



Reckless Driving Initiative

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE JULY 2025

Ordinance Enforcement Division

- ▶ 5 ACAs Assigned
- ▶ Primary Assignments:
 - ▶ Prosecution of Municipal Violations:
Municipal Court
 - ▶ Staff 3 Municipal Court Branches
 - ▶ Thousands of case filings each year
 - ▶ Appeals/ Jury Demands to Circuit Court
 - ▶ Property Return Cases

Municipal Violations

- ▶ OWIs / Impaired Driving
- ▶ Reckless Driving
- ▶ Disorderly Conduct
- ▶ Assault & Battery
- ▶ Theft
- ▶ Illegal Dumping
- ▶ Prostitution
- ▶ Vandalism
- ▶ Resist/Obstruct Officer
- ▶ Building & Zoning Violations
- ▶ Chronic Nuisance Premises
- ▶ Animal Violations
- ▶ Alcohol/Tobacco License Violations
- ▶ Misuse of Emergency Telephone Numbers
- ▶ Indecent Exposure
- ▶ Traffic Code Violations

Reckless Driving Initiative

- ▶ April 2024: Renewed Focus on Reckless Driving
- ▶ New strategy:
 - ▶ No reductions on provable cases of reckless driving
 - ▶ Prosecute all Reckless Driving to fullest extent of law
 - ▶ Greater utility of criminal charge under Wis. Stat. § 346.65(1)(b)
- ▶ October 2024: New Strategy Announced to Community

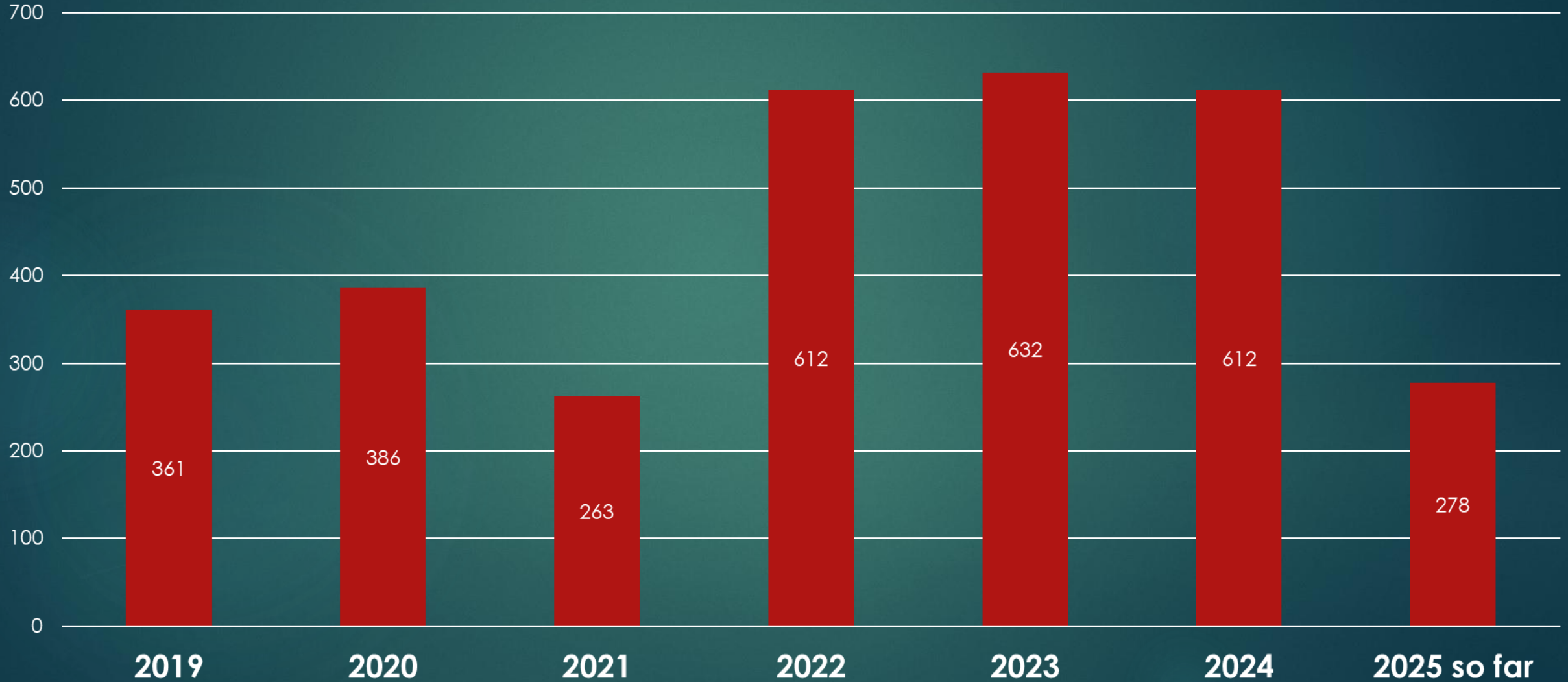
Elevated Review and Training

- ▶ Hard line on reckless driving requires investment in quality control
- ▶ Officer Training
 - ▶ Provided training on types of evidence/reporting required
- ▶ Elevated review of all reckless driving cases by OED attorneys
 - ▶ 1. Formal Sufficiency of Charging Document
 - ▶ 2. Sufficiency of Evidence
 - ▶ Must be Provable by Clear and Convincing Evidence

Case Review Statistics

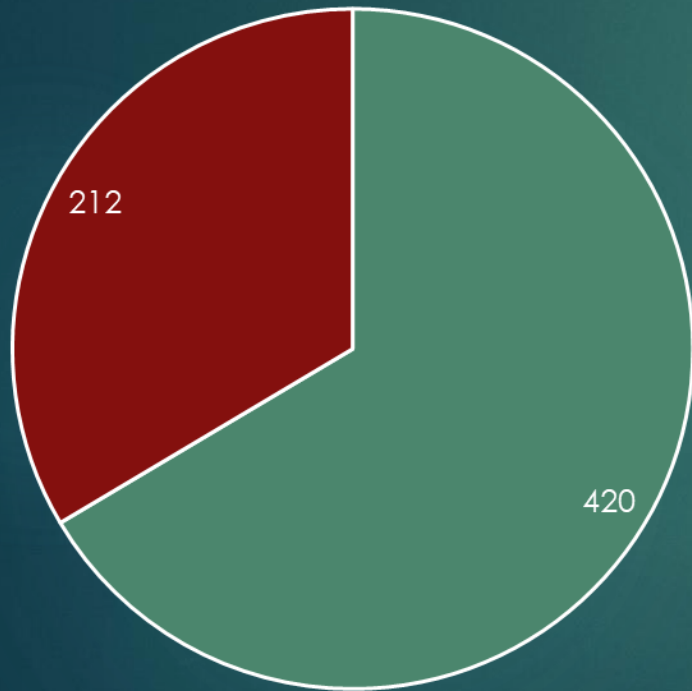
- ▶ Review began January 2025
- ▶ # Cases Reviewed: 301
- ▶ # Cases Rejected: 23

Total Reckless Driving First Offense Filings per Year



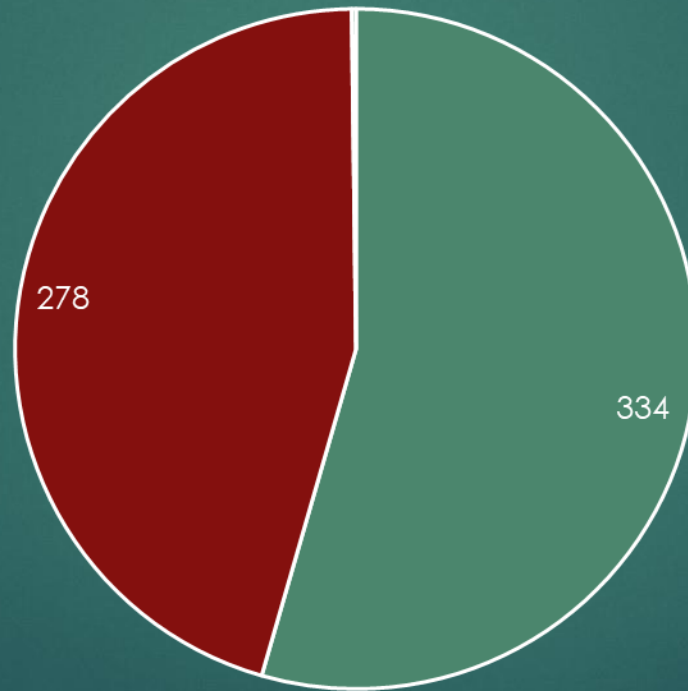
Case Resolutions: Default Judgments

2023



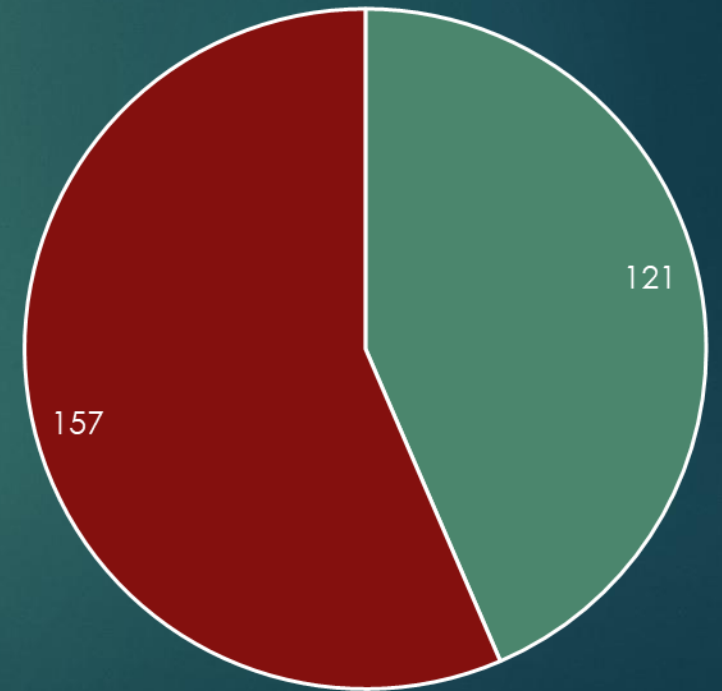
□ Default

2024



□ Default

2025



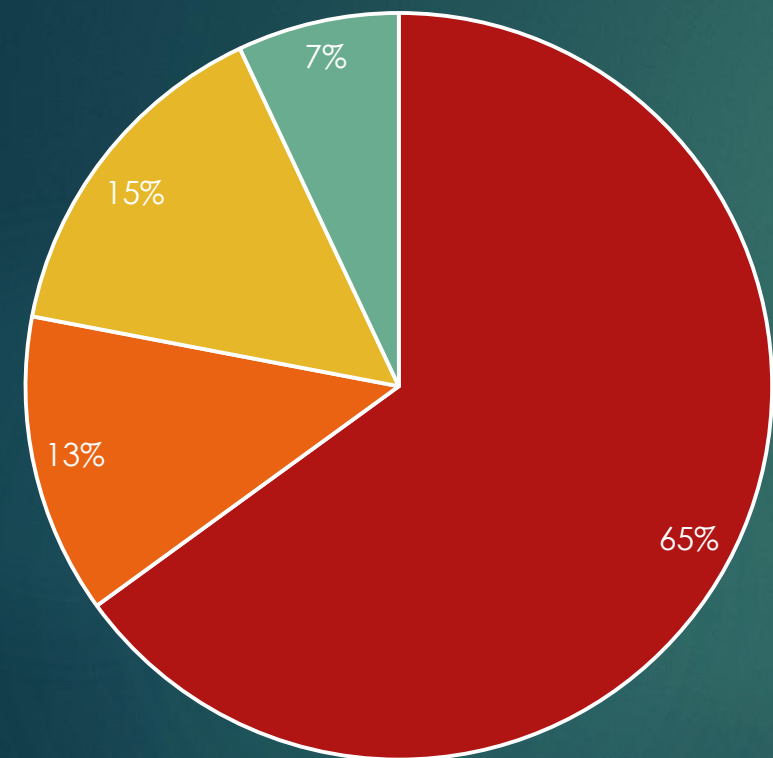
□ Default

Case Resolutions by Year (%)

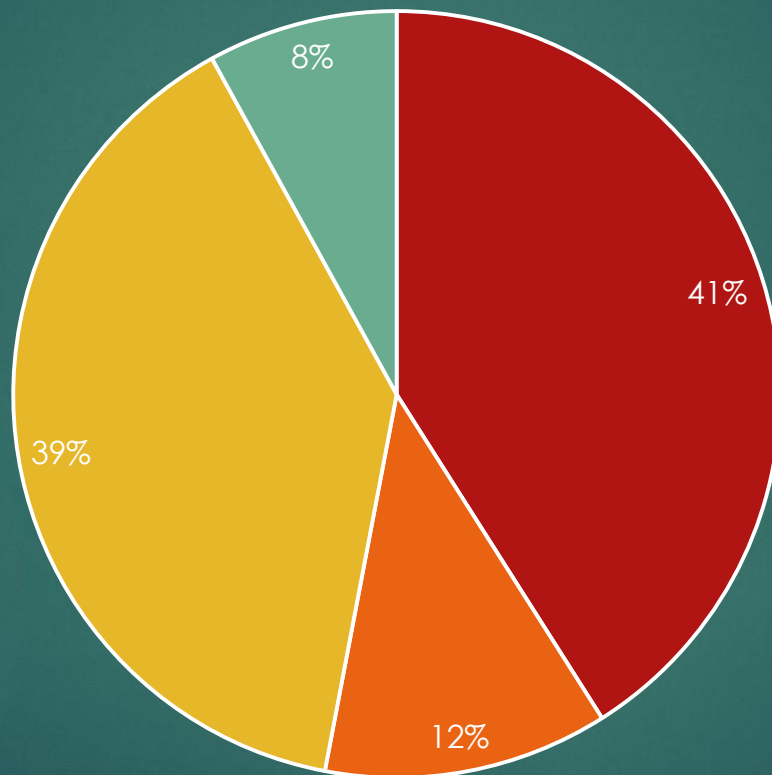
2023

2024

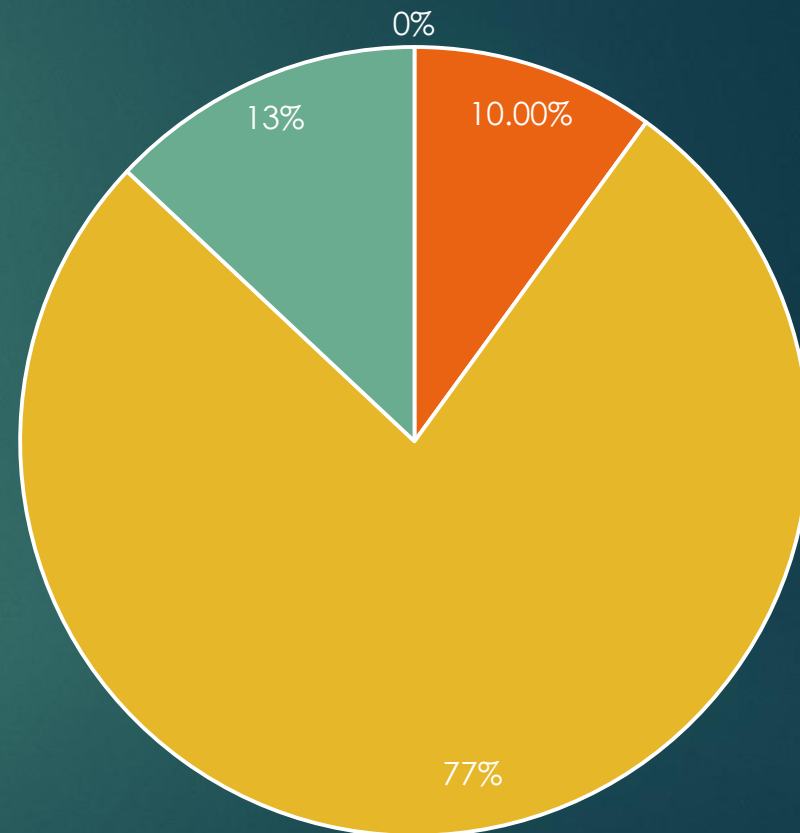
2025



- Reduced/Amended
- Dismissed
- Convicted as Charged
- Warrant Status



- Reduced/Amended
- Dismissed
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- Warrant Status



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- Dismissed
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Questions/Comments



Notable Statutes

- ▶ Wis. Stat. § 346.62(2)
 - ▶ No person may endanger the safety of any person or property by the negligent operation of a vehicle.
- ▶ Wis. Stat. § 346.65 Penalty for violating sections 346.62 to 346.64
 - ▶ (1)(b) May be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both for a 2nd or subsequent violation.

RECKLESS DRIVING ELEMENTS

1. The defendant operated a vehicle on a highway.
2. The defendant operated a vehicle in a manner constituting criminal negligence.
3. The defendant's criminal negligence endangered the safety of any person or property.

CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE Means:

- ▶ the defendant's operation of a vehicle created a risk of death or great bodily harm; and
- ▶ the risk of death or great bodily harm was unreasonable and substantial; and
- ▶ the defendant should have been aware that (his) (her) operation of a vehicle created the unreasonable and substantial risk of death or great bodily harm.

Current Reckless Driving 1st Penalty

You are Notified to Pay or Appear

Appearance Required: ☐ NO ☒ YES
Date: **AUG-20-2025** Time: **08:30 AM**

MILWAUKEE CITY MUNICIPAL COURT
951 N JAMES LOVELL ST
MILWAUKEE, WI 53233 (414) 286-3800
[HTTP://CITY.MILWAUKEE.GOV/MUNICOURT](http://city.milwaukee.gov/municourt)

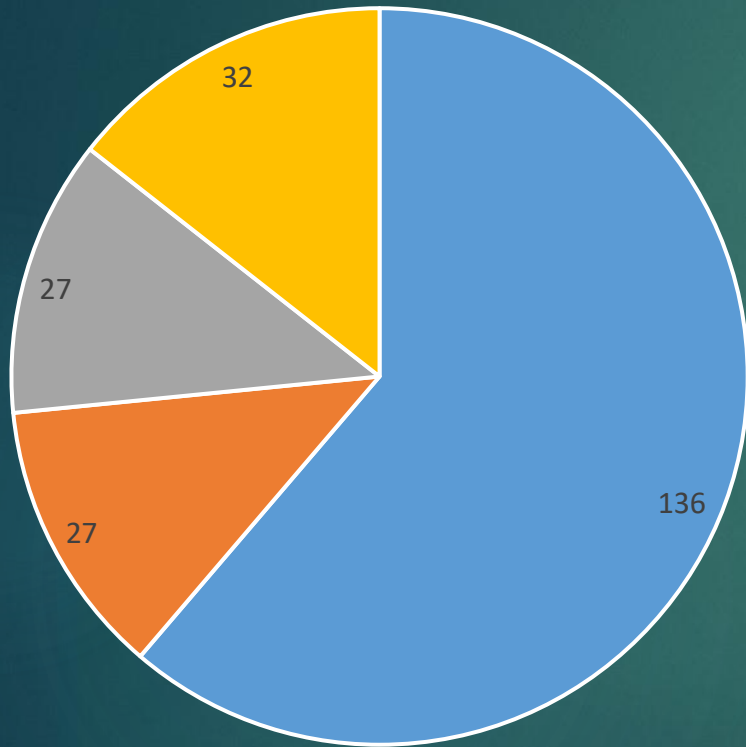
Form No.	Version CT	CITATION NO.		
MV4017	0901	[REDACTED]		
Estimated Points	DEPOSIT	Cash-	Card	
6	\$923.00	Y	Y	
Court Use: DA	N			

Potential Bases for Dismissal

- ▶ Officer fails to appear @ trial
- ▶ Material citizen witness fails to appear/ refuses to testify
- ▶ New Exculpatory Evidence
 - ▶ Re: Identification
 - ▶ Re: Elements of Offense
- ▶ Suppression of Evidence (pursuant to motion to suppress)
- ▶ Exclusion of Evidence (pursuant to Ct. ruling re: admissibility)
- ▶ Part of larger plea deal

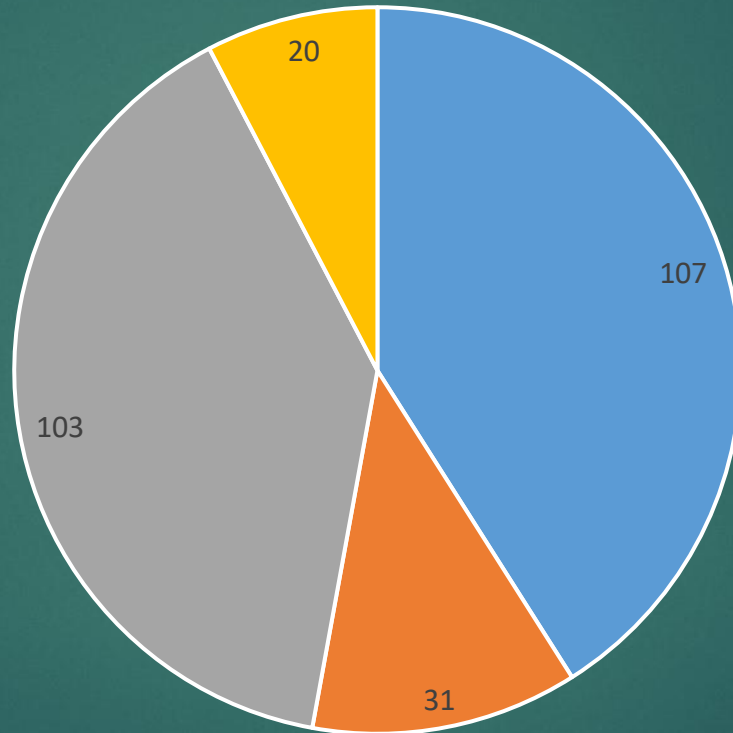
Case Resolutions by Year

2023



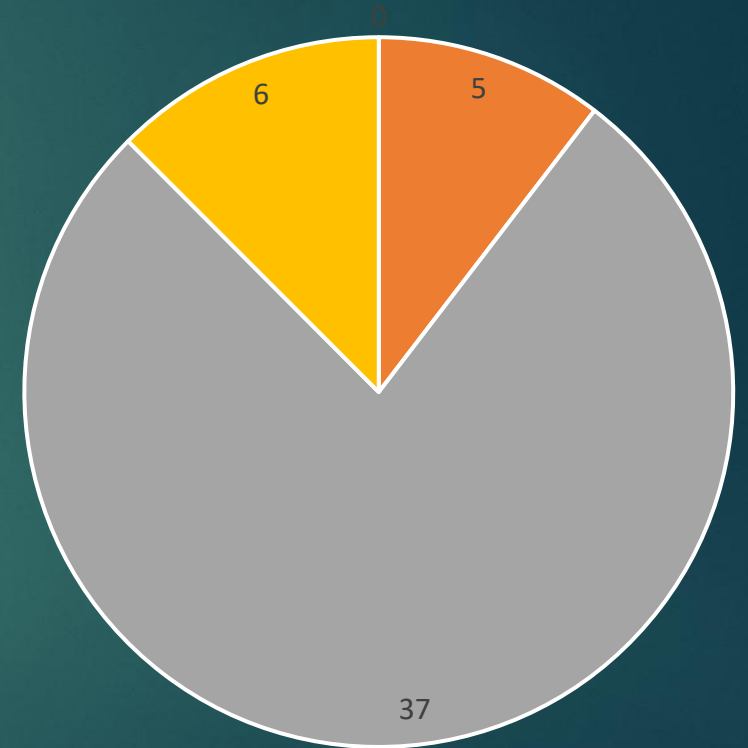
■ Reduced/Amended
■ Dismissed
■ Convicted as Charged
■ Warrant Status

2024



■ Reduced/Amended
■ Dismissed
■ Convicted as Charged
■ Warrant status

2025 so far



■ Reduced/Amended
■ Dismissed
■ Convicted as Charged
■ Warrant