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DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT CRIMINAL CASES FILED CY 2023-2025 INCLUDING FELONY CHARGES STATEWIDE

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By

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Statistics Request Overall Description

On March 6, 2026, Research and Statistics received a request for a report of the number of cases filed statewide during Calendar Years (CY) 2023-2025 including felony charges, and for the approximate number of unique individuals who were defendant among any of these cases.

CourtNet, which provides a summary of court cases statewide, was queried for case and defendant party information for Circuit Criminal (Case Number Type *CR*) and District Criminal (Case Number Types *F*, *M*, and *T*) filed statewide from 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2025.

For any cases with incomplete defendant identification data (Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Drivers License Number, and Criminal History Key), additional queries were run to identify any cases cross referenced with *Grand Jury* Cross Reference Type (Cross Reference Type Code *GDJ*). If the cross-referenced case included any of the missing defendant identification data, the missing fields were updated in the original case's query results. The most valid identifier for each case is identified according to the following hierarchy, wherein a lower number is preferable to a higher number:

1. Criminal History Key
2. Social Security Number
3. Driver's License Number
4. Name with date of birth
5. Name without date of birth
6. Generic Identifier (Expunged, Record Destruction, John Doe)

Each case was classified accordingly so as to indicate the quality of the defendant's identification for that case.

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Statistical Analysis Considerations:

- The data is a snapshot in time as of the date of the query (3/9/2026).
- A case may contain one or more charges.
- Many, but not all, charges heard in Circuit Court were previously heard in District Court and indicted by the grand jury. As such, the sum of charges in District and Circuit Court will count some indicted charges twice and totals from the two jurisdictions are presented separately.
- When a case is partially expunged – one or more charges are expunged but at least one charge is not expunged – the data identifying the type of offense is lost. If a partially expunged case that originally included felony charges has all of the felony charges expunged, it is not included in this report as the felony charges cannot be identified.
- If a case is fully expunged – all charges within the case are expunged – the charge information persists, and felony-level charges may be identified, allowing these cases to be included in this report. However, since full expungement removes the defendant information, these cases are identified only by generic identifiers and do not allow for distinct counts of individuals who are defendant in multiple cases.

Statistical Report

The report consists of three of cross-tabulations. The first table includes counts of cases only. The second table includes the approximate counts of distinct individuals who are defendant in any of the reported cases. The last table includes total counts of individuals for each year among both Circuit and District Court cases – the total not included on the previous table.

Counts of Cases

	Jurisdiction/Year Filed							
	District Court				Circuit Court			
Identification	2023	2024	2025	District Total	2023	2024	2025	Circuit Total
History Key	47,439	46,455	44,962	138,856	33,582	32,252	31,283	97,117
SSN	145	81	26	252	100	34	5	139
DLN	49	32	19	100	16	5	2	21
Name & DOB	3	1	0	4	0	4	0	6
Name w/o DOB	133	111	134	378	66	56	76	198
Generic Identifier	1,375	895	434	2,704	780	365	131	1,276
Total	49,144	47,575	45,575	142,294	34,544	32,716	31,497	98,757

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Statistical Report

Approximate Counts of Individuals as Defendants Among Previously Reported Cases

Identification Group		Jurisdiction/Year Filed								
		District Court				Circuit Court				Grand Total
		2023	2024	2025	District Total	2023	2024	2025	Circuit Total	
Defendant Identifier	Criminal History Key	38,922	38,492	37,640	100,987	28,453	27,908	27,337	74,811	116,405
	Social Security Number	145	77	25	247	99	33	4	136	348
	Driver's License Number	49	32	19	100	16	5	0	21	120
	Name with Date of Birth	3	1	0	4	0	4	2	6	8
	Name without Date of Birth	130	105	132	366	61	55	76	191	551
	Total Defendants Identified	39,249	38,707	37,816	101,704	28,629	28,005	27,419	75,165	117,432
Generic Identifier	Additional Cases with Generic Identifier	1,375	895	434	2,704	780	365	131	1,276	--

Approximate Counts of Individuals as Defendants Among Cases: Circuit Court + District Court Total per CY Filed, Excludes Generic Identifier

Year Filed	History Key	SSN	DLN	Name with DOB	Name w/o DOB	Total
2023	47,787	219	64	3	189	48,262
2024	47,244	103	37	5	159	47,548
2025	46,536	28	19	2	206	46,791
Total	116,405	348	120	8	551	117,432

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Data Fields		
Database	Column Name	Description
Courtnet	Case Filing Date / Year Filed	The Date on which cases are filed is reported using Calendar Year (January 1 st through December 31 st).
	Jurisdiction	The jurisdiction in which a case was filed – Circuit or District Court. For any case in which an initial hearing happens in District Court and the matter is then indicted by Grand Jury to Circuit Court, the same incident will be represented by a separate case once in each jurisdiction. This does not apply to all cases – many District cases are not indicted to Circuit Court and some Circuit Court cases are directly indicted on information without a preceding District Court case. As such, the sum of case counts from each jurisdiction does not represent a count of distinct incidents nor does a count of cases from either jurisdiction represent a complete count of all incidents.
	Identification	The data point used to uniquely identify this defendant, according to a hierarchy of validity. Each defendant is identified by the most valid data point available according to this hierarchy, using the identifier with the lowest numeric value that is present for the case’s defendant party: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criminal History Key* 2. Social Security Number 3. Driver’s License Number 4. Name with date of birth 5. Name without date of birth 6. Generic Identifier (Expunged, Record Destruction, John Doe)
	Name	Identifies the name of the defendant party in a case.
	SSN	Identifies the Social Security Number of the defendant party in a case.
	DOB	Identifies the date of birth of the defendant party in a case.
	History Key	A system generated number that utilizes the other data points indicated in this hierarchy to match defendants across cases as part of the process used by the AOC Department of Records to conduct background checks.
	Drivers License #	Identifies the Driver’s License Number of the defendant party in a case.
	Cases	A count of distinct cases. Each case may have one or more charges and an individual may be defendant in more than one case within a period of time.

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STATEWIDE**

Data Fields

	Individuals / Defendants	The count of defendants included in this report is a statistical approximation using the method described above of the number of unique individuals who are defendant in at least one of the cases reported.
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Disclaimer Associated with KCOJ/AOC Database(s) and Element(s)

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DISCLAIMER FOR COURTNET

Information received from KYCourts/CourtNet is subject to change(s), reprogramming, modification(s) of format and availability at the direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and may not at any particular moment reflect the true status of court cases due to ordinary limitation(s), delay(s) or error(s) in the system’s operation. The KYCourts/CourtNet database is not a real-time system. All datasets are a snapshot of case data at the time a query is run. Case counts are not counts of individuals as some persons may have multiple cases.

The AOC disclaims any warranties as to the validity of the information obtained from KYCourts/CourtNet. The recipient is solely responsible for verifying information received from KYCourts/CourtNet through the cross-referencing of official court records. The AOC shall not be liable to the recipient, or to any third party using the system or information obtained therefrom, for any damages whatsoever arising out of the use of KYCourts/CourtNet.