



# County Criminal Courts at Law

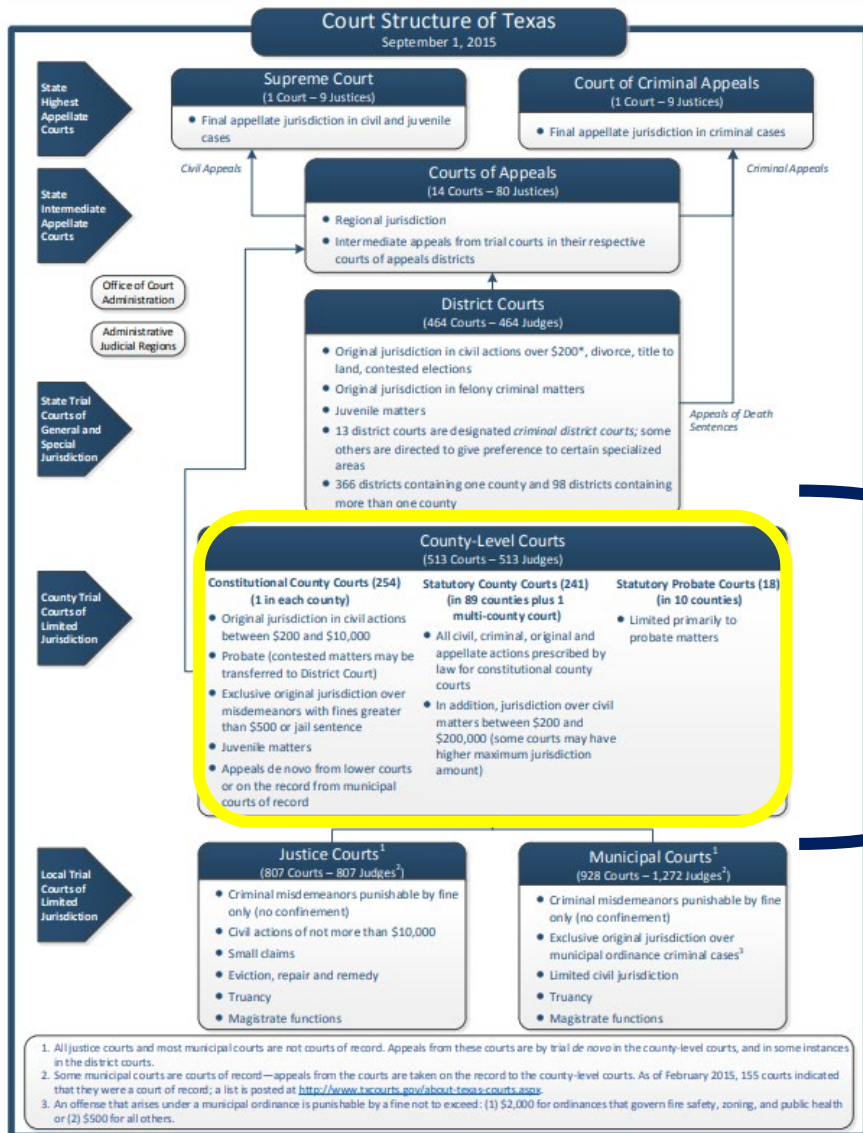
Criminal Courts at Law  
Probable Cause Court  
Office of Court Management

# County Criminal Courts at Law

The 16 Harris County Criminal Courts at Law have original jurisdiction of all misdemeanors over which exclusive original jurisdiction is not given to the justice courts, and when the fine to be imposed shall exceed \$500 or confinement in the county jail does not exceed one year.

These Courts have concurrent jurisdiction with the Harris County Civil Courts at Law to hear appeals of the suspension of a driver's license, jurisdiction to grant occupational drivers licenses, and appellate jurisdiction in appeals of criminal cases from justice courts and municipal courts in the county.





**County-Level Courts**  
(513 Courts – 513 Judges)

Constitutional County Courts (254) (1 in each county)	Statutory County Courts (241) (in 89 counties plus 1 multi-county court)	Statutory Probate Courts (18) (in 10 counties)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original jurisdiction in civil actions between \$200 and \$10,000</li> <li>Probate (contested matters may be transferred to District Court)</li> <li>Exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanors with fines greater than \$500 or jail sentence</li> <li>Juvenile matters</li> <li>Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All civil, criminal, original and appellate actions prescribed by law for constitutional county courts</li> <li>In addition, jurisdiction over civil matters between \$200 and \$200,000 (some courts may have higher maximum jurisdiction amount)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited primarily to probate matters</li> </ul>

**County-Level Courts (513 Courts – 513 Judges)**

- Original jurisdiction in civil actions between \$200 and \$10,000
- Probate (contested matters may be transferred to District Court)
- Exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanors with fines greater than \$500 or jail sentence
- Juvenile matters
- Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record

# Harris County Office of Court Management

16 County  
Criminal  
Courts at Law

4 County Civil  
Courts at Law

16 Justice  
Courts  
[independent]

24-Hour  
Probable  
Cause Hearing  
Court

Office of  
Court  
Management

- Leadership in development of court processes and management practices
- Administrative support
- Staff Attorney / legal services
- Information Technology / infrastructure and multi-tier help desk
- Information Technology / reporting, business intelligence, research, and application engineering
- Human Resources and Payroll coordination
- Training support for effective court/caseload management

# Mission

The Mission of the Office of Court Management is to assist the Harris County and Justice Courts in their ability to provide a forum for the fair, impartial, accessible, and timely resolution of cases. This mission is accomplished through close collaboration, enabling-technologies, justice community leadership, and continual monitoring, evaluation and improvement of court and justice practices.

# Vision

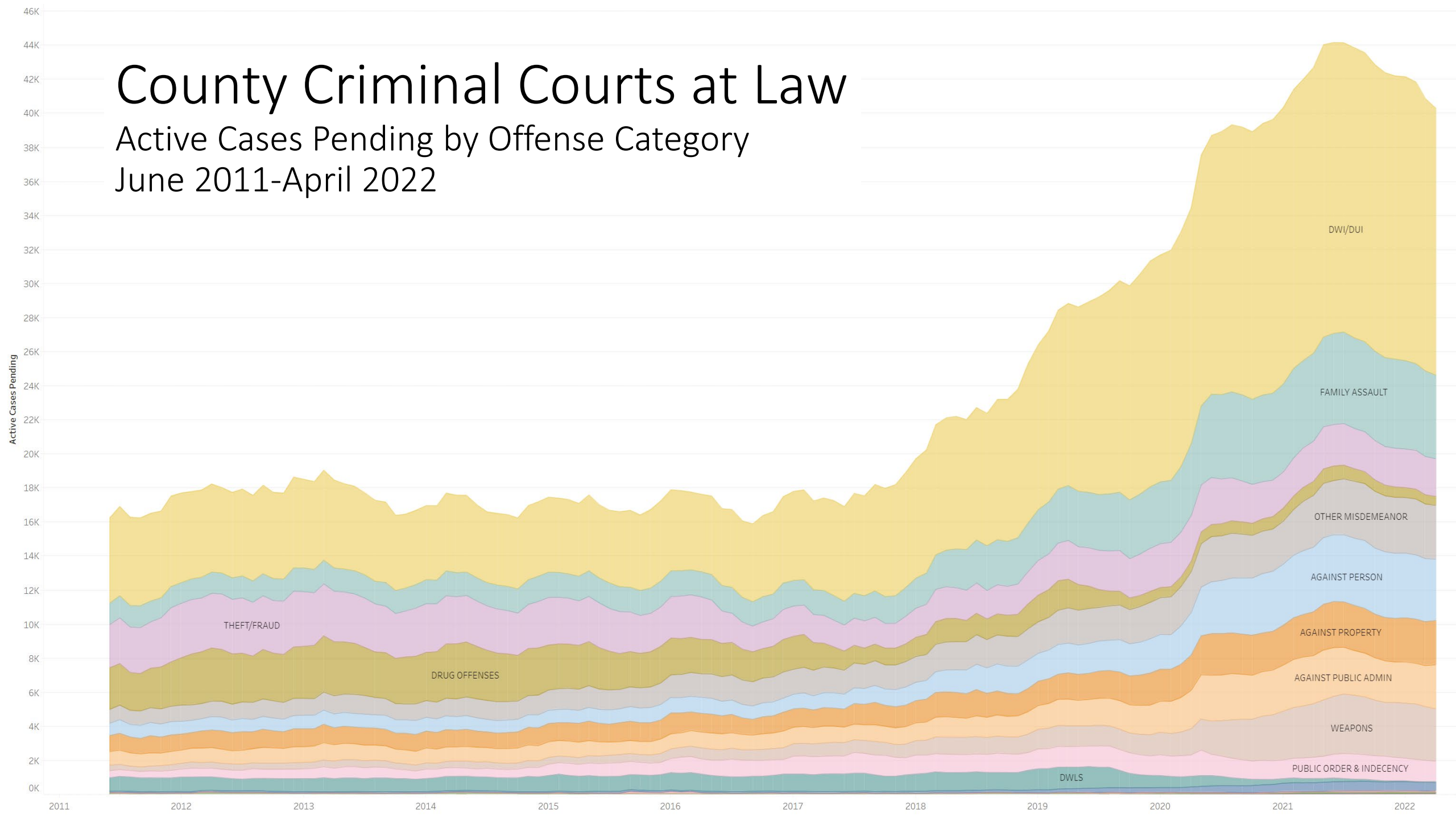
A Harris County and Justice Court system that is;

- Fair, equitable, and accessible to the community and those who come before the court, effective in its ability to carry out its constitutional duties,
- efficient in its adherence to established principles of time standards and caseflow management,
- an established source of visioning and strategic planning for the Harris County justice community,
- and consistent with the Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts.

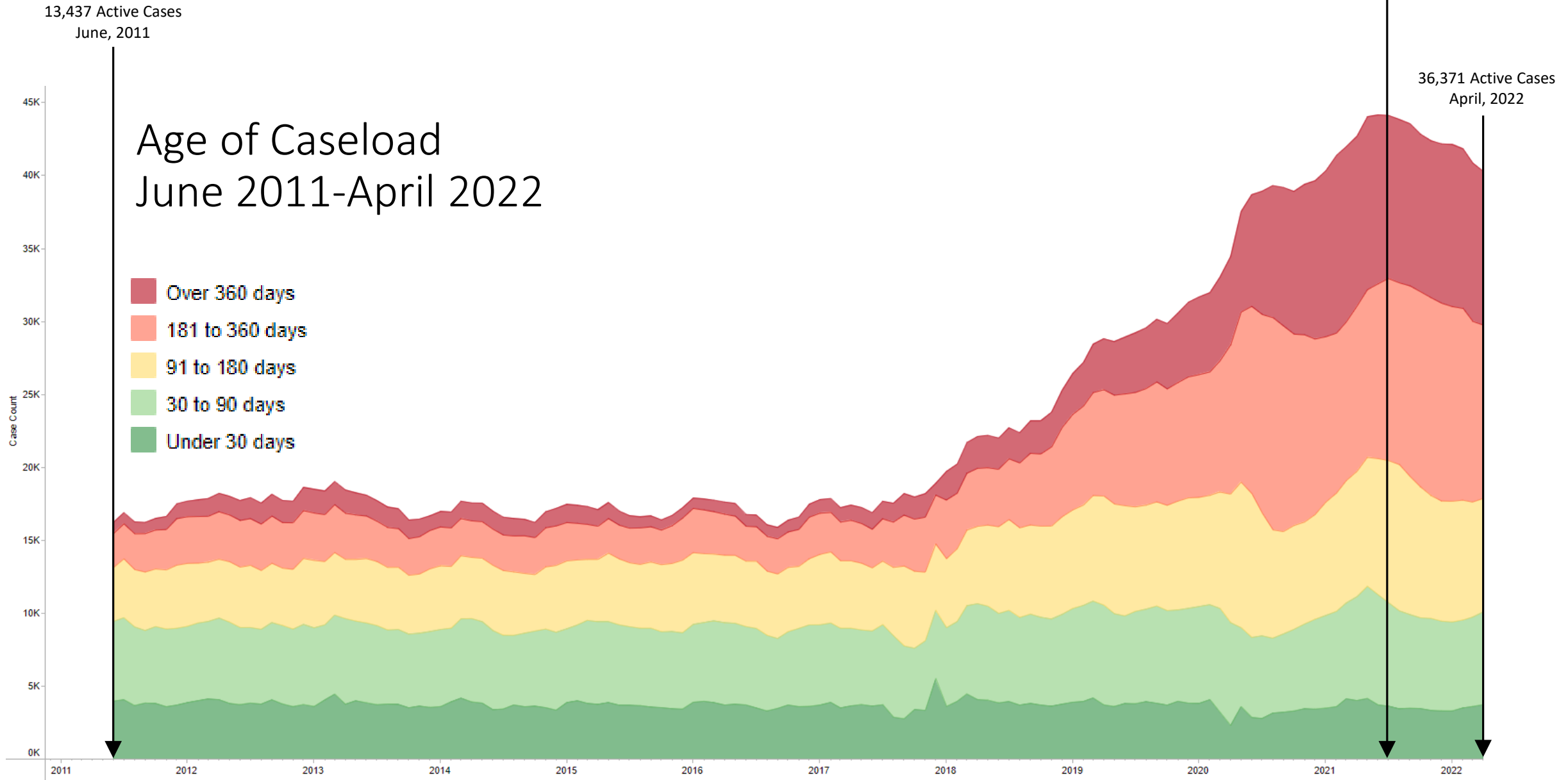
# County Criminal Courts at Law

Active Cases Pending by Offense Category

June 2011-April 2022



# Age of Caseload June 2011-April 2022



13,437 Active Cases  
June, 2011

40,495 Active Cases  
June, 2021

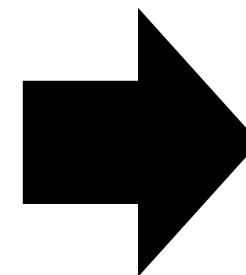
36,371 Active Cases  
April, 2022

- Over 360 days
- 181 to 360 days
- 91 to 180 days
- 30 to 90 days
- Under 30 days

- **Age of Caseload:** The age of the active cases pending before the court, measured as the number of days between filing/arrest and the time of measurement. Misdemeanor criminal court cases older than 180 days in age, exceed nationally-recognized model time standards for state trial courts.
- **Active Cases Pending:** Cases over which the court has control, and which are awaiting disposition.
- **Clearance Rate:** measures the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases.

**TABLE OF MODEL TIME STANDARDS**

Case Category	Case Type	COSCA Standard	ABA Standard	Model Standard
CRIMINAL	Felony	100% within 180 days	90% within 120 days 98% within 180 days 100% within 365 days	75% within 90 days 90% within 180 days 98% within 365 days
	Misdemeanor	100% within 90 days	90% within 30 days 100% within 90 days	75% within 60 days 90% within 90 days 98% within 180 days



- Over 360 days
- 181 to 360 days
- 91 to 180 days
- 30 to 90 days
- Under 30 days

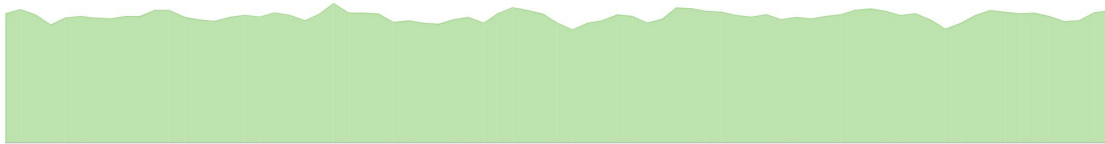
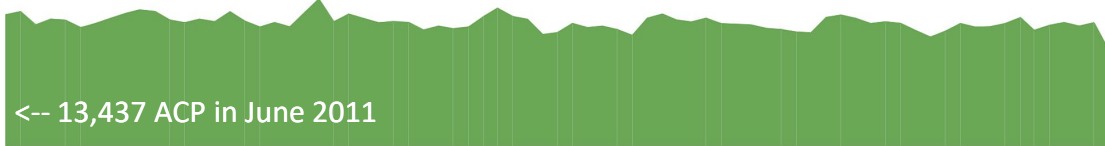




# County Criminal Courts at Law

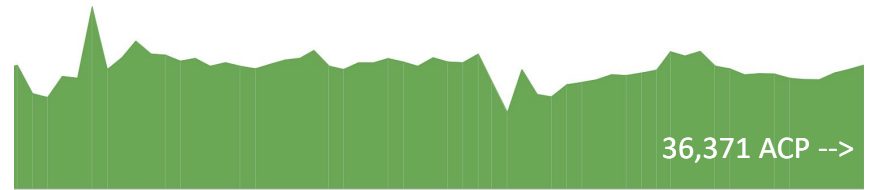
## Age of Caseload Trend

### June 2011 – July 2017

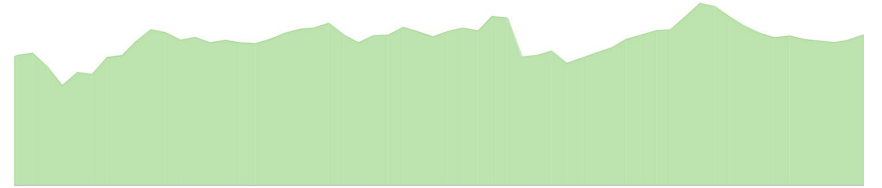


### August 2017 – Present

0-30 days



31-90 days



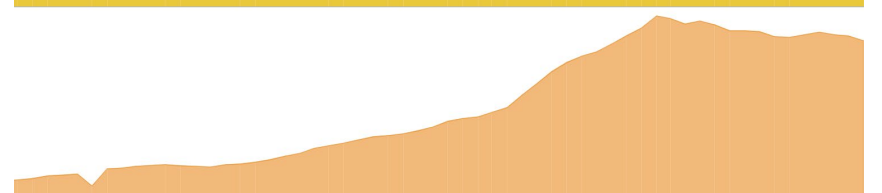
91-180 days



180-360 day



361+ days



# 24-Hour Probable Cause Hearing Court

The Criminal Law Hearing Officers in the 24-Hour Probable Cause Court review probable cause for further detention on new arrest cases for all levels of crimes from fine-only misdemeanors to felonies, providing arrestees with the warnings described in Code of Criminal Procedures Art. 15.17.

In addition, they:

- set bonds on misdemeanor and felony cases,
- have jurisdiction to accept pleas and dispose of cases in fine-only misdemeanor cases from the Justice Courts,
- review probable cause for the issuance of emergency protection orders, arrest warrants, search warrants, and mental health warrants,
- administer magistrate warnings on out-of-county and out of state fugitive cases
- review of notifications in accordance with CCP Art. 16.22

# 24-Hour Probable Cause Hearing Court Workload

- 66,518 Class B, Class A and Felony cases on the PC Court docket in 2021
- 34,250 Class C cases on the PC Court docket in 2021
- 6,803 Mental Health Warrants reviewed in 2021
- 31,542 CCP Art. 16.22 Orders issued in 2021
- 3,654 Average of Additional Workload in January – April 2022

# County Criminal Courts at Law

## Family Assault, Terroristic Threat and Protective Order Violations

### Assaultive Violations

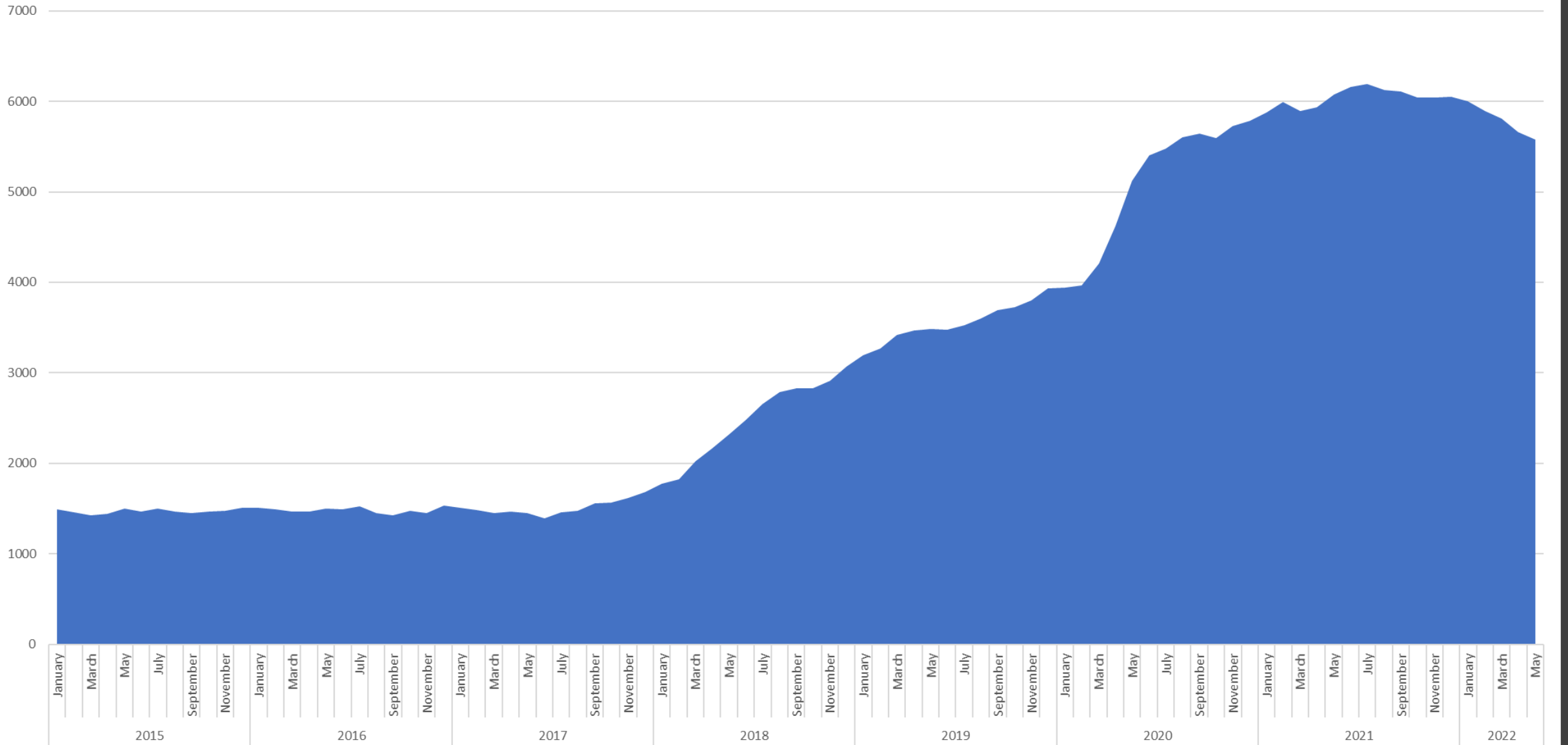
Offense Description	Penal Code
ASSAULT-BOD INJ-FAMILY MEMBER ASSAULT-PHYS CONTACT-FAM MEMB ASSAULT-FAMILY MEMBER	TX 22.01
TERRORISTIC THREAT FAMILY/HOUS	TX 22.07C

### Protective Order Violations

Offense Description	Penal Code
VIOLATION PROTECTIVE ORDER	TX 25.07
VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER ENH.	TX 25.07G
VIOLATION PROTECTIVE ORDER - BIAS/P	TX 25.071
VIOLATION SEX ASSAULT PROT ORDER	TX 38.112

# Active Cases Pending: Assault-Family Violence in Misdemeanor Courts

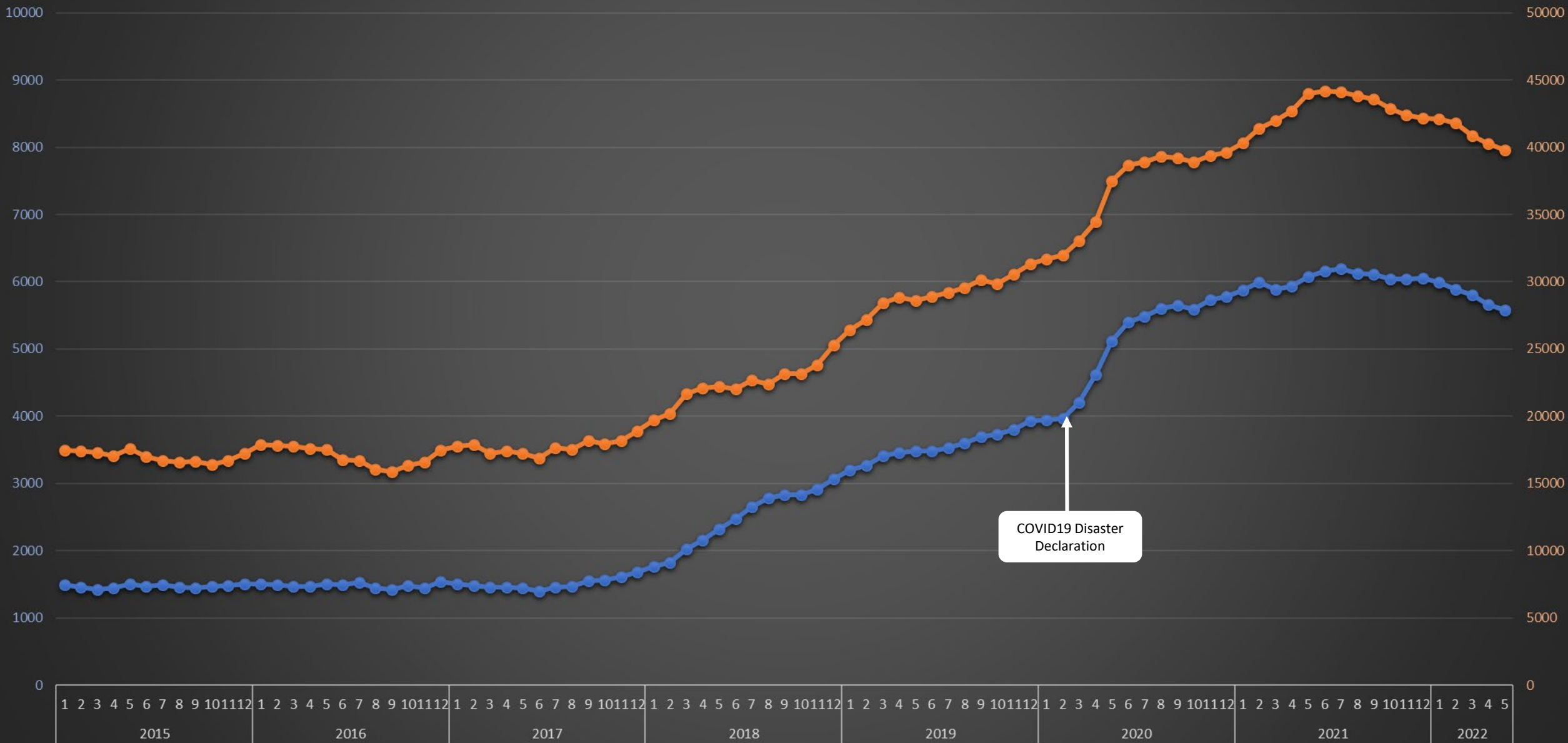
## January 2015 - Present



# Active Cases Pending: Assault-Family Violence in Misdemeanor Courts

## A-FV vs. All Misdemeanor Caseload

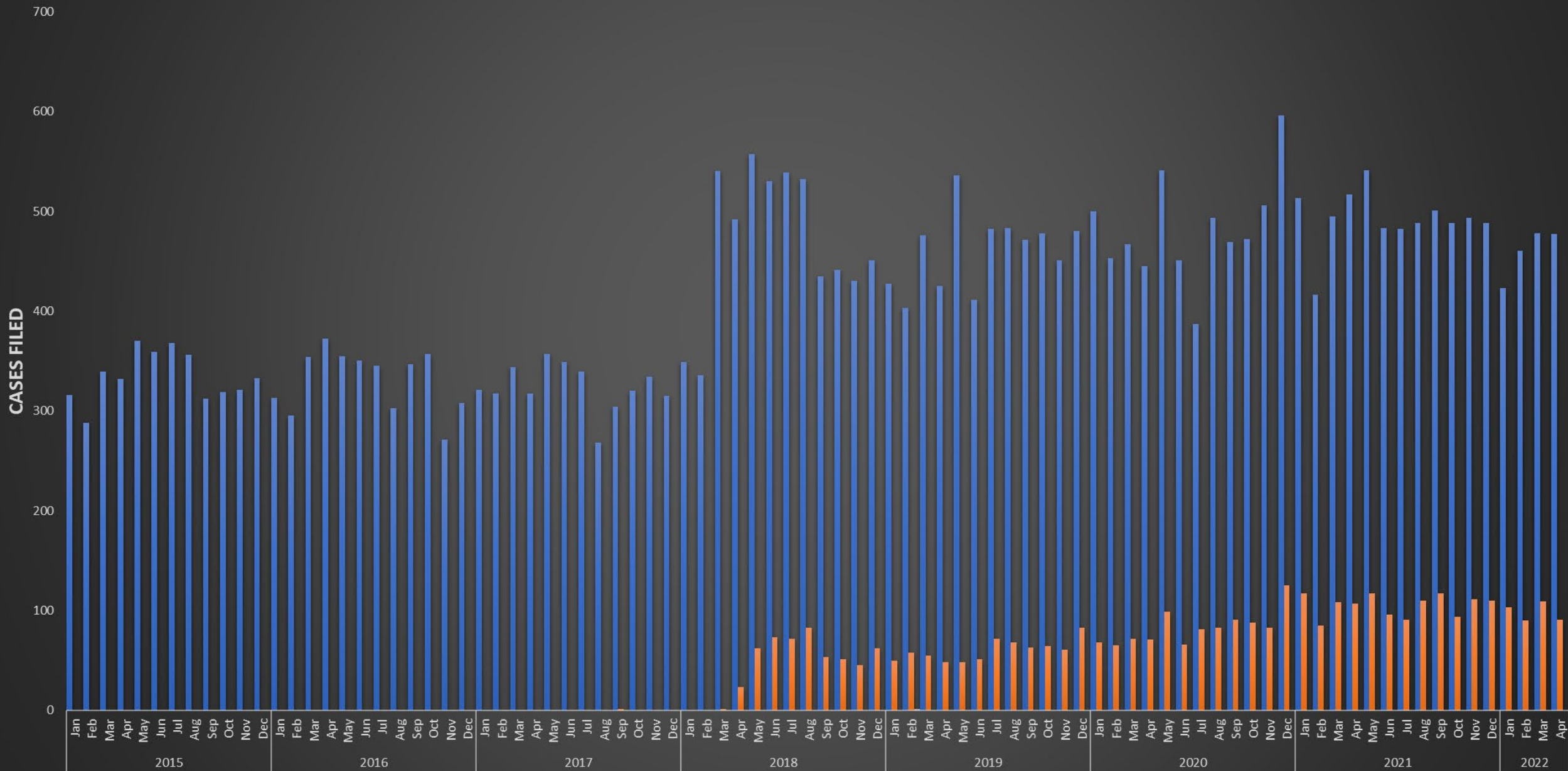
A-FV Cases All Cases



# Cases Filed: Assault-Family Violence and Terroristic Threat Family/Household January 2015 - Present

■ ASSAULT-FAMILY MEMBER

■ TERRORISTIC THREAT FAMILY/HOUS



## Texas Penal Code - § 25.07

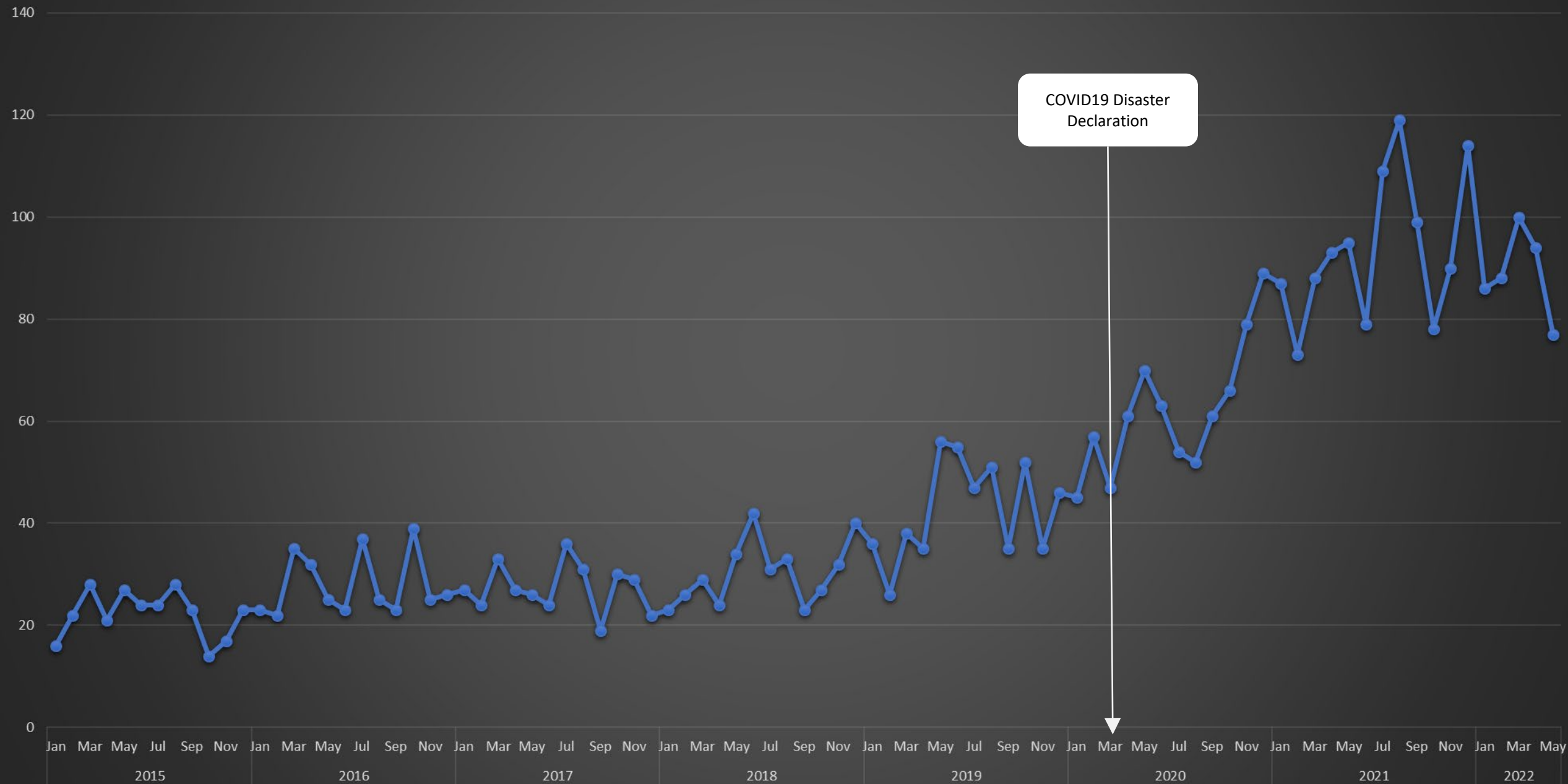
(Protective Order Violations)

“Violation of Certain Court Orders or Conditions of Bond in a Family Violence, Child Abuse or Neglect, Sexual Assault or Abuse, Indecent Assault, Stalking, or Trafficking Case”

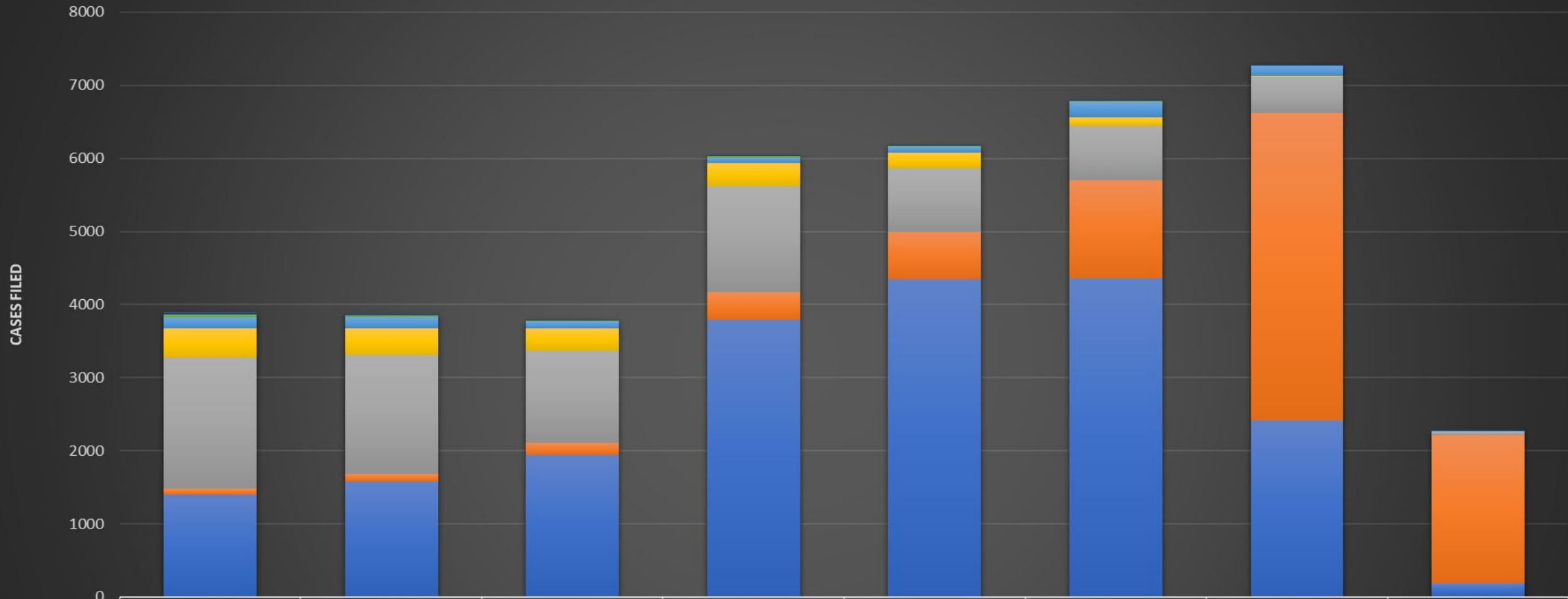


# Cases Filed: Violation of Protective Order in Misdemeanor Courts

January 2015 - Present



# Assault-Family Violence Case Outcomes in Misdemeanor Courts 2015 - Present



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
REFORMED	45	27	13	4	5	1	3	
ACQUITTED	25	19	20	24	12	14	3	
DEFERRED	162	151	94	69	83	218	146	8
OTHER	398	367	300	319	206	109	11	
CONVICTED	1794	1630	1260	1451	873	745	488	49
Still Open	83	102	172	385	657	1350	4205	2032
DISMISSED	1396	1580	1938	3788	4342	4354	2419	185