



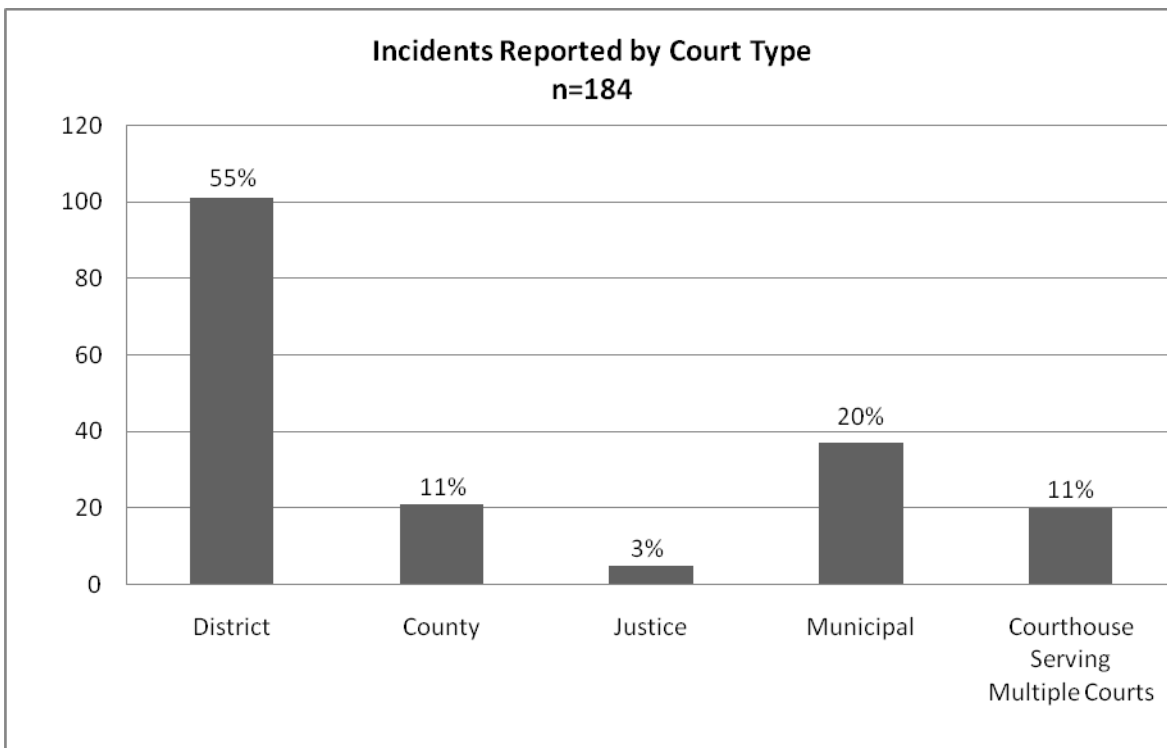
Office of Court Administration  
**Texas Court Security Incident Reports**  
**FY 2011**

Article 102.017(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, requires a local administrative judge to submit a written report to the Office of Court Administration (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.

The purpose of the Security Incident Report is to collect concrete, quantitative information about the frequency and nature of the security threats facing the judiciary.

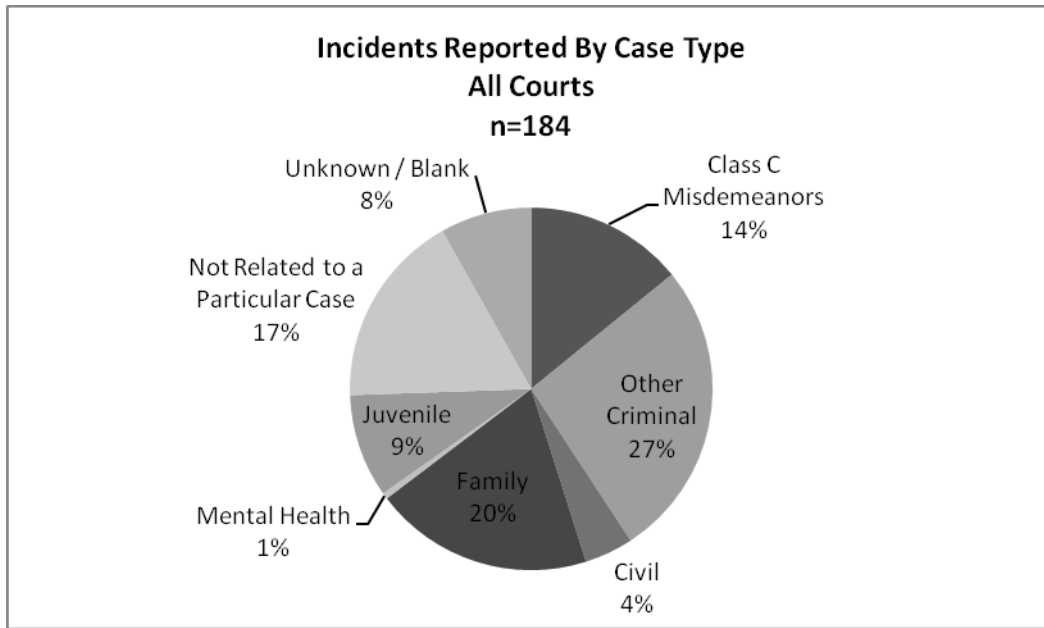
Between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011, **184 incident reports** were submitted to OCA. This corresponds to an **average of 15 incidents per month**. In comparison, 183 incidents were reported during the previous fiscal year.

**Incidents Reported by Court Type**—Of the 184 incident reports submitted, 55 percent were submitted by **district courts** (101 incidents), 11 percent by **county-level courts** (21 incidents), 3 percent by **justice courts** (5 incidents), 20 percent by **municipal courts** (37 incidents), and 11 percent by **courthouses serving multiple court types** (20 incidents).

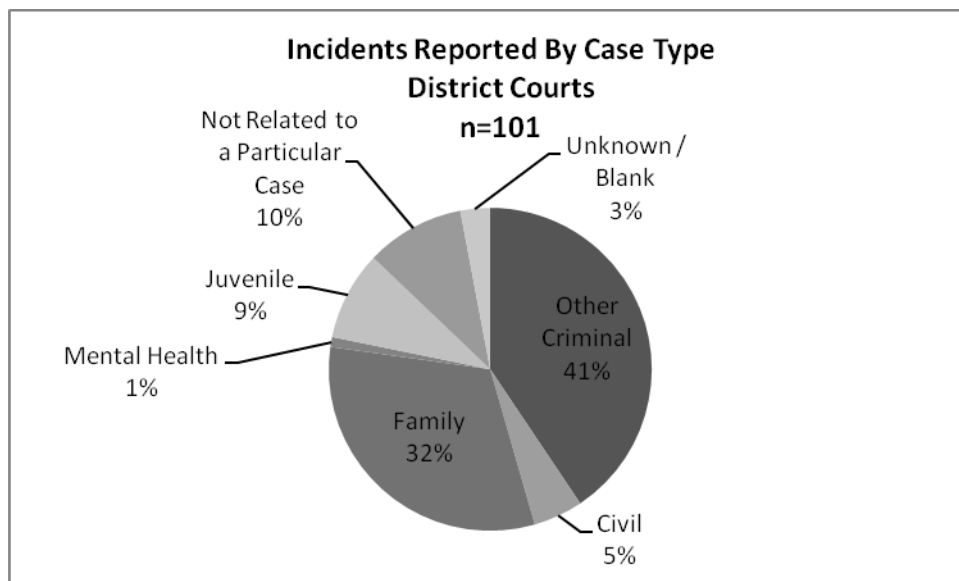


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**Incidents Reported by Case Type**—Twenty-seven percent of all reported incidents were related to **criminal cases** involving Class B misdemeanors or higher level offenses (49 incidents). Twenty percent of reported incidents involved **family cases** (36 incidents). Seventeen percent of all reported incidents were **not related to a particular case** (32 incidents), and 14 percent of incidents involved **Class C misdemeanor offenses** (26 incidents).

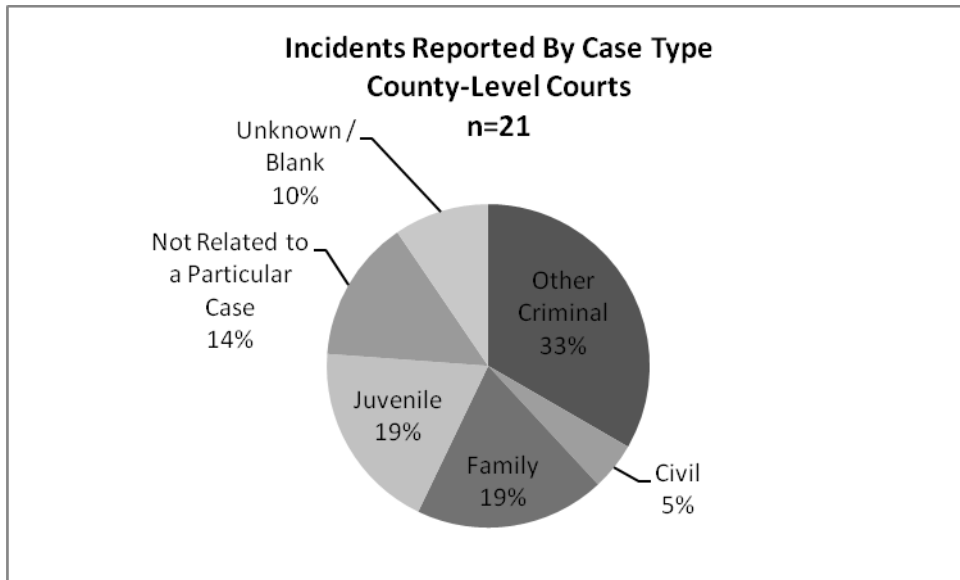


Of the incidents reported by district courts, 41 percent were related to **criminal cases** (41 incidents), and 32 percent involved **family cases** (32 incidents).

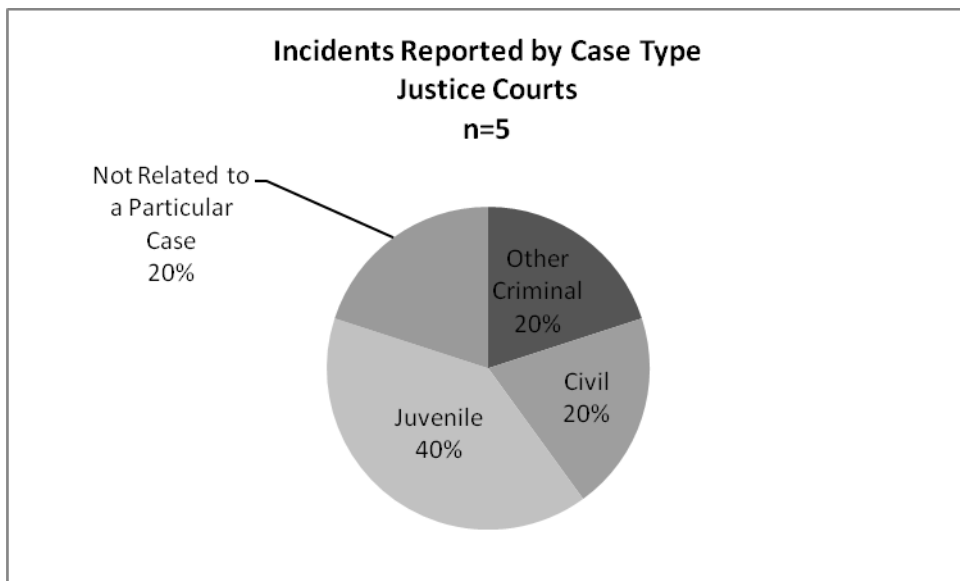


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Incidents reported by county-level courts were most often related to **criminal cases** (33 percent, or 7 incidents).

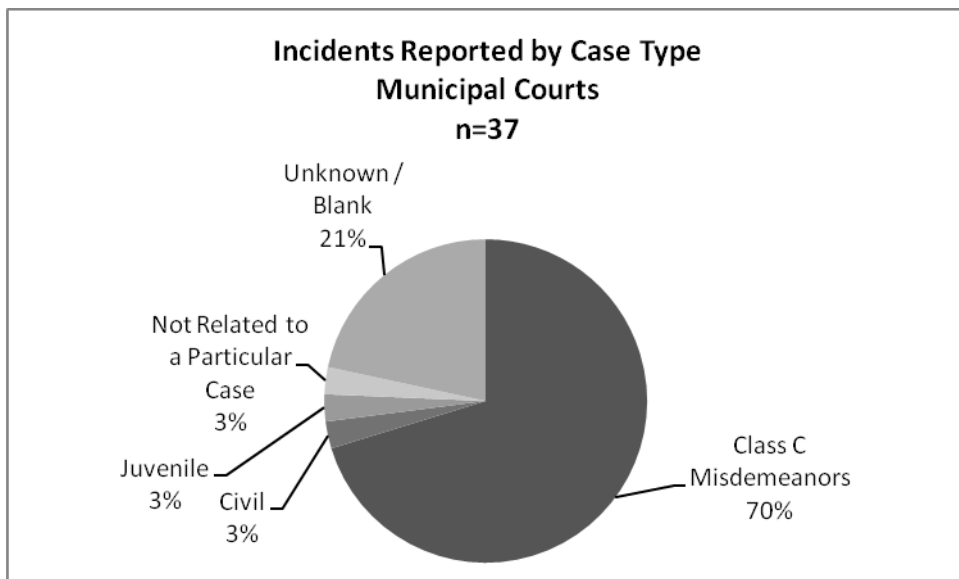


Incidents reported by justice courts were most often related to **juvenile cases** (40 percent, or 2 incidents).

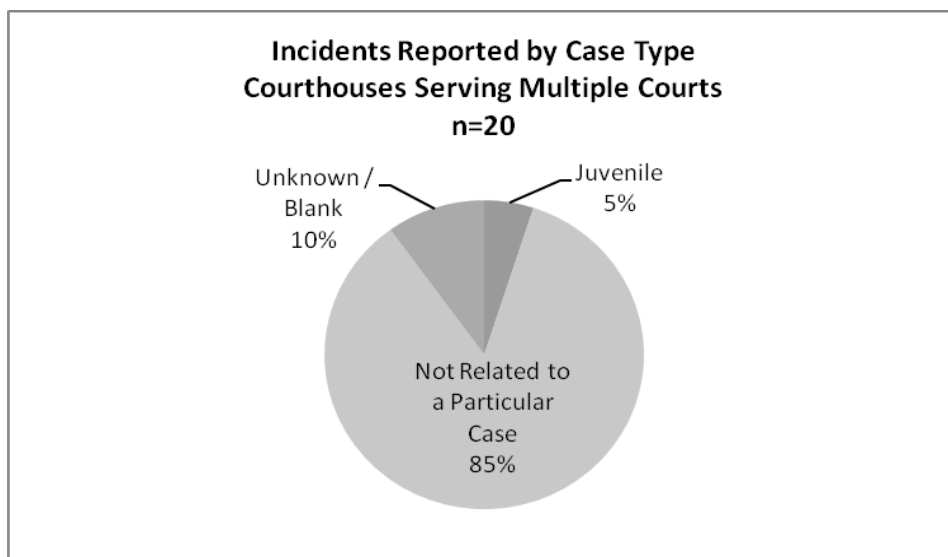


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Most incidents reported by municipal courts were related to **Class C misdemeanors** (26 incidents).



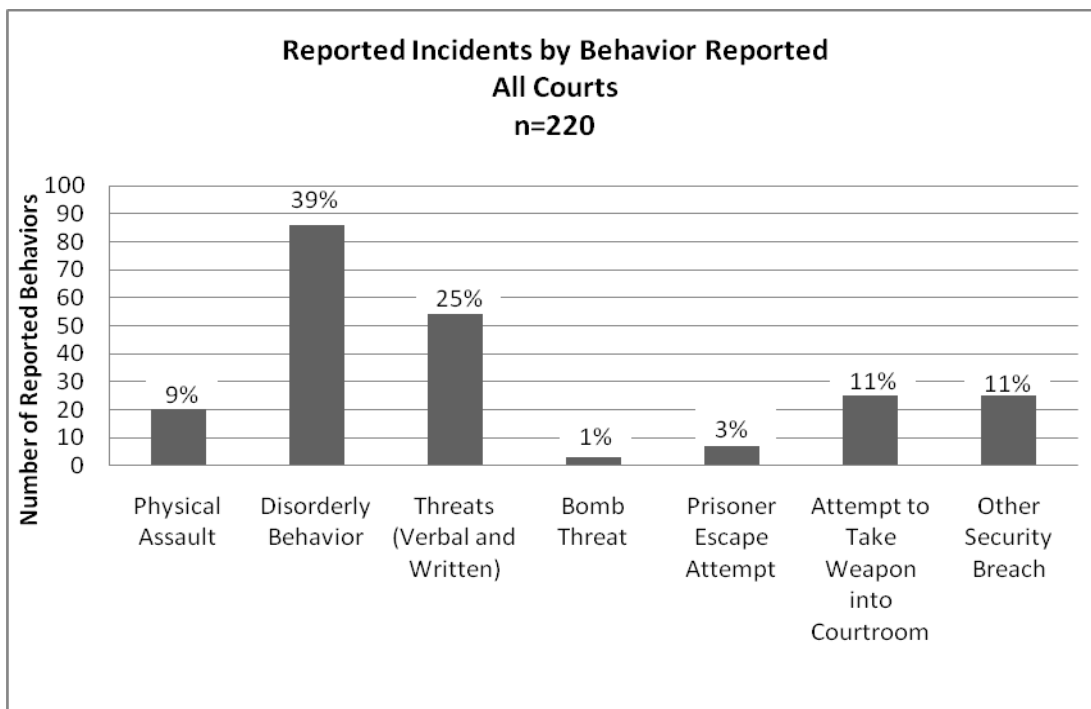
For courthouses that serve more than one court type, most incidents were **not related to a particular case** (17 incidents).



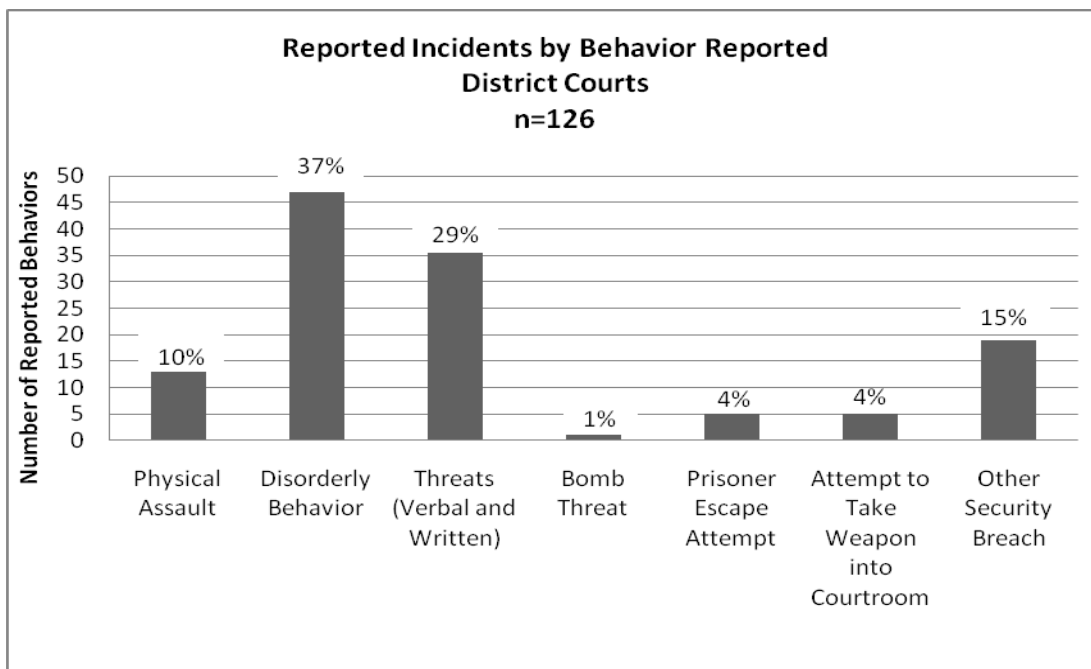
**Incidents by Behavior Reported**—The following charts summarize the reported incidents by type of behavior reported for each court type. Behavior types are categorized as follows: physical assault, disorderly behavior, threats (verbal and written), bomb threat, prisoner escape attempt, attempt to take a weapon into a courthouse, and other security breach. Incidents may involve multiple behaviors; therefore, the number of behaviors reported is more than the number of reported incidents (184 incidents). For example, a security incident may involve both disorderly behavior and an attempt to take a weapon into the courthouse.

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**Disorderly behavior** (86 reports) accounted for 39 percent of all reported behaviors. The next most common behavior reported was **written or verbal threats** (29 percent, or 54 reports).



In district courts, **disorderly behavior** (47 reports) accounted for 37 percent of reported behaviors. The next most common behavior reported by district courts was **written or verbal threats** (29 percent, or 36 reports).

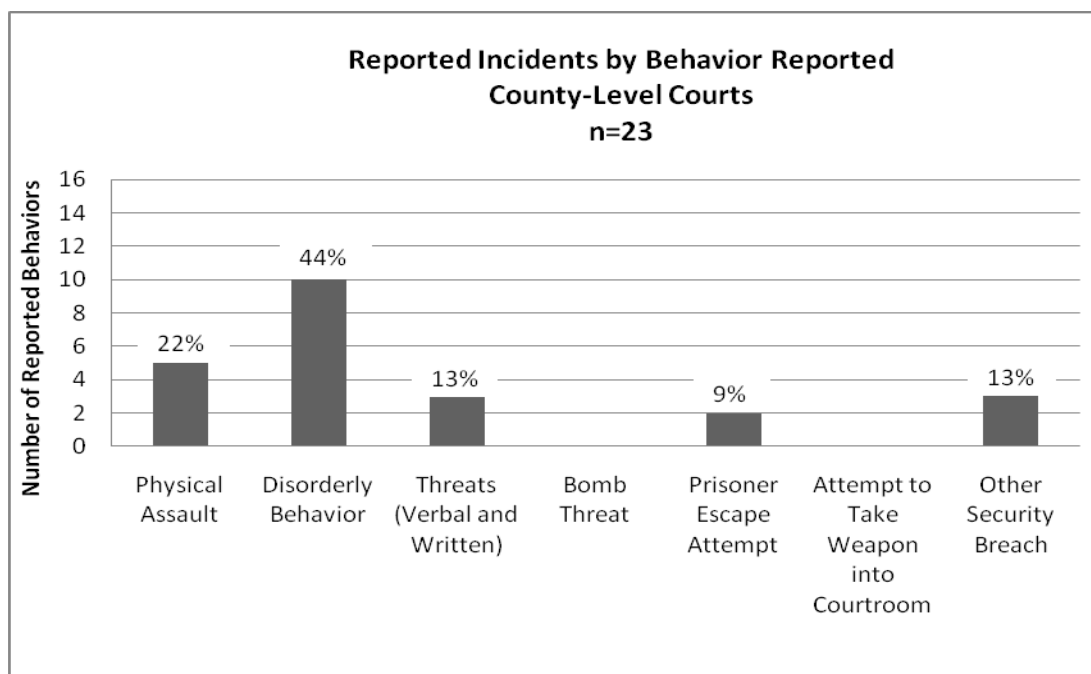


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The following are examples of incidents that occurred in district courts during the year:

- Shortly after a hearing, a criminal defendant who had been found incompetent to stand trial overpowered a transporting officer, gained access to the officer's weapon, and shot her to death in the basement of the courthouse. The inmate also stole a transport vehicle and was later arrested in another jurisdiction.
- A state jail inmate sent a threatening letter addressed to the court clerk. The letter asked for a reduction in time served based on medical and mental health care and closed by threat of using a plane to fly into and/or bomb a public building if the requested treatment was not rendered. The local sheriff's office was notified of the matter.
- A spectator in a criminal case jumped over the retaining wall of the courtroom to attack an inmate witness giving testimony against the criminal defendant. A deputy intervened and was struck on the head. The perpetrator of the incident was taken into custody and charged with assault of a public servant.
- A criminal defendant was allowed to make a phone call prior to being handcuffed under arrest but fled the courthouse with the bailiff in pursuit. Another deputy, attempting to grab the defendant as he escaped, fell to the ground injuring his knee. The escapee ran to a nearby store where a vehicle and driver were waiting. As of the time the incident was reported, the perpetrator was still at large.

In county-level courts, **disorderly behavior** (10 reports) accounted for 44 percent of reported behaviors. The next most common behavior reported was **physical assault** (22 percent, or 5 reports).

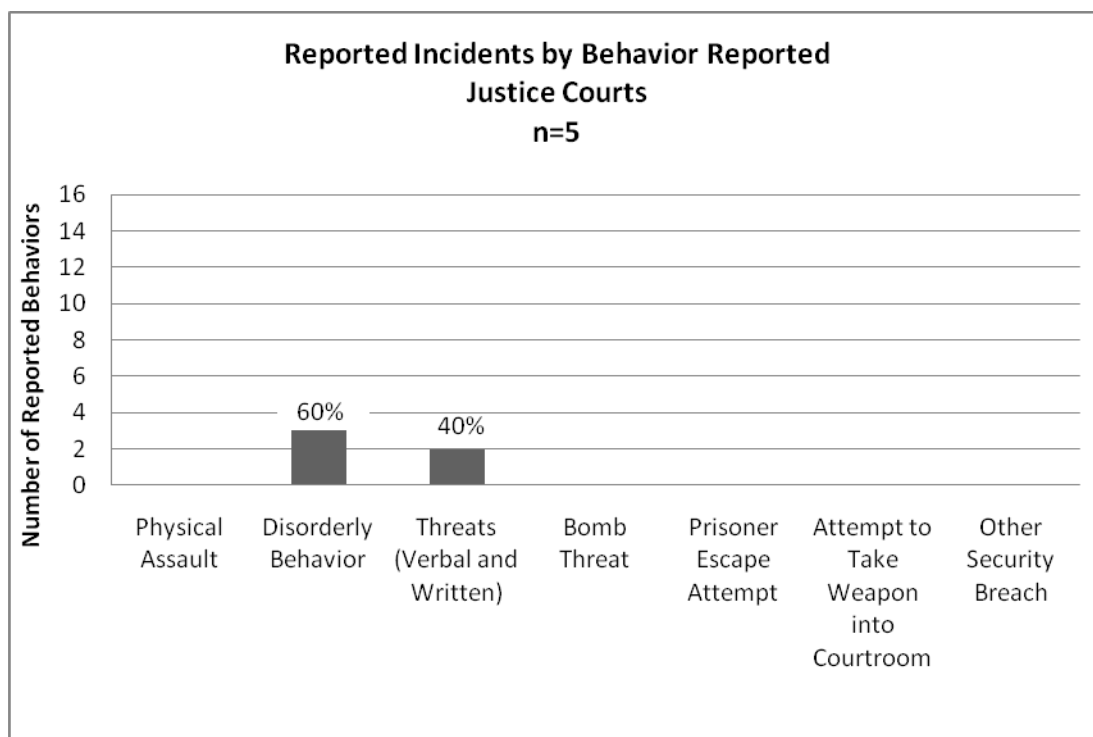


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The following are examples of incidents that occurred in county-level courts during the year:

- A juvenile respondent refused to sign a document giving the respondent the right to appeal the judge’s verdict. The juvenile crumpled the paper in her fist, became belligerent and disruptive in the courtroom, and began swinging her arms. Court deputies intervened and restrained the juvenile.
- An alleged perpetrator was being transported to the courthouse holdover and hit the deputy in the face with a closed fist as she was being placed in her cell. The perpetrator was restrained and charged with assault of a public servant.
- A family member of a juvenile respondent struck the respondent’s father in the face after the juvenile’s placement hearing. The parties were separated and assault charges were pending investigation.

In justice courts, **disorderly behavior** accounted for the majority of reported behaviors (60 percent, or 3 reports).



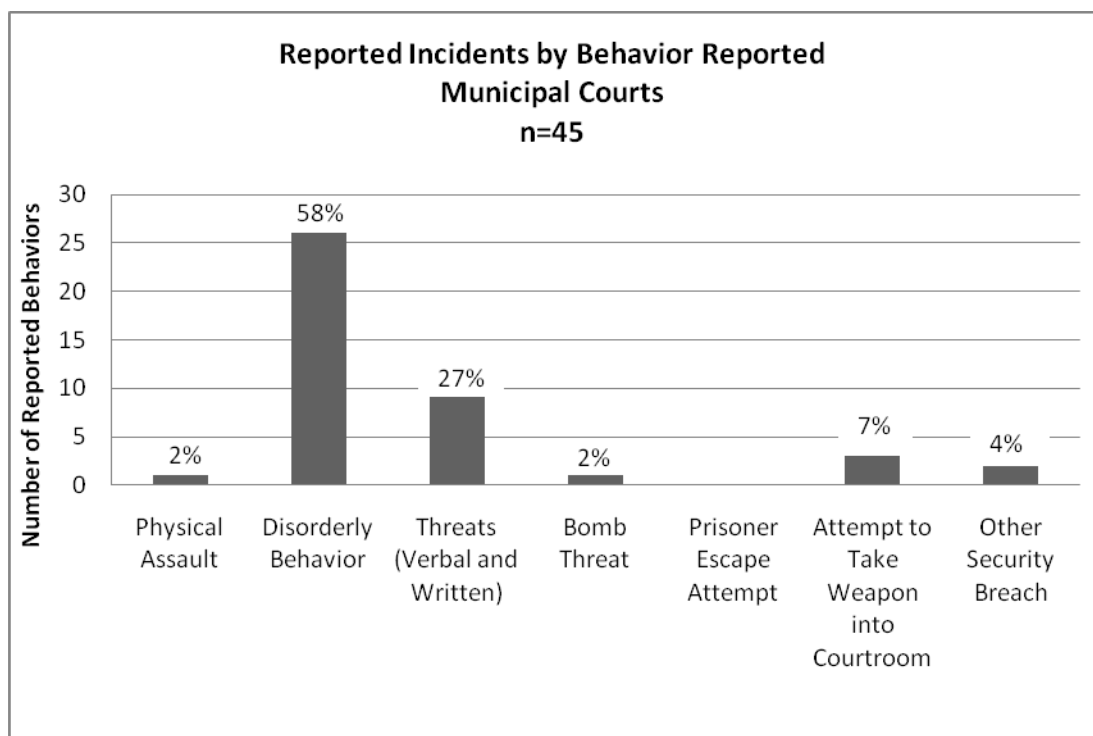
The following are examples of incidents that occurred in justice courts during the year:

- A sheriff’s department dispatch received a telephone call from a local business establishment wherein one of their customers made a statement about going to the federal courthouse and shooting everyone. The individual making threats was identified as a member of the public who had many appearances before a local justice court as well as outstanding warrants issued by the court.

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- An individual made a series of telephone calls to the county clerk's office and dispatch center asking to speak to a certain judge. The individual rambled frequently and became irate and used profanity when her requests were denied. She had previously appeared in the courthouse and become involved in a confrontation with another court patron. Other judges in the jurisdiction and local law enforcement were notified of the various attempts at contact.

In municipal courts, **disorderly behavior** accounted for more than half of reported behaviors (58 percent, or 26 reports). The next most common behavior reported was **written or verbal threats** (27 percent, or 12 reports).



The following are some examples of incidents that occurred in municipal courts during the year:

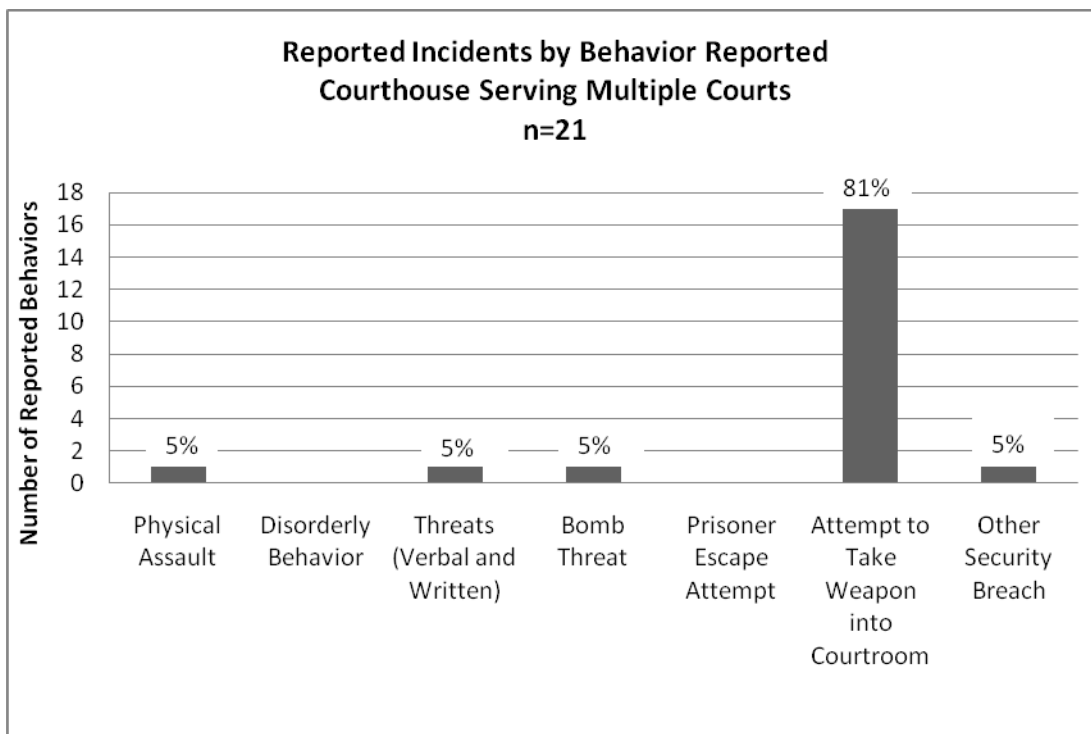
- A threatening and verbally abusive letter was sent to a judge. The envelope containing the letter also held a small amount of drugs. The case was turned over to local police for further investigation.
- A firearm was discovered during the screening process of a defendant. The individual was charged and held.
- An unknown man, who had accompanied a juvenile defendant into the courtroom, removed his belt from his pants and doubled it as if to spank the juvenile during the judge's conversation with the defendant. The judge told the man not to hit the juvenile in or outside of the courtroom, a response based on the man's threatening



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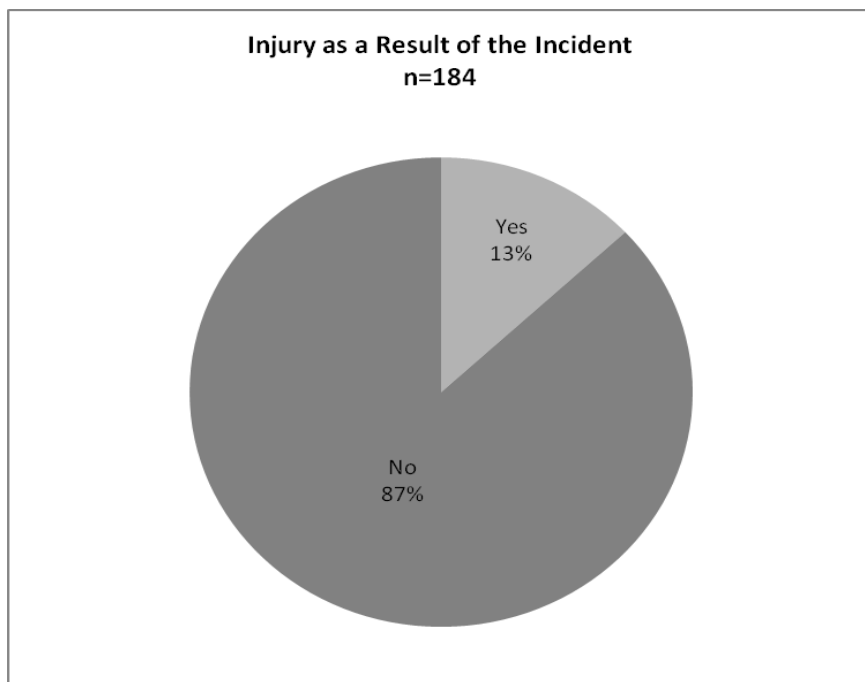
conduct. The man remained agitated during the entire court process and left with the defendant. The police department was notified of the incident.

In incidents involving courthouses serving multiple court types, an **attempt to take a weapon into the courthouse** accounted for the vast majority of reported behaviors (81 percent, or 17 reports).

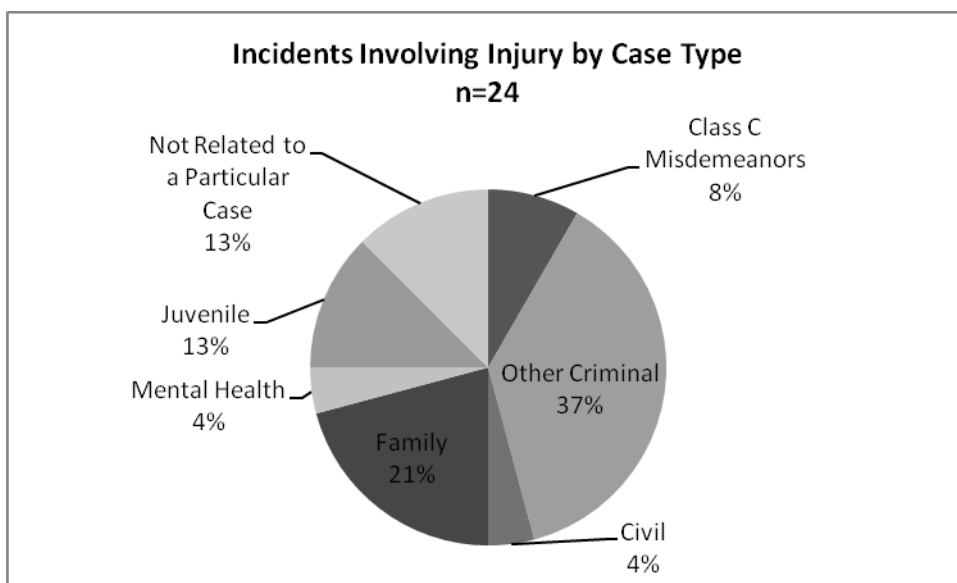


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**Incidents Resulting in Injury**—Thirteen percent of the reported incidents resulted in **injury** (24 incidents). In 87 percent of incidents, **no injuries** were reported (160 incidents).

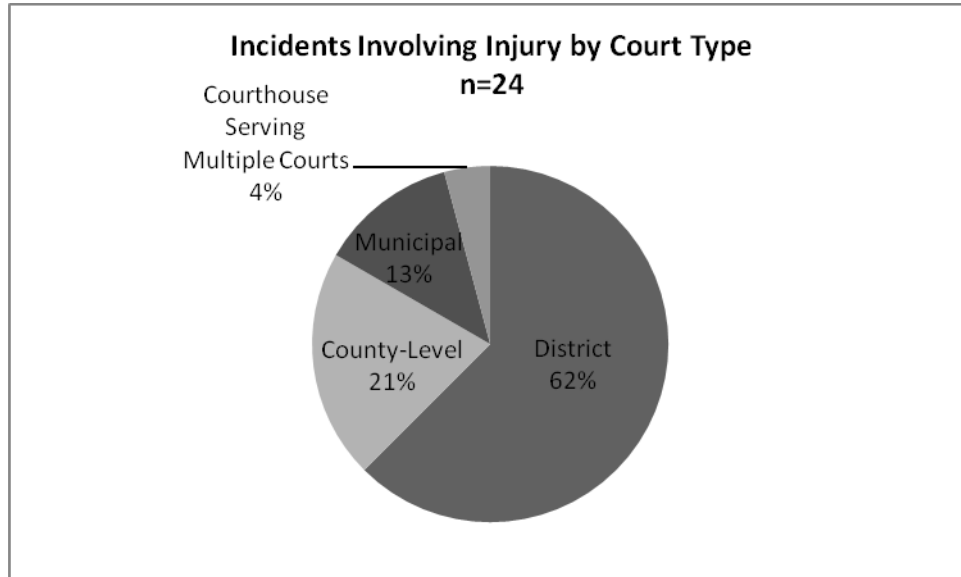


Thirty-seven percent (or 9 incidents) of the 24 incidents that resulted in injury involved **criminal cases** (Class B misdemeanors or higher level offenses). Twenty-one percent of the incidents resulting in injury involved **family cases** (five incidents).



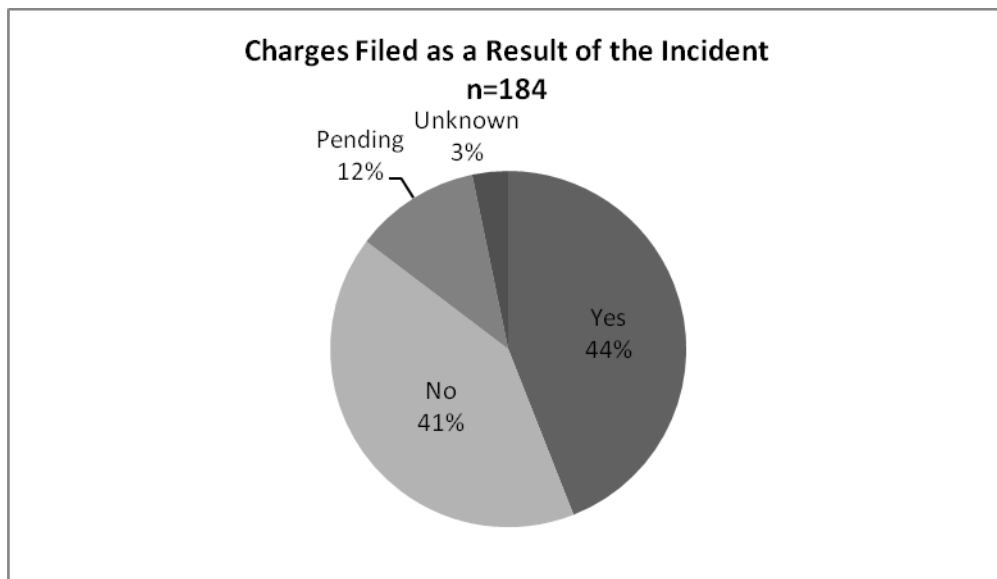
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Of the 24 incidents involving injury, 62 percent were reported by **district courts** (15 incidents); 21 percent were reported by **county-level courts** (five incidents); 13 percent were reported by **municipal courts** (three incidents); and four percent were reported by **courthouses serving multiple court types** (one incident). No incidents involving injury were reported in justice courts.

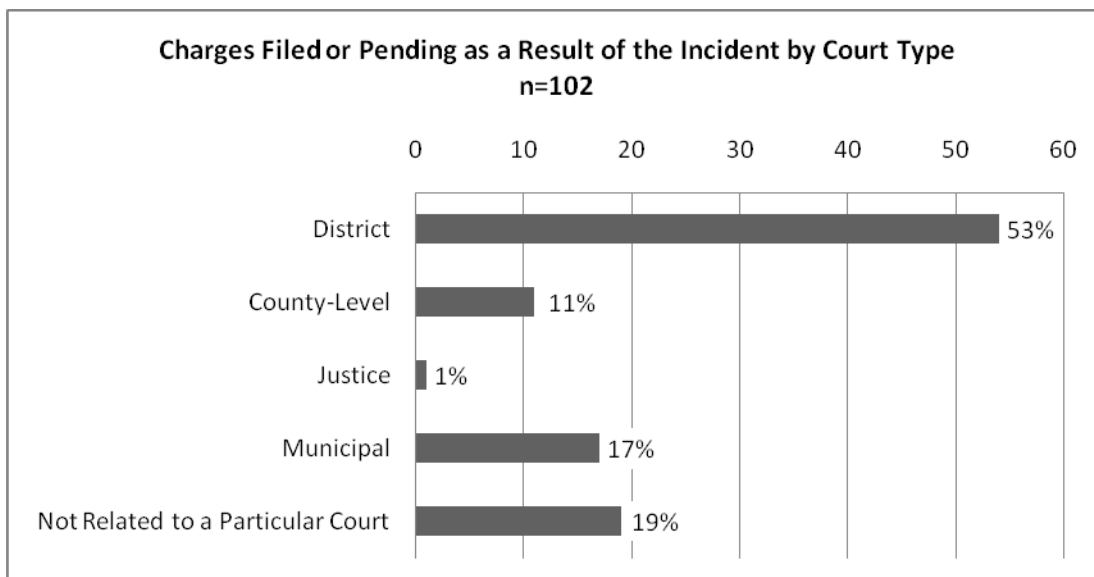


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**Incidents Resulting in Charges Filed**—Charges were filed in 44 percent of reported incidents (81 incidents). In 12 percent of the incidents, charges were pending (21 incidents). Charges were not filed in 41 percent of the incidents (76 incidents). In three percent of the incidents, the status of charges being filed was unknown (six incidents).

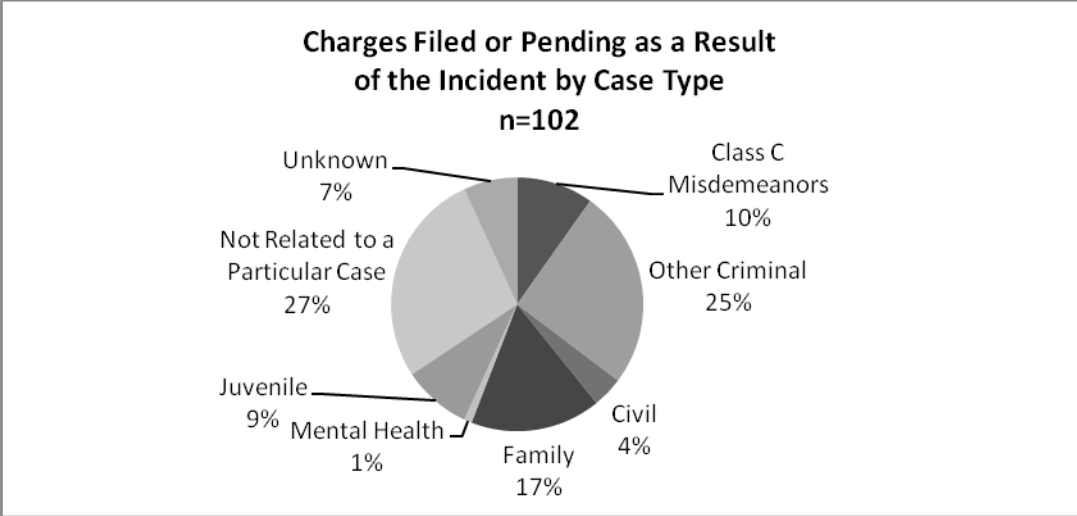


**District courts** reported 53 percent of the incidents that resulted in charges filed or pending (54 incidents). Nineteen percent of the incidents resulting in charges filed or pending were not related to a particular court (19 incidents).



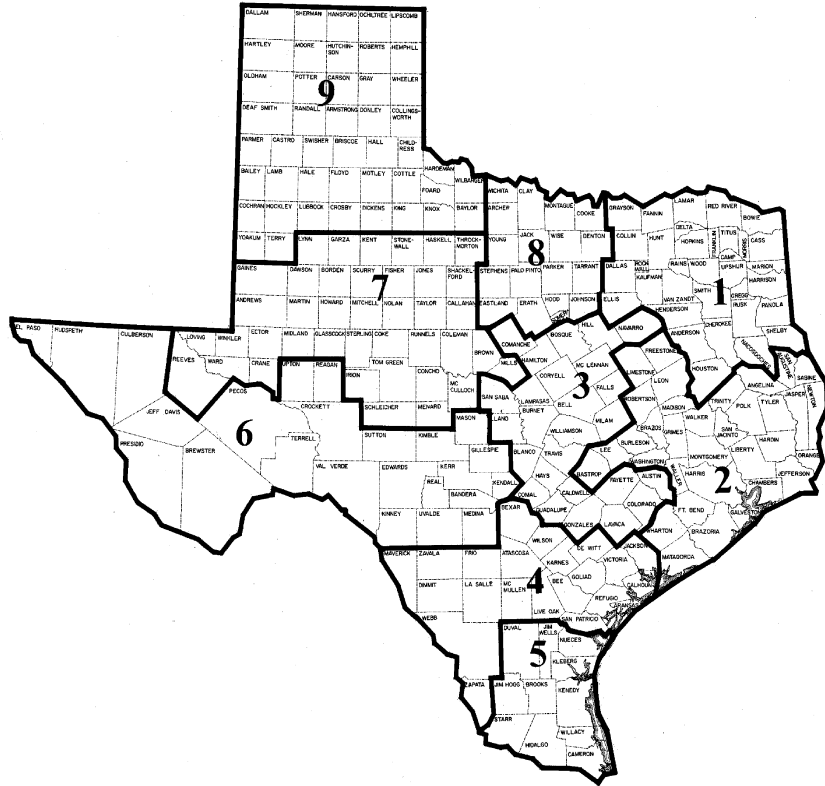
Twenty-seven percent of incidents resulting in charges filed or pending were not related to a particular case (28 incidents), 25 percent were related to higher level criminal cases (26 incidents), and 17 percent were related to family cases (17 incidents).

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**Incidents Reported by Administrative Judicial Region (AJR)**



<b>Incidents Reported by Administrative Judicial Region</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Incidents</b>
1	35	19%
2	37	20%
3	36	20%
4	55	30%
5	2	1%
6	2	1%
7	6	3%
8	6	3%
9	5	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100%</b>

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by District Courts</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bell	0	0	4	4
Bexar	8	20	25	53
Bowie	0	1	2	3
Brown	0	1	0	1
Chambers	0	0	1	1
Clay	0	0	1	1
Collin	4	1	1	6
Dallas	10	13	20	43
Duval	0	1	0	1
Eastland	1	0	1	2
Ector	1	0	0	1
Fort Bend	2	2	1	5
Galveston	0	2	0	2
Gonzales	1	0	1	2
Gray	1	0	1	2
Guadalupe	0	1	1	2
Hill	0	0	3	3
Hood	1	0	0	1
Hunt	0	1	1	2
Jefferson	0	2	6	8
Johnson	1	0	0	1
Lavaca	0	1	0	1
Lubbock	5	1	3	9
Matagorda	1	2	1	4
Midland	0	0	3	3
Montgomery	0	13	11	24
Pecos	1	0	0	1
Rockwall	0	0	1	1
San Patricio	1	0	0	1
Starr	0	0	1	1

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by District Courts (continued)</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tarrant	4	7	1	12
Terry	1	0	0	1
Tom Green	0	4	1	5
Travis	2	6	6	14
Van Zandt	1	0	0	1
Waller	0	1	0	1
Webb	7	10	2	19
Wilson	0	0	2	2
Wood	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>245</b>



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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by County-Level Courts</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Angelina	1	0	0	1
Bell	0	0	1	1
Bexar	1	9	4	14
Brewster	0	1	0	1
Dallas	1	4	1	6
El Paso	0	4	0	4
Fort Bend	1	1	0	2
Gray	1	0	0	1
Guadalupe	0	0	1	1
Hall	0	1	0	1
Hill	0	0	1	1
Jefferson	0	0	4	4
Kaufman	0	1	0	1
Lubbock	4	3	0	7
Montgomery	0	1	1	2
Rockwall	0	0	1	1
Tarrant	0	2	0	2
Travis	0	3	3	6
Webb	1	1	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>62</b>

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by Justice Courts</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brown	2	0	0	2
Harris	2	2	3	7
Hood	1	0	0	1
Kaufman	0	0	1	1
Titus	0	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>Incident Reports Submitted by Municipal Courts</b>				
<b>City</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Addison	2	0	0	2
Austin	7	7	11	25
Balch Springs	1	1	0	2
Bastrop	1	0	0	1
Bryan	1	1	6	8
Castle Hills	2	1	0	3
Cedar Hill	1	1	0	2
Cedar Park	0	1	0	1
College Station	0	0	1	1
Copperas Cove	0	2	0	2
Corpus Christi	1	0	0	1
Crockett	1	0	0	1
Dalworthington Gardens	1	1	0	2
Donna	1	0	0	1
El Paso	3	1	2	6
Eules	2	1	1	4
Ferris	0	1	1	2
Forney	4	2	4	10
Fort Worth	0	0	1	1

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by Municipal Courts (continued)</b>				
<b>City</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Garland	4	1	0	5
Gun Barrel City	0	0	1	1
Heath	1	0	0	1
Houston	1	0	2	3
Hurst	0	4	1	5
Karnes	0	1	0	1
Lockhart	0	0	1	1
Mabank	0	1	0	1
Mercedes	0	1	0	1
Mission	0	0	1	1
Nacogdoches	1	2	0	3
Paris	0	1	0	1
Pflugerville	1	0	0	1
Round Rock	1	0	0	1
San Angelo	1	0	2	3
San Antonio	0	0	1	1
Sugar Land	1	0	0	1
Yoakum	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>107</b>

<b>Incident Reports Submitted—Not Related to a Particular Court</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bexar	3	14	17	34
Dallas	0	2	0	2
Harris	1	0	0	1
Lubbock	0	0	1	1
Montgomery	0	1	0	1
Tarrant	5	2	0	7
Travis	1	4	2	7
Webb	3	4	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>60</b>