

Caseloads of the Courts of Washington

Court Activity Trends by Type of Case - 2019 to 2023

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	2019	2020	% Chg (1)	2021	% Chg (1)	2022	% Chg (1)	2023	% Chg (1)
Filings									
Criminal (2)	39,614	31,867	-19.6 %	26,526	-16.8 %	28,121	6 %	28,360	0.8 %
Civil (3)	79,052	44,651	-43.5 %	45,062	0.9 %	58,773	30.4 %	68,292	16.2 %
Domestic/UIFSA	30,147	25,810	-14.4 %	26,397	2.3 %	24,360	-7.7 %	24,947	2.4 %
Probate	15,307	14,822	-3.2 %	16,827	13.5 %	18,337	9 %	17,867	-2.6 %
Guardianship (11)	2,076	1,970	-5.1 %	3,991	102.6 %	3,987	-0.1 %	3,974	-0.3 %
Adoption/Parentage (4),(5)	5,203	4,128	-20.7 %	3,992	-3.3 %	3,584	-10.2 %	3,479	-2.9 %
Mental Illness	10,001	11,190	11.9 %	11,355	1.5 %	11,105	-2.2 %	11,489	3.5 %
Juvenile Dependency	17,341	8,968	-48.3 %	7,667	-14.5 %	10,887	42 %	10,921	0.3 %
Juvenile Offender (2)	7,331	5,133	-30 %	3,236	-37 %	4,091	26.4 %	5,430	32.7 %
Total Filings	206,072	148,539	-27.9 %	145,053	-2.3 %	163,245	12.5 %	174,759	7.1 %
Resolutions (6)									
Criminal (2)	37,149	26,807	-27.8 %	28,853	7.6 %	25,818	-10.5 %	27,771	7.6 %
Civil (3)	74,525	43,482	-41.7 %	42,105	-3.2 %	51,907	23.3 %	62,092	19.6 %
Domestic/UIFSA	26,933	26,331	-2.2 %	25,284	-4 %	24,653	-2.5 %	23,916	-3 %
Probate	13,346	13,590	1.8 %	14,817	9 %	14,492	-2.2 %	20,087	38.6 %
Guardianship (11)	1,662	1,622	-2.4 %	2,647	63.2 %	2,705	2.2 %	3,204	18.4 %
Adoption/Parentage (4),(5)	4,737	3,894	-17.8 %	3,762	-3.4 %	3,299	-12.3 %	3,497	6 %
Mental Illness	9,181	10,217	11.3 %	9,398	-8 %	8,474	-9.8 %	9,923	17.1 %
Juvenile Dependency	14,135	11,900	-15.8 %	8,157	-31.5 %	6,889	-15.5 %	9,352	35.8 %
Juvenile Offender (2)	6,606	5,336	-19.2 %	3,613	-32.3 %	3,702	2.5 %	4,621	24.8 %
Total Resolutions	188,274	143,179	-24 %	138,636	-3.2 %	141,939	2.4 %	164,463	15.9 %
Completions (7)									
Criminal (2)	37,053	27,450	-25.9 %	29,712	8.2 %	26,160	-12 %	28,423	8.7 %
Civil (3)	73,121	42,716	-41.6 %	41,364	-3.2 %	51,951	25.6 %	61,358	18.1 %
Domestic/UIFSA	26,858	26,643	-0.8 %	25,716	-3.5 %	24,455	-4.9 %	24,190	-1.1 %
Probate	10,433	10,438	0 %	11,093	6.3 %	11,723	5.7 %	16,998	45 %

1 Percentages not shown when numbers are less than 30.

2 Criminal and Juvenile Offender data include counts on "non-charge matters."

3 Prior to 1992, the civil case type included data from the current model now shown as domestic relations, uniform interstate family support act (UIFSA), paternity causes of action, and confidential name changes for victims of domestic violence. Includes "matters filed with the clerk." Refer to the section titled "Caution Regarding Figures Published in Prior Years".

4 Adoption data include relinquishment, termination, and modification causes of action; these sealed cases also include confidential name changes for victims of domestic violence.

5 Adoption data include counts on "pre-placement reports."

6 Resolution signifies that a case has been tried, settled, or otherwise concluded. It occurs when a judicial decision has been rendered (regardless of whether a dispositive document has been filed with the clerk), or when a case has been transferred to another jurisdiction for subsequent adjudication. (For additional information see the Superior Court Glossary.)

7 Completion signifies that the dispositive documents for a case have been filed with the clerk for inclusion in the legal record. In some instances a case can be completed at the point of case resolution; however, a case can never be completed prior to resolution. (For additional information see the Superior Court Glossary.)

8 In addition to jury and non-jury trials, these figures include counts for trials by affidavit and stipulated trials.

9 Juvenile offender proceedings that involve adjudicatory hearings are counted as trials here.

10 Pierce County Superior Court case information is recorded in Legal Information Network Exchange (LINX). Case filings and resolutions are available in the Judicial Information System (JIS). Non-trial and trial proceedings listed above may be incomplete. LINX information is available on the Internet at <https://linxonline.co.pierce.wa.us/linxweb/Main.cfm>. For further information please contact the Pierce County Clerk by phone at 253-798-7455 or by e-mail at pcclerk@co.pierce.wa.us.

11 Effective 1/1/2023, Guardianship category includes: Minor Other Protective Arrangement (OPM), and Standby Minor Guardianship (SMG).

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Guardianship (11)	1,398	1,404	0.4 %	2,154	53.4 %	2,396	11.2 %	2,853	19.1 %
Adoption/Parentage (4),(5)	4,744	3,874	-18.3 %	3,765	-2.8 %	3,271	-13.1 %	3,610	10.4 %
Mental Illness	8,034	9,950	23.8 %	8,421	-15.4 %	7,383	-12.3 %	9,003	21.9 %
Juvenile Dependency	14,185	12,520	-11.7 %	8,243	-34.2 %	6,919	-16.1 %	9,464	36.8 %
Juvenile Offender (2)	6,891	5,558	-19.3 %	3,762	-32.3 %	3,713	-1.3 %	4,495	21.1 %
Total Completions	182,717	140,553	-23.1 %	134,230	-4.5 %	137,971	2.8 %	160,394	16.3 %
Non-Trial Proceedings (10)									
Criminal (2)	290,184	213,469	-26.4 %	197,678	-7.4 %	215,011	8.8 %	225,688	5 %
Civil (3)	34,611	27,729	-19.9 %	30,794	11.1 %	38,142	23.9 %	48,157	26.3 %
Domestic/UIFSA	69,287	47,987	-30.7 %	52,846	10.1 %	52,918	0.1 %	53,793	1.7 %
Probate	2,635	2,374	-9.9 %	3,149	32.6 %	3,316	5.3 %	3,390	2.2 %
Guardianship (11)	7,605	5,476	-28 %	9,951	81.7 %	12,616	26.8 %	12,325	-2.3 %
Adoption/Parentage (4),(5)	8,187	5,529	-32.5 %	5,951	7.6 %	5,674	-4.7 %	4,911	-13.4 %
Mental Illness	12,591	13,784	9.5 %	11,192	-18.8 %	7,920	-29.2 %	6,645	-16.1 %
Juvenile Dependency	78,743	54,905	-30.3 %	54,618	-0.5 %	53,482	-2.1 %	49,840	-6.8 %
Juvenile Offender (2)	47,539	33,761	-29 %	26,129	-22.6 %	27,886	6.7 %	35,093	25.8 %
Total Non-Trial Proceedings	551,382	405,014	-26.5 %	392,308	-3.1 %	416,965	6.3 %	439,842	5.5 %
Trial Proceedings (8),(10)									
Criminal (2)	1,290	732	-43.3 %	689	-5.9 %	764	10.9 %	947	24 %
Civil (3)	515	332	-35.5 %	361	8.7 %	451	24.9 %	551	22.2 %
Domestic/UIFSA	1,388	1,069	-23 %	1,274	19.2 %	1,138	-10.7 %	1,315	15.6 %
Probate	10	6	. %	5	. %	3	. %	19	. %
Guardianship (11)	21	15	. %	43	. %	97	125.6 %	146	50.5 %
Adoption/Parentage (4),(5)	129	124	-3.9 %	102	-17.7 %	101	-1 %	98	-3 %
Mental Illness	335	374	11.6 %	293	-21.7 %	242	-17.4 %	246	1.7 %
Juvenile Offender (2)	340	264	-22.4 %	177	-33 %	224	26.6 %	233	4 %
Total Trial Proceedings	4,028	2,916	-27.6 %	2,944	1 %	3,020	2.6 %	3,555	17.7 %

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