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19

# Highlights from the 2019 Annual Statistical Report

OFFICE *of* COURT ADMINISTRATION



## Change in Cases Added, FY 18 to 19

Supreme Court	↓ 0.4 %	Court of Criminal Appeals	↓ 8 %
Courts of Appeals	↑ 1 %	District	— 0 %
Statutory County	↓ 1 %	Constitutional County	↓ 7 %
Justice	↓ 5 %	Municipal	↓ 3 %





Civil

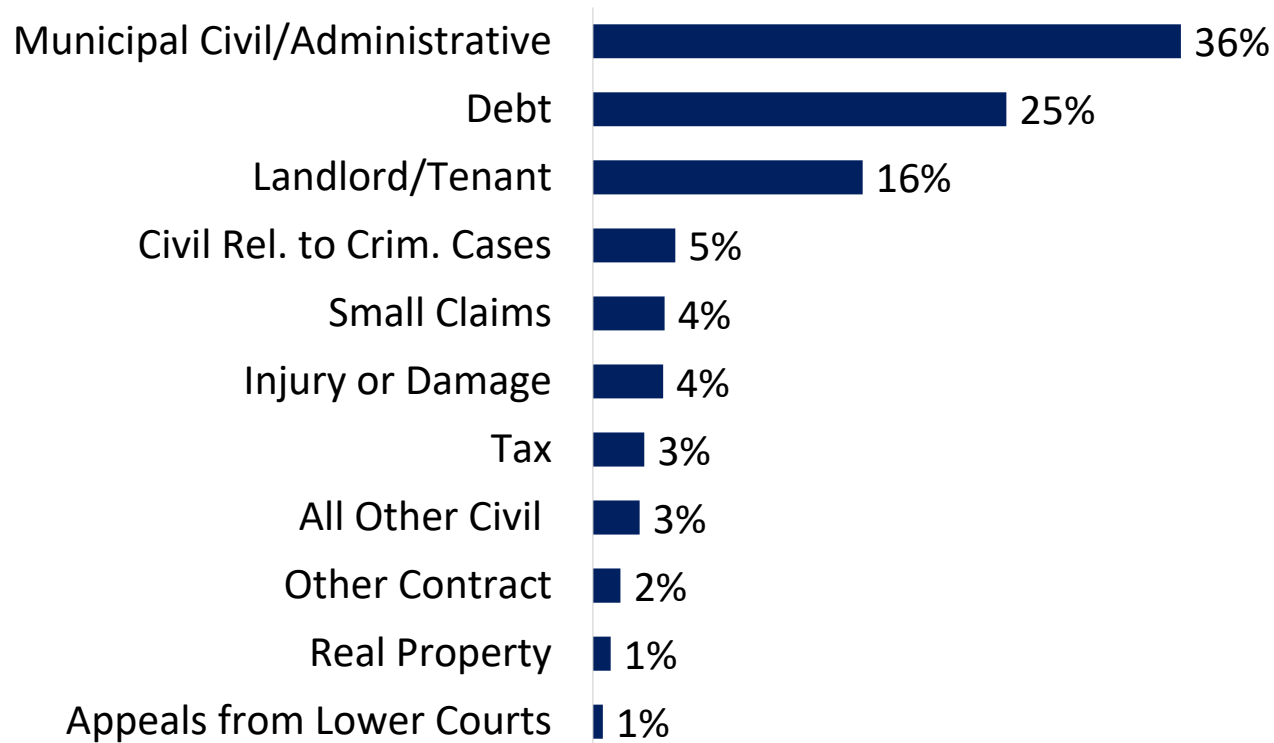
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# New Civil Cases Filed in the Trial Courts, 2019



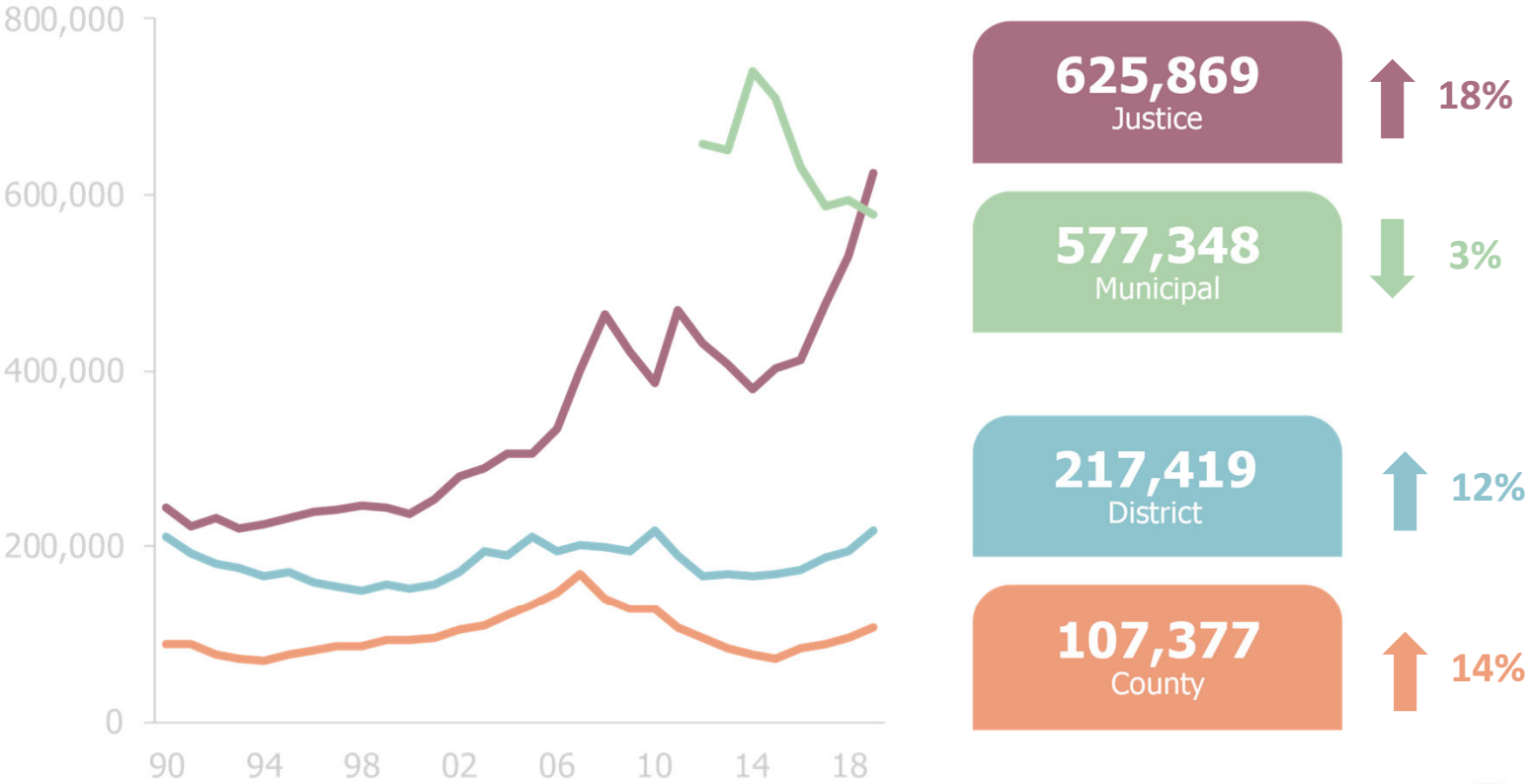
More than

# 1.6 Million

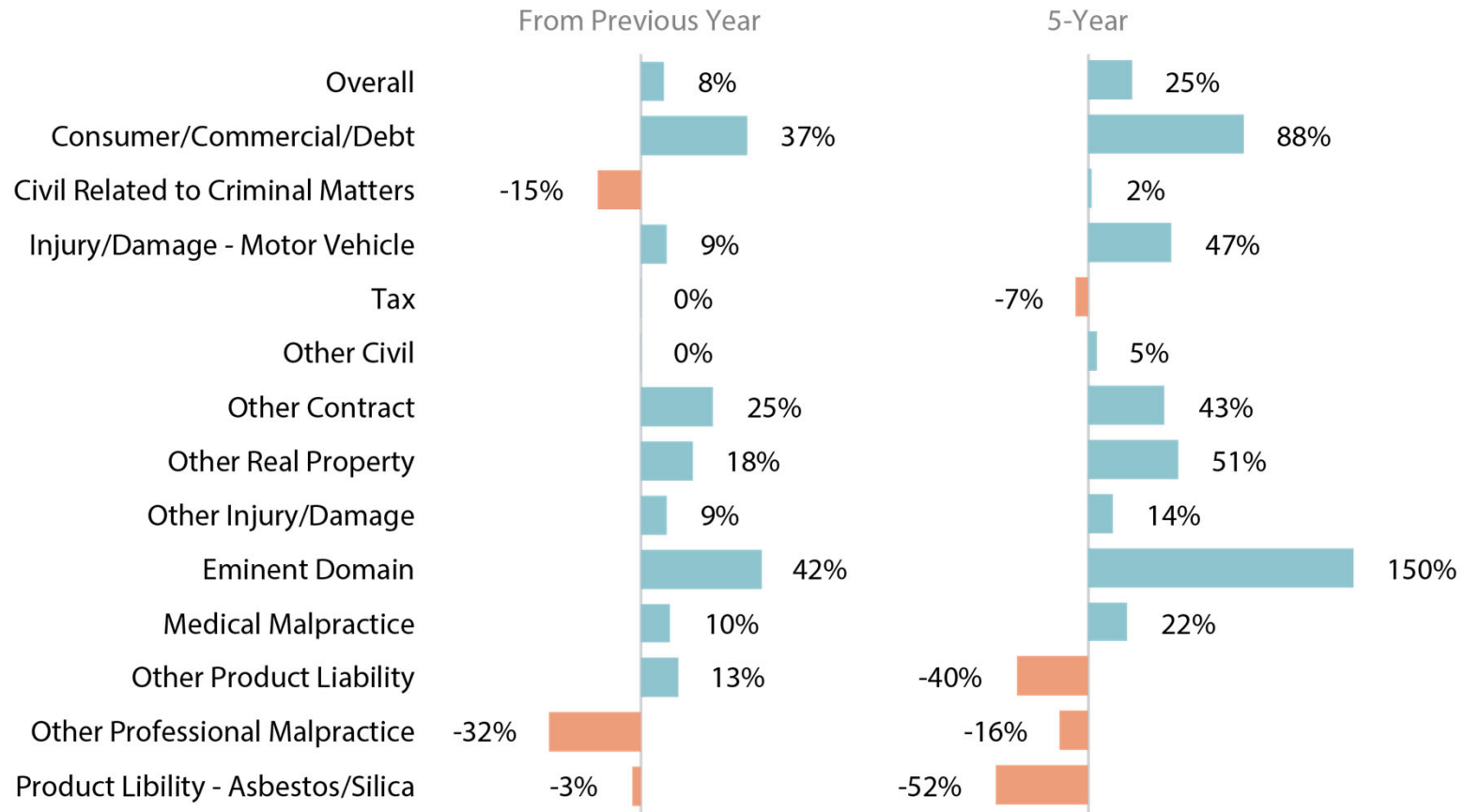
new cases filed



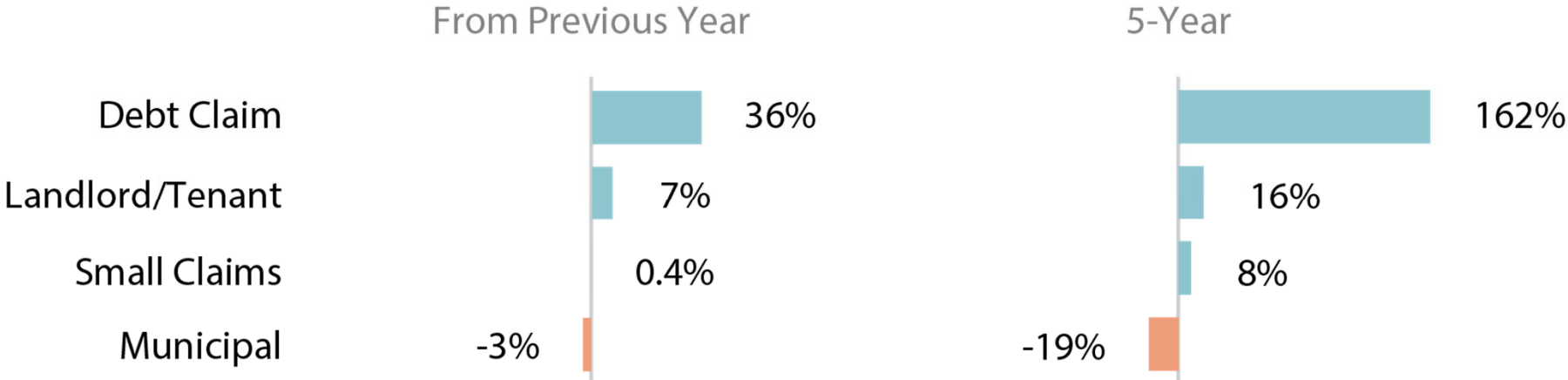
New civil case filings increased at every trial court level except municipal courts.



# Change in New Civil Cases Filed in District and County Courts

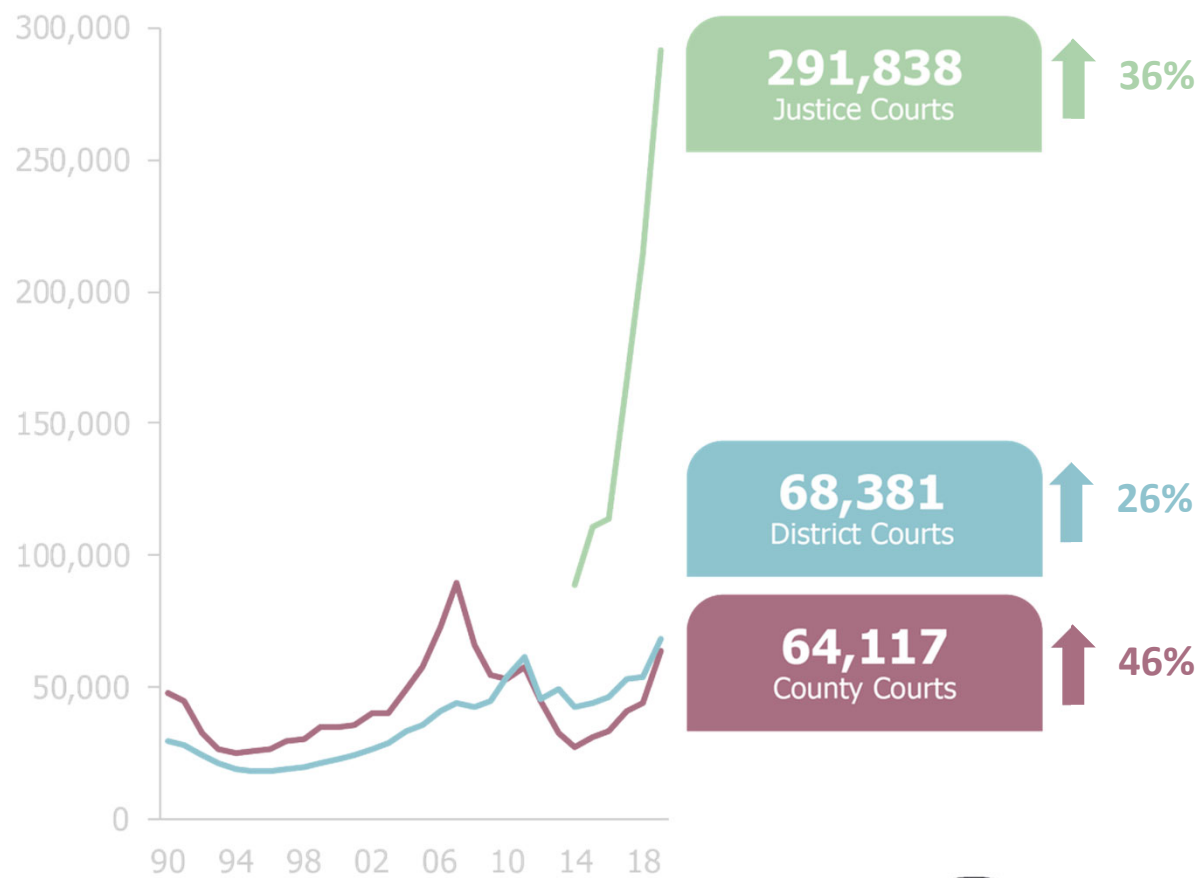
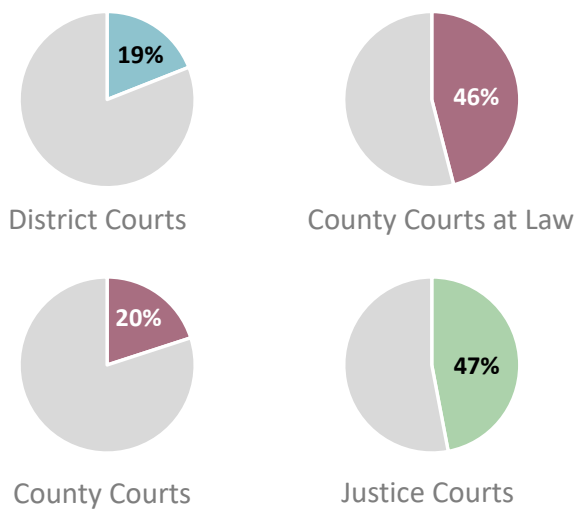


# Change in New Civil Cases Filed in Justice and Municipal Courts



**Debt** cases have increased to historic levels in the justice and district courts and comprise almost half of county court at law and justice court civil caseload.

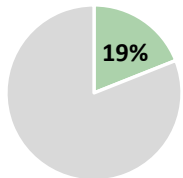
Debt Cases as % of Courts' Civil Caseload, 2019



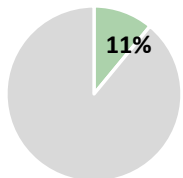


**Injury/damage** cases involving a **motor vehicle** have increased significantly, primarily in the district courts, where there has been a 70% increase in the last 5 years.

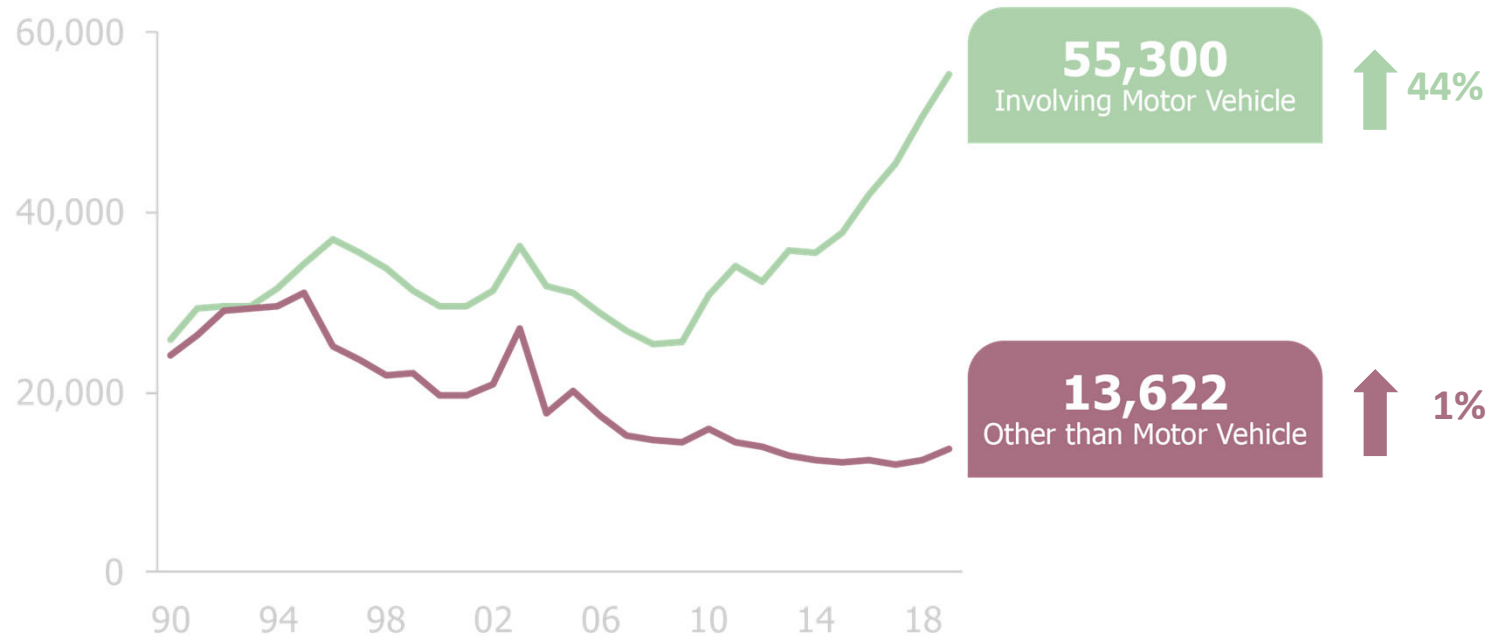
Motor Vehicle Cases  
as % of Courts' Civil  
Caseload, 2019



District Courts



County Courts at Law





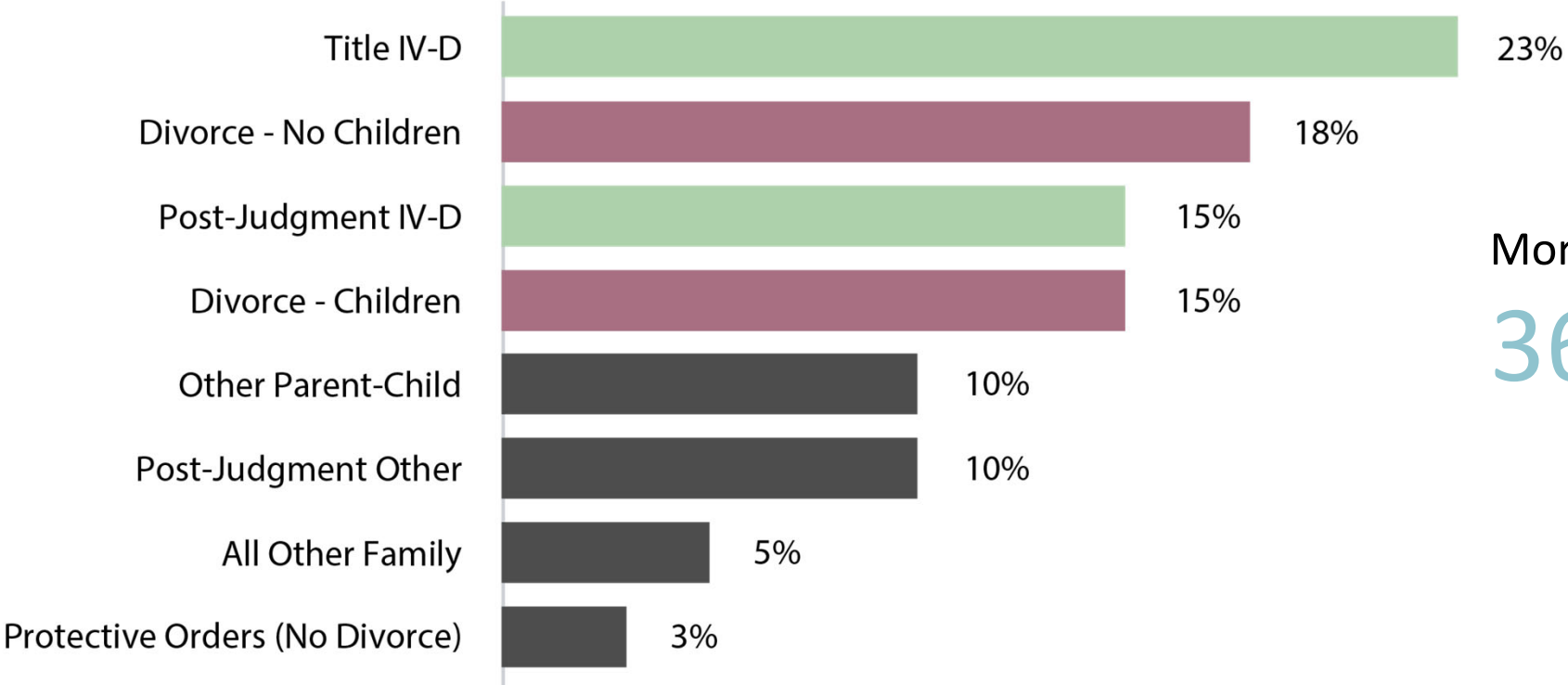
# Family

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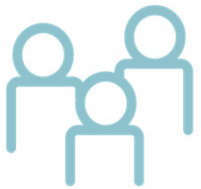
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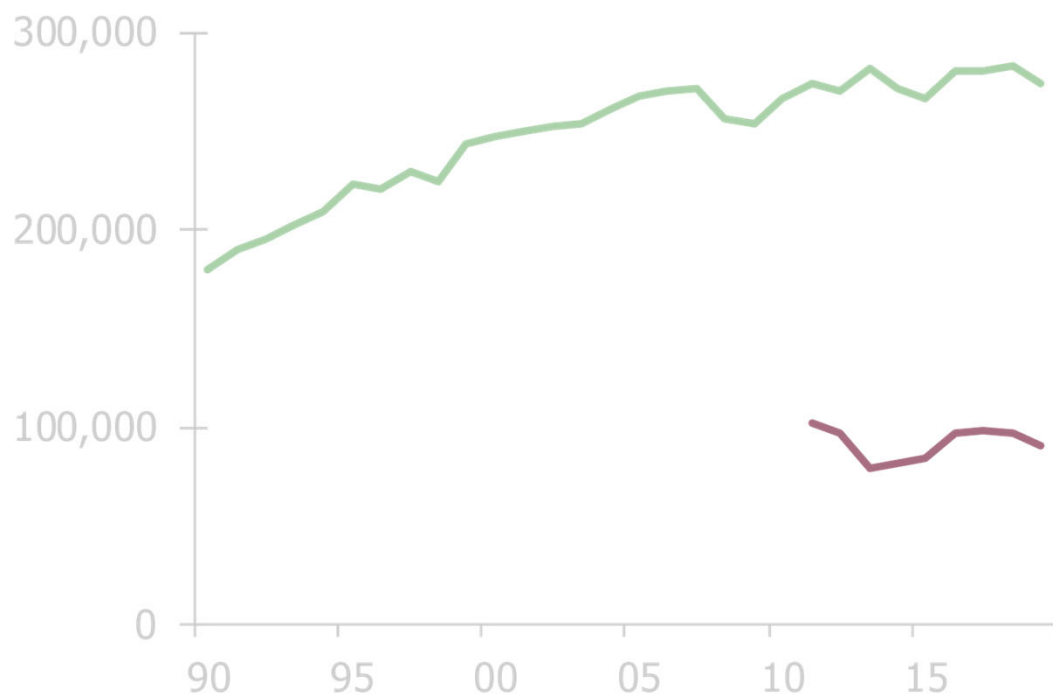
# New Family Cases Filed in the Trial Courts, 2019



More than  
**364,000**  
new cases filed



The number of new family cases filed declined in 2019.

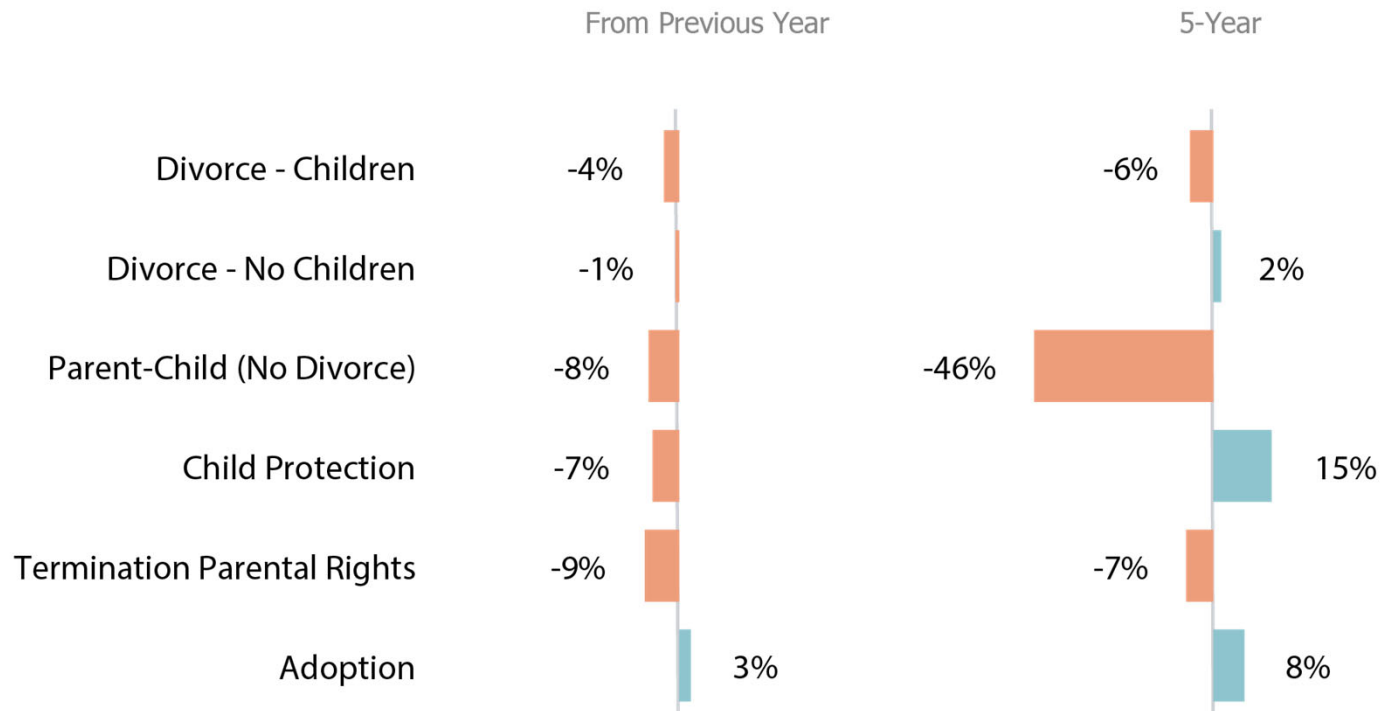


**273,564**  
New family law cases ↓ 3%

**90,561**  
Post-judgment modification/enforcement ↓ 7%

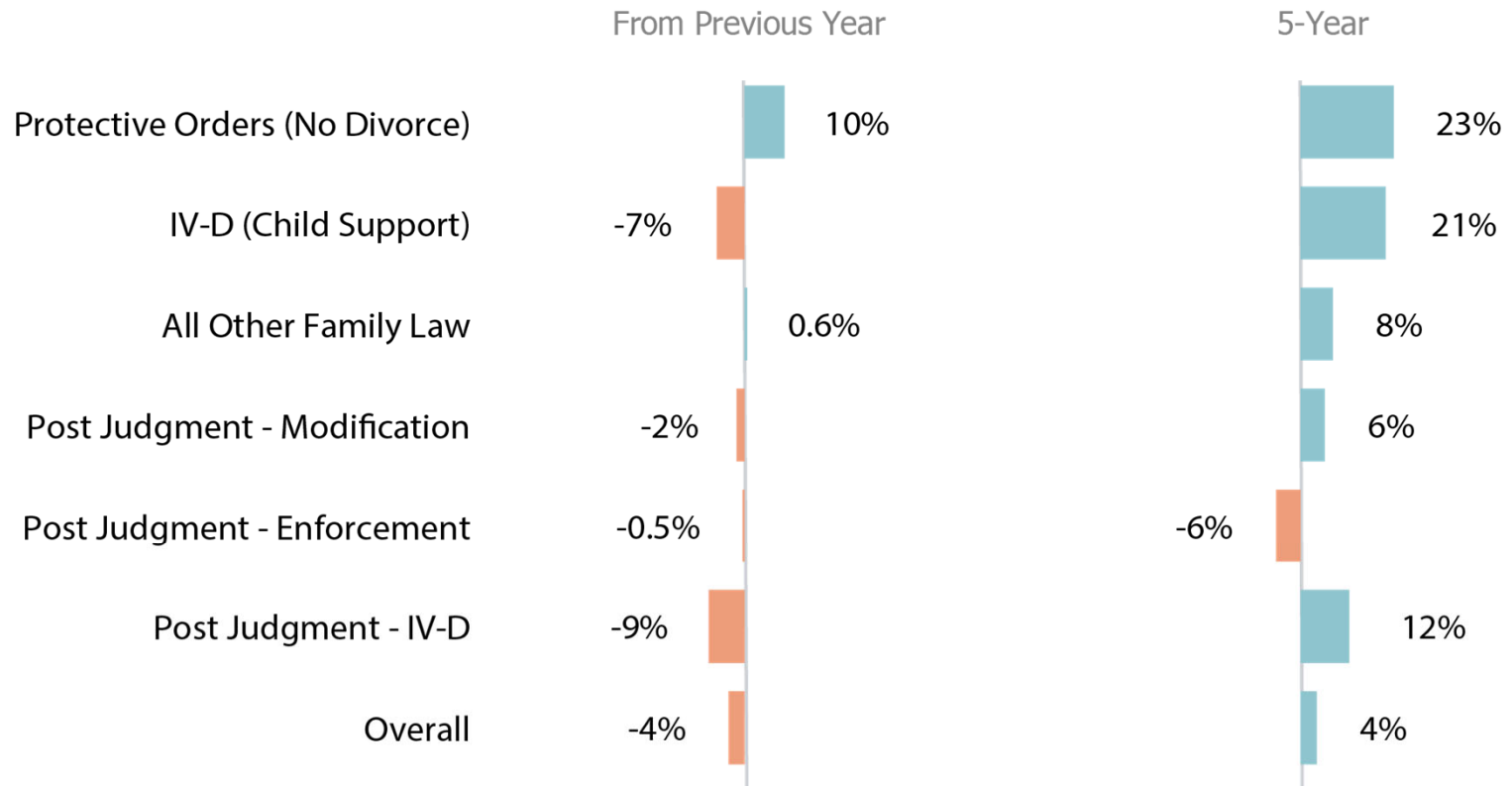
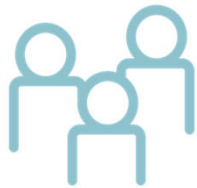


# Change in New Cases Filed

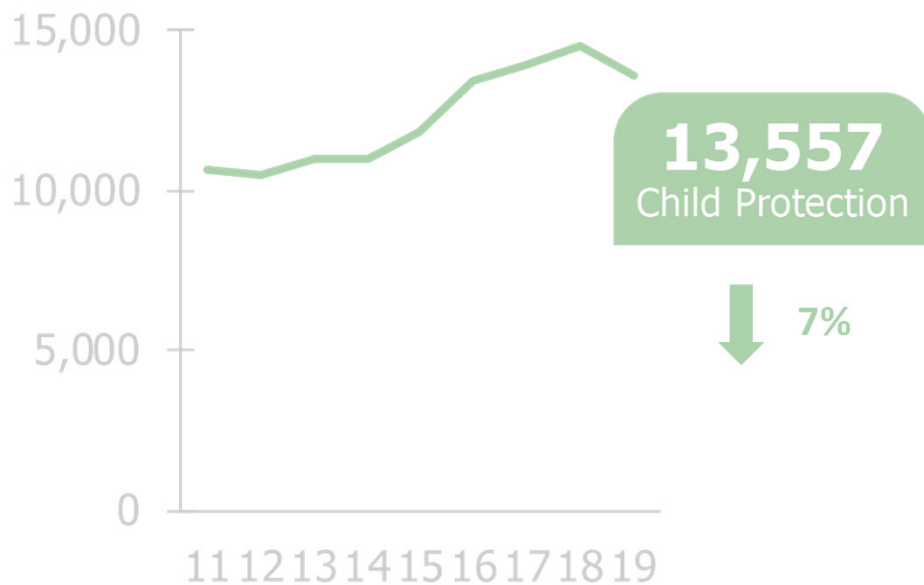




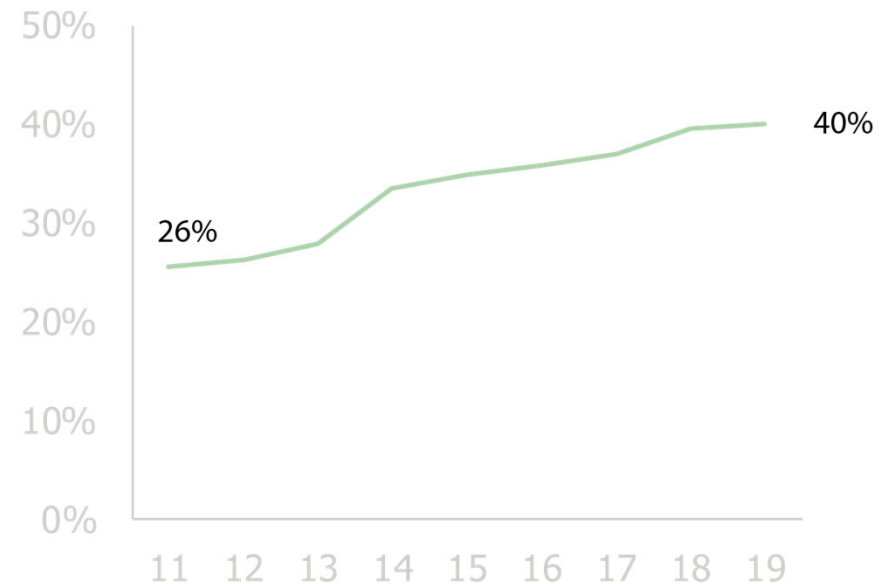
# Change in New Cases Filed



After 6 years of growth in child protection cases, filings were down in 2019.



The percentage of plaintiffs/petitioners who were **self-represented** at the time of filing a case has steadily grown, reaching 40% in 2018 and 2019.



Consistent with national study conducted by National Center for State Courts





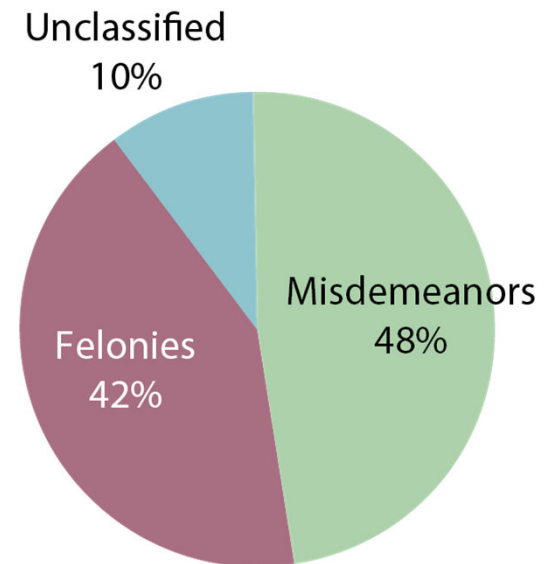
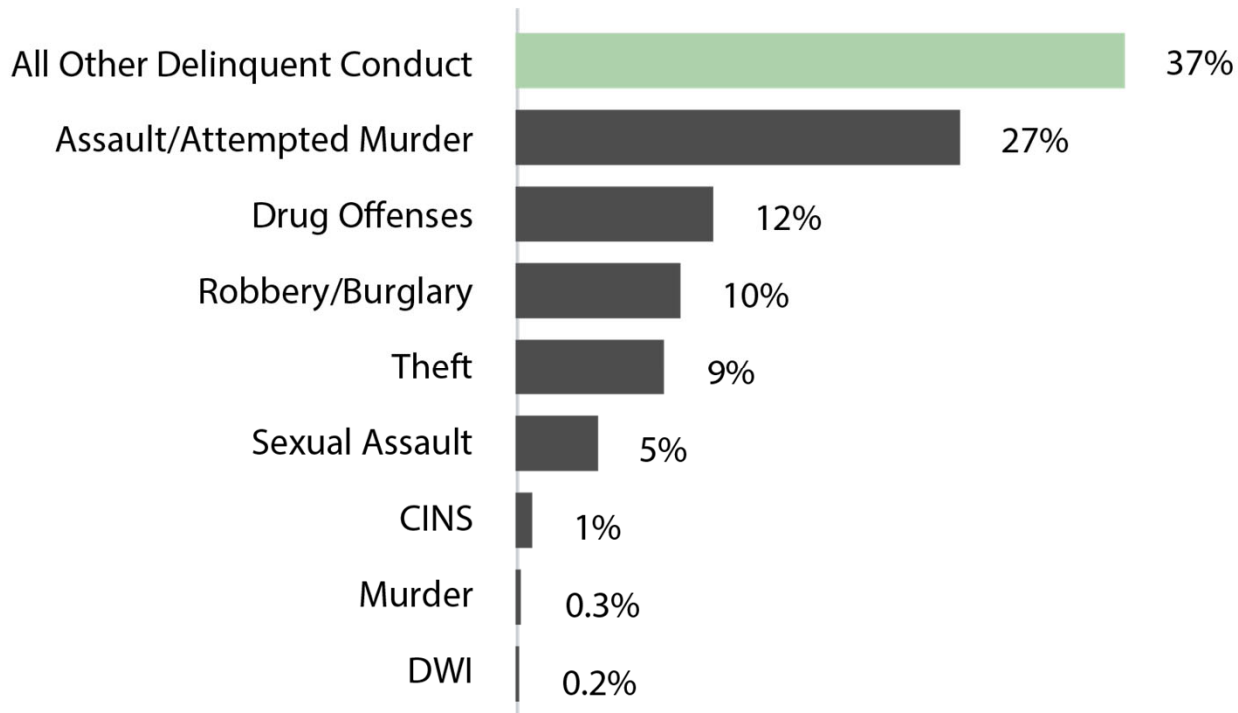
# Juvenile

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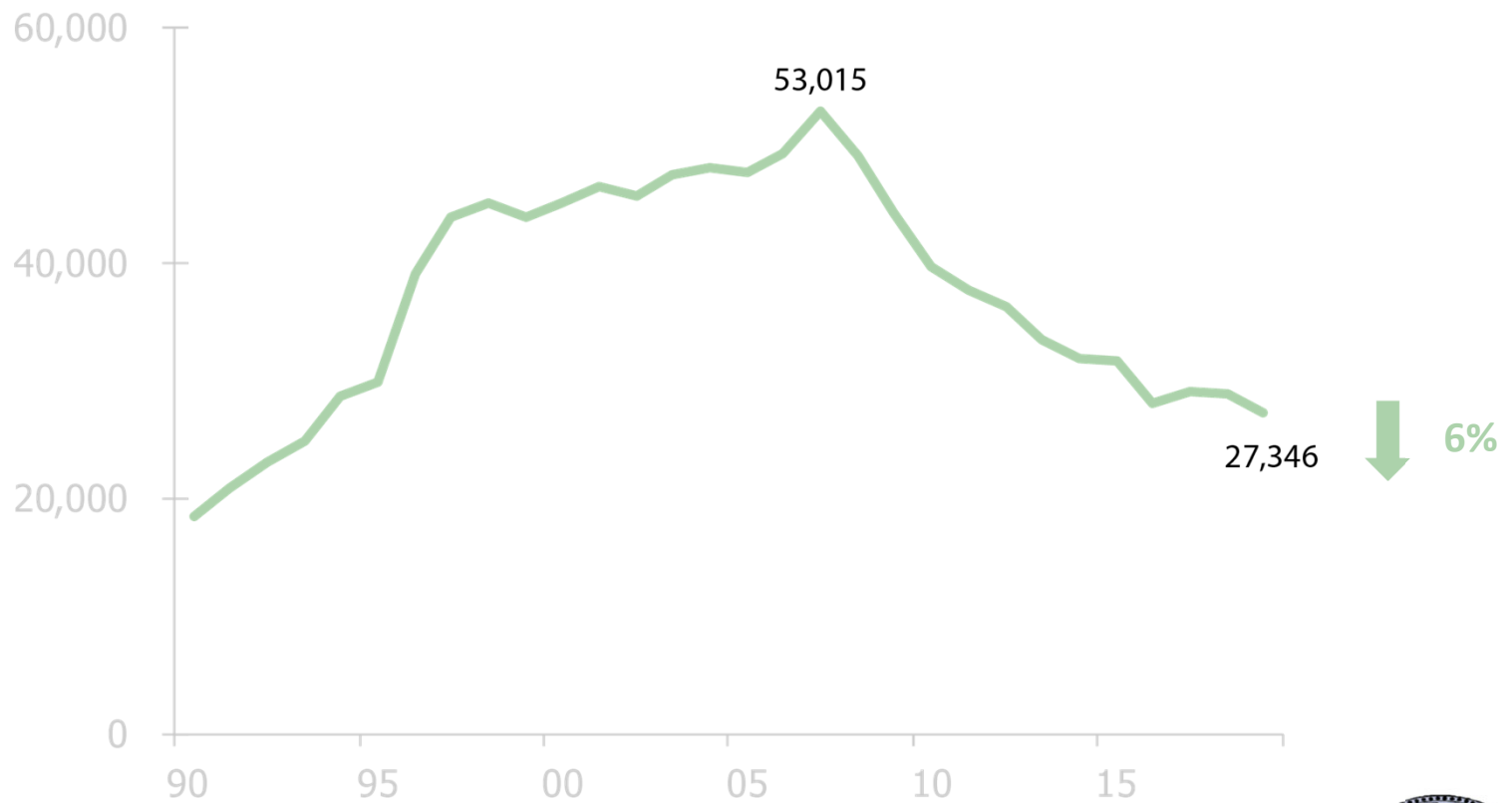
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# New Civil Cases Filed in the Trial Courts, 2019



Since the peak in 2007, the number of juvenile cases filed has fallen 50% to the lowest level since 1993.

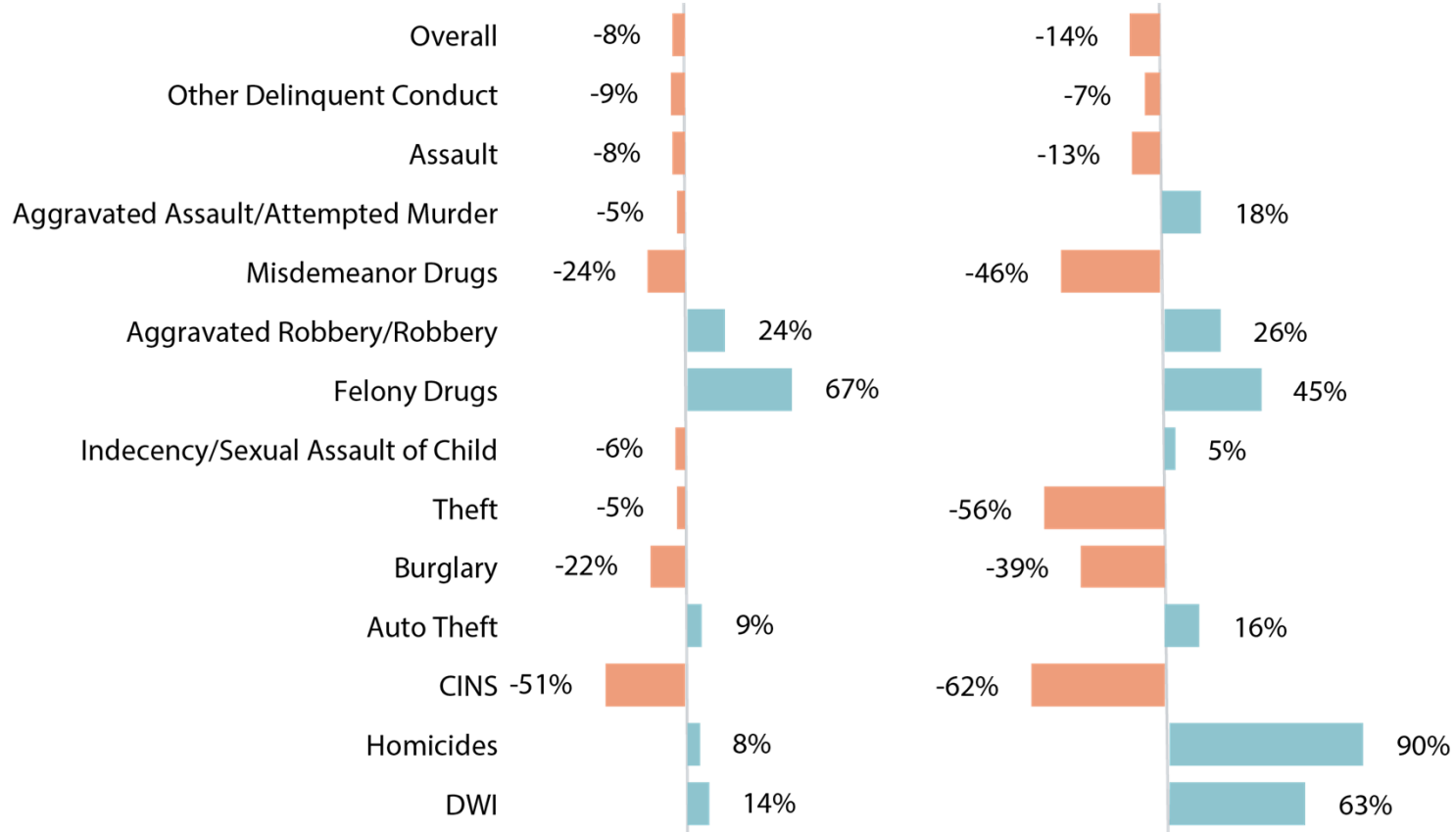




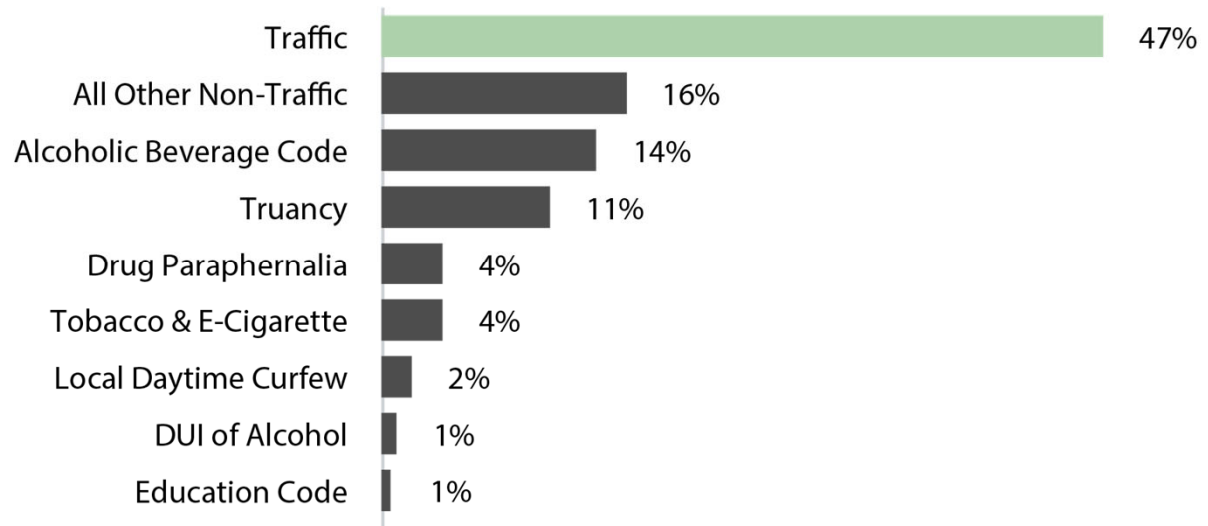
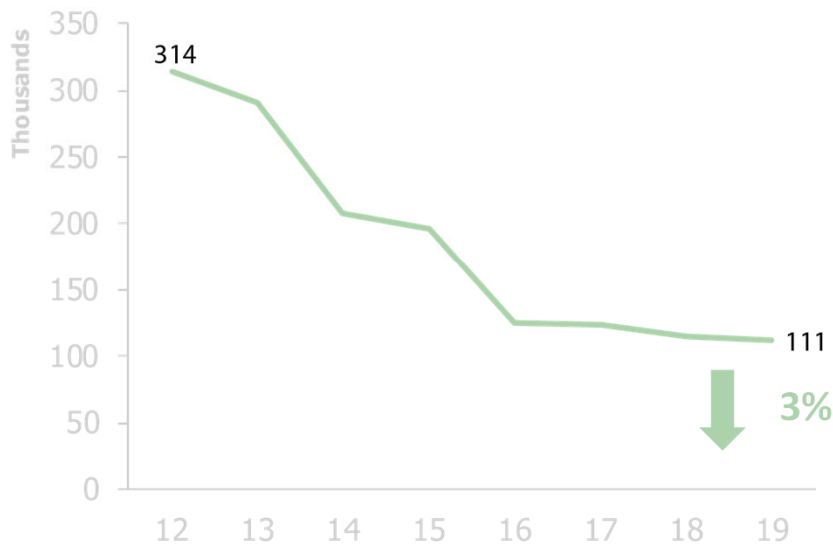
# Change in New Cases Filed

From Previous Year

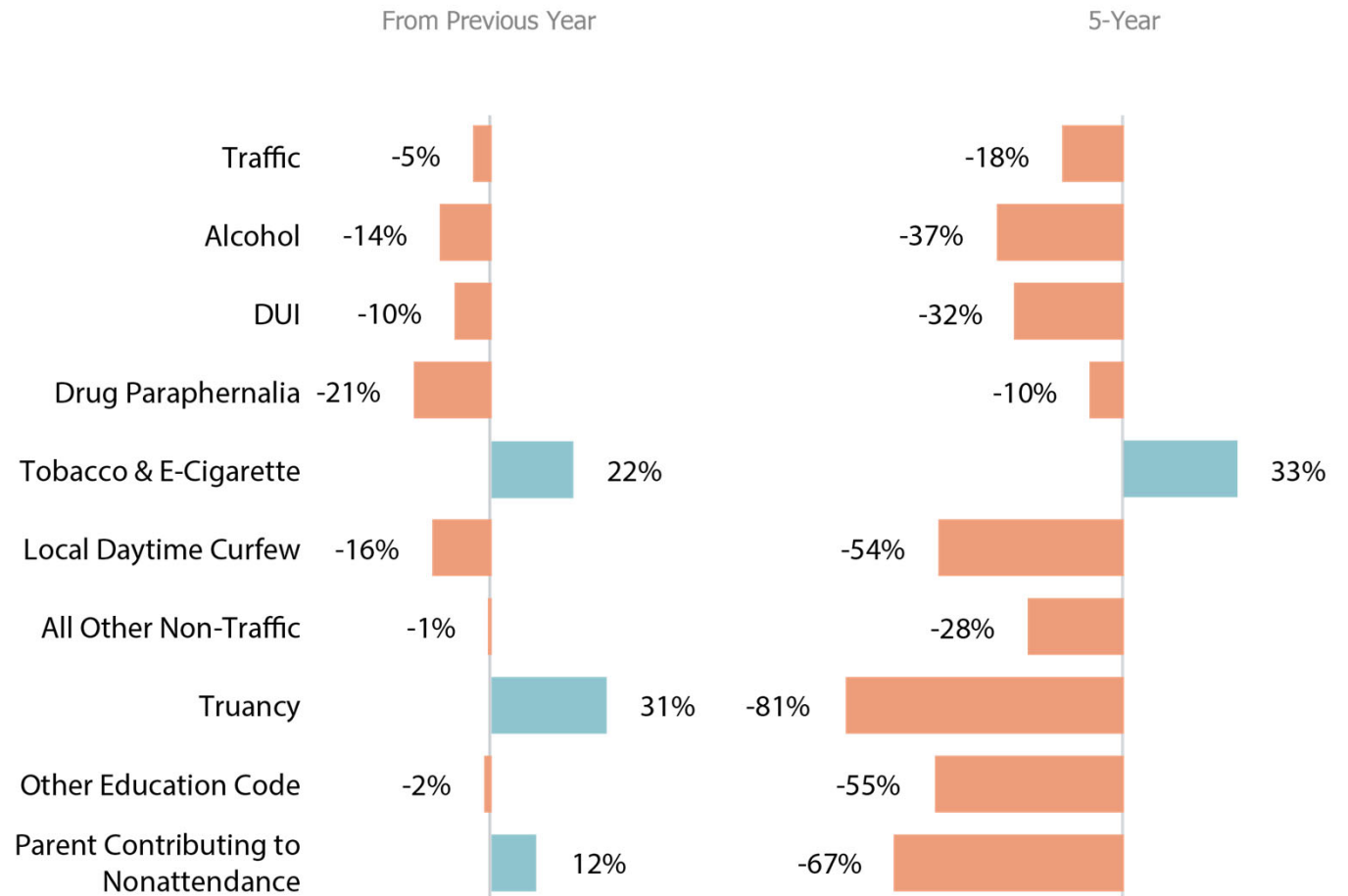
5-Year



The number of **Class C** cases involving **juveniles or minors** declined 64% since 2012. Nearly half of filings in 2019 were traffic cases.



# Change in New Cases Filed





# Criminal

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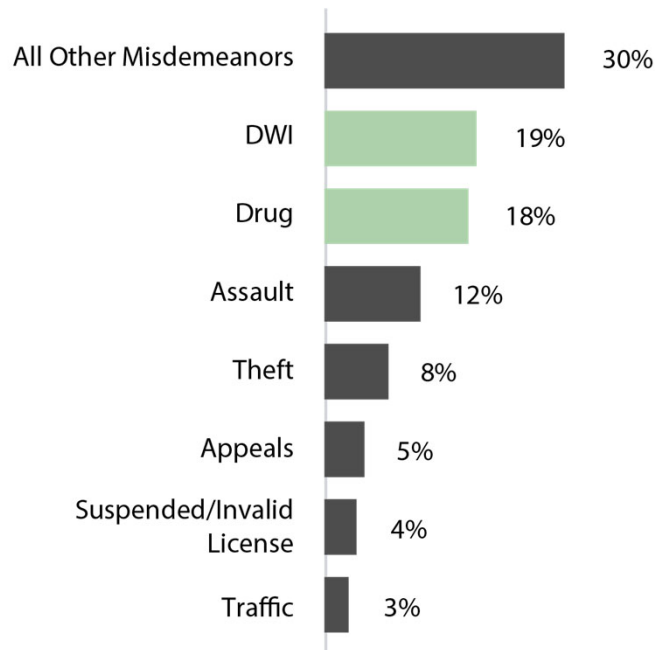
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# New Criminal Cases Filed in the District and County Courts, 2019

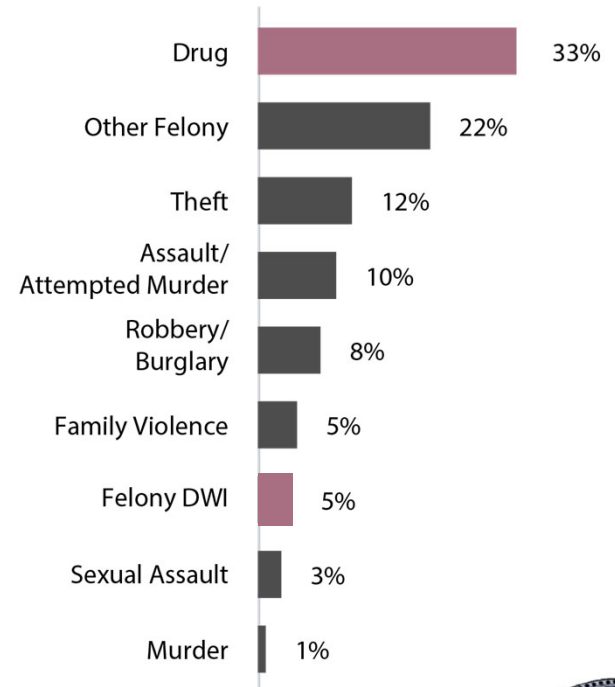
More than

**392,000** Misdemeanor cases



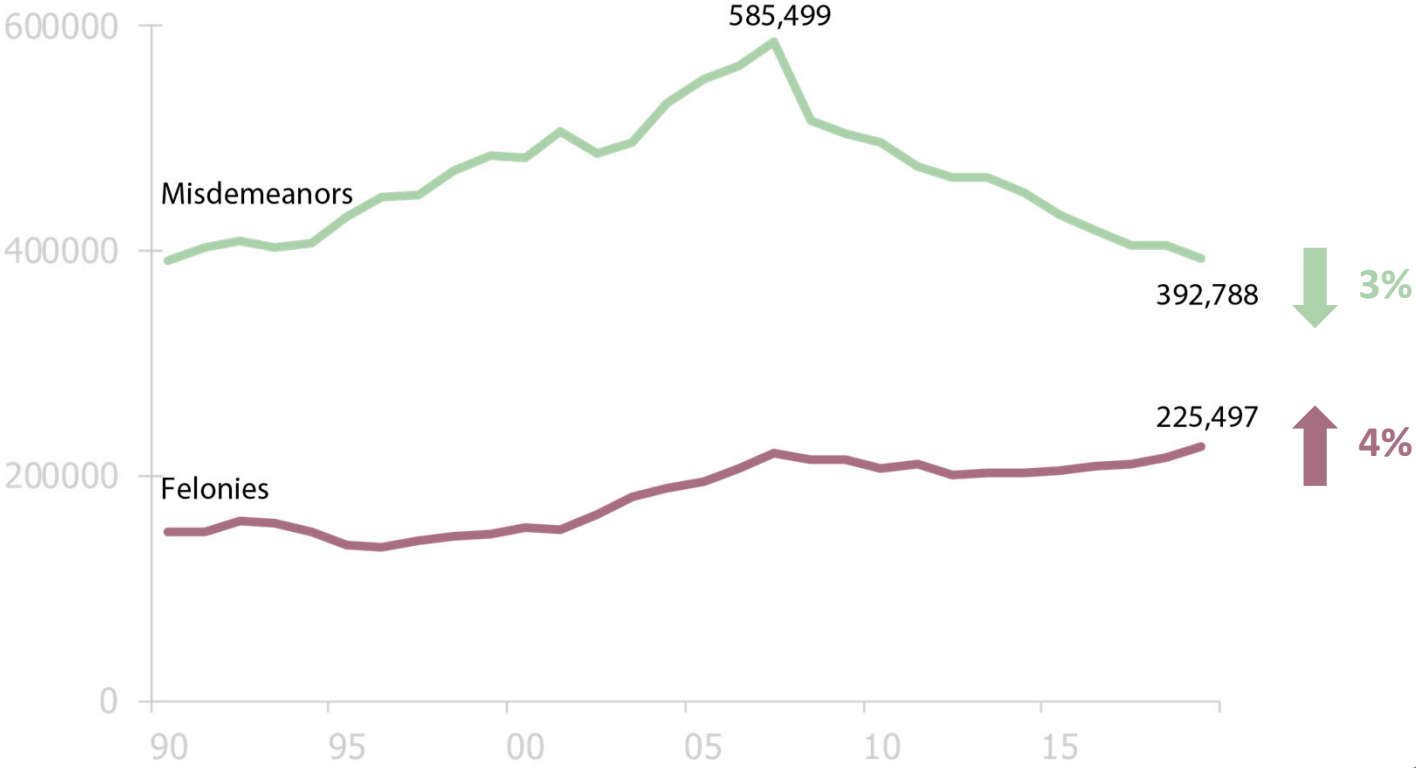
More than

**225,000** Felony cases

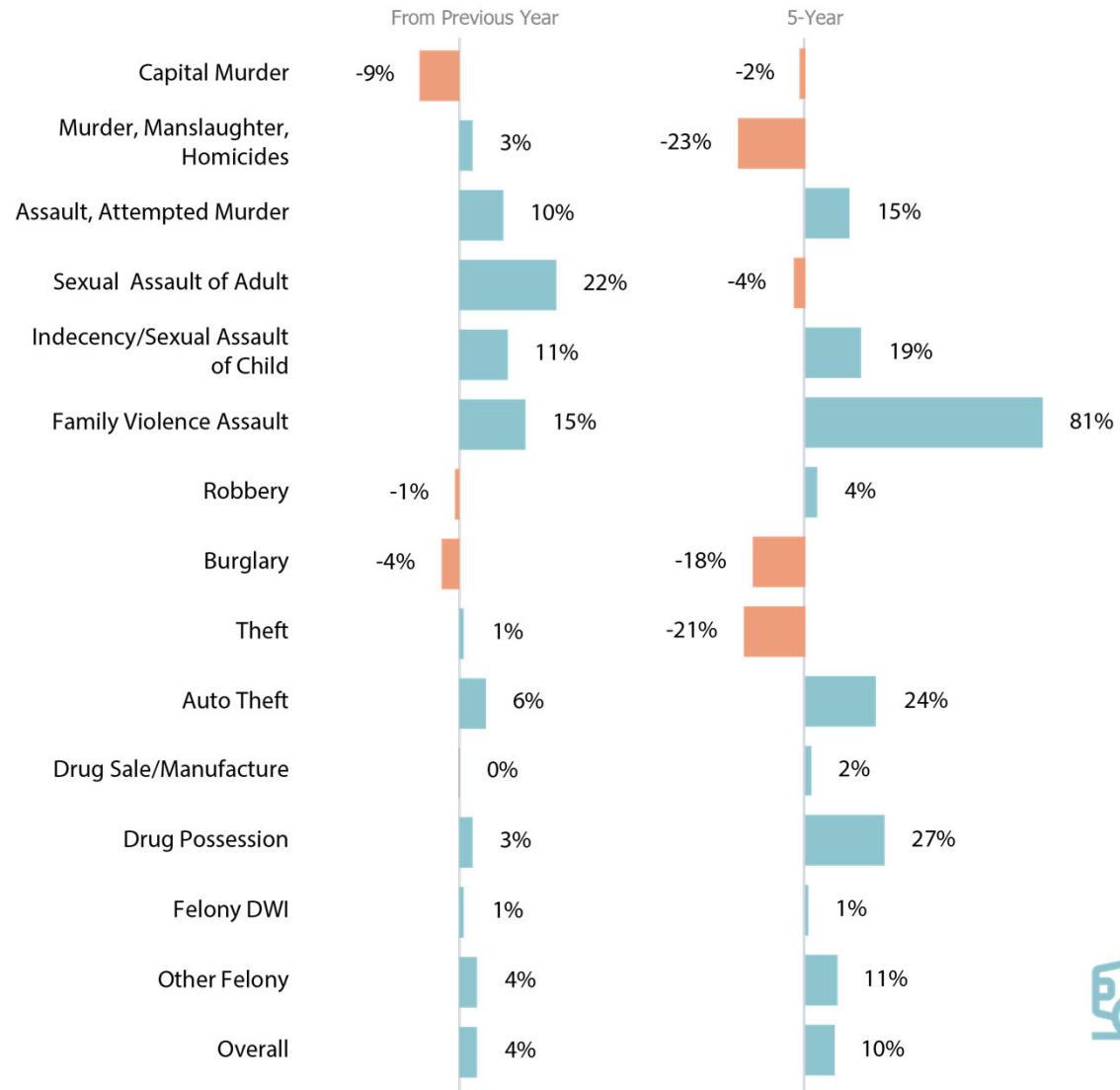




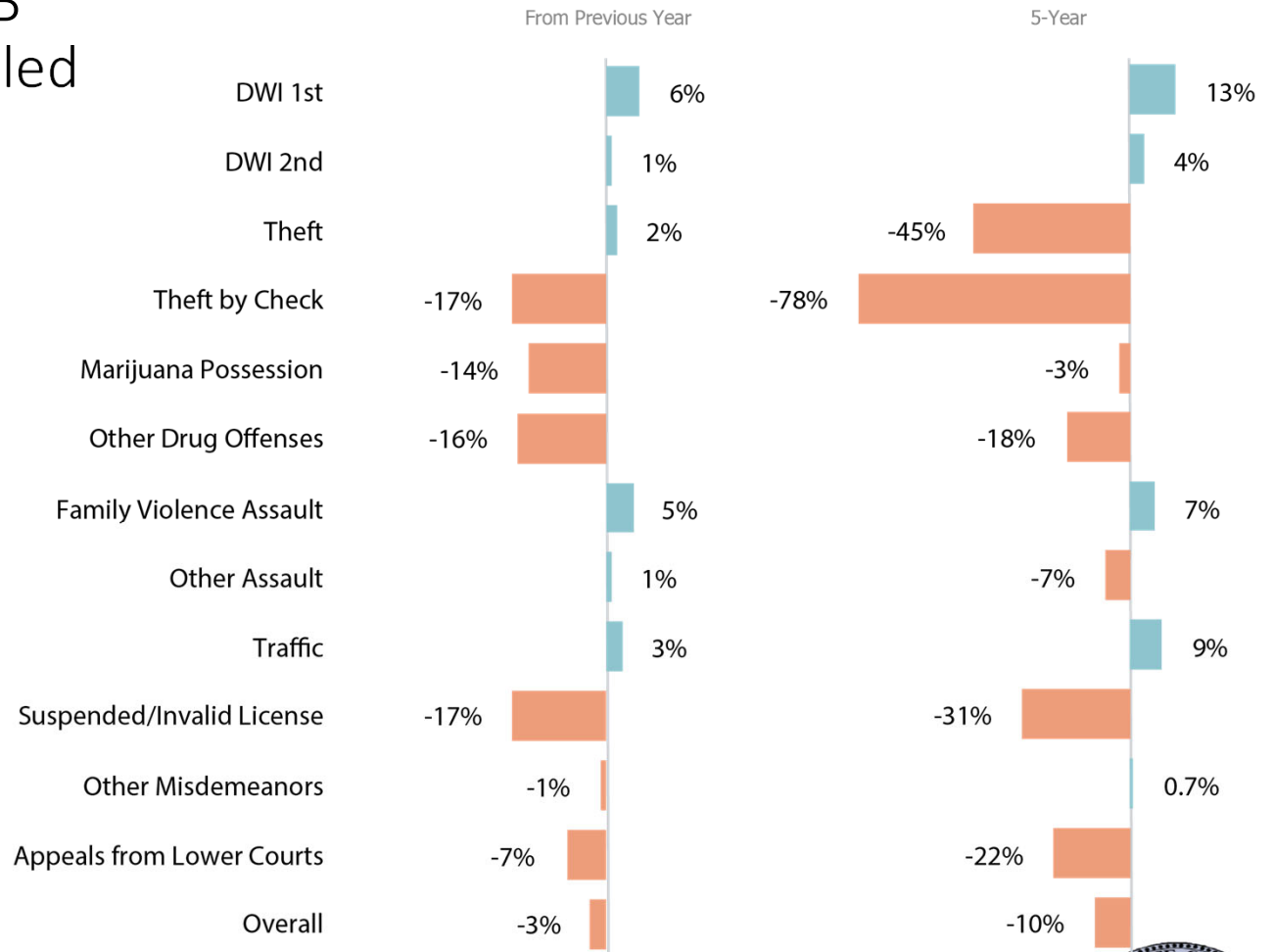
The number of new misdemeanor cases filed has fallen 33% from a high in 2007 to the lowest filing rate since 1991. The number of new felony cases filed increased each year since 2014 and reached an all-time high in 2019.



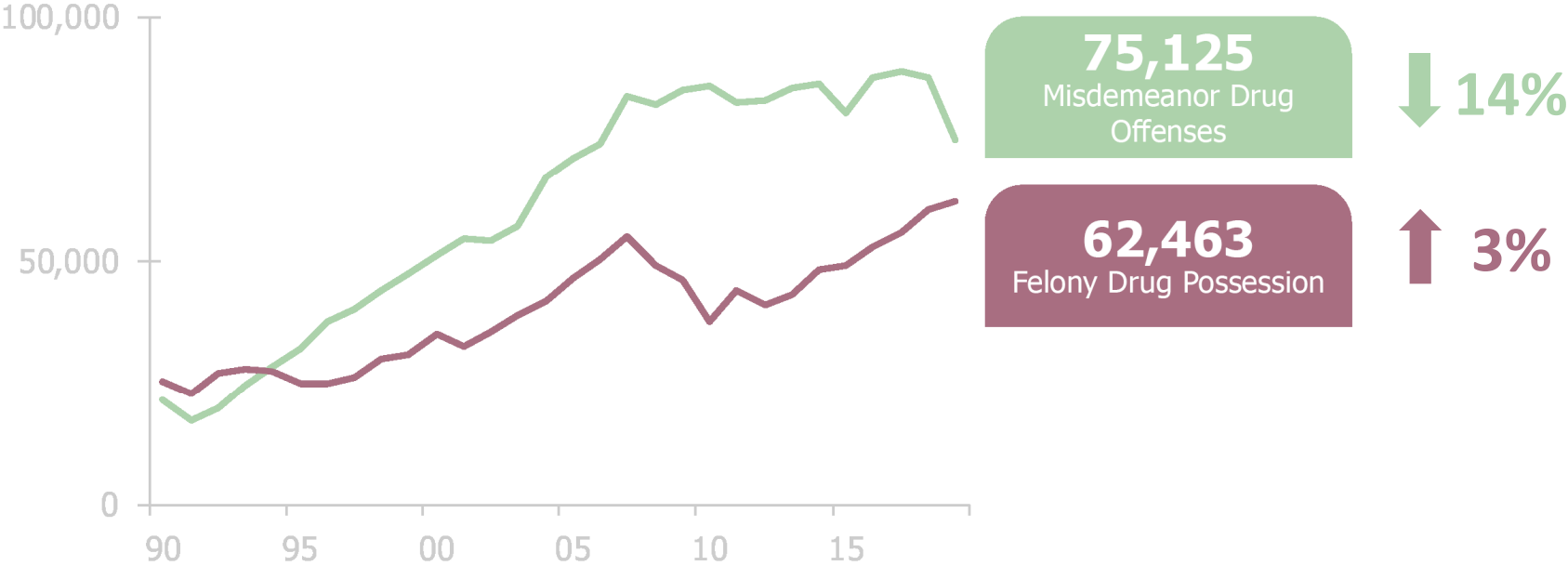
# Change in New Felony Cases Filed



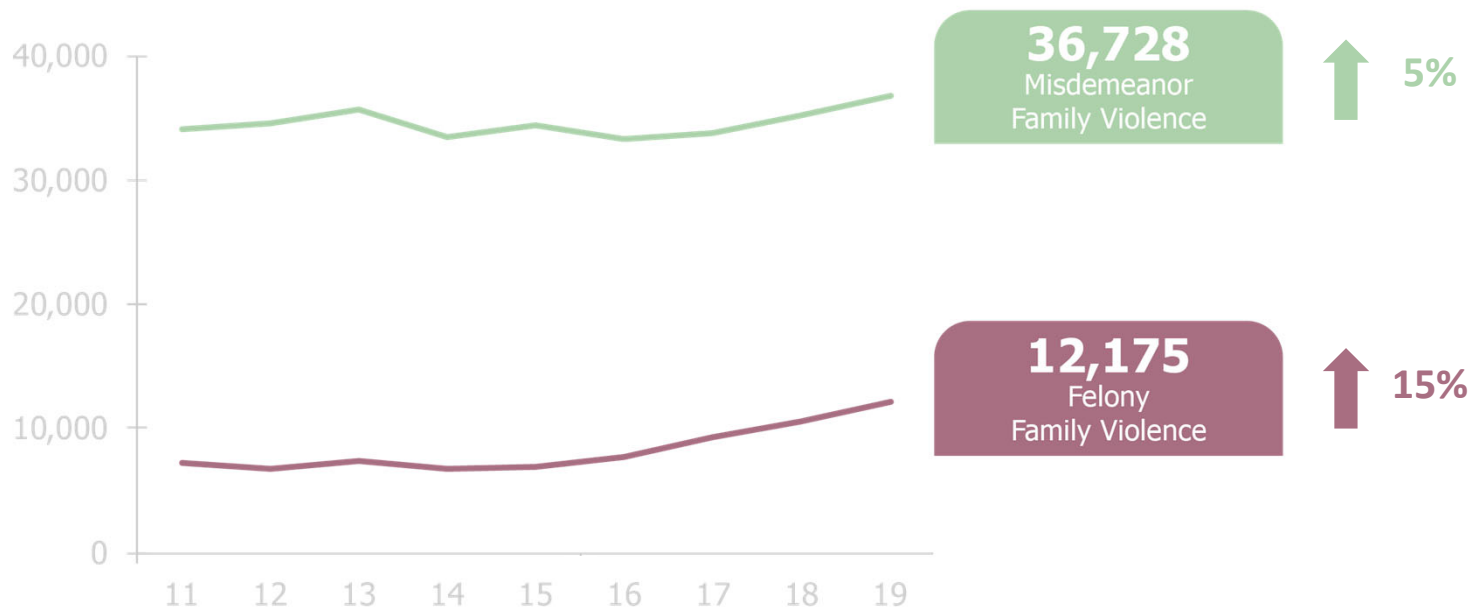
# Change in New A and B Misdemeanor Cases Filed



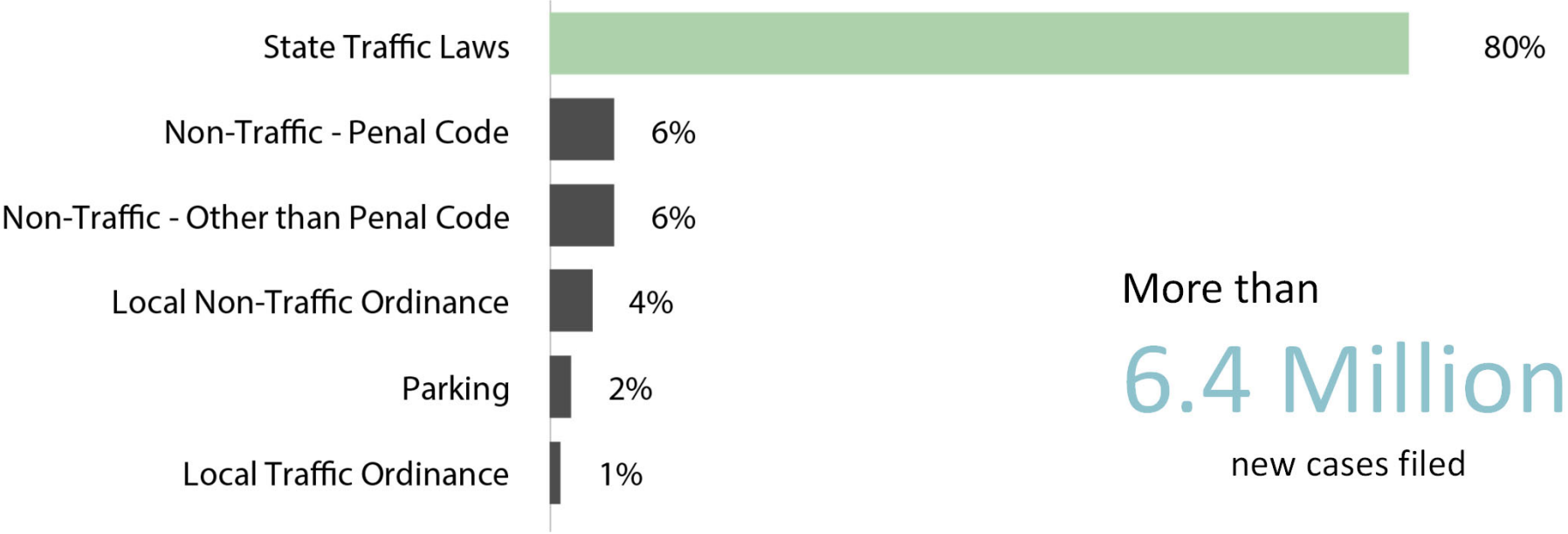
Felony drug possession cases reached a new peak. Misdemeanor drug cases sharply declined largely due to a drop in the prosecution of marijuana cases.



Family violence cases have been increasing, with felony offenses growing at a faster rate.



# New Fine Only Cases Filed in the Justice and Municipal Courts, 2019

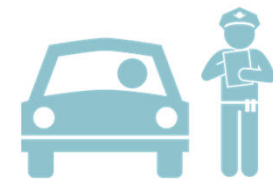
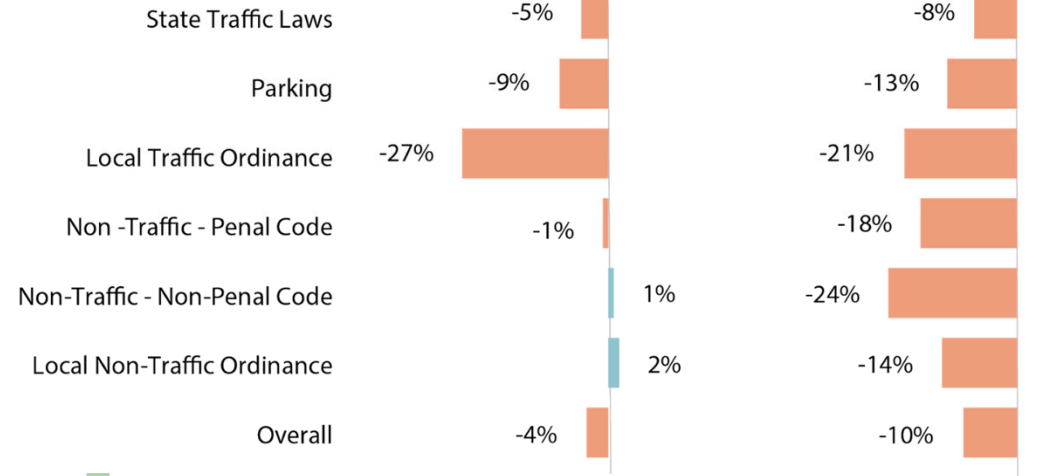
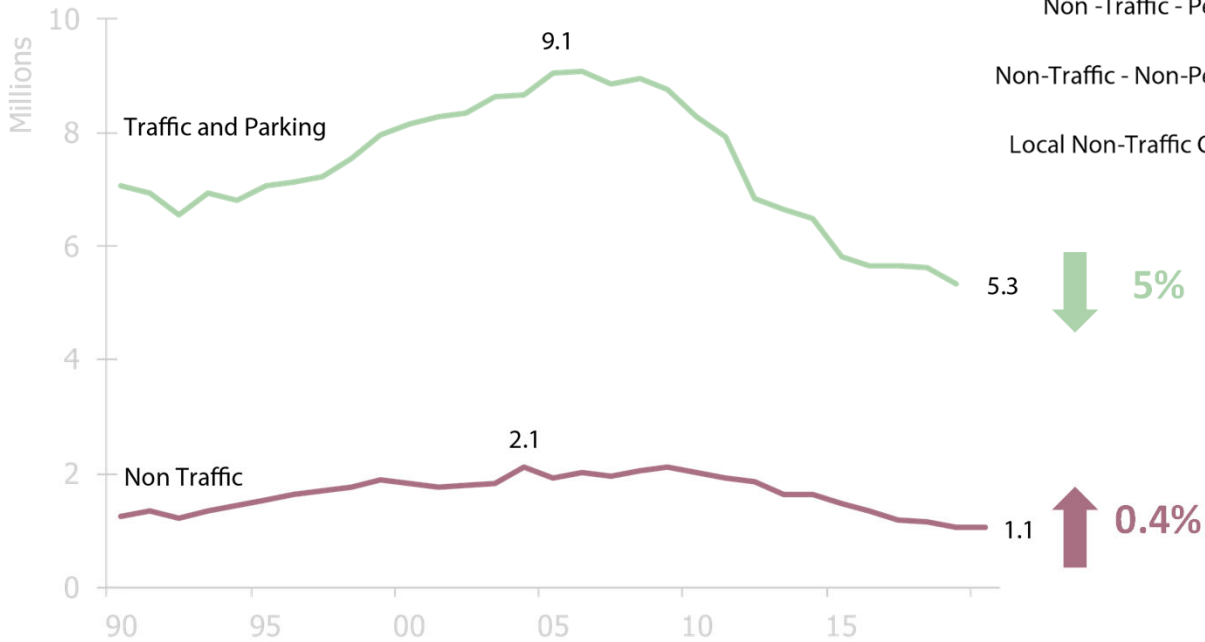


More than  
**6.4 Million**  
new cases filed





# Filings continued to decline in most categories.





Appellate

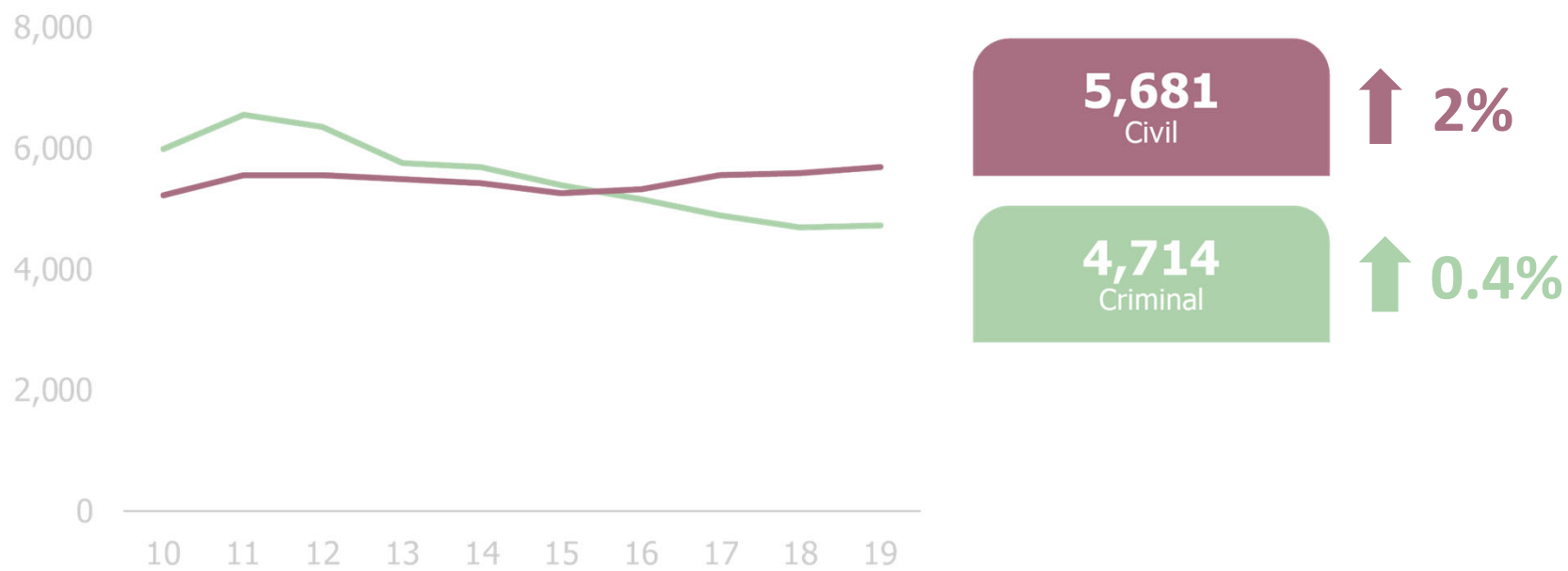
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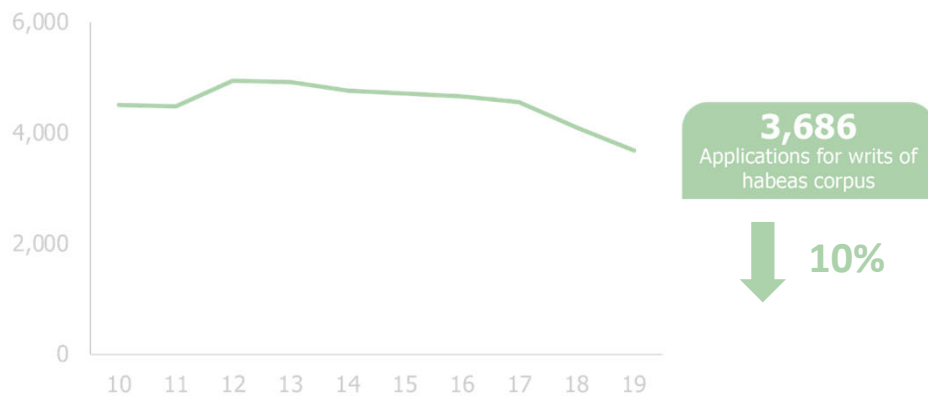
## Cases Filed in the Courts of Appeals

The number of civil cases filed in 2019 was the highest number in the history of the courts of appeals. After 8 years of decline, criminal cases levelled out in 2019.

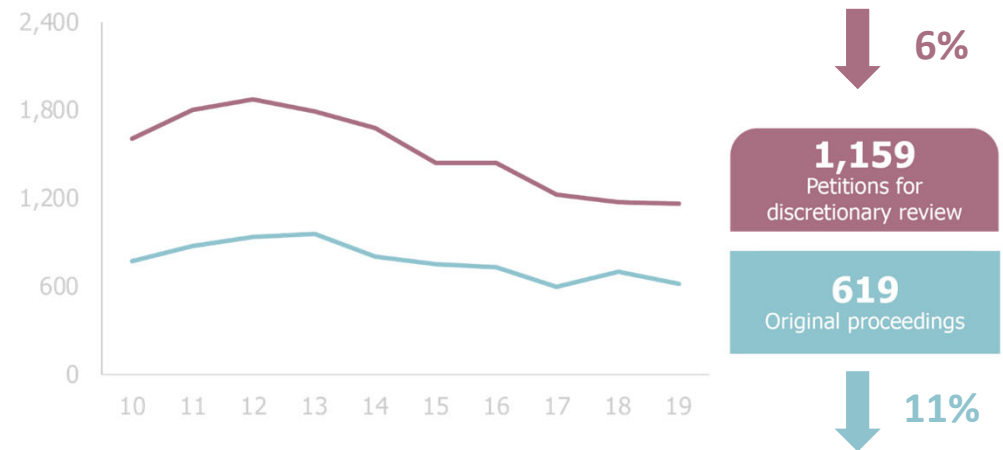


# Cases Filed in the Court of Criminal Appeals

Applications for writs of habeas corpus declined to the lowest level since at least 2001.



Petitions for discretionary review decreased to the lowest level since at least 1989. Original proceedings also declined.



# Cases Filed in the Supreme Court

Petitions for review, which account for the majority of the court's caseload, increased to the highest number filed since 2002. Regular causes added to the docket declined by almost a third, and the filings of other petitions and writs remained steady.

