



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Stark County Family Court

Website:

<https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/family-court>

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Court _____	3
Stark County Census Population _____	7
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative/ReClaim Ohio _____	8
Juvenile Division _____	9
Juvenile Delinquency Referral Trends _____	11
Delinquency Charges _____	12
Delinquency Charge Demographics _____	13
Status Offenses _____	16
Truancy _____	18
Diversion _____	18
Formal Case Filings _____	22
Formal Case Outcomes/Dispositions _____	24
Probation _____	24
Detention _____	25
Juvenile Traffic _____	27
Adult Offenses _____	29
Domestic Relations _____	29
Clearance Rates _____	31
Budget Information _____	33
From the Judges _____	36
Contact Information _____	37

Message from the Court



Dear Stark County,

Edward Deming wrote “Without data, all we have is an opinion”. Data builds a foundation which allows for planning and growth. In the end, data should tell your story; where you began, where you wish to go and how you wish to get there. A road map, if you will, to your destination.

In 2019, Judge James, Judge Hall and Judge Nist spent a great deal of time studying Stark County’s juvenile delinquency data. Identifying the goals they wished to attain was only half the Court’s journey. Data, was the other half. Without thoughtful data analysis, goal identification serves little purpose. Data allows you to identify successes and failures. It allows you to recognize where needs exist, and to ultimately develop ways in which to meet those needs. It highlights a system as a whole or allows for its breakdown into several small pieces. Data allows you to challenge what you thought you knew, while bringing to light what you may have never before believed. Data can make you feel good about the work you have accomplished, as easy as it can make you feel inadequate about what you have not yet tackled. To be better requires an honest look. An honest look can’t happen without objectivity. Objectivity is created through data.

This report is filled with Family Court's data. A review of the following pages demonstrates Judge James', Judge Hall's and Judge Nist's unwavering dedication to building a system that is current and meeting the needs of Stark County. This report reflects accomplishments, as well as areas requiring more work. Some of this required work internal, controlled by the Court, while other work is related to systems that feed the Court. Publishing the Court's data identifies areas deserved of change. It also provides court feeder systems to identify the same.

The Court underwent significant changes when it became a JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) Court in 2018. Some community stakeholders were fretful these changes would not demonstrate the level of community safety already established by Family Court practices. The Judges determined the best way to study the effectiveness of our changes was to study recidivism before JDAI and after JDAI. This type of study would create a baseline recidivism percentage allowing for comparison. In so doing, the Judges commissioned the University of Cincinnati (U.C.) to conduct this study.

"Recidivism" is a term used quite loosely in the criminal justice community. To study recidivism, the term must first be defined by identifying both a specific point in time and the manner in which a court return occurred. The recidivism definition was determined and descriptors established. Descriptors allowed for the types of juvenile offenses to be categorized. Recidivism was reported by using the OYAS (Ohio Youth Assessment System) criminal risk scores allowing for the comparison of like variables. The saying "comparing apples to apples and oranges to oranges" immediately comes to mind. To understand this recidivism study, criminal risk scoring (Low, Moderate, High) is understood to mean the risk at which a juvenile will continue with criminal behavior. Recidivism for our study looked at 1 year, 2 years and 3 years after disposition for **new crimes only**. Years studied were 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. In addition, U.C. looked at 1 year for 2017 and 2018. Findings are as follows:

1 Year

OYAS Risk Score	2013 recidivism percentage	2014 recidivism percentage	2015 recidivism percentage	2016 recidivism percentage	2017 recidivism percentage	2018 recidivism percentage
Low	38%	36%	35%	37%	31%	20%
Moderate	39%	38%	36%	32%	40%	30%
High	38%	36%	35%	29%	33%	33%

2 Years

OYAS Risk Score	2013 recidivism percentage	2014 recidivism percentage	2015 recidivism percentage	2016 recidivism percentage
Low	46%	43%	49%	46%
Moderate	52%	52%	40%	43%
High	38%	45%	39%	29%

3 Year

OYAS Risk Score	2013 recidivism percentage	2014 recidivism percentage	2015 recidivism percentage	2016 recidivism percentage
Low	50%	47%	54%	46%
Moderate	52%	56%	48%	45%
High	40%	55%	39%	33%

Dr. Edward Latessa, University of Cincinnati's School of Criminal Justice Director, oversaw our recidivism research. In review of our data, Dr. Latessa commented, "I was surprised by the high numbers of low risk youth (48%) in the sample and their high failure rates". JDAI has taught the Court that providing intensive service delivery for those at the lowest risk to continue with criminal behavior, increases criminality, demonstrating high failure rates. Prior to JDAI involvement, the Court's intensity of service delivery was the same for all criminal risk levels, explaining the high failure rates for both Low risk and some Moderate risk. The Court's data corroborates years of research in criminal justice, and has solidified the changes necessary for the Court's future. It is evident the Court is moving in the right direction,

demonstrated by the 2018 recidivism decreases. A reduction in recidivism means a safer community. And, a safer community is what Judge James, Judge Hall and Judge Nist strive for. Time will allow for further study of the Court's recidivism, as this work with U.C. will continue.

In addition to our work with recidivism, 2019 boasts a national stage for Family Court. The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, in partnership with The Casey Foundation and Council of State Governments Justice Center announced a competitive national application process for a Georgetown University certification program designed to transform Juvenile Probation. This competitive certification program was publicized to jurisdictional teams across the country, as the first of its kind. Stark County Family Court, in collaboration with the Stark County Prosecutor's Office and the Stark County Sheriff's Office was one of 7 national jurisdictions selected to attend. Having our probation transformation efforts certified by experts in the field of juvenile justice once again lends to the Judges's commitment of giving Stark County youth opportunities supported by research, demonstrating successful outcomes.

Enclosed, for your inspection, is the 2019 work of the Family Court. Although ORC 2151.18 speaks directly to the submission of an annual report from a juvenile court, Family Court includes the Domestic Relations docket as well. Therefore, the Domestic Relations statistical information is also included.

It is an honor to serve you, Stark County. On behalf of Judge James, Judge Hall and Judge Nist, and in compliance with ORC 2151.18, I submit the 2019 Family Court annual report.

Best regards,

Diane

Diane Wilson,
Court Administrator

STARK COUNTY CENSUS

Stark County's total population, according to 2019 Census Bureau estimates, is 371,574. The county is the eighth largest county in Ohio, having lost 1.01% of its population since 2010.

- 21.4% of the population is under the age of 18
- 73% of the population is over the age of 18
- The median age in Stark County is 41.9

Demographic Information

Of the total population, here is breakdown of Stark County demographics.

- Population that identifies as "one race" - 97.3%
- Population that identifies as "two or more races" - 2.6%

One Race

- White - 88.1%
- Black or African American - 7.9%
- Asian - 1.0%
- Hispanic or Latino - 2.2%

Sex

- Female- 51.4

Families & Living Arrangements

- Households- 152,649
- Persons per household- 2.39
- Language other than English spoken at home- 3.6%
- Marital Status- 48% Married

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

JDAI & RECLAIM OHIO

2019 was the first full year of Stark County Family Court's participation in JDAI, the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative. The Court was the eleventh county in Ohio to join the initiative in late 2018. The initiative utilizes years of juvenile justice data to improve outcomes for youth coming in contact with the juvenile justice system. An initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, an essential element of JDAI is data-driven decision making. Data, drawing from all sources in the system, is reviewed to paint an accurate picture as to how the juvenile justice system is operating, establishing baselines and measuring ongoing results and improvements. Utilizing accurate data, policies and practices can be implemented protecting public safety while reducing reliance on secure detention and creating better outcomes for our youth. With a full year of this reform, the court's statistics have been positively impacted by JDAI.

Key JDAI Initiatives Implemented:

- Established Objective Admissions Policies and Practices
- Collected Quarterly Data
- Use of Evidence Based Risk Assessment Instruments
- Expanded Court Diversion- Established a Diversion Unit within Behavioral Health Services
- Identified Effective Alternatives to Detention
- Expanded the use of Pre-trial Services, bringing Electronic Monitoring in-house
- Established Community Collaboration Workgroups
- Probation Reform, including restructuring units, revamping probation rules, utilizing risk assessment instruments, reducing technical violations and implementing evidence based youth training programs.
- Established off-site life-skills program

Hand in hand with our JDAI efforts, the work accomplished under the Department of Youth's Services (DYS) ReClaim Ohio grant required a major shift from supervision-based probation to evidenced based probation. In fiscal year 2018, DYS notified all ReClaim funded courts that supervision probation will cease to be funded by fiscal year 2020. If courts wished to utilize ReClaim funding for probation efforts it would need to shift from supervision probation to evidence based probation. During the 2019 fiscal year, the Probation department worked with the University of Cincinnati to design a one of its kind evidenced based curriculum. The CHOICES curriculum, an intervention designed to reduce criminal risk, began its implementation in Probation through training and practice. Additionally,

four Probation staff received intense CHOICES training, becoming master trainers of the curriculum. By the end of fiscal year 2019, the CHOICES curriculum was fully established as the evidenced based service delivery model for Probation.

The ReClaim funding explanation can be found under the “Budget and Overview” portion of this report.

JUVENILE DIVISION REPORT

The Family Court Juvenile Division addresses cases involving Delinquency, Status Offenders, Dependent, Neglected and Abused Children, Paternity, Child Support, Custody, Grandparent Power of Attorneys, Adult Contributing Offenses and Juvenile Traffic Offenders. The Court provides mediation services, a parent liaison specialist, parent education, behavioral health services, pre-trial services, community control, probation services, and operates two specialized dockets-a human trafficking docket and a juvenile drug court.

The following delinquency data allows the Family Court to study trends for the creation of targeted service delivery.

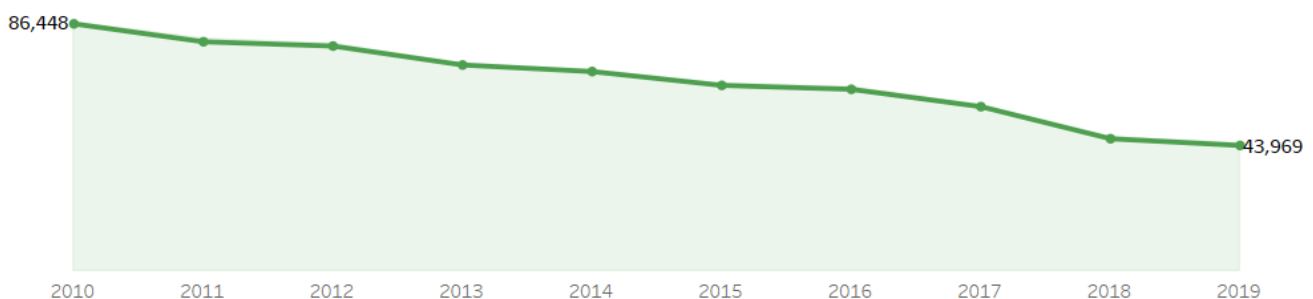
Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile Courts across the nation, to include Ohio, continue to experience significant declines in the number of juvenile delinquency filings. Since 2010, statewide delinquency filings have decreased over 49 percent.

Incoming Cases, Delinquency, 2010-2019

All - All Judges

If a judge is selected, data below will only display for their years in office.



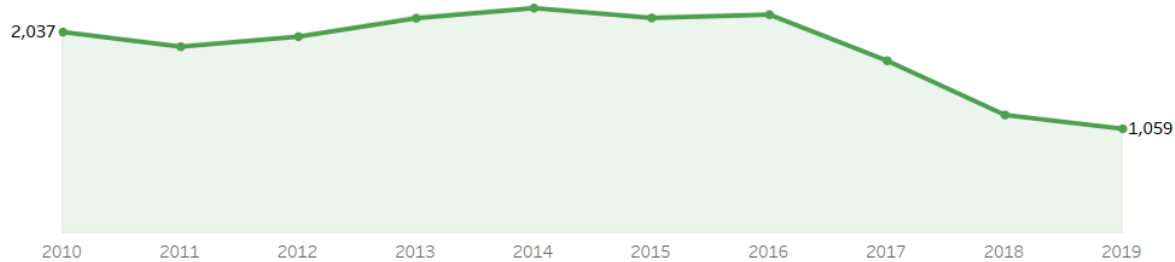
Data Source: Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section statistical reporting, collected under Sup. R. 37.

Stark County received 48 percent fewer filings comparing 2010 to 2019.

Incoming Cases, Delinquency, 2010-2019

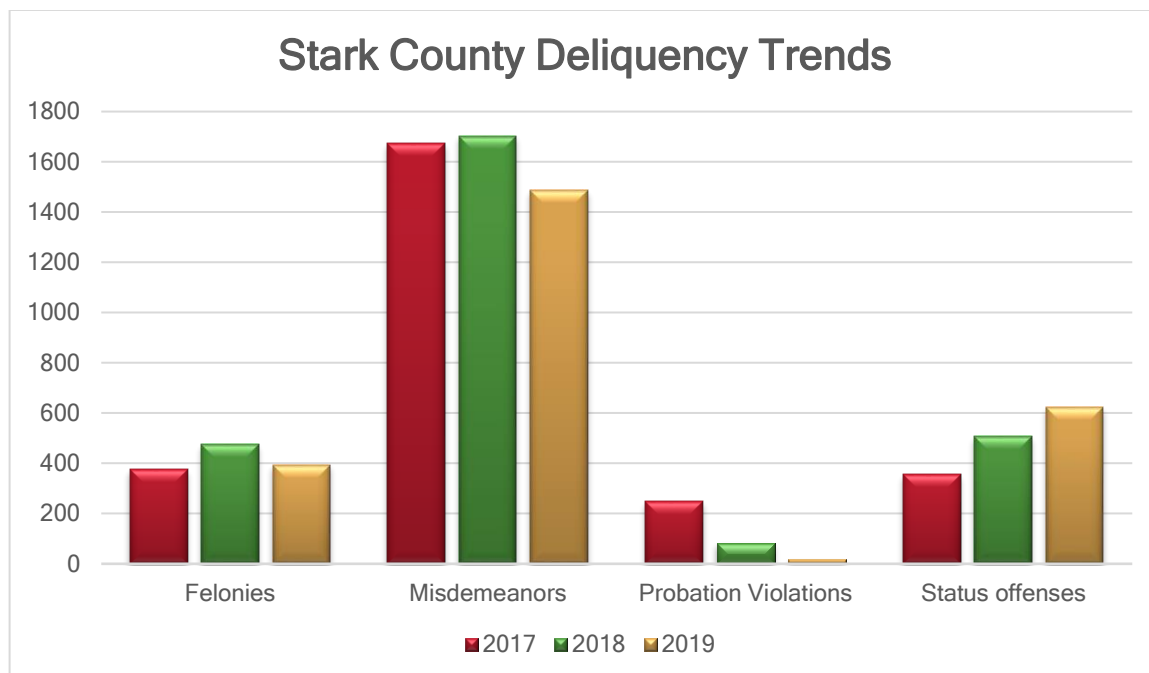
Stark - All Judges

If a judge is selected, data below will only display for their years in office.



* Data Source: Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section statistical reporting, collected under Sup. R. 37.

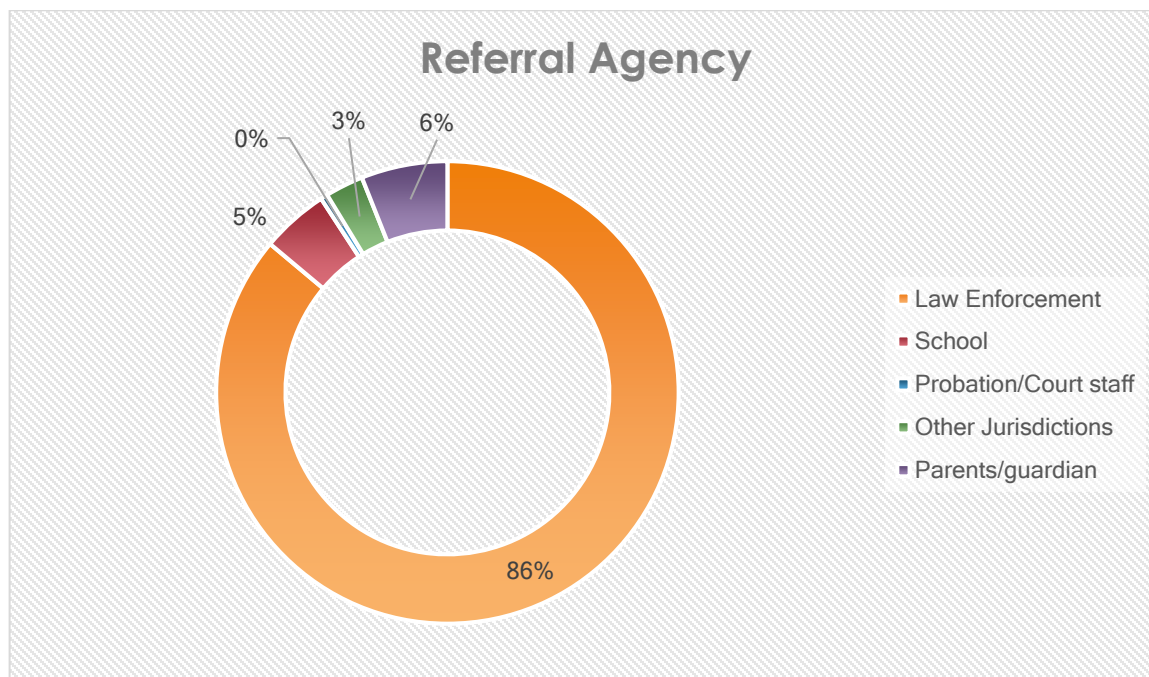
The below chart illustrates the delinquency trend in Stark County over a three-year period. 2019 demonstrates a small reduction with both felonies and misdemeanors. Status offenses for 2019 increased based upon a surge in tobacco violations due to school vaping. The Ohio Legislature enacted changes to the statute addressing underage involvement with tobacco and vaping products, Ohio Revised Code 2927.02. This change should result in a decrease of tobacco violations for 2020.



Referrals to Family Court

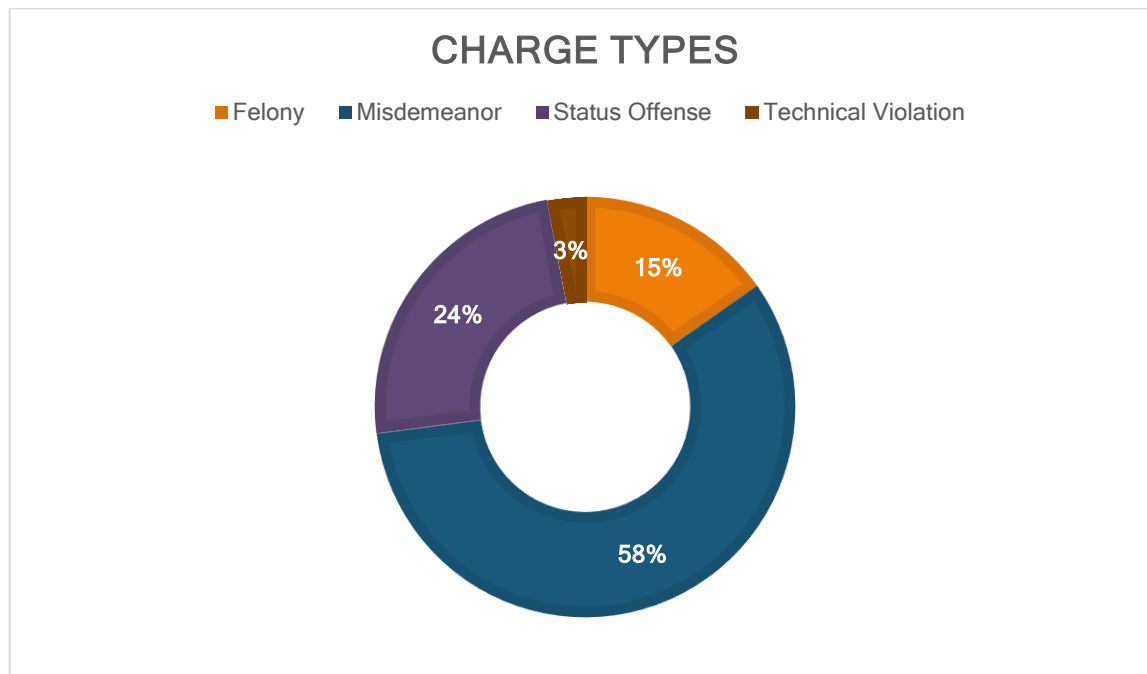
The graph below illustrates how juveniles are referred to Court. Identifying referral sources allows the Court to adjust programmatically to the needs of the community.

Law enforcement was the top referral source to the Court, followed by parents/guardians and then schools. The descriptor, “Other Jurisdictions” are cases transferred to Stark County from other courts. This occurs when a youth is charged in another county, but resides in Stark. The Probation department did make referrals to Court; however, those cases are less than 1% and do not show on this graph.



Delinquency Charges

The Juvenile Division received 2,637 court referrals alleging delinquency in 2019. As with previous years, this year demonstrates the majority of offenses as misdemeanors. The following graphs illustrate the types of referred charges.



Felony offense charges accounted for 15% of Court referrals. Of those offense charges, the top three were Pandering/Disseminating Material Harmful to Juveniles (45), (these charges typically present as inappropriate posts on social media and/or sexting charges), Assault (37) (assault charges, when charged as a felony, generally come from schools when the assaultive act is against a teacher or other licensed school staff) and Receiving Stolen Property (25) (Receiving stolen property, as a felony offense, is due to the value of the property the juvenile is found to be in possession of. In most cases, these charges revolve around an automobile or credit cards).

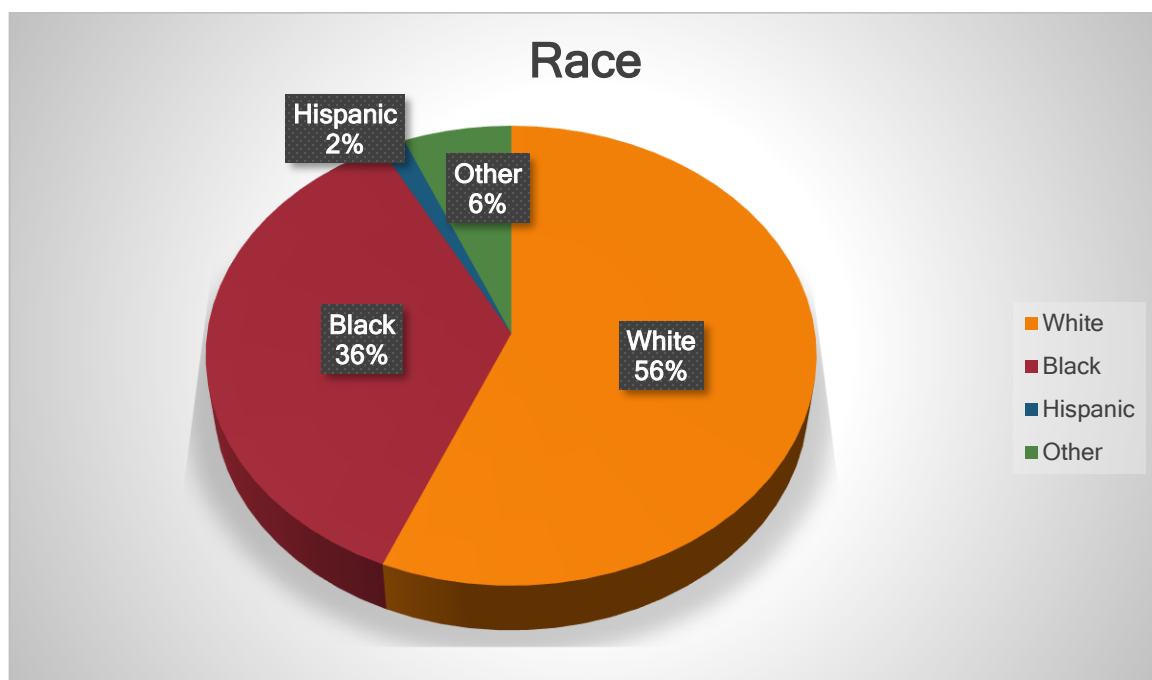
The top three misdemeanor offense charges were Domestic Violence (247), Obstruction of Official Business (158) and Disorderly Conduct (138).

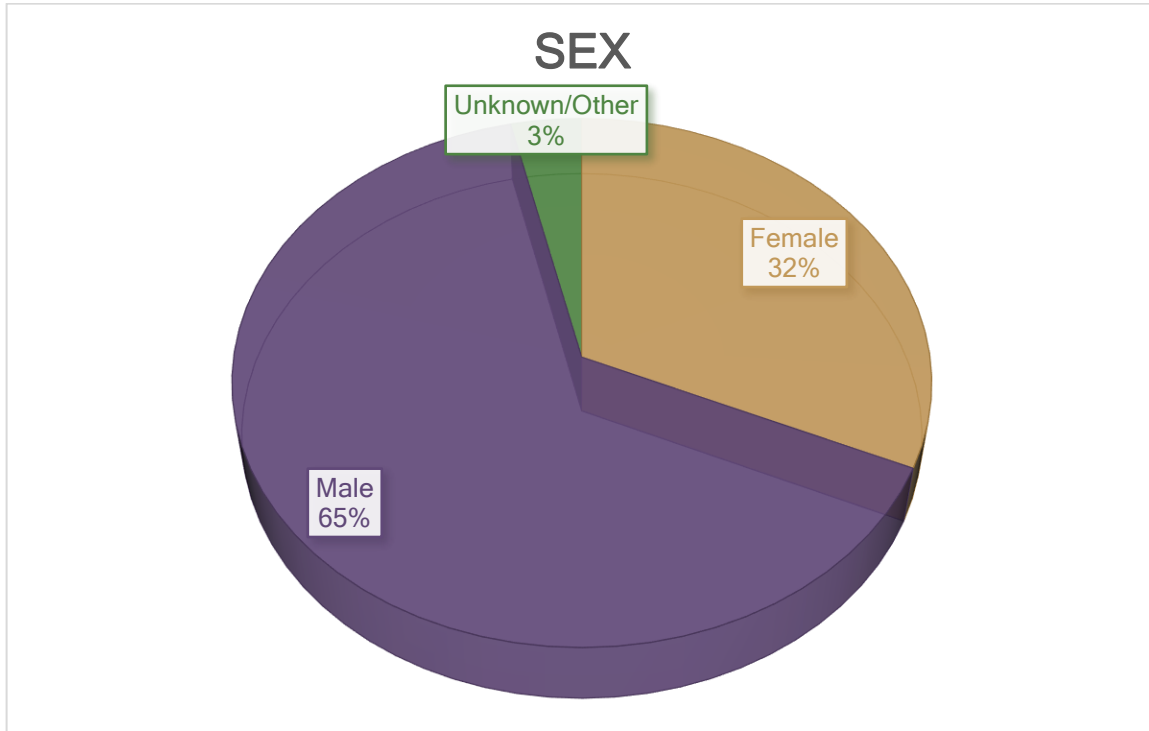
The Court processed 260 Status Offense charges with 248 being Tobacco violation charges. These charges are examined under their own section on subsequent pages of this report.

Of the 76 technical violation charges, 11 came from Probation (14%) and 2 from Pretrial Release (3%). The remaining technical violations were referred from law enforcement, school districts and state parole.

Charge Demographics

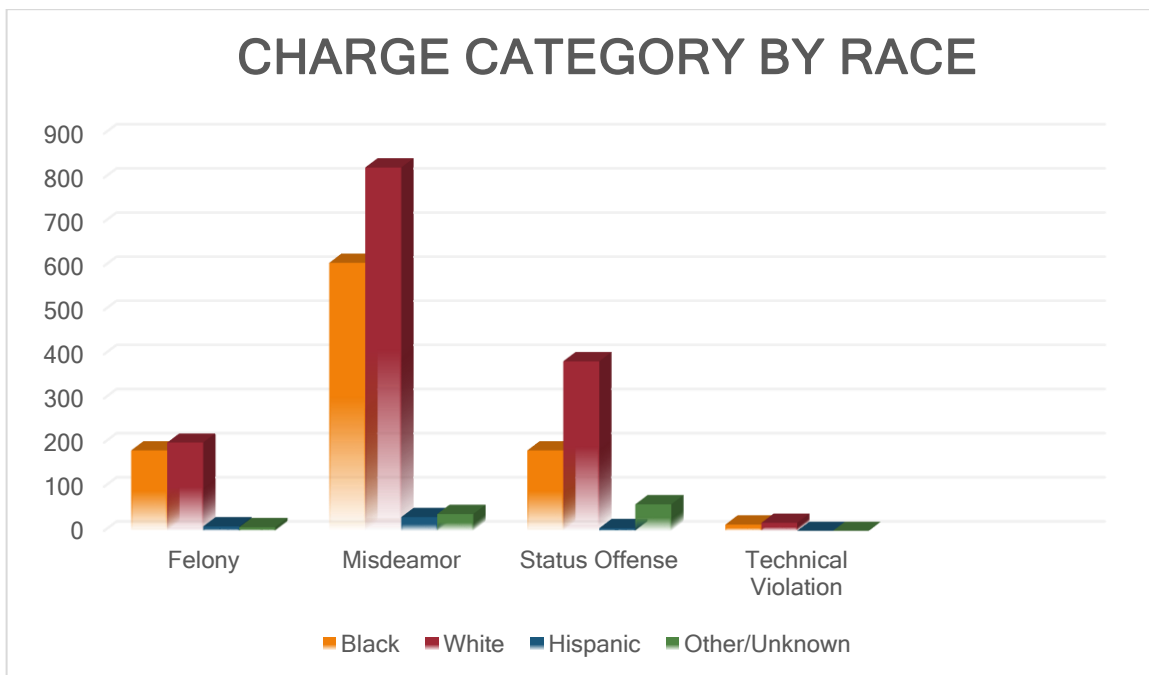
Below demonstrates the demographics for the above reported charges.



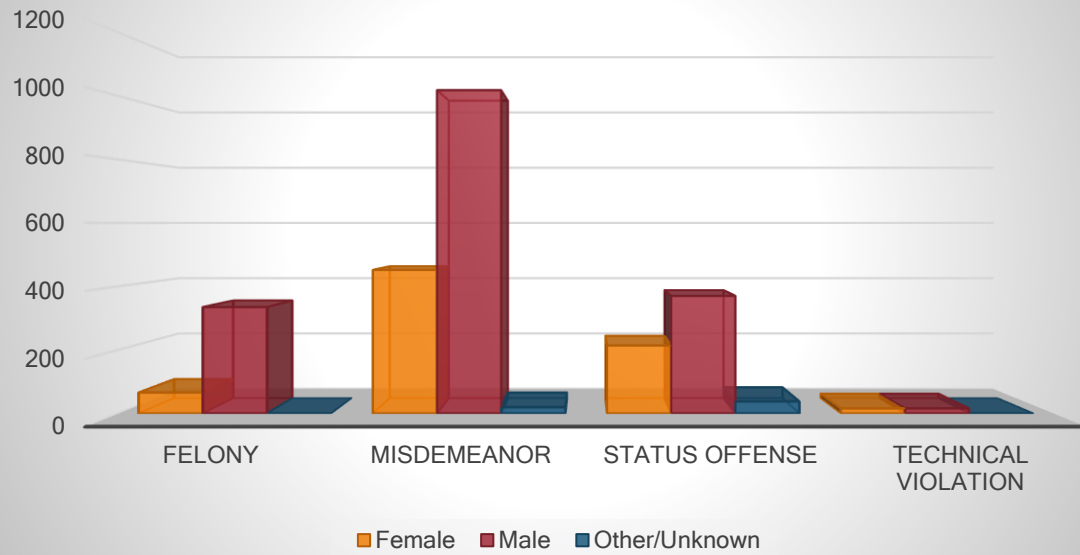


Charges by Race

The following represents a breakdown of charges according to race and sex demographics.



CHARGE CATEGORY BY SEX

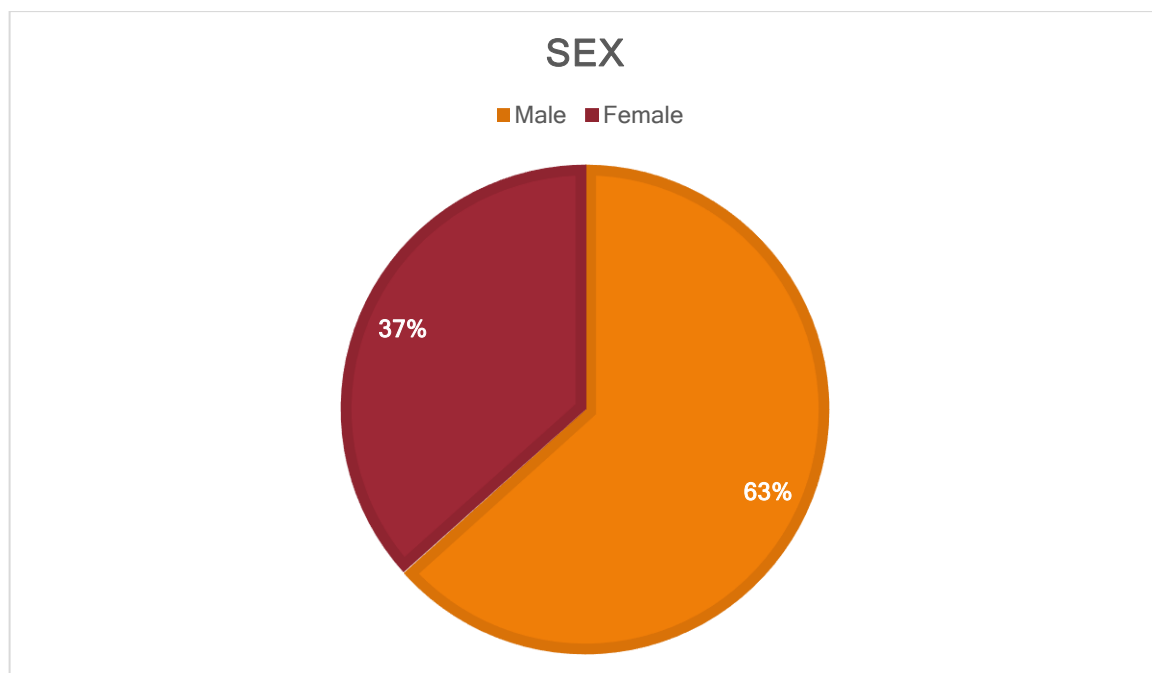
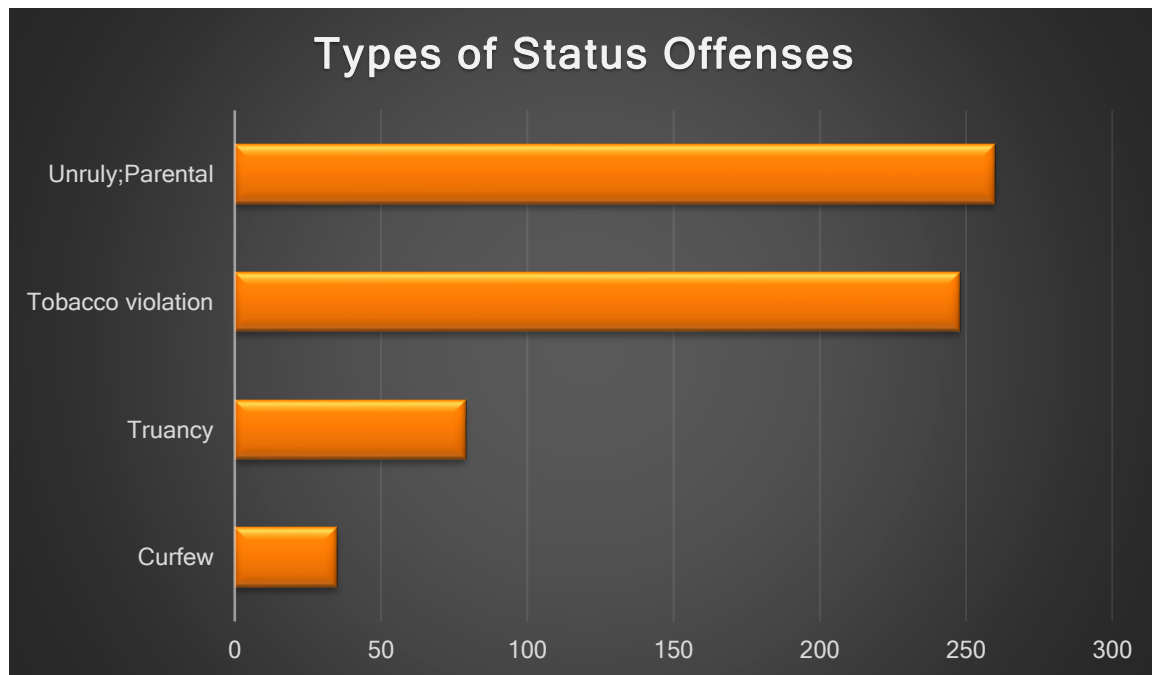


Status Offense Complaints

By definition, status offenses are charges that would not be criminal for an adult (over the age of 18). These include actions such as curfew violations, truancy and not listening at home.

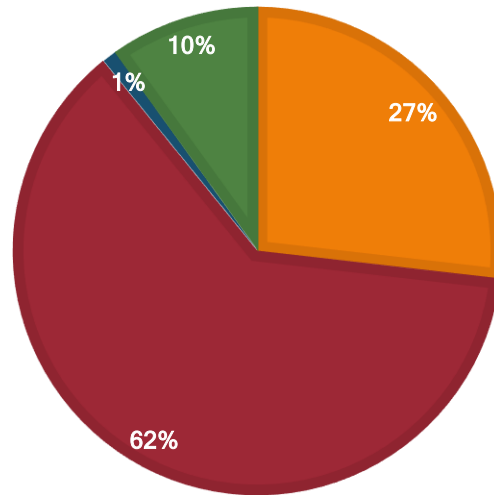
Status offenses can be referred to the Court by parents, schools and law enforcement.

Below is the breakdown of 2019 status offense charges.

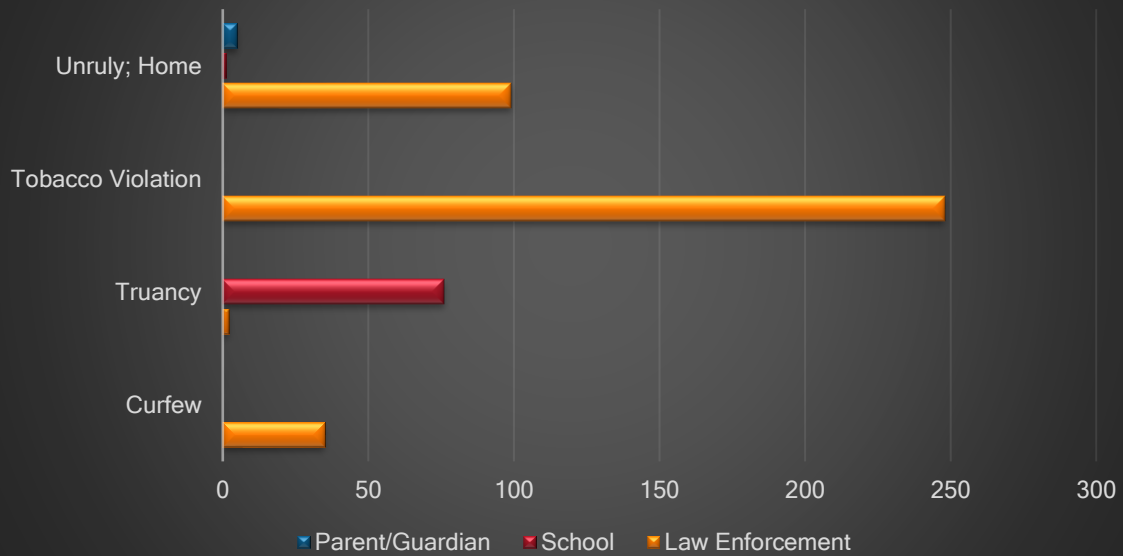


RACE

Black White Hispanic Other

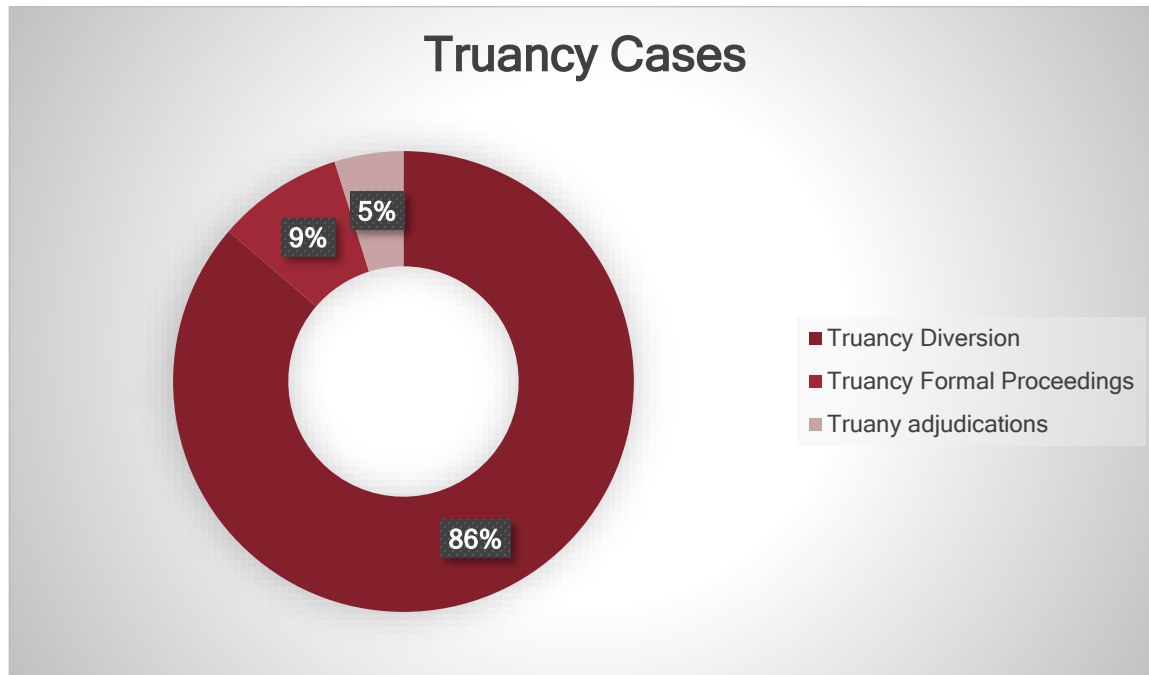


Status Offense Referrals



Truancy Referrals

For the 2019/2020 school year, the Court had 118 truancy cases go through the informal/diversion process. 11 of those cases proceeded formally and were adjudicated unruly.



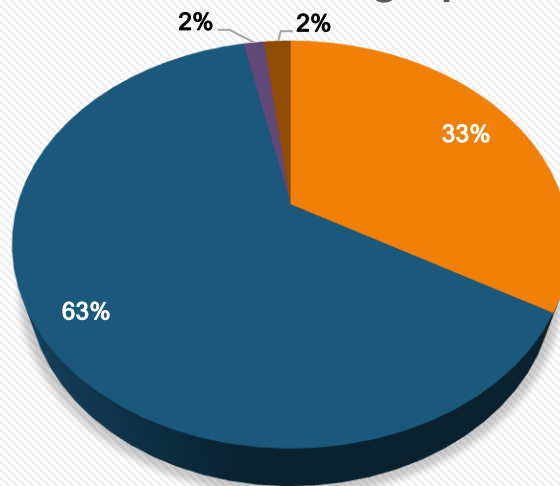
Diversion

Research confirms overexposure to the juvenile justice system increases the risk to criminally reoffend for youth scoring low to moderate risk. Because of this, the Court makes a point to handle appropriate cases through its Diversion department. The Ohio Supreme Court states, “In all appropriate cases, formal court action should be avoided and other community resources utilized to ameliorate situations brought to the attention of the Court.” [Juv. R. 9(A)]. In meeting the Ohio Supreme Court’s directive regarding delinquency, the Court’s Diversion department utilizes community-based service engagement designed to mitigate the circumstance(s) bringing the youth to the Court’s attention. This process intends to meet the needs of the juvenile with minimal Court involvement. Diversion is widely used as a tool to keep low and moderate risk juveniles out of the juvenile justice system while maintaining public safety and upholding victims’ rights.

Stark County Family Court referred 1,501 cases through its Diversion department. Of those cases, 315 were referred to the Teen Court Diversion program. Teen Court is conducted in partnership with Family Court and the United Way of Greater Stark County. It is a peer-to-peer diversion program made up of student volunteers from area high schools. Diversion is widely used as a tool to keep low and moderate risk juveniles out of the juvenile justice system while maintaining public safety and upholding victims' rights

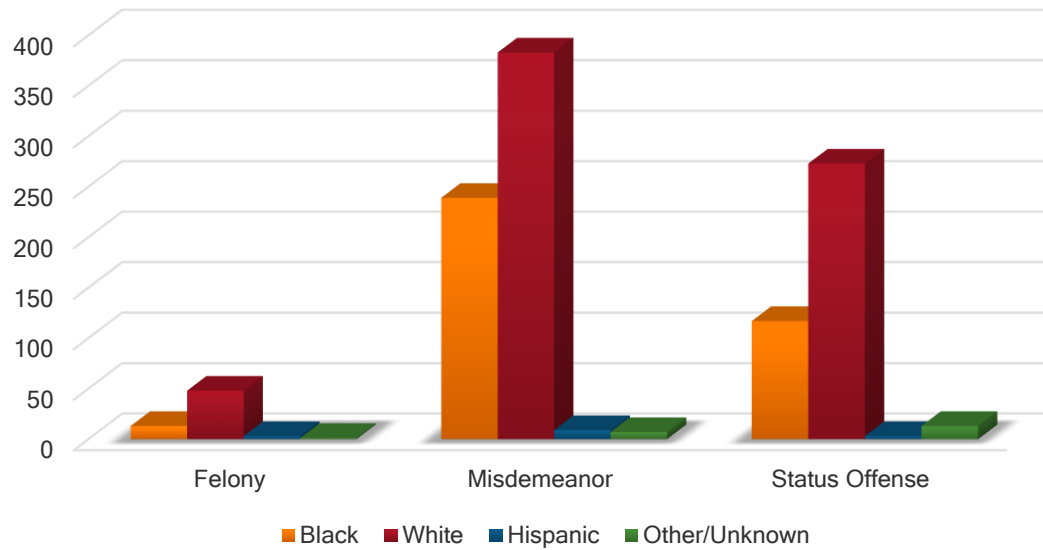
Cases not successfully diverted, due to non-compliance or other reasons, may be referred for formal court processing.

Diversion Demographics

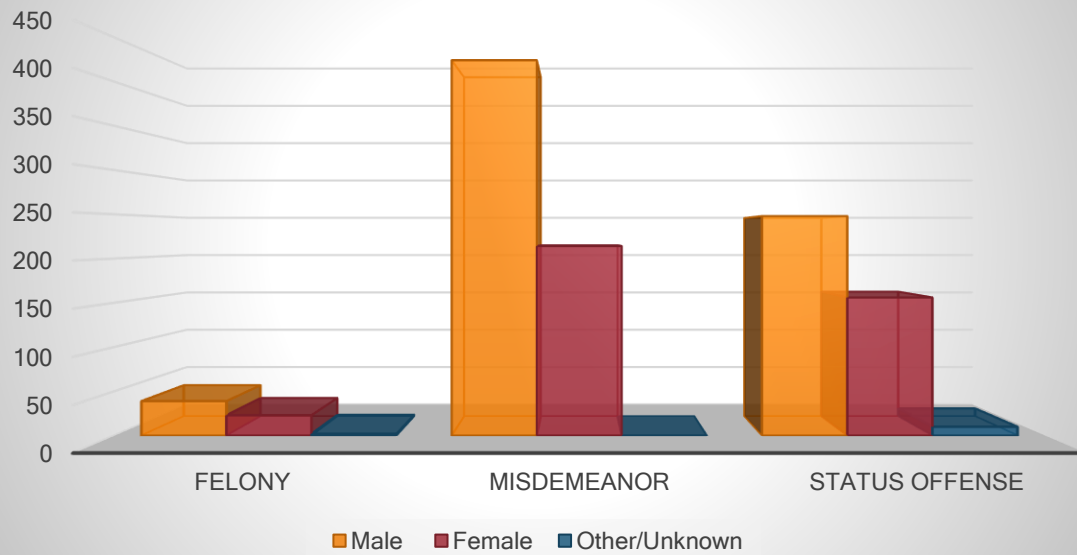


Black White Hispanic Other/Unknown

Diversion Category by Race

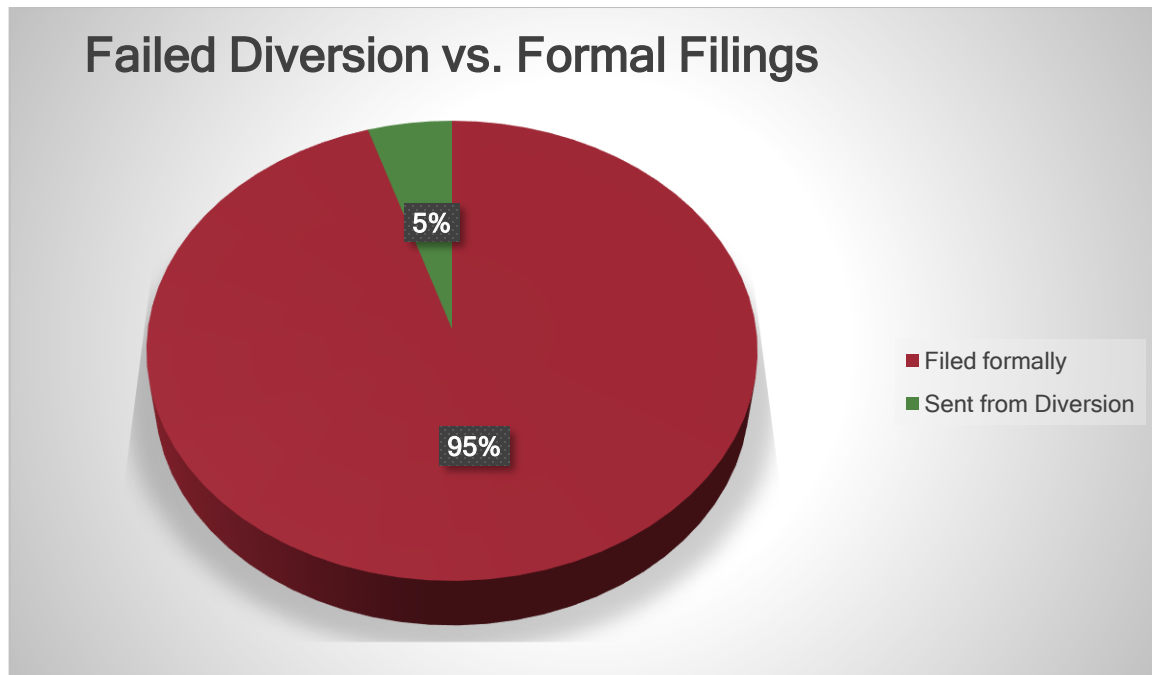


Diversion Category by Sex



Failed Diversion cases

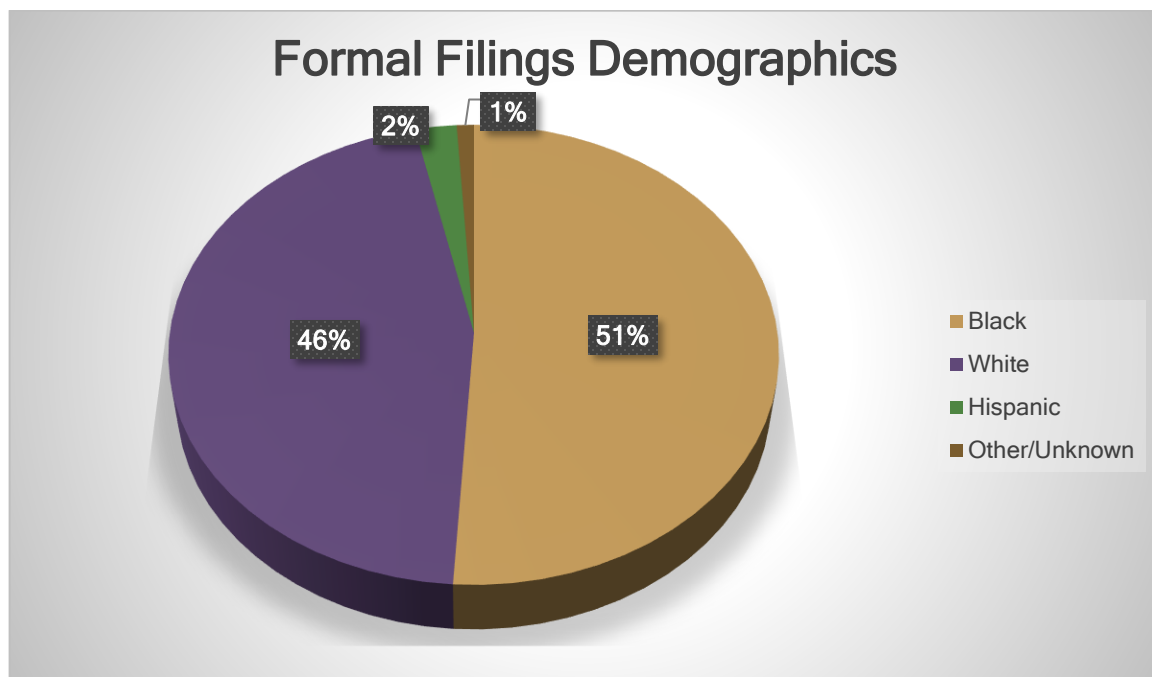
The below chart illustrates only 5% of diversion cases were forwarded for formal case processing.

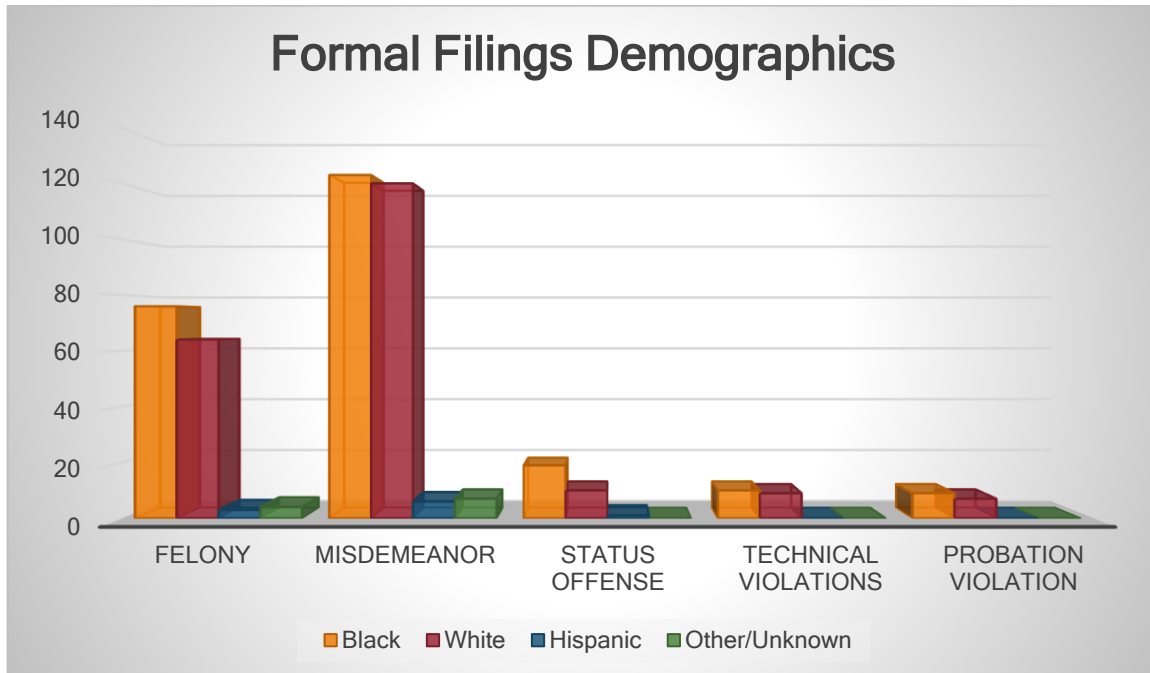


Formal Court Case Demographics

The Court processed 1209 delinquency cases through the formal court process. These are cases subject to juvenile justice consequences including, but not limited to; detention, probation, restitution, court placement and/or other custody orders.

The following graphs illustrate the demographics of those charges formally processed in 2019.

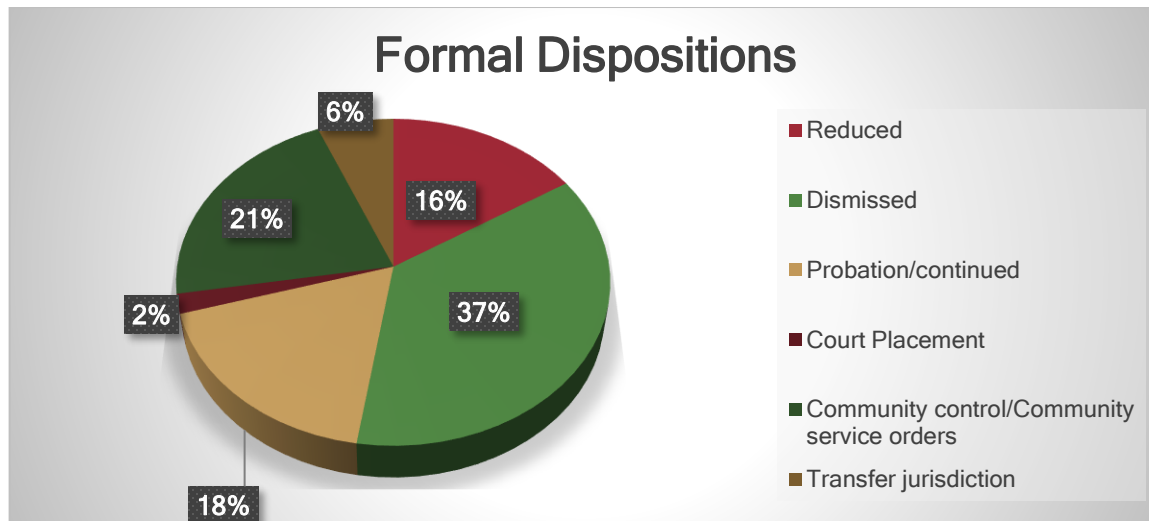




In reviewing the above illustration, it is important to distinguish between “technical violations” and “probation violations”. Technical violations come by way of law enforcement, schools and/or school resource officers. While probation violations come directly from the Court’s Probation department.

Formal Court Case Outcomes

The following graph represents the orders given at disposition (sentencing) at the conclusion of a formal delinquency case.



Probation

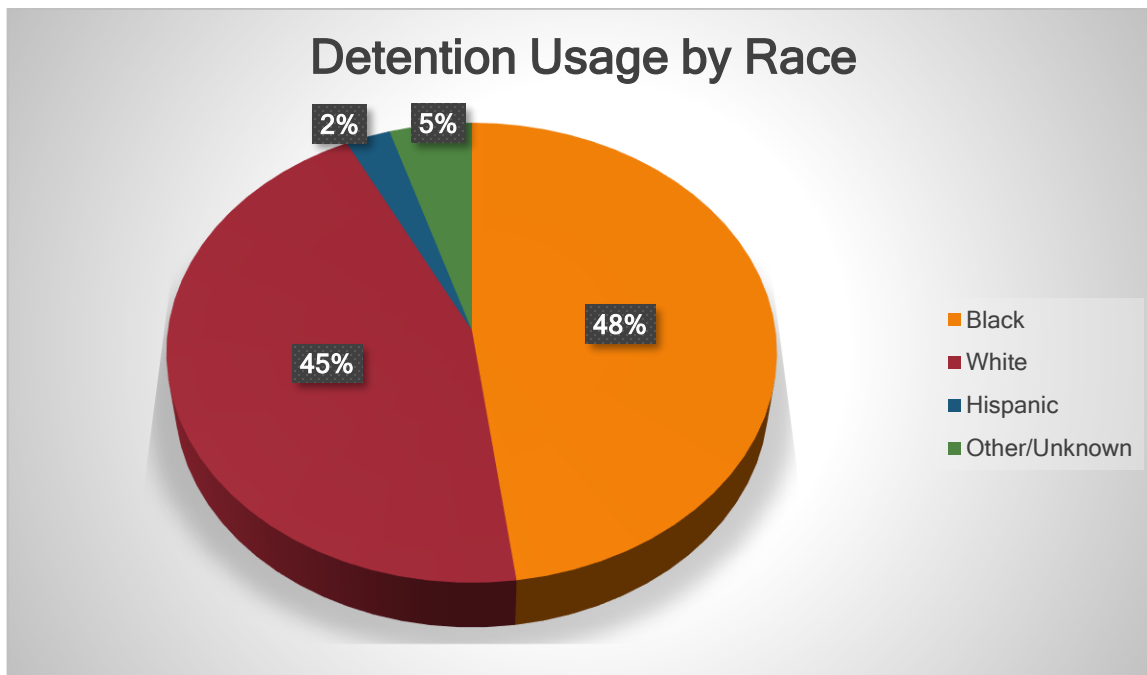
Probation is one of the larger dispositional tools used by the Court. The chart below provides both demographics and risk levels of those ordered to complete probation. Of significance is the percentage of youth at a low risk to reoffend.

Participant Count	268	
Male	202	75%
Female	66	25%
Average Age of Participant		
Race/Ethnicity		
Black/African American	106	40%
White/Caucasian	140	52%
Hispanic	5	2%
Asian	2	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0%
Hawaiian Native/Other Pacific Island	0	0%
Multiple Races	15	6%
OYAS Risk Level		
Low	122	46%
Moderate	97	36%
High	48	18%

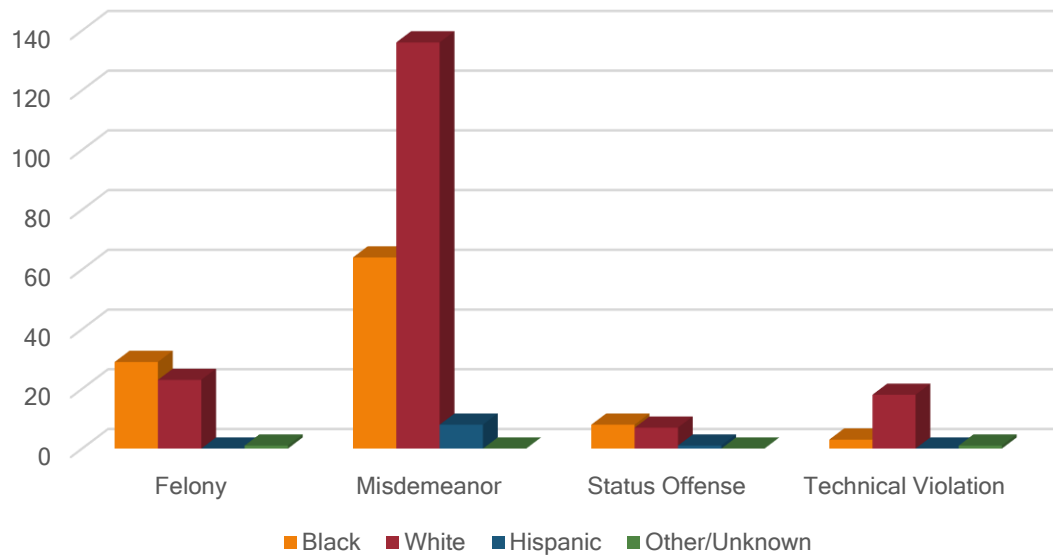
Detention

Detention is an option used immediately following arrest, through the life of a case and/or as a form of disposition. As previously illustrated, Court placement resulted in 2% of all disposed cases, therefore demographics will not be provided. Instead, the focus is on the use of detention prior to disposition (pre-adjudicatory).

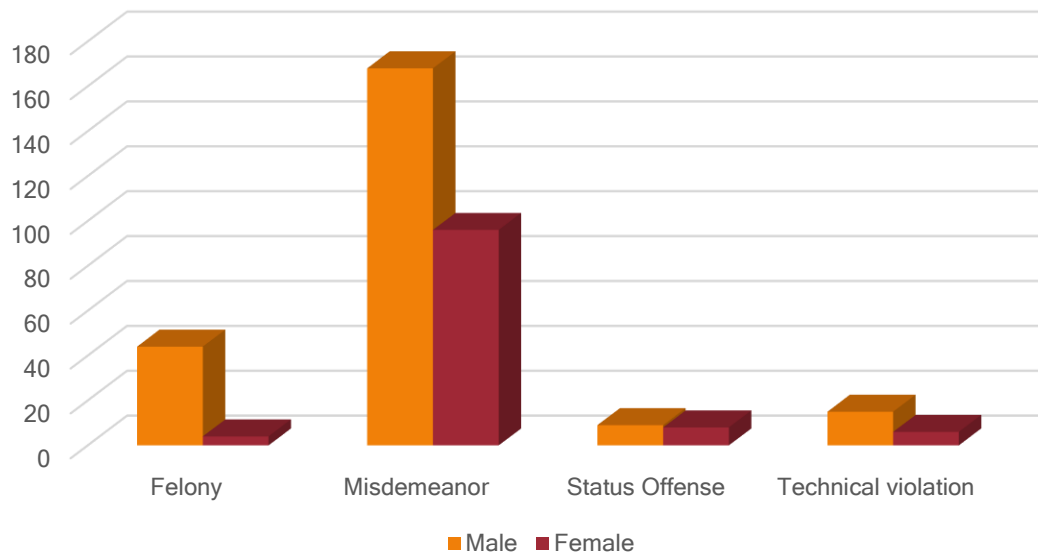
Research supports detention has no diminishing effect on juvenile delinquency. In fact, detention is considered a contributing factor for exacerbating criminal risk for low to moderate risk youth. Therefore, the use of detention, in Stark County, is limited based upon a substantial risk of serious harm. With the decline in juvenile delinquency filings and the Court's utilization of effective detention alternatives, fewer juveniles are being held in detention. In 2019, Stark County held 702 youth in detention. The average length of stay for felony charges was 15 days while the average length of stay for misdemeanor charges was 6 days. The following graphs illustrate the detention population.



Detention Usage by Categories

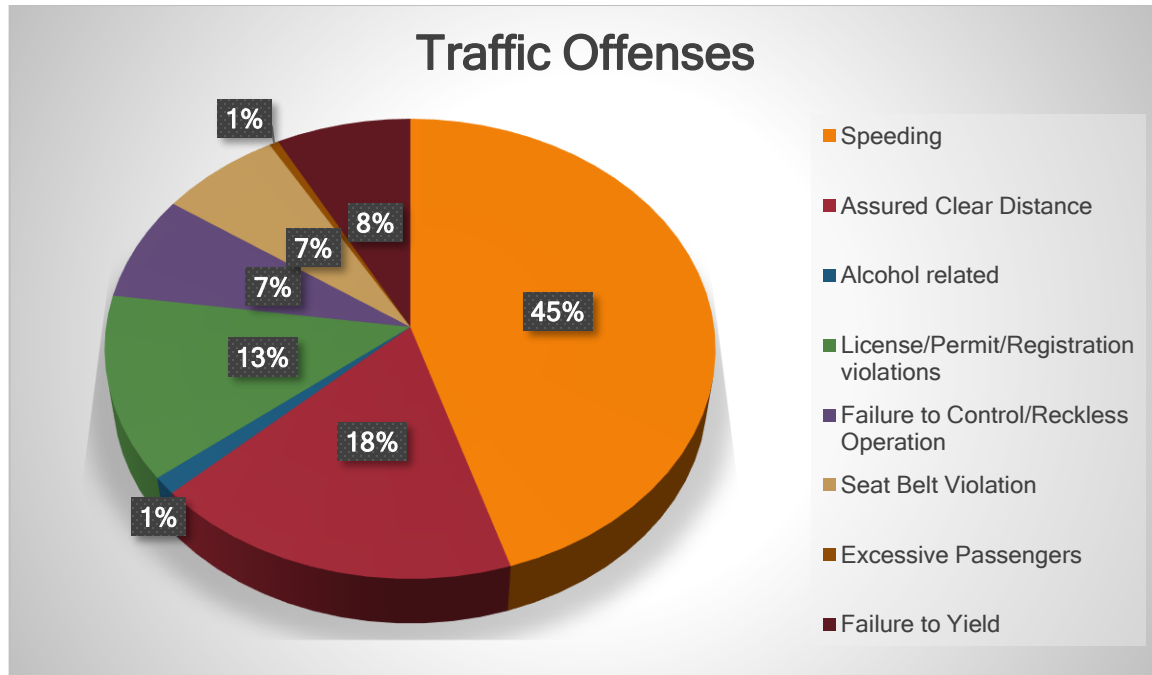


Detention Usage by Sex

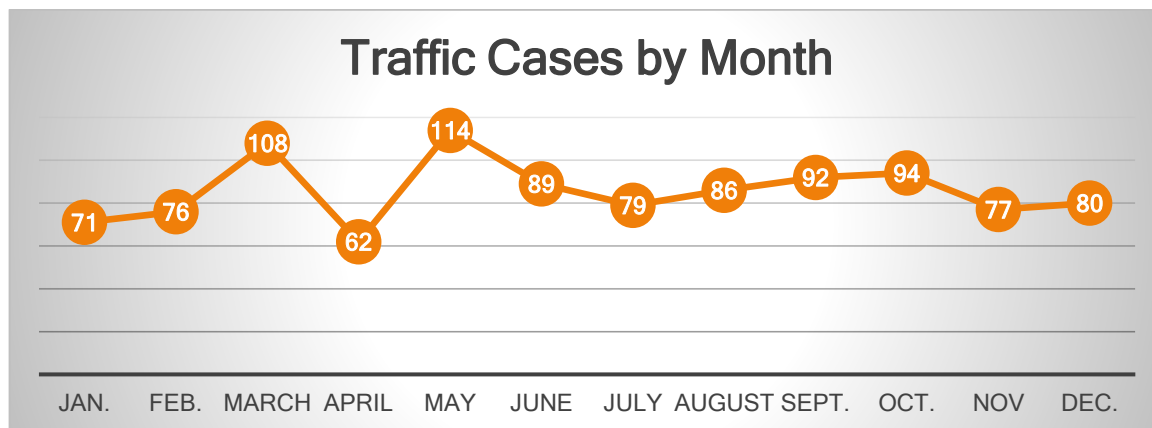


Juvenile Traffic Offenders

Family Court has jurisdiction over juvenile traffic offenses. The Court processed 1,022 juvenile traffic cases in 2019 with \$206,044.78 in fines and costs assessed.



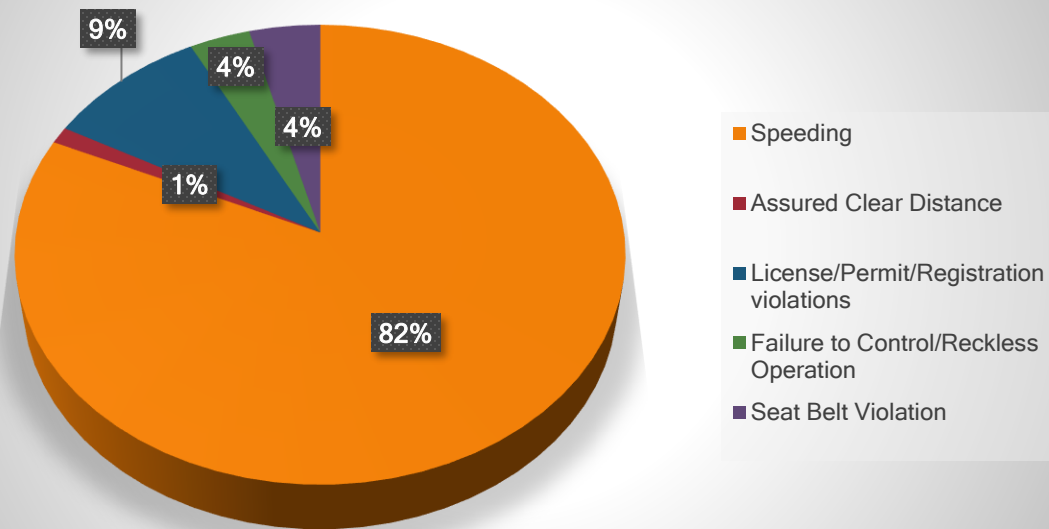
The following chart demonstrates the busiest months for juvenile traffic cases.



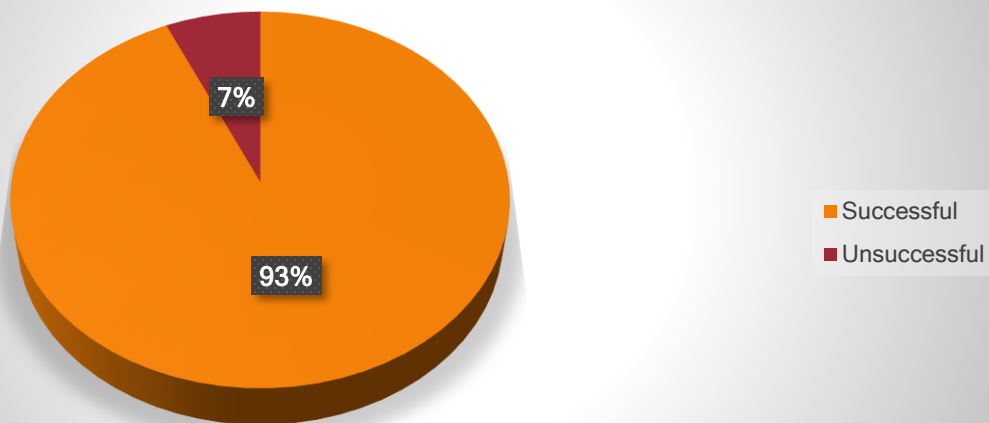
Traffic Diversion Program

The Court implemented a Traffic Diversion program in 2019. This program targets drivers with minor, first time traffic violations. Participants in this program complete a driver's training program as well as pay all fines and costs. The traffic case can be completed with no points assigned to the participant's record. In 2019, 228 traffic cases were sent through Traffic Diversion. Cases not successfully diverted may be referred for formal court processing.

Diverted Traffic Offenses



Traffic Diversion Outcomes



Adult Offenses

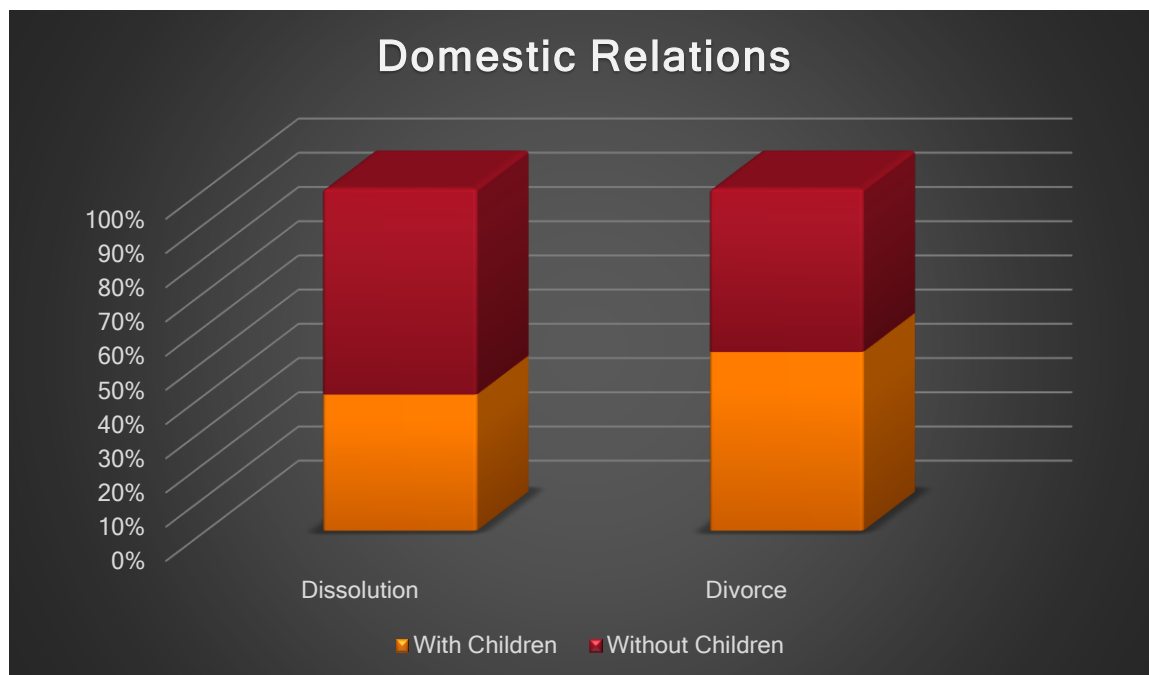
Stark County Family Court processes adult charges. These charges typically involve Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor which, is a misdemeanor offense. In many cases, these charges are brought forth with Truancy charges and parents unwilling to send a child to school. In 2019, the Court processed 49 adult cases, with 25 resulting from truancy filings.

Domestic Relations Division

The Domestic Relations Division of the Family Court addresses cases involving domestic couples, including Divorces, Dissolutions, Domestic Violence, Child Support, Child Custody and Visitation. Domestic Relations case types are described on the following pages.

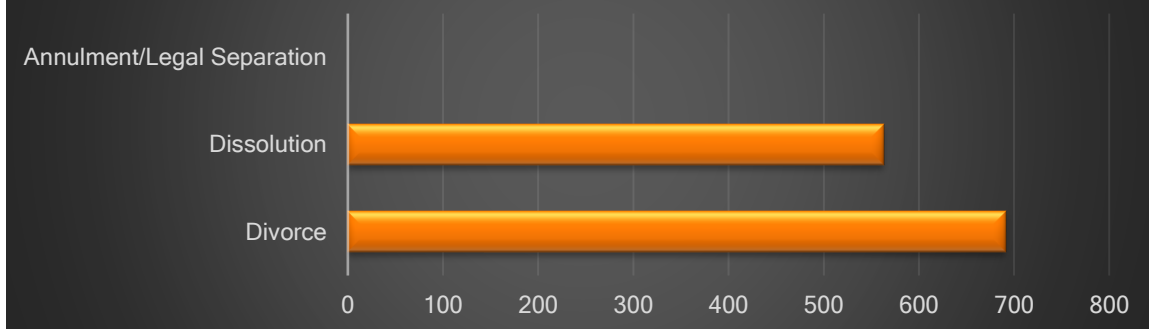
Divorce/ Dissolution

The Domestic Relations Division addressed 1,396 cases in 2019; 692 divorces and 564 dissolutions. The Division heard 110 Domestic Violence Civil Protection Requests and 122 change of custody matters.

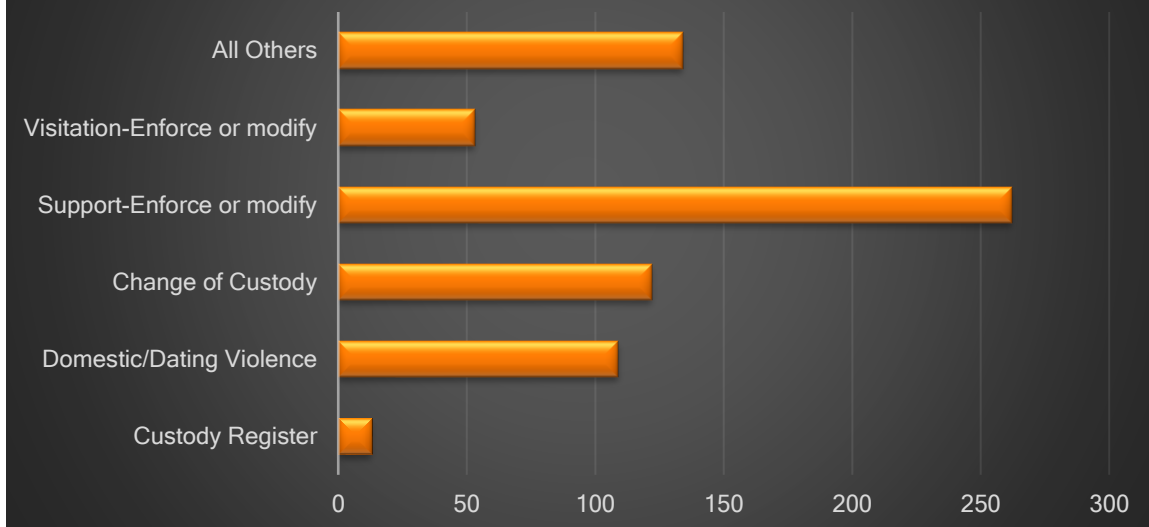


While divorces and dissolutions make up a majority of cases processed by the Domestic Relations docket, other case types are also included. The graphs below represent the volume of cases processed by the Domestic Relations Division in 2019.

Domestic Relations Case Volume



Domestic Relations Case Volume-All Others



Clearance Rates

Statistics regarding types of cases filed and the timeliness in which those cases are disposed are reported monthly to the Ohio Supreme Court. “Clearance rates” are defined as: the length of time from filing to disposition that a case type remains active on a court’s docket without going past the Ohio Supreme Court time guidelines. Rates extending beyond 100% indicate the Court has cleared a backlog of those case types, closing more cases than were filed.

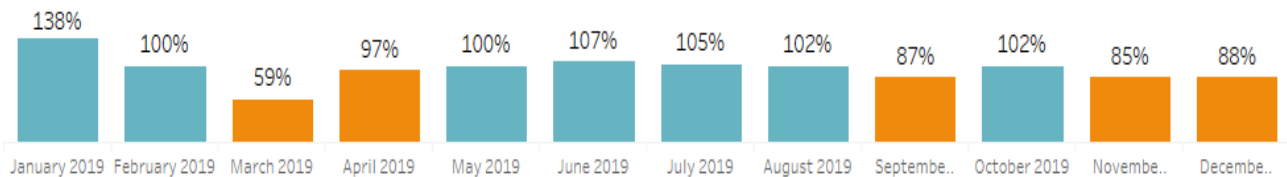
The below two sets of graphs demonstrate how efficiently cases are processed, in both the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions and those rates are compared to state wide averages.

Stark County Juvenile Docket Clearance Rates

Clearance Rate, All Case Types, 2019

Stark - All Judges

Clearance rate is calculated by dividing the number of cases disposed in a given month by the number of cases coming in to the court in the same month. **Orange bars** indicate where the clearance rate is less than the optimal 100%. If a judge is selected and no data is displayed, check the year filter and choose a year in which the judge was in office.



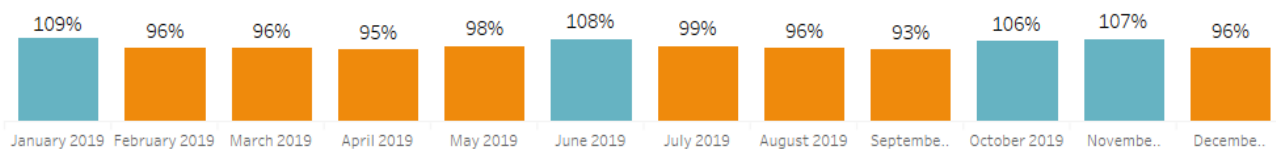
*Data Source: Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section statistical reporting, collected under Sup. R. 37.

Juvenile Docket Clearance Rates for the State of Ohio

Clearance Rate, All Case Types, 2019

All - All Judges

Clearance rate is calculated by dividing the number of cases disposed in a given month by the number of cases coming in to the court in the same month. **Orange bars** indicate where the clearance rate is less than the optimal 100%. If a judge is selected and no data is displayed, check the year filter and choose a year in which the judge was in office.



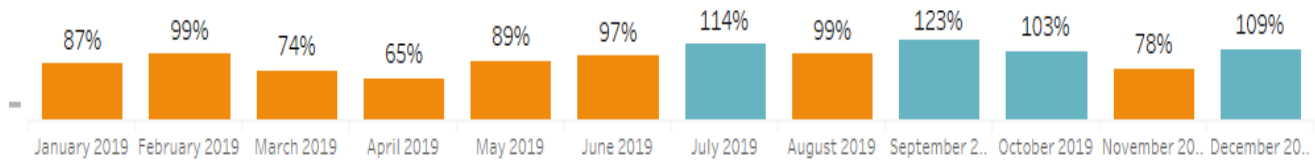
* Data Source: Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section statistical reporting, collected under Sup. R. 37.

Stark County Domestic Relations Docket Clearance Rates

Clearance Rate, All Case Types, 2019

Stark - All Judges

Clearance rate is calculated by dividing the number of cases disposed in a given month by the number of cases coming in to the court in the same month. **Orange bars** indicate where the clearance rate is less than the optimal 100%. If a judge is selected and no data is displayed, check the year filter and choose a year in which the judge was in office.



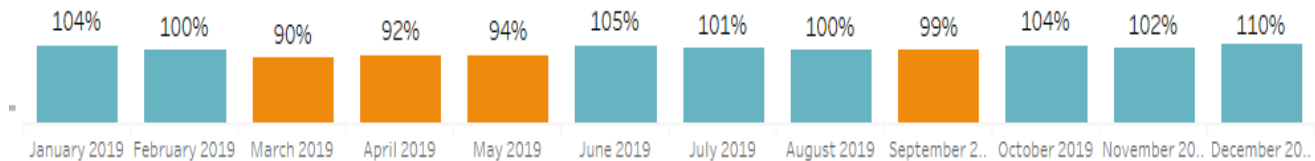
* Data Source: Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section statistical reporting, collected under Sup. R. 37.

Domestic Relations Docket Clearance Rates for the State of Ohio

Clearance Rate, All Case Types, 2019

All - All Judges

Clearance rate is calculated by dividing the number of cases disposed in a given month by the number of cases coming in to the court in the same month. **Orange bars** indicate where the clearance rate is less than the optimal 100%. If a judge is selected and no data is displayed, check the year filter and choose a year in which the judge was in office.



* Data Source: Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section statistical reporting, collected under Sup. R. 37.

Overview of the Stark County Family Court's Budget and Expenses in 2019.

In calendar year, 2019, the Stark County Family Court had a budget of \$7,936,838.53, in which a total of \$6,591,944.36 or 83% was expended amongst all funding sources.

A percentage of expenses attributed to each fund, in descending order is:

1. County General Fund - 53.4%
2. Youth Services / RECLAIM - 33.9%
3. Federal Title IV-E - 6.7%
4. Family Court Special Projects - 5.8%
5. Community Trauma and Loss - .2%

A percentage of expenses attributed by category, in descending order is:

1. Personnel (salaries and benefits) - 74.6%
2. Purchased Services -20.9%
3. Miscellaneous (travel, training, court projects, etc.) - 1.9%
4. Capital expense - 1.6%
5. Supplies and Materials - 1%

Budget and expense information is detailed below in *Figure 1*.

Budget Detail								
	Community Trauma & Loss Grant	General Fund - Juvenile	General Fund - Domestic Relations	Special Projects	Title IV-E Juvenile Administration	Youth Services - RECLAIM (988)	Youth Services - RECLAIM (055)	Total FC Budget
2019 Budget	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 3,063,469.98	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 631,621.41	\$ 1,070,388.20	\$ 2,458,858.94		\$ 7,936,838.53
Expense Detail								
Expense Account Description	Community Trauma & Loss Grant	General Fund - Juvenile	General Fund - Domestic Relations	Special Projects	Title IV-E Juvenile Administration	Youth Services - RECLAIM (988)	Youth Services - RECLAIM (055)	FC Expense by Category
Personnel Services	\$ -	\$ 1,636,910.35	\$ 577,893.82	\$ 142,993.21	\$ 83,771.17	\$ 510,121.07	\$ 427,924.58	\$ 3,379,614.20
Employee Benefits	\$ -	\$ 877,628.02	\$ 117,084.60	\$ 39,206.68	\$ 28,288.22	\$ 262,773.22	\$ 213,702.84	\$ 1,538,683.58
Supplies and Materials	\$ -	\$ 41,817.72	\$ -	\$ 3,363.67	\$ 1,116.04	\$ 8,419.82	\$ 8,246.83	\$ 62,964.08
Purchased Services	\$ -	\$ 224,359.26	\$ -	\$ 113,698.60	\$ 328,871.31	\$ 447,187.70	\$ 264,201.90	\$ 1,378,318.77
Capital	\$ -	\$ 29,929.18	\$ -	\$ 30,299.97	\$ -	\$ 44,095.00	\$ -	\$ 104,324.15
Misc.	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,215.86	\$ -	\$ 52,491.29	\$ 2,615.00	\$ 13,970.06	\$ 31,247.37	\$ 128,039.58
	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 2,825,860.39	\$ 694,978.42	\$ 382,053.42	\$ 444,661.74	\$ 1,286,566.87	\$ 945,323.52	\$ 6,591,944.36
Figure 1								
2019 Budget and Calendar Year Expenditures by Fund								

Fund and Grant Description:

County General Fund:

The Stark County general fund is primarily funded by sales tax revenue. The fund is additionally comprised of local conveyance and recorder fees, interest income, the Ohio local government fund, and State casino revenue tax. Stark County Family Court receives an

allocation after submission of a budget request to the Stark County Board of Commissioners. A combined 42 full and part-time positions were funded via the general fund, as well as the county portion of the Court's 3 elected Judges. Many other operating expenses are paid through the general fund, such as deputy security, interpreter services, court ordered behavioral health testing, information technology and much more. In 2019, the Court implemented a Diversion program funded via the general fund that has thus far diverted an average of 73 youth a month from formal court proceedings. As a result, we have seen a decrease in many historically common expenses.

Youth Services / RECLAIM:

The Ohio Department of Youth Services grant, better known as RECLAIM, stands for **Reasoned and Equitable Community & Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors**. It is a state-wide competitive grant that is annually applied for each state fiscal year, and awarded to courts based on a weighted formula of DYS/CCF commitments and felony adjudications. For standardization and comparative purposes of this report, expenses were based upon the calendar year. Additionally, multiple line items within RECLAIM have been grouped together. The separate allocations received by Stark County, within RECLAIM, are known as the base grant, the subsidy variable, targeted RECLAIM, YE/EVB and JDAI.

In 2019, the RECLAIM grant funded 23 full-time court positions in our Probation and Behavioral Health departments, as well as 15 community-based programs providing evidence-based treatment to court involved youth. Approximately 1,300 youth were admitted into RECLAIM funded programs in 2019.

Title IV-E Juvenile Administration:

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides for federal reimbursement for a portion of the maintenance, administration and training costs of foster care children who meet the federal eligibility requirements. The federal funding operates as a pass-through which is coordinated by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and open to Juvenile Courts meeting IV-E criteria.

In 2019, 2 employees were funded via Title IV-E, which in the same year was reduced to 1 through attrition. 8 youth were in a licensed IV-E facility at some point in 2019; 6 of those

youth were placed within 2019. The Court typically averages 3-6 youth in placement at any given time.

Family Court Special Projects:

Ohio Revised Code allows for the court of common pleas of any county to authorize the clerk of courts to charge and collect applicable court fees under ORC 2303.20. Special projects funds can be utilized at the discretion of the Judges to pay for a wide range of expenses deemed essential for efficient operation of the court. In 2019, 1 part-time position and 2 full-time positions were funded via Special Projects, amongst other allowable expenses necessary for efficient operation.

Various Awards and Grants Received in 2019

The Stark County Family Court continually seeks funding opportunities to reduce expenses charged to the general fund. In 2019, 46.6% of court expenses originated from either Federal, State, or privately funded grants.

Additional grants and funding received in 2019, which would be included in one of the above funds are \$82,000 in funding received for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), \$60,000 received from United Way to operate Teen Court, and \$20,000 received from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services for the Drug Court Specialized Docket. A technology grant made available through the Supreme Court of Ohio in the amount of \$47,157 was applied for in calendar year, 2019, but not awarded and received until 2020.

From the Judges

2019 was a year of significant transition for the Stark County Family Court. Implementing juvenile justice reform strategies to improve outcomes for youth involved with the Court required analysis, vision and cooperation from court staff and system partners. Common notions about what disposition alternatives are effective, had to be put aside in favor of data-driven outcomes. While change is uncomfortable, the Family Court staff has adapted to new organizational structures and duties. They have been innovative and effective in their new roles which is much appreciated.

This annual report demonstrates that the Court's commitment to juvenile justice reform has proven to be effective. Delinquent recidivism has significantly declined after a full year of JDAI. This demonstrates that fewer juveniles need to be detained while still protecting the community. The report also demonstrates that much work needs to be done to improve outcomes for our families and youth. Minority youth continue to be overrepresented in court and in detention. As you look at where delinquency referrals come from, you can see that to be truly effective, reforms must come from the system as a whole.

Accordingly, the Judges of this Court commit to working with our system partners to implementing reforms that will improve outcomes, using evidence-based practices and data-driven decisions in 2020 and thereafter.



Judge Jim D. James



Judge Rosemarie A. Hall



Judge David R. Nist

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