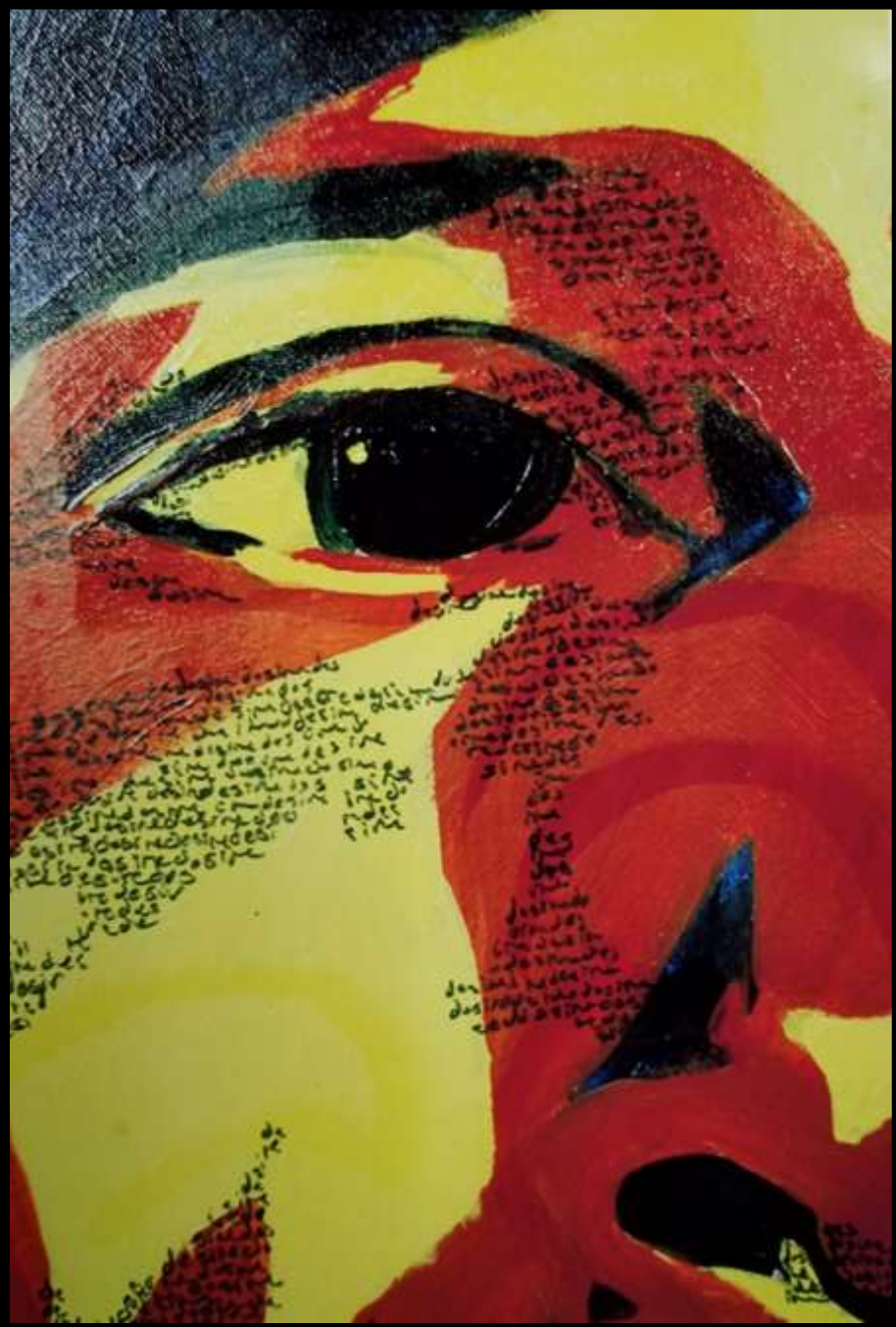


Jackson County Family Court



2019
Statistical Report

Cover artwork: ArtsTech
Cover design: Susanne Bragaw

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Introduction

This report provides statistical information about Jackson County Circuit Court - Family Court Division for 2019, as well as trend information using historical data. The report begins with a description of the Jackson County population, including the number of youth. Next the report looks at referrals and formal filings to the Family Court for our various case types:

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

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

This report uses the following definitions for each referral category (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.

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 slightly higher (0.6%) than it was a decade ago.

In 2018, the most recent year for which data were available, youth under the age of 18 represented 24% of the county population of 700,307. In Jackson County, 35% of youth were youth of color.¹

¹ Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2018). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2018." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>.

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

Table 1. Youth Population in Jackson County (Ages 0 to 17 years) by Race²

Year	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Total
2012	51,450	107,217	1,600	3,974	164,241
2013	51,128	106,965	1,572	4,060	163,725
2014	51,344	107,324	1,627	4,181	164,476
2015	51,489	107,698	1,616	4,221	165,024
2016	51,522	108,262	1,615	4,357	165,756
2017	51,246	108,588	1,644	4,462	165,940
2018	51,008	107,842	1,639	4,490	164,979

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

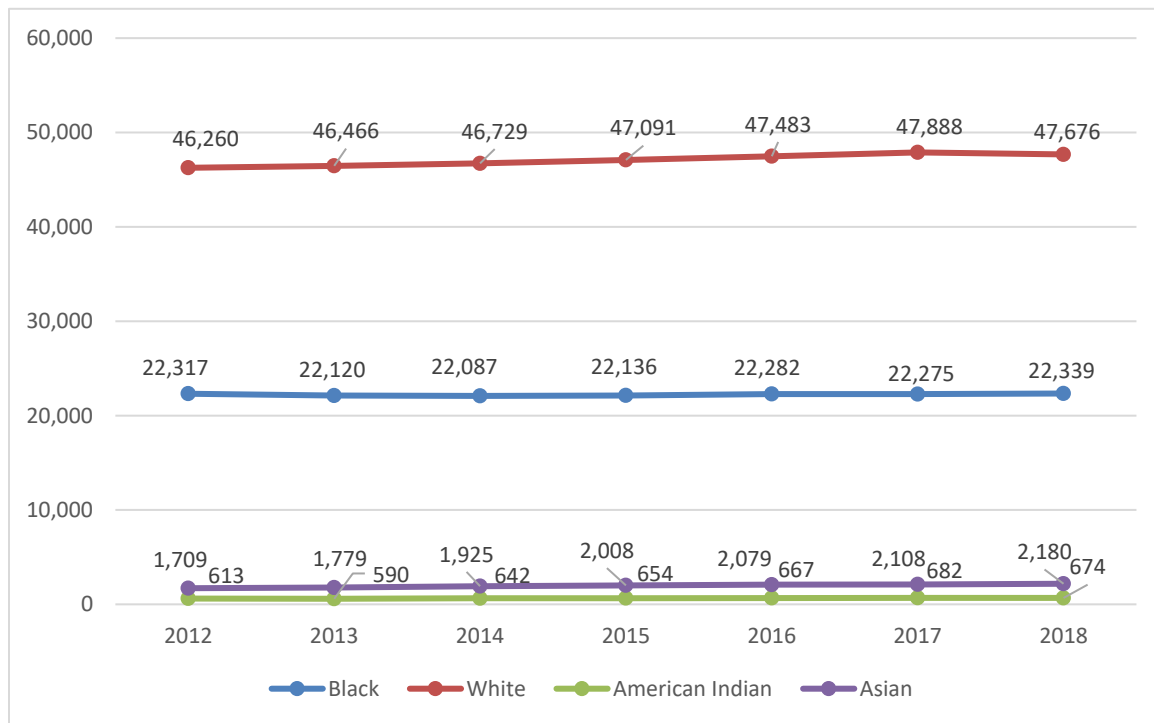
Year	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Total
2012	22,317	46,260	613	1,709	70,899
2013	22,120	46,466	590	1,779	70,955
2014	22,087	46,729	642	1,925	71,383
2015	22,136	47,091	654	2,008	71,889
2016	22,282	47,483	667	2,079	72,511
2017	22,275	47,888	682	2,108	72,953
2018	22,339	47,676	674	2,180	72,869

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

Year	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
2012	8,934	9,035	9,123	9,029	8,937	8,693	8,494	8,654	70,899
2013	9,010	8,917	8,939	9,111	9,032	8,855	8,683	8,408	70,955
2014	9,045	9,029	8,930	8,932	9,038	8,962	8,813	8,634	71,383
2015	9,110	9,107	8,999	8,943	8,915	9,021	8,954	8,840	71,889
2016	9,333	9,125	9,173	9,005	8,984	8,905	9,060	8,926	72,511
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

² Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2018). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2018." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>. Population data from 2019 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. (2018). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2018." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>. Population data from 2019 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 pertained to referrals filed in prior years.)

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

Child Welfare Referrals, Filings, and Open Cases

The number of child abuse and neglect referrals declined for the second year in a row in 2019, reaching a level similar to the number filed in 2012. The number of petitions and motions to modify (formal filings) for child abuse and neglect decreased by 6% in 2019, continuing a general downward trend over 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 has an ambitious national goal of reducing the number of children in foster care 50% by 2020 by improving systems of care for children. Our local initiative is focused on improving court systems for children in foster care to achieve safe, permanent homes for them. This is a multiyear project.

The clearance rate is the number of cases released from jurisdiction divided by the number of new formal filings. A number below 100% 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. The clearance rate in 2019 was 129%. Patterns of rates below 100% result in increasing caseloads, while patterns of clearance rates above 100% decrease caseloads. Accordingly, the number of open cases as of December 31 was about 8% lower in 2019 than it was in 2018.

Table 4. Referrals and Formal Filings – Abuse and Neglect Cases

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	1,390	1,304 ⁴	1,256 ⁵	1,168 ⁶	1,387 ⁷	1,501 ⁸	1,408	1,337
% change	--	-6%	-4%	-7%	+19%	+8%	-6%	-5%
Rate per 1,000 ⁹	8.5	7.9	7.7	7.1	8.4	9.1	8.5	8.1

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Open Cases December 31	2,295	2,363	2,364	2,072	2,020	2,019	2,056	1,888
New Cases	1,113	1,005	1,015	822	983	991	1,034	845
Releases	987	938	1,009	1,112	1,031	994	1,001	1,094
Clearance Rate	89%	93%	99%	135%	105%	100%	97%	129%

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Petitions and Mot to Modify	1,679	1,477	1,452	1,298	1,423	1,277	1,304	1,228
% change	--	-12%	-2%	-11%	+10%	-10%	+2%	-6%

Table 5. Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights Formal Filings

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New Adoption Cases ¹⁰	349	292	340	290	294	299	348	393
New Termination of Parental Rights Cases	179	112	108	135	449 ¹¹	369	333	226

⁴ 122 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

⁵ 91 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

⁶ 153 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

⁷ 211 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

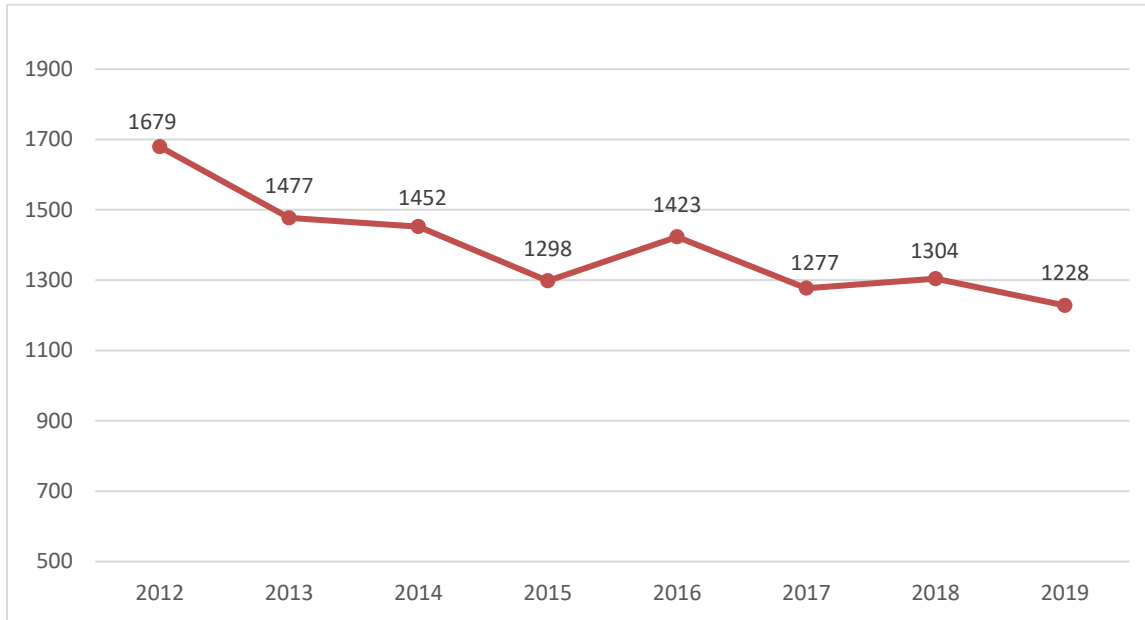
⁸ 306 referrals were referrals for orders of protection in general jurisdiction cases.

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

¹⁰ This table reports regular adoption cases and does not include stepchild or adult adoptions.

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

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



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

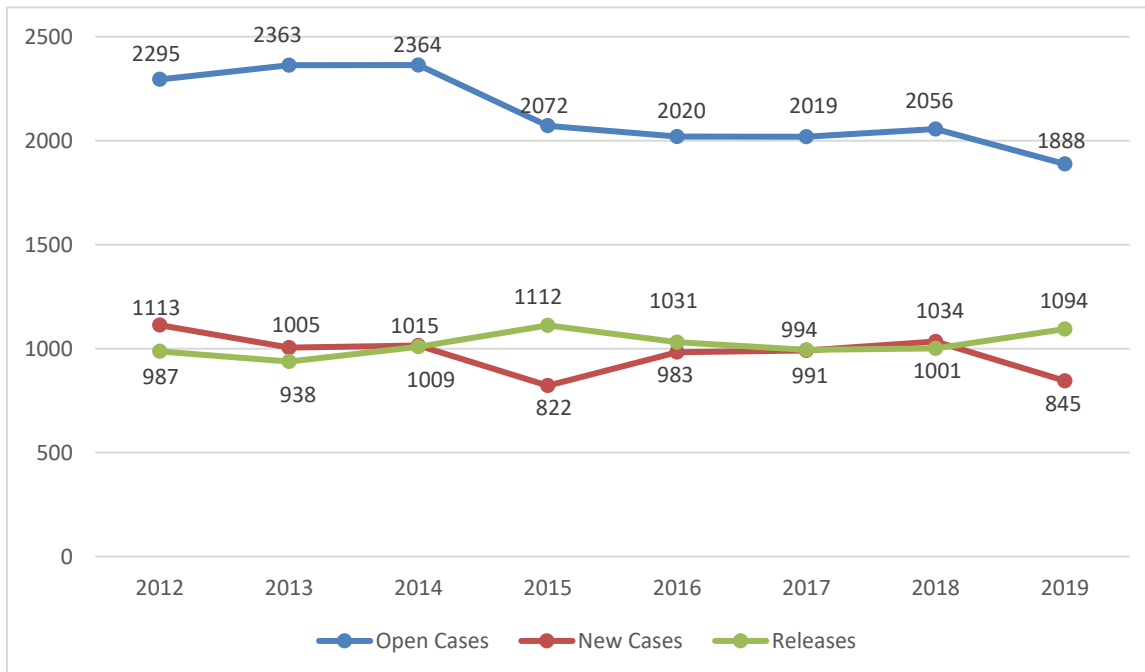
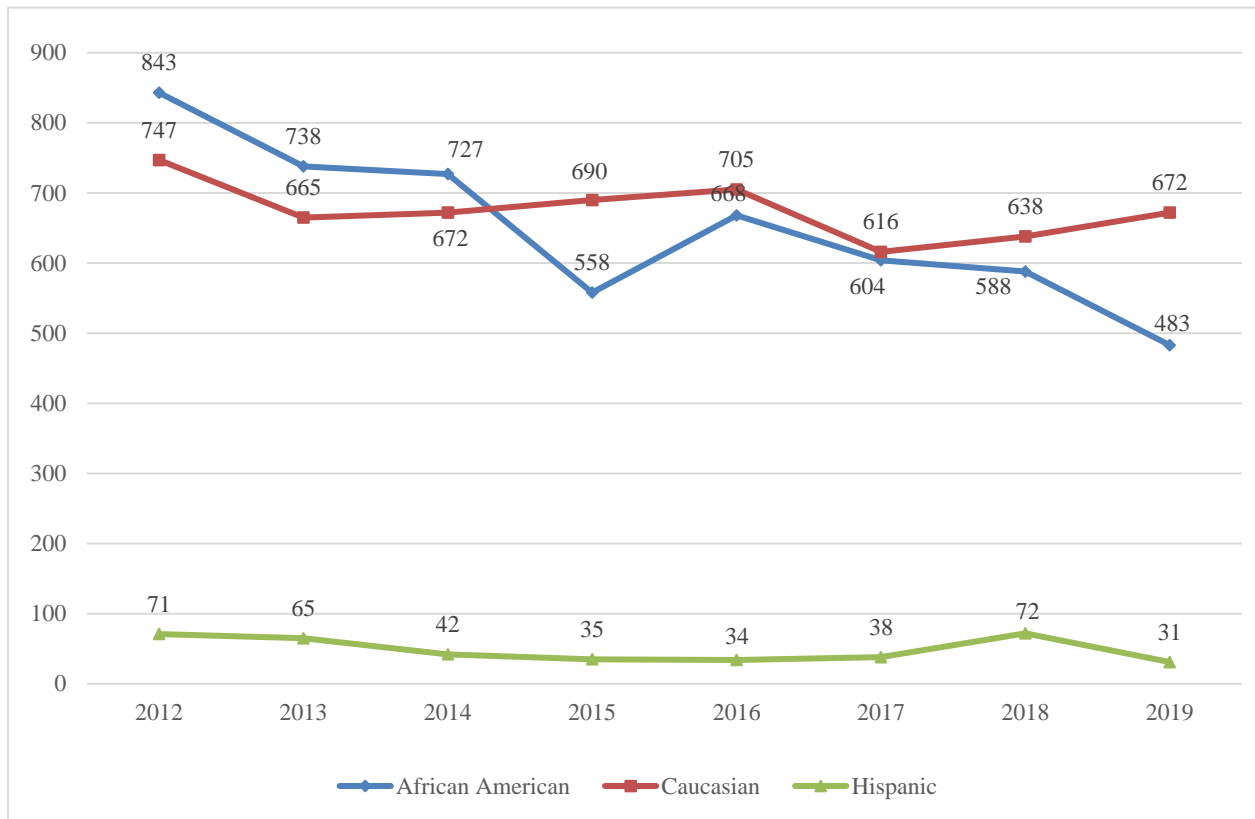


Table 6 and Graph 4

Child Abuse and Neglect Formal Filings by Race

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic		Other		Unknown/Missing	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2012 ¹²	843	50%	747	44%	71	4%	18	1%	0	0%
2013 ¹³	738	50%	665	45%	65	4%	8	1%	1	<1%
2014	727	50%	672	46%	42	3%	13	1%	1	<1%
2015 ¹⁴	558	43%	690	53%	35	3%	15	1%	2	<1%
2016 ¹⁵	668	47%	705	50%	34	2%	13	1%	3	<1%
2017 ¹⁶	604	47%	616	48%	38	3%	19	1%	0	0%
2018 ¹⁷	588	45%	638	48%	72	5%	17	1%	1	<1%
2019 ¹⁸	483	39%	672	55%	31	3%	9	1%	33	3%



¹² Two youth included in the African American category in 2012 identified as biracial.

¹³ Race was unknown for 1 case in 2013.

¹⁴ Race was unknown for 2 cases in 2015. One youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

¹⁵ Race was unknown for 3 cases in 2016. Twenty-six youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

¹⁶ Twenty-five youth included in the African American category in 2017 identified as biracial.

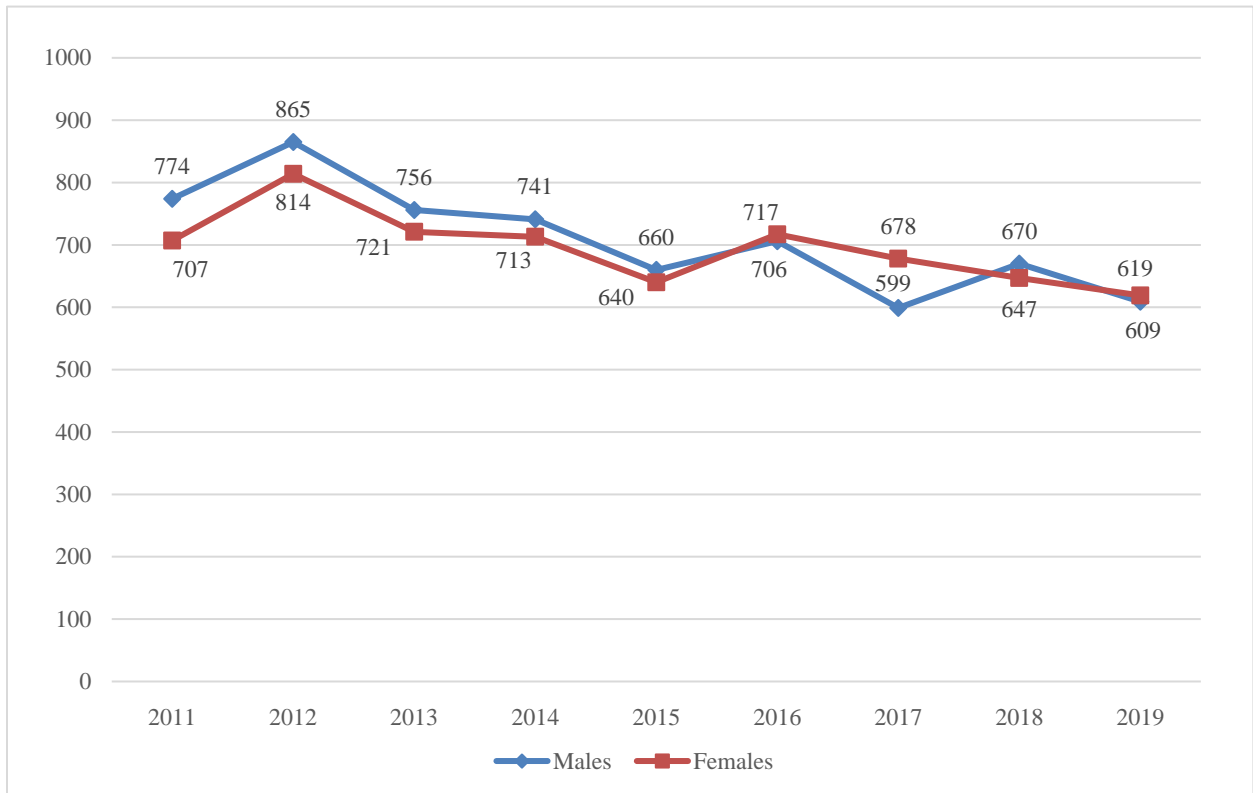
¹⁷ Race was unknown for 1 case in 2018. Twenty-nine youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

¹⁸ Race was unknown for 33 cases in 2019. Ten youth included in the African American category identified as biracial.

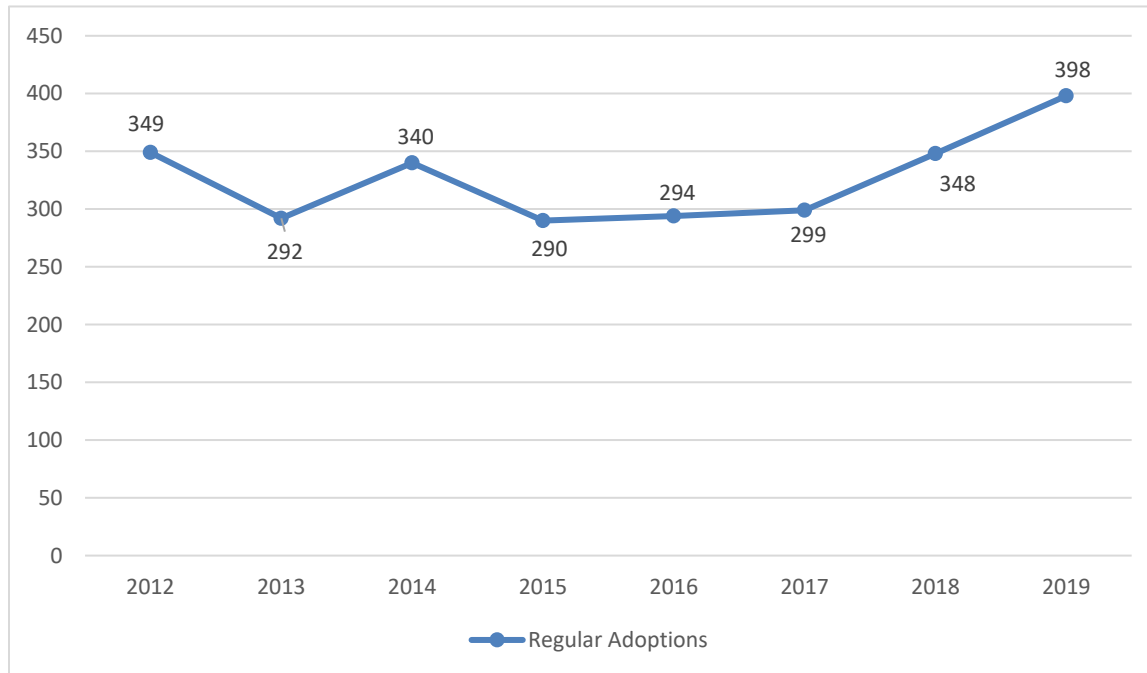
Table 7 and Graph 5

Child Abuse and Neglect Formal Filings by Gender

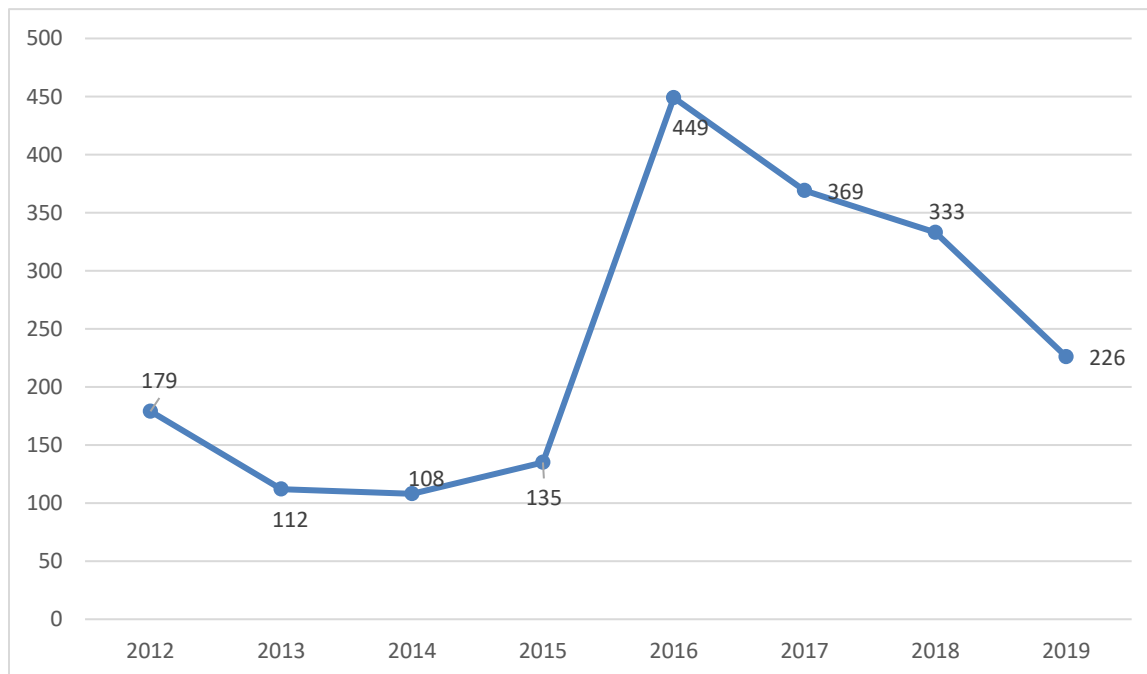
Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
2012	865	52%	814	48%
2013	756	51%	721	49%
2014	741	51%	713	49%
2015	660	51%	640	49%
2016	706	50%	717	50%
2017	599	47%	678	53%
2018	670	51%	647	49%
2019	609	50%	619	50%



Graph 6. Adoption Cases Filed by Type and Year



Graph 7. Termination of Parental Rights Case Filings¹⁹



¹⁹ In the Fall of 2015, the Juvenile Officer identified a number of cases with an ordered permanency goal of TPR lacking a petition for termination. A special work plan was constructed and these cases were filed in 2016, resulting in an unusually high number of TPR petitions filed.

Status Offense Referrals and Filings

The number of status offense referrals decreased in 2019 after rising each year since 2015. Referrals have been generally declining over time, with a 20% decrease between 2012 and 2019.

Petitions and motions to modify filed for status offense charges decreased significantly between 2012 and 2019.

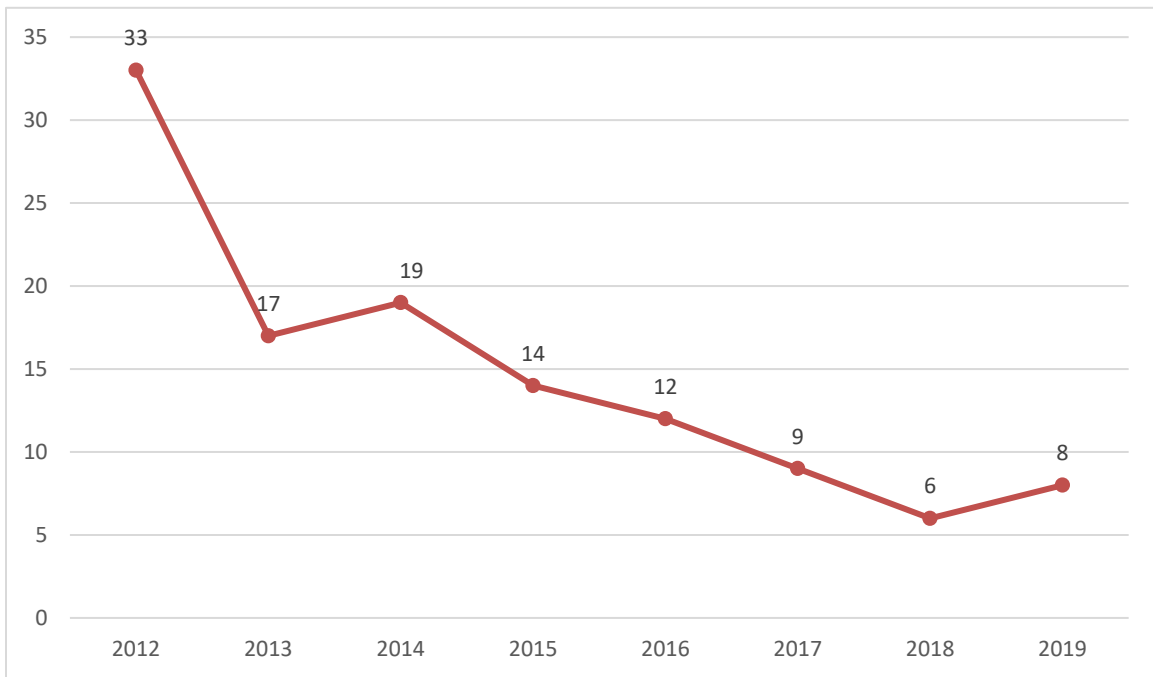
Table 8. Referrals and Formal Filings – Status Offense Case Type

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	83	55	94	47	61	67	79	66
% change	--	-34%	+71%	-50%	+30%	+10%	+18%	-16%
Rate per 1,000 ²⁰	1.2	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Petitions and Motions to Modify Filed	33	17	19	14	12	9	6	8
% change	--	-48%	+12%	-26%	-14%	-25%	-33%	+33%

²⁰ Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10-17 years.

Graph 8. Status Offense Petitions & Motions to Modify by Year



Delinquent and Technical Offense Referrals, Filings, and Open Cases

Since 2012, the number of referrals for delinquent and technical offenses has declined 41%. The rate of delinquent and technical offense referrals per 1,000 youth aged 10-17 in Jackson County was at an 8-year low in 2019, dropping to just over 14 referrals per 1,000 youth (compared to more than 24 referrals per 1,000 year in 2012).

The number of petitions and motions to modify alleging delinquent and technical offenses filed in 2019 was well below half the number filed in 2012.

Table 9. Referrals and Formal Filings – Delinquent and Technical Offenses²¹

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	1,741	1,521	1,635	1,391	1,368	1,314	1,313	1,031
% change	--	-13%	+7%	-15%	-2%	-4%	0%	-21%
Rate per 1,000 ²²	24.5	21.5	23.1	19.6	19.1	18.1	18.0	14.1

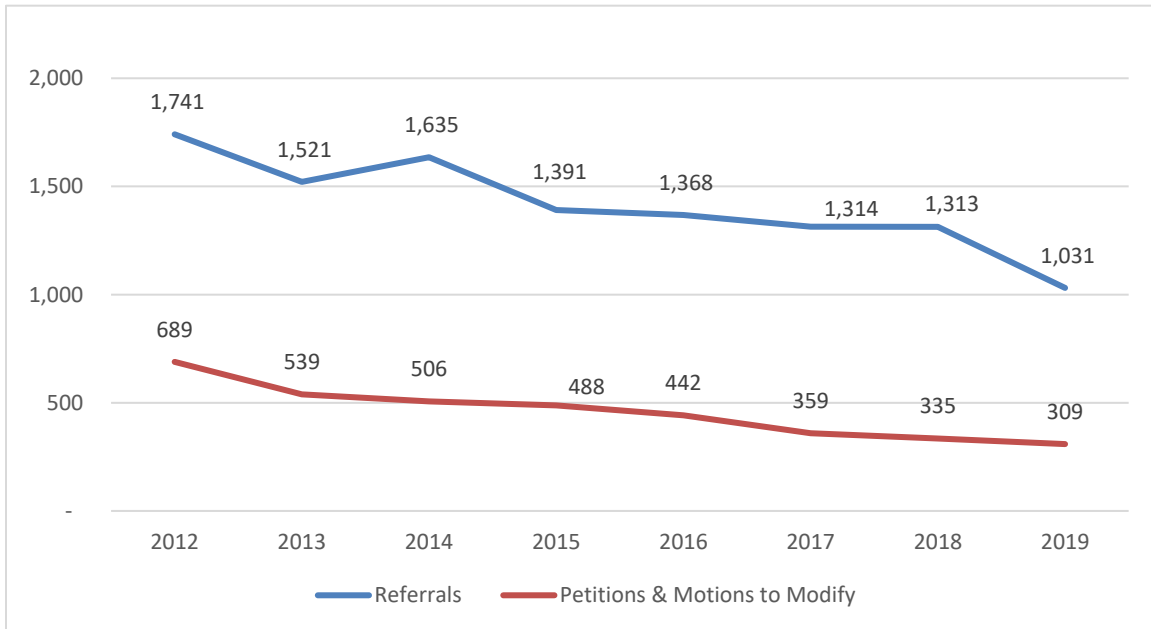
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Open Cases December 31	389	321	307	292	261	224	184	189
New Cases	415	298	282	284	258	231	221	161
Releases	366	360	304	297	294	267	262	186
Clearance Rate	88%	121%	108%	105%	114%	116%	119%	116%

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Petitions and Motions to Modify Filed	689	539	506	488	442	359	335	313
% change	--	-22%	-6%	-4%	-9%	-19%	-7%	-7%

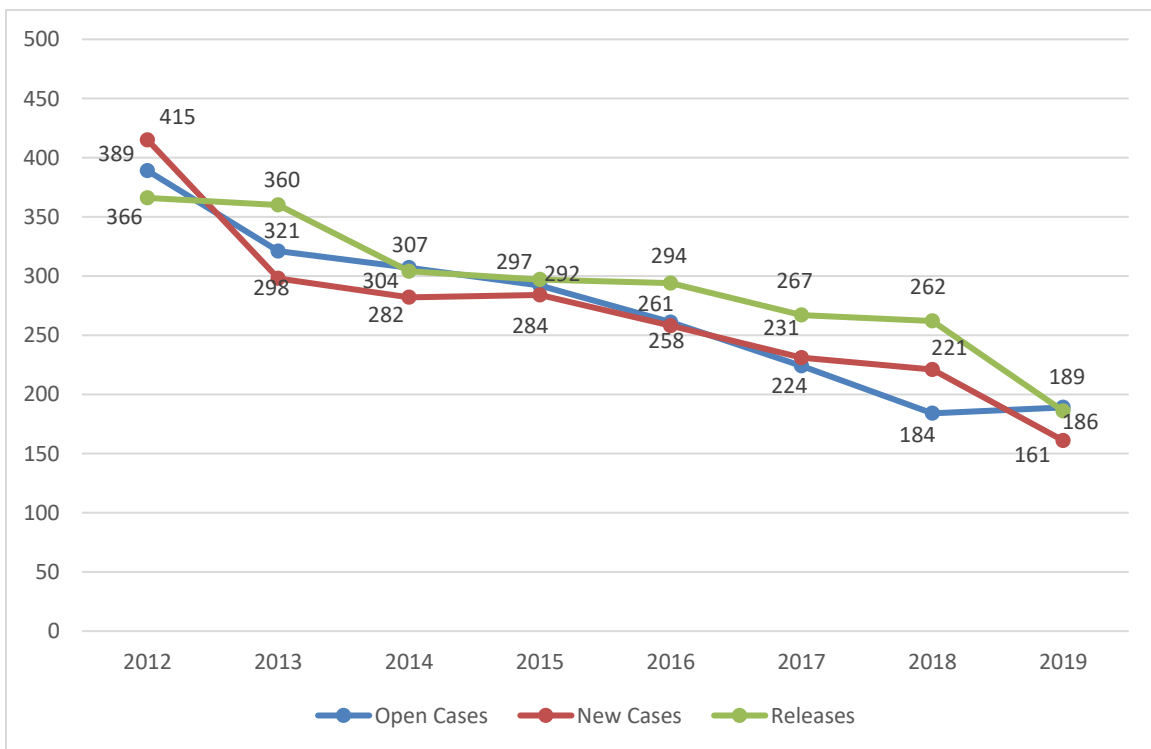
²¹ This table presents petitions and motions to modify initiated in a given year as well as the outcomes of these petitions and motions to modify. This table does not represent all cases disposed in a given year. Dispositional data presented in later tables differ from information in Table 6 because subsequent dispositions resulting from technical or status violations as well as filings initiated in *previous* years are included.

²² Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10-17 years.

Graph 9. Delinquent and Technical Offense Referrals and Petitions & Motions to Modify by Year



Graph 10. Delinquent and Technical Offense New Cases, Releases, and Number of Open Cases on December 31



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

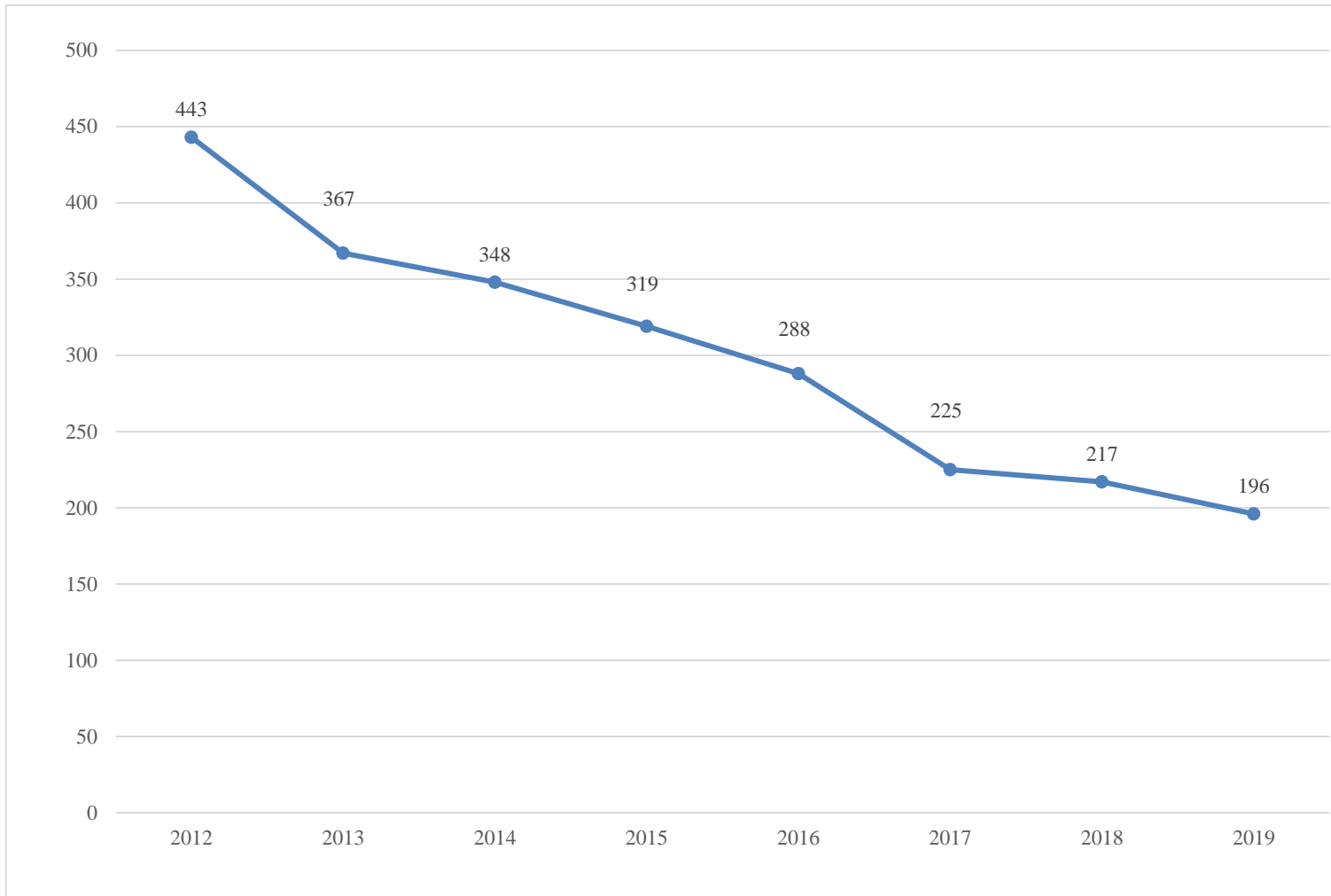
This section examines filings by race and the areas in Jackson County where the youth resides. The distribution of filings across geographic location has remained relatively consistent over the last eight years.

As filings have declined over recent years, the percentage of filings by race has remained fairly consistent. Overall, just under 70% of the filings for delinquent and technical offenses were for African American youth. Seventeen percent of the filings were for Caucasian youth and 12% for Hispanic youth—a large increase from previous years. African American youth make up only about 30% of the youth population in Jackson County; therefore, this filing rate is highly disproportionate to the population. Family Court Services is actively examining decisions and other racial equity issues in its juvenile justice processes and programs.

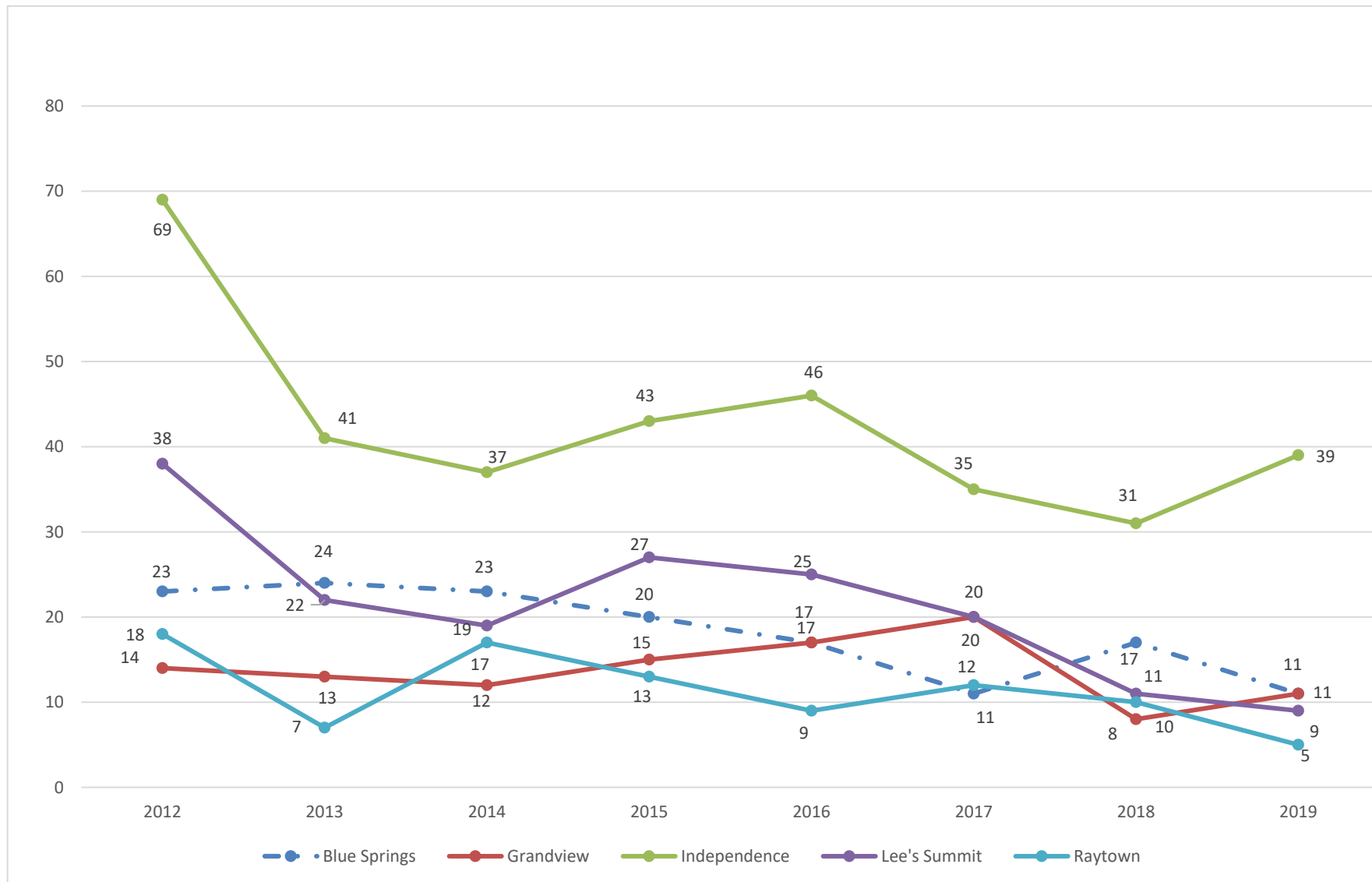
Table 10. Number of Youth with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by City of Residence

City	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blue Springs	23 3%	24 5%	23 5%	20 4%	17 4%	11 3%	17 5%	11 4%
Buckner	0	1 <1%	0	0	0	1 <1%	1 <1%	0
Grain Valley	1 <1%	2 <1%	4 <1%	4 <1%	5 1%	7 2%	2 1%	4 1%
Grandview	14 2%	13 2%	12 2%	15 3%	17 4%	20 5%	8 2%	11 4%
Greenwood	2 <1%	0	1 <1%	0	0	2 <1%	2 1%	8 3%
Independence	69 10%	41 8%	37 7%	43 9%	46 10%	35 10%	31 9%	39 12%
Kansas City	443 64%	367 68%	348 69%	319 65%	288 65%	225 63%	217 65%	196 63%
Lake Lotawana	2 <1%	1 <1%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Tapawingo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee's Summit	38 6%	22 4%	19 4%	27 6%	25 6%	20 6%	11 3%	9 3%
Lone Jack	0	1 <1%	1 <1%	0	0	0	0	0
Oak Grove	9 1%	2 <1%	3 <1%	7 1%	1 <1%	1 <1%	3 1%	0
Raytown	18 3%	7 1%	17 3%	13 3%	9 2%	12 3%	10 3%	5 2%
Sibley	0	1 <1%	0	0	1 <1%	0	0	0
Sugar Creek	8 1%	1 <1%	1 <1%	2 <1%	1 <1%	0	0	1 <1%
Out of County/Other Source	41 6%	38 7%	29 6%	33 7%	19 4%	21 6%	24 7%	28 9%
Missing Address in Information System	21 3%	18 3%	11 2%	5 1%	13 3%	4 1%	9 3%	1 <1%
Total	689 100%	539 100%	506 100%	488 100%	442 100%	359 100%	335 100%	313 100%

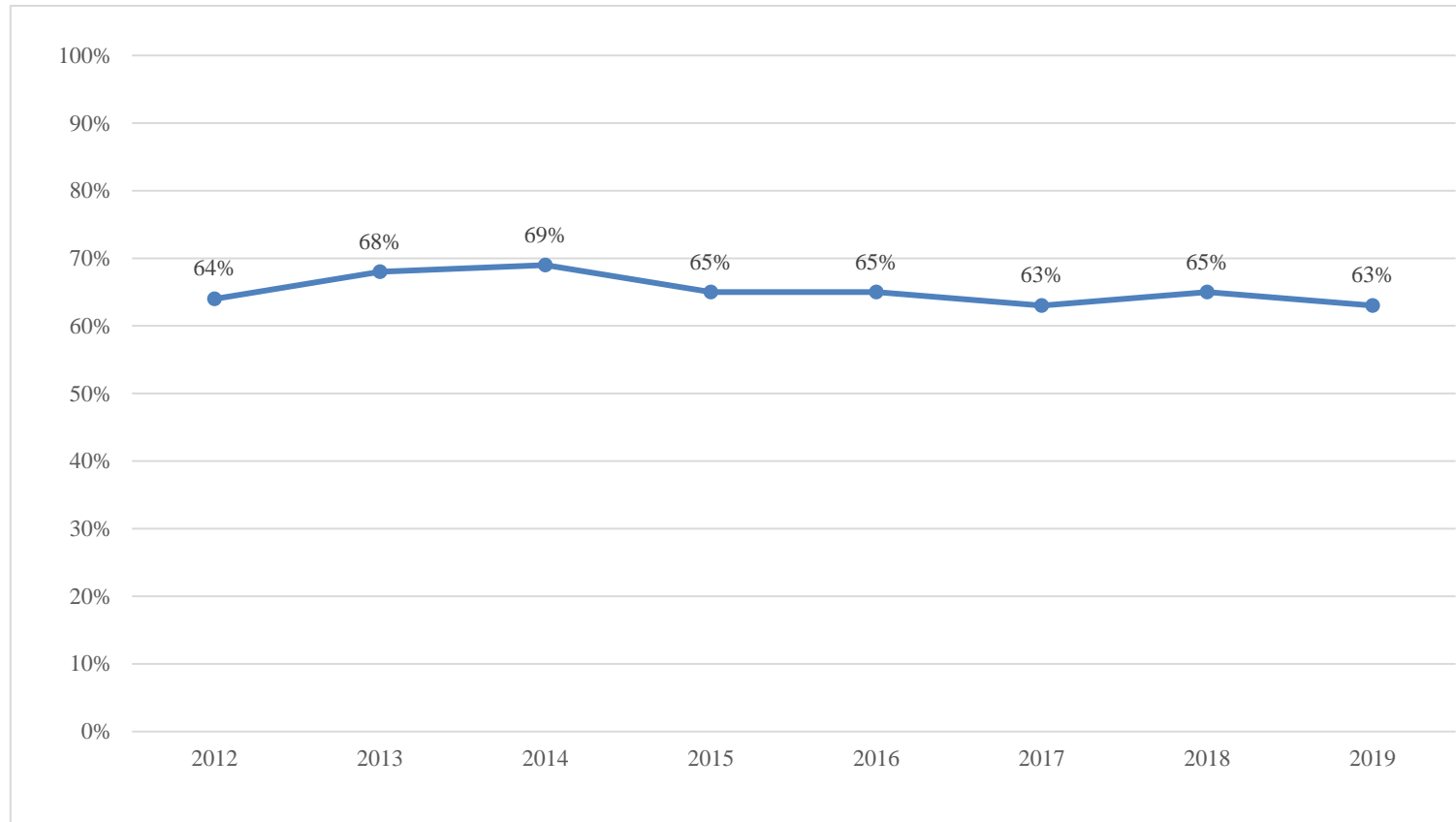
Graph 11. Youth Residing in Kansas City, Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings



Graph 12. Youth Residing in Other Cities, Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings



Graph 13. Youth Residents of Kansas City with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings as Percentages of All Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings



Graph 14. Youth Residents of Other Cities with Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings as Percentages of All Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings

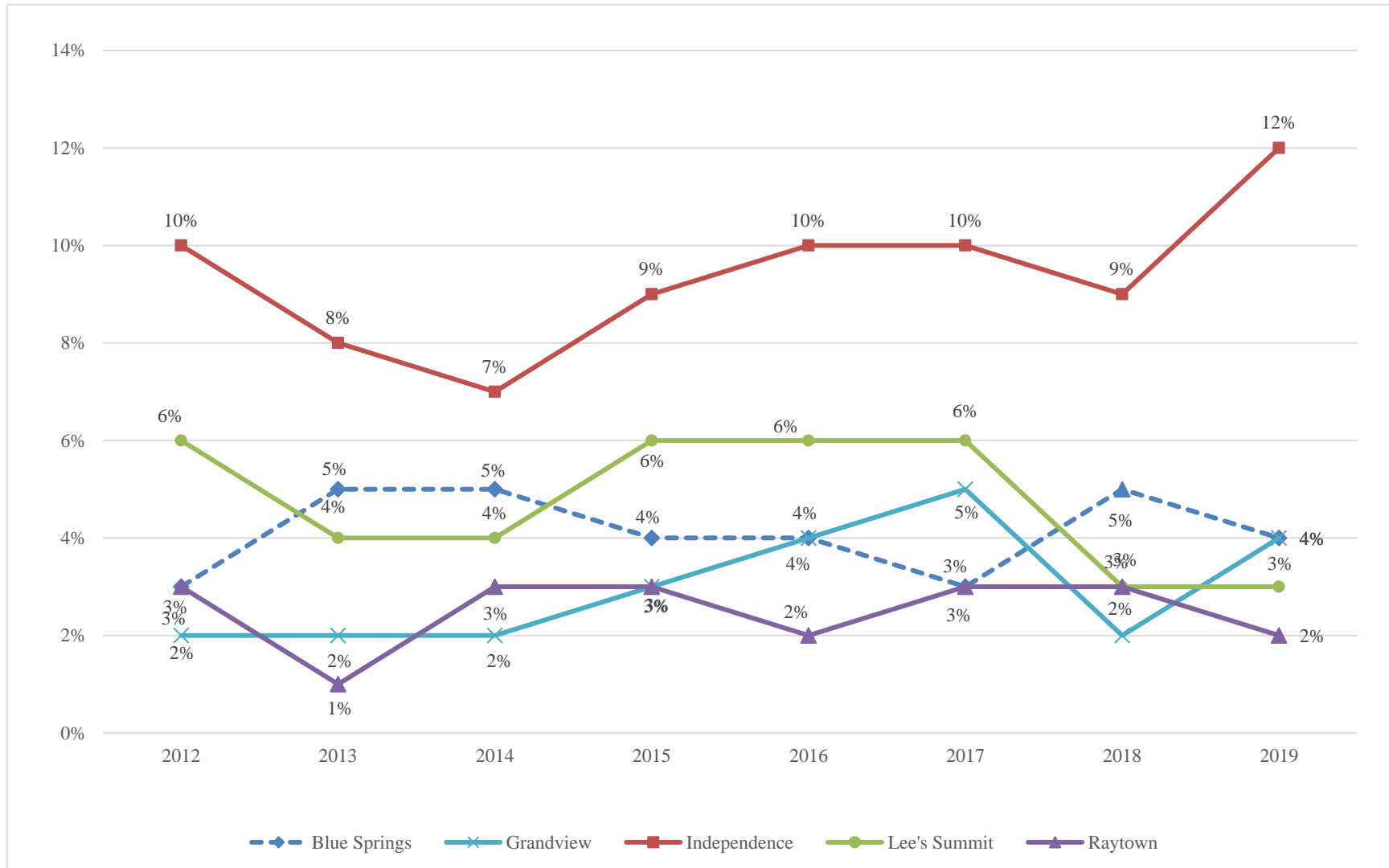


Table 11. Rate of Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings per 1,000 Youth in 2019 (Ages 10 to 17 Years) by City

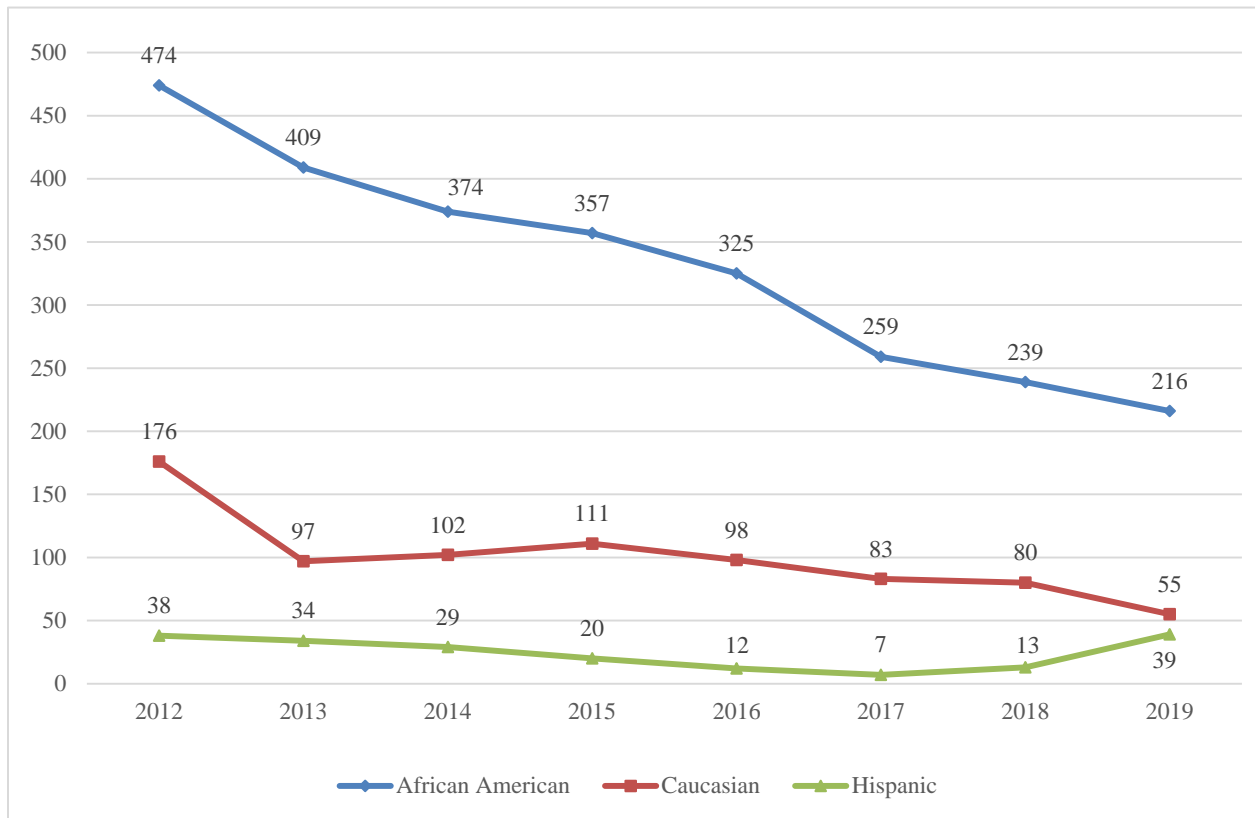
City	Number of Youth²³	Rate
Blue Springs	6,802	1.6
Grandview	2,680	4.1
Independence	11,480	3.4
Kansas City	45,627	4.3
Lee's Summit	12,072	0.7
Raytown	3,129	1.6

²³ Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010). Single Years of Age and Sex: 2010 Census Summary File 1 [American FactFinder data files by city]. Retrieved January 24, 2017, from <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Table 12 and Graph 15

Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Race

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2012	474	69%	176	26%	38	6%	1	<1%
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 ²⁴	325	74%	98	22%	12	3%	6	1%
2017 ²⁵	259	72%	83	24%	7	2%	3	<1%
2018 ²⁶	239	72%	80	24%	13	4%	1	<1%
2019	216	69%	55	18%	39	12%	3	1%



²⁴ Race was unknown for 1 case in 2016.

²⁵ Race was unknown for 5 cases in 2017.

²⁶ Race was unknown for 3 cases in 2018.

Table 13 and Graph 16

Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Gender

Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
2012	541	79%	148	21%
2013	424	79%	115	21%
2014	414	82%	92	18%
2015	412	84%	76	16%
2016	369	83%	73	17%
2017	281	78%	78	22%
2018	275	82%	60	18%
2019	255	81%	58	19%

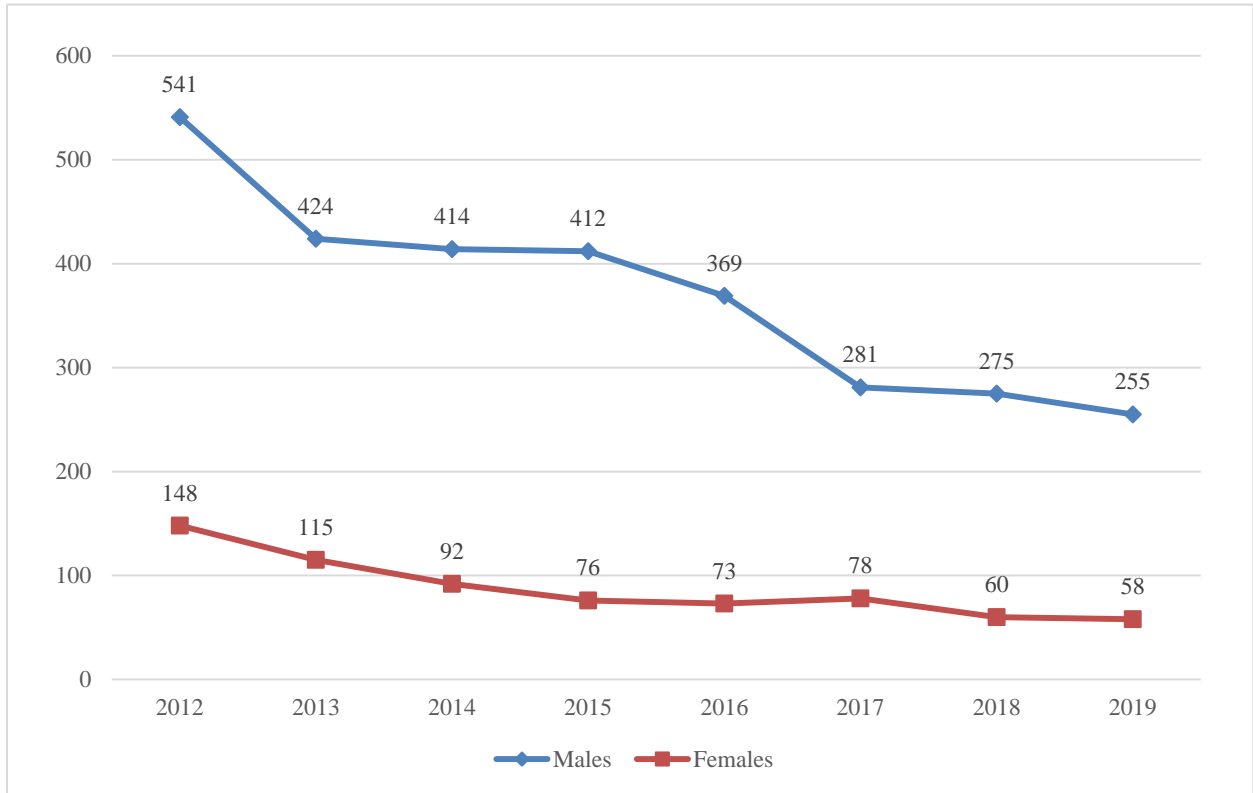
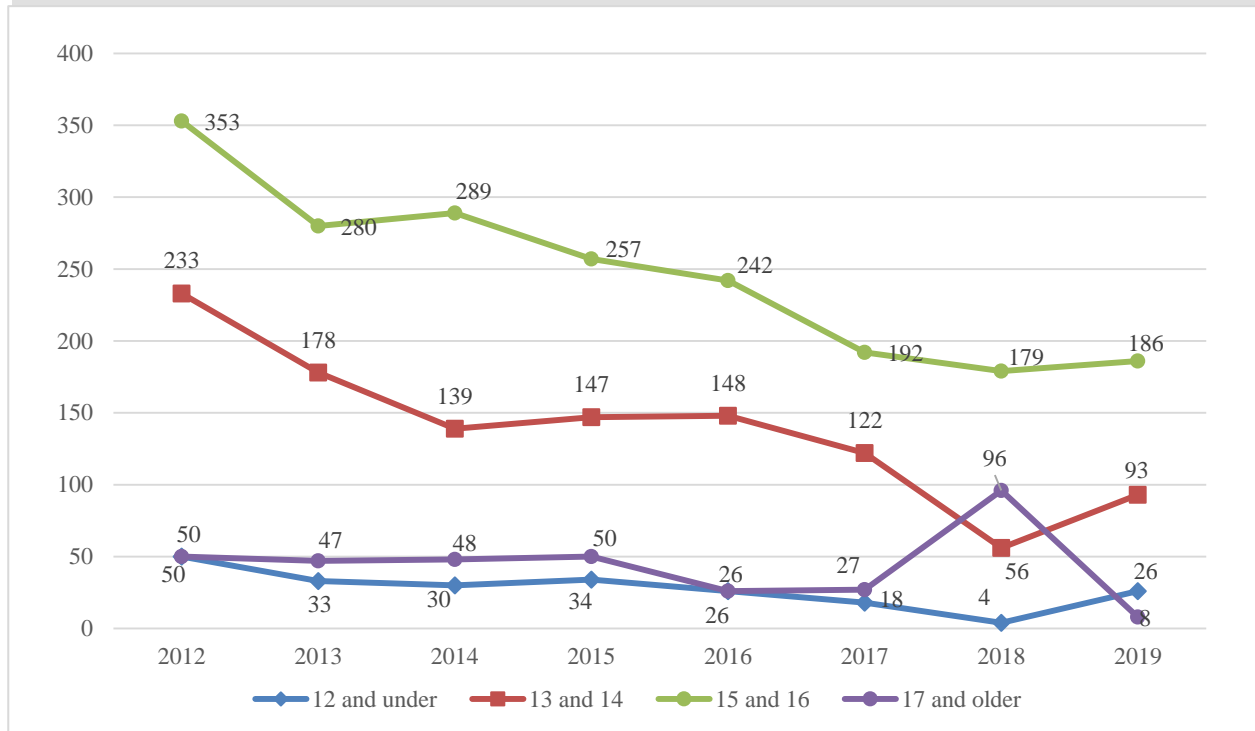


Table 14 and Graph 17

Delinquent and Technical Formal Filings by Age

	≤10	11	12	13	14	15	16	≥17
2012 ²⁷	5	9	36	85	148	162	191	50
	1%	1%	5%	12%	22%	24%	28%	7%
2013 ²⁸	1	6	26	59	119	128	152	47
	0%	1%	5%	11%	22%	24%	28%	9%
2014	2	8	20	53	86	140	149	48
	0%	2%	4%	10%	17%	28%	29%	9%
2015	0	4	30	53	94	133	124	50
	0%	1%	6%	11%	19%	27%	25%	10%
2016	3	4	19	53	95	122	120	26
	1%	1%	4%	12%	21%	28%	27%	6%
2017	2	1	15	36	86	109	83	27
	1%	0%	4%	10%	24%	30%	23%	8%
2018	0	1	3	21	35	74	105	96
	0%	0%	1%	6%	10%	22%	31%	29%
2019	1	7	18	18	75	87	99	8
	0%	2%	6%	6%	24%	28%	32%	3%



²⁷ Date of birth was missing for three cases in 2012.

²⁸ Date of birth was missing for one case in 2013.

Disposition and Intervention Services

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

The Family Court committed far fewer youth to DYS in 2019 than 2018. The Juvenile Officer filed fewer certification cases in 2019 than in 2018, but more youth were certified to adult court.

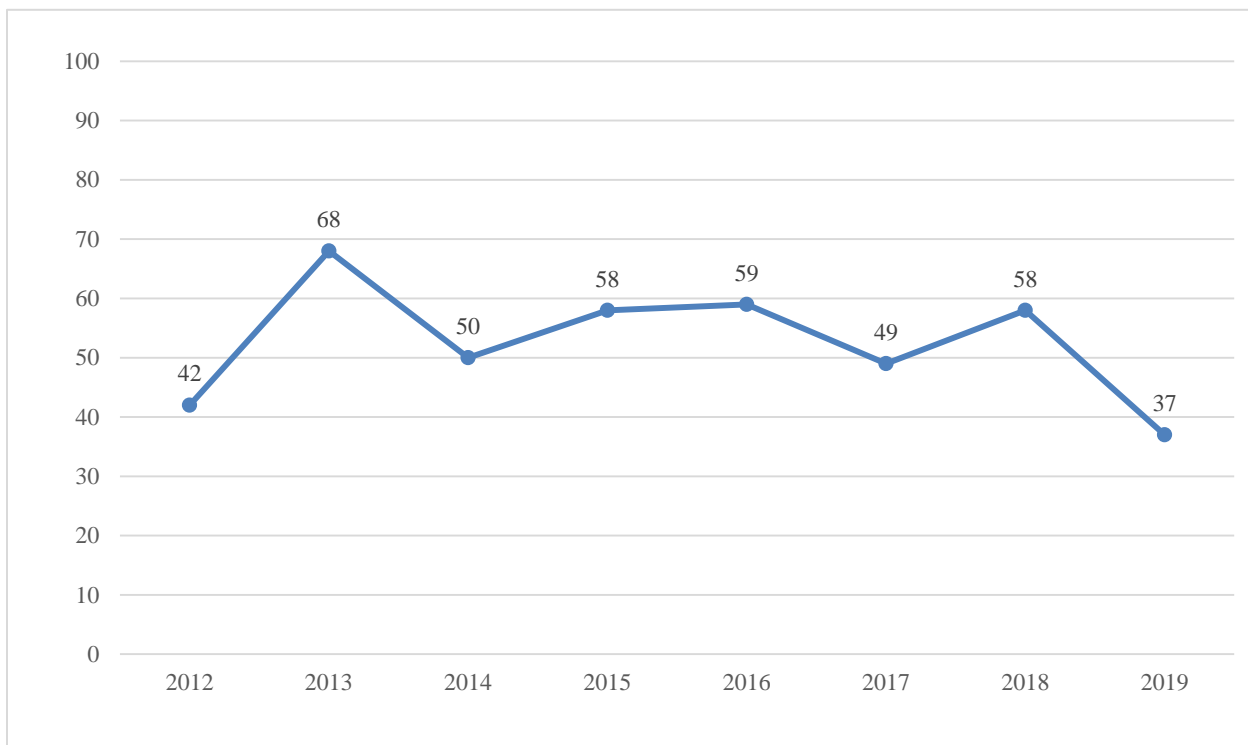
Commitments to the Division of Youth Services

Commitments to the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) over the last eight years did not decline proportionally with the overall decline in delinquent referrals to the Family Court. After a substantial increase in 2013 due to the closure of McCune Residential Center at the end of 2012, DYS commitments remained fairly stable, at around 50 to 60 each year, until 2019, when the number of commitments declined by 36% from the previous year.

Table 15 and Graph 18

Commitments to the Division of Youth Services

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number	42	68	50	58	59	49	58	37
% change	--	+62%	-26%	+16%	+2%	-17%	+18%	-36%
Rate per 1,000 youth ²⁹	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.5

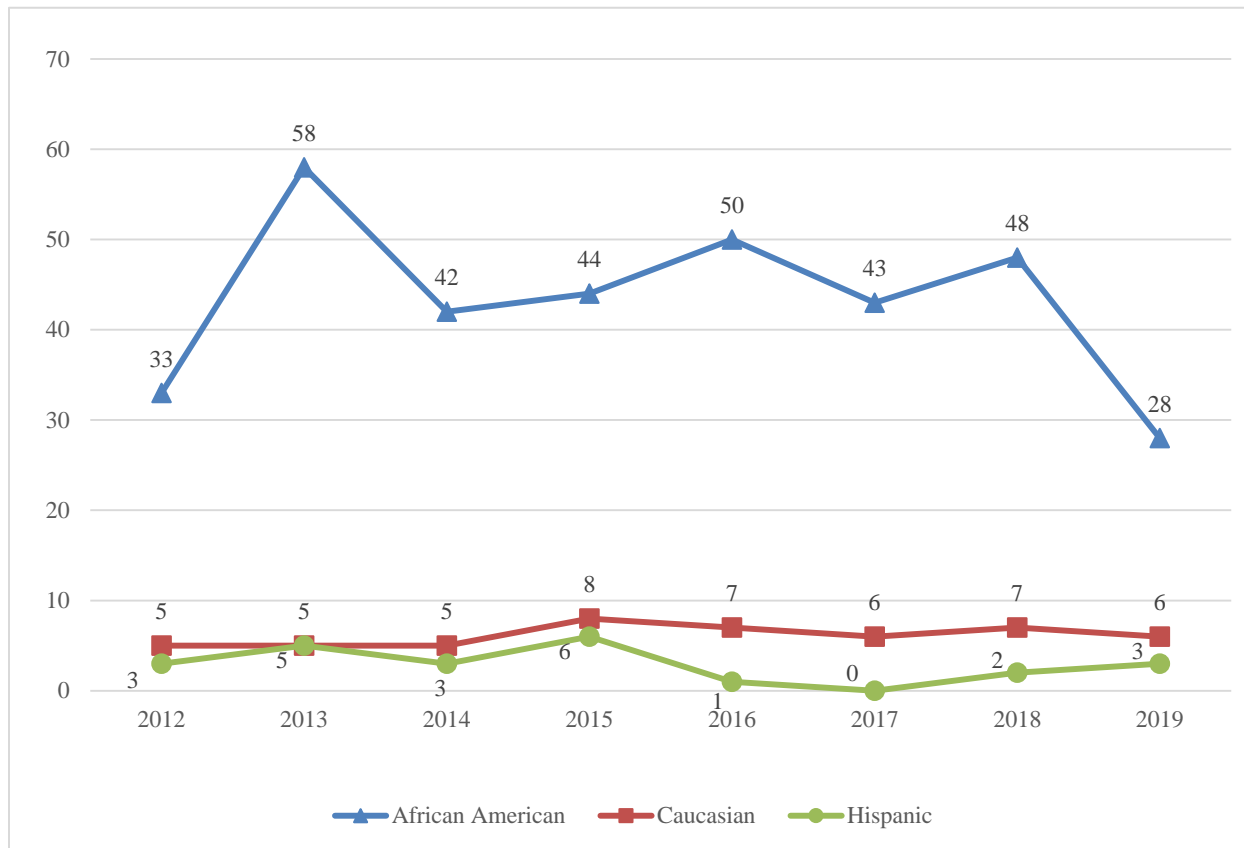


²⁹ Rates were calculated based on the number of youth in Jackson County aged 10 to 17 years.

Table 16 and Graph 19

Commitments to DYS by Race

Year	African American		Caucasian		Hispanic	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2012 ³⁰	33	71%	5	12%	3	7%
2013	58	85%	5	7%	5	7%
2014	42	84%	5	10%	3	6%
2015	44	76%	8	14%	6	10%
2016 ³¹	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%



³⁰ Race for one youth was designated other than African American, Caucasian or Hispanic in 2012.

³¹ Race for one youth was designated other than African American, Caucasian or Hispanic in 2016.

Table 17 and Graph 20

Commitments to DYS by Gender

Year	Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%
2012	39	93%	3	7%
2013	65	96%	3	4%
2014	46	92%	4	8%
2015	53	91%	5	9%
2016	55	93%	4	7%
2017	38	78%	11	22%
2018	48	83%	10	17%
2019	31	84%	6	16%

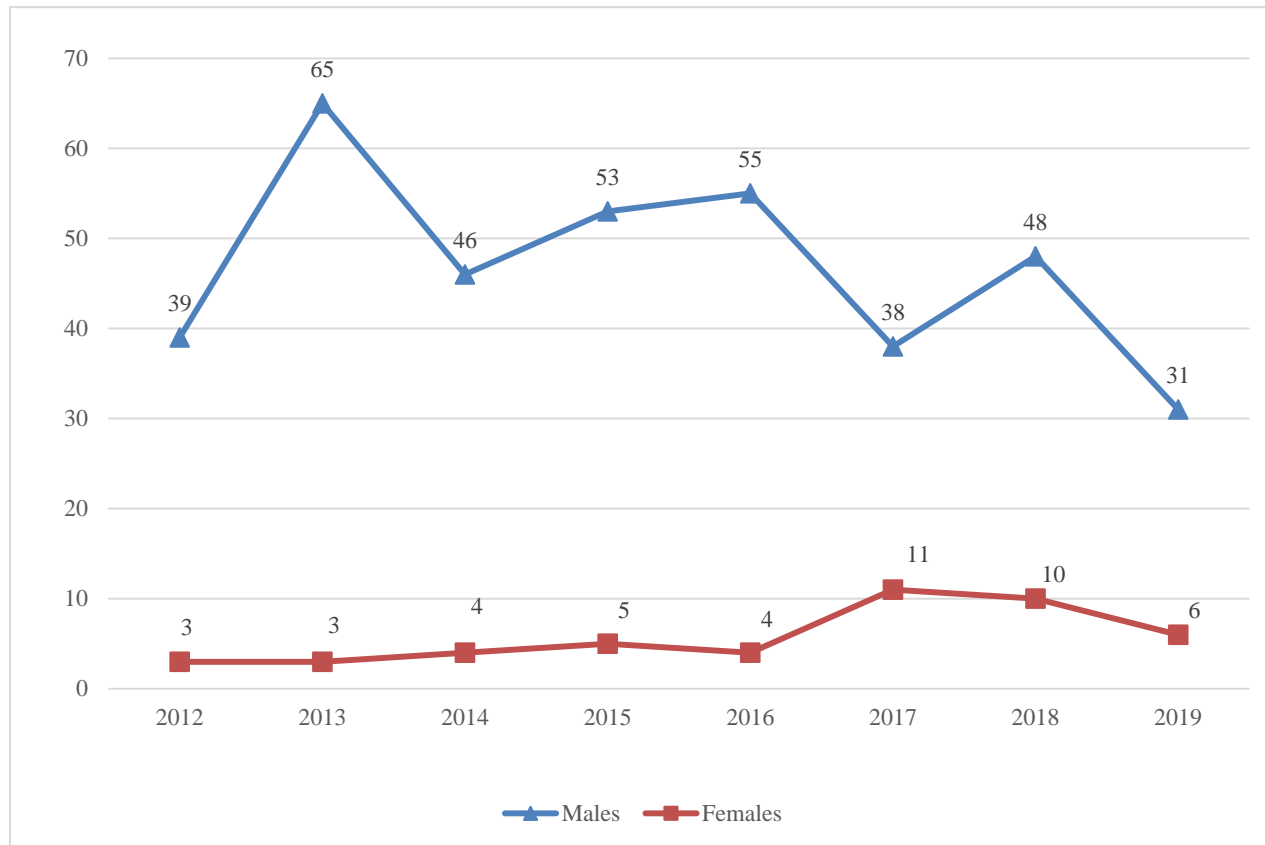
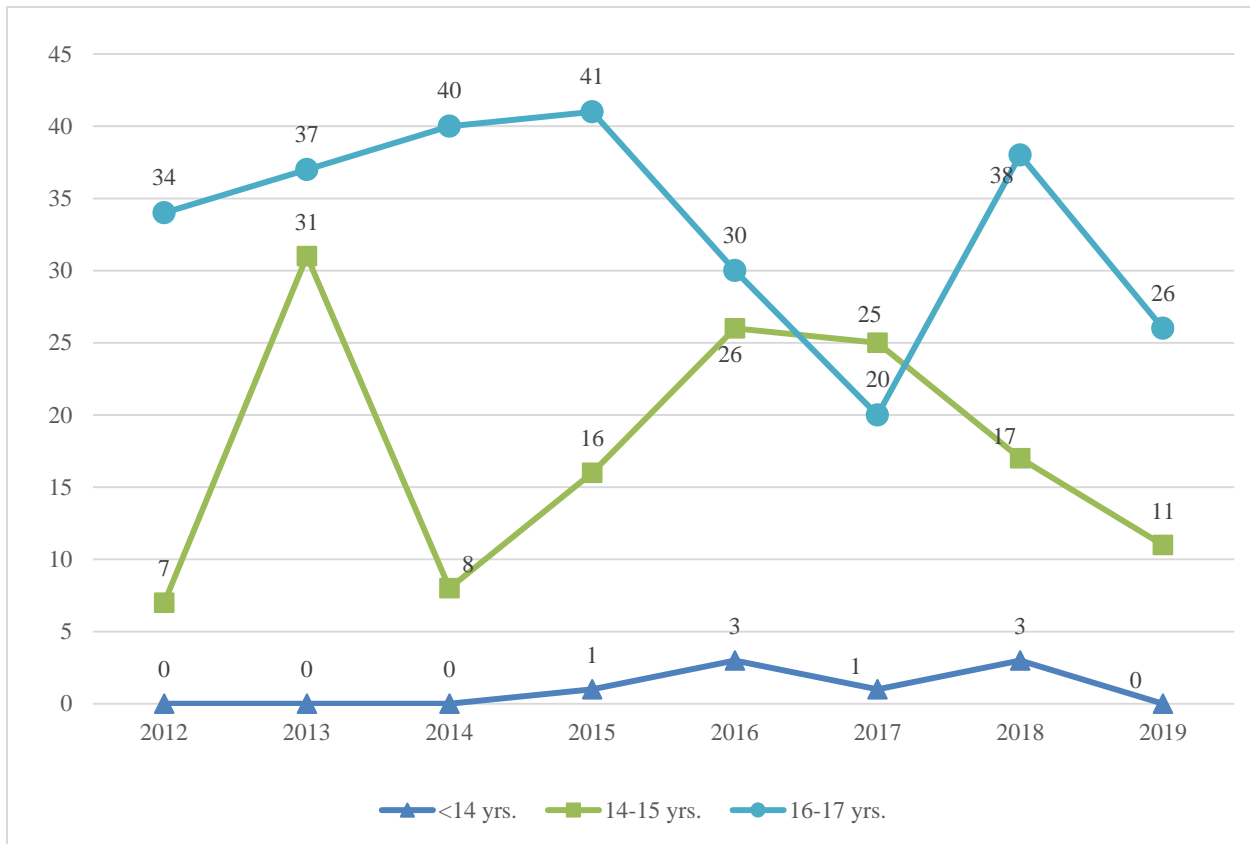


Table 18 and Graph 21

Commitments to DYS by Age

	<14 yrs.		14-15 yrs.		16-17 yrs.	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2012 ³²	0	--	7	17%	34	81%
2013	0	--	31	46%	37	54%
2014 ³³	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%



³² One youth in 2012 was 19 at the time of DYS commitment.

³³ 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.”³⁴

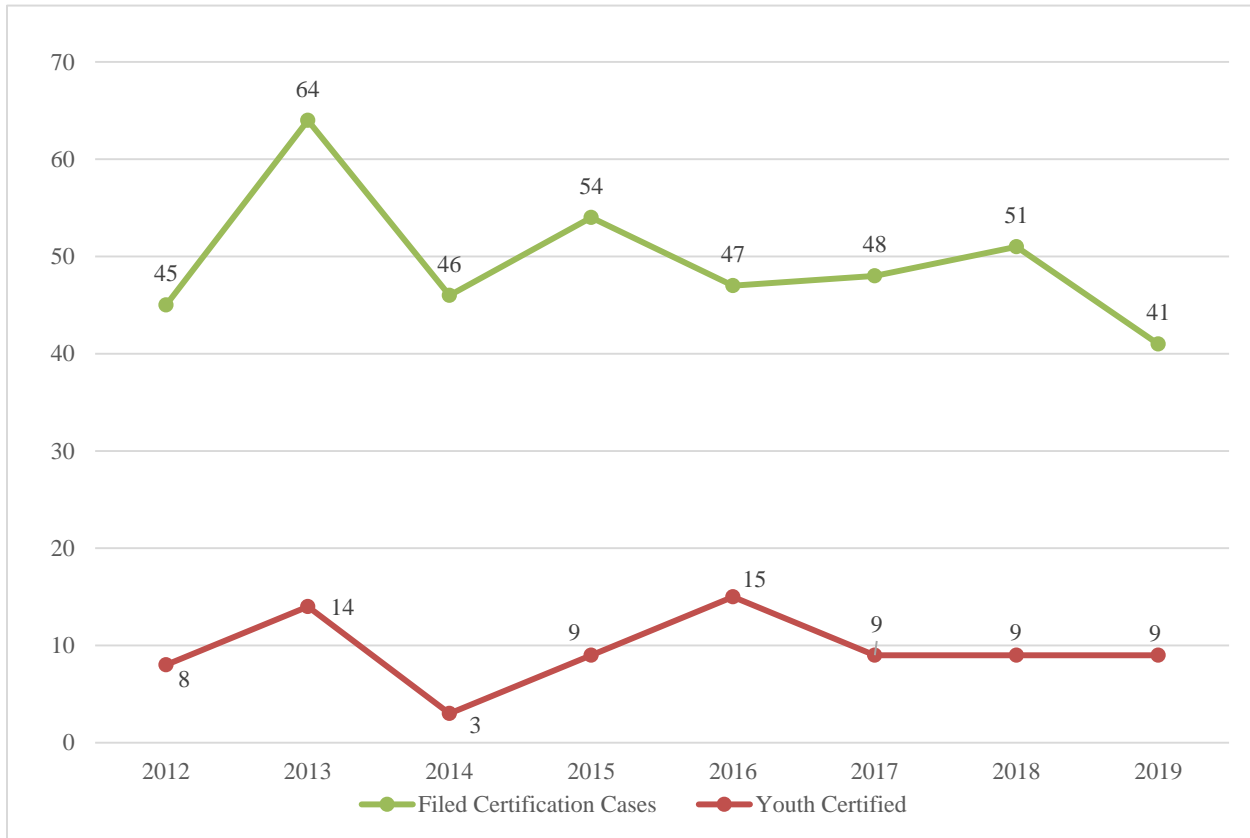
The number of certification filings was about 20% lower in 2019 than in 2018, but the same number of those youth were certified.

³⁴ Missouri General Assembly. Revised Statute 211.071.

Table 19 and Graph 22

Certification Cases Filed and Youth Certified by Year

	2012 ³⁵	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cases Filed	45	64	46	54	47	48	51	41
% change	--	+42%	-28%	+17%	-13%	+2%	+6%	-20%
Rate per 1,000 youth ³⁶	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Youth Certified ³⁷	8	14	3	9	15	9	9	9 ³⁸
% of cases filed	18%	22%	6%	17%	32%	19%	18%	22%



³⁵ Information regarding one case in 2012 is unknown; presumably it was expunged.

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

³⁷ Certifications are reported by year the case was filed rather than year certification took place.

³⁸ Four certification cases filed in 2019 were undisposed at the time of this report. An addendum will be published in June 2020.

Table 20. Certification Cases Filed in 2019 by Charge

Charge Category	Mandatory Filings (Offense³⁹)	Mandatory Filings (Priors⁴⁰)	Discretionary Certification Filings
Assault ⁴¹	10	0	0
Murder ⁴²	7	0	0
Sex Offense ⁴³	1	0	0
Robbery	20	1	0
Burglary	--	1	1
Unlawful Use of a Weapon	--	0	1
Total	38	2	1

Table 21. Details for Youth Certified in 2019 (of those with cases filed in 2019)

Offense	Num of Filings	Filing Type	Age at Filing	Race	Gender
Assault 1 st Degree	1	1 Mandatory	1 aged 17 yrs	1 African American	1 Male
Murder 1 st Degree	1	1 Mandatory	1 aged 14 yrs	1 Caucasian	1 Male
Murder 2 nd Degree	2	2 Mandatory	2 aged 16 yrs	1 African American 1 Hispanic	2 Male
Robbery 1 st Degree	5	5 Mandatory	4 aged 16 yrs 1 aged 17 yrs	4 African American 1 Hispanic	5 Male
Total Certified in 2019	9	9 Mandatory 0 Discretionary	1 aged 14 yrs 6 aged 16 yrs 2 aged 17 yrs	6 African American 1 Caucasian 2 Hispanic	9 Male 0 Female
Total with Certification Denied	28				
Undisposed at the time of this report ⁴⁴	4				

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Assault includes Assault 1st, Attempted Assault 1st, and Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer 1st Degree.

⁴² Murder includes Murder in the 1st and 2nd degrees.

⁴³ Sex Offenses include Statutory Sodomy 1st, Statutory Sodomy with a Person less than 14 years of age, and Possession of Child Pornography.

⁴⁴ An addendum will be published in June 2020.

Family Court Programs & Services

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

Prevention and Diversion. In 2019, four programs served a total of 344 youth and their families. This represented a 24% increase in the number of youth served compared to 2018. The Family Court Diversion Program showed a 15% decrease in enrollment between 2018 and 2019.

Probation Services. The number of youth ordered to Field Services supervision in a year is less than half of what it was in 2012. Since 2016, the number has decreased steadily, dropping 15% between 2018 and 2019.

Detainment and Residential Treatment. The annual number of youth detained in secure detention has declined 59% since 2012. The number of youth detained in non-secure detention has declined 70% in the same period. The number of youth committed to Hilltop Residential Center has declined 61% since 2012.

Family Drug Court. The number of participants in Family Drug Court has fluctuated between 76 and 133 over the past seven years, with 114 participants in 2019.

Family Court Resource Services. *Parent Awareness Courses.* Enrollment in the Focus on Children in Separation (FOCIS) class, a class for married but separated couples with children, decreased 12% between 2018 and 2019. Enrollment in Re-FOCIS, a refresher course, decreased 9% between 2018 and 2019. Enrollment in the Parenting Together Living Apart (PTLA) class, a class for never-married parents, increased 3% in 2019 from 2018. A total of 2,891 parents and children were served in 2019, a decrease of 9% from 2018.

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

Supervised visitation events between 2018 and 2019 decreased 10% after having increased each year since 2014. Therapeutic visits increased 28%. Connections Program monitored exchanges declined 51% from 2018 to 2019, reaching a low point of 49 visits from a high of 786 in 2016.

Mediation. Overall, mediators served 351 cases in 2019, an increase of 4% from 2018. This figure does not include mediation conducted by court-approved panel mediators (private mediators).

Table 22. Youth Served in Prevention and Diversion Programs

Prevention Programs	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ASSP (Alternative to School Suspension) ⁴⁵	46a/ 61y	48a/ 84y	91a/ 116y	50a/ 80y	18a/ 29y	--	--	--
Diversion Program ⁴⁶	--	153	276	112	94	65	40	34
Informal Adjustment ⁴⁷	65	28	26	--	--	--	--	--
Family Counseling Unit/Care Calls ⁴⁸	424	239	212	181	164	153	199	202
Shoplifting Diversion	92	34	47	34	66	58	10	27
Success Court Program ⁴⁹	207	206	118	222	116	146	29	--
Juvenile Assessment Center ⁵⁰	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	81
TOTALS	846	744	795	629	469	422	278	344

⁴⁵ 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.

⁴⁶ The Diversion Program began on January 1, 2013.

⁴⁷ The Informal Adjustment Program has not been in operation since 2014.

⁴⁸ The Family Counseling Unit (care calls) became a function of the Juvenile Assessment Center in September 2019 but is reported separately in this table.

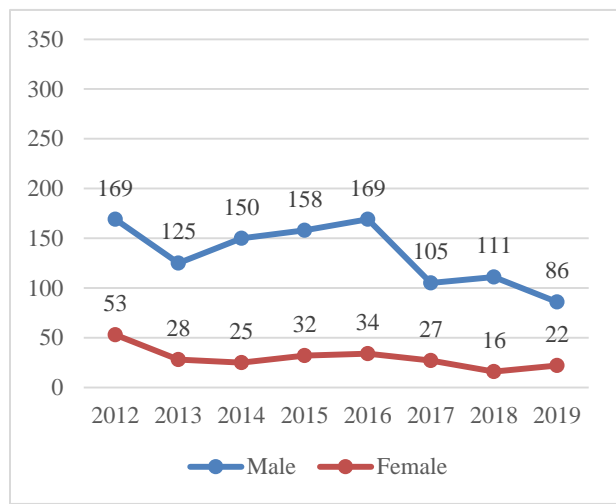
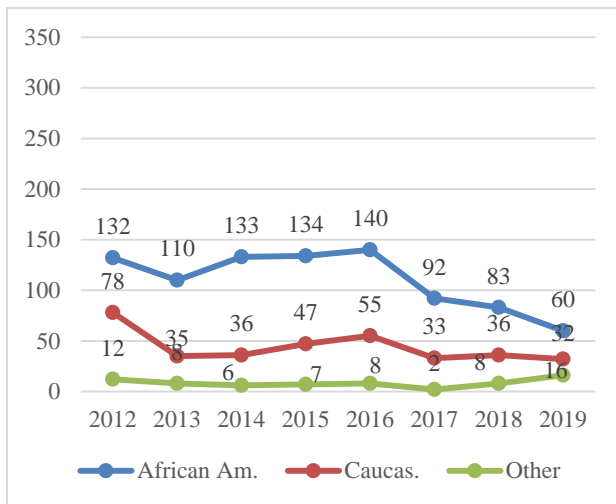
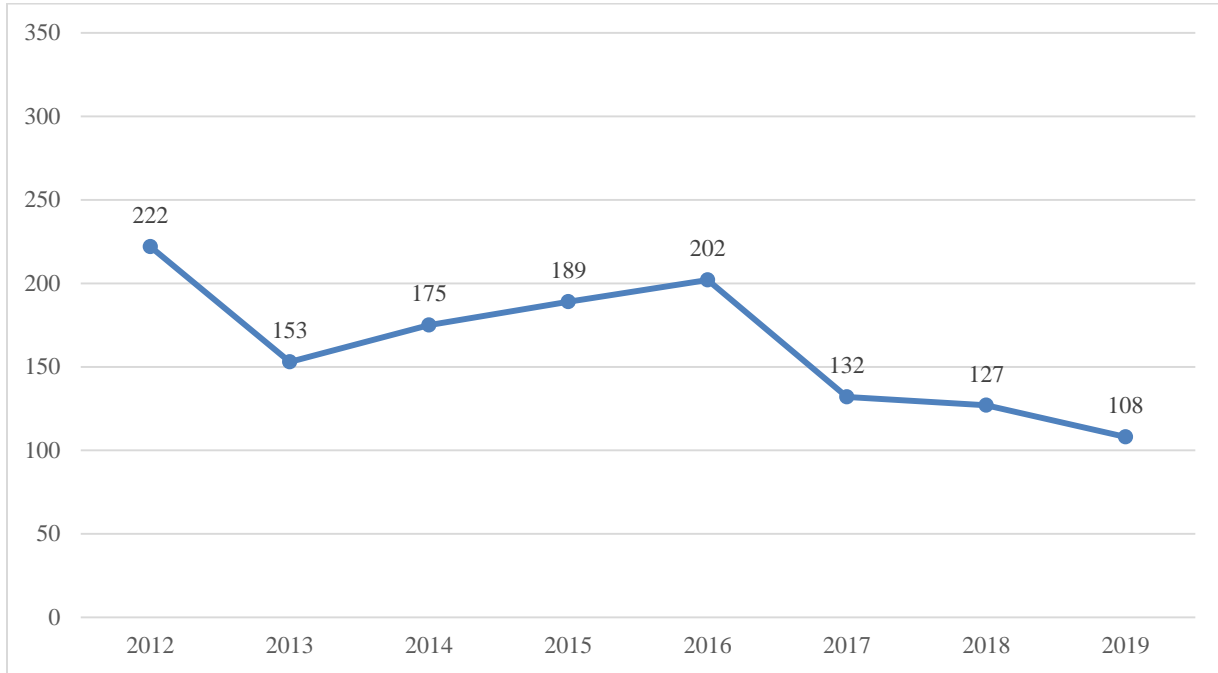
⁴⁹ This program was previously titled Truancy Court. It has not been in operation since 2018.

⁵⁰ The Juvenile Assessment Center began accepting cases on September 15, 2019.

Table 23 and Graphs 23-25

Youth Under Supervision

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Probation Orders	222	153	175	190	203	132	127	108
% change	--	-31%	+14%	+8%	+7%	-35%	-4%	-15%



At the time of this report, race was unknown for two cases in 2015, five cases in 2017, one case in 2018, and two cases in 2019.

Table 24 and Graphs 26-28

Participants Entering the Family Drug Court by Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FDC	76	106	97	90	96	76	133	114
% change	--	+39%	-8%	-7%	+7%	-21%	+75%	-14%

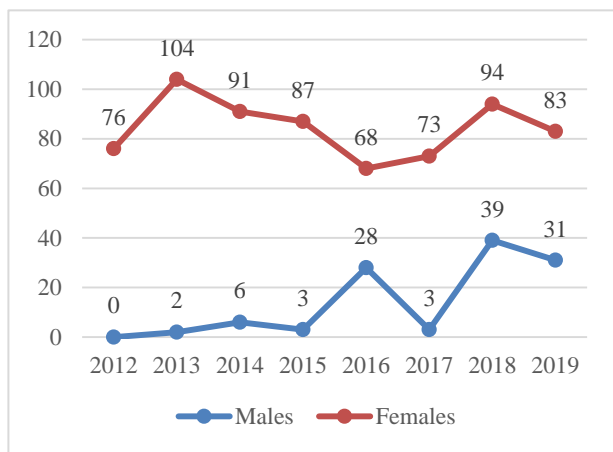
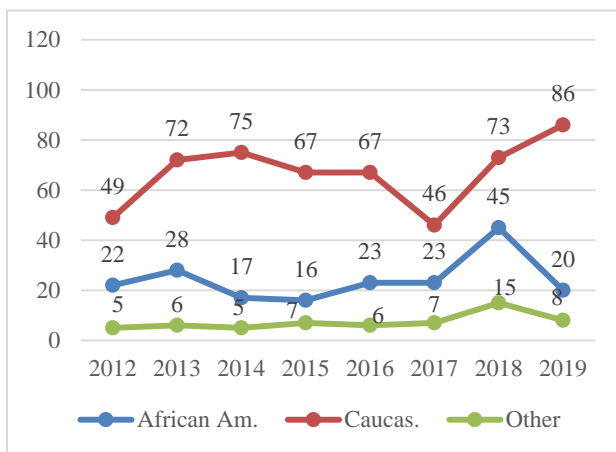
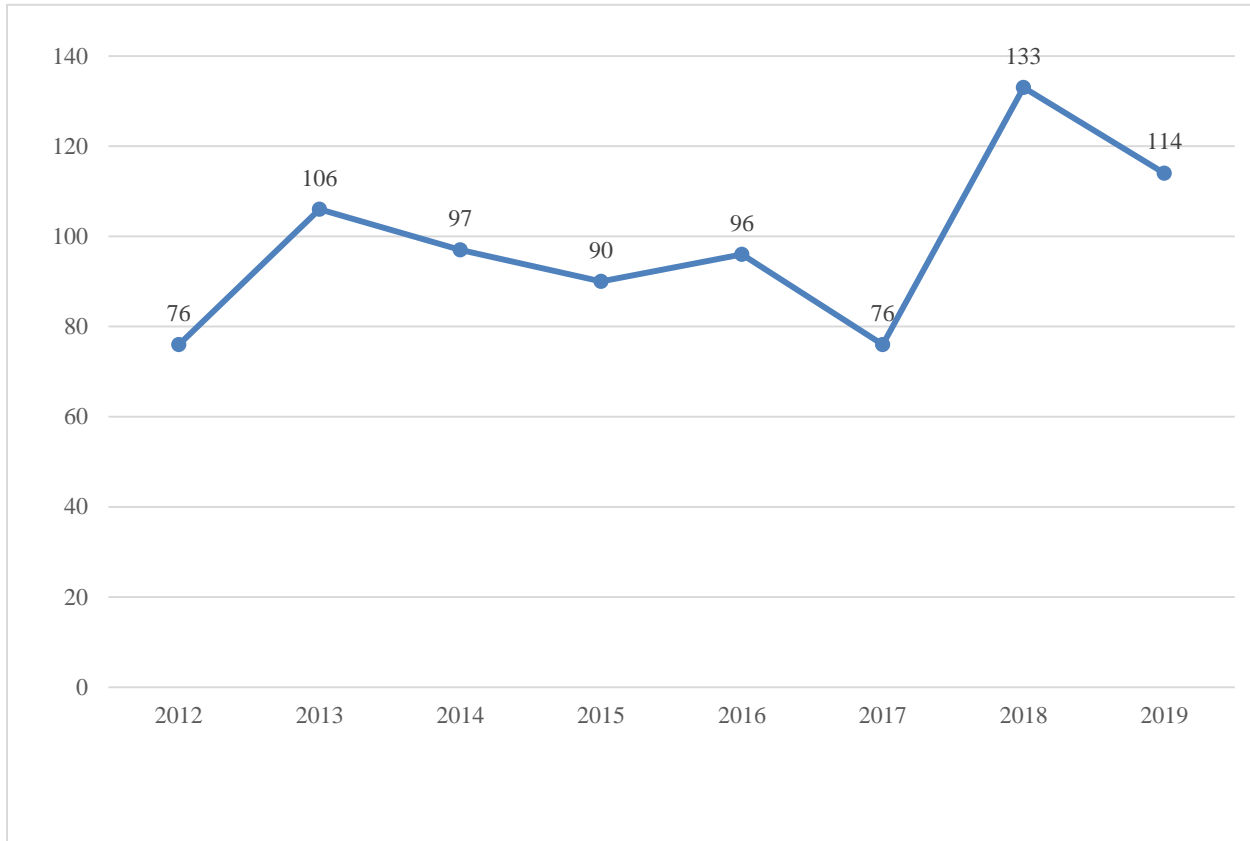


Table 25. Detainments in Secure Detention

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Detention	520	444	378	354	299	289	251	211
% change	--	-15%	-15%	-6%	-16%	-3%	-13%	-16%
<i>Avg. Daily Population</i>	20	26	21	19	23	23	23	18

Graphs 29-31. Youth Admitted to Detention

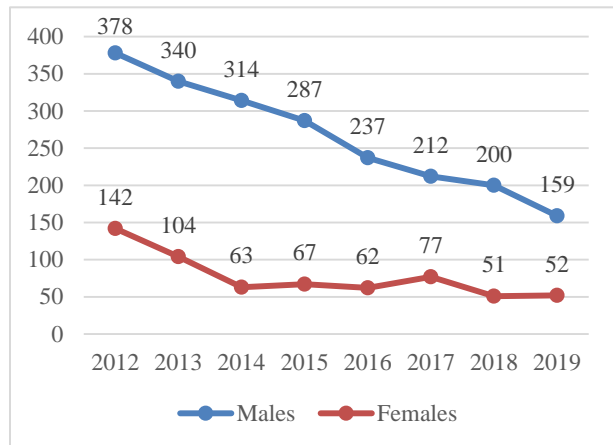
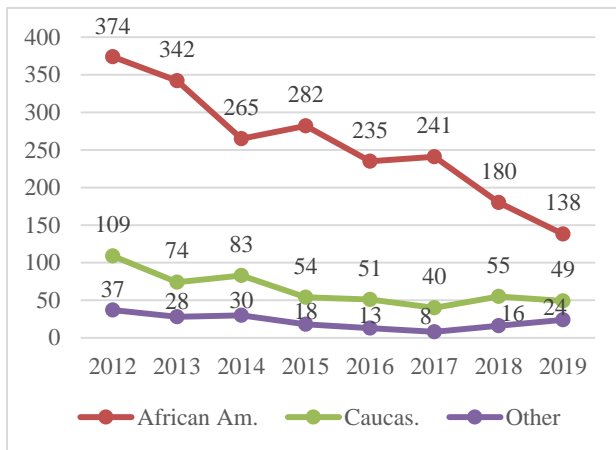
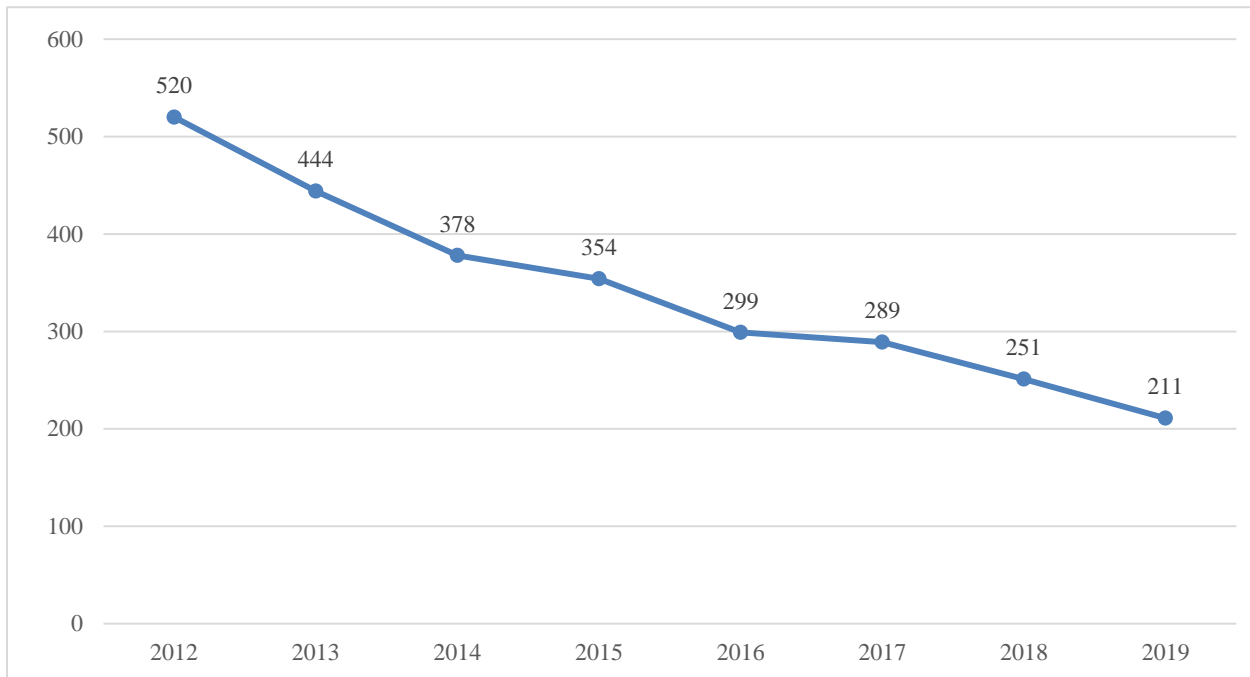
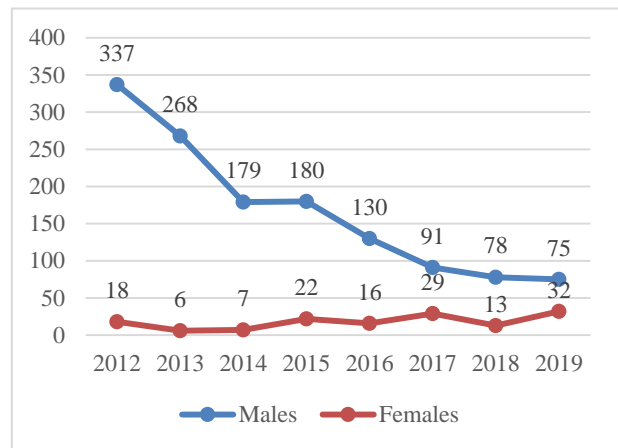
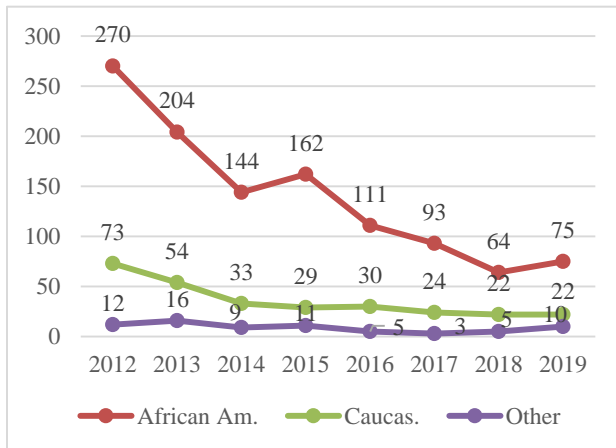
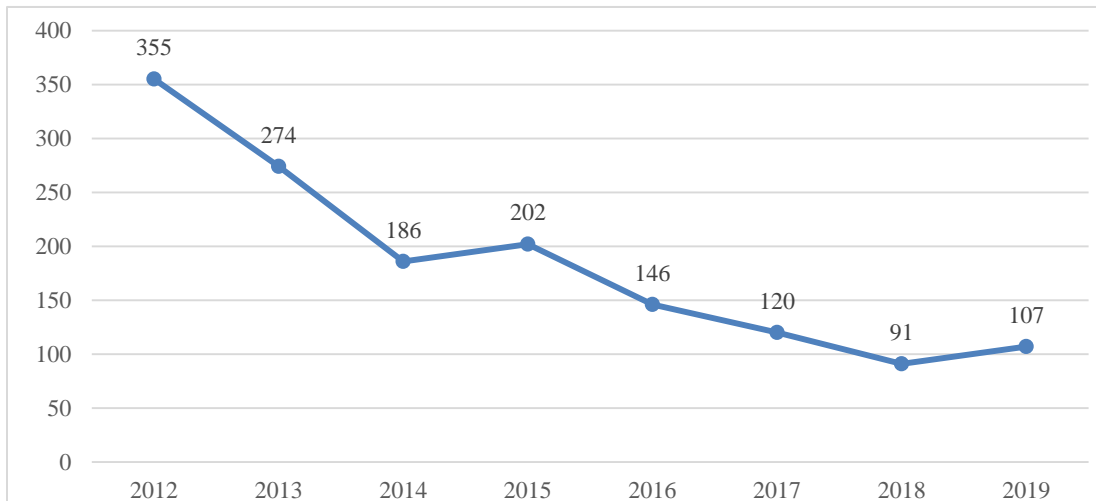


Table 26. Detainments in Non-Secure Detention Facilities

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jackson House	135	104	113	83	--	--	--	--
Community Reintegration Group Home	199	153	58	84 ⁵¹	116	61	14 ⁵²	--
Hilltop Residential Center	21	17	15	35	30	59	77	107
Total	355	274	186	202	146	120	91	107
% change	--	-23%	-32%	+9%	-28%	-18%	-24%	+18%

Graphs 32-34. Youth Admitted to Non-Secure Detention⁵³



⁵¹ The Community Reintegration Group Home began housing Jackson House youth in 2015 as a temporary measure due to staffing shortages in Detention.

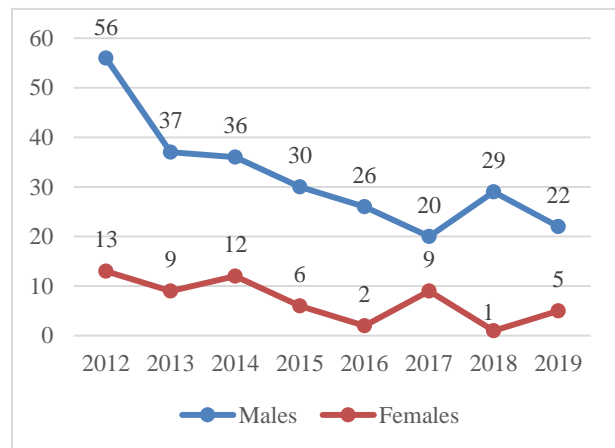
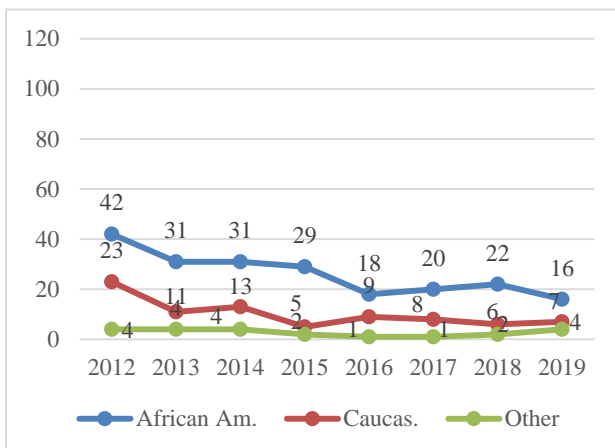
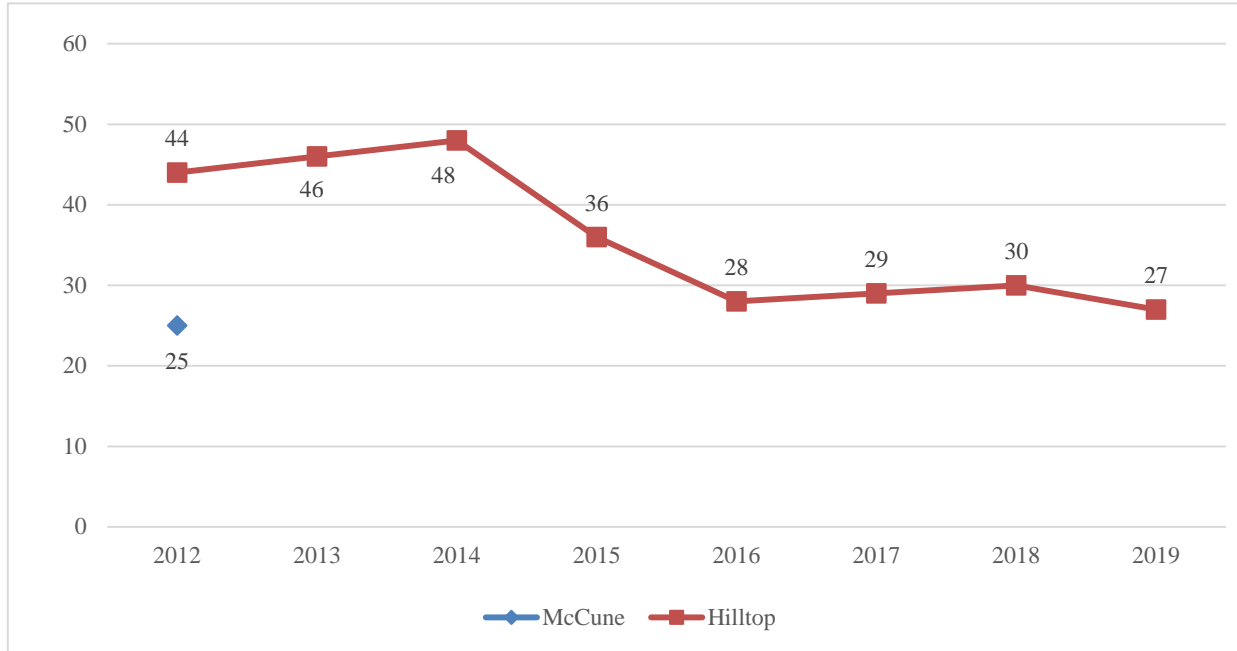
⁵² The Community Reintegration Group Home temporarily closed starting March 13, 2018. Staff and residents were relocated to Hilltop.

⁵³ We began tracking detainments for females (at Hilltop) in 2012.

Table 27. Commitments to Court Residential Treatment

Facility	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
McCune ⁵⁴	25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hilltop ⁵⁵	44	46	48	36	28	29	30	27
Total	69	46	48	36	28	29	30	27
% change	--	-33%	-4%	-25%	-22%	+4%	+3%	-10%

Graphs 35-37. Commitments to Court Residential Treatment



⁵⁴ Commitment figures do not include occasions when youth were returned to McCune after furlough. McCune Residential Center closed at the end of 2012.

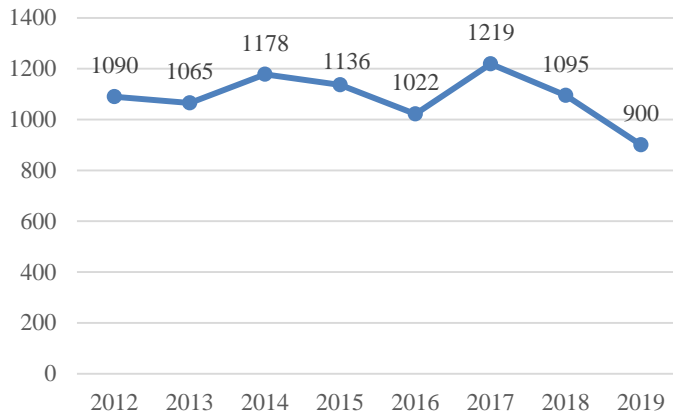
⁵⁵ Commitment figures do not include occasions when youth were returned to Hilltop after having been absent without leave or after being released on furlough.

Table 28 and Graphs 38-40

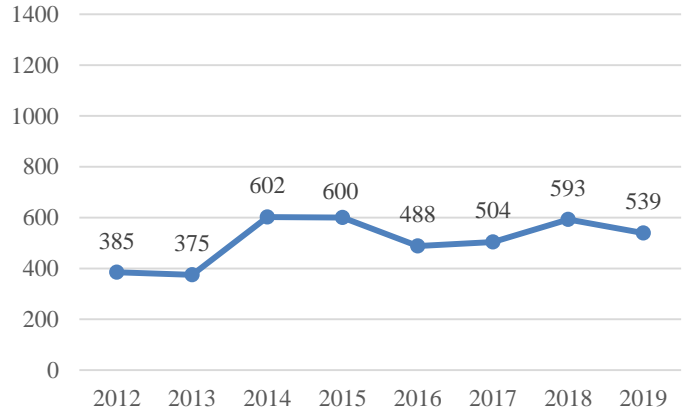
Family Court Resource Services – Parent Awareness Courses

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FOCIS								
Adults	1,090	1,065	1,178	1,136	1,022	1,219	1,095	900
Youth	826	859	783	859	738	779	834	797
FOCIS Totals	1,916	1,924	1,961	1,995	1,760	1,998	1,929	1,697
Re-FOCIS	385	375	602	600	488	504	593	539
Parenting Together Living Apart	327	426	634	653	432	391	636	655
Grand Totals	2,628	2,725	3,197	3,248	2,680	2,893	3,158	2,891
% change	--	-4%	+17%	+2%	-17%	+8%	+9%	-9%

FOCIS Class - Adults



Re-FOCIS Class - Adults



Parenting Together - Living Apart Class

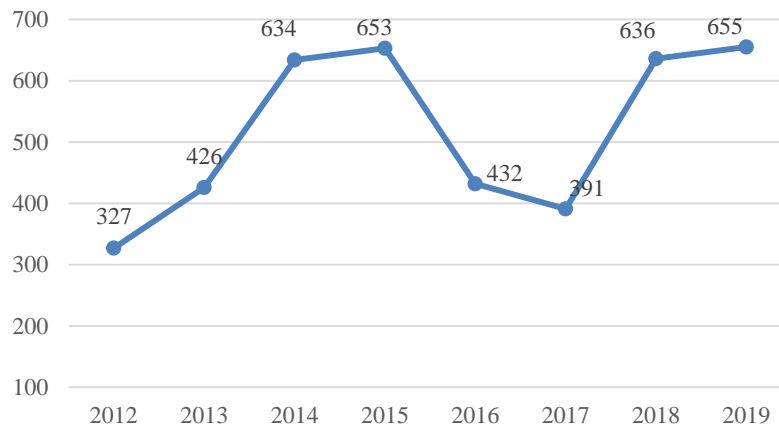


Table 29. Family Court Resource Services Connections Program Visits and Exchanges

Supervised Visits

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Scheduled Visits	1,220	1,070	1,039	1,308	1,643	1,876	2,144	1,889
Actual Visits	987	732	677	855	1,115	1,350	1,456	1,309

Therapeutic Visits

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Scheduled Visits	93	150	241	346	332	250	181	227
Actual Visits	93	94	114	217	197	164	120	154

Grand Total Visits Scheduled and Held

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Scheduled Visits ⁵⁶	1,313	1,220	1,280	1,654	1,975	2,126	2,325	2,116
Total Actual Visits ⁵⁷	1,080	826	791	1,072	1,312	1,514	1,576	1,463

Monitored Exchanges

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Scheduled Exchanges	489	359	477	757	1,043	710	189	94
Actual Exchanges	399	255	286	449	786	561	100	49

⁵⁶ Beginning with 2010 data, the total number of scheduled and actual visits/exchanges include data from families that were carried over from the previous year.

⁵⁷ Actual visits represent units of services. One unit of service equals one hour.

Graph 41

Connections Program Visits Held

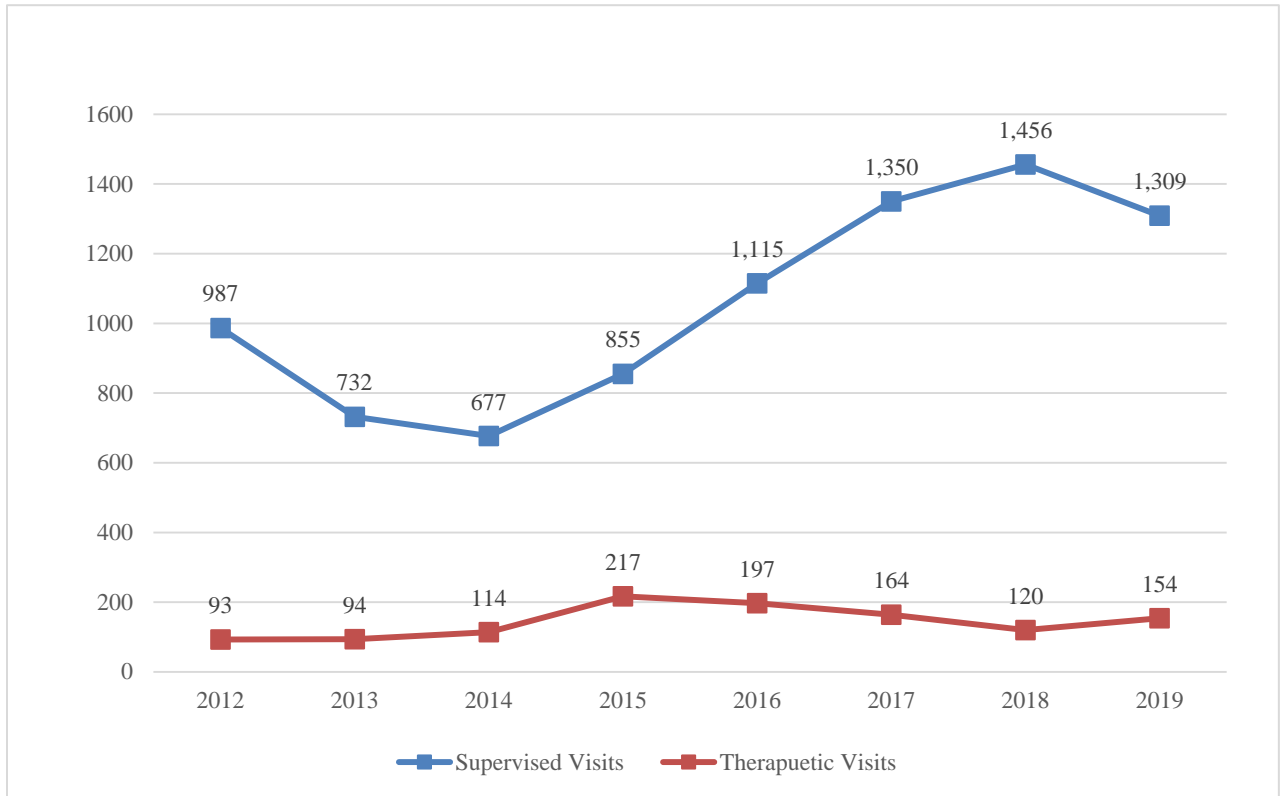


Table 30. Family Court Resource Services Mediation Services**Mediation (Rule 68.12)**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	64	167	206	155	101	107	96	49
Mediations	32	-- ⁵⁸	--	--	--	--	--	--

Mediation (IV-D)/Paternity

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	60	124	34 ⁵⁹	22	15	9	4	-- ⁶⁰
Mediations	39	93	33	18	11	4	5	--

Adult Abuse Mediation

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	191	130	182	200	202	161	115	141
Mediations	184	123	172	180	202	156	112	136

Other Domestic Relations Mediations (i.e., MOD, FA)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	42	83	40	7	23	19	12	14
Mediations	36	64	38	7	17	14	12	12

Child Dependency Mediation

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	113	83	100	157	276	238	249	229
Mediations	92	52	79	115	217	227	208	203

Victim-Offender Mediation

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	1	4	11	5	3	5	0	-- ⁶¹
Mediations	0	1	8	3	2	2	0	--

Grand Total Mediations Referred and Held

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referrals	471	591	573	546	620	539	476	432
Mediations	383	333 ⁶²	330	323	449	403	337	351

⁵⁸ 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.

⁵⁹ A recent MO Appellate Court decision (DSK, MO App Western District 76789, Dec 31, 2013) substantially reduced the number of paternity mediations referred to FCRS resulting in a sharp decline in referrals for this service.

⁶⁰ Beginning in 2019, this figure will be reported under Other Domestic Relations Mediations.

⁶¹ Beginning in 2019, this figure will be reported under Other Domestic Relations Mediations.

⁶² Beginning in 2013, this figure will no longer include actual mediation conducted by court-approved panel mediators.

Graph 42

Family Court Resource Services Mediations Held

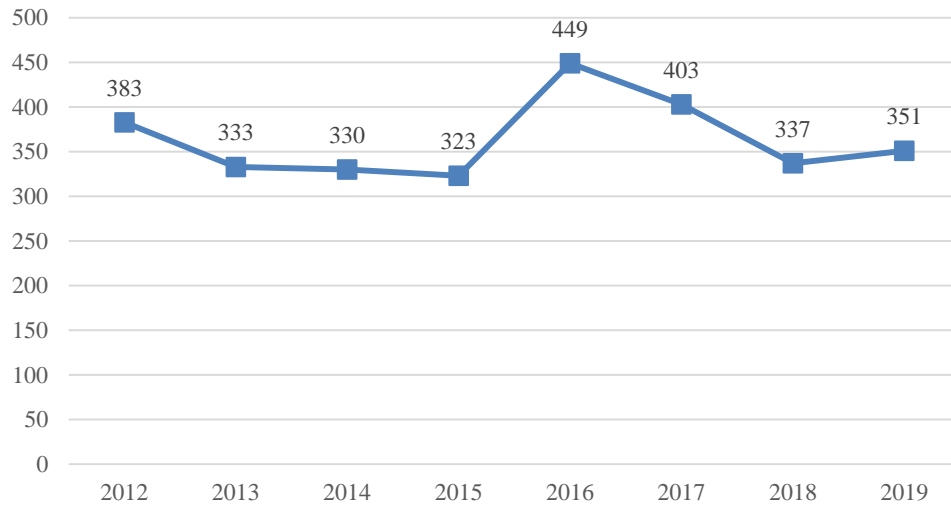


Table 31

Victim Services Cases Served

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Victim Services Cases	515	451	446	471	515	351	377	296

Conclusions

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

Over the last eight years, the number of referrals filed for child abuse and neglect has fluctuated as much as 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 12% from one year to the next.

The number of youth aged 10-17 in Jackson County has remained relatively consistent over the last eight years, but the number of delinquent and technical referrals to the Family Court declined 41% in that same period. The number of petitions and motions to modify filed for delinquent and technical offenses decreased by 51% since 2012.

In 2019, youth residing in Kansas City continued to account for the largest share of delinquent and technical offense filings in Jackson County (63% of all delinquent and technical offense petitions and motions to modify). Youth from Independence were the subject of petitions for delinquent offenses more frequently than youth in other Jackson County cities.

African American youth accounted for 69% of the delinquent and technical offense petitions and motions to modify filed in 2019. Caucasian youth accounted for 17%, and Hispanic youth accounted for 12%.

In the last eight-year period, the number of youth committed to the Division of Youth Services was highest in 2013, with 68 commitments. Since then, it ranged between 50 and 60 commitments a year until 2019, when 37 youth were committed. African American youth represented 76% of all commitments to DYS in 2019—below the eight-year average of 81%.

The number of certification cases filed in 2019 was 20% lower than the number filed in 2018, but the same number of youth were certified.

Family Court Services offered a broad range of prevention, intervention, and treatment programs and services to youth in Jackson County. In 2019, there were four prevention and diversion programs serving a total of 344 youth as well as

their families. The number served was up 24% compared to 2018.

The number of youth starting probation is less than half of what it was in 2012 and dropped 15% between 2018 and 2019. Detainments have decreased dramatically since 2012 (59% in secure detention and 70% at the non-secure facilities). Since last year, admissions to secure detention decreased by 16%, and admissions to detention alternatives increased by 18%. Commitments to Hilltop Residential Center have been stable for the past four years, fluctuating between 27 and 30 youth each year.

Family Drug Court served 114 participants in 2019, a decrease of 14% from 2018.

Family Court Resource Services offered a wide variety of services to court-involved families. A total of 2,891 parents and children were served by three parent awareness courses in 2019. The Connections Program provided 1,463 supervised and therapeutic visits and arranged 49 monitored exchanges. Mediators served 351 cases.

This report summarized Family Court activities for 2019 and trends in filing activities and treatment services. The goal of the annual report is to provide complete, accurate, and helpful information to enable the Family Court to better serve the youth, families, and community of Jackson County. Future reports will expand and develop as changes in the organization and community warrant examination.

