



COURTS OF
COMMON PLEAS
Juvenile Division

Juvenile divisions of courts of common pleas hear cases involving delinquent, unruly, and neglected and dependent children, and have jurisdiction in adult cases involving paternity, child abuse, non-support, contributing to the delinquency of minors, and the failure to send children to school.

Juvenile divisions exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have separately-administered juvenile divisions:

Butler	Hamilton	Montgomery
Cuyahoga	Lake	Richland
Erie	Lucas	Summit
Greene	Mahoning	

Caseloads

The *Appendix* contains a table showing the number of statewide new filings by type of case from 2006 to 2015. Caseloads in the juvenile division have experienced more changes over a 10-year period than other divisions of the courts of common pleas. Overall, the state saw a 4 percent decline in the total number of incoming juvenile cases in 2015 compared to 2014, with the largest decreases in Parentage and All Other case types. Over the past ten years, there was a 35 percent decrease in incoming juvenile cases. Significant drivers of that decline were decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases which exhibited 10-year declines of 49 and 52 percent, respectively. (See **Figures 1 and 2**).

FIGURE 1

Delinquency Cases Total incoming cases

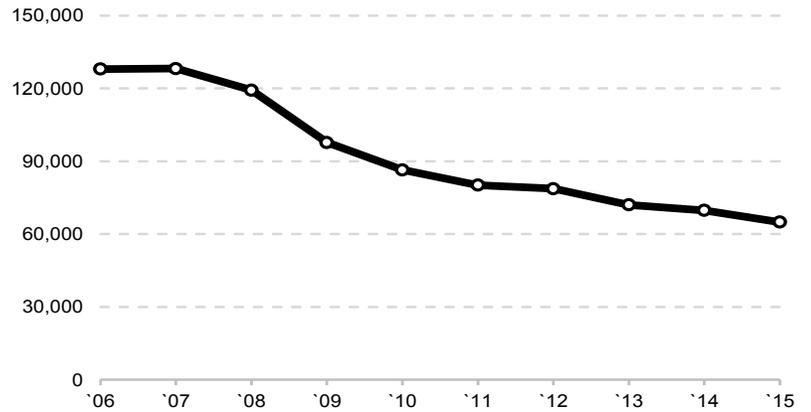


FIGURE 2

Juvenile Traffic Cases Total incoming cases

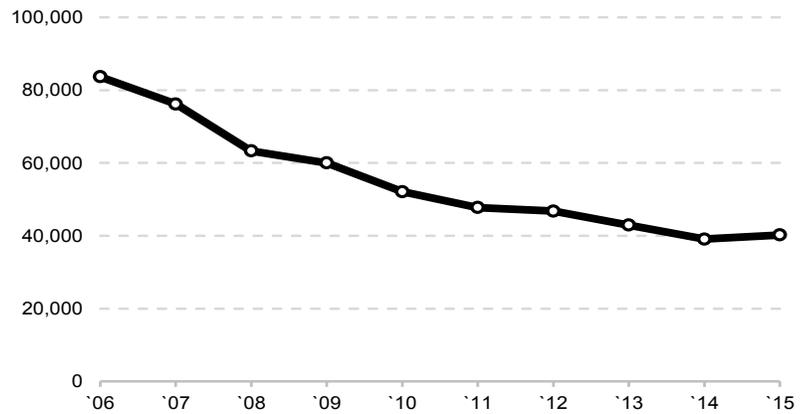


FIGURE 3

Child Welfare Cases

Total incoming cases

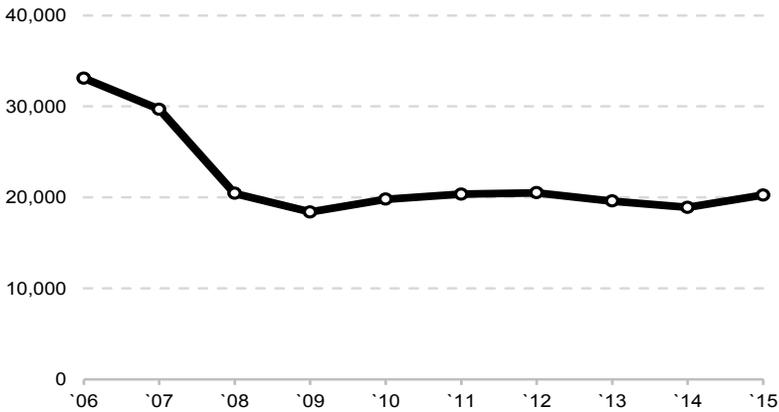


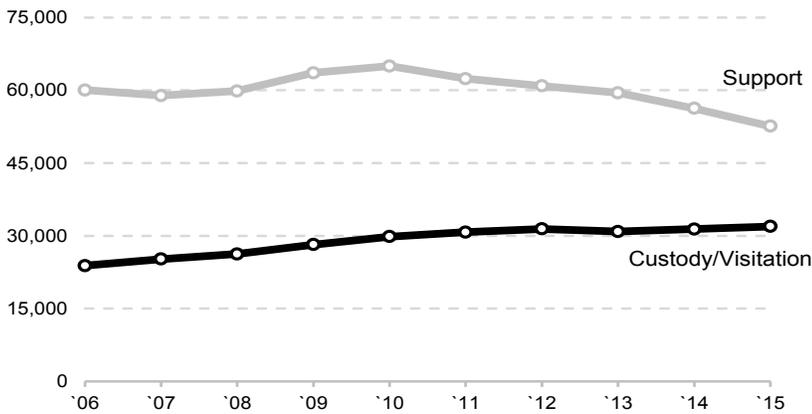
Figure 3 shows incoming child welfare-related cases consisting of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases and Motions for Permanent Custody cases. Between 2006 and 2009, a downward trend can be seen in the data, which mirrored the general decline seen nationally in the number of incoming cases of these types over that time period. Between 2010 and 2014, the number of incoming cases were relatively stable until a 7 percent increase in 2015 (for a total of 20,261 filings).

Filing of custody and visitation cases (Custody/Visitation) have exhibited an upward trend over the last 10 years, while support filings (Support Enforcement or Modification) have steadily declined since 2010. (See Figure 4). In 2015, a total of 52,574 support matters were filed, a 19 percent decline from the 10-year high of 64,988 cases in 2010. A total of 31,928 incoming Custody/Visitation cases were reported in 2015, a 10-year high.

FIGURE 4

Custody/Visitation and Support Cases

Total incoming cases



It is notable to mention that the generally upward trends in Custody/Visitation matters within the juvenile divisions align with the downward trends in related case types heard in Ohio's domestic relations divisions. The critical difference here is that the matters heard in juvenile divisions involve unmarried persons, whereas the related case types heard in domestic relations divisions are generally an outgrowth of a divorce or dissolution.

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

Table 1 shows the average monthly clearance rates over 2015 for each case type. In all case types except Motions for Permanent Custody, the courts exhibited clearance rates at 95 percent or above. The average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. For 2015, the overage rates in 6 of the 11 case types heard in Ohio's juvenile courts exceed 10 percent. Due to the limitations in the Supreme Court's reporting instructions for U.I.F.S.A. cases, the overage rates for those cases can appear particularly elevated, and without conducting additional research at the local court level, the reader is cautioned against interpreting these as accurate measures of the courts' actual case processing timeliness performance for those particular case types.

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

Average per month in 2015

Case Type	Monthly Average
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	95%
Adult Cases	98%
All Others	104%
Custody/Visitation	96%
Delinquency	101%
Motion for Permanent Custody	89%
Parentage	112%
Support - Enforce or Modify	100%
Traffic	100%
U.I.F.S.A.	95%
Unruly	103%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

Percent of caseload pending past time guidelines, average per month

Case Type <i>(Time guideline, in months)</i>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency ⁽³⁾	16%	17%	20%	20%	23%
Adult Cases ⁽⁶⁾	16%	16%	16%	18%	12%
All Others ⁽⁶⁾	9%	15%	13%	12%	12%
Custody/Visitation ⁽⁹⁾	9%	9%	9%	11%	9%
Delinquency ⁽⁶⁾	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Motion for Permanent Custody ⁽⁹⁾	13%	12%	7%	11%	7%
Parentage ⁽¹²⁾	9%	15%	22%	23%	3%
Support - Enforce or Modify ⁽¹²⁾	4%	6%	6%	5%	4%
Traffic ⁽³⁾	18%	14%	11%	13%	11%
U.I.F.S.A. ⁽³⁾	20%	22%	44%	24%	13%
Unruly ⁽³⁾	17%	18%	18%	16%	17%