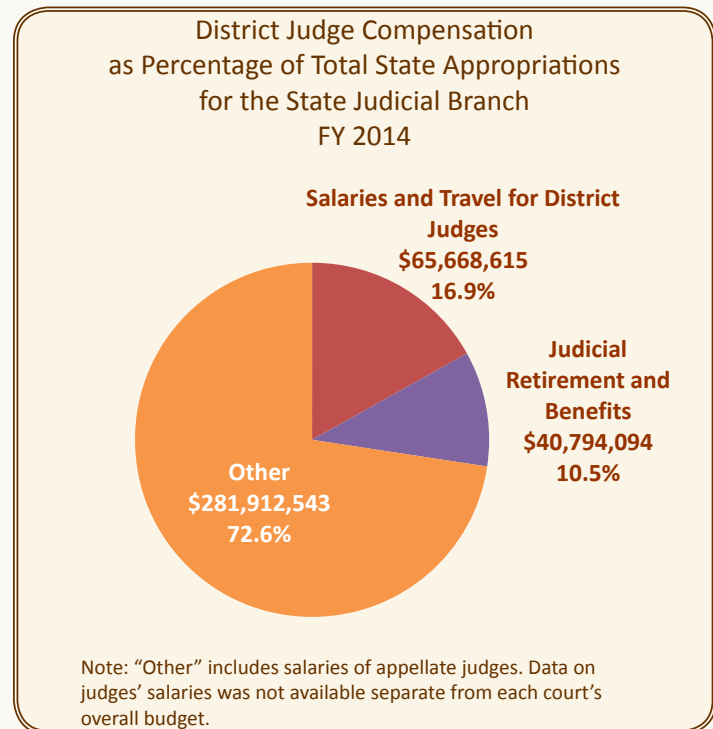
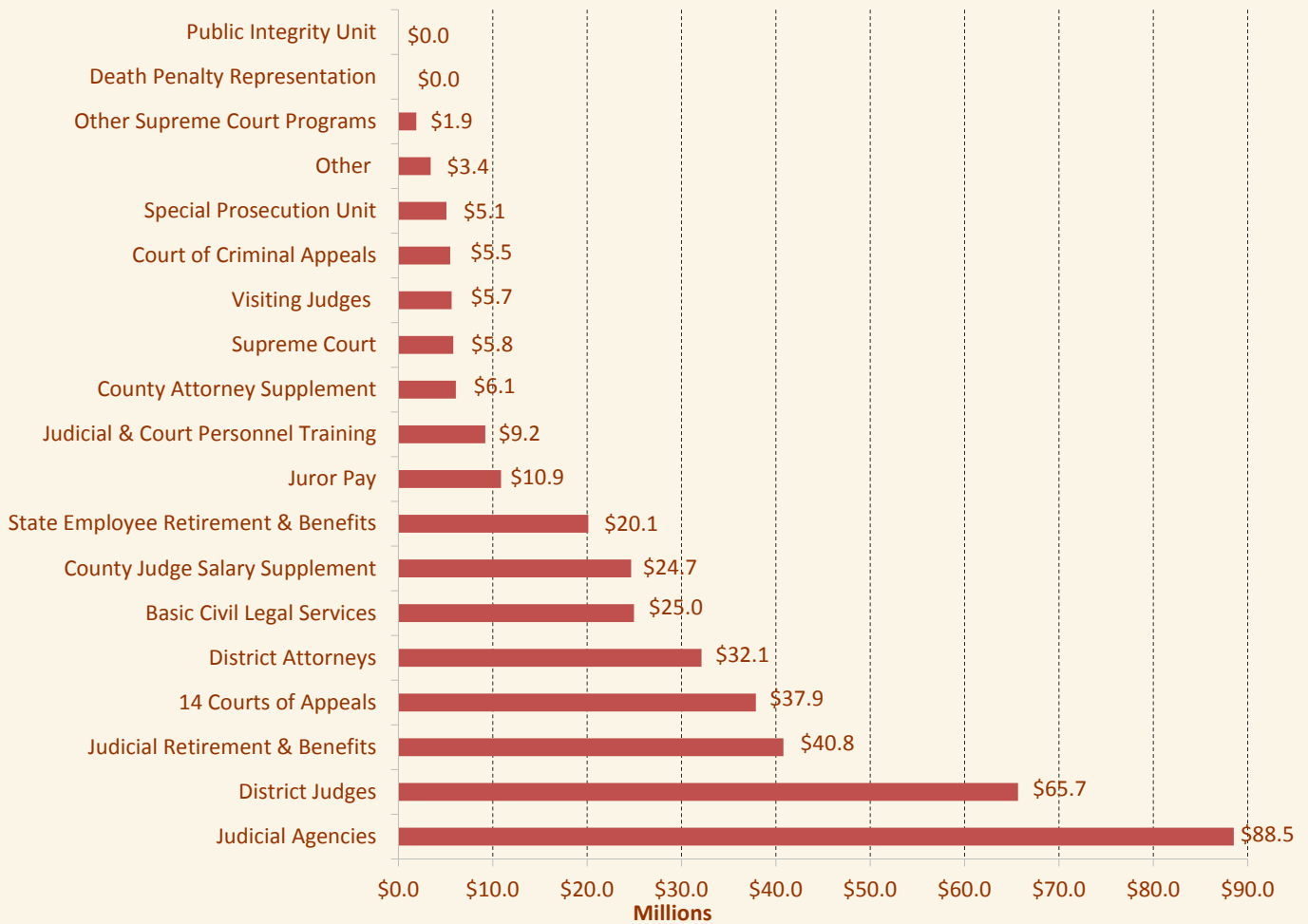


Figure 3 - District Judge Compensation as Percentage of Total

State Judicial Branch Appropriations, FY 2014



Notes:

1. "Visiting Judges" includes salaries and per diem expenses.
2. "Other" includes Social Security and Benefit Replacement Pay and lease payments.
3. "Judicial Agencies" include the Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney, Office of Capital Writs, State Law Library, and State Commission on Judicial Conduct. Appropriations for Judicial Agencies include approximately \$7.5 million in interagency contracts.
4. "District Judges" includes salaries, travel, and local administrative judge salary supplement.

Figure 4 - State Judicial Branch Appropriations, FY 2014

Court Structure and Function

Appellate Courts

The appellate courts of the Texas Judicial System are:

- The Supreme Court, the highest state appellate court for civil and juvenile cases
- The Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest state appellate court for criminal cases
- The 14 courts of appeals, the intermediate appellate courts for civil and criminal appeals from the trial courts

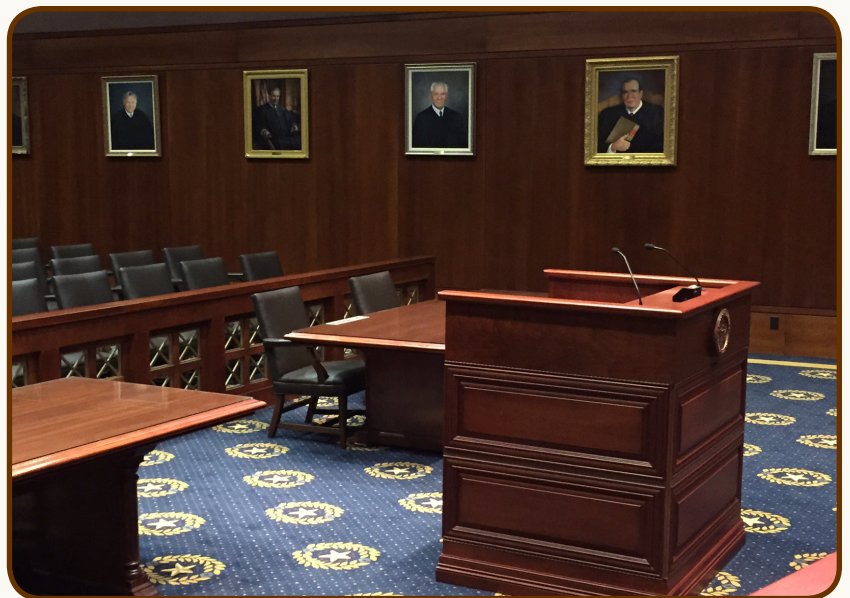
Appellate courts do not try cases, have juries, or hear witnesses. Rather, they review actions and decisions of the lower courts on questions of law or allegations of procedural error. In carrying out this review, the appellate courts are usually restricted to the evidence and exhibits presented in the trial court.

The Supreme Court

In most civil and juvenile cases, the Supreme Court has statewide, final appellate jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of Texas was first established in 1836 by the Constitution of the Republic of Texas, which vested the judicial power of the Republic in "...one Supreme Court and such inferior courts as the Congress may establish." This court was re-established by each successive constitution adopted throughout the course of Texas history and currently consists of one chief justice and eight justices.¹

The Supreme Court has statewide, final appellate jurisdiction in most civil and juvenile cases.² Its caseload is directly affected by the structure and jurisdiction of Texas' appellate court system, as the 14 courts of appeals handle most of the state's criminal and civil appeals from the district and county-level courts, and the Court of Criminal Appeals handles all criminal appeals beyond the intermediate courts of appeals.



Supreme Court of Texas Courtroom, Austin, Texas

The Supreme Court's caseload can be broken down into three broad categories:

- Determining whether to grant review of the final judgment of a court of appeals (i.e., to grant or not grant a petition for review)
- Disposition of regular causes³ (i.e., granted petitions for review, accepted petitions for writs of mandamus or habeas corpus, certified questions, accepted parental notification appeals, and direct appeals)
- Disposition of numerous motions related to petitions and regular causes

Much of the Supreme Court's time is spent determining which petitions for review will be granted, as it must consider all petitions for review that are filed. However, the Court exercises some control over its caseload in deciding which petitions will be granted. The Court usually takes only those cases

1 The various constitutions and amendments provided for different numbers of judges to sit on the Court and different methods for the selection of the judges. The Constitution of 1845 provided that the Supreme Court consist of a chief justice and two associate justices. The Constitution of 1866 provided for five justices, and the Constitution of 1869 reverted to a three-judge court; the Constitution of 1873 increased the number to five, and the Constitution of 1876 again reduced the membership to three. To aid the three justices in disposing of the ever increasing workload, the Legislature created two "Commissions of Appeals," each to consist of three judges appointed by the Supreme Court. This system, begun in 1920, continued until the adoption of the constitutional amendment of 1945 which abolished the two Commissions of Appeals and increased the number of justices on the Supreme Court to nine, the present number.

2 A constitutional amendment adopted in 1980 provides that "The Supreme Court shall exercise the judicial power of the state except as otherwise provided in this Constitution. Its jurisdiction shall be coextensive with the limits of the State and its determinations shall be final except in criminal law matters. Its appellate jurisdiction shall be final and shall extend to all cases except in criminal law matters and as otherwise provided in this Constitution or by law."

3 "Regular causes" involve cases in which four or more of the justices of the Supreme Court have decided in conference that a petition for review, petition for writ of mandamus or habeas corpus, or parental notification appeal should be reviewed. Regular causes also include direct appeals the court has agreed to review and questions of law certified to it by a federal appellate court that the court has agreed to answer. Most regular causes are set for oral argument in open court and are reported in written opinions. However, a petition may be granted and an unsigned opinion (per curiam) issued without oral argument if at least six members of the court vote accordingly.

that present the most significant Texas legal issues in need of clarification.

The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction to answer questions of state law certified from a federal appellate court;⁴ has original jurisdiction to issue writs and to conduct proceedings for the involuntary retirement or removal of judges; and reviews cases involving attorney discipline upon appeal from the Board of Disciplinary Appeals of the State Bar of Texas.

In addition, the Court:

- Promulgates all rules of civil trial practice and procedure, evidence, and appellate procedure;
- Promulgates rules of administration to provide for the efficient administration of justice in the state;
- Monitors the caseloads of the 14 courts of appeals and orders the transfer of cases between the courts in order to make the workloads more equal;⁵
- With the assistance of the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, administers funds for the Basic Civil Legal Services Program, which provides basic civil legal services to the indigent.⁶

The Court of Criminal Appeals

To relieve the Supreme Court of some of its caseload, the Constitution of 1876 created the Court of Appeals, composed of three elected judges, with appellate jurisdiction in all criminal cases and in those civil cases tried by the county courts. In 1891, a constitutional amendment:

- Changed the name of this court to the Court of Criminal Appeals
- Limited its jurisdiction to appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases only
- Increased the number of judges to nine: one presiding judge and eight associate judges⁷

The Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest state court for criminal appeals.⁸ Its caseload consists of both mandatory and discretionary matters. All cases that result in the death penalty are automatically directed to the Court of Criminal Appeals from the trial court level. A significant portion of the Court's workload also involves the mandatory review of applications for post conviction habeas corpus relief in felony cases without a death penalty,⁹ over which the Court has sole authority. In addition, decisions made by the intermediate courts of appeals in criminal cases may be appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeals by petition for discretionary review, which may be filed by the State, the defendant, or both. However, the Court may also review a decision on its own motion.



Court of Criminal Appeals Courtroom, Austin, Texas

⁴ A constitutional amendment, effective January 1, 1986, gave the Supreme Court, along with the Court of Criminal Appeals, jurisdiction to answer certified questions.

⁵ The Supreme Court has a rider in its appropriation pattern in the General Appropriations Act (S.B. 1, 83rd Leg., R.S., Art. IV, page IV-2, Rider 3) that states, "It is the intent of the Legislature that the Supreme Court use funds appropriated above to equalize the dockets of the 14 Courts of Appeals. For the purposes of this rider equalization shall be considered achieved if the new cases filed each year per justice are equalized by 10 percent or less among all the courts of appeals. Multi-district litigation cases are exempted from this provision." Although the rider requiring the transfer of cases first appeared in fiscal year 2000 in the General Appropriations Act (H.B. 1, 76th Leg., R.S., Art. IV, page IV-1, Rider 3), the Supreme Court has transferred cases between the courts of appeals since 1895 (24th Leg., R.S., Ch. 53, 1895 Tex. Gen. Laws 79).

⁶ In 1997, the 75th Legislature enacted Chapter 51, Texas Government Code, Subchapter J, requiring the Supreme Court to administer funds for provision of basic civil legal services to the indigent. (In 1999, this was re-lettered as Subchapter L.)

⁷ The Court of Criminal Appeals was originally composed of three judges. As the court's workload increased, the Legislature granted it the authority to appoint commissioners to aid in the disposition of pending cases. In 1966, a constitutional amendment increased the number of judges on the court to five, and in 1977, a further amendment to the constitution added another four judges, for the current total of nine judges on the court.

⁸ A constitutional amendment adopted in 1980 provides that "The Court of Criminal Appeals shall have final appellate jurisdiction coextensive with the limits of the State, and its determination shall be final, in all criminal cases of whatever grade, with such exceptions and under such regulations as may be provided in this Constitution or as prescribed by law."

⁹ Under Article 11.07, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

In conjunction with the Supreme Court of Texas, the Court of Criminal Appeals promulgates rules of appellate procedure and rules of evidence for criminal cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals also administers public funds that are appropriated for the education of judges, prosecuting attorneys, criminal defense attorneys who regularly represent indigent defendants, clerks and other personnel of the state’s appellate, district, county-level, justice, and municipal courts.¹⁰

The Courts of Appeals

The first intermediate appellate court in Texas was created by the Constitution of 1876, which created a Court of Appeals with appellate jurisdiction in all criminal cases and in all civil cases originating in the county courts. In 1891, an amendment was added to the Constitution authorizing the Legislature to establish intermediate courts of civil appeals located at various places throughout the state. The purpose of this amendment was to preclude the large quantity of civil litigation from further congesting the docket of the Supreme Court, while providing for a more convenient and less expensive system of intermediate appellate courts for civil cases. In 1980, a constitutional amendment extended the appellate jurisdiction of the courts of civil appeals to include criminal cases and changed the name of the courts to the “courts of appeals.”

Each court of appeals has jurisdiction over appeals from the trial courts located in its respective district. The appeals heard in these courts are based upon the “record” (a written transcription of the testimony given, exhibits introduced, and the documents filed in the trial court) and the written and oral arguments of the appellate lawyers. The courts of appeals do not receive testimony or hear witnesses in considering the cases on appeal, but they may hear oral argument on the issues under consideration.

The Legislature has divided the state into 14 court of appeals districts and has established a court of appeals in each. One court of appeals is currently located in each of the following cities:

- Amarillo
- Austin
- Beaumont
- Corpus Christi/Edinburg
- Dallas
- Eastland
- El Paso
- Fort Worth
- San Antonio
- Texarkana
- Tyler
- Waco
- Houston (2)

Each of the courts of appeals has at least three justices—a chief justice and two associate justices. There are now 80 justices serving on the 14 intermediate courts of appeals. However, the Legislature is empowered to increase this number whenever the workload of an individual court requires additional justices.

80 justices
14 intermediate courts of appeals

Trial Courts

In trial courts:

- Witnesses are heard
- Testimony is received
- Exhibits are offered into evidence
- A verdict is rendered

The trial court structure in Texas has several different levels, each level handling different types of cases, with some overlap. The state trial court of general jurisdiction is known as the district court. The county-level courts consist of the constitutional county courts, statutory county courts, and statutory probate courts. In addition, there is at least one justice court located in each county, and there are municipal courts located in each incorporated city.

District Courts

District courts are the primary trial courts in Texas. The Constitution of the Republic provided for not less than three or more than eight district courts, each having a judge elected by a joint ballot of both houses of the Legislature for a term of four years. Most constitutions of the state continued the district courts but provided that the judges were to be elected by the qualified voters. (The exceptions were the Constitutions of 1845 and 1861 which provided for the appointment of judges by the Governor with confirmation by the Senate). All constitutions have provided that the judges of these courts must be chosen from defined districts (as opposed to statewide election). In many locations, the geographical jurisdiction of two or more district courts is overlapping. As of September 1, 2014, there were 458 district courts in Texas.

458 Texas
district courts
in 2014



¹⁰ In accordance with Chapter 56 and Section 74.025, Texas Government Code.

District courts are courts of general jurisdiction. Article V, Section 8 of the Texas Constitution extends a district court's potential jurisdiction to "all actions" but makes such jurisdiction relative by excluding any matters in which exclusive, appellate, or original jurisdiction is conferred by law upon some other court. For this reason, while one can speak of the "general" jurisdiction of a district court, the actual jurisdiction of any specific court will always be limited by the constitutional or statutory provisions that confer exclusive, original, or appellate jurisdiction on other courts serving the same county or counties.

With this caveat, it can be said that district courts generally have the following jurisdiction:

- Original jurisdiction in all criminal cases of the grade of felony and misdemeanors involving official misconduct;
- Cases of divorce;
- Suits for title to land or enforcement of liens on land;
- Contested elections;
- Suits for slander or defamation;
- Suits on behalf of the State for penalties, forfeitures and escheat.

Most district courts exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction, but in the metropolitan areas there is a tendency for the courts to specialize in civil, criminal, juvenile or family law matters. Thirteen district courts are designated "criminal district courts" but have general jurisdiction. A limited number of district courts also exercise the subject-matter jurisdiction normally exercised by county courts.

The district courts also have jurisdiction in civil matters with a minimum monetary limit but no maximum limit. The amount of the lower limit has for many years been the subject of controversy, with differing opinions from the courts of appeal. House Bill 79 from the 82nd Legislature, 1st Called Session (2011) included a provision in Section 24.007(b) of the Government Code which was intended to resolve the dispute and to set the minimum jurisdiction of district courts at \$500. However, there is still a potential conflict between Article V, Section 8 of the Texas Constitution (which gives the district courts jurisdiction of all actions...except in cases where exclusive) and the amendment. Therefore, there are still differing opinions as to whether the minimum monetary jurisdiction of the district courts is \$200.01 or \$500. In counties having statutory county courts, the district courts generally have exclusive jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$200,000 or more, and concurrent jurisdiction with the statutory county courts in cases where the amount in controversy exceeds \$500 but is less than \$200,000.

The district courts may also hear contested matters in probate cases and have general supervisory control over commissioners courts. In addition, district courts have the power to issue writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, injunction, certiorari, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, and all writs necessary to enforce their jurisdiction. Appeals from judgments of the district courts are to the courts of appeals (except appeals of death sentences).

A 1985 constitutional amendment established the Judicial Districts Board to reapportion Texas judicial districts, subject to legislative approval. The same amendment also allows for more than one judge per judicial district.

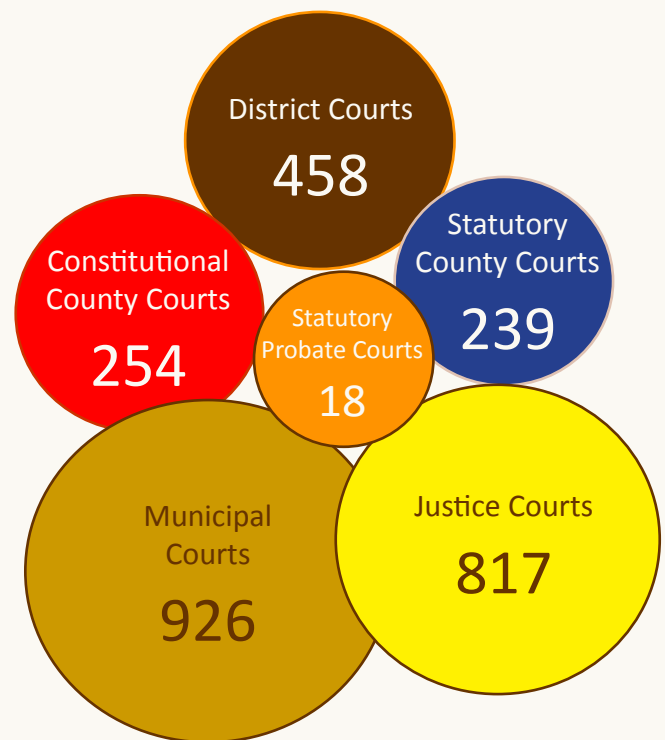
County-Level Courts

Constitutional County Courts

The Texas Constitution provides for a county court in each of the 254 counties of the state, though all such courts do not exercise judicial functions. In populous counties, the "county judge" may devote his or her full attention to the administration of county government.

Generally, the "constitutional" county courts have:

- Concurrent jurisdiction with justice courts in civil cases where the matter in controversy exceeds \$200 but does not exceed \$10,000
- Concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts in civil cases where the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$5,000
- General jurisdiction over probate cases
- Juvenile jurisdiction
- Exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanors, other than those involving official misconduct, where punishment for the offense is by fine exceeding \$500 or a jail sentence not to exceed one year



County courts generally have appellate jurisdiction (usually by trial *de novo*) over cases tried originally in the justice and municipal courts. Original and appellate judgments of the county courts may be appealed to the courts of appeals.

In 36 counties, the county court, by special statute, has been given concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts in all civil matters over which the justice courts have jurisdiction.

Statutory County Courts and Probate Courts

Under its constitutional authorization to “...establish such other courts as it may deem necessary... [and to] conform the jurisdiction of the district and other inferior courts thereto,” the Legislature created the first statutory county court in 1907 to relieve the county judge of some or all of the judicial duties of office. As of September 1, 2014, 238 statutory county courts and 18 statutory probate courts were operating in 88 counties, and one multi-county court operated in three counties. Statutory county courts include:

- County courts at law
- County civil courts at law
- County criminal courts at law
- County criminal courts
- County criminal courts of appeal

Section 25.003 of the Texas Government Code provides statutory county courts with jurisdiction over all causes and proceedings prescribed by law for constitutional county courts. In general, statutory county courts that exercise civil jurisdiction concurrent with the constitutional county court also have concurrent civil jurisdiction with the district courts in: 1) civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$200,000, and 2) appeals of final rulings and decisions of the Texas Workers’ Compensation Commission. However, the actual jurisdiction of each statutory county court varies considerably according to the statute under which it was created. A few statutory county courts even hear felony cases. In addition, some of these courts have been established to exercise subject-matter jurisdiction in only limited fields, such as civil, criminal, or appellate cases (from justice or municipal courts).

In general, statutory probate courts have general jurisdiction provided to probate courts by the Texas Estates Code, as well as the jurisdiction provided by law for a county court to hear and determine cases and matters instituted under various sections and chapters of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Associate Judges

The Legislature has authorized the appointment of various judicial officers to assist the judges of the district courts and county-level courts. These judicial officers are usually known as associate judges. They have some, but not all, of the powers of the judges they assist.

Judicial Officers Appointed under Government Code, Chapter 54 and Chapter 54A

Chapter 54A of the Government Code authorizes the appointment of criminal associate judges, civil associate judges, statutory probate court associate judges, and associate judges for juvenile matters to assist district and county-level judges with their caseloads. Chapter 54 also contains provisions for the appointment of masters, magistrates, and hearing officers in certain counties identified by population and the following counties: Bexar, Brazoria, Burnet, Cameron, Comal, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Lubbock, Tarrant, Travis, and Webb.

Cases are not directly filed with judicial officers, but are referred to them by district judges and county-level judges. Rather than rendering final orders, the judicial officers generally make recommendations to the referring court. Generally, judicial officers appointed under Chapter 54 and Chapter 54A of the Government Code are appointed by local judges with the consent of the county commissioners court, and the positions are funded by the county.

Associate Judges Appointed under Family Code, Chapter 201

Like judicial officers appointed under Chapter 54 and Chapter 54A of the Government Code, district and county-level judges refer certain cases to associate judges appointed under Chapter 201 of the Family Code.

Three types of associate judges are appointed under Chapter 201. Associate judges authorized by Subchapter A of Chapter 201 are appointed by local judges with the consent of the commissioners court and are county employees. They are authorized to hear cases brought under Titles 1, 4 and 5 of the Family Code.

Associate judges authorized by Subchapters B and C of Chapter 201 are appointed by the presiding judge of the respective administrative judicial regions and are generally state employees.¹¹ The associate judges appointed under Subchapter B are authorized to hear child support cases. Those appointed under Subchapter C are authorized to hear child protection cases. As of September 1, 2014, there were 45 child support associate judges and 20 child protection associate judges.

¹¹ The Harris County associate judge appointed under Subchapter C is a county employee.

“Assigned” or “Visiting” Judges

The presiding judge of an administrative judicial region may assign a judge to handle a case or docket of an active judge in the region who is unable to preside (due to recusal, illness, vacation, etc.) or who needs assistance with a heavy docket or docket backlog. These “assigned judges” may be active judges of other courts in the region or may be individuals residing in the region who used to serve as active judges. Sections 74.054, 74.056, and 74.057 of the Government Code discuss the assignment of judges by the presiding judges and the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

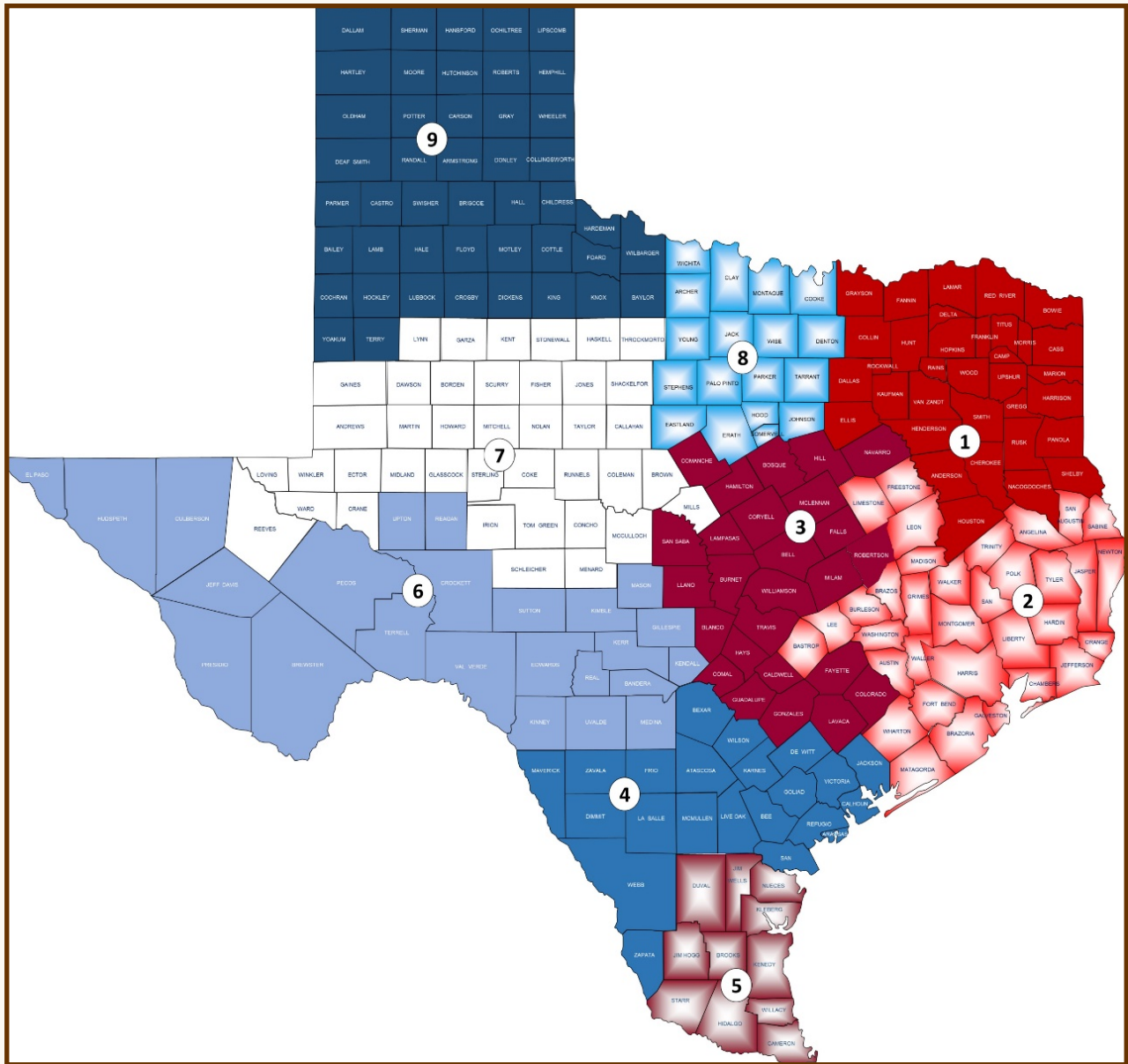


Figure 5 - Administrative Judicial Regions

Assigned Judges in the Trial Courts

Statistics For the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014

	<u>1st</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>5th</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>6th</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>7th</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>8th</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>9th</u> <u>Region</u>	<u>Total</u>
By the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court¹										
Assignments to the Administrative Regions:										
Number of Assignments:										
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active District Judges	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Senior/Former District Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Assignments	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Days Served:										
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Active District Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Senior/Former District Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL Days Served	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
By Presiding Judges of Administrative Regions¹										
Assignments within the Administrative Regions:										
Number of Assignments:										
Active Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	114	158	41	34	118	36	5	34	17	557
Active District Judges	34	142	9	17	46	19	20	63	74	424
Senior/Former District Judges	612	796	483	303	227	127	210	772	102	3,632
Active Statutory County Court Judges	11	44	4	0	0	2	10	13	12	96
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	47	201	61	107	47	37	22	32	57	611
TOTAL Assignments	818	1,341	598	461	438	221	267	914	262	5,320
Days Served:										
Active Appellate Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	228.0	364.0	63.0	407.0	438.0	114.0	2.0	86.0	17.5	1,719.5
Active District Judges	41.0	51.0	9.0	10.0	114.0	174.0	2.0	71.0	0.0	472.0
Senior/Former District Judges	1,933.0	1,758.0	717.0	818.0	852.0	289.0	241.0	1,665.0	207.5	8,480.5
Active Statutory County Court Judges	18.0	12.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	97.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	156.0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	124.0	461.0	115.0	147.0	188.0	43.5	22.0	56.0	93.0	1,249.5
TOTAL Days Served	2,344.0	2,646.0	908.0	1,382.0	1,592.0	717.5	267.0	1,903.0	318.0	12,077.5
Assignments from Other Administrative Regions:										
Number of Assignments:										
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	0	11	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	14
Active District Judges	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Senior/Former District Judges	29	20	15	23	2	26	31	34	27	207
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0	22	3	8	1	0	1	22	0	57
TOTAL Assignments	29	57	19	31	3	27	35	56	27	284
Days Served:										
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	43.0
Active District Judges	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Senior/Former District Judges	195.0	43.0	34.0	64.5	5.0	62.5	64.0	71.0	23.0	562.0
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0.0	26.0	1.0	26.5	3.0	0.0	1.0	36.0	0.0	93.5
TOTAL Days Served	195.0	113.0	35.0	91.0	8.0	68.5	68.0	107.0	23.0	708.5
By the Supreme Court for Disciplinary Proceedings²										
Number of Assignments--Active District Judges	0	22	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	33
Days Served--Active District Judges	0.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
Total ---Trial Court Assignments										
Number of Assignments	847	1,420	622	495	445	249	302	970	289	5,639
Days Served	2,539.0	2,771.0	943.0	1,473.0	1,604.0	787.0	335.0	2,010.0	341.0	12,803.0
Assignments to Other Administrative Regions	11	7	28	11	1	7	6	9	5	85

Notes:

1. Assignment authorized by Sections 74.056 and 75.002, Texas Government Code.
2. Assignment authorized by Rule 3.02, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Information provided by the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Judicial Regions

Justice Courts

As amended in November 1983, the Texas Constitution provides that each county is to be divided, according to population, into at least one, and not more than eight, justice precincts, in each of which is to be elected one or more justices of the peace. As of September 1, 2014, 817 justice courts were in operation.

817
justice courts

Generally, the justice courts have:

- Original jurisdiction in misdemeanor criminal cases where punishment upon conviction may be by fine only
- Exclusive jurisdiction of civil matters when the amount in controversy does not exceed \$200
- Concurrent jurisdiction with the county courts when the amount in controversy exceeds \$200 but does not exceed \$10,000
- Jurisdiction over forcible entry and detainer cases

Trials in justice courts are not “of record.” Appeals from these courts are by trial *de novo* in the constitutional county court, the county court at law, or the district court.

The justice of the peace also serves in the capacity of a committing magistrate, with the authority to issue warrants for the apprehension and arrest of persons charged with the commission of felony or misdemeanor offenses. As a magistrate, the justice of the peace may hold preliminary hearings, reduce testimony to writing, discharge the accused, or remand the accused to jail and set bail. In addition, the justice of the peace serves as the coroner in those counties where there is no provision for a medical examiner, serves as an ex officio notary public, and may perform marriage ceremonies for additional compensation.

Municipal Courts

Under its constitutional authority to create “such other courts as may be provided by law,” the Legislature has created municipal courts in each incorporated municipality in the state. In lieu of a municipal court created by the Legislature, municipalities may choose to establish municipal courts of record. As of September 1, 2014, there were 927 municipal courts, 158 of which indicated that they were a court of record.

158 municipal courts
are courts of record

The jurisdiction of municipal courts is provided in Chapters 29 and 30 of the Texas Government Code. Municipal courts have:

- Original and exclusive jurisdiction over criminal violations of certain municipal ordinances and airport board rules, orders, or resolutions that do not exceed \$2,000 in some instances and \$500 in others
- Concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts in certain misdemeanor criminal cases

In addition to the jurisdiction of a regular municipal court, municipal courts of record also have jurisdiction over criminal cases arising under ordinances authorized by certain provisions of the Local Government Code. The municipality may also provide by ordinance that a municipal court of record have additional jurisdiction in certain civil and criminal matters.

Municipal judges also serve in the capacity of a committing magistrate, with the authority to issue warrants for the apprehension and arrest of persons charged with the commission of felony or misdemeanor offenses. As a magistrate, the municipal judge may hold preliminary hearings, reduce testimony to writing, discharge the accused, or remand the accused to jail and set bail.

Trials in municipal courts are not generally “of record”; many appeals go to the county court, county court at law, or district court by a trial *de novo*. Appeals from municipal courts of record are generally heard in the county criminal courts, county criminal courts of appeal or municipal courts of appeal. If none of these courts exist in the county or municipality, appeals are to a county court at law.

Judicial Administration

The Texas Supreme Court has constitutional responsibility for the efficient administration of the judicial system and possesses the authority to make rules of administration applicable to the courts.¹² Under the direction of the chief justice, the Office of Court Administration aids the Supreme Court in carrying out its administrative duties by providing administrative support and technical assistance to all courts in the state.

The Supreme Court and the Texas Legislature also receive recommendations on long-range planning and improvements in the administration of justice from the Texas Judicial Council, a 22-member advisory board composed of appointees of the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of government.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court, presiding judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, chief justices of each of the 14 courts of appeals, and judges of each of the trial courts are generally responsible for the administration of their respective courts. Furthermore, there is a local administrative district judge in each county, as well as a local administrative statutory county court judge in each county that has a statutory county court. In counties with two or more district courts, a local administrative district judge is elected by the district judges in the county for a term not to exceed two years.¹³ Similarly, in counties with two or more statutory county courts, a local administrative statutory county court judge is elected by the statutory county court judges for a term not to exceed two years. The local administrative judge is charged with implementing the local rules of administration, supervising the expeditious movement of court caseloads, and other administrative duties.¹⁴

To aid in the administration of justice in the trial courts, the state is divided into nine administrative judicial regions. With the advice and consent of the Senate, the Governor appoints one of the active or retired district judges, or a retired appellate court judge who has district court experience residing in each region, as the presiding judge.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court may convene periodic conferences of the chief justices of the courts of appeals, as well as periodic conferences of the nine presiding judges to ensure the efficient administration of justice in the courts of the state.



Supreme Court of Texas Building, Austin, Texas

¹² Article V, Section 31 of the Texas Constitution.

¹³ In accordance with Section 74.091 or Section 74.0911, Texas Government Code.

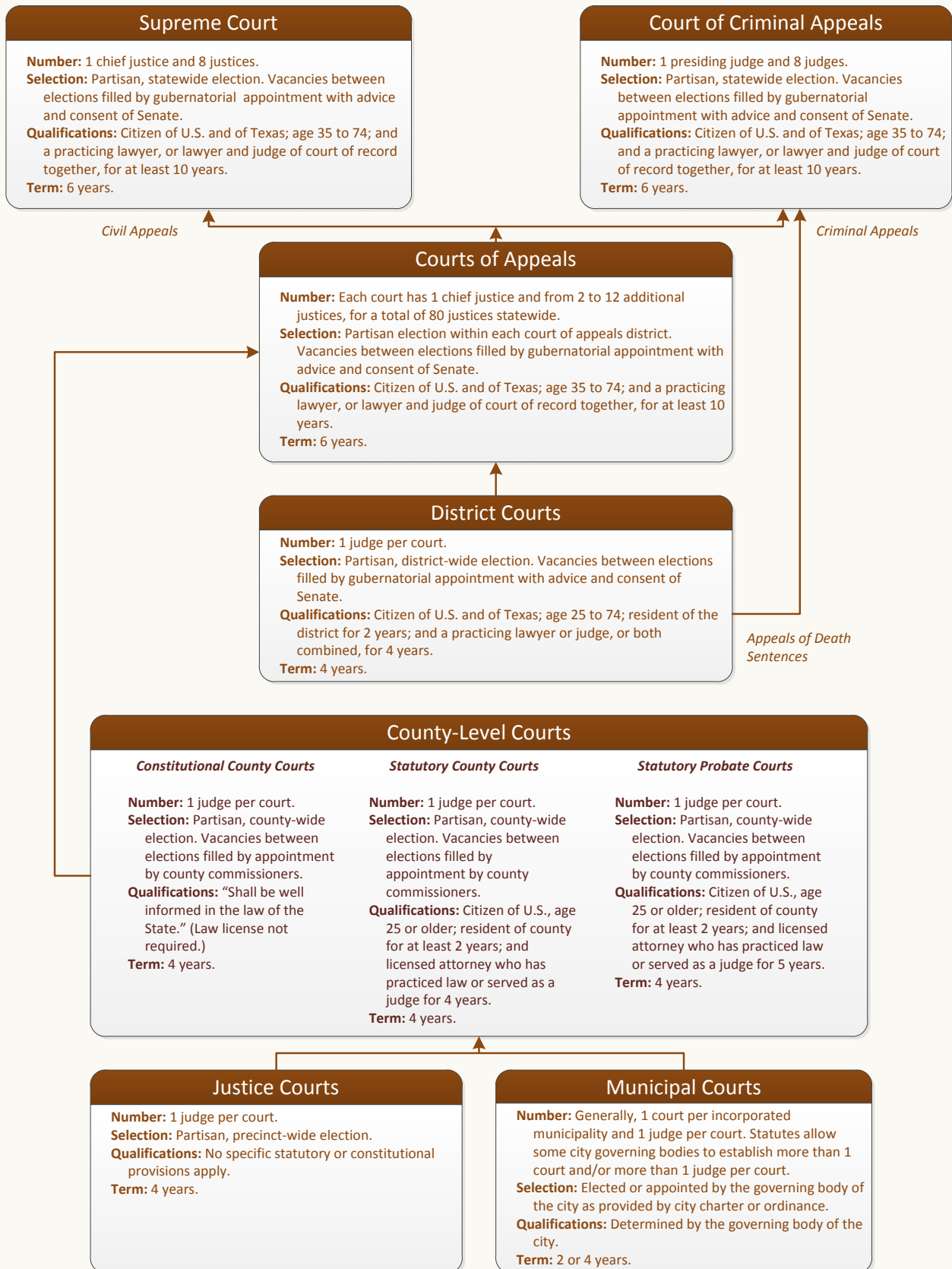
¹⁴ The administrative responsibilities of the local administrative judge are detailed in Section 74.092, Texas Government Code.

Information About Texas Judges

For the Fiscal Year
Ended August 31, 2014



Judicial Qualifications and Selection in the State of Texas



Profile of Appellate and Trial Judges

Profile of Appellate and Trial Judges											
As of September 1, 2014											
	Supreme Court	Court of Criminal Appeals	Court of Appeals	District Courts	Criminal District Courts	County Courts at Law	Probate Courts	County Courts	Justice Courts	Municipal Courts	
NUMBER OF JUDGES:											
Number of Judge Positions	9	9	80	445	13	238	18	254	817	1,288	
Number of Judges	9	9	79	443	13	237	18	253	813	1,277	
Number of Vacant Positions	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	11	
Number of Municipalities w/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	926	
Cities with No Courts	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	250	
AGE OF JUDGES:											
Mean	57	61	57	55	57	61	57	62	59	60	(n = 1,179)
Oldest	69	72	75	76	70	84	70	86	89	96	
Youngest	44	50	39	34	43	37	43	37	29	24	
RANGE OF AGE:											
Under 25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
25 through 34	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	21	
35 through 44	1	0	6	40	1	22	1	8	58	134	
45 through 54	3	1	18	135	4	73	1	32	162	281	
55 through 64	3	2	39	173	5	87	7	97	288	367	
65 through 74	2	6	14	86	3	35	7	86	213	289	
Over 75	0	0	1	4	0	7	0	12	49	86	
GENER OF JUDGES:											
Males	7	4	45	309	8	163	12	228	515	796	(n = 1,277)
Females	2	5	34	134	5	74	6	25	298	481	
ETHNICITY OF JUDGES:											
African-American	0	0	2	19	2	8	0	1	26	71	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	7	
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	9	
Hispanic/Latino	1	1	10	70	1	43	2	20	144	199	
White (Non-Hispanic)	8	8	66	331	9	173	14	221	575	832	
Other	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	9	
LENGTH OF SERVICE:											
Average	7 Yr 5 Mo	14 Yr 4 Mo	8 Yr 10 Mo	9 Yr 10 Mo	6 Yr 1 Mo	10 Yr 11 Mo	13 Yr 5 Mo	8 Yr 5 Mo	10 Yr 3 Mo	9 Yr 9 Mo	(n = 813)
Longest	25 Yr 8 Mo	21 Yr 8 Mo	20 Yr 6 Mo	33 Yr 8 Mo	19 Yr 6 Mo	38 Yr 5 Mo	33 Yr 0 Mo	35 Yr 8 Mo	51 Yr 5 Mo	49 Yr 10 Mo	(n = 1,554)
RANGE OF SERVICE ON THIS COURT IN YEARS:											
Under 1 Year	1	0	6	14	1	3	0	12	25	71	
1 through 4	4	1	22	121	3	70	7	77	200	476	
5 through 9	3	0	15	132	7	51	2	69	190	425	
10 through 14	0	2	22	70	1	44	1	37	147	252	
15 through 19	0	5	13	65	1	44	2	40	150	155	
20 through 24	0	1	1	23	0	14	3	10	55	76	
25 through 29	1	0	0	15	0	11	2	7	23	51	
30 through 34	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	14	33	
35 through 39	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	11	
Over 40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	

Profile of Appellate and Trial Judges

Profile of Appellate and Trial Judges As of September 1, 2014																				
	Supreme Court		Court of Criminal Appeals		Court of Appeals		District Courts		Criminal District Courts		County Courts at Law		Probate Courts		County Courts		Justice Courts		Municipal Courts	
FIRST ASSUMED OFFICE BY:	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 78)	(n = 443)	(n = 13)	(n = 238)	(n = 18)	(n = 253)	(n = 813)	(n = 1,275)									
Appointment	7 (78%)	2 (22%)	44 (56%)	167 (38%)	2 (1.5%)	64 (27%)	5 (28%)	52 (21%)	240 (30%)	1,562 (123%)										
Election	2 (22%)	7 (78%)	34 (44%)	276 (62%)	11 (85%)	175 (74%)	13 (72%)	201 (79%)	574 (71%)	20 (2%)										
EDUCATION:	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 78)	(n = 441)	(n = 13)	(n = 234)	(n = 19)	(n = 244)	(n = 766)	(n = 1,220)									
HIGH SCHOOL:																				
Attended	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	39 (5%)	22 (2%)									
Graduated	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	723 (94%)	1,145 (94%)									
COLLEGE:																				
Attended	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	74 (95%)	423 (96%)	3 (1%)	3 (1%)	1 (5%)	42 (17%)	179 (23%)	147 (12%)									
Graduated	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	74 (95%)	423 (96%)	423 (96%)	423 (96%)	423 (96%)	423 (96%)	423 (96%)	423 (96%)	423 (96%)									
LAW SCHOOL:																				
Attended	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)									
Graduated	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	78 (100%)	441 (100%)	441 (100%)	441 (100%)	441 (100%)	441 (100%)	441 (100%)	441 (100%)	441 (100%)									
LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW:	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 79)	(n = 443)	(n = 13)	(n = 237)	(n = 18)	(n = 253)	(n = 813)	(n = 1,277)									
Number Licensed	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	79 (100%)	443 (100%)	443 (100%)	443 (100%)	443 (100%)	443 (100%)	443 (100%)	443 (100%)	443 (100%)									
Mean Year Licensed	1984	1977	1984	1985	1985	1985	1986	1982	1983	1984	1986									
YEARS LICENSED:																				
4 Years or Less	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
5 to 9 Years	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0									
10 to 14 Years	0	0	3	25	25	1	15	2	0	3	3									
15 to 19 Years	1	0	4	43	43	2	31	1	5	10	107									
20 to 24 Years	2	0	16	81	81	1	39	1	7	10	131									
25 to 29 Years	2	1	15	68	68	2	56	0	5	5	84									
30 or More Years	4	8	41	221	221	7	95	14	16	34	288									
ORIGINALLY CAME TO THIS COURT FROM:																				
Attorney Private Practice	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	47 (59%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--									
Judge of Lower Court	6 (67%)	4 (44%)	23 (29%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--									
Legislative Service	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--									
Other Governmental Service	2 (22%)	3 (33%)	6 (8%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--									
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:																				
Prosecutor	1 (11%)	5 (56%)	15 (19%)	180 (41%)	180 (41%)	5 (38%)	116 (49%)	5 (28%)	9 (4%)	--	--									
Attorney Private Practice	9 (100%)	8 (89%)	30 (38%)	355 (80%)	355 (80%)	10 (77%)	161 (68%)	16 (89%)	28 (11%)	--	--									
Judge of Lower Court	6 (67%)	1 (11%)	21 (27%)	58 (13%)	58 (13%)	3 (23%)	32 (14%)	3 (17%)	15 (6%)	--	--									
County Commissioner	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	28 (11%)	--	--									

Appointed State Judges

September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014

Hon. Nathan L. Hecht
Chief Justice, Supreme Court
Succeeding Hon. Wallace B. Jefferson
(Retired)

Hon. Jeff Brown
Justice, Supreme Court
Succeeding Hon. Nathan L. Hecht
(Appointed Chief Justice)

Hon. Kem Thompson Frost
Chief Justice, 14th Court of Appeals
Succeeding Hon. Adele Hedges
(Retired)

Hon. John M. Bailey
Justice, 11th Court of Appeals
Succeeding Hon. Terry McCall
(Reached mandatory retirement age)

Hon. Ada Brown
Justice, 5th Court of Appeals
Succeeding Hon. Mary Murphy
(Retired)

Hon. Marc W. Brown
Justice, 14th Court of Appeals
Succeeding Hon. Jeff Brown
(Appointed to Supreme Court)

Hon. Leanne Johnson
Justice, 9th Court of Appeals
Succeeding Hon. David Gaultney
(Retired)

Hon. Craig T. Stoddart
Justice, 5th Court of Appeals
Succeeding Hon. James Moseley
(Retired)

Hon. Ken Wise
Justice, 14th Court of Appeals
Succeeding Hon. Kem Thompson Frost
(Appointed Chief Justice, 14th COA)

Hon. Jennifer Jackson Balido
Judge, 291st District Court
Succeeding Hon. Susan Hawk
(Resigned)

Hon. Elizabeth H. Beach
Judge, Tarrant Crim. District Court #1
Succeeding Hon. Sharen Wilson
(Retired)

Hon. Samuel G. Dorfman
Judge, 334th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Ken Wise
(Appointed to 14th Court of Appeals)

Hon. Catherine V. Evans
Judge, 180th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Marc W. Brown
(Appointed to 14th Court of Appeals)

Hon. Alicia K. Franklin
Judge, 311th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Denise Pratt
(Resigned)

Hon. Darren (Bret) Griffin
Judge, 212th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Susan Criss
(Resigned)

Hon. Robert Hofmann
Judge, 452nd District Court
Newly created court

Hon. Rick J. Kennon
Judge, 368th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Burt Carnes
(Retired)

Hon. Stacey L. Mathews
Judge, 277th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Ken Anderson
(Resigned)

Hon. Ernest L. McClendon
Judge, 258th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Elizabeth E. Coker
(Resigned)

Hon. Thomas F. Rugg
Judge, 58th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Robert J. Wortham
(Resigned)

Hon. Lorina I. Rummel
Judge, 144th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Angus K. McGinty
(Resigned)

Hon. Lindsey M. Scott
Judge, 252nd District Court
Succeeding Hon. Layne W. Walker
(Resigned)

Hon. David V. Stith
Judge, 319th District Court
Succeeding Hon. Thomas Greenwell
(Deceased)

Hon. Jaime E. Tijerina
Judge, 92nd District Court
Succeeding Hon. Ricardo Rodriguez
(Resigned)

Salaries and Turnover of Elected State Judges

For the Fiscal Year
Ended August 31, 2014



Salaries of Elected State Judges

Effective September 1, 2013, the annual state salary of a district judge increased from \$125,000 to \$140,000. While Chapter 32 of the Government Code authorizes the state salaries of district court judges to be supplemented from county funds, the total annual salary for a district judge is limited to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$5,000 less than the combined salary from state and county sources provided for a justice of a court of appeals.¹⁵

The annual state salary of a justice of a court of appeals is 110 percent of the annual state salary of a district judge. The chief justice of an appellate court receives \$2,500 more than the other justices of the court. While Chapter 31 of the Government Code authorizes salaries of the justices to be supplemented by the counties in each court of appeals district, the total salary for a justice of a court of appeals is limited to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$5,000 less than the state salary paid to a justice of the Supreme Court. This same provision limits the chief justices of the courts of appeals to receive a combined salary of \$2,500 less than the state salary paid to justices of the Supreme Court.

Salary Summary for Elected State Judges as of September 1, 2014				
Judge ¹	State Salary	Additional Compensation ²	Other	Total
Chief Justice – Supreme Court or Court of Criminal Appeals	\$170,500	N/A	N/A	\$170,500
Justice – Supreme Court or Court of Criminal Appeals	\$168,000	N/A	N/A	\$168,000
Chief – Court of Appeals	\$156,500	up to \$9,000 ³	N/A	up to \$165,500
Justice – Court of Appeals	\$154,000	up to \$9,000 ³	N/A	up to \$163,000
Presiding Judge of Administrative Judicial Region (active district judge)	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 ³	not to exceed \$33,000 ⁴	up to \$191,000
Presiding Judge of Administrative Judicial Region (retired or former judge)	N/A	N/A	\$35,000 - \$50,000 ⁵	up to \$50,000
District Judge – Local administrative judge who serves in county with more than 5 district courts	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 ³	\$5,000 ⁶	up to \$163,000
District Judge	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 ³	N/A	up to \$158,000
District Judge – Presiding judge of silica or asbestos multi-district litigation	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 ³	not to exceed \$33,000 ⁷	up to \$191,000
Retired Judge – Presiding judge of silica or asbestos multi-district litigation	\$140,000	\$18,000 ³	N/A	\$158,000 ⁸

Table 1 - Salary Summary for Elected State Judges

Notes:

- Entitled to monthly longevity pay of 3.1 percent of current monthly state salary for each year of service credited in the retirement system after completing 16 years of service.
- Additional compensation provided by counties in judicial and appellate districts for extra judicial service performed by judges and justices. Government Code Secs. 31.001 and 32.001.
- The state salary of a district judge whose county supplement exceeds \$18,000, or appellate justice whose county supplement exceeds \$9,000, will be reduced by the amount of the excess so that the maximum salary the judge or justice receives from state and county sources is \$158,000 (district judge), \$163,000 (appellate justice), or \$165,500 (appellate chief justice). Government Code Secs. 659.012, 31.001 and 32.001.
- Presiding judges' salary set by Texas Judicial Council. Government Code Sec. 74.051(b). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.
- Presiding judges' salary based on number of courts and judges in region. Government Code Sec. 74.051(c). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.
- Government Code Sec. 659.012(d).
- Government Code Sec. 659.0125(a).
- Government Code Sec. 659.0125(c).

¹⁵ Attorney General Opinion GA-0437 (2006).

Finally, the annual state salary of a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals is 120 percent of the annual state salary of a district judge. The chief justice or presiding judge of these courts receives \$2,500 more than the other justices or judges on the courts.

Judges are also entitled to monthly longevity pay equal to 3.1 percent of their current monthly state salary for each year of service credited in the retirement system after completing 16 years of service. Longevity pay is not included as part of the judge or justice’s combined salary from state and county sources for purpose of the salary limitations described above.

Judicial Salaries Compared with Salaries of Private Practitioners

In 2013, the State Bar of Texas conducted a survey of the salaries received by full-time, private practitioner attorneys in the state during the previous year. Overall, the average salary was \$161,560, while the median was \$123,982.

Compensation of Full-Time, Private Practitioners in 2013		
	Median Salary	Average Salary
Overall	\$123,982	\$161,560
Lawyers with 11 to 15 years of experience	\$146,634	\$186,200
Lawyers with 16 to 20 years of experience	\$159,308	\$207,737
Source: State Bar of Texas, <i>Private Practitioner 2013 Income Fact Sheet</i> (Austin: Department of Research and Analysis, State Bar of Texas, 2014).		

Table 2 - Compensation of Full-Time, Private Practitioners in 2013

Salaries of State Judges in the Six Most Populous States

Although Texas state judges received an increase in salary as of September 1, 2013, the state salaries of state judges in Texas continued to lag behind the salaries of judges at corresponding levels in four of the five states closest to Texas in population. Only justices of the court of last resort in Florida had lower salaries than their counterparts in Texas. Judges in the other five states all received increases in salary over the last year, though the increase had not yet been implemented in California.

Salaries of State Judges in the Six Most Populous States as of October 1, 2014 Listed in Population Order						
Judge	California	Texas	New York	Florida	Illinois	Pennsylvania
Chief Justice – Court of Last Resort	\$228,856	\$170,500	\$190,600	\$162,200	\$213,552	\$205,415
Associate Justice – Court of Last Resort	\$218,237	\$168,000	\$184,800	\$162,200	\$213,552	\$199,606
Chief – Intermediate Court of Appeals	\$204,599	\$156,500 ¹ \$163,690 ²	\$180,400	\$154,140	\$200,992	\$194,145
Justice – Intermediate Court of Appeals	\$204,599	\$154,000 ¹ \$162,906 ²	\$176,000	\$154,140	\$200,992	\$188,337
Judge – General Jurisdiction Trial Courts	\$178,789	\$140,000 ¹ \$155,799 ²	\$167,000	\$146,080	\$184,436	\$173,271

Notes:
1. Basic state salary. Does not include supplements paid by counties.
2. Average salary statewide, including supplements paid by counties as of October 1, 2014.

Table 3 - Salaries of State Judges in the Six Most Populous States as of October 1, 2014

Turnover of Elected State Judges

Extent of Turnover in the Judiciary

In FY 2014, 555 judges served in the state’s appellate and district courts. During this period, 22 judges left their current positions, representing a turnover rate of 4.0 percent. However, five judges were appointed to a higher-level state court position, making the turnover rate for judges leaving the state judiciary 3.1 percent. Of the 17 judges leaving the state judiciary, two (11.8 percent) left involuntarily due to reaching mandatory retirement age or defeat in reelection.

As a result, the voluntary turnover rate was 2.7 percent (15 judges, all of whom resigned or did not run for reelection).

Turnover of State Appellate and District Judges September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014		
	Number of Judges	Percentage of All Judges
Total Number of Appellate and District Judge Positions	555	100.0%
Judges Leaving Current Office	22	4.0%
Judges Leaving State Judiciary	17	3.1%
Judges Leaving State Judiciary Voluntarily	15	2.7%

Table 4 - Turnover of State Appellate and District Judges

Manner in Which State Appellate and District Judges Left Office September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014			
	Number of Judges	Percentage of All Judges Leaving Office	Percentage of All Judges
Resigned	13	59.1%	2.3%
Appointed/elected to higher state court	5	22.7%	0.9%
Did not seek reelection	2	9.1%	0.4%
Defeated in election	1	4.5%	0.2%
Reached mandatory retirement age	1	4.5%	0.2%
Deceased	0	0%	0%
Removed from office/forced resignation	0	0%	0%
Total	22	100.0%*	4.0%

*Note: Does not total to 100.0 percent due to rounding.

Table 5 - Manner in Which State Appellate and District Judges Left Office

Reasons for Voluntary Turnover

Of the 15 judges who voluntarily left the state judiciary in FY 2014, 11 were sent OCA’s judicial turnover survey and six judges responded. Respondents were asked to indicate which factor(s) influenced their decision to leave the state judiciary. Sixty-seven percent of respondents indicated that the judicial election process was a significant contributor to their departures, and 50 percent specified that retirement was a factor, 33 percent cited personal reasons, and 17 percent selected salary and self-employment as two other factors.

Judges were asked if certain factors would compel them to continue service as a state judge. Five of the six respondents indicated that changes in salary and retirement benefits or policies would be compelling. Four respondents indicated that a change in the judicial election process would affect their decisions, and three indicated a change in other benefits would be a factor.

Next Steps for Judges after Resigning or Completing Their Terms

Of the 15 judges who voluntarily left office in FY 2014, four retired but continued to work in the private sector, two obtained other positions with better compensation, one retired but continued to work in the private sector while serving as a visiting judge, one retired but continued to work in local government, one ran for another office, and one retired and chose not to continue to work.

The survey also allowed respondents to share additional comments regarding the survey topic. In FY 2014, respondents provided the following comments:

- “Elections should be non-partisan. Judges should be barred from participating in party politics; not forced to do so.”
- “Salary is far too low for the job.”

**Factors Influencing Respondents’ Decision to Leave the State Judiciary
September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014**

	“To a Very Great Extent”	“To Some Extent”	“To a Small Extent”	“Not at All”	No Answer
Judicial Election Process	4 (67%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
Retirement	3 (50%)	2 (33%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
Personal	2 (33%)	2 (33%)	0 (0%)	2 (33%)	0 (0%)
Salary	1 (17%)	4 (67%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
Self-employment	1 (17%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	3 (50%)	1 (17%)
Benefits	0 (0%)	2 (33%)	1 (17%)	3 (50%)	0 (0%)
Advancement Opportunities	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	5 (83%)	0 (0%)
Working Conditions/Environment	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	5 (83%)	0 (0%)

Table 6 - Factors Influencing Respondents’ Decision to Leave the State Judiciary, September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014

**Factors That Would Compel Judges
to Continue Service as State Judge
September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014**

	Yes	No	No Answer
Change in Salary	5 (83%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
Change in Retirement Benefits/Policies	5 (83%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
Change in Judicial Election Process	4 (67%)	2 (33%)	0 (0%)
Change in Other Benefits	3 (50%)	3 (50%)	0 (0%)

Table 7 - Factors That Would Compel Judges to Continue Service as a State Judge, September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014

**Service After Resigning or Completing Their Terms
September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014**

	Number of Judges	Percentage of Judges Leaving Voluntarily
Retire but continue to work in the private sector	4	27%
Obtain another position with higher salary and/or better benefits	2	13%
Retire but continue to work in the private sector and as a visiting judge	1	7%
Retire but work in state or local government	1	7%
Ran for another office	1	7%
Retire and not continue to work	1	7%
Unknown	5	33%

Table 8 - Service After Resigning or Completing Their Terms, September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014

Activity of the Texas Courts



Caseload Trends in the Appellate Courts

Analysis of Activity for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014



The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has statewide, final appellate jurisdiction in most civil and juvenile cases. The Supreme Court’s caseload can be broken down into three broad categories: determining whether to grant review of the final judgment of a court of appeals (i.e., to grant or not grant a petition for review); disposition of regular causes (i.e., granted petitions for review, accepted petitions for writs of mandamus or habeas corpus, certified questions, accepted parental notification appeals, and direct appeals); and disposition of numerous motions related to petitions and regular causes.

Regular Causes¹⁶ - The 93 regular causes added to the court’s docket in 2014 was 1.1 percent lower than the number added the year before (94 causes) and was the lowest number of causes added in the past 30 years.

The court disposed of 96 causes in 2014, 4.0 percent fewer than the number disposed of in the previous year. The number of causes disposed exceeded the number of causes added, resulting in a clearance rate of 103.2 percent. The number of causes pending at the end of the year decreased by 3 to 45—the lowest number of causes pending at the end of the fiscal year since 1995.

The Supreme Court reversed the decision of the intermediate appellate court in approximately 60 percent of cases in which it granted a petition for review. It affirmed a decision in 16.7 percent of cases and issued a mixed decision in 10.3 percent of cases.

Disposed of 96 causes

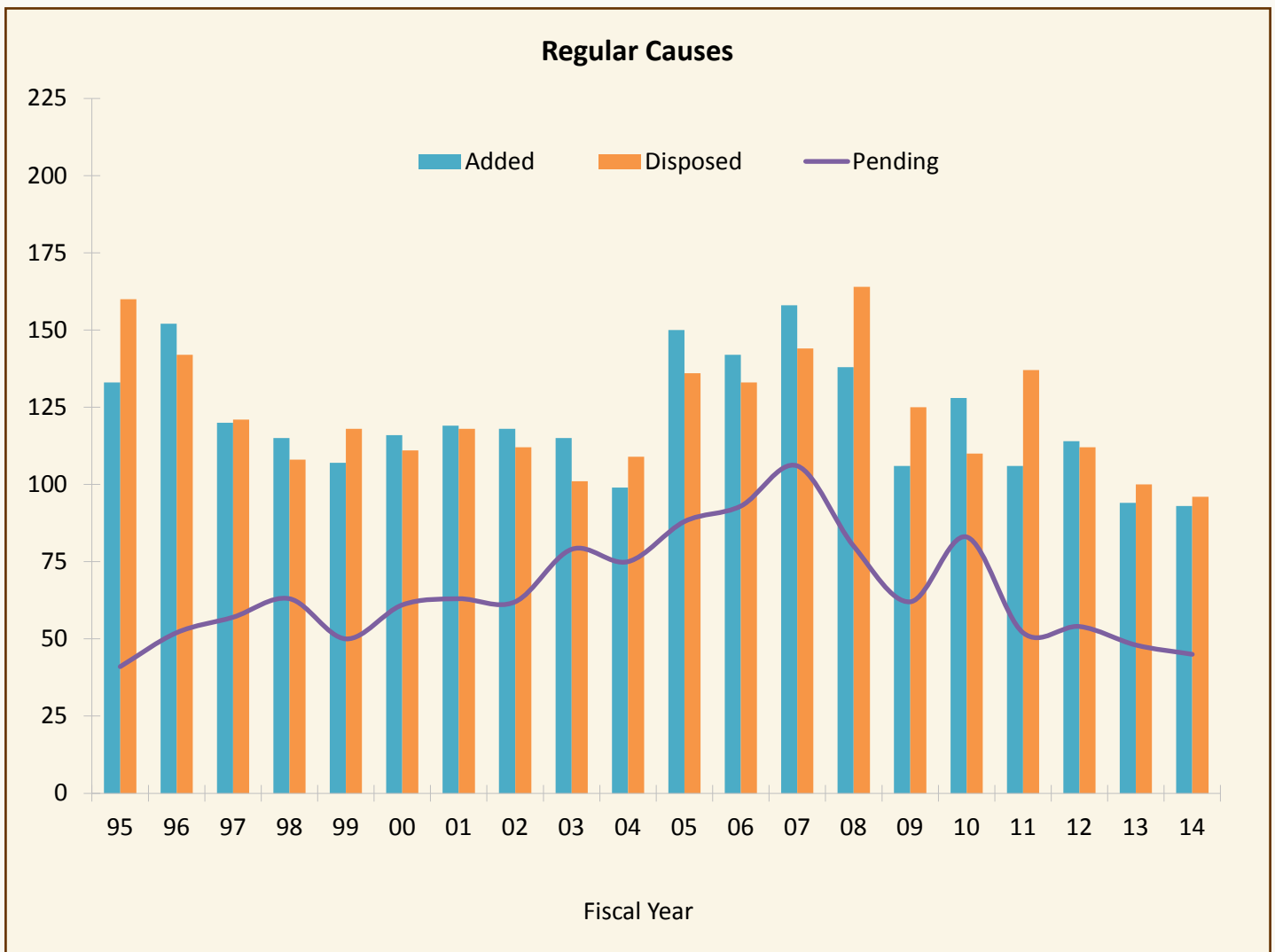


Figure 6 - Regular Causes

¹⁶ “Regular causes” involve cases in which four or more of the justices have decided in conference that a petition for review, petition for writ of mandamus or habeas corpus, or parental notification appeal should be reviewed. Regular causes also include direct appeals the court has agreed to review and questions of law certified to it by a federal appellate court that the court has agreed to answer. Most regular causes are set for oral argument in open court and are reported in written opinions. However, a petition may be granted and an unsigned opinion (per curiam) issued without oral argument if at least six members of the court vote accordingly.

Petitions for Review¹⁷ – In 2014, 792 petitions for review were filed in the Supreme Court—an increase of 1.8 percent from the previous year. The number of petitions for review filed over the past five years remained relatively consistent.

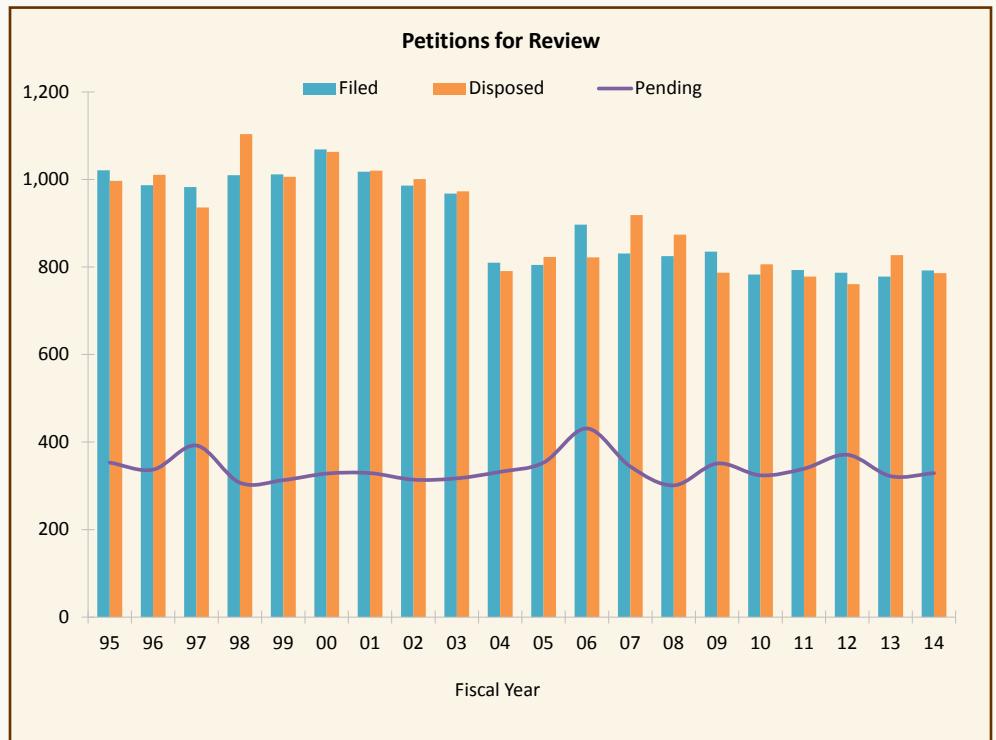


Figure 7 - Petitions for Review

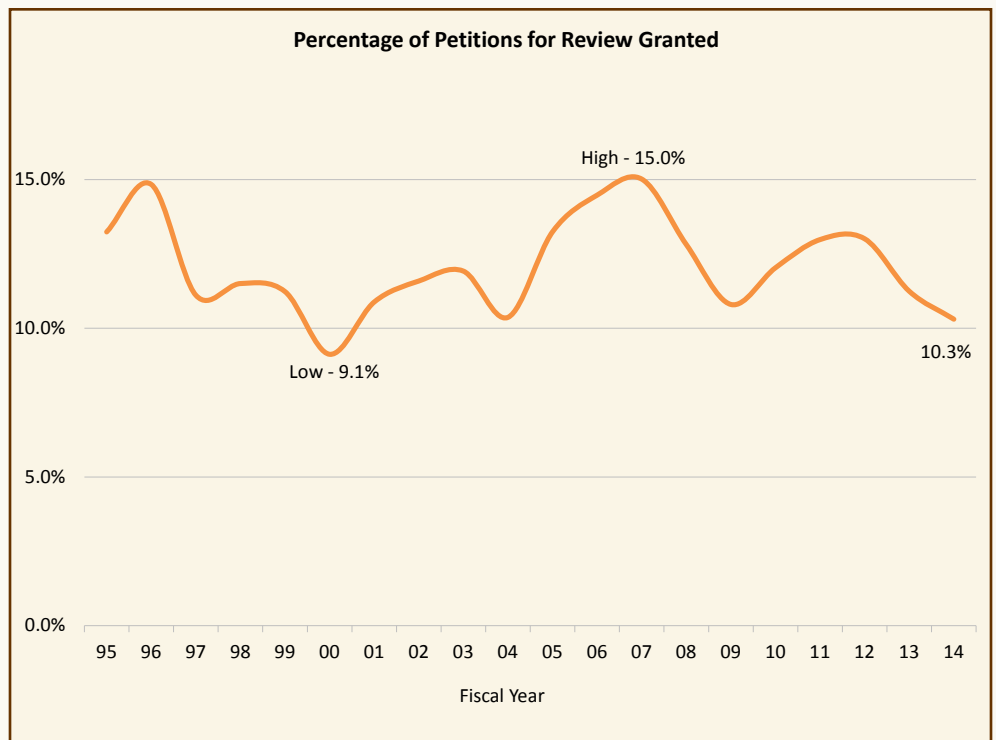


Figure 8 - Percentage of Petitions for Review Granted

¹⁷ Petitions for review do not include petitions for writs of mandamus, petitions for writs of habeas corpus, petitions for writs of prohibition and injunction, petitions to publish, parental notification appeals, or petitions for temporary injunctions.

Just over half (53.5 percent) of the petitions for review filed during 2014 came from the five most populous counties—Harris (140), Dallas (102), Tarrant (58), Bexar (51), and Travis (72). Harris County alone accounted for 17.7 percent of petitions filed. Approximately 22 percent of petitions for review were filed from the First and Fourteenth Courts of Appeals in Houston.

The Supreme Court disposed of 786 petitions for review, a decrease of 5.0 percent from the previous year (827 petitions). Since the number of petitions disposed was less than the number of petitions filed, the clearance rate dropped to 99.2 percent, and the number of petitions pending at the end of the fiscal year rose 2.2 percent to 329.

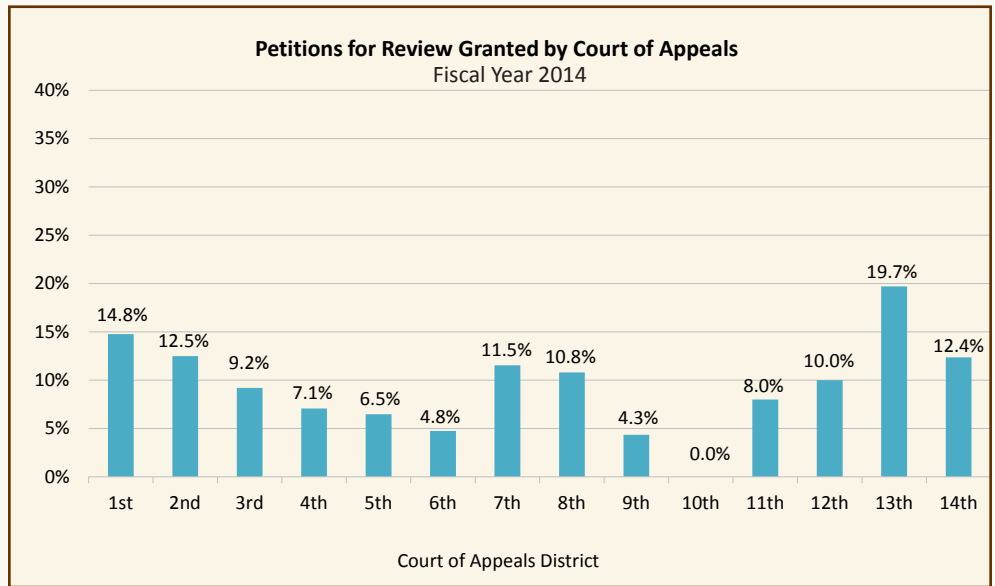


Figure 9 - Petitions for Review Granted by Court of Appeals

Initial review was granted most frequently in petitions filed from the 13th COA

Initial review was granted in 10.3 percent of the petitions for review disposed of in 2014. Initial review was granted most frequently (19.7 percent) in petitions filed from the Thirteenth Court of Appeals (Corpus Christi/Edinburg) and least frequently (0.0 percent) in petitions filed from the Tenth Court of Appeals (Waco).

Case Processing Times - The time from filing to disposition for all cases disposed of in 2014 averaged 155 days. The average time that an active case had been pending remained the same at 149 days; the average time from date of oral argument to disposition increased from 221 to 250 days; and the average time from granting of a petition to oral argument decreased from 132 to 104 days.

Opinions Written - The justices of the Supreme Court issued 115 opinions during the fiscal year, an increase of 3.6 percent from the number issued the previous year (111 opinions). Majority opinions accounted for over half (52.2 percent) of the total and was the highest percentage of majority opinions in the last two decades. Twenty percent of opinions were per curiam, 7.0 percent were concurring, 18.3 percent were dissenting, and 2.6 percent were “other” opinions. There were no concurring and dissenting opinions issued. Over the past five years, justices issued an average of 127 opinions per year.

Majority opinions accounted for 52.2% of total opinions issued

Supreme Court Case Processing Times FY 2014	
Measure	Average Time
For cases disposed in FY 2014, time from filing to disposition	155 days
<i>For cases on docket in FY 2014:</i>	
For active cases, time from filing of case to end of reporting period (Aug. 31, 2014)	149 days
Time from filing to disposition of petition/motion	129 days
Time from granting of petition to oral argument	104 days
Time from filing of petition to release of per curiam opinion	551 days
Time from date of oral argument to date of disposition	250 days

Table - 9 - Supreme Court Case Processing Times

Supreme Court Activity Fiscal Years 2005 through 2014

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	10-Yr. Avg.
Regular Causes:¹											
Added to docket	150	142	158	138	106	128	106	114	94	93	123
Disposed	136	133	144	164	125	110	137	112	100	96	126
Pending at end of year	88	93	106	80	62	83	52	54	48	45	71
Clearance rate	90.7%	93.7%	91.1%	118.8%	117.9%	85.9%	129.2%	98.2%	106.4%	103.2%	102.3%
Petitions for Review:											
Filed	805	897	831	825	835	783	793	787	778	792	813
Disposed:											
<i>Granted</i>	109	119	138	112	85	97	101	99	93	81	103
<i>Other Dispositions</i>	714	703	781	762	702	709	677	662	734	705	715
Pending at end of year	353	431	344	301	351	324	339	371	322	329	347
Clearance rate	102.2%	91.6%	110.6%	105.9%	94.3%	102.9%	98.1%	96.7%	106.3%	99.2%	100.7%
Other Writs and Motions:											
Filed	280	270	255	266	304	426	336	323	340	326	313
Disposed	283	274	274	283	284	423	332	336	328	335	315
Pending at end of year	97	97	77	58	78	85	87	74	78	71	80
Clearance rate	101.1%	101.5%	107.5%	106.4%	93.4%	99.3%	98.8%	104.0%	96.5%	102.8%	100.8%
Opinions Written	136	145	170	212	165	118	162	128	111	115	146

NOTE:

1. "Regular causes" involve cases in which four or more of the justices have decided in conference that a petition for review, petition for writ of mandamus or habeas corpus, or parental notification appeal should be reviewed. Regular causes also include direct appeals the court has agreed to review and questions of law certified to it by a federal appellate court that the court has agreed to answer. Most regular causes are set for oral argument in open court and are reported in written opinions. However, a petition may be granted and an unsigned opinion (per curiam) issued without oral argument if at least six members of the court vote accordingly.

Disposition of Petitions for Review by the Supreme Court September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014

	Affirmed	Modified	Reversed	Dismissed	Other Disposition	Total	
Granted Petitions for Review	13	8	47	1	9	78	
% of Total Granted Petitions for Review	16.7%	10.3%	60.3%	1.3%	11.5%	100.0%	
	Initial Review Granted	Review Denied	Dismissed	Abated	Struck	Other Disposition	Total
Petitions for Review	81	656	36	4	8	1	786
% of Total Petitions for Review	10.3%	83.5%	4.6%	0.5%	1.0%	0.1%	100.0%

The Court of Criminal Appeals

Mandatory Caseload – The caseload of the Court of Criminal Appeals consists primarily of mandatory matters—review of applications for post conviction habeas corpus relief in felony cases, original proceedings, and direct appeals. In 2014, mandatory matters comprised approximately 77 percent of all cases added to the docket.

Overall, the number of mandatory matters added to the docket in 2014 (5,570 cases) **declined** by 5.2 percent from the previous year. In particular, applications for writs of habeas corpus **decreased** 3.3 percent to 4,746 cases and original proceedings decreased 15.8 percent to 802 cases, but direct appeals increased 46.7 percent to 22 cases.

Overall, disposition of mandatory matters decreased 8.3 percent from the previous year to 5,570 cases. Since the number of cases disposed and the number of cases added was the same, **the clearance rate was 100.0 percent.**

The court denied 50.5 percent of applications for writs of habeas corpus and denied 70.6 percent of original proceedings, compared to the denial of only 4.2 percent of direct appeals for habeas corpus and extraordinary matters that were filed and set.

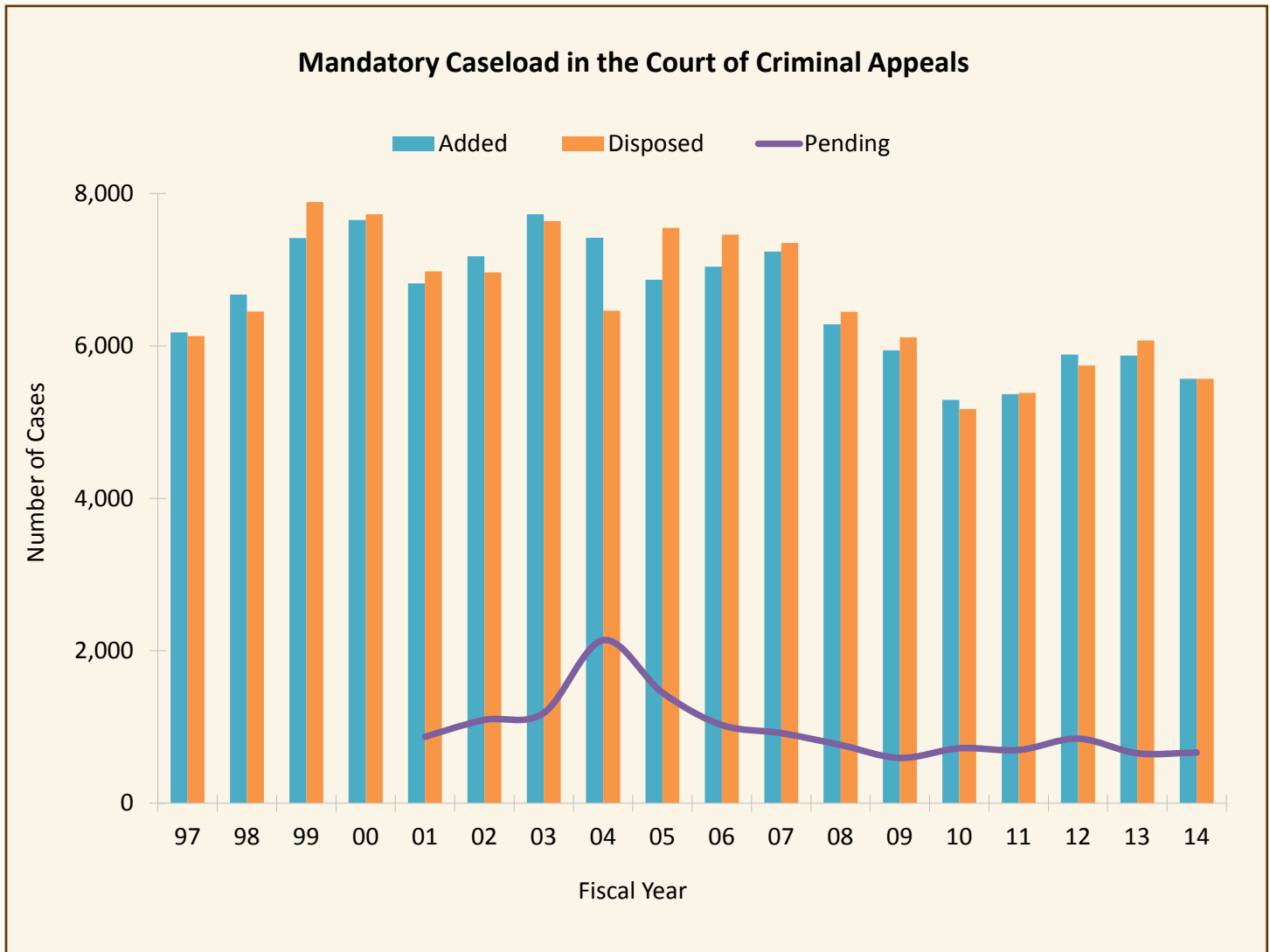
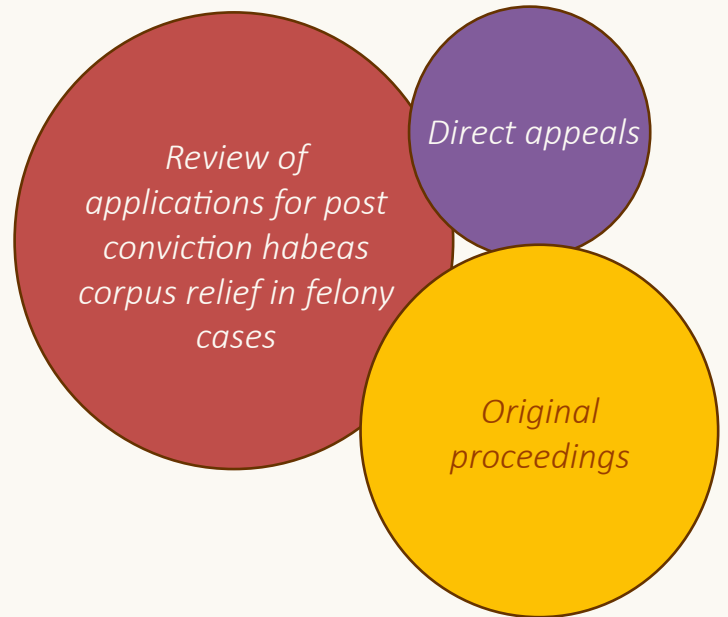


Figure 10 - Mandatory Caseload in the Court of Criminal Appeals

Death Penalty Appeals

Of the 12 direct appeal cases filed in 2014, 77.3 percent involved the death penalty. The 20-year low occurred in 2010 with 70.0 percent. In 2014, the court affirmed 10 of 12 death penalty cases. One case was reversed and remanded, and the other was abated and remanded.

77.3% of direct appeals involved death penalty

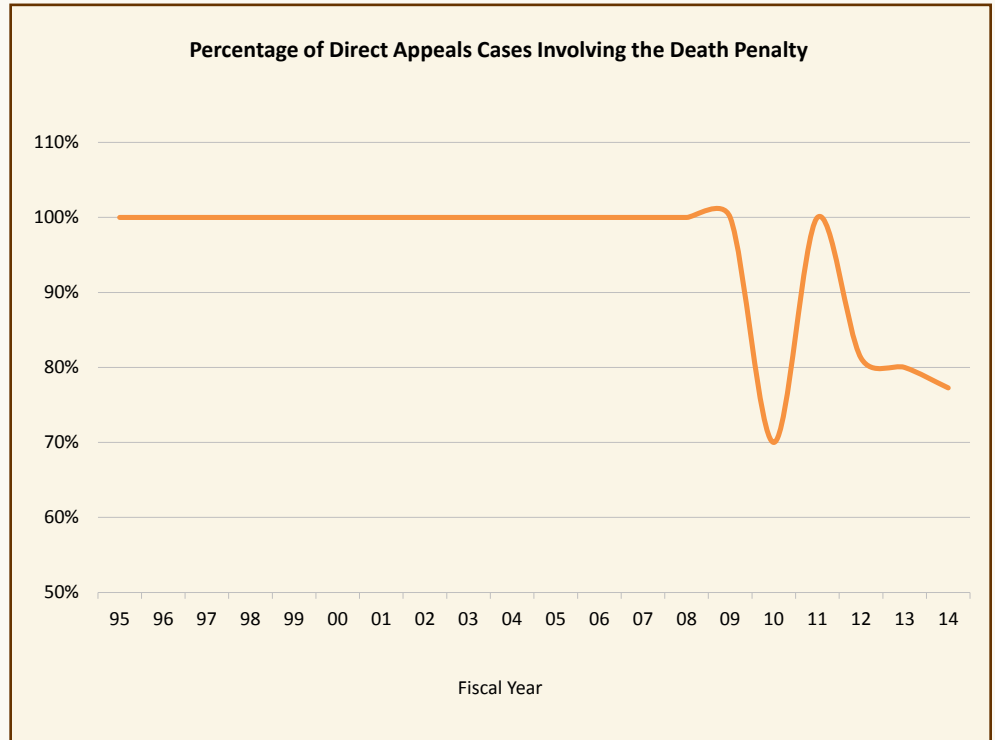


Figure 11 - Percentage of Direct Appeals Cases Involving the Death Penalty

10 of 12 death penalty cases were affirmed

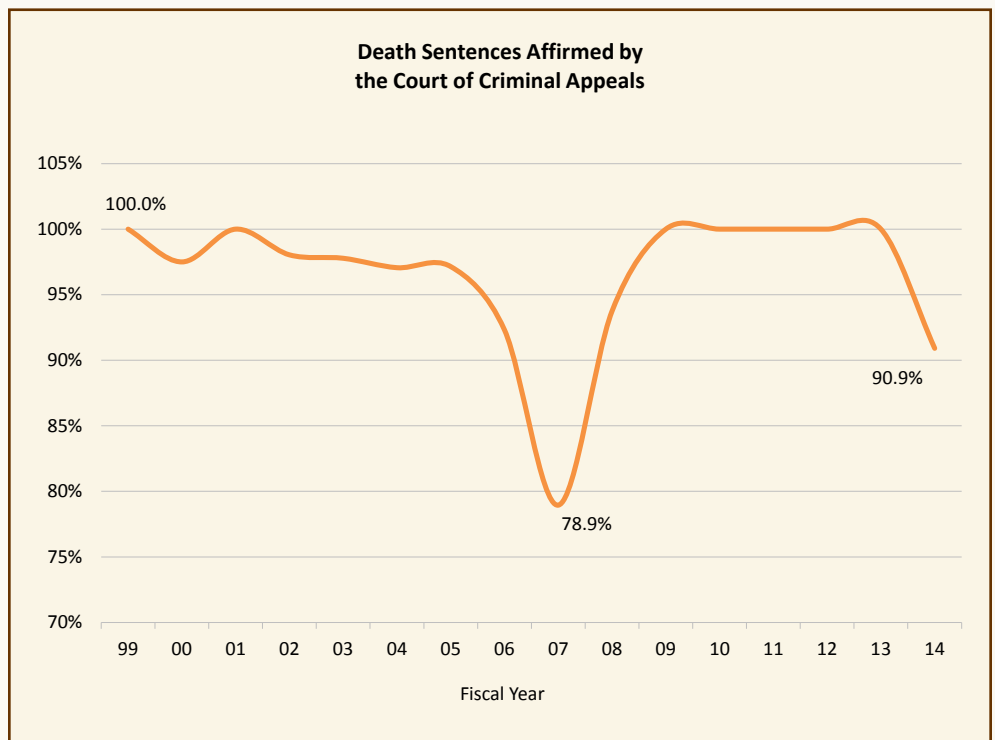


Figure 12 - Death Sentences Affirmed by the Court of Criminal Appeals

Discretionary Caseload – The number of petitions for discretionary review and redrawn petitions for discretionary review filed with the Court of Criminal Appeals decreased 7.1 percent in 2014 to 1,547 cases.

The five most populous counties represented 47.1% of all petitions filed

Petitions filed from the five most populous counties—Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis—represented 47.1 percent of all petitions filed in 2014, an increase of 3.5 percentage points from the previous year. Petitions filed from the remaining counties in the state decreased to 52.9 percent. Before 2005, these 249 counties had never accounted for more than 40 percent of petitions filed in any one fiscal year, but they have accounted for more than half since 2008.

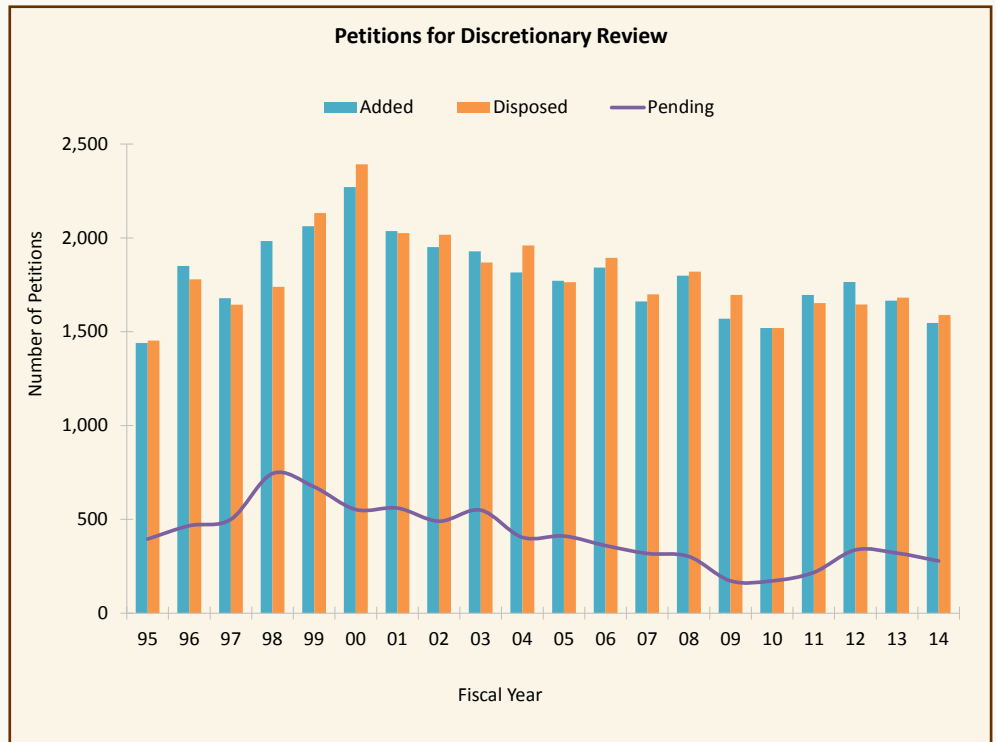


Figure 13 - Petitions for Discretionary Review

In 2014, the number of petitions for discretionary review and redrawn petitions for discretionary review disposed (1,589 cases) decreased 5.5 percent from the previous fiscal year. Since the number of cases disposed outpaced the number of cases added, the clearance rate for this portion of the court’s caseload was 102.7 percent. At the end of the fiscal year, 278 cases were pending—a 13.1 percent decrease from the number of cases pending at the end of the previous year.

Of the petitions and redrawn petitions for discretionary review disposed in 2014, initial review was granted in 8.2 percent of the cases.

Initial review was granted most frequently (19.7 percent) in petitions filed from the Sixth Court of Appeals (Texarkana) and was granted least frequently (3.2 percent) in petitions filed from the Thirteenth Court of Appeals (Corpus Christi/Edinburg).

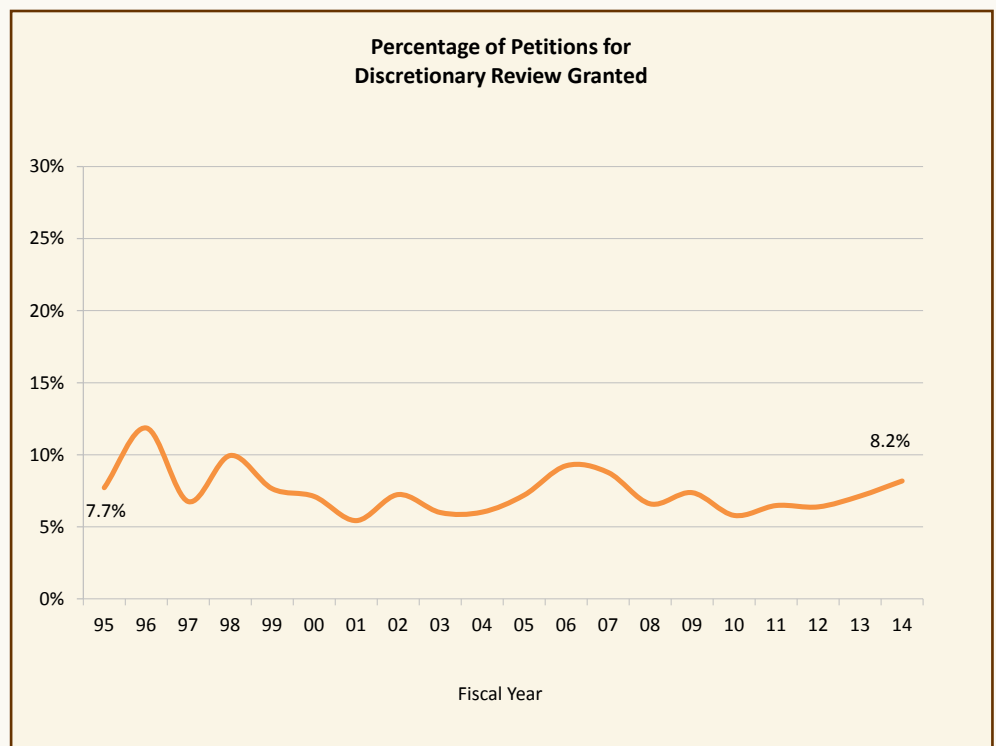


Figure 14 - Percentage of Petitions for Discretionary Review Granted

Opinions Written - The judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals **issued 457 opinions** in 2014, an increase of 3.6 percent from the number issued the previous year (441 opinions). Of these, 29.3 percent of opinions were signed, 47.0 percent were per curiam, 12.0 percent were concurring, and 11.6 percent were dissenting.

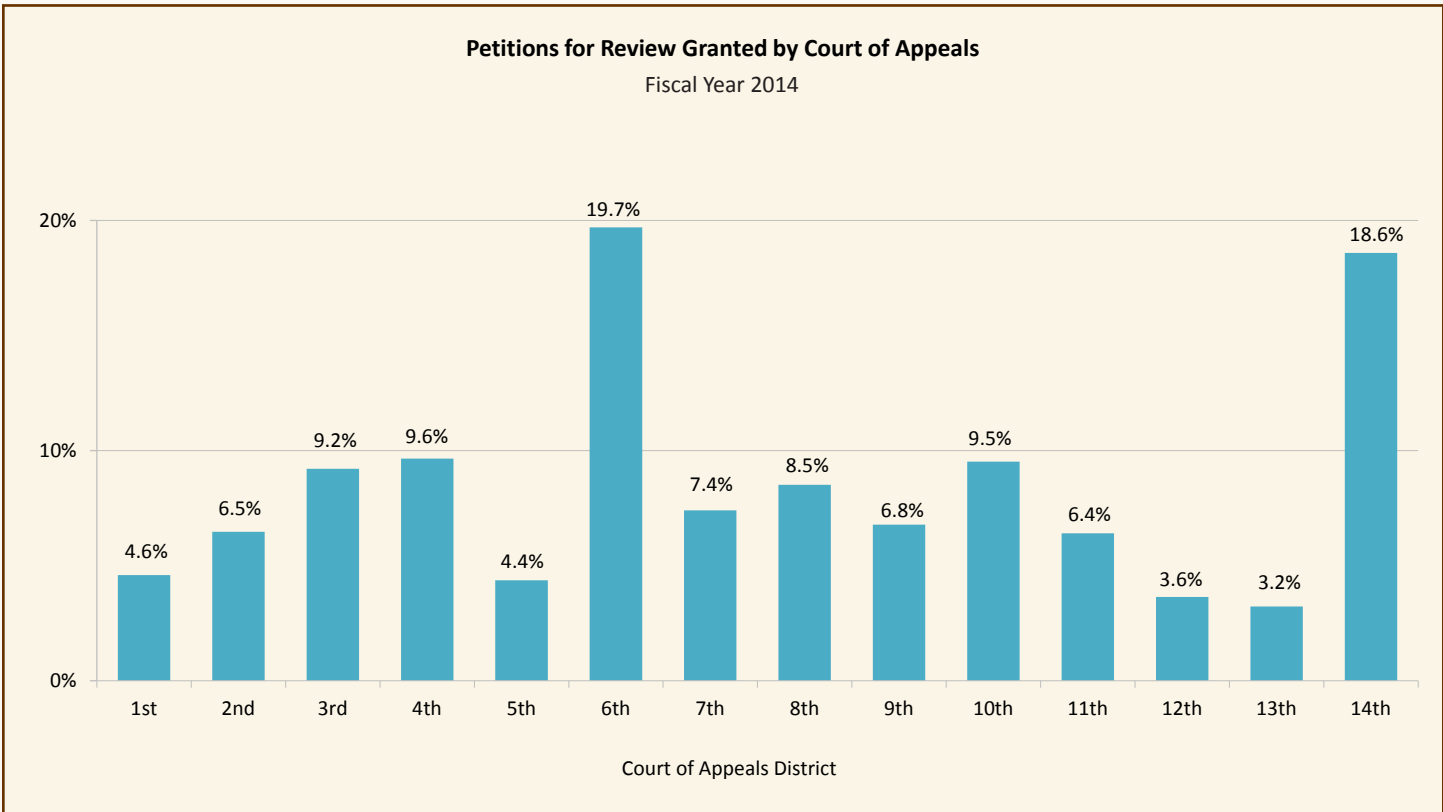


Figure 15 - Petitions for Review Granted by Court of Appeals

Court of Criminal Appeals Case Processing Times FY 2014	
<i>Average time from filing to disposition for cases involving:</i>	
Capital punishment	698 days
Application for writ of habeas corpus (received)	39 days
Application for writ of habeas corpus (filed & set)	8 days
Petition for discretionary review	73 days
Granted petition for discretionary review	198 days

Table 10 - Court of Criminal Appeals Case Processing



Court of Criminal Appeals Courtroom, Austin, Texas

Court of Criminal Appeals Activity

Fiscal Years 2005 through 2014

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	10 - Yr. Avg.
Direct Appeals:¹											
Added to docket	27	18	18	15	17	20	15	16	15	22	18
Disposed	38	30	19	18	22	24	20	22	14	18	23
Pending at end of year	51	40	40	38	33	30	25	19	20	24	32
Clearance rate	140.7%	166.7%	105.6%	120.0%	129.4%	120.0%	133.3%	137.5%	93.3%	81.8%	123.0%
Applications for Writ of Habeas Corpus:²											
Filed	6,258	6,225	6,297	5,376	5,078	4,510	4,474	4,941	4,907	4,746	5,281
Disposed	6,810	6,620	6,407	5,512	5,224	4,402	4,498	4,809	5,083	4,733	5,410
Pending at end of year	1,300	885	782	648	501	611	584	721	547	571	715
Clearance rate	108.8%	106.3%	101.7%	102.5%	102.9%	97.6%	100.5%	97.3%	103.6%	99.7%	102.4%
Original Proceedings:³											
Filed	583	796	922	894	846	768	877	931	953	802	837
Disposed	702	812	924	918	868	747	867	912	974	819	854
Pending at end of year	99	101	98	78	60	80	89	107	88	70	87
Clearance rate	120.4%	102.0%	100.2%	102.7%	102.6%	97.3%	98.9%	98.0%	102.2%	102.1%	102.0%
Petitions for Discretionary Review:⁴											
Filed	1,898	2,017	1,810	1,904	1,703	1,605	1,803	1,872	1,786	1,676	1,807
Disposed	1,886	2,009	1,872	1,968	1,800	1,650	1,762	1,759	1,784	1,729	1,822
Pending at end of year	507	516	450	391	291	246	288	401	403	351	384
Clearance rate	99.4%	99.6%	103.4%	103.4%	105.7%	102.8%	97.7%	94.0%	99.9%	103.2%	100.8%
Motions Considered	1,382	1,576	1,707	1,463	1,789	1,434	1,573	1,715	1,636	2,144	1,642
Opinions Written	474	486	575	500	447	433	428	480	441	457	472

NOTES:

1. Direct appeals include death penalty appeals and DNA appeals.
2. Applications for writ of habeas corpus, though seeking relief from the Court of Criminal Appeals, must be filed in the trial court, which has 35 days in which to submit findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation to the Court of Criminal Appeals.
3. Original proceedings are filed directly with the Court of Criminal Appeals. They include writs of certiorari, writs of habeas corpus, writs of mandamus, and writs of prohibition.
4. Petitions for Discretionary Review include petitions for discretionary review, granted petitions for discretionary review, and redrawn petitions for discretionary review.

Disposition of Cases by the Court of Criminal Appeals

September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014

	Affirmed	Reversed & Remanded	Abated & Remanded	Total				
Death Penalty Appeals	10	1	1	12				
	Granted	Denied/Refused	Dismissed	Remanded to Trial Court	Struck	Untimely	Total	
Habeas Corpus & Extraordinary Matters	173	8	5	3	0	0	189	
Petitions for Discretionary Review ¹	130	1,305	4	0	111	39	1,589	
	Affirmed	Reversed	Reversed & Remanded	Remanded	Mixed	Dismissed	Total	
Granted Petitions for Discretionary Review	50	10	34	41	4	1	140	
	Filed & Set	Denied	Remanded	Dismissed	Returned	Abated	Total	
Applications for Writ of Habeas Corpus	187	2,296	290	1,768	1	0	4,544 ²	
Original Proceedings	5	578	0	63	0	173	819	
	Granted	Denied	Dismissed	Filed & Set	Remanded	Other	Total	
Motions for Stay of Execution	0	12	0	0	0	0	12	

NOTES:

1. Includes redrawn petitions for discretionary review.
2. Two 11.071 writs were granted.

The Courts of Appeals

More than 11,100 cases added

Cases Filed – In 2014, the number of cases added in the Courts of Appeals overall decreased by 1.3 percent from the previous year to 11,101 cases. There was a 3.7 percent decrease in new filings and 16.7 percent increase in other cases.¹⁸ The number of new cases filed and the total number of cases added in general was the lowest number filed or added since 2009.

*All New Filings
Civil - 51.5%,
Criminal 48.5%*

Civil cases accounted for 51.5 percent, and criminal cases 48.5 percent, of all new filings in 2014. Over the last decade, civil filings generally grew as a proportion of all new cases filed. For the second year in a row, the number of new civil cases filed exceeded the number of new criminal cases filed. Over the last 30 years, the only other time that this occurred was in 2006, when there was a difference of only 32 cases.

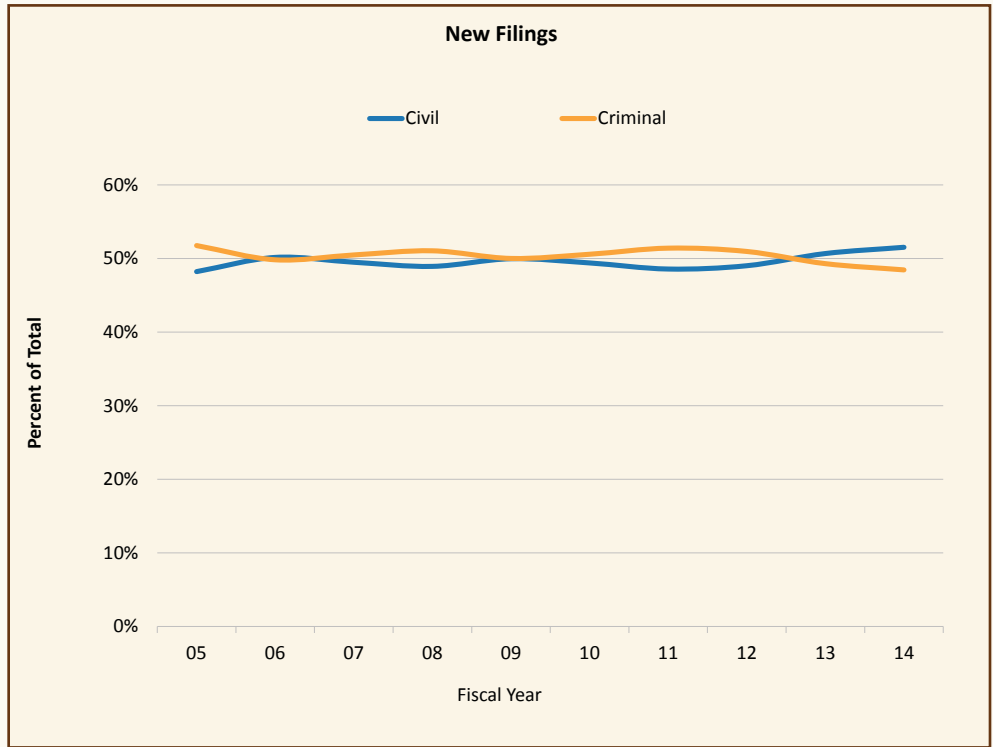


Figure 16 - New Filings (Civil and Criminal)

*For the past two years,
the number of new
civil cases filed have
exceeded the number of
new criminal cases filed*

Approximately 48 percent of all appeals filed in 2014 came from the state’s five most populous counties—Harris, Dallas, Bexar, Tarrant, and Travis. Just over 17 percent came from Harris County, and Dallas County had the second most with 13.3 percent.

Cases Disposed – In 2014, the courts of appeals **disposed of 11,549 cases**—an increase of 0.4 percent compared to the previous year’s dispositions. Almost two-fifths (39.4 percent) of the cases disposed of in 2014 were affirmed, 6.0 percent were reversed, 5.7 percent had a mixed disposition (i.e., affirmed in part and reversed in part), and 27.5 percent were dismissed. The remainder of cases had other dispositions.

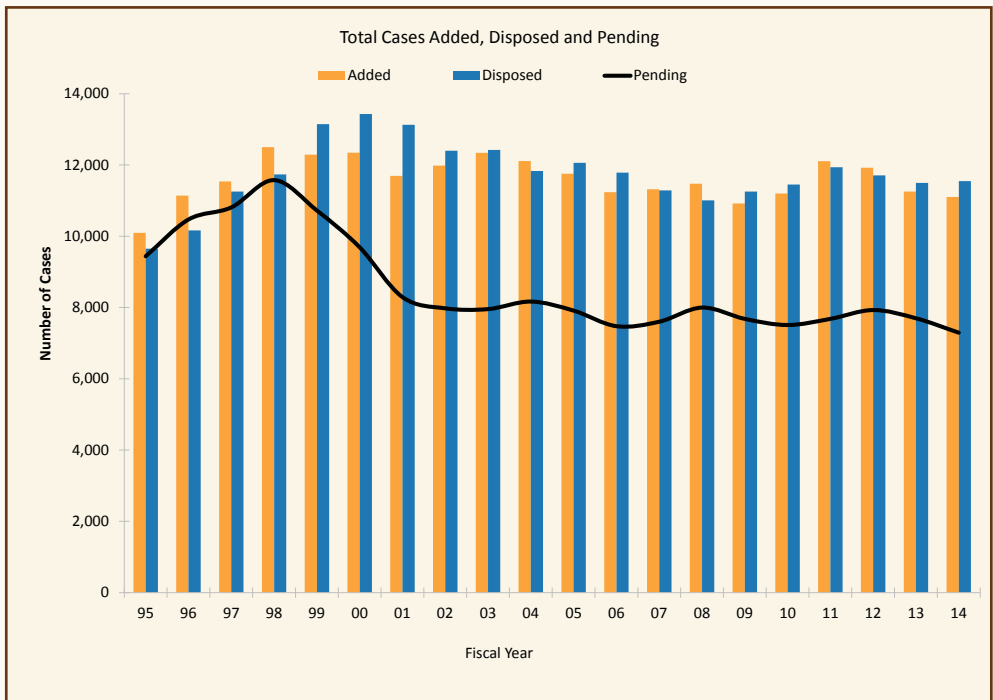


Figure 17 - Total Cases Added, Disposed and Pending

¹⁸ Rehearings granted, cases reinstated, cases remanded from higher courts, and transferred cases.

The average time between filing and disposition for all cases decreased slightly from 8.7 to 8.6 months. For civil cases, the time to disposition decreased from 8.3 months in 2013 to 7.9 months in 2014 and tied 1997 and 2012 for the lowest time to disposition over the last 20 years. For criminal cases, the time to disposition increased from 9.1 months in 2013 to 9.2 months in 2014.

The average time between submission and disposition for all cases increased from 1.7 months in 2013 to 1.9 months in 2014. The average time for civil cases remained the same at 2.0 months, and the average time for criminal cases increased from 1.5 to 1.7 months.

The number of cases disposed of by the courts of appeals was 448 more than the number added, resulting in a clearance rate of 104.0 percent.

Cases Pending – At the end of 2014, a total of 7,294 cases were pending statewide, down 5.3 percent from the number pending at the end of the previous year. More than half (53.3 percent) of these cases had been pending for fewer than six months, and 81.9 percent had been pending for less than one year. The percentage of cases pending more than two years increased from 1.0 percent in 2013 to 1.2 percent in 2014.

Opinions Written – During 2014, the justices of the courts of appeals issued **10,797 opinions**, 55.9 percent of which were published. Since 2004, the rate of publication has exceeded 50 percent due to a change in the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure in 2003.¹⁹

Docket Equalization – To reduce disparities in the number of new cases filed per justice among the courts of appeals, the Supreme Court issues quarterly orders for the transfer of cases from those courts with higher new case filing rates per justice to those with lower rates.

In 2014, the statewide average number of new filings per justice was 120 cases before any transfers. The number of new cases filed per justice ranged from 78 cases in the Eighth Court of Appeals (El Paso) to 143 cases in the Second Court of Appeals (Fort Worth). The average percentage difference of the 14 courts from the statewide average was 13.6 percent.

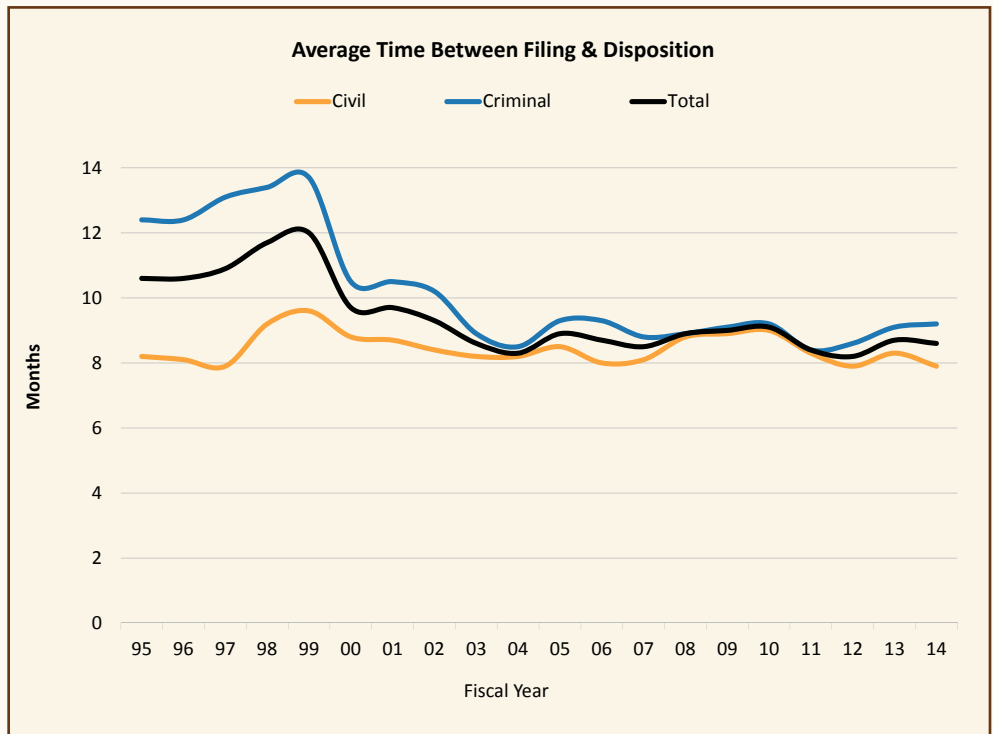


Figure 18 - Average Time Between Filing & Disposition

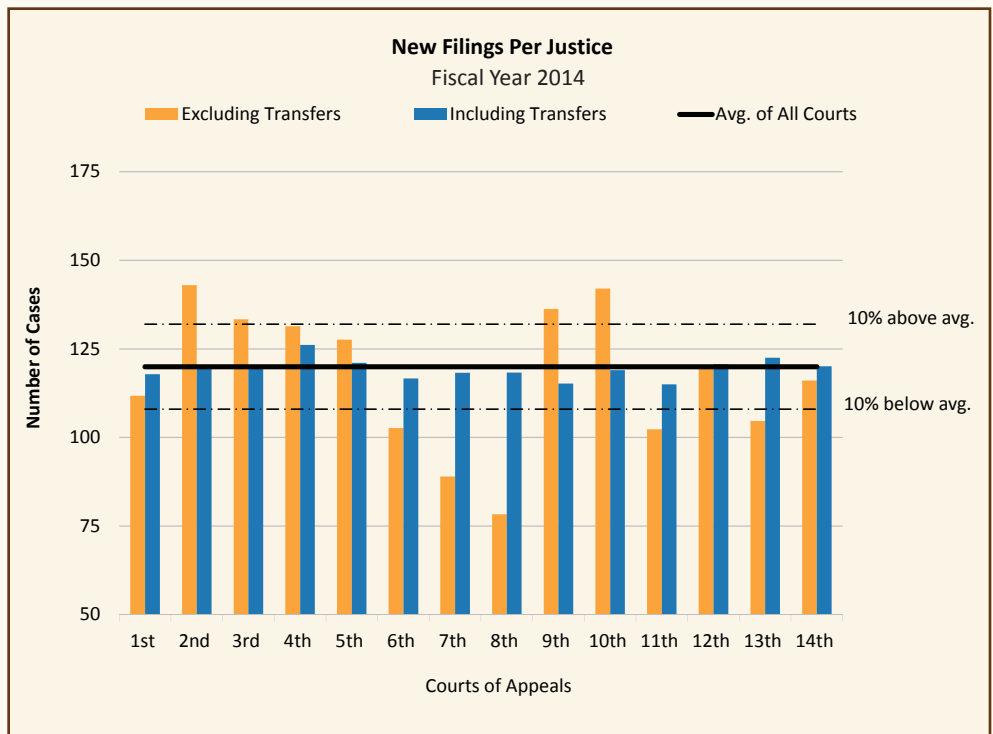


Figure 19 - New Filings Per Justice

Average number of new filings per justice was 120 cases before transfers

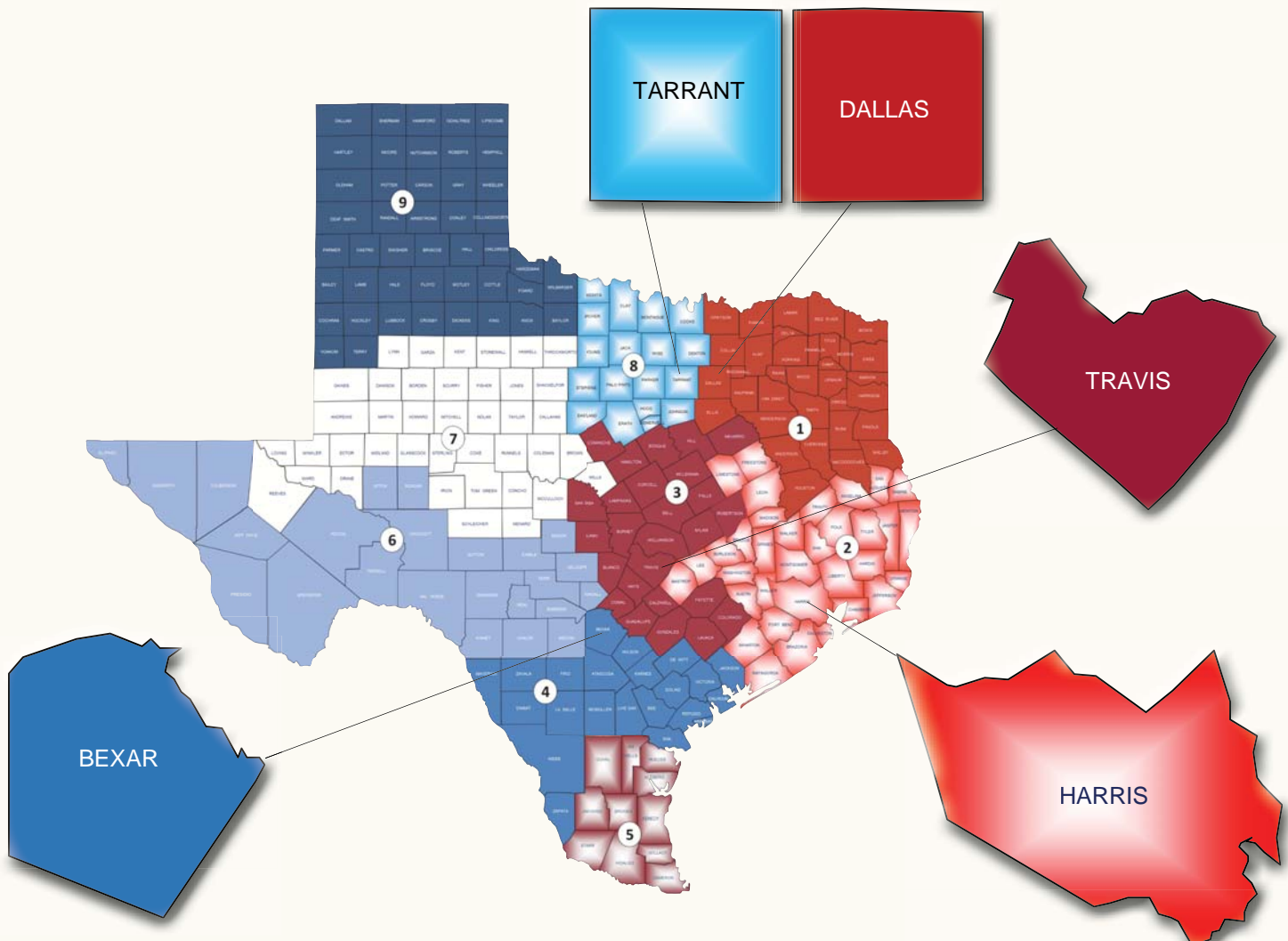
¹⁹ An amendment to Rule 47, Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, effective January 1, 2003, required all civil opinions to be made public (except those in parental notification of abortion matters) and abolished the “do not publish” designation in civil cases.

A total of **560 cases were transferred among the courts of appeals** during the year in an effort to equalize the workloads of the courts. The Second Court of Appeals (Fort Worth) transferred out the most cases (158 cases), while the Eighth Court of Appeals (El Paso) received the largest number of transferred cases (121 cases).

As a result of these transfers, the number of cases filed per justice ranged from a low of 115 cases per justice in both the Ninth Court of Appeals (Beaumont) and Eleventh Court of Appeals (Eastland) to a high of 126 cases filed per justice in the Fourth Court of Appeals (San Antonio). After transfers, the average percentage difference of the 14 courts from the statewide average was only 1.8 percent—exceeding the goal of 10 percent, maximum, set by the Texas Legislature.²⁰

Top Five Counties from Which Appeals Were Filed in FY 2014		
Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Overall
Harris – 18.6%	Harris – 15.5%	Harris – 17.1%
Dallas – 14.2%	Dallas – 12.3%	Dallas – 13.3%
Bexar – 7.5%	Tarrant – 8.3%	Bexar – 6.8%
Travis – 6.2%	Bexar – 6.2%	Tarrant – 6.7%
Tarrant – 5.3%	Travis – 2.2%	Travis – 4.3%

Table 11 - Top Five Counties from Which Appeals Were Filed



20 "It is the intent of the Legislature that the Supreme Court equalize the dockets of the 14 courts of appeals. Equalization shall be considered achieved if the new cases filed each year per justice are equalized by 10 percent or less among all the courts of appeals" (83rd Legislature, S.B. 1, Supreme Court Rider 3).

Courts of Appeals Activity for Fiscal Years 2005 through 2014

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	10-Yr. Avg.
Civil Cases:											
Cases added											
<i>New filings</i>	5,013	4,971	4,940	4,949	4,733	4,811	5,070	5,107	5,050	4,946	4,959
<i>Other cases</i>	378	419	378	353	408	401	490	458	436	477	420
Cases disposed	5,441	5,440	5,286	5,136	5,279	5,274	5,568	5,487	5,549	5,581	5,404
Cases pending at end of year	3,398	3,376	3,457	3,569	3,425	3,391	3,380	3,484	3,439	3,316	3,424
Clearance rate	100.9%	100.9%	99.4%	96.9%	102.7%	101.2%	100.1%	98.6%	101.1%	102.9%	100.5%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	8.5	8.0	8.1	8.8	8.9	9.0	8.3	7.9	8.3	7.9	8.4
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.1
Criminal Cases:											
Cases added											
<i>New filings</i>	5,381	4,939	5,039	5,163	4,737	4,926	5,366	5,309	4,913	4,651	5,042
<i>Other cases</i>	982	908	960	1,008	1,043	1,063	1,178	1,049	853	1,027	1,007
Cases disposed	6,617	6,344	6,000	5,869	5,975	6,179	6,368	6,222	5,949	5,968	6,149
Cases pending at end of year	4,515	4,100	4,144	4,429	4,256	4,118	4,301	4,445	4,259	3,978	4,255
Clearance rate	104.0%	108.5%	100.0%	95.1%	103.4%	103.2%	97.3%	97.9%	103.2%	105.1%	101.8%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	9.3	9.3	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.4	8.6	9.1	9.2	9.0
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	2.5	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.6
All Cases:											
Cases added											
<i>New filings</i>	10,394	9,910	9,979	10,112	9,470	9,737	10,436	10,416	9,963	9,597	10,001
<i>Other cases</i>	1,360	1,327	1,338	1,361	1,451	1,464	1,668	1,507	1,289	1,504	1,427
Cases disposed	12,058	11,784	11,286	11,005	11,254	11,453	11,936	11,709	11,498	11,549	11,553
Cases pending at end of year	7,913	7,476	7,601	7,998	7,681	7,509	7,681	7,929	7,698	7,294	7,678
Clearance rate	102.6%	104.9%	99.7%	95.9%	103.0%	102.2%	98.6%	98.2%	102.2%	104.0%	101.1%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.9	9.0	9.1	8.4	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.7
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	2.3	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.8
Opinions Written	11,461	11,408	10,921	10,348	10,765	10,742	11,061	10,975	10,921	10,797	10,940

Activity for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014

	1st Houston	2nd Fort Worth	3rd Austin	4th San Antonio	5th Dallas	6th Texarkana	7th Amarillo	8th El Paso	9th Beaumont	10th Waco	11th Eastland	12th Tyler	13th Corpus Christi/ Edinburg	14th Houston
Number of Justices	9	7	6	7	13	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	6	9
Civil Cases:														
Cases added	643	447	594	523	931	119	213	177	213	155	151	138	441	679
Cases disposed	676	463	609	538	1,009	119	195	172	197	164	167	147	418	707
Cases pending at end of year	444	232	360	268	516	55	142	204	166	78	130	62	265	394
Clearance rate (%)	105.1%	103.6%	102.5%	102.9%	108.4%	100.0%	91.6%	97.2%	92.5%	105.8%	110.6%	106.5%	94.8%	104.1%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	9.3	6.4	8.5	6.3	8.1	4.5	8.0	13.2	8.3	6.5	10.6	6.7	7.0	7.4
Avg. % of cases filed but not yet disposed for < 2 years	98.7%	96.8%	93.6%	100.0%	98.4%	100.0%	100.0%	97.0%	100.0%	97.2%	98.1%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	1.8	2.5	2.1	1.2	2.5	0.6	2.9	3.9	2.4	0.4	2.6	2.8	1.6	2.1
Avg. % of cases under submission for < 1 year	97.3%	88.1%	77.8%	99.7%	98.4%	100.0%	100.0%	95.7%	100.0%	100.0%	96.8%	100.0%	99.8%	99.9%
Criminal Cases:														
Cases added	568	496	284	382	1,147	269	303	186	249	249	219	236	452	637
Cases disposed	699	502	300	428	1,151	280	312	192	255	292	217	231	480	629
Cases pending at end of year	432	402	263	210	641	132	226	269	198	145	254	160	278	368
Clearance rate	123.1%	101.2%	105.6%	112.0%	100.4%	104.1%	103.0%	103.2%	102.4%	117.3%	99.1%	97.9%	106.2%	98.7%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	10.8	10.5	13.7	7.5	7.2	6.2	9.5	16.1	8.7	9.7	15.1	9.1	7.9	7.1
Avg. % of cases filed but not yet disposed for < 2 years	99.7%	97.9%	96.1%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	97.8%	100.0%	98.9%	99.5%	100.0%	99.7%	100.0%
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	2.1	3.1	1.1	1.2	1.7	0.8	1.6	4.4	1.7	0.3	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3
Avg. % of cases under submission for < 1 year	98.6%	92.3%	100.0%	100.0%	99.1%	100.0%	100.0%	99.1%	100.0%	100.0%	98.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
All Cases:														
Cases added	1,211	943	878	905	2,078	388	516	363	462	404	370	374	893	1,316
Cases disposed	1,375	965	909	966	2,160	399	507	364	452	456	384	378	898	1,336
Cases pending at end of year	876	634	623	478	1,157	187	368	473	364	223	384	222	543	762
Clearance rate	113.5%	102.3%	103.5%	106.7%	104.0%	102.8%	98.3%	100.3%	97.8%	112.9%	103.8%	101.0%	100.6%	101.5%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	10.0	8.5	10.2	6.8	7.6	5.7	8.9	14.8	8.5	8.5	13.1	8.1	7.5	7.3
Avg. % of cases filed but not yet disposed for < 2 years	99.2%	97.5%	94.7%	100.0%	99.2%	100.0%	100.0%	97.5%	100.0%	98.3%	99.0%	100.0%	99.7%	100.0%
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	1.9	2.8	1.8	1.2	2.0	0.8	2.1	4.1	2.0	0.3	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.7
Avg. % of cases under submission for < 1 year	97.9%	90.4%	82.6%	99.8%	98.7%	100.0%	100.0%	97.4%	100.0%	100.0%	97.8%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%
Opinions issued	1,290	922	934	1,003	1,722	386	550	366	457	435	360	388	764	1,220
Published Opinions	831	483	642	632	973	164	237	183	211	179	153	163	389	794

Caseload Trends in the Trial Courts

Analysis of Activity for the Fiscal Year
Ended August 31, 2014



Trends in Texas District and County-Level Courts

Injury or damage cases not involving a motor vehicle declined to the lowest number since at least 1980

Injury and Damage Cases — Trends in the filings of injury or damage cases involving a motor vehicle were similar to filings of injury or damage cases not involving a motor vehicle from 1980 through 2008. In 1992 and 1993, each of the two case types accounted for half of the total injury or damage cases filed.

Multiple legislative changes during these years impacted the volume of cases filed. A wave of new filings hit the courts at the end of fiscal year 2003 as litigants attempted to get their cases filed before the Medical Malpractice and Tort Reform Act went into effect on September 1, 2003.²¹

Since 2009, the two case types have had divergent trends. Cases involving a motor vehicle increased 37 percent from 2009 to 2014. Cases not involving a motor vehicle declined 15 percent over the same period to the lowest number since at least 1980 (the first year that statistics began to be collected for this case type). In 2014, cases involving a motor vehicle accounted for 74 percent of all injury or damage cases filed—the highest percentage in the last 35 years.

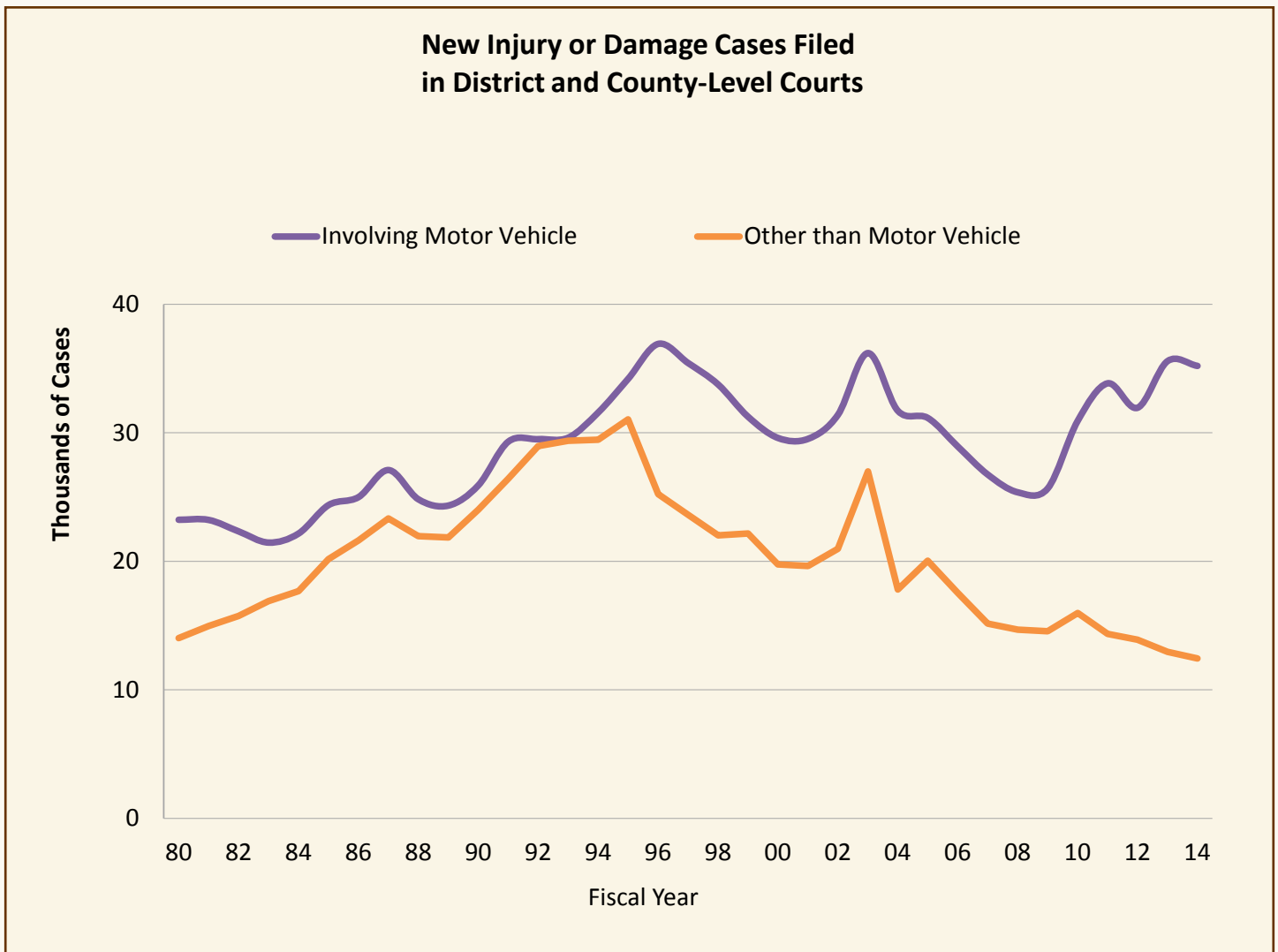


Figure 20 - New Injury or Damage Cases Filed in District and County-Level Courts

²¹ Medical Malpractice and Tort Reform Act, 78th Legislature, R.S., Chap. 204, 2003 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 847.

Family Law Cases — Although the number of divorce cases filed in district and county-level courts remained relatively steady over the past three decades, the number of cases involving “all other family law matters” grew 279 percent from 1985 to 2013 to an all-time high of 151,770 cases. Divorce and all other family law filings declined four percent from 2013 to 2014.

One factor that may be driving the general increase in “all other family law matters” is the increase in child support cases. The Texas Office of the Attorney General’s Child Support Division reports that child support cases with court orders rose 476 percent from 211,085 in 1991 to 1,216,257 in 2014. This statistic does not include privately arranged child support cases; however, it does indicate the large growth in this type of case.

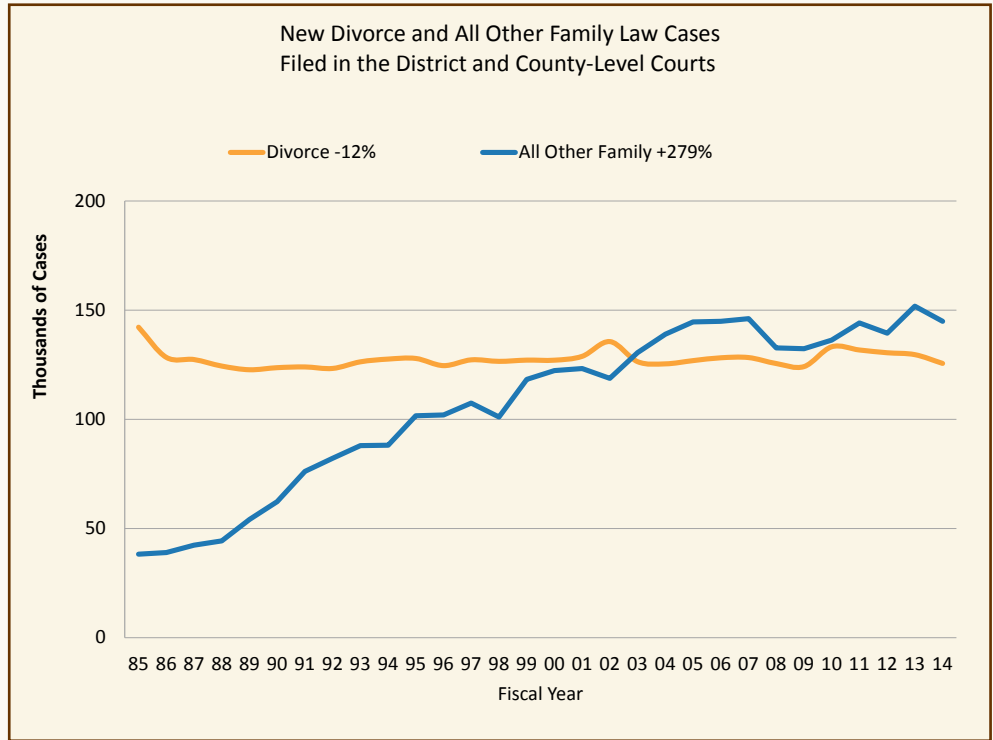


Figure 21 - New Divorce and All Other Family Law Cases Filed in the District and County-Level Courts

Child support cases with court orders rose 476% from 1991 to 1,216,257 in 2014

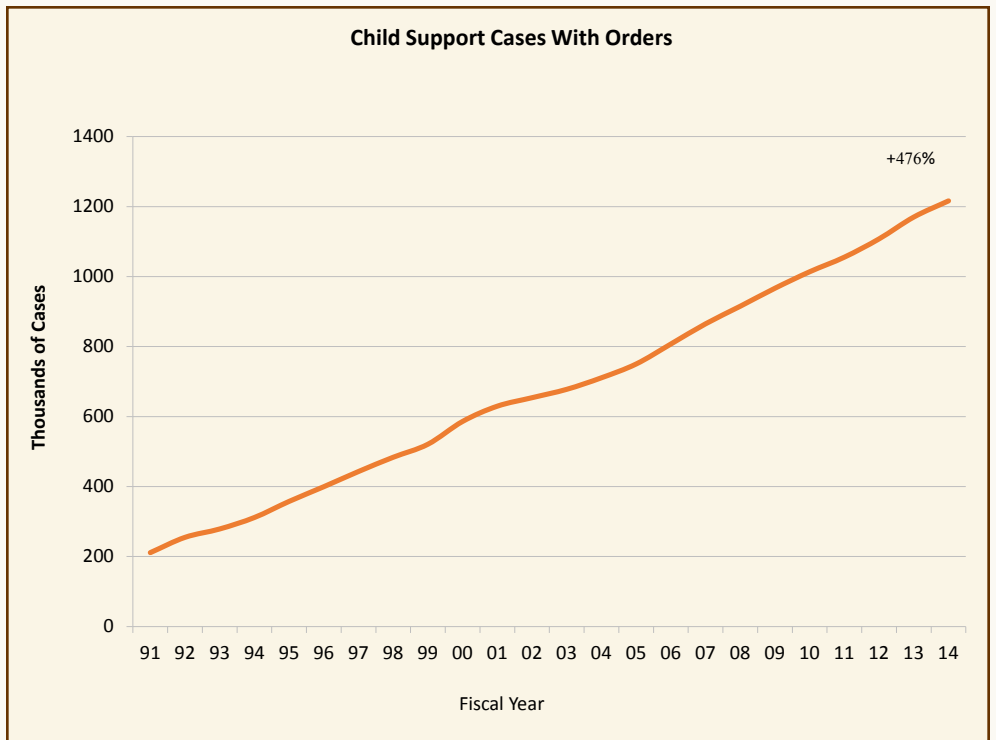


Figure 22 - Child Support Cases With Orders



Debt Cases — Debt cases in county-level courts dropped 70 percent from the peak in 2007 to 27,078 cases in 2014—the lowest level since 1996 and 43 percent lower than the number filed in 1985.

In district courts, new filings dropped 31 percent from the peak in 2011 to 42,562 cases in 2014.

Misdemeanor assault cases grew 421% from 1985 to 2014

Criminal Cases — Over the last 30 years, the categories with the largest increase in cases filed involved assaults. The number of misdemeanor assault cases grew 421 percent from 1985 to 2014. Since peaking in 2009 at 56,544 cases, the number of cases filed in 2014 decreased 16 percent. Over the last three decades, the number of felony assault or attempted murder cases grew 294 percent. Since peaking in 2011, the number of cases filed in 2014 declined 10 percent.

Misdemeanor drug offense cases increased 147 percent from 1985, but increased 395 percent from the lowest level of filings in 1991. The number of misdemeanor drug offense cases filed in 2014 (86,202 cases) was the largest number reported in the last 30 years.

Felony drug cases increased 267 percent over the last three decades. However, the number of cases filed in 2014 was 22 percent less than the peak number filed in 2007 (77,207 cases). The trends in felony drug case filings were mostly driven by possession cases. While drug sale and manufacture cases declined every year since 2007, possession cases dropped until 2010 then generally increased until 2014.

DWI/DUID Cases — The number of felony DWI cases filed in 2014 was 263 percent higher than the number filed three decades ago; however, it was nine percent lower than the number filed in 2013 (12,662 cases)—which was the largest number ever filed.

Misdemeanor DWI case filings, however, generally declined, dropping 46 percent from 1985 to 2014. The number of cases filed in 2014 (76,052 cases) was the lowest number reported over the last 30 years.

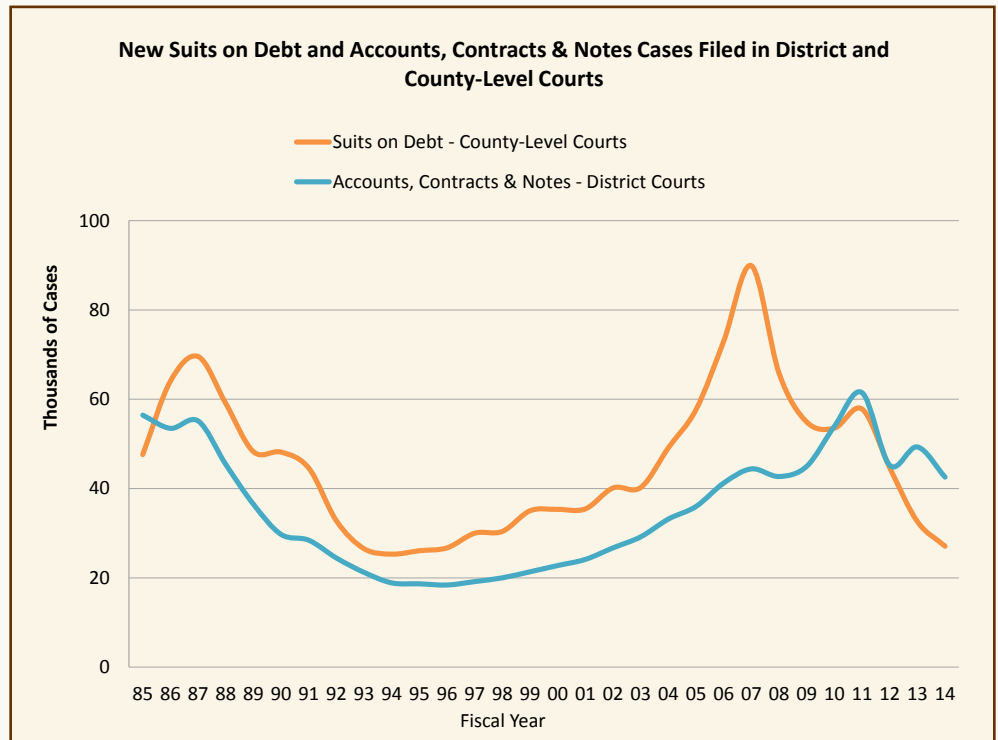


Figure 23 - New Suits on Debt and Accounts, Contracts & Notes Cases Filed in District and County-Level Courts

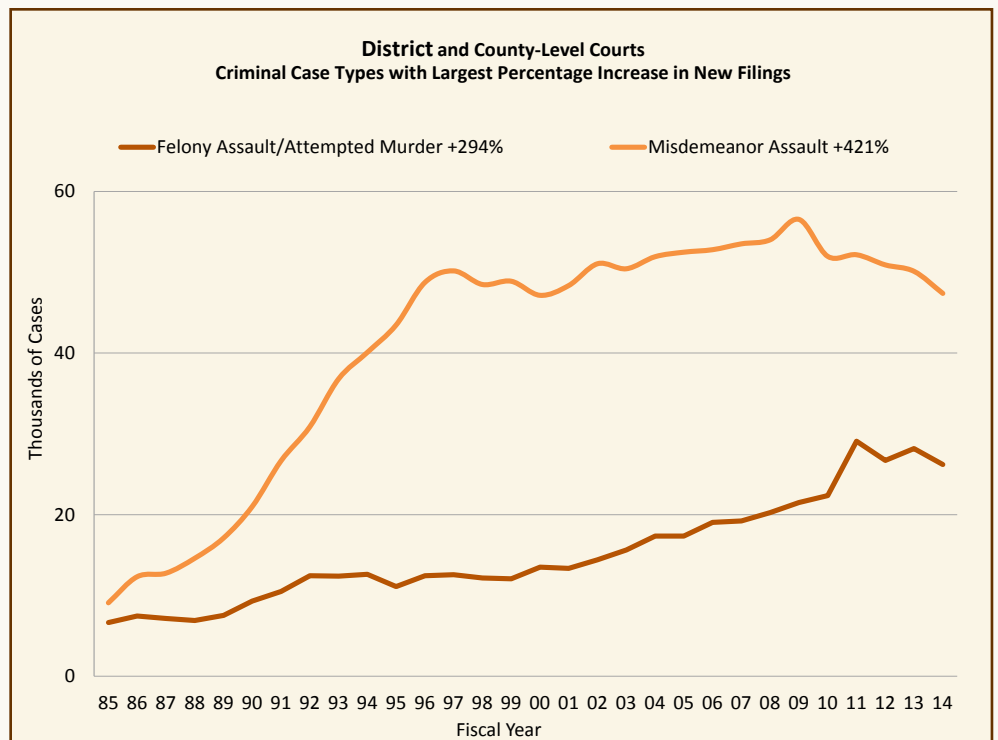


Figure 24 - District and County-Level Courts: Criminal Case Types with Largest Percentage Increase in New Filings

76,052 is the lowest number of DWI cases reported over the last 30 years

Traffic Cases — From 1985 to 2007, traffic cases grew 231 percent then fell 69 percent from 2007 to 2009. After a slight increase in 2010 and a large increase in 2011, the number of traffic cases filed remained steady for the last four years.



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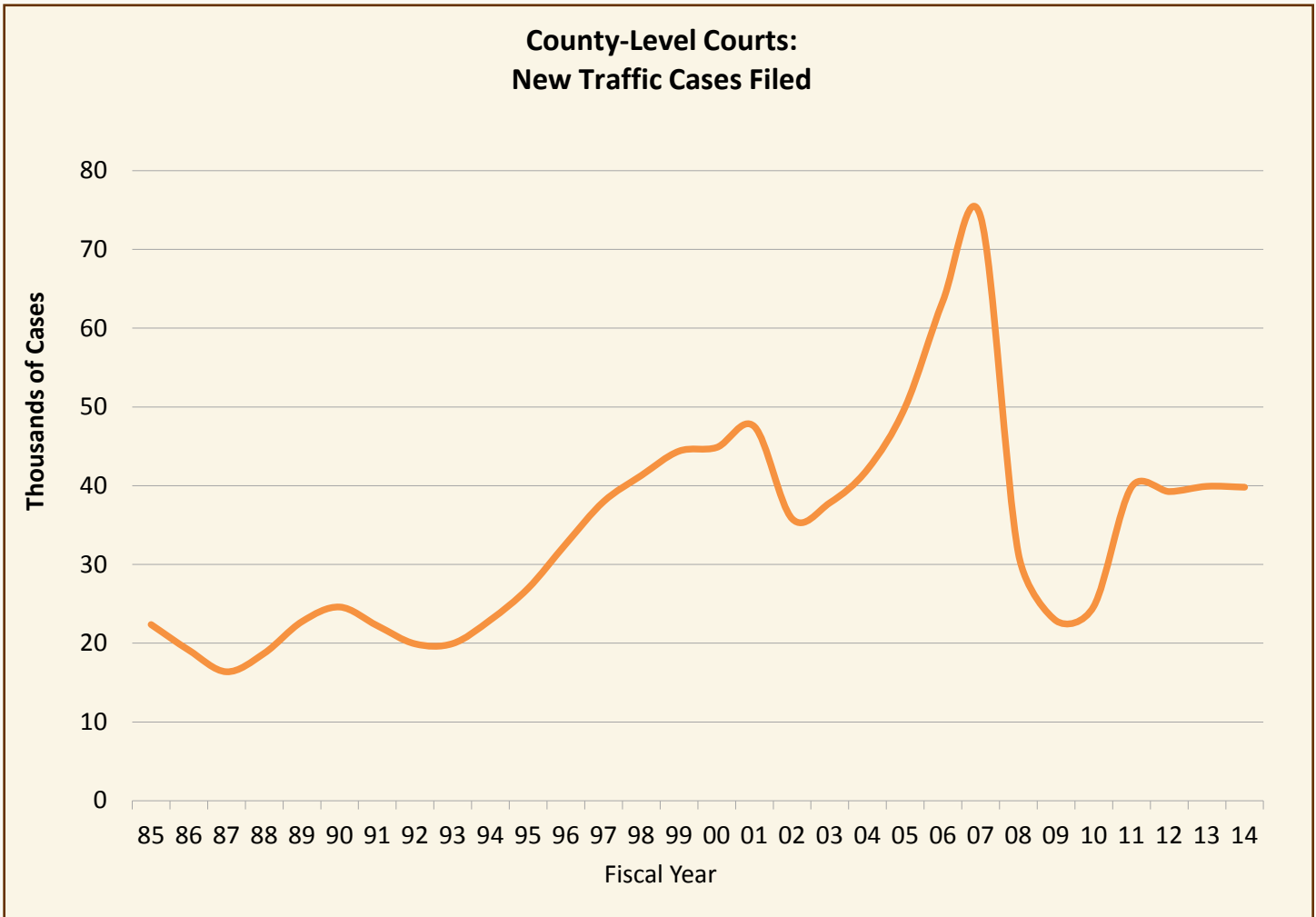


Figure 25 - County-Level Courts: New Traffic Cases Filed

District Courts

847,000 civil, family, criminal, and juvenile cases filed

Cases Added — In 2014, more than 847,000 civil, family, criminal, and juvenile cases were filed in the state’s 458 district courts—a decrease of 1.6 percent from the number filed the previous year and the lowest number of cases filed since 2004.^{22, 23} The number of cases filed under all four categories decreased from the previous year – civil by 0.7 percent, family by 2.6 percent, criminal by 1.0 percent, and juvenile by 3.8 percent.

Family law cases were the largest share of cases added

Family law cases comprised the largest share (39.8 percent) of the cases added to the courts’ dockets in 2014.

Criminal cases accounted for nearly 32 percent of cases added during the year. Drug offenses (drug possession, sale, and manufacture) accounted for the largest share of criminal filings, followed by “other felonies.”

Civil cases comprised a quarter of cases added. Tax cases accounted for the largest share of civil cases filed, followed by debt and contract cases and civil cases related to criminal matters.

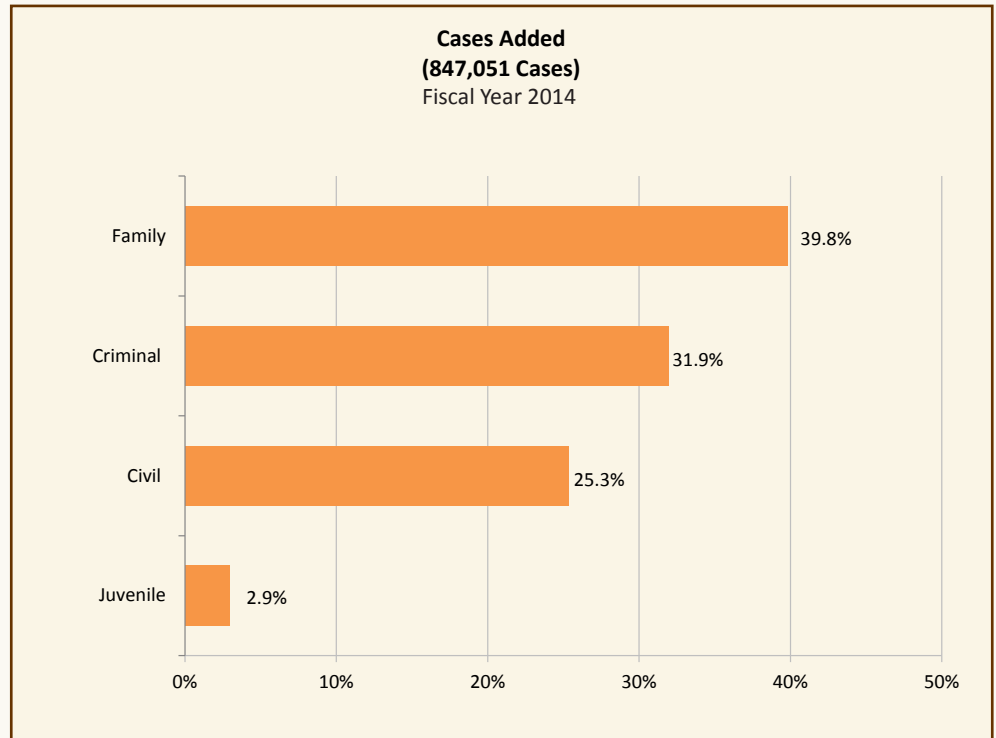


Figure 26 - Cases Added

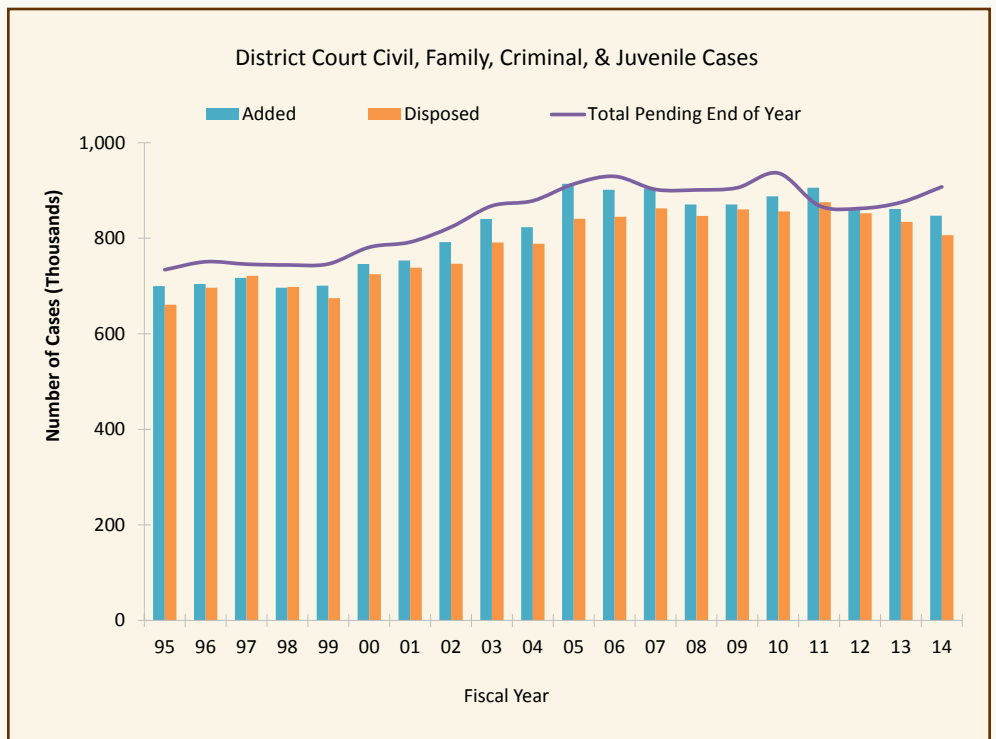


Figure 27 - District Court Civil, Family, Criminal & Juvenile Cases

22 Family law caseload is discussed in the Family Cases section. Juvenile caseload is discussed in the Juvenile Cases section.

23 “Filed” includes new cases, petitions for transfer to adult criminal court, motions to revoke, and other cases added to the docket.

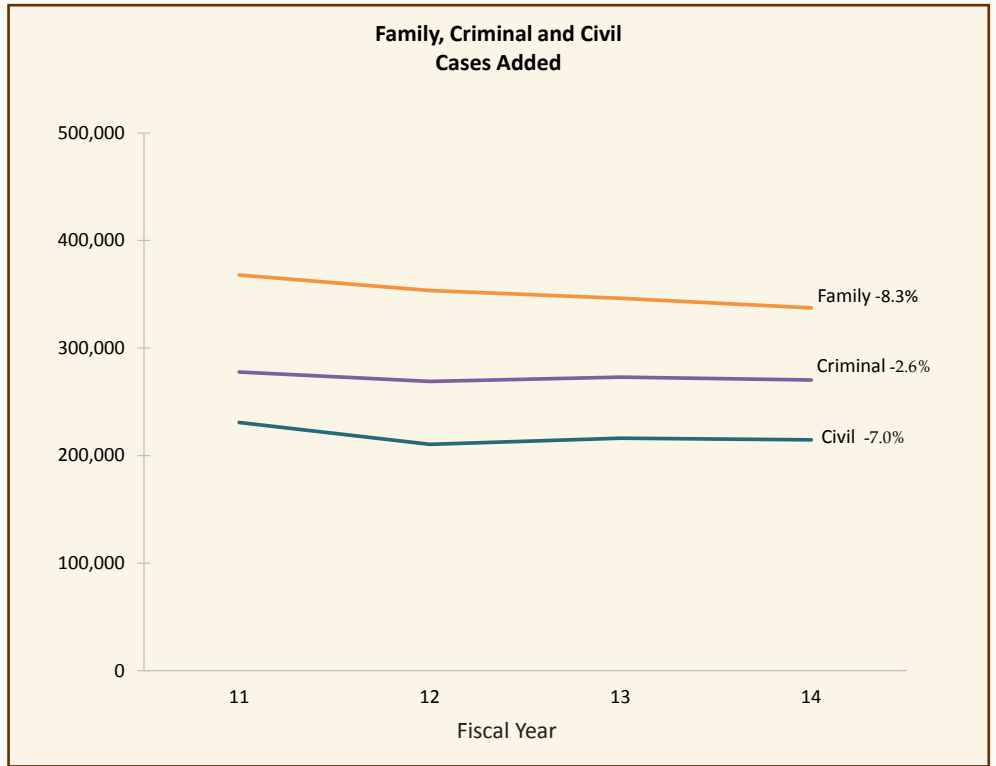


Figure 28 - Family, Criminal & Civil Cases Added

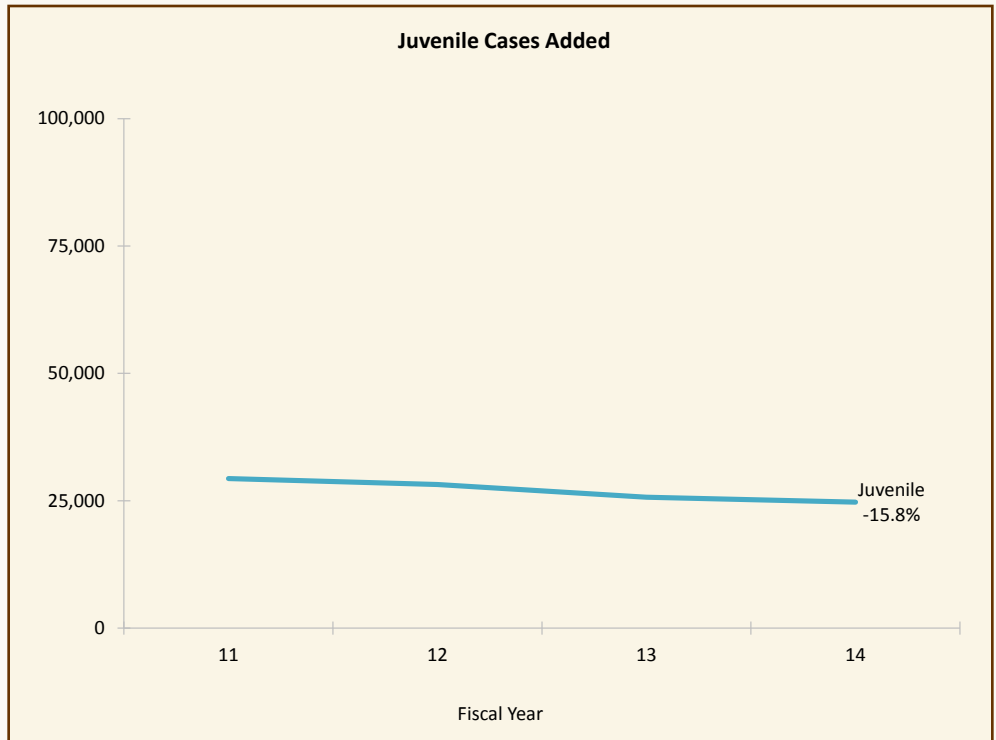


Figure 29 - Juvenile Cases Added

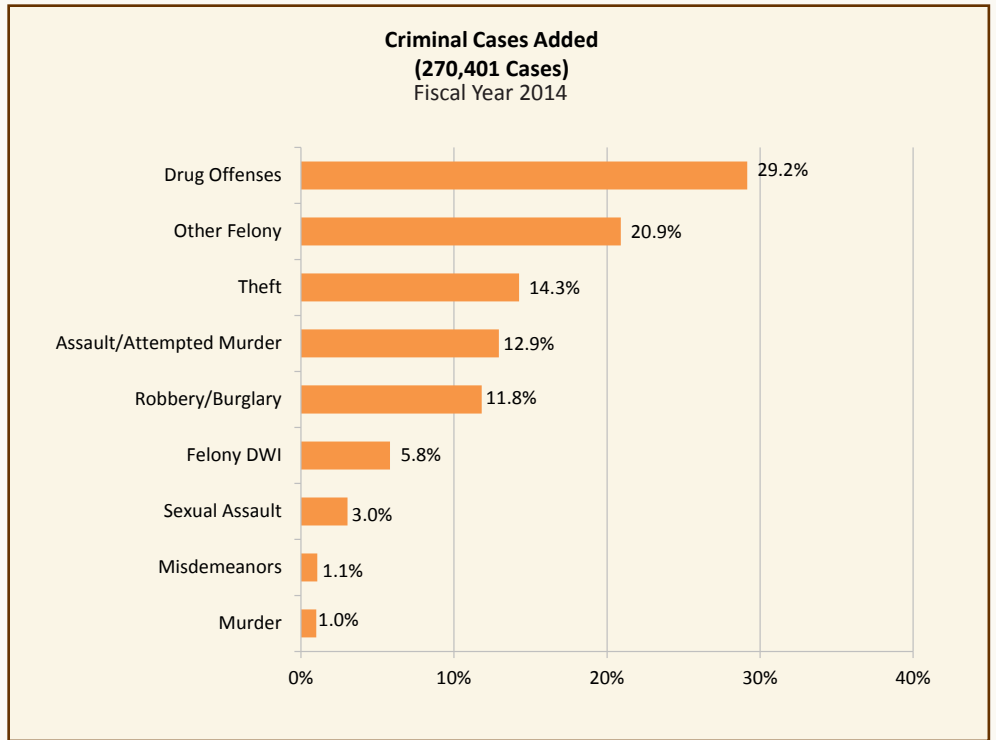


Figure 30 - Criminal Cases Added

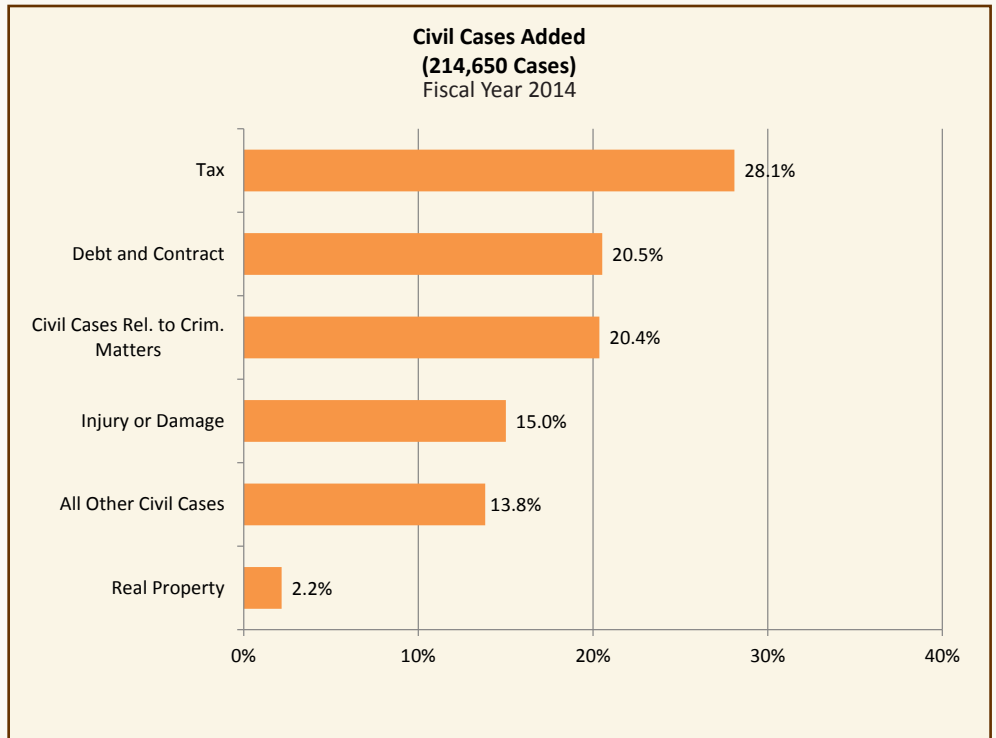


Figure 31 - Civil Cases Added

Clearance Rates — In 2014, district courts disposed of 806,393 civil, family, criminal, and juvenile cases, which was a decrease of 3.3 percent from the previous year.

Due to a greater decline in dispositions than in cases added, the overall case clearance rate fell to 95.2 percent – compared to 96.9 percent the previous year. The clearance rates for all four categories decreased from the previous year with civil cases having the largest decline from 96.5 percent in 2013 to 93.2 percent in 2014.

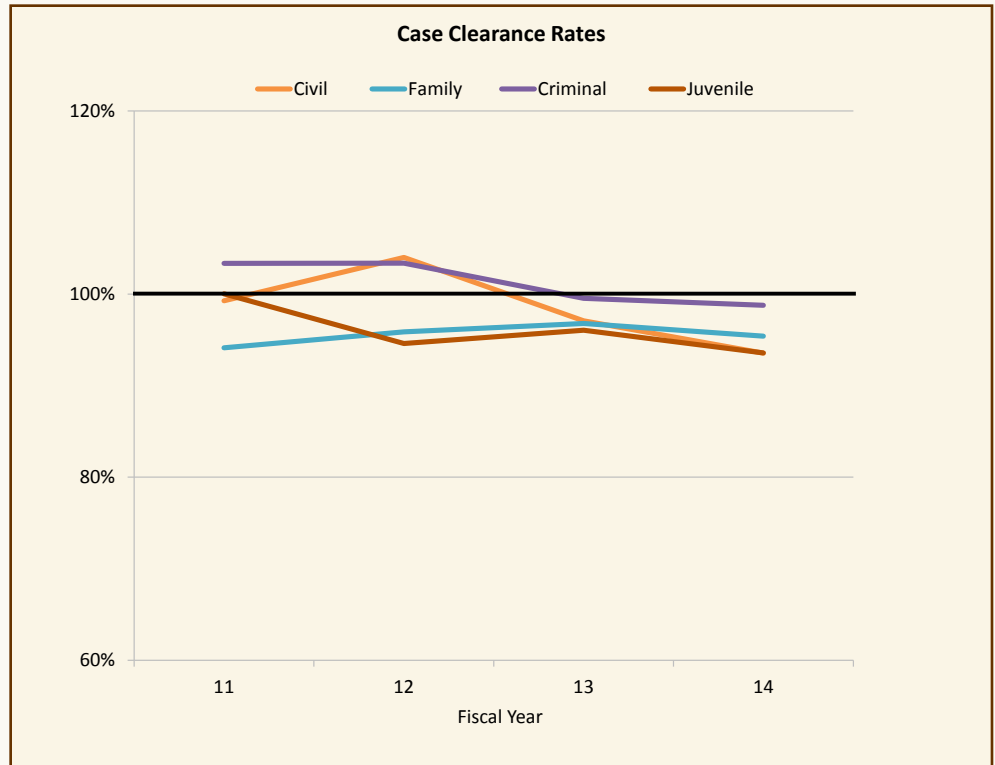


Figure 32 - Case Clearance Rates

Manner of Disposition — District courts disposed of 261,949 criminal cases, a decrease of 1.6 percent from 2013. Defendants were convicted in 53.0 percent of the 206,861 cases that did not involve transfers or a motion to revoke probation. The highest conviction rate occurred in felony DWI cases, while the lowest rate occurred in cases involving aggravated assault or attempted murder. Overall, 94.7 percent of convictions were the result of a guilty or no contest plea.

Overall, 3.1 percent of all criminal cases (excluding motions to revoke probation) went to trial in 2014. The highest trial rate occurred in murder cases (27.8 percent), followed by capital murder cases (25.6 percent).

Of the 6,493 cases that went to trial, 39.9 percent were tried before a jury. Defendants were convicted in 81.1 percent of cases that went to jury trial, compared to 93.8 percent that were convicted in cases that were decided by a judge.

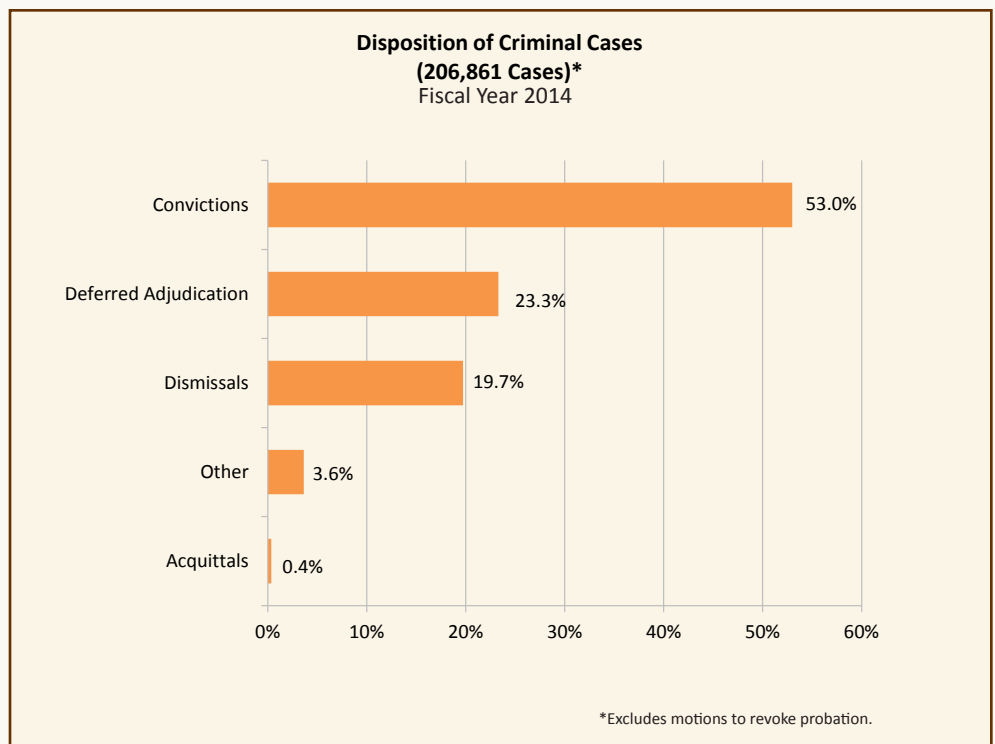


Figure 33 - Disposition of Criminal Cases

The highest conviction rate occurred in felony DWI cases, while the lowest rate occurred in cases involving aggravated assault or attempted murder.

Dismissals accounted for approximately 20 percent of all criminal cases disposed of in 2014 (excluding motions to revoke probation). The highest rate of dismissal occurred in sexual assault of an adult (37.8 percent), followed by indecency with/sexual assault of a child (32.3 percent).

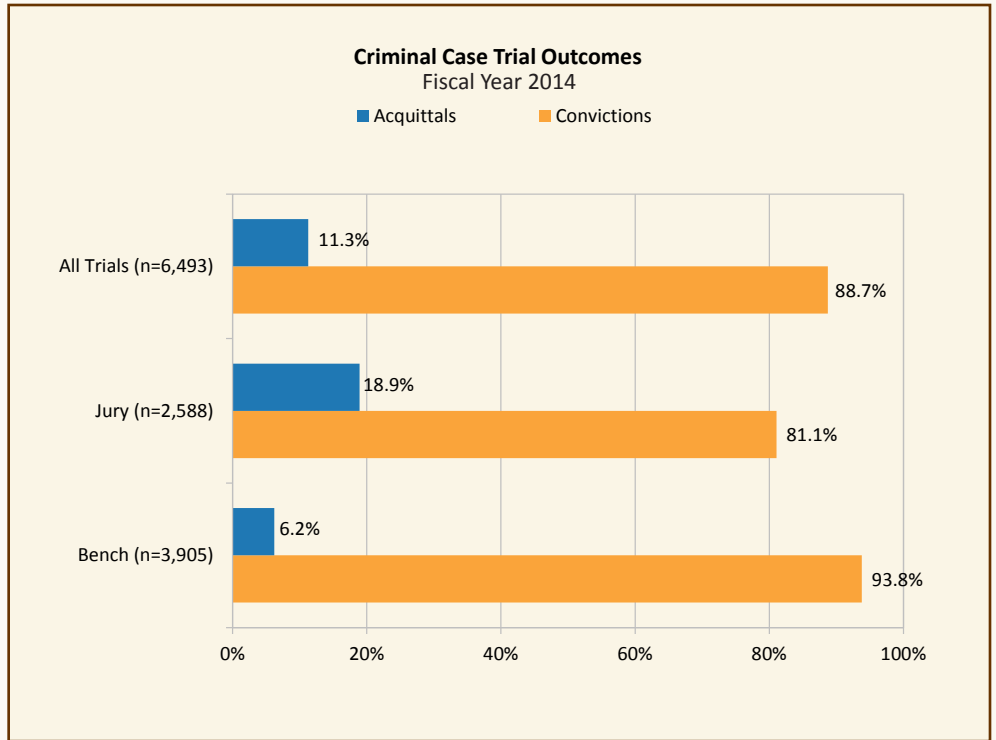


Figure 34 - Criminal Case Trial Outcomes

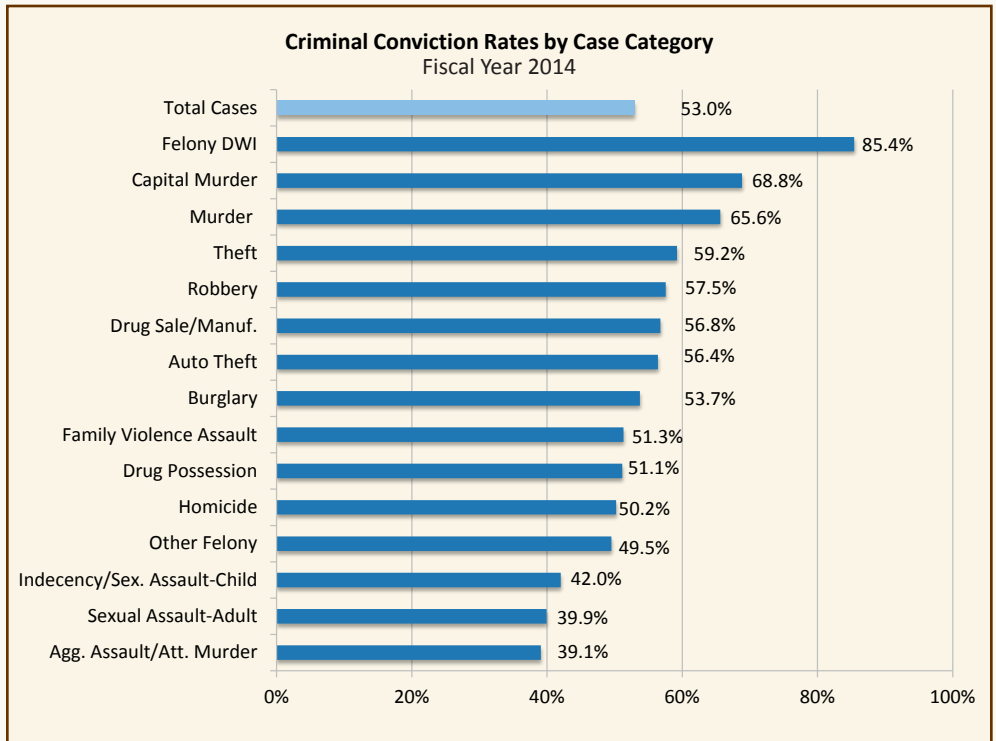


Figure 35 - Criminal Conviction Rates by Case Category

A total of 200,123 civil cases were disposed, a decrease of 4.1 percent from the previous year. Approximately 32 percent of the cases were dismissed by the plaintiff, followed by cases disposed by bench trial and default judgments with just over 15 percent each. Overall, only 0.5 percent of civil cases were disposed of by a jury verdict. The case categories with the highest jury trial rates were medical malpractice (3.4 percent) and motor vehicle (2.3 percent).

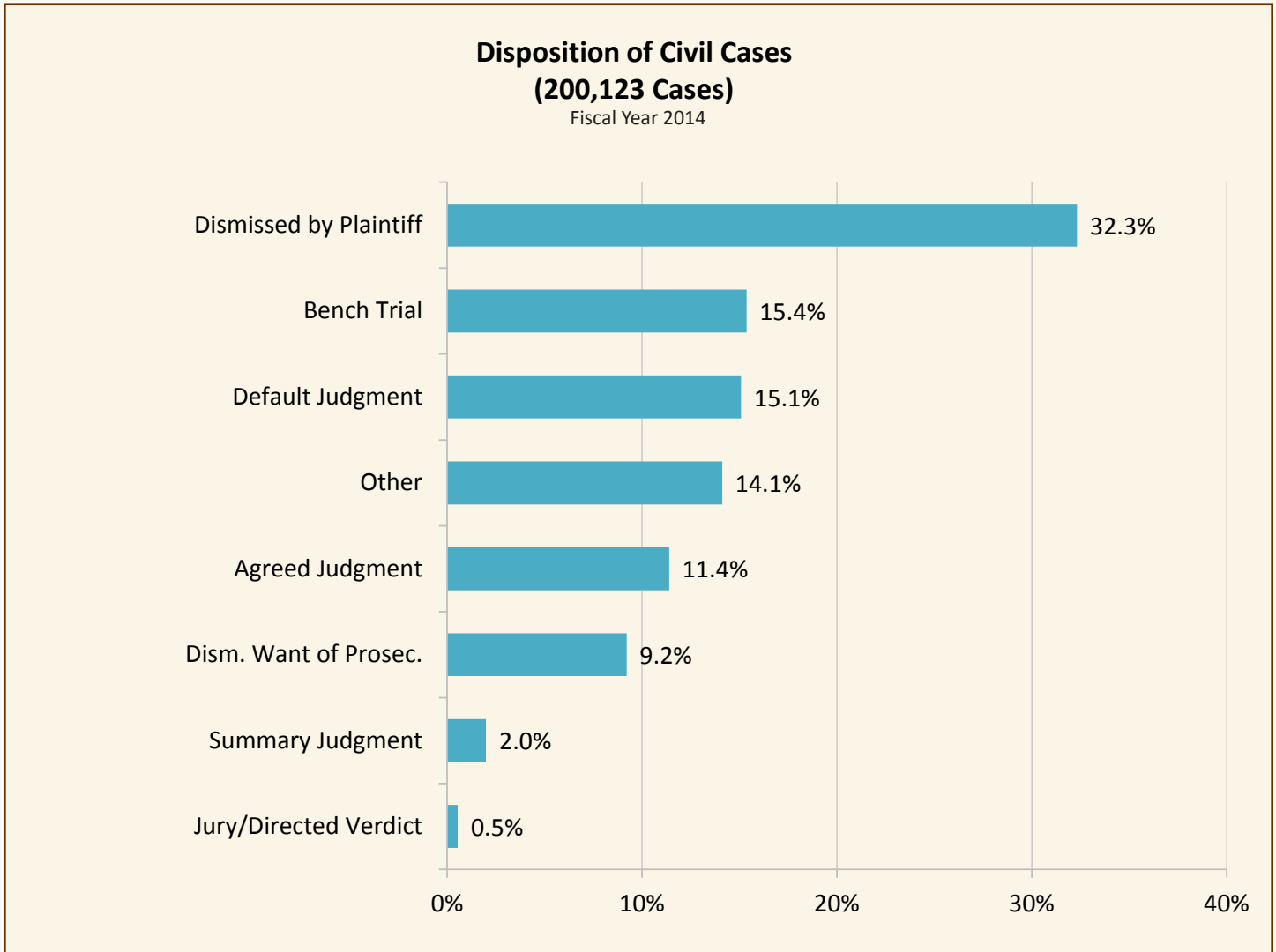


Figure 36 - Disposition of Civil Cases

Age of Cases Disposed — In 2014, 64.2 percent of criminal cases were disposed of within 180 days, which was slightly lower than the percentage (64.9 percent) disposed of within the same timeframe in the previous year.

Sixty-three percent of civil cases were disposed of within 12 months in 2014, a slight improvement from the 61.9 percent disposed of within the same time frame in 2013.

64.2% of criminal cases disposed of within 180 days

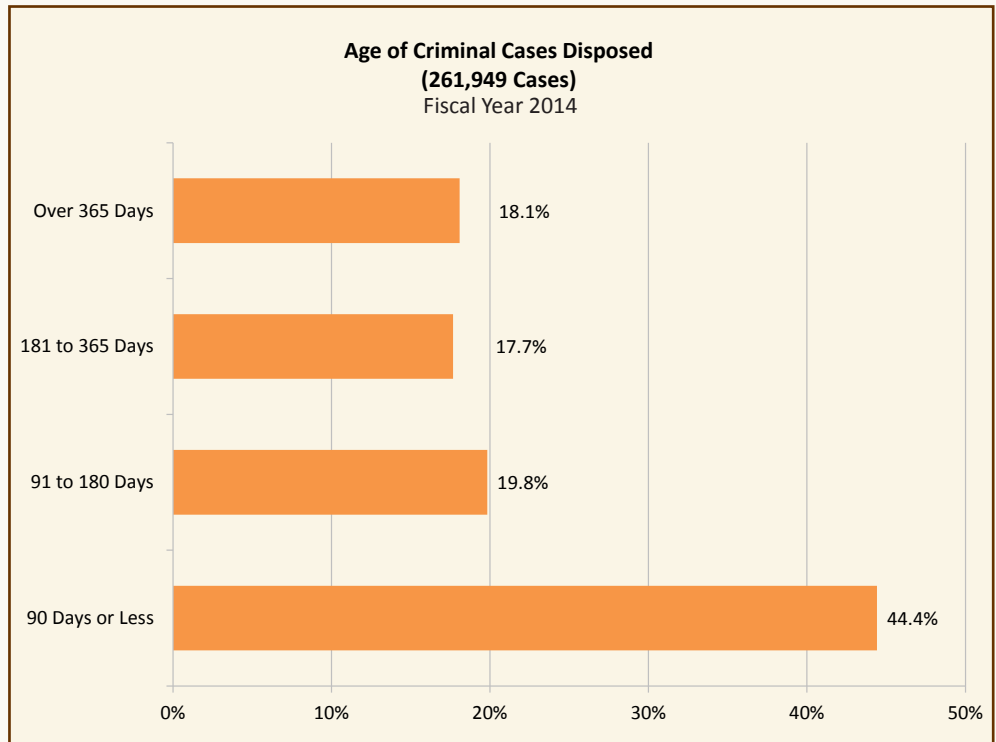


Figure 37 - Age of Criminal Cases Disposed

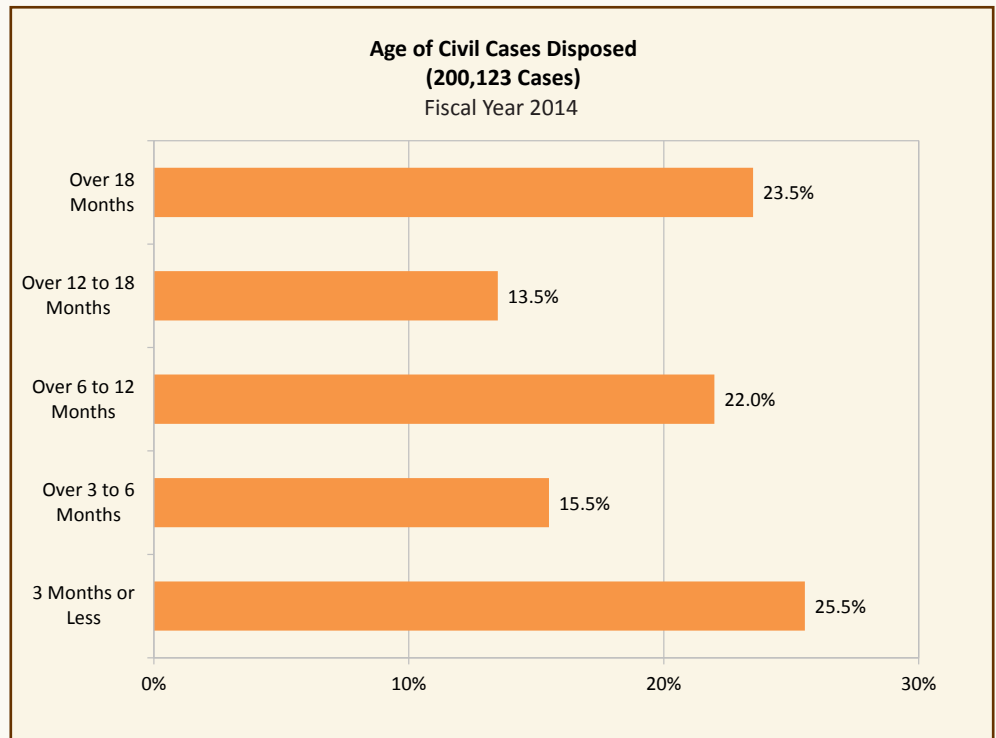


Figure 38 - Age of Civil Cases Disposed

Self-Represented Litigants — Self-represented litigants were most frequently involved in family cases in the district courts. In 2014, the petitioner was representing himself/herself at the time of filing in 19.4 percent of family cases, up from 16.5 percent in 2013. Approximately three percent of petitioners were self-represented at the time of filing in civil cases.

There is an estimated need of 585.6 FTE judicial officers statewide

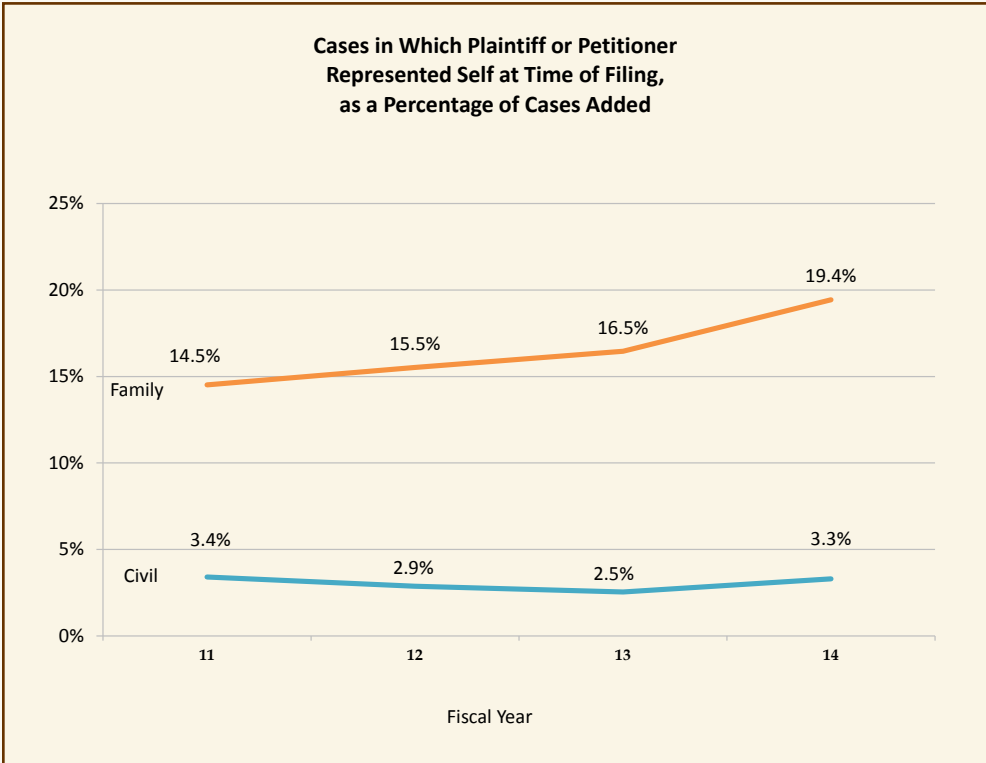


Figure 39 - Cases in Which Plaintiff or Petitioner Represented Self at Time of Filing, as a Percentage of Cases Added

Measuring District Court Workload - During 2007-08, an 18-month study was conducted on the work and caseload of judicial officers in Texas.²⁴The assessment addressed the pertinent question of how many judicial officers (district judges, associate judges, masters, magistrates, and referees) are needed in Texas to provide for the handling of cases in the district courts. The basic methodology used by the National Center for State Courts is the calculation of the average amount of work time judicial officers devote to different types of cases. Because cases vary according to complexity, the averages, called “case weights,” also vary. The case weights represent the average amount of time judicial officers spend on handling cases in the district courts. When the case weights are applied to filings in individual jurisdictions, the judicial workload can be calculated.

When the statewide case weights were applied to filings from 2014, the result was an estimated need of 585.6 FTE judicial officers statewide as of September 1, 2014. The estimated need by case type was 243.3 FTEs for criminal cases (or 41.5 percent), 196 FTEs for family cases (or 33.5 percent), 129 FTEs for civil cases (or 22.0 percent), and 17.3 FTEs for juvenile cases (or 3.0 percent). As of September 1, 2014, the state had 633.4 FTE judicial officers.

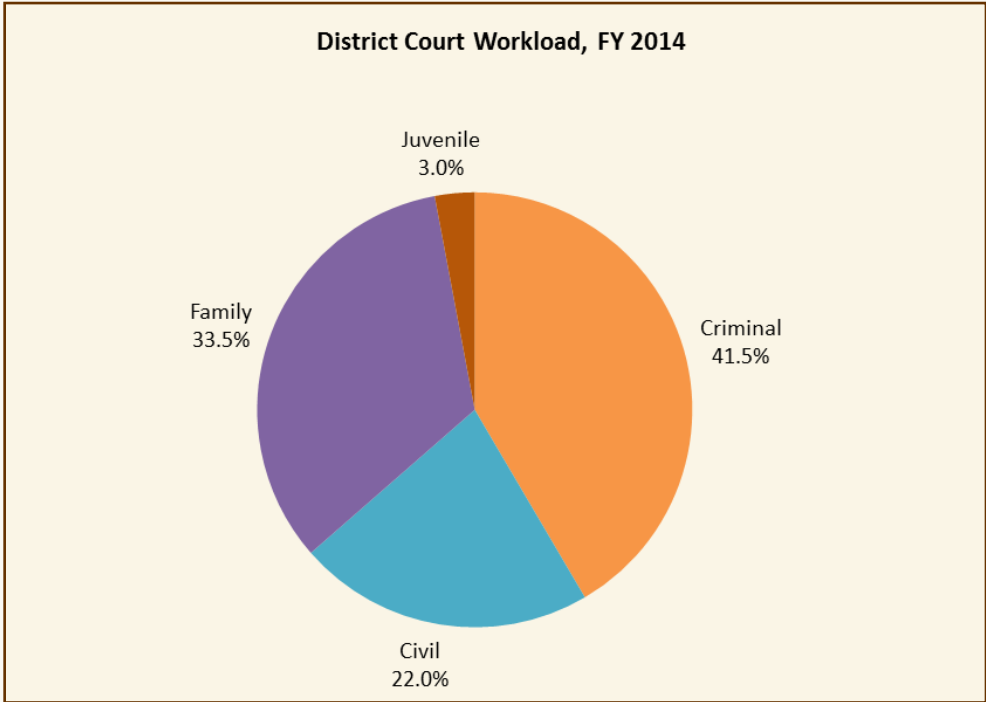


Figure 40 - District Court Workload

²⁴ Ostrom, Brian J., Matthew Kleiman and Neil LaFountain. *Measuring Current Judicial Workload in Texas, 2007*. Denver: National Center for State Courts, Court Consulting Services. June 2008. <http://www.txcourts.gov/media/868706/Weighted-Caseload-StudyFinal-Report-July-7-08.pdf>.

District Courts
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CRIMINAL CASES								
Cases on Docket:	Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicide	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Sexual Assault of Adult	Indecency With or Sexual Assault of Child	Family Violence Assault	Aggravated Robbery or Robbery
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	798	1,653	886	16,534	1,994	7,745	3,894	6,319
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	112	709	417	4,564	775	3,944	1,130	1,794
Docket Adjustments	(13)	(70)	(2)	(224)	(23)	(32)	(30)	(46)
Cases Added:								
Filed by Indictment or Information	383	790	1,079	19,464	1,386	5,229	6,697	7,017
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	4	19	350	6,010	311	1,031	2,031	2,267
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	53	132	504	4,926	330	1,612	2,236	1,743
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	31	44	5	556	62	211	198	287
Total Cases on Docket:	1,256	2,568	2,822	47,266	4,060	15,796	15,026	17,587
Dispositions:								
Convictions:								
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	199	317	448	7,182	473	1,930	3,396	3,820
<i>By the Court</i>	8	14	10	365	23	82	28	142
<i>By the Jury</i>	100	169	22	274	89	310	64	175
Total Convictions	307	500	480	7,821	585	2,322	3,488	4,137
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	4	18	192	6,013	253	1,114	1,708	1,557
Acquittals:								
<i>By the Court</i>	1	3	2	67	8	11	9	3
<i>By the Jury</i>	5	26	7	106	27	86	21	25
Total Acquittals	6	29	9	173	35	97	30	28
Dismissals	114	188	268	5,035	554	1,784	1,431	1,216
Motions to Revoke:								
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	0	11	154	2,603	148	468	1,069	1,090
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	2	5	172	2,880	145	396	783	1,038
All Other Dispositions	15	27	7	964	38	208	141	251
Total Cases Disposed	448	778	1,282	25,489	1,758	6,389	8,650	9,317
Placed on Inactive Status	65	159	502	5,396	352	1,669	2,184	1,848
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	754	1,627	1,042	16,739	1,977	7,698	4,170	6,512
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	113	740	411	4,676	770	4,041	1,100	1,809
Cases in Which								
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	11	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	145	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sentencing Information:								
Prison	270	449	277	3,819	480	2,145	1,395	3,287
State Jail	5	18	14	410	11	57	87	272
Local Jail	3	3	37	2,559	54	48	1,592	359
Probation/Community Supervision	6	12	163	2,092	79	380	664	420
Shock Probation	0	1	2	13	1	0	8	28
Fine Only	0	0	0	16	0	1	6	4
Other	8	5	1	138	12	38	64	36

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CRIMINAL CASES									
Cases on Docket:	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Drug Sale or Manufacture	Drug Possession	Felony DWI	Other Felony	All Misdemeanors	Total Cases
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	13,050	17,701	4,337	12,209	28,282	11,284	39,966	3,729	170,381
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	4,186	9,282	1,312	3,438	10,790	3,753	15,033	225	61,464
Docket Adjustments	21	(19)	(157)	(186)	(367)	(52)	(533)	776	(957)
Cases Added:									
Filed by Indictment or Information	14,668	25,179	4,766	10,296	49,450	11,356	43,721	2,066	203,547
Other Cases Reaching Docket:									
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	7,238	6,738	1,318	2,485	15,163	4,106	11,566	701	61,338
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	5,627	8,770	1,235	3,563	12,392	3,480	13,860	331	60,794
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	478	458	82	192	1,277	284	1,223	128	5,516
Total Cases on Docket:	41,082	58,827	11,581	28,559	106,197	30,458	109,803	7,731	500,619
Dispositions:									
Convictions:									
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	8,076	14,884	2,654	5,096	23,430	9,719	21,117	1,123	103,864
<i>By the Court</i>	355	400	53	312	553	350	931	37	3,663
<i>By the Jury</i>	107	67	8	89	197	88	331	8	2,098
Total Convictions	8,538	15,351	2,715	5,497	24,180	10,157	22,379	1,168	109,625
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	4,174	5,766	887	2,008	14,059	267	9,928	253	48,201
Acquittals:									
<i>By the Court</i>	12	13	1	7	35	10	58	2	242
<i>By the Jury</i>	19	15	3	11	45	9	82	3	490
Total Acquittals	31	28	4	18	80	19	140	5	732
Dismissals	2,556	4,116	1,071	1,927	7,545	1,153	11,178	651	40,787
Motions to Revoke:									
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	3,749	3,586	776	1,132	7,896	1,788	5,681	387	30,538
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	2,853	2,534	361	1,031	5,843	1,884	4,470	153	24,550
All Other Dispositions	589	660	136	236	1,431	295	1,584	934	7,516
Total Cases Disposed	22,490	32,041	5,950	11,849	61,034	15,563	55,360	3,551	261,949
Placed on Inactive Status	5,792	9,107	1,337	3,839	14,108	3,703	14,760	373	65,194
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	12,920	18,121	4,371	13,037	32,057	11,333	40,367	3,843	176,568
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	4,231	9,377	1,337	3,548	11,504	3,835	15,249	231	62,972
Cases in Which									
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sentencing Information:									
Prison	4,280	1,735	314	3,210	5,696	3,895	9,303	24	40,579
State Jail	2,195	8,307	1,681	1,300	8,527	671	5,461	9	29,025
Local Jail	1,203	3,645	545	454	6,776	578	4,360	928	23,144
Probation/Community Supervision	2,029	2,743	469	1,117	5,556	4,772	5,310	181	25,993
Shock Probation	19	12	6	5	21	10	67	0	193
Fine Only	7	30	2	1	146	5	119	60	397
Other	108	142	26	81	344	34	279	9	1,325
Age of Cases Disposed:	90 Days or Less	91 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	Over 365 Days	Total Cases	Additional Court Activity:			
Number of Cases	116,340	51,933	46,298	47,378	261,949	Total			
Information on Trafficking of Persons:						Cases in Which Jury Selected	2,818		
						Cases in Which Mistrial Declared	144		
						Motions to Suppress Granted or Denied	1,824		
						Competency Hearings Held	19,928		
						Cases Set for Review	18,231		
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel	172,070		
						Cases with Retained Counsel	75,737		
						Cases for Trafficking of Persons	67		
						Cases for Prostitution	1,201		
						Cases for Compelling Prostitution	128		

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CIVIL CASES								
	Injury or Damage						Real Property	
	Motor Vehicle	Medical Malpractice	Other Professional Malpractice	Product Liability - Asbestos/ Silica	Other Product Liability	Other Injury or Damage	Eminent Domain	Other Real Property
Cases on Docket:								
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	31,274	1,323	523	10,642	1,044	17,898	783	4,824
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	881	49	25	615	94	673	5	70
Docket Adjustments	1,089	(34)	19	6	(3)	(105)	(3)	(634)
Cases Added:								
New Cases Filed	21,355	816	254	248	597	7,797	411	4,131
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	2,081	108	23	32	136	782	4	39
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	691	48	15	5	26	360	11	110
Total Cases On Docket	56,490	2,261	834	10,933	1,800	26,732	1,206	8,470
Dispositions:								
Change of Venue Transfers	169	16	5	12	15	135	4	46
Default Judgments	789	1	3	1	21	211	5	379
Agreed Judgments	2,464	104	39	3	112	1,141	89	841
Summary Judgments	247	25	17	2	23	339	2	105
Final Judgments:								
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	1,051	42	17	2	35	514	50	465
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	448	25	5	0	7	157	3	17
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	2,655	64	49	13	81	1,069	12	360
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	10,932	379	137	151	253	3,806	260	967
All Other Dispositions	1,009	73	25	33	105	840	27	356
Total Cases Disposed	19,771	729	297	217	652	8,212	452	3,537
Placed on Inactive Status	1,969	118	24	20	112	817	9	63
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	34,830	1,426	517	10,711	1,037	17,749	750	4,875
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	683	47	22	588	69	657	5	89

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CIVIL CASES							
	Contract		Civil Cases Relating to Criminal Matters	All Other Civil Cases	Tax	Total Cases	
	Consumer/ Commercial/ Debt	Other Contract					
Cases on Docket:							
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	42,338	15,897	36,094	39,936	104,166	306,742	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	1,857	889	477	1,357	1,489	8,481	
Docket Adjustments	(594)	443	(986)	(3,609)	(699)	(5,110)	
Cases Added:							
New Cases Filed	29,859	12,703	42,760	28,196	59,843	208,970	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:							
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	1,534	558	975	733	5,536	12,541	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	1,171	325	963	1,495	460	5,680	
Total Cases On Docket	74,308	29,926	79,806	66,751	169,306	528,823	
Dispositions:							
Change of Venue Transfers	207	109	26	224	45	1,013	
Default Judgments	6,207	3,859	4,451	2,231	12,021	30,179	
Agreed Judgments	3,191	1,317	5,769	4,331	3,400	22,801	
Summary Judgments	1,235	415	422	1,008	147	3,987	
Final Judgments:							
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	1,588	1,108	9,461	3,289	13,118	30,740	
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	116	45	72	119	21	1,035	
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	9	6	5	11	2	41	
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	4,065	1,687	1,098	3,150	4,124	18,427	
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	10,603	3,929	2,920	6,436	23,898	64,671	
All Other Dispositions	2,464	1,039	15,519	4,827	912	27,229	
Total Cases Disposed	29,685	13,514	39,743	25,626	57,688	200,123	
Placed on Inactive Status	1,546	577	1,085	960	5,095	12,395	
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	43,185	15,878	39,095	40,360	106,384	316,797	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	1,749	862	468	1,370	1,167	7,776	
Age of Cases Disposed:						Additional Court Activity:	
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	Total Cases	Total
Number of Cases	51,092	31,013	43,998	26,990	47,030	200,123	Cases in Which Jury Selected 1,270
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared 77
							Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued 3,698
							Cases in Which Plaintiff /Petitioner Represented Self 7,098

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FAMILY CASES										
	Divorce		Parent-Child - No Divorce	Child Protective Services	Termination of Parental Rights	Adoption	Protective Orders - No Divorce	Title IV-D		
	Children	No Children						Paternity	Support Order	UIFSA
Cases on Docket:										
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:										
<i>Active Cases</i>	49,052	52,662	30,386	14,472	1,908	4,848	3,667	16,571	19,005	2,555
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	568	384	485	112	27	26	20	176	238	28
Docket Adjustments	(967)	(1,897)	(3,146)	(88)	(103)	(223)	420	793	312	206
Cases Added:										
New Cases Filed	51,807	59,602	22,269	9,759	2,015	7,532	7,129	27,399	35,630	1,990
Other Cases Reaching Docket:										
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	2,192	1,116	530	422	30	40	17	251	233	33
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,052	1,078	1,245	400	76	125	272	357	1,334	50
Total Cases on Docket:	104,136	112,561	51,284	24,965	3,926	12,322	11,505	45,371	56,514	4,834
Dispositions:										
Change of Venue Transfers	153	124	158	132	11	96	16	50	112	10
Default Judgments	3,107	4,928	2,166	227	98	66	473	3,083	2,183	204
Agreed Judgments	18,012	19,644	7,208	561	164	938	557	6,627	14,319	533
Summary Judgments	5	8	8	4	0	1	1	6	8	1
Final Judgments:										
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	17,803	22,210	3,499	3,479	1,247	4,192	1,528	4,457	7,132	541
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	60	72	19	41	3	11	0	19	22	1
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	7	6	3	7	0	2	1	0	1	0
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	7,721	6,577	3,117	247	208	380	1,186	2,699	1,758	240
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	3,260	2,448	4,024	2,611	90	128	1,421	5,608	5,408	535
All Other Dispositions	3,022	3,000	1,278	1,471	131	1,283	2,065	3,173	4,709	271
Total Cases Disposed	53,150	59,017	21,480	8,780	1,952	7,097	7,248	25,722	35,652	2,336
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	2,144	1,184	542	454	28	47	33	279	280	32
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:										
<i>Active Cases</i>	48,807	52,459	29,435	15,752	1,947	5,185	4,226	19,416	20,666	2,463
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	527	346	321	122	23	26	31	158	201	30

District Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
99.2 Percent Reporting Rate
3,024 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048

FAMILY CASES							
		Post-Judgment Actions					
		All Other Family Law Cases	Modification - Custody	Modification - Other	Enforcement		
Cases on Docket:							
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	26,089	11,041	21,596	12,943	36,328		303,123
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	259	85	369	346	2,221		5,344
Docket Adjustments	(644)	197	849	86	2,218		(1,987)
Cases Added:							
New Cases Filed	16,808	7,041	14,885	7,808	44,361		316,035
Other Cases Reaching Docket:							
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	467	103	776	278	2,423		8,911
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	1,724	2,160	2,396	1,394	6,599		21,262
Total Cases on Docket:	44,444	20,542	40,502	22,509	91,929		647,344
Dispositions:							
Change of Venue Transfers	162	465	677	168	1,117		3,451
Default Judgments	405	399	704	196	2,102		20,341
Agreed Judgments	3,241	1,918	5,197	2,345	19,159		100,423
Summary Judgments	36	2	10	2	36		128
Final Judgments:							
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	5,869	1,934	2,737	1,719	10,784		89,131
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	8	26	9	6	39		336
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	4	1	5	3	7		47
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	2,410	996	2,293	1,645	2,418		33,895
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	1,412	471	1,078	1,026	5,238		34,758
All Other Dispositions	6,638	849	2,733	1,375	6,393		38,391
Total Cases Disposed	20,185	7,061	15,443	8,485	47,293		320,901
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	450	113	762	291	2,795		9,434
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	23,813	13,370	24,326	13,786	41,972		317,623
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	223	93	325	306	2,459		5,191
Age of Cases Disposed:							Additional Court Activity:
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	Total Cases	Total
Number of Cases	120,496	71,933	70,828	26,048	31,596	320,901	196
							6
							36,650
							5,894
							17,584
							65,564

District Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
99.2 Percent Reporting Rate
3,024 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048

JUVENILE CASES											
	Delinquent Conduct										
	CINS	Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicides	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Assault	Indecency with or Sexual Assault of Child	Agg. Robbery or Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft
Cases on Docket:											
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	375	16	13	1	636	1,242	611	370	888	767	213
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	33	6	2	1	98	236	81	69	152	206	22
Docket Adjustments	(12)	(4)	(1)	0	(17)	52	(31)	(5)	(7)	(6)	8
Cases Added:											
New Petitions Filed	223	16	15	3	1,176	2,835	704	616	1,224	1,666	405
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	5	5	0	10	0	31	18	7	1	0
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	22	3	0	0	412	848	157	211	417	681	147
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	7	7	2	0	151	394	101	147	176	315	53
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	53	0	0	0	11	16	14	6	20	8	6
Total Cases on Docket	668	43	34	4	2,379	5,387	1,587	1,363	2,725	3,432	832
Adjudications:											
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:											
<i>Plea of True</i>	59	7	5	0	562	1,054	300	386	711	847	223
<i>By the Court</i>	10	0	0	0	46	173	42	41	76	109	24
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	4	2	6	3	1	0	0
Total Findings of DC/CINS	69	7	5	0	612	1,229	348	430	788	956	247
Deferred Prosecution	129	0	0	0	187	754	48	22	123	326	26
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	12	2	0	8	1	24	43	6	0	0
Findings of No DC or No CINS:											
<i>By the Court</i>	6	0	0	0	40	32	18	8	54	9	13
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	1	1	0	0
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	6	0	0	0	41	35	21	9	55	9	13
Dismissals	48	1	0	0	189	447	114	39	211	255	52
Motions to Modify Disposition:											
<i>Denied</i>	6	0	0	0	27	53	9	24	28	42	9
<i>Granted</i>	13	2	0	0	232	344	99	130	312	277	104
All Other Adjudications/Findings	33	4	2	0	167	627	79	69	74	388	64
Total Cases Adjudicated	304	26	9	0	1,463	3,490	742	766	1,597	2,253	515
Placed on Inactive Status	13	3	3	0	142	312	97	147	179	219	36
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	367	15	20	4	726	1,425	708	414	923	794	234
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	20	1	3	1	98	240	72	96	146	209	32
Dispositions:											
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS											
Probation Granted											
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	0	1	0	202	462	102	177	102	436	84
<i>All Other Probation</i>	56	1	0	0	371	712	197	176	646	446	130
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.											
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	7	2	0	7	3	14	29	13	1	0
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	1	0	23	9	17	15	24	9	6
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	0	0	1	0	33	69	9	40	27	55	26
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.											
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	15	4	17	9	30	11	3
All Other Dispositions	21	2	0	0	178	313	71	107	224	255	81

District Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
99.2 Percent Reporting Rate
3,024 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048

JUVENILE CASES								
	Delinquent Conduct					Total Cases	Total Delinquent Conduct Cases	
	Felony Drug Offenses	Misde-meanor Drug Offenses	DWI	Contempt of Court	All Other Offenses		Felonies	Misde-meanors
Cases on Docket:								
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	430	727	27	218	11,921	18,455	4,139	4,145
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	47	138	0	38	398	1,527	628	862
Docket Adjustments	5	17	3	(2)	(42)	(42)	13,442	19,441
Cases Added:								
New Petitions Filed	574	1,982	28	91	5,968	17,526	6,441	9,691
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	0	0	0	1	8	86	73	5
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	188	666	3	58	3,077	6,890	2,634	3,931
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	69	314	2	19	704	2,461	973	1,484
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	5	14	0	1	47	201	73	51
Total Cases on Docket	1,271	3,720	63	386	21,683	45,577	27,775	38,748
Adjudications:								
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:								
<i>Plea of True</i>	237	863	16	82	2,802	8,154	3,339	4,350
<i>By the Court</i>	31	155	1	4	433	1,145	370	629
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	1	0	0	4	21	11	9
Total Findings of DC/CINS	268	1,019	17	86	3,239	9,320	3,720	4,988
Deferred Prosecution	160	471	5	2	982	3,235	953	2,142
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	3	0	0	0	86	185	94	9
Findings of No DC or No CINS:								
<i>By the Court</i>	29	1	0	0	70	280	188	79
<i>By the Jury</i>	2	0	0	0	4	15	7	4
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	31	1	0	0	74	295	195	83
Dismissals	75	292	3	28	1,077	2,831	846	1,772
Motions to Modify Disposition:								
<i>Denied</i>	15	51	0	1	290	555	211	339
<i>Granted</i>	93	262	3	11	1,760	3,642	1,609	1,787
All Other Adjudications/Findings	91	440	3	18	1,298	3,357	943	2,156
Total Cases Adjudicated	736	2,536	31	146	8,806	23,420	8,571	13,276
Placed on Inactive Status	51	256	5	20	514	1,997	853	1,133
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	418	781	24	222	12,040	19,115	17,923	23,707
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	47	172	4	37	399	1,577	679	872
Dispositions:								
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS								
Probation Granted								
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	98	484	4	0	1,404	3,556	1,332	2,120
<i>All Other Probation</i>	152	484	11	102	1,525	5,009	2,087	2,507
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.								
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	4	6	0	0	22	108	81	8
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	6	4	0	1	73	188	134	23
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	13	49	2	1	157	482	195	267
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.								
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	5	0	1	0	73	168	135	24
All Other Dispositions	75	268	2	17	1,364	2,978	1,238	1,570

District Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
99.2 Percent Reporting Rate
3,024 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048

JUVENILE CASES									
Age of Cases Adjudicated:					Additional Court Activity:				
	30 Days or Less	31 to 90 Days	91 to 180 Days	Over 180 Days	Total Cases		CINS	DC	Total
Number of Cases	9,208	7,050	3,429	3,733	23,420	Grand Jury Approvals	---	446	446
						Release or Transfer Hearings	---	98	98
						Detention Hearings	1,913	22,695	24,608
						Cases Set for Review	580	6,894	7,474
						Competency Hearings	0	219	219
						Motions to Suppress Granted			
						/Denied	0	80	80
						Applications for Sealing Records	6	793	799
						Motions for Sex Offender Un- or			
						Deregistration	0	47	47
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed			
						as Counsel	344	19,482	19,826
						Cases with Retained Counsel	29	2,225	2,254



Statutory County Courts

More than 752,000 civil, family, criminal, juvenile, probate, and mental health cases filed

In 2014, 256 statutory county courts were operating in 88 of the state’s 254 counties. One multi-county court at law served three additional counties.

Cases Added — In 2014, more than 752,000 civil, family, criminal, juvenile, probate, and mental health cases were filed in the statutory county courts—down 2.8 percent from the previous year.^{25, 26}

Criminal cases accounted for the majority of cases filed in these courts, though the number of criminal cases declined 3.1 percent since 2013. Civil case filings declined 8.3 percent and juvenile cases dropped 4.3 percent over the same time period. Probate, mental health, and family case filings, however, increased by 4.6 percent, 1.2 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively.

Excluding the “all other misdemeanors” category, the largest categories of criminal cases filed in 2014 involved drug offenses (18.0 percent), followed by driving while intoxicated (16.7 percent), theft (13.0 percent), and assault (10.0 percent).

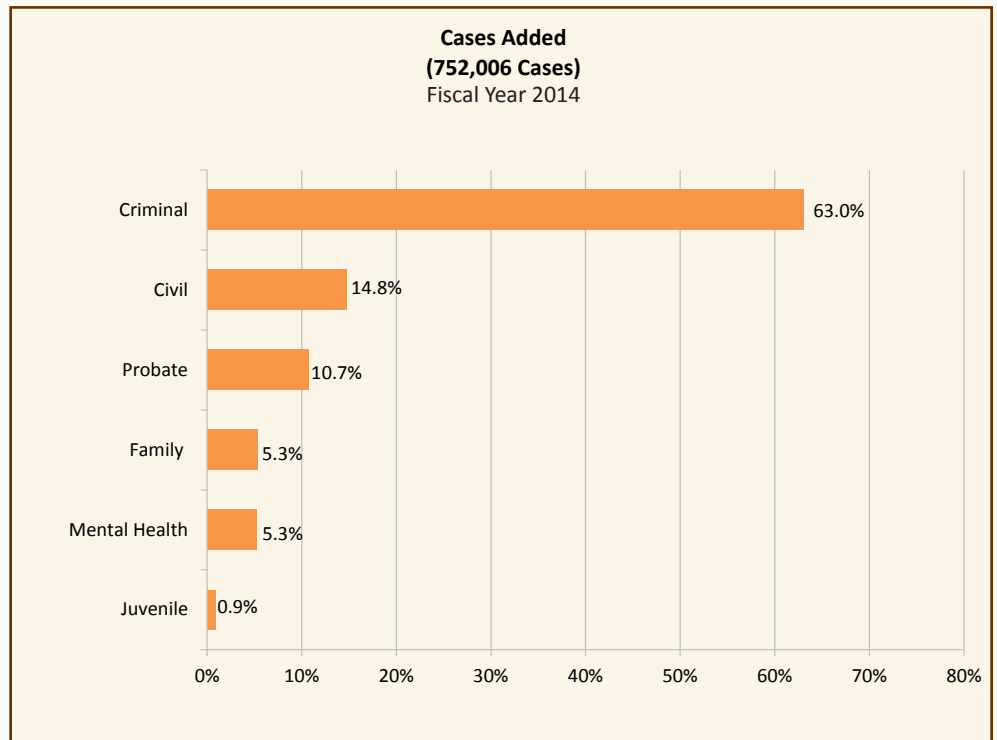


Figure 41 - Cases Added

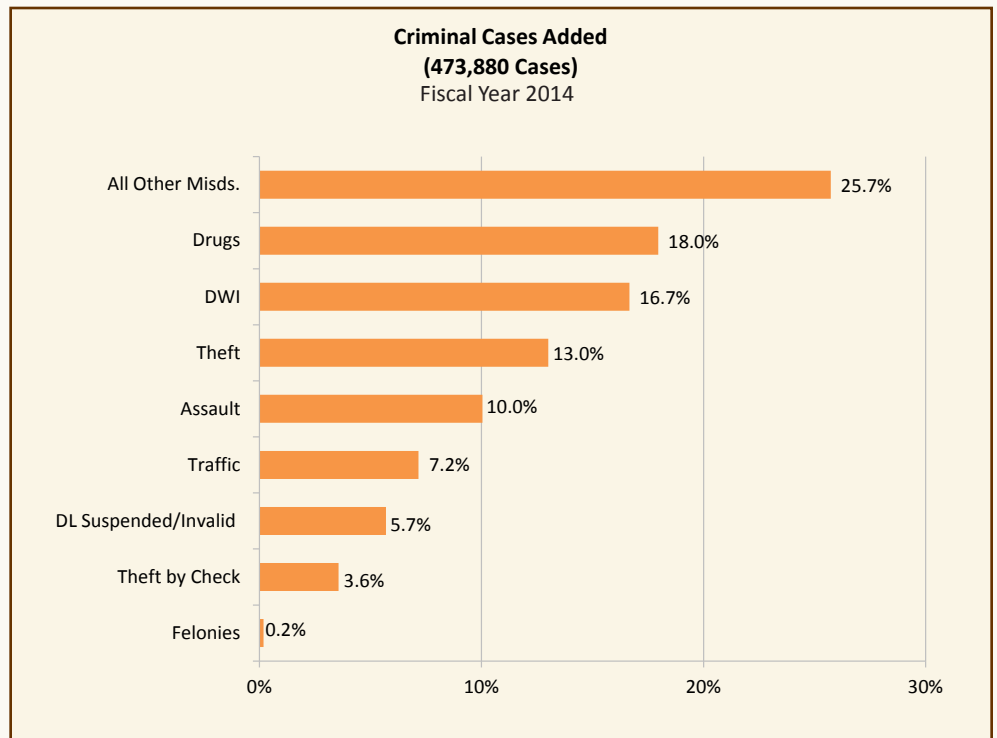


Figure 42 - Criminal Cases Added

25 “Filed” includes new cases, appeals from lower courts, petitions for transfer to adult criminal court, motions to revoke, and other cases added to the docket.

26 Family, juvenile, probate and mental health caseloads are discussed in more detail in separate sections of this report.

Contract cases accounted for approximately 34 percent of the statutory county courts' civil caseload. Civil cases related to criminal matters—a reporting category that includes bond forfeitures, expunctions, nondisclosures, occupational licenses, and seizures and forfeitures—accounted for 31.6 percent of cases added.

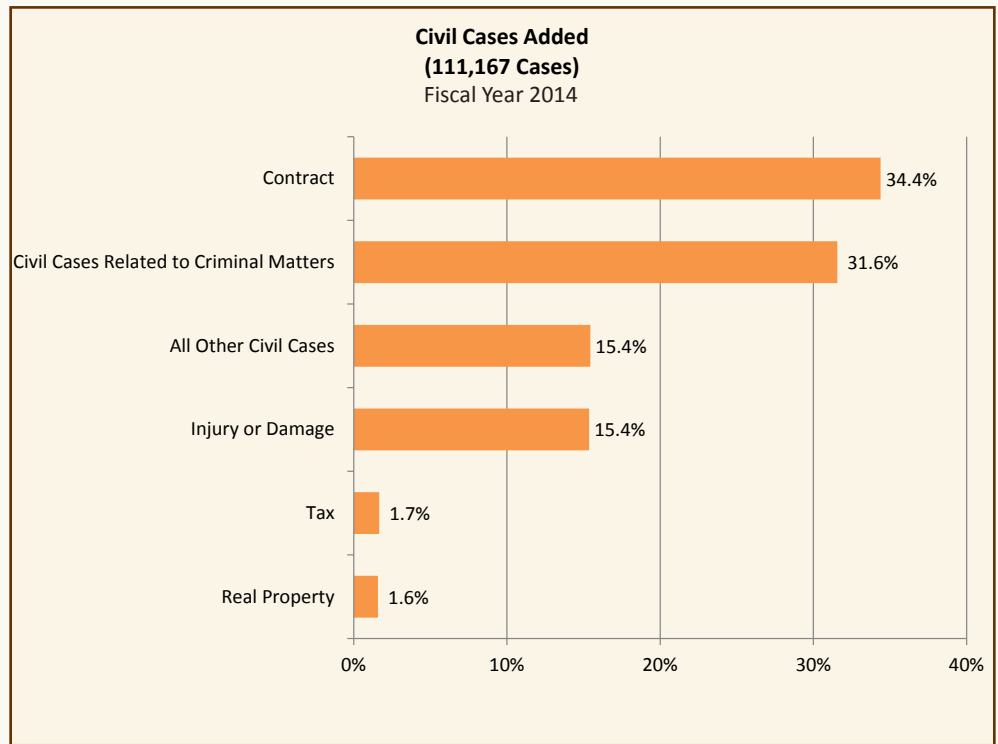


Figure 43 - Civil Cases Added

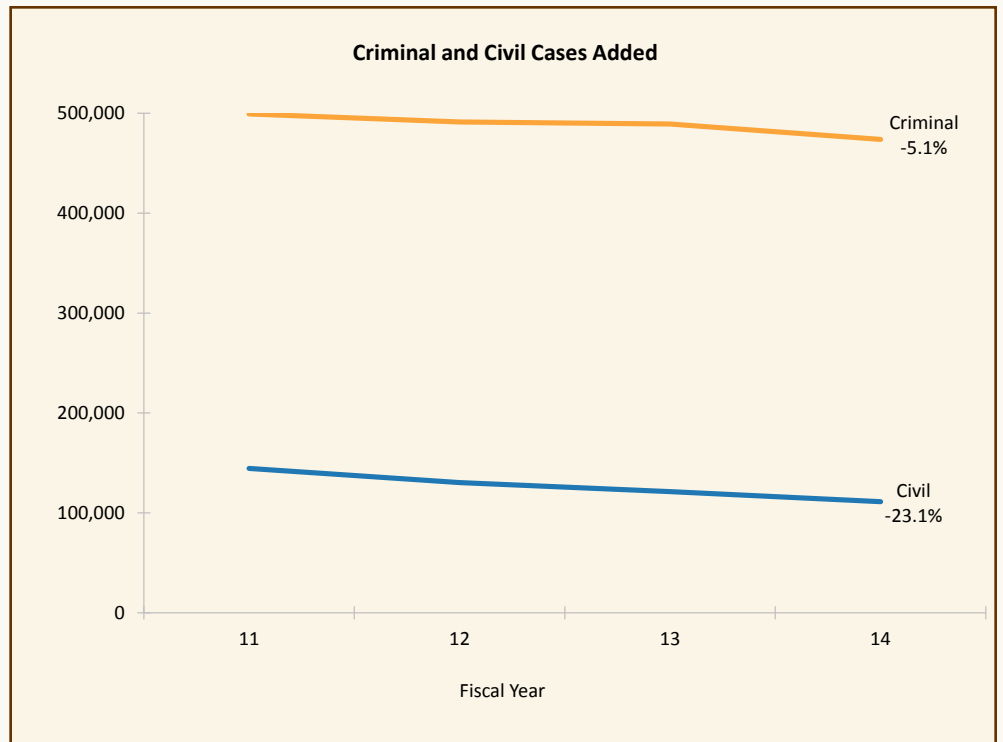


Figure 44 - Criminal and Civil Cases Added

Probate cases accounted for the next largest share of the courts' caseload, followed by family cases, mental health cases, and juvenile cases.

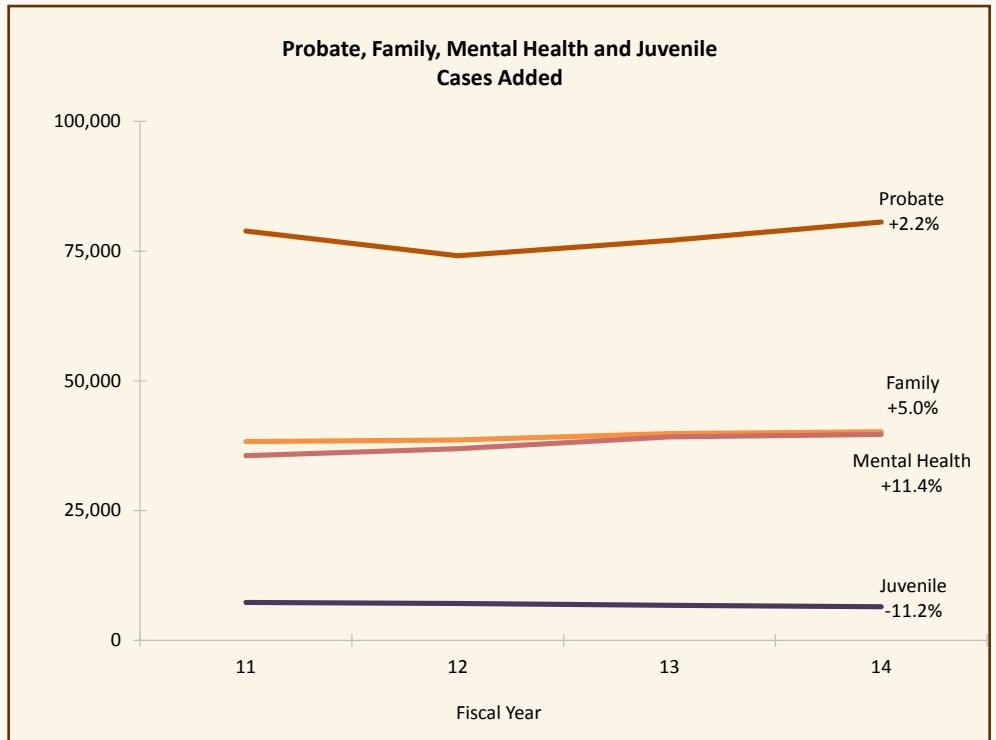


Figure 45 - Probate, Family, Mental Health and Juvenile Cases Added

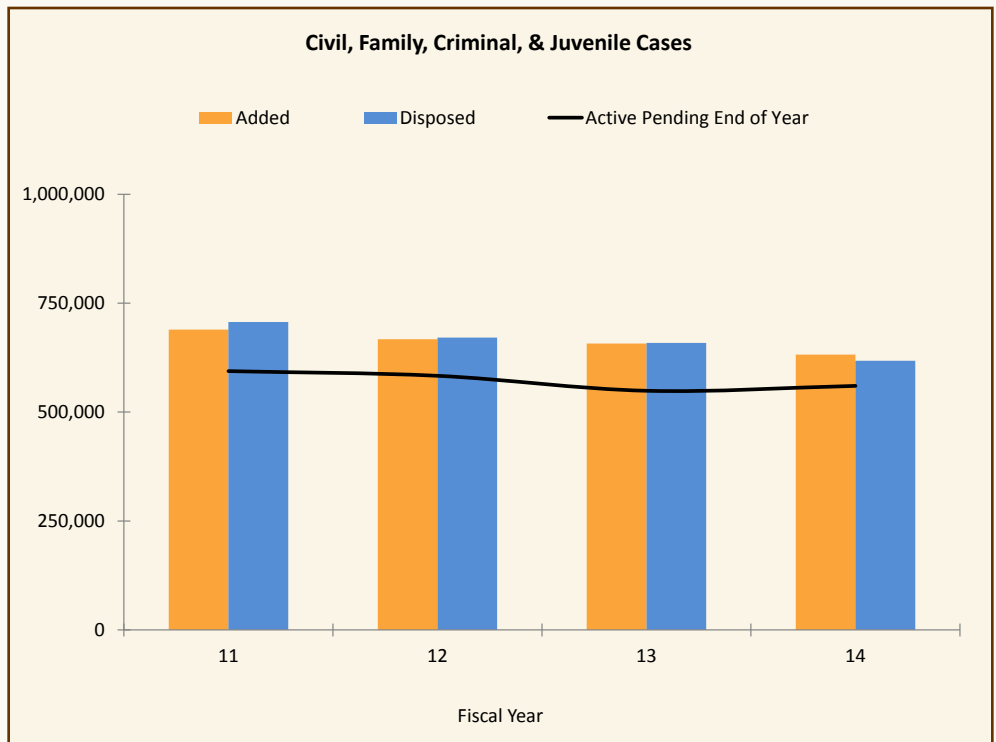


Figure 46 - Civil, Family, Criminal and Juvenile Cases

Clearance Rates — In 2014, statutory county courts disposed of 617,644 civil, family, criminal, and juvenile cases. The overall clearance rate was 97.8 percent, a decrease from the previous year. The clearance rate for juvenile cases improved from the previous year while the civil, criminal, and family case clearance rates declined slightly.

466,692 criminal cases disposed

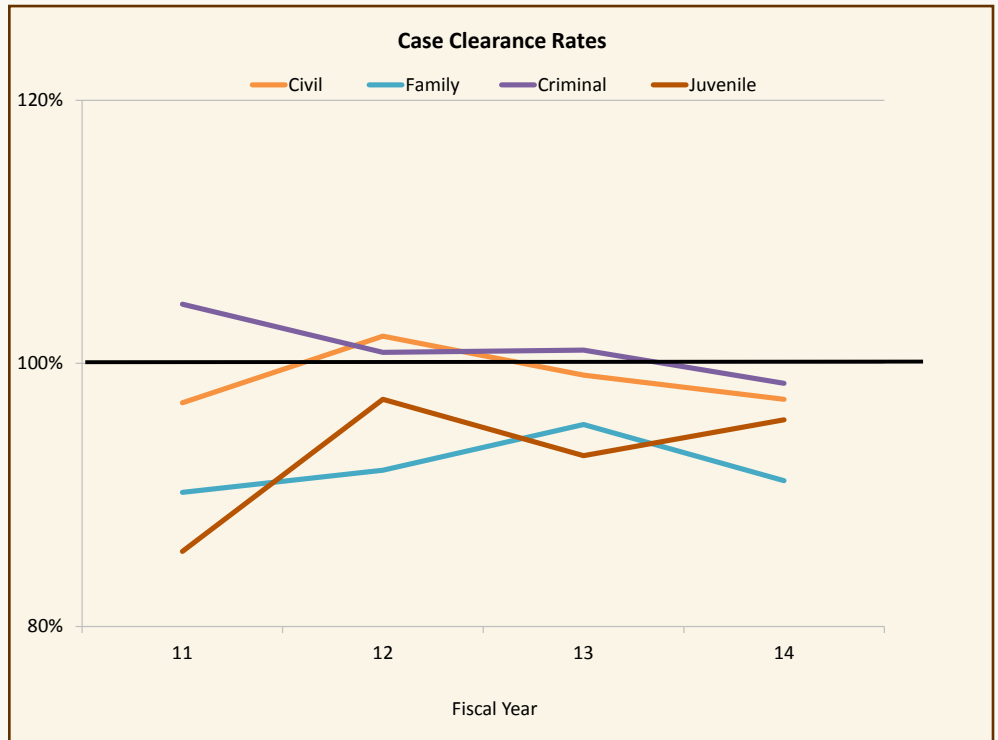


Figure 47 - Case Clearance Rate

Manner of Disposition — In 2014, statutory county courts disposed of 466,692 criminal cases. Defendants were convicted in slightly more than half, and acquitted in 0.3 percent, of the 431,032 cases that did not involve a motion to revoke probation. The highest conviction rate occurred in cases involving a second offense of driving while intoxicated/under the influence, and the lowest rate occurred in traffic cases. Overall, 98.4 percent of convictions were the result of a guilty or no contest plea.

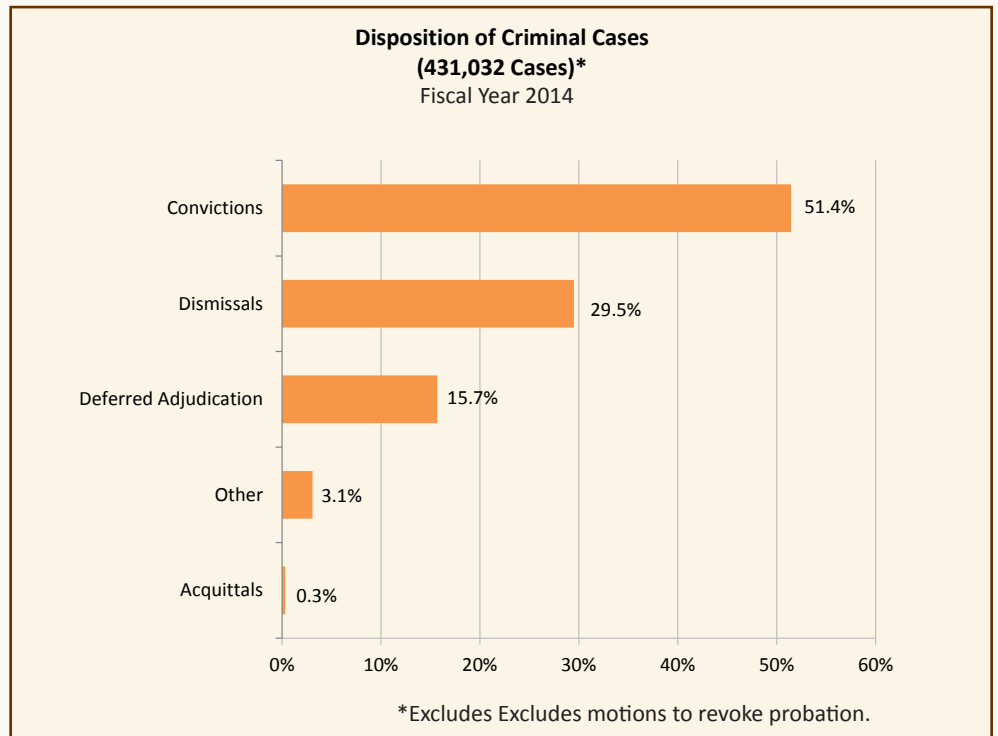


Figure 48 - Disposition of Criminal Cases

Approximately one percent of all criminal cases (excluding motions to revoke probation) went to trial in 2014. The highest trial rate occurred in first offense driving while intoxicated or under the influence cases (2.8 percent).

Of the 4,906 cases that went to trial, 42.5 percent were tried before a jury. Defendants were convicted in 59.1 percent of cases that went to jury trial, compared to 82.7 percent that were convicted in cases that were decided by a judge.

Dismissals constituted 29.5 percent of all criminal cases disposed of in 2014 (excluding motions to revoke probation). The highest rate of dismissal occurred in theft by check cases (59.0 percent).

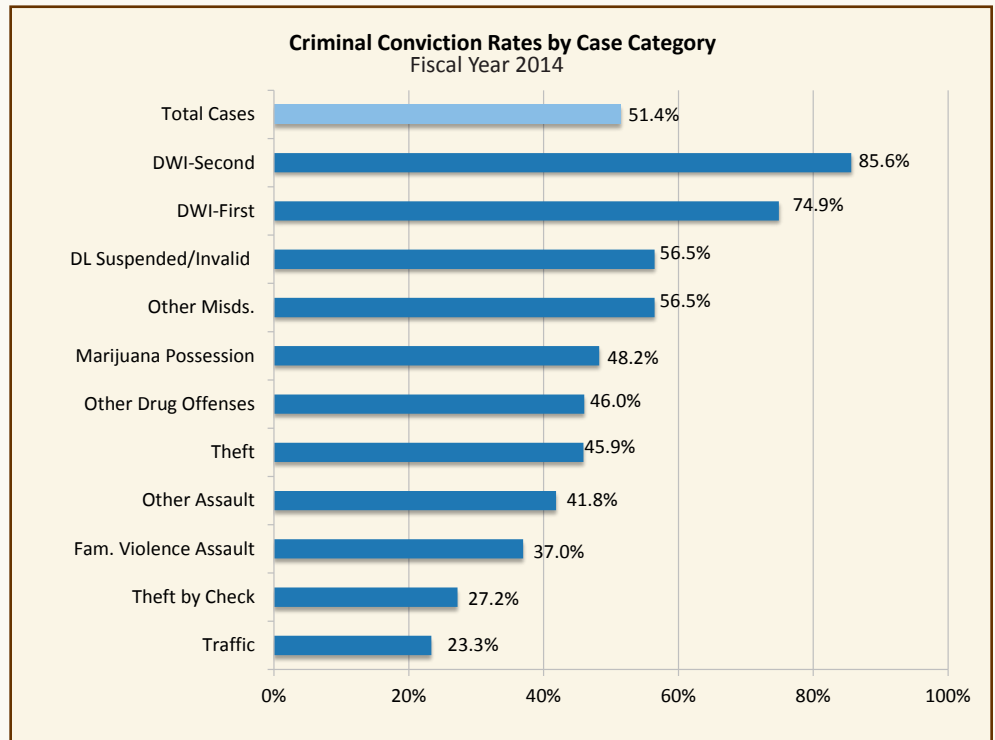


Figure 49 - Criminal Conviction Rates by Case Category

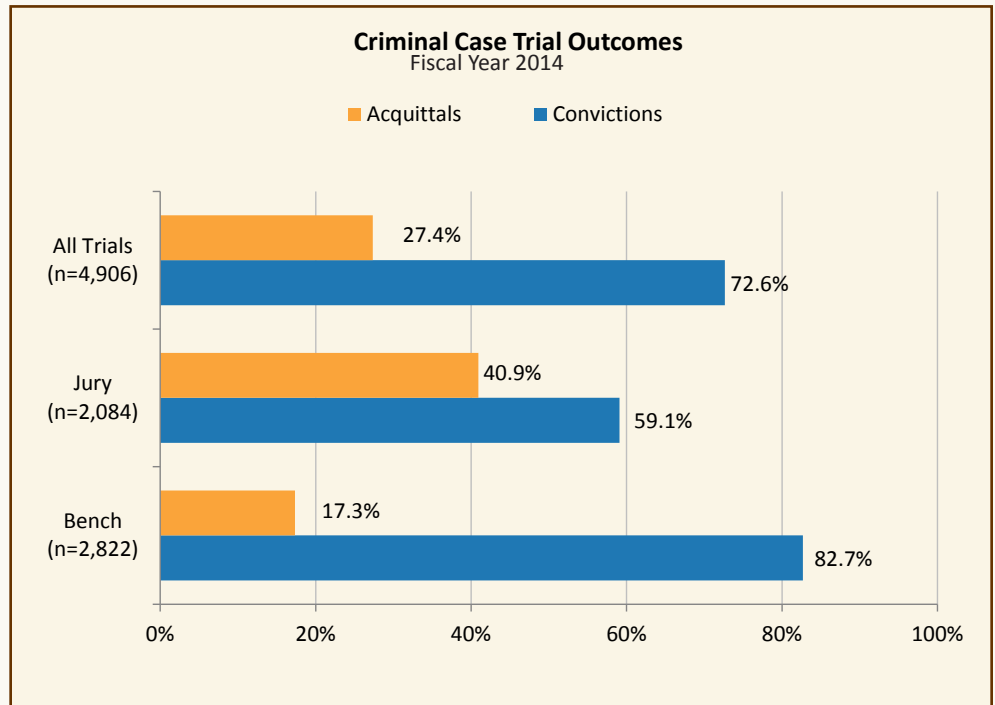


Figure 50 - Criminal Case Trial Outcomes

The statutory county courts also disposed of a total of 108,131 civil cases. The largest share of civil cases was disposed of by dismissals by the plaintiff. Excluding the “Other Disposition” category, the second largest category was default judgments. Bench trials accounted for 10.0 percent of cases disposed, and only 0.3 percent were reported disposed of by a jury trial. However, 3.2 percent of medical malpractice cases, 1.5 percent of injury or damage cases involving a motor vehicle, 1.3 percent of other injury or damage cases, and 1.0 percent of eminent domain cases were each disposed of by a jury trial.

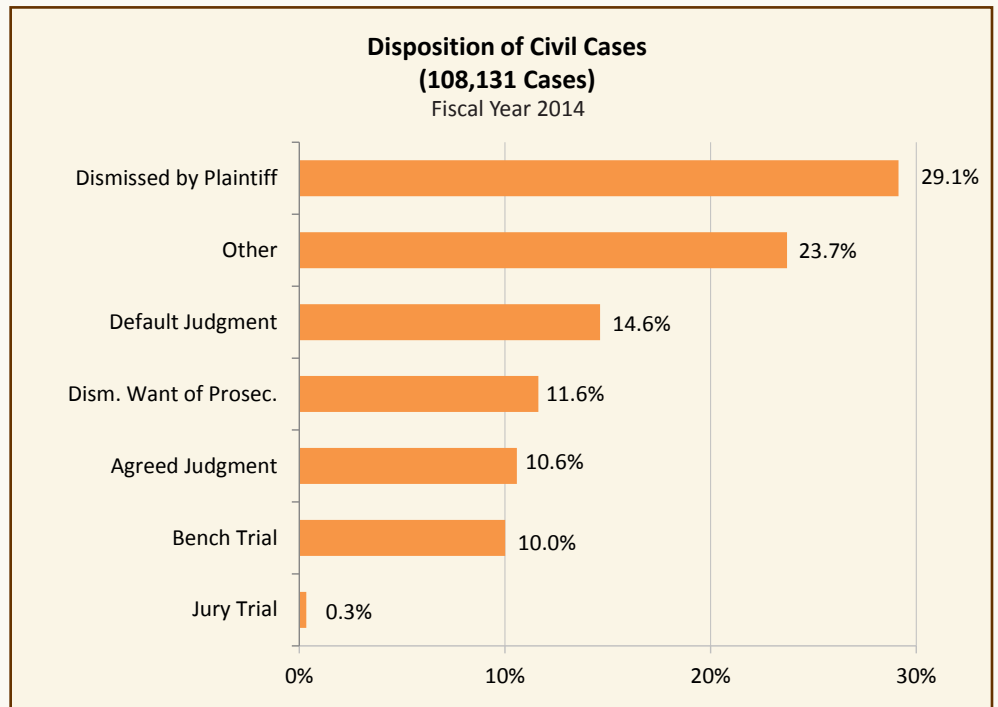


Figure 51 - Disposition of Civil Cases

Age of Cases Disposed — In 2014, 46.7 percent of misdemeanor cases were disposed of within 90 days and 75.8 percent of civil cases were disposed of within 12 months. These percentages decreased slightly for both case types within their respective time frames during the previous year.

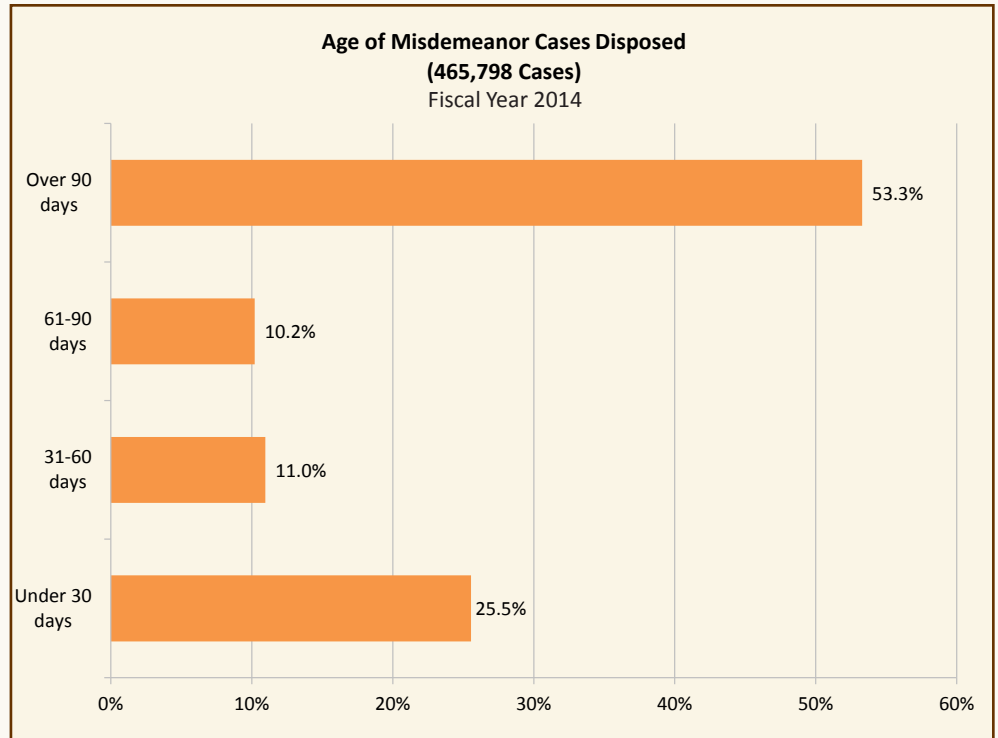


Figure 52 - Age of Misdemeanor Cases Disposed

108,131 civil cases disposed

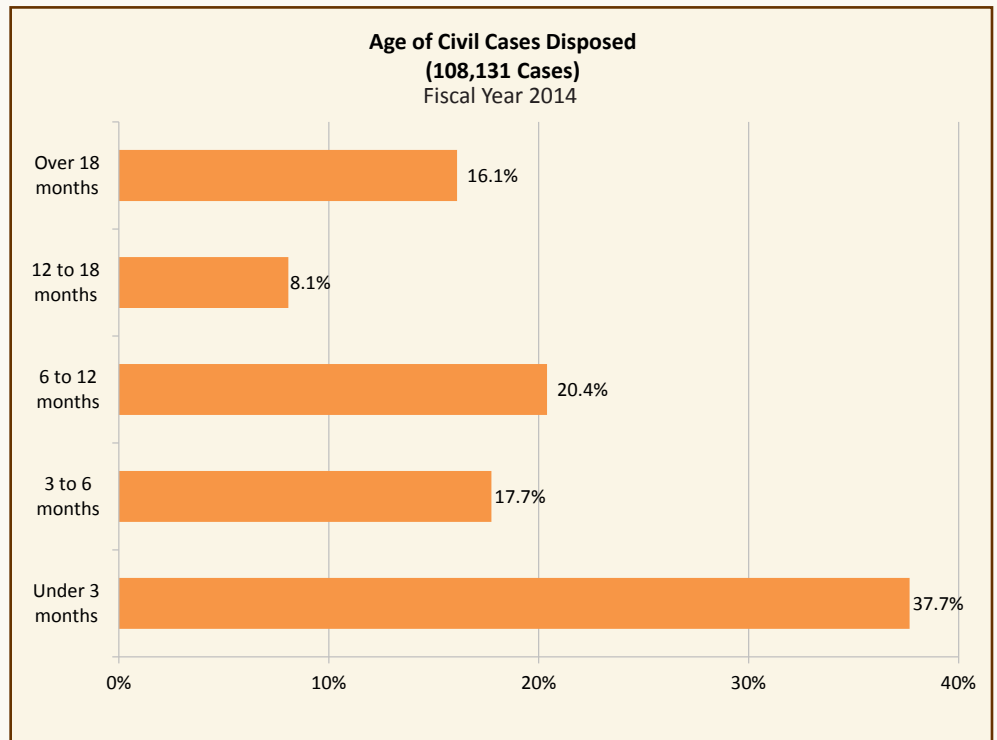


Figure 53 - Age of Civil Cases Disposed

Self-Represented Litigants — Self-represented litigants were most frequently involved in family cases in the statutory county courts. In 2014, the petitioner was representing himself/herself at the time of filing in 20 percent of cases, which was an increase of approximately one percentage point from the previous year. The percentage of self-represented litigants also increased slightly in probate cases but fell slightly in other civil cases.

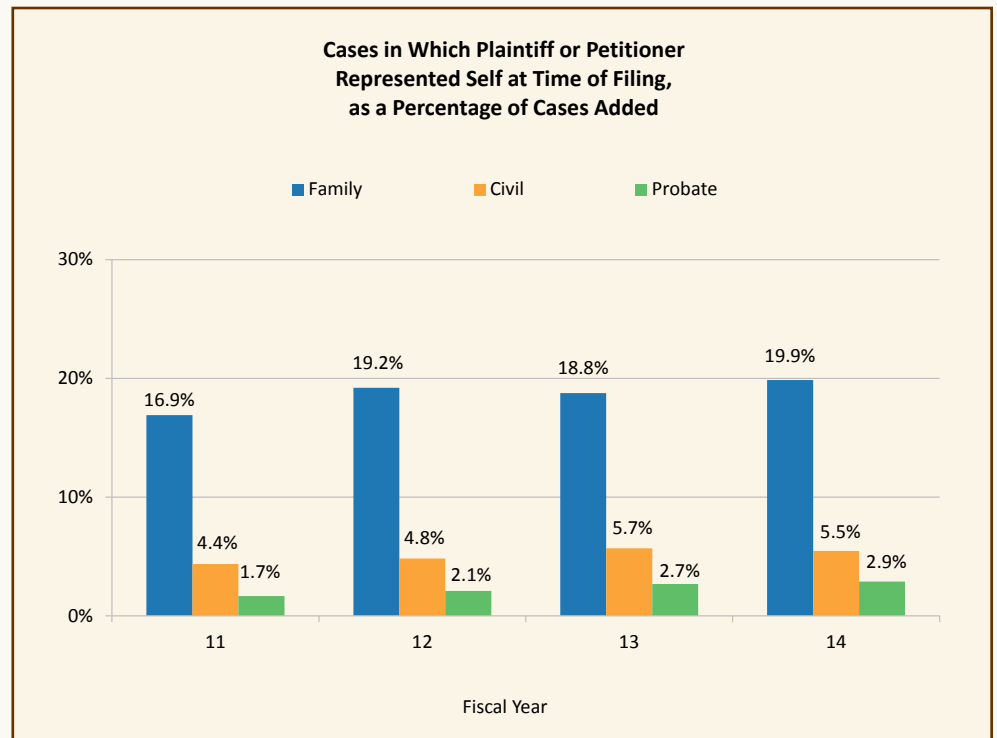


Figure 54 - Cases in Which Plaintiff or Petitioner Represented Self at Time of Filing, as a Percentage of Cases Added

Statutory County Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
100 Percent Reporting Rate
1,056 Reports Received Out of a Possible 1,056

FELONY CASES								
	Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicides	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Sexual Assault of Adult	Indecency With or Sexual Assault of Child	Family Violence Assault	Aggravated Robbery or Robbery
Cases on Docket:								
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	0	0	4	40	3	19	5	8
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Docket Adjustments	0	0	2	3	2	1	1	(2)
Cases Added:								
Filed by Indictment or Information	0	1	2	39	3	28	12	5
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	0	0	0	10	1	2	1	5
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on Docket:	0	1	9	96	9	50	20	17
Dispositions:								
Convictions:								
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	0	0	1	19	1	3	7	3
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Total Convictions	0	0	1	19	1	6	7	4
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	0	0	0	8	0	5	1	2
Acquittals:								
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acquittals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissals	0	0	0	11	1	4	3	1
Motions to Revoke:								
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	0	0	0	5	0	1	2	1
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	0	0	0	6	1	0	1	2
All Other Dispositions	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total Cases Disposed	0	1	1	50	3	16	14	10
Placed on Inactive Status	0	0	2	6	1	12	1	1
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	0	0	4	39	5	22	5	3
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	0	3	6	1	12	0	3
Cases in Which								
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sentencing Information:								
Prison	0	0	2	7	0	5	3	2
State Jail	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Local Jail	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Probation/Community Supervision	0	0	0	13	1	1	4	1
Shock Probation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fine Only	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

Statutory County Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
100 Percent Reporting Rate
1,056 Reports Received Out of a Possible 1,056

FELONY CASES									
	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Drug Sale or Manufacture	Drug Possession	Felony DWI	Other Felony	Total Cases	
Cases on Docket:									
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	54	88	40	6	111	226	99	703	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	1	8	4	0	19	55	11	101	
Docket Adjustments	10	(49)	10	5	8	11	28	30	
Cases Added:									
Filed by Indictment or Information	46	44	24	16	101	208	93	622	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:									
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	18	84	12	2	20	37	34	226	
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	8	13	6	0	8	69	14	125	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	
Total Cases on Docket:	137	181	92	29	248	552	268	1,709	
Dispositions:									
Convictions:									
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	43	37	24	5	45	176	88	452	
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	3	2	1	3	13	
Total Convictions	43	37	24	8	47	177	91	465	
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	18	18	8	2	23	0	11	96	
Acquittals:									
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Acquittals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dismissals	10	5	5	5	10	13	22	90	
Motions to Revoke:									
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	15	22	9	1	18	24	22	120	
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	7	20	6	1	44	1	18	107	
All Other Dispositions	1	3	0	1	2	4	3	16	
Total Cases Disposed	94	105	52	18	144	219	167	894	
Placed on Inactive Status	14	75	17	0	8	90	31	258	
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	29	51	24	11	91	242	65	591	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	7	20	14	0	24	77	33	200	
Cases in Which									
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Sentencing Information:									
Prison	7	3	0	5	15	67	29	145	
State Jail	15	20	6	0	21	8	32	105	
Local Jail	1	2	0	0	0	6	2	13	
Probation/Community Supervision	39	23	20	4	23	52	32	213	
Shock Probation	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Fine Only	1	4	0	1	5	2	2	19	
Other	0	4	5	3	0	70	2	87	
Age of Cases Disposed:	90 Days or Less		91 to 180 Days		181 to 365 Days		Over 365 Days		Total Cases
Number of Cases	226		210		222		236		894

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MISDEMEANOR CASES												
	DWI - First Offense	DWI - Second Offense	Theft	Theft by Check	Drug Possession - Marijuana	Drug Offenses - Other	Family Violence Assault	Assault - Other	Traffic	DWLS / DWLI	All Other Misdemea- nor Cases	Total Cases
Cases on Docket:												
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:												
<i>Active Cases</i>	61,598	9,112	38,536	27,361	31,056	12,041	20,485	14,643	11,731	12,637	65,659	304,859
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	29,035	3,325	39,437	27,788	10,524	3,560	9,462	8,218	8,745	6,396	36,058	182,548
Docket Adjustments	(559)	141	(274)	(462)	107	(424)	662	(342)	232	348	1,593	1,022
Cases Added:												
New Cases Filed	56,985	12,180	54,688	15,430	58,178	18,621	30,271	12,813	7,379	25,774	109,753	402,072
Appealed from Lower Courts	87	34	70	15	39	115	40	58	25,771	162	3,204	29,595
Other Cases Reaching Docket:												
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	7,418	1,899	6,538	1,414	5,867	1,888	2,678	1,184	626	1,026	8,109	38,647
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	8,434	2,336	18,344	9,969	9,736	2,827	7,484	2,861	1,697	5,187	21,429	90,304
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	223	124	338	37	260	123	285	253	167	30	875	2,715
Total Cases on Docket	134,186	25,826	118,240	53,764	105,243	35,191	61,905	31,470	47,603	45,164	210,622	869,214
Dispositions:												
Convictions:												
<i>Guilty Plea/Nolo Contendere</i>	41,379	10,431	25,296	4,950	26,720	7,991	10,810	5,455	7,192	13,666	63,826	217,716
<i>By the Court</i>	587	121	286	12	314	40	174	90	55	15	639	2,333
<i>By the Jury</i>	579	97	52	5	54	7	117	49	19	12	227	1,218
Total Convictions	42,545	10,649	25,634	4,967	27,088	8,038	11,101	5,594	7,266	13,693	64,692	221,267
Deferred Adjudication	1,204	193	13,514	2,221	12,641	2,615	4,963	2,132	11,417	2,246	14,341	67,487
Acquittals:												
<i>By the Court</i>	148	25	11	9	7	1	97	27	17	3	144	489
<i>By the Jury</i>	300	51	23	0	26	9	169	113	9	3	150	853
Total Acquittals	448	76	34	9	33	10	266	140	26	6	294	1,342
Dismissals	11,340	1,364	15,624	10,762	14,625	6,037	12,564	5,113	10,847	7,057	31,730	127,063
Motions to Revoke:												
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	4,109	1,056	3,849	812	3,686	1,148	1,873	755	372	651	4,861	23,172
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	3,196	818	1,931	373	1,471	431	709	375	198	238	2,521	12,261
All Other Dispositions	1,276	155	1,050	281	1,778	762	1,144	394	1,593	1,249	3,524	13,206
Total Cases Disposed	64,118	14,311	61,636	19,425	61,322	19,041	32,620	14,503	31,719	25,140	121,963	465,798
Placed on Inactive Status	9,215	2,504	16,546	10,018	10,719	3,145	7,614	2,858	1,724	5,935	23,692	93,970
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:												
<i>Active Cases</i>	60,989	9,018	39,272	24,816	33,288	13,140	21,286	14,407	14,141	14,037	65,381	309,775
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	29,680	3,486	38,425	27,342	11,421	3,743	9,977	7,917	8,791	7,196	37,907	185,885
Sentencing Information:												
Local Jail	22,809	5,644	20,640	3,992	22,947	5,621	9,059	4,620	2,277	10,461	53,204	161,274
Probation/Comm. Supervision	20,816	4,714	6,962	1,821	6,052	2,063	3,052	1,334	6,171	1,629	10,955	65,569
Fine Only	1,088	267	1,124	698	1,882	674	476	398	4,185	1,764	1,928	14,484
Other	691	149	379	536	500	367	327	167	297	613	1,320	5,346
Age of Cases Disposed:						Additional Court Activity:						
	30 Days or Less	31 to 60 Days	61 to 90 Days	Over 90 Days	Total Cases			Mis- demeanor	Felony	Total		
Number of Cases	118,988	51,043	47,520	248,247	465,798	Cases in Which Jury Selected		1,724	8	1,732		
						Cases in Which Mistrial Declared		108	0	108		
						Motions to Suppress Granted or Denied		1,064	17	1,081		
						Competency Hearings Held		1,762	1	1,763		
						Cases Set for Review		24,609	8	24,617		
						Cases in Which Attorney Appted as Counsel		170,947	222	171,169		
						Cases with Retained Counsel		158,020	144	158,164		
Information on Trafficking of Persons:												
					Total							
	Cases for Trafficking of Persons				0							
	Cases for Prostitution				2,938							
	Cases for Compelling Prostitution				12							

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CIVIL CASES								
	Injury or Damage						Real Property	
	Motor Vehicle	Medical Malpractice	Other Professional Malpractice	Product Liability - Asbestos/Silica	Other Product Liability	Other Injury or Damage	Eminent Domain	Other Real Property
Cases on Docket:								
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	21,128	121	27	44	187	7,913	3,634	1,320
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	765	0	0	3	2	403	16	14
Docket Adjustments	(1,306)	(39)	(3)	(13)	(22)	(1,609)	12	(164)
Cases Added:								
New Cases Filed	13,814	40	14	8	95	2,556	983	598
Other Cases Reaching Docket								
<i>Cases Appealed from Lower Courts</i>	26	0	1	0	1	83	2	162
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	413	0	0	0	6	104	28	2
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	351	3	1	0	2	81	7	10
Total Cases on Docket	34,426	125	40	39	269	9,128	4,666	1,928
Dispositions:								
Change of Venue Transfers	77	1	0	0	1	50	0	2
Default Judgments	1,406	0	1	0	2	145	3	20
Agreed Judgments	798	4	2	0	10	201	259	49
Summary Judgments	175	0	0	0	2	108	1	9
Final Judgments:								
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	681	3	1	0	3	203	180	124
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	211	1	0	0	1	40	8	2
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	1,879	6	7	0	11	525	12	220
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	6,914	7	5	6	65	1,466	262	82
All Other Dispositions	1,862	9	5	0	25	523	72	154
Total Cases Disposed	14,006	31	21	6	120	3,263	797	662
Placed on Inactive Status	757	1	1	1	7	171	56	7
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	19,867	93	18	33	140	5,757	3,834	1,264
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	905	1	1	3	5	408	23	14

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CIVIL CASES							
	Contract		Civil Cases Relating to Criminal Matters	All Other Civil Cases	Tax	Total Cases	
	Consumer/ Commercial/ Debt	Other Contract					
Cases on Docket:							
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	101,895	9,080	39,726	20,612	4,201		209,888
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	5,152	1,337	120	344	1		8,157
Docket Adjustments	(119)	(546)	(6,615)	(381)	204		(10,601)
Cases Added:							
New Cases Filed	26,786	5,613	33,944	13,852	1,811		100,114
Other Cases Reaching Docket							
<i>Cases Appealed from Lower Courts</i>	239	3,311	36	2,606	0		6,467
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	1,078	171	19	78	0		1,899
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,076	198	1,105	708	44		4,586
Total Cases on Docket	131,955	17,827	68,215	37,475	6,260		312,353
Dispositions:							
Change of Venue Transfers	111	19	10	83	0		354
Default Judgments	8,525	1,159	3,610	422	517		15,810
Agreed Judgments	2,777	725	5,448	1,091	71		11,435
Summary Judgments	1,070	197	64	127	68		1,821
Final Judgments:							
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	1,483	1,819	3,556	2,304	467		10,824
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	32	12	5	32	1		345
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	5	3	2	4	0		19
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	5,365	1,717	1,300	1,514	5		12,561
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	10,714	1,789	6,450	3,007	727		31,494
All Other Dispositions	1,396	1,070	10,628	7,585	139		23,468
Total Cases Disposed	31,478	8,510	31,073	16,169	1,995		108,131
Placed on Inactive Status	2,292	482	200	166	0		4,141
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	98,548	8,877	37,076	21,211	4,265		200,983
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	6,007	1,608	167	362	1		9,505
Age of Cases Disposed:				Additional Court Activity:			
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	Total Cases	Total
Number of Cases	40,734	19,188	22,050	8,734	17,425	108,131	
							Cases in Which Jury Selected 463
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared 11
							Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued 734
							Cases in Which Plaintiff /Petitioner Represented Self 6,062

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FAMILY CASES										
	Divorce		Parent-Child - No Divorce	Child Protective Services	Termination of Parental Rights	Adoption	Protective Orders - No Divorce	Title IV-D		
	Children	No Children						Paternity	Support Order	UIFSA
Cases on Docket:										
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:										
<i>Active Cases</i>	8,308	5,177	2,474	1,827	187	530	1,369	1,914	1,844	295
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	35	29	12	6	1	1	4	14	13	2
Docket Adjustments	(34)	(108)	(91)	(38)	(7)	8	(16)	83	202	16
Cases Added:										
New Cases Filed	6,705	7,474	1,672	1,233	195	752	1,122	3,353	4,164	316
Other Cases Reaching Docket:										
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	9	8	2	7	0	0	3	0	0	0
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	248	156	151	46	6	14	13	92	252	6
Total Cases on Docket	15,236	12,707	4,208	3,075	381	1,304	2,491	5,442	6,462	633
Dispositions:										
Change of Venue Transfers	22	5	23	21	0	14	5	9	11	1
Default Judgments	125	287	43	3	8	7	30	187	100	12
Agreed Judgments	1,272	1,295	190	42	12	84	101	527	1,080	31
Summary Judgments	4	3	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	1
Final Judgments:										
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	3,921	4,621	848	455	98	447	412	1,307	1,818	125
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	25	30	10	5	2	10	2	14	9	0
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	2	3	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	573	457	207	14	13	23	133	5	9	3
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	462	392	144	291	10	16	189	649	607	76
All Other Dispositions	212	161	155	83	33	97	108	422	614	49
Total Cases Disposed	6,618	7,254	1,627	914	176	698	984	3,123	4,250	298
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	38	36	19	18	1	2	8	6	2	2
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:										
<i>Active Cases</i>	8,616	5,458	2,582	2,147	205	606	1,502	2,328	2,222	335
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	28	16	9	13	1	1	6	5	3	2

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FAMILY CASES								
Cases on Docket:	All Other Family Law Cases	Post-Judgment Actions				Total Cases		
		Modification - Custody	Modification - Other	Enforcement	Title IV-D			
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	3,138	1,657	2,758	1,698	4,679	37,855		
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	17	2	8	20	189	353		
Docket Adjustments	342	(138)	54	(39)	(170)	64		
Cases Added:								
New Cases Filed	1,491	958	1,208	794	4,674	36,111		
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	13	1	2	2	194	241		
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	722	424	345	318	1,295	4,088		
Total Cases on Docket	5,706	2,902	4,367	2,773	10,672	78,359		
Dispositions:								
Change of Venue Transfers	23	75	71	35	123	438		
Default Judgments	28	22	28	23	135	1,038		
Agreed Judgments	264	206	241	203	1,310	6,858		
Summary Judgments	2	0	0	0	3	20		
Final Judgments:								
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	860	442	597	260	1,998	18,209		
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	4	4	1	0	28	144		
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	2	0	1	0	0	17		
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	185	120	102	71	26	1,941		
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	178	51	72	111	538	3,786		
All Other Dispositions	636	162	172	242	1,020	4,166		
Total Cases Disposed	2,182	1,082	1,285	945	5,181	36,617		
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	14	7	10	6	218	387		
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	3,519	1,820	3,079	1,832	5,250	41,501		
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	9	1	9	14	236	353		
Age of Cases Disposed:							Additional Court Activity:	
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	Total Cases	Total	
Number of Cases	15,879	7,552	6,184	2,269	4,733	36,617		
							Cases in Which Jury Selected	35
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared	0
							Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued	1,914
							Protective Orders Signed	887
							Cases Set for Review	1,030
							Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self	7,986

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JUVENILE CASES											
	Delinquent Conduct										
	CINS	Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicides	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Assault	Indecency with or Sexual Assault of Child	Agg. Robbery or Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft
Cases on Docket:											
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	477	1	4	1	275	764	256	73	328	456	83
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	2	0	0	60	135	5	6	27	28	7
Docket Adjustments	(102)	1	2	2	41	151	31	23	49	83	22
Cases Added:											
New Petitions Filed	335	3	2	1	349	944	296	70	351	539	92
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	2	0	0	10	8	8	4	6	6	0
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	17	0	0	1	76	139	59	12	102	99	22
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	12	0	0	0	21	47	4	1	3	12	5
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	1	0	0	0	6	14	19	4	13	15	3
Total Cases on Docket	740	7	8	5	778	2,067	673	187	852	1,210	227
Adjudications:											
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:											
<i>Plea of True</i>	68	2	0	0	201	485	184	52	243	307	66
<i>By the Court</i>	15	0	1	0	16	56	22	5	37	29	6
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	7	3	0	0	1	1
Total Findings of DC/CINS	83	2	1	0	218	548	209	57	280	337	73
Deferred Prosecution	7	0	0	0	19	79	1	3	23	44	4
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	2	1	0	4	0	17	6	6	3	0
Findings of No DC or No CINS:											
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	0
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	3	2	0
Dismissals	64	0	0	0	81	275	78	5	46	148	16
Motions to Modify Disposition:											
<i>Denied</i>	2	0	0	0	6	16	6	1	10	10	6
<i>Granted</i>	11	0	0	1	58	101	40	14	76	83	17
All Other Adjudications/Findings	8	0	0	1	16	34	26	6	21	36	3
Total Cases Adjudicated	175	4	3	2	403	1,056	377	93	465	663	119
Placed on Inactive Status	19	0	0	0	31	76	6	1	6	20	5
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	547	3	5	3	347	941	291	93	382	529	102
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	6	2	0	0	67	158	6	6	29	34	8
Dispositions:											
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS											
Probation Granted											
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	1	0	0	52	105	47	11	98	80	23
<i>All Other Probation</i>	70	0	0	1	126	273	129	23	127	198	30
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.											
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	1	1	0	8	1	2	10	1	2	0
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	11	11	10	5	15	8	9
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	2	0	0	0	24	41	13	4	10	40	0
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.											
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	7	8	11	1	16	9	1
All Other Dispositions	11	0	0	1	42	80	32	6	67	66	16

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JUVENILE CASES								
	Delinquent Conduct					Total Cases	Total Delinquent Conduct Cases	
	Felony Drug Offenses	Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	DWI	Contempt of Court	All Other Offenses		Felonies	Misdemeanors
Cases on Docket:								
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	126	742	6	21	2,987	6,600	958	1,866
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	19	68	0	0	118	475	32	48
Docket Adjustments	56	109	2	1	2	473	58	290
Cases Added:								
New Petitions Filed	202	833	12	30	1,233	5,292	1,520	2,181
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	1	5	0	0	20	70	27	27
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	35	127	0	10	229	928	372	428
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	7	29	0	0	47	188	10	21
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	8	11	0	1	97	192	57	66
Total Cases on Docket	435	1,856	20	63	4,615	13,743	3,002	4,879
Adjudications:								
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:								
<i>Plea of True</i>	112	467	3	22	694	2,906	934	1,130
<i>By the Court</i>	11	51	0	1	94	344	136	148
<i>By the Jury</i>	1	1	0	0	5	20	11	7
Total Findings of DC/CINS	124	519	3	23	793	3,270	1,081	1,285
Deferred Prosecution	23	115	0	0	69	387	84	228
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	2	2	0	0	1	44	24	4
Findings of No DC or No CINS:								
<i>By the Court</i>	1	0	0	0	2	10	5	2
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	1	0	0	1	6	1	4
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	1	1	0	0	3	16	6	6
Dismissals	48	199	1	13	446	1,420	275	668
Motions to Modify Disposition:								
<i>Denied</i>	4	16	0	1	27	105	35	55
<i>Granted</i>	29	84	0	5	181	700	296	318
All Other Adjudications/Findings	14	27	1	1	68	262	101	134
Total Cases Adjudicated	245	963	5	43	1,588	6,204	1,902	2,698
Placed on Inactive Status	6	46	0	0	72	288	15	58
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	185	847	15	20	2,966	7,276	1,086	2,143
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	17	85	0	0	132	550	36	65
Dispositions:								
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS								
Probation Granted								
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	32	141	0	8	166	764	287	337
<i>All Other Probation</i>	79	304	3	16	437	1,816	651	826
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.								
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	1	1	0	0	7	35	17	5
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	5	2	0	0	29	105	77	13
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	6	39	0	2	51	232	74	134
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.								
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	5	1	0	0	20	79	57	15
All Other Dispositions	16	69	0	2	146	554	216	280

Statutory County Courts

Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014

100 Percent Reporting Rate

1,056 Reports Received Out of a Possible 1,056

JUVENILE CASES									
Age of Cases Adjudicated:					Total Cases	Additional Court Activity:			
30 Days or Less	31 to 90 Days	91 to 180 Days	Over 180 Days	CINS		DC	Total		
Number of Cases	1,363	2,422	1,141	1,278	6,204	Grand Jury Approvals	---	14	14
						Release or Transfer Hearings	---	9	9
						Detention Hearings	88	6,566	6,654
						Cases Set for Review	6	325	331
						Competency Hearings	0	27	27
						Motions to Suppress Granted			
						/Denied	1	11	12
						Applications for Sealing Records	4	190	194
						Motions for Sex Offender Un- or Deregistration	0	17	17
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel	95	4,364	4,459
						Cases with Retained Counsel	73	1,160	1,233

PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP CASES								
Cases on Docket:	Decedents' Estates			Guardianships		All Other Cases	Total Cases	
	Independent Administration	Dependent Administration	All Other Estate Proceedings	Minor	Adult			
New Cases, Applications or Contests Filed	24,887	1,937	13,422	531	4,026	4,790	49,593	
Other Cases Added:								
<i>Ancillary Cases</i>	366	144	43	3	64	56	676	
<i>All Other Matters</i>	3,433	1,994	1,659	577	11,974	10,706	30,343	
Inventories Filed	17,811	983	---	99	1,032	---	19,925	
Guardianship of Person Reports Filed	---	---	---	628	20,201	---	20,829	
Annual or Final Accounts Filed	---	1,605	---	1,103	4,947	---	7,655	
Additional Information:								
	Guardianships:	Total					Total	
	Dismissed or Denied	305			Sec. 683 Investigations		4,320	
	Granted	3,673			Ch. 48 Removals		91	
	Closed	2,032			Hearings Held		52,623	
	Active	40,779			Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self		2,329	

MENTAL HEALTH CASES					
	Temporary Mental Health Services	Extended Mental Health Services	Modification		Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications
			Inpatient to Outpatient	Outpatient to Inpatient	
Intake					
New Applications Filed	36,002	348	109	84	New Applications Filed 3,316
Applications for Protective Custody Signed	33,847	---	---	---	Dismissal Prior to Hearing 459
					Hearings Held 2,178
Hearings					Disposition at Hearing
Probable Cause Hearings Held	24,463	---	---	---	<i>Denied</i> 101
Release/Dismissal Prior to Final Hearing	22,185	19	10	5	<i>Granted</i> 2,303
Final Commitment Hearings Held	7,804	276	97	30	
Other Information					
Disposition at Final Hearing					
<i>Denied (Release)</i>	3,013	30	1	0	
<i>Granted (Commit)</i>					
Inpatient	7,845	224	5	---	
Outpatient	266	33	---	20	

Constitutional County Courts

210 constitutional county courts heard court cases

In 2014, 210 of the state’s 254 constitutional county courts heard court cases. The county judge in the other 44 counties either had no judicial functions or assisted in an as-needed basis with cases filed in another court.²⁷

More than 91,000 civil, criminal, juvenile, probate, and mental health cases filed

Cases Added — In 2014, more than 91,000 civil, criminal, juvenile, probate, and mental health cases were filed in the constitutional county courts—down 2.8 percent from the number filed in the previous year.^{28, 29} Filings declined in all case categories. Juvenile filings declined by more than 25 percent, while civil and criminal cases fell 7.0 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively.

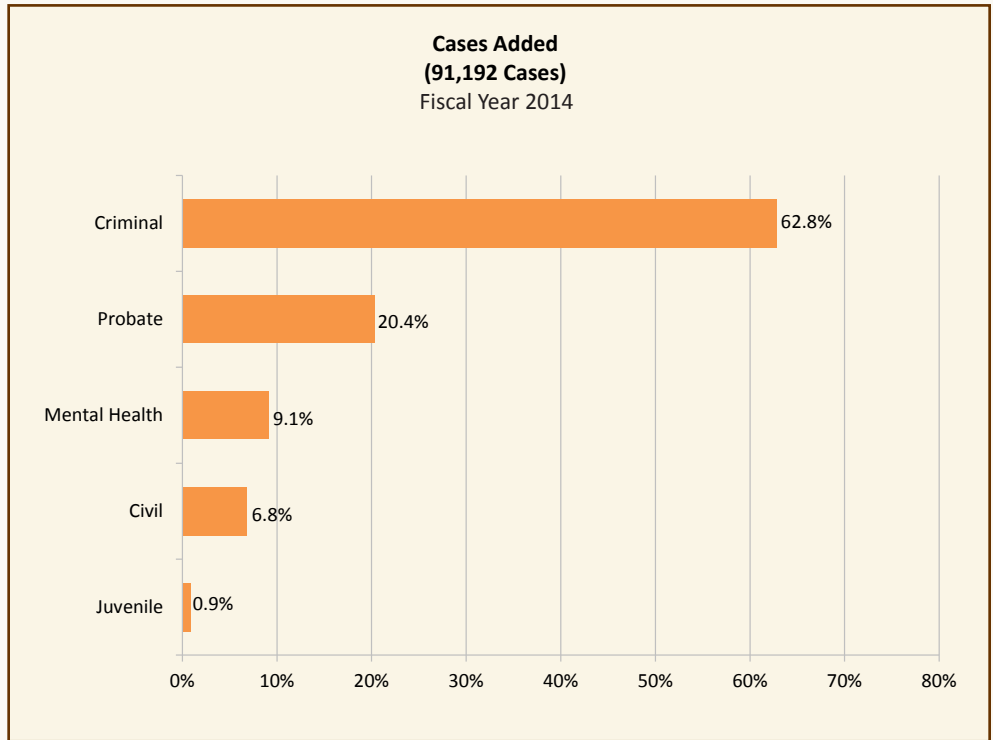


Figure 55 - Cases Added

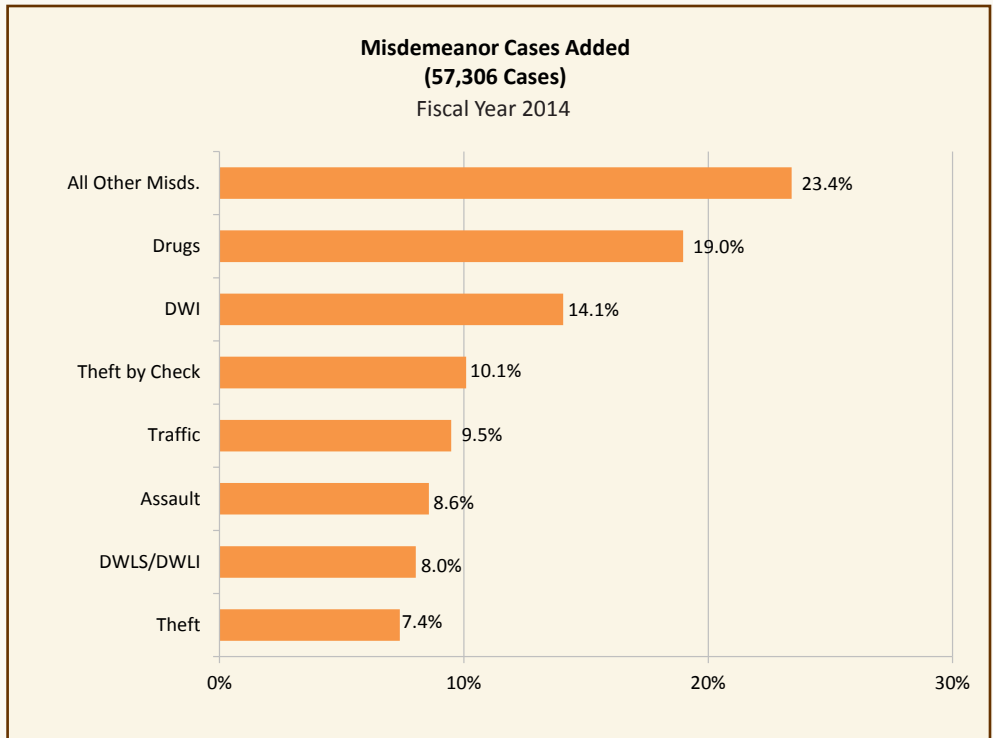


Figure 56 - Misdemeanor Cases Added

²⁷ The judicial functions of the constitutional county courts vary greatly by county. Some courts may have very limited jurisdiction.

²⁸ “Filed” includes new cases, appeals from lower courts, petitions for transfer to adult criminal court, motions to revoke, and other cases added to the docket.

²⁹ Juvenile, probate and mental health caseloads are discussed in more detail in separate sections of this report.

Criminal cases accounted for the majority of cases filed in the constitutional county courts. Excluding the “all other misdemeanors” category, the largest category of criminal cases filed in 2014 involved drug offenses, followed by driving while intoxicated, and theft by check.

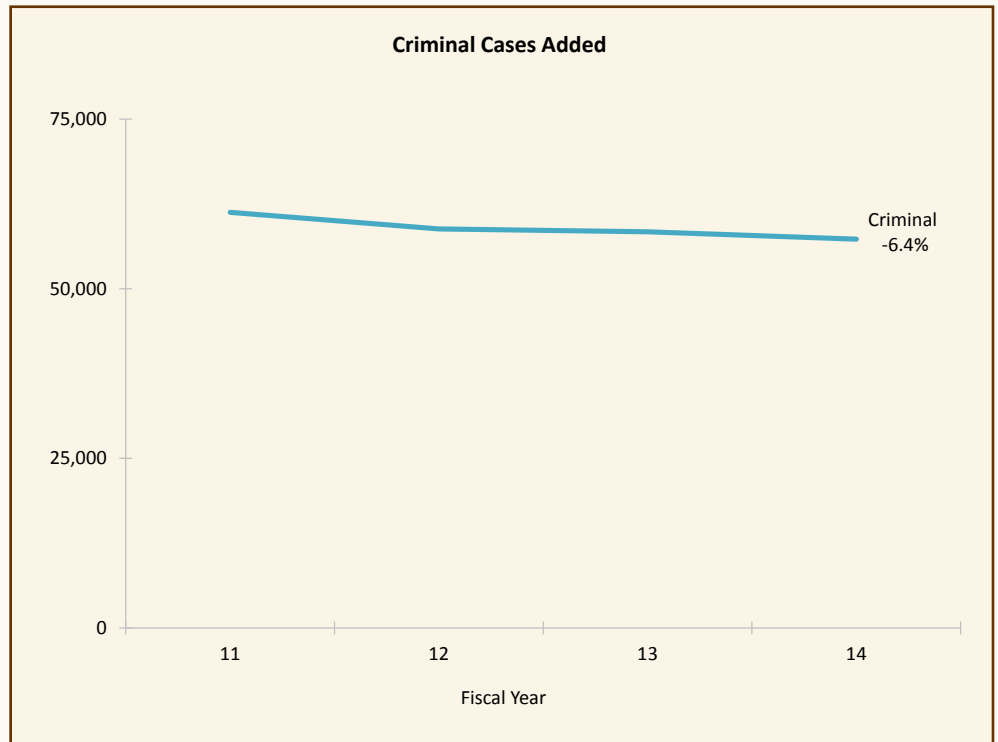


Figure 57 - Criminal Cases Added

Civil cases related to criminal matters—a reporting category that includes bond forfeitures, expunctions, nondisclosures, occupational licenses, and seizures and forfeitures—accounted for more than 60 percent of the courts’ civil caseload. “All other” civil cases comprised the next largest share of civil cases added.

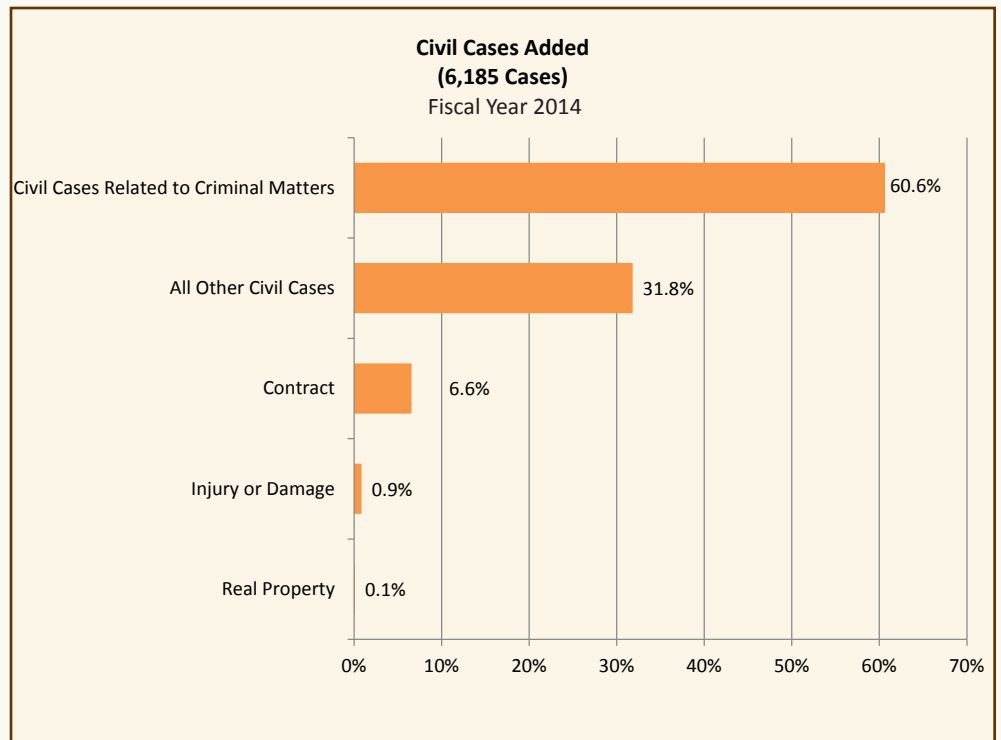


Figure 58 - Civil Cases Added

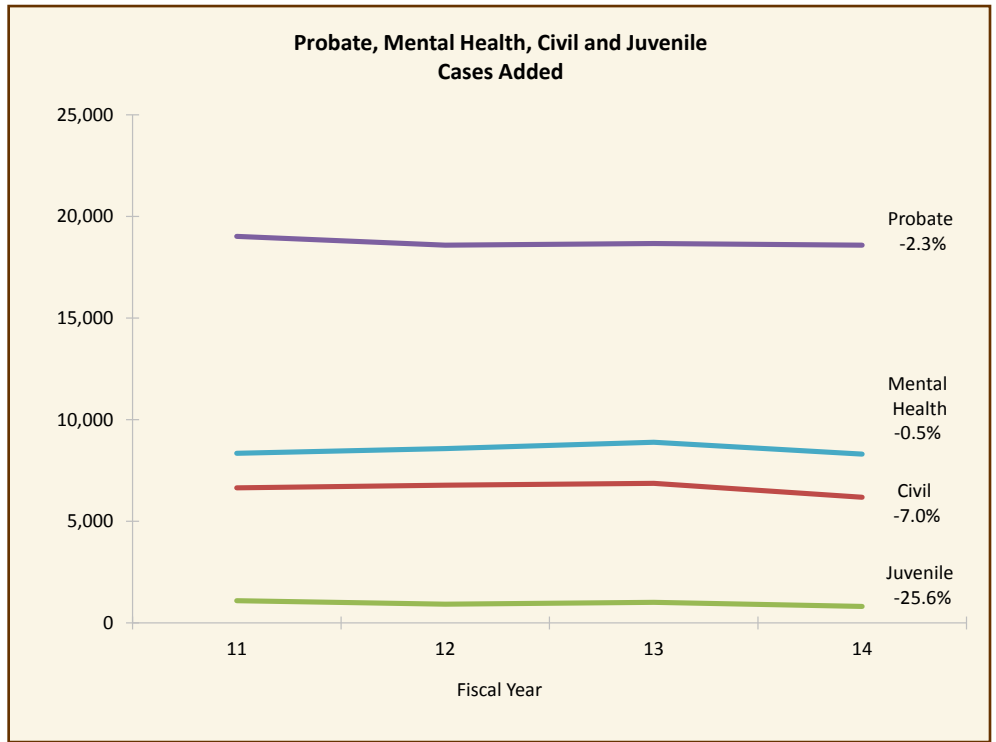


Figure 59 - Probate, Mental Health, Civil and Juvenile Cases Added

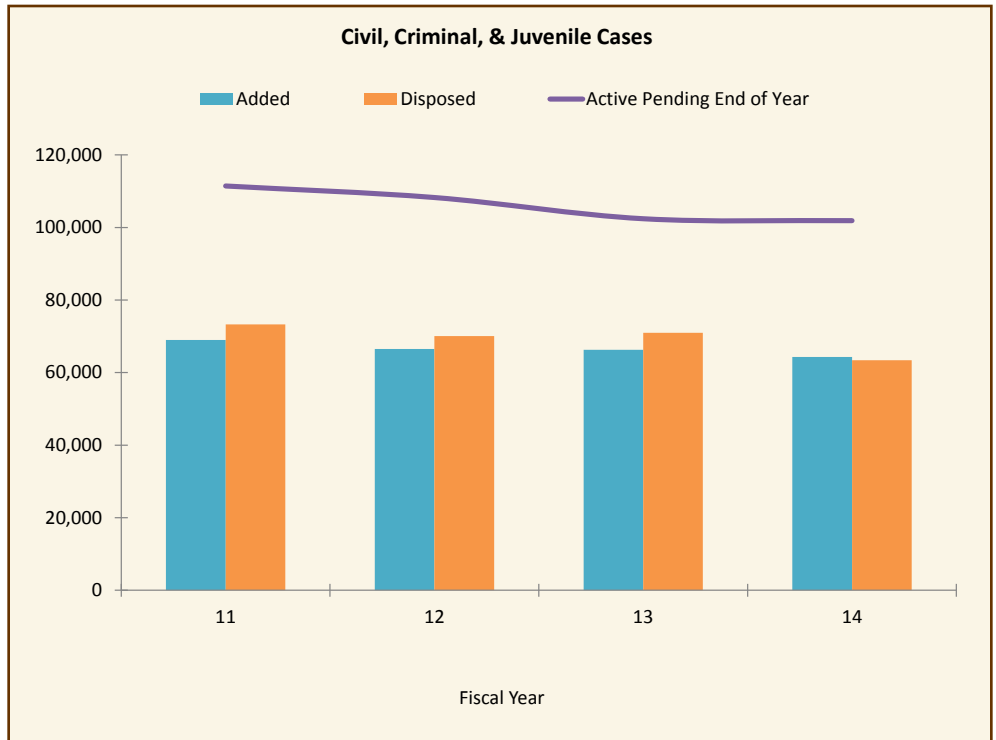


Figure 60 - Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Cases

*63,421 civil, criminal,
and juvenile cases
disposed*

Clearance Rates — In 2014, constitutional county courts disposed of 63,421 civil, criminal, and juvenile cases, a decrease of 10.7 percent from the previous year. The overall clearance rate was 98.6 percent. Civil and juvenile case clearance rates improved from the previous year to 79.4 percent and 97.5 percent, respectively. The criminal case clearance rate decreased from the previous year from 110.9 percent to 100.7 percent.

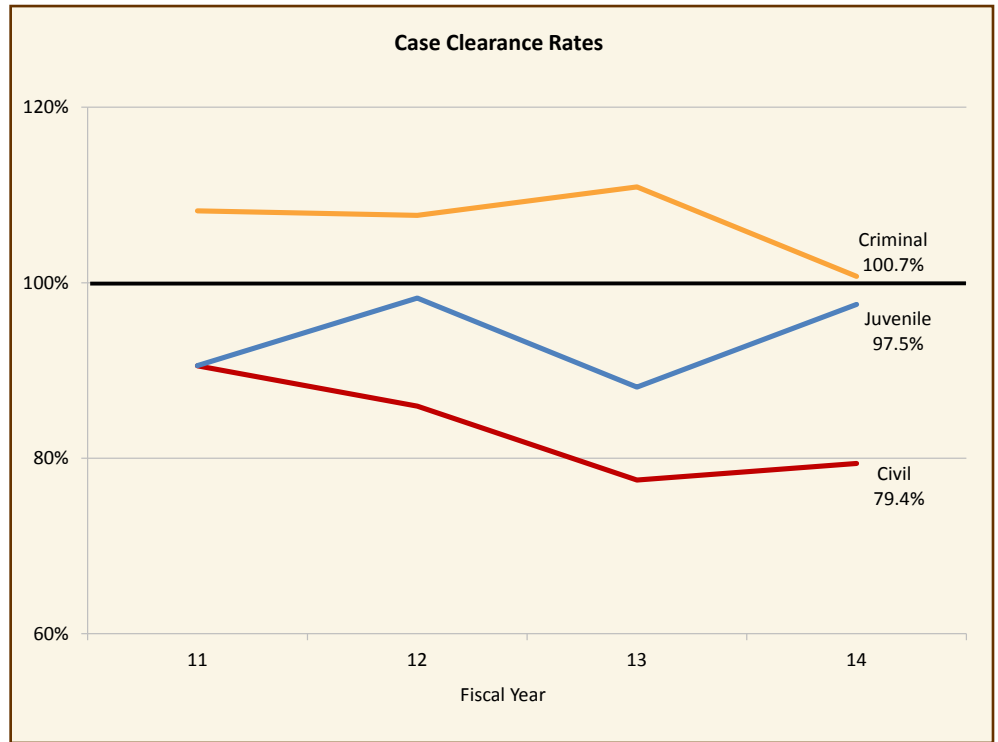


Figure 61 - Case Clearance Rates

Manner of Disposition — In 2014, constitutional county courts disposed of a total of 4,911 civil cases, a decrease of 7.8 percent from the previous year. Excluding the “Other Disposition” category, the largest share of civil cases was dismissals by the plaintiff, followed by agreed judgments. Nearly nine percent of cases were decided by a bench trial, and only 0.3 percent were reported as decided by a jury verdict.

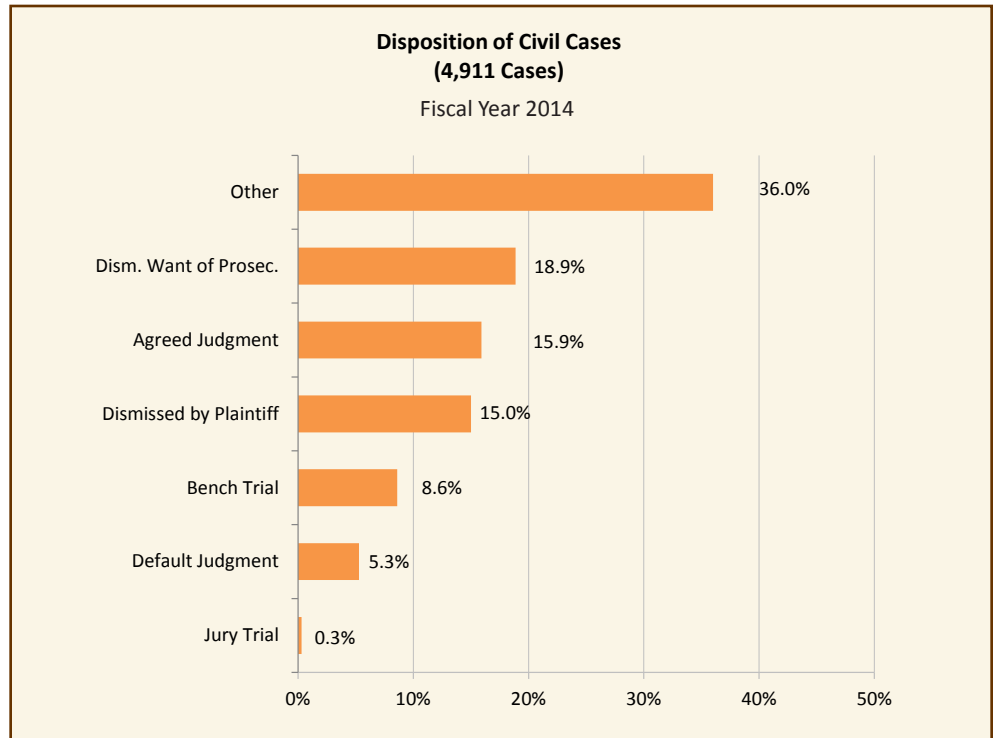


Figure 62 - Disposition of Civil Cases

The constitutional county courts also disposed of 57,719 criminal cases, a decrease of 10.9 percent from the previous year. Defendants were convicted in 41.4 percent, and acquitted in 0.1 percent, of the 53,896 cases that did not involve a motion to revoke probation. The highest conviction rate occurred in cases involving a second offense of driving while intoxicated/under the influence, and the lowest rate occurred in traffic cases. Overall, 97.1 percent of convictions were the result of a guilty or nolo contendere plea.

Approximately one percent of all criminal cases (excluding motions to revoke probation) went to trial in 2014. The highest trial rate occurred in second offense of driving while intoxicated/under the influence cases (2.9 percent).

697 cases went to trial

Of the 697 cases that went to trial, 16.1 percent were tried before a jury. Defendants were convicted in 74.1 percent of cases that went to jury trial, compared to 97.1 percent that were convicted in cases that were decided by a judge.

Dismissals constituted nearly 41 percent of all criminal cases disposed of in 2014 (excluding motions to revoke probation). The highest rate of dismissal occurred in theft by check cases (63.6 percent).

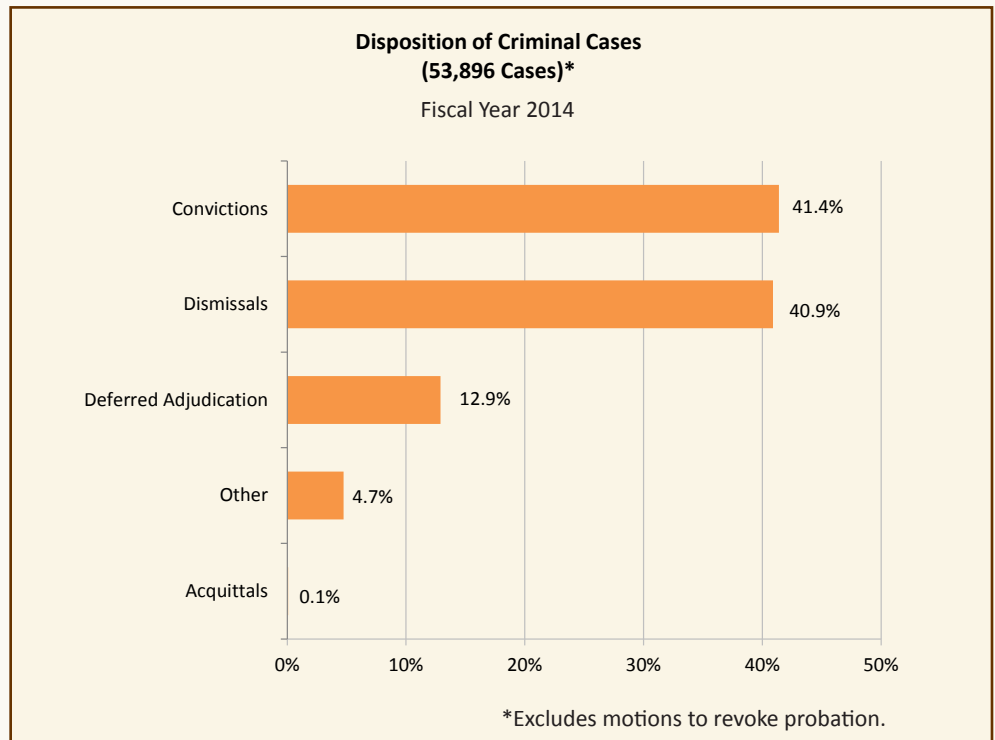


Figure 63 - Disposition of Criminal Cases

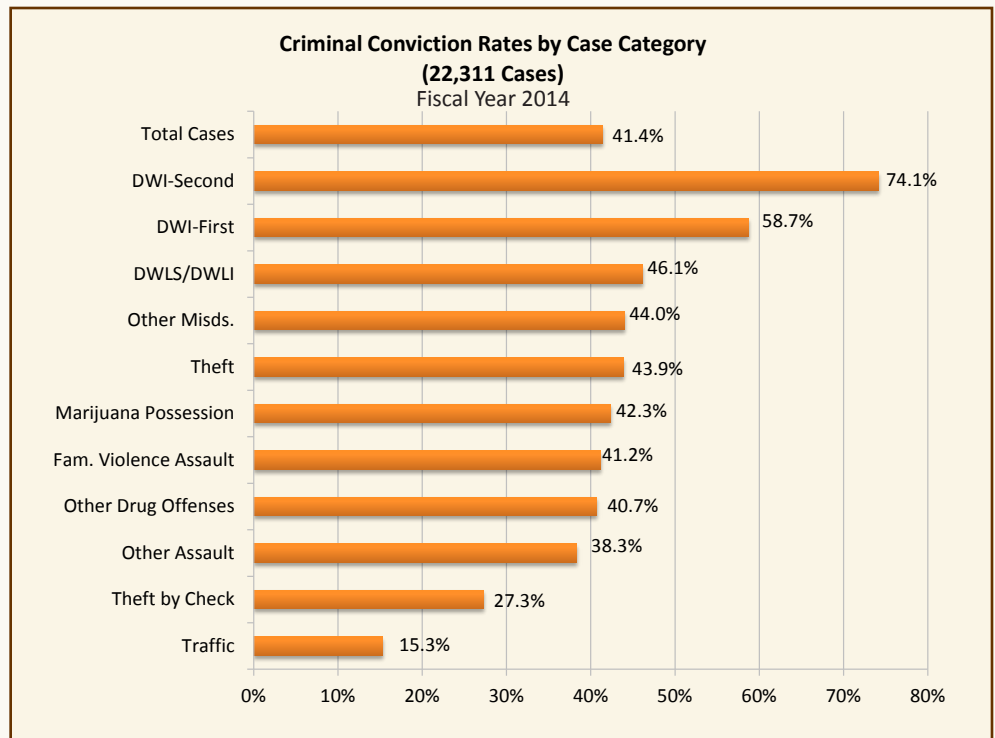


Figure 64 - Criminal Conviction Rates by Case Category

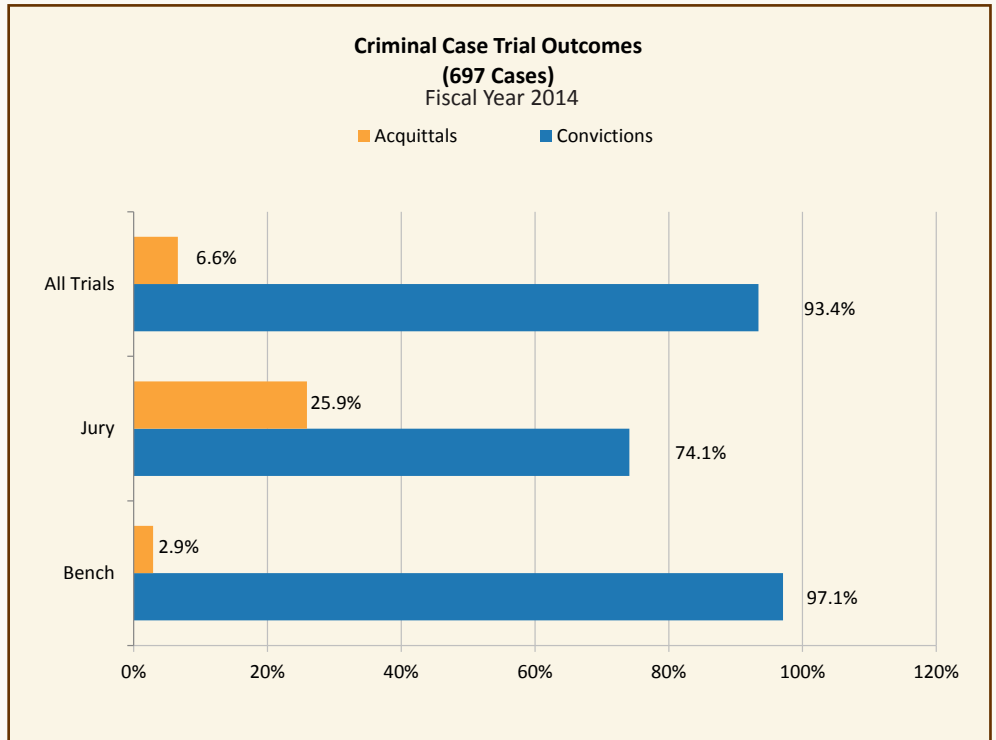


Figure 65 - Criminal Case Trial Outcomes

Age of Cases Disposed — In 2014, 56.2 percent of criminal cases were disposed of within 90 days, more than the 53.5 percent processed within the same time period in the prior year. Approximately 77 percent of civil cases were disposed of within 12 months, a decrease from the 83.2 percent disposed of within the same time frame during the previous year.

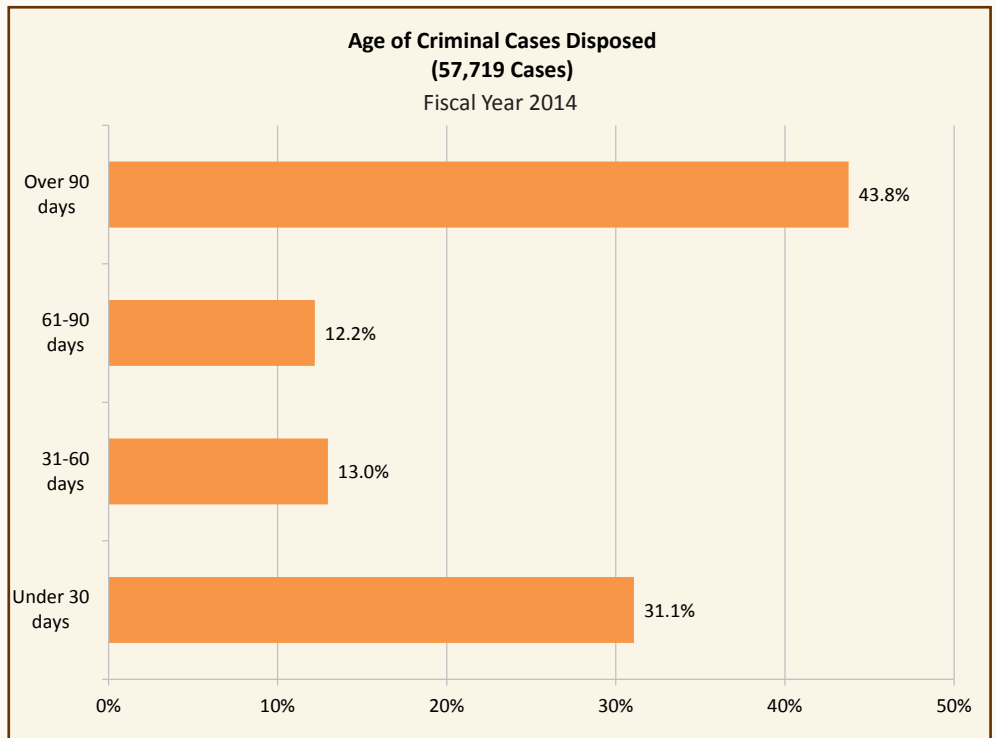


Figure 66 - Age of Criminal Cases Disposed

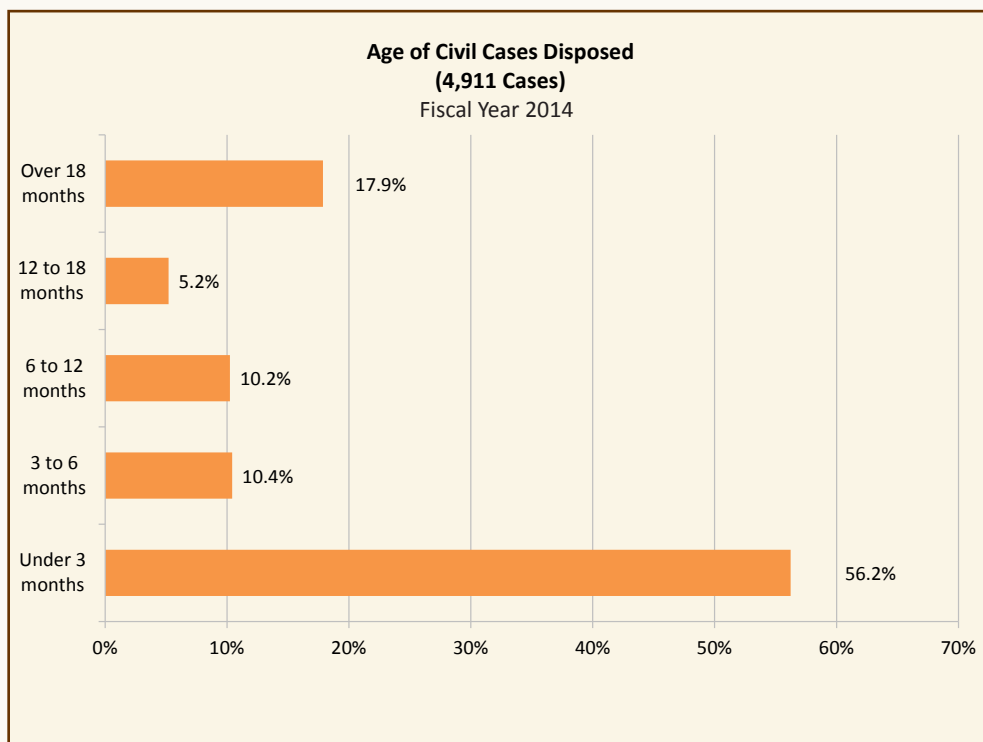


Figure 67 - Age of Civil Cases Disposed

Self-Represented Litigants — In 2014, the petitioner was self-represented at the time of filing in 21.4 percent of cases, which was an increase of approximately one percentage point from the previous year. The percentage of self-represented litigants in probate cases, however, declined from 5.2 percent the previous year to 4.6 percent.

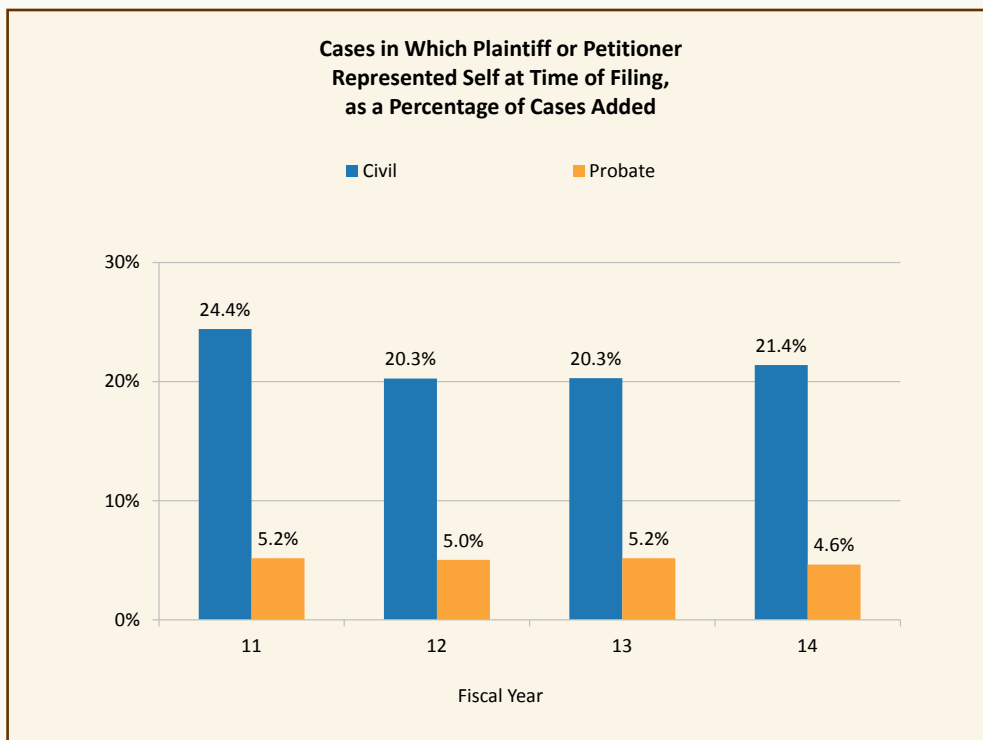


Figure 68 - Cases in Which Plaintiff or Petitioner Represented Self at Time of Filing, as a Percentage of Cases Added

**Constitutional County Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

**100 Percent Reporting Rate
2,520 Reports Received Out of a Possible 2,520**

MISDEMEANOR CASES												
	DWI - First Offense	DWI - Second Offense	Theft	Theft by Check	Drug Possession - Marijuana	Drug Offenses - Other	Family Violence Assault	Assault - Other	Traffic	DWLS / DWLI	All Other Misdemea- nor Cases	Total Cases
Cases on Docket:												
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:												
<i>Active Cases</i>	13,448	1,683	7,115	15,122	6,602	3,879	1,868	3,740	7,379	3,927	19,008	83,771
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	2,249	289	2,625	4,276	1,545	399	327	433	610	672	2,562	15,987
Docket Adjustments	(248)	(55)	(172)	(125)	(68)	91	(78)	8	(54)	78	(153)	(776)
Cases Added:												
New Cases Filed	5,499	1,388	3,696	5,329	6,528	2,875	2,449	1,853	2,623	4,029	11,779	48,048
Appealed from Lower Courts	1	0	2	1	1	63	4	10	2,670	71	586	3,409
Other Cases Reaching Docket:												
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	795	271	500	425	941	297	296	219	84	472	946	5,246
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	789	200	1,140	2,185	1,105	409	323	275	212	789	1,884	9,311
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	85	20	30	29	127	41	49	29	55	31	107	603
Total Cases on Docket	20,369	3,507	12,311	22,966	15,236	7,655	4,911	6,134	12,969	9,397	34,157	149,612
Dispositions:												
Convictions:												
<i>Guilty Plea/Nolo Contendere</i>	3,589	1,048	1,716	1,577	2,821	1,096	967	714	754	1,993	5,385	21,660
<i>By the Court</i>	107	33	35	48	78	25	35	24	18	32	133	568
<i>By the Jury</i>	9	6	5	21	2	3	8	4	7	0	18	83
Total Convictions	3,705	1,087	1,756	1,646	2,901	1,124	1,010	742	779	2,025	5,536	22,311
Deferred Adjudication	347	32	473	352	1,438	331	296	259	1,510	663	1,249	6,950
Acquittals:												
<i>By the Court</i>	2	1	2	1	1	0	4	1	2	1	2	17
<i>By the Jury</i>	7	2	1	0	2	0	6	2	1	1	7	29
Total Acquittals	9	3	3	1	3	0	10	3	3	2	9	46
Dismissals	1,891	286	1,635	3,836	2,118	1,210	993	862	2,453	1,495	5,257	22,036
Motions to Revoke:												
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	384	150	307	235	546	151	159	116	56	236	594	2,934
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	159	50	78	78	166	39	38	27	23	95	136	889
All Other Dispositions	359	58	132	201	396	97	142	73	346	207	542	2,553
Total Cases Disposed	6,854	1,666	4,384	6,349	7,568	2,952	2,648	2,082	5,170	4,723	13,323	57,719
Placed on Inactive Status	899	266	1,164	2,449	1,209	537	385	313	253	864	2,148	10,487
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:												
<i>Active Cases</i>	12,728	1,599	6,861	14,439	6,546	4,182	1,905	3,783	7,586	3,861	18,854	82,344
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	2,247	331	2,551	4,269	1,551	511	362	427	611	696	2,658	16,214
Sentencing Information:												
Local Jail	975	329	805	788	1,281	518	508	378	174	808	2,841	9,405
Probation/Comm. Supervision	2,138	620	746	398	1,244	444	466	327	453	692	1,586	9,114
Fine Only	140	27	99	305	293	54	49	31	242	247	389	1,876
Other	250	46	127	172	278	107	69	80	253	200	437	2,019
Age of Cases Disposed:												
	30 Days or Less	31 to 60 Days	61 to 90 Days	Over 90 Days	Total Cases	Additional Court Activity:						Total
Number of Cases	17,932	7,487	7,042	25,258	57,719	Cases in Which Jury Selected						60
						Cases in Which Mistrial Declared						0
						Motions to Suppress Granted or Denied						86
						Competency Hearings Held						12
						Cases Set for Review						765
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel						8,121
						Cases With Retained Counsel						6,932

**Constitutional County Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

**100 Percent Reporting Rate
2,520 Reports Received Out of a Possible 2,520**

CIVIL CASES									
	Injury or Damage		Real Property	Contract			Civil Cases Relating to Criminal Matters	All Other Civil Cases	Total Cases
	Motor Vehicle	Other Injury or Damage		Consumer/Commercial/Debt	Landlord/Tenant	Other Contract			
Cases on Docket:									
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	429	198	18	2,237	53	221	6,789	7,774	17,719
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	34	14	0	444	5	39	495	1,036	2,067
Docket Adjustments	(21)	(58)	0	(309)	(10)	(48)	(261)	(289)	(996)
Cases Added:									
New Cases Filed	33	16	5	292	24	31	3,678	1,906	5,985
Appealed from Lower Courts	2	0	1	14	24	3	5	53	102
Other Cases Reaching Docket:									
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	1	0	0	3	2	1	37	6	50
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2	0	0	15	1	2	68	10	98
Total Cases on Docket	446	156	24	2,252	94	210	10,316	9,460	22,958
Dispositions:									
Change of Venue Transfers	3	0	0	2	0	2	4	17	28
Default Judgments	11	0	0	82	1	7	98	61	260
Agreed Judgments	4	0	0	18	3	2	575	179	781
Summary Judgments	0	0	0	4	1	0	13	2	20
Final Judgments:									
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	3	4	1	14	8	2	278	113	423
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	3	13
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosec.</i>	10	5	0	54	7	6	727	118	927
<i>Non-Suited/Dism. by Plaintiff</i>	9	6	0	49	5	4	553	111	737
All Other Dispositions	16	4	1	38	9	5	683	964	1,720
Total Cases Disposed	56	19	2	262	34	28	2,942	1,568	4,911
Placed on Inactive Status	2	0	0	12	4	2	101	34	155
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	387	137	22	1,979	60	208	7,424	8,199	18,416
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	35	14	0	452	3	12	411	719	1,646
Age of Cases Disposed:	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	Total Cases			
Number of Cases	2,762	512	503	256	878	4,911			
							Additional Court Activity:	Total	
							Cases in Which Jury Selected		2
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared		2
							Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued		6
							Protective Orders Signed		157
							Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self		1,323

**Constitutional County Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

**100 Percent Reporting Rate
2,520 Reports Received Out of a Possible 2,520**

JUVENILE CASES											
	Delinquent Conduct										
	CINS	Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicide	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Assault	Indecency with or Sexual Assault of Child	Agg. Robbery or	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft
Cases on Docket:											
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	210	0	1	1	24	104	74	8	59	45	10
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	67	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	2	1	0
Docket Adjustments	(2)	0	0	(2)	6	3	1	(1)	(3)	3	2
Cases Added:											
New Petitions Filed	38	1	1	2	20	82	37	4	76	63	7
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	0
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	8	0	0	0	3	4	3	1	19	9	2
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	5	0	0	0	3	5	4	2	3	4	1
Total Cases on Docket	259	1	2	1	56	203	120	14	154	126	22
Adjudications:											
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:											
<i>Plea of True</i>	3	0	0	0	12	29	15	3	38	21	6
<i>By the Court</i>	1	0	0	0	6	21	6	0	9	12	3
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Findings of DC/CINS	4	0	0	0	19	50	21	3	47	33	9
Deferred Prosecution	20	0	0	0	4	5	1	0	4	11	1
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Findings of No DC or No CINS:											
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Dismissals	17	0	0	0	6	19	18	0	16	16	3
Motions to Modify Disposition:											
<i>Denied</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	4	0
<i>Granted</i>	4	0	0	0	4	7	4	0	11	5	1
All Other Adjudications/Findings	12	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	9	6	1
Total Cases Adjudicated	57	0	0	0	34	88	49	5	90	75	15
Placed on Inactive Status	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	203	1	2	1	22	114	71	9	63	51	7
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	66	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	1	0
Dispositions:											
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS											
Probation Granted											
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	0	0	0	9	23	5	2	31	13	6
<i>All Other Probation</i>	3	0	0	0	2	26	13	0	11	15	1
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.											
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	2	1	4	1	2	1	0
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	3	3	1
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.											
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	1
All Other Dispositions	5	0	0	0	3	9	2	0	15	8	1

**Constitutional County Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

**100 Percent Reporting Rate
2,520 Reports Received Out of a Possible 2,520**

JUVENILE CASES									
	Delinquent Conduct					Total Cases	Total Delinquent Conduct Cases		
	Felony Drug Offenses	Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	DWI	Contempt of Court	All Other Offenses		Felonies	Misdemeanors	
Cases on Docket:									
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	15	64	1	3	552	1,171	296	483	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	2	0	0	274	352	11	7	
Docket Adjustments	(2)	(11)	0	(3)	(55)	(64)	18	(69)	
Cases Added:									
New Petitions Filed	19	89	1	5	220	665	197	281	
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	2	1	0	0	2	12	4	4	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:									
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	2	9	0	1	16	77	30	33	
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	4	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	1	6	0	0	23	57	26	20	
Total Cases on Docket	37	158	2	6	761	1,922	571	756	
Adjudications:									
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:									
<i>Plea of True</i>	9	25	1	0	73	235	99	91	
<i>By the Court</i>	2	19	0	1	51	131	29	51	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	3	4	4	2	
Total Findings of DC/CINS	11	44	1	1	127	370	132	144	
Deferred Prosecution	1	6	0	1	21	75	19	21	
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	
Findings of No DC or No CINS:									
<i>By the Court</i>	1	1	0	0	0	5	3	0	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	1	1	0	0	0	5	3	0	
Dismissals	4	23	0	1	57	180	71	68	
Motions to Modify Disposition:									
<i>Denied</i>	0	5	0	0	6	21	8	13	
<i>Granted</i>	1	10	0	1	13	61	20	25	
All Other Adjudications/Findings	1	8	0	0	33	77	20	23	
Total Cases Adjudicated	19	97	1	4	257	791	275	294	
Placed on Inactive Status	0	1	0	0	3	4	0	1	
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:									
<i>Active Cases</i>	18	62	1	2	499	1,126	298	458	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	1	0	0	276	353	9	7	
Dispositions:									
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS									
Probation Granted									
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	3	24	0	1	52	169	64	66	
<i>All Other Probation</i>	4	16	1	2	24	118	44	57	
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.									
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	2	2	0	0	1	16	7	4	
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	1	1	0	0	15	30	13	3	
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	0	6	0	2	7	20	4	16	
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.									
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	0	0	0	0	3	14	9	5	
All Other Dispositions	3	16	0	0	16	78	27	41	

**Constitutional County Courts
Activity Detail from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

**100 Percent Reporting Rate
2,520 Reports Received Out of a Possible 2,520**

JUVENILE CASES									
Age of Cases Adjudicated:					Additional Court Activity:				
	30 Days or Less	31 to 90 Days	91 to 180 Days	Over 180 Days	Total Cases		CINS	DC	Total
Number of Cases	255	224	102	210	791	Grand Jury Approvals	---	2	2
						Release or Transfer Hearings	---	28	28
						Detention Hearings	69	671	740
						Cases Set for Review	16	28	44
						Competency Hearings	0	4	4
						Motions to Suppress Granted/Denied	0	2	2
						Applications for Sealing Records	0	0	0
						Motions for Sex Offender Un- or Deregistration	0	2	2
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel	30	516	546
						Cases with Retained Counsel	10	105	115
PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP CASES									
Cases on Docket:	Decedents' Estates			Guardianships		All Other Cases	Total Cases		
	Independent Administration	Dependent Administration	All Other Estate Proceedings	Minor	Adult				
New Cases, Applications or Contests Filed	9,119	459	5,413	352	887	681	16,911		
Other Cases Added:									
<i>Ancillary Cases</i>	57	27	92	0	15	0	191		
<i>All Other Matters</i>	493	136	167	35	607	47	1,485		
Inventories Filed	5,117	245	---	42	248	---	5,652		
Guardianship of Person Reports Filed	---	---	---	216	2,744	---	2,960		
Annual or Final Accounts Filed	---	325	---	195	1,170	---	1,690		
Additional Information:									
	Guardianships: Total					Total			
	Dismissed or Denied	42			Sec. 683 Investigations		232		
	Granted	697			Ch. 48 Removals		31		
	Closed	400			Hearings Held		13,860		
	Active	9,635			Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self		863		
MENTAL HEALTH CASES									
	Temporary Mental Health Services	Extended Mental Health Services	Modification		Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications				
			Inpatient to Outpatient	Outpatient to Inpatient					
Intake									
New Applications Filed	6,943	151	2	9	New Applications Filed	1,209			
Orders for Protective Custody Signed	5,701	---	---	---	Dismissal Prior to Hearing Hearings Held	25 805			
Hearings					Disposition at Hearing				
Probable Cause Hearings Held	3,938	---	---	---	<i>Denied</i>	18			
Release/Dismissal Prior to Final Hearing	2,745	2	0	0	<i>Granted</i>	847			
Final Commitment Hearings Held	2,116	58	0	4					
Other Information									
Disposition at Final Hearing									
<i>Denied (Release)</i>	1,081	0	0	0					
<i>Granted (Commit)</i>									
<i>Inpatient</i>	1,125	45	0	---					
<i>Outpatient</i>	81	0	---	0					

Family Law Cases

More than 377,000 family law cases filed

Cases Added — In 2014, more than 377,000 family law cases were filed in the district and statutory county courts, a decrease of 2.2 percent from the previous year. Approximately 25 percent of cases added involved post-judgment matters.

The number of family law cases added to the courts' dockets declined each of the last three years. Despite the decrease in number of cases added each year, family law cases grew each year as a percentage of civil cases filed in the courts, from 51.9 percent in 2011 to 53.7 percent in 2014.

Child support cases filed by the state's Title IV-D agency (the Texas Attorney General's Office) **accounted for the largest share of all family law cases added** during the year (34.9 percent), followed closely by divorce cases (involving cases with or without children) at 34.2 percent.

Since 2011, the number of "All Other Family Cases" dropped by more than 30 percent. The number of post-judgment Title IV-D cases dropped by approximately 28 percent, while the number of new IV-D cases increased by 11.5 percent. Parent-child cases not involving a divorce had the highest percentage of growth at nearly 18 percent.

Parent-child cases not involving a divorce had the highest percentage of growth at nearly 18%

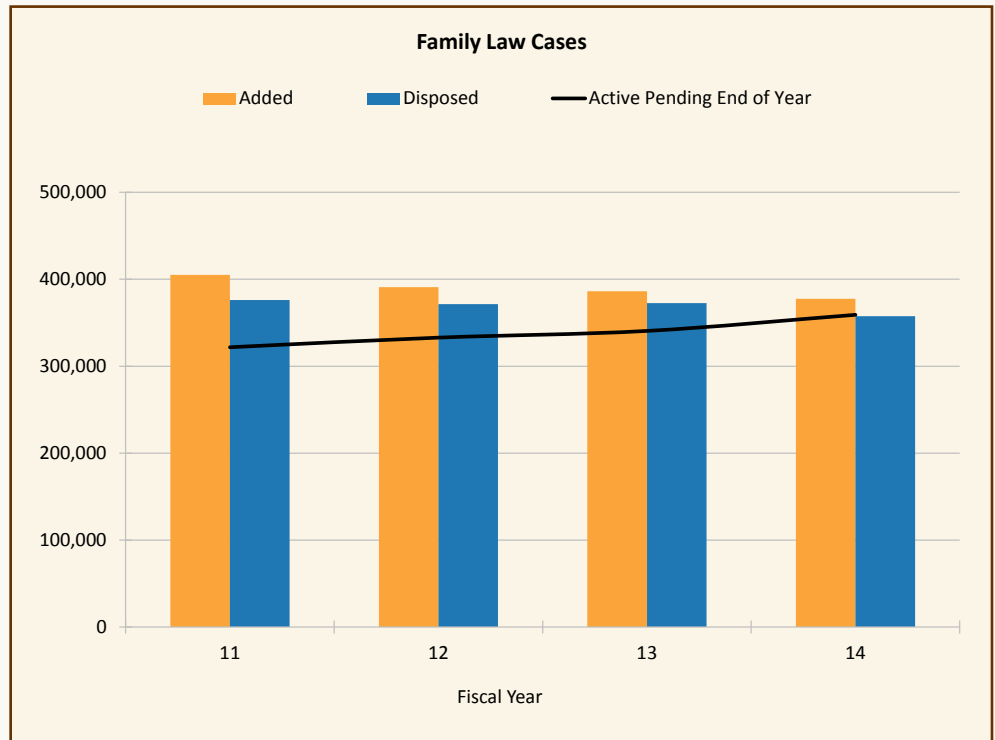


Figure 69 - Family Law Cases

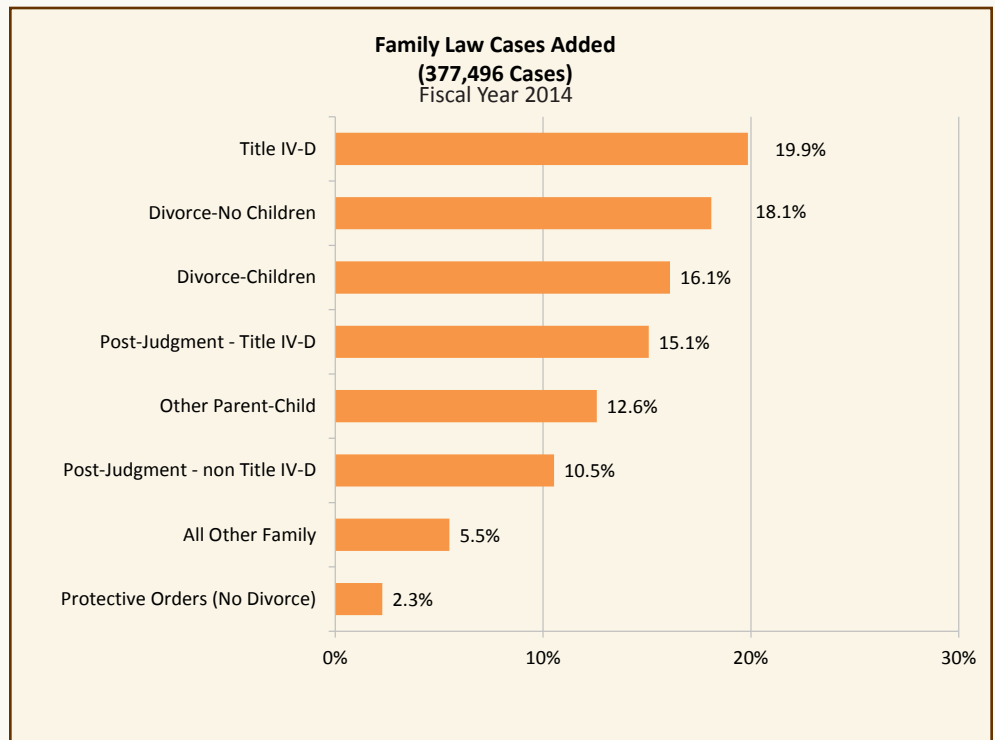


Figure 70 - Family Law Cases Added

Clearance Rates — In 2014, district and statutory county courts disposed of 357,518 family law cases, a decrease of 4.0 percent. Due to filings outpacing dispositions, the clearance rate fell to 94.7 percent, compared to 96.5 percent the previous year.

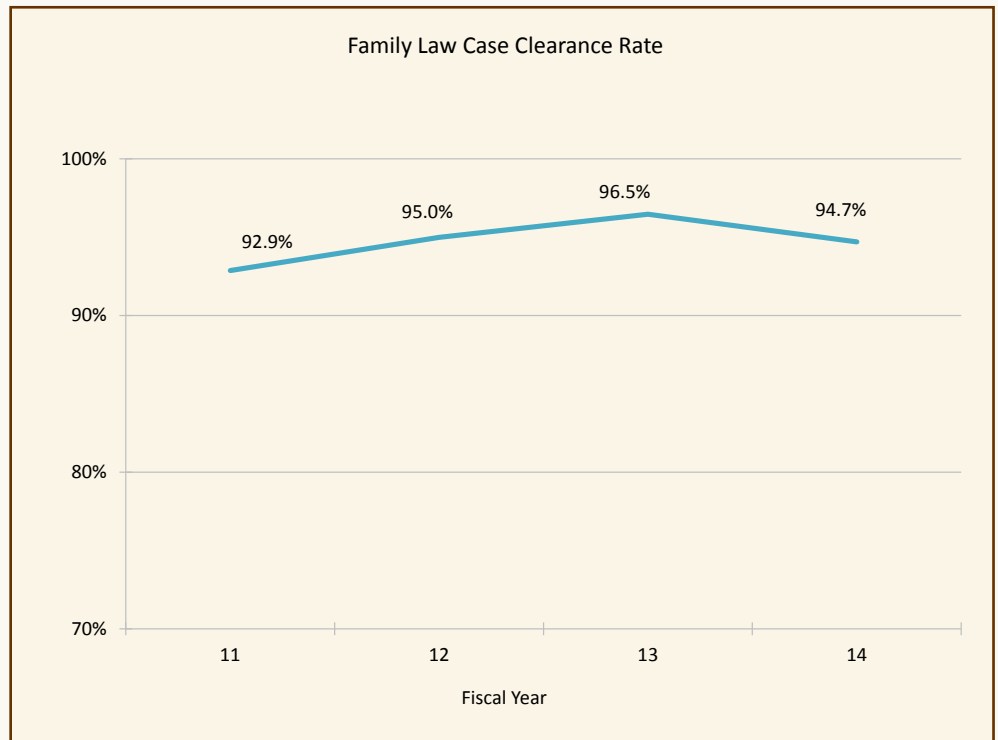


Figure 71 - Family Law Case Clearance Rate

Manner of Disposition — Bench trials and agreed judgments accounted for most of the 357,518 dispositions with each at 30.0 percent of the caseload. Overall, only 0.2 percent of family law cases were settled by a jury or directed verdict. The case categories with the highest jury trial rates were child protection (0.5 percent) and post-judgment custody cases (0.4 percent).

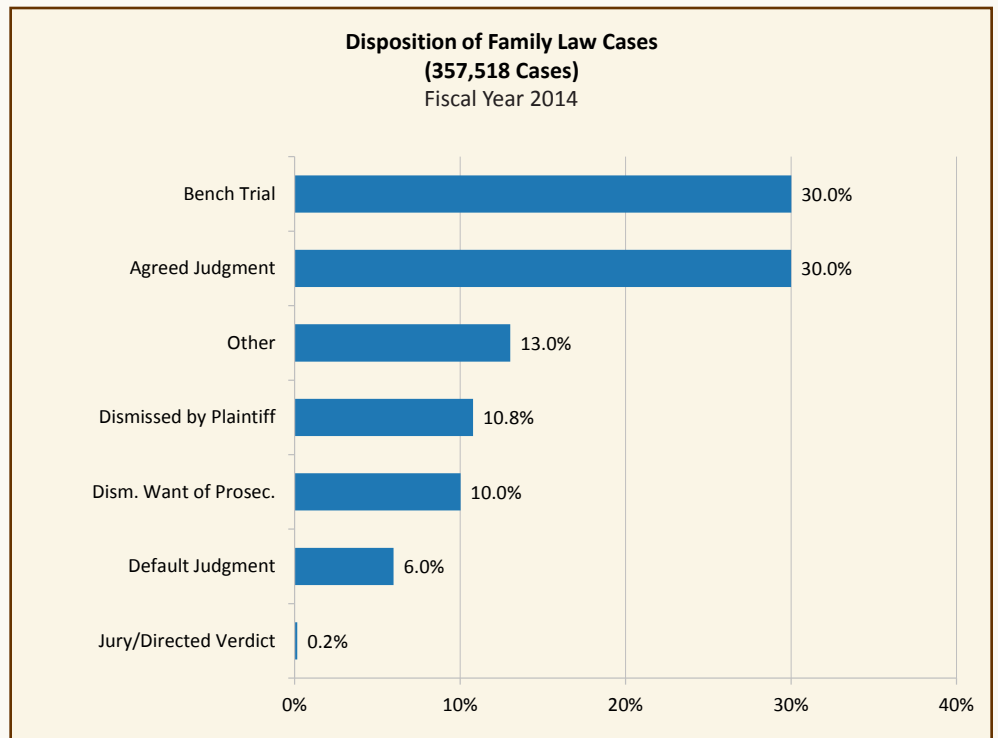


Figure 72 - Disposition of Family Law Cases

Age of Cases Disposed — In 2014, nearly 40 percent of family law cases were disposed of within three months, and 81.9 percent of family law cases were disposed of within 12 months. The percentage of cases disposed of within 12 months declined slightly each year since 2011.

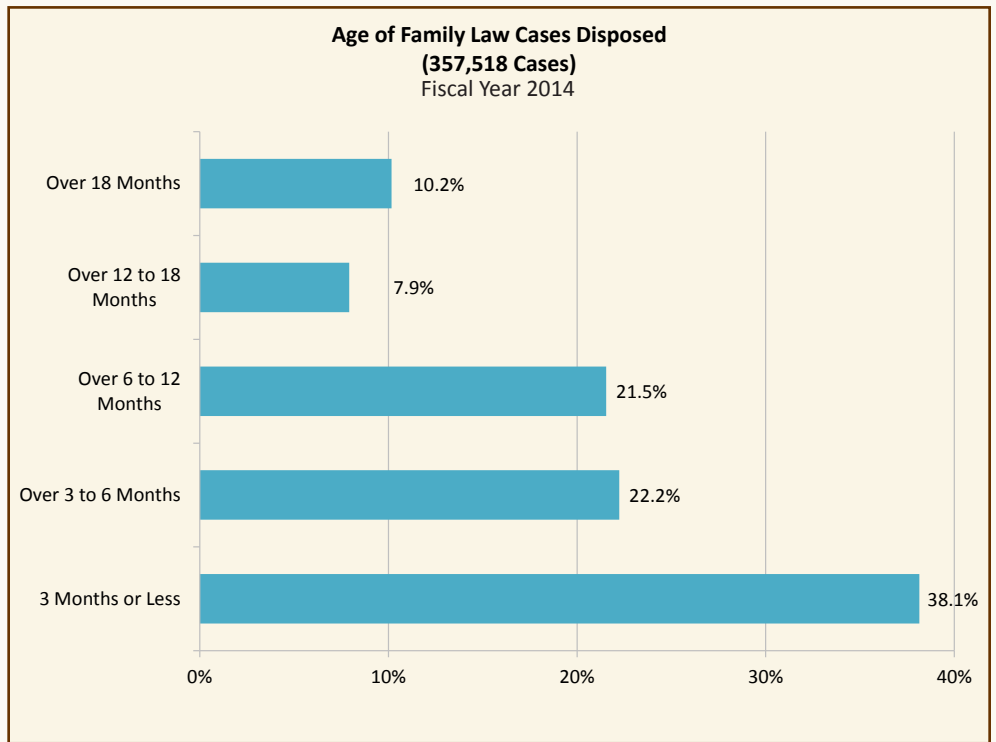


Figure 73 - Age of Family Law Cases Disposed

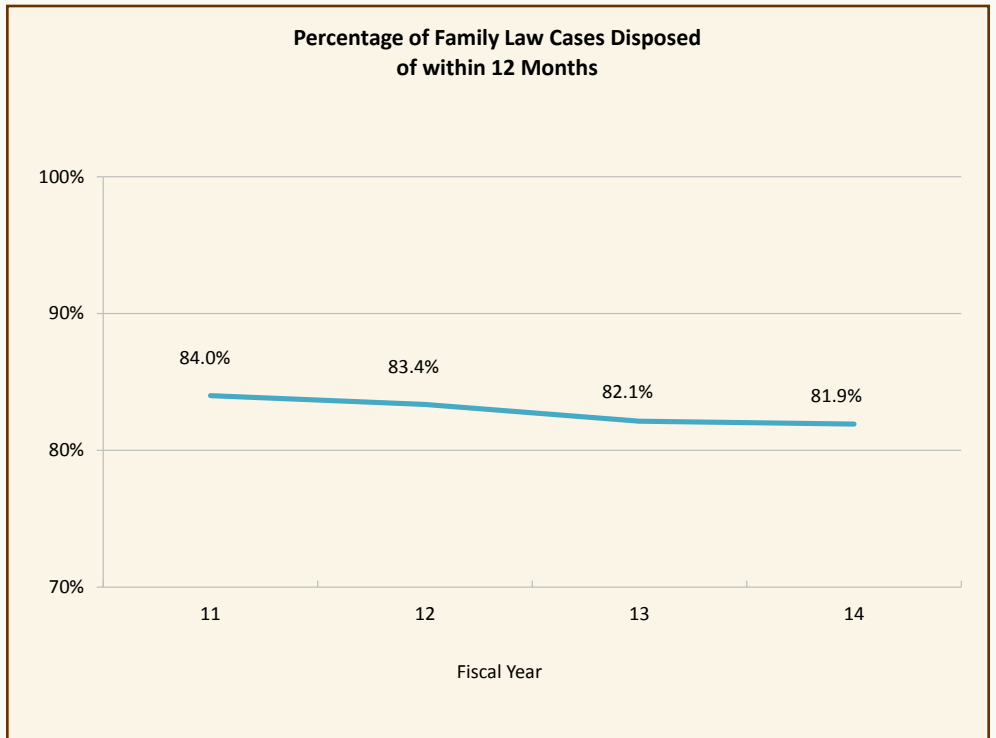


Figure 74 - Percentage of Family Law Cases Disposed of Within 12 Months

6,781 protective orders issued

Protective Orders Issued — In 2014, district and statutory county courts issued 6,781 protective orders in family law cases. This represented a decline of 18.1 percent from the number reported in 2013.

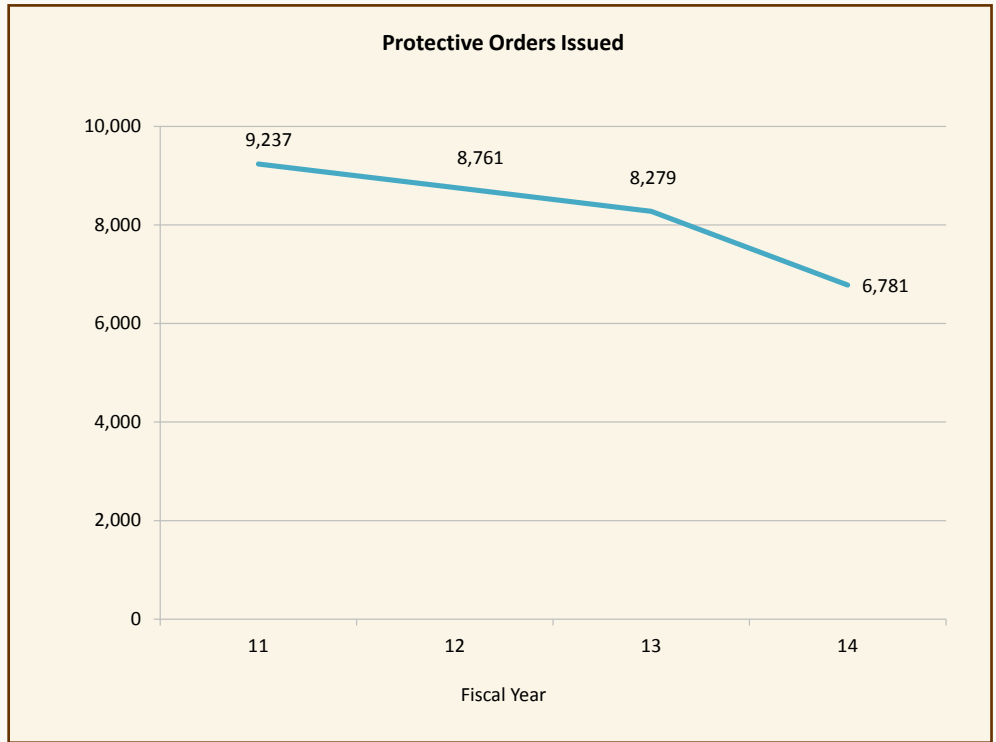


Figure 75 - Protective Orders Issued

73,550 family law cases filed by self-represented petitioners

Self-Represented Litigants — In 2014, district and statutory county courts reported 73,550 family law cases (or 20.9 percent of new or post-judgment family law cases filed) in which the petitioner was self-represented at the time of filing. This percentage has increased steadily each year since 2011.

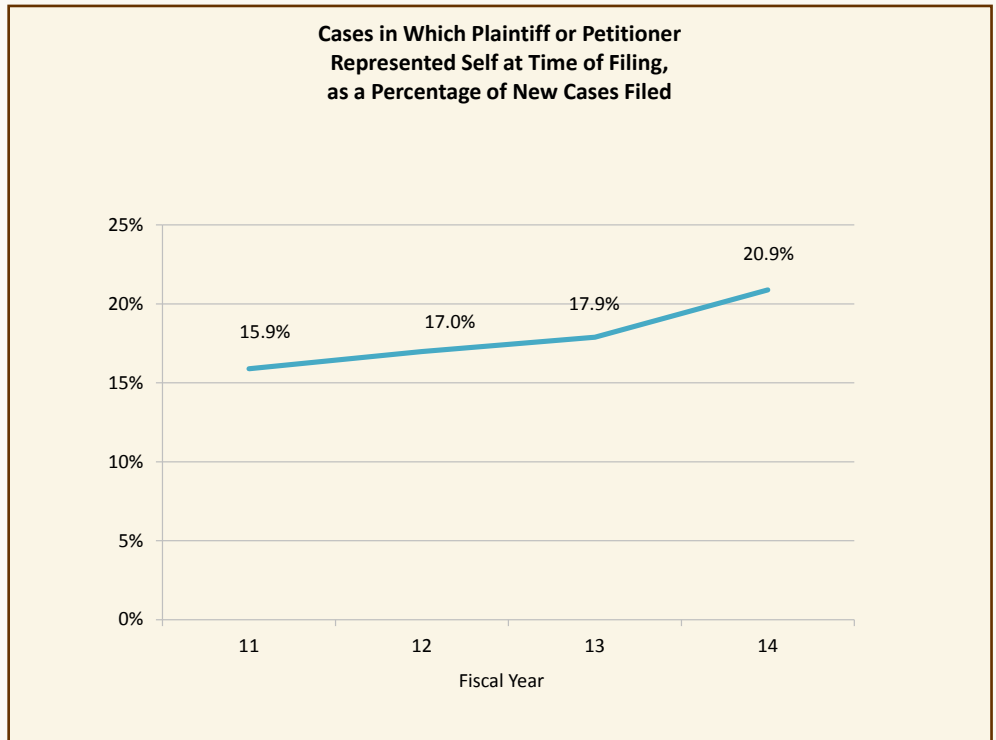


Figure 76 - Cases in Which Plaintiff or Petitioner Represented Self at Time of Filing, as a Percentage of Cases Added

**District and Statutory County Courts
Family Case Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

	FAMILY CASES									
	Divorce		Parent-Child - No Divorce	Child Protective Services	Termination of Parental Rights	Adoption	Protective Orders - No Divorce	Title IV-D		
	Children	No Children						Paternity	Support Order	UIFSA
Cases on Docket:										
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:										
<i>Active Cases</i>	57,360	57,839	32,860	16,299	2,095	5,378	5,036	18,485	20,849	2,850
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	603	413	497	118	28	27	24	190	251	30
Docket Adjustments	(1,240)	(2,114)	(3,366)	(145)	(116)	(220)	258	907	403	203
Cases Added:										
New Cases Filed	58,512	67,076	23,941	10,992	2,210	8,284	8,251	30,752	39,794	2,306
Other Cases Reaching Docket:										
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	2,201	1,124	532	429	30	40	20	251	233	33
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,300	1,234	1,396	446	82	139	285	449	1,586	56
Total Cases on Docket:	120,373	127,273	58,729	28,166	4,417	13,841	13,592	49,937	62,462	5,245
Dispositions:										
Change of Venue Transfers	175	129	181	153	11	110	21	59	123	11
Default Judgments	3,232	5,215	2,209	230	106	73	503	3,270	2,283	216
Agreed Judgments	19,284	20,939	7,398	603	176	1,022	658	7,154	15,399	564
Summary Judgments	9	11	10	4	0	1	3	7	10	2
Final Judgments:										
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	21,724	26,831	4,347	3,934	1,345	4,639	1,940	5,764	8,950	666
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	85	102	29	46	5	21	2	33	31	1
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	9	9	8	7	0	2	3	2	1	0
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	8,294	7,034	3,324	261	221	403	1,319	2,704	1,767	243
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	3,722	2,840	4,168	2,902	100	144	1,610	6,257	6,015	611
All Other Dispositions	3,234	3,161	1,433	1,554	164	1,380	2,173	3,595	5,323	320
Total Cases Disposed	59,768	66,271	23,107	9,694	2,128	7,795	8,232	28,845	39,902	2,634
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	2,182	1,220	561	472	29	49	41	285	282	34
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:										
<i>Active Cases</i>	57,423	57,917	32,017	17,899	2,152	5,791	5,728	21,744	22,888	2,798
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	555	362	330	135	24	27	37	163	204	32

District and Statutory County Courts
Family Case Activity Detail
 September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014

FAMILY CASES								
	All Other Family Law Cases	Post-Judgment Actions				Total Cases		
		Modification - Custody	Modification - Other	Enforcement	Title IV-D			
Cases on Docket:								
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	29,227	12,698	24,354	14,641	41,007	340,978		
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	276	87	377	366	2,410	5,697		
Docket Adjustments	(180)	(304)	819	14	1,947	(3,134)		
Cases Added:								
New Cases Filed	18,299	7,999	16,093	8,602	49,035	352,146		
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	480	104	778	280	2,617	9,152		
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,446	2,584	2,741	1,712	7,894	25,350		
Total Cases on Docket:	50,452	23,385	43,966	25,235	100,553	727,626		
Dispositions:								
Change of Venue Transfers	185	540	748	203	1,240	3,889		
Default Judgments	433	421	732	219	2,237	21,379		
Agreed Judgments	3,505	2,124	5,438	2,548	20,469	107,281		
Summary Judgments	38	2	10	2	39	148		
Final Judgments:								
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	6,729	2,376	3,334	1,979	12,782	107,340		
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	12	30	10	6	67	480		
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	6	1	6	3	7	64		
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	2,595	1,116	2,395	1,716	2,444	35,836		
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	1,590	522	1,150	1,137	5,776	38,544		
All Other Dispositions	7,274	1,011	2,905	1,617	7,413	42,557		
Total Cases Disposed	22,367	8,143	16,728	9,430	52,474	357,518		
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	464	120	772	297	3,013	9,821		
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	27,332	15,190	27,405	15,618	47,222	359,124		
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	232	94	334	320	2,695	5,544		
Age of Cases Disposed:						Additional Court Activity:		
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	Total Cases	Total	
Number of Cases	136,375	79,485	77,012	28,317	36,329	357,518		
							Cases in Which Jury Selected	231
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared	6
							Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued	38,564
							Protective Orders Signed	6,781
							Cases Set for Review	18,614
							Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self	73,550

Juvenile Cases

Approximately 32,000 cases added

Cases Added – In 2014, approximately 32,000 cases were added³⁰ to the juvenile dockets of district and county-level courts, which was 4.4 percent lower than the number added during the previous year (33,464 cases) and was the lowest number of filings since 1995. Seventy-seven percent of cases were docketed in the district courts, 20 percent in statutory county courts, and three percent in constitutional county courts.

The number of cases filed has declined significantly each year since the peak in 2007. Forty percent fewer cases were filed in 2014 than were filed in 2007.

Approximately 52 percent of the cases added involved misdemeanors, 36 percent involved felonies, and 12 percent were not classified by the reporting entities. Nearly 22 percent of offenses involved assault or attempted murder, 15 percent involved drug offenses, and 12 percent involved theft.

In 2014, 168 petitions to certify a juvenile for trial as an adult were filed, and a juvenile was transferred to adult criminal court in 231 cases during the year.

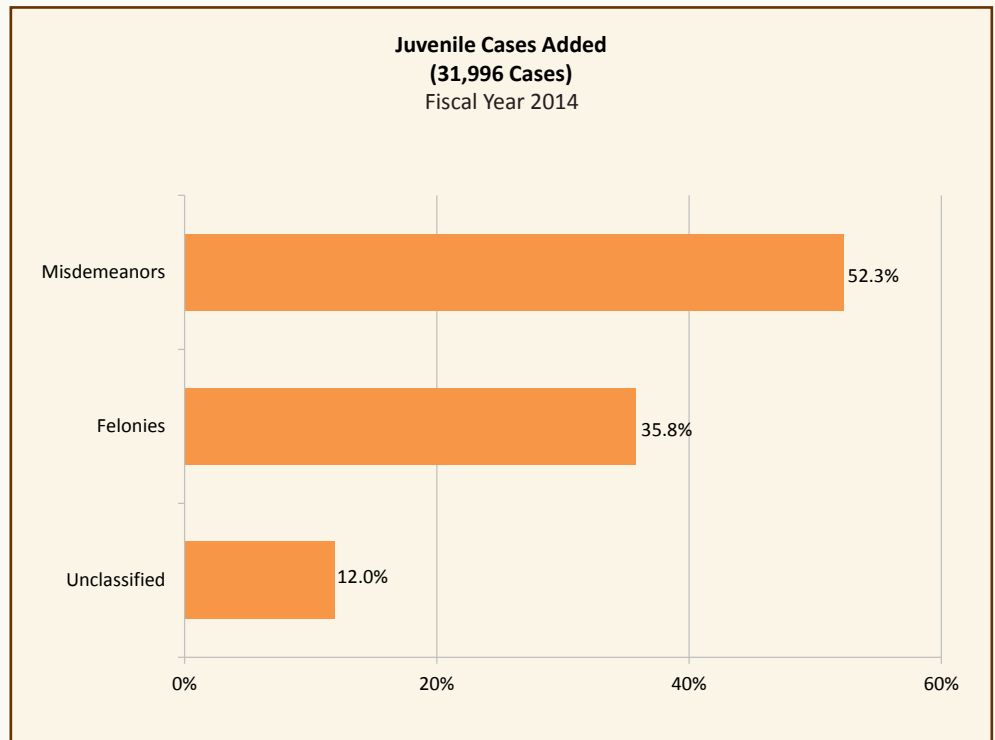


Figure 77 - Juvenile Cases Added

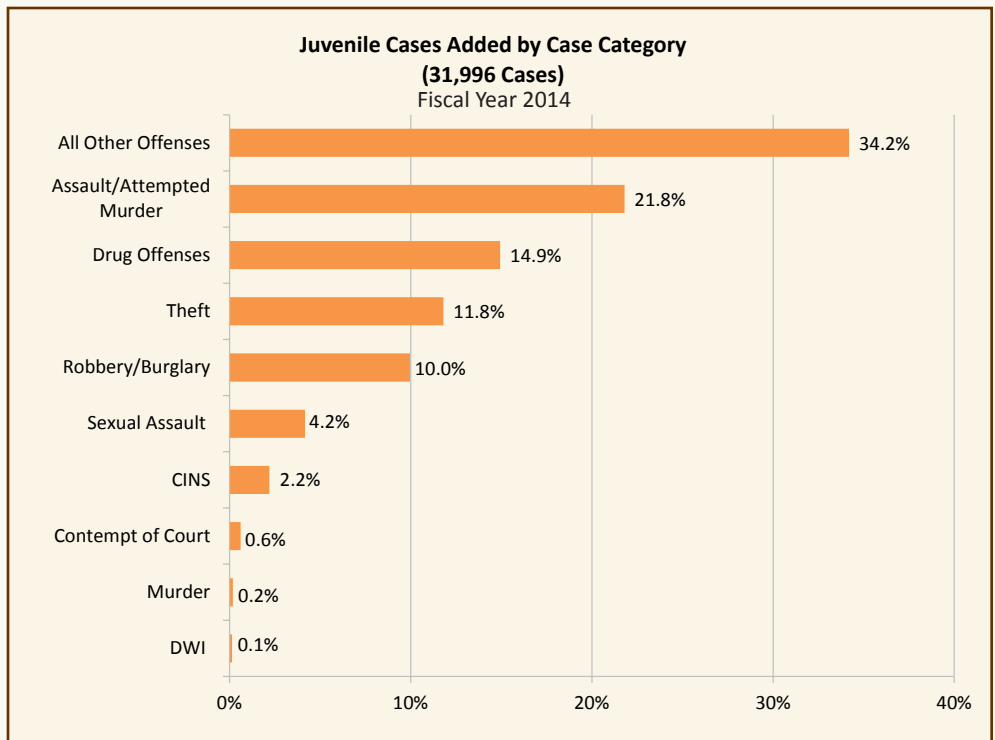


Figure 78 - Juvenile Cases Added by Case Category

³⁰ Includes new petitions, motions to revoke, and other cases filed.

Juvenile Case Clearance Rates:

- *district courts 94.8%*
- *statutory county courts 95.7%*
- *constitutional county courts 97.5%*

Clearance Rates – During 2014, the district and county-level courts adjudicated 30,415 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 95.1 percent—a decrease from the 96.1 percent clearance rate the year before. Although filings declined, adjudications declined as well, resulting in an increasing number of cases pending over the last three years.

In 2014, the clearance rate was 94.8 percent for district courts, 95.7 percent for statutory county courts, and 97.5 percent for constitutional county courts.

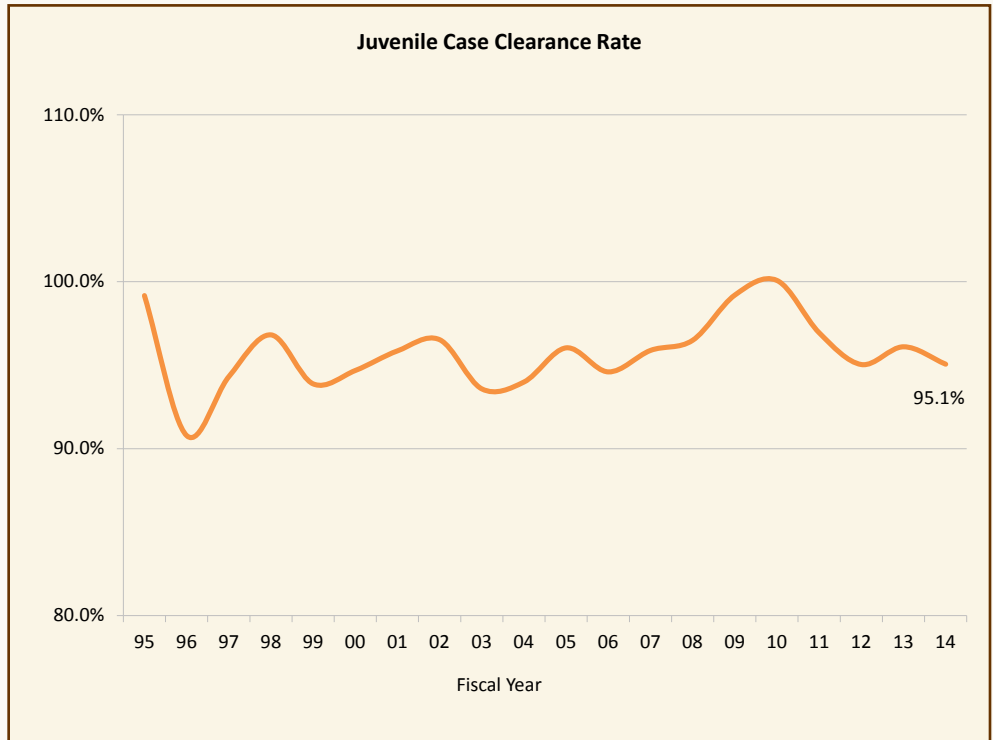


Figure 79 - Juvenile Case Clearance Rate

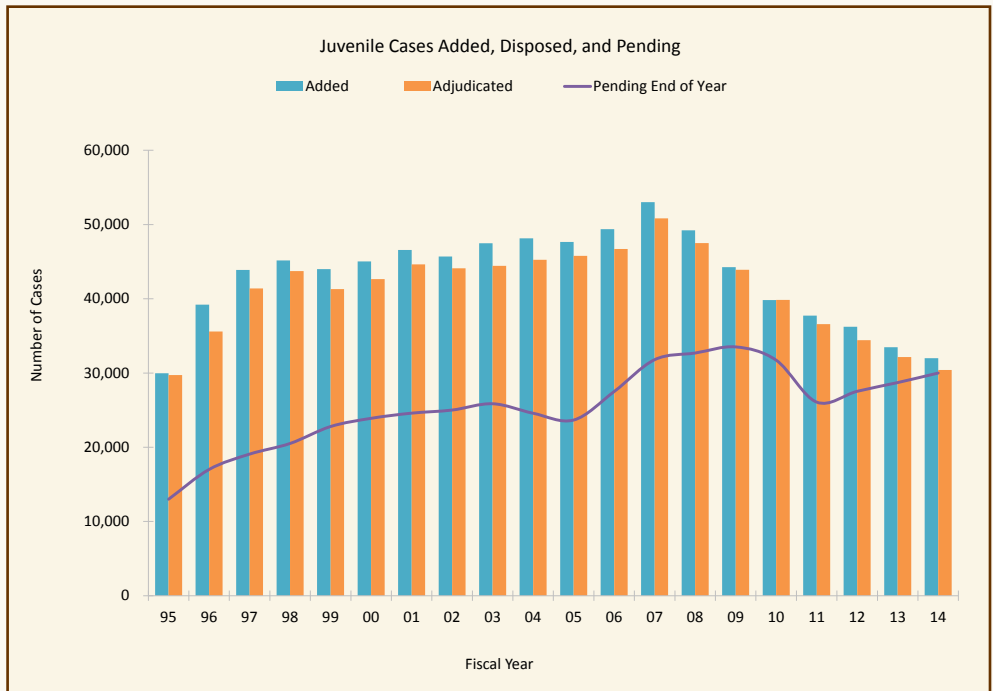


Figure 80 - Juvenile Cases Added, Disposed and Pending

Adjudication and Manner of Disposition – Of the 30,415 cases adjudicated in 2014, **5,084 cases involved motions to modify disposition**. Of the remaining 25,331 cases adjudicated during the year, **findings of delinquent conduct or CINS were made in approximately 51 percent of cases overall**, compared to the 1.2 percent of cases in which a finding of no delinquent conduct or CINS was made. Approximately 87 percent of findings of delinquent conduct or CINS were the result of the juvenile entering a plea of true.

Findings of delinquent conduct or CINS were most frequently made in cases involving aggravated robbery or robbery (70.5 percent), burglary (65.1 percent), automobile theft (64.3 percent), contempt of court (63.2 percent), and driving while intoxicated (61.8 percent).

Bench trials accounted for 7.6 percent of adjudications, while jury trials accounted for only 0.3 percent. Cases involving burglary most frequently went to trial (10.6 percent) followed closely by indecency or sexual assault of a child (10.1 percent).

Overall, findings of delinquent conduct or CINS were made in 84.6 percent of cases decided by a judge, compared to 68.2 percent of cases decided by a jury.

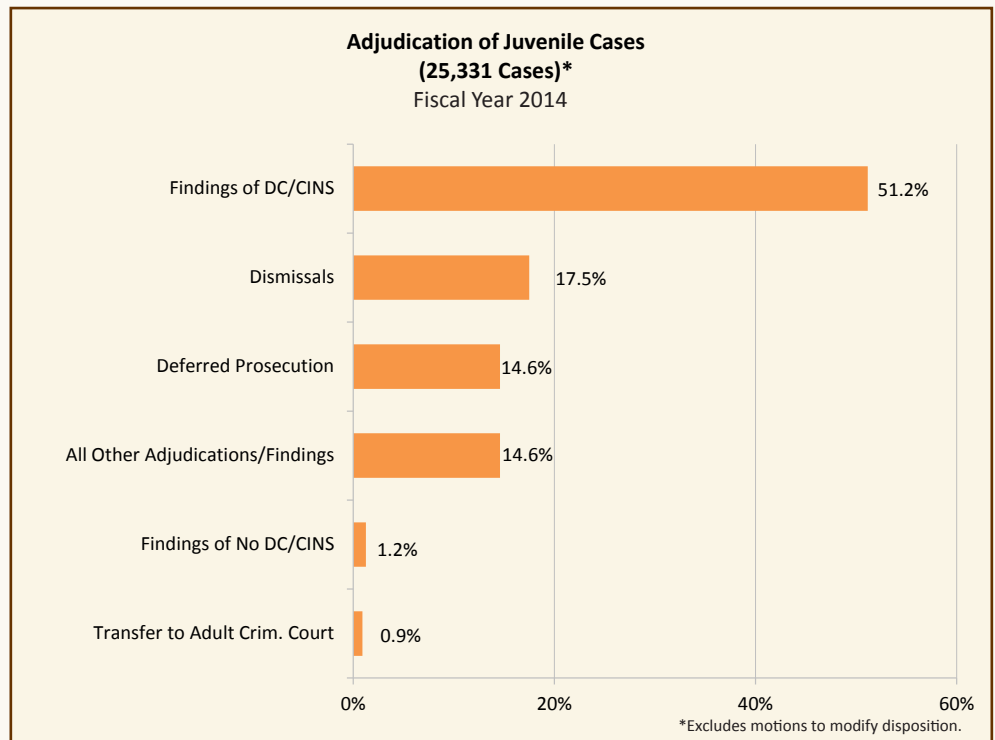


Figure 81 - Adjudication of Juvenile Cases

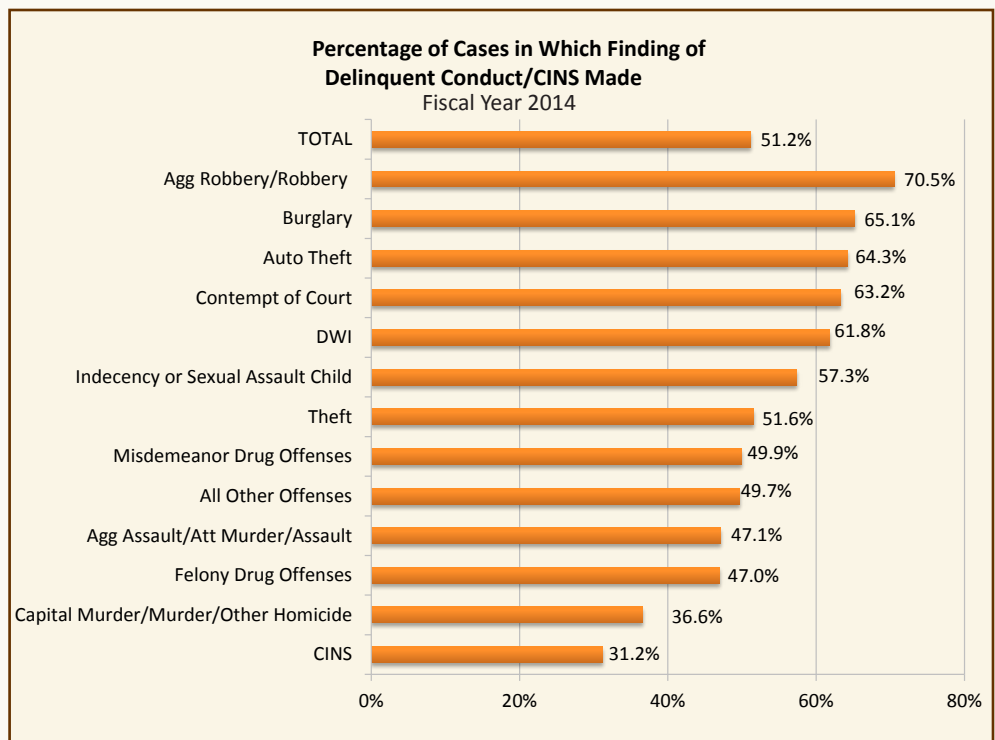


Figure 82 - Percentage of Cases in which Finding of Delinquent Conduct or CINS Made

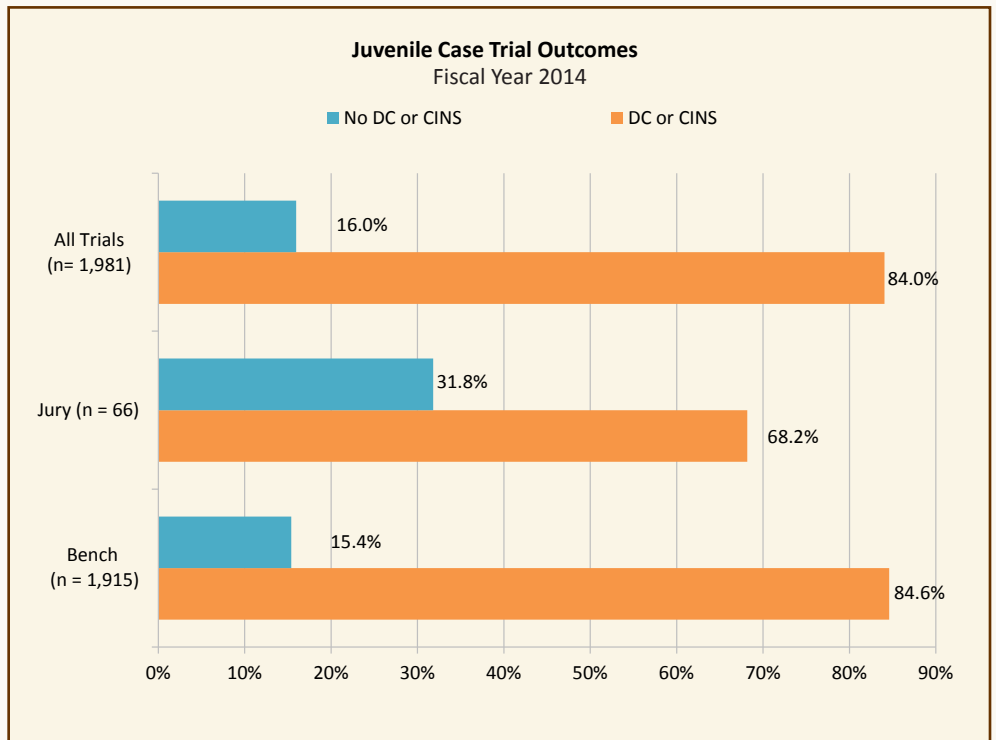


Figure 83 - Juvenile Case Trial Outcomes

Disposition of Cases in Which Finding of Delinquent Conduct or CINS was Made

– Of those cases in which a finding of delinquent conduct or CINS was made, juveniles were most likely to be placed on probation not involving a determinate sentence (54.9 percent) or probation for a determinate sentence (35.5 percent). For the past three years, the percentage of cases in which juveniles were committed to the Juvenile Justice Department (JJD) has been at the lowest levels in at least two decades. In 2014, juveniles were committed to JJD in 482 cases (representing 2.7 percent of cases adjudicated); in just over two-thirds (67.0 percent) of cases, the juvenile received an indeterminate sentence, while the remainder received a determinate sentence.³¹

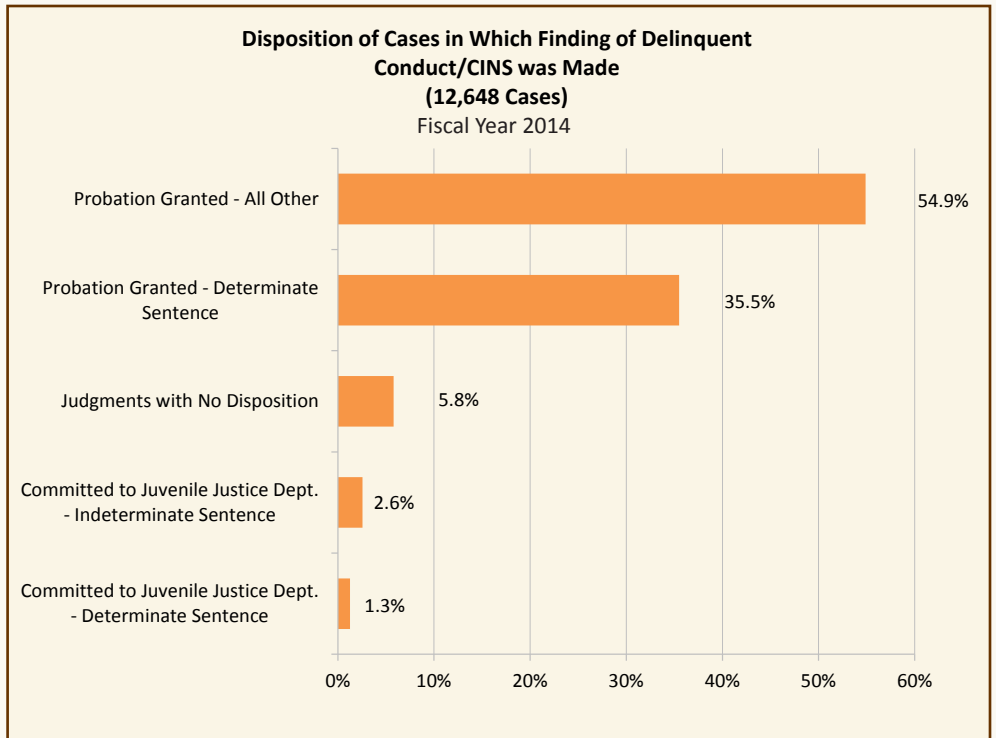


Figure 84 - Disposition of Cases in Which Finding of Delinquent Conduct/CINS was Made

31 For an explanation of determinate and indeterminate sentencing, see http://www.tjtd.texas.gov/about/how_class.aspx.

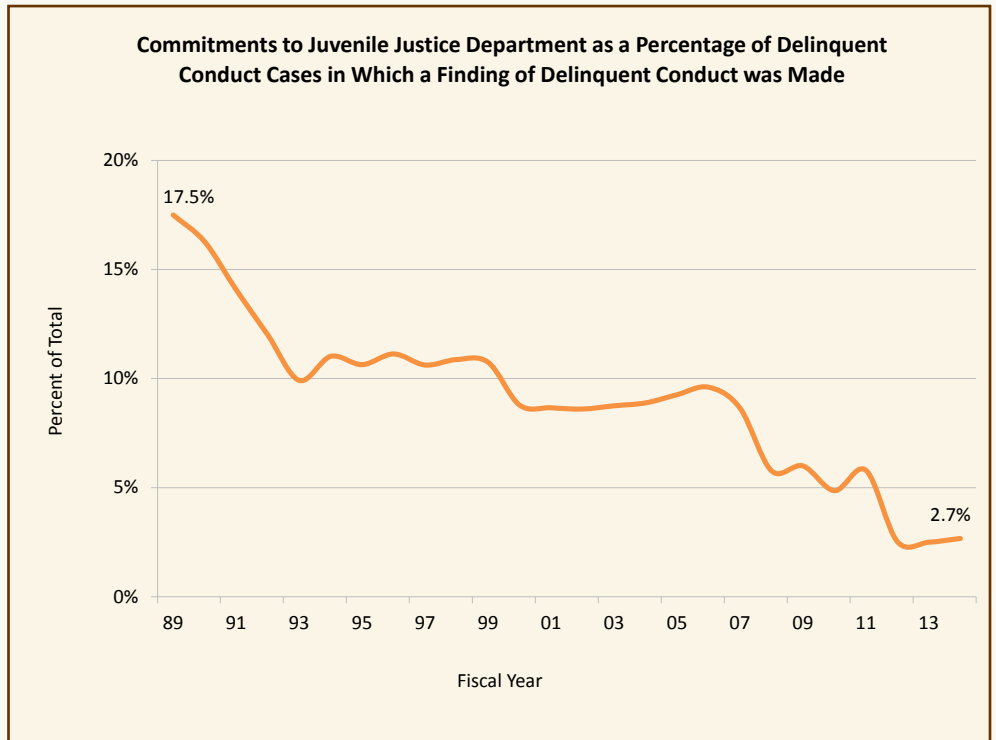


Figure 85 - Commitments to Juvenile Justice Department as a Percentage of Delinquent Conduct Cases in Which a Finding of Delinquent Conduct was Made

67.5% of juvenile cases adjudicated within 90 days

Age of Cases Disposed – In 2014, 67.5 percent of juvenile cases were adjudicated within 90 days. In district courts, 69.4 percent of cases were adjudicated within the same timeframe, compared to 61.0 percent in statutory county courts and 60.6 percent in constitutional county courts.

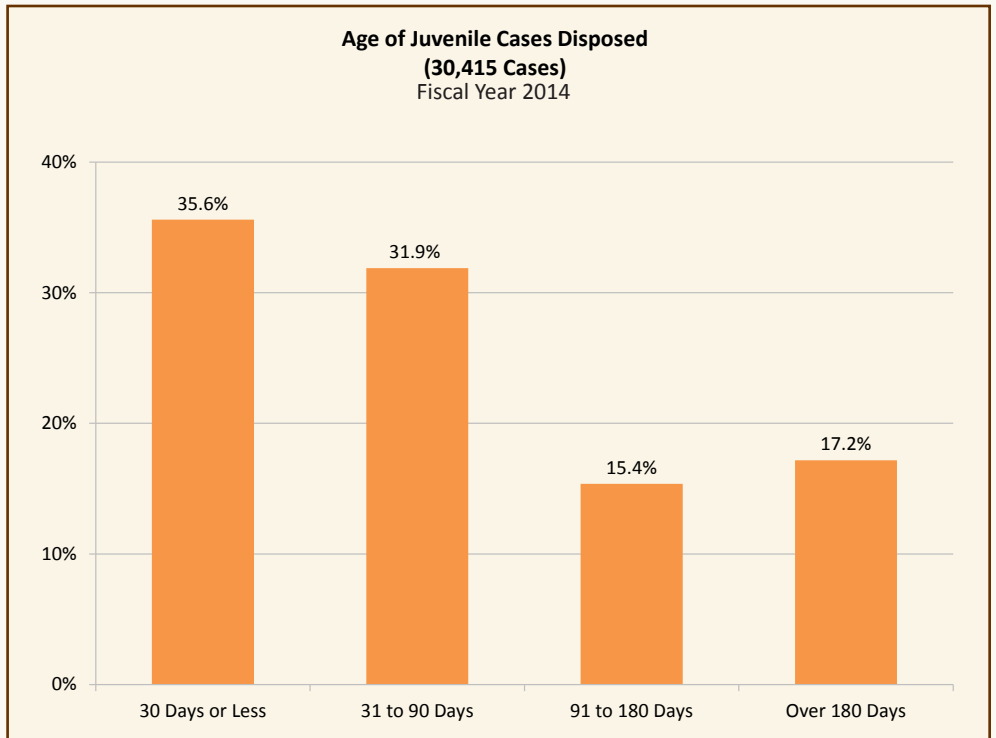


Figure 86 - Age of Juvenile Cases Disposed

District and County-Level Courts
Juvenile Case Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014

JUVENILE CASES											
	CINS	Delinquent Conduct									
		Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicide	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Assault	Indecency with or Sexual Assault of Child	Agg. Robbery or	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft
Cases on Docket:											
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	1,062	17	18	3	935	2,110	941	451	1,275	1,268	306
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	100	8	2	1	158	374	89	75	181	235	29
Docket Adjustments	(127)	1	0	0	80	238	(7)	29	45	131	47
Cases Added:											
New Petitions Filed	596	20	18	6	1,545	3,861	1,037	690	1,651	2,268	504
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	7	5	0	20	12	40	22	13	9	0
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	47	3	0	1	491	991	219	224	538	789	171
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	19	7	2	0	172	442	105	148	179	327	58
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	59	0	0	0	20	35	37	12	36	27	10
Total Cases on Docket	1,783	54	43	10	3,183	7,451	2,379	1,547	3,692	4,688	1,049
Adjudications:											
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:											
<i>Plea of True</i>	130	9	5	0	775	1,568	499	441	992	1,175	295
<i>By the Court</i>	26	0	1	0	68	250	70	46	122	150	33
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	6	9	9	3	1	1	1
Total Findings of DC/CINS	156	9	6	0	849	1,827	578	490	1,115	1,326	329
Deferred Prosecution	156	0	0	0	210	838	50	25	150	381	31
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	14	3	0	12	1	42	50	12	3	0
Findings of No DC or No CINS:											
<i>By the Court</i>	6	0	1	0	42	33	20	9	56	10	13
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	5	3	1	2	1	0
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	6	0	1	0	43	38	23	10	58	11	13
Dismissals	129	1	0	0	276	741	210	44	273	419	71
Motions to Modify Disposition:											
<i>Denied</i>	8	0	0	0	33	71	16	25	41	56	15
<i>Granted</i>	28	2	0	1	294	452	143	144	399	365	122
All Other Adjudications/Findings	53	4	2	1	183	666	106	76	104	430	68
Total Cases Adjudicated	536	30	12	2	1,900	4,634	1,168	864	2,152	2,991	649
Placed on Inactive Status	32	3	3	0	173	388	103	148	185	239	41
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:											
<i>Active Cases</i>	1,117	19	27	8	1,095	2,480	1,070	516	1,368	1,374	343
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	92	3	3	1	165	401	81	102	178	244	40
Dispositions:											
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS											
Probation Granted											
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	1	1	0	263	590	154	190	231	529	113
<i>All Other Probation</i>	129	1	0	1	499	1,011	339	199	784	659	161
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.											
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	8	3	0	17	5	20	40	16	4	0
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	1	0	39	20	28	20	42	20	16
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	2	0	1	0	59	112	23	44	37	95	26
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.											
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	24	14	28	10	49	23	5
All Other Dispositions	37	2	0	1	223	402	105	113	306	329	98

**District and County-Level Courts
Juvenile Case Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

JUVENILE CASES								
	Delinquent Conduct					Total Cases	Total Delinquent Conduct Cases	
	Felony Drug Offenses	Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	DWI	Contempt of Court	All Other Offenses		Felonies	Misdemeanors
Cases on Docket:								
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	571	1,533	34	242	15,460	26,226	5,393	6,494
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	66	208	0	38	790	2,354	671	917
Docket Adjustments	78	161	5	(8)	(92)	581	13,618	19,579
Cases Added:								
New Petitions Filed	795	2,904	41	126	7,421	23,483	8,158	12,153
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	3	6	0	1	30	168	104	36
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	225	802	3	69	3,322	7,895	3,036	4,392
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	76	343	2	19	754	2,653	983	1,509
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	14	31	0	2	167	450	156	137
Total Cases on Docket	1,684	5,619	80	459	27,154	60,875	17,830	24,721
Adjudications:								
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:								
<i>Plea of True</i>	358	1,355	20	104	3,569	11,295	4,372	5,571
<i>By the Court</i>	44	225	1	6	578	1,620	535	828
<i>By the Jury</i>	1	2	0	0	12	45	26	18
Total Findings of DC/CINS	403	1,582	21	110	4,159	12,960	4,933	6,417
Deferred Prosecution	184	592	5	3	1,072	3,697	1,056	2,391
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	5	2	0	0	87	231	120	13
Findings of No DC or No CINS:								
<i>By the Court</i>	31	2	0	0	72	295	196	81
<i>By the Jury</i>	2	1	0	0	5	21	8	8
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	33	3	0	0	77	316	204	89
Dismissals	127	514	4	42	1,580	4,431	1,192	2,508
Motions to Modify Disposition:								
<i>Denied</i>	19	72	0	2	323	681	254	407
<i>Granted</i>	123	356	3	17	1,954	4,403	1,925	2,130
All Other Adjudications/Findings	106	475	4	19	1,399	3,696	1,064	2,313
Total Cases Adjudicated	1,000	3,596	37	193	10,651	30,415	10,748	16,268
Placed on Inactive Status	57	303	5	20	589	2,289	868	1,192
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:								
<i>Active Cases</i>	621	1,690	40	244	15,505	27,517	19,307	26,308
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	64	258	4	37	807	2,480	724	944
Dispositions:								
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS								
Probation Granted								
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	133	649	4	9	1,622	4,489	1,683	2,523
<i>All Other Probation</i>	235	804	15	120	1,986	6,943	2,782	3,390
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.								
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	7	9	0	0	30	159	105	17
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	12	7	0	1	117	323	224	39
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	19	94	2	5	215	734	273	417
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.								
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	10	1	1	0	96	261	201	44
All Other Dispositions	94	353	2	19	1,526	3,610	1,481	1,891

Probate and Guardianship Cases

99,182 probate and guardianship cases added

In 2014, 99,182 probate and guardianship cases were added to the dockets of the county-level courts, an increase of 3.6 percent from the number added during the previous year and a **7.0 percent increase** from the number filed in 2012.

Cases involving the handling or transfer of property by reason of the death of an individual (decedents' estate cases) accounted for 64.4 percent of the cases filed. Guardianships of an adult accounted for 17.7 percent of cases, guardianships of a minor comprised 1.5 percent, and all other cases accounted for the remaining 16.4 percent.

Of the 99,182 cases, 67.0 percent were new cases or contests filed, 0.9 percent were ancillary cases,³² and 32.1 percent were other applications, petitions, or motions filed within already existing cases or after original judgment to obtain compliance with statutory requirements.

More than 66,000 probate and guardianship hearings

Courts reported conducting more than 66,000 probate and guardianship hearings during the year.

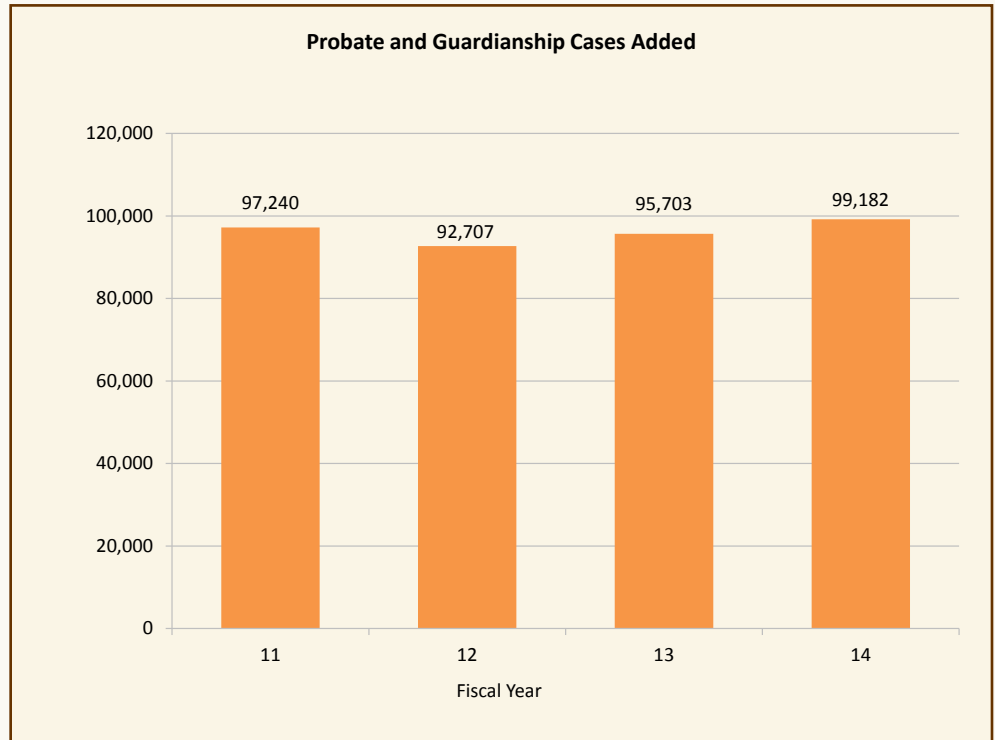


Figure 87 - Probate and Guardianship Cases Added

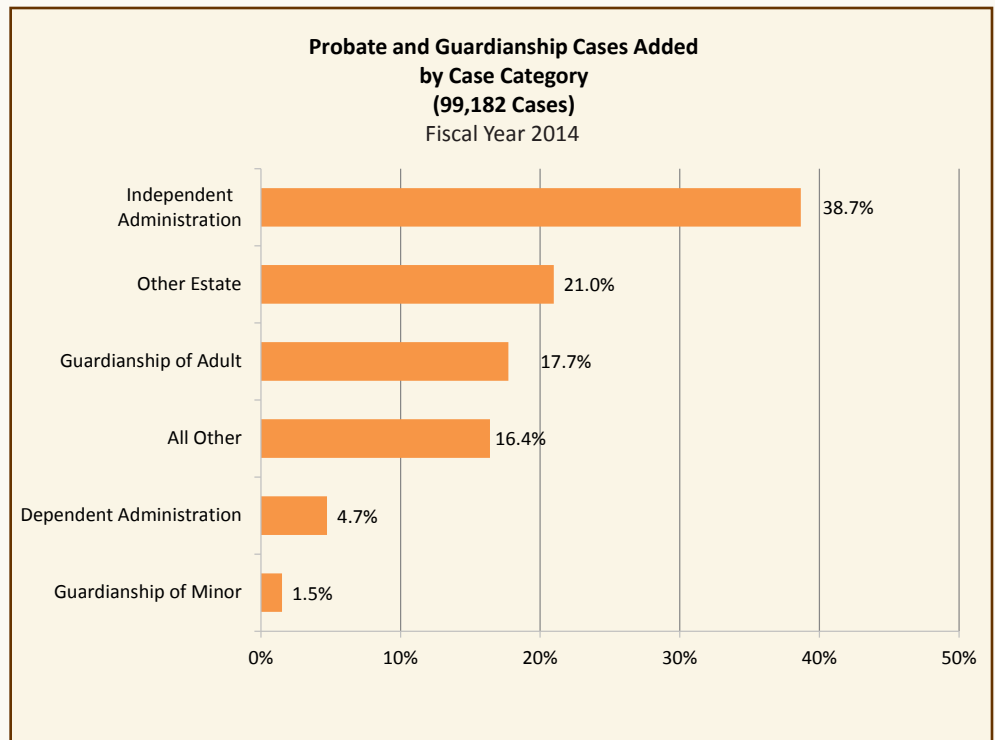


Figure 88 - Probate and Guardianship Cases Added by Case Category

³² Ancillary cases involve contested matters that bear no direct relationship to the administration of the estate and that would have the possibility of becoming an independently-tried lawsuit (e.g., fiduciary breaches, debt/claims cases, personal injury, etc.).

Independent Administrations—the administration of an estate without judicial supervision—accounted for approximately 60 percent of decedents’ estate cases filed during 2014. Dependent administrations—cases in which nearly every action taken in the case must be reviewed and approved by the court—comprised only 7.4 percent of decedents’ estate cases.

In 2014, more than 25,500 inventories were reported filed in estate cases, and nearly 2,000 annual or final accounts were reported filed in dependent administration cases.

Guardianship of an adult accounted for 92.1% of guardianship cases filed

Guardianship Cases — The vast majority (92.1 percent) of guardianship cases filed in 2014 were for guardianship of an adult.

Most (92.6 percent) of applications for a guardianship were granted, while 7.4 percent were dismissed or denied. Another 2,432 guardianships were reported closed during the year. As of August 31, 2014, there were 50,414 guardianships reported active.³³

In 2014, more than 1,400 inventories, nearly 23,800 guardianship of person reports, and more than 7,400 annual or final accounts were filed in guardianship cases.

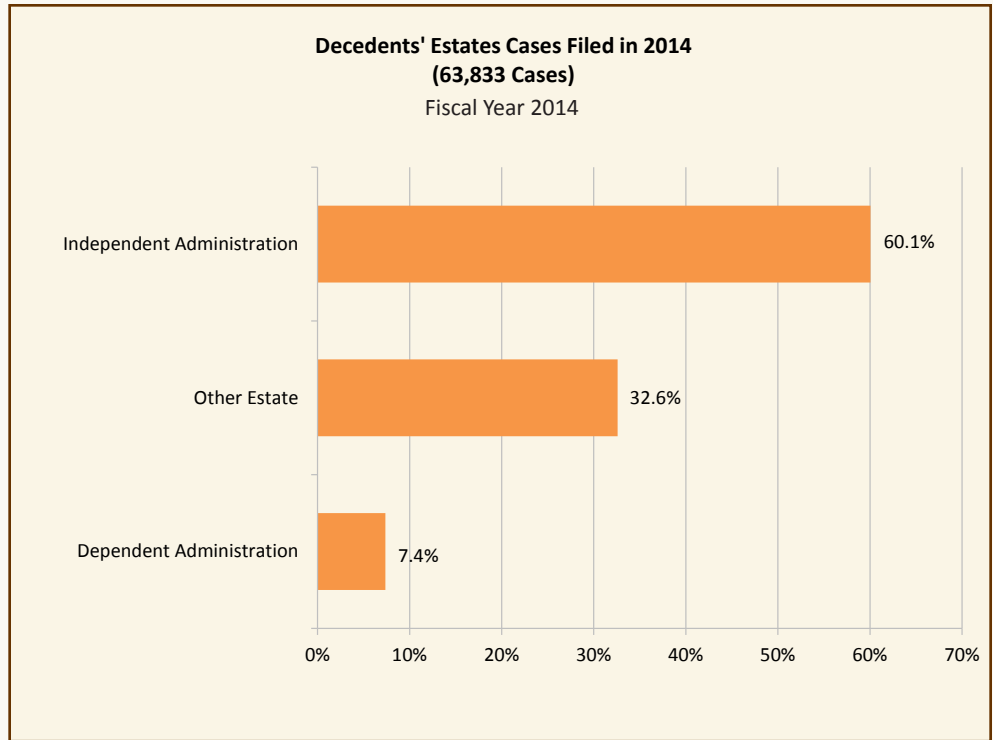


Figure 89 - Decedents’ Estates Cases Filed



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³³ The number of guardianships reported active is inflated due to cases not being closed though the ward is deceased, is no longer a minor and under a guardianship, etc.

County-Level Courts
Probate and Mental Health Activity from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
99.6 Percent Reporting Rate
3,036 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,036

PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP CASES							
Cases on Docket:	Decedents' Estates			Guardianships		All Other Cases	Total Cases
	Independent Administration	Dependent Administration	All Other Estate Proceedings	Minor	Adult		
New Cases, Applications or Contests Filed	33,991	2,396	18,835	883	4,912	5,470	66,487
Other Cases Added:							
<i>Ancillary Cases</i>	423	171	135	3	79	56	867
<i>All Other Matters</i>	3,926	2,130	1,826	612	12,581	10,753	31,828
Inventories Filed	22,922	1,228	---	141	1,280	---	25,571
Guardianship of Person Reports Filed	---	---	---	843	22,945	---	23,788
Annual or Final Accounts Filed	---	1,929	---	1,298	6,117	---	9,344
Additional Information:							
	Guardianships:	Total					Total
	Dismissed or Denied	347			Sec. 683 Investigations		4,552
	Granted	4,370			Ch. 48 Removals		122
	Closed	2,432			Hearings Held		66,483
	Active	50,414			Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self		3,192

Applications for Involuntary Mental Health Services

The number of new applications for involuntary temporary mental health services filed in 2014 decreased 0.3 percent from the previous year to 42,945 cases. **Of the 13,411 cases that reached a final hearing, proposed patients were released in 30.5 percent of cases, committed to inpatient treatment in 66.9 percent of cases, and committed to outpatient treatment in 2.6 percent of cases.**

In 2014, 4,525 applications were filed for an order authorizing, reauthorizing, or modifying the administration of psychoactive medication; this was a decrease of 2.3 percent filed during the previous year. Of the 3,269 applications disposed at a hearing, 96.4 percent of applications were granted and 3.6 percent were denied.

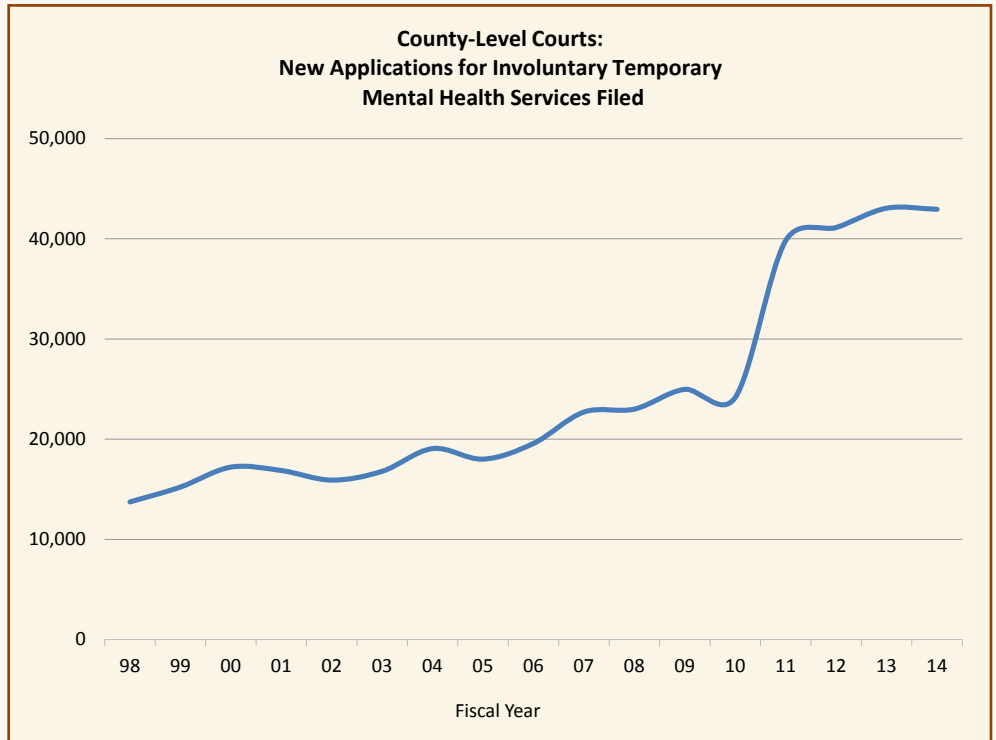


Figure 90 - County-Level Courts New Applications for Involuntary Temporary Mental Health Services Filed

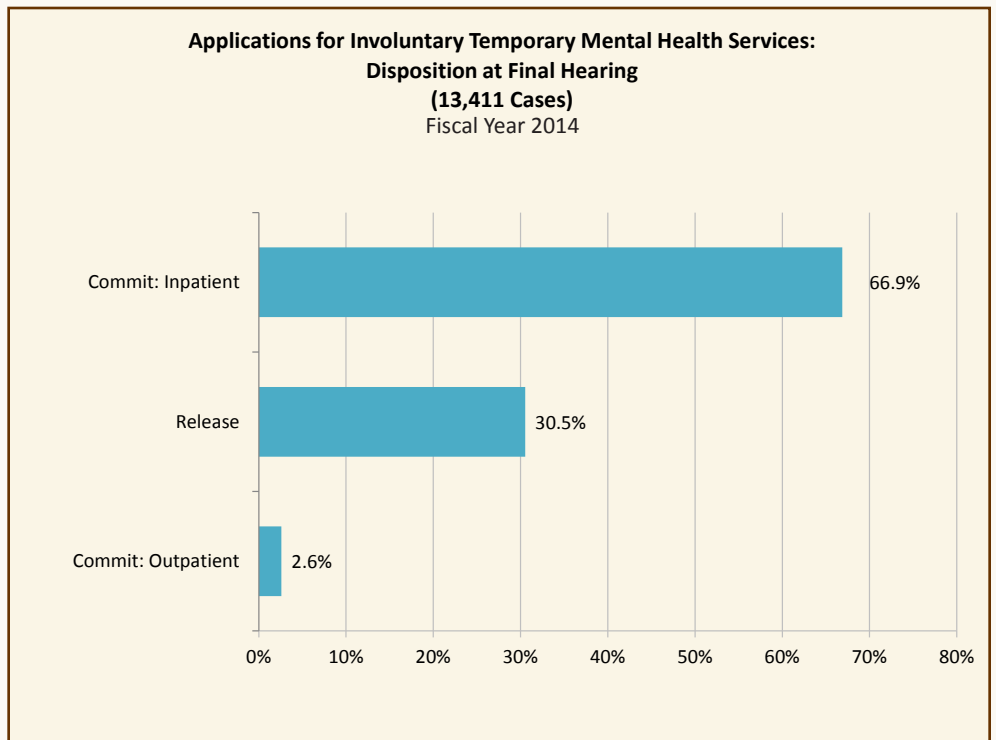


Figure 91 - Applications for Involuntary Temporary Mental Health Services Disposition at Final Hearing

County-Level Courts

Probate and Mental Health Activity from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014

99.6 Percent Reporting Rate

3,036 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,036

MENTAL HEALTH CASES						
	Temporary Mental Health Services	Extended Mental Health Services	Modification			Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications
			Inpatient to Outpatient	Outpatient to Inpatient		
<i>Intake</i>						
New Applications Filed	42,945	499	111	93	New Applications Filed	4,525
Orders for Protective Custody Signed	39,548	---	---	---	Dismissal Prior to Hearing	484
					Hearings Held	2,983
					Disposition at Hearing	
<i>Hearings</i>					<i>Denied</i>	119
Probable Cause Hearings Held	28,401	---	---	---	<i>Granted</i>	3,150
Release/Dismissal Prior to Final Hearing	24,930	21	10	5		
Final Commitment Hearings Held	9,920	334	97	34		
<i>Other Information</i>						
Disposition at Final Hearing						
<i>Denied (Release)</i>	4,094	30	1	0		
<i>Granted (Commit)</i>						
<i>Inpatient</i>	8,970	269	5	---		
<i>Outpatient</i>	347	33	---	20		

Justice Courts

2.5 million cases filed

Cases Filed — More than 2.5 million cases were filed in the state’s justice courts in 2014, a **decrease of 7.1 percent** from the number of cases filed the previous year. A very slight part of the decline was due to one populous county – Cameron – not submitting reports for the year.

*Top case category:
Traffic 66.9%*

Criminal cases accounted for 85 percent of all cases filed. However, criminal cases generally declined over the last decade as a percentage of the justice courts’ caseload. In 2014, cases involving violations of state traffic laws not related to parking accounted for 66.9 percent of total cases added during the year. The next largest share of cases involved **non-traffic misdemeanors (16.8 percent)**, a majority of which involved violations of statutes other than the Penal Code.

The number of Penal Code cases dropped 32.7 percent from the number filed in the previous year and the number of other state law non-traffic misdemeanors fell by 8.6 percent, while traffic cases declined by only 3.5 percent.

In 2014, the number of landlord/tenant cases filed decreased by 3.3 percent from the previous year **and accounted for 8.9 percent of all cases filed in the justice courts.** Debt claims accounted for 3.5 percent, and small claims suits (and other miscellaneous matters classified under that category for reporting purposes) accounted for 2.6 percent, of total filings.

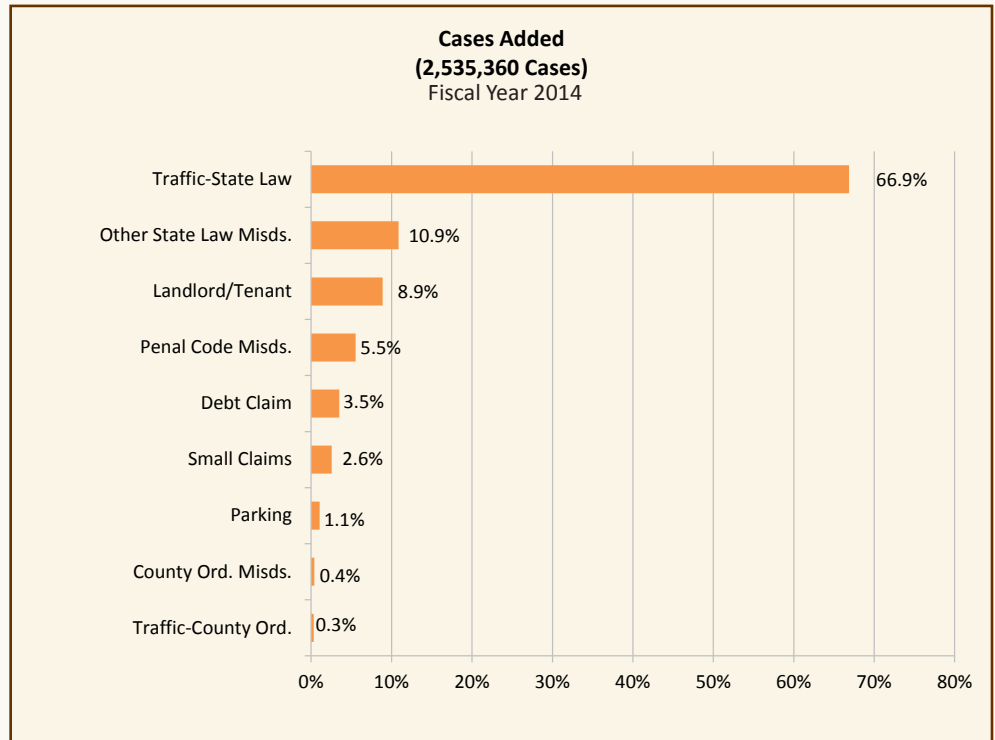


Figure 92 - Cases Added

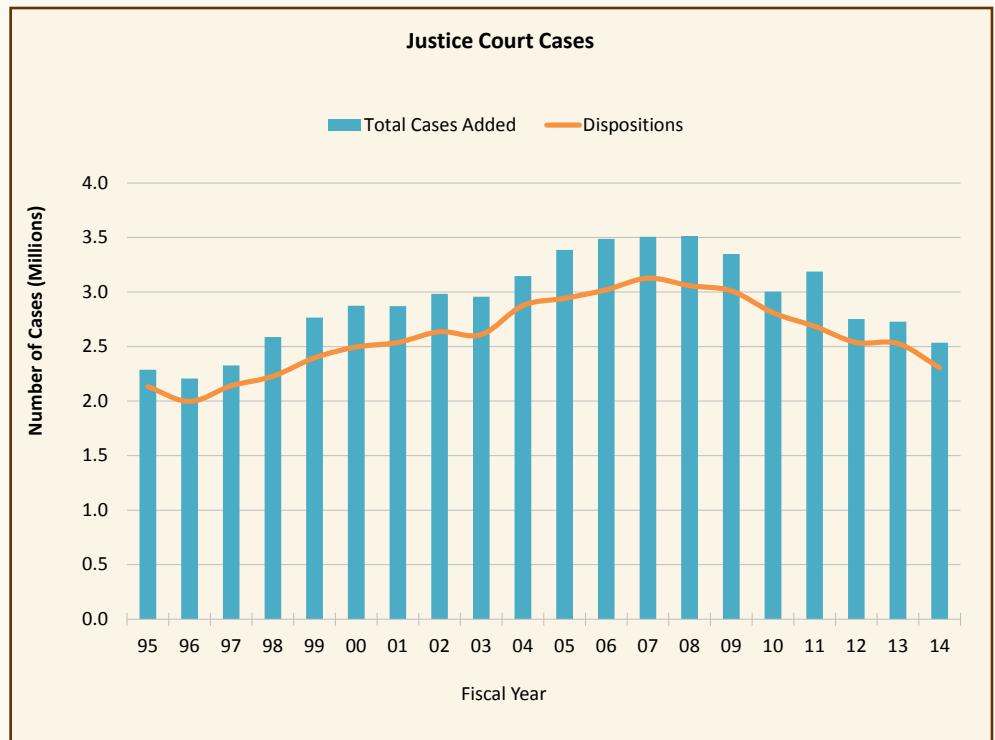


Figure 93 - Justice Court Cases

Clearance Rates — Justice courts disposed of more than 2.3 million cases in 2014, a decrease of 8.8 percent from the number disposed of the previous year. The overall clearance rate was 90.9 percent, compared to 92.7 percent in 2013. The criminal clearance rate was 89.6 percent, and the civil clearance rate was 98.4 percent.

Manner of Disposition — In 2014, justice courts disposed of more than 1.5 million traffic and parking cases, 42.4 percent of which were disposed of by an uncontested disposition prior to court appearance or trial (payment of a fine without a plea being entered or the submission of a guilty or no contest plea). Approximately 17 percent of cases were dismissed by a prosecutor, 9.7 percent were disposed of by a guilty or no contest plea submitted in court, 9.1 percent were dismissed due to completion of a driver’s safety course, 7.1 percent were dismissed after completion of deferred disposition. Approximately 2 percent were disposed of by bench trial, and 0.03 percent of cases were disposed of by jury trial.

Justice courts disposed of more than 390,000 non-traffic misdemeanor cases (i.e., Penal Code, other state law, and county ordinance cases). Approximately 39 percent of these cases were uncontested and disposed of prior to a court appearance or trial, while another 26 percent were dismissed by a prosecutor. Approximately 3 percent were disposed of by bench trial, and 0.03 percent of cases were disposed of by jury trial.

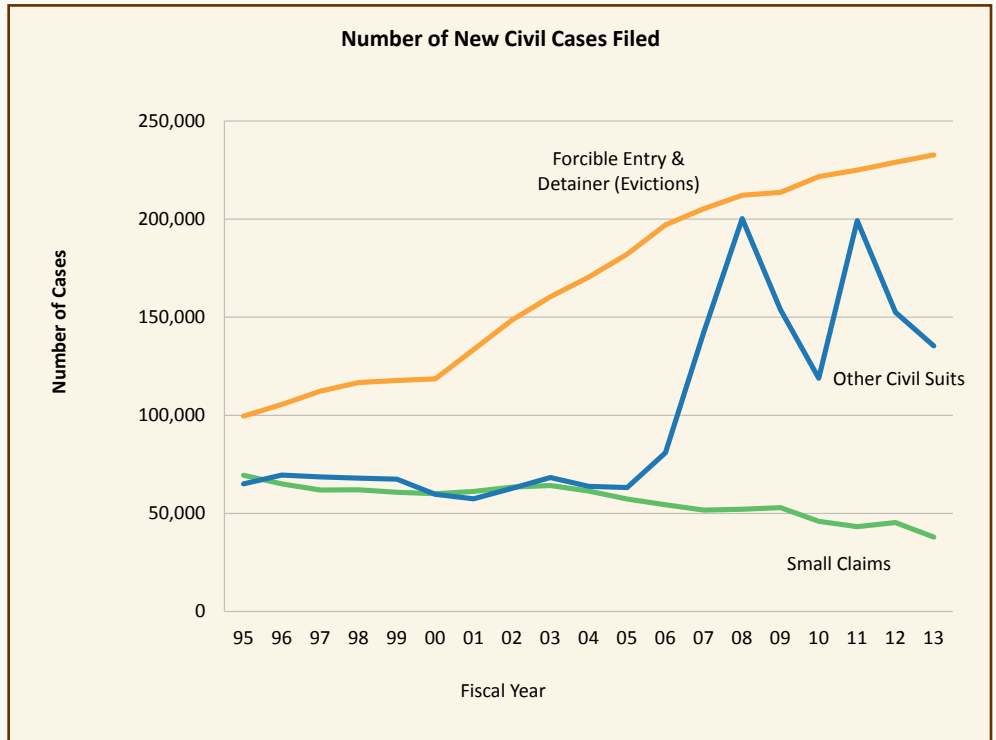


Figure 94 - Number of New Civil Cases Filed

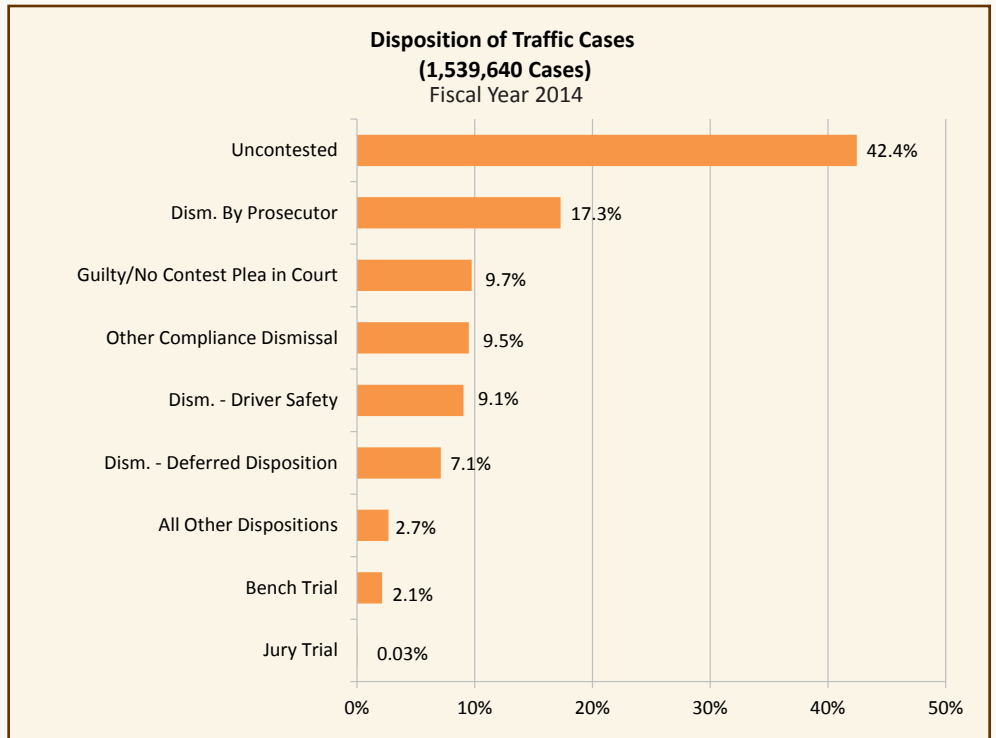


Figure 95 - Disposition of Traffic Cases

Overall, guilty findings were made in 93.0 percent of the 46,147 cases that went to bench trial. In contrast, guilty verdicts accounted for 80.2 percent of the 591 cases that went to jury trial.

Failure to attend cases dropped 16% from the previous year and was the lowest number reported since data collection began in 2004

Approximately **29 percent** of the nearly **373,000** civil cases closed in **2014** were disposed of by default judgment, **25.7 percent** were disposed of by bench trial or hearing by a judge, and **24.5 percent** were non-suited or dismissed by the plaintiff. Only **0.2 percent** of cases were resolved by jury trial.

Juvenile Activity — In 2014, cases involving failure to attend school accounted for the largest share (62.4 percent) of juvenile cases reported filed in the justice courts; however, the number of cases reported (57,829 cases) was approximately 16 percent lower than the number reported the year before and was the lowest number reported since data began to be collected in 2004. Filings in all case categories involving juveniles or minors declined from the previous year, with the exception of violations of local daytime curfew ordinances. The **most significant declines were in cases involving the Education Code** (other than failure to attend school) (**down 80.2 percent**), “all other non-traffic, fine-only” cases (**69.1 percent**), tobacco (**53.2 percent**), and drug paraphernalia (**43.6 percent**).

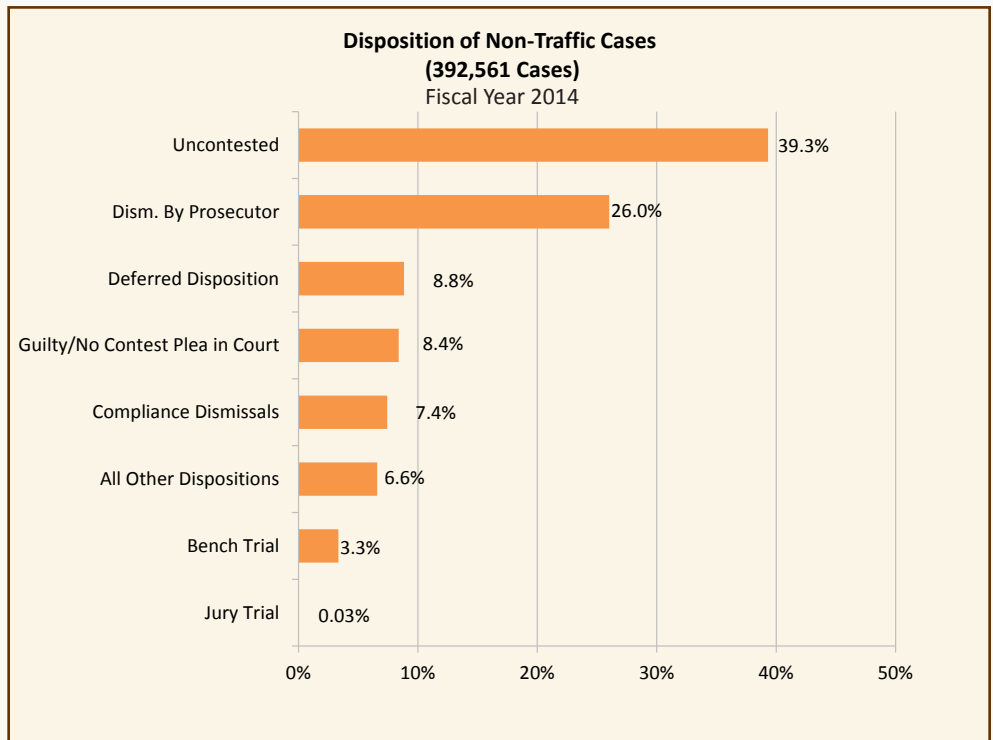


Figure 96 - Disposition of Non-Traffic Cases

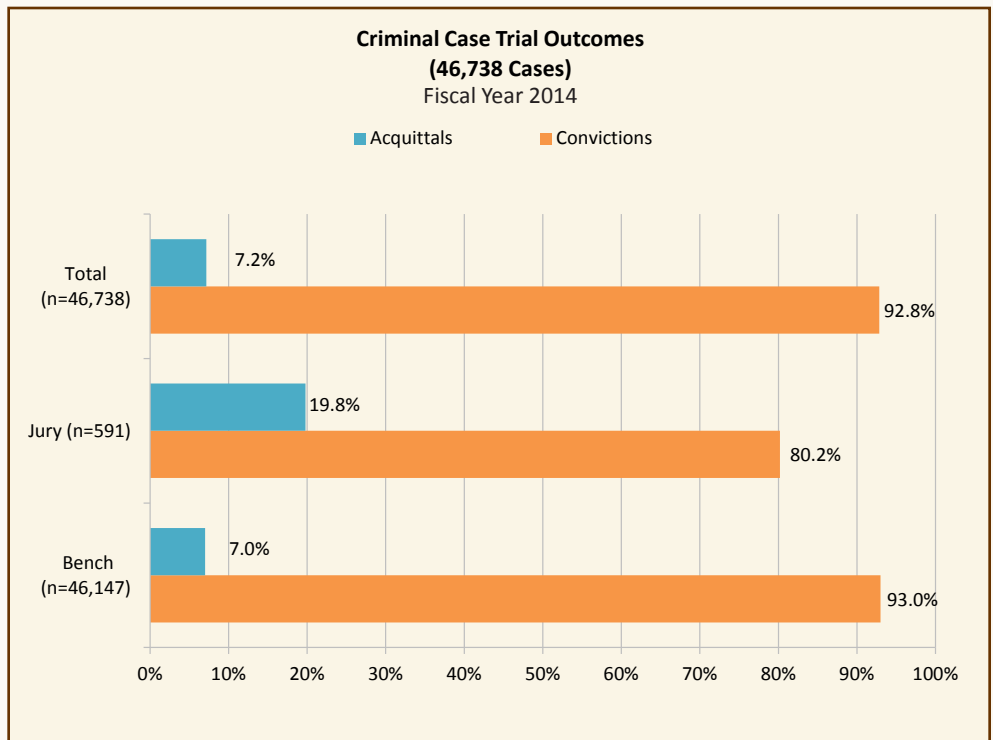


Figure 97 - Criminal Case Trial Outcomes

Magistrate activity involving juveniles or minors also declined. Juvenile detention hearings fell by 28.4 percent, and warnings administered to juveniles declined by 7.4 percent.

Magistrate Activity — In 2014, justice courts issued more than a half million arrest warrants, more than 318,000 magistrate warnings to adults, and more than 7,700 magistrate orders for emergency protection. Justices of the peace also held **more than 9,500 emergency mental health hearings.**

Collected approximately \$318 million in court costs, fees, and fines

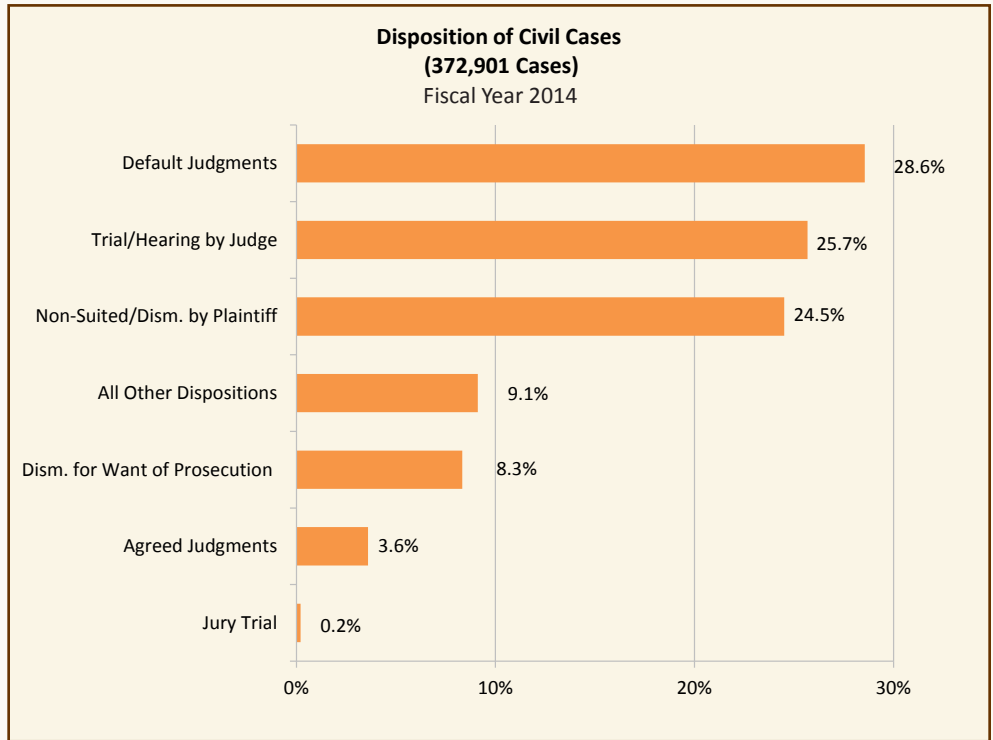


Figure 98 - Disposition of Civil Cases

Court Collections — In 2014, courts collected approximately \$318 million in court costs, fees, and fines, a **decrease of 2.6 percent from the previous year.** The amount collected in 2014 was nearly identical to the amount collected in 2005, or 18.9 percent lower when adjusted for inflation. Since 1995, **collections increased 133.4 percent,** or 48.5 percent when adjusted for inflation.³⁴

Average amount collected per criminal case disposition was \$203

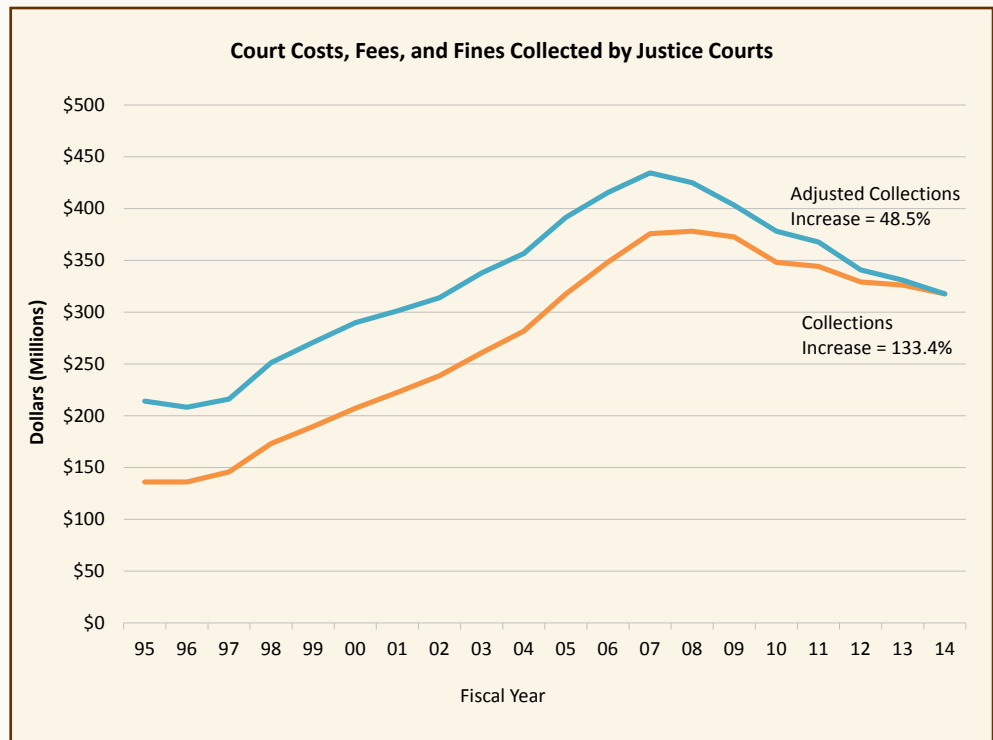


Figure 99 - Court Costs, Fees and Fines Collected by Justice Courts

Excluding cases dismissed prior to or at trial, the amount collected per criminal case disposition averaged \$203.

³⁴ Using Consumer Price Index Conversion Factors, <http://oregonstate.edu/cla/polisci/download-conversion-factors>.

Justice Courts Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
93.3 Percent Reporting Rate
9,150 Reports Received Out of a Possible 9,809

CRIMINAL CASES							
	Traffic Misdemeanors			Non-Traffic Misdemeanors			
	Non-Parking	Parking	County Ordinance	Penal Code	Other State Law	County Ordinance	Total
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	2,220,779	52,057	16,269	425,312	678,948	16,683	3,410,048
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	941,885	8,925	16,222	251,290	247,852	4,171	1,470,345
Docket Adjustments	138,562	11,627	(434)	(15,591)	99,352	1,306	234,822
Cases Added:							
New Cases Filed	1,690,777	26,547	8,011	139,089	274,238	10,317	2,148,979
Cases Reactivated	218,088	3,212	1,204	44,119	42,283	956	309,862
All Other Cases Added	4,914	168	11	1,001	1,299	3	7,396
Total Cases On Docket	4,273,120	93,611	25,061	593,930	1,096,120	29,265	6,111,107
Dispositions:							
Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial:							
Uncontested Dispositions	637,823	10,949	4,774	60,832	90,044	3,499	807,921
Dismissed by Prosecution	98,589	1,523	798	17,219	34,698	3,792	156,619
Total Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial	736,412	12,472	5,572	78,051	124,742	7,291	964,540
Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial:							
Convictions:							
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	148,160	1,629	94	10,513	21,431	995	182,822
<i>By the Court</i>	30,042	429	455	5,518	6,170	301	42,915
<i>By the Jury</i>	366	13	2	40	50	3	474
Acquittals:							
<i>By the Court</i>	1,929	176	12	306	699	110	3,232
<i>By the Jury</i>	80	3	0	21	13	0	117
Dismissed by Prosecution	162,287	3,088	65	12,496	32,702	1,273	211,911
Total Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial	342,864	5,338	628	28,894	61,065	2,682	441,471
Compliance Dismissals:							
After Driver Safety Course	139,346	---	---	---	---	---	139,346
After Deferred Disposition	107,839	1,168	606	8,557	25,580	567	144,317
After Teen Court	587	2	0	87	128	10	814
After Tobacco Awareness Course	---	---	---	---	122	---	122
After Treatment for Chemical Dependency	---	---	---	20	98	---	118
After Proof of Financial Responsibility	48,525	---	---	---	---	---	48,525
All Other Transportation Code Dismissals	94,847	2,244	84	10,209	18,092	434	125,910
Total Compliance Dismissals	391,144	3,414	690	18,873	44,020	1,011	459,152
All Other Dispositions	38,501	2,438	167	9,846	15,375	711	67,038
Total Cases Disposed	1,508,921	23,662	7,057	135,664	245,202	11,695	1,932,201
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	303,605	5,078	2,426	57,879	59,526	1,288	429,802
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	2,282,473	48,764	12,462	369,028	732,602	13,302	3,458,631
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	994,923	9,975	11,041	222,809	273,914	4,369	1,517,031
Show Cause Hearings Held	76,915	413	48	7,689	27,656	416	113,137
Cases Appealed:							
After Trial	1,930	1	2	112	258	5	2,308
Without Trial	17,584	22	67	295	772	3	18,743

Justice Courts Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
93.3 Percent Reporting Rate
9,150 Reports Received Out of a Possible 9,809

CIVIL CASES				
	Debt Claim	Landlord/Tenant	Small Claims	Total
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:				
<i>Active Cases</i>	42,789	91,508	268,810	403,107
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	8,175	7,630	6,724	22,529
Docket Adjustments	(493)	(582)	3,422	2,347
Cases Added:				
New Cases Filed	88,281	225,080	62,830	376,191
Cases Reactivated	369	460	845	1,674
All Other Cases Added	423	78	2,293	2,794
Total Cases on Docket	132,128	316,366	337,485	785,979
Dispositions:				
Default Judgments	15,379	69,737	21,379	106,495
Agreed Judgments	6,702	1,755	4,946	13,403
Trial/Hearing by Judge/Hearing Officer	6,168	66,126	23,481	95,775
Trial by Jury	99	232	444	775
Cases Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	3,023	16,797	11,241	31,061
Cases Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff	16,874	49,445	25,091	91,410
All Other Dispositions	5,321	14,008	14,653	33,982
Total Cases Disposed	53,566	218,100	101,235	372,901
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	2,863	4,315	3,537	10,715
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:				
<i>Active Cases</i>	70,497	89,005	221,877	381,379
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	9,071	8,538	5,373	22,982
Cases Appealed:				
After Trial	546	4,494	784	5,824
Without Trial	305	530	185	1,020
JUVENILE/MINOR ACTIVITY				
	Total			
Transportation Code Cases Filed	16,265			
Non-Driving Alcoholic Beverage Code Cases Filed	7,929			
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol Cases Filed	948			
Drug Paraphernalia Cases Filed	1,375			
Tobacco Cases Filed	875			
Failure to Attend School Cases Filed	57,829			
Education Code (Except Failure to Attend) Cases Filed	1,179			
Violation of Local Daytime Curfew Ordinance Cases Filed	248			
All Other Non-Traffic Fine-Only Cases Filed	6,042			
Transfer to Juvenile Court:				
<i>Mandatory Transfer</i>	550			
<i>Discretionary Transfer</i>	707			
Accused of Contempt and Referred to Juvenile Court (Delinquent Conduct).....	307			
Held in Contempt by Criminal Court (Fined or Denied Driving Privileges).....	2,860			
Juvenile Statement Magistrate Warning:				
<i>Warnings Administered</i>	2,153			
<i>Statements Certified</i>	2,478			
Detention Hearings Held	524			
Orders for Non-Secure Custody Issued	47			
Parent Contributing to Nonattendance Cases Filed	63,682			

Justice Courts Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
93.3 Percent Reporting Rate
9,150 Reports Received Out of a Possible 9,809

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY		
	Number Given	Number Requests for Counsel
Magistrate Warnings:		
<i>Class C Misdemeanors</i>	61,253	---
<i>Class A and B Misdemeanors</i>	149,519	38,489
<i>Felonies</i>	107,402	36,513
		Total
Arrest Warrants Issued:		
<i>Class C Misdemeanors</i>		443,348
<i>Class A and B Misdemeanors</i>		28,526
<i>Felonies</i>		31,748
Capiases Pro Fine Issued.....		73,205
Search Warrants Issued.....		2,381
Warrants for Fire, Health and Code Inspections Filed		86
Examining Trials Conducted.....		836
Emergency Mental Health Hearings Held.....		9,545
Magistrate's Orders for Emergency Protection Issued.....		7,734
Magistrate's Orders for Ignition Interlock Device Issued.....		4,189
All Other Magistrate's Orders Issued Requiring Conditions for Release on Bond.....		17,882
Driver's License Denial, Revocation or Suspension Hearings Held.....		17,744
Handgun License Denial, Revocation or Suspension Hearings Held.....		202
Disposition of Stolen Property Hearings Held.....		2,180
Peace Bond Hearings Held		474
Inquests Conducted.....		18,064
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Community Service:		
<i>Partial Satisfaction</i>		5,648
<i>Full Satisfaction</i>		12,662
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Jail Credit.....		129,619
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Waived for Indigency.....		5,029
Amount of Fines and Court Costs Waived for Indigency.....		\$1,292,881
Fines, Court Costs and Other Amounts Collected:		
<i>Kept by County</i>		\$195,008,716
<i>Remitted to State</i>		\$101,048,211
<i>Total</i>		\$317,694,520

Municipal Courts

6.4 million new cases filed

Cases Filed — Approximately 6.4 million new cases were reported filed in the state’s municipal courts in 2014, a decrease of 2.4 percent from the more than 6.6 million new cases filed the previous year.

Cases involving violations of state traffic laws not related to parking accounted for 69.7 percent of total cases added during the year. Civil and administrative cases accounted for the next largest share of cases; this category includes, among other things, civil parking, red light camera, and abandoned motor vehicle citations.

Traffic cases declined over each of the last six years and fell by 3.1 percent from 2013. Non-traffic misdemeanors also declined over five of the last six years and fell by 8.6 percent from the previous year. Civil and administrative cases, however, increased by 13.4 percent from 2013.

Clearance Rates — Municipal courts disposed of almost 5.6 million criminal cases in 2014, for a clearance rate of 97.2 percent. The courts also disposed of more than 625,000 civil and administrative cases, for a clearance rate of 84.2 percent. Since the clearance rates were less than 100 percent, the courts’ pending caseloads grew 1.3 percent to more than 14.8 million cases.

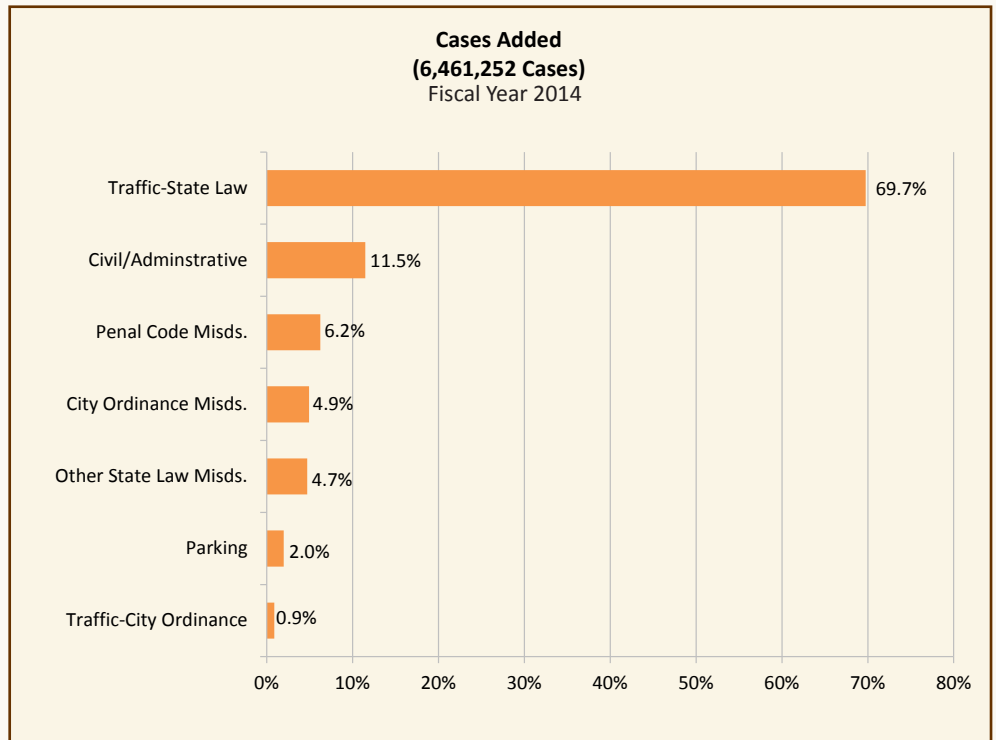


Figure 100 - Cases Added

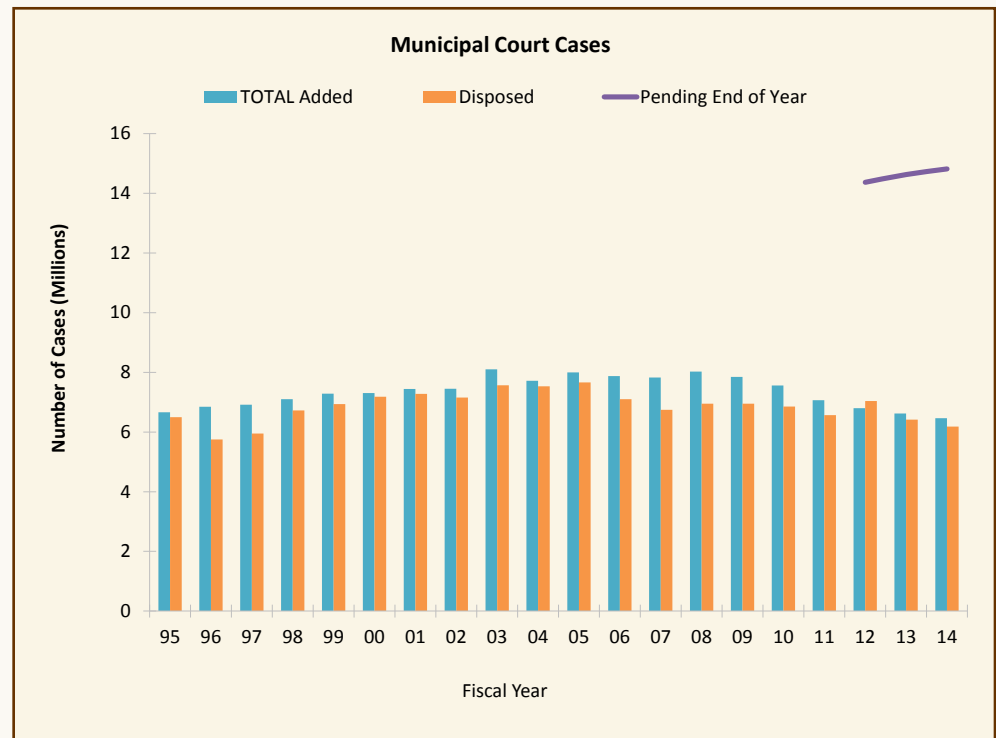


Figure 101 - Municipal Court Cases

4.6 million traffic and parking cases disposed

Manner of Disposition — In 2014, the courts disposed of approximately 4.6 million traffic and parking cases. The largest share of these cases, 32.0 percent, was disposed of by an uncontested disposition prior to court appearance or trial (payment of a fine or the submission of a guilty or no contest plea), and another 12.5 percent were disposed of by a guilty or no contest plea in court. Only 3.8 percent of cases were disposed of by bench trial and 0.1 percent by jury trial.

Municipal courts disposed of almost 968,000 non-traffic cases (i.e., Penal Code, other state law, and city ordinance cases). Approximately 34 percent of these cases were uncontested and disposed of prior to a court appearance or trial and another 17.8 percent were disposed of by a guilty or no contest plea in court. Nearly one-quarter of cases were dismissed by the prosecutor or judge. Only 3.6 percent of cases were disposed of by bench trial and 0.1 percent by jury trial.

Overall, guilty verdicts were made in 81.4 percent of the 210,042 cases that went to bench trial. In contrast, guilty verdicts accounted for 76.1 percent of the 4,688 cases that went to jury trial.

Municipal courts also disposed of 625,434 civil/administrative cases. The largest share of these cases, 65.9 percent, was uncontested civil fines and penalties. Approximately 21 percent were default judgments, and 9.8 percent were disposed of after a trial or other hearing by a judge or hearing officer.

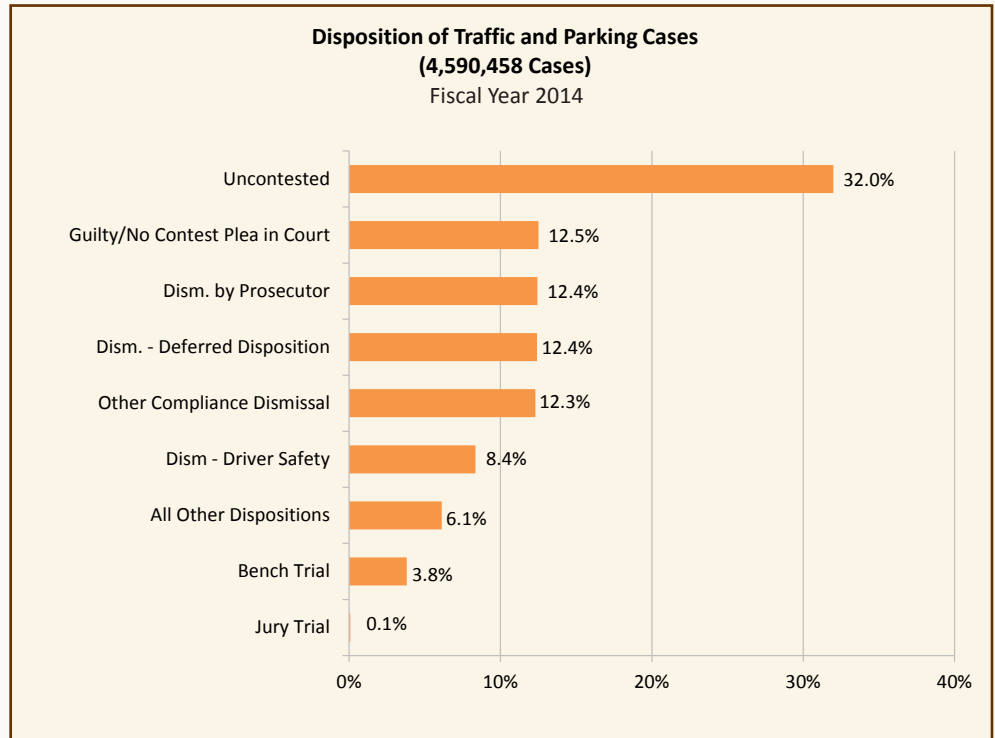


Figure 102 - Disposition of Traffic and Parking Cases

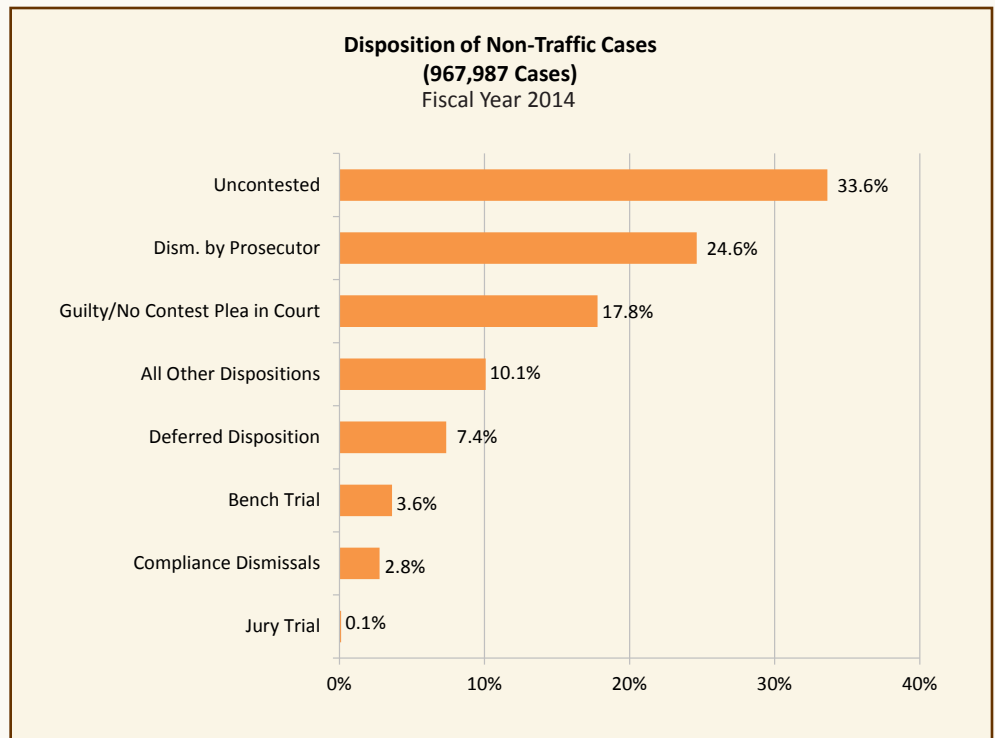


Figure 103 - Disposition of Non-Traffic Cases

Appeals — The rate of appeals has remained steady since 2005 (between 0.3 and 0.5 percent of cases involving a guilty or uncontested disposition). In 2014, two-thirds of appeals in traffic cases and 60 percent of appeals in non-traffic cases involved cases in which no trial had been held.

Education Code violations down 88%

Juvenile Case Activity — Filings in all case categories involving juveniles or minors declined from the previous year. Total filings fell each year since 2008 and reached an all-time low in 2014 (for the 16 years for which data was collected). The most significant declines were in cases involving the Education Code (other than failure to attend school) (down 88.0 percent), “all other non-traffic, fine-only” cases (51.2 percent), drug paraphernalia (42.8 percent), and tobacco (39.1 percent). The significant decline was likely due to legislative changes that took effect in September 2013 to reduce court referrals for disciplinary issues on school campuses.

Transportation Code (traffic) cases remained relatively unchanged from the previous year but accounted for a much larger share (39.1 percent) of the total juvenile and minor cases than in the past due to the steep declines in other case categories.

Magistrate activity involving juveniles or minors also declined; warnings administered to juveniles fell by 23.1 percent.

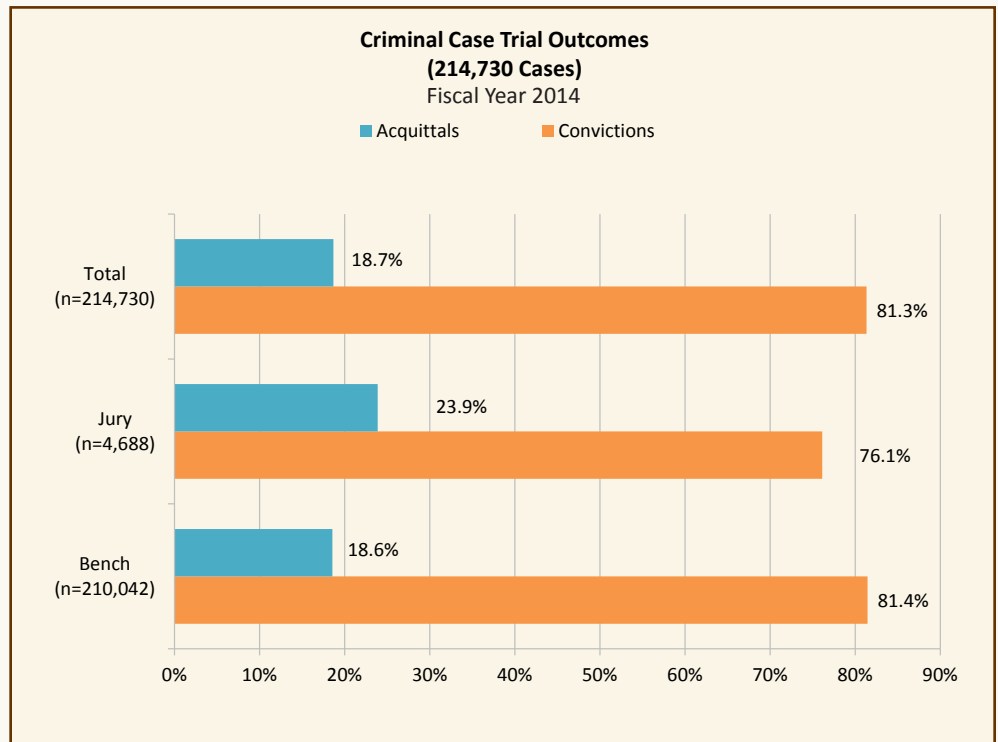
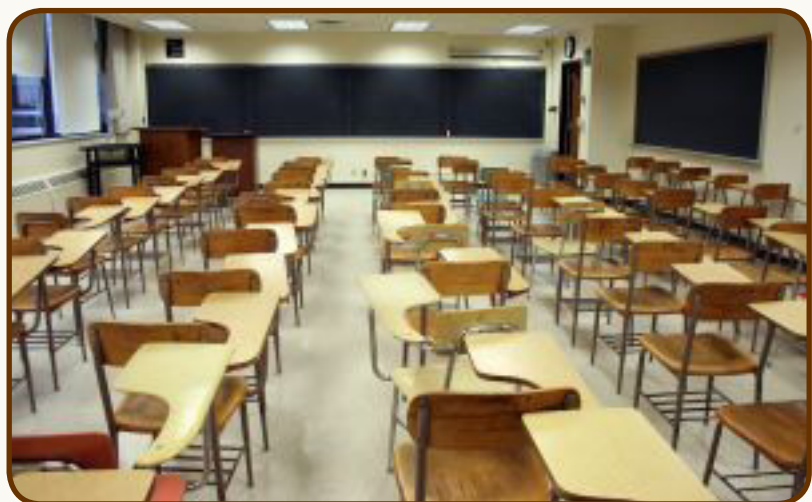


Figure 104 - Criminal Case Trial Outcomes



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Magistrate Activity — In 2014, municipal courts issued 14,600 search warrants, 1.8 million arrest warrants, 9,615 magistrate orders for emergency protection, and more than 509,000 magistrate warnings to adults.

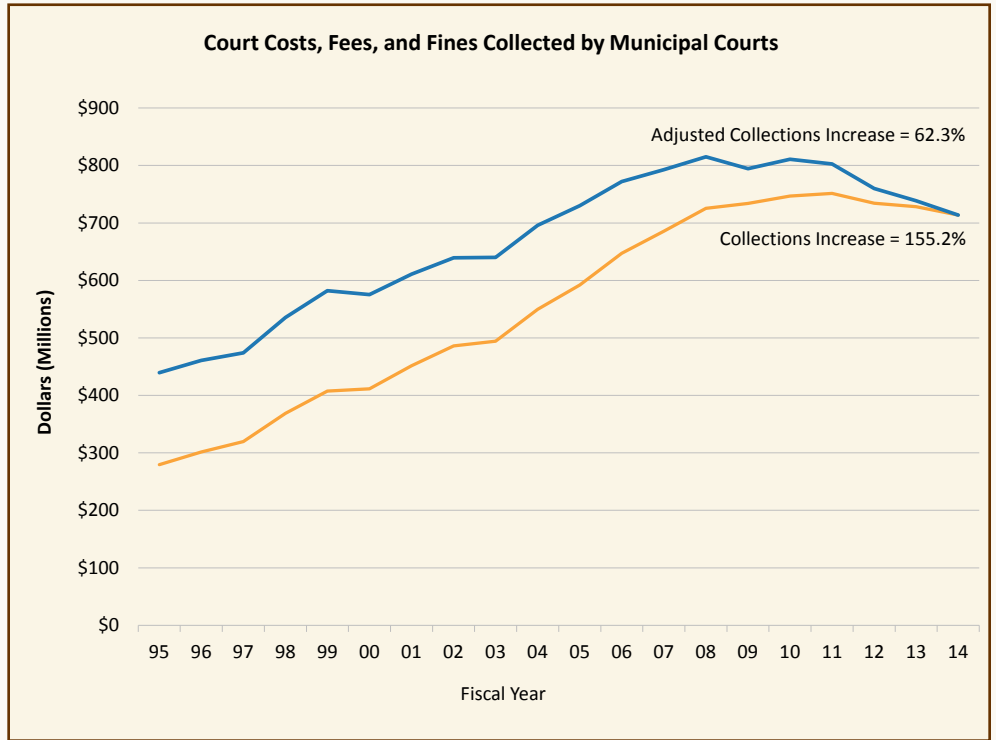


Figure 105 - Court Costs, Fees, and Fines Collected by Municipal Courts



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**Municipal Courts
Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

**95.0 Percent Reporting Rate
10,544 Reports Received Out of a Possible 11,100**

CRIMINAL CASES							
	Traffic Misdemeanors			Non-Traffic Misdemeanors			
	Non-Parking	Parking	City Ordinance	Penal Code	Other State Law	City Ordinance	Total
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	4,631,849	234,114	84,297	509,648	737,526	583,898	6,781,332
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	4,585,865	106,137	109,783	1,059,780	502,868	347,171	6,711,604
Docket Adjustments	(140,911)	14,131	(1,782)	241,954	(270,990)	(17,070)	(174,668)
Cases Added:							
New Cases Filed	4,495,272	127,068	56,436	395,877	300,546	317,072	5,692,271
Cases Reactivated	1,458,935	22,837	9,707	272,878	153,234	163,704	2,081,295
All Other Cases Added	11,402	863	259	6,888	5,006	1,980	26,398
Total Cases on Docket	10,456,547	399,013	148,917	1,427,245	925,322	1,049,584	14,406,628
Dispositions:							
Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial:							
Uncontested Dispositions	1,391,385	56,901	20,079	133,501	115,925	76,064	1,793,855
Dismissed by Prosecution	217,309	19,822	18,234	36,172	28,656	39,462	359,655
Total Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial	1,608,694	76,723	38,313	169,673	144,581	115,526	2,153,510
Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial:							
Convictions:							
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	564,309	5,198	4,564	83,492	41,537	47,169	746,269
<i>By the Court</i>	135,055	1,963	3,189	10,590	10,574	9,701	171,072
<i>By the Jury</i>	2,633	37	50	293	134	421	3,568
Acquittals:							
<i>By the Court</i>	33,528	126	1,075	1,692	1,024	1,525	38,970
<i>By the Jury</i>	819	14	9	104	46	128	1,120
Dismissed by Prosecution	311,014	3,247	1,396	68,756	11,834	53,481	449,728
Total Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial	1,047,358	10,585	10,283	164,927	65,149	112,425	1,410,727
Compliance Dismissals:							
After Driver Safety Course	383,308	---	---	---	---	---	383,308
After Deferred Disposition	553,279	3,420	13,150	27,268	23,879	20,156	641,152
After Teen Court	3,365	17	135	1,352	578	321	5,768
After Tobacco Awareness Course	---	---	---	---	555	---	555
After Treatment for Chemical Dependency	---	---	---	1,178	1,539	---	2,717
After Proof of Financial Responsibility	163,384	---	---	---	---	---	163,384
All Other Transportation Code Dismissals	392,018	2,924	2,823	2,098	8,290	10,868	419,021
Total Compliance Dismissals	1,495,354	6,361	16,108	31,896	34,841	31,345	1,615,905
All Other Dispositions	261,842	17,670	1,167	56,832	20,060	20,732	378,303
Total Cases Disposed	4,413,248	111,339	65,871	423,328	264,631	280,028	5,558,445
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	1,654,577	24,421	12,111	279,755	182,416	213,476	2,366,756
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:							
<i>Active Cases</i>	4,292,341	263,587	71,375	698,739	484,124	547,023	6,357,189
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	4,848,867	107,110	111,663	1,090,465	518,391	404,601	7,081,097
Show Cause Hearings Held	256,524	1,528	3,058	17,216	29,447	9,296	317,069
Cases Appealed:							
After Trial	2,728	32	18	274	303	193	3,548
Without Trial	5,471	45	19	491	499	170	6,695

**Municipal Courts
Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
95.0 Percent Reporting Rate
10,544 Reports Received Out of a Possible 11,100**

CIVIL/ADMINISTRATIVE CASES	
	Total
Cases Pending 9/1/2013:	
<i>Active Cases</i>	714,008
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	544,004
Docket Adjustments	1,895
Cases Added:	
New Cases Filed	742,247
Cases Reactivated	8,322
All Other Cases Added	336
Total Cases on Docket	1,466,808
Dispositions:	
Uncontested Civil Fines or Penalties	411,948
Default Judgments	131,978
Agreed Judgments	8,368
Trial/Hearing by Judge/Hearing Officer	61,118
Trial by Jury	2
Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	8,658
All Other Dispositions	3,362
Total Cases Disposed	625,434
Cases Placed on Inactive Status	37,774
Cases Pending 8/31/2014:	
<i>Active Cases</i>	805,448
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	571,608
Cases Appealed:	
After Trial	78
Without Trial	4
JUVENILE/MINOR ACTIVITY	
	Total
Transportation Code Cases Filed.....	45,223
Non-Driving Alcoholic Beverage Code Cases Filed.....	21,194
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol Cases Filed.....	1,451
Drug Paraphernalia Cases Filed.....	3,932
Tobacco Cases Filed.....	3,052
Failure to Attend School Cases Filed.....	12,073
Education Code (Except Failure to Attend) Cases Filed.....	683
Violation of Local Daytime Curfew Ordinance Cases Filed.....	5,438
All Other Non-Traffic Fine-Only Cases Filed.....	22,684
Transfer to Juvenile Court:	
<i>Mandatory Transfer</i>	435
<i>Discretionary Transfer</i>	663
Accused of Contempt and Referred to Juvenile Court (Delinquent Conduct).....	739
Held in Contempt by Criminal Court (Fined or Denied Driving Privileges).....	7,185
Juvenile Statement Magistrate Warning:	
<i>Warnings Administered</i>	837
<i>Statements Certified</i>	365
Detention Hearings Held.....	108
Orders for Non-Secure Custody Issued.....	1,262
Parent Contributing to Nonattendance Cases Filed.....	4,379

**Municipal Courts
Activity Detail
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
95.0 Percent Reporting Rate
10,544 Reports Received Out of a Possible 11,100**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY		
	Number Given	Number Requests for Counsel
Magistrate Warnings:		
Class C Misdemeanors	294,303	---
Class A and B Misdemeanors	142,591	34,352
Felonies	72,834	21,479
		Total
Arrest Warrants Issued:		
Class C Misdemeanors		1,730,866
Class A and B Misdemeanors		44,672
Felonies.....		32,300
Capiases Pro Fine Issued.....		658,618
Search Warrants Issued		14,600
Warrants for Fire, Health and Code Inspections Filed		1,648
Examining Trials Conducted		60
Emergency Mental Health Hearings Held		1,753
Magistrate's Orders for Emergency Protection Issued		9,615
Magistrate's Orders for Ignition Interlock Device Issued.....		3,024
All Other Magistrate's Orders Issued Requiring Conditions for Release on Bond		2,478
Driver's License Denial, Revocation or Suspension Hearings Held.....		1,295
Disposition of Stolen Property Hearings Held.....		1,753
Peace Bond Hearings Held.....		31
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Community Service:		
<i>Partial Satisfaction</i>		8,088
<i>Full Satisfaction</i>		56,880
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Jail Credit		564,031
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Waived for Indigency.....		21,426
Amount of Fines and Court Costs Waived for Indigency		\$ 4,786,094
Fines, Court Costs and Other Amounts Collected:		
Kept by City.....		\$ 474,965,279
Remitted to State.....		\$ 419,231,228
Total		\$ 713,716,151

Court Security Incidents

Security Incidents - Article 102.017(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, requires a local administrative judge to submit a written report to OCA regarding any incident involving court security that occurs in or around a building housing a court. A security incident is defined as any adverse event that threatens the security of a person or property, or causes or may cause significant disruption to functions of the court due to a breach in security.

132 incidents reported

In 2014, OCA received a total of 132 incident reports, 32 percent of which were submitted by district courts, 10 percent by county-level courts, 4 percent by justice courts, 33 percent by municipal courts, and 22 percent by courthouses serving multiple court types.

Thirty-six percent of all reported incidents were not related to a particular case. Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of all reported incidents were related to criminal cases involving Class B misdemeanors or higher-level offenses, and another 23 percent of incidents involved Class C misdemeanor offenses.

Of the 152 behaviors reported, 32 percent involved disorderly behavior. The next most common behaviors reported were attempts to take a weapon into a courthouse (25 percent) and physical assault (13 percent).

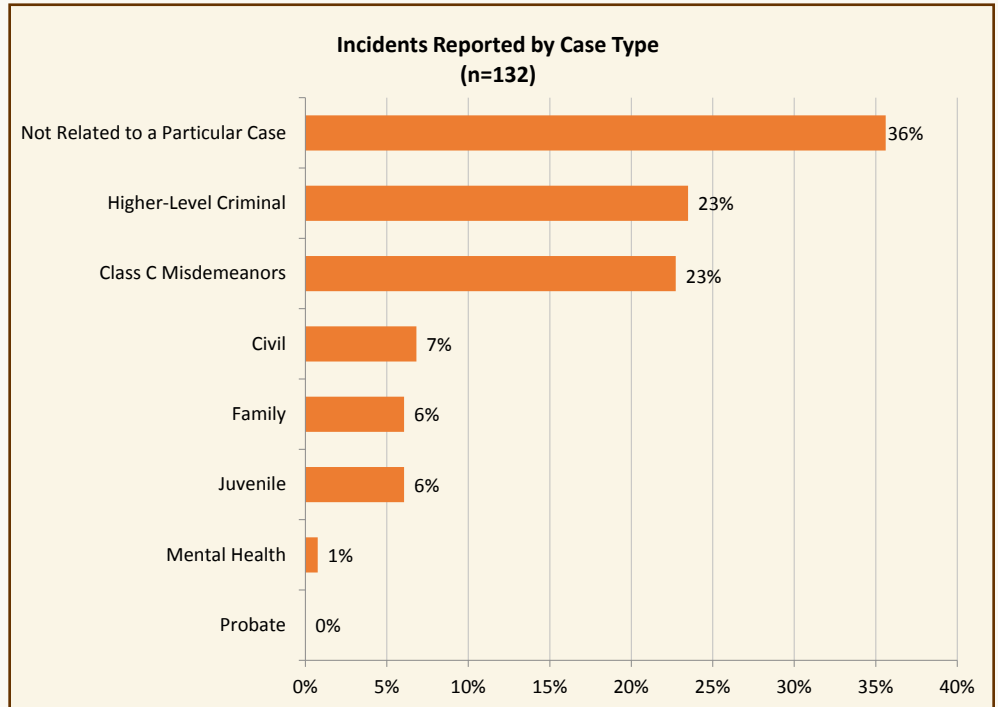


Figure 106 - Incidents Reported by Case Type

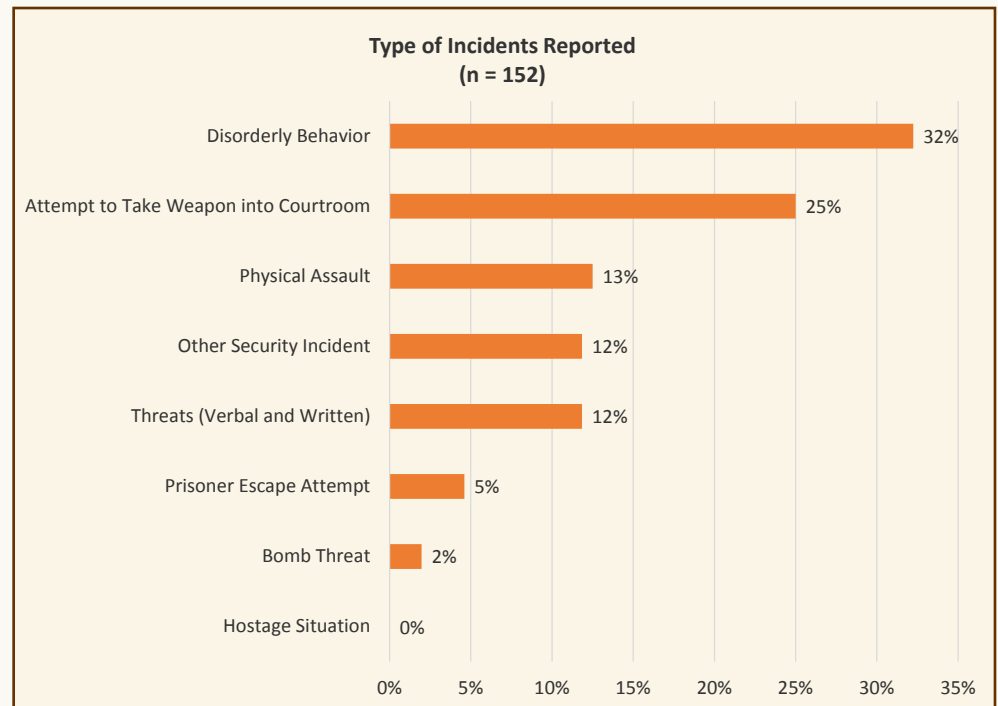


Figure 107 - Type of Incidents Reported

No injuries reported in 89% of 118 incidents

In 89 percent of 118 incidents, no injuries were reported. Of the 14 reported incidents that resulted in injury, more than 70 percent were related to cases involving Class B misdemeanor or higher-level offenses.

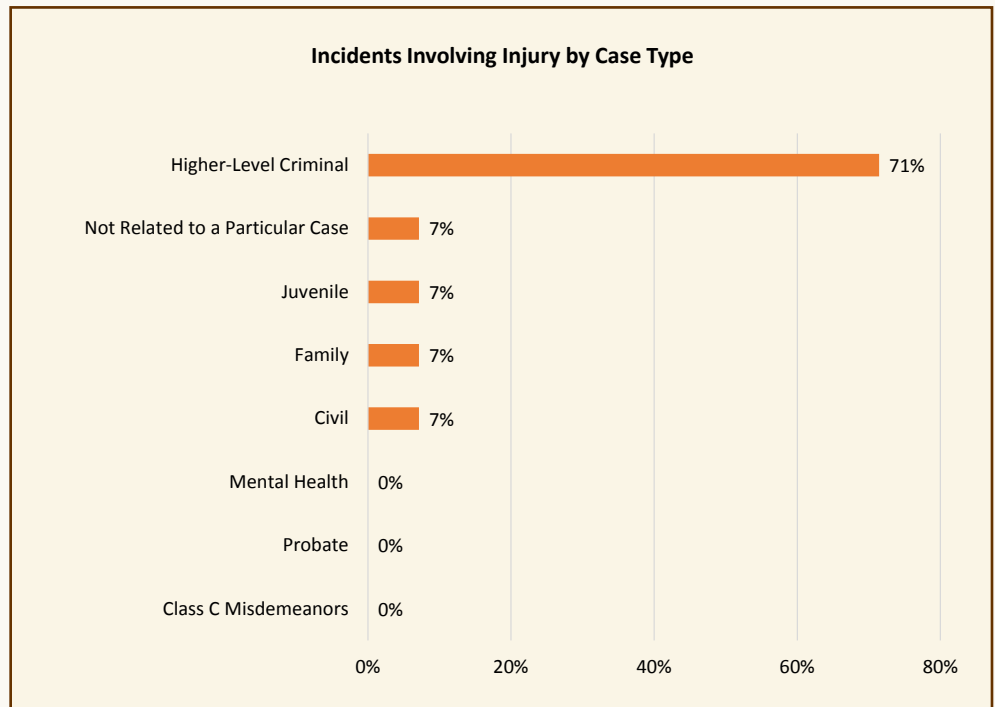


Figure 108 - Incidents Involving Injury by Case Type

The following are examples of incidents that occurred in the trial courts during 2014:

District Courts - At a detention hearing a judge ordered a juvenile to be detained at another county’s juvenile detention center. The juvenile became agitated, vocal and demanded to be held at the local county jail, stating that he would hurt the other juveniles at the detention center if he wasn’t sent to jail. The judge told a deputy to advise the detention center staff of the juvenile’s threats and dismissed the juvenile from court. As bailiffs escorted the juvenile to a holding cell, he threatened and became combative with the bailiffs and made threats against the judge. Once alone in the holding cell, the juvenile began hitting his head on the walls and kicking the cage gate until transport arrived. After a struggle to restrain and remove the juvenile, he was escorted back to the detention center.

County-Level Courts - A criminal defendant assaulted a mental health counselor in open court as he was being evaluated by the counselor.

Municipal Courts - A defendant refused multiple times to state his name before a judge. He then stated that he was a sovereign citizen with special rights and that the court had no jurisdiction or laws over him. He turned on his cell phone and began to video record the judge. The judge instructed the bailiff to tell the defendant to turn off his cell phone and leave the courtroom, but the defendant refused. The judge found the defendant in contempt of court, and he was escorted out of the courtroom.

For more information on court security incidents, visit <http://www.txcourts.gov/statistics/court-security-incident-reports.aspx>.

Explanation of Trial Court Case Activity Categories



Case Status and Clearance Rate Definitions

All Trial Courts

CASE STATUS

For more specific information about the case status categories listed below, as well as definitions of the various disposition types, refer to the reporting instructions posted at <http://www.txcourts.gov/reporting-to-oca/judicial-council-trial-court-activity-reports/district-county-court-reports.aspx>.

Cases Pending Beginning of Month–Active: The number of cases that were awaiting disposition at the beginning of the reporting period.

Cases Pending Beginning of Month–Inactive: The number of cases that had been classified as inactive at the beginning of the reporting period.

New Cases Filed: The number of cases that were filed with the court for the first time during the reporting period.

Reactivated: The number of cases that had previously been placed on inactive status, but were restored to the court's control during the reporting period. Further court proceedings in these cases could be resumed during the reporting period and proceed toward disposition. The rules for reactivating a case are the reverse of those for placing a case on inactive status, (e.g., the lifting of a stay, arrest of a defendant with an outstanding warrant, etc.).

All Other Cases Added (Reopened): The number of cases in which a judgment had previously been entered but which were restored to the court's pending caseload during the reporting period. These cases come back to the court due to the filing of a request to modify or enforce that existing judgment and a hearing before a judicial officer is requested to review the status of the case or initiate further proceedings in the case.

Total Cases on Docket: The sum of the number of new cases filed, cases appealed from lower courts, reactivated and reopened cases.

Total Dispositions: The number of cases for which an original entry of judgment has been entered during the reporting period. For cases involving multiple parties/issues, the disposition is not to be reported until all parties/issues have been resolved.

Placed on Inactive Status: The number of cases whose status was administratively changed to inactive during the reporting period due to events beyond the court's control. These cases were removed from court control, and the court could take no further action until an event restored the case to the court's active pending caseload. Examples include cases in which a warrant of arrest was issued, a stay was issued while a defendant undergoes temporary or extended inpatient mental health treatment, or a stay was issued due to bankruptcy.

Cases Pending End of Month–Active: The number of cases that were awaiting disposition at the end of the reporting period.

Cases Pending End of Month–Inactive: The number of cases that had been classified as inactive at the end of the reporting period.

Set for Review: The number of cases that, following an initial entry of judgment, were awaiting regularly scheduled reviews involving a hearing before a judicial officer.

CLEARANCE RATE

Clearance Rate: The number of cases disposed or placed on inactive status divided by the number of cases added to the docket (including reactivated cases). The clearance rate is a measure of how effectively a court is disposing the cases added to its docket.

A clearance rate of 100 percent indicates that the court disposed of the same number of cases during the year as were added to the docket during the year, resulting in no changes to the court's case backlog.

Formula:

Number of cases disposed + number of cases placed on inactive status

divided by

number of new cases filed + number of cases reactivated + cases appealed from lower courts + all other cases added

Case Type Categories

DISTRICT COURTS

CRIMINAL DOCKET

A criminal case is counted as one defendant per indictment or information. For example, if an indictment names more than one defendant, there is more than one case; three defendants named in one indictment equals three cases. If the same defendant is charged in more than one indictment, even if for the same criminal episode, there is more than one case; the same person named in four indictments equals four cases. Finally, if an indictment contains more than one count (Art. 21.24, Code of Criminal Procedure), only one case per person named in the indictment is reported. The case is reported under the classification for the most serious offense alleged.

The case type categories are:

CAPITAL MURDER: An offense under Penal Code Sec. 19.03 (Capital Murder).

MURDER: An offense under Penal Code Sec. 19.02 (Murder).

OTHER HOMICIDES: An offense under Penal Code Sec. 19.04 (Manslaughter), 19.05 (Criminally Negligent Homicide), or 49.08 (Intoxication Manslaughter).

ASSAULT OR ATTEMPTED MURDER: A **felony** offense under Penal Code Sec. 22.01 (Assault), 22.04 (Injury to a Child, Elderly Individual or Disabled Individual), 22.05 (Deadly Conduct), 22.07 (Terroristic Threat), or 22.08 (Aiding Suicide); an offense under Penal Code Sec. 22.015 (Coercing, Soliciting or Inducing Gang Membership), 22.02 (Aggravated Assault), 22.041 (Abandoning or Endangering Child), 22.09 (Tampering with Consumer Product), or 22.11 (Harassment by Persons in Certain Correctional Facilities; Harassment of Public Servant); or an offense of Attempt (as defined in Sec. 15.01) to Commit: Murder (19.02) or Capital Murder (19.03).

SEXUAL ASSAULT OF AN ADULT: An offense under Penal Code Sec. 22.011 (Sexual Assault) or 22.021 (Aggravated Sexual Assault) where the victim is an adult (17 years or older).

INDECENCY OR SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD: An offense under Penal Code Secs. 22.011 (Sexual Assault) or 22.021 (Aggravated Sexual Assault) where the victim is a child (younger than 17 years); an offense under Sec. 21.02 (Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Children); an offense under Sec. 21.11 (Indecency with a Child); or an offense under Sec. 21.12 (Improper Relationship Between Educator and Student).

FAMILY VIOLENCE ASSAULT: A **felony** offense under Penal Code Sec. 22.01(b) (2) against a person whose relationship to the defendant is described by Sec. 71.0021(b), 71.003, or 71.005 of the Family Code.

AGGRAVATED ROBBERY OR ROBBERY: An offense under Penal Code Sec. 29.03 (Aggravated Robbery) or 29.02 (Robbery).

BURGLARY: A **felony** offense under Penal Code Sec. 30.02 (Burglary) or 30.04 (Burglary of Vehicles).

THEFT: A **felony** offense under Ch. 31 of the Penal Code, except when the property involved is a motor vehicle; or a felony offense under Sec. 32.31 (Credit Card Abuse or Debit Card Abuse) or 33A.04 (Theft of Telecommunications Service).

AUTOMOBILE THEFT: A **felony** offense under Penal Code Sec. 31.03 (Theft) if the property involved is a motor vehicle, or an offense under Sec. 31.07 (Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle).

DRUG SALE OR MANUFACTURE: A **felony** offense under the Texas Controlled Substances Act (Ch. 481, Health and Safety Code), Ch. 482, Health and Safety Code (Simulated Controlled Substances), the Texas Dangerous Drugs Act (Ch. 483, Health and Safety Code), or Ch. 485, Health and Safety Code (Abusable Volatile Chemicals) for the manufacture, delivery, sale, or possession with intent to deliver or sell a drug or controlled substance.

DRUG POSSESSION: A **felony** offense for possession under the Texas Controlled

Substances Act (Ch. 481, Health and Safety Code) or the Texas Dangerous Drugs Act (Ch. 483, Health and Safety Code), other than possession with intent to deliver or sell.

FELONY D.W.I.: A **felony** offense under Penal Code Sec. 49.04 (Driving While Intoxicated), 49.045 (Driving While Intoxicated with Child Passenger), or 49.09 (Enhanced Offenses and Penalties). Also include an offense under Penal Code Sec. 49.07 (Intoxication Assault) when the case involves a motor vehicle.

OTHER FELONIES: A **felony** offense not clearly identifiable as belonging in one of the preceding categories, including cases previously categorized as forgery.

ALL MISDEMEANORS: Any offense classified as a misdemeanor.

CIVIL DOCKET

A civil case, unlike a criminal case, does not depend on the number of persons involved. Instead, each separate suit, normally commenced by the filing of the plaintiff's original petition, defines an individual civil case.

The case type categories are:

INJURY OR DAMAGE—MOTOR VEHICLE: All cases for damages associated in any way with a motor vehicle (automobile, truck, motorcycle, etc.), with or without accompanying personal injury. Examples include personal injury, property damage, and wrongful death cases that involve motor vehicles.

INJURY OR DAMAGE—MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: Cases that allege misconduct or negligence by a person or entity in the medical profession (doctors, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, etc. and their firms: hospitals, nursing homes, etc.) acting in a professional capacity, thereby causing physical or financial harm.

INJURY OR DAMAGE—OTHER PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE: Cases that allege misconduct or negligence by a person or entity not in the medical profession (lawyers, accountants, architects, etc. and their firms) acting in a professional capacity, thereby causing physical or financial harm.

INJURY OR DAMAGE—PRODUCT LIABILITY—ASBESTOS/SILICA: Cases involving the alleged responsibility of the manufacturer or seller for an injury caused to a person or property by exposure to, or ingestion of, asbestos or silica or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury.

INJURY OR DAMAGE—OTHER PRODUCT LIABILITY: All other cases, not involving asbestos or silica, involving the alleged responsibility of the manufacturer or seller of an article for an injury caused to a person or property by a defect in, or the condition of, the article sold or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury.

OTHER INJURY OR DAMAGE: All other cases not falling into categories above alleging an injury or wrong committed against a person, their reputation, or their property by a party who either did something that he was obligated not to do or failed to do something that he was obligated to do. Examples include damages on premises, "slip-and-fall" cases, construction damages, assault, battery, animal attack, vandalism, slander/libel/defamation, malicious prosecution, and false imprisonment.

REAL PROPERTY—EMINENT DOMAIN: Suits by a unit of government or a corporation with the power of eminent domain for the taking of private land for public use; or cases in which a property owner challenges the amount of remuneration offered by the government for the taking of a parcel of land.

OTHER REAL PROPERTY: All other cases involving real property. Examples include disputes over the ownership, use, boundaries, or value of real property, including trespass to try title.

CONTRACT—CONSUMER/COMMERCIAL/DEBT: Cases involving a buyer of goods or services bringing a suit against the seller for failure either to deliver said goods

Case Type Categories

or services or to honor a warranty as promised in an expressed or implied contract. Also, cases involving a seller of goods or services bringing a suit against a buyer for failure to pay for said goods or services as promised in an expressed or implied contract (debt collection). Examples include agreements, breach of contract, contracts, fraud, notes, sworn accounts, debts, and assignment of creditors.

OTHER CONTRACT: All other cases involving a dispute over an agreement, express or implied, between two parties. Examples include employment cases (including discrimination, retaliation, termination, and other employment cases), landlord/tenant disputes, mortgage foreclosures, homeowners association disputes, etc.

CIVIL CASES RELATING TO CRIMINAL MATTERS: All civil cases associated with criminal matters, including bond forfeiture, expunction, nondisclosure, occupational license, seizure and forfeiture, extradition, contempt (in criminal cases only), and writ of habeas corpus (in criminal cases only) cases. Include petitions for relief from a firearms disability related to criminal cases (Sec. 574.088, Health and Safety Code).

OTHER CIVIL CASES: All non-tax civil cases not clearly identifiable as belonging in one of the preceding categories. Include occupational license cases in civil and family matters and cases appealing the finding of a lower court, department, or administrative agency (e.g., workers' compensation, business dissolution, liquor license appeal, etc.).

TAX CASES: Suits brought by governmental taxing entities against an individual or business for the collection of taxes.

FAMILY LAW DOCKET

A family law case is counted and reported when: 1) an original petition is filed (no matter how many parties or children are involved); 2) a show cause motion, motion to modify, or similar motion is filed following entry of original judgment; or 3) some other case is filed.

The case type categories are:

DIVORCE—CHILDREN: Suits brought by a party to a marriage to dissolve the marriage pursuant to Ch. 6, Family Code that also include a suit affecting the parent-child relationship due to the existence of children born or adopted of the marriage who are under 18 years of age or who are otherwise entitled to support as provided by Ch. 154, Family Code. Include petitions for annulment and petitions to declare a marriage void.

DIVORCE—NO CHILDREN: Suits brought by a party to a marriage to dissolve the marriage pursuant to Ch. 6, Family Code. Include petitions for annulment and petitions to declare a marriage void.

PARENT-CHILD—NO DIVORCE: Cases involving issues of custody, support, paternity, visitation (by parents, grandparents or other family members) that do not involve a current or previously decided divorce/marriage dissolution case. Include voluntary legitimation of paternity (Sec. 160.201, Family Code).

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES: Cases filed under Ch. 262 of the Family Code on behalf of the Department of Family and Protective Services; a motion in aid of investigation filed under Sec. 261.303 of the Family Code; a motion to participate filed under Sec. 264.203 of the Family Code; or a civil action filed by the Department requesting a determination of an at-risk child under Sec. 264.303 of the Family Code.

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS: Cases filed under Ch. 161 of the Family Code requesting that the court extinguish the legal relationship of parent and child.

ADOPTION: Cases filed under Ch. 162 of the Family Code requesting the establishment of a new, permanent relationship of parent and child between persons not having that relationship naturally. Include gestation agreements.

PROTECTIVE ORDERS—NO DIVORCE: Cases filed under Ch. 82, Family Code, requesting an order designed to limit or eliminate contact between two or more family/household members or individuals involved in a dating relationship.

TITLE IV-D—PATERNITY: Cases filed by the Title IV-D Agency (Office of Attorney General) requesting a determination of parentage under Ch. 160, Family Code and the setting of a child support obligation. These cases may also involve custody and visitation issues.

TITLE IV-D—SUPPORT ORDER: Cases filed by the Title IV-D Agency (Office of Attorney General) requesting the setting of a child support obligation where the parentage of the child has been established by an Acknowledgment of Paternity or the child was born during the marriage. These cases may also involve custody and visitation issues.

TITLE IV-D—UIFSA: Cases filed by the Title IV-D Agency (Office of the Attorney General) seeking to establish a Texas child support order. The issue of paternity may be addressed. UIFSA cases are distinguished by the fact that not all parties reside in Texas. Issues of custody and visitation are not generally involved.

ALL OTHER FAMILY CASES: Includes all cases filed under the Family Code that are not reported elsewhere, including, but not limited to:

- Judicial bypass of parental notification of abortion (Sec. 33.003);
- Changes of name (Ch. 45);
- Adult adoptions (Sec. 152.502);
- Removal of disability of minority (Ch. 31);
- Removal of disability of minority for marriage (Sec. 2.103);
- Suits for parental liability for damages caused by conduct of child (Ch. 41); and
- Suits for liability for interference with possession of a child (Ch. 42).

POST-JUDGMENT MODIFICATION—CUSTODY: Post-judgment suits or motions filed pursuant to Subchapter B, Ch. 156, Family Code, for modification of an order that provides for the conservatorship of, possession of, or determination of residence of a child (e.g., motions to modify conservatorship [custody], motions to modify right to determine primary residence of child, motions for further orders of the court).

POST-JUDGMENT MODIFICATION—OTHER: Post-judgment suits or motions requesting modification of orders not involving custody of a child, including, but not limited to:

- Suits filed pursuant to Subchapter B, Ch. 156, Family Code for modification of an order that provides for the access to a child (motions to modify visitation privileges; motions to modify rights, privileges and duties of conservator);
- Suits filed pursuant to Subchapter C, Ch. 156, Family Code for modification of an order that provides for the support of a child (motions to modify or set child support; motions to terminate wage withholding; motions for further orders of the court); and
- Suits filed pursuant to Sec. 8.057, Family Code for modification of an order that provides for spousal maintenance (petition to terminate/modify order/writ of income withholding).

POST-JUDGMENT ENFORCEMENT: Post-judgment suits or motions requesting the enforcement of a final order, including, but not limited to:

- Motions filed pursuant to Ch. 157, Family Code to enforce a final order for conservatorship, child support, possession of or access to a child, property provisions, injunctions, or other provisions of a final order (e.g., motions for contempt; motions for enforcement of judgments or prior orders; motions to revoke community supervision/probation for failure to pay child support);
- Suits to enforce a divorce or annulment decree filed pursuant to Ch. 9, Family Code (petition for enforcement of property division; petitions to divide assets not divided on divorce or annulment; post-decree qualified domestic relations orders); and
- Suits to enforce spousal maintenance filed pursuant to Ch. 8, Family Code.

POST-JUDGMENT TITLE IV-D: Suits or motions filed by the Title IV-D agency (Office of the Attorney General) pursuant to Chs. 156, 157 or 159, Family Code, to enforce and/or modify a child support obligation.

Case Type Categories

JUVENILE DOCKET

Juvenile cases are based upon petitions for adjudication of a child alleged to have engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision (C.I.N.S.) as governed by Title 3 of the Texas Family Code.

Delinquent conduct cases are further broken down into case categories similar to the ones used in the Criminal section. See OCA's Required Reporting webpage (<http://www.txcourts.gov/reporting-to-oca/judicial-council-trial-court-activity-reports/district-county-court-reports.aspx>) for full definitions.

STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS

MISDEMEANOR CASE DOCKET

A criminal case is counted as one defendant per information or complaint. For example, if an information names more than one defendant, there is more than one case; three defendants named in one information equals three cases. If the same defendant is charged in more than one information, even if for the same criminal episode, there is more than one case; the same person named in four informations equals four cases. Finally, if an information contains more than one count (Art. 21.24, Code of Criminal Procedure) only one case per person named in the information is reported. The case is reported under the classification for the most serious offense alleged.

Case categories are identical to the ones used in the Criminal section of the Constitutional County Court reports.

FELONY CASE DOCKET

A criminal case is counted as one defendant per indictment or information. For example, if an indictment names more than one defendant, there is more than one case; three defendants named in one indictment equals three cases. If the same defendant is charged in more than one indictment, even if for the same criminal episode, there is more than one case; the same person named in four indictments equals four cases. Finally, if an indictment contains more than one count (Art. 21.24, Code of Criminal Procedure), only one case per person named in the indictment is reported. The case is reported under the classification for the most serious offense alleged.

Case categories are identical to the ones used in the Criminal section of the District Court reports.

CIVIL DOCKET

A civil case, unlike a criminal case, does not depend on the number of persons involved. Instead, each separate suit, normally commenced by the filing of the plaintiff's original petition, defines an individual civil case.

Case categories are identical to the ones used in the Civil section of the District Court reports.

FAMILY LAW DOCKET

A family law case is counted and reported when: 1) an original petition is filed (no matter how many parties or children are involved); 2) a show cause motion, motion to modify, or similar motion is filed following entry of original judgment; or 3) some other case is filed.

Case categories are identical to the ones used in the Civil section of the District Court reports.

JUVENILE DOCKET

Juvenile cases are based upon petitions for adjudication of a child alleged to have engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision (C.I.N.S.) as governed by Title 3 of the Texas Family Code.

Delinquent conduct cases are further broken down into case categories similar to the ones used in the Criminal section. See OCA's Required Reporting webpage (<http://www.txcourts.gov/reporting-to-oca/judicial-council-trial-court-activity-reports/district-county-court-reports.aspx>) for full definitions.

[reports/district-county-court-reports.aspx](http://www.txcourts.gov/reporting-to-oca/judicial-council-trial-court-activity-reports/district-county-court-reports.aspx)) for full definitions.

PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET

These cases are governed by the Texas Probate Code, and include matters involving the probate of wills, the administration of estates, and guardianships. A single probate case may involve more than one person.

Case categories are identical to the ones used in the Probate and Guardianship section of the Constitutional County Court reports.

COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH CASES

Sec. 574.014 of the Health and Safety Code requires a report to the Office of Court Administration on the number of applications for involuntary mental health commitment orders filed and the disposition of those cases. Information is also collected on applications seeking an order to authorize psychoactive medications.

Case categories are identical to the ones used in the Court-Ordered Mental Health Services section of the Constitutional County Court reports.

CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURTS

CRIMINAL DOCKET

A criminal case is counted as one defendant per information or complaint. For example, if an information names more than one defendant, there is more than one case; three defendants named in one information equals three cases. If the same defendant is charged in more than one information, even if for the same criminal episode, there is more than one case; the same person named in four informations equals four cases. Finally, if an information contains more than one count (Art. 21.24, Code of Criminal Procedure) only one case per person named in the information is reported. The case is reported under the classification for the most serious offense alleged.

The case type categories are:

D.W.I.—FIRST OFFENSE: An offense under Sec. 49.04, Penal Code (Driving While Intoxicated).

D.W.I.—SECOND OFFENSE: A second offense of driving while intoxicated (Sec. 49.04, Penal Code) under Sec. 49.09, Penal Code (Enhanced Offenses and Penalties).

THEFT: A misdemeanor offense under Ch. 31 (Theft) of the Penal Code, except Sec. 31.06, or an offense under Penal Code Sec. 33A.04 (Theft of Telecommunications Service).

THEFT BY CHECK: Any offense of theft or theft of service in which the defendant allegedly obtained property or secured performance of service by issuing or passing a check or similar sight order for the payment of money, when the issuer did not have sufficient funds in or on deposit with the bank or other drawee for the payment in full of the check or order as well as all other checks or orders then outstanding (Sec. 31.06, Penal Code). Also included are appeals of cases brought under Sec. 32.41, Penal Code (Issuance of Bad Checks).

DRUG POSSESSION—MARIJUANA: A misdemeanor offense under Sec. 481.120 (Delivery of Marihuana), Sec. 481.121 (Possession of Marihuana) or Sec. 481.134(f) (Drug Free Zones), Health and Safety Code.

DRUG POSSESSION—OTHER: Any other misdemeanor offense for possession, manufacture, delivery, sale, or possession with intent to deliver or sell a drug or controlled substance under the Texas Controlled Substances Act (Ch. 481, Health and Safety Code), the Texas Dangerous Drug Act (Ch. 483, Health and Safety Code), or Ch. 485 (Abusable Volatile Chemicals), Health and Safety Code.

FAMILY VIOLENCE ASSAULT: A misdemeanor offense under Penal Code Sec. 22.01(a)(1) against a person whose relationship to the defendant is described by Sec. 71.0021(b), 71.003, or 71.005 of the Family Code.

Case Type Categories

ASSAULT—OTHER: Any other misdemeanor offense under Ch. 22 of the Penal Code.

TRAFFIC: Violations of the provisions of Title 7, Transportation Code and related statutes, except D.W.I. Sec. 49.04 (or Sec. 49.09 for a subsequent offense), Penal Code, and Sec. 521.457, Transportation Code (Driving While License Invalid).

D.W.L.S./D.W.L.I.: An offense under Sec. 521.457, Transportation Code (Driving While License Invalid).

OTHER MISDEMEANOR CASES: A misdemeanor not clearly identifiable as belonging in one of the preceding categories.

CIVIL DOCKET

A civil case, unlike a criminal case, does not depend on the number of persons involved. Instead, each separate suit, normally commenced by the filing of the plaintiff's original petition, defines an individual civil case.

The case type categories are:

INJURY OR DAMAGE—MOTOR VEHICLE: All cases for damages associated in any way with a motor vehicle (automobile, truck, motorcycle, etc.), with or without accompanying personal injury. Examples include personal injury, property damage, and wrongful death cases that involve motor vehicles.

OTHER INJURY OR DAMAGE: All other cases alleging an injury or wrong committed against a person, their reputation, or their property by a party who either did something that he was obligated not to do or failed to do something that he was obligated to do. Examples include damages on premises, "slip-and-fall" cases, construction damages, assault, battery, animal attack, vandalism, slander/libel/defamation, malicious prosecution, and false imprisonment.

REAL PROPERTY: Cases involving disputes over the ownership, use, boundaries, or value of real property.

CONTRACT—CONSUMER/COMMERCIAL/DEBT: Cases involving a buyer of goods or services bringing a suit against the seller for failure either to deliver said goods or services or to honor a warranty as promised in an expressed or implied contract. Also, cases involving a seller of goods or services bringing a suit against a buyer for failure to pay for said goods or services as promised in an expressed or implied contract (debt collection). Examples include agreements, breach of contract, contracts, notes, sworn accounts, debts, and assignment of creditors.

CONTRACT—LANDLORD/TENANT: Cases alleging a breach of contract (lease) between a landlord and tenant, including unlawful detainer.

OTHER CONTRACT: All other cases involving a dispute over an agreement, express or implied, between two parties. Examples include employment cases (including discrimination, retaliation, termination, and other employment cases), fraud, mortgage foreclosures, homeowners association disputes, etc.

CIVIL CASES RELATING TO CRIMINAL MATTERS: All civil cases associated with criminal matters, including bond forfeiture, nondisclosure, occupational license, seizure and forfeiture, contempt (in criminal cases only), and writ of habeas corpus (in criminal cases only) cases. Include petitions for relief from a firearms disability related to a criminal case (Sec. 574.088, Health and Safety Code).

ALL OTHER CIVIL CASES: All other civil cases not clearly identifiable as belonging in one of the preceding categories. Include petitions for relief from a firearms disability related to an involuntary mental health commitment case (Sec. 574.088, Health and Safety Code).

JUVENILE DOCKET

Juvenile cases are based upon petitions for adjudication of a child alleged to have engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision (C.I.N.S.) as governed by Title 3 of the Texas Family Code.

Delinquent conduct cases are further broken down into case categories similar to the ones used in the Criminal section. See OCA's Required Reporting webpage

(<http://www.courts.state.tx.us/oca/required.asp>) for full definitions.

PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET

These cases are governed by the Texas Probate Code, and include matters involving the probate of wills, the administration of estates, and guardianships. A single probate case may involve more than one person.

The case type categories are:

INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION: A proceeding to probate a will and for issuance of letters testamentary under Probate Code Sec. 145(b), or an estate opened under Probate Code Secs. 145(c), 145(d) or 145(e).

DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION: An estate opened under Probate Code Sec. 178. These estate cases require court monitoring. Also include applications to appoint a temporary administrator under Ch. VI, Probate Code.

ALL OTHER ESTATE PROCEEDINGS: Other proceedings involving the handling or transfer of property by reason of the death of an individual.

GUARDIANSHIP: Cases involving the establishment of, or a controversy over, the relation existing between a person (guardian) lawfully invested with the power and charged with the duty of taking care of the rights of a minor or adult (ward) who is considered by the court as incapable of caring for himself/herself.

ALL OTHER CASES: All other cases not clearly identifiable as belonging in one of the preceding categories. Include petitions for relief from a firearms disability related to a guardianship case (Sec. 574.088, Health and Safety Code).

COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH CASES

Sec. 574.014 of the Health and Safety Code requires a report to the Office of Court Administration on the number of applications for involuntary mental health commitment orders filed and the disposition of those cases. Information is also collected on applications seeking an order to authorize psychoactive medications.

The case type categories are:

TEMPORARY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Applications for commitment under Sec. 574.034(a) or 574.034(b), Health and Safety Code for not longer than 90 days. Do not include requests for modification of existing commitment orders.

EXTENDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Applications for commitment under Sec. 574.035(a) or 574.035(b), Health and Safety Code for greater than 90 days, but not longer than 12 months. Do not include requests for modification of existing commitment orders.

MODIFICATION—INPATIENT TO OUTPATIENT: Applications for the modification of an existing order for commitment for inpatient services to provide for commitment for outpatient services (Sec. 574.061, Health and Safety Code).

MODIFICATION—OUTPATIENT TO INPATIENT: Applications for the modification of an existing order for commitment for outpatient services to provide for commitment for inpatient services (Sec. 574.065(d)(2), Health and Safety Code).

ORDER TO AUTHORIZE PSYCHOACTIVE MEDICATIONS: Applications seeking an order authorizing, reauthorizing or modifying the administration of psychoactive medication (Sec. 574.106, Health and Safety Code).

Case categories are identical to the ones used in the Court-Ordered Mental Health Services section of the Constitutional County Court reports.

Case Type Categories

JUSTICE COURTS

CRIMINAL DOCKET

A criminal case is reported based on the number of defendants named in a complaint. For example, if one defendant is charged in more than one complaint, it is counted as more than one case; the same person named in four separate complaints equals four cases. When a clerk receives a citation with multiple offenses listed, each offense is a separate charge and must be alleged on separate complaints; each complaint is therefore counted as a separate case.

The case type categories are:

TRAFFIC MISDEMEANORS: Cases relating to motor vehicle operation or ownership for which the maximum punishment does not involve confinement in jail or prison (i.e., class C misdemeanors).

Non-Parking. Cases involving violations of the provisions of Title 7, Transportation Code and related statutes that do not involve parking (e.g., speeding, passing a school bus, driving without a valid inspection sticker, driving with an expired or no driver's license).

Parking. Cases involving violations of Secs. 545.301 through 545.304, Ch. 681 or Ch. 683, Transportation Code and related statutes concerning the improper stopping, standing, or parking of a vehicle (e.g., parking in an intersection, parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, parking where an official sign prohibits parking).

County Ordinance. Cases involving violations of traffic or parking-related ordinances enacted by the county (e.g., vehicle weight limitations set by the county pursuant to Transportation Code, Sec. 621.301).

NON-TRAFFIC MISDEMEANORS: Cases not involving traffic or parking violations for which the maximum punishment does not involve confinement in jail or prison.

Penal Code. Cases involving laws enacted by the Texas Legislature that are set out in the Penal Code (e.g., disorderly conduct, public intoxication, theft of property valued at less than \$50).

Other State Law. Cases involving laws enacted by the Texas Legislature that are set out in statutes other than the Penal Code (e.g., Alcoholic Beverage Code, Education Code, Health and Safety Code, Occupations Code, Parks and Wildlife Code, etc.).

County Ordinance. Cases involving ordinances enacted by the county (e.g., building codes, zoning, sanitation, and animal ordinances).

CIVIL DOCKET

A civil case, unlike a criminal case, does not depend on the number of persons involved. Instead, each separate suit, normally commenced by the filing of the plaintiff's original petition, defines an individual civil case.

The case type categories are:

DEBT CLAIM SUITS: Cases filed on or after September 1, 2013 to recover a debt by an assignee of a claim, a debt collector or collection agency, a financial institution, or a person or entity primarily engaged in the business of lending money at interest. The claim can be for no more than \$10,000, excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any.

LANDLORD/TENANT SUITS: Includes:

Eviction. All suits for eviction (recovery of possession of premises) brought to recover possession of real property under Ch. 24 of the Texas Property Code, often by a landlord against a tenant. A claim for rent may be joined with an eviction case if the amount of rent due and unpaid is not more than \$10,000, excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any.

Repair and Remedy. A case by a residential tenant under Ch. 92, Subchapter B, of the Texas Property Code to enforce the landlord's duty to repair or remedy a

condition materially affecting the physical health or safety of an ordinary tenant.

SMALL CLAIMS SUITS: Includes:

Small Claims Suits (filed on or after September 1, 2013). Cases filed for the recovery of money damages, civil penalties, personal property, or other relief allowed by law. The claim cannot exceed \$10,000, excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any. For reporting purposes, this "catch all" category also includes occupational licenses, writs of re-entry, tax cases, tax warrants, dangerous dog cases (in which no criminal charges have been filed), tow hearings, habitual toll violator hearings, junk vehicle, deed restriction cases, and bond forfeiture (nisi) proceedings conducted pursuant to Art. 22.02 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Property hearings are not included, as they are statutorily defined as a magistrate duty (Art. 47.01-47.02, Code of Criminal Procedure).

Small Claims Suits (filed prior to September 1, 2013). Suits filed for the recovery of money (damages or debt up to \$10,000) brought to the justice of the peace as judge of the Small Claims Court in accordance with Ch. 28 of the Government Code.

Other Civil Suits (filed prior to September 1, 2013). All other suits filed that were within the civil jurisdiction of the justice court, including those for recovery of money (damages or debt up to \$10,000) and for foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens on personal property in cases in which the amount in controversy was otherwise within the justice court's jurisdiction as provided by Sec. 27.031 of the Government Code.

MUNICIPAL COURTS

CRIMINAL DOCKET

A criminal case is reported based on the number of defendants named in a complaint. For example, if one defendant is charged in more than one complaint, it is counted as more than one case; the same person named in four separate complaints equals four cases. When a clerk receives a citation with multiple offenses listed, each offense is a separate charge and must be alleged on separate complaints; each complaint is therefore counted as a separate case.

The case type categories are:

TRAFFIC MISDEMEANORS: Cases relating to motor vehicle operation or ownership for which the maximum punishment does not involve confinement in jail or prison (i.e., class C misdemeanors).

Non-Parking. Cases involving violations of the provisions of Title 7, Transportation Code and related statutes that do not involve parking (e.g., speeding, passing a school bus, driving without a valid inspection sticker, driving with an expired or no driver's license).

Parking. Cases involving violations of Sec. 545.301 through 545.304, Ch. 681 or Ch. 683, Transportation Code and related statutes concerning the improper stopping, standing, or parking of a vehicle (e.g., parking in an intersection, parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, parking where an official sign prohibits parking).

City Ordinance. Cases involving violations of traffic or parking-related ordinances enacted by municipalities.

NON-TRAFFIC MISDEMEANORS: Cases not involving traffic or parking violations for which the maximum punishment does not involve confinement in jail or prison.

Penal Code. Cases involving laws enacted by the Texas Legislature that are set out in the Penal Code (e.g., disorderly conduct, public intoxication, theft of property valued at less than \$50).

Other State Law. Cases involving laws enacted by the Texas Legislature that are set out in statutes other than the Penal Code (e.g., Alcoholic Beverage Code, Education Code, Health and Safety Code, Occupations Code, etc.).

Case Type Categories

City Ordinance. Cases involving ordinances enacted by municipalities (e.g., building codes, zoning laws, dog ordinances). Ordinance violations involving litter, fire safety, zoning, public health, and sanitation are punishable by fines only, up to a maximum of \$2,000. Punishment for violation of other types of city ordinances is limited to fines only, not to exceed \$500.

CIVIL DOCKET

A civil case, unlike a criminal case, does not depend on the number of persons involved. Instead, each separate suit, normally commenced by the filing of the plaintiff's original petition, defines an individual civil case.

Civil cases are those involving all complaints, citations or suits within the civil or administrative jurisdiction of the municipal court, including red light camera, vehicle parking and stopping (Transportation Code, Ch. 682), dangerous dog, substandard building, and abandoned motor vehicle cases, as well as any other cases involving the enforcement of health and safety and nuisance abatement ordinances. Bond forfeiture (nisi) proceedings conducted pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 22.02 are also included.

Counties or Courts That Did Not Submit All Monthly Activity Reports for Fiscal Year 2014

District - No reports were received from Castro and Maverick counties.

County - All reports received.

Justice Courts					
County	Precinct	Rec'd	County	Precinct	Rec'd
Angelina	Pct. 3 Pl. 1 (At large)	0 of 12	Hidalgo	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	4 of 12
Archer	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	11 of 12	Hidalgo	Pct. 4 Pl. 2	9 of 12
Atascosa	Pct. 3	7 of 12	Hill	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Atascosa	Pct. 4	0 of 12	Hudspeth	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Bowie	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	3 of 12	Jasper	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Bowie	Pct. 7 Pl. 1	6 of 12	Jasper	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Brazoria	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	9 of 12	Kendall	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	10 of 12
Brazoria	Pct. 1 Pl. 2	9 of 12	Kleberg	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Brazoria	Pct. 2 Pl. 2	9 of 12	Kleberg	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Brazoria	Pct. 3 Pl. 2	9 of 12	La Salle	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Brazoria	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	9 of 12	Lamar	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Burleson	Pct. 4	0 of 12	Lamb	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 1	0 of 12	Llano	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	6 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	1 of 12	Lynn	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 2 Pl. 2	0 of 12	Maverick	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	0 of 12	Maverick	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 3 Pl. 2	0 of 12	McLennan	Pct. 2	7 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 4	0 of 12	McLennan	Pct. 3	0 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 5 Pl. 1	0 of 12	McLennan	Pct. 5	9 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 5 Pl. 2	0 of 12	McLennan	Pct. 7 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Cameron	Pct. 5 Pl. 3	0 of 12	McLennan	Pct. 8	3 of 12
Chambers	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	0 of 12	Menard	Countywide	0 of 12
Childress	Countywide	9 of 12	Milam	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Coleman	Countywide	0 of 12	Nueces	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	9 of 12
Culberson	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12	Starr	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	8 of 12
Culberson	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	1 of 12	Tyler	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Culberson	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	0 of 12	Tyler	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Dimmit	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	11 of 12	Tyler	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Dimmit	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	3 of 12	Upshur	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	4 of 12
Donley	Pct.s 1 & 2 Pl. 1	7 of 12	Upshur	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Fannin	Pct. 3 Pl. 1	0 of 12	Waller	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	1 of 12
Hays	Pct. 1 Pl. 2	0 of 12	Webb	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	8 of 12
Hays	Pct. 4 Pl. 1	0 of 12	Webb	Pct. 2 Pl. 2	11 of 12
Hidalgo	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	0 of 12	Wilson	Pct. 2 Pl. 1	0 of 12
Hidalgo	Pct. 1 Pl. 2	7 of 12	Zavala	Pct. 1 Pl. 1	0 of 12

Table 12 - Justice Courts That Did Not Submit All Monthly Activity Reports

Counties or Courts That Did Not Submit All Monthly Activity Reports for Fiscal Year 2014

Municipal Courts			
City	Rec'd	City	Rec'd
Amherst	0 of 12	Ladonia	0 of 12
Aurora	0 of 12	Lake City	0 of 12
Bloomburg	0 of 12	Levelland	1 of 12
Blue Ridge	0 of 12	Lipan	0 of 12
Brackettville	7 of 12	Livingston	0 of 12
Briarocks	11 of 12	Marfa	0 of 12
Bryson	4 of 12	Mathis	0 of 12
Buckholts	9 of 12	Milford	0 of 12
Buffalo Springs	0 of 12	New Fairview	11 of 12
Caney City	0 of 12	New Hope, Town of	0 of 12
Carrizo Springs	0 of 12	Oakwood	4 of 12
Clear Lake Shores	0 of 12	Paducah	11 of 12
Crawford	0 of 12	Palacios	0 of 12
Dayton Lakes	1 of 12	Pelican Bay	0 of 12
Denver City	3 of 12	Penitas	7 of 12
Dimmitt	0 of 12	Pine Forest	0 of 12
Earth	0 of 12	Premont	0 of 12
El Cenizo	0 of 12	Santa Rosa	0 of 12
Ennis	0 of 12	Savoy	0 of 12
Falfurrias	0 of 12	Somerset	3 of 12
Falls City	0 of 12	Southside Pl.	11 of 12
Freer	0 of 12	Strawn	0 of 12
Garrett	9 of 12	Texline	0 of 12
Garrison	0 of 12	Waelder	0 of 12
Hooks	0 of 12	Wallis	7 of 12
Howardwick	0 of 12	Weinert	0 of 12
Joaquin	0 of 12	West	6 of 12
Kaufman	0 of 12	Windthorst	0 of 12
Kirbyville	10 of 12	Wolfforth	0 of 12
La Villa	0 of 12	Yorktown	10 of 12

Table 13 - Municipal Courts That Did Not Submit All Monthly Activity Reports