

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



2020

Ohio Courts
Statistical Summary

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2020 Ohio Courts Statistical Summary

September 2021

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A MESSAGE
from the Chief Justice

Since 1960, the Supreme Court of Ohio has issued an annual statistical report detailing the work of Ohio's judiciary. In 2008, the Supreme Court published the inaugural issue of this report, the Ohio Courts Statistical Summary, in which we provided an overview of the structure and operations of Ohio's court system and analyses of notable caseload trends and other aspects of the vital work performed every day by Ohio's judges, magistrates, and court staff. We are pleased to issue this 13th edition of the Ohio Courts Statistical Summary.

By analyzing case-filing patterns and long-term trends, the Ohio Supreme Court attempts to assist in the efficient administration of justice at all levels of the judiciary. However, we do not examine or analyze larger social and governmental trends that may contribute to or influence changes in case-filing volumes.

What the data can tell those of us who work in the court system is how to better allocate our resources given the current case volume. In addition, providing reliable, transparent, and accessible data on the courts assists in enhancing public trust and confidence in the judicial branch.

The Supreme Court commends Ohio's courts for their continued assistance in the timely submission of caseload statistical reports, without which we could not continue to fulfill our duty to inform the public about the crucial work performed by Ohio's dedicated judges, magistrates, and court staff.

MAUREEN O'CONNOR

Chief Justice

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NOTE: Pages 26-27 contain details about the Data Dashboard expansion.



AN OVERVIEW of the Statistical Reporting Process

The obligation for Ohio trial and appellate courts to report caseload statistics to the court's Case Management Section is established by Rule 37 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.

The requirement to submit regular caseload reports is fixed upon each individual judge for the cases assigned to them (Sup.R. 37).

An exception to this requirement exists in multi-judge municipal and county courts where certain activities are permitted in particular sessions of court in which cases are not assigned to individual judges, but instead are grouped by subject category and presided over by a rotation among the several judges of the court.

The reporting obligations established under Sup.R. 37 are as follows:

COURT OF APPEALS

The presiding judge of each court of appeals district must submit a quarterly presiding-judge report that describes the status of all cases pending in that district. In addition, each individual judge must submit a quarterly appellate-judge report that provides further details on case terminations, as well as the cases assigned to the judge for authoring the district's opinions.

COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Judges with responsibility over general, domestic relations, and juvenile subject-matter jurisdiction must submit a monthly report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the number of cases pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month. If a judge is responsible for more than one category of subject-matter jurisdiction in their court, then the judge must submit a report for each such category. For example, a judge with responsibility over domestic relations and juvenile cases must submit two reports: one for domestic relations cases and one for juvenile cases.

Judges with responsibility over probate matters must submit a quarterly report describing the number of cases filed and closed over the quarter, as well as additional statistics.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY COURTS

As noted above, an exception to the ordinary requirement for judges to submit regular reports of the cases assigned to them exists for multi-judge municipal and county courts. Notwithstanding that exception, all municipal and county court judges must submit a monthly individual-judge report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the number of cases pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month.

In addition to the individual-judge report, each municipal and county court administrative judge must submit a monthly report including the work performed on felony and small claims cases (which are not individually assigned) and the work performed during particular sessions of court on all other case types.

General Notes Concerning Caseload Statistics

The caseload statistics reported to the Supreme Court are summary in nature and consist only of counts of cases. The Supreme Court does not collect lists of individual cases that constitute the counts reported.

The report forms and instructions are available on the Supreme Court website. The instructions include detailed information concerning the proper manner of classifying cases by type, how a case is defined, and how to properly report incoming cases and terminations.

Regarding terminations, it is essential to understand that not all termination categories are dispositive in nature. Some termination categories render a case inactive for reporting purposes until such time as a condition in the case changes. An example is a criminal defendant who fails to appear for trial. The court, as long as it reasonably believes the defendant will not be apprehended in the immediate future, may terminate the case for reporting purposes. The court reactivates the case for reporting purposes when that defendant is arrested. This aspect of counting terminations is important to bear in mind when evaluating a court's case-management performance against a time standard for disposing of cases.

Occasionally, a court will discover errors in its case counts following a case inventory or during an update to its case management system. Courts may submit amended reports at any time, and the changed data is entered into the Supreme Court's caseload statistics system immediately. Accordingly, the caseload statistics reported in a particular static report, such as this document, may change in the future following such amendments.

In order to promote accurate and uniform statewide reporting, the staff of the Supreme Court Case Management Section conducts regular training for court staff responsible for preparing monthly and quarterly reports.

Describing Data Using Median and Mean

In this document, sets of data are sometimes described using means and medians. Mean and median are measures of central tendency, or what value is "typical" across a set of data. The mean is calculated by dividing the sum of the values in a set of data by the number of values in that set. The resulting value is commonly referred to as the "average." The median is determined by sorting the values in a set of data from lowest to highest value and identifying the data point in the middle of the range. It is the midpoint of the data at which half the items are higher and half are lower (the 50th percentile). The median is a particularly useful measure of typicality because, unlike the mean, medians are not subject to the skewing effect of outliers (data points at an extreme margin on the range of values).

Population Data and Caseload Measures

Except where noted in the body of this summary, all data shown are statewide figures. Population data are from the 2010 U.S. Census.

Unless noted otherwise, the caseloads of the courts are presented in terms of their total incoming caseloads for the various years shown.

Total incoming caseloads consist of new filings, as well as reactivated cases (which previously were placed on inactive reporting status) and reopened cases (which previously were closed). Editions of this report prior to 2015 used the new-filings metric. By presenting the data in terms of total incoming caseloads, a more complete picture of the workload imposed on Ohio’s courts can be depicted and analyzed.

General Notes Concerning Performance Measures

When analyzing the work of Ohio courts and judges, the Case Management Section regularly evaluates two key performance measures readily available using caseload statistics reported by the courts: clearance rates and overage rates. Both measures can be applied to a court’s overall docket, individual case types, or groups of case types. The clearance rates and overage rates presented in this report represent the courts’ monthly averages across the years shown. For example, if the municipal and county courts are reported as demonstrating a 3% overage rate for a particular case type in 2020, then that figure represents the average overage rate across each of the 12 months in the year.

Clearance Rate

This measure identifies how well a court keeps up with its incoming caseload. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Clearance Rate} = \frac{\text{Total number of outgoing cases}}{\text{Total number of incoming cases}}$$

Clearance rates can be calculated over any time period, as long as the incoming and outgoing values apply to that same time period. Using the monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of outgoing cases is determined using the reported “total terminations” values. The ratio of outgoing cases to incoming cases (produced using the above formula) ordinarily is multiplied by 100 and expressed as percentage. The target is a clearance rate of 100%.

A clearance rate of 100% means over a given time period a court terminated exactly as many cases as it took in during that same time period. If a court’s clearance rate regularly is less than 100% over an extended period of time, then the court will develop a backlog because the pace of incoming cases exceeds the pace of outgoing cases.

While valuable, clearance rates alone do not accurately depict a court’s success in moving its entire docket forward in a timely fashion. A court may regularly demonstrate a 100%, or greater, clearance rate while simultaneously keeping a sizable number of cases from being disposed of within applicable time standards. Accordingly, clearance rates should be viewed alongside a measure that gauges the extent to which a court’s caseload is pending beyond time standards defined by Rule 39 of the Rules of Superintendence, such as the overage rate.

Overage Rate

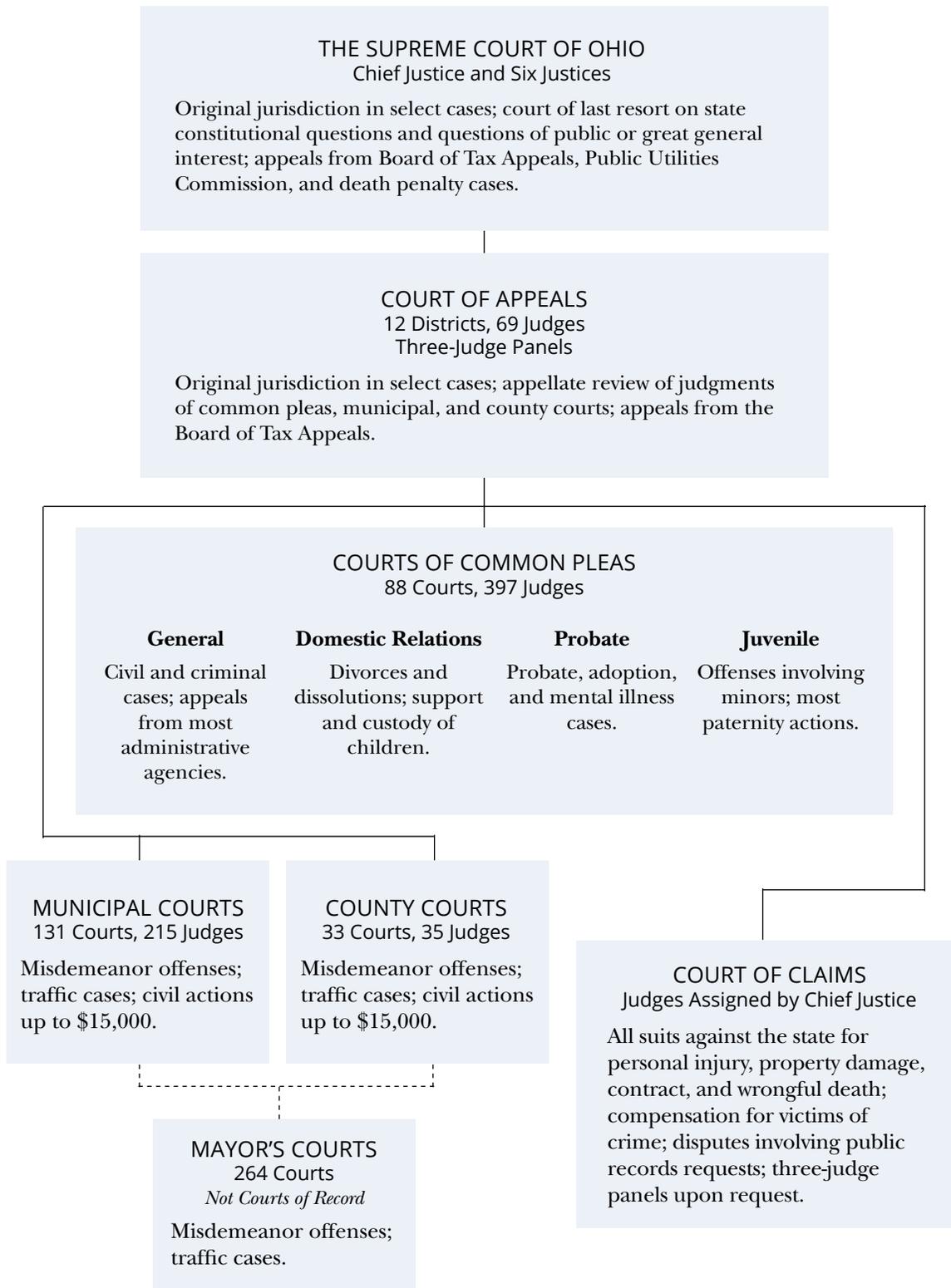
This measure identifies the extent to which a court's pending caseload lags past applicable time standards, or, is overage. The overage rate is a measure of the size of a court's backlog. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Overage Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of cases pending beyond time guidelines}}{\text{Total number of cases pending}}$$

Using the monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of active cases pending for longer than the time guideline (the reported "cases pending beyond time guideline" value) is divided by the total number of active cases pending (the reported "pending end of period" value). The result is multiplied by 100 and expressed as a percentage.

While the application of clearance rates and overage rates affords a reasonable view of a court's case management performance, the numbers provide an incomplete assessment. The National Center for State Courts developed a set of 10 core court performance measures, packaged into a set of practical tools named CourTools, which provide a balanced perspective on a court's overall performance. Developed with input from a wide range of court professionals, they are designed to assist courts in laying a solid foundation for self-evaluation and in charting a course for future improvement. The Case Management Section provides CourTools training for court personnel.

STRUCTURE OF THE OHIO JUDICIAL SYSTEM





ALL COURTS

Incoming Cases

The COVID-19 pandemic had significant impacts on court operations in 2020. Those impacts include substantially lower numbers of incoming cases, as detailed throughout this report. Despite the many novel challenges to managing dockets during the pandemic, Ohio's courts demonstrated remarkable flexibility as they navigated 2020, including the widespread adoption of the use of remote technology to ensure the public's ability to access justice. The immediate impacts of the pandemic on Ohio's courts have been dramatic, but the full scope likely will not be fully understood for years to come.

Table 1 shows the number of incoming cases (new filings plus reactivated cases) filed in Ohio courts over the past 10 years. Detailed information concerning the variety of cases constituting these figures is contained in the various court sections of this summary.

In 2020, a total of 2,069,280 incoming cases was reported across Ohio's courts, a decrease of 28.1% from 2019. This dramatic overall decrease was seen echoed across the state within court types and case types. There was more than a 10% drop across all case types, with the exception of probate cases which decreased by 5.4%.

TABLE 1

All Courts, All Case Types

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

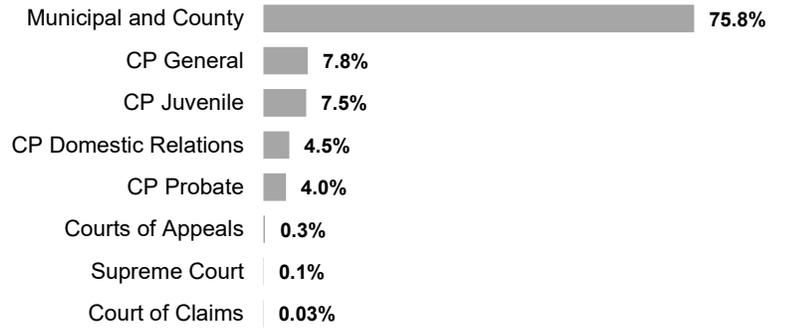
Court Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Supreme Court	2,207	2,187	2,055	2,255	2,107	1,914	1,828	1,858	1,820	1,592
Courts of Appeals	9,779	9,886	9,321	9,196	9,060	8,478	8,379	8,445	8,284	6,013
Court of Claims	1,337	865	793	1,007	1,073	929	1,041	1,527	1,194	724
Common Pleas	763,514	748,919	700,888	669,006	648,544	642,121	642,317	623,384	615,106	492,527
General	257,639	250,237	220,821	208,829	198,760	201,502	201,609	203,588	202,837	161,117
Domestic Relations	130,603	125,773	122,042	117,460	113,414	110,332	108,541	109,257	108,636	93,920
Probate	85,866	88,798	89,125	84,526	87,257	84,519	85,341	85,831	86,533	82,002
Juvenile	289,406	284,111	268,900	258,191	249,113	245,768	246,826	224,708	217,100	155,488
Municipal and County	2,539,375	2,533,302	2,540,366	2,486,742	2,364,735	2,313,223	2,399,423	2,378,744	2,249,616	1,568,424
Municipal	2,374,445	2,356,711	2,364,898	2,305,551	2,190,576	2,145,084	2,216,954	2,200,744	2,086,188	1,456,387
County	164,930	176,591	175,468	181,191	174,159	168,139	182,469	178,000	168,083	112,037
All Courts Combined	3,316,212	3,295,159	3,253,423	3,168,206	3,025,519	2,966,665	3,052,988	3,013,958	2,876,020	2,069,280

Figure 1 shows the percentages of the total statewide volume of incoming cases in 2020, broken down by court type and sorted from highest to lowest. Municipal and county courts, which hear traffic cases involving adult drivers, constitute nearly 76% of the state’s entire caseload.

FIGURE 1

All Courts, All Case Types

Percentage of total incoming cases, 2020





The Supreme Court of Ohio

The Supreme Court of Ohio is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution, which provides that “the judicial power of the state is vested in a Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, Courts of Common Pleas and divisions thereof, and such other courts inferior to the Supreme Court as may from time to time be established by law.” Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution sets the size of the court at seven – a chief justice and six justices – and outlines the jurisdiction of the court.

The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in Ohio. The Court may grant leave to appeal criminal cases from the courts of appeals and may direct any court of appeals to certify its record on civil cases found to be “cases of public or great interest.”

The Court must accept appeals of cases that originated in the courts of appeals, cases involving the death penalty, cases involving questions arising under the U.S. Constitution or the Ohio Constitution, and cases in which there are conflicting opinions from two or more courts of appeals. The Court also must accept appeals from such administrative bodies as the Board of Tax Appeals and the Public Utilities Commission.

The court has original jurisdiction for certain special remedies that permit a person to file an action in the Supreme Court. These extraordinary remedies include writs of *habeas corpus* (involving the release of persons allegedly unlawfully imprisoned or committed), writs of *mandamus* and *procedendo* (ordering a public official to do a required act), writs of *prohibition* (ordering a lower court to cease an unlawful act), and writs of *quo warranto* (against a person or corporation for usurpation, misuse, or abuse of public office or corporate office or franchise).

The Supreme Court makes rules governing practice and procedure in Ohio courts. Procedural rules adopted by the Supreme Court become effective unless both houses of the General Assembly adopt a concurrent resolution of disapproval. The Supreme Court also exercises general superintendence over all Ohio courts through its rule-making authority. The rules of superintendence set minimum standards for court administration. Unlike procedural rules, rules of superintendence do not require General Assembly review or approval to become effective.

The chief justice assigns judges to trial and appellate courts for temporary duty in cases of a court overload, when a judge is removed from a case because of an affidavit of disqualification, and when judges recuse themselves from a particular case.

The court has authority over the admission of attorneys to the practice of law in Ohio and may discipline admitted attorneys who violate the rules governing the practice of law.

The chief justice and six justices are elected to six-year terms. Two justices are chosen during the general election in even-numbered years. In the year when the chief justice runs, voters pick three members of the court. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the Court. The governor makes appointments for vacancies occurring between elections.

Caseloads

The Supreme Court reports detailed caseload statistics each year in its annual report. Readers are encouraged to review those reports to gain further insight into the work of the Court. In its annual report, and here, the Court presents performance-related statistics concerning the time to dispose of various case types.

For purposes of this analysis, the Court's overall case filings are presented under four categories:

All Case Types Combined, Jurisdictional Appeals, Merit Cases, and Practice of Law Cases.

All Case Types Combined

For all case types combined, the Court saw the filing of 1,592 new cases in 2020, a decrease of 12.5% from the 1,820 cases filed in 2019, and a 16.8% decrease over the five-year high of 1,914 cases in 2016. (See **Table 1 and Figure 1.**)

Jurisdictional Appeals

In 2020, a total of 1,083 new jurisdictional appeals were filed, a 15.9% decrease from the 1,288 cases filed in 2019, and a 15.9% decrease from 2016, when 1,382 new jurisdictional appeals were filed. (See **Figure 2.**)

TABLE 1

Major Case Categories, Supreme Court of Ohio
New filings, 2016 to 2020

Case Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jurisdictional Appeals	1,382	1,365	1,299	1,288	1,083
Merit Cases	425	370	428	405	376
Practice of Law Cases	107	93	131	127	133
Disciplinary Cases	101	84	120	117	118
All Other	6	9	11	10	2
All Case Types	1,914	1,828	1,858	1,820	1,592

FIGURE 1

All Case Types

New filings, 2016 to 2020

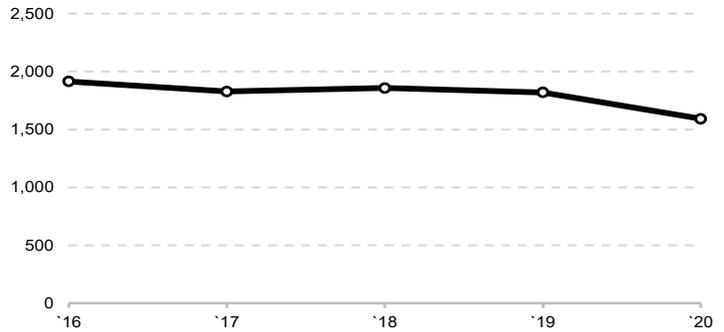


FIGURE 2

Jurisdictional Appeals

New filings, 2016 to 2020

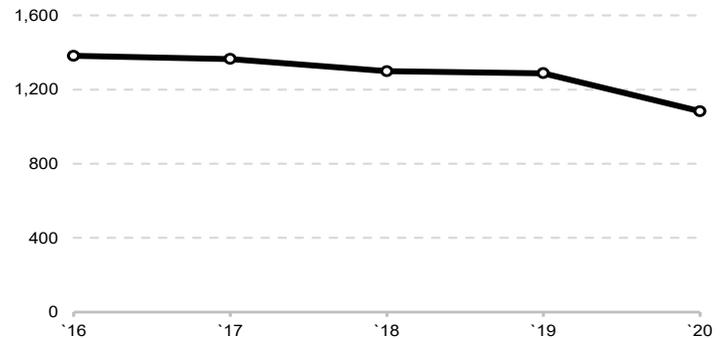


FIGURE 3

Merit Cases

New filings, 2016 to 2020

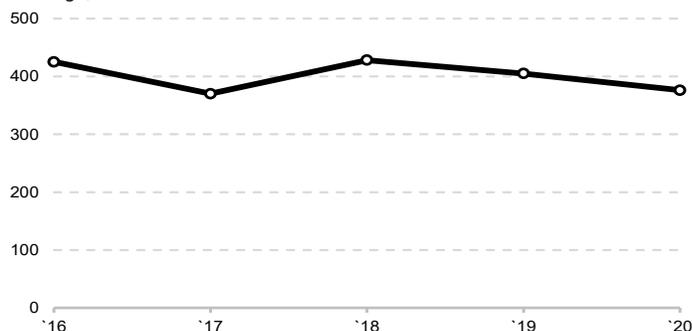


FIGURE 4

Practice of Law Cases

New filings, 2016 to 2020



Merit Cases

These are cases the court must hear and render a decision on the merits. The general categories of merit cases consist of the following:

- Original actions;
- *Habeas corpus* cases;
- Direct appeals (cases originating in courts of appeals);
- Direct appeals involving termination of parental rights/adoption;
- Certified conflicts;
- Certified conflicts involving termination of parental rights/adoption;
- Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals;
- Appeals from Public Utilities Commission;
- Appeals for Power Siting Board;
- Death penalty cases;
- Certified questions of state law;
- Appeals from App.R. 26(B) application in death penalty cases;
- Other merit cases.

In 2020, a total of 376 merit cases were filed, a 7.2% decrease from the 405 cases filed in 2019. (See **Figure 3.**)

PRACTICE OF LAW CASES

These cases arise from the Court’s responsibility to govern the practice of law in Ohio. Included in this category are disciplinary cases involving allegations of ethical misconduct by attorneys and judges, bar admissions cases involving applications from people seeking admission to the Ohio bar, and cases alleging the unauthorized practice of law. The majority of practice of law cases involve attorney discipline. In 2020, a total of 133 practice-of-law cases were filed, a 4.7% increase over 2019. Of the 133 practice of law cases filed in 2020, a total of 118 (88.7%) were disciplinary cases, a 16.8% increase over the 101 disciplinary cases filed in 2016. (See **Figure 4.**)

Time to Disposition Analyses

All Cases

Days from Case Initiation to Final Disposition

In 2020, the Court disposed of 1,796 cases. The median number of days a case was pending before the court in 2020 was 78 days. (See **Figure 5**.)

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Merit Review

Days from Case Initiation to Final Disposition

Decisions in 117 jurisdictional appeals following full merit review were released in 2020. The time to disposition averaged 525 days, a slight increase over the average time to disposition of 506 days in 2019, and still below the five-year high in 2016. (See **Figure 6**.)

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Merit Review

Days from Case Initiation to Final Disposition

In 2020, it took the Court an average of 76 days to consider and dispose of jurisdictional appeals not accepted for full merit review. (See **Figure 7**.)

FIGURE 5

All Cases

Days from case initiation to final disposition, 2016 to 2020

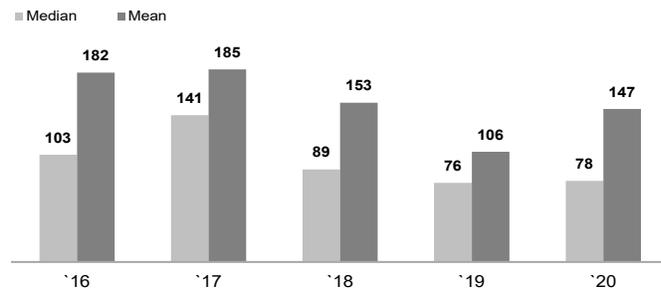


FIGURE 6

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from case initiation to final disposition, 2016 to 2020

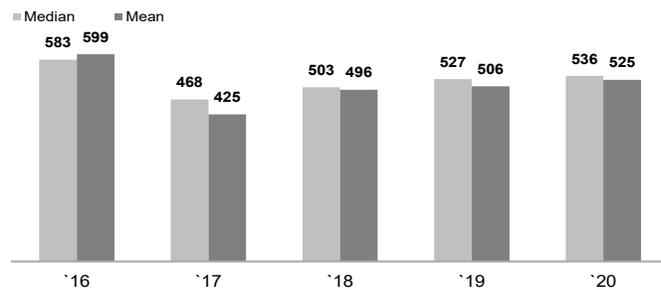


FIGURE 7

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from case initiation to final disposition, 2016 to 2020

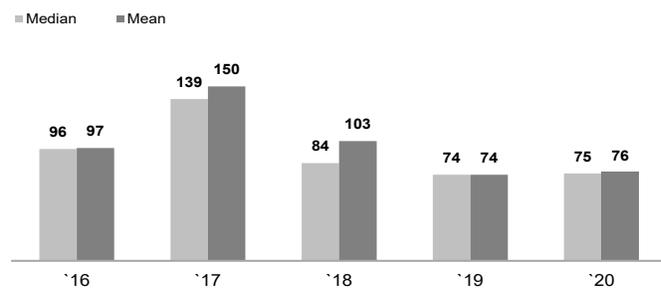
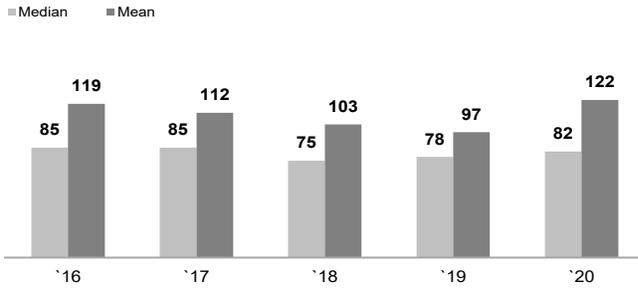


FIGURE 8

Original Actions

Days from case initiation to final disposition, 2016 to 2020



Original Actions

Days from Case Initiation to Final Disposition

During 2020, the Court disposed of 280 original actions, taking on average 82 days to reach disposition. (See **Figure 8**.)

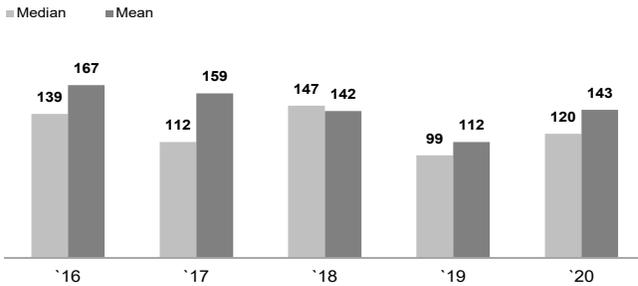
All Cases Decided with an Opinion
From Submission to Court to Issuance of Opinion

In 2020, the Court decided 327 cases with an opinion, an increase of 74.9% from the five-year low in 2019 of 187 cases. (See **Figure 9**.)

FIGURE 9

All Cases Decided with an Opinion

Days from submission to Court to issuance of opinion, 2016 to 2020





Court of Appeals

Ohio's court of appeals is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution and its jurisdiction is outlined in Article IV, Section 3. The court is divided regionally into 12 districts. As an intermediate-level appellate court, its primary function is to hear appeals from the courts of common pleas, and municipal and county courts, which may, in turn, be further appealed to the Supreme Court. Each case is heard and decided by a three-judge panel.

In addition to its appellate jurisdiction, the court of appeals has original jurisdiction, as does the Supreme Court, to hear applications for writs of *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, *procedendo*, *prohibition*, and *quo warranto*. The Tenth District, consisting solely of Franklin County, also hears all appeals from the Court of Claims, except for decisions concerning the denial of public-records requests under R.C. 2743.75.

The number of judges in each appellate district depends on a variety of factors, including the district's population and its caseload. Appeals court judges are elected to six-year terms in even-numbered years. They must be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio at least six years prior to the commencement of a term.

Caseloads

The cases heard in Ohio's court of appeals are classified into four broad types:

- **Criminal appeals** arising from criminal cases heard in the general divisions of the courts of common pleas, and in municipal and county courts.
- **Civil appeals** arising from civil cases heard in the general divisions of the courts of common pleas, and municipal and county courts.
- **Family law appeals** arising from cases heard in the domestic relations, juvenile, and probate divisions of Ohio's courts of common pleas.
- **Miscellaneous appeals** include original actions filed in the courts of appeals, *habeas corpus* cases, and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims.

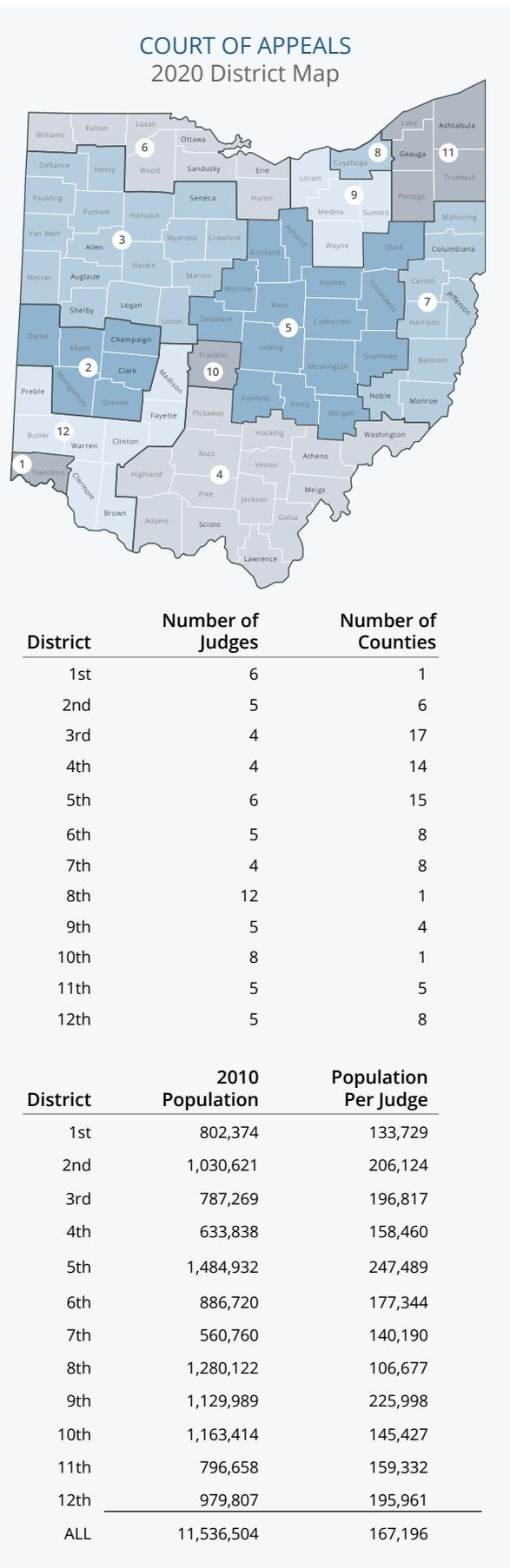
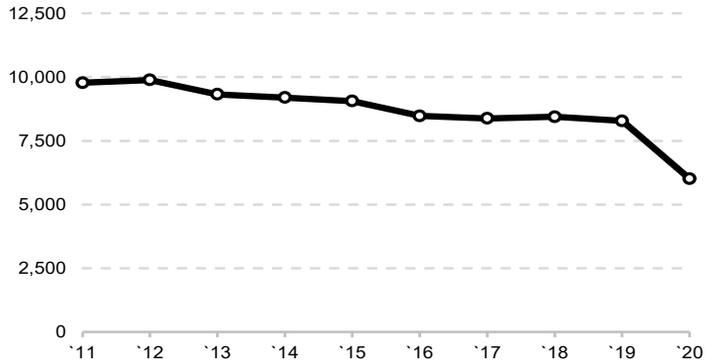


FIGURE 1

All Case Types

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



The overall number of appeals filed in Ohio’s court of appeals has generally decreased since 2012, with the exceptions of a small increase in 2018. In 2012, a 10-year high of 9,886 cases were filed. In 2020, a total of 6,013 cases were filed, a 38.5% decline from the 10-year high. The number of cases filed in 2020 represented a 27.4% decrease over 2019. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**.)

TABLE 1

Court of Appeals

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

Case Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Criminal	4,352	4,409	4,199	4,329	4,294	4,010	4,035	4,053	4,090	2,815
Civil	3,041	3,139	2,873	2,595	2,633	2,449	2,203	2,122	2,087	1,519
Family Law	1,459	1,466	1,481	1,526	1,428	1,408	1,407	1,556	1,466	1,188
Miscellaneous	928	872	768	746	705	611	734	714	641	491
All Case Types	9,780	9,886	9,321	9,196	9,060	8,478	8,379	8,445	8,284	6,013

Figure 2 shows trends in the number of new filings over the past 10 years within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Criminal appeals exhibited a general downward trend between 2011 and 2016. However, since 2016, the number of new criminal appeals has experienced small year-over-year increases until a sharp decrease in 2020. Civil appeals declined at a fairly consistent rate over the past 10 years. The 1,519 civil appeals filed in 2020 are 50% fewer than the 10-year high of 3,139 civil appeals filed in 2012.

When viewed over the last 10 years, family law appeals remained largely stable, until a sharp decline in 2020. In 2020, a total of 1,188 new family law appeals were filed, a 19% decrease from 2019, and a 23.7% decrease from the 10-year high of 1,556 cases in 2018.

(See **Figure 3**.)

Figure 4 shows the 10-year trend in the filing of miscellaneous appeals (including original actions, *habeas corpus* cases, appeals from administrative agencies, appeals from the Court of Claims, and appeals involving public records matters). In 2017, incoming miscellaneous appeals cases increased 20% over 2016. In 2020, the 491 miscellaneous appeals filed was a 23.4% decline from the 641 miscellaneous appeals filed in 2017.

FIGURE 2

Civil and Criminal Appeals
Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

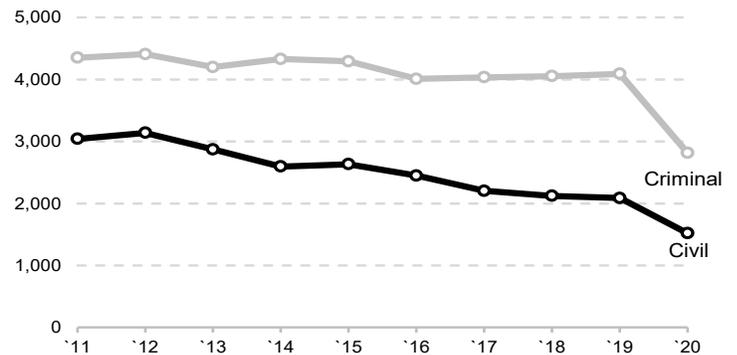


FIGURE 3

Family Law Appeals
Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

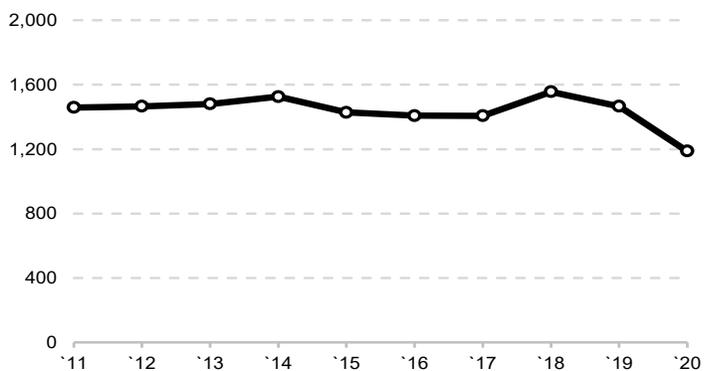
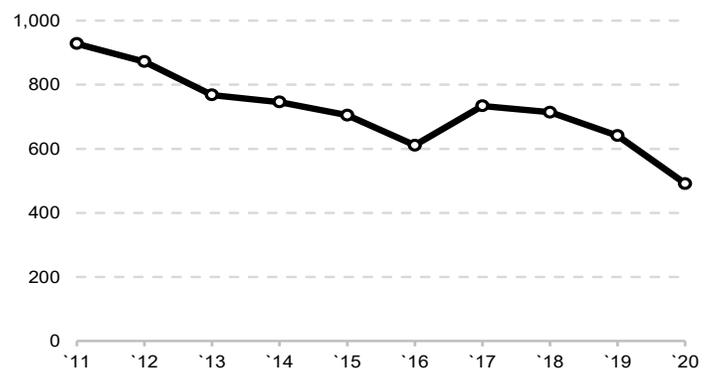


FIGURE 4

Miscellaneous Appeals
Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020





The Court of Claims has statewide original jurisdiction over all civil actions filed against the state of Ohio. Created pursuant to the Court of Claims Act in 1975, the Court of Claims sits in Franklin County.

Civil actions in the Court of Claims are determined in one of two ways, depending on the amount of monetary damages claimed. Civil cases involving \$10,000 or less are determined administratively by the clerk or deputy clerk of the court. Cases involving more than \$10,000 are heard by a judge or magistrate. A judge of the court also may review and enter final judgment in a civil action determined administratively. Judges on the Court of Claims are assigned by the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

On Sept. 28, 2016, Senate Bill 321 became law allowing citizens who believe a government entity improperly withheld public records to file a complaint in the Court of Claims. Public records cases first are referred to mediation, and if they are not resolved, a special master issues a report and recommendation to a judge of the court, who makes a final determination.

Most appeals from the Court of Claims are heard by the Tenth District Court of Appeals in Columbus, except for decisions concerning the denial of public records requests under R.C. 2743.75, which are heard in the district where the public office is located.

In addition to civil actions against the state of Ohio, the Court of Claims hears appeals from decisions of the attorney general regarding claims for reparations by victims of crime.

The total incoming cases for the Court of Claims for the past five years is displayed in **Table 1**. Because 2017 was the first full year of the court receiving public records matters, only a four-year filing trend is displayed. Partial data for 2016 is not reported.

In 2020, a total of 203 judicial cases were filed, a decrease of 25% from 2019, and the fewest over the last five years. (See **Figure 1**.)

The general makeup of the court's incoming caseload in 2020 is shown in **Figure 2**.

TABLE 1

Court of Claims

Total incoming cases, 2016 to 2020

Case Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Judicial Cases	365	280	311	272	203
Administrative Determinations	509	607	1,072	827	422
Victims Reparations Appeals	55	50	41	24	27
Public Records Requests	-	104	103	71	72
All Case Types	929	1,041	1,527	1,194	724

FIGURE 1

Judicial Cases

Total incoming cases, 2016 to 2020

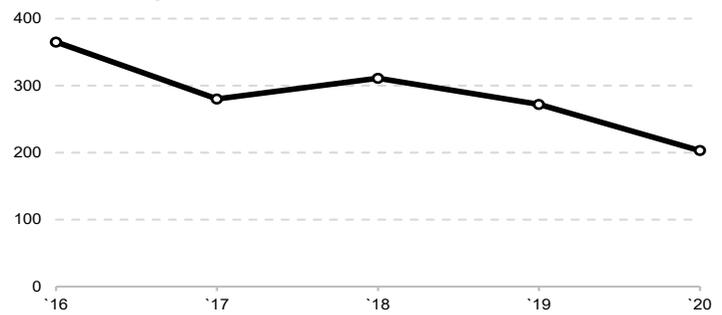


FIGURE 2

Court of Claims, All Case Types

Total incoming cases, 2020

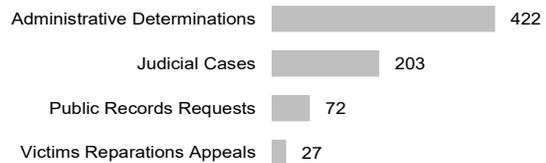
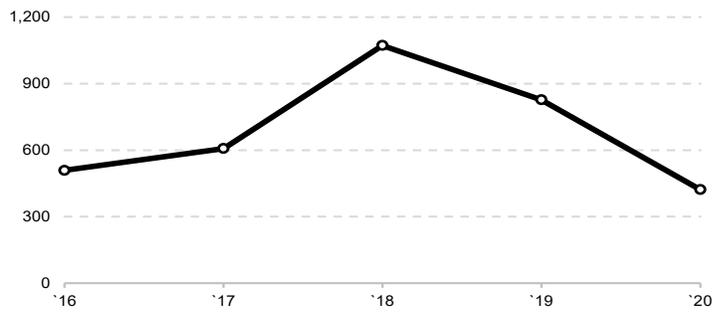


FIGURE 3

Administrative Determinations

Total incoming cases, 2016 to 2020



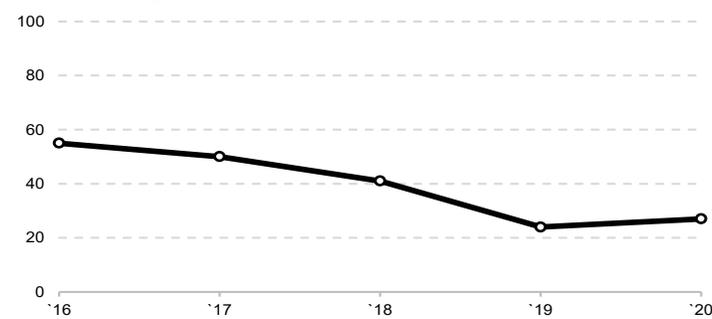
The 422 administrative determination cases filed in 2020 represents a decline of 49% over 2019. Historically, the court has experienced fairly wide variability in the number of these cases being filed from year to year with a five-year high of 1,072 in 2018. (See **Figure 3.**)

The volume of victims of crime appeals also tends to fluctuate from year to year, but has experienced notable declines over the last five years. In 2020, a total of 27 appeals were filed, a slight increase from the 24 cases in 2019. (See **Figure 4.**)

FIGURE 4

Victims Reparations Appeals

Total incoming cases, 2016 to 2020

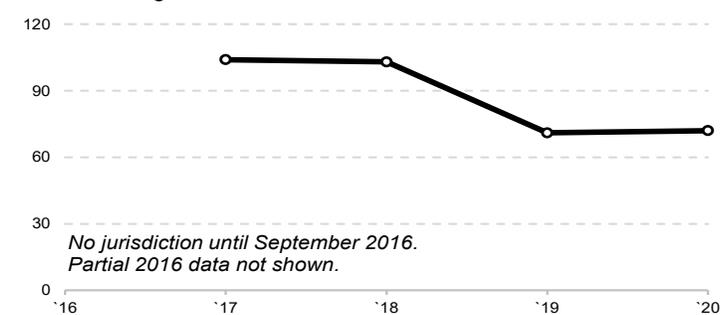


As noted above, the Court of Claims began hearing cases involving denials of public records requests in September 2016. The first full year hearing such cases was 2017. **Figure 5** shows the volume of these cases between 2017 and 2019. In 2020, a total of 72 public records cases were filed.

FIGURE 5

Public Records Requests

Total incoming cases, 2017 to 2020





Courts of Common Pleas

The courts of common pleas, the only trial courts created by the Ohio Constitution, are established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution and their duties are outlined in Article IV, Section 4.

There is a court of common pleas in each of Ohio's 88 counties. The courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction in all criminal-felony cases and original jurisdiction in all civil cases in which the amount in controversy generally is more than \$15,000. Courts of common pleas have appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of some state administrative agencies.

Common pleas judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the court.

In most counties the courts of common pleas have specialized divisions created by statute to which judges are specifically elected in order to hear criminal and civil, domestic relations, juvenile, or probate cases – or some combination of those categories. The use of the term “division” when describing the jurisdictional structure of the various counties’ common pleas courts sometimes is at odds with how that term is applied when describing caseload statistics. For ease of description, it is common to group cases by their overall type – by division. For example, when describing caseloads of matters generally grouped together as “domestic relations cases,” they may be referred to as “domestic relations division cases,” even though a particular county technically may not have a domestic relations division. The courts of common pleas in Adams, Morgan, Morrow, Noble, and Wyandot counties have no divisions and the judges elected to those courts have responsibility over all case types.

Changes in 2020

There were no changes to the structure or organization of the courts of common pleas in 2020.

Future Changes

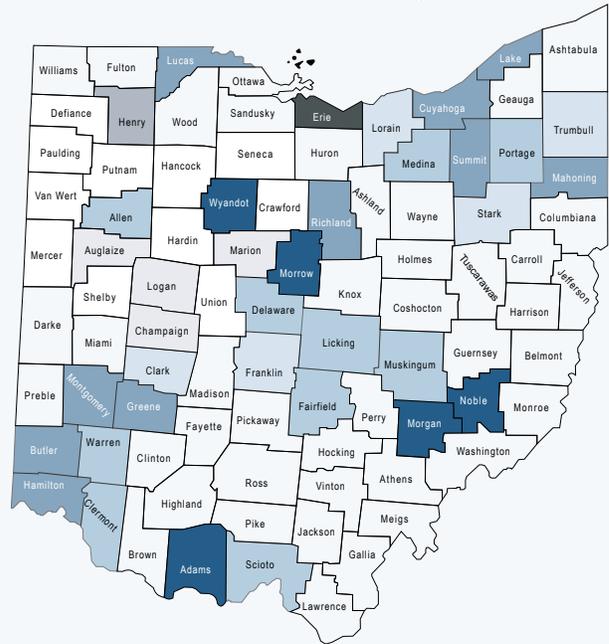
The Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division added one judgeship in 2021, with a term beginning Jan. 2.

The Hardin County Court of Common Pleas will reconfigure its divisional structure and convert from a general and domestic relations division and a probate and juvenile division to a general and probate division and a domestic relations and juvenile division, effective Jan. 1, 2023.

Courts of Common Pleas Jurisdictional Distribution in 2020

JURISDICTIONAL STRUCTURE	NUMBER OF COUNTIES	NUMBER OF JUDGES
Separately Administered General Division	29	164
Separately Administered Domestic Relations Division	20	31
Separately Administered Probate Division	15	16
Separately Administered Juvenile Division	11	20
Combined General and Domestic Relations Division	52	70
Combined Domestic Relations, and Juvenile Division	6	15
Combined Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile Division	4	7
Combined Probate and Juvenile Division	62	62
Combined General, Domestic Relations, and Probate Division	1	3
Combined General and Probate Division	1	1
Combined General, Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile Division	5	6

COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS 2020 Jurisdictional Arrangement



- All divisions combined (5)
- All divisions separate (10)
- Juvenile and probate combined; domestic relations and general separate (10)
- Domestic relations and juvenile combined; general and probate separate (5)
- Domestic relations and general combined; juvenile and probate combined (52)
- Domestic relations, juvenile, and probate combined; general separate (4)
- Domestic relations and juvenile combined; general and probate combined (1)
- Domestic relations, general, and probate combined; juvenile separate (1)



Courts of Common Pleas

General Division

The general divisions of the courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction over all criminal felony cases, all civil actions in which the amount in controversy is generally greater than \$15,000, and jurisdiction over the appeals of decisions of certain state administrative agencies.

For statistical reporting purposes, all criminal cases are counted together with no distinction based on specific charges. Civil cases are reported under a number of different case-type categories.

Cases involving tort claims are classified as either:

- Professional tort – such as medical and legal malpractice;
- Product liability; and
- Other torts – tort cases not otherwise classifiable as professional tort or product liability cases.

The non-tort case-type categories are:

- Workers' compensation – typically involving appeals from a decision of the Industrial Commission;
- Foreclosures;
- Administrative appeals;
- Complex litigation – a special case type discussed further below; and
- Other civil – civil cases not otherwise classifiable in other case-type categories.

The complex-litigation-case type is a special category reserved for civil cases involving novel or complicated issues of law and fact that are not likely to be resolved within the time guidelines established for other cases. A judge assigned to a civil case that meets the criteria prescribed under Sup.R. 42 may reclassify a civil case as a complex-litigation case. Accordingly, no cases are filed with the courts as complex litigation cases. Instead, civil cases are classified first under their appropriate case types and then, if applicable, reclassified as complex-litigation cases. Complex-litigation cases are rare. Since 2010, on average, approximately one out of every 1,855 civil cases (0.06%) in the general divisions of Ohio's courts of common pleas are classified each year as complex-litigation matters.

DATA DASHBOARD EXPANSION

In 1971 the Supreme Court of Ohio began collecting caseload statistics from Ohio's courts of appeals. For the last five decades, statistics concerning the workload of the courts of appeals have been reported to the public in lengthy annual reports containing multitudes of detailed data tables. On July 1, 2021, the Supreme Court unveiled an interactive appellate data dashboard that is available on the Supreme Court's website for use by court professionals, researchers, court observers, and the public.

The appellate data dashboards complement the already-existing trial court data dashboards, published in 2019. By displaying the data in interactive visualizations, the dashboards are designed to engage the viewer into exploring the caseload statistics and performance measures supplied to the Supreme Court from Ohio's judiciary. As with the trial court data dashboards, the underlying data displayed in the various visualizations can be downloaded in spreadsheet form.

Ohio's courts of appeals hear appeals from the courts of common pleas, municipal courts, and county courts. Decisions of the courts of appeals may be appealed to the Supreme Court. The courts of appeals also have original jurisdiction to hear applications for writs of *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, *procedendo*, *prohibition*, and *quo warranto*.

As the state's intermediate appellate court, the vast majority of appeals arising out of Ohio's trial courts are resolved entirely by the 69 judges spread across the state's 12 appellate districts. Their work provides critical finality to criminal appeals, civil disputes, and family law matters impacting the lives of Ohioans.

The goals for the dashboards are to educate the public about the work being done across Ohio's courts and to provide useful tools to help judges, magistrates, clerks, court administrators, and staff at every level in the judicial branch bolster the public's trust and confidence in the courts. Supreme Court staff are eager to receive suggestions for future enhancements to the data dashboards that further serve those important goals.



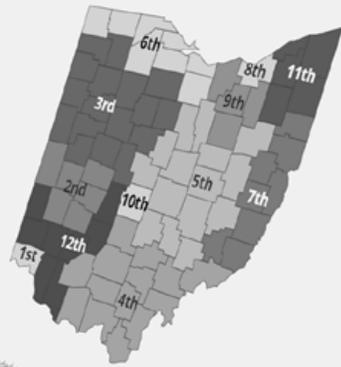
Map and Incoming Caseloads | Performance Measures

Ohio Courts of Appeals

Incoming Caseloads and Map of Appellate Districts

Supreme Court of Ohio, Court Services Division

Appellate Districts
 Hover over a district for detail



Ohio's courts of appeals are divided regionally into 12 districts. Each case is heard and decided by a three-judge panel. In addition to appellate jurisdiction, the courts of appeals have original jurisdiction to hear applications for writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, and other original orders. The 10th District also hears all appeals from the Courts of Claims, except for decisions concerning the detail of public records requests under R.C. 2143.75, which are heard in the district where the principal place of business for the public office is located. For more information, including names of the judges in each district, go to: <https://www.courts.state.oh.us/judges/courts/courts>

Data Source: Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section statistical reporting under Sup.R. 37. For questions or to correct erroneous data, please contact casengr@sc.ohio.gov. For general information on caseload statistical reporting go to <https://www.courts.state.oh.us/judges/courts/courts>

Select District: [All] Select Case Type: [All]

Total Incoming Cases, 2011-2020

New filings and reactivated cases
 District: All, Case Type: All



Incoming Cases Per Judge, 2011-2020

New filings and reactivated cases (divided by number of judges, if selected)
 Case Type: All

District	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1st	150	153	147	135	139	159	123	118	126	78
2nd	170	173	165	164	149	128	144	139	137	106
3rd	129	120	121	106	106	87	101	111	116	103
4th	113	104	105	98	87	101	98	73	77	66
5th	180	176	168	154	155	143	151	149	153	117
6th	133	169	127	131	125	126	119	115	130	92
7th	93	97	99	98	102	96	92	80	82	68
8th	139	141	132	141	135	121	122	126	114	77
9th	180	179	168	167	158	155	150	152	140	103
10th	158	146	143	145	155	121	128	138	116	82
11th	109	113	99	102	110	108	101	107	110	84
12th	116	124	123	119	117	95	108	120	110	80
Average	139	141	133	130	128	121	119	119	119	88

Select Data to Display: Incoming Cases Per Judge

Click here to visit the appellate data dashboards.

Caseloads

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of incoming cases in 2020 within the general divisions of Ohio’s courts of common pleas. Criminal cases, foreclosures, and other civil cases constitute 84.9% of all 2020 filings. See the *Appendix* for a table displaying the number of incoming cases for each individual case type from 2011 through 2020.

Figure 2 shows 10-year trends in the number of filings of criminal, foreclosure, and other civil cases. These major categories display clear trends over the 10-year period. Although not shown in this report, foreclosure cases reached their historic peak in 2009, when nearly 100,000 cases were filed. The 18,926 incoming foreclosure cases in 2020 represent a 46% decline from 2019 and a 78% decline from the 85,629 filings in 2011. Filings of other civil cases declined steadily between 2011 and 2016. The number of incoming other civil cases has increased from 2017 through 2019. In 2020, there were a total of 43,810 incoming other civil cases, a 14% decrease from 2019.

Criminal cases declined slightly between 2011 and 2015. Beginning in 2016, however, the number of incoming criminal cases each year climbed steadily through 2019. In 2020, the courts reported a total of 74,028 incoming criminal cases, a sharp decrease of 19% from 2019.

Performance Measures

A description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court is available on page 3.

As shown in **Table 1**, average monthly clearance rates in 2020 for all case types were widely variable with foreclosures having an average clearance rate of nearly 125% and complex litigation with a rate of 60.3%.

FIGURE 1

All Case Types, Common Pleas, General Division
Total incoming cases, 2020

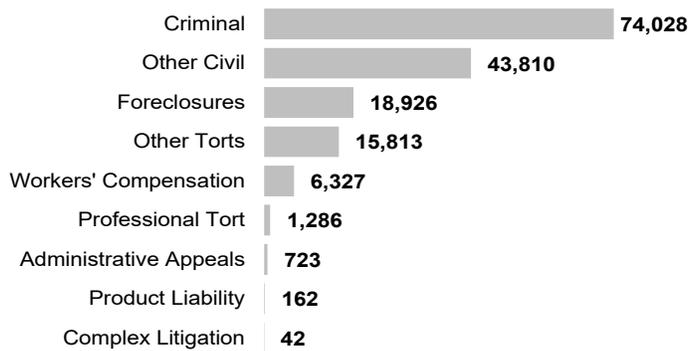


FIGURE 2

Selected Case Types, Common Pleas, General Division
Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

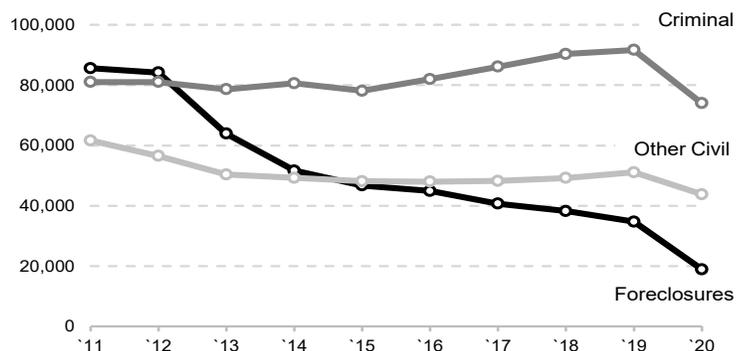


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates, Common Pleas, General Division
Average monthly clearance rates, 2020

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Administrative Appeals	96.2%
Complex Litigation	60.3%
Criminal	97.4%
Foreclosures	124.6%
Other Civil	97.8%
Other Torts	91.2%
Product Liability	100.1%
Professional Tort	82.1%
Workers' Compensation	90.7%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates, Common Pleas, General Division

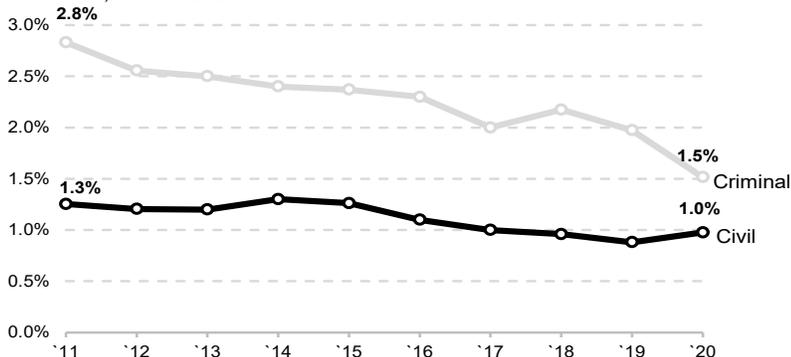
Average monthly overage rates, 2016 to 2020

Case Type (Time guideline, in months)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Civil	5.0%	4.6%	4.0%	3.8%	5.4%
Administrative Appeals (9)	24.7%	25.1%	24.4%	22.3%	25.0%
Complex Litigation (36)	21.5%	24.6%	8.0%	7.4%	6.4%
Foreclosures (12)	6.6%	5.9%	4.8%	5.0%	9.9%
Other Civil (24)	3.5%	3.3%	3.0%	2.7%	3.1%
Other Torts (24)	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	2.5%
Product Liability (24)	5.5%	9.4%	5.9%	7.5%	4.9%
Professional Tort (24)	11.7%	9.9%	9.2%	9.2%	11.5%
Workers' Compensation (12)	8.3%	8.7%	7.8%	7.6%	10.3%
Criminal (6)	16.6%	16.1%	15.9%	16.6%	23.4%

FIGURE 3

Court of Common Pleas, General Division

Trial rates, 2011 to 2020



Average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. Average monthly overage rates at or above 10% in 2020 are seen in administrative appeals, professional tort, and worker’s compensation cases. Other civil cases, which constitute 27% of the statewide general division caseload, are managed in a timely manner, with only a 3.1%-overage rate on average each month in 2020.

Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court’s performance, per se, this statistic routinely is used by the Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that are truly dispositive of the case and categories that instead render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations is then summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

When describing the work performed in the courts, commentators at the national level commonly reference that approximately 2% of civil cases and 5% of criminal cases ultimately go to trial. Ohio’s general division common-pleas-trial rates fall below those figures.

As shown in **Figure 3**, the trial rate for civil cases heard in the common pleas, general division courts in 2020 was 1%, and 1.5% for criminal cases. Since 2010, the rates of cases proceeding to trial have steadily declined, with the exception of a slight uptick in the 2018 criminal trial rate and a .1-percentage-point increase for civil cases in 2020.

Cuyahoga County's Asbestos Docket

Not reflected in the general caseload statistics in this report is a special group of asbestos-related cases pending in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. This docket chiefly consists of product liability cases involving alleged exposure to products containing asbestos and, to a smaller extent, silica. Also included in this docket are premises-liability cases against owners or possessors of property on which plaintiffs allege injury from exposure to asbestos-containing products.

The volume of these cases filed over the years in Cuyahoga County necessitated certain extraordinary means for management. The cases are heard by retired assigned judges with special designated staff and are not counted among Cuyahoga County's traditional caseload statistics.

The number of new cases filed each year over the past 10 years has declined rapidly from a 10-year high in 2013 of 113 new cases, to a low of 26 new cases in 2020. (See **Table 3** and **Figure 4**.)

The number of cases pending at the end of each year over the past 10 years was at its highest on Dec. 31, 2011, when the court had 6,699 cases pending. There were 512 pending cases at the end of 2020. (See **Figure 5**.)

It should be noted that a given case, which can contain dozens of defendants, cannot be counted as being terminated until every defendant in the case is subject to a condition causing a reportable termination. Consequently, the number of cases terminated each year does not align as typically expected against the number of cases filed.

TABLE 3

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket
Overall caseloads, 2011 to 2020

Year	New Filings	Pending at End of Year	Cases Terminated
2011	105	6,699	490
2012	102	5,174	1,635
2013	113	5,164	120
2014	85	3,067	2,182
2015	56	1,701	1,427
2016	54	1,307	453
2017	53	834	573
2018	65	501	378
2019	50	497	57
2020	26	512	25

FIGURE 4

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket
New Filings, 2011 to 2020

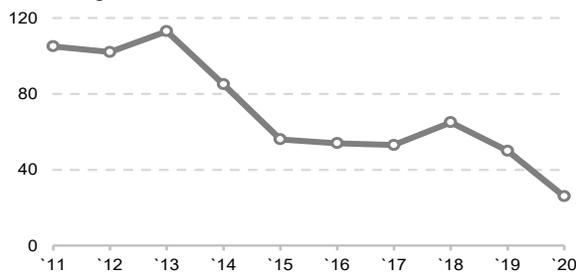


FIGURE 5

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket
Cases pending at end of year, 2011 to 2020





Courts of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division

Domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas have jurisdiction over all proceedings involving divorce or dissolution of marriages, annulment, legal separation, spousal support, and allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children. The domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. The following counties have separately administered domestic relations divisions:

Allen	Hamilton	Muskingum
Butler	Lake	Portage
Clermont	Licking	Richland
Cuyahoga	Lucas	Scioto
Delaware	Mahoning	Summit
Fairfield	Medina	Warren
Greene	Montgomery	

Domestic relations cases are grouped into three general categories of cases:

MARRIAGE TERMINATIONS AND DISSOLUTIONS

Marriage terminations and marriage dissolutions involve the cessation of a marriage relationship. Both of these case categories are broken down further for caseload reporting purposes, depending on whether the married couple seeking a divorce or dissolution has any children.

POST-DECREE CASE TYPES

Following the dissolution or termination of a marriage, further activities can occur subsequent to the final decree and are classified under either the change of custody, visitation enforcement or modification (visitation), or support enforcement or modification categories (support). In some instances, a person may file a motion under more than one category. For statistical reporting purposes, such matters are counted only under the category of the earliest filed motion. When that motion is resolved, the matter is reclassified under the case type for the motion filed after the first, and so on.

MISCELLANEOUS CASE TYPES

The remaining domestic relations case types are:

- Domestic violence (petitions for civil protection orders);
- Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.) cases;
- Parentage; and
- All others (cases not otherwise classifiable in other case-type categories).

Caseloads

Marriage terminations (divorces) and dissolutions comprise the core work performed in domestic relations courts. In 2020, Ohio's domestic relations courts reported a total 37,925 incoming divorce and dissolution cases. This is a decrease of 8.1% from 2019 and a 24% decline from the 10-year high of 49,718 cases in 2011. Incoming caseloads across the state in all case types from 2011 through 2020 are shown in a table in the *Appendix*.

Of particular note is the difference between new divorce and dissolution filings involving married couples with children and married couples without children. Beginning in 2011, more cases have been filed each year that do not involve children than cases that do. As seen in **Figure 1**, the gap between the two case-type groups held steady for the last four years, with a decline in both case types at the same rate from 2019 to 2020.

FIGURE 1

Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

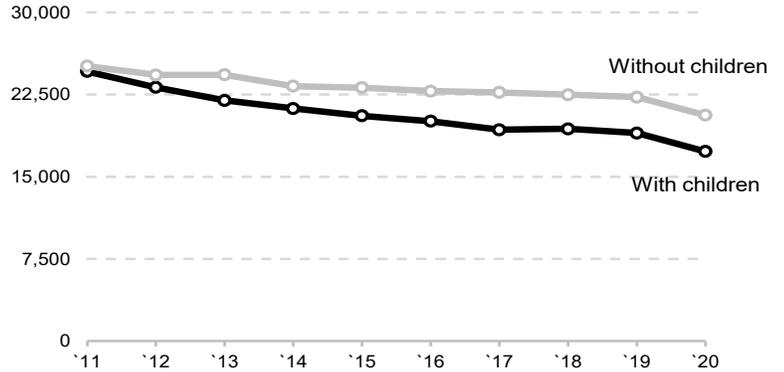
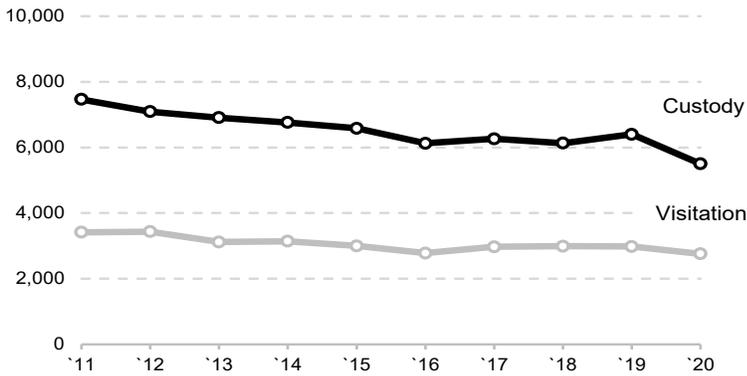


FIGURE 2

Custody and Visitation

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



Post-decree matters in domestic relations courts also experienced general declines over the past 10 years. During 2020, a total of 5,500 motions seeking a change of custody were filed, a decrease of 14% over 2019, and a decrease of 26% from the 10-year high of 7,464 cases in 2011. When viewed across the last 10 years, the rate of filing of incoming visitation matters remained generally steady. (See **Figure 2**.)

The number of filings seeking the enforcement or modification of a support order has declined over the last 10 years. (See **Figure 3**.)

FIGURE 3

Support Enforcement or Modification

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, average monthly clearance rates for all case types were close to or above 100% except for visitation cases.

Table 2 shows average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years. The overage rates for divorces and dissolutions, along with several other case types, vary greatly. Due to the limitations in the Supreme Court's reporting instructions and time guidelines for domestic violence and U.I.F.S.A. cases, the overage rates for those cases can appear particularly elevated. Without conducting additional research at the local-court level, the reader is cautioned against interpreting these as accurate measures of courts' actual case-processing timeliness for those particular case types.

TABLE 1

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division Average monthly clearance rates, 2020

Case Type	Clearance Rate
All Others	99.9%
Change of Custody	98.5%
Domestic Violence	99.4%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	99.2%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	98.2%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	96.0%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	95.8%
Parentage	104.5%
Support - Enforce or Modify	104.9%
U.I.F.S.A.	112.7%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	92.7%

TABLE 2

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division Average monthly overage rates, 2016 to 2020

Case Type (<i>Time guideline, in months</i>)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All Others ⁽⁶⁾	14.7%	16.0%	16.4%	15.0%	19.4%
Change of Custody ⁽⁹⁾	12.9%	11.5%	11.0%	10.3%	12.8%
Domestic Violence ⁽¹⁾	31.4%	24.3%	23.5%	23.3%	29.7%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children ⁽³⁾	3.8%	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%	6.0%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children ⁽³⁾	1.5%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	3.6%
Marriage Terminations w/Children ⁽¹⁸⁾	3.4%	3.0%	2.8%	3.1%	3.7%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children ⁽¹²⁾	4.9%	4.8%	4.1%	4.3%	5.0%
Parentage ⁽¹²⁾	3.9%	3.3%	2.9%	2.0%	2.2%
Support - Enforce or Modify ⁽¹²⁾	4.2%	3.4%	3.1%	3.0%	4.3%
U.I.F.S.A. ⁽³⁾	25.2%	23.4%	17.9%	22.4%	28.5%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify ⁽⁹⁾	12.5%	9.8%	8.8%	9.9%	11.8%



Courts of Common Pleas

Probate Division

In 1968, the Modern Courts Amendment to the Ohio Constitution transformed probate courts to a division of the courts of common pleas. In addition to jurisdiction over wills, estate matters, and guardianships, probate divisions have jurisdiction over the issuance of marriage licenses, adoption proceedings, determination of sanity or mental competency, and certain eminent domain proceedings. Probate judges also can solemnize marriages within their counties.

The probate divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have separately administered probate divisions:

Butler	Hamilton	Montgomery
Clark	Lake	Richland
Cuyahoga	Lorain	Stark
Franklin	Lucas	Summit
Greene	Mahoning	Trumbull

Caseloads

Overall probate caseloads declined slightly across the state over the last 10 years. As shown in the *Appendix*, there were 82,002 incoming probate cases in 2020, a 5% decrease from the number of cases filed in 2019.

In 2020, a total of 5,845 guardianships of adults were filed, a 16% decrease over 2019. Guardianships of minors, also shown in **Figure 1**, have exhibited a general downward trend over the last 10 years. In 2020, a total of 1,396 cases were filed, a decrease of 22% from 2019. The 2020 filings also represent a decline of 43% from the 10-year high of 2,447 cases in 2013.

Decedents' estates cases, shown in **Figure 2**, exhibit a slight downward trend when viewed over the last 10 years. Minor increases were seen between 2011 and 2012 and again between 2014 and 2015. The 52,386 cases filed in 2020 are a 1% decrease from 2019, and a 9% decrease from the 10-year high of 57,241 cases in 2012.

Adoption case filings in 2020 decreased 14% over 2019, with 3,782 cases. When viewed over the full 10-year period, the number of filings appears to be trending upward, with the exception of a dip in 2020. (See **Figure 3**.)

FIGURE 1

Guardianships

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

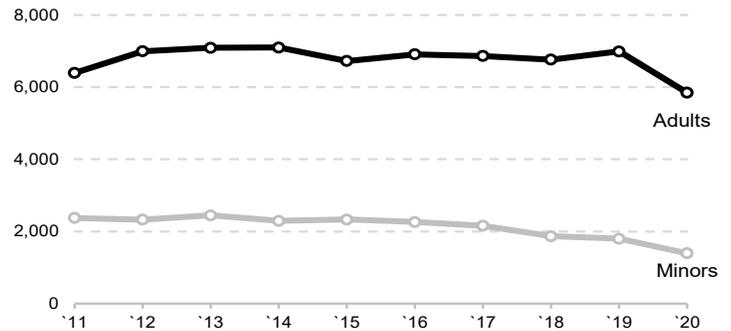


FIGURE 2

Decedents' Estates

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



FIGURE 3

Adoptions

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

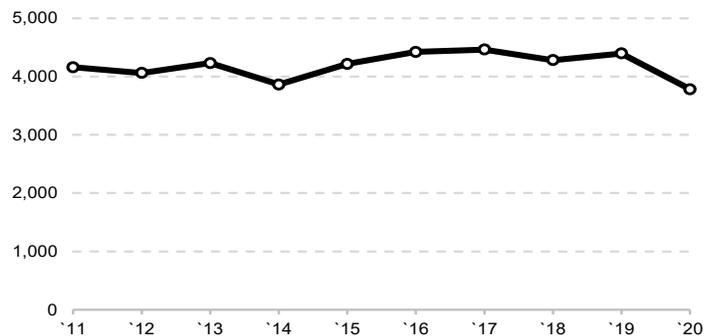


FIGURE 4

Mental Health and Civil Commitments

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



Mental health and civil commitment matters constituted slightly more than 7% of the probate divisions’ incoming caseload in 2020. In 2020, a total of 6,224 new matters were filed, which is not a substantial change from the filings in 2019. (See **Figure 4.**)

Ohio’s probate courts granted 59,730 marriage applications in 2020, the lowest level in the last 10 years. Of note is the increased number of applications granted in 2016, when the probate courts granted 79,747 marriage applications. (See **Figure 5.**)

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, probate divisions exhibited satisfactory clearance rates statewide in many case types in 2020, although in the minors’ settlements, decedents’ estates, guardianships of incompetents, and civil commitments case types the courts reported clearance rates that are all suggestive of potential growth in backlogs.

FIGURE 5

Marriage Applications

Total applications granted, 2011 to 2020

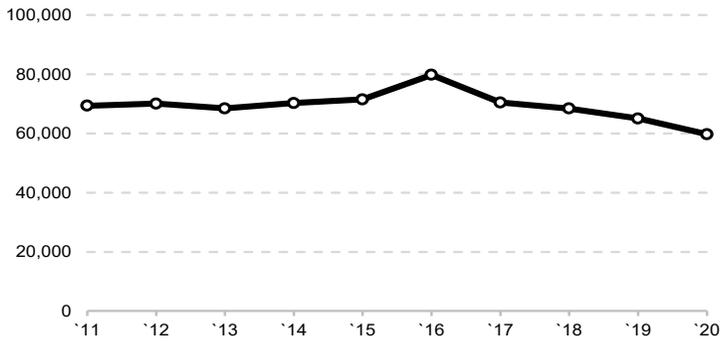


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates, Common Pleas, Probate Division

Average monthly clearance rates, 2020

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Adoptions	95.4%
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	105.5%
Change of Name	105.3%
Civil Actions	97.2%
Conservatorships	160.8%
Decedents’ Estates	93.2%
Guardianships of Incompetents	94.6%
Guardianships of Minors	117.0%
Mental Health and Civil Commitments	93.3%
Minors’ Settlements	88.9%
Testamentary Trusts	130.7%
Wrongful Death	100.1%



Courts of Common Pleas Juvenile Division

Juvenile divisions of courts of common pleas hear cases involving delinquent, unruly, neglected, and dependent children, and have jurisdiction in adult cases involving paternity, child abuse, non-support, contributing to the delinquency of minors, and the failure to send children to school.

Juvenile divisions exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have separately administered juvenile divisions:

Butler	Hamilton	Montgomery
Cuyahoga	Lake	Richland
Erie	Lucas	Summit
Greene	Mahoning	

Caseloads

The *Appendix* contains a table showing the number of statewide new filings by type of case from 2011 to 2020. Caseloads in the juvenile division experienced more changes over a 10-year period than other divisions of the courts of common pleas. Overall, the state saw a 28% decline in the total number of incoming juvenile case filings in 2020, compared to 2019. Over the past 10 years, there was a 46% decrease in the number of incoming juvenile cases. Significant drivers of that decline were decreases in two of the largest case types, delinquency and traffic, which exhibited 10-year declines of 62% and 42%, respectively. (See **Figures 1 and 2.**)

FIGURE 1

Delinquency

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



FIGURE 2

Juvenile Traffic

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

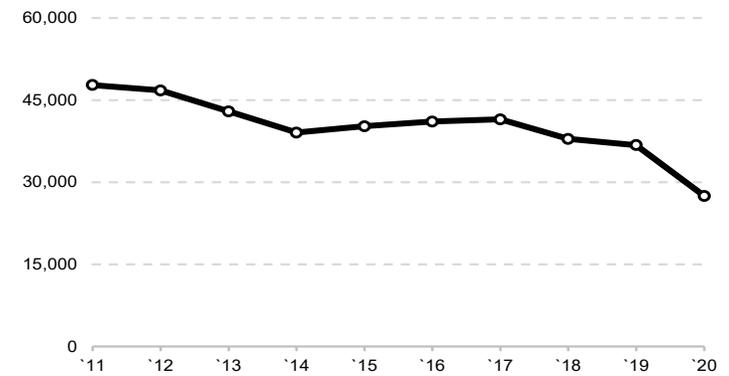


FIGURE 3

Child Welfare

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

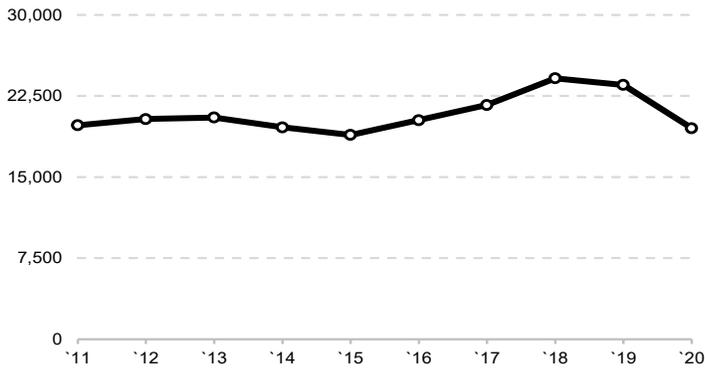


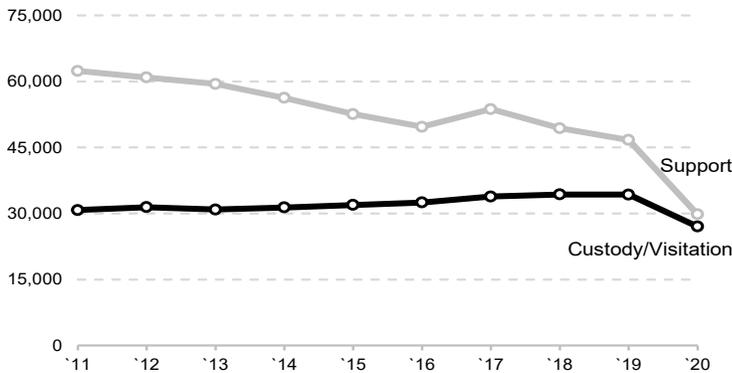
Figure 3 shows incoming child welfare cases consisting of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases and permanent custody cases. The number of incoming child welfare cases has climbed considerably since 2014, but declined in 2020. In 2020, there was a total of 19,525 incoming child welfare cases, a decrease of 17% over 2019.

Custody and visitation case filings exhibited a smooth upward trend between 2011 and 2019, ending with a decline in 2020. Support enforcement or modification filings have generally declined since 2011. In 2019, a total of 29,792 support matters were filed, a 36% decline from 2011, and a 52% decline from the 10-year-high of 62,375 cases in 2011. In 2020, a total of 27,027 incoming custody/visitation cases was reported, a 21% decrease from 2019. (See Figure 4.)

FIGURE 4

Custody/Visitation and Support

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



It is notable that the generally upward trend in custody/visitation matters within the juvenile divisions aligns with the downward trend in the related case types heard in Ohio's domestic relations divisions. The critical difference is that the matters heard in juvenile divisions involve unmarried persons, whereas the related case types heard in domestic relations divisions generally are a result of a divorce or dissolution.

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

Table 1 shows the average monthly clearance rates over 2020 for each case type. In all case types the courts exhibited satisfactory clearance rates at near or above 100%, with the exception of motions for permanent custody, which had a clearance rate of less than 94%, suggestive of a potential growth in a backlog. The average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. For 2020, the overage rates in six of the 11 case types heard in Ohio's juvenile courts exceed 10%, with three of those exceeding 20%. All case types experienced a higher average overage rate than in 2019. Due to the limitations in the Supreme Court's reporting instructions for U.I.F.S.A. cases, the overage rates for those cases can appear particularly elevated. Without conducting additional research at the local court level, the reader is cautioned against interpreting these as accurate measures of the courts' actual case processing timeliness performance for those particular cases.

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates, Common Pleas, Juvenile Division
Average monthly clearance rates, 2020

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	100.4%
Adult Cases	138.3%
All Others	103.0%
Custody/Visitation	99.6%
Delinquency	100.9%
Motion for Permanent Custody	93.8%
Parentage	110.0%
Support - Enforce or Modify	111.5%
Traffic	99.5%
U.I.F.S.A.	117.2%
Unruly	108.6%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates, Common Pleas, Juvenile Division
Average monthly overage rates, 2016 to 2020

Case Type <i>(Time guideline, in months)</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency ⁽³⁾	20.6%	18.5%	15.4%	15.1%	21.0%
Adult Cases ⁽⁶⁾	8.3%	10.3%	10.1%	6.5%	10.5%
All Others ⁽⁶⁾	11.5%	8.9%	9.7%	7.0%	8.2%
Custody/Visitation ⁽⁹⁾	9.2%	8.2%	8.0%	7.8%	9.0%
Delinquency ⁽⁶⁾	7.0%	7.2%	6.7%	6.1%	9.2%
Motion for Permanent Custody ⁽⁹⁾	13.4%	13.8%	13.9%	15.6%	15.3%
Parentage ⁽¹²⁾	3.2%	3.2%	2.6%	3.7%	4.6%
Support - Enforce or Modify ⁽¹²⁾	4.3%	3.6%	2.6%	2.8%	4.1%
Traffic ⁽³⁾	10.9%	8.3%	6.9%	6.6%	11.8%
U.I.F.S.A. ⁽³⁾	15.6%	16.2%	14.7%	17.1%	21.8%
Unruly ⁽³⁾	16.4%	16.2%	18.4%	17.3%	25.3%



Municipal & County Courts

The Ohio Constitution of 1851 established the Supreme Court and four types of lower courts: district courts of appeals, courts of common pleas, probate courts, and justice courts. In 1910, the General Assembly established the first municipal court in Cleveland. In 1957, the General Assembly replaced justice courts with county courts. Each county court was established to have under its territorial jurisdiction those regions of a county not otherwise served by a municipal court. The General Assembly, over the ensuing years, reduced the number of county courts and expanded the territorial jurisdiction and number of municipal courts.

The subject-matter jurisdiction of municipal and county courts is identical. Municipal and county courts have the authority to conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases and both have jurisdiction over traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors. These courts also have limited civil jurisdiction. They hear civil cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$15,000. Judges of municipal and county courts have statewide authority to solemnize marriage ceremonies.

In 2020, there were 131 municipal courts with 215 judges, and 33 county courts with 35 judges. Three municipal courts have specialized divisions: Cleveland Municipal Court, Housing Division; Toledo Municipal Court, Housing Division; and Franklin County Municipal Court, Environmental Division.

Municipal court judges and county court judges must be attorneys with at least six years of experience in the practice of law. They are elected on a non-partisan judicial ballot. Municipal court judges serve on either a full-time or part-time basis, depending on the statutes establishing the individual municipal courts. The statutes provide that all county court judges serve on a part-time basis. A municipal court's territorial jurisdiction may be limited to one municipality or may extend across a range of municipalities, townships, or be countywide. A small number of municipal courts have territories that extend across more than one county.

In 2020, statutes provided for the judgeships in the following 12 municipal courts to be part-time:

Bellevue	Lebanon
Campbell	Mason
Franklin	Oakwood
Hardin County	Shelby
Huron	Struthers
Lawrence County	Vermilion

FIGURE 1

Felonies (Preliminary Matters)

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

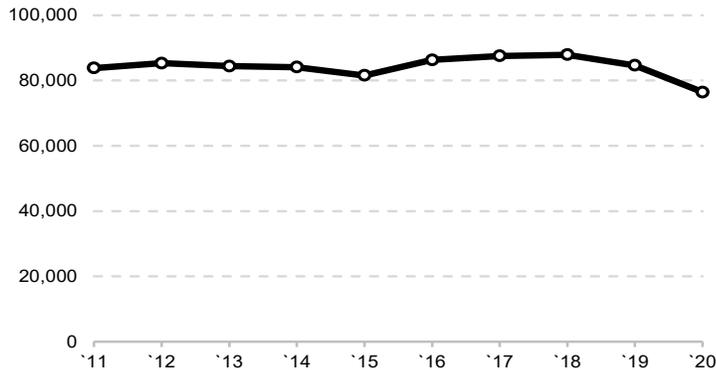


FIGURE 2

Misdemeanors

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

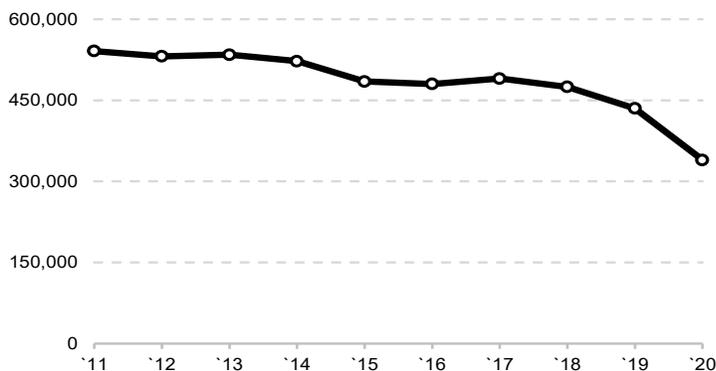


FIGURE 3

Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.)

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020



Caseloads

For purposes of presenting 10-year-trend data concerning caseloads heard in Ohio municipal and county courts, the data reported by municipal and county courts are combined here to present a single unified perspective of the caseloads in Ohio's limited-jurisdiction trial courts.

As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, the total number of incoming cases each year in Ohio's municipal and county courts generally declined over the past 10 years. Since the 10-year high of 2,540,366 cases in 2013, the number of incoming cases has decreased by 38%.

Felony cases, in which municipal and county courts conduct preliminary matters only, exhibited a slight upward trend over the 10-year period, shown in **Figure 1**. The number of felony matters presented to municipal and county courts in 2020 declined by 10% from 2019; 76,422 cases were filed in 2020.

Misdemeanor cases, representing over one-fifth (22%) of the courts' total overall caseload, have trended downward over the past 10 years. The 339,473 incoming cases in 2020 is a 22% decrease from the 435,107 misdemeanor cases filed in 2019, and a 37% decrease from the 10-year high of 540,906 cases filed in 2011. (See **Figure 2**.)

Operating a vehicle while under the influence (O.V.I.) cases have been relatively stable since 2011, although there has been a marked decline over the last three years. In 2017, a 10-year high of 72,009 O.V.I. cases were filed. In 2020, a total of 51,186 cases were filed, constituting a decrease of 20% from 2019. (See **Figure 3**.)

Other traffic cases (all moving violations other than O.V.I.), constituted 52% of the municipal and county courts' total incoming caseloads in 2020. Other traffic cases fluctuated widely over the past 10 years, with a discernible long-term downward trend and a sharp decrease in 2020. In 2020, there were 823,720 incoming other traffic cases, a 35% decrease from 2019 and the lowest volume in 10 years. (See **Figure 4**.)

Small claims case filings have exhibited steady and sizable decreases over the past 10 years. In 2020, 30,651 small claims cases were filed, representing a 10-year decline of 52%. In 2016, the General Assembly increased the maximum amount in controversy in small claims cases from \$3,000 to \$6,000. Even though a small increase in filings can be seen in 2017, three consecutive years of declines from 2018 through 2020 have continued the long-term downward trend in small-claims filings. (See **Figure 5**.)

Incoming contracts cases, which in 2020 constituted 11% of the courts' total caseload, declined sharply between 2011 and 2013. Between 2013 and 2015, the number of incoming cases remained relatively stable. However, beginning in 2016, the yearly numbers of incoming contracts cases increased substantially, followed by a dramatic decrease in 2020. In 2020, 166,693 incoming cases were reported, a decrease of 32% from 2019. (See **Figure 6**.)

FIGURE 4

Other Traffic

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

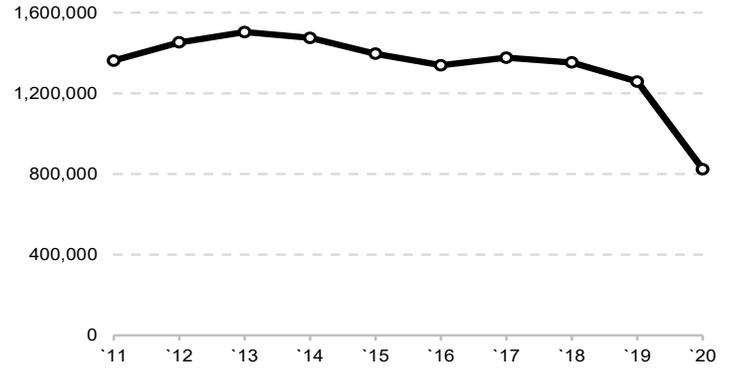


FIGURE 5

Small Claims

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

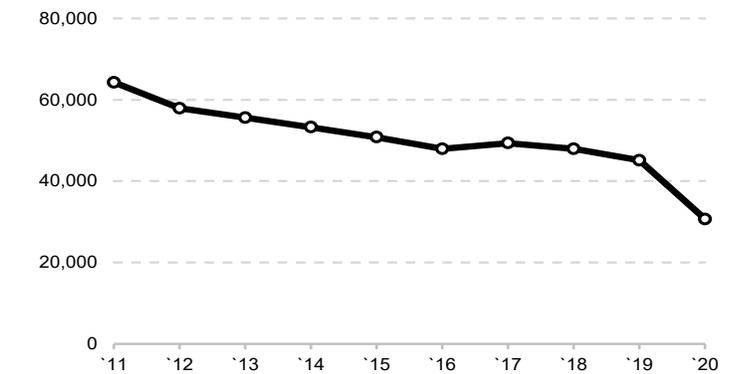


FIGURE 6

Contracts

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

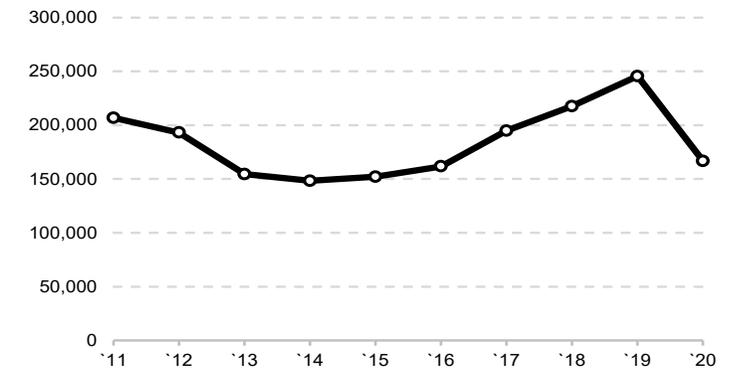


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates, Municipal and County Courts

Average monthly clearance rates, 2020

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Contracts	110.9%
F.E.D.	109.5%
Felonies	98.8%
Misdemeanors	95.8%
O.V.I.	98.6%
Other Civil	104.5%
Other Traffic	100.5%
Pers. Injury / Prop. Damage	91.2%
Small Claims	112.7%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates, Municipal and County Courts

Average monthly overage rates, 2016 to 2020

Case Type (Time guideline, in months)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Civil	3.5%	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%	7.1%
Contracts (12)	3.3%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%	4.8%
F.E.D. (12)	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	2.4%	7.9%
Other Civil (12)	4.5%	2.7%	2.1%	3.0%	24.6%
Pers. Injury / Prop. Damage (24)	1.1%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	3.2%
Small Claims (6)	6.7%	4.6%	4.4%	5.0%	12.7%
Criminal	7.1%	4.7%	3.7%	3.2%	6.5%
Felonies (1)	22.4%	16.1%	13.0%	9.2%	11.7%
Misdemeanors (6)	5.9%	3.8%	3.0%	3.2%	6.1%
Traffic	4.2%	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%	16.3%
O.V.I. (6)	5.4%	3.8%	3.9%	4.5%	9.5%
Other Traffic (6)	4.0%	1.6%	1.1%	1.1%	17.2%

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, clearance rates in municipal and county courts in 2020 were above 100% in five case types. The clearance rate in personal injury/property damage cases was notably lower than others, at 91.2%, suggestive of a potential growth in a backlog. Average monthly overage rates for the past five years are displayed in **Table 2**. The overage rate for other civil cases shows a sharp increase from 3% in 2019 to 24.6% in 2020. It is also notable that four case types had an overage rate of more than 10% in 2020, and all of the average overage rates increased over 2019.

Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court's performance, per se, this statistic is used by the Supreme Court's Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that are dispositive of the case and categories that instead render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations then are summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) in order to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

When describing the work performed in the courts, commentators at the national level commonly reference that approximately 2% of civil cases and 5% of criminal cases ultimately go to trial. **Figures 7, 8, and 9** display the trial rates in Ohio's municipal and county courts in misdemeanors, non-small claims civil cases, and traffic cases (O.V.I. and other traffic combined). Ohio's civil trial rate in 2020 was 1.7%. The 2020 trial rates for misdemeanor and traffic cases, at 1.5% and 0.5%, respectively, were 10-year lows.

FIGURE 7

Misdemeanors (non-traffic)

Trials as a percentage of all dispositions, 2011 to 2020

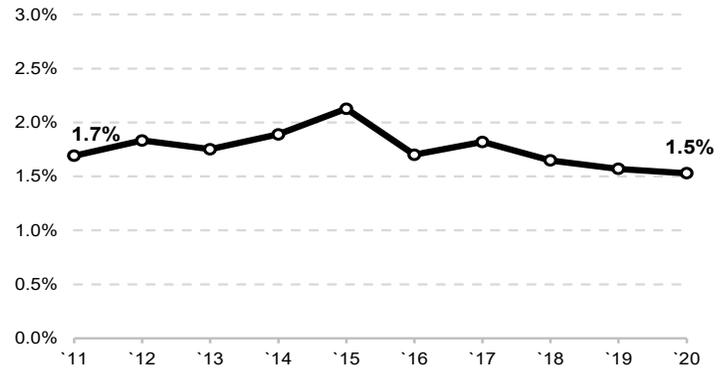


FIGURE 8

Civil (non-small claims)

Trials as a percentage of all dispositions, 2011 to 2020

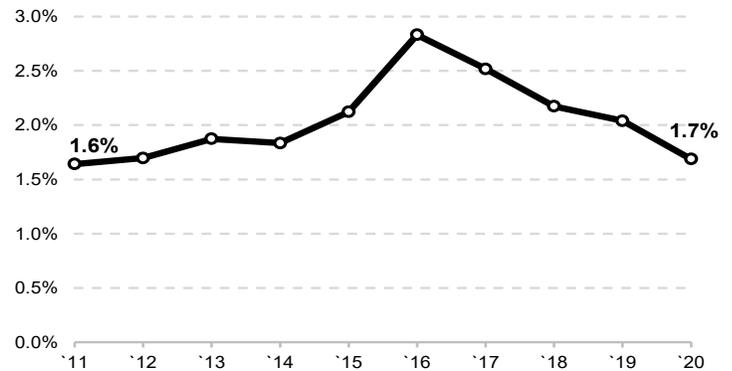
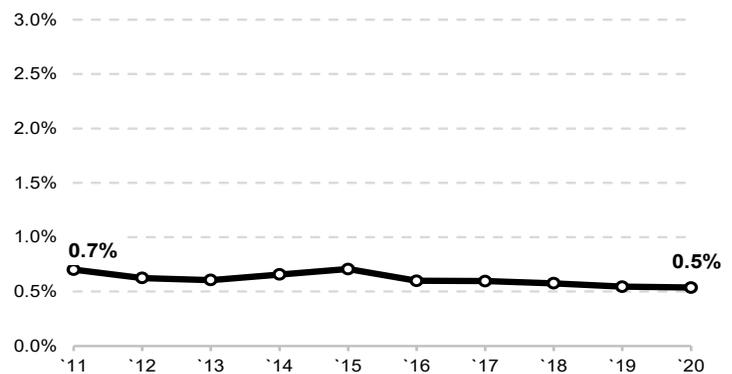


FIGURE 9

Traffic (O.V.I. and Other Traffic)

Trials as a percentage of all dispositions, 2011 to 2020





Mayor's Courts

In general, Ohio law allows mayors of municipal corporations populated by more than 200 people to conduct mayor's court where there are no municipal courts. These courts, which are not courts of record, only hear cases involving violations of local ordinances and state traffic laws. A person convicted in a mayor's court may appeal his or her conviction to the municipal or county court having jurisdiction within the municipal corporation.

Mayor's courts are required by law to register annually with and submit caseload statistical reports quarterly to the Supreme Court. At the request of the General Assembly, the Supreme Court adopted rules providing court procedures and basic legal education for mayors. Mayors whose courts hear alcohol- and drug-related traffic offenses have additional educational requirements. A mayor is not required to be a lawyer, but may appoint an attorney who has practiced law for at least three years to hear cases in mayor's court.

Mayor's court caseload statistics are published annually in a separate report.



Glossary of Terms

A

Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency: Juvenile cases concerning the neglected child, as defined by R.C. 2151.03; the dependent child, as defined by R.C. 2151.04; or the abused child, as defined by R.C. 2151.031.

Adult Cases: Juvenile court cases brought against an adult who is the defendant accused of contributing to the neglect, unruliness, or delinquency of a minor.

All Others: Any case that cannot appropriately be recorded in a listed category.

C

Change of Custody: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which the court must adjudicate a motion for change of custody, including requests for change of custody based upon an election by the child and cases where custody is contested. Juvenile cases are included where there is an application for writ of *habeas corpus* involving the custody of a child or where a motion for change of custody is filed pursuant to Juv.R. 10(A).

Clearance Rate: Clearance rates are statistical calculations measuring a court's performance in keeping up with its incoming caseload. A clearance rate of 100% indicates the court terminates an equal number of cases as it takes in. It is determined by dividing the total number of terminations by the total number of new filings, reactivations, and transfers. It is expressed as a percentage. For example, if 90 terminations and 100 total incoming cases are reported, the clearance rate is 90%.

Court Trial: A case is considered terminated by trial to the court (i.e., judge) if judgment is rendered after the first witness is sworn.

Criminal: Cases in which a person is charged with a violation of a state law or local ordinance other than a traffic law or ordinance. For purposes of tracking the age of the case for these reports, the case begins at arraignment.

D

Delinquency: Juvenile cases filed concerning a delinquent child, as defined by R.C. 2152.02.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence actions filed as separate cases pursuant to R.C. 3113.31. This does not include miscellaneous matters filed in pending cases, such as motions to evict.

F

Felony: This type is defined by R.C.2901.02 and Crim.R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a felony, regardless of penalty, or an offense in which imprisonment for more than one year can be imposed. When transferred to the common pleas court, these cases are reported as criminal cases by the receiving court.

Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D.): A summary proceeding initiated under R.C. 1923 or R.C. 5321 for restoring possession of real property to one who is wrongfully kept out or wrongfully deprived of possession.

J

Jury Trial: A case is considered terminated by jury trial if judgment is rendered after the jury is sworn, regardless of the outcome of the trial.

M

Marriage Dissolutions: Domestic relations cases in which a petition for dissolution of marriage is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.63.

Marriage Terminations: Domestic relations cases in which a complaint for divorce is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.01.

Misdemeanors: A misdemeanor is defined by R.C. 2901.02 and Crim.R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a misdemeanor, or an offense in which imprisonment for not more than one year can be imposed. While traffic offenses fall within this definition, they are reported as operating a vehicle while under the influence or other traffic offenses and not as misdemeanors.

Motion for Permanent Custody: Juvenile cases in which a complaint or motion for permanent custody is filed when custody is contested. This does not include voluntary placements.

O

Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.): Cases that include violating R.C. 4511.19 or any local ordinance that prohibits operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any drug of abuse.

Other Civil: Civil cases not included within other category. Ancillary proceedings are not reported as cases.

Other Traffic: Cases dealing with matters involving traffic offenders. Juveniles, as defined by R.C. 2152.02(N), and adult traffic cases include any violation of state law or local ordinance arising out of the use of a motor vehicle, except those involving operating a vehicle while under the influence charges.

Overage Rates: Overage rates are a measure of a court's backlog. At any point in time, a court will have some number of active pending cases. Of those, some percentage may be pending beyond the time guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to Sup.R. 39. That percentage of overage cases is referred to as the overage rate.

P

Parentage: Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3111, the Uniform Parentage Act. Once paternity is established, the parentage case is considered terminated for reporting purposes.

Personal Injury and Property Damage: Civil cases in which the principal issue is liability for, or the amount of damages to be received for, allegedly tortious conduct resulting in personal injury.

S

Small Claims: Civil actions brought under R.C. 1925 for the recovery of small debts and accounts, not exceeding \$3,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

Support Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, a lawful judgment of the court requiring the payment of support. A case is reported only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

T

Trial Rate: Trial rates are statistical calculations describing the rates at which trials occur compared against all other termination categories that are dispositive of a case.

U

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.): Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3115, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, handled by the domestic relations or juvenile divisions, including cases initiated in Ohio and cases in which Ohio is the responding state.

Unruly: Juvenile cases concerning unruly children, as defined by R.C. 2151.022.

V

Visitation Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, lawful judgment of the court relative to child-visitation rights. A case is listed only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

W

Workers' Compensation: Appeals filed under R.C. 4123.512, including noncompliance actions by the state, for recovery of benefits or of premiums, and *mandamus* actions arising from claims or awards.

Courts of Common Pleas, General Division

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

Case Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Administrative Appeals	1,488	1,404	1,116	1,183	1,018	1,070	1,034	973	901	723
Complex Litigation	59	67	102	149	67	54	77	73	43	42
Criminal	81,042	81,026	78,612	80,636	78,112	82,001	86,139	90,338	91,655	74,028
Foreclosures	85,629	84,196	63,940	51,697	46,725	44,913	40,713	38,271	34,737	18,926
Other Civil	61,647	56,510	50,392	49,249	48,170	48,008	48,265	49,215	51,141	43,810
Other Torts	18,303	17,981	17,669	17,239	16,153	17,008	17,393	16,758	16,363	15,813
Product Liability	203	234	254	184	186	173	176	188	227	162
Professional Tort	1,509	1,523	1,572	1,555	1,460	1,490	1,618	1,290	1,319	1,286
Workers' Compensation	7,759	7,296	7,164	6,937	6,869	6,785	6,194	6,482	6,451	6,327
Total	257,639	250,237	220,821	208,829	198,760	201,502	201,609	203,588	202,837	161,117

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

Case Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All Others	14,029	13,582	12,948	12,686	11,893	11,409	9,794	9,195	9,094	6,976
Change of Custody	7,464	7,090	6,909	6,761	6,582	6,124	6,264	6,133	6,399	5,500
Domestic Violence	20,894	19,939	20,019	18,742	18,910	19,311	19,960	21,401	22,714	21,041
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	8,455	8,028	7,667	7,398	7,370	7,149	6,877	7,064	6,788	6,797
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	10,550	10,167	10,316	10,087	10,011	9,974	9,806	9,912	9,680	9,548
Marriage Terminations w/Children	16,158	15,137	14,307	13,829	13,194	12,921	12,415	12,305	12,209	10,513
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	14,555	14,134	13,992	13,178	13,123	12,839	12,897	12,582	12,596	11,067
Parentage	2,133	1,987	1,704	1,577	1,440	1,275	1,282	1,314	1,250	1,117
Support - Enforce or Modify	31,866	31,018	29,975	28,982	26,831	25,584	25,386	25,496	24,036	17,957
U.I.F.S.A.	1,085	1,258	1,088	1,081	1,060	966	889	864	890	650
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,414	3,433	3,117	3,139	3,000	2,780	2,971	2,991	2,980	2,754
Total	130,603	125,773	122,042	117,460	113,414	110,332	108,541	109,257	108,636	93,920

Appendix

Courts of Common Pleas, Probate Division

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

Case Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Adoptions	4,159	4,060	4,231	3,862	4,217	4,421	4,462	4,281	4,396	3,782
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	988	1,157	1,109	923	931	1,036	1,138	1,081	1,192	752
Change of Name	5,491	5,880	6,076	6,039	6,178	6,367	6,752	7,184	8,278	6,960
Civil Actions	2,462	2,581	2,816	2,848	2,834	2,519	2,308	2,252	2,263	2,084
Conservatorships	76	122	105	78	82	62	60	46	44	28
Decedents' Estates	56,188	57,241	56,669	53,084	55,519	52,169	52,578	52,964	52,748	52,386
Guardianships of Incompetents	6,393	6,993	7,091	7,099	6,724	6,911	6,864	6,762	6,991	5,845
Guardianships of Minors	2,372	2,329	2,447	2,291	2,333	2,262	2,159	1,869	1,801	1,396
Mental Health and Civil Commitments	5,360	5,923	5,925	5,965	6,085	6,428	6,510	6,669	6,199	6,224
Minors' Settlements	1,287	1,349	1,437	1,327	1,234	1,237	1,328	1,293	1,237	1,205
Testamentary Trusts	462	475	511	465	423	450	370	359	402	448
Wrongful Death	628	688	708	542	697	657	812	1,071	982	892
Total	85,866	88,798	89,125	84,523	87,257	84,519	85,341	85,831	86,533	82,002
Marriage Applications Granted	69,334	70,058	68,446	70,232	71,470	79,747	70,441	68,406	64,962	59,730

Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

Case Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	18,307	18,292	17,183	16,231	17,427	18,690	21,041	20,809	20,891	17,066
Adult Cases	7,087	6,929	7,080	7,296	8,347	7,836	6,729	4,088	4,491	2,632
All Others	13,368	13,066	13,572	12,749	9,899	9,629	9,819	9,312	7,341	5,047
Custody/Visitation	30,756	31,427	30,887	31,380	31,928	32,482	33,850	34,317	3,429	27,027
Delinquency	80,183	78,681	72,078	69,778	64,952	63,580	57,522	46,317	44,271	30,224
Motion for Permanent Custody	2,053	2,218	2,414	2,664	7,617	7,250	6,759	6,383	2,636	2,459
Parentage	11,892	10,621	9,303	8,724	2,838	2,981	3,088	3,412	6,255	5,005
Support - Enforce or Modify	62,375	60,902	59,446	56,271	52,574	49,694	53,704	49,381	46,720	29,792
Traffic	47,747	46,782	42,959	39,082	40,229	41,075	41,493	37,902	36,787	27,493
U.I.F.S.A.	1,487	1,175	1,167	1,218	1,129	1,118	1,459	946	944	677
Unruly	14,152	14,018	12,811	13,020	12,173	11,433	11,362	11,841	12,473	8,066
Total	289,407	284,111	268,900	258,413	249,113	245,768	246,826	224,708	186,238	155,488

Municipal and County Courts

Total incoming cases, 2011 to 2020

Case Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Contracts	206,735	193,157	154,500	148,321	152,066	161,755	194,941	217,589	245,109	166,516
F.E.D.	116,007	113,065	114,961	112,480	110,491	107,872	107,058	106,521	106,455	68,484
Felonies	83,805	85,285	84,398	84,078	81,537	86,277	87,534	87,895	84,538	76,334
Misdemeanors	540,906	531,352	534,330	522,304	484,752	480,140	490,034	474,790	434,122	338,856
O.V.I.	67,585	69,247	68,368	68,098	66,753	68,180	72,009	69,123	63,688	51,104
Other Civil	90,569	24,794	18,397	17,317	17,763	16,831	17,243	17,553	16,574	11,339
Other Traffic	1,362,284	1,452,294	1,503,517	1,475,100	1,395,903	1,338,755	1,376,852	1,352,724	1,254,979	821,582
Pers. Injury / Prop. Damage	7,244	6,212	6,331	5,811	4,700	5,501	4,414	4,630	3,712	3,607
Small Claims	64,240	57,896	55,564	53,233	50,770	47,912	49,338	47,919	45,094	30,602
Total	2,539,375	2,533,302	2,540,366	2,486,742	2,364,735	2,313,223	2,399,423	2,378,744	2,249,616	1,568,424

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