



FY2016 Statistical Digest

Montgomery County Circuit
Court

Administrative Office of Montgomery County
Circuit Court

Ensuring Accountability and Public Trust: Continual and Collaborative Review of Court Performance

Montgomery County Circuit Court manages and tracks the progress of its cases, monitoring in particular, its caseload and case processing performance to ensure that court operations are both effective and efficient. Montgomery County Circuit Court is a leader in case management, as well as data quality and case processing analysis. The court's case processing performance is comparable to several other Maryland jurisdictions as similar case management practices and monitoring systems have been implemented statewide.

Despite the resource challenges of the past several years, including budget reductions, the Hon. John W. Debelius III, Circuit and County Administrative Judge, the Hon. Barbara Meiklejohn, Clerk of the Court, and Court Administrator Judy K. Rupp have reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining and enhancing court operations to fulfill the court's mission of administering justice in an honest, fair, and efficient manner. Resources are allocated to ensure that case information is collected and recorded in a manner that provides an accurate reflection of the court events. Further, all concur that the court's management decisions, in particular those regarding case processing, should be based on systematic analyses of data that it collects, rather than relying upon anecdotes or assumptions.

Understanding how court performance relates and responds to the county's demographic profile, its economic climate, as well as budgetary constraints, is critical to the efficient management of the court's caseload and allows the court to anticipate and prepare for the future needs of the community. To achieve these goals, court leaders engage in close communication, collaboration, and coordination.

Responsibility for upholding the court's core mission must - and does - extend beyond the executive leadership team to all court staff. Court leadership has fostered strong staff awareness of and commitment to the importance of recording and collecting data that reflects the court's performance and has instilled the understanding that, while there is a large amount of paperwork associated with each case, the circuit court is not merely processing paper but rather serving the residents of Montgomery County with legal matters that affect their lives.

Montgomery County Statistics and their Impact on the Circuit Court Caseload

This section of the statistical digest highlights some characteristics of Montgomery County residents served by the Montgomery County Circuit Court. Understanding the county's population, in particular, its socio-demographic characteristics and their trends, helps the court develop programs and services that meet the current and future needs of residents. Furthermore, by monitoring these trends, the court is in a better position to make informed decisions related to the resources required to support the efficient and effective administration of justice.

Population of Montgomery County

Since the U.S. Census Bureau conducted the last census in 2010, Montgomery County's population has exceeded one million. Its estimated 2016 population is 1,043,863, adding 72,000 residents (a 7.4% increase) since 2010 (971,777).¹ The county has remained the most populous jurisdiction in the state since 1989 and is the 42nd most populous county in the United States based on the 2016 U.S. Census estimates.²

Montgomery County is also the only Maryland jurisdiction with a population over 1 million, accounting for 17.4% of the state's six-million population. Montgomery County has nearly 136,000 more residents than Prince George's County (908,000), the second most populous county in the state (see Table 1). Between 2010 and 2016, Montgomery County's population increased by 67,700, a 6.9% increase. The size of the increase is by far the largest of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions, followed by Prince George's County (42,000, a 4.9% increase), Anne Arundel County (29,000, a 5.4% increase), Howard County (28,600, a 9.9% increase) and Baltimore County (24,900, a 3.1% increase).³ The average percentage growth rate of Montgomery County's population was 1.4% per year between 1990 and 2000, which declined to 1.1% between 2000 and 2010 but improved to 1.3% between 2010 and 2015. While the rate is no longer as

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016*. (data downloaded from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2016/counties/totals/>, accessed on 4/13/2017).

² Based on the calculation of the U.S. Census Bureau's data (*Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016*. (data downloaded from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2016/counties/totals/>, accessed on 4/13/2017).

³ Based on the calculation of data from Maryland State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning (*Table 1A. Total Resident Population for Maryland's Jurisdictions, April 1, 2010 thru July 1, 2015*. (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/Pop_estimate/Estimate_15/county/table1A.pdf, accessed on 4/10/2017))

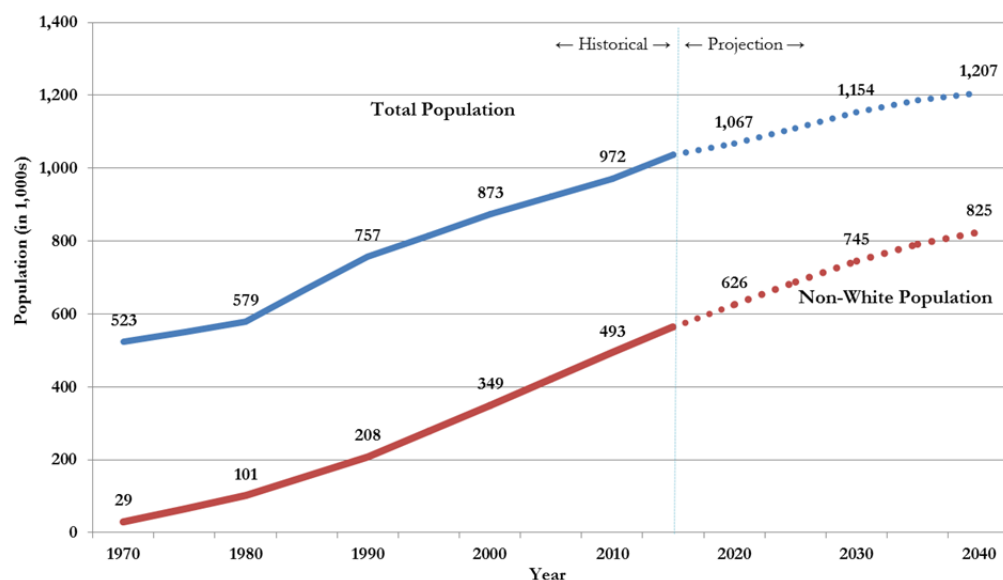
large as 2.7% per year as it was during the 1980s, the county's population is still expected to rise reaching 1.2 million residents by 2040 (See Figure 1).⁴

Table 1. Total Resident Population for Maryland's Five Largest Jurisdictions, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2016

	Resident Population				1990-2000		2000-2010		2010-2016	
	1990	2000	2010	2016	Change	%Change	Change	%Change	Change	%Change
Maryland	4,799,770	5,311,034	5,788,409	6,016,447	511,264	10.7%	477,375	9.0%	228,038	3.9%
Montgomery	765,476	877,478	976,179	1,043,863	112,002	14.6%	98,701	11.2%	67,684	6.9%
Prince George's	725,896	803,111	875,277	908,049	77,215	10.6%	72,166	9.0%	32,772	3.7%
Baltimore County	694,782	755,598	806,171	831,026	60,816	8.8%	50,573	6.7%	24,855	3.1%
Baltimore City	735,632	649,086	621,180	614,664	-86,546	-11.8%	-27,906	-4.3%	-6,516	-1.0%
Anne Arundel	428,877	491,670	539,308	568,346	62,793	14.6%	47,638	9.7%	29,038	5.4%

Sources: Maryland State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning, *Table 1.A. Total Resident Population for Maryland's Jurisdictions, April 1, 2010 thru July 1, 2015*. (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/Pop_estimate/Estimate_15/county/table1A.pdf, accessed on 4/10/2017); US Census, *QuickFacts* (2016 data). (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/00>, accessed on 5/10/2017)

Figure 1. Historical and Projected Total Population, Montgomery County, 1970-2040



Sources: Maryland State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning, *Demographic and Socio-Economic Outlook: Montgomery County (Revisions, July 2014)*. (<http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/popproj/TotalPopProj.pdf>, accessed on 4/07/2017)

One of the leading forces behind Montgomery County's current population growth is the much greater number of births (on average 13,200 births per year between 2000 and 2014) than deaths (on average 5,600 per year during the same period),⁵ resulting in an average net increase of 7,700 in the county's population. A second contributing factor is the influx of new residents, on average 3,800 individuals per year, as a result of large and positive international migration (on average 9,600 individuals per year between 2000 and

⁴ Maryland State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning, *Demographic and Socio-Economic Outlook: Montgomery County (Revisions, July 2014)*. (<http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/popproj/TotalPopProj.pdf>, accessed on 4/7/2017)

⁵ Maryland Department of Planning, April 2015, *2014 Maryland Statistical Handbook* (Table 1J. Total Births in Maryland, 2000 – 2014, and Table 1K. H. Total Deaths in Maryland, 2000 – 2014). (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/md_statistical_handbook.pdf, accessed on 4/13/2017)

2014), which is reduced by smaller but negative domestic migration (on average 5,800 individuals per year moving out of the county during the same period).⁶

Impact on the Circuit Court Caseload

Of the case types that Montgomery County Circuit Court hears (civil, criminal, family, juvenile delinquency and child welfare), family law cases, which deal with divorce and other family law-related matters, are more likely to correlate with the county's population trends than the other case types. In fact, the number of family law case filings (original and reopened) steadily increased from 12,300 in FY2000 to 15,100 in FY2010, mirroring the county's population growth.⁷ However, the growth of family law case filings stabilized between FY2011 and FY2016 averaging 14,700 filings per year. This stabilization in filings contrasts the continued growth of the county's population suggesting that court caseload may also be impacted by additional factors such as shifts in the composition of the population in terms of age, race/Hispanic origin, and nationality, the county's economic climate, and legislative changes regarding marriage issues.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity – Majority Shifts in Population Composition⁸

Along with population growth, Montgomery County has been experiencing increased racial and ethnic diversity in its population. Between 2000 and 2010, during which the county population increased by more than 98,000 from 873,300 to 971,800,⁹ the number of non-Hispanic white residents declined by 45,500 from 524,300 to 478,800, whereas the numbers of non-white residents who largely consist of black or African American or Asian, and/or of Hispanic origin, increased by 143,900 (a 41% increase) from 349,100 to 493,000 residents, accounting for 50.7% of the county population in 2010.¹⁰ As shown in Figure 1, this trend is expected to continue, and two thirds of the county residents are expected to be non-White or Hispanic (alone and two or more races) by 2035.

⁶ Maryland Department of Planning, October 2016, *2015 Maryland Statistical Handbook* (Table 1G. International Migration for Maryland's Jurisdictions, 2000 – 2015, Table 1H. Domestic Migration for Maryland's Jurisdictions, 2000 – 2015). (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/md_statistical_handbook.pdf, accessed on 4/13/2017)

⁷ The county's fiscal year stretches from July 1st to June 30th.

⁸ The analysis in this section uses population data and estimates from the U.S. Census, which collects race and Hispanic or Latino origin in two separate questions. Accordingly, individuals of any race could be of Hispanic origin, and those who are of Hispanic origin could be of any race.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2000 and 2010, Census 2000 and 2010 Summary Files 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data (table created through the US Census *American FactFinder Advanced Search*, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>, accessed on 2/12/2014. From the *FactFinder's* Advanced Search menu, type 'Montgomery County, Maryland' in the 'state, county or place' box and hit 'GO', then select year as 2000 or 2010 under 'Topic: year' from the left side bar menu, and select the 'Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000' table.)

¹⁰ Maryland State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning, *Demographic and Socio-Economic Outlook: Montgomery County (Revisions, January 2014)*. (<http://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/County/mont.pdf>, accessed on 1/14/2015)

Figure 2 presents the composition of the county's estimated population in terms of race and Hispanic origin in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015, as well as that of Maryland for 2015. Also displayed are the county overall population, which increased from 873,000 in 2000 to 1,040,000 in 2015, and White population (including both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin), which remained virtually unchanged during the 15-year period, and Non-White population, which increased by 55% from 308,000 to 476,000 during the same period. As a result, the percentage of Montgomery County residents who are White declined from 65% in 2000 to 54% in 2015, which is slightly lower than the statewide percentage (57%). Equally, the percentage of black or African American residents is substantially lower (18% for the county versus 29% statewide) though it slightly increased from 15% in 2000. In contrast, the percentage of Asian residents in the county (15%) is much greater than the statewide percentage (6%). In fact, 41% of the state's Asian population resides in Montgomery County. Of the county's 157,000 Asian residents, over 38,000 are Asian Indians and another 46,000 are Chinese. Combined, these two populations account for 54% of the county's Asian population. Also over-represented among the county's population are individuals with some other race alone or with two or more races (132,100, 13% in the county compared to 8% statewide), again underscoring the diversity of Montgomery County residents.

Figure 2. Total, White and Non-White Populations of Montgomery County (2000-2015) and Population Composition by Race for the County (2000-2015) and Maryland (2015)



* Includes other race alone (American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race) and two or more races.

Sources: Maryland Department of Planning, *American Community Survey: Jurisdictions with a Population over 65,000 for Single Year (2005, 2010, and 2015)* (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/S7_ACS.shtml, accessed on 4/07/2017); US Census, *DP-1: Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000*.

Another major driving force behind Montgomery County's diversity is the large influx of individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin. Irrespective of race, a little over 100,000 of Montgomery County residents were of Hispanic or Latino origin in 2000. As of the 2010 U.S. Census, the county's Hispanic or Latino residents increased by 66,100 to 166,700 (a 66% increase), increasing their representation from 12% to 17% since 2000. According to the 2015 Census estimates, 197,400 (19%) of the county residents are of Hispanic origin, accounting for 35% of the state's residents of Hispanic origin. The county's Hispanic population has become the largest minority population, exceeding that of black or African American population (186,900 if black or African American alone; however, 204,600 in combination with one or more other race), surpassing the Asian population (157,000 if Asian alone or 175,300 in combination with one or more other race).¹¹

Increase in Foreign-Born Residents

As indicated above, one of the major forces behind the county's population growth is the large influx of individuals who were born outside the United States. Based on the 2015 U.S. Census American Community Survey estimate, 343,200 or one third of Montgomery County residents are foreign-born.¹² As shown in Table 2, since 2000, the number of foreign-born residents increased by almost 110,200 (a 47% increase) while the county's overall population increased by 19% and the residents born in the United by 9%. In fact, foreign-born residents account for 66% of the county's population *increase* between 2010 and 2015. Compared to the state overall, the representation of foreign-born residents in Montgomery County is much greater (33% versus 15%), and nearly 38% of such individuals reside in the county.¹³

In terms of the U.S. citizenship status of foreign-born Montgomery County residents, 52% (178,600) are naturalized U.S. citizens, and the remaining 48% (164,600) are not U.S. citizens in 2015. In terms of the region of birth among foreign-born residents, in 2000, 38% of the county's foreign-born residents were from Asia and another 36% from Latin America. Combined, these two groups constituted over 70% of the county's foreign-born population. Between 2000 and 2015, the number of residents born in both groups increased. However, the increase of residents born in Latin America was greater (42,800, a 52% increase) than that of residents born in Asia (40,100, a 45% increase). As a result, in 2015, those born in

¹¹ Maryland Department of Planning. *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (DP02: SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS (for Montgomery County and Maryland))*, (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/American_Community_Survey/2015ACS.shtml), accessed on 1/19/2017).

¹² Maryland Department of Planning. *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (DP02: SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS (for Montgomery County and Maryland))*, (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/American_Community_Survey/2015ACS.shtml), accessed on 1/19/2017).

¹³ Maryland Department of Planning. *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (DP02: SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS (for Montgomery County and Maryland))*, (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/American_Community_Survey/2015ACS.shtml), accessed on 1/19/2017).

Latin American or Asia account 84% of the county's foreign-born residents (38% and 36%, respectively). In terms of the rate of increase, the number of residents born in Africa more than doubled (a 112% increase) between 2000 and 2015 from 25,800 to 54,700. As the last column of the table shows, the county's foreign-born population is distributed proportionally across those different regions; at least 35% of those who reside in Maryland and are originally from one of the five regions of the globe live in Montgomery County.

Table 2. Foreign-Born Population in Montgomery County by World Region of Birth, 2000 and 2015*

	Montgomery County						Maryland, 2015		% in Montgomery County
	2015		2000		2000-15 Change				
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Total Population	1,040,116		873,341		166,775	19%	6,006,401		17%
Native	696,923	67%	640,345	73%	56,578	9%	5,094,819	85%	14%
Foreign Born	343,193	33%	232,996	27%	110,197	47%	911,582	15%	38%
Foreign-Born Population by U.S. Citizen Status									
U.S. Citizen	178,639	52%	100,658	43%	77,981	77%	447,550	49%	40%
Not a U.S. Citizen	164,554	48%	132,338	57%	32,216	24%	464,032	51%	35%
Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth									
Asia	129,191	38%	89,128	38%	40,063	45%	304,707	33%	42%
Latin America	124,731	36%	81,911	35%	42,820	52%	358,701	39%	35%
Africa	54,727	16%	25,776	11%	28,951	112%	150,878	17%	36%
Europe	29,807	9%	32,352	14%	-2,545	-8%	84,527	9%	35%
Northern America	3,697	1%	2,981	1%	716	24%	9,807	1%	38%
Oceania	1,040	0.3%	848	0.4%	192	23%	2,962	0.3%	35%

* Excludes Individuals born at sea

Source: Maryland Department of Planning, *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (DP02: SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS (for Montgomery County and Maryland))*, (http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/American_Community_Survey/2015ACS.shtml, accessed on 1/19/2017).

The diversity of nativity and the increased representation of foreign-born residents among the county's population are also reflected in the wide spectrum of languages spoken by its residents. As shown in Table 3, according to the 2015 American Community Survey, 394,300 (41%) of the county's residents who are five years and older speak a language other than English at home. In addition, 138,300 Montgomery County residents (14% of the total residents aged 5 and older and 35% of those who reported that they speak a language other than English at home) reported that they speak English less than 'very well'.

However, we note that the number of those who reported that they speak English less than 'very well' actually declined by 2,500 from 2014 while the number of those who reported to speak a language other than English at home increase by 10,800. As shown in Table 3, between 2010 and 2015, the county added nearly 60,000 residents aged 5 and older, of whom close to 60% (35,600) reported to speak a language other than English at home. Interestingly, however, the number of those who reported to speak less than 'very well' decreased by 3,800 during the same period.

The percentage of Montgomery County residents who speak languages other than English at home (41%) is twice as high as that of statewide (19%) and the U.S. (21%). There are also a greater percentage of county residents who reported speaking English less than ‘very well’: 14% for Montgomery County compared to 7% for Maryland and 9% for the U.S. However, among those who speak languages other than English at home, the percentage of Montgomery County residents who reported speaking English less than ‘very well’ (35%) is equivalent to the statewide figure (37%) or the U.S. figure (40%)¹⁴.

Table 3. Montgomery County Population Five Years or Older by Language Spoken at Home and English Proficiency, 2015

	Montgomery County						Maryland, 2015		United States, 2015	
	2015		2010		2010-15 Change					
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Population five years and older	972,081		912,285		59,796	7%	5,639,774		301,625,014	
English only	577,803	59%	553,572	61%	24,231	4%	4,595,216	81%	236,908,935	79%
Language other than English	394,278	41%	358,713	39%	35,565	10%	1,044,558	19%	64,716,079	21%
Speak English less than ‘very well’	138,262	14%	142,018	16%	-3,756	-3%	389,302	7%	25,867,044	9%
% Among Language other than English		35%		40%				37%		40%

Source: Maryland Department of Planning. *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (US Census, DP02: SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS (for Montgomery County, Maryland and United States)*,

(http://planning.maryland.gov/msdc/American_Community_Survey/2015ACS.shtml, accessed on 1/19/2017).

The sheer volume of individuals with limited English proficiency among non-English speaking Montgomery County residents (138,300) makes language/communication-related issues more critical in the county than other jurisdictions since close to 40% of individuals with limited English proficiency in the state reside in the county. This is particularly important for the court in its efforts to ensure that all parties understand court proceedings, are able to communicate with judicial officers, court staff, and individuals involved in the case, and have the assistance available to them such as interpreting services, as needed.

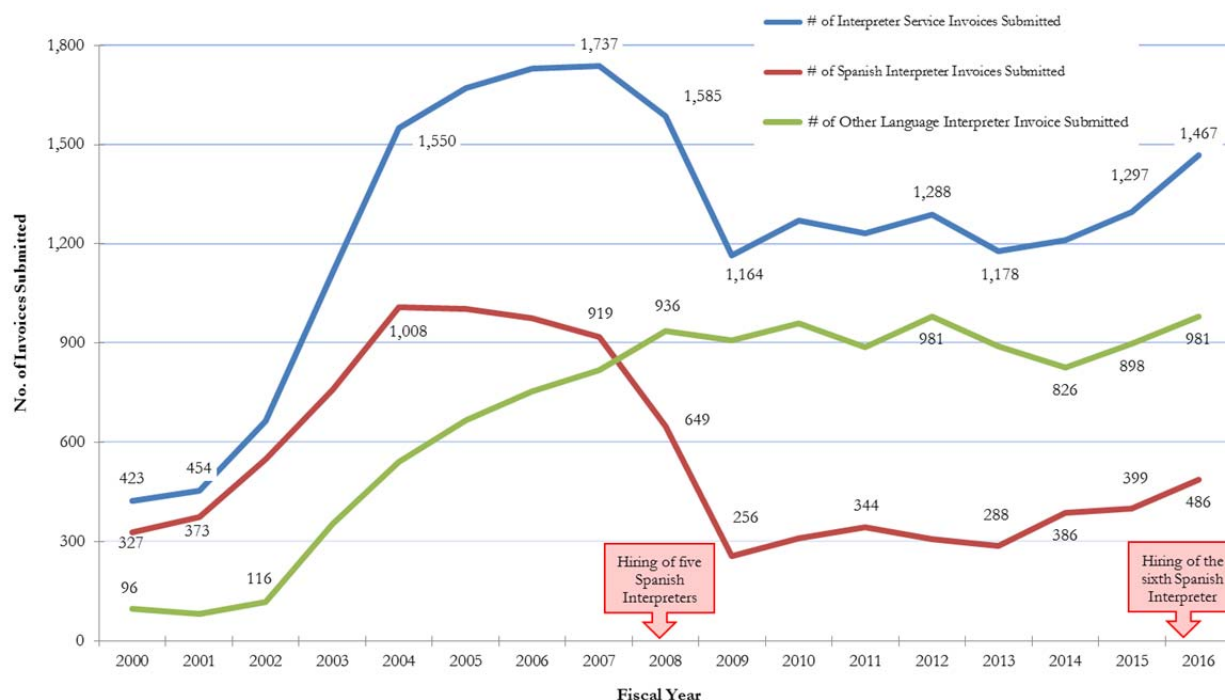
Impact on the Circuit Court Caseload

Montgomery County Circuit Court has re-examined many aspects of its operations given the increased diversity in the county’s population to ensure community needs are met as it relates to access to justice. One such area related to access to justice is providing foreign-language interpreting services for hearings, trials, and other ancillary programs. In recent years, the court experienced a substantial increase in the number of requests for foreign-language interpreting services. Figure 3 shows the number of invoices that

¹⁴ U.S. Census, 2015. *2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Montgomery County, Maryland and United States (DP02: Selected Social Characteristics In The United States)* (created through the US Census *American FactFinder Advanced Search*, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>, accessed on 1/14/2015)

the court received for foreign-language interpreter services between FY2000 and FY2016. The court's foreign-language interpreter services increased rapidly from slightly over 400 invoices in FY2000 to over 1,700 in FY2006-FY2007, followed by an equally steep decline to 1,200 in FY2009. While the number of invoices has been constant between 1,200 and 1,300 since FY2010, FY2015 and FY2016 witnessed an upswing in the number, reaching 1,467 in FY2016.

Figure 3. Numbers of Foreign-Language and Spanish Interpreter Service Invoices Submitted,* FY2000-2016



Note: These numbers are based on the invoices submitted by interpreters who provided foreign-language interpreting services.

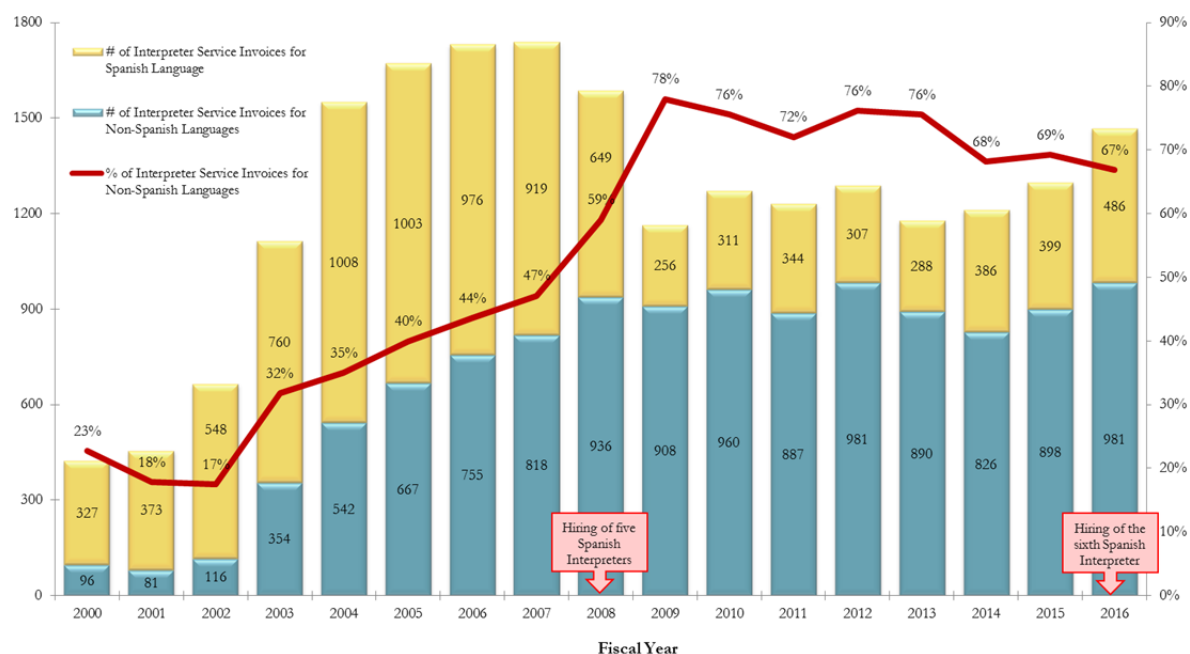
* Excludes 1,772 interpreter services that do not involve foreign-language interpretations (such as American Sign Language, Real Time Captioning, CART Services, Cued Speech and Caption Reporting) and those for which language information is not available (such as interpreter services for co-parenting classes). Since (in most cases) interpreters submit an invoice per day rather than per service, the actual number of services is much greater than the number of invoices submitted. Also, note that part of the FY2008 and FY2009 - FY2015 data do not reflect the services provided by the five Spanish interpreters hired as court employees since they do not submit invoices for the services they provided.

In terms of languages, the demand for Spanish interpretation has far exceeded any other languages. However, in mid-2000, while the number of Spanish interpreter service invoices leveled off, the number of non-Spanish foreign-language invoices continued to rise through FY2008 reaching the same level as that of Spanish interpreter services. In FY2008, the number of invoices for Spanish interpreting services declined by almost 30% to 649 when the court hired five Spanish interpreters, who do not need to submit invoices for interpreting services they provided. As a result, the number of invoices for Spanish interpreting services, which accounted for over 50-60% of the interpreter invoices in the years immediately preceding the hiring of the staff interpreters, further declined to 256 in FY2009 and remained around 300

in FY2010 and FY2013. However, the number of Spanish language service invoices increased by over 100 (39%) from 288 to 399 between FY2013 and FY2015 and increased by 87 to 486 in FY2016 during which the court hired a sixth Spanish interpreter to meet this increasing demand. Since the number of invoices for other foreign languages also increased by 83, the overall increase in FY2016 was 170. It is expected that in FY2017, the overall number of invoices will reach the level achieved in FY2004 (1,550 invoices).

The magnitude of language diversity spoken in Montgomery County can be described using the number of foreign languages for which the court provided interpreter services. The number of languages requested increased substantially from 15 languages in FY2000-2001 to 38 languages in FY2006 and has remained fairly constant between 34 and 38 for the past 10 fiscal years. Since several languages are grouped into a single language category (such as Chinese, which includes Cantonese, Mandarin, Fukienese, Taishanese, Hainanese, and Fuzhou, etc.), the actual number of foreign languages for which spoken language services are requested may be even greater.

Figure 4. Numbers of Foreign-Language and Spanish Interpreter Service Invoices Submitted and Percentage of Submitted for Non-Spanish Languages, * FY2000-FY2016



Note: These numbers are based on the invoices submitted by interpreters who provided services.

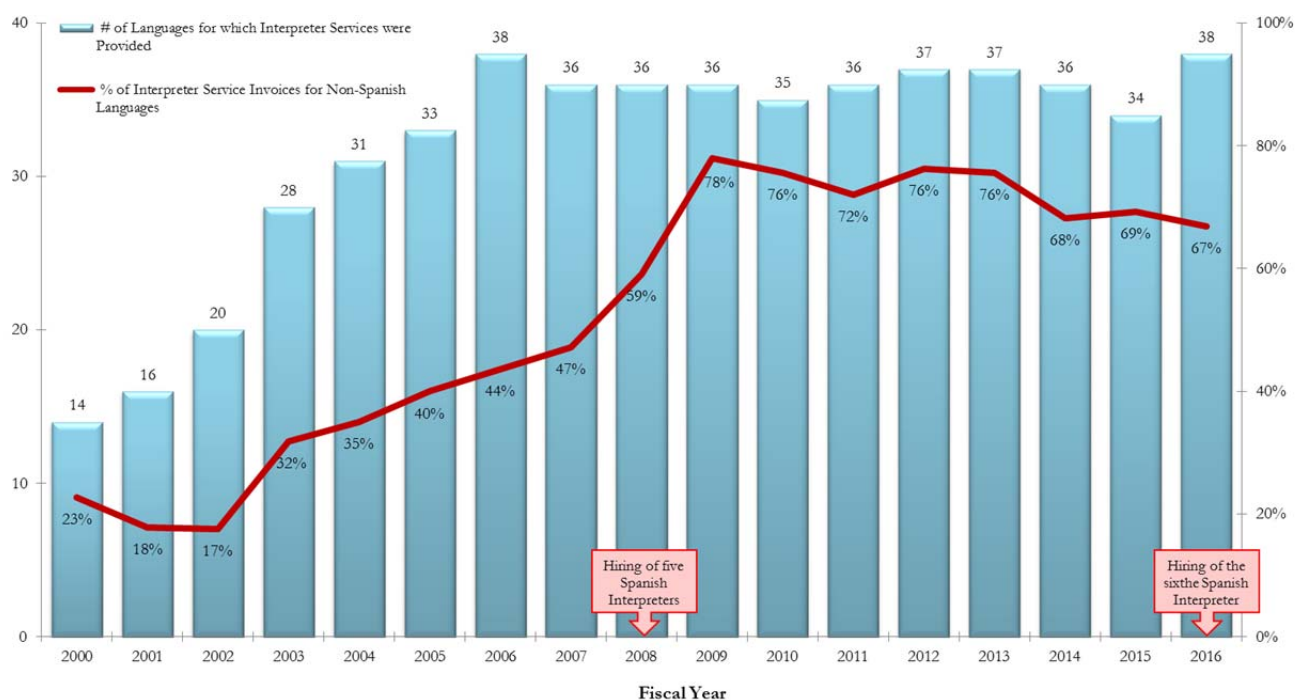
* Excludes 1,772 invoiced interpreter services that do not involve foreign-language interpretations (such as American Sign Language, Real Time Captioning, CART Services, Cued Speech and Caption Reporting) or those for which the specific language information is not available (such as interpreter services for co-parenting classes).

Figure 4 shows the percentage of interpreter invoices for non-Spanish languages as well as the number of invoices submitted for Spanish and Non-Spanish languages. After a steady increase from 32% to 47% between FY2003 and FY2007, the percentage of interpreter invoices for non-Spanish languages jumped

to 59% in FY2008 and then to 78% in FY2009. As shown in the figure, this sudden increase is the result of a large decline in the number of invoices for Spanish invoices, which coincided with the hiring of five Spanish staff interpreters. The number of Spanish invoices was below 300 until FY2014 when it rose to 386. An additional 100 invoices for Spanish interpreter services occurred in FY2016. Even with the hiring of the sixth Spanish staff interpreter in FY2016, the percent of invoices for Non-Spanish languages declined slightly, instead of going up, due to the continuing increases in invoicing for Spanish interpreter services.

Similar to the past sixteen years, the most frequently requested language for interpreter services in terms of the number of invoices submitted is Spanish in FY2016, which accounted for 33% of all the invoices, followed by Ethiopian (Amharic and Tigrina) (10%), Chinese (9%), French (9%), and Korean/Hangul (6%). Combined, these five languages account for 70% of all foreign language interpreter invoices.

Figure 5. Total and Average Charges for Foreign Language Interpreter Services,* FY2000-FY2016



* Expenditures are based on the invoices submitted by interpreters who provided foreign-language interpreting services. Interpreter services that do not involve foreign-language interpretations (such as American Sign Language, Real Time Captioning, CART Services, Cued Speech and Caption Reporting) and those for which language information is not readily available (1,772 invoices).

While all the interpreter service expenses are reimbursed by the State Judiciary, the costs associated with interpreter services are worthy of note. The line graph in Figure 5 shows the total costs of foreign language interpreter services based on the invoices submitted. The trend generally follows that of the number of invoices submitted shown in Figure 3, except for FY2004-FY2007 when the total invoice

charges continued to rise. In particular, between FY2006 and FY2007, total invoice charges jumped from \$330,000 to \$450,000 while the number of invoices tapered off between FY2007 and FY2008. Total charges markedly declined in FY2008 and FY2009 due to the hiring of five Spanish interpreters, and have remained at the FY2004-FY2005 level between FY2010 and FY2014. In recent years, however, total charges have risen, exceeding \$430,000 in FY2016, as the number of invoices also increased, almost reaching the FY2007 level despite the hiring of the sixth Spanish staff interpreter.

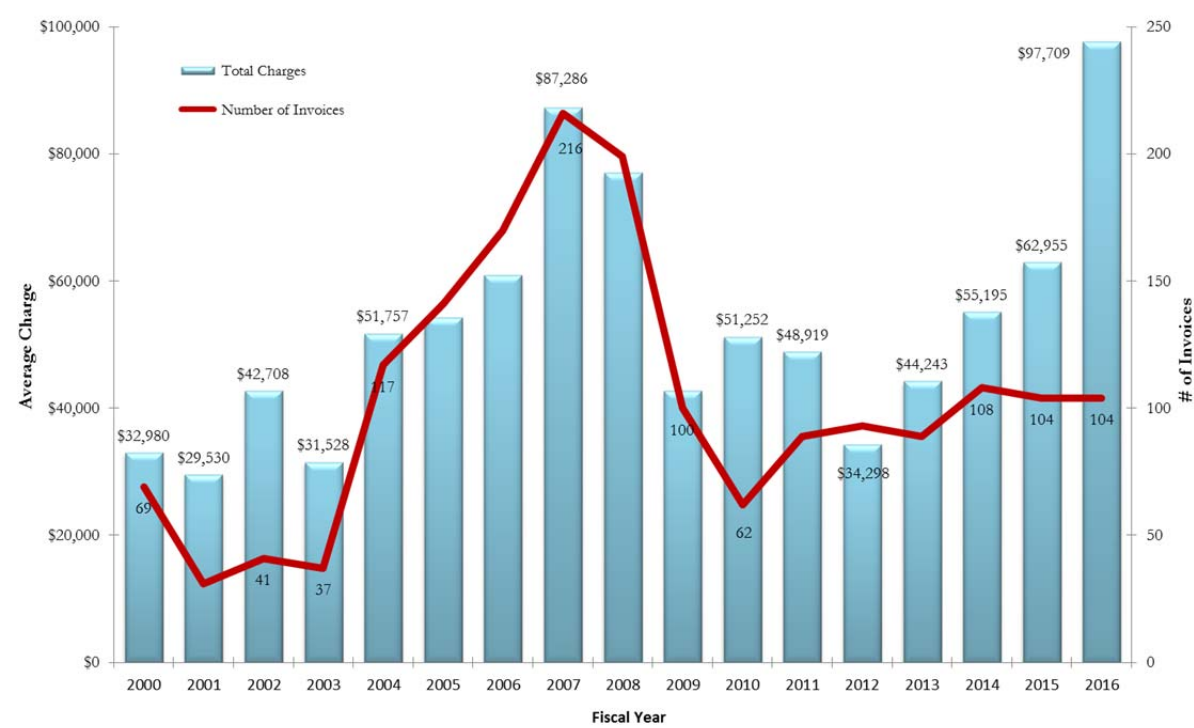
The trend in the average charge, shown in the bar graph of the figure, explains the sudden FY2006-FY2007 increase. Between the two fiscal years, the average charge for foreign language interpreter services increased by \$70 from \$190 to \$261 while the number of invoices increased only by six (from 1,731 to 1,737 invoices). In fact, the court received four of the 10 most expensive invoices in FY2007, all for rare African languages. The average charge remained between \$220 and \$230 after FY2007 though it rose to \$250 in FY2015. The average cost continued to rise in FY2016, reaching almost \$280 per invoice, exceeding the FY2007 level.

In addition to providing foreign language interpreter services, Montgomery County Circuit Court offers Americans Disabilities Act (ADA)-related language services for eligible individuals, such as translation using American Sign Language, caption reporting, and communication access real-time translation (CART) services. Thus, by fully complying with the ADA requirements to make reasonable accommodations for residents/litigants with disabilities, the court ensures equal access to justice.

Figure 6 provides the number of invoices submitted to the court and total charges for ADA-related interpreting services. Between FY2000 and FY2016, 1,772 invoices were processed. The trend in total charges closely follows the number of invoices, increasing from \$30,000 per year in FY2003 to \$87,000 in FY2007, declining to \$40,000 in FY2009, and fluctuating around \$40,000-\$50,000 since then. However, in the past few fiscal years, the total charges substantially increased. In FY2015, while the number of invoices slightly declined to 104 from 108 in FY2014, the total charges increased by almost \$8,000 from \$55,200 to \$63,000. Furthermore, in FY2016, while the number of invoices remained unchanged, the total charges increased by 55% (\$34,800) to \$97,700. This large increase was due to the requests from parties who asked for particular vendors who tend to charge at a higher rate. Since then, the court identified

equally-qualified service providers with more reasonable fee structures and was able to reduce the average cost to slightly over the FY2015 level.¹⁵

Figure 6. Total Charges and Number of Invoices for ADA-Related Interpreting Services, FY2000-FY2016



* Expenditures are based on the invoices submitted by interpreters who provided interpreting services that do not involve foreign-language interpretations, such as American Sign Language, Real Time Captioning, CART Services, Cued Speech and Caption Reporting.

Maturing County population¹⁶

Like many other communities in the nation, the population of Montgomery County is maturing with the aging of the “Baby Boomer” generations (those born between 1946 and 1964). Over the past three decades, the median age of the county’s population increased from 28 in 1970, 32 in 1980, 34 in 1990, 37 in 2000, and 39 (38.5) in 2010. Since then the median age has been gradually rising, reaching 38.7 in 2014 and 38.9 in 2015.¹⁷ The county’s median age is expected to increase not only as the dominating post-

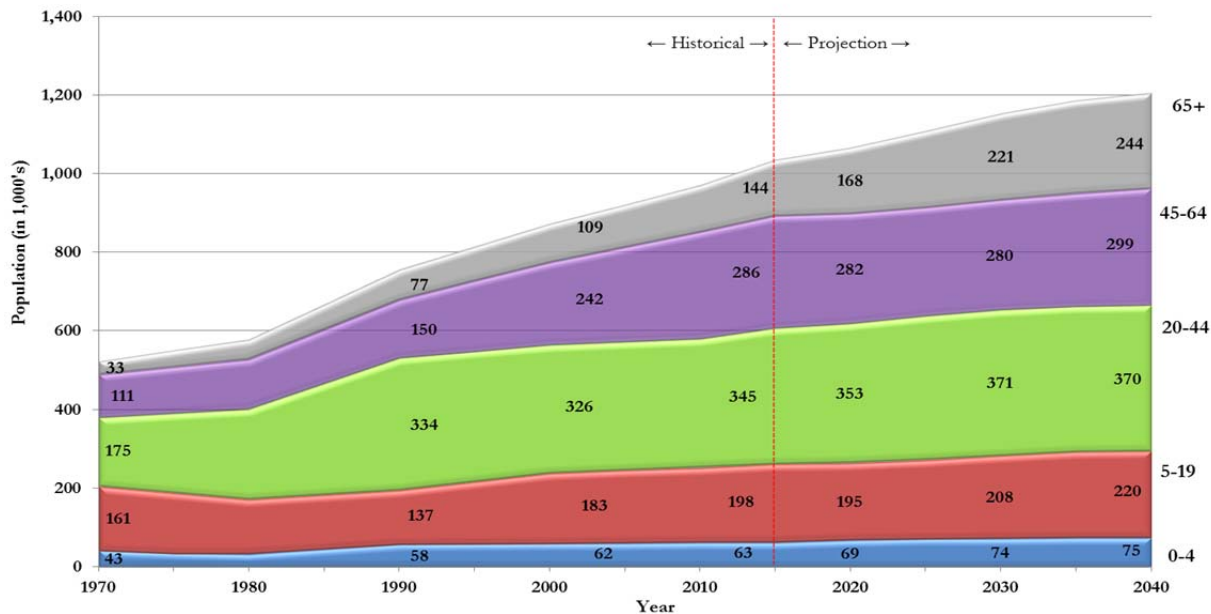
¹⁵ As of January 31, 2017, the court processed 37 ADA-related invoices for FY2017, totaling \$24,172.12 with the average of \$653 per invoice, compared to \$939 in FY2016 and \$605 in FY2015.

¹⁶ All the data described in this section was derived from the U.S. Decennial Census and Census American Community Survey (for 2013), 2015. *Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000 and 2010 Census 2000 Summary Files (SF 1) 100-Percent Data, 2012 and 2013 American Community Survey* (<https://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html>, accessed on 1/26/2015).

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipals: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014* (for 2014); *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates* (for 2015)

World War II baby boomers age but also because of improving life expectancy of older generations, though the continuing influx of younger individuals to the county will slow that trend.

Figure 7. Historical and Projected Montgomery County Population by Age Group, 1970 – 2040



Source: State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning, *2014 Total Population Projections for Non-Hispanic White and All Other by Age, Sex and Race* (7/8/14). (http://www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/S3_Projection.shtml, accessed on 4/7/2017)

The aging of the county's population is also evident from an ever-increasing proportion of its segment aged 65 years and older. As shown in Figure 7, this age group represented only 6% (32,600) of the county's population in 1970. By 2000 the number tripled to 98,200, accounting for 11% of the county's residents. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of residents 65 years and older increased by 20% to 119,800, representing 12% of the county's total population. In 2015, according to the American Community Survey, 146,200 (14%) of the county's residents are aged 65 years and older.¹⁸ By 2040, this portion of the county's residents is expected to reach 243,900, accounting for 23% of the county's overall population.

Another trend among this segment of the population relates to increased life expectancy at birth: 76.4 years for males and 81.2 years for females in 2014, compared to 70.0 and 77.4 respectively in 1980.¹⁹

Figure 8 provides the population of Montgomery County by age group for 1980, 2010 and 2040

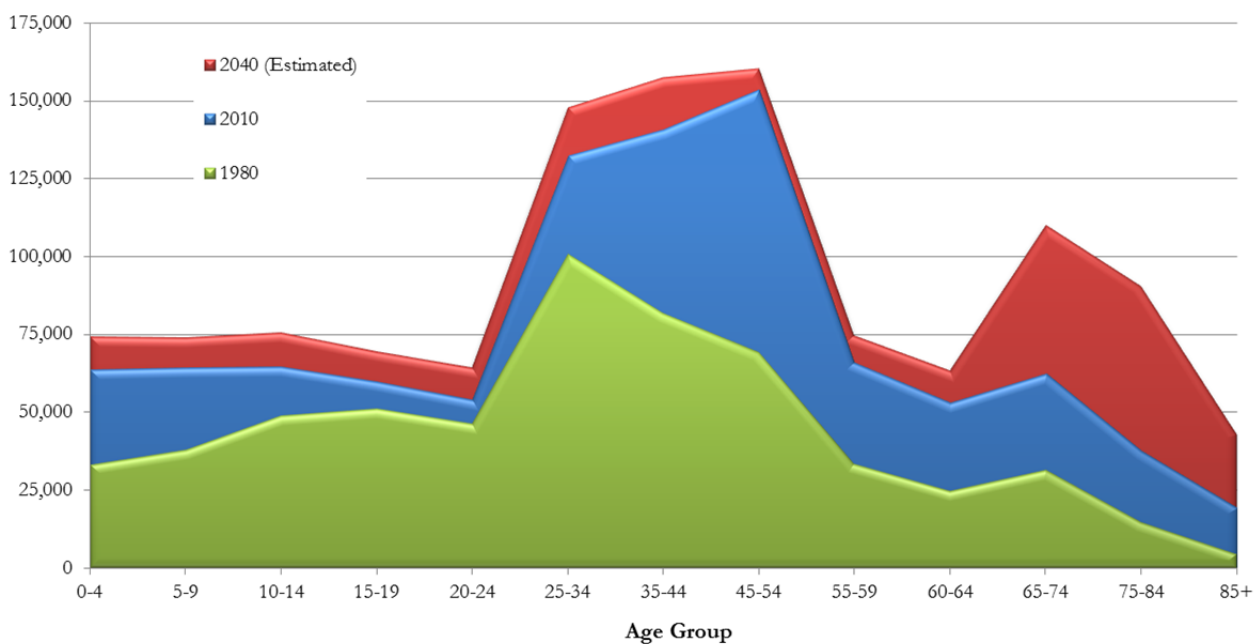
¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*.

¹⁹ National Center for Health Statistics. 2016. *Health, United States, 2015: With Special Feature on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. Hyattsville, MD. (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/abus/abus15.pdf#015>, accessed on 4/20/2017).

(estimated) on the left and the percent distribution of the population by age group for the same three years on the right.

The chart on the left shows that between 1980 (light green bars) and 2010 (blue bars), the county's population growth took place across all age groups but in particular aged 45-54 and 35-44 groups, contributing an increase of 125,000 residents. Between 2010 and 2040 (red bars), while the county's population is expected to grow across all age groups, the largest population growth is expected among individuals aged 65 and older, accounting for an increase of over 75,000 residents. According to the 2014 Census estimates, 62,100 county residents are 74 years of age or older, compared to 57,200 in 2010 and 48,100 in 2000. Furthermore, 22,400 are at least 85 years of age in 2014, compared with 19,400 in 2010 and 13,000 in 2000.²⁰ Given the improved life expectancy and universal health care coverage for the nation's elderly population through Medicare, this segment of the county's population is expected to continue increasing.

Figure 8. Montgomery County Population Profiles by Age Group, 1980, 2010, and 2040



Source: State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning, 2014 *Total Population Projections for Non-Hispanic White and All Other by Age, Sex, and Race* (7/8/14). (http://www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/S3_Projection.shtml, accessed on 4/7/2017)

Figure 8, which compares the size and profile of the county's population by 5-year age group intervals for 1980, 2010, and 2040, features the distinctive profiles of the county population for each year, in part

²⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015. 2013 *American Community Survey*, DP05: *ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates*. (created through the *American FactFinder Advanced Search*, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>, accessed on 1/26/2015)

reflecting the aging of the baby-boom generation and the continuing increase in the county's population. The 1980 population is characterized with a higher proportion of individuals aged 10 to 34 years, in particular those aged 25 and 54, accounting for 17% of the total pupation, and a lower proportion of individuals aged 60 and over compared to the 2010 and 2040 populations. A distinctive feature of the 2010 population, which added more residents than 1980 across all age groups, includes a substantial increase in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups in 2010. The number of residents in these age groups nearly doubled from 150,800 in 1908 to 294,000 in 2010, accounting for 30% of the county's 2010 population. Another characteristic of the 2010 population is that the number of those aged 65-74 years is greater than any of the age groups between 0 to 24 years. The profile of the 2040 population is estimated to be similar to that of 2010 with more residents in each age group. However, the distinctive feature of the 2040 population is the large increase in the number of those over age 65, which is projected to double from 119,800 in 2010 to 244,000 in 2014, accounting for 20% of the county's 2040 population.

Impact on the Circuit Court Caseload

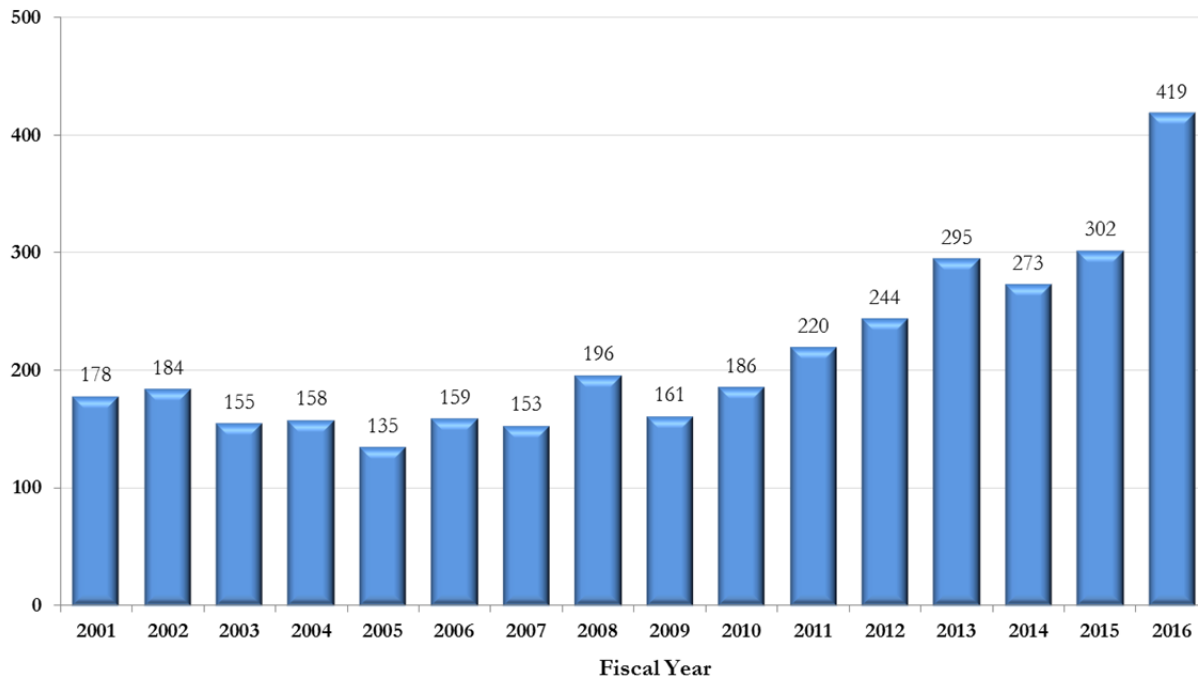
One of the issues that the county will face is the increasing number of residents in need of assistance with disabilities. According to the 2015 U.S. Census estimates, over 9% of the county residents aged 65 to 74 years and 31% of those aged 75 and over are estimated to have some kind of ambulatory disability, compared with 0.6% among those aged between 5 and 34 years old and 3.5% among those between 35 and 64 years.²¹ As the county's population ages, it is likely that the court will experience some shift in its caseload, including an increase in appointment of guardianship cases and elder abuse cases.²²

Figure 9 presents the number of petitions for Adult Guardianship filed with Montgomery County Circuit Court between FY2001 and FY2016. The filings, which fluctuated between the mid- to high 100s between FY2001 and FY2007, have been on the rise since FY2009, reaching 244 petitions a year in FY2012 and 304 in FY2015. In FY2016, the number guardianship cases filed with the court jumped to 419 (a 39% increase).

²¹ U.S. Census, 2017. *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Sex by Age by Ambulatory Difficulty - Universe: Civilian noninstitutionalized population 5 years and over*. (created through the *American FactFinder Advanced Search*, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>, accessed on 4/20/2017)

²² Center for Elders and the Courts. *Elder Abuse: Basics* (<http://www.eldersandcourts.org/Elder-Abuse/Basics.aspx>, accessed on 4/20/2017)

Figure 9. Number of Adult Guardianship* Petitions Filed, FY2001 - FY2016



*Adult guardianship petitions include those for the wards (individuals under the care and control of their guardians appointed by the court) aged 18 and older.

Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing, 2016.

Crime Statistics

The number of crimes reported by the Montgomery County Police Department has been in decline since calendar year 2008 (see Figure 10).²³ Between calendar year 2001 and 2008, the number of crimes was fairly constant around 70,000 with a slight decline in 2004 and 2005 to 66,500 and 67,400, respectively. After peaking at 72,500 in 2008, the number of crimes declined by 14,400 (19.9%) in three years to 58,100 in 2011 and remained at that level in 2012. In 2013, the number further declined to 52,900. Between 2008 and 2013, the number of reported crimes declined by 27%. However, the number of reported crimes increased slightly in the past two years, exceeding 52,000 in 2015.

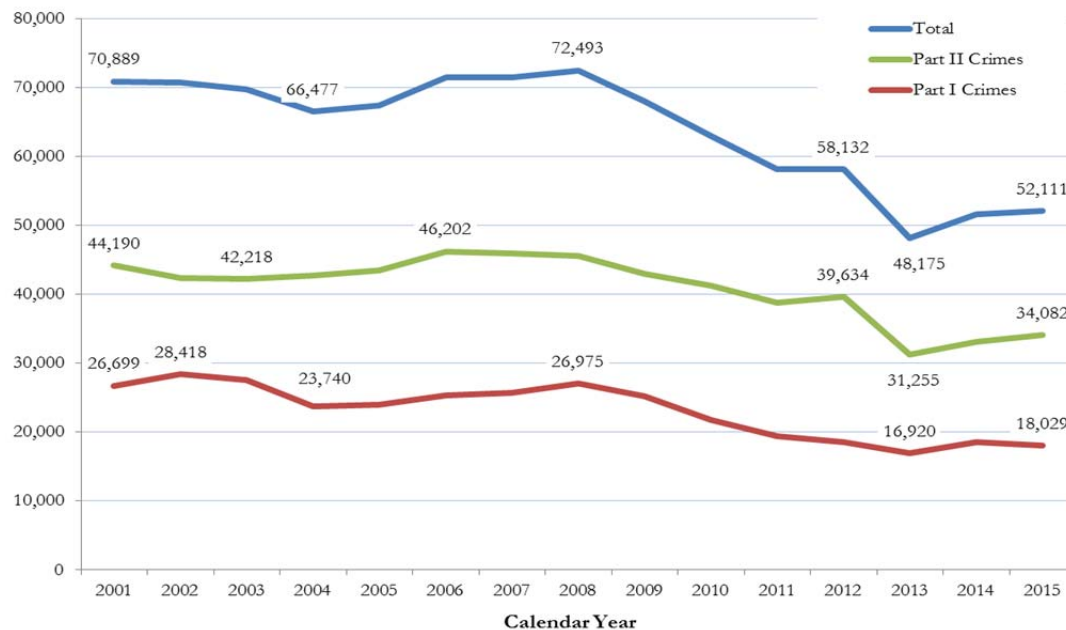
The figure also provides the breakdown of crimes by crime type (Part I and Part II).²⁴ The reduction in the number of crimes since 2008 was brought about equally by the reduction of both types of crimes, although the number of Part II crimes slightly increased from 38,700 to 39,600 between 2011 and 2012, only to decrease in 2013 to 31,300. The number of Part I crimes continued to decline from 27,000 in 2008

²³ Montgomery County Police, *Crime Statistics -Yearly Crime Stats*, (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/crime/stats.html>, accessed on 4/6/2016).

²⁴ FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides offenses into Part I and Part II crimes. See the UCR Offense Definitions (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>) for the offenses included under Part I and Part II crimes.

to 16,900 in 2013. In 2014, both Part I and II crimes increased slightly. In 2015, Part II crimes continued to increase, reaching 34,000 whereas Part I crimes declined from 18,500 to 18,000.

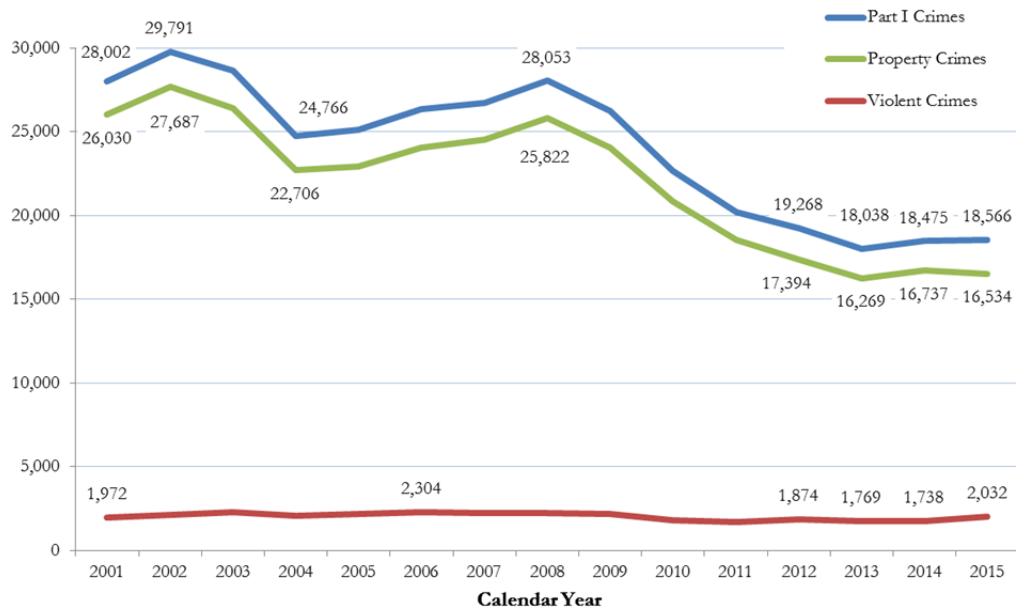
Figure 10. Number of Overall, Part I and Part II Crimes Reported in Montgomery County, Calendar Year (CY) 2001-2015



Sources: Montgomery County Police, *Crime Statistics -Yearly Crime Stats*, (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/crime/stats.html>, accessed on 4/10/2017)

Figure 11 presents the trend of reported Part I crimes and its breakdown between violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) versus property crimes from 2001 to 2015. During the 15-year period, the overall number of Part I crimes declined from close to 30,000 in early 2000s to 18,000 in the 2010s. In particular, the number of property crimes, which account for over 90% of Part I crimes, has been steadily declining since 2008. In contrast, the number of violent crimes has been nearly constant. Between 2001 and 2006, the number increased from 1,970 to 2,300, followed by a gradual decline to 1,740 in 2014 though it increased to 2,030 in 2015. Declining Part I property crimes and relatively constant Part I violent crimes reported make a quite contrast to the county's substantial population growth and increased diversity for the past 15 years.

Figure 11. Number of Reported Part I Violent and Property Crimes Reported in Montgomery County, CY2001-2015

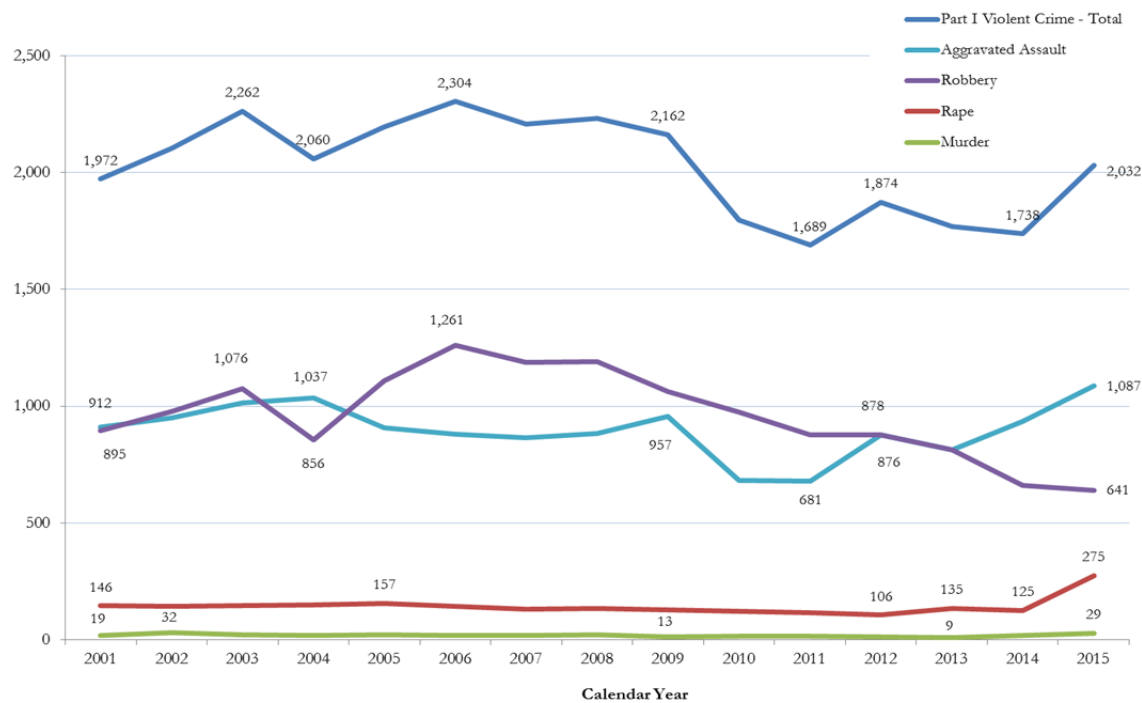


Source: Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, *Violent Crime & Property Crime by County: 1975 to Present (Montgomery County)* (<https://data.maryland.gov/Public-Safety/Violent-Crime-Property-Crime-by-County-1975-to-Present/jwfa-fdxs>, accessed on 4/7/2017)

Figure 12 shows a trend of reported Part I violent crimes more in detail by crime type (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) for 2001 through 2015, the yearly fluctuations that were not presented in Figure 11. The number of violent crimes slightly increased from 1,972 in 2001 to 2,304 in 2006 but declined to fewer than 2,000 in 2011 and to its lowest point (1,589) in 2011. The number remained at that level until 2015 when the number increased by 17% from 1,738 in 2014 to 2,032 in 2015.

The figure shows the two main crime types responsible for the overall trend of Part I violent crimes: robbery and aggravated assault, which account for over 90% of reported crimes. In comparison, the numbers of murder and rape are much smaller than that of robbery or aggravated assaults and have been in a gradual decline over time except for 2015. Rape crimes reported in the county ranged from 140 to 150 per year in the early 2000s; after peaking at 157 in 2005, the number declined to 106 in 2012 and increased slightly to 130 in 2013. However, the number of rape more than doubled from 128 in 2014 to 278 in 2015. This increase, combined with that of aggravated assaults, resulted in the large increase in the number of Part I violent crimes in 2015.

Figure 12. Number of Part I Violent Crimes Reported by Type Reported in Montgomery County, CY2001-2015



Source: Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, *Violent Crime & Property Crime by County: 1975 to Present (Montgomery County)* (<https://data.maryland.gov/Public-Safety/Violent-Crime-Property-Crime-by-County-1975-to-Present/jwfa-fdxs>, accessed on 4/7/2017)

According to the Montgomery County Police Department, the observed large increase is due to changes in the definition of the offense and reporting protocol. Thus, in 2015, Maryland enacted the new definition of rape established by the FBI, which defines rape more inclusively than the previous one did. Also in 2015, the police department modified the reporting on this category to include child abuse cases involving rape.²⁵ Reported murders in Montgomery County, which were highest (32) in 2002, fluctuated around 20 per year between 2001 and 2008 and have since declined to no more than 16 in recent years. In 2013, the number of reported murders further declined to nine (9). However, in 2014 the number of murder doubled to 19 and increased by more than 10 (a 58% increase) to 29 in 2015.

Table 4 compares the number and rate of occurrences (per 1,000 residents) of Part I crimes reported in 2014 by the type of crime (violent versus property) across Maryland's five large jurisdictions (Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County). These crimes, when prosecuted, are those most likely to be filed with the circuit court. While the large Maryland jurisdictions as a group represent 67% of the state's 2015 population, they account for 74% of

²⁵ See Montgomery County Police, *Annual Crime Report, 2015* (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/crime/stats.html>, accessed on 4/6/2016, pages 4 and 5). According to the report, 89% (133) of the increase was attributed to the changes mentioned above. Resulting number of rape reported in CY2015 is 145, which is comparable to the early 2000 level.

the state's Part I crimes (80% of Part I violent crimes reported and 73% of Part I property crimes reported).

Table 4. Number of Part I Crimes Reported for Large Jurisdictions in Maryland, CY2015

Jurisdiction	Population	Number of Crimes and Crime Rates					
		Part I Crimes		Violent Crimes		Property Crimes	
		N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*
Montgomery	1,017,859	18,566	18.2	2,032	2.0	16,534	16.2
Anne Arundel	555,280	15,109	27.2	2,195	4.0	12,914	23.3
Baltimore City	622,454	41,124	66.1	9,680	15.6	31,444	50.5
Baltimore County	892,816	26,902	30.1	4,517	5.1	22,385	25.1
Prince George's	892,816	26,386	29.6	4,139	4.6	22,247	24.9
Large Jurisdictions	3,981,225	128,087	32.2	22,563	5.7	105,524	26.5
Statewide	5,930,538	172,182	29.0	28,311	4.8	143,871	24.3
% Montgomery	17%	11%		7%		11%	
% Large Jurisdictions	67%	74%		80%		73%	

* Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 residents.

Sources: Population (Calendar Year 2015): U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, *American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimate*, (https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#, accessed on 4/9/2017); Number of Crimes (Calendar Year 2014): Maryland State Police, *Crime in Maryland – Uniform Crime Report, – Uniform Crime Report, Years 2004, 2005, 2010, 2012-2015*. (<http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Pages/Downloads.aspx>, accessed on 4/9/2017)

Despite having the largest population in the state, the overall 2015 crime rate of Montgomery County (18.2 Part I crimes per 1,000 residents, 17.9 in 2014 and 17.7 in 2013) is much smaller than that of any other large jurisdiction whose rates range from 27.2 to 66.1 with the average of 32.2 and the statewide average (29.0). Thus, those crimes are substantially underrepresented in Montgomery County. Specifically, while 17% of the state population resides in the county, only 11% of Part I crimes overall (7% among Part I violent crimes and 11% of Part I property crimes) are accounted for by the county. Further, Montgomery County's crime rates are substantially lower than any of the large jurisdictions' averages as well as the average for the state. This is particularly noteworthy for violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault); Montgomery County's violent crime rate is 2.0 crimes per 1,000 residents, half of Anne Arundel County's rate (4.0 crimes per 1,000 residents) and less than half of the statewide average (4.8).

Impact on the Circuit Court Caseload

Montgomery County's lower than average violent crime rate appears to be also reflected in the number of criminal cases filed with the court. During FY2015, 6,400 criminal cases (original and reopened) were filed with Montgomery County Circuit Court (See Table 5). The number is slightly *lower* than the total number of criminal cases filed with Anne Arundel County Circuit Court (6,500 filings), which serves a population that is 55% of Montgomery County's population. As a result, the county's per capita criminal case filing

rate is also much smaller (6.2 case filings per 1,000 residents) than any of the other large jurisdictions in the state, as well as the statewide average (12.9). In fact, the county's per capita criminal case filings is the 2nd lowest after that of Garrett County (5.9 filings per 1,000 residents), tied 3rd with Howard County.

Table 5. Number of Criminal Case Filings (FY2015) for Large Jurisdictions in Maryland

Jurisdiction	Population	Case Filings and Filing Rate [†]							
		Overall		Informations & Indictments		District Court Appeals		District Jury Trial Prayers	
		N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate*
Montgomery	1,040,116	6,400	6.2	4,830	4.6	1,329	1.3	241	0.2
Anne Arundel	564,195	6,524	11.6	4,166	7.4	504	0.9	1,810	3.2
Baltimore City	621,849	16,903	27.2	7,567	12.2	864	1.4	8,375	13.5
Baltimore County	831,128	10,775	13.0	5,080	6.1	780	0.9	4,793	5.8
Prince George's	909,535	8,440	9.3	3,488	3.8	232	0.3	4,529	5.0
Large Jurisdictions	3,966,823	49,042	12.4	25,131	6.3	3,709	0.9	19,748	5.0
Statewide	6,006,401	77,590	12.9	37,413	6.2	5,324	0.9	33,926	5.6
% Montgomery	17%	8%		12%		24%		0.6%	
% Large Jurisdictions	66%	63%		67%		70%		58%	

* Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 residents.

Sources: Population (Calendar Year 2015): U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, *2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, (https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#, accessed on 4/9/2017); Criminal Case Filings (FY2015): Maryland Judiciary, *Maryland Judiciary FY2015 Annual Statistical Abstract* (<http://www.courts.state.md.us/publications/annualreport/reports/2015/fy2015statisticalabstract.pdf>, accessed on 4/10/2017)

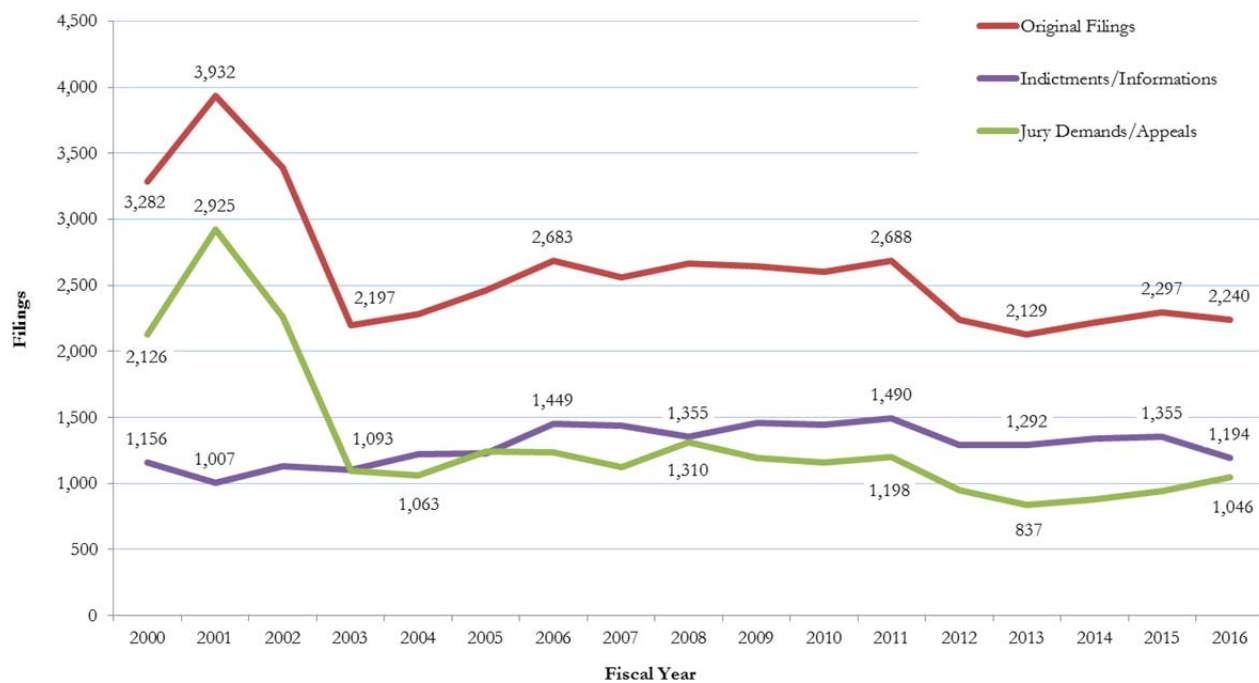
Table 5 also shows that Montgomery County's substantially lower per capita filings rate is due to an extremely low number of jury trial prayers from the District Court (241 filings, 0.2 filings per capita) and a lower than average filing rate of indictments and informations²⁶ (4.6 filings per capita, 7th lowest in the state). The county's lower per capita filing rate is somewhat offset by its higher than average filings of District Court appeals (1.3 filing per capita, 7th highest in the state).

The number of the District Court jury trial prayers filed with Montgomery County Circuit Court in FY2016 is far smaller than any other jurisdiction in the state (the next smallest is 1.8 filings per 1,000 residents at St. Mary's County Circuit Court). This is due to the court's strict jury trial demand policy to hold jury trials on the same day as the petition is filed with the court.

²⁶ For criminal cases handled in circuit courts in Maryland, see:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/circuitcourt/Court/CriminalDepartment/CriminalDepartment.html#Criminal-Cases-Handled-in-Maryland-Circuit-Courts>.

Figure 13. Circuit Court Original Criminal Case Filings by Case Type, FY2000-FY2016



Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing

Figure 13 presents the trends of *original* criminal case filings at Montgomery County Circuit Court from FY2000 to FY2016. As indicated above, the court's criminal caseload consists of two types of cases: those filed with the court as indictments or informations and those forwarded from the District Court upon a demand for a jury trial or an appeal, over 80% of which are filed as appeals. The number of the court's overall original filings declined from 3,900 in FY2001 to 2,200 in FY2003 when the court implemented its instant jury trial demand policy. As a result, the percentage of the court's original criminal case filings forwarded from the District Court declined from 74% in FY2001 to 47% in FY2004 and continued to decline, reaching 39% in FY2013 though it slightly increased to 40% in FY2014 and FY2015. Between FY2003 and FY2011 the number of filings increased from 2,200 to 2,700 but declined to the FY2003 level in the following years.

The number of criminal cases filed as indictments or informations in the court gradually increased from around 1,090 in FY2003 to 1,490 in FY2011. Filings then declined to 1,290 in FY2012 and remained unchanged in FY2013. A slight increase in filings occurred in FY2014 and FY2015 reaching 1,340 and 1,350, respectively only to decline in FY2016 to 1,190. Filings of cases tracked as complex (cases with serious offenses such as homicide, rape, first and second degree sex offenses, child abuse, major fraud,

arson, and DNA cases) have also experienced increases and decreases over time. In FY2016, original indictment and information filings reached 303, which is a 12% decline from FY2015 (343).

Domestic Violence Statistics

Figure 14 presents the number of domestic violence (DV) incidents reported in Montgomery County between 2000 and 2015 based on the *Uniform Crime Report (UCR)*.²⁷ The number of DV incidents declined from 2,220 in 2000 to 980 in 2010, followed by large increases over the next few years to 1,430 in 2013, 2,203 in 2014 and 3,044 in 2015. These large increases are due to the expanded definition of domestic violence under HB116/SB647 that was signed into law (Family Law Article §4-501) in 2012 to improve recording and tracking of DV crimes. This new definition of DV was first used in the 2013 reporting. Prior to the law change, the only reported relationships for consideration as a DV crime were spouses (husband and wife) and cohabitant. Under the new law, 10 additional relationships are included.²⁸

In contrast to the trend in the county's DV incidents, which appears to show a declining trend followed by large increases in recent years, the number of original filings of DV petitions for a protective order in Montgomery County Circuit Court and the District Court (Rockville/Silver Spring locations), shown in Figure 15, exhibits a gradual increase from 2,200 to 2,800 between FY2005 and FY2010. For the past five years, the number has been fairly constant between 2,700 and 2,900 filings per year, except for FY2016 when the filings surged by 400 to 3,270. Approximately 75% of DV petitions filed in Montgomery County were filed with the District Court, with the remaining 25% filed with Montgomery County Circuit Court though the ratio has shifted in the last few years. In FY2015 and FY2016, less than 20% of DV petitions were filed with the circuit court.²⁹

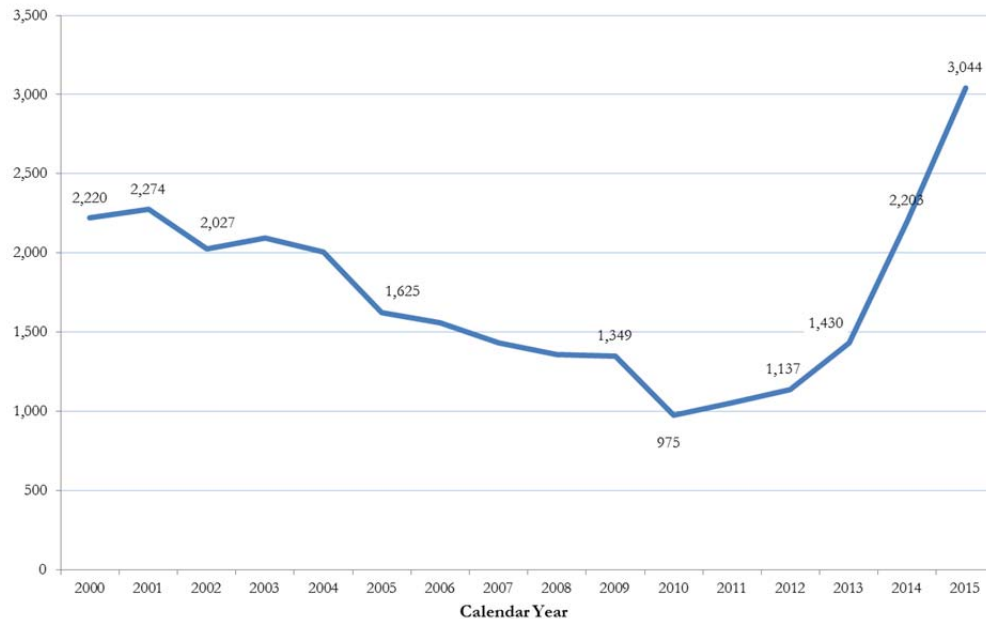
²⁷ Maryland State Police, *Crime in Maryland – Uniform Crime Report, – Uniform Crime Report, Years 2004, 2005, 2010, 2012-2015*. (<http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Pages/Downloads.aspx>, accessed on 4/9/2017)

²⁸ Maryland State Police, *Crime in Maryland – Uniform Crime Report, Year 2015*.

(<http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Document%20Downloads/Crime%20in%20Maryland%202015%20Uniform%20Crime%20Report.pdf>, accessed on 4/10/17). See pages 51-53. According to the report, of the 27,785, 27,242 and 30,534 DV incidents reported statewide for 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively, 61% (16,817), 55% (15,055) and 50% (15,301) met the previous definition of DV. If we apply those rates to the Montgomery County's numbers reported for 2013 (1,430), 2014 (2,203) and 2015 (3,044), we obtain 866, 1,217 and 1,525 DV cases that would meet the 'old' definition of DV in the past three years.

²⁹ According to the Maryland Judiciary (<http://www.courts.state.md.us/district/about.html#stats>), the numbers of DV petitions filed with the District Court (at Rockville and Silver Spring Locations) are 2,331 in FY2015 and 2,709 in FY2016, whereas those filed with Montgomery County Circuit Court are 493 (17% of the total filed in Montgomery County) in FY2015 and 559 (17%) in FY2016.

Figure 14. Domestic Violence Incidents Reported in Montgomery County, 2000-2015



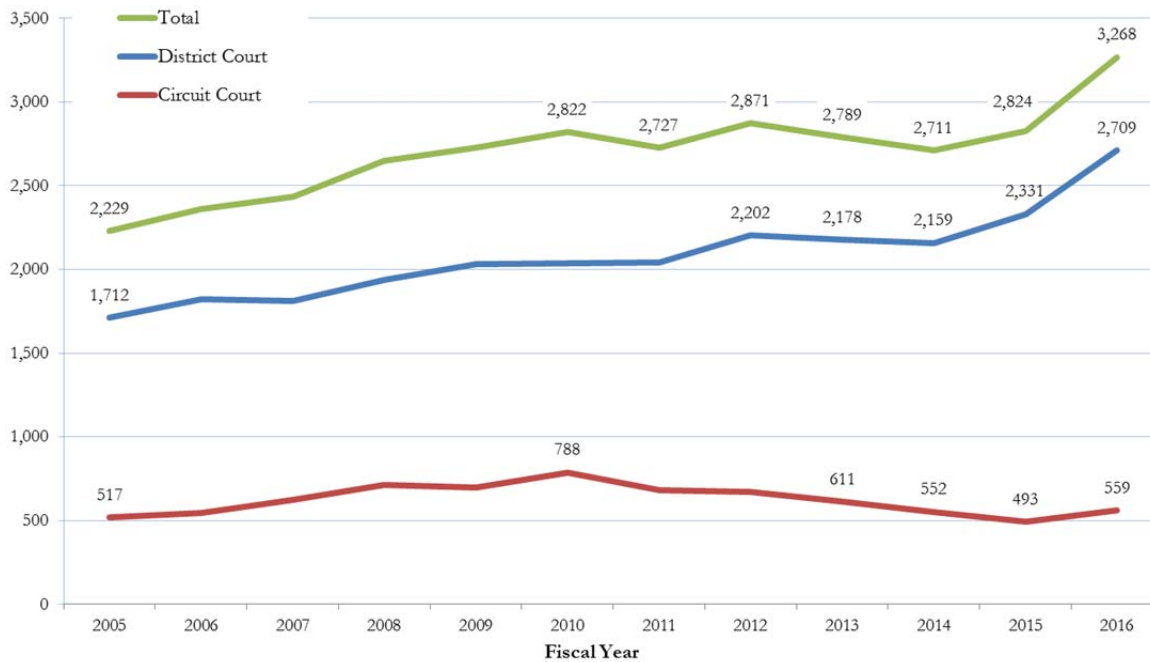
Note: the increase in the number of reported incidence since 2013 is in part due to expanding the definition of domestic violence. See Maryland State Police, *Crime in Maryland – Uniform Crime Report, Year 2015* (page 50), (<http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Document%20Downloads/Crime%20in%20Maryland%202015%20Uniform%20Crime%20Report.pdf>, accessed on 4/9/2017).

Source: Maryland State Police, *Crime in Maryland – Uniform Crime Report, – Uniform Crime Report, Years 2004, 2005, 2010, 2012-2015*. (<http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Pages/Downloads.aspx>, accessed on 4/9/2017)

The number of protective order petitions filed with the circuit court and the District Court and the number of DV incidents reported to the police do not coincide for several reasons. A petition to seek protection from DV can be filed with or without such incidents. Parties involved in a single incident may file petitions separately to seek protection from one another. An individual may file a petition for protective order more than once over time. The same parties may be involved in multiple incidents reported to the police. Furthermore, petitions filed in the circuit courts include some that have been transferred from the District Court due to existing family law cases involving the parties or on appeal by a party. Parties who are victims of DV but are not eligible for protective orders may instead file a petition for peach order with the District Court to seek protection.³⁰ The observed divergence between the number of incidents and that of petitions might also be an indication of latent domestic violence cases that are not reported to the police, where victims may be proceeding directly to court to obtain protective orders.

³⁰ For additional information regarding protective and peach orders in Maryland, see the People's Law Library of Maryland at <https://www.peoples-law.org/comparing-protective-and-peace-orders>. General information on seeking protection from DV is available from Maryland Judiciary (<http://mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/domesticviolence.html>) and the People's Law Library of Maryland (<https://www.peoples-law.org/cat/domestic-violence>), as well as Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sheriff/sections/domestic-violence.html>).

Figure 15. Domestic Violence Case Filings (Original) in Montgomery County, Circuit and District Courts, FY2005-FY2016



Note: Circuit Court DV filings also include those DV cases that were transferred from the District Court by jurisdictional transfer or appeal. Sources: Circuit Court data: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing; District Court data: District Court of Maryland, *Statistics, FY2005-2015*, (<http://www.courts.state.md.us/district/about.html#stats>, accessed on 4/9/2017)

While Montgomery County Circuit Court and the District Court serve as the primary source of legal assistance for protection from domestic violence, county residents often seek other types of assistance in addressing these situations. For example, Montgomery County’s Family Justice Center (FJC)³¹ provides information and services (both legal and non-legal) to residents seeking domestic violence assistance. The FJC also provides assistance to domestic violence victims in completing court paperwork, obtaining legal assistance, and serves as a remote site for victim attendance and testimony using video-conference technology at court hearings on ex-parte temporary protection order petitions conducted by the county’s Circuit Court and District Court (Rockville location).

³¹ <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/> (accessed on 5/18/2017).

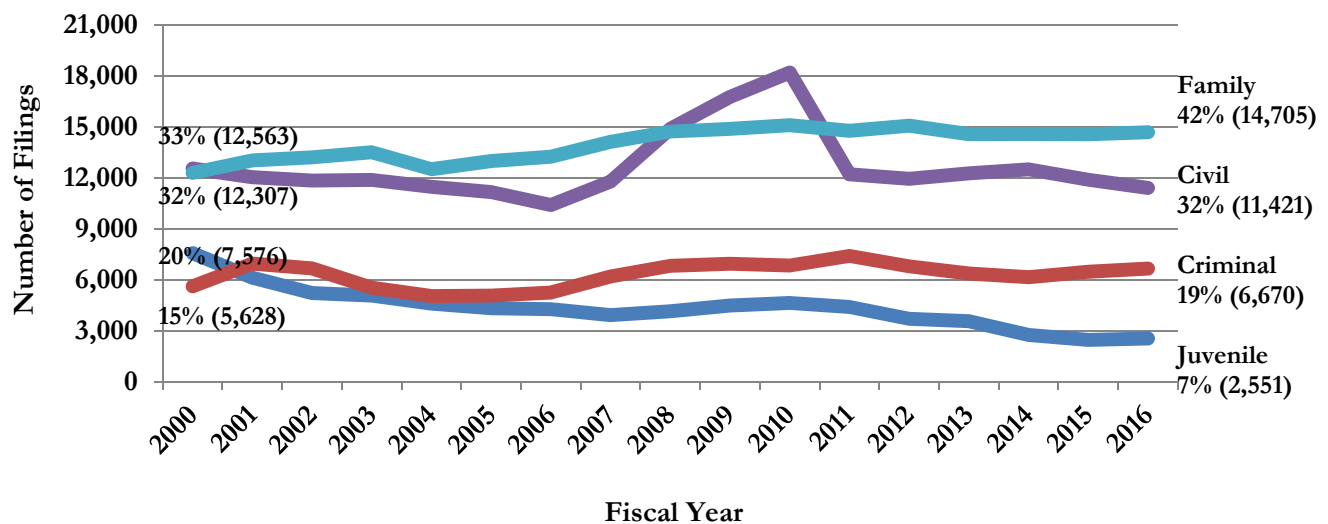
Workload and Case Processing Analysis

One of the goals of Montgomery County Circuit Court is to demonstrate accountability. This is achieved through the court's continuous reviews of its workload and case processing performance. Monitoring of workload and case processing performance with particular attention to certain metrics such as filings, terminations, clearance rate and time to disposition, allows the court to address areas in need of improvement. Following the identification of these focus areas, research staff performs more in-depth analyses of the court's data and presents results to court leadership on a regular basis to facilitate the development of effective court and case management strategies.

Workload Analysis

Key workload metrics that the court reviews include the number of filings, terminations, hearings, and trials that occur annually in civil, criminal, family, and juvenile³² cases. The following figures highlight information related to these key workload metrics.

Figure 16. Number of Cases Filed by Case Type, FY2000 - FY2016



Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing. Transfer of the juvenile court from the District Court to Montgomery County Circuit Court occurred in 2002. Data for fiscal years prior to 2003 was obtained from the Maryland Judiciary.

Montgomery County Circuit Court case filings (original and reopen) averaged 37,325 between FY2000 and FY2016, ranging from a low of 33,200 filings in FY2006 to a high of 44,800 filings in FY2010. Figure 16

³² Juvenile cases include juvenile delinquency cases and child welfare cases such as child in need of assistance (CINA) and termination of parental rights (TPR) cases.

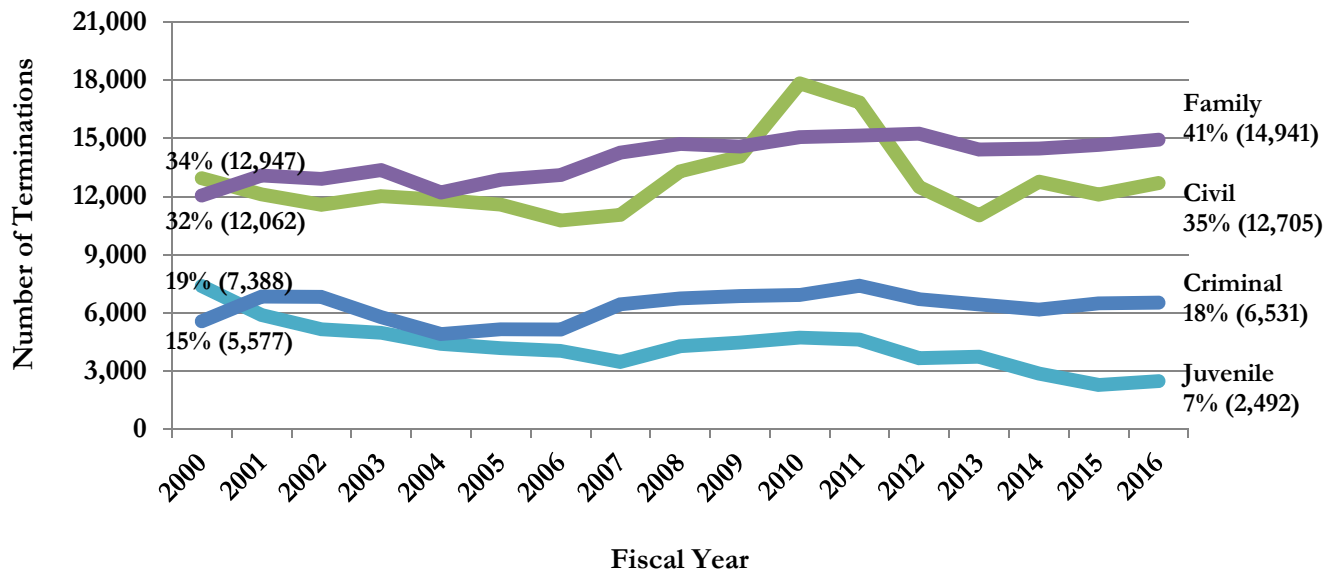
displays the total number of filings by case type between FY2000 and FY2016. Family and criminal filings have increased over the past 17 years by 19%. Civil filings exhibited a substantial increase between FY2007 and FY2010 from 11,806 to 18,225 filings mainly due to a large increase in foreclosure filings. In FY2011, civil filings dropped by 33% to 12,225 and remained at that level since FY2013. The 66% decline in juvenile filings between FY2000 and FY2016 is worthy of note. Between FY2000 and FY2007, the number of juvenile filings declined by 48% from 7,600 to 3,900 with an annual average decline of 521 filings per year. Juvenile filings subsequently declined by 47% from FY2010 to FY2015, with an annual average decline of 437 filings per year. A slight increase of 4% occurred in juvenile filings between FY2015 and FY2016 from 2,464 to 2,551.

Table 6. Filing Percentages by Case Type, FY2000 - FY2016

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civil	33%	32%	32%	33%	34%	33%	31%	33%	37%	39%	41%	31%	32%	33%	35%	34%	32%
Family	32%	34%	36%	38%	37%	39%	40%	39%	36%	35%	34%	38%	40%	40%	41%	41%	42%
Juvenile	20%	16%	14%	14%	14%	13%	13%	11%	10%	10%	10%	11%	10%	10%	8%	7%	7%
Criminal	15%	18%	18%	15%	15%	15%	16%	17%	17%	16%	15%	19%	18%	17%	17%	18%	19%

As shown in Table 6, across case types between FY2000 and FY2016, filings initiated from a family or civil petition/complaint comprised a minimum of 65% to a maximum of 75% of the court's overall filings. The representation of civil filings among all court case filings increased from 33% in FY2007 to 41% in FY2010, reflecting the large influx of foreclosure filings during that period. As a result of this change in civil filings, between FY2007 and FY2010, the percentage of family filings among all case filings declined from 39% to slightly over one-third (34%). Between FY2012 and FY2016, however, family cases comprised at least 40% of all original and reopened filings. Criminal filings have remained relatively constant over time representing less than 20% of the court's total case filings. Juvenile (including delinquency and child welfare) cases have been in decline since FY2013 representing 7% of all filings in FY2015 and FY2016.

Figure 17. Number of Cases Terminated by Case Type, FY2000 - FY2016



Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing. Transfer of the juvenile court from the District Court to Montgomery County Circuit Court occurred in 2002. Data for fiscal years prior to 2003 was obtained from the Maryland Judiciary.

Montgomery County Circuit Court case terminations (original and reopen) averaged 37,300 between FY2000 and FY2016, ranging from a low of 33,086 filings in FY2007 to a high of 44,600 filings in FY2010. Figure 17 highlights the total number of case terminations by case type between FY2000 and FY2016. The termination trends are similar to the filing trends displayed in Figure 16. Family and criminal terminations have increased over the past 17 years by 24% and 17%, respectively. Juvenile terminations experienced a 66% decline in terminations between FY2000 and FY2016 comparable to decline experienced in filings during the same period.

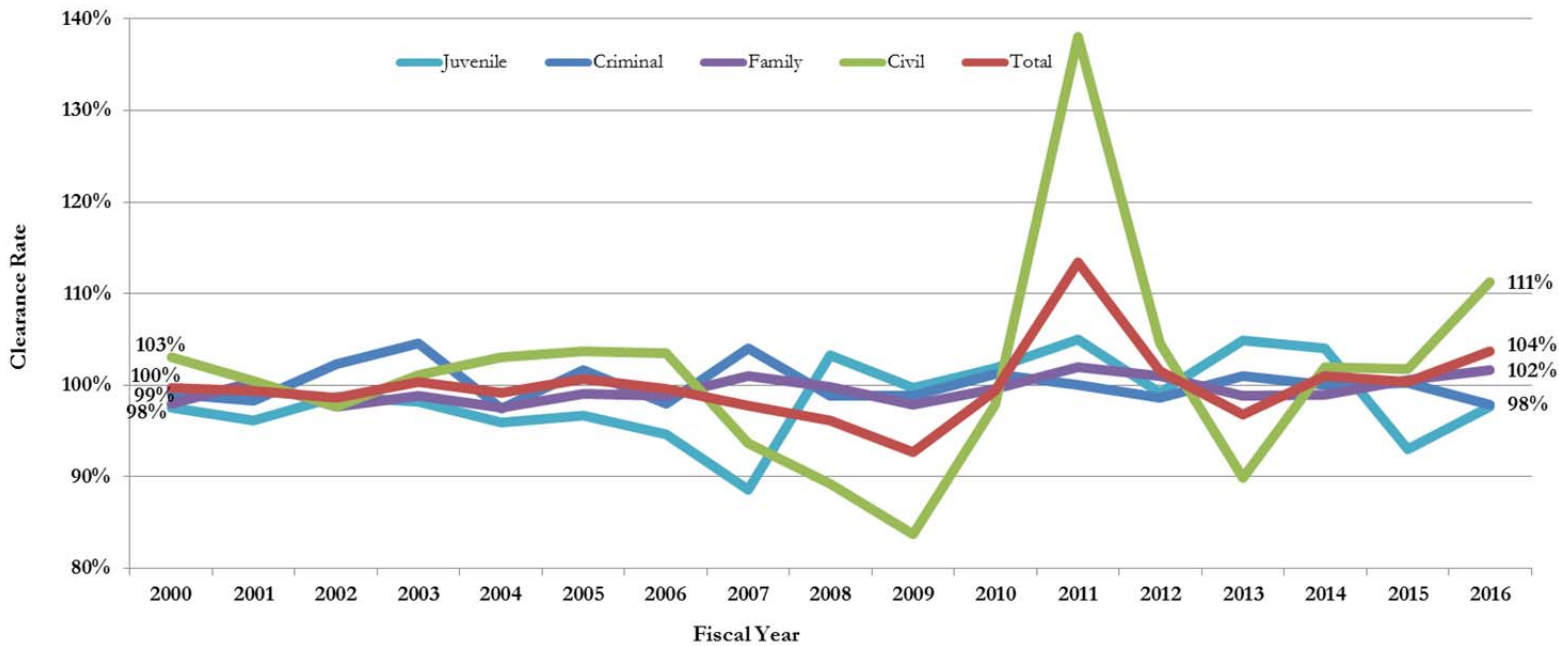
Table 7. Termination Percentages by Case Type, FY2000 - FY2016

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civil	34%	32%	32%	33%	35%	34%	33%	31%	34%	35%	40%	38%	33%	31%	35%	34%	35%
Family	32%	34%	35%	37%	37%	38%	40%	40%	38%	36%	34%	34%	40%	40%	40%	41%	41%
Juvenile	19%	16%	14%	14%	13%	12%	12%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%	11%	8%	6%	7%
Criminal	15%	18%	19%	16%	15%	15%	16%	18%	17%	17%	16%	17%	18%	18%	17%	18%	18%

Across case types, slightly over two-thirds to three-quarters of case terminations are family or civil matters (see Table 7). In FY2010 and FY2011, 40% and 38% of the total terminations were civil matters, reflecting the court's efforts to process a large number of foreclosure cases, and slightly over one-third were family matters. Similar to the past three fiscal years, in FY2015, civil matters represent slightly over a third of total terminations, whereas 41% of the total terminations were family matters. Since FY2000, no more than 20% of the total terminations have been criminal or juvenile (delinquency and child welfare) case terminations.

One of the ways to assess how efficiently courts are processing cases is to monitor the clearance rate, which is calculated by dividing the number of terminations by filings for a given time period. A clearance rate over 100% indicates that a court has more case terminations than filings, suggesting higher case processing efficiency possibly addressing case backlog. In contrast, a clearance rate of less than 100% indicates that the court was not able to close as many cases as were filed.

Figure 18. Overall Case Clearance Rate (original and reopened): Overall and by Case Type, FY2000-2016



Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing. Transfer of the juvenile court from the District Court to Montgomery County Circuit Court occurred in 2002. Data for fiscal years prior to 2003 was obtained from the Maryland Judiciary.

According to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) CourTool Measure #2 (Clearance Rates), courts should aspire to clear (i.e., dispose of) at least as many cases as have been filed/reopened/reactivated in a period by having a clearance rate of 100%.³³ Montgomery County Circuit Court's clearance rate analysis includes reactivated cases (i.e., those cases whose status has returned from an inactive period as well as those whose status has been reopened from a previous closure) within its universe of open cases.

Figure 18 presents the court's annual case clearance rates by case type for FY2000 through FY2016. By the end of FY2016, the court's overall clearance rate was at 104%, ranging from a low of 93% in FY2009 to a high of 113% in FY2011. The minimum and maximum overall clearance rate values were largely driven by civil filings and terminations. For the past 17 years, 91% of the case type specific clearance rates were at 95% or above, and 73% were at 99% or above.

The civil clearance rate exhibits the most variability, ranging from a low of 84% in FY2009 to a high of 138% in FY2011. Despite continued increases in civil filings between FY2009 and FY2010 (approximately

³³ Additional information on the National Center for State Courts' CourTools is available from its website: <http://www.courttools.org/>.

9%), the civil clearance rate improved from 84% to 98%. The overall clearance rate improved to 113% in FY2011, and that improvement was driven primarily by the high civil clearance rate (138%). This improved civil clearance rate was due to the large drop in civil filings combined with only a slight decline in civil terminations between FY2010 and FY2011.

In FY2012, the overall clearance rate was 102%, suggesting that the court was able to maintain an efficient level of case processing across case types. In FY2013, however, the overall clearance rate declined to 97%, which was the result of declines in the civil and family clearance rates. The decrease in the civil clearance rate was primarily driven by the declined clearance rate among original civil cases and Register of Wills cases. The declined clearance rate in family cases was driven by reopened family case terminations relative to filings.

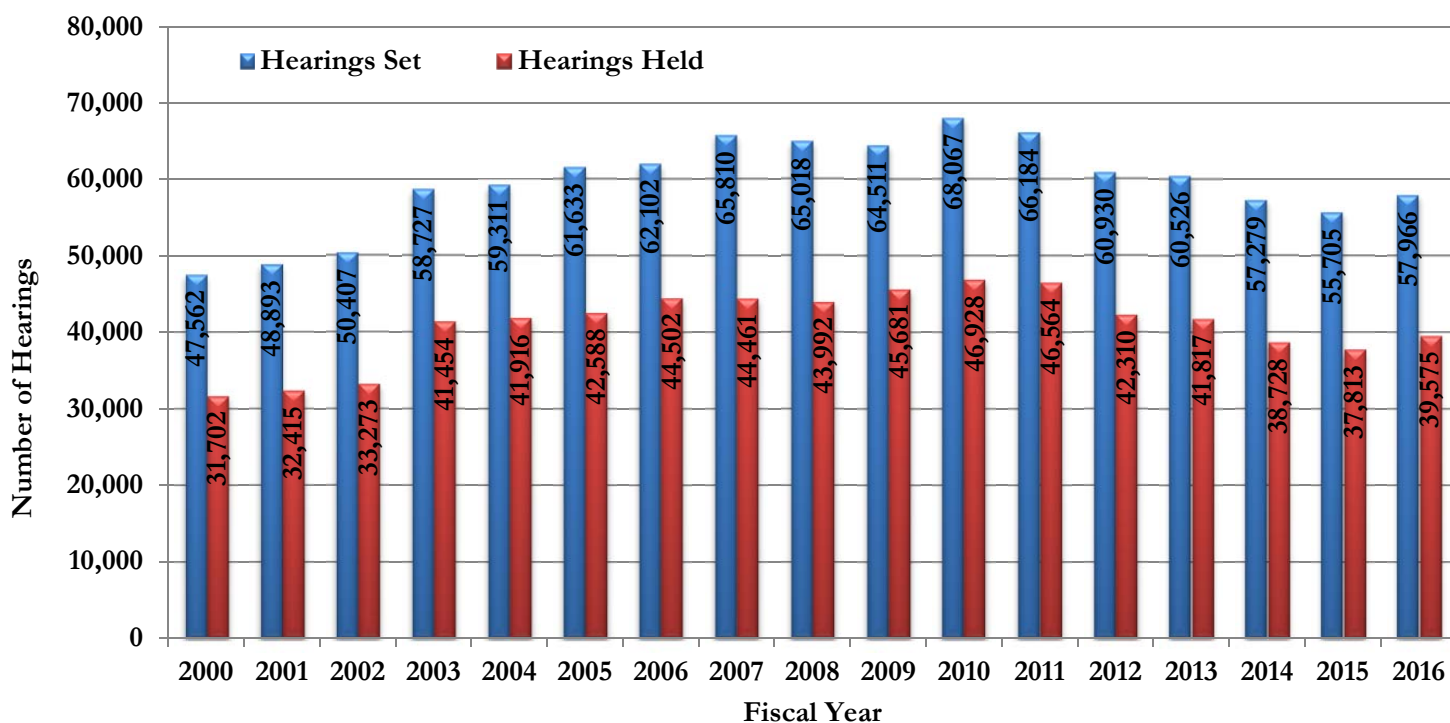
In the past three fiscal years, the court's overall clearance rates reached, if not slightly exceeded, 100%. Between FY2014 and FY2015, all case-type specific clearance rates increased or remained unchanged except for juvenile, which declined from 104% in FY2014 to 93% in FY2015. Between FY2015 and FY2016, the clearance rates increased for all case types except for criminal, which declined by two percentage points from 100% in FY2015 to 98% in FY2016. The original clearance for circuit court criminal cases in FY2016 is 99%, which is down slightly from 102% in FY2015.³⁴ The original clearance rate for cases transferred from the District Court, either as a jury trial demand or appeal, is 93% in FY2016 down from 98% in FY2015. The clearance rate for their reopened cases also declined to 94% in FY2016 from 103% in FY2015. District Court criminal original and reopened filings increased between FY2015 and FY2016 (by 11% and 18%, respectively) providing a possible reason for the declined clearance rates for these cases in FY2016. In contrast, original circuit court criminal filings decreased by 12% (from 1,355 to 1,195).³⁵

The original clearance rate for juvenile cases remained comparatively low at 94% in FY2015 increasing to 96% in FY2016. When the original, juvenile clearance rate is examined by specific case type (delinquency, CINA, and TPR), it appears that the delinquency clearance rate has the largest impact on the overall juvenile clearance rate, which declined from 108% in FY2014 to 94% in FY2015 and 96 % in FY2016. The CINA clearance rate has also declined to 93% in FY2015 and FY2016 from 117% in FY2014.

³⁴ The reopened clearance rate for Circuit Court criminal cases in FY2016 increased from 98% to 100%.

³⁵ The Circuit Court's reopened criminal case filings increased between FY2015 and FY2016 from 3,549 to 3,679 (4%).

Figure 19. Number of Hearings Set and Held, FY2000 - FY2016

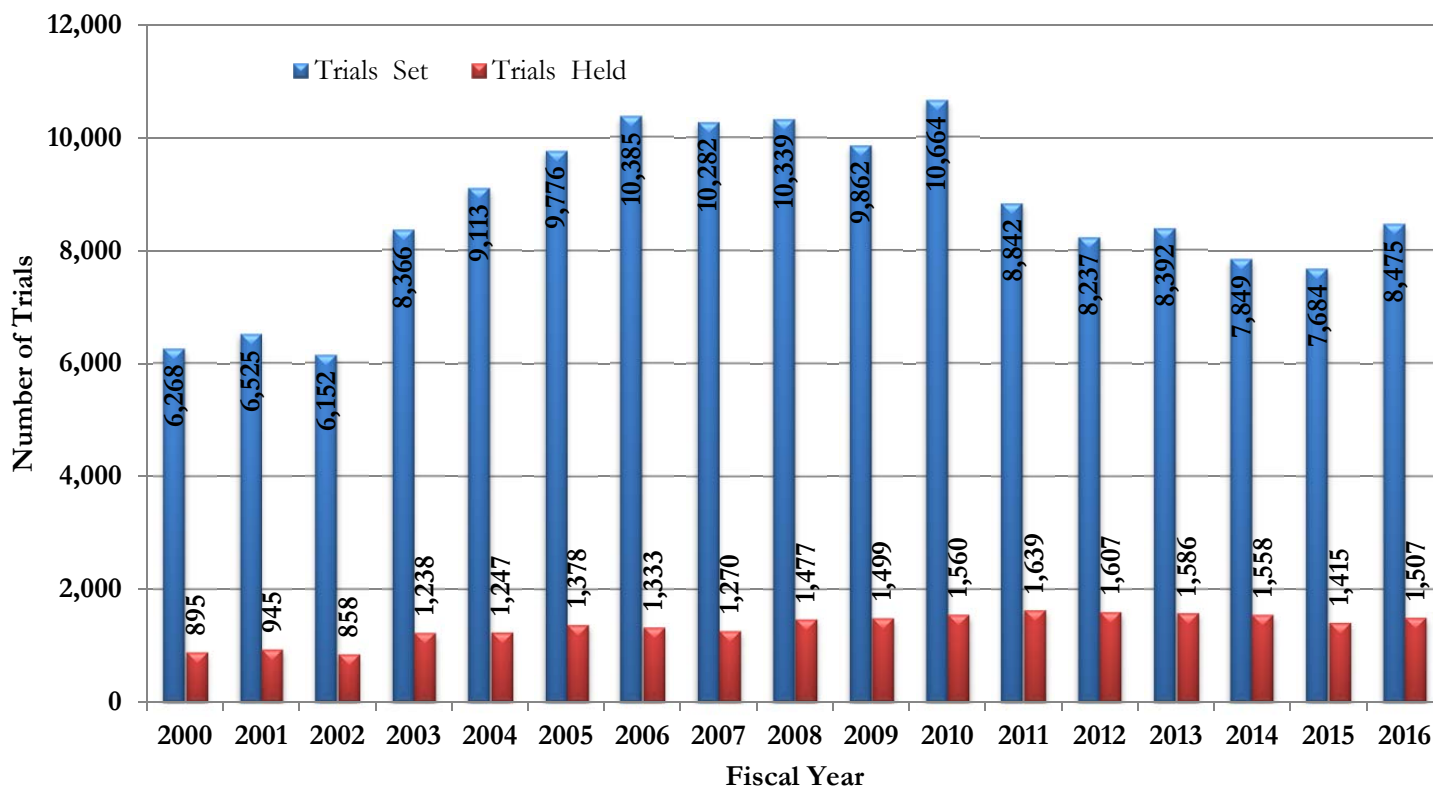


Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing. Transfer of the juvenile court from the District Court to Montgomery County Circuit Court occurred in 2002. Juvenile hearing data for fiscal years prior to FY2003 is not reflected due to differences in data collection approaches prior to the transfer.

Figure 19 displays the number of hearings set and held between FY2000 and FY2016. Since FY2000, the number of matters set for hearings increased by 21%, and the number of hearings held increased by 24% (when excluding juvenile hearings held in the District Court for FY2000-FY2002). There was a relatively large increase in hearings set and held (over 8,000 hearings) between FY2002 and FY2003. This increase is related to the transfer of juvenile jurisdiction from the District Court to the Montgomery County Circuit Court, as well as administrative changes made to judges' calendars in compliance with Maryland Rule 9-208.³⁶ Between FY2003 and FY2016, the court experienced a 1% drop in hearings set and a 5% decrease in hearings held, despite increases up until 2010. Due to how data related to hearings set and held are entered into the court's case management system, the hearings held may not correlate directly with those that are set. For example, some hearings that are ultimately held may not have been originally set as a hearing, but rather as a conference.

³⁶ For additional information regarding Maryland Rule 9-208 please access the following link: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/>, and access the Maryland Rules.

Figure 20. Number of Trials Set versus Held, FY2000 - FY2016



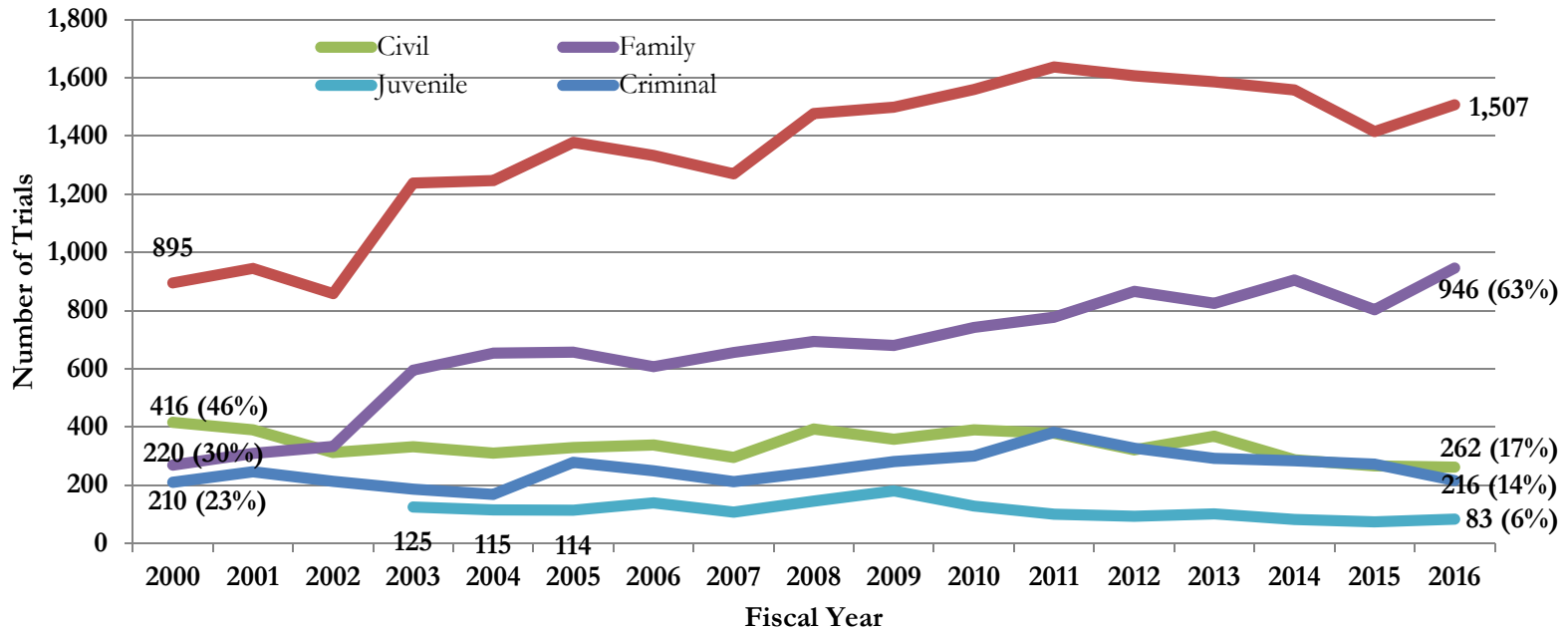
Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing. Transfer of the juvenile court from the District Court to Montgomery County Circuit Court occurred in 2002. Juvenile adjudication/trial data for fiscal years prior to FY2003 is not available.

Figure 20 depicts the number of trials set and held between FY2000 and FY2016.³⁷ Since FY2000, the court experienced a 35% increase in the number of matters set for trial and a 68% increase in the number of trials held. As stated above, part of the increases in the numbers of trials set and held, in particular those increases between FY2002 and FY2003, are due to the transfer of the jurisdiction over juvenile cases from the District Court to Montgomery County Circuit Court in FY2003. There was a noticeable decline in the number of trials set (17%) from 10,664 in FY2010 to 8,842 in FY2011. The decline in trials set continued into FY2012; however, it was less dramatic (7% decline). This drop is likely the result of efforts implemented as part of the revised criminal differentiated case management (DCM) plan, which established 4-215 hearings aimed at scheduling trials on agreed-upon dates in criminal cases. With parties being actively involved in scheduling their trial dates, the need for postponements due to scheduling conflicts was anticipated to decline. The decline in trials set between FY2010 and FY2012 is also due in part to the implementation of settlement conferences in Track 3 civil cases, which allow parties another opportunity for resolution prior to setting the trial date. There was a slight increase in the number of trials set between FY2012 and FY2013 (2%) related to an increase (14%) in criminal trial settings. Since

³⁷ Depending on when the trial is set and held within the fiscal year, the trials held may not be of those set. For example, if a trial is held at the beginning of one fiscal year, it may have been set in the previous fiscal year.

FY2013, overall trial settings have declined until FY2016 when trial settings increased from 7,684 in FY2015 to 8,475 (a 10% increase).

Figure 21. Number and Percentage of Trials Held by Case Type,³⁸ FY2000 - FY2016



Source: Montgomery County Circuit Court, Data Processing. Transfer of the juvenile court from the District Court to Montgomery County Circuit Court occurred in 2002. Juvenile adjudication/trial data for fiscal years prior to FY2003 is not available.

Figure 21 displays trials held by case type between FY2000 and FY2016. The greatest increases in the number of trials held occurred between FY2002 and FY2003 (an increase of 380 trials held (44%) from 858 to 1,238); FY2004 and FY2005 (an increase of 131 trials held (11%) from 1,247 to 1,378); and FY2007 and FY2008 (an increase of 207 trials held (16%) from 1,270 to 1,477). The increase in trials held between FY2002 and FY2003 is due to the transfer of the juvenile court but also due to a 79% increase in family trials held from 333 in FY2002 to 595 in FY2003 due to the aforementioned rule change in family law. The increase in trials held between FY2004 and FY2005 is driven by a 65% increase in the number of criminal trials held specifically court trials (as opposed to jury trials), which increased from 64 to 174 (172%). In FY2005, criminal trials held represent 20% of all trials held. The increase in trials held between FY2007 and FY2008 is driven by increases in civil and juvenile trials held by 33% and 36%, respectively. The number of trials held across all case types decreased between FY2013 and FY2015. Between FY2015 and FY2016, the number of trials held increased for juvenile and family cases resulting in an overall trial held increase during that period of 7%.

³⁸ Register of Wills (ROW) trials are included. There were two ROW trials in FY2011 and none in the remaining fiscal years represented.

The court also performed a preliminary analysis of trial date certainty as defined by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in its CourTool Measure 5. According to the NCSC, trial date certainty is the number of times cases disposed by trial are scheduled for trial. One way to examine trial date certainty is by the proportion of cases that meet a specific performance goal set by the court. One possible benchmark, according to NCSC, is to have 90% of the court's cases hold trial in no more than two trial settings among cases disposed by trial. Using this as a preliminary benchmark, Montgomery County Circuit Court meets that goal for trials overall and for all case-specific trials except criminal trials specifically. Only 79.5% of criminal trials were held in no more than two settings.

Table 8. Number and Percentage of Cases with Trials Held within Two Trial Settings, FY2016³⁹

Case Type	Total	Within Two Trial Settings	
		N	%
Criminal	234	186	79.5%
Family	974	954	97.9%
Juvenile	84	80	95.2%
Civil	263	254	96.6%
Total	1,555	1,474	94.8%

The question about whether trials are held when initially set has yet to be fully explored. It is widely understood that due to the increased availability of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), as well as the use of other means to resolve cases prior to trial (e.g., resolution and settlement conferences), trials serve as an effective, if relatively rarely utilized, mechanism for the resolution of cases that cannot be otherwise disposed. By encouraging the earliest appropriate resolution of cases, case management allows fewer trials to be set and, when set, held with greater certainty.

³⁹ Data should be considered preliminary as decisions rules related to the operationalization of cases for the 'trial date certainty' measure are ongoing.

Case Processing Analysis

As part of its effort to increase the efficiency of case processing operations and maintain cases at an optimum level, Montgomery County Circuit Court established a Differential Court Management (DCM) plan for each case type (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) pursuant to the Maryland Rules of Procedure (Rule 16-202(b)). These plans establish performance guidelines for each case type, creating a schedule of deadlines and hearings related to the complexity of the case and dedicating increasing judicial resources as case complexity increases.

The DCM scheduling guidelines are more detailed than the statewide case processing performance standards and support the court's efforts to meet or exceed the statewide performance goals. The statewide performance standards, which were developed by the Maryland Judiciary in 2000, are utilized by all Maryland circuit courts and the District Court to evaluate their case processing performance and case processing efficiency. For circuit courts, case processing time standards are available for seven case types including civil, criminal, family, juvenile delinquency, child in need of assistance (CINA) shelter care, CINA non-shelter care, and termination of parental rights (TPR). The state case processing time standards present to the citizens of Montgomery County and Maryland the performance expectations of the judiciary as to the prompt resolution of cases in the furtherance of justice. In addition, the standards establish goals against which courts examine their operations.

Table 9. Statewide Caseflow Assessment Time Standards and Percent of Cases Closed within Time Standard: Statewide Goals, Montgomery County Performance and Statewide Average, FY2012 – FY2016

	Montgomery County Circuit Court Performance										Maryland Caseflow Time Standards		Maryland Statewide Percentage (weighted), FY2016
	FY2012		FY2013		FY2014		FY2015		FY2016				
	%WST*	#	%WST	#	%WST	#	%WST	#	%WST	#	Percentage Goal	Case Time	
Civil, Non-Foreclosures									<u>98%</u>	3,618	98%	548	95%
Civil-Foreclosures									96%	2,238	98%	730	95%
Criminal	96%	2,183	95%	2,083	94%	2,094	94%	2,242	92%	2,124	98%	180	87%
Limited Divorce, Family Law							<u>99%</u>	137	<u>98%</u>	287	<u>99%</u>	137	94%
Other, Family Law					94%	7,892	95%	7,866	94%	8,205	98%	365	91%
Juvenile Delinquency	95%	1,006	95%	861	92%	594	95%	628	95%	801	98%	90	97%
CINA Shelter	74%	125	72%	135	81%	139	57%	121	77%	140	100%	30	75%
CINA Non-Shelter	98%	81	66%	50	89%	56	<u>100%</u>	45	92%	39	100%	60	96%
TPR	97%	37	96%	27	<u>100%</u>	20	<u>100%</u>	27	<u>100%</u>	23	100%	180	61%
Total (with Foreclosures)†		18,345		17,063		17,174		17,345		17,475			

* %WST: Percent of cases closed within the Maryland Caseflow Time Standards.

† The number of civil terminations in FY2012-FY2015 is: 6,381; 5,763; 6,242, and 6,106. These termination figures and associated performance percentages are not displayed because prior to FY2016 the Maryland Judiciary had a slightly different time standard for civil cases. Please refer to the court's case processing report for this information:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/circuitcourt/court/Publications/publications.html>

† The number of family law terminations in FY2012-FY2013 is: 8,532, and 8,144. These termination figures and associated performance percentages are not displayed because prior to FY2014 the Maryland Judiciary had slightly different time standards for family law cases. Please refer to the court's case processing report for this information:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/circuitcourt/court/Publications/publications.html> **Note:** The underlined %WST values indicate those that met the Maryland Judiciary's time standard performance goal.

As shown in Table 9, in FY2016, case processing performance was analyzed for a total of 17,475 original terminations: civil (5,856), criminal (2,124), family law (FL) – limited divorce (287), FL-other (8,205), juvenile delinquency (801), child in need of assistance (CINA) (179), and termination of parental rights (TPR) (23). Of the 179 CINA terminations, 140 occur in shelter and 39 occur in non-shelter cases.

A key measure of the annual case processing analysis is the percentage of cases terminated within the state-defined time standards. Between FY2015 and FY2016, CINA shelter case processing performance improved. Performance remained stable for juvenile delinquency and TPR cases but declined for the remaining case types: criminal; family-limited divorce; family law-other; and CINA non-shelter. Additional analyses were undertaken by the court to better understand the decline in performance and those results were shared with court leadership and with department managers.

According to the Maryland Judiciary, Montgomery County Circuit Court along with four other circuit courts in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George's County are considered 'large' in size given their number of presiding judges. In FY2016, Montgomery County Circuit Court ranked or tied for first in the processing of criminal, family law-other, and TPR cases compared to the other large jurisdictions (see Table 10). The court's civil, family law-limited divorce, and CINA cases ranked second or third in case processing performance when compared with the other large jurisdictions. The court ranked fourth in the processing of juvenile delinquency cases. It is important to note that some of the differences between jurisdictions are rather minimal, and jurisdictions may vary in their case processing procedures, which may ultimately contribute to differences in performance. The court will continue to examine its case processing performance on a quarterly basis engaging in discussions routinely to minimize any gaps in case processing performance.

Table 10. Percentage of Cases Closed within the Time Standard by Case Type: Montgomery County vs. Four 'Large' Jurisdictions, FY2016

Rank	Civil, General (548 days)	Civil Foreclosures (730 days)	Limited Divorce (730 days)	Family Law- Other (365 days)	Criminal
1	Anne Arundel (99%)	Anne Arundel (100%)	Anne Arundel (100%)	Montgomery (94%)	Montgomery (92%)
2	Montgomery (98%)	Baltimore City (97%)	Prince George's (100%)	Anne Arundel (91%)	Prince George's (92%)
3	Baltimore City (97%)	Montgomery (96%)	Montgomery (98%)	Prince George (89%)	Baltimore County (89%)
4	Prince George's (93%)	Prince George's (93%)	Baltimore County (84%)	Baltimore County (86%)	Anne Arundel (87%)
5	Baltimore County (92%)	Baltimore County (92%)	Baltimore City (79%)	Baltimore City (83%)	Baltimore City (79%)

Table 10. Percentage of Cases Closed within the Time Standard by Case Type: Montgomery County vs. Four 'Large' Jurisdictions, FY2016, Continued

Rank	Juvenile Delinquency	CINA Shelter	CINA Non-Shelter	TPR
1	Anne Arundel (100%)	Anne Arundel (100%)	Anne Arundel (100%)	Montgomery (100%)
2	Prince George's (99%)	Prince George's (99%)	Prince George's (100%)	Anne Arundel (96%)
3	Baltimore City (96%)	Montgomery (77%)	Montgomery (92%)	Baltimore County (69%)
4	Montgomery (95%)	Baltimore City (71%)	Baltimore County (64%)	Baltimore City (63%)
5	Baltimore County (93%)	Baltimore County (58%)		Prince George's (43%)

Note: Figures are obtained from the Maryland Judiciary's statewide case assessment report except for Montgomery County Circuit Court's figures, which are based on the performance of their entire complement of terminations for a particular fiscal year as opposed to a random sample of 500 terminations per case type.

*This document was prepared by
the Montgomery County Circuit
Court. If you have any questions
about its content, please contact
240-777-9100.*