

LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS

Narrative Summary

This section combines data from both Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts and presents them statewide and by county. These data are intended for users who are concerned only with types of limited jurisdiction cases, irrespective of the specific court in which they occurred. Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts are examined individually in subsequent sections.

Total filings (including transfers in) increased 0.5% in FY 2006, from 2,326,094 last year to 2,337,166. Traffic cases comprised the majority (67.8%) of the filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts. Total traffic filings (criminal and civil) increased by 0.1%, from 1,583,749 last year to 1,585,153 in FY 2006. Criminal filings (misdemeanors and felonies) increased by 3.0%, from 381,455 in FY 2005 to 392,724 in FY 2006.

Petitions for orders of protection in domestic violence cases increased from 23,693 in FY 2005 to 24,188 in FY 2006, an increase of 2.1%. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased, from 20,331 in FY 2005 to 19,763 in FY 2005, a decrease of 2.8%.

Total dispositions (including transfers) increased by 4.5%, from 2,303,133 last year to 2,407,802 in FY 2006. Traffic dispositions (criminal and civil) increased by 3.4% while criminal dispositions (misdemeanor and felony) increased by 15.9 % from last year. Only 12.2% of the orders of protection and 17.2% of the harassment petitions ruled upon were denied.

Total end of year pending cases increased from 1,451,141 in FY 2005 to 1,488,721 in FY 2006, an increase of 2.6%. Most of the increase was in misdemeanor category, which increased from 573,008 in FY 2005 to 678,464 in FY 2006, an increase of 18.4%. While, criminal traffic category decreased from 336,732 in FY 2005 to 286,682 in FY 2006, a decrease of 14.9%.