



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



2014 OHIO COURTS  
**STATISTICAL SUMMARY**

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2014

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## A MESSAGE

From the Chief Justice

The Supreme Court of Ohio issues an annual statistical summary and detailed report designed to inform and identify trends throughout the Ohio judiciary.

For the fifth consecutive year, the total number of incoming cases in Ohio courts declined. The 3,167,967 incoming cases in 2014 represent a 2.6-percent decline over 2013. A major contributor to the overall decrease last year was a substantial reduction in the number of incoming foreclosure cases in which Ohio's courts of common pleas saw 19 percent fewer incoming cases over 2013. Incoming criminal cases in the courts of common pleas increased slightly by 2.4 percent over 2013.

By analyzing case filing patterns and trends, the Ohio Supreme Court attempts to assist in the efficient administration of justice at all levels of the judiciary. We do not, however, 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 of Ohio commends Ohio's courts for their continued assistance in submitting data on caseloads and case terminations.

MAUREEN O'CONNOR  
Chief Justice, The Supreme Court of Ohio



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**NOTE:** An overview of the National Center for State Courts’ CourTools performance measures is displayed on pages 26-27 of this publication.





## AN OVERVIEW of the Statistical Reporting Process

The obligation for Ohio trial and appellate courts to report caseload statistics to the Supreme Court of Ohio 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 him or her. An exception to this requirement exists in multi-judge municipal and county courts where certain activities are permitted to occur 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 quarterly a presiding judge report that describes the status of all cases pending in that district. In addition, each individual judge must submit quarterly an 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 monthly a 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 his or her court, 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 quarterly a 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 monthly an 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 monthly a 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.



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## 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 actual 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 simply 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 at such time 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 physical 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).

## Statewide Statistics, Population Data, and Change from Prior Editions

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, in this edition of the Ohio Courts Statistical

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Summary, 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 had been previously placed on inactive reporting status) and reopened cases (which had been previously closed). Prior editions used nearly exclusively 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 in 2014 a 3-percent overage rate for a particular case type, 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) is ordinarily multiplied by 100 and expressed as percentage. The target is a clearance rate of 100 percent.

A clearance rate of 100 percent means a court terminated over a given time period exactly as many cases as it took in during that same time period. If a court’s clearance rate is regularly less than 100 percent over an extended period of time, 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 percent 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, such as the overage rate.

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## 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, that provide a balanced perspective on a court's overall performance. Developed through the input of 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.

## Future Plans

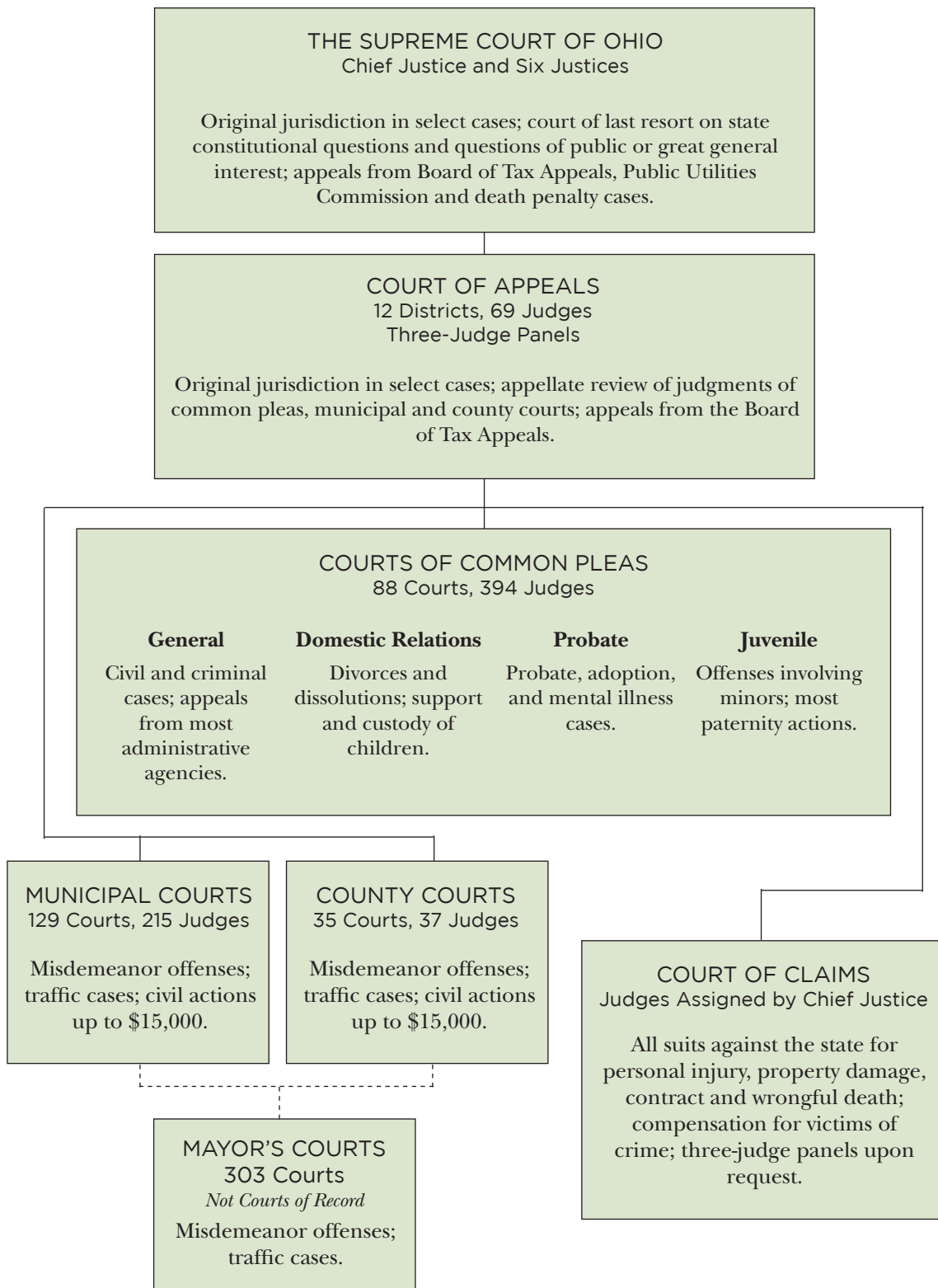
The current configuration of case types and termination categories has remained largely unchanged for 20 years. Changes in the law, changes in society, and changes in the Supreme Court's capacity to collect, analyze, evaluate and report caseload statistics present an opportunity for a careful re-evaluation of the overall caseload statistics reporting process.

In 2011 the Supreme Court established the Advisory Committee on Case Management. The advisory committee is conducting an extensive review of the Supreme Court's entire caseload statistical reporting process, from the data elements collected to the manner in which that data is transformed and communicated back to the courts.

In 2013, the Supreme Court adopted changes to Sup.R. 37 that establishes a new requirement that appellate courts and trial courts submit their statistics to the Supreme Court in electronic format, as and when the technical foundation for each court and division reporting category is developed and made available to the courts. The Case Management Section of the Supreme Court, responsible for collecting statistics from Ohio's judiciary, began implementing this new data collection process, called eStats, in July 2014. Incorporated into eStats are downloadable reports to help courts better understand how they are performing.

As the Supreme Court continues to move forward in these areas, it will tap into the depth of knowledge and experience shared by the Ohio judiciary, court professionals, and justice system partners to fully explore the best means for advancing Ohio's use of caseload statistics.

## 2014 STRUCTURE OF THE OHIO JUDICIAL SYSTEM







## ALL COURTS

New Filings

Shown below in **Table 1** is the total number of incoming cases filed over each of the past 10 years in Ohio courts. Detailed information concerning the variety of cases constituting these figures is contained in the various court sections of this summary.

In 2014, a total of 3,167,967 incoming cases were reported across Ohio's courts, the fewest in the last 10 years, and 2.6 percent fewer than 2013. Declines in 2014 over 2013 were seen within all types of trial court types except the county courts, where an increase in traffic case filings was reported, and the Court of Claims. Among the remaining types of trial courts, the general divisions of the courts of common pleas experienced the largest decline, at 5.5 percent over 2013. Ohio's appellate courts reported a slight increase of 1.3 percent. The Supreme Court of Ohio experienced the largest percentage increase among all courts in Ohio, with a one-year increase of 9.7 percent.

Shown in **Figure 1** below are the percentages of the total statewide volume of incoming cases in 2014 broken down by court type, sorted from highest to lowest. The municipal and county courts, hearing most of the state's traffic cases, constitute nearly 79 percent of the state's entire court caseload.

TABLE 1

### All Courts, All Case Types

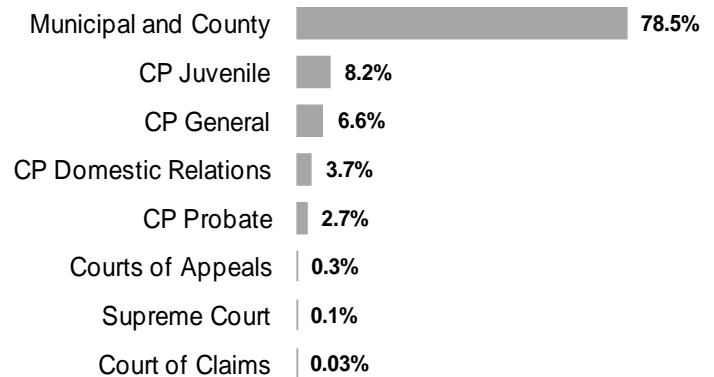
Total incoming cases

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Supreme Court</b>	2,444	2,407	2,459	2,506	2,363	2,293	2,207	2,187	2,055	2,255
<b>Courts of Appeals</b>	11,391	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,277	9,508	9,426	9,076	9,196
<b>Court of Claims</b>	1,138	871	979	1,215	1,001	1,327	1,337	865	793	1,007
<b>Common Pleas</b>	875,191	897,224	893,797	862,173	834,299	800,971	763,515	748,919	700,878	669,063
General	267,850	283,683	294,472	297,614	293,096	280,208	257,639	250,237	220,821	208,684
Domestic Relations	138,442	135,674	134,482	137,082	138,889	133,946	130,603	125,773	122,042	117,460
Probate	93,708	91,621	88,021	88,621	88,178	85,152	85,866	88,798	89,125	84,523
Juvenile	375,191	386,246	376,822	338,856	314,136	301,665	289,407	284,111	268,890	258,396
<b>Municipal and County</b>	2,867,100	2,934,097	2,945,567	2,957,586	2,750,680	2,603,791	2,539,375	2,533,302	2,540,366	2,486,446
Municipal	2,666,746	2,721,998	2,728,505	2,744,959	2,554,422	2,422,099	2,374,445	2,356,711	2,364,898	2,305,255
County	200,354	212,099	217,062	212,627	196,258	181,692	164,930	176,591	175,468	181,191
<b>All Courts Combined</b>	3,757,264	3,845,807	3,853,314	3,834,595	3,598,776	3,418,659	3,315,942	3,294,699	3,253,168	3,167,967

FIGURE 1

### All Courts, All Case Types

Total incoming cases in 2014, percentage of grand total







## 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 on a nonpartisan ballot. Two justices are chosen at 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 the court’s 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 2,255 new cases in 2014, representing a nearly 10-percent increase over the 2,055 cases filed in 2013. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

### Jurisdictional Appeals

In 2014, a total of 1,623 new jurisdictional appeals were filed, representing an 9-percent increase over the 1,492 cases filed in 2013. (See **Figure 2**).

### 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

TABLE 1

### The Supreme Court of Ohio New Filings

Case Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jurisdictional Appeals	1,714	1,667	1,629	1,492	1,623
Merit Cases	432	408	424	451	513
Practice of Law Cases	147	132	134	112	119
Disciplinary Cases	126	119	125	96	107
All Other	21	14	9	16	12
<b>All Case Types</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>2,255</b>

FIGURE 1

### All Case Types Combined New Filings

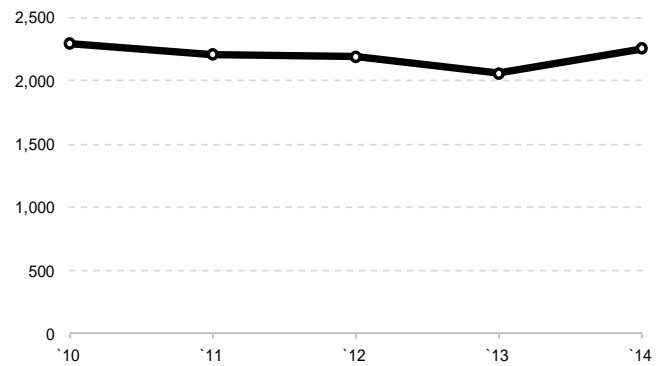


FIGURE 2

### Jurisdictional Appeals New Filings

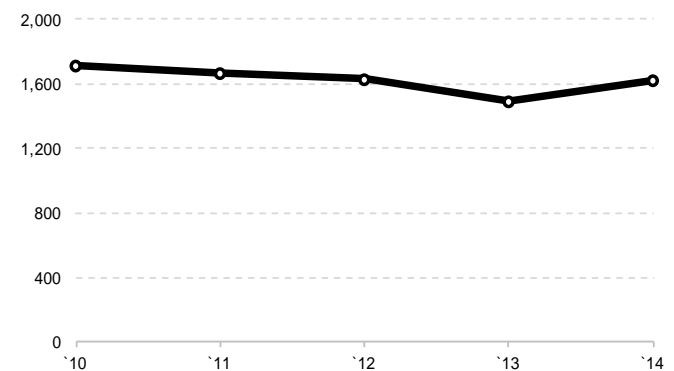


FIGURE 3

**Merit Cases**  
New Filings

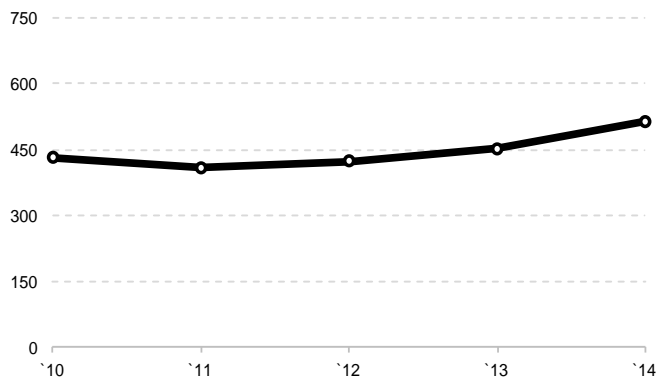
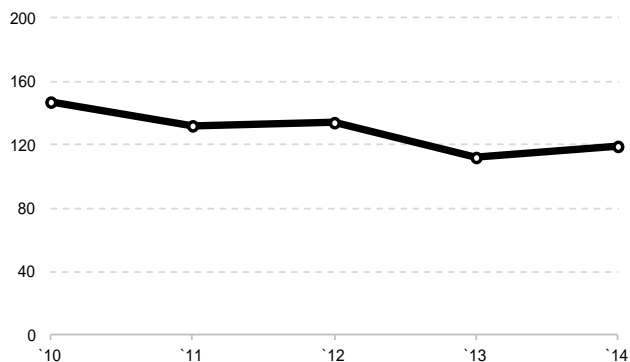


FIGURE 4

**Practice of Law Cases**  
New Filings



- 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 2014, a total of 513 merit cases were filed, representing a nearly 14-percent increase over the 451 cases filed in 2013. A five-year view of the filing trend for these types of cases reveals an upward trend. (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 vast majority of practice of law cases involve attorney discipline. In 2014, a total of 119 practice of law cases were filed, representing a 6-percent increase over 2013 when 112 cases were filed. Of the 119 cases filed in 2014, a total of 107 (or approximately 90 percent), were disciplinary cases. Despite some relatively sizable year-to-year volatility, the court’s docket of disciplinary cases has been trending down slightly over the past five years. (See **Figure 4**).

## Time to Disposition Analyses

### All Cases

#### From Filing to Final Disposition

In 2014, the court disposed of 1,958 cases. The mean number of days a case was pending before the court in 2014 increased by 24 percent over 2013 (from 124 days to 154 days). (See **Figure 5**).

### Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Merit Review

#### From Filing to Final Disposition

Decisions in 68 jurisdictional appeals following full merit review were released in 2014. The time to disposition averaged 558 days. (See **Figure 6**).

### Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Merit Review

#### From Filing to Final Disposition

The mean number of days taken by the court to consider and dispose of a jurisdictional appeal not accepted decreased by 4 days in 2014, from 96 days in 2013 to 92 days in 2014. (See **Figure 7**).

FIGURE 5

### All Cases

#### Days from Filing to Final Disposition

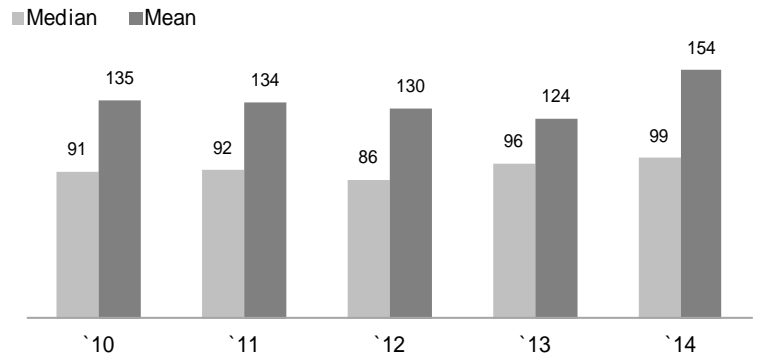


FIGURE 6

### Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

#### Days from Filing to Final Disposition

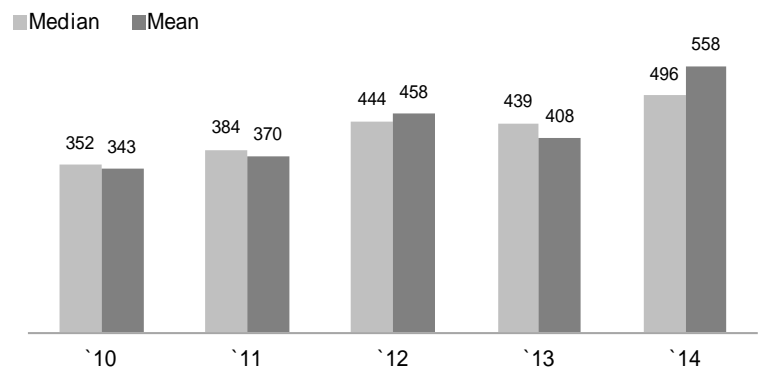


FIGURE 7

### Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

#### Days from Filing to Final Disposition

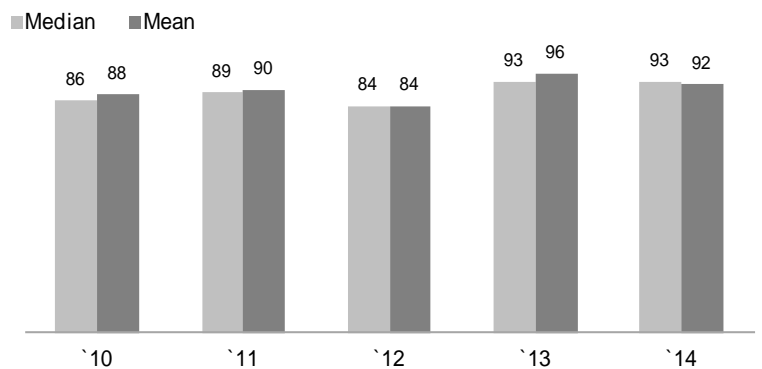
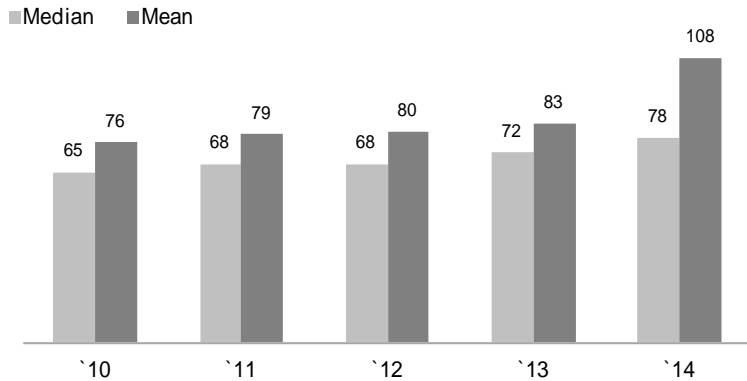


FIGURE 8

**Original Actions**  
Days from Filing to Final Disposition



**Original Actions**

**From Filing to Final Disposition**

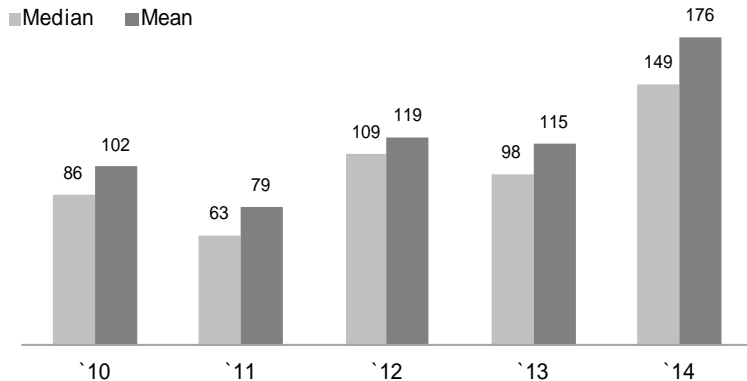
During 2014, a total of 212 original actions were disposed of in an average of 108 days each. (See **Figure 8**).

**All Cases Decided with an Opinion**  
From Submission to Final Disposition

The number of cases decided with an opinion increased significantly in 2014 over 2013. In 2014, the court decided 265 cases with an opinion which represents 38-percent more cases than in 2013. The average number of days to issue an opinion was 176 days. (See **Figure 9**).

FIGURE 9

**All Cases Decided with an Opinion**  
Days from Submission to Final Disposition







## 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 appellate district, consisting solely of Franklin County, also hears appeals from the Court of Claims.

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 six years prior to the commencement of the 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.

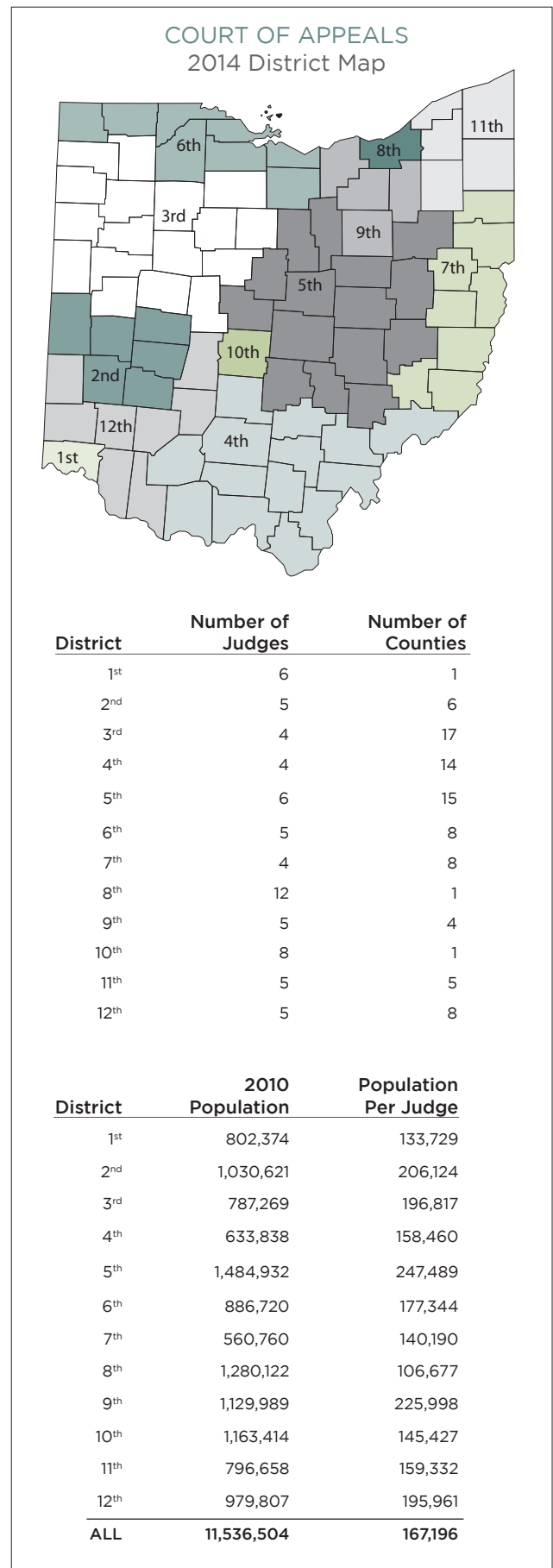
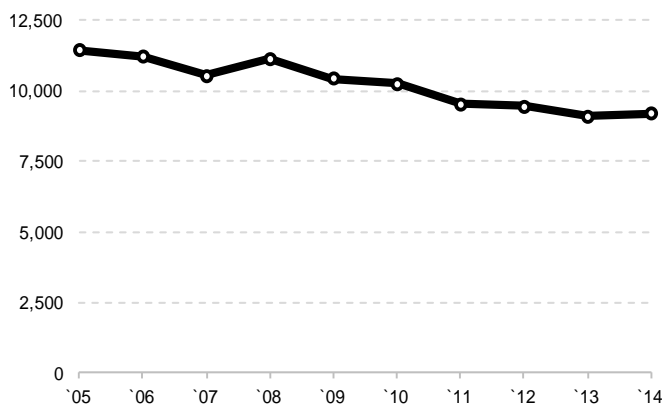


FIGURE 1

**All Case Types Combined**  
Total incoming cases



The overall number of appeals filed in Ohio’s court of appeals has been declining fairly steadily for the last 10 years. In 2005, a 10-year high of 11,437 cases were filed. In 2014, a total of 9,196 cases were filed, representing a 20-percent decline over 2005. The number filed in 2014, however, represented a one-percent increase over 2013. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

TABLE 1

**Court of Appeals**  
Total Incoming Cases

Case Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Criminal	5,047	5,189	4,807	5,157	4,670	4,714	4,209	4,181	4,056	4,329
Civil	3,433	3,538	3,335	3,521	3,277	3,050	2,955	2,975	2,807	2,595
Family Law	1,623	1,671	1,538	1,580	1,577	1,490	1,430	1,422	1,454	1,526
Miscellaneous	1,288	810	832	857	909	973	914	848	759	746
<b>All Case Types</b>	<b>11,391</b>	<b>11,208</b>	<b>10,512</b>	<b>11,115</b>	<b>10,433</b>	<b>10,227</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>9,426</b>	<b>9,076</b>	<b>9,196</b>



**Figure 2** shows trends in the number of filings over the past 10 years within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Both criminal and civil appeals exhibit general downward trends over the last 10 years. However, in 2014, the appellate courts experienced an increase of seven percent in the number of criminal appeals being filed. Civil appeals continue to decline fairly steadily from their 10-year high in 2006. Family law appeals were up in 2015, with an increase of five percent over 2013. A 10-year view of family law appeals reveals a reversal of the general downward trend between 2006 and 2011, with two consecutive years of annual increases beginning in 2013. (See **Figure 3**).

**Figure 4** shows the 10-year trend in the filing of miscellaneous appeals (consisting of original actions, habeas corpus cases, and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims). Despite the spike seen in 2005, filings in these cases types have remained largely stable, although since 2010, filings have declined.

FIGURE 2

**Civil and Criminal Appeals**  
Total incoming cases

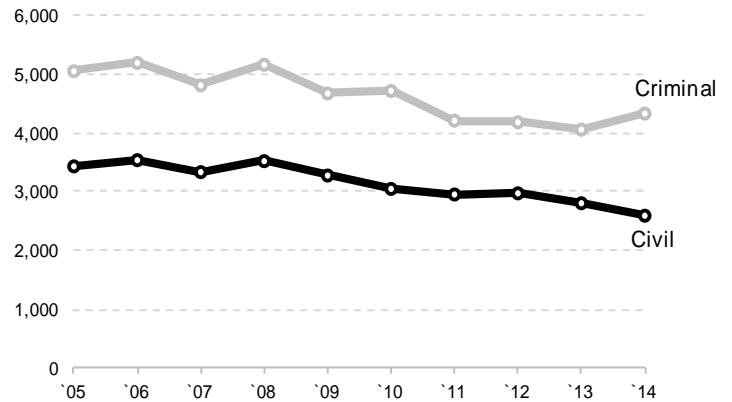


FIGURE 3

**Family Law Appeals**  
Total incoming cases

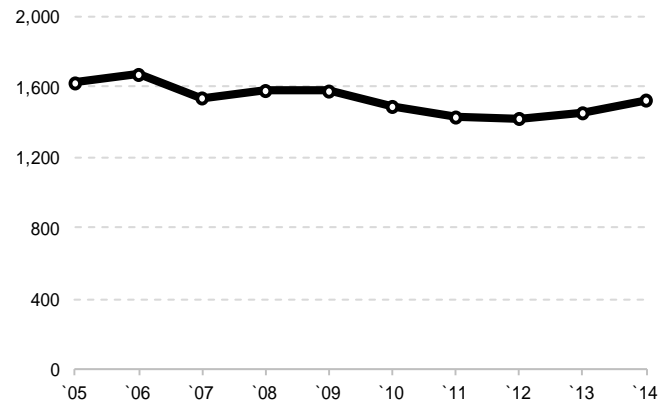
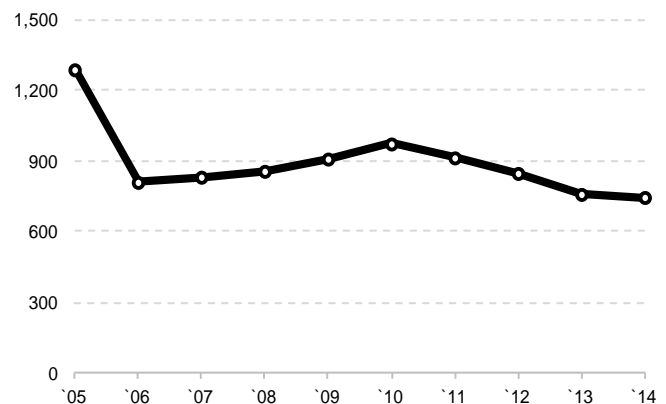


FIGURE 4

**Miscellaneous Appeals**  
Total incoming cases





## COURT OF CLAIMS

**T**he 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 1976, the Court of Claims sits in Franklin County. Appeals from the Court of Claims are heard by the 10th District Court of Appeals in Columbus.

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. 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.

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.

Viewed over the past five years, the number of incoming judicial cases is declining overall at a fairly steady rate, with year-over-year decreases each year. In 2014, a total of 309 cases were filed, which is 33 percent fewer than the five-year high in 2011 of 441 cases. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

The make-up of the court's incoming caseload in 2014 is shown in **Figure 2**.

TABLE 1

**Court of Claims**

Total incoming cases

Case Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Judicial Cases	463	441	359	342	309
Administrative Determinations	768	796	447	371	635
Victims of Crime Appeals	96	100	59	80	63
<b>All Case Types</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>1,007</b>

FIGURE 1

**Judicial Cases**

Total incoming cases

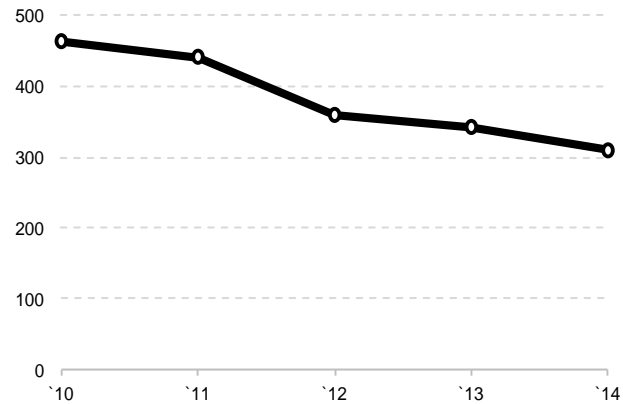


FIGURE 2

**Incoming Cases in 2014**

All Case Types

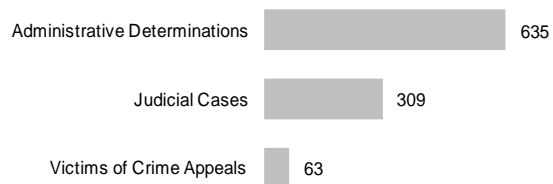
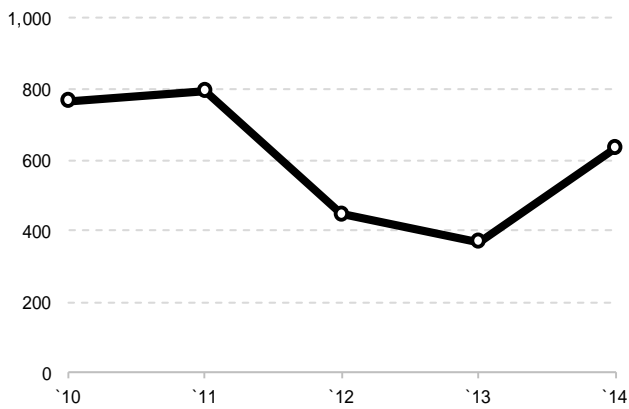


FIGURE 3

**Administrative Determinations**  
Total incoming cases

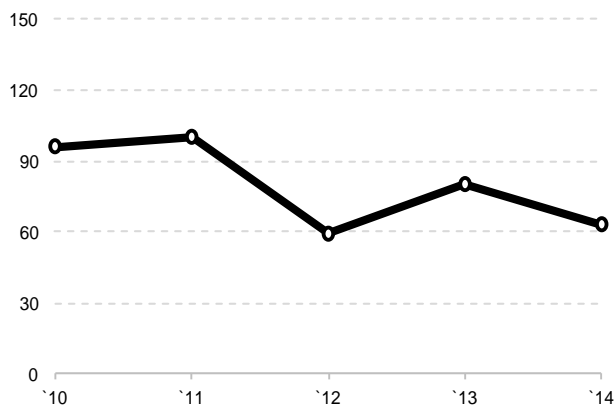


The number of administrative determination cases filed each year varies widely with no discernible trend over the past five years. In 2014, the court saw the filing of 635 cases, which represents an increase of 71 percent over 2013. (See **Figure 3**).

The volume of appeals from victims of crime decisions has experienced similar large fluctuations over the past five years. In 2014, a total of 63 appeals were filed, representing a 21-percent decrease over 2013. (See **Figure 4**).

FIGURE 4

**Victims of Crime Appeals**  
Total incoming cases







## COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

The court of common pleas, the only trial court created by the Ohio Constitution, is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution and its 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 is generally 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.

The courts of common pleas in most counties across the state 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 — that is, 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 may not technically 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 types of cases that come before the common pleas court.

## Changes in 2014

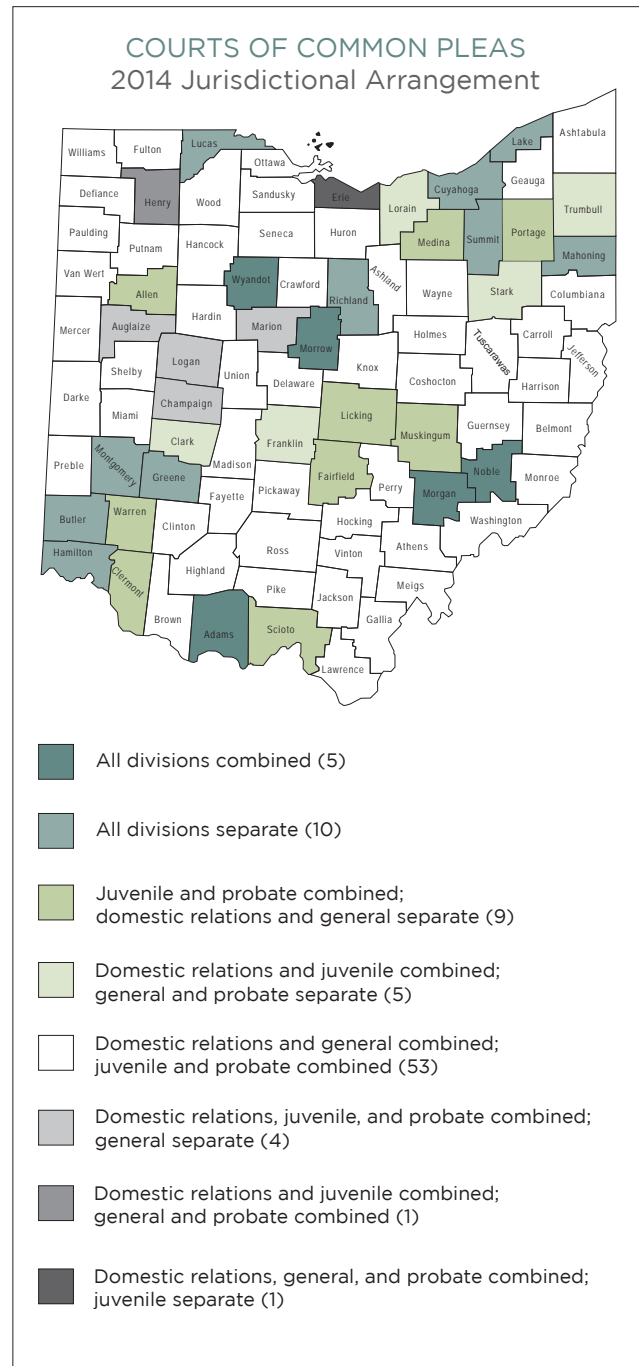
There were no changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts during 2014.

## Future Changes

At the time of publication of this report, no laws are in effect that make changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts in the future.

### Courts of Common Pleas Jurisdictional Distribution in 2014

JURISDICTIONAL STRUCTURE	NUMBER OF COUNTIES	NUMBER OF JUDGES
Separately Administered General Division	28	162
Separately Administered Domestic Relations Division	19	30
Separately Administered Probate Division	15	16
Separately Administered Juvenile Division	11	20
Combined General and Domestic Relations Division	53	72
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

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
- 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
- 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 first classified under their appropriate case types and then, if applicable, are reclassified as complex litigation cases. Complex litigation cases are rare. Since 2003, on average, approximately one out of every 1,500 civil cases (0.07 percent) in the general divisions of Ohio's common pleas courts are classified each year as complex litigation matters.





# CourTools

## A Court Performance Framework

In 1987, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the United States Department of Justice initiated the Trial Court Performance Standards Project in order to develop a common language for describing, classifying and measuring the performance of trial courts.

**T**heir work culminated in the 1990 release of Trial Court Performance Standards (TCPS). Included in those standards was an extensive battery of 68 performance measures. Faced with the practical challenges of implementing the multitude of performance measures prescribed in the TCPS, NCSC staff worked with state court representatives to develop a streamlined set of measures that evaluate the essential core functions of a court. The result was the 2005 completion of 10 performance measures constituting the CourTools.

The CourTools provide a balanced and comprehensive, yet workable, empirical perspective on court operations. When implemented, they give the judiciary, its justice partners and the public direct evidence into how well a court is functioning.

Court performance measurement is about knowing where things stand today — which, in turn, permits the development of a plan for the future. The CourTools provide an effective framework for courts to establish performance baselines, diagnose existing problems and plan for specific improvements.

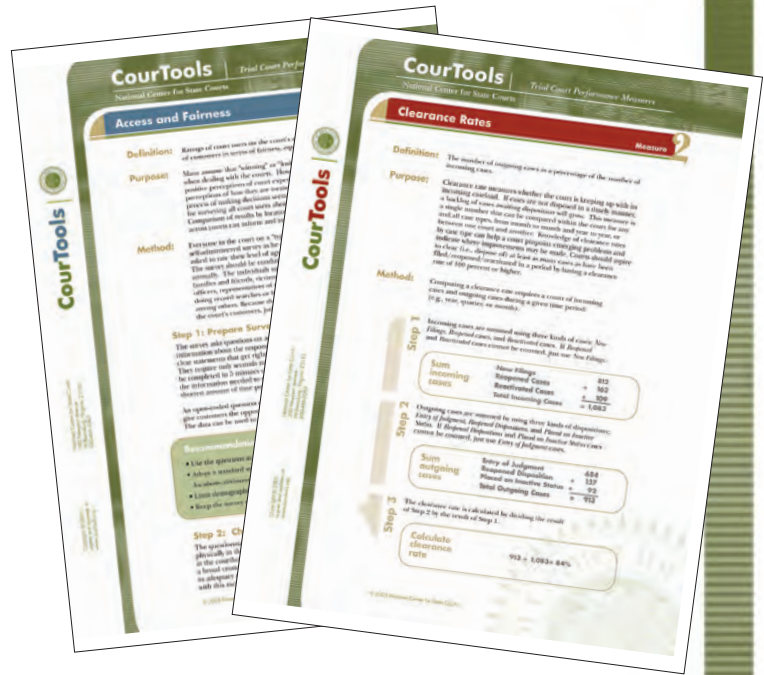


## Measuring Court Performance

The Supreme Court of Ohio encourages Ohio trial courts to measure performance using the CourTools.

The Court's Case Management Section provides specific training directly to the courts on implementing, interpreting and understanding the CourTools.

The 10 CourTools are published in a visual and accessible how-to format. Brief descriptions of each are featured below.



**CourTools Measure 1** measures how well a court does in providing accessibility to its services and to what extent participants in court proceedings feel they are treated fairly and with respect.

**CourTools Measures 2, 3, 4 and 5** focus on the critical goals of courts functioning expeditiously and resolving cases in a timely manner.

**CourTools Measure 6** focuses on the foundational element that courts maintain accurate and complete files.

**CourTools Measure 7** permits a court to obtain a firm grasp on how effective it is at collecting monetary penalties.

Courts using juries can apply **CourTools Measure 8** to demonstrate the soundness of their jury management capabilities.

**CourTools Measure 9** provides courts with a means to ensure that court staff are functioning at a high level and providing an optimal level of public service by measuring the work environment and the relations between staff and court management.

Lastly, **CourTools Measure 10** describes how to establish a cost-per-case foundation for responsible budgeting.

More information about CourTools is available at [www.courttools.org](http://www.courttools.org).

## Caseloads

**Figure 1** shows the breakdown of incoming cases in 2014 within the general divisions of Ohio’s common pleas. Criminal cases, Foreclosures, and Other Civil cases constitute 87 percent of all filings in 2014. See the *Appendix* for a table displaying the number of new filings for each individual case type from 2005 through 2014.

**Figure 2** shows 10-year trends in number of filings of Criminal, Foreclosure, and Other Civil cases. Sizable volatility in these major categories of cases can be seen. Foreclosure cases rose steadily each year until 2010 when the long-term trend reversed. For the last five consecutive years, the number of incoming foreclosure cases has decreased. The 51,699 incoming cases in 2014 represent a 19-percent decline over 2013 and a 48-percent decline over the 10-year high seen in 2009. Similarly, filings of Other Civil cases continue to experience steady declines. In 2014, a total of 49,251 incoming cases were filed, representing a 2-percent decrease over 2013 and a 35-percent decrease over the 10-year high in 2009.

Criminal cases have also been generally declining but at a lesser rate. In 2014, the courts reported a total of 80,490 incoming criminal cases. This represents an increase of 2 percent over 2013, but a decrease of 18 percent over the 10-year high of 98,387 cases in 2007.

## 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 2014 for all case types exceeded 100 percent with the sole exception of Criminal. Average monthly overage rates over

FIGURE 1

### All Case Types

Total incoming cases in 2014

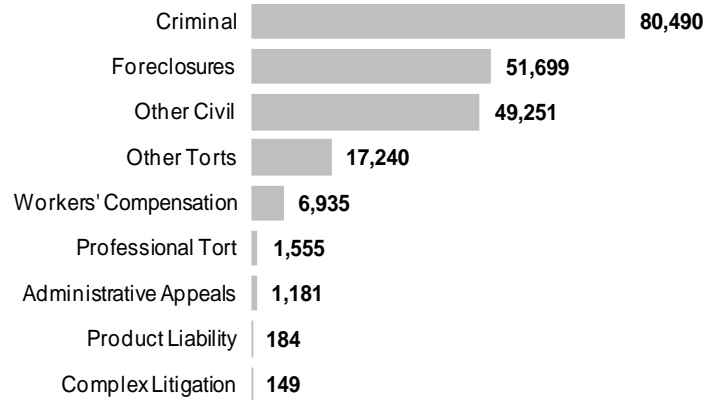


FIGURE 2

### Major Case Types

Total incoming cases

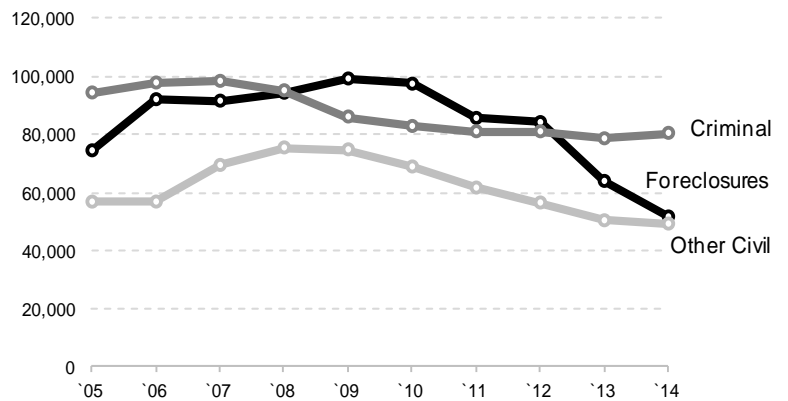


TABLE 1

### Clearance Rates

Average per month in 2014

Case Type	Monthly Average
Administrative Appeals	105%
Complex Litigation	113%
Criminal	98%
Foreclosures	109%
Other Civil	101%
Other Torts	103%
Product Liability	120%
Professional Tort	106%
Workers' Compensation	104%

TABLE 2

**Overage Rates**

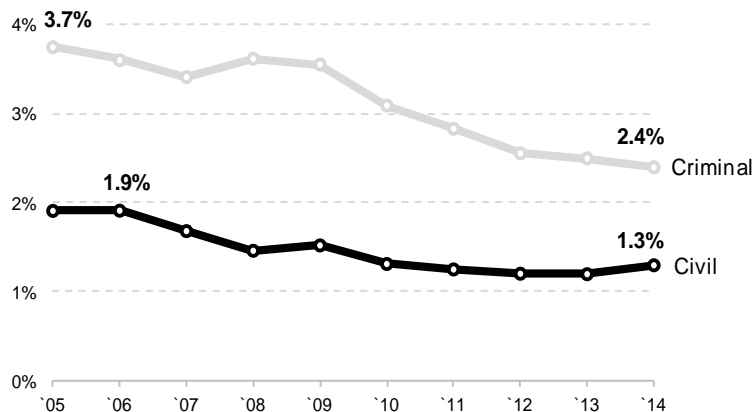
Percent of caseload pending past time guidelines, average per month

Case Type (Time guideline, in months)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Civil</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Administrative Appeals (9)	24%	24%	20%	24%	25%
Complex Litigation (36)	8%	10%	15%	16%	6%
Foreclosures (12)	6%	8%	8%	9%	10%
Other Civil (24)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Other Torts (24)	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Product Liability (24)	8%	7%	8%	5%	8%
Professional Tort (24)	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Workers' Compensation (12)	10%	11%	11%	10%	10%
<b>Criminal (6)</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>

FIGURE 3

**Trial Rates**

Trials as a percentage of total dispositions



each of the last five years are shown in **Table 2**. Average monthly overage rates above 10 percent are seen in four case types (Administrative Appeals, Complex Litigation, Criminal, and Workers' Compensation). Other Civil cases, which constitute 24 percent of the statewide general division caseload, are being managed timely, with only four percent of the caseload overage on average each month.

**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 simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations are 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.

It is conventionally understood among court observers at the national level that approximately 2 percent of civil cases and 5 percent of criminal cases ultimately go to trial.

Ohio 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 2014 was 1.3 percent and 2.4 percent for criminal cases. When viewed over the last 10 years, the rates of civil and criminal cases proceeding to trial have declined considerably. Although the overall rates are certainly small regardless of the year, the generally continuing year-to-year decreases can be clearly seen.

## Cuyahoga County's Asbestos Docket

Not reflected in the 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 managing it. 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 2006 of 444 new cases to a low of 85 new cases in 2014. (See **Table 3** and **Figure 4**).

The number of cases pending at the end of each year over the past 10 years reached a peak in 2005 when there were 45,486 cases pending. The lowest number of pending cases over the past 10 years occurred in 2014, with 3,067 cases pending at the end of the year. The number of pending cases stayed relatively stable until 2008 when 34,813 cases were terminated. (See **Table 3** and **Figure 5**). The majority (about 31,000) of those terminations were "administrative dismissals" rendering the cases inactive, pursuant to the passage of special asbestos-related tort reform legislation. The court found those cases did not contain the requisite medical evidence to warrant keeping the cases in active status. 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

Year	New Filings	Pending at End of Year	Cases Terminated
2005	404	45,486	1,303
2006	444	44,755	1,180
2007	266	44,744	279
2008	176	9,966	34,813
2009	152	6,894	3,000
2010	114	6,851	321
2011	105	6,699	490
2012	102	5,174	1,635
2013	113	5,164	120
2014	85	3,067	2,182

FIGURE 4

**Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket**  
New Filings

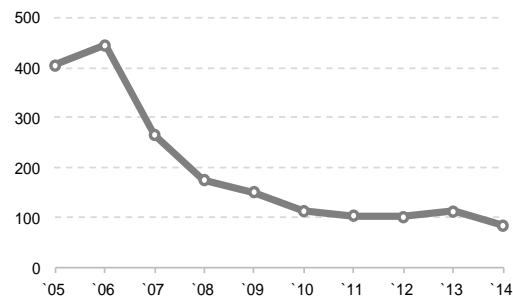
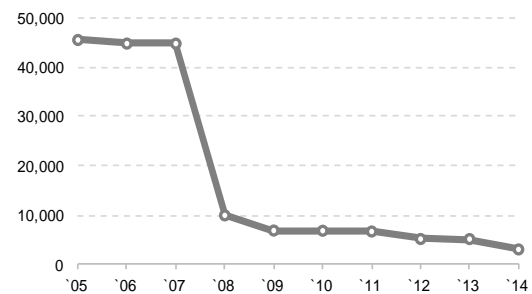


FIGURE 5

**Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket**  
Pending cases







**COURTS OF  
COMMON PLEAS**  
Domestic Relations Division

**D**omestic 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	Lake	Muskingum
Butler	Licking	Portage
Clermont	Lucas	Richland
Cuyahoga	Mahoning	Scioto
Fairfield	Medina	Summit
Greene	Montgomery	Warren
Hamilton		

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 further broken down for caseload reporting purposes depending on whether the married couple seeking a divorce or dissolution has any children.

**Post-Decree Case Types**

Following the cessation 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 of these categories. 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
- All Others – Cases not otherwise classifiable in other case-type categories.

## Caseloads

The core work performed in domestic relations courts involves divorces and dissolutions. In 2014, Ohio's domestic relations courts reported a total 44,492 incoming divorce and dissolution cases. This represents a decrease of four percent over 2013 and a 14-percent decline from the 10-year high of 51,764 cases in 2006. Incoming caseloads across the state in all case types from 2005 through 2014 are shown in a table in the *Appendix*.

Of particular note is the differential in the rates in which new divorce and dissolution filings involve married couples with children and married couples without children. (See **Figure 1**). Between 2005 and 2010, a generally equivalent amount of cases were presented each year. However, beginning in 2011, more cases not involving children began being filed than cases that do. As seen in the chart, the gap has widened considerably.

FIGURE 1

### Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions Total incoming cases

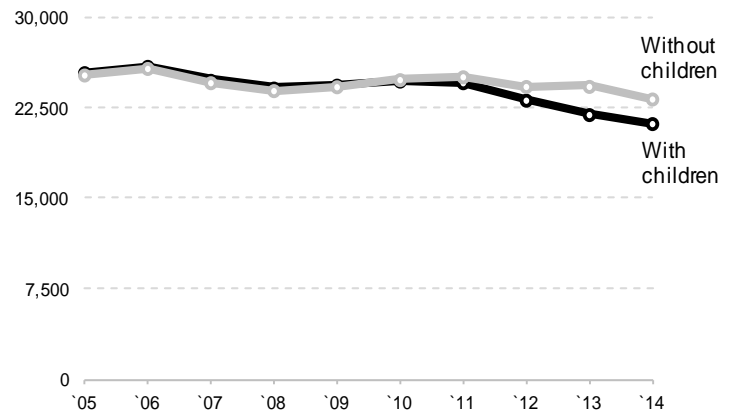
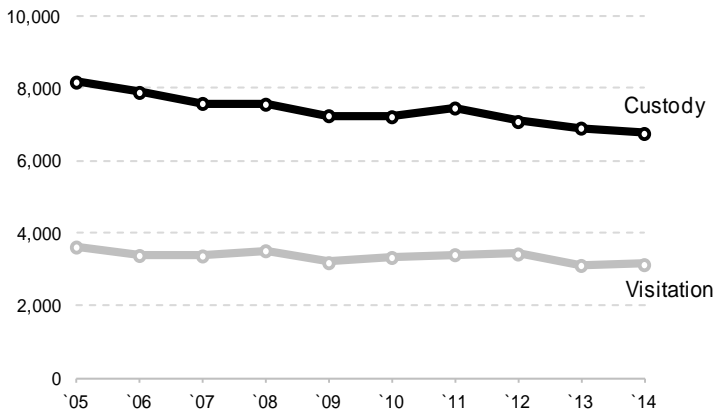


FIGURE 2

**Custody and Visitation Cases**  
Total incoming cases

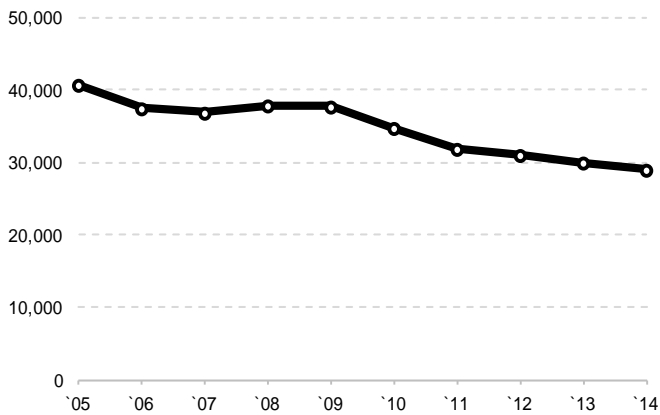


Since 2005, the number of motions filed each year seeking a change of custody has experienced a general downward trend. During 2014, a total of 6,761 filings were reported, representing a decrease of 2 percent over 2013 and a decline of 17 percent over the 10-year high in 2005 of 8,179 cases. The rate of filing of incoming Visitation matters has remained relatively stable, although a slight downward trend can be discerned. (See **Figure 2**).

Of note is the contrast in the number of post-decree matters involving children (Custody and Visitation) and the number of Support matters. It follows that because fewer marriage terminations involving children are being filed, fewer Custody and Visitation matters are subsequently being presented. Support matters, not strictly involving the presence of children, would be expected to demonstrate less of a decline. Nevertheless, between 2005 and 2014, the number of filings seeking the enforcement or modification of a support order declined by 29 percent. (See **Figures 2 and 3**).

FIGURE 3

**Support Cases**  
Total incoming cases





## 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 in 2014 for all case types except Visitation exceeded 100 percent. Average monthly overage rates over each of the last five years are shown in **Table 2**. While the overage rates for divorces and dissolutions along with several other case types in 2014 are well below 10 percent, the overage rates for Domestic Violence, Custody, U.I.F.S.A., Visitation, and All Others are above 10 percent. 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 spuriously elevated, and 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 case types.

TABLE 1

### Clearance Rates

Average per month in 2014

Case Type	Monthly Average
All Others	104%
Change of Custody	101%
Domestic Violence	100%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	102%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	100%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	102%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	103%
Parentage	105%
Support - Enforce or Modify	102%
U.I.F.S.A.	105%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	99%

TABLE 2

### Overage Rates

Percent of caseload pending past time guidelines, average per month

Case Type <i>(Time guideline, in months)</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All Others <sup>(6)</sup>	15%	17%	18%	16%	15%
Change of Custody <sup>(9)</sup>	13%	12%	13%	12%	11%
Domestic Violence <sup>(1)</sup>	35%	33%	36%	36%	34%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children <sup>(3)</sup>	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children <sup>(3)</sup>	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Marriage Terminations w/Children <sup>(18)</sup>	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children <sup>(12)</sup>	6%	6%	5%	6%	5%
Parentage <sup>(12)</sup>	4%	4%	5%	6%	4%
Support - Enforce or Modify <sup>(12)</sup>	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%
U.I.F.S.A. <sup>(3)</sup>	34%	26%	25%	26%	25%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify <sup>(9)</sup>	14%	13%	13%	13%	12%



## 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

Across the state, probate caseloads generally have declined over the past 10 years. As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, 84,523 new probate cases were filed in 2014, representing 5 percent fewer than the number of cases filed in 2013 and 10 percent fewer than the 10-year high in 2005.

Filings of Guardianships of Incompetents (adult guardianships), displayed in **Figure 1**, remained largely steady between 2005 and 2011. However, beginning in 2012, an upward trend can be seen. In 2014, a total of 7,099 Guardianships of Incompetents were filed, and in 2011 a total of 6,393 were filed, representing an increase of 11 percent over three years. Guardianships of Minors, also shown in **Figure 1**, have trended generally downward, with year-over-year declines in almost each year over the last 10 years. In 2014, a total of 2,291 cases were filed, compared with 2,447 filings in 2013 (a 6-percent decrease). Compared to the 10-year high of 3,551 cases in 2006, the 2014 filings represent a decline of 35 percent.

Decedents' Estates cases, shown in **Figure 2**, exhibit a very slight downward trend from 2005 to 2010. Slight increases were seen between 2011 and 2012. The 53,084 cases filed in 2014 represent a 12-percent decline over the 10-year high of 60,596 cases in 2005.

Adoption cases demonstrated marked declines between 2005 and 2010 but have since generally leveled off the past five years, with a notable decrease of 9 percent in 2014 over 2013 (3,862 filings compared with 4,231 filings). The 2014 filings also represent a 28-percent decline from the 10-year high of 5,375 cases in 2005. (See **Figure 3**).

FIGURE 1

### Guardianships of Adults and Minors

Total incoming cases

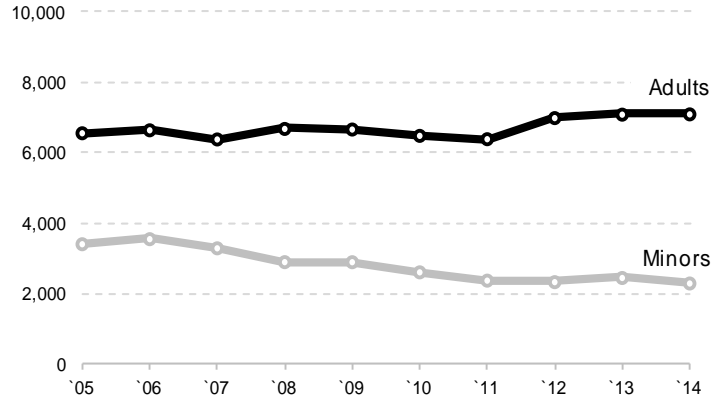


FIGURE 2

### Decedents' Estates

Total incoming cases

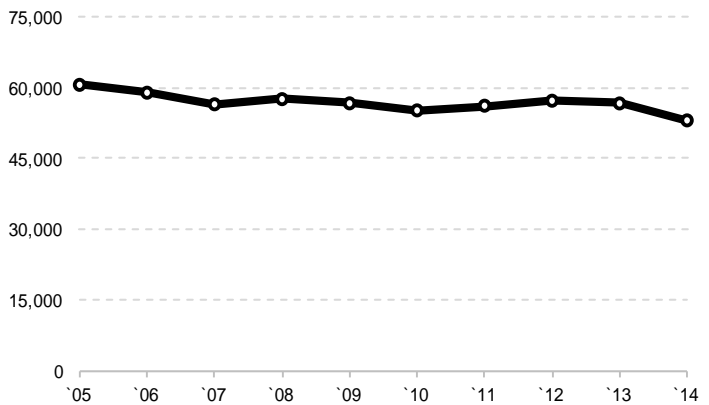


FIGURE 3

### Adoptions

Total incoming cases

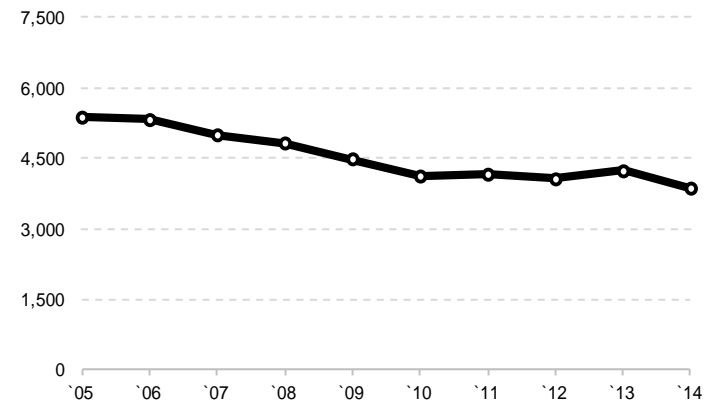


FIGURE 4

**Mental Illness and Mental Retardation Cases**

Total incoming cases

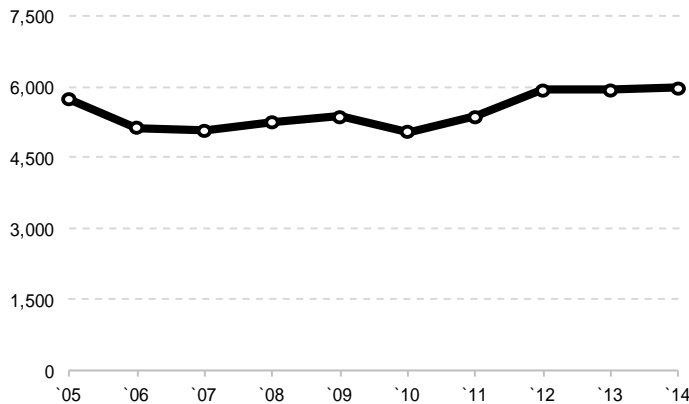


FIGURE 5

**Marriage Applications**

Total applications granted

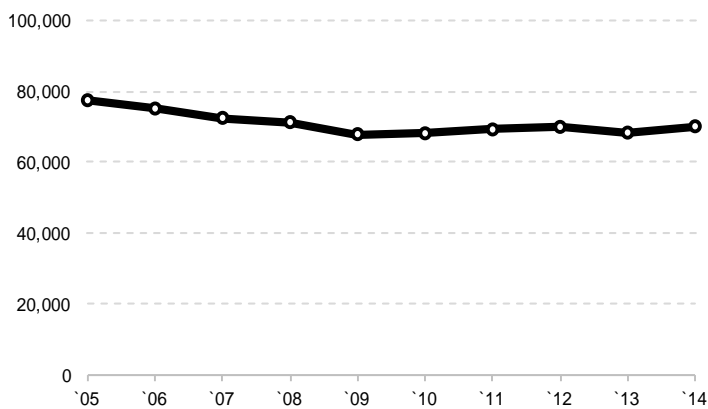


TABLE 1

**Clearance Rates**

Average per month in 2014

Case Type	Monthly Average
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	97%
Change of Name	98%
Civil Actions	94%
Conservatorships	130%
Decedents' Estates	109%
Guardianships of Incompetents	85%
Guardianships of Minors	211%
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation	95%
Minors' Settlements	110%
Testamentary Trusts	155%
Wrongful Death	82%

Constituting a significant segment of the probate division workload are Mental Illness and Mental Retardation matters. In 2014 a total of 5,965 new matters were filed representing a sizeable 18-percent increase over 2010 when a 10-year low of 5,052 cases were filed. A generally steady upward trend in these cases can be discerned. (See **Figure 4**).

In 2014, a total of 70,232 marriage applications were granted by the probate courts. This represents 3 percent more than the 68,446 applications granted in 2013. As shown in **Figure 5**, the number of applications granted declined steadily between 2005 and 2009, and then between 2010 and 2012, slight increases were seen from year to year.

**Performance Measures**

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

As shown in **Table 1**, probate divisions statewide in 2014 exhibited satisfactory clearance rates in many of the case types although in the Guardianships of Incompetents and Wrongful Death case types, average quarterly clearance rates of 85 and 82 percent are suggestive of a growth in a backlog. Because the Supreme Court does not promulgate time standards for probate cases, overage rates are not calculable.





COURTS OF  
COMMON PLEAS  
Juvenile Division

Juvenile divisions of courts of common pleas hear cases involving delinquent, unruly, and 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 incoming cases by type of case from 2005 to 2014. A variety of sizable changes in the number of filings is seen. Overall, the state saw a 4-percent decline in the total number of incoming juvenile cases in 2014 over 2013, largely attributable to decreases in Delinquency, Traffic, and Support cases, which made up 64 percent of the juvenile courts' caseloads in 2014. Over the past 10 years, there was a general sizable decline amounting to a 10-year decrease of 31 percent. Again, significant drivers of that overall decline were decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases, which exhibited 10-year declines of 43 and 53 percent, respectively. (See **Figures 1 and 2**).

FIGURE 1

### Delinquency Cases Total incoming cases

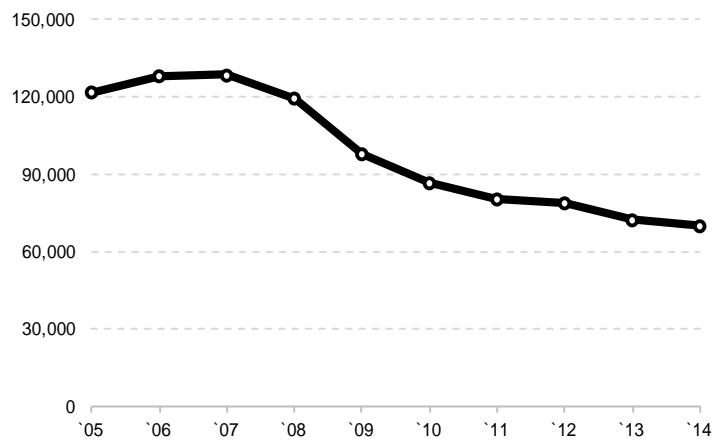


FIGURE 2

### Juvenile Traffic Cases Total incoming cases

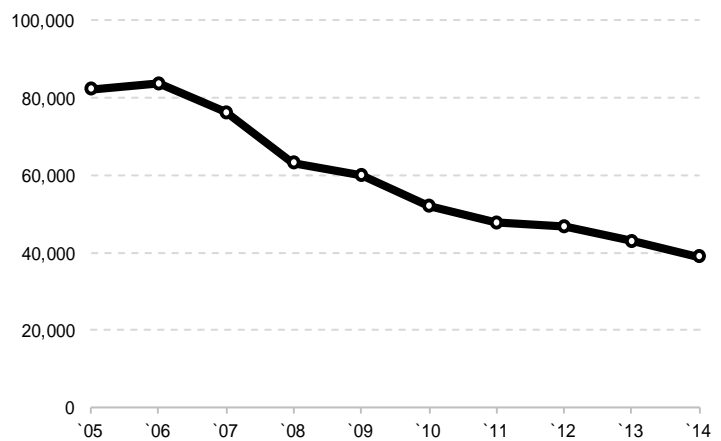
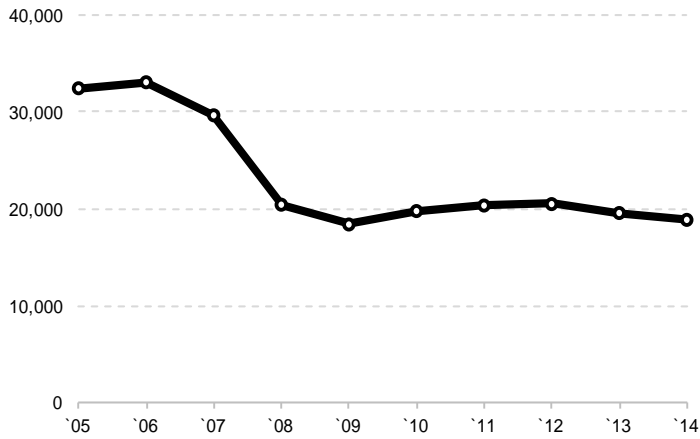


FIGURE 3

**Child Welfare Cases**  
Total incoming cases



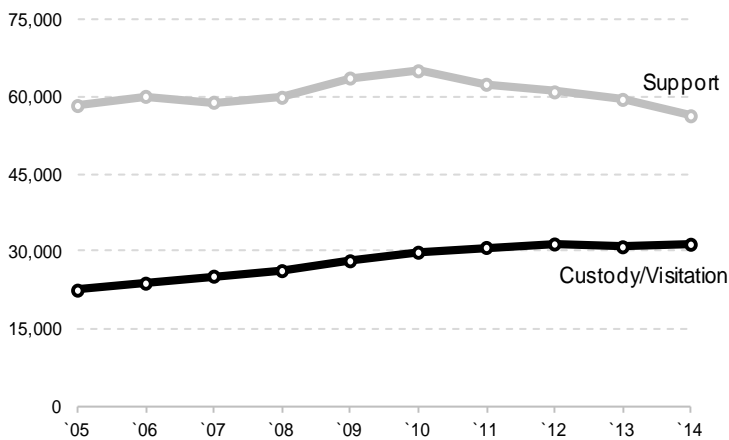
**Figure 3** shows incoming child welfare-related cases consisting of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases and Motions for Permanent Custody cases. Between 2006 and 2009, a significant downward trend can be seen in the data, which mirrored the general decline seen nationally in the number of incoming cases of these types over that time period. However, since 2010, there has been a leveling-off of the caseload trend, with several years of increases. In 2014, a total of 18,879 incoming cases were reported.

Over much of the last 10-year period, sizable upward trends can be seen in those case types involving child support (Support Enforcement or Modification), and custody and visitation issues (Custody/Visitation), although support filings have waned in recent years. (See **Figure 4**). In 2014, a total of 56,271 support matters were filed representing a 13-percent decline from the 10-year high of 64,988 cases in 2010. In the Custody/Visitation case type category, steady increases have continued over the last 10 years. A total of 31,379 incoming cases were reporting in 2014, representing a 40-percent increase over 2005.

The generally long-term upward trends in Custody/Visitation matters align with the downward trends in related case types heard in Ohio’s domestic relations divisions. The critical difference here is that the matters heard in juvenile divisions involve unmarried persons, whereas the related case types heard in domestic relations divisions are generally an outgrowth of a divorce or dissolution. Because Divorces and Dissolutions are trending down, it is perhaps not surprising to see an increase in the volume of custody and visitation litigation involving unmarried persons.

FIGURE 4

**Custody/Visitation and Support Cases**  
Total incoming cases





## 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 2014 for each case type. In all case types except All Others, the courts exhibited clearance rates above 100 percent. The average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. For 2014, the overage rates in 8 of the 11 case types heard in Ohio’s juvenile courts met or exceeded 10 percent. 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 spuriously elevated, and 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 case types.

TABLE 1

### Clearance Rates

Average per month in 2014

Case Type	Monthly Average
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	103%
Adult Cases	116%
All Others	97%
Custody/Visitation	101%
Delinquency	101%
Motion for Permanent Custody	106%
Parentage	102%
Support - Enforce or Modify	107%
Traffic	101%
U.I.F.S.A.	102%
Unruly	101%

TABLE 2

### Overage Rates

Percent of caseload pending past time guidelines, average per month

Case Type <i>(Time guideline, in months)</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency <i>(3)</i>	19%	16%	17%	17%	19%
Adult Cases <i>(6)</i>	15%	16%	16%	15%	15%
All Others <i>(6)</i>	9%	9%	15%	17%	12%
Custody/Visitation <i>(9)</i>	13%	9%	9%	9%	10%
Delinquency <i>(6)</i>	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%
Motion for Permanent Custody <i>(9)</i>	19%	13%	12%	12%	9%
Parentage <i>(12)</i>	5%	9%	15%	19%	22%
Support - Enforce or Modify <i>(12)</i>	4%	4%	6%	6%	6%
Traffic <i>(3)</i>	15%	18%	14%	10%	12%
U.I.F.S.A. <i>(3)</i>	18%	20%	22%	31%	26%
Unruly <i>(3)</i>	16%	17%	18%	22%	19%



## 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 2014, there were 129 municipal courts with 215 judges, and 35 county courts with 37 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 2014, 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

In addition to the 12 courts identified above, two of the four judgeships in Montgomery County Municipal Court are part-time judgeships.

## Changes in 2014

On Sept. 14, 2014, the sole judgeship in Avon Lake Municipal Court was converted from a part-time to a full-time basis. On Jan. 1, 2014, Tiffin Municipal Court and Fostoria Municipal Court merged and became Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court. The judgeship that existed in Fostoria Municipal Court was abolished as part of the merger. Accordingly, as of that date, there exists a total of 215 municipal court judgeships across the state.

## Future Changes

In 2010, legislation was enacted converting the Montgomery County Court into the Montgomery County Municipal Court. The legislation includes a judgeship conversion and abolishment process which will, by Dec. 31, 2021 at the latest, yield a total of three full-time judgeships in the court.

The case types heard in municipal and county courts are grouped into three general categories:

### Civil Cases

Civil cases heard in municipal and county courts are Personal Injury and Property Damage, Contracts, Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D) (filed by landlords for eviction and possible recovery of money), Other Civil (a catchall for civil cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case type categories), and Small Claims cases (involving recovery of small debts and accounts not exceeding \$3,000).

### Criminal Cases

This category includes Felonies (preliminary hearings only) and Misdemeanors.

### Traffic Cases

This category includes Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.) and Other Traffic (all other cases involving the use of motor vehicles). Caseload statistics concerning parking violations and other vehicle-related infractions are not reported to the Supreme Court.

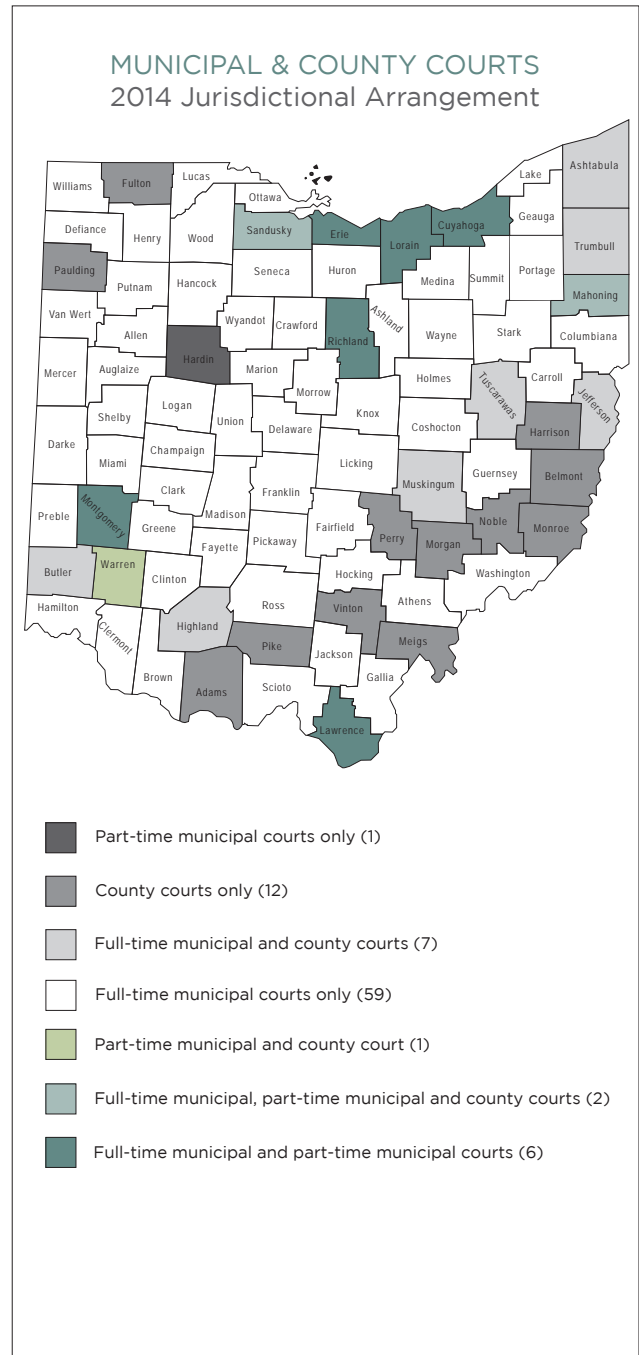


FIGURE 1

**Felonies**

Total incoming cases

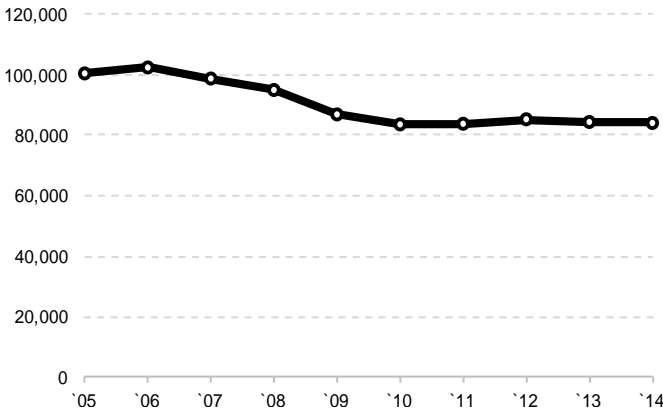


FIGURE 2

**Misdemeanors**

Total incoming cases

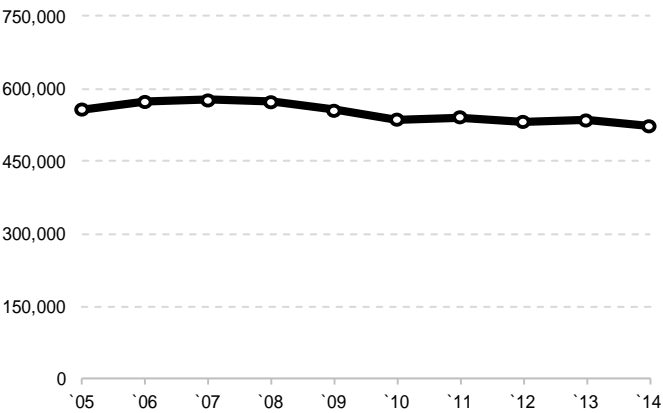
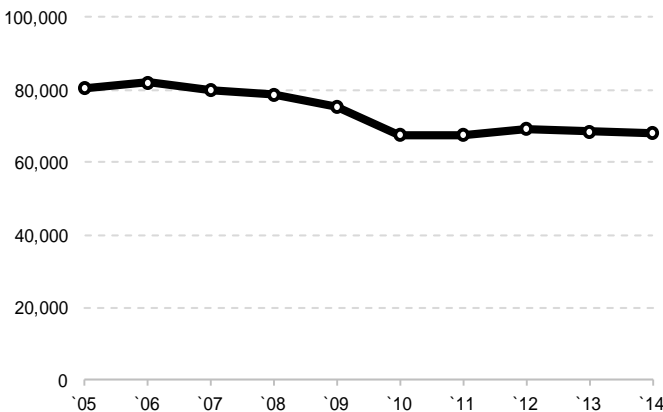


FIGURE 3

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

Total incoming cases



Caseloads

For purposes of presenting 10-year trend data concerning caseloads heard in Ohio municipal and county courts, the data reported by municipal courts and county courts are combined here to present a single unified perspective over the caseloads heard 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 has generally decreased overall during the past 10 years. Since 2008 (the 10-year high), the number of incoming cases has decreased by 16 percent. However, there was growth in certain case types at least during certain periods over the past 10 years.

Felony cases, in which municipal and county courts conduct preliminary hearings only, exhibited a notable shift in their growth rate over the 10-year period shown in **Figure 1**. There was an 18-percent decline between 2006 and 2010. In the last five years, however, the volume of incoming cases has remained remarkably level. In 2014, a total of 84,070 incoming cases were reported.

Misdemeanor cases, constituting 21 percent of the courts' total overall caseload, have experienced a slight downward trend over the past seven years. A total of 522,281 incoming cases were reported in 2014, which represents a 2-percent decrease over 2013 and a 9-percent decrease from the 10-year high of 575,755 cases in 2007. (See **Figure 2**).

Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.) cases exhibit an overall downward trend over the last 10 years, although since 2010 the number of incoming cases each year has generally leveled off. In 2014, a total of 68,099 incoming cases were reported. (See **Figure 3**).

Other Traffic cases (all moving violations other than O.V.I.), constituted 59 percent of the municipal and county courts' total incoming caseloads in 2014. Other Traffic cases trended downward from 2006 through 2011. Since 2011, however, the trend has been upward. In 2014, there was a total of 1,475,103 incoming Other Traffic cases, representing a 2-percent decline over 2013 when 1,503,517 incoming cases were reported. (See **Figure 4**).

Small Claims case filings have trended remarkably downward over the past 10 years, with particularly sharp declines each year beginning in 2008. The 53,216 incoming Small Claims cases in 2014 represent a decrease of 40 percent from the 10-year high of 88,969 cases in 2006. (See **Figure 5**).

Incoming Contracts cases, which in 2014 constituted about 6 percent the courts' total caseloads, have demonstrated considerable volatility over the last 10 years and were, in 2014, at their lowest point in 10 years. There was, however, considerable growth in Contracts cases over the years between 2005 and 2008, but for the past six years the volume of incoming cases dropped markedly. In 2014, a total 148,089 incoming cases were reported, representing a 4-percent decrease over 2013 and a 47-percent decrease from the 10-year high in 2008 when 278,930 incoming cases were seen. (See **Figure 6**).

FIGURE 4

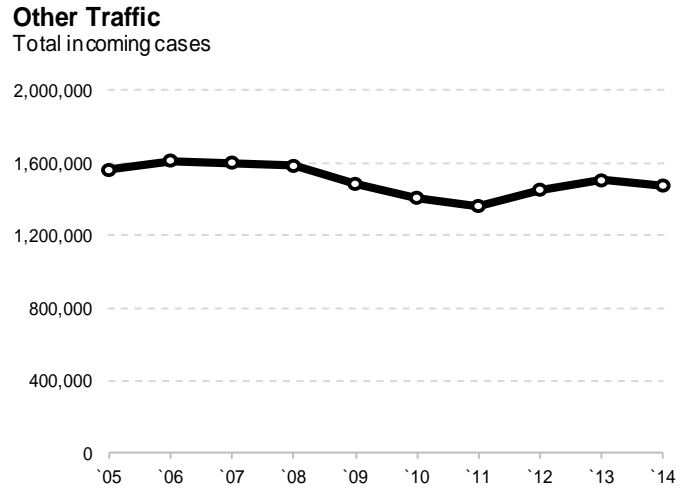


FIGURE 5

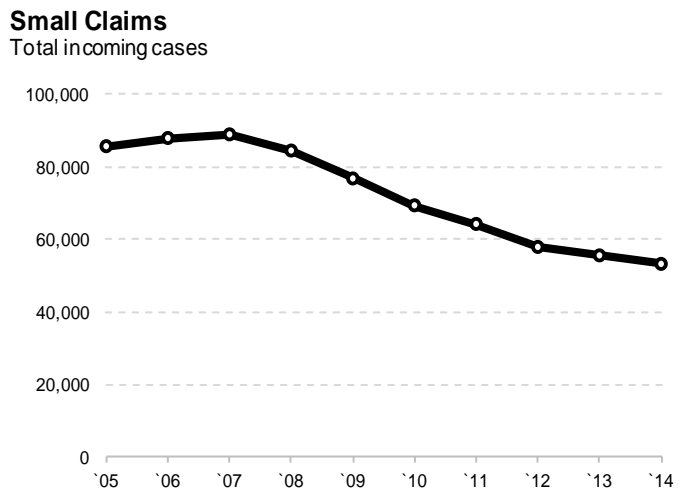


FIGURE 6

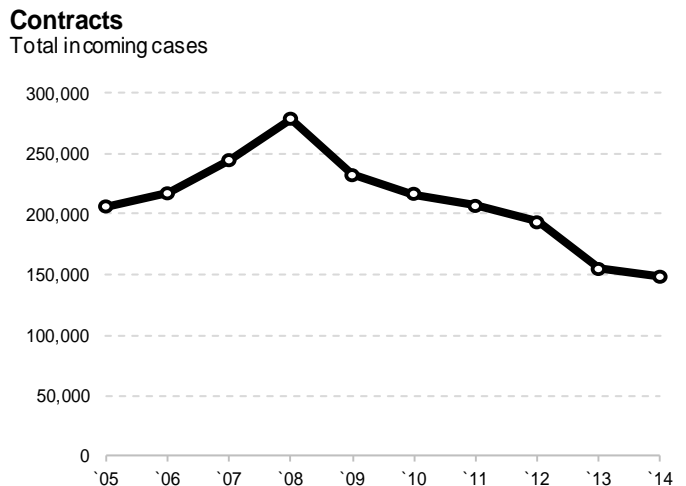


TABLE 1

**Clearance Rates**

Average per month in 2014

<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Monthly Average</b>
Contracts	99%
F.E.D.	100%
Other Civil	106%
PI/PD	128%
Small Claims	101%
Felonies	100%
Misdemeanors	100%
O.V.I.	100%
Other Traffic	101%

**Performance Measures**

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

As shown in **Table 1**, the clearance rates for all cases types in 2014 are near or equal to the 100 percent target, with the sole exception of Contracts cases, which saw a statewide clearance rate of 99 percent. Average monthly overage rates for the last five years are displayed in **Table 2**. The overage rate for Felonies in 2013, at 22 percent, is the only double-digit overage rate.

TABLE 2

**Overage Rates**

Percent of caseload pending past time guidelines, average per month

<b>Case Type</b> <i>(Time guideline, in months)</i>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Contracts <i>(12)</i>	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%
F.E.D. <i>(12)</i>	6%	5%	5%	2%	3%
Other Civil <i>(12)</i>	1%	2%	6%	5%	7%
PI/PD <i>(24)</i>	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Small Claims <i>(6)</i>	8%	9%	9%	8%	8%
Felonies <i>(1)</i>	14%	15%	17%	17%	22%
Misdemeanors <i>(6)</i>	4%	5%	6%	5%	6%
O.V.I. <i>(6)</i>	5%	5%	6%	5%	6%
Other Traffic <i>(6)</i>	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%

## 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 Supreme Court of Ohio 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 truly are dispositive of the case and categories that instead simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations are then 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.

It is conventionally understood among court observers at the national level that approximately 2 percent of civil cases and 5 percent of criminal cases ultimately go to trial. Ohio trial rates fall below those figures. **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).

FIGURE 7

### Misdemeanors (non-traffic)

Trials as a percentage of all dispositions

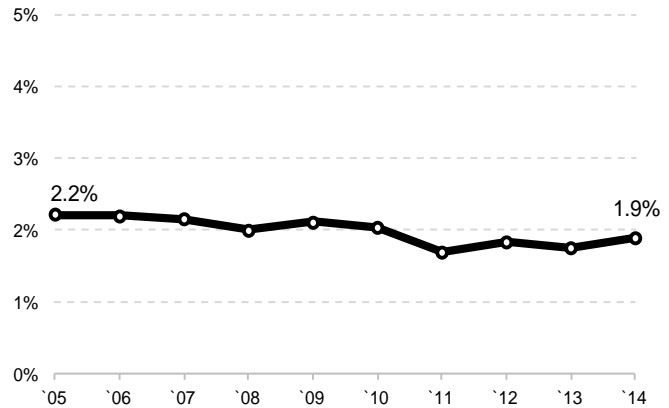


FIGURE 8

### Civil (non-small claims)

Trials as a percentage of all dispositions

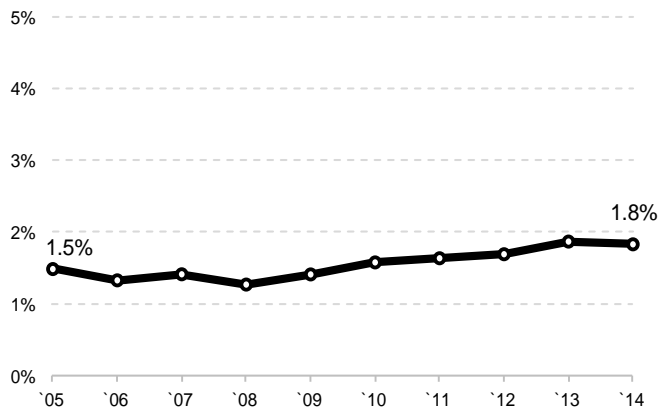
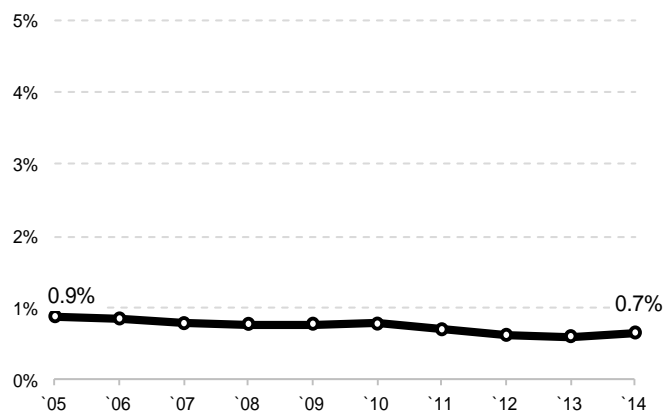


FIGURE 9

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

Trials as a percentage of all dispositions





## 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 percent 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 percent.

**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 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.

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**Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D.):** A summary proceeding initiated under R.C. 1923 or 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 any of the other categories. 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

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Administrative Appeals	1,214	1,298	1,344	1,748	1,531	1,537	1,488	1,404	1,116	1,181
Complex Litigation	97	88	84	106	94	76	59	67	102	149
Criminal	94,397	97,823	98,387	95,152	86,118	82,857	81,042	81,026	78,612	80,490
Foreclosures	74,472	92,077	91,574	94,295	99,208	97,412	85,629	84,196	63,940	51,699
Other Civil	56,811	56,832	69,444	75,471	74,813	68,907	61,647	56,510	50,392	49,251
Other Torts	27,033	24,098	21,960	20,498	20,666	19,280	18,303	17,981	17,669	17,240
Product Liability	1,375	394	378	328	263	257	203	234	254	184
Professional Tort	2,500	2,025	1,864	1,719	1,705	1,706	1,509	1,523	1,572	1,555
Workers' Compensation	9,951	9,048	9,437	8,297	8,698	8,176	7,759	7,296	7,164	6,935
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,850</b>	<b>283,683</b>	<b>294,472</b>	<b>297,614</b>	<b>293,096</b>	<b>280,208</b>	<b>257,639</b>	<b>250,237</b>	<b>220,821</b>	<b>208,684</b>

**Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division**

Total incoming cases

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All Others	12,562	12,456	13,967	15,993	16,271	14,457	14,029	13,582	12,948	12,686
Change of Custody	8,179	7,895	7,591	7,569	7,252	7,223	7,464	7,090	6,909	6,761
Domestic Violence	19,059	19,143	19,864	20,443	21,888	21,178	20,894	19,939	20,019	18,742
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	8,373	8,346	8,092	8,033	8,031	8,621	8,455	8,028	7,667	7,398
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	11,044	11,006	10,420	10,206	10,463	10,732	10,550	10,167	10,316	10,087
Marriage Terminations w/Children	17,075	17,623	16,720	16,137	16,381	16,127	16,158	15,137	14,307	13,829
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	14,208	14,789	14,194	13,751	13,816	14,136	14,555	14,134	13,992	13,178
Parentage	1,656	1,590	1,859	2,181	2,271	2,261	2,133	1,987	1,704	1,577
Support - Enforce or Modify	40,711	37,461	36,854	37,863	37,703	34,751	31,866	31,018	29,975	28,982
U.I.F.S.A.	1,950	1,973	1,542	1,383	1,620	1,123	1,085	1,258	1,088	1,081
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,625	3,392	3,379	3,523	3,193	3,337	3,414	3,433	3,117	3,139
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,442</b>	<b>135,674</b>	<b>134,482</b>	<b>137,082</b>	<b>138,889</b>	<b>133,946</b>	<b>130,603</b>	<b>125,773</b>	<b>122,042</b>	<b>117,460</b>

# APPENDIX

## Courts of Common Pleas, Probate Division

Total incoming cases

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Adoptions	5,375	5,323	4,999	4,825	4,487	4,120	4,159	4,060	4,231	3,862
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	1,143	1,217	1,374	1,159	1,126	1,086	988	1,157	1,109	923
Change of Name	5,031	5,151	5,154	5,151	5,324	5,514	5,491	5,880	6,076	6,039
Civil Actions	2,721	2,704	2,437	2,332	2,439	2,402	2,462	2,581	2,816	2,848
Conservatorships	85	96	86	111	95	91	76	122	105	78
Decedents' Estates	60,596	58,932	56,487	57,573	56,686	55,199	56,188	57,241	56,669	53,084
Guardianships of Incompetents	6,562	6,646	6,386	6,685	6,668	6,488	6,393	6,993	7,091	7,099
Guardianships of Minors	3,407	3,551	3,291	2,898	2,896	2,608	2,372	2,329	2,447	2,291
Intellectual Disability and Mental Retardation	5,741	5,139	5,072	5,253	5,360	5,052	5,360	5,923	5,925	5,965
Minors' Settlements	1,916	1,836	1,706	1,535	1,506	1,345	1,287	1,349	1,437	1,327
Testamentary Trusts	577	571	499	527	552	530	462	475	511	465
Wrongful Death	554	455	530	572	1,039	717	628	688	708	542
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,708</b>	<b>91,621</b>	<b>88,021</b>	<b>88,621</b>	<b>88,178</b>	<b>85,152</b>	<b>85,866</b>	<b>88,798</b>	<b>89,125</b>	<b>84,523</b>
Marriage Applications Granted	77,573	75,223	72,601	71,401	68,019	68,248	69,334	70,058	68,446	70,232

## Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

Total incoming cases

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	29,106	29,649	27,220	18,444	16,456	18,114	18,307	18,292	17,183	16,231
Adult Cases	7,378	7,653	7,827	7,131	6,802	6,519	7,087	6,929	7,080	7,296
All Others	3,770	4,030	8,512	8,062	8,665	11,584	13,368	13,066	13,572	12,749
Custody/Visitation	22,487	23,835	25,190	26,263	28,173	29,833	30,756	31,427	30,887	31,379
Delinquency	121,676	127,959	128,210	119,300	97,708	86,448	80,183	78,681	72,078	69,778
Motion for Permanent Custody	3,374	3,452	2,466	2,003	1,946	1,677	2,053	2,218	2,404	2,648
Parentage	22,369	22,102	19,278	12,507	12,746	13,431	11,892	10,621	9,303	8,724
Support - Enforce or Modify	58,255	60,033	58,888	59,852	63,581	64,988	62,375	60,902	59,446	56,271
Traffic	82,396	83,702	76,213	63,296	60,040	52,111	47,747	46,782	42,959	39,082
U.I.F.S.A.	1,015	1,039	1,120	1,128	1,143	1,560	1,487	1,175	1,167	1,218
Unruly	23,365	22,792	21,898	20,870	16,876	15,400	14,152	14,018	12,811	13,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>375,191</b>	<b>386,246</b>	<b>376,822</b>	<b>338,856</b>	<b>314,136</b>	<b>301,665</b>	<b>289,407</b>	<b>284,111</b>	<b>268,890</b>	<b>258,396</b>

**Municipal and County Courts**

Total incoming cases

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Contracts	206,302	217,173	244,603	278,930	232,175	216,751	206,735	193,157	154,500	148,089
F.E.D.	116,998	115,910	118,297	117,644	109,544	108,118	116,007	113,065	114,961	112,480
Other Civil	146,288	133,439	129,156	140,126	124,231	107,879	90,569	24,794	18,397	17,312
PI/PD	13,199	9,326	8,296	7,091	7,074	6,873	7,244	6,212	6,331	5,796
Small Claims	85,700	87,963	88,969	84,499	76,797	69,385	64,240	57,896	55,564	53,216
Felonies	100,475	102,448	98,782	94,988	86,896	83,601	83,805	85,285	84,398	84,070
Misdemeanors	556,911	572,639	575,755	572,066	554,329	535,989	540,906	531,352	534,330	522,281
O.V.I.	80,497	81,897	79,943	78,602	75,299	67,594	67,585	69,247	68,368	68,099
Other Traffic	1,560,730	1,613,302	1,601,766	1,583,640	1,484,335	1,407,601	1,362,284	1,452,294	1,503,517	1,475,103
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,867,100</b>	<b>2,934,097</b>	<b>2,945,567</b>	<b>2,957,586</b>	<b>2,750,680</b>	<b>2,603,791</b>	<b>2,539,375</b>	<b>2,533,302</b>	<b>2,540,366</b>	<b>2,486,446</b>



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