Trends in T-Visa Applications. – Deliverable 2

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How many cases where decided?

Our team is handling the Motions to reopen and reconsider. These are the applications for Motions on the decisions done by the Administrative Appeals Office. From the processed data, we were able to obtain a total of 29 decided motion cases. **Figure 1** shows the total amount of Motion cases per year. **Figure 2** shows the number of Motion cases by decision.
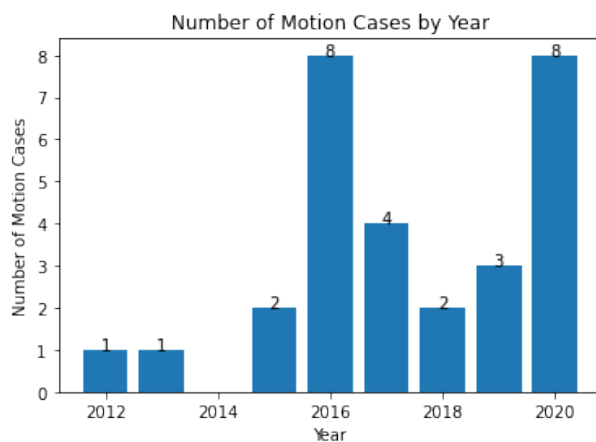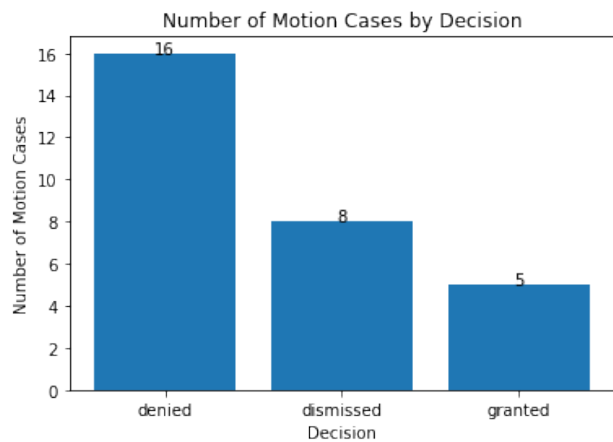

Figure 1

Figure 2

How many cases where dismissed?

Out of the 29 decided Motion cases, 8 were dismissed. Shown in **Figure 3** are the dismissed Motions by year. As we can see, the dismissals were decided in 2019 and 2020, with 2020 having most of the dismissals.
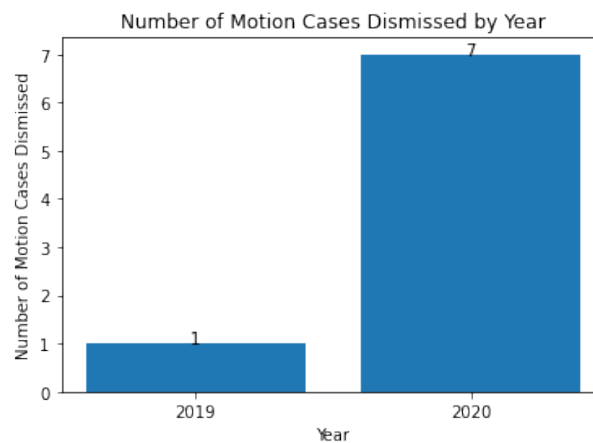

Figure 1

How many cases where granted or denied?

Out of the 29 decided Motion cases, 5 were granted and 16 were denied. Shown in **Figure 4** are the granted Motion cases by year. As we can see, only 1 Motion was granted per year in the presented years. On **Figure 5**, we can see the denied Motion cases by year.
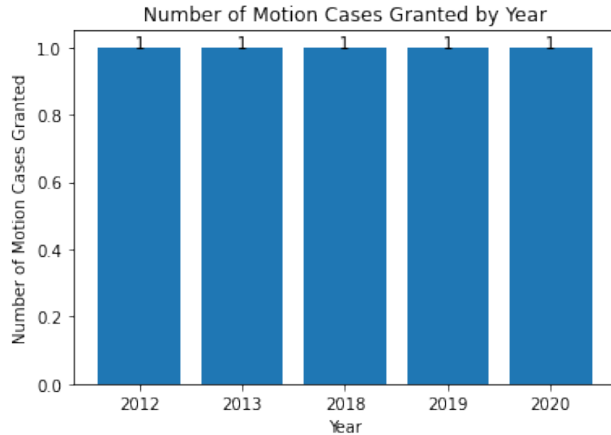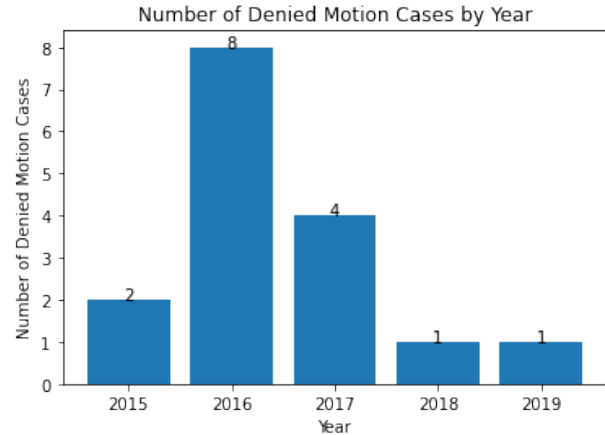

Figure 4

Figure 5

On what grounds where cases decided?

To examine the grounds of the decisions, we implemented two different analysis. We looked at the occurrence of the keywords provided by the supporting BU Law team in the application's description, and we looked at the words with the most frequency in the application's description.

On **Figure 6,** we can see the occurrence of the keywords in granted Motion cases. On **Figure 7**, we can see the occurrence in denied Motion cases. On **Figure 8**, we can see the occurrence in dismissed Motion cases, The full keywords analyzed were: "victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons", "physically present", "complied with reasonable requests for assistance", "extreme hardship", "inadmissible" and "inadmissibility". The keywords omitted in the figures had an occurrence of 0.
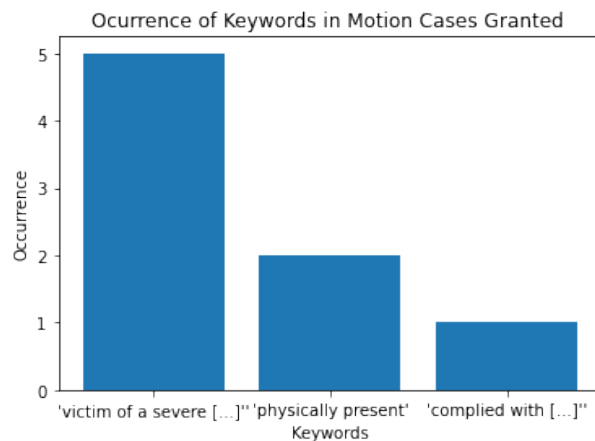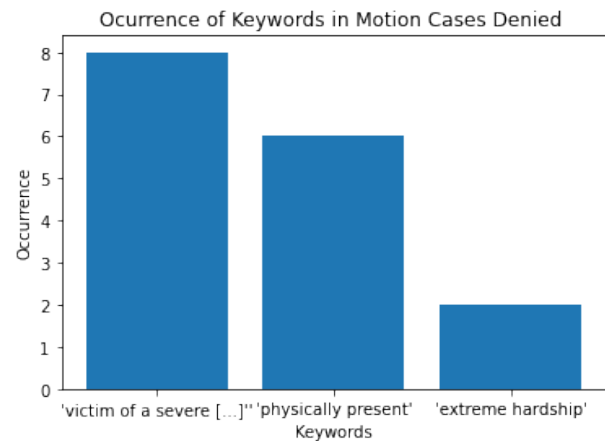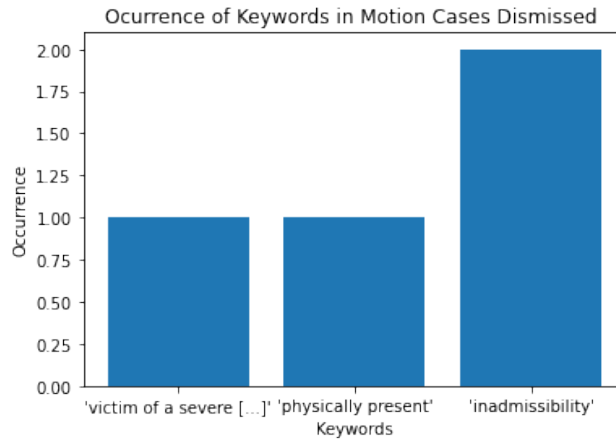

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

On **Figure 9**, we can see the frequency of the top words on denied Motion cases. On **Figure 10,** the frequency on granted Motion cases, and on **Figure 11** the frequency on dismissed Motion cases.
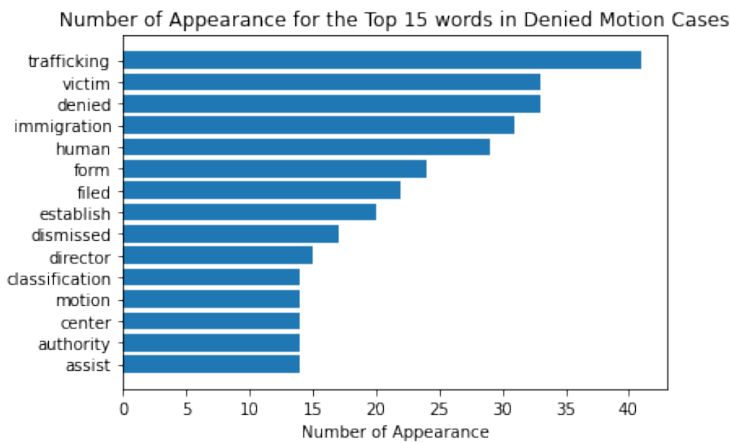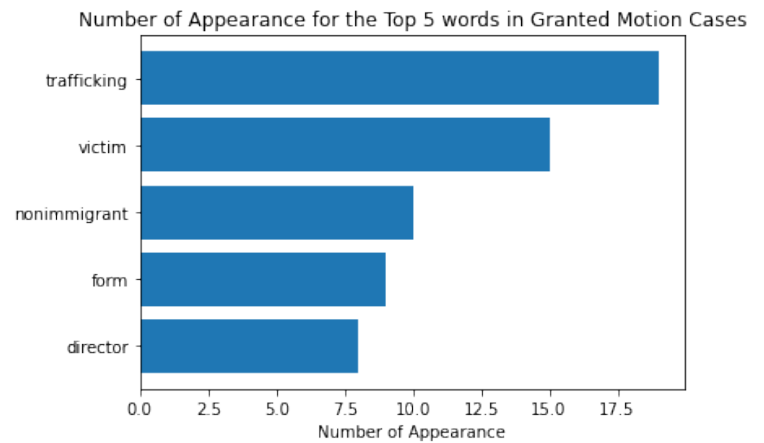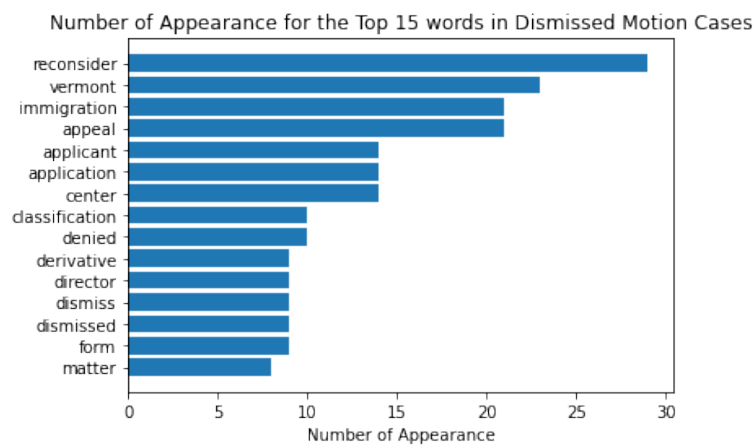

Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

How has this changed over time?

On **Figure 1,** we can see that 2016 and 2020 were the years when most Motions were decided, with 8 applications each. On **Figure 4**, we can see that the amount of granted Motion cases did not vary across the years when cases were actually granted, and on **Figure 5** we saw that 2016 was the year when most Motion cases were denied. Another interesting insight found in **Figure 3** is that 2020 was the year with the most dismissed Motion cases.

Are there any patterns?

On the prevalence of the keywords provided by the BU Law team, we found interesting that the keywords "victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons" and "physically present" were prevalent in all Motion decisions. The difference in the prevalence of keywords presented in **Figure 6, 7** and **8** could be an indicator of importance of these terms in their respective Motion decisions. On the frequency of words, if we disregard words that are of standard use in the applications such as 'trafficking' and 'victim', we can see on **Figure 9, 10** and **11** what could also be important terms related to the Motion decisions.

Additionally, we were able to extract whether an application had a "Counsel" section, indicating that an applicant was assisted with their representation. On **Figure 12,** we can see the amount of applications that included a 'Counsel' section.

Figure 12