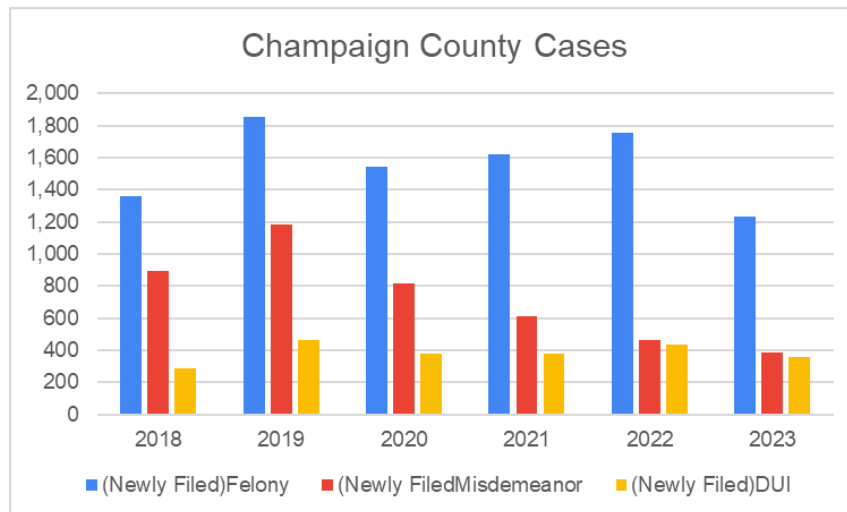


## **Champaign County Cases: What do the Numbers Say?**

In a way similar to that of gravity, what comes up must come down, but looking at Champaign County's number of criminal cases, there may be a slight exception to this rule.

Champaign County rests in the Sixth Court District in the State of Illinois, being by far the largest city in the county judicial district. The nearest county in population size is Macon County with a population of 101,483 to Champaign's 206,542 according to census data from 2022.

Overall, the numbers show the amount of crime in the area has somewhat diminished, although at inconsistent rates. A deeper look at data from [The Illinois Circuit Court Statistical Reports](#) from the past 5 years showcases these trends and can help one understand just how crime has shifted over time in the area.



In examining the Caseload data, or the data on the number of cases handled in a set period, it can be seen that the type of criminal cases is split into 3 main categories. Newly filed felony, misdemeanor, and DUI.

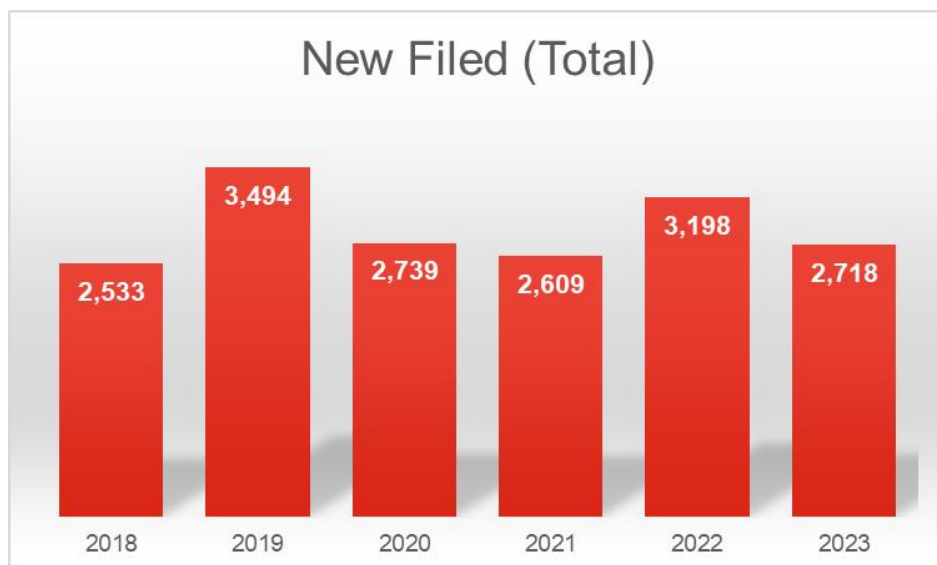
It must be mentioned that up until the first quarter of 2022, domestic violence felony crimes were not included in data from The Illinois Circuit Court Statistical Reports. As such, that data will be examined separately due to having fewer years for comparison.

When looking over the numbers, 2019 particularly stands out as having the highest rate of each listed crime. Interestingly, misdemeanors spiked this year in a way that it did not in any other year.

DUIs were equally at a peak, as well as crime in general, reaching a grand total of 3,494 cases in total for the year.

Comparatively, the year with the lowest number of criminal cases was 2021 with 2,609. This year had the lowest numbers in each area with the exception of “newly filed felonies”.

An overview of each year’s total is showcased below to represent the rather stagnant changes in criminal data over the past five years. While the total number of cases has decreased rather inconsistently since 2019, it has gone down, if only slightly.

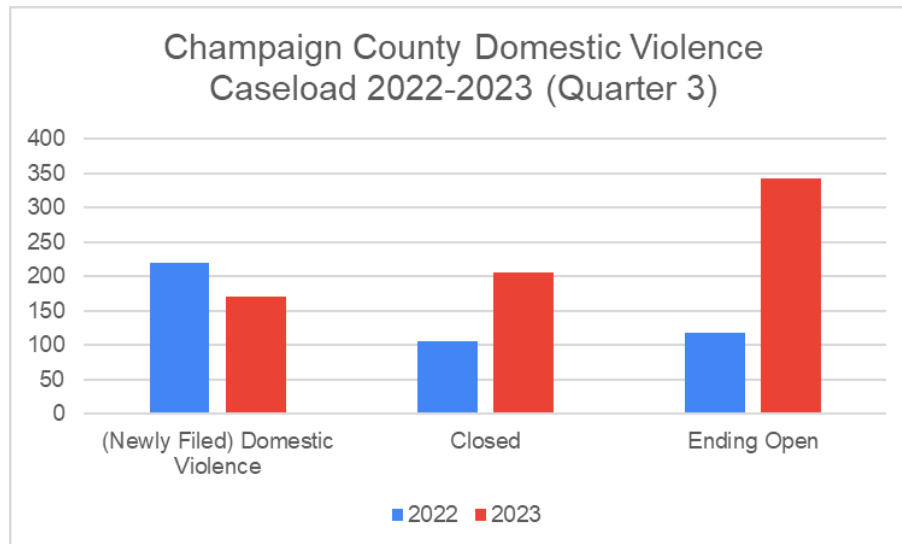


Champaign County State’s Attorney Julia Rietz was reached for comment on the caseload of the county. She was asked about the potential effects that events like the pandemic of 2020, may have had on the caseload of the county. As well as how the slight decrease in caseload may be affecting the efficiency of the State Attorney’s Office.

(Interview response here, or statement on the lack of no comment)

So while it may be true that there has been a decrease in crime within the county, it must duly be mentioned that these numbers are rather static in nature rather than a true decrease.

Domestic violence felony cases were interestingly not tracked in the caseload data up until the first quarter of 2022(January-March). It is unclear why exactly this is the case, but still something unique to that specific crime in the caseload data.



Due to this data being rather limited in size with only two years to go off of, not much correlation can truly be found here. It must also be mentioned that the data for 2023 is incomplete, only reaching the third quarter (July-September). However, it would appear so far that this crime has equally remained stagnant.

In 2022 there were 219 newly filed domestic violence cases while up to the third quarter of 2023, there were 170 new cases filed. More cases of this type were closed in 2023 with 205 cases to 105 in 2022.

The area that had by far the largest difference was in what cases were labeled “ending open”, or cases that remained open by the end of the report, with 118 in 2022 and 342 in 2023 respectively.

Although not the most extensive data, the trend of stagnant change in the criminal caseload of the county does appear to extend even in this area as well.

All in all, Champaign County may certainly not be an area of rising crime, quite the contrary. However, the caseload data and the information currently present show that while the total number of new criminal cases has seen a reduction, such changes have only been slight thus far.

Champaign County as of now will have to make due with a slow trickling decrease in crime, rather than a quick splashy reduction.