

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MISSOURI



2024

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

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Cover Image by Steven Cordes

Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri — Jackson County

Presiding Judge Jalilah Otto (2023-2025)

CIRCUIT JUDGES

Division 1 Sarah A. Castle

Division 2 Kenneth R. Garrett III

Division 3 Jerri J. Zhang

Division 4 Justine E. Del Muro

Division 5 James F. Kanatzar

Division 6 J. Dale Youngs

Division 7 S. Margene Burnett

Division 8 Bryan E. Round

Division 9 Joel P. Fahnestock

Division 10 Marty W. Seaton

Division 11 Adam L. Caine

Division 12 Jennifer M. Phillips

Division 13 Charles H. McKenzie

Division 14 John M. Torrence

Division 15 Jalilah Otto

Division 16 Jessica Agnelly

Division 17 Cory L. Atkins

Division 18 Kevin D. Harrel

Division 19 Mark A. Styles, Jr.

ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGES

Division 25 Abbie Rothermich

Division 26 R. Travis Willingham

Division 27 Kea S. Bird-Riley

Division 28 Jeffrey C. Keal

Division 29 Janette K. Rodecap

Division 30 Lauren D. Barrett

Division 31 Mary F. Weir

Division 32 Kyndra J. Stockdale

Division 33 Jeffrey Bushur

Division 34 Susan E. Long

COMMISSIONERS

Division 19 Amy B. DeGraeve

Division 19 Brian A. Tillema

Division 40 Daniel C. Berezoski

Division 41 Katie Rooney

Division 42 Sherrill L. Rosen

Division 43 Lisa M. Dubé

Division 44 Nancy Alemifar

Division 50 Tiffany D. Gregg

Court Administrator

Deputy Court Admin./Family Court Services

Deputy Court Admin./Jury Supervisor

Beverly A. Newman

Theresa Byrd

Tracy L. Smedley

Introduction

Reflecting on 2024, the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri continued to navigate complex changes and create opportunities to better serve our community and those coming before the Court. It was a year of new beginnings, bold initiatives, and honoring enduring legacies. Our judiciary welcomed new faces and celebrated transitions. Judge Abbie Rothermich and Judge Patrick C. Edwards joined the bench, while Judge Lauren Barrett was appointed to Division 14 after serving in Division 30. We also bid farewell to longtime jurists Judge Justine Del Muro and Judge John Torrence, whose combined service spanned over five decades. Commissioner William Jackson retired, and we prepared for Commissioner Sherrill Rosen's upcoming departure at year's end. These transitions reflect both the legacy and the evolution of our Court.

This year brought forward transformative programming. With a \$2 million Children's Services Fund grant, the circuit launched Missouri's first Safe Babies Court—a pioneering initiative to support reunification and infant mental health. We also introduced Kintsugi University, a holistic educational program for youth in detention, emphasizing resilience, mentorship, and vocational pathways. Judges and staff alike invested in community outreach, including the launch of the Tomorrow's Lawyers civics program to engage middle school students from underserved backgrounds and a renewed effort of public engagement in the Juvenile Office.

We mourned the loss of a beloved colleague, Process Server Drexel Mack, who tragically died in the line of duty. The Court honored Drexel's legacy of compassion and courage by renaming our Employee of the Year Award in his name. His memory remains deeply etched in the fabric of our Court family.

Operational resilience was also tested and proven in 2024. A temporary water outage in June forced the downtown courthouse to close, but swift coordination ensured minimal disruption. In September, the Juvenile Detention Center earned a perfect ACA audit score, and Hilltop Residential Center again achieved high compliance, showcasing our commitment to excellence and safety in juvenile services. Our records departments continued their excellence in customer service and despite many additional challenges with expungements and redactions, worked diligently to continue to support the court processes in a timely and professional manner. The jury team also continued their exceptional service in support of the many members of the public coming to our court to perform their civic duty and vital role in justice in the 16th Judicial Circuit.

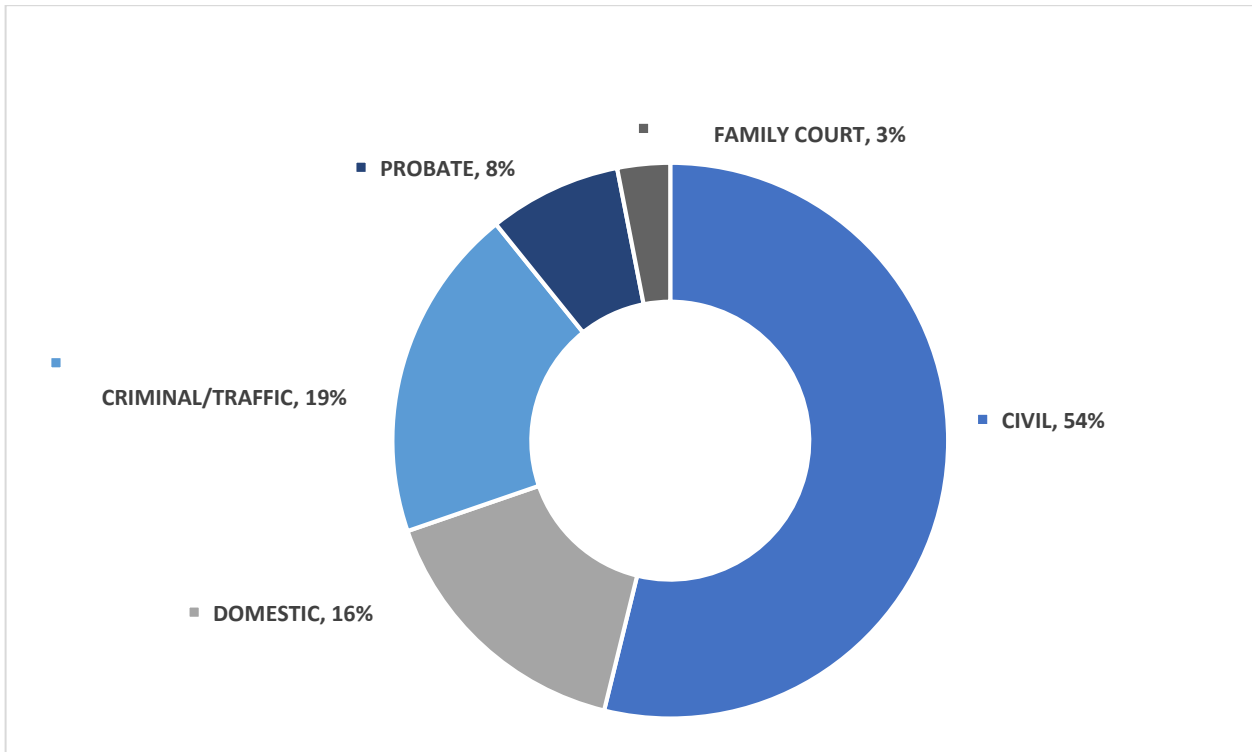
Judicial leadership received well-earned recognition. Missouri's Chief Justice honored Presiding Judge Jalilah Otto for her guidance during difficult times, and Judge Rothermich received the prestigious Lon O. Hocker Award, joining the first all-women recipient cohort in addition to the many other community and legal profession awards and recognition for exemplary service and community engagement by the Court's judicial officers.

As we look ahead, we remain grateful for the tireless work of our judges, commissioners, staff, and community partners. Together, we continue our commitment to fostering justice, transparency, and innovation in support of our Court's efforts to adhere to the rule of law through accessible, fair, and impartial justice.

Kevin D. Harrell
Presiding Judge

Beverly A. Newman
Court Administrator

Graph 1. Court Wide Case Filings in 2024¹



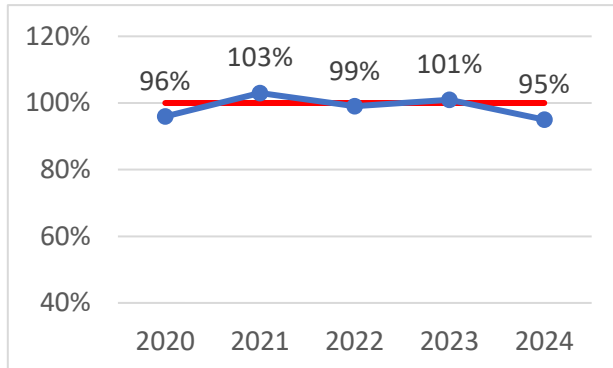
¹ The Criminal/Traffic category includes associate and circuit felony and misdemeanor filings as well as traffic cases, municipal ordinances, and municipal appeals.

Court Performance Measures

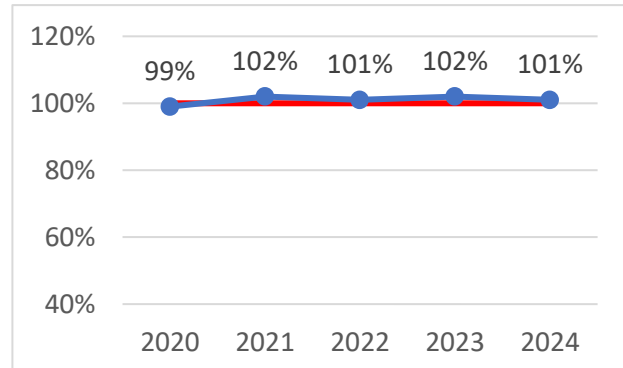
The charts below show clearance rates, or the ratio of outgoing cases to incoming cases in each calendar year. Clearance rates determine if the Court is keeping up with its caseload. The benchmark is to clear 100% or higher, which would indicate disposing of at least as many cases as have been filed in a given period.

**Graph 2-6.
Clearance Rates**

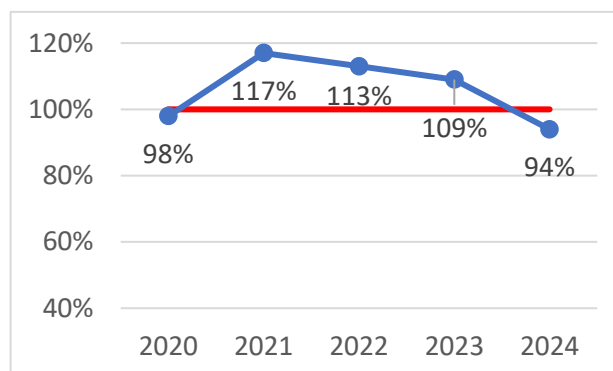
Circuit Civil Cases



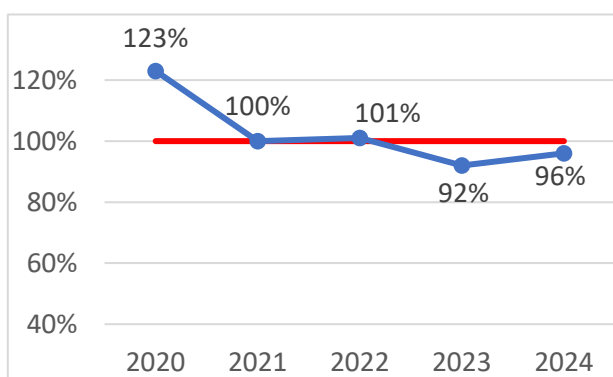
Domestic Relations Cases



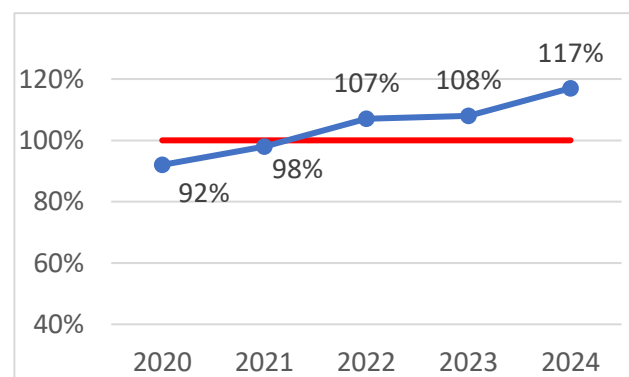
Circuit Criminal Cases



Associate Civil



Associate Criminal Cases

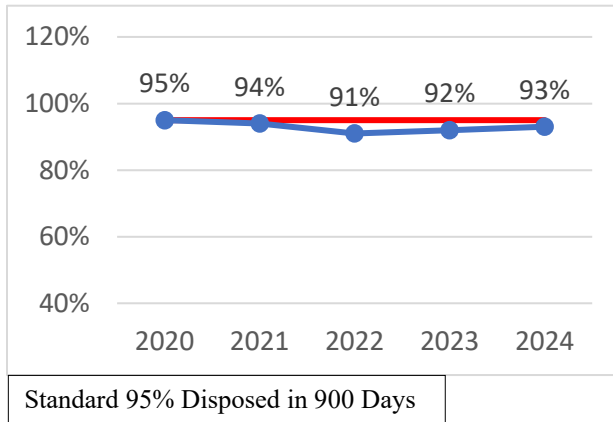


Time to Disposition

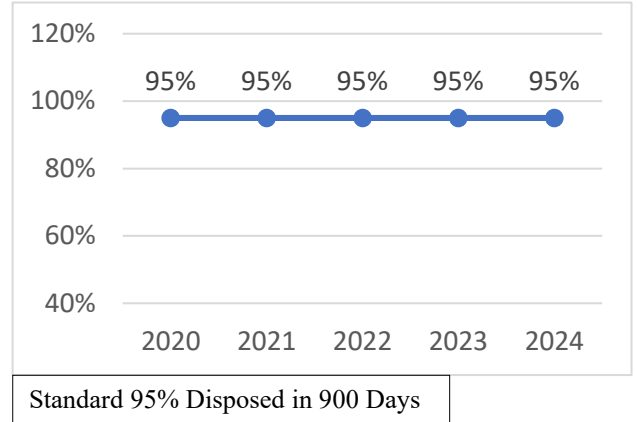
The charts below show the percentage of cases meeting time standards, or the time period in which 95% of filings should be disposed. Time standards for each department are based on National Center for State Courts (NCSC) guidelines for timely case processing across case types.

Graph 7-11.
Time to Disposition

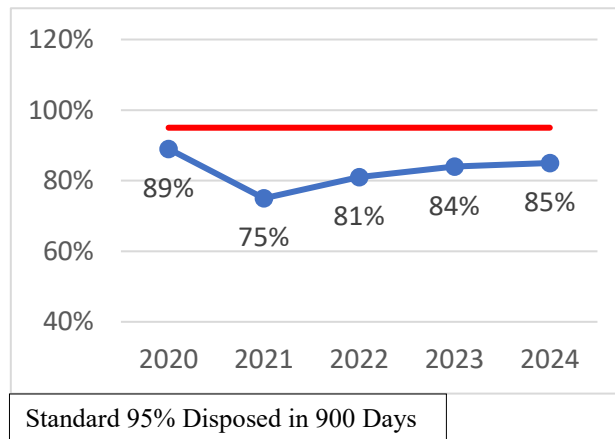
Circuit Civil Cases



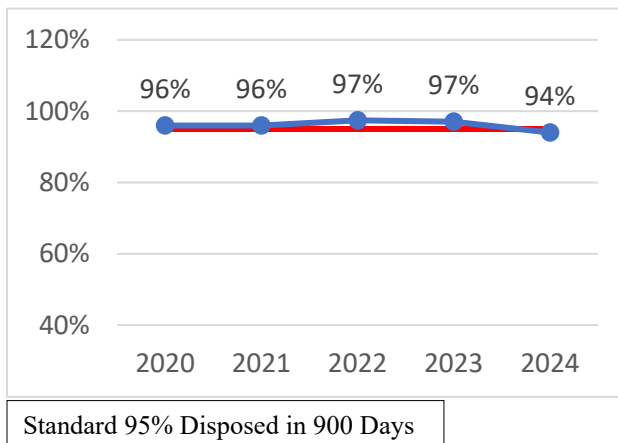
Domestic Relations Cases



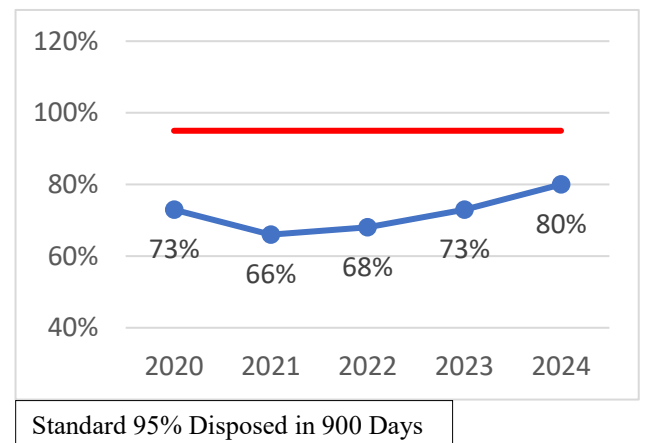
Circuit Criminal Cases



Associate Civil



Associate Criminal Cases

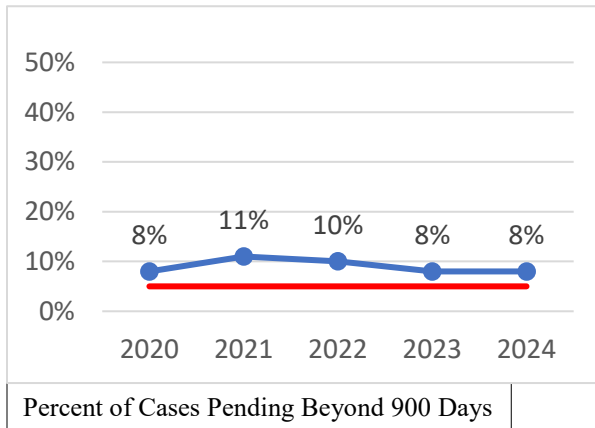


Pending Cases

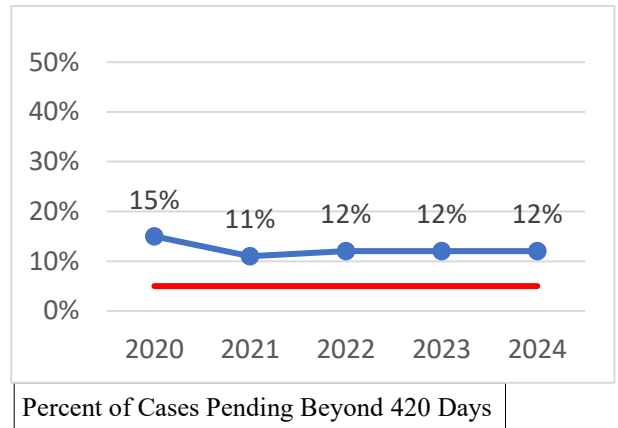
Age of Pending Caseloads uses the same time standards as time to disposition. The charts below show the percentages of pending cases aged beyond the 95% time standard. The statistics shown are for caseloads on December 31 of each respective year.

Graph 12-16.
Age of Pending Caseloads

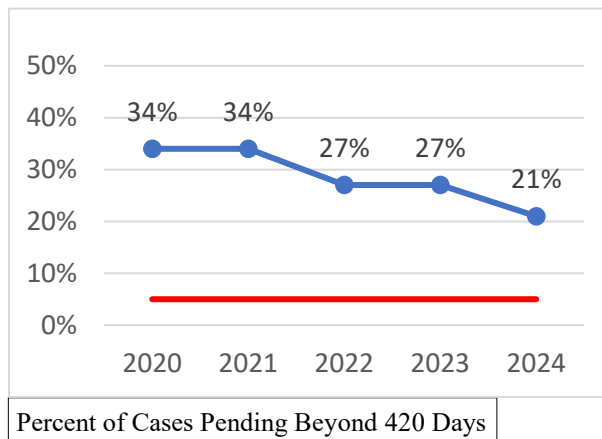
Circuit Civil Cases



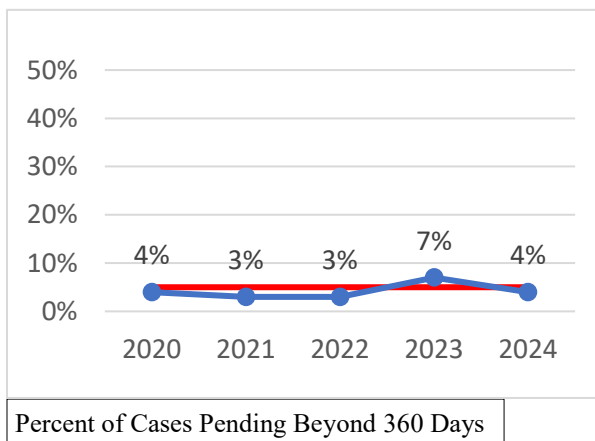
Domestic Relations Cases



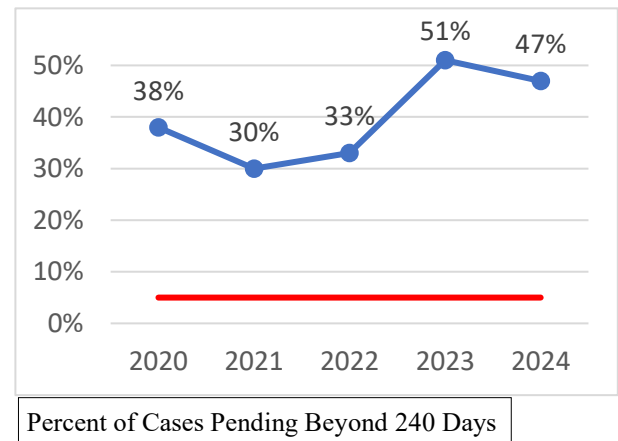
Circuit Criminal Cases



Associate Civil



Associate Criminal Cases



Civil Records Department

The Civil Records Department is responsible for receiving, processing, and maintaining all records pertaining to Civil, Domestic, and Small Claims cases adjudicated by Circuit and Associate Circuit Judges. The department handles services to individuals seeking Protection Orders for Adult/Child Abuse and Stalking cases. Civil Records offers an array of services, including providing copies of court records, access to court-approved forms, clarifications on commonly used legal terms, and general guidance on court procedures.

With offices situated at the downtown courthouse and in Independence, Civil Records is one of the largest records departments not only within the Court but also across the State of Missouri.

Additionally, the department assists in coordinating hearings and offers guidance on accessing docket information, statutes, court rules, and local regulations. Through these multifaceted functions, the Civil Records Department fulfills its mandate as a central repository of judicial records and a vital resource for individuals navigating the complexities of the legal system within the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri.

Table 1. Circuit Civil Filings

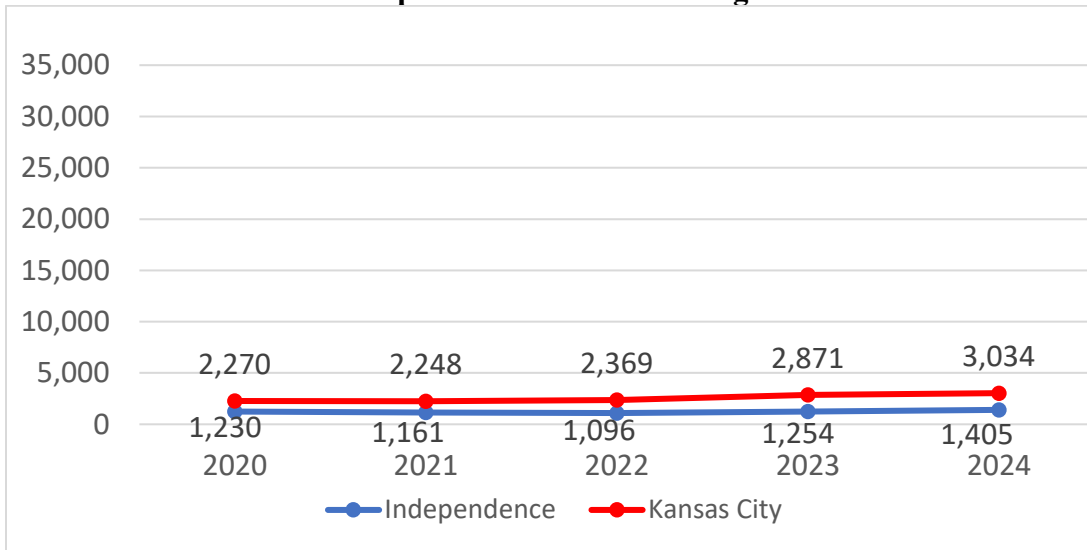
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	3,500	3,409	3,465	4,125	4,439	+8%
Dispositions	3,292	3,515	3,431	4,179	4,195	+0%
Jury Trials	9	22	41	38	33	-13%
Court Trials	281	380	270	327	342	+5%
Pending 12/31	3,264	3,191	3,298	3,359	3,542	+5%

Table 2. Associate Circuit Civil Filings

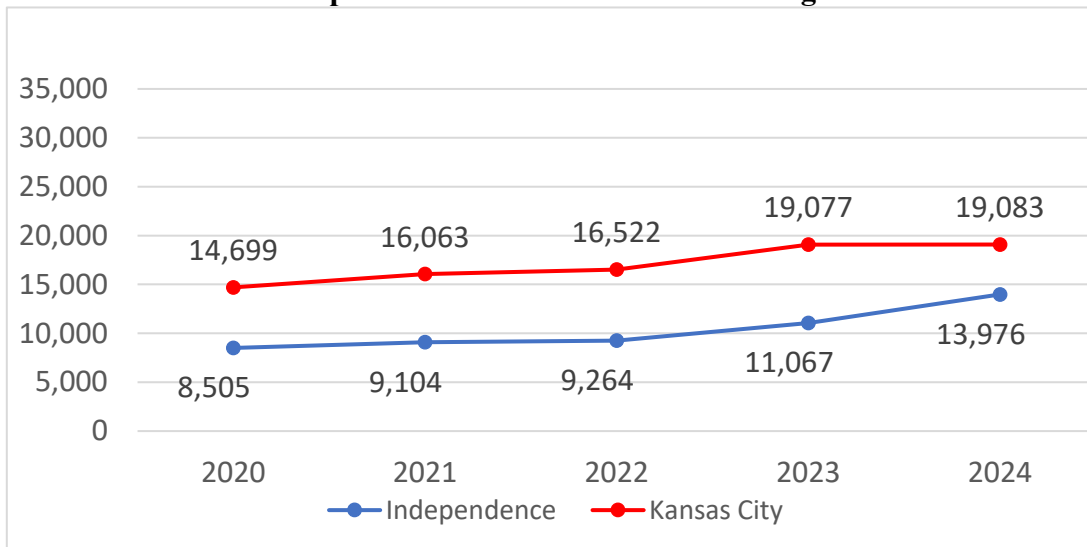
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	23,204	25,167	25,786	30,144	33,059	+10%
Dispositions	24,593	25,105	25,979	27,893	31,881	+14%
Jury Trials	1	0	0	1	3	— ²
Court Trials	961	1,009	774	870	852	-2%
Pending 12/31	7,991	7,977	8,024	10,545	11,979	+14%

² Percent change was not calculated throughout this report for data with fewer than ten cases as small changes at this level become distorted and less meaningful.

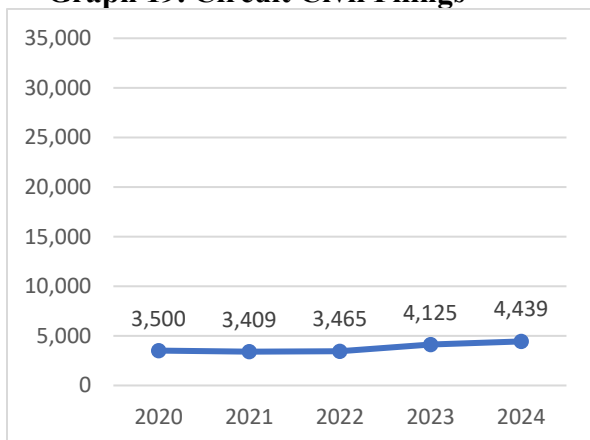
Graph 17. Circuit Civil Filings



Graph 18. Associate Circuit Civil Filings



Graph 19. Circuit Civil Filings



Graph 20. Associate Circuit Civil Filings

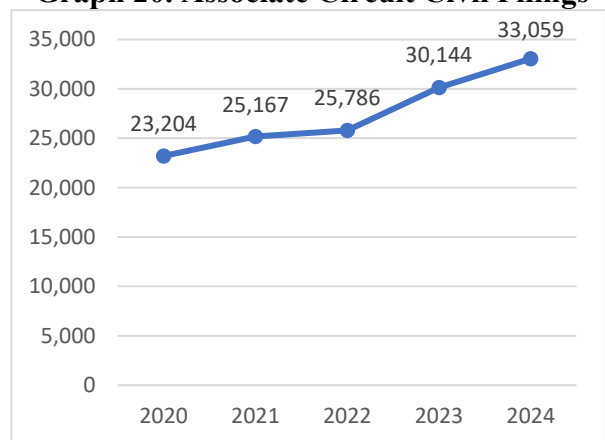


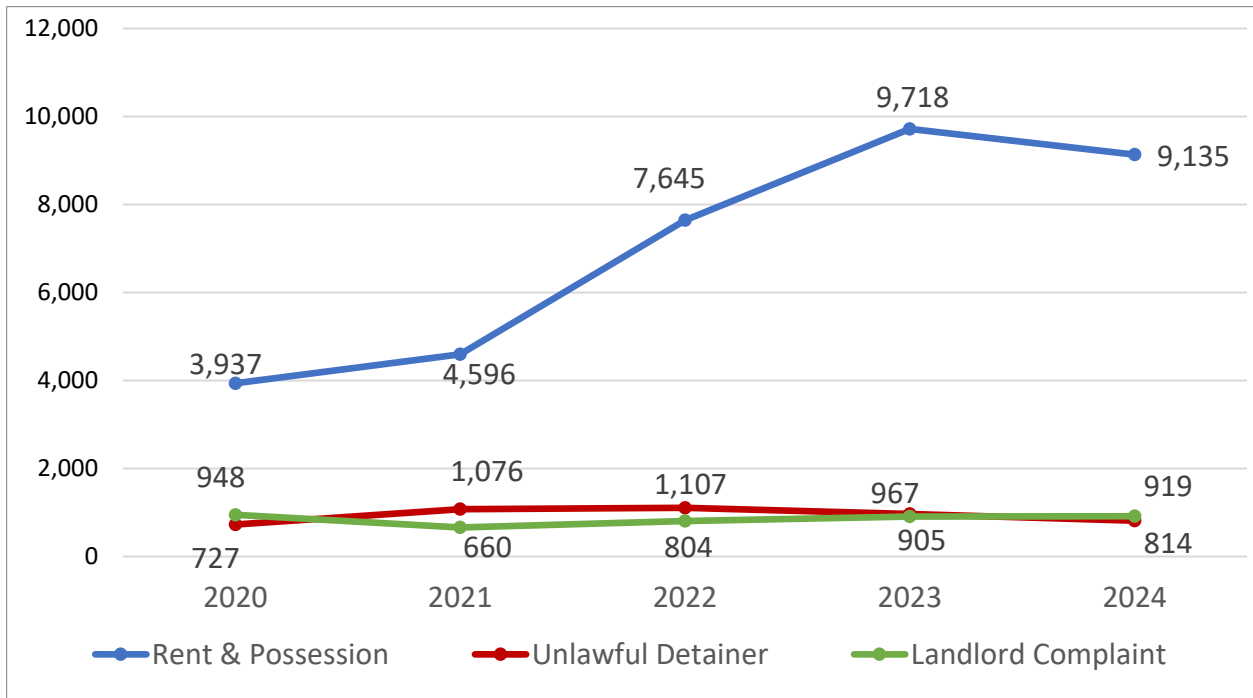
Table 3. Circuit Civil Filings by Case Type

Nature of Action	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% 2024
Personal Injury - Vehicular	655	671	654	701	766	17.3%
Breach of Contract	329	361	374	402	427	9.6%
Personal Injury - Other	330	301	309	329	351	7.9%
Registration of Foreign Judgment (excluding Domestic Relations)	81	54	124	395	335	7.5%
Other Tort	290	238	222	242	249	5.6%
Other Miscellaneous Actions	253	239	197	189	242	5.5%
Declaratory Judgment	68	61	85	63	221	5.0%
Employment Discrimination (Missouri Revised Statutes 213.111)	209	192	156	211	220	5.0%
Other Real Estate Actions	138	125	124	123	146	3.3%
Contract-Other	104	115	96	131	127	2.9%
Wrongful Death	118	107	116	139	124	2.8%
Refusal of Breath Test (Missouri Revised Statutes 302.750/577.04)	71	85	96	89	118	2.7%
Quiet Title	115	152	144	139	104	2.3%
Personal Injury - Malpractice	84	73	71	86	98	2.2%
Suit on Account	51	53	45	54	86	1.9%
Foreclosure	26	11	36	60	82	1.8%
Expungement of Records (Missouri Revised Statutes §610.140)	37	65	95	83	79	1.8%
Small Claims Trial de Novo	29	53	38	57	58	1.3%
Motion under Missouri Rules 29.15 or 24.035 (Post-Conviction Relief)	44	47	51	55	53	1.2%
Out-of-State Witness	6	8	42	58	49	1.1%
Driver's License Revocation Review (Missouri Revised Statutes 302.311)	42	46	28	38	42	0.9%
Property Damage	23	28	32	38	40	0.9%
Other Filings	379	308	318	434	422	9.5%
	3,500	3,409	3,465	4,125	4,439	100.0%

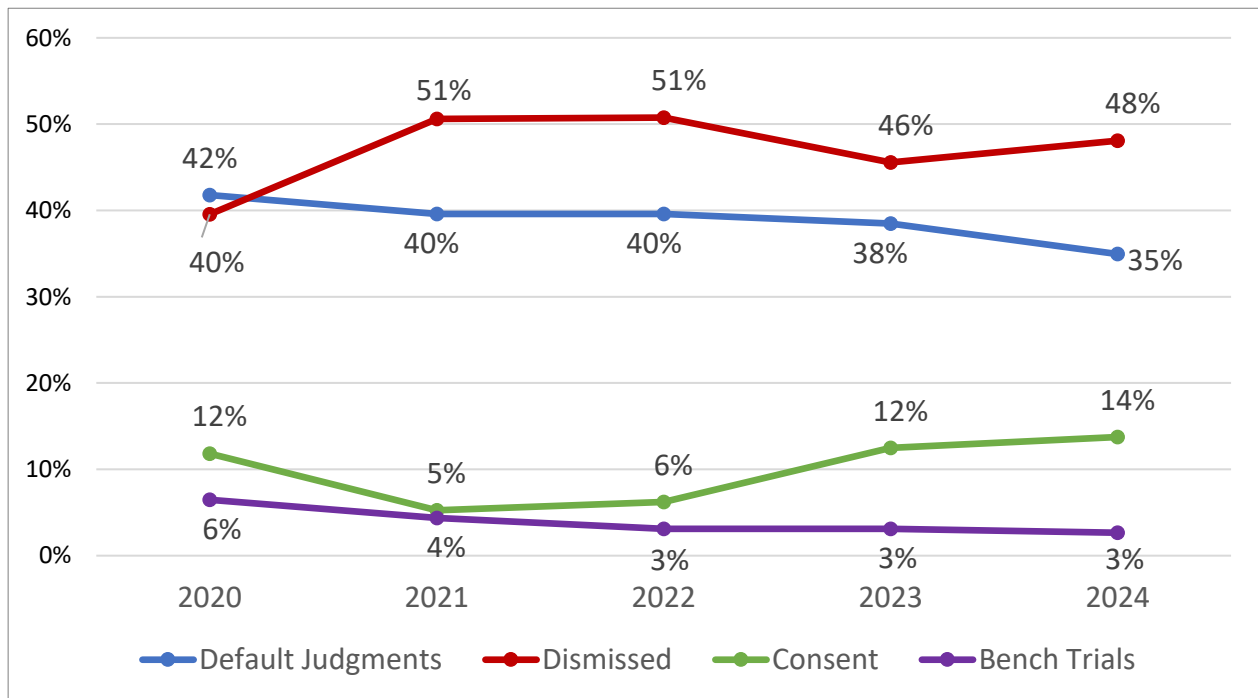
Table 4. Associate Circuit Civil Filings by Case Type

Nature of Action	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% 2024
Suit on Account	5,905	6,729	6,236	7,882	13,124	39.7%
Rent and Possession	3,914	4,562	7,616	9,702	9,128	27.6%
Breach of Contract	4,504	5,484	4,670	5,098	4,470	13.5%
Delinquent City Taxes	3,570	2,644	2,077	1	1,589	4.8%
Landlord Complaint	938	658	802	903	913	2.8%
Small Claims over \$100	730	803	812	1003	896	2.7%
Unlawful Detainer	716	1068	1103	957	808	2.4%
Contract-Other	847	880	553	804	592	1.8%
Promissory Note	275	299	299	181	383	1.2%
Refusal to Submit to Breath Test (Missouri Revised Statutes 302.750 / 577.04)	284	294	388	415	358	1.1%
Property Damage	241	305	299	246	234	0.7%
Miscellaneous Associate Civil - Other	104	114	148	2556	185	0.6%
Other Tort	173	181	149	138	171	0.5%
Driver's License Revocation Review (Missouri Revised Statutes 302.311)	82	96	62	10	64	0.2%
Limited Driving Privileges (Missouri Revised Statutes 302.309)	44	31	28	8	35	0.1%
Substance Abuse Traffic Offender Program Assignment Review	31	43	45	48	26	0.1%
Replevin	20	19	28	24	25	0.1%
Other Real Estate Actions	25	22	7	14	16	0.0%
Other Actions	800	934	464	154	42	0.1%
	23,203	25,166	25,786	30,144	33,059	100.0%

Graph 21. Filings in Rent & Possession, Unlawful Detainer, and Landlord Complaint



Graph 22. Dispositions in Rent & Possession, Unlawful Detainer, and Landlord Complaint



Domestic Filings

The Civil Records Department processes documents in domestic relations cases such as child custody, paternity, and marriage dissolutions but can also involve violent cases such as domestic abuse or stalking. In 2023, non-violent domestic relations filings decreased, largely due to a decrease in marriage dissolutions, and domestic violence filings increased.

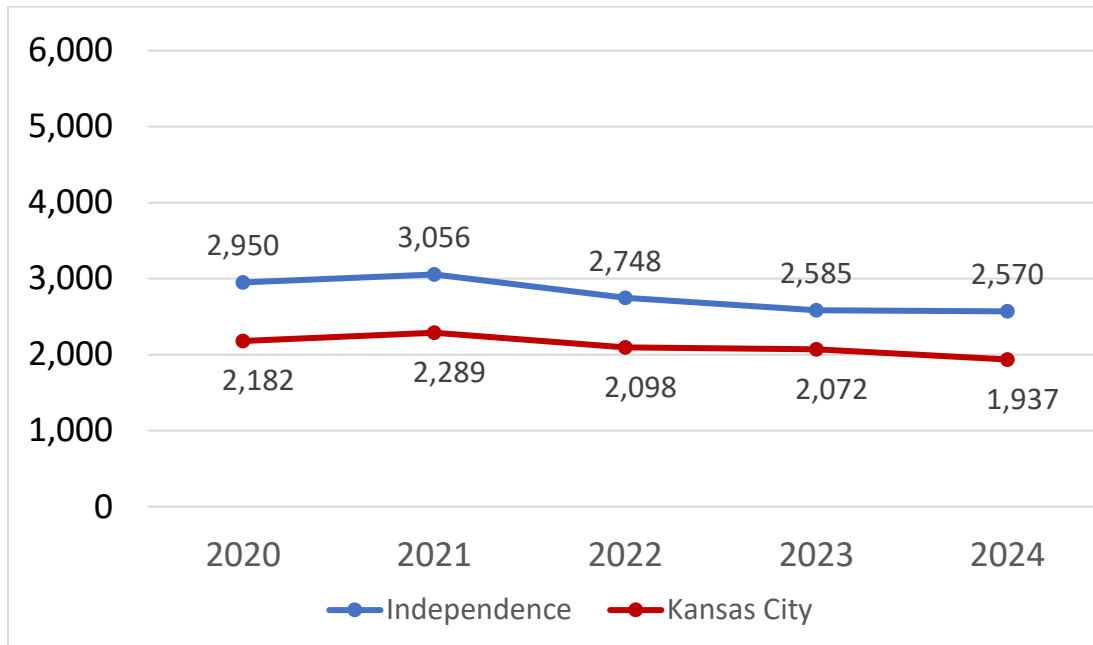
Table 5. Domestic Relations Filings

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	5,132	5,345	4,846	4,657	4,507	-3%
Dispositions	5,062	5,524	5,016	4,936	4,473	-9%
Court Trials	644	719	487	497	416	-16%
Pending 12/31	3,015	2,809	2,605	2,671	2,457	-8%

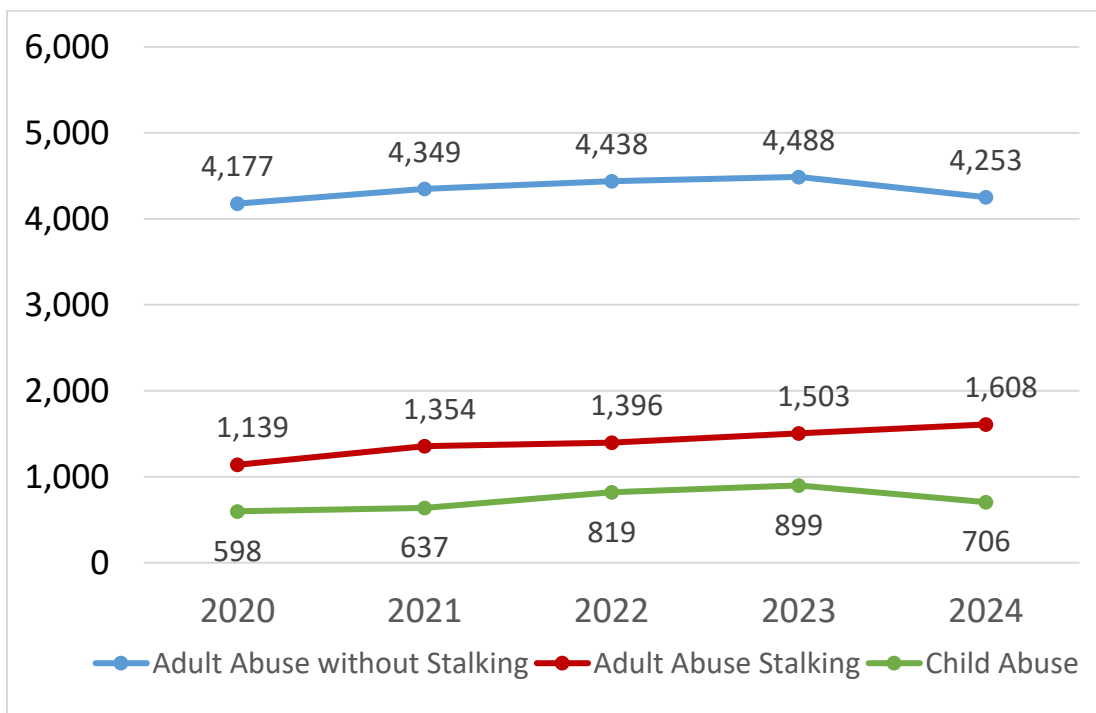
Table 6. Domestic Violence Filings

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	5,914	6,340	6,653	6,890	6,567	-5%
Dispositions	5,839	6,340	6,627	6,831	6,755	-1%
Ex Parte Orders of Protection	3,760	3,544	3,795	3,904	3,689	-6%
Full Orders of Protection	1,000	1,083	1,150	1,109	1,067	-4%
Pending 12/31	695	669	672	835	641	-23%

Graph 23. Domestic Relations Filings



Graph 24. Domestic Violence Filings by Case Type



Graph 25. Dissolutions of Marriage Filed

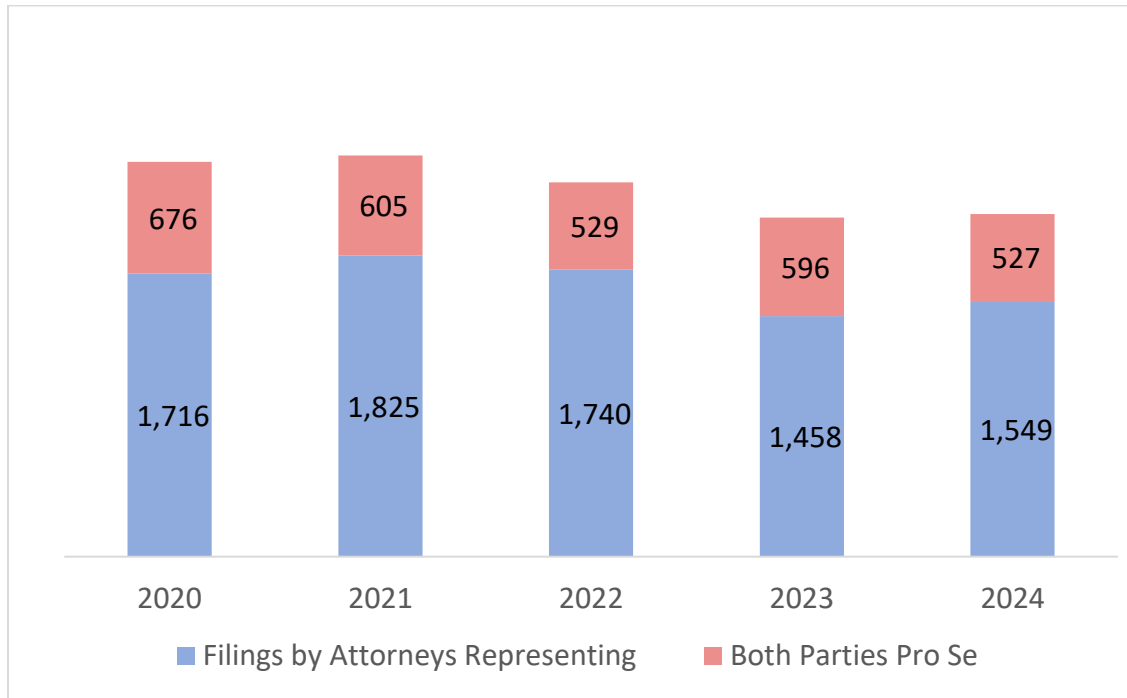


Table 7. Dissolutions by Type of Disposition

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Pro Se	Represented	Pro Se	Represented	Pro Se	Represented	Pro Se	Represented	Pro Se	Represented
Default	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	3%	5%	2%	4%
Tried by Court	7%	7%	11%	8%	6%	8%	7%	7%	4%	7%
Consent	75%	74%	63%	72%	76%	69%	71%	73%	81%	73%
Dismissed by Court	9%	4%	16%	6%	10%	7%	14%	5%	8%	6%
Dismissed by Parties	3%	7%	1%	7%	3%	8%	3%	6%	3%	7%
Other	2%	4%	4%	2%	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%

"Pro Se" indicates both parties were pro se at disposition. "Represented" cases are those where one or both parties were represented by attorneys at disposition.

Criminal Records Department

The Criminal Records Department's mission is to provide accurate, efficient, and effective case management for all criminal, traffic, municipal ordinance, conservation, railroad, and watercraft tickets/cases in Jackson County, Missouri. Core responsibilities fall under three areas: case initiation, case action, and financial. Each area is critical in achieving our mission to provide accurate, efficient, and effective case management.

Case initiation responsibilities include the review/initiation/audit of all criminal, traffic, municipal ordinance, conservation, railroad, and watercraft tickets/cases filed electronically through Show Me Courts (SMC). This includes issuing and auditing initial warrants and summons by order of the Court, processing electronically filed search warrants/returns, pen registers, and processing of paper/electronic municipal appeals/change of venue/demand for jury trials.

Case Action responsibilities include entering data into the Show Me Courts (SMC) electronic system for all post-arraignment activity. This consists of issuing and auditing capias warrants (probation violation, failure to appear, etc.) and data entry from court proceedings, including arraignments, transfers, preliminary hearings, judgments, and probations. Additional responsibilities include reviewing and processing all electronic/paper filings received from various agencies/attorneys, reconciliation of disposition errors/discrepancies, processing orders of expungements, records requests, redaction, and e-casing paper files into an electronic format.

Financial responsibilities include maintaining financial records for all criminal, traffic, municipal ordinance, conservation, railroad, and watercraft filings from inception through post-disposition. Daily activities include assessing costs and receipting monies paid for bail bonds and court costs, preparing payment plans for unpaid costs, and preparing bond paperwork. Additional duties include reviewing e-filing queues to receive and process filings and assignments from divisions, attorneys, and certain third-party filers, and preparing end-of-day reconciliation of cashier sessions.

Felonies, Misdemeanors, Search Warrants

In 2023, Criminal Records processed 5,654 new felony cases, 2,080 new misdemeanor cases, and 1,531 new search warrants. Whereas misdemeanors have remained relatively steady over the past five years, felony filings dropped precipitously following the COVID pandemic, and have not returned to previous figures. Search warrants have also steadily decreased since 2020.

Table 8. Felony Filings & Dispositions

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	6,111	5,752	5,551	5,654	6,332	+12%
Extraditions ³	720	863	947	889	939	+6%
Dispositions ⁴	2,870	3,293	3,129	3,082	3,038	-1%
Jury Trials	14	41	22	37	25	-32%
Court Trials	5	10	6	4	3	—
Pending 12/31	3,787	3,126	2,518	2,219	2,460	+11%

Table 9. Misdemeanor Filings & Dispositions

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	1,901	2,268	2,670	2,080	1,864	-10%
Dispositions	1,428	1,850	2,368	1,935	2,071	+7%
Jury Trials	0	2	1	0	0	—
Court Trials	7	12	19	2	1	—
Pending 12/31	1,211	1,144	900	910	987	+8%

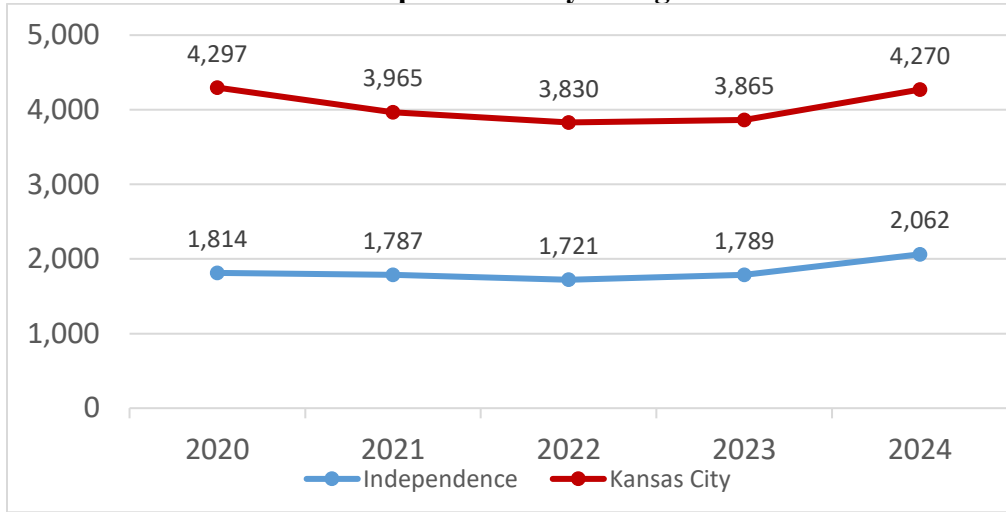
Table 10. Search Warrant Filings & Dispositions

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	2,198	1,938	1,794	1,531	2,302	+50%
Returns	2,197	1,928	1,793	1,526	2,299	+51%

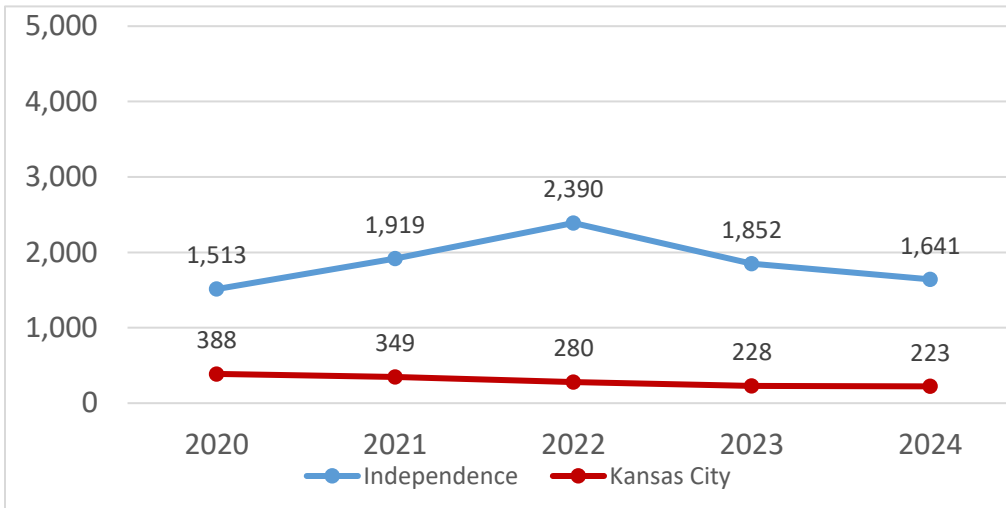
³ Extradition filings and dispositions are not included within the felony counts.

⁴ Includes final dispositions only (bind overs, grand jury indictments, and suspended cases excluded.)

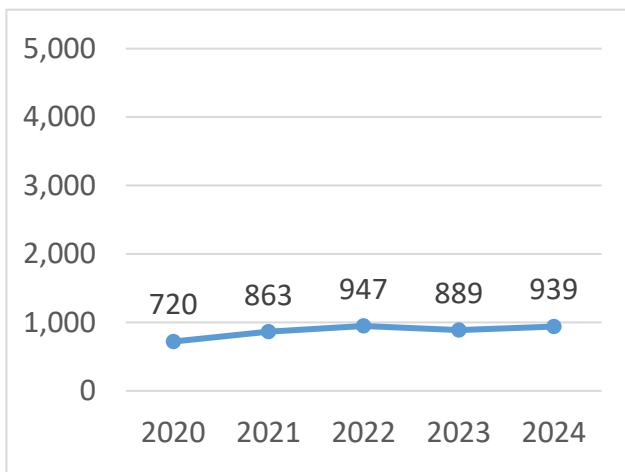
Graph 26. Felony Filings



Graph 27. Misdemeanor Filings



Graph 28. Extraditions



Graph 29. Search Warrant Applications

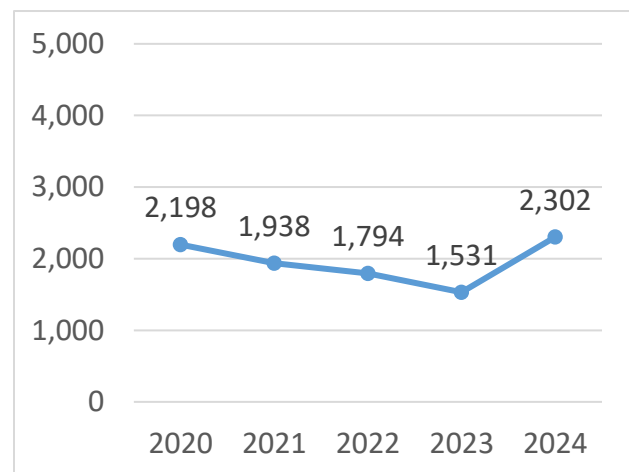


Table 11. Felony Filings by Highest Charge Filed in Case⁵

Charge	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% 2024 Felonies
Tampering in the First Degree - Motor Vehicle	382	388	453	547	683	13%
Possession of a Controlled Substance	1,156	1,620	1,175	595	613	11%
Unlawful Possession of a Firearm	218	315	352	360	449	8%
Stealing - \$750 Or More	176	170	198	215	324	6%
Burglary - 2nd Degree	173	210	188	196	256	5%
DWI - Persistent Offender	136	191	197	183	222	4%
Domestic Assault - 2nd Degree	236	211	205	168	156	3%
Robbery - 1 st Degree	26	120	112	125	139	3%
Property Damage - 1 st Degree	57	68	69	71	117	2%
Forgery	115	108	102	128	116	2%
Other Charges	2,715	1,485	1,555	2,181	2,312	43%

Table 12. Sentencing in Felony Cases

	Probation		Confinement	
	SIS	SES	Jackson Co. Jail	Dept. of Corrections
2024	18%	35%	12%	34%
2023	17%	37%	10%	35%
2022	15%	37%	12%	35%
2021	19%	36%	12%	33%
2020	21%	40%	13%	26%

⁵ This table presents charge information for initial F1 and F2 cases filed in 2024.

Table 13. Misdemeanor Filings by Highest Charge Filed in Case

Charge	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% 2024 Misdemeanors
Owner Operate Motor Vehicle Without Financial Responsibility - 1st Offense	495	659	921	747	507	27%
Driving While Intoxicated	387	363	416	375	400	21%
Operate Motor Vehicle Without Valid Driver's License - 1st Offense	145	243	304	299	234	13%
Driving While License is Suspended/Revoked - 1st Offense	234	276	327	259	216	12%
Possession of Reproduced/Modified/Altered Driver's License	1	2	109	39	145	8%
Driving While Intoxicated - With Prior	42	76	62	44	57	3%
Minor in Possession, Attempted Purchase, or Possession of Liquor - First Offense	2	0	41	37	47	3%
Operating a Motor Vehicle Carelessly Resulting in an Accident	74	106	52	35	45	2%
Resisting or Interfering with Arrest, Detention, or Stop	15	23	21	31	21	1%
Trespass in the First Degree - Gambling Boat	38	23	37	30	18	1%
Other Charges	468	497	380	188	174	9%

Table 14. Sentencing in Misdemeanor Cases

	Fine	SIS	SES	Jackson Co. Jail
2024	56%	32%	8%	4%
2023	58%	28%	10%	4%
2022	60%	28%	8%	4%
2021	55%	32%	9%	4%
2020	48%	34%	10%	9%

**Traffic,
Ordinance,
Municipal
Appeals, &
Drug Court**

Traffic filings in Jackson County increased significantly in 2021 and remained high in 2022. 2023 saw a 23% decline, suggesting a potential reversal in the upward trend. Municipal Appeal filings and Adult Treatment Court filings also declined substantially.

There are 16 municipal courts in Jackson County that hear misdemeanor and infraction cases. The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri reviews these cases upon appeal.

Table 15. Traffic & Ordinance Filings⁶

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	5,345	8,284	8,239	6,344	5,377	-15%
Dispositions	4,385	6,717	7,799	5,905	6,550	+11%
Court Trials	7	19	22	19	4	-79%
Pending 12/31	4,442	4,172	4,393	4,053	3,392	-16%

Table 16. Municipal Appeal Filings

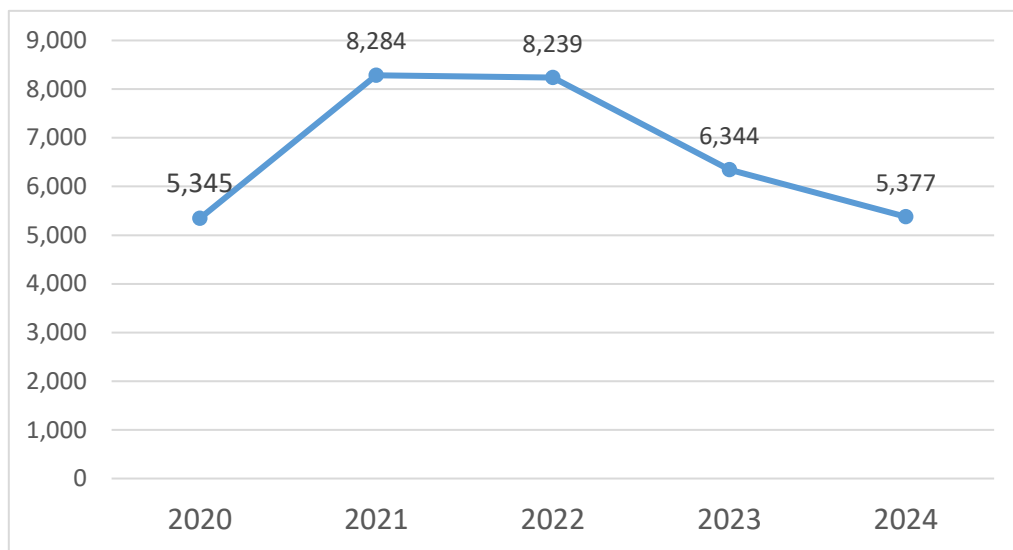
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	277	484	367	313	373	+19%
Dispositions	271	407	464	289	341	+18%
Jury Trials	0	4	2	2	2	—
Court Trials	31	14	17	27	22	-19%
Pending 12/31	57	20	71	77	103	+34%

Table 17. Adult Treatment Court Filings

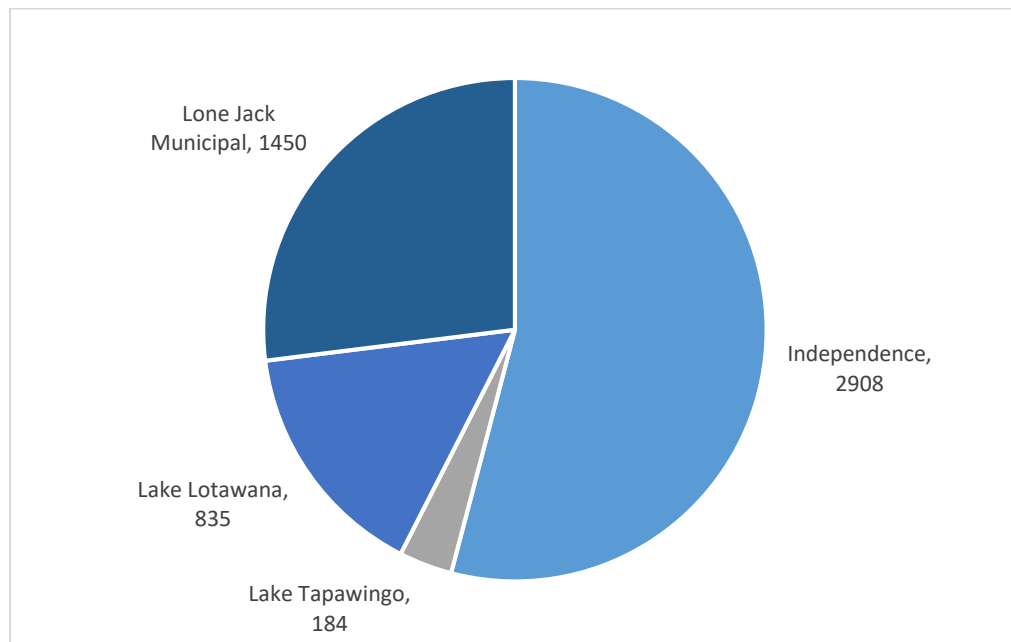
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	256	299	279	205	161	-21%
Dispositions	342	222	317	277	258	-7%
Successful Completion	235	166	220	151	152	+1%
Pending 12/31	1,395	1,459	1,038	858	821	-4%

⁶ Lake Lotawana traffic and municipal filings were added July 1, 2019.

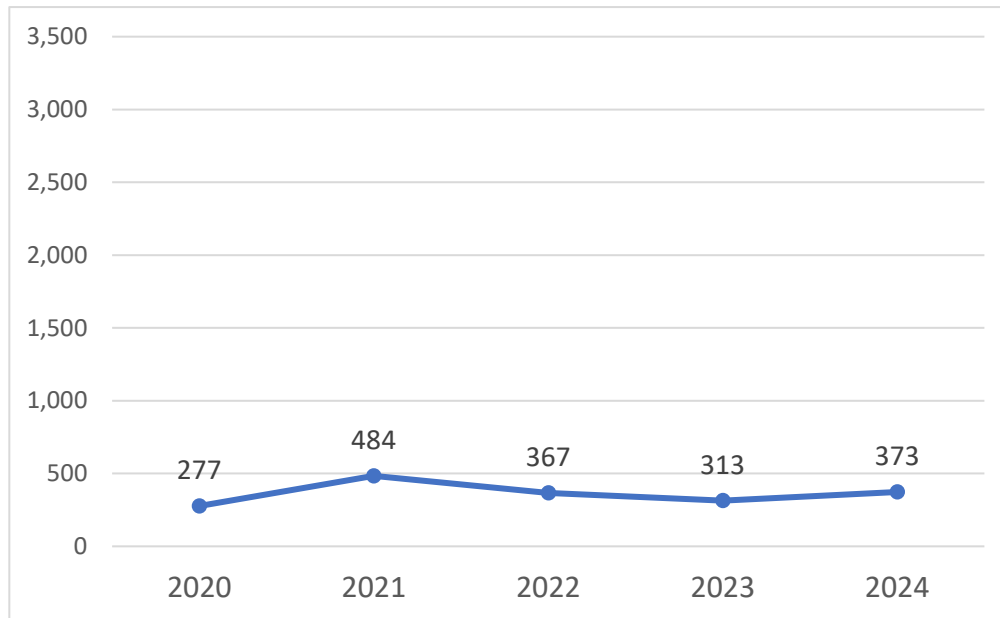
Graph 30. Traffic & Municipal Ordinance Filings



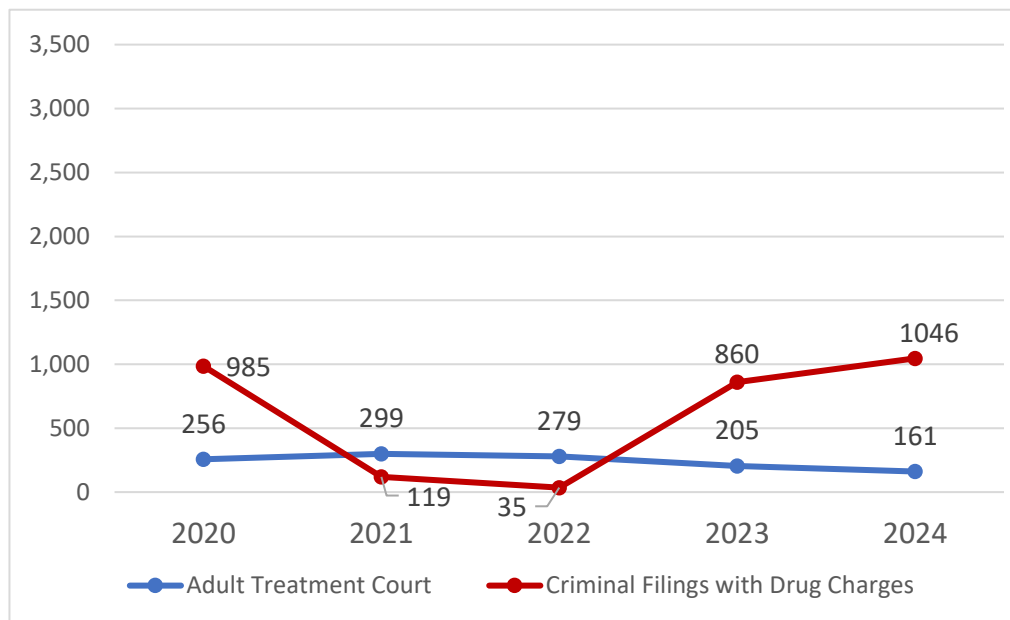
Graph 31. Traffic & Municipal Ordinance Filings by Location



Graph 32. Municipal Appeal Filings



Graph 33. Filings with Drug Charges and ATC Filings



Probate Records

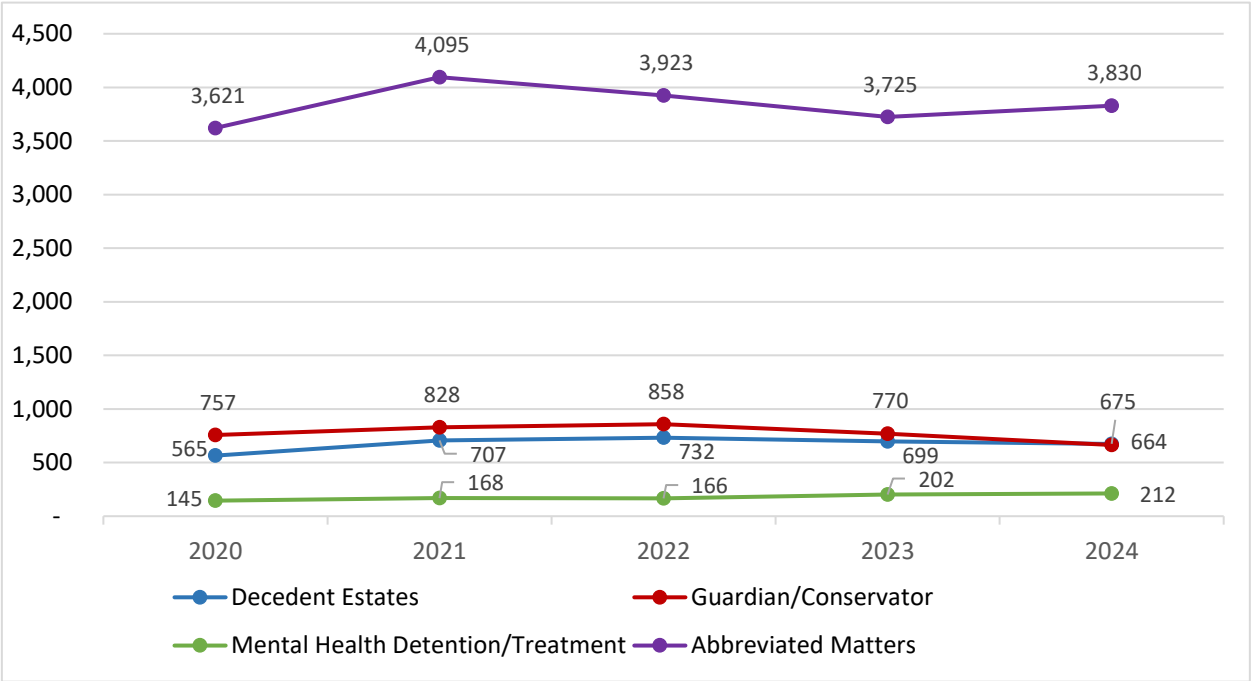
The Probate Department facilitates the processing of estates involving deceased persons and incapacitated and disabled adults and minors. The department also oversees the ongoing administration of those estates and processes civil commitment to treatment facilities for persons who have a mental illness.

Other probate matters include trust registrations, trust litigations, and cases involving the institutionalization of persons alleged to be sexually violent predators. The Probate Department maintains the probate case file records and provides access to such records in accordance with court rules.

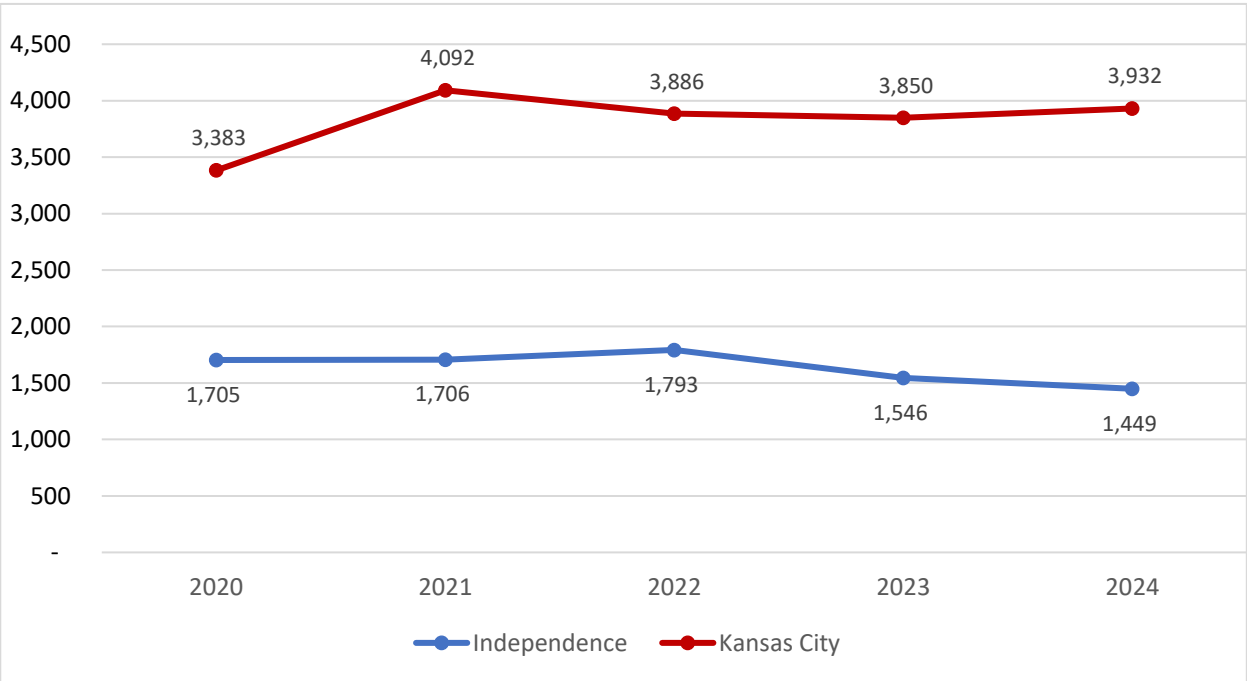
Table 18. Probate Filings

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Filings	5,088	5,798	5,679	5,396	5,381	+0%
Decedent Estates	565	707	732	699	675	-3%
Guardian/Conservator	757	828	858	770	664	-14%
Mental Health/Additional Detention/Treatment	145	168	166	202	212	+5%
Abbreviated Probate Matters	3,621	4,095	3,923	3,725	3,830	+3%
Dispositions	4,782	5,493	5,348	5,548	5,538	+0%
Pending 12/31	7,855	8,288	8,536	8,225	8,066	-2%

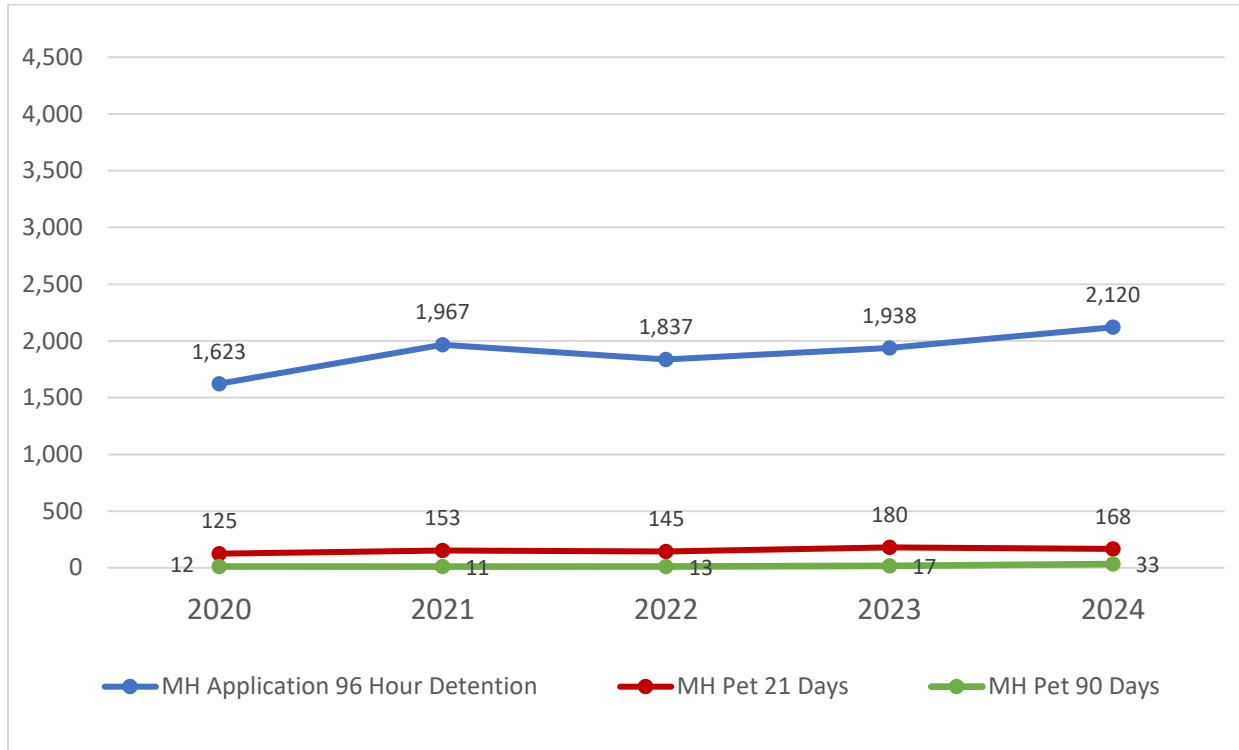
Graph 34. Probate Filings by Type



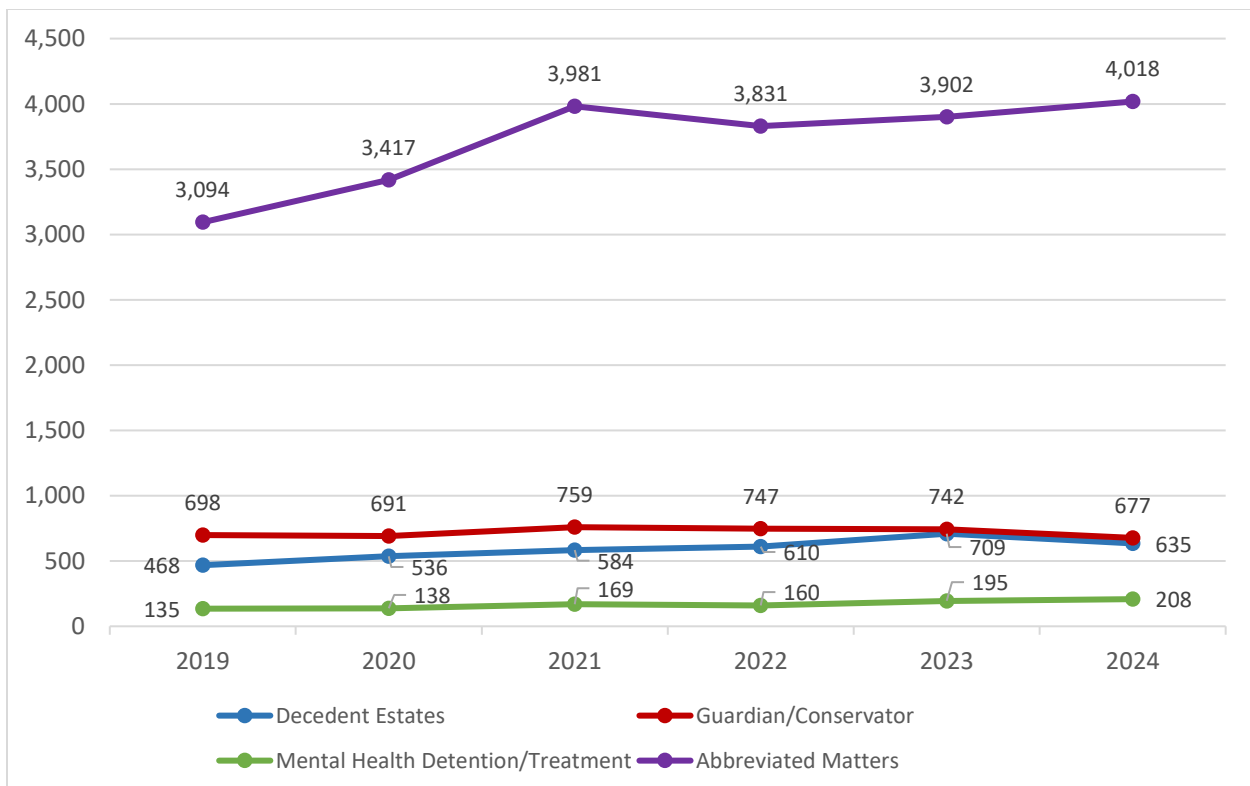
Graph 35. Probate Filings by Location



Graph 36. Mental Health Filings



Graph 37. Probate Dispositions by Type



Civil Process

The Department of Civil Process serves summonses, notices, protection orders, and subpoenas within the Circuit. Civil Process also executes pre and post-judgment orders and writs, such as orders of delivery, restitution, and garnishment. Additionally, the department is responsible for conducting the annual Court Administrator's Delinquent Land Tax (DLT) sale in Kansas City and Independence while maintaining proper records of all relevant documents.

Table 19. Pre-Judgment Process

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Number Served	8,214	10,365	10,595	11,640	11,797	+1%
% Served	58%	63%	65%	64%	63%	-1%
Incorrect Addresses	3,486	3,567	2,962	3,219	4,003	+24%
Unable to Contact	2,441	2,471	2,738	3,438	2,923	-15%
Total Pre-Judgment Process	14,141	16,403	16,295	18,297	18,723	+2%

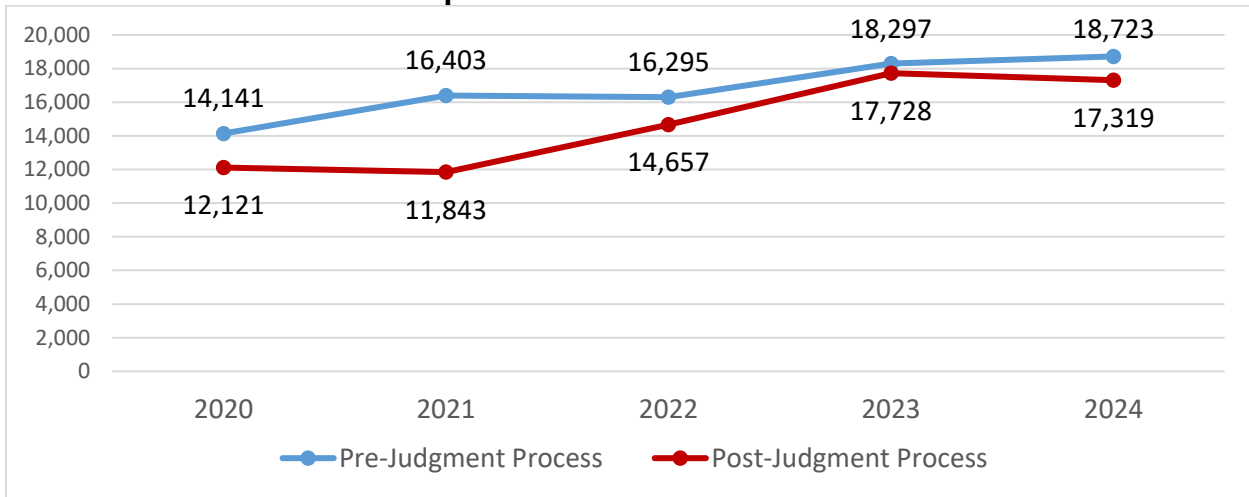
Table 20. Post-Judgment Process

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Levies and Garnishments	6,289	6,767	7,677	9,473	9,444	+0%
Evictions	2,239	1,868	3,182	4,364	3,910	-10%
Attachments and Replevins	114	51	12	17	16	-6%
Protective Orders Served	1,088	1,089	1,074	949	1,188	+25%
Protective Orders—Unable to Contact	2,391	2,068	2,786	2,986	2,761	-8%
Total Post-Judgment Process	12,121	11,843	14,657	17,728	17,319	-3%
Total Papers	26,262	28,246	30,952	36,025	36,042	+0%

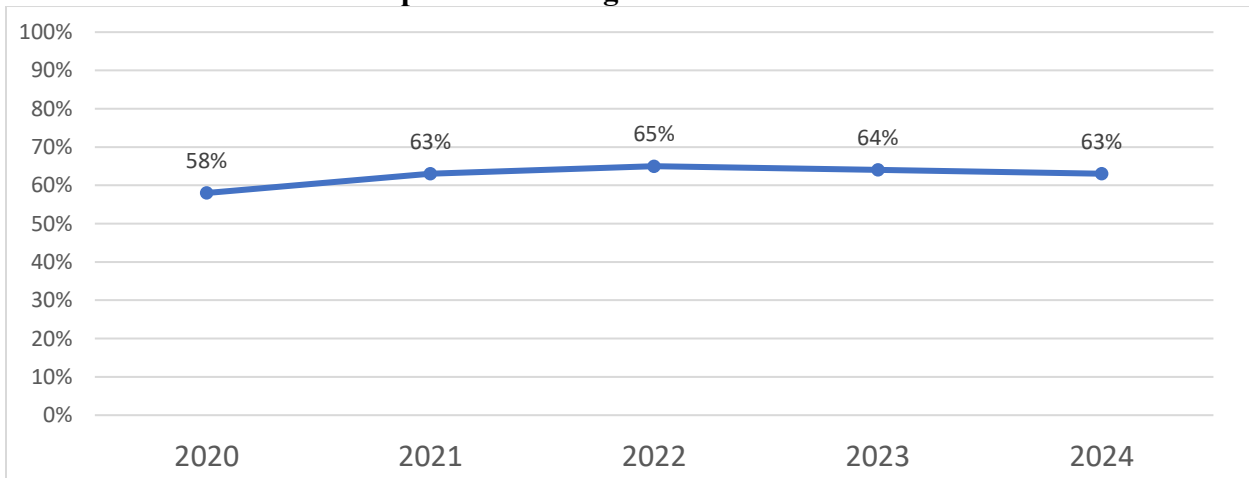
Table 21. Delinquent Land Tax Sale

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Parcels Offered for Sale	0	748	366	432	413	-4%
Parcels Sold	0	531	276	324	297	-8%
Gross Revenue Generated	\$0	\$7,789,803	\$4,183,861	\$5,217,713	\$4,099,764	-21%

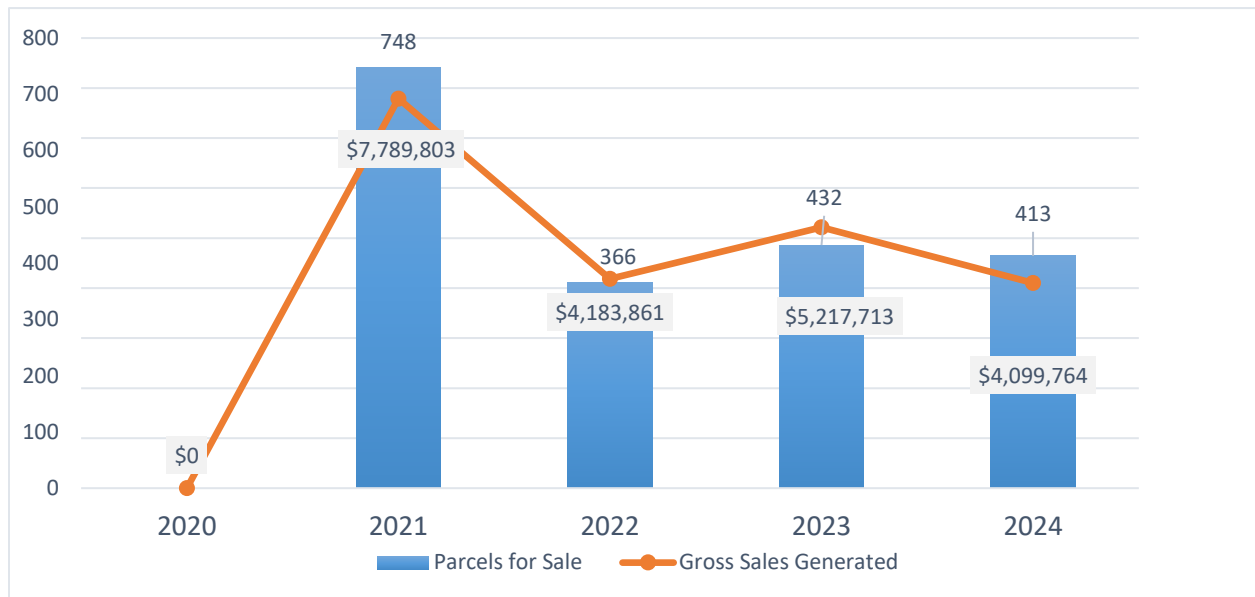
Graph 38. Civil Process Workloads



Graph 39. Pre-Judgment Service Returns



Graph 40. Delinquent Land Tax Gross Sales and Parcels Offered for Sale



Jury

The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri utilizes jury rooms in Independence and Kansas City. It follows a one-day/one-trial system for the jury process to minimize disrupting jurors' normal lives. Through this process, the Court summons jurors for a specific date and instructs them to call or check the Court's website the night preceding and again the morning of their scheduled service to ensure their reporting instructions remain the same. In some cases, the Court may cancel all or some of the jurors it has summoned, and jurors can determine this from emails or texts received or by following the instructions to check for updates just prior to their scheduled service.

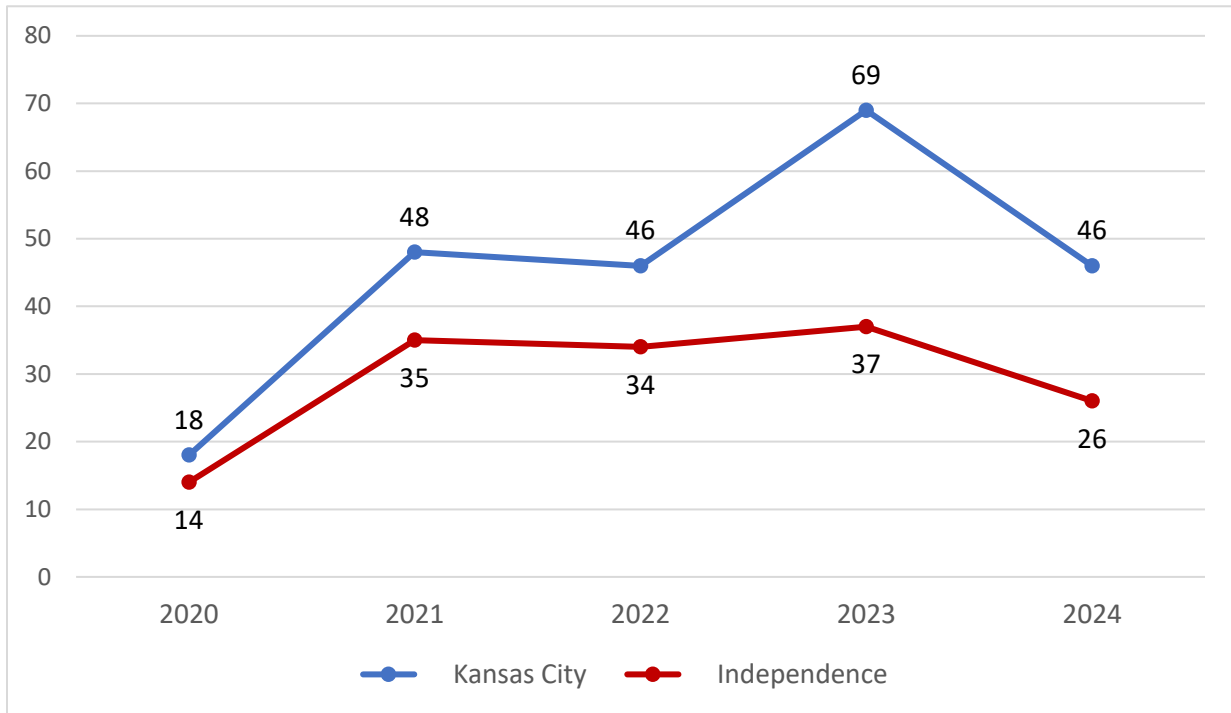
When jurors are required to report, they generally undergo only one jury selection process. If selected, they serve for the duration of the trial. If not selected, their service usually concludes at the end of the selection process, which is typically completed on the first day a juror reports.

When a judge has a case set for trial, they request a group of prospective jurors, commonly known as a 'panel.' Show Me Jury is used to randomly select the number of prospective jurors requested from that day's jury pool to form the panel. From this panel, 12 jurors, along with one or more alternate jurors, are selected to serve as the jury for the trial.

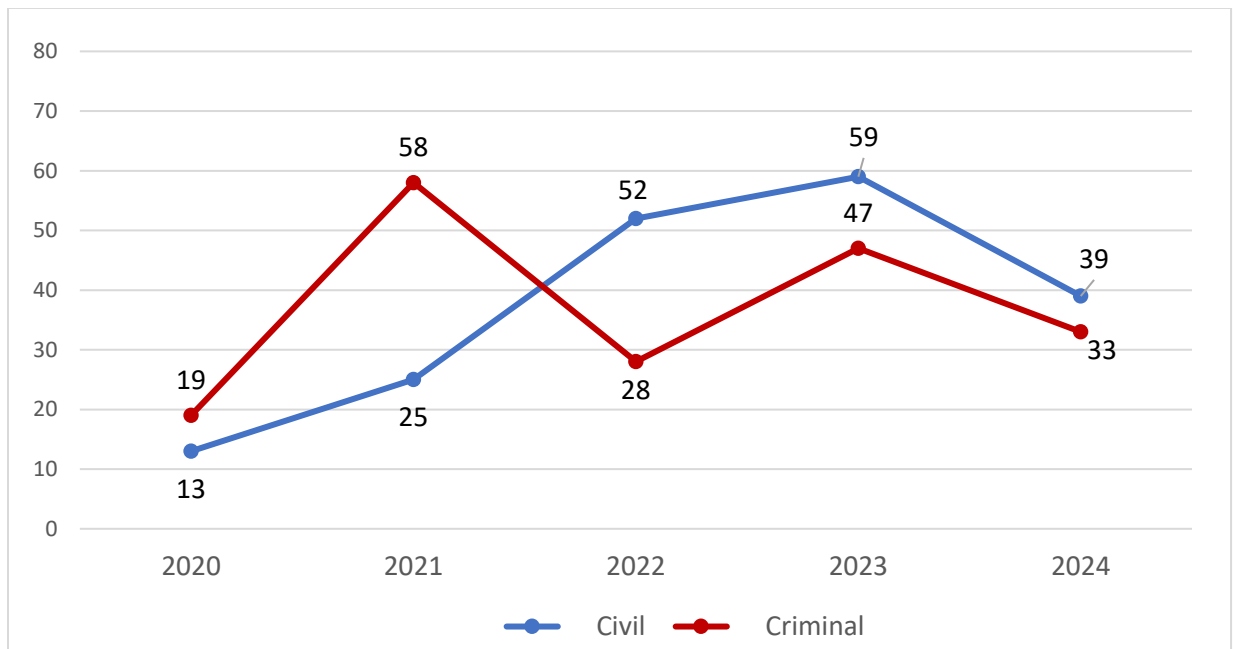
Table 22. Jurors

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Trials	32	83	80	106	72	-32%
Civil	13	25	52	59	39	-34%
Criminal	19	58	28	47	33	-30%
Available Jurors	4,007	5,070	5,546	8,563	6,392	-25%
Independence	1,490	2,027	2,005	2,761	2,505	-9%
Kansas City	2,517	3,043	3,541	5,802	3,887	-33%
Jurors Sent to Divisions	1,881	4,465	4,384	6,587	4,553	-31%
Independence	785	1,723	1,724	2,262	1,707	-25%
Kansas City	1,096	2,742	2,660	4,325	2,846	-34%
Jurors Yield	13%	8%	9%	14%	11%	-21%
Percentage Sent for Jury Selection	47%	88%	79%	77%	71%	-8%
Percentage Selected as Jurors	12%	23%	20%	17%	16%	-6%

Graph 41. Jury Trials by Location



Graph 42. Jury Trials by Type



Court Information Technology

The Court Information Technology (CIT) Department is responsible for developing and implementing software solutions that meet the Court's specific needs. CIT also oversees the procurement, maintenance, and disposal of computer equipment and manages the Court's network infrastructure.

CIT provides user support services and conducts training sessions to familiarize users with new technologies. The department also takes proactive measures to enhance cybersecurity defenses and protect the Court from potential threats.

Furthermore, CIT oversees various IT projects, from planning and budgeting to coordinating project activities to ensure successful outcomes.

2024 Key CIT Projects included:

- **Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Replacement:**
Replaced all circuit UPS devices, which allow mission critical equipment to continue running, even during a brief power outage.
- **Recabled DIVs 4 & 14:**
Worked with vendors to recable Divisions 4 and 14 to make their networks more stable and remove any unnecessary equipment.
- **Family Court Internet Circuit:**
Installed a separate internet circuit at Family Court to reduce strain on the downtown grid.
- **Installation/Setup of the NAS for FC:**
Set up a Network Attached Storage (NAS) device for Family Court to store their data.
- **eFax Project:**
Deployed a new faxing method for the Courts.
- **Bitlocker Rollout:**
Deployed Bitlocker (data security application) on almost 300 Court users' laptops to create another layer of security.
- **eWarrant Email Process:**
Made the eWarrant email process more secure.
- **Disaster Recovery Site Upgrade:**
Our Engineers upgraded our equipment and made our Disaster Recovery site more reliable.
- **REJIS:**
Worked with REJIS and our engineers to establish a site-to-site connection with REJIS for better reliability.
- **New Video Teleconferencing Device Install:**
Our technicians installed new VTC's in the Court en Banc room in KC and (7) new video conferencing devices in courtrooms throughout the Circuit.

- **DLT (Delinquent Land Tax):**
Completed in-house software rewrite and implemented new version in live system. Tested side-by-side during the August 2024 DLT Sale.
- **UCP (Unclaimed Property):**
In-house software rewrite completed and implemented in production environment.
- **MTS (Materials Tracking System):**
CIT rewrote the software, which is now live in daily operations.
- **Mobile Phones:**
Upgraded over 110 court-owned mobile devices.
- **Intranet Connections:**
Intranet Connections software will replace Courtnet and Confluence as the Courtwide intranet solution. Members of the network, administration, and development teams have collaborated to launch an initial on-premise instance. The CIT team is currently migrating from Confluence and is nearing completion.

Table 23. Court Information Technology

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Help Desk Tickets Opened	8,799	8,588	7,480	6,970	5,968	-14%
Project-Related Tickets Opened	2,642	2,607	3,092	1,950	1,974	+1%
JIS + SMC ⁷	65	46	42	28	38	+36%
EPICOR ⁸	298	145	85	40	0	-100%
Delinquent Land Tax + DLT Rewrite ⁹	92	97	189	113	67	-41%
Unclaimed Property	12	8	10	25	29	+16%
Mobile Devices	148	223	169	62	112	+81%
Operations	390	597	857	816	706	-13%
Security ¹⁰	593	533	79	57	43	-25%
Network	188	150	97	145	101	-30%
Internet/Intranet	62	43	29	58	50	-14%
Special Projects	716	63	59	26	39	+50%
Other Projects ¹¹	78	647	566	158	38	-76%
Employee Status Change	—	—	910	234	201	-14%
Workday + Service Desk	—	—	—	174	409	+135%
Cisco Phone Implementation ¹²	—	—	—	—	20	—
eWarrants	73	76	82	54	72	+33%

⁷ Here, JIS tickets are combined with SMC (Show-Me Courts) tickets.

⁸ Workday has replaced Epicor completely in 2024.

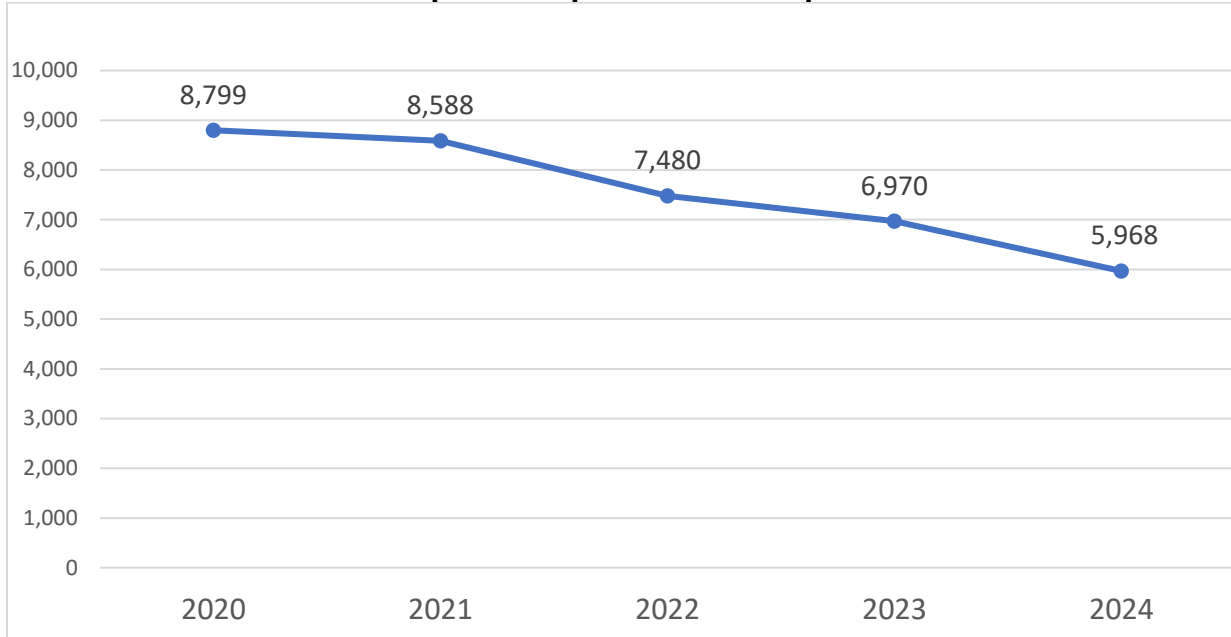
⁹ Delinquent Land Tax (DLT) tickets are combined with DLT-rewrite(DLTR) tickets.

¹⁰ Security issues are being processed differently now, via HD tickets, and so 43 issues under Security project is an underestimation.

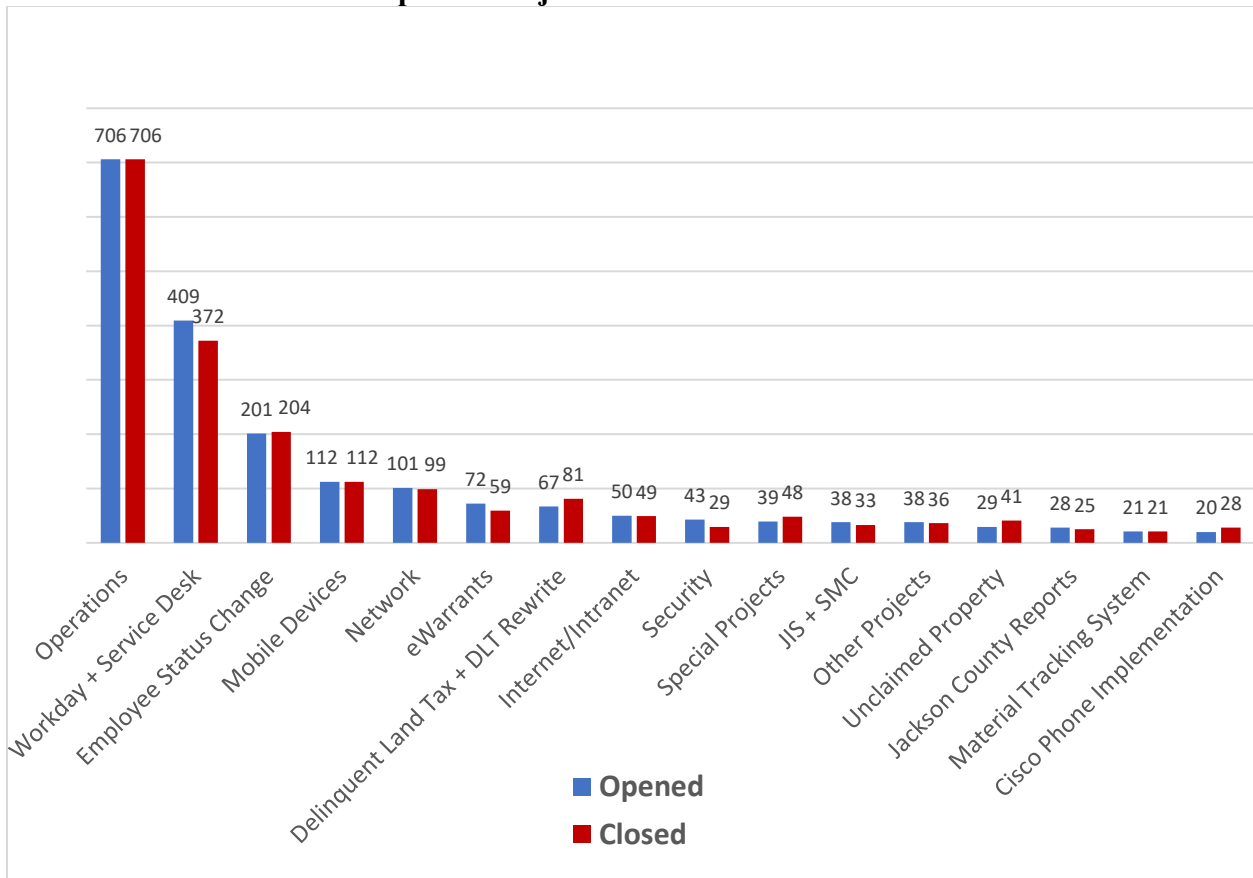
¹¹ "Other Projects" include: Database Administration, Jackson County Reports, eFiling, IBM Lotus Notes, Loaner Program, Online Requisition, Software Installation and more.

¹² Cisco Phone implementation is a new project in 2024. Material Tracking System is an upgrade project for an outdated existing program.

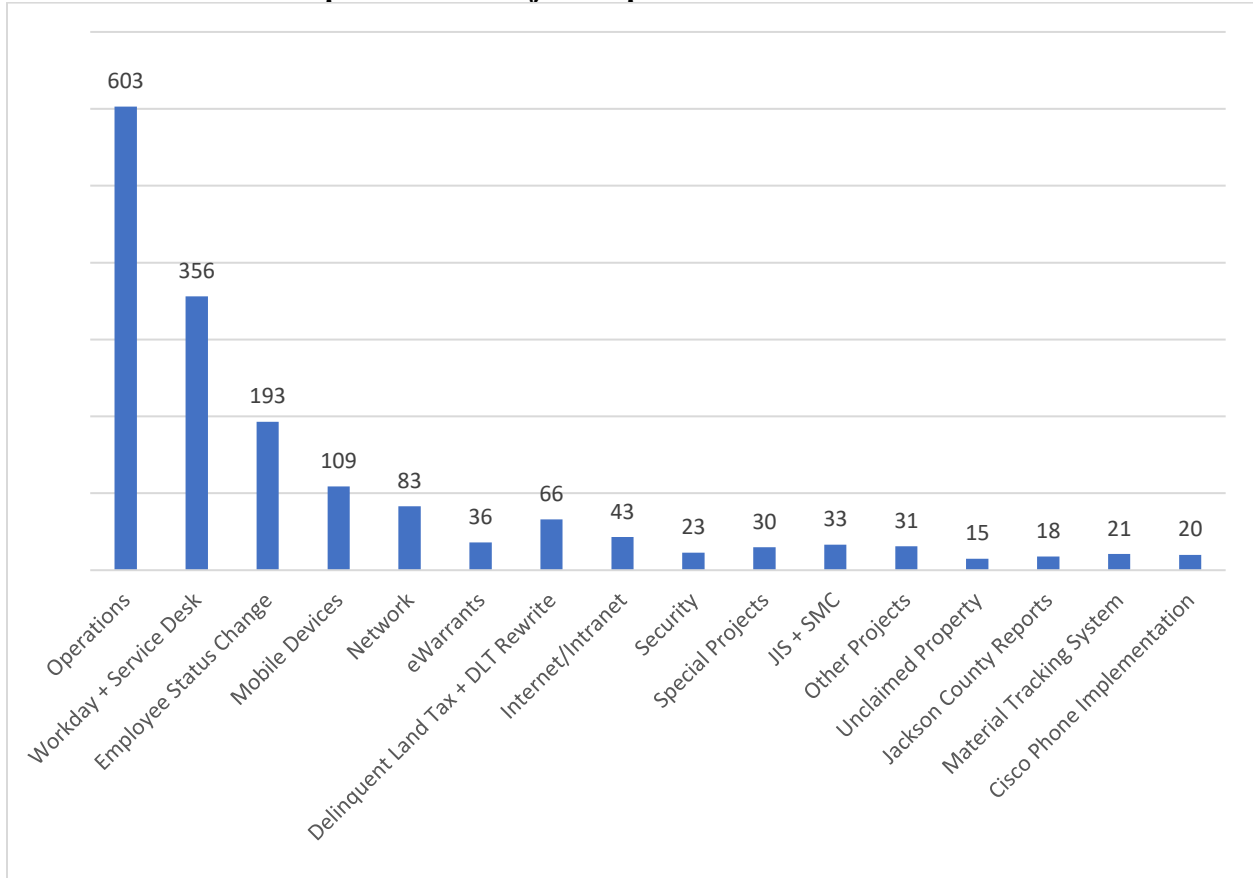
Graph 43. Help Desk Tickets Opened



Graph 44. Project-Related Tickets in 2024



Graph 44. CIT Projects Opened AND Closed in 2024



Family Court

The Family Court Division of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit includes four Divisions, one Administrative Judge and four Commissioners. These judicial officers hear cases including child abuse and neglects allegations, delinquency allegations, termination of parental rights and adoption.

The Office of the Juvenile Officer is charged with responsibilities under Missouri law to intervene in the lives of families and children, when necessary, to help our community protect children and promote community safety and well-being. The Juvenile Office serves in a quasi-prosecutorial role in both child dependency and delinquency matters, which cases must be filed by the Juvenile Officer pursuant to the Juvenile Code. The Juvenile Officer's Legal Department consists of attorneys and paralegals who provide legal representation to the office in Chapter 211 juvenile cases. The Legal Department represents Deputy Juvenile Officers in our Case Assessment Unit and helps present their recommendations to the Court.

Family Court Services' mission is threefold: to hold youth accountable for harm caused to others, to develop the skills for successful navigation of adolescence into adulthood, and to protect the community. The mission reflects the concerns of balanced and restorative justice, a philosophy rooted in the belief that people can change and contribute positively to their communities. Family Court Services works to reduce risks for youth through collaborative, community-based services that teach parenting skills, address issues of substance abuse, and provide vocational and life skills.

In seeking to carry out its mission, Family Court Services pursues the following goals:

- To protect the community's rights, safety, property, and interests;
- To protect the juveniles' rights and ensure safe, nurturing, and learning-conducive environments;
- To hold juvenile offenders accountable for community and victim losses;
- To increase the competency and skills of juveniles and families to live lawfully and productively;
- To introduce, assist, and support community endeavors in identifying "at risk" juveniles in providing appropriate, collaborative, and successful positive interventions;
- To be empirically accountable to the community for delivering necessary and appropriate services to juveniles, families, and victims coming to the attention of the Family Court.

Table 24. Family Court Filings

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Referrals Filed	2,051	2,068	1,954	1,924	2,136	+11%
Abuse and Neglect	1,097	1,030	771	645	717	+11%
Delinquency	861	977	1,135	1,171	1,329	+13%
Status Offense	93	61	48	108	90	-17%
Formal Filings by Person ¹³	1,728	1,683	1,562	1,336	1,055	-21%
Abuse and Neglect	983	976	787	597	443	-26%
Delinquency	222	259	315	373	322	-14%
Status Offense	3	3	19	12	13	+8%
Adoption	257	256	241	188	141	-25%
Termination of Parental Rights	210	113	127	77	65	-16%
Certification	34	60	46	60	47	-22%

Table 25. Child Welfare Programs and Services

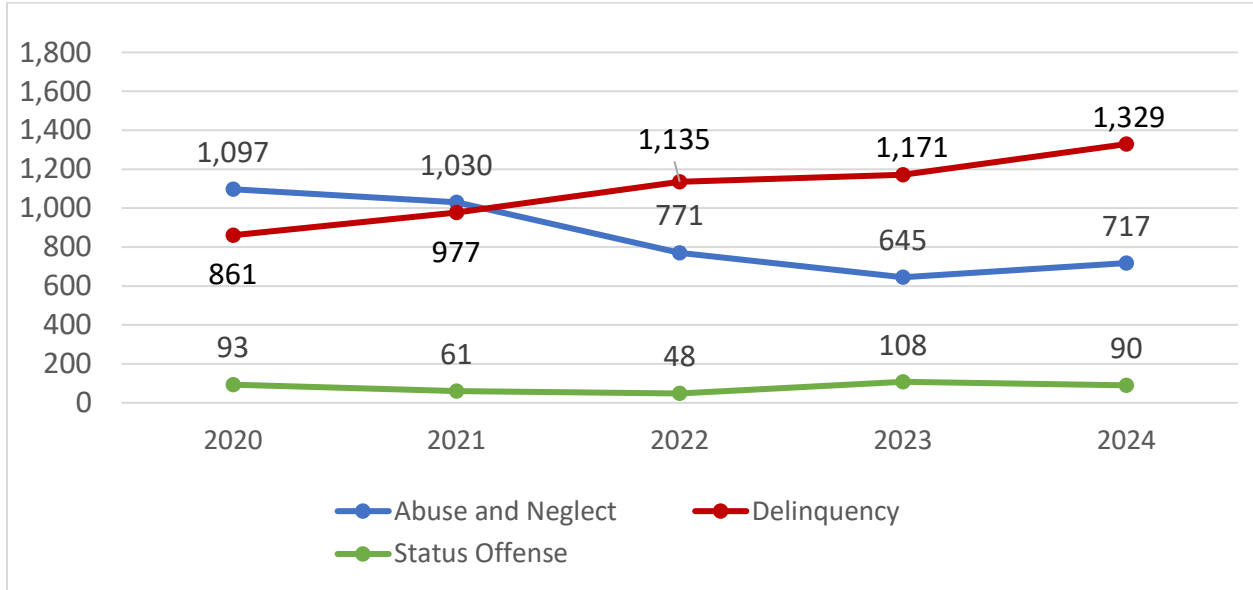
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Child Protection and Permanency Unit Entering Participants	39	37	30	14	44	+214%
Family Treatment Court Entering Participants	72	80	46	42	49	+17%
Mediation	254	292	416	438	373	-15%
Connections Visits	639	756	836	1,049	979	-7%
Parent Awareness Courses	1,363	1,525	1,548	1,738	1,551	-11%

Table 26. Delinquency

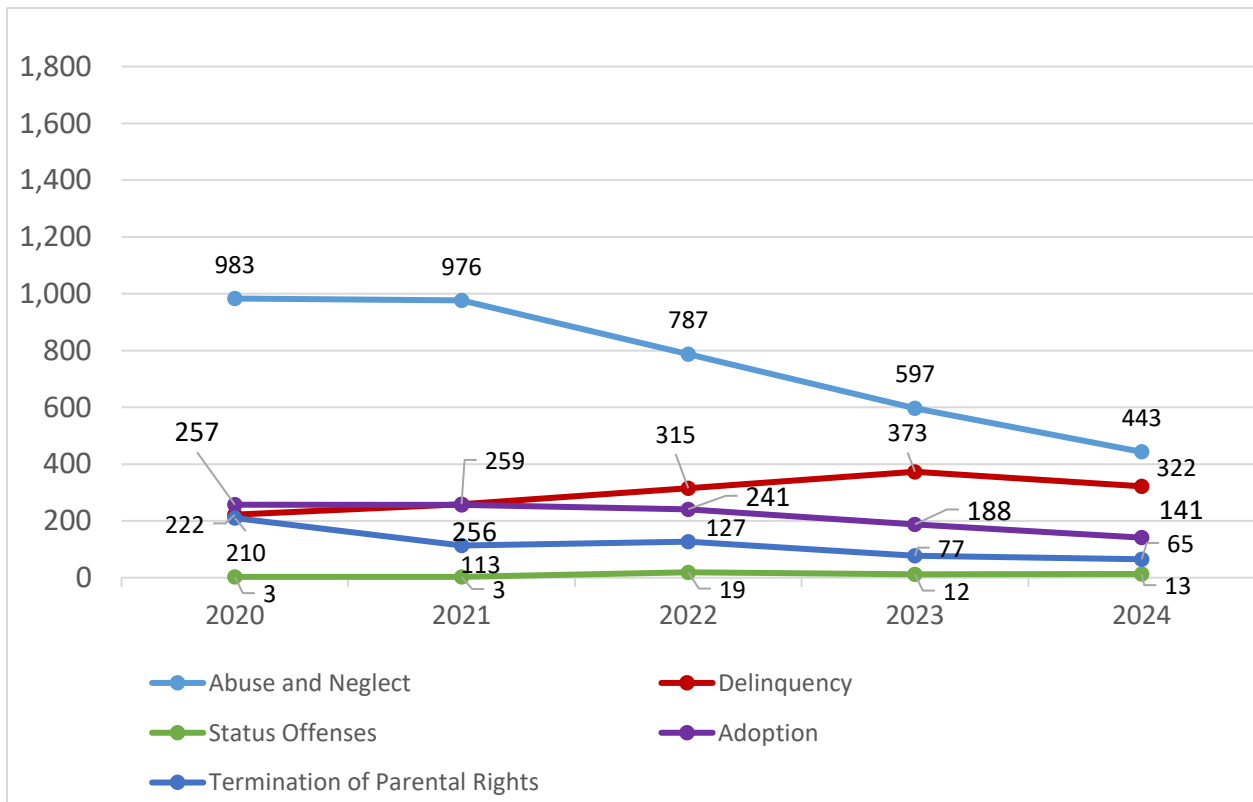
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change (2023-2024)
Prevention & Diversion	144	231	269	212	380	+79%
Youth Starting Probation	89	66	120	166	170	+2%
Detention	140	210	302	342	300	-12%
Youth Committed to Hilltop	19	16	27	29	24	-17%

¹³ Including Motions to Modify.

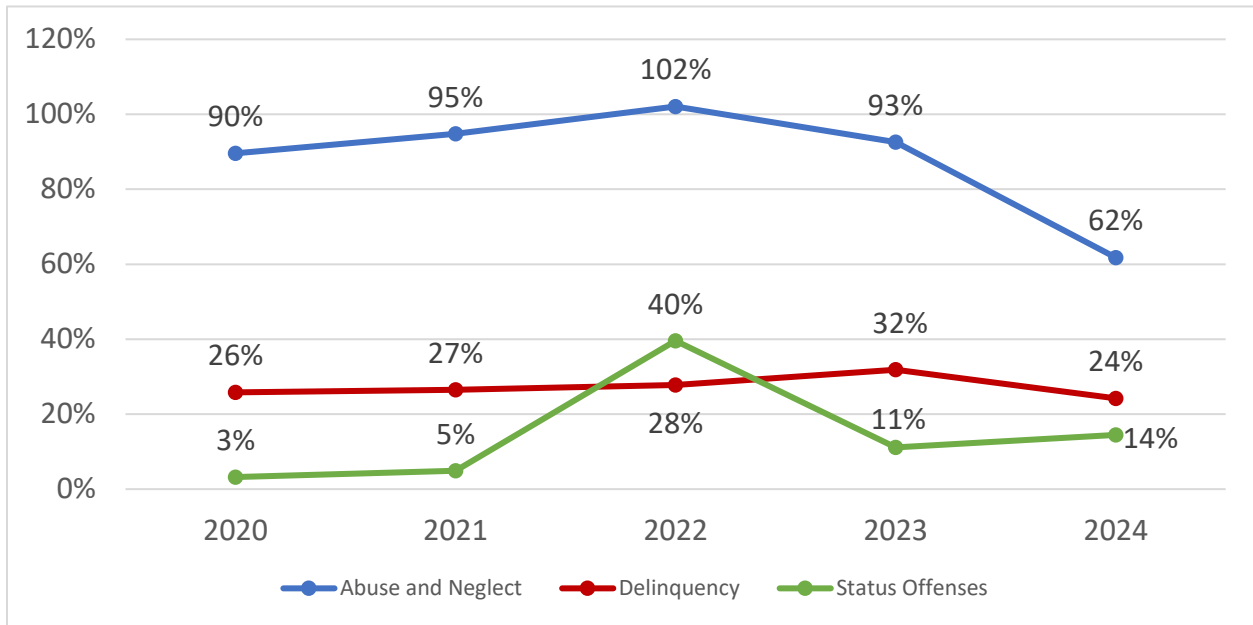
Graph 45. Referrals



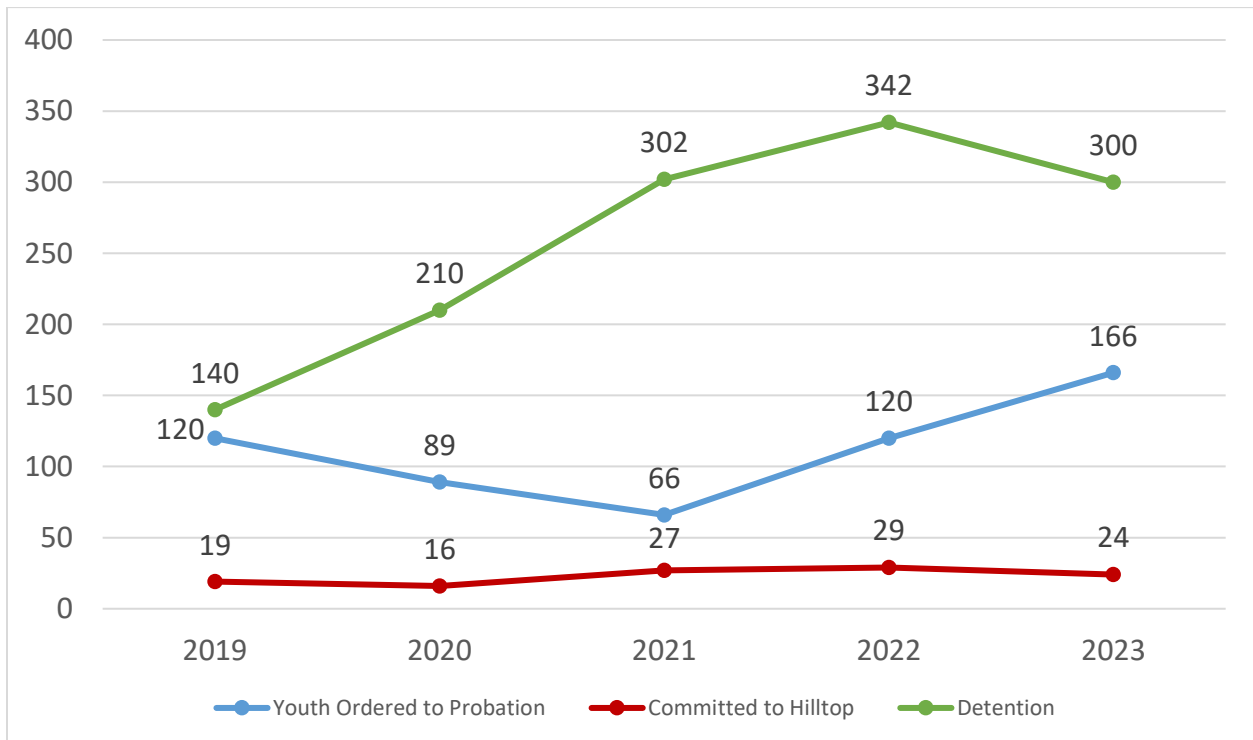
Graph 46. Formal Filings



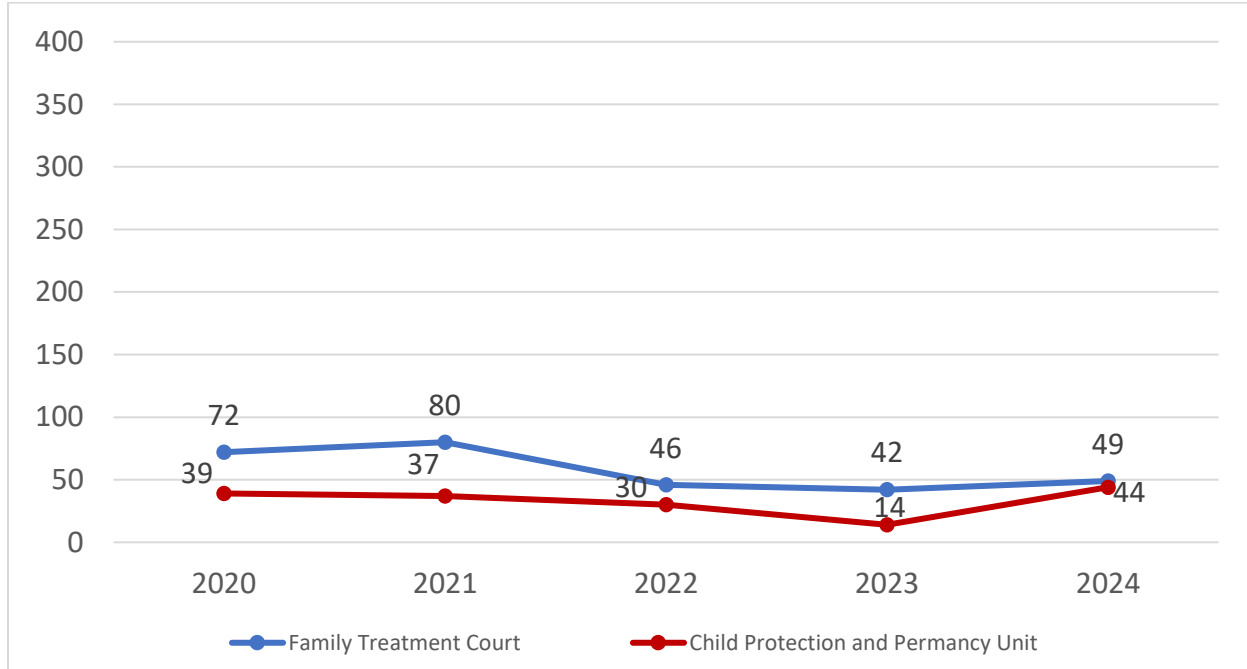
Graph 47. Percentage of Referrals Resulting in Formal Filings



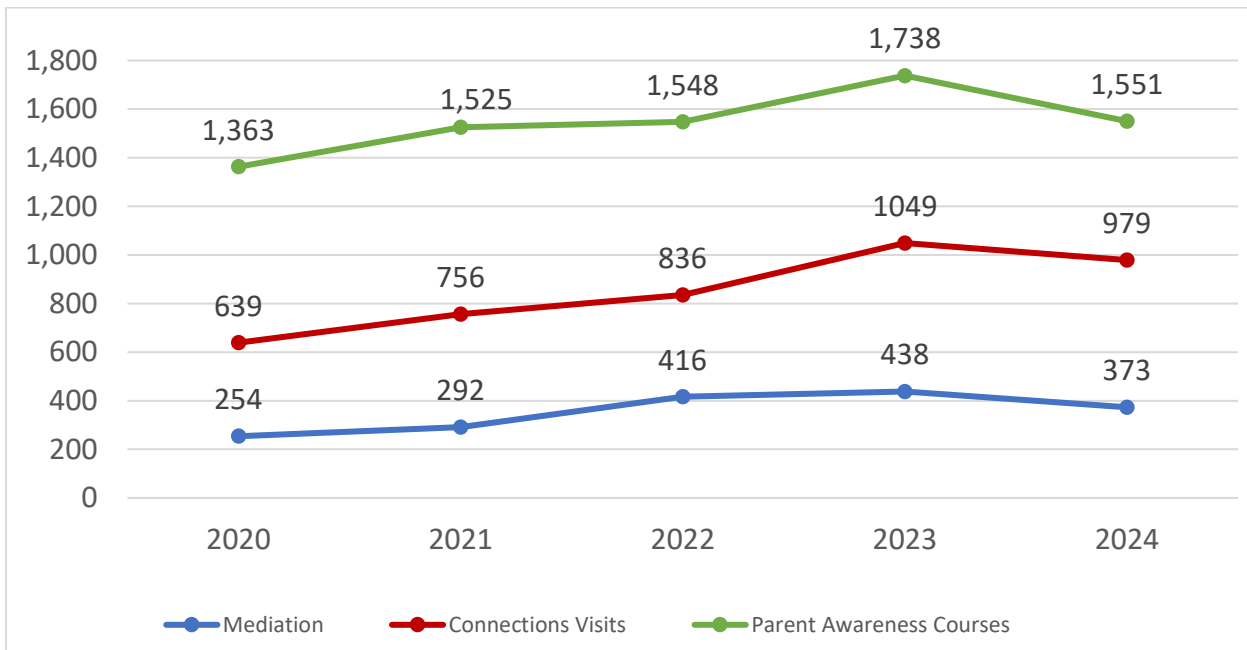
Graph 48. Youth Supervision and Custody Outcomes



Graph 49. Participants Entering Child Welfare Specialty Dockets by Year



Graph 50. Family Court Resources Services Programs



Conclusions

The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri closed out 2024 with a renewed sense of purpose, resilience, and innovation. This year was marked by both progress and transition—welcoming new members to the bench, implementing pioneering programs, and saying farewell to long-serving judicial leaders. The launch of initiatives like Safe Babies Court and Kintsugi University reflected the Court's commitment to holistic, community-based solutions. At the same time, our recognition of staff and colleagues like Drexel Mack reminded us of the enduring values that guide our work.

In 2024, the Court experienced positive developments. There was a significant increase in filings across various case types, particularly a 10% rise in Associate Circuit Civil filings. This surge was primarily driven by a notable increase in debt collection lawsuits, specifically *suit on account* cases involving efforts to recover unpaid debts such as credit cards, medical bills, or loans. These debt collection cases constituted nearly 40% of all Associate Circuit Civil filings in 2024, indicating a potential rise in financial difficulties or more aggressive debt collection practices within the community. On a different note, the domestic relations sector saw a 23% decrease in pending cases, and clearance rates remained strong, demonstrating the Court's effectiveness in managing its growing caseloads.

Criminal filings revealed a more complex situation. Felony filings increased by 12%, especially in cases related to motor vehicle tampering, while misdemeanor filings decreased by 10%. The significant rise in search warrants, up by 50%, may suggest changes in investigative practices or a shift in enforcement priorities. At the same time, admissions to adult treatment courts fell dramatically, raising questions that may need addressing in the future.

In Probate, filings have remained stable; however, applications for mental health detentions have continued to rise steadily, an issue that might require greater community awareness. Meanwhile, the Civil Process Department has been handling increasing workloads, including a 24% increase in cases involving incorrect addresses, highlighting systemic challenges beyond the Court's control.

The outcomes in Family Court have been significant. Over the past eight years, referrals for abuse and neglect have dropped substantially, while prevention and diversion services increased by 79% in the last year alone. However, during this time, the

Court has also seen a rise in the number of youth on probation and a continued overrepresentation of African-American youth in delinquency filings. This ongoing issue highlights the need for community-wide engagement and structural solutions.

Technological improvements have been essential in ensuring continuity and security. Upgrades such as BitLocker for data protection, infrastructure enhancements, and new tools for virtual hearings have enabled the Court's CIT team to keep technological systems aligned with the Court's evolving needs.

Despite a 32% decrease in jury trials and a reduction in the number of available jurors, the Court remained dedicated to providing access to fair and impartial proceedings. Although challenges persist—from changing caseloads to resource demands—the Court's performance in 2024 demonstrates a solid foundation for the future.

As we enter 2025, the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit is committed to transparency, responsiveness, and fairness. The data and narratives presented in this report showcase our accomplishments and provide guidance for creating a more just and innovative future for the communities we serve.