



# ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE TEXAS JUDICIARY



*FISCAL YEAR 2013*

Published By

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION  
DAVID SLAYTON, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

205 WEST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 600  
POST OFFICE BOX 12066  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2066  
(512) 463-1625  
FAX: (512) 463-1648  
[WWW.TXCOURTS.GOV](http://WWW.TXCOURTS.GOV)

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## OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

### *A Message from the Administrative Director*

Addressing the Sixth Congress of the Republic of Texas on November 1, 1841, President Sam Houston stated that “an able, honest, and enlightened judiciary should be the first object of every people.” Every day across our great republic, judges, clerks, court coordinators and numerous other court personnel work to bring Houston’s vision to fruition. All of this work culminates in statistical measures that can be reported to the public in an act of transparency and accountability that our society deserves from its government. That being said, a statistical report does not in itself describe the impact that the judiciary has on millions of citizens and businesses in Texas. It is the daily stories of justice for all, a premise yearned for by many around the world, that Texas courts seek to produce an “able, honest and enlightened judiciary.” We hope that this report provides a glimpse into those efforts.

Some of the highlights from the statistical report are listed below:

- The more than 3,600 judicial officers in the state disposed of approximately 10.1 million cases during fiscal year 2013.
- The Supreme Court ended the fiscal year with the fewest number of pending cases since 1995.
- The average times between filing and disposition of applications for writs of habeas corpus and petitions for discretionary review filed in the Court of Criminal Appeals were 40 and 65 days, respectively. Death penalty cases averaged 646 days.
- Almost half of the appeals filed in the courts of appeal came from the state’s five most populous counties. Despite being the second largest county, Dallas County had the highest number of appeals due to a larger number of criminal appeals than Harris County.
- The number of injury and damage cases not involving a motor vehicle filed in the district and county-level courts are now at their lowest levels since reporting by this case type begin in 1980, having dropped 41 percent since 1988. On the other hand, the number of injury and damage cases involving a motor vehicle filed in the district and county-level courts has risen by 43 percent since 1988. This has caused the total tort case filings to remain fairly level overall.
- Despite a nearly 60 percent increase in the adult population in Texas since 1988, the number of divorce cases filed in the district and county-level courts has only increased 4 percent. That being said, the number of other family law matters and child support cases have increased by 297 percent and 454 percent, respectively. Family law cases now make up the largest share of the cases added at the district courts.
- Debt-related cases filed in the district and county-level courts have decreased 64 percent since 2007, when the number of debt cases was at a 20-year high.
- Only 1,368 civil cases (0.4 percent) in the district and county-level courts were disposed of by jury trial.
- Misdemeanor drug offenses accounted for the largest increase in the number of criminal cases filed in the district and county-level courts in the past 25 years (an increase of 59,904 cases, or 238 percent. Felony assault or attempted murder filings had the highest percentage increase in that same time period (308 percent).
- Of the criminal cases punishable by incarceration disposed of in fiscal year 2013 by conviction or deferred adjudication, 63 percent were placed on some form of community supervision, while 34 percent were incarcerated. These rates have remained consistent the last three years.
- Only 2.5 percent of the juvenile delinquency cases disposed in fiscal year 2013 resulted in the child being committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the lowest level in at least two decades.
- Almost 83 percent of applications for a guardianship were granted, while only 2,402 guardianships were reported closed during fiscal year 2013. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 46,587 active guardianships in the state.
- Of the 43,054 applications for involuntary temporary mental health services filed in fiscal year 2013, 65.1 percent of the proposed patients were committed to inpatient treatment and 2.7 percent to outpatient treatment. The remainder (32.2 percent) were released.
- Failure to attend school cases accounted for 54.3 percent of the juvenile cases reported filed in the justice court. The 68,929 cases filed represents a 28 percent drop in the number reported from 2011.
- The municipal courts disposed of more than 5.3 million criminal cases and another half million civil or administrative cases during fiscal year 2013. Excluding cases dismissed prior to trial or at trial, the amount collected per criminal disposition averaged approximately \$149.

Our office is dedicated to providing resources and information for the efficient administration of the judicial branch of state government. Please contact us if there is anything we can do in furtherance of that mission. To find out more about the work of OCA or the other judicial entities, please visit the Annual Reports of the Judicial Support Agencies, Boards and Commissions at <http://www.courts.state.tx.us/pubs/AgenciesAR/AgencyAR13/AnnualReport2013/flipbook.html>. We also invite you to explore Texas Courts Online, <http://www.txcourts.gov>, or follow us on Twitter @txcourts for more information on the Texas judiciary.

# Texas Courts: A Descriptive Summary



Photo courtesy of TexasCourthouses.com

*Jones County Courthouse - Anson*

As reflected on page 3, there were 3,468 elected (or appointed, in the case of most municipal judges) judicial positions in Texas as of September 1, 2013. 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 315 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.

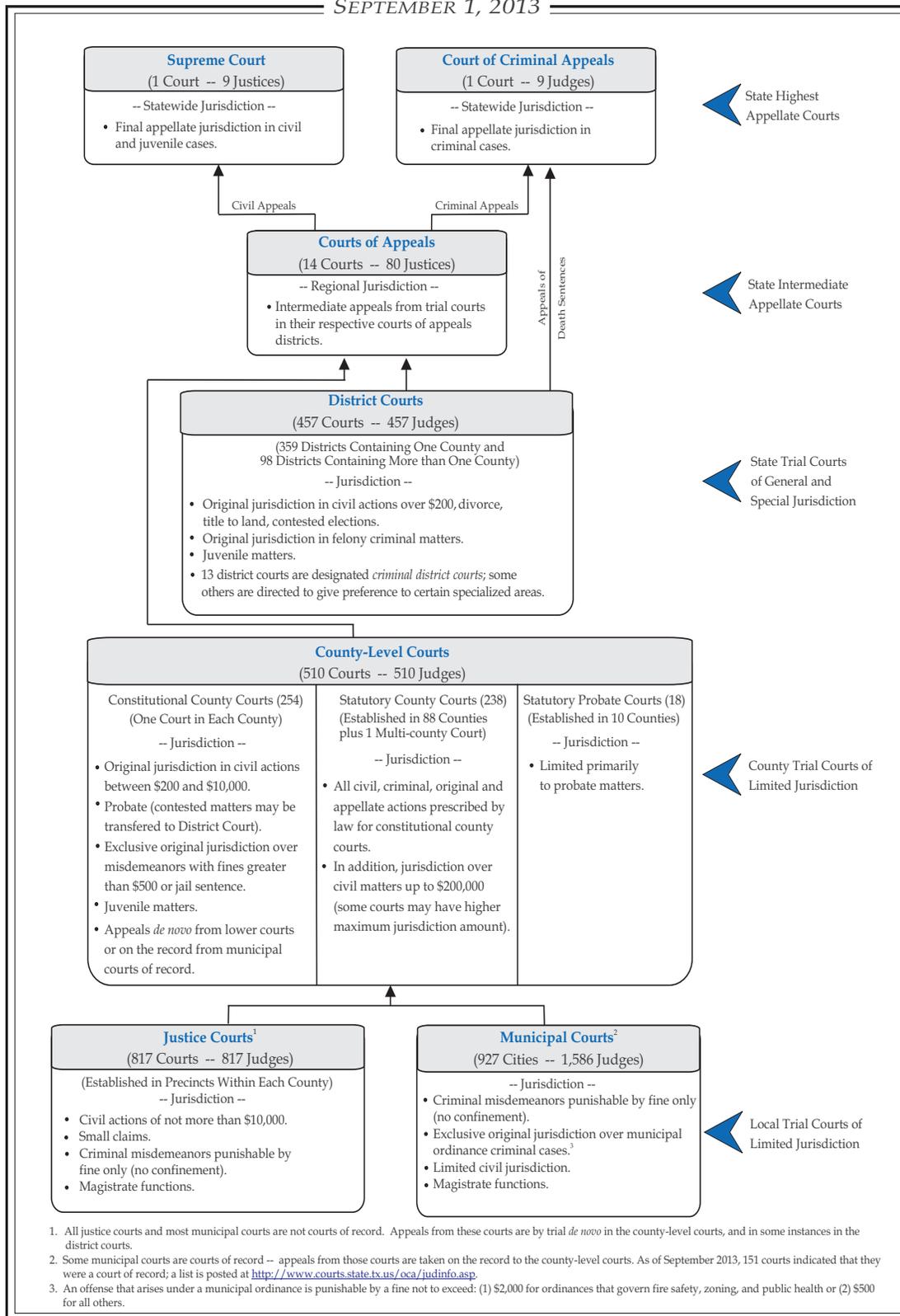
By statute, the Legislature has created municipal courts in each incorporated city in the state. These courts have original jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances and concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts over misdemeanor state law violations, limited to the geographical confines 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, 2013



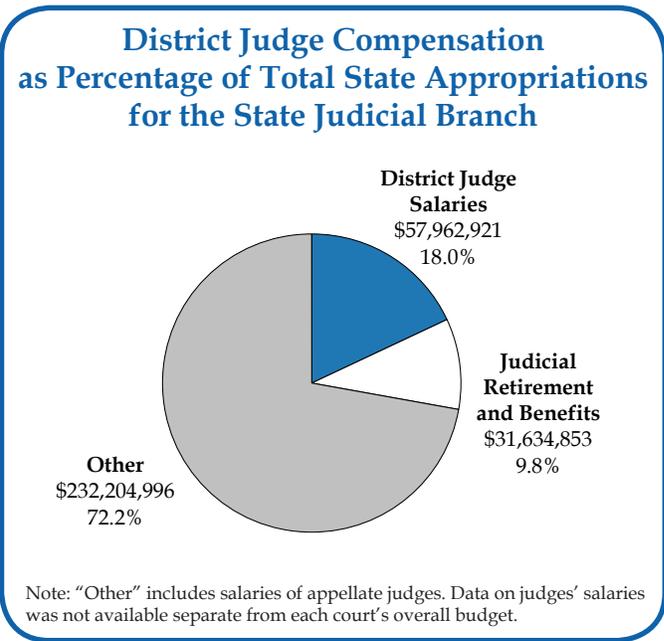
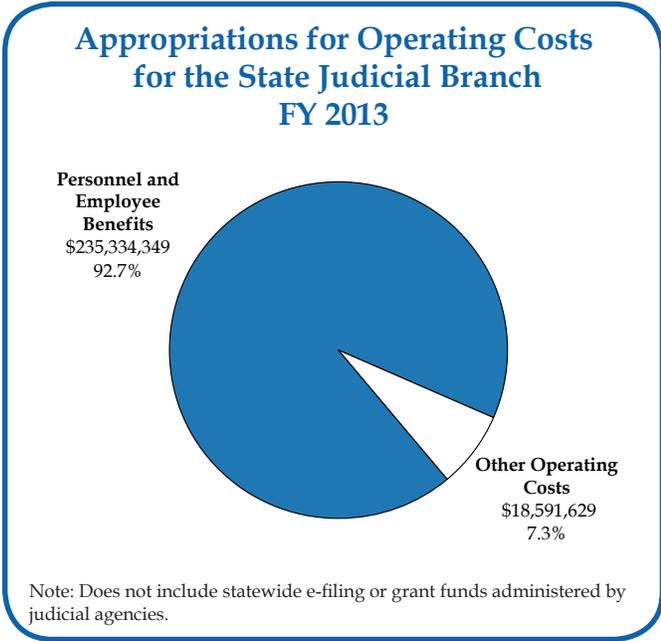
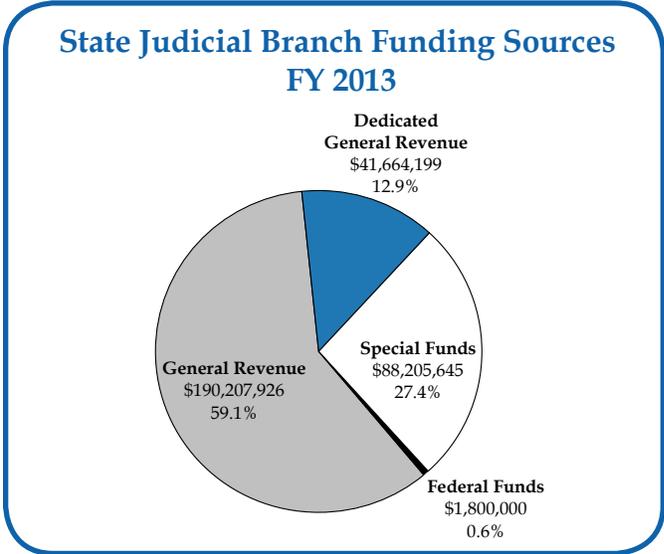
# Funding of the Texas Judicial Branch

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, 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.

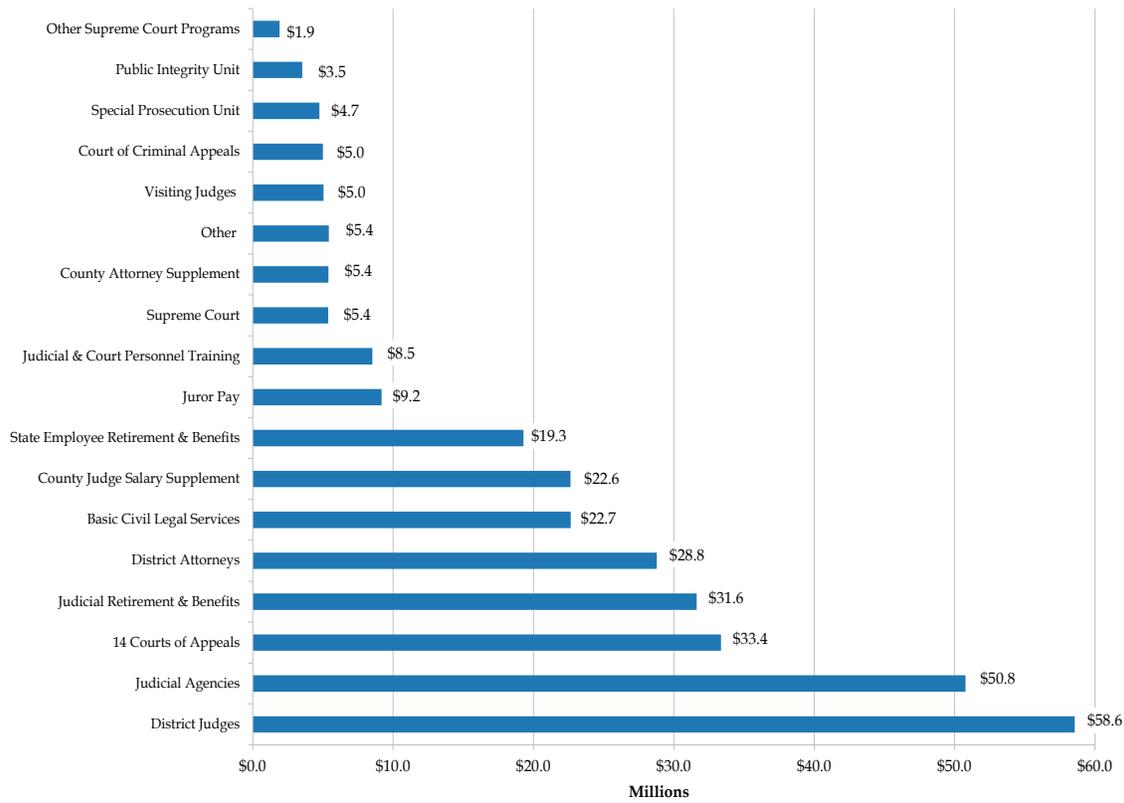
In FY 2013, original state appropriations for the Texas judicial system increased by 0.2 percent from the previous fiscal year and accounted for approximately 0.41 percent of all state appropriations (\$321,877,770 of the \$79,184,769,459 appropriated from all funds in FY 2013). Nearly 60 percent of the financing for the judicial system came from General Revenue. Another 12.9 percent came from dedicated General Revenue funds, such as the Fair Defense Account and the Judicial and Court Personnel Training Fund, while the remaining 28.0 percent came from other funds, including the Judicial Fund and federal funds.

Excluding grant funds administered by judicial agencies and funds appropriated for operating the statewide e-filing system, approximately \$254 million was appropriated for state judicial branch operating costs. Personnel accounted for approximately 93 percent of operating costs. Much of the remaining 7 percent was dedicated to court information technology infrastructure, routine travel for 64 specialty courts and other field staff, contracts for investigator services for the Office of Capital Writs, and publications purchased by the State Law Library for the judiciary.

Salaries for district judges accounted for 18.0 percent of appropriations for the judicial system, and judicial retirement and benefits comprised another 9.8 percent.



## State Judicial Branch Appropriations, FY 2013



- 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.

## Court Structure and Function

### *Appellate Courts*

The appellate courts of the Texas Judicial System are: the (1) Supreme Court, the highest state appellate court for civil and juvenile cases; (2) Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest state appellate court for criminal cases; and (3) 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*

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.<sup>1</sup>

The Supreme Court has statewide, final appellate jurisdiction in most civil and juvenile cases.<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>3</sup> (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.

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 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;<sup>4</sup> 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;<sup>5</sup> and
- 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.<sup>6</sup>

## *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 and limited its jurisdiction to appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases only. Today, the court consists of one presiding judge and eight associate judges.<sup>7</sup>

The Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest state court for criminal appeals.<sup>8</sup> 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,<sup>9</sup> 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.

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.<sup>10</sup>

## *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, Dallas, Eastland, El Paso, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Texarkana, Tyler, and Waco. In addition, two courts are located in Houston, and one court maintains two locations – one in Corpus Christi and one in Edinburg.

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.

## *Trial Courts*

In trial courts, witnesses are heard, testimony is received, exhibits are offered into evidence, and 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, 2013, there were 457 district courts in Texas.

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; and 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 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> 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; and 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. As of September 1, 2013, 238 statutory county courts and 18 statutory probate courts were operating in 88 (primarily metropolitan) counties, and one multi-county court operated in three counties, to relieve the county judge of some or all of the judicial duties of office. Statutory county courts include county courts at law, county civil courts at law, county criminal courts at law, county criminal courts, and 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 Probate 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 case-loads. 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.



## *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, 2013, there were 927 municipal courts, 151 of which indicated that they were a court 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. Municipal courts also have 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 Texas 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.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup>

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.

## Notes

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.
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, 83<sup>rd</sup> 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, 76<sup>th</sup> Leg., R.S., Art. IV, page IV-1, Rider 3), the Supreme Court has transferred cases between the courts of appeals since 1895 (24<sup>th</sup> Leg., R.S., Ch. 53, 1895 Tex. Gen. Laws 79).
6. In 1997, the 75<sup>th</sup> 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.
10. In accordance with Chapter 56 and Section 74.025, Texas Government Code.
11. Article V, Section 31 of the Texas Constitution.
12. In accordance with Section 74.091 or Section 74.0911, Texas Government Code.
13. The administrative responsibilities of the local administrative judge are detailed in Section 74.092, Texas Government Code.

# Information About Texas Judges

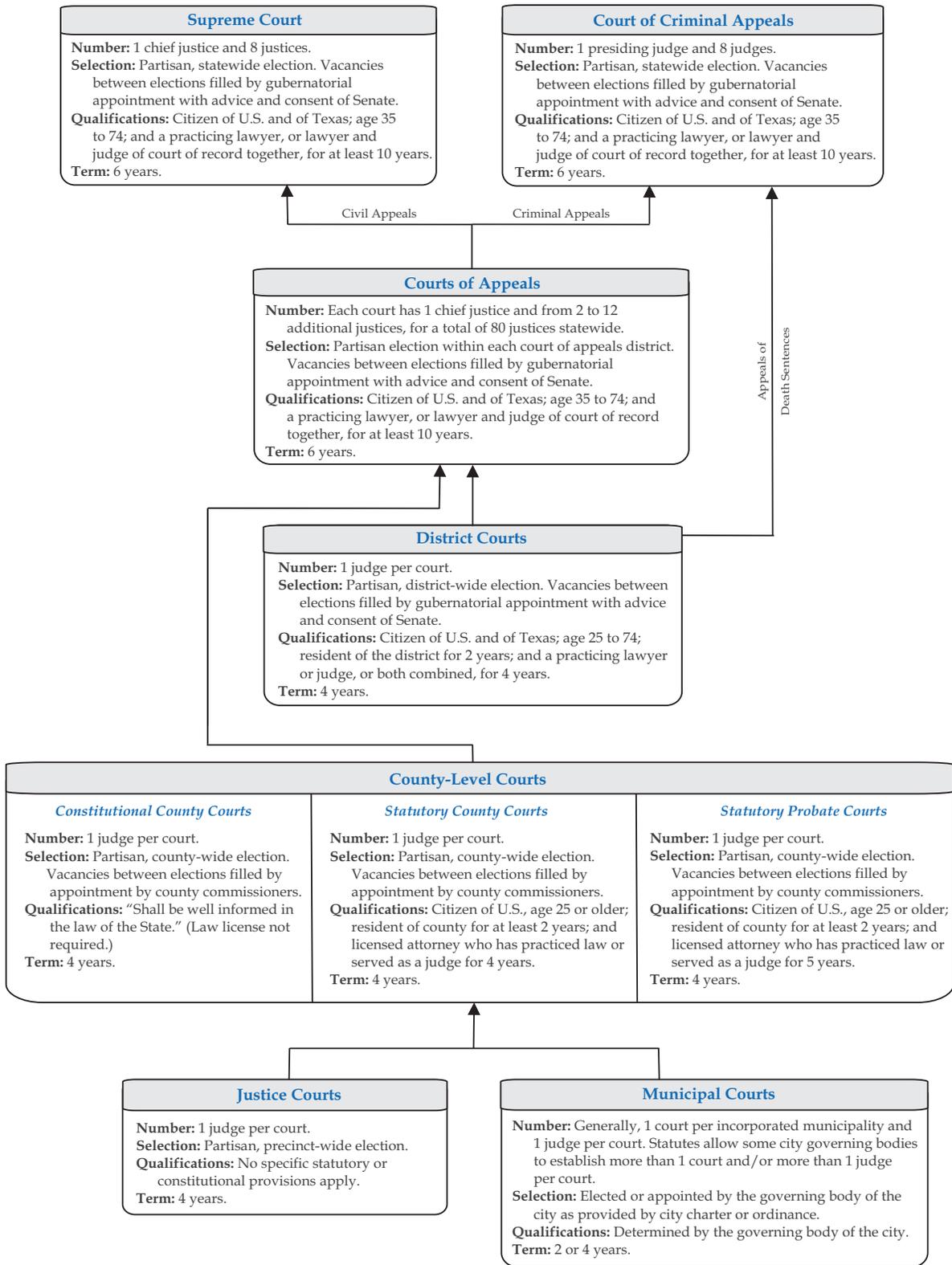
For the Fiscal Year  
Ended August 31, 2013



Photo courtesy of TexasCourthouses.com

*Lee County Courthouse - Giddings*

# Judicial Qualifications and Selection in the State of Texas



## Profile of Appellate and Trial Judges\*

As of September 1, 2013

	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
<b>NUMBER OF JUDGES:</b>										
Number of Judge Positions	9	9	80	444	13	238	18	254	817	1,586
Number of Judges	9	9	79	443	13	237	18	254	816	1,575
Number of Vacant Positions	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	11
Number of Municipalities w/ Courts	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	927
Cities with No Courts	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	252
<b>AGE OF JUDGES:</b>										
	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 79)	(n = 440)	(n = 13)	(n = 220)	(n = 16)	(n = 231)	(n = 768)	(n = 1,462)
Mean	58	60	58	55	56	60	56	61	58	61
Oldest	68	71	76	75	69	83	69	85	88	95
Youngest	47	49	40	34	42	36	42	36	28	26
<b>RANGE OF AGE:</b>										
Under 25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 through 34	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	22
35 through 44	0	0	8	46	2	25	2	13	58	165
45 through 54	5	1	13	140	3	81	1	37	166	348
55 through 64	3	2	41	183	5	78	10	94	306	465
65 through 74	1	6	16	69	3	30	3	77	188	361
Over 75	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	10	43	101
<b>GENDER OF JUDGES:</b>										
	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 79)	(n = 443)	(n = 13)	(n = 237)	(n = 18)	(n = 254)	(n = 816)	(n = 1,574)
Males	7	4	45	311	8	165	12	228	520	1,019
Females	2	5	34	132	5	72	6	26	296	555
<b>ETHNICITY OF JUDGES:</b>										
	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 79)	(n = 425)	(n = 12)	(n = 222)	(n = 16)	(n = 241)	(n = 734)	(n = 1,370)
African-American	1	0	1	19	2	7	0	1	24	75
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	10
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	10
Hispanic/Latino	1	1	12	69	1	43	2	20	139	216
White (Non-Hispanic)	7	8	66	329	9	169	14	218	567	1,046
Other	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	13
<b>LENGTH OF SERVICE:</b>										
	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 79)	(n = 443)	(n = 13)	(n = 237)	(n = 18)	(n = 254)	(n = 815)	(n = 1,547)
Average	7 Yr 10 Mo	13 Yr 4 Mo	8 Yr 10 Mo	8 Yr 2 Mo	7 Yr 11 Mo	9 Yr 3 Mo	12 Yr 5 Mo	8 Yr 10 Mo	10 Yr 9 Mo	9 Yr 5 Mo
Longest	24 Yr 8 Mo	20 Yr 8 Mo	21 Yr 8 Mo	32 Yr 8 Mo	23 Yr 4 Mo	37 Yr 5 Mo	32 Yr 0 Mo	34 Yr 8 Mo	50 Yr 5 Mo	48 Yr 10 Mo
<b>RANGE OF SERVICE ON THIS COURT IN YEARS:</b>										
Under 1 Year	2	0	10	52	2	9	0	6	46	78
1 through 4	2	1	20	122	2	66	7	82	174	472
5 through 9	3	0	13	100	6	47	2	70	193	432
10 through 14	1	4	24	80	1	64	2	54	212	244
15 through 19	0	3	11	46	1	25	2	23	91	158
20 through 24	1	1	1	29	1	14	3	12	55	61
25 through 29	0	0	0	11	0	10	1	6	21	45
30 through 34	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	1	18	33
35 through 39	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	10
Over 40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
<b>FIRST ASSUMED OFFICE BY:</b>										
	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 79)	(n = 443)	(n = 13)	(n = 236)	(n = 18)	(n = 254)	(n = 815)	(n = 1,561)
Appointment	6 (67%)	2 (22%)	42 (53%)	159 (36%)	2 (15%)	59 (25%)	5 (28%)	44 (17%)	218 (27%)	1,541 (99%)
Election	3 (33%)	7 (78%)	37 (47%)	284 (64%)	11 (85%)	177 (75%)	13 (72%)	210 (83%)	597 (73%)	20 (1%)
<b>EDUCATION:</b>										
<b>HIGH SCHOOL:</b>	(n = 9)	(n = 9)	(n = 79)	(n = 441)	(n = 13)	(n = 231)	(n = 19)	(n = 241)	(n = 760)	(n = 1,492)
Attended	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	6	40 (5%)	31 (2%)
Graduated	6 (67%)	9 (100%)	69 (87%)	416 (94%)	12 (92%)	203 (88%)	16 (84%)	229 (95%)	714 (94%)	1,402 (94%)
<b>COLLEGE:</b>										
Attended	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	3 (1%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	1 (5%)	40 (17%)	177 (23%)	163 (11%)
Graduated	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	73 (92%)	413 (94%)	12 (92%)	212 (92%)	18 (95%)	157 (65%)	246 (32%)	1,017 (68%)
<b>LAW SCHOOL:</b>										
Attended	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	2 (0%)	1 (0%)
Graduated	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	79 (100%)	441 (100%)	13 (100%)	230 (100%)	19 (100%)	34 (14%)	65 (9%)	879 (59%)
<b>LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW:</b>										
Number Licensed	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	79 (100%)	443 (100%)	13 (100%)	237 (100%)	18 (100%)	32 (13%)	63 (8%)	890 (57%)
Mean Year Licensed	1983	1977	1983	1984	1984	1986	1982	1984	1984	1986
<b>YEARS LICENSED:</b>										
4 Years or Less	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
5 to 9 Years	0	0	0	4	1	3	0	0	1	38
10 to 14 Years	0	0	3	28	0	17	2	1	4	75
15 to 19 Years	0	0	6	52	2	30	1	6	12	154
20 to 24 Years	3	1	13	75	1	45	1	7	9	147
25 to 29 Years	2	2	14	75	3	59	0	5	5	101
30 or More Years	4	6	43	209	6	83	14	14	33	365
<b>ORIGINALLY CAME TO THIS COURT FROM:</b>										
Attorney Private Practice	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	29 (37%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Judge of Lower Court	5 (56%)	4 (44%)	12 (15%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Legislative Service	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Governmental Service	2 (22%)	3 (33%)	3 (4%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:</b>										
Prosecutor	1 (11%)	5 (56%)	13 (16%)	169 (38%)	5 (38%)	109 (46%)	5 (28%)	8 (3%)	--	--
Attorney Private Practice	8 (89%)	8 (89%)	40 (51%)	317 (71%)	10 (77%)	152 (64%)	16 (89%)	26 (10%)	--	--
Judge of Lower Court	5 (56%)	1 (11%)	20 (25%)	52 (12%)	3 (23%)	31 (13%)	3 (17%)	13 (5%)	--	--
County Commissioner	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	22 (9%)	--	--

\* NOTES: Data may be incomplete, as this chart includes only information reported to OCA. District and county-level associate judges not included in data. Data for municipal courts include associate and other judges.

# Newly Elected State Judges

Elected November 2012

(Assumed Office January 1, 2013)

JUDGE	COURT	REPLACING	REASON
Patricia O. Alvarez	4th Court of Appeals	Rebecca Simmons	Defeated for re-election
Luz Elena D. Chapa	4th Court of Appeals	Steve Hilbig	Defeated for re-election
John J. Donovan	14th Court of Appeals	Charles W. Seymore	Did not seek re-election
David W. Evans	5th Court of Appeals	Joseph Morris	Did not seek re-election
Scott K. Field	3rd Court of Appeals	Diane Henson	Defeated for re-election
David B. Lewis	5th Court of Appeals	Martin Richter	Defeated for re-election
Nora Longoria	13th Court of Appeals	Rose Vela	Did not seek re-election
Rebeca C. Martinez	4th Court of Appeals	Phylis Speedlin	Defeated for re-election
Yvonne T. Rodriguez	8th Court of Appeals	Christopher Antcliff	Defeated for re-election
Luis Aguilar	243rd District Court	Bill Hicks	Did not seek re-election
John (Will) W. Biard	62nd District Court	Robert McDowell	Did not seek re-election
Stacy W. Bond	176th District Court	Shawna Reagin	Defeated for re-election
Bruce Boyer	22nd District Court	Charles Ramsay	Did not seek re-election
Carson Campbell	21st District Court	Terry Eleniken	Did not seek re-election
David A. Canales	73rd District Court	Renee McElhaney	Defeated for re-election
Kelly W. Case	9th District Court	Frederick Edwards	Defeated for re-election
Dominique Collins	Crim. DC No. 4, Dallas	John Creuzot	Did not seek re-election
Charles (Brick) Dickerson	123th District Court	Guy Griffin	Defeated for re-election
Sergio H. Enriquez	448th District Court	Regina Arditti	Defeated for re-election
Roy B. Ferguson	394th District Court	Kenneth DeHart	Did not seek re-election
J. Allen Garrett	33rd District Court	Gil Jones	Did not seek re-election
John T. Gauntt	27th District Court	Joe Carroll	Did not seek re-election
Kristen M. Guiney	179th District Court	Randy Roll	Did not seek re-election
Jack Weldon Jones	146th District Court	Rick Morris	Did not seek re-election
Kaycee L. Jones	411th District Court	Robert Trapp	Defeated for re-election
Betsey Lambeth	425th District Court	Mark Silvestone	Defeated for re-election
James Martin	254th District Court	David Hanschen	Defeated for re-election
Phyllis Lister Brown	162nd District Court	Lorraine Raggio	Did not seek re-election
Renee H. Magee	337th District Court	Herb Ritchie	Defeated for re-election
Jack W. Marr	24th District Court	Joseph Patrick Kelly	Did not seek re-election
Susan Heygood McCoy	153rd District Court	Kenneth Curry	Did not seek re-election
Randy A. McDonald	344th District Court	Carroll Wilborn, Jr.	Did not seek re-election
Jack A. McGaughy	97th District Court	Roger Towery	Did not seek re-election
Michael E. Mery	37th District Court	David Berchelmann, Jr.	Did not seek re-election
Michael Moore	29th District Court	Jerry Ray	Did not seek re-election
Brad Morin	71st District Court	William Hughey	Defeated for re-election
Brenda G. Mullinix	387th District Court	Robert Kern	Did not seek re-election
Diane R. Navarrete	Crim. DC No. 1, El Paso	Peter Peca, Jr.	Did not seek re-election
Kerry Lane Neves	10th District Court	David Garner	Did not seek re-election
Eddie Northcutt	8th District Court	Robert Newsom	Did not seek re-election
William D. Old III	25th District Court	Dwight Peschel	Did not seek re-election
Ray J. Olivarri	399th District Court	Juanita Vasquez-Gardner	Defeated for re-election
Elaine H. Palmer	215th District Court	Steven Kirkland	Defeated for re-election
Beckie Palomo	341st District Court	Elma Salinas Ender	Did not seek re-election

## *Newly Elected State Judges (continued)*

<i>JUDGE</i>	<i>COURT</i>	<i>REPLACING</i>	<i>REASON</i>
Annabel Perez	41st District Court	Mary Anne Bramblett	Defeated for re-election
Elizabeth Ray	165th District Court	Josefine Rendon	Defeated for re-election
Gloria Saldana	438th District Court	Victor Negron, Jr.	Defeated for re-election
Laura Salinas	166th District Court	Martha Tanner	Did not seek re-election
Sherry L. Shipman	16th District Court	Carmen Rivera-Worley	Did not seek re-election
Michelle M. Slaughter	405th District Court	Wayne Mallia	Defeated for re-election
Laura Strathmann	388th District Court	Patricia Macias	Did not seek re-election
Brock Thomas	338th District Court	Hazel Jones	Defeated for re-election
Craig Towson	43rd District Court	Trey Loftin	Defeated for re-election
P. David Wahlberg	167th District Court	Mike Lynch	Did not seek re-election

## *State Judges Appointed* *September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013*

<i>JUDGE</i>	<i>COURT</i>	<i>REPLACING</i>	<i>REASON</i>
Jeffrey S. Boyd	Supreme Court	Dale Wainwright	Resigned
Michael (Mike) Jay Wilson	11th Court of Appeals	Eric Kalenak	Defeated for re-election/ resigned rest of term
Starr Boldrick Bauer	36th District Court	Michael Welborn	Appointed district attorney
Katherine Cabaniss	248th District Court	Joan Campbell	Resigned
Robert E. Cadena	83rd District Court	Carl Pendergrass	Deceased
Oscar X. Garcia	357th District Court	Leonel Alejandro	Resigned
Bradley (Brad) S. Hart	230th District Court	Belinda Hill	Resigned
Michael L. Landrum	113th District Court	John Donovan	Elected to 14th COA
Jesus Nevarez, Jr.	231st District Court	Randy Catterton	Resigned
Ryan Kelly	177th District Court	Patrick Kevin Fine	Resigned
David Stith	319th District Court	Thomas Greenwell	Deceased
Wesley R. Ward	234th District Court	Reece Rondon	Resigned

# Salaries and Turnover of Elected State Judges

For the Fiscal Year  
Ended August 31, 2013



Photo courtesy of TexasCourthouses.com

*Nueces County Courthouse - Corpus Christi*

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

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.

## Salary Summary for Elected State Judges as of September 1, 2013

Judge <sup>1</sup>	State Salary	Additional Compensation <sup>2</sup>	Other	Total
Chief Justice - Supreme Court or Court of Criminal Appeals	\$170,500	N/A		\$170,500
Justice - Supreme Court or Court of Criminal Appeals	\$168,000	N/A		\$168,000
Chief - Court of Appeals	\$156,500	up to \$9,000 <sup>3</sup>		up to \$165,500
Justice - Court of Appeals	\$154,000	up to \$9,000 <sup>3</sup>		up to \$163,000
Presiding Judge of Administrative Judicial Region (active district judge)	\$140,000	up to 18,000 <sup>3</sup>	not to exceed \$33,000 <sup>4</sup>	up to \$191,000
Presiding Judge of Administrative Judicial Region (retired or former judge)	N/A	N/A	\$35,000 - \$50,000 <sup>5</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	\$5,000 <sup>6</sup>	up to \$163,000
District Judge	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 <sup>3</sup>		up to \$158,000
District Judge - Presiding judge of silica or asbestos multi-district litigation	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 <sup>3</sup>	not to exceed \$33,000 <sup>7</sup>	up to \$191,000
Retired Judge - Presiding judge of silica or asbestos multi-district litigation	\$140,000	\$18,000 <sup>3</sup>		\$158,000 <sup>8</sup>

**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).

1. Attorney General Opinion GA-0437 (2006).

## Judicial Salaries Compared with Salaries of Private Practitioners

In 2012, 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 \$153,434, while the median was \$113,120.

### Compensation of Full-Time, Private Practitioners in 2011

	Median Salary	Average Salary
Overall	\$113,120	\$153,434
Lawyers with 11 to 15 years of experience	\$115,983	\$146,973
Lawyers with 16 to 20 years of experience	\$130,859	\$164,434

Source: State Bar of Texas, *Private Practitioner 2011 Income Fact Sheet* (Austin: Department of Research and Analysis, State Bar of Texas).

## Salaries of State Judges in the Six Most Populous States

Although Texas state judges received an increase in salary as of September 1, 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, 2013 Listed in Population Order

Judge	California	Texas	New York	Florida	Illinois	Pennsylvania
Chief Justice - Court of Last Resort	\$228,856 <sup>1</sup>	\$170,500	\$190,600	\$162,200	\$213,552	\$205,415
Associate Justice - Court of Last Resort	\$218,237 <sup>1</sup>	\$168,000	\$184,800	\$162,200	\$213,552	\$199,606
Chief - Intermediate Court of Appeals	\$204,599 <sup>1</sup>	\$156,500 <sup>2</sup> \$163,690 <sup>3</sup>	\$180,400	\$154,140	\$200,992	\$194,145
Justice - Intermediate Court of Appeals	\$204,599 <sup>1</sup>	\$154,000 <sup>2</sup> \$162,546 <sup>3</sup>	\$176,000	\$154,140	\$200,992	\$188,337
Judge - General Jurisdiction Trial Courts	\$178,789 <sup>1</sup>	\$140,000 <sup>2</sup> \$157,636 <sup>3</sup>	\$167,000	\$146,080	\$184,436	\$173,271

**Notes:**

1. Judges were scheduled to receive an increase of 1.4 percent retroactive to July 1, 2013, but the increase had not been implemented as of December 1.
2. Basic state salary. Does not include supplements paid by counties.
3. Average salary statewide, including supplements paid by counties as of October 1, 2013.

# Turnover of Elected State Judges

## *Extent of Turnover in the Judiciary*

In FY 2013, 554 judges served in the state’s appellate and district courts.<sup>1</sup> During this period, 62 judges left their current positions, representing a turnover rate of 11.2 percent. However, two judges were appointed to a higher-level state court position, making the turnover rate for judges leaving the state judiciary 10.8 percent. Of the 60 judges leaving the state judiciary, 24 (40.0 percent) left involuntarily due to death, reaching mandatory retirement age or defeat for reelection.

As a result, the voluntary turnover rate was **6.5 percent** (36 judges, all of whom resigned or did not run for reelection).

Turnover of State Appellate and District Judges September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013		
	Number of Judges	Percentage of All Judges
Total Number of Appellate and District Judge Positions	554	100.0%
Judges Leaving Current Office	62	11.2%
Judges Leaving State Judiciary	60	10.8%
Judges Leaving State Judiciary Voluntarily	36	6.5%

Manner in Which State Appellate and District Judges Left Office September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013			
	Number of Judges	Percentage of All Judges Leaving Office	Percentage of All Judges
Did not seek reelection	29	46.8%	5.2%
Defeated in election	22	35.5%	4.0%
Resigned	7	11.3%	1.3%
Appointed/elected to higher state court	2	3.2%	0.4%
Reached mandatory retirement age	1	1.6%	0.2%
Deceased	1	1.6%	0.2%
Removed from office/forced resignation	0	0%	0%
Total	62	100.0%	11.2%*

\* Does not total to 11.2 percent due to rounding.

## *Reasons for Voluntary Turnover*

Twenty-six of the 36 judges who voluntarily left the state judiciary in FY 2013 responded to OCA’s judicial turnover survey. Respondents were asked to indicate which factor(s) influenced their decision to leave the state judiciary. Forty-two percent of respondents indicated that retirement was a significant contributor to their departures, and 38 percent indicated that salary was a factor, 27 percent selected the judicial election process, and 12 percent named personal reasons.

The survey also allowed respondents to note other factors that contributed to their decision. In FY 2013, respondents identified the following additional factors that influenced their decisions: health issues; personnel issues; “age;” “continuing erosion of judicial discretion by [the] Legislature;” and “no incentive to remain on [the] bench (longevity capped at 16 [years]).”

1. One judge served on each of the state’s 456 district courts, and a total of 98 judges served on the state’s 16 appellate courts during FY 2013.

**Factors Influencing Respondents' Decision to Leave the State Judiciary  
September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013**

	"To a Very Great Extent"	"To Some Extent"	"To a Small Extent"	"Not at All"	No Answer
Retirement	11 (42%)	8 (31%)	3 (12%)	3 (12%)	1 (4%)
Salary	10 (38%)	9 (35%)	0 (0%)	6 (23%)	1 (4%)
Judicial Election Process	7 (27%)	2 (8%)	8 (31%)	5 (19%)	4 (15%)
Personal	3 (12%)	5 (19%)	7 (27%)	8 (31%)	3 (12%)
Working Conditions/Environment	2 (8%)	6 (23%)	3 (12%)	13 (50%)	2 (8%)
Self-employment	2 (8%)	7 (27%)	3 (12%)	12 (46%)	2 (8%)
Benefits	1 (4%)	7 (27%)	2 (8%)	14 (54%)	2 (8%)
Advancement Opportunities	0 (0%)	6 (23%)	3 (12%)	15 (58%)	2 (8%)

Judges were asked if certain factors would compel them to continue service as a state judge. Nearly three-fourths of respondents indicated that a change in salary would be a factor, 46 percent indicated that a change in the judicial election process would affect their decisions, and 35 percent indicated a change in retirement benefits or policies would be compelling. Fifteen percent indicated that some other change would be a factor; respondents cited changes in workload, personnel, and legislative involvement in judicial matters.

**Factors That Would Compel Judges  
to Continue Service as State Judge  
September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013**

	Yes	No	No Answer
Change in Salary	19 (73%)	5 (19%)	2 (8%)
Change in Judicial Election Process	12 (46%)	13 (50%)	1 (4%)
Change in Retirement Benefits/Policies	9 (35%)	14 (54%)	3 (12%)
Other Change	4 (15%)	17 (65%)	5 (19%)

*Next Steps for Judges after Resigning or Completing Their Terms*

Of the 36 judges who voluntarily left office in FY 2013, 14 retired but continued to work in the private sector and serve as a visiting judge, seven retired but continued to serve as a visiting judge, three obtained other positions with better compensation, and two retired but continued to work in the private sector.

**After Resigning or Completing Their Terms  
September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013**

	Number of Judges	Percentage of Judges Leaving Voluntarily
Retire but continue to work in the private sector and as a visiting judge	14	54%
Retire but continue to work as a visiting judge	7	27%
Obtain another position with higher salary and/or better benefits	3	12%
Retire but continue to work in the private sector	2	8%

# Activity of the Texas Courts

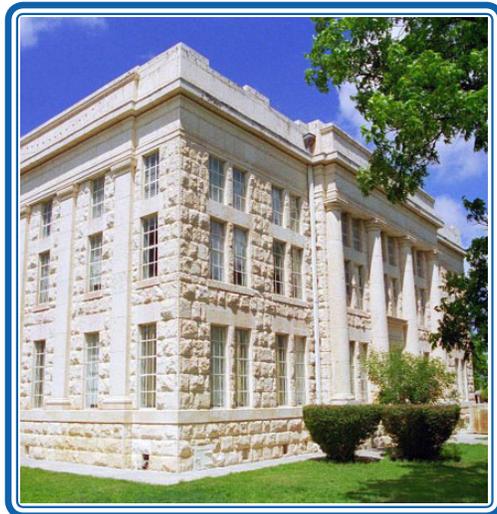


Photo courtesy of TexasCourthouses.com

*Schleicher County Courthouse - Eldorado*

## Cautionary Statement

Perhaps more caution should be used in drawing general conclusions from court statistics than from statistics on other subjects. These statistics do not attempt to portray everything courts or judges do, or how much time is spent on court-related activities not represented by these court statistics.

Regarding appellate courts, temporary emergencies such as illness of a judge or unusually burdensome cases may distort the statistical picture. In addition, there is no reliable way to ascertain the time spent by appellate or trial judges in study or research in the composing of their opinions and decisions.

At least three factors are not represented in the district court statistics presented and should be borne in mind when evaluating judicial output:

1. One very complicated case may consume an inordinate amount of time compared to less complicated cases.
2. The judges of district courts in most rural areas spend more time traveling than do their urban counterparts. Unlike most urban district courts, the district courts in rural areas often serve multiple counties to which the judge must regularly travel. Also, a metropolitan complex of many judges of identical jurisdiction permits judicial efficiencies not available in rural areas.
3. Judges have to spend many hours on administrative matters and other judicial functions not reported in this statistical report, e.g., preparing and submitting the necessary budget requests for the operation of the court to the county commissioners, impaneling grand juries, managing petit jury requirements, appointing community supervision directors and county auditors, handling juvenile justice board duties, and performing many other duties not related to their on-the-bench judicial functions.

As a result of their official position, many county-level court judges, justices of the peace, and municipal court judges also have non-judicial responsibilities in the community that are not reflected in these statistics.

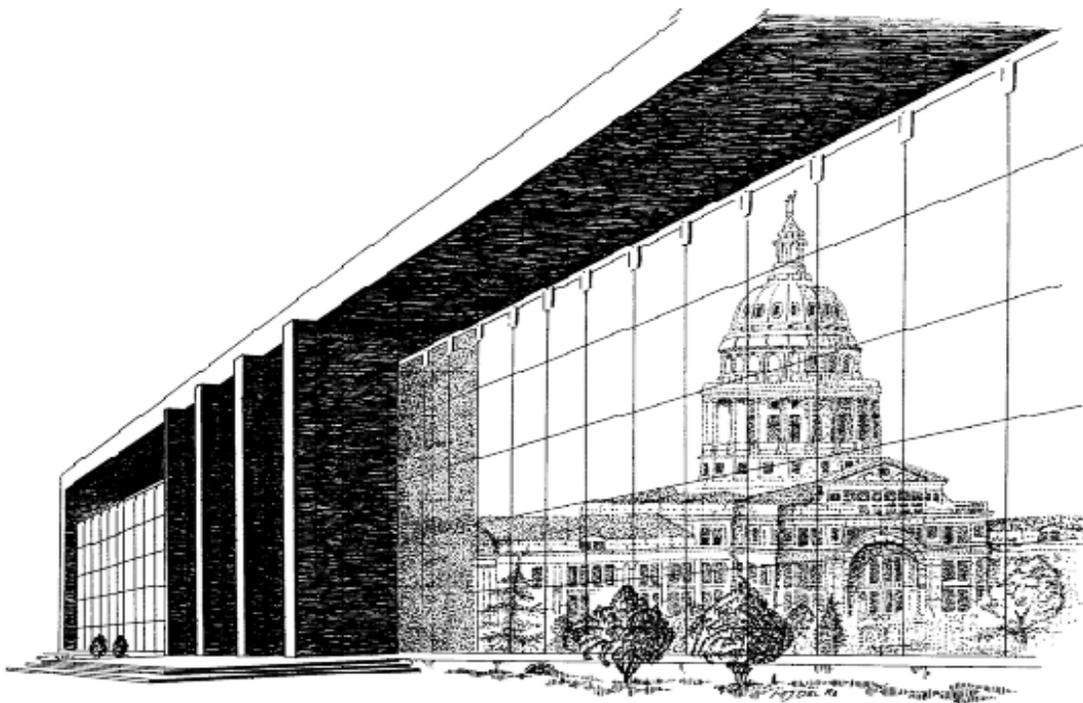
The court activity in this report contains the reported activity from: 1) all appellate courts as reported by the appellate clerks; 2) district and county-level courts as reported by the district and county clerks; and 3) justice and municipal courts as reported by these courts. **However, it should be noted that not all trial courts have reported all their activity. When this is the case, those counties or courts not reporting have been identified.**

In addition, clerks, judges, or other interested individuals may later discover inaccuracies in the data that were reported. As a result, amended reports may be filed after the release of this publication. Clerks may also later submit reports that had been missing at the time of publication, making the data more complete.

The latest trial court data are available from OCA's trial court activity database at <http://card.txcourts.gov/>.

# Caseload Trends in the Appellate Courts

Analysis of Activity for the Fiscal Year  
Ended August 31, 2013



*Reflection of State Capitol on Supreme Court Building*

# The Supreme Court

**Regular Causes<sup>1</sup>** – The 94 regular causes added to the court’s docket in 2013 was 17.5 percent lower than the number added the year before (114 causes) and was the lowest number added since 1984 (94 causes).

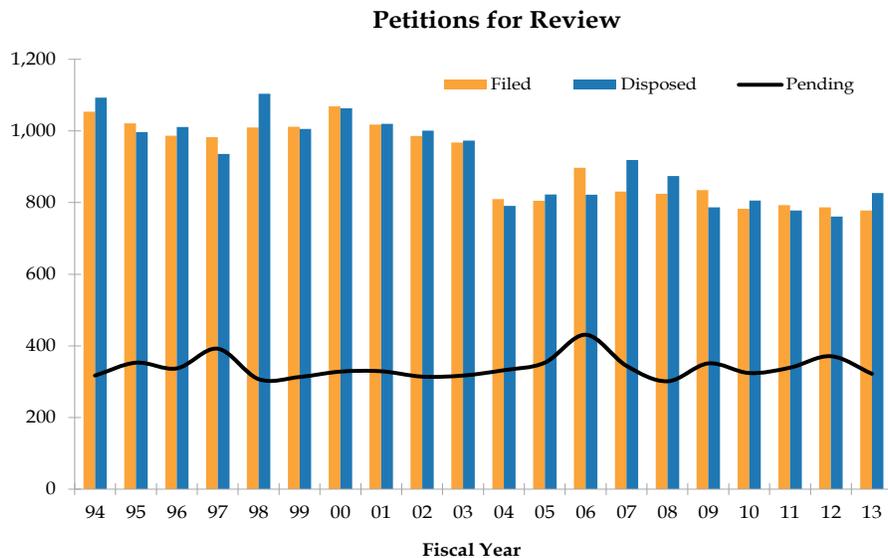
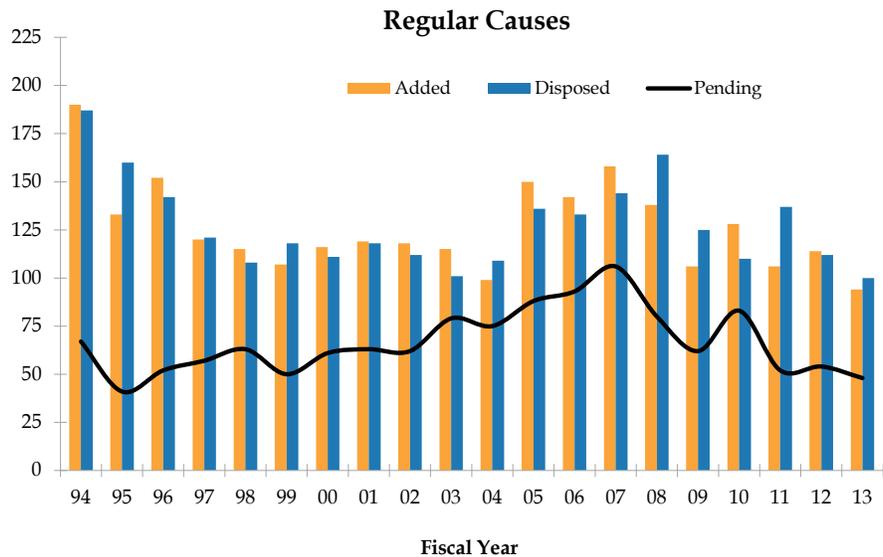
The court disposed of 100 causes in 2013, 10.7 percent fewer than the number disposed of in the previous year. Because the decline in causes added exceeded the decrease in dispositions, the clearance rate for causes rose to 106.4 percent. The number of causes pending at the end of the year fell by 6 to 48—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 62 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 11.9 percent of cases. The remaining cases were disposed of in another manner.

**Petitions for Review<sup>2</sup>** – In

2013, 778 petitions for review were filed in the Supreme Court—a decrease of 1.1 percent from the previous year and below the five-year average of 795 petitions filed per year.

Slightly less than half (49.4 percent) of the petitions for review filed during 2013 came from the five most populous counties—Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar and Travis. Harris County alone accounted for 21.6 percent of petitions filed. Twenty-six percent of petitions for review filed were from the First and Fourteenth Courts of Appeals in Houston.

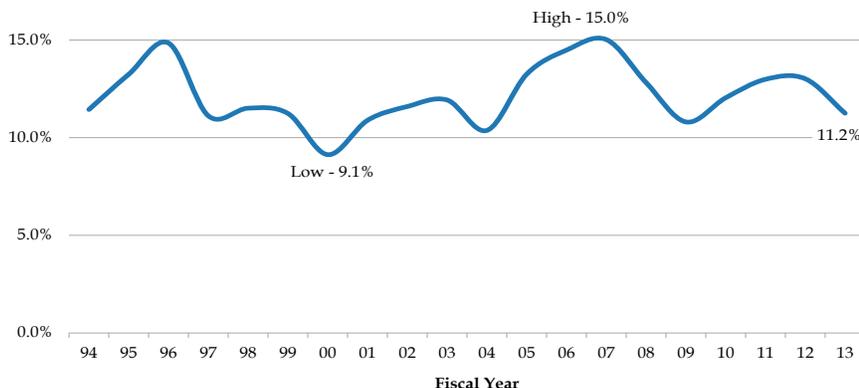


1. “Regular causes” involve cases in which four or more of the justices have decided in conference that a petition for review, petition for writ of mandamus or habeas corpus, or parental notification appeal should be reviewed. Regular causes also include direct appeals the court has agreed to review 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.

2. 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.

The Supreme Court disposed of 827 petitions for review, an increase of 8.7 percent from the previous year (761 petitions). Since the number of petitions disposed exceeded the number of petitions filed, the clearance rate rose to 106.3 percent, and the number of petitions pending at the end of the fiscal year fell 13.2 percent to 322.

**Percentage of Petitions for Review Granted**

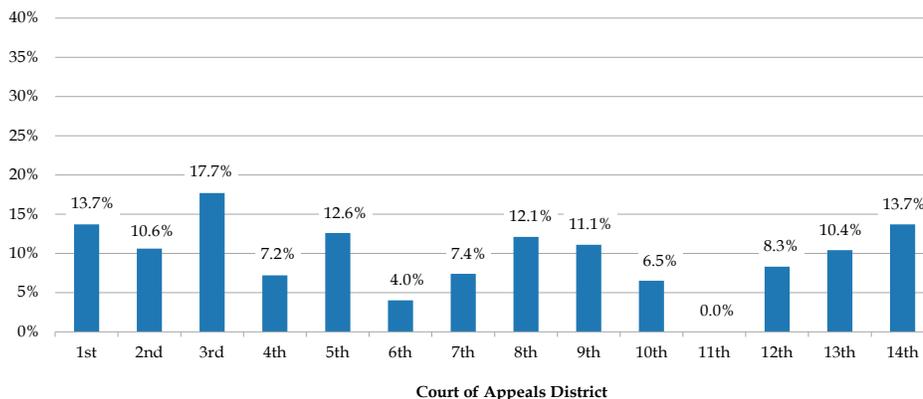


Initial review was granted in 11.2 percent of the petitions for review disposed of in 2013. Initial review was granted most frequently (17.7 percent) in petitions filed from the Third Court of Appeals (Austin) and least frequently (0.0 percent) in petitions filed from the Eleventh Court of Appeals (Eastland).

**Case Processing Times** – The time from filing to disposition for all cases disposed of in 2013 averaged 176 days. The average time that an active case had been pending decreased from 189 to 149 days; the average time from date of oral argument to disposition decreased from 232 to 221 days; and the average time from granting of a petition to oral argument increased from 109 to 132 days.

**Opinions Written** – The justices of the Supreme Court issued 111 opinions during the fiscal year, a decrease of 13.3 percent from the number issued the previous year (128 opinions). Majority opinions accounted for nearly half (49.5 percent) of the total and was the highest percentage of majority opinions in the last two decades. Approximately 26 percent of opinions were per curiam, 8.1 percent were concurring, 11.7 percent were dissenting, 3.6 percent were concurring and dissenting, and 1 percent were “other” opinions. Over the past five years, justices issued an average of 137 opinions per year.

**Petitions for Review Granted by Court of Appeals, Fiscal Year 2013**



**Supreme Court Case Processing Times  
FY 2013**

Measure	Average Time
For cases disposed in FY 2013, time from filing to disposition	176 days
<i>For cases on docket in FY 2013:</i>	
For active cases, time from filing of case to end of reporting period (Aug. 31, 2013)	149 days
Time from filing to disposition of petition/motion	152 days
Time from granting of petition to oral argument	132 days
Time from filing of petition to release of per curiam opinion	527 days
Time from date of oral argument to date of disposition	221 days

# Supreme Court Activity

## Fiscal Years 2004 through 2013

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-Yr. Avg.
<b>Regular Causes:<sup>1</sup></b>											
Added to docket	99	150	142	158	138	106	128	106	114	94	124
Disposed	109	136	133	144	164	125	110	137	112	100	127
Pending at end of year	75	88	93	106	80	62	83	52	54	48	74
Clearance rate	110.1%	90.7%	93.7%	91.1%	118.8%	117.9%	85.9%	129.2%	98.2%	106.4%	102.8%
<b>Petitions for Review:</b>											
Filed	810	805	897	831	825	835	783	793	787	778	814
Disposed:											
<i>Granted</i>	82	109	119	138	112	85	97	101	99	93	104
<i>Other Dispositions</i>	709	714	703	781	762	702	709	677	662	734	715
Pending at end of year	332	353	431	344	301	351	324	339	371	322	347
Clearance rate	97.7%	102.2%	91.6%	110.6%	105.9%	94.3%	102.9%	98.1%	96.7%	106.3%	100.5%
<b>Other Writs and Motions:</b>											
Filed	302	280	270	255	266	304	426	336	323	340	310
Disposed	271	283	274	274	283	284	423	332	336	328	309
Pending at end of year	96	97	97	77	58	78	85	87	74	78	83
Clearance rate	89.7%	101.1%	101.5%	107.5%	106.4%	93.4%	99.3%	98.8%	104.0%	96.5%	99.5%
<b>Opinions Written</b>	122	136	145	170	212	165	118	162	128	111	147

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, 2012 through August 31, 2013

	Affirmed	Modified	Reversed	Dismissed	Other Disposition	Total	
<b>Granted Petitions for Review</b>	14	10	52	0	8	84	
% of Total Granted Petitions for Review	16.7%	11.9%	61.9%	0.0%	9.5%	100%	
	Initial Review Granted	Review Denied	Dismissed	Abated	Struck	Other Disposition	Total
<b>Petitions for Review</b>	93	681	33	6	13	1	827
% of Total Petitions for Review	11.2%	82.3%	4.0%	0.7%	1.6%	0.1%	100%

# 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 2013, mandatory matters comprised approximately 77 percent of all cases added to the docket.

Overall, the number of mandatory matters added to the docket in 2013 remained relatively unchanged from the previous year. In particular, direct appeals decreased 12.5 percent to 224 cases, applications for writs of habeas corpus remained steady at 4,698 cases, and original proceedings increased 2.4 percent to 953 cases.

Overall, disposition of mandatory matters increased 5.7 percent from the previous year to 6,071 cases. Since the number of cases disposed increased while the number of cases added remained stable, the clearance rate rose to 103.3 percent.

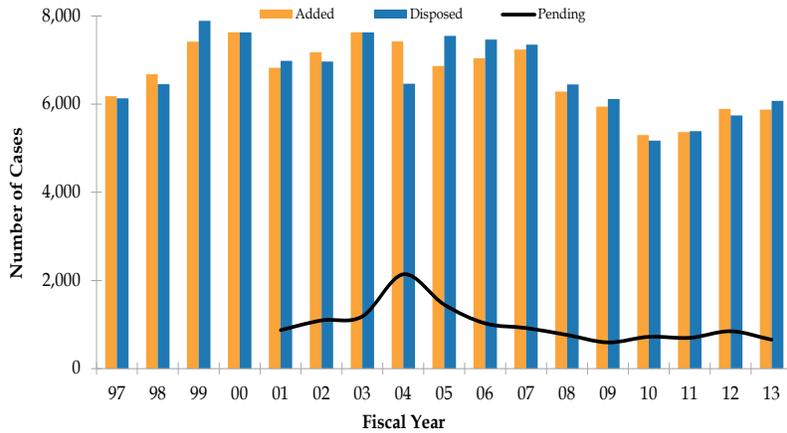
The court denied 48.3 percent of applications for writs of habeas corpus and denied 66.4 percent of original proceedings, compared to the denial of only 7.4 percent of direct appeals for habeas corpus and extraordinary matters.

## Death Penalty Appeals

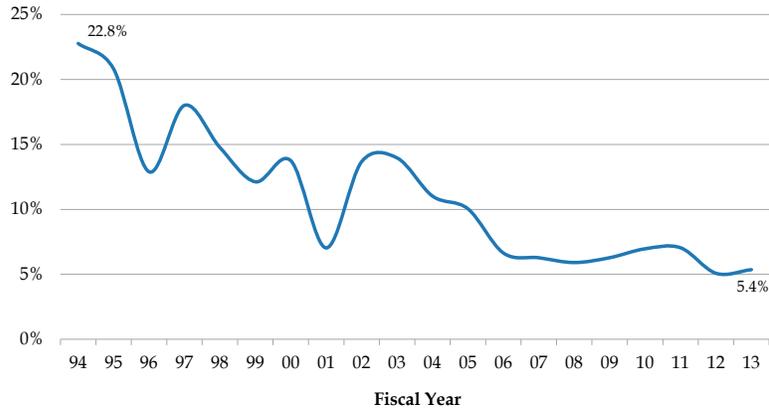
Of the direct appeal cases filed in 2013, 5.4 percent involved death penalty appeals, similar to the percentage in 2012 (5.1 percent), which is the 20-year low. The 20-year high of 22.8 percent occurred in 1994. In 2013, the court affirmed all 11 death penalty cases.

**Discretionary Caseload** – The number of petitions for discretionary review and redrawn petitions for discretionary review filed with the Court of Criminal Appeals decreased 5.7 percent in 2013 to 1,665 cases.

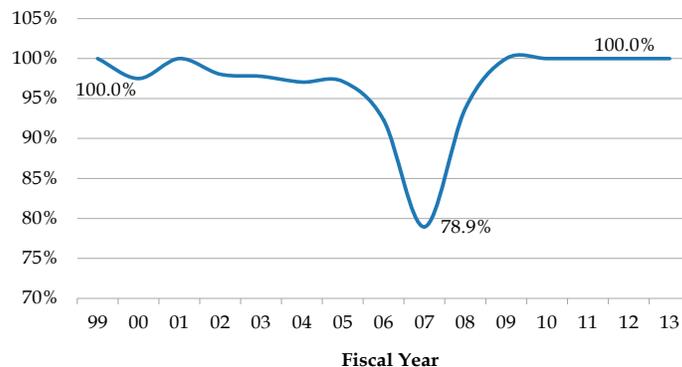
Mandatory Caseload in the Court of Criminal Appeals



Percentage of Direct Appeals Cases Involving the Death Penalty

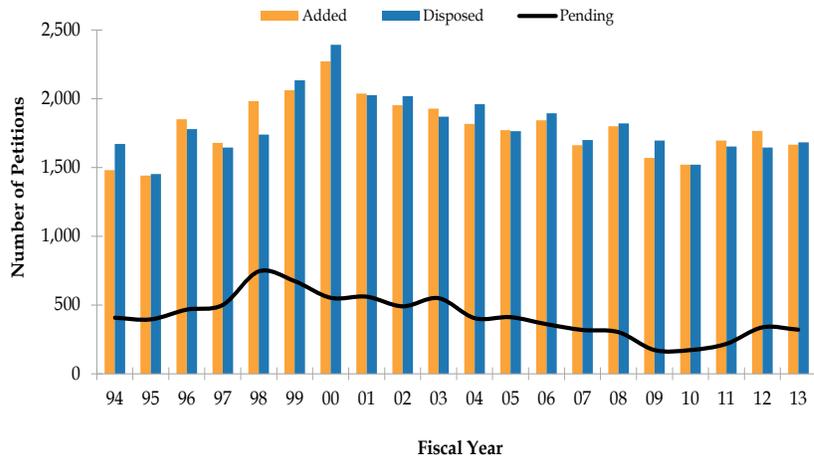


Death Sentences Affirmed by the Court of Criminal Appeals



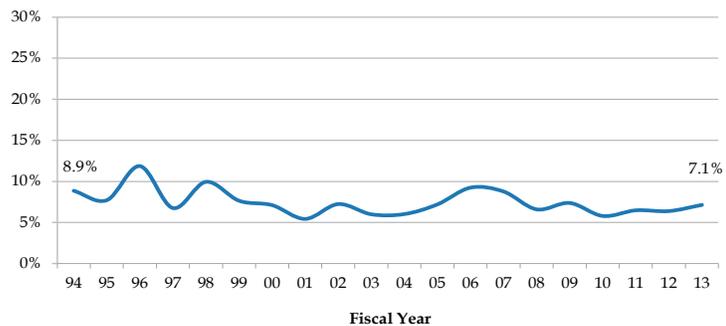
Petitions filed from the five most populous counties—Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis—represented 43.5 percent of all petitions filed in 2013, a decrease of 5.1 percentage points from the previous year. Petitions filed from the remaining counties in the state reached a high of 57.5 percent in 2011, fell to 51.4 percent in 2012, but rose to 56.5 percent the following year. Before 2005, these 249 counties had never accounted for more than 40 percent of petitions filed in any one fiscal year.

**Petitions for Discretionary Review**



In 2013, the number of petitions for discretionary review and redrawn petitions for discretionary review disposed (1,682 cases) increased 2.2 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 101.0 percent. At the end of the fiscal year, 320 cases were pending—a 5.0 percent decrease from the number of cases pending at the end of the previous year.

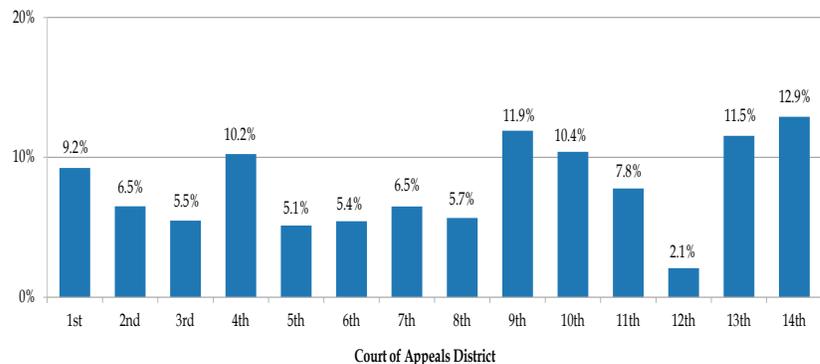
**Percentage of Petitions for Discretionary Review Granted**



Of the petitions and redrawn petitions for discretionary review disposed in 2013, initial review was granted in 7.1 percent of the cases.

Initial review was granted most frequently (12.9 percent) in petitions filed from the Fourteenth Court of Appeals (Houston) and was granted least frequently (2.1 percent) in petitions filed from the Twelfth Court of Appeals (Tyler).

**Petitions for Review Granted by Court of Appeals, Fiscal Year 2013**



**Opinions Written** – The judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals issued 441 opinions in 2013, a decrease of 8.1 percent from the number issued the previous year (480 opinions). Approximately 28 percent of opinions were signed, 47.8 percent were per curiam, 12.0 percent were concurring, and 12.0 percent were dissenting.

**Court of Criminal Appeals  
Case Processing Times  
FY 2013**

*Average time from filing to disposition for cases involving:*

Capital punishment	646 days
Application for writ of habeas corpus	40 days
Petition for discretionary review	65 days

## Court of Criminal Appeals Activity Fiscal Years 2004 through 2013

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-Yr. Avg.
<b>Direct Appeals:<sup>1</sup></b>											
Added to docket	245	239	256	255	237	223	201	213	256	224	235
Disposed	253	239	269	268	240	229	211	214	263	229	242
Pending at end of year	84	84	72	60	58	52	42	41	34	29	56
Clearance rate	103.3%	100.0%	105.1%	105.1%	101.3%	102.7%	105.0%	100.5%	102.7%	102.2%	102.8%
<b>Applications for Writ of Habeas Corpus:<sup>2</sup></b>											
Filed	6,342	6,046	5,987	6,060	5,154	4,872	4,329	4,276	4,701	4,698	5,247
Disposed	5,448	6,609	6,381	6,158	5,290	5,017	4,215	4,304	4,568	4,868	5,286
Pending at end of year	1,836	1,267	853	762	628	482	599	568	706	538	824
Clearance rate	85.9%	109.3%	106.6%	101.6%	102.6%	103.0%	97.4%	100.7%	97.2%	103.6%	100.7%
<b>Original Proceedings:<sup>3</sup></b>											
Filed	834	583	796	922	894	846	768	877	931	953	840
Disposed	761	702	812	924	918	868	747	867	912	974	849
Pending at end of year	219	99	101	98	78	60	80	89	107	88	102
Clearance rate	91.2%	120.4%	102.0%	100.2%	102.7%	102.6%	97.3%	98.9%	98.0%	102.2%	101.0%
<b>Petitions for Discretionary Review:<sup>4</sup></b>											
Filed	1,935	1,897	2,017	1,810	1,904	1,703	1,605	1,803	1,872	1,786	1,833
Disposed	2,068	1,886	2,009	1,872	1,968	1,800	1,650	1,762	1,759	1,784	1,856
Pending at end of year	496	507	516	450	391	291	246	288	399	403	399
Clearance rate	106.9%	99.4%	99.6%	103.4%	103.4%	105.7%	102.8%	97.7%	94.0%	99.9%	101.2%
<b>Motions Considered</b>	1,597	1,382	1,576	1,707	1,463	1,789	1,434	1,449	1,593	1,525	1,552
<b>Opinions Written</b>	471	474	486	575	500	447	433	428	480	441	474

**NOTES:**

- Direct appeals include death penalty appeals, DNA appeals, and appeals involving habeas corpus or extraordinary matters.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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, 2012 through August 31, 2013

	Affirmed	Dismissed	Total				
Death Penalty Appeals	11	0	11				
	Granted	Denied/ Refused	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Struck	Untimely	Total
Habeas Corpus & Extraordinary Matters	195	16	1	0	0	0	215 <sup>1</sup>
Petitions for Discretionary Review <sup>2</sup>	120	1,277	2	0	230	53	1,682
	Affirmed	Reversed	Reversed & Remanded	Remanded	Mixed	Dismissed	Total
Granted Petitions for Discretionary Review	27	23	30	15	4	3	102
	Filed & Set	Denied	Remanded	Dismissed	Returned	Abated	Total
Applications for Writ of Habeas Corpus	188	2,353	383	1,943	1	0	4,868
Original Proceedings	13	647	0	86	0	228	974
	Granted	Denied	Dismissed	Filed & Set	Remanded	Other	Total
Motions for Stay of Execution	0	5	0	0	0	0	5

- NOTES: 1. Three cases were remanded to the trial court.  
2. Includes redrawn petitions for discretionary review.

# The Courts of Appeals

**Cases Filed** — In 2013, the number of cases added in the Courts of Appeals overall decreased by 5.5 percent from the previous year to 11,271 cases. The decline was the result of a 4.3 percent decrease in new filings and 13.2 percent decrease in other cases.<sup>1</sup> Over the past five years, an average of 11,484 cases were added to the courts’ dockets each year.

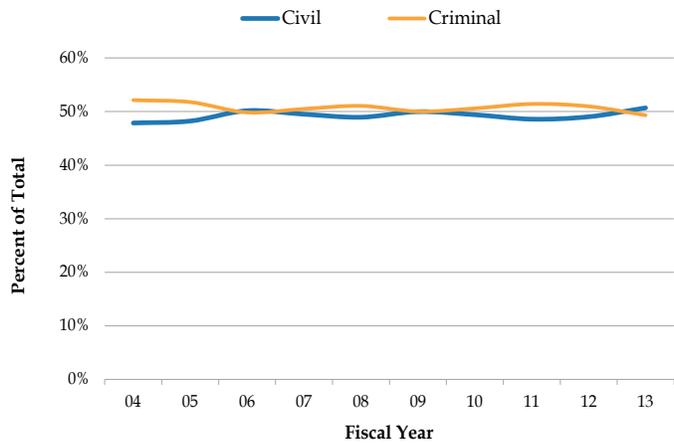
Civil cases accounted for 50.7 percent, and criminal cases 49.3 percent, of all new filings in 2013. Over the last decade, civil filings generally grew as a proportion of all new cases filed—from 47.9 percent of all new filings in 2004 to 50.7 percent in 2013. Over the past five years, civil and criminal cases each accounted for approximately half of the courts’ dockets.

Approximately 47 percent of all appeals filed in 2013 came from the state’s five most populous counties—Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis. Nearly 14 percent came from Dallas County and Harris County followed closely with 13.4 percent.

**Cases Disposed** — In 2013, the courts of appeals disposed of 11,498 cases—a decrease of 1.8 percent compared to the previous year’s dispositions. Almost two-fifths (39.6 percent) of the cases disposed of in 2013 were affirmed, 5.9 percent were reversed, 5.5 percent had a mixed disposition (i.e., affirmed in part and reversed in part), and 29.3 percent were dismissed. The remainder of cases had other dispositions.

The average time between filing and disposition for all cases increased from 8.2 to 8.7 months. For civil cases, the time to disposition increased from 7.9 months in 2012 to 8.3 months in 2013. For criminal cases, the time to disposition increased from 8.6 months in 2012 to 9.1 months in 2013.

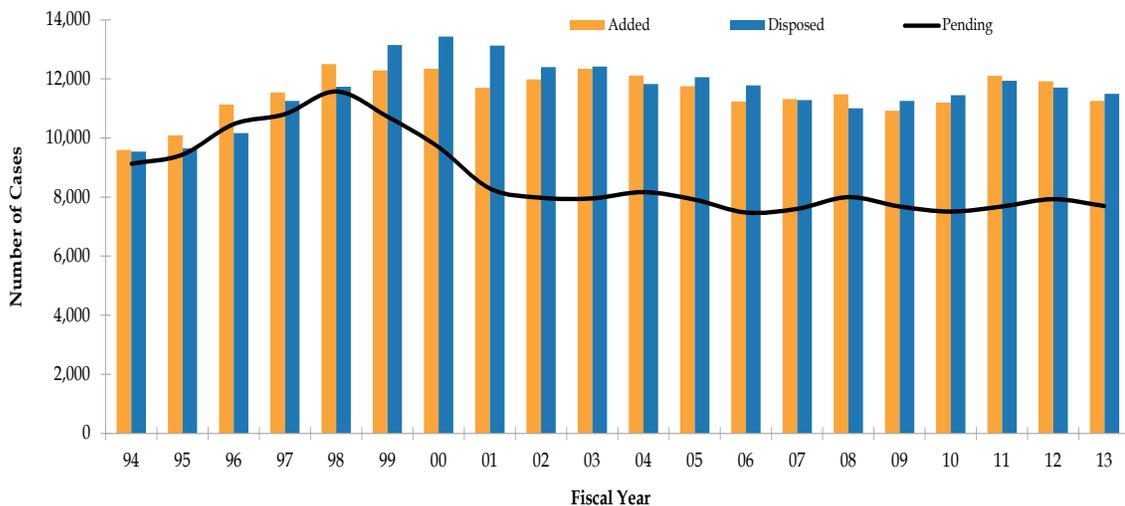
**New Filings**



**Top Five Counties from Which Appeals Were Filed in FY 2013**

Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Overall
Harris - 15.4%	Dallas - 13.1%	Dallas - 13.8%
Dallas - 14.6%	Harris - 11.5%	Harris - 13.4%
Travis - 7.6%	Tarrant - 11.5%	Tarrant - 9.0%
Bexar - 6.5%	Bexar - 5.1%	Bexar - 5.8%
Tarrant - 6.3%	Jefferson - 3.4%	Travis - 4.7%

**Total Cases Added, Disposed and Pending**



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

The average time between submission and disposition for all cases increased from 1.4 months in 2012 to 1.7 months in 2013. In particular, the average time for civil cases increased from 1.6 to 2.0 months, and the average time for criminal cases increased from 1.2 to 1.5 months.

The number of cases disposed of by the courts of appeals was 246 more than the number added, resulting in a clearance rate of 102.2 percent.

**Cases Pending** – At the end of 2013, a total of 7,698 cases were pending statewide, down 2.9 percent from the number pending at the end of the previous year. More than half (52.6 percent) of these cases had been pending for fewer than six months, and 80.4 percent had been pending for less than one year. The percentage of cases pending more than two years increased from 0.8 percent in 2012 to 1.0 percent in 2013.

**Opinions Written** – During 2013, the justices of the courts of appeals issued 10,921 opinions, 54.8 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.<sup>2</sup>

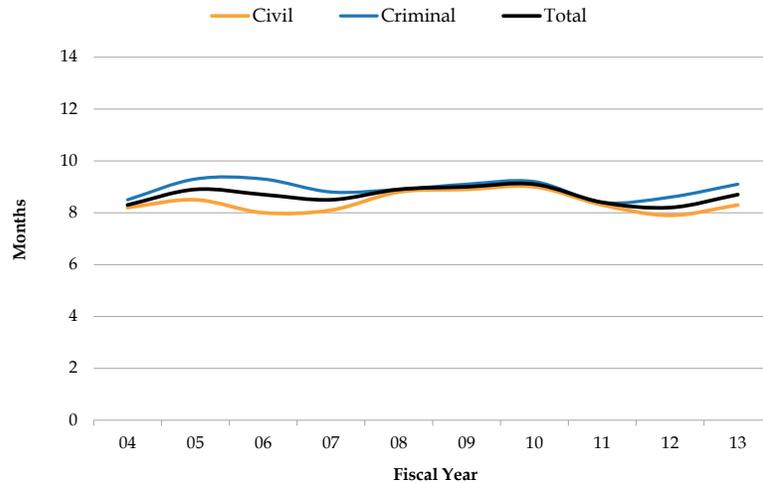
**Docket Equalization** –

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.

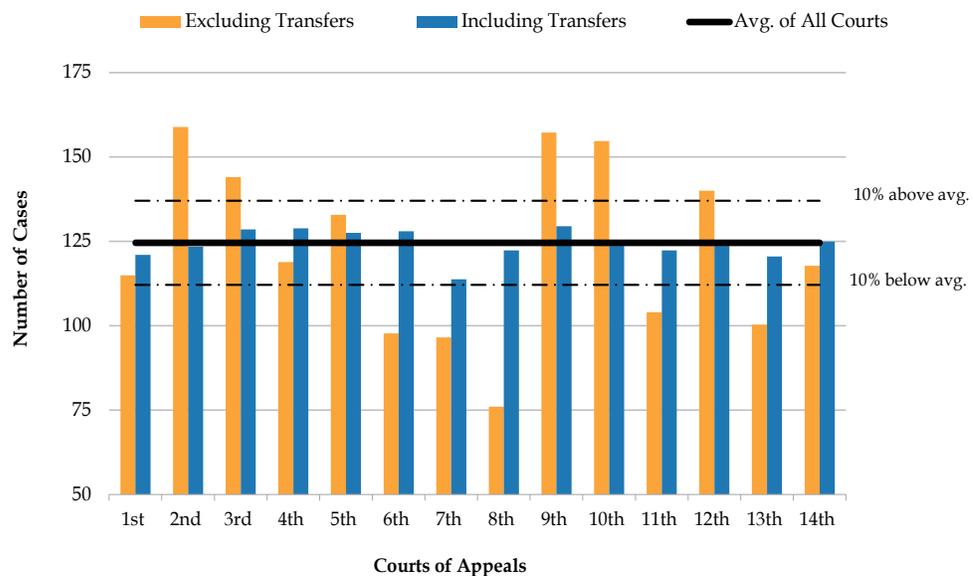
In 2013, the statewide average number of new filings per justice was 125 cases before any transfers. The number of new cases filed per justice ranged from 76 cases in the Eighth Court of Appeals (El Paso) to 159 cases in the Second Court of Appeals (Fort Worth). The average percentage difference of the 14 courts from the statewide average was 17.8 percent.

A total of 679 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 (248 cases), while the Eighth Court of Appeals (El Paso) received the largest number of transferred cases (139 cases).

**Average Time Between Filing & Disposition**



**New Filings Per Justice 2013**



2. 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.

As a result of these transfers, the number of cases filed per justice ranged from a low of 114 cases per justice in the Seventh Court of Appeals (Amarillo) to a high of 130 cases filed per justice in the Ninth Court of Appeals (Beaumont). After transfers, the average percentage difference of the 14 courts from the statewide average was only 2.6 percent—exceeding the goal of 10 percent, maximum, set by the Texas Legislature.<sup>3</sup>

## Courts of Appeals Activity for Fiscal Years 2004 through 2013

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-Yr. Avg.
<b>Civil Cases:</b>											
Cases added											
<i>New filings</i>	4,999	5,013	4,971	4,940	4,949	4,733	4,811	5,070	5,107	5,050	4,964
<i>Other cases</i>	326	378	419	378	353	408	401	490	458	436	405
Cases disposed	5,220	5,441	5,440	5,286	5,136	5,279	5,274	5,568	5,487	5,549	5,368
Cases pending at end of year	3,427	3,398	3,376	3,457	3,569	3,425	3,391	3,380	3,484	3,439	3,435
Clearance rate	98.0%	100.9%	100.9%	99.4%	96.9%	102.7%	101.2%	100.1%	98.6%	101.1%	100.0%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	8.2	8.5	8.0	8.1	8.8	8.9	9.0	8.3	7.9	8.3	8.4
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	2.8	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.2
<b>Criminal Cases:</b>											
Cases added											
<i>New filings</i>	5,444	5,381	4,939	5,039	5,163	4,737	4,926	5,366	5,309	4,913	5,122
<i>Other cases</i>	1,342	982	908	960	1,008	1,043	1,063	1,178	1,049	853	1,039
Cases disposed	6,610	6,617	6,344	6,000	5,869	5,975	6,179	6,368	6,222	5,949	6,213
Cases pending at end of year	4,740	4,515	4,100	4,144	4,429	4,256	4,118	4,301	4,445	4,259	4,331
Clearance rate	97.4%	104.0%	108.5%	100.0%	95.1%	103.4%	103.2%	97.3%	97.9%	103.2%	101.0%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	8.5	9.3	9.3	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.4	8.6	9.1	8.9
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	2.5	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.6
<b>All Cases:</b>											
Cases added											
<i>New filings</i>	10,443	10,394	9,910	9,979	10,112	9,470	9,737	10,436	10,416	9,963	10,086
<i>Other cases</i>	1,668	1,360	1,327	1,338	1,361	1,451	1,464	1,668	1,507	1,308	1,445
Cases disposed	11,830	12,058	11,784	11,286	11,005	11,254	11,453	11,936	11,709	11,498	11,581
Cases pending at end of year	8,167	7,913	7,476	7,601	7,998	7,681	7,509	7,681	7,929	7,698	7,765
Clearance rate	97.7%	102.6%	104.9%	99.7%	95.9%	103.0%	102.2%	98.6%	98.2%	102.2%	100.4%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	8.3	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.9	9.0	9.1	8.4	8.2	8.7	8.7
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9
<b>Opinions Written</b>	11,363	11,461	11,408	10,921	10,348	10,765	10,742	11,061	10,975	10,921	10,997

3. "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" (83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, S.B. 1, Supreme Court Rider 3).

# Activity for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013

	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
<b>Civil Cases:</b>														
Cases added	633	468	562	535	917	131	201	181	277	159	160	126	433	703
Cases disposed	679	500	585	504	948	126	209	185	253	178	137	138	424	683
Cases pending at end of year	470	246	375	277	595	55	124	198	150	86	146	69	237	411
Clearance rate (%)	107.3%	106.6%	104.1%	94.2%	103.4%	96.2%	104.0%	102.2%	91.3%	112.0%	85.6%	109.5%	97.9%	97.2%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	10.2	6.2	9.3	6.6	8.9	4.4	7.4	12.6	7.8	7.2	10.6	8.1	8.0	7.5
Avg. % of cases filed but not yet disposed for < 2 years	98.6%	99.0%	93.4%	99.6%	98.4%	100.0%	99.9%	97.5%	100.0%	99.5%	99.8%	100.0%	98.9%	99.7%
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.0	3.2	0.4	1.9	3.1	2.0	0.3	2.1	2.6	1.9	2.0
Avg. % of cases under submission for < 1 year	95.9%	96.5%	77.2%	100.0%	96.9%	100.0%	99.2%	96.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	97.2%	99.5%
<b>Criminal Cases:</b>														
Cases added	613	476	304	387	1,141	278	309	200	256	268	234	253	442	605
Cases disposed	588	493	286	375	1,283	264	373	157	261	285	256	243	452	633
Cases pending at end of year	561	408	279	255	643	143	234	274	204	187	252	156	298	365
Clearance rate	95.9%	103.6%	94.1%	96.9%	112.5%	95.0%	120.7%	78.5%	102.0%	106.3%	109.4%	96.1%	102.3%	104.6%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	10.1	10.2	11.2	7.5	8.2	5.9	9.6	15.8	8.3	7.7	14.2	9.0	9.0	7.2
Avg. % of cases filed but not yet disposed for < 2 years	99.5%	99.7%	95.1%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%	100.0%	99.2%	99.9%	99.8%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	1.8	2.4	1.2	0.8	1.7	0.3	1.4	4.4	1.8	0.2	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.4
Avg. % of cases under submission for < 1 year	100.0%	99.7%	86.2%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%	99.2%	99.6%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%	99.6%
<b>All Cases:</b>														
Cases added	1,246	944	866	922	2,058	409	510	381	533	427	394	379	875	1,308
Cases disposed	1,267	993	871	879	2,231	390	582	342	514	463	393	381	876	1,316
Cases pending at end of year	1,031	654	654	532	1,238	198	358	472	354	273	398	225	535	776
Clearance rate	101.7%	105.1%	100.6%	95.3%	108.4%	95.4%	114.1%	89.8%	96.4%	108.4%	99.8%	100.5%	100.1%	100.6%
Avg. time between filing & disposition (months)	10.1	8.2	9.9	7.0	8.5	5.4	8.8	14.1	8.0	7.5	12.9	8.7	8.6	7.3
Avg. % of cases filed but not yet disposed for < 2 years	99.0%	99.4%	94.1%	99.8%	99.1%	100.0%	100.0%	98.4%	99.9%	99.7%	99.9%	100.0%	99.5%	99.8%
Avg. time between submission & disposition (months)	1.8	2.2	1.6	0.9	2.2	0.4	1.6	3.7	1.9	0.2	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.7
Avg. % of cases under submission for < 1 year	98.0%	98.4%	79.0%	100.0%	98.5%	100.0%	99.2%	98.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.2%	99.5%
<b>Opinions Issued</b>	1,208	978	959	893	1,796	373	646	338	521	428	361	389	767	1,264
<b>Published Opinions</b>	760	511	676	555	928	158	270	186	275	184	137	151	390	808

# Caseload Trends in the Trial Courts

Analysis of Activity for the Fiscal Year  
Ended August 31, 2013



Photo courtesy of TexasCourthouses.com

*Donley County Courthouse - Clarendon*

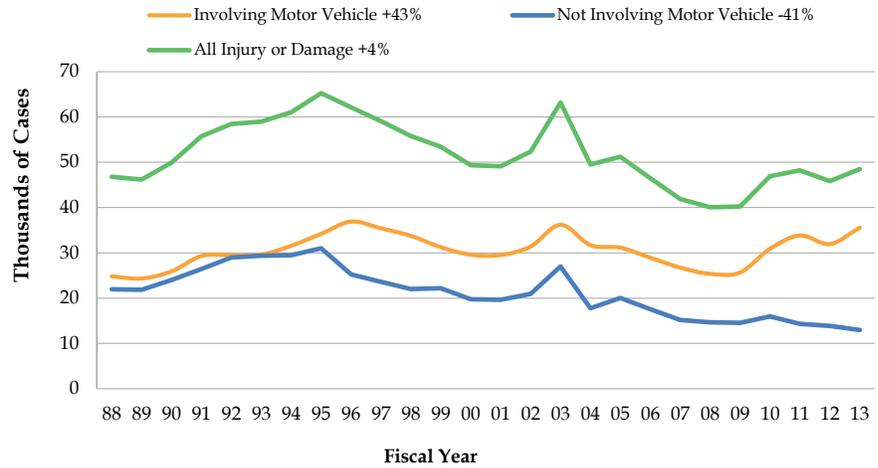
# Trends in Texas District and County-Level Courts

**Injury and Damage Cases** – Overall, new filings of injury and damage cases fluctuated over the last 25 years. The number of cases filed in 2013 was only 4 percent higher than the number filed in 1988. Within this category, cases of injury or damage involving a motor vehicle increased 43 percent (from 24,823 to 35,573 cases), while cases of injury or damage not involving a motor vehicle declined 41 percent (from 21,960 to 12,953 cases) to the lowest number since at least 1980 (the first year that statistics began to be collected for this case type). 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.<sup>1</sup> Since then, injury or damage cases not involving a motor vehicle continued a general decline. Injury or damage cases involving a motor vehicle also declined from 2003 to 2009, but increased four of the last five years.

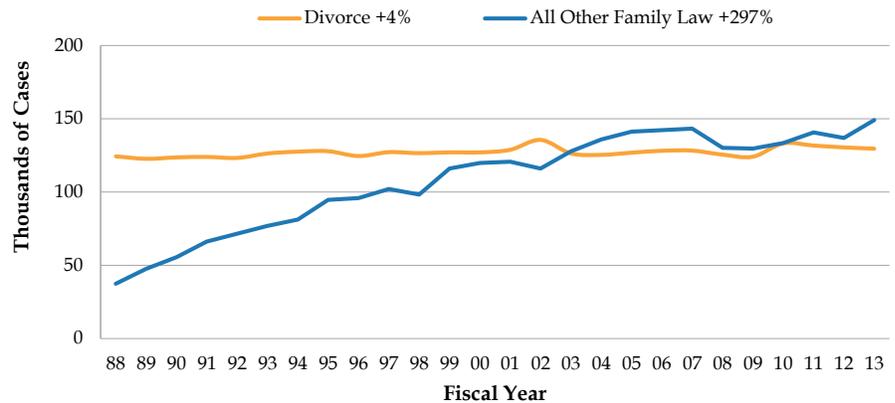
**Family Law Cases** – Although the number of divorce cases filed in district and county-level courts remained relatively steady with only a 4 percent increase over the past two decades, the number of cases involving “all other family law matters” grew by 297 percent (from 37,513 cases in 1988 to 149,057 cases in 2013).

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 454 percent from 211,085 in 1991 to 1,170,093 in 2013. This statistic does not include privately arranged child support cases; however, it does indicate the large growth in this type of case.

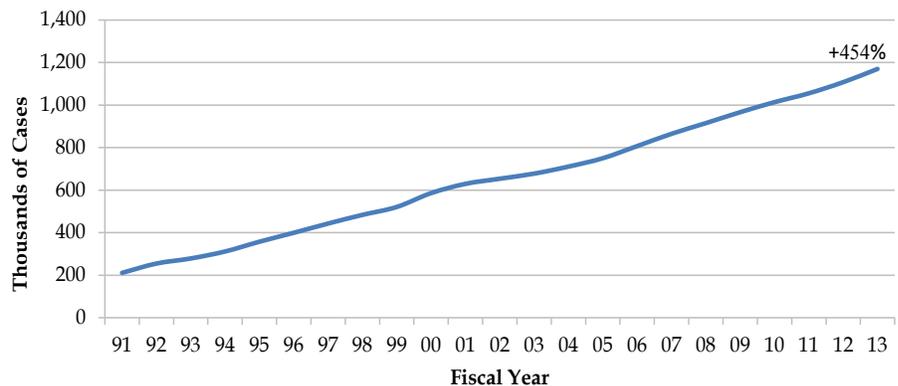
**New Injury or Damage Cases Filed in District and County-Level Courts**



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



**Child Support Cases With Orders**



1. Medical Malpractice and Tort Reform Act, 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, R.S., Chap. 204, 2003 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 847.

**Debt Cases** – Debt cases in county-level courts dropped 57 percent between 1988 (59,072 cases) and 1994 (25,308 cases), rose steadily to a 20-year high in 2007 (89,916 cases), then dropped 64 percent to 32,594 cases in 2013.

In district courts, new filings dropped 60 percent between 1988 (45,418 cases) and 1996 (18,394 cases), rose 234 percent to a high of 61,473 cases in 2011, but then dropped 20 percent to 49,317 cases in 2013.

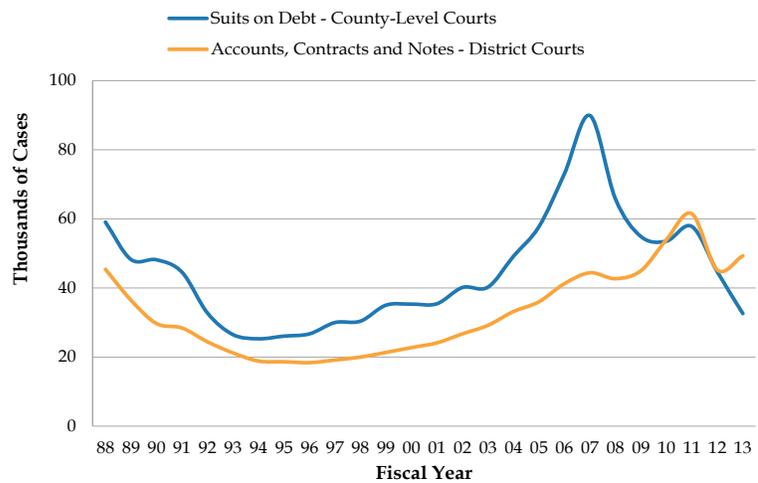
**Criminal Cases** – Over the last 25 years, the category with the largest increase in cases filed involved felony assault or attempted murder. The number of felony assault or attempted murder cases grew 308 percent (from 6,902 to 28,180 cases).

Misdemeanor assault cases grew by the second largest percentage – 243 percent (from 14,606 to 50,118 cases).

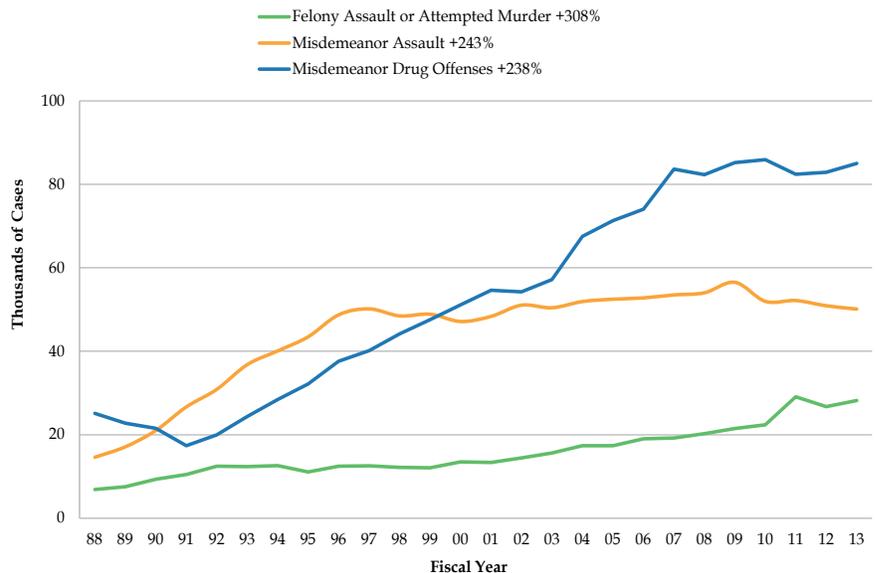
Misdemeanor drug offense cases increased 238 percent (from 25,142 to 85,046 cases).

**Traffic Cases** – From 1988 to 2007, traffic cases grew 296 percent (from 18,715 to 74,145 cases). From 2007 to 2009, the number of traffic cases dropped 69 percent to 22,854 cases, but then increased 75 percent to 39,915 cases in 2013.

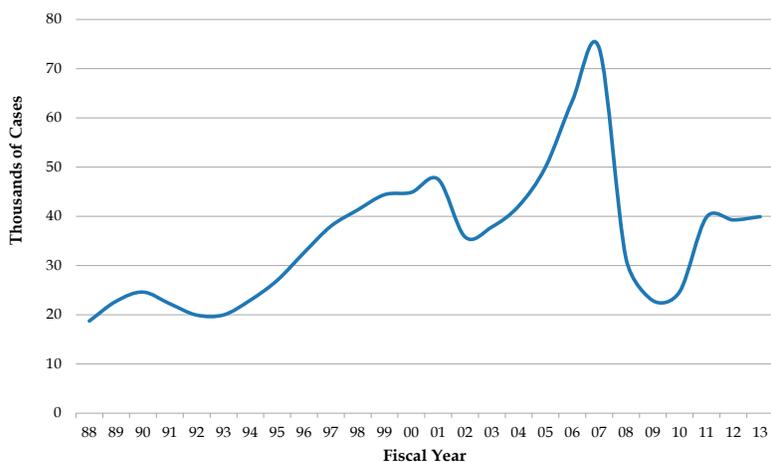
**New Suits on Debt and Accounts, Contracts & Notes  
Cases Filed in District and County-Level Courts**



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



**County-Level Courts  
New Traffic Cases Filed**



## Assigned Judges in the Trial Courts

### Statistics For the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013

	<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>
<b>By the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court<sup>1</sup></b>										
<b>Assignments to the Administrative Regions:</b>										
Number of Assignments:										
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active District Judges	0	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	9
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
<b>TOTAL Assignments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
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	16.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.0
Senior/Former District Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
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
<b>TOTAL Days Served</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>27.0</b>
<b>By Presiding Judges of Administrative Regions<sup>1</sup></b>										
<b>Assignments within the Administrative Regions:</b>										
Number of Assignments:										
Active Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	75	143	20	21	96	60	5	58	15	493
Active District Judges	89	164	1	16	14	17	30	64	42	437
Senior/Former District Judges	464	921	386	310	245	146	224	709	156	3561
Active Statutory County Court Judges	8	98	0	2	1	2	9	9	4	133
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	46	247	63	99	22	25	37	30	59	628
<b>TOTAL Assignments</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>5,252</b>
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	521.0	394.0	26.0	26.5	342.0	89.0	16.5	131.5	17.0	1,563.5
Active District Judges	1,545.0	32.0	1.0	20.0	29.0	74.0	5.0	64.0	0.0	1,770.0
Senior/Former District Judges	5,607.0	1,914.5	688.0	829.0	854.0	257.0	264.0	1,413.0	223.0	12,049.5
Active Statutory County Court Judges	363.0	2.0	0.0	4.0	2.0	99.0	0.0	9.5	0.0	479.5
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	35.0	543.0	157.0	206.5	27.0	34.5	53.0	52.5	76.0	1,184.5
<b>TOTAL Days Served</b>	<b>8,071.0</b>	<b>2,885.5</b>	<b>872.0</b>	<b>1,086.0</b>	<b>1,254.0</b>	<b>553.5</b>	<b>338.5</b>	<b>1,670.5</b>	<b>316.0</b>	<b>17,047.0</b>
<b>Assignments from Other Administrative Regions:</b>										
Number of Assignments:										
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	9
Active District Judges	0	1	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	8
Senior/Former District Judges	2	17	11	27	4	32	13	29	27	162
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0	15	2	12	0	0	0	96	0	125
<b>TOTAL Assignments</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>305</b>
Days Served:										
Senior/Former Appellate Judges	0.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0
Active District Judges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
Senior/Former District Judges	1.0	35.5	25.0	81.5	8.0	132.0	34.5	51.5	37.5	406.5
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0.0	29.0	2.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	145.5	0.0	201.5
<b>TOTAL Days Served</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>136.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>632.0</b>
<b>By the Supreme Court for Disciplinary Proceedings<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Assignments--Active District Judges	0	8	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	13
Days Served--Active District Judges	0.0	24.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
<b>Total -- Trial Court Assignments</b>										
<b>Number of Assignments</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>5,579</b>
<b>Days Served</b>	<b>8,072.0</b>	<b>2,991.0</b>	<b>916.0</b>	<b>1,192.5</b>	<b>1,275.0</b>	<b>690.5</b>	<b>373.0</b>	<b>1,867.5</b>	<b>353.5</b>	<b>17,731.0</b>
<b>Assignments to Other Administrative Regions</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75</b>

**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.

# District Courts

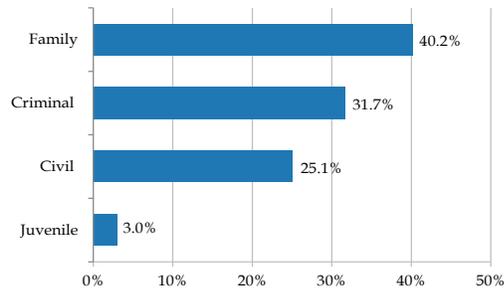
**Cases Added**— In 2013, more than 861,000 civil, family law, criminal, and juvenile cases were filed in the state’s 456 district courts – an amount almost identical to the number filed the previous year and the lowest number of cases filed since 2004.<sup>1,2</sup> The number of civil and criminal cases filed increased from the previous year – by 2.7 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively, while the number of family law and juvenile cases declined from 2012 – by 2.0 percent and 8.9 percent respectively.

Family law cases comprised the largest share (40.2 percent) of the cases added to the courts’ dockets in 2013.

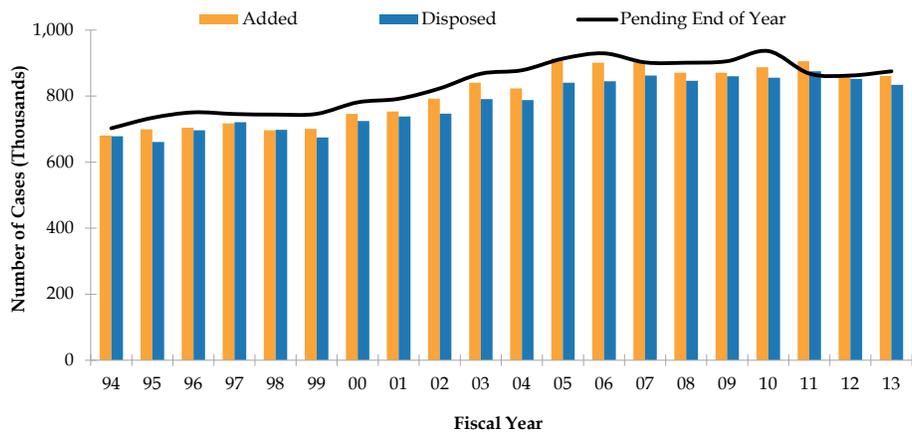
Criminal cases accounted for nearly 32 percent of cases added during the year. Drug offenses (drug possession, sale, and manufacture) accounted for the largest share of criminal filings, followed by “other felonies.”

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.

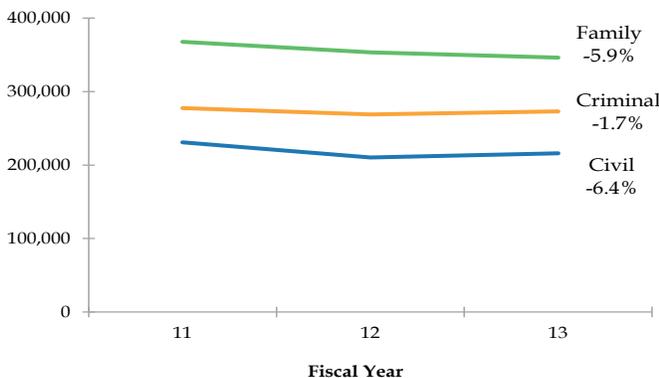
**Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(861,109 Cases)



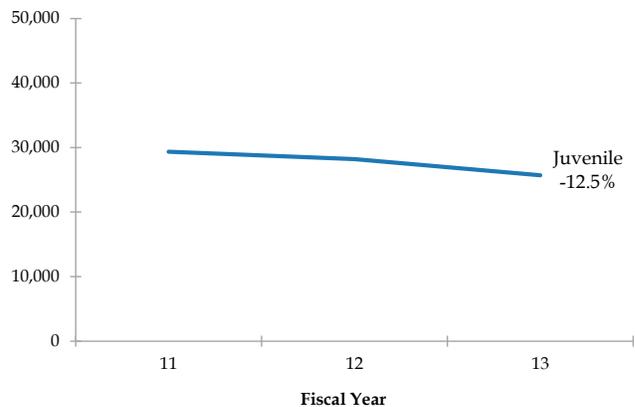
**District Court Civil, Family, Criminal & Juvenile Cases**



**Cases Added**

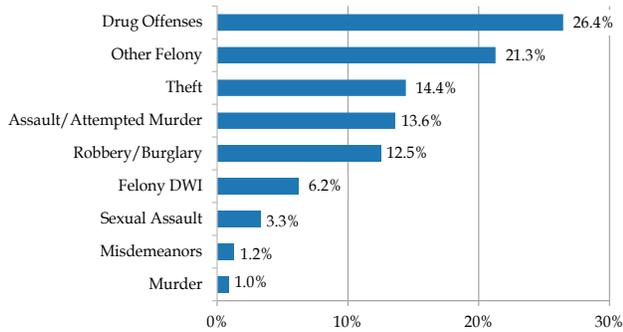


**Cases Added**

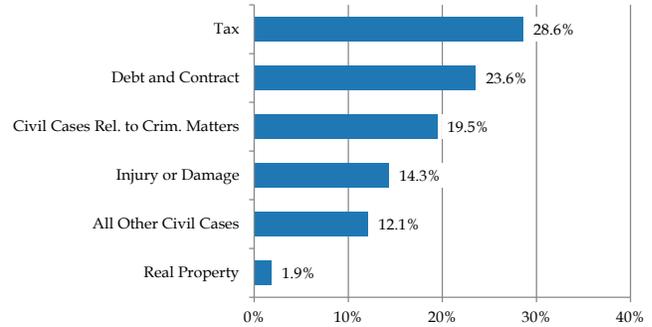


1. Family law caseload is discussed in the Family Cases section. Juvenile caseload is discussed in the Juvenile Cases section.  
2. “Filed” includes new cases, petitions for transfer to adult criminal court, motions to revoke, and other cases added to the docket.

**Criminal Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(273,025 Cases)



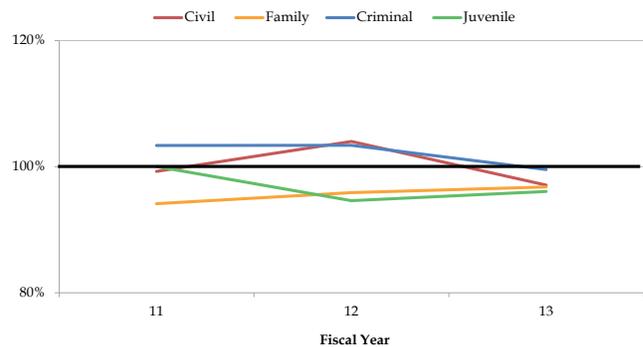
**Civil Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(216,108 Cases)



**Clearance Rates**— In 2013, district courts disposed of or placed on inactive pending status 922,233 civil, family, criminal and juvenile cases, which was a decrease of 2.7 percent from the previous year.

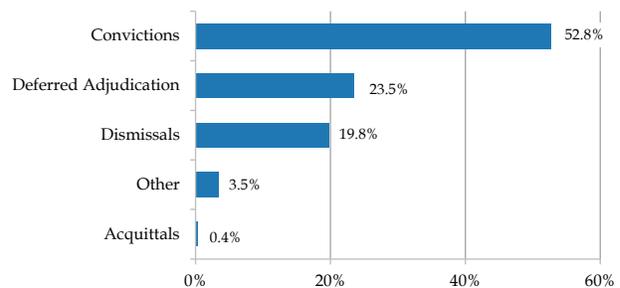
Due to the decline in dispositions, the overall case clearance rate fell to 97.8 percent, compared to 100.4 percent the previous year. Family and juvenile case clearance rates improved from the previous year, as filings declined by a larger percentage than dispositions did. The civil and criminal case clearance rates, however, both dropped below 100 percent to 97.1 and 99.5, respectively. In both of these case types, filings increased and dispositions declined from the previous year.

**Case Clearance Rates**



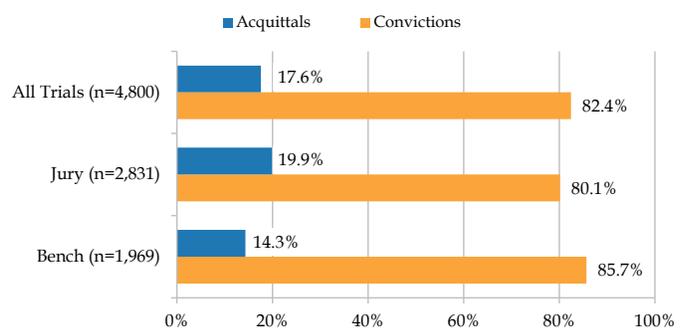
**Manner of Disposition**— District courts disposed of 266,236 criminal cases in 2013, a decrease of 1.5 percent from 2012. Defendants were convicted in 52.8 percent of the 210,357 cases that did not involve transfers or a motion to revoke probation. The highest conviction rate occurred in felony DWI cases, while the lowest rate occurred in cases involving aggravated assault or attempted murder. Overall, 96.4 percent of convictions were the result of a guilty or *nolo contendere* plea.

**Disposition of Criminal Cases in FY 2013**  
(210,357 Cases)<sup>3</sup>



Overall, 2.3 percent of all criminal cases (excluding motions to revoke probation) went to trial in 2013. The highest trial rate occurred in capital murder cases (30.2 percent), followed by murder cases (26.0 percent).

**Criminal Case Trial Outcomes in FY 2013**



Of the 4,800 cases that went to trial, 59.0 percent were tried before a jury. Defendants were convicted in 80.1 percent of cases that went to jury trial, compared to 85.7 percent that were convicted in cases that were decided by a judge.

3. Excludes motions to revoke probation.

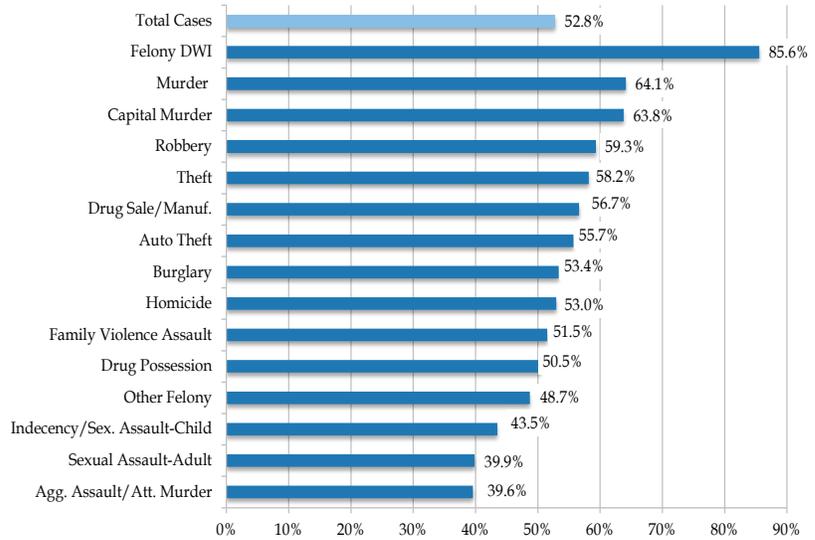
Dismissals accounted for approximately 20 percent of all criminal cases disposed of in 2013 (excluding motions to revoke probation). The highest rate of dismissal occurred in cases involving sexual assault of an adult (37.7 percent), followed by capital murder and indecency with/sexual assault of a child (at nearly 30 percent each).

A total of 208,588 civil cases were disposed of, a decrease of 4.6 percent from the previous year. Approximately 34 percent of the cases were dismissed by the plaintiff, while the next largest portion was disposed of by bench trial. 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 professional (other than medical) malpractice (2.5 percent) and medical malpractice (2.4 percent).

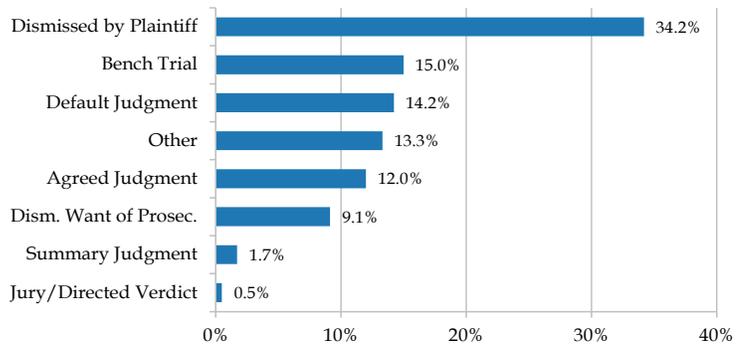
**Age of Cases Disposed** – In 2013, 65.0 percent of criminal cases were disposed of within 180 days, which was slightly higher than the percentage (64.4 percent) disposed of within the same time-frame in the previous year.

Approximately 62 percent of civil cases were disposed of within 12 months in 2013, a slight improvement from the 60.8 percent disposed of within the same time frame in 2012.

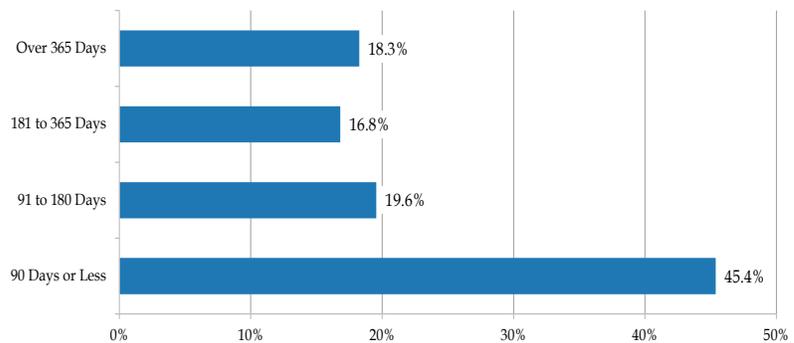
**Criminal Conviction Rates by Case Category in FY 2013**



**Disposition of Civil Cases in FY 2013  
(208,588 Cases)**



**Age of Criminal Cases Disposed in FY 2013  
(266,236 Cases)**



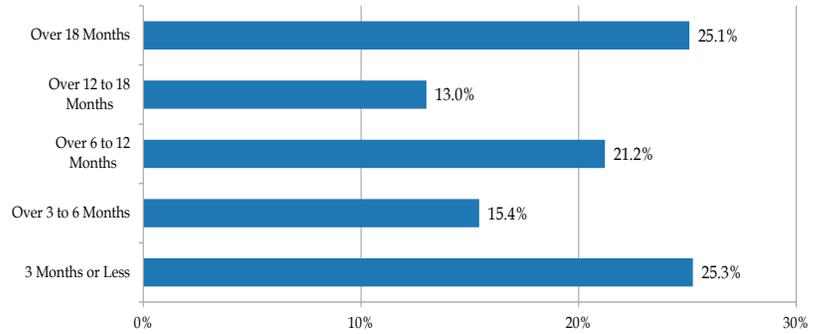
**Self-Represented Litigants** — In 2013, district courts reported 5,498 civil cases (or 2.5 percent of new civil cases filed) in which the petitioner was representing him or herself at the time of filing, compared to 6,063 civil cases (or 2.9 percent) reported in 2012.

District courts also reported 57,015 family cases (or 16.5 percent of new or post-judgment family law cases filed) in which the petitioner was self-represented at the time of filing in 2013, compared to 54,867 family cases (or 15.5 percent) in the previous year.

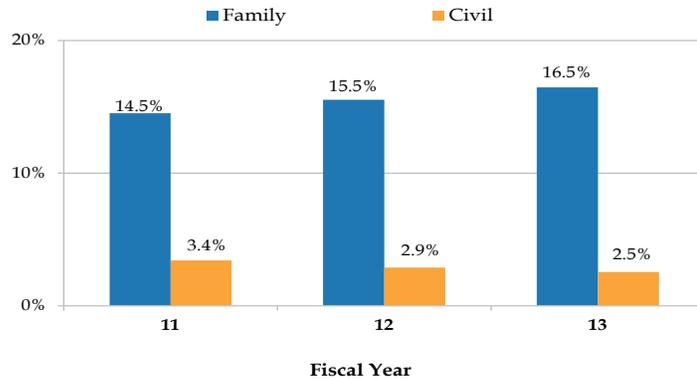
**Measuring District Court Workload** — During 2007-08, an 18-month study was conducted on the work and caseload of judicial officers in Texas.<sup>4</sup> The assessment addressed the pertinent question of how many judicial officers (district judges, associate judges, masters, magistrates, and referees) 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 the handling of 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 2013, the result was an estimated need of 601 FTE judicial officers statewide as of September 1, 2013. The estimated need by case type was 250 FTEs for criminal cases (or 41.7 percent), 202 FTEs for family cases (or 33.6 percent), 132 FTEs for civil cases (or 21.9 percent), and 17 FTEs for juvenile cases (or 2.9 percent). As of September 1, 2013, the state had 631.3 FTE judicial officers.

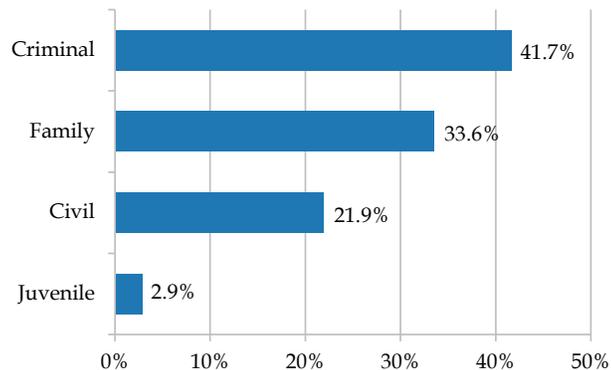
**Age of Civil Cases Disposed in FY 2013**  
(208,588 Cases)



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



**District Court Workload in 2013**



4. 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.courts.state.tx.us/oca/jnas/pdf/WeightedCaseloadStudy.pdf>.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

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
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	874	1,593	958	16,459	2,135	7,251	3,865	6,421
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	95	797	400	4,217	1,156	3,789	938	1,475
Docket Adjustments	(65)	(126)	(52)	(637)	(521)	219	(490)	31
<b>Cases Added:</b>								
Filed by Indictment or Information	420	850	918	20,793	1,684	5,681	7,396	7,281
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	6	28	349	6,214	329	1,123	2,064	2,402
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	30	138	392	4,875	393	1,497	1,903	1,753
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	26	45	16	485	50	155	201	251
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	1,291	2,528	2,581	48,189	4,070	15,926	14,939	18,139
<b>Dispositions:</b>								
Convictions:								
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	153	337	452	7,833	605	2,026	3,603	4,192
<i>By the Court</i>	6	10	9	154	24	70	17	64
<i>By the Jury</i>	116	161	45	292	72	316	49	201
Total Convictions	275	508	506	8,279	701	2,412	3,669	4,457
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	5	19	167	6,333	301	1,187	1,833	1,530
Acquittals:								
<i>By the Court</i>	0	6	2	62	7	17	8	6
<i>By the Jury</i>	8	29	7	127	49	84	28	13
Total Acquittals	8	35	9	189	56	101	36	19
Dismissals	129	209	261	5,242	663	1,650	1,457	1,308
Motions to Revoke:								
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	3	15	160	2,809	154	539	1,047	1,100
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	3	11	173	2,744	161	418	767	1,101
All Other Dispositions	14	21	12	869	38	195	127	206
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	437	818	1,288	26,465	2,074	6,502	8,936	9,721
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	41	143	428	5,442	442	1,661	2,095	1,922
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	806	1,654	881	16,396	1,972	7,757	3,896	6,312
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	113	715	420	4,669	785	3,959	1,141	1,828
Cases in Which								
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	158	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Sentencing Information:</b>								
Prison	242	475	296	4,096	511	2,180	1,547	3,578
State Jail	11	8	18	397	61	56	81	299
Local Jail	2	4	36	2,655	65	58	1,602	378
Probation/Community Supervision	8	13	162	2,571	103	463	749	534
Shock Probation	0	2	2	23	1	1	5	20
Fine Only	0	1	0	16	1	1	7	2
Other	15	4	2	234	19	81	63	48

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

CRIMINAL CASES										
Cases on Docket:	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Drug Sale or Manufacture	Drug Possession	Felony DWI	Other Felony	All Misdemeanors	Total Cases	
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	11,581	15,958	5,594	14,062	27,856	10,059	39,752	5,077	169,495	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	3,884	9,031	1,252	2,871	11,348	3,624	14,499	223	59,599	
Docket Adjustments	1,213	1,322	(1,515)	(1,376)	(1,279)	1,064	(522)	(1,205)	(3,939)	
<b>Cases Added:</b>										
Filed by Indictment or Information	16,183	25,542	5,251	9,791	43,015	12,477	45,055	2,685	205,022	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:										
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	7,543	6,628	1,419	2,594	15,508	4,181	11,598	651	62,637	
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	5,533	8,097	1,293	3,571	11,041	3,536	13,213	291	57,556	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	480	490	62	227	1,075	279	1,459	65	5,366	
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	42,533	58,037	12,104	28,869	97,216	31,596	110,555	7,564	496,137	
<b>Dispositions:</b>										
Convictions:										
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	8,736	14,888	2,856	5,563	21,923	10,830	21,949	1,157	107,103	
<i>By the Court</i>	165	208	33	123	247	181	355	21	1,687	
<i>By the Jury</i>	119	88	23	115	210	98	358	6	2,269	
Total Convictions	9,020	15,184	2,912	5,801	22,380	11,109	22,662	1,184	111,059	
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	4,699	6,047	964	2,011	13,180	292	10,689	256	49,513	
Acquittals:										
<i>By the Court</i>	20	25	6	12	35	8	68	0	282	
<i>By the Jury</i>	30	25	8	17	50	10	77	0	562	
Total Acquittals	50	50	14	29	85	18	145	0	844	
Dismissals	2,522	4,222	1,205	2,173	7,465	1,216	11,315	522	41,559	
Motions to Revoke:										
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	3,934	3,530	811	1,265	8,043	1,820	5,872	442	31,544	
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	2,823	2,348	390	1,025	5,974	1,808	4,438	151	24,335	
All Other Dispositions	612	596	131	226	1,241	346	1,695	1,053	7,382	
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	23,660	31,977	6,427	12,530	58,368	16,609	56,816	3,608	266,236	
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	5,819	8,716	1,362	3,605	12,701	3,715	14,422	325	62,839	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	12,934	17,612	4,306	12,176	28,198	11,264	39,674	3,658	169,496	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	4,290	9,382	1,330	3,463	10,958	3,811	15,351	230	62,445	
Cases in Which										
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
<b>Sentencing Information:</b>										
Prison	4,679	1,876	422	3,385	5,465	4,403	9,076	19	42,250	
State Jail	2,266	7,831	1,740	1,225	7,744	711	5,666	12	28,126	
Local Jail	1,182	3,539	604	503	6,370	606	4,525	883	23,012	
Probation/Community Supervision	2,367	2,980	582	1,137	6,144	4,849	5,793	216	28,671	
Shock Probation	56	13	5	16	35	28	45	0	252	
Fine Only	5	65	2	1	118	4	102	68	393	
Other	200	255	61	149	492	105	656	49	2,433	
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>	90 Days or Less	91 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	Over 365 Days	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>				<b>Total</b>
Number of Cases	120,807	52,063	44,762	48,604	266,236	Cases in Which Jury Selected				2,853
						Cases in Which Mistrial Declared				143
						Motions to Suppress Granted or Denied				1,256
						Competency Hearings Held				12,059
						Cases Set for Review				20,293
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel				166,004
						Cases with Retained Counsel				77,762
<b>Information on Trafficking of Persons:</b>					<b>Total Filed</b>					
					Cases for Trafficking of Persons					49
					Cases for Prostitution					1,181
					Cases for Compelling Prostitution					95

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

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:								
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	29,481	1,198	540	10,766	1,051	18,282	807	4,264
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	666	49	22	594	70	626	6	55
Docket Adjustments	(231)	7	0	(1)	7	(188)	(17)	(48)
<b>Cases Added:</b>								
New Cases Filed	20,429	751	283	191	627	7,717	332	3,604
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	1,890	94	25	21	115	750	4	58
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	530	34	21	14	33	376	5	94
<b>Total Cases On Docket</b>	<b>52,099</b>	<b>2,084</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>10,991</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>26,937</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>7,972</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>								
Change of Venue Transfers	141	11	4	15	14	130	0	47
Default Judgments	800	6	5	1	16	223	12	293
Agreed Judgments	2,451	94	39	1	104	1,193	52	666
Summary Judgments	202	28	18	1	34	354	5	99
Final Judgments:								
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	1,138	33	26	4	26	624	53	319
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	410	16	8	0	12	131	3	8
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	9	0	0	0	0	6	0	1
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	2,260	49	42	202	78	1,040	20	331
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	10,092	374	147	71	258	3,735	187	903
All Other Dispositions	1,096	53	26	11	100	882	23	347
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>18,599</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>8,318</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>3,014</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	31,391	1,327	527	10,642	1,048	17,825	769	4,883
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	885	48	24	616	95	670	7	71

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

CIVIL CASES							
	Contract			Civil Cases Relating to Criminal Matters	All Other Civil Cases	Tax	Total Cases
	Consumer/ Commercial/ Debt	Other Contract					
Cases on Docket:							
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	40,291	15,836		32,704	39,215	108,307	302,742
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	1,800	910		428	1,313	1,314	7,853
Docket Adjustments	(705)	(115)		(969)	(669)	(1,109)	(4,038)
<b>Cases Added:</b>							
New Cases Filed	35,472	13,845		41,282	24,692	61,282	210,507
Other Cases Reaching Docket:							
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	1,445	728		997	679	5,080	11,886
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	1,329	299		790	1,515	561	5,601
<b>Total Cases On Docket</b>	<b>77,832</b>	<b>30,593</b>		<b>74,804</b>	<b>65,432</b>	<b>174,121</b>	<b>526,698</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>							
Change of Venue Transfers	278	202		11	215	10	1,078
Default Judgments	6,921	3,494		3,732	1,908	12,256	29,667
Agreed Judgments	4,915	1,971		5,656	4,407	3,468	25,017
Summary Judgments	1,613	345		122	547	177	3,545
Final Judgments:							
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	1,913	1,039		10,245	3,329	12,527	31,276
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	132	31		45	114	49	959
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	10	2		0	8	1	37
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	4,094	1,460		841	3,141	5,465	19,023
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	11,498	4,401		2,985	6,674	29,986	71,311
All Other Dispositions	2,458	1,161		14,328	5,003	1,187	26,675
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>33,832</b>	<b>14,106</b>		<b>37,965</b>	<b>25,346</b>	<b>65,126</b>	<b>208,588</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>733</b>		<b>1,063</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>5,251</b>	<b>12,731</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	42,492	15,760		35,791	39,372	103,736	305,563
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	1,863	909		478	1,348	1,493	8,507
					<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>		<b>Total</b>
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	<b>Total Cases</b>	Cases in Which Jury Selected
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared
Number of Cases	52,671	32,197	44,242	27,135	52,343	208,588	4,003
							Cases in Which Plaintiff /Petitioner Represented Self
							5,498

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

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:											
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	48,825	50,842	27,388	13,112	1,884	4,542	3,727	13,971	14,851	2,468	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	513	341	235	145	22	27	16	221	173	36	
Docket Adjustments	343	1,892	1,206	(225)	(62)	(171)	46	(382)	2,054	(42)	
<b>Cases Added:</b>											
New Cases Filed	53,805	61,301	24,062	9,836	2,214	7,856	7,730	27,012	33,077	2,713	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	2,219	1,108	677	367	36	42	26	266	273	21	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,067	1,158	1,362	282	78	118	236	439	1,180	77	
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	107,259	116,301	54,695	23,372	4,150	12,387	11,765	41,306	51,435	5,237	
<b>Dispositions:</b>											
Change of Venue Transfers	144	113	185	120	15	77	9	46	93	10	
Default Judgments	3,313	5,247	2,730	142	105	67	481	3,290	2,015	279	
Agreed Judgments	18,009	19,797	7,456	492	205	903	583	8,092	14,216	676	
Summary Judgments	9	9	20	6	3	3	4	1	0	1	
Final Judgments:											
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	19,621	24,649	4,076	3,564	1,255	4,294	2,010	4,897	7,951	659	
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	25	38	10	21	0	5	1	8	9	0	
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	6	2	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	8,292	7,162	2,975	219	269	455	1,126	2,095	1,494	195	
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	3,141	2,598	3,736	2,473	148	126	1,364	4,511	4,608	609	
All Other Dispositions	3,225	3,007	2,180	1,527	200	1,580	2,358	1,660	1,665	227	
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	55,785	62,622	23,369	8,567	2,201	7,511	7,936	24,601	32,051	2,656	
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	2,286	1,211	647	376	47	52	32	281	314	23	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	49,254	52,663	30,414	14,485	1,907	4,845	3,801	16,515	19,076	2,568	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	580	407	484	113	32	26	20	178	240	30	

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

FAMILY CASES							
	All Other Family Law Cases	Post-Judgment Actions				Total Cases	
		Modification - Custody	Modification - Other	Enforcement	Title IV-D		
Cases on Docket:							
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	28,265	10,688	22,109	13,340	40,108	296,120	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	337	70	355	399	2,982	5,872	
Docket Adjustments	(1,934)	(912)	(1,409)	(756)	(4,704)	(5,056)	
<b>Cases Added:</b>							
New Cases Filed	22,806	6,022	14,472	8,205	44,026	325,137	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:							
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	468	104	872	505	2,842	9,826	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	1,612	2,338	2,315	1,289	6,604	21,155	
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	51,217	18,240	38,359	22,583	88,876	647,182	
<b>Dispositions:</b>							
Change of Venue Transfers	140	387	824	196	1,521	3,880	
Default Judgments	478	389	747	201	1,838	21,322	
Agreed Judgments	3,379	1,925	5,205	2,329	20,978	104,245	
Summary Judgments	20	8	9	11	17	121	
Final Judgments:							
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	6,090	2,314	3,001	1,844	11,351	97,576	
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	12	18	11	10	23	191	
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	3	5	5	2	6	36	
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	2,506	730	2,467	1,455	2,743	34,183	
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	1,944	467	1,265	1,230	5,833	34,053	
All Other Dispositions	10,442	719	2,275	1,849	5,989	38,903	
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	25,014	6,962	15,809	9,127	50,299	334,510	
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	536	112	923	446	2,890	10,176	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	25,928	11,404	21,720	13,008	36,451	304,039	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	270	86	369	347	2,273	5,455	
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>						<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>	
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of Cases	126,631	75,311	73,866	25,417	33,310	334,535	
						Cases in Which Jury Selected	180
						Cases in Which Mistrial Declared	8
						Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued	39,450
						Protective Orders Signed	7,421
						Cases Set for Review	18,310
						Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self	57,015

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

JUVENILE CASES											
	CINS	Delinquent Conduct									
		Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicides	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Assault	Indecency with or Sexual Assault of Child	Agg. Robbery or	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft
Cases on Docket:											
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	459	5	14	3	508	1,089	550	278	718	657	176
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	90	4	4	1	99	272	73	74	163	204	25
Docket Adjustments	(157)	(4)	(6)	(2)	(33)	38	6	(10)	(109)	(7)	(23)
<b>Cases Added:</b>											
New Petitions Filed	230	17	13	3	1,182	2,749	695	673	1,359	1,697	379
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	1	4	0	12	7	26	21	14	6	2
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	32	1	1	0	396	778	195	168	474	706	165
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	21	3	4	0	186	420	108	146	191	297	74
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	86	0	0	0	15	19	17	8	43	19	6
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>779</b>
<b>Adjudications:</b>											
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:											
<i>Plea of True</i>	69	1	1	3	612	1,110	389	398	742	893	225
<i>By the Court</i>	18	2	0	0	80	217	38	38	133	117	32
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	1	1
Total Findings of DC/CINS	87	3	1	3	693	1,329	429	438	875	1,011	258
Deferred Prosecution	112	0	0	0	202	772	33	36	127	368	26
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	2	7	0	11	4	22	52	11	2	0
Findings of No DC or No CINS:											
<i>By the Court</i>	4	0	1	0	22	19	10	3	26	6	5
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	1
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	4	0	1	0	23	20	13	3	28	6	6
Dismissals	67	1	3	0	171	450	128	33	198	214	35
Motions to Modify Disposition:											
<i>Denied</i>	7	0	0	0	31	62	9	19	39	44	19
<i>Granted</i>	18	0	1	0	231	351	128	135	288	297	118
All Other Adjudications/Findings	32	0	1	0	136	541	103	72	71	423	49
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>3,529</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	376	13	13	1	596	1,183	621	347	874	723	204
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	36	5	3	1	89	240	77	77	151	195	14
<b>Dispositions:</b>											
Cases with Findings of DC/CINS											
Probation Granted											
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	0	0	0	231	533	143	172	150	472	121
<i>All Other Probation</i>	58	1	1	1	388	700	239	166	653	454	111
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.											
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	2	15	7	13	32	8	4	1
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	35	10	18	20	33	8	10
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	4	2	0	0	27	56	4	37	36	52	11
Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.											
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	20	5	17	13	32	11	4
All Other Dispositions	19	0	1	0	205	330	98	115	227	282	108

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 Reports Received Out of a Possible 3,048**

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:								
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	359	664	16	145	11,748	17,389	3,444	3,927
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	33	158	7	27	424	1,658	626	943
Docket Adjustments	(41)	90	2	(5)	177	(84)	91	133
<b>Cases Added:</b>								
New Petitions Filed	610	1,948	27	160	6,279	18,021	6,687	9,723
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	1	3	0	1	35	133	86	39
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	212	633	2	71	3,354	7,188	2,644	4,137
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	69	283	5	21	757	2,585	1,093	1,478
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	13	28	0	8	80	342	77	71
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	1,223	3,649	52	401	22,430	45,574	14,122	19,508
<b>Adjudications:</b>								
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:								
<i>Plea of True</i>	254	918	19	83	3,274	8,991	3,652	4,683
<i>By the Court</i>	52	202	1	1	640	1,571	558	836
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	4	13	6	4
Total Findings of DC/CINS	306	1,120	20	84	3,918	10,575	4,216	5,523
Deferred Prosecution	131	512	0	10	1,160	3,489	1,016	2,306
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	6	0	0	0	39	156	118	5
Findings of No DC or No CINS:								
<i>By the Court</i>	6	1	0	0	48	151	89	40
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	1	0	8	17	7	6
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	6	1	1	0	56	168	96	46
Dismissals	73	289	1	20	1,151	2,834	818	1,471
Motions to Modify Disposition:								
<i>Denied</i>	10	63	3	1	401	708	190	389
<i>Granted</i>	103	301	1	30	1,872	3,874	1,669	2,037
All Other Adjudications/Findings	95	424	2	4	1,217	3,170	872	2,119
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	730	2,710	28	149	9,814	24,974	8,995	13,896
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	72	232	6	35	547	2,179	967	1,172
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	414	693	26	220	11,903	18,207	4,060	4,241
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	43	122	0	38	368	1,459	597	822
<b>Dispositions:</b>								
<b>Cases with Findings of DC/CINS</b>								
Probation Granted								
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	111	564	6	5	1,666	4,174	1,587	2,406
<i>All Other Probation</i>	163	477	11	87	1,517	5,027	2,204	2,569
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.								
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	1	0	0	0	55	138	121	10
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	4	8	0	2	47	195	140	20
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	10	55	2	2	185	483	185	283
<b>Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.</b>								
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	7	2	0	1	69	181	152	15
All Other Dispositions	89	301	2	36	1,526	3,339	1,417	1,800

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**District Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**98.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,988 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	10,053	7,373	3,563	3,985	24,974				
						Grand Jury Approvals	---	420	420
						Release or Transfer Hearings	---	123	123
						Detention Hearings	2,061	21,621	23,682
						Cases Set for Review	727	7,338	8,065
						Competency Hearings	132	102	234
						Motions to Suppress Granted			
						/Denied	0	92	92
						Applications for Sealing Records	37	1,203	1,240
						Motions for Sex Offender Un- or			
						Deregistration	2	79	81
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed			
						as Counsel	195	18,852	19,047
						Cases with Retained Counsel	45	2,339	2,384

Note: Overall, there was a 98.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

# Statutory County Courts

In 2013, 255 statutory county courts were operating in 88 of the state's 254 counties.

**Cases Added** – In 2013, more than 773,000 civil, family law, criminal, juvenile, probate, and mental health cases were filed in the statutory county courts—down 0.6 percent from the previous year.<sup>1,2</sup>

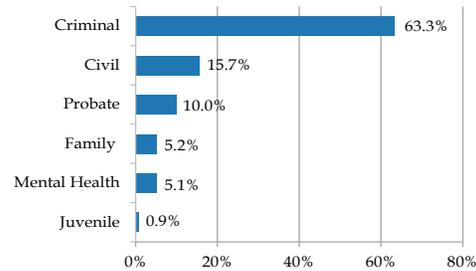
Criminal cases accounted for the majority of cases filed in these courts, though the number of criminal cases declined 0.4 percent since 2012. Civil case filings declined 7.0 percent and juvenile cases dropped 4.9 percent over the same time period. Mental health, probate, and family case filings, however, increased by 6.3 percent, 3.9 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively.

Excluding the “all other misdemeanors” category, the largest categories of criminal cases filed in 2013 involved driving while intoxicated and drug offenses (both at 17.2 percent), followed by theft and assault.

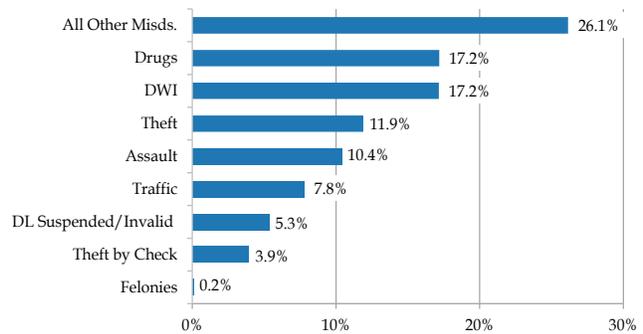
Contract cases accounted for nearly 36 percent of the statutory county courts’ civil caseload. Civil cases related to criminal matters—a reporting category that includes bond forfeitures, expunctions, nondisclosures, occupational licenses, and seizures and forfeitures—accounted for 30.3 percent of cases added.

Probate cases accounted for the next largest share of the courts’ caseloads, followed by family law cases, mental health cases, and juvenile cases.

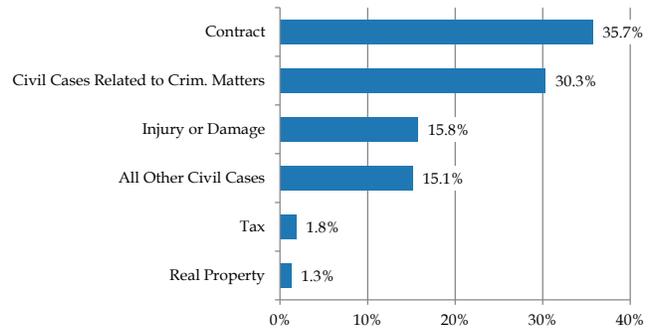
**Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(773,390 Cases)



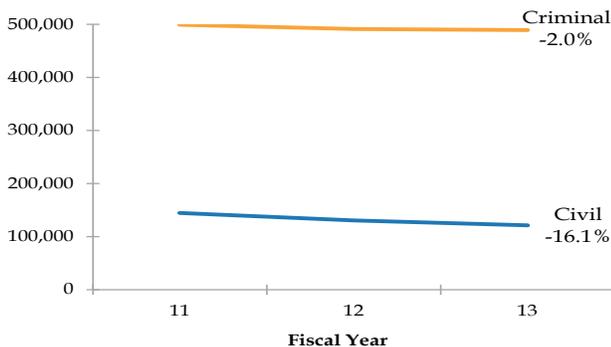
**Criminal Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(489,269 Cases)



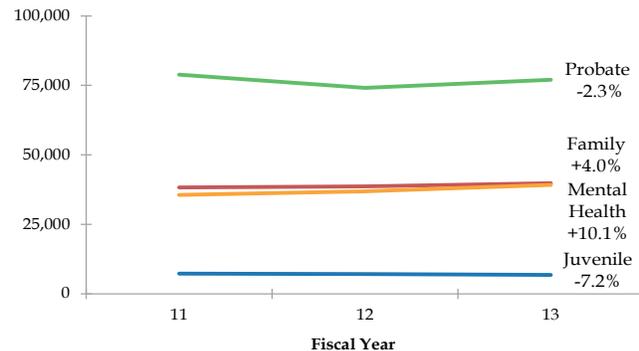
**Civil Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(121,264 Cases)



**Cases Added**



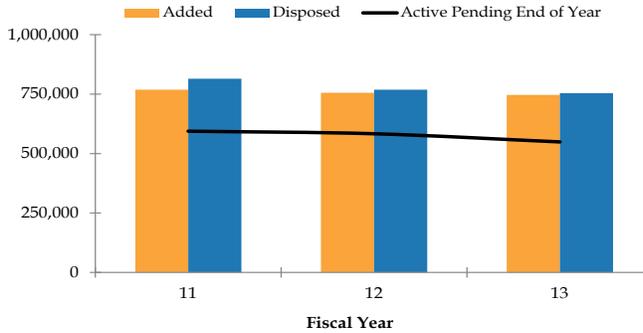
**Cases Added**



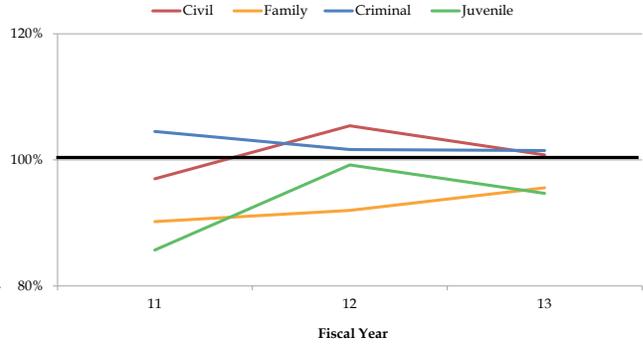
1. “Filed” includes new cases, appeals from lower courts, petitions for transfer to adult criminal court, motions to revoke, and other cases added to the docket.

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

### Civil, Family, Criminal & Juvenile Cases

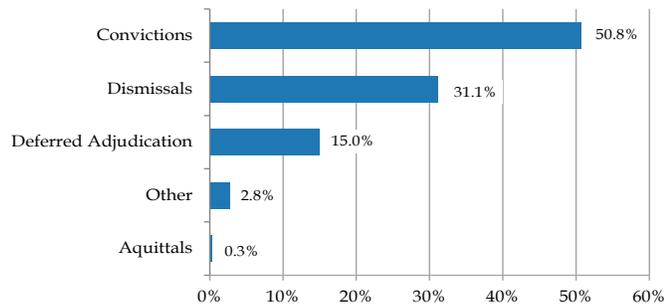


### Case Clearance Rates



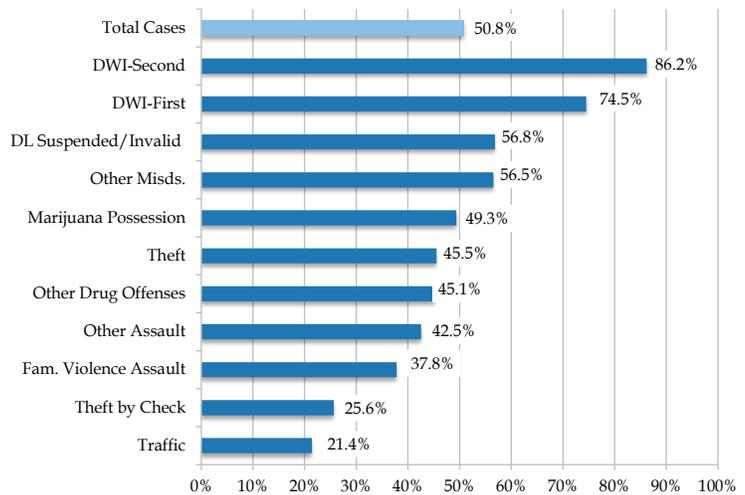
**Clearance Rates** – In 2013, statutory county courts disposed of or placed on inactive pending status 754,046 civil, family law, criminal and juvenile cases. The overall clearance rate was 101.0 percent. The clearance rate for family law cases improved from the previous year. The civil, criminal, and juvenile case clearance rates declined slightly; however, the civil and criminal rates were still above 100 percent.

### Disposition of Criminal Cases in FY 2013 (458,236 Cases)<sup>3</sup>



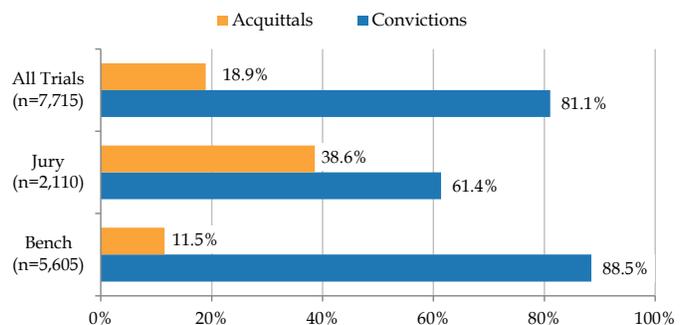
**Manner of Disposition** – In 2013, statutory county courts disposed of 494,210 criminal cases, including motions to revoke probation. Defendants were convicted in half, and acquitted in 0.3 percent, of the 458,236 cases that did not involve a motion to revoke probation. The highest conviction rate occurred in cases involving a second offense of driving while intoxicated/under the influence, and the lowest rate occurred in traffic cases. Overall, 97.3 percent of convictions were the result of a guilty or *nolo contendere* plea.

### Criminal Conviction Rates by Case Category in FY 2013



Nearly two percent of all criminal cases (excluding motions to revoke probation) went to trial in 2013. The highest trial rate occurred in first offense driving while intoxicated or under the influence cases (3.5 percent).

### Criminal Case Trial Outcomes in FY 2013



Of the 7,715 cases that went to trial, 27.3 percent were tried before a jury. Defendants were convicted in 61.4 percent of cases that went to jury trial, compared to 88.5 percent that were convicted in cases that were decided by a judge.

3. Excludes motions to revoke probation.

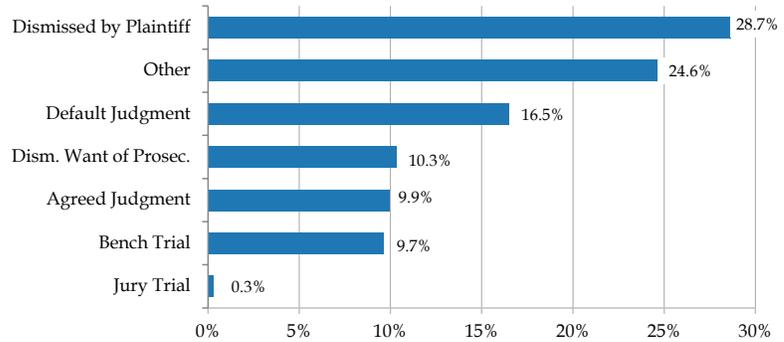
Dismissals constituted 31.1 percent of all criminal cases disposed of in 2013 (excluding motions to revoke probation). The highest rate of dismissal occurred in theft by check cases (62.4 percent).

The statutory county courts also disposed of a total of 120,188 civil cases. The largest share of civil cases was disposed of by dismissals by the plaintiff. Excluding the "Other Dispositions" category, the second largest category was default judgments. Bench trials accounted for 9.7 percent of cases disposed, and only 0.3 percent were reported disposed of by a jury trial. However, 1.4 percent of injury or damage cases involving a motor vehicle, 0.9 percent of other injury or damage cases, and 0.6 percent of real property cases (other than eminent domain) were each disposed of by a jury trial.

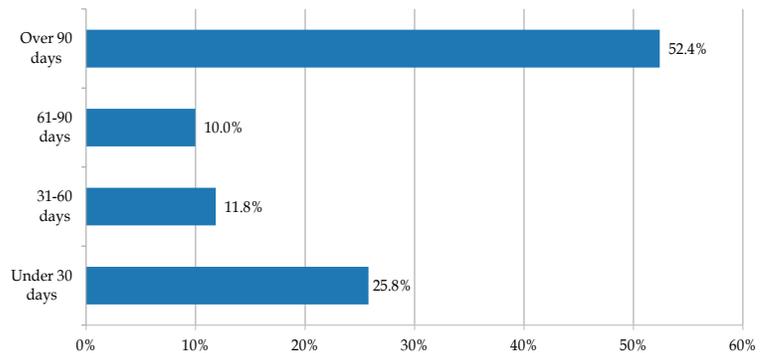
**Age of Cases Disposed** – In 2013, 47.6 percent of misdemeanor cases were disposed of within 90 days and 77.3 percent of civil cases were disposed of within 12 months. These percentages are about the same for both case types within their respective time frames during the previous year.

**Self-Represented Litigants** – In 2013, statutory county courts reported 6,900 civil cases (or 5.7 percent of new civil cases filed) in which the petitioner was representing him or herself at the time of filing, compared to 6,291 cases (or 4.8 percent) reported in 2012. The courts also reported 7,471 family cases (or 18.8 percent of new or post-judgment family law cases filed) in which the petitioner was self-represented at the time of filing in 2013, compared to 7,418 cases (or 19.2 percent) in the previous year. Finally, the courts reported 2,066 probate and guardianship cases (or 2.7 percent of new probate and guardianship cases filed) in which litigants were self-represented, compared to 1,554 cases (or 2.1 percent) in 2012.

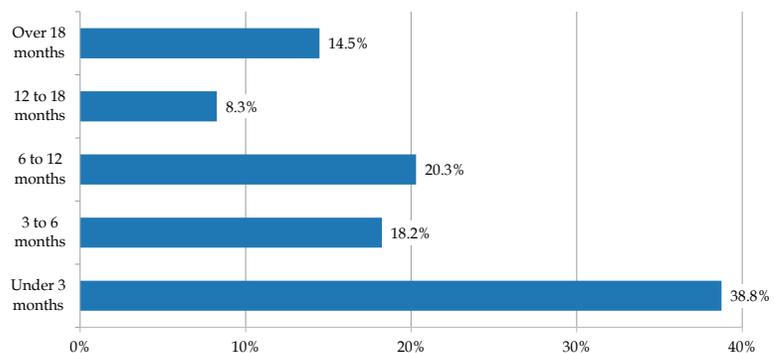
**Disposition of Civil Cases in FY 2013**  
(120,188 Cases)



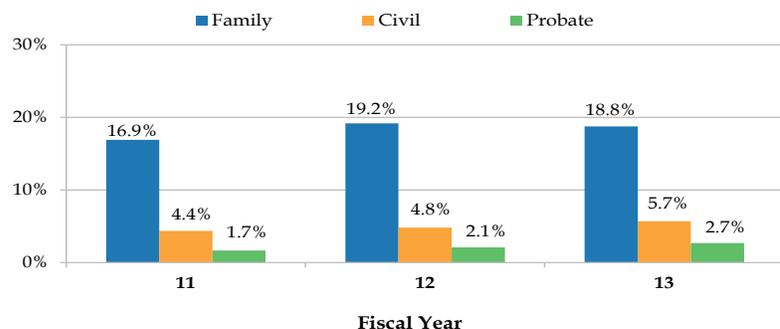
**Age of Misdemeanor Cases Disposed in FY 2013**  
(493,379 Cases)



**Age of Civil Cases Disposed in FY 2013**  
(120,188 Cases)



**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, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**100.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**1,056 Reports Received Out of a Possible 1,056**

<b>FELONY CASES</b>								
	<b>Capital Murder</b>	<b>Murder</b>	<b>Other Homicides</b>	<b>Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder</b>	<b>Sexual Assault of Adult</b>	<b>Indecency With or Sexual Assault of Child</b>	<b>Family Violence Assault</b>	<b>Aggravated Robbery or Robbery</b>
Cases on Docket:								
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	0	0	3	51	7	11	7	6
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Docket Adjustments	0	0	0	(1)	1	(2)	(3)	0
<b>Cases Added:</b>								
Filed by Indictment or Information	0	0	3	51	2	11	7	9
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	0	0	0	12	0	4	4	1
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	0	0	7	116	10	26	15	16
<b>Dispositions:</b>								
Convictions:								
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	0	0	1	27	1	0	5	5
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
Total Convictions	0	0	1	30	2	1	5	5
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	0	0	0	19	0	4	2	2
Acquittals:								
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total Acquittals	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dismissals	0	0	1	14	5	2	1	0
Motions to Revoke:								
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	0
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1
All Other Dispositions	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	0	0	2	73	7	7	10	8
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	0	0	4	41	3	19	5	8
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in Which								
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Sentencing Information:</b>								
Prison	0	0	1	15	0	1	1	2
State Jail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Jail	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Probation/Community Supervision	0	0	0	31	1	3	6	4
Shock Probation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fine Only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

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**Statutory County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**100.0 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:									
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>									
<i>Active Cases</i>	28	39	133	8	125	208	98	724	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	0	0	0	2	49	1	53	
Docket Adjustments	14	66	2	3	(7)	9	30	112	
<b>Cases Added:</b>									
Filed by Indictment or Information	56	86	35	6	106	219	88	679	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:									
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	25	16	4	3	28	21	25	143	
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	0	0	2	80	1	87	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	123	207	174	20	254	537	243	1,748	
<b>Dispositions:</b>									
Convictions:									
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	44	16	11	2	64	193	60	429	
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	11	
Total Convictions	44	16	12	2	67	195	63	443	
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	5	70	5	8	24	1	28	168	
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	1	2	
Total Acquittals	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Dismissals	5	10	15	2	18	13	20	106	
Motions to Revoke:									
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	13	8	7	0	11	14	19	79	
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	2	7	1	1	6	3	4	28	
All Other Dispositions	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	5	
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	69	112	40	14	128	226	135	831	
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	0	0	1	0	0	75	1	81	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>									
<i>Active Cases</i>	54	95	39	6	126	227	105	732	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	0	1	0	0	53	1	55	
Cases in Which									
<i>Death Penalty Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
<i>Death Penalty Not Sought</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
<b>Sentencing Information:</b>									
Prison	20	0	1	2	20	79	17	159	
State Jail	2	5	2	3	13	7	5	37	
Local Jail	2	1	0	0	1	6	1	14	
Probation/Community Supervision	25	19	9	5	49	59	63	274	
Shock Probation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fine Only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	45	
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>								<b>Total Cases</b>	
Number of Cases	90 Days or Less	91 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	Over 365 Days				831	
	240	201	183	207					

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**Statutory County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**100.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
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<b>MISDEMEANOR CASES</b>												
	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
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>												
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>												
<i>Active Cases</i>	59,405	9,185	52,661	38,243	30,035	12,078	19,738	14,531	14,281	13,346	65,153	328,656
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	26,027	3,037	23,148	28,583	9,477	2,990	8,800	7,136	8,091	4,925	31,443	153,657
Docket Adjustments	(1,461)	(173)	(60)	(2,081)	(166)	(348)	325	(205)	352	(130)	2,632	(1,315)
<b>Cases Added:</b>												
New Cases Filed	60,311	13,082	51,507	17,766	58,153	17,409	32,378	13,440	8,184	25,078	115,151	412,459
Appealed from Lower Courts	74	25	64	13	31	110	32	88	28,861	144	3,015	32,457
<b>Other Cases Reaching Docket:</b>												
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	8,018	2,096	6,236	1,433	6,156	1,757	2,990	1,353	683	912	8,546	40,180
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	8,928	2,470	15,863	9,522	9,373	2,814	7,130	2,866	1,886	4,562	20,694	86,108
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	236	116	401	33	317	135	314	283	251	35	1,227	3,348
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>135,511</b>	<b>26,801</b>	<b>126,672</b>	<b>64,929</b>	<b>103,899</b>	<b>33,955</b>	<b>62,907</b>	<b>32,356</b>	<b>54,498</b>	<b>43,947</b>	<b>216,418</b>	<b>901,893</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>												
<b>Convictions:</b>												
<i>Guilty Plea/Nolo Contendere</i>	43,627	11,042	24,126	5,983	27,691	7,820	11,571	5,693	8,302	13,961	66,141	225,957
<i>By the Court</i>	950	232	582	15	653	114	391	252	197	27	1,544	4,957
<i>By the Jury</i>	623	132	44	3	45	8	108	71	26	4	220	1,284
<b>Total Convictions</b>	<b>45,200</b>	<b>11,406</b>	<b>24,752</b>	<b>6,001</b>	<b>28,389</b>	<b>7,942</b>	<b>12,070</b>	<b>6,016</b>	<b>8,525</b>	<b>13,992</b>	<b>67,905</b>	<b>232,198</b>
Deferred Adjudication	946	89	12,770	2,541	12,928	2,730	5,224	2,064	12,466	2,051	14,890	68,699
<b>Acquittals:</b>												
<i>By the Court</i>	205	29	25	13	24	5	163	42	20	3	116	645
<i>By the Jury</i>	326	62	23	3	20	11	138	80	10	1	139	813
<b>Total Acquittals</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,458</b>
Dismissals	12,854	1,526	15,682	14,590	14,582	6,234	13,202	5,549	17,268	7,381	33,670	142,538
<b>Motions to Revoke:</b>												
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	4,192	1,065	3,521	952	3,790	1,143	1,899	880	357	541	5,099	23,439
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	3,129	809	1,642	401	1,496	346	756	437	239	262	2,911	12,428
All Other Dispositions	1,136	125	1,150	250	1,588	674	1,150	396	1,522	1,194	3,434	12,619
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>67,988</b>	<b>15,111</b>	<b>59,565</b>	<b>24,751</b>	<b>62,817</b>	<b>19,085</b>	<b>34,602</b>	<b>15,464</b>	<b>40,407</b>	<b>25,425</b>	<b>128,164</b>	<b>493,379</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>9,039</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>15,144</b>	<b>8,993</b>	<b>10,327</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>8,277</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>22,426</b>	<b>89,727</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>												
<i>Active Cases</i>	54,912	8,408	52,170	24,276	28,844	11,839	16,777	12,999	12,033	13,380	61,986	297,624
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	26,045	3,399	22,204	28,102	10,229	3,061	9,888	7,169	8,035	5,380	32,633	156,145
<b>Sentencing Information:</b>												
Local Jail	24,305	6,059	19,760	4,802	23,986	5,555	9,709	4,843	2,467	11,086	55,869	168,441
Probation/Comm. Supervision	21,566	4,941	6,432	1,962	6,363	2,104	3,273	1,420	8,274	1,530	11,113	68,978
Fine Only	813	178	1,003	778	1,615	586	592	348	5,046	1,614	1,827	14,400
Other	595	105	412	712	471	312	311	190	253	454	1,329	5,144
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>					<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>							
	30 Days or Less	31 to 60 Days	61 to 90 Days	Over 90 Days	<b>Total Cases</b>			<b>Mis- demeanor</b>		<b>Felony</b>		<b>Total</b>
Number of Cases	127,204	58,368	49,253	258,554	493,379	Cases in Which Jury Selected		1,731	3	1,734		
						Cases in Which Mistrial Declared		78	0	78		
						Motions to Suppress Granted or Denied		1,038	18	1,056		
						Competency Hearings Held		1,931	0	1,931		
						Cases Set for Review		34,656	5	34,661		
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel		173,956	210	174,166		
						Cases with Retained Counsel		169,634	254	169,888		
<b>Information on Trafficking of Persons:</b>					<b>Total</b>							
					Cases for Trafficking of Persons	1						
					Cases for Prostitution	3,764						
					Cases for Compelling Prostitution	2						

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**Statutory County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
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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:								
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	18,915	107	29	45	168	8,286	3,630	1,168
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	648	0	0	3	0	342	20	9
Docket Adjustments	597	(1)	0	(1)	0	316	(6)	(28)
<b>Cases Added:</b>								
New Cases Filed	15,093	41	12	3	114	3,196	813	494
Other Cases Reaching Docket								
<i>Cases Appealed from Lower Courts</i>	46	0	3	0	1	143	3	174
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	721	1	1	0	2	181	38	6
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	339	2	0	0	1	119	10	32
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>35,711</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>12,241</b>	<b>4,488</b>	<b>1,846</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>								
Change of Venue Transfers	100	0	0	0	3	46	0	8
Default Judgments	1,662	1	0	0	2	273	3	32
Agreed Judgments	796	1	1	0	7	239	244	57
Summary Judgments	168	0	3	1	4	116	3	16
Final Judgments:								
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	710	1	3	0	8	264	122	98
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	180	0	0	0	1	38	7	1
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	1,704	4	2	1	6	642	20	119
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	6,548	9	6	1	45	1,770	304	82
All Other Dispositions	1,946	10	1	0	18	738	117	95
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>13,821</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4,127</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>510</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	20,712	123	28	20	184	7,784	3,631	1,279
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	773	0	0	1	2	404	16	12

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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:						
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>						
<i>Active Cases</i>	107,258	8,860	37,024	19,900	3,760	209,150
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	4,178	1,181	131	310	1	6,823
Docket Adjustments	1,736	(288)	(2,672)	208	142	3
<b>Cases Added:</b>						
New Cases Filed	32,292	4,783	34,530	15,442	2,229	109,042
Other Cases Reaching Docket						
<i>Cases Appealed from Lower Courts</i>	213	3,314	32	2,453	0	6,382
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	1,583	254	10	112	0	2,909
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,440	202	2,232	463	0	5,840
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>145,522</b>	<b>17,125</b>	<b>71,156</b>	<b>38,578</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>333,326</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>						
Change of Venue Transfers	103	19	20	83	7	389
Default Judgments	12,149	1,051	3,640	584	450	19,847
Agreed Judgments	3,268	796	5,154	1,345	39	11,947
Summary Judgments	1,801	207	116	148	68	2,651
Final Judgments:						
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	1,657	1,715	4,101	2,559	369	11,607
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	45	9	2	35	3	321
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	4	4	2	12	0	32
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	5,672	1,351	1,399	1,420	57	12,397
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	14,409	1,653	5,868	2,898	844	34,437
All Other Dispositions	2,317	841	11,520	8,792	165	26,560
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>41,425</b>	<b>7,646</b>	<b>31,822</b>	<b>17,876</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>120,188</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,961</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>						
<i>Active Cases</i>	101,079	8,980	38,886	20,316	4,008	207,030
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	5,162	1,340	113	341	1	8,165
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>				<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>		
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	<b>Total Cases</b>
Number of Cases	46,573	21,909	24,393	9,930	17,383	120,188
						<b>Total</b>
	Cases in Which Jury Selected					527
	Cases in Which Mistrial Declared					21
	Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued					1,564
	Cases in Which Plaintiff /Petitioner Represented Self					6,900

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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:										
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	8,022	4,742	2,252	1,590	195	467	1,231	1,758	2,185	302
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	235	106	18	11	5	12	4	26	45	2
Docket Adjustments	(73)	29	97	55	(6)	(4)	19	4	(383)	(18)
<b>Cases Added:</b>										
New Cases Filed	6,942	7,554	1,815	1,109	193	810	1,062	3,203	4,560	297
Other Cases Reaching Docket:										
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	23	3	3	5	2	1	1	0	3	2
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	209	160	157	41	5	16	7	66	237	13
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>15,123</b>	<b>12,488</b>	<b>4,324</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>5,031</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>596</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>										
Change of Venue Transfers	31	12	24	22	1	16	6	5	14	3
Default Judgments	122	279	61	7	8	4	20	184	166	7
Agreed Judgments	1,468	1,462	266	52	7	91	78	603	1,160	32
Summary Judgments	8	10	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Final Judgments:										
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	4,005	4,601	851	542	112	507	376	1,164	1,853	101
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	4	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	0
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	0	7	9	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	697	484	222	18	20	39	141	12	34	7
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	455	385	182	243	12	14	194	591	570	68
All Other Dispositions	196	108	189	86	42	103	128	533	865	76
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>6,986</b>	<b>7,349</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>4,663</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	7,685	5,040	2,461	1,806	177	502	1,315	1,847	1,808	294
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	39	42	18	6	1	1	8	17	14	7

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**Statutory County Courts**  
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FAMILY CASES							
	All Other Family Law Cases	Post-Judgment Actions				Total Cases	
		Modification - Custody	Modification - Other	Enforcement	Title IV-D		
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>							
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>							
Active Cases	3,548	1,561	2,655	1,615	4,297	36,420	
Inactive Cases	48	14	21	17	200	764	
Docket Adjustments	(42)	(5)	(128)	5	(179)	(629)	
<b>Cases Added:</b>							
New Cases Filed	1,415	774	969	639	4,125	35,467	
<b>Other Cases Reaching Docket:</b>							
Cases Reactivated	15	3	9	16	247	333	
All Other Cases Added	602	584	390	318	1,558	4,363	
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>5,538</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>3,895</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>10,048</b>	<b>75,954</b>	
<b>Dispositions:</b>							
Change of Venue Transfers	18	64	53	17	180	466	
Default Judgments	51	37	23	13	110	1,092	
Agreed Judgments	294	232	248	206	1,273	7,472	
Summary Judgments	0	6	1	1	0	31	
<b>Final Judgments:</b>							
After Non-Jury Trial	904	586	384	173	1,855	18,014	
By Jury Verdict	1	3	2	2	1	21	
By Directed Verdict	0	0	1	0	0	20	
Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	163	107	117	84	40	2,185	
Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff	229	72	74	115	575	3,779	
All Other Dispositions	743	163	251	251	1,164	4,898	
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>37,978</b>	
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>405</b>	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>							
Active Cases	3,045	1,612	2,695	1,655	4,616	36,558	
Inactive Cases	26	5	10	21	187	402	
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>						<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>	
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of Cases	16,351	7,454	6,315	2,596	5,262	37,978	Cases in Which Jury Selected 19
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared 0
							Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued 1,568
							Protective Orders Signed 858
							Cases Set for Review 1,016
							Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self 7,471

Note: In 2013, 88 of the state's 254 counties had at least one county court at law in operation. Assuming one report for each county for each month, 1,056 reports were possible. OCA received 1,056 reports, for a reporting rate of 100.0 percent. However, some reports were missing certain sections, or one of the two offices in a county (county clerk or district clerk) may not have reported as required. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Statutory County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**100.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**1,056 Reports Received Out of a Possible 1,056**

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	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>											
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	723	4	4	1	222	612	252	64	282	409	67
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	0	0	0	46	108	7	5	22	26	6
Docket Adjustments	(28)	(3)	(1)	2	18	61	(2)	3	16	9	4
<b>Cases Added:</b>											
New Petitions Filed	190	6	4	2	354	1,004	274	65	358	616	85
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	0	2	0	4	26	8	7	16	7	2
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	30	0	0	1	72	145	41	8	109	92	27
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	0	0	3	34	2	0	4	8	2
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	6	0	0	0	12	9	16	8	13	23	5
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Adjudications:</b>											
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:											
<i>Plea of True</i>	84	1	0	1	187	460	145	30	237	332	66
<i>By the Court</i>	10	0	0	0	15	36	31	1	25	49	3
<i>By the Jury</i>	1	0	0	0	0	3	10	1	2	0	0
Total Findings of DC/CINS	95	1	0	1	202	499	186	32	264	381	69
Deferred Prosecution	9	0	0	0	23	78	11	0	13	51	3
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	1	4	2	2	1	11	7	1	0	0
Findings of No DC or No CINS:											
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	0	2	0
Dismissals	37	2	0	1	85	277	66	21	47	145	6
Motions to Modify Disposition:											
<i>Denied</i>	1	0	0	0	5	12	6	2	11	7	5
<i>Granted</i>	21	0	0	0	56	112	35	11	86	73	19
All Other Adjudications/Findings	12	0	0	0	21	35	9	3	26	31	3
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	746	1	5	2	273	815	263	75	342	463	84
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	2	0	0	60	133	5	6	26	28	7
<b>Dispositions:</b>											
<b>Cases with Findings of DC/CINS</b>											
Probation Granted											
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	1	0	1	49	115	45	8	79	97	20
<i>All Other Probation</i>	77	0	0	0	130	323	110	21	151	231	32
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.											
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	2	0	0	2	2	3	2	1	0	0
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	18	6	10	5	19	9	5
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	5	0	1	0	15	49	7	1	9	28	2
<b>Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.</b>											
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	6	6	8	2	5	3	5
All Other Dispositions	20	0	0	0	45	75	28	6	74	61	15

Note: In 2013, 88 of the state's 254 counties had at least one county court at law in operation. Assuming one report for each county for each month, 1,056 reports were possible. OCA received 1,056 reports, for a reporting rate of 100.0 percent. However, some reports were missing certain sections, or one of the two offices in a county (county clerk or district clerk) may not have reported as required. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Statutory County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**100.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**1,056 Reports Received Out of a Possible 1,056**

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:								
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	156	624	6	20	3,081	6,527	973	1,801
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	6	50	0	0	89	365	24	39
Docket Adjustments	(15)	66	2	5	(57)	80	7	25
<b>Cases Added:</b>								
New Petitions Filed	218	881	5	42	1,344	5,448	1,514	2,539
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	2	7	0	0	27	108	24	4
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	46	143	0	19	255	988	383	486
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	2	17	0	0	19	91	6	16
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2	13	0	2	117	226	72	77
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	411	1,751	13	88	4,786	13,468	2,979	4,948
<b>Adjudications:</b>								
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:								
<i>Plea of True</i>	131	452	7	39	841	3,013	987	1,356
<i>By the Court</i>	11	19	0	0	95	295	137	95
<i>By the Jury</i>	1	0	0	0	4	22	19	3
Total Findings of DC/CINS	143	471	7	39	940	3,330	1,143	1,454
Deferred Prosecution	26	129	0	1	116	460	128	307
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	4	0	0	0	9	42	31	0
Findings of No DC or No CINS:								
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	2	7	4	4
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	4	8	4	4
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	0	0	0	0	6	15	8	8
Dismissals	44	197	0	13	401	1,342	287	627
Motions to Modify Disposition:								
<i>Denied</i>	5	16	0	3	23	96	36	39
<i>Granted</i>	27	106	0	8	194	748	303	369
All Other Adjudications/Findings	8	36	0	1	77	262	97	171
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	257	955	7	65	1,766	6,295	2,033	2,975
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	15	37	0	1	46	201	25	49
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>								
<i>Active Cases</i>	139	760	6	23	2,975	6,972	927	1,950
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	19	69	0	0	114	469	34	43
<b>Dispositions:</b>								
<b>Cases with Findings of DC/CINS</b>								
Probation Granted								
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	34	129	4	10	218	810	306	445
<i>All Other Probation</i>	106	323	5	26	459	1,994	682	922
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.								
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	0	0	0	1	5	18	8	3
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	4	2	0	0	27	105	83	15
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	5	28	0	2	64	216	65	146
<b>Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.</b>								
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	3	1	0	1	17	57	40	12
All Other Dispositions	16	91	0	5	144	580	228	315

Note: In 2013, 88 of the state's 254 counties had at least one county court at law in operation. Assuming one report for each county for each month, 1,056 reports were possible. OCA received 1,056 reports, for a reporting rate of 100.0 percent. However, some reports were missing certain sections, or one of the two offices in a county (county clerk or district clerk) may not have reported as required. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Statutory County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**100.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**1,056 Reports Received Out of a Possible 1,056**

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	1,323	2,769	1,115	1,088	6,295	Grand Jury Approvals	---	29	29
						Release or Transfer Hearings	---	69	69
						Detention Hearings	176	6,819	6,995
						Cases Set for Review	8	309	317
						Competency Hearings	2	13	15
						Motions to Suppress Granted			
						/Denied	0	11	11
						Applications for Sealing Records	0	169	169
						Motions for Sex Offender Un- or Deregistration	0	31	31
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel	63	4,653	4,716
						Cases with Retained Counsel	70	1,567	1,637

PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP CASES							
	Decedents' Estates			Guardianships		All Other Cases	Total Cases
	Independent Administration	Dependent Administration	All Other Estate Proceedings	Minor	Adult		
Cases on Docket:							
New Cases, Applications or Contests Filed	22,709	1,750	12,775	393	3,785	4,517	45,929
Other Cases Added:							
<i>Ancillary Cases</i>	231	101	51	1	39	96	519
<i>All Other Matters</i>	3,382	2,006	1,502	662	12,471	10,572	30,595
Inventories Filed	17,395	1,573	---	102	1,010	---	20,080
Guardianship of Person Reports Filed	---	---	---	831	20,241	---	21,072
Annual or Final Accounts Filed	---	1,740	---	1,163	4,856	---	7,759
<b>Additional Information:</b>							
	<b>Guardianships:</b>	<b>Total</b>				<b>Total</b>	
	Dismissed or Denied	667			Sec. 683 Investigations		3,092
	Granted	3,710			Ch. 48 Removals		80
	Closed	1,856			Hearings Held		51,321
	Active	36,995			Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self		2,066

MENTAL HEALTH CASES						
	Temporary Mental Health Services	Extended Mental Health Services	Modification			Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications
			Inpatient to Outpatient	Outpatient to Inpatient		
<b>Intake</b>						
New Applications Filed	35,615	308	104	137	New Applications Filed	3,291
Applications for Protective Custody Signed	33,266	---	---	---	Dismissal Prior to Hearing	442
					Hearings Held	2,554
					Disposition at Hearing	
					<i>Denied</i>	93
					<i>Granted</i>	2,356
<b>Hearings</b>						
Probable Cause Hearings Held	23,645	---	---	---		
Release/Dismissal Prior to Final Hearing	21,359	25	0	7		
Final Commitment Hearings Held	21,254	248	89	31		
<b>Other Information</b>						
Disposition at Final Hearing						
<i>Denied (Release)</i>	3,258	47	0	1		
<i>Granted (Commit)</i>						
Inpatient	7,948	188	10	---		
Outpatient	313	33	---	46		

Note: In 2013, 88 of the state's 254 counties had at least one county court at law in operation. Assuming one report for each county for each month, 1,056 reports were possible. OCA received 1,056 reports, for a reporting rate of 100.0 percent. However, some reports were missing certain sections, or one of the two offices in a county (county clerk or district clerk) may not have reported as required. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

# Constitutional County Courts

In 2013, cases were filed in 210 of the state's 254 constitutional county courts. The County Judge in the other 44 counties either had no judicial functions or assisted on an as-needed basis with cases filed in another court.<sup>1</sup>

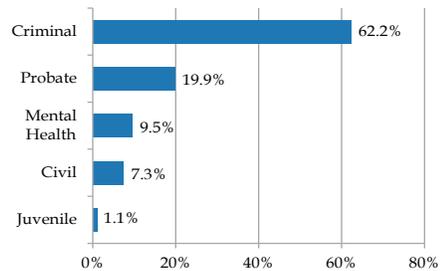
**Cases Added** – In 2013, approximately 94,000 civil, criminal, juvenile, probate, and mental health cases were filed in the constitutional county courts – up 0.2 percent from the number filed in the previous year.<sup>2,3</sup>

Criminal cases accounted for the majority of cases filed in these courts, though the number of criminal cases declined 4.7 percent since 2011. Juvenile and probate case filings also declined by 7.3 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively. Mental health and civil case filings, however, increased by 6.6 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.

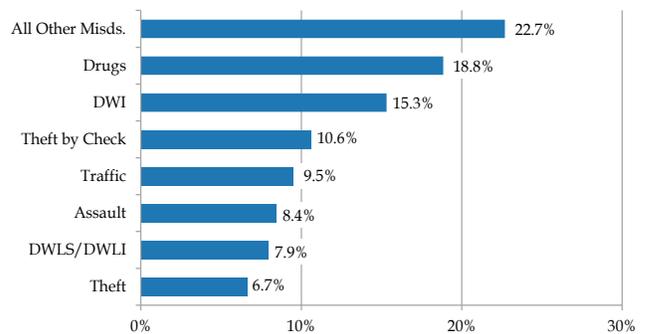
Excluding the “all other misdemeanors” category, the largest category of criminal cases filed in 2013 involved drug offenses, followed by driving while intoxicated and theft by check.

Civil cases related to criminal matters—a reporting category that includes bond forfeitures, expunctions, nondisclosures, occupational licenses, and seizures and forfeitures—accounted for over half (53.9 percent) of the constitutional county courts' civil caseload. “All other” civil cases comprised the next largest share of civil cases added.

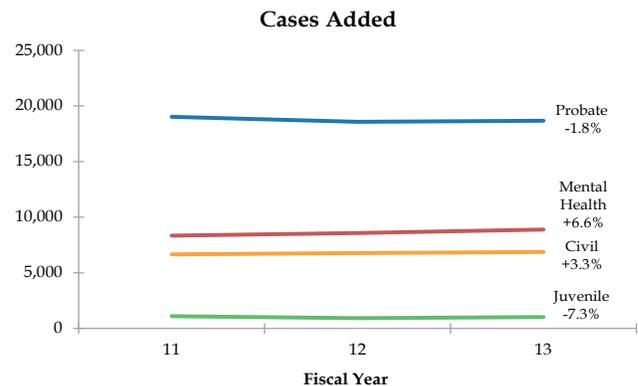
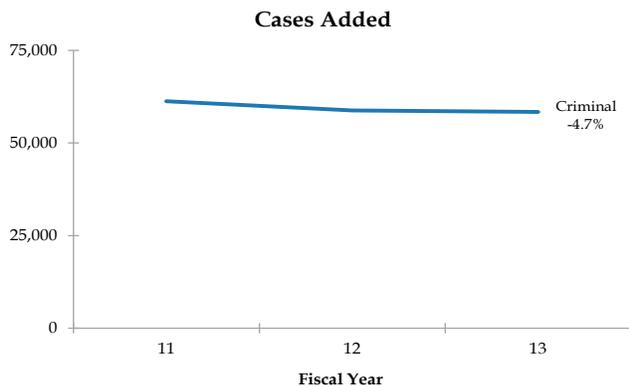
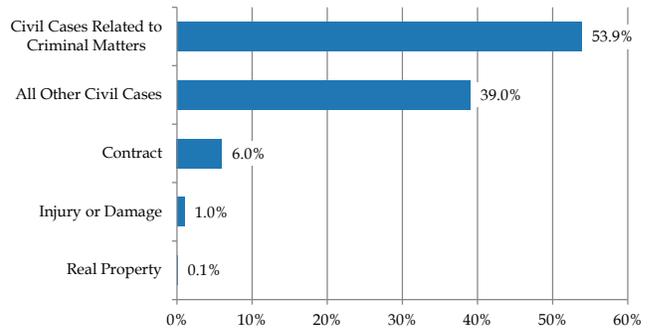
**Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(93,844 Cases)



**Misdemeanor Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(58,401 Cases)

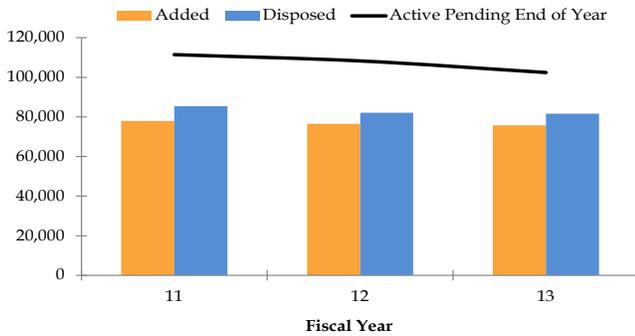


**Civil Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(6,871 Cases)

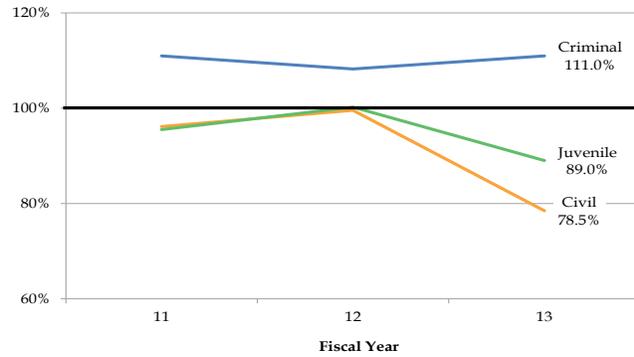


1. The judicial functions of the constitutional county courts vary greatly by county. Some courts may have very limited jurisdiction.  
 2. “Filed” includes new cases, appeals from lower courts, petitions for transfer to adult criminal court, motions to revoke, and other cases added to the docket.  
 3. Juvenile, probate and mental health caseloads are discussed in more detail in separate sections of this report.

### Civil, Criminal & Juvenile Cases

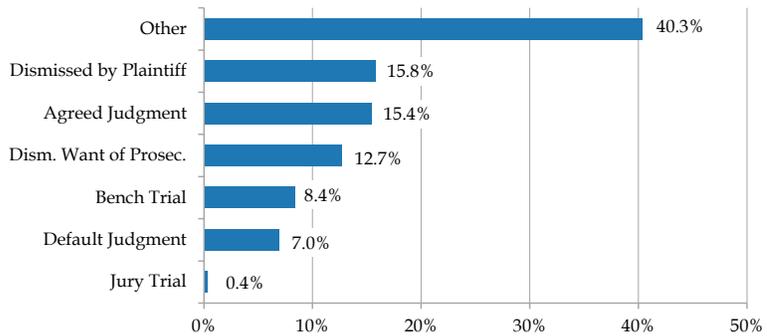


### Case Clearance Rates



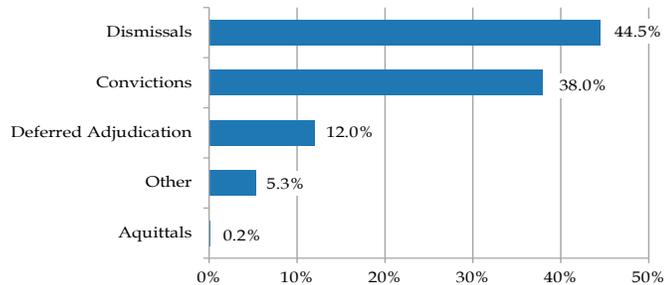
**Clearance Rates** – In 2013, constitutional county courts disposed of or placed on inactive pending status 81,618 civil, criminal and juvenile cases, a decrease of 0.6 percent from the previous year. The overall clearance rate was 107.7 percent. Civil and juvenile case clearance rates decreased from the previous year to 78.5 percent and 89.0 percent, respectively. The criminal case clearance rate improved from the previous year and remained well above 100 percent.

### Disposition of Civil Cases in FY 2013 (5,327 Cases)



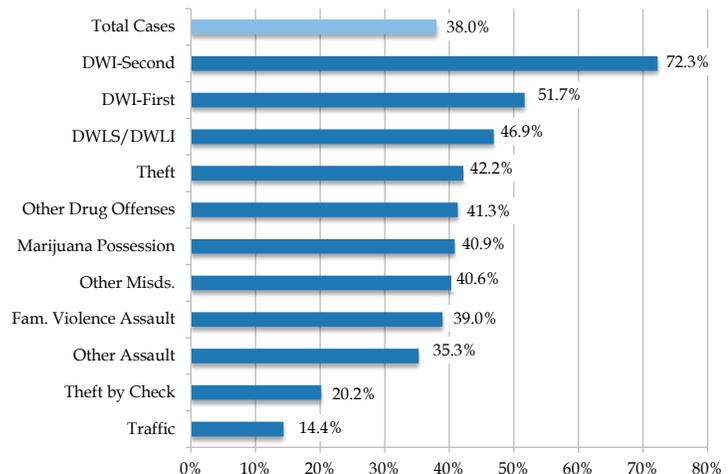
**Manner of Disposition** – In 2013, constitutional county courts disposed of a total of 5,327 civil cases, a decrease of 8.5 percent from the previous year. Excluding the “Other Disposition” category, the largest share of civil cases was dismissals by the plaintiff, followed closely by agreed judgments. Approximately 8 percent of cases were decided by a bench trial, and only 0.4 percent were reported as decided by a jury verdict.

### Disposition of Criminal Cases in FY 2013 (60,688 Cases)<sup>4</sup>



The constitutional county courts also disposed of 64,775 criminal cases, an increase of 2.3 percent from the previous year. Defendants were convicted in 38.0 percent, and acquitted in 0.2 percent, of the 60,688 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, 95.9 percent of convictions were the result of a guilty or *nolo contendere* plea.

### Criminal Conviction Rates by Case Category in FY 2013 (23,048 Cases)



4. Excludes motions to revoke probation.

Nearly 2 percent of all criminal cases (excluding motions to revoke probation) went to trial in 2013. The highest trial rate occurred in second offense of driving while intoxicated/under the influence cases (4.7 percent).

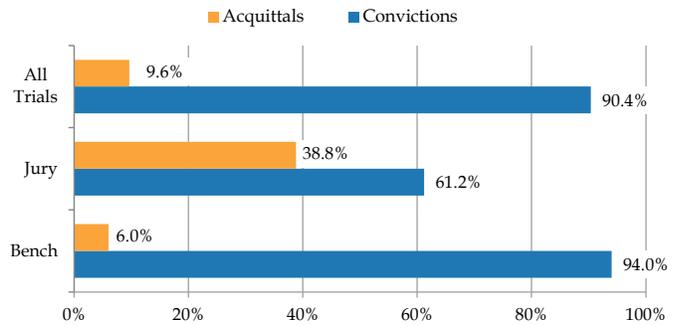
Of the 1,048 cases that went to trial, 11.1 percent were tried before a jury. Defendants were convicted in 61.2 percent of cases that went to jury trial, compared to 94.0 percent that were convicted in cases that were decided by a judge.

Dismissals constituted nearly 45 percent of all criminal cases disposed of in 2013 (excluding motions to revoke probation). The highest rate of dismissal occurred in theft by check cases (72.2 percent).

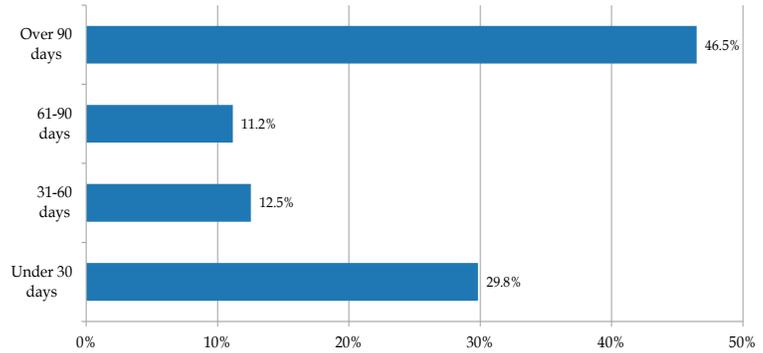
**Age of Cases Disposed** – In 2013, 53.5 percent of criminal cases were disposed of within 90 days, more than the 51.8 percent processed within the same time period in the prior year. Approximately 83 percent of civil cases were disposed of within 12 months, an improvement over the 78.0 percent disposed of within the same time frame during the previous year.

**Self-Represented Litigants** – In 2013, constitutional county courts reported 1,394 civil cases (or 20.3 percent of new civil cases or appeals filed) in which the petitioner was representing him or herself at the time of filing, compared to 1,372 cases (or 20.3 percent) reported in 2012. Constitutional county courts also reported 966 probate and guardianship cases (or 5.2 percent of new probate and guardianship cases filed) in which litigants were self-represented, compared to 936 cases (or 5.0 percent) in 2012.

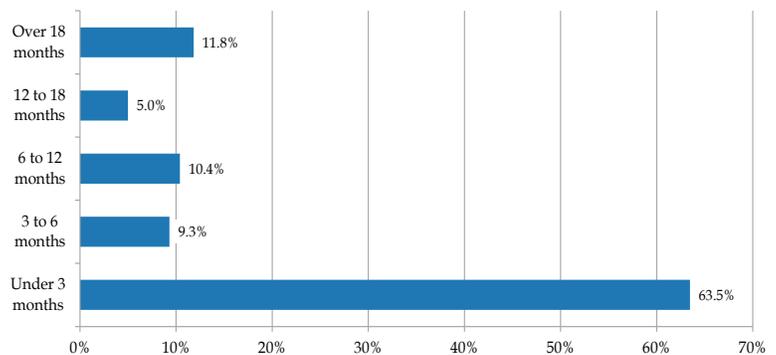
**Criminal Case Trial Outcomes in FY 2013**  
(1,048 Cases)



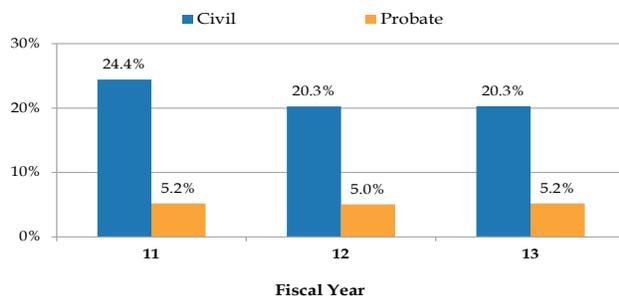
**Age of Criminal Cases Disposed in FY 2013**  
(64,775 Cases)



**Age of Civil Cases Disposed in FY 2013**  
(5,327 Cases)



**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, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**99.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,496 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
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>												
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>												
<i>Active Cases</i>	14,756	1,747	7,598	17,709	6,953	3,244	1,887	4,147	7,370	3,988	19,807	89,206
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	2,236	297	2,600	4,467	1,371	390	314	426	472	528	2,363	15,464
Docket Adjustments	33	30	71	(224)	171	201	42	28	212	192	549	1,305
<b>Cases Added:</b>												
New Cases Filed	6,049	1,454	3,264	5,739	6,748	2,727	2,343	1,949	2,494	4,096	11,554	48,417
Appealed from Lower Courts	21	0	7	5	6	64	2	9	2,897	63	486	3,560
<b>Other Cases Reaching Docket:</b>												
<i>Motions to Revoke Filed</i>	863	294	532	439	1,005	232	256	244	91	388	969	5,313
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	877	236	1,082	2,357	1,107	368	313	334	243	650	1,864	9,431
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	208	53	86	15	188	35	84	47	68	84	243	1,111
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>22,807</b>	<b>3,814</b>	<b>12,640</b>	<b>26,040</b>	<b>16,178</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>4,927</b>	<b>6,758</b>	<b>13,375</b>	<b>9,461</b>	<b>35,472</b>	<b>158,343</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>												
<b>Convictions:</b>												
<i>Guilty Plea/Nolo Contendere</i>	3,788	1,147	1,637	1,635	2,992	961	938	817	766	2,071	5,349	22,101
<i>By the Court</i>	191	71	52	66	98	46	46	53	34	61	158	876
<i>By the Jury</i>	19	5	4	3	4	0	2	5	4	3	22	71
Total Convictions	3,998	1,223	1,693	1,704	3,094	1,007	986	875	804	2,135	5,529	23,048
Deferred Adjudication	359	30	467	435	1,570	314	228	272	1,849	578	1,186	7,288
<b>Acquittals:</b>												
<i>By the Court</i>	11	1	0	4	6	1	4	2	8	3	16	56
<i>By the Jury</i>	8	2	4	0	0	1	3	7	2	1	17	45
Total Acquittals	19	3	4	4	6	2	7	9	10	4	33	101
Dismissals	2,895	333	1,595	6,091	2,370	1,001	1,158	1,215	2,589	1,563	6,212	27,022
<b>Motions to Revoke:</b>												
<i>Granted/Revoked</i>	502	167	274	252	497	140	145	131	49	153	607	2,917
<i>Denied/Continued</i>	234	46	125	91	226	49	55	49	27	74	194	1,170
All Other Dispositions	467	103	254	204	534	112	152	110	348	273	672	3,229
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>8,474</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>4,412</b>	<b>8,781</b>	<b>8,297</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>2,731</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>5,676</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>14,433</b>	<b>64,775</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>10,507</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>												
<i>Active Cases</i>	13,434	1,674	7,104	15,079	6,582	3,864	1,865	3,757	7,316	3,873	18,907	83,455
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	2,258	293	2,642	4,290	1,553	404	332	432	612	684	2,625	16,125
<b>Sentencing Information:</b>												
Local Jail	1,098	391	691	691	1,298	472	436	405	154	757	2,688	9,081
Probation/Comm. Supervision	2,129	623	631	405	1,164	353	345	307	516	607	1,396	8,476
Fine Only	203	36	118	304	367	68	63	61	316	323	455	2,314
Other	330	62	167	237	308	107	88	111	350	272	528	2,560
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>												
Number of Cases	30 Days or Less	31 to 60 Days	61 to 90 Days	Over 90 Days	Total Cases	<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>						<b>Total</b>
	19,321	8,121	7,228	30,105	64,775	Cases in Which Jury Selected						67
						Cases in Which Mistrial Declared						2
						Motions to Suppress Granted or Denied						67
						Competency Hearings Held						5
						Cases Set for Review						895
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel						7,688
						Cases With Retained Counsel						7,199

Note: Overall, there was a 99.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Constitutional County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**99.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,496 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:										
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	423	192	16	2,192	46	221	5,982	7,215	16,287	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	36	17	0	460	2	37	507	1,068	2,127	
Docket Adjustments	(5)	(5)	0	(37)	(8)	(6)	(29)	(66)	(156)	
<b>Cases Added:</b>										
New Cases Filed	51	18	4	302	26	22	3,579	2,550	6,552	
Appealed from Lower Courts	1	0	1	18	22	1	11	57	111	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:										
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	1	0	0	6	0	1	34	2	44	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2	0	0	20	0	0	111	75	208	
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	473	205	21	2,501	86	239	9,688	9,833	23,046	
<b>Dispositions:</b>										
Change of Venue Transfers	0	0	0	3	2	0	7	22	34	
Default Judgments	6	3	0	99	6	1	212	44	371	
Agreed Judgments	9	0	0	32	4	0	514	262	821	
Summary Judgments	1	0	0	13	0	0	3	11	28	
Final Judgments:										
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	3	1	2	17	6	2	282	134	447	
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	0	0	0	3	0	0	8	1	12	
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	7	
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosec.</i>	3	1	0	14	1	4	552	103	678	
<i>Non-Suited/Dism. by Plaintiff</i>	11	2	1	80	4	3	527	214	842	
All Other Dispositions	13	3	0	19	6	6	760	1,280	2,087	
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	46	10	3	280	30	16	2,868	2,074	5,327	
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	0	0	0	5	2	3	62	28	100	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	428	198	18	2,231	53	220	6,782	7,776	17,706	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	34	14	0	444	5	39	511	1,049	2,096	
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	<b>Total Cases</b>				
Number of Cases	3,381	496	554	266	630	5,327				
							<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>			
							<b>Total</b>			
							Cases in Which Jury Selected	11		
							Cases in Which Mistrial Declared	0		
							Injunction or Show Cause Order Issued	20		
							Protective Orders Signed	148		
							Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self	1,394		

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**Constitutional County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**99.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
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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 Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>												
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>												
<i>Active Cases</i>	234	0	0	0	23	73	69	3	55	41	11	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	66	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	6	1	0	
Docket Adjustments	(7)	0	0	0	(3)	(13)	(14)	(5)	(15)	(8)	1	
<b>Cases Added:</b>												
New Petitions Filed	81	0	1	0	33	116	60	6	100	68	24	
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:												
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	11	0	0	0	5	10	5	0	25	9	5	
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	0	0	0	1	1	7	0	5	3	1	1	
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>42</b>	
<b>Adjudications:</b>												
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:												
<i>Plea of True</i>	20	0	0	0	10	29	17	1	43	19	11	
<i>By the Court</i>	12	0	0	0	8	9	8	0	11	20	3	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Findings of DC/CINS	32	0	0	0	21	39	25	1	54	39	14	
Deferred Prosecution	53	0	0	0	2	12	0	0	6	4	2	
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	
Findings of No DC or No CINS:												
<i>By the Court</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Dismissals	10	0	0	0	8	31	12	0	18	15	6	
Motions to Modify Disposition:												
<i>Denied</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	
<i>Granted</i>	1	0	0	0	2	8	1	0	27	6	7	
All Other Adjudications/Findings	4	0	0	0	3	2	6	0	4	2	0	
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>												
<i>Active Cases</i>	217	0	1	1	23	104	73	8	60	43	12	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	67	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	
<b>Dispositions:</b>												
<b>Cases with Findings of DC/CINS</b>												
Probation Granted												
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	0	0	0	9	21	12	0	29	21	5	
<i>All Other Probation</i>	20	0	0	0	5	10	3	0	18	13	3	
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.												
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	1	1	0	
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	3	0	2	
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	
<b>Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.</b>												
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	2	
All Other Dispositions	5	0	0	0	3	9	7	0	25	14	5	

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**Constitutional County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**99.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,496 Reports Received Out of a Possible 2,520**

<b>JUVENILE CASES</b>									
	<b>Delinquent Conduct</b>					<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Total Delinquent Conduct Cases</b>		
	<b>Felony Drug Offenses</b>	<b>Misde-meanor Drug Offenses</b>	<b>DWI</b>	<b>Contempt of Court</b>	<b>All Other Offenses</b>		<b>Felonies</b>	<b>Misde-meanors</b>	
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>									
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>									
<i>Active Cases</i>	12	59	0	6	544	1,130	258	455	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	2	0	0	286	371	11	9	
Docket Adjustments	(4)	1	1	0	52	(14)	(8)	(31)	
<b>Cases Added:</b>									
New Petitions Filed	18	79	1	3	270	860	269	312	
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	5	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:									
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	4	14	0	1	22	111	43	42	
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	0	0	0	0	4	11	0	2	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	0	1	0	0	14	34	4	12	
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>797</b>	
<b>Adjudications:</b>									
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:									
<i>Plea of True</i>	6	33	1	0	70	260	89	100	
<i>By the Court</i>	3	20	0	0	60	154	38	51	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	
Total Findings of DC/CINS	9	53	1	0	131	419	127	152	
Deferred Prosecution	0	8	0	1	26	114	18	24	
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	0	0	0	0	2	6	3	2	
Findings of No DC or No CINS:									
<i>By the Court</i>	0	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	0	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	
Dismissals	4	15	0	6	72	197	48	68	
Motions to Modify Disposition:									
<i>Denied</i>	0	2	0	0	2	12	8	4	
<i>Granted</i>	3	8	0	0	14	77	33	24	
All Other Adjudications/Findings	0	5	0	0	35	61	12	16	
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>291</b>	
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>									
<i>Active Cases</i>	14	62	1	3	633	1,255	317	506	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	0	2	0	0	274	352	11	7	
<b>Dispositions:</b>									
<b>Cases with Findings of DC/CINS</b>									
Probation Granted									
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	7	23	1	0	56	184	60	62	
<i>All Other Probation</i>	5	16	0	0	25	118	38	49	
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.									
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	0	1	0	0	5	15	4	3	
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	0	0	0	0	14	25	10	5	
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	0	2	0	0	2	8	2	6	
<b>Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.</b>									
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	0	2	0	0	7	19	6	5	
All Other Dispositions	4	11	0	0	23	106	31	32	

Note: Overall, there was a 99.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Constitutional County Courts**  
**Activity Detail from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**99.0 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**2,496 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	332	261	107	190	890	Grand Jury Approvals	---	0	0
						Release or Transfer Hearings	---	18	18
						Detention Hearings	57	648	705
						Cases Set for Review	7	42	49
						Competency Hearings	6	26	32
						Motions to Suppress Granted/Denied	0	3	3
						Applications for Sealing Records	0	4	4
						Motions for Sex Offender Un- or Deregistration	0	0	0
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel	68	486	554
						Cases with Retained Counsel	6	114	120
PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP CASES									
	Decedents' Estates			Guardianships		All Other Cases	Total Cases		
	Independent Administration	Dependent Administration	All Other Estate Proceedings	Minor	Adult				
Cases on Docket:									
New Cases, Applications or Contests Filed	8,814	505	5,323	418	974	689	16,723		
Other Cases Added:									
<i>Ancillary Cases</i>	103	23	110	7	16	2	261		
<i>All Other Matters</i>	405	157	171	45	880	26	1,684		
Inventories Filed	5,220	293	---	50	282	---	5,845		
Guardianship of Person Reports Filed	---	---	---	218	2,684	---	2,902		
Annual or Final Accounts Filed	---	316	---	221	1,143	---	1,680		
Additional Information:									
	<b>Guardianships: Total</b>					<b>Total</b>			
	Dismissed or Denied	251			Sec. 683 Investigations		526		
	Granted	733			Ch. 48 Removals		47		
	Closed	546			Hearings Held		12,753		
	Active	9,592			Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self		966		
MENTAL HEALTH CASES									
	Temporary Mental Health Services	Extended Mental Health Services	Modification		Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications				
			Inpatient to Outpatient	Outpatient to Inpatient					
<b>Intake</b>									
New Applications Filed	7,439	116	1	5	New Applications Filed	1,339			
Orders for Protective Custody Signed	5,906	---	---	---	Dismissal Prior to Hearing	32			
					Hearings Held	825			
<b>Hearings</b>					Disposition at Hearing				
Probable Cause Hearings Held	4,587	---	---	---	<i>Denied</i>	12			
Release/Dismissal Prior to Final Hearing	2,645	1	0	0	<i>Granted</i>	817			
Final Commitment Hearings Held	2,403	70	0	2					
<b>Other Information</b>									
Disposition at Final Hearing									
<i>Denied (Release)</i>	1,247	0	0	0					
<i>Granted (Commit)</i>									
<i>Inpatient</i>	1,156	30	0	---					
<i>Outpatient</i>	66	0	---	0					

Note: Overall, there was a 99.0 percent reporting rate for the fiscal year. See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

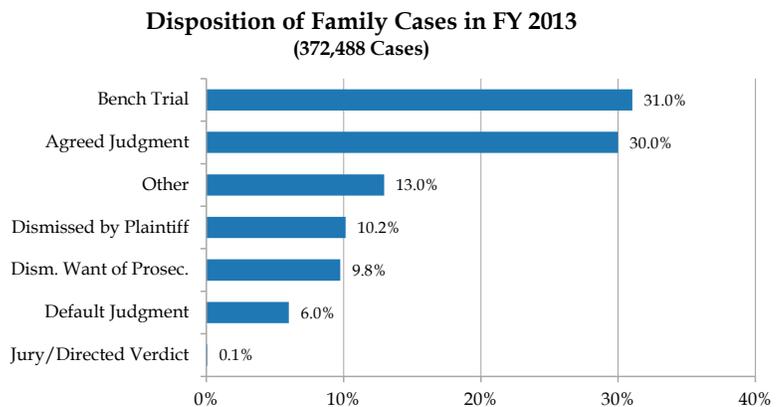
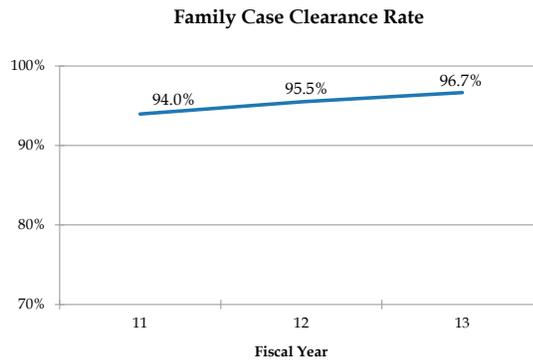
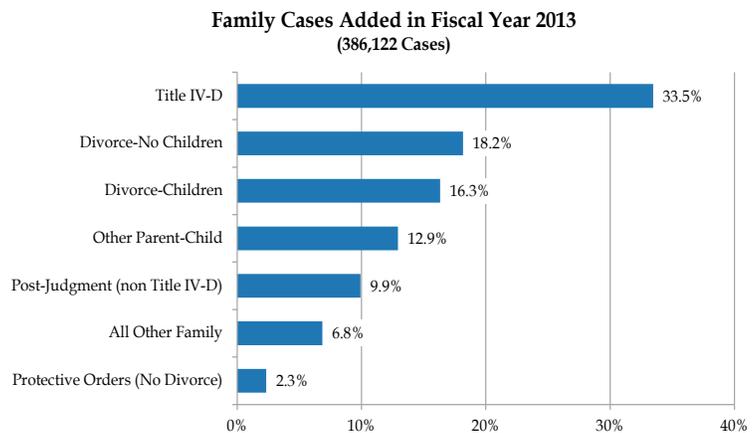
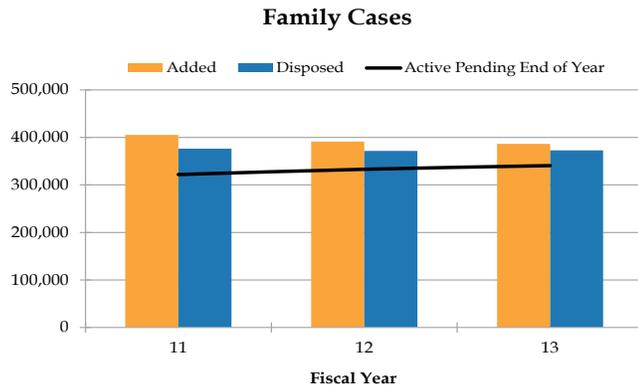
# Family Law Cases

**Cases Added** – In 2013, more than 386,000 family law cases were filed in the district and statutory county courts, a decrease of 1.2 percent from the previous year. Family law cases accounted for 52.9 percent of all civil cases filed in the district and county-level courts.

Divorce cases (involving cases with or without children) accounted for the largest share of all family law cases added during the year (34.5 percent), followed closely by child support cases filed by the state’s Title IV-D agency (the Texas Attorney General’s Office). Post-judgment matters accounted for approximately 10 percent of the total family law caseload.

**Clearance Rates** – In 2013, district courts disposed of or placed on inactive pending status 383,069 family law cases, a number slightly lower than the previous year. Due to dispositions outpacing filings, the clearance rate rose to 96.7 percent, compared to 95.5 percent the previous year.

**Manner of Disposition** – A total of 372,488 family law cases were disposed of during the fiscal year, an increase of 0.3 percent from 2012. The largest share of cases was disposed of by bench trial (31.0 percent), while the next largest share was settled by agreed judgment (30.0 percent). Overall, only 0.1 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 and post-judgment custody cases (0.3 percent each).

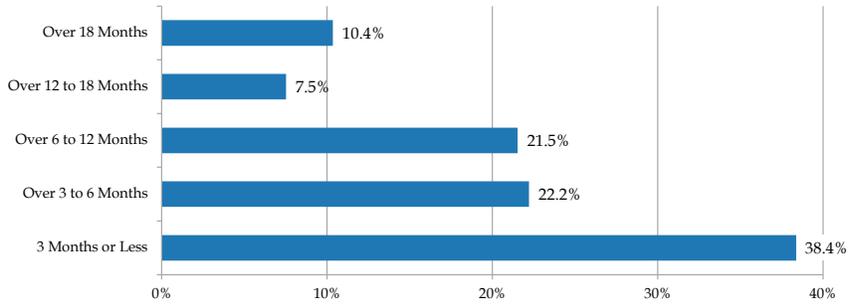


**Age of Cases Disposed** – In 2013, nearly 40 percent of family law cases were disposed of within three months, and 82.1 percent of family law cases were disposed of within 12 months. The percentage of cases disposed of within 12 months declined slightly each year since 2011.

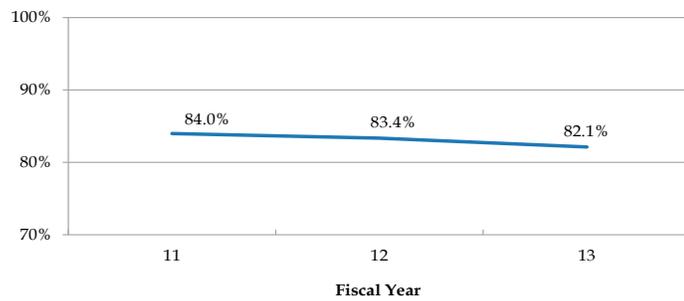
**Protective Orders Issued** – In 2013, district and statutory county courts issued 8,279 protective orders in family law cases. This represented a decline of 5.5 percent from the number reported in 2012.

**Self-Represented Litigants** – In 2013, district and statutory county courts reported 64,486 family law cases (or 16.7 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 slightly each year since 2011.

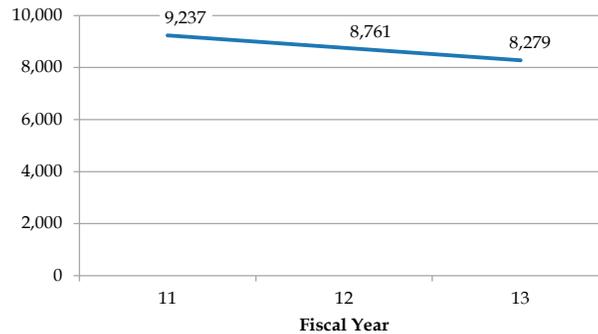
**Age of Family Cases Disposed in FY 2013**  
(372,513 Cases)



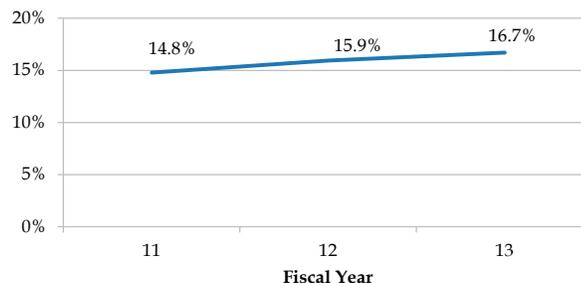
**Percentage of Family Cases Disposed of within 12 Months**



**Protective Orders Issued**



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



**District and County-level Courts  
Activity Summary from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

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:										
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	56,845	55,577	29,640	14,704	2,079	5,009	4,958	15,729	17,039	2,770
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	748	447	253	156	27	39	20	247	218	38
Docket Adjustments	30	1,874	1,296	(206)	(73)	(191)	67	(392)	1,588	(73)
<b>Cases Added:</b>										
New Cases Filed	60,747	68,855	25,877	10,945	2,407	8,666	8,792	30,215	37,637	3,010
Other Cases Reaching Docket:										
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	2,242	1,111	680	372	38	43	27	266	276	23
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,276	1,318	1,519	323	83	134	243	505	1,417	90
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	122,110	126,861	57,716	26,344	4,607	13,852	14,020	46,715	56,369	5,893
<b>Dispositions:</b>										
Change of Venue Transfers	175	125	209	142	16	93	15	51	107	13
Default Judgments	3,435	5,526	2,791	149	113	71	501	3,474	2,181	286
Agreed Judgments	19,477	21,259	7,722	544	212	994	661	8,695	15,376	708
Summary Judgments	17	19	23	7	3	3	4	1	0	2
Final Judgments:										
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	23,626	29,250	4,927	4,106	1,367	4,801	2,386	6,061	9,804	760
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	29	39	11	22	2	5	1	10	10	0
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	6	9	10	5	1	1	1	1	0	0
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	8,989	7,646	3,197	237	289	494	1,267	2,107	1,528	202
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	3,596	2,983	3,918	2,716	160	140	1,558	5,102	5,178	677
All Other Dispositions	3,421	3,115	2,369	1,613	242	1,683	2,486	2,193	2,530	303
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	62,771	69,971	25,177	9,541	2,405	8,285	8,880	27,695	36,714	2,951
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	2,326	1,254	675	382	50	54	43	292	316	31
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>										
<i>Active Cases</i>	56,937	57,696	32,875	16,293	2,084	5,347	5,116	18,362	20,887	2,862
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	619	449	502	119	33	27	28	195	254	37

## District and County-level Courts Activity Summary from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013

FAMILY CASES							
	All Other Family Law Cases	Post-Judgment Actions				Total Cases	
		Modification - Custody	Modification - Other	Enforcement	Title IV-D		
Cases on Docket:							
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	31,813	12,249	24,764	14,955	44,405	332,536	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	385	84	376	416	3,182	6,636	
Docket Adjustments	(2,109)	(880)	(1,531)	(806)	(4,855)	(6,261)	
<b>Cases Added:</b>							
New Cases Filed	24,221	6,796	15,441	8,844	48,151	360,604	
Other Cases Reaching Docket:							
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	483	107	881	521	3,089	10,159	
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	2,214	2,922	2,705	1,607	8,162	25,518	
<b>Total Cases on Docket:</b>	58,731	22,074	43,791	25,927	103,807	728,817	
<b>Dispositions:</b>							
Change of Venue Transfers	158	451	877	213	1,701	4,346	
Default Judgments	529	426	770	214	1,948	22,414	
Agreed Judgments	3,673	2,157	5,453	2,535	22,251	111,717	
Summary Judgments	20	14	10	12	17	152	
Final Judgments:							
<i>After Non-Jury Trial</i>	6,994	2,900	3,385	2,017	13,206	115,590	
<i>By Jury Verdict</i>	13	21	13	12	24	212	
<i>By Directed Verdict</i>	3	5	6	2	6	56	
<i>Dismissed for Want of Prosecution</i>	2,669	837	2,584	1,539	2,783	36,368	
<i>Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff</i>	2,173	539	1,339	1,345	6,408	37,832	
All Other Dispositions	11,185	882	2,526	2,100	7,153	43,801	
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	27,417	8,232	16,963	9,989	55,497	372,488	
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	573	112	929	450	3,094	10,581	
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	28,973	13,016	24,415	14,663	41,067	340,593	
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	296	91	379	368	2,460	5,857	
<b>Age of Cases Disposed:</b>							
	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	<b>Total Cases</b>	
Number of Cases	142,982	82,765	80,181	28,013	38,572	372,513	
<b>Additional Court Activity:</b>						<b>Total</b>	
						199	
						8	
						41,018	
						8,279	
						19,326	
						64,486	

# Juvenile Cases

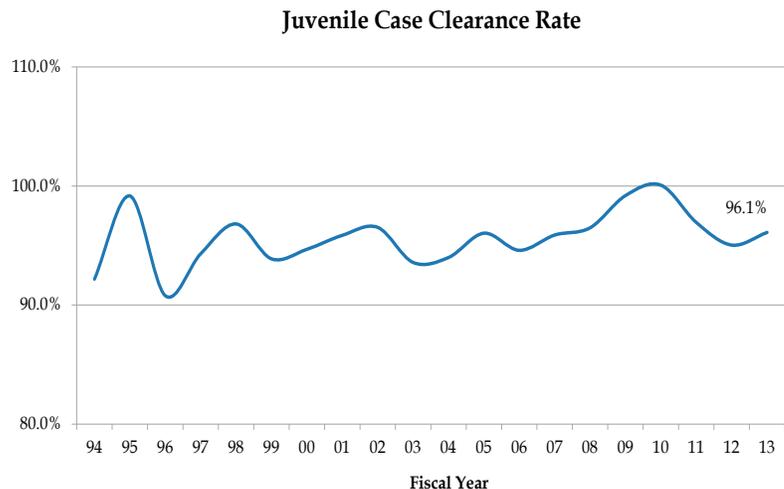
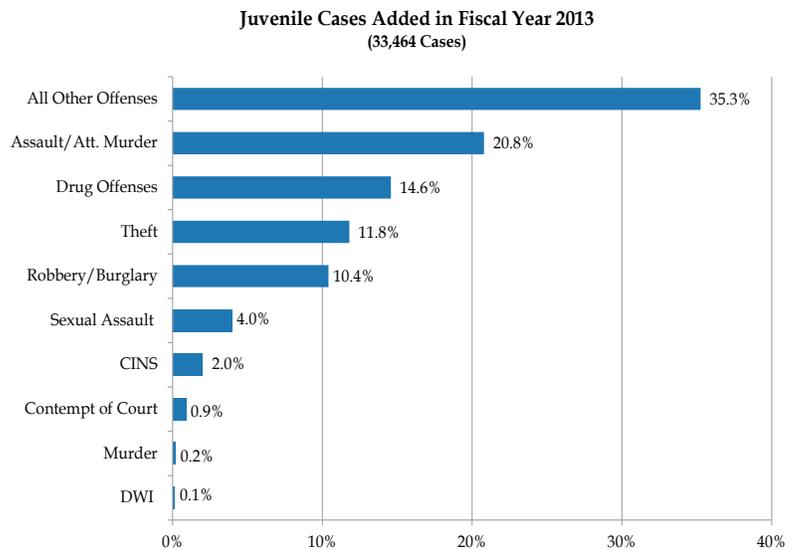
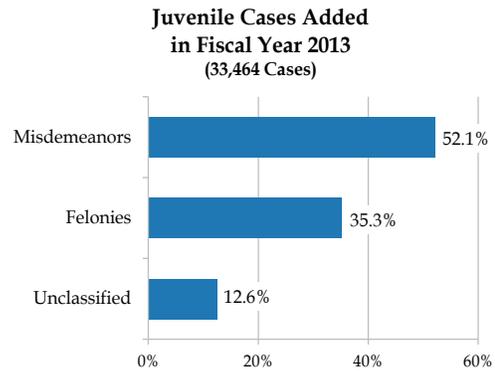
**Cases Added** – In 2013, the reported number of cases added<sup>1</sup> to the juvenile dockets of district and county-level courts was 33,464 cases—which was 7.6 percent lower than the number added during the previous year (36,232 cases). Approximately 77 percent of reported cases were docketed in the district courts, 20 percent in statutory county courts, and 3 percent in constitutional county courts.

The number of cases filed has declined significantly each year since the peak in 2007. Approximately 37 percent fewer cases were filed in 2013 than were filed in 2007.

Slightly more than half of the cases added involved misdemeanors, 35.3 percent involved felonies, and 12.6 percent were not classified by the reporting entities. Approximately 21 percent of offenses involved assault or attempted murder, 14.6 percent involved drug offenses, and 11.8 percent involved theft.

In 2013, 246 petitions to certify a juvenile for trial as an adult were filed, and a juvenile was transferred to adult criminal court in 204 cases during the year.

**Clearance Rates** – During 2013, the district and county-level courts adjudicated 32,159 cases, resulting in an overall clearance rate of 96.1 percent—an improvement from the 95.0 percent clearance rate the year before. The clearance rate was 97.2 percent for district courts, 93.0 percent for statutory county courts, and 88.1 percent for constitutional county courts.



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

**Adjudication and Manner of Disposition**

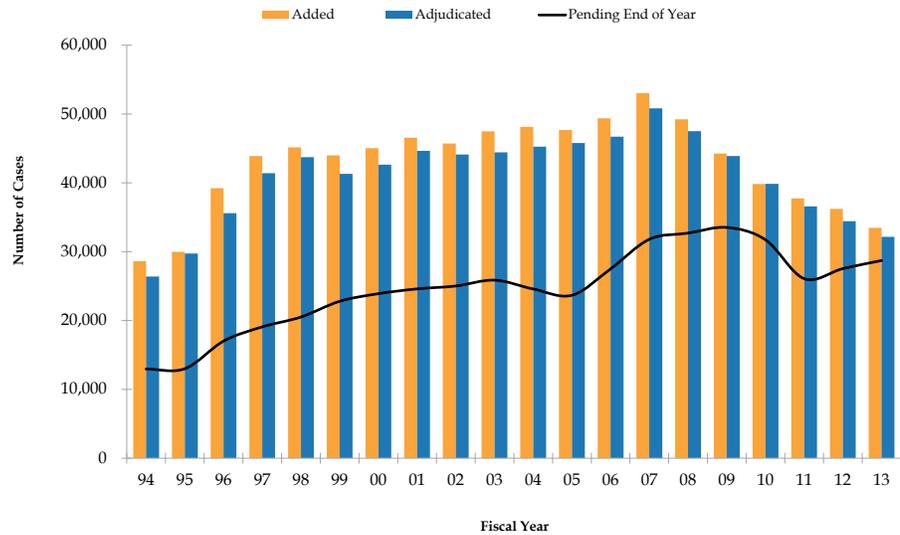
– Of the 32,159 cases adjudicated in 2013, 5,515 cases involved motions to modify disposition. Of the remaining 26,644 cases adjudicated during the year, findings of delinquent conduct or CINS were made in nearly 54 percent of cases overall, compared to the 0.7 percent of cases in which a finding of no delinquent conduct or CINS was made. Approximately 86 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 driving while intoxicated (87.5 percent), automobile theft (71.3 percent), contempt of court (68.7 percent), burglary (68.4 percent), and aggravated robbery or robbery (67.5 percent).

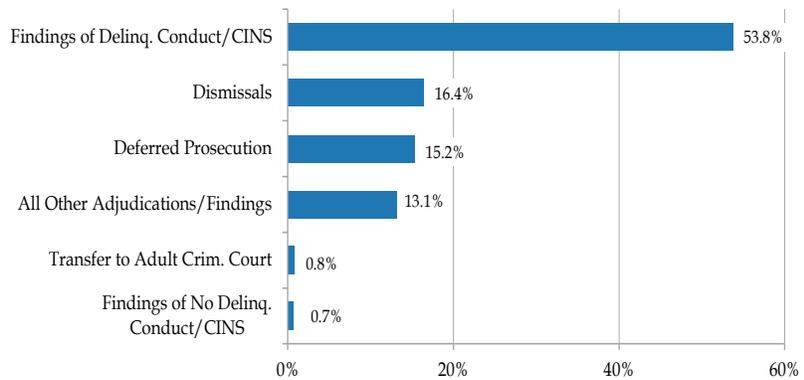
Bench trials accounted for 8.2 percent of adjudications, while jury trials accounted for only 0.2 percent. Cases involving burglary most frequently went to trial (11.5 percent).

Overall, findings of delinquent conduct or CINS were made in 92.6 percent of cases decided by a judge, compared to 61.5 percent of cases decided by a jury.

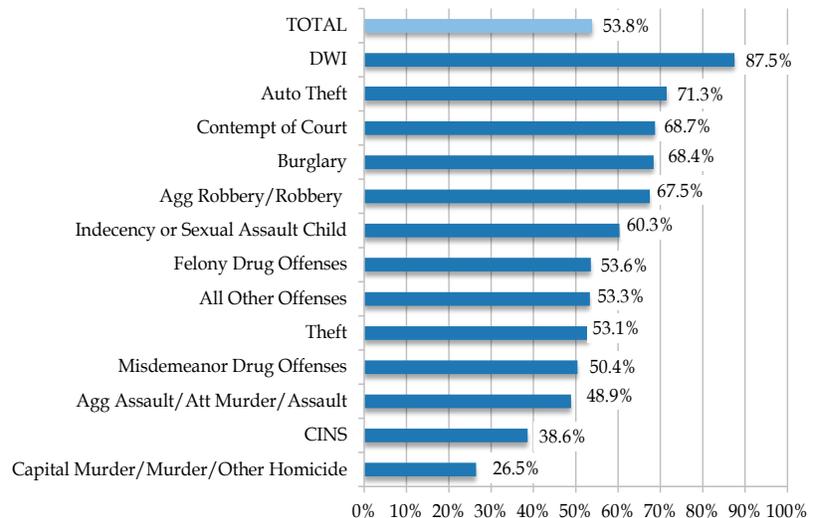
**Juvenile Cases Added, Disposed and Pending**



**Adjudication of Juvenile Cases in FY 2013 (26,644 Cases)<sup>2</sup>**



**Percentage of Cases in which Finding of Delinquent Conduct or CINS Made in FY 2013**

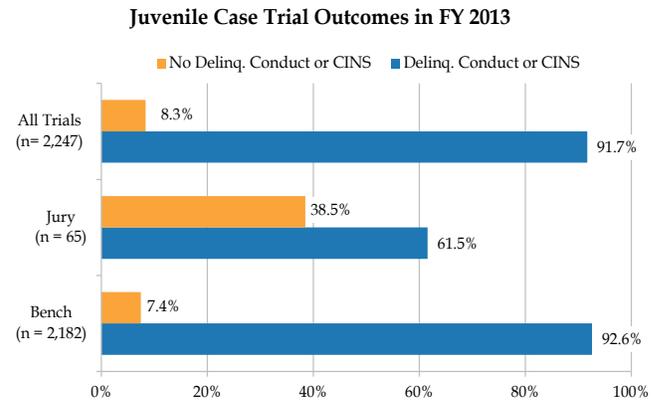


2. Excludes motions to modify disposition.

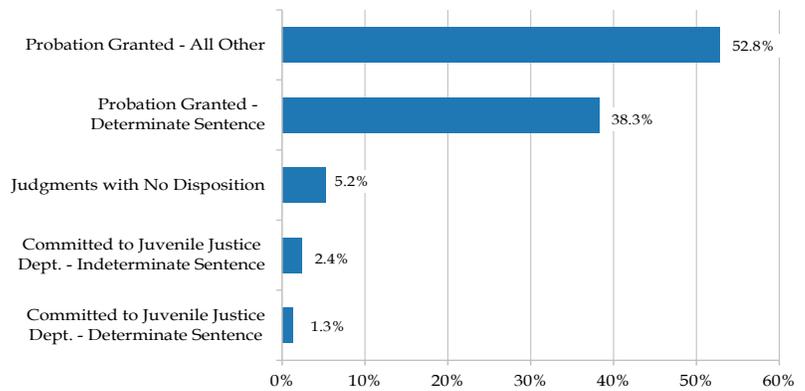
**Disposition of Cases in Which Finding of Delinquent Conduct or CINS was Made**

– 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 (52.8 percent) or probation for a determinate sentence (38.3 percent). For the past two years, the percentage of cases in which juveniles were committed to the Juvenile Justice Department (JJD) remained at the lowest level in at least two decades. In 2013, juveniles were committed to JJD in 496 cases (representing 2.5 percent of cases adjudicated); in nearly two-thirds (65.5 percent) of those cases, the juvenile received an indeterminate sentence, while the remainder received a determinate sentence.<sup>3</sup>

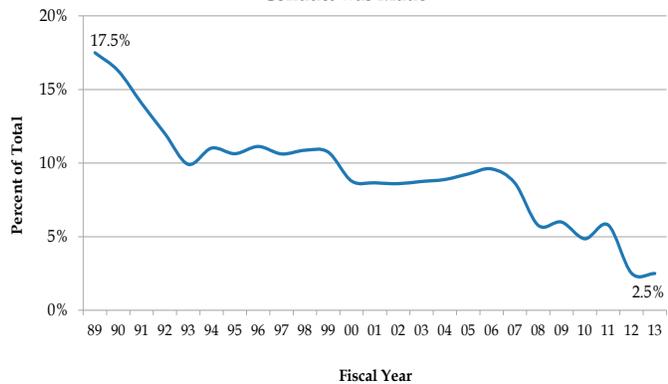
**Age of Cases Disposed** – Overall, in 2013, 68.8 percent of juvenile cases were adjudicated within 90 days. In district courts, 69.8 percent of cases were adjudicated within that timeframe, compared to 65.0 percent in statutory county courts and 66.6 percent in constitutional county courts.



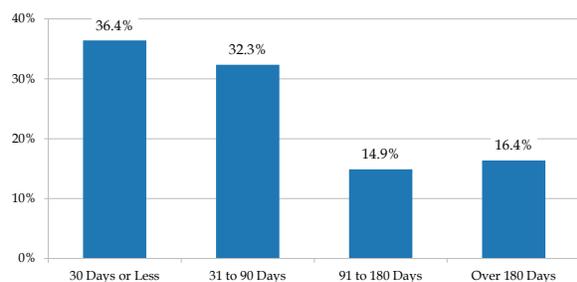
**Disposition of Cases in Which Finding of Delinquent Conduct/CINS was Made in FY 2013 (13,510 Cases)**



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



**Age of Juvenile Cases Disposed in FY 2013 (32,159 Cases)**



3. For an explanation of determinate and indeterminate sentencing, see [http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/about/how\\_class.aspx](http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/about/how_class.aspx).

**District and County-Level Courts**  
**Juvenile Case Activity Detail**  
**September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

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 Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>											
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	1,416	9	18	4	753	1,774	871	345	1,055	1,107	254
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	156	4	4	1	145	387	83	79	191	231	31
Docket Adjustments	(202)	(7)	(7)	0	(13)	80	(11)	(20)	(110)	(9)	(21)
<b>Cases Added:</b>											
New Petitions Filed	501	23	18	5	1,569	3,869	1,029	744	1,817	2,381	488
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	---	1	6	0	16	33	34	28	30	15	4
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
<i>Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed</i>	73	1	1	1	473	933	241	176	608	807	197
<i>Cases Reactivated</i>	21	3	4	0	189	456	110	146	200	305	76
<i>All Other Cases Added</i>	92	0	0	1	28	35	33	21	59	43	12
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>2,103</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,028</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>4,658</b>	<b>1,031</b>
<b>Adjudications:</b>											
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:											
<i>Plea of True</i>	173	2	1	4	809	1,599	551	429	1,022	1,244	302
<i>By the Court</i>	40	2	0	0	103	262	77	39	169	186	38
<i>By the Jury</i>	1	0	0	0	4	6	12	3	2	1	1
Total Findings of DC/CINS	214	4	1	4	916	1,867	640	471	1,193	1,431	341
Deferred Prosecution	174	0	0	0	227	862	44	36	146	423	31
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	---	3	11	2	13	5	36	59	12	2	1
Findings of No DC or No CINS:											
<i>By the Court</i>	4	0	1	0	23	19	12	3	27	8	5
<i>By the Jury</i>	0	0	0	0	1	3	5	0	2	0	1
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	4	0	1	0	24	22	17	3	29	8	6
Dismissals	114	3	3	1	264	758	206	54	263	374	47
Motions to Modify Disposition:											
<i>Denied</i>	9	0	0	0	36	75	15	21	52	55	24
<i>Granted</i>	40	0	1	0	289	471	164	146	401	376	144
All Other Adjudications/Findings	48	0	1	0	160	578	118	75	101	456	52
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>4,638</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>646</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>											
<i>Active Cases</i>	1,339	14	19	4	892	2,102	957	430	1,276	1,229	300
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	103	7	3	1	149	376	85	83	179	224	21
<b>Dispositions:</b>											
<b>Cases with Findings of DC/CINS</b>											
Probation Granted											
<i>Determinate Sentence Probation</i>	---	1	0	1	289	669	200	180	258	590	146
<i>All Other Probation</i>	155	1	1	1	523	1,033	352	187	822	698	146
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.											
<i>Determinate Sentence</i>	---	2	0	2	20	10	19	34	10	5	1
<i>Indeterminate Sentence</i>	---	0	0	0	55	18	30	25	55	17	17
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	9	2	1	0	42	108	11	38	46	80	13
<b>Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.</b>											
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	---	0	0	0	26	13	26	15	40	16	11
All Other Dispositions	44	0	1	0	253	414	133	121	326	357	128

**District and County-Level Courts**  
**Juvenile Case Activity Detail**  
**September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

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
<b>Cases on Docket:</b>								
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>								
Active Cases	527	1,347	22	171	15,373	25,046	4,675	6,183
Inactive Cases	39	210	7	27	799	2,394	661	991
Docket Adjustments	(60)	159	5	3	149	(64)	30	163
<b>Cases Added:</b>								
New Petitions Filed	846	2,908	33	205	7,893	24,329	8,470	12,574
Petitions for Transfer to Adult Crim. Court	3	10	0	1	65	246	111	48
Other Cases Reaching Docket:								
Motions to Modify/Enforce/Proceed Filed	262	790	2	91	3,631	8,287	3,070	4,665
Cases Reactivated	71	300	5	21	780	2,687	1,099	1,496
All Other Cases Added	15	42	0	10	211	602	153	160
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>5,397</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>27,953</b>	<b>61,197</b>	<b>17,578</b>	<b>25,126</b>
<b>Adjudications:</b>								
Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:								
Plea of True	391	1,403	27	122	4,185	12,264	4,728	6,139
By the Court	66	241	1	1	795	2,020	733	982
By the Jury	1	0	0	0	9	40	25	8
Total Findings of DC/CINS	458	1,644	28	123	4,989	14,324	5,486	7,129
Deferred Prosecution	157	649	0	12	1,302	4,063	1,162	2,637
Transferred to Adult Criminal Court	10	0	0	0	50	204	152	7
Findings of No DC or No CINS:								
By the Court	6	2	0	0	52	162	94	45
By the Jury	0	0	1	0	12	25	11	10
Total Findings of No DC/No CINS	6	2	1	0	64	187	105	55
Dismissals	121	501	1	39	1,624	4,373	1,153	2,166
Motions to Modify Disposition:								
Denied	15	81	3	4	426	816	234	432
Granted	133	415	1	38	2,080	4,699	2,005	2,430
All Other Adjudications/Findings	103	465	2	5	1,329	3,493	981	2,306
<b>Total Cases Adjudicated</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>11,864</b>	<b>32,159</b>	<b>11,278</b>	<b>17,162</b>
<b>Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,221</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>								
Active Cases	567	1,515	33	246	15,511	26,434	5,304	6,697
Inactive Cases	62	193	0	38	756	2,280	642	872
<b>Dispositions:</b>								
<b>Cases with Findings of DC/CINS</b>								
Probation Granted								
Determinate Sentence Probation	152	716	11	15	1,940	5,168	1,953	2,913
All Other Probation	274	816	16	113	2,001	7,139	2,924	3,540
Committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.								
Determinate Sentence	1	1	0	1	65	171	133	16
Indeterminate Sentence	8	10	0	2	88	325	233	40
Final Judgment Without Any Disposition	15	85	2	4	251	707	252	435
<b>Cases with Granted Motion to Modify Disp.</b>								
Probation Revoked, Child sent to TJJD	10	5	0	2	93	257	198	32
All Other Dispositions	109	403	2	41	1,693	4,025	1,676	2,147

**District and County-Level Courts  
Juvenile Case Activity Detail  
September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

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	11,708	10,403	4,785	5,263	32,159	Grand Jury Approvals	---	449	449
						Release or Transfer Hearings	---	210	210
						Detention Hearings	2,294	29,088	31,382
						Cases Set for Review	742	7,689	8,431
						Competency Hearings	140	141	281
						Motions to Suppress Granted/Denied	0	106	106
						Applications for Sealing Records	37	1,376	1,413
						Motions for Sex Offender Un- or Deregistration	2	110	112
						Cases in Which Attorney Appointed as Counsel	326	23,991	24,317
						Cases with Retained Counsel	121	4,020	4,141

## *Probate and Guardianship Cases*

In 2013, 95,703 probate and guardianship cases were added to the dockets of the county-level courts, an increase of 3.2 percent from the number added during the previous year.

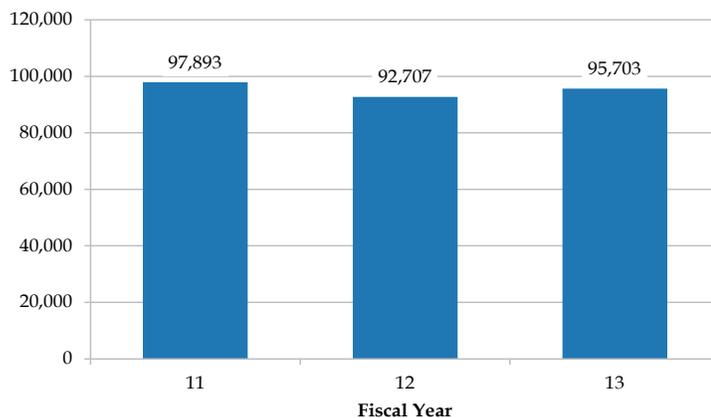
Cases involving the handling or transfer of property by reason of the death of an individual (decedents' estate cases) accounted for 62.8 percent of the 95,703 probate or guardianship cases filed in the county-level courts. Guardianships of an adult accounted for 19.0 percent of cases, guardianships of a minor comprised 1.6 percent, and all other cases accounted for the remaining 16.6 percent.

Of the 95,703 cases, 65.5 percent were new cases or contests filed, 0.8 percent were ancillary cases,<sup>1</sup> and 33.7 percent were other applications, petitions, or motions filed within already existing cases or after original judgment to obtain compliance with statutory requirements.

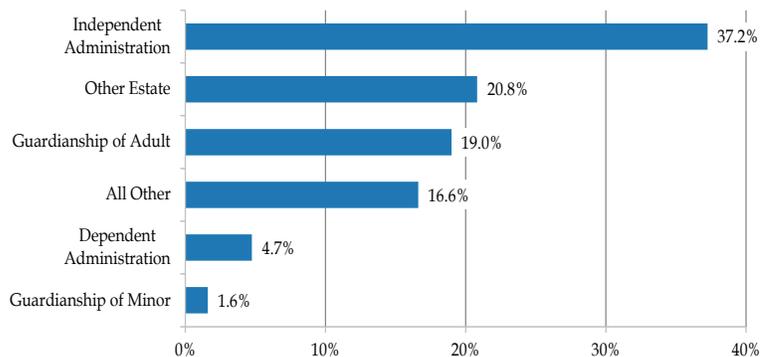
Courts reported conducting more than 64,000 probate and guardianship hearings during the year.

**Decedents' Estates** – Independent administrations – the administration of an estate without judicial supervision – accounted

**Probate and Guardianship Cases Added**



**Probate and Guardianship Cases Added  
in Fiscal Year 2013  
(95,703 Cases)**



1. 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.).

for approximately 59 percent of decedents' estate cases filed during 2013. Nearly 8 percent of cases involved dependent administrations – cases in which nearly every action taken in the case must be reviewed and approved by the court.

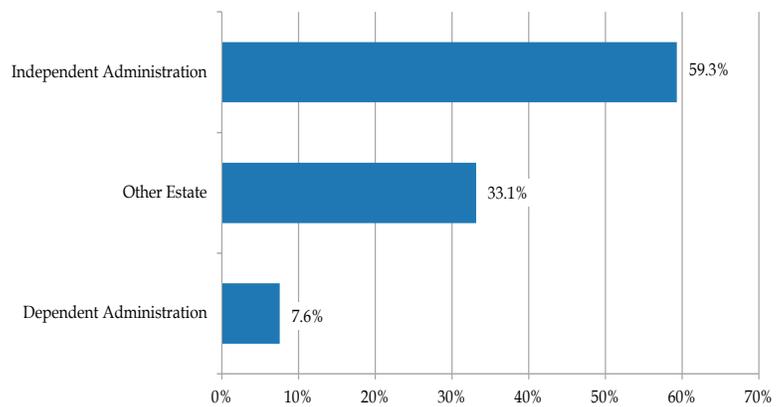
In 2013, more than 24,400 inventories were filed in estate cases, and more than 2,000 annual or final accounts were filed in dependent administration cases.

**Guardianship Cases** – The majority (92.3 percent) of guardianship cases filed in 2013 were for guardianship of an adult.

The majority (82.9 percent) of applications for a guardianship were granted, while 17.1 percent were dismissed or denied. Another 2,402 guardianships were reported closed during the year. As of August 31, 2013, there were 46,587 guardianships reported active.<sup>2</sup>

In 2013, more than 1,400 inventories, 23,900 guardianship of person reports, and 7,300 annual or final accounts were filed in guardianship cases.

**Decedents' Estates Cases Filed**  
(60,111 Cases)



### County-level Courts Activity Summary from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013

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	31,523	2,255	18,091	811	4,759	5,205	62,644
Other Cases Added:							
<i>Ancillary Cases</i>	334	124	161	8	55	98	780
<i>All Other Matters</i>	3,787	2,163	1,673	707	13,351	10,598	32,279
Inventories Filed	22,615	1,866	---	152	1,292	---	25,925
Guardianship of Person Reports Filed	---	---	---	1,049	22,925	---	23,974
Annual or Final Accounts Filed	---	2,056	---	1,384	5,999	---	9,439
<b>Additional Information:</b>							
	<b>Guardianships:</b>	<b>Total</b>					<b>Total</b>
Dismissed or Denied		918		Sec. 683 Investigations			3,618
Granted		4,441		Ch. 48 Removals			127
Closed		2,402		Hearings Held			64,074
Active		46,587		Cases in Which Plaintiff/Petitioner Represented Self			3,032

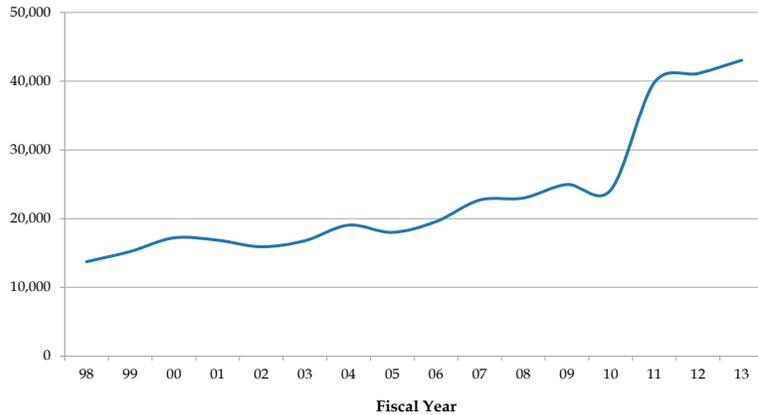
<sup>2</sup> The number of guardianships reported active is inflated due to cases not being closed though the ward is deceased, is no longer a minor and under a guardianship, etc.

# Applications for Involuntary Mental Health Services

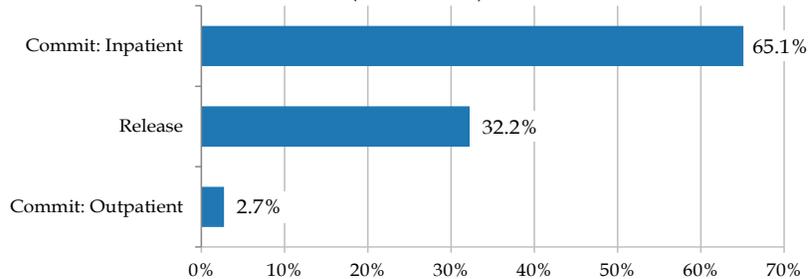
The number of new applications for involuntary temporary mental health services filed in 2013 increased 4.7 percent from the previous year to 43,054 cases. Of the 13,988 cases that reached a final hearing, proposed patients were released in 32.2 percent of cases, committed to inpatient treatment in 65.1 percent of cases, and committed to outpatient treatment in 2.7 percent of cases.

In 2013, more than 4,600 applications were filed for an order authorizing, reauthorizing or modifying the administration of psychoactive medication. Of the 3,278 applications disposed at a hearing, 96.8 percent of applications were granted and 3.2 percent were denied.

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



**Applications for Involuntary Temporary Mental  
Health Services  
Disposition at Final Hearing in Fiscal Year 2013  
(13,988 Cases)**



## County-level Courts Activity Summary from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013

MENTAL HEALTH CASES						
	Temporary Mental Health Services	Extended Mental Health Services	Modification		Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications	
			Inpatient to Outpatient	Outpatient to Inpatient		
<b>Intake</b>						
New Applications Filed	43,054	424	105	142	New Applications Filed 4,630	
Orders for Protective Custody Signed	39,172	---	---	---	Dismissal Prior to Hearing 474	
<b>Hearings</b>						
Probable Cause Hearings Held	28,234	---	---	---	Hearings Held 3,379	
Release/Dismissal Prior to Final Hearing	24,004	26	0	7	Disposition at Hearing	
Final Commitment Hearings Held	23,657	318	89	33	<i>Denied</i> 105	
<b>Other Information</b>						
Disposition at Final Hearing					<i>Granted</i> 3,173	
<i>Denied (Release)</i>	4,505	47	0	1		
<i>Granted (Commit)</i>						
<i>Inpatient</i>	9,104	218	10	---		
<i>Outpatient</i>	379	33	---	46		

# Justice Courts

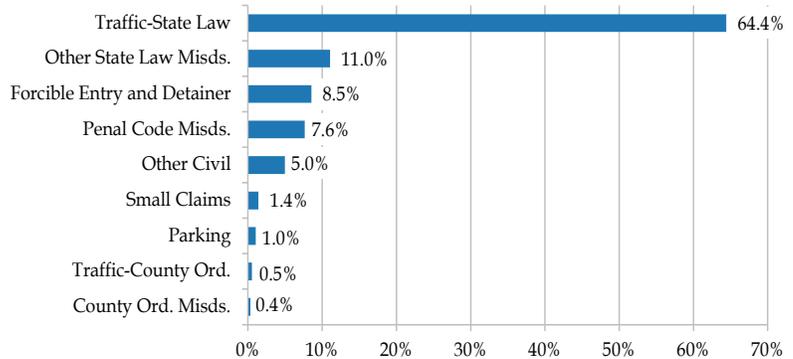
**Cases Filed** – More than 2.7 million new cases were filed in the state’s justice courts in 2013, a decrease of 1.1 percent from the number of new cases filed the previous year and a 14.9 percent decline from the number of cases reported filed in 2011. The significant decline since 2011 can be attributed in part to a reduction in the number of reports submitted due to reporting changes implemented in 2012.

Criminal cases accounted for approximately 85 percent of all new cases filed. However, criminal cases generally declined over the last decade as a percentage of the justice courts’ caseload. In 2013, cases involving violations of state traffic laws not related to parking accounted for 64.4 percent of total cases added during the year. The next largest share of cases involved non-traffic misdemeanors (19.1 percent), a majority of which involved violations of statutes other than the Penal Code.

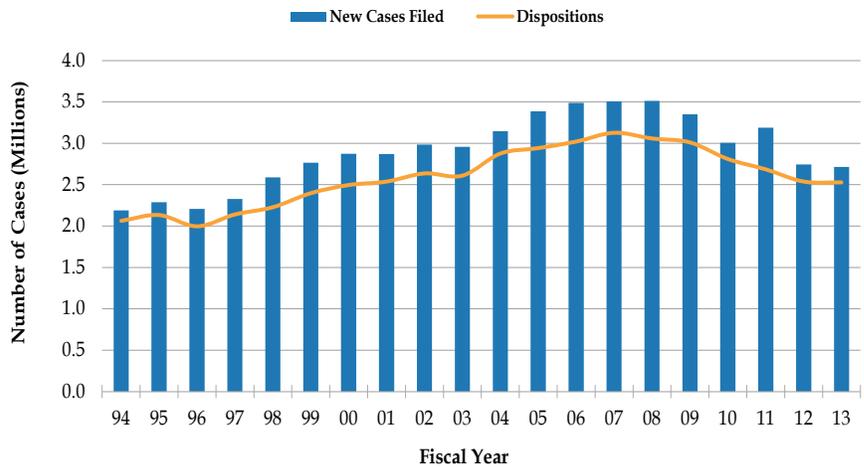
In 2013, the number of forcible entry and detainer (eviction) cases filed increased by 1.4 percent from the previous year and accounted for 8.5 percent of all cases filed in the justice courts. “Other civil suits” decreased by 12.0 percent and accounted for 5.0 percent of all cases filed, and small claims suits declined by 17.4 percent and accounted for only 1.4 percent of total filings.

**Clearance Rates** – Justice courts disposed of 2,527,878 cases in 2013, a decrease of 0.4 percent from the number disposed of in 2012, and placed 476,337 pending cases on inactive status. Including cases placed on inactive status, the overall clearance rate was 99.2 percent, compared to 100.1 percent in 2012. The decline was due to a very slight decrease in the number of cases disposed and placed on inactive status. The criminal clearance rate was 99.0 percent, and the civil clearance rate was 100.4 percent.

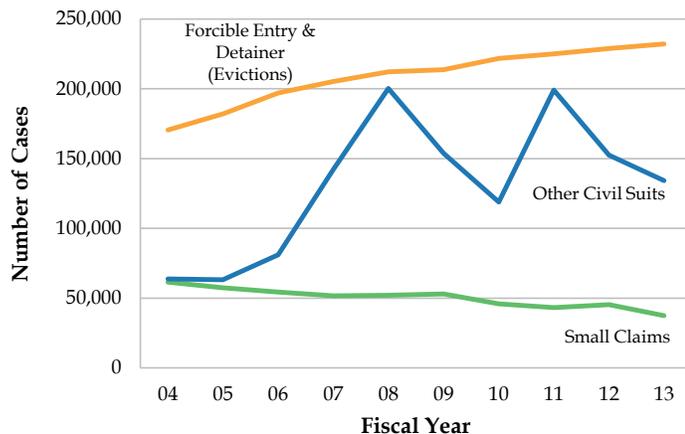
**Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(2,727,739 Cases)



**Justice Court Cases**



**Number of New Civil Cases Filed**



**Manner of Disposition** – In 2013, justice courts disposed of more than 1.6 million traffic and parking cases, 42.7 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 *nolo contendere* plea). Almost 15 percent of cases were dismissed by a prosecutor, 9.4 percent were dismissed due to completion of a driver’s safety course, 7.3 percent were dismissed after completion of deferred disposition, and 9.2 percent were dismissed due to completion of another court-ordered program or satisfaction of other requirements. Approximately 12 percent were disposed of by bench trial or other appearance before a judge, and 0.03 percent of cases were disposed of by jury trial.

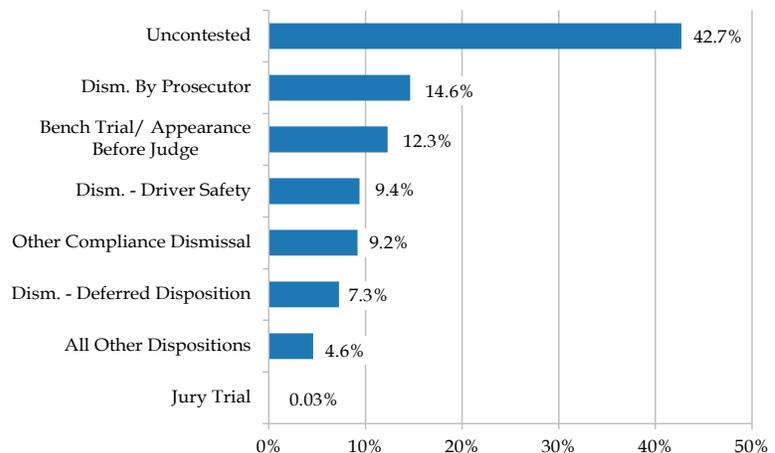
Justice courts disposed of more than 482,000 non-traffic misdemeanor cases (i.e., Penal Code, other state law, and county ordinance cases). Nearly 37 percent of these cases were uncontested and disposed of prior to a court appearance or trial, while another 24.7 percent were dismissed by a prosecutor.

Overall, guilty findings were made in 66.0 percent of the 36,639 criminal cases that went to bench trial. In contrast, guilty verdicts accounted for 71.5 percent of the 548 cases that went to jury trial.

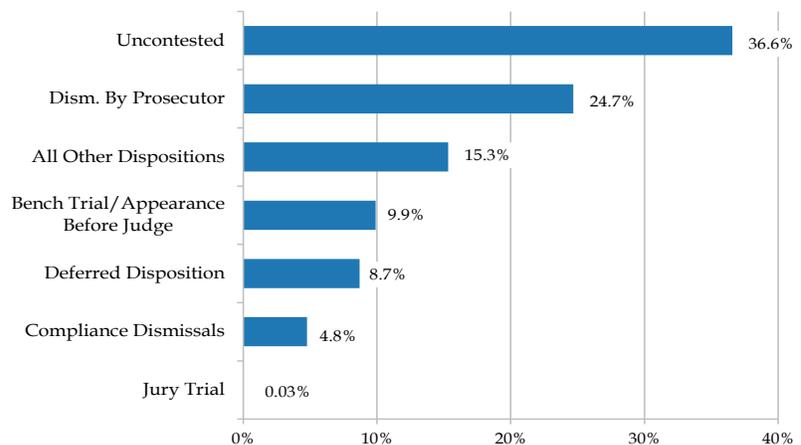
In 2013, justice courts disposed of more than 402,000 civil cases. Approximately 29 percent were disposed of by default judgment, 25.0 percent were disposed of by bench trial or hearing by a judge, and 23.5 percent were non-suited or dismissed by the plaintiff. Only 0.2 percent of cases were resolved by jury trial.

**Juvenile Activity** – In 2013, cases involving failure to attend school accounted for the largest share (54.3 percent) of juvenile cases reported filed in the justice courts; however, the number of cases reported (68,929 cases) was approximately 28 percent lower than the number reported for 2011, likely due to the reporting changes implemented in 2012. “All other non-traffic, fine-only” cases accounted for the next largest share (15.4 percent of cases),

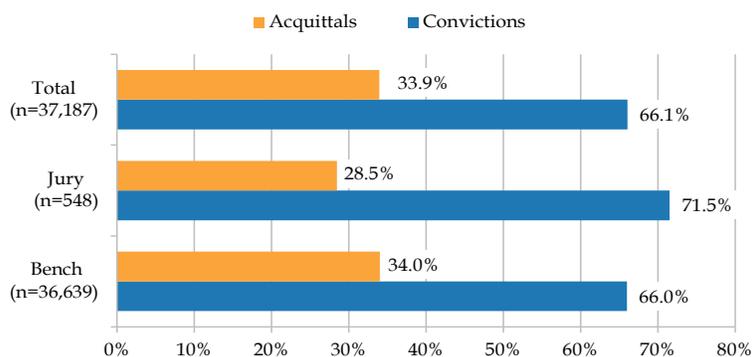
**Disposition of Traffic Cases  
(1,642,782 Cases)**



**Disposition of Non-Traffic Cases  
(482,811 Cases)**



**Criminal Case Trial Outcomes in Fiscal Year 2013  
(37,187 Cases)**



followed by Transportation Code (traffic) cases (13.2 percent).

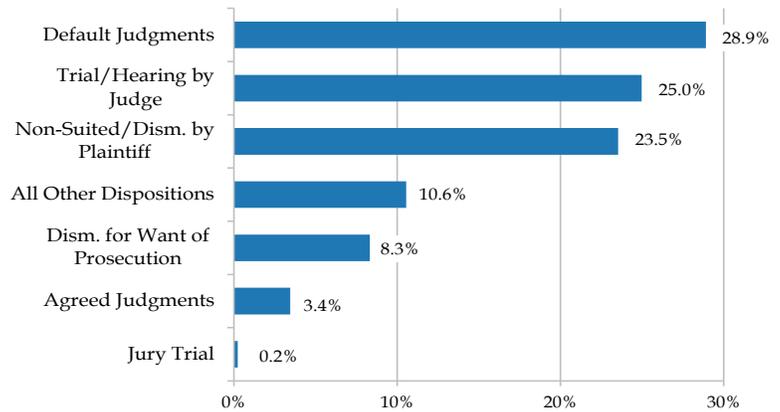
**Magistrate Activity** – In 2013, justice courts issued 484,073 arrest warrants, 320,589 magistrate warnings to adults, and 6,826 magistrate orders for emergency protection. Justices of the peace also held 10,151 emergency mental health hearings.

**Court Collections** – In 2013, justice courts collected approximately \$326 million in court costs, fees and fines, a decrease of 0.9 percent from the previous year. The amount collected in 2013 was 160.6 percent higher than that collected in 1994, or 63.9 percent higher when adjusted for inflation.<sup>1</sup>

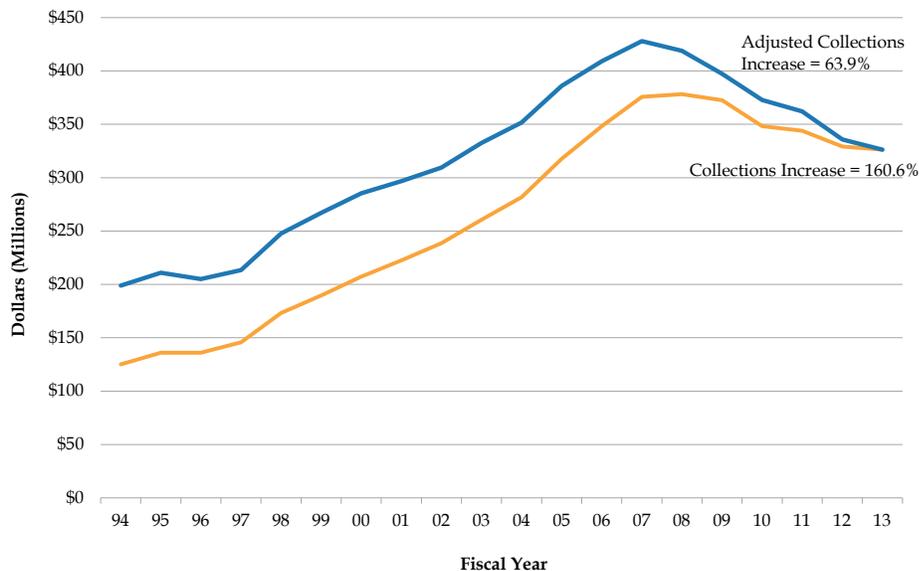
The amount reported collected in 2012 was approximately 4 percent lower, and the amount reported collected in 2013 was approximately 5 percent lower than the amount reported collected in 2011. This was due in part to less complete reporting by the courts in 2012 and 2013.

Excluding cases dismissed prior to or at trial, the amount collected per criminal disposition averaged \$185.

**Disposition of Civil Cases  
(402,285 Cases)**



**Court Costs, Fees and Fines Collected by Justice Courts**



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

**Justice Courts Activity Detail**  
**September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**95.1 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**9,323 Reports Received Out of a Possible 9,807**

CRIMINAL CASES							
	Traffic Misdemeanors			Non-Traffic Misdemeanors			
	Non-Parking	Parking	County Ordinance	Penal Code	Other State Law	County Ordinance	Total
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	2,138,217	48,258	14,983	466,448	690,485	15,897	3,374,288
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	862,408	9,212	11,306	267,876	210,901	5,199	1,366,902
Docket Adjustments	119,661	6,311	14,506	1,507	37,922	567	180,474
<b>Cases Added:</b>							
New Cases Filed	1,752,243	27,835	14,803	203,954	300,440	11,254	2,310,529
Cases Reactivated	199,683	1,936	1,980	58,035	38,537	848	301,019
All Other Cases Added	5,295	597	29	4,219	924	26	11,090
Total Cases On Docket	4,215,099	84,937	46,301	734,163	1,068,308	28,592	6,177,400
<b>Dispositions:</b>							
Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial:							
Uncontested Dispositions	679,775	11,556	9,986	72,768	99,954	3,902	877,941
Dismissed by Prosecution	93,796	2,710	1,060	36,426	38,087	1,785	173,864
Total Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial	773,571	14,266	11,046	109,194	138,041	5,687	1,051,805
Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial:							
Convictions:							
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	171,915	2,797	394	14,105	22,822	976	213,009
<i>By the Court</i>	14,889	618	21	3,466	5,087	94	24,175
<i>By the Jury</i>	300	11	2	32	44	3	392
Acquittals:							
<i>By the Court</i>	6,156	5,053	15	316	861	63	12,464
<i>By the Jury</i>	107	1	2	24	21	1	156
Dismissed by Prosecution	140,381	2,002	121	13,441	28,594	848	185,387
Total Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial	333,748	10,482	555	31,384	57,429	1,985	435,583
Compliance Dismissals:							
After Driver Safety Course	153,950	---	---	---	---	---	153,950
After Deferred Disposition	117,438	1,314	617	12,099	29,404	555	161,427
After Teen Court	592	0	0	164	447	13	1,216
After Tobacco Awareness Course	---	---	---	---	243	---	243
After Treatment for Chemical Dependency	---	---	---	39	88	---	127
After Proof of Financial Responsibility	60,371	---	---	---	---	---	60,371
All Other Transportation Code Dismissals	87,748	1,667	171	5,166	16,623	253	111,628
Total Compliance Dismissals	420,099	2,981	788	17,468	46,805	821	488,962
All Other Dispositions	72,430	2,049	767	41,243	31,714	1,040	149,243
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>1,599,848</b>	<b>29,778</b>	<b>13,156</b>	<b>199,289</b>	<b>273,989</b>	<b>9,533</b>	<b>2,125,593</b>
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>315,264</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>82,533</b>	<b>64,229</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>470,309</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	2,261,149	51,972	22,191	462,905	703,578	18,797	3,520,592
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	918,689	10,219	18,952	270,430	239,621	4,219	1,462,130
<b>Show Cause Hearings Held</b>	<b>62,403</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8,580</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>96,472</b>
<b>Cases Appealed:</b>							
After Trial	1,853	3	2	73	269	0	2,200
Without Trial	22,068	66	74	807	659	6	23,680

Note: See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Justice Courts Activity Detail**  
**September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**95.1 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**9,323 Reports Received Out of a Possible 9,807**

CIVIL CASES				
	Small Claims Suits	Forcible Entry and Detainer (Evictions)	Other Civil Suits	Total
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>				
<i>Active Cases</i>	163,757	102,011	228,525	494,293
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	10,407	10,155	9,075	29,637
Docket Adjustments	(2,251)	(3,753)	5,574	(430)
<b>Cases Added:</b>				
New Cases Filed	37,435	232,167	134,213	403,815
Cases Reactivated	159	169	360	688
All Other Cases Added	552	591	1,162	2,305
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>200,464</b>	<b>332,860</b>	<b>370,644</b>	<b>903,968</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>				
Default Judgments	7,895	72,703	35,691	116,289
Agreed Judgments	1,144	2,332	10,402	13,878
Trial/Hearing by Judge/Hearing Officer	10,656	68,369	21,455	100,480
Trial by Jury	408	282	290	980
Cases Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	6,277	16,869	10,359	33,505
Cases Non-Suited or Dismissed by Plaintiff	8,411	48,661	37,607	94,679
All Other Dispositions	6,268	17,608	18,598	42,474
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>41,059</b>	<b>226,824</b>	<b>134,402</b>	<b>402,285</b>
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>6,028</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>				
<i>Active Cases</i>	157,932	103,367	231,862	493,161
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	10,865	11,614	10,406	32,885
<b>Cases Appealed:</b>				
After Trial	465	4,102	737	5,304
Without Trial	107	364	204	675
JUVENILE/MINOR ACTIVITY				
				Total
Transportation Code Cases Filed .....				16,764
Non-Driving Alcoholic Beverage Code Cases Filed .....				10,015
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol Cases Filed .....				1,184
Drug Paraphernalia Cases Filed .....				2,437
Tobacco Cases Filed .....				1,869
Failure to Attend School Cases Filed .....				68,929
Education Code (Except Failure to Attend) Cases Filed .....				5,967
Violation of Local Daytime Curfew Ordinance Cases Filed .....				239
All Other Non-Traffic Fine-Only Cases Filed .....				19,557
Transfer to Juvenile Court:				
<i>Mandatory Transfer</i> .....				783
<i>Discretionary Transfer</i> .....				1,617
Accused of Contempt and Referred to Juvenile Court (Delinquent Conduct).....				464
Held in Contempt by Criminal Court (Fined or Denied Driving Privileges).....				4,808
Juvenile Statement Magistrate Warning:				
<i>Warnings Administered</i> .....				2,326
<i>Statements Certified</i> .....				2,733
Detention Hearings Held .....				732
Orders for Non-Secure Custody Issued .....				53
Parent Contributing to Nonattendance Cases Filed .....				65,638

Note: See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Justice Courts Activity Detail**  
**September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**  
**95.1 Percent Reporting Rate**  
**9,323 Reports Received Out of a Possible 9,807**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY		
	Number Given	Number Requests for Counsel
Magistrate Warnings:		
<i>Class C Misdemeanors</i> .....	70,179	---
<i>Class A and B Misdemeanors</i> .....	144,298	36,193
<i>Felonies</i> .....	106,112	31,167
		<b>Total</b>
Arrest Warrants Issued:		
<i>Class C Misdemeanors</i> .....		424,794
<i>Class A and B Misdemeanors</i> .....		28,546
<i>Felonies</i> .....		30,733
Capiases Pro Fine Issued.....		75,786
Search Warrants Issued.....		1,700
Warrants for Fire, Health and Code Inspections Filed.....		60
Examining Trials Conducted.....		996
Emergency Mental Health Hearings Held.....		10,151
Magistrate's Orders for Emergency Protection Issued.....		6,826
Magistrate's Orders for Ignition Interlock Device Issued.....		4,312
All Other Magistrate's Orders Issued Requiring Conditions for Release on Bond.....		17,526
Driver's License Denial, Revocation or Suspension Hearings Held.....		24,237
Handgun License Denial, Revocation or Suspension Hearings Held.....		145
Disposition of Stolen Property Hearings Held.....		1,923
Peace Bond Hearings Held.....		463
Inquests Conducted.....		17,294
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Community Service:		
<i>Partial Satisfaction</i> .....		7,820
<i>Full Satisfaction</i> .....		18,789
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Jail Credit.....		141,276
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Waived for Indigency.....		7,545
Amount of Fines and Court Costs Waived for Indigency.....		\$1,683,294
Fines, Court Costs and Other Amounts Collected:		
<i>Kept by County</i> .....		\$196,421,166
<i>Remitted to State</i> .....		\$105,875,625
<i>Total</i> .....		\$326,215,549

Note: See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

# Municipal Courts

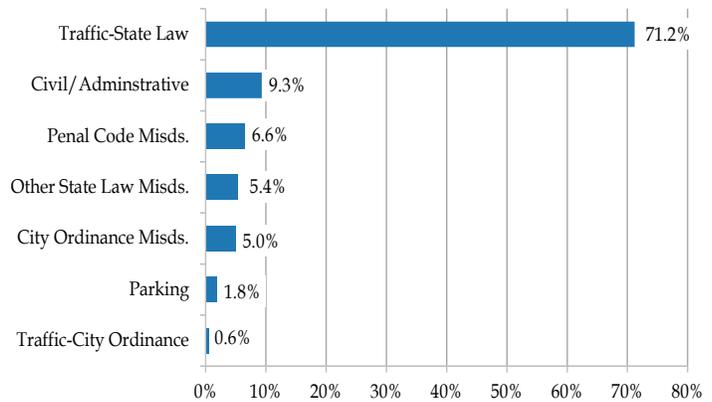
**Cases Filed** – Approximately 6.1 million new cases were reported filed in the state’s municipal courts in 2013, a decrease of 5.8 percent (or 374,378 cases) from the nearly 6.5 million new cases filed the previous year. The decrease can be attributed in part to incomplete reporting by San Antonio, which only submitted four reports in 2013; the estimated number of new cases missing from those reports is 150,000.

Cases involving violations of state traffic laws not related to parking accounted for 71.2 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.

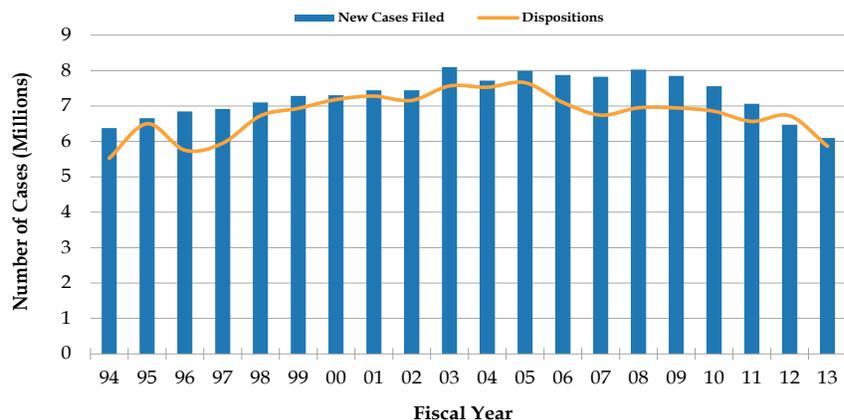
**Clearance Rates** – Municipal courts disposed of more than 5.3 million criminal cases in 2013 and an additional 2.2 million cases were placed on inactive pending status. Because the number of dispositions and inactive cases were almost equal to the number of cases added, the statewide clearance rate for municipal court criminal cases was approximately 100 percent. The courts disposed of 505,561 civil/administrative cases and placed 35,622 on inactive status. The civil/administrative case clearance rate was 92.8 percent.

**Manner of Disposition** – In 2013, municipal courts disposed of more than 4.3 million traffic and parking cases. The largest share of these cases, 27.9 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 *nolo contendere* plea). Nearly 15 percent were disposed of after a bench trial or other appearance before a judge, 11.1 percent after completion of deferred disposition, 8.8 percent after completion of a driver’s safety course, 12.8 percent after completion of another court-ordered program or satisfaction of other requirements, and only 0.1 percent by a jury trial.

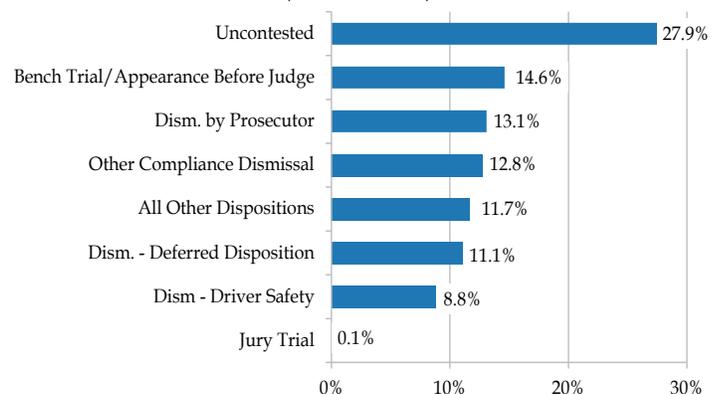
**Cases Added in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(6,135,350 Cases)



**Municipal Court Cases**



**Disposition of Traffic and Parking Cases in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(4,382,403 Cases)



Municipal courts disposed of 977,578 non-traffic cases (i.e., Penal Code, other state law, and city ordinance cases). Approximately 28 percent of these cases were uncontested and disposed of prior to a court appearance or trial. While the jury trial rate for these cases (0.1 percent) was the same as the rate for traffic and parking cases, defendants in non-traffic cases were more likely to have a bench trial or other appearance before the judge (18.8 percent) to dispose of the case.

Overall, the defendant was found guilty in 87.4 percent of the 216,528 cases that went to bench trial. In contrast, guilty verdicts accounted for 71.1 percent of the 3,833 cases that went to jury trial.

Municipal courts also disposed of 505,561 civil/administrative cases. The largest share of these cases, 70.5 percent, were disposed of by payment of a civil fine or penalty without appearing for court or an administrative hearing. Approximately 15 percent were default judgments, 8.7 percent were disposed of after a trial or other hearing by a judge, and 1.7 percent were agreed judgments.

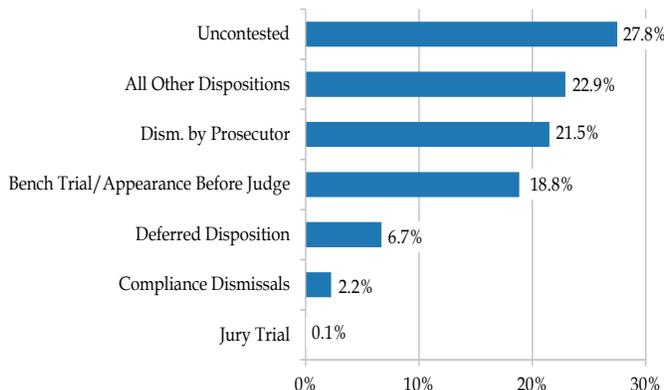
**Juvenile Case Activity** – Transportation Code (traffic) cases accounted for 28.1 percent of the 150,580 juvenile cases filed in municipal courts in 2013. Non-driving Alcoholic Beverage Code cases accounted for 19.1 percent.

**Magistrate Activity** – In 2013, municipal courts issued 11,279 search warrants, nearly 1.6 million arrest warrants, 7,694 magistrate orders for emergency protection, and more than 375,000 magistrate warnings to adults.

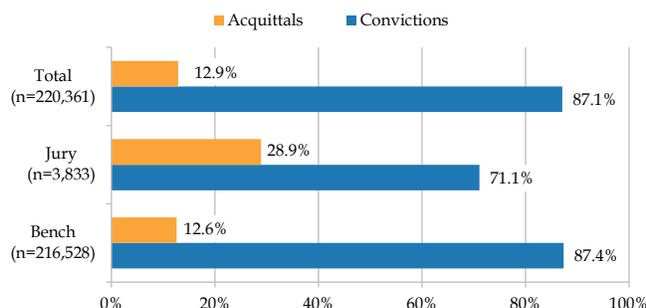
**Court Collections** – The amount of court costs, fees and fines collected by municipal courts generally increased over the last 20 years; however, the amount has declined for the past two years. The decrease was due in part to a reduction in the number of reports submitted due to reporting changes implemented in 2012. In 2013, the courts collected approximately \$681 million. The amount collected in 2013 was 172.8 percent higher than that collected 20 years ago in 1994, or 71.6 percent higher when adjusted for inflation.<sup>1</sup>

Excluding cases dismissed prior to trial or at trial, the amount collected per disposition averaged approximately \$149.

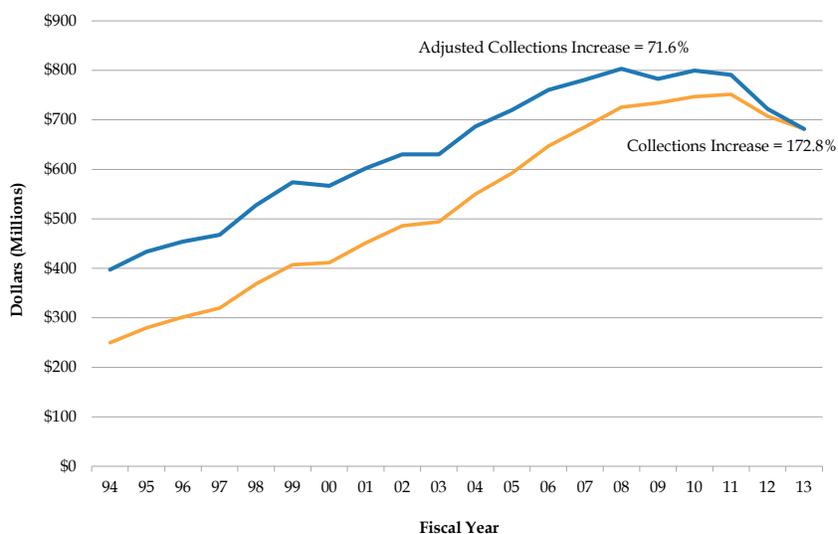
**Disposition of Non-Traffic Cases in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(977,578 Cases)



**Criminal Case Trial Outcomes in Fiscal Year 2013**  
(220,361 Cases)



**Court Costs, Fees and Fines Collected by Municipal Courts**



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

**Municipal Courts  
Activity Detail  
September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

**95.1 Percent Reporting Rate  
10,551 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
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	3,903,337	210,545	34,560	419,459	649,074	442,020	5,658,995
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	3,788,486	107,390	109,198	955,853	471,303	247,926	5,680,156
Docket Adjustments	24,929	1,384	(2,810)	9,833	2,775	6,152	42,263
<b>Cases Added:</b>							
New Cases Filed	4,340,569	111,957	39,395	399,630	328,445	306,412	5,526,408
Cases Reactivated	1,366,634	21,697	10,516	260,499	163,886	258,903	2,082,135
All Other Cases Added	26,976	304	228	3,315	5,560	1,368	37,751
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>9,662,445</b>	<b>345,887</b>	<b>81,889</b>	<b>1,092,736</b>	<b>1,149,740</b>	<b>1,014,855</b>	<b>13,347,552</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>							
Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial:							
Uncontested Dispositions	1,155,987	50,027	14,981	106,423	108,467	56,545	1,492,430
Dismissed by Prosecution	170,571	32,108	3,440	25,721	26,329	30,046	288,215
Total Dispositions Prior to Court Appearance or Trial	1,326,558	82,135	18,421	132,144	134,796	86,591	1,780,645
Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial:							
Convictions:							
<i>Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere</i>	452,953	4,990	4,235	72,611	38,554	34,496	607,839
<i>By the Court</i>	148,531	2,029	2,296	12,995	12,968	10,389	189,208
<i>By the Jury</i>	1,952	26	99	201	99	348	2,725
Acquittals:							
<i>By the Court</i>	23,842	155	1,175	500	528	1,120	27,320
<i>By the Jury</i>	807	11	6	120	57	107	1,108
Dismissed by Prosecution	363,303	2,753	1,487	69,049	16,269	42,752	495,613
Total Dispositions at Court Appearance or Trial	991,388	9,964	9,298	155,476	68,475	89,212	1,323,813
Compliance Dismissals:							
After Driver Safety Course	386,711	---	---	---	---	---	386,711
After Deferred Disposition	476,400	5,311	3,542	24,579	26,963	13,657	550,452
After Teen Court	3,660	7	28	2,009	902	406	7,012
After Tobacco Awareness Course	---	---	---	---	824	---	824
After Treatment for Chemical Dependency	---	---	---	1,607	1,234	---	2,841
After Proof of Financial Responsibility	219,870	---	---	---	---	---	219,870
All Other Transportation Code Dismissals	333,382	2,028	1,098	1,478	8,881	4,524	351,391
Total Compliance Dismissals	1,420,023	7,346	4,668	29,673	38,804	18,587	1,519,101
All Other Dispositions	481,607	22,879	8,116	78,769	72,997	72,054	736,422
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>4,219,576</b>	<b>122,324</b>	<b>40,503</b>	<b>396,062</b>	<b>315,072</b>	<b>266,444</b>	<b>5,359,981</b>
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>1,493,476</b>	<b>21,933</b>	<b>11,729</b>	<b>293,708</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>278,297</b>	<b>2,269,743</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>							
<i>Active Cases</i>	3,615,264	201,000	30,215	394,169	654,533	423,431	5,318,612
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	3,799,737	107,299	108,521	966,275	463,823	249,719	5,695,374
<b>Show Cause Hearings Held</b>	<b>235,096</b>	<b>6,739</b>	<b>7,415</b>	<b>23,622</b>	<b>29,086</b>	<b>13,540</b>	<b>315,498</b>
<b>Cases Appealed:</b>							
After Trial	2,721	151	27	205	366	225	3,695
Without Trial	6,636	127	19	539	587	134	8,042

Note: See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Municipal Courts  
Activity Detail  
September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

**95.1 Percent Reporting Rate  
10,551 Reports Received Out of a Possible 11,100**

CIVIL/ADMINISTRATIVE CASES	
	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cases Pending 9/1/2012:</b>	
<i>Active Cases</i>	261,902
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	1,199,346
Docket Adjustments	9,313
<b>Cases Added:</b>	
New Cases Filed	571,088
Cases Reactivated	12,078
All Other Cases Added	103
<b>Total Cases on Docket</b>	<b>854,484</b>
<b>Dispositions:</b>	
Uncontested Civil Fines or Penalties	356,460
Default Judgments	73,214
Agreed Judgments	8,729
Trial/Hearing by Judge/Hearing Officer	44,159
Trial by Jury	4
Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	7,743
All Other Dispositions	15,252
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>505,561</b>
<b>Cases Placed on Inactive Status</b>	<b>35,622</b>
<b>Cases Pending 8/31/2013:</b>	
<i>Active Cases</i>	305,237
<i>Inactive Cases</i>	540,575
<b>Cases Appealed:</b>	
After Trial	91
Without Trial	6
JUVENILE/MINOR ACTIVITY	
	<b>Total</b>
Transportation Code Cases Filed.....	42,348
Non-Driving Alcoholic Beverage Code Cases Filed .....	28,735
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol Cases Filed .....	1,701
Drug Paraphernalia Cases Filed.....	6,639
Tobacco Cases Filed.....	4,700
Failure to Attend School Cases Filed.....	10,903
Education Code (Except Failure to Attend) Cases Filed.....	5,249
Violation of Local Daytime Curfew Ordinance Cases Filed .....	6,611
All Other Non-Traffic Fine-Only Cases Filed.....	43,694
Transfer to Juvenile Court:	
<i>Mandatory Transfer</i> .....	946
<i>Discretionary Transfer</i> .....	1,330
Accused of Contempt and Referred to Juvenile Court (Delinquent Conduct).....	764
Held in Contempt by Criminal Court (Fined or Denied Driving Privileges).....	7,947
Juvenile Statement Magistrate Warning:	
<i>Warnings Administered</i> .....	1,091
<i>Statements Certified</i> .....	422
Detention Hearings Held.....	102
Orders for Non-Secure Custody Issued.....	1,586
Parent Contributing to Nonattendance Cases Filed.....	4,099

Note: See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

**Municipal Courts  
Activity Detail  
September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

**95.1 Percent Reporting Rate  
10,551 Reports Received Out of a Possible 11,100**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY		
	Number Given	Number Requests for Counsel
Magistrate Warnings:		
<i>Class C Misdemeanors</i> .....	189,519	---
<i>Class A and B Misdemeanors</i> .....	122,442	25,964
<i>Felonies</i> .....	63,267	15,600
		<b>Total</b>
Arrest Warrants Issued:		
<i>Class C Misdemeanors</i> .....		1,503,966
<i>Class A and B Misdemeanors</i> .....		58,724
<i>Felonies</i> .....		25,145
Capiases Pro Fine Issued .....		555,686
Search Warrants Issued .....		11,279
Warrants for Fire, Health and Code Inspections Filed .....		548
Examining Trials Conducted .....		60
Emergency Mental Health Hearings Held .....		2,878
Magistrate's Orders for Emergency Protection Issued .....		7,694
Magistrate's Orders for Ignition Interlock Device Issued .....		3,232
All Other Magistrate's Orders Issued Requiring Conditions for Release on Bond .....		2,266
Driver's License Denial, Revocation or Suspension Hearings Held .....		979
Disposition of Stolen Property Hearings Held .....		1,850
Peace Bond Hearings Held .....		74
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Community Service:		
<i>Partial Satisfaction</i> .....		25,050
<i>Full Satisfaction</i> .....		86,988
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Satisfied by Jail Credit .....		536,202
Cases in Which Fine and Court Costs Waived for Indigency .....		18,143
Amount of Fines and Court Costs Waived for Indigency .....		\$ 3,861,935
Fines, Court Costs and Other Amounts Collected:		
<i>Kept by City</i> .....		\$ 454,484,515
<i>Remitted to State</i> .....		\$ 231,621,307
<i>Total</i> .....		\$ 681,553,771

Note: See page 96 for a list of missing reports.

## Counties or Courts that Did Not Submit All Monthly Activity Reports for Fiscal Year 2013

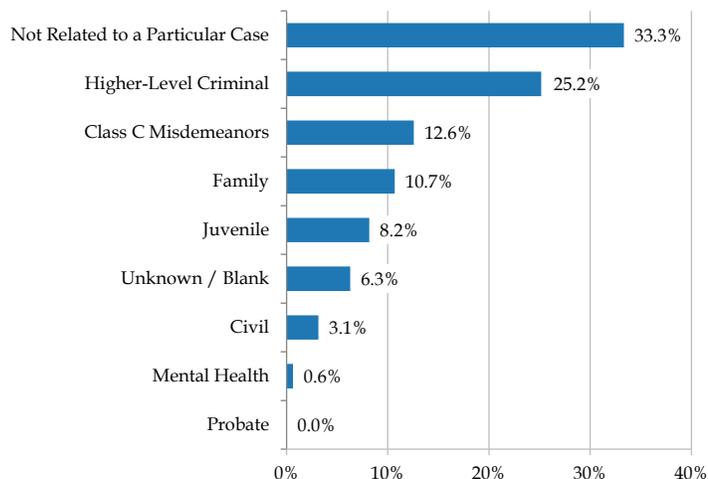
District Courts	Justice Courts																																																				
<p><b>Castro</b>      No reports submitted.</p> <p><b>Cottle</b></p> <p><b>Edwards</b></p> <p><b>Lamb</b></p> <p><b>Maverick</b></p> <p><b>Grayson</b>      No juvenile reports submitted.</p>	<p>Brooks County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (10 of 12)</p> <p>Burleson County Prec. 3 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Burleson County Prec. 4 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Cameron County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (9 of 12)</p> <p>Cameron County Prec. 5 Pl. 1 (9 of 12)</p> <p>Cameron County Prec. 5 Pl. 2 (9 of 12)</p> <p>Chambers County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Coleman County (9 of 12)</p> <p>Coryell County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (4 of 12)</p> <p>Culberson County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Culberson County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Duval County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Fannin County Prec. 1 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Fannin County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Fannin County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Hill County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Hudspeth County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Jasper County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Jim Hogg County Prec. 1 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Jim Hogg County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Jim Hogg County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Jim Hogg County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Kleberg County Prec. 1 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Kleberg County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>LaSalle County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Lamar County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Lamb County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Lavaca County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Lynn County Prec. 1 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Lynn County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Matagorda County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (11 of 12)</p> <p>Maverick County Prec. 1 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Maverick County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Maverick County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (6 of 12)</p> <p>McLennan County Prec. 3 (0 of 12)</p> <p>McLennan County Prec. 8 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Menard County (1 of 12)</p> <p>Starr County Prec. 5 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Tyler County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Tyler County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Tyler County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (6 of 12)</p> <p>Upshur County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Waller County Prec. 4 Pl. 1 (1 of 12)</p> <p>Webb County Prec. 1 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Webb County Prec. 1 Pl. 2 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Williamson County Prec. 3 Pl. 1 (6 of 12)</p> <p>Wilson County Prec. 2 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p> <p>Zavala County Prec. 1 Pl. 1 (0 of 12)</p>																																																				
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<i>Constitutional</i>																																																					
<p><b>Cottle</b>      No reports submitted.</p> <p><b>Edwards</b></p> <p><b>Jim Hogg</b>      No juvenile reports submitted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Statutory</i></p> <p><b>Calhoun</b>      No juvenile reports submitted November through August.</p> <p><b>El Paso</b>      No criminal reports submitted for July and August.</p> <p><b>Waller</b>      No civil, criminal, juvenile, and mental health reports submitted.</p>																																																					
Municipal Courts																																																					
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Aurora (0 of 12)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">La Vernia (2 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bloomburg (0 of 12)</td> <td>La Villa (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buckholts (0 of 12)</td> <td>Ladonia (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buffalo Springs (0 of 12)</td> <td>Lake City (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Caney City (0 of 12)</td> <td>Lipan (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carrizo Springs (0 of 12)</td> <td>Livingston (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crawford (0 of 12)</td> <td>Marfa (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dayton Lakes (2 of 12)</td> <td>McKinney (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denver City (4 of 12)</td> <td>Milford (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dimmitt (0 of 12)</td> <td>New Hope (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Domino (6 of 12)</td> <td>Pelican Bay (6 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Earth (0 of 12)</td> <td>Pine Forest (2 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eden (2 of 12)</td> <td>Pottsboro (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>El Cenizo (0 of 12)</td> <td>Premont (1 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ennis (0 of 12)</td> <td>Progreso (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Falls City (0 of 12)</td> <td>Rising Star (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forest Hill (11 of 12)</td> <td>San Antonio (4 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fort Worth (0 of 12)</td> <td>Santa Rosa (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Freer (0 of 12)</td> <td>Savoy (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gainesville (6 of 12)</td> <td>Strawn (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garrison (0 of 12)</td> <td>Sunray (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gregory (0 of 12)</td> <td>Texline (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hooks (0 of 12)</td> <td>Volente (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jefferson (0 of 12)</td> <td>Waelder (6 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joaquin (0 of 12)</td> <td>Weinert (0 of 12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kaufman (0 of 12)</td> <td>Windthorst (0 of 12)</td> </tr> </table>	Aurora (0 of 12)	La Vernia (2 of 12)	Bloomburg (0 of 12)	La Villa (0 of 12)	Buckholts (0 of 12)	Ladonia (0 of 12)	Buffalo Springs (0 of 12)	Lake City (0 of 12)	Caney City (0 of 12)	Lipan (0 of 12)	Carrizo Springs (0 of 12)	Livingston (0 of 12)	Crawford (0 of 12)	Marfa (0 of 12)	Dayton Lakes (2 of 12)	McKinney (0 of 12)	Denver City (4 of 12)	Milford (0 of 12)	Dimmitt (0 of 12)	New Hope (0 of 12)	Domino (6 of 12)	Pelican Bay (6 of 12)	Earth (0 of 12)	Pine Forest (2 of 12)	Eden (2 of 12)	Pottsboro (0 of 12)	El Cenizo (0 of 12)	Premont (1 of 12)	Ennis (0 of 12)	Progreso (0 of 12)	Falls City (0 of 12)	Rising Star (0 of 12)	Forest Hill (11 of 12)	San Antonio (4 of 12)	Fort Worth (0 of 12)	Santa Rosa (0 of 12)	Freer (0 of 12)	Savoy (0 of 12)	Gainesville (6 of 12)	Strawn (0 of 12)	Garrison (0 of 12)	Sunray (0 of 12)	Gregory (0 of 12)	Texline (0 of 12)	Hooks (0 of 12)	Volente (0 of 12)	Jefferson (0 of 12)	Waelder (6 of 12)	Joaquin (0 of 12)	Weinert (0 of 12)	Kaufman (0 of 12)	Windthorst (0 of 12)	
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# Other Required Reports for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013

**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.

In 2013, OCA received a total of 159 incident reports, 39.6 percent of which were submitted by district courts (63 incidents), 15.1 percent by county-level courts (24 incidents), 1.9 percent by justice courts (3 incidents), 26.4 percent by municipal courts (42 incidents), and 17.0 percent by courthouses serving multiple court types (27 incidents).

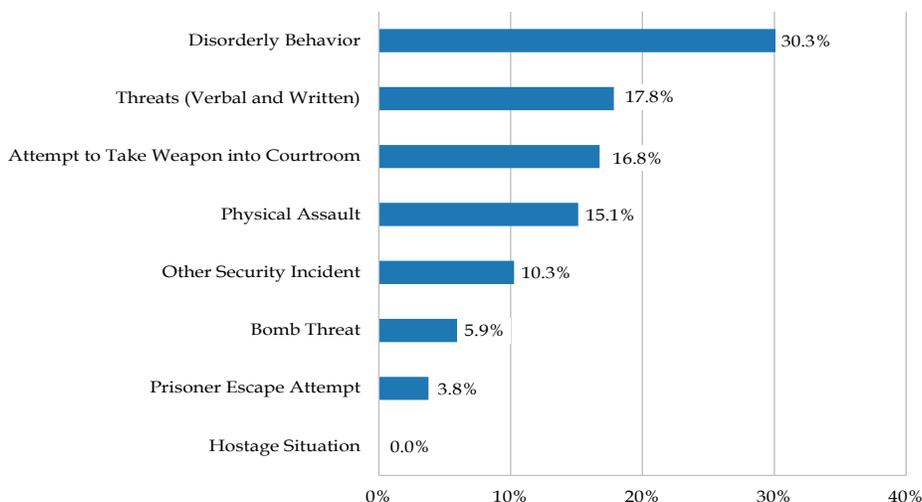
**Incidents Reported by Case Type**



Approximately 25 percent of all reported incidents were related to criminal cases involving Class B misdemeanors or higher level offenses (40 incidents), while 12.6 percent involved Class C misdemeanor offenses (20 incidents). About 33 percent of all reported incidents were not related to a particular case (53 incidents).

Of the 185 reported behaviors, approximately 30 percent involved disorderly behavior (56 reports). The next most common behavior reported was threats (both written and verbal), with 17.8 percent (33 reports), followed closely by attempts to take a weapon into a courthouse (16.8 percent, or 31 reports) and physical assault (15.1 percent, or 28 reports).

**Type of Incidents Reported**



In nearly 82 percent of incidents, no injuries were reported (130 incidents). Of the 29 reported incidents that resulted in injury, 48.3 percent were related to cases involving Class B misdemeanor or higher level offenses (14 incidents), and 27.6 percent (8 incidents) were not related to a particular case type.

The following are examples of incidents that occurred in the trial courts during 2013:

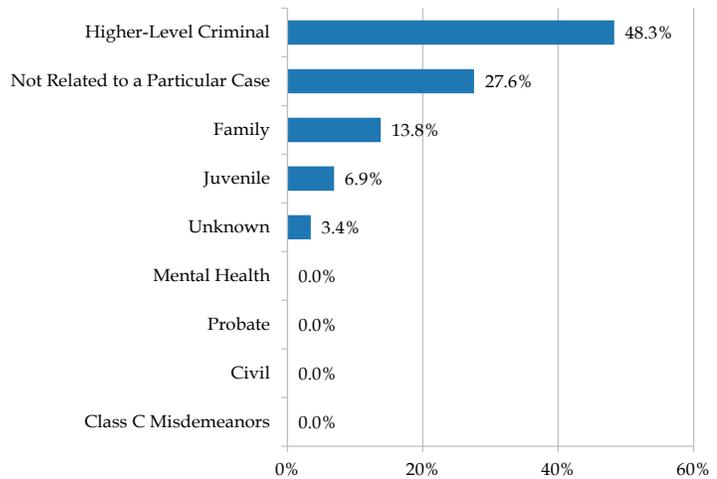
**District Courts.** After being sentenced, the defendant, a confirmed member of the Texas Syndicate, attempted to run at the judge while shouting that the court was “going to pay.” The defendant further threatened physical violence against the court while trying to get loose from the bailiff to get to the judge. The defendant was successful in breaking away and smashed his shoulder through the glass door of the courtroom, shattering the glass. The defendant was again restrained by the bailiff and taken out of the courthouse. While exiting, the defendant managed to

shatter the glass doors of the courthouse while continuing to threaten violence against the judge. The defendant’s family then became aggressive and had to be removed from the courthouse property.

**County-Level Courts.** A man involved in a child custody case with his ex-wife and her husband removed his shirt and threatened a physical confrontation with the couple while issuing verbal threats outside of the courtroom. He was apprehended on another floor of the courthouse when he attempted to flee.

**Municipal Courts.** A city employee handling a firearm in his vehicle in the court parking lot accidentally discharged the weapon as court employees were exiting the building. No injuries occurred.

### Incidents Involving Injury by Case Type



For more information on court security incidents, visit <http://www.txcourts.gov/oca/security-incidents.asp>.

**Other Reports.** The Office of Court Administration also collects a number of other reports required by statute or Supreme Court order.

Required Report	Statute	Number Received for FY 2013	Posted at
Appointments and Fees Reports (Civil Cases)	Supreme Court Order No. 07-9188	32,411	<a href="http://www.txcourts.gov/oca/apptfees_reports.asp">http://www.txcourts.gov/oca/apptfees_reports.asp</a>
Vexatious Litigants Subject to a Prefiling Order	Sec. 11.104, Civil Practice and Remedies Code	15	<a href="http://www.txcourts.gov/oca/required.asp">http://www.txcourts.gov/oca/required.asp</a>
Capital Case Jury Charges	Sec. 72.087(c), Government Code	21	<a href="http://www.txcourts.gov/oca/jurycharges.asp">http://www.txcourts.gov/oca/jurycharges.asp</a>



Photo courtesy of TexasCourthouses.com

*Knox County Courthouse - Benjamin*

# Explanation of Trial Court Case Activity Categories

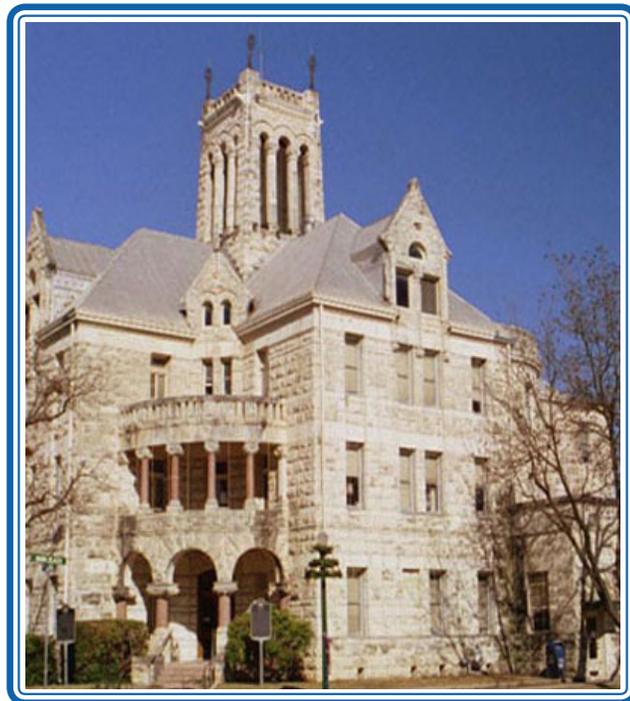


Photo courtesy of TexasCourthouses.com

*Comal County Courthouse - New Braunfels*

# Case Status and Clearance Rate Definitions

## All Trial Courts

### CASE STATUS

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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/oca/required.asp>.

**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

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**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

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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

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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 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

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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 legitimization 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.

## JUVENILE DOCKET

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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.

# Case Type Categories

## 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.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.

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.

**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.

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## CIVIL DOCKET

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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

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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.

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## PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET

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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).

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## COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH CASES

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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 Type Categories

## Justice Courts

### CRIMINAL DOCKET

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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

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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:

**SMALL CLAIMS SUITS:** Includes all suits 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.

**FORCIBLE ENTRY AND DETAINER (EVICTIONS):** Includes all suits for eviction (recovery of possession of premises) brought under the authority of Government Code, Sec. 27.031; Property Code, Secs. 24.001-24.011; and Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 738-755.

**OTHER CIVIL SUITS:** Includes all other suits 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 is otherwise within the justice court's jurisdiction as provided by Sec. 27.031 of the Government Code.

## Municipal Courts

### CRIMINAL DOCKET

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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.).

**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

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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.

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DAVID SLAYTON, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

205 W. 14TH STREET, SUITE 600

POST OFFICE BOX 12066

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2066

(512) 463-1625

FAX: (512) 463-1648

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