



King County

Department of Judicial Administration

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King County Superior Court

Criminal Department Statistical Report

October 2021

Department of Judicial Administration

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Criminal Statistics Summary

NOTE: Washington State Supreme Court orders related to the coronavirus pandemic, beginning March 2020, affect the statistics for the foreseeable future.

- **Filings**

As shown in the first chart on page 4, the monthly filings vary considerably from month to month. A total of 396 criminal cases were filed in October 2021. Of the 396 cases filed, 49% were MRJC cases. The average filing volume in 2021 is 388 cases per month, compared with 535, 562, 548, 523, 563, and 515 cases per month 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively.

- **Resolutions**

Like the monthly filings, the number of criminal cases resolved per month also varies from month to month (monthly resolution pattern is shown on page 4). The number of resolutions in October 2021 was 434 cases. Of the 434 cases resolved, 43% were MRJC cases. The average resolution volume in 2021 is 470 cases per month, compared with 549, 506, 525, 481, 494, and 352 cases per month in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 respectively. The number of resolutions in recent months has been impacted by the State v. Blake case, which resulted in dismissal of a number of drug possession cases.

- **Pending Caseload**

At the end of October 2021, the active pending criminal caseload was 5,210 cases, including criminal RALJ cases. Of the 5,210 pending criminal cases, 43% were MRJC cases. The breakdown of the 5,210 pending cases by crime category was: homicide (n=221), sex crime (n=560), robbery (n=252), aggravated assault (n=1,019), burglary/theft (n=1,652), motor vehicle theft (n=184), controlled substances – non-drug court (n=355), drug court (n=162), other felonies (n=773), and RALJ (n=32).

- **Age of Pending Cases**

The median age (age for half of the pending cases) of pending cases is shown in Table 6. The median age of all active pending cases (excluding RALJ) at the end of October 2021 was 272 days. At the end of October 2021, 2,486 non-drug court cases and 133 drug court cases remained as active (unresolved) more than nine months since filing. Table 6 shows the number of active pending cases within pre-defined age intervals.

Conclusion: The number of new cases filed in October was low at 396 cases. The average number of criminal cases filed per month is 388 cases in 2021. The resolution pace exceeded the filing pace in the same time period, with an average of 470 resolutions per month in 2021. The pending caseload (including RALJ) for both SEA and the MRJC was 5,210 cases at the end of October 2021. About 43% of the total pending criminal caseload were MRJC cases.

Terminology

Age of Pending Case

Time (days) from filing to resolution, less suspense time if applicable.

Age of Resolved Case

Time (days) from filing to resolution, less suspense time if applicable.

End Pending

Number of pending cases at the end of reporting period.

Net Change in Pending

The change in number of pending cases (end pending minus previous pending).

Pending Case

A case is defined as pending if it is unresolved and not on suspense status.

Previous Pending

Number of pending cases at the beginning of reporting period.

Reactivated Case

A case returns to active from suspense status during the reporting period.

Resolution

A case is resolved if all issues in the complaint are fully adjudicated. However, a drug court case is reported as resolved only when dispositive document is also filed (completed).

Resolution Category

Five resolution categories are used to report resolution of criminal cases: jury trial (CVJV, AQJV), non-jury trial (CVCT, AQCT), guilty plea (GP, GPAT, GPJT), dismissal (DSM), and other (all other resolution codes). For criminal RALJ cases, the resolution categories are: RALJ decision (CDTA, CDTM, CDTR), dismissal (DSRM), and others (any other resolution codes).

Suspended Case

A case is placed in suspense status (removing from active) during the reporting period.

Suspense Status

A case is said to be on suspense status if it is on warrant or appeal.

Suspense Time

Time (days) a case is on suspense status.

Figure 1. Number of Criminal Filings, Resolutions and Pending Caseload by Month

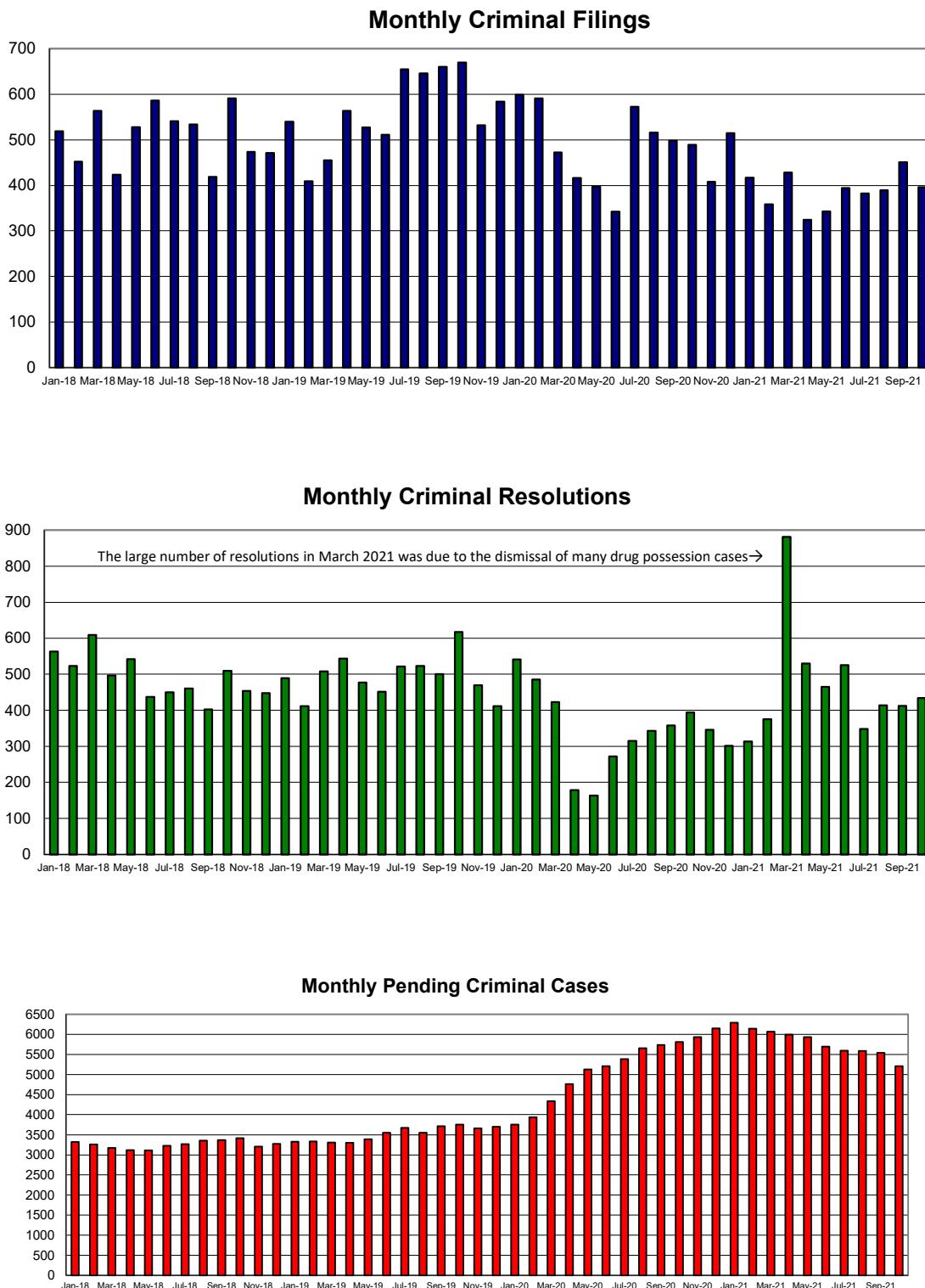


Figure 2. Crime Category as a Percentage of Total Filings by Year

