

Highlights from the 2018 Annual Statistical Report



Change in Cases Added FY 17 to 18

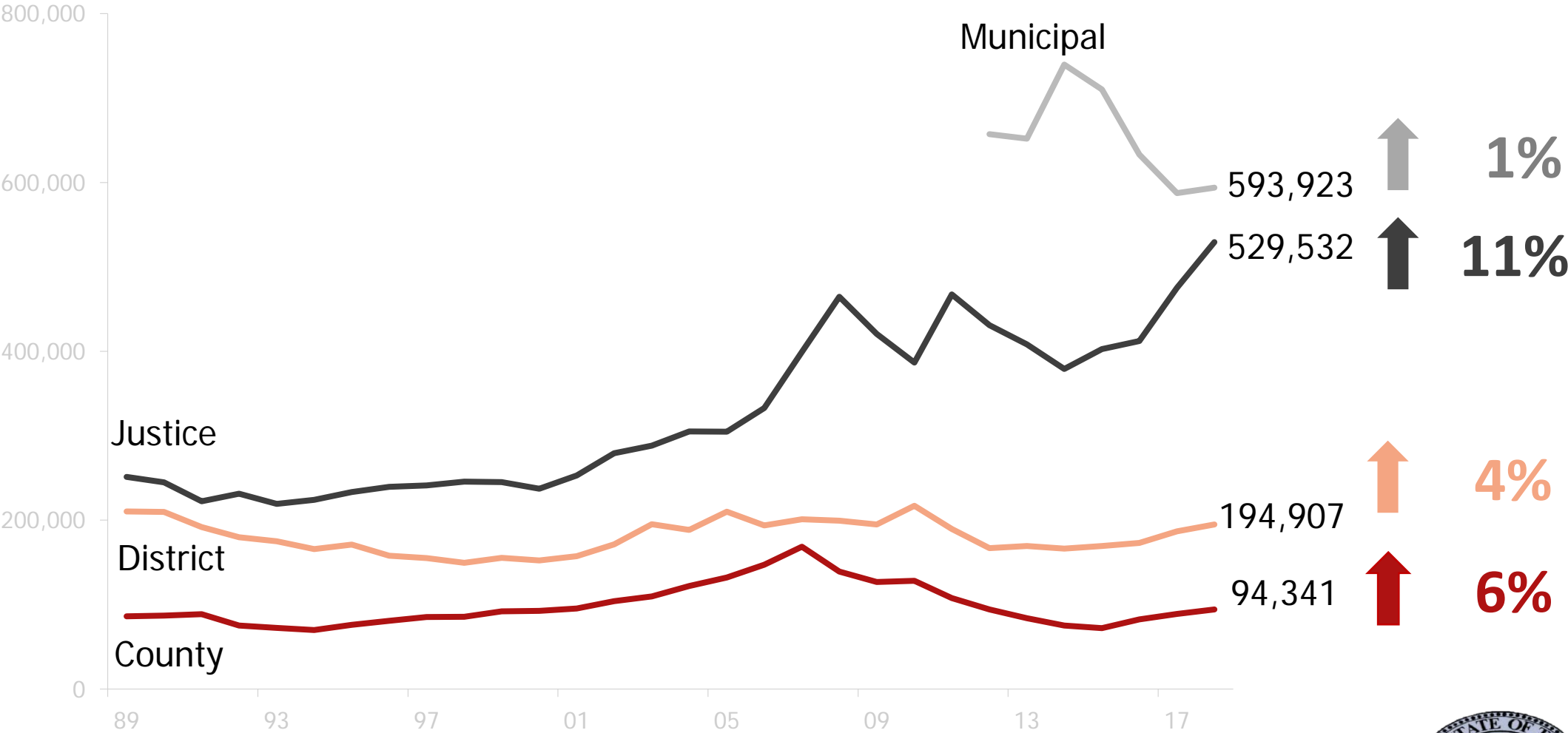
Supreme Court	↑ 8 %	Court of Criminal Appeals	↓ 7 %
Courts of Appeals	↓ 2 %	District	↑ 3 %
Statutory County	↑ 2 %	Constitutional County	↓ 4 %
Justice	↑ 5 %	Municipal	— 0 %



Civil

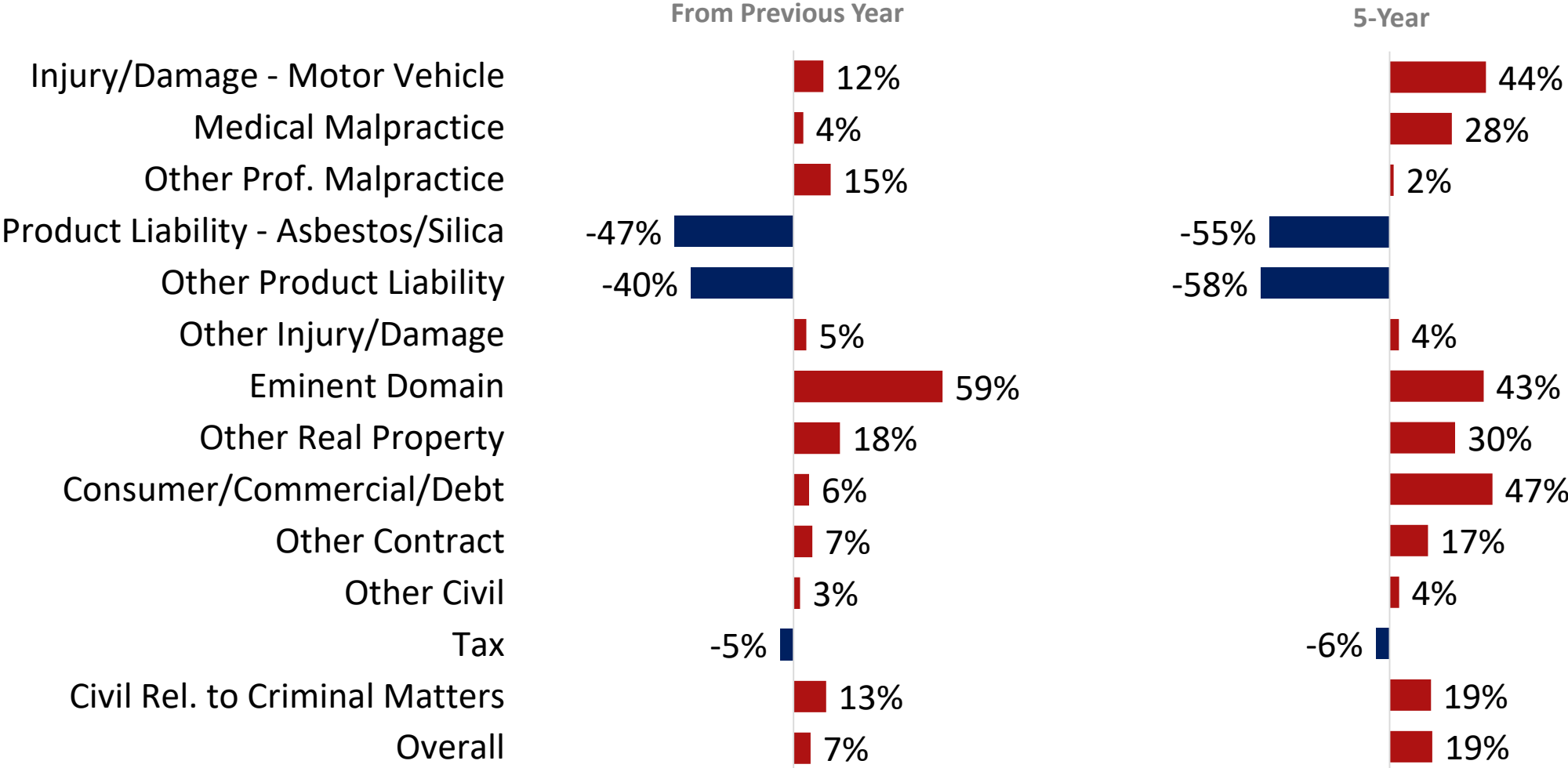


New **civil** case filings increased in 2018 at every trial court level but most significantly in the justice courts.



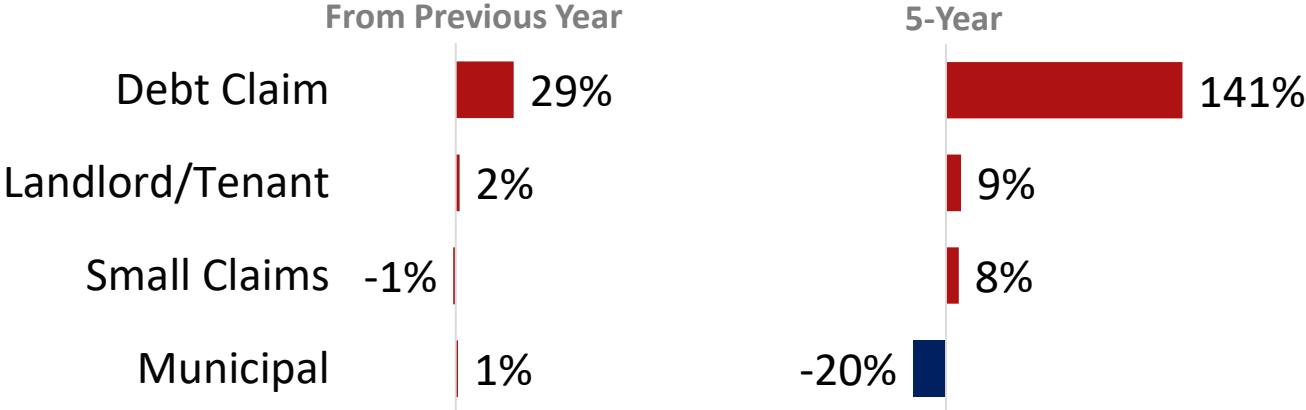
Civil filings increased in nearly every case category.

Change in Filings – District and County Courts



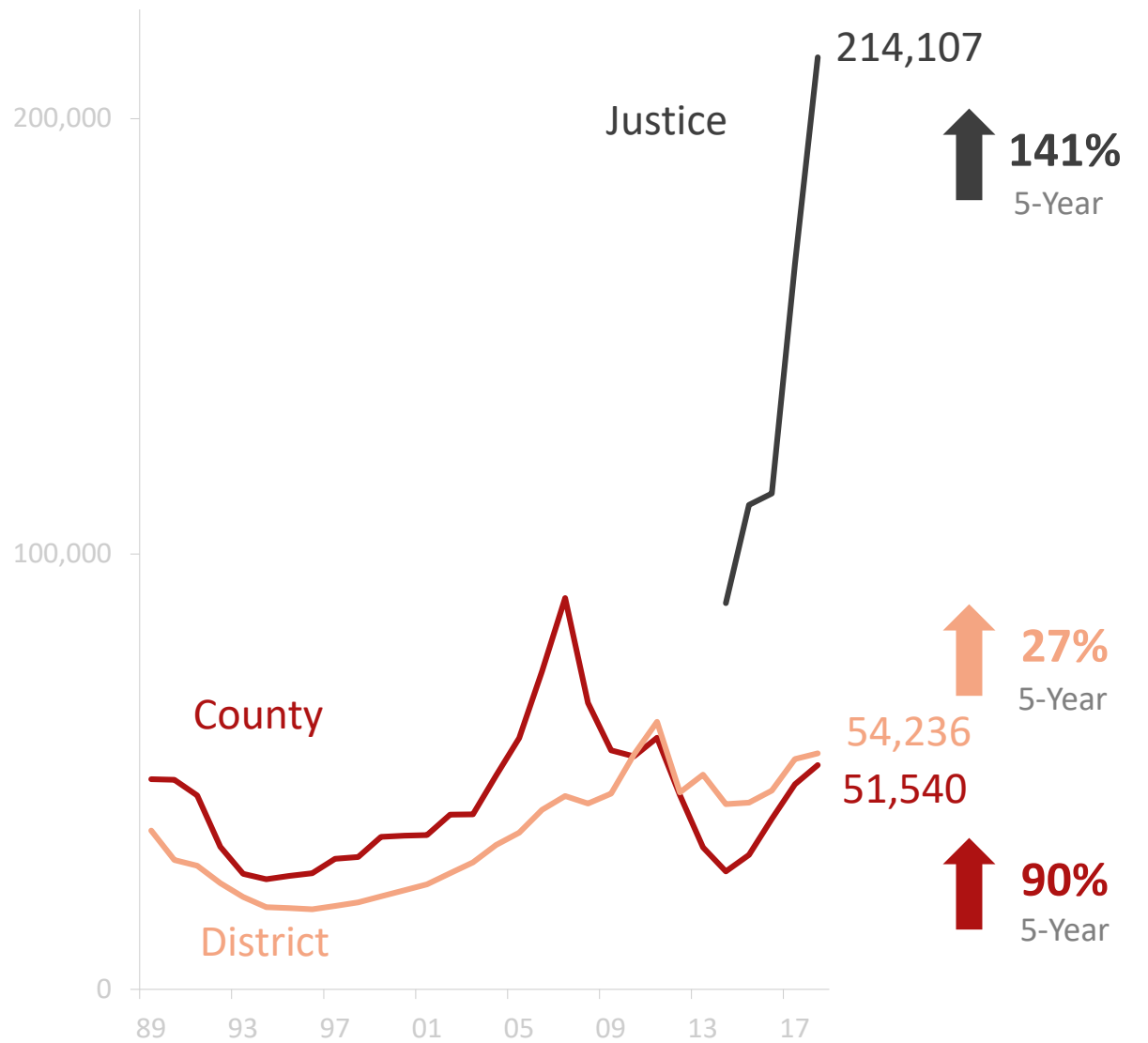
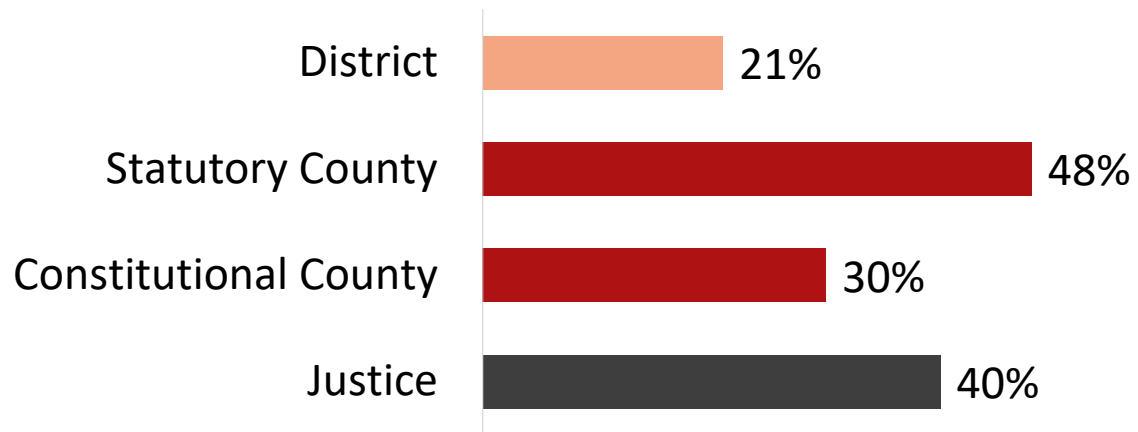
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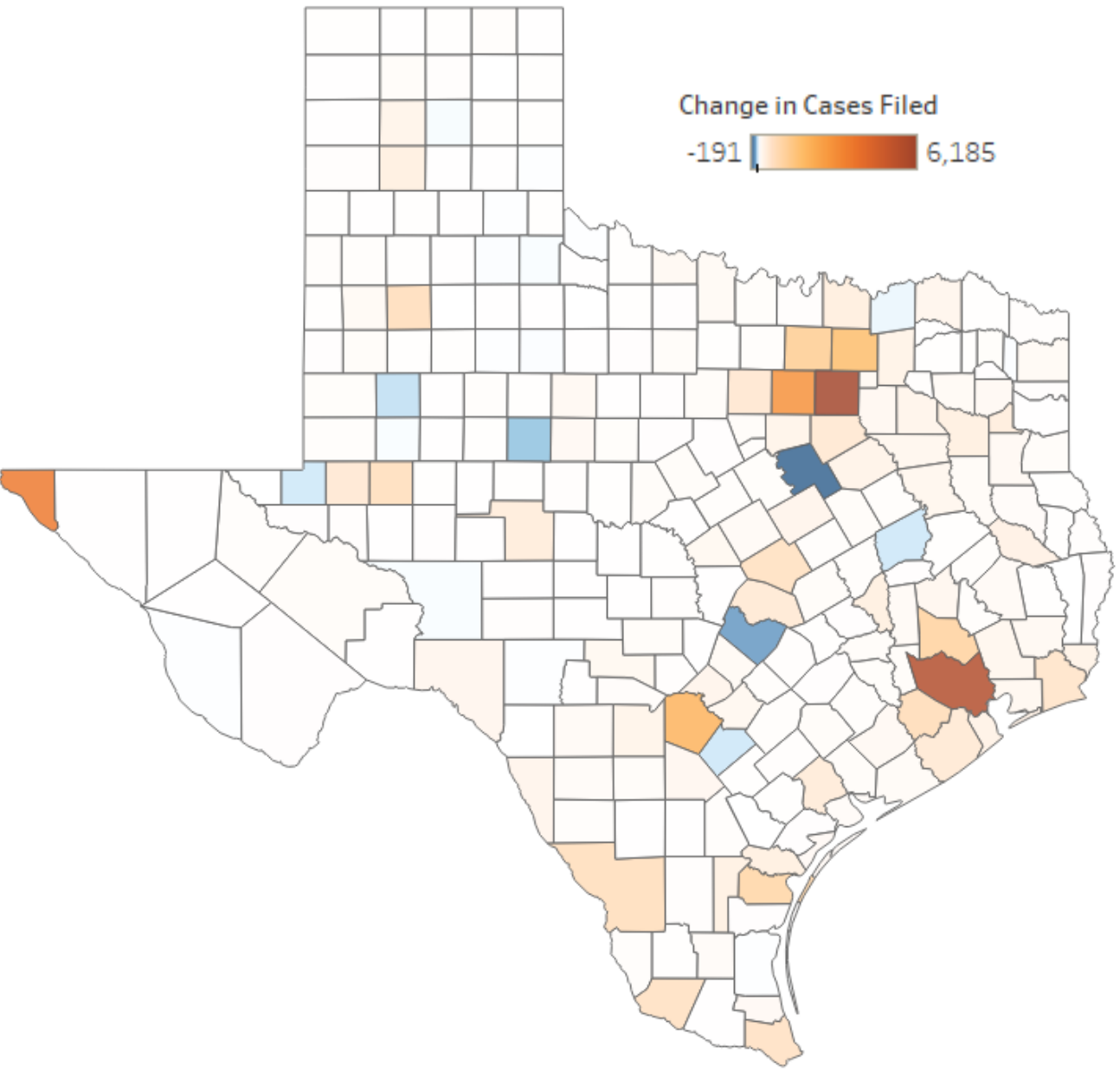
Change in Filings – Justice and Municipal Courts



Debt cases increased significantly over the last 5 years and account for a large share of the courts' civil caseload.

Debt Cases as % of Courts' Civil Caseload in 2018



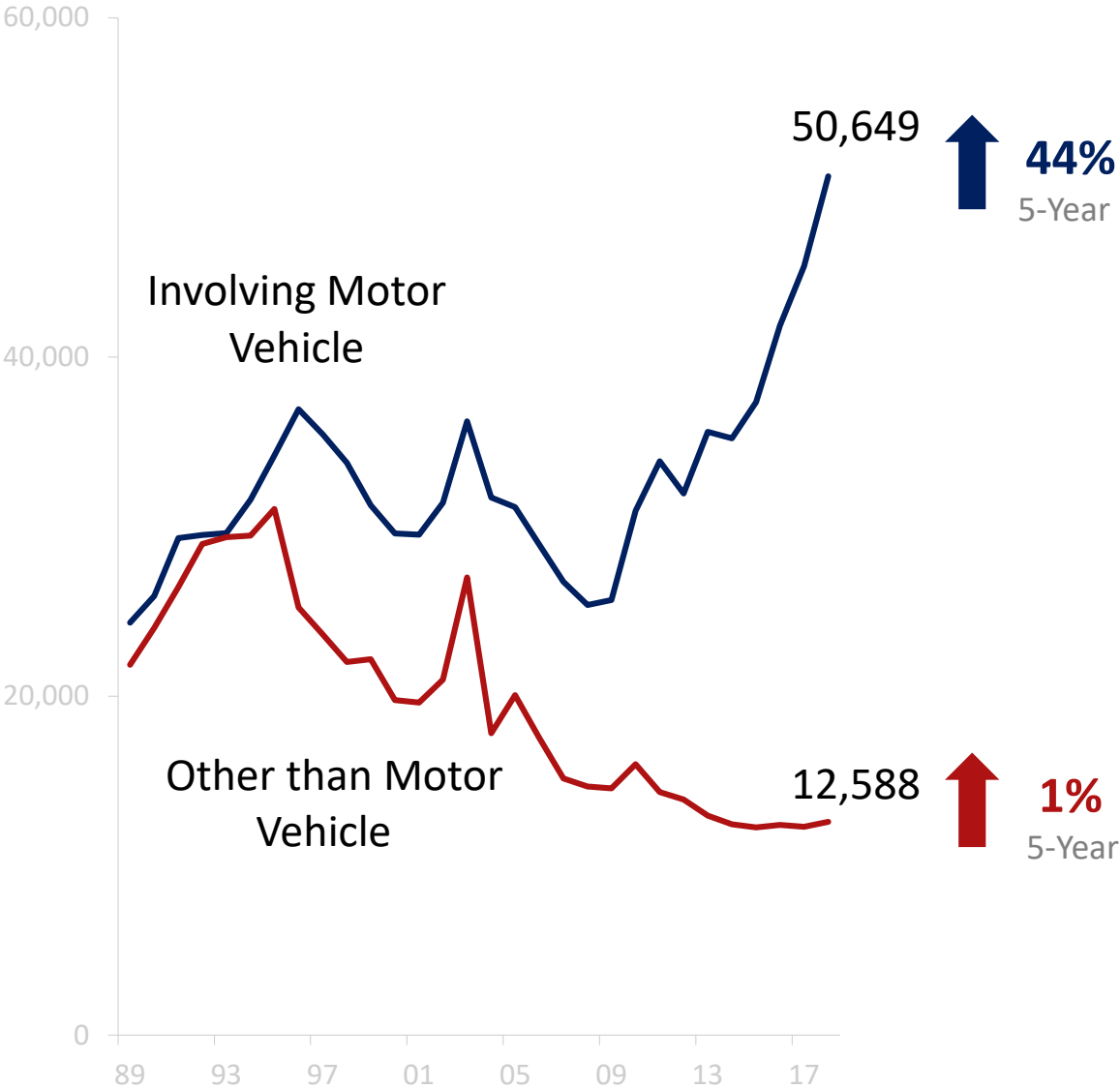


From 2017-18, the number of **debt** cases in the **justice courts** rose by nearly 48,000 (29%).

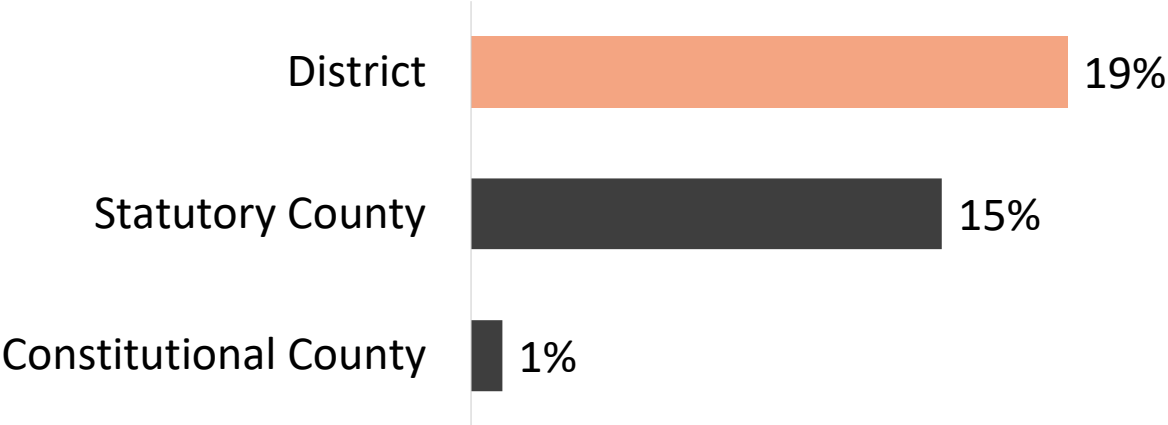
88 percent of counties reported an increase in cases.



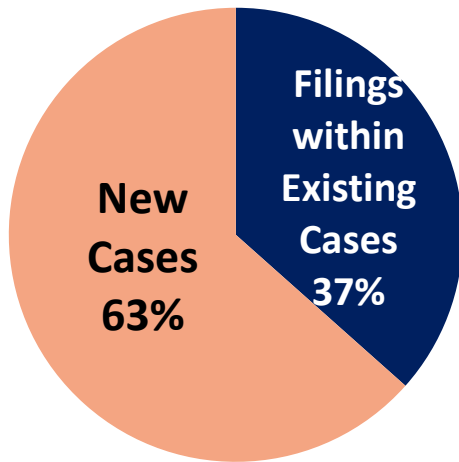
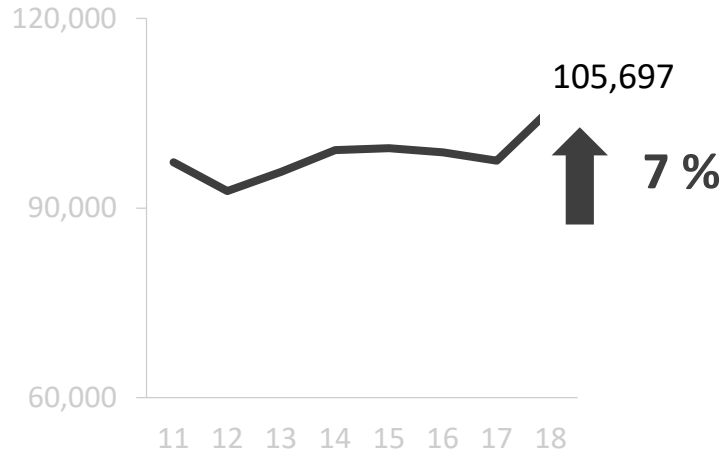
Injury/damage cases involving a **motor vehicle** have increased significantly, primarily in the district courts where there has been a 70% increase in the last 5 years.



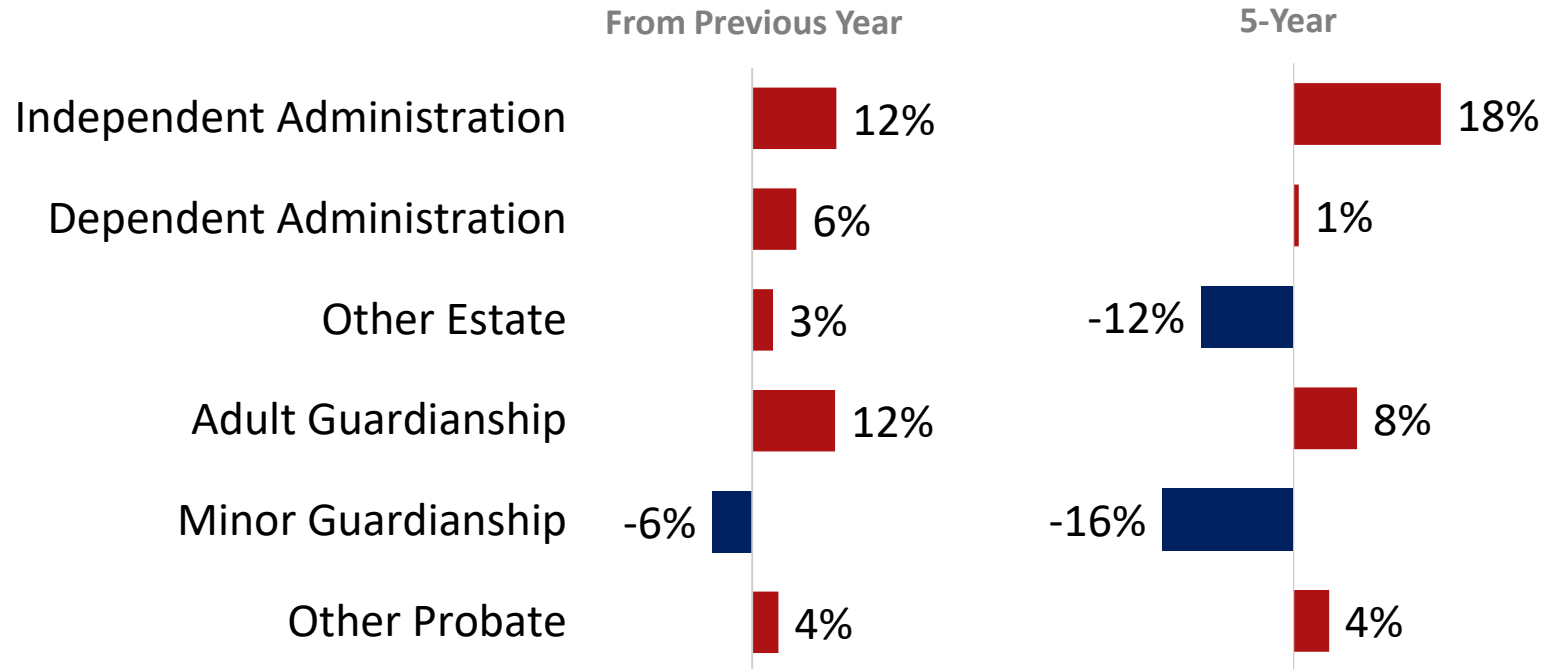
Motor Vehicle Cases as % of Courts' Civil Caseload in 2018



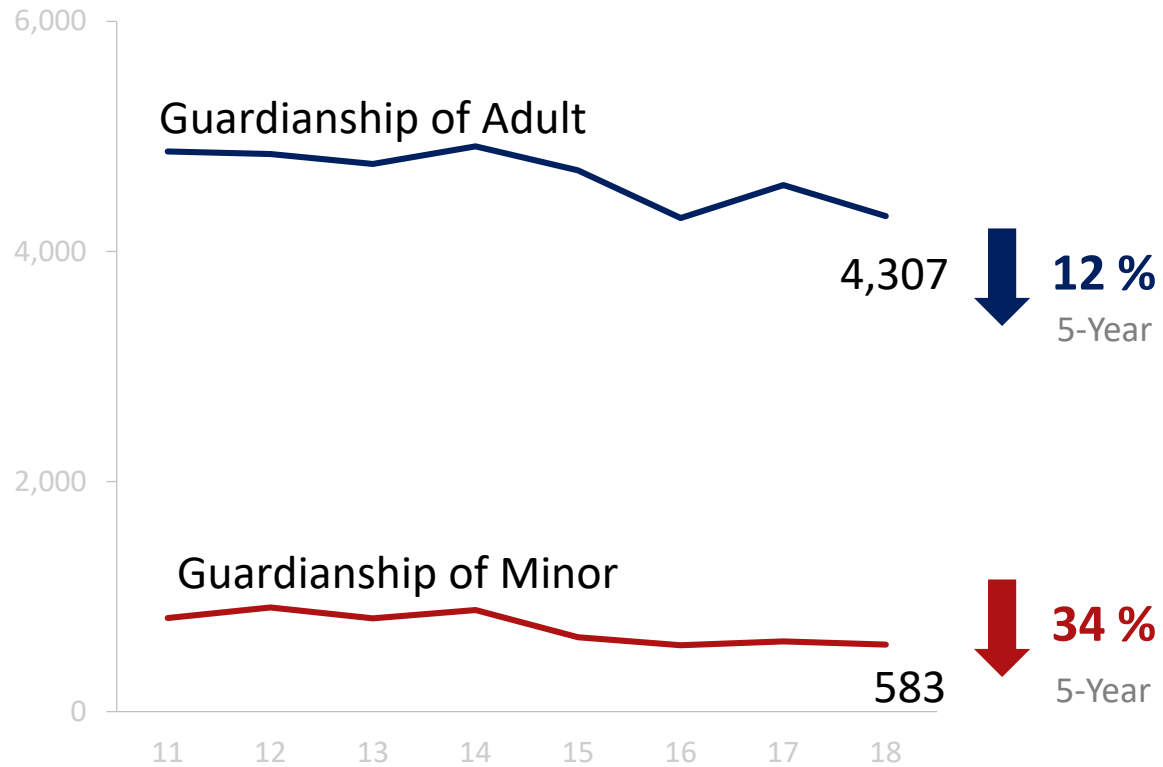
Probate and guardianship filings increased in all case categories except minor guardianships.



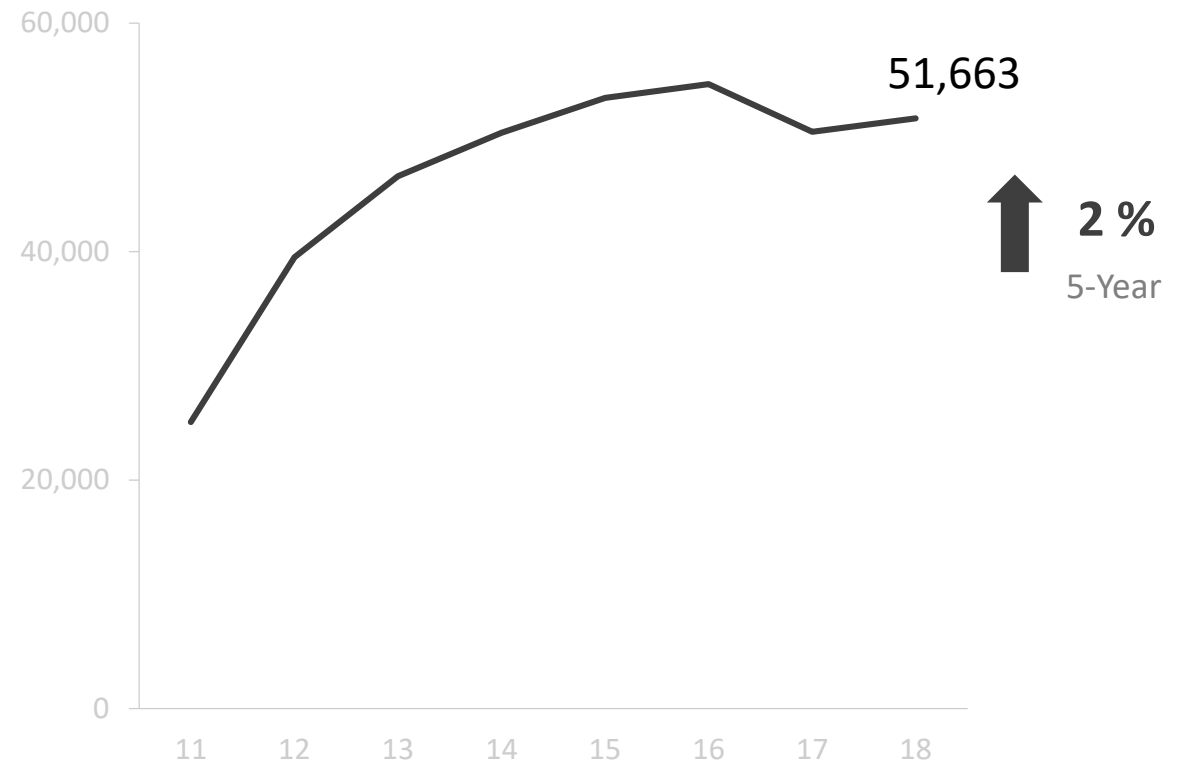
Includes applications related to a guardianship or estate and post-judgment matters to compel compliance with statutory requirements.



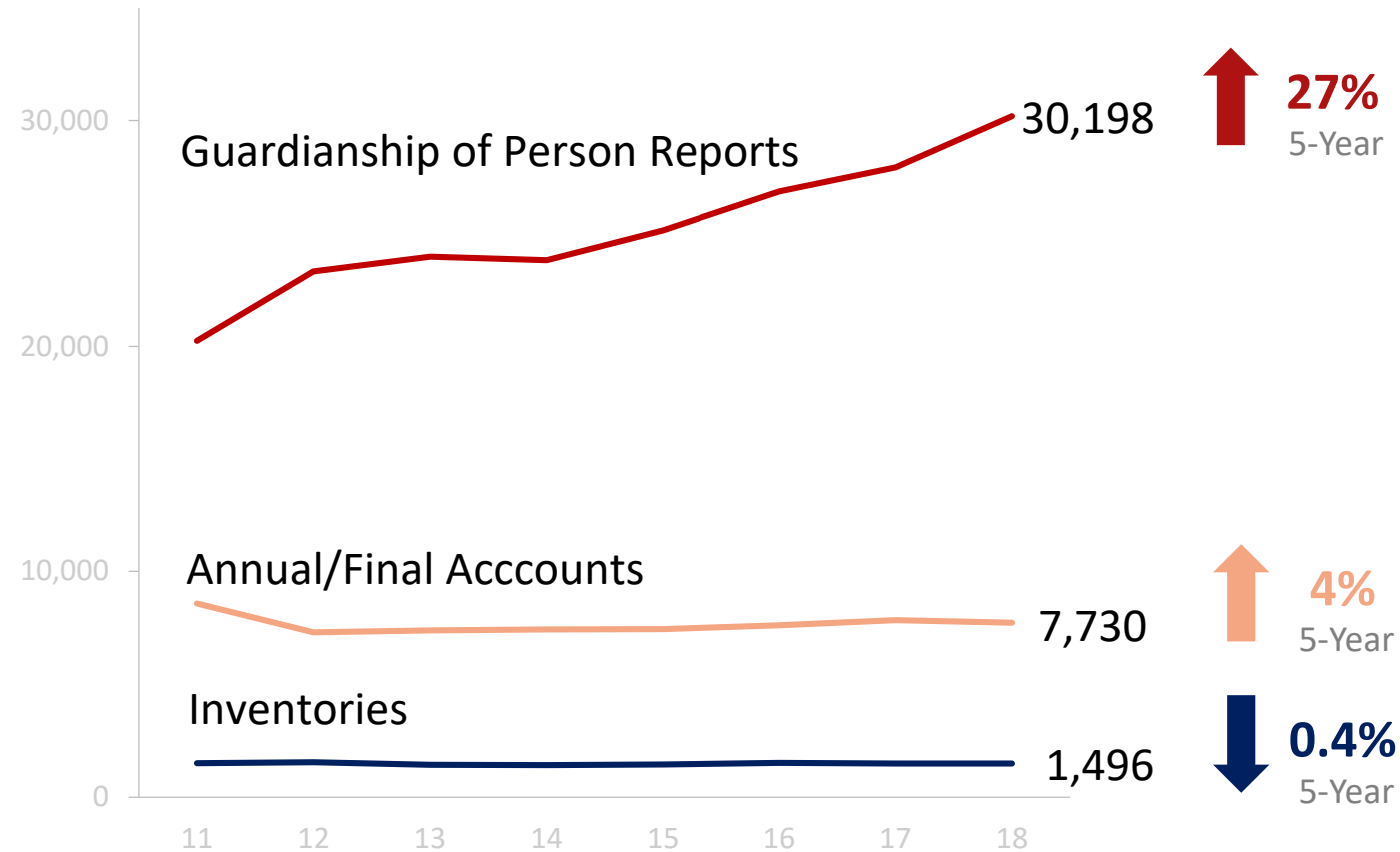
While total filings in **adult guardianship** cases increased from the previous year, the number of **new** cases filed decreased.



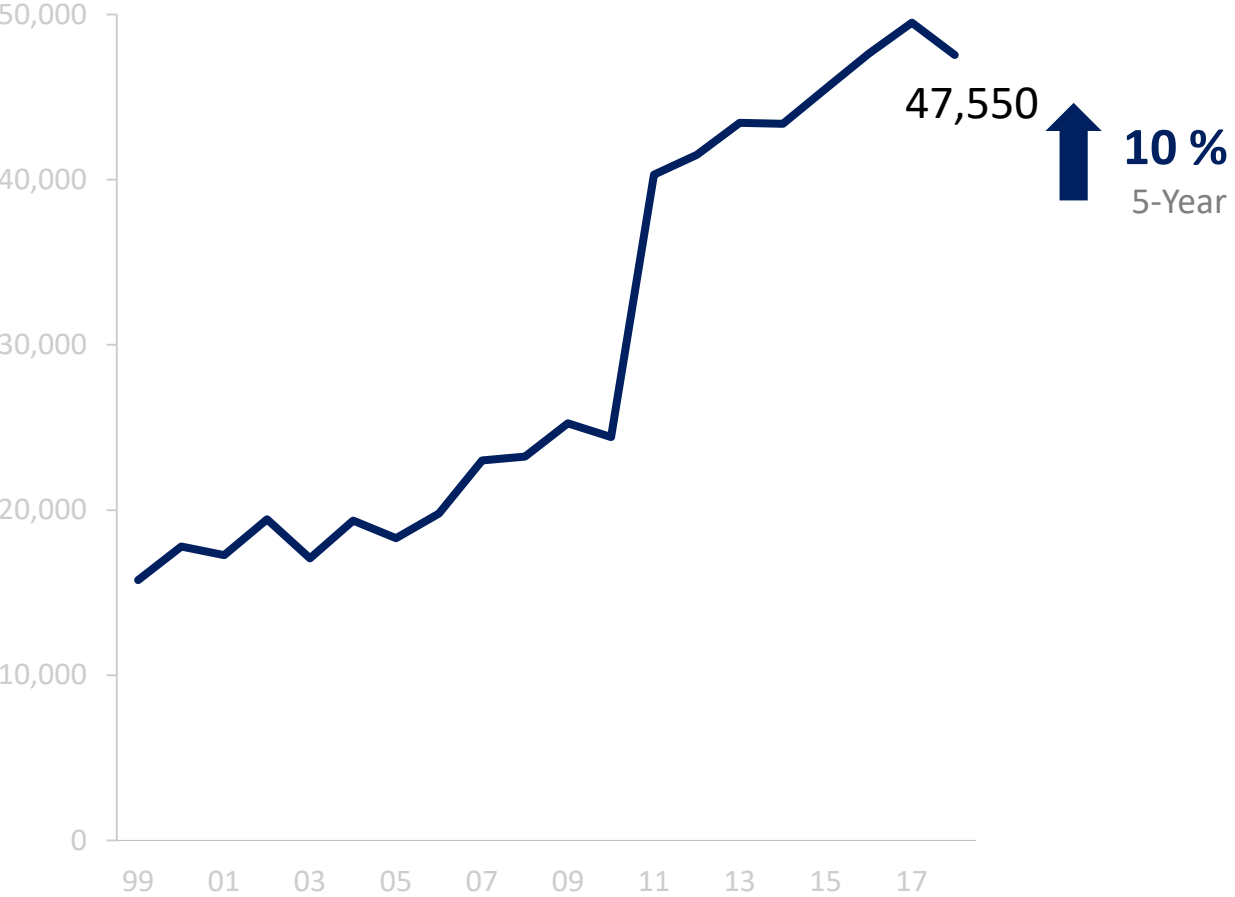
Nearly 52,000 **active guardianship** cases were reported as of the end of 2018.



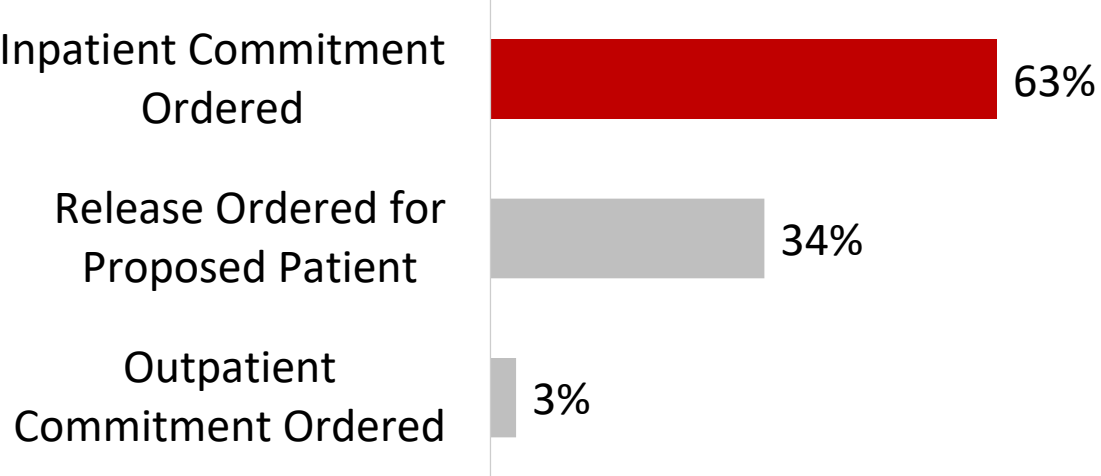
While the reported number of **inventories** and **annual or final accounts** filed in guardianship cases remained essentially unchanged since 2011, the number of **guardianship of the person** reports increased 49 percent.



After rising to an all-time high in 2017, the number of applications filed for involuntary **mental health** commitment declined by 4% in 2018.



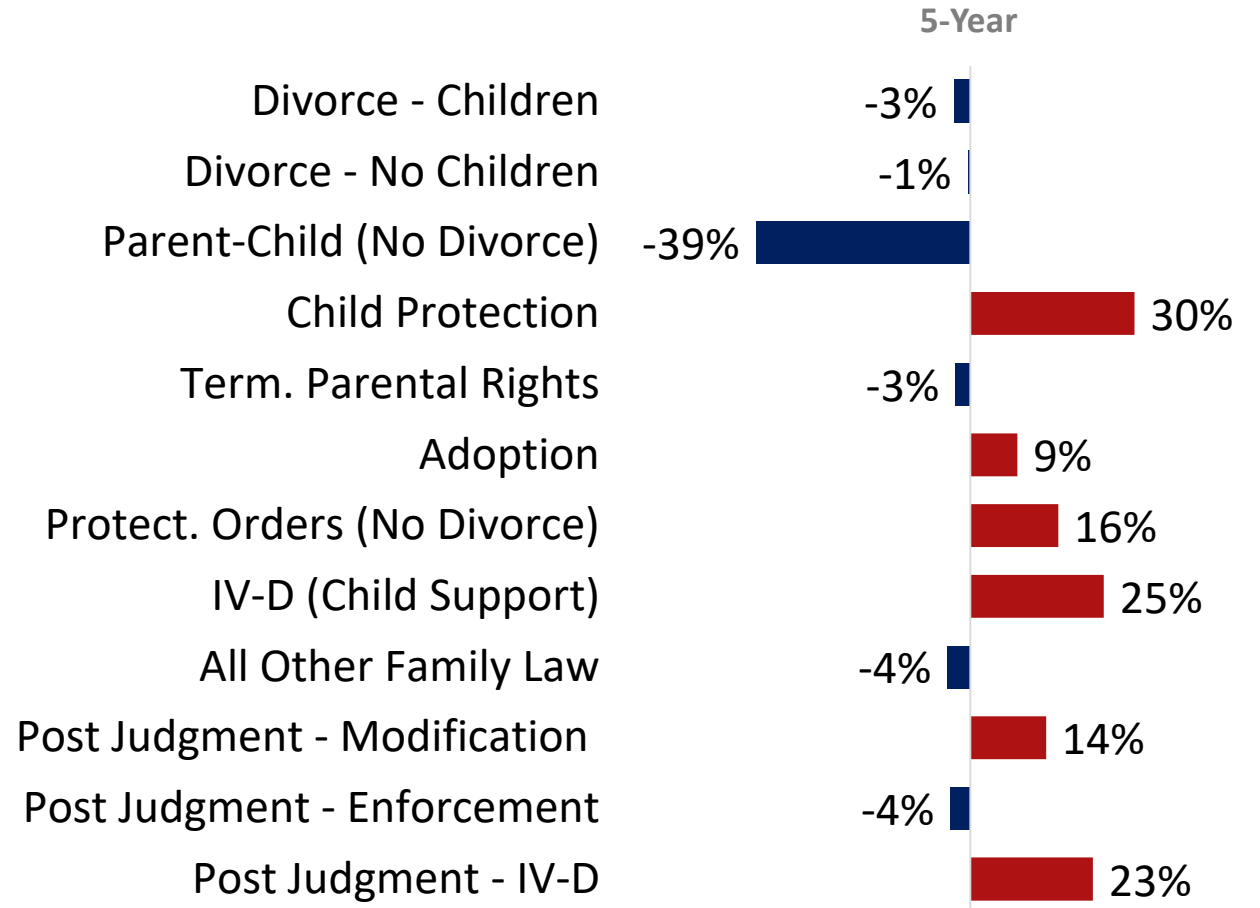
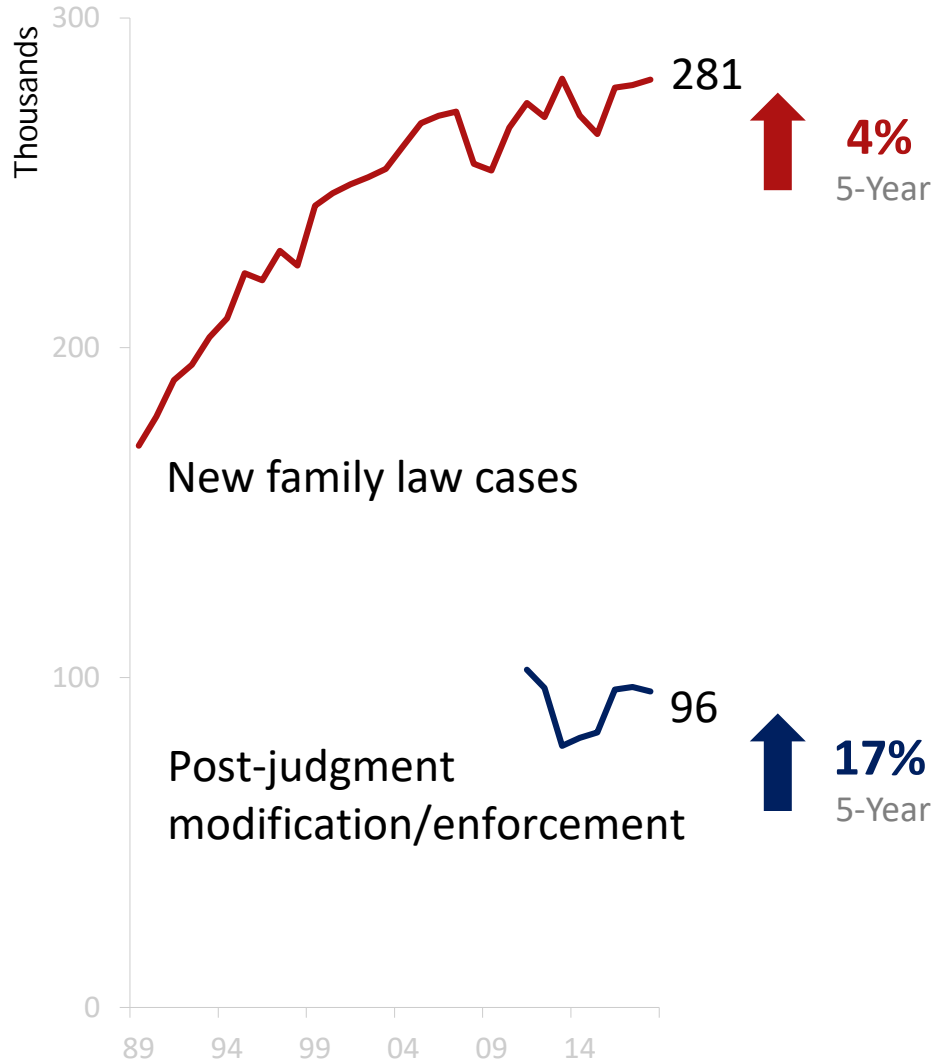
Disposition at Final Hearing - 2018



Family

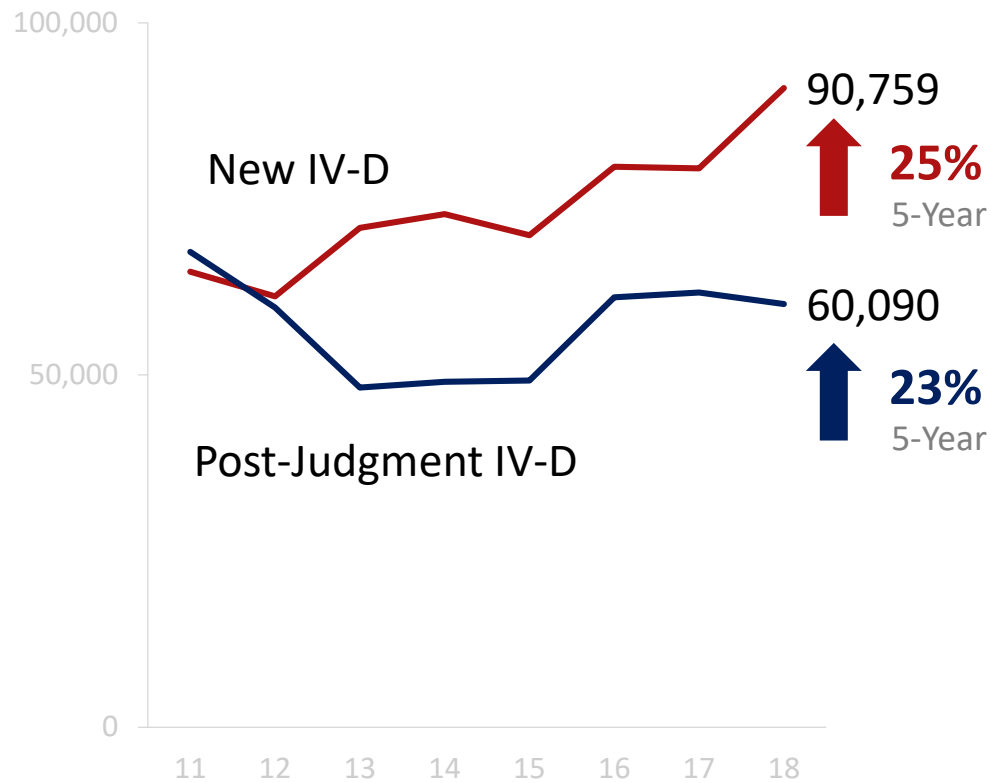


The number of **new** family cases filed in 2018 was close to the all-time high in 2013.

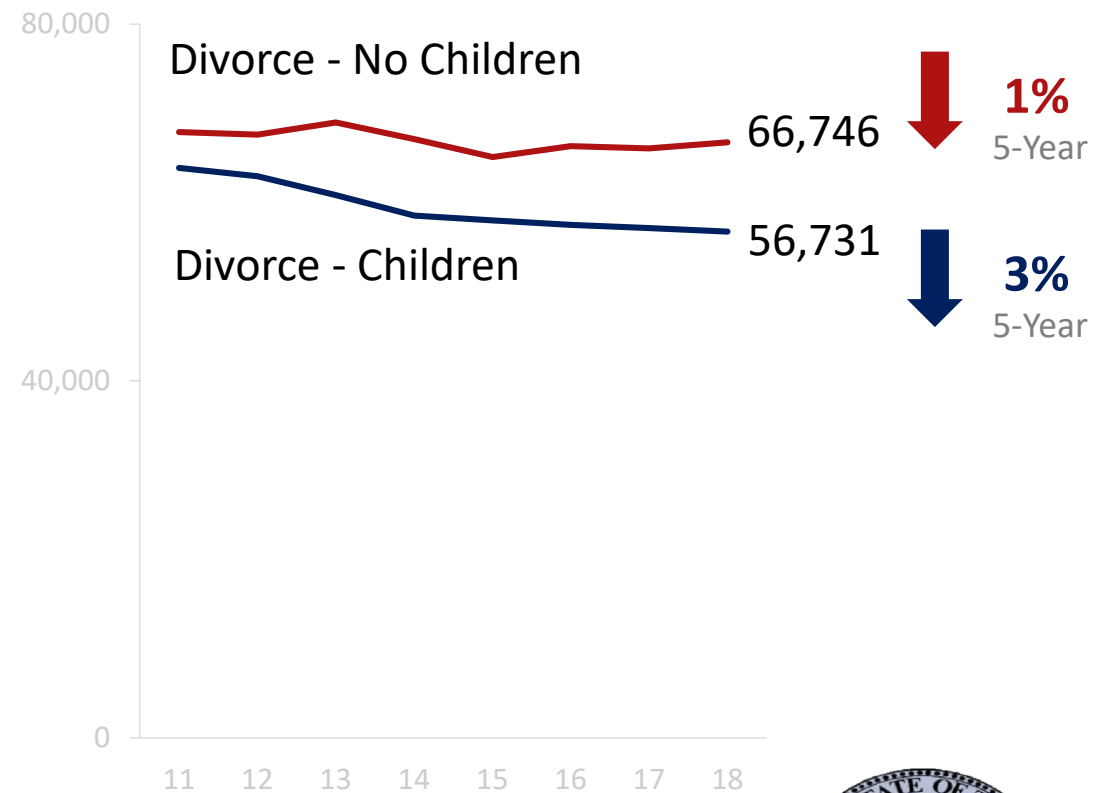


Title IV-D (child support) cases accounted for 1/3 of all family cases filed in 2018.

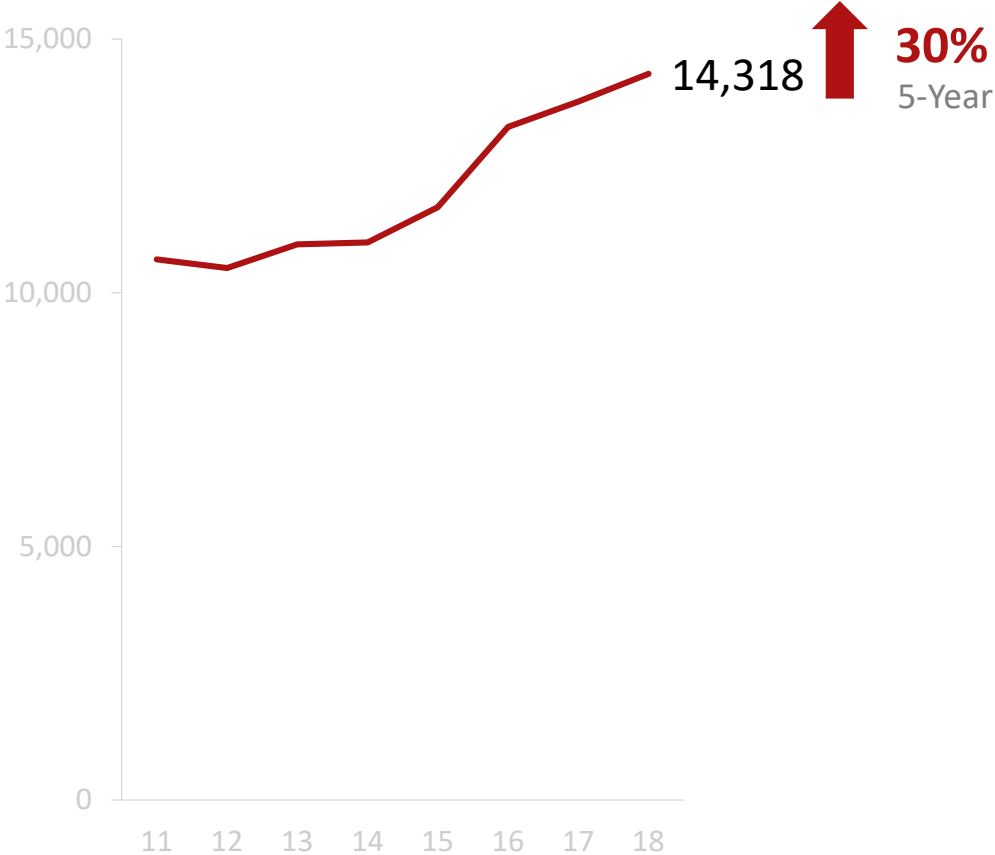
New suits continuously increased over last few years while **post-judgment** suits remained relatively steady.



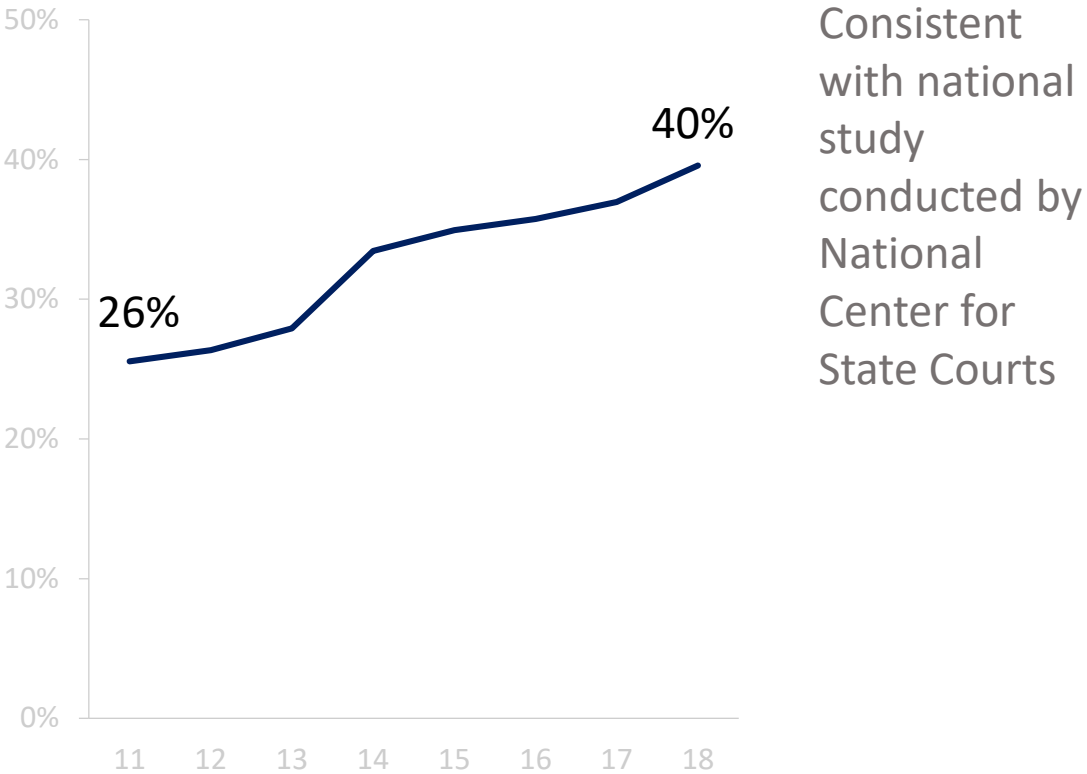
Divorce cases accounted for another third. **Divorce cases not involving children** remained steady over the last few years, while **divorce cases involving children** continuously declined.



New **child protection** cases increased over each of the past 6 years.



The percentage of plaintiffs/ petitioners who were **self-represented** at the time of filing a case has steadily grown, reaching 40 percent in 2018.



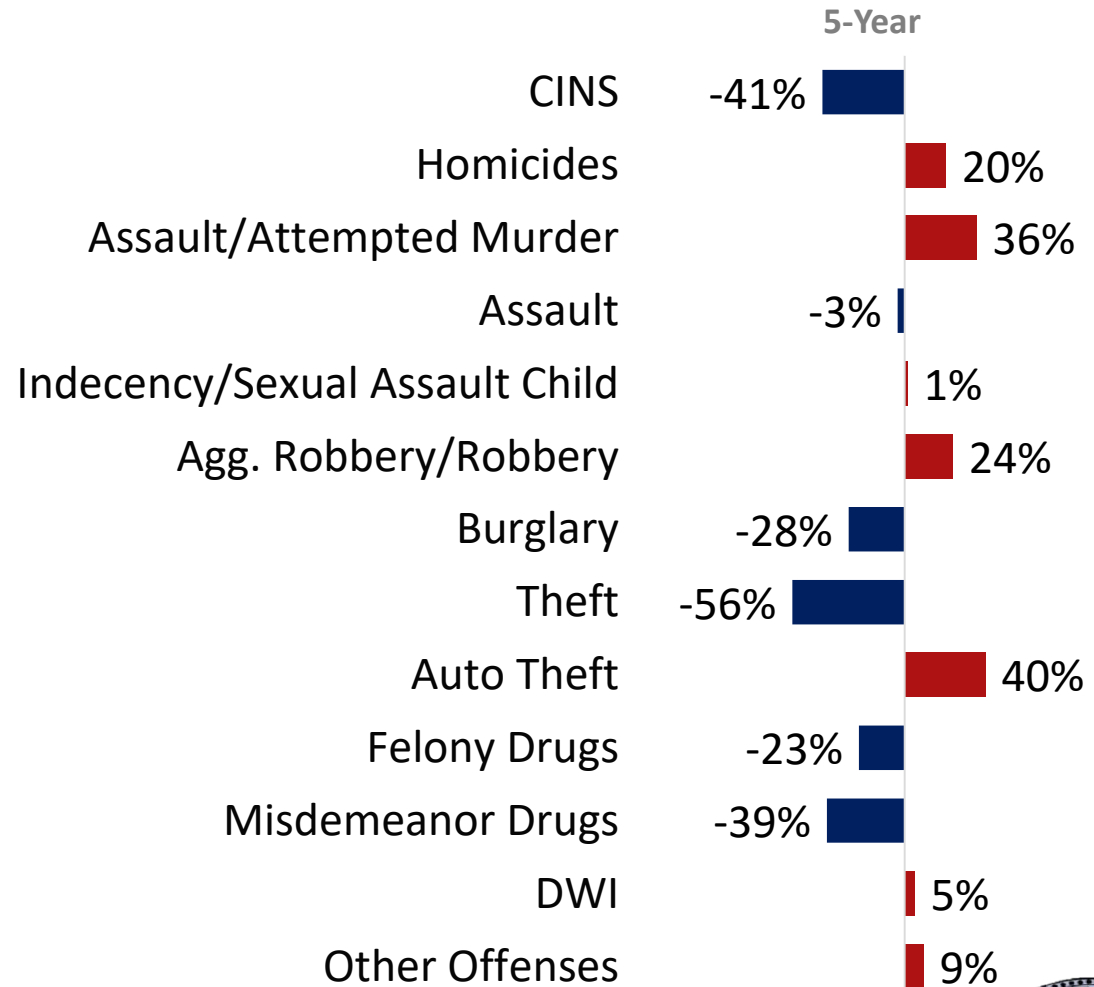
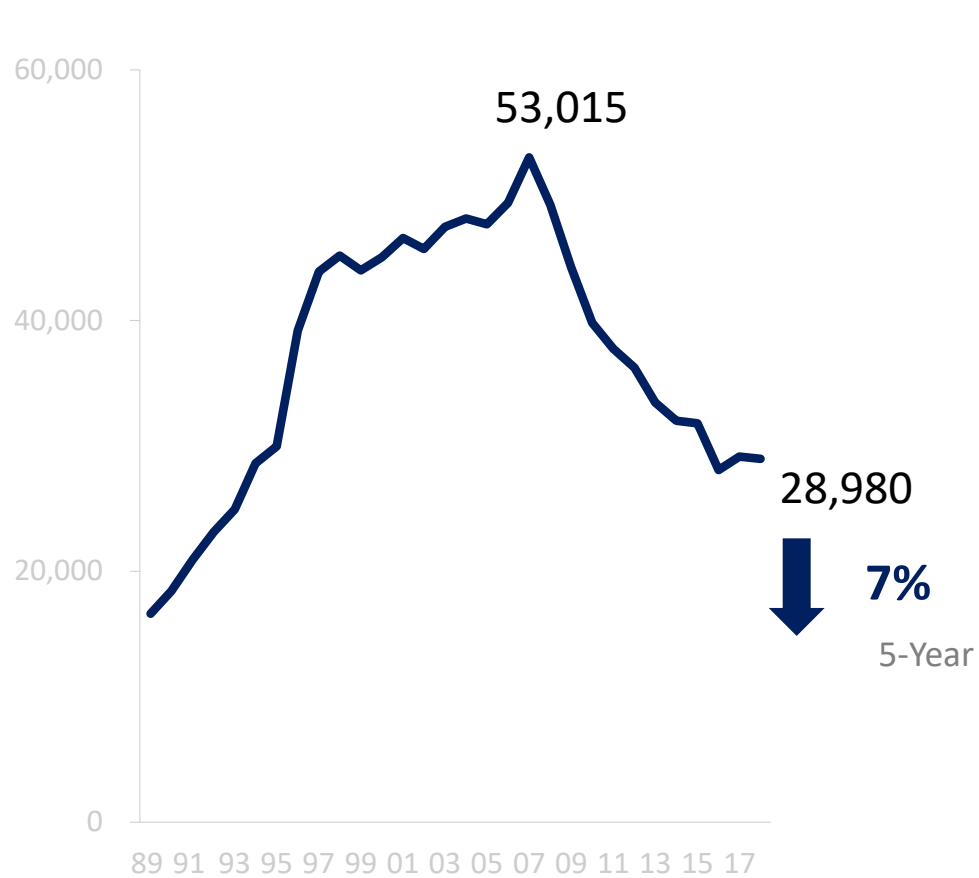
Consistent with national study conducted by National Center for State Courts



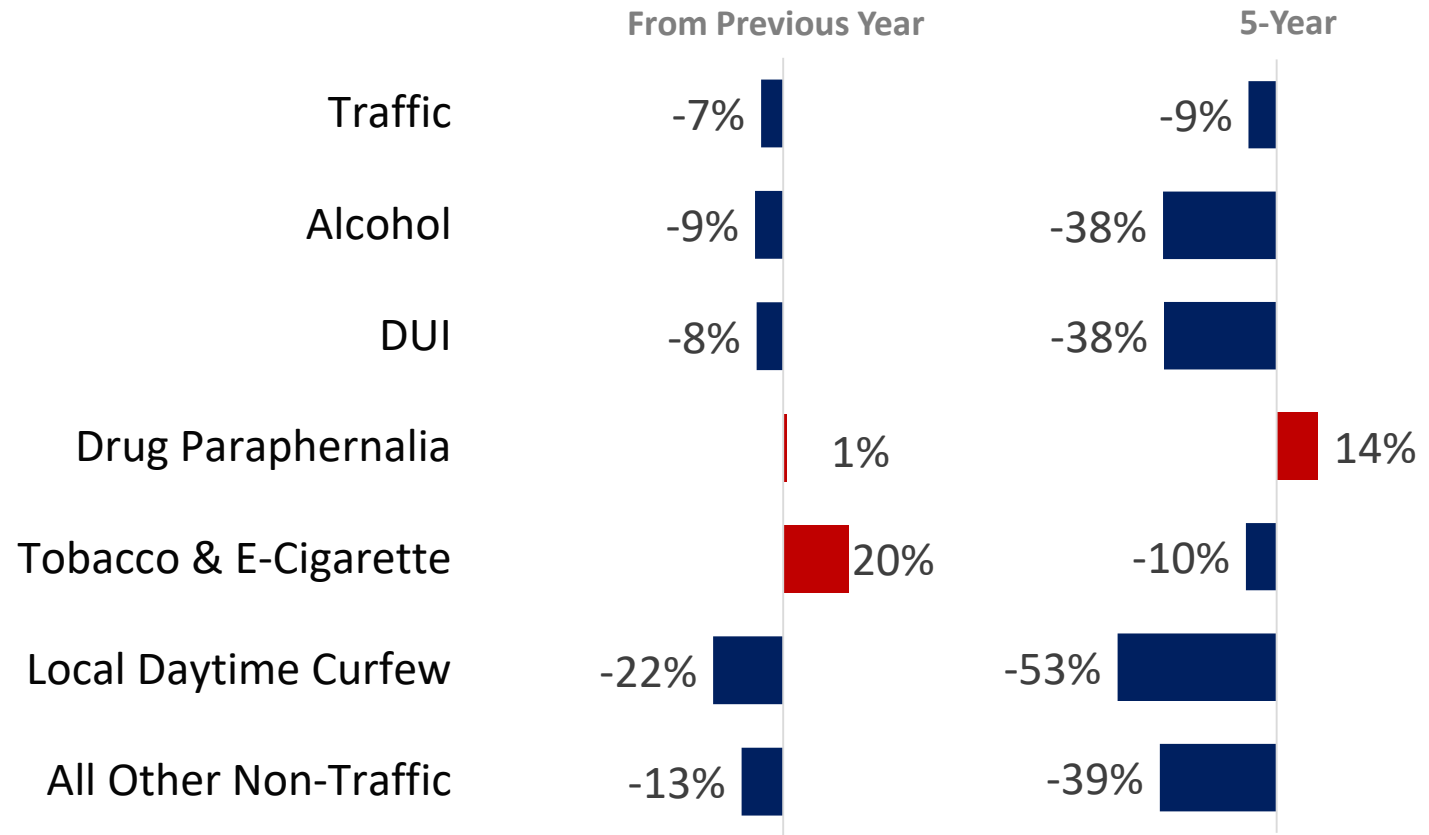
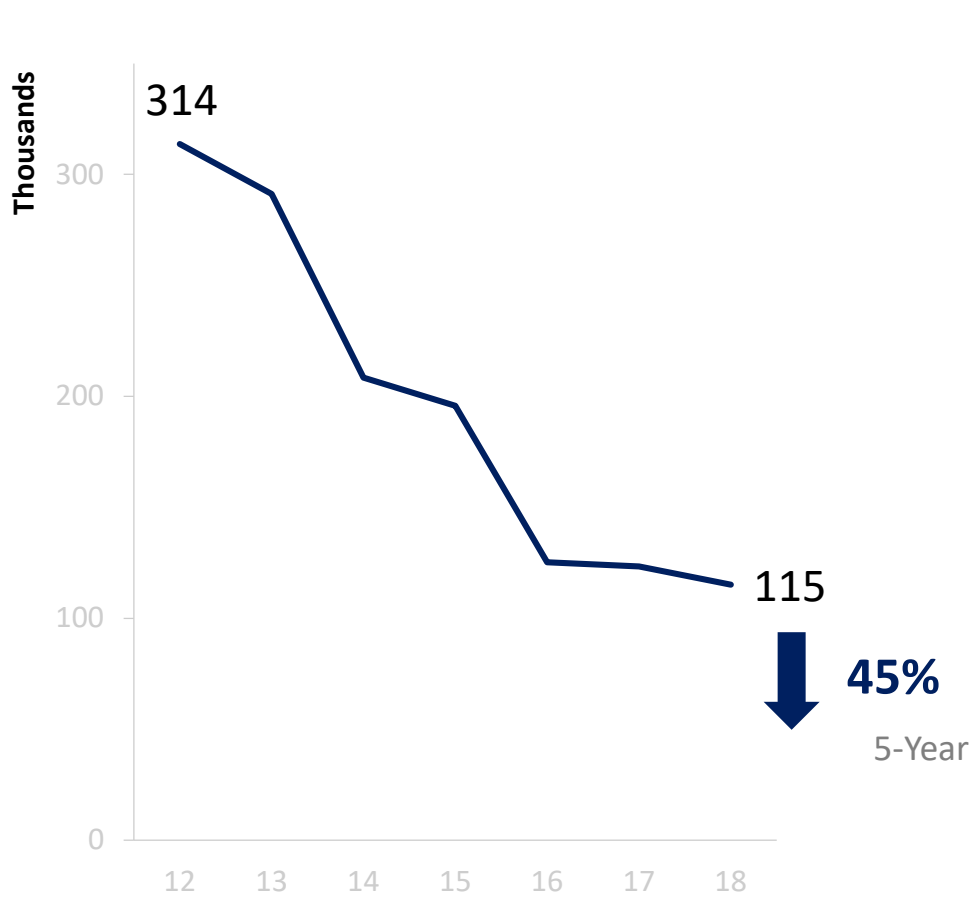
Juvenile



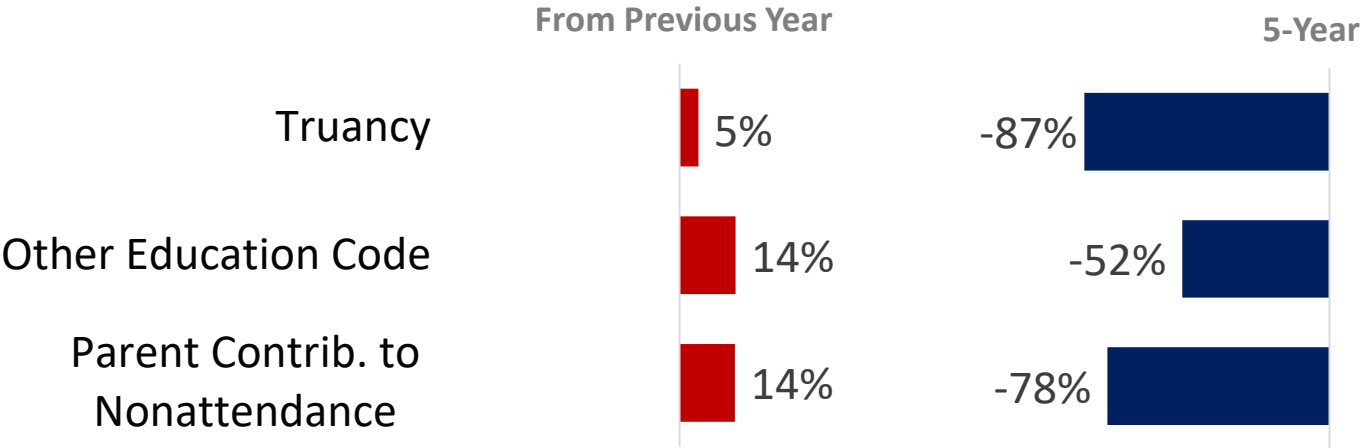
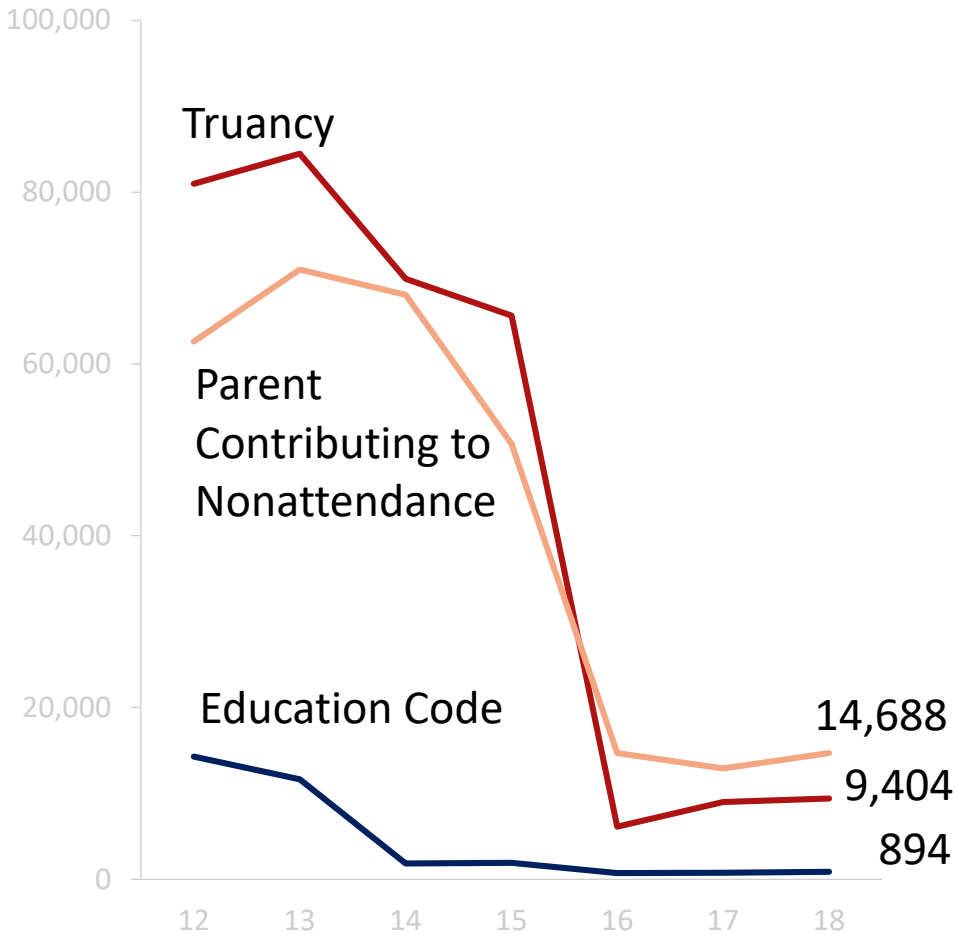
After 9 years of significant decline, the number of **juvenile** cases filed in district and county courts rose 4 percent in 2017 then declined slightly in 2018.



The number of **Class C** cases involving **juveniles or minors** declined 63 percent since 2012. Nearly half filings in 2018 were traffic cases.



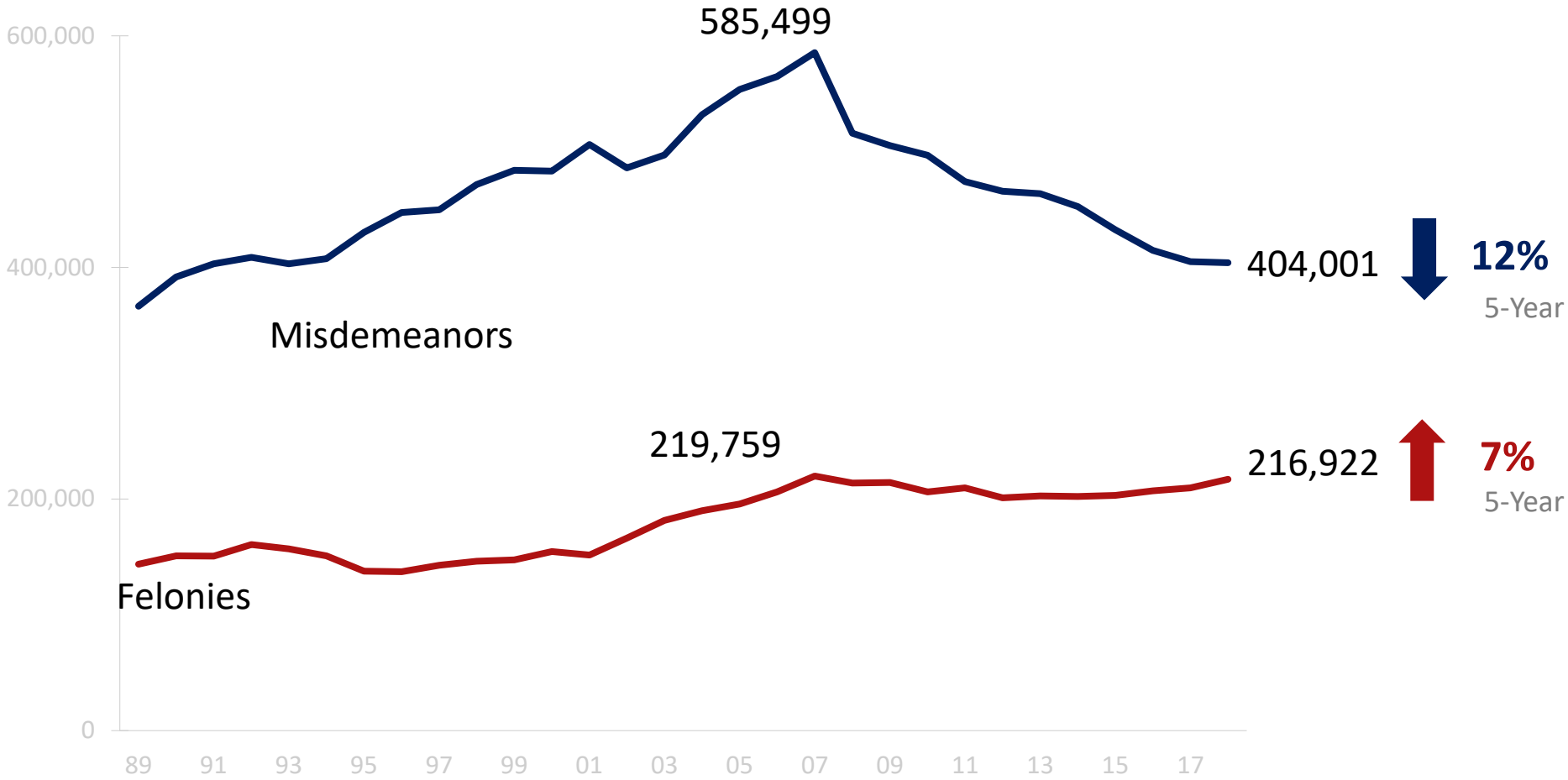
Changes to school ticketing laws (in 2014) and truancy laws (in 2016) led to significant declines in the related case categories. Over the past 2 years, **Education Code** and **truancy** cases increased, and **parent contributing to nonattendance** cases increased from 2017.



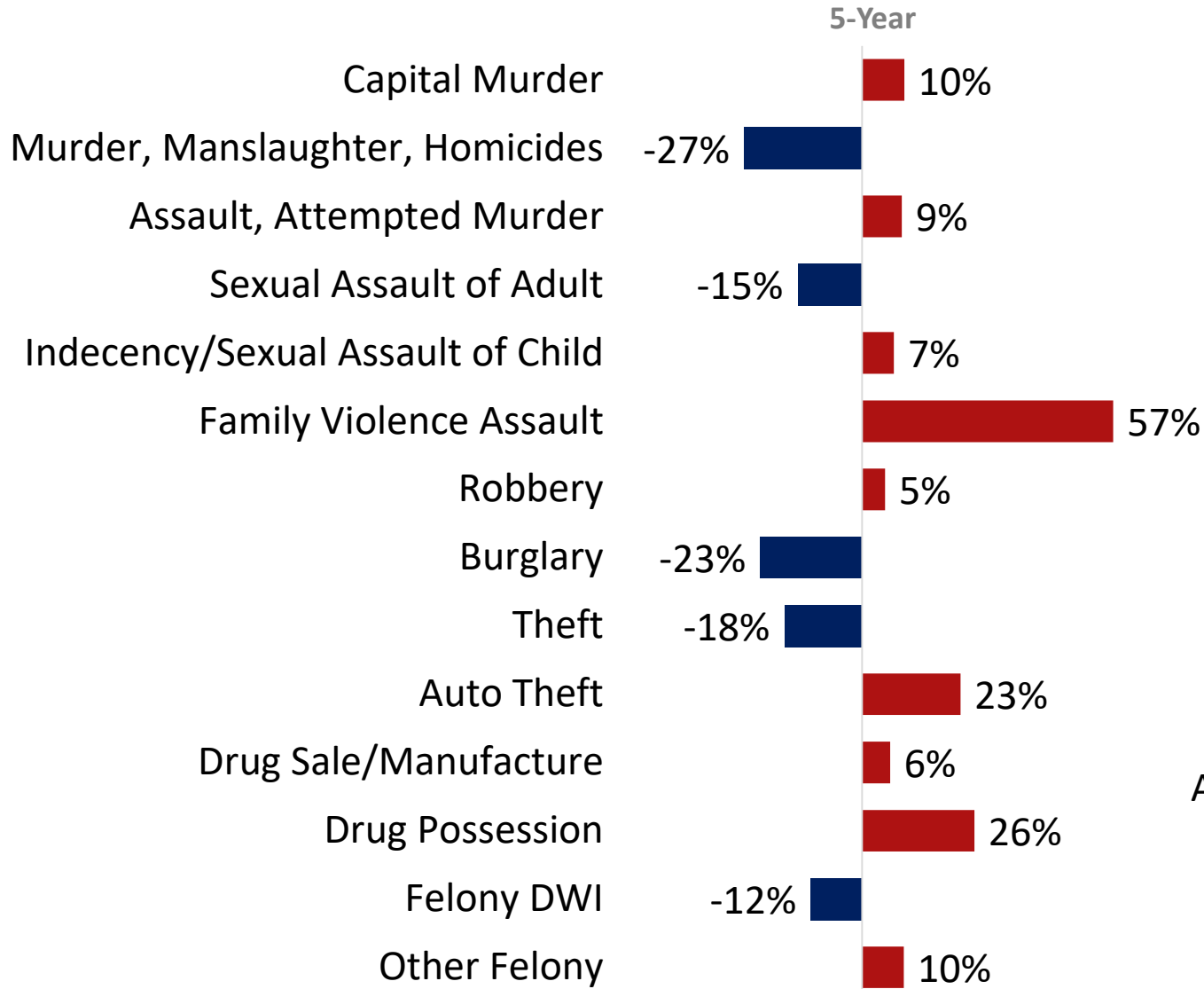
Criminal



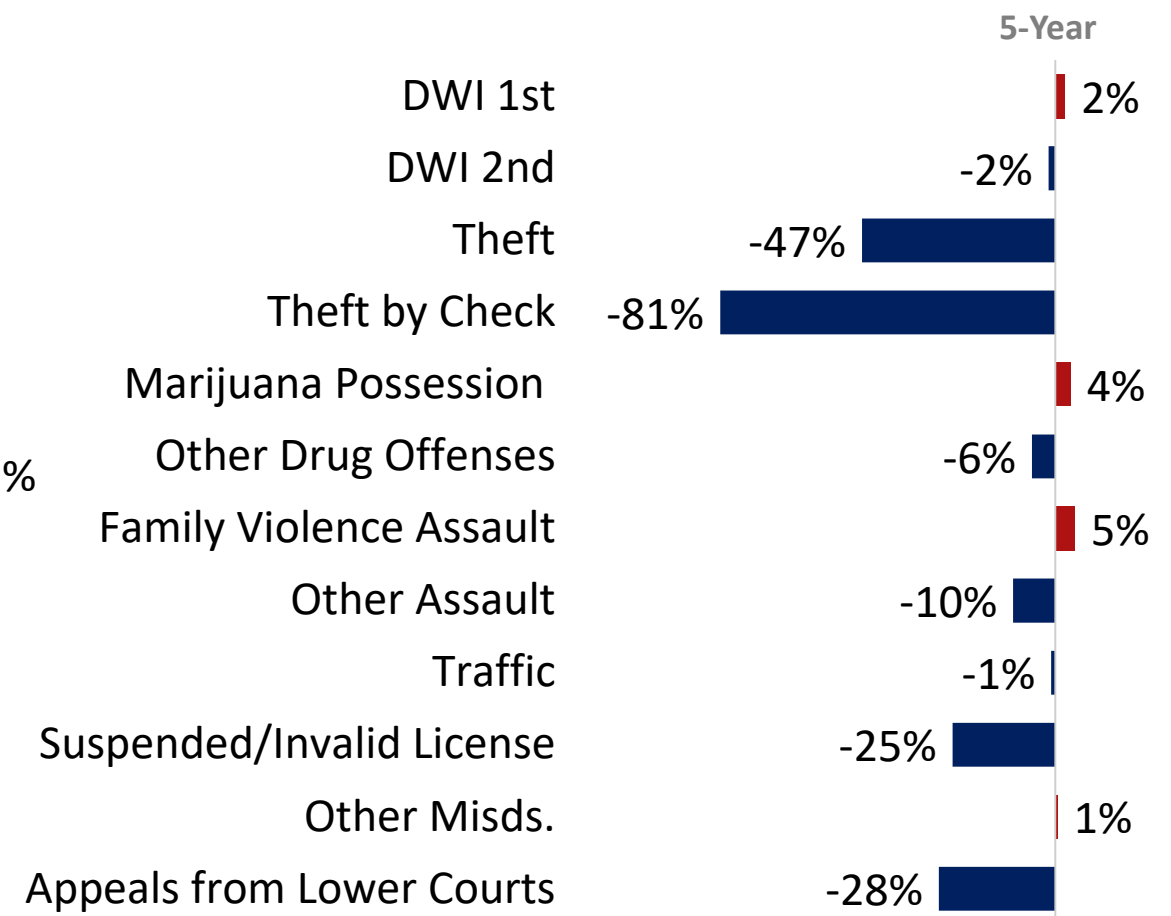
The number of new **misdemeanor** cases filed has fallen 31 percent from a high in 2007 to the lowest filing rate since 1993. The number of new **felony** cases filed increased each year since 2014 and reached a filing rate in 2018 that was second only to the peak in 2007.



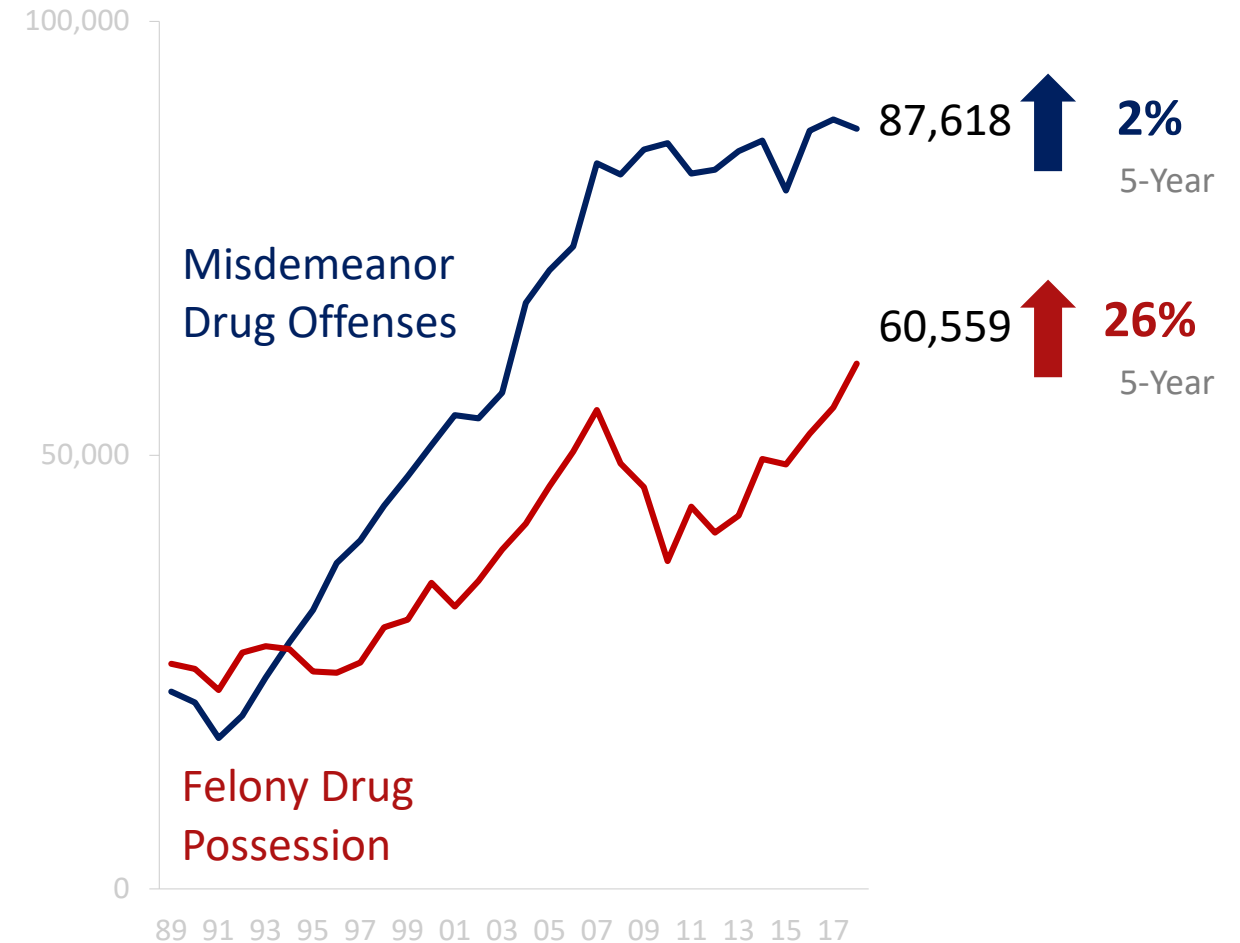
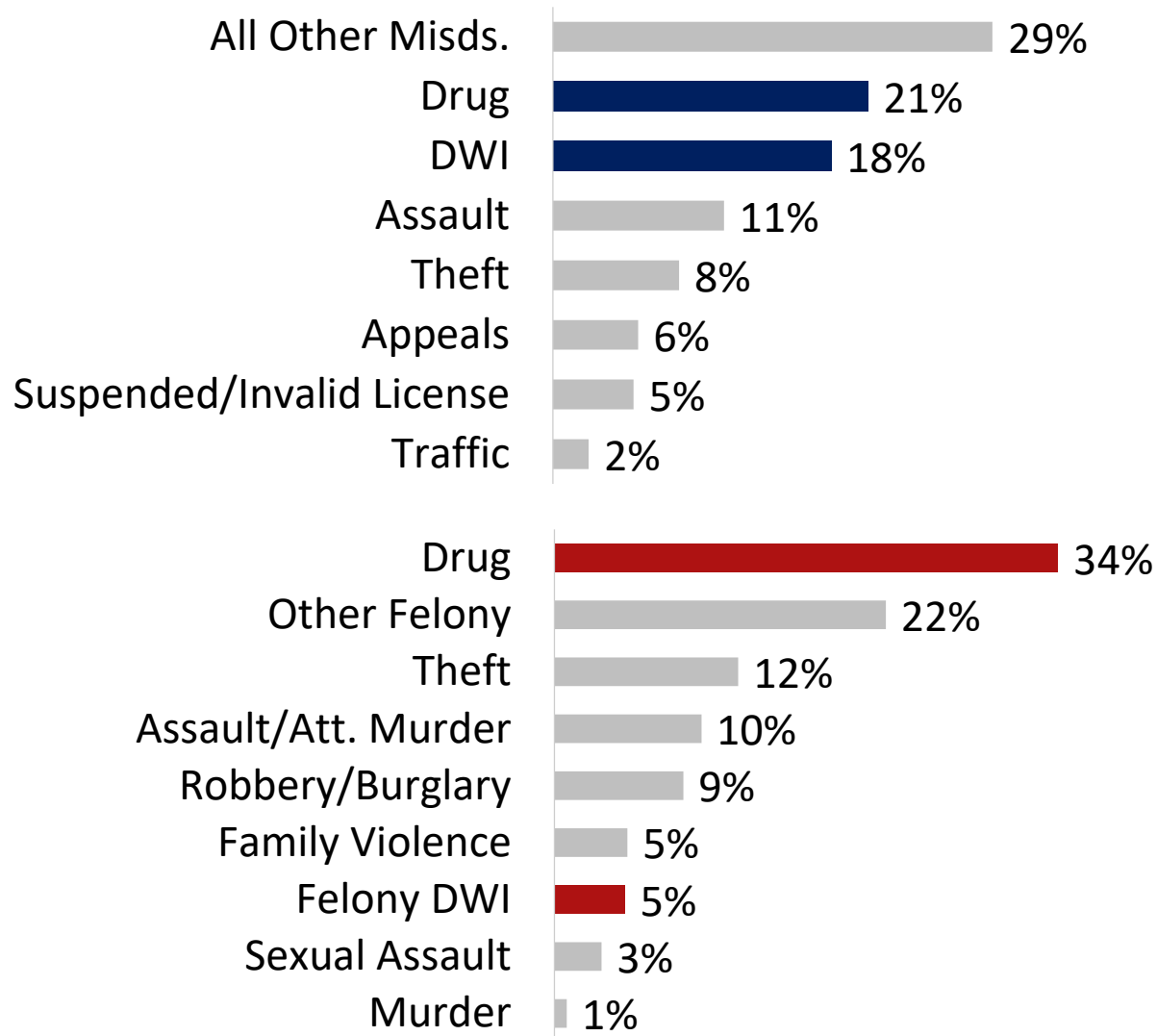
Felony Filings



Misdemeanor Filings



Almost 40 percent of new **misdemeanor** and **felony** cases filed in 2018 involved **drugs** or **alcohol**. Felony drug possession cases reached a new peak.



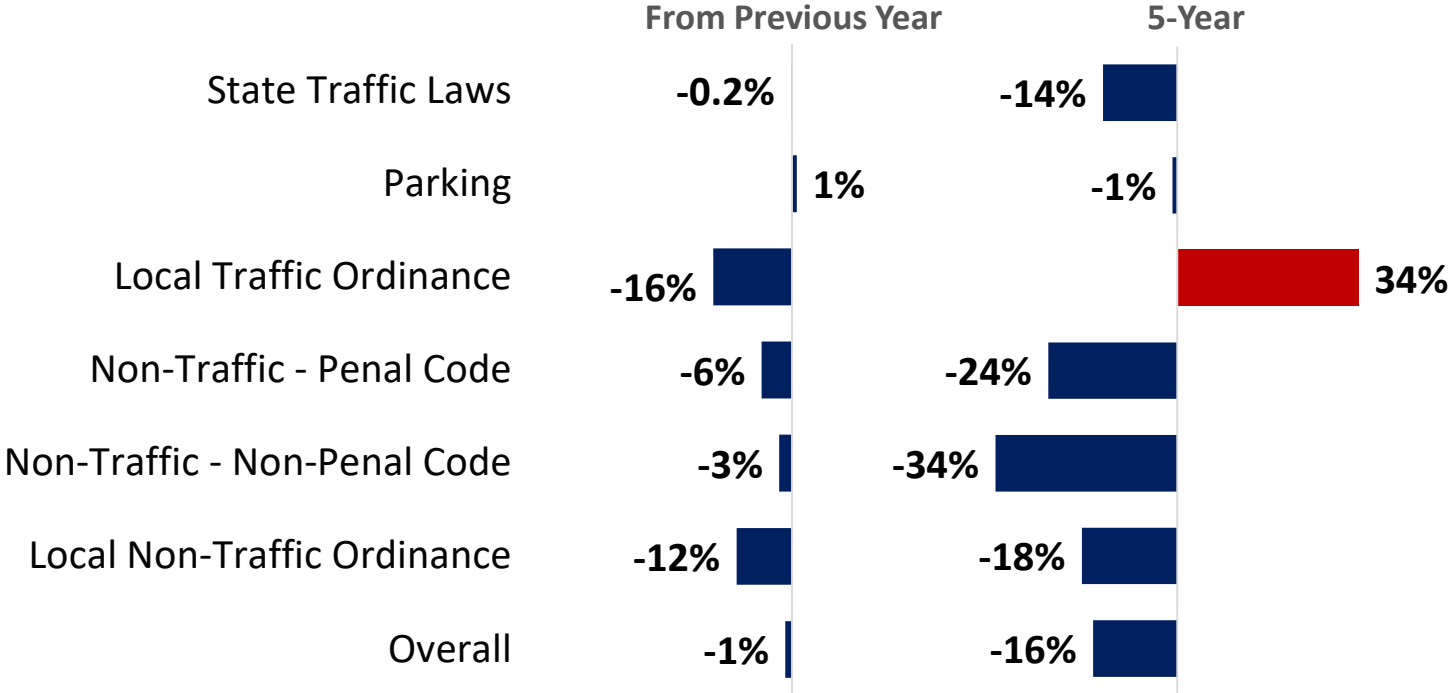
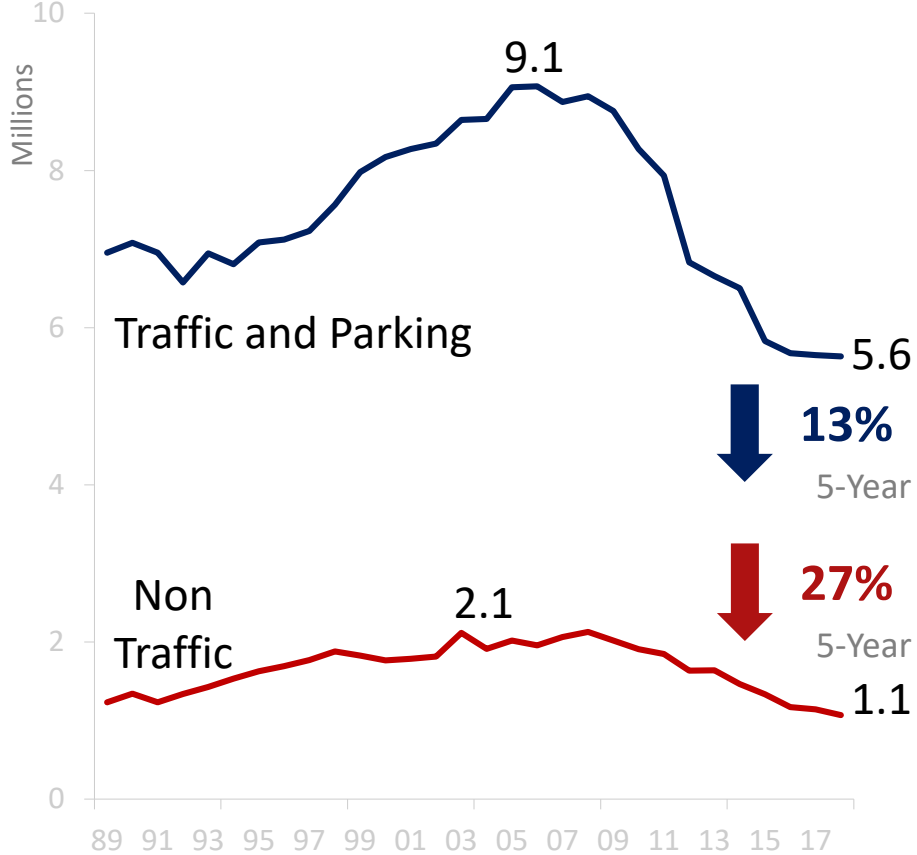
After 9 years of decline, the number of new **misdemeanor DWI** cases filed increased by 8% in 2018.



After 4 years of decline, the number of new **felony DWI** cases filed increased by 6% in 2018.



The number of traffic and parking cases filed in 2018 was 38 percent lower than the peak in 2006 and was the lowest number since at least 1980. The number of non-traffic misdemeanor filings was 50 percent lower than the peak in 2008 and was the lowest number since 1984.

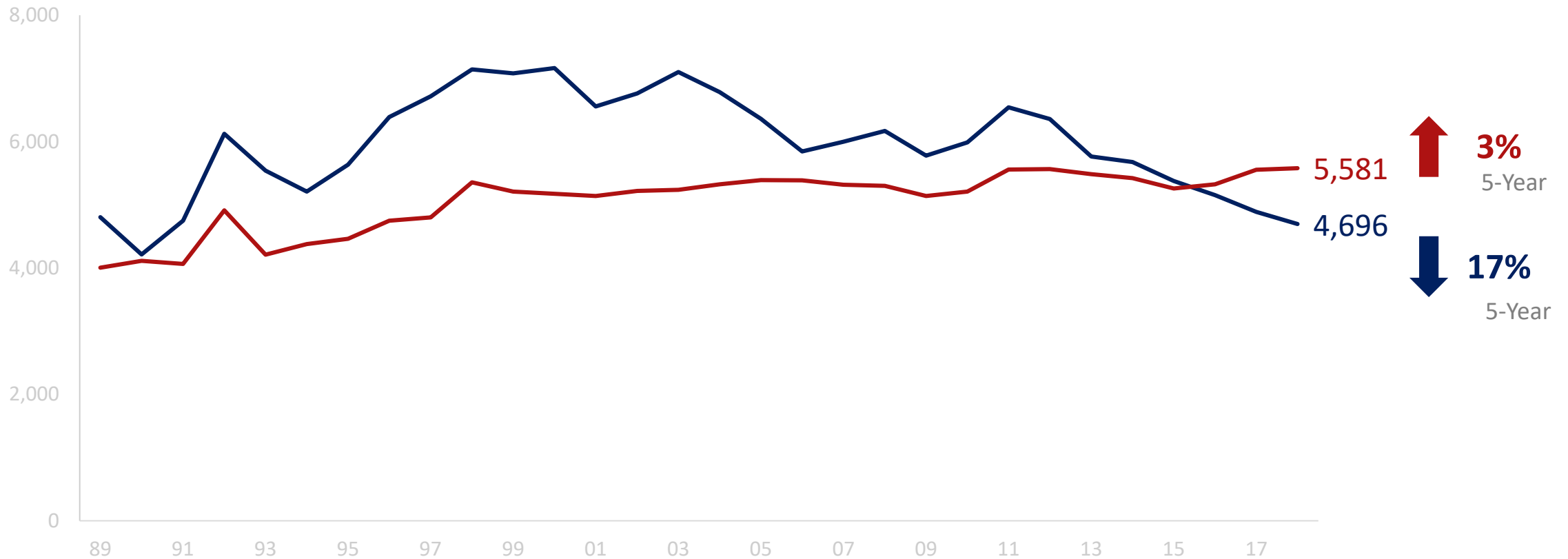


Appellate Courts



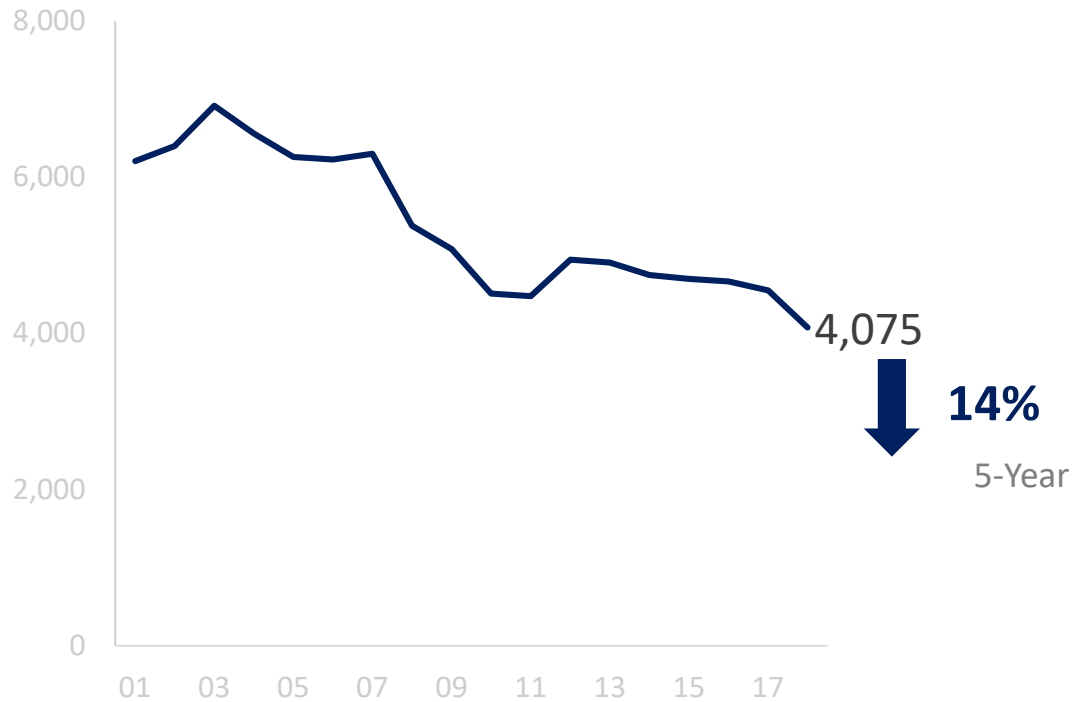
Courts of Appeals

From 2011 to 2018, the number of **criminal** filings declined 39% to the lowest criminal level since 1995. The number of **civil** cases in 2018 was the highest number of civil cases filed in the history of the courts of appeals.

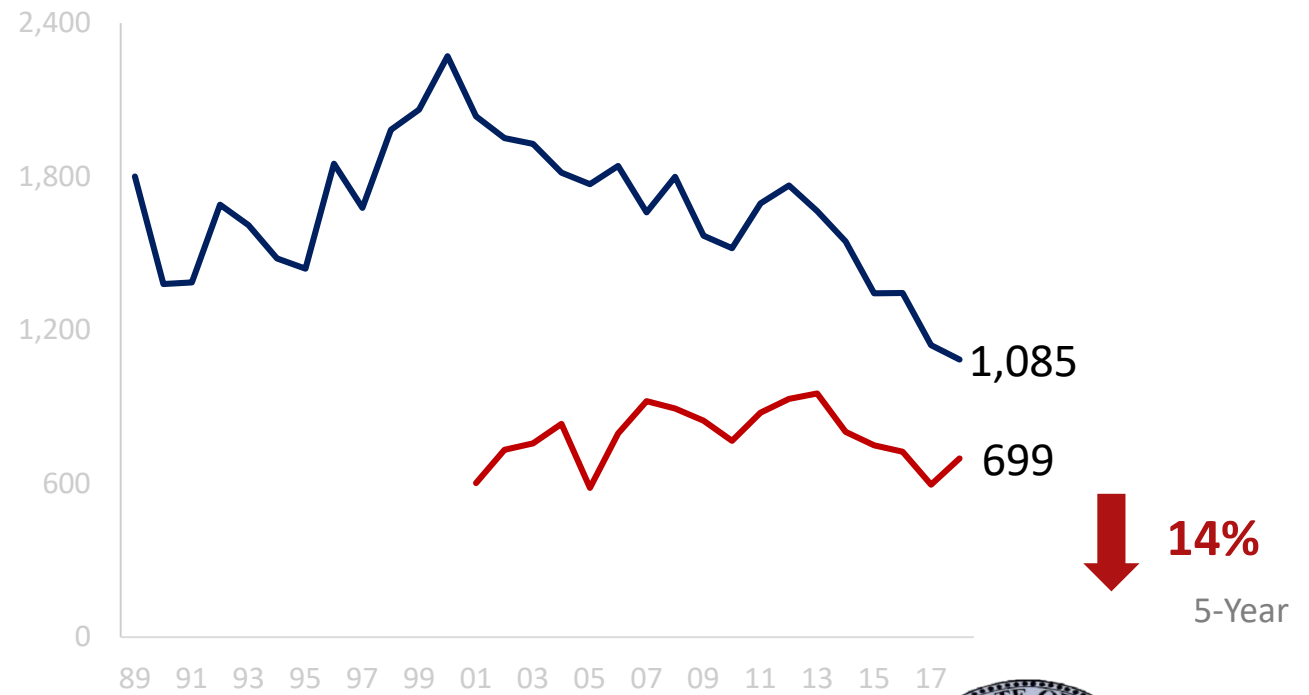


Court of Criminal Appeals

Applications for **writs of habeas corpus** declined 10 percent from the previous year to the lowest level since at least 2001.



Petitions for discretionary review decreased to the lowest level since at least 1989. After 4 years of decline, **original proceedings** increased 17 percent from 2017.



Supreme Court

The number of cases added to the court's docket increased in all categories. **Petitions for review**, which account for the majority of the court's caseload, increased by 4 percent from the previous year to the highest number filed since 2003.

