

**Jackson County Family Court**



**2017**

**Statistical Report**





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## Introduction

This report provides statistical information about Jackson County Circuit Court - Family Court Division for 2017, as well as trend information using historical data. The report begins with a description of the Jackson County population, including the number of youth. Next the report looks at referrals and formal filings to the Family Court for our various case types:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Adoption
- Termination of parental rights
- Status offense
- Delinquent and technical violation

The report considers disposition and intervention services, including the number of commitments to the Division of Youth Services, the number of youth certified to stand trial as an adult, and utilization of Family Court programs and services.

This report uses the following definitions for each referral category (Missouri Department of Public Safety and the State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group):

**Status Offenses** - Non-criminal violations that apply only to juveniles, including truancy, runaway, beyond parental control, and behavior injurious to self.

**Technical Violations** – Violations of court orders including probation violations.

## Current Demographic Picture

The number of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who resided in Jackson County declined slightly over the last decade (down 3%).

In 2016, the most recent year for which data were available, youth under the age of 18 represented 24% of the county population of 691,801. In Jackson County, 35% of youth were youth of color.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2016). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2015." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>.

US Census Bureau. Quick Facts: Jackson County, Missouri. Available: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncountymissouri/PST045217>.

**Table 1. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 0 to 17 years) by Race<sup>2</sup>**

Year	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Total
2010	52,754	107,269	1,626	3,822	165,471
2011	52,022	106,914	1,589	3,930	164,455
2012	51,450	107,217	1,600	3,974	164,241
2013	51,128	106,965	1,572	4,060	163,725
2014	51,344	107,324	1,627	4,181	164,476
2015	51,489	107,698	1,616	4,221	165,024
2016	51,522	108,262	1,615	4,357	165,756

**Table 2. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 10 to 17 years) by Race<sup>2</sup>**

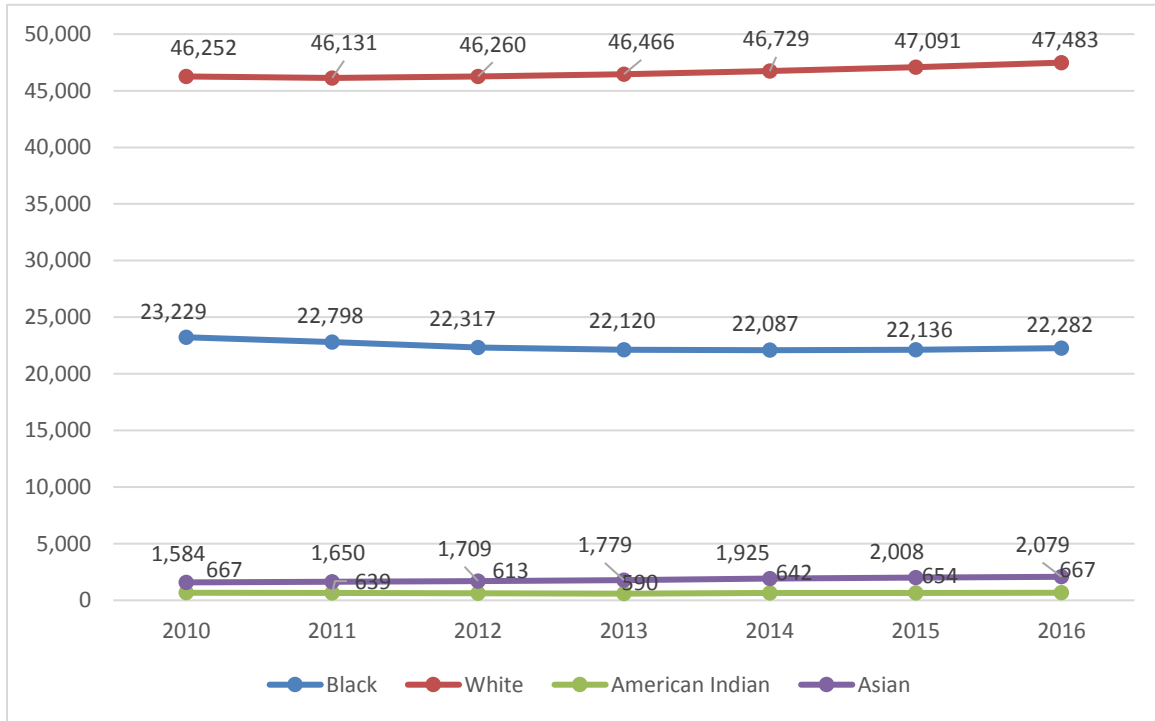
Year	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Total
2010	23,229	46,252	667	1,584	71,732
2011	22,798	46,131	639	1,650	71,218
2012	22,317	46,260	613	1,709	70,899
2013	22,120	46,466	590	1,779	70,955
2014	22,087	46,729	642	1,925	71,383
2015	22,136	47,091	654	2,008	71,889
2016	22,282	47,483	667	2,079	72,511

**Table 3. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 10 to 17 years) by Age**

Year	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
2010	9,254	9,116	8,976	8,751	8,651	8,682	9,013	9,289	71,732
2011	9,016	9,212	9,099	8,963	8,763	8,536	8,692	8,937	71,218
2012	8,934	9,035	9,123	9,029	8,937	8,693	8,494	8,654	70,899
2013	9,010	8,917	8,939	9,111	9,032	8,855	8,683	8,408	70,955
2014	9,045	9,029	8,930	8,932	9,038	8,962	8,813	8,634	71,383
2015	9,110	9,107	8,999	8,943	8,915	9,021	8,954	8,840	71,889
2016	9,333	9,125	9,173	9,005	8,984	8,905	9,060	8,926	72,511

<sup>2</sup> Puzananchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2016). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2015." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>. Population data from 2017 was not available at the time of this report.

**Graph 1. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 10 to 17 years) by Race<sup>3</sup>**



<sup>3</sup> Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2016). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2015." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>. Population data from 2017 was not available at the time of this report.



## Referrals and Formal Filings

This section describes referrals, petitions, and motions to modify previous dispositions filed by year for (1) child abuse and neglect, adoption, and termination of parental rights cases; (2) status offenses; and (3) delinquent and technical offenses. Both referrals and formal filings listed for a given year were filed in that year. (Some petitions and motions to modify filed in a given year pertained to referrals filed in prior years.)

Delinquent and technical offense formal filings are analyzed by race, gender, and city of youth's residence.

## Child Welfare Referrals, Filings, and Open Cases

The number of child abuse and neglect referrals filed since 2010 has fluctuated. The number of petitions and motions to modify (formal filings) for child abuse and neglect has declined since 2012.

At the request of the Missouri Supreme Court, in 2015, Jackson County Family Court began a collaboration with Casey Family Programs to improve timeliness to permanency and safely reduce the number of children in foster care. Casey's Judicial Engagement Project has an ambitious national goal of reducing the number of children in foster care 50% by 2020 by improving systems of care for children. Our local initiative is focused on improving court systems for children in foster care to achieve safe, permanent homes for them. This is a multiyear project.

The clearance rate is the number of cases released from jurisdiction divided by the number of new formal filings. A number below 100% signifies there were more cases filed than released.

After several years of clearance rates below 100%, clearance rates increased between 2015-2017. Patterns of rates below 100% result in increasing caseloads, while patterns of clearance rates above 100% decrease caseloads. If clearance rates continue over 100% we anticipate the declines we have seen in the inventory of open cases to continue as well.

**Table 4. Referrals and Formal Filings – Abuse and Neglect Case Types**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Referrals	1,293	1,038	1,390	1,304 <sup>4</sup>	1,256 <sup>5</sup>	1,168 <sup>6</sup>	1,387 <sup>7</sup>	1,501 <sup>8</sup>
% change	--	-20%	+34%	-6%	-4%	-7%	+19%	+8%
Rate per 1,000 <sup>9</sup>	7.8	6.3	8.5	7.9	7.7	7.1	8.4	9.1

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Open Cases December 31	2,094	2,159	2,295	2,363	2,364	2,072	2,020	2,019
New Cases	1,079	946	1,113	1,005	1,015	822	983	991
Releases	884	871	987	938	1,009	1,112	1,031	994
Clearance Rate	82%	92%	89%	93%	99%	135%	105%	100%

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Petitions and Mot to Modify	1,579	1,481	1,679	1,477	1,452	1,298	1,423	1,277
% change	--	-6%	+13%	-12%	-2%	-11%	+9%	-10%

**Table 5. Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights Formal Filings**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Adoption Cases	274	262	349	292	340	290	294	299
New Termination of Parental Rights Cases	152	143	179	112	108	135	449 <sup>10</sup>	369

<sup>4</sup> 122 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

<sup>5</sup> 91 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

<sup>6</sup> 153 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

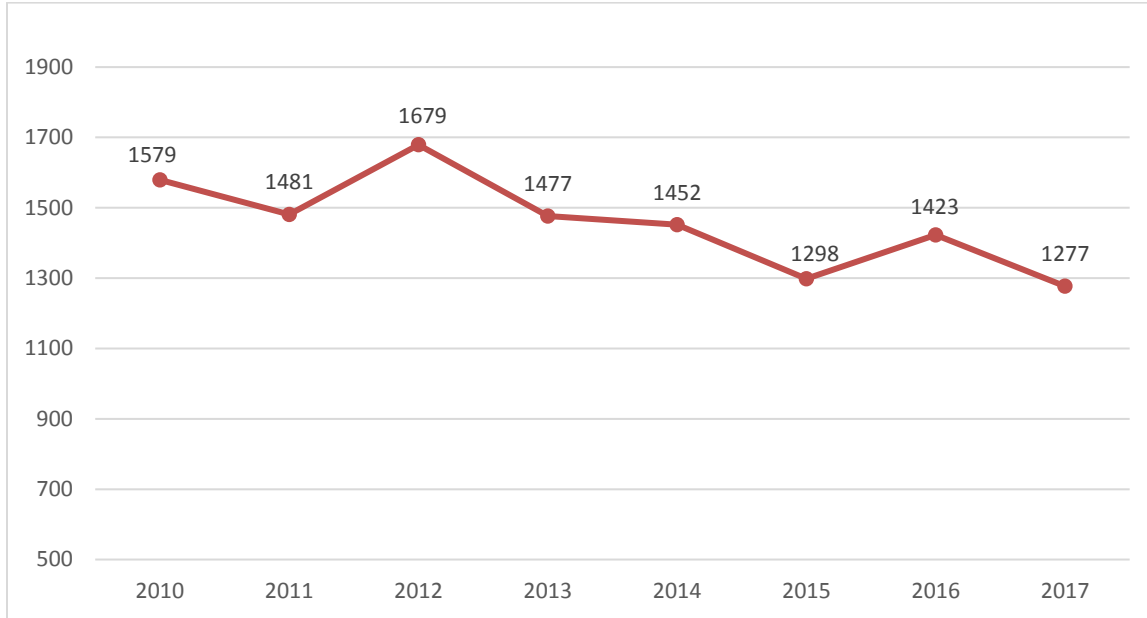
<sup>7</sup> 211 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

<sup>8</sup> 306 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

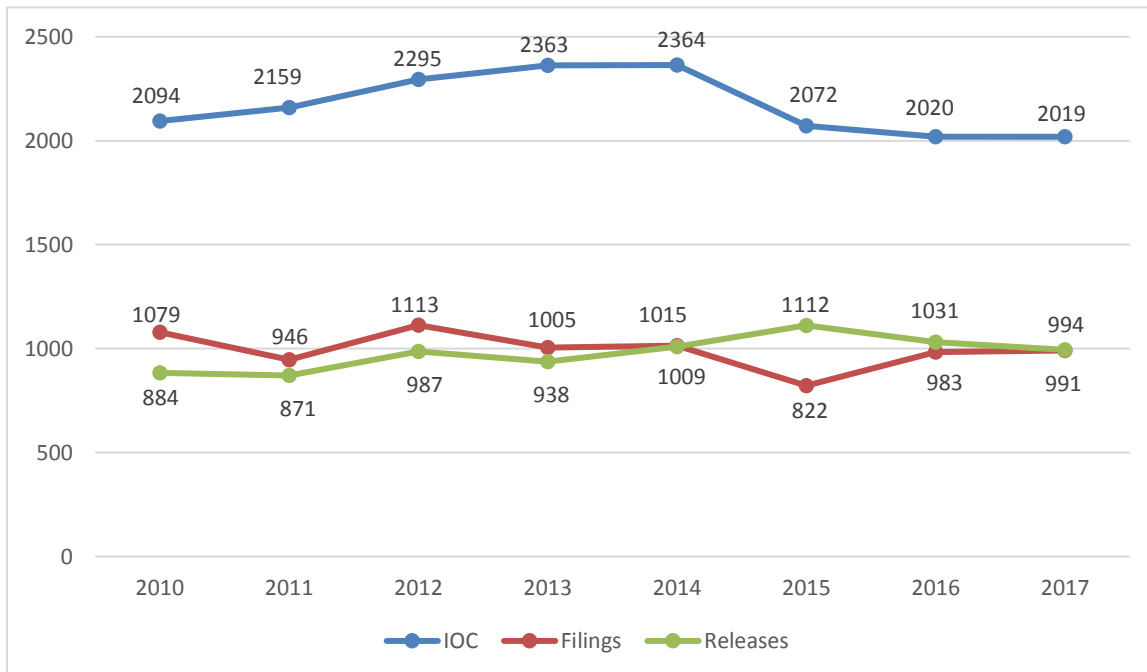
<sup>9</sup> Rates were calculated based on the number of children in Jackson County from birth to age 17.

<sup>10</sup> In the Fall of 2015, the Juvenile Officer identified a number of cases with a goal of TPR lacking a petition for termination. A special work plan was constructed and these cases were filed in 2016, resulting in an unusually high number of TPR petitions filed.

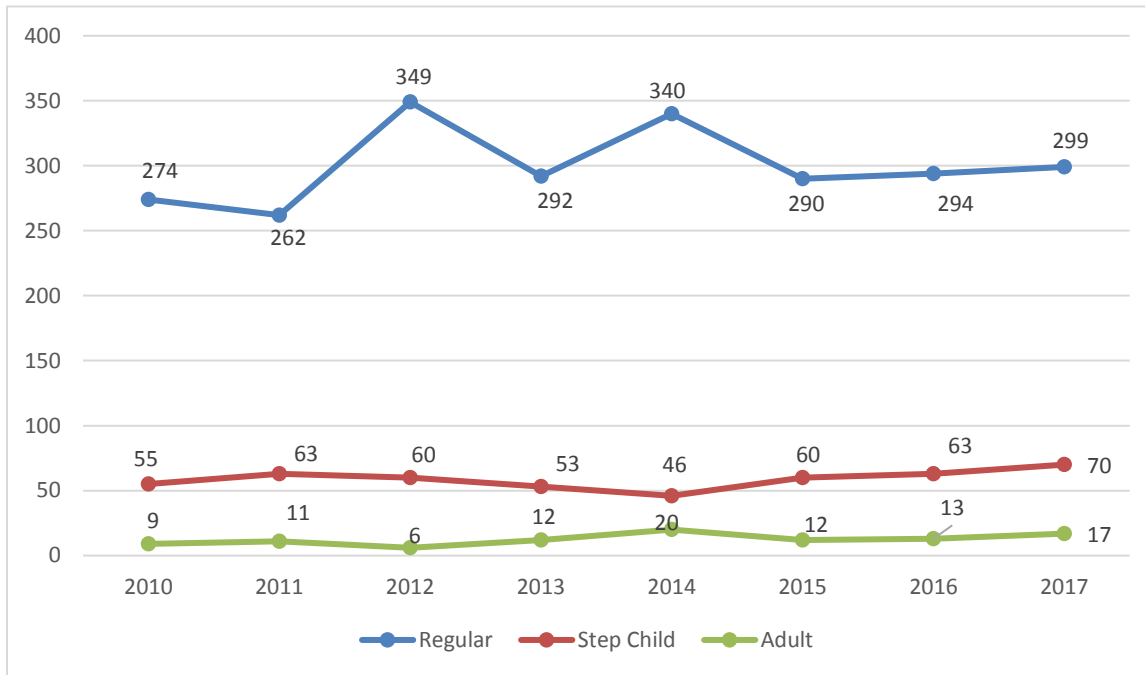
**Graph 2. Child Abuse and Neglect Petitions and Motions to Modify Filed by Year**



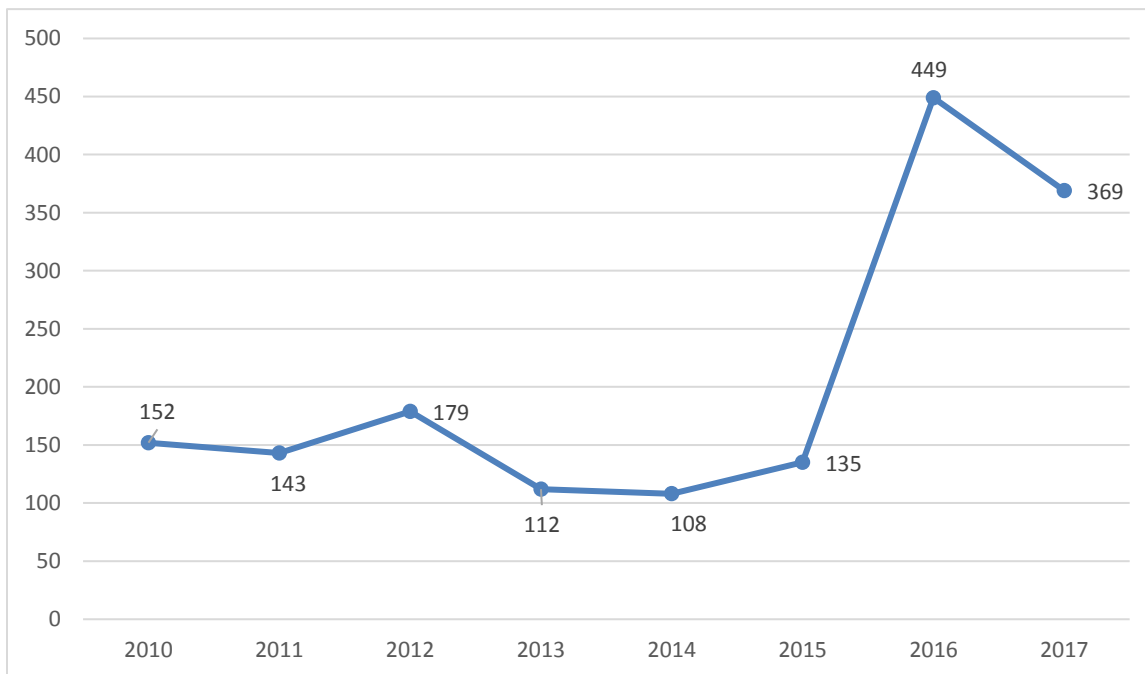
**Graph 3. Child Abuse and Neglect Case Type Petitions, Releases, and Number of Open Cases on December 31**



**Graph 4. Adoption Cases Filed by Type and Year**



**Graph 5. Termination of Parental Rights Case Filings<sup>11</sup>**



<sup>11</sup> In the Fall of 2015, the Juvenile Officer identified a number of cases with an ordered permanency goal of TPR lacking a petition for termination. A special work plan was constructed and these cases were filed in 2016, resulting in an unusually high number of TPR petitions filed.

## Status Offense Referrals and Filings

The number of status offense referrals increased in 2016 and 2017. Overall, status offense referrals have seen a significant decrease over the past seven years, declining 50% between 2010 and 2017.

Petitions and motions to modify filed for status offense charges decreased between 2010 and 2017.

**Table 6. Referrals and Formal Filings – Status Offense Case Type**

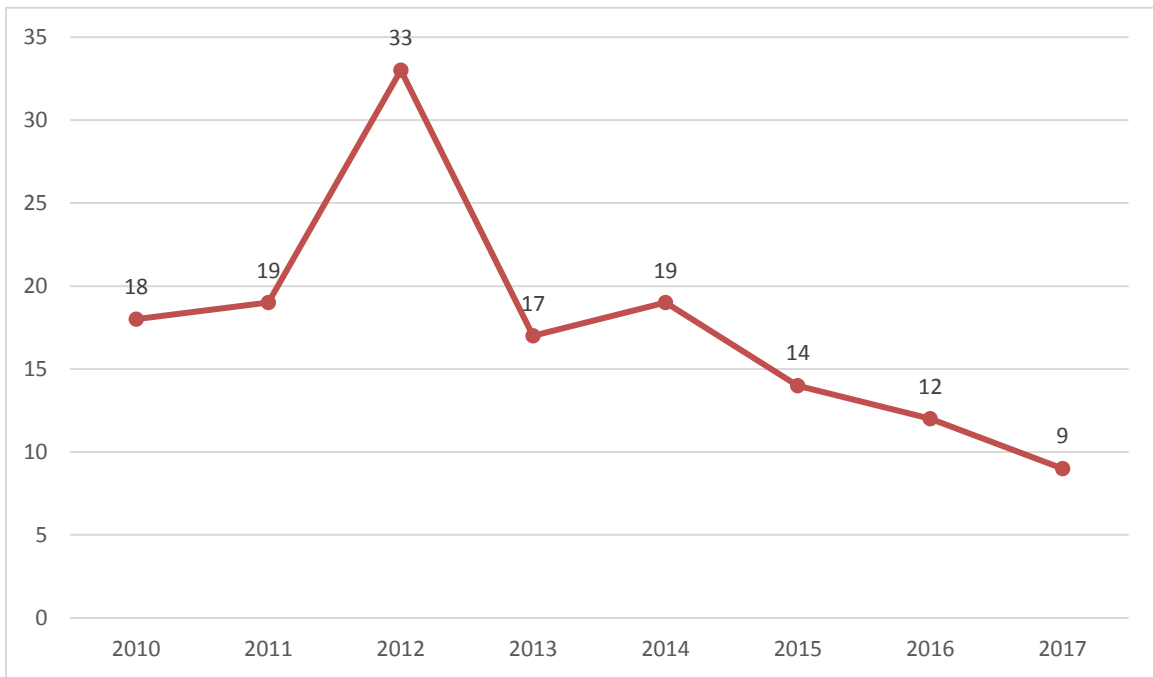
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Referrals	133	131	83	55	94	47	61	67
% change	--	-2%	-37%	-34%	+71%	-50%	+30%	+10%
Rate per 1,000 <sup>12</sup>	1.8	1.8	1.2	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.9

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Petitions and Motions to Modify Filed	18	19	33	17	19	14	12	9
% change	--	+6%	+74%	-48%	+12%	-26%	-14%	-25%

<sup>12</sup> Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10-17 years.



**Graph 6. Status Offense Petitions & Motions to Modify by Year**



## Delinquent and Technical Offense Referrals, Filings, and Open Cases

Since 2010, the number of referrals for delinquent and technical offenses declined 36%. The rate of delinquent and technical offense referrals per 1,000 youth age 10-17 in Jackson County was at an 8 year low in 2017, dropping to just over 18 referrals per 1,000 youth

The number of petitions and motions to modify alleging delinquent and technical offenses declined 44% since 2010.

**Table 7. Referrals and Formal Filings – Delinquent and Technical Offenses<sup>13</sup>**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Referrals	2,049	1,796	1,741	1,521	1,635	1,391	1,368	1,314
% change	--	-12%	-3%	-13%	+7%	-15%	-2%	-4%
Rate per 1,000 <sup>14</sup>	28.5	25.0	24.5	21.5	23.1	19.6	19.1	18.1

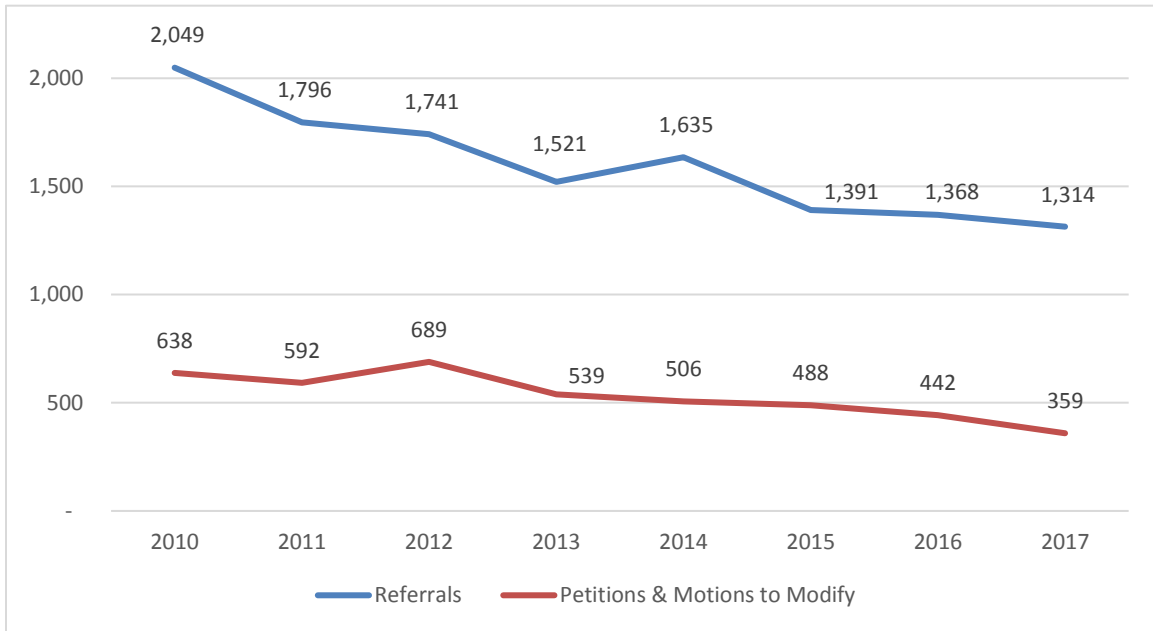
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Open Cases December 31	421	345	389	321	307	292	261	224
New Cases	357	339	415	298	282	284	258	231
Releases	403	418	366	360	304	297	294	267
Clearance Rate	113%	123%	88%	121%	108%	105%	114%	116%

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Petitions and Motions to Modify Filed	638	592	689	539	506	488	442	359
% change	--	-7%	+16%	-22%	-6%	-4%	-9%	-19%

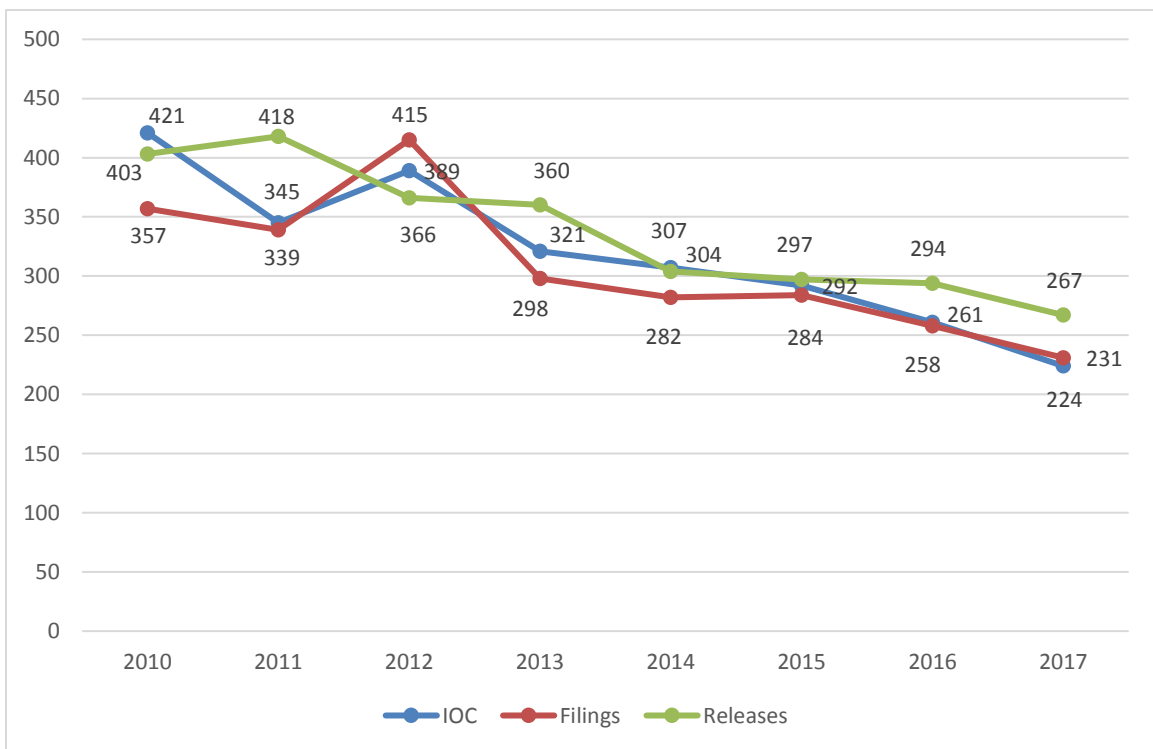
<sup>13</sup> This table presents petitions and motions to modify initiated in a given year as well as the outcomes of these petitions and motions to modify. This table does not represent all cases disposed in a given year. Dispositional data presented in later tables differ from information in Table 6 because subsequent dispositions resulting from technical or status violations as well as filings initiated in *previous* years are included.

<sup>14</sup> Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10-17 years.

**Graph 7. Delinquent and Technical Offense Referrals and Petitions & Motions to Modify by Year**



**Graph 8. Delinquent and Technical Offense Petitions, Releases, and Number of Open Cases on December 31**



## Delinquent and Technical Offense Formal Filings by City of Residence, Race, and Gender

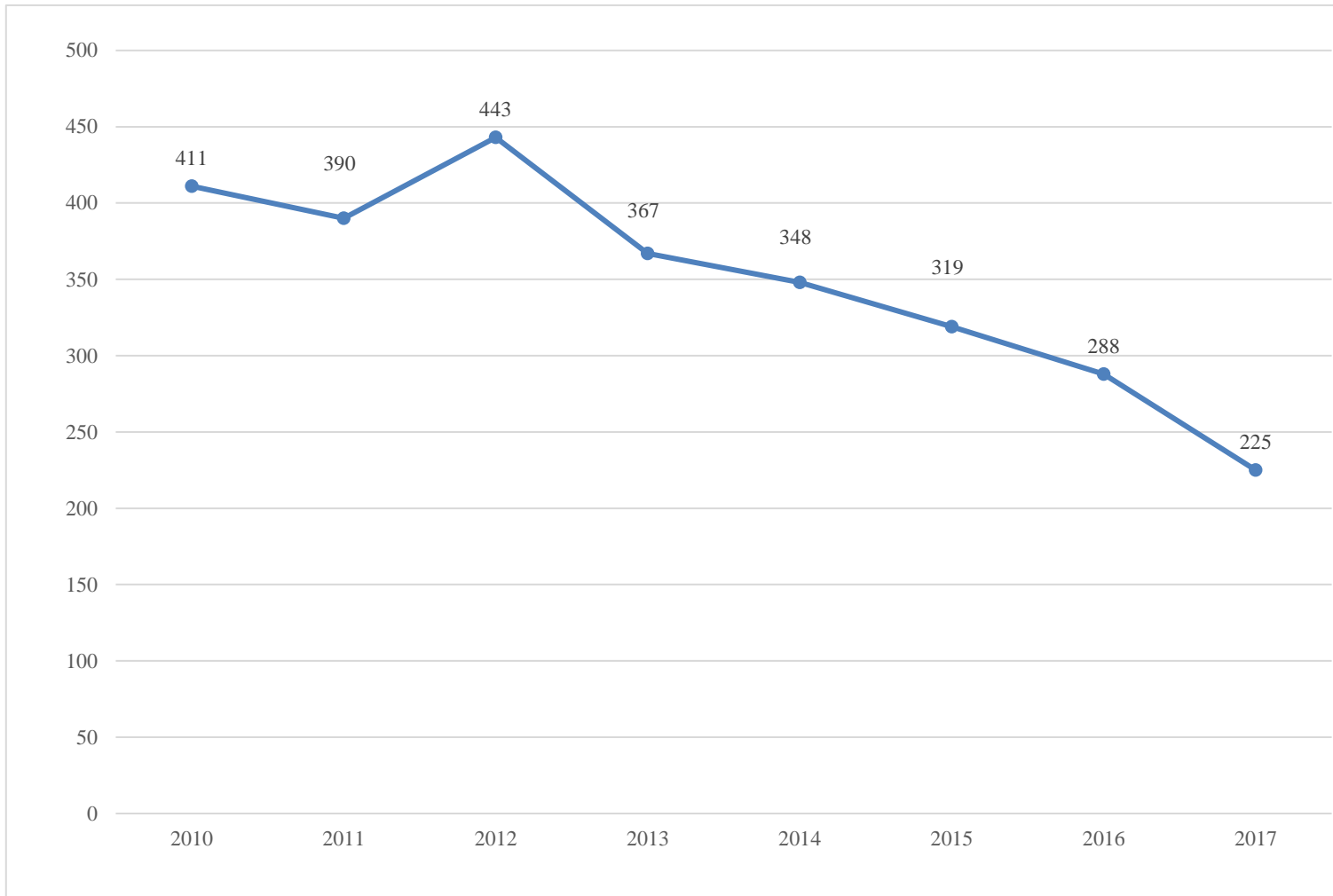
This section examines filings by race and the areas in Jackson County where the youth reside. The distribution of filings across geographic location has remained relatively consistent over the last eight years.

Over recent years, as filings have declined the percentage of filings by race has also remained fairly consistent. Overall, just under three-quarters of the filings for delinquent and technical offenses were for African American youth. Just under one-quarter of the filings were for Caucasian youth and a very small percentage of filings were for alleged offenses and violations committed by youth of other races. African American youth make up only about 30% of the population in Jackson County, therefore this filing rate is highly disproportionate to the population. Family Court Services is actively examining decisions and other racial equity issues in the juvenile justice processes and programs.

**Table 8. Number of Youth With Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by City of Residence**

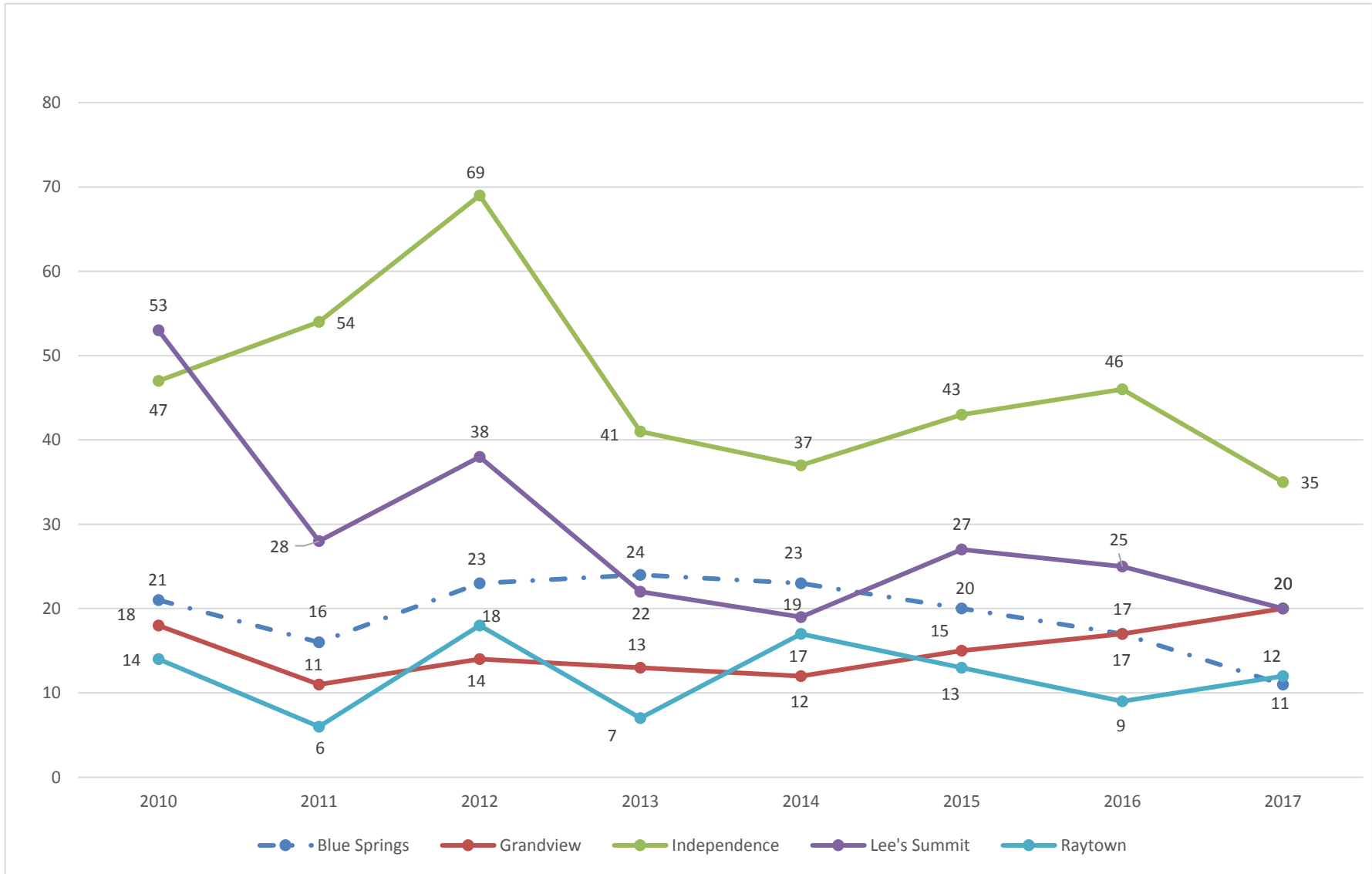
City	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Blue Springs	21 3%	16 3%	23 3%	24 5%	23 5%	20 4%	17 4%	11 3%
Buckner	1 <1%	0	0	1 <1%	0	0	0	1 <1%
Grain Valley	4 <1%	2 <1%	1 <1%	2 <1%	4 <1%	4 <1%	5 1%	7 2%
Grandview	18 3%	11 2%	14 2%	13 2%	12 2%	15 3%	17 4%	20 5%
Greenwood	1 <1%	2 <1%	2 <1%	0	1 <1%	0	0	2 <1%
Independence	47 7%	54 9%	69 10%	41 8%	37 7%	43 9%	46 10%	35 10%
Kansas City	411 64%	390 66%	443 64%	367 68%	348 69%	319 65%	288 65%	225 63%
Lake Lotawana	2 <1%	1 <1%	2 <1%	1 <1%	0	0	0	0
Lake Tapawingo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee's Summit	53 8%	28 5%	38 6%	22 4%	19 4%	27 6%	25 6%	20 6%
Lone Jack	0	0	0	1 <1%	1 <1%	0	0	0
Oak Grove	11 2%	7 1%	9 1%	2 <1%	3 <1%	7 1%	1 <1%	1 <1%
Raytown	14 2%	6 1%	18 3%	7 1%	17 3%	13 3%	9 2%	12 3%
Sibley	1 <1%	1 <1%	0	1 <1%	0	0	1 <1%	0
Sugar Creek	2 <1%	3 <1%	8 1%	1 <1%	1 <1%	2 <1%	1 <1%	0
Out of County/Other Source	36 6%	47 8%	41 6%	38 7%	29 6%	33 7%	19 4%	21 6%
Missing Address in Information System	16 3%	26 4%	21 3%	18 3%	11 2%	5 1%	13 3%	4 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>638</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>592</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>689</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>539</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>506</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>488</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>442</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>359</b> <b>100%</b>

**Graph 9. Youth Residing in Kansas City, Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings**

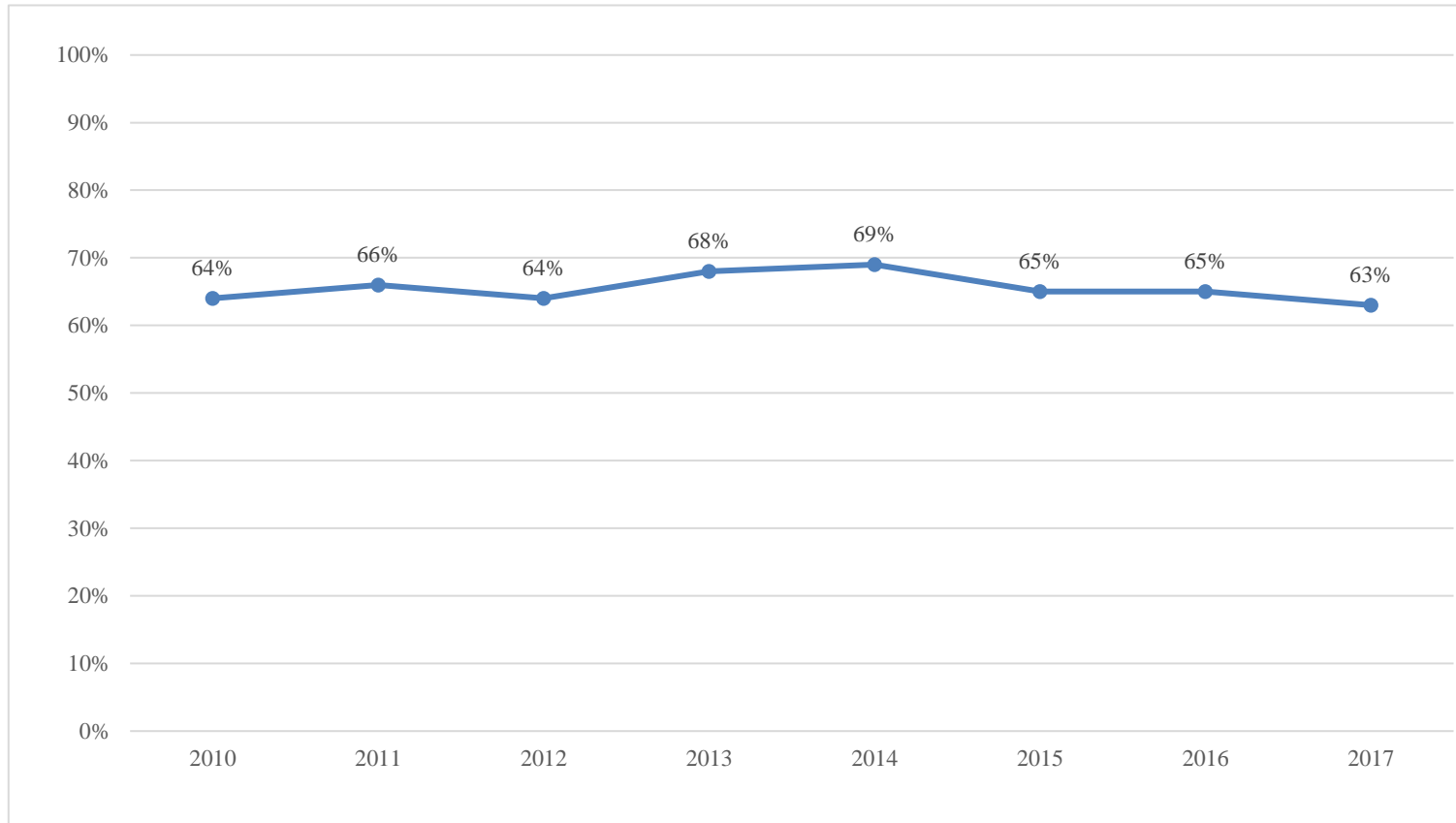




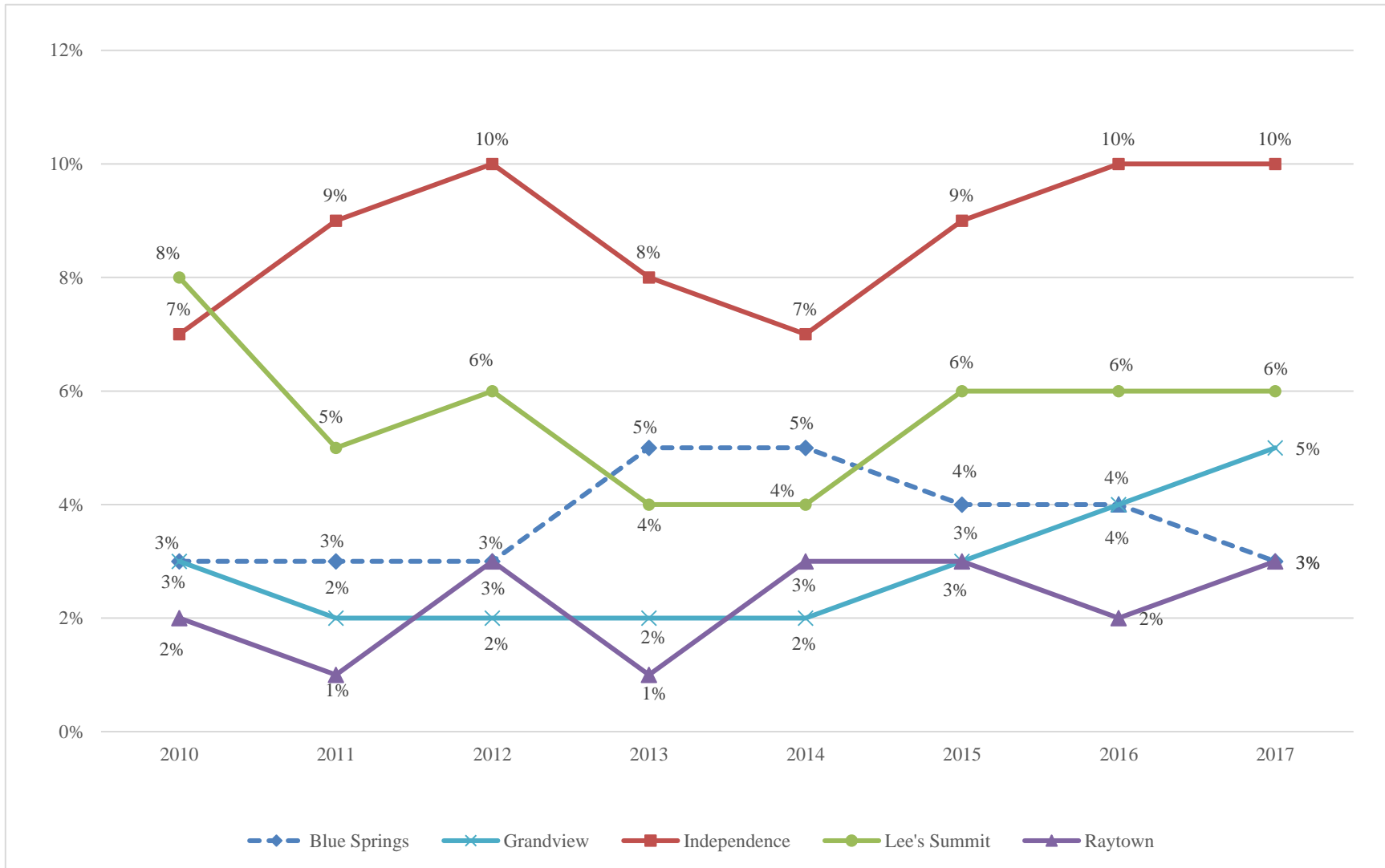
**Graph 10. Youth Residing in Suburban Cities, Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings**



**Graph 11. Youth Residents of Kansas City with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings as Percentages of All Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings**



**Graph 12. Youth Residents of Suburban Cities with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings as Percentages of All Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings**



**Table 9. Rate of Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings per 1,000 Youth in 2017 (Ages 10 to 17 years) by City**

<b>City</b>	<b>Number of Youth<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>Rate</b>
Blue Springs	6,802	1.6
Grandview	2,680	7.5
Independence	11,480	3.1
Kansas City	45,627	4.9
Lee's Summit	12,072	1.7
Raytown	3,129	3.8

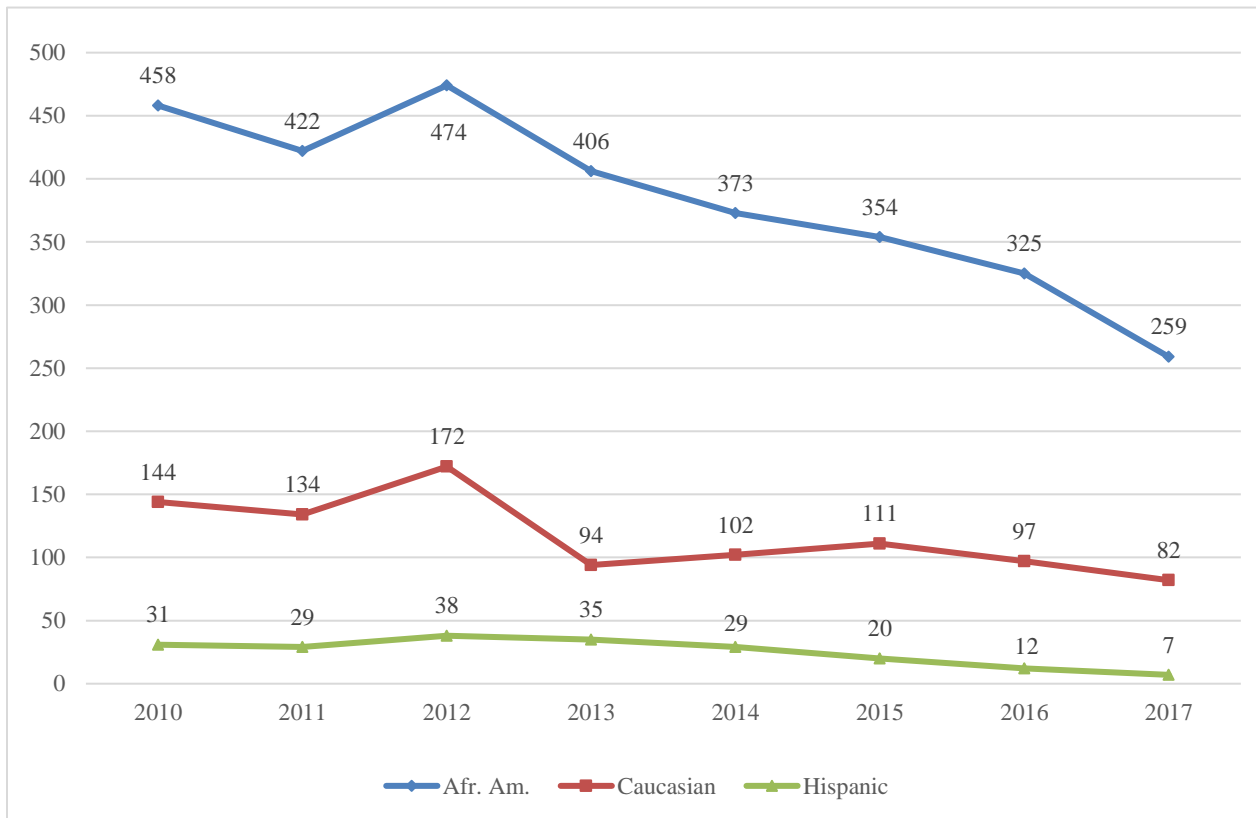
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<sup>15</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010). Single Years of Age and Sex: 2010 Census Summary File 1 [American FactFinder data files by city]. Retrieved January 24, 2017, from <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

**Table 10 and Graph 13**

**Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Race**

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2010 <sup>16</sup>	458	72%	144	23%	31	5%	3	<1%
2011 <sup>17</sup>	422	71%	134	23%	29	5%	4	<1%
2012 <sup>18</sup>	474	69%	172	25%	38	6%	1	<1%
2013 <sup>19</sup>	406	75%	94	17%	35	7%	1	<1%
2014 <sup>20</sup>	373	74%	102	20%	29	6%	1	<1%
2015 <sup>21</sup>	354	73%	111	23%	20	4%	0	--
2016 <sup>22</sup>	325	74%	97	22%	12	3%	6	1%
2017 <sup>23</sup>	259	72%	82	23%	7	2%	3	<1%



<sup>16</sup> Race was missing for 1 case in 2010. Race was unknown for 1 case in 2010.

<sup>17</sup> Race was missing for 2 cases in 2011. Race was unknown for 1 case in 2011.

<sup>18</sup> Race was missing for 3 cases in 2012. Race was unknown for 1 case in 2012.

<sup>19</sup> Race was missing for 1 case in 2013. Race was unknown for 2 cases in 2013.

<sup>20</sup> Race was unknown for 1 case in 2014.

<sup>21</sup> Race was unknown for 3 cases in 2015.

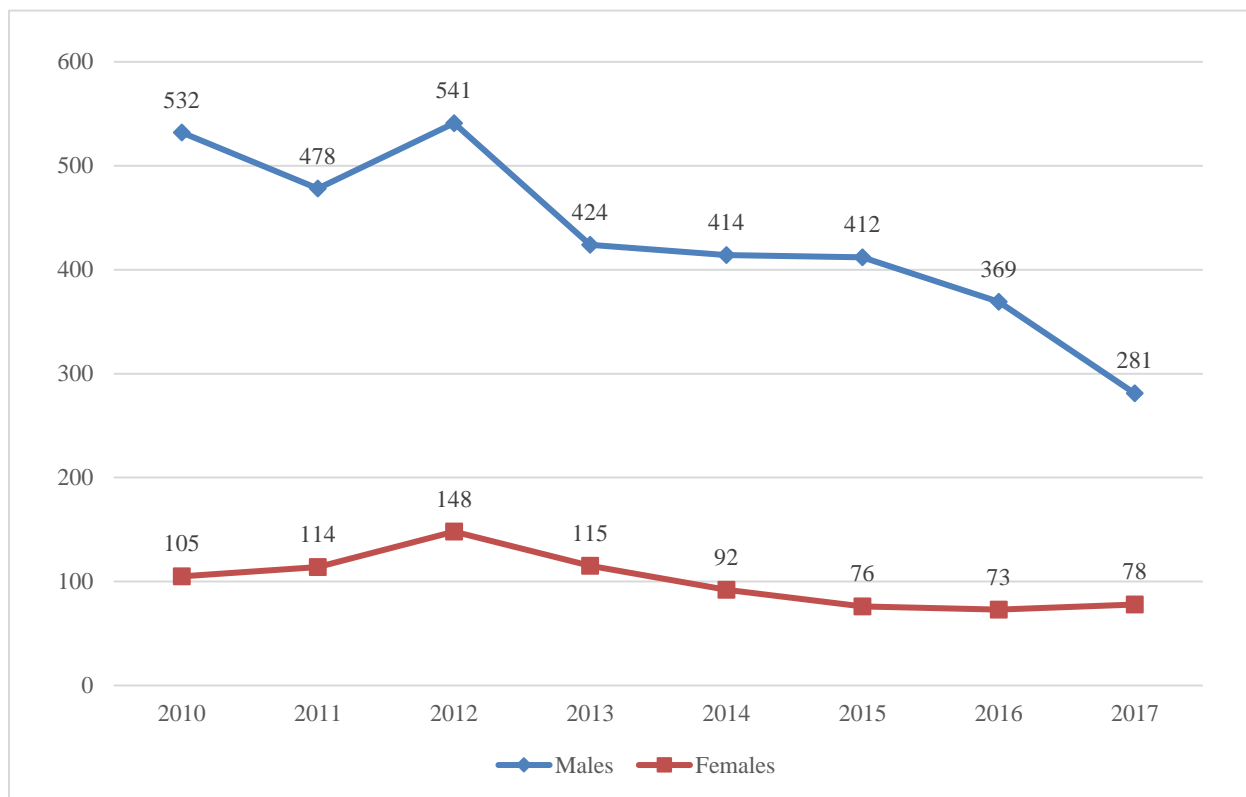
<sup>22</sup> Race was missing for 1 case in 2016. Race was unknown for 1 case in 2016.

<sup>23</sup> Race was unknown for 8 cases in 2017.

**Table 11 and Graph 14**

**Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Gender**

Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
2010	532	83%	105	17%
2011	478	81%	114	19%
2012	541	79%	148	21%
2013	424	79%	115	21%
2014	414	82%	92	18%
2015	412	84%	76	16%
2016	369	83%	73	17%
2017	281	78%	78	22%

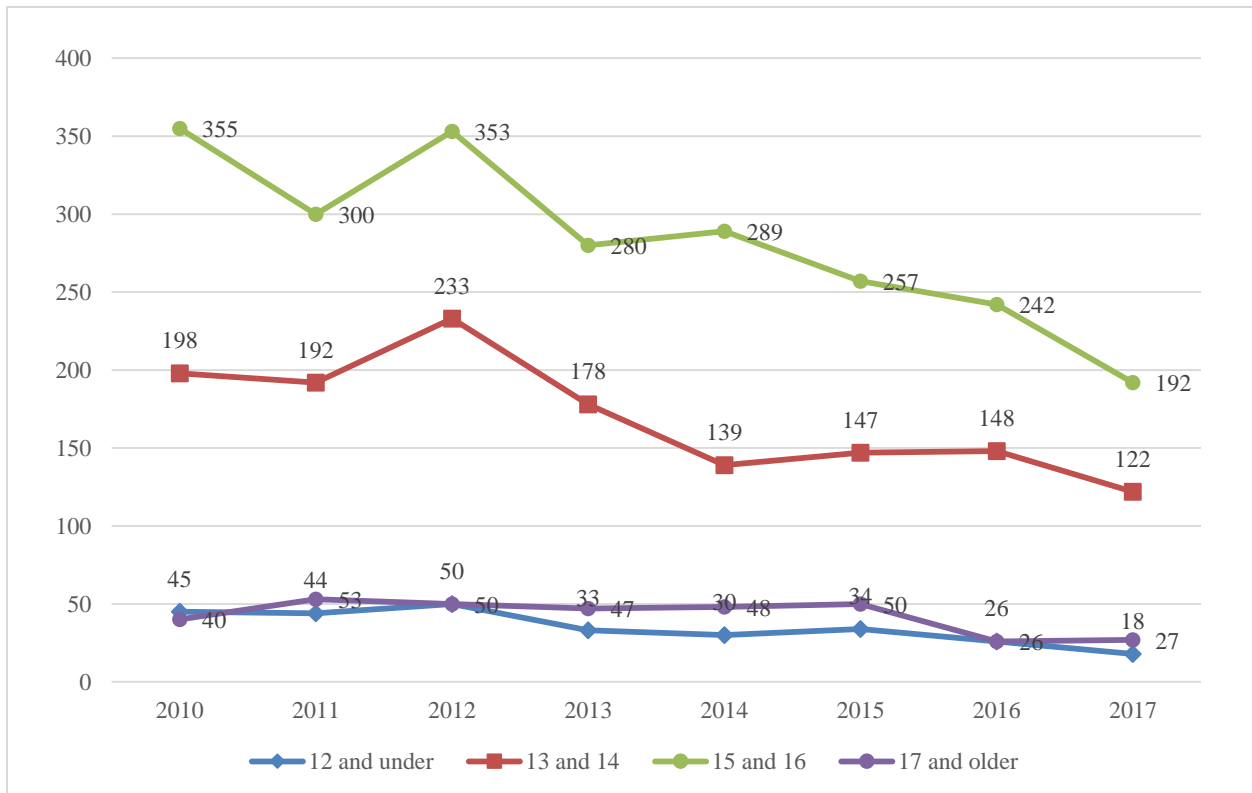




**Table 12 and Graph 15**

**Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Age**

	≤10	11	12	13	14	15	16	≥17
2010	4	7	34	71	127	156	199	40
	1%	1%	5%	11%	20%	24%	31%	6%
2011 <sup>24</sup>	2	9	33	71	121	148	152	53
	0%	2%	6%	12%	21%	25%	26%	9%
2012 <sup>25</sup>	5	9	36	85	148	162	191	50
	1%	1%	5%	12%	22%	24%	28%	7%
2013 <sup>26</sup>	1	6	26	59	119	128	152	47
	0%	1%	5%	11%	22%	24%	28%	9%
2014	2	8	20	53	86	140	149	48
	0%	2%	4%	10%	17%	28%	29%	9%
2015	0	4	30	53	94	133	124	50
	0%	1%	6%	11%	19%	27%	25%	10%
2016	3	4	19	53	95	122	120	26
	1%	1%	4%	12%	21%	28%	27%	6%
2017	2	1	15	36	86	109	83	27
	1%	0%	4%	10%	24%	30%	23%	8%



## Disposition and Intervention Services

This report section describes the youth committed to the Division of Youth Services (DYS), youth considered for certification, and youth and families served by Family Court Services programs.

There were 22% fewer commitments to DHS in 2017 than 2016. The Juvenile Officer filed about the same number of certification cases in 2017 as in 2016.

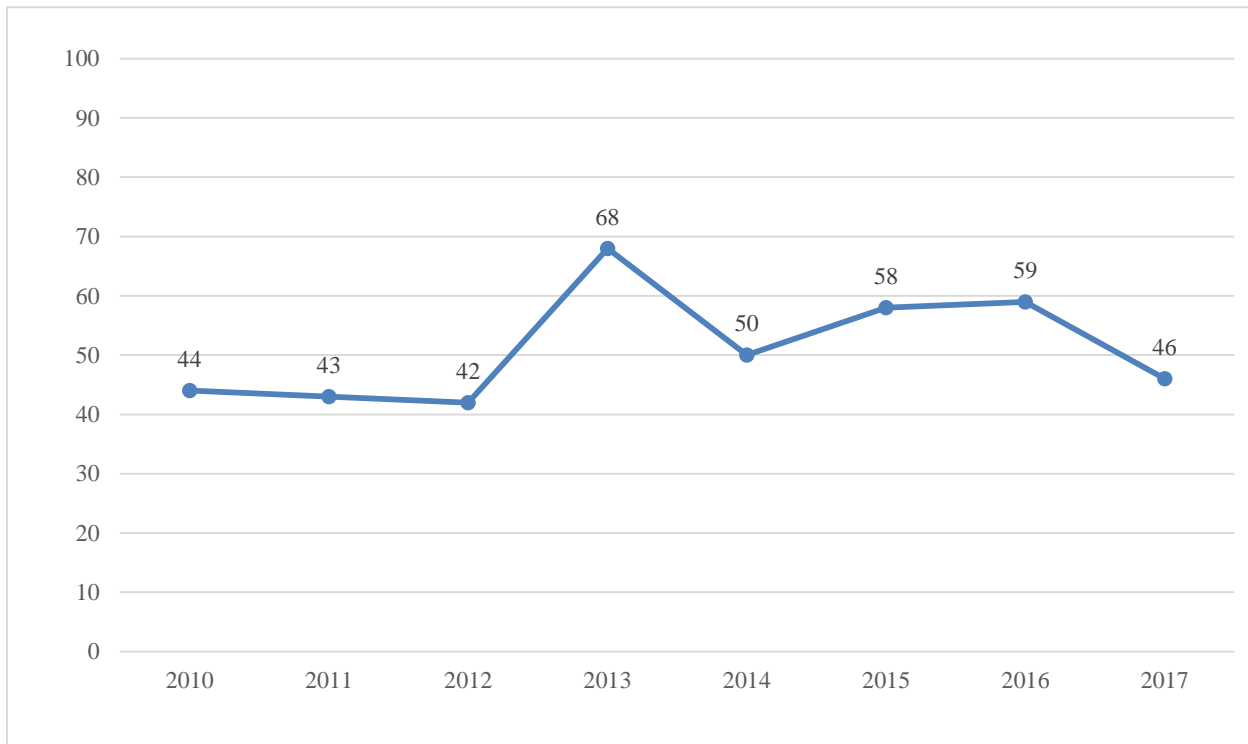
## Commitment to Division of Youth Services

Commitments to the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) over the last ten years did not decline proportionally with the overall decline in delinquent referrals to the Family Court. Commitments to DHS have remained relatively flat in recent years, until a substantial increase in 2013 due to the closure of McCune Residential Center at the end of 2012.

**Table 13 and Graph 16**

### Commitments to the Division of Youth Services

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number	44	43	42	68	50	58	59	46
% change	--	-2%	-2%	+62%	-26%	+16%	+2%	-22%
Rate per 1,000 youth <sup>27</sup>	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6

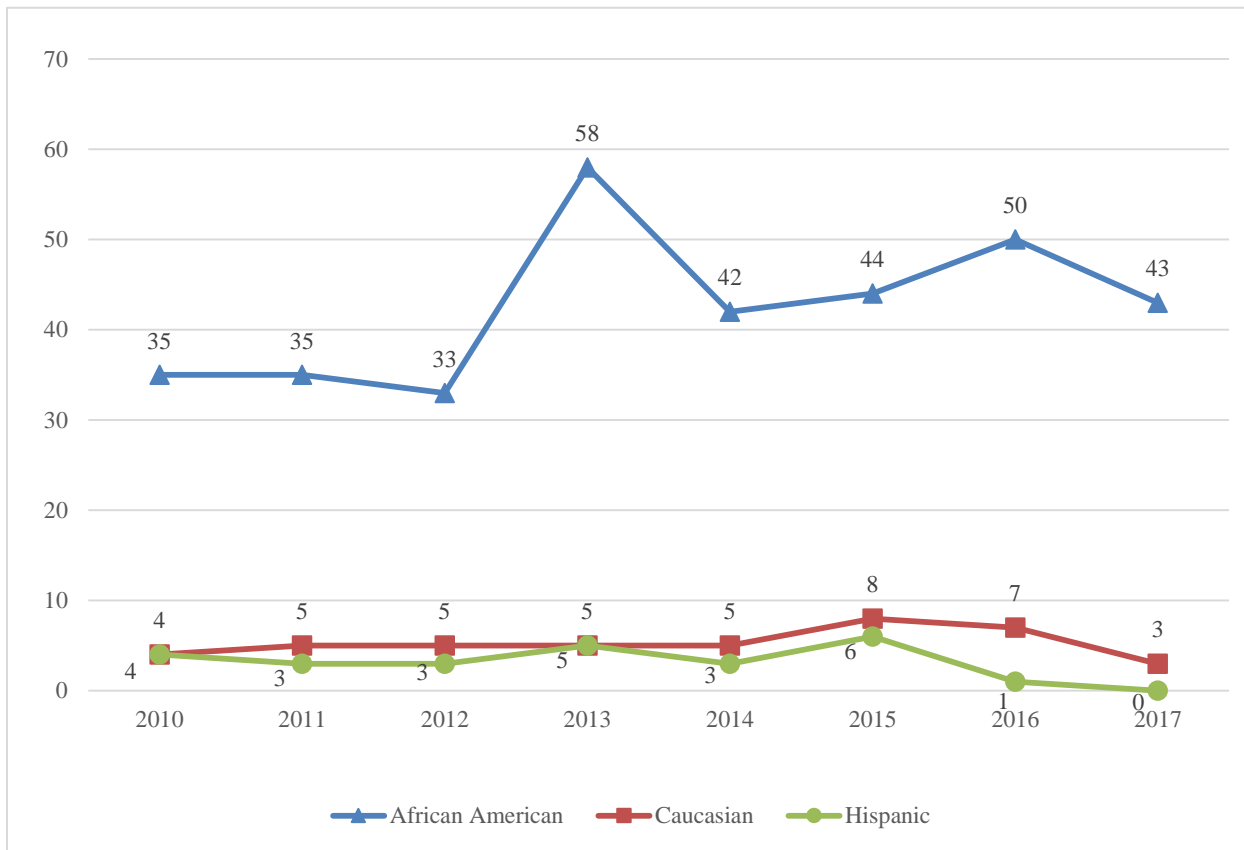


<sup>27</sup> Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10 to 17 years.

**Table 14 and Graph 17**

**Commitments to DYS by Race**

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2010 <sup>28</sup>	35	81%	4	9%	4	9%
2011	35	81%	5	12%	3	7%
2012 <sup>29</sup>	33	71%	5	12%	3	7%
2013	58	85%	5	7%	5	7%
2014	42	84%	5	10%	3	6%
2015	44	76%	8	14%	6	10%
2016 <sup>30</sup>	50	85%	7	12%	1	2%
2017	43	93%	3	7%	0	--



<sup>28</sup> Race for one youth was designated other than African American, Caucasian or Hispanic in 2010.

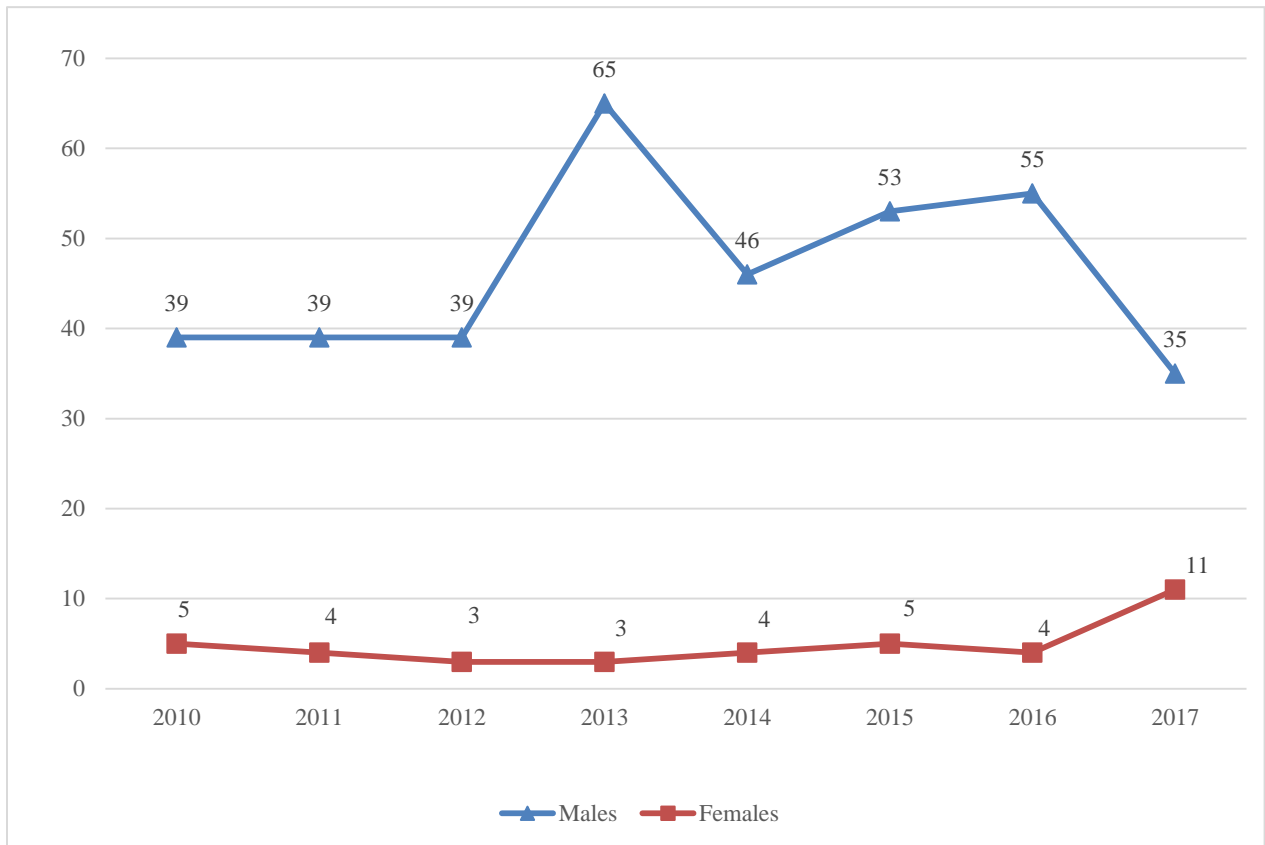
<sup>29</sup> Race for one youth was designated other than African American, Caucasian or Hispanic in 2012.

<sup>30</sup> Race for one youth was designated other than African American, Caucasian or Hispanic in 2016.

**Table 15 and Graph 18**

**Commitments to DYS by Gender**

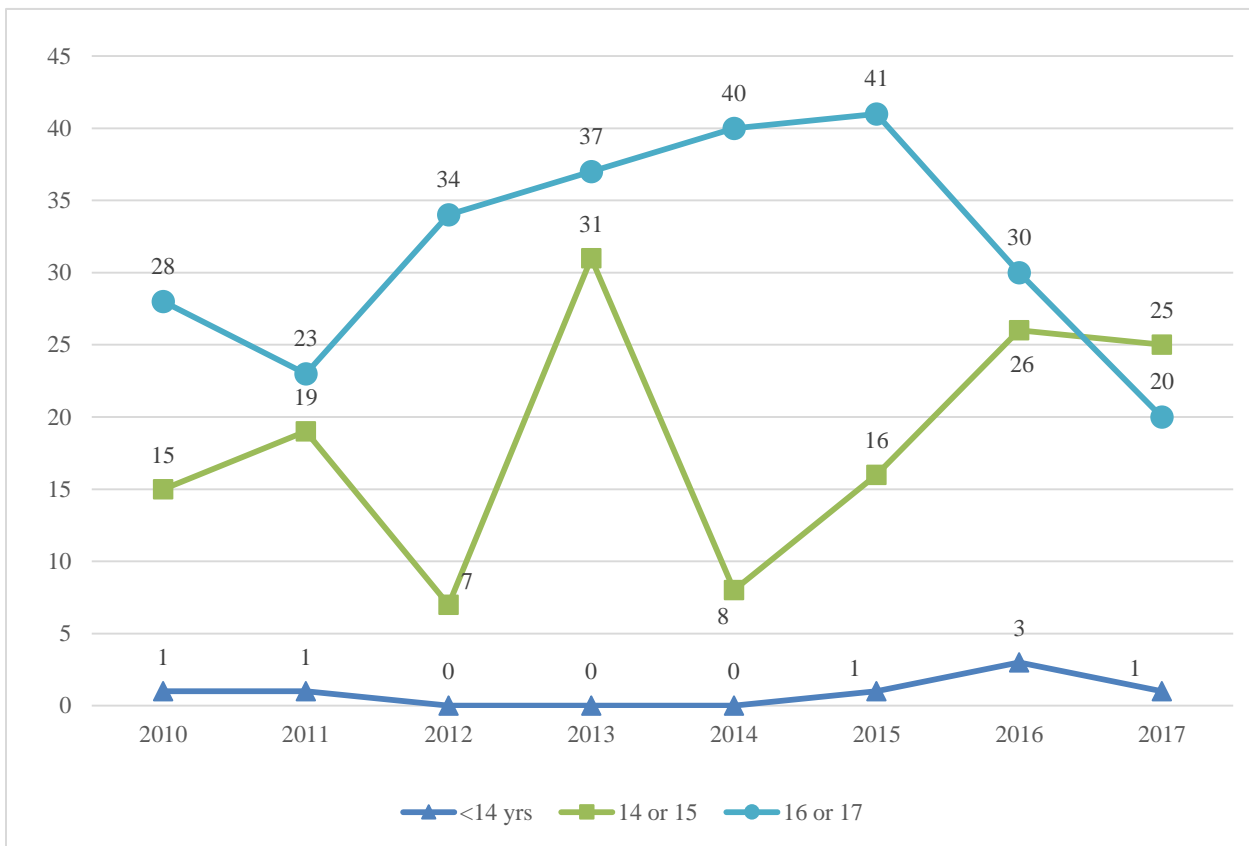
Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
2010	39	89%	5	11%
2011	39	91%	4	9%
2012	39	93%	3	7%
2013	65	96%	3	4%
2014	46	92%	4	8%
2015	53	91%	5	9%
2016	55	93%	4	7%
2017	35	76%	11	24%



**Table 16 and Graph 19**

**Commitments to DYS by Age**

	<14 yrs.		14-15 yrs.		16-17 yrs.	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2010	1	2%	15	34%	28	64%
2011	1	2%	19	44%	23	53%
2012 <sup>31</sup>	0	--	7	17%	34	81%
2013	0	--	31	46%	37	54%
2014 <sup>32</sup>	0	--	8	16%	40	80%
2015	1	1%	16	28%	41	71%
2016	3	5%	26	44%	30	51%
2017	1	3%	25	54%	20	43%



<sup>31</sup> One youth in 2012 was 19 at the time of DYS commitment.

<sup>32</sup> Two youth in 2014 were 18 at the time of DYS commitment.

## Certification Cases

According to Missouri Statute:

“If a petition alleges that a child between the ages of 12 and 17 has committed an offense which would be considered a felony if committed by an adult, the court may, upon its own motion or upon motion by the juvenile officer, the child or the child's custodian, order a hearing and may, in its discretion, dismiss the petition and such child may be transferred to the court of general jurisdiction and prosecuted under the general law; except that if a petition alleges that any child has committed an offense which would be considered first degree murder, second degree murder, first degree assault, forcible rape, forcible sodomy, first degree robbery, or distribution of drugs, or has committed two or more prior unrelated offenses which would be felonies if committed by an adult, the court shall order a hearing, and may in its discretion, dismiss the petition and transfer the child to a court of general jurisdiction for prosecution under the general law.”<sup>33</sup>

The number of certification filings remained unchanged between 2016 and 2017.

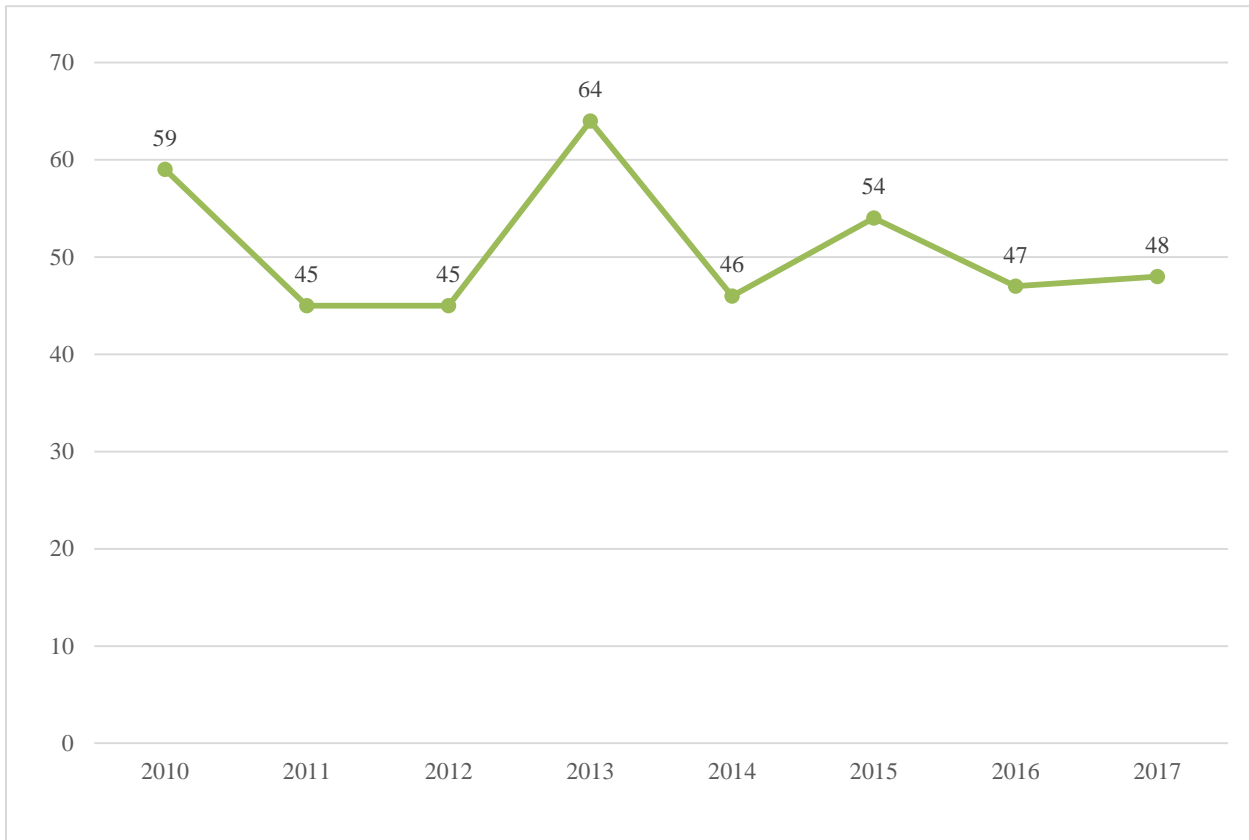
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<sup>33</sup> Missouri General Assembly. Revised Statute 211.071.

**Table 17 and Graph 20**

**Certification Cases Filed by Year**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012<sup>34</sup></b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Total	59	45	45	64	46	54	47	48
% change	+28%	-24%	-24%	+42%	-28%	+17%	-13%	+2%
Rate per 1,000 youth <sup>35</sup>	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7



<sup>34</sup> Information regarding one case in 2012 is unknown, presumably it was expunged.

<sup>35</sup> Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10 to 17 years.



**Table 18. Certification Cases Filed in 2017 by Charge**

<b>Charge Category</b>	<b>Mandatory Filings (Offense<sup>36</sup>)</b>	<b>Mandatory Filings (Priors<sup>37</sup>)</b>	<b>Discretionary Certification Filings</b>
Assault <sup>38</sup>	7	0	0
Del of a Contr Subst	0	0	0
Murder <sup>39</sup>	1	0	0
Sex Offense <sup>40</sup>	7	0	0
Robbery	29	1	0
Tampering	-	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 19. Details for Youth Certified in 2017 (of those with Cases Filed in 2017)**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Num of Filings</b>	<b>Filing Type</b>	<b>Age at Filing</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	3	3 Mandatory	1 aged 15 yrs 1 aged 16 yrs 1 aged 17 yrs	3 African American 0 Caucasian 0 Hispanic	3 Male 0 Female
Murder 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	1	1 Mandatory	1 aged 16 yrs	1 African American 0 Caucasian 0 Hispanic	1 Male 0 Female
Robbery 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	5	5 Mandatory	3 aged 15 yrs 2 aged 16 yrs	5 African American 0 Caucasian 0 Hispanic	4 Male 1 Female
<b>Total Certified in 2017</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9 Mandatory 0 Discretionary</b>	<b>4 aged 15 yrs 4 aged 16 yrs 1 aged 17 yrs</b>	<b>9 African American 0 Caucasian 0 Hispanic</b>	<b>8 Male 1 Female</b>
<b>Total with Certification Denied</b>	<b>10</b>				
Undisposed at the time of this report <sup>41</sup>	16				

<sup>36</sup> MO Rev. Statute 211.071.1 reads: If a petition alleges that a child between the ages of twelve and seventeen has committed an offense which would be considered a felony if committed by an adult and if a petition alleges that any child has committed an offense which would be considered first degree murder under section 565.020, second degree murder under section 565.021, first degree assault under section 565.050, forcible rape under section 566.030 as it existed prior to August 28, 2013, rape in the first degree under section 566.030, forcible sodomy under section 566.060 as it existed prior to August 28, 2013, sodomy in the first degree under section 566.060, first degree robbery under section 570.023, or distribution of drugs under section 579.055 the court shall order a hearing, and may in its discretion, dismiss the petition and transfer the child to a court of general jurisdiction for prosecution under the general law. These offenses constitute the mandatory (offense) designation in this table.

<sup>37</sup> MO Rev. Statute 211.071.1 reads: If a petition alleges that a child between the ages of twelve and seventeen has committed an offense which would be considered a felony if committed by an adult and the child has committed two or more prior unrelated offenses which would be felonies if committed by an adult, the court shall order a hearing, and may in its discretion, dismiss the petition and transfer the child to a court of general jurisdiction for prosecution under the general law. These offenses constitute the mandatory (priors) designation in this table.

<sup>38</sup> Assault includes Assault 1<sup>st</sup>, Attempted Assault 1<sup>st</sup>, and Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.

<sup>39</sup> Murder includes Murder in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degrees.

<sup>40</sup> Sex Offenses include Statutory Sodomy 1<sup>st</sup>, Statutory Sodomy with a Person less than 14 years of age, and Possession of Child Pornography.

<sup>41</sup> An addendum will be published in June 2018.

## Family Court Programs & Services

Family Court Services offers a broad range of prevention, intervention, and treatment programs and services to youth in Jackson County.

**Prevention and Diversion.** In 2017, four programs served a total of 422 youth as well as their families. This represented a 10% decrease in the number of youth served compared to 2016. The Family Court Diversion Program showed a 31% decrease in enrollment between 2016 and 2017.

**Probation Services.** The number of youth starting probation in a year decreased 48% since 2010, down 35% since last year.

**Detainment and Residential Treatment.** The annual number of youth detained in secure detention declined 49% since 2010. The number of youth detained in non-secure detention declined 71% in the same period. The number of youth committed to Hilltop Residential Center declined 41% since 2010 but increased 14% between 2016 and 2017.

**Family Court Resource Services.** *Parent Awareness Courses.* Enrollment in the Focus on Children in Separation (FOCIS) class, a class for married but separated couples with children, increased 14% between 2016 and 2017. Enrollment in Re-FOCIS, a refresher course, increased 3% between 2016 and 2017. Enrollment in the Parenting Together Living Apart (PTLA) class, a class for never married parents, declined 9% in 2017 from 2016. A total of 2,893 parents and children were served in 2017, an increase of 8% from 2016.

*Supervised Visitation.* Supervised visitation is provided when there are custodial access interference concerns, parent-child estrangement or other issues deemed to necessitate supervision of parent-child contact. Therapeutic visitation may be ordered for non-custodial parents and their children to address child exposure to domestic violence, parent estrangement and any other issue deemed appropriate by the court.

Supervised visitation events between 2016 and 2017 increased 21% while therapeutic visits decreased 17%. Connections Program exchanges declined 29% since 2016.

*Mediation.* Overall, there were 403 cases served by mediation in 2017, which was 10% fewer than the number served in 2016. This figure does not include mediation conducted by court approved panel mediators (private mediators).

**Table 20. Youth Served in Prevention and Diversion Programs**

<b>Prevention Programs</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
ASSP (Alternative to School Suspension.) <sup>42</sup>	43a/ 78y	29a/ 30y	46a/ 61y	48a/ 84y	91a/ 116y	50a/ 80y	18a/ 29y	--
Diversion Program <sup>43</sup>	--	--	--	153	276	112	94	65
Informal Adjustment	48	65	65	28	26	--	--	--
Family Counseling Unit	699	453	424	239	212	181	164	153
Shoplifting Diversion	486	281	92	34	47	34	66	58
Success Court Program <sup>44</sup>	156	143	207 <sup>45</sup>	206	118	222	116	146
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>422</b>

<sup>42</sup> Beginning in 2010, the annual report counted the number of youth (y) impacted by the services provided to adults (a) by way of this program. The number of youth is included in the total number for the column; the number of adults is not included in the total number for the column.

<sup>43</sup> The Diversion Program began January 1, 2013.

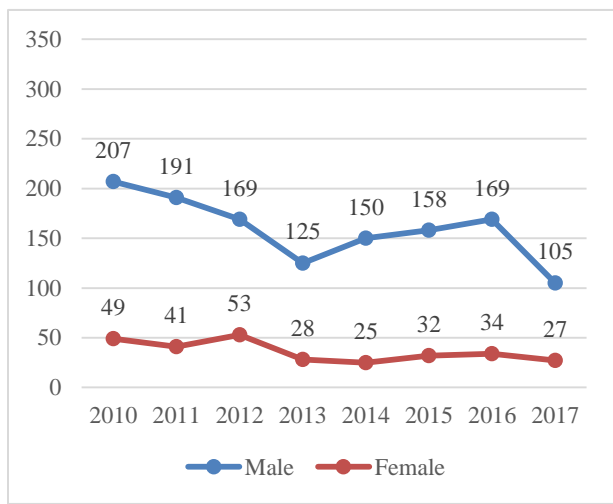
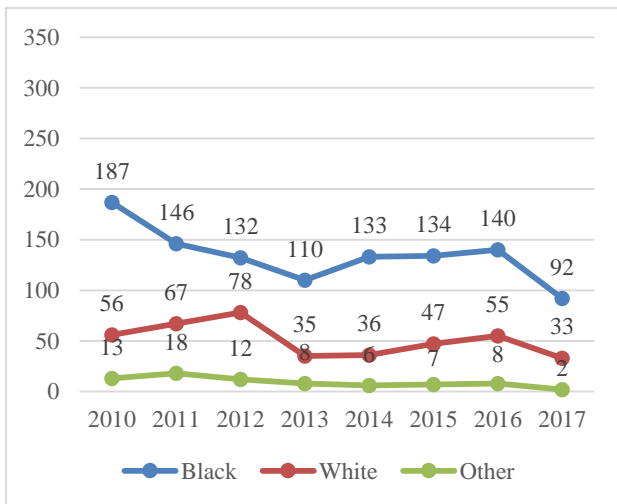
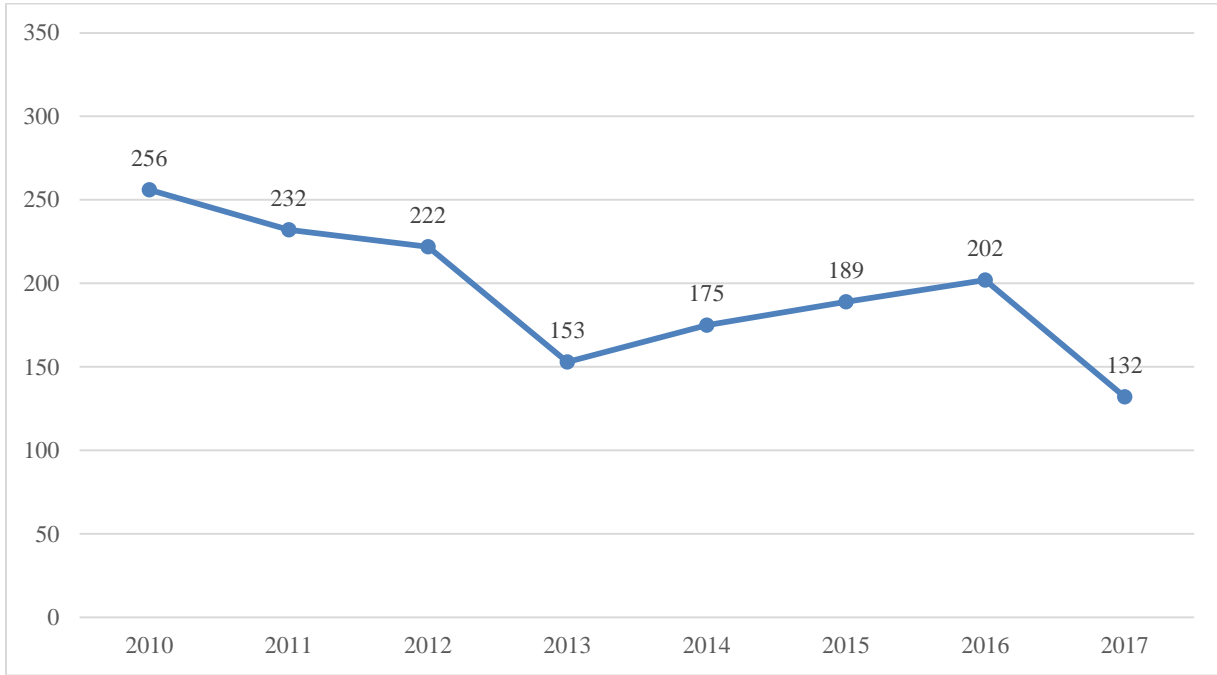
<sup>44</sup> This program was previously titled Truancy Court.

<sup>45</sup> Truancy Court numbers increased as a result of collaboration with Kansas City Missouri School District and a new site at Northeast High School that began in September 2012.

**Table 21 and Graphs 21-23**

**Youth Ordered to Probation by Year**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Probation Orders	256	232	222	153	175	190	203	132
% change	--	-9%	-4%	-31%	+14%	+8%	+7%	-35%

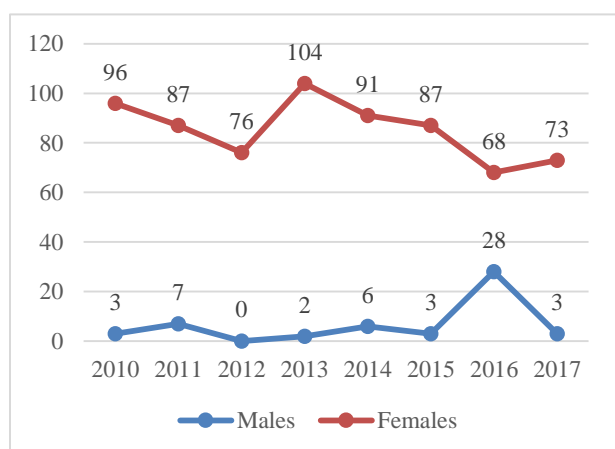
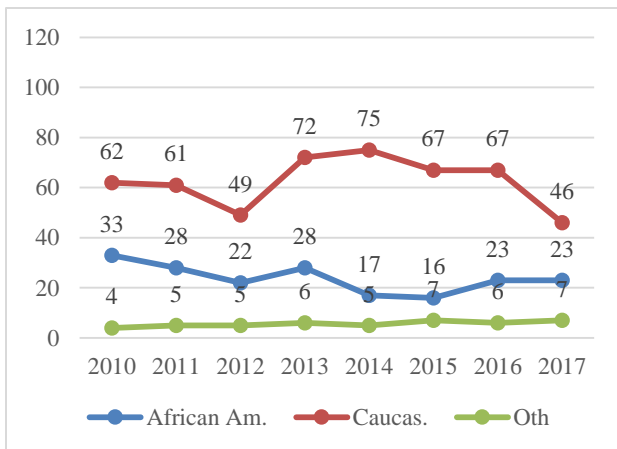
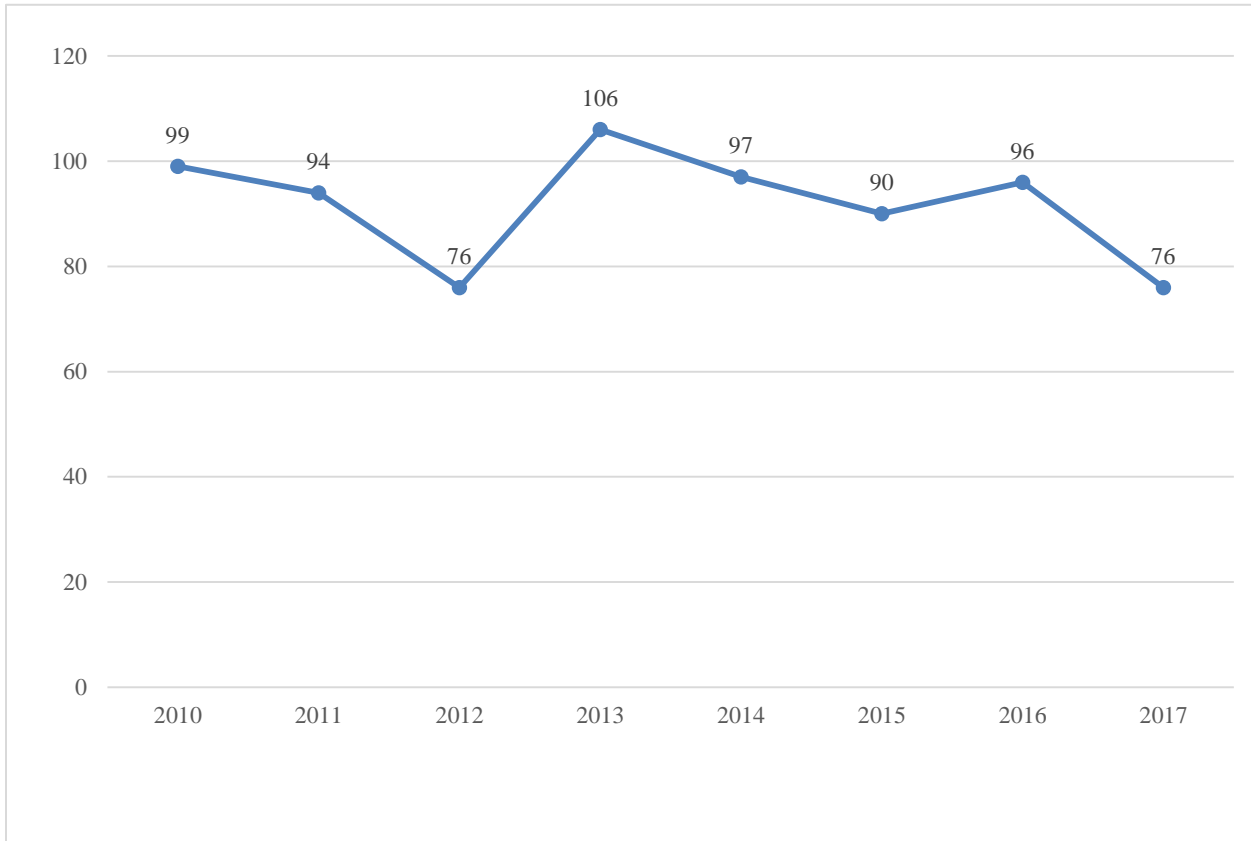


At the time of this report, race was unknown for one case in 2011, 2 cases in 2015, and 5 cases in 2017.

**Table 22 and Graph 24-26**

**Participants Entering the Family Drug Court by Year**

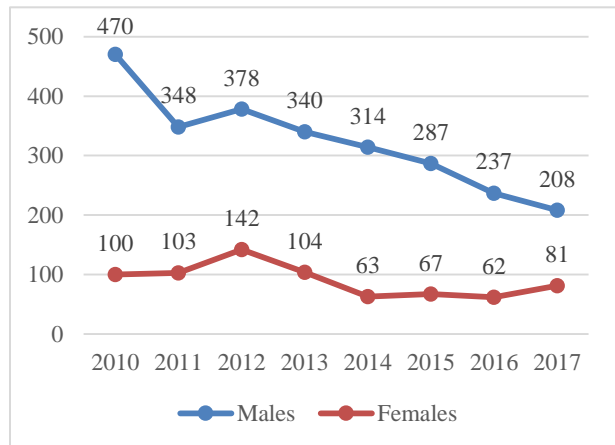
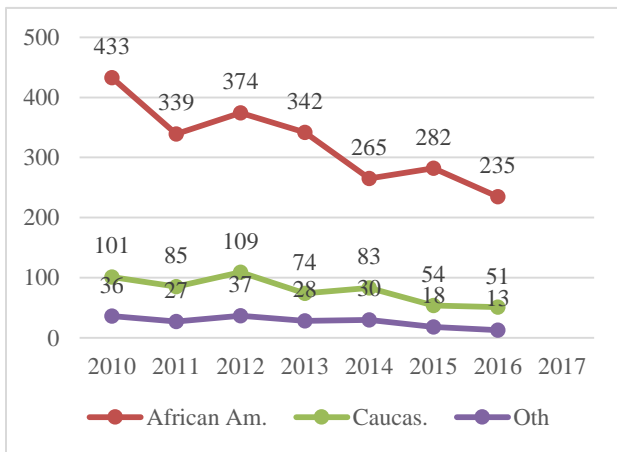
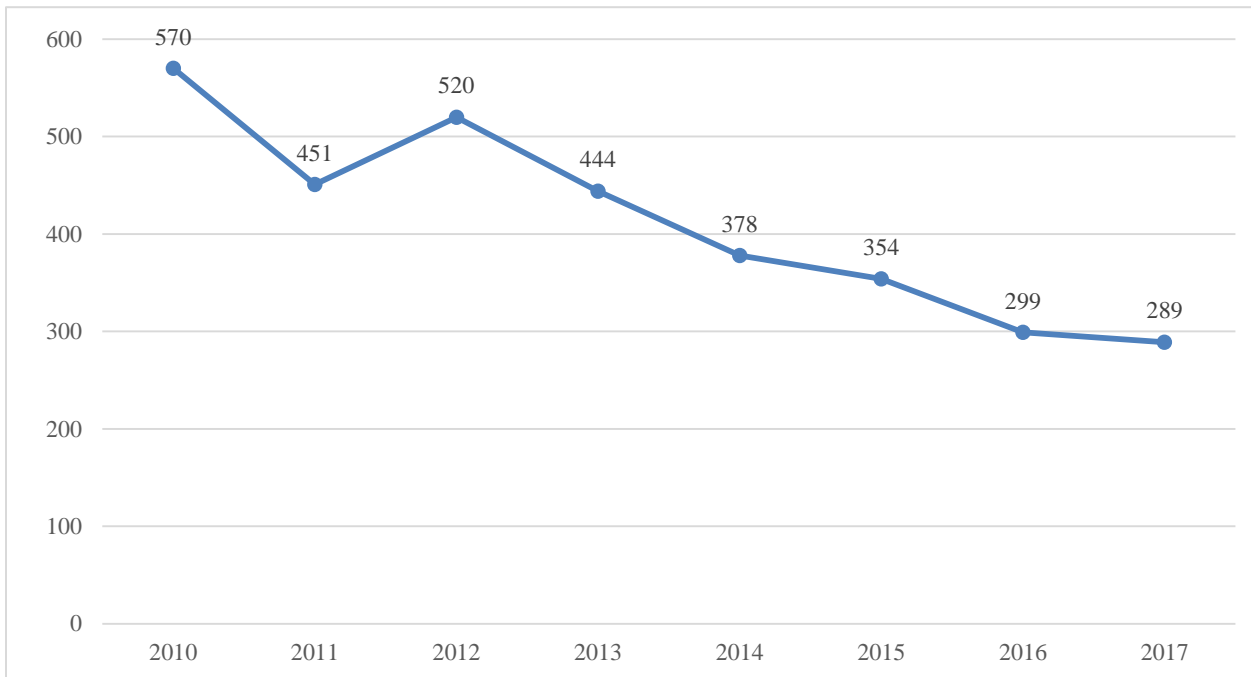
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
FDC	99	94	76	106	97	90	96	76
% change	--	-5%	-19%	+39%	-8%	-7%	+7%	-21%



**Table 23. Detainments in Secure Detention**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Detention	570	451	520	444	378	354	299	289
% change	--	-21%	+15%	-15%	-15%	-6%	-16%	-3%
Avg. Daily Population	27	23	20	26	21	19	23	23

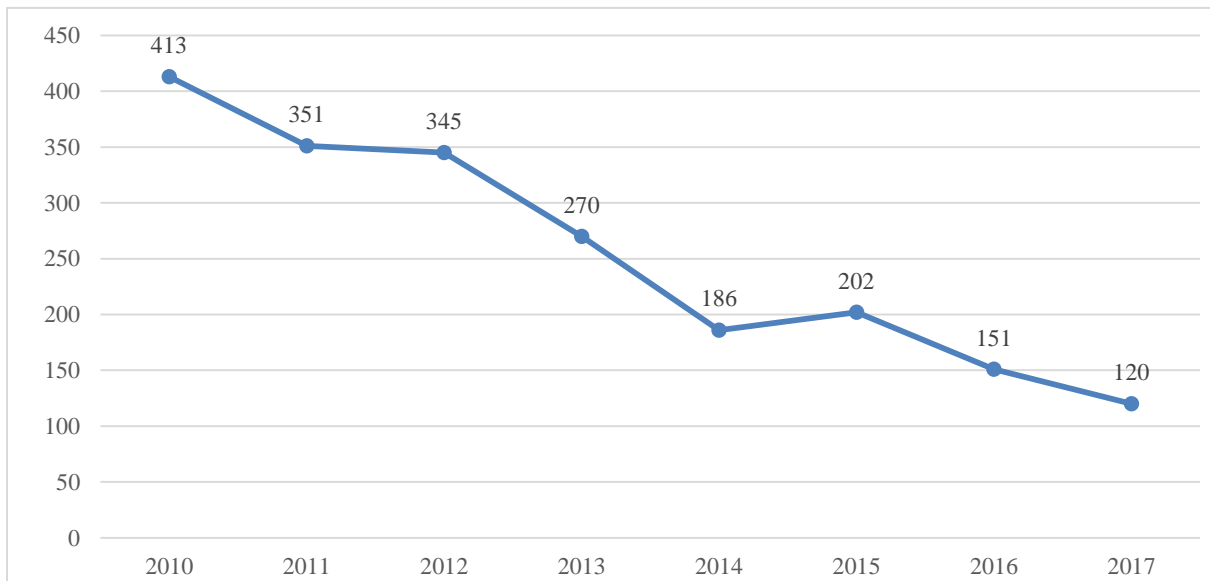
**Graph 27-29. Youth Admitted to Detention**



**Table 24. Detainments in Non-Secure Detention Facilities**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jackson House	144	108	135	104	113	83	--	--
Community Reintegration Group Home	269	243	199	153	58	84 <sup>46</sup>	116	61
Hilltop Residential Center <sup>47</sup>	--	--	11	13	15	35	35	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>% change</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>+9%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-21%</b>

**Graph 30. Youth Admitted to Non-Secure Detention**



<sup>46</sup> The Community Reintegration Group Home began housing Jackson House youth in 2015 as a temporary measure due to staffing shortages in Detention.

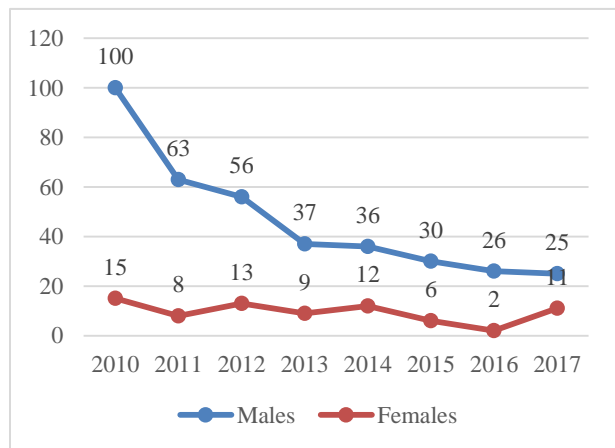
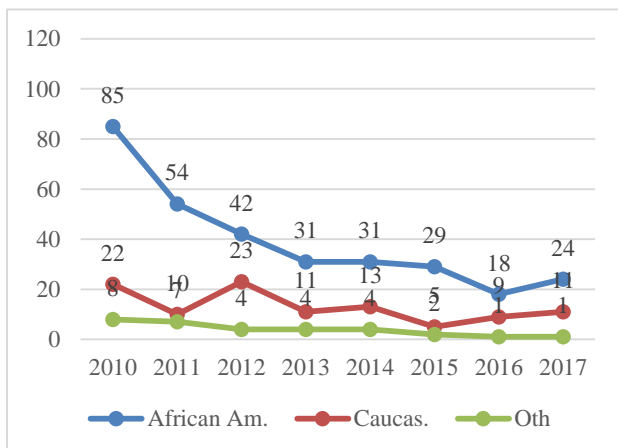
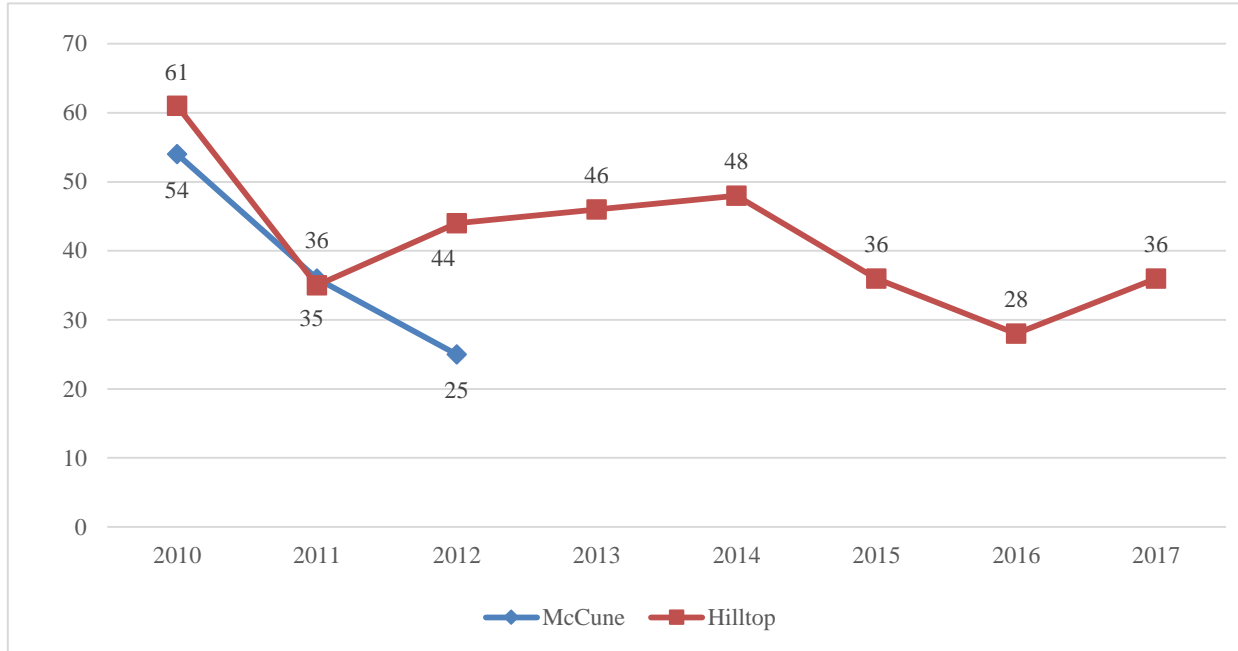
<sup>47</sup> A variety of detention alternative facilities were used for females. We began tracking these detainments at Hilltop in 2012.



**Table 25. Commitments to Court Residential Treatment**

Facility	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
McCune <sup>48</sup>	48	36	25	--	--	--	--	--
Hilltop <sup>49</sup>	61	35	44	46	48	36	28	36
Total	109	71	69	46	48	36	28	36
% change	--	-35%	-3%	-33%	-4%	-25%	-22%	+29%

**Graphs 31-33. Commitments to Court Residential Treatment**



<sup>48</sup> Commitment figures do not include occasions when youth were returned to McCune after furlough. McCune Residential Center closed at the end of 2012.

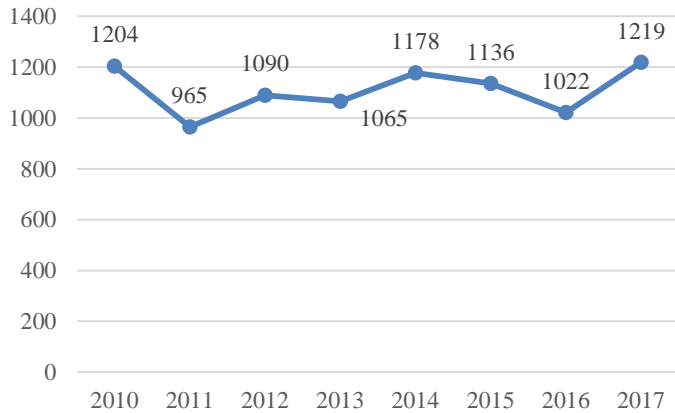
<sup>49</sup> Commitment figures do not include occasions when youth were returned to Hilltop after having been absent without leave or after being released on furlough.

**Table 26 and Graphs 34-36**

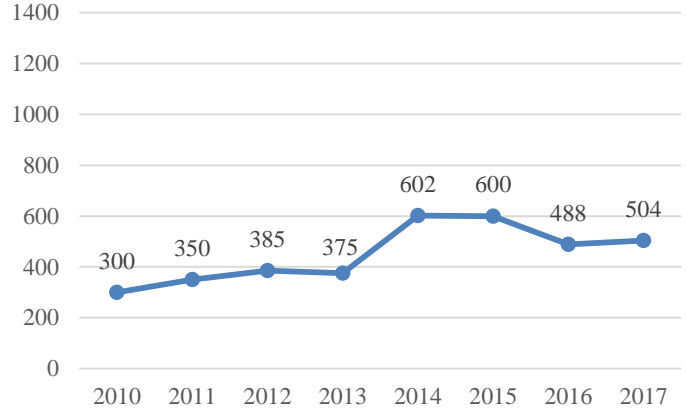
**Family Court Resource Services – Parent Awareness Courses**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>FOCIS</b>								
Adults	1,204	965	1,090	1,065	1,178	1,136	1,022	1,219
Youth	911	686	826	859	783	859	738	779
<b>FOCIS Totals</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>1,916</b>	<b>1,924</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,998</b>
Re-FOCIS	300	350	385	375	602	600	488	504
Parenting Together Living Apart	333	390	327	426	634	653	432	391
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>2,748</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>2,628</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>3,248</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>2,893</b>
% change	--	-13%	+10%	-4%	+17%	+2%	-17%	+8%

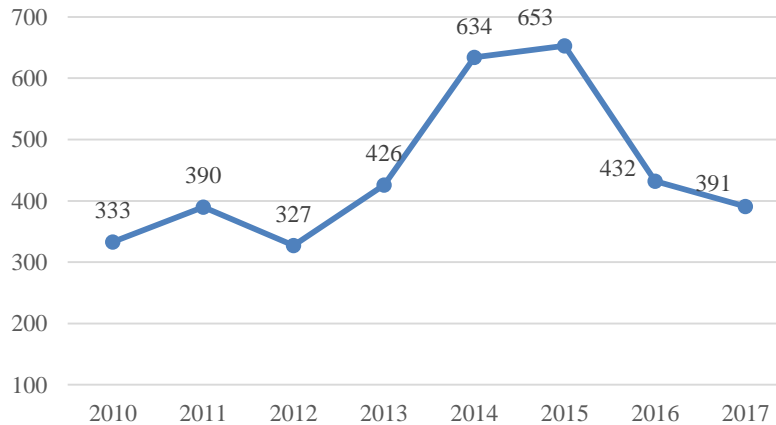
**FOCIS Class - Adults**



**Re-FOCIS Class - Adults**



**Parenting Together - Living Apart Class**



**Table 27. Family Court Resource Services Supervised Visitation and Exchanges**

**Connections Program**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Scheduled Visits	1,036	1,188	1,220	1,070	1,039	1,308	1,643	1,876
Actual Visits	682	804	987	732	677	855	1,115	1,350

**Therapeutic Visits**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Scheduled Visits	316	237	93	150	241	346	332	250
Actual Visits	185	157	93	94	114	217	197	164

**Grand Total Visits Scheduled and Held**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Total Scheduled Visits <sup>50</sup>	1,352	1,425	1,313	1,220	1,280	1,654	1,975	2,126
Total Actual Visits <sup>51</sup>	867	961	1,080	826	791	1,072	1,312	1,514

**Monitored Exchanges**

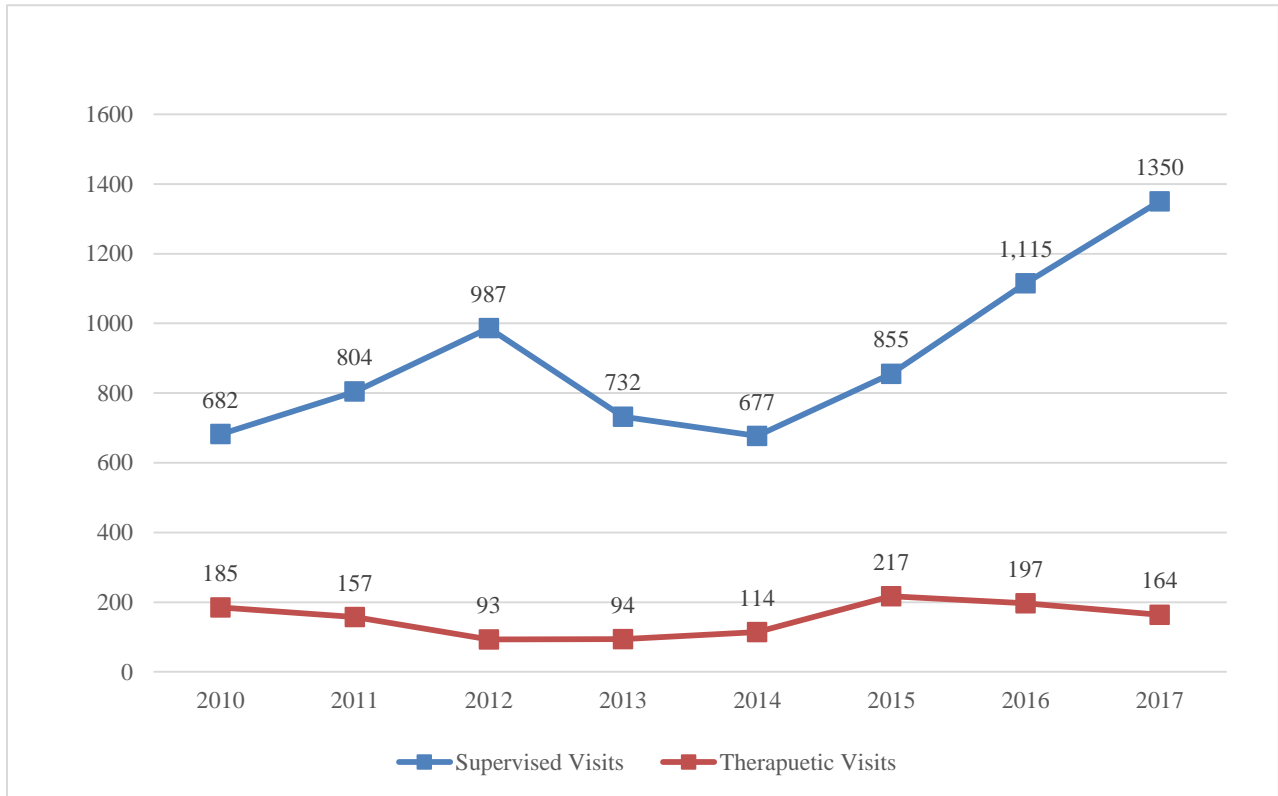
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Scheduled Exchanges	109	516	489	359	477	757	1,043	710
Actual Exchanges	77	419	399	255	286	449	786	561

<sup>50</sup> Beginning with 2010 data, the total number of scheduled and actual visits/exchanges include data from families that were carried over from the previous year.

<sup>51</sup> Actual visits represent units of services. One unit of service equals one hour.

**Graph 37**

**Connections Program Visits Held**



**Table 28. Family Court Resource Services Mediation Services**

<b>Mediation (Rule 68.12)</b>								
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Referrals	101	83	64	167	206	155	101	107
Mediations	58	42	32	-- <sup>52</sup>	--	--	--	--
<b>Mediation (IV-D)/Paternity</b>								
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Referrals	57	47	60	124	34 <sup>53</sup>	22	15	9
Mediations	52	40	39	93	33	18	11	4
<b>Adult Abuse Mediation</b>								
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Referrals	181	168	191	130	182	200	202	161
Mediations	177	156	184	123	172	180	202	156
<b>Other Domestic Relations Mediations (i.e., MOD, FA)</b>								
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Referrals	62	40	42	83	40	7	23	19
Mediations	46	28	36	64	38	7	17	14
<b>Child Dependency Mediation</b>								
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Referrals	93	89	113	83	100	157	276	238
Mediations	61	67	92	52	79	115	217	227
<b>Victim-Offender Mediation</b>								
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Referrals	0	4	1	4	11	5	3	5
Mediations	2	1	0	1	8	3	2	2
<b>Grand Total Mediations Referred and Held</b>								
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Referrals	494	431	471	591	573	546	620	539
Mediations	396	334	383	333 <sup>54</sup>	330	323	449	403

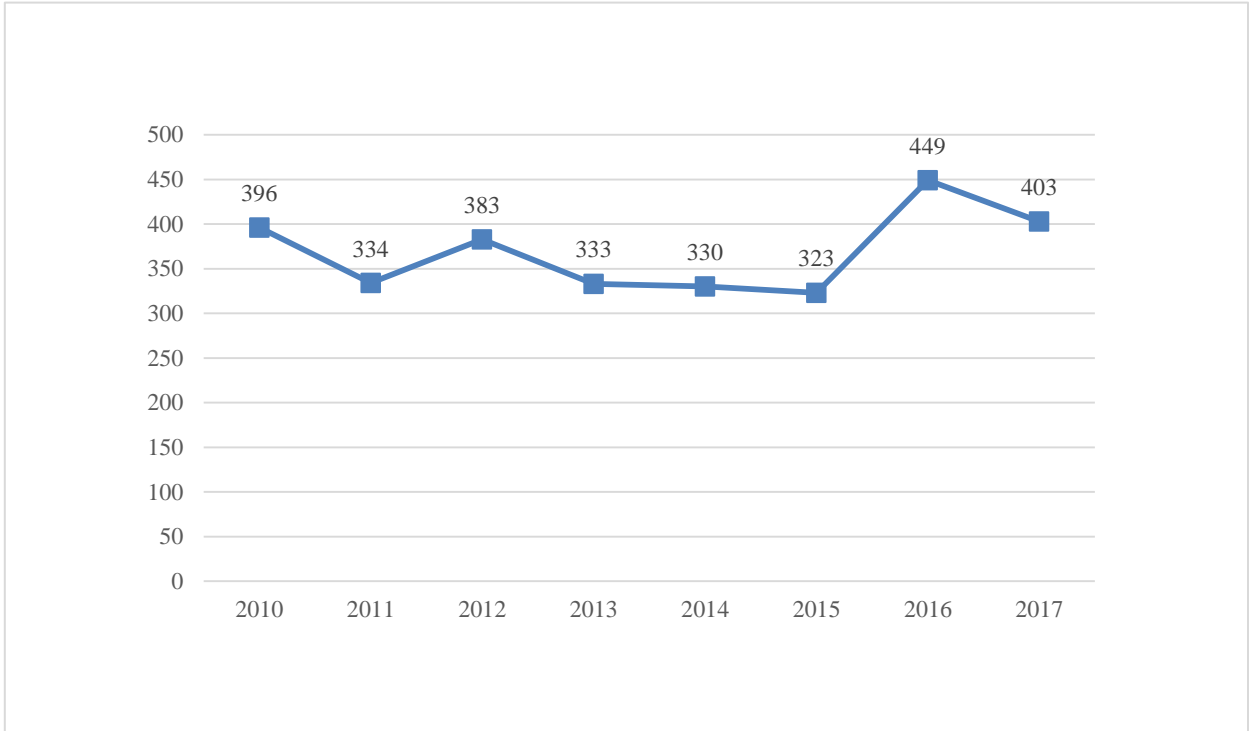
<sup>52</sup> Local Rule 68.12 establishes the use of private mediators by child custodians to aid resolution of custody and visitation issues. The Family Court does not collect information about actual use of private mediators.

<sup>53</sup> A recent MO Appellate Court decision (DSK, MO App Western District 76789, Dec 31, 2013) substantially reduced the number of paternity mediations referred to FCRS resulting in a sharp decline in referrals for this service.

<sup>54</sup> Beginning in 2013, this figure will no longer include actual mediation conducted by court approved panel mediators.

**Graph 38**

**Family Court Resource Services Mediations Held**



**Table 29**

**Victim Services Cases Served**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Victim Services Cases	400	477	515	451	446	471	515	351

## Conclusions

This report captured statistical information related to activities and selected outcomes for the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court – Family Court Division and Family Court Services.

Over the last eight years, the number of referrals filed for child abuse and neglect has fluctuated as much as 34% from one year to the next. Petitions and motions to modify filed for child abuse and neglect fluctuated by up to 13% from one year to the next.

For the last 10 years the number of youth ages 10-17 in Jackson County has remained relatively consistent, but the number of delinquent referrals to the Family Court declined 33% in that same period. The referral rate has been about the same for the past 3 years. In 2017, the number of referrals for delinquent and technical offenses was slightly down compared to 2016. The number of petitions and motions to modify filed for delinquent and technical offenses decreased 19%.

African American youth accounted for 72% of the delinquent and technical offense petitions and motions to modify filed in 2017. Caucasian youth accounted for 23%, and Hispanic youth accounted for 2%.

In 2017, youth residing in Kansas City continued to account for the largest share of delinquent and technical offense filings in Jackson County (63% of all delinquent and technical offense petitions and motions to modify). Youth from Grandview were the subject of petitions for delinquent offenses more frequently than youth in other Jackson County cities.

In the last 8 year period, the number of youth committed to the DYS was highest in 2013 with 68 commitments. In 2017, 46 youth were committed to DYS, up from a low-point of 42 youth committed in 2012. African American youth represented 93% of all commitments to DYS in 2017.

The number of certification cases filed in 2017 was about equal to the number filed in 2016 (48 and 47 respectively).

Family Court Services offered a broad range of prevention, intervention, and treatment programs and services to youth in Jackson County. In 2017, there were 4 prevention and diversion programs serving a total of 422 youth as well as



their families. The number served was down 10% compared to 2016.

While the number of youth starting probation decreased 48% since 2010, the number decreased 35% between 2016 and 2017. Since last year, admissions to secure detention and the detention alternative Community Reintegration Group Home decreased (3% and 47% respectively), while detainments at Hilltop Residential Center were up 69%. Commitments to Hilltop Residential Center increased 29%.

This report summarized Family Court activities for 2017 and trends in filing activities and treatment services. The goal of the annual report is to provide complete, accurate, and helpful information to enable the Family Court to better serve the youth, families, and community of Jackson County. Future reports will expand and develop as changes in the organization and community warrant examination.

