

JURY SERVICE IN TEXAS

House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee
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TEXAS JURY SERVICE QUALIFICATION

Qualifications for Service

- 18 years of age or greater
- A citizen of the United States
- Resident of Texas and of the county of jury service
- Qualified under the constitution and laws to vote in the county of jury service
- Sound mind and good moral character
- Ability to read and write
 - May be suspended by the Court

Disqualification for Service

- Served as a juror for 6 days during the preceding 3 months in county court or preceding 6 months in district court
 - May be suspended by the Court
- Convicted of a felony or misdemeanor theft; unless rights have been restored
- Currently on probation or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor theft
- Under indictment for a felony or criminal accusation of misdemeanor theft



TEXAS EXEMPTIONS FROM JURY SERVICE

Exemption from Services

- 70 years of age or greater
- Custody of a child under 12 years of age and jury service would require they are left without adequate supervision
- A student in secondary school
- Enrolled and in attendance at institution of higher education
- Officer or employee of the legislature or legislative branch of state government
- Primary caretaker of someone who is unable to care for themselves
- Member of the US military forces serving on active duty and deployed away from home and out of your county of residence
- In a county with 200,000 or more and served on a jury within the past 2 years
- In a county with 250,000 or more and served on a jury within past 3 years
- Physical or mental impairment or inability to comprehend English

Excuse from Service

- Subject to judicial review
 - Religious holiday
 - Hardships

Analysis

- Statewide data is not gathered by any agency on individuals excused by jury service



JURY SERVICE PAYMENT & FEE COLLECTION

Compensation

- 1st Day: not less than \$6 / day
- 2nd Day to completion: not less than \$40 / day
- Paid by county jury fund
- Rates over the minimums set by the respective commissioner's courts
- Texas reimburses the county for \$34 / day after the first day of service

Funding of Jury Service

- Texas collects fees for civil and criminal cases called the State Court Fee
- 6.409% of the State Court Fee funds the Jury Service Fund
- The Jury Service Fund reimburses the counties



FEDERAL JURY SERVICE ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Service

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age or greater
- Reside primarily in the judicial district for one year
- Adequately proficient in English to satisfactorily complete the juror qualification form

Ineligibility for Service

- No disqualifying mental or physical condition
- Not currently subject to felony charges punishable by imprisonment for more than one year
- Convicted of a felony; unless civil rights have been legally restored



FEDERAL EXCUSED FROM JURY SERVICE

Exempt from Jury Service

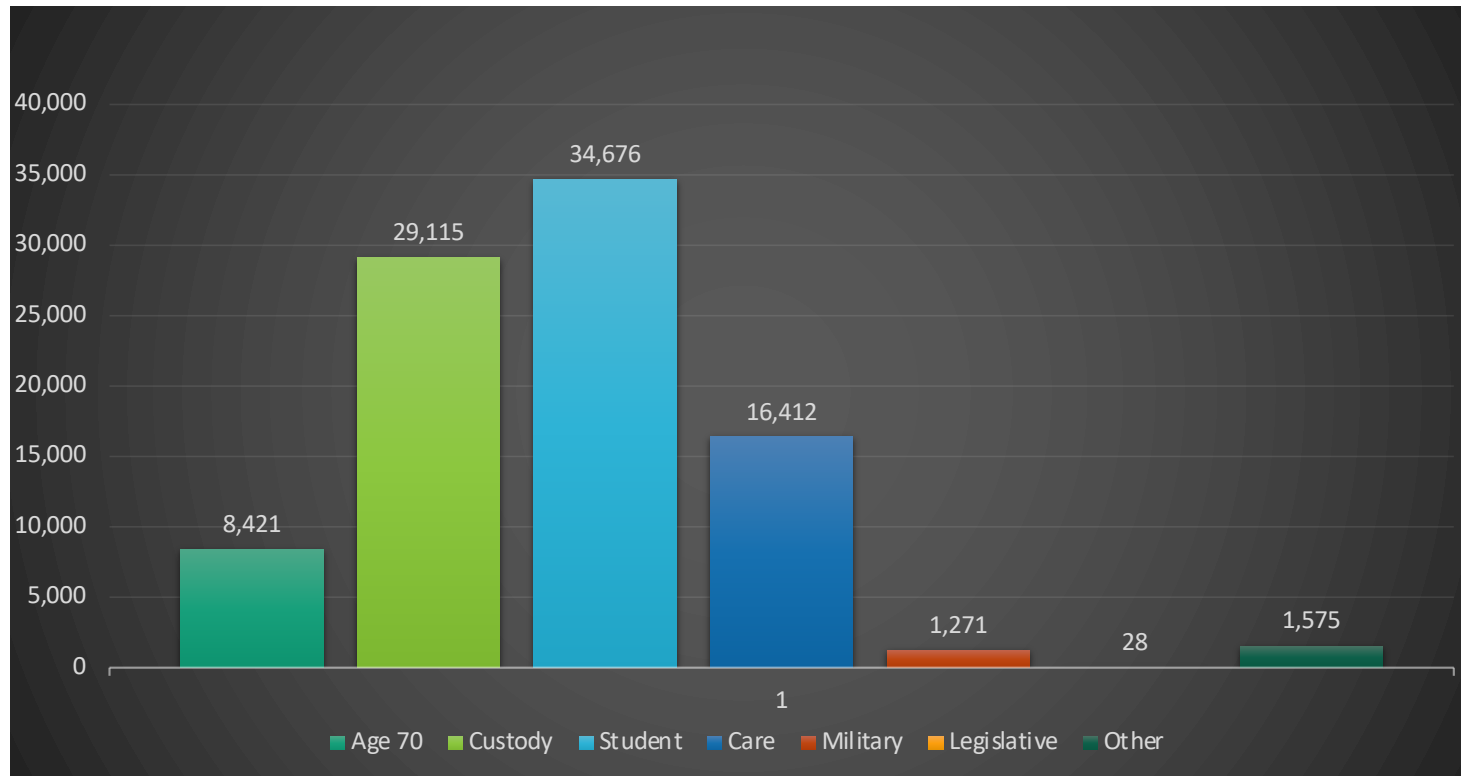
- Members of the armed forces on active duty
- Members of professional police or fire departments
- “Public officers” of federal, state, or local governments, who are actively engaged full-time in the performance of public duties
- “Undue hardship or extreme inconvenience”

Excuses from Jury Service

- Set by policy of each of the 94 District Courts
 - Common
 - Persons over the age of 70
 - Within the past 2 years federal jury service
 - Service as a volunteer firefighter, rescue, or emergency medical worker
 - Undue hardship or extreme inconvenience



HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT & COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW 2019 EXEMPTIONS

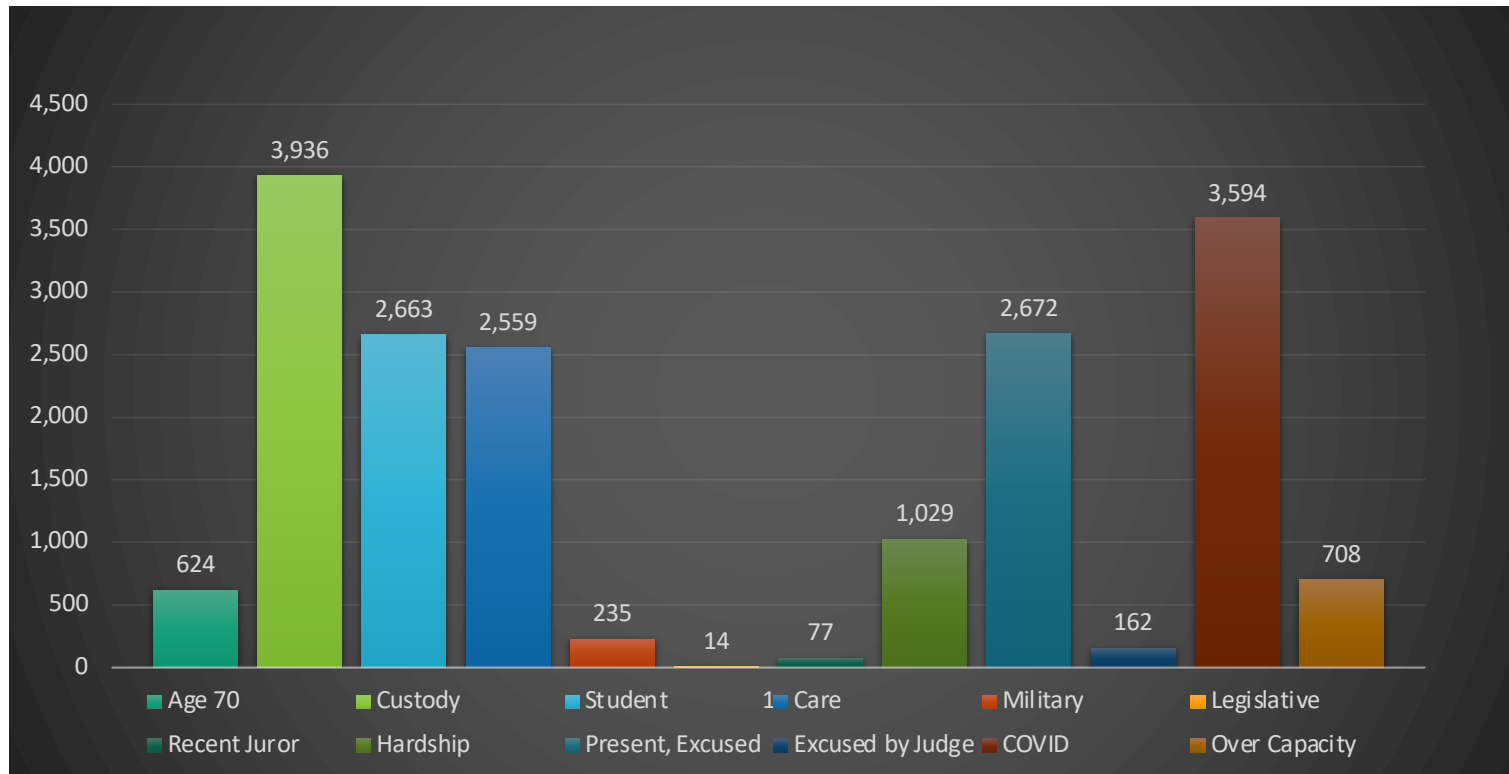


Date Range: 01/01/2019 to 12/31/2019; Total Summoned Jurors: 558,180; Jury Wheel: 2,970,686



HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT & COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW 2022 EXCUSED

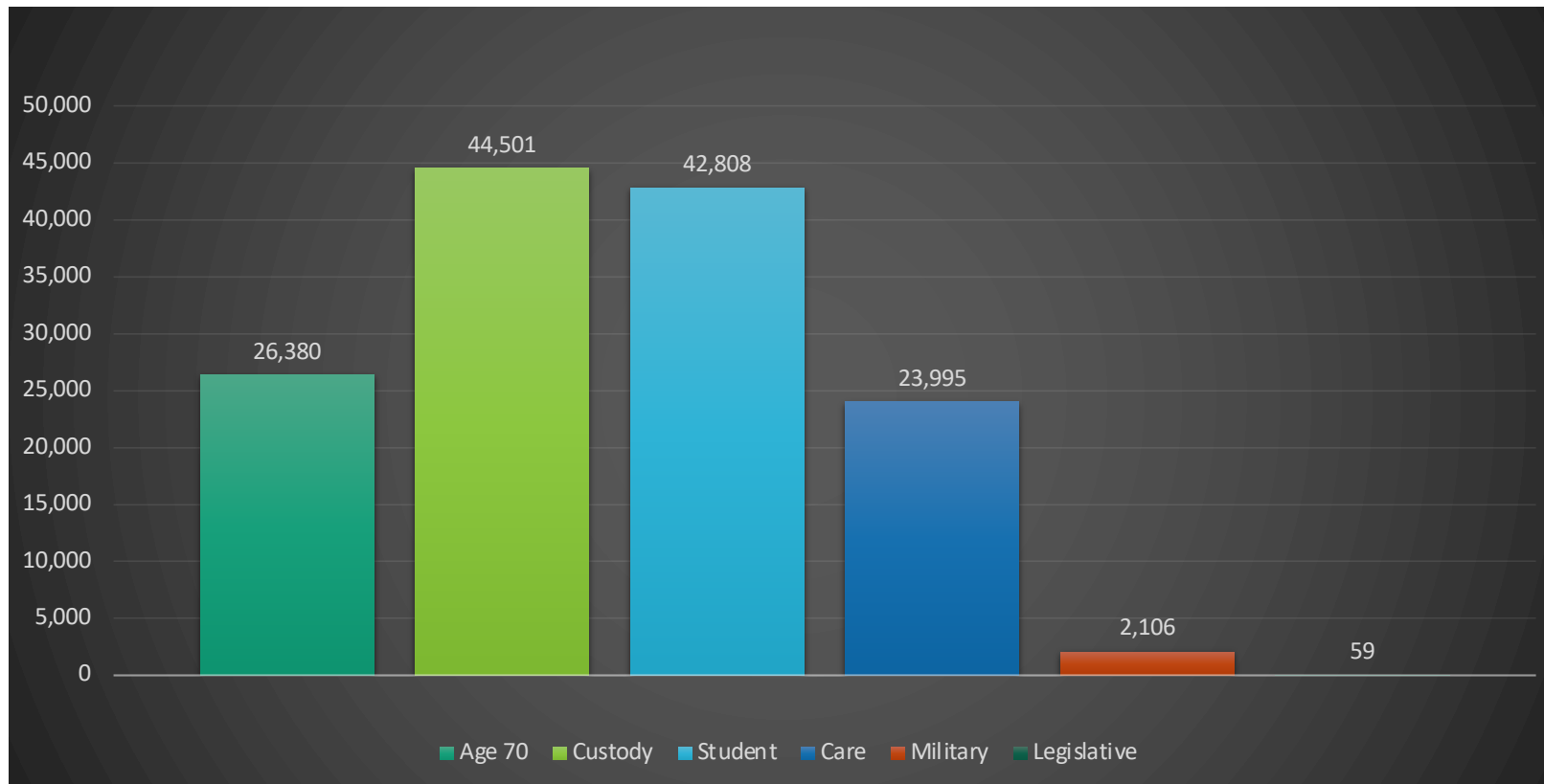
(COVID IMPACT)



Date Range: 01/01/2022 to 10/04/2022; Jury Pool: 93,702; Excused Total: 18,273



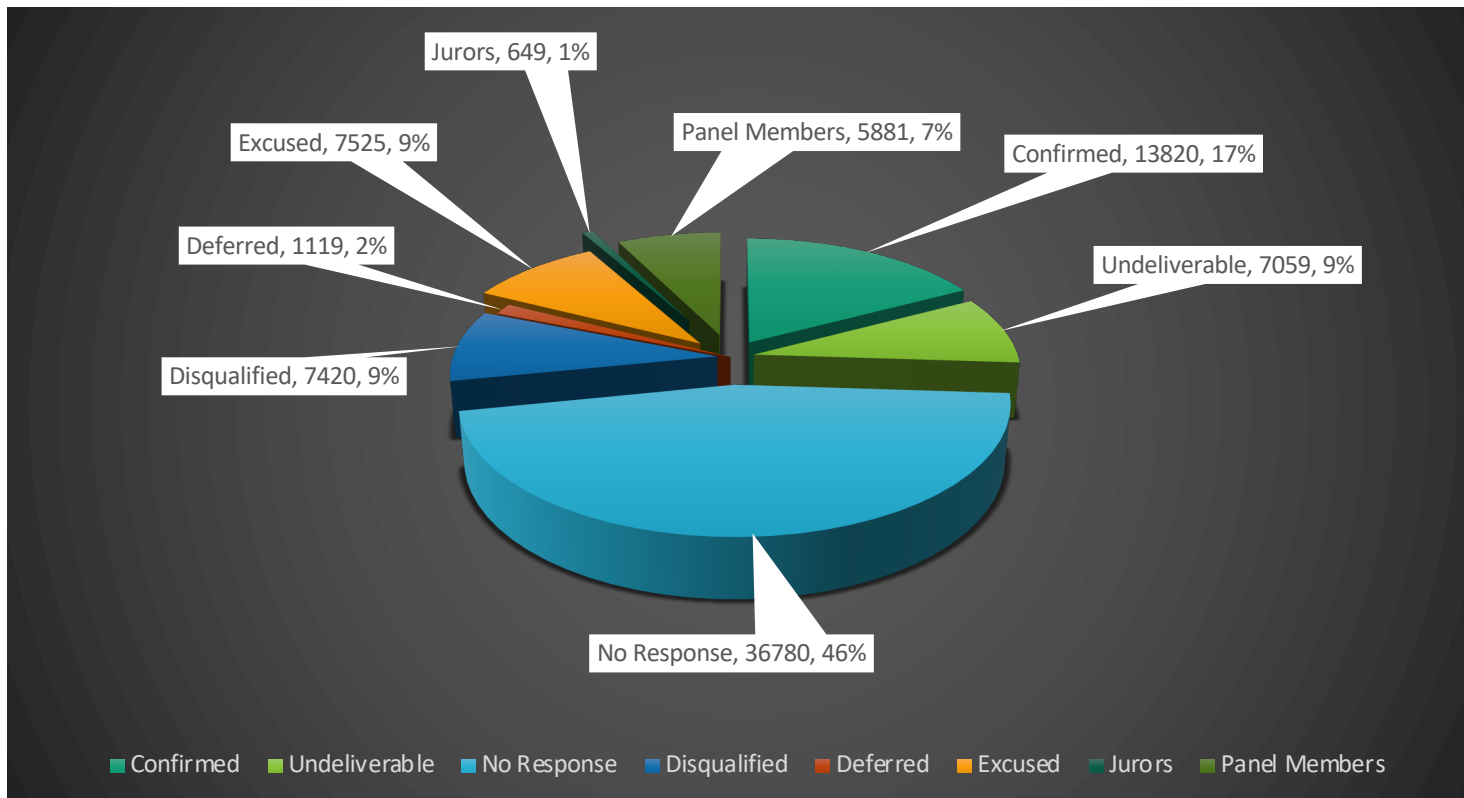
COMMON EXEMPTIONS



Reported by: Harris, Hidalgo, Frio, Chambers, Dallas, Raines, Nacogdoches, Tarrant, Tom Green, and Shackelford Counties



EXAMPLE OF RESPONSE TO JURY SUMMONS



JURY TRIALS POST PANDEMIC

