



Jackson
County
Family
Court

2020

Annual Statistical Report

*Zouheir
Lemly*

Cover artwork: ArtsTech
Cover artwork: Susanne Bragaw

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Introduction

This report provides statistical information about Jackson County Circuit Court – Family Court Division for 2020 and the previous seven years. The report begins with a demographic overview of the Jackson County youth population. 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 the number of youth and families participating in Family Court programs and services.

This year, we have also included a section specifically to monitor trends related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes numbers of open cases for our various case types, admission and population data for secure detention and detention alternatives, rates of re-offense and failure to appear for youth screened at detention and released to home to or detention alternatives, numbers of Court hearings, and the time to disposition for disposed cases.

It is still too early to tell whether many of the differences we saw in 2020 reflect the special circumstances of the pandemic or broader trends that will extend to future years. We will continue to monitor these areas to determine what conclusions we can draw.

Current Demographic Picture

The number of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who resided in Jackson County has increased over the last few years after a steady decline between 2002 and 2012. The current number of youth is now about 2% higher than it was a decade ago.

In 2019, the most recent year for which data were available, youth under the age of 18 represented 23% of the county population of 703,011. In Jackson County, 31% of youth were youth of color.¹

¹ Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2019). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2019." Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>. United States 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 Race²

Year	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Total
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
2017	51,246	108,588	1,644	4,462	165,940
2018	51,008	107,842	1,639	4,490	164,979
2019	50,556	107,662	1,672	4,482	164,372

Table 2. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 10 to 17 years) by Race²

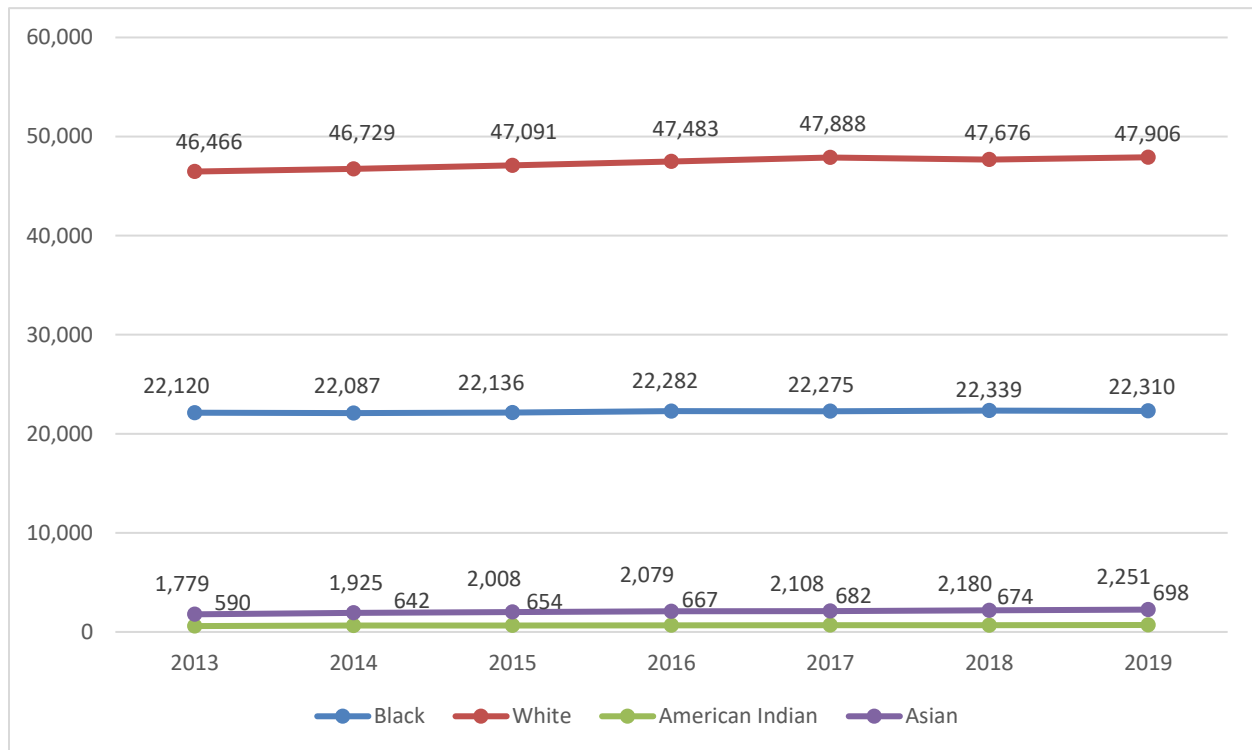
Year	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Total
2013	22,120	46,466	590	1,779	70,955
2014	22,087	46,729	642	1,925	71,383
2015	22,136	47,091	654	2,008	71,889
2016	22,282	47,483	667	2,079	72,511
2017	22,275	47,888	682	2,108	72,953
2018	22,339	47,676	674	2,180	72,869
2019	22,310	47,906	698	2,251	73,165

Table 3. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 10 to 17 years) by Age²

Year	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
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
2017	9,381	9,278	9,163	9,088	9,094	8,952	8,955	9,042	72,953
2018	9,344	9,315	9,247	9,152	9,068	8,993	8,902	8,848	72,869
2019	9,138	9,396	9,363	9,313	9,154	8,981	8,986	8,834	73,165

² Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2019). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2019." Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>. Population data from 2020 was not available at the time of this report.

Graph 1. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 10 to 17 years) by Race³



³ Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2019). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2019." Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>. Population data from 2020 was not available at the time of this report.

Referrals and Formal Filings

This section describes dispositions of referrals and petitions and motions to modify 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 were based on referrals filed in prior years.)

This report uses the following definitions for status and technical offenses from the 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.

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 declined for the third year in a row, reaching a level similar to the number of referrals filed in 2015. The number of petitions and motions to modify (formal filings) for child abuse and neglect decreased by 20% between 2019 and 2020, the largest single-year drop in the general downward trend of the past 8 years.

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 had 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% indicates more cases filed than released.

After several years of clearance rates below 100%, the rate increased in 2015 and has remained at or above 100% in most years since then. Despite delays in Court hearings in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the clearance rate in 2020 was 101%, indicating that the Court closed out just slightly more cases than were filed.

Table 4. Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals and Formal Filings

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Referrals	1,304	1,256	1,168	1,387	1,501	1,408	1,337	1,157
% change	--	-4%	-7%	+19%	+8%	-6%	-5%	-13%
Rate per 1,000 ⁴	7.9	7.7	7.1	8.4	9.1	8.5	8.1	7.0

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Open Cases December 31	2,363	2,364	2,072	2,020	2,019	2,056	1,888	1,891
New Cases	1,005	1,015	822	983	991	1,034	845	794
Releases	938	1,009	1,112	1,031	994	1,001	1,094	802
Clearance Rate	93%	99%	135%	105%	100%	97%	129%	101%

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Petitions and Mot to Modify	1,477	1,452	1,298	1,423	1,277	1,304	1,228	983
% change	--	-2%	-11%	+10%	-10%	+2%	-6%	-20%

Table 5. Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights Formal Filings

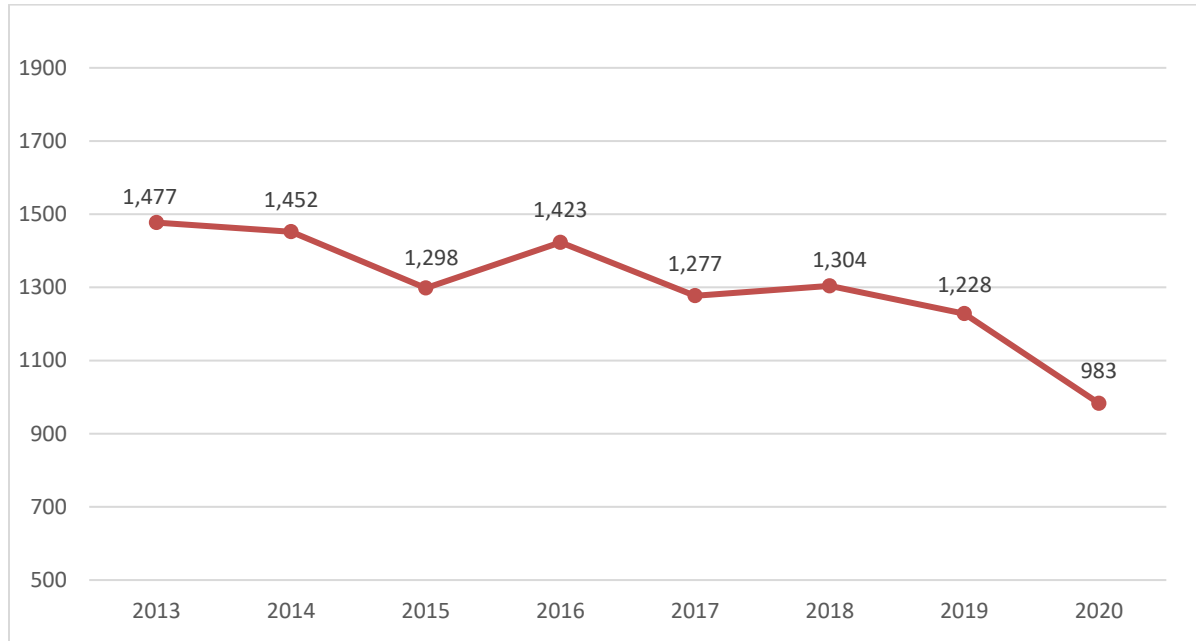
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
New Adoption Cases ⁵	291	340	290	294	299	348	335	257
New Termination of Parental Rights Cases	113	108	135	449 ⁶	368	335	310	210

⁴ Rates were calculated based on the number of children in Jackson County from birth to age 17.

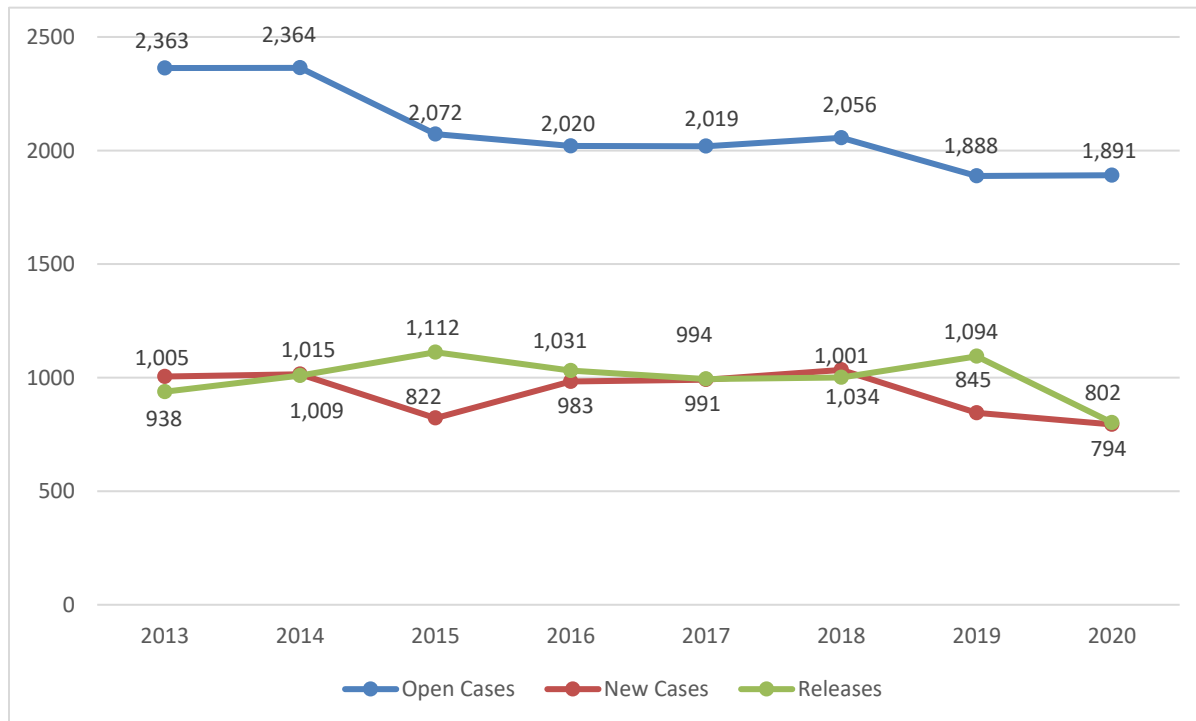
⁵ This table reports regular adoption cases and does not include stepchild or adult adoptions.

⁶ In Fall 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 Formal Filings by Year



Graph 3. Child Abuse and Neglect New Cases, Releases, and Number of Open Cases on December 31



Graph 4. Clearance Rates in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

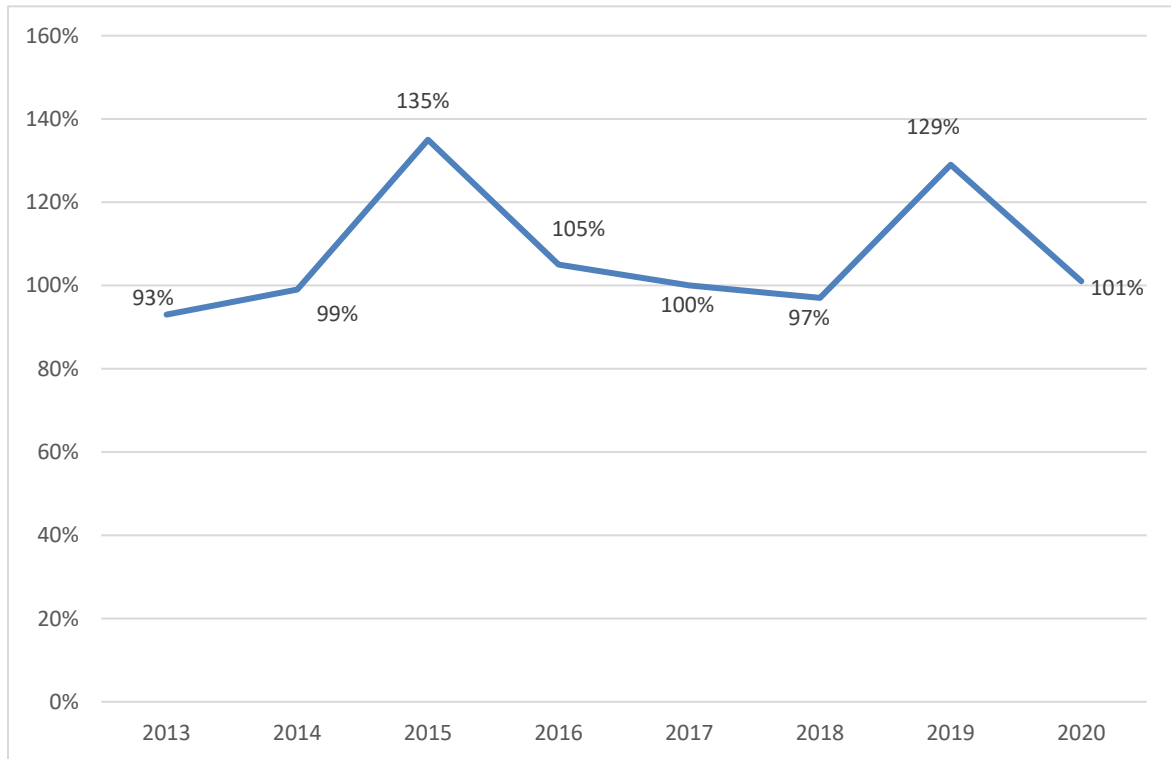
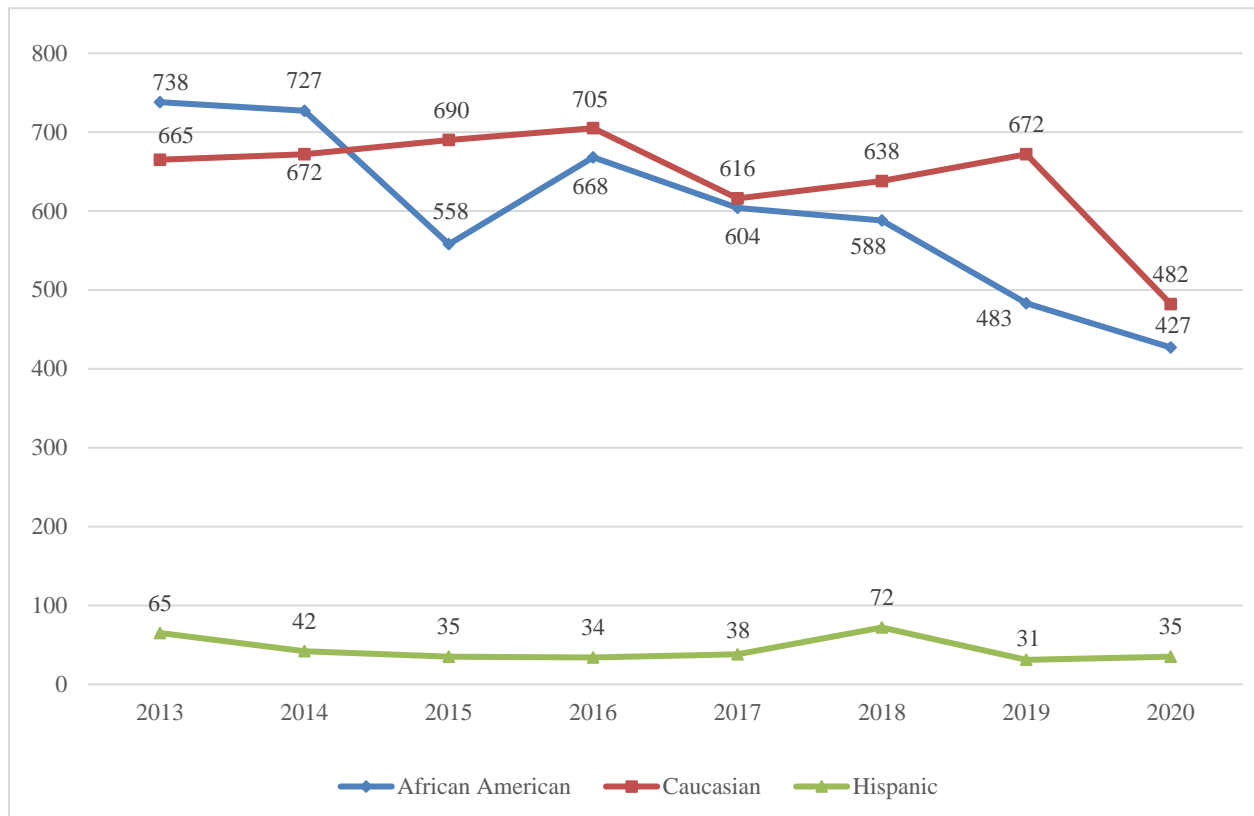


Table 6 and Graph 5
Child Abuse and Neglect Formal Filings by Race

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic		Other		Unknown/ Missing	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2013 ⁷	738	50%	665	45%	65	4%	8	1%	1	<1%
2014	727	50%	672	46%	42	3%	13	1%	1	<1%
2015 ⁸	558	43%	690	53%	35	3%	15	1%	2	<1%
2016 ⁹	668	47%	705	50%	34	2%	13	1%	3	<1%
2017 ¹⁰	604	47%	616	48%	38	3%	19	1%	0	0%
2018 ¹¹	588	45%	638	48%	72	5%	17	1%	1	<1%
2019 ¹²	483	39%	672	55%	31	3%	9	1%	33	3%
2020 ¹³	427	43%	482	49%	35	4%	4	<1%	35	4%



⁷ Race was unknown for 1 case in 2013.

⁸ Race was unknown for 2 cases in 2015. One youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

⁹ Race was unknown for 3 cases in 2016. Twenty-six youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

¹⁰ Twenty-five youth included in the African American category in 2017 identified as biracial.

¹¹ Race was unknown for 1 case in 2018. Twenty-nine youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

¹² Race was unknown for 33 cases in 2019. Ten youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

¹³ Race was unknown for 35 cases in 2020. Twelve youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

Table 7 and Graph 6
Child Abuse and Neglect Formal Filings by Gender

Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
2013	756	51%	721	49%
2014	741	51%	713	49%
2015	660	51%	640	49%
2016	706	50%	717	50%
2017	599	47%	678	53%
2018	670	51%	647	49%
2019	609	50%	619	50%
2020	500	51%	483	49%

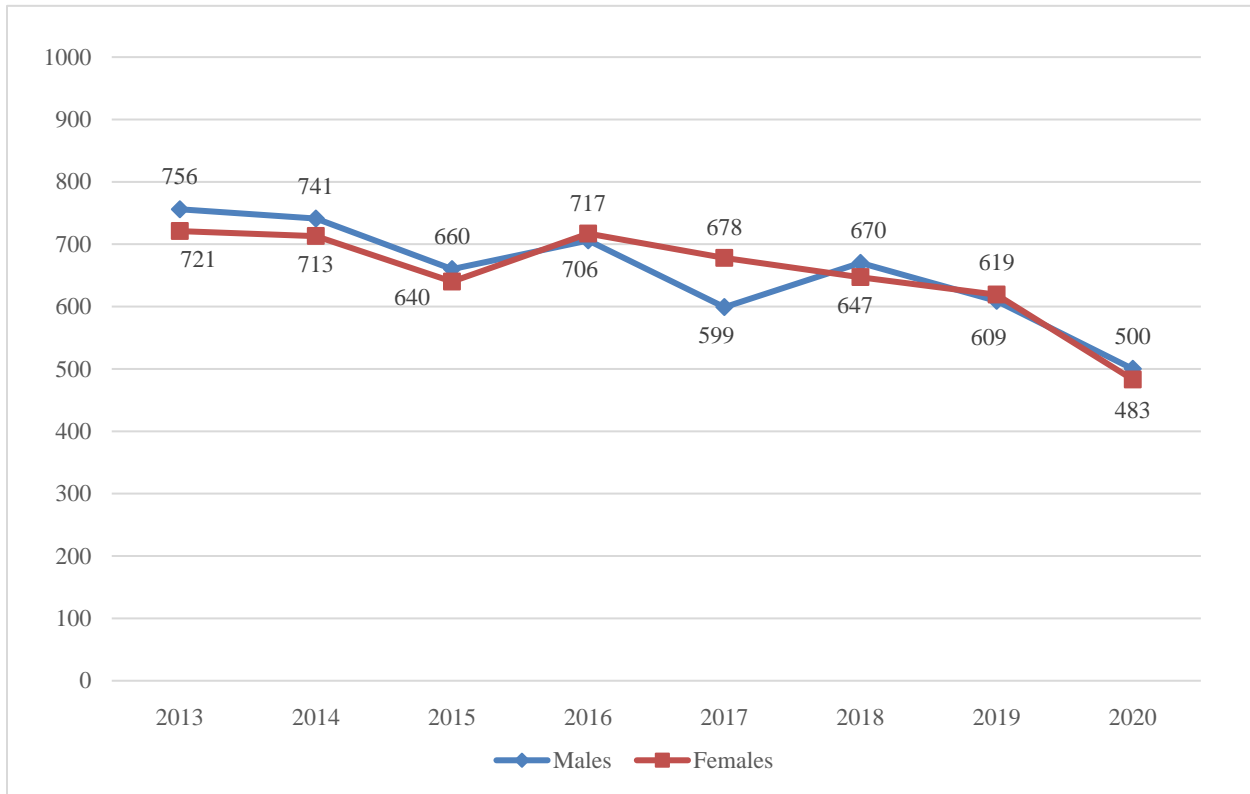
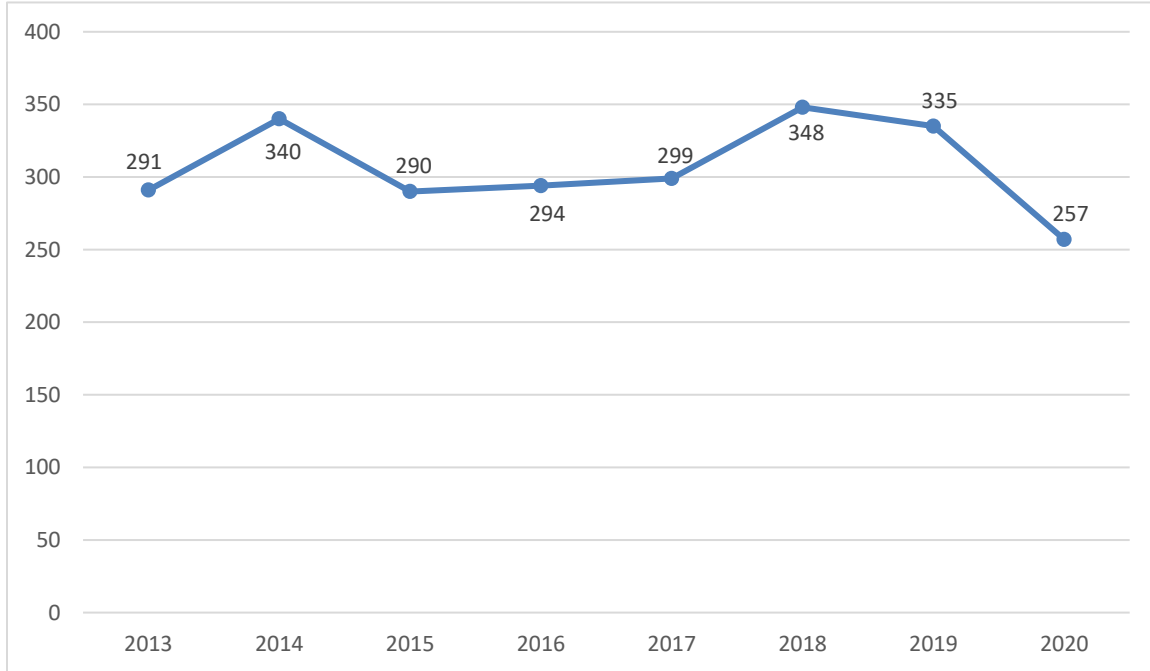


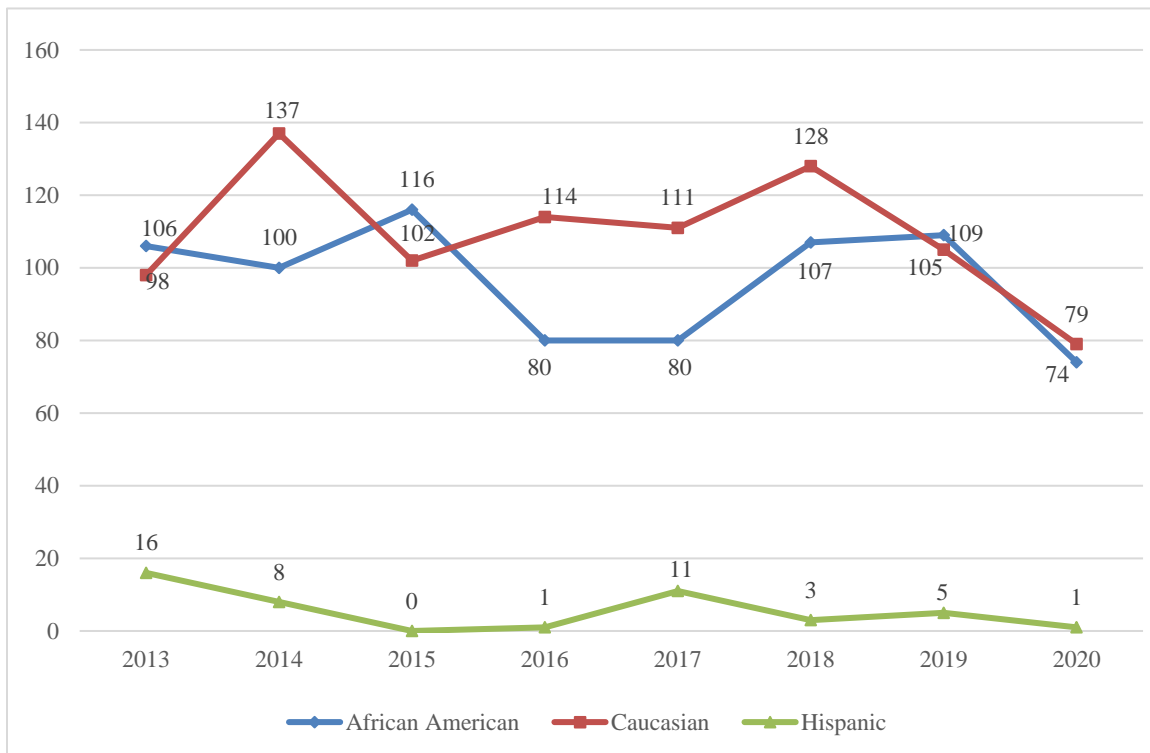
Table 8. Issues Identified in Child Abuse and Neglect Petitions

Issue	2007		2020	
	N	%	N	%
Physical Abuse	161	21%	181	23%
Sexual Abuse	85	11%	37	5%
Neglect (unsafe situation)	392	50%	343	44%
Neglect (living conditions)	174	22%	160	20%
Neglect (abandonment)	64	8%	101	13%
Neglect (CAN cases for siblings)	87	11%	170	22%
Neglect (w/o proper supervision)	103	13%	95	12%
Neglect (medical)	110	14%	64	8%
Neglect (educational)	49	6%	15	2%
Substance Abuse	370	48%	478	61%
Criminal Activity	154	20%	197	25%
Domestic Violence	149	19%	188	24%
Mental Health	127	16%	217	28%
Child Born Drug Exposed	122	16%	113	14%
Homelessness	41	5%	82	10%
Age of Parent	9	1%	1	0%
Cognitive Impairment	4	1%	12	2%
Other	4	1%	29	4%
Total Cases	777		781	
Avg. Issues Identified	2.8		3.2	

Graph 7. Adoption Cases Filed by Year

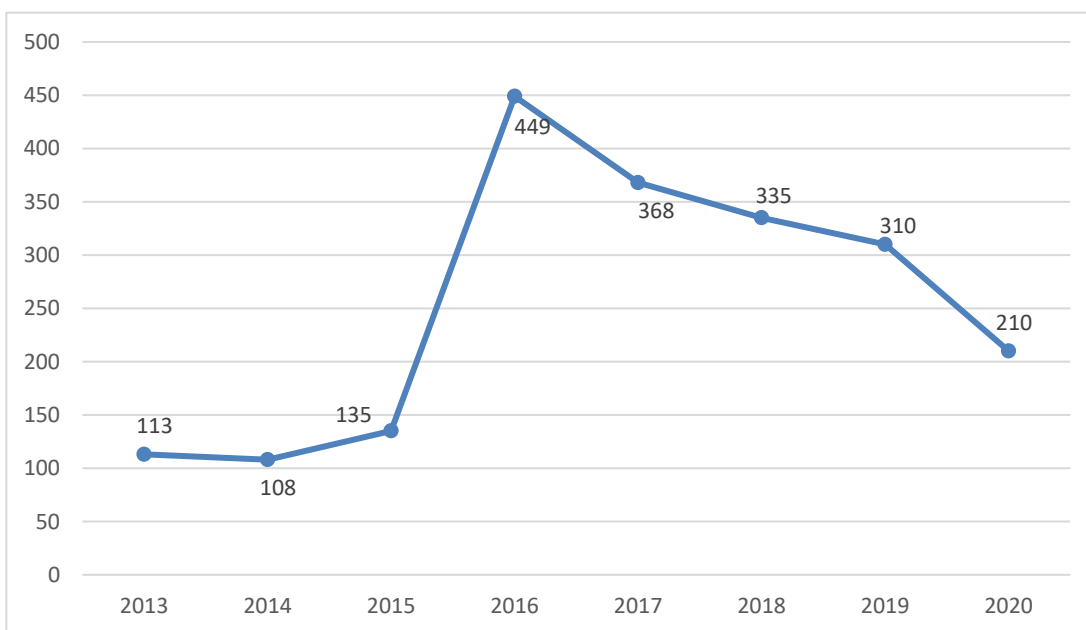


Graph 8. Adoption Cases Filed by Race¹⁴

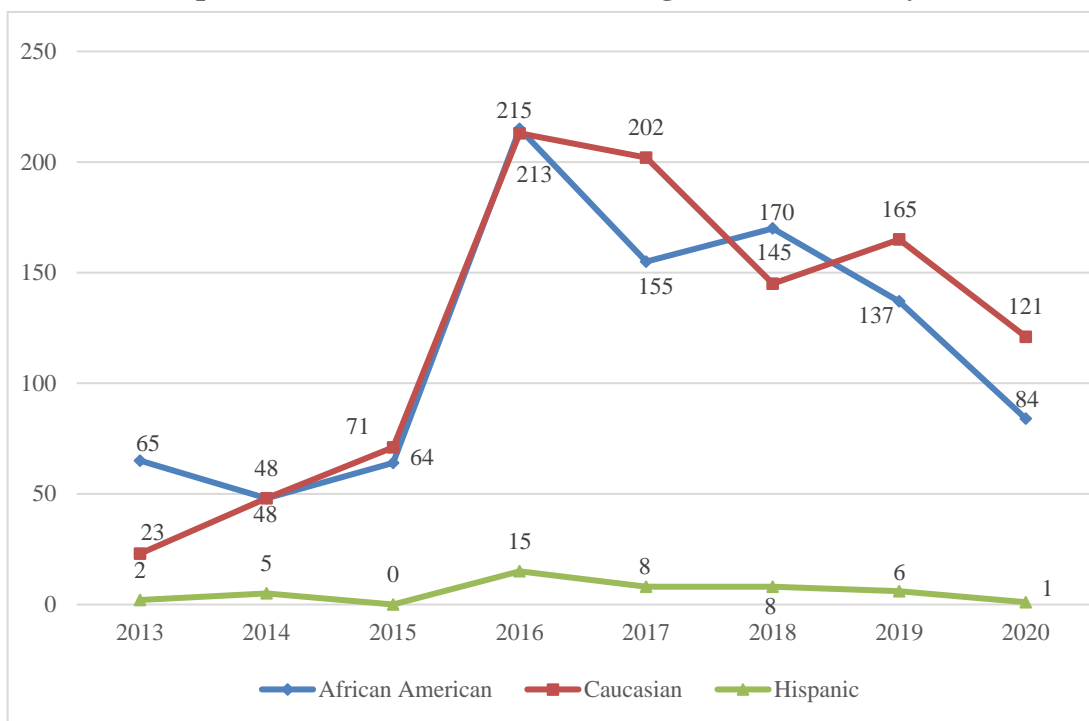


¹⁴ Race was unknown for 67 youth in 2013, 93 youth in 2014, 69 youth in 2015, 99 youth in 2016, 95 youth in 2017, 102 youth in 2018, 114 youth in 2019, and 103 youth in 2020.

Graph 9. Termination of Parental Rights Cases Filed by Year¹⁵



Graph 10. Termination of Parental Rights Cases Filed by Race¹⁶



¹⁵ In Fall 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.

¹⁶ Race was unknown for 22 youth in 2013, 7 youth in 2014, 1 youth in 2017, 3 youth in 2018, and 3 youth in 2020.

Status Offense Referrals and Filings

The number of status offense referrals increased in 2020, continuing the general upward trajectory since a spike and then sharp drop in 2014 and 2015.

At the same time that referrals have been rising, petitions and motions to modify filed for status offenses decreased significantly, dropping from 17 per year in 2013 to just 3 in 2020. Many referrals for status offenses accompany a delinquent, technical, or abuse/neglect referral, and formal filings for status offenses alone are rare. This is in line with Family Court Policy No. 630-06 (Process for Dispositional Recommendations) and the Court's Revised Dispositional Matrix, which indicate that a petition should typically be filed only for status offenses if the youth scores high risk on the Missouri Risk Assessment and has prior adjudicated offenses.

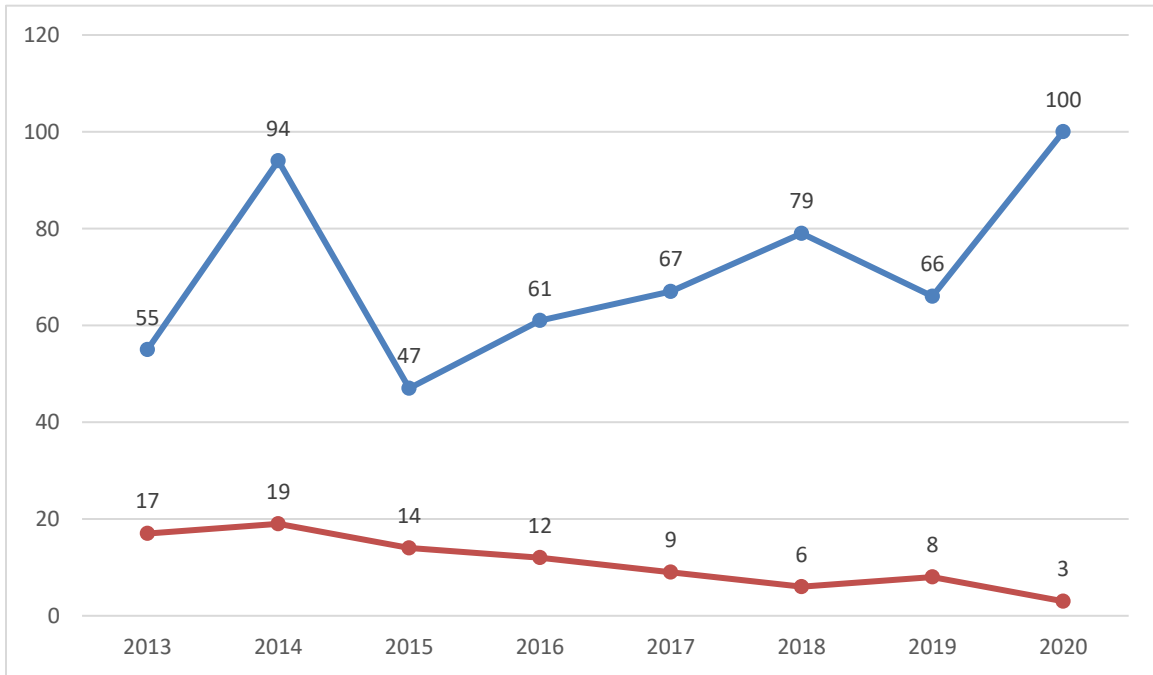
Table 9. Status Offense Referrals and Formal Filings

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Referrals	55	94	47	61	67	79	66	93
% change	--	+71%	-50%	+30%	+10%	+18%	-16%	+41%
Rate per 1,000 ¹⁷	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.3

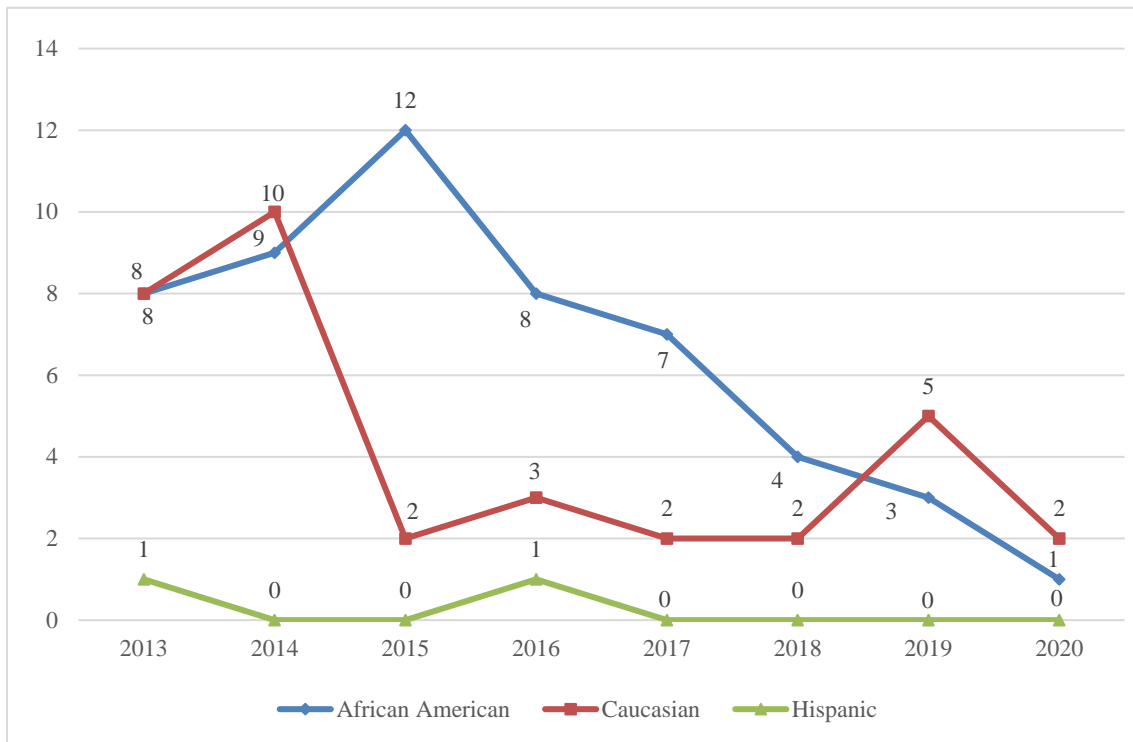
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Petitions and Mot to Modify	17	19	14	12	9	6	8	3
% change	--	+12%	-26%	-14%	-25%	-33%	+33%	-63%

¹⁷ Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10-17 years.

Graph 11. Status Offense Referrals and Formal Filings by Year



Graph 12. Status Offense Formal Filings by Race



Delinquent and Technical Offense Referrals, Filings, and Open Cases

The number of referrals for delinquent and technical offenses has declined 44% since 2013, and the rate of delinquent and technical referrals per 1,000 youth aged 10-17 in Jackson County was just over half what it was six years ago.

The number of petitions and motions to modify filed for these offenses in 2020 was well below half the number filed in 2013.

Table 10. Delinquent and Technical Referrals and Formal Filings

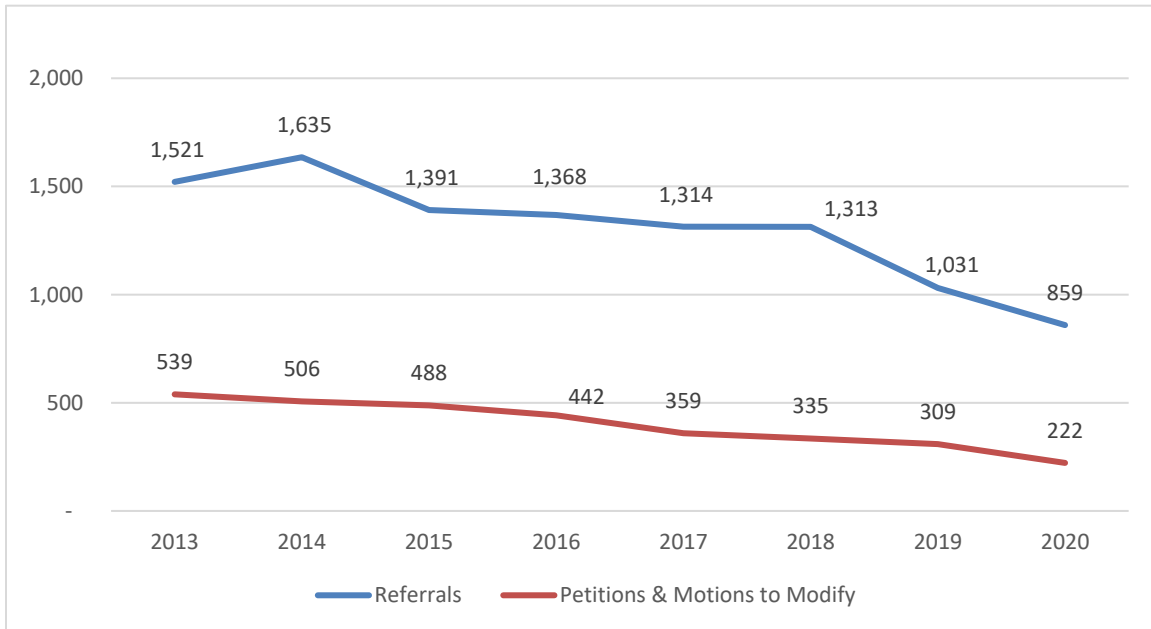
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Referrals	1,521	1,635	1,391	1,368	1,314	1,313	1,031	859
% change	--	+7%	-15%	-2%	-4%	0%	-21%	-17%
Rate per 1,000 ¹⁸	21.5	23.1	19.6	19.1	18.1	18.0	14.1	11.7

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Open Cases December 31	321	307	292	261	224	184	189	154
New Cases	298	282	284	258	231	221	161	133
Releases	360	304	297	294	267	262	186	166
Clearance Rate	121%	108%	105%	114%	116%	119%	116%	125%

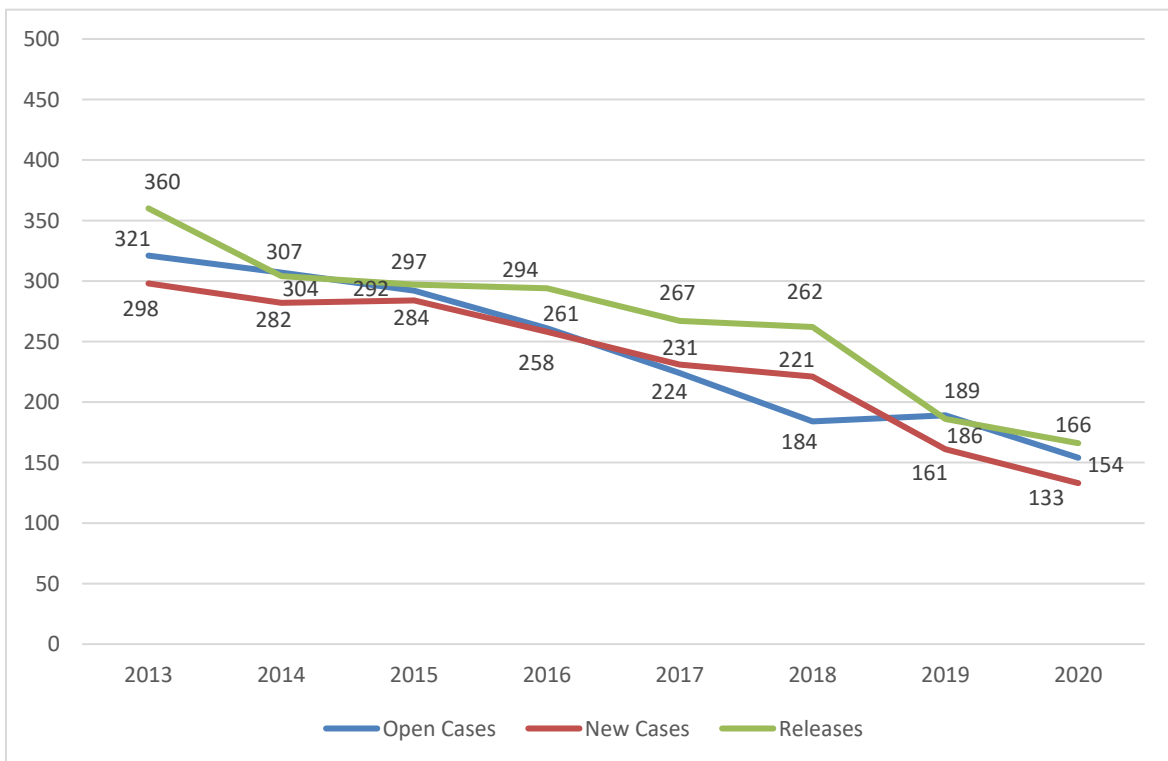
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Petitions and Mot to Modify	539	506	488	442	359	335	313	222
% change	--	-6%	-4%	-9%	-19%	-7%	-7%	-29%

¹⁸ Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10-17 years.

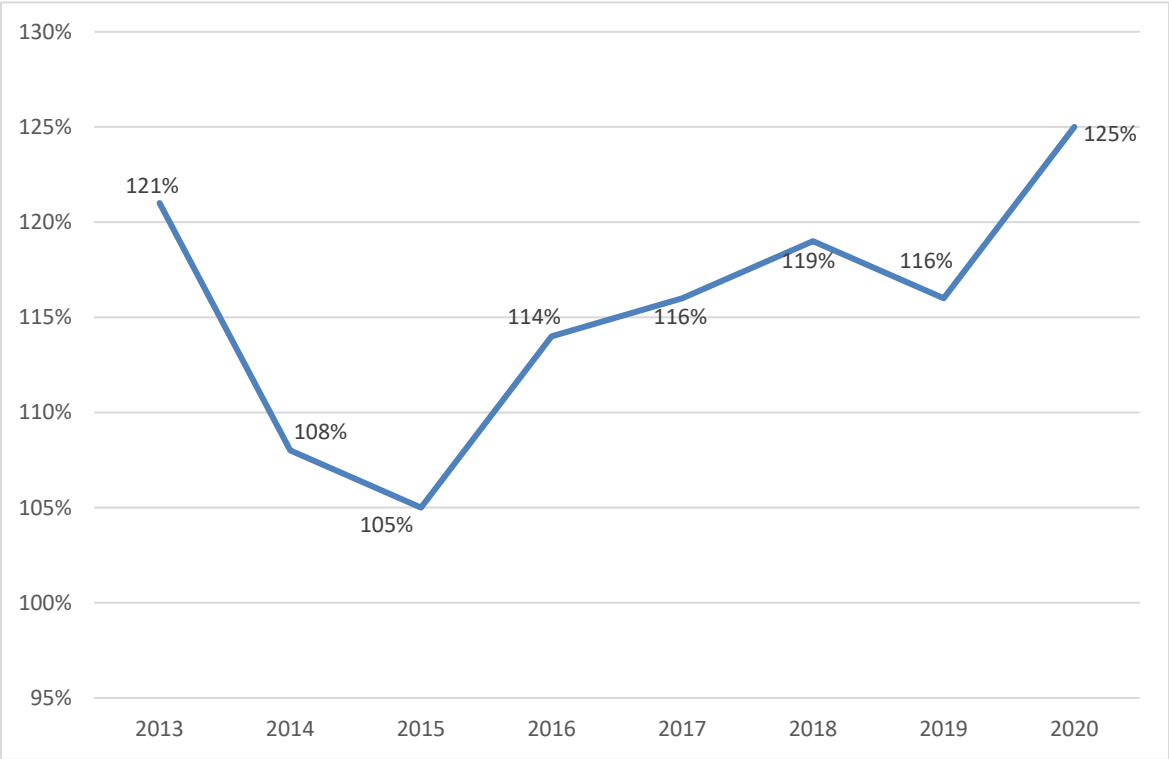
Graph 13. Delinquent and Technical Referrals and Formal Filings by Year



Graph 14. Delinquent and Technical New Cases, Releases and Number of Open Cases on December 31



Graph 15. Clearance Rates for Delinquent and Technical Cases



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

This section examines delinquent and technical filings by race, gender, age, and the areas of Jackson County where youth charged with these offenses reside. As filings have declined, the distribution of filings by demographic characteristics and geography have remained fairly consistent but changed slightly over the past eight years.

Seventy percent of the filings for delinquent and technical offenses in 2020 were for African-American youth. This percentage has seen a general decline in recent years from 76% in 2013. Just under a quarter of filings in 2020 were for Caucasian youth, and 5% were for Hispanic youth. African-American youth make up only about 30% of the youth population in Jackson County, so the 70% filing rate is highly disproportionate to the population. Family Court Services is actively examining racial equity issues in its juvenile justice processes and programs.

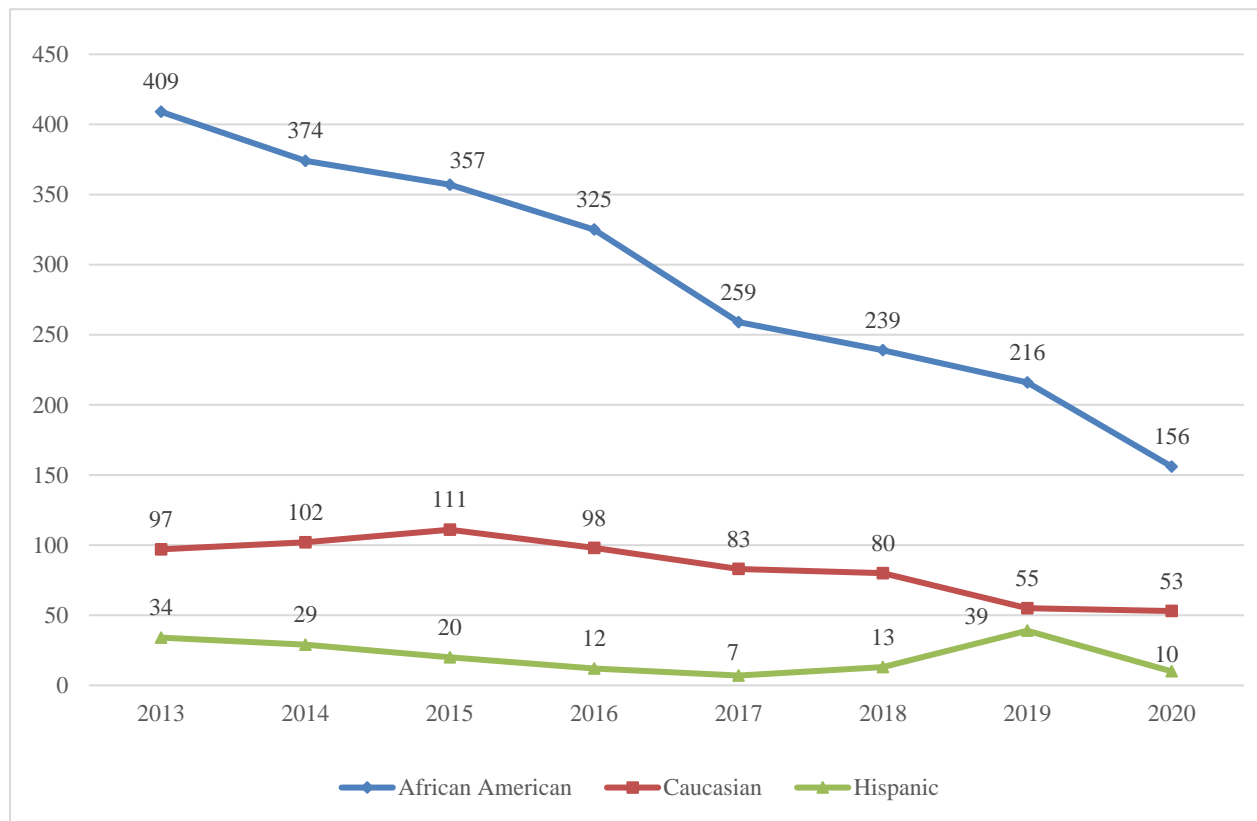
The percentage of filings for males has fluctuated between 78% and 85% over the last eight years with no consistent pattern.

The age breakdown of youth charged with delinquent and technical offenses skews older now than it did eight years ago. In 2013, 39% of youth with petitions filed were 14 or younger, and 37% of youth were 16 or older. In 2020, 28% of youth were 14 or younger and 49% of youth were 16 or older.

After several years with between 63% and 65% of filings coming from youth residing in Kansas City, that percentage declined to 57% in 2020. The decrease was offset by slight upticks in the percentage of filings for youth from Blue Springs, Grandview, Independence, and Lee's Summit.

Table 11 and Graph 16
Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Race

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2013	409	76%	97	18%	34	6%	1	<1%
2014	374	74%	102	20%	29	6%	1	<1%
2015	357	73%	111	23%	20	4%	0	--
2016 ¹⁹	325	74%	98	22%	12	3%	6	1%
2017 ²⁰	259	72%	83	24%	7	2%	3	<1%
2018 ²¹	239	72%	80	24%	13	4%	1	<1%
2019	216	69%	55	18%	39	12%	3	1%
2020 ²²	156	70%	53	24%	10	5%	2	1%



¹⁹ Race was unknown for 1 case in 2016.

²⁰ Race was unknown for 5 cases in 2017.

²¹ Race was unknown for 3 cases in 2018.

²² Race was unknown for 1 case in 2020.

Table 12 and Graph 17
Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Gender

Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
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%
2018	275	82%	60	18%
2019	255	81%	58	19%
2020	189	85%	33	15%

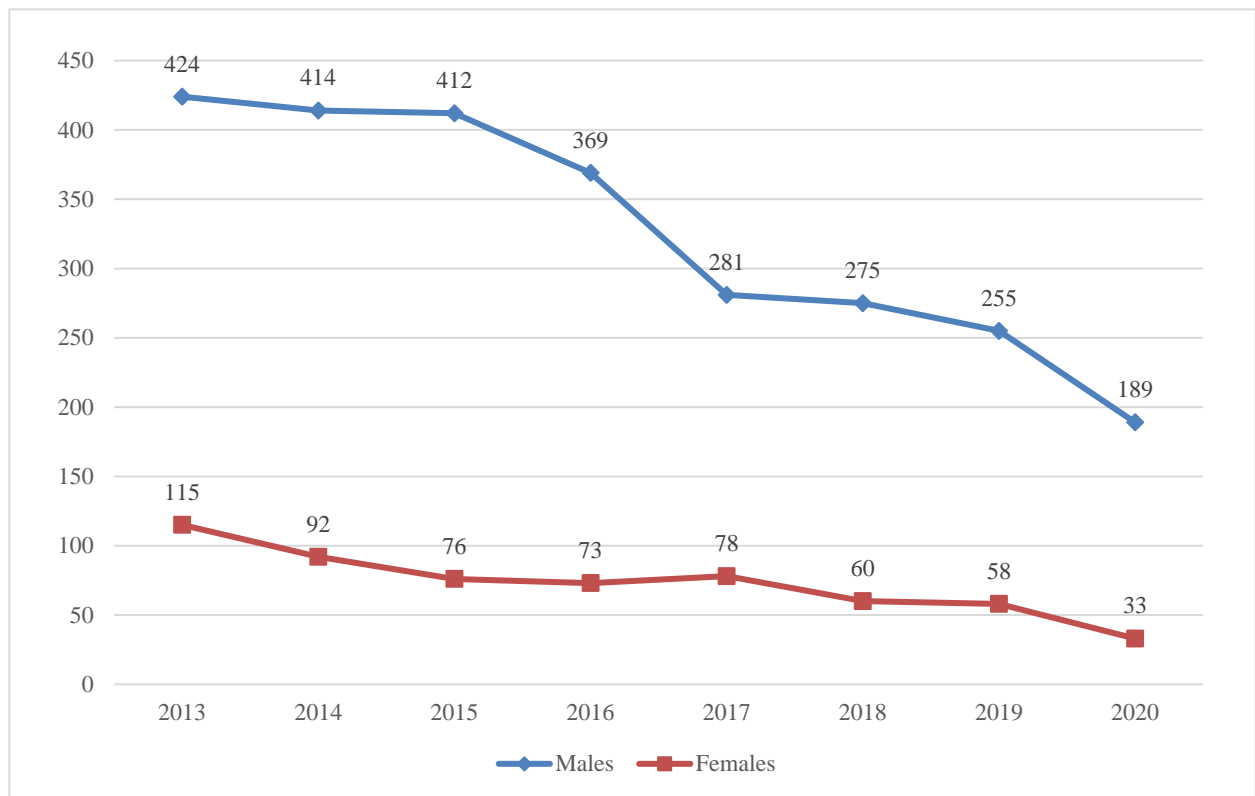
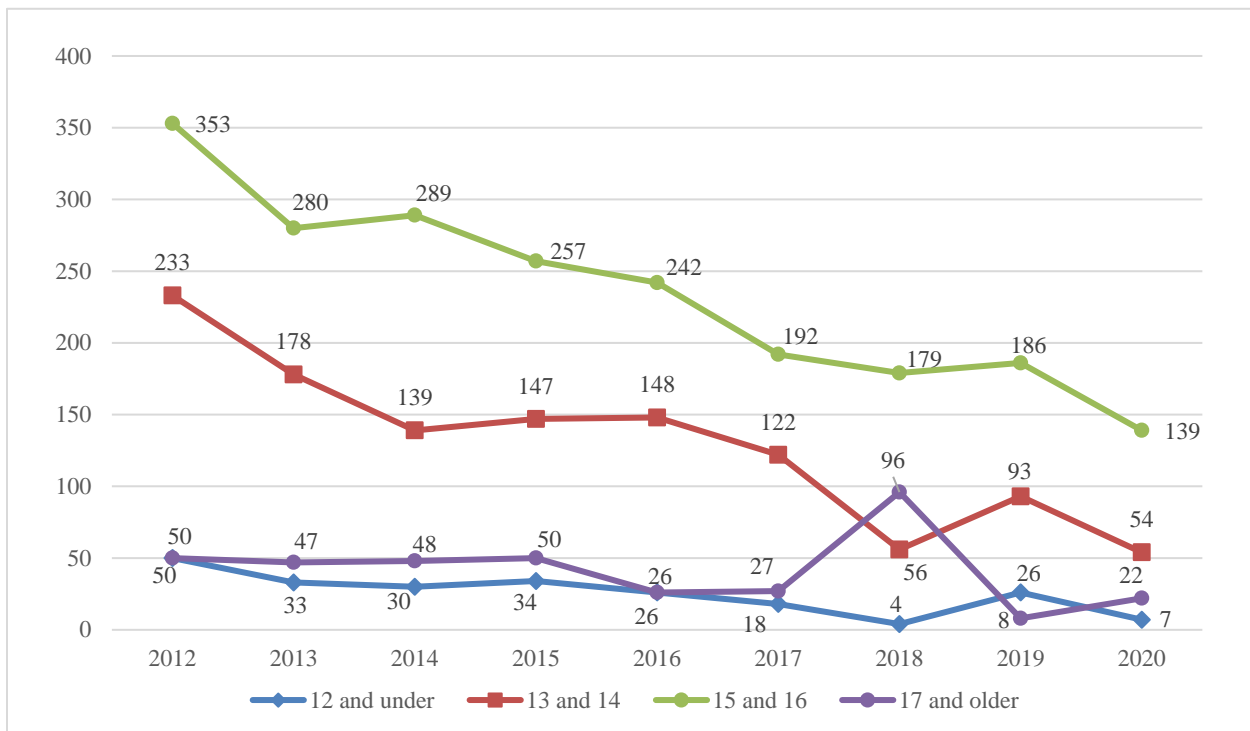


Table 13 and Graph 18
Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Age

	≤10	11	12	13	14	15	16	≥17 ²³
2013 ²⁴	1 0%	6 1%	26 5%	59 11%	119 22%	128 24%	152 28%	47 9%
2014	2 0%	8 2%	20 4%	53 10%	86 17%	140 28%	149 29%	48 9%
2015	0 0%	4 1%	30 6%	53 11%	94 19%	133 27%	124 25%	50 10%
2016	3 1%	4 1%	19 4%	53 12%	95 21%	122 28%	120 27%	26 6%
2017	2 1%	1 0%	15 4%	36 10%	86 24%	109 30%	83 23%	27 8%
2018	0 0%	1 0%	3 1%	21 6%	35 10%	74 22%	105 31%	96 29%
2019	1 0%	7 2%	18 6%	18 6%	75 24%	87 28%	99 32%	8 3%
2020	0 0%	0 0%	7 3%	19 9%	35 16%	53 24%	86 39%	22 10%



²³ Filings for youth 17 and older are for offenses that took place when the youth was under age 17.

²⁴ Date of birth was missing for one case in 2013.

Table 14. Youth with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by City of Residence

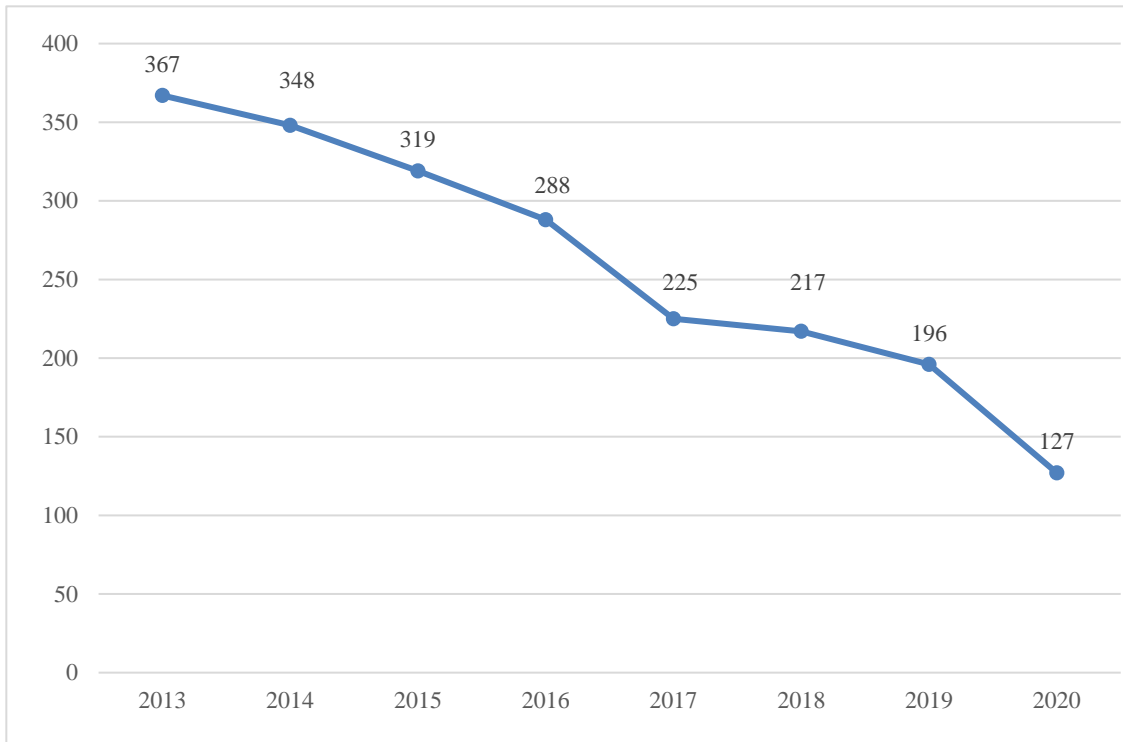
City	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Blue Springs	24 5%	23 5%	20 4%	17 4%	11 3%	17 5%	11 4%	16 7%
Grain Valley	2 <1%	4 <1%	4 <1%	5 1%	7 2%	2 1%	4 1%	2 1%
Grandview	13 2%	12 2%	15 3%	17 4%	20 5%	8 2%	11 4%	13 6%
Greenwood	0	1 <1%	0	0	2 <1%	2 1%	8 3%	1 1%
Independence	41 8%	37 7%	43 9%	46 10%	35 10%	31 9%	39 12%	33 15%
Kansas City	367 68%	348 69%	319 65%	288 65%	225 63%	217 65%	196 63%	127 57%
Lee's Summit	22 4%	19 4%	27 6%	25 6%	20 6%	11 3%	9 3%	12 5%
Oak Grove	2 <1%	3 <1%	7 1%	1 <1%	1 <1%	3 1%	0	1 1%
Raytown	7 1%	17 3%	13 3%	9 2%	12 3%	10 3%	5 2%	4 2%
Sugar Creek	1 <1%	1 <1%	2 <1%	1 <1%	0	0	1 <1%	0
Other	42 7%	30 6%	33 7%	20 4%	22 6%	25 7%	28 9%	11 5%
Unknown	18 3%	11 2%	5 1%	13 3%	4 1%	9 3%	1 <1%	2 1%
Total	539	506	488	442	359	335	313	222

Table 15. Rate of Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings per 1,000 Youth in 2020 by City

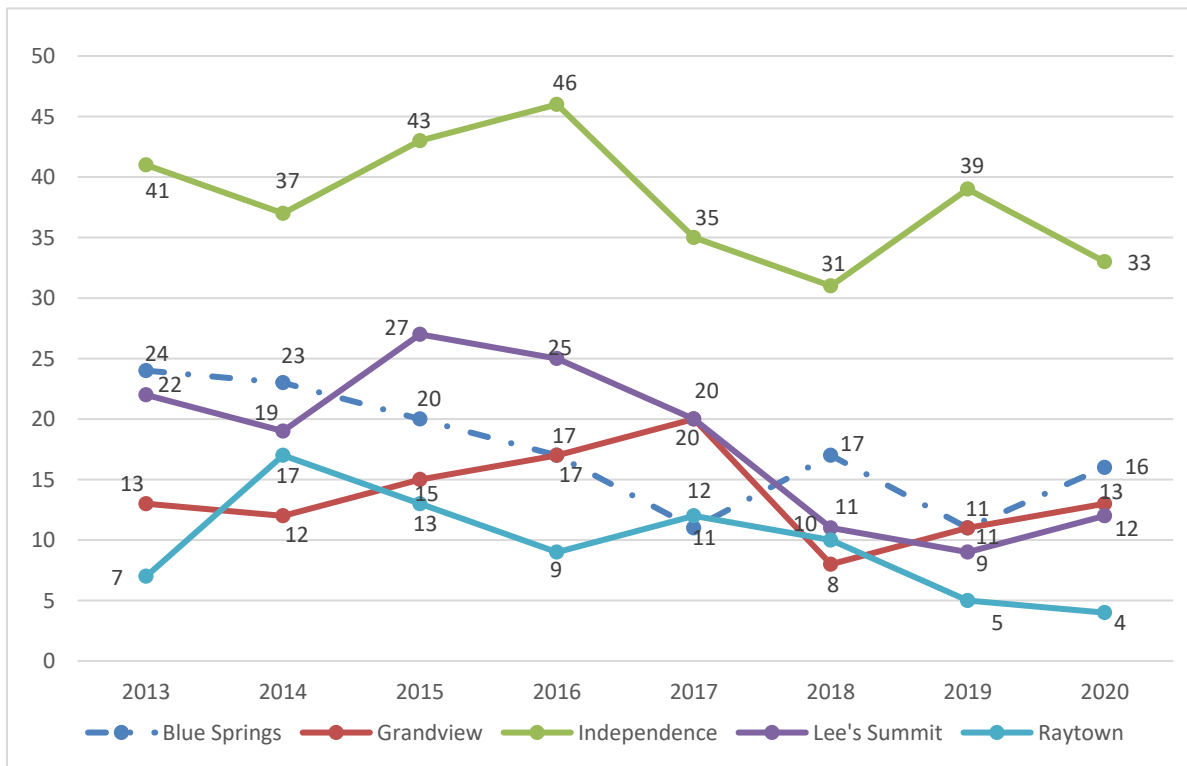
City	Number of Youth Ages 10-17 ²⁵	Rate of Filings per 1,000 Youth Ages 10-17
Blue Springs	6,858	2.3
Grandview	2,450	5.3
Independence	12,223	2.7
Kansas City	46,707	2.7
Lee's Summit	15,283	0.8
Raytown	2,955	1.4

²⁵ Number of youth in each city comes from the 2019 American Community Survey "Age and Sex" charts for individual cities available on United States Census Bureau website: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table>.

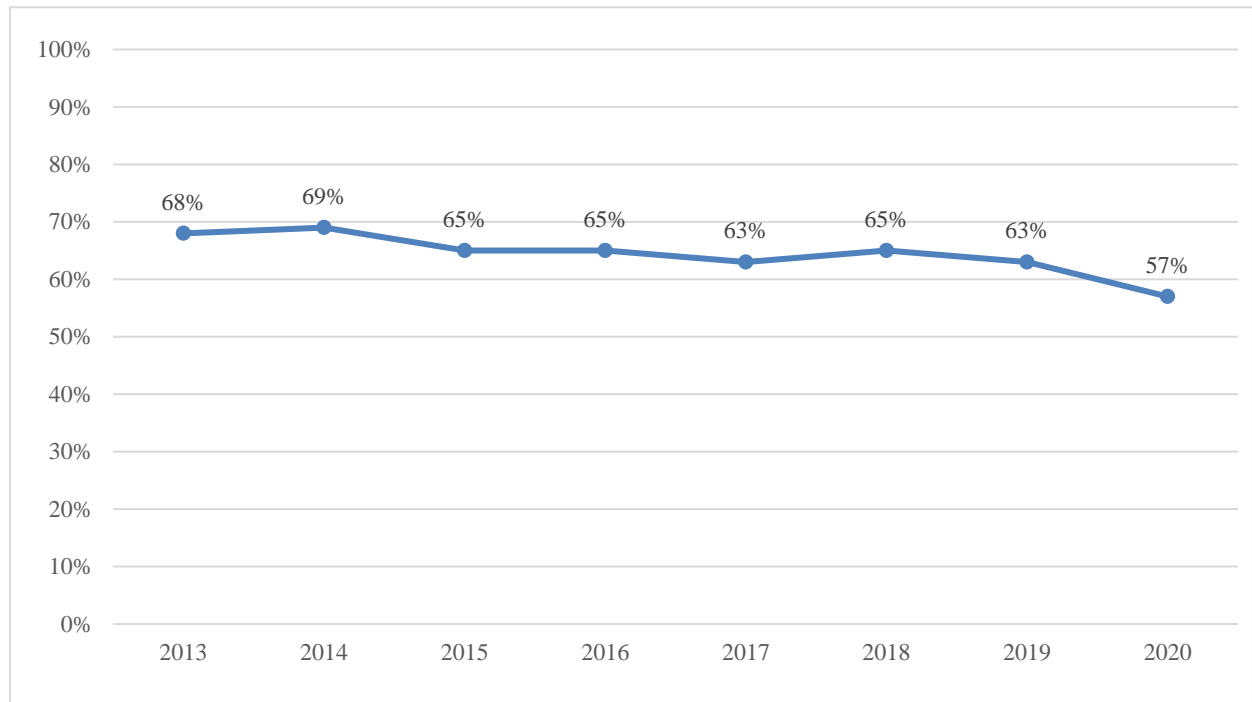
Graph 19. Youth Residing in Kansas City, Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings



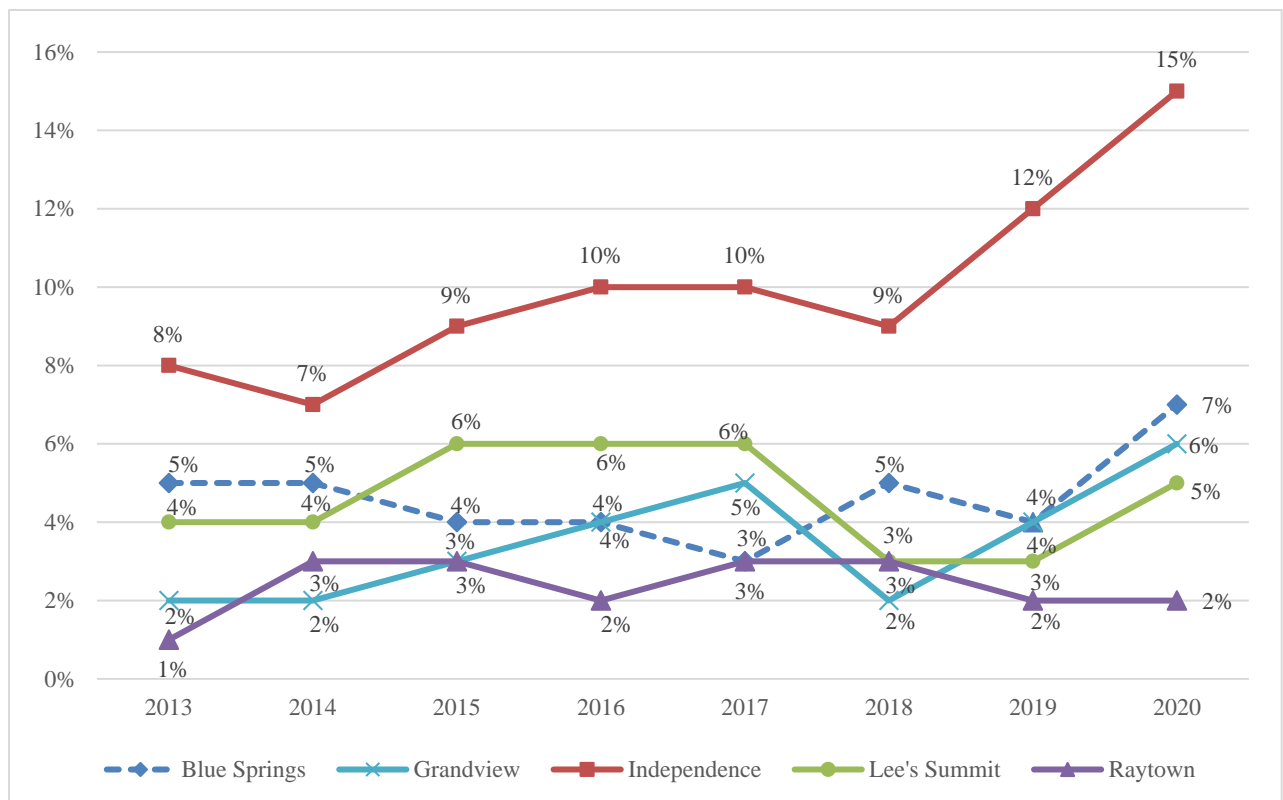
Graph 20. Youth Residing in Other Cities, Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings



Graph 21. Youth Residing in Kansas City with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings as Percentages of All Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings



Graph 22. Youth Residing in Other Cities with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings as Percentages of All Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings



Disposition and Intervention Services

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

Family Court Services offers a broad range of prevention, intervention, and treatment programs and services to youth in Jackson County. This includes programming for delinquent youth, including:

- Detainment (secure and non-secure)
- Prevention and Diversion Services
- Probation Services
- Residential Treatment

In addition to its delinquency programming, Family Court Services offers interventions for youth and families with child abuse and neglect cases, families who are affected by divorce and separation, and victims of offenses by juveniles. These include:

- Family Treatment Court
- Child Protection & Permanency Unit
- Parent Awareness Courses
- Supervised Visitation and Monitored Exchanges
- Victim Services

Family Court Services – Delinquency

This section covers disposition and intervention services provided by the Family Court for youth who are adjudicated as well as those diverted from prosecution.

Detainment (Secure & Non-Secure). The annual number of youth detained in secure detention has declined 69% since 2013. The number of youth detained in non-secure detention has declined 83% in the same period.

Prevention & Diversion. In 2020, four programs served a total of 139 youth and their families. This represented a 49% decrease in the number of youth served compared to 2019. The greatest drop was in care calls; the Court received 73% fewer care calls in 2020 than it had the previous year.

Probation & Residential Treatment. The number of youth ordered to Field Services supervision in a year is less than half of what it was in 2013. Since 2016, the number has decreased steadily, dropping 26% between 2019 and 2020. The number of youth committed to Hilltop Residential Center has declined 59% since 2013.

Table 16. Detainments in Secure Detention

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Detention	444	378	354	299	289	251	211	140
% change	--	-15%	-6%	-16%	-3%	-13%	-16%	-34%
Avg. Daily Population	26	21	19	23	23	23	18	14

Graphs 23-25. Youth Admitted to Detention

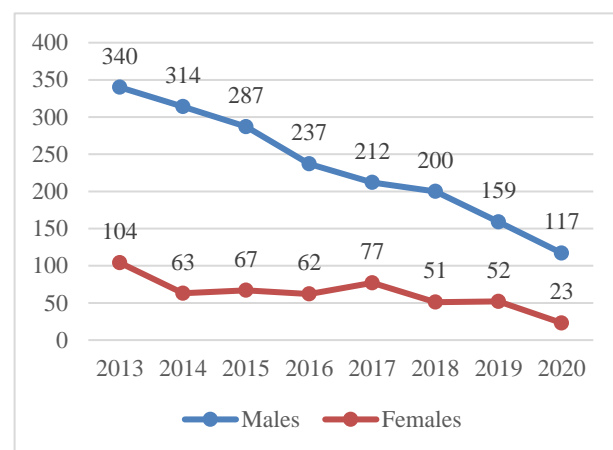
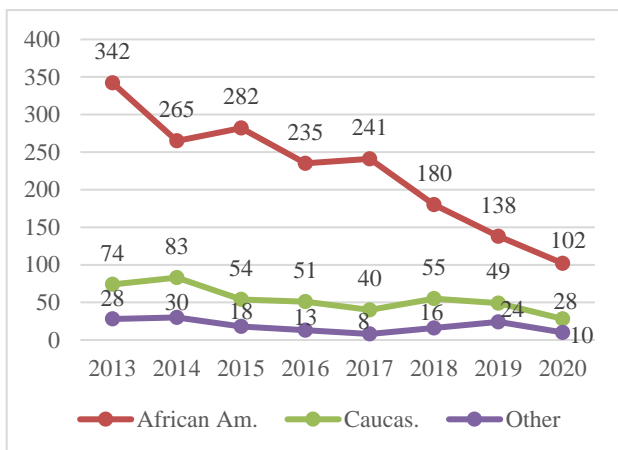
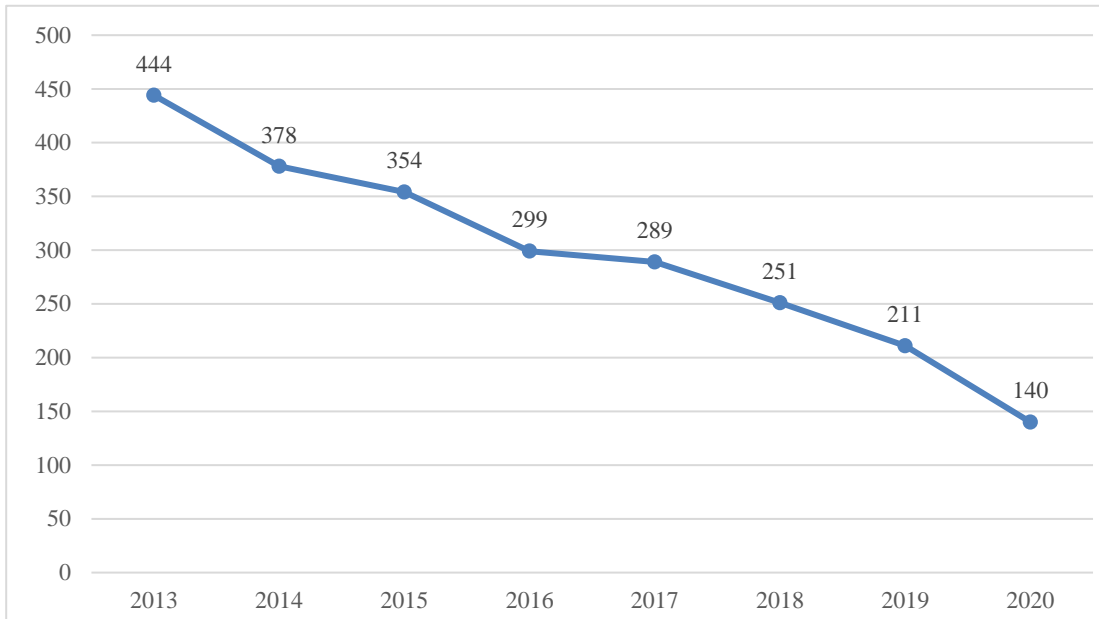
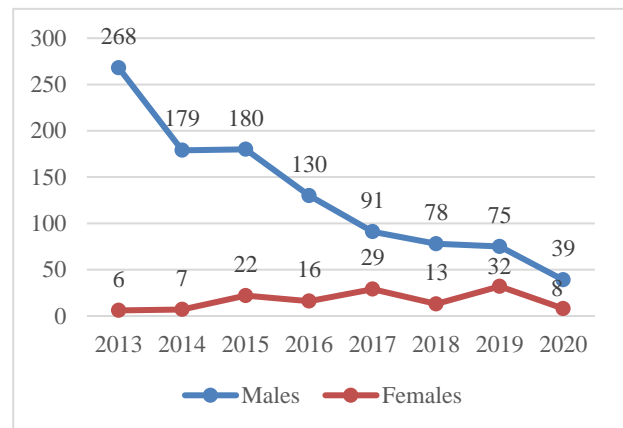
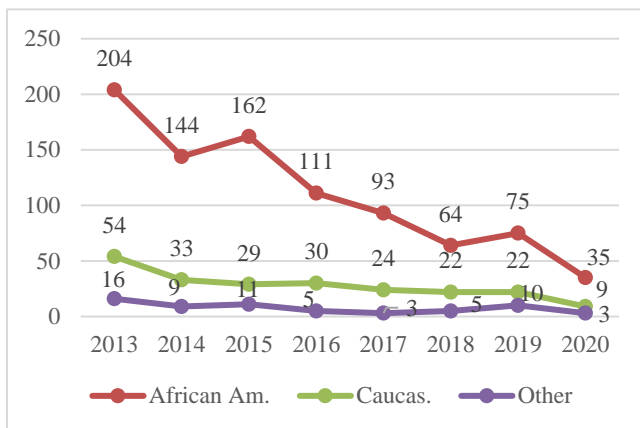
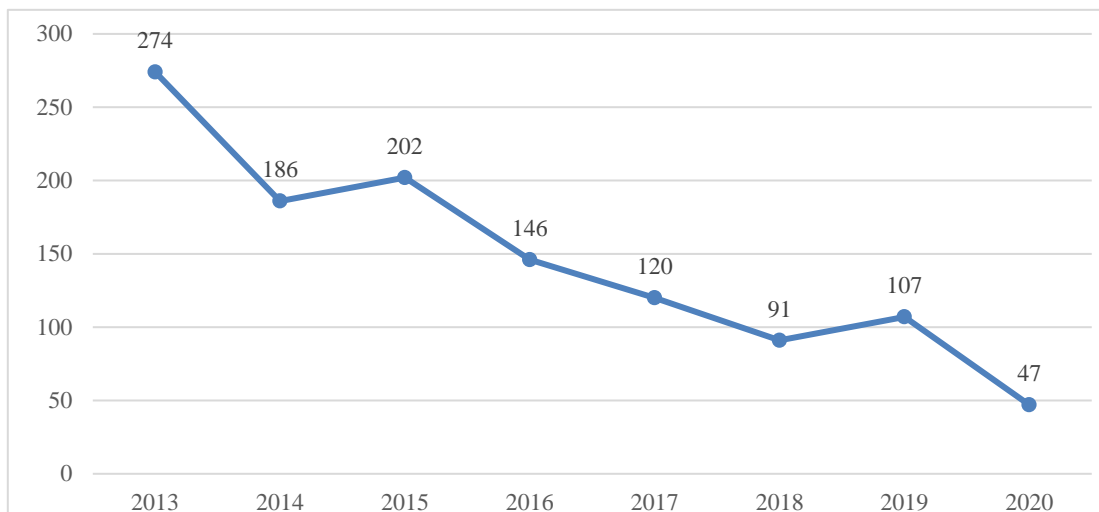


Table 17 and Graphs 28-28
Detainments in Non-Secure Detention Facilities

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jackson House	104	113	83	--	--	--	--	--
Community Reintegration Group Home ²⁶	153	58	84	116	61	14	--	--
Hilltop Residential Center	17	15	35	30	59	77	107	47
Total	274	186	202	146	120	91	107	47
% change	--	-32%	+9%	-28%	-18%	-24%	+18%	-56%



²⁶ The Community Reintegration Group Home (CRGH) began housing Jackson House youth in 2015 as a temporary measure due to staffing shortages in Detention. CRGH closed on March 13, 2018; staff and residents were relocated to Hilltop.

Table 18. Prevention and Diversion Programs

Program	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ASSP (Alternative to School Suspension) ²⁷	48a/ 84y	91a/ 116y	50a/ 80y	18a/ 29y	--	--	--	--
Diversion Program	153	276	112	94	65	40	34	29
Informal Adjustment ²⁸	28	26	--	--	--	--	--	--
Family Counseling Unit/Care Calls ²⁹	239	212	181	164	153	199	202	55
Shoplifting Diversion	34	47	34	66	58	10	27	18
Success Court ³⁰	206	118	222	116	146	29	--	--
Juvenile Assessment Center ³¹	--	--	--	--	--	--	12 ³²	37 ³³
Total	744	795	629	469	422	278	275	139
% change	--	+7%	-21%	-25%	-10%	-34%	-1%	-49%

²⁷ The row for ASSP reports the number of youth (y) impacted by the services provided to adults (a) by way of this program. Only the number of youth (not the number of adults) is included in the total number for the column. The ASSP program has not been in operation since 2016.

²⁸ The Informal Adjustment Program has not been in operation since 2014.

²⁹ The Family Counseling Unit (care calls) became a function of the Juvenile Assessment Center in September 2019.

³⁰ This program was previously titled Truancy Court. It has not been in operation since 2018.

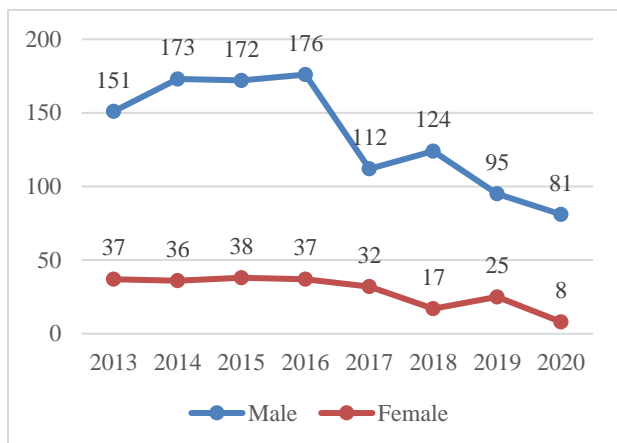
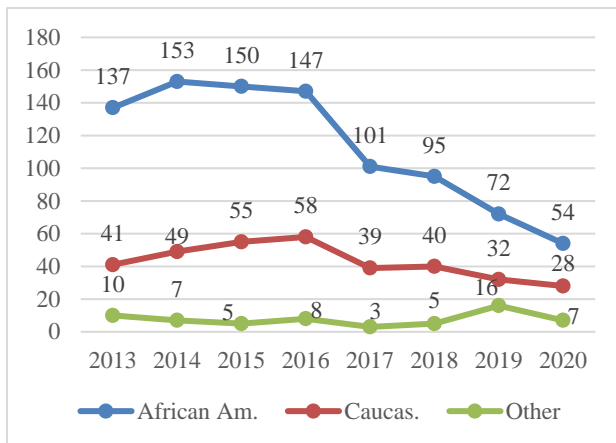
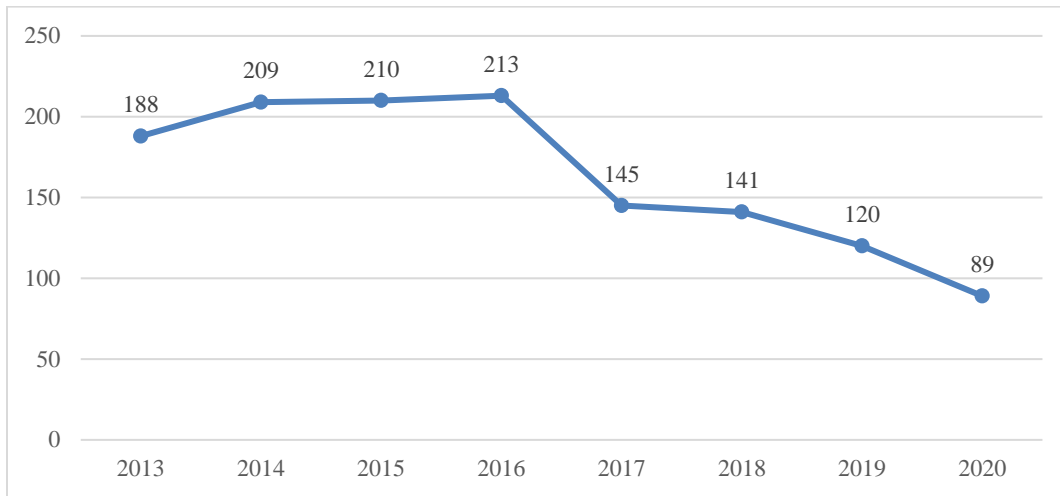
³¹ The Juvenile Assessment Center began accepting cases on September 15, 2019. Cases listed here are those referred to the JAC from the Warrant Desk.

³² The JAC also received 9 walk-ins in 2019 and one referral from KCPD.

³³ The JAC also received 3 walk-ins in 2020 and one referral from KCPD.

**Table 19 and Graphs 33-31
Youth on Probation**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Youth Ordered to FCS Supervision ³⁴	188	209	210	213	145	141	120	89
% change	--	+11%	+0%	+1%	-32%	-3%	-13%	-26%

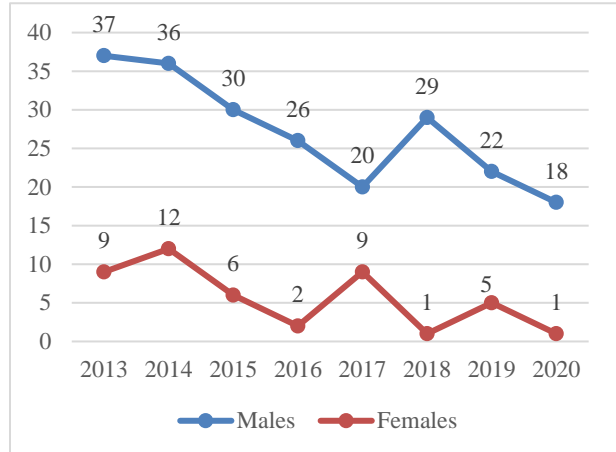
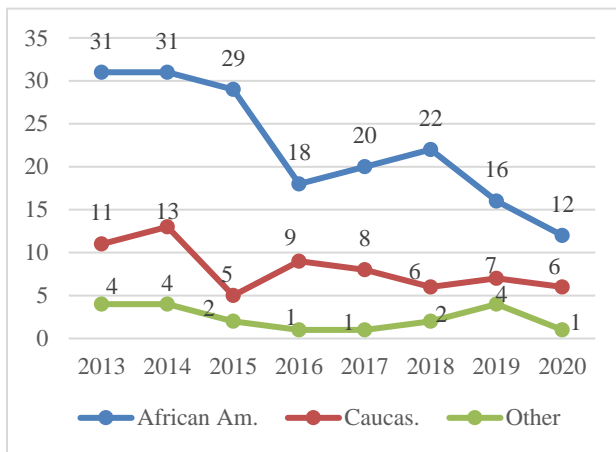
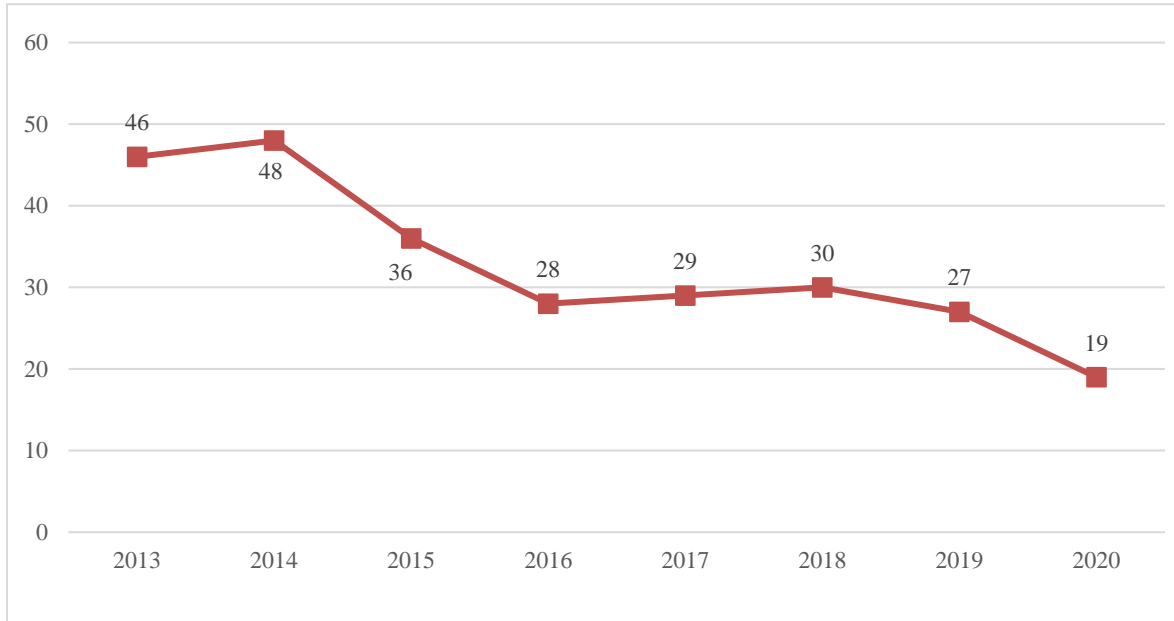


At the time of this report, race was unknown for one youth in 2017 and two youth in 2018.

³⁴ Youth ordered to Family Court Supervision includes youth on probation, at Hilltop Residential Center, and in private residential placements.

Table 20 and Graphs 38-34
Commitments to Hilltop Residential Center

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Hilltop ³⁵	46	48	36	28	29	30	27	19
% change	--	+4%	-25%	-22%	+4%	+3%	-10%	-30%



Commitments to the Division of Youth

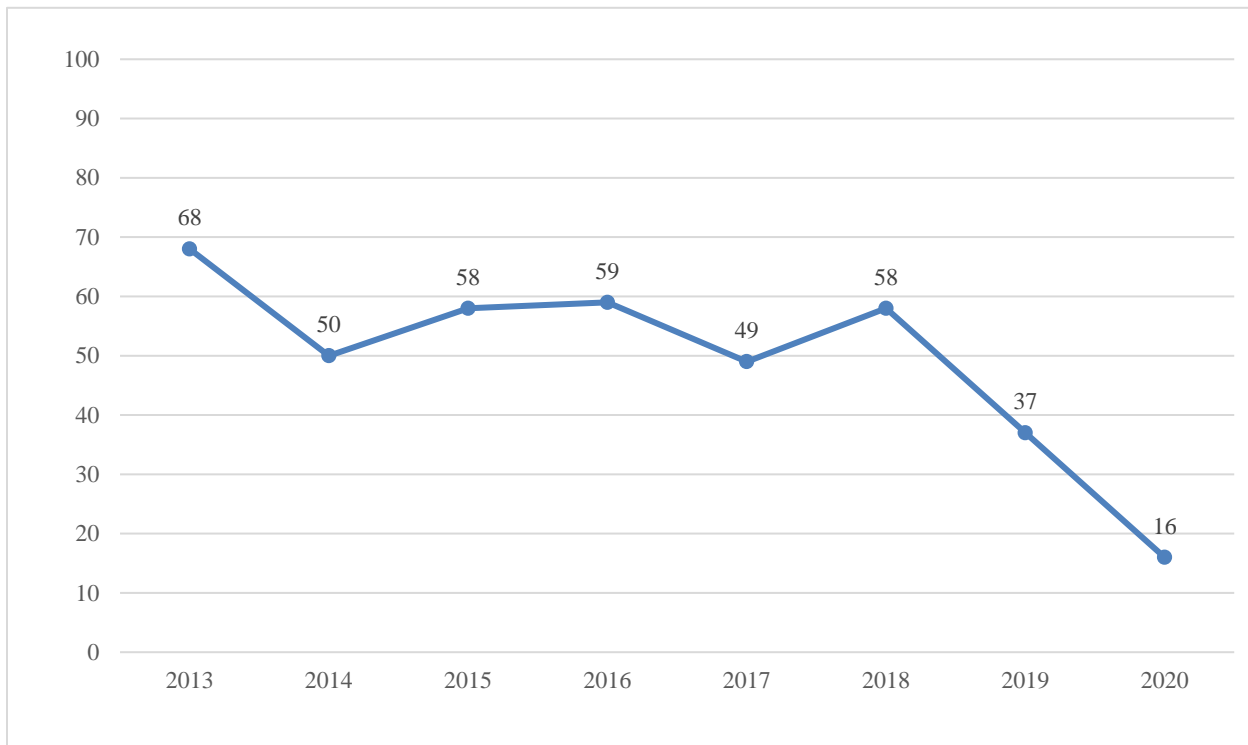
³⁵ Commitment figures capture initial commitment and do not include occasions when youth were returned to Hilltop after having been absent without leave or after being released on furlough.

Commitments to the Division of Youth Services

Commitments to the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) have declined precipitously in the last two years; only 28% as many youth were committed to DHS in 2020 as were committed in 2018. The percentage of youth committed to DHS who were African-American also declined from 83% two years ago to 63% in 2020. Prior to this point, DHS commitments had remained fairly stable (at around 50-60 each year) since increasing in 2013 due to the closure of McCune Residential Center.

Table 21 and Graph 43
Commitments to the Division of Youth Services

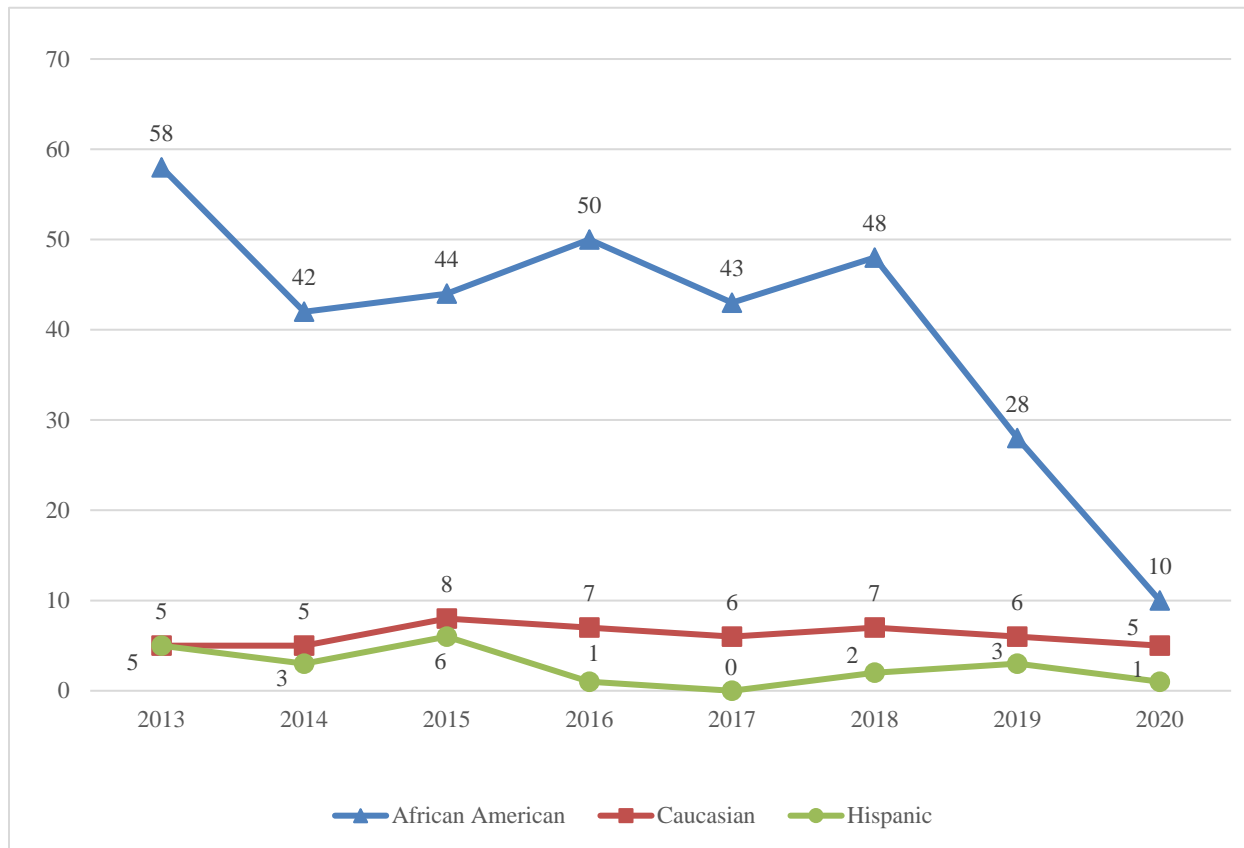
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number	68	50	58	59	49	58	37	16
% change	--	-26%	+16%	+2%	-17%	+18%	-36%	-57%
Rate per 1,000 youth ³⁶	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.2



³⁶ Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10 to 17 years.

Table 22 and Graph 44
Commitments to DYS by Race

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2013	58	85%	5	7%	5	7%
2014	42	84%	5	10%	3	6%
2015	44	76%	8	14%	6	10%
2016 ³⁷	50	85%	7	12%	1	2%
2017	43	88%	6	12%	0	--
2018	48	83%	7	12%	2	3%
2019	28	76%	6	16%	3	8%
2020	10	63%	5	31%	1	6%



³⁷ Race for one youth was designated other than African American, Caucasian, or Hispanic in 2016.

Table 23 and Graph 45
Commitments to DYS by Gender

Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
2013	65	96%	3	4%
2014	46	92%	4	8%
2015	53	91%	5	9%
2016	55	93%	4	7%
2017	38	78%	11	22%
2018	48	83%	10	17%
2019	31	84%	6	16%
2020	14	88%	2	13%

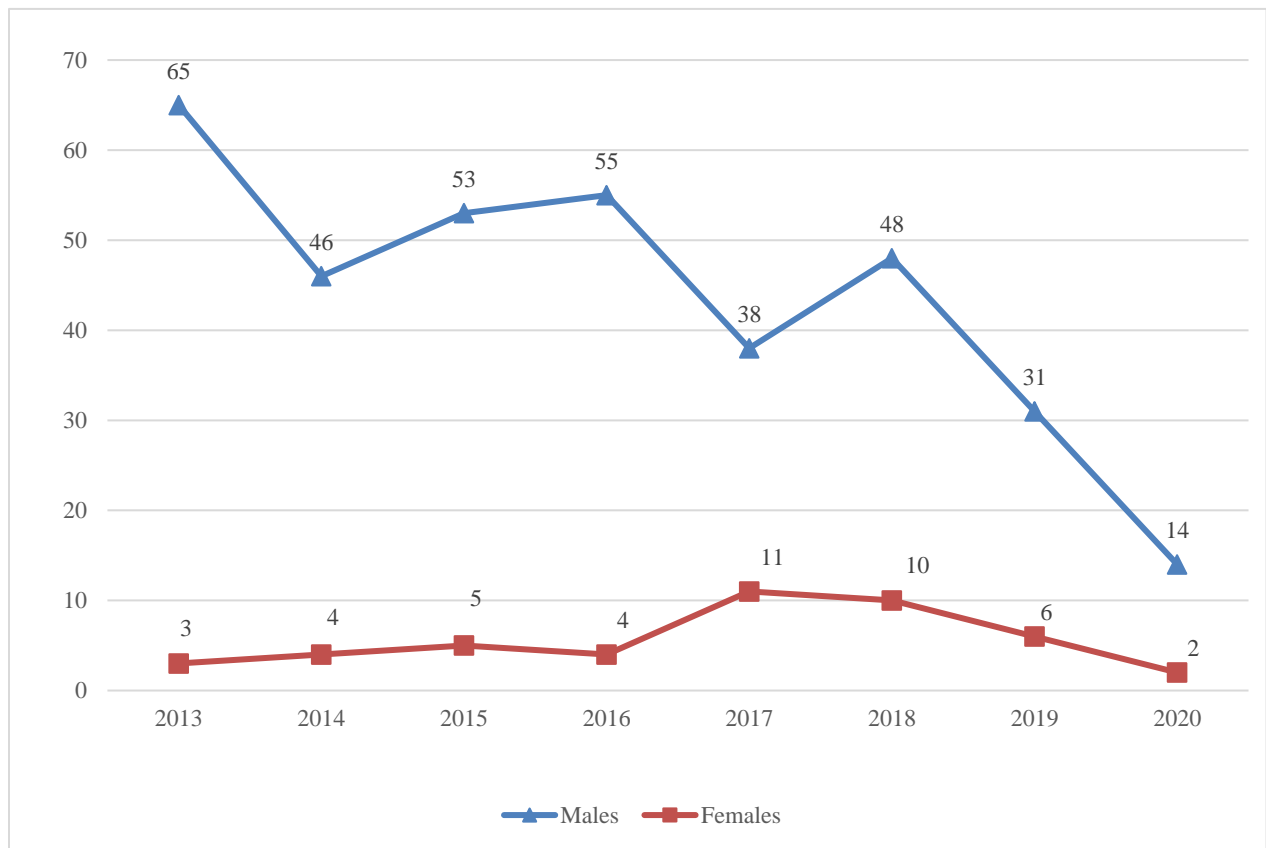
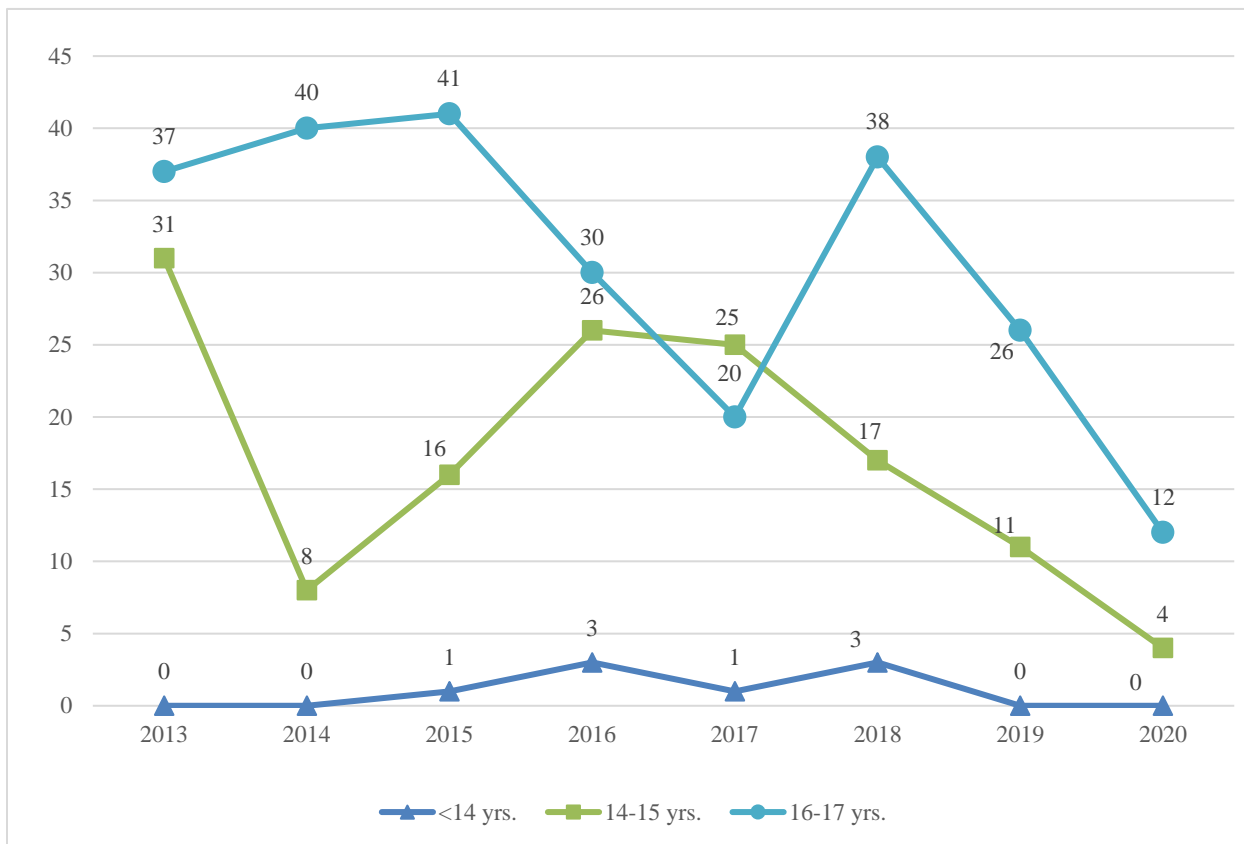


Table 24 and Graph 46
Commitments to DYS by Age

Year	<14 yrs.		14-15 yrs.		16-17 yrs.	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2013	0	--	31	46%	37	54%
2014 ³⁸	0	--	8	16%	40	80%
2015	1	1%	16	28%	41	71%
2016	3	5%	26	44%	30	51%
2017	1	2%	25	51%	23	47%
2018	3	5%	17	29%	38	66%
2019	0	--	11	30%	26	70%
2020	0	--	4	25%	12	75%



³⁸ Two youth in 2014 were 18 at the time of DYS commitment.

Certification Cases

According to Missouri Statute:

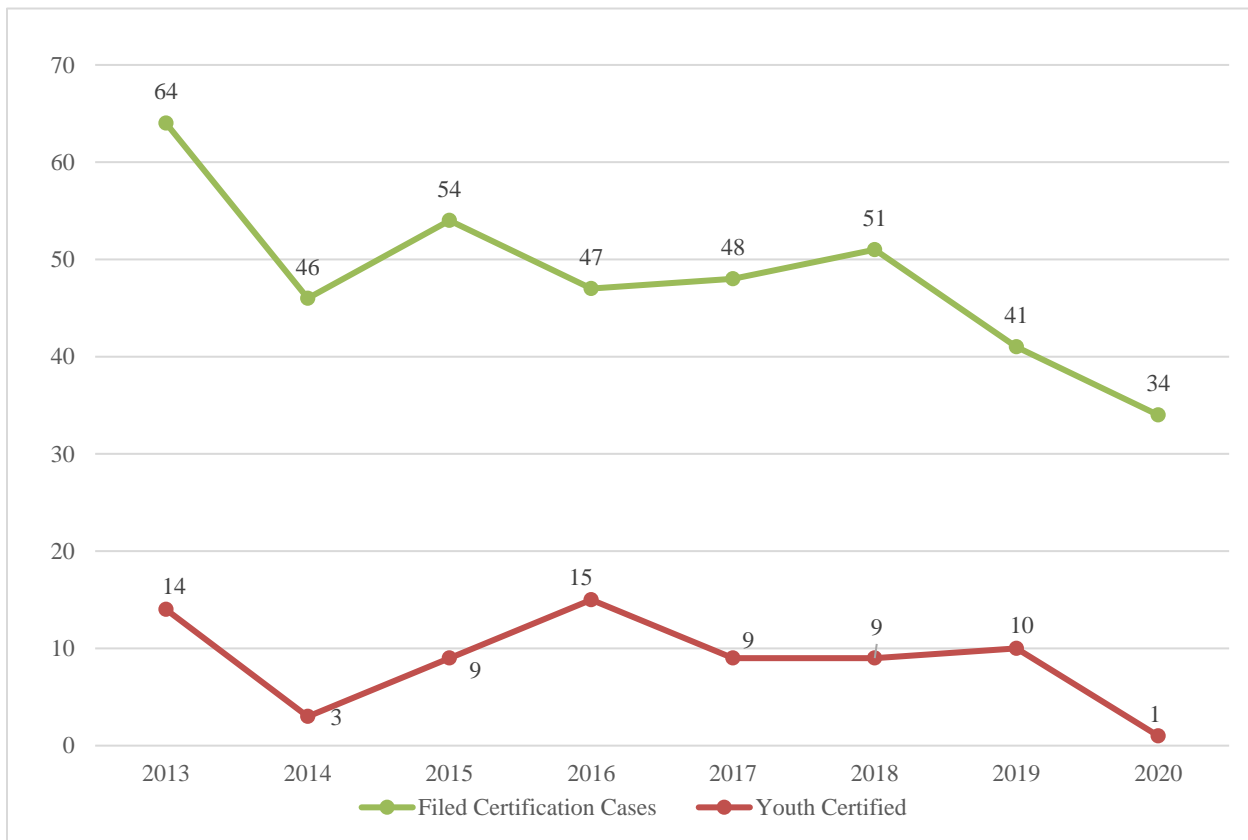
“If a petition alleges that a child between the ages of 12 and 17 has committed an offense which would be considered a felony if committed by an adult, the court may, upon its own motion or upon motion by the juvenile officer, the child or the child's custodian, order a hearing and may, in its discretion, 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.”³⁹

The number of certification filings was much lower in 2020 than in the past several years: Just one of the 34 youth with certification cases filed (3%) was been certified. In the past three years, this rate has been around 20%.

³⁹ Missouri General Assembly. Revised Statute 211.071.

Table 25 and Graph 47
Certification Cases Filed and Youth Certified by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cases Filed	64	46	54	47	48	51	41	34
% change	--	-28%	+17%	-13%	+2%	+6%	-20%	-17%
Rate per 1,000 youth ⁴⁰	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5
Youth Certified ⁴¹	14	3	9	15	9	9	10	1
% of cases filed	22%	6%	17%	32%	19%	18%	24%	3%



⁴⁰ Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10 to 17 years.

⁴¹ Certifications are reported by year the case was filed rather than year certification took place.

Table 26. Certification Cases Filed in 2020 by Charge

Charge Category	Mandatory Filings (Offense ⁴²)	Mandatory Filings (Priors ⁴³)	Discretionary Filings
Assault ⁴⁴	5	1	0
Murder ⁴⁵	0	0	0
Sex Offense	0	0	0
Robbery	25	0	0
Burglary	--	1	0
Stealing	--	1	0
Involuntary Manslaughter	--	0	1
Total	30	3	1

Table 27. Details for Youth Certified (of Youth with Certification Cases Filed in 2020)

Offense	Num of Filings	Filing Type	Age at Filing	Race	Gender
Involuntary Manslaughter	1	Discretionary	18 yrs	African American	Male
Total Certified in 2020	1	Discretionary	18 yrs	1 African American	1 Male
Total with Certification Denied	33				

⁴² 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.

⁴³ 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.

⁴⁴ Assault includes Assault 1st, Attempted Assault 1st, and Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer 1st Degree.

⁴⁵ Murder includes Murder in the 1st and 2nd degrees.

Family Court Services – Children and Families

This section covers Family Court Services interventions and resources for families with child welfare cases, families experiencing separation or divorce, and individuals who have been the victims of offenses committed by youth.

Family Treatment Court. The Family Drug Court was renamed the Family Treatment Court in late 2020. The number of participants in Family Treatment Court has fluctuated over the past seven years, with an average just under 100. In 2020, 72 individuals (61 families) participated in Family Treatment Court.

Child Protection & Permanency Unit. In January 2019, the Court established the Child Protection & Permanency Unit with the goal of safely reducing time to permanency for children ages 0-3. Of CPPU youth released from jurisdiction in 2020, 23 (82%) were reunified, and 5 were adopted. The average time under jurisdiction was 11.5 months.

Parent Awareness Courses. Family Court Resource Services offers three parent awareness courses. Focus on Children in Separation (FOCIS) is a class for married but separated couples with children; Re-FOCIS is a refresher course; and Parenting Together Living Apart (PTLA) is a class for never-married parents. Enrollment in these courses declined considerably in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to suspend all in-person classes for several months. A total of 1,363 parents and children were served in 2020, a decrease of 53% from 2019.

Supervised Visitation. Supervised visitation is provided for cases with issues such as custodial access interference or parent-child estrangement. 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 services were cancelled several times throughout 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Actual visits held decreased 56% in 2020 from the previous year. Only four monitored exchanges were held in 2020 compared to 49 in 2019.

Mediation. Overall, mediators served 254 cases in 2020, a decrease of 28% from 2019. This figure does not include mediation conducted by court-approved panel mediators (private mediators).

Table 28 and Graphs 48-42
Participants Entering the Family Treatment Court by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
FTC	106	97	90	96	76	133	115	72
% change	--	-8%	-7%	+7%	-21%	+75%	-14%	-37%

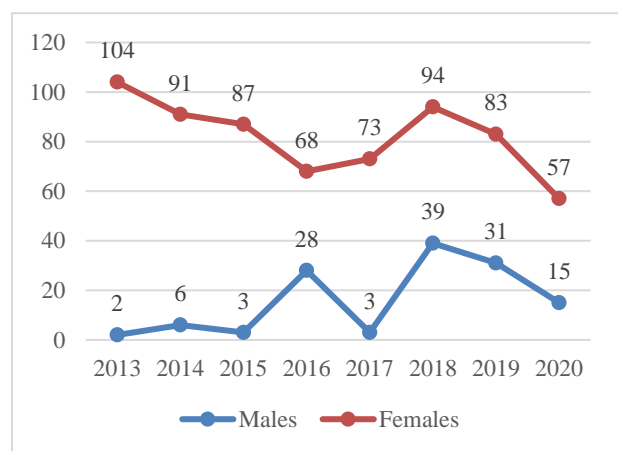
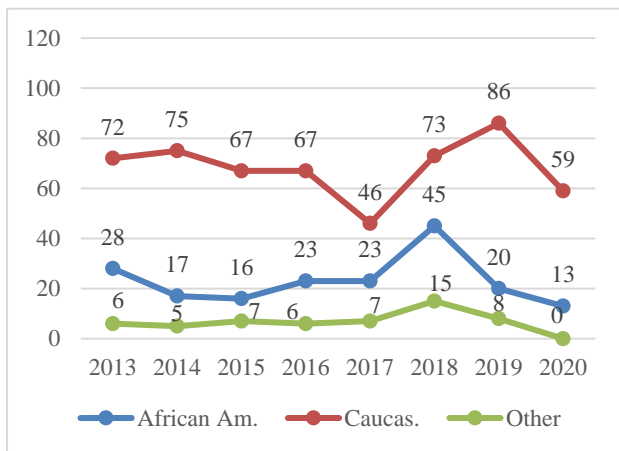
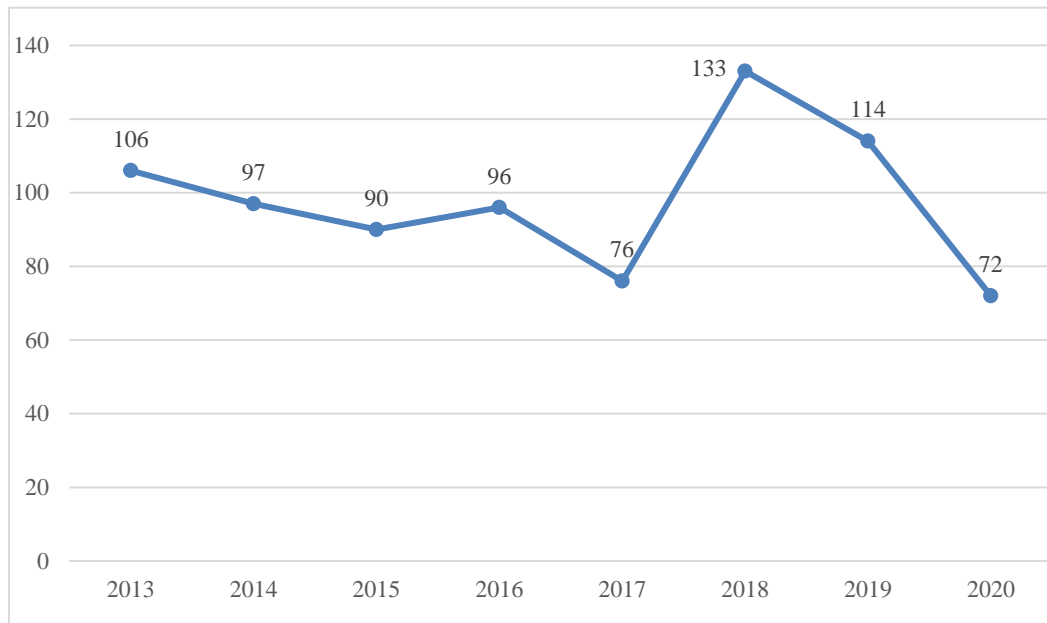


Table 29 and Graphs 53-45
Participants Entering the Child Protection & Permanency Unit by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CPPU	--	--	--	--	--	--	68	36
% change	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-47%

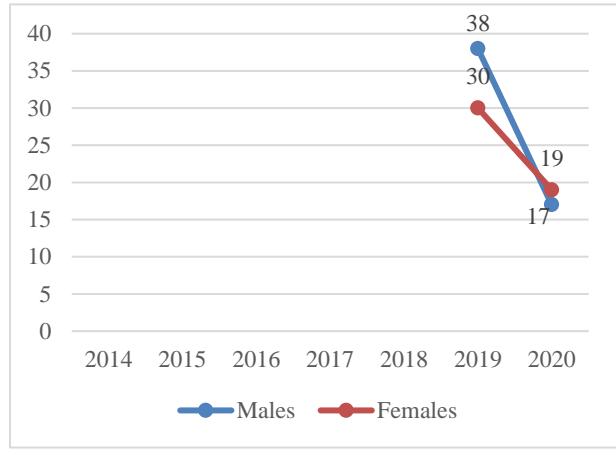
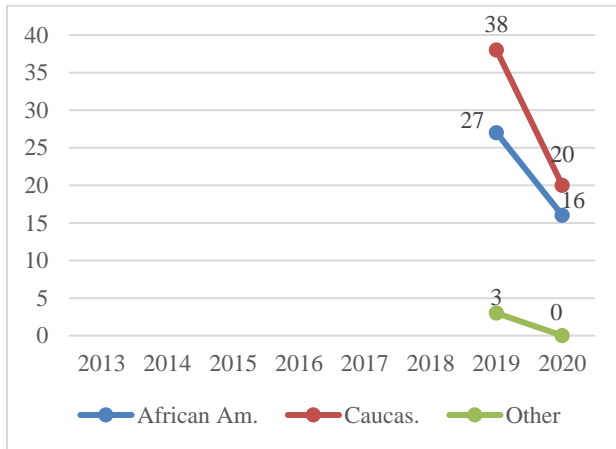
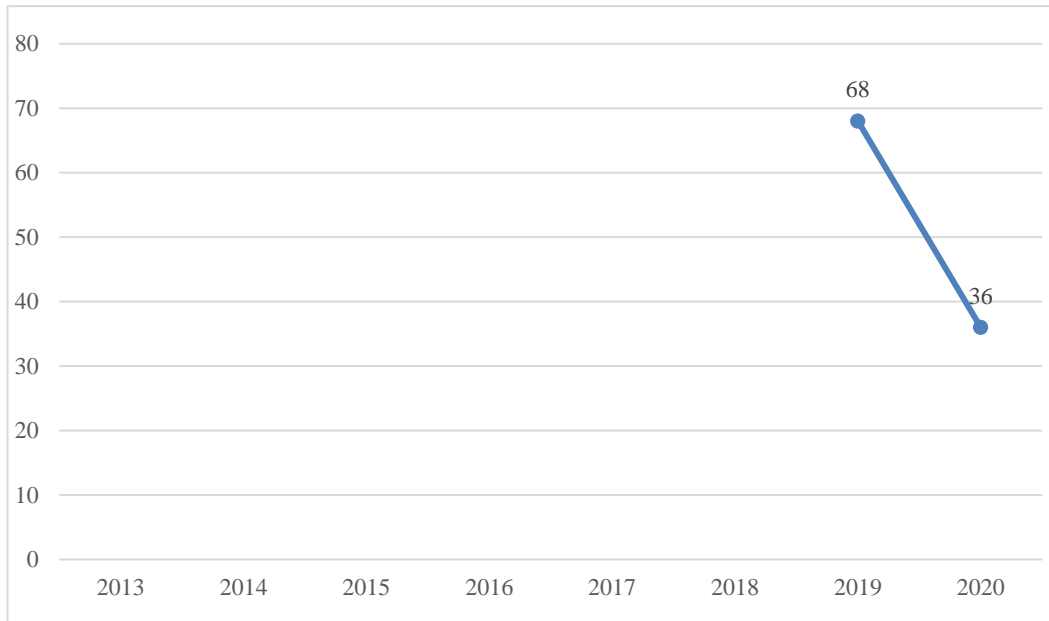
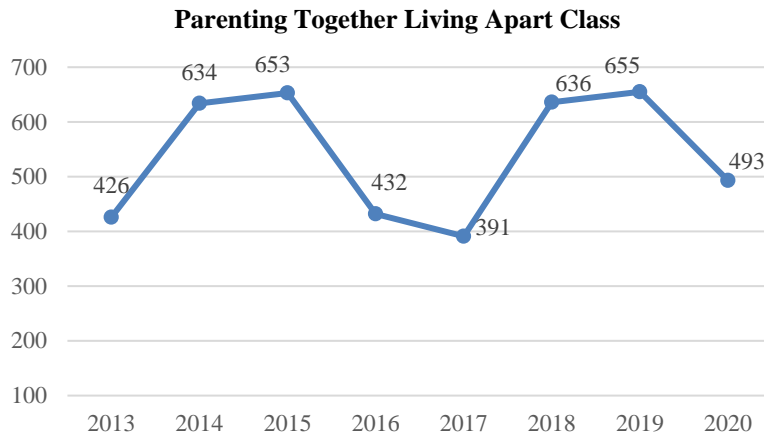
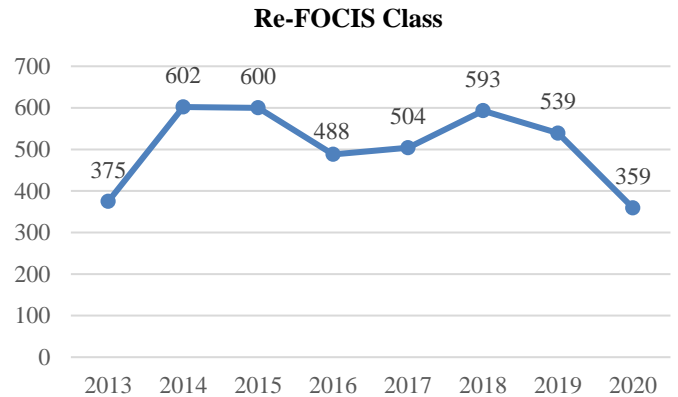
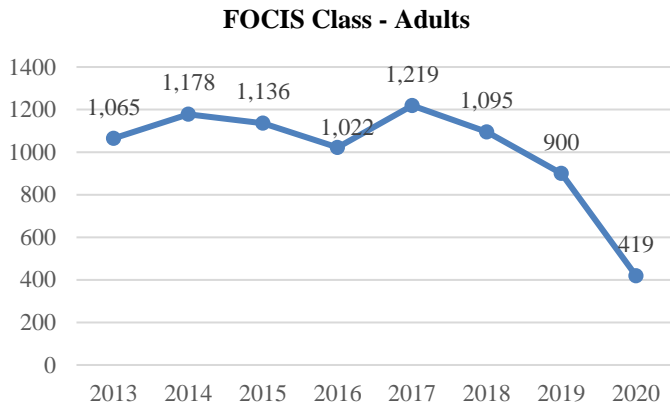


Table 30 and Graphs 58-48
Parent Awareness Courses

Course	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁴⁶
FOCIS								
Adults	1,065	1,178	1,136	1,022	1,219	1,095	900	419
Youth	859	783	859	738	779	834	797	92
FOCIS Total	1,924	1,961	1,995	1,760	1,998	1,929	1,697	511
Re-FOCIS	375	602	600	488	504	593	539	359
Parenting Together Living Apart	426	634	653	432	391	636	655	493
Grand Total	2,725	3,197	3,248	2,680	2,893	3,158	2,891	1,363
% change	--	+17%	+2%	-17%	+8%	+9%	-9%	-53%

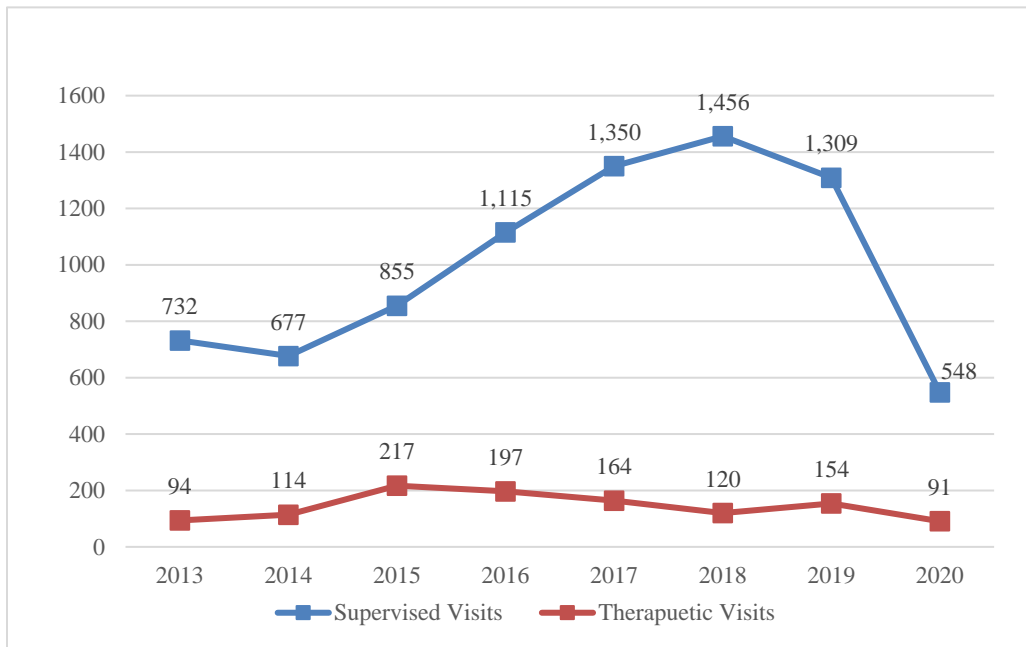


⁴⁶ For several months in 2020, all in-person classes were suspended, and class content was provided to parents in the form of packets sent through Civil Records. The number of packets sent out was not tracked. For a few months before packets were assembled, parents who would have attended FOCIS were sent to a similar online class. They are not reflected in the numbers presented in this table.

Table 31. Connections Program Visits and Exchanges

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁴⁷
Supervised Visits								
Scheduled Visits	1,070	1,039	1,308	1,643	1,876	2,144	1,889	1,118
Actual Visits	732	677	855	1,115	1,350	1,456	1,309	548
Therapeutic Visits								
Scheduled Visits	150	241	346	332	250	181	227	158
Actual Visits	94	114	217	197	164	120	154	91
Grand Total Visits								
Scheduled Visits	1,220	1,280	1,654	1,975	2,126	2,325	2,116	1,276
Actual Visits ⁴⁸	826	791	1,072	1,312	1,514	1,576	1,463	639
Monitored Exchanges								
Scheduled Exchanges	359	477	757	1,043	710	189	94	13
Actual Exchanges	255	286	449	786	561	100	49	4

Graph 63. Connections Program Visits Held



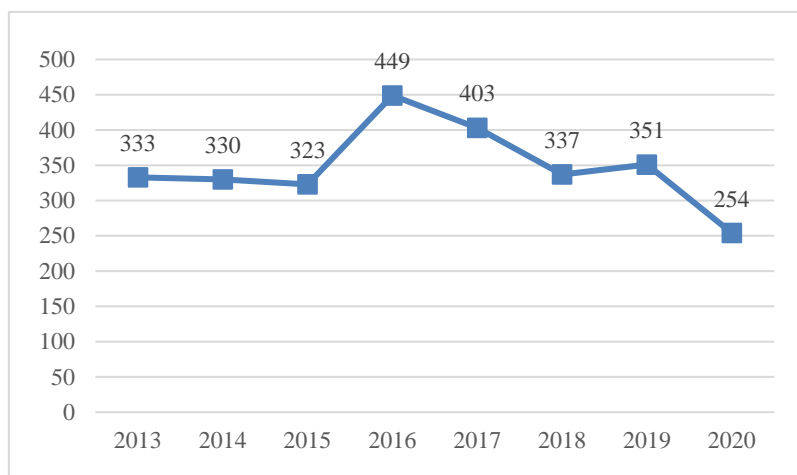
⁴⁷ Visitation services were cancelled several times throughout 2020 due to concerns about safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴⁸ Actual visits represent units of services. One unit of service equals one hour.

Table 32. Mediation Services

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁴⁹
Mediation (Rule 68.12)								
Referrals	167	206	155	101	107	96	49	21
Mediations	-- ⁵⁰	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adult Abuse Mediation								
Referrals	130	182	200	202	161	115	141	41
Mediations	123	172	180	202	156	112	136	38
Child Dependency Mediation								
Referrals	83	100	157	276	238	249	229	180
Mediations	52	79	115	217	227	208	203	207 ⁵¹
Other Domestic Relations Mediations⁵²								
Referrals	211	85	34	41	33	16	14	9
Mediations	158	79	28	30	20	17	12	9
Grand Total Mediations								
Referrals	591	573	546	620	539	476	432	251
Mediations	333	330	323	449	403	337	351	254

Graph 64. Total Mediations Held



⁴⁹ Visitation services were cancelled several times throughout 2020 due to concerns about safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁰ 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.

⁵¹ Twenty-seven child-dependency mediations completed in 2020 were carried over from the previous year.

⁵² This includes mediations related to modifications of custody and visitation, Family Access motions, and mediations previously reported under Mediation (IV-D)/Paternity and Victim-Offender Mediation. In 2013, a Missouri 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.

Table 33. Victim Services Cases Served

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Victim Services Cases	451	446	471	515	351	377	296	232
% change	--	-1%	+6%	+9%	-32%	+7%	-21%	-22%

COVID-19 Pandemic Monitoring

Family Court operations looked very different starting in March 2020, as the 16th Circuit made the decision to suspend most in-person hearings and programs and began figuring out how to deliver its services virtually. This section presents data from 2019 and 2020 in a few key areas of operation to paint a statistical portrait of how the COVID-19 pandemic may have shaped trends at the Court. These include:

- Inventory of Open Cases
- Detention Admissions and Daily Populations
- Pre-adjudication Re-offense Rates
- Hearings
- Time to Disposition

In some areas, the pandemic made a clear and time-limited impact, but this is not always the case. We will continue to monitor these areas to determine whether conditions in 2020 were anomalous or indicative of more persistent trends.

Referrals and Open Cases

The inventory of open delinquency cases jumped up in the first month of the pandemic, likely due to a pause in hearings, but it has decreased steadily since then to the lowest point in the past two years. The number of open delinquency cases was 19% lower at the end of 2020 than it was at the end of 2019. Referrals for delinquent offenses were down overall in 2020. The breakdown by offense type was largely similar to 2019 with two notable differences: nearly twice as many youth were referred for first- or second-degree assault in 2020 as in 2019, and less than half as many youth were referred for tampering with a motor vehicle.

In contrast to delinquency cases, the number of open child abuse and neglect cases rose steadily between March and November 2020 after a large drop over the course of 2019. This is likely due to the backlog of hearings generated during the first few months of the pandemic. The number of open TPR cases remained fairly steady, but the number of children free for adoption fluctuated over the course of the year. At the end of 2020, there were 26% fewer children free for adoption than there had been one year prior.

Graph 65. Inventory of Open Delinquency Cases

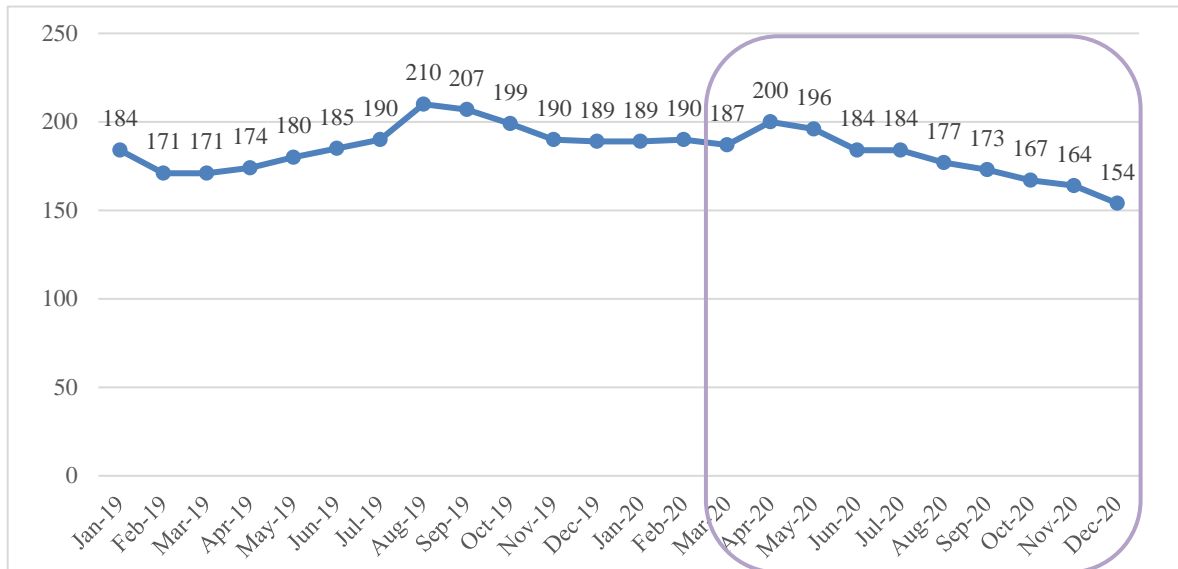
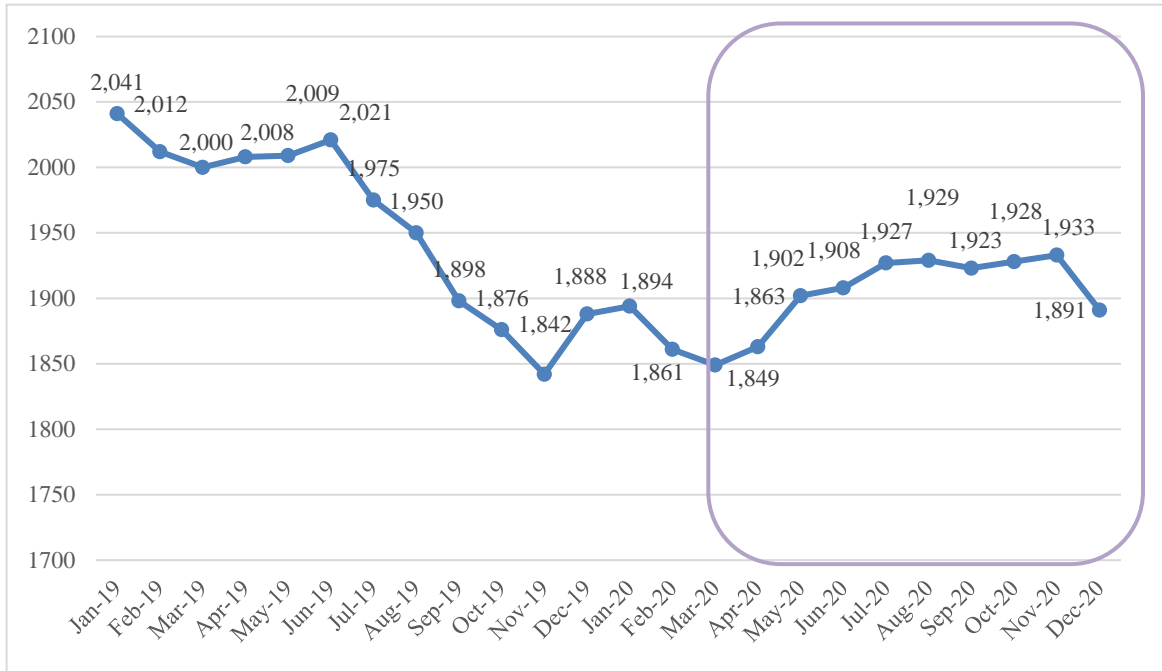


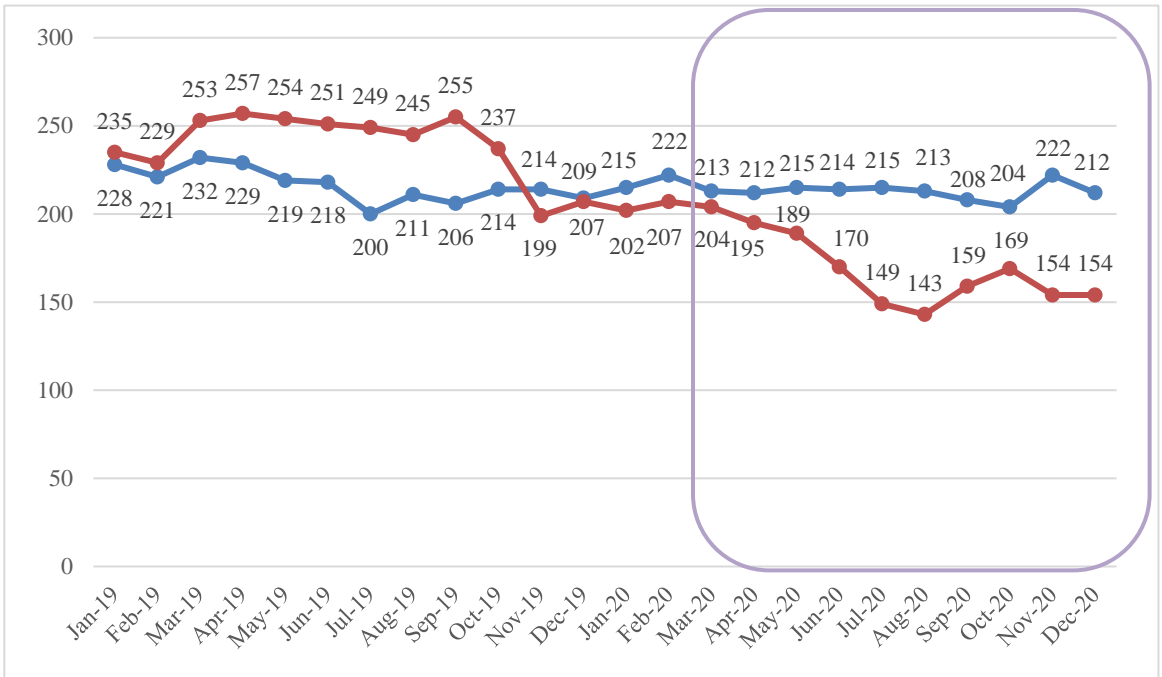
Table 34. Delinquent Referrals by Offense Type

	Assault 1 st /2 nd	Robbery 1 st /2 nd	Sex Offenses	Drug Offenses	Burglary/ Stealing	Tamper- ing	Weapons	Total
2019	45 (5%)	56 (7%)	99 (12%)	66 (8%)	136 (17%)	102 (12%)	17 (2%)	823
2020	88 (12%)	64 (9%)	104 (14%)	38 (5%)	140 (19%)	43 (6%)	20 (3%)	723

Graph 66. Inventory of Open Child Abuse & Neglect Cases



Graph 67. Inventory of Open TPR Cases and Children Free for Adoption



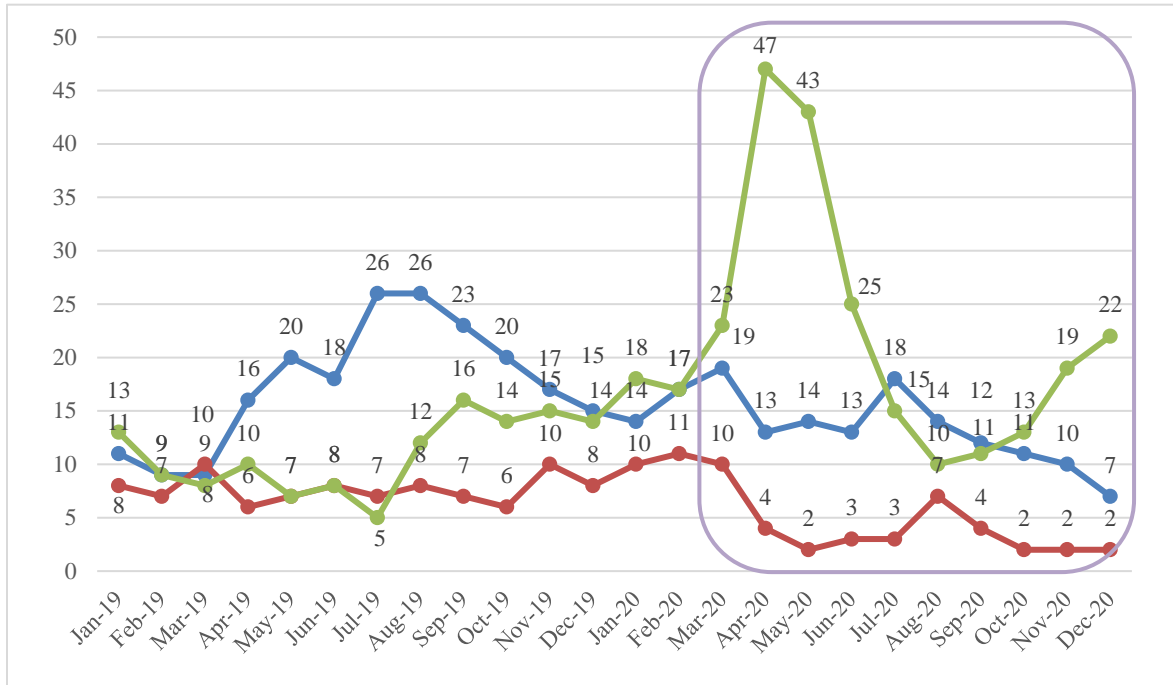
Detention and Detention Alternatives

When the pandemic began in March 2020, many youth were released from detention facilities to home detention with electronic monitoring. The population of home detention thus spiked in April but dropped significantly through the spring and summer months before increasing again more steadily in the fall and winter. The average populations of detention and Hilltop were, on average, lower in 2020 than they had been in 2019—but this may be at least partly explained by the lower number of delinquent referrals.

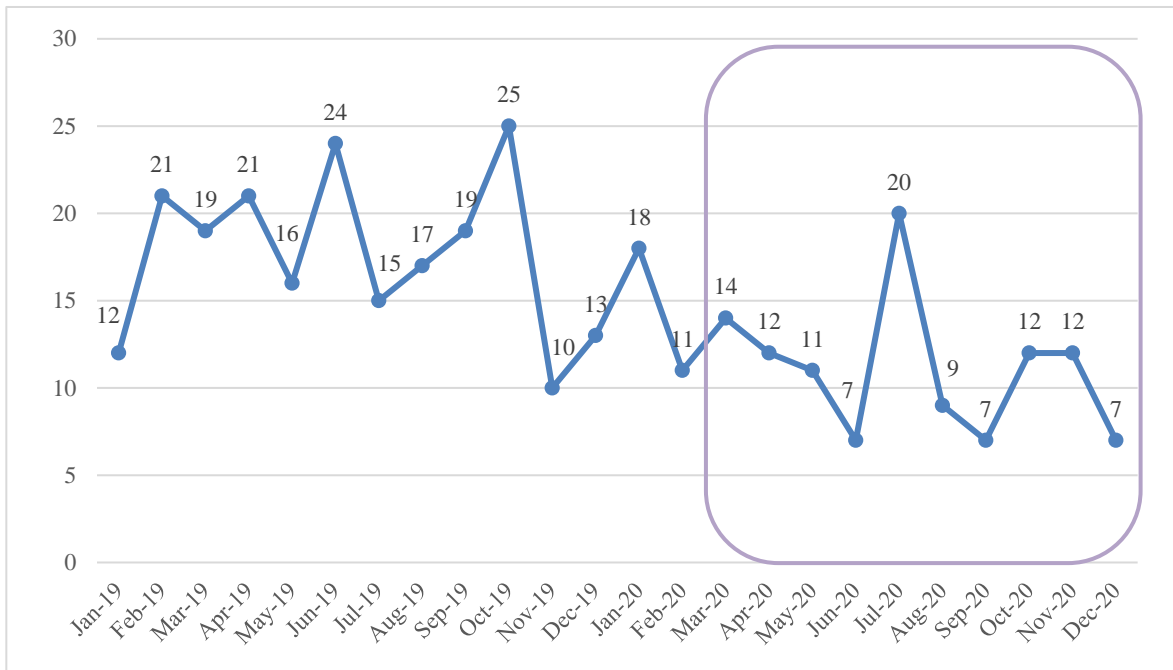
The racial breakdown of secure detention in 2020 was fairly similar to 2019. The percentage of youth admitted to detention who were Black was higher in 2020 than in 2019, but the average daily population was slightly lower (68% African-American in 2020 compared to 73% in 2019), indicating that disproportionality in admissions did not extend to length of stay.

Rates of failure to appear at court hearings and re-offenses committed while awaiting adjudication for youth at home or in detention alternatives were very similar between 2019 and 2020. It appears that using less restrictive placements did not put the community at greater risk or result in more juveniles missing hearings. Similarly, the number of youth on probation who received a new delinquent or technical referral while on probation was only about half the rate in 2020 that it was in 2019 (14% vs. 27%).

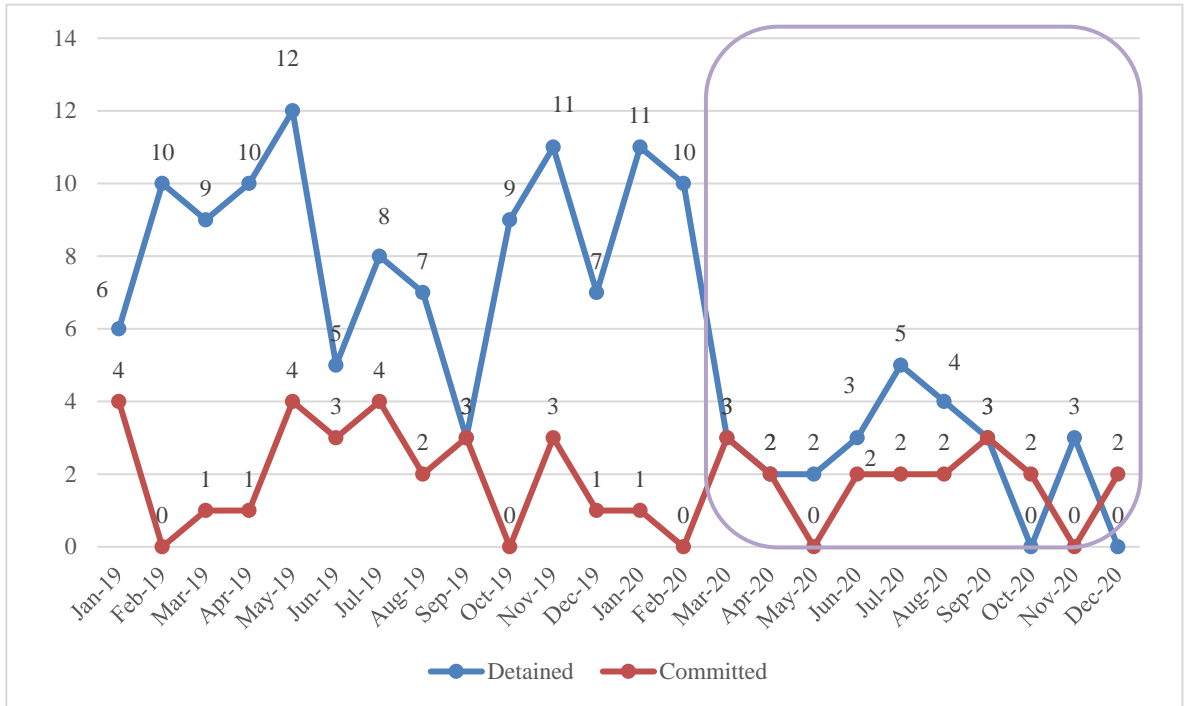
Graph 68. Average Daily Population – Secure Detention and Detention Alternatives



Graph 69. Admissions to Secure Detention



Graph 70. Admissions to Hilltop



Graph 71. Admissions to Home Detention

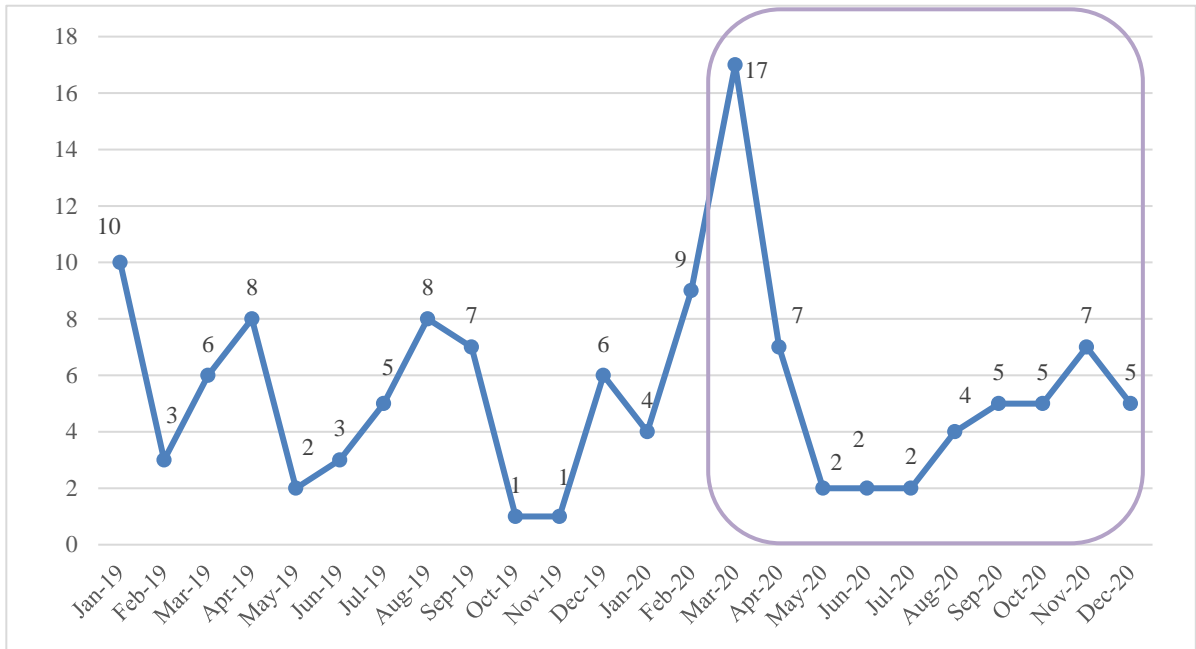


Table 35. Average Daily Population and Detention Admissions by Race

	Average Daily Population			Detention Admissions		
	Black	White	Other	Black	White	Other
2019	155 (73%)	35 (17%)	21 (10%)	139 (66%)	48 (23%)	25 (12%)
2020	108 (68%)	43 (27%)	6 (4%)	102 (73%)	28 (20%)	10 (7%)

Table 36. Failure to Appear and New Offenses for Youth Screened at Detention and Released to the Community or Detention Alternatives

	Released to Detention Alternative			Released to Home		
	FTA	New Offense	Total Youth Released to Det Alt	FTA	New Offense	Total Youth Released to Home
2019	4 (7%)	6 (10%)	58	1 (1%)	9 (6%)	150
2020	2 (6%)	4 (11%)	36	0 (0%)	8 (8%)	97

Table 37. New Referrals for Youth on Probation⁵³

	Delinquent Referral While on Probation in Given Year	Technical Referral While on Probation in Given Year	Any Referral While on Probation in Given Year
2019	43 (19% of 224 youth on probation)	40 (18% of 224 youth on probation)	60 (27% of 224 youth on probation)
2020	18 (9% of 211 youth on probation)	21 (10% of 211 youth on probation)	30 (14% of 211 youth on probation)

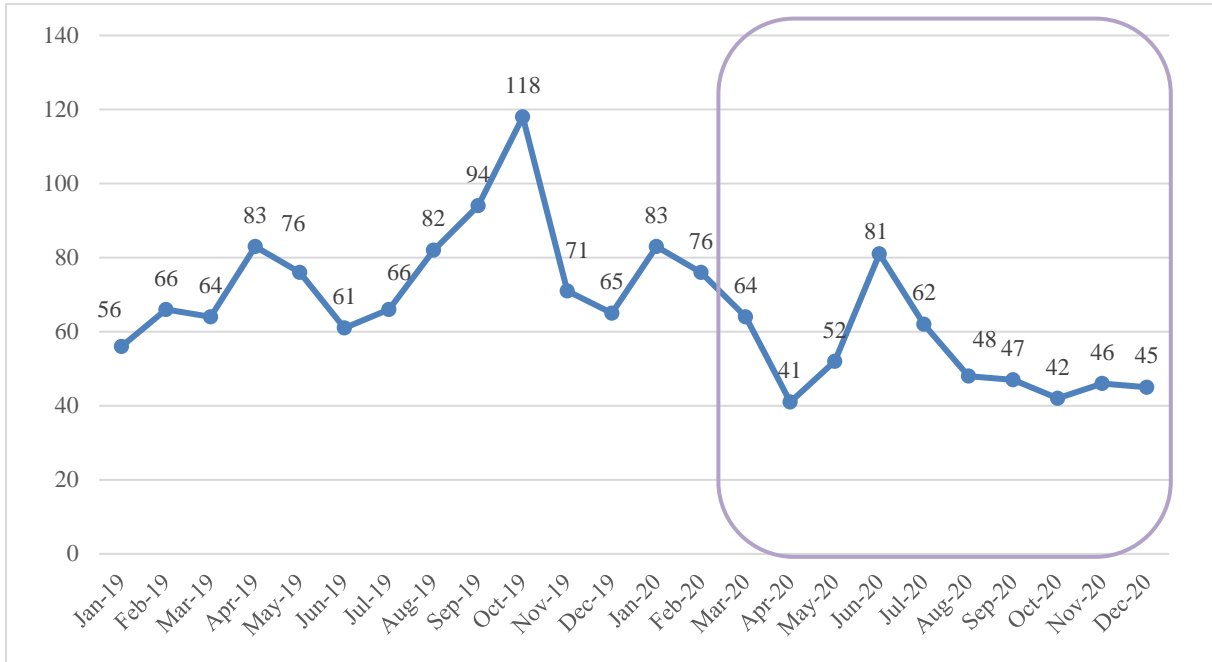
⁵³ New referrals received while on probation in a given year for youth served on probation in that year.

Hearings and Time to Disposition

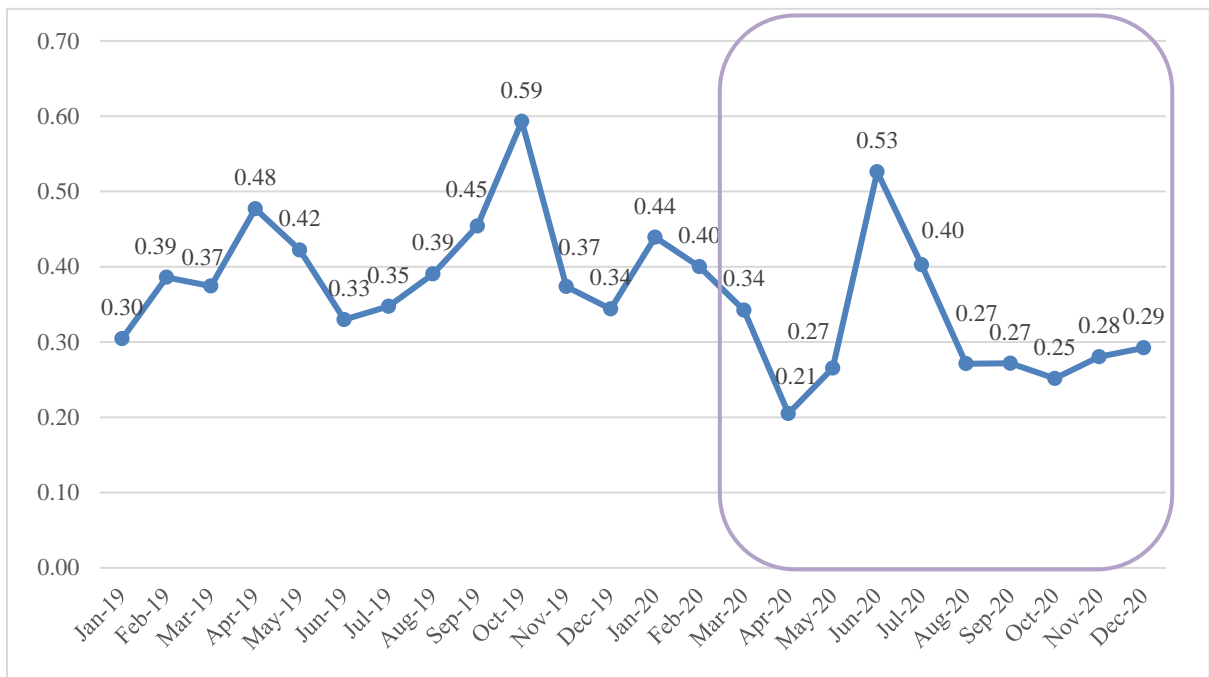
The pandemic caused a clear and striking drop in the number of hearings held in March, April, and May 2020, as the Court first stopped most in-person hearings and then transitioned to conducting them via videoconference. A total of 588 abuse and neglect hearings were identified as having been delayed due to COVID-19—the vast majority in these three months. Hearings then spiked in June as the Court worked to catch up some of the backlog. Since then, rates of hearings have been more steady but are still slightly below pre-pandemic levels. This is true even when accounting for the lower numbers of cases open in 2020, as demonstrated in the graphs showing the monthly rate of hearings per open case.

Accordingly, the time to disposition has increased since the pandemic began. Child abuse and neglect cases disposed in 2019 were disposed in an average of 99 days, compared to 125 days for cases disposed in 2020. Average time to disposition for delinquency cases rose from 64 days in 2019 to 99 days in 2020.

Graph 72. Hearings per Month in Delinquency Cases

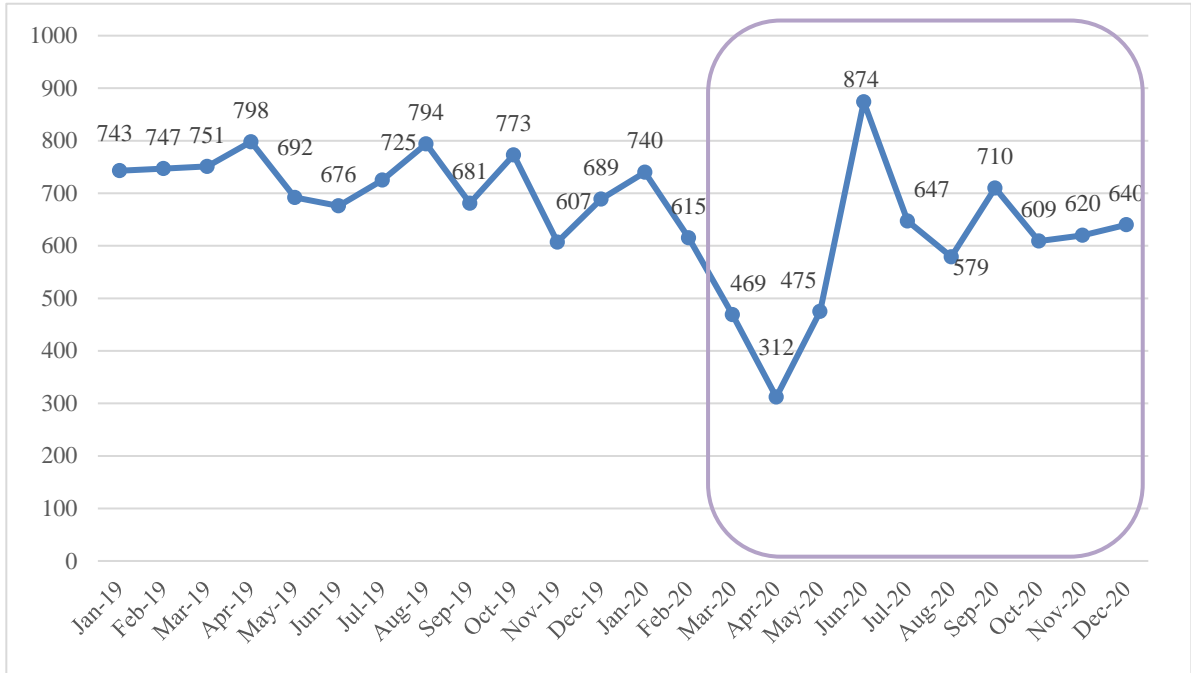


Graph 73. Hearings per Case by Month in Delinquency Cases⁵⁴

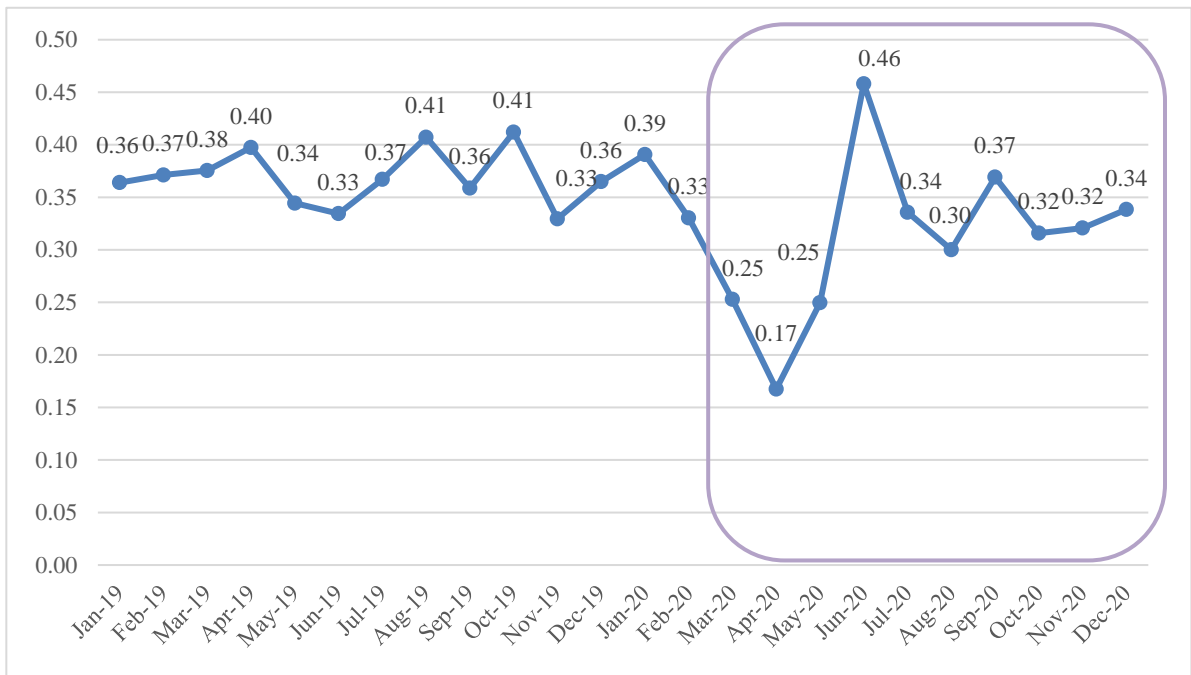


⁵⁴ Rate of hearings is based on the number of open delinquency cases each month.

Graph 74. Hearings per Month in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases



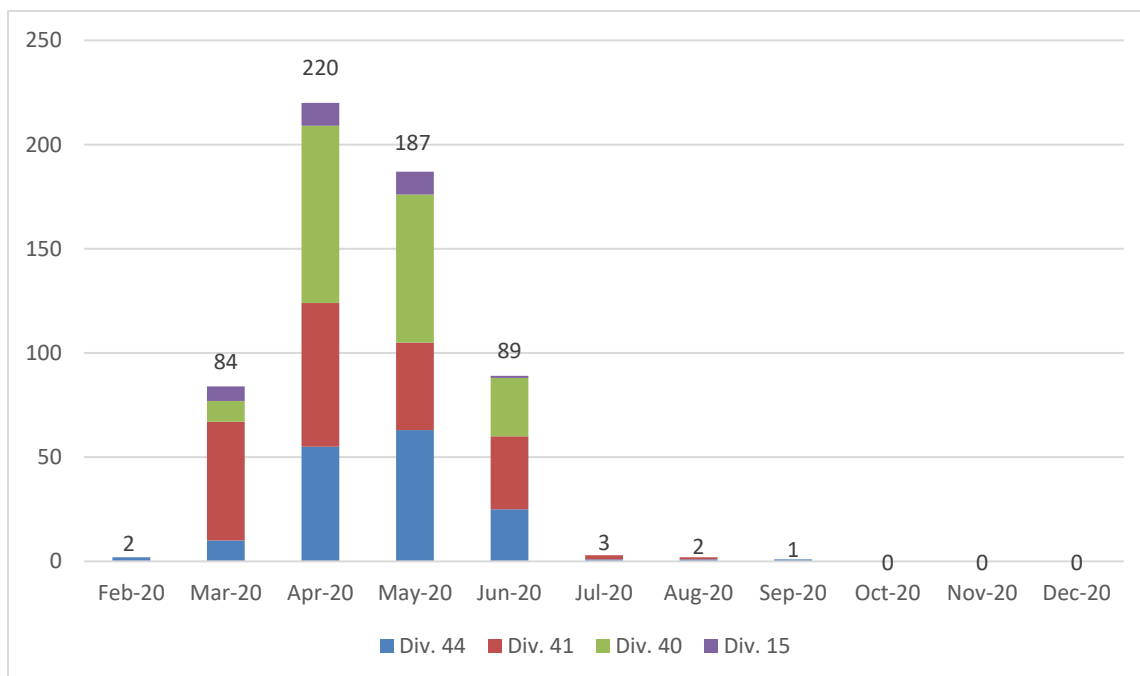
Graph 75. Hearings per Case by Month in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases⁵⁵



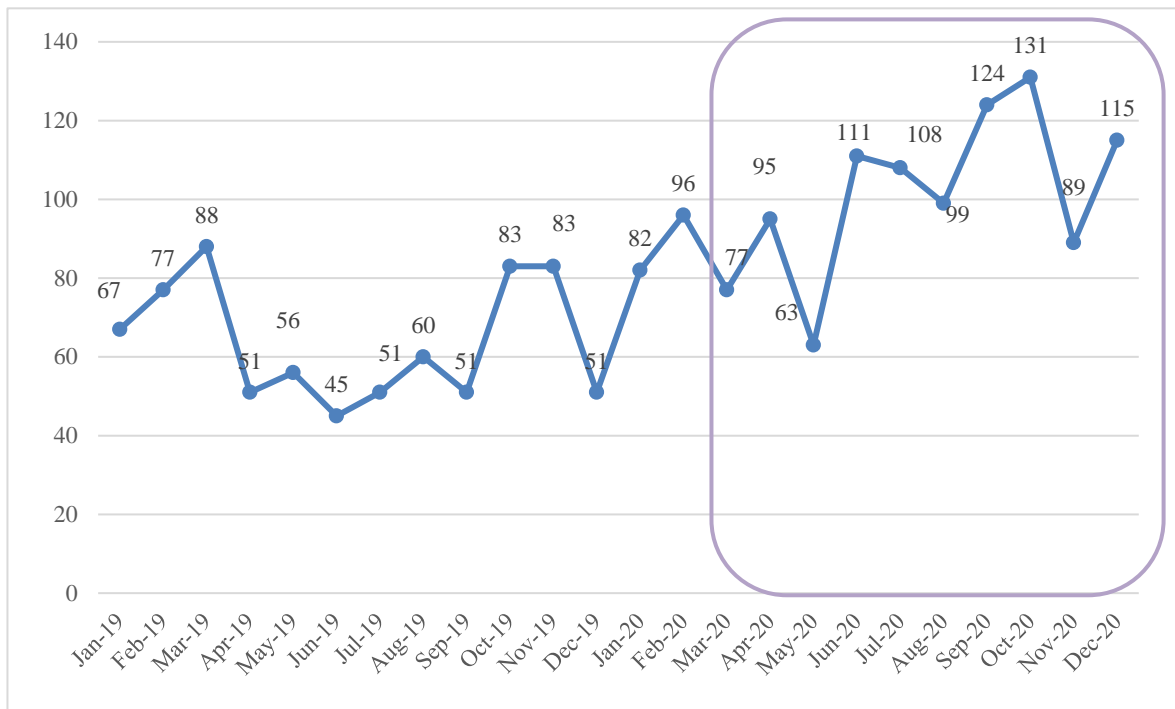
⁵⁵ Rate of hearings is based on the number of open child abuse and neglect cases each month.

Table 38 and Graph 76
Child Abuse and Neglect Hearings Coded for Delay Due to COVID-19 by Division

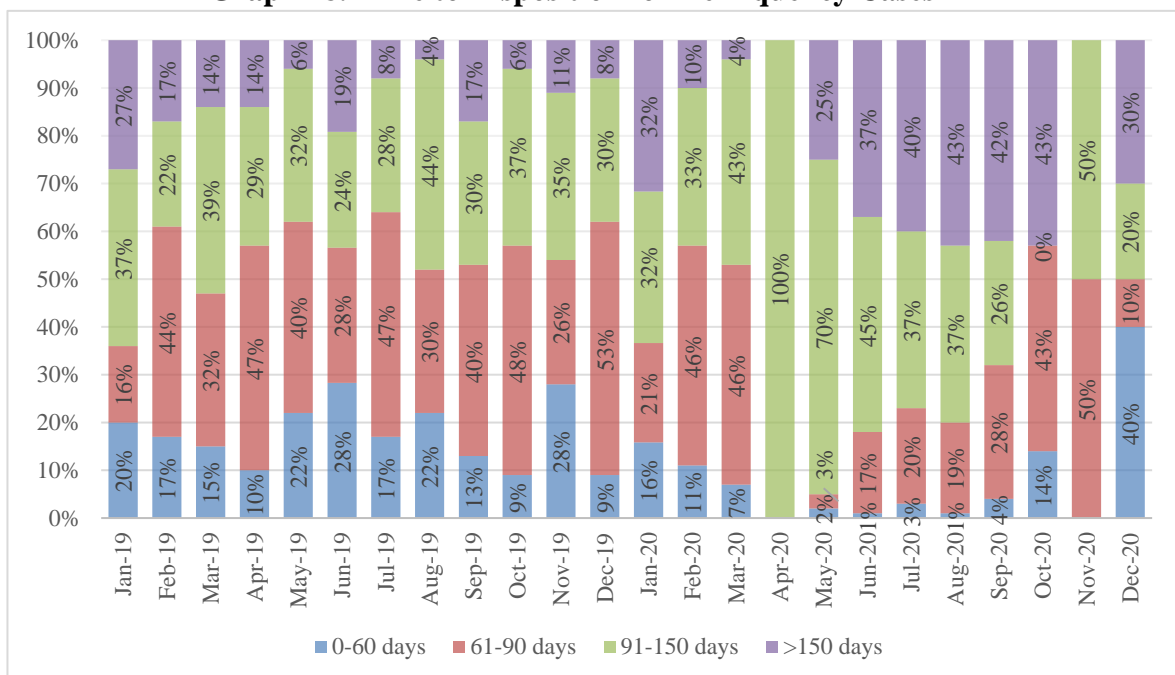
	Div. 15	Div. 40	Div. 41	Div. 44	Total
Feb 2020	0	0	0	2	2
Mar 2020	7	10	57	10	84
Apr 2020	11	85	69	55	220
May 2020	11	71	42	63	187
Jun 2020	1	28	35	25	89
Jul 2020	0	0	2	1	3
Aug 2020	0	0	1	1	2
Sep 2020	0	0	0	1	1
Total	30	194	206	158	588



Graph 77. Average Days to Disposition for Delinquency Cases⁵⁶

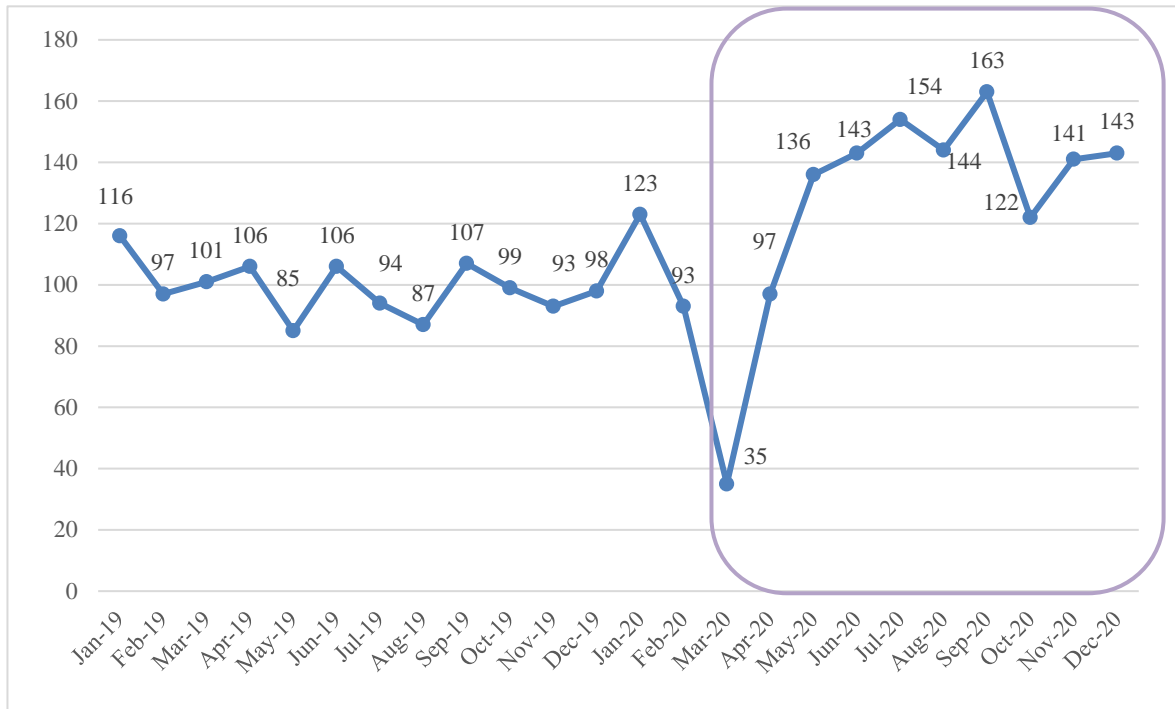


Graph 78. Time to Disposition for Delinquency Cases

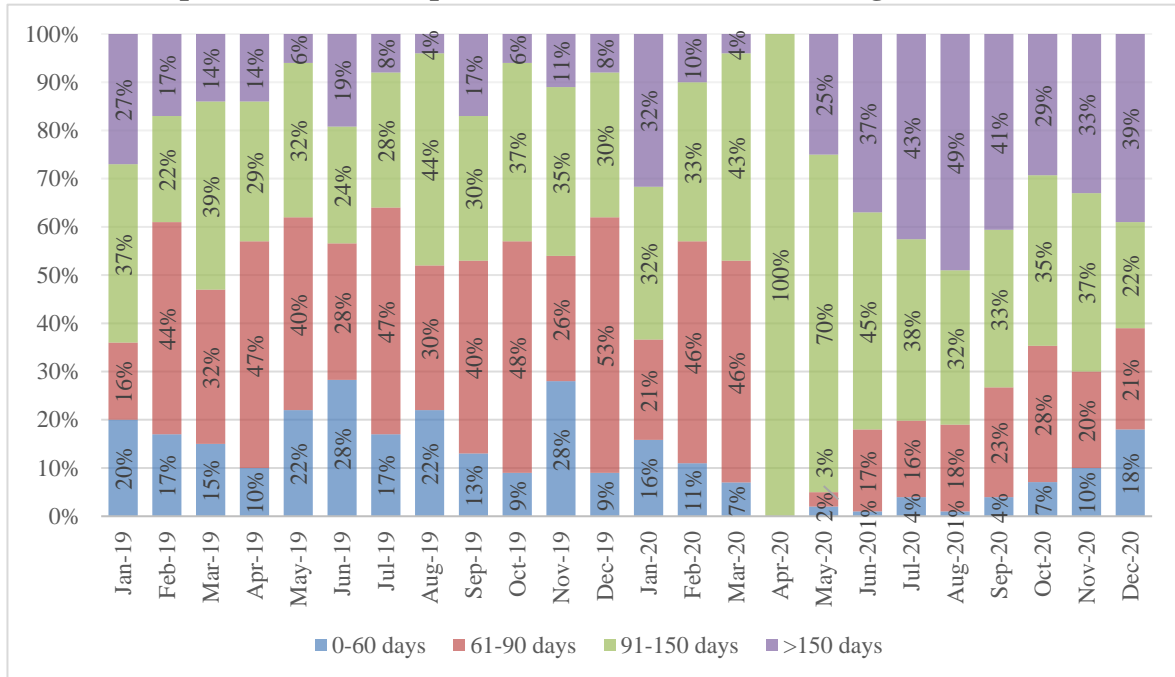


⁵⁶ Time to disposition in cases requiring a dispositional matrix. This includes status offenses but excludes technical offenses and most sexual offenses.

Graph 79. Average Days to Disposition for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases



Graph 80. Time to Disposition for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases



Conclusions

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

Over the last eight years, the number of referrals filed for child abuse and neglect has fluctuated as much as 19% from one year to the next, with an average change of 9%. Petitions and motions to modify filed for child abuse and neglect fluctuated by up to 11% from one year to the next until 2020, when the number of filings dropped 20% from the year before.

The number of youth aged 10-17 in Jackson County has increased by about 3% over the last eight years, but the number of delinquent and technical referrals to the Family Court declined 44% in that same period. The number of petitions and motions to modify filed for delinquent and technical offenses decreased by 59% since 2013.

African-American youth accounted for 70% of the delinquent and technical offense petitions and motions to modify filed in 2020. Caucasian youth accounted for 24%, and Hispanic youth accounted for 5%.

Youth residing in Kansas City continue to account for the largest share of delinquent and technical offense filings in Jackson County (57% of all delinquent and technical offense petitions and motions to modify). Youth from Independence made up the next largest share of filings, but youth from Grandview were referred at a higher rate than youth in other Jackson County cities.

In the last eight years, the number of youth committed to the Division of Youth Services was highest in 2013, with 68 commitments. It ranged between 50 and 60 commitments a year until 2019, when 37 youth were committed, and dropped again to 16 youth committed in 2020. African-American youth represented 63% of all commitments to DYS in 2020—well below the eight-year average of 80%.

The number of certification cases filed in 2020 was 17% lower than the number filed in 2019, and far fewer youth were certified. Just one youth with a certification case filed

in 2020 was certified compared to 10 with cases filed in 2019.

Family Court Services offered a broad range of prevention, intervention, and treatment services to youth in Jackson County. In 2020, four prevention and diversion programs served a total of 163 youth as well as their families. The number served was down 53% compared to 2019.

The number of youth starting probation is less than half of what it was in 2013 and dropped 26% between 2019 and 2020. Detainments have decreased dramatically since 2013 (69% in secure detention and 83% at the non-secure facilities). Since last year, admissions to secure detention decreased by 34%, and detentions at Hilltop Residential Center decreased by 56%. Commitments to Hilltop decreased by 30% in 2020 after having been stable for the previous four years.

Family Treatment Court (formerly Family Drug Court) served 72 participants in 2020, a decrease of 37% from 2019.

Family Court Resource Services offered a wide variety of services to court-involved families. A total of 1,363 parents and children were served by three parent awareness courses in 2020. The Connections Program provided 639 supervised and therapeutic visits and arranged 4 monitored exchanges. Mediators served 254 cases.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected operations in every area of the Court. In some instances, this impact is easy to observe and quantify. Hearings were delayed, classes were cancelled, and youth were released from Hilltop to home detention. Other changes we observed this year are less directly attributable to the pandemic—the decreases in delinquent referrals and number of youth committed to DYS, for example. In those areas, we must simply wait to see whether 2020 will show up in future reports an outlier or an indicator of broader trends.

