

# VERMONT OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT

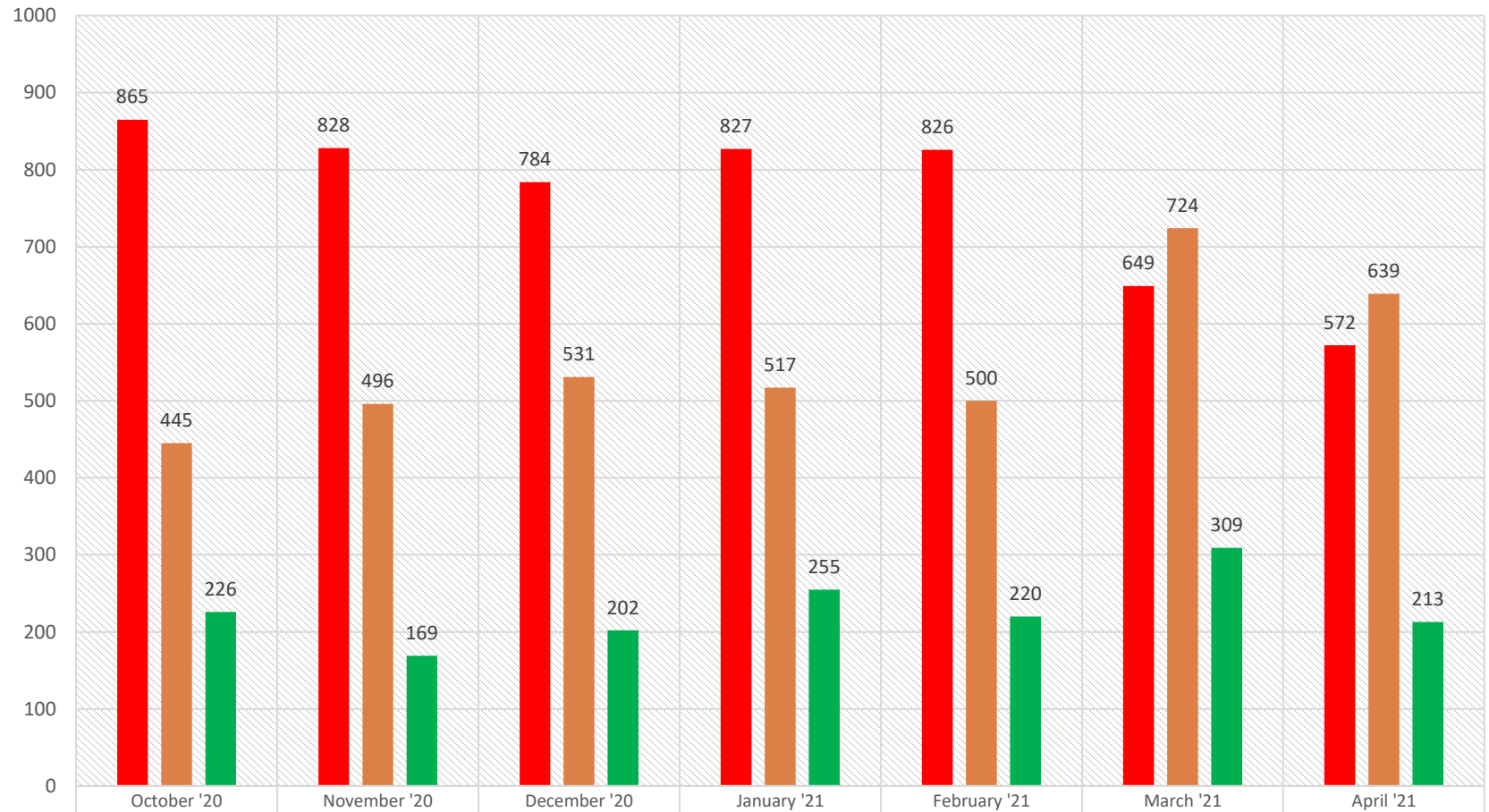
Impact of the Pandemic on Child Support Court Proceedings

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## OCS CASES IN THE COURT PIPELINE (This does not include cases in the OCS pipeline)

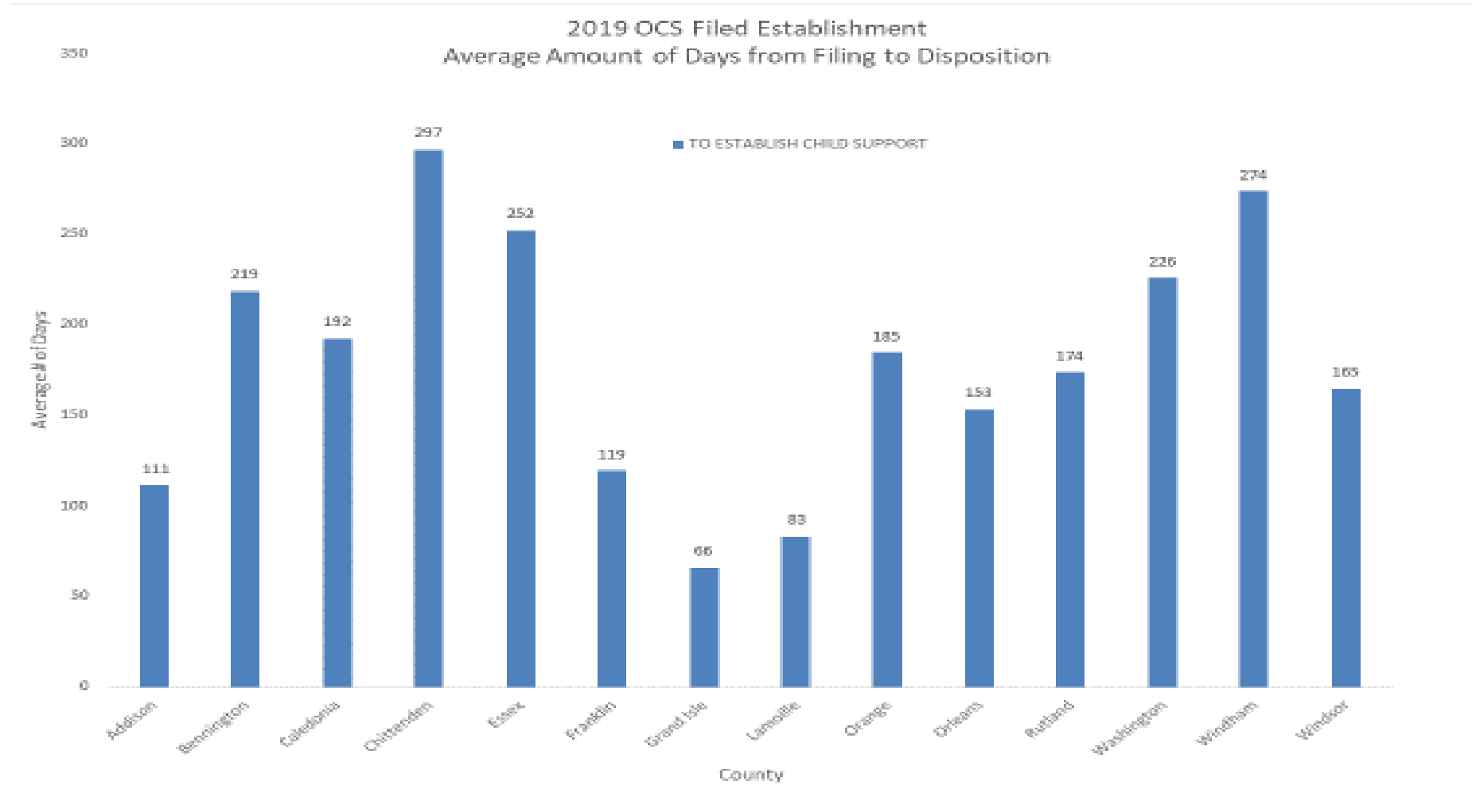


# of filings waiting for court to schedule	865	828	784	827	826	649	572
# of cases scheduled	445	496	531	517	500	724	639
# of orders (cases disposed)	226	169	202	255	220	309	213

■ # of filings waiting for court to schedule    
 ■ # of cases scheduled    
 ■ # of orders (cases disposed)

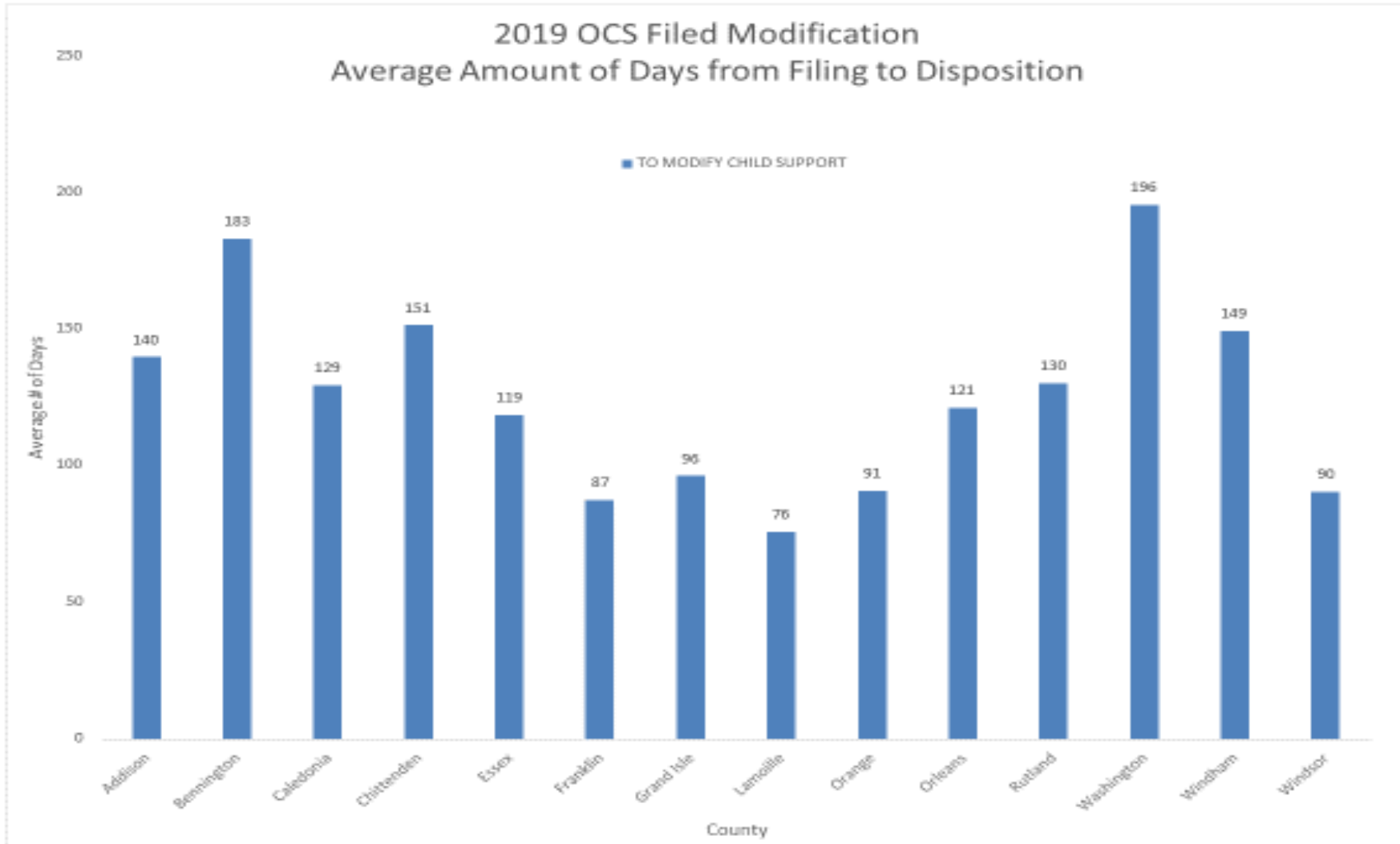
# Pre-pandemic: Establishment Cases – New Cases

## Average number of days to receive an order



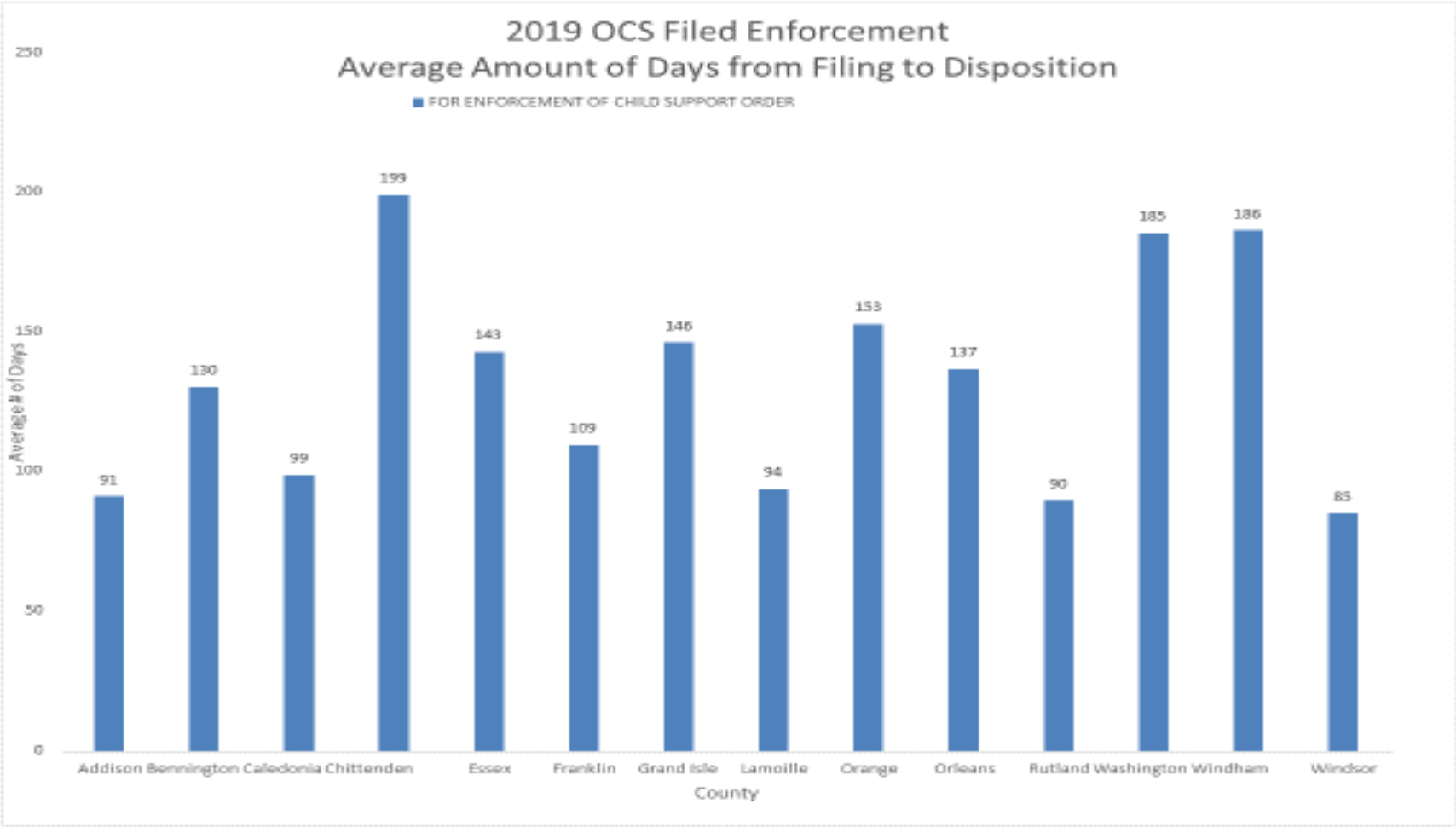
# Pre-pandemic: Modification Cases

Average number of days for the Court to adjust and “right-size” an existing order



# Pre-pandemic: Enforcement Cases

Average number of days for the Court to enforce an existing order when the paying parent falls delinquent



## Possible solution:

- Help reduce the backlog through an OCS administrative process at no extra expense to the state.
- Pilot this process in three Vermont counties with largest backlog: Chittenden, Bennington, Rutland

## How a parallel administrative path could reduce Court caseload pressures

- Expand OCS' administrative authority to allow OCS to hear *certain* types of child support matters that are perfunctory:
  - Stipulations
  - Straight-forward modifications and establishments
    - No cases where parentage is contested
    - No cases involving complex income determinations or complex deviations
  - Work 4 Kids reviews and other enforcement reviews
  - Motions to Stay/Escrow pending modification
- Cases would be heard by duly qualified OCS Attorney (3-5 years of experience)
- Same evidence & evidentiary standards that apply before the Magistrate
- De Novo appeals before Family Court Magistrate
- Any orders issued as a result of the administrative process would be filed with the Court