

Municipal Courts Survey 2020

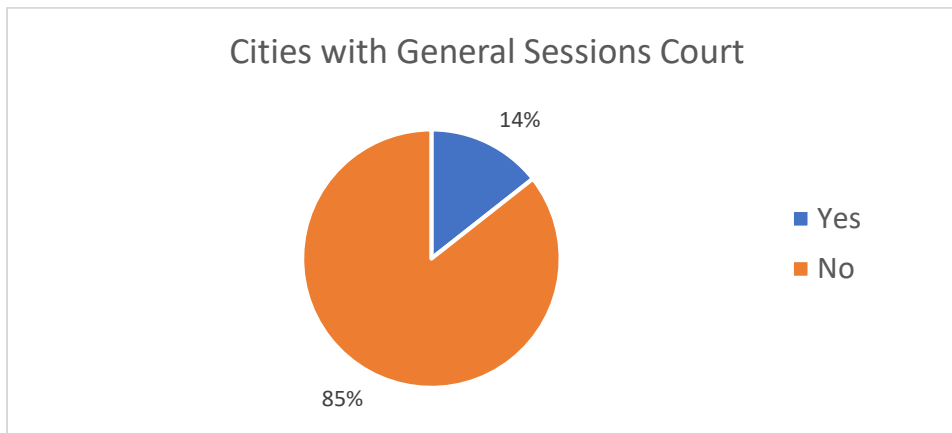
September 2020

MTAS conducted a statewide survey of municipal court clerk contacts available in the MTAS city directory. Survey invitations were sent to 234 contacts and 105 surveys were completed. Questions about municipal court operations are frequent and over the years MTAS has conducted several smaller surveys. This survey was an attempt to combine the previous surveys into one comprehensive resource.

1. Staffing in Responding Courts

Average Full Time	2.36
Average Part Time	1.00
Median Full Time	1.72
Median Part Time	1.00

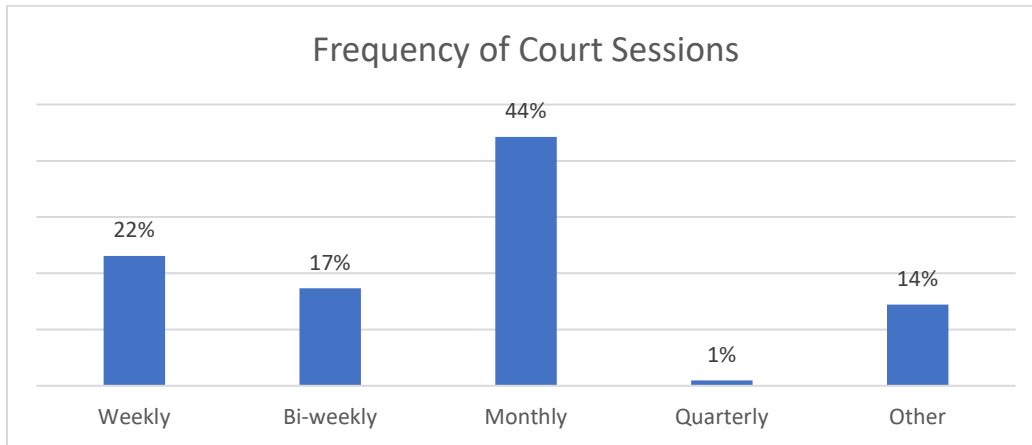
2. Do you have concurrent General Sessions jurisdiction? (N*=104)



Answer	Percent	Count
Yes	14%	14
No	85%	90

*N=number of responses to the question.

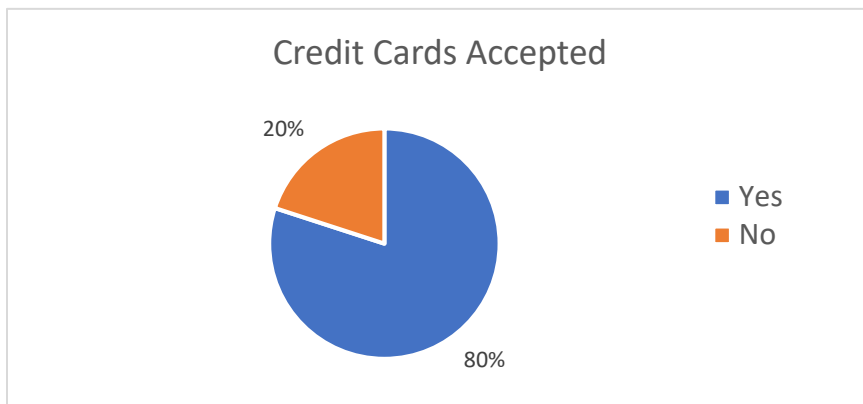
3. How often does your court meet? (N=103)



Answer	Percent	Count
Weekly	22%	23
Bi-weekly	17%	18
Monthly	44%	46
Quarterly	1%	1
Other	14%	15

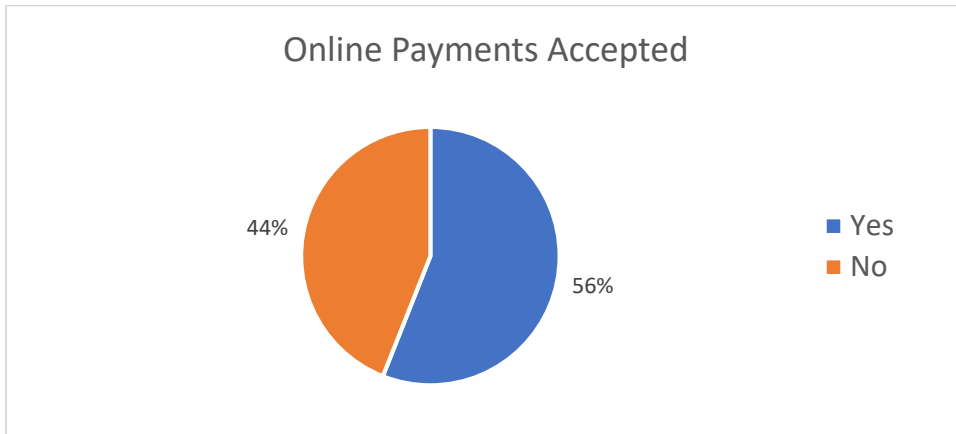
Other: Twice a month; We have court on Monday and Wednesday; Tuesday- Friday; 4 sessions a week; Twice a Month; 2 times a month; Every other month; 3 to 4 times a month; Bi monthly; 2 times a week; Feb, April, June, August, October, December; 2nd and 4th Tuesday; Every two months; Every other month

4. Do you accept credit cards for payment of court fines and fees? (N=104)



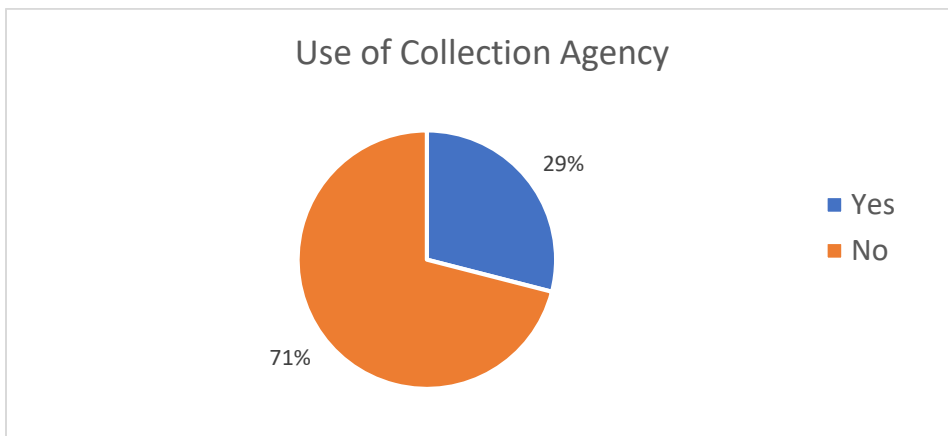
Answer	Percent	Count
Yes	80%	83
No	20%	21

5. Do you accept online payments for court fines and fees? (N=104)



Answer	Percent	Count
Yes	56%	58
No	44%	46

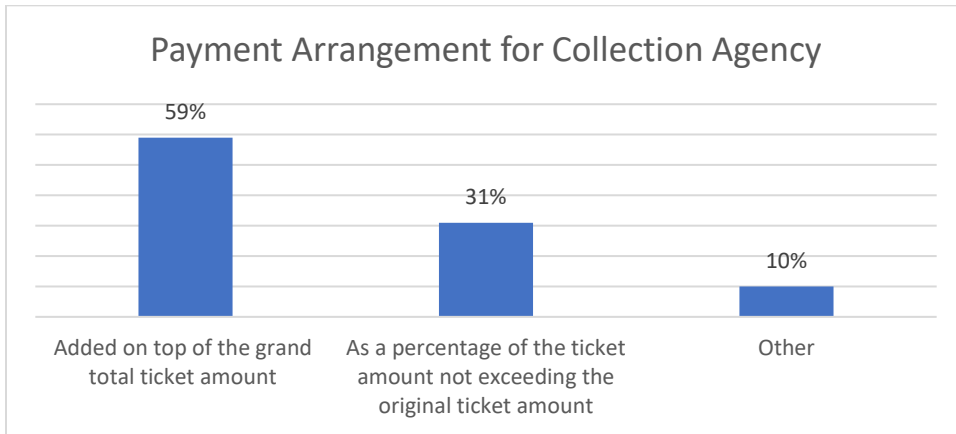
6. Does your city use a collection agency for delinquent court fees? (N=104)



Answer	Percent	Count
Yes*	29%	30
No	71%	74

*See Appendix A for list of agencies employed by responding cities.

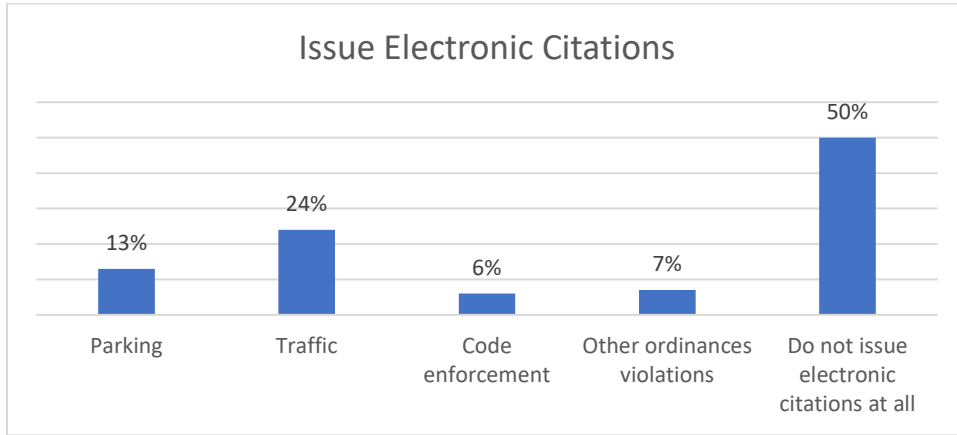
7. What is the payment arrangement with the collection agency? (N=29)



Answer	Percent	Count
Added on top of grand total	59%	17
As a percentage of ticket amount not exceeding original ticket amount	31%	9
Other	10%	3

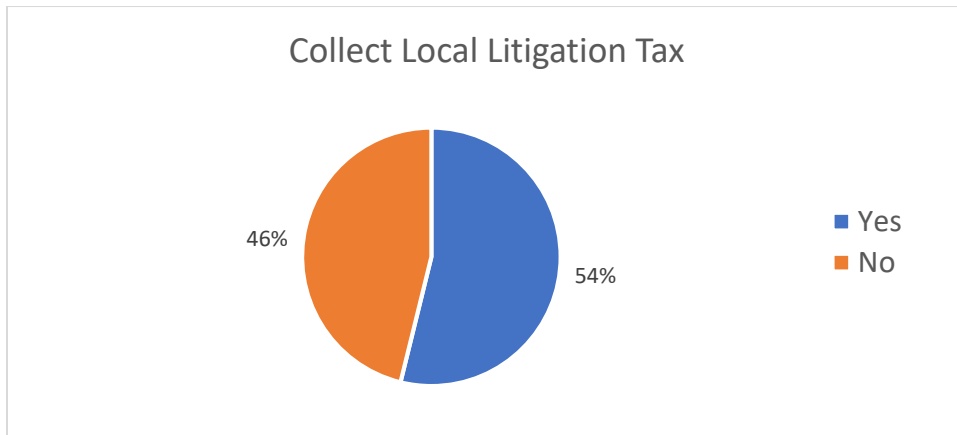
Other: Commission percentage; Percentage of full amount of citation

8. Does your city issue citations electronically? (N=140; More than one option could be selected by each respondent)



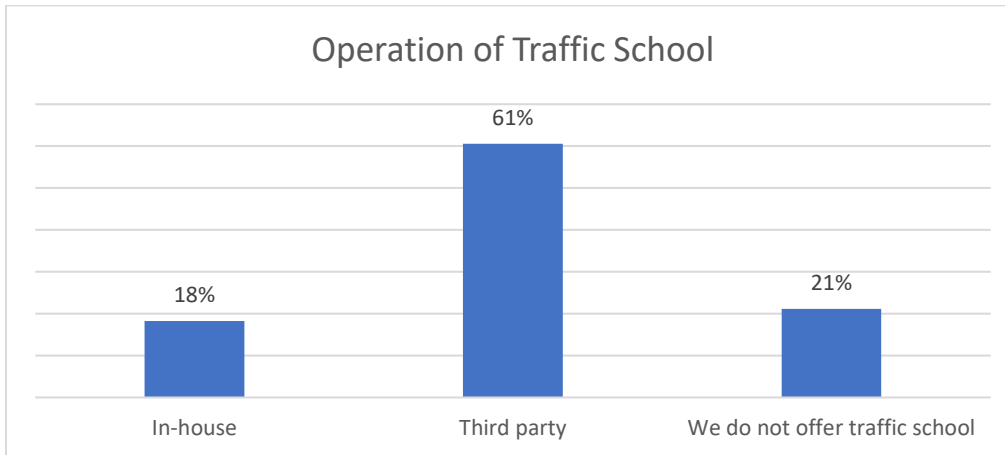
Answer	Percent	Count
Parking	13%	18
Traffic	24%	34
Code Enforcement	6%	8
Other Ordinance Violations	7%	10
Do not issue electronic citations	50%	70

9. Do you collect a Local Litigation tax? (N=105)



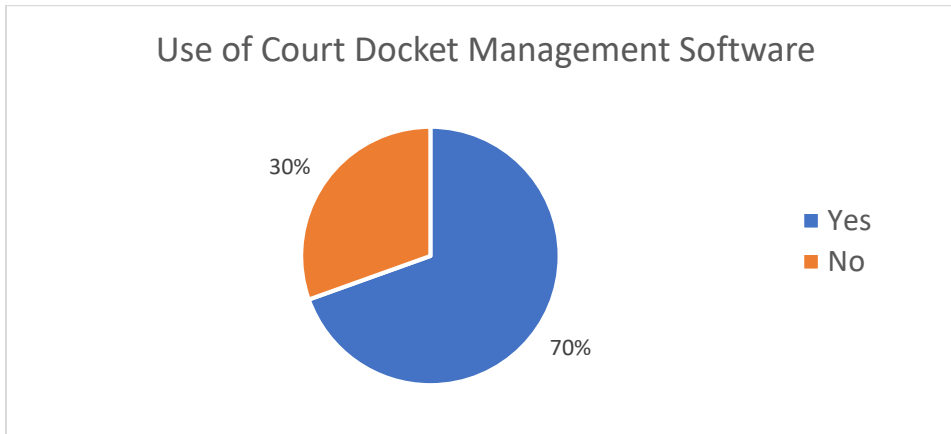
Answer	Percent	Count
Yes	54%	56
No	46%	48

10. Do you offer a traffic school and who operates the school? (N=103)



Answer	Percent	Count
In-house	18%	19
Third Party	61%	63
Do not offer traffic school	21%	22

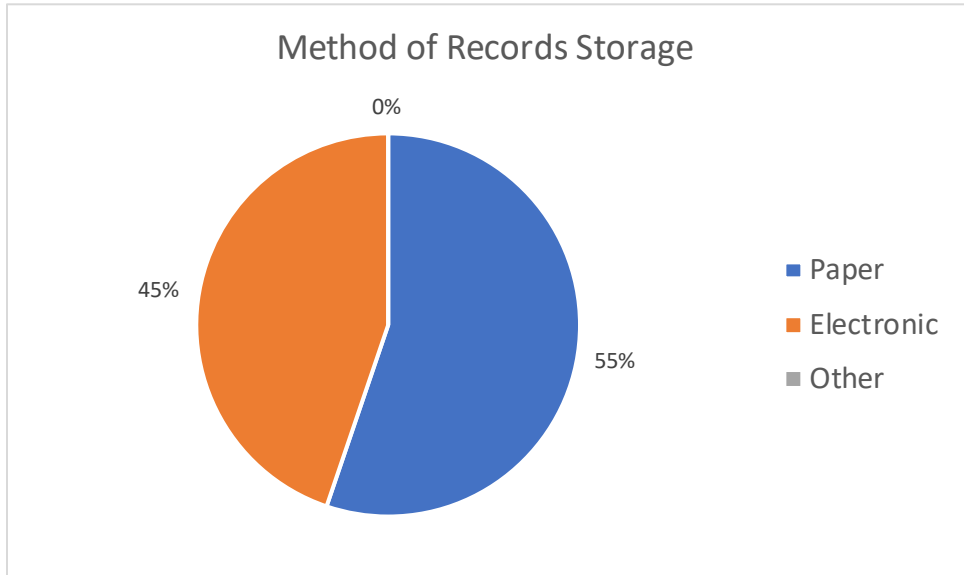
11. Do you use a court docket management software? (N=104)



Answer	Percent	Count
Yes*	70%	73
No	30%	31

*See Appendix B for a list of court docket management software in use by respondents.

12. What method of records storage do you use? (N=172; More than one option could be selected by respondents)



Answer	Percent	Count
Paper	55%	96
Electronic	45%	77
Other	0%	0

Appendix A. Collection Agencies Used by Respondents

Collection Agencies	Responses
American Municipal Services	4
Capitol Recovery Systems	3
Municipal Services Bureau	3
Rapid Recovery	3
CBC	2
FOX Collections	2
Nationwide Recovery Service	2
Professional Placement Systems	2
Universal Collections	2
Accu-Check Collections	1
ACSI	1
AWA Collections	1
First Point	1
Online Collections	1
Robinson, Reagan & Young, PLLC	1
Wakefield and Associates	1

Appendix B. Court Docket Software Used by Respondents

Product	Responses
Courtware Solutions, Inc.	17
Tyler - Incode	15
Local Government Corporation	11
ADSI	4
MM Micro	4
CTRIS by Local Government	3
PRMIS	3
Asyst-looking at switching to Tyler	2
In-house provider	2
OmniCourt	2
Southern Automated Systems	2
Application Data Systems	1
Automated Data Solutions	1
OMNI-Gov	1
Rare Element	1
tcast	1
Visual Court Ware Management	1
WinSoms	1