



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

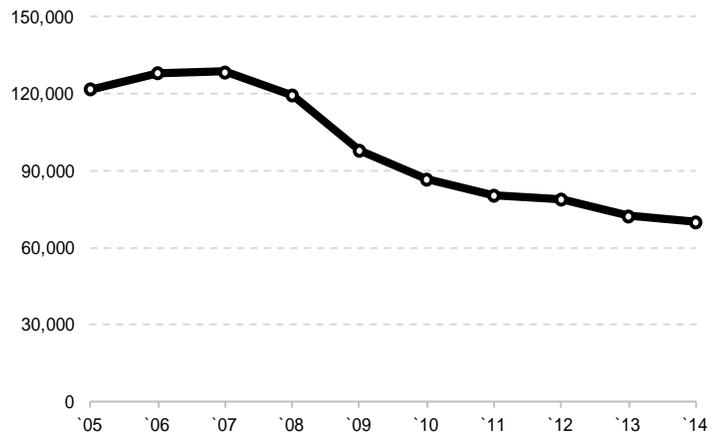


FIGURE 2

### Juvenile Traffic Cases Total incoming cases

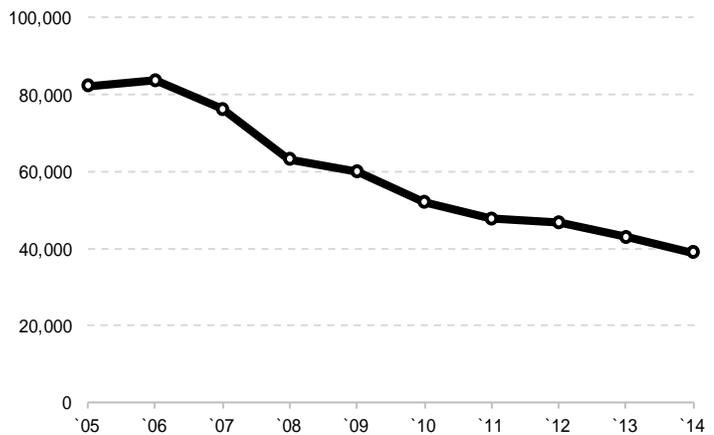
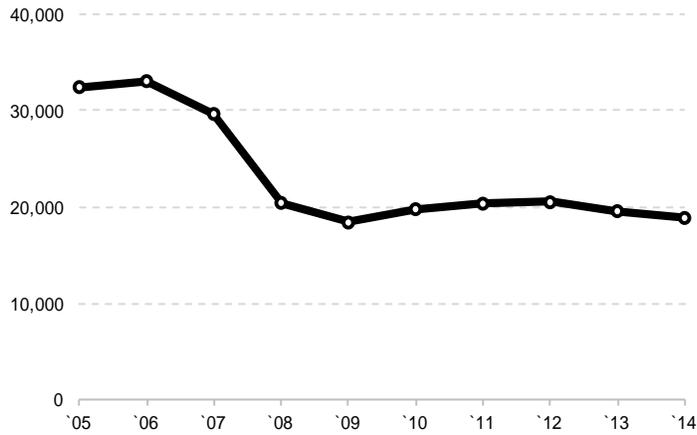


FIGURE 3

**Child Welfare Cases**  
Total incoming cases

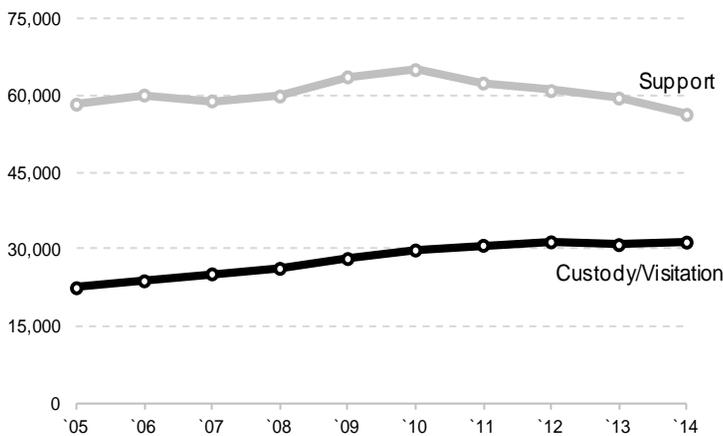


**Figure 3** shows incoming child welfare-related cases consisting of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases and Motions for Permanent Custody cases. Between 2006 and 2009, a significant downward trend can be seen in the data, which mirrored the general decline seen nationally in the number of incoming 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.

FIGURE 4

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



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.

## 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%