

STARK COUNTY FAMILY COURT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Hon Jim D. James



Hon Rosemarie A. Hall



Hon David R. Nist

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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Mission

Stark County Family Court promotes a safe and healthy community by protecting and supporting children and families.

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From the Court

STARK COUNTY FAMILY COURT

Dear Stark County,

The mission of Stark County Family Court is to promote a safe and healthy community by protecting and supporting children and families. Meeting this mission is evidenced by the Court processing a combined total of 10, 281 Domestic Relations (2989) and Juvenile (7292) cases in 2017.

How this Court continues to meet the identified mission is not only evidenced by the number of cases served but by the willingness of judicial leadership to continuously look to identify problems, to collect and analyze data and to take action. Judge Jim James, Judge Rosemarie Hall and Judge David Nist serve the residents of Stark County through sound decision making and developing and/or enhancing services provided. It remains a judicial priority to implement court operations that are more efficient and cost effective than previous years.

In 2017, the Court continued to seek out grant opportunities. The Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) RECLAIM grant supports evidenced based community programming efforts designed to meet the needs of juvenile offenders or juveniles at risk of offending. This grant continues to support a variety of programs which focus on community treatment, intervention, diversion and prevention.

In addition to RECLAIM grant funding, Stark County Family Court is a Title IV-E Juvenile Court. Title IV-E is a federal program that subsidizes the cost of care for eligible youth placed in foster care. The objective of any IV-E Court is to reduce reliance on out of home care by encouraging the use of prevention and reunification as well as providing permanency planning.

In 2017, the Court also received a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court. The funds from this grant were used, in part, to develop an Integrated Domestic Violence Program. The development of the program required a collaborative effort involving Judges from Stark County Family Court, Stark County Common Pleas, General Division, Alliance Municipal Court, Canton Municipal Court and Massillon Municipal Court. The Stark County Prosecutor's Office worked with members from each Court to develop the Integrated Domestic Violence Program which helped to assess lethality. Upon development of the program and the lethality assessment, all 26 Police Departments within Stark County were trained in the process. The Integrated Domestic Violence Program and the lethality assessment were developed with the purpose of providing an evidence-based standard of practice to reduce intimate partner homicide, increase victim safety, and enhance collaboration within Stark County.

Further, a portion of the Ohio Supreme Court grant provided each of the courts with a specialized printer allowing for the printing of Civil Protection Order (CPO) cards. Upon receiving a CPO, the Court now prints the order onto a wallet size plastic card that can be carried on a recipient providing for ease of presentation should it become necessary.

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Federal and state grants are essential to offset costs that would otherwise be attributed to county dollars. Stark County Family Court takes great pride in the ability to seek out and obtain additional funding streams which, in turn, eases the burden placed upon the County's General Fund.

Additionally, the Court was involved in an office renovation project in 2017. The project was fully funded by the Court with no cost to the Stark County General Fund. The completed renovations allow for service delivery to families in a safe space that promotes readiness to change through supportive interactions.

Technological advances in 2017 included the Court's implementation of the Virtual Desktop Interface (VDI) Program. This program allows court staff to utilize county resources while not at their workstation. An Internet connection on a laptop or other PC provides a safe and secure connection to the County's database and the employee's network storage. Judges, Magistrates, Department Heads and field officers now have the capability to work as if they are in their offices from virtually anywhere. Advancements in technology also allowed the County Office Building, which houses the Court, to become more secure. Family Court, along with the Stark County Commissioners, instituted employee badges and card readers for access to secured areas in the Court. Employees no longer need keys as the simple swipe of an employee badge will grant access. The issuance of the employee badges provides better control and monitoring of secured areas for increased safety throughout the Stark County Office Building.

In December 2017, Stark County Family Court was approved by the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) State Executive Committee and ODYS as a new JDAI site for Ohio. As written in the Stark County Family Court's JDAI welcome letter "JDAI is a process, not a conventional program, which means JDAI helps restructure policy and practice to create system improvements that reach far beyond detention alone." JDAI is a process looking to provide the right service, to the right youth, at the right time and in the ideal setting. The Court acknowledges there will always be a need for secure detention. However, the Court is committed to developing policies and practices to ensure the detention of the right youth. The Court's participation in JDAI also allows the Court to further examine the continuum of care provided to families and shore up any gaps in services. 2017 allowed for the beginning of this process and 2018 will begin the development of Stark County Family Court's commitment to JDAI practices.

Finally, the excellence of the Court is not only attributed to judicial leadership but also to the staff. Stark County Family Court boasts one of the best service ensembles in the state. In every area of the Court you will find dedicated, knowledgeable and experienced service providers. I am privileged every day to work alongside such a group of consummate professionals.

In compliance with Ohio revised Code 2151.18, it is my honor to submit the 2017 Annual Report.

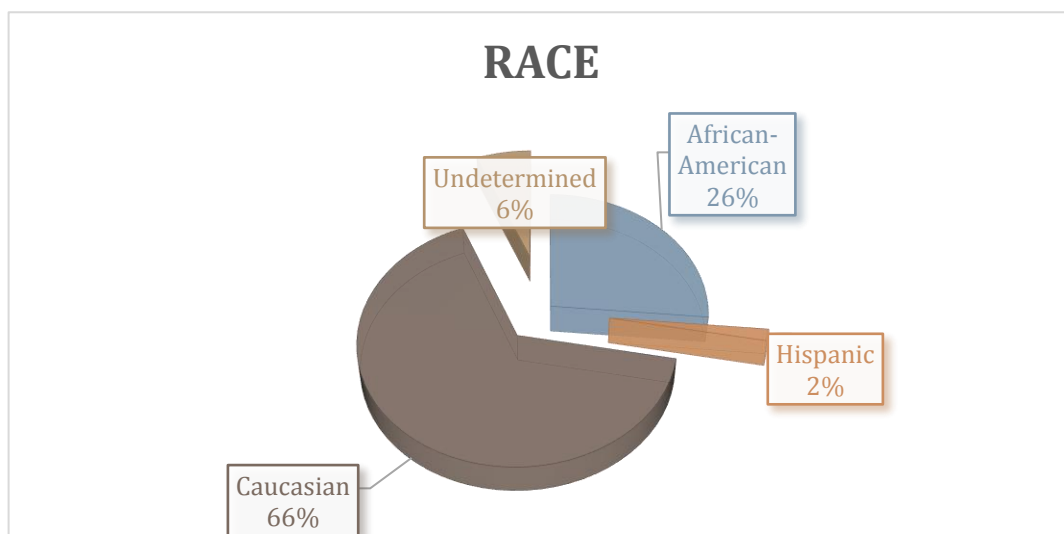
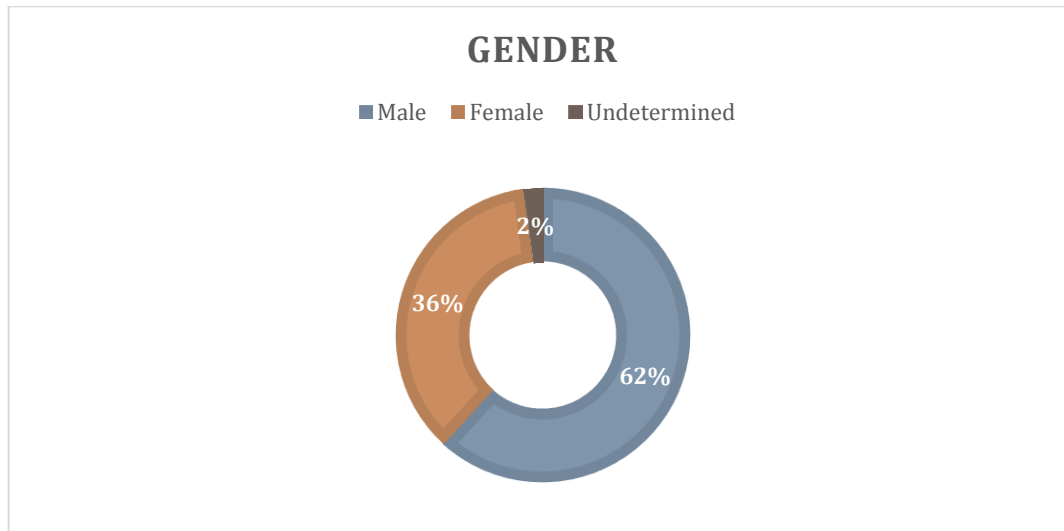
Respectfully,

Diane

Diane Wilson,
Court Administrator

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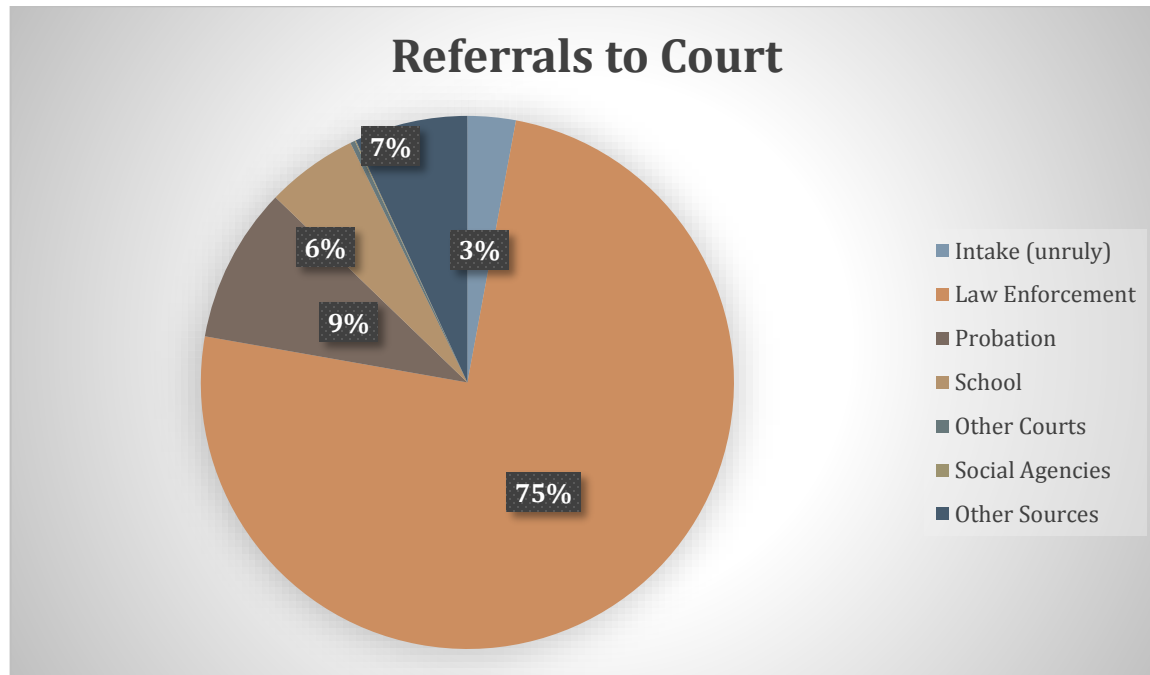
Referral Demographics



These graphs represent the gender and race of juveniles who are charged with delinquent offenses and then referred to Stark County Family Court.

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Juvenile Referrals



This graph illustrates all juvenile referrals made to Family Court.

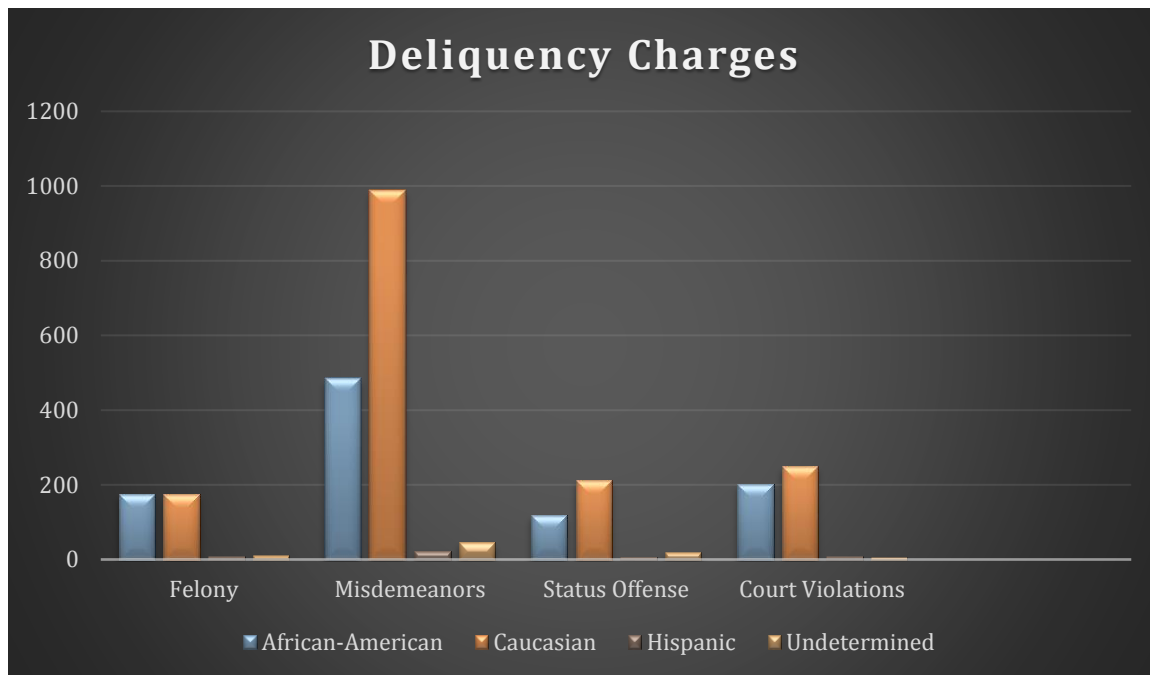
As depicted by the graph, law enforcement was responsible for most of the court referrals in 2017. Law enforcement referrals come from all law enforcement agencies located within Stark County. For instance, referrals come from the State Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Office, Parks and city/municipality police departments.

The Juvenile Probation Department and the Ohio Department of Youth Services Department of Parole referrals were the second largest referral source. These referrals are typically for violations of probation or parole.

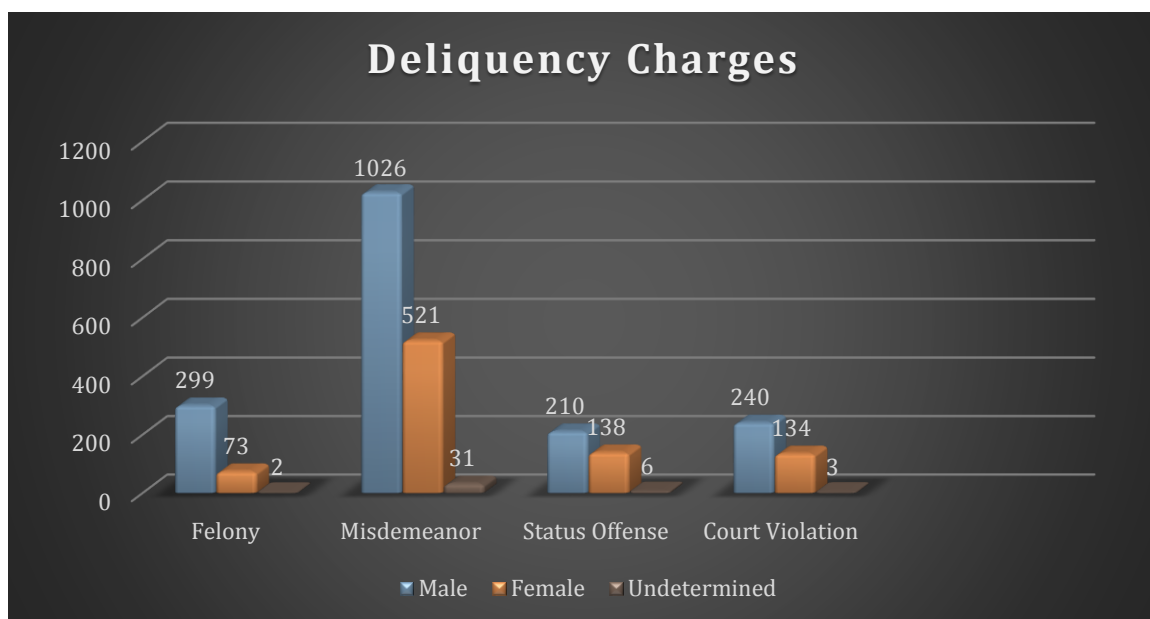
The Court Intake Department which addresses unruly (status offense) behavior referred 3% of the cases.

The remainder of referrals comes from social service agencies, such as the Department of Job and Family Services, and referrals from other courts. The referrals from other courts come in the form of cases transferred to Stark County for disposition.

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This graph represents charges brought to Stark County Family Court. It does not reflect final disposition of those charges or dismissed cases. The graph reflects initial filings. Adults with a JCR case type were omitted.



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Offense	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Property Offenses	520	454	386	667	554
Aggravated Burglary	4	4	5	3	5
Burglary	24	17	12	25	22
B&E	8	7	9	29	15
Criminal Trespass	32	44	74	107	78
Theft	295	231	102	239	229
Felony Theft	21	32	18	21	21
Receiving and Concealing	25	23	56	64	41
Forgery	1	1	6	6	1
UUMV	3	5	13	10	13
Arson	14	10	13	7	8
Vandalism	12	11	6	12	9
Criminal Damaging	38	38	32	90	86
Criminal Mischief	20	20	30	36	20
Unauthorized Use of Prop	0	0	0	1	0
Possession of Criminal Tools	2	0	9	10	4
Misuse of Credit Card	0	1	1	7	2
Other property offenses	21	10			
Violent Offenses	381	361	544	537	487
Aggravated Murder	0	0	0	0	0
Murder and Vol Manslaughter	1	0	1	0	0
Vehicular Homicide	1	1	0	1	0
Assault	158	138	188	125	170
Felonious Assault	13	15	27	48	23
Domestic Violence	164	156	244	212	215
Aggravated Robbery	12	8	9	25	2
Robbery	4	12	10	7	2
Aggravated Menacing	16	13	33	24	36
Menacing	9	15	28	32	21
Kidnapping	1	2	4	4	0
Other violent offenses	2	1		59	18

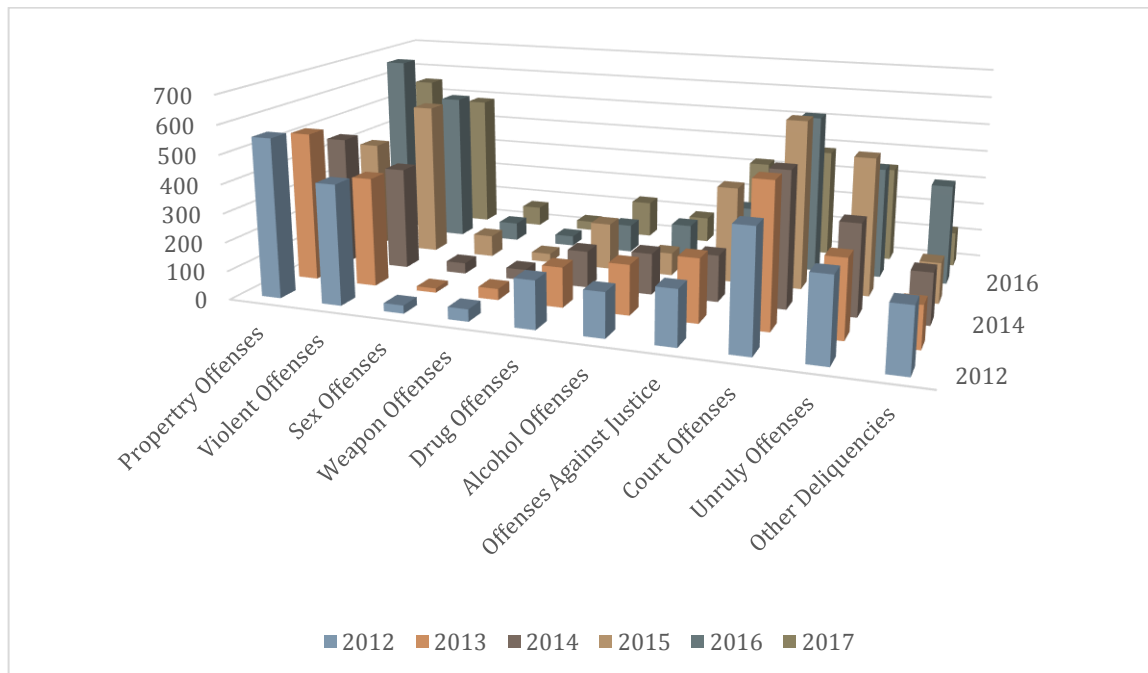
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Sex Offenses	Total	15	38	76	65	71
Rape		5	17	22	21	16
Gross Sexual Imposition		5	8	25	25	16
Sexual Imposition		3	4	11	1	7
Felonious Penetration		0	0	0	0	0
Other sex offenses		2	9	18	18	32

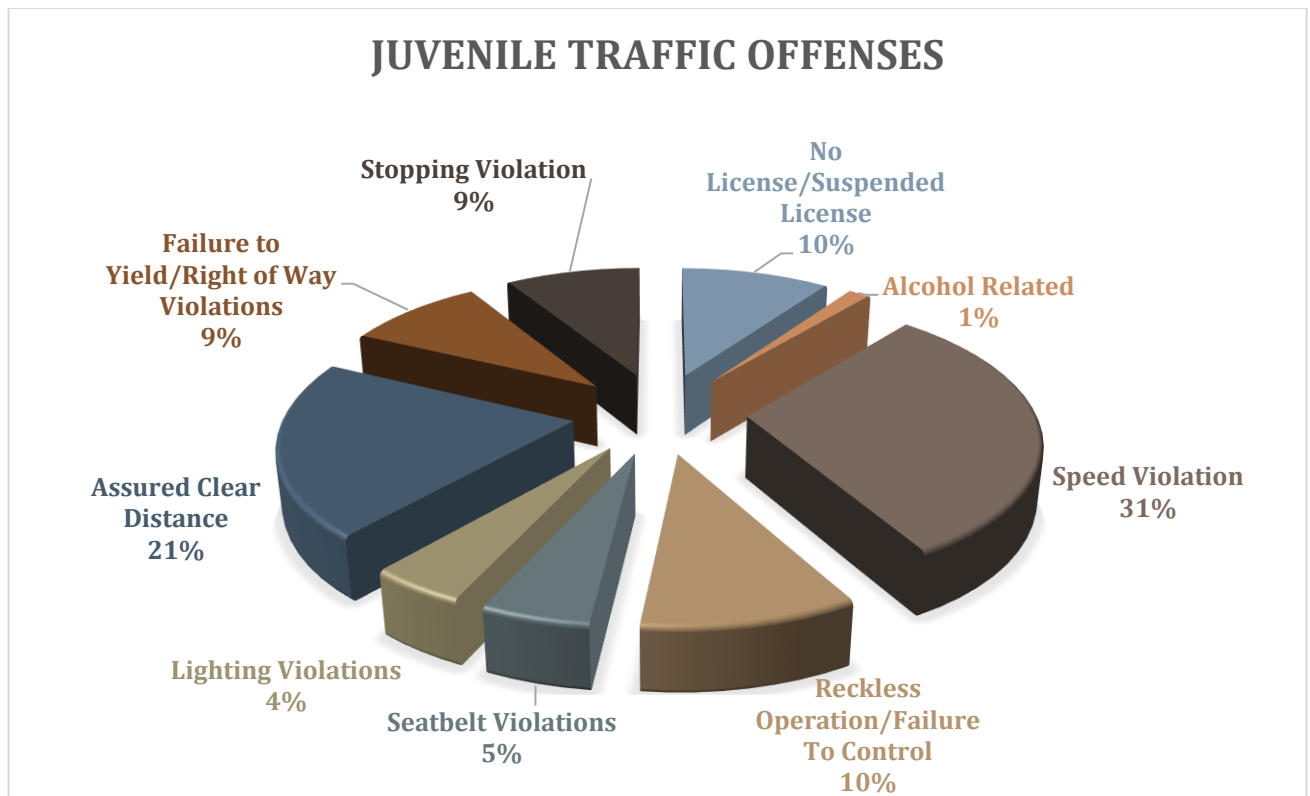
Offenses Con't		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Weapon Offenses	Total	39	38	31	36	33
Carrying Concealed Weapon		5	10	16	12	15
Possession Deadly weapon		14	12	0	1	1
Improper Handling: MV		0		4	5	1
Other		20	16	11	18	16
Drug Offenses	Total	139	128	165	100	131
Trafficking		11	9	7	10	7
Drug Abuse		84	83	55	76	0
Drug Paraphernalia		39	36	33	11	0
Harmful Intoxicant		1	0	0	0	1
Counterfeit Drugs		0		0	0	0
Other Drug Offenses		4	0	70	3	123
Alcohol Offenses	Total	173	144	80	121	91
DUI		8	3	8	1	10
Underage Consumption		165	141	72	120	81
Offenses Against Justice	Total	219	162	338	207	322
Disorderly Conduct		125	67	129	37	118
Resisting Arrest		0	0	48	35	37
Inducing Panic		0		11	14	7
False Alarms		2	2	5	5	6
Riot		2	0	17	10	1
Disrupting Public Service		0		14	4	6
Obstructing Justice		1	4	5	2	1
Failure to Comply		8	0	14	3	6
Other Offenses Against Justice		81	89	95	97	140
Court Offenses	Total	493	473	590	557	384
Violation of Court Order		485	461	585	545	381
Escape		8	12	5	12	3

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Other Delinquent Offenses	Total	145	178	142	349	121
Telephone Harassment		0		12	8	9
Chronic Truancy		121	156	130	161	67
Other Offenses		24	22		180	45
Unruly Offenses	Total	269	317	480	390	338
Habitual Truancy- Diversions		0	41		2	10
Curfew		47	30	81	89	61
Unruly Child		222	246	399	299	267
Cases Closed	Totals	2,393	2,293	2,832	3,029	2,532

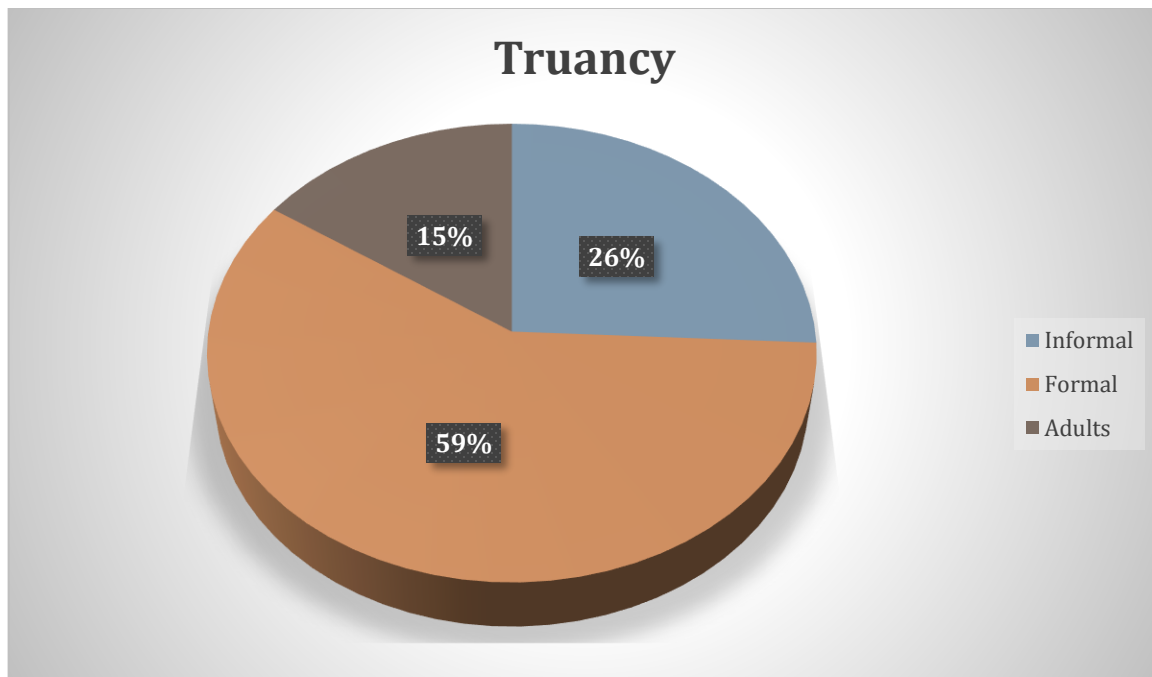


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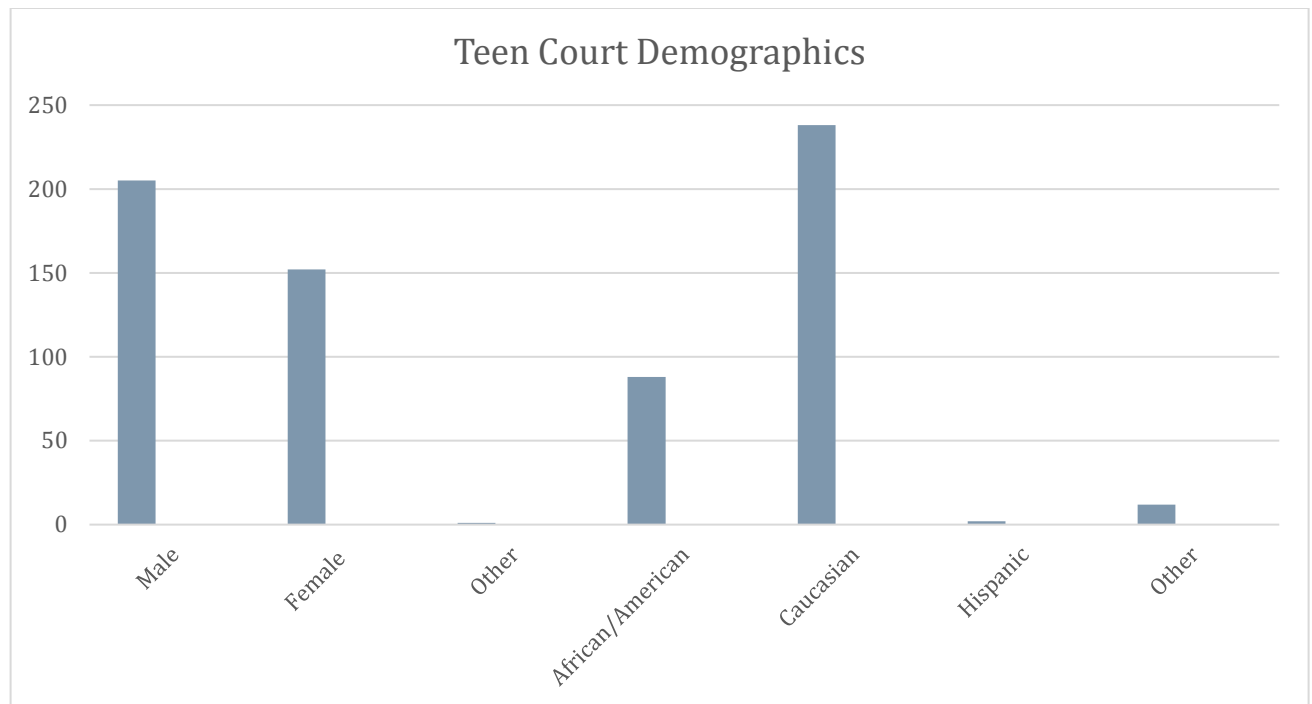
This graph represents juvenile traffic violations.

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194 truancy referrals were made to the Court in 2017. The majority of these cases were disposed of successfully using mediation or an informal process.

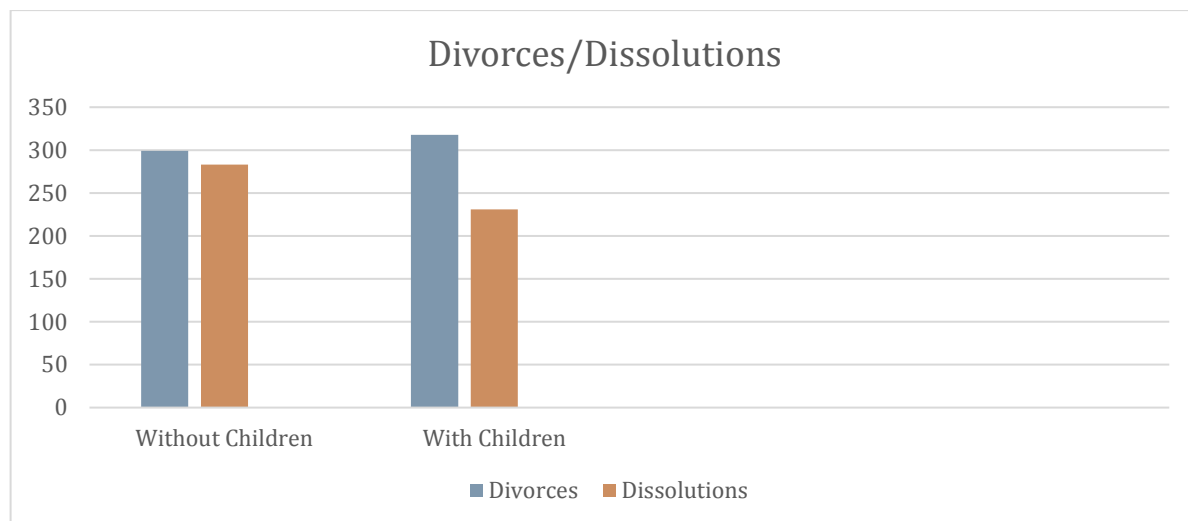
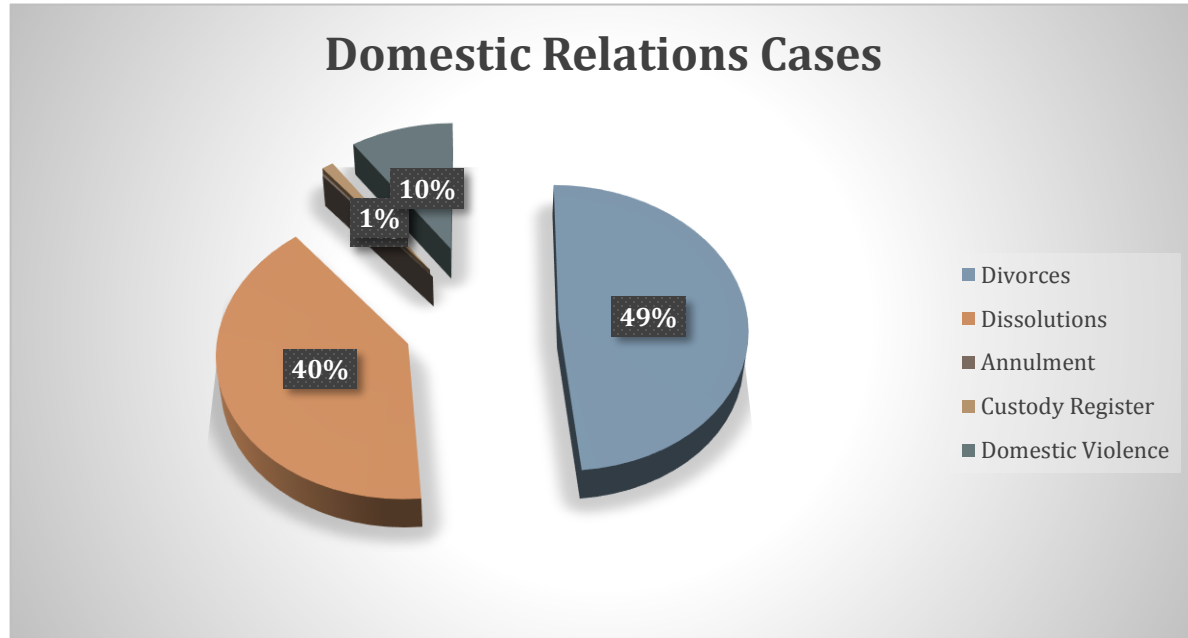
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In 2017, the Teen Court program closed 359 charges through the diversion process, making it the largest Court program to process Informal hearings. Support was offered in the form of referrals to community agencies for services. The graph shows the demographics of youth referred to Teen Court in 2017. Restorative justice was accomplished thru community service and restitution made to victims.

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Domestic Relations



The graphs illustrate the Domestic Relations case types handled by Stark County Family Court in 2017. About half of these cases were divorces with a majority involving children. Dissolution cases, not involving children, were the next highest number. Domestic violence issues made up 10% of this docket while cases involving legal separation and custody registration were each 1% or less.

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Contact Information

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