

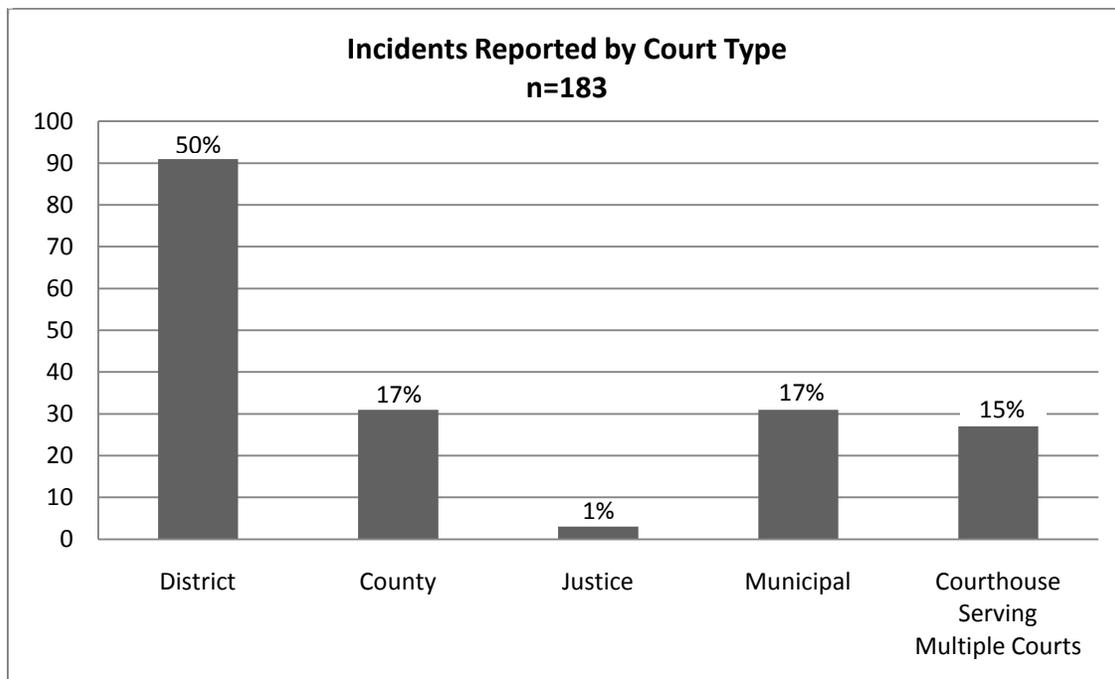


Office of Court Administration  
**Texas Court Security Incident Reports**  
**FY 2010**

Since September 2007, judges have been charged with submitting reports of security incidents that occurred in Texas courts (Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 102.017(f)) to the Office of Court Administration. The purpose of the Security Incident Report is to collect concrete, quantitative information about the frequency and nature of the security threats facing the judiciary.

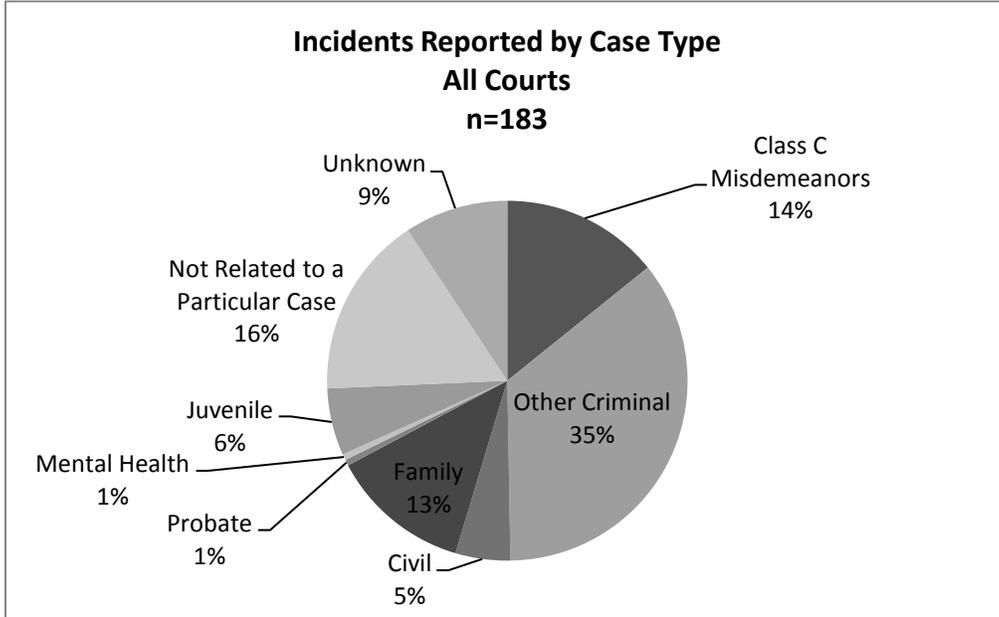
Between September 1, 2009 and August 31, 2010, **183 incident reports** were submitted to the Office of Court Administration. This corresponds to an **average of 15 incidents per month**. In comparison, 120 incidents were reported during the previous fiscal year.

**Incidents Reported by Court Type**—Of the 183 incident reports submitted, 50 percent were submitted by **district courts** (91 incidents), 17 percent by **county-level courts** (31 incidents), 1 percent by **justice courts** (3 incidents), 17 percent by **municipal courts** (31 incidents), and 15 percent by **courthouses serving multiple court types** (27 incidents).

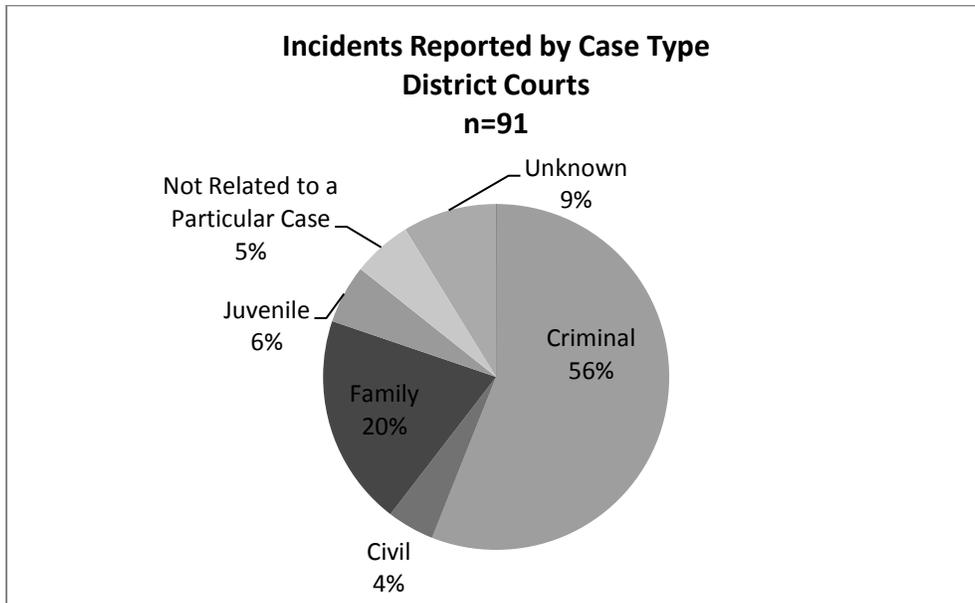


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**Incidents Reported by Case Type**—Thirty-five percent of all reported incidents were related to **criminal cases** involving Class B misdemeanors or higher level offenses (65 incidents). Sixteen percent of all reported incidents were **not related to a particular case** (30 incidents). Fourteen percent of incidents involved **Class C misdemeanor offenses** (26 incidents), and 13 percent of reported incidents involved **family cases** (23 incidents).

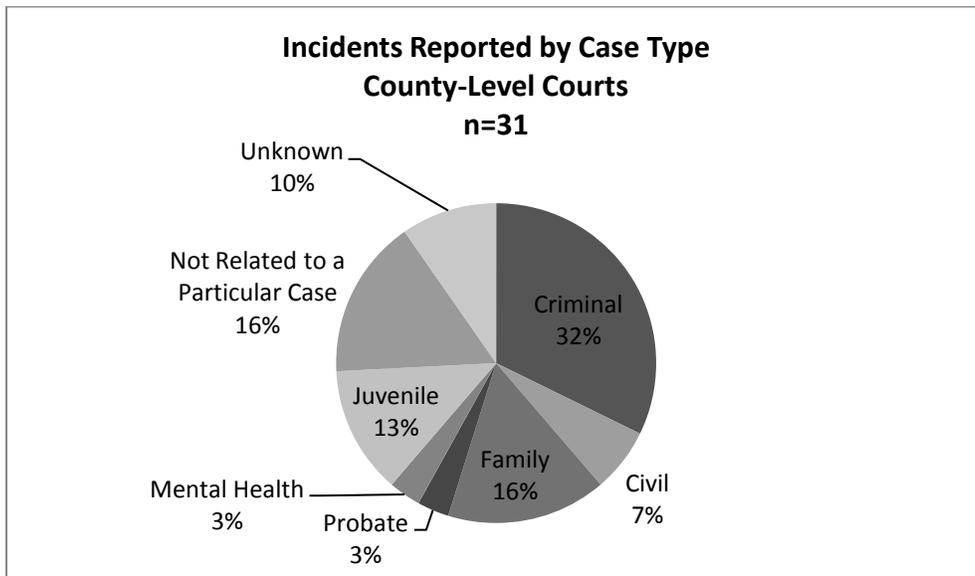


Of the incidents reported by district courts, 56 percent were related to **criminal cases** (51 incidents), and 20 percent involved **family cases** (18 incidents).

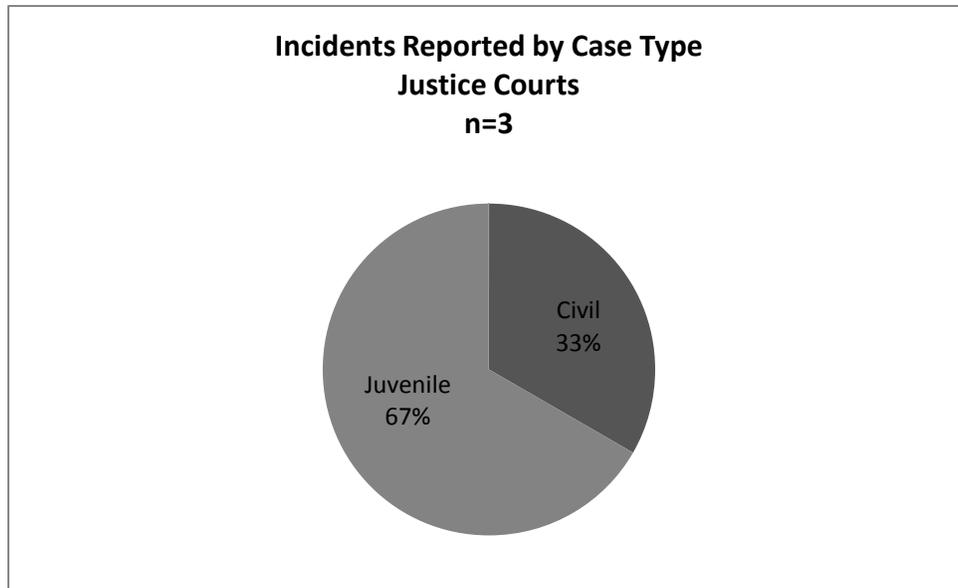


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Incidents reported by county-level courts were most often related to **criminal cases** (32 percent, or 10 incidents).

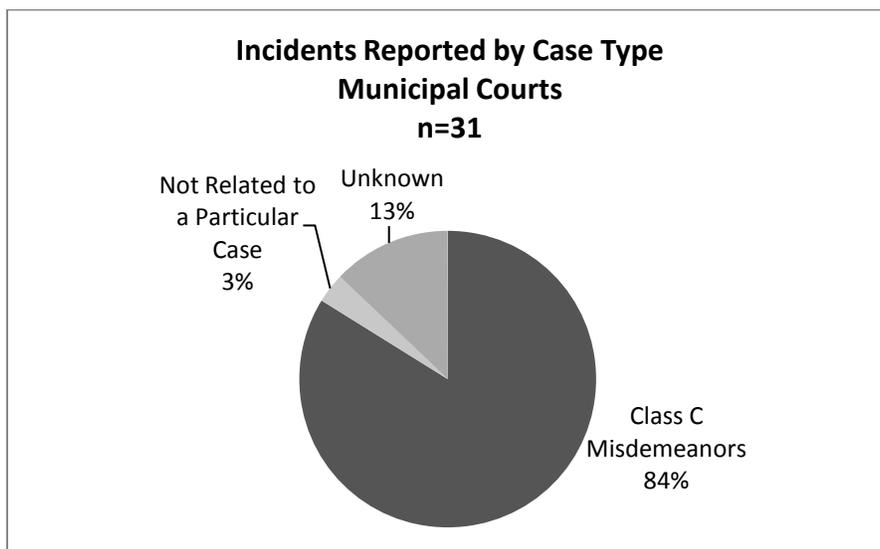


Incidents reported by justice courts were most often related to **juvenile cases** (67 percent, or 2 incidents).

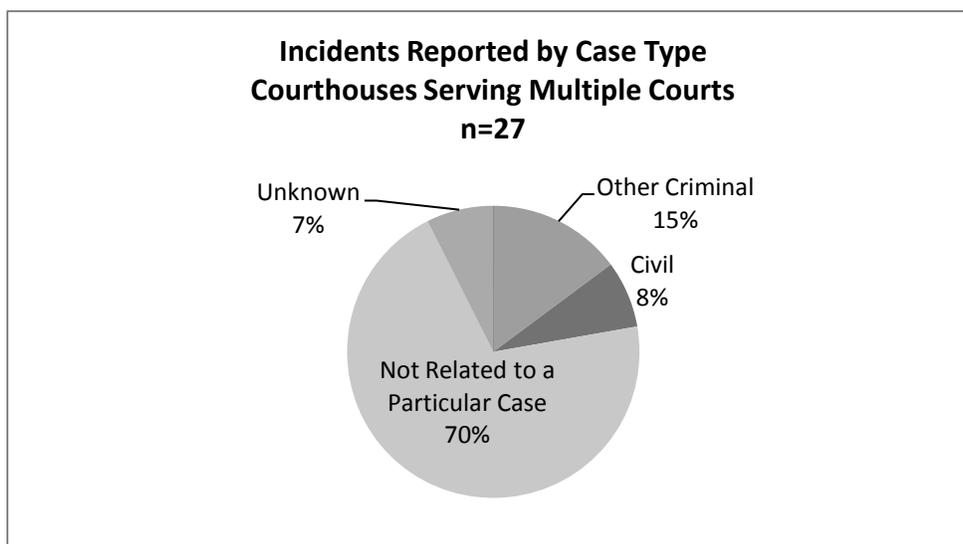


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Most incidents reported by municipal courts were related to **Class C misdemeanors** (26 incidents).



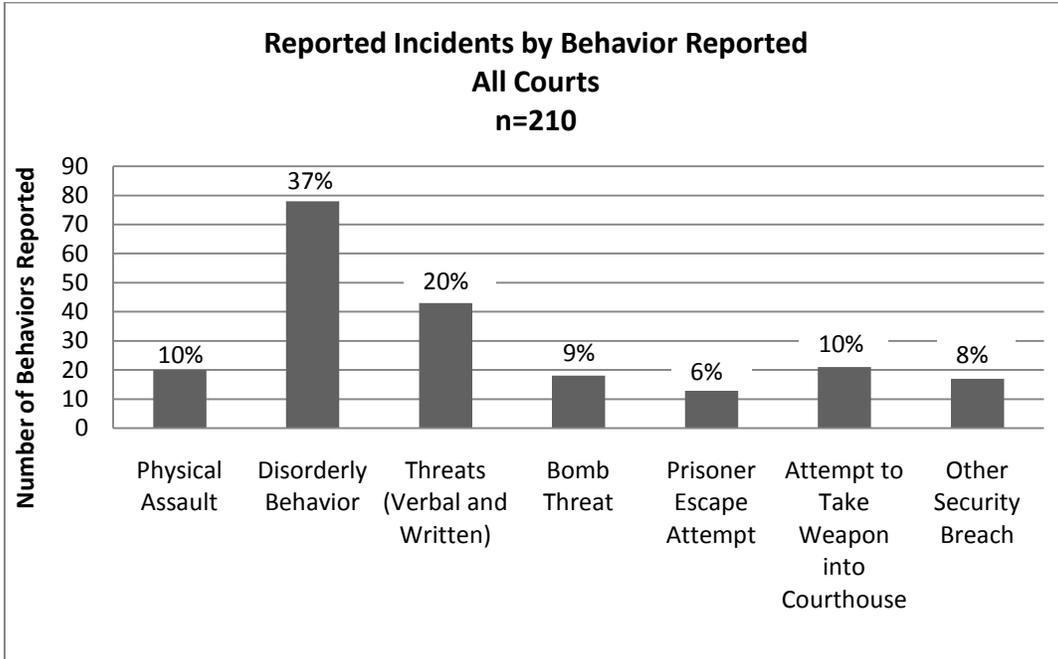
For courthouses that serve more than one court type, most incidents were **not related to a particular case** (19 incidents).



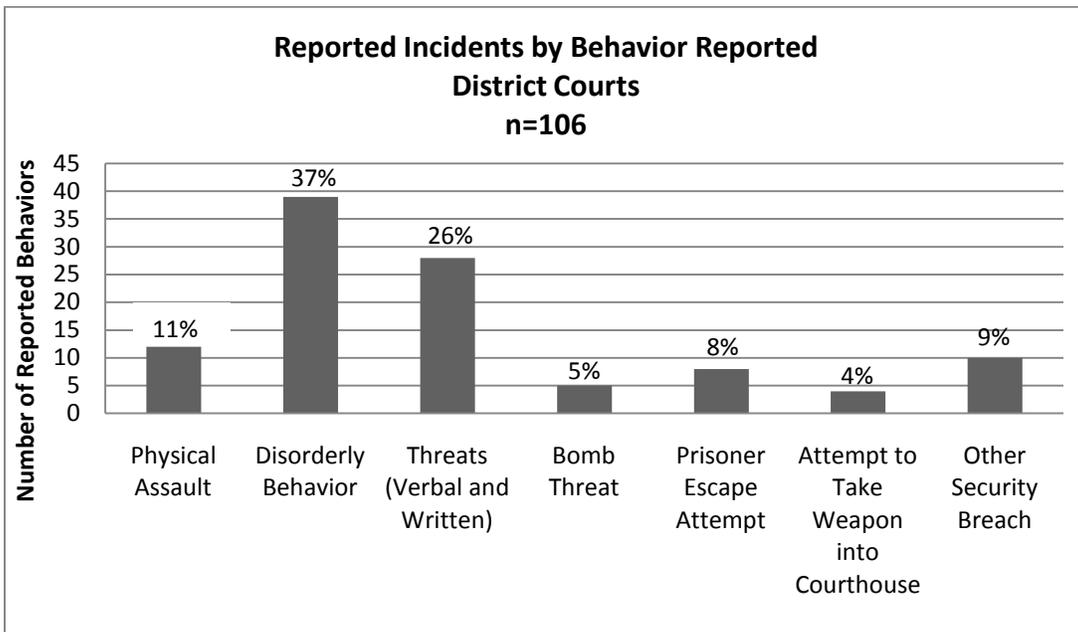
**Incidents by Behavior Reported**—The following charts summarize the reported incidents by type of behavior reported for each court type. Behavior types are categorized as follows: physical assault, disorderly behavior, threats (verbal and written), bomb threat, prisoner escape attempt, attempt to take a weapon into a courthouse, and other security breach. Incidents may involve multiple behaviors; therefore, the number of behaviors reported is more than the number of reported incidents (183 incidents). For example, a security incident may involve both disorderly behavior and an attempt to take a weapon into the courthouse.

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Of the reported incidents, 37 percent involved **disorderly behavior** (78 incidents). The next most common behavior reported was **threats** (both written and verbal) with 20 percent of reported incidents (43 incidents).



Of the incidents reported by district courts, 37 percent involved **disorderly behavior** (39 incidents). The next most common behavior reported by district courts was **threats (both written and verbal)** with 26 percent of reported incidents (28 incidents).

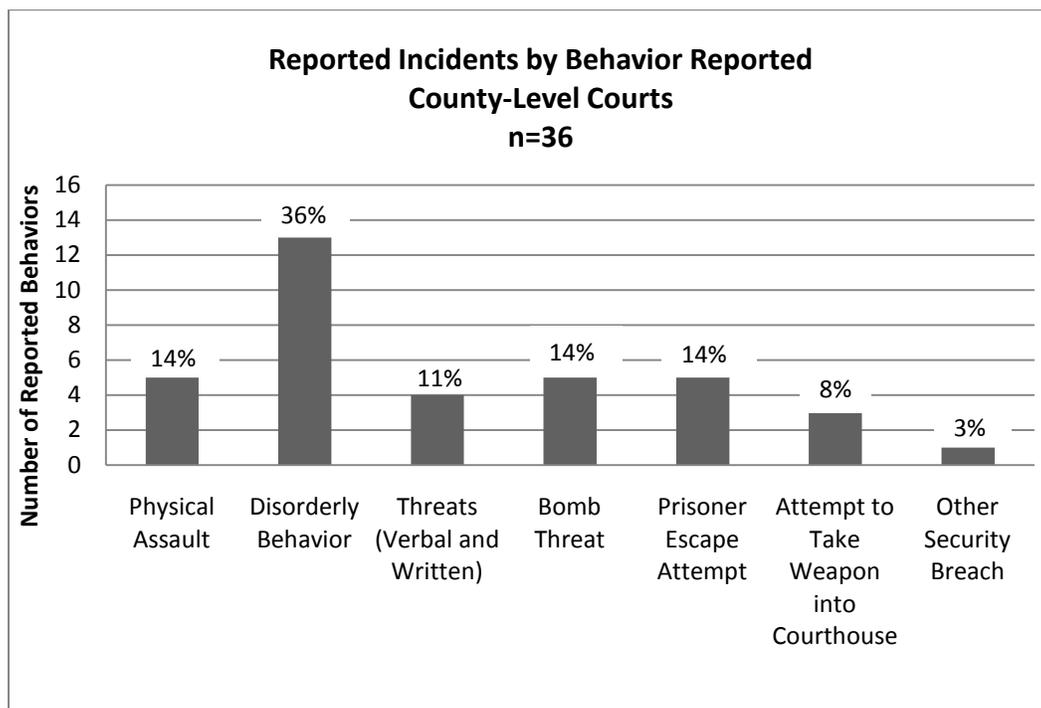


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The following are examples of incidents that occurred in district courts during the year.

- As a defendant was ordered into custody by the judge, the deputy tried to take the defendant to a holding cell. The defendant began yelling and resisting. The deputy took the defendant to the floor and attempted to cuff the defendant, but he resisted and bit the deputy's hand.
- A witness leaving the family court building was physically assaulted by an individual in the parking garage adjacent to the Family Law Center. County employees intervened and the suspect left the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital.
- The parties began with verbal assaults on each other and it progressed to pushing and punching. One of the parties, who was confined to a wheelchair, was pushed off the wheelchair and fell to the ground. Deputies arrived at the scene and separated the parties. Three females were taken into custody.
- The father of a child victim began to get anxious during testimony regarding the psychological diagnosis of the victim. The father made an outburst and ran toward the defendant. Deputies struggled to subdue him. After the father was handcuffed, he was isolated until he calmed down. He was ordered to stay away from the Justice Center for the remainder of the trial.

Of the incidents reported by county-level courts, 36 percent involved **disorderly behavior** (13 incidents).

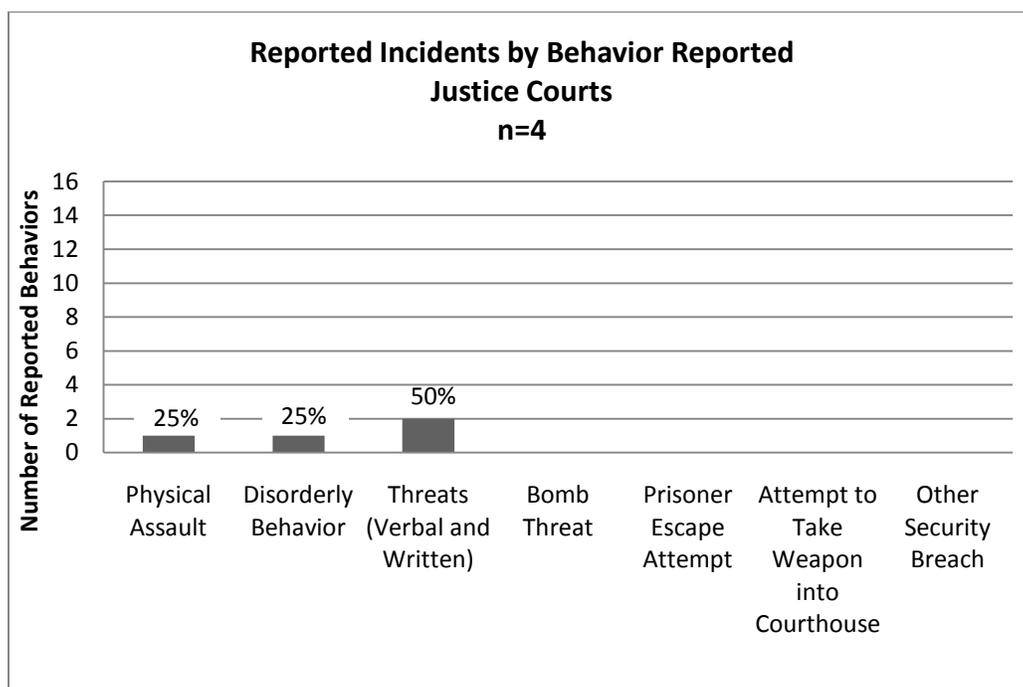


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The following are examples of incidents that occurred in county-level courts during the year:

- While a defendant was being held pending an evaluation of mental status, the individual was sending the judge inappropriate letters.
- An individual engaged in an argument with another individual loudly and aggressively enough to cause the bailiff to activate his panic alarm. A citation for disorderly conduct was issued.
- The defendant was in custody awaiting a hearing on numerous misdemeanors and began pulling down the suspended ceiling tiles in an effort to get into the ceiling and escape. When he was discovered, he was standing on the bench covered in insulation.

Of the incidents reported by justice courts, 50 percent involved **threats (both written and verbal)** (2 incidents).

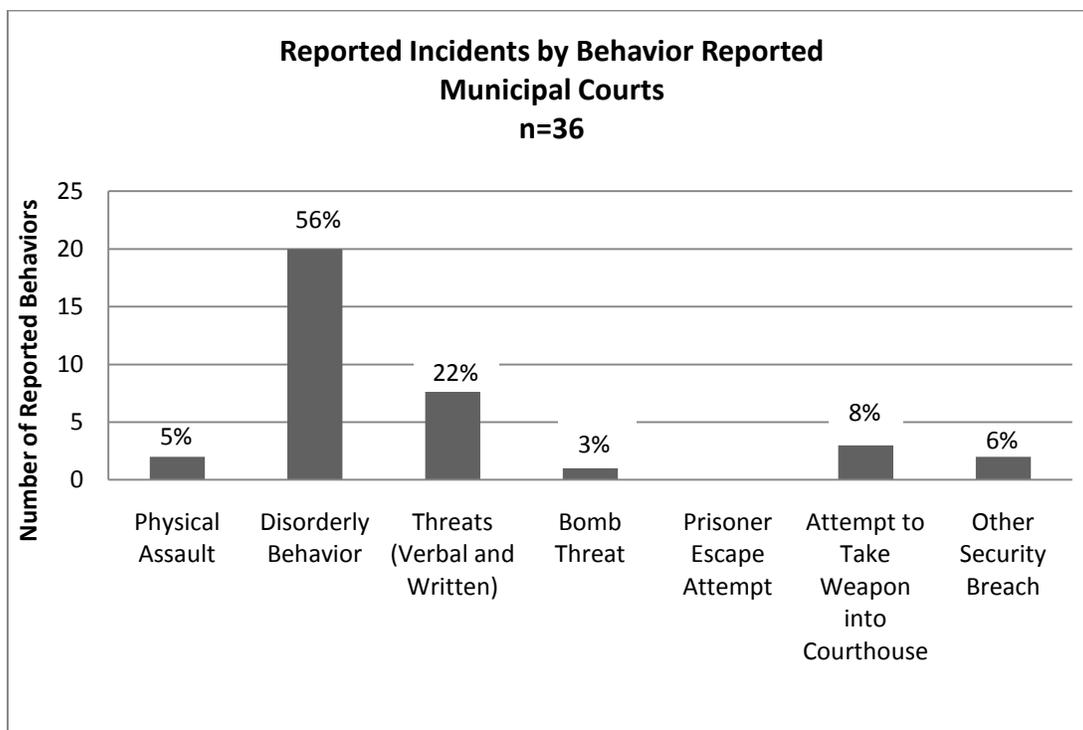


The following are examples of incidents that occurred in justice courts during the year:

- A defendant sent an explicit letter threatening the use of a weapon against the judge and constables. The defendant was charged with a felony and apprehended.
- A sixteen-year old juvenile female was involved in an incident during a juvenile non-traffic misdemeanor docket. The juvenile was ultimately charged with making a terroristic threat.

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Of the incidents reported by municipal courts, 56 percent involved **disorderly behavior** (20 incidents). The next most common behavior reported by municipal courts was **threats (both written and verbal)** with 22 percent of reported municipal incidents (8 incidents).

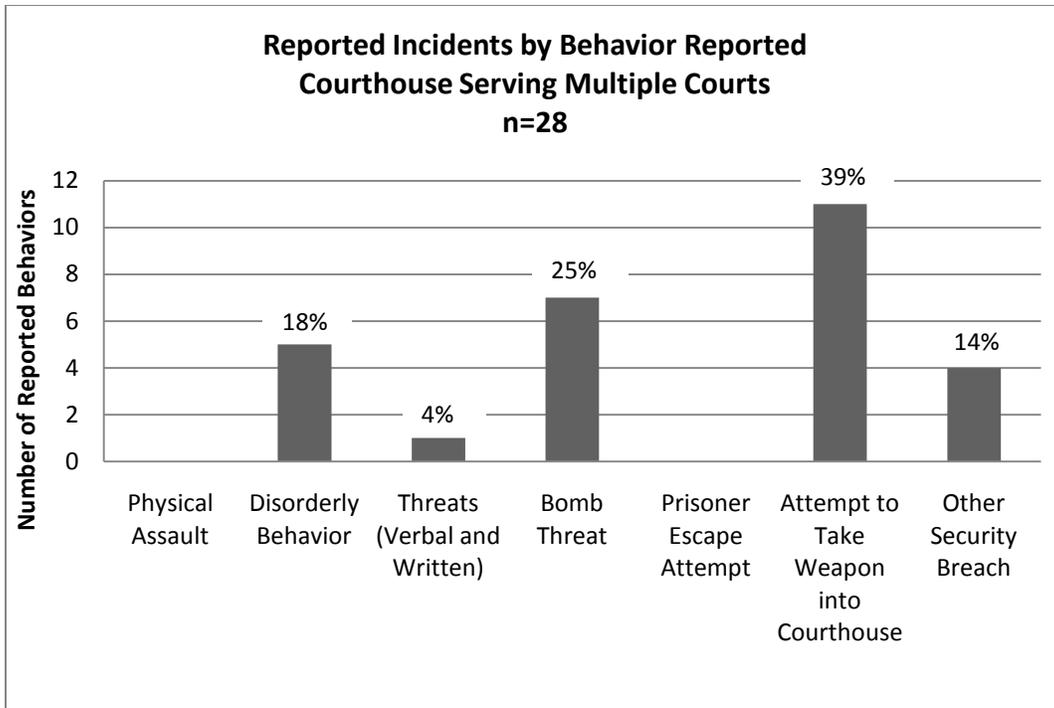


The following are some examples of incidents that occurred in municipal courts during the year:

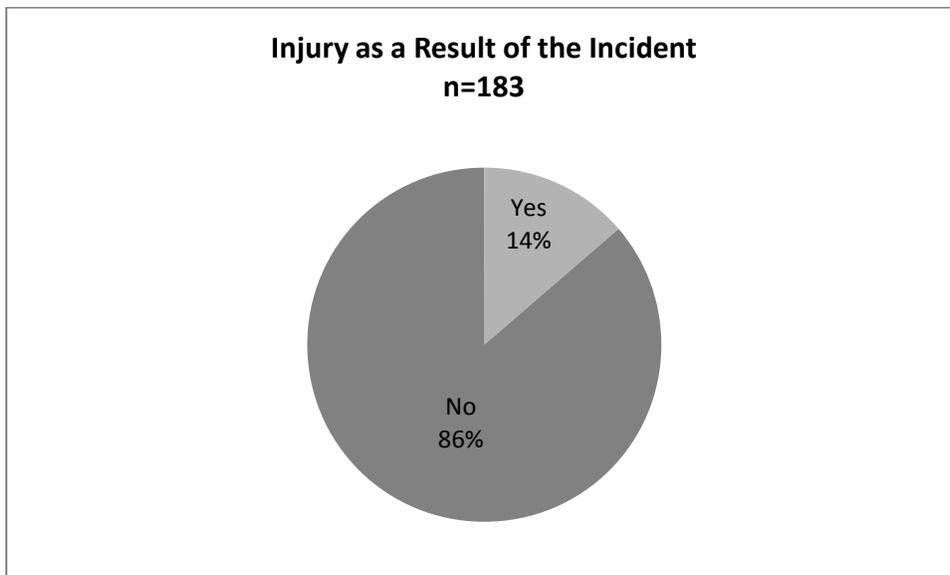
- A defendant became angry when the judge found him guilty. The defendant began yelling vulgarities in the courtroom. The judge ordered the defendant to be removed from the courtroom and the defendant was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- A phone message was left on court voice mail stating there was a bomb in court. No bombs were found. Caller was located, arrested, and charged.
- A defendant was found guilty by a jury. The defendant was very difficult during the trial and left the building after the trial. He then returned stating that he wanted to watch the second trial. The defendant kicked the officer upon entering the court room and was charged as a result of the incident.

Of the incidents reported by courthouses serving multiple court types, 39 percent involved an **attempt to take a weapon into the courthouse** (11 incidents). The next most common behavior reported was **bomb threats** with 25 percent of reported incidents (7 incidents each).

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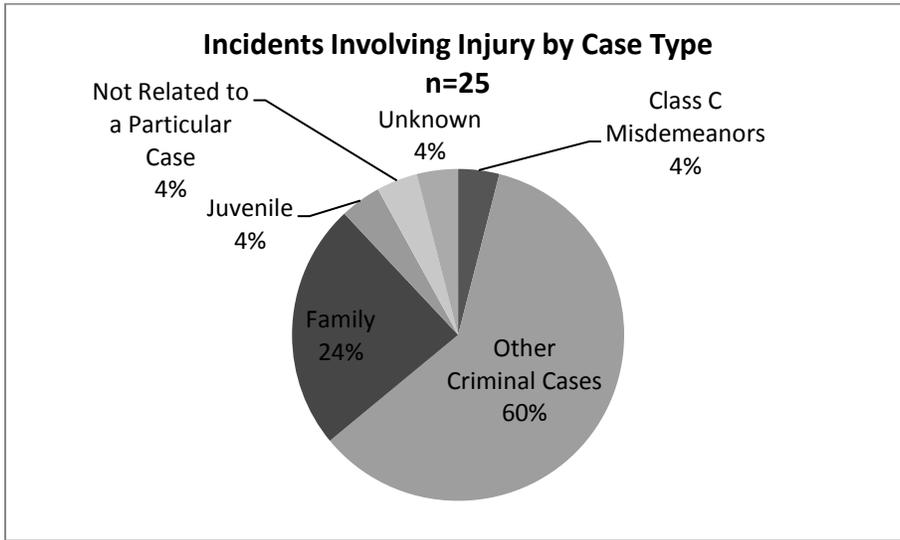


**Incidents Resulting in Injury**—Fourteen percent of the reported incidents resulted in **injury** (25 incidents). In 86 percent of incidents, **no injuries** were reported (158 incidents).

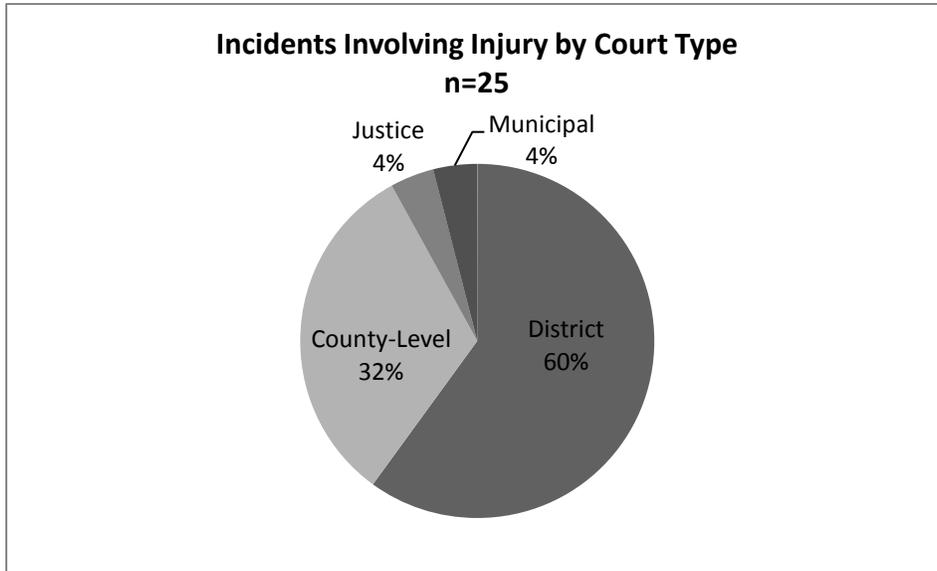


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Sixty percent of the 25 reported incidents that resulted in injury, involved **criminal cases** (Class B misdemeanors or higher level offenses, 15 incidents).

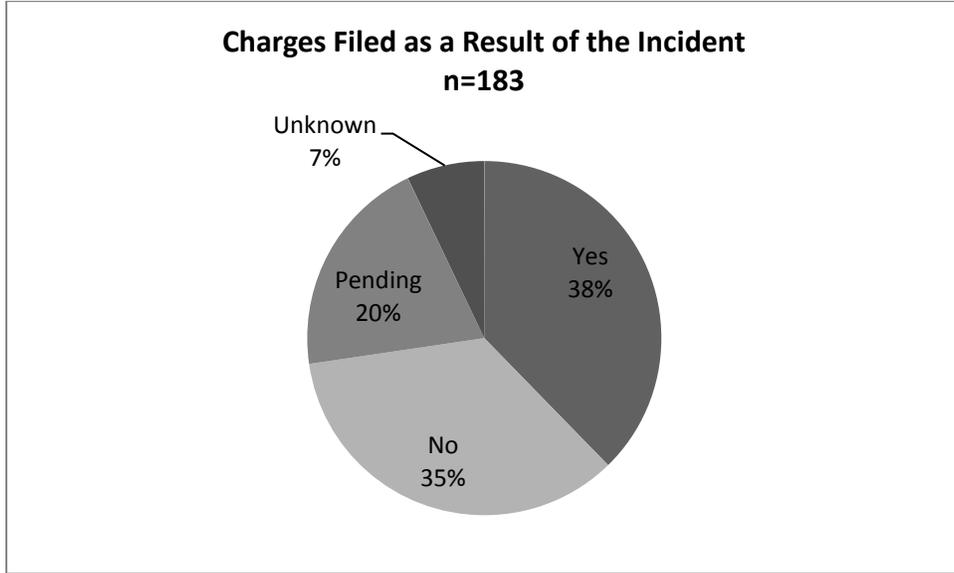


Of the 25 incidents involving injury, 60 percent were reported by **district courts** (15 incidents) and 32 percent were reported by **county-level courts** (8 incidents). Four percent of incidents involving injury were reported by both **justice courts** and **municipal courts** (1 incident each).

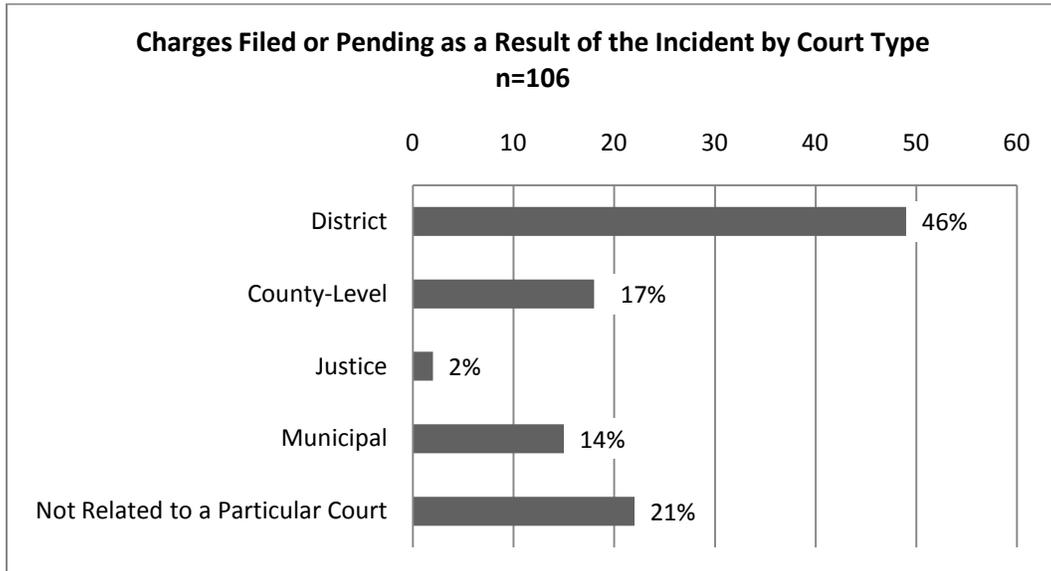


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**Incidents Resulting in Charges Filed**—Charges were filed in 38 percent of reported incidents (69 incidents). In 20 percent of the incidents, charges were pending (37 incidents). Charges were not filed in 35 percent of the incidents (64 incidents). In 7 percent of the incidents, the status of charges being filed was unknown (13 incidents).

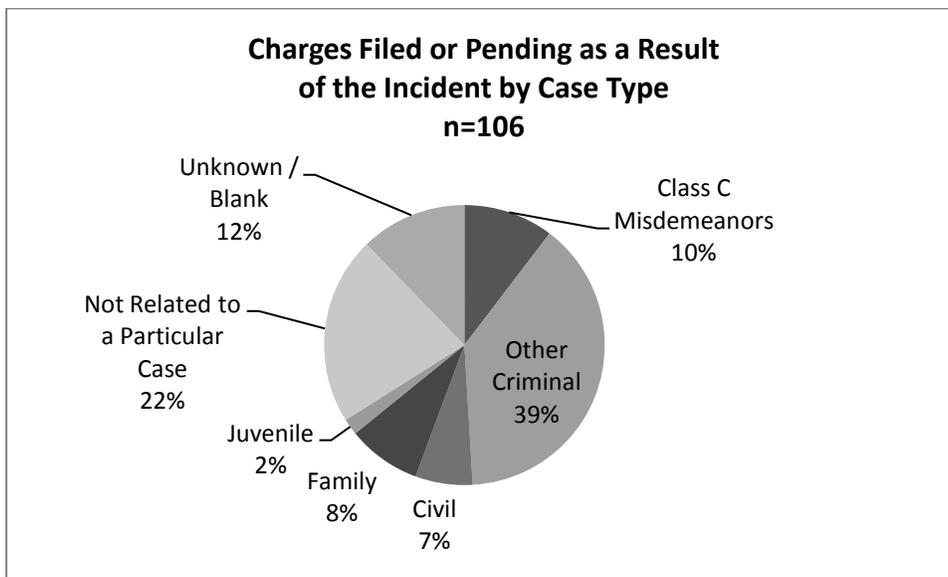


**District courts** reported 46 percent of the incidents that resulted in charges filed or pending (49 incidents). Twenty-one percent of the incidents resulting in charges filed or pending were not related to a particular court (22 incidents).



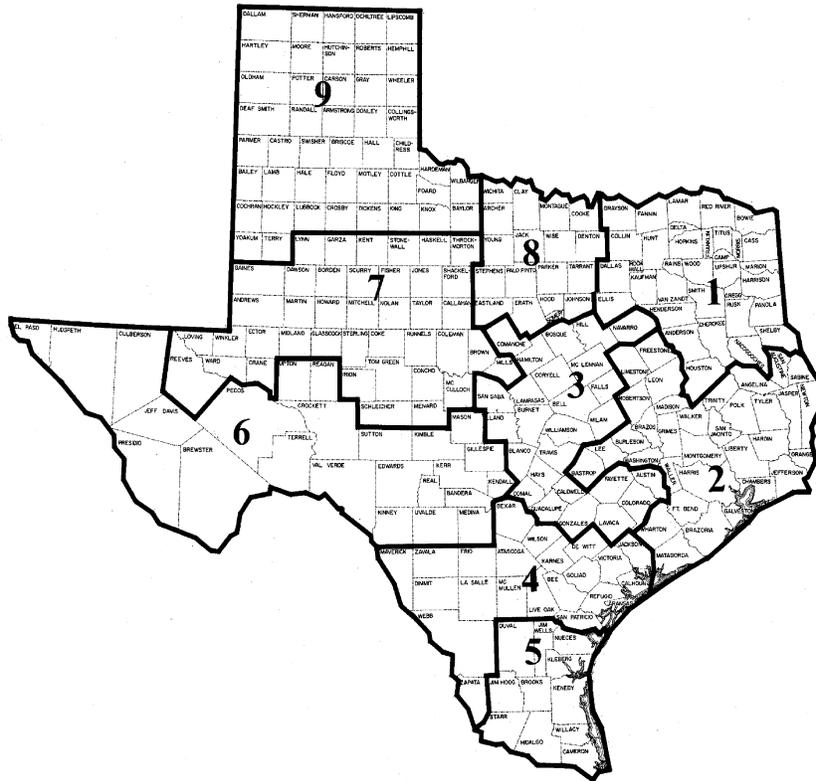
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Thirty-nine percent of incidents resulting in charges filed or pending were related to **higher level criminal cases** (41 incidents), while 10 percent were related to **Class C misdemeanor cases** (11 incidents).



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**Incidents Reported by Administrative Judicial Region (AJR)**



<b>Incidents Reported by Administrative Judicial Region</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Incidents</b>
1	36	20%
2	28	15%
3	25	14%
4	60	33%
5	2	1%
6	6	3%
7	5	3%
8	16	9%
9	5	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by District Courts</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Angelina	1	0	0	1
Bell	4	0	0	4
Bexar	15	8	20	43
Bowie	0	0	1	1
Brazos	1	0	0	1
Brown	0	0	1	1
Chambers	1	0	0	1
Collin	0	4	1	5
Comal	2	0	0	2
Cooke	1	0	0	1
Dallas	15	10	13	38
Duval	0	0	1	1
Eastland	1	1	0	2
Ector	0	1	0	1
El Paso	1	0	0	1
Fort Bend	4	2	2	8
Freestone	1	0	0	1
Galveston	2	0	2	4
Gonzales	0	1	0	1
Gray	1	1	0	2
Guadalupe	0	0	1	1
Harris	2	0	0	2
Hidalgo	2	0	0	2
Hill	4	0	0	4
Hockley	1	0	0	1
Hood	0	1	0	1
Hunt	3	0	1	4
Jefferson	0	0	2	2
Johnson	0	1	0	1
Kleberg	1	0	0	1

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by District Courts (continued)</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Lavaca	0	0	1	1
Lubbock	9	5	1	15
Matagorda	0	1	2	3
Maverick	1	0	0	1
Montgomery	1	0	13	14
Nueces	1	0	0	1
Pecos	0	1	0	1
Polk	1	0	0	1
San Patricio	0	1	0	1
Tarrant	7	4	7	18
Terry	0	1	0	1
Titus	1	0	0	1
Tom Green	3	0	4	7
Travis	16	2	6	24
Van Zandt	0	1	0	1
Waller	0	0	1	1
Webb	0	7	10	17
Wilson	1	0	0	1
Wood	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>248</b>

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by County-Level Courts</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Angelina	1	1	0	2
Aransas	1	0	0	1
Bexar	1	1	9	11
Brewster	0	0	1	1
Comal	1	0	0	1
Dallas	3	1	4	8
El Paso	0	0	4	4
Fort Bend	4	1	1	6
Gray	0	1	0	1
Hall	0	0	1	1
Hill	2	0	0	2
Hood	3	0	0	3
Kaufman	0	0	1	1
Lavaca	1	0	0	1
Lubbock	0	4	3	7
Matagorda	1	0	0	1
Montgomery	0	0	1	1
Tarrant	0	0	2	2
Travis	3	0	3	6
Webb	2	1	1	4
Wood	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>65</b>

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by Justice Courts</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brown	0	2	0	2
Harris	2	2	2	6
Hood	2	1	0	3
Jefferson	1	0	0	1
Lubbock	1	0	0	1
Titus	0	0	1	1
Travis	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>Incident Reports Submitted by Municipal Courts</b>				
<b>City</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Addison	0	2	0	2
Alvarado	1	0	0	1
Alvin	1	0	0	1
Aransas Pass	1	0	0	1
Arlington	1	0	0	1
Austin	14	7	7	28
Balch Springs	2	1	1	4
Bastrop	1	1	0	2
Bryan	0	1	1	2
Castle Hills	0	2	1	3
Cedar Hill	0	1	1	2
Cedar Park	2	0	1	3
College Station	1	0	0	1
Copperas Cove	0	0	2	2
Corinth	1	0	0	1
Corpus Christi	1	1	0	2
Corsicana	2	0	0	2
Crockett	0	1	0	1

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted by Municipal Courts (continued)</b>				
<b>City</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dalworthington Gardens	1	1	1	3
Donna	0	1	0	1
El Paso	6	3	1	10
Eules	2	2	1	5
Ferris	0	0	1	1
Forney	1	4	2	7
Garland	0	4	1	5
Greenville	1	0	0	1
Harlingen	2	0	0	2
Heath	0	1	0	1
Hillsboro	1	0	0	1
Houston	9	1	0	10
Hurst	0	0	4	4
Irving	2	0	0	2
Jourdanton	1	0	0	1
Karnes	0	0	1	1
Lancaster	1	0	0	1
Mabank	0	0	1	1
Mercedes	0	0	1	1
Midland	1	0	0	1
Nacogdoches	0	1	2	3
Paris	0	0	1	1
Pasadena	1	0	0	1
Pearsall	1	0	0	1
Pflugerville	0	1	0	1
Richardson	1	0	0	1
Round Rock	1	1	0	2
San Angelo	2	1	0	3
Sugar Land	0	1	0	1
Webster	2	0	0	2
Yoakum	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>135</b>

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<b>Incident Reports Submitted—Not Related to a Particular Court</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bexar	0	3	14	17
Dallas	0	0	2	2
El Paso	1	0	0	1
Harris	0	1	0	1
Kaufman	1	0	0	1
Montgomery	0	0	1	1
Tarrant	0	5	2	7
Travis	7	1	4	12
Webb	3	3	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>52</b>