

## **MANNER OF HANDLING THE REFERRAL 2000**

After determining that a referral warrants action, the court must decide whether to process the referral formally or informally. This decision affects how the referral is handled by court staff. If the referral is to be disposed of by a judge or referee through formal adjudicatory and dispositional proceedings, then a petition outlining the charges must be filed as part of the intake process. The filing of a petition, however, does not necessarily result in a formal hearing.

The table on page 38 shows that petitions or motions were filed on 53.7% of the 2000 referrals. This figure is reflective of the number of petitions or motions that resulted in judicial action of some kind. Petitions that were filed but ended in an informal adjustment are explained later in this report. Some petitions from 2000 may still be pending and do not show up in this report.

Citation/Tickets, which may be used by law enforcement in lieu of a petition, were issued in 11.9% of the referrals, while reviews accounted for 7.6% of reported referrals.

Another way that referrals reach the juvenile court is the notification of acknowledgment of parentage forwarded to the court by the hospital where the child in question was born. In 2000, courts reported receiving and processing 120 of these acknowledgments.