



**MONTANA STATE
PUBLIC DEFENDER**

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September 30, 2019

Amy Carlson
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
P.O. Box 201711
Helena, MT 59620-1711

Dear Ms. Carlson:

Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 47-1-125(2), enclosed are the Office of State Public Defender's reports to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst for FY 2019.

These reports display the following case-count related information for FY 2019:

1. New Cases Received;
2. Cases Closed;
3. Open and Inactive Cases; and,
4. Case Durations.

You may notice these reports look slightly different than previous reports and contain additional information about the underlying data. These changes stem from our on-going review of the ways in which we collect and report on Agency data. We have identified various improvements we believe will bring greater value to future reporting and have annotated the current reports with that information as appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Rhonda Schaffer
Director

cc: Carleen Green, Central Services Division Administrator
Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division
Christine Hultin, Office of Budget and Program Planning
John Lewis, Department of Administration Director

*We provide effective professional legal services with equal access to quality
client-centered representation.*



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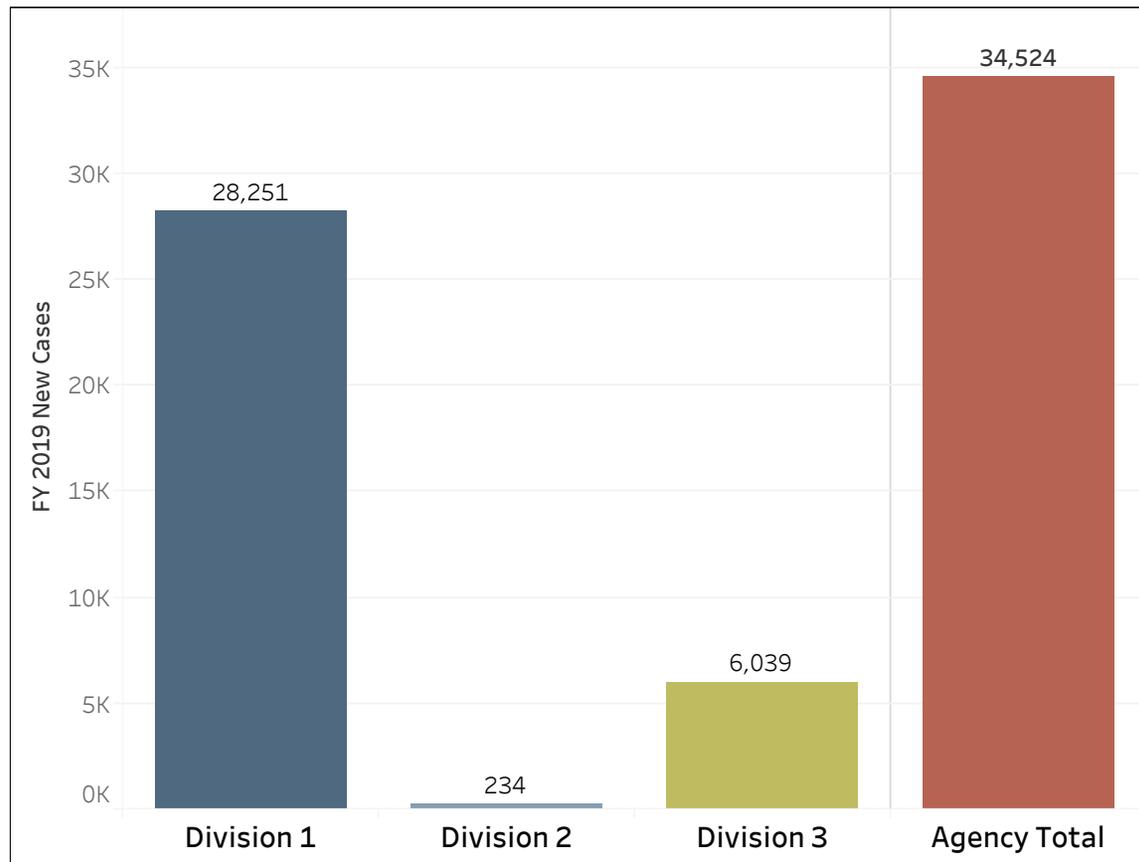
Legislative Finance Committee Reporting Pursuant to
Montana Code Annotated § 47-1-125(2)

Fiscal Year 2019 New Cases

This page displays the totals of new cases received by OPD, by Division during Fiscal Year 2019.*

Division 1: Public Defender Division Division 2: Appellate Defender Division Division 3: Conflict Defender Division

Division 1	Case Count	28,251
	% of Total New Cases	82%
Division 2	Case Count	234
	% of Total New Cases	1%
Division 3	Case Count	6,039
	% of Total New Cases	17%
Grand Total	Case Count	34,524
	% of Total New Cases	100%



*OPD has identified the current methodology of counting new cases may include a small number of duplicate cases incorrectly created during FY 2019 but not corrected until FY 2020. OPD is currently making efforts to remedy this issue for future reporting.



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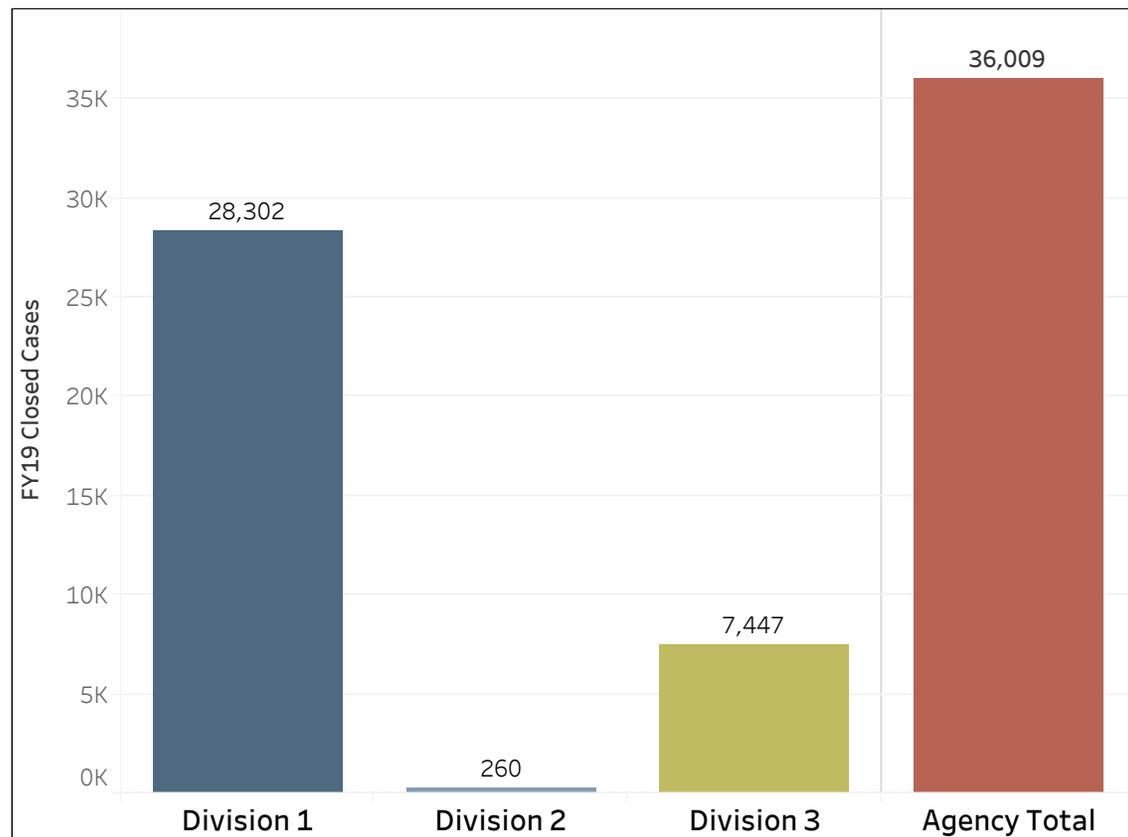
Legislative Finance Committee Reporting Pursuant to
Montana Code Annotated § 47-1-125(2)

Fiscal Year 2019 Closed Cases

This page displays the totals of cases closed by OPD, by Division during Fiscal Year 2019.*

Division 1: Public Defender Division Division 2: Appellate Defender Division Division 3: Conflict Defender Division

Division 1	Closed Case Count	28,302
	% of Total Closed Cases	79%
Division 2	Closed Case Count	260
	% of Total Closed Cases	1%
Division 3	Closed Case Count	7,447
	% of Total Closed Cases	21%
Grand Total	Closed Case Count	36,009
	% of Total Closed Cases	100%



*The Closed Case Counts may include cases previously counted as a closed case in a prior fiscal year if the previously closed case was re-opened and then closed again during Fiscal Year 2019. OPD is making efforts to remedy this issue in future reporting.



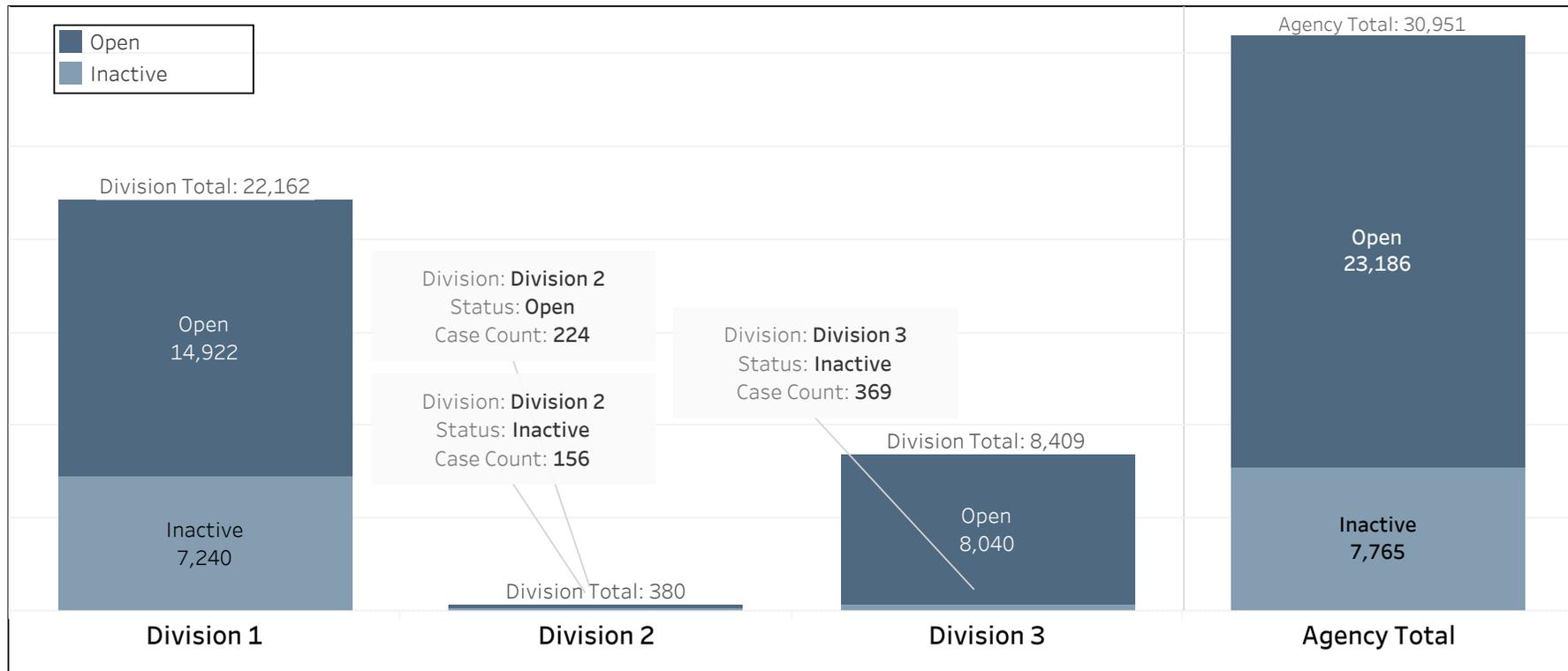
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Fiscal Year 2019 Open and Inactive Cases

This page displays the totals by Division of open and/or inactive cases as of June 30, 2019.*

Division 1: Public Defender Division **Division 2:** Appellate Defender Division **Division 3:** Conflict Defender Division



*For Division 2, the Inactive case counts include cases awaiting assignment, due to a backlog. Currently, cases awaiting assignment to an attorney are marked inactive, as are cases not currently being worked (i.e. truly inactive). OPD is making efforts to distinguish these differences in future reporting.



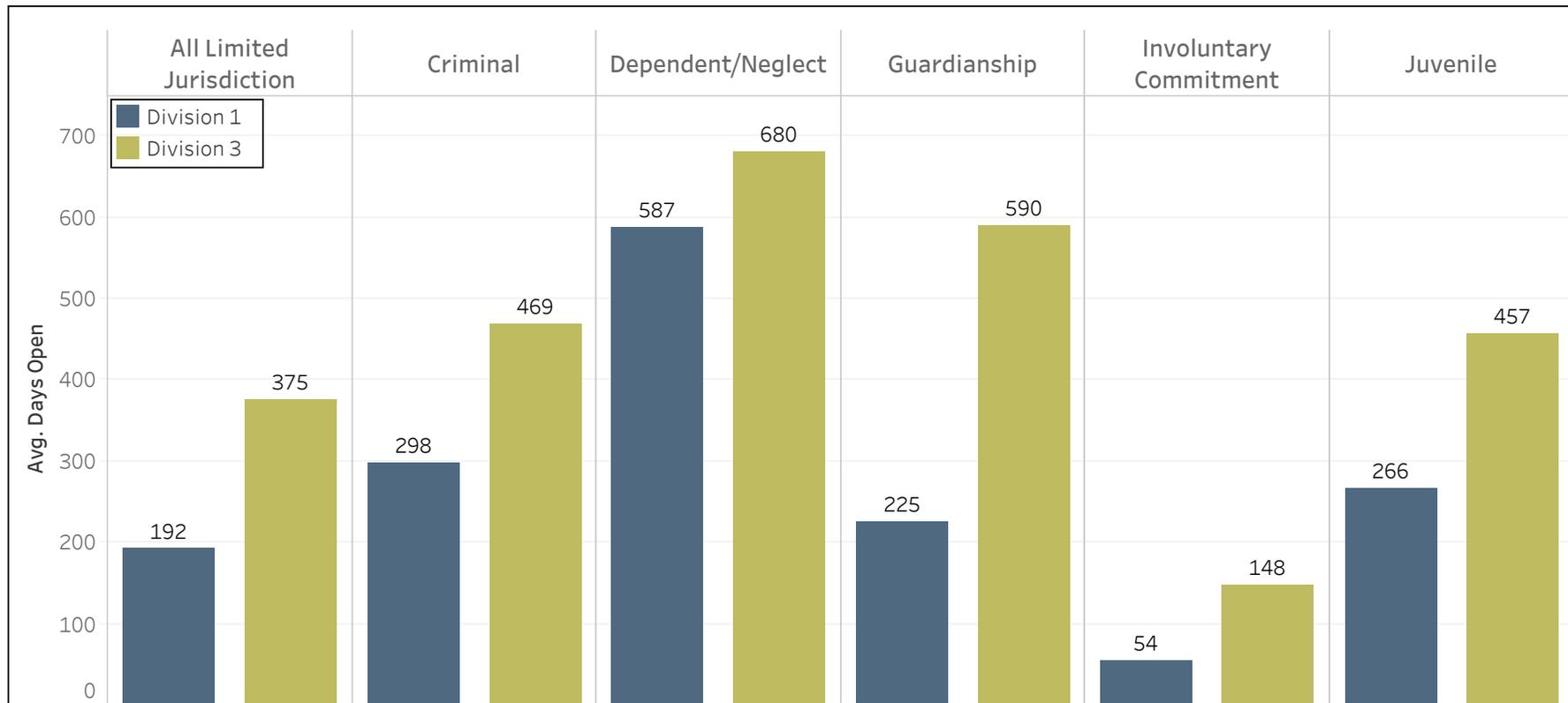
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Fiscal Year 2019 Case Durations

This page displays the average number of days open by case type and Division for cases closed in Fiscal Year 2019.*

Division 1: Public Defender Division Division 3: Conflict Defender Division



*The Case Duration data is currently not calculating the length of time a case is open versus the time to disposition. OPD is making efforts to address this and believes changes to this methodology will provide more accurate case duration data for future reporting.



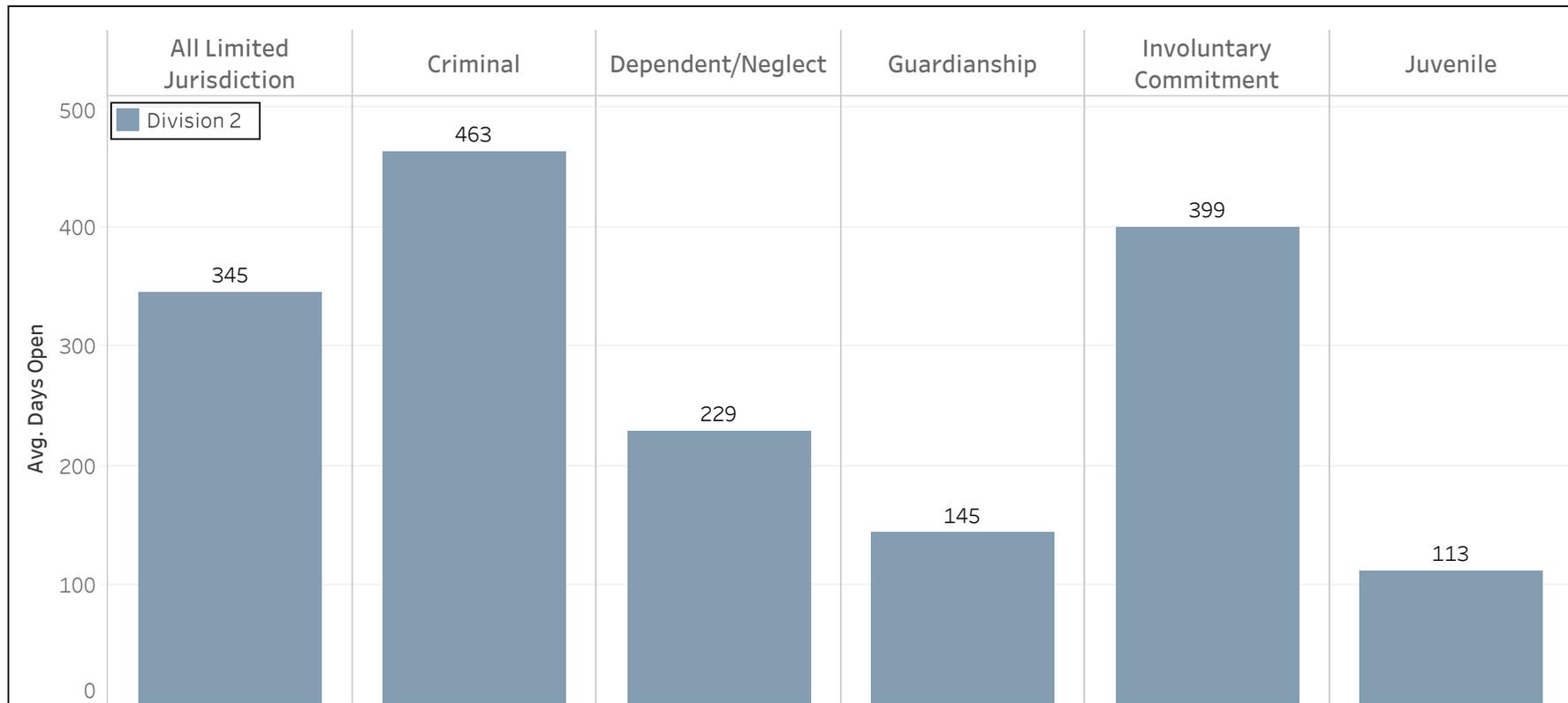
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Fiscal Year 2019 Case Durations

This page displays the average number of days open by case type and Division for cases closed in Fiscal Year 2019.*

Division 2: Appellate Defender Division



*The Case Duration data is currently not calculating the length of time a case is open versus the time to disposition. OPD is making efforts to address this and believes changes to this methodology will provide more accurate case duration data for future reporting.