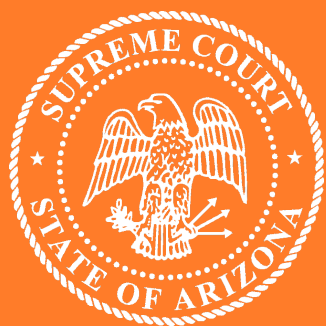


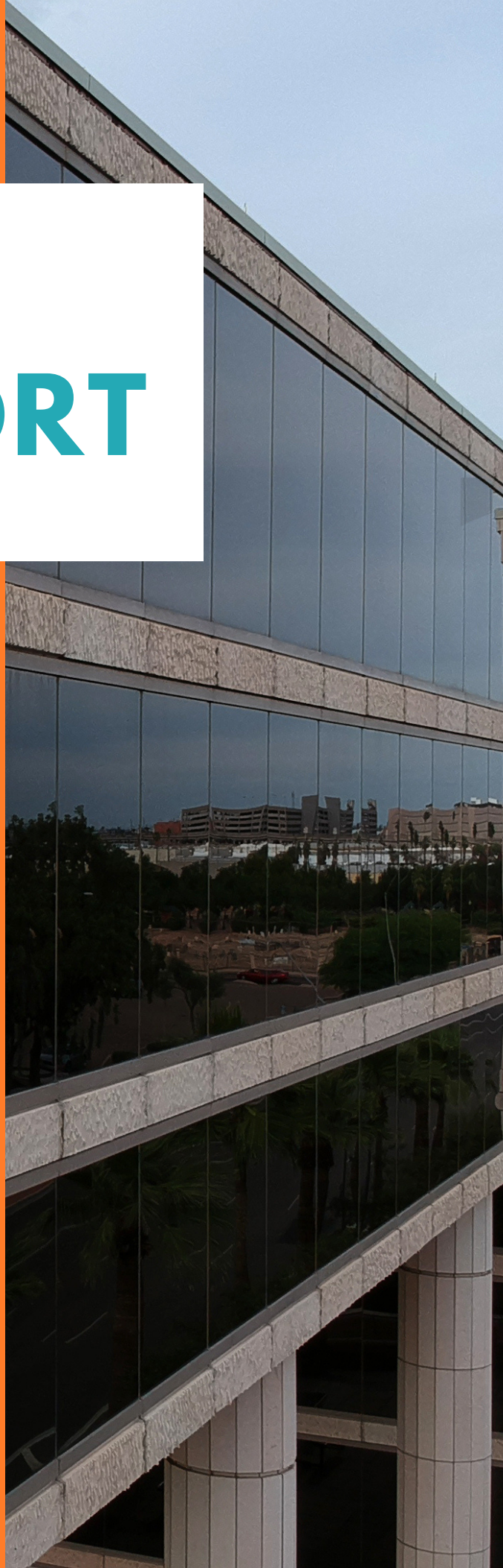
2021

# JUDICIAL DATA REPORT



## ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

Caseload and statistical data for the appellate, superior, municipal and justice of the peace courts in Arizona



# Table of Contents

<b>Highlights:</b> Fiscal Year 2021 Compared with Fiscal Year 2020 .....	1
Appellate Courts .....	3
Arizona Tax Court.....	6
General Jurisdiction Courts .....	7
Limited Jurisdiction Courts .....	9
Arizona Court Revenues and Expenditures .....	13
Adult Probation Services.....	17
Juvenile Justice .....	17

## List of Tables and Figures

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1. Supreme Court Filings and Terminations FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	3
Figure 2. Court of Appeals, Division I Filings and Terminations FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	4
Figure 3. Court of Appeals, Division II Filings and Terminations FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	5
Figure 4. Tax Court Filings and Terminations FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	6
Figure 5. Superior Court Filings and Terminations FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	7
Figure 6. Superior Court Filings by County FY 2021 .....	8
Figure 7. Justice Court Filings and Terminations FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	9
Figure 8. Justice Court Filings by County FY 2021 .....	10
Figure 9. Municipal Court Filings and Terminations FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	11
Figure 10. Municipal Court Filings by County FY 2021 .....	12
Figure 11. Arizona Court Revenue FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	13
Figure 12. Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level FY 2021 .....	13
Figure 13. Distribution of Revenue by Level of Government FY 2021 .....	14
Figure 14. Arizona Court Expenditures FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	15
Figure 15. Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level FY 2021 .....	15
Figure 16. Proportion of Expenditures by Funding Source Level FY 2021 .....	16
Figure 17. Juvenile Court Referrals FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	17
Figure 18. Juvenile Probation FY 2017-FY 2021 .....	18

## Highlights: Fiscal Year 2021 Compared with Fiscal Year 2020

- 1,446,987 cases were filed in Arizona courts (appellate, superior, tax, justice and municipal courts) during FY 2021. Averaging 5,788 cases filed in Arizona courts every working day.
- Case filings decreased by 11.6% overall during FY 2021, while revenue decreased by 1.9%. Revenue collection has declined for the fourth year in a row.
- The supreme court saw a 5.1% increase in case filings from FY 2020 to FY 2021. Filings in the court of appeals decreased 10.8% in FY 2020.
- Filings in superior court increased from 188,141 to 192,702—an increase of up 4,561. There was a 13.3% decrease in criminal filings from FY 2020 to FY 2021.
- Tax court filings decreased by 13.3% from 758 in FY 2020 to 657 in FY 2021. Tax filings have decreased significantly in recent years, down 80.6% from a peak of 3,382 filings in FY 2010.
- Filings in limited jurisdiction courts decreased 13.5% from 1,444,185 in FY 2020 to 1,249,536 in FY 2021.
- Justice court filings decreased 12.1%, from 656,052 in FY 2020 to 576,699 in FY 2021. Filings in the civil and criminal traffic categories decreased by 8.1% (26,322 cases) from FY 2020 to FY 2021.
- Justice court civil case filings decreased 19.3% from 207,616 in FY 2020 to 167,593 in FY 2021. This decrease was largely the result of a 38.7% decrease in eviction category.
- Municipal courts filings decreased 14.6% from 788,133 in FY 2020 to 672,837 in FY 2021.
- Misdemeanor DUI filings decreased 4.5% from 51,623 in FY 2020 to 53,958 in FY 2021.

**11.6%**

STATEWIDE DECREASE IN CASE FILINGS

**1.9%**

STATEWIDE DECREASE IN REVENUE

# Judiciary Organizational Chart\*

## Supreme Court

Seven Justices, Six-year terms  
 Chief Justice, Vice Chief Justice  
 Five Associate Justices

## Court of Appeals

22 Judges, Six-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 & Five Associate Judges

Counties: Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee,  
 Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz

## Superior Court

180 Judges, Four-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, Four-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

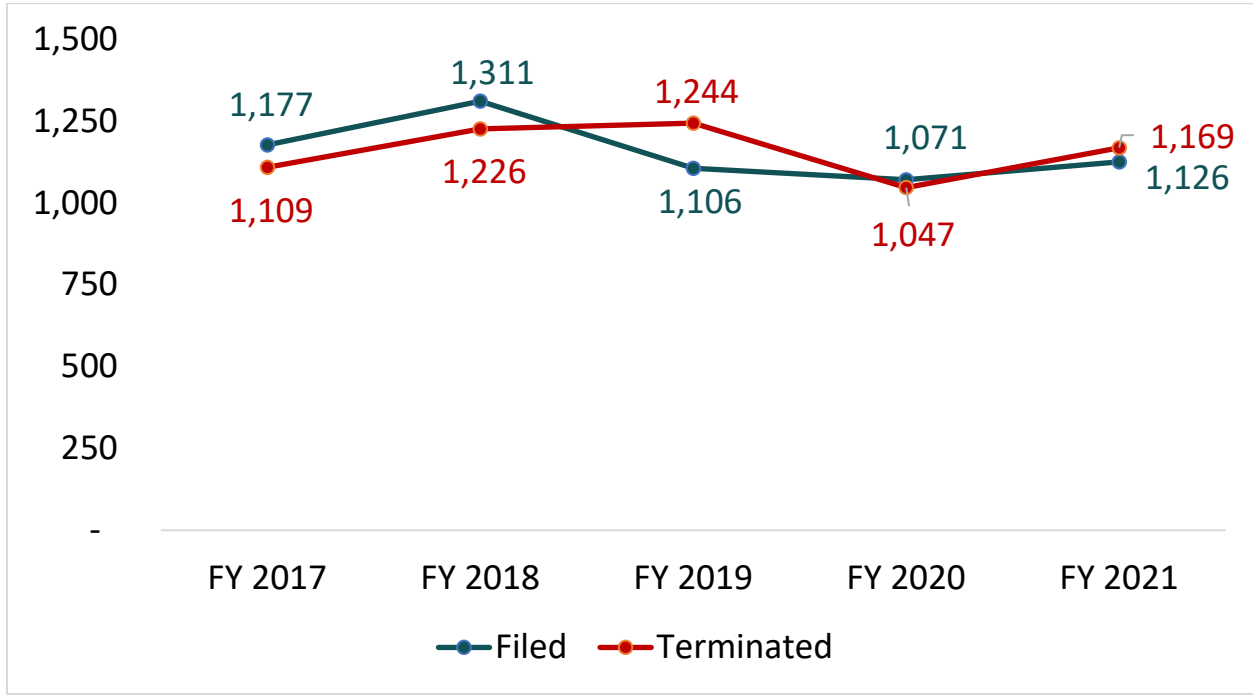
128 Full- and Part-time Judges, varying terms

	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			

\*Judiciary organization chart updated May 30, 2021.

## Appellate Courts Supreme Court

Figure 1. Supreme Court Filings and Terminations: FY 2017-FY 2021



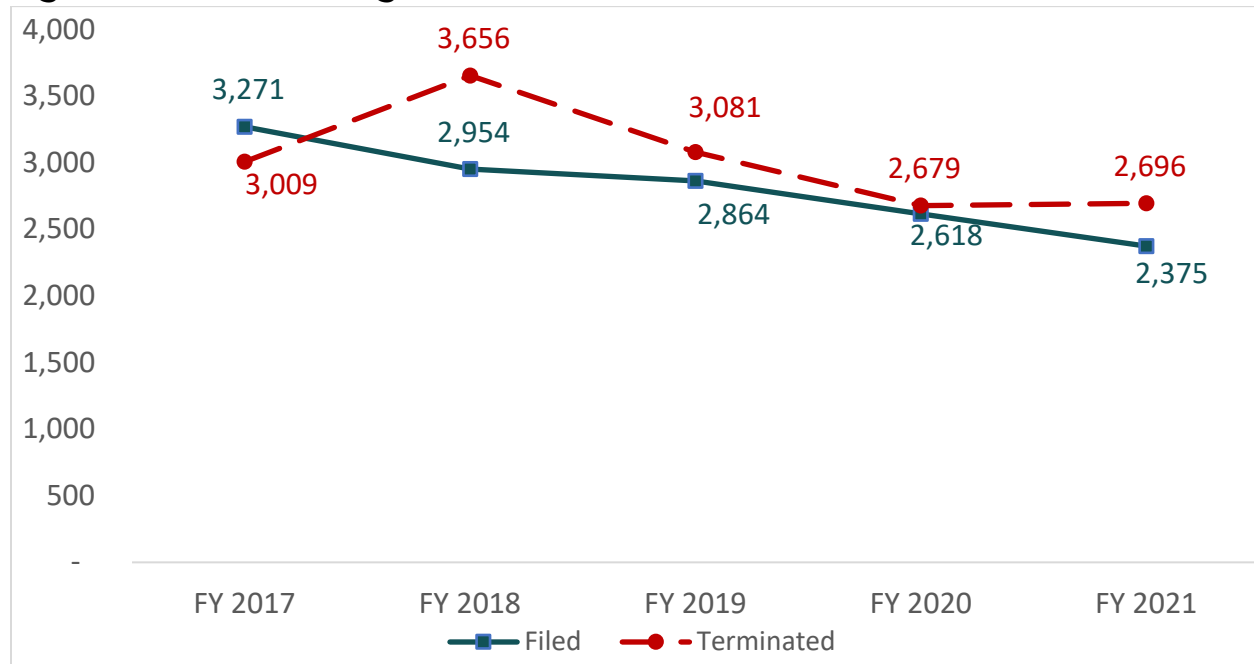
- Supreme court case filings increased by 5.1% from 1,071 in FY 2020 to 1,126 in FY 2021
- Case terminations increased by 11.7% from 1,047 in FY 2020 to 1,169 in FY 2021
- Pending caseloads decreased 9.3% from 486 on July 1, 2020 to 441 on June 30, 2021

# 5.1%

INCREASE IN CASELOAD FILINGS  
AT SUPREME COURT

## Court of Appeals

Figure 2. Division I Filings and Terminations: FY 2017-FY 2021

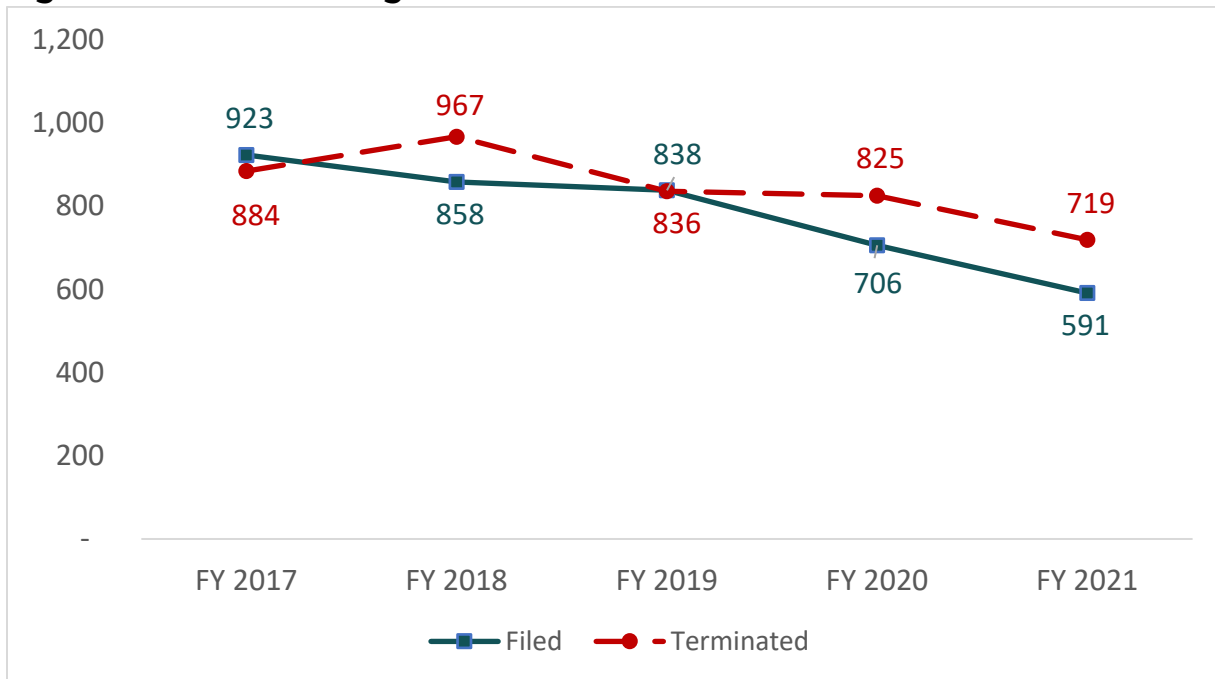


- Total case filings decreased by 9.3% from 2,618 in FY 2020 to 2,375 in FY 2021
- Criminal and post-conviction relief filings decreased 24.3% from 691 in FY 2020 to 523 in FY 2021
- Case terminations increased by 0.6%, from 2,679 during FY 2020 to 2,696 in FY 2021
- Pending caseloads increased 20% from 1,751 on July 1, 2020 to 1,401 on June 30, 2021

# 5.1% DECREASE

FILINGS AT COURT OF APPEALS DIVISION ONE

**Figure 3. Division II Filings and Terminations: FY 2017-FY 2021**



- Total case filings decreased from 706 in FY 2020 to 591 in FY 2021, a decrease of 16.3%
- Criminal and post-conviction relief filings decreased 34.2% from 260 in FY 2020 to 171 in FY 2021
- Case terminations decreased 12.8%, from 825 in FY 2020 to 719 in FY 2021
- Pending caseloads decreased 19.4%, from 639 on July 1, 2020 to 515 on June 30, 2021

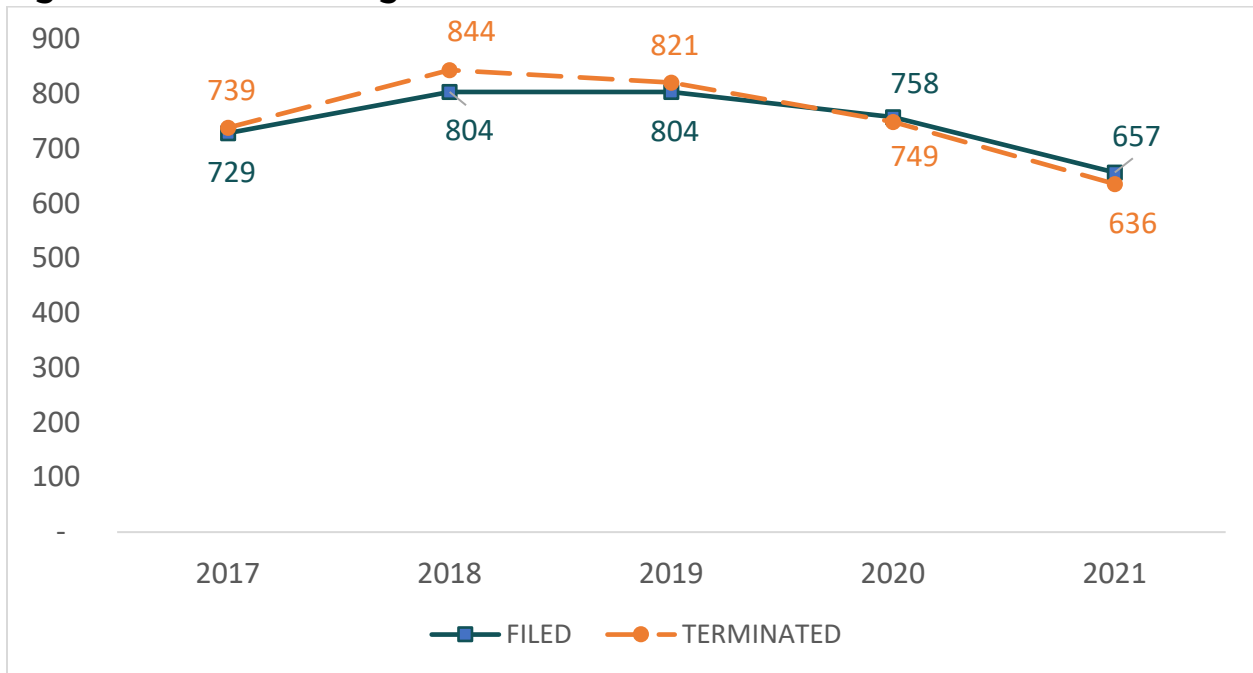
**16.3%**



**DECREASE IN FILINGS AT COURT OF APPEALS DIVISION TWO**

## Arizona Tax Court

Figure 4. Tax Court Filings and Terminations: FY 2017-FY 2021



- A total of 657 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2021, a decrease of 13.3% from the 758 cases filed in FY 2020
- Of the 657 original cases filed in FY 2021, 94 were small claims property tax actions, accounting for 14.3% of the total original filings
- A total of 636 terminated cases with judgments
- As of June 30, 2021, 525 cases were pending in Tax Court. A difference of nineteen cases from FY 2020.

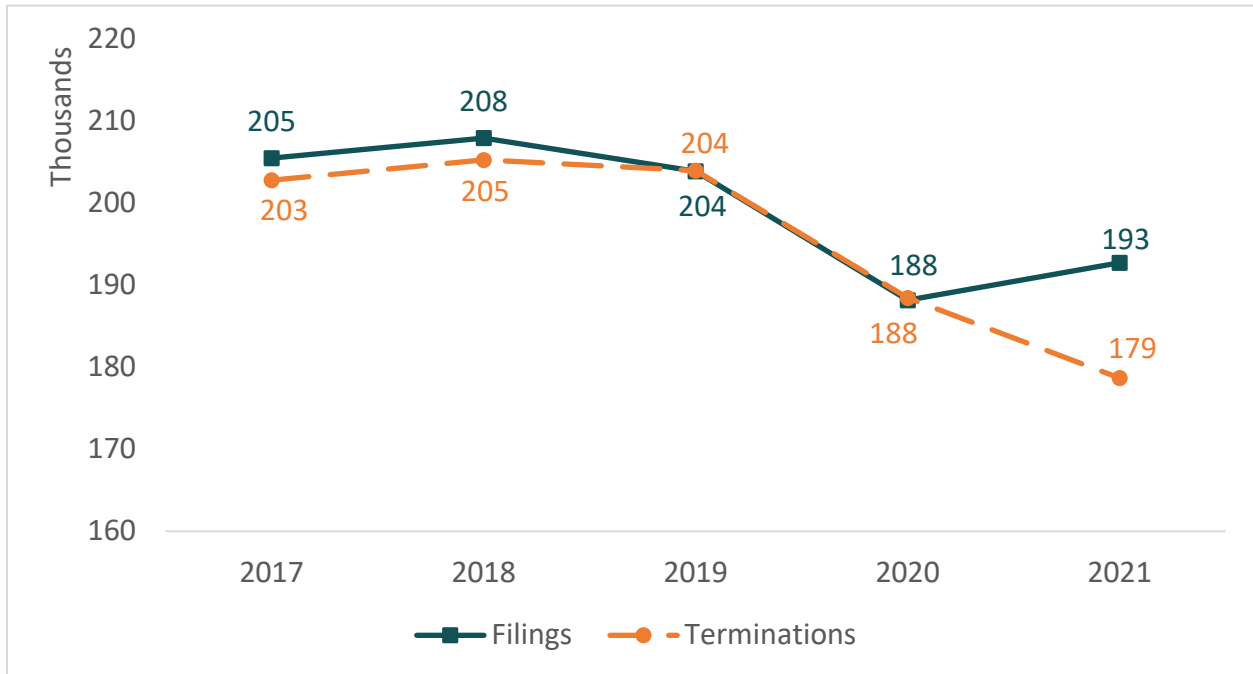


**636**

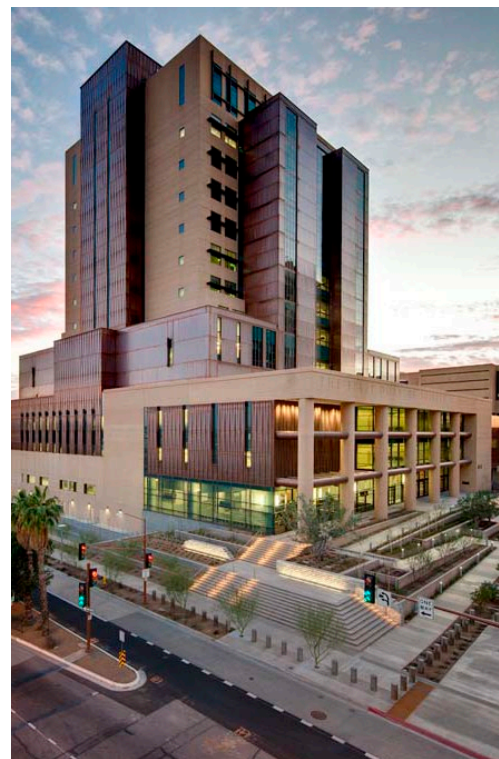
TERMINATED CASES WITH JUDGMENTS  
IN TAX COURT

## General Jurisdiction Courts Superior Court

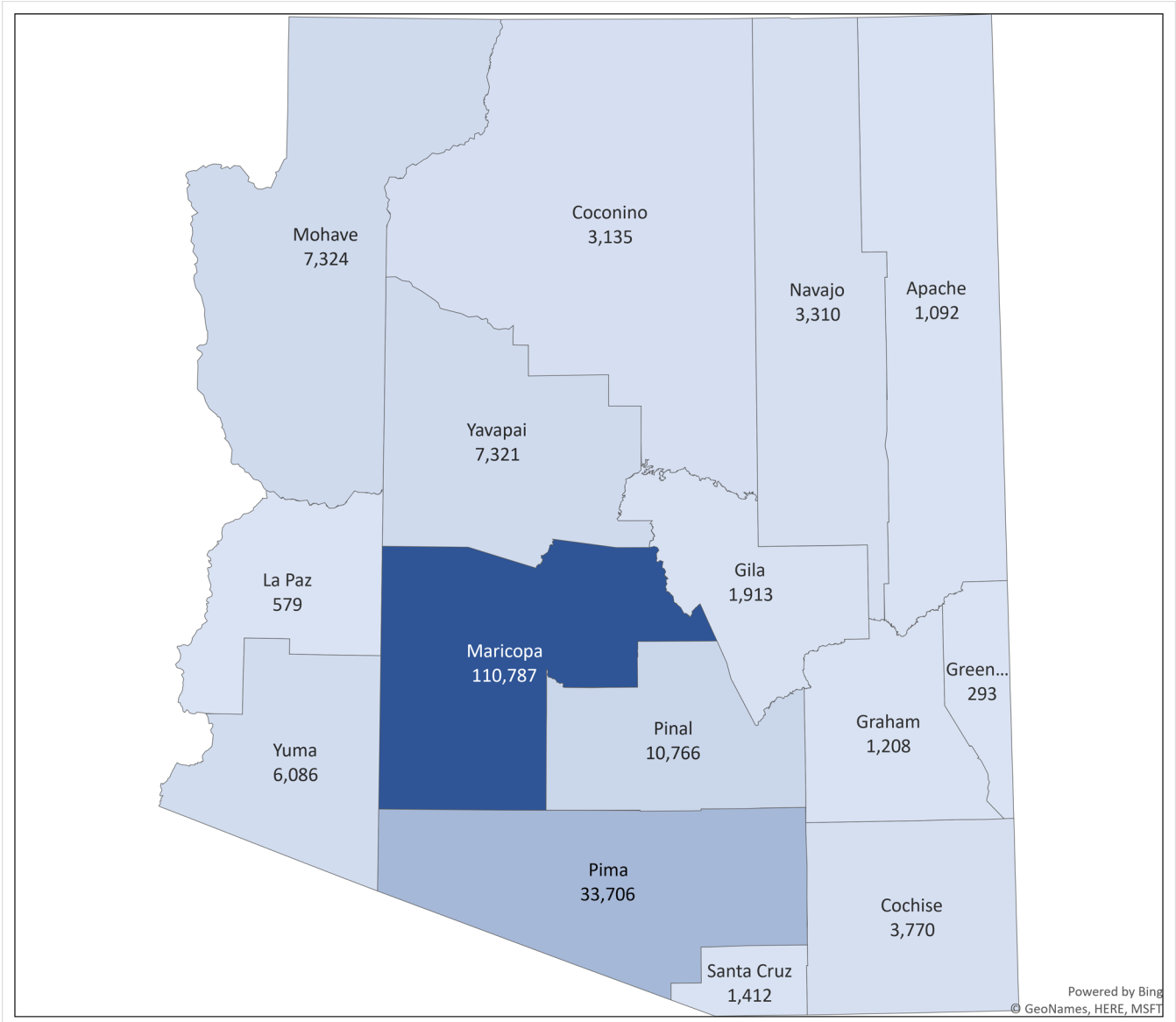
**Figure 5. Superior Court Filings and Terminations: FY 2017-FY 2021**



- Statewide case filings increased by 2.4% from 188,141 in FY 2020 to 192,702 in FY 2021. Case terminations decreased 5.2% during the same period.
- Civil case filings increased 15.1% from 40,198 in FY 2020 to 46,275 in FY 2021. During the same period, civil case terminations increased 8.7% from 40,446 to 43,945.
- Criminal filings decreased 13.3%, from 45,627 during FY 2020, to 39,548 during FY 2021. Criminal case terminations decreased 25.2% during the same period, from 47,562 to 35,599.



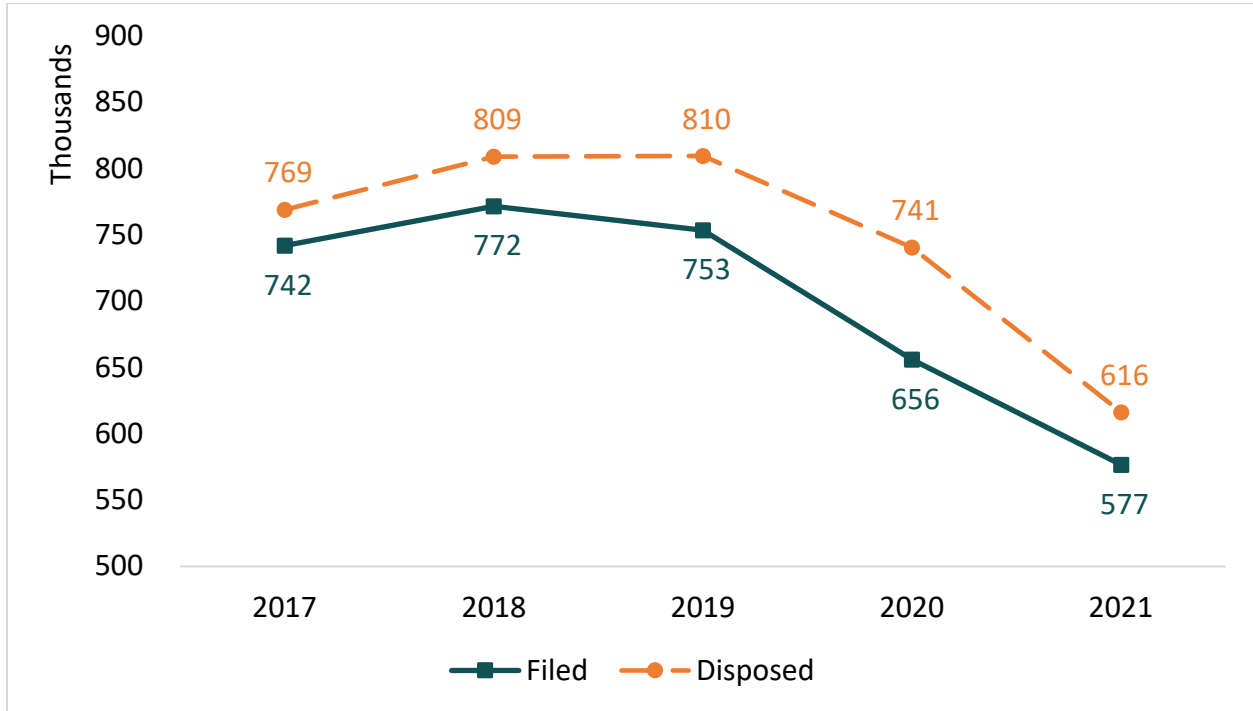
**Figure 6. Superior Court Filings by County: FY 2021**



- Domestic relations case filings increased by 0.6%, from 46,493 in FY 2020 to 46,776 in FY 2021. Domestic relations case terminations decreased by 0.3% from 47,049 to 46,914.
- Petitions for orders of protection, including emergency orders, decreased by 3.7% from 14,588 in FY 2020 to 14,041 in FY 2021
- Juvenile dependency petitions filed decreased 5% from 5,799 in FY 2020 to 5,509 in FY 2021
- Juvenile delinquency petitions decreased 34.5% from 6,905 in FY 2020 to 4,522 in FY 2021

## Limited Jurisdiction Courts Justice Courts

**Figure 7. Justice Court Filings and Terminations: FY 2017-FY 2021**

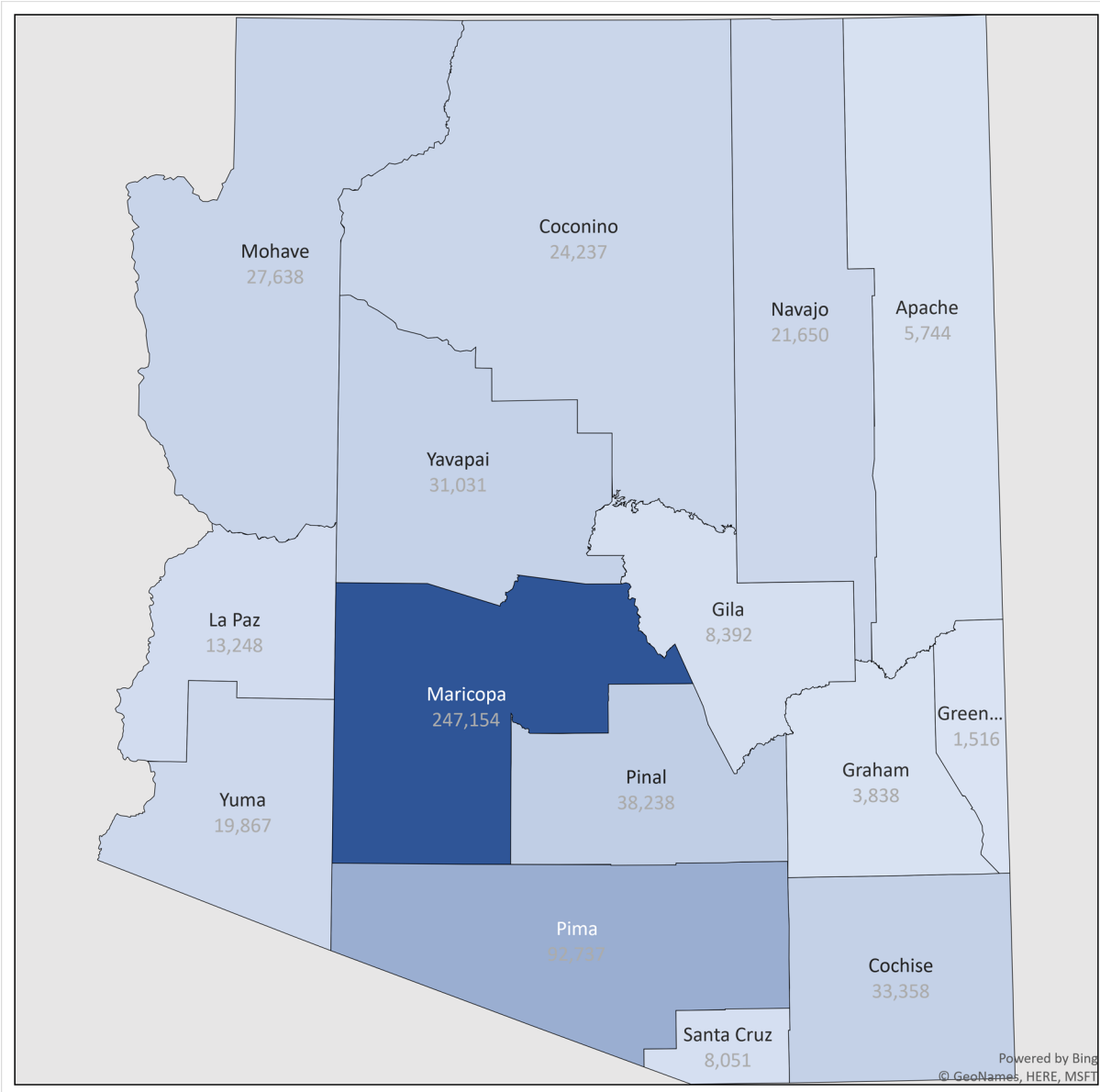


- Total filings in justice courts decreased from 656,052 in FY 2020 to 576,699 in FY 2021, a decrease of 12.1%
- During the same period, case terminations decreased by 16.8% from 740,521 in FY 2020 to 616,331 in FY 2021
- When combined, criminal and civil traffic filings comprise more than half of all justice court filings, a decrease of 26,322 (8.1%)

**8.1%**

**DECREASE OF CRIMINAL AND  
CIVIL TRAFFIC FILINGS IN  
JUSTICE COURTS**

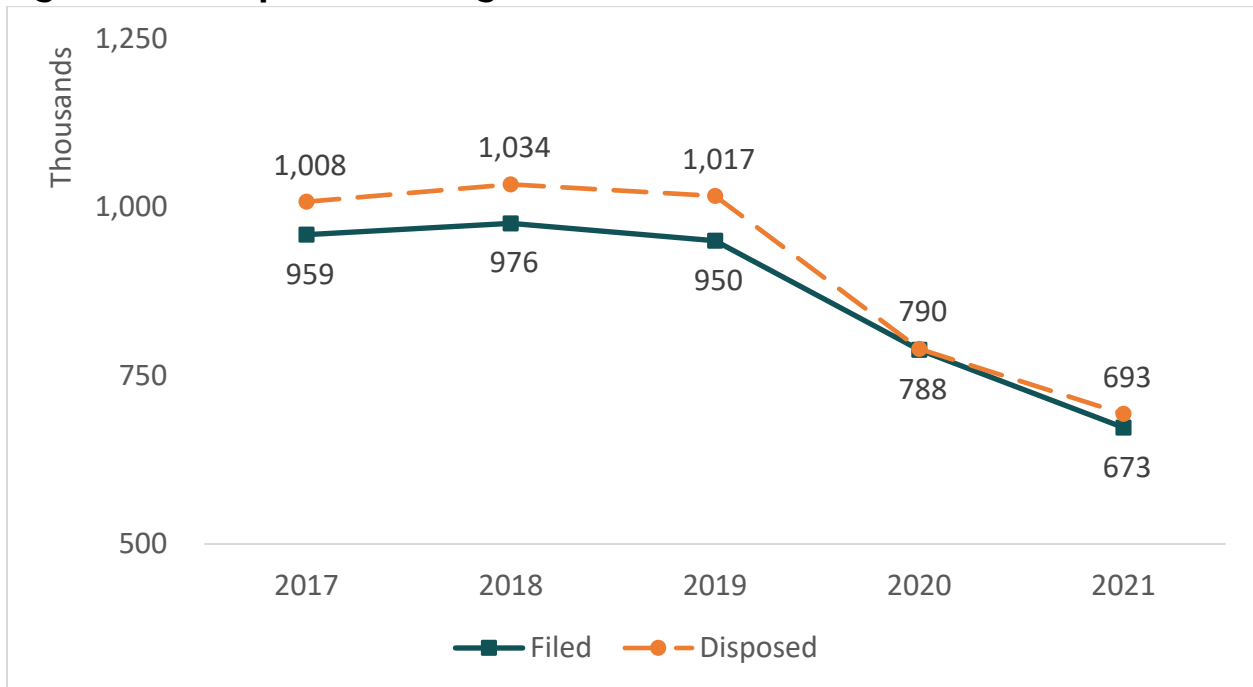
**Figure 8. Justice Court Filings by County: FY 2021**



- Criminal misdemeanor and felony case filings decreased 10.8% from 108,691 in FY 2020 to 96,963 in FY 2021. Criminal case terminations decreased 33.8% from 143,860 in FY 2020 to 95,222 in FY 2021.
- Petition for Orders of Protection decreased 3.3% in justice courts, from 8,013 in FY 2020 to 7,745 in FY 2021. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment decreased 6.8% from 5,310 filings in FY 2020 to 4,951 in FY 2021

## Municipal Courts

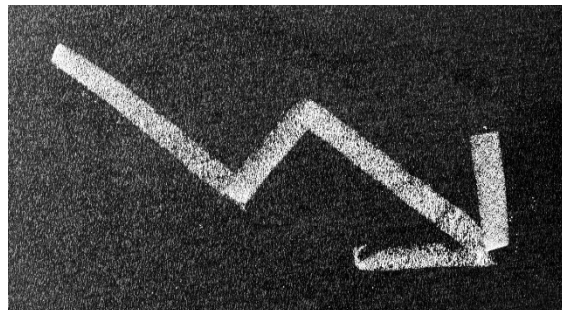
Figure 9. Municipal Court Filings and Terminations: FY 2017-FY 2021



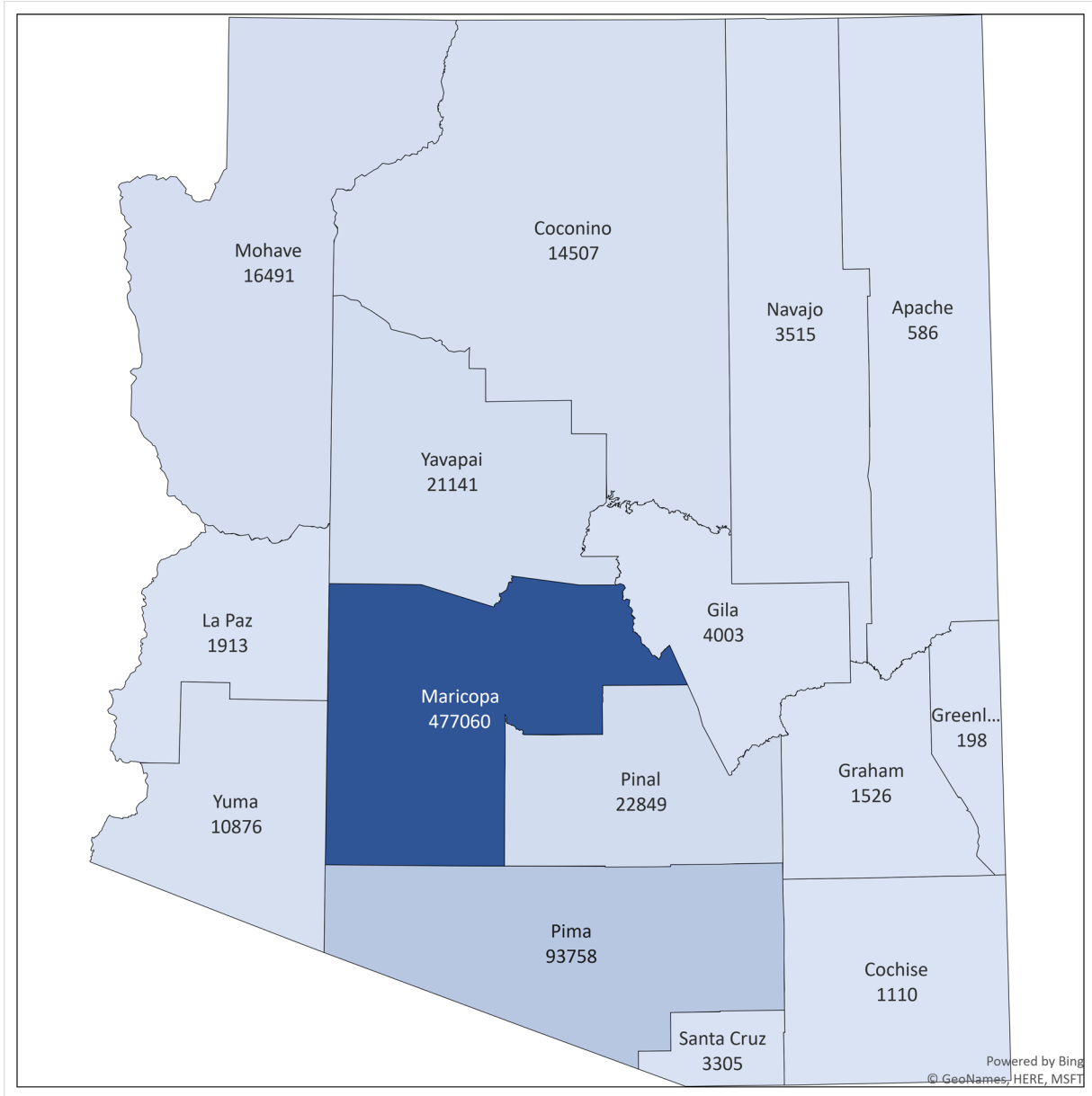
- Total case filings decreased 14.6% from 788,133 in FY 2020 to 672,837 in FY 2021
- Total case terminations decreased 12.2% during the same period
- Civil and criminal traffic filings—when combined—comprise approximately 67% of all municipal court cases. Resulting in a decrease of 9.7% from 523,198 in FY 2020 to 472,575 in FY 2021.

# 14.6%

DECREASE OF TOTAL CASE  
FILINGS IN MUNICIPAL COURTS



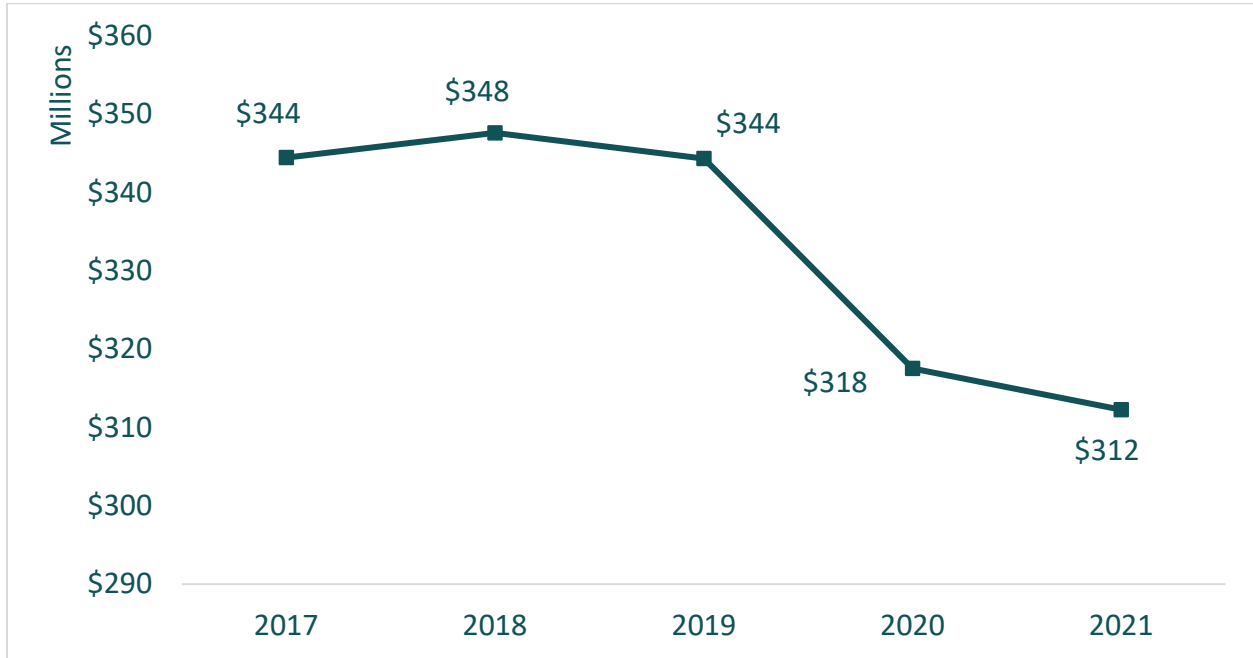
**Figure 10. Municipal Court Filings by County: FY 2021**



- Criminal misdemeanor case filings decreased 9.7% from 171,312 in FY 2020 to 140,232 in FY 2021. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations increased by 2.4% from 152,957 in FY 2020 to 156,622 in FY 2021.
- Domestic violence petitions decreased 11.2% from 11,732 in FY 2020 to 10,423 in FY 2021. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased 13.9% from 5,515 in FY 2020 to 4,751 in FY 2021.

## Arizona Court Revenues and Expenditures

Figure 11. Arizona Court Revenue: FY 2017-FY 2021



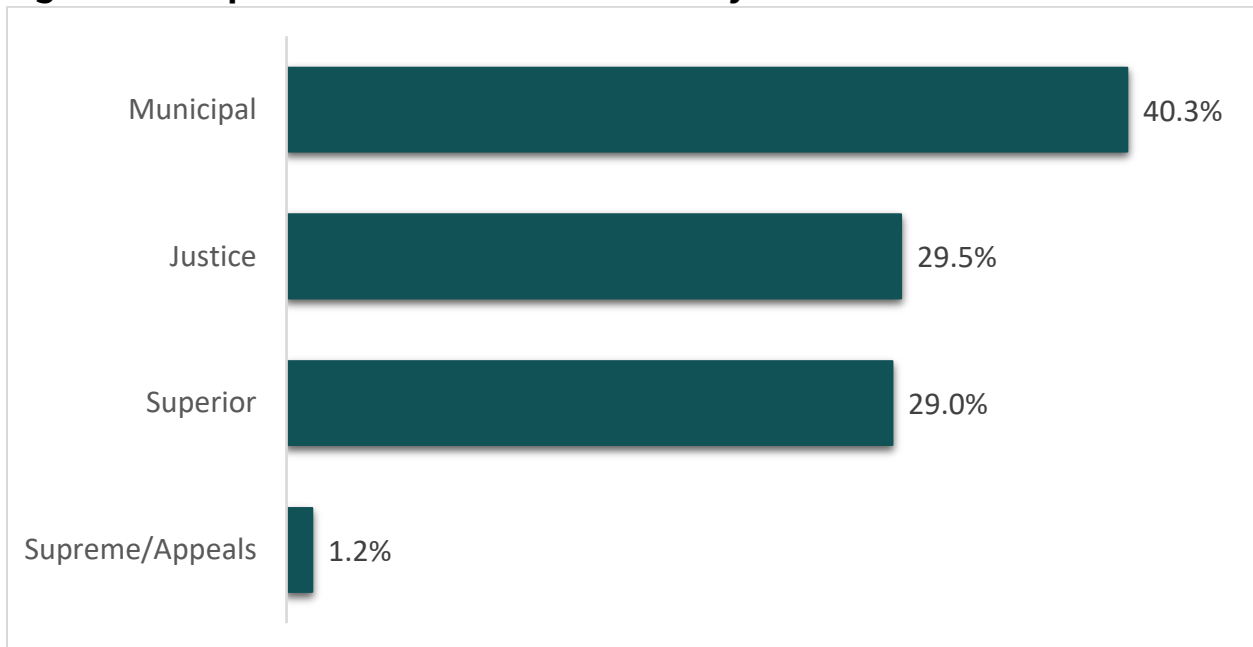
- Total statewide court revenue decreased from \$318 million in FY 2020 to \$312 million in FY 2021
- Total victim restitution payments collected by courts increased by 3.9% from \$17.9 million in FY 2020 to \$18.6 million in FY 2021

# 4.7M

DECREASE IN STATEWIDE COURT REVENUE

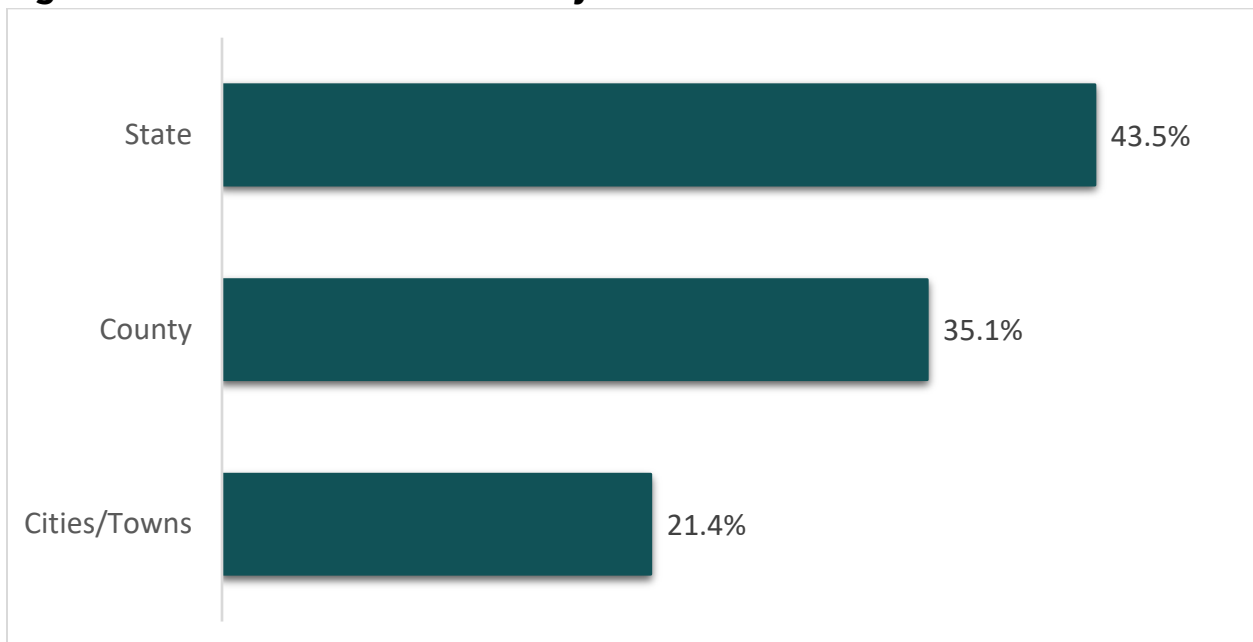
## REVENUES DECREASED

**Figure 12. Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level: FY 2017-FY 2021**

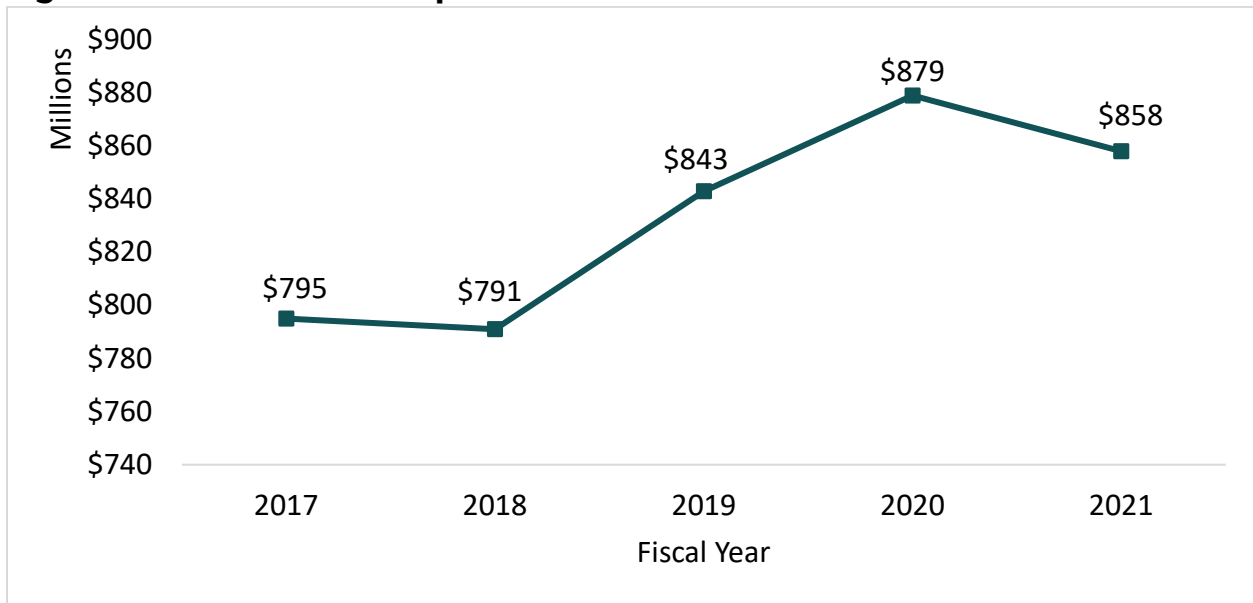


- 40.3% of total court revenue was collected by municipal courts, 29.5% by justice courts, 29.0% by superior court and 1.2% by appellate courts
- Of the total court revenue, the state received 43.5%, counties received 35.1% and cities and towns received 21.4%

**Figure 13. Distribution of Revenue by Level of Government: FY 2021**

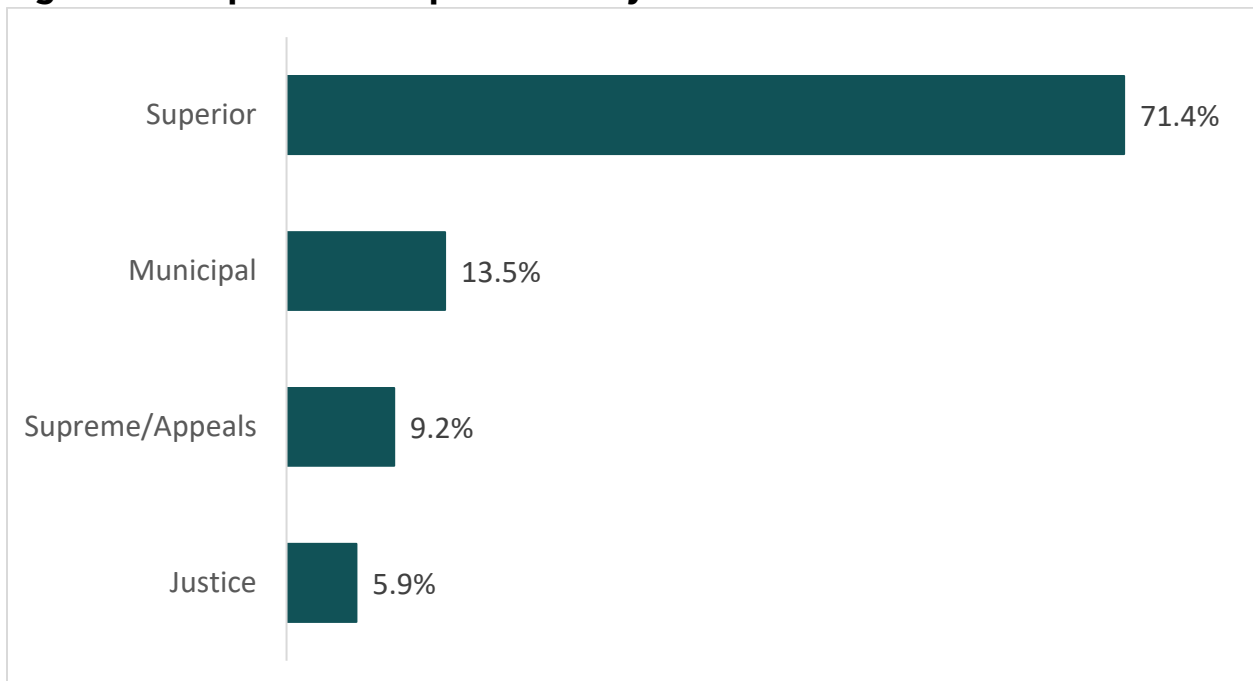


**Figure 14. Arizona Court Expenditures: FY 2017-FY 2021**



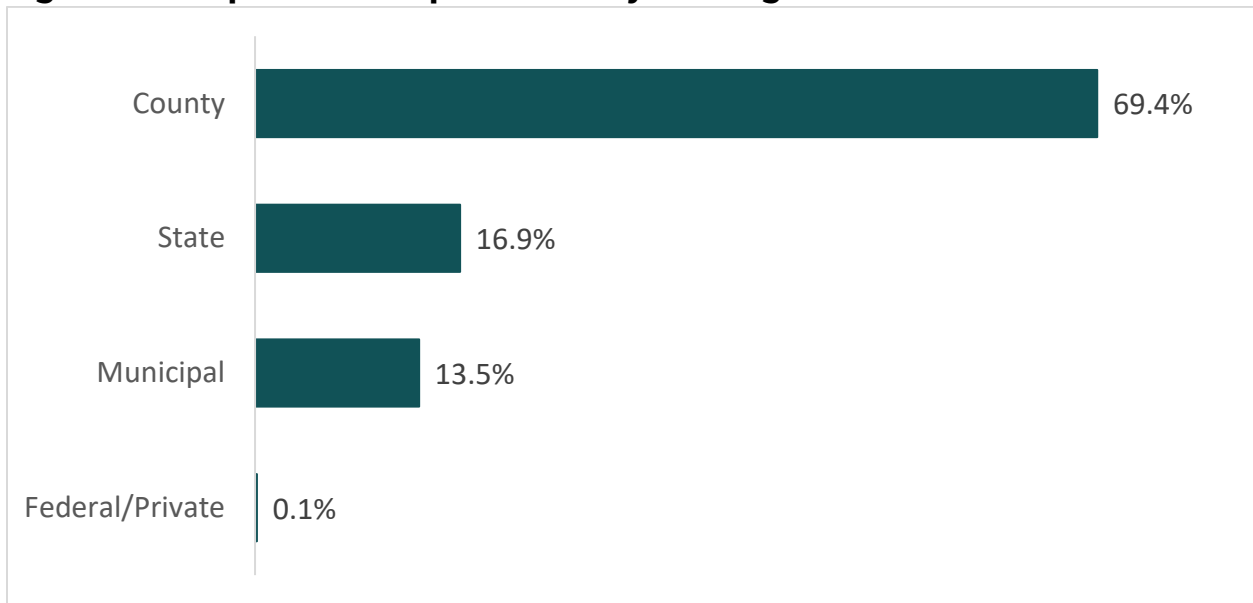
- Total statewide court expenditures decreased 2.4% from \$879 million in FY 2020 to \$858 million in FY 2021

**Figure 15. Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level: FY 2021**



- 71.4% of total court expenditures were in superior court (including probation), 13.5% in municipal courts, 9.2% at the appellate level and 5.9% in the justice courts

**Figure 16. Proportion of Expenditures by Funding Source Level: FY 2021**



**69.4% of the total funds expended by the court system were from counties, 16.9% from the state, 13.5% from cities and towns, and 0.1% from federal and private sources**

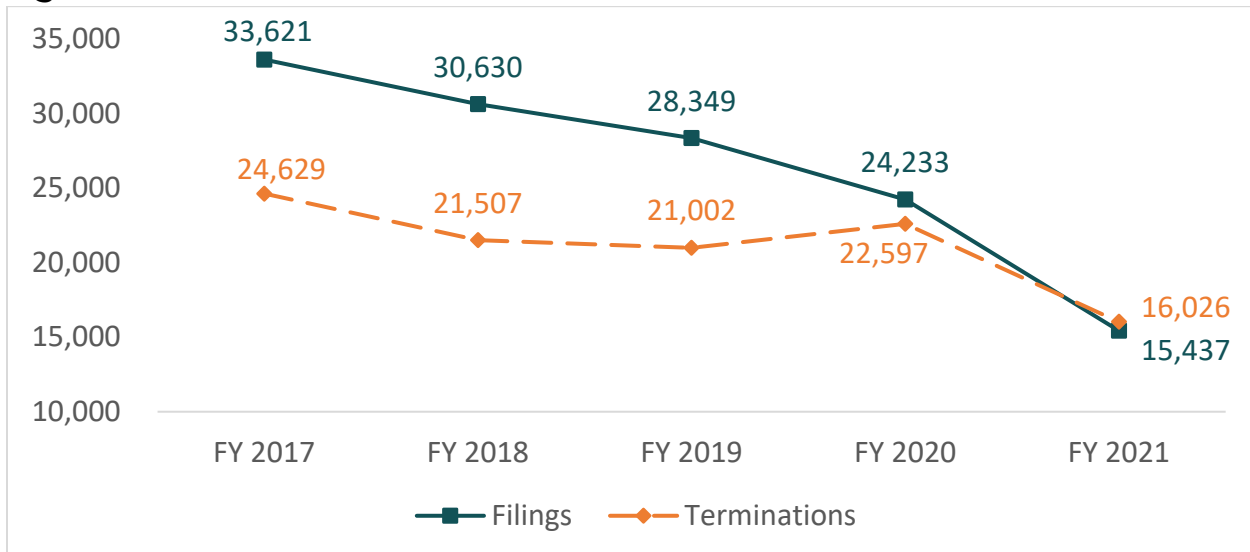


## Adult Probation Services

The number of individuals under jurisdiction of the Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2021 decreased 7.6% from 84,756 on July 1, 2020 to 78,301 on June 30, 2021. Of the 78,301 under adult probation jurisdiction, 44,504 were on standard probation (38,335 direct supervision in the state and 6,169 indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,792 on intensive probation (2,598 were direct supervision and 194 were on indirect supervision), and 31,005 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report-only, deported, etc.).

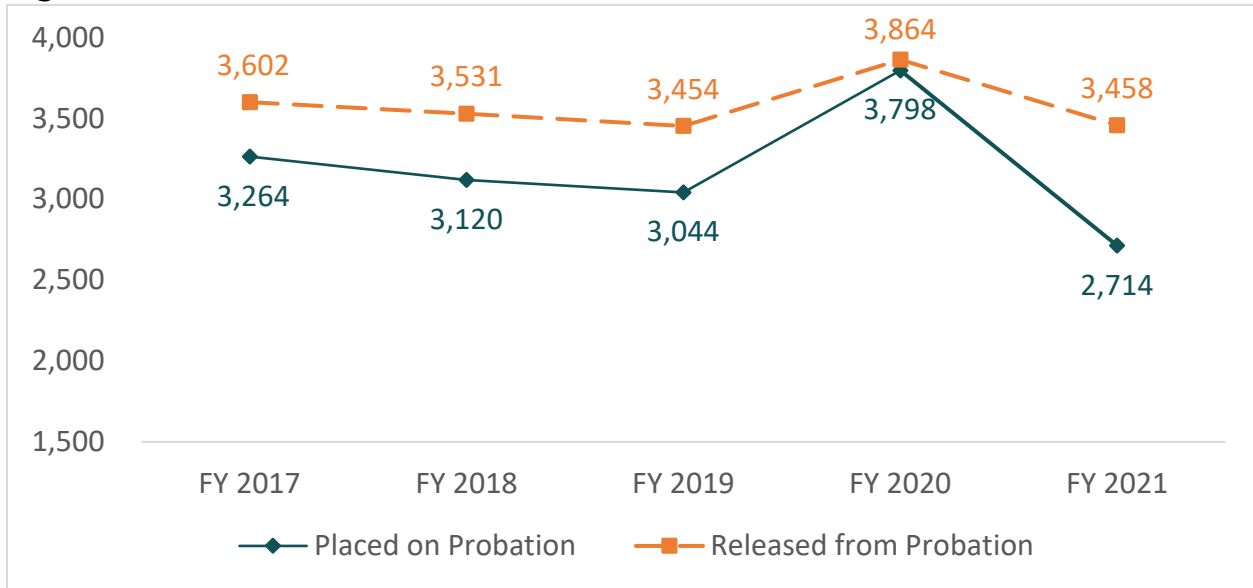
## Juvenile Justice

**Figure 17. Juvenile Court Referrals: FY 2017-FY 2021**



- 15,437 referrals were filed into juvenile court in FY 2021, a 36.3% decrease from the 24,233 filed in FY 2020
- 16,026 referrals were terminated in FY 2021, a 29.1% decrease from the 22,597 referrals terminated in FY 2020
- A total of 6,874 petitions were filed in FY 2021, a 36.4% decrease from the 10,813 petitions filed in FY 2020
- A total of 7,113 petitions were terminated in FY 2021, a 30.6% decrease from the 10,251 terminated in FY 2020

**Figure 18. Juvenile Probation: FY 2017-FY 2021**



- A total of 2,714 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2021, a 28.5% decrease from the 3,798 youths placed on probation in FY 2020
- 3,458 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 10.5% from the 3,864 terminated from probation supervision in FY 2021

**28.5%**  
**DECREASE OF JUVENILES  
PLACED ON PROBATION**

