
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

KEY RESULTS AND MEASURES

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2023



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

Prepared by the State Court Administrator's Office
Strategic Planning & Projects Office, Court Research Office

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is the policy of the Minnesota Judicial Branch to establish core performance goals and to monitor key results that measure progress toward meeting these goals in order to ensure accountability of the branch, improve overall operations of the court, and enhance the public's trust and confidence in the judiciary.

The six core judicial branch goals are:

Access to Justice

Timeliness

Integrity and Accountability

Excellence

Fairness and Equity

Quality Court Workplace Environment

This is the 15th annual report that contains results for the Core Judicial Branch Goals - Key Results and Measures. This report contains current data along with trends, as available.

The contents of this report are organized into four sections –

1. Executive Summary;
2. Using Performance Measures for Administration;
3. Review of Key Results and Measures; and
4. Data Details (Appendix).

The executive summary first discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Major Criminal active pending caseload. This is followed by a review of results that are positive and possible areas of concern. A summary of how performance measures are being used by court administration follows the executive summary. The results in this report present a barometer of the work of the Branch – an overall picture of how the courts are doing at this point in time and over the last several years.

Definitions of terms and more details of the data are included in the appendix, which begins on page 47.

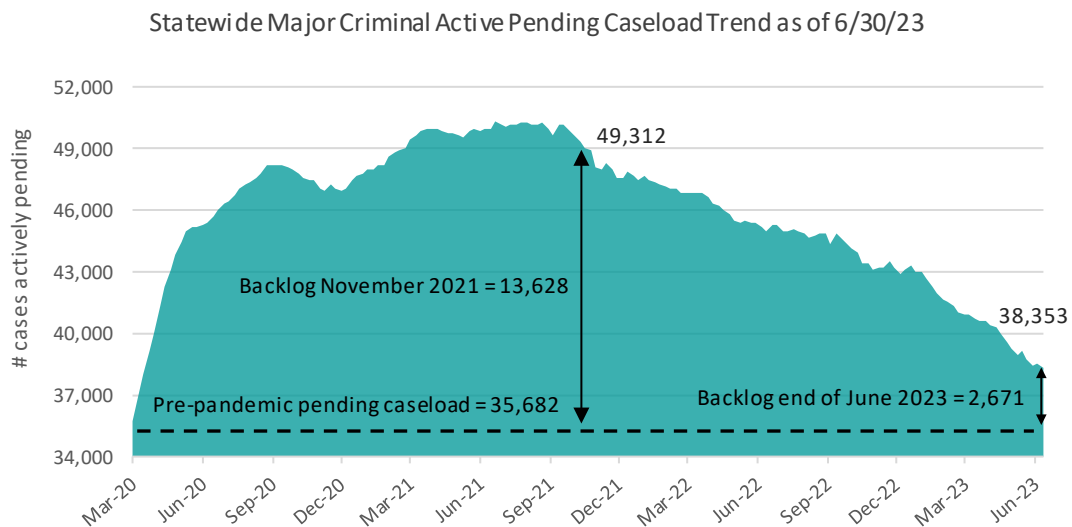
BACKLOG OF MAJOR CRIMINAL ACTIVE PENDING CASES

The Minnesota Judicial Branch and statewide court operations were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since fiscal year 2020 (FY20), the Judicial Branch undertook numerous efforts to protect the health and safety of court customers while maintaining essential court operations. Such unprecedented efforts resulted in significant challenges to achieving some of the Judicial Branch’s timeliness goals.

Clearance rates measure whether a court is keeping up with its incoming caseload. A clearance rate of 100% means as many cases were disposed in a year as were newly filed. Major Criminal (felony and gross misdemeanor) clearance rates dropped to record lows in FY20 (80%) and FY21 (85%), which resulted in an increased active (excluding dormant and on warrant) pending caseload. The number of active pending Major Criminal cases increased from 31,607 at the end of June 2019 to 49,882 at the end of June 2021, a 58% increase in only two fiscal years.

In July 2021, the Minnesota Judicial Council, the administrative policy-making authority for the Judicial Branch, discussed strategies for reducing the statewide Major Criminal backlog. The backlog is defined as the number of active pending cases above the number when the pandemic started in March 2020. The Judicial Council implemented an aspirational goal in November 2021 to eliminate the 13,628 backlog of Major Criminal cases and return to pre-pandemic pending levels.

Following implementation of the goal, approximately 11,000 cases were eliminated from the Major Criminal backlog by July 2023. Courts were disposing more criminal cases compared to pre-pandemic, statewide monthly clearance rates were mostly exceeding 100%, and three judicial districts and many individual counties successfully eliminated their backlogs and returned to pre-pandemic levels.

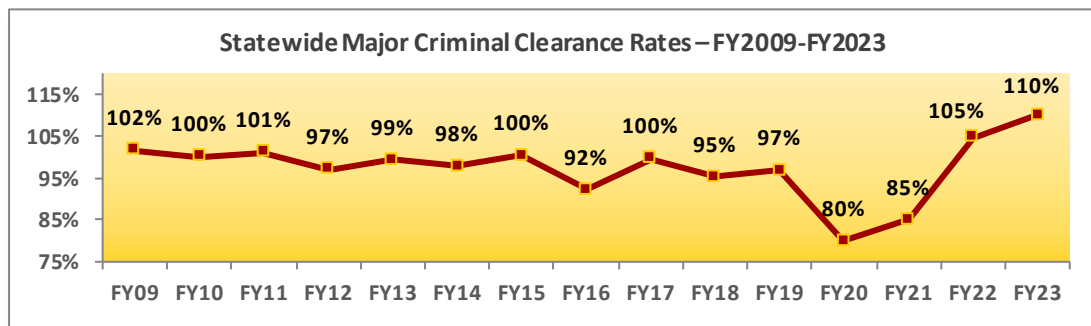


POSITIVE PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS BY GOAL

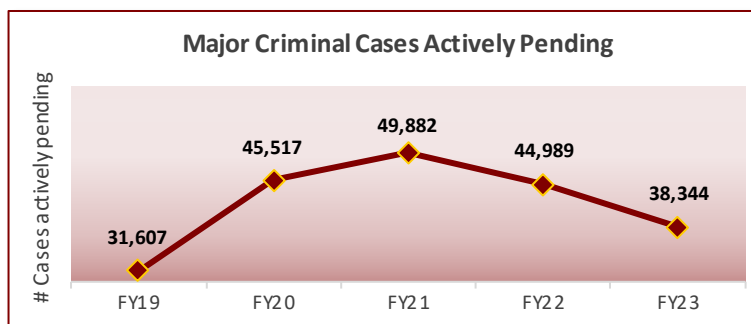
Timeliness

This goal area has several measures to determine if courts are handling cases in a timely manner – Clearance Rates, Time to Disposition, Age of Pending Cases, Length of Time to Permanency, Time to Adoption, and Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases within Time Standards.

- ◆ A Clearance Rate of 100% means as many cases were disposed in a year as were newly filed. Despite an increased focus on clearing Major Criminal backlog cases, Clearance Rates were maintained at or above 100% for Family, Juvenile (Delinquency and CHIPS/Permanency), Minor Civil, and Minor Criminal case groups in FY23. The statewide Clearance Rate for all case groups combined was 101% (goal is 100% or above).
- ◆ Clearance Rates compare all disposed cases in a year to all filed cases in that year, regardless of when the disposed case was filed. This means that Clearance Rates can be greater than 100%. The statewide result of 110% in FY23 was the highest Major Criminal Clearance Rate since the Judicial Branch began reporting the statistic.



- ◆ Clearance Rates above 100% indicate more cases are being disposed than filed in a year, thereby reducing the backlog of cases awaiting disposition. As a result of statewide Clearance Rates above 100% for the past two fiscal years, the number of Major Criminal cases actively pending (excludes dormant and on warrant) further declined in FY23, dropping 23% from FY21 to FY23.



- ◆ Statewide Time to Disposition results in FY23 met the timing objectives for Dissolution (with and without child) (goal is 1% or lower). Time to Disposition results can be impacted by efforts to clear out older cases. As courts continue working to reduce the backlog and dispose of aging cases, Time to Disposition results may be higher for the Major Criminal case group.

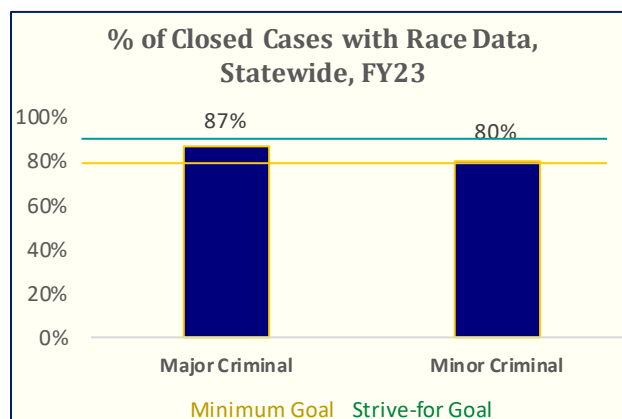
Case Group	99 th Percentile Objective (Months)	FY23 % Cases Disposed Beyond 99 th Percentile
Major Criminal	12	23%
Major Civil	24	2%
Dissolutions	24	1%
Domestic Abuse	4	2%
Juvenile Delinquency	6	13%
Minor Criminal	9	7%

- ◆ In FY23, the Court of Appeals far exceeded the timing objectives by disposing more than 75% of Civil (94%), Juvenile Protection (100%), and Juvenile Delinquency (100%) cases within 290 days of filing. All Court of Appeals case categories exceeded the 365-day objective (goal is 90%), with results ranging from 93% of Criminal cases to 100% of Juvenile Protection and Juvenile Delinquency cases disposed within 365 days of filing.

Fairness and Equity

Measures for this goal area include juror representativeness, statements from the Access and Fairness survey, and race data collection rates.

- ◆ Nearly all 50,525 jurors who reported for service in FY23 returned the Juror Questionnaire and completed race information (98.5%). Of all racial groups, American Indian and multiracial jurors in the statewide FY23 jury pool most closely mirrored their share in the adult population.
- ◆ The 2022 Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Access and Fairness survey showed high levels of agreement among district court judges for issues of fairness in both appellate courts. Over 80% of judges agreed or strongly agreed that the Courts adequately consider each case based upon its facts and the applicable law, and that the Court’s written decisions reflect thoughtful and fair evaluation of the parties’ arguments.
- ◆ The minimum goal of having 80% of closed cases with race information recorded was met statewide for Minor Criminal cases in FY23 and exceeded for Major Criminal cases despite challenges to the race data collection process since the onset of the pandemic.



POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONCERN

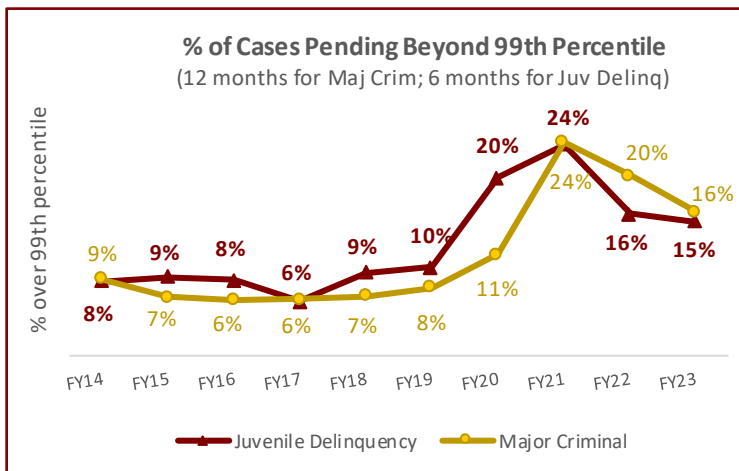
The measures in this section show possible areas of concern, but do not necessarily reflect poor performance.

Timeliness

- ◆ Clearance Rates for Probate/Mental Health cases have remained below 100% for the past five fiscal years. This has resulted in an increase to the Probate/Mental Health pending caseload by 31% over the same time period. The rise was driven primarily by an increase in Formal Supervised and Unsupervised, Guardianship/Conservatorship, and Informal Probate pending cases.

Probate/Mental Health Clearance Rates				
FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
98%	95%	98%	98%	98%

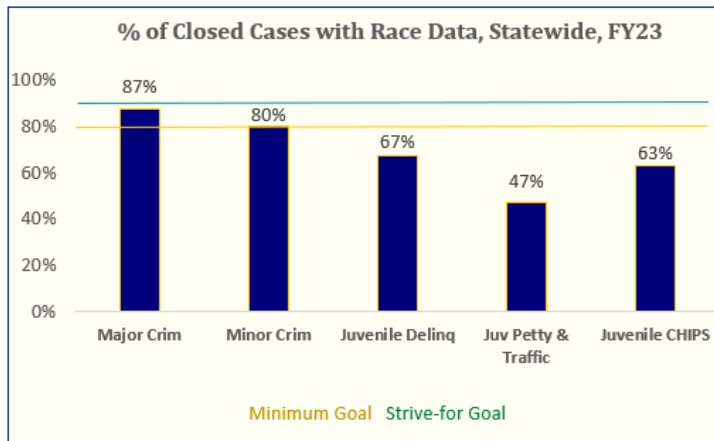
- ◆ Results of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Age of Pending cases have increased over the past decade (lower number is better). However, after reaching a high point at the end of FY21, the percentage of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases pending beyond the timing objectives have declined over the past two fiscal years. Larger percentages of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases pending beyond the timing objectives could increase Time to Disposition results for these case groups in FY24.



- ◆ Statewide, the objectives of having 99% of children reach permanency by 18 months and 60% of children reach adoption within 24 months of removal from the home were not met in FY23. Neither goal has been achieved statewide since the Branch began reporting this information.

Fairness and Equity

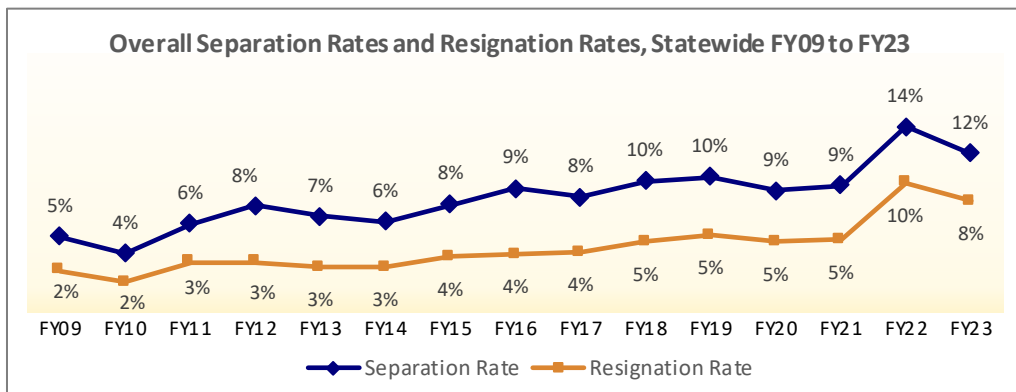
- ◆ Statewide, Asian, Black, and Hispanic jurors in the FY23 jury pool were under-represented compared to their share in the adult population.
- ◆ The minimum goal of having 80% of closed cases with race information recorded was not met in FY23 statewide for Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty and Traffic, or Juvenile CHIPS case types, and the ‘strive-for’ goal of 90% of closed cases with race data was not met for any case type. The decline in race data collection corresponds to significant changes in the collection process made necessary by remote hearings.



Quality Court Workplace Environment

The measures for this goal area are Separation Rates and results of the Quality Court Workplace survey.

- ◆ There have been regular periods of increase in the separation rate (includes resignations, retirements, dismissals, and layoffs), however, the separation rates over the last two fiscal years were the highest reported. The rise was driven by increases in the resignation rate.



USING PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Reviews of performance measure results are presented twice per year to the Judicial Council. The most recent written reports were submitted in March 2023 and oral reports are to be given in September 2023.
- ◆ Reviewing results of performance measures has become routine at bench meetings and within court administration.

DISTRICT COURTS REVIEW RESULTS

In July 2021, the Judicial Council discussed strategies to decrease the number of new actively pending major criminal cases since the start of the pandemic (backlog). The Judicial Council adopted an aspirational goal in November 2021, that every district would reduce the growth in pending major criminal cases since March 2020 by 20% every four months through June 2023 to return to pre-pandemic pending levels. The reviews of performance measure results by districts from the March 2023 written reports were directed to share specific strategies planned to meet the backlog goal.

Specific examples of these reviews include:

- The 1st District met its major criminal backlog reduction goal in November 2022. The district reduced its major criminal pending caseload by 1,319 cases during the 12-month period of November 2021-2022.
- The 2nd District planned to increase date-certain trial scheduling. “A large percentage of our backlog is now at the trial stage. To ensure trials continue to move forward as efficiently as possible we have allocated additional judicial resources to trials. Also, as trials resolve, our justice partners are ready to begin their next trial ready case with a two-hour notice.”
- In the 3rd District, seven of the 11 counties reduced their backlog beyond the goal. The 3rd District reported several strategies planned to further backlog reduction in the remaining counties, including focused efforts on the oldest and most serious cases, participation in case resolution events, and the addition of more trial calendars.
- The 4th District planned to implement bi-monthly reporting of the oldest open felonies to ensure case progression, review the number of hearings scheduled per case, schedule trial dates by the third court hearing (with certain exceptions), and hold backlog reduction events.

“Scheduling and holding hearings, settlement conferences, and jury trials in-person has had the largest impact. This results in more active, timely discussion and resolution on major criminal cases. In Zoom, we end up having more continuances and the cases take longer to resolve.”

1st District

“Hold regular strategic planning meetings with our justice partners to: identify cases ripe for early resolution/disposition, troubleshoot cases that are experiencing delay, and continue discussions on new ways to achieve the backlog reduction goal.”

2nd District

- In the 5th District, 13 of the 15 counties reduced their pending major criminal cases to or below pre-pandemic pending levels. To further reduce the backlog in the remaining counties, the 5th District planned to host several in-person case resolution events.
- The 6th District strategy included continued use of senior judges on additional calendars, scheduling extensive trial blocks, holding multiple case resolution events, limiting the number of continuances in cases, and increased in-person hearings.
- The 7th District met its major criminal backlog reduction goal in May 2023. The 7th District reported several key strategies used, including hosting case resolution events, allocating senior judge time one day per week for master calendar coverage, and hiring a trial court staff attorney to assist judges without law clerks in research, trials, and order preparation.
- The 8th District met its major criminal backlog reduction goal in May 2023. The 8th District reported several key strategies used, including modifying calendars to provide more time for major criminal cases, reallocating judge time from counties that met the backlog reduction goal into counties that still had a backlog, utilizing senior judge time to provide master calendar coverage, and participation in case resolution events.
- In the 9th District, 13 of the 17 counties reduced their pending major criminal cases to or below pre-pandemic pending levels. The 9th District planned to continue current efforts, including employing referees to handle cases which would allow judges to focus more time on major criminal, utilizing senior judges, maintain increased staffing levels in court administration to assist with the increased work, and participation in case resolution events.
- The 10th District planned to continue use of temporary referees, modify its calendar plan to increase the number of major criminal calendars, provide backup jury trial coverage to keep cases moving toward resolution, try additional cases using senior judges, and participate in case resolution events.

“Conducting more hearings in-person will give attorneys opportunities to meet and have meaningful conversations with clients sooner.”

5th District

“Each county with a backlog continues to work diligently on the entire caseload and adds case resolution events when time allows to support backlog elimination.”

10th District

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Judicial Branch Policy 505: The Minnesota Judicial Branch will be open, affordable and understandable to ensure access to justice.

Do participants perceive the courts to be accessible?

ACCESS AND FAIRNESS SURVEY

- ◆ The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals conducted an Access and Fairness Survey in June 2022. Each court had its own survey, with attorneys who practice appellate law and district court judges who have had cases appealed responding to them. The last Access and Fairness survey for the appellate courts was completed in 2015.
- ◆ At the time of writing, the next district court Access and Fairness Survey was already in the field starting August 2023 and continuing through November 2023. Three previous rounds of the survey were completed in 2008, 2013, and 2019. Results will be available in early 2024.

The Minnesota Supreme Court and Court of Appeals conducted their second Access and Fairness Survey in June 2022. The first-ever Access and Fairness Survey for the appellate courts was conducted in September 2015. The survey instruments were based on the Quality of Services Survey designed by the National Center for State Courts. There were four versions of questionnaires designed for the two appellate courts with two sets of respondents, attorneys practicing appellate law and district court judges.

Supreme Court Survey

- There were 298 responses from attorneys and 63 from district court judges. This compared to 349 responses from attorneys and 98 from district court judges in 2015.
- Over half of the attorneys (57%) that responded to the survey have been practicing law for more than 20 years.
- About half (51%) of the judges that responded to the survey have served on the bench for more than ten years.

Consistent across survey years, the highest levels of agreement from **attorneys** were with statements related to the Supreme Court treating attorneys with courtesy and respect; informing attorneys of its procedures, operations, and activities; and clearly stating the applicable legal principles governing its written decisions.

Percent of attorneys who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The Court treats attorneys with courtesy and respect at oral arguments and in its written decisions.	90%	87%
The Court's written decisions clearly state the applicable legal principles that govern the decision.	78%	82%
The Court effectively informs attorneys of its procedures, operations, and activities.	83%	82%

“...the opinions are thorough and provide clear explanations for the court's ruling and reasoning.”

*Supreme Court Survey
Attorney Respondent*

Since 2015, statements related to affordability and timeliness of the Supreme Court consistently received among the lowest levels of agreement from attorneys.

Percent of attorneys who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The fee to file a case in the Supreme Court is affordable for litigants.	41%	50%
The Minnesota Supreme Court resolves its cases in a timely manner.	52%	58%

“Overall the Supreme Court’s performance is good. I believe opinions take too long, especially when compared to the higher caseload of the district courts and the Court of Appeals.”

Supreme Court Survey Attorney Respondent

Similar to 2015, the highest levels of agreement among **judges** were with statements related to the Supreme Court clearly stating the applicable legal principles governing its written decisions; considering cases based upon the facts and applicable law; and reflecting thoughtful and fair evaluation of the parties’ arguments in its written decisions.

“Usually well thought out decisions.”

Supreme Court Survey Judge Respondent

Percent of judges who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The Court’s written decisions clearly state the applicable legal principles that govern the decision.	83%	89%
The Court adequately considers each case based upon its facts and the applicable law.	80%	89%
The Court’s written decisions reflect thoughtful and fair evaluation of the parties’ arguments.	81%	86%

Consistent across survey years, judges expressed lower levels of agreement to statements related to timeliness and being informed about relevant procedures, operations, and activities of the Court.

Percent of judges who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The Minnesota Supreme Court resolves its cases in a timely manner.	38%	43%
The Court effectively informs trial court judges of its relevant procedures, operations, and activities.	64%	59%

There was variation in agreement to the statements on the attorney and judge surveys by the following demographic categories:

- *Race/ethnicity* – White attorneys reported higher agreement levels for most statements compared to attorneys who identified as Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color (BIPOC) and attorneys who preferred not to share their race/ethnicity.
- *Gender* – Attorneys and judges who identified as men had higher agreement levels compared to attorneys and judges who identified as women. In addition, attorneys who shared their gender on the survey reported higher agreement levels compared to attorneys who did not to share their gender.

Court of Appeals Survey

- There were 627 responses from attorneys and 88 from district court judges. This compares to 772 responses from attorneys and 118 from district court judges in 2015.
- Over half of the attorneys (54%) that responded to the survey have been practicing law for more than 20 years.
- Less than half (44%) of the judges that responded to the survey have been on the bench for more than ten years.

In both survey years, the highest levels of agreement from **attorneys** were with statements related to the Court of Appeals treating attorneys with courtesy and respect; resolving cases timely; and informing attorneys of its procedures, operations, and activities.

Percent of attorneys who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The Court treats attorneys with courtesy and respect at oral arguments and in its written decisions.	88%	87%
The Minnesota Court of Appeals resolves its cases in a timely manner.	85%	85%
The Court effectively informs attorneys of its procedures, operations, and activities.	83%	82%

“I appreciated the courtesy and respect given to me by the Court.”
*Court of Appeals Survey
Attorney Respondent*

A new statement was added to the Court of Appeals survey in 2022 related to the number of precedential (published) opinions issued by the Court. Attorneys expressed lower levels of agreement that the Court issues about the right number. In addition, the statement related to affordability received lower levels of agreement in both survey years.

“I do not believe that there should be any unpublished opinions. I think all opinions should be published.”
*Court of Appeals Survey
Attorney Respondent*

Percent of attorneys who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The Court issues about the right number of precedential (published) opinions.	NA	33%
The fee to file a case in the Court of Appeals is affordable for litigants.	47%	48%

Judges expressed higher levels of agreement in both survey years that the Court of Appeals clearly states the applicable legal principles governing its written decisions; reflects thoughtful and fair evaluation of the parties' arguments in its written decisions; and resolves cases in a timely manner.

Percent of judges who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The Court's written decisions clearly state the applicable legal principles that govern the decision.	79%	88%
The Court's written decisions reflect thoughtful and fair evaluation of the parties' arguments.	80%	86%
The Minnesota Court of Appeals resolves its cases in a timely manner.	82%	86%

“The Court handles its voluminous case load in a fair and on a timely basis.”
*Court of Appeals Survey
Judge Respondent*

Like the attorneys, judges reported lower levels of agreement that the Court of Appeals issues about the right number of precedential opinions. Similar to 2015, judges expressed lower levels of agreement with being informed of the Court’s relevant procedures, operations, and activities.

Percent of judges who agree/strongly agree	2015	2022
The Court issues about the right number of precedential (published) opinions.	NA	41%
The Court effectively informs trial court judges of its relevant procedures, operations, and activities.	65%	55%

There was variation in agreement to the statements on the attorney and judge surveys by the following demographic categories:

- *Race/ethnicity* – White attorneys reported higher agreement levels for all statements compared to attorneys who identified as Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color (BIPOC) and attorneys who preferred not to share their race/ethnicity. In contrast, BIPOC judges reported higher agreement levels with most survey statements compared to White judges.
- *Gender* – Attorneys who identified as men had higher agreement levels for most of the statements compared to attorneys who identified as women. In addition, attorneys who shared their gender on the survey reported higher agreement levels compared to attorneys who chose not to share their gender.

Attorneys were asked whether they participated remotely in an oral argument before the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals.

- Twenty-three percent (23%) of attorneys participated remotely in an oral argument before the Supreme Court and 57% of attorneys participated remotely before the Court of Appeals.
- Of the attorneys that participated remotely in an oral argument before the appellate courts, over 90% were able to navigate and easily use the remote technology and at least 80% were able to successfully complete their work.

TIMELINESS

Judicial Branch Policy 505: The Minnesota Judicial Branch will resolve cases and controversies in a timely and expeditious way without unnecessary delays.

Are trial courts handling cases in a timely manner?

FILING TRENDS

In order to put the timing measures into context, the following chart shows filing trends over the past five years. Overall FY23 filing counts increased 9% year-over-year from FY22, largely due to an increase in Minor Criminal and Minor Civil filings. Overall FY23 filings decreased 18% compared to FY19. The only increases, by category, from FY19 to FY23 were Major Probate (+9%) and Major Civil (+3%). Juvenile cases (Delinq. and CHIPS/Permanency) had the largest five-year decrease (-28%).

Filing counts represent the number of children on CHIPS/Permanency cases, the number of charges on Minor Criminal cases, and the number of cases for all other case categories.

Case Category	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	% Change FY22 to FY23	% Change FY19 to FY23
Serious Felony	1,357	1,490	1,550	1,563	1,501	-4%	11%
Felony DWI	642	649	678	720	811	13%	26%
Other Felony	34,448	35,111	34,411	34,193	32,532	-5%	-6%
Gross Misdemeanor DWI	14,079	13,011	11,541	13,317	13,652	3%	-3%
Other Gross Misdemeanor	17,366	17,284	15,362	15,102	14,776	-2%	-15%
Major Criminal Total:	67,892	67,545	63,542	64,895	63,272	-3%	-7%
Personal Injury	2,310	2,345	2,109	1,854	1,786	-4%	-23%
Contract	7,113	8,852	6,786	6,942	7,255	5%	2%
Wrongful Death	137	104	105	112	101	-10%	-26%
Malpractice	67	96	103	93	93	0%	39%
Property Damage	226	190	146	194	137	-29%	-39%
Condemnation	115	119	100	162	125	-23%	9%
Conciliation Appeal	519	417	383	514	568	11%	9%
Harassment	11,727	11,294	12,047	13,361	13,798	3%	18%
Employment	390	339	290	302	275	-9%	-29%
Other Civil	8,016	7,329	6,206	6,557	7,360	12%	-8%
Major Civil Total:	30,620	31,085	28,275	30,091	31,498	5%	3%
Trust	363	337	366	279	313	12%	-14%
Supervised Administration	245	265	275	303	272	-10%	11%
Unsupervised Administration	3,215	3,007	3,656	3,898	3,771	-3%	17%
Special Administration	243	261	328	371	348	-6%	43%
Informal Probate	3,466	3,514	4,001	4,110	3,923	-5%	13%
Estate/Other Probate	1,047	1,076	1,120	1,301	1,158	-11%	11%
Guardianship/Conservatorship	2,993	2,757	2,906	2,873	2,839	-1%	-5%
Commitment	4,453	4,496	5,034	4,865	4,821	-1%	8%
Major Probate Total:	16,025	15,713	17,686	18,000	17,445	-3%	9%

Filing Trends, Cont.

Case Category	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	% Change FY22 to FY23	% Change FY19 to FY23
Dissolution with Child	7,143	6,796	7,099	6,428	6,252	-3%	-12%
Dissolution without Child	7,512	7,057	7,392	7,187	7,049	-2%	-6%
Support	10,067	8,260	7,094	7,111	6,646	-7%	-34%
Adoption	1,788	1,547	1,570	1,653	1,483	-10%	-17%
Other Family	3,249	2,941	2,826	3,189	3,491	9%	7%
Domestic Abuse	10,586	10,094	10,010	9,871	10,070	2%	-5%
Major Family Total:	40,345	36,695	35,991	35,439	34,991	-1%	-13%
Delinquency Felony	3,528	3,705	2,950	3,001	3,620	21%	3%
Delinquency Gross Misdemeanor	1,447	1,435	883	999	1,138	14%	-21%
Delinquency Misdemeanor	9,363	8,752	5,456	5,682	6,860	21%	-27%
Status Offense	3,369	2,562	1,105	1,320	1,439	9%	-57%
Dependency/Neglect	6,037	5,480	4,505	4,304	4,269	-1%	-29%
Permanency - TPR	2,633	2,443	1,903	1,682	1,554	-8%	-41%
Permanency - Non TPR	1,105	1,076	987	927	908	-2%	-18%
Truancy	1,800	1,104	647	1,149	1,257	9%	-30%
Runaway	119	123	104	77	73	-5%	-39%
Major Juvenile Total:	29,401	26,680	18,540	19,141	21,118	10%	-28%
Unlawful Detainer	17,594	13,642	2,331	14,942	25,327	70%	44%
Implied Consent	3,971	3,344	3,024	3,396	3,318	-2%	-16%
Transcript Judgment	27,041	20,368	14,053	19,739	21,773	10%	-19%
Default Judgment	25,965	25,793	20,341	19,281	18,034	-6%	-31%
Conciliation	52,640	45,702	40,267	41,115	40,991	0%	-22%
Minor Civil Total:	127,211	108,849	80,016	98,473	109,443	11%	-14%
5th Degree Assault	12,128	12,544	11,515	11,350	11,337	0%	-7%
Other Non-Traffic	102,644	101,999	82,519	72,292	73,265	1%	-29%
Misdemeanor DWI	19,735	17,048	14,155	15,953	18,417	15%	-7%
Other Traffic	516,894	454,572	395,879	398,338	431,556	8%	-17%
Juvenile Traffic	5,713	4,884	4,801	4,809	5,124	7%	-10%
Parking	335,961	245,547	214,719	218,698	255,280	17%	-24%
Minor Criminal Total:	993,075	836,594	723,588	721,440	794,979	10%	-20%
Grand Total:	1,304,569	1,123,161	967,638	987,479	1,072,746	9%	-18%

CLEARANCE RATES

- ◆ The statewide Clearance Rate for all case groups combined was 101% (Goal = 100% or above) in FY23.
- ◆ Major Criminal cases had the highest Clearance Rate in FY23 at 110% while Major Civil cases had the lowest Clearance Rate at 97%.

Figure 2.1: Statewide Clearance Rates FY2019 – FY2023

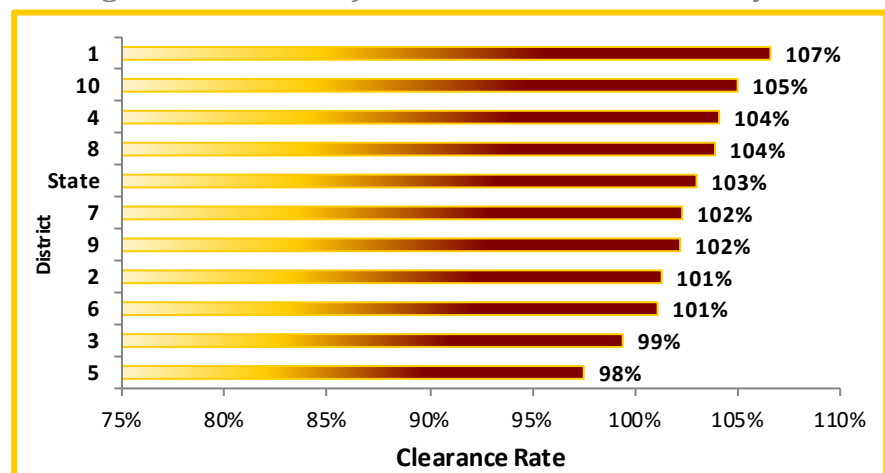
Case Group	Clearance Rates				
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Major Crim	97%	80%	85%	105%	110%
Major Civil	101%	97%	102%	101%	97%
Prob/MH	98%	95%	98%	98%	98%
Family	99%	101%	100%	100%	101%
Juvenile	103%	91%	123%	101%	100%
Minor Civil	99%	97%	99%	100%	103%
Minor Crim	100%	95%	103%	101%	101%
State	99%	95%	102%	101%	101%

A Clearance Rate of 100% indicates a court is ‘keeping up’ with cases filed. A Clearance Rate under 100% indicates a possible growing backlog.

In FY23, all case groups except Major Civil and Probate/Mental Health maintained Clearance Rates at or above 100%. Clearance Rate results improved in FY23 over FY22 for Major Criminal, Family, and Minor Civil case groups. The statewide Clearance Rate for all case groups combined has been above 100% for the past three fiscal years.

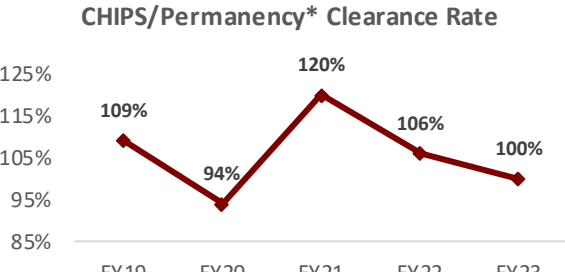
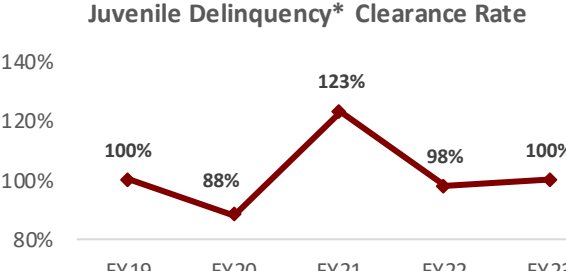
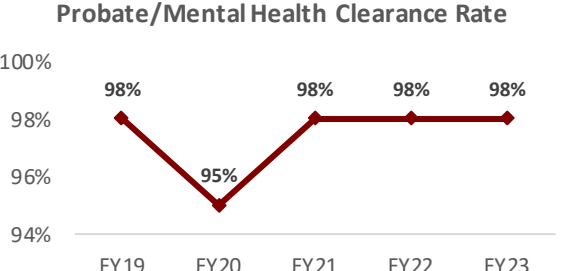
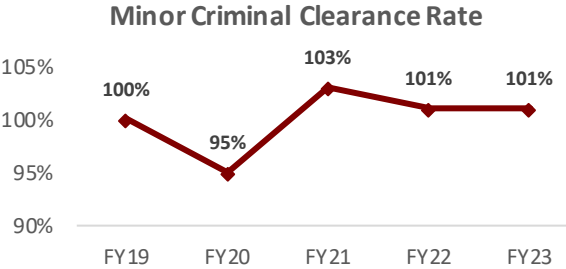
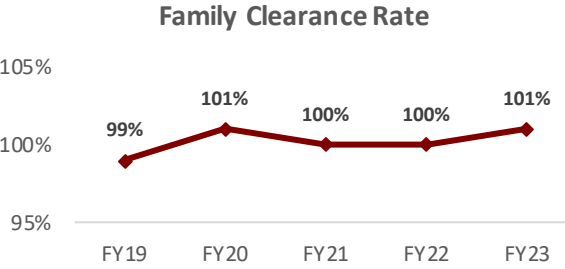
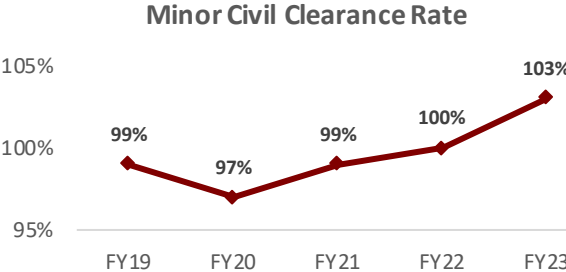
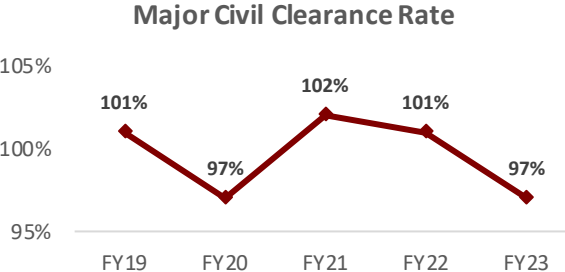
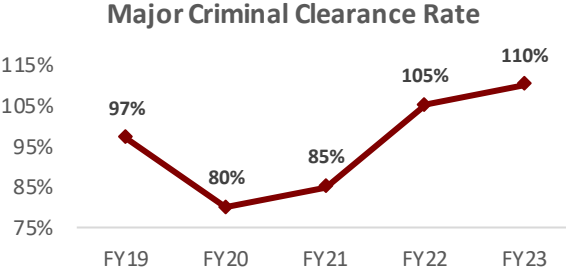
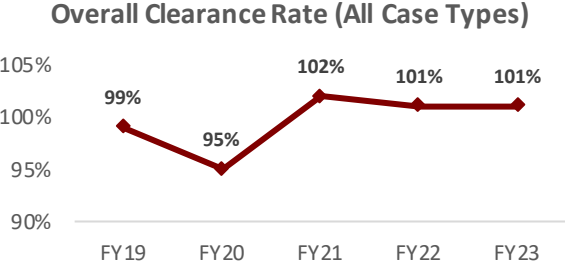
Figure 2.2: Overall (Excluding Minor Criminal) Clearance Rates FY2023 by District

Figure 2.2 shows that all but two districts maintained overall Clearance Rates, excluding Minor Criminal, above 100% in FY23. By district, Clearance Rates were within 9% of each other and ranged from 98% in the 5th District to 107% in the 1st District.



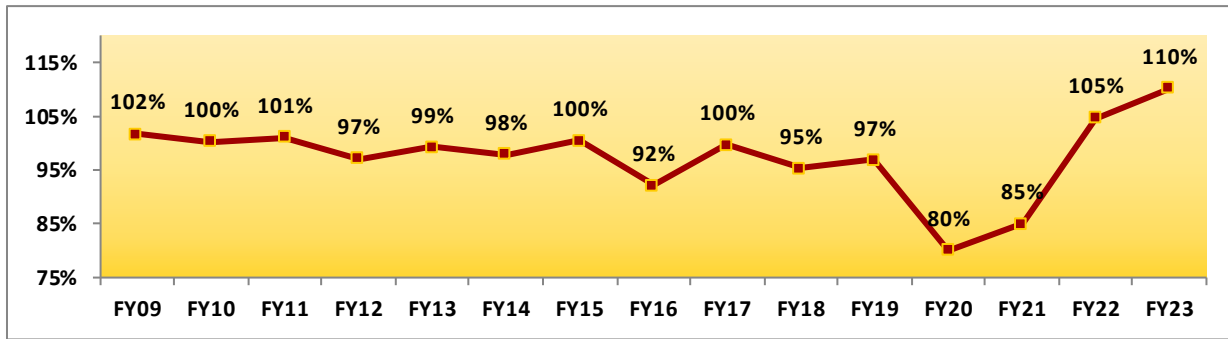
The graphs in Figure 2.3 (next page) show statewide Clearance Rates by case group for the past five fiscal years.

Figure 2.3: Statewide Clearance Rates FY2019 – FY2023, by Case Group



*Truancy and Runaway cases excluded

Figure 2.4: Statewide Major Criminal Clearance Rates – FY2009-FY2023 (15 Years)



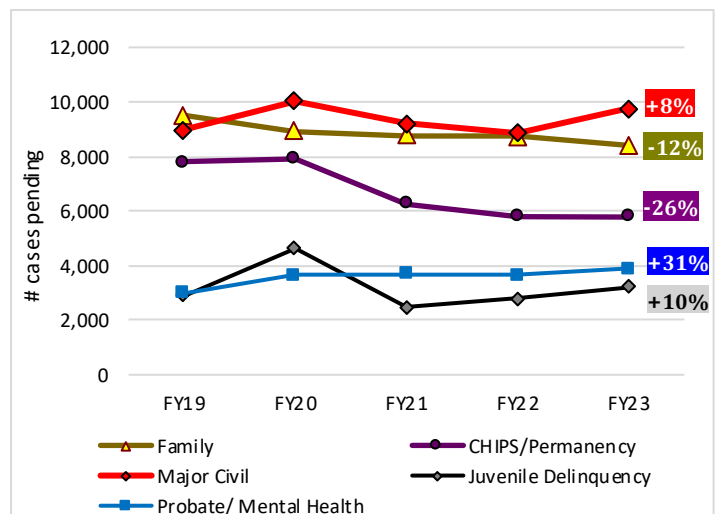
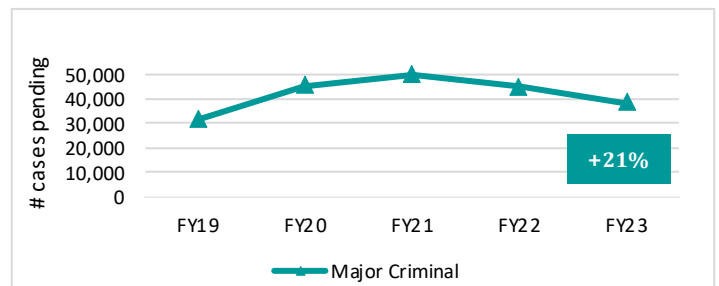
Major Criminal Clearance Rates have fluctuated over the past 15 years. The most recent decline, from fiscal years 2020 to 2021, was due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed to a backlog of Major Criminal cases. Between FY19 and FY21, the number of ‘active’ pending Major Criminal cases grew from approximately 31,600 cases to nearly 50,000 cases (a 58% increase). In FY22, a statewide goal to reduce the Major Criminal backlog was implemented, and as a result, the Major Criminal Clearance Rate rose above 100% in FY22 and FY23. At 110%, the statewide Major Criminal Clearance Rate is the highest it has been since the Judicial Branch began reporting the statistic.

Figure 2.5: Statewide Active Pending Caseload, Major Cases FY2019 – FY2023

Figure 2.5 shows that the number of cases pending in major case groups from FY19 to FY23 declined in CHIPS/Permanency (-26%) and Family (-12%) cases.

Due to impacts of the pandemic, there was a significant increase in the number of pending cases in Major Criminal from FY19 to FY21 (+58%). However, following a statewide Major Criminal backlog reduction goal implemented during FY22, the number of pending cases has been on the decline, decreasing by 23% from FY21 to FY23.

Over the past five fiscal years, pending cases in Probate/ Mental Health have been on the rise, increasing 31% from FY19 to FY23. The Juvenile Delinquency and Major Civil pending caseloads have also increased 10% and 8%, respectively, over the same time period.



Excludes Dormant Cases and Out on Warrant

TIME TO DISPOSITION

- ◆ Statewide, 91% of all cases disposed in FY23 were disposed within the 99th percentile time objective (for cases with timing objectives).
- ◆ Dissolution (with or without child) cases met the timing objectives at the 99th percentile in FY23.
- ◆ Major Criminal cases had the highest percentage disposed beyond the 99th percentile time objective (23%). (Goal is 1% or lower.)

The Time to Disposition measure assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. This measure takes into account (subtracts out) periods during which cases are dormant. Time to Disposition results can be impacted by efforts to clear out older cases. As courts work to reduce backlogs and dispose aging caseloads, Time to Disposition results may increase.

Figure 2.6: Statewide Time to Disposition Cases Disposed in MNCIS, FY2023

Case Group	90th Percentile			97th Percentile			99th Percentile			Beyond 99th		Total	
	Obj	Cases	%	Obj	Cases	Cum %	Obj	Cases	Cum %	Cases	%	Cases	Avg Days
Major Criminal	4	21,170	30.4	6	11,304	46.6	12	21,289	77.1	15,928	22.9	69,691	258
Major Civil	12	28,161	92.2	18	1,242	96.3	24	500	98.0	624	2.0	30,527	108
Dissolutions	12	12,138	91.7	18	699	97.0	24	250	98.9	152	1.1	13,239	123
Domestic Abuse	2	9,511	94.8	3	250	97.3	4	126	98.5	150	1.5	10,037	15
Juvenile Del	3	7,471	64.5	5	2,040	82.1	6	527	86.6	1,547	13.4	11,585	95
Minor Crim	3	370,589	81.4	6	36,876	89.5	9	16,505	93.1	31,269	6.9	455,239	108
State Total		427,391	75.4		51,462	84.4		38,821	91.3	49,368	8.7	567,042	126

Objectives are in months; Minor Criminal counts are cases, rather than charges as on other case statistics reports.

As shown in Figure 2.6, the Major Criminal category had the highest percentage of cases disposed beyond the 99th percentile objective in FY23 (23%) (goal is 1% or lower), followed by Juvenile Delinquency (13%), while Dissolution cases met the goal for Time to Disposition.

Figure 2.7: Percent of Cases Disposed Beyond the 99th Percentile Objective, FY2023, by Case Group, by District

District	% of Cases Disposed Beyond the 99 th Percentile					
	Major Criminal	Major Civil	Dissolutions	Dom Abuse	Juvenile Delinq.	Minor Criminal
1	23.2%	1.6%	0.9%	0.5%	10.0%	4.9%
2	22.8%	2.5%	0.4%	1.0%	5.6%	8.5%
3	25.0%	1.6%	1.0%	0.7%	16.8%	5.2%
4	23.4%	1.7%	0.8%	3.0%	14.8%	10.3%
5	15.7%	1.9%	0.6%	0.7%	10.9%	2.6%
6	22.5%	1.9%	0.6%	1.2%	22.6%	4.9%
7	21.3%	2.3%	0.9%	0.6%	15.8%	5.0%
8	14.9%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	19.0%	3.3%
9	18.3%	2.0%	1.6%	1.1%	13.4%	4.6%
10	28.8%	2.6%	2.5%	1.6%	12.5%	8.1%
Total	22.9%	2.0%	1.1%	1.5%	13.4%	6.9%

Figure 2.7 shows the percent of cases disposed beyond the 99th percentile by district and case group for FY23.

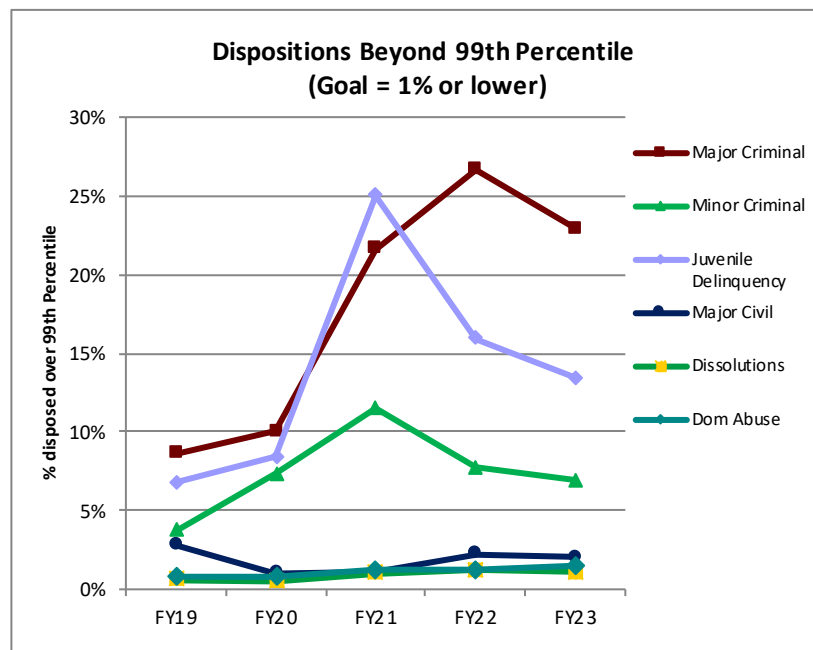
There were variations among districts in Juvenile Delinquency; the 2nd District disposed of 6% of cases beyond the timing objective of six months while the 6th District disposed of 23% over the time objective.

Statewide, Dissolution (with or without child) cases were disposed within the 99th percentile objective. Several districts performed better

than the timing objectives for Dissolution and Domestic Abuse cases. No districts met the timing guidelines for Major Criminal, Major Civil, Juvenile Delinquency, or Minor Criminal cases. Major Criminal cases disposed beyond 12 months ranged from 15% (lower is better) in the 8th District to 29% in the 10th District.

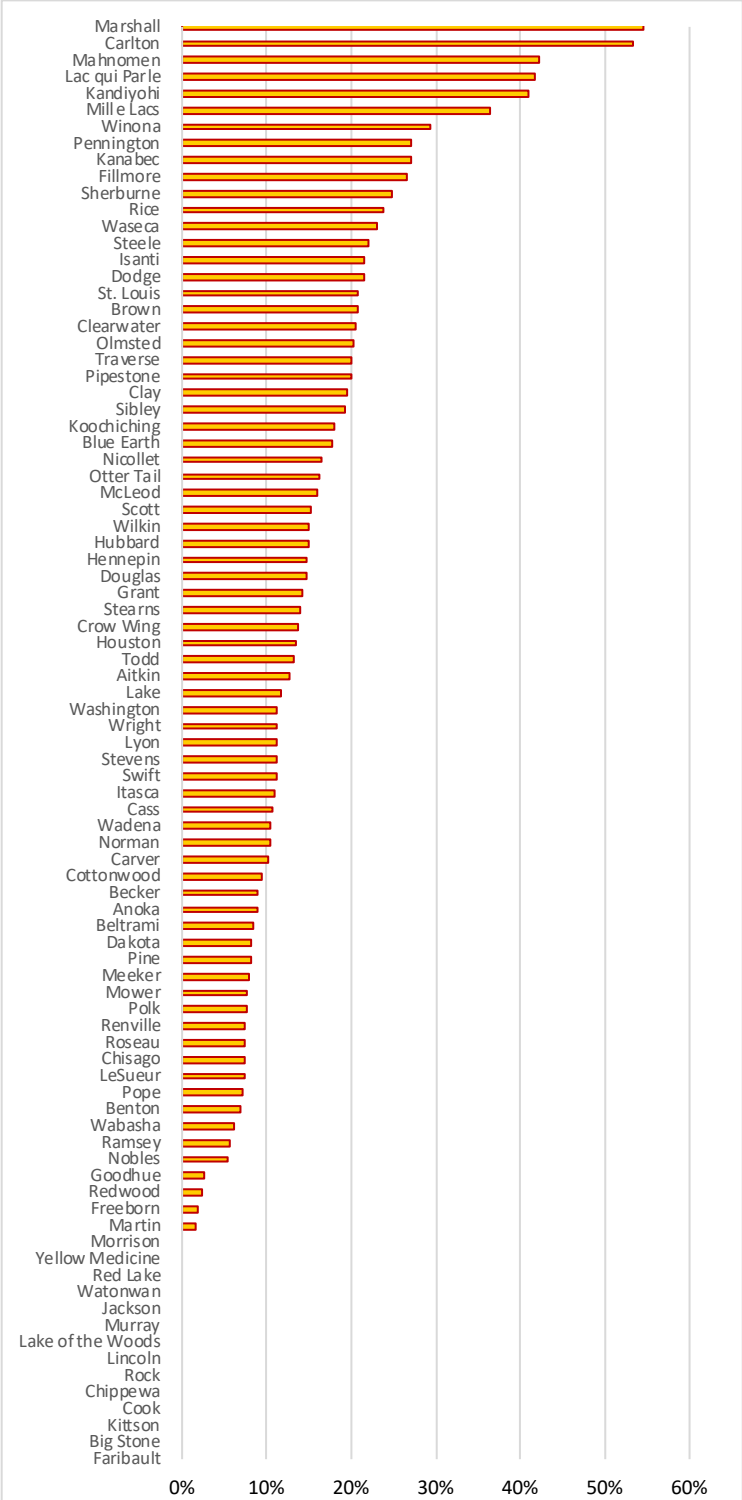
Figure 2.8: Percent of Cases Disposed Statewide Beyond 99th Percentile, FY2019-FY2023, by Case Group

In FY23, the percentage of Major Criminal cases disposed beyond 12 months (23%) decreased from FY22 (27%), during which it had reached the highest level in five fiscal years. (Lower percent is better.) Juvenile Delinquency and Minor Criminal cases disposed beyond six months and nine months, respectively, continued to decrease in FY23 following a five-year high in fiscal year 2021. Domestic Abuse and Dissolutions remained steady over the past five years. Similarly, apart from FY19, 2% or less of all Major Civil cases were disposed beyond the 99th percentile objective every year over the same time period.



In addition to looking at Time to Disposition by district, or by case group, there is more variation when looking at individual county results. Figure 2.9 illustrates county variation in Time to Disposition for all levels of Juvenile Delinquency cases in FY23. It shows that the percent of cases disposed beyond the 6-month objective (99th percentile) ranged from 0% to 53%.

Figure 2.9: Percent of Delinquency Cases Disposed Beyond 6 Months FY2023, by County



The statewide percent of all Delinquency cases (Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, and Misdemeanor) disposed beyond the time objective was 13% in FY23. Twenty-two counties had 20% or more of these cases disposed beyond the 99th percentile goal in FY23.

However, a small number of dispositions can produce large variations in the percent of cases that were disposed beyond the timing objective. Numbers of Delinquency dispositions in FY23 varied from nine counties with fewer than ten dispositions to Hennepin County with 1,965 Delinquency dispositions.

AGE OF PENDING CASES

- ◆ Statewide, timing objectives for Age of Pending cases were not met in FY23 (timing objectives are the same as those used for Time to Disposition).
- ◆ Among districts, the percentage of all pending cases (excluding Minor Criminal) beyond the 99th percentile ranged from 9% in the 8th District to 14% in the 7th, 9th, and 10th Districts (lower is better).

Figure 2.10: Statewide Age of Pending Cases as of 6/30/2023

Case Group	90 th Percentile	Cum 97 th Percentile	Cum 99 th Percentile	Over 99 th Percentile	Total Active Cases Pending
Major Crim	45%	59%	84%	16%	38,337
Major Civil	83%	91%	95%	5%	9,738
Dissolutions	86%	95%	98%	2%	4,577
Dom Abuse	74%	80%	84%	16%	419
Juv Delinq	67%	80%	85%	15%	2,976
Minor Crim	66%	77%	83%	17%	99,316

The statewide average for case types pending beyond the 99th percentile at the end of June 2023 ranged from 2% of Dissolutions to 17% of Minor Criminal cases. (Goal is 1% or lower.) Larger percentages of cases pending over the timing objectives could increase Time to Disposition results in FY24.

Figure 2.11: Trend of Statewide % of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Cases Pending Beyond 99th Percentile Time Objective

After reaching a high point at the end of FY21, statewide results for Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases pending beyond the timing objectives have declined over the past two fiscal years (lower number is better). The increased number of Major Criminal cases pending beyond the timing objective leading up to the end of FY21 is reflective of significantly lower clearance rates due to impacts of the pandemic.

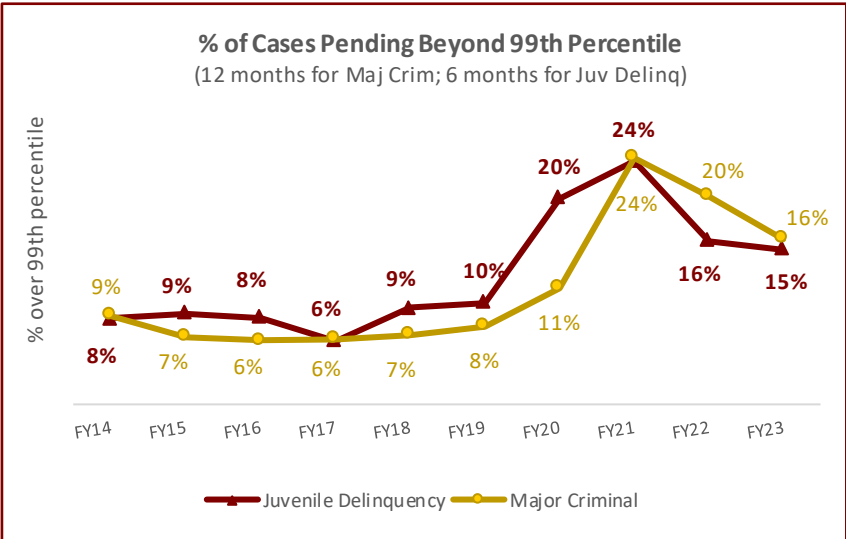
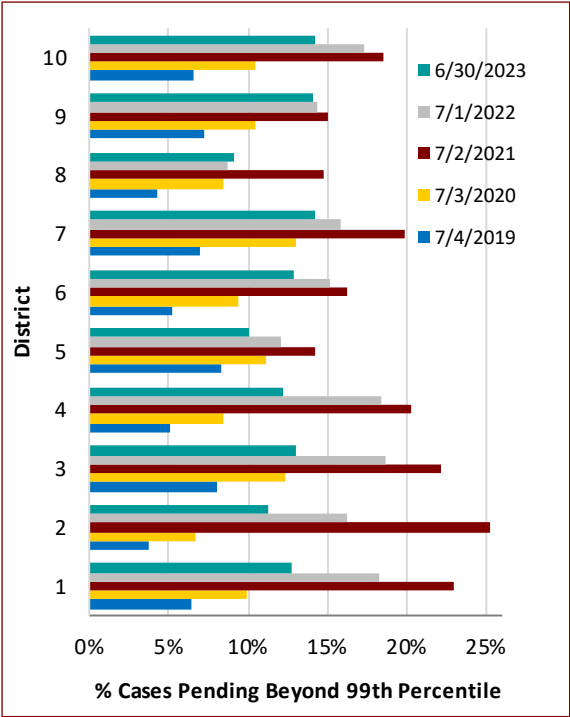


Figure 2.12: Trends in District Age of Pending Cases Past 99th Percentile, All Case Groups except Minor Criminal



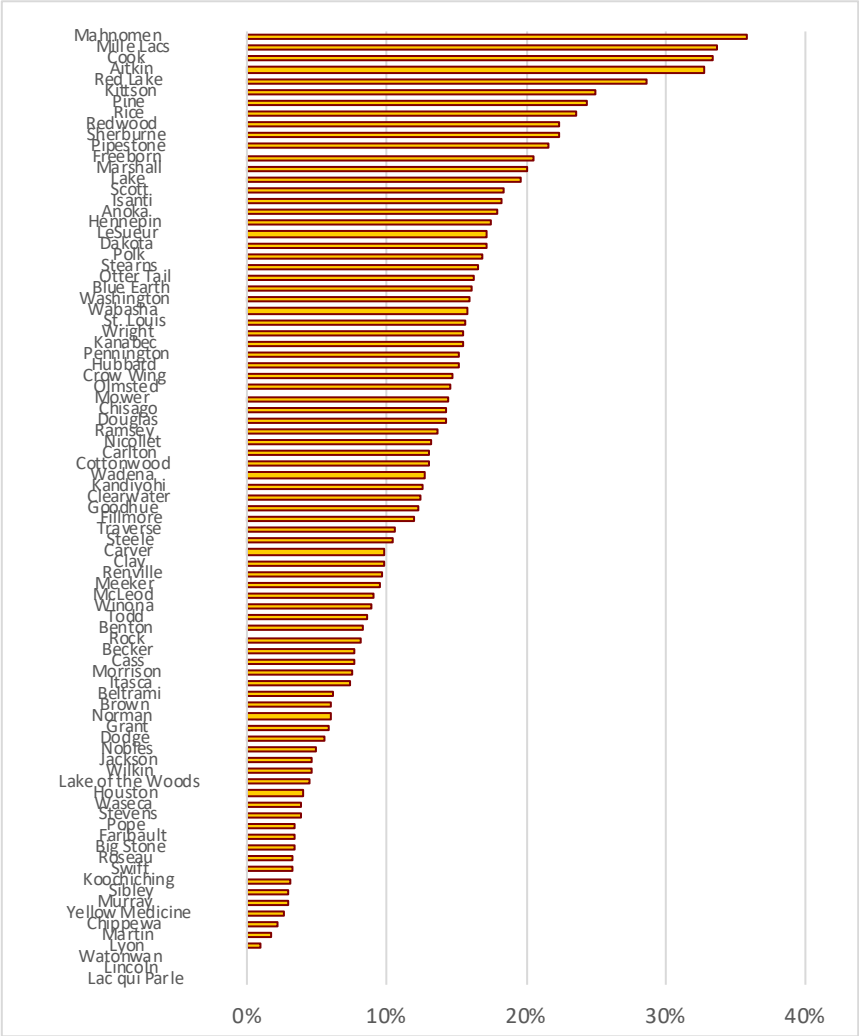
Nearly all districts improved results in overall Age of Pending cases at the end of FY23 (excluding Minor Criminal) compared to the end of FY22 (lower = better).

Overall results of Age of Pending cases at the end of FY23 (excluding Minor Criminal) varied from 9% of cases pending beyond the 99th percentile timing objectives in the 8th District to 14% of cases beyond the timing objectives in the 7th, 9th, and 10th Districts.

Within statewide and district results, there is a lot of variation among counties. An example of this variation is shown in the Age of Pending of all Major Criminal cases pending as of 6/30/2023.

Statewide, 16% of these cases were pending beyond the 99th percentile at the end of FY23. Across counties, the percent of Major Criminal cases pending beyond one year ranged from 0% to 36%. The largest number of these cases pending as of 6/30/2023 was in Hennepin County which had over 7,427 Major Criminal cases pending, 17% pending beyond one year.

Figure 2.13: Percent of All Major Criminal Cases Pending beyond 12 months



LENGTH OF TIME TO PERMANENCY AND ADOPTION

- ◆ During FY23, 72% of the children who reached permanency did so after being out of home for 18 months or less (across all types of CHIPS/Permanency cases). (Goal is 99% in 18 months.)
- ◆ The objective of having 60% of children reach adoption within 24 months of removal from the home is considered an ‘aspirational goal’. In FY23, 35% of children statewide were adopted within 24 months. District numbers ranged from 22% of children who reached adoption by 24 months to 50%.

“It is the policy of the Judicial Branch that juvenile protection cases... be expedited in conformance with state and federal requirements with the goal of serving the best interests of children by providing safe, stable, and permanent homes for abused and neglected children.

... CJI judges accept shared responsibility for monitoring and improving performance on federal and judicial branch child welfare measures and are encouraged to develop and implement local plans to improve such performance.”

Judicial Council Policy 601

One of the goals of the Children’s Justice Initiative (CJI) is for children removed from a custodial parent to have permanency and stability in their living situation. The Length of Time to Permanency and Time to Adoption reports assist courts in determining the length of time it takes, over the lives of children, to provide permanency to those who are removed from home.

Figure 2.14: Length of Time for Children to Reach Permanency in FY2023, by District

Figure 2.14 shows that, statewide, the goals of having 50% of children reach permanency¹ by 6 months, 90% by 12 months and 99% by 18 months were not met during FY23.

There was variation among districts for the percentage of children who reached permanency within 18 months (goal is 99%). The range was from 53% in the 6th District to 86% in the 5th District. The number of children who reached permanency was highest in the 4th District (581) and lowest in the 2nd District (170) with 3,206 children, statewide, who reached permanency in FY23.

District	% reaching perm by 6 months	Cum % reaching perm by 12 months	Cum % reaching perm by 18 months	Total Number Children
1	23%	54%	79%	266
2	8%	26%	63%	170
3	27%	61%	83%	288
4	18%	38%	60%	581
5	23%	60%	86%	293
6	9%	23%	53%	246
7	20%	48%	77%	431
8	23%	56%	83%	212
9	26%	51%	74%	413
10	17%	48%	74%	306
State	20%	47%	72%	3,206

Goal	50%	90%	99%
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¹ The Minnesota Judicial Council approved revisions to [Judicial Council Policy 505.1](#), amending the definition of “permanency order” for purposes of its performance measures— trial home visits and protective supervision with the custodial parent are no longer considered permanency. These amendments were based on a recommendation from the CJI Lead Judges Workgroup to make the definition more consistent with the permanency dispositions found in Minn. Stat. § 260C.515.

Figure 2.15: Five Year Trend, Children Reaching Permanency by 18 months, by District

% of children reaching permanency by 18 months (goal is 99%), FY2019 to FY2023					
District	FY19 %	FY20 %	FY21 %	FY22 %	FY23 %
1	86	90	74	75	79
2	66	64	59	59	63
3	91	94	84	80	83
4	67	61	57	54	60
5	87	90	89	78	86
6	66	76	59	47	53
7	89	86	80	79	77
8	96	93	95	85	83
9	89	91	88	76	74
10	88	87	81	74	74
State	80%	81%	75%	70%	72%
# children	4,962	4,132	4,136	3,589	3,206

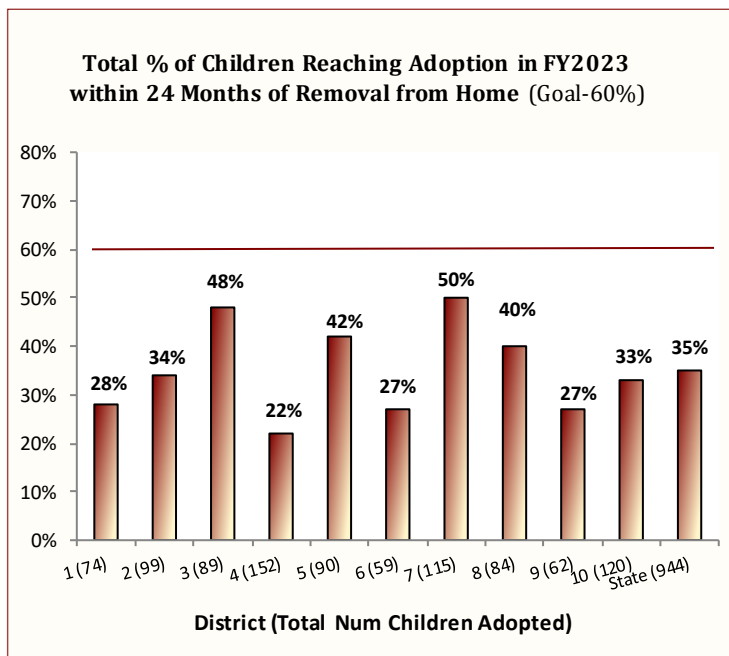
While the definition of “permanency order” was amended in FY22 (see footnote on page 27) to no longer consider trial home visits and protective supervision with the custodial parent as permanency, FY2019-2021 results use the previous definition.

Over the past five fiscal years, the goal of 99% of children reaching permanency by 18 months was not met by the state or any individual district, although several districts had results above 90%. In FY23, the statewide result of 72% of children reaching permanency within 18 months is an improvement over the previous fiscal year.

There has been a consistent downward trend in the number of children with a CHIPS or Permanency case filed over the past five fiscal years. Filings decreased 31% from FY19 to FY23.

Fiscal Year	# Children with CHIPS/ Perm Filing
FY19	9,769
FY20	9,005
FY21	7,394
FY22	6,909
FY23	6,732

Figure 2.16: Length of Time for Children to Reach Adoption, FY2023, by District



The Judicial Council set an aspirational objective that 60% of all children who are under State Guardianship should reach adoption within 24 months from the original removal from the home. This measure starts when a child is removed from the home to being under state guardianship, and then the time it takes from the guardianship order to adoption. The two sets of time are added together to get the total Length of Time to Adoption.

A little over one third (35%) of the 944 children under State Guardianship adopted in FY23 reached adoption within 24 months of removal from home (goal is 60%). No districts met the goal. Districts ranged from 22% to 50% of children reaching adoption within two years.

Figure 2.17: Percent of Children Adopted by 24 Months, Statewide, FY2019 – FY2023

Year Adoption Finalized	% Adopted by 24 Months (Goal is 60%)	Total # Children Reaching Adoption
FY2019	47%	1,226
FY2020	47%	950
FY2021	38%	989
FY2022	33%	977
FY2023	35%	944

As shown in Figure 2.17, the 35% of children who reached adoption by 24 months of being out of home in FY23 was a slight improvement from FY22 (higher numbers generally are better).

Over the past five fiscal years, the number of children who reached adoption has declined over 20%.

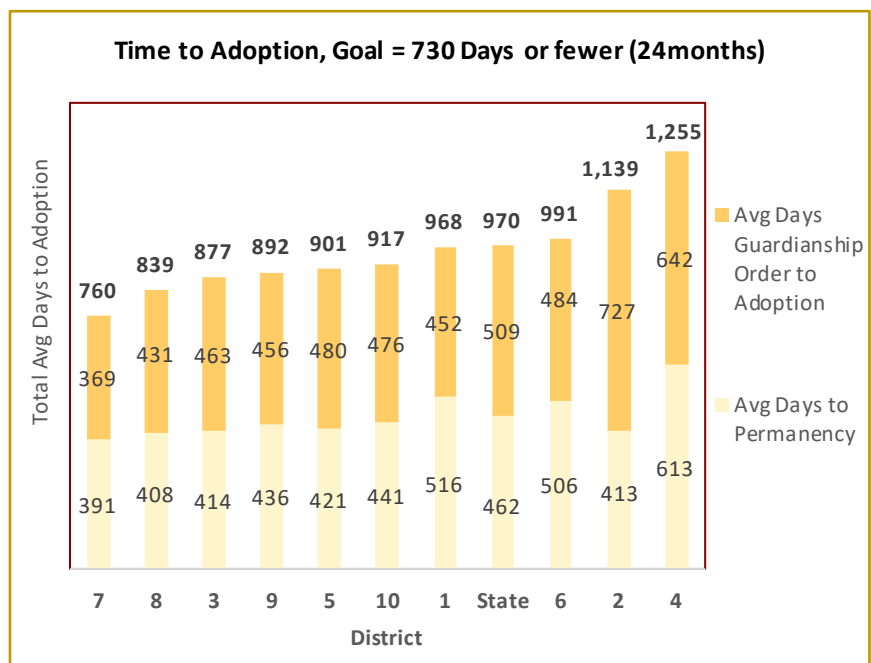
The automated Time to Adoption for Children Under State Guardianship report shows details for each child with the time to adoption broken into the time from removal from home to the guardianship order and then the time from guardianship order to adoption order. Figure 2.18 below shows that there was variation among districts in these two phases.

Figure 2.18: Average Number Days to Adoption, by Phase, by District, FY2023

No districts had an average number of days per child to reach adoption that met the 24-month time objective (730 days). (Lower numbers are generally a more positive result.)

The statewide average number of days from removal from the home to guardianship order (462 average days to permanency) comprised 48% of the total time to adoption, and 52% was the time from the guardianship order to adoption (509 days).

The variation in Time to Adoption by district was from 760 days in the 7th District to 1,255 days in the 4th District.



COURT OF APPEALS DISPOSITIONS WITHIN TIME STANDARDS

The Court of Appeals has adopted the American Bar Association measure of “case clearance,” which measures cases from beginning (filing) to end (disposition). The goals are to have 75% of cases disposed within 290 days of filing and 90% disposed within 365 days of filing for all case types.

- ◆ In FY23, the Court of Appeals disposed of 94% of civil cases, 100% of juvenile-protection cases, and 100% of juvenile-delinquency cases within 290 days, far exceeding the ABA standard of disposing of 75% of cases in 290 days. The court disposed of 60% of criminal cases in 290 days, up from 44% in FY21. The timeline from filing to disposition continues to be slower in criminal cases because of the longer deadlines for filing of criminal transcripts. Once cases are ready for scheduling (the briefs, addenda, and transcripts have all been filed), criminal and civil cases are disposed of in about the same amount of time: an average of 121 days for criminal cases and 120 days for civil cases.

Figure 2.19: Percent of Court of Appeals Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing, FY2021-FY2023

Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing From Filing to Disposition Goal = 75% of Cases						
	FY2023		FY2022		FY2021	
	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective
Civil						
General Civil	573	92%	539	90%	534	80%
Unemployment	80	92%	122	94%	64	83%
Family	207	99%	201	99%	200	97%
Other	73	99%	88	100%	60	98%
Total Civil	933	94%	950	93%	858	86%
Criminal						
Criminal	689	60%	543	66%	702	44%
Juvenile Protection						
Protection	68	100%	87	100%	61	100%
Juv. Delinquency						
Delinquency	16	100%	17	88%	18	94%
Total Cases*	1706	81%	1597	84%	1,639	68%

* For purposes of calculating case clearance rates, later-filed related cases, which are consolidated for decision purposes, are not included in this total. As a result, the actual number of cases disposed by the court is higher than the “Total Cases” shown.

- ◆ The Court of Appeals disposed of 97% of all cases within 365 days of case filing, substantially better than the ABA standard of disposing 90% of cases within that time period. The court far exceeded the standard for most case types. For criminal cases, the court was able to dispose of 93% of cases within 365 days, thereby exceeding the ABA standard despite the longer criminal-transcript timelines.

Figure 2.20: Percent of Court of Appeals Cases Disposed Within 365 Days of Filing, FY2021-FY2023

Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 365 Days of Filing From Filing to Disposition Goal = 90% of Cases						
	FY2023		FY2022		FY2021	
	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective
Civil						
General Civil	573	99%	539	98%	534	96%
Unemployment	80	100%	122	100%	64	100%
Family	207	100%	201	100%	200	100%
Other	73	100%	88	100%	60	98%
Total Civil	933	99%	950	99%	858	97%
Criminal						
Criminal	689	93%	543	95%	702	78%
Juvenile Protection						
Protection	68	100%	87	100%	61	100%
Juv. Delinquency						
Delinquency	16	100%	17	94%	18	100%
Total Cases*	1706	97%	1597	98%	1,639	89%

* For purposes of calculating case clearance rates, later-filed related cases, which are consolidated for decision purposes, are not included in this total. As a result, the actual number of cases disposed by the court is higher than the "Total Cases" shown.

SUPREME COURT DISPOSITIONS WITHIN TIME STANDARDS

- ◆ The Supreme Court adopted revised timing objectives in January 2015 that were effective April 1, 2015.
- ◆ Generally, the Supreme Court performance measure results are consistent with those of previous fiscal years.

The Supreme Court first approved timing objectives, or case dispositional goals, in March 2007. The case categories, case-processing points of measurement, and timing objectives to complete certain events in the life cycle of an appeal, were taken generally from standards adopted by the American Bar Association in 1994. The adopted timing objectives were considered aspirational but achievable.

In 2014, the Supreme Court undertook a study of its timing objectives in light of recommendations by the National Center for State Courts for model time standards for appellate courts. The Supreme Court also considered the time standards adopted by other states' appellate courts.

Based on its study, the Supreme Court revised its timing objectives by reducing the number of case-processing events to which the standards apply, reducing the time allotted for disposition of an appeal, and reducing the percentage of cases (from 10% to 5%) that are not subject to a time standard ("Beyond 95th percentile" in the table). The Supreme Court adopted revised timing objectives in January 2015 that were effective April 1, 2015.

Data shown in Figure 2.21 on the next page identifies the court's performance based on three factors: (1) the case type or jurisdiction (discretionary; expedited); (2) the case-processing event (PFR to disposition; submission to circulation; submission to disposition); and (3) the timing objective to complete the event ("Days" in the table).

"Cases Submitted July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 (FY2023)" represents the cases on the court's oral or non-oral calendar during that period of time.

"PFR filing" represents all petitions for review filed from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 (FY 2023)

"Days" in the table represents the court's goal - number of days - to complete the event.

"Cases" in the table represents the number of cases that met the timing objective (number of days) in the time period.

"%" in the table represents the percentage of cases within the time period that met or did not meet the objective (number of days).

"Total/Aver." represents the total number of cases submitted or PFRs filed in the time period that *completed* the specific case-processing event by August 23, 2023, and the average number of days to do so.

Figure 2.21: Supreme Court Timing Standards, Fiscal Year 2023

Supreme Court Time Standards											
Performance Report: Cases Submitted July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 (FY2023)											
Case Type: Event	75th Percentile			95th Percentile			Beyond 95th Percentile			Total/Aver.	
	Days	Cases	%	Days	Cases	%	Days	Cases	%	Cases	Aver
<i>All case types: submission to circulation of majority</i>	45	34	37%	75	71	77%	N/A	21	23%	92	61
<i>All case types: submission to disposition</i>	120	33	47%	180	57	81%	N/A	13	19%	70	131
<i>Discretionary: PFR filing to disposition</i>	50	140	28%	60	285	56%	N/A	224	44%	509	58
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): PFR filing to disposition</i>	25	15	100%	25	15	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	23
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): submission to circulation of majority</i>	20	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	100%	1	61
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): submission to disposition</i>	45	N/A	N/A	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	100%	1	139

INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Judicial Branch Policy 505: The Minnesota Judicial Branch will ensure the integrity and accountability of its performance by maintaining a record system that is accurate, complete and timely.

Is the electronic record system accurate, complete and timely?

DATA QUALITY AND DOCUMENT SECURITY

The Data Quality (DQ) Team is part of the Business Process and Education Unit in the Court Services Division in the State Court Administrator's Office. This team was created to define data quality standards, identify data quality issues, and determine when it is necessary to develop and implement standard business processes statewide. A focus on safety, public interest, statute and rule implementation, and court information provides a foundation for the ongoing operational activities of the Data Quality Team.

During the past year, the focus continued to ensure appropriate access to court documents to justice partners and the public, as well as focusing on streamlining current data quality reports. The Data Quality Team launched the DQ History Portal, a Power BI report, that effectively and aesthetically presents historical information for all weekly data quality reports to users in one area.

The Data Quality Team, which is responsible for routine statewide monitoring of all data quality performance, continued to identify and address statewide trends and worked with the Education Team and the Coordinator Team to develop new training for judges and staff to increase comprehension of the nuances associated with data quality.

Each fiscal year, an updated Court Administration Processes (CAPs) Compliance Monitoring Plan is developed and approved by a statewide committee. The plan details what processes the Data Quality Team will monitor for compliance, as well as what local court administrations' responsibilities are regarding compliance monitoring. The monitoring of mandatory processes resulted in an increase in CAPs compliance and has allowed the unit to determine and address if more technology, training, and/or process revisions are necessary.

Statewide data quality monitoring and compliance tracking ensure customers have a consistent experience throughout the courts and that the information and data received is accurate, complete, and timely.

"...It ... is the policy of the Minnesota Judicial Branch that to ensure accurate, complete and uniform access to court records, and to ensure compliance with all applicable laws for the access of court records, the Appellate Courts and District Courts shall comply with document security and classification procedures, provisions and Court Administration Processes (CAPs) as applicable."

*Judicial Council Policy 505.3
Data Quality and Integrity*

EXCELLENCE

Judicial Branch Policy 505: The Minnesota Judicial Branch will achieve excellence in the resolution of cases by making decisions that are fair, reasoned, understandable, and that resolve the controversy at issue.

Do participants understand the orders given by the Court?

ACCESS AND FAIRNESS SURVEY

- ◆ The most recent district court Access and Fairness Surveys were completed between December 2018 and March 2019. Statewide, 6,052 courthouse visitors submitted survey responses.
- ◆ The statement “I know what to do next in my case” is used in district courts to measure the goal of Excellence, and 81% of all respondents who appeared in front of a judicial officer agreed or strongly agreed with this statement in the last survey. This was the highest level of agreement within the Fairness section of the survey.
- ◆ At the time of writing, the next district court Access and Fairness Survey was already in the field starting August 2023 and continuing through November 2023. Results will be available in early 2024.

FAIRNESS AND EQUITY

Judicial Branch Policy 505: The Minnesota Judicial Branch will provide due process and equal protection of the law, and will ensure that individuals called for jury duty are representative of the population from which the jury is drawn.

Do participants perceive they were treated fairly, listened to and are they satisfied with the Court’s decision?

ACCESS AND FAIRNESS SURVEY

- ◆ The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals conducted their second Access and Fairness Survey in June 2022. The Access and Fairness survey found district court judges with high levels of agreement for issues of fairness for both appellate courts.
- ◆ The most recent district court Access and Fairness Survey was completed in 2019. Previous rounds were completed in 2008 and 2013. The Fairness section of the 2019 district court Access & Fairness Survey had 78% or more respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement in the section.
- ◆ At the time of writing, the next district court Access and Fairness Survey was already in the field starting August 2023 and continuing through November 2023. Results will be available in early 2024.

There were over 600 attorney responses to the Court of Appeals Access and Fairness Survey and 88 judge responses. The Supreme Court survey received nearly 300 attorney responses and 63 judge responses. Several of the statements in the survey relate to questions of fairness and equity as shown in the following table. District court judges had high levels of agreement for issues of fairness in both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals surveys.

Figure 5.1: Selected Results, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals 2022 Access and Fairness Survey

Percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree	Supreme Court		Court of Appeals	
	Attorneys	Judges	Attorneys	Judges
The Court renders its decisions without any improper outside influences.	68%	79%	73%	85%
The Court adequately considers each case based upon its facts and the applicable law.	73%	89%	67%	84%
The Court’s written decisions reflect thoughtful and fair evaluation of the parties’ arguments.	75%	86%	65%	86%

“I have a tremendous respect for our appellate court judges. Although I do not always agree with each, their opinions do not reflect a personal animus but rather are based on rational interpretations of the law and facts...I’m particularly proud that politics nor personal political views play a role in their decisions.”

Court of Appeals Judge Survey Respondent

The Fairness Section of the district court Access and Fairness survey was targeted to respondents who answered “Yes” to the question of “Did you appear in front of a judicial officer today?” Complete results from the survey are available on CourtNet.

Statewide, over three-quarters (78%) or more of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed with all statements in the Fairness Section as noted in Figure 5.2.

Figure 5.2: Fairness Section Responses Statewide 2019

Q#	Fairness Section	% Strongly Disagree	% Disagree	% Neutral	% Agree	% Strongly Agree	% Strongly Agree/ Agree	Mean ²	N
14	I was treated the same as everyone else.	5%	3%	11%	37%	45%	81%	4.1	3,146
15	I know what to do next about my case.	4%	3%	12%	36%	45%	81%	4.2	3,024
12	The judge listened to my side of the story before making a decision.	5%	3%	15%	35%	43%	78%	4.1	2,888
13	The judge had the information necessary to make good decisions about my case.	5%	4%	14%	36%	42%	78%	4.1	3,001
11	The way my case was handled was fair.	6%	3%	13%	36%	41%	78%	4.0	3,126
Fairness Index Score³		82							

² The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) framework for mean scores is: **4.1 or higher = Doing a good job**; **3.5 to 4.0 = Doing OK**; **3.4 or lower = Needs improvement**.

³ Index scores are an overall score for a grouping of statements; also referred to as index categories or sections. They can be calculated at the county, district or other levels. If there are 5 statements in a section with responses on a 1-5 point scale, the index is calculated by summing the means (average) for each question in the section which brings the total maximum score to 25 (5 questions x 5 points maximum each). This score is then multiplied by 4 to place it on a 100-point scale. For a grouping of 10 statements, the total maximum score is 50, so the multiplier is 2.

FAIRNESS AND EQUITY, CONTINUED

Are jurors representative of our communities?

JURY POOLS

- ◆ Of all racial groups, American Indian and multiracial jurors in the statewide FY23 jury pool most closely mirror their share in the adult population. Asian, Black, and Hispanic jurors in the FY23 jury pool are under-represented compared to their share in the adult population, statewide and to varying degrees at the district level.
- ◆ Female jurors in the FY23 jury pool are slightly over-represented compared to their share in the adult population, statewide and to varying degrees in most districts’ jury pools.

Jurors are asked to report their race, ethnicity, and gender on the Juror Questionnaire, which is sent to all summoned jurors to determine qualification for jury service. This demographic reporting is optional, so the share of jurors without this information is noted throughout this section. Demographics are tracked in and reported out of the statewide jury management system.

Juror demographics are compared to adult population demographics from the most recent Census Population Estimates.⁴ Census Population Estimates are released annually; the most recent estimates reflect the population on July 1, 2022. Due to limitations in available age disaggregations, the adult population figures used here reflect the population age 20 and older, not age 18 and older. This comparison does not account for the fact that not all adult residents meet the qualifications for jury service.⁵ However, reliable data on the jury-eligible population are not available.

Figure 5.3, below, shows the total number of residents who reported for jury service in FY23. Jurors who report for service were already found to be qualified and available for jury service based on their responses on the Juror Questionnaire; most but not all jurors who report will be involved in a further selection process (voir dire) for service on a specific case.

Figure 5.3: Number of Jurors who Reported for Service in FY2023

	Minnesota	1 st District	2 nd District	3 rd District	4 th District	5 th District	6 th District	7 th District	8 th District	9 th District	10 th District
Jurors	50,525	5,471	7,956	3,511	11,317	2,026	3,600	6,335	2,023	3,246	5,040

Figure 5.4, next page, shows juror race and ethnicity data compared to adult population estimates. Statewide, race and ethnicity data were unspecified for just 1.5% of jurors; those jurors are not included in these percentages. Results vary by district, but statewide, the representation of American Indian and multiracial jurors in the pool most closely match their representation in the adult population. In all districts, white, non-Hispanic jurors are over-represented compared to their representation in the adult population. Corresponding under-representation of Asian or Pacific

⁴ Census Population Estimates are available on the Census Bureau’s website at this URL: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>.

⁵ The qualifications for jury service are listed on the Minnesota Judicial Branch public website at this URL: <https://www.mncourts.gov/Jurors.aspx>, and include: U.S. citizenship, English language skills, and the restoration of civil rights among those previously convicted of a felony, among other qualifications.

Islander, Black or African American, and Hispanic jurors is seen statewide and to varying degrees at the district level.

Figure 5.4: FY2023 Juror Race and Ethnicity Compared to 2022 Adult Population

	American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian or Pacific Islander		Black or African American		Hispanic*		Multiracial		White	
	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors
Minnesota	0.9%	0.9%	5.1%	4.2%	6.2%	3.1%	4.8%	3.0%	1.5%	1.8%	81.4%	87.0%
1 st District	0.4%	0.5%	4.8%	3.2%	5.2%	2.7%	5.6%	3.0%	1.4%	1.6%	82.5%	89.0%
2 nd District	0.5%	0.4%	13.7%	12.1%	11.2%	5.8%	6.5%	4.6%	2.1%	2.7%	65.9%	74.4%
3 rd District	0.3%	0.3%	3.6%	2.1%	3.7%	1.9%	5.3%	3.1%	1.1%	1.4%	86.0%	91.2%
4 th District	0.6%	0.4%	7.3%	5.7%	11.9%	6.2%	5.9%	4.0%	2.0%	2.5%	72.3%	81.2%
5 th District	0.6%	1.2%	2.3%	0.8%	2.3%	0.8%	6.5%	3.5%	1.0%	0.9%	87.4%	92.6%
6 th District	2.4%	1.9%	1.0%	0.8%	1.4%	0.3%	1.5%	1.3%	1.7%	1.7%	91.9%	94.0%
7 th District	1.1%	0.7%	1.3%	0.7%	3.5%	0.8%	2.9%	1.5%	1.2%	0.9%	90.0%	95.4%
8 th District	0.8%	0.4%	1.1%	0.5%	1.6%	0.2%	6.0%	3.3%	0.8%	0.5%	89.6%	95.1%
9 th District	4.8%	4.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	0.1%	2.2%	1.3%	1.5%	2.2%	90.1%	91.1%
10 th District	0.6%	0.5%	4.4%	3.2%	4.8%	1.8%	3.7%	2.3%	1.4%	1.5%	85.1%	90.6%

* All groups other than Hispanic are non-Hispanic; Hispanic individuals may be of any race.

Figure 5.5: FY2023 Juror Gender Compared to 2022 Adult Population

Figure 5.5, at right, shows juror gender data compared to adult population estimates. Statewide, gender data were missing from just 1.2% of jurors; those jurors are not included in these percentages. Female jurors are slightly over-represented statewide, and all districts except the 1st, 2nd, and 5th had a higher percentage of female jurors than were in the adult population.

	Female		Male	
	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors	2022 Adult Pop.	FY23 Jurors
Minnesota	50.1%	51.0%	49.9%	49.0%
1 st District	50.4%	50.4%	49.6%	49.6%
2 nd District	51.5%	50.6%	48.5%	49.4%
3 rd District	50.2%	50.9%	49.8%	49.1%
4 th District	50.5%	51.3%	49.5%	48.7%
5 th District	49.7%	49.7%	50.3%	50.3%
6 th District	49.3%	51.6%	50.7%	48.4%
7 th District	49.5%	51.1%	50.5%	48.9%
8 th District	49.1%	50.3%	50.9%	49.7%
9 th District	49.5%	51.1%	50.5%	48.9%
10 th District	49.5%	51.7%	50.5%	48.3%

FAIRNESS AND EQUITY, CONTINUED

Does the Branch have sufficient race data to assist in analyzing whether persons are treated fairly regardless of race or ethnicity?

RACE DATA COLLECTION

- ◆ The Judicial Council approved the addition of Race Data Collection to the core goal of Fairness and Equity at the July 2018 meeting. This portion of the policy took effect on January 1, 2019.
- ◆ The minimum goal of having 80% of closed cases with race information recorded was met statewide for Minor Criminal cases and exceeded for Major Criminal cases, however, the ‘strive-for’ goal of 90% of closed cases with race data was not met for any case type.
- ◆ The goal of 80% of closed cases with race data was not met statewide for Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty and Traffic, or Juvenile CHIPS case types. District results ranged from 24% in Juvenile Petty and Traffic cases to 96% in Juvenile CHIPS cases.

Minnesota Judicial Branch Policy 505.2 contains the following language related to race data collection:

“Each judicial district shall maintain race data collection rates of at least 80% and striving for collection rates of at least 90% on the following case types: Major Criminal, Minor Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty and Traffic, and Juvenile CHIPS. Race data collection rates are available on an on-going basis to judges and court staff via reports on CourtNet.” (See [Appendix](#) for examples of race data collection forms.)

Figure 5.6: Race Data Collection Rates on Closed Cases, Statewide, FY2023

The reports on CourtNet that show race data collection rates focus on self-reported race data for Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Protection cases. Defendants complete a Race Census Form, which can be either electronic or paper. This information is collected at a court hearing. In juvenile protection matters, the parent or guardian completes the form on behalf of the child/children.

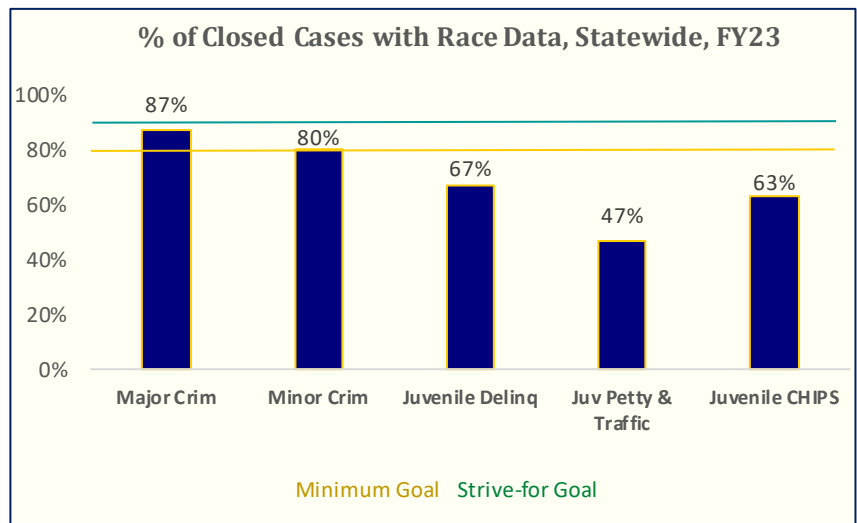


Figure 5.6 shows that for Major Criminal and Minor Criminal cases, 80% or more were closed with race data reported statewide in FY23. The ‘strive-for’ goal of 90% of closed cases with race data was not met for Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency, or Juvenile Protection cases. Further, the minimum goal of 80% of closed cases with race data was not met for Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty and Traffic, and Juvenile CHIPS case types. Less than half (47%) of Juvenile Petty and Traffic cases, 67% of Juvenile Delinquency cases, and 63% of Juvenile CHIPS cases were closed with race data in FY23.

Figure 5.7: Race Data Collection Rates on Closed Cases, Statewide, FY2020 – FY2023

Case Type	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Major Criminal	94%	90%	88%	87%
Minor Criminal	93%	83%	81%	80%
Juvenile Delinquency	90%	70%	65%	67%
Juvenile Petty & Traffic	81%	47%	44%	47%
Juvenile CHIPS	87%	77%	67%	63%

Figure 5.7 shows the percentage of closed cases with race data, by case type, for the last four fiscal years. The addition of Race Data Collection to the core goal of Fairness and Equity went into effect at the beginning of 2019.

Race data collection rates have steadily declined in Major Criminal, Minor

Criminal, and Juvenile CHIPS cases over the past four fiscal years and have remained well below the minimum goal of 80% in Juvenile Petty and Traffic cases since FY21. The decline in race data collection corresponds to a significant change in the collection process made necessary by remote hearings.

Figure 5.8: Race Data Collection Rates, Closed Cases, by District, FY2023

% of Closed Cases with Race Data (July, 2022 – June, 2023)					
Dist	Major Criminal	Minor Criminal	Juvenile Delinquency	Juvenile Petty & Traffic	Juvenile CHIPS
1	91%	84%	90%	66%	76%
2	88%	67%	77%	63%	76%
3	87%	81%	63%	40%	65%
4	93%	91%	90%	71%	96%
5	85%	74%	62%	36%	61%
6	83%	76%	55%	38%	33%
7	88%	74%	53%	37%	48%
8	90%	74%	68%	56%	64%
9	88%	71%	43%	32%	51%
10	79%	70%	54%	24%	51%
State	87%	80%	67%	47%	63%

Nearly all race data collection rates by district were at 80% or above for Major Criminal cases in FY23, with three districts that met or exceeded the 'strive-for' goal of 90%.

There was variation among districts in race data collection rates across all other case types. Results ranged from 24% of Juvenile Petty and Traffic cases closed with race data in the 10th District to 96% of Juvenile

CHIPS cases closed with race data in the 4th District.

QUALITY COURT WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT

Judicial Branch Policy 505: The Minnesota Judicial Branch will ensure that judicial officers, court personnel and jurors are qualified to perform their duties and have the materials, motivation, direction, sense of mission, and commitment to do quality work.

What are our turnover rates?

SEPARATION RATES

- ◆ The rate of staff leaving the Branch (separation rate) in FY23, by district/Minnesota Judicial Center (MJC), ranged from a low of 7.9% in the 5th District to a high of 18.0% in the 9th District.
- ◆ Retirements and resignations together comprised 88% of all separations in FY23.
- ◆ The total Branch separation rate for FY23 (11.9%) decreased from FY22 (14.1%).

Figure 6.1: Separation Rates by District and MJC, FY2023

FY2023 (July 2022-June 2023)										
District/ MJC	Retirement		Resignation*		Dismissal**		Layoff		Total Separations	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	6.8	2.8%	21.5	9.0%	2.0	0.8%	0	0.0%	30.3	12.7%
2	5.5	2.5%	17.0	7.7%	3.0	1.4%	0	0.0%	25.5	11.6%
3	6.0	3.4%	14.0	7.9%	2.0	1.1%	0	0.0%	22.0	12.4%
4	6.0	1.2%	51.6	10.0%	12.0	2.3%	0	0.0%	69.6	13.6%
5	1.0	0.8%	8.8	7.1%	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9.8	7.9%
6	5.0	4.3%	12.0	10.3%	2.8	2.4%	0	0.0%	19.8	17.0%
7	2.0	1.0%	13.0	6.7%	1.0	0.5%	0	0.0%	16.0	8.3%
8	4.0	5.9%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4.0	5.9%
9	7.0	4.2%	18.3	10.9%	5.0	3.0%	0	0.0%	30.3	18.0%
10	6.5	1.9%	30.0	9.0%	6.0	1.8%	0	0.0%	42.5	12.7%
MJC***	14.4	3.0%	26.6	5.5%	3.8	0.8%	0	0.0%	44.7	9.3%
Total	64.1	2.4%	212.7	8.1%	37.5	1.4%	0	0.0%	314.3	11.9%

= number of FTEs; % = percent of avg # of FTEs in a location during the fiscal year who separated from the branch

All figures *exclude* Judges, Law Clerks, Bar Exam Monitors, GALs, and Limited/Temporary Appointments

Average FTE calculated by taking avg of beginning and ending fiscal year FTE counts (excluding classifications above)

*Resignation includes Term Without Rights, Death, End of Disability Leave, Resignations, and Separation - Other

** Dismissal figures include Gross Misconduct and Dismissal

*** MJC includes SCAO, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, Board of Law Examiners, Continuing Legal Ed

The total number of FTEs separated from the Branch in FY23 (314.3) decreased by 12% from FY22 (356.3). The variation by location in the total number of FTEs separated ranged from 4.0 FTEs in the 8th District to 69.6 FTEs in the 4th District.

Voluntary separations - retirements and resignations - accounted for 88% of the FTEs leaving the Branch in FY23, while dismissals accounted for the remaining 12% of separations.

Figure 6.2: Total Separation Rates by District and MJC, FY2019 – FY2023

District/ MJC	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
1	8.8%	11.9%	10.2%	13.8%	12.7%
2	9.3%	12.2%	11.9%	12.9%	11.6%
3	17.6%	5.2%	10.3%	9.0%	12.4%
4	13.2%	9.5%	8.6%	17.1%	13.6%
5	8.0%	10.0%	11.5%	12.8%	7.9%
6	16.2%	9.4%	5.9%	17.8%	17.0%
7	3.3%	9.0%	11.6%	12.8%	8.3%
8	8.8%	4.5%	9.7%	8.0%	5.9%
9	10.7%	7.7%	7.7%	16.7%	18.0%
10	9.0%	9.8%	8.1%	15.5%	12.7%
MJC	7.0%	6.8%	8.8%	12.1%	9.3%
Total	10.0%	8.9%	9.3%	14.1%	11.9%
Total # Separations	253.6	224.8	229.9	356.3	314.3

The statewide separation rate in FY23 decreased by 12% from the previous fiscal year but is still the second highest in the past five fiscal years (11.9%). FY23 separation rates decreased from FY22 in all districts and MJC, except for the 3rd and 9th Districts.

There are many ways to calculate turnover rates (or separation rates). So, not all numbers are exactly comparable, especially those that report figures by month instead of annually. The annual separation rate of 11.9% for the Branch was roughly estimated at 1.0% per month, compared to U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics figures for State and Local government employees (excluding education) of 1.4% separations in June, 2023⁶.

Figure 6.3: Total Separation Rates Statewide, FY2009 – FY2023

Figure 6.3 shows the statewide separation rate from FY09 to FY23. Following a low of 4% in FY10, there have been regular periods of increase in the separation rate. The separation rate in FY23 (11.9%) was the second highest in fifteen years, driven by significant increases in the resignation rate over the past two fiscal years.

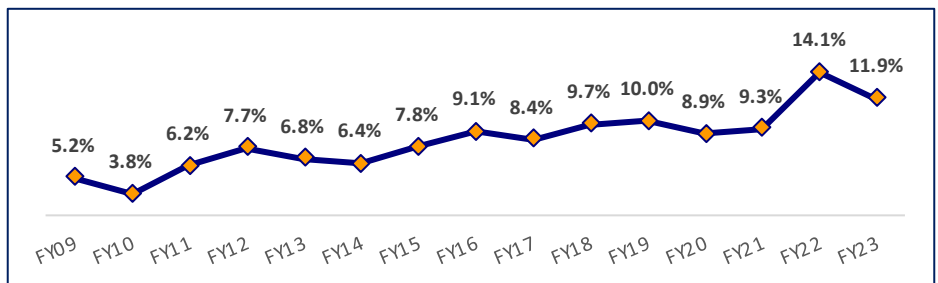


Figure 6.4: Statewide Separation Rates by Type, FY2019 – FY2023

As shown in Figure 6.4, the overall separation rate in FY23 decreased to 11.9% from a record high of 14.1% in FY22. The largest increase in separation type over the past five years, and the main contributor to the increasing overall separation rate, was in the Resignation category. The separation rate for Retirements has been on the decline since FY21.

Separation Type	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Retirement	3.8%	3.0%	3.7%	3.5%	2.4%
Resignation	5.3%	4.7%	4.9%	9.5%	8.1%
Dismissal	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%	1.1%	1.4%
Layoff	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	10.0%	8.9%	9.3%	14.1%	11.9%

⁶ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jolts.t03.htm>

QUALITY COURT WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT, CONTINUED

Do employees and judicial officers express satisfaction in their positions?

QUALITY COURT WORKPLACE SURVEY RESULTS

- ◆ The most recent Quality Court Workplace (QCW) survey was conducted from January 22 to February 10, 2021, and over 2,300 responses were received from employees and judges/justices. Previous rounds of the survey were completed in 2008, 2012, and 2016.
- ◆ The QCW survey is conducted approximately every four years, alternating every two years with the Access and Fairness Survey.
- ◆ In the 2021 survey, the statement with the highest level of agreement among employees was: “I understand how my job contributes to the overall mission of the Minnesota Judicial Branch” (94% agree/strongly agree). The highest level of agreement among judges/justices was: “I am proud that I work in my court” (96% agree/strongly agree).

The 2021 QCW survey generated 2,108 employee responses and 266 judge/justice responses between January 22 and February 10, 2021. Complete results of the survey, including comments, are available on CourtNet.

Results of Employee Survey

The highest statewide scores for employees included several specific statements, as shown in Figure 6.5. The highest scoring statements were determined by the highest levels of agreement and/or mean scores (mean scores use a scale from 5 = strongly agree to 1 = strongly disagree).

Figure 6.5: Employee Statements with the Highest Levels of Agreement and/or Mean Scores in 2021

#	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree or Strongly Agree	Mean
7	I understand how my job contributes to the overall mission of the Minnesota Judicial Branch.	0%	0%	6%	46%	48%	94%	4.4
25	I know what it means for me to be successful on the job.	1%	2%	8%	54%	35%	89%	4.2
22	I am proud that I work in my court/SCAO.	0%	1%	11%	39%	49%	88%	4.4
5	The people I work with can be relied upon when I need help.	1%	2%	9%	37%	51%	88%	4.3

Employees, cont.

The statement with the highest level of disagreement on the survey was “I am able to keep up with my workload without feeling overwhelmed.” (20% disagree or strongly disagree, 3.5 mean score).

To respond to the findings in the employee survey, local districts, courts, and offices are engaged in employee-centered campaigns focused on a specific issue of interest that was beneficial to their local employees. Districts, courts, and offices were directed to identify a focus area for this campaign by reviewing their local QCW survey results and by engaging with employees about what issues and topics were of importance to them. Some of the district, court, and office focus areas were to:

- Improve the onboarding experience
- Support remote work opportunities
- Invest in technology to support operations
- Better utilize staff feedback to improve court processes and practices
- Support continuing education and training
- Explore regionalized staffing opportunities
- Improve staff retention
- Support staff wellness

Results of Judge/Justice Survey

The highest statewide scores for judges/justices are shown in Figure 6.6.

Figure 6.6: Judge/Justice Statements with Highest Levels of Agreement and/or Mean Scores in 2021

#	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree or Strongly Agree	Mean
15	I am proud that I work in my court.	0%	0%	4%	30%	66%	96%	4.6
5	I understand how my position contributes to the overall mission of the Minnesota Judicial Branch.	1%	0%	4%	35%	60%	95%	4.5
1	My court looks for ways to improve processes and procedures.	1%	0%	6%	46%	47%	93%	4.4
13	My colleagues care about the quality of services and programs we provide.	0%	1%	7%	38%	54%	92%	4.5

Like employees, the statement with the highest level of disagreement for judges was, “I am able to keep up with my workload without feeling overwhelmed” (22% disagree or strongly disagree, 3.4 mean score).

In response to the judge and justice survey results, the Human Resources/Education and Organization Development (HR/EOD) Committee of the Minnesota Judicial Council conducted a follow-up survey of district court judges, Court of Appeals judges, and Supreme Court justices between November 2021 and January 2022. The purpose of the 13-question survey was to examine the workplace experiences

of judges and justices more closely to better understand their workload stressors and to solicit potential ideas to address those stressors.

Based on the QCW survey results and the follow-up survey, HR/EOD identified a series of strategies to address the challenges identified from the responses. To promote judicial wellness and address feelings of isolation, HR/EOD explored the creation of statewide judicial officer affinity groups to provide networking, community building, and professional development opportunities for new judicial officers. HR/EOD led a session on addressing judicial wellness and workload through affinity groups at the December 2022 Bridging the Gap conference. Following the session, a planning committee of new judicial officers developed and launched the statewide New Judicial Officer Affinity Group.

Additionally, HR/EOD examined strategies to improve future demographic response rates on the QCW survey. Respondents who did not provide demographic information tended to have lower workplace satisfaction compared to those that did. The lack of demographic information makes it more difficult to develop strategies to address their specific concerns. The committee identified best practices for improving demographic response rates on future QCW surveys, including communicating and engaging with judicial officers and staff around the QCW survey's development and increasing awareness of the confidentiality of the survey and the importance of demographic information in making workplace improvements.

DATA DETAILS (APPENDIX)

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Dates

State Fiscal Year – All figures that are reported by year are reported using state fiscal year. For example, state fiscal year 2023 includes data from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. This number is also referred to as FY2023, FY23.

Access and Fairness Survey Index Scores

Index Scores – Index scores are an overall score for a grouping of survey statements; also referred to as index categories or sections. Scores can be calculated at the county, division, district, or statewide levels. If there are 5 statements in a section with responses on a 1-5 point scale, the index is calculated by summing the means (averages) for each question in the section which brings the total maximum score to 25. (5 questions x 5 points maximum each). This score is then multiplied by 4 to place it on a 100-point scale. For a grouping of 4 statements, the total maximum score is 20, so the multiplier is 5.

Timeliness Measures

Clearance Rate – Number of dispositions for a specified period of time divided by the number of filings (multiplied times 100). A Clearance Rate of 100% indicates a court is ‘keeping up’ with cases filed. A Clearance Rate under 100% indicates a possible growing backlog.

Time to Disposition – Assesses the length of time it takes to process cases compared to the Judicial Council objectives for timely case processing. The measure is reported as a percentage of cases meeting the timing objectives for when 90% of cases should be disposed, at the 97th percentile and at the 99th percentile. Any more than 1% of cases disposed beyond the 99th percentile is considered to have not met timing objectives.

Age of Pending – Shows the percent of currently pending cases that are within the timing objectives for timely case processing. Results from the end of each quarter are archived for trend reporting. Cases pending beyond the 99th percentile objective can be considered as one measure of court backlog.

Length of Time to Permanency – Assesses whether or not timely permanency decisions are being made for children. Reports the number of children for whom permanency was achieved on a CHIPS or Permanency case, and the length of time the child was out of home prior to the permanency order/disposition date for time periods of up to 6 months, up to 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months and over 24 months. The goal is to achieve permanency by 18 months for 99% of all children.

Time to Adoption for Children under State Guardianship – Assesses whether or not adoptions occur within two years (24 months) of entering foster care for 60% of children reaching adoption. Reports the number of children for whom adoption was achieved, the length of time the child was out of home prior to being under state guardianship and the length of time from state guardianship to adoption. The combination of the two time periods equals Time to Adoption.

Court of Appeals Dispositions within Time Standards – Reports the number and percent of cases, by case area, that met the objectives of disposing of 75% of cases within 290 days of filing and disposing of 90% of cases within 365 days of filing.

Supreme Court Timing Standards – Reports identify the court’s performance based on three factors: (1) the case type or jurisdiction (original/mandatory; discretionary; expedited); (2) the case-processing event (PFR to disposition; submission to circulation; submission to disposition); and (3) the timing objective to complete the event.

Quality Court Workplace Environment

Turnover Rate - Also called Separation Rate. Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) who leave the branch during the fiscal year divided by the average number of FTEs employed in a location during that fiscal year (multiplied times 100). Rate excludes Judges, Law Clerks, Bar Exam Monitors and Limited/Temporary Appointments.

Index Scores – Index scores are an overall score for a grouping of survey statements; also referred to as index categories or sections. Scores can be calculated at the county, division, district or statewide levels. If there are 5 statements in a section with responses on a 1-5 point scale, the index is calculated by summing the means (averages) for each question in the section which brings the total maximum score to 25. (5 questions x 5 points maximum each.) This score is then multiplied by 4 to place it on a 100-point scale. For a grouping of 4 statements, the total maximum score is 20, so the multiplier is 5.

RACE CENSUS FORMS

Name _____ Case/File Number _____

RACE CENSUS FORM-Criminal

The Minnesota Courts are collecting information on all people who appear in criminal, traffic and juvenile cases. Collecting this information will help the Court ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, regardless of his/her race or ethnicity.

Please answer **both** questions 1 and 2 below.

1. What is your race?

Mark an **X** by one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.

____ (I). American Indian or Alaska Native

____ (A). Asian

____ (B). Black or African American

____ (H). Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

____ (W). White

____ (O). Other: _____

2. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

MARK THE "NO" BOX IF NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO

____ (N). **NO**, Not Hispanic or Latino

____ (Y). **YES**, Hispanic or Latino

Have you answered **both** questions?

For definitions see the back of this form.

The information that you provide here will be compiled in a summarized form that will not identify you by name. Identifying information may, however, be subject to disclosure as required by the rules of public access to records of the judicial branch, or other laws or court rules.

Definitions:

Race Categories: *

American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Hmong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, for example Somalia. Terms such as “Haitian” can be used in addition to “Black or African American.”

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, or Mexico.

Ethnicity: *

Hispanic or Latino: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, “Spanish origin,” can be used in addition to “Hispanic or Latino.”

* The United States Census Bureau has established these Race and Ethnicity categories

Name _____

Case/File Number _____

**RACE CENSUS FORM
CHIPS/TPR CASES**

The Minnesota Courts are collecting information on all people who appear in criminal, traffic and juvenile cases. Collecting this information will help the Court ensure that everyone is treated fairly, regardless of his/her race or ethnicity.

Please answer **both** questions 1 and 2 below regarding **each** child in this manner.

<p>1. What is the race of the child?</p> <p align="center">Indicate all races you consider your child to be.</p> <p>(I) American Indian or Alaska Native (A) Asian (B) Black or African American (H) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (W) White (O) Other: _____</p>	<p>2. Is the child Hispanic or Latino?</p> <p align="center">Mark the correct response regarding Hispanic or Latino</p> <p>(N) NO, Not Hispanic or Latino (Y) YES, Hispanic or Latino</p>
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Child's Name List each child.	Race Circle response(s)	Hispanic
1.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
2.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
3.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
4.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
5.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
6.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N

*Other: _____

Have you answered **both** questions for each child?
For definitions see the back of this form.

The information that you provide here will be compiled in a summarized form that will not identify you by name. Identifying information may, however, be subject to disclosure as required by the rules of public access to records of the judicial branch, or other laws or court rules.

Definitions:

Race Categories: *

American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Hmong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, for example Somalia. Terms such as “Haitian” or “Negro” can be used in addition to “Black or African American.”

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, or Mexico.

Ethnicity: *

Hispanic or Latino: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, “Spanish origin,” can be used in addition to “Hispanic or Latino.”

* The United States Census Bureau has established these Race and Ethnicity categories

ANALYSIS NOTES

The data in this document come from several sources. The results of timing measures for district courts come from MNJAD (Minnesota Judicial Analytical Database, or data warehouse) reports and the data represent both what exists at a point-in-time and trends over the past months and years.

Data changes each week as new and updated information is loaded into the data warehouse from MNCIS (Minnesota Court Information System). All years noted in the timing area represent fiscal years, unless otherwise noted.

Access and Fairness survey results are available to judges and staff on CourtNet. Dashboards are available for the 2019 courthouse survey, public website survey and two Court Payment Center surveys (phone and web). These reports show results that can be customized by the user for location, demographics, and level of detail. Trend data is available for survey results from 2013 and 2008.

The Trial Court Reports (MNJAD reports) for Clearance Rates, Time to Disposition, Age of Pending Cases, Length of Time to Permanency and Time to Adoption for Children under State Guardianship are available to judges and staff on CourtNet (the intranet of the Minnesota Judicial Branch). The Clearance Rates, Time to Disposition and Age of Pending Cases reports are available in the original tabular format as well as in color-coded “stoplight report” format. Readers of this report are encouraged to look at the data in this report as well as seek additional information using MNJAD and stoplight reports.

Court of Appeals and Supreme Court timing information is reported from MACS (Minnesota Appellate Court System case management system) and reflects fiscal year figures.

Separation rates are reported from the Human Resources and Development Division of the State Court Administrator’s Office (SCAO) and reflect FY2023 and include trends back to FY2009. Juror information comes from the jury management system and includes jurors from FY2023 compared to results of the most recent Census Population Estimates (most recent estimates reflect the population on July 1, 2022).

Race data collection rates are obtained from on-demand reports on CourtNet, specifically, “Summary of Race Collection for Parties on Closed Cases with Percentages.”

Results of past Quality Court Workplace surveys are also available to judges and staff on CourtNet. Several reports are available to see results by county, district or statewide; by employees or judges/justices; comparisons of employees and judges; and comparisons of results for 2021, 2016, 2012 and 2008.