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HISTORICAL REPORT METHODOLOGY

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All data has been obtained from the KYCourts/CourtNet database. The following is a list of reports and the information contained therein, these apply to both calendar year (CY) and fiscal year (FY) historical reports. Data provides either a county by county breakdown or a statewide summary. Case counts cannot be inferred as a count of individuals as some individuals may have multiple cases. A one-to-one match cannot be made between cases filed and cases closed as some cases may be disposed in a year subsequent to when they were filed.

Not all case types will exist in each county or fiscal year examined within the data sets. Blanks within the data should not be considered missing data but instances in which cases did not occur.

Filings refer to cases that have been initiated by formal submission to the court. 'Filing' refers to the entering of any document into the official record of the court. This figure provides the count of cases filed per calendar year.

Closings refer to the cases that have been disposed during the calendar year having a judicial disposition terminating proceedings.

Data reports are broken out by court venue of filing and/or disposition. Court venues include Circuit, District, and Family. Report numbers referenced are located in the top right hand corner of each PDF document. The count of cases provided should not be inferred as a count of individuals as some persons may have multiple cases. Additionally, blanks within the data should not be considered missing data but instances in which cases did not occur.

Within caseload rankings for each court venue, the total number of cases filed and/or closed within that venue is divided by the total number of judges in that judicial jurisdiction. The counties are then ordered from highest average cases per judge to lowest.

Average time from case filing to case closing is calculated by taking the total number of days from case filing to case disposition for each case disposed in a given calendar year in that county. That total time is then divided by the number of cases and translated from days into months.

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Information received from KYCourts/CourtNet is subject to change(s), reprogramming, modification(s) of format and availability at the direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and may not at any particular moment reflect the true status of court cases due to ordinary limitation(s), delay(s) or error(s) in the system's operation. The KYCourts/CourtNet database is not a real-time system. All datasets are a snapshot of case data at the time a query is run. Case counts are not counts of individuals as some persons may have multiple cases. The AOC disclaims any warranties as to the validity of the information obtained from KYCourts/CourtNet. The recipient is solely responsible for verifying information received from KYCourts/CourtNet through the cross-referencing of official court records. The AOC shall not be liable to the recipient, or to any third party using the system or information obtained therefrom, for any damages whatsoever arising out of the use of KYCourts/CourtNet.

Circuit Court Data Reports

- 1) Caseloads by County – INS011 – Provides the total number of Circuit Court cases filed and/or closed during each calendar year and closed by case type.
- 2) Caseloads by Circuit – INS011CIR – Provides the total number of Circuit Court cases filed and/or closed during each calendar year by case type for each judicial circuit.
- 3) Caseload Rankings by County – INS012 – Ranking of Circuit Court caseloads from highest to lowest based on the average number of cases per judge in the county.
- 4) Caseload Rankings by Circuit – INS015 – Ranking of Circuit Court caseloads from highest to lowest based on the average number of cases per judge in the judicial circuit.
- 5) Statewide Caseload Report – INS017 – Provides a statewide summary of the data presented in report INS011.
- 6) Closing Caseloads – INS051 – Contains the average time in months from case filing to case disposition for Circuit Court Cases. Data is provided by county and case type.

District Court Data Reports

- 1) Caseloads by County – INS013 – Provides the total number of District Court cases filed and/or closed during each calendar year by case type for each county; excludes pre-payable cases.

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- 2) Caseloads by Judicial District – INS013DIS – Provides the total number of District Court cases filed and/or closed during each calendar year by case type for each judicial district; excludes pre-payable cases.
- 3) Caseload Rankings by County – INS014 – Ranking of District Court caseloads from highest to lowest based on the average number of cases per judge in the county.
- 4) Caseload Rankings by District – INS018 – Ranking of District Court caseloads from highest to lowest based on the average number of cases per judge in the judicial district.
- 5) Statewide Caseload – INS016 – Provides a statewide summary of the total number of specified cases filed and closed within District Court. This is a statewide summary of INS013.
- 6) Closing Caseloads – INS054 – Contains the average time in months from case filing to case disposition for District Court Cases. Data is provided by county and case type.

District Court Pre-payable Data Reports

- 1) Caseloads by County – INS013p – Provides the total number of District Court cases filed and/or closed during each calendar year by case type (felony, traffic, & misdemeanor) that contained a pre-payable citation.
- 2) Statewide Caseload – INS016p – Provides a statewide summary of the total number of District Court cases filed and/or closed during each calendar year by case type (felony, traffic, & misdemeanor) that contained a pre-payable citation.

Family Court Data Reports

- 1) Caseloads by County – INS010 – Provides the total number of Circuit Family Court cases filed and/or closed during each calendar year by case type.
- 2) Statewide Caseload – INS020 – Provides a statewide summary of the data presented in report INS010.

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- 3) Caseload Ranking by Family Court Jurisdiction – INS019 – Ranking of Family Court caseloads from highest to lowest based on the average number of cases per judge in the judicial jurisdiction.
- 4) Closing Caseload – INS052 - Contains the average time in months from case filing to case disposition for Family Court Cases. Data is provided by county and case type.

Court Venues Defined

CIRCUIT COURT is the court of general jurisdiction and can hear all types of cases unless the General Assembly has given exclusive jurisdiction of particular kinds of cases to another court to handle, such as District Court. Circuit Court hears civil matters involving more than \$4,000, capital offenses and felonies, divorces, adoptions, termination of parental rights, real property title disputes and contested probate matters. Circuit Court has the power to issue injunctions and writs of mandamus and prohibition to compel or prohibit acts, and to hear appeals from District Court and administrative agencies. Appeals from the Circuit Court are made to the Court of Appeals. Circuit judges serve eight-year terms.

Writ of Mandamus. An order issued by a court of superior jurisdiction commanding performance of a particular act by a lower court or public official.

Writ of Prohibition. An order issued by a court of superior jurisdiction commanding a lower court to vacate a ruling issued in a suit.

CIRCUIT FAMILY COURT is a division of Circuit Court. Family Court hears only cases involving families and children and its jurisdiction includes dissolution of marriage; spousal support and equitable distribution; child support and visitation; paternity; adoption; domestic violence; dependency, neglect and abuse; termination of parental rights; and runaways and truancy. Appeals from Family Court are made to the Court of Appeals. Family Court judges serve eight-year terms. Per KRS 23A.100 Jurisdiction of family court, subsection (3): Family court divisions of Circuit Court shall be the primary forum for cases in this section, except that nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the concurrent jurisdiction of District Court.

DISTRICT COURT has limited jurisdiction and handles city and county ordinances, traffic offenses, non-contested probate matters, felony preliminary hearings and civil cases involving \$4,000 or less. Juvenile Court is a division of District Court and hears cases involving children under age 18 regarding guardianship, conservatorship, voluntary or involuntary commitment, child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence.

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Small Claims Court is also a division of District Court and is an informal, inexpensive means for people to file claims in disputes that involve \$1,500 or less. Appeals from District Court decisions are made to the local Circuit Court. District judges serve four-year terms.