

STATISTICAL REPORT
RELATING TO THE CIRCUIT COURTS
OF
THE STATE OF OREGON

SECOND HALF 2003

JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2003

(Also includes January 1 through December 31 Year-End Data)

Compiled by the
Office of the State Court Administrator
Supreme Court of Oregon

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Notes about the Statistical Reports

All reports are sorted by judicial district.

Due to budget constraints at the end of the 2001-2003 biennium, the circuit courts closed on Fridays from March through June of 2003 and stopped processing some types of cases in order to ensure timely processing of the most critical cases. In addition, due to limitations on funding for indigent defense appointments, many criminal cases were delayed. These budgetary constraints have had varying effects on case filing and processing rates from county to county. Some cases may have been filed in alternative venues, and local charging practices may also have been affected.

The circuit court in Multnomah also acts as the municipal court for the city of Portland. In that capacity, they received **266,147 parking citation case filings in 2003 and terminated 243,255 parking cases. At year end 311,294 parking citations were pending.** These statistics on municipal court parking citation filings, terminations, and pending caseload are not included in any of the statistical reports.

Due to inconsistencies in data entry procedures, extradition cases were significantly under reported prior to 2001. (Extradition cases are included in the felony category.)

Notes about Individual Tables

Tables 1 through 4b

The circuit courts in Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Sherman, and Wheeler Counties do not have primary jurisdiction over probate cases. Probate cases in these jurisdictions are usually adjudicated in a local county court.

The circuit courts in Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, and Wheeler Counties do not have primary jurisdiction over juvenile petition adjudications except for those involving termination of parental rights. The local county court in these jurisdictions adjudicates most of the juvenile petitions that do not involve termination of parental rights.

Juvenile "case" counts are based upon **petitions** filed and adjudicated.

In 2002, the Department of Human Services (DHS) clarified its "threat of harm" definition resulting in a decrease of DHS-initiated juvenile court filings.

Effective January 2002, reauthorization of diversion through juvenile departments may have kept some delinquency matters out of the circuit courts.

According to JOIN statistics, 45 petitions for judicial determination were filed in the circuit courts during the second half of 2003 (a total of 94 during the entire year) that are not included in the OJIN automated statistical reports for 2003. JOIN statistics may vary slightly from OJIN statistics reported in this publication.

In 2001, officers in Sherman County began filing a significant number of violations in the circuit court rather than justice court creating a major shift in circuit court filings in that county.

Starting in 2001, small claims filings in Tillamook County shifted from the circuit court to the local justice court.

Table 5

Juvenile petitions are not counted in the age of pending cases report.

Table 6

Average (mean) age of cases tried is the total time from filing to trial, minus inactive time. A case is considered “inactive” when it is beyond the trial court’s control to move it forward to adjudication (i.e., while a bench warrant is outstanding, during the pendency of a bankruptcy proceeding, etc.).

Juvenile petitions are not counted in the cases tried analysis report.

Tables 7a through 7e

The Oregon Judicial Conference set the Oregon Goals for Timely Disposition based on American Bar Association guidelines as modified for Oregon. The reports reflect cases terminated during the reporting period within specific case categories and time lines.

The percent of cases meeting each goal is cumulative. The percent meeting the 98% goal includes the count of those meeting the 90% goal; the percent meeting the 100% goal includes the count of both those in the 98% and 90% goals. The percent of cases beyond the goal is not cumulative.

Tables 7b

The domestic relations category does not have a 98% goal.

Tables 7e

The “summary civil” category includes small claims and forcible entry and detainer cases. Summary civil has only a 100% goal.