



The above chart shows the number of new cases assigned to the Office of State Public Defender (OPD) by case type, from fiscal year (FY) 2009-2015. In this time the total number of cases has grown from 28,417 to 33,634.

Lower Court & Criminal Cases

From FY 2009-2015, the number of lower court cases, including municipal, justices' and city courts, has increased 14.9% from 18,109 to 20,814. In that same period criminal cases have decreased from 21.6% to 19.9% of all cases.

Dependent Neglect Cases

In that same time period dependent neglect cases have seen an increase of 89.3% from 2,073 to 3,925 cases, from 7.3% to 11.7% of all cases.

The data for this chart is from an annual report from OPD to the legislature, which can be found here: <http://publicdefender.mt.gov/publications.asp>