

ARIZONA JUDICIAL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020



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Fiscal Year 2020 Caseload Highlights Compared with FY 2019

- Statewide, 1,596,428 cases were filed in the Arizona Courts during FY 2020 (Appellate, Superior, Tax, Justice and Municipal Courts). That equates to an average of 6,386 cases filed in the Arizona courts every working day.
- Case filings during FY 2020 decreased by 14.6% overall, while revenue decreased by 7.8%. Revenue collections has declined for the third year in a row.
- The Supreme Court experienced a decrease of 3.2% in case filings from FY 2019 to FY 2020. Filings in the Court of Appeals decreased 7.0% compared to FY 2019.
- Filings in Superior Court, decreased from 210,154 to 193,355, down 16,799 filings over the year. There was a 16.7% decrease in criminal filings from FY 2019 to FY 2020.
- Tax Court filings decrease by 3.9% from 804 in FY 2019 to 758 in FY 2020. Tax filings have decreased significantly in recent years, down 77.6% from a peak of 3,382 filings in FY 2010.
- Filings in the limited jurisdiction courts decreased 17.6%, from 1,703,399 in FY 2019 to 1,404,217 in FY 2020.
- Justice Court filings decreased 12.9%, from 753,296 in FY 2019 to 656,052 in FY 2020. Filings in the “in civil and criminal traffic” category had decreased by 14.2% (53,649 cases) from FY 2019 to FY 2020.
- Municipal Courts filings decreased 21.3%, from 950,103 in FY 2019 to 748,165 in FY 2020.
- Misdemeanor DUI filings have decreased 10.5% from 57,678 in FY 2019 to 51,623 in FY 2020.
- Justice Court civil case filings decreased 11.1%, from 233,600 in FY 2019 to 207,616 in FY 2020. This increase was largely the result of a 15.8% decrease in “eviction” category civil filings.

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

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

85 Judges, 85 Precincts, 4-year terms

Apache	4	Mohave	5
Cochise	6	Navajo	6
Coconino	4	Pima	10
Gila	2	Pinal	6
Graham	2	Santa Cruz	1
Greenlee	2	Yavapai	5
La Paz	3	Yuma	3
Maricopa	26		

Municipal Courts

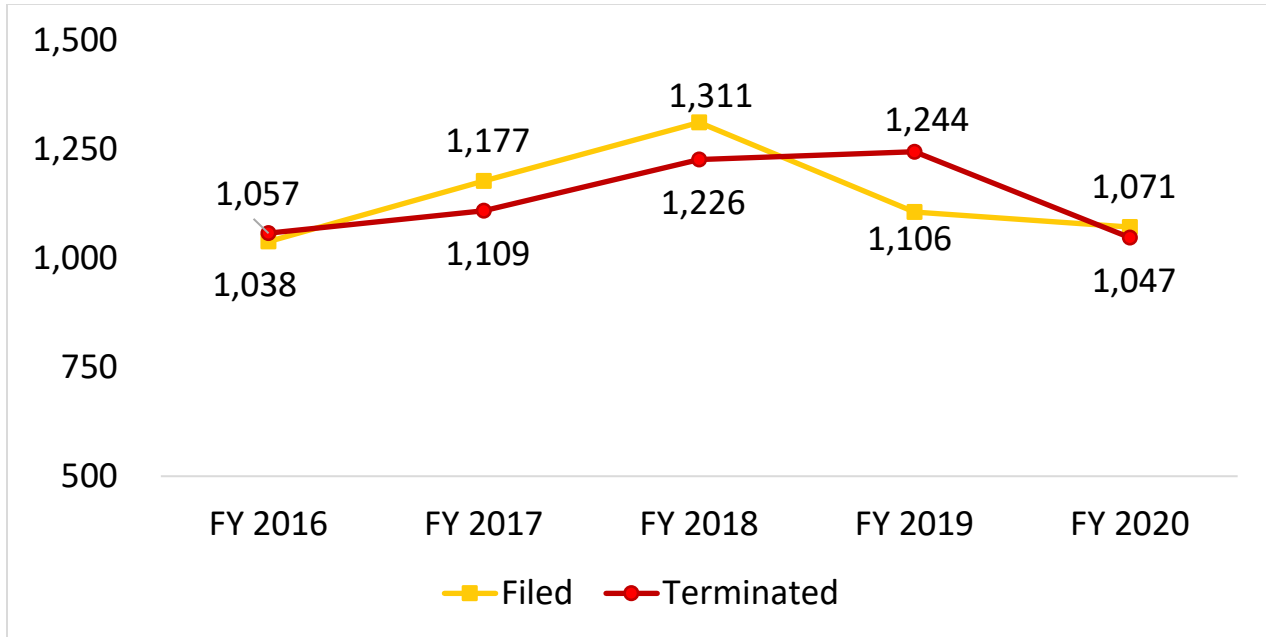
128 Full- and Part-time Judges, varying terms

	Judges	Courts		Judges	Courts
Apache	3	3	Mohave	5	4
Cochise	3	4	Navajo	4	4
Coconino	5	4	Pima	13	5
Gila	5	6	Pinal	9	9
Graham	3	3	Santa Cruz	2	2
Greenlee	1	1	Yavapai	9	9
La Paz	2	2	Yuma	5	4
Maricopa	59	22			

*Judicial Organization chart updated May 30, 2021.

Appellate Courts Supreme Court

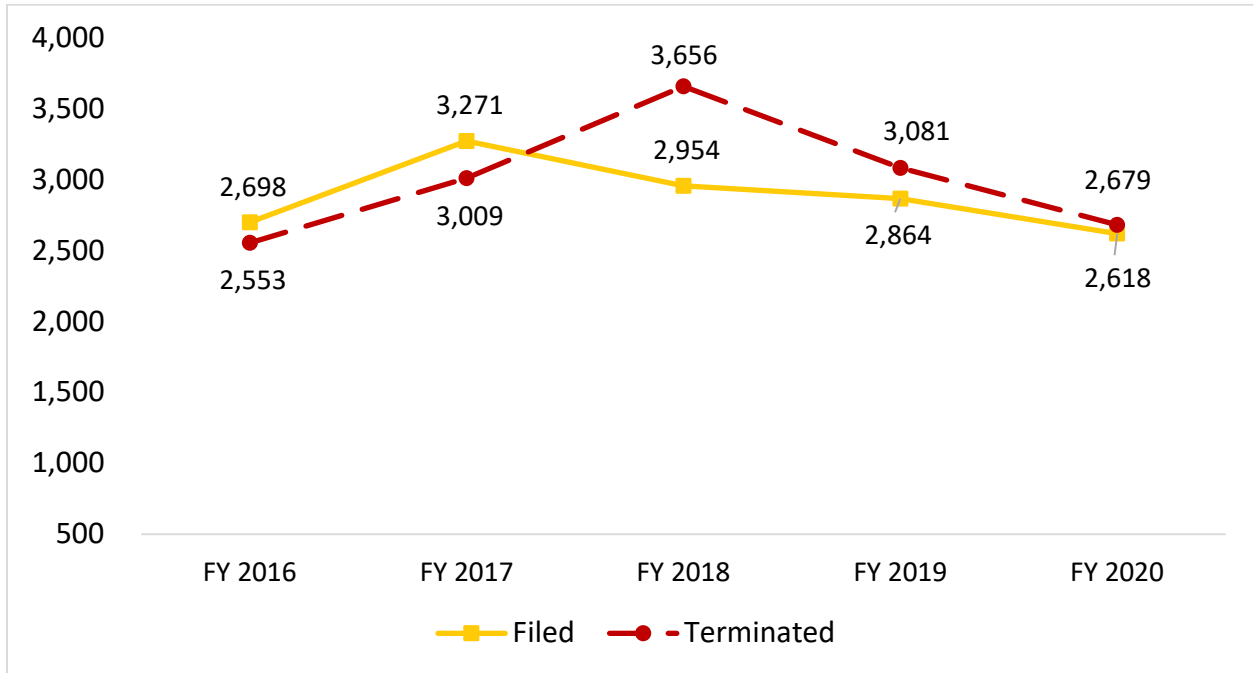
Figure 1. Supreme Court Filings and Terminations FY2016-FY2020



- Supreme Court case filings decreased by 3.2%, from 1,106 in FY 2019 to 1,071 in FY 2020.
- Case terminations decreased by 15.8% from 1,244 in FY2019 to 1,047 in FY 2020.
- Pending caseloads increased 6.6%, from 456 on July 1, 2019 to 486 on June 30, 2020.

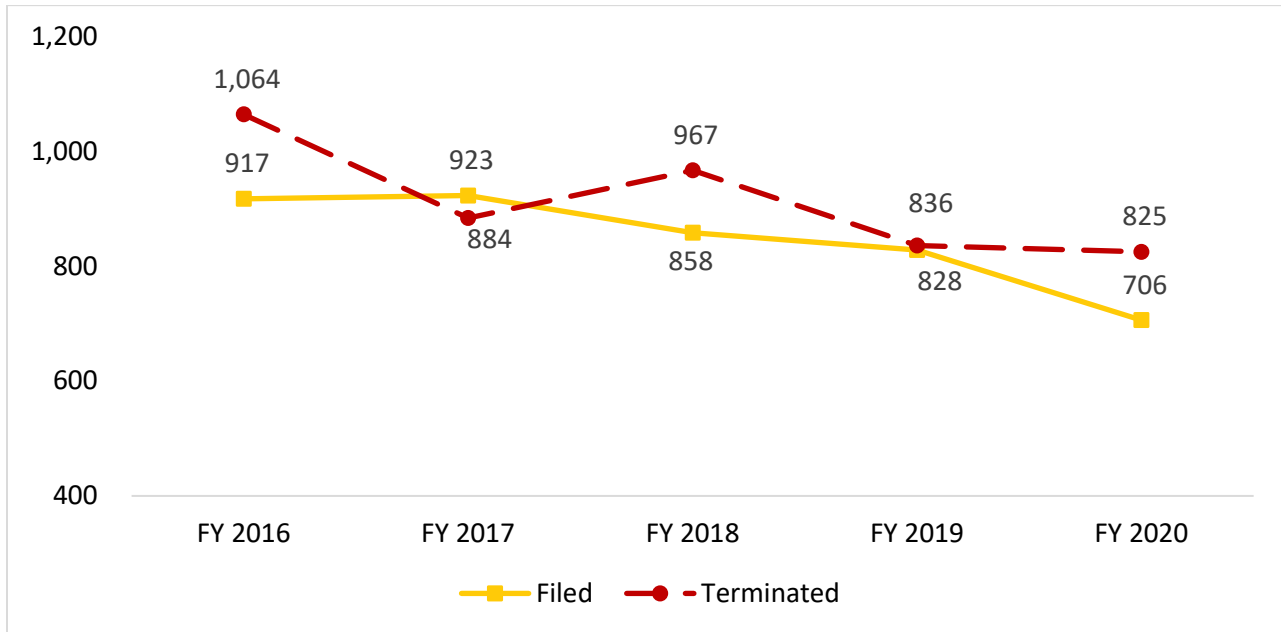
Court of Appeals

Figure 2. Court of Appeals, Division I Filings and Terminations FY2016-FY2020



- Total case filings decreased by 8.6%, from 2,864 in FY 2019 to 2,618 in FY 2020. Criminal and post-conviction relief filings decreased 15.6% from 819 in FY 2019 to 691 in FY 2020.
- Case terminations decreased 13.0%, from 3,081 during FY 2019 to 2,679 in FY 2020.
- Pending caseloads increased .2%, from 1,748 on July 1, 2019 to 1,751 on June 30, 2020.

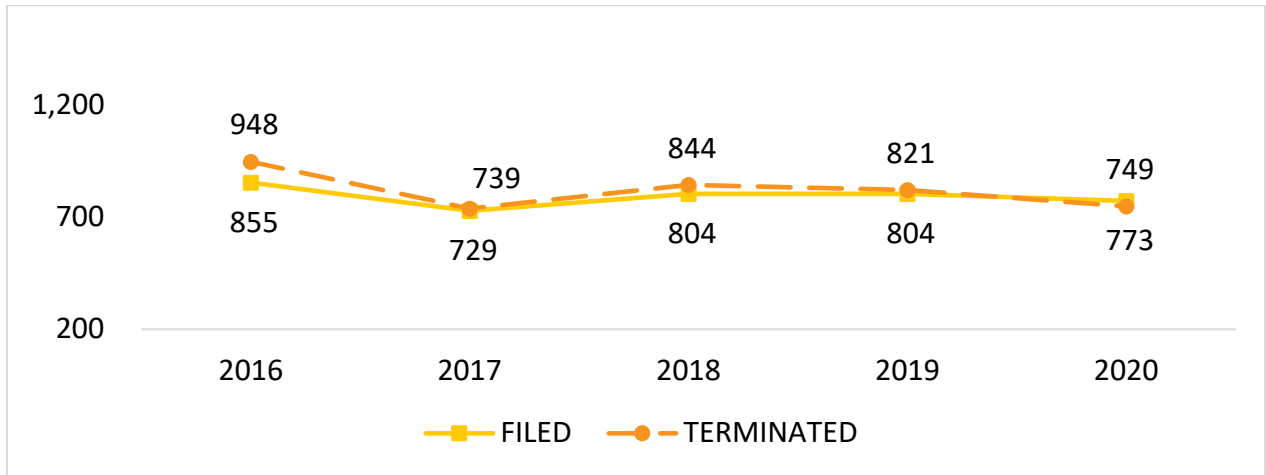
Figure 3. Court of Appeals, Division II Filings and Terminations FY2016-FY2020



- Total case filings decreased from 838 in FY 2019 to 706 in FY 2020, a decrease of 15.8%. Criminal and post-conviction relief filings increased 24.2% from 343 in FY 2019 to 260 in FY 2020.
- Case terminations decreased 1.3%, from 836 in FY 2019 to 825 in FY 2020.
- Pending caseloads decreased 15.7%, from 758 on July 1, 2019 to 639 on June 30, 2020.

Arizona Tax Court

Figure 4. Tax Court Filings and Terminations FY2016-FY2020

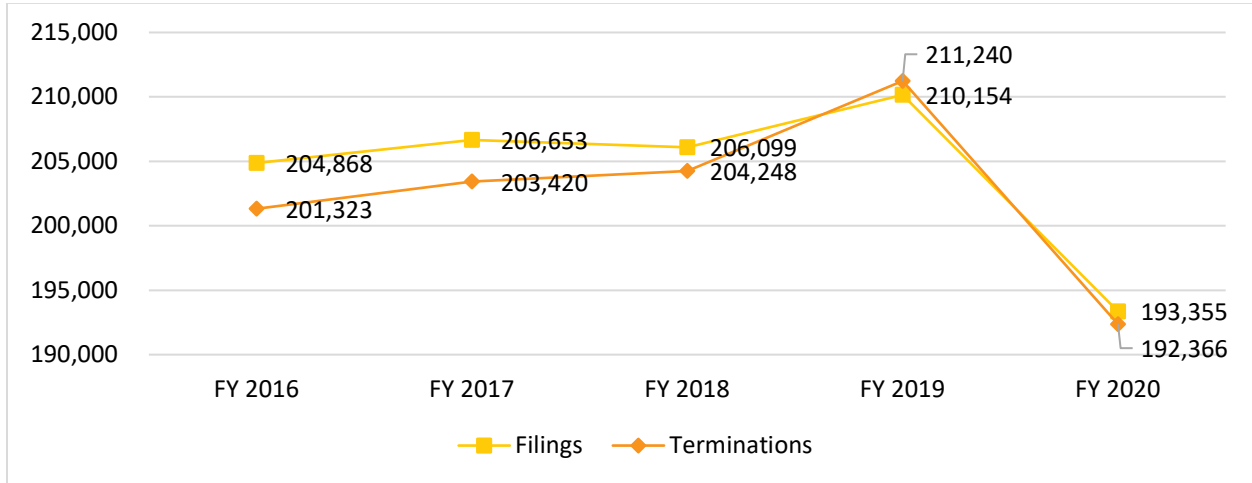


- A total of 758 original cases were filed in the Court during FY 2020, a decrease of 3.9% from the 804 cases filed in FY 2019.
- Of the 758 FY 2020 original cases filed, 207 were property tax actions, accounting for 27.3% of the total original filings.
- A total of 749 terminated cases with judgments.
- As of June 30, 2020, 506 cases were pending in Tax Court. Total cases pending an increase of 6.8% from FY 2019.

General Jurisdiction Courts

Superior Court

Figure 5. Superior Court Filings and Terminations FY2016-FY2020



- Statewide, case filings decreased 8.0% from 210,154 in FY 2019 to 193,355 in FY 2020. Case terminations decreased 8.9% during the same period.
- Civil case filings decreased 1.0% from 39,815 in FY 2019 to 40,198 in FY 2020. During the same period, civil case terminations decreased 5.2% from 42,682 to 40,446.
- Criminal filings increased 16.7%, from 54,765 during FY 2019, to 45,627 during FY 2020. Criminal case terminations increased 8.0% during the same period, from 51,713 to 47,562.

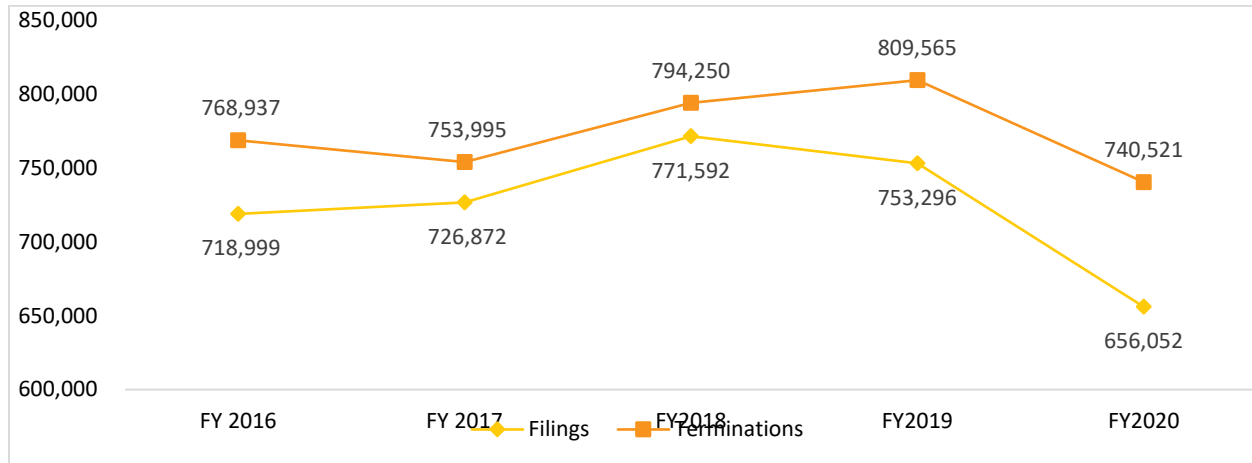
Figure 6. Superior Court Filings by County FY 2020



- Domestic relations case filings decreased by 12.5%, from 53,133 filings in FY 2019 compared to 46,693 in FY 2020. Domestic relations case terminations decreased by 11.4% from 53,091 to 47,049.
- Petitions for orders of protection, including emergency orders decreased by 7.0%, from 15,683 in FY 2019 to 14,588 in FY 2020
- Juvenile dependency petitions filed decreased 1.4% from 5,718 in FY 2019 to 5,799 in FY 2020.
- Juvenile delinquency petitions decreased 6.6% from 7,393 in FY 2019 to 6,905 in FY 2020.

Limited Jurisdiction Courts Justice Courts

Figure 7. Justice Court Filings and Terminations FY2016-FY2020



- Total filings in Justice Courts decreased from 753,296 in FY 2019, to 656,052 in FY 2020, a decrease of 12.9%.
- During the same period, case terminations decreased by 8.5% from 809,565 in FY 2019 to 740,521 in FY 2020.
- Criminal and civil traffic filings when combined comprise more than half of all justice Court filings, decreased by 53,649 (14.2%) filings.

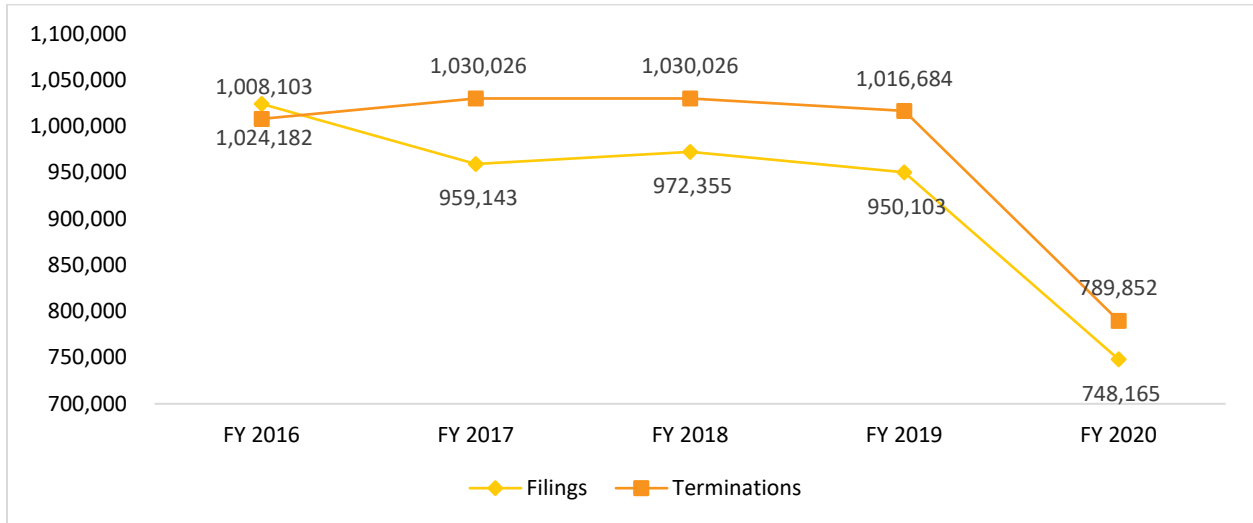
Figure 8. Justice Court Filings by County FY 2020



- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings decreased 10.1% from 122,100 in FY 2019 to 109,718 in FY 2020. Criminal case terminations increased 10.9% from 129,681 in FY 2019 to 143,860 in FY 2020.
- Domestic violence petition filings decreased 7.1% in Justice Courts, from 8,664 in FY 2019 to 8,013 in FY 2020. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased 9.4% from 5,867 filings in FY 2019 to 5,310 in FY 2020.

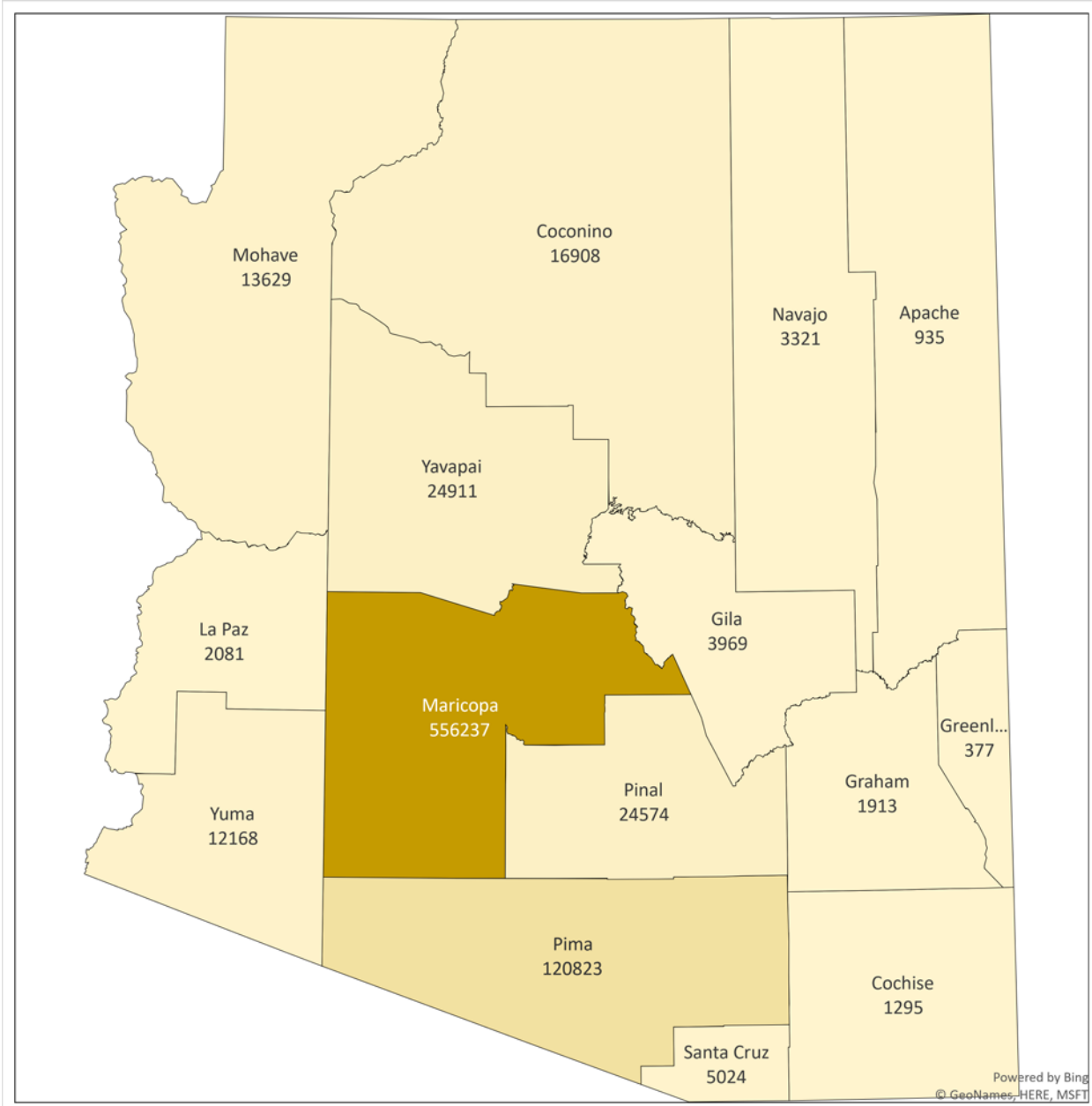
Municipal Courts

Figure 9. Municipal Court Filings and Terminations FY2020-FY2020



- Total case filings decreased 21.3% from 950,103 in FY 2019 to 748,165 in FY 2020.
- Total case terminations decreased 22.3% during the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings when combined comprise about 67% of all municipal Court cases, decreased 18.7%, from 644,451 in FY 2019 to 524,250 in FY 2020.

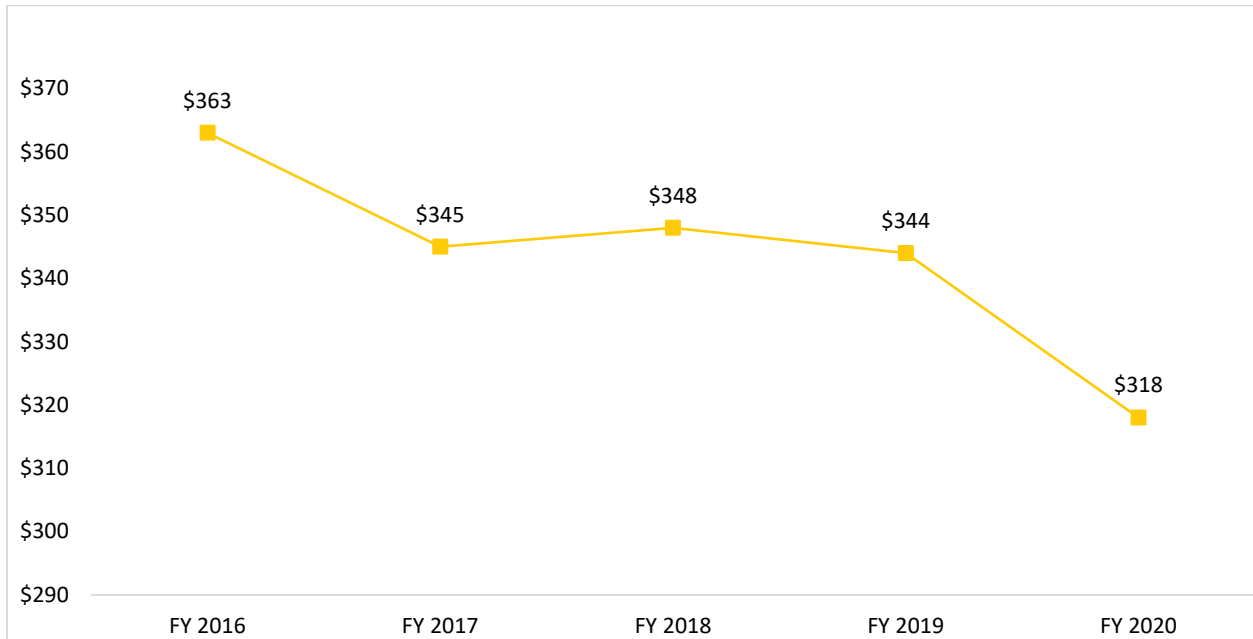
Figure 10. Municipal Court Filings by County FY 2020



- Criminal misdemeanor case filings decreased 10.9% from 191,164 in FY 2019 to 170,292 in FY 2020. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations decreased 21.4% from 194,636 in FY 2019 to 152,961 in FY 2020.
- Domestic violence petitions decreased 11.5% from 13,538 in FY 2019 to 11,986 in FY 2020. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased 13.2%, from 6,500 in FY 2019 to 5,642 in FY 2020.

Arizona Court Revenues and Expenditures

Figure 11. Arizona Court Revenue FY2016-FY2020



- Total statewide court revenue decreased from \$344.4 million in FY 2019 to \$317.5 million in FY 2020.
- Total victim restitution payments collected by courts decreased by 12.1% from \$21.4 million in FY 2019 to \$18.8 million in FY 2020.

Figure 12. Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level FY 2020

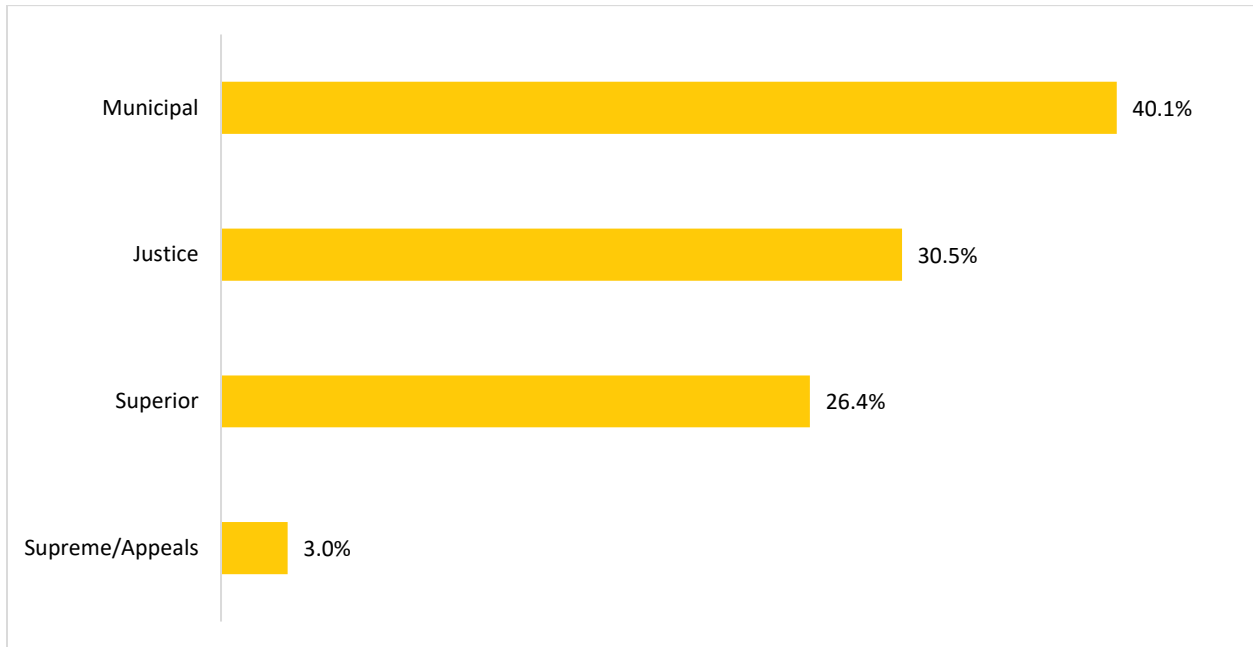
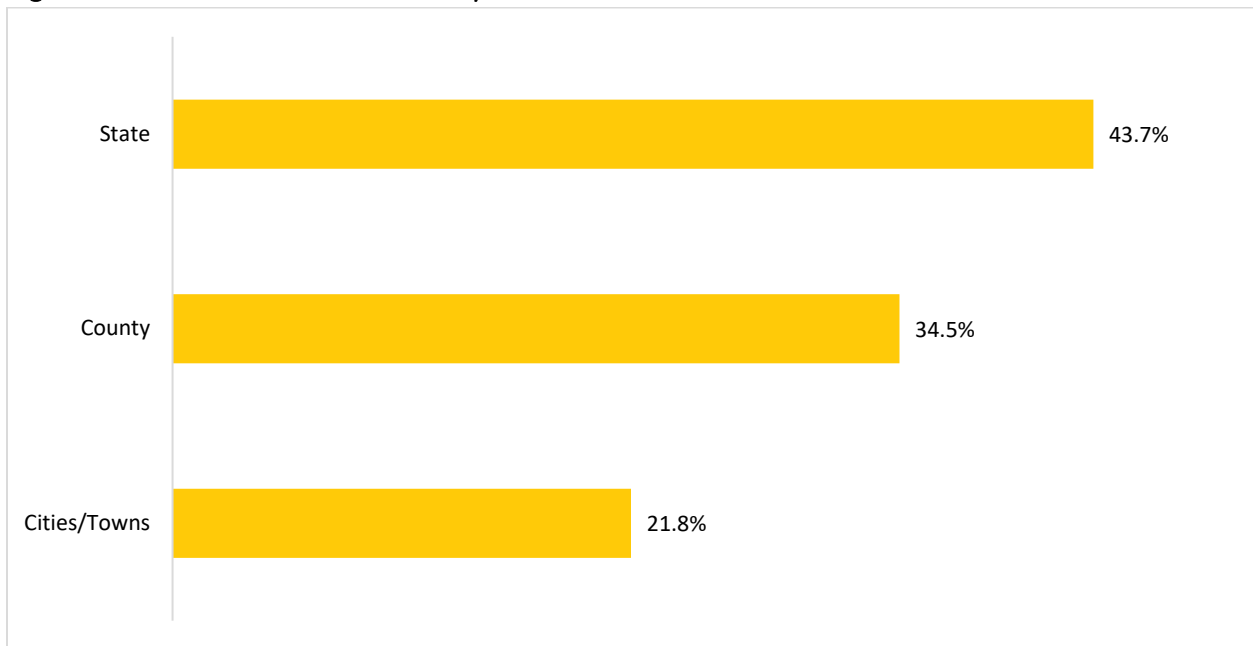
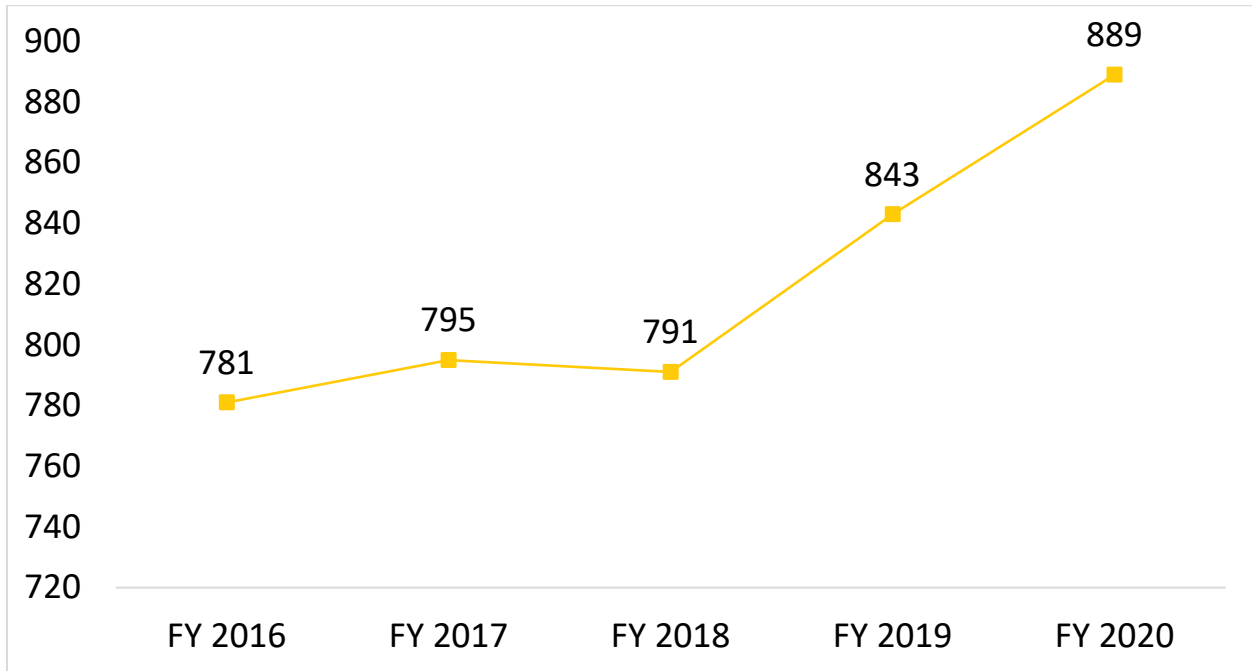


Figure 13. Distribution of Revenue by Level of Government FY 2020



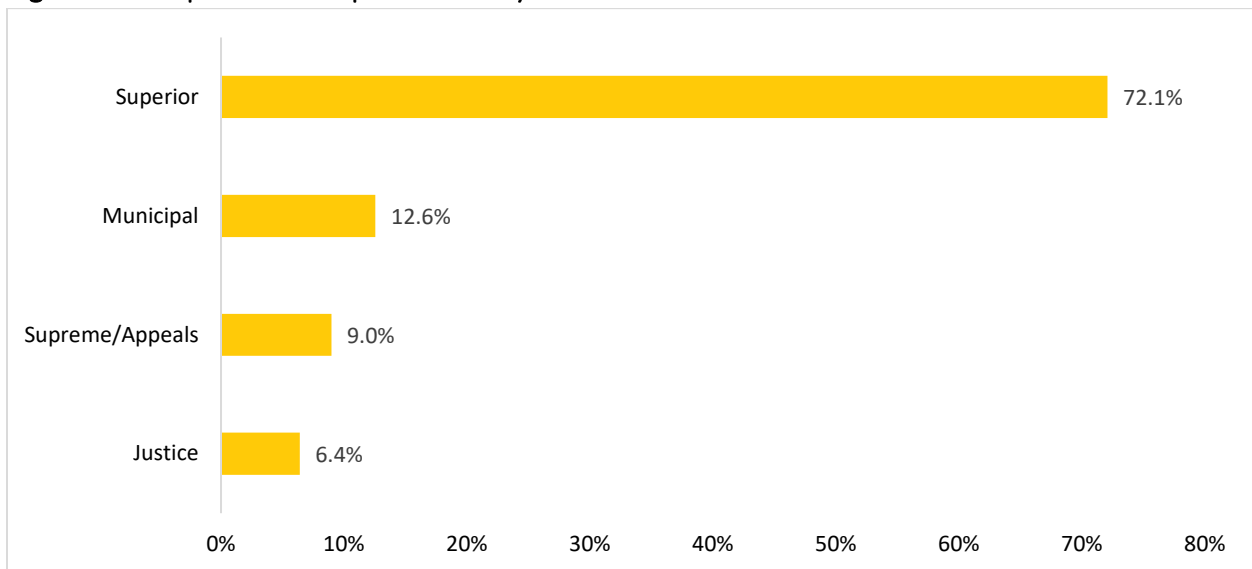
- 40.1% of total court revenue was generated by Municipal Courts, 30.5% by Justice courts, 26.4% by Superior Court and 3.0% by Appellate Courts.
- Of the total court revenue, the state received 43.7%, counties received 34.5% and cities and towns received 21.8%.

Figure 14. Arizona Court Expenditures FY2016-FY2020



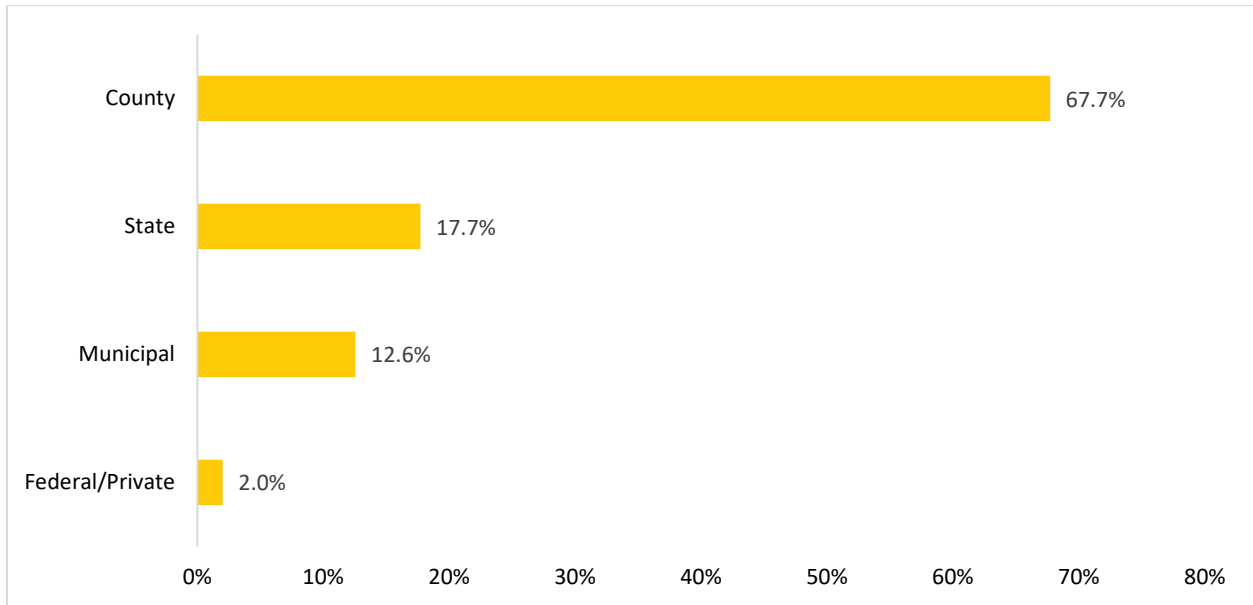
- Total statewide Court expenditures increased 5.5% from \$843 million in FY 2019 to \$889 million in FY 2020.

Figure 15. Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level FY 2020



- 72.1% of total court expenditures were in Superior Court (including probation), 12.6% in Municipal courts, 9.0% at the Appellate level and 6.4% in the Justice courts.

Figure 16. Proportion of Expenditures by Funding Source Level Fiscal Year 2020



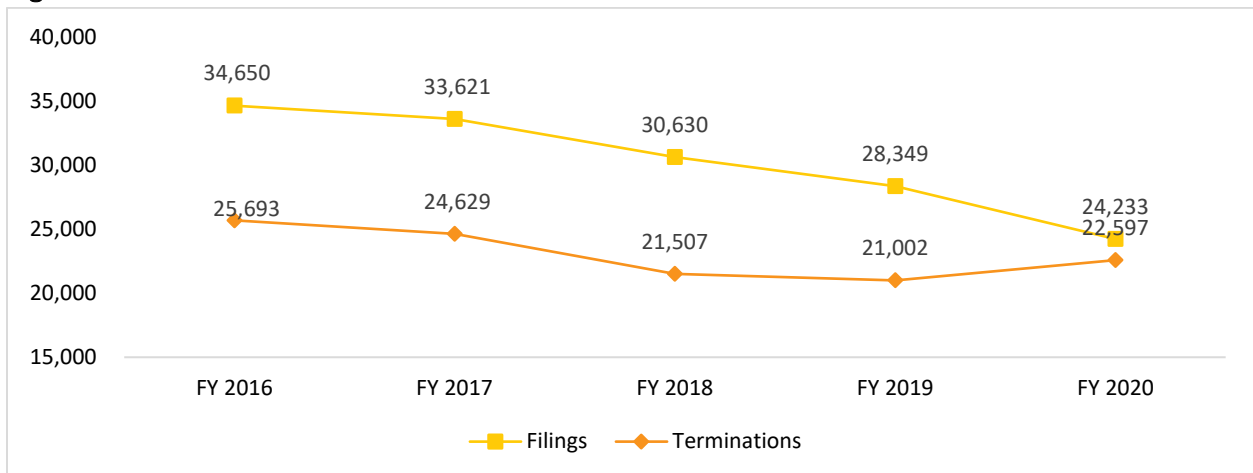
- 67.7% of the total funds expended by the court system were from counties, 17.7% from the state, 12.6% from cities and towns, and 2.0% from federal and private sources.

Adult Probation Services

The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2020 decreased -0.16% from 85,326 on July 1, 2019 to 85,187 on June 30, 2020. Of the 85,187 under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 47,892 were on standard probation (41,281 were under direct supervision in the state and 6,611 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,635 on intensive probation (2,541 were direct supervision and 211 were on indirect supervision), and 34,449 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc).

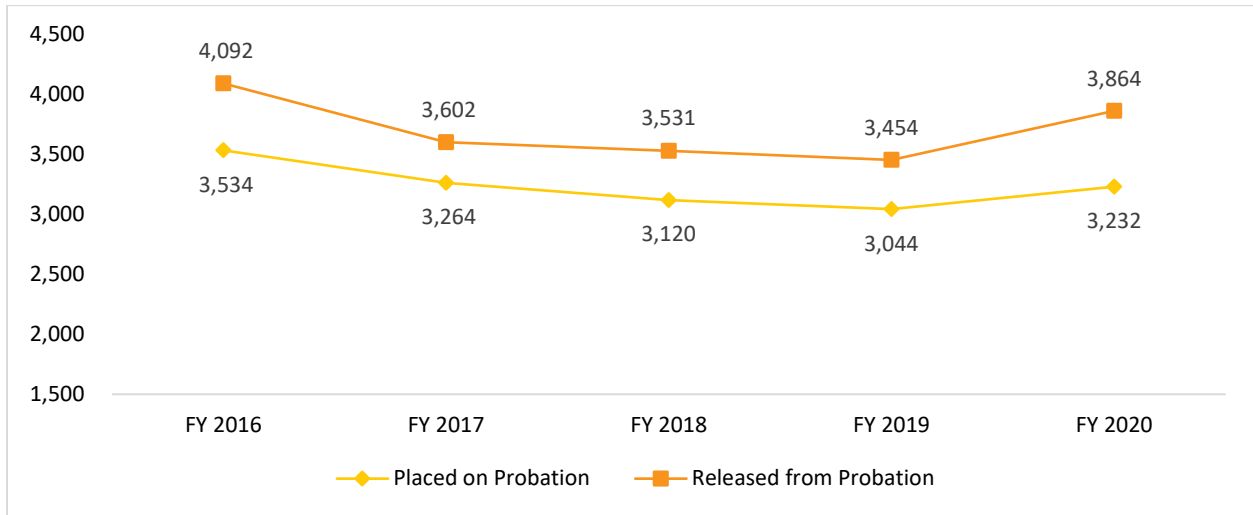
Juvenile Justice

Figure 17. Juvenile Court Referrals FY2016-FY2020



- 24,233 referrals were filed into juvenile court in FY 2020, a 14.5% decrease compared to 28,349 in FY 2019.
- 22,597 referrals were terminated in FY 2020, an 7.6% increase compared to the 21,002 referrals terminated in FY 2019.
- A total of 10,813 petitions were filed in FY 2020, an 8.9% decrease from the 11,875 petitions filed in FY 2019.
- A total of 11,251 petitions were terminated in FY 2020, a 1.4% increase from the 11,100 terminated in FY 2019.

Figure 18. Juvenile Probation FY2016-FY2020



- A total of 3,232 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2020, an 6.2% increase from the 3,044 youths placed on probation in FY 2019.
- 3,864 juveniles were released from probation, an increase of 11.9% from the 3,454 terminated from probation supervision in FY 2019.
- 249 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2020, an increase of 6.0% from the 235 committed in FY 2019.