



PROBATE COURT STATISTICS

PRESENTED BY JUDGE SARAH R. DUFF



FILING TRENDS FOR PROBATE COURT 2015-2024

**OVERALL 32% INCREASE IN NEW
CASE FILINGS FROM 2020-2024**

Source: Office of Court Administration
Workload Analysis, March 10, 2025

Calendar Year	Probate Filings	Guardian-ship Filings	Mental Health Filings
15	2,092	374	1,345
16	2,303	421	1,429
17	2,609	438	2,276
18	3,063	499	2,670
19	2,437	540	2,446
20	2,249	483	2,457
21	2,524	514	2,775
22	2,506	603	2,641
23	2,333	575	2,663
24	2,441	510	2,868
Trend			
Average 23-24	2,387	543	2,766
Average 20-24	2,411	537	2,681
Change 23-24	5%	-11%	8%
Change 20-24	9%	6%	17%
Change 15-24	17%	36%	113%

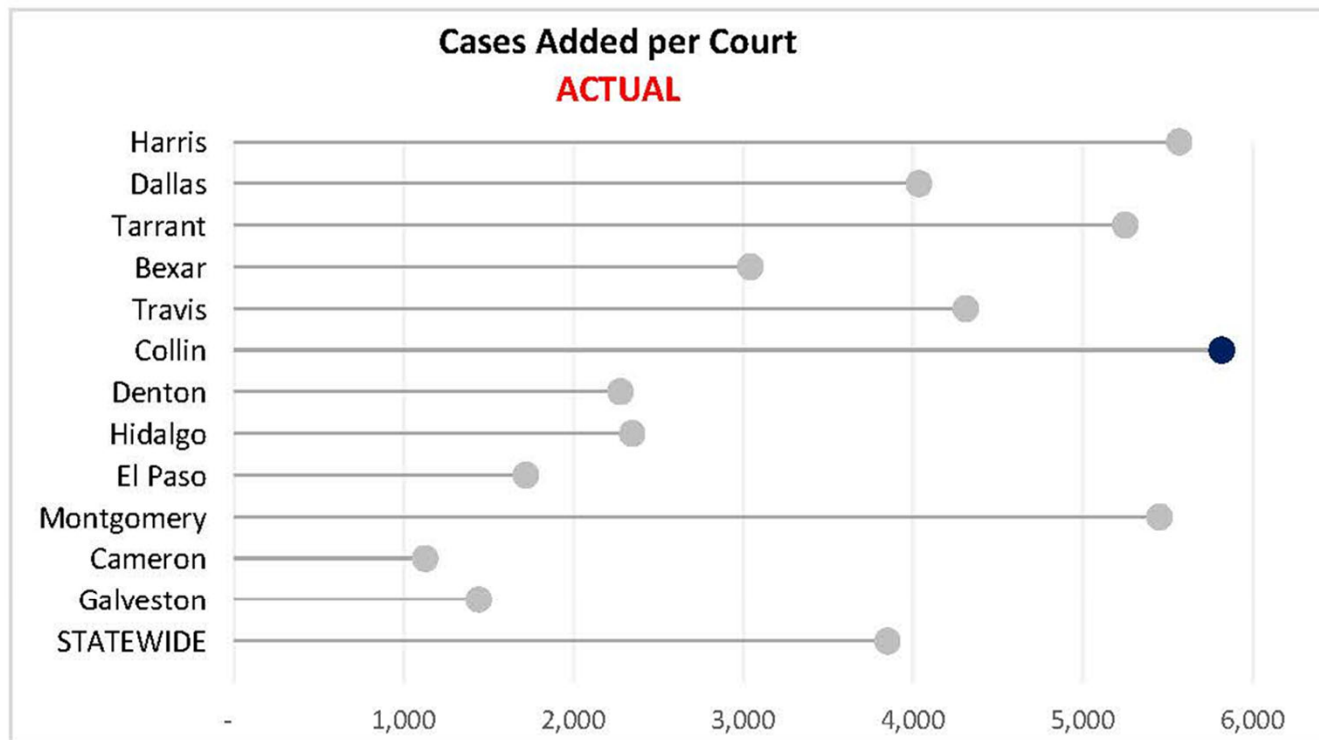
Source: Office of Court Administration

Statutory Probate Courts
Calendar Year 2024
(Counties Listed in Population Order)

ACTUAL

	2023 Population	Statutory Probate Courts	CASES ADDED				Total per Court
			Probate	Guardianship	Mental Health	Total	
Harris	4,835,125	5	10,630	1,104	16,101	27,835	5,567
Dallas	2,606,358	3	5,307	1,233	5,566	12,106	4,035
Tarrant	2,182,947	2	4,520	401	5,577	10,498	5,249
Bexar	2,087,679	3	6,048	838	2,236	9,122	3,041
Travis	1,334,961	2	5,123	1,405	2,091	8,619	4,310
Collin	1,195,359	1	2,441	510	2,868	5,819	5,819
Denton	1,007,703	2	2,585	544	1,422	4,551	2,276
Hidalgo	898,471	1	1,603	349	393	2,345	2,345
El Paso	869,880	2	1,770	338	1,330	3,438	1,719
Montgomery	711,354	1	2,194	568	2,689	5,451	5,451
Cameron	426,710	1	547	48	531	1,126	1,126
Galveston	361,744	1	1,146	98	197	1,441	1,441
STATEWIDE		24	43,914	7,436	41,001	92,351	3,848

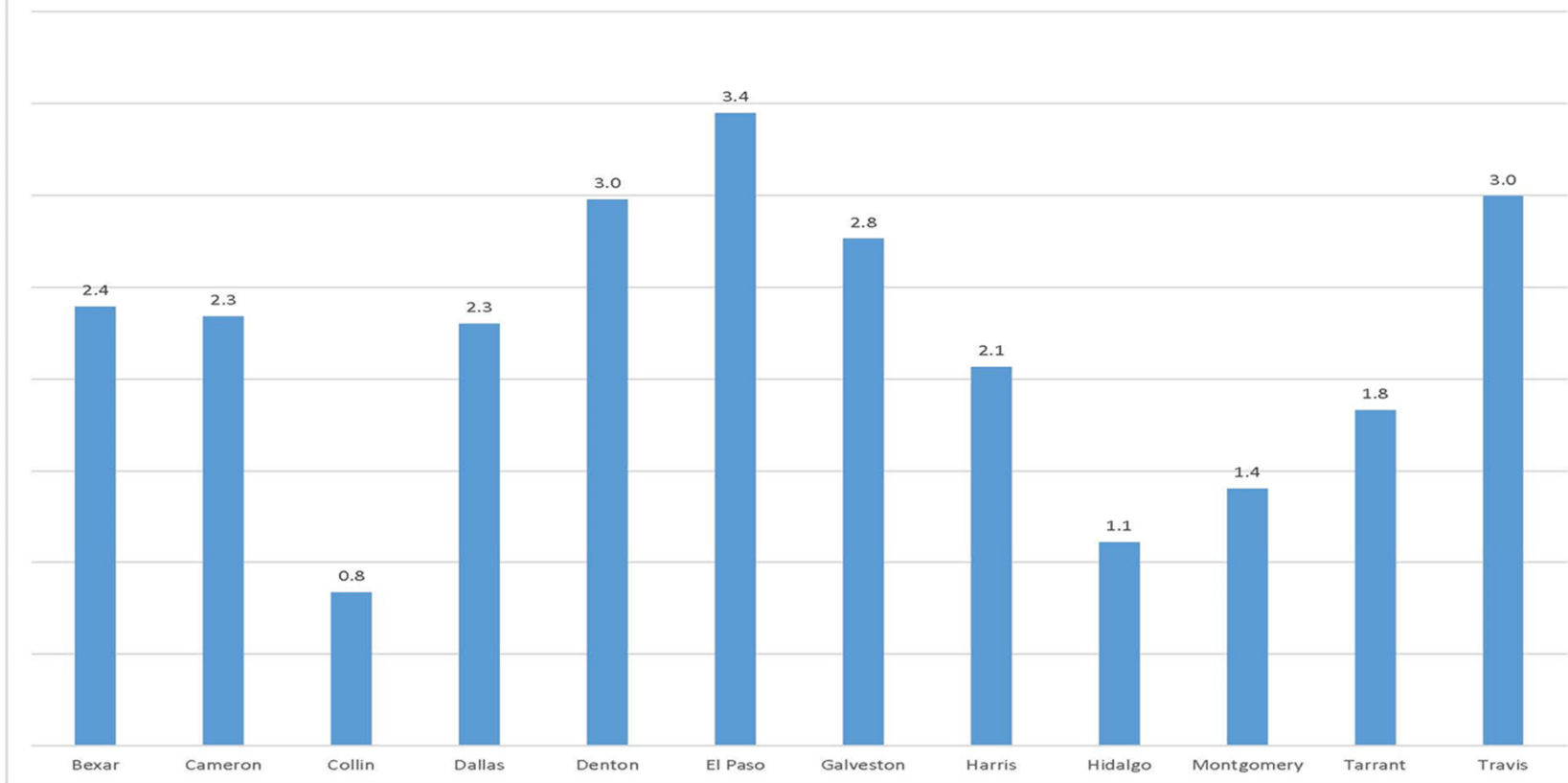
Data on dispositions and pending cases are not collected for probate and mental health cases.



Source: Office of Court Administration

Prepared 3/10/2025

Probate Judges (elected and employee) per Million Residents



County Courts at Law Workload Analysis Collin County with Probate & Mental Health

This jurisdiction is currently served by 7 county courts at law and 1 statutory probate court.

County	Estimated FTEs Needed ¹	Total Filings in 2024	Change in Filings 2023-2024	Change in Filings 2020-2024	Clearance Rate 2024	Clearance Rate 2020-2024	Date Last Court Created
Collin	11.5	24,340	6%	33%	98%	99%	2003 (Statutory Probate Court) 2015 (County Court at Law)
		Statewide Totals, Change in Filings & Clearance Rates	3%	10%	102%	100%	

Workload per Judicial Officer	Current	+ 1 FTE	+ 2 FTEs	+3 FTEs
Estimated Need	11.5			
Existing Resources ²	8.75	9.75	10.75	11.75
Workload per Judicial Officer ³	1.32	1.18	1.07	0.98

- Based on the application of case weights to filings for **January 2024 to December 2024** as reported to the Office of Court Administration. Details regarding case weights can be found in "[Measuring Current Judicial Workload in Texas, 2023](#)," National Center for State Courts.
- Elected judges as of 3/10/2025. Child protection and child support associate judges based on child protection or child support case filings during the time frame listed above. Other personnel based on survey responses from local jurisdictions.
- The Judicial Needs Assessment Committee adopted a rounding convention that is based upon the workload per judicial officer and puts judicial officers in counties of all sizes on equal footing. Workload per judicial officer is calculated by dividing the total judicial officer need in each county by the number of funded judicial positions. **A court is deemed to have an appropriate number of judicial officers if the workload per judicial officers is less than 1.14 FTE.** According to the rounding convention, when the workload per judicial officer is greater than 1.15 FTE, there is a need for one or more additional judicial positions. The estimated number of judicial officer positions needed is based on the number of judicial officers that brings each county as close to the 1.15 threshold as possible, rounding to the nearest .5 FTE position. Many states have adopted a workload per judicial officer threshold of 1.10; however, JNAC chose to go the more conservative route of adopting a 1.15 workload per judicial officer threshold.

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Definitions of Key Data Elements – County Courts at Law

- **Estimated FTEs Needed** – This figure is the result of the application of OCA’s case weights, which were developed in 2023, to case filings over one year from January 2024 – December 2024. The weighted caseload is an objective standard used to estimate judicial need. If the estimated total FTEs needed in the county exceed the reported actual FTEs, it would indicate a need for additional judicial resources.
- **% Current FTEs State Funded** – Some courts employ associate judges and/or magistrates to assist with the caseload. These individuals assist with the workload and count toward the total judicial FTEs in the county. This percentage provides a picture of how much the county is contributing to this judicial function.
- **Actual Reported FTEs** – The number of elected judges, as well as any county- or OCA-employed associate judges or magistrates serving the district courts.
- **Change in Filings** – The percentage change in case filings. A trend of increasing filings could indicate that additional judicial resources may be needed.
- **Clearance Rate** – The clearance rate measures the relationship between dispositions and filings. A court should attempt to dispose of at least as many cases as are filed to avoid a backlog of cases. This would result in a 100% clearance rate. A clearance rate below 100% might indicate that the court is struggling to keep up with its caseload, which may be due to a lack of judicial resources, or other factors.



County Courts at Law Workload Analysis Collin County with Probate & Mental Health

Estimated Need

	Criminal	Civil	Family	Child Support	CPS	Juvenile	Probate and Guardianship	Mental Health	Total
Collin	6.03	2.52	-	-	-	-	1.48	1.48	11.51

Existing Associate Judge/Magistrate Resources

	Criminal	Civil	Family	OCA Child Support	OCA CPS	Juvenile	Probate and Guardianship	Mental Health	Total
Collin	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.75	-	0.75

Includes 1 county-employed associate judge. All county-funded positions adjusted to 0.75 per full FTE.

Net Need

	Criminal	Civil	Family	Child Support	CPS	Juvenile	Probate and Guardianship	Mental Health	Total	Existing CCL Judges	Existing Associate Judge/Magistrate Resources	Remaining Need
Collin	6.03	2.52	-	-	-	-	0.73	1.48	10.76	8	0.75	2.76

Actual Reported FTEs	9.00
Adjusted FTEs	8.75

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