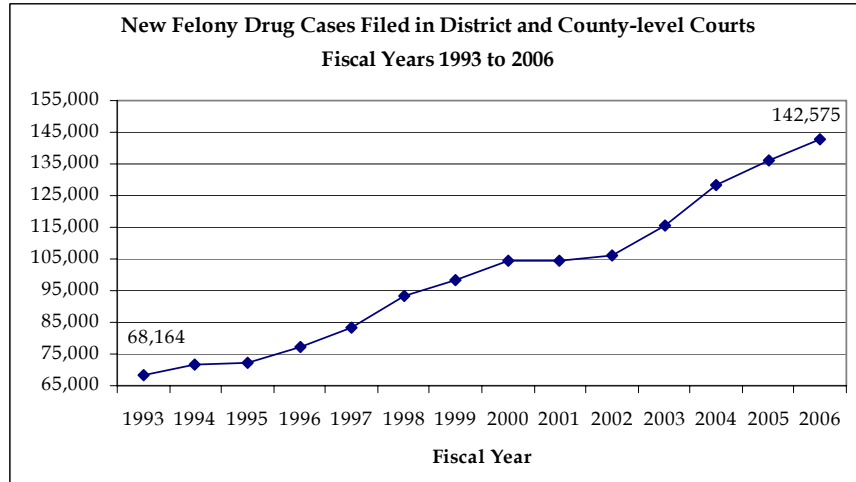


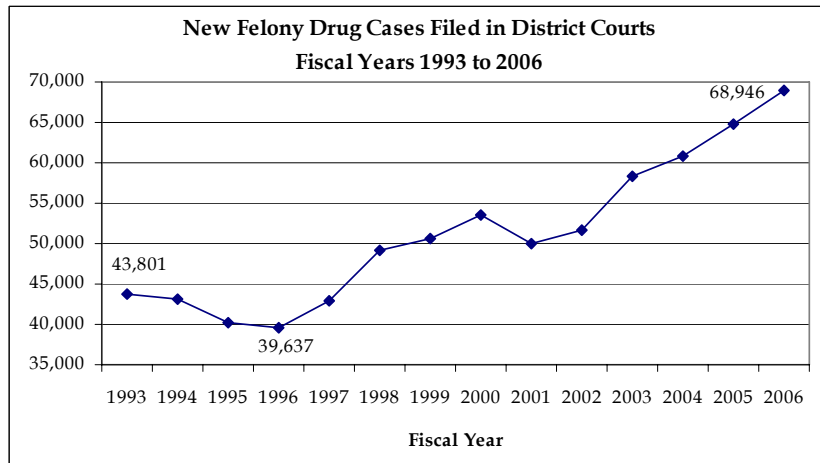
New Drug Cases Filed in Texas District and County-level Courts Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006

The number of new drug cases filed in the state's district and county-level courts increased by an average of 6.2 percent per year over the past decade and 7.8 percent per year over the past five years.



Trends in the District Courts

The number of new felony drug cases filed in district courts increased an average of 5.6 percent per year over the past decade and 7.6 percent per year over the past five years.



Over the past decade, filings of new felony drug cases grew almost universally in the state.

According to available data, only eight counties – Ward, Refugio, Presidio, Willacy, Waller, Live Oak, Kleberg, and Frio – experienced a decrease in the average annual percentage change in the number of drug cases filed per year since 1997. The largest decrease occurred in Ward County (an average of 13.1 percent per year).

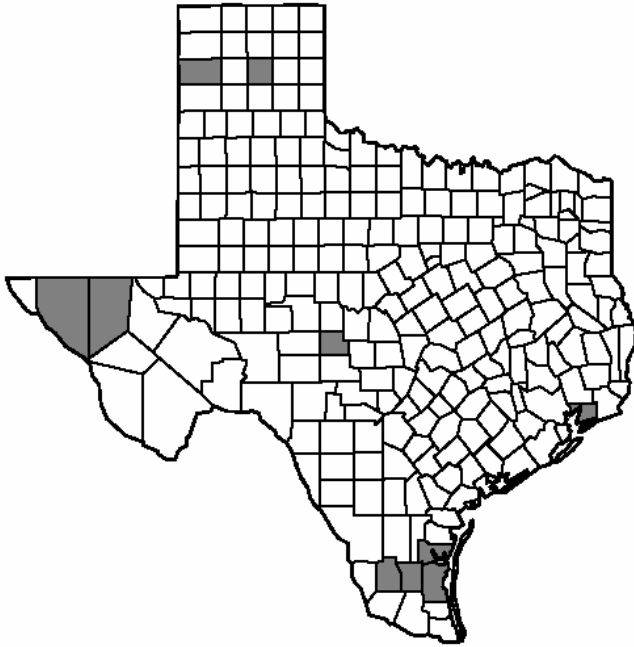
Since 2002, however, 38 counties had a negative average annual growth rate, indicating declines in the size of their incoming drug caseloads.

Brooks County had the highest average number of felony drug cases filed per capita per year (46.7 cases per 1,000 population)

Average Annual Percentage Change in Felony Drug Offense Cases Filed in District Courts Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006	
Ward	-13.1%
Refugio	-9.8%
Presidio	-9.0%
Willacy	-6.6%
Waller	-6.4%
Live Oak	-3.6%
Kleberg	-3.2%
Frio	-1.0%

from 1997 to 2006. Hudspeth County had the next highest average with 35.5 drug cases filed per capita. In all other counties, the average number of drug cases filed per capita over the decade ranged from 0 to 15.8 cases.

**Counties with Highest Average Number of Felony Drug Cases Filed per Year per 1,000 Population
Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006**



County	Average Number of Felony Drug Cases Filed per Year per 1,000 Population in District Courts Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006
Brooks	46.7
Hudspeth	35.5
Kenedy	15.8
Oldham	15.7
Kleberg	13.5
Jim Hogg	13.1
Culberson	10.3
Menard	10.1
Carson	8.8
Chambers	7.8

Trends in the 10 Most Populous Counties

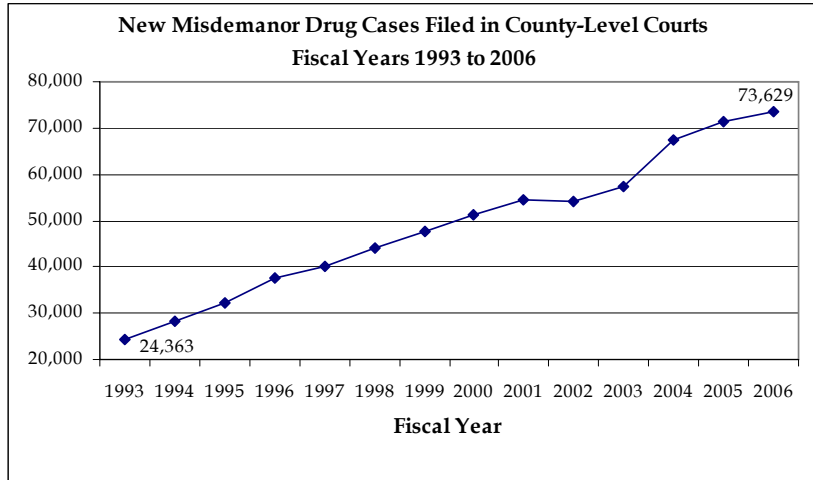
Over the past decade, the number of new felony drug cases filed more than doubled in 2 of the 10 most populous counties and exceeded the statewide average in 7 counties. Collin County reported the largest increase (315.6 percent) from 1997 to 2006.

El Paso County, on the other hand, experienced a significant decrease (44.1 percent) from 1997 to 2006 – and was the only one of the 10 most populous counties to see a decrease during this period.

County	Percentage Change
Collin	315.6%
Fort Bend	109.5%
Denton	84.4%
Travis	82.6%
Tarrant	76.3%
Harris	69.7%
Bexar	66.9%
Statewide	60.6%
Hidalgo	38.0%
Dallas	9.5%
El Paso	-44.1%

Trends in the County-Level Courts

New misdemeanor drug cases filed in the county-level courts increased an average of 7.1 percent per year over the past ten years and 8.1 percent per year over the past five years. The number of new cases filed in 2006 (73,629 cases) was a little less than double the number filed in 1997 (40,185 cases) and was nearly triple the number filed only four years before (24,363 cases).



Similar to felony drug cases filed in the district courts, filings of new misdemeanor drug cases in the county-level courts grew almost universally in the state over the past decade. According to available data, only nine counties—Sutton, Sherman, Hamilton, Val Verde, Swisher, Frio, Fayette, Howard, and Atascosa—experienced a decrease in the average annual percentage change in the number of drug cases filed per year since 1997. The largest decrease occurred in Sutton County (9.2 percent).

Average Annual Percentage Change in Misdemeanor Drug Offense Cases Filed in County-Level Courts Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006

Sutton	-9.2%
Sherman	-8.3%
Hamilton	-8.1%
Val Verde	-7.5%
Swisher	-4.3%
Frio	-3.3%
Fayette	-2.2%
Howard	-2.0%
Atascosa	-0.9%

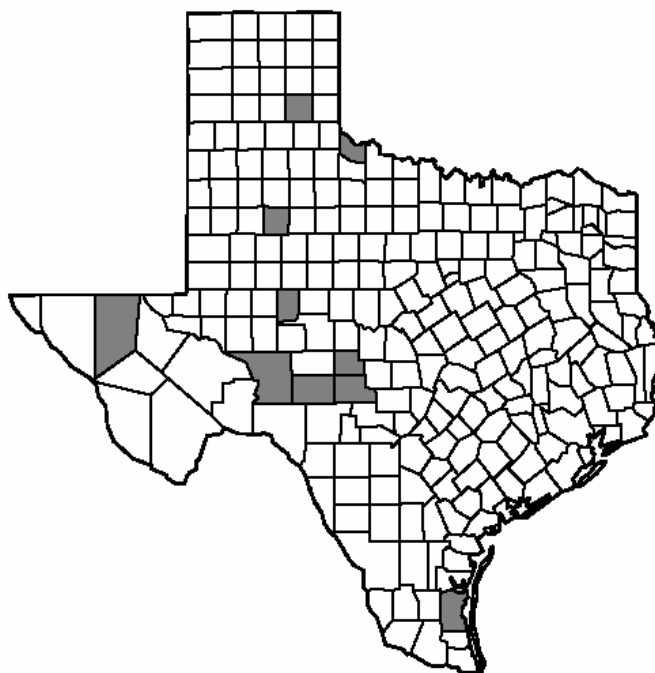
Since 2002, however, 46 counties had a negative average annual growth rate, indicating declines in the size of their incoming drug caseloads.

Kimble County had the highest average number of drug cases filed per capita per year (27.5 cases per 1,000 population) from 1997 to 2006. Overall, 7 of the 10 counties with the highest average number of drug cases filed per capita per year were located in West Texas.

Average Number of Misdemeanor Drug Cases Filed per Year per 1,000 Population in County-level Courts Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006

Kimble	27.5
Menard	25.8
Sutton	23.0
Kenedy	21.9
Crockett	12.7
Culberson	11.8
Garza	11.0
Sterling	10.6
Hardeman	9.4
Donley	9.3

**Counties with Highest Average Number of Misdemeanor
Drug Cases Filed per Year per 1,000 Population
Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006**



Trends in the 10 Most Populous Counties

Over the past decade, the number of new misdemeanor drug cases filed in county-level courts more than doubled in 8 of the 10 most populous counties and exceeded the statewide average in the same 8 counties. Travis County reported the largest increase (156.2 percent) from 1997 to 2006.

Despite large increases over the past decade reported by other large counties, Dallas County experienced a steady decline in drug case filings from 1997 to 2003. However, the number of drug cases filed over the past two years rose back to the levels reported in 1996 and 1997.

Percentage Change in Number of Misdemeanor Drug Cases Filed in the 10 Most Populous Counties Fiscal Years 1997 to 2006	
County	Percentage Change
Travis	156.2%
Collin	155.6%
Fort Bend	129.4%
Hidalgo	120.9%
Denton	119.9%
Harris	110.9%
Bexar	110.8%
Tarrant	108.3%
Statewide	83.2%
Dallas	22.7%
El Paso	13.9%