

Arizona Judicial Branch

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2016



Judiciary Organizational Chart

Supreme Court

7 Justices, 6-year terms
 Chief Justice, Vice Chief Justice
 5 Associate Justices

Court of Appeals

22 Judges, 6-year terms

Division I, Phoenix Chief Judge & 15 Associate Judges Counties: Apache, Coconino, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, Yuma	Division II, Tucson Chief Judge & 5 Associate Judges Counties: Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz
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Superior Court

180 Judges, 4-year terms
 Presiding Judge in each county

Apache	1	Greenlee	1	Pima	30
Cochise	5	La Paz	1	Pinal	10
Coconino	5	Maricopa	98	Santa Cruz	2
Gila	2	Mohave	7	Yavapai	7
Graham	1	Navajo	4	Yuma	6

In addition to the judicial positions listed above, there are approximately 111 full-time and part-time judges pro tempore, commissioners and hearing officers in the Superior Court.

Justice of the Peace Courts

88 Judges, 88 Precincts, 4-year terms

Apache	4	Mohave	5
Cochise	6	Navajo	6
Coconino	4	Pima	10
Gila	2	Pinal	8
Graham	2	Santa Cruz	2
Greenlee	2	Yavapai	5
La Paz	3	Yuma	3
Maricopa	26		

Municipal Courts

138 Full- and Part-time Judges, varying terms

	Judges	Courts		Judges	Courts
Apache	3	3	Mohave	5	4
Cochise	4	4	Navajo	4	4
Coconino	5	4	Pima	15	5
Gila	5	6	Pinal	8	9
Graham	3	3	Santa Cruz	2	2
Greenlee	1	1	Yavapai	9	9
La Paz	2	2	Yuma	5	4
Maricopa	67	22			

Fiscal Year 2016

Caseload Highlights In FY 2016 as compared with FY 2015

- Statewide, 1,913,203 cases were filed in the Arizona Courts during FY 2016 (Appellate, Superior, Tax, Justice and Municipal Courts). That equates to an average of 7,330 cases filed among the Arizona courts every working day.
- Case filings during FY 2016 decreased by 4.4% overall, while revenue decreased by 2.0%. The trend in decreasing revenue continues to be driven by the overall decline in both criminal and civil traffic filings in the limited jurisdiction courts.
- The Supreme Court experienced an increase of 2.4% in case filings from FY 2015 to FY 2016. Filings in the court of appeals were unchanged with 3,615 filings in FY 2016, compared to 3,594 in FY 2015.
- Superior Court case filings decreased by 1.0% statewide, from 190,611 in FY 2015 to 188,720 in FY 2016. Filings in the civil and juvenile categories decreased by 6.2% and 2.9%, respectively. Probate case filings increased by 8.3% and mental health filings increased by 9.5% from FY 2015 to FY 2016. There was minimal change in filings of criminal and domestic relations cases during the same period.
- Within the Superior Court juvenile case category, juvenile delinquency filings decreased by 9.6% while adoption filings increased by 7.1%. Juvenile dependency filings were flat from FY 2015 to FY 2016, but up 28.2% from FY 2012.
- Filings in the limited jurisdiction courts decreased by 4.7% or 132,104 filings statewide. These cases account for 89.9% of the total filings statewide. The decrease in filings was primarily driven by a 5.5% decrease in civil traffic filings and 7.3% decrease in misdemeanor filings.
- Overall filings in the Justice Courts increased by 0.7% from 709,521 in FY 2015, to 714,778 in FY 2016. An increase of 4.7% in civil traffic cases offset an 8.3% decrease in the misdemeanor category and 5.5% decrease in the civil-forcible detainer category.
- Municipal Court case filings decreased by 8.3% statewide. Criminal traffic, civil traffic, and misdemeanor categories all experienced significant decreases in filings while the local non-criminal category increased.
- Civil traffic filings account for 54.5% of all case filings in the Justice and Municipal Courts statewide. Civil traffic filings decreased by 54,302, or 5.5% from FY 2015 to FY 2016.
- 57,845 DUI charges were filed in Justice and Municipal Courts during FY 2016. This represents a decrease of 4,775 filings, or 7.6%. (Case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are primarily counted by charge, as opposed to defendant).

FY 2016 Case Filings by Court Level

APPELLATE	
COURT LEVEL	CASE FILINGS
SUPREME COURT	1,038
DIVISION ONE	2,698
DIVISION TWO	917
TOTAL	4,653

TRENDS

- * Appellate Court case filings increased by 45 (1.0%).
- * General Jurisdiction Court case filings decreased by 2,069 (-1.1%).
- * Limited Jurisdiction Court case filings decreased by 85,645 (-4.7%).

GENERAL JURISDICTION	
COUNTY	CASE FILINGS
APACHE	1,021
COCHISE	3,308
COCONINO	3,060
GILA	1,679
GRAHAM	1,203
GREENLEE	314
LA PAZ	1,182
MARICOPA	116,944
MOHAVE	9,114
NAVAJO	2,680
PIMA	25,647
PINAL	10,203
SANTA CRUZ	1,743
YAVAPAI	5,856
YUMA	4,766
TAX COURT	855
TOTAL	189,575

LIMITED JURISDICTION CASE FILINGS		
COUNTY	JUSTICE	MUNICIPAL
APACHE	11,429	1,748
COCHISE	39,534	3,587
COCONINO	27,300	19,696
GILA	9,754	23,867
GRAHAM	6,118	2,085
GREENLEE	2,668	446
LA PAZ	12,156	1,920
MARICOPA	315,593	679,953
MOHAVE	33,304	19,117
NAVAJO	27,241	2,810
PIMA	119,725	169,466
PINAL	45,665	27,604
SANTA CRUZ	11,587	8,128
YAVAPAI	35,548	24,247
YUMA	17,156	19,523
TOTAL	714,778	1,004,197

- Cases filed include original filings and transfers in.
- General Jurisdiction court cases are counted by defendant. Total filings include tax court cases.
- Beginning in FY 2015, Limited Jurisdiction court cases are counted by charge regardless of the filing type.

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

- Supreme Court case filings increased by 2.4%, from 1,014 in FY 2015 to 1,038 in FY 2016.
- Cases terminated by the court increased by 8.0%, from 979 in FY 2015 to 1,057 in FY 2016.
- The pending caseload decreased by 3.2% from FY 2015 to FY 2016. There were 432 pending cases on July 1, 2015, compared to 418 pending cases on June 30, 2016.

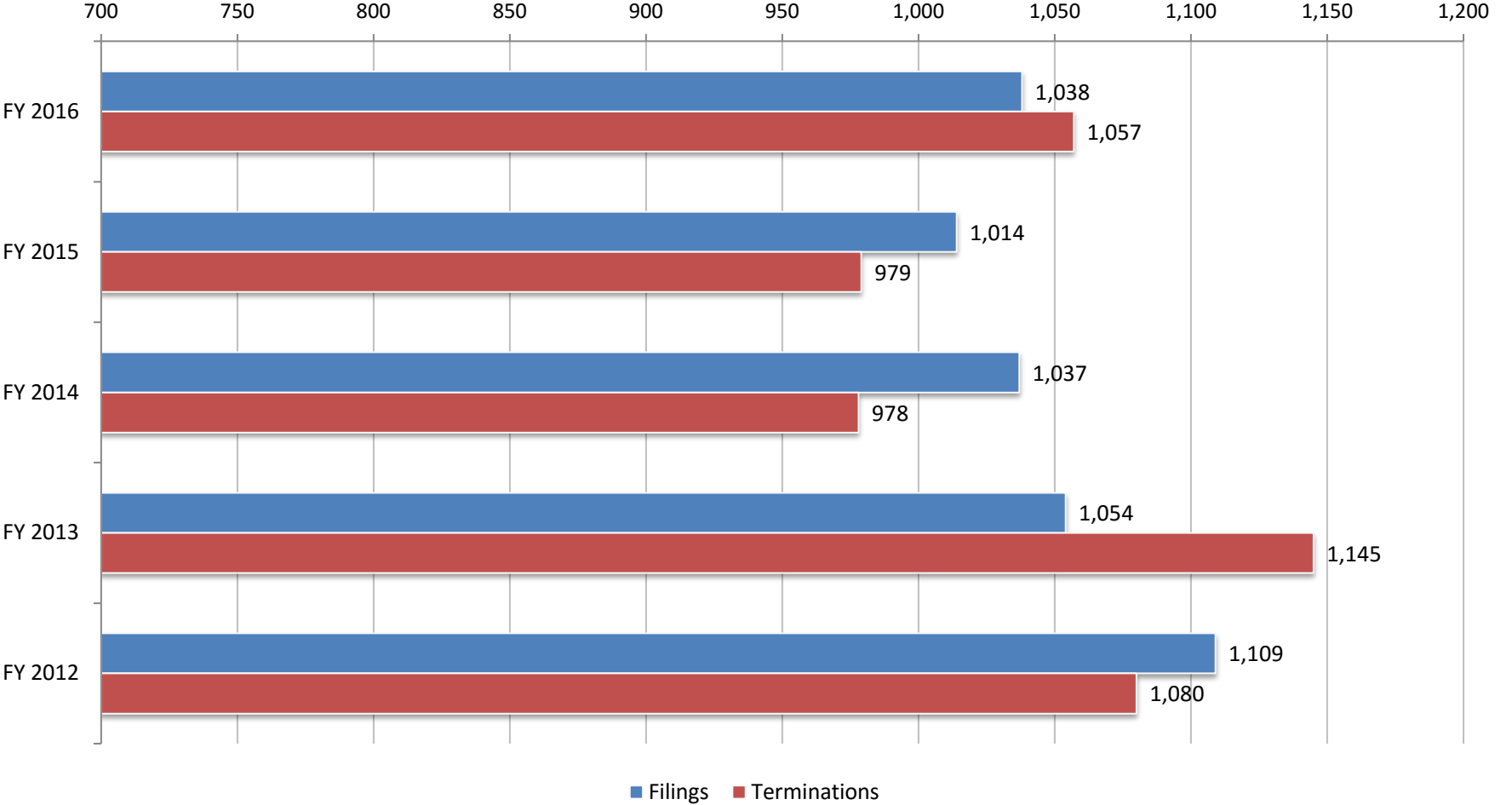
COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION ONE

- Total filings decreased by 1.0%, from 2,726 in FY 2015 to 2,698 in FY 2016.
- Case terminations increased by 3.9%, from 2,457 during FY 2015 to 2,553 during FY 2016.
- Pending caseload increased by 3.6%, from 2,276 on July 1, 2015 to 2,357 on June 30, 2016.

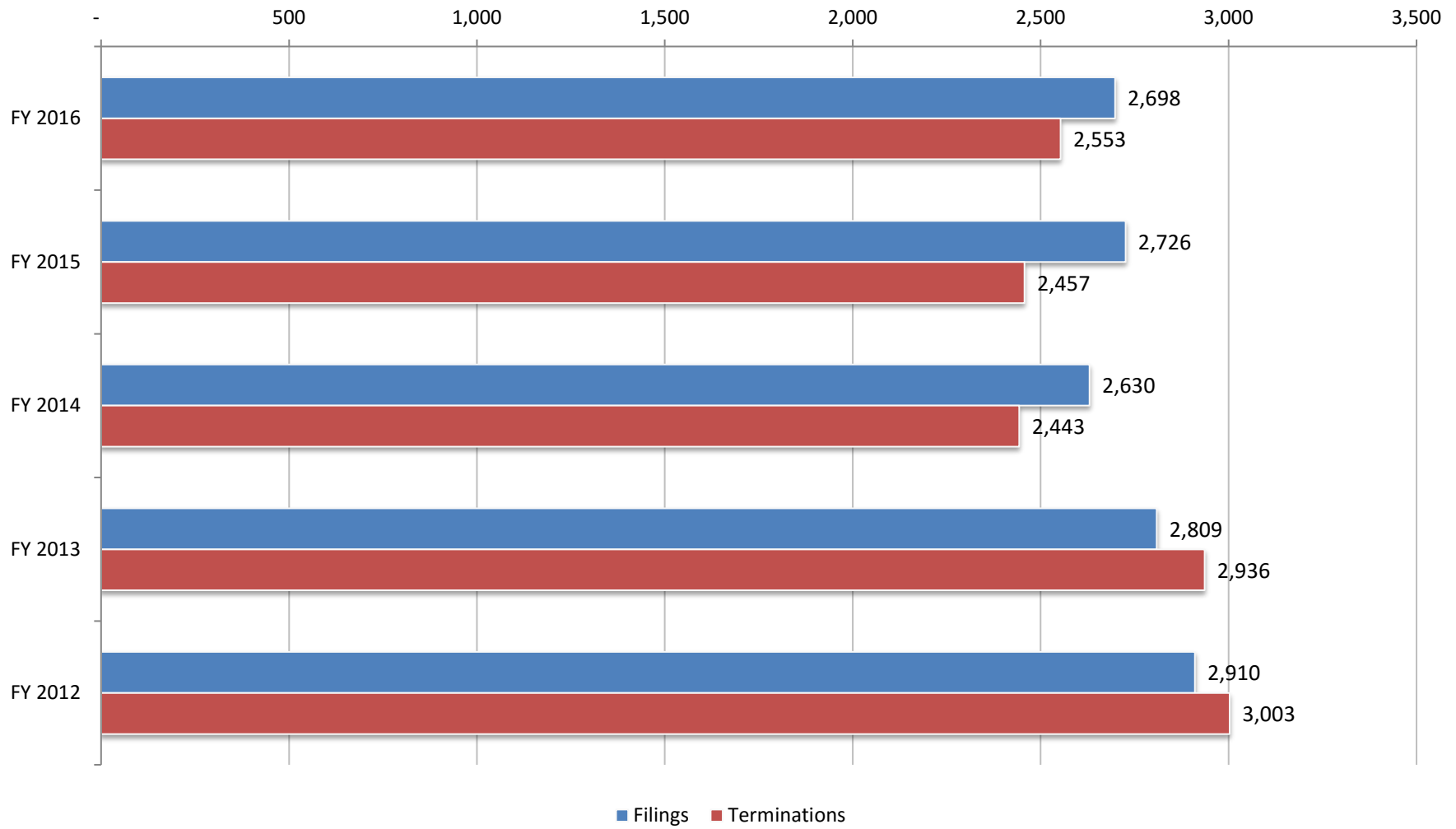
COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION TWO

- Filings increased by 5.6%, from 868 in FY 2015 to 917 in FY 2016. Criminal and post-conviction relief filings increased by 5.4% from 351 in FY 2015 to 370 in FY 2016.
- Case terminations increased by 10.7%, from 961 in FY 2015 to 1,064 in FY 2016.
- Pending caseload decreased by 4.3%, from 699 on July 1, 2015 to 669 on June 30, 2016.

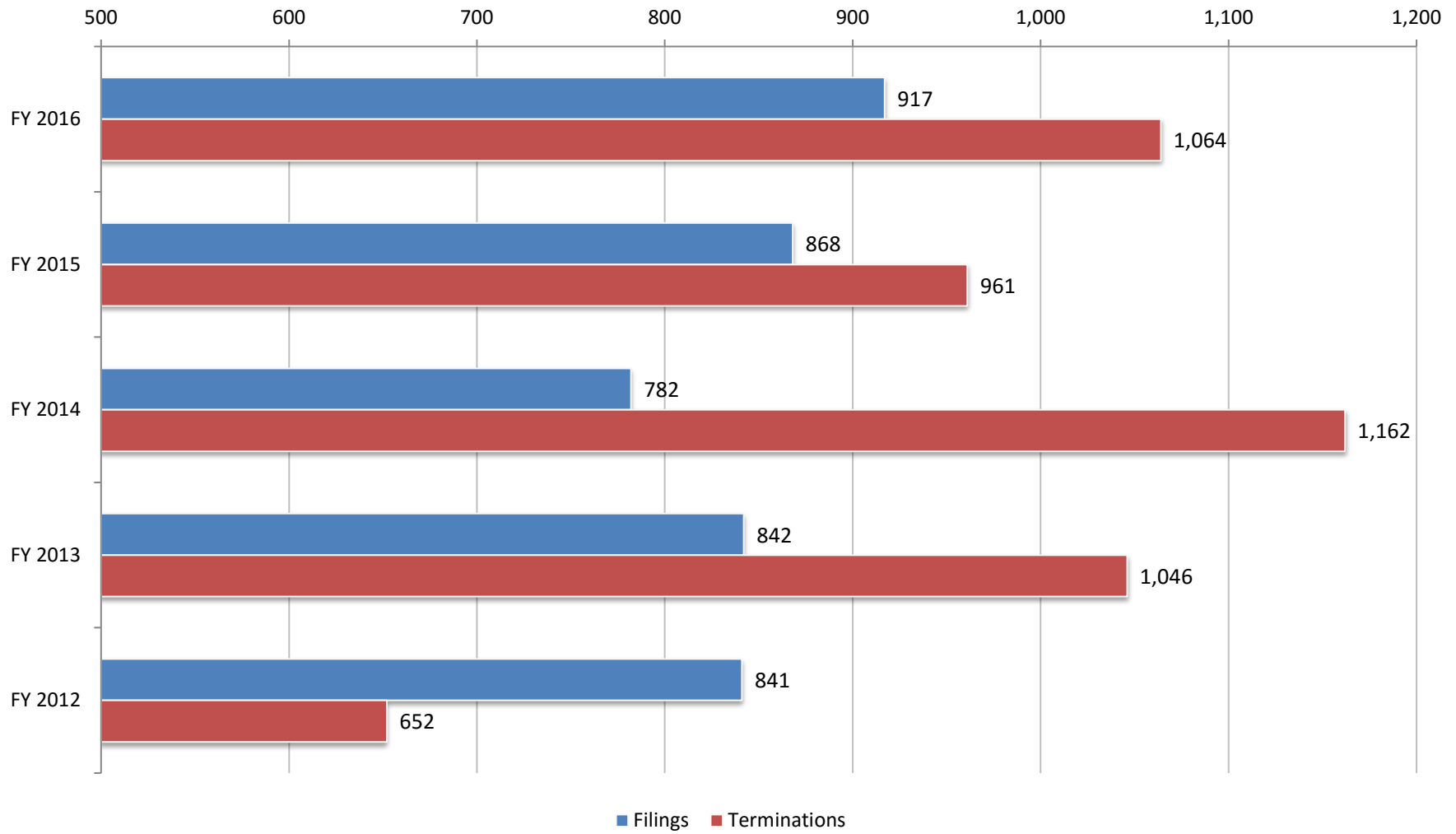
Arizona Supreme Court



Court of Appeals, Division One



Court of Appeals, Division Two

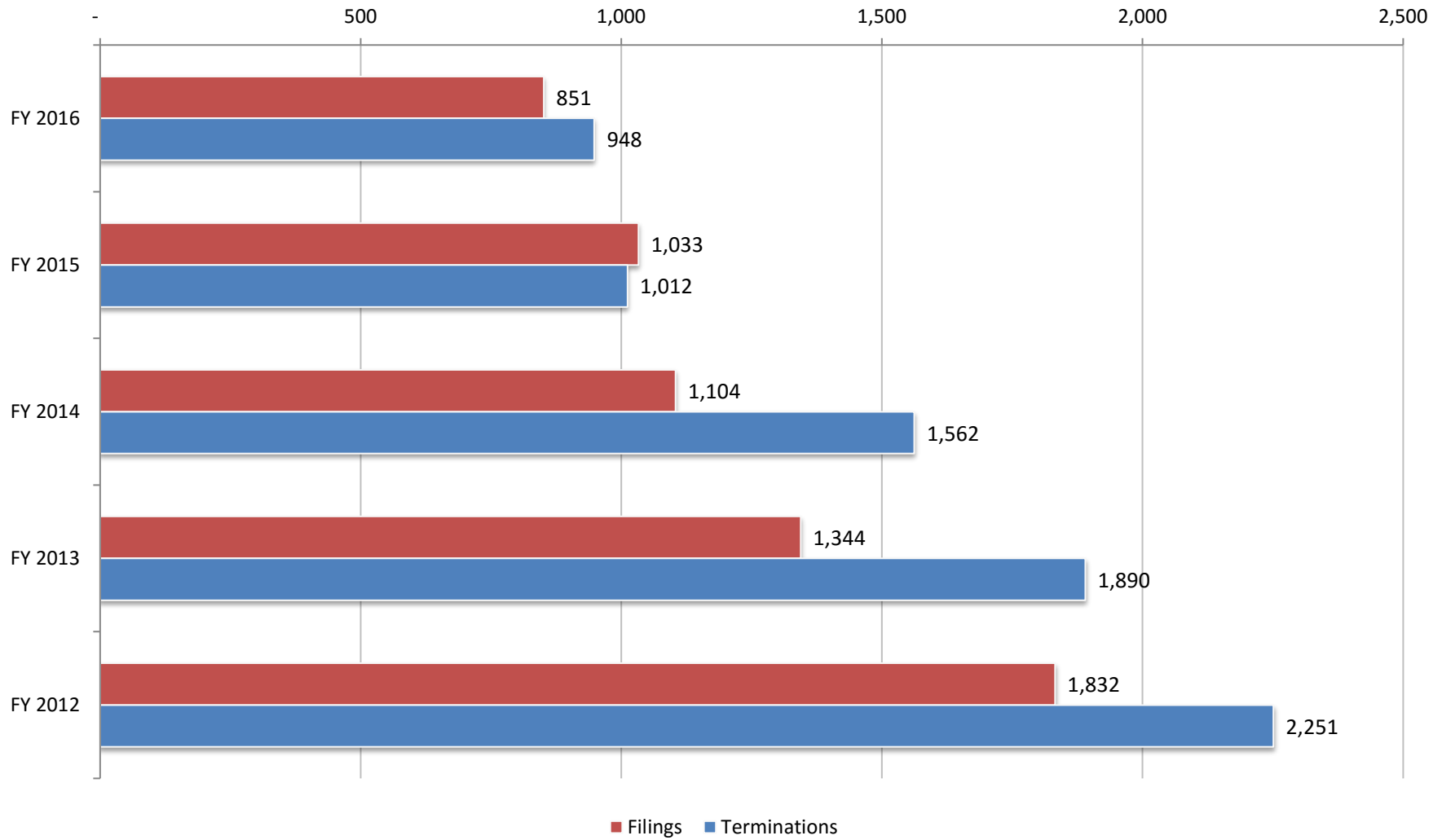


ARIZONA TAX COURT

The Arizona Tax Court serves as the statewide venue for all civil actions involving a tax, impost, or assessment.

- A total of 851 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2016, a decrease of 17.2% from the 1,033 cases filed in FY 2015.
- Of the 851 FY 2016 original cases filed, 460 were property tax actions, accounting for 54.1% of the total original filings.
- A total of 948 cases were terminated, 504 or 53.2% by judgment. Total cases that were terminated by judgment decreased by 6.3% from FY 2015.
- As of June 30, 2016, 690 cases were pending in the tax court. Total cases pending decreased by 11.8% from FY 2015.

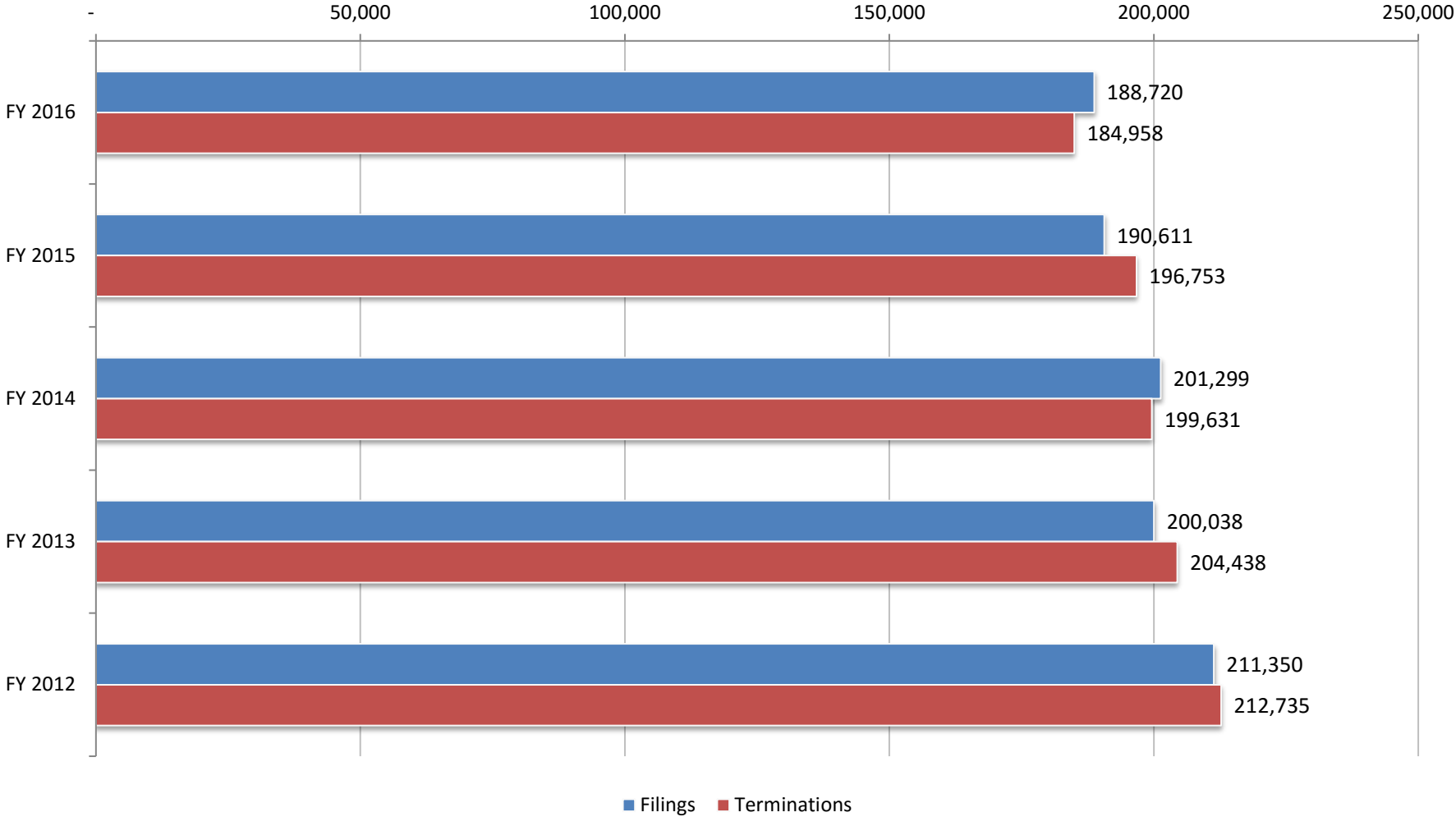
Arizona Tax Court



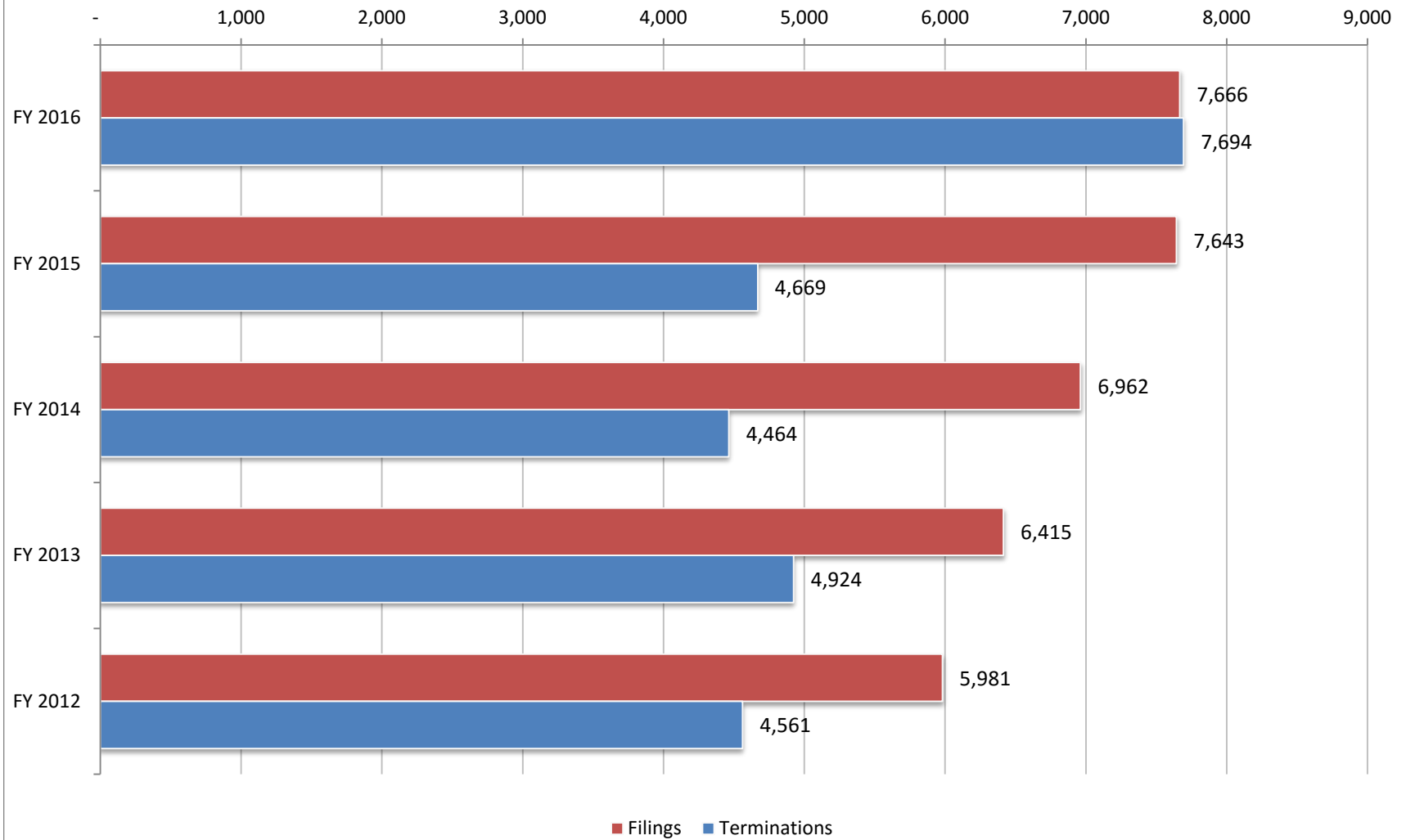
SUPERIOR COURT

- Statewide, case filings decreased by 1.0% from 190,611 in FY 2015 to 188,720 in FY 2016. Case terminations decreased by 6.0% during the same period.
- Civil case filings decreased by 6.2% from 48,807 in FY 2015 to 45,766 in FY 2016. During the same period, civil case terminations decreased by 20.7% from 57,587 to 45,677.
- Criminal filings were unchanged with 51,599 filings during FY 2016, compared to 51,549 filed during FY 2015. Criminal case terminations decreased by 6.6% during the same period, from 52,629 to 49,133.
- Domestic relations case filings were also unchanged with 50,748 filings in FY 2016 compared to 51,739 in FY 2015. Domestic relations case terminations increased by 4.4% from 50,498 to 52,707. Petitions for orders of protection decreased by 3.2% in Superior Court, from 12,991 in FY 2015 to 12,569 in FY 2016.
- Total pending caseload increased by 2.7% from 208,944 on July 1, 2015 to 214,534 on June 30, 2016.
- Juvenile cases with direct filings into adult court increased from 183 in FY 2015, to 215 in FY 2016. Juvenile cases transferred to adult court decreased by 77.3%, from 22 in FY 2015 to 5 in FY 2016. A total of 220 juvenile cases were either transferred or directly filed into adult court in FY 2016 compared to 205 in FY 2015, an increase of 7.3%.
- A total of 7,666 juvenile dependency petitions were filed in FY 2016 which is consistent with the 7,643 petitions filed in FY 2015. During the same period, dependency terminations rose 64.8%, reflecting the efforts made by the court to reduce backlog and achieve timely adjudication of dependency cases.

Superior Court



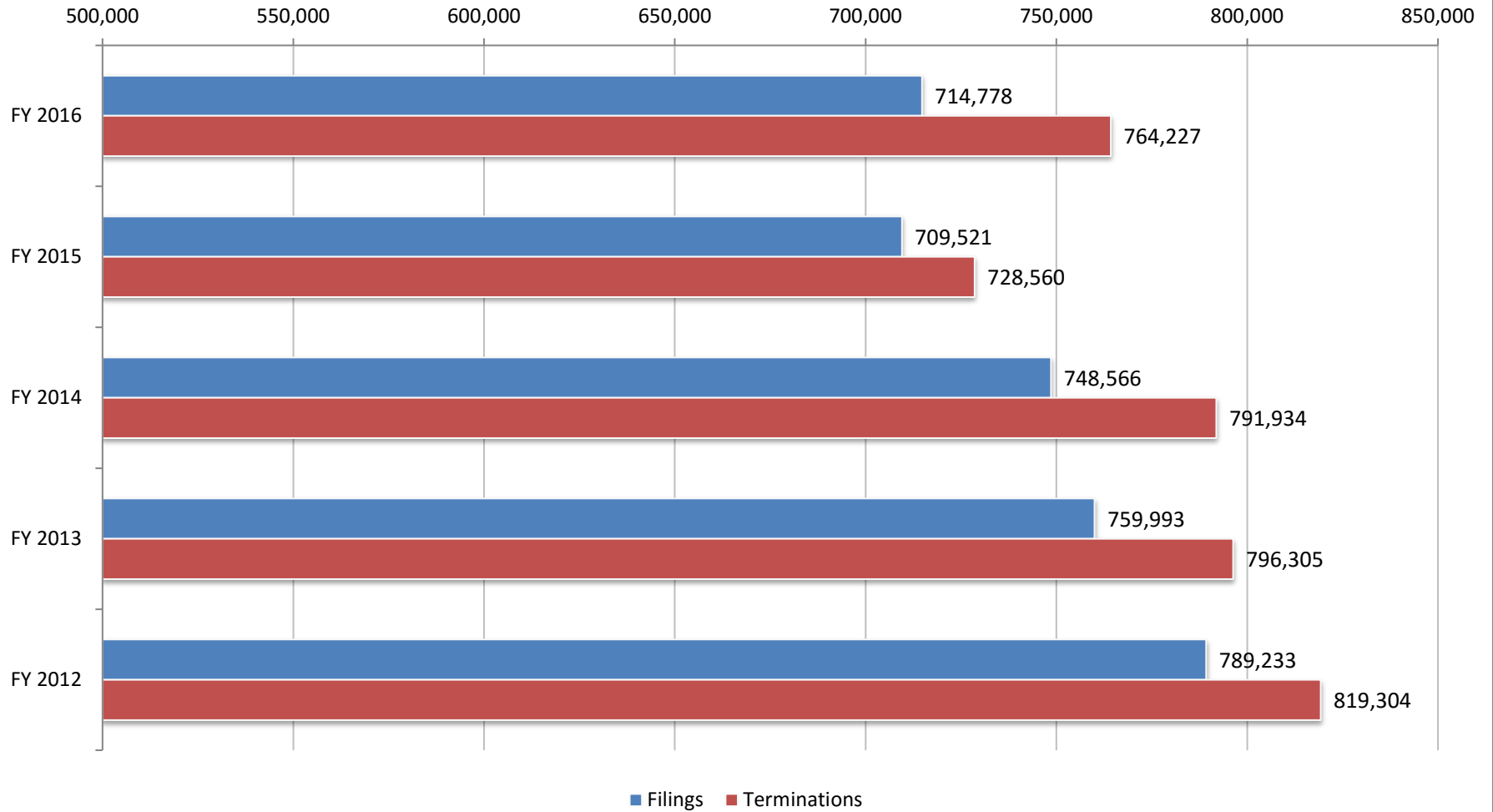
Juvenile Dependency



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

- Total filings in Justice Courts increased from 709,521 in FY 2015, to 714,778 in FY 2016, an increase of 0.7%.
- During the same period, case terminations increased 4.9% from 728,560 in FY 2015 to 764,227 in FY 2016.
- Criminal and civil traffic filings, which comprise more than half of all justice court filings, increased by 13,688 filings or 3.5%.
- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings decreased 4.9% from 128,474 in FY 2015 to 122,238 in FY 2016. Criminal case terminations increased 8.8% from 136,562 in FY 2015 to 148,526 in FY 2016.
- Domestic violence petition filings increased 4.2% in justice courts, from 8,734 to 9,102. Petitions for injunctions against harassment were unchanged with 6,254 filings in FY 2016 compared to 6,277 in FY 2015.
- Total cases pending decreased by 13,990 cases from 630,818 on July 1, 2015 to 616,828 on June 30, 2016.

Justice of the Peace Courts

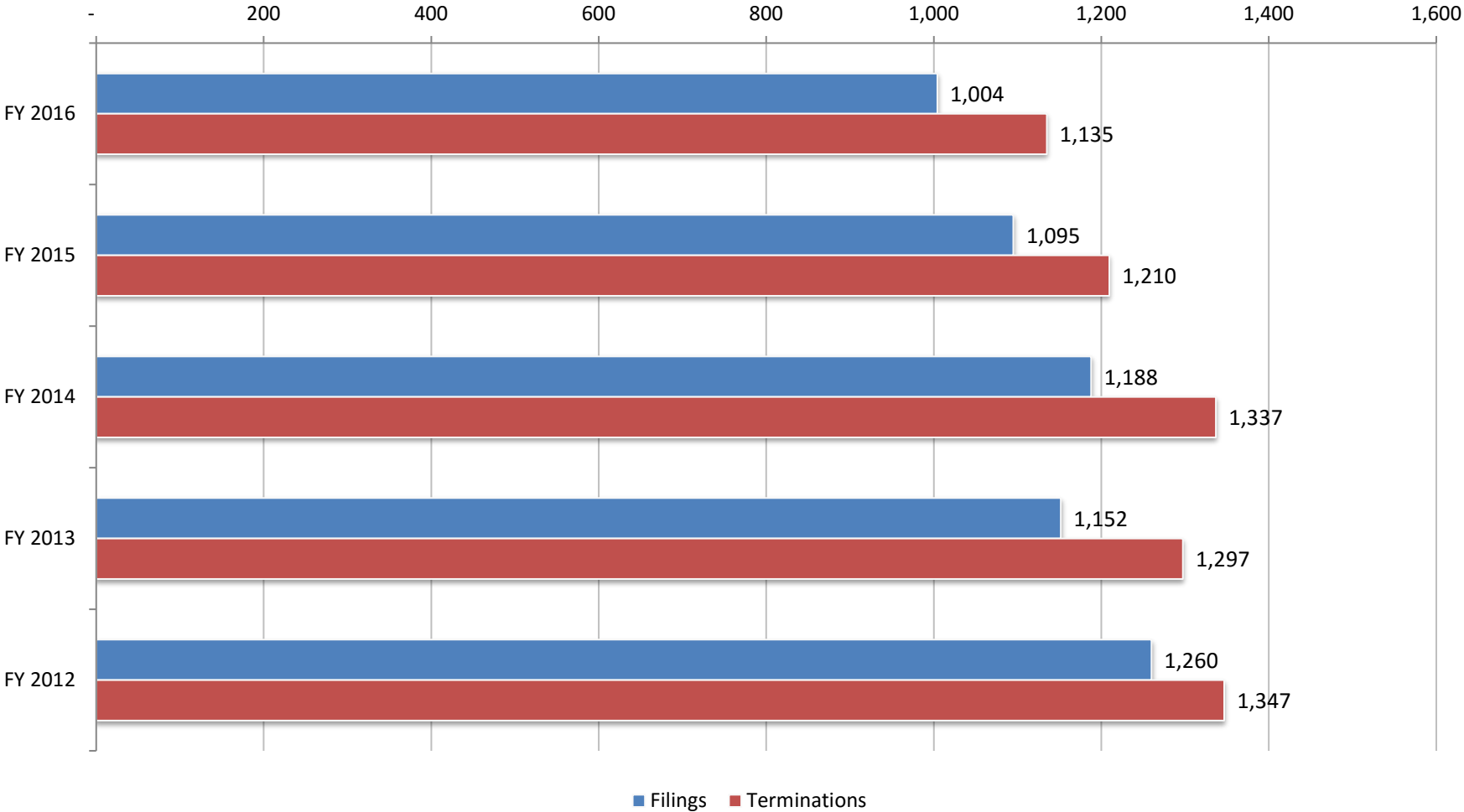


MUNICIPAL COURTS

- Case filings decreased 8.3% from 1,095,099 in FY 2015 to 1,004,197 in FY 2016. Total case terminations decreased by 6.2% during the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise about three-fourths of all municipal court cases, decreased 10.2%, from 793,766 in FY 2015 to 713,023 in FY 2016.
- Criminal misdemeanor case filings decreased 7.0% from 210,221 in FY 2015 to 195,600 in FY 2016. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations decreased 9.2% from 267,969 in FY 2015 to 243,330 in FY 2016.
- Domestic violence petitions decreased 1.8% from 13,484 in FY 2015 to 13,238 in FY 2016. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased 9.2%, from 7,427 in FY 2015 to 6,747 in FY 2016.
- Total cases pending decreased 11.5%, from 634,792 on July 1, 2015 to 561,881 on June 30, 2016.

Municipal Courts

Thousands



JUVENILE COURT / PROBATION

JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS

- 34,650 referrals were filed into juvenile court in FY 2016, a 7.2% decrease compared to 37,331 the previous year.
- 28,431 referrals were terminated in FY 2016, an 8.8% decrease compared to the 31,170 referrals terminated in FY 2015.

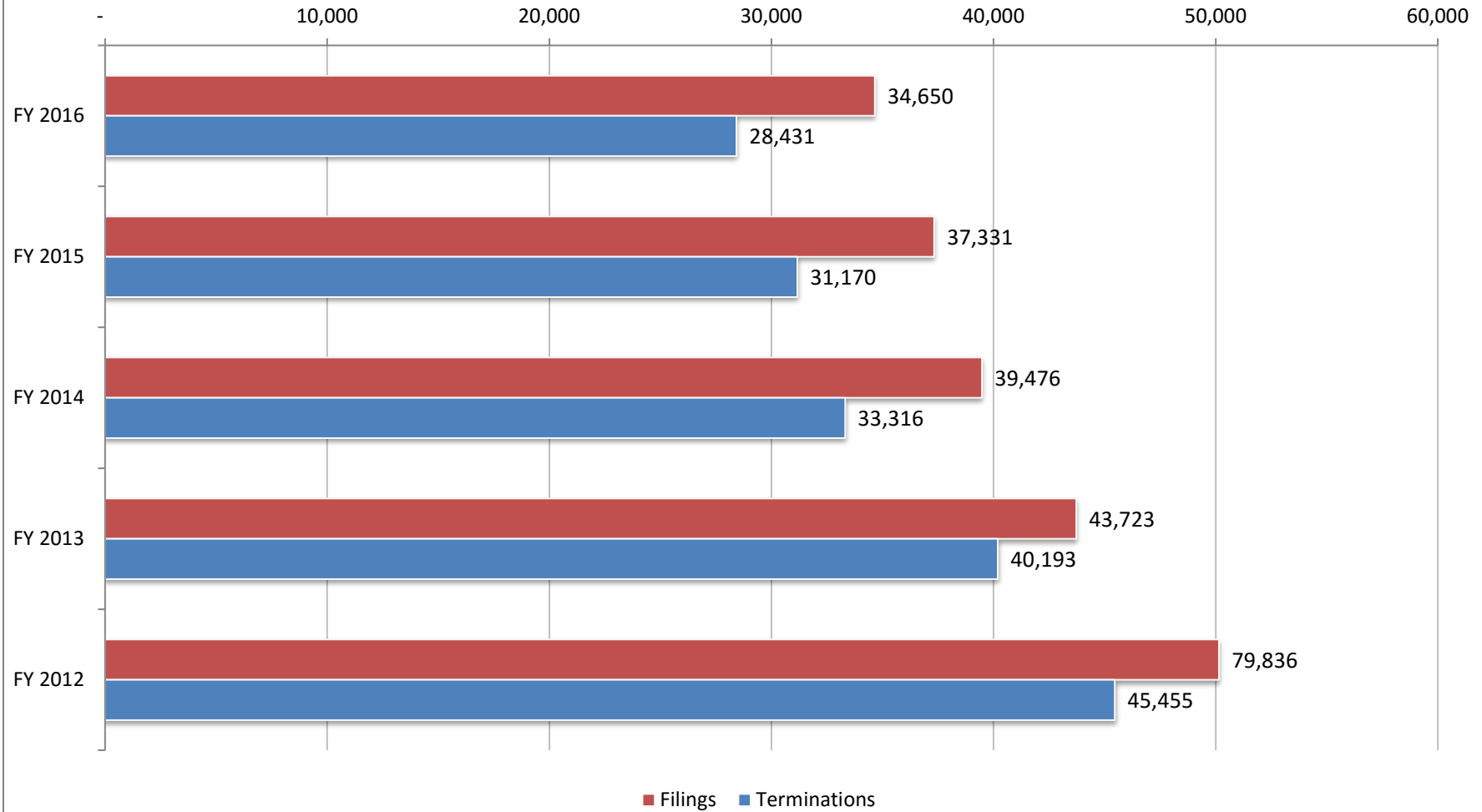
JUVENILE COURT PETITIONS

- A total of 13,790 petitions were filed in FY 2016, a 4.4% decrease from the 14,430 petitions filed in FY 2015.
- A total of 12,795 petitions were terminated in FY 2016, a 10.6% decrease from the 14,306 terminated in FY 2015.

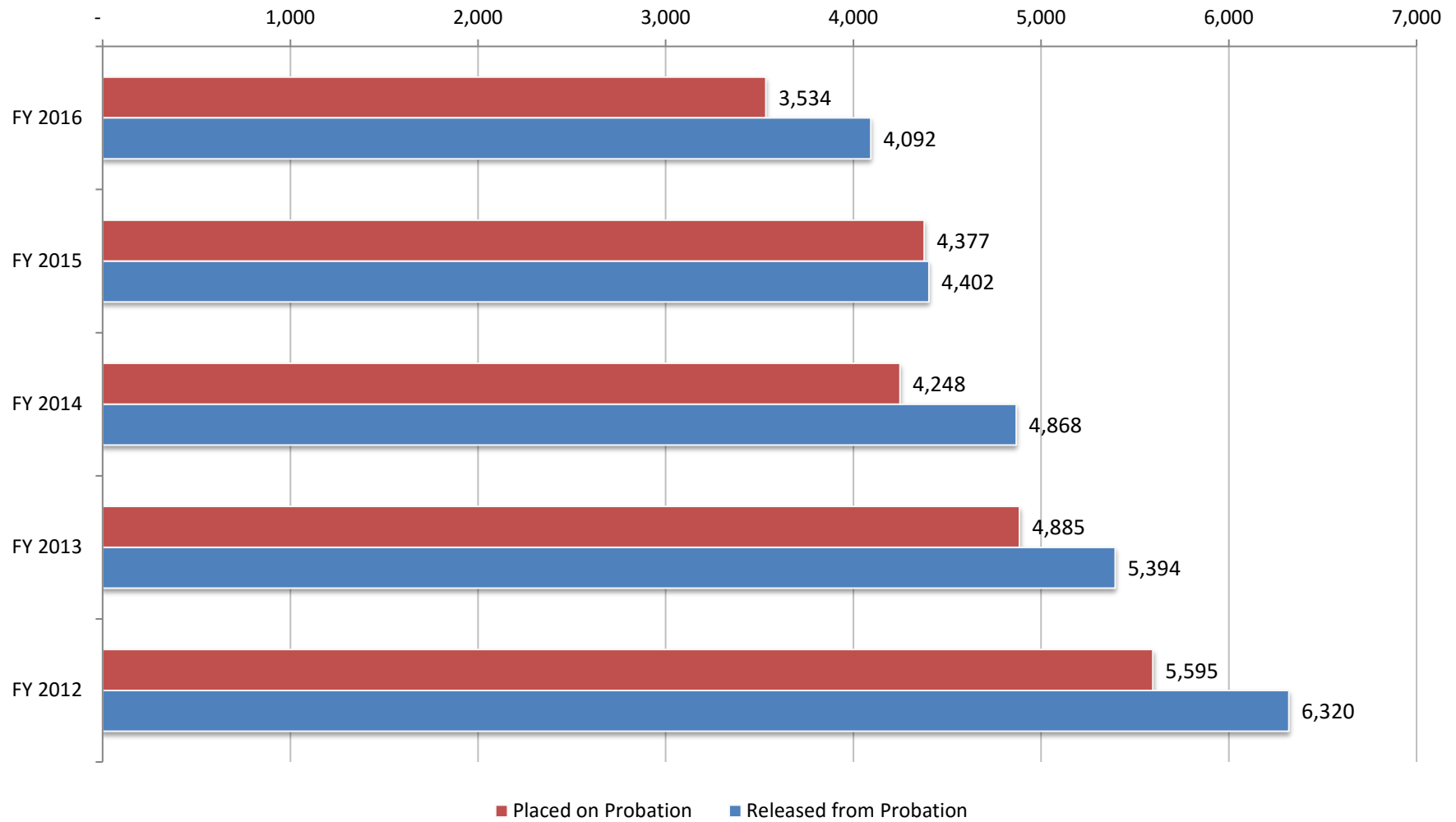
JUVENILE PROBATION/CORRECTIONS

- The number of juveniles placed on probation decreased by 19.3%, from 4,377 in FY 2015 to 3,534 in FY 2016.
- A total of 3,534 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2016, a 19.3% decrease from the 4,377 youths placed on probation in FY 2015.
- 4,092 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 7.0% from the 4,402 terminated from probation supervision last year.
- 253 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2016, a decrease of 30.1% from the 362 committed last fiscal year.

Juvenile Court Referrals



Juvenile Probation/Corrections



ADULT PROBATION

- The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2016 increased by 3.1%, from 82,204 on July 1, 2015 to 84,766 on June 30, 2016.
- Of the 84,766 individuals under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 45,777 were on standard probation (40,228 were under direct supervision in the state and 5,549 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,539 on intensive probation (2,374 were direct supervision and 165 were on indirect supervision), and 36,450 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc).

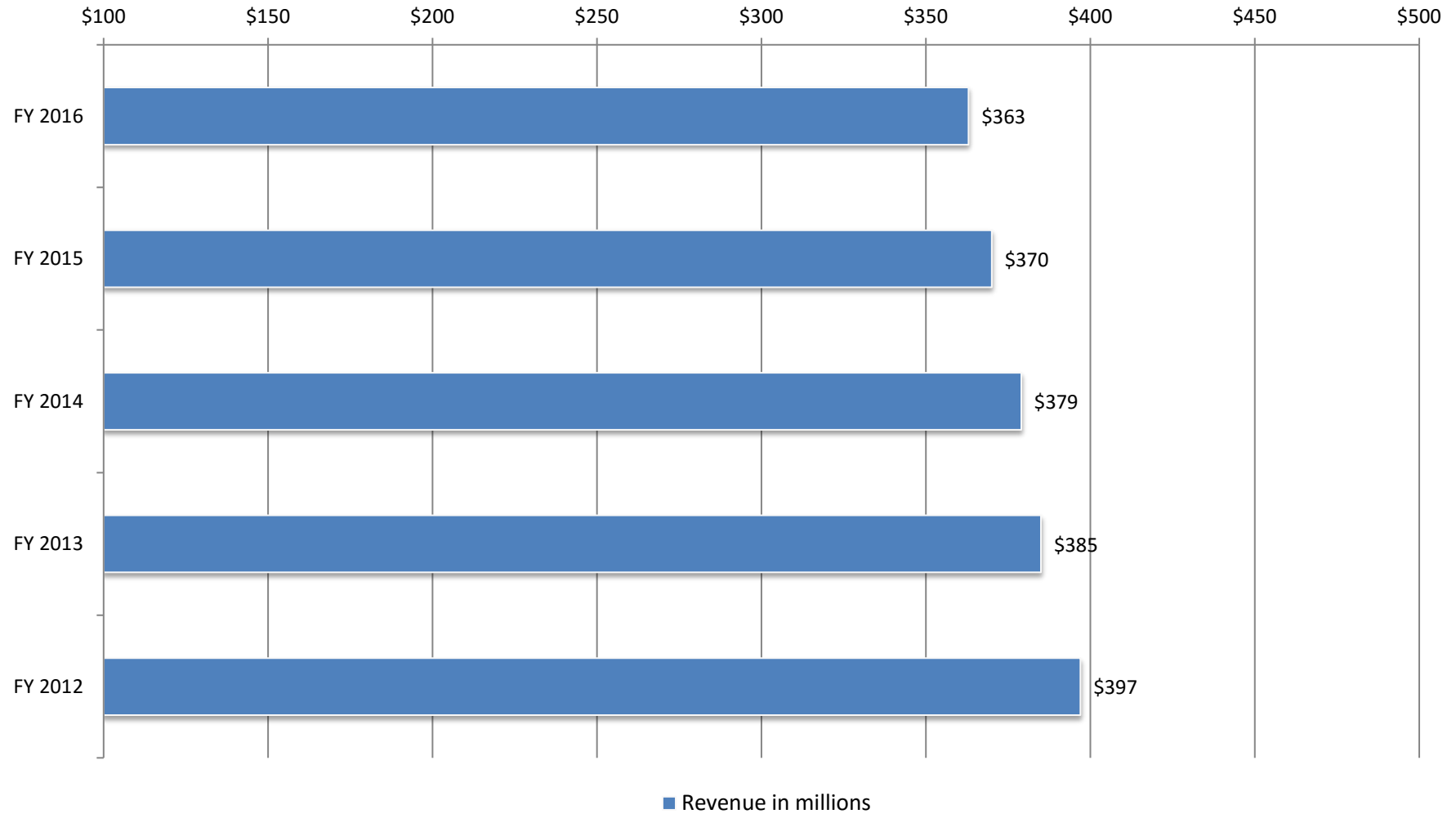
Revenue Summary

- Total statewide court revenue decreased from \$370.5 million in FY 2015 to \$363.0 million in FY 2016.
- Of the total court revenue, the state received 43.4%, counties received 31.9% and cities and towns received 24.7%.
- 45.9% of total court revenue was generated by municipal courts, 28.5% by justice courts, 24.1% by superior court and 1.4% by appellate courts.
- Total victim restitution payments collected by courts decreased by 4.6% from \$19.0 million in FY 2015 to \$18.2 million in FY 2016.

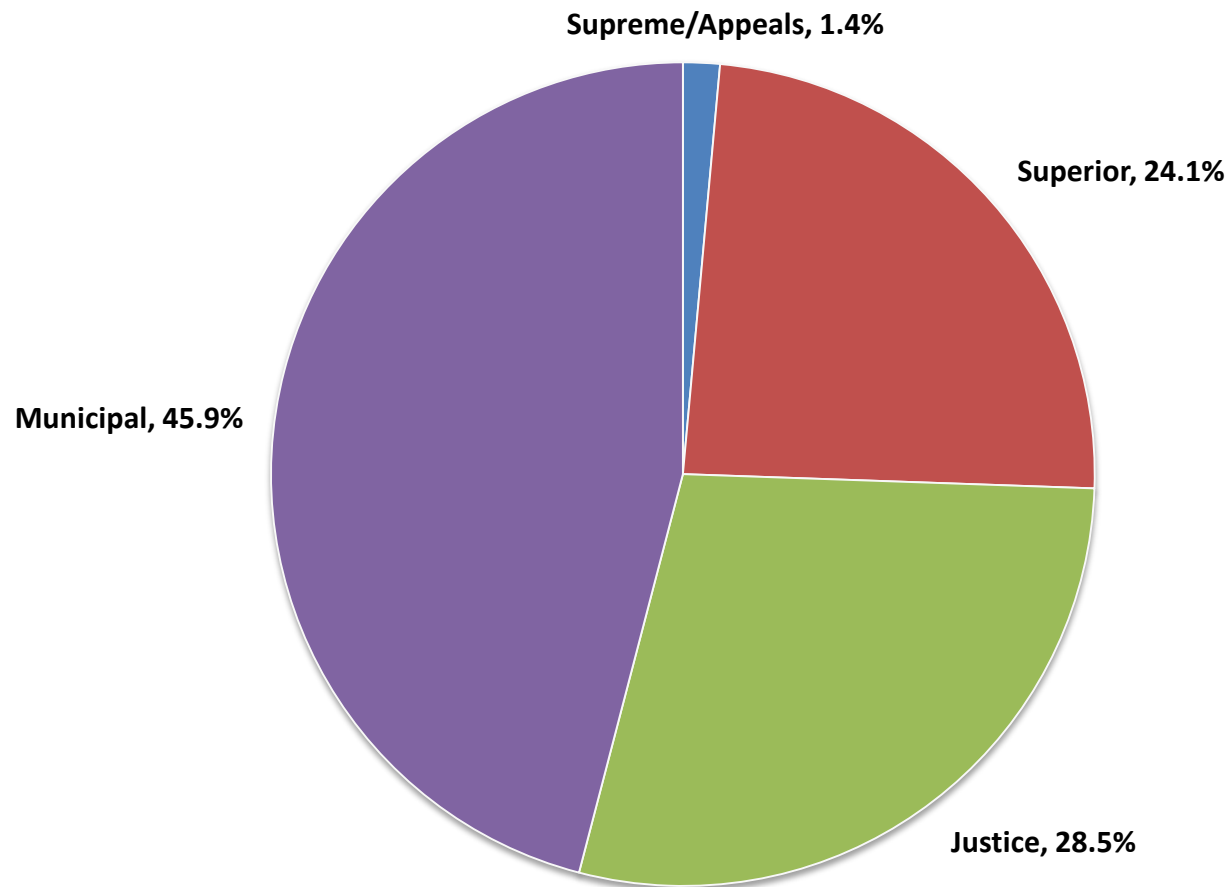
Expenditure Summary

- Total statewide court expenditures increased from \$778.5 million in FY 2015 to \$781.2 million in FY 2016.
- 67.0% of the total funds expended by the court system were from county funding, 19.4% from state, 12.8% from cities and towns, and 0.8% from federal and private sources.
- 69.9% of total court expenditures were in superior court (including probation), 12.9% in municipal courts, 10.0% at the appellate level and 7.2% in the justice courts.

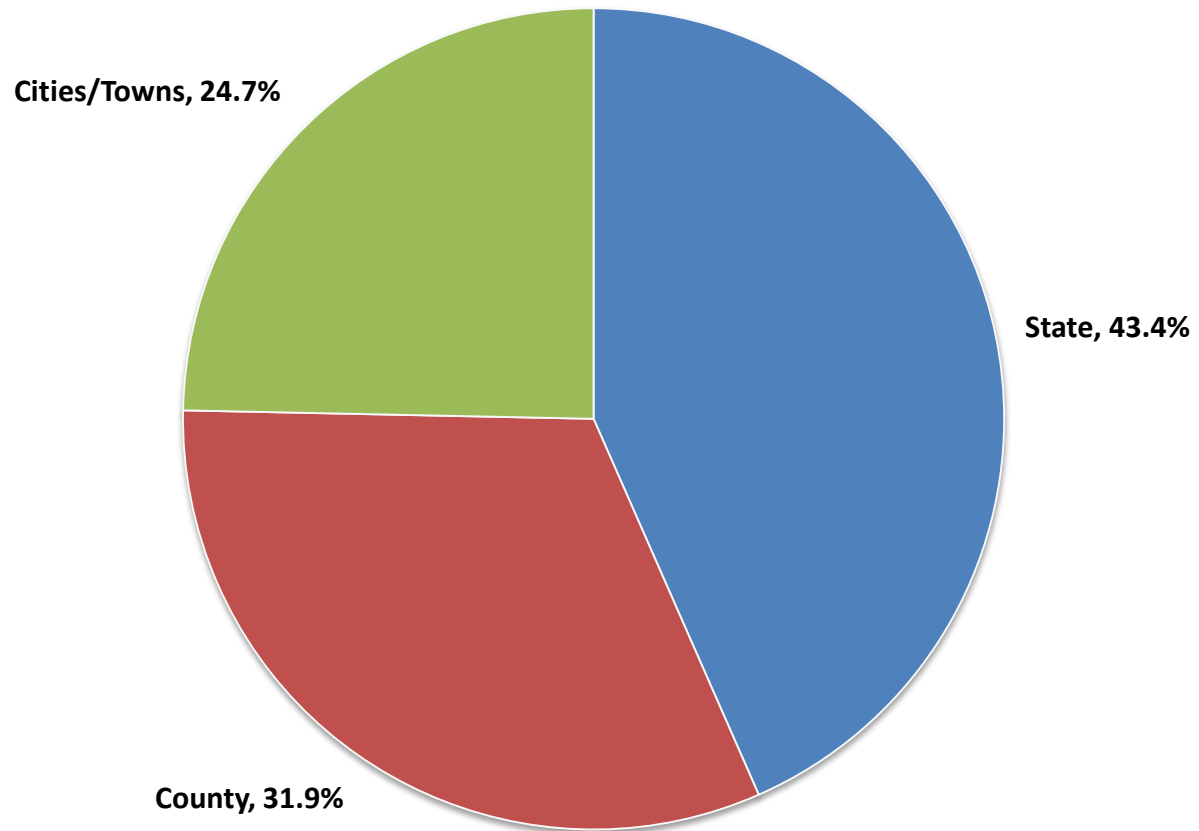
Arizona Court Revenue



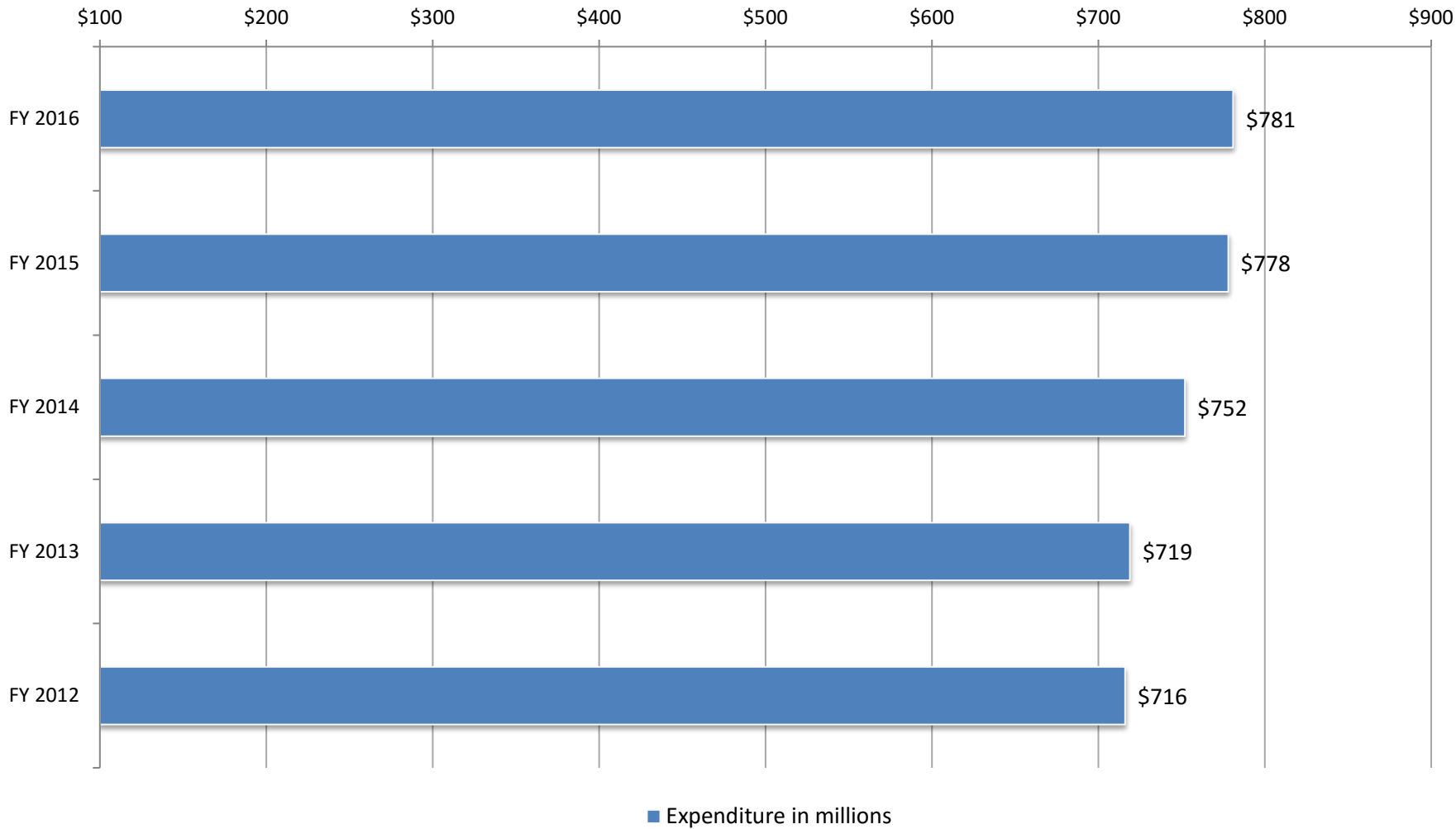
Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level



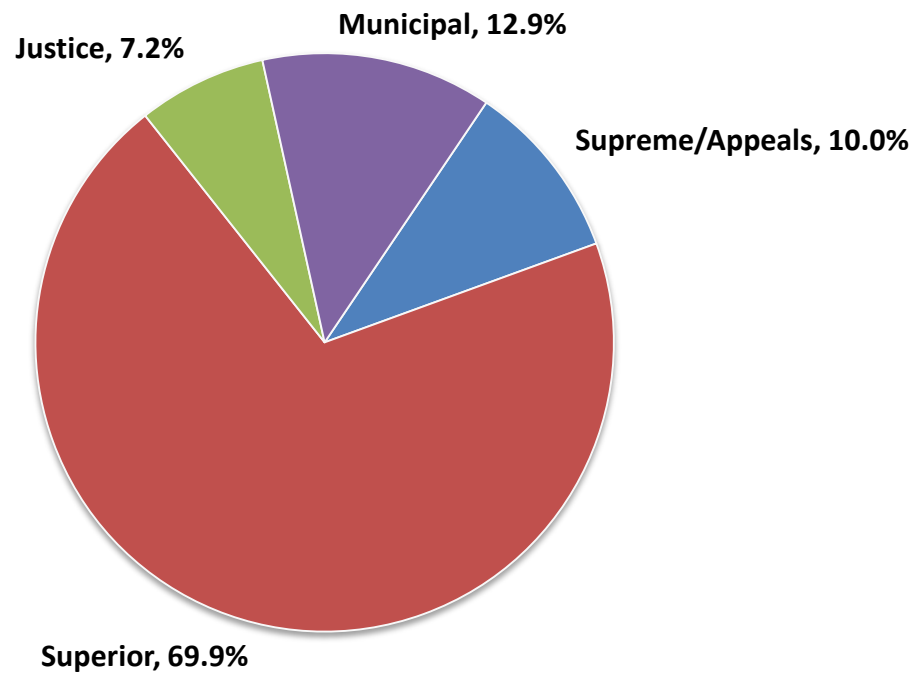
Distribution of Revenue by Level of Government



Arizona Court Expenditures



Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level



Proportion of Expenditures by Funding Source

