



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT

# Annual Report 2024

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HINDS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
[www.hindsda.com](http://www.hindsda.com)

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## I. INTRODUCTION FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY

In 2024, the Hinds County District Attorney's Office remained steadfast in its mission to uphold justice, protect our communities, and ensure accountability under the law. Despite the challenges that have arisen over the past year, my commitment to the people of Hinds County has never wavered.

Over the last year, the dedicated men and women I have the privilege to lead as District Attorney have continued prosecuting violent offenders, seeking justice for victims, and implementing initiatives that reduce recidivism and promote rehabilitation. Our office has successfully resolved cases, brought offenders to trial, and worked alongside law enforcement to strengthen public safety. The numbers in this report tell the story of an office that remains focused, determined, and dedicated to pursuing justice.

The numbers in this report also tell a different story, our success has been due, in large part, to the desperately needed attorney and investigator positions provided during the 2022 and 2023 legislative sessions; however, many of those needed positions are set to expire. Therefore, it is unclear how this success story will ultimately end. It is my hope that our State leadership will continue to invest in law and order and public safety by making those positions permanent, enabling our office to continue to combat the wave of crime and violence that is plaguing our capitol city.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the office's work over the past year, examining prosecution trends, trial outcomes, and grand jury activity. It offers valuable insights into crime patterns and resource allocation. By reflecting on the progress made in 2024 and outlining strategic priorities for the future, this report reaffirms the District Attorney's Office's commitment to serving the people of Hinds County with integrity and accountability, with a focus on justice and fairness.

As we move forward, I reaffirm my commitment to the people of Hinds County. Our work is far from over, and we will continue to serve with integrity, fairness, and an unwavering focus on justice. Together, we will continue building safer communities across Hinds County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody E. Owens II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear "II" at the end.

Jody E. Owens, II  
Hinds County District Attorney

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Dispositions

#### a. Overview

- Total Number of Felony Cases Disposed: 1,135
- Total Number of Felony Counts: 1,794
- 21% increase from 2023 dispositions

#### b. Breakdown

- 50% Guilty Pleas
- 42% Diversion and alternative justice
- 1% Trial Verdicts
- 2% Revocations
- 5% Miscellaneous

#### c. Breakdown by Crime Type

- 33% Property Crimes
- 24% Crimes Against Persons
- 15% Firearm Offenses (Felon in possession/Possession of stolen)
- 14% Drug Offenses
- 8% Homicides
- 6% Sex Crimes & Crimes Against Children

#### d. Statutorily Defined Crimes of Violence: Mississippi Code Annotated section 97-3-2 designates certain offenses as “crimes of violence.”

- 40% of cases disposed of were statutory crimes of violence, a 20% increase from 2023

### 2. Diversion and Smart Justice

#### a. Pre-Trial Intervention

- Total Participants: 232
- New Participants: 102
- 40% more new participants compared to 2023
- Successful completions: 74

#### b. Drug Court Participants: 37

#### c. Expungements: 189

#### d. Non-Adjudicated Pleas: 78 individuals representing 103 Counts

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED

### 3. Grand Jury Activity

#### a. Indictments

- True bills: 1,698 Counts
- Individual Cases: 1,264
- No-bills: 438 Counts

#### b. Breakdown by type of crime

- 29% Property Crimes
- 20% Crimes Against Persons
- 18% Firearm Offenses (Felon in possession/Possession of stolen)
- 18% Drug Offenses
- 8% Homicides
- 7% Sex Crimes & Crimes Against Children

#### c. Statutorily Defined Crimes of Violence

- 30% of cases indicted were statutory violent crimes

### Top Ten Agencies for Indicted Counts

Law Enforcement Agency	Indicted Counts	Percentage of Total
1) Jackson Police Department	556	33%
2) Capitol Police Department	386	23%
3) Clinton Police Department	202	12%
4) MS Department of Revenue	150	9%
5) Hinds County Sheriff's Office	138	8%
6) Byram Police Department	76	5%
7) Office of the State Auditor	60	5%
8) MS Bureau of Narcotics	37	2%
9) Jackson State University	16	1%
10) Jackson Fire Department	16	1%

### **III. ABOUT THIS REPORT**

Throughout this report, data concerning felony cases and felony counts is presented; thus, to understand this report, it is essential to understand the difference between the two. A “case” refers to a criminal proceeding against an individual charged with one or more crimes and begins with an indictment. A “count” refers to the number of individual felonies (crimes) charged in an indictment. For example, if an individual holds up a convenience store and steals a car from the parking lot to escape capture, the result would be a single prosecution (or case) against an individual, charging two crimes (or counts), armed robbery and auto theft.

By providing a detailed breakdown of our office’s prosecutorial efforts, this report transparently accounts for our commitment to justice and public safety. It highlights our challenges and underscores our team's dedication and resilience in upholding the law. As we continue our mission into the coming year, this report reflects our accomplishments and provides a roadmap for the work ahead.

## IV. PROSECUTION REPORT

This section examines the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office’s resolution of felony cases in 2024, highlighting the office’s efforts to ensure timely resolutions, including trials, guilty pleas, diversion programs, and dismissals. It also outlines the distribution of felony cases by offense type and the office’s commitment to prioritizing the prosecution of violent crimes.

### A. Felony Dispositions

Resolving cases timely and efficiently is vital to ensure that justice is served while maintaining the integrity of the legal system. This process involves a balanced approach that focuses on victims’ rights, the constitutionally protected rights of criminal defendants, and the community’s safety while preventing unnecessary delays in the cause of justice. By moving the docket forward responsibly, the District Attorney’s Office upholds due process, reduces case backlogs, and effectively allocates resources to deliver timely and just outcomes.

#### i. Total Number of Cases Resolved

In 2024, the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office resolved 1,135 cases encompassing 1,794 individual felony counts. This is a 21% increase in the resolution of felony counts from the previous calendar year. Table 1 shows a year-to-year comparison.

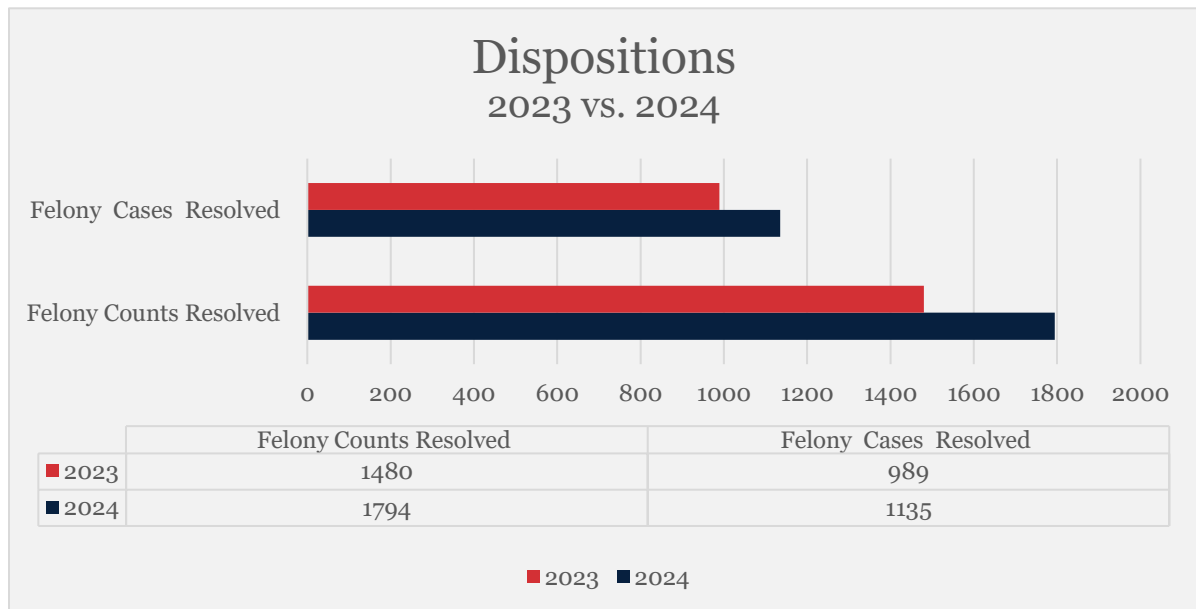


Table 1

ii. Types of Crimes Resolved

Of the 1,794 felony counts that were resolved in 2024, 35% were homicides and other crimes of violence, 29% were property crimes, 18% were drug offenses, and the remaining 8% were non-violent firearm offenses such as felon in possession of a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm. For illustrative purposes, violent crimes are divided into Homicides, Crimes Against Persons, Sex Crimes, and Crimes Against Children. Table 2 depicts a breakdown of the types of offenses resolved in 2024. Table 3 provides a visual representation of the types of crimes resolved in 2024.

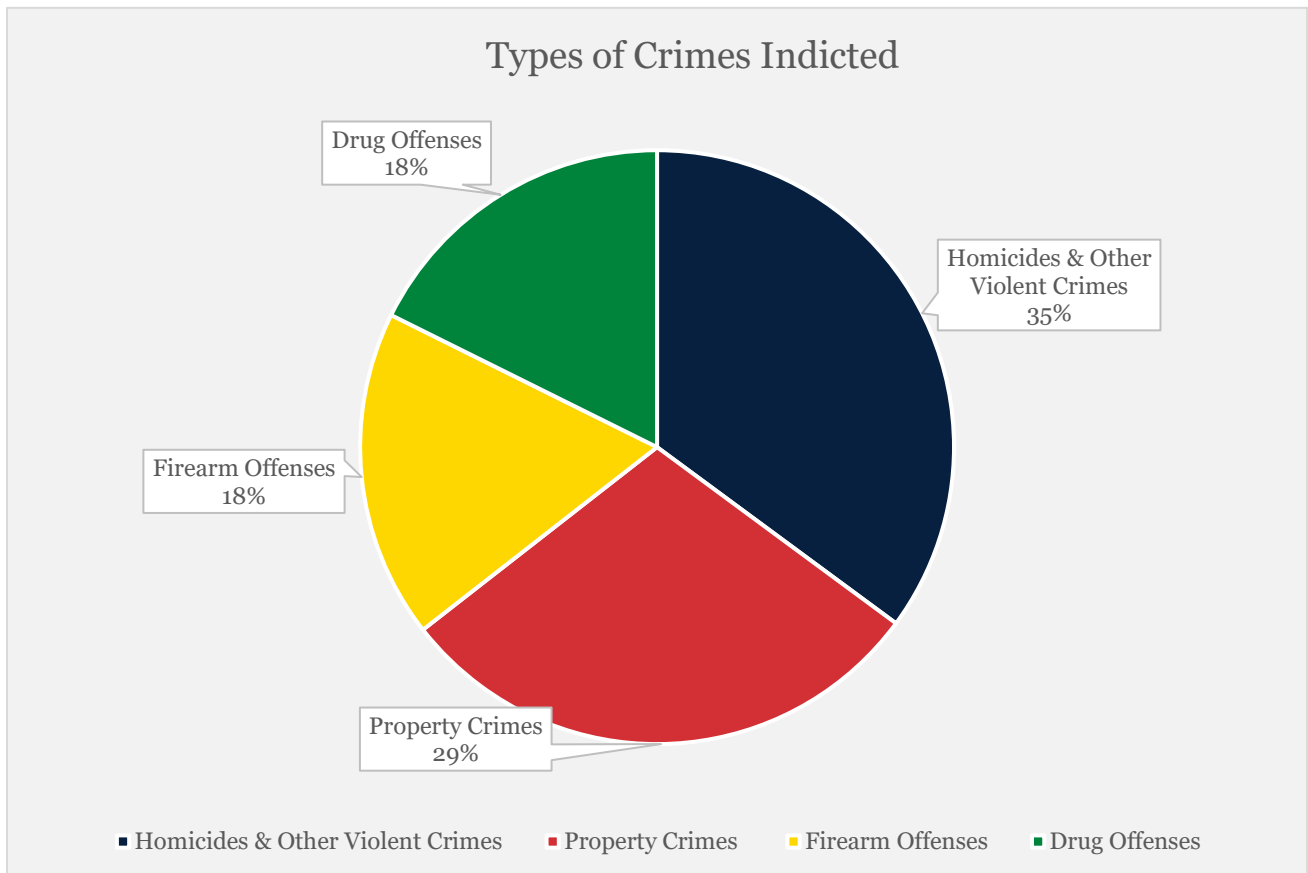


Table 2

iii. The Manner of Resolution

Felonies are resolved through various methods, including trials, guilty pleas, diversion programs, and dismissals. While a trial is the most familiar to the public, most cases in every jurisdiction are resolved by other means. A guilty plea occurs when the defendant, faced with the evidence against them, admits their guilt, often in exchange for a recommended sentence, known as plea bargaining. Diversion programs are aimed at diverting first-time, non-violent offenders away from the criminal justice system by offering to dismiss the charges following successful completion of rehabilitative programs. Each resolution ensures that the legal process moves forward, and that justice is served.

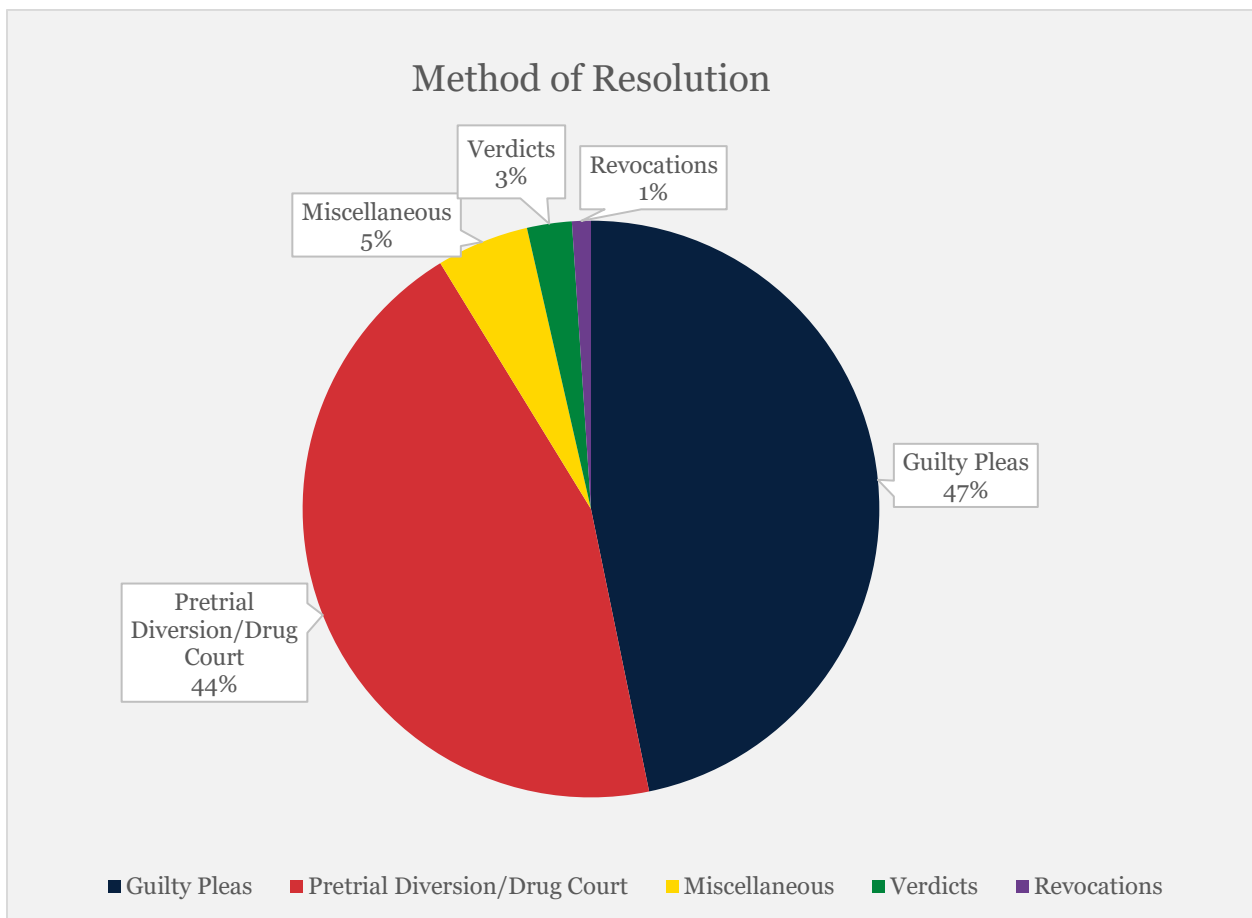


Table 3

## B. Trials

As noted, felonies are resolved in several ways, mainly by a guilty plea. This is standard throughout the criminal justice system. However, while trials will always represent the smallest number of overall resolutions, criminal trials are the most critical and public-facing component. In 2024, the Hinds County District Attorney's Office brought **35** cases to trial, representing a **45%** increase from 2023.

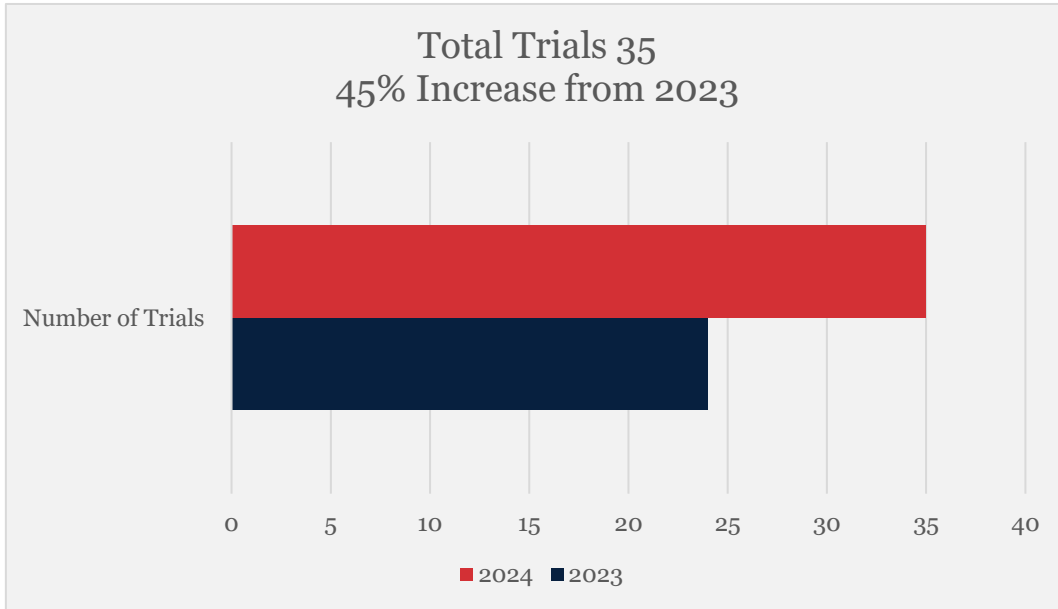


Table 4

i. Trial Results

Achieving success in the courtroom is a fundamental priority for the District Attorney’s Office. Strong trial outcomes reinforce public confidence, enhance community safety, and demonstrate a steadfast commitment to securing justice for victims. Moreover, these victories are crucial in shaping plea negotiations and strengthening collaboration with law enforcement. Ultimately, success at trial is more than a legal accomplishment—it is vital to fostering a safer and more just community. As Table 5 demonstrates, of the 35 cases brought to trial, 17 resulted in guilty verdicts, five resulted in guilty pleas during the trial, eight were declared mistrials, and five resulted in acquittals.

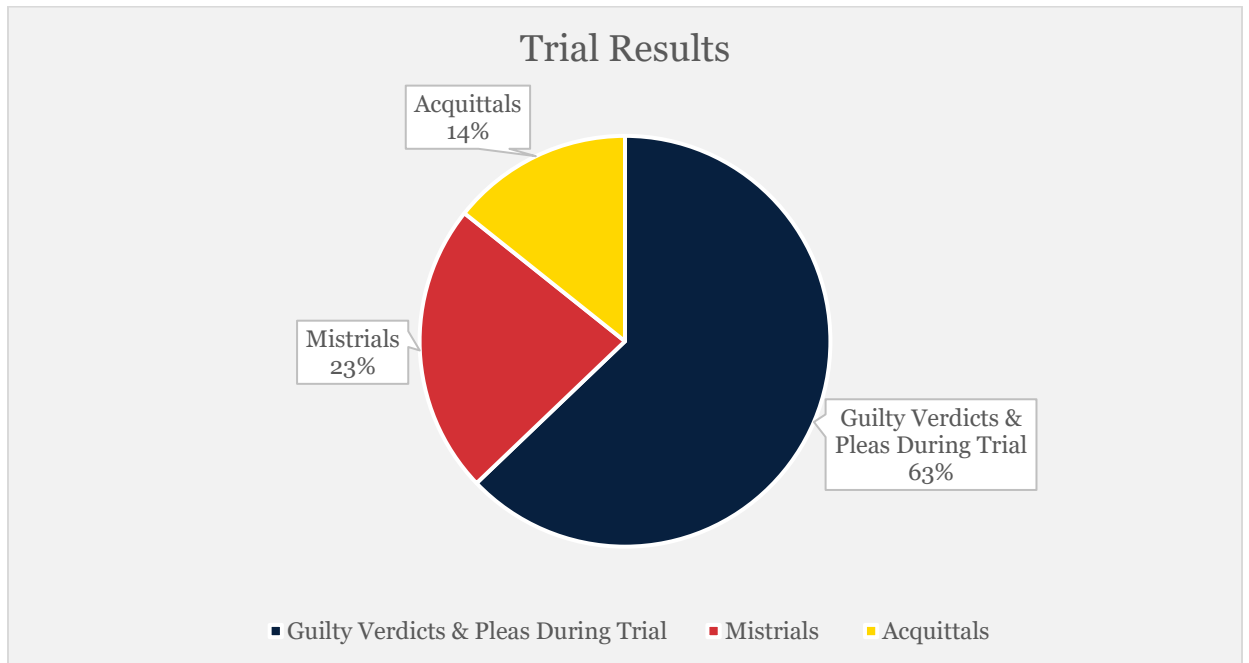


Table 5

ii. Types of Charges Brought to Trial

Violent crimes have a profound impact in our communities, making it critical to hold violent offenders accountable. Prioritizing the prosecution of violent crimes is essential to ensuring public safety and upholding justice for victims. By focusing resources on prosecuting violent crimes, the District Attorney’s Office reinforces its commitment to protecting the public, supporting victims, and fostering a safer community. This commitment to public safety is reflected in the charges that the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office brought to trial in 2024. 84% of the charges brought to trial in 2024 were homicides and other violent crimes, and the remaining 16% were property crimes and non-violent firearm offenses. Homicides alone represent 53% of the crimes brought to trial in 2024.

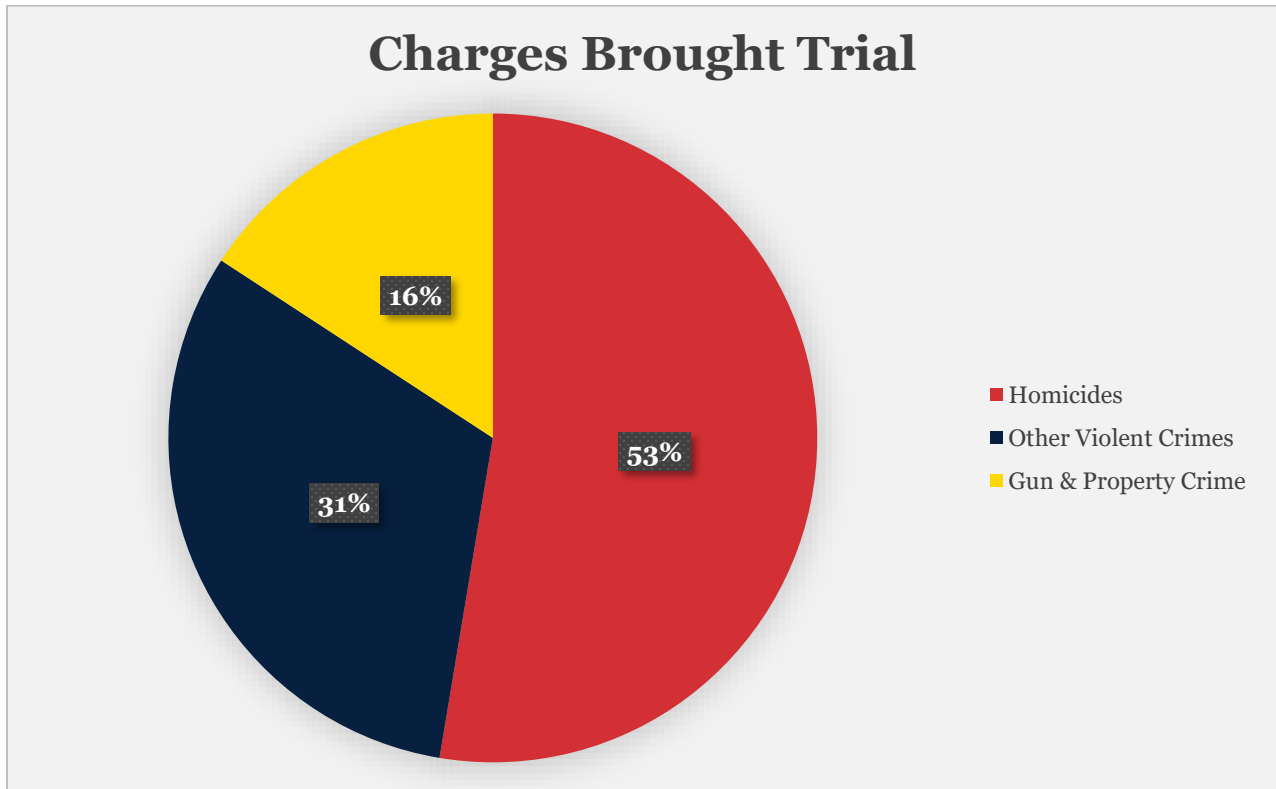


Table 6

iii. Trials By Courtroom

In 2024, the District Attorney’s Office brought 35 cases to trial. While the office is responsible for prosecuting cases, the timing and scheduling of trials are influenced by various factors, including the trial judge’s discretion in setting court dates. The following graph illustrates the distribution of trials across courtrooms in 2024, while Table 8 compares those numbers with those in 2023.

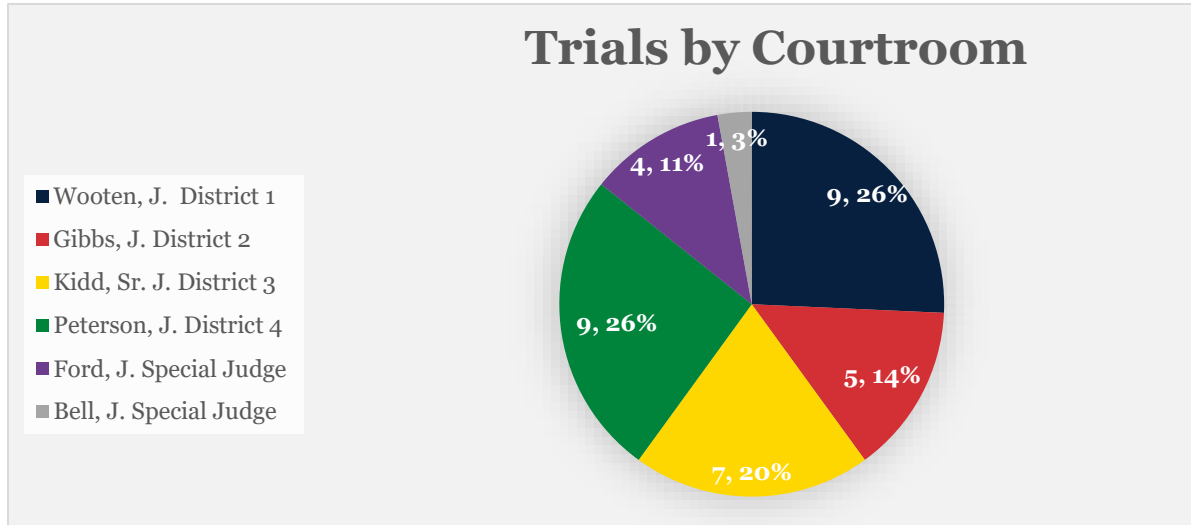


Table 7

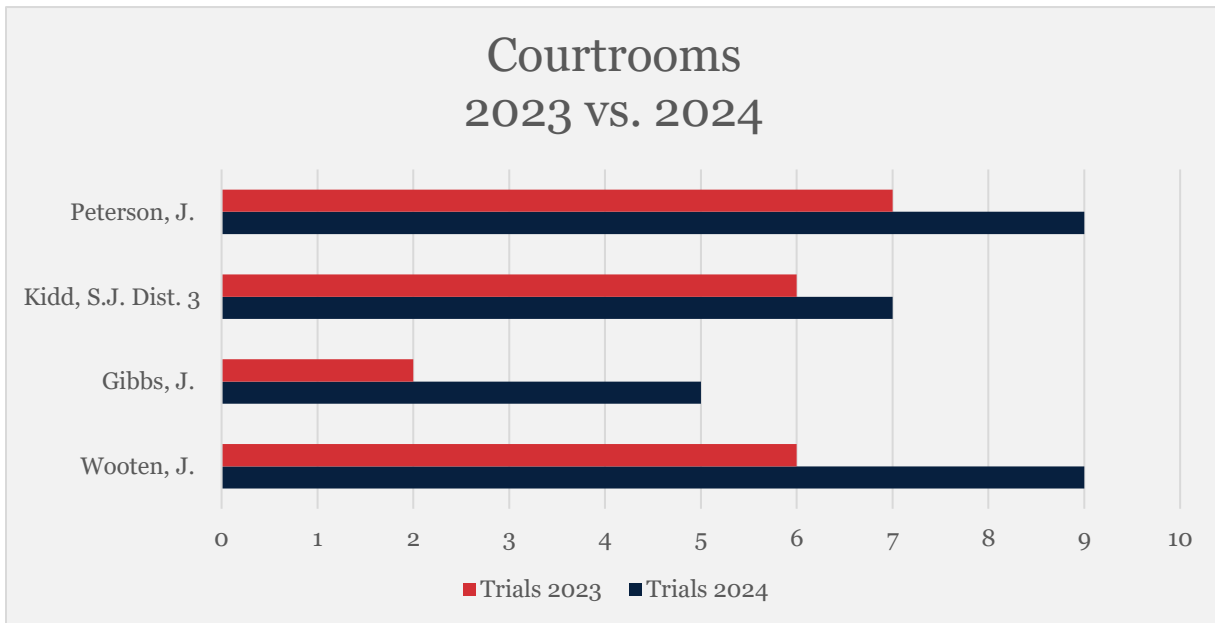


Table 8

## V. GRAND JURY REPORT

The Hinds County District Attorney’s Office prosecutes all felony cases within the Seventh Circuit Court District. This district includes the city of Jackson, Mississippi’s capital and government seat, along with the communities of Bolton, Byram, Clinton, Edwards, Learned, Raymond, Terry, Utica, and various unincorporated areas.

### A. Indictments

The criminal justice process starts with a police investigation. Once law enforcement concludes its investigation, the case is forwarded to the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office, which then presents it to the Hinds County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury’s role is to issue a “True Bill” if there is sufficient evidence to indict an individual on the charged crime. If the Grand Jury determines that there is insufficient evidence, they issue a “No Bill”. An indictment formally charges the individual with a crime and marks the beginning of the prosecution process.

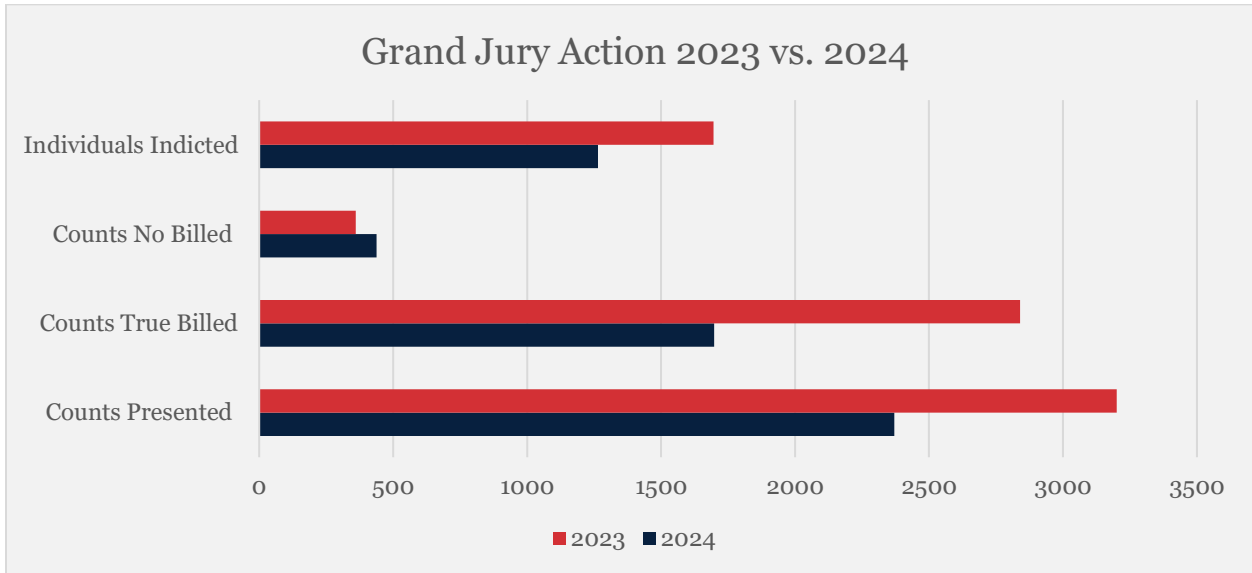


Table 9

i. Types of crime indicted

Tracking and evaluating the types of crime presented to and indicted by the Grand Jury is critical to understanding crime trends in the community and assessing how to allocate prosecutorial resources and set priorities to best address crime. This information aids the District Attorney’s Office in identifying patterns in criminal activity, prioritizing cases that pose the greatest threat to the community and developing strategies for prevention and enforcement. Additionally, transparency in the indictment process fosters public trust, demonstrating our commitment to accountability and justice. Table 10 provides a breakdown of the types of crime indicted in 2024.

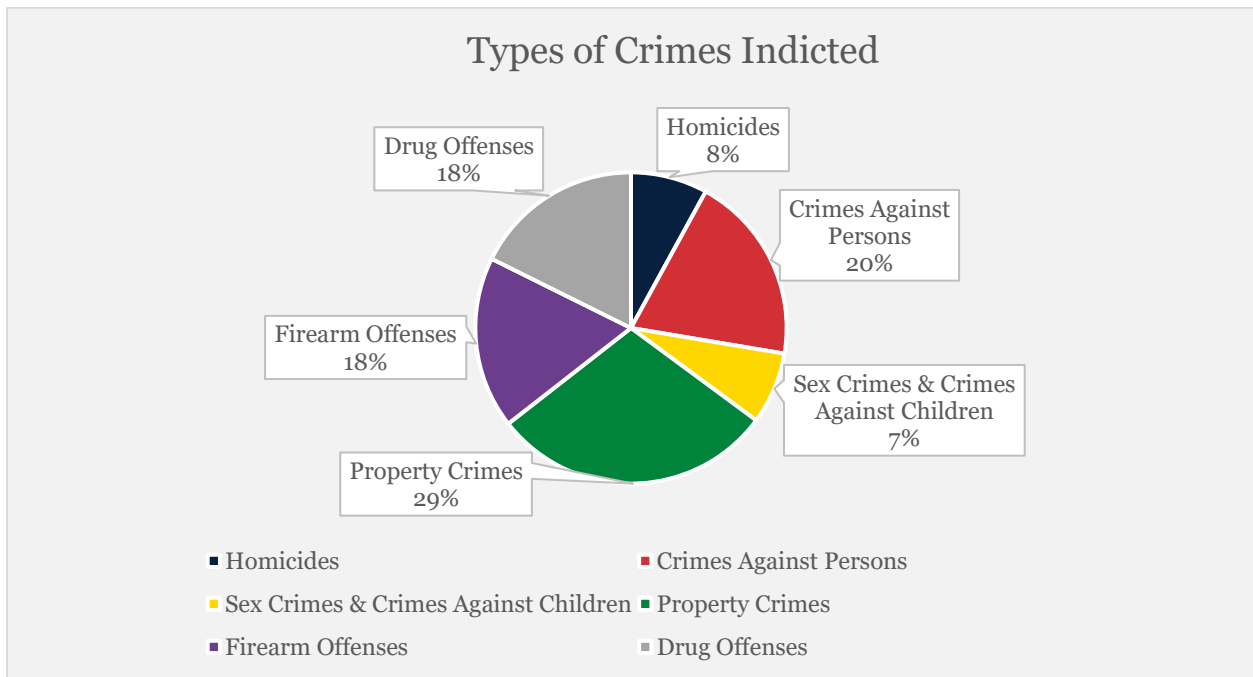


Table 10

## B. Law Enforcement Presentation

The Hinds County District Attorney’s Office prosecutes cases submitted by law enforcement agencies across Hinds County. The following chart displays the total number of felony counts presented, indicted “True Billed”, cases indicted, and “No Billed” for each law enforcement agency. Table 11 provides a graphical representation of the 10 agencies presenting the highest cases. Table 13 illustrates the percentage of true bills in the six most active jurisdictions.

Law Enforcement Agency	Counts Presented	Counts True Billed	Counts No Billed	Individual Cases
Jackson Police Dept	856	556	164	540
Capitol Police Dept.	574	386	165	285
Clinton Police Dept.	237	202	17	127
Hinds Co. Sheriff’s Office	227	138	56	155
MS Dept. of Revenue	150	150	0	13
Byram Police Dept.	95	76	1	46
OSA	60	60	0	2
MS Bureau of Narcotics	54	37	11	28
Jackson State University	18	16	2	12
Jackson Fire Dept.	16	16	0	6
Terry Police Dept.	16	10	6	13
UMMC Police Dept.	16	11	5	14
MS Highway Patrol	14	11	3	6
MS Bureau of Investigation	12	8	4	6
MS Dept. of Human Serv.	12	12	0	1
Raymond Police Dept.	5	4	1	5
MS Dept Ag. & Comm.	3	3	0	1
Utica Police Dept.	2	0	2	1
Hinds Co. DA	2	1	1	2
Jackson Public Schools	1	1	0	1
Edwards Police Dept.	0	0	0	0

Table 11

# Grand Jury Action by Law Enforcement Agency 2024

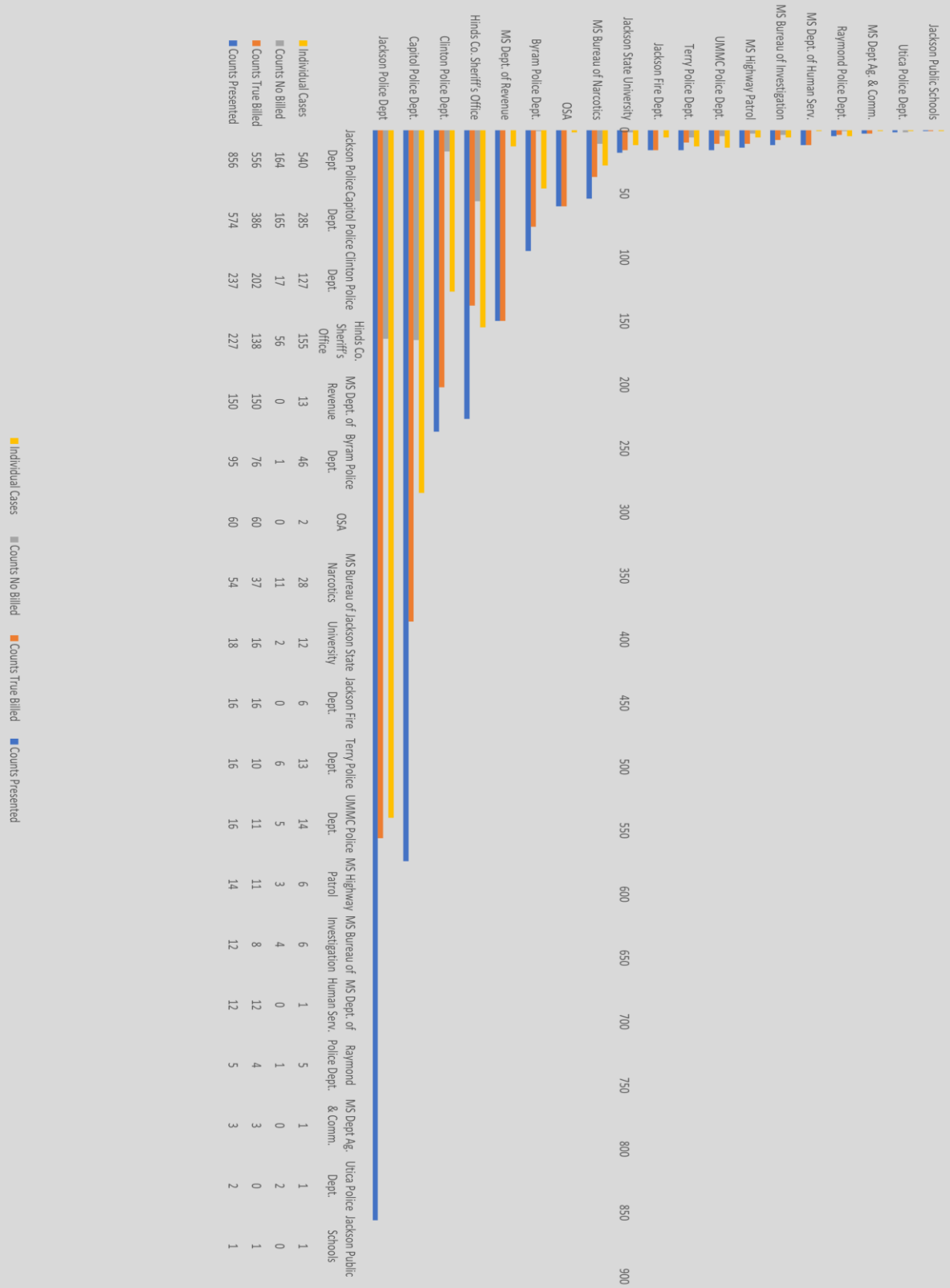


Table 12

## Counts True Billed Most Active Jurisdictions

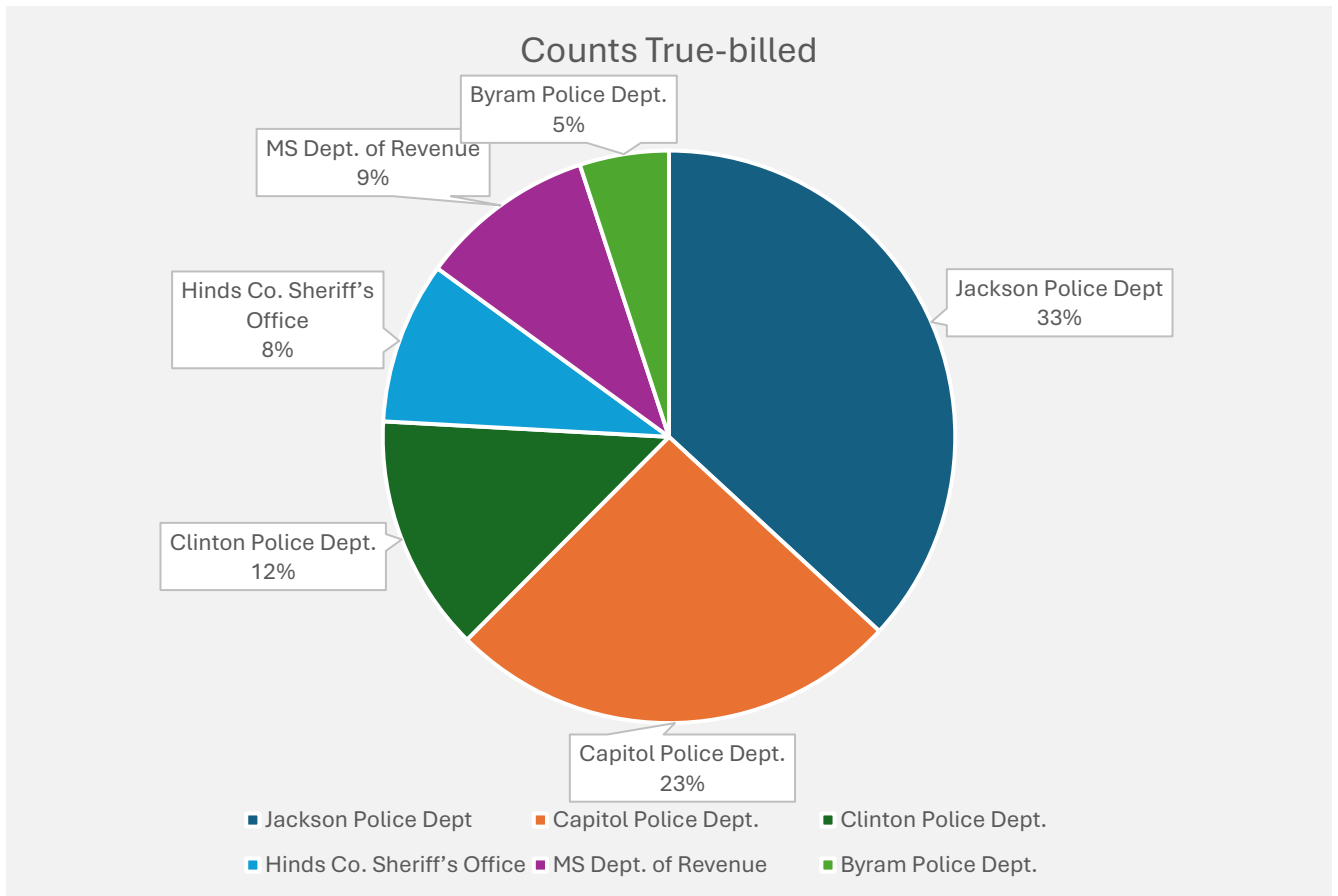


Table 13

## VI. SMART JUSTICE

The Hinds County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to Smart Justice, carefully assessing each case to achieve the best possible outcome for the victim and the community. To support this goal, the office prioritizes pretrial programs to reduce recidivism and help restore victims. Additionally, the District Attorney's Office plays a key role in assisting individuals who have served their sentences and are eligible to have their convictions records expunged, providing them a path to a fresh start.

### A. Pre-Trial Intervention

Diversionary programs are a crucial component of the criminal justice system, offering an alternative to conventional legal proceedings. The Hinds County Pre-trial Intervention Program (PTI) targets eligible offenders accused of non-violent offenses, providing a path to resolution that will not leave them with the burden of a criminal record. The program emphasizes rehabilitation over punishment, reduces recidivism, eases the burden on the courts, and conserves public funds. By prioritizing rehabilitation over incarceration, these programs support reintegration efforts and help prevent future criminal activity. In 2024, there were 74 individuals were facing felonies.

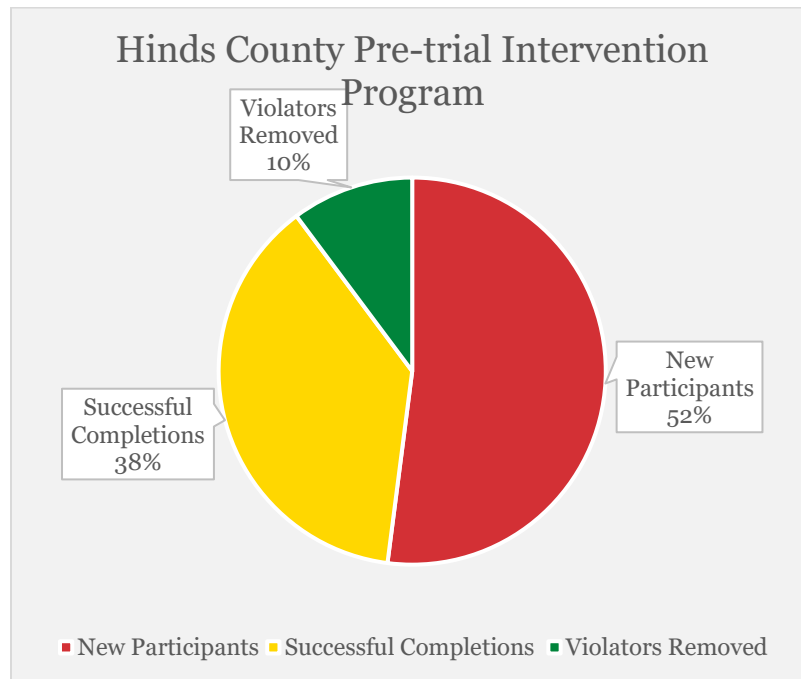


Table 14

## B. Drug Court

Drug Court is a special court given the responsibility to handle cases involving drug-using offenders through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives.

The Hinds County District Attorney's Office is an active partner and supporter of the Hinds County Circuit Drug Court as part of its Smart Justice initiative. In 2024, 37 new offenders began recovering by using the Drug Court Program.

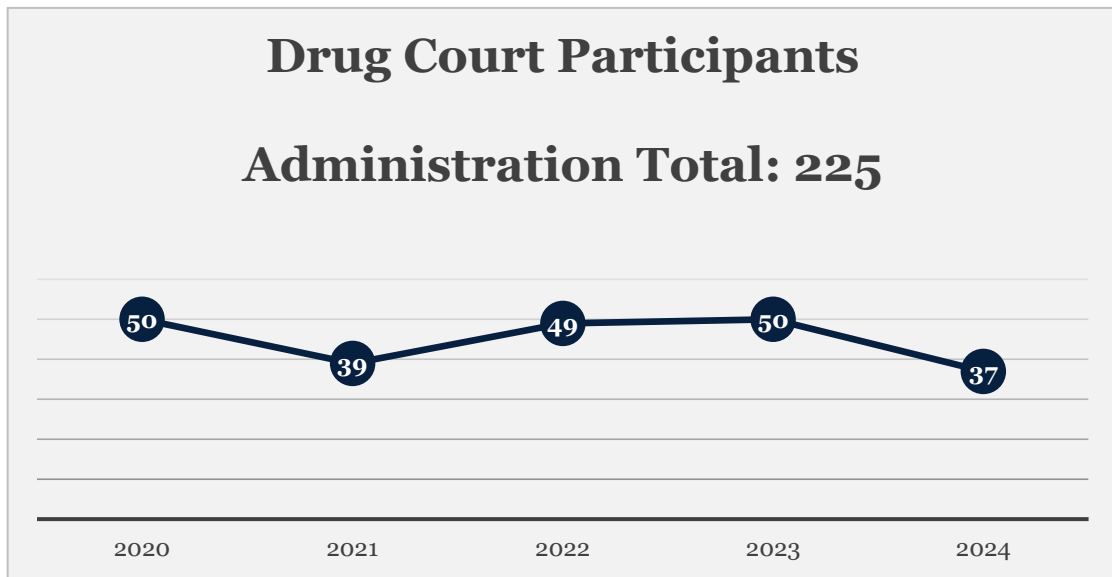


Table 15

### C. Expungements

Expungements play a crucial role in supporting rehabilitation and reintegration by allowing eligible individuals to move forward without the lasting burden of a criminal record. Studies have shown that expungements significantly reduce recidivism, as individuals with a fresh start are more likely to become productive members of society. Ultimately, expungement reflects the belief that people should not be indefinitely defined by past mistakes, fostering a fair and more compassionate justice system.

In 2024, the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office assisted 189 citizens in obtaining an expungement for eligible offenses, bringing the administration's total to 623 fresh starts.

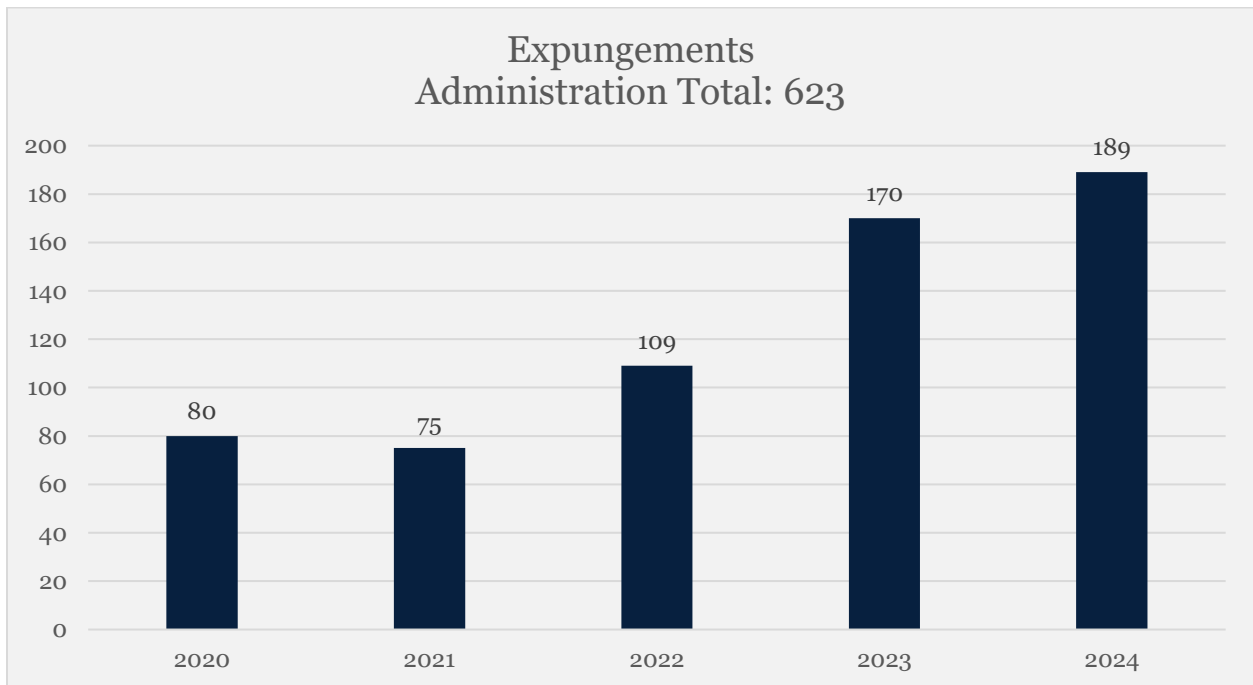


Table 16

## VII. CONCLUSION

The Hinds County District Attorney's Office remains committed to upholding law and order and enhancing public safety in Hinds County. In 2024, the office made significant strides in prosecuting felony cases, prioritizing violent crime, and expanding initiatives aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration. Such significant strides were only made possible through the support of the Mississippi Legislature by providing funding for temporary Assistant District Attorneys and District Attorney Investigators to combat violent crime in Hinds County, Mississippi.

The recently created Mississippi Capitol Police Department now accounts for twenty-three percent of all of the indicted cases being processed and disposed of by the Hinds County District Attorney's Office. It is imperative that the same commitment of Legislative support continue into 2025 and be made permanent in order for the Hinds County District Attorney's Office to have the tools to continue to support the law enforcement activities of the Mississippi Capitol Police Department as well as all of the other historically established law enforcement agencies tasked to serve Hinds County, Mississippi.

The office upholds its responsibility to victims and the broader community through diligent case resolution, strategic resource allocation, and community-focused programs such as pre-trial intervention, drug court, and expungements. The Hinds County District Attorney's Office will continue to pursue justice with integrity, adapt to evolving challenges, work collaboratively with law enforcement, community partners, and the citizens of Hinds County. Maintaining a balanced approach that prioritizes accountability, fairness, and rehabilitation reaffirms our dedication to building safer communities across Hinds County.