



2025
Annual Statistical
Report

16th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
of MISSOURI

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16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri

The Honorable Kevin Harrell, Presiding Judge (2025-2027)

CIRCUIT JUDGE

Division 1 Sarah A. Castle

Division 2 Kenneth R. Garrett III

Division 3 Jerri J. Zhang

Division 4 Patrick C. Edwards

Division 5 James F. Kanatzar

Division 6 Vacant

Division 7 John G. Gromowsky

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 Lauren D. Barrett

Division 15 Jalilah Otto

Division 16 Jessica A. Agnelly

Division 17 Cory L. Atkins

Division 18 Kevin D. Harrell

Division 19 Mark A. Styles, Jr

ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGES

Division 25 Abbie E. H. Rothermich

Division 26 R. Travis Willingham

Division 27 Kea S. Bird-Riley

Division 28 Jeffrey C. Keal

Division 29 Janette K. Rodecap

Division 30 Vacant

Division 31 Mary F. Weir

Division 32 Kyndra J. Stockdale

Division 33 Jeffrey L. Bushur

Division 34 Susan E. Long

COMMISSIONERS

Division 14 Amy B. DeGraeve

Division 14 Deputy Commissioner Kelly J. Willyard

Division 40 Daniel C. Berezoski

Division 41 Katie A. Rooney

Division 42 Robert E. Gordon

Division 43 Lisa M. Dubé

Division 44 Nancy J. Alemifar

Division 45 Michelle P. Dixon

Division 50 Tiffany D. Gregg

Court Administrator

Deputy Court Admin./Family Court Services

Deputy Court Admin./Jury Supervisor

Chief Financial Officer

Beverly A. Newman

Theresa L. Byrd

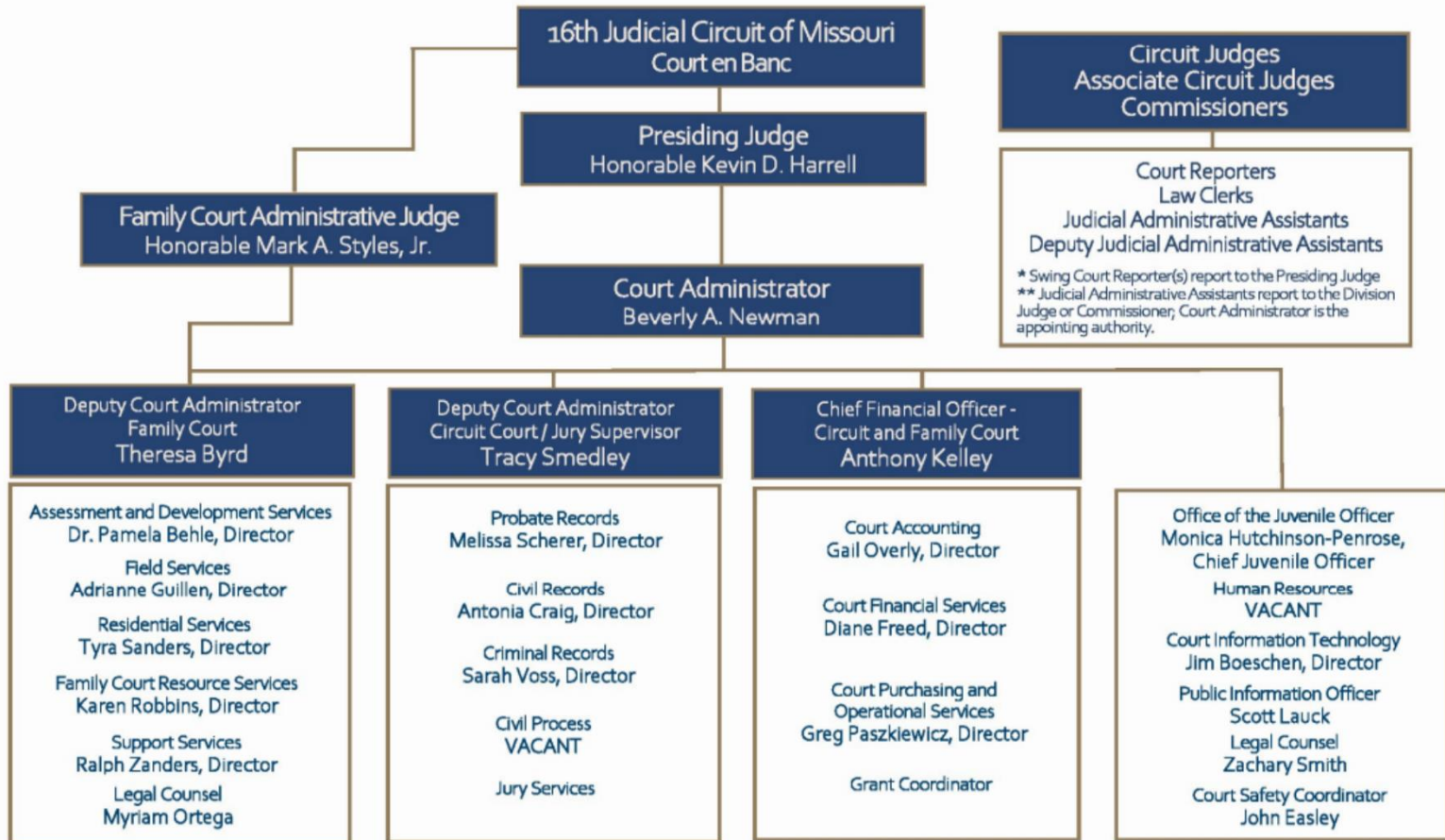
Tracy L. Smedley

Anthony A. Kelley

16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri



Organizational Chart





The 16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri experienced a year of positive outcomes and transition in 2025, as “*One Court*” continuing efforts to strengthen how we work together and serve the public and those coming before the Court in Jackson County, Missouri.

Throughout the year, the Court seamlessly transitioned through multiple judicial retirements and appointments through Missouri’s Nonpartisan Court Plan. The Honorable Mark A. Styles, Jr., was appointed as the Family Court Administrative Judge, and the Court en banc elected the Honorable Jennifer M. Phillips as the Court’s next presiding judge.


The Court invested in numerous efforts to improve the efficiency and safety of court operations, including a new courtroom at the Family Justice Center to meet caseload demands and a Court Safety Coordinator to increase safety and security for our judicial officers, staff, and those coming before the Court. The Department of Court Information Technology facilitated a large-scale migration of nearly 650 user accounts and more than 700 devices to a centralized network domain and enhanced cybersecurity processes for the Court.


The Court launched **Circuit16Connect**, a redesigned internal digital hub to improve access to policies, resources, and information for judges and staff, and began updating the Court’s website to improve the public interface. The Court Administration team also initiated the transition to improved operational and personnel policies, standardized forms and documents, leadership team development, and updated the official seal and graphics to present a modernized, professional court identity that aligns with the standard of excellence in the 16th Judicial Circuit.

The Family Court continued ongoing efforts to meet the needs of children, youth, and families subject to the jurisdiction of the Family Court through balanced community safety and accountability case processing by the Office of the Juvenile Officer and the innovative and outcome-focused programming and services by the Family Court Services under the Office of the Deputy Court Administrator in the Family Court.

Change can test any institution. In 2025, the 16th Judicial Circuit approached change by strengthening internal systems, planning leadership transitions in advance, and maintaining steady service to those coming before the Court. The same stands as a testament to the dedicated judicial officers and court staff and their individual and collective efforts to promote accessible, fair, and impartial justice for all.

With our sincere appreciation to the staff and judicial officers of the 16th Judicial Circuit, we proudly present this report to the stakeholders and citizens of Jackson County, Missouri.

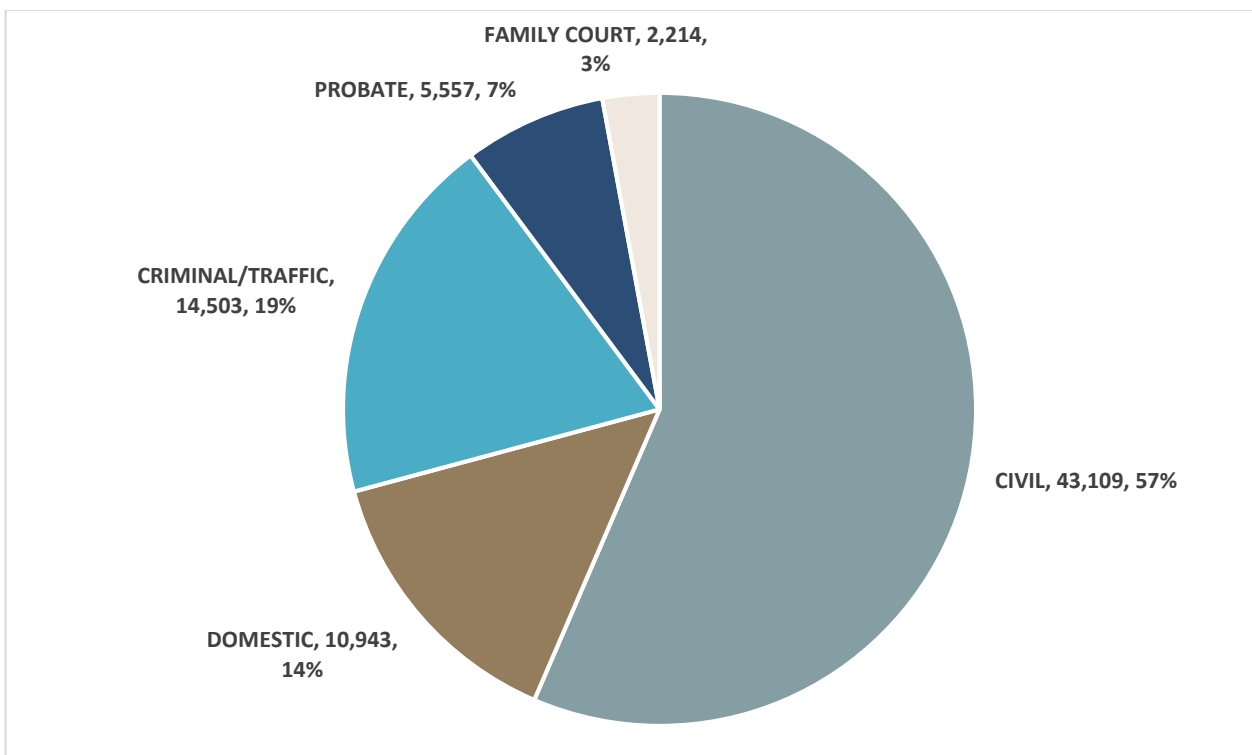

Kevin D. Hazell
Presiding Judge


Beverly A. Newman
Court Administrator

Overview of Circuit Court Cases

This section provides an overview of courtwide case filings, offering a snapshot of the volume and distribution of cases across divisions in 2025. The data that follows illustrates how filings are distributed among major case types and serves as a foundation for understanding overall court activity.

Graph 1. Courtwide Case Filings in 2025¹

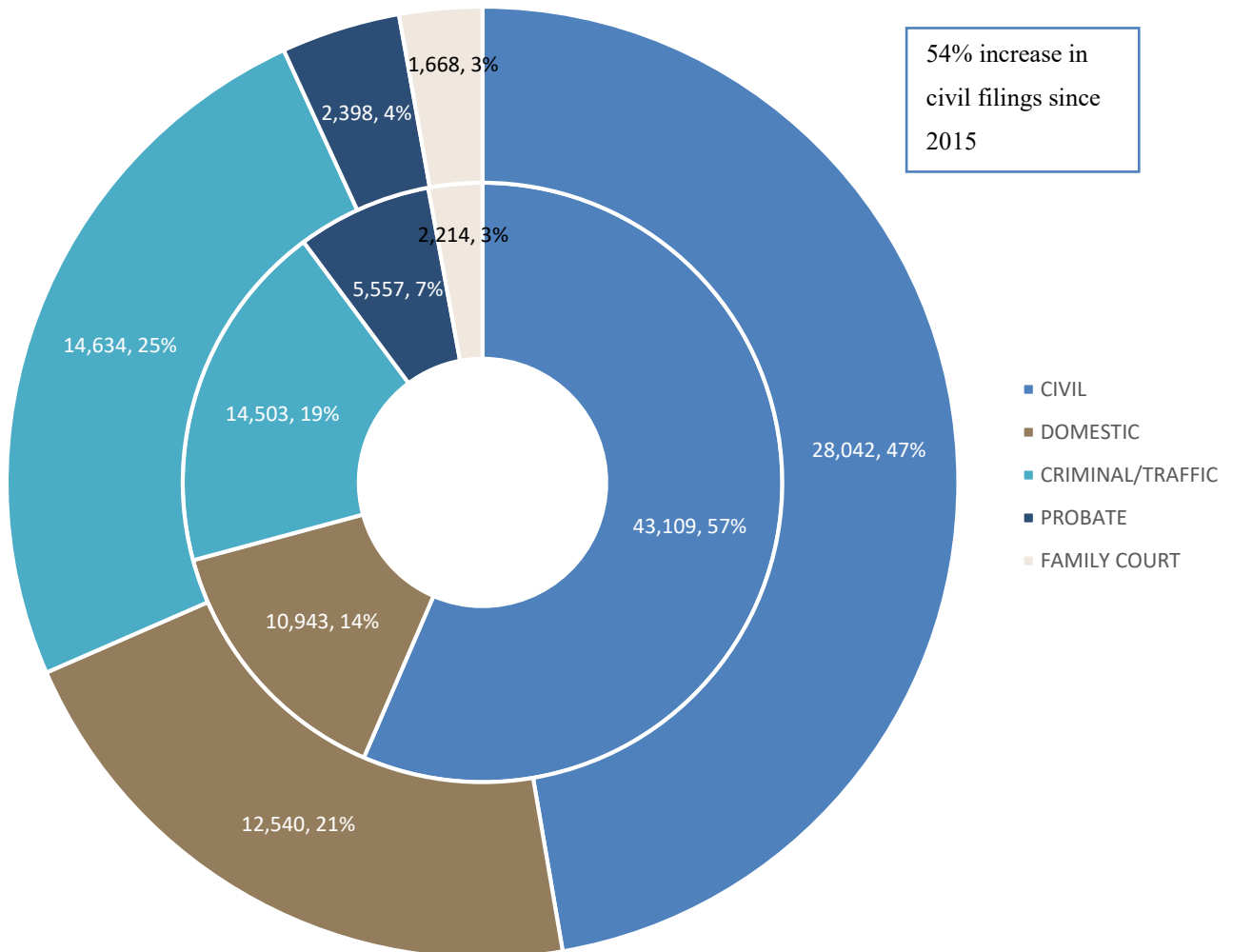


Civil filings represented the largest share of court activity in 2025, accounting for more than half of all filings. Criminal and traffic cases comprise the next largest category, with domestic and probate matters forming a smaller but meaningful portion of the caseload. This distribution underscores the breadth of court operations and the need to balance resources across high-volume and specialized case types.

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

Change in Court Filings Over Time

Graph 2. Change in Court Filings Over Time



Over the past decade, both the volume and composition of court filings have shifted. Civil filings increased substantially, rising from approximately 28,000 cases in 2015 to more than 43,000 in 2025. Probate filings also grew significantly, more than doubling over the same period.

In contrast, criminal and traffic filings have remained relatively stable, while domestic filings declined modestly. These trends reflect a shift in the composition of cases brought before the court and have implications for how resources and services are aligned across divisions. The long-term trend indicates sustained growth in civil and probate case activity.

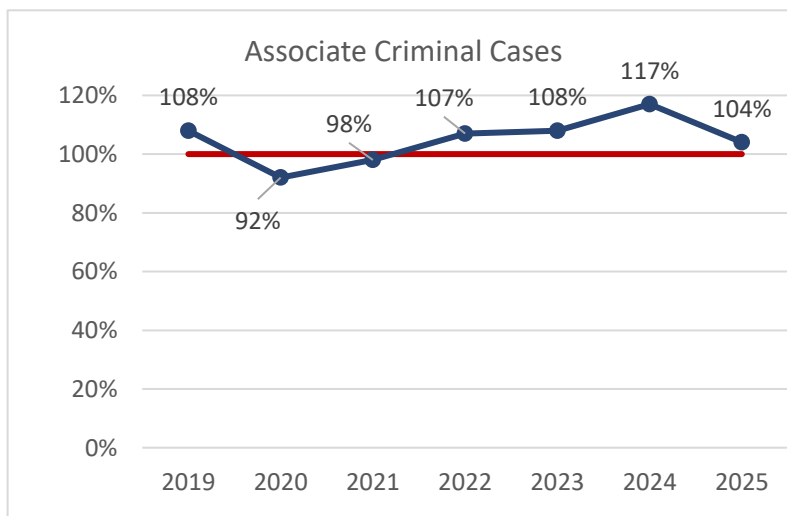
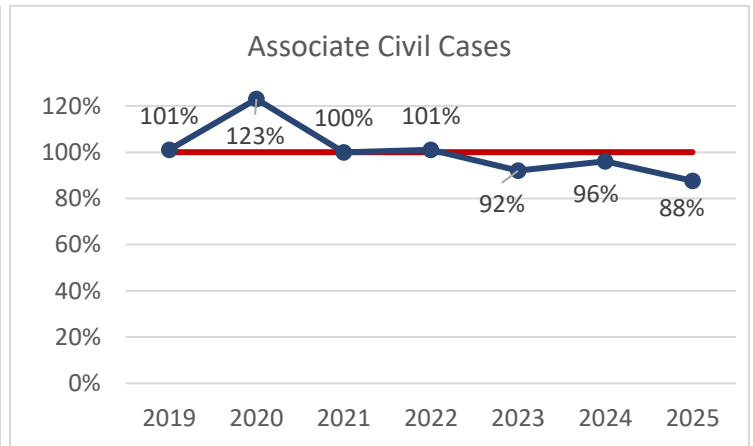
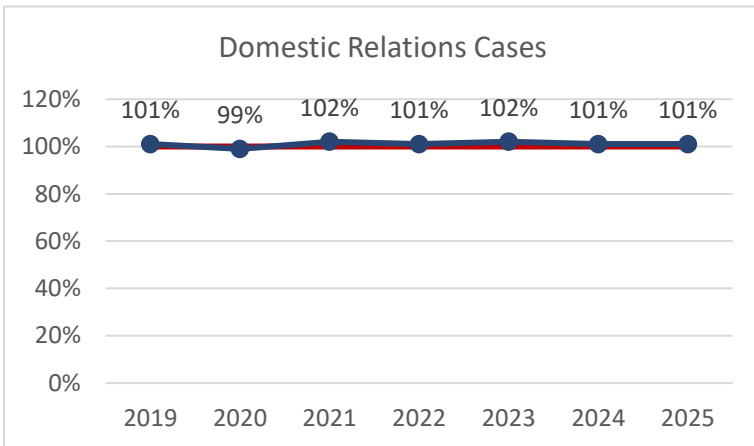
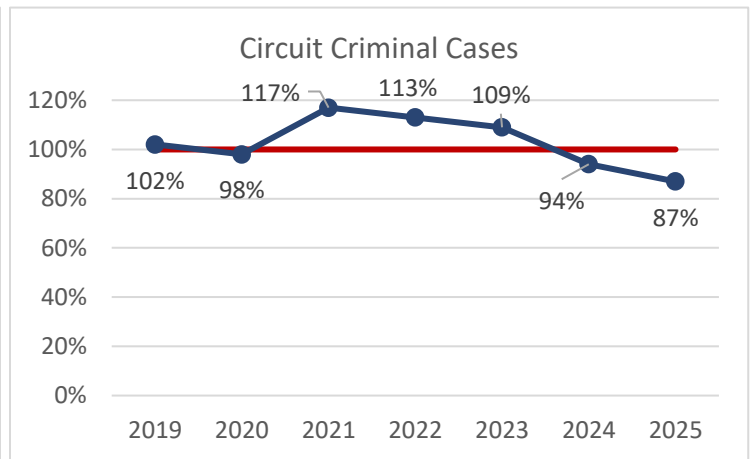
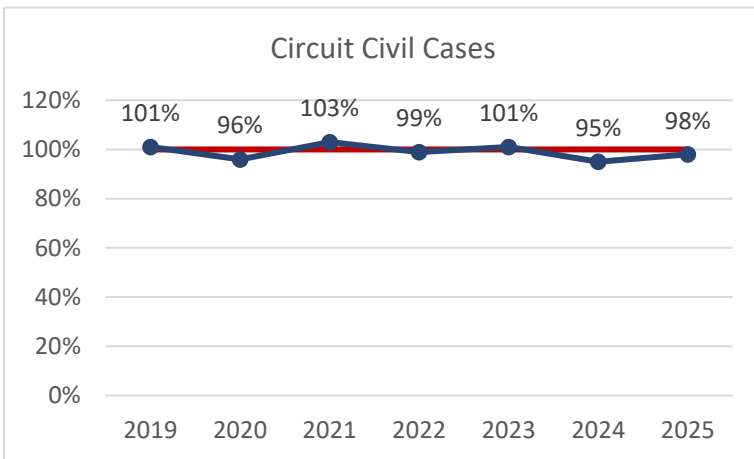
Court Performance Measures: Clearance Rates

Key Takeaway

Clearance rates remained at or above the 100% benchmark in most case types, indicating the court is keeping pace with incoming filings. However, civil clearance rates have declined in recent years and fell below the benchmark in both circuit and associate divisions, warranting continued monitoring.

Definition

Clearance rates measure the ratio of cases disposed to cases filed in a given period. A rate of 100% or higher indicates the court is keeping pace with its caseload.



Court Performance Measures: Time to Disposition

Key Takeaway

Time to disposition meets or approaches established standards in civil and domestic relations case types, indicating timely case processing in those areas. However, both circuit and associate criminal cases remain below the 95% benchmark, suggesting continued delays in resolving criminal matters.

Definition

Time to disposition measures the percentage of cases resolved within the timeframe in which 95% of cases are expected to be disposed, based on National Center for State Courts (NCSC) guidelines.



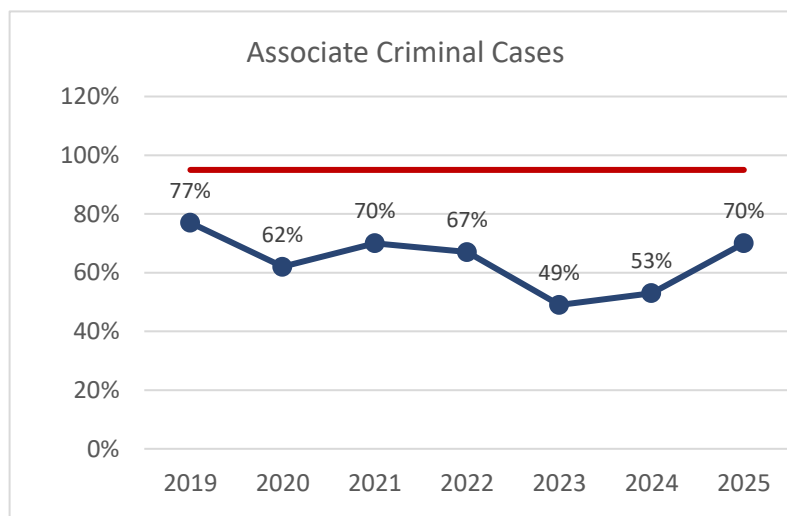
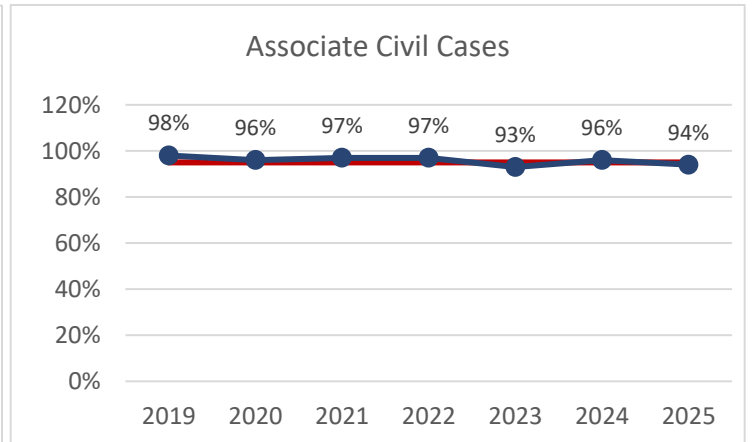
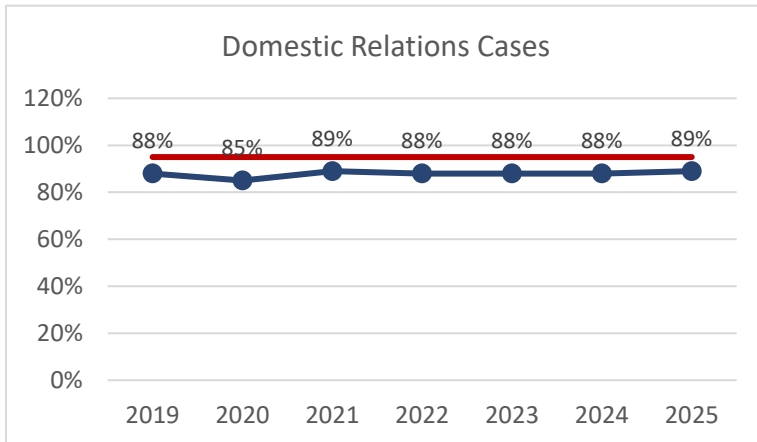
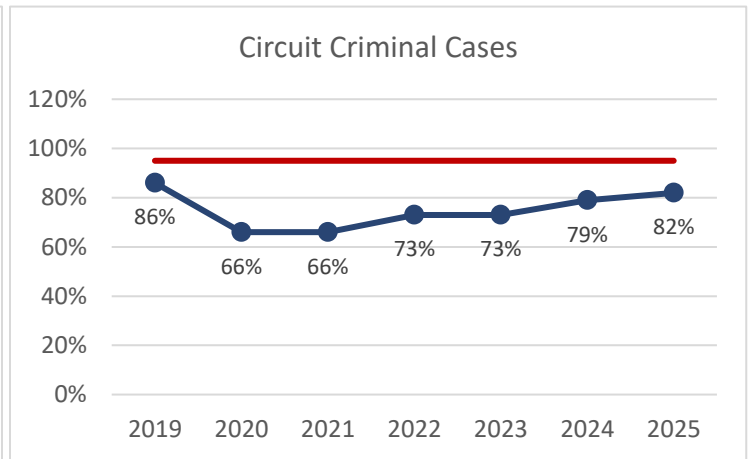
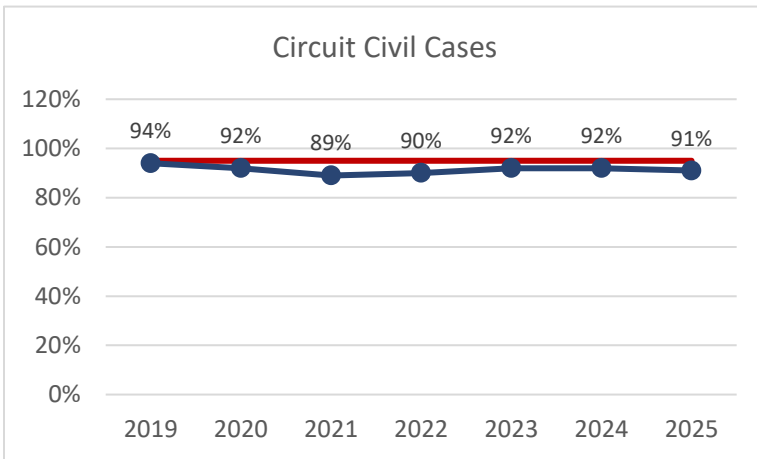
Court Performance Measures: Age of Pending Caseloads

Key Takeaway

Associate civil cases consistently meet time standards for pending caseloads, while circuit civil remains near the benchmark. In contrast, domestic relations and criminal case types, especially associate criminal, fall below standards, reflecting a greater concentration of older pending cases.

Definition

Age of pending caseload measures the percentage of active cases within time standards. Higher values indicate a timelier pending caseload.



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 Kansas City 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 provides procedural guidance to the public, litigants, and attorneys 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.

Civil filings have increased in recent years across both Circuit and Associate Civil case types, with growth concentrated in specific categories. In Circuit Civil, increases were driven in part by personal injury (vehicular) cases, breach of contract, and a shift in the handling of registration of foreign judgment filings, which are now primarily processed in Circuit Civil. In Associate Civil, the rise in filings was largely attributable to suit on account and rent and possession cases, which together account for a substantial share of total filings. These patterns are consistent with broader national trends, including increases in consumer debt and collections activity and sustained eviction filing levels following the pandemic period.

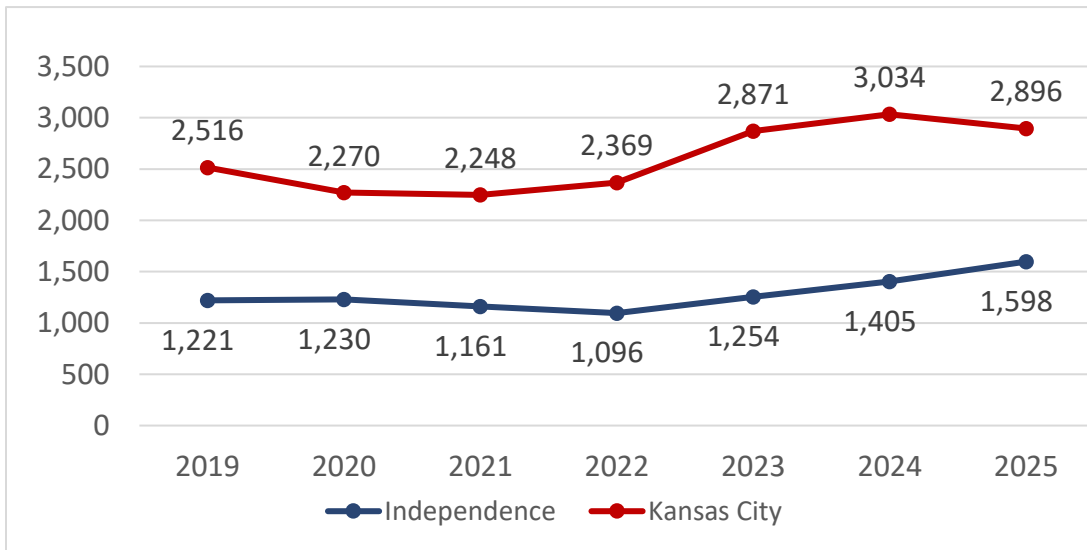
Table 1. Circuit Civil Filings

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	3,737	3,500	3,409	3,465	4,125	4,439	4,494
Dispositions	3,740	3,292	3,515	3,431	4,179	4,195	4,383
Jury Trials	36	9	22	41	38	33	29
Court Trials	427	281	380	270	327	342	311
Pending 12/31	3,016	3,264	3,191	3,298	3,359	3,542	3,736

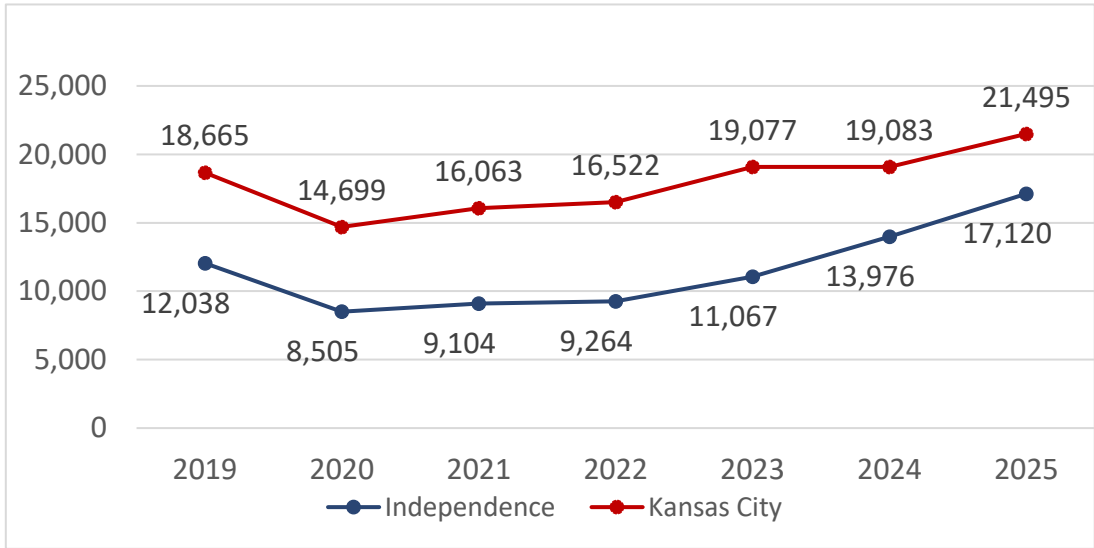
Table 2. Associate Circuit Civil Filings

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	30,703	23,204	25,167	25,786	30,144	33,059	38,615
Dispositions	30,922	24,593	25,105	25,979	27,893	31,881	33,838
Jury Trials	1	1	0	0	1	3	10
Court Trials	1,071	961	1,009	774	870	852	679
Pending 12/31	9,385	7,991	7,977	8,024	10,545	11,979	16,719

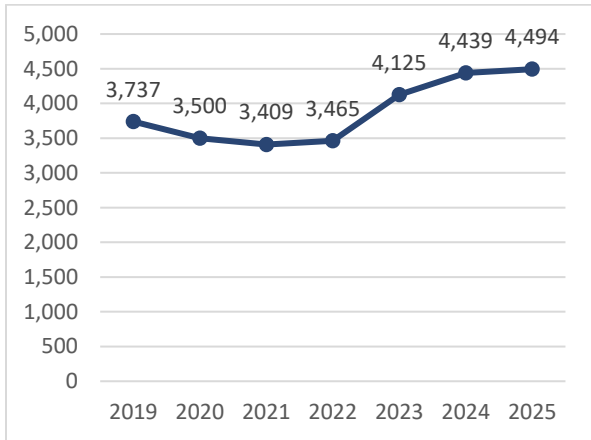
Graph 17. Circuit Civil Filings



Graph 18. Associate Circuit Civil Filings



Graph 19. Circuit Civil Filings



Graph 20. Associate Circuit Civil Filings

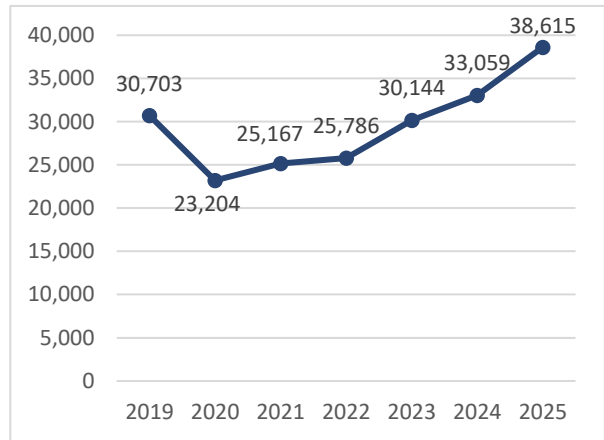


Table 3. Circuit Civil Filings by Case Type

Nature of Action	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% of total 2025 filings
Personal Injury - Vehicular	729	654	671	654	701	766	754	16.8%
Breach of Contract	346	332	361	374	402	427	567	12.6%
Personal Injury - Other	320	332	301	309	329	351	346	7.7%
Registration of Foreign Judgment (excluding Domestic Relations) ²	72	82	54	124	395	335	340	7.6%
Other Miscellaneous Actions	247	254	239	197	189	242	258	5.7%
Declaratory Judgment	69	69	61	85	63	221	227	5.1%
Employment Discrimination (Missouri Revised Statutes 213.111)	228	209	192	156	211	220	209	4.7%
Other Tort	249	291	238	222	242	249	200	4.5%
Suit on Account	43	51	53	45	54	86	139	3.1%
Quiet Title	127	114	152	144	139	104	128	2.8%
Other Real Estate Actions	143	138	125	124	123	146	123	2.7%
Foreclosure ³	10	26	11	36	60	82	121	2.7%
Contract-Other	103	105	115	96	131	127	114	2.5%
Wrongful Death	122	118	107	116	139	124	103	2.3%
Expunge Records 610.140	56	56	65	95	83	79	90	2.0%
Personal Injury - Malpractice	93	83	73	71	86	98	89	2.0%
Motion under Missouri Rules 29.15 or 24.035 (Post-Conviction Relief)	92	46	47	51	55	53	65	1.4%
Refusal of Breath Test (Missouri Revised Statutes 302.750/577.04)	70	71	85	96	89	118	60	1.3%
Specific Performance	2	10	40	33	47	39	56	1.2%
Small Claims Trial de Novo	36	29	53	38	57	58	53	1.2%
Out of State Witness	11	6	8	42	58	49	45	1.0%
Property Damage	39	23	28	32	38	40	42	0.9%
Other Filings	524	432	326	325	434	425	365	8.1%
	3,731	3,531	3,405	3,463	4,119	4,435	4,494	100%

² Prior to 2023, registration of foreign judgment cases were divided between the Associate Civil and Circuit Civil divisions. After 2023, nearly all such case types were handled solely by Circuit Civil.

³ Foreclosure filings have increased steadily since 2021. This upward trend is consistent with national patterns, as foreclosure activity in the United States rose approximately 14% in 2025 and has continued to increase into 2026 (ATTOM Data Solutions [Year-End Foreclosure Market Report](#), 2026). While this report does not assess causal drivers, the local increase aligns with broader post-pandemic trends in foreclosure activity.

Table 4. Associate Circuit Civil Filings by Case Type

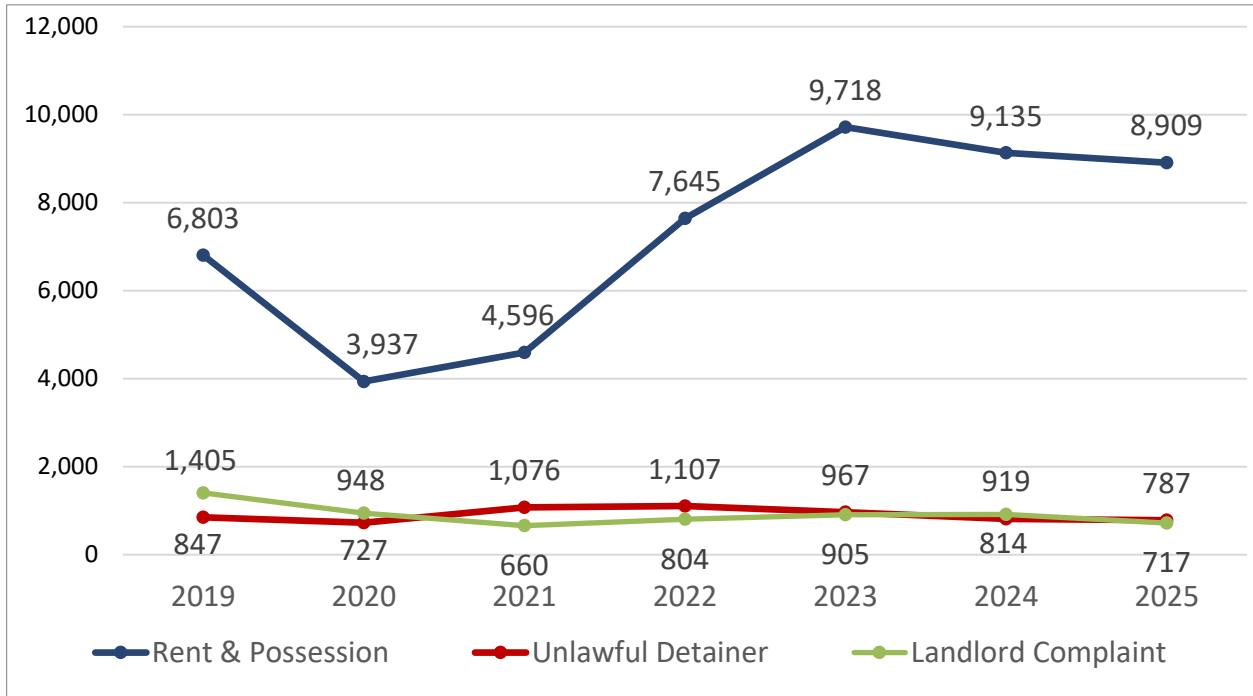
Nature of Action	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% of total 2025 filings
Suit on Account ⁴	8,564	5,923	6,729	6,236	7,882	13,124	16,633	43.1%
Rent and Possession ⁵	6,804	3,929	4,562	7,616	9,702	9,128	8,886	23.0%
Breach of Contract	5,839	4,526	5,484	4,670	5,098	4,470	6,759	17.5%
Delinquent City Taxes ⁶	2,646	3,621	2,644	2,077	1	1,589	2,318	6.0%
Small Claims over \$100	921	731	803	812	1,003	896	876	2.3%
Unlawful Detainer	846	722	1,068	1,103	957	808	779	2.0%
Landlord Complaint	1,406	945	658	802	903	913	714	1.8%
Contract-Other	1,137	855	880	553	804	592	385	1.0%
Refusal to Submit to Breath Test	353	284	294	388	415	358	369	1.0%
Promissory Note	372	275	299	299	181	383	227	0.6%
Property Damage	476	242	305	299	246	234	191	0.5%
Miscellaneous Associate Civil - Other	102	105	114	148	2556	185	118	0.3%
Other Tort	178	174	181	149	138	171	92	0.2%
Driver's License Revocation Review	97	82	96	62	10	64	77	0.2%
Replevin	29	20	19	28	24	25	32	0.1%
Other Real Estate Actions	18	28	22	7	14	16	31	0.1%
Limited Driving Privileges	55	44	31	28	8	35	29	0.1%
Unlawful Occupant	0	0	0	0	0	5	27	0.1%
Other Actions	848	835	977	509	202	63	72	0.2%
	30,691	23,341	25,166	25,786	30,144	33,059	38,615	100%

⁴ The increase in Suit on Account filings is consistent with broader post-pandemic trends in consumer debt and collections activity. Nationally, total household debt has reached record levels, approaching \$18.8 trillion in 2025. Measures of delinquency, including transitions into serious delinquency for credit card and other consumer debt, have also increased in recent years ([Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 2026](#)).

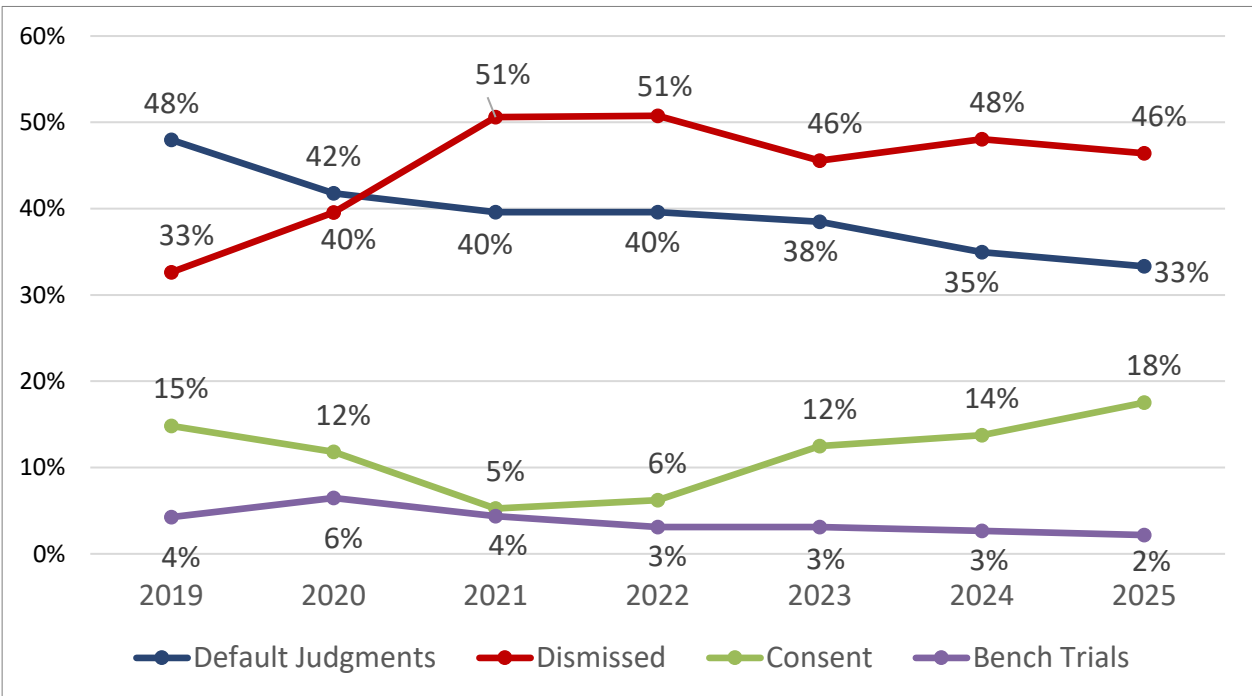
⁵ Patterns in Rent and Possession filings mirror national trends observed in eviction data. In 2024, eviction filing rates in a majority of tracked jurisdictions remained at or above historical norms, even as some areas experienced modest declines ([Eviction Lab, 2026](#)).

⁶ The drop in delinquent city tax filings in Jackson County coincided with the 2023 property reassessment, which involved significant valuation increases and appeals ([Missouri State Tax Commission, 2024](#)).

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 2025, non-violent domestic relations filings increased marginally while domestic violence filings decreased.

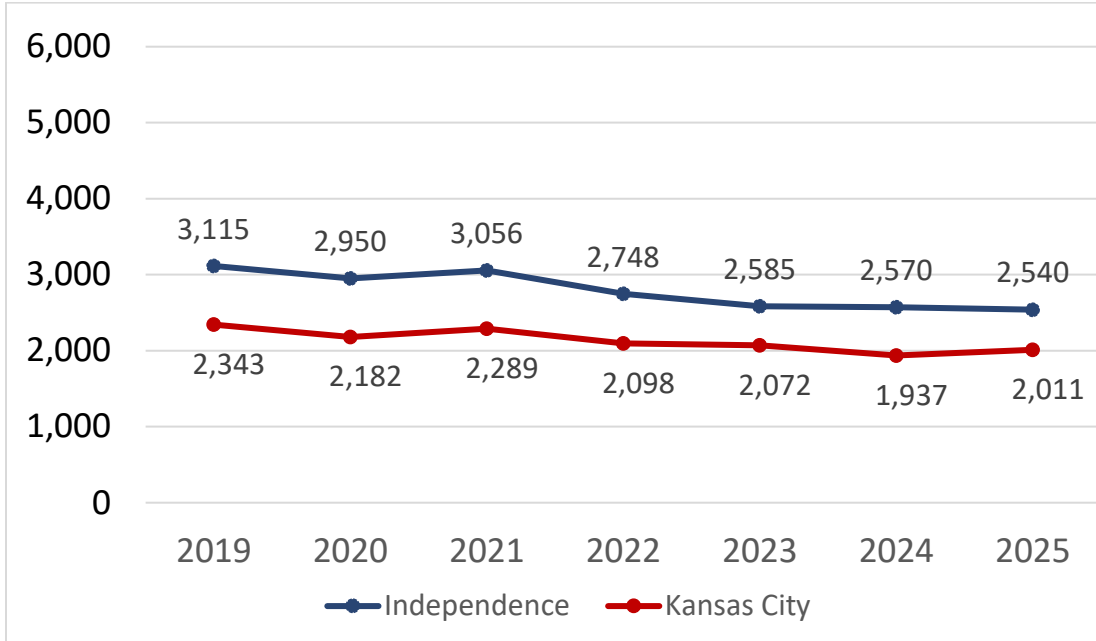
Table 5. Domestic Relations Filings

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	5,458	5,132	5,345	4,846	4,657	4,507	4,551
Dispositions	5,649	5,062	5,524	5,016	4,936	4,473	4,537
Court Trials	608	644	719	487	497	416	753
Pending 12/31	3,620	3,015	2,809	2,605	2,671	2,457	2,478

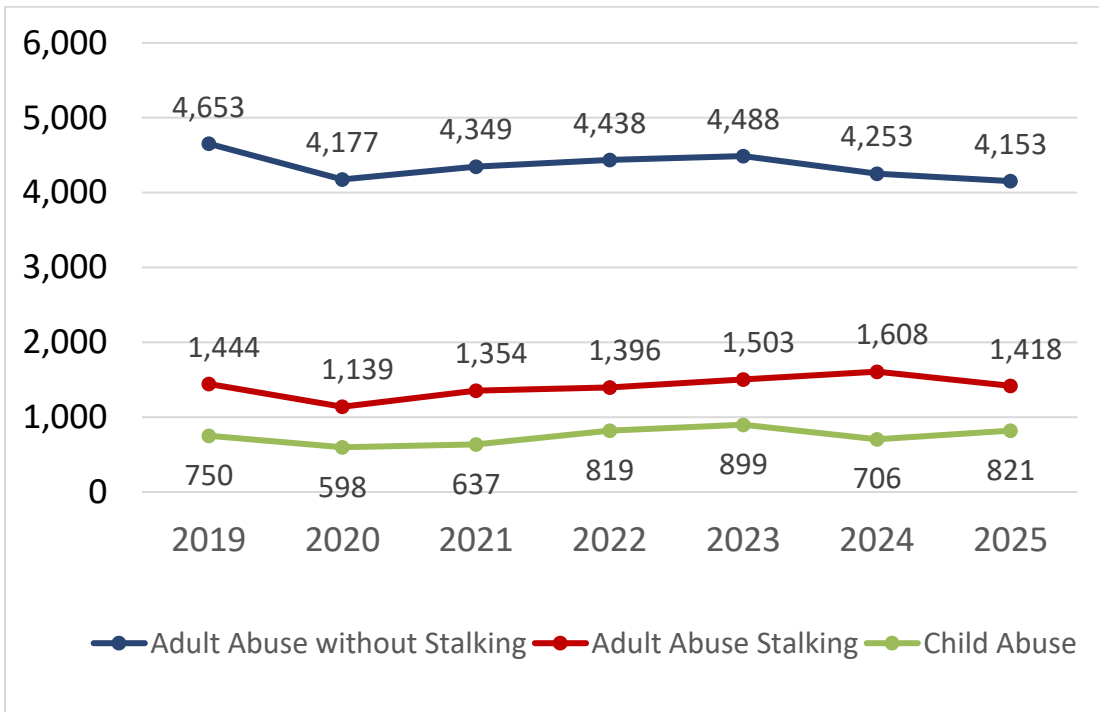
Table 6. Domestic Violence Filings

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	6,847	5,914	6,340	6,653	6,890	6,567	6,392
Dispositions	6,801	5,839	6,340	6,627	6,831	6,755	6,461
Ex Parte Orders of Protection	4,603	3,760	3,527	3,795	3,904	3,689	3,153
Full Orders of Protection	1,298	1,000	906	1,150	1,109	1,067	940
Pending 12/31	612	695	669	692	835	641	541

Graph 23. Domestic Relations Filings



Graph 24. Domestic Violence Filings by Case Type



Graph 25. Dissolutions of Marriage Filed

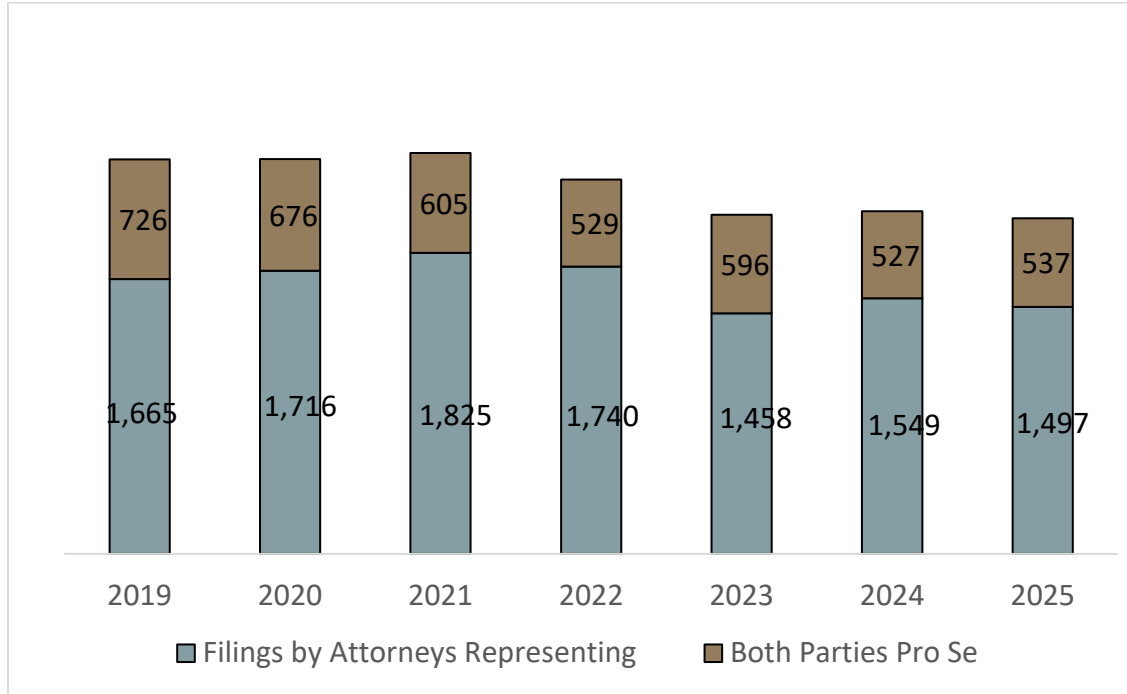


Table 7. Dissolutions by Type of Disposition

		Default	Tried by Court	Consent	Dismissed by Court	Dismissed by Parties	Other
2019	Pro Se ⁷	7%	9%	69%	10%	1%	4%
	Represented	5%	7%	74%	5%	7%	2%
2020	Pro Se	3%	7%	75%	9%	3%	3%
	Represented	5%	6%	74%	4%	7%	4%
2021	Pro Se	5%	11%	63%	13%	4%	4%
	Represented	5%	8%	72%	5%	8%	2%
2022	Pro Se	6%	6%	76%	9%	3%	0%
	Represented	6%	8%	69%	6%	9%	2%
2023	Pro Se	3%	7%	71%	14%	3%	2%
	Represented	5%	7%	73%	6%	6%	3%
2024	Pro Se	2%	5%	81%	8%	3%	1%
	Represented	4%	7%	73%	6%	7%	3%
2025	Pro Se	1%	6%	84%	5%	2%	2%
	Represented	5%	17%	58%	6%	9%	5%

⁷ *"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 2025, Criminal Records processed 7,198 new felony cases, 1,879 new misdemeanor cases, and 2,067 new search warrants. While the number of misdemeanor cases has decreased over the past five years, felony filings have significantly increased. However, they have not yet returned to the levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The number of search warrant filings has fluctuated from year to year, showing no clear trend.

Table 8. Felony Filings & Dispositions

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	9,077	6,111	5,752	5,551	5,654	6,332	7,198
Extraditions ⁸	1,101	720	863	947	889	939	983
Dispositions ⁹	3,487	2,870	3,293	3,129	3,082	3,038	3,030
Jury Trials	46	14	41	22	37	25	33
Court Trials	15	5	10	6	4	3	3
Pending 12/31	3,832	3,958	3,126	2,518	2,219	2,460	3,074

Table 9. Misdemeanor Filings & Dispositions

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	2,087	1,901	2,268	2,670	2,080	1,864	1,879
Dispositions	2,323	1,428	1,850	2,368	1,935	2,071	1,620
Jury Trials	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Court Trials	24	7	12	19	2	1	0
Pending 12/31	1,027	1,251	1,144	900	910	987	1,240

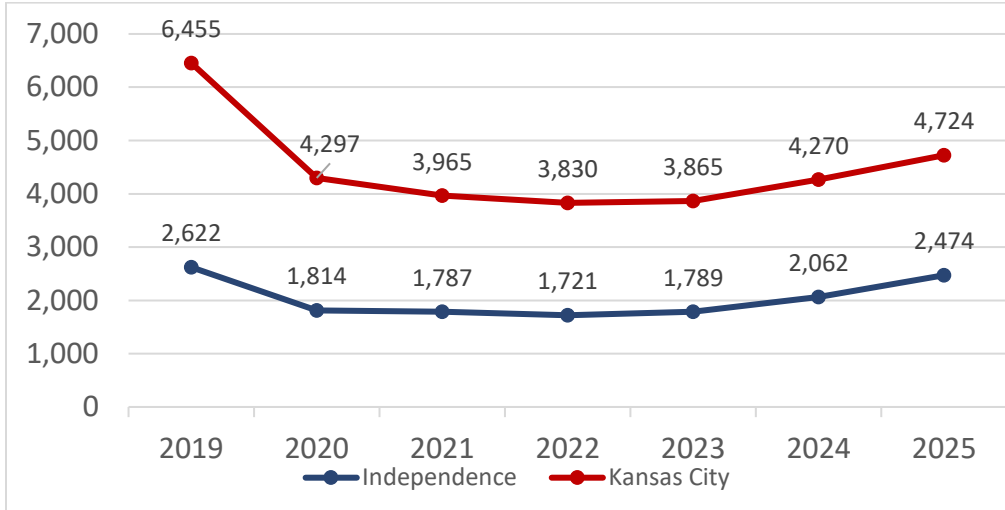
Table 10. Search Warrant Filings & Dispositions

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	1,941	2,198	1,938	1,794	1,531	2,302	2,067
Returns	1,940	2,197	1,928	1,793	1,526	2,299	2,065

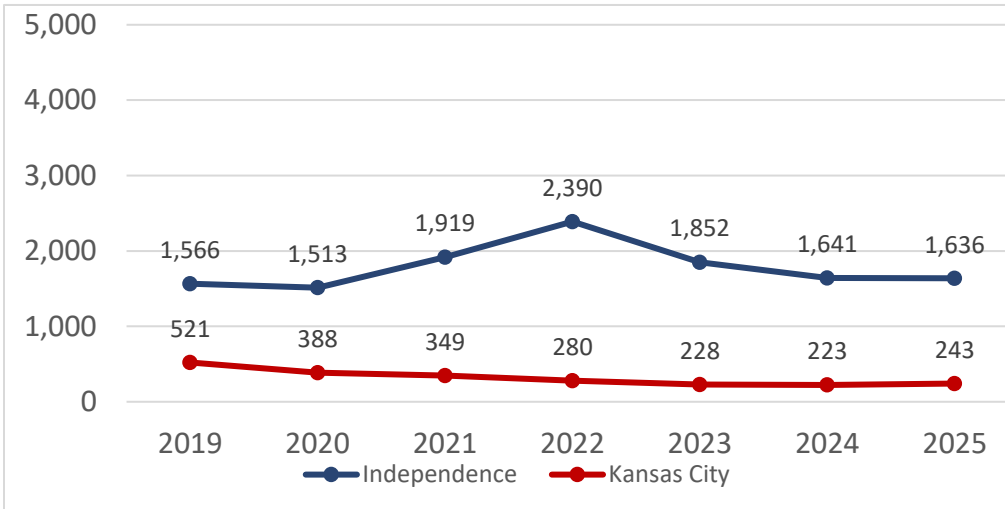
⁸ Extradition filings and dispositions are not included within the felony counts.

⁹ Includes final dispositions only (bind overs, grand jury indictments, and suspended cases excluded.)

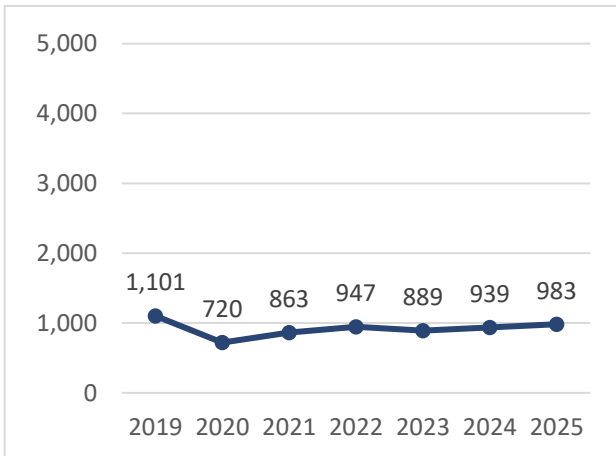
Graph 26. Felony Filings



Graph 27. Misdemeanor Filings



Graph 28. Extraditions



Graph 29. Search Warrant Applications

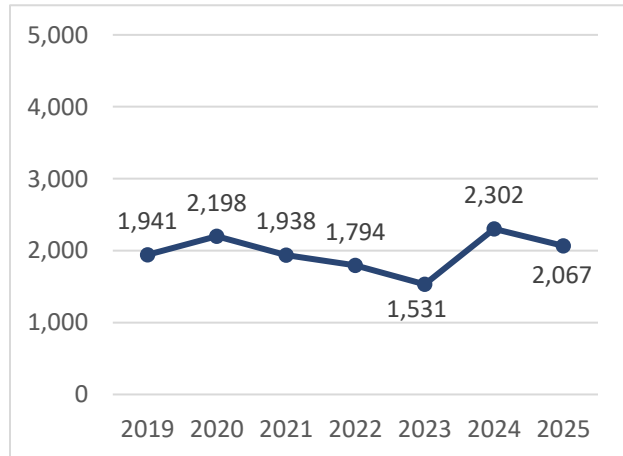


Table 11. Felony Filings by Highest Charge Filed in Case

Charge	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% 2025 Filings
Possession of a Controlled Substance	2,287	1,181	827	609	610	617	864	14%
1st Degree Tampering - Motor Vehicle	541	384	390	462	559	687	528	8%
Aggravated Fleeing from Detention ¹⁰	—	—	—	—	—	96	499	8%
Unlawful Possession of a Firearm	300	221	316	369	388	439	434	7%
Stealing - \$750 Or More	279	187	179	205	221	324	308	5%
Burglary - 2nd Degree	267	180	210	192	192	239	252	4%
DWI - Persistent Offender	238	150	201	205	205	230	229	4%
1 st Degree Assault or Attempt	178	135	148	155	189	161	203	3%
Robbery - 1st Degree	260	192	157	132	137	147	186	3%
Domestic Assault - 2nd Degree	301	241	221	208	185	162	181	3%
Other Charges ¹¹	3,109	2,400	2,147	1,978	1,998	2,204	2,537	41%

Table 12. Sentencing in Felony Cases¹²

	Suspended Imposition of Sentence	Suspended Execution of Sentence	Jackson Co. Jail ¹³	Dept. of Corrections
2025	18%	33%	11%	39%
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%
2019	18%	35%	12%	35%

¹⁰ Missouri enacted legislation effective August 28, 2024, creating the offense of aggravated fleeing a stop or detention of a motor vehicle. The law established enhanced felony penalties for fleeing behavior involving risk of injury or harm, which may contribute to increases in such filings beginning in 2025.

¹¹ This table shows the top ten most common highest felony charges per case. In 2025, 43% of cases had a highest felony charge other than the top ten.

¹² Percentages reflect the distribution of sentencing outcomes in felony cases for each year. “Suspended Imposition of Sentence” (SIS) is a form of probation in which no formal conviction is entered if successfully completed, while “Suspended Execution of Sentence” (SES) involves a conviction with the sentence suspended during probation. Confinement includes sentences served in the Jackson County Jail or the Missouri Department of Corrections.

¹³ This figure was calculated as a proportion of total sentences. Thus, it does not include inmates in jail awaiting trial or sentencing.

Table 13. Misdemeanor Filings by Highest Charge Filed in Case

Charge	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% 2025 Filings
Owner Operate Motor Vehicle Without Financial Responsibility - 1st Offense	394	455	604	832	684	457	521	28%
Driving While Intoxicated	506	388	433	416	375	399	301	16%
Driving While License is Suspended/Revoked - 1st Offense	182	234	276	327	259	216	282	15%
Operate Motor Vehicle Without Valid Driver's License - 1st Offense	137	145	244	304	298	234	246	13%
Possession of Reproduced/Modified/Altered Driver's License	63	47	40	109	53	145	77	4%
Operating Other's Motor Vehicle with No Financial Responsibility	27	40	55	88	63	50	64	3%
Operating a Motor Vehicle Carelessly Resulting in an Accident	96	74	106	52	35	45	48	3%
Driving While Intoxicated - With Prior	52	42	84	62	44	57	44	2%
Resisting or Interfering with Arrest, Detention, or Stop	20	15	24	21	31	21	23	1%
Unlawful Discharge of Firearm	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	1%
Other Charges ¹⁴	605	461	402	457	236	238	252	13%

Table 14. Sentencing in Misdemeanor Cases

	Fine	Suspended Imposition of Sentence	Suspended Execution of Sentence	Jackson Co. Jail
2025	58%	30%	8%	4%
2024	56%	32%	8%	4%
2023	58%	28%	10%	4%
2022	60%	28%	8%	4%
2021	55%	32%	9%	4%
2020	48%	33%	9%	10%
2019	43%	32%	11%	14%

¹⁴ This table shows the top ten most common highest misdemeanor charges per case. In 2025, 13% of cases had a highest misdemeanor charge other than the top ten.

Traffic, Ordinance, Municipal Appeals, & Drug Court

Traffic filings in Jackson County reached a high point in 2021 and 2022, significantly declining in 2023 and levelling out in 2024 and 2025. Adult Treatment Court filings also remained comparable to 2024 figures, and Municipal Appeal saw a modest decline.

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 Filings¹⁵

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	5,395	5,345	8,284	8,239	6,344	5,377	5,426
Dispositions	5,006	4,385	6,717	7,799	5,905	6,550	4,998
Court Trials	21	7	19	22	19	4	1
Pending 12/31	2,154	2,908	3,801	3,681	3,748	3,392	3,713

Table 16. Municipal Appeal Filings

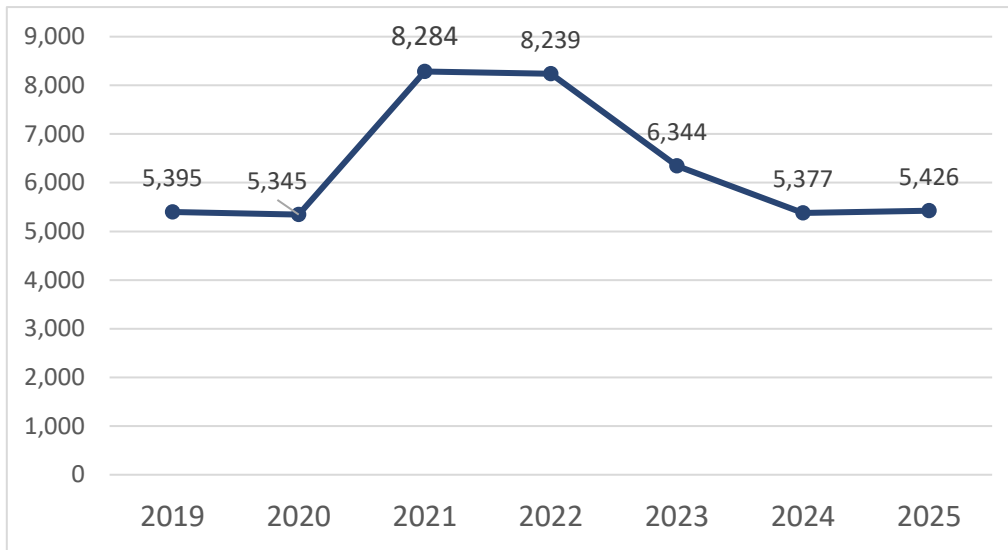
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	512	277	484	367	313	373	317
Dispositions	542	271	407	464	289	341	305
Jury Trials	3	0	4	2	2	2	0
Court Trials	58	31	14	17	27	22	12
Pending 12/31	83	57	20	71	77	103	140

Table 17. Adult Treatment Court Filings

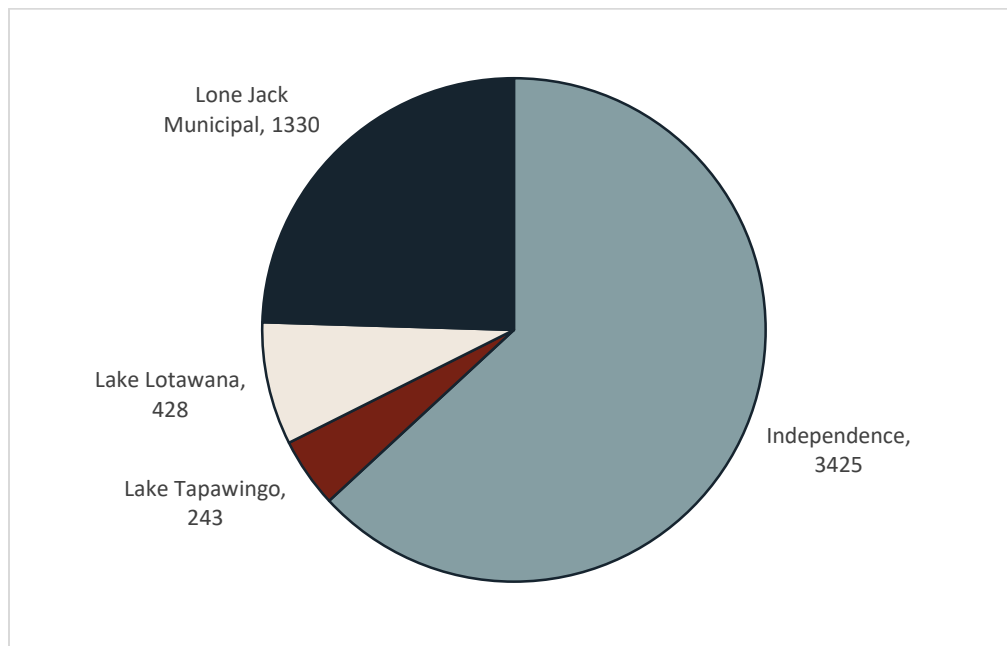
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	532	256	299	279	205	161	164
Dispositions	370	342	222	317	277	258	241
Successful Completion	61%	69%	75%	69%	55%	59%	52%
Pending 12/31	1,357	1,395	1,459	1,038	858	821	573

¹⁵ Lake Lotawana traffic and municipal filings were added July 1, 2019.

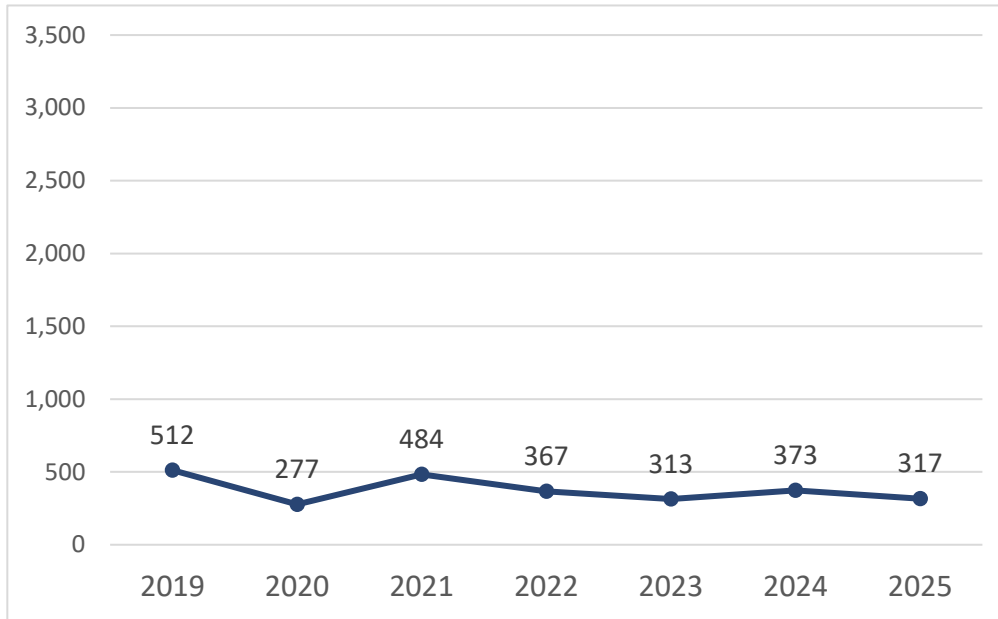
Graph 30. Traffic & Municipal Ordinance Filings



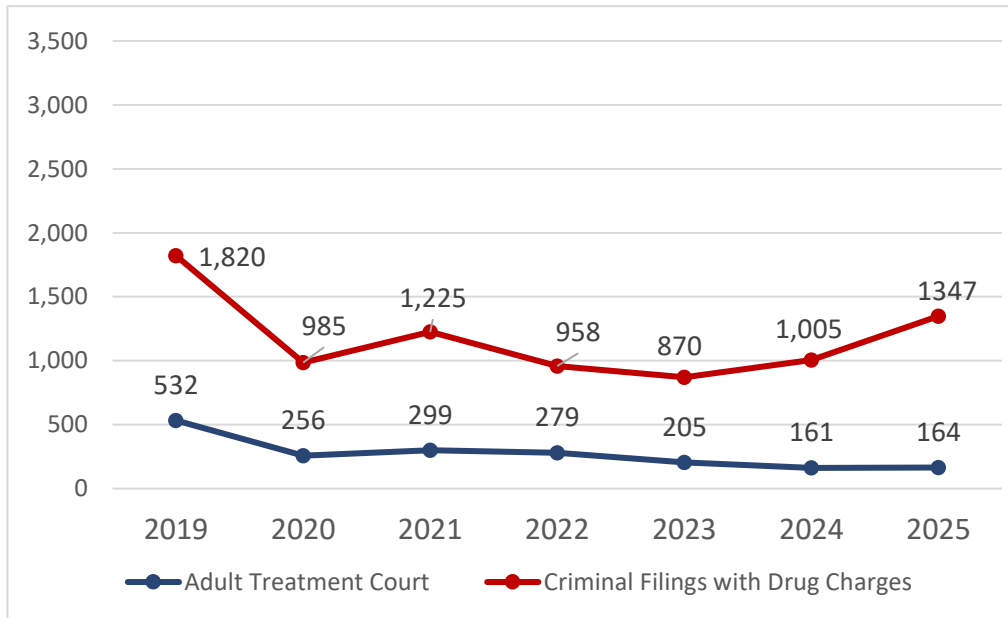
Graph 31. Traffic & Municipal Ordinance Filings by Location



Graph 32. Municipal Appeal Filings¹⁶



Graph 33. Filings with Drug Charges and Adult Treatment Court Filings



¹⁶ Municipal appeal filings consist of cases appealed from municipal courts within Jackson County, which handle ordinance violations, misdemeanors, and infractions. The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit reviews these cases upon appeal.

Probate Records

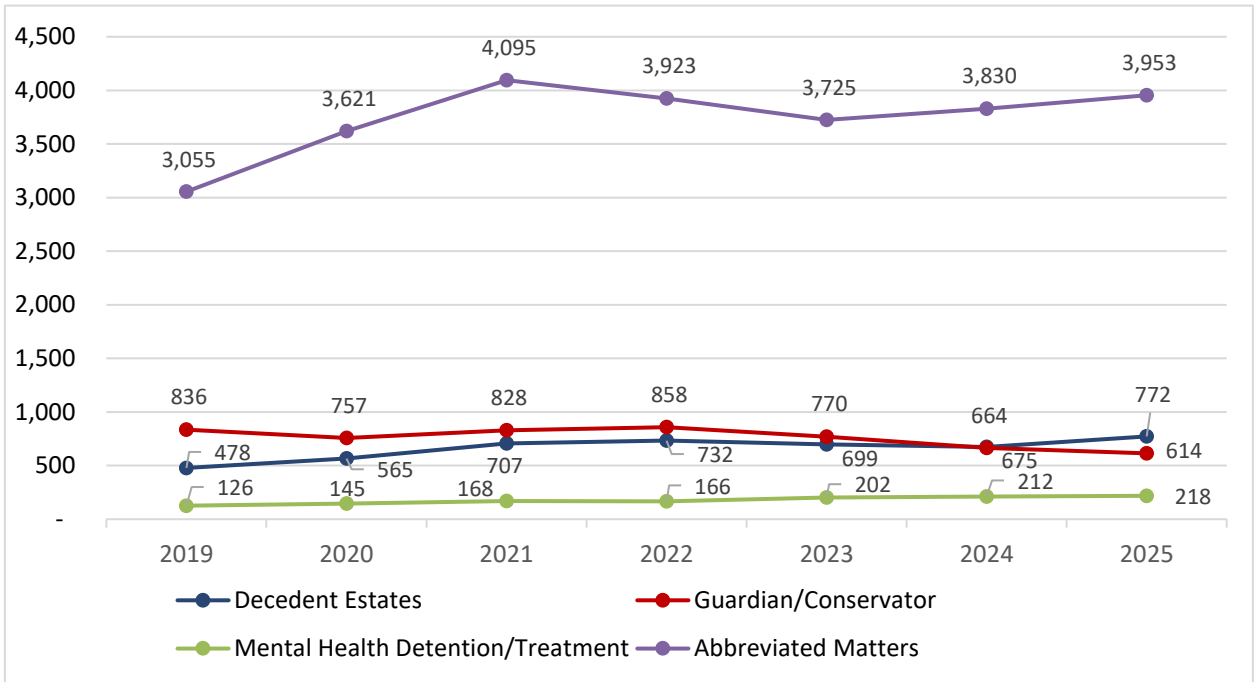
The Probate Department facilitates the processing of estates involving deceased persons and incapacitated and disabled adults and minors. The department also oversees the ongoing administration of those estates and processes civil commitment to treatment facilities for persons who have a mental illness.

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.

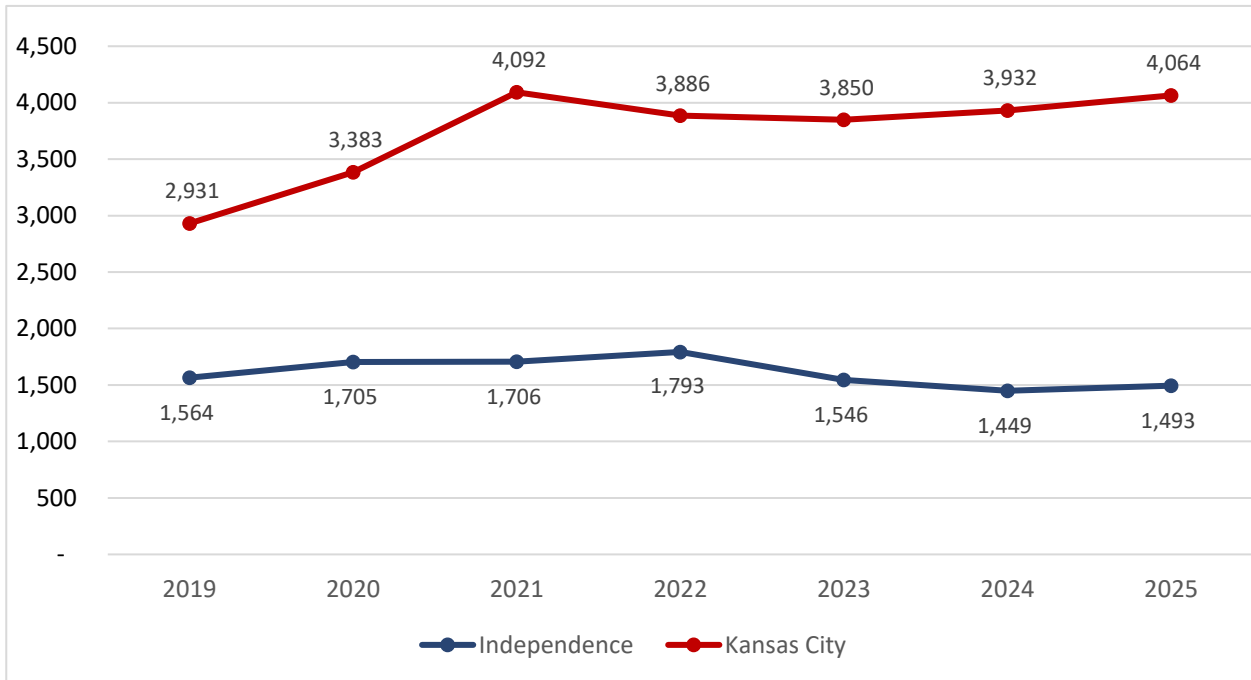
Table 18. Probate Filings

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	4,495	5,088	5,798	5,679	5,396	5,381	5,557
Decedent Estates	478	565	707	732	699	675	772
Guardian/Conservator	836	757	828	858	770	664	614
Mental Health/Additional Detention/Treatment	126	145	168	166	202	212	218
Abbreviated Probate Matters	3,055	3,621	4,095	3,923	3,725	3,830	3,953
Dispositions	4,395	4,782	5,493	5,348	5,548	5,538	5,329
Pending 12/31	7,515	7,855	8,288	8,536	8,225	8,066	8,244

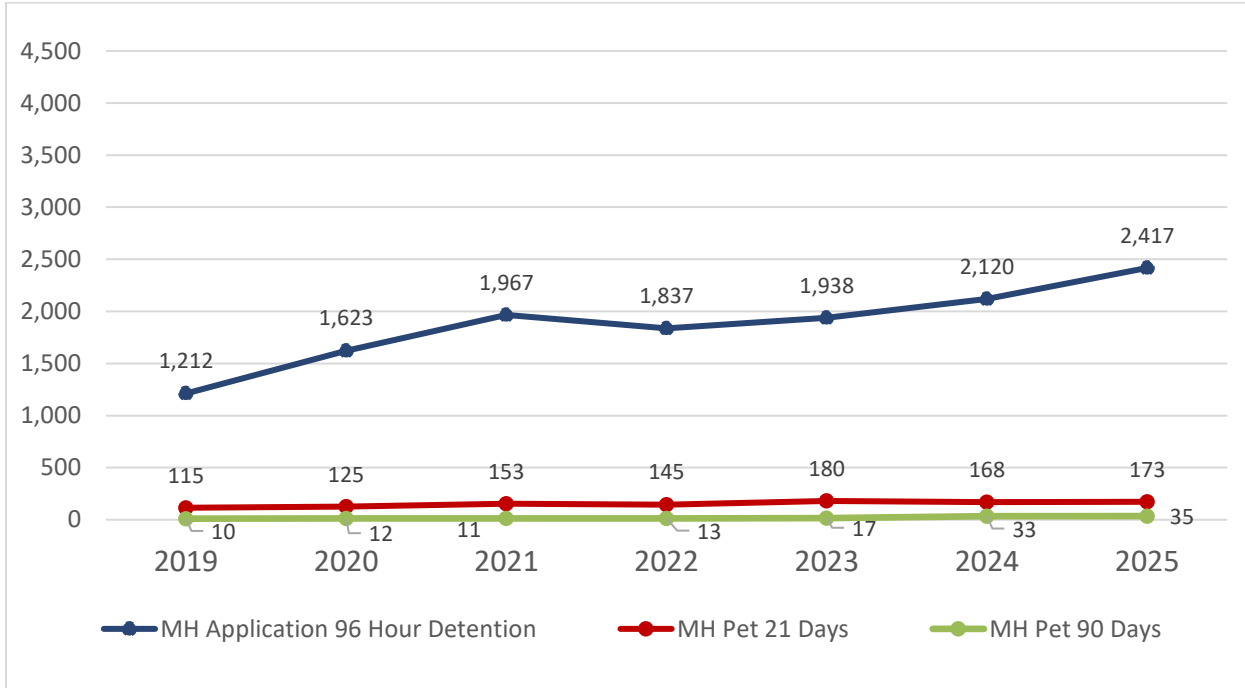
Graph 34. Probate Filings by Type



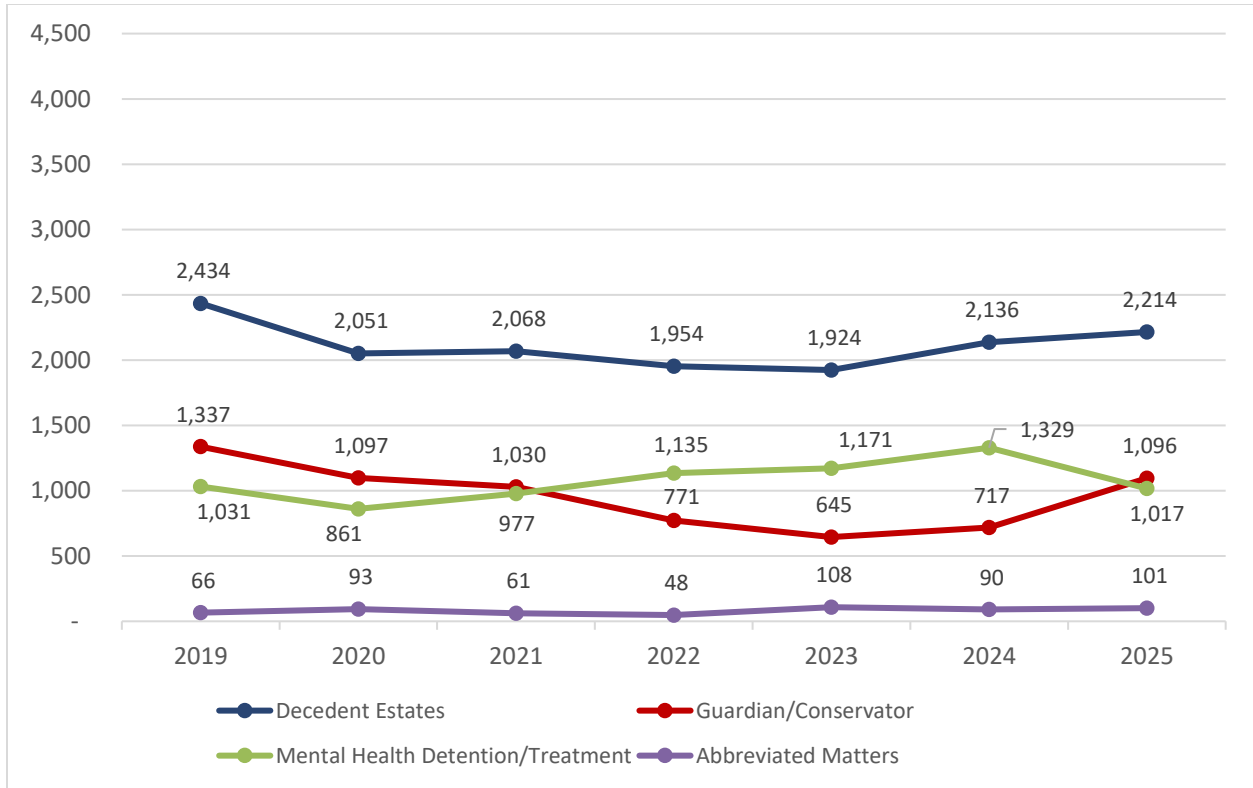
Graph 35. Probate Filings by Location



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

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number Served	11,225	8,214	10,365	10,595	11,640	11,797	10,842
% Served	58%	58%	63%	65%	64%	63%	61%
Incorrect Addresses	3,268	3,486	3,567	2,962	3,219	4,003	3,864
Unable to Contact	4,850	2,441	2,471	2,738	3,438	2,923	3,175
Total Pre-Judgment Process	19,343	14,141	16,403	16,295	18,297	18,723	17,881

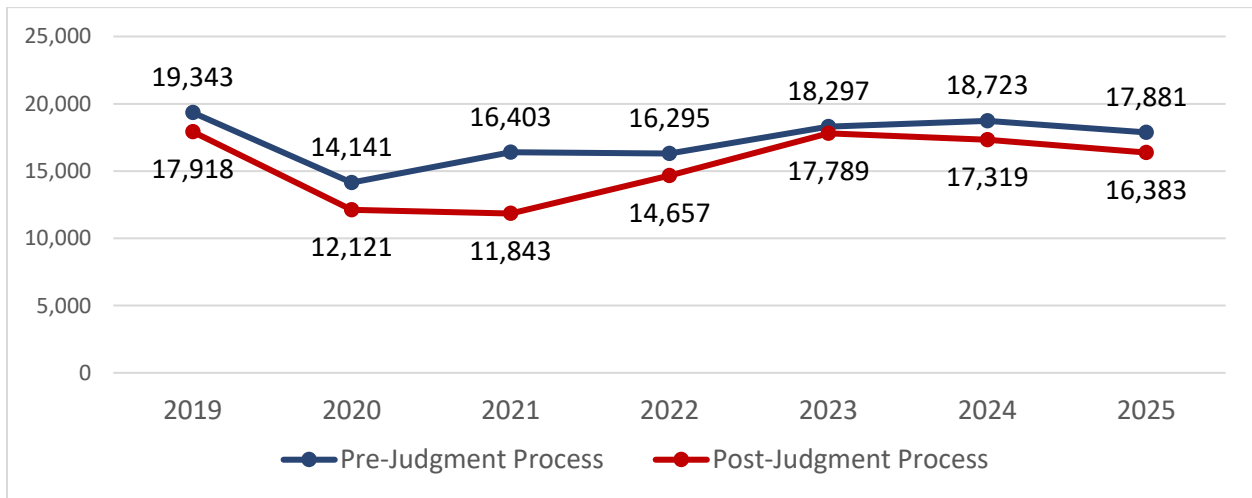
Table 20. Post-Judgment Process

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Levies and Garnishments	9,480	6,289	6,767	7,677	9,473	9,444	8,538
Evictions	3,968	2,239	1,868	3,182	4,364	3,910	4,023
Attachments and Replevins	177	114	51	12	17	16	16
Protective Orders Served	1,082	1,088	1,089	1,074	949	1,188	1,261
Protective Orders—Unable to Contact	3,211	2,391	2,068	2,786	2,986	2,761	2,545
Total Post-Judgment Process	17,918	12,121	11,843	14,657	17,789	17,319	16,383
Total Papers	37,261	26,262	28,246	30,952	36,025	36,042	34,264

Table 21. Delinquent Land Tax Sale¹⁷

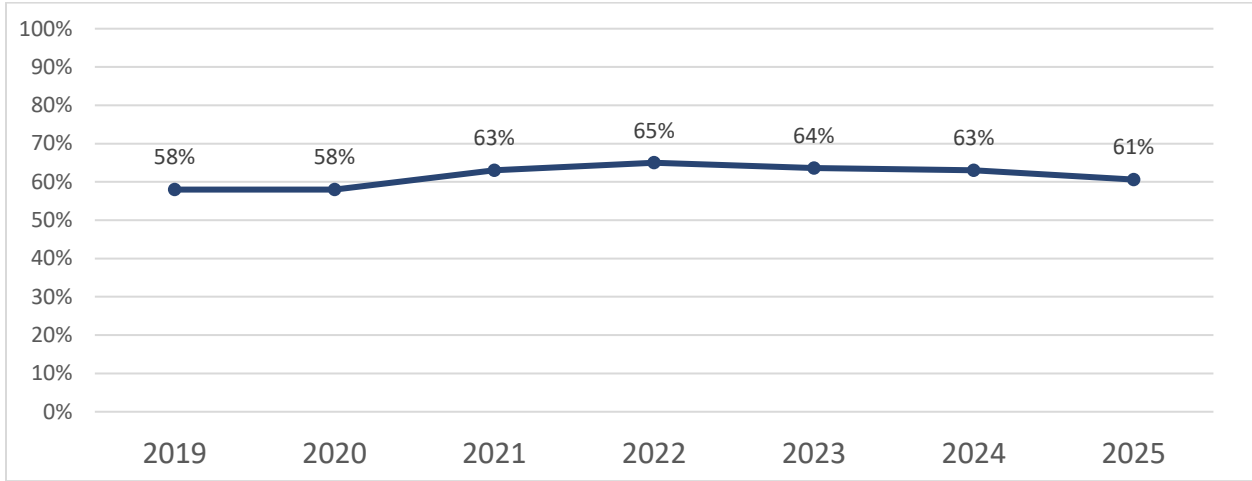
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Parcels Offered for Sale	487	0	748	366	432	413	127
Parcels Sold	349	0	531	276	324	297	100
Gross Revenue	\$3,319,041	\$0	\$7,789,803	\$4,183,861	\$5,217,713	\$4,099,764	\$2,252,332

Graph 38. Civil Process Workloads

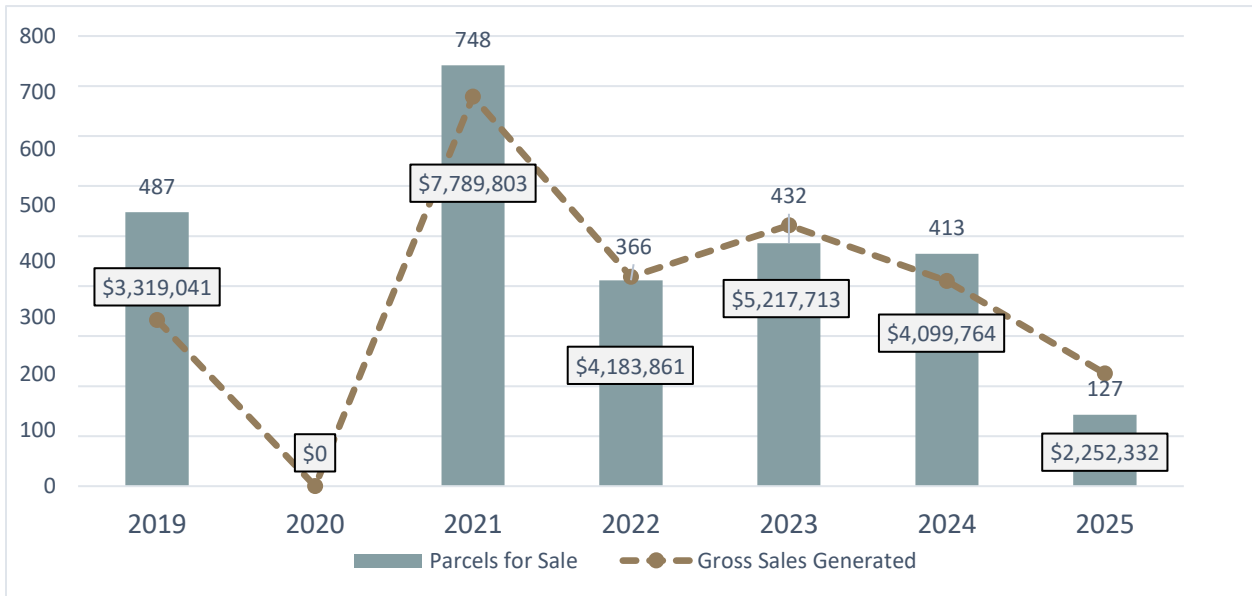


¹⁷ The reduced number of parcels offered and sold in 2025 reflects administrative decisions related to the 2023 property reassessment process. Properties impacted by reassessment-related issues were excluded from the 2025 tax sale, resulting in a smaller-than-typical sale volume.

Graph 39. Pre-Judgment Service Returns



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



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.

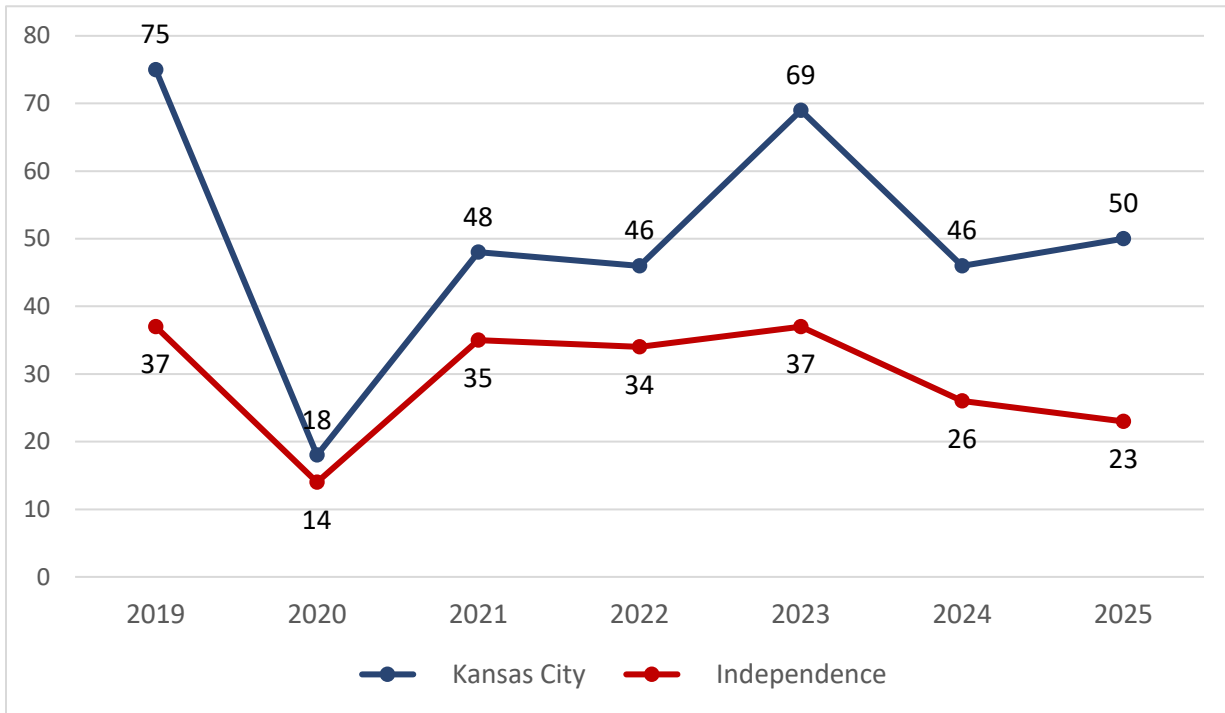
When jurors are required to report, they generally undergo only one jury selection process. If selected, they serve for the duration of the trial. If not selected, their service usually concludes at the end of the selection process, which is typically completed on the first day a juror reports.

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.

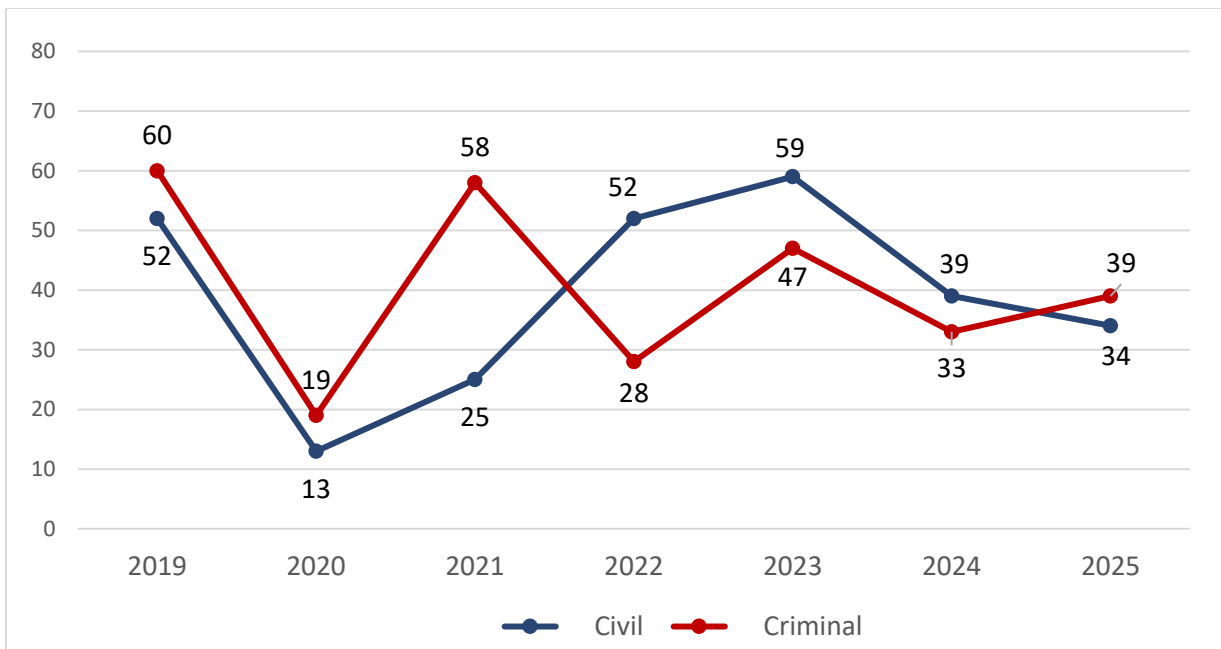
Table 22. Jurors

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Trials	112	32	83	80	106	72	73
Civil	52	13	25	52	59	39	34
Criminal	60	19	58	28	47	33	39
Available Jurors	15,161	4,007	5,070	5,546	8,563	6,392	7,831
Independence	7,478	1,490	2,027	2,005	2,761	2,505	2,697
Kansas City	7,683	2,517	3,043	3,541	5,802	3,887	5,134
Jurors Sent to Divisions	7,183	1,881	4,465	4,384	6,587	4,553	4,498
Independence	3,711	785	1,723	1,724	2,262	1,707	1,334
Kansas City	3,472	1,096	2,742	2,660	4,325	2,846	3,164
Jurors Yield	24%	13%	8%	9%	14%	11%	14%
Percentage Sent for Jury Selection	47%	47%	88%	79%	77%	71%	57%
Percentage Selected as Jurors	10%	12%	23%	20%	17%	16%	13%

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.

In 2025, 11,127 total tickets were opened with CIT, including 6,825 direct 'break and fix' Help Desk tickets, and 4,302 project-related tickets.

2025 Key CIT Projects included:

- **New Court Branding:**
Introduced new Court colors, fonts, and Court seals for graphics and reports.
- **Circuit16Connect Intranet Site:**
Built and launched the Circuit16Connect intranet site in January 2026, with 370+ active users.
- **Family Court iPhones:**
Upgraded 40+ Family Court-issued iPhones.
- **DLT (Delinquent Land Tax):**
Supported successful DLT sales in Independence and Kansas City.
- **Video Conferencing (VTC) Equipment:**
Upgraded and installed 18 new VTC units in courtrooms.
- **Family Court NAS:**
Expanded Family Court Network Attached Storage (NAS) capacity, extending the projected time to capacity exhaustion from one year to approximately five years.
- **Pure Storage Install:**
Decommissioned legacy IBM storage and implemented Pure Storage, improving performance and increasing capacity to support approximately five years of projected demand.
- **Single Domain Project:**
Migrated 835 computers and users to the Courts (OSCA) domain. The Single Domain project took nearly one year to complete.
- **Family Court Courtroom:**
Supported the buildout of a new Family Court courtroom and coordinated division relocations upon completion.

- **Division Moves:**
Relocated four Commissioners to support the new Family Court courtroom. Moved Divisions 1 and 9 for the Criminal A assignment rotation, Divisions 30 and 40 for the new Associate Circuit Judge assignment at the Family Justice Center, and six additional divisions at year-end for Probate, Criminal ACJ, and the Family Court Administrative Judge.
- **PC Hardware Replacement:**
Replaced 132 desktop PCs and 92 laptops.
- **HCL Notes Mailbox Cleanup:**
Reduced individual user mailbox sizes to under 30 GB for the majority of users, reclaiming over 1 TB of storage.
- **Jira Archive Project:**
Archived over 131,000 Jira issues, reducing storage usage and improving system performance.
- **Cybersecurity Training:**
Conducted four cybersecurity training campaigns in 2025, achieving an average completion rate of 87%.
- **Phishing Awareness (KnowBe4):**
Implemented phishing simulations to improve employee awareness, reducing click rates from 13.4% in the April 2025 baseline test to 3.4% in the July 2025 follow-up test.
- **Judicial Privacy Protection (DeleteMe):**
Deployed DeleteMe for judicial officers to reduce online personal exposure and mitigate doxing and related threats.
- **Badge Access & Onboarding:**
Processed 198 new hires and transfers and resolved over 530 security badge-related requests.

Table 23. Court Information Technology

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Help Desk Tickets Opened	8,275	8,799	8,588	7,480	6,970	5,968	6,825
Project-Related Tickets Opened	2,795	2,642	2,607	3,092	1,950	1,974	4,302
Operations	355	390	597	857	816	706	391
Workday + Service Desk	—	—	—	—	174	409	161
Employee Status Change	—	—	—	910	234	201	198
Mobile Devices	147	148	223	169	62	112	90
Network	146	188	150	97	145	101	158
eWarrants	80	73	76	82	54	72	54
Delinquent Land Tax	120	92	97	189	113	67	106
Internet/Intranet	67	62	43	29	58	50	83
Circuit16 Connect ¹⁸	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
Security ¹⁹	394	593	533	79	57	43	40
Contract Management System (CMR, SMS) ²⁰	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Special Projects ²¹	896	716	63	59	26	39	51
JIS + SMC	218	65	46	42	28	38	63
Other Projects ²²	202	78	647	566	158	38	105
Unclaimed Property	75	12	8	10	25	29	37
Jackson County Reports	—	—	—	—	—	28	29
Material Tracking System ²³	—	—	—	—	—	21	28
Single Domain	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,621

¹⁸ Circuit16 Connect replaced CourtNet on 01/01/2026 and will be included in Internet/Intranet project tickets count in 2026.

¹⁹ Security issues are being processed differently now, via HD tickets, and so 40 issues under Security project is an underestimation.

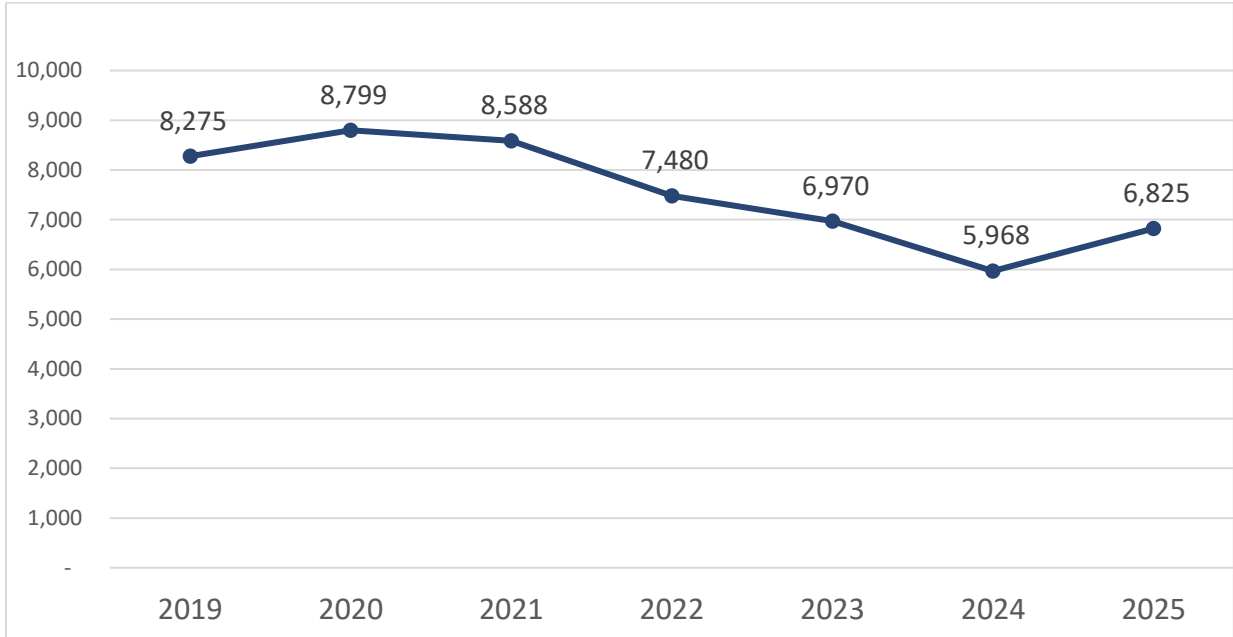
²⁰ Contract Management project includes software rewrite tickets as well as addressing general issues.

²¹ Special Projects include certain testing tasks, along with smaller projects. Single Domain transition is a significant event and a separate project was created.

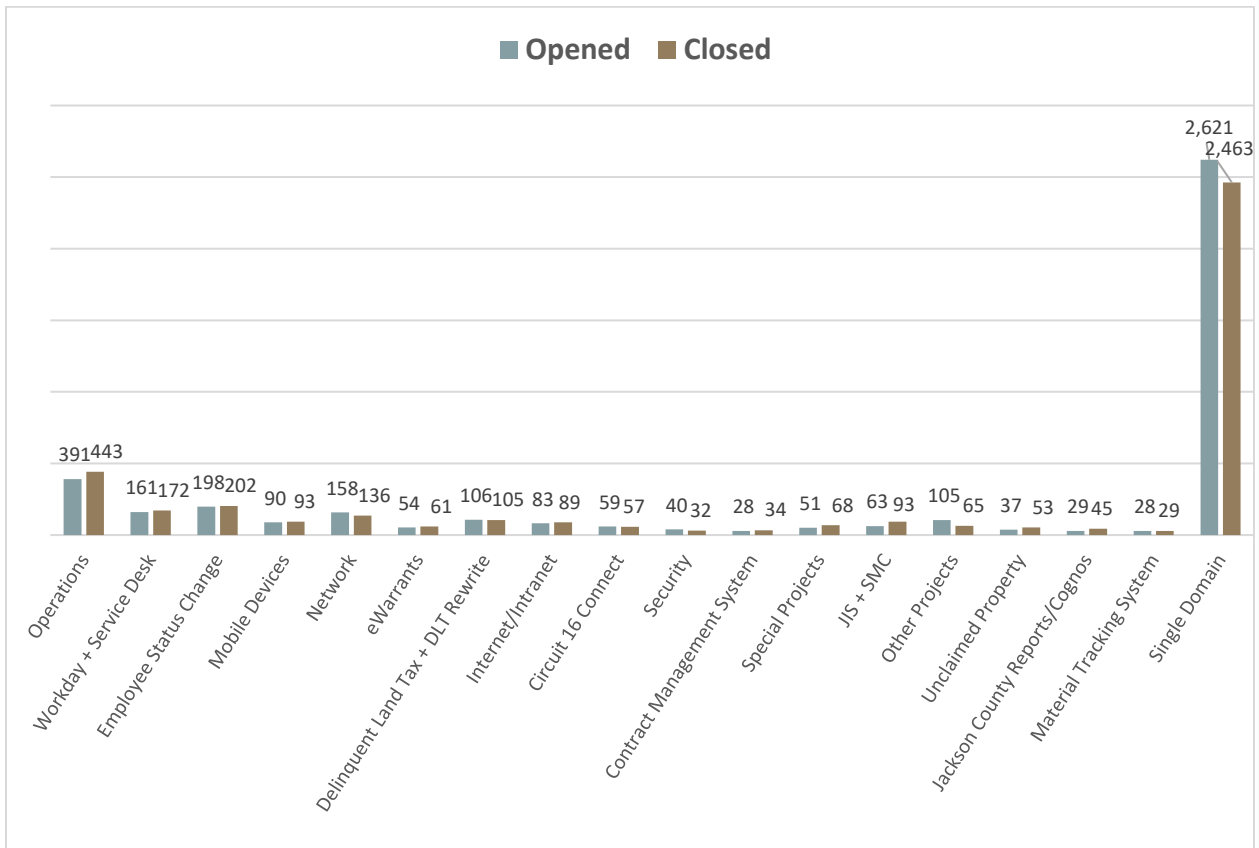
²² "Other Projects" include: Database Administration, eFiling, HCL Notes, Loaner Program, Online Requisition, Software Installation and more.

²³ Material Tracking System is an upgrade project for an outdated existing program.

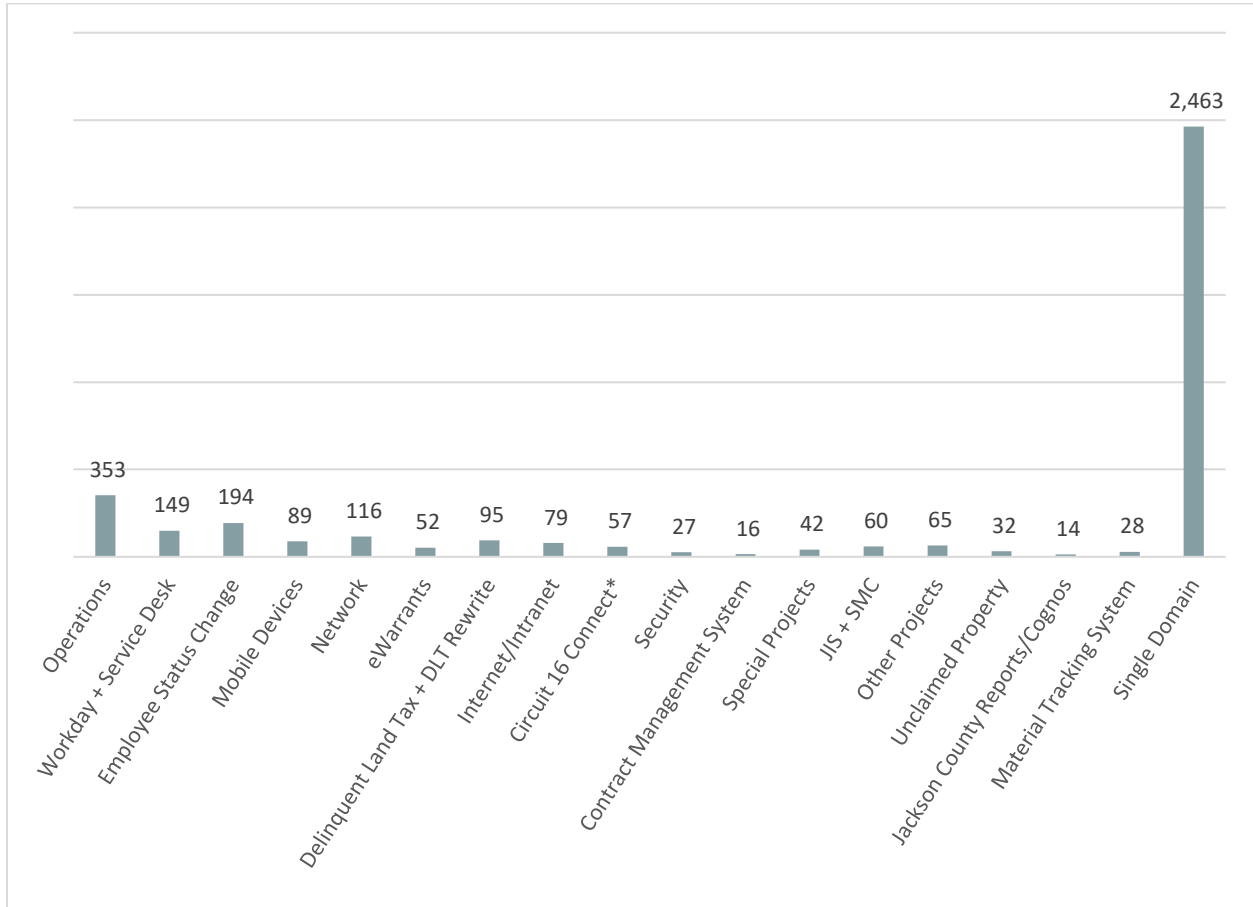
Graph 43. Help Desk Tickets Opened



Graph 44. Project-Related Tickets in 2025



Graph 44. CIT Projects Opened AND Closed in 2025



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

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Referrals Filed	2,434	2,051	2,068	1,954	1,924	2,136	2,214
Abuse and Neglect	1,337	1,097	1,030	771	645	717	1,096
Delinquency	1,031	861	977	1,135	1,171	1,329	1,017
Status Offense	66	93	61	48	108	90	101
Formal Filings by Person ²⁴	2,264	1,728	1,683	1,562	1,336	1,055	1,297
Abuse and Neglect	1,228	983	976	787	597	443	665
Delinquency	315	222	259	315	373	322	293
Status Offense	8	3	3	19	12	13	7
Adoption	335	257	256	241	188	141	168
Termination of Parental Rights	310	210	113	127	77	65	61
Certification Cases Filed ²⁵	41	34	60	46	60	47	78

Table 25. Child Welfare Programs and Services

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CPPU/SBC ²⁶	68	39	37	30	14	44	30
Family Treatment Court Entering Participants	115	72	80	46	42	49	129
Mediation	351	254	292	416	438	373	286
Connections Visits	1,463	639	756	836	1,049	979	921
Parent Awareness Courses	2,891	1,363	1,525	1,548	1,738	1,551	1,583

Table 26. Delinquency

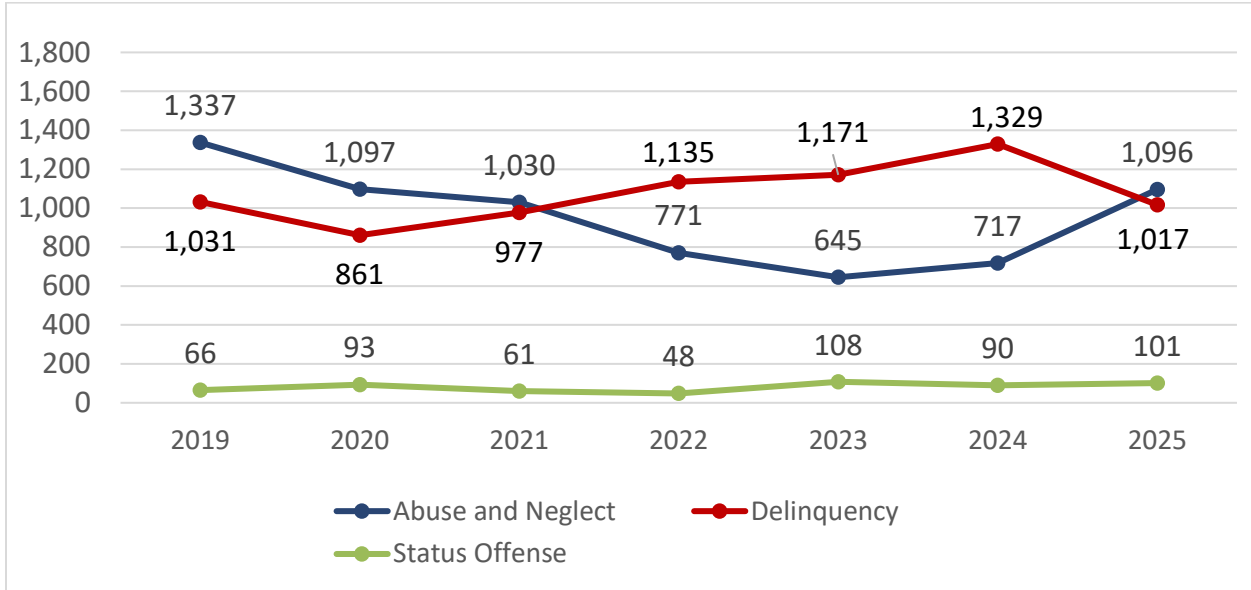
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Prevention & Diversion	285	144	231	269	212	380	314
Youth Starting Probation	120	89	66	120	166	170	106
Youth Detained	211	140	210	302	342	300	238
Youth Committed to Hilltop	27	19	16	27	29	24	25

²⁴ Including Motions to Modify.

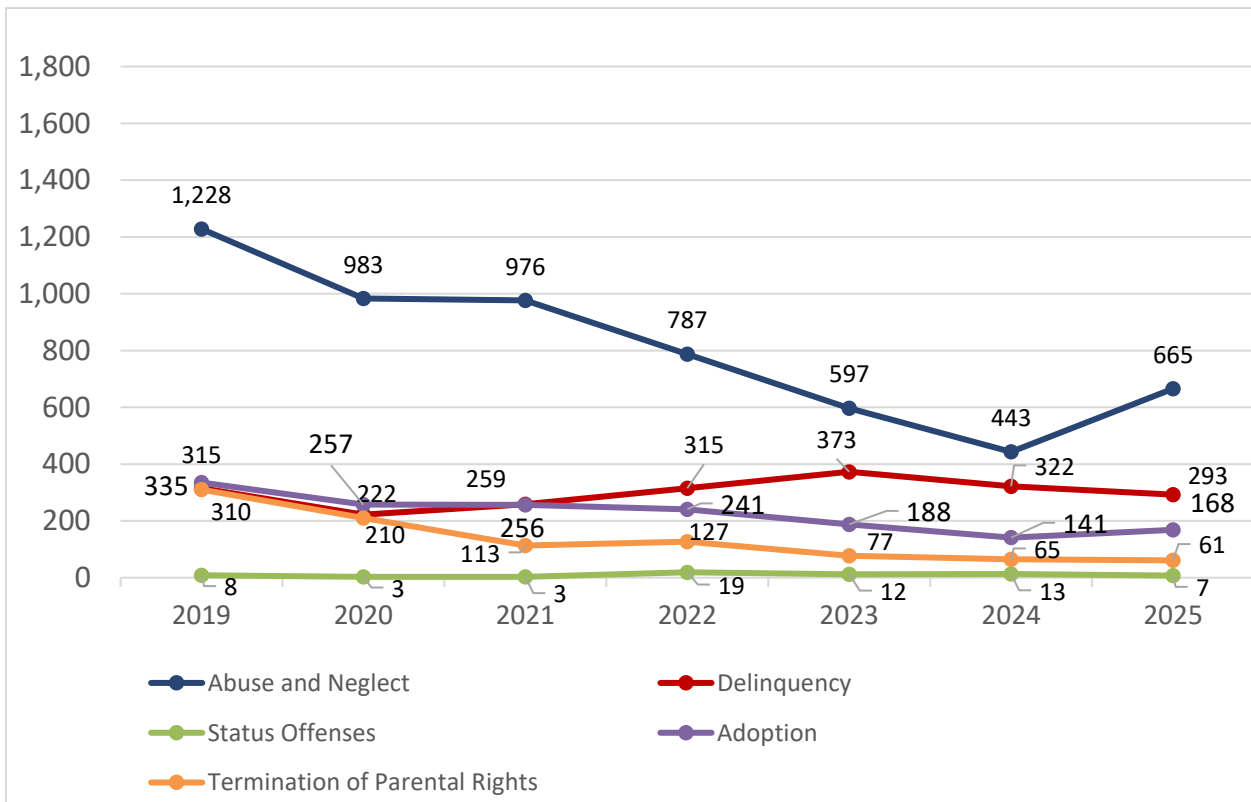
²⁵ Certifications are reported by year the case was filed rather than year certification took place.

²⁶ Safe Babies Court began accepting cases on July 1, 2024. Until this time, cases for children age 0-3 were served by the Child Protection and Permanency Unit.

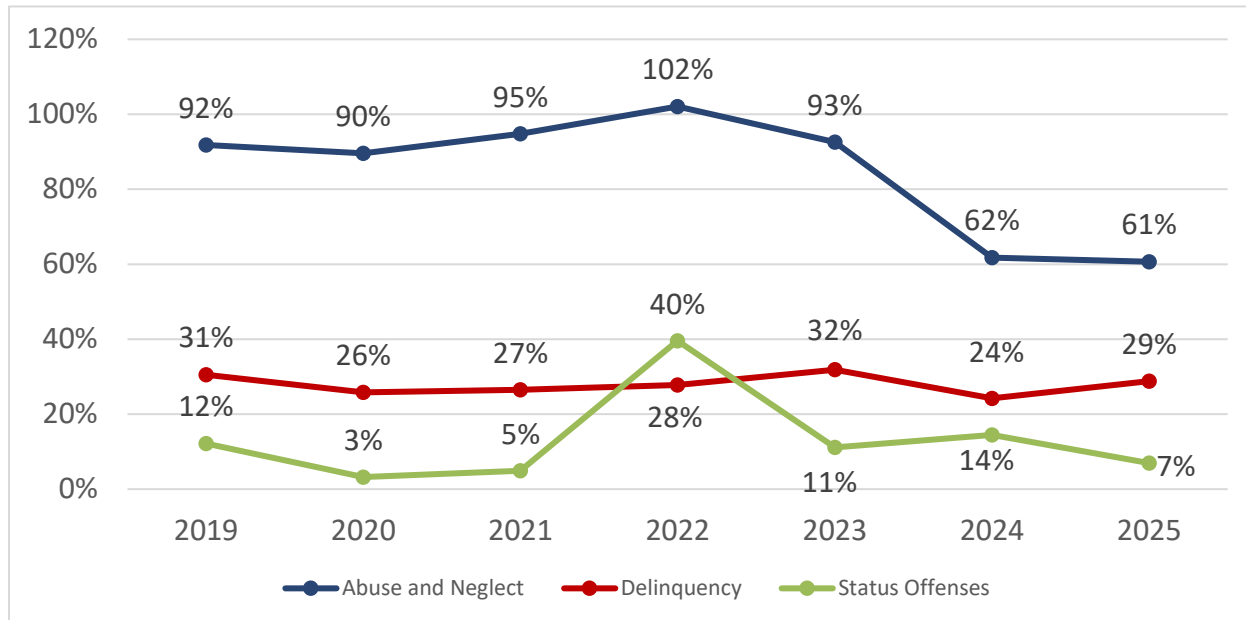
Graph 45. Referrals



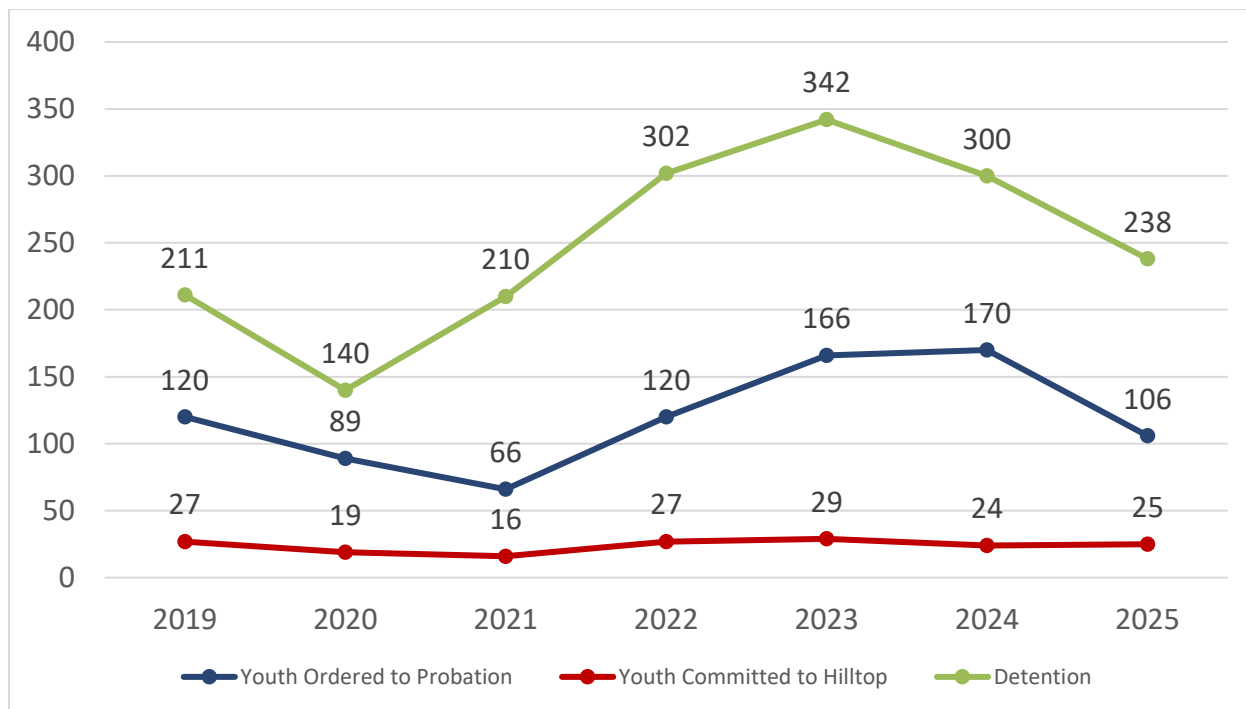
Graph 46. Formal Filings



Graph 47. Percentage of Referrals Resulting in Formal Filings²⁷

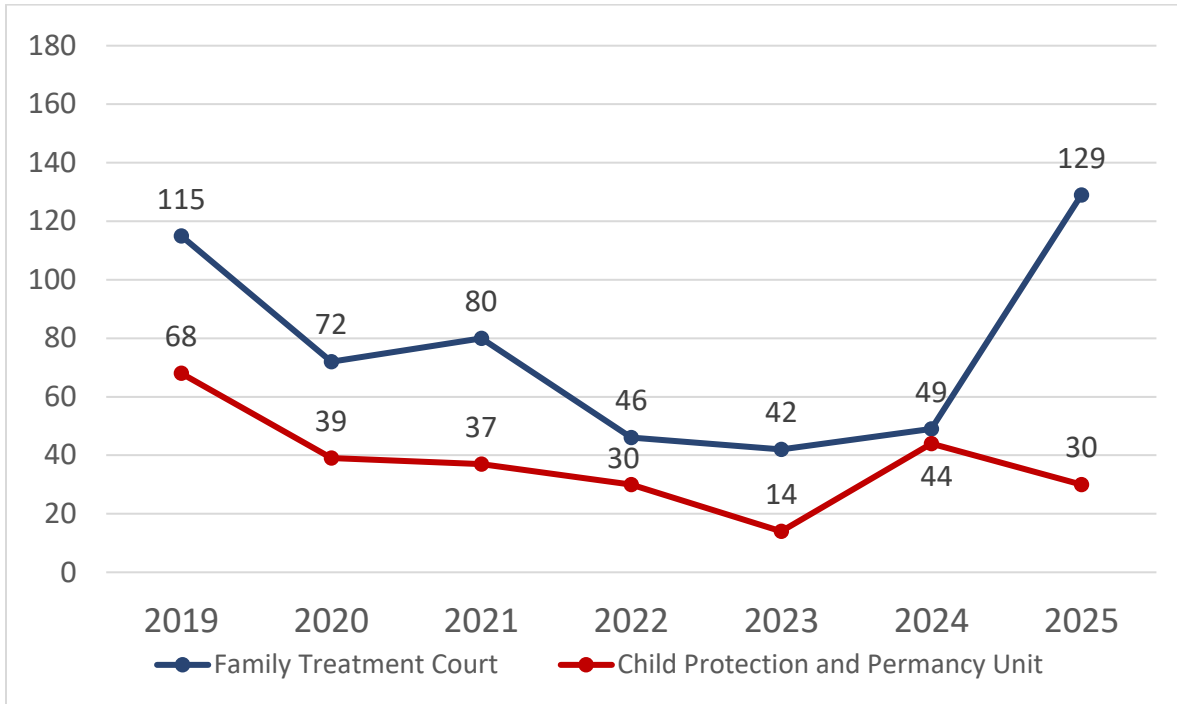


Graph 48. Youth Supervision and Custody Outcomes

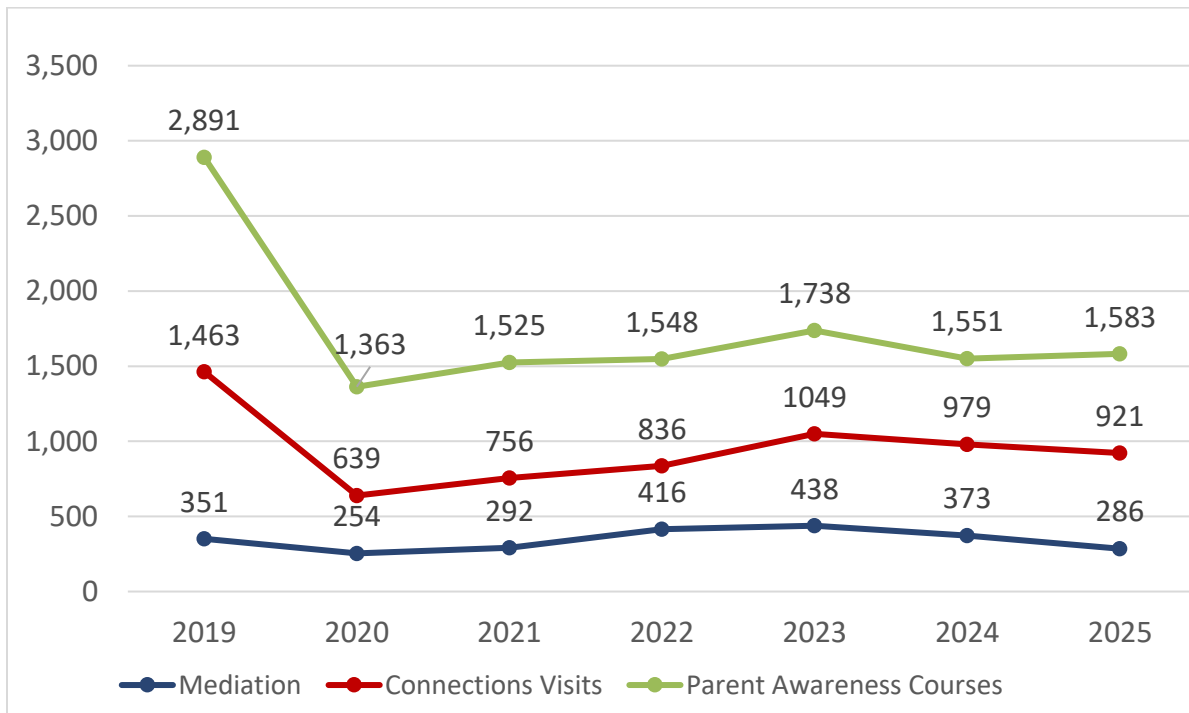


²⁷ Percentages may exceed 100 percent because the measure includes both new petitions and subsequent motions to modify, which can occur multiple times within a single case and are not limited to new referrals.

Graph 49. Participants Entering Child Welfare Specialty Dockets by Year



Graph 50. Family Court Resources Services Programs



Conclusions

The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri concluded 2025 with sustained performance across divisions, even as filing volumes shifted and increased in key areas. The data reflect a Court that not only kept pace with changing caseload demands but also continued to modernize its operations while meeting statewide timeliness benchmarks.

Associate Circuit Civil filings reached 38,615 cases in 2025, representing a continued multi-year rise driven largely by suit-on-account filings. Despite this substantial increase in volume, dispositions also rose, reflecting the Court's ongoing efforts to manage a historically high civil docket. Circuit Civil filings remained stable, and clearance rates across major case types remained competitive.

In criminal divisions, felony filings increased by 14 percent over the prior year, accompanied by a 23 percent rise in dispositions. Jury trials in felony cases also increased. These figures reflect steady courtroom activity and continued focus on timely case resolution. Misdemeanor filings remained stable, and search warrant activity remained within normal fluctuation ranges.

In Domestic Relations, overall filings held steady while court trials increased significantly. Notably, *ex parte* and full orders of protection declined in 2025, and the pending domestic violence caseload decreased. These trends occurred alongside continued compliance with statewide time standards.

Family Court activity reflected evolving community needs. Abuse and neglect referrals and formal filings increased substantially, while delinquency referrals and youth detention declined. Family Treatment Court participation expanded significantly, more than doubling from the prior year. These shifts illustrate the Court's capacity to respond to changing circumstances while maintaining accountability and service to families.

The Civil Process Department continued to manage a high volume of pre- and post-judgment activity. Although the Delinquent Land Tax sale was smaller than in recent years, it was conducted successfully and efficiently.

Court Information Technology experienced one of its most active years on record. Project-related ticket volume more than doubled, driven in large part by the completion of the Single Domain migration and related infrastructure initiatives. These efforts strengthened cybersecurity, expanded storage capacity, enhanced courtroom technology, and improved internal systems to support long-term operational stability.

When compared with other large urban circuits, the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit continued to meet or exceed Missouri Supreme Court time standards across major case categories.

These results demonstrate consistent, competitive performance in a complex, high-volume environment.

In 2025, the Court experienced leadership transitions, structural modernization, and changing caseload patterns. Throughout these developments, the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit maintained steady case processing, expanded programmatic capacity, and strengthened internal systems. The data presented in this report reflect an institution that is responsive, accountable, and positioned for continued service to the community in the years ahead.