

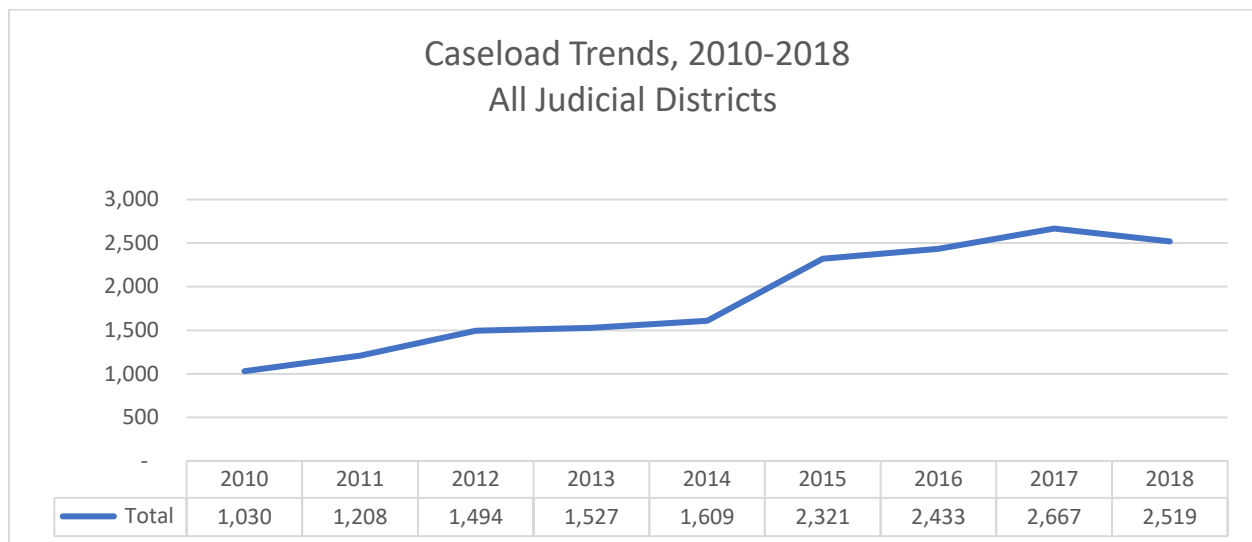


HJR 48/49: CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Trends in Child Abuse and Neglect Court Cases

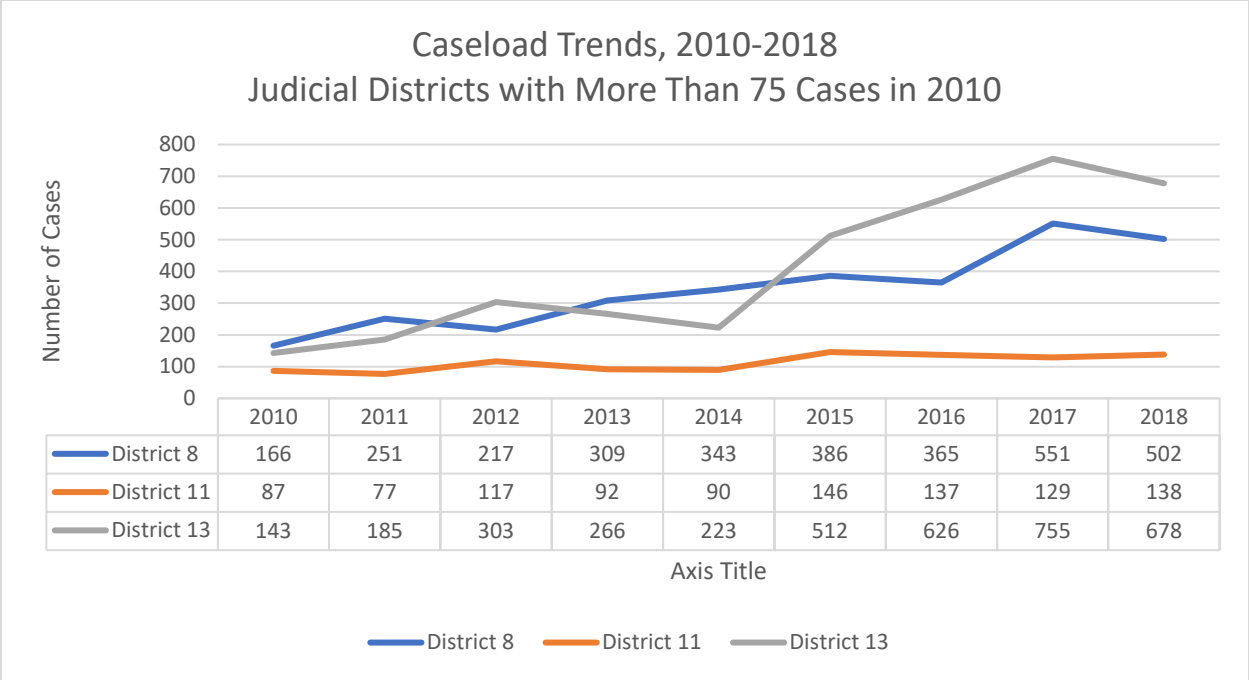
The Office of the Court Administrator compiles information on the number of child abuse and neglect cases filed in district courts across the state each year.

The charts in this document indicate the trends in caseloads since 2010, both statewide and in selected judicial districts that had relatively high caseloads in 2010. In the court system, each child involved in the system is counted as a separate case, even if the child is part of a sibling group.

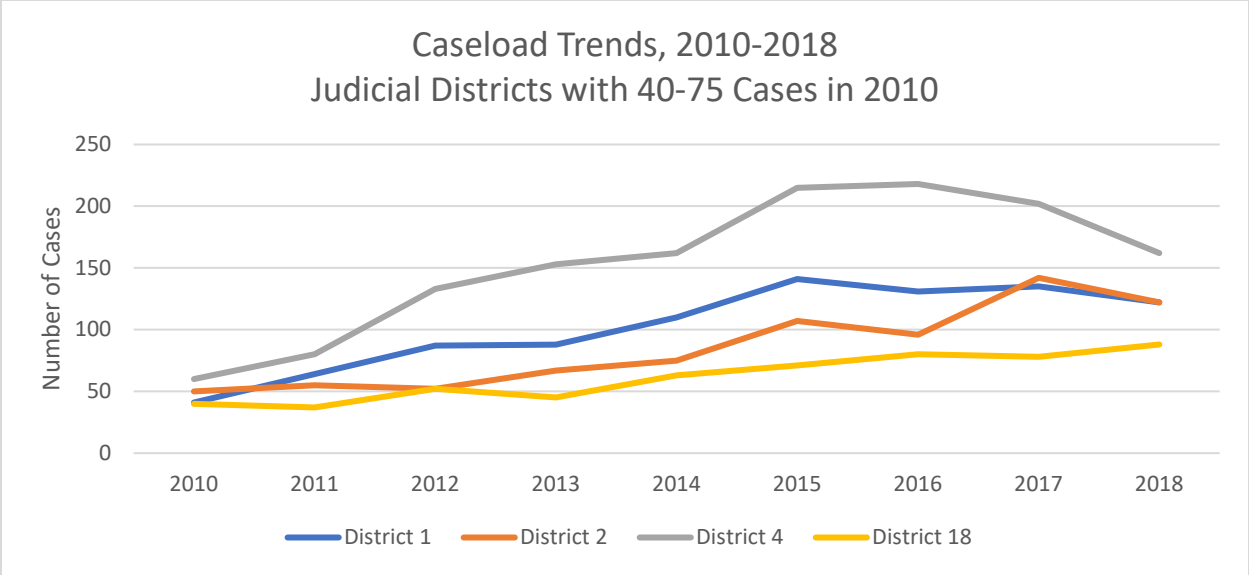


As indicated in the chart above, filings in the state's 22 judicial districts increased from 1,030 in 2010 to 2,519 in 2018 -- marking a 144% increase in the number of cases over that nine-year period. The number of cases increased relatively sharply in 2015, rising above 2,000 for the first time. Cases have never fallen below that level since.

The number of cases in 2018 declined slightly from the high of 2,667 in 2017, but has remained well above the 2,000 mark.



The 8th Judicial District consists of Cascade County, while the 11th Judicial District encompasses Flathead County and the 13th Judicial District covers Yellowstone County.



The 1st Judicial District consists of Broadwater and Lewis and Clark counties. The 2nd Judicial District consists of Butte-Silver Bow County. The 4th Judicial District is made up of Missoula and Mineral counties, while the 18th Judicial District covers Gallatin County.