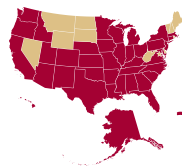
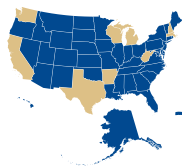
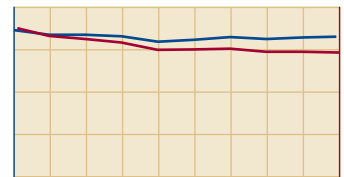
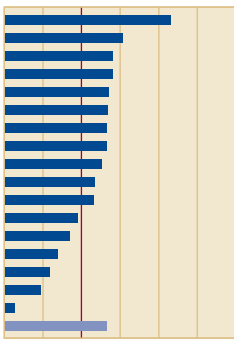




Examining the Work of State Courts: *An Analysis of 2007 State Court Caseloads*

www.courtstatistics.org





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of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position
or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



The Court Statistics Project (CSP) is made possible by the continued support of state court administrators. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the staff of the administrative offices of the courts and of the appellate courts who serve as liaisons between their offices and the CSP and who continuously seek to improve the quality, depth, and consistency of their state court data.

In an effort to recognize the efforts of particular states to improve their statistical reporting, the CSP is initiating a new feature in this publication: the CSP Reporting Excellence Award. This icon appears on pages that highlight particular states whose data reflects the counting rules, case type definitions, and case status categories defined in the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*. These feature pages will highlight the benefits and insights that these complete data make possible.



A number of states made significant improvements in the level of detail provided by their trial courts this year. The enhancements to this data come as a result of implementing the data definitions, counting rules, and reporting framework published in the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*.

We would also like to acknowledge the work of the offices of the state court administrator in the following states for their important data improvement efforts: Alabama (traffic/ordinance), Connecticut (criminal/juvenile), Idaho (domestic relations), Iowa (civil, domestic relations, criminal, juvenile, traffic/ordinance), Hawaii (criminal, traffic/ordinance), Maine (civil), Maryland (civil), Massachusetts (domestic relations, criminal), Michigan (civil, domestic relations, criminal, juvenile, traffic/ordinance), Mississippi (civil, domestic relations, juvenile), Nevada (civil), New Mexico (civil), Ohio (domestic relations), Oklahoma (civil, domestic relations, criminal), Oregon (civil), Pennsylvania (criminal), Puerto Rico (juvenile), South Dakota (criminal), Virginia (domestic, juvenile), Washington (juvenile), West Virginia (domestic relations) and Wyoming (District Court data).

This year also marks the debut of the new reporting framework for appellate court caseload statistics, the product of an intensive, multiyear collaboration between the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks (NCACC) and CSP project staff. We appreciate the involvement of NCACC, its Special Statistics Committee, and the guidance they provided in the creation and implementation of the appellate section of the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*.

The content and design of CSP's reports and Web site are guided by the members of the Court Statistics Committee of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA). The committee members have given generously of their time, talent, and experience, and their participation has been invaluable to project staff.

The Court Statistics Project is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The authors wish to acknowledge the editorial review and helpful comments provided by Duren Banks at BJS.

Special thanks as always to Neal Kauder of VisualResearch, Inc., for his innovative information design.

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The Court Statistics Project (CSP) provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date information regarding the nation's state courts through its annual print publication, *Examining the Work of State Courts*, and on-line publication, *State Court Caseload Statistics*. These reference works are supplemented by the *Caseload Highlights* and *Notes from the Field* series. All of these publications are available at the Court Statistics Project's Web site, www.courtstatistics.org.

The purpose of *Examining the Work of State Courts* is to provide a concise, graphically oriented volume that makes state court statistics highly accessible. *Examining the Work of State Courts* has been designed to be interactive, giving the reader on-line access in its interactive PDF version to information that cannot reasonably be included in the text of the document. The links provided in this format encourage the use of the Web and provide the reader with additional resources that help to facilitate the understanding of the work of state courts.

State Court Caseload Statistics is a discrete on-line reference volume, containing structure charts, statewide aggregate caseload data and reporting practices, population trends, and a detailed explanation of the Court Statistics Project methodology. *State Court Caseload Statistics* is exclusively available on the Web at www.courtstatistics.org.

The *Caseload Highlights* series continues to provide short, periodic reports on specific, significant, and timely issues. *Notes from the Field* is a platform for use by practitioners from the state courts from which they can share their experiences and knowledge of court statistics and the implementation of data systems. The CSP recognizes that informed judges and court managers want information on a range of policy-relevant topics, and want it in a timely fashion and in a condensed, readable format.

These publications are developed through a cooperative agreement with and generous support from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), part of the Office of Justice Planning at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Detailed descriptive information on court structure is provided by another National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and BJS joint project, State Court Organization. Topics covered include: the number of courts and judges; judicial selection; jury qualifications and verdict rules; and processing and sentencing procedures of criminal cases. Court structure diagrams summarize the key features of each state's court organization. The most recent edition is available through BJS and at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/sco04.htm.

Finally, the CSP continues to promote the implementation and use of the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* (hereafter referred to as the *Guide*). Developed with support from the State Justice Institute and with close guidance from the Conference of State Court Administrators' Court Statistics Committee, the *Guide* is a tool for improving court administration by providing a national model for data reporting with concise descriptions and definitions of case types and disposition types, as well as a standardized framework in which to report these categories. The recently revised version of the *Guide* is available in PDF on the NCSC Web site at www.courtstatistics.org.

The firm processed more than a terabyte of data every day . . . The trick, he said, was to "find the very faint phenomena amidst the cacophony of static."

Glen Whitney, former hedge fund mathematician, quoted in the *New Yorker*.

Examining the Work of State Courts is the authoritative analysis of the best available state court case filing and disposition data. Approximately ninety-five percent of all legal cases initiated in the United States are filed in the state courts. Whether the reader's objective is to assess the current legal landscape, to improve the management of a court or a state court system, to develop public policy, or to gain a better understanding of the work of our third branch of government, this publication provides the independent interpretation of reliable data that will speak to the reader's need. In fact, without the benefit of this foundational data and its expert analysis, state court leaders and managers, policy makers, and the media are too often left with little more than random anecdote and unsupported opinion as the basis for their work.

The analysis in this publication is provided by the staff of the Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts. With over thirty years of experience in the collection, compilation, and interpretation of state court data, the Court Statistics Project has no peer.

State Court Administrators from the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have all contributed to the data that are presented in this publication. The commitment of these state court leaders and their staff to the accuracy and consistency of these data ensures the integrity of the data and analysis reported here.

While anecdote and opinion may have been useful in the past, the demand today is for accountability, performance measures, and evidence-based programs. Reliable empirical data provide the basis for the modern tools of court administration, including workload studies, performance measures like the *CourTools* developed by the National Center for State Courts, and the analysis of court process and outcome that can lead to improved administration of justice, enhanced service to the public, and informed public policy.

In the current era of declining state revenues and shrinking state court budgets, the need for reliable data and for the expert analysis of those data is greater than ever. *Examining the Work of State Courts* illustrates the value of good data and dependable analysis and offers a high-level perspective of the current work and prevailing trends in state courts.



Don Goodnow

Chair, Court Statistics Committee
Conference of State Court Administrators

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Begin Pending - Active – A count of cases that, at the start of the reporting period, are awaiting disposition.

Begin Pending - Inactive – A count of cases that, at the start of the reporting period, have been administratively classified as inactive. Business rules for this classification may be defined by a rule of court or administrative order.

Incoming Cases – The sum of the count of New Filing, Reopened, and Reactivated cases.

New Filing – A count of cases that have been filed with the court for the first time during the reporting period.

Reopened – A count of cases in which a judgment has previously been entered but which have been restored to the court's pending caseload during the reporting period. These cases come back to the court due to the filing of a request to modify or enforce that existing judgment and a hearing before a judicial officer is requested to review the status of the case or initiate further proceedings in the case.

Reactivated – A count of cases that had previously been Placed on Inactive Status, but have been restored to the court's control during the reporting period. Further court proceedings in these cases can now be resumed during the reporting period and these cases can once again proceed toward disposition.

Outgoing Cases – The sum of the count of Entry of Judgment, Reopened Dispositions, and Placed on Inactive Status cases counted during the reporting period.

Entry of Judgment – A count of cases for which an original entry of judgment has been filed during the reporting period. For cases involving multiple parties/issues, the disposition should not be reported until all parties/issues have been resolved.

Reopened Dispositions – A count of cases that were disposed of by a modification to, and/or enforcement of, the original judgment of the court during the reporting period. For cases involving multiple parties/issues, the disposition should not be reported until all parties/issues have been resolved.

Placed on Inactive Status – A count of cases whose status has been administratively changed to inactive during the reporting period due to events beyond the court's control. These cases have been removed from court control, and the court can take no further action until an event restores the case to the court's active pending caseload.


End Pending - Active – A count of cases that, at the end of the reporting period, are awaiting disposition.

End Pending - Inactive – A count of cases that, at the end of the reporting period, have been administratively classified as inactive. Business rules for this classification may be defined by rule of court or administrative order.

Set for Review – A count of cases that, following an initial Entry of Judgment, are awaiting regularly scheduled reviews involving a hearing before a judicial officer.

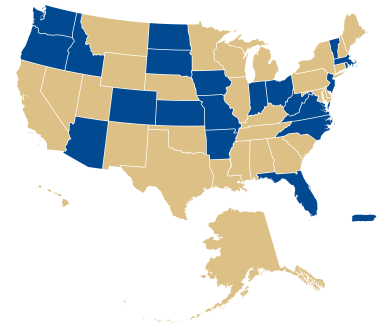
For the third year, *Examining the Work of State Courts* (EWSC) is being published in both a print and electronic format. By closely aligning their designs, the printed and electronic documents provide the user with an efficient on-line experience by delivering an interactive and seamless transition from one reading platform to another. The user still has complete access to the printed document, but also has a portable electronic document (PDF) that gives instant access to underlying data and links to external resources that give broader context to traditional Court Statistics Project data analysis. The added functionality will be seen by readers through special symbols and icons on EWSC pages (in both printed and PDF formats). Features and the corresponding navigation aides are as follows:

Bookmarks – a listing of section headings, tables, and charts located in a separate window on the left side of the electronic (PDF) file which allows quick and efficient navigation throughout the document.

 **Data Icon** – clicking the icon opens a file containing the underlying data for the graphic.

US Map Icon – The map indicates which states are included in the adjacent information graphic, when state names are not listed in the table or chart

Hot Links – integrated into the text with programmed Web site destinations. Hot links are indicated by blue underlined type and supplement the subject being discussed.



CSP Reporting Excellence Award – appears on section title pages and directs the reader to the states that are highlighted at the end of each section. These states report data that reflects the counting rules, case type definitions, and case status categories defined in the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*. These feature pages will highlight the benefits and insights that these complete data make possible.

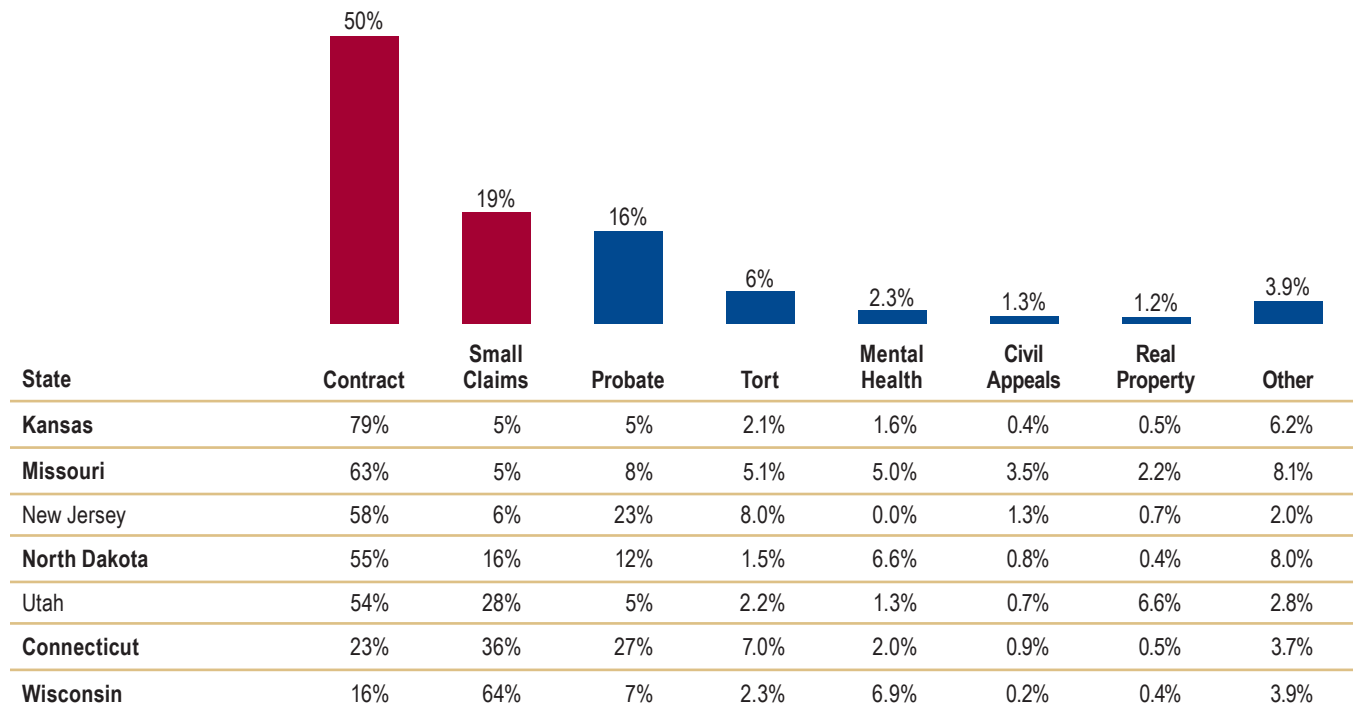
Over 18 million civil cases were processed in state trial courts in 2007

☒ Total Incoming Cases in State Courts, by Jurisdiction, 2007 (in millions)

Case Type	Jurisdiction				Total	Percent of Total
	Unified	General	Unified & General	Limited		
Traffic	12.4	1.8	14.3	42.0	56.3	54.2%
Criminal	3.3	3.4	6.7	14.7	21.4	20.7%
Civil	3.2	4.7	7.9	10.2	18.1	17.5%
Domestic Relations	1.0	3.1	4.1	1.6	5.7	5.5%
Juvenile	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	2.2	2.1%
All Cases	20.3	14.0	34.3	69.3	103.7	100.0%

Small claims and contract disputes represent 70 percent of civil caseloads

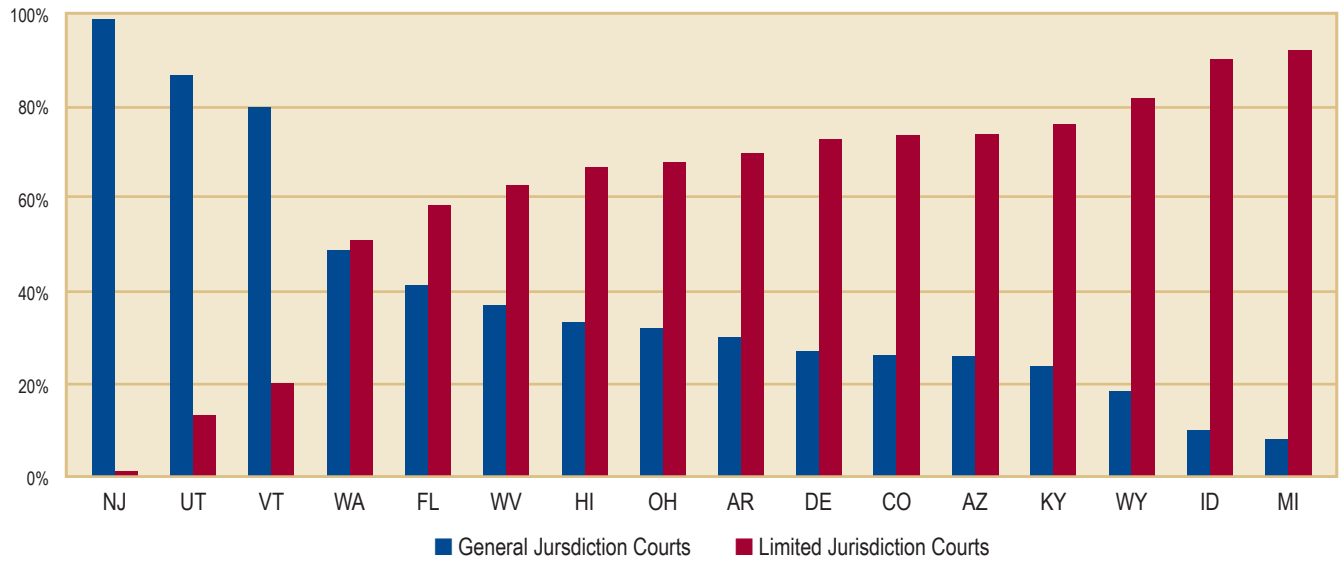
☒ Civil Caseload Composition in 7 States, 2007



Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

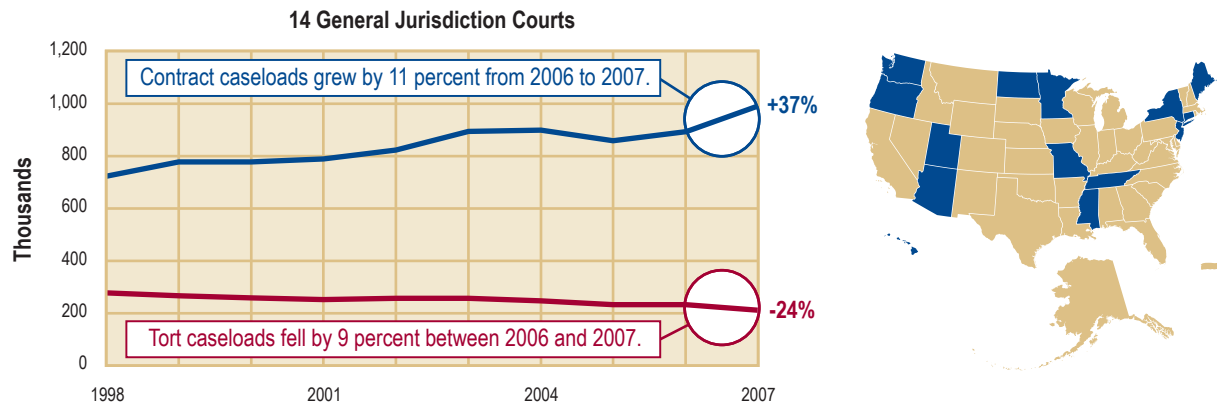
Court structure and caseload composition affect how civil cases are processed

☒ Distribution of Civil Caseloads in 16 States with Two-tiered Court Systems, 2007



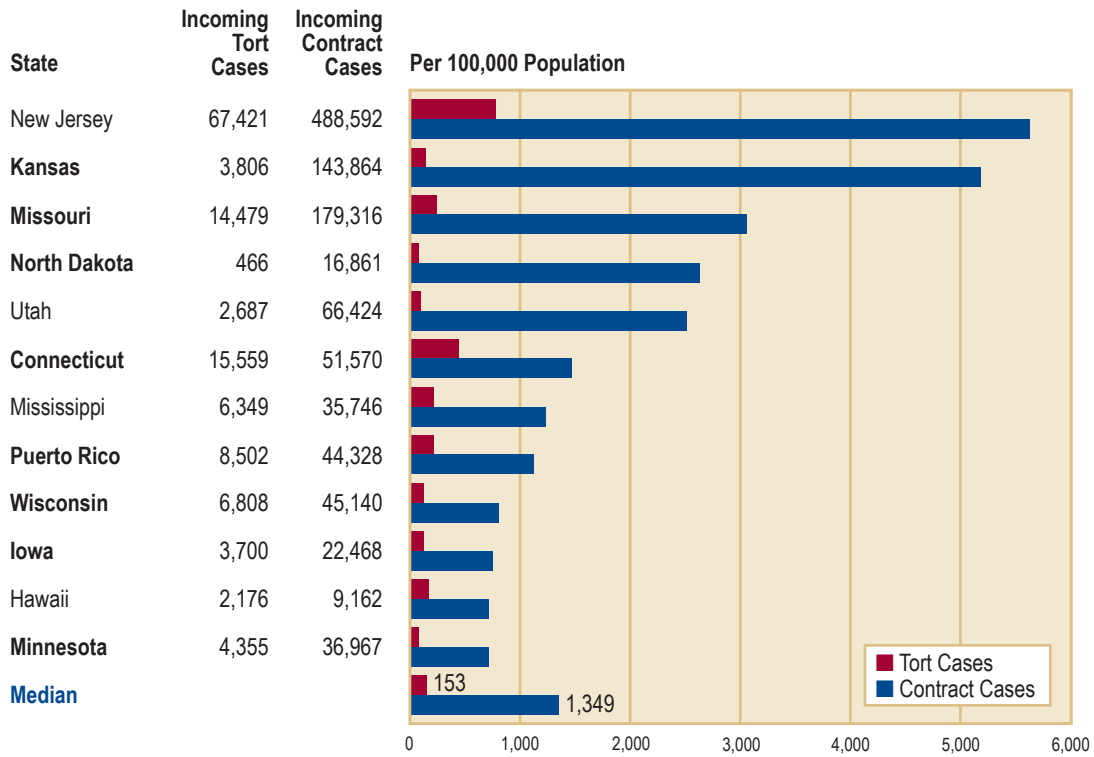
Contracts are up, torts are down

☒ Contract and Tort Caseloads, 1998-2007



Contract rates were nearly 9 times greater than tort rates in 2007

☒ Incoming Tort and Contract Rates in 12 States, 2007



Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

☒ Incoming Small Claims Cases in 33 States, 2007

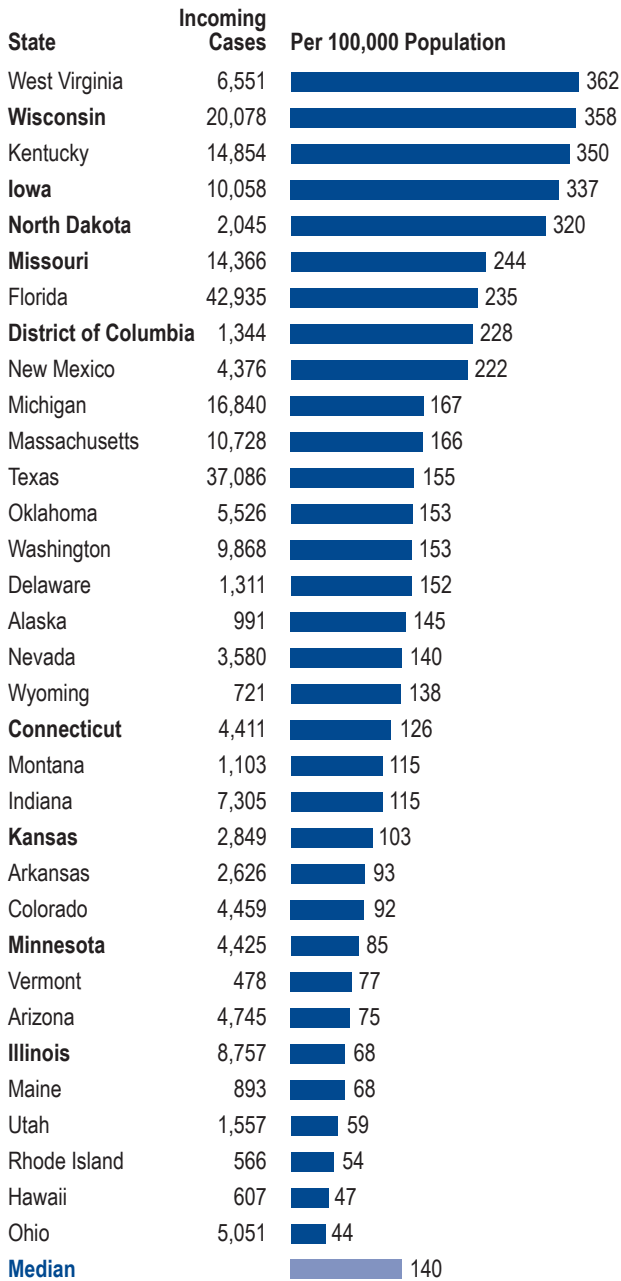
State	Incoming Cases	Per 100,000 Population
Indiana	281,530	4,437
South Carolina	187,554	4,255
Iowa	103,107	3,451
Wisconsin	184,311	3,290
North Carolina	264,194	2,916
West Virginia	49,365	2,724
Oklahoma	98,444	2,721
Alabama	106,596	2,303
Connecticut	79,801	2,279
District of Columbia	12,335	2,097
New Mexico	39,414	2,001
Massachusetts	122,833	1,904
Rhode Island	19,453	1,839
Florida	324,407	1,777
Vermont	9,105	1,466
Utah	34,881	1,319
Illinois	166,855	1,298
Idaho	19,177	1,279
Wyoming	6,680	1,278
Minnesota	59,156	1,138
Arkansas	25,942	915
Michigan	86,370	858
North Dakota	5,094	796
Ohio	88,969	776
Maine	8,880	674
New Jersey	52,920	609
Arizona	25,205	398
Nebraska	6,542	369
Kentucky	15,572	367
Washington	22,411	346
Kansas	9,450	340
Hawaii	3,822	298
Missouri	15,493	264
Median		1,298

☒ Incoming Probate Caseloads in 33 States, 2007

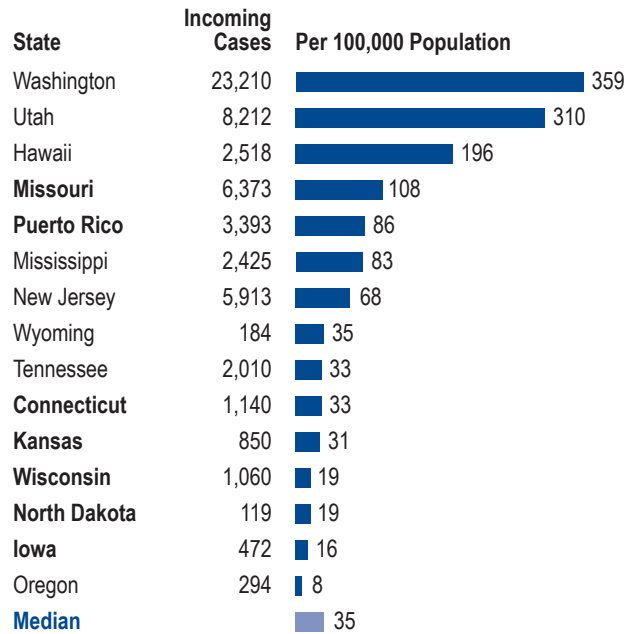
State	Incoming Cases	Per 100,000 Population
New Jersey	195,718	2,253
Connecticut	60,514	1,728
Massachusetts	52,019	807
Vermont	4,767	767
Florida	136,766	749
New York	144,013	746
South Carolina	32,011	726
North Carolina	62,028	685
Ohio	74,969	654
North Dakota	3,578	559
Michigan	47,311	470
District of Columbia	2,735	465
Nebraska	8,152	459
Mississippi	12,286	421
Arkansas	11,732	414
Montana	3,695	386
Delaware	3,314	383
Missouri	22,085	376
Wisconsin	20,727	370
Oklahoma	12,905	357
Kansas	9,595	346
Indiana	21,444	338
Wyoming	1,671	320
South Dakota	2,480	311
Washington	19,283	298
Alaska	1,819	266
Nevada	6,351	248
Minnesota	12,290	236
Colorado	11,198	230
Utah	5,687	215
Hawaii	2,642	206
Arizona	12,652	200
West Virginia	924	51
Median		383

Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

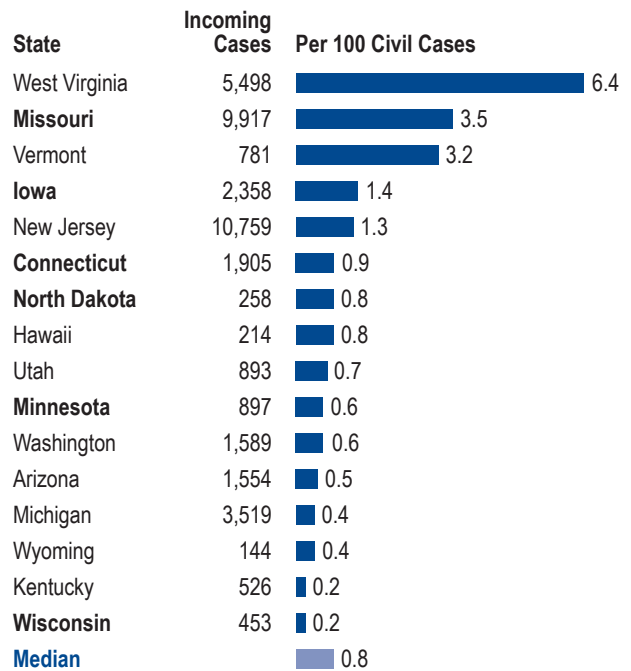
☒ Incoming Mental Health Cases in 33 States, 2007



☒ Incoming Real Property Cases in 15 States, 2007



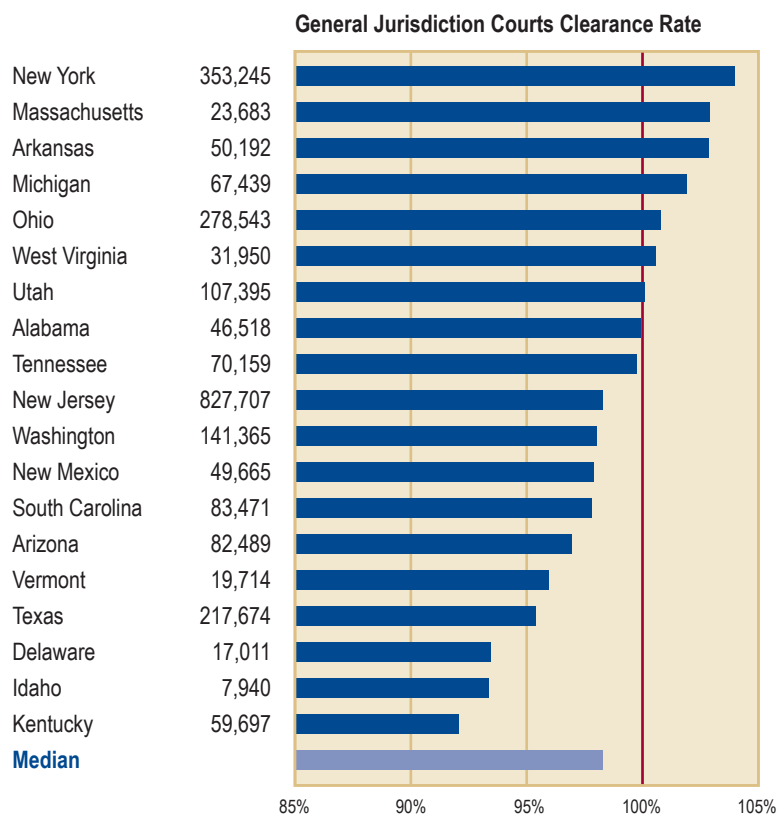
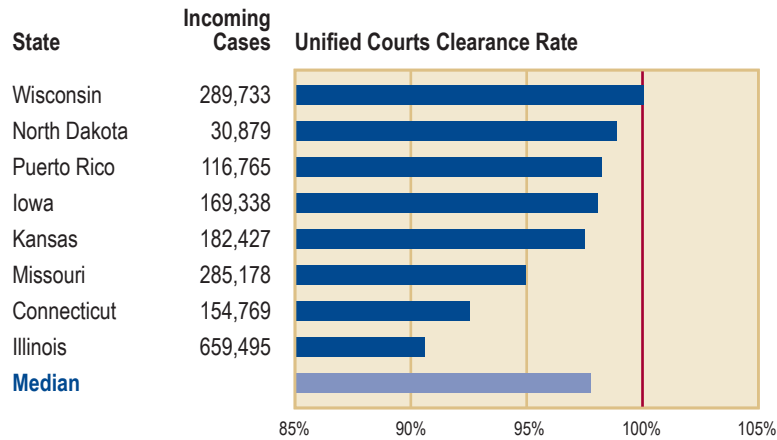
☒ Incoming Civil Appeals Cases in 16 States, 2007



Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

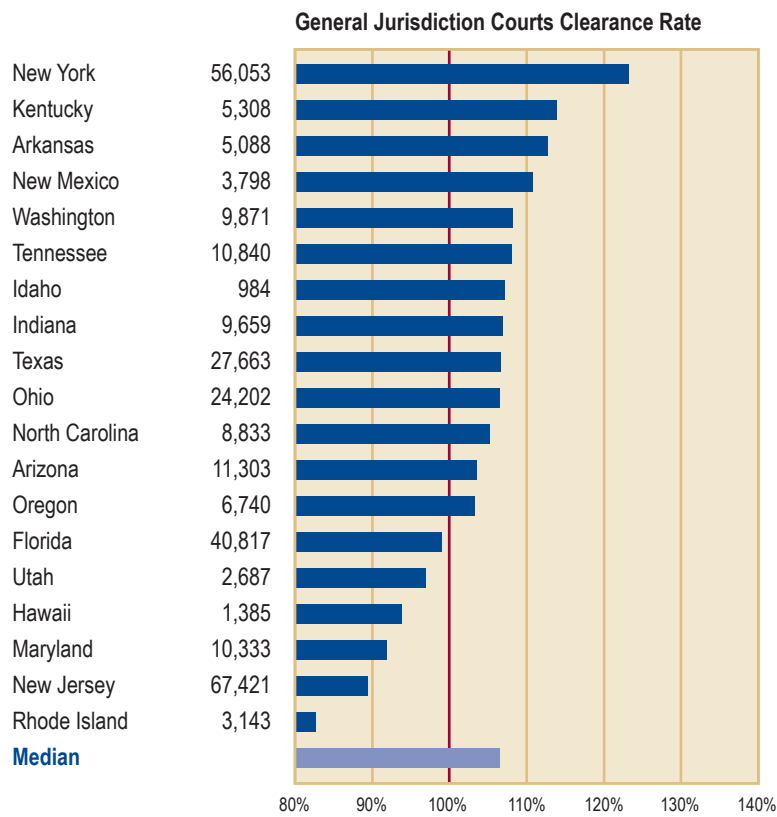
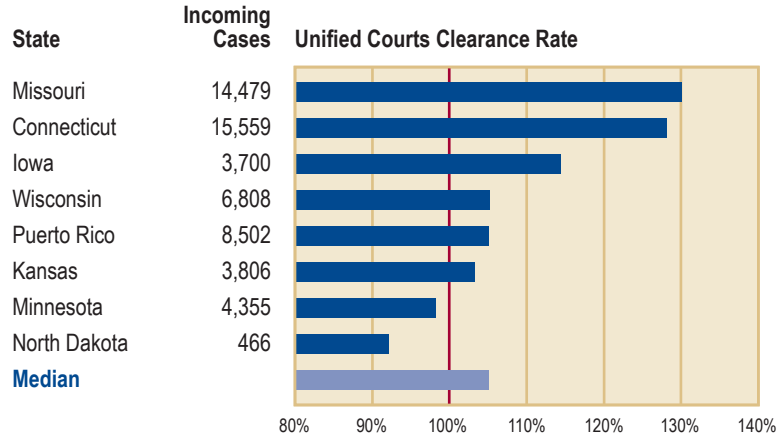
Increasing caseloads may be making it difficult for some states to clear civil cases

☒ **Civil Caseload Clearance Rates in 27 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2007**

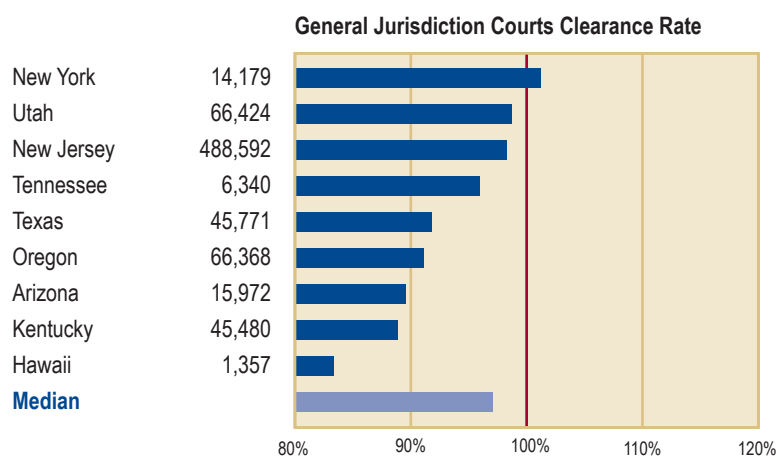
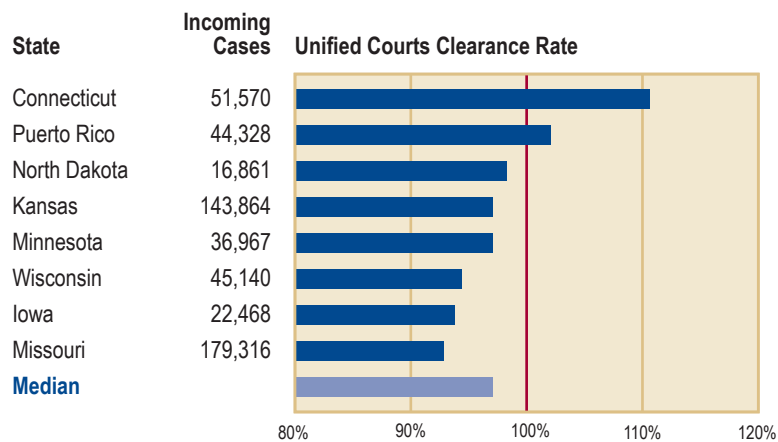


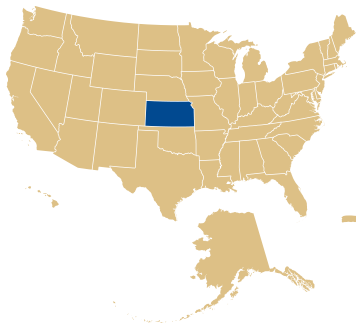
Declining tort caseloads may be contributing to higher clearance rates

☒ Tort Clearance Rates in 27 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2007



Contract Clearance Rates in 17 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2007





Kansas

The Case for a Civil Cover Sheet: Spotlight on Kansas

State court data have little value for cross-state comparisons if they are not defined and collected consistently everywhere. Since its inception in the mid-1970s, the Court Statistics Project (CSP), with guidance from the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), has championed a national model for state court data collection designed to promote meaningful comparisons. Beginning with the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*, first published in 1980, and continuing through the current *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*, comprehensive and evolving sets of case types and status categories have been defined and submitted for use by all state trial and appellate courts. To date, virtually every state has implemented at least part of the national model and some states have gone to great lengths to adopt it in its entirety.

Under the leadership of State Court Administrator and former chair of the CSP-COSCA Statistics Committee, Dr. Howard Schwartz, the trial courts of Kansas made a commitment to implement the entire civil component of the *Guide* soon after its release in 2003. This effort was facilitated by a “Civil Information Sheet” mandated by Kansas Supreme Court rule to accompany every civil case filed with the clerks of court. The form permits concise and uniform case-level information about the amount demanded, case type, jury request, and the parties and attorneys involved. The case type portion of the form is essentially verbatim from the *Guide* and in fact permits even greater detail than is outlined therein. To improve case type categorization accuracy and to expedite the filing process, the court asks the attorneys to fill out the form rather than the clerk of court.

Kansas began reporting its *Guide*-compliant civil caseload for data year 2006 (the data featured here are from data year 2007). Presently unsurpassed by any other state, Kansas reports new filings and reopened caseloads for 36 of the 38 civil case types outlined in the *Guide*. It is one of only three states (along with New Jersey and Wisconsin) that reports an intentional tort (e.g., assault, vandalism) caseload and also one of only three states that reports a premises liability caseload. The latter—also known as “slip and fall” cases—were identified in the 2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics/National Center for State Courts collaboration *Civil Justice Survey of State Courts* as the third most common type of tort trial in state courts after automobile and medical malpractice trials. Kansas’ data is consistent with this finding. Yet, despite these relatively high rates of occurrence, Kansas, Iowa, and Mississippi are the only states to report complete premises liability caseloads.

The charts and table show some of the details that become available when a state reports its civil caseload in accordance with the *Guide*.

Four of five civil cases in Kansas are contract cases

☒ Civil Caseload Composition in the Kansas District Court, 2007

Case Type	Incoming Cases	Percent of Civil Caseload
Contract	143,864	78.9%
Probate/Estate	9,595	5.3%
Small Claims	9,450	5.2%
Tort	3,806	2.1%
Mental Health	2,849	1.6%
Real Property	850	0.5%
Other Civil*	12,013	6.6%
Grand Total Civil	182,427	

* Other Civil includes civil appeals, writs, non-domestic relations restraining orders, and tax cases.

☒ Contract Caseload Composition in the Kansas District Court, 2007

Case Type	Incoming Cases	Percent of Contract Caseload
Seller plaintiff (debt collection)	104,742	72.8%
Landlord/tenant - Unlawful det.	14,537	10.1%
Mortgage foreclosure	10,294	7.2%
Landlord/tenant - Other	1,796	1.2%
Fraud	310	0.2%
Buyer plaintiff	216	0.2%
Employment - other	93	0.1%
Employment - discrimination	11	0.0%
Other contract	11,865	8.2%
Total Contract	143,864	

☒ Tort Caseload Composition in the Kansas District Court, 2007

Case Type	Incoming Cases	Percent of Tort Caseload
Automobile tort	2,314	60.8%
Malpractice - Total	298	7.8%
Premises liability	188	4.9%
Intentional tort	134	3.5%
Product liability - Total	44	1.2%
Slander/libel/defamation	19	0.5%
Other tort	809	21.3%
Total Tort	3,806	



Tort cases comprise only 2 percent of the Kansas civil caseload

☒ Kansas District Court Civil Caseload, 2007

Civil Case Type	New Filings	Reopened Cases	Total Incoming	Entries of Judgment	Clearance Rate	Percent Reopened
Automobile tort	2,273	41	2,314	2,280	99%	1.8%
Intentional tort	132	2	134	112	84%	1.5%
Malpractice - medical	248	6	254	193	76%	2.4%
Malpractice - legal	29	0	29	18	62%	0.0%
Malpractice - other	15	0	15	11	73%	0.0%
Premises liability	186	2	188	165	88%	1.1%
Product liability - asbestos	20	0	20	22	110%	0.0%
Product liability - tobacco	1	0	1	0	0%	0.0%
Product liability - other	21	2	23	25	109%	8.7%
Slander/libel/defamation	19	0	19	21	111%	0.0%
Other tort	777	32	809	1,081	134%	4.0%
Buyer plaintiff	212	4	216	238	110%	1.9%
Employment - discrimination	11	0	11	10	91%	0.0%
Employment - other	93	0	93	63	68%	0.0%
Fraud	305	5	310	331	107%	1.6%
Landlord/tenant - unlawful detainer	14,481	56	14,537	12,564	86%	0.4%
Landlord/tenant - other	1,776	20	1,796	1,914	107%	1.1%
Mortgage foreclosure	9,698	596	10,294	10,874	106%	5.8%
Seller plaintiff (debt collection)	103,953	789	104,742	107,232	102%	0.8%
Other contract	11,551	314	11,865	6,458	54%	2.6%
Eminent domain	125	0	125	103	82%	0.0%
Other real property	689	36	725	969	134%	5.0%
Small Claims	9,450	n/a	9,450	9,450	100%	n/a
Guardianship - adult	899	0	899	873	97%	0.0%
Guardianship - juvenile	811	0	811	809	100%	0.0%
Conservatorship/trusteeship	331	0	331	260	79%	0.0%
Probate/wills/intestate	4,849	9	4,858	5,058	104%	0.2%
Other probate/estate	2,691	5	2,696	2,311	86%	0.2%
Mental Health	2,849	n/a	2,849	2,849	100%	n/a
Appeals from admin. agency	547	0	547	501	92%	0.0%
Appeals from ltd juris. trial court	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other civil appeals	225	0	225	196	87%	0.0%
Habeas corpus	324	9	333	422	127%	2.7%
Non-dom. rel. restraining order	4,067	9	4,076	3,854	95%	0.2%
Tax cases	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Writ involving prison conditions	204	9	213	233	109%	4.2%
Other writs	99	0	99	147	148%	0.0%
Total other civil	6,456	64	6,520	5,900	90%	1.0%
Grand Total Civil	180,417	2,010	182,427	177,547	97%	1.1%

Notes: n/a = not available. — Distinguishes Civil subcategories in the *Guide*.

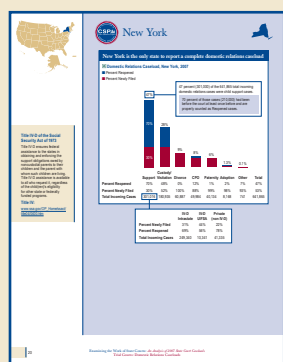
Summary

- State court domestic relations caseloads comprise divorce, paternity, custody, support, visitation, adoption, and civil protection/restraining order (CPO) cases.
- A total of 5.7 million incoming domestic relations cases were reported in state courts in 2007, a decrease of about 145,000 cases (-2.5%) from the previous year.
- Domestic relations cases represented 5.5 percent of all incoming cases in state trial courts in 2007.
- Divorce and support cases each typically account for about one-third of a state's domestic relations caseload, but can range from 10 to 60 percent, depending on the state and case counting methodology.
- The child custody and support cases referenced herein are actions that take place subsequent to a divorce proceeding and are filed with the intention of modifying the existing decree.
- Regardless of the specific domestic relations case type examined, states generally dispose of about as many domestic relations cases as are filed each year.

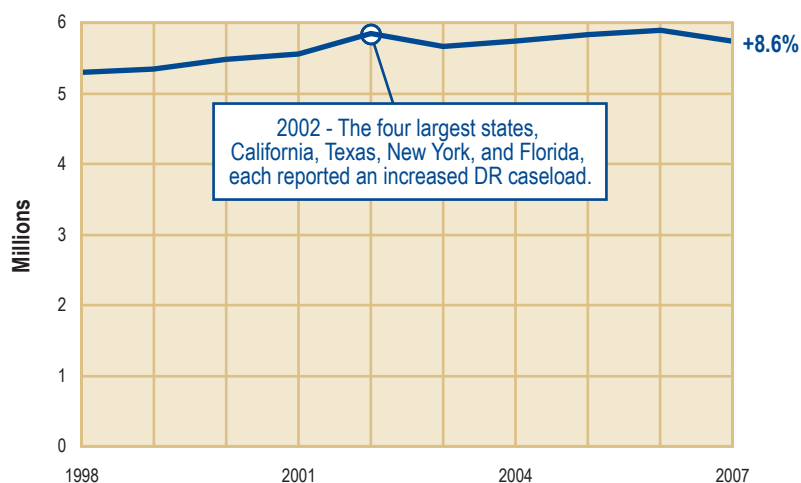


Special Recognition:

An Inside Look at New York's New Domestic Relations Reporting



Total Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads, 1998-2007

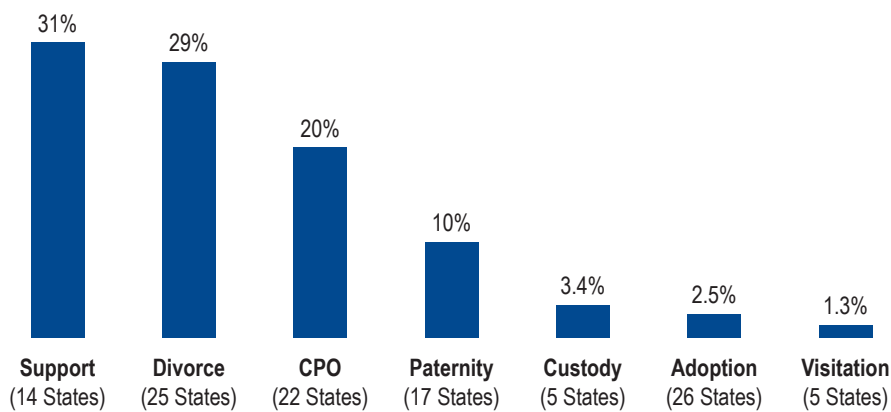


Although great in their consequences, domestic relations cases are relatively few in number

☒ Total Incoming Cases in State Courts, by Jurisdiction, 2007 (in millions)

Case Type	Jurisdiction				Total	Percent of Total
	Unified	General	Unified & General	Limited		
Traffic	12.4	1.8	14.3	42.0	56.3	54.2%
Criminal	3.3	3.4	6.7	14.7	21.4	20.7%
Civil	3.2	4.7	7.9	10.2	18.1	17.5%
Domestic Relations	1.0	3.1	4.1	1.6	5.7	5.5%
Juvenile	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	2.2	2.1%
All Cases	20.3	14.0	34.3	69.3	103.7	100.0%

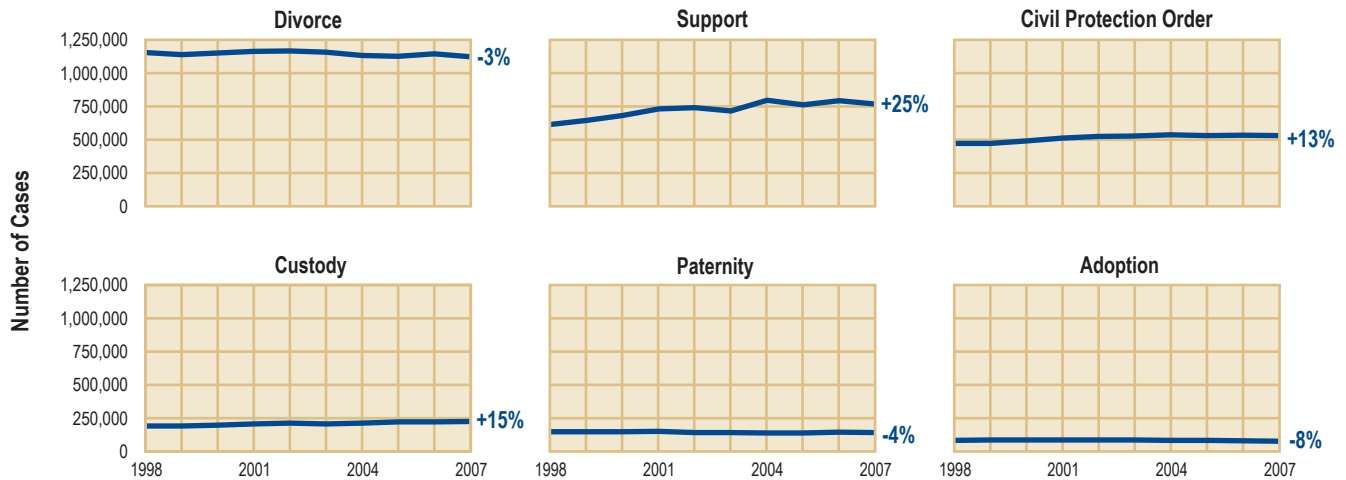
☒ Estimated Domestic Relations Caseload Composition, 2007



Note: This composition was derived by calculating the percentage that each individual case type comprised of the total domestic relations caseload in the states that reported complete and accurate data for the specific case type. For example, in the 14 states that reported complete support caseloads, the sum of all support cases was 31 percent of the sum of all domestic relations cases. This methodology suggests that about 3 percent of cases would have been reported in the residual "other domestic relations" case type.

Support cases show the greatest increase over the past decade

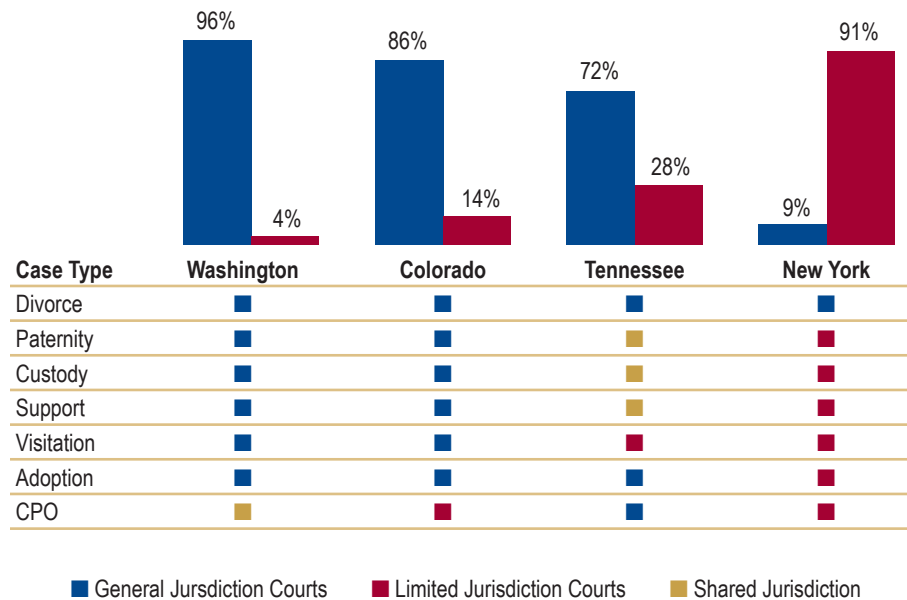
☒ Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads, by Case Type, 1998-2007



Note: Trend data for visitation cases were not available.

States have chosen different venues in which to process certain domestic relations case types

☒ Distribution of Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads in 4 States, 2007



Divorce and support cases dominate domestic relations caseloads in most states

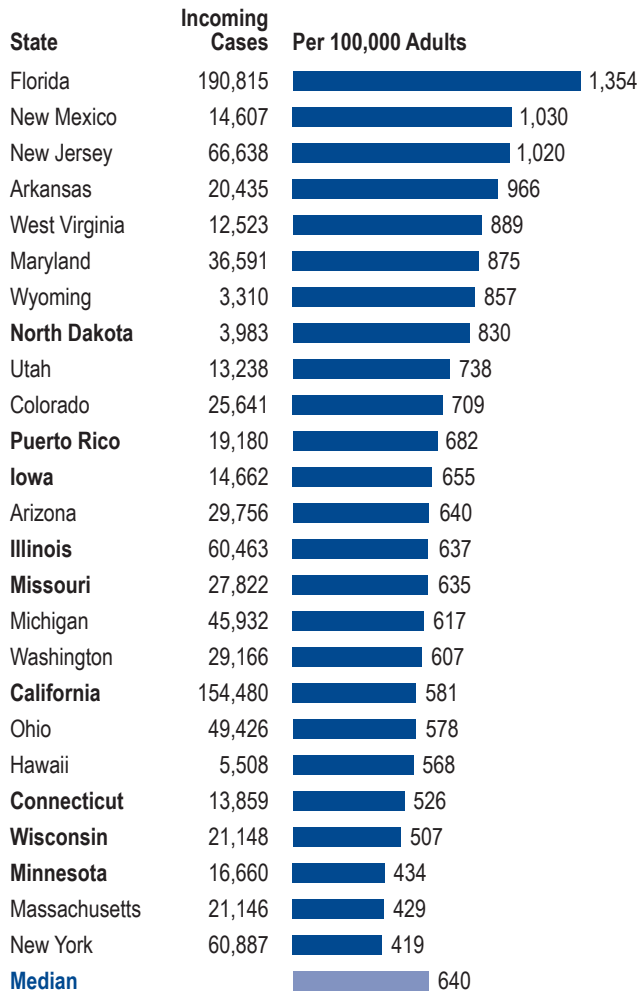
Percent of Total Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads by Case Type in 23 States, 2007

State	Adoption	Divorce	CPO	Paternity	Support	Custody	Visitation
Missouri	3%	26%	46%	8%	13%		0.5%
Puerto Rico	1%	52%		1%	34%	4.8%	2.8%
New York	1%	9%	8%	6%	47%	28% Reported as one aggregate caseload.	
Colorado	5%	52%		5%	14%	8.2%	
Connecticut	5%	38%	23%	5%	15%		
Iowa	5%	36%	15%	15%		3.3%	
Michigan	4%	35%	21%	15%		1.6%	
New Mexico	2%	39%	30%	14%	12%		
North Dakota	2%	24%	5%	9%	59%		
Ohio	2%	20%	8%	9%			1.4%
Utah	8%	61%	21%	5%			0.2%
Washington	4%	44%	26%	11%		2.5%	
Wisconsin	4%	38%	14%	26%	17%		
Wyoming	5%	42%	17%	6%	29%		
Arizona	2%	21%	30%		31%		
Arkansas	4%	39%	19%	11%			
Hawaii	5%	42%	35%	14%			
Maryland	2%	30%	24%	18%			
Minnesota	5%	36%	25%		29%		
Florida		40%	25%		15%		
Idaho	4%		21%		16%		
Illinois	3%	43%	35%				
West Virginia	2%	23%	60%				
Number of States Reporting	22	22	21	17	13	6	5

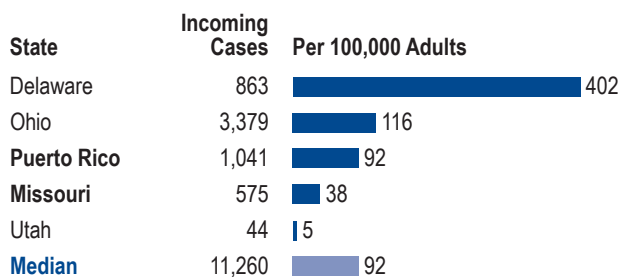
Notes: States in **Bold** have a unified court system. Blank cells indicate the state did not report data for this case type.

Divorce and support cases dominate domestic relations caseloads of most states

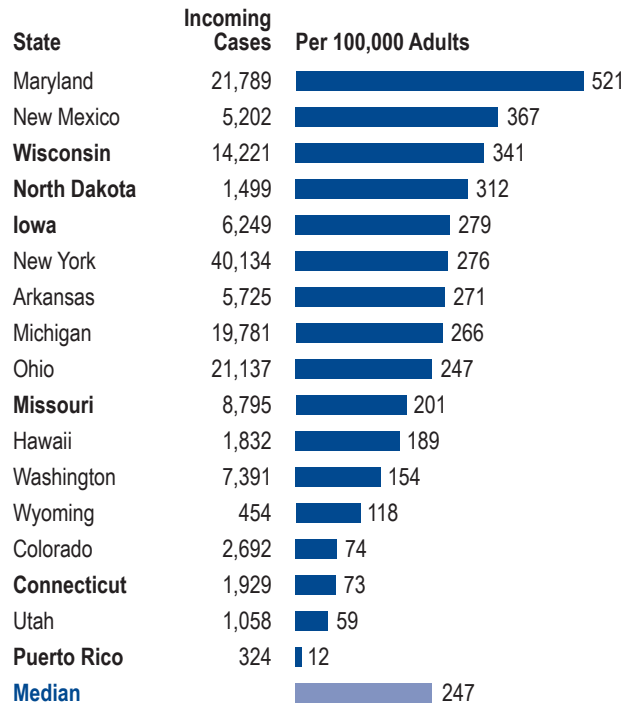
☒ Incoming Divorce Caseloads in 25 States, 2007



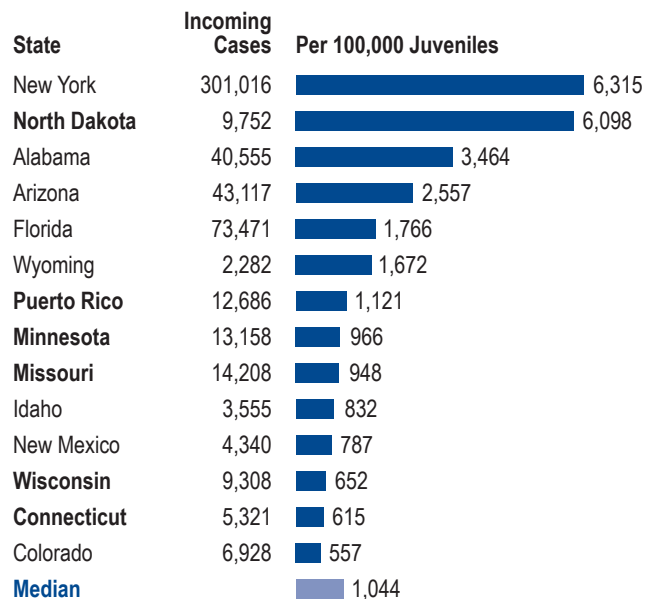
☒ Incoming Visitation Caseloads in 5 States, 2007



☒ Incoming Paternity Caseloads in 17 States, 2007

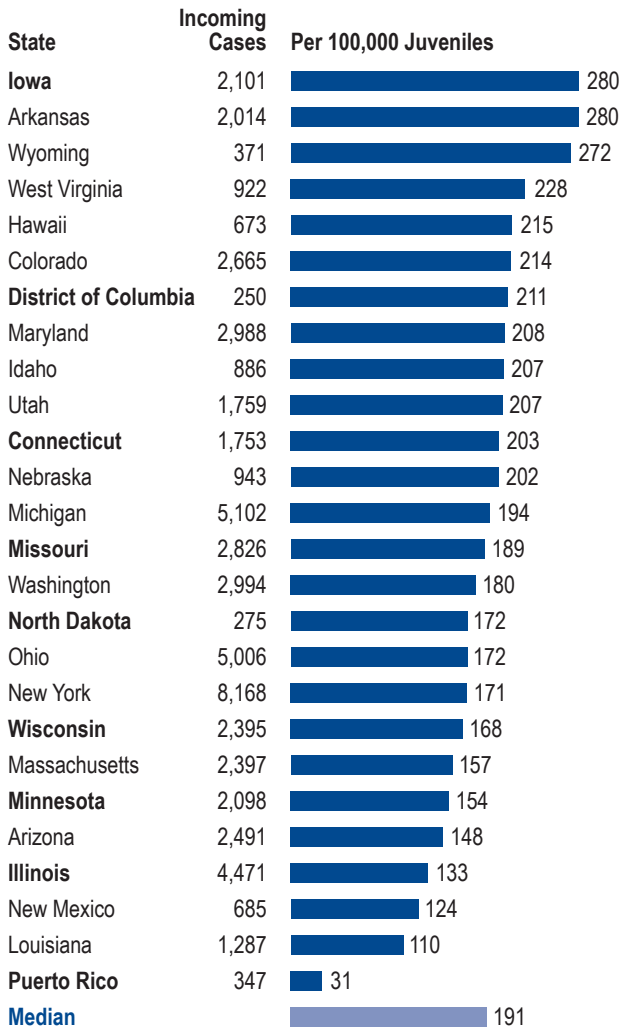


☒ Incoming Support Caseloads in 14 States, 2007

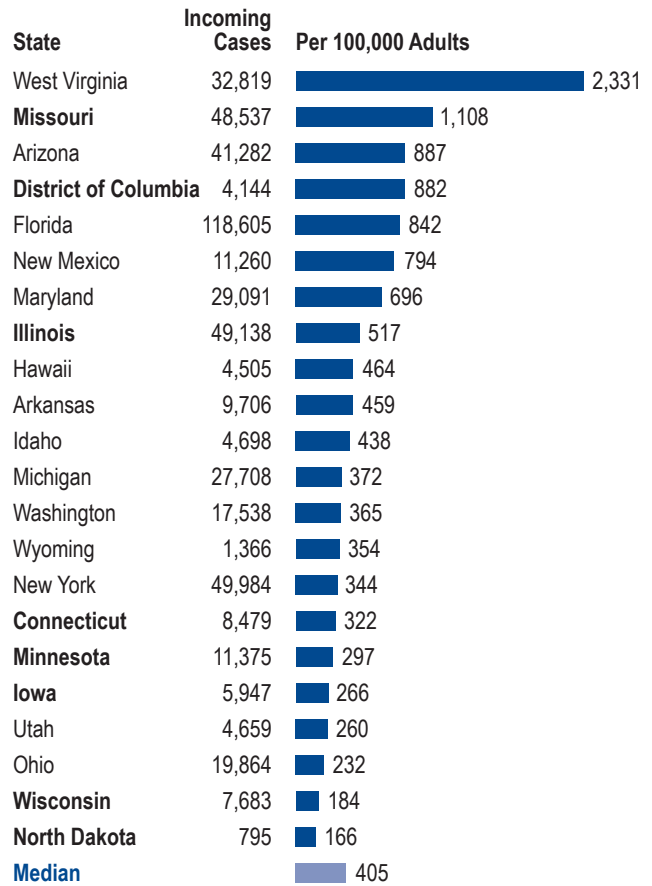


Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

☒ Incoming Adoption Caseloads in 26 States, 2007

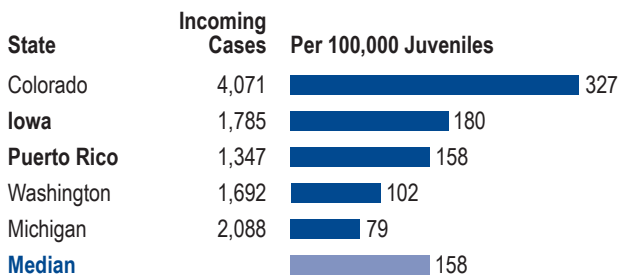


☒ Civil Protection Order Cases in 22 States, 2007



Note: Civil protection order filing rates are influenced by such things as duration, number of renewals permitted, and whether temporary and permanent orders are both reported as separate cases.

☒ Incoming Child Custody Caseloads in 5 States, 2007



Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

Many states are achieving 100 percent clearance rates in domestic relations case types

 Domestic Relations Clearance Rates by Case Type in 38 States, 2007

| = less than 95% ■ = 95-99% ■ = 100% or more

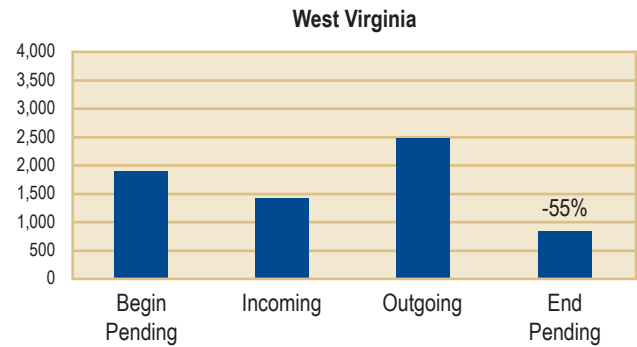
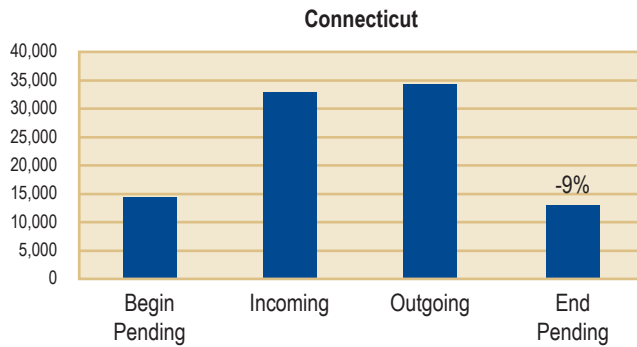
State	Divorce	Adoption	CPO	Paternity	Support	Custody	Visitation
Puerto Rico	■	■		■	■		■
Delaware	■	■	■		■	■	■
Iowa	■	■	■	■		■	
Michigan	■	■	■	■			
Missouri	■	■	■		■		
New Mexico	■	■	■	■	■		
New York	■	■	■	■	■		
North Dakota	■		■	■	■		
Utah	■	■	■	■			■
Wisconsin	■	■	■	■	■		
Arizona	■	■	■		■		
Arkansas	■	■	■				
Hawaii	■	■	■				
Maryland	■	■	■				
Minnesota	■		■		■		
Ohio	■	■	■	■			
Oregon	■		■	■	■	■	
Vermont	■	■	■	■	■		
Florida*	■		■				
Idaho		■	■		■		
Illinois	■	■	■				
Indiana	■		■				
Kansas	■	■	■				
Pennsylvania	■		■		■		
Washington	■	■		■		■	
West Virginia	■	■	■				
Connecticut	■		■		■		
District of Columbia		■	■				
Alabama					■		
Montana		■		■			
New Jersey	■	■					
Rhode Island		■	■				
Kentucky			■				
Massachusetts							
North Carolina					■		
Tennessee							
Texas	■						
Virginia	■						
Median	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Number of States Reporting	30	29	28	19	17	6	3

Notes: States in **Bold** have a unified court system. Blank cells indicate the state did not report data for this case type.

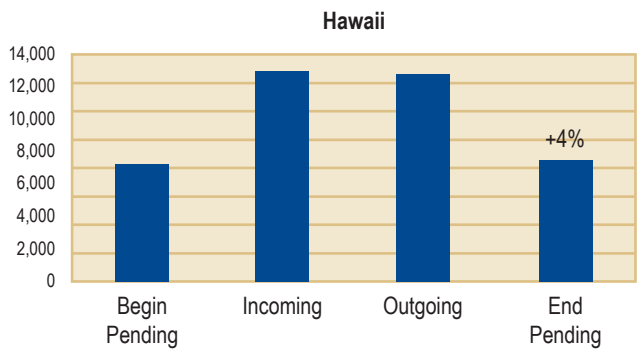
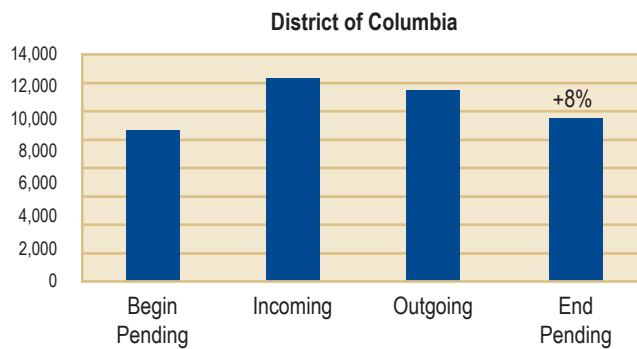
*Florida's clearance rates are based on new filings and dispositions only.

Managing caseloads requires accurate counts of pending cases

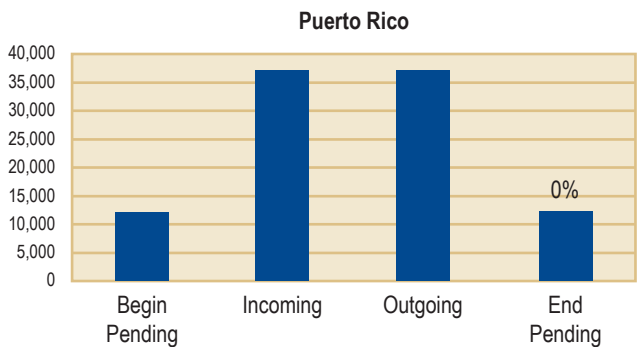
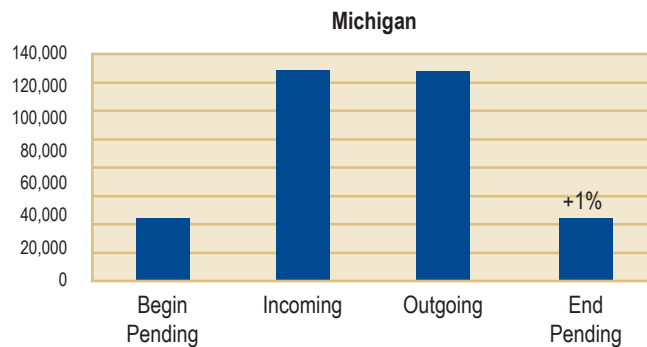
These general jurisdiction courts are catching up, reducing their pending caseload...

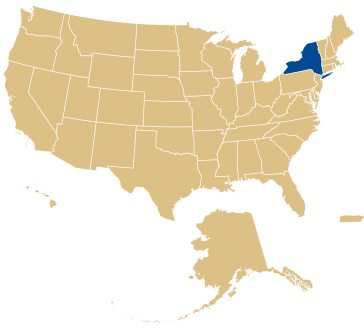


... these states are adding to their pending caseload...



... these states are holding steady, maintaining a constant pending caseload.





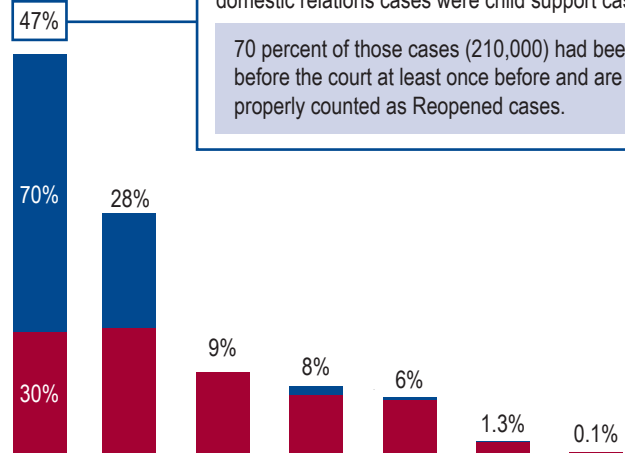
New York



New York is the only state to report a complete domestic relations caseload

Domestic Relations Caseload, New York, 2007

■ Percent Reopened
■ Percent Newly Filed



47 percent (301,000) of the 641,865 total incoming domestic relations cases were child support cases.

70 percent of those cases (210,000) had been before the court at least once before and are properly counted as Reopened cases.

	Custody/ Support	Visitation	Divorce	CPO	Paternity	Adoption	Other	Total
Percent Reopened	70%	48%	0%	12%	1%	2%	7%	47%
Percent Newly Filed	30%	52%	100%	88%	99%	98%	93%	53%
Total Incoming Cases	301,016	180,935	60,887	49,984	40,134	8,168	741	641,865

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973

Title IV-D ensures federal assistance to the states in obtaining and enforcing the support obligations owed by noncustodial parents to their children and the parent with whom such children are living. Title IV-D assistance is available to all who request it, regardless of the child(ren)'s eligibility for other state or federally funded programs.

Title IV:

www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title04/0400.htm

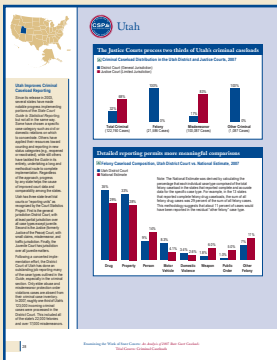
	IV-D Intrastate	IV-D UIFSA	Private (non IV-D)
Percent Newly Filed	31%	44%	22%
Percent Reopened	69%	56%	78%
Total Incoming Cases	249,340	10,341	41,335

Summary

- State court criminal caseloads comprise felony, misdemeanor, and criminal appeals from limited jurisdiction courts. Specific case types shared under both felony and misdemeanor are person, domestic violence, elder abuse, property, drug, weapon, public order, and motor vehicle cases.
- Over 21 million criminal cases were reported in state courts in 2007.
- Despite a 9 percent increase over the last 10 years, criminal case filings fell about 1 percent between 2006 and 2007.
- Criminal cases represent 21 percent of all cases processed in state trial courts and nearly half of the total non-traffic caseload.
- Most felonies are property or drug-related offenses.
- More so than most case categories, criminal caseload statistics are greatly influenced by court structure and reporting practices.
- Utah reported a near-complete criminal caseload for its general jurisdiction District Court.

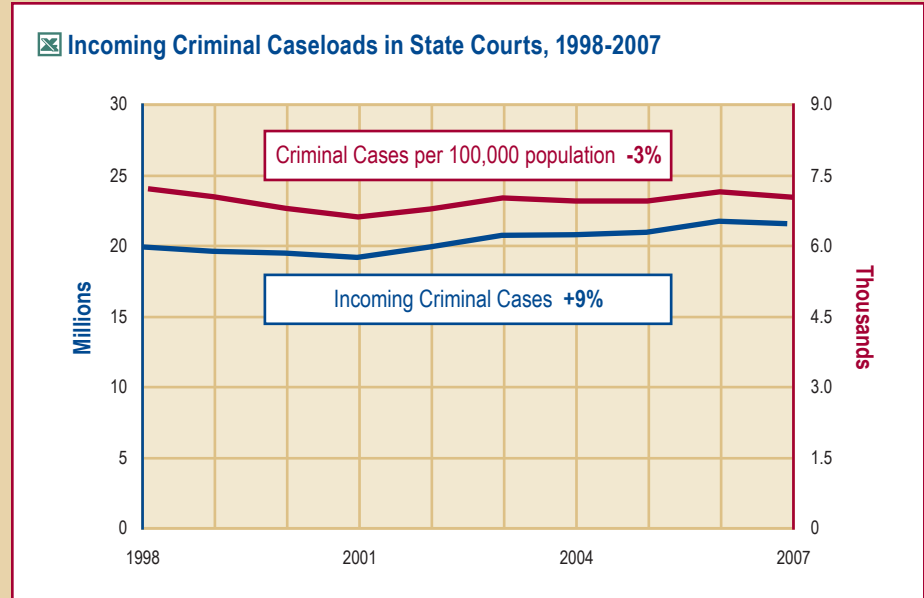


Special Recognition:
Utah Improves Criminal Caseload Reporting



Drug and property cases dominate Utah's caseload

Case Type	2007	2006	Change	Percent of Total
All	21,800,000	20,000,000	+9%	100%
Drug	10,500,000	9,500,000	+11%	48%
Property	10,000,000	9,000,000	+11%	46%
Domestic Violence	1,000,000	1,000,000	0%	5%
Public Order	500,000	500,000	0%	2%
Motor Vehicle	500,000	500,000	0%	2%
Other	300,000	300,000	0%	1%



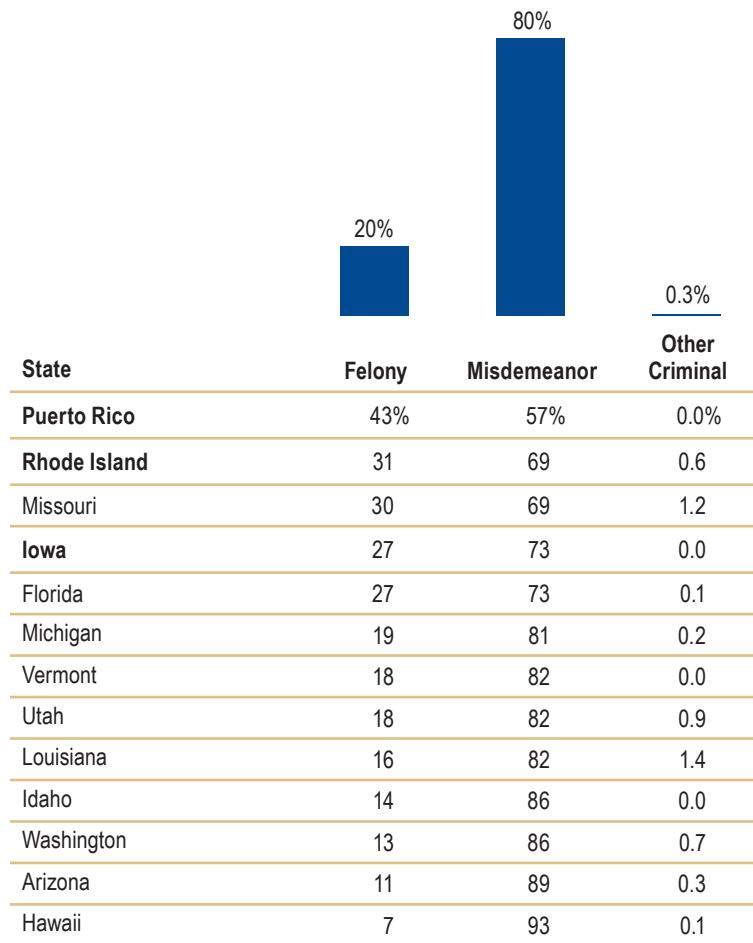
Fifteen of 21 million criminal cases are processed in courts of limited jurisdiction

☒ Total Incoming Cases in State Courts, by Jurisdiction, 2007 (in millions)

Case Type	Jurisdiction				Total	Percent of Total
	Unified	General	Unified & General	Limited		
Traffic	12.4	1.8	14.3	42.0	56.3	54.2%
Criminal	3.3	3.4	6.7	14.7	21.4	20.7%
Civil	3.2	4.7	7.9	10.2	18.1	17.5%
Domestic Relations	1.0	3.1	4.1	1.6	5.7	5.5%
Juvenile	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	2.2	2.1%
All Cases	20.3	14.0	34.3	69.3	103.7	100.0%

Misdemeanors outnumber felonies four to one

☒ Criminal Caseload Composition in 13 States, 2007



Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

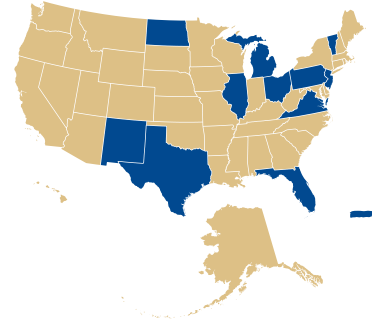
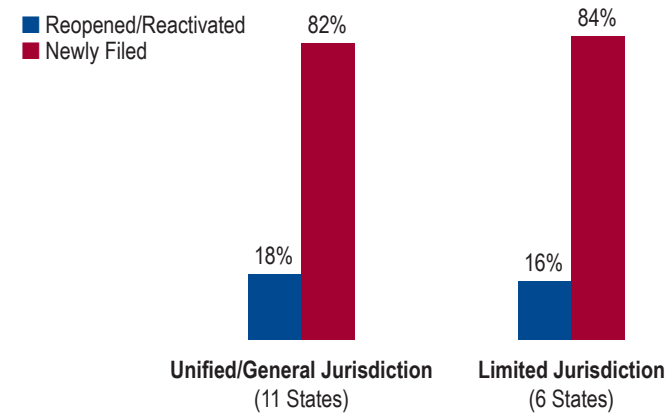
☒ Incoming Criminal Caseloads and Rates in 17 States, 2007

State	Incoming Criminal Cases			Criminal Cases per 100,000 Adults		
	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction	Total	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction	Total
Unified Courts						
Puerto Rico	84,299		84,299	2,999		2,999
Iowa	87,656		87,656	4,296		4,296
Missouri	198,878		198,878	4,541		4,541
South Dakota	29,124		29,124	4,997		4,997
Illinois	542,453		542,453	5,711		5,711
Median				4,541		4,541
Two-tiered Courts						
Vermont	18,990	n/j	18,990	4,033	n/j	4,033
Rhode Island	6,233	37,969	44,202	771	4,698	5,469
Utah	39,736	83,024	122,760	2,216	4,629	6,845
Indiana	247,084	50,799	297,883	5,255	1,080	6,335
Washington	50,399	326,215	376,614	1,049	6,788	7,836
Kentucky	31,840	219,642	251,482	996	6,868	7,864
Florida	389,993	1,060,987	1,450,980	2,768	7,530	10,298
Hawaii	7,606	104,351	111,957	784	10,755	11,539
Louisiana	175,478	206,524	382,002	5,622	6,617	12,239
South Carolina	126,155	278,427	404,582	3,826	8,445	12,271
Idaho	12,135	138,685	150,820	1,132	12,936	14,068
Michigan	72,476	982,271	1,054,747	974	13,197	14,171
Median				1,674	6,868	9,081

Note: n/j = no jurisdiction

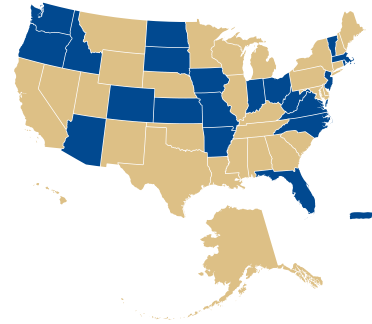
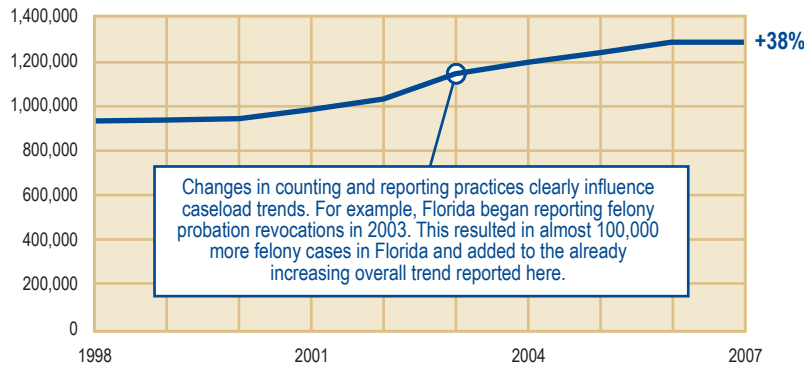
Relatively few criminal cases are reported as reopened or reactivated

☒ Reopened/Reactivated Criminal Caseloads in 12 States, 2007



Felony cases leveled out in 2007 after several years of increases

☒ Incoming Felony Caseloads in General Jurisdiction Courts in 22 States, 1998-2007



On average, about one felony case is filed for every 100 adults

☒ Incoming Felony Caseloads and Rates in 28 General Jurisdiction Courts, 2007

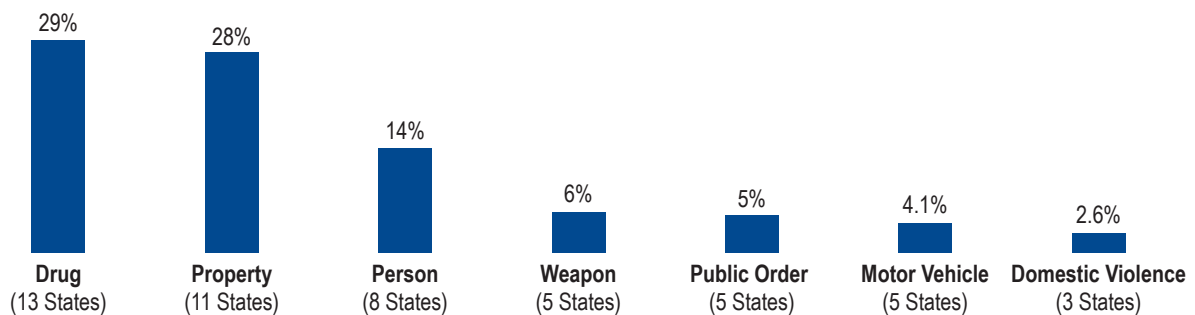
State	Incoming Cases	Per 100,000 Adults
Massachusetts	5,961	121
Hawaii	3,818	394
West Virginia	6,220	442
Wyoming	2,216	574
Nevada	12,073	633
Vermont	3,449	732
Rhode Island	5,946	736
Minnesota	31,295	816
New Jersey	55,962	857
Washington	45,547	948
Michigan	71,464	960
South Dakota	5,660	971
Kansas	19,930	977
Idaho	10,863	1,013
Iowa	23,979	1,071
Ohio	98,387	1,150
Oregon	33,408	1,184
Utah	21,586	1,204
Puerto Rico	35,898	1,277
Missouri	59,218	1,352
North Dakota	6,775	1,412
Indiana	69,340	1,475
North Carolina	111,059	1,621
New Mexico	23,044	1,625
Texas	280,648	1,635
Tennessee	86,014	1,853
Louisiana	61,314	1,964
Florida	389,127	2,762
Median		1,042
Mean		1,134

Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

Drug and property cases dominate felony caseloads

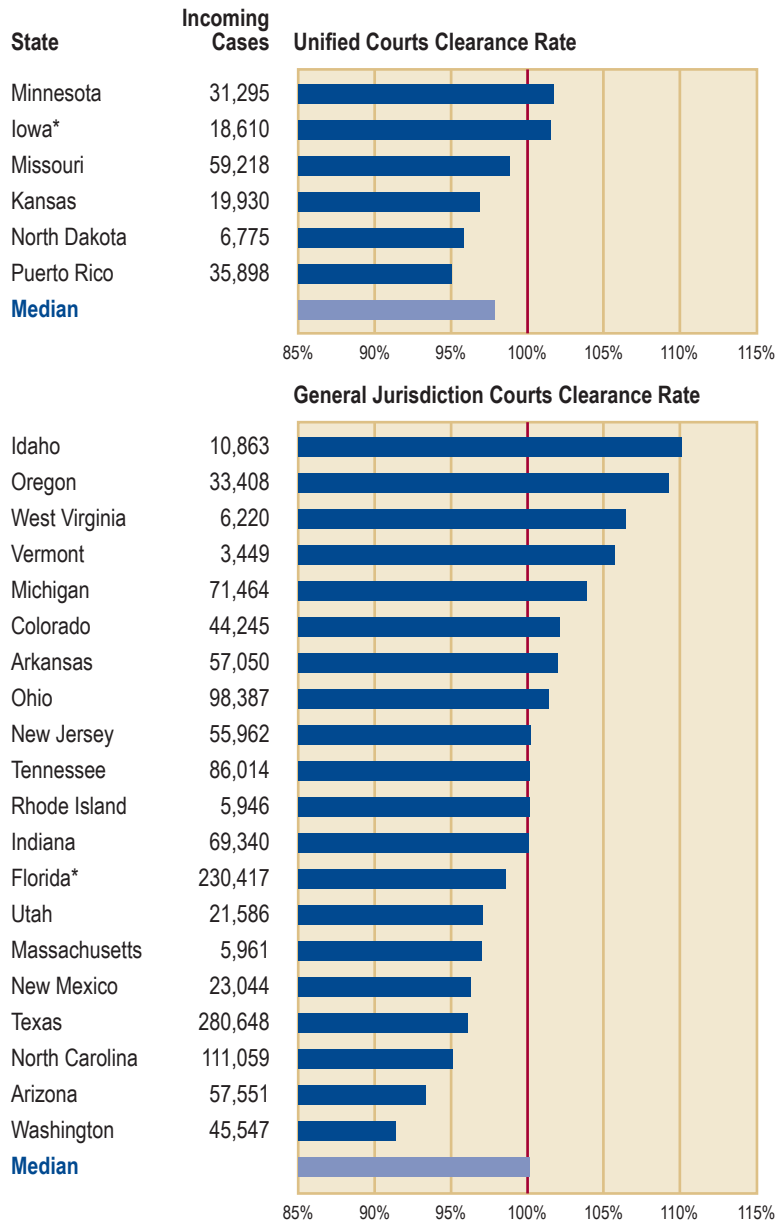
☒ National Estimate of Felony Caseload Composition, 2007

Note: See page 28 for an explanation of how the National Estimate was derived.



Most states are keeping up with felony caseloads

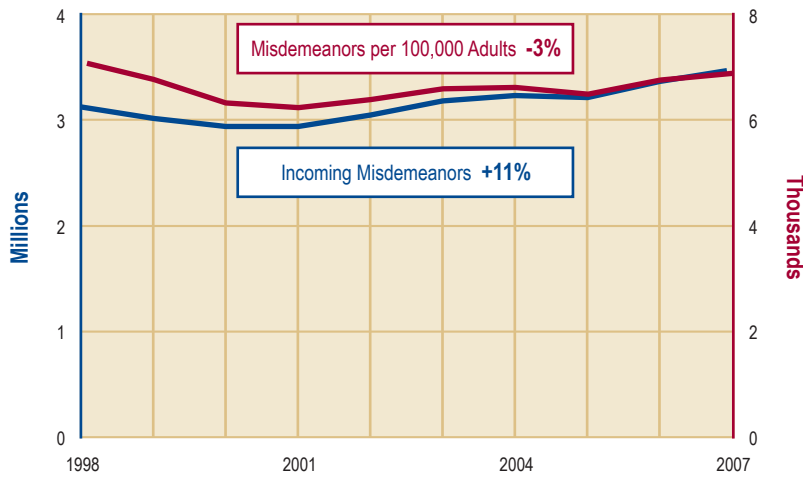
☒ Felony Clearance Rates in Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts in 26 States, 2007



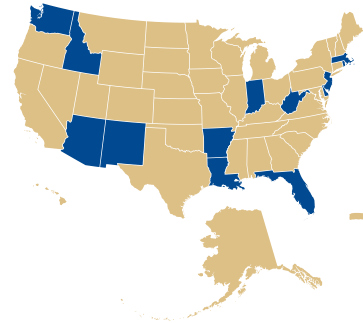
*These rates are based on new filings and dispositions only.

Misdemeanor cases increased while the population-adjusted rate of incoming cases declined

☒ Incoming Misdemeanor Caseloads and Rates in Limited Jurisdiction Courts in 13 States, 1998-2007

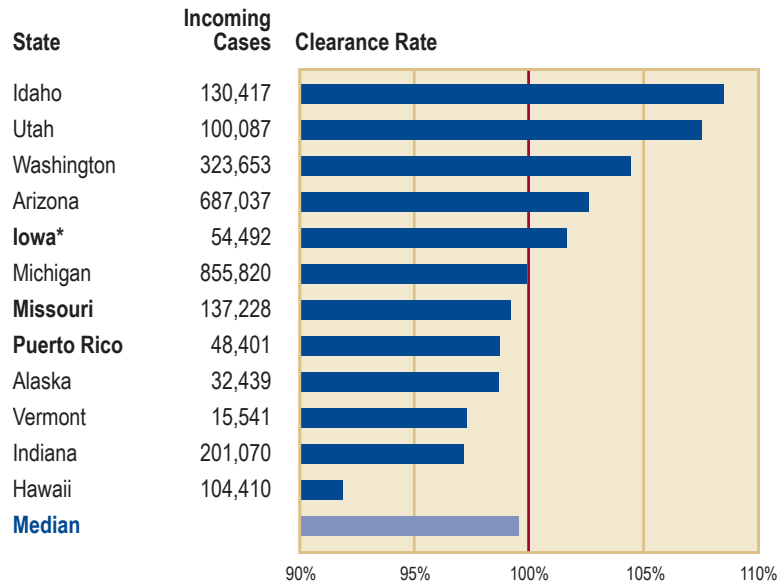


Note: Despite generally increasing caseloads, the aggregate adult population-adjusted rate of incoming misdemeanors in these 13 states is 3 percent lower now than it was in 1998.

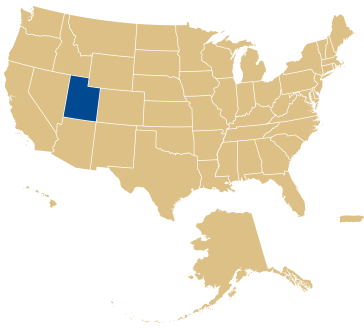


High misdemeanor clearance rates are being achieved despite voluminous caseloads

☒ Misdemeanor Clearance Rates in 12 States, 2007



Notes: States in **Bold** have a unified court system. *Iowa's rate is based on new filings and dispositions only.



Utah

Utah Improves Criminal Caseload Reporting

Since its release in 2003, several states have made notable progress implementing portions of the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*, but not all in the same way. Some have chosen a specific case category such as civil or domestic relations on which to concentrate. Others have applied their resources toward counting and reporting in new status categories (e.g., reopened or reactivated), while still others have tackled the *Guide* in its entirety, undertaking a long and methodical route to complete implementation. Regardless of the approach, progress by any state helps the cause of improved court data and comparability among the states.

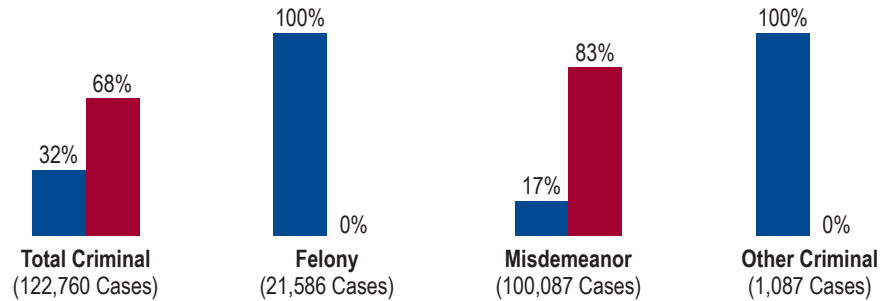
Utah has three state-level trial courts or "reporting units" as recognized by the Court Statistics Project. First is the general jurisdiction District Court, with at least partial jurisdiction over all case types except juvenile. Second is the Justice (formerly Justice of the Peace) Court, with small claims, misdemeanor, and traffic jurisdiction. Finally, the Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all juvenile matters.

Following a concerted implementation effort, the District Court of Utah has done an outstanding job reporting many of the case types outlined in the *Guide*, especially in the criminal section. Only elder abuse and misdemeanor protection order violations cases are absent from their criminal case inventory. In 2007, roughly one-third of Utah's 123,000 incoming criminal cases were processed in the District Court. This included all of the state's 22,000 felonies and over 17,000 misdemeanors.

The Justice Courts process two thirds of Utah's criminal caseloads

✉ Criminal Caseload Distribution in the Utah District and Justice Courts, 2007

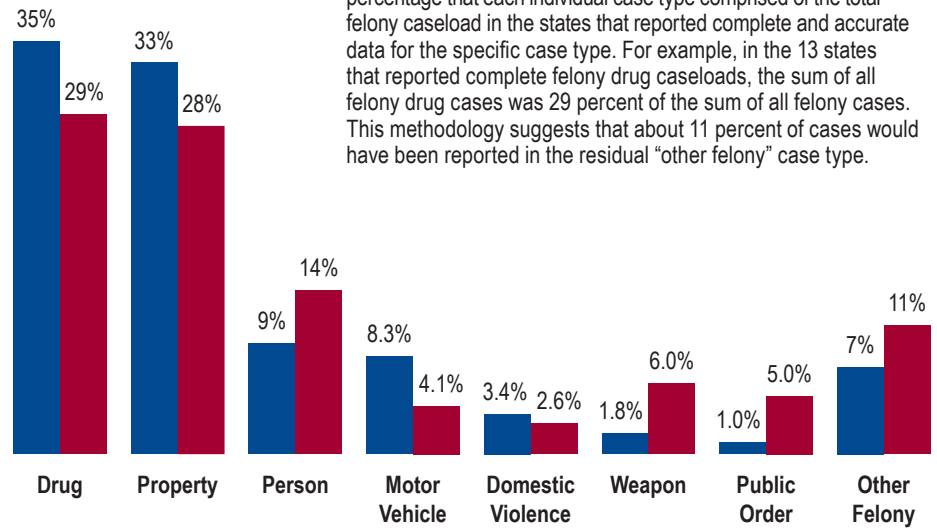
- District Court (General Jurisdiction)
- Justice Court (Limited Jurisdiction)



Detailed reporting permits more meaningful comparisons

✉ Felony Caseload Composition, Utah District Court vs. National Estimate, 2007

- Utah District Court
- National Estimate



Note: The National Estimate was derived by calculating the percentage that each individual case type comprised of the total felony caseload in the states that reported complete and accurate data for the specific case type. For example, in the 13 states that reported complete felony drug caseloads, the sum of all felony drug cases was 29 percent of the sum of all felony cases. This methodology suggests that about 11 percent of cases would have been reported in the residual "other felony" case type.



Drug and property cases also dominate Utah's felony caseload

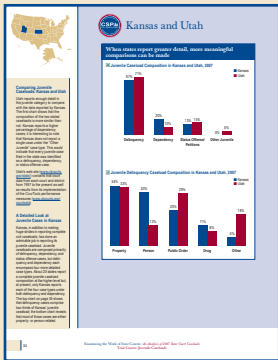
☒ Criminal Caseload Summary - Utah District Court, 2007

Felony	New Filings	Criminal Caseload	Entries of Judgment	Clearance Rate
Drug	7,606	19.0%	7,714	101%
Property	7,207	18.0%	6,752	94%
Person	2,043	5.0%	1,968	96%
Motor vehicle - DWI/DUI	981	2.5%	891	91%
Motor vehicle - Other	803	2.0%	827	103%
Domestic violence	741	1.9%	704	95%
Weapon	385	1.0%	355	92%
Public order	202	0.5%	157	78%
Motor vehicle - Reckless driving	14	0.0%	24	171%
Other felony ¹	1,604	4.0%	1,554	97%
Total Felony	21,586	54.0%	20,946	97%
Misdemeanor				
Property	3,387	9.0%	4,108	121%
Domestic violence	2,510	6.0%	2,925	117%
Drug	1,821	4.6%	1,919	105%
Person	1,748	4.4%	1,840	105%
Motor vehicle - DWI/DUI	1,556	3.9%	1,782	115%
Public order	1,525	3.8%	1,596	105%
Motor vehicle - Other	199	0.5%	237	119%
Weapon	194	0.5%	203	105%
Motor vehicle - Reckless driving	12	0.0%	18	150%
Other misdemeanor ²	4,111	10.0%	5,279	128%
Total Misdemeanor	17,063	43.0%	19,907	117%
Appeals from Ltd Juris. Courts	764	2.0%	471	62%
Other Criminal	323	1.0%	542	168%
Grand Total Criminal	39,736	100.0%	41,866	105%

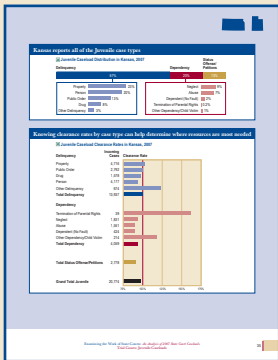
¹ Also includes elder abuse cases. ² Also includes elder abuse and protection order violation cases.



Special Recognition:
Comparing Juvenile Caseloads: Kansas and Utah



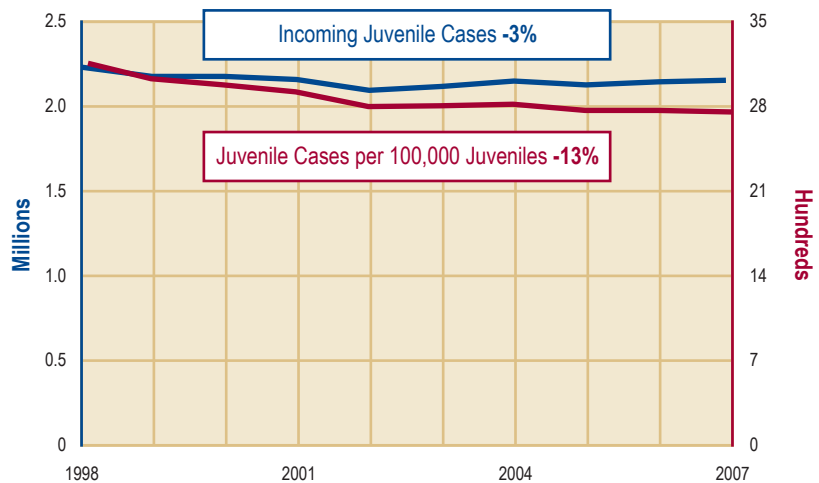
A Detailed Look at Juvenile Cases in Kansas



Summary

- State court juvenile caseloads comprise delinquency, dependency, and status offense cases. Specific case types under delinquency are drug, person, property, and public order cases. Dependency caseloads include abuse, neglect, dependent (no fault), and termination of parental rights (TPR) cases.
- Over 2.1 million juvenile petitions were filed in state courts in 2007. This was an increase of less than 1 percent from the previous year.
- Reopened or reactivated juvenile caseload percentages range from almost none to over 50 percent.
- Delinquency cases dominate most juvenile caseloads.
- Kansas is the only state presently reporting new filings and entry of judgment data for each of the case types recommended in the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*.

Incoming Juvenile Caseloads in State Courts, 1998-2007



Juvenile cases comprise 2 percent of all incoming cases

☒ Total Incoming Cases in State Courts, by Jurisdiction, 2007 (in millions)

Case Type	Jurisdiction				Total	Percent of Total
	Unified	General	Unified & General	Limited		
Traffic	12.4	1.8	14.3	42.0	56.3	54.2%
Criminal	3.3	3.4	6.7	14.7	21.4	20.7%
Civil	3.2	4.7	7.9	10.2	18.1	17.5%
Domestic Relations	1.0	3.1	4.1	1.6	5.7	5.5%
Juvenile	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	2.2	2.1%
All Cases	20.3	14.0	34.3	69.3	103.7	100.0%

Eleven states reported a reopened and/or reactivated juvenile caseload

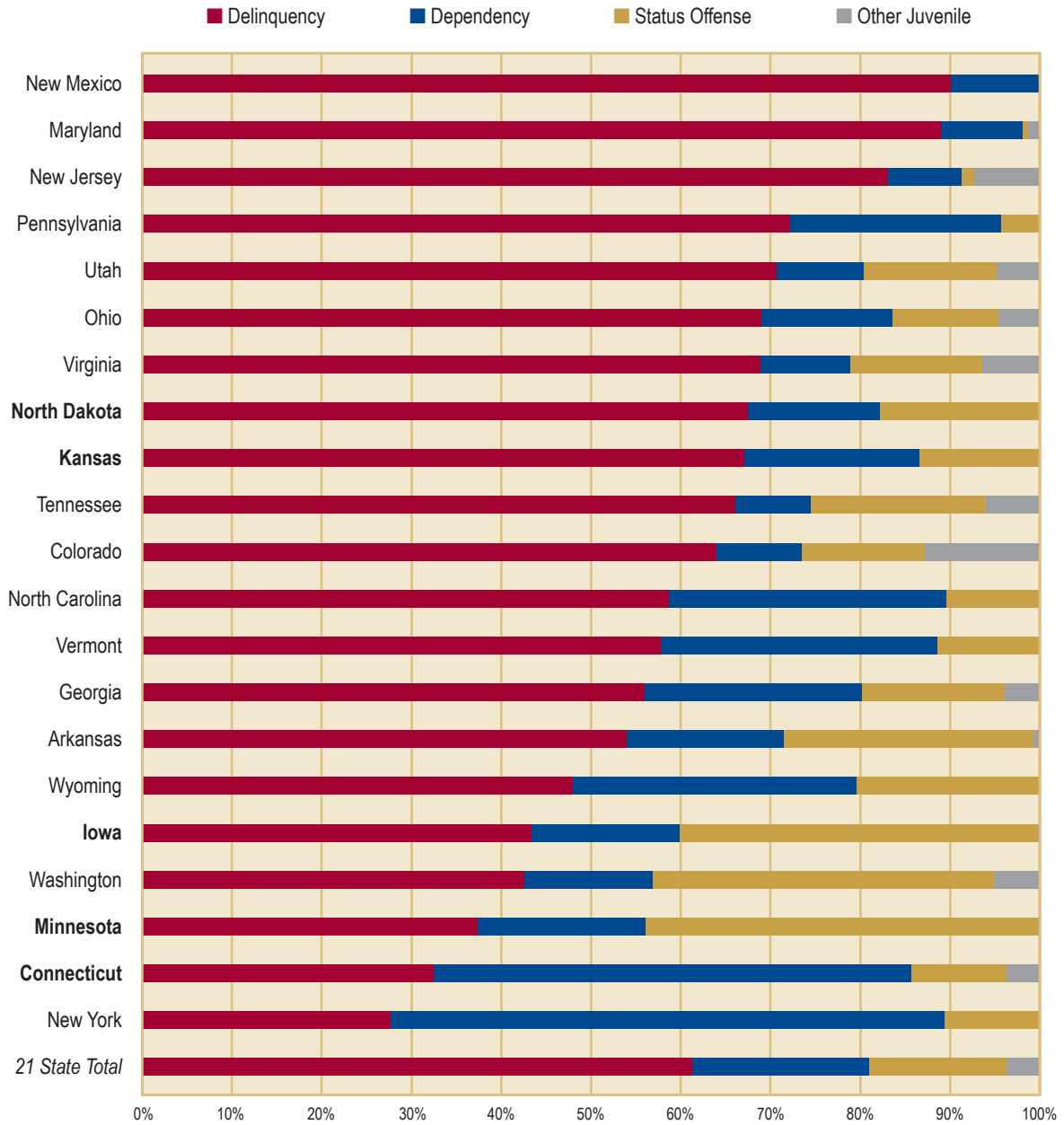
☒ Incoming Juvenile Caseloads and Rates in 35 States, 2007

State	Total Cases	Per 100,000 Juveniles	Reopened/ Reactivated
States that reported separate reopened and/or reactivated caseloads			
Ohio	185,840	6,381	30.6%
North Dakota	10,096	6,313	15.5%
Florida	204,534	4,915	56.3%
New Jersey	78,823	3,659	14.5%
Arkansas	25,658	3,563	10.4%
District of Columbia	3,698	3,127	1.2%
Kansas	20,774	2,824	0.7%
Michigan	64,872	2,468	4.2%
New York	77,057	1,617	32.5%
Vermont	2,286	1,521	0.3%
New Mexico	7,751	1,405	23.8%
Median		3,127	14.5%
States that did not report separate reopened or reactivated caseloads			
Utah	48,964	5,748	
Virginia	106,165	5,596	
Alabama	60,008	5,125	
Hawaii	15,876	5,070	
South Dakota	10,779	5,051	
Georgia	127,031	5,022	
Connecticut	41,144	4,756	
Minnesota	59,146	4,343	
Rhode Island	9,780	3,918	
Idaho	16,265	3,806	
Massachusetts	48,289	3,172	
Maryland	41,221	2,866	
Nebraska	12,205	2,615	
West Virginia	10,026	2,481	
Pennsylvania	66,755	2,256	
North Carolina	43,541	1,969	
Iowa	13,472	1,796	
Colorado	21,944	1,763	
Wisconsin	20,562	1,439	
Alaska	2,834	1,364	
Oklahoma	12,756	1,362	
Arizona	21,880	1,298	
Wyoming	1,596	1,170	
Montana	2,624	1,074	
Median		2,741	

Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

In many states, delinquency cases outnumber all other juvenile cases combined

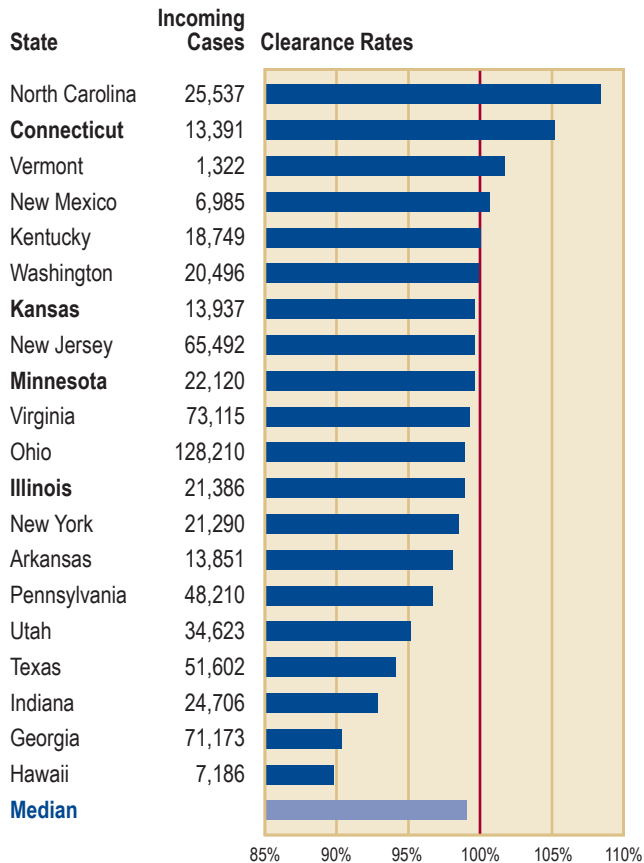
☒ Juvenile Caseload Composition in 21 States, 2007



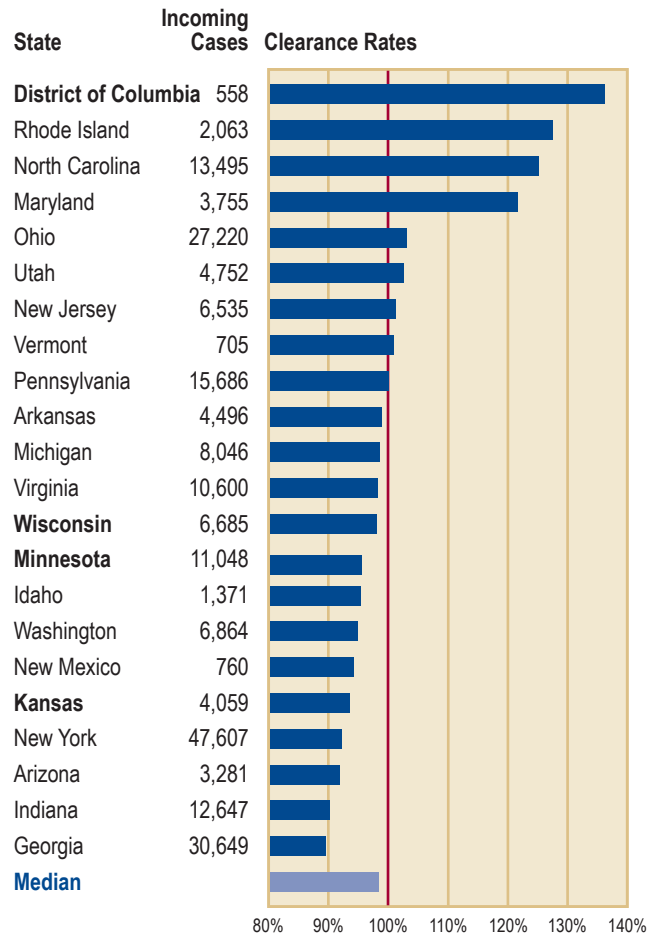
Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

Despite inherent complexities, juvenile clearance rates are generally high

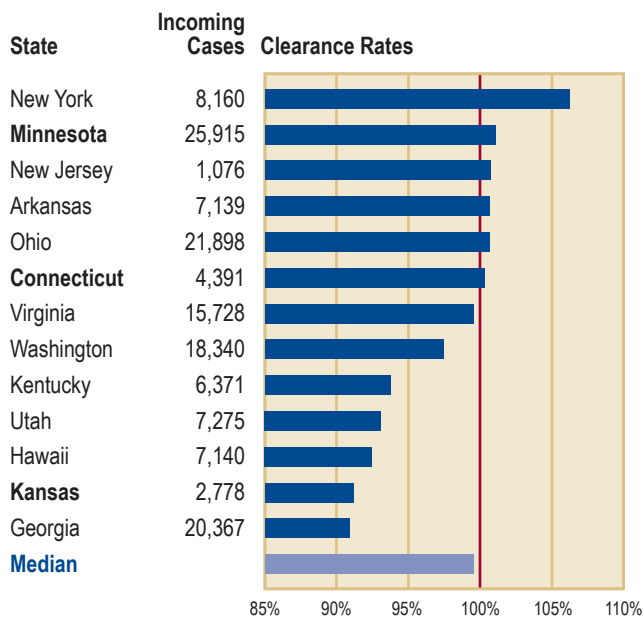
☒ Juvenile Delinquency Clearance Rates in 20 States, 2007



☒ Juvenile Dependency Clearance Rates in 22 States, 2007



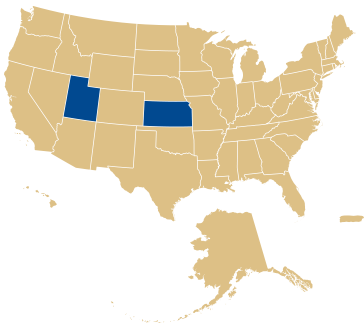
☒ Juvenile Status Offense Clearance Rates in 13 States, 2007



Set for Review — a status category in the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* that allows for certain types of cases to be disposed of but then tracked for future review hearings thus removing them from an active pending status. As many juvenile cases are subject to a long-term review process, clearance rates can be legitimately improved while simultaneously providing a count of these important but lengthy cases.

See the [Guide](#) for more information about Set for Review and the other status categories.

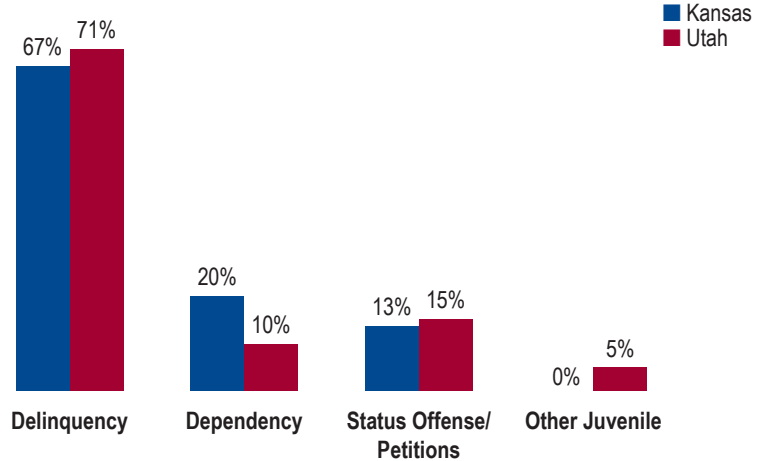
Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.



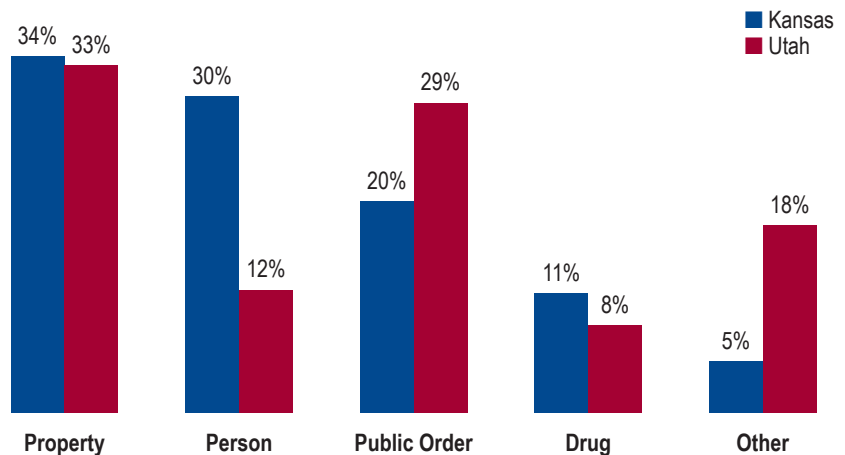
Kansas and Utah

When states report greater detail, more meaningful comparisons can be made

☒ **Juvenile Caseload Composition in Kansas and Utah, 2007**



☒ **Juvenile Delinquency Caseload Composition in Kansas and Utah, 2007**



Comparing Juvenile Caseloads: Kansas and Utah

Utah reports enough detail in the juvenile category to compare with the data reported by Kansas. The first chart shows that the composition of the two states' caseloads is more similar than not. Kansas reports a higher percentage of dependency cases; it is interesting to note that Kansas does not report a single case under the "Other Juvenile" case type. This would indicate that every juvenile case filed in the state was identified as a delinquency, dependency, or status offense case.

Utah's web site (www.utcourts.gov/stats/) contains trial court data from each court and district from 1997 to the present as well as results from its implementation of the *CourTools* performance measures (www.utcourts.gov/courtools).

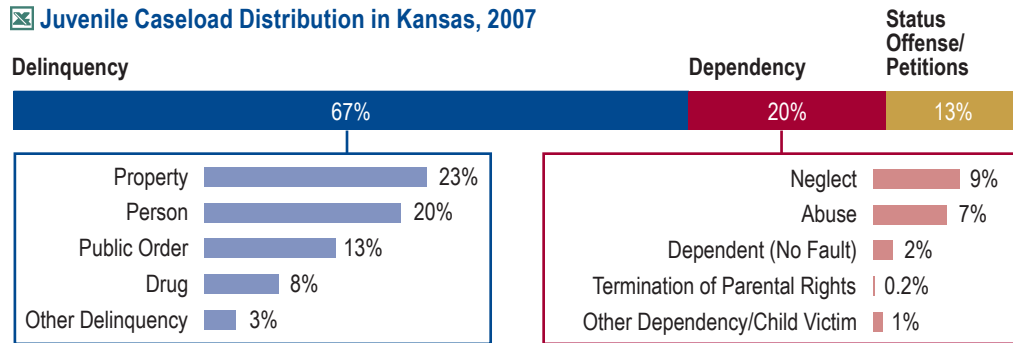
A Detailed Look at Juvenile Cases in Kansas

Kansas, in addition to making huge strides in reporting complete civil caseloads, has done an admirable job in reporting its juvenile caseload. Juvenile caseloads are composed primarily of delinquency, dependency, and status offense cases, but delinquency and dependency each encompass four more detailed case types. About 20 states report a complete juvenile caseload composition at the higher level but, at present, only Kansas reports each of the four case types under both delinquency and dependency. The top chart on page 35 shows that delinquency cases comprise two-thirds of Kansas' juvenile caseload; the bottom chart reveals that most of those cases are either property- or person-related.



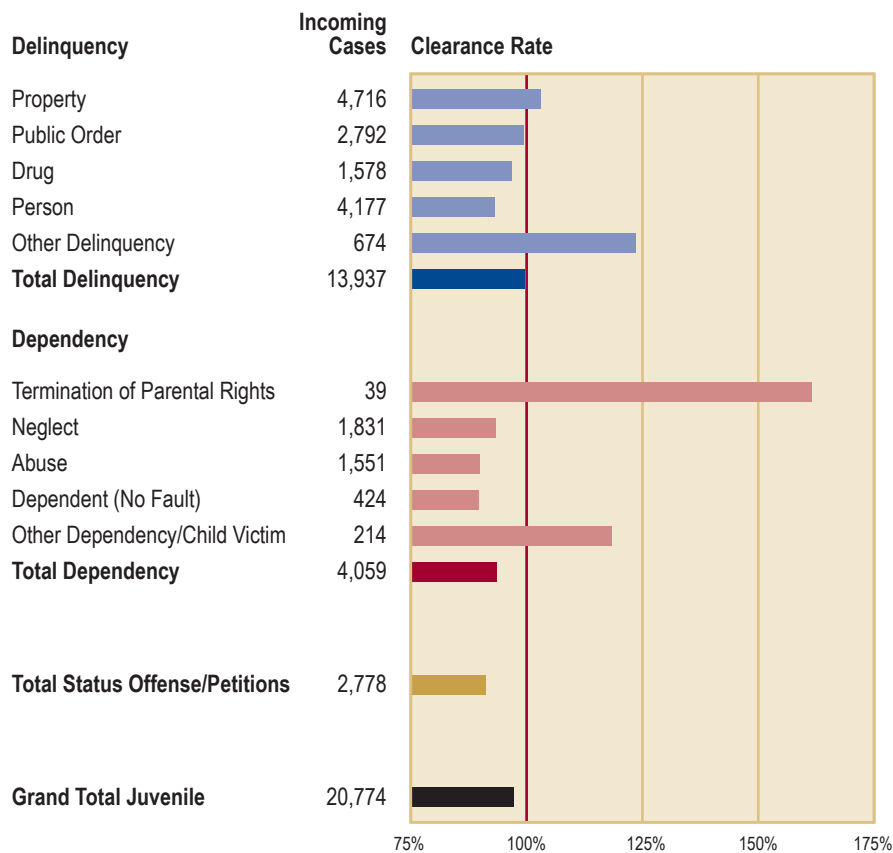
Kansas reports all of the Juvenile case types

☒ Juvenile Caseload Distribution in Kansas, 2007



Knowing clearance rates by case type can help determine where resources are most needed

☒ Juvenile Caseload Clearance Rates in Kansas, 2007

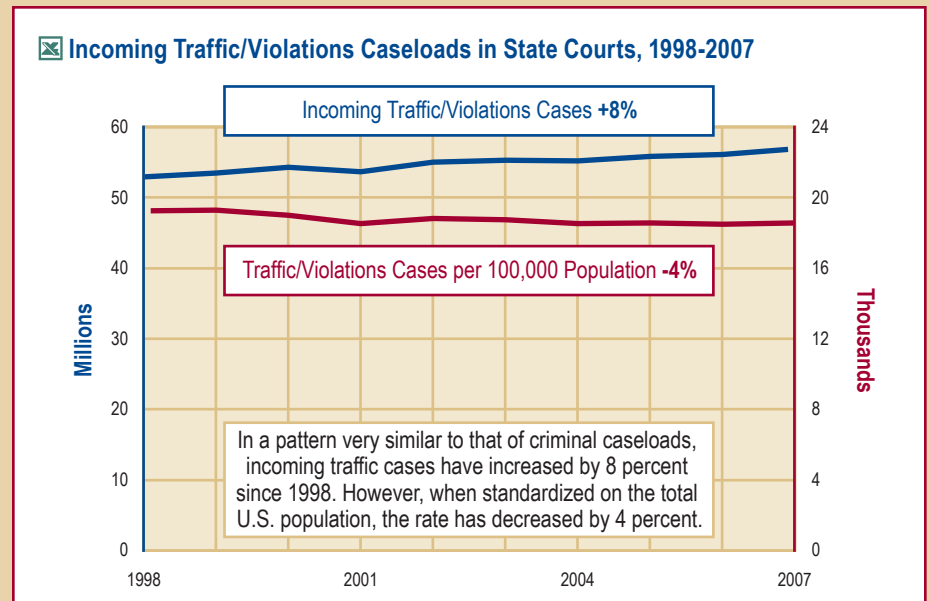
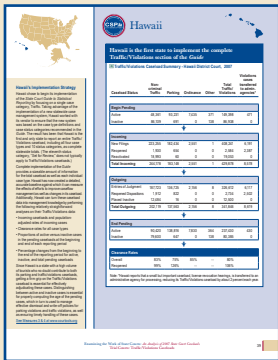


Summary

- State court Traffic/Violations caseloads comprise non-criminal motor vehicle violations, parking violations, and ordinance violations cases.
- Over 56 million Traffic/Violations cases were filed in state courts in 2007. This was an increase of slightly more than 1 percent from 2006.
- When adjusted for population increases, Traffic/Violations caseloads have fallen 4 percent over the last 10 years.
- Hawaii is the first state to implement the Traffic/Violations section of the *Guide* in its entirety.



Special Recognition: Hawaii's Implementation Strategy



More than half of all cases in state trial courts involve a traffic infraction or ordinance violation

☒ Total Incoming Cases in State Courts, by Jurisdiction, 2007 (in millions)

Case Type	Jurisdiction				Total	Percent of Total
	Unified	General	Unified & General	Limited		
Traffic	12.4	1.8	14.3	42.0	56.3	54.2%
Criminal	3.3	3.4	6.7	14.7	21.4	20.7%
Civil	3.2	4.7	7.9	10.2	18.1	17.5%
Domestic Relations	1.0	3.1	4.1	1.6	5.7	5.5%
Juvenile	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	2.2	2.1%
All Cases	20.3	14.0	34.3	69.3	103.7	100.0%

Most states have a comparable rate of Traffic/Violations cases

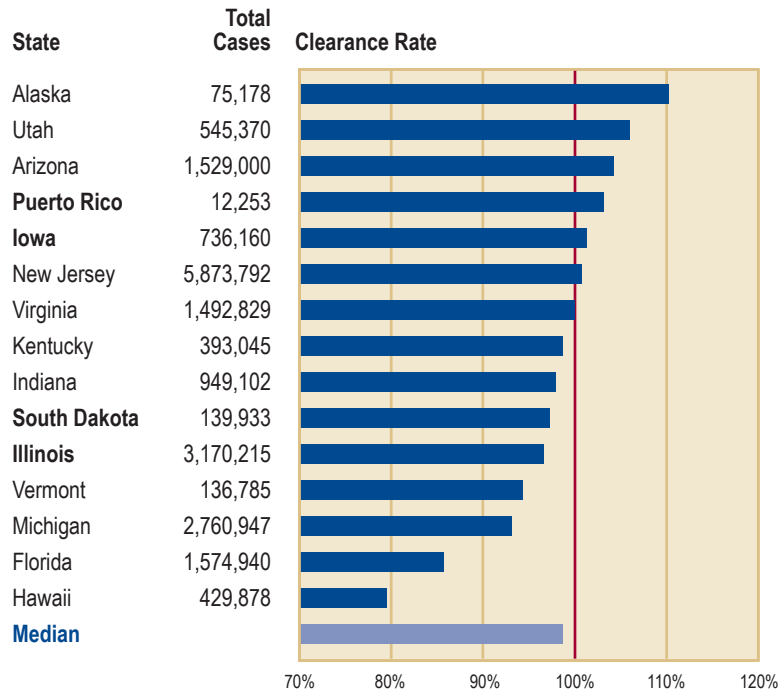
☒ Incoming Traffic/Violations Caseloads in 16 States, 2007

State	Incoming Cases	Per 100,000 Population
New Jersey	5,873,792	67,624
Hawaii	429,878	33,496
Michigan	2,760,947	27,413
Illinois	3,170,215	24,666
Iowa	736,160	24,637
Arizona	1,529,000	24,121
Arkansas	664,269	23,433
Vermont	136,785	22,018
Utah	545,370	20,616
Virginia	1,492,829	19,357
South Dakota	139,933	17,575
Indiana	949,102	14,958
Alaska	75,178	10,999
Kentucky	393,045	9,267
Florida	1,574,940	8,629
Puerto Rico	12,253	311
Median		21,317

Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

Excellent clearance rates are achieved even with caseloads numbering in the millions

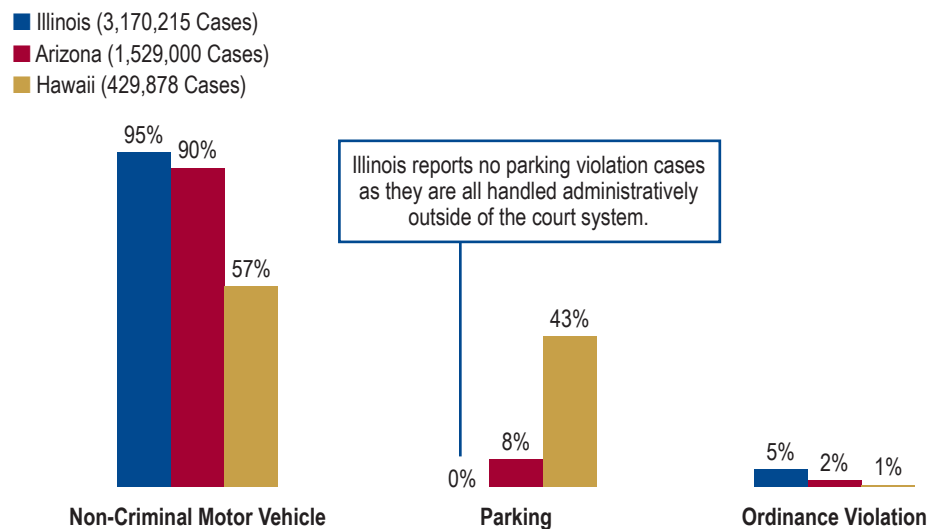
☒ Traffic/Violations Clearance Rates in 15 States, 2007

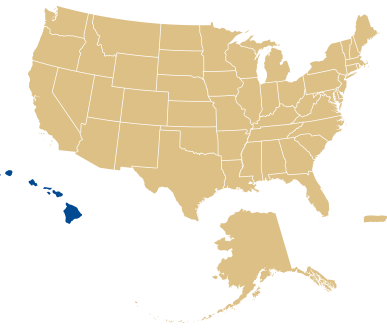


Note: States in **Bold** have a unified court system.

Parking caseloads can have a dramatic effect on Traffic/Violations caseload composition

☒ Traffic/Violations Caseload Composition in Three States, 2007





Hawaii is the first state to implement the complete Traffic/Violations section of the *Guide*

☒ Traffic/Violations Caseload Summary - Hawaii District Court, 2007

Caseload Status	Non-criminal Traffic	Parking	Ordinance	Other	Total Traffic/Violations	Violations cases transferred to admin. agencies*
Begin Pending						
Active	48,361	93,231	7,435	371	149,398	471
Inactive	86,109	691	0	138	86,938	0



Incoming						
New Filings	223,255	182,434	2,551	1	408,241	6,191
Reopened	1,930	654	0	0	2,584	2,387
Reactivated	18,993	60	0	0	19,053	0
Total Incoming	244,178	183,148	2,551	1	429,878	8,578



Outgoing						
Entries of Judgment	187,723	136,725	2,156	8	326,612	6,117
Reopened Dispositions	1,912	822	0	0	2,734	2,502
Placed Inactive	12,484	16	0	0	12,500	0
Total Outgoing	202,119	137,563	2,156	8	341,846	8,619



End Pending						
Active	90,420	138,816	7,830	364	237,430	430
Inactive	79,600	647	0	138	80,385	0



Clearance Rates						
Overall	83%	75%	85%	--	80%	
Reopened	99%	126%	--	--	106%	

Note: *Hawaii reports that a small but important caseload, license revocation hearings, is transferred to an administrative agency for processing, reducing its Traffic/Violations caseload by about 2 percent each year.

Hawaii's Implementation Strategy

Hawaii chose to begin its implementation of the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* by focusing on a single case category, Traffic. Taking advantage of the implementation of a new statewide case management system, Hawaii worked with its vendor to ensure that the new system was based on the case type definitions and case status categories recommended in the *Guide*. The result has been that Hawaii is the first and only state to report an entire Traffic/Violations caseload, including all four case types and 10 status categories, as complete statewide totals. (The eleventh status category, "Set for Review," does not typically apply to Traffic/Violations caseloads.)

Complete implementation of the *Guide* provides a sizeable amount of information for the total caseload as well as each individual case type. Hawaii has now created a detailed, accurate baseline against which it can measure the effects of efforts to improve caseload management as well as changes in its caseload. Additionally, Hawaii can turn these caseload data into management knowledge by performing the following relatively straightforward analyses on their Traffic/Violations data:

- Incoming caseloads and population-adjusted rates of incoming cases
- Clearance rates for all case types
- Proportions of active versus inactive cases in the pending caseloads at the beginning and end of each reporting period
- Percentage changes from the beginning to the end of the reporting period for active, inactive, and total pending caseloads

Since Hawaii is a state with a high volume of tourists who no doubt contribute to both its parking and traffic/violations caseloads, getting a firm grip on the Traffic/Violations caseload is essential for effectively adjudicating these cases. Distinguishing between active and inactive cases is essential for properly computing the age of the pending cases, which in turn is used to manage effective dismissal and write-off policies for parking violations and traffic violations, as well as ensuring timely handling of these cases.

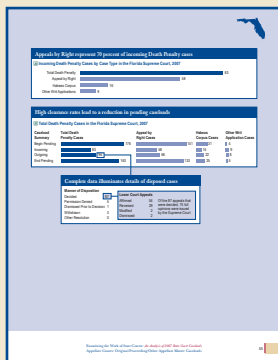
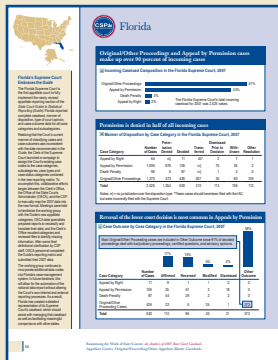
See Measures 3 & 4 at www.courttools.org

Summary

- The appellate caseload consists of Appeal by Right, Appeal by Permission, Death Penalty, and Original Proceeding/Other Appellate Matter cases.
- The majority (61 percent) of cases filed in appellate courts in 2007 were Appeal by Right cases.
- About twice as many Appeal by Permission, Death Penalty, and Original Proceeding cases are filed in courts of last resort (COLR) as in intermediate appellate courts (IAC), where more Appeal by Right cases are filed.
- Eleven courts (9 COLRs and 2 IACs) provided complete Death Penalty data for the first analysis of Death Penalty caseloads.
- In this inaugural year of reporting under the new appellate framework, the Florida Supreme Court is the first appellate court able to provide complete data for all case subcategories and status categories.

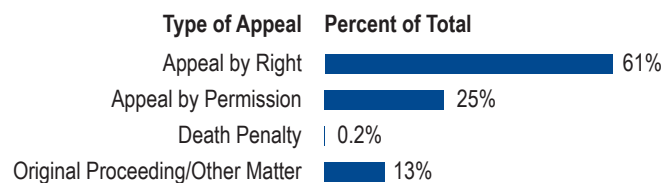


Special Recognition: Florida's Supreme Court Embraces the Guide



Appellate courts processed over 280,000 cases in 2007

Incoming Caseload Composition in Appellate Courts, 2007



Implementing the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*

This year the Court Statistics Project (CSP) implemented the newly revised appellate section of the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting (Guide)*, the result of a multi-year collaboration with the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks (NCACC). The new reporting framework divides the work of the appellate courts into four major categories: Appeal by Right, Appeal by Permission, Death Penalty, and Original Proceeding/Other Appellate Matter.

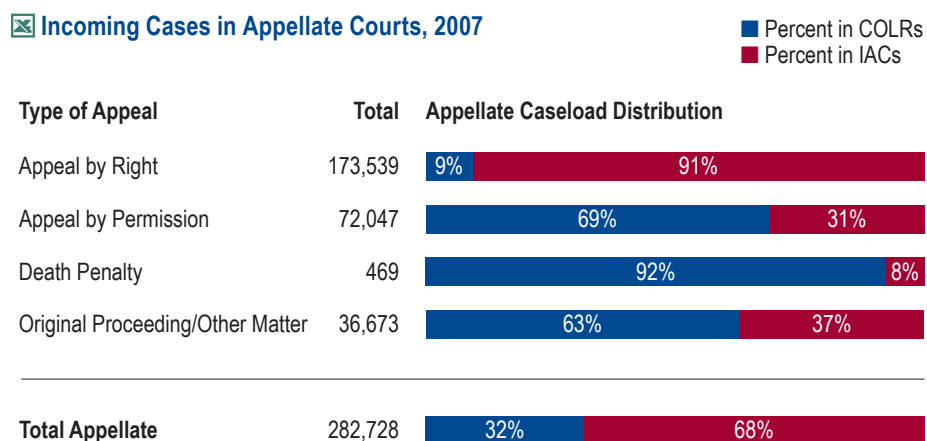
Each major category includes:

1. a caseload summary to report incoming, outgoing, and pending caseloads;
2. the manner of disposition to show how cases were disposed before the court;
3. the type of court opinion to capture the extent to which the court elaborated on the merits of the case or the reasoning for its decision; and
4. the case outcome to describe how the court ruled in a case.

With this new reporting framework, the CSP and NCACC are attempting to improve consistency by using terms and definitions that conform to existing court rules and practices. Additionally, with its enhanced set of case types and expanded disposition options, the new model gives court leaders, policy makers, and others a more detailed, objective, and accurate picture of the caseloads of the state appellate courts.

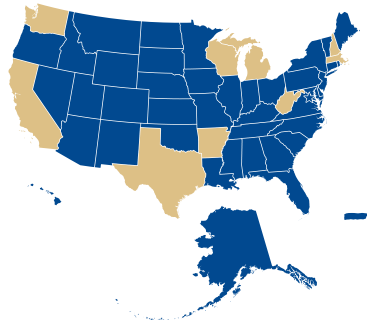
In implementing the new reporting framework, CSP staff focused their efforts on mapping each state's current court data to the data elements recommended in the *Guide*. Every state has been introduced to the new appellate categories and definitions, whether by launching a campaign to map existing codes according to the new reporting matrix (e.g., Florida Supreme Court) or through phone calls and email exchanges with CSP staff (e.g., Tennessee). As a result of the efforts put forth by the clerks and staff in nearly all state appellate courts, the CSP was able to collect 2007 data from 94 of the 100 appellate reporting units.

The IACs process roughly two thirds of incoming appellate cases

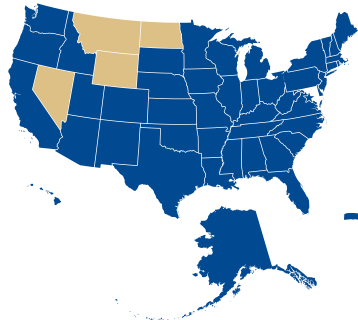


Case Category Jurisdiction of the Courts of Last Resort

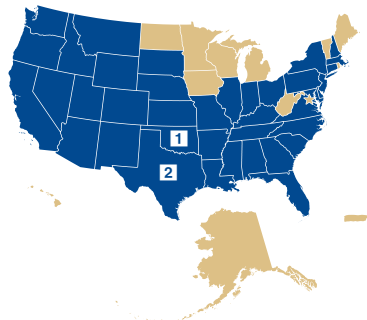
Appeal By Right
(43 States, 44 Courts)



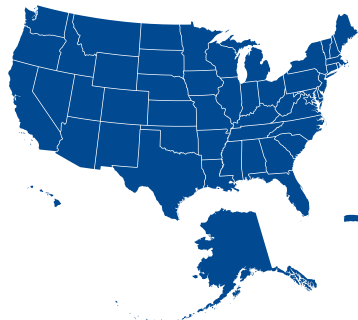
Appeal by Permission
(48 States, 50 Courts)



Death Penalty
(39 States)



Original Proceeding/Other Matter
(52 States, 54 Courts)



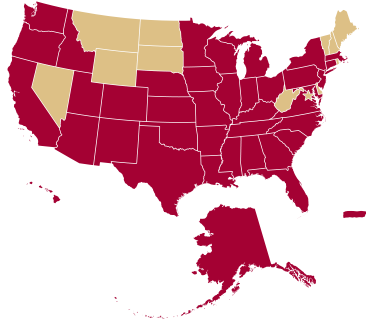
Notes: The following states do not have an IAC: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

1 Only the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals has jurisdiction.

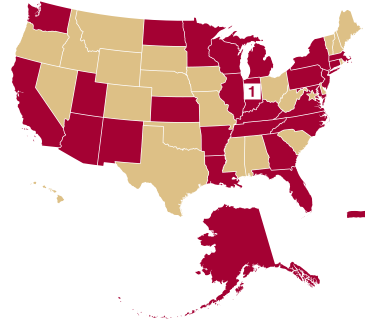
2 Only the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has jurisdiction.

Case Category Jurisdiction of the Intermediate Appellate Courts

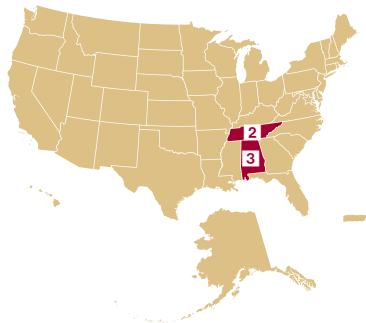
Appeal By Right (40 States, 45 Courts)



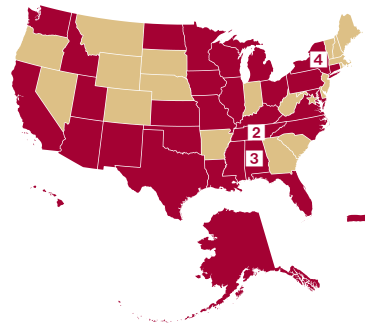
Appeal by Permission (28 States, 31 Courts)



Death Penalty (2 States)



Original Proceeding/Other Matter (32 States, 33 Courts)



Notes: The following states do not have an IAC: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

1 Only the Indiana Court of Appeals has jurisdiction.

2 Only the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals has jurisdiction.

3 Only the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals has jurisdiction.

4 Only the New York Appellate Division of the Superior Court has jurisdiction.

Differences in appellate court structure and procedure affect the number of cases per judge

☒ Total Incoming Cases per Judge in 49 Courts of Last Resort, 2007

State	Total Incoming Cases	Number of Judges	Incoming Cases per Judge	Population Rank
California	8,984	7	1,283	1
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	8,925	9	992	2
West Virginia	3,954	5	791	38
New York	3,770	7	539	3
Pennsylvania	3,038	7	434	6
Illinois	2,839	7	406	5
Virginia	2,634	7	376	12
Michigan	2,612	7	373	8
Florida	2,524	7	361	4
Louisiana	2,497	7	357	25
Ohio	2,459	7	351	7
South Carolina	1,706	5	341	24
Iowa	2,197	7	314	31
Georgia	1,877	7	268	9
Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals*	1,287	5	257	29
Arizona	1,161	5	232	16
Colorado	1,534	7	219	22
Tennessee	1,085	5	217	17
Indiana	1,057	5	211	15
Alabama	1,843	9	205	23
Puerto Rico	1,277	7	182	27
Washington	1,585	9	176	13
Oregon	1,182	7	169	28
District of Columbia	1,456	9	162	51
Idaho	785	5	157	40
Kansas	1,057	7	151	34
Kentucky	998	7	143	26
Wisconsin	988	7	141	20
Massachusetts	967	7	138	14
Delaware	666	5	133	46
Mississippi	1,143	9	127	32
Maryland	886	7	127	19
Texas Supreme Court	1,086	9	121	2
Missouri	823	7	118	18
Utah	564	5	113	35
Maine	774	7	111	41
Minnesota	774	7	111	21
Montana	751	7	107	45
North Carolina	748	7	107	10
Vermont	530	5	106	50
Arkansas	613	7	88	33
Alaska	412	5	82	48
South Dakota	405	5	81	47
Nebraska	541	7	77	39
North Dakota	366	5	73	49
Rhode Island	358	5	72	44
Wyoming	307	5	61	52
Hawaii	248	5	50	43
Connecticut	223	7	32	30
Median			157	

*Oklahoma has 2 COLRs with jurisdiction, but only one court is represented in the table

Median rates of cases per judge are similar in COLRs and IACs despite vastly different caseload sizes

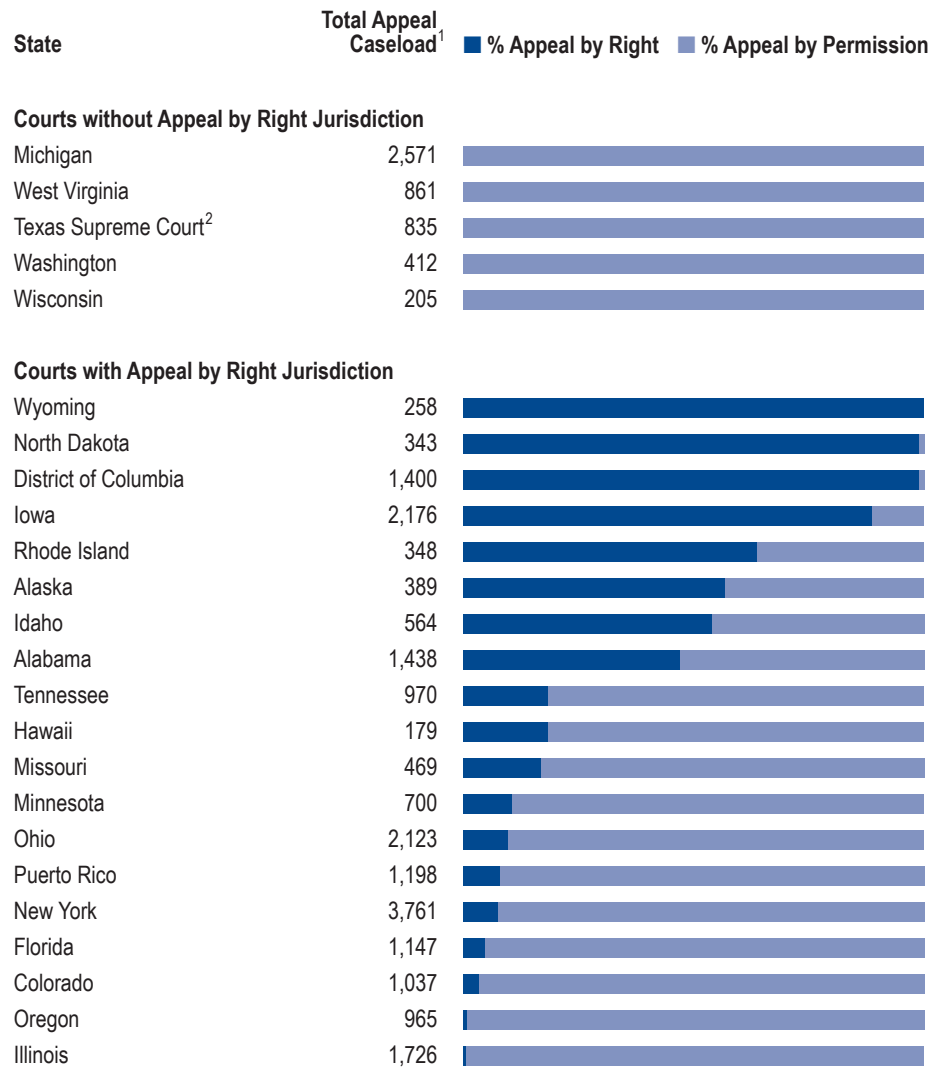
☒ Total Incoming Cases per Judge in 43 Intermediate Appellate Courts, 2007

State	Total Incoming Cases	Number of Judges	Incoming Cases per Judge	Population Rank
Pennsylvania Superior Court	8,354	15	557	6
Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals	2,287	5	457	23
Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court	3,922	9	436	6
Florida	25,628	62	413	4
Oregon	3,312	10	331	28
Virginia	3,095	11	281	12
Georgia	3,280	12	273	9
Michigan	7,580	28	271	8
Alabama Court of Civil Appeals	1,200	5	240	23
California	24,934	105	237	1
Nebraska	1,311	6	219	39
New Jersey	6,975	34	205	11
Wisconsin	3,181	16	199	20
South Carolina	1,729	9	192	24
Indiana Court of Appeals	2,867	15	191	15
Idaho	572	3	191	40
Kentucky	2,599	14	186	26
New York Appellate Div. of Supreme Court	10,204	56	182	3
Washington	4,067	24	169	13
North Carolina	2,484	15	166	10
Arizona	3,565	22	162	16
Kansas	1,935	12	161	34
Colorado	2,548	16	159	22
Ohio	10,787	68	159	7
Maryland	2,031	13	156	19
New York Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	2,258	15	151	3
Louisiana	7,895	53	149	25
Illinois	7,997	54	148	5
Minnesota	2,328	16	146	21
Texas	11,317	80	141	2
Utah	922	7	132	35
Puerto Rico	4,940	39	127	27
Missouri	3,811	32	119	18
Connecticut	1,172	10	117	30
Arkansas	1,402	12	117	33
Iowa	984	9	109	31
Massachusetts	2,631	25	105	14
Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals	1,237	12	103	17
New Mexico	976	10	98	37
Tennessee Court of Appeals	1,169	12	97	17
Alaska	270	3	90	48
Hawaii	524	6	87	43
Indiana Tax Court	80	1	80	15
Median			161	

Note: In states with more than one IAC, the name(s) of the court is shown with the name of the state.

Appeal by Permission cases comprise more of the total incoming caseload in courts of last resort

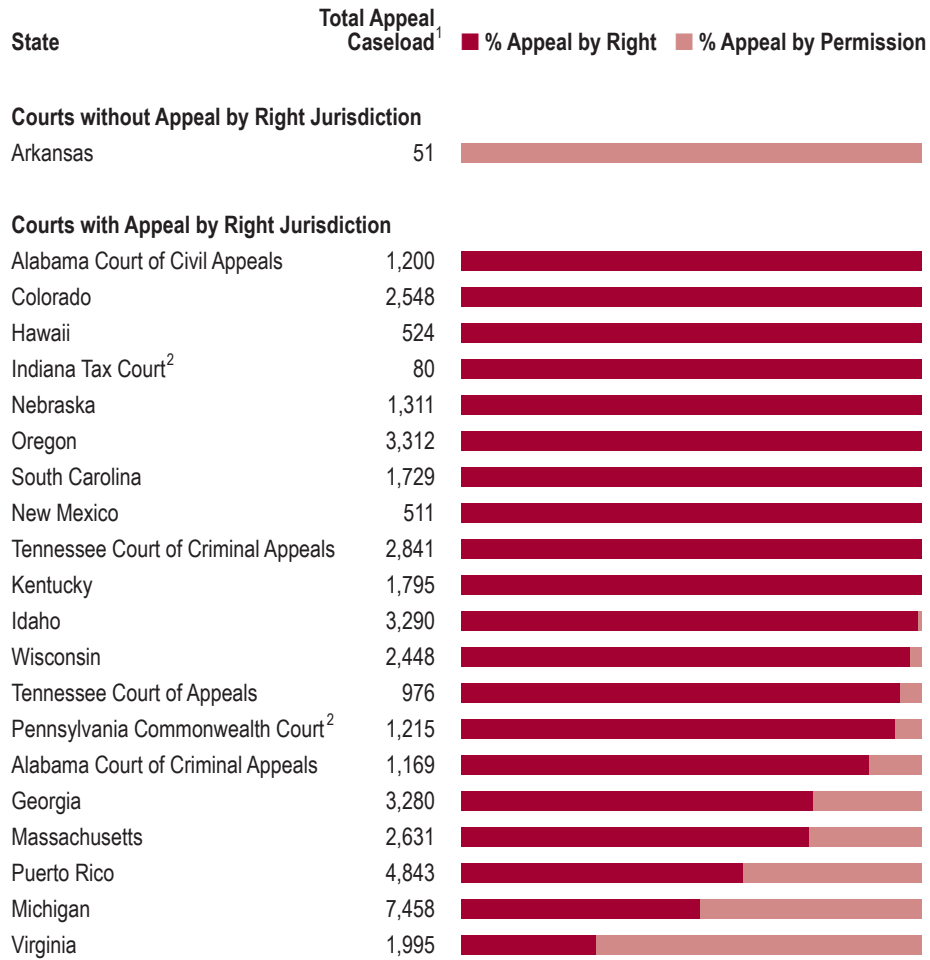
☒ Incoming Appeal Caseloads in 24 Courts of Last Resort, by Case Category, 2007



¹ Total Appeal Caseload includes Appeal by Right and Appeal by Permission cases, whereas an appellate caseload includes the Appeal, Death Penalty, and Original Proceedings caseloads.

² Texas has 2 COLRs with jurisdiction, but only one is represented in the table.

☒ Incoming Appeal Caseloads in 21 Intermediate Appellate Courts, by Case Category, 2007



¹ Total Appeal Caseload includes Appeal by Right and Appeal by Permission cases, whereas an appellate caseload includes the Appeal, Death Penalty, and Original Proceedings caseloads.

² State has 2 IACs with jurisdiction, but only one is represented in the table.

Criminal appeals are more than twice as prevalent as civil appeals in By Permission caseloads

☒ Appeal by Permission Incoming Caseload, 2007

State	Total Incoming Appeal by Permission Caseload	Criminal	Civil	Administrative Agency	Other
Courts of Last Resort					
Florida	1,094	62%	34%	4%	n/j
Maine	214	53%	n/j	47%	n/j
Puerto Rico	1,103	16%	84%	0.4%	n/j
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*	1,667	100%	n/j	n/j	n/j
Total	4,078	2,631	1,299	148	n/j
Median		65%	32%	4%	n/j
Intermediate Appellate Courts					
New Mexico	46	43%	57%	n/j	n/j
North Dakota	4	0%	100%	0%	0%
Puerto Rico	1,876	26%	71%	0%	2.2%
Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals	69	96%	n/j	n/j	4.3%
Virginia	2,474	100%	n/j	n/j	n/j
Total	4,469	3,053	1,371	0	45
Median		68%	31%	0%	1%

Notes: n/j = no jurisdiction. *Texas has 2 COLRs with jurisdiction, but only one court is represented in the table.

Appellate court structure and organization clearly influence Appeal by Right composition

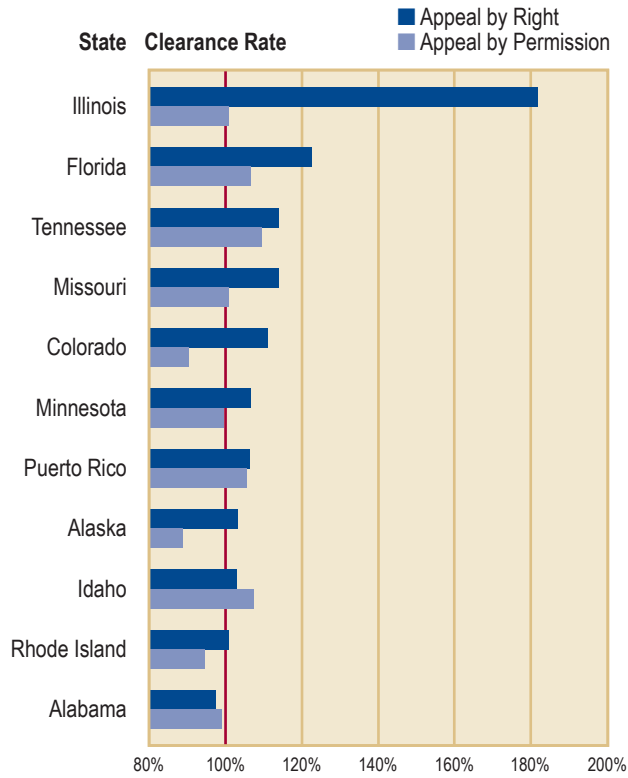
☒ Appeal by Right Incoming Caseload Composition, 2007

State	Total Incoming Appeal by Right Caseload	Criminal	Civil	Administrative Agency	Other
Courts of Last Resort with at least one IAC					
Florida	53	53%	38%	9%	n/j
Hawaii	33	48%	52%	0%	n/j
Indiana	4	75%	25%	n/j	n/j
Minnesota	75	64%	1.3%	35%	n/j
Missouri	79	9%	30%	n/j	61%
North Dakota	339	41%	51%	7%	0%
Oregon	8	n/j	n/j	100%	n/j
Puerto Rico	95	n/j	100%	0%	n/j
Tennessee	179	n/j	n/j	98%	2.2%
Utah	329	17%	80%	3.3%	0%
Total	1,194	25%	50%	21%	4%
Courts of Last Resort with no IAC					
District of Columbia	1,383	45%	36%	16%	4%
Rhode Island	222	33%	67%	0.5%	n/j
Wyoming	258	39%	53%	8%	0%
Total	1,863	43%	42%	13%	2.7%
Intermediate Appellate Courts					
Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals*	1,795	94%	0.8%	n/j	5%
Arizona	2,564	40%	56%	5%	n/j
Colorado	2,548	44%	47%	9%	n/j
Hawaii	524	35%	61%	3.8%	n/j
Indiana	80	n/j	n/j	100%	n/j
Kentucky	2,389	31%	63%	5%	n/j
Massachusetts	1,984	43%	54%	2.7%	n/j
New Mexico	930	45%	41%	5%	8%
Oregon	3,312	55%	31%	14%	0%
Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court*	3,266	1.3%	9%	87%	108
Puerto Rico	2,967	8%	51%	41%	n/j
Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals*	1,146	100%	n/j	n/j	n/j
Utah	881	26%	20%	6%	48%
Virginia	585	n/j	47%	35%	18%
Total	24,971	38%	37%	22%	3%

Notes: n/j = no jurisdiction. *State has 2 IACs with jurisdiction, but only one is represented in the table.

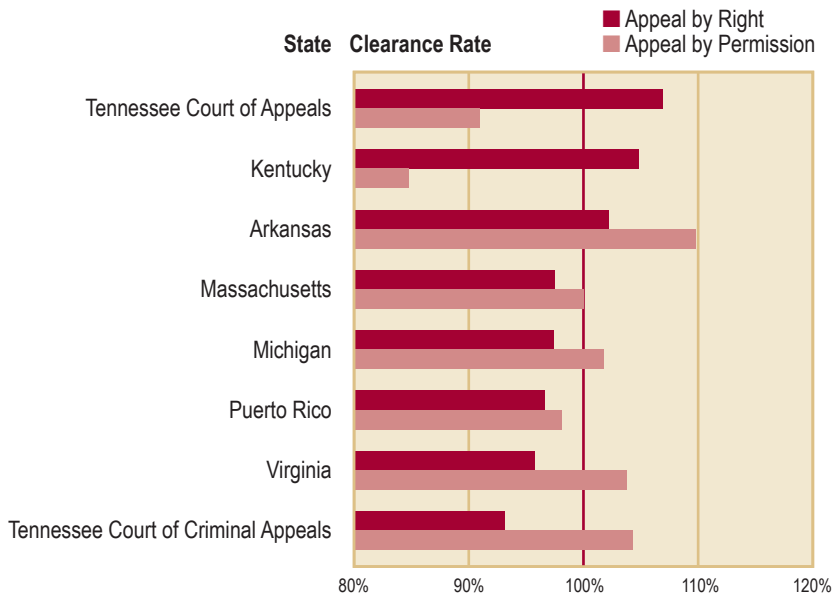
COLRs tend to have higher clearance rates for By Right appeals

☒ Clearance Rates in 11 Courts of Last Resort, 2007



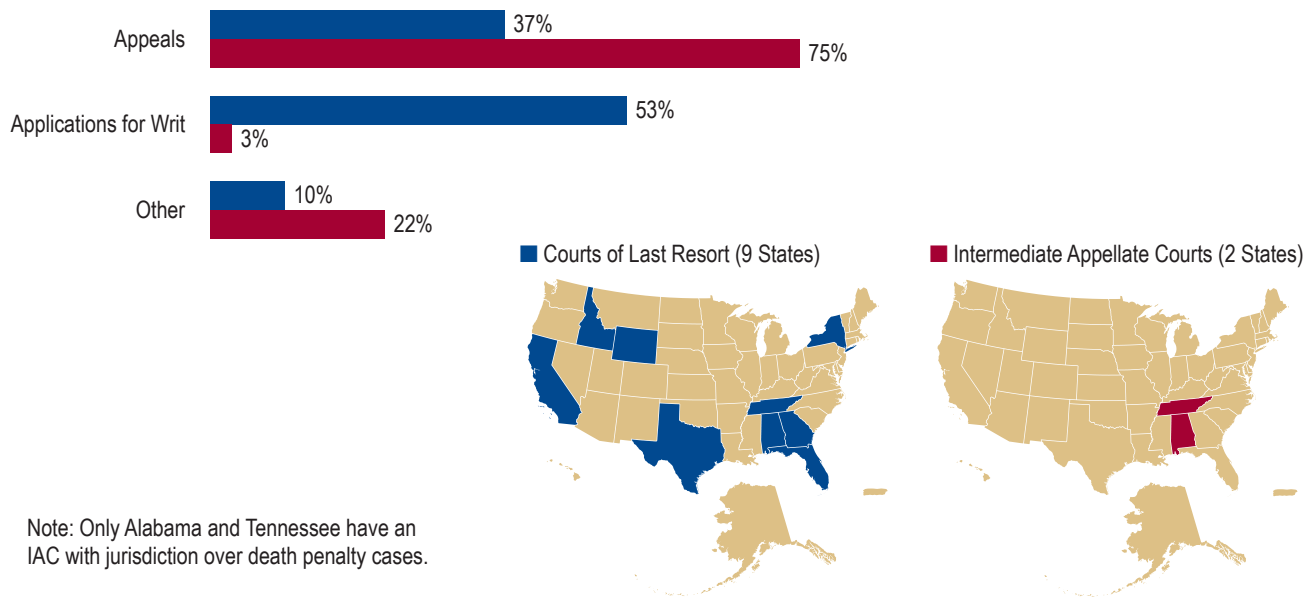
Most IACs have higher clearance rates for By Permission appeals

☒ Clearance Rates in 8 Intermediate Appellate Courts, 2007



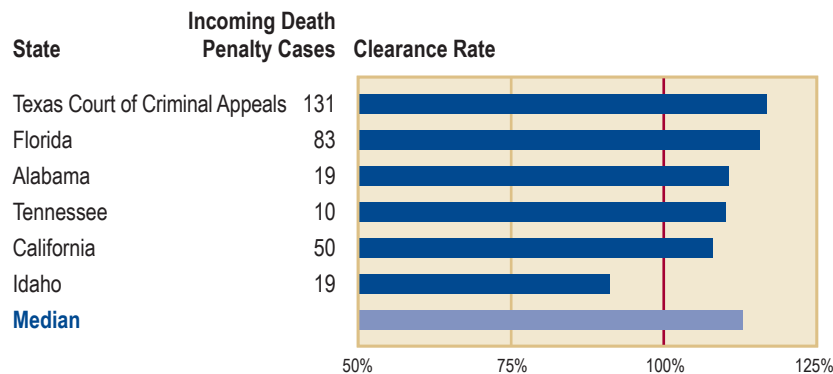
Distinct differences in Death Penalty caseload composition are seen between COLRs and IACs with Death Penalty Applications for Writ comprising over half of all incoming cases for COLRs, while two-thirds of incoming cases for IACs are Appeals (by Right or by Permission).

☒ Death Penalty Caseload Composition, 2007



Courts achieve high clearance rates in Death Penalty cases

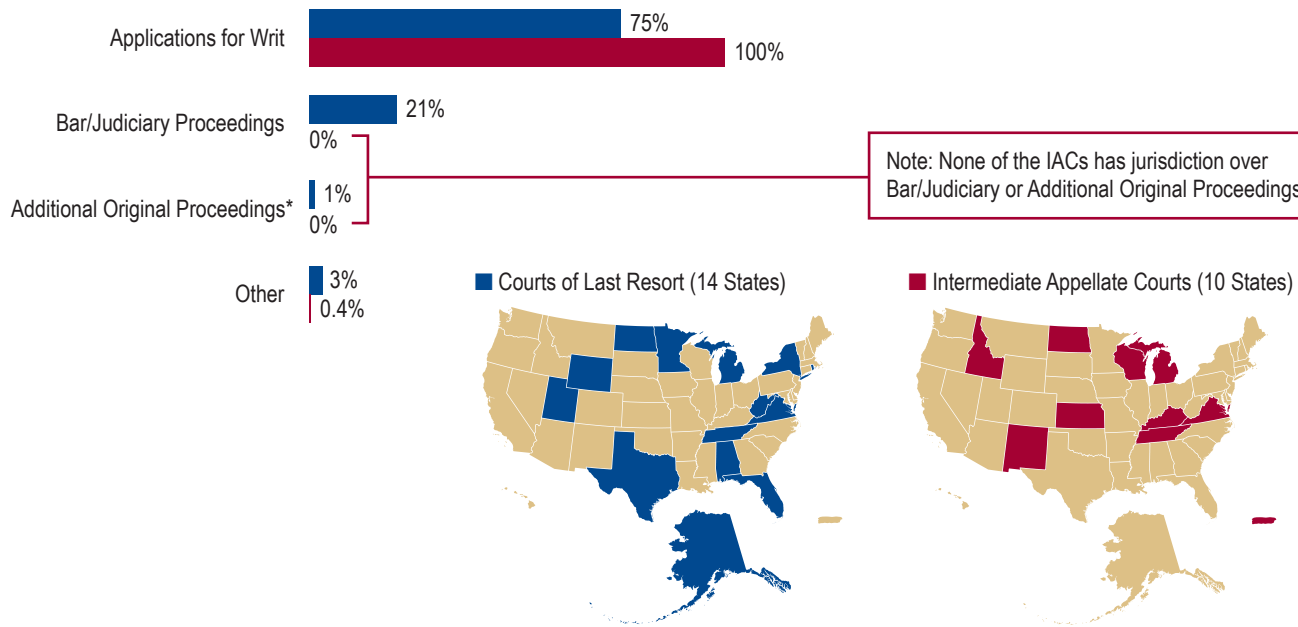
☒ Death Penalty Clearance Rates in 6 Courts of Last Resort, 2007



Original Proceeding/Other Appellate Matter Caseloads

Applications for Writ comprise the majority of incoming cases for both COLRs and IACs

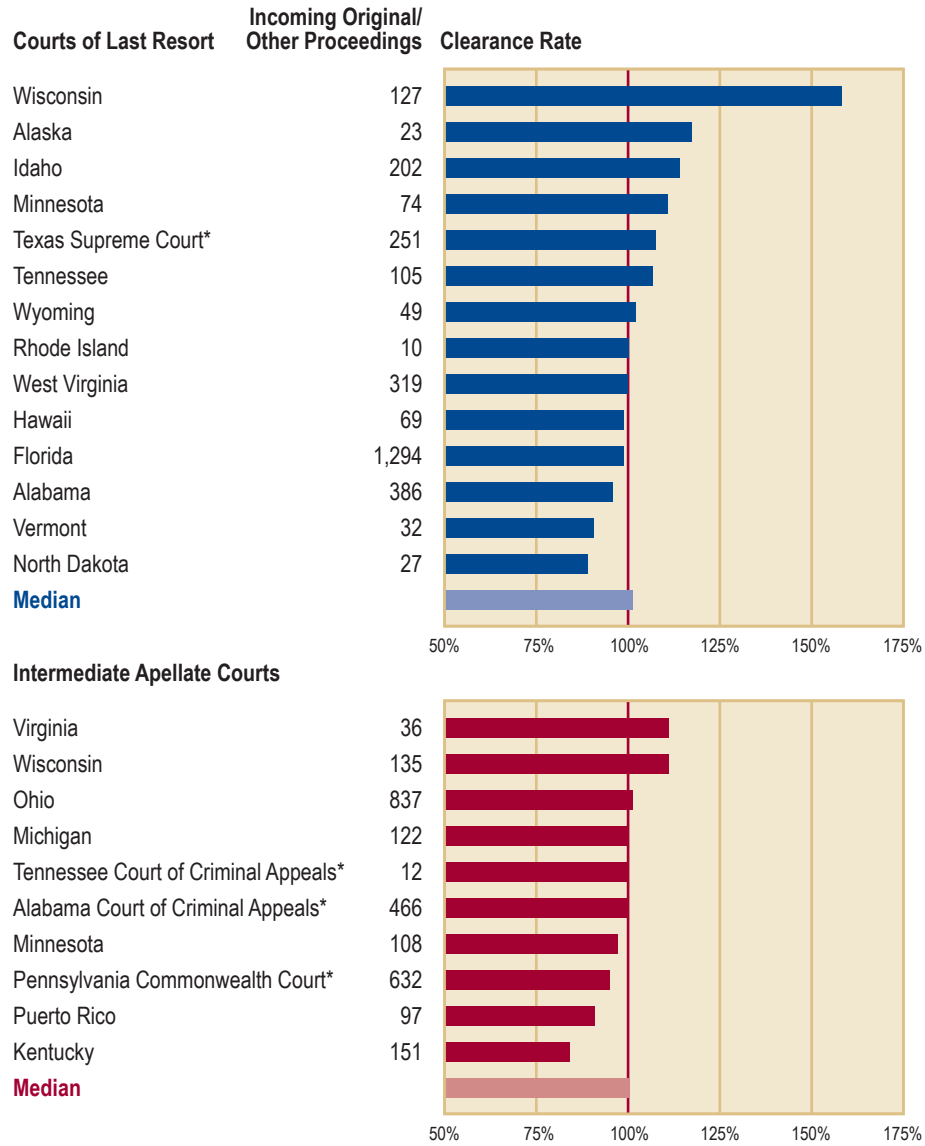
☒ Original Proceeding/Other Appellate Matter Caseload Composition, 2007



*Additional Original Proceedings include certified question and advisory opinion cases.

Most courts are able to keep pace with their Original Proceedings/Other Appellate Matter caseloads

Original/Other Proceedings Clearance Rates in Courts of Last Resort and Intermediate Appellate Courts, 2007



*These states have 2 COLRs or IACs with jurisdiction, but only one is represented in the table.



Florida

Florida's Supreme Court Embraces the Guide

The Florida Supreme Court is the first appellate court to fully implement the newly revised appellate reporting section of the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting (Guide)*. Florida reported complete caseload, manner of disposition, type of court opinion, and case outcome data for all case categories and subcategories.

Realizing that the Court's current manner of classifying cases and case outcomes was inconsistent with the data recommended in the *Guide*, the Clerk of the Supreme Court launched a campaign to assign the Court's existing case codes to the case categories, subcategories, case types and case status categories contained in the new reporting matrix. To accomplish this, collaborative efforts began between the Clerk's Office, the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA), and the CSP, to manually map the 2007 data into the new format. Meetings were held to familiarize the working group with the *Guide's* new appellate categories; OSCA data specialists prepared reports to reclassify and translate their data; and the Clerk's Office recoded categories and reviewed files to identify missing information. After some final definitional clarification by CSP staff, OSCA personnel completed the *Guide's* reporting matrix and submitted their 2007 data.

The working group continues to incorporate additional data codes into Florida's case management system. In future iterations, this will allow for the automation of the national data report without altering the Court's own internal and external reporting processes. As a result, Florida has created a detailed representation of its Supreme Court's caseload, which should assist with managing that caseload as well as facilitating meaningful comparisons with other states.

Original/Other Proceedings and Appeal by Permission cases make up over 90 percent of incoming cases

☒ Incoming Caseload Composition in the Florida Supreme Court, 2007



Permission is denied in half of all incoming cases

☒ Manner of Disposition by Case Category in the Florida Supreme Court, 2007

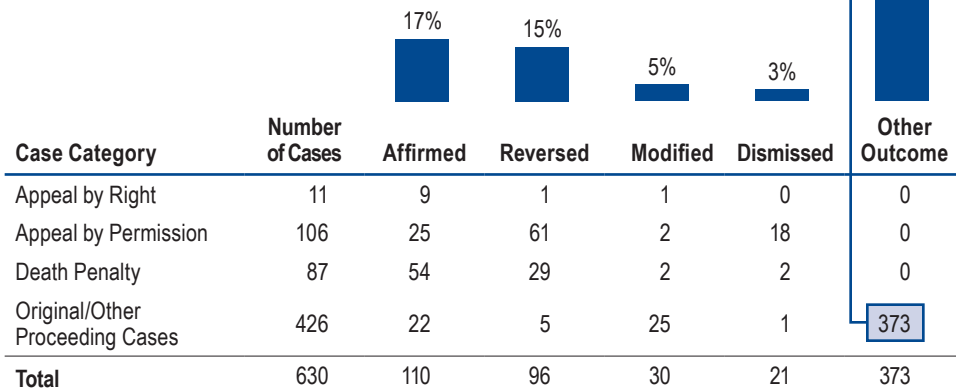
Case Category	Number of Cases	Per- mission Denied	Decided	Trans- ferred	Dismissed Prior to Decision	With- drawn	Other Resolution
Appeal by Right	64	n/j	11	43*	2	7	1
Appeal by Permission	1,095	876	106	n/j	75	36	2
Death Penalty	96	5	87	n/j	1	3	0
Original/Other Proceedings	1,270	373	426	267	35	60	109
Total	2,525	1,254	630	310	113	106	112

Notes: n/j = no jurisdiction over the disposition type. *These cases should have been filed with the IAC, but were incorrectly filed with the Supreme Court.

Reversal of the lower court decision is most common in Appeals by Permission

☒ Case Outcome by Case Category in the Florida Supreme Court, 2007

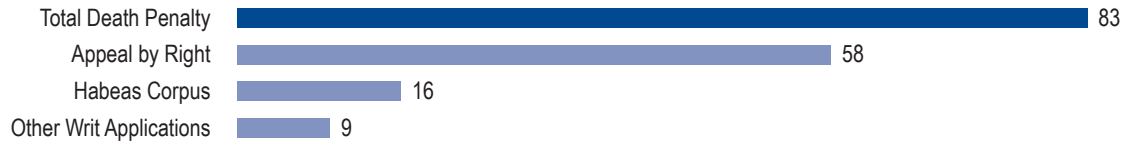
Most Original/Other Proceeding cases are included in Other Outcome since 91% of decided proceedings deal with bar/judiciary proceedings, certified questions, and advisory opinions.





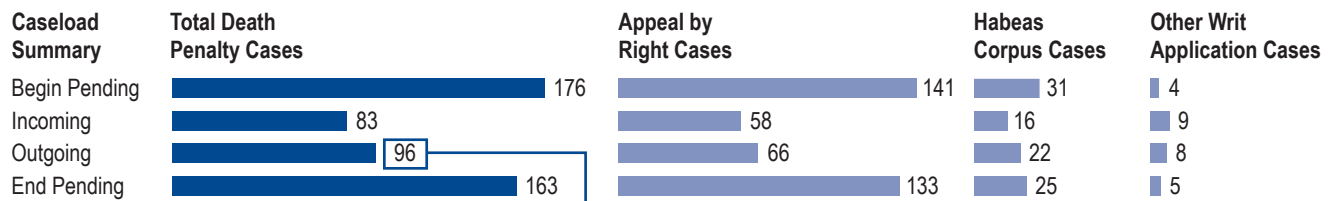
Appeals by Right represent 70 percent of incoming Death Penalty cases

☒ Incoming Death Penalty Cases by Case Type in the Florida Supreme Court, 2007



High clearance rates lead to a reduction in pending caseloads

☒ Total Death Penalty Cases in the Florida Supreme Court, 2007



Complete data illuminates details of disposed cases

Manner of Disposition

Decided	87
Permission Denied	5
Dismissed Prior to Decision	1
Withdrawn	3
Other Resolution	0

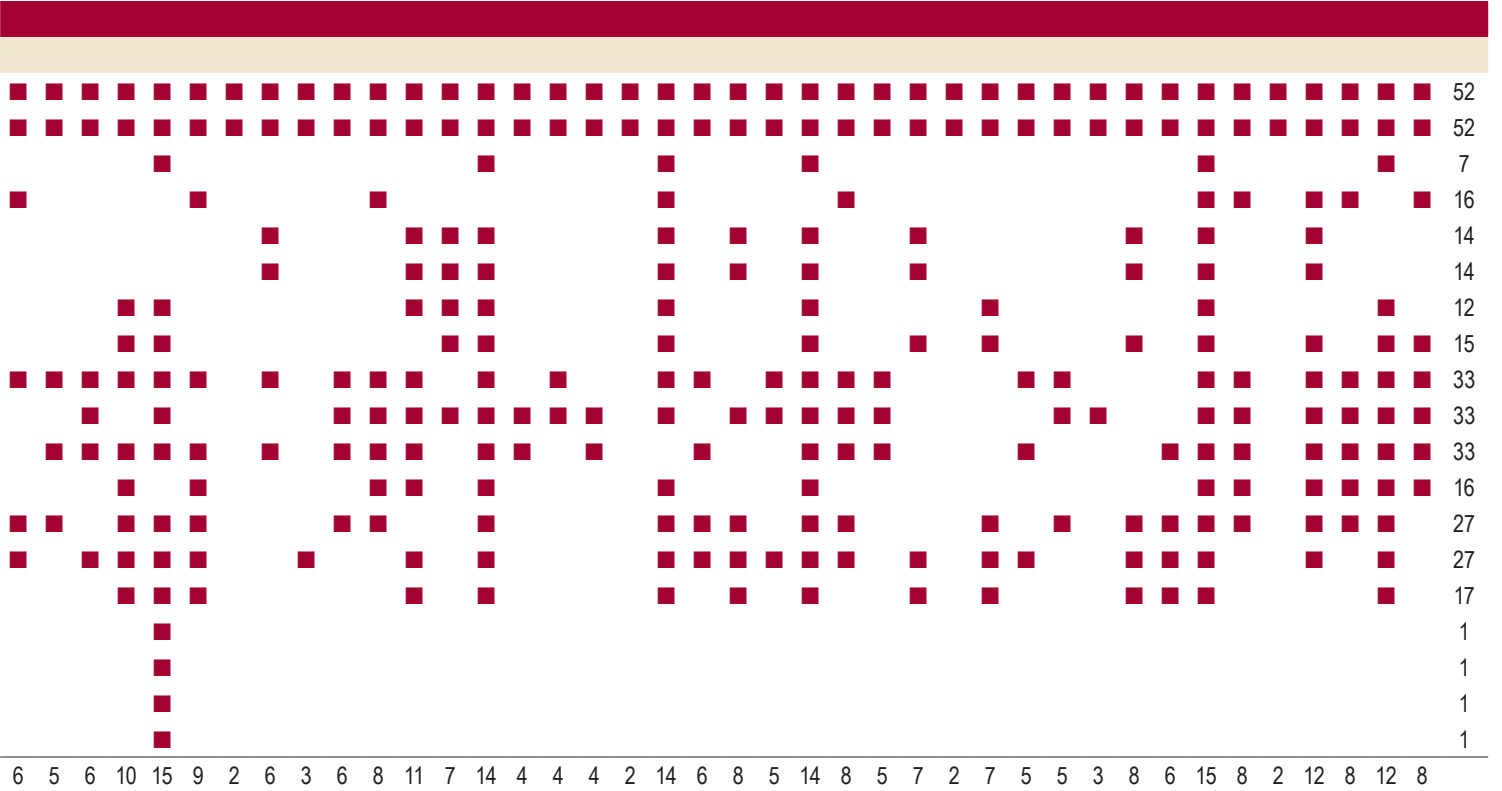
Lower Court Appeals

Affirmed	54	Of the 87 appeals that were decided, 75 full opinions were issued by the Supreme Court
Reversed	29	
Modified	2	
Dismissed	2	

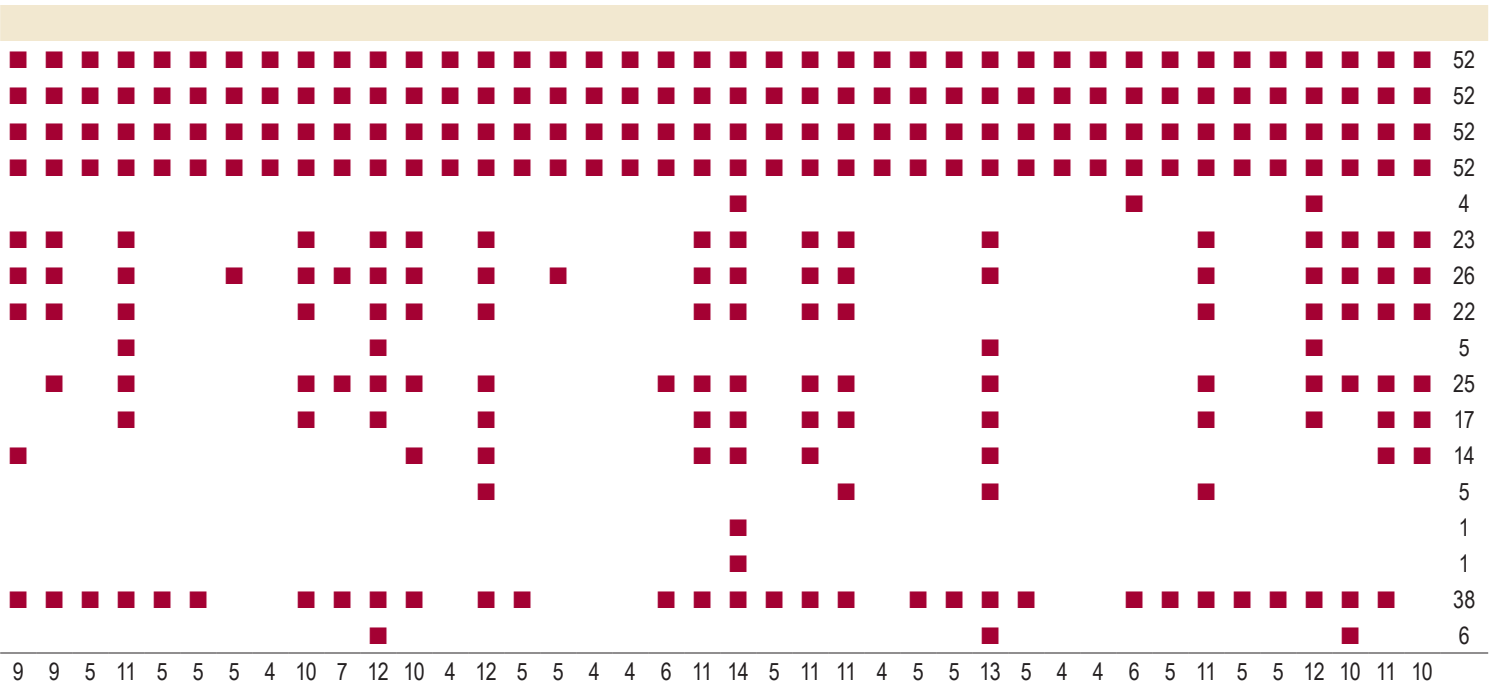
Summary

- Index of States Included in Section Graphics
- Court Statistics Project Methodology
- State Court Caseload Statistics

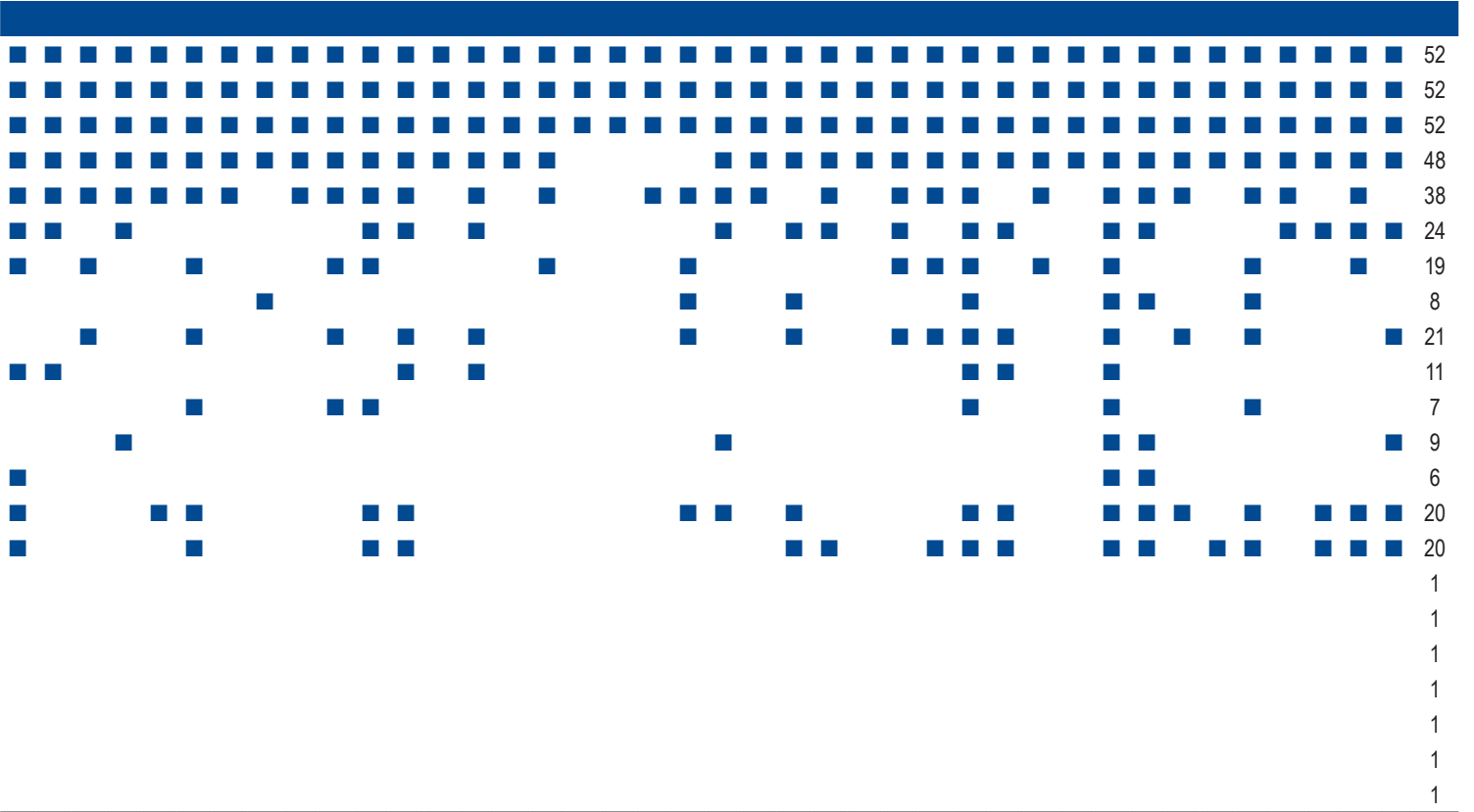
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ID IL IN IA KS KY LA ME MD MA MI MN MS MO MT NE NV NH NJ NM NY NC ND OH OK OR PA PR RI SC SD TN TX UT VT VA WA WV WI WY

42	34	35	45	45	36	23	22	28	33	47	45	22	47	21	23	19	16	43	40	42	29	47	42	21	30	27	49	34	23	24	39	33	58	38	34	48	37	41	37
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Information for the CSP's national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data are typically taken from official state court annual reports and Web sites. Data from published sources are often supplemented by unpublished data received from the state courts in many formats, including internal management reports and computer-generated output. States report and verify data electronically through spreadsheet templates provided by the Court Statistics Project.

The CSP data collection effort to build a comprehensive statistical profile of the work of state appellate and trial courts nationally is underway throughout the year. Extensive telephone contacts and follow-up correspondence are used to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and verify the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected on the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state population (based on U.S. Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure.

Examining the Work of State Courts is intended to enhance the potential for meaningful state court caseload comparisons. Because this volume examines 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (and thus 52 different court systems) the biggest challenge is to organize the data for valid state-to-state comparison among states and over time.

The Court Statistics Project can provide advice and clarification on the use of the statistics from this and previous reports. Project staff can also provide the full range of information available from each state. Most states provide far more detailed caseload information than can be presented in project publications. Information from the CSP is also available on the NCSC Web site at:

www.courtstatistics.org.

Comments, corrections, suggestions, and requests for information from readers of *Examining the Work of State Courts*, *State Court Caseload Statistics*, and the *Caseload Highlights* series are invited; please submit on the form on the CSP Web page at: www.courtstatistics.org.

The analysis presented in *Examining the Work of State Courts* is derived in part from the data found in *State Court Caseload Statistics*. *State Court Caseload Statistics* is published exclusively online at the Court Statistics Project's Web site: www.courtstatistics.org. This Web-based format allows users to take advantage of improved functionality and make possible electronic access to the data.

The information and tables found in *State Court Caseload Statistics* are intended to serve as a detailed reference on the work of the nation's state courts, and are organized in the following manner:

State Court Structure Charts display the overall structure of each state court system on a one-page chart. Each state's chart identifies all the courts in operation in that state during 2006, describes their geographic and subject matter jurisdiction, notes the number of authorized judicial positions, indicates whether funding is primarily local or state, outlines the routes of appeal between courts, and provides links to each court with its own Web site.

Jurisdiction and State Court Reporting Practices review basic information that affects the comparability of caseload information reports by the courts. Information is also provided that defines what constitutes a case in each court, making it possible to determine which appellate and trial courts compile caseload statistics on a similar basis. Finally, the numbers of judges and justices working in state trial and appellate courts are displayed.

State Court Caseload Tables contain detailed information from the nation's state courts. Six tables detail information on appellate courts, and an additional six tables contain data on trial courts. Other tables describe trends in the volume of incoming and outgoing cases for the period 1997-2006. The tables also indicate the extent of standardization in the data for each state and the comparability of caseload information across the states.



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Court Statistics Project

Since 1975, the Court Statistics Project has provided a comprehensive analysis of the work of state courts by gathering caseload data and creating meaningful comparisons for identifying trends, comparing caseloads, and highlighting policy issues.

A joint project of the Conference of State Court Administrators, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Center for State Courts.

