
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

KEY RESULTS AND MEASURES

ANNUAL REPORT

November 2022



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

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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 14th 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 50.

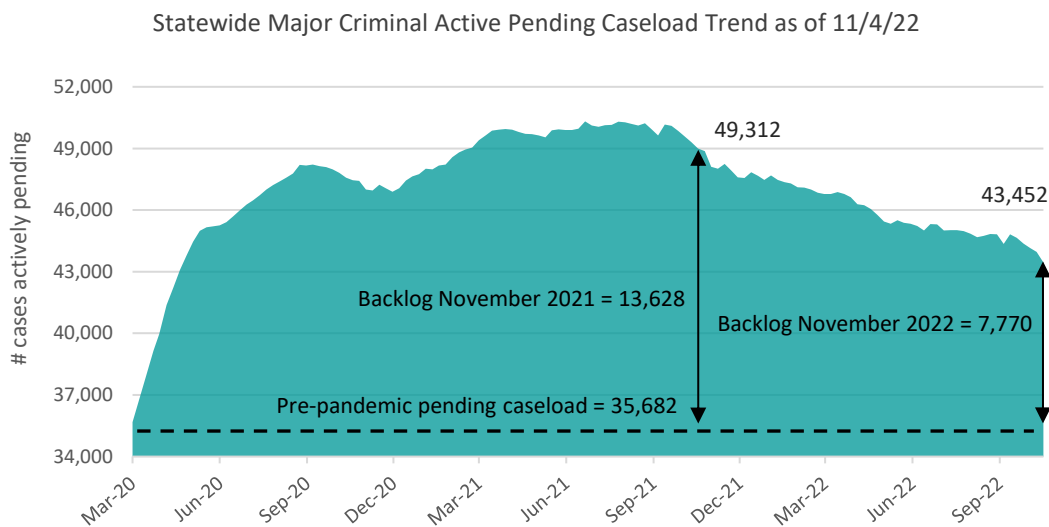
BACKLOG OF MAJOR CRIMINAL ACTIVE PENDING CASES

The Minnesota Judicial Branch and statewide court operations have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since fiscal year 2020 (FY20), the Judicial Branch has undertaken numerous efforts to protect the health and safety of court customers while maintaining essential court operations during the pandemic. 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 (excludes 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 by June 2023.

Following implementation of the goal, the Major Criminal backlog was reduced by nearly 6,000 cases over the course of the next year. Courts were disposing more criminal cases compared to pre-pandemic, statewide monthly clearance rates were mostly exceeding 100%, and many individual counties successfully eliminated their backlogs and returned to pre-pandemic levels.



POSITIVE PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS BY GOAL

Access to Justice

The measure for this goal is the Access and Fairness Survey.

- ◆ The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals conducted their second Access and Fairness Survey in June 2022. Both appellate attorneys and district court judges responded to the surveys for each court.
- ◆ The highest agreement levels from attorneys for both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals survey relate to courtesy and respect.
- ◆ The highest agreement levels from judges relate to the appellate courts’ written decisions clearly stating the applicable legal principles governing the decision.

Percent of attorneys who agree/strongly agree	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals
The Court treats attorneys with courtesy and respect at oral arguments and in its written decisions.	87%	87%

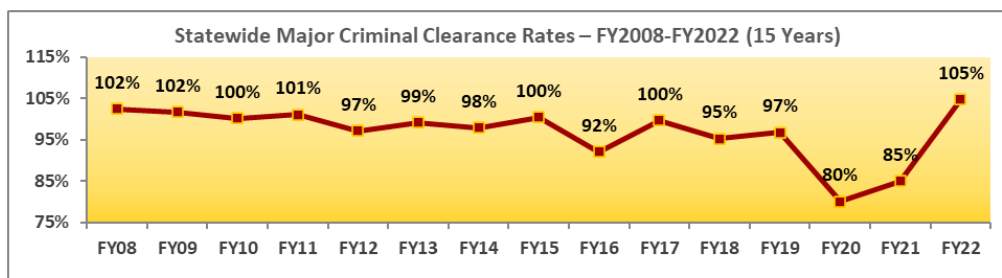
Percent of judges who agree/strongly agree	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals
The Court’s written decisions clearly state the applicable legal principles that govern the decision.	89%	88%

Timeliness

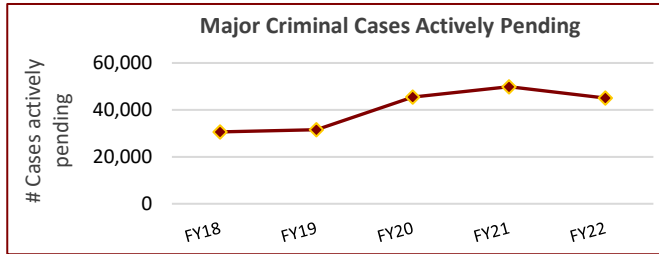
This goal area has several measures to determine if courts are handling cases in a timely manner – Clearance Rates, Time to Disposition, Age of Pending Cases, Length of Time to Permanency, Time to Adoption, and Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases within Time Standards.

- ◆ 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 cases in FY22, Clearance Rates were maintained at or above 100% for almost all case groups. The statewide Clearance Rate for all case groups combined was 101% (goal is 100% or above).
- ◆ Major Criminal Clearance Rates have remained below 100% for most of the past decade and dropped significantly in FY20 and FY21 due to impacts of the pandemic. The Major Criminal Clearance Rate of 105% in FY22 is the highest in 15 years.

Case Group	Clearance Rates
	FY22
Major Crim	105%
Major Civil	101%
Prob/MH	98%
Family	100%
Juvenile	101%
Minor Civil	100%
Minor Crim	101%
State	101%



- ◆ As a result of a statewide Clearance Rate above 100% in FY22, the number of Major Criminal cases actively pending (excludes dormant and on warrant) showed the first year-over-year decrease in five years. The number of actively pending cases statewide dropped 10% in Major Criminal from FY21 to FY22.



- ◆ Statewide Time to Disposition results in FY22 met the timing objectives for Dissolution (with and without child) and Domestic Abuse cases (goal is 1% or lower). 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 across case groups.

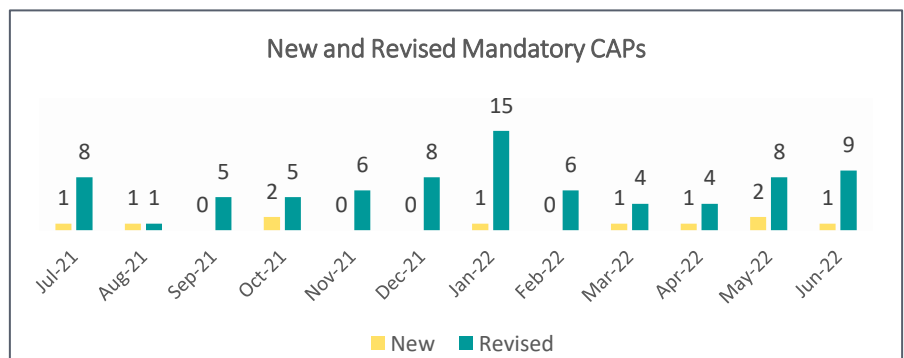
Case Group	99 th Percentile Objective (Months)	FY22 % Cases Disposed Beyond 99 th Percentile
Major Criminal	12	27%
Major Civil	24	2%
Dissolutions	24	1%
Domestic Abuse	4	1%
Juvenile Delinquency	6	16%
Minor Criminal	9	8%

- ◆ In FY22, the Court of Appeals far exceeded the timing objectives by disposing more than 75% of Civil (93%), Juvenile Protection (100%), and Juvenile Delinquency (88%) cases within 290 days of filing. Across all Court of Appeals case categories, 98% of cases disposed met the 365-day objective (goal is 90%).

Integrity and Accountability

The goal in this area is to ensure that the electronic record system is accurate, complete, and timely.

- ◆ The Judicial Branch created a Data Quality Team within State Court Administration that is responsible for statewide document security, Court Administration Process (CAP) creation, and CAP compliance. Statewide monitoring, consistency of practices, and mandatory compliance ensure that customers have a consistent experience across the courts and that the information and data received is accurate and complete. Eighty-nine (89) new and revised CAPs were published during FY22.



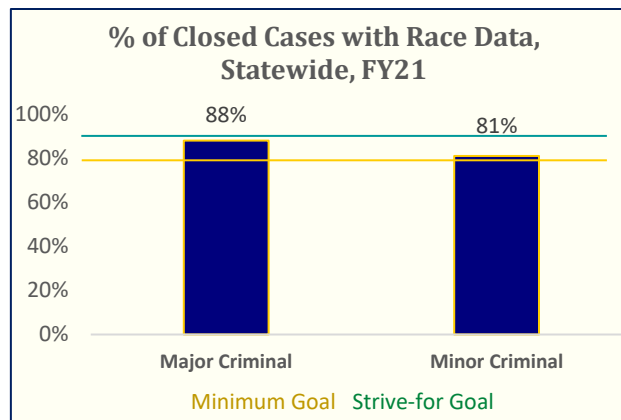
Fairness and Equity

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

- ◆ Nearly all 45,934 jurors who reported for service in FY22 returned the Juror Questionnaire and completed race information (98%). Of all racial groups, American Indian and multiracial jurors in the statewide FY22 jury pool most closely mirrored their share in the adult population.
- ◆ The Access and Fairness survey showed high levels of agreement among district court judges for issues of fairness in both appellate courts.

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

- ◆ The minimum goal of having 80% of closed cases with race information recorded was exceeded statewide for Major Criminal and Minor Criminal cases in FY22 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.

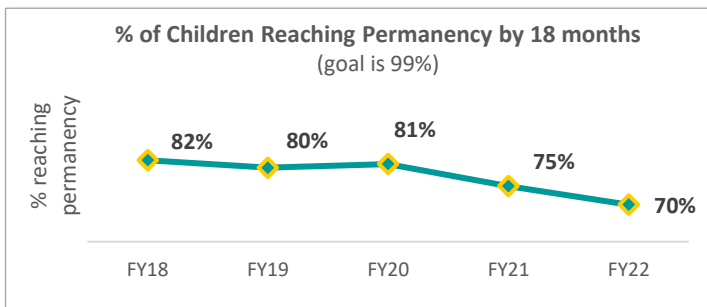
Access to Justice

- ◆ Responses to the 2022 appellate courts Access and Fairness survey suggested affordability continues to be an issue. Attorneys had the lowest agreement levels in both the 2015 and 2022 appellate Access and Fairness surveys to the statement, “The fee to file a case in the Supreme Court/Court of Appeals is affordable for litigants.”

Timeliness

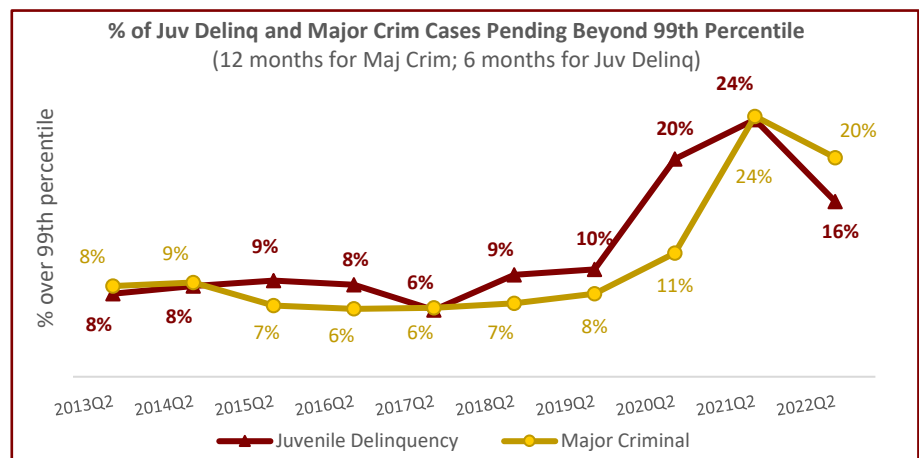
- ◆ For the past five fiscal years, Clearance Rates have remained below 100% for Probate/Mental Health cases. This has resulted in an increase to the Probate/Mental Health pending caseload of 19% over the past five fiscal years. The rise was driven primarily by more Unsupervised Administration and Guardianship/Conservatorship pending cases.

Probate/Mental Health Clearance Rates				
FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
98%	98%	95%	98%	98%



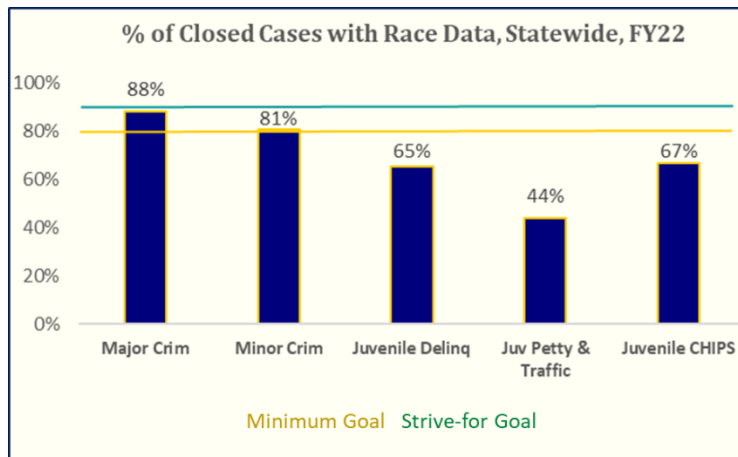
- ◆ Statewide, the goal of having 99% of children reach permanency by 18 months was not met in FY22. The statewide result of 70% in FY22 was the lowest in five fiscal years.

Statewide, timing objectives for Age of Pending cases were not met in FY22 for any case groups. The percentage of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases pending beyond the 99th percentile objective was 20% and 16% (goal is 1% or lower), respectively, as of 7/1/2022. Larger percentages of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases pending over the timing objectives could increase Time to Disposition results for these case groups in FY23.



Fairness and Equity

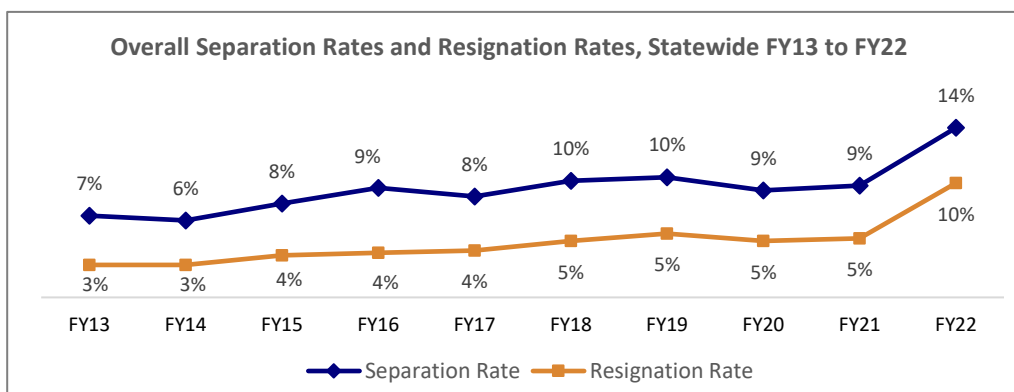
- ◆ Statewide, Asian, Black, and Hispanic jurors in the FY22 jury pool were under-represented compared to their share in the adult population.
- ◆ The minimum goal of having 80% of closed cases with race information recorded was not met statewide for Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty and Traffic, or Juvenile CHIPS case types, and the 'strive-for' goal of 90% of closed cases with race data was not met for any case types. 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 since FY13, however, the separation rate of 14% in FY22 was the highest in ten fiscal years. The rise was driven by a significant increase in the resignation rate in FY22. Statewide resignations doubled from 5% in FY21 to 10% in FY22.



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 2022 and oral reports are to be given in November 2022.
- ◆ Reviewing results of performance measures has become routine at bench meetings and within court administration.

DISTRICT COURT 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 2022 written reports were directed to highlight progress made toward reducing the Major Criminal backlog and successes upon implementation of district-specific Major Criminal backlog plans.

Specific examples of these reviews include:

- The 1st District began working to reduce their backlog in July 2021, before the aspirational goal started in November, and successfully reduced their Major Criminal backlog by over 650 cases (38% reduction) by February 2022.
- The 2nd District prioritized Major Criminal caseloads by increasing the allocation of judicial full-time equivalent (FTE) assigned to criminal cases and backfilled in other case types with referees. Judges assigned to civil caseloads picked up the equivalent of one FTE criminal caseload and one juvenile/family judge was assigned to all felony property cases. This reallocation of judicial FTE was assigned through the biennium and began in September 2021.
- The 3rd District surpassed the goal of reducing their Major Criminal backlog by 20% in the first four months (24% reduction). In addition, eight of the district's 11 counties met or exceeded their county's goal at that point in time. The 3rd district noted that "pandemic court" or "stand down events" and justice partner collaboration contributed to the successes in several of their counties.
- The 4th District reduced their Major Criminal backlog by nearly 500 cases (18% reduction) in the first four months of the aspirational goal adopted by the Judicial Council. Since August 2021, the district was disposing over 1,000 Major Criminal cases per month, over

"Ongoing regular communications between judges, court administration, justice partners, and attorneys on the pending major criminal caseload statistics and collaborative efforts to reduce the backlog have had the greatest impact."

1st District

"Justice partner collaboration – we've seen the greatest success and sustained improvement in locations where the court, prosecutors and public defenders work well together and share backlog reduction as a common goal."

3rd District

half of which were felony level. The 4th District attributed success to regular progress updates provided to Criminal Division administrative and judicial leadership, continued focus on felony trials, and additional judges and administrative staff hired to focus on Major Criminal cases.

- The 5th District exceeded the goal of reducing their Major Criminal backlog by 20% in the first four months (37% reduction). The 5th District noted that its success “can be attributed to hard work by judges and staff, focusing on and making Major Criminal cases a priority, and cooperation of business partners in getting cases set for settlement and/or trial.”
- The 6th District disposed of over 300 cases that were older than 365 days between November 2021 and January 2022. The 6th District noted the success of stand down events. District-wide, the stand down’s focused on over 850 cases, nearly 50% of which were resolved by plea.

- In the 7th District, within two months of implementing SWEEP (Seventh Working Effectively and Efficiently Plan) in November 2021, the district reduced its Major Criminal backlog by over 140 cases (11% reduction). The 7th district continued its progression and further reduced its pandemic backlog by over 900 cases (28% reduction) by the end of January 2022.

“Judges, court administration, and stakeholders collaborated to prepare a county action plan to address the backlog. This allowed the local nuances of each county to be addressed and develop a system that worked with their court culture and availability of resources.”

7th District

- The 8th District exceeded the goal of reducing their Major Criminal backlog by 20% in the first four months (32% reduction). The 8th District noted several measures taken such as stand down events, increased communication efforts, new case management and calendaring strategies, and stakeholder collaboration as contributors of its success.

- The 9th District increased coordination and cooperation with justice partners, increased monitoring of caseloads, hired temporary referees, utilized senior judges, and modified calendars to reduce their Major Criminal backlog.

“The pandemic and the backlog reduction goal specifically has required increased collaboration with our criminal justice partners across the district. Regular meetings with these groups are scheduled in many counties in the district, where all present discuss the backlog goal and what steps need to be taken to achieve the objective. These meetings have strengthened these relationships which will be greatly beneficial in the long-term for all these counties.”

9th District

- The 10th District utilized senior judges, referees, and temporary staff to achieve a 16% reduction in the Major Criminal backlog within four months of the aspirational goal set by the Judicial Council. The 10th District noted that this approach not only impacted their Major Criminal pending caseload, but also allowed them to maintain pace in other case types and reduce stress on permanent staff and judges.

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.
- ◆ The next district court Access and Fairness Survey is scheduled for fall 2023. Three previous rounds of the survey were completed in 2008, 2013, and 2019.

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 compares 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 fiscal years. Overall FY22 filing counts increased 2% year-over-year from FY21 and decreased 30% compared to FY18. The only increase, by category, from FY18 to FY22 was Major Probate (+16%). Juvenile cases (Delinquency and CHIPS/Permanency) had the largest five-year decrease with 41% fewer filings, followed by a 34% decline in Minor Criminal and 21% decline in Minor Civil cases.

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	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	% Change FY21 to FY22	% Change FY18 to FY22
Serious Felony	1,319	1,357	1,490	1,550	1,563	1%	18%
Felony DWI	661	642	649	678	720	6%	9%
Other Felony	34,992	34,448	35,111	34,411	34,193	-1%	-2%
Gross Misdemeanor DWI	14,200	14,079	13,011	11,541	13,317	15%	-6%
Other Gross Misdemeanor	17,979	17,366	17,284	15,362	15,102	-2%	-16%
Major Criminal Total:	69,151	67,892	67,545	63,542	64,895	2%	-6%
Personal Injury	2,395	2,310	2,345	2,109	1,854	-12%	-23%
Contract	6,790	7,113	8,852	6,786	6,942	2%	2%
Wrongful Death	137	137	104	105	112	7%	-18%
Malpractice	76	67	96	103	93	-10%	22%
Property Damage	234	226	190	146	194	33%	-17%
Condemnation	153	115	119	100	162	62%	6%
Conciliation Appeal	576	519	417	383	514	34%	-11%
Harassment	11,955	11,727	11,294	12,047	13,361	11%	12%
Employment	346	390	339	290	302	4%	-13%
Other Civil	8,317	8,016	7,329	6,206	6,557	6%	-21%
Major Civil Total:	30,979	30,620	31,085	28,275	30,091	6%	-3%
Trust	388	363	337	366	279	-24%	-28%
Supervised Administration	272	245	265	275	303	10%	11%
Unsupervised Administration	3,151	3,215	3,007	3,656	3,898	7%	24%
Special Administration	255	243	261	328	371	13%	45%
Informal Probate	3,264	3,466	3,514	4,001	4,110	3%	26%
Estate/Other Probate	1,082	1,047	1,076	1,120	1,301	16%	20%
Guardianship/Conservatorship	2,751	2,993	2,757	2,906	2,873	-1%	4%
Commitment	4,373	4,453	4,496	5,034	4,865	-3%	11%
Major Probate Total:	15,536	16,025	15,713	17,686	18,000	2%	16%

Filing Trends, Cont.

Category	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	% Change FY21 to FY22	% Change FY18 to FY22
Dissolution with Child	7,428	7,143	6,796	7,099	6,428	-9%	-13%
Dissolution without Child	7,639	7,512	7,057	7,392	7,187	-3%	-6%
Support	11,005	10,067	8,260	7,094	7,111	0%	-35%
Adoption	1,721	1,788	1,547	1,570	1,653	5%	-4%
Other Family	3,057	3,249	2,941	2,826	3,189	13%	4%
Domestic Abuse	10,819	10,586	10,094	10,010	9,871	-1%	-9%
Major Family Total:	41,669	40,345	36,695	35,991	35,439	-2%	-15%
Delinquency Felony	3,692	3,528	3,705	2,950	3,001	2%	-19%
Delinquency Gross Misdemeanor	1,452	1,447	1,435	883	999	13%	-31%
Delinquency Misdemeanor	10,922	9,363	8,752	5,456	5,682	4%	-48%
Status Offense	3,500	3,369	2,562	1,105	1,320	19%	-62%
Dependency/Neglect	6,863	6,037	5,480	4,505	4,304	-4%	-37%
Permanency - TPR	2,884	2,633	2,443	1,903	1,682	-12%	-42%
Permanency - Non TPR	1,254	1,105	1,076	987	927	-6%	-26%
Truancy	1,773	1,800	1,104	647	1,149	78%	-35%
Runaway	193	119	123	104	77	-26%	-60%
Major Juvenile Total:	32,533	29,401	26,680	18,540	19,141	3%	-41%
Unlawful Detainer	17,439	17,594	13,642	2,331	14,942	541%	-14%
Implied Consent	3,922	3,971	3,344	3,024	3,396	12%	-13%
Transcript Judgment	23,446	27,041	20,368	14,053	19,739	40%	-16%
Default Judgment	24,768	25,965	25,793	20,341	19,281	-5%	-22%
Conciliation	55,072	52,640	45,702	40,267	41,115	2%	-25%
Minor Civil Total:	124,647	127,211	108,849	80,016	98,473	23%	-21%
5th Degree Assault	12,784	12,128	12,544	11,515	11,350	-1%	-11%
Other Non-Traffic	110,633	102,644	101,999	82,519	72,292	-12%	-35%
Misdemeanor DWI	19,463	19,735	17,048	14,155	15,953	13%	-18%
Other Traffic	579,148	516,894	454,572	395,879	398,338	1%	-31%
Juvenile Traffic	6,410	5,713	4,884	4,801	4,809	0%	-25%
Parking	359,026	335,961	245,547	214,719	218,698	2%	-39%
Minor Criminal Total:	1,087,464	993,075	836,594	723,588	721,440	0%	-34%
Grand Total:	1,401,979	1,304,569	1,123,161	967,638	987,479	2%	-30%

CLEARANCE RATES

- ◆ The statewide Clearance Rate for all case groups combined was 101% (Goal = 100% or above) in FY22.
- ◆ Nearly all case groups maintained Clearance Rates at or above 100% in FY22.
- ◆ Major Criminal cases had the highest Clearance Rate in FY22 at 105% while Probate/Mental Health cases had the lowest Clearance Rate at 98%.

Figure 2.1: Statewide Clearance Rates FY2018 - FY2022

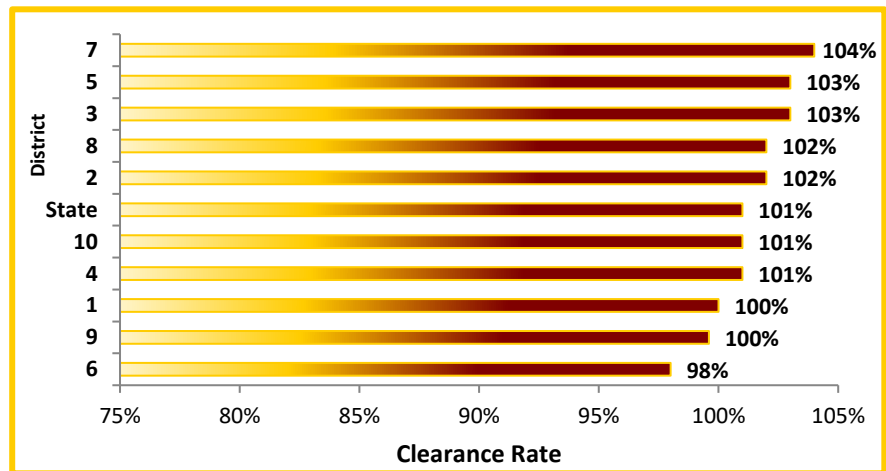
Case Group	Clearance Rates				
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Major Crim	95%	97%	80%	85%	105%
Major Civil	106%	101%	97%	102%	101%
Prob/MH	98%	98%	95%	98%	98%
Family	99%	99%	101%	100%	100%
Juvenile	97%	103%	91%	123%	101%
Minor Civil	99%	99%	97%	99%	100%
Minor Crim	105%	100%	95%	103%	101%
State	104%	99%	95%	102%	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 FY22, all case groups except Probate/Mental Health maintained Clearance Rates at or above 100%. FY22 Clearance Rate results improved over FY21 for Major Criminal and Minor Civil case groups. The largest improvement in Clearance Rate was for the Major Criminal case group, which increased 20 percentage points from FY21.

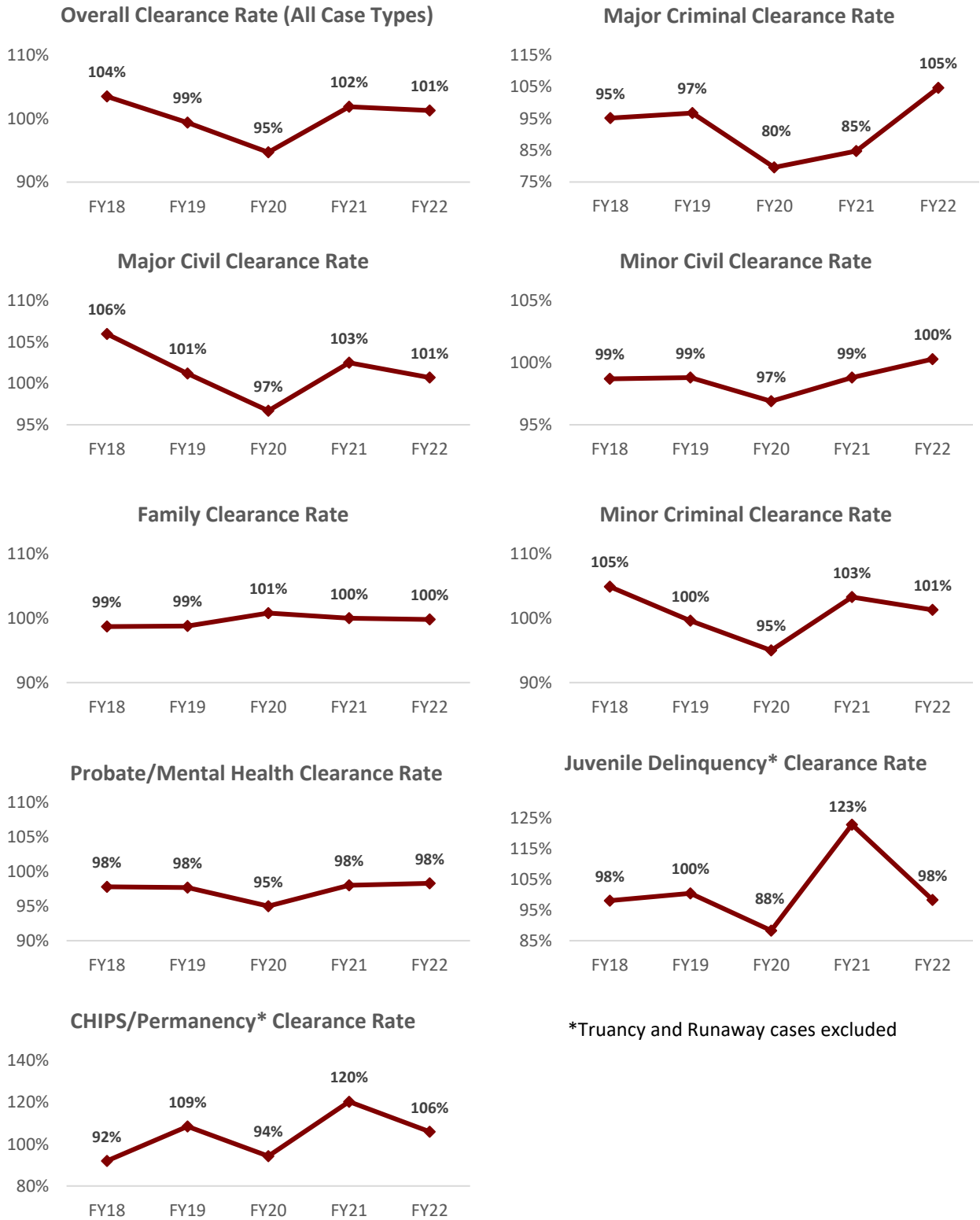
Figure 2.2: Overall (Excluding Minor Criminal) Clearance Rates FY2022 by District

Figure 2.2 shows that nearly all districts maintained overall Clearance Rates, excluding Minor Criminal, at or above 100% in FY22. By district, Clearance Rates were within 6% of each other and ranged from 98% in the 6th District to 104% in the 7th District.



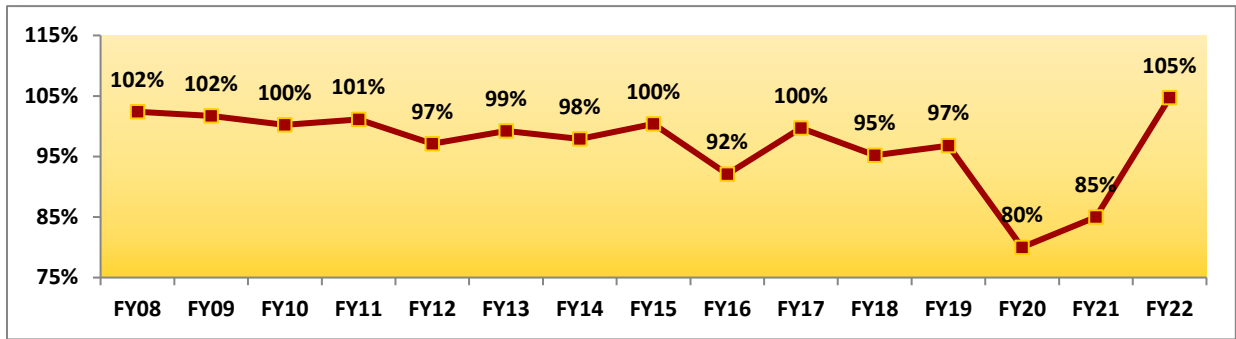
The graphs in Figure 2.3 (next page) show statewide Clearance Rates by case group for the past five fiscal years.

Figure 2.3: Statewide Clearance Rates FY2018 – FY2022, by Case Group



*Truancy and Runaway cases excluded

Figure 2.4: Statewide Major Criminal Clearance Rates – FY2008-FY2022 (15 Years)



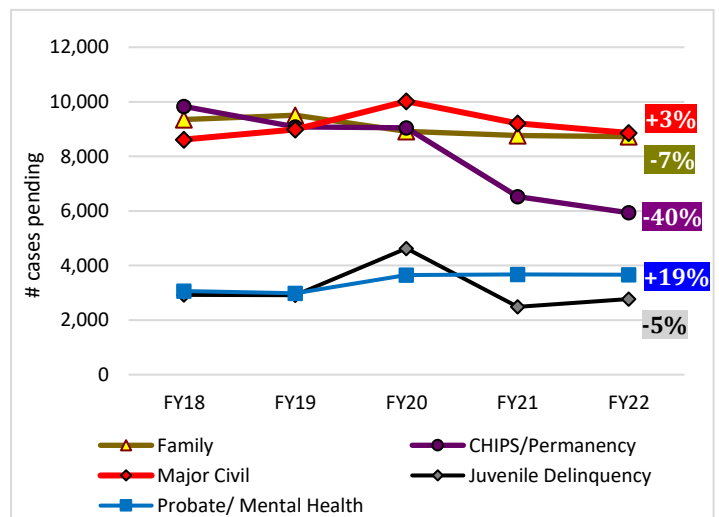
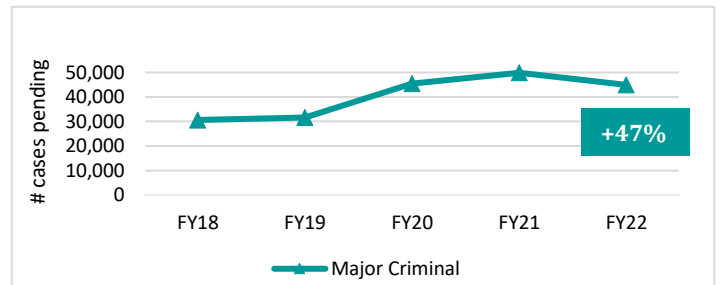
Major Criminal Clearance Rates have remained below 100% for most of the past decade and dropped significantly in FY20 and FY21 due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This led to a backlog of cases. Between FY12 and FY21, the number of ‘active’ pending Major Criminal cases doubled from approximately 25,000 cases to nearly 50,000 cases. In FY22, a statewide goal to reduce the Major Criminal backlog was implemented, and as a result, the Major Criminal Clearance Rate rose to 105%, the highest it has been in 15 years.

Figure 2.5: Statewide Active Pending Caseload, Major Cases FY2018 – FY2022

Figure 2.5 shows that the number of cases pending in major case groups from FY18 to FY22 declined in CHIPS/Permanency (-40%), Family (-7%), and Juvenile Delinquency (-5%) cases.

There has been a significant increase in the number of pending cases in Major Criminal from FY18 to FY22 (+47%). Due to impacts of the pandemic, the number of pending cases spiked 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.

Over the past five fiscal years, pending cases in Major Civil have remained steady, increasing only 3% from FY18 to FY22. In contrast, Probate/ Mental Health pending numbers increased 19% over the same period.



Excludes Dormant Cases and Out on Warrant

TIME TO DISPOSITION

- ◆ Statewide, 90% of all cases disposed in FY22 were disposed within the 99th percentile time objective (for cases with timing objectives).
- ◆ Dissolution (with or without child) and Domestic Abuse cases met the timing objectives at the 99th percentile in FY22.
- ◆ Major Criminal cases had the highest percentage disposed beyond the 99th percentile time objective (27%). (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, FY2022

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	19,392	28.5	6	9,858	43.0	12	20,599	73.4	18,109	26.6	67,958	274
Major Civil	12	27,623	91.2	18	1,296	95.5	24	706	97.8	670	2.2	30,295	115
Dissolutions	12	12,496	92.7	18	598	97.1	24	226	98.8	167	1.2	13,487	120
Domestic Abuse	2	9,385	95.5	3	218	97.7	4	108	98.8	121	1.2	9,832	14
Juvenile Del	3	5,763	60.9	5	1,698	78.9	6	486	84.0	1,509	16.0	9,456	107
Minor Crim	3	335,419	80.0	6	33,932	88.1	9	17,356	92.3	32,445	7.7	419,152	90
State Total		410,078	74.5		47,600	83.2		39,481	90.4	53,021	9.6	550,180	114

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 FY22 (27%) (goal is 1% or lower), followed by Juvenile Delinquency (16%), while Dissolution and Domestic Abuse cases met the goal for Time to Disposition.

Figure 2.7: Percent of Cases Disposed Beyond the 99th Percentile Objective, FY2022, 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	29.5%	2.4%	1.4%	1.1%	11.1%	7.7%
2	31.5%	3.3%	1.4%	1.3%	7.6%	10.7%
3	30.8%	1.5%	0.4%	1.0%	21.1%	8.2%
4	27.8%	2.3%	0.9%	1.8%	21.4%	9.1%
5	16.6%	1.8%	0.6%	0.4%	13.5%	2.7%
6	23.2%	1.8%	0.3%	0.9%	18.7%	4.5%
7	24.3%	2.1%	1.2%	0.9%	20.9%	6.7%
8	19.8%	1.9%	0.5%	0.0%	15.3%	4.1%
9	18.7%	2.5%	1.5%	0.9%	12.0%	5.1%
10	31.5%	2.0%	2.2%	1.3%	13.8%	10.4%
Total	26.6%	2.2%	1.2%	1.2%	16.0%	7.7%

Figure 2.7 shows the percent of cases disposed beyond the 99th percentile by district and case group for FY22.

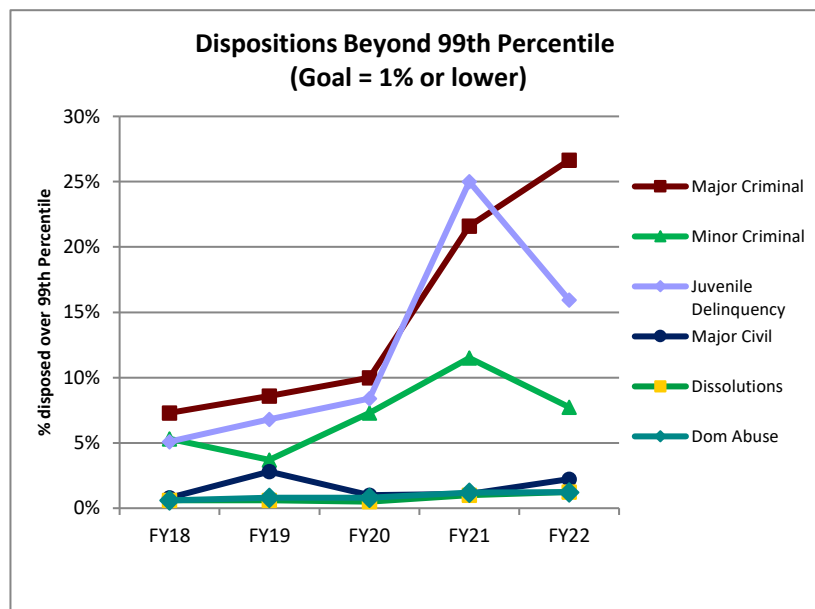
There were variations among districts in Juvenile Delinquency; the 2nd District disposed of 8% of cases beyond the timing objective of six months while the 3rd and 4th Districts disposed of 21% over the time objective.

Statewide, Dissolution (with or without child) and Domestic Abuse 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 17% (lower is better) in the 5th District to 32% in the 2nd and 10th Districts.

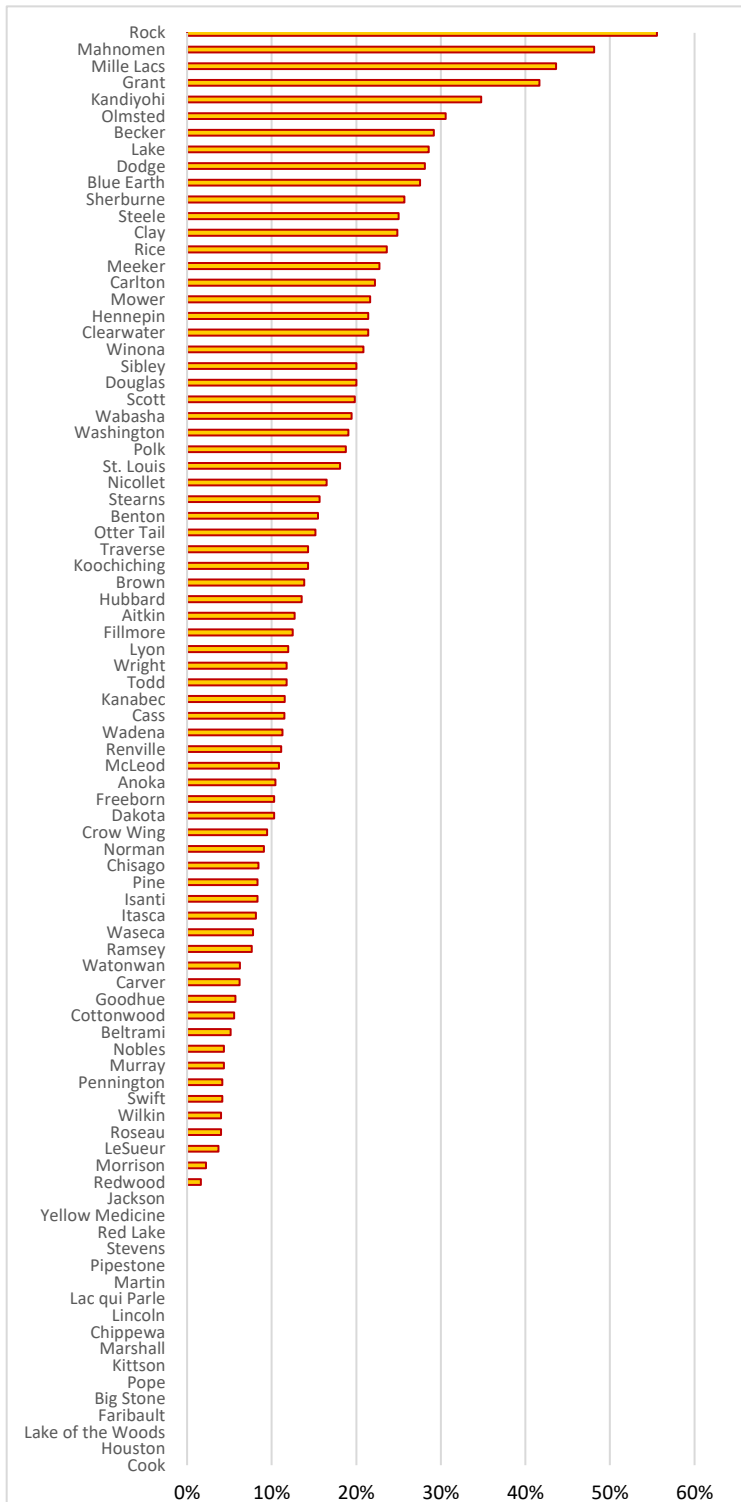
Figure 2.8: Percent of Cases Disposed Statewide Beyond 99th Percentile, FY2018-FY2022, by Case Group

In FY22, the percentage of Major Criminal cases disposed beyond 12 months (27%) increased to the highest level in five fiscal years. (Lower percent is better.) Juvenile Delinquency cases disposed beyond six months decreased to 16% in FY22 following a five-year high the previous fiscal year (25%). 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 since FY18.



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 FY22. It shows that the percent of cases disposed beyond the 6-month objective (99th percentile) ranged from 0% to 56%.

Figure 2.9: Percent of Delinquency Cases Disposed Beyond 6 Months FY2022, by County



The statewide percent of all Delinquency cases (Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, and Misdemeanor) disposed beyond the time objective was 16.0% in FY22. Twenty-three counties had 20% or more of these cases disposed beyond the 99th percentile goal in FY22.

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 FY22 varied from eight counties with fewer than ten dispositions to Hennepin County with 1,652 Delinquency dispositions.

AGE OF PENDING CASES

- ◆ Statewide, timing objectives for Age of Pending cases were not met in FY22 (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 19% in the 3rd District (lower is better).

Figure 2.10: Statewide Age of Pending Cases as of 7/1/2022

Case Group	90th Percentile	Cum 97th Percentile	Cum 99th Percentile	Over 99th Percentile	Total Active Cases Pending
Major Crim	41%	55%	80%	20%	44,989
Major Civil	80%	88%	93%	7%	8,921
Dissolutions	88%	95%	98%	2%	4,500
Dom Abuse	70%	79%	83%	17%	440
Juv Delinq	63%	80%	84%	16%	2,853
Minor Crim	59%	70%	77%	23%	104,851

The statewide average for non-Minor Criminal case types pending beyond the 99th percentile at the end of June 2022 ranged from 2% of Dissolutions to 20% of Major Criminal cases. (Goal is 1% or lower.) Larger percentages of Major Criminal, Domestic Abuse, Juvenile Delinquency, and Minor Criminal cases pending over the timing objectives could increase Time to Disposition results for these case groups in FY23.

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

After climbing to its highest point in nine fiscal years at the end of FY21, results for Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases pending beyond the timing objectives showed some improvement by the end of FY22 (lower number is better). The increased number of cases pending beyond the timing objectives leading up to the end of FY21 is reflective of significantly lower clearance rates for Major Criminal cases in FY20-21 and Juvenile Delinquency cases in FY20, due to impacts of the pandemic.

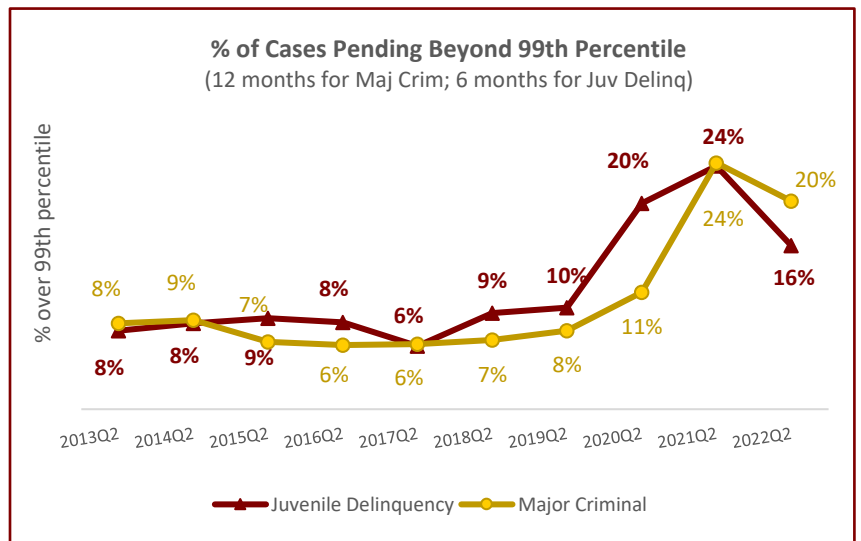
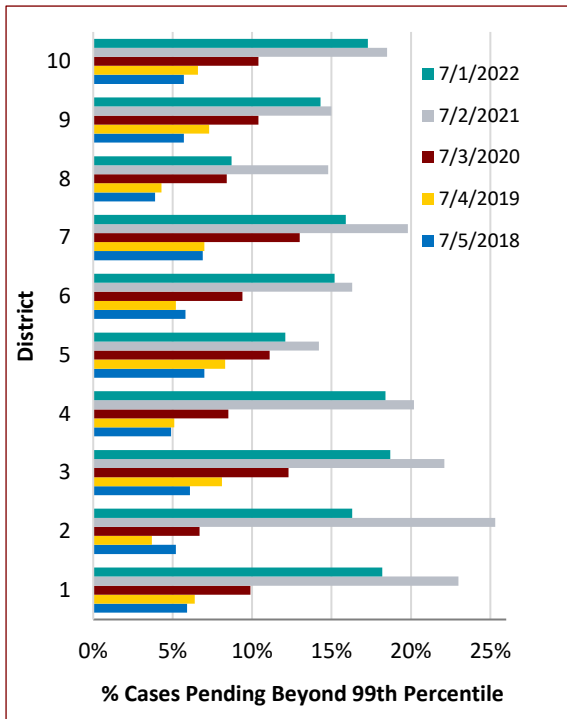


Figure 2.12: Trends in District Age of Pending Cases Past 99th Percentile, All Case Groups except Minor Criminal



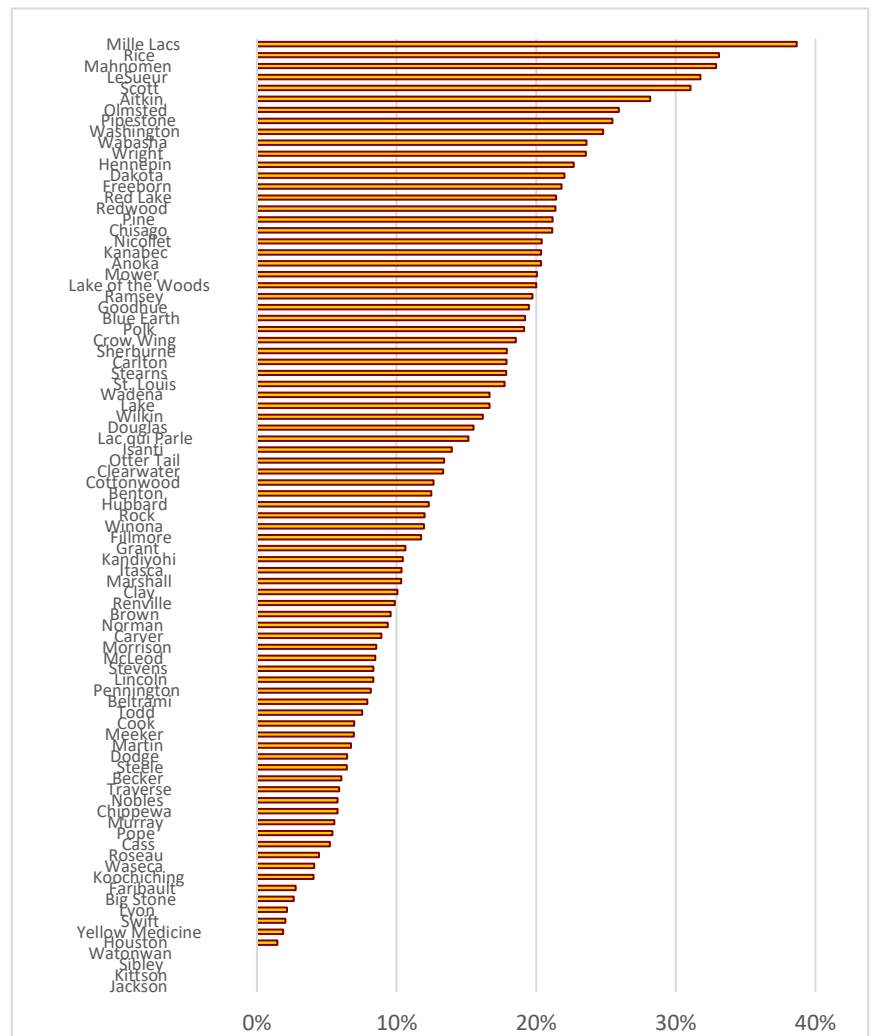
The overall results of Age of Pending cases at the end of FY22 (excluding Minor Criminal) varied from 9% of cases pending beyond the 99th percentile timing objectives in the 8th District to 19% of cases beyond the timing objectives in the 3rd District.

All districts have improved results in overall Age of Pending cases at the end of FY22 compared to the end of FY21 (lower = better). However, at the end of FY22, all districts had the second highest percentage of cases pending beyond the 99th percentile timing objectives in five years (higher numbers = worse).

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 7/1/2022.

Statewide, 20% of these cases were pending beyond the 99th percentile at the end of FY22. Across counties, the percent of Major Criminal cases pending beyond one year ranged from 0% to 39%. The largest number of these cases pending as of 7/1/2022 was in Hennepin County which had over 9,000 Major Criminal cases pending, 23% 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 FY22, 70% 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 FY22, 33% of children statewide were adopted within 24 months. District numbers ranged from a high of 56% of children who reached adoption by 24 months down to 17%.

“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 FY2022, 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 FY22.

There was variation among districts for the percentage of children who reached permanency within 18 months (goal is 99%). The range was from 47% in the 6th District to 85% in the 8th District. The number of children who reached permanency was highest in the 4th District (680) and lowest in the 2nd District (206) with 3,589 children, statewide, who reached permanency in FY22.

District	% reaching perm by 6 months	Cum % reaching perm by 12 months	Cum % reaching perm by 18 months	Total Number Children
1	18%	49%	75%	262
2	19%	34%	59%	206
3	16%	52%	80%	311
4	19%	34%	54%	680
5	22%	51%	78%	322
6	6%	18%	47%	240
7	26%	55%	79%	439
8	24%	58%	85%	265
9	25%	49%	76%	475
10	18%	43%	74%	389
State	20%	44%	70%	3,589
Goal	50%	90%	99%	

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%), FY2018 to FY2022					
District	FY18 %	FY19 %	FY20 %	FY21 %	FY22 %
1	90	86	90	74	75
2	78	66	64	59	59
3	88	91	94	84	80
4	67	67	61	57	54
5	91	87	90	89	78
6	74	66	76	59	47
7	92	89	86	80	79
8	94	96	93	95	85
9	83	89	91	88	76
10	87	88	87	81	74
State	82%	80%	81%	75%	70%
# children	5,105	4,962	4,132	4,136	3,589

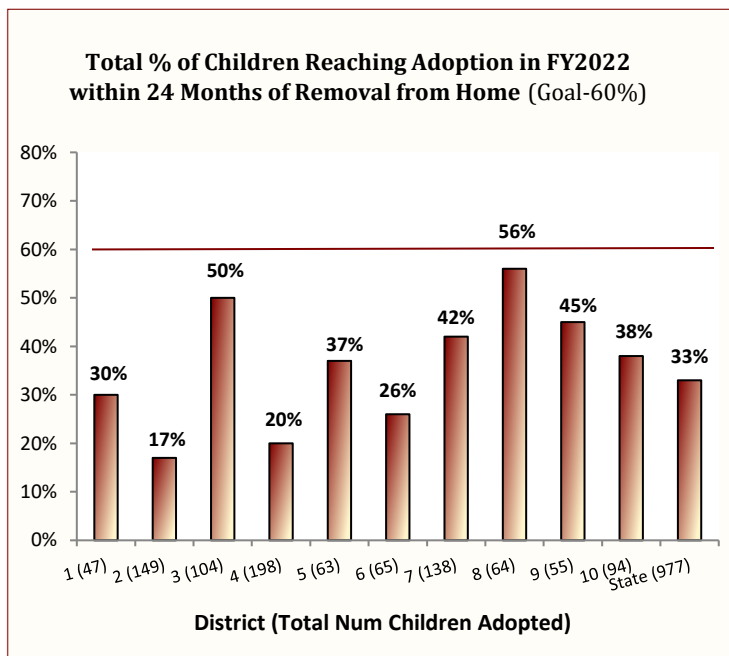
While the definition of “permanency order” was amended in FY22 (see footnote on page 28) to no longer consider trial home visits and protective supervision with the custodial parent as permanency, FY2018-2021 results use the previous definition.

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%. Statewide, the current FY22 result of 70% of children reaching permanency within 18 months is the lowest in the past five fiscal years.

The number of children with a CHIPS or Permanency case filed decreased 37% over the past five fiscal years. There has been a consistent downward trend in the number of children with filings over the past five fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	# Children with CHIPS/ Perm Filing
FY18	10,988
FY19	9,769
FY20	9,005
FY21	7,394
FY22	6,909

Figure 2.16: Length of Time for Children to Reach Adoption, FY2022, 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.

One third (33%) of the 977 children under State Guardianship adopted in FY22 reached adoption within 24 months of removal from home (goal is 60%). No districts met the goal; however, the 8th District came within 4% (56%). Districts ranged from 17% to 56% of children reaching adoption within two years.

Figure 2.17: Percent of Children Adopted by 24 Months, Statewide, FY2018 – FY2022

Year Adoption Finalized	% Adopted by 24 Months (Goal is 60%)	Total # Children Reaching Adoption
FY2018	50%	978
FY2019	47%	1,226
FY2020	47%	950
FY2021	38%	989
FY2022	33%	977

The 33% of children who reached adoption by 24 months of being out of home in FY22 declined from FY21 and is the lowest result in five fiscal years (higher numbers generally are better) as is shown in Figure 2.17.

The number of children who reached adoption fluctuated in fiscal years 2019 and 2020, otherwise remaining relatively unchanged in fiscal years 2018, 2021, and 2022.

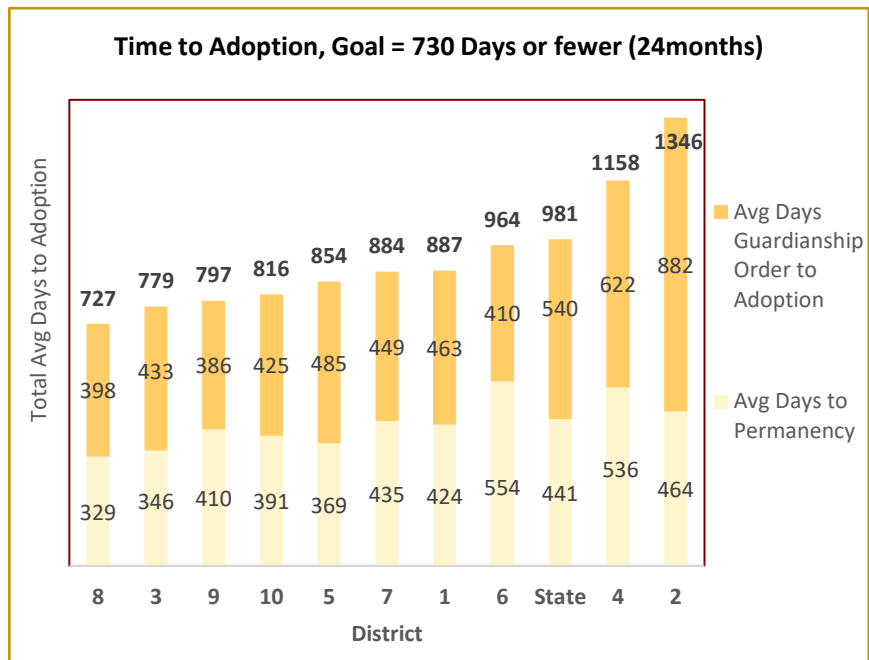
The automated Time to Adoption for Children Under State Guardianship report shows details for each child with the time to adoption broken into the time from removal from home to the guardianship order and then the time from guardianship order to adoption order. Figure 2.18 below shows that there was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

Figure 2.18: Average Number Days to Adoption, by Phase, by District, FY2022

One district had an average number of days per child to reach adoption that was below 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 (441 average days to permanency) comprised 45% of the total time to adoption, and 55% was the time from the guardianship order to adoption (540 days).

The variation in Time to Adoption by district was from 727 days in the 8th District to 1,346 days in the 2nd 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 FY22, the Court of Appeals disposed of 93% of civil cases, 100% of juvenile-protection cases, and 88% 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 66% of criminal cases in 290 days, up from 44% in FY21. The lower case-disposition rate in criminal cases continues to be driven largely by transcript-processing timelines.

Figure 2.19: Percent of Court of Appeals Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing, FY2020-FY2022

Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing From Filing to Disposition Goal = 75% of Cases						
	FY2022		FY2021		FY2020	
	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective
Civil						
General Civil	539	90%	534	80%	592	88%
Unemployment	122	94%	64	83%	77	92%
Family	201	99%	200	97%	191	100%
Other	88	100%	60	98%	97	100%
Total Civil	950	93%	858	86%	957	92%
Criminal						
Criminal	543	66%	702	44%	892	52%
Juvenile Protection						
Protection	87	100%	61	100%	87	99%
Juv. Delinquency						
Delinquency	17	88%	18	94%	15	100%
Total Cases*	1597	84%	1,639	68%	1,951	74%

* 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 98% of all cases within 365 days of case filing, substantially better than the ABA standard of disposing of 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 95% 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, FY2020-FY2022

Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 365 Days of Filing From Filing to Disposition Goal = 90% of Cases						
	FY2022		FY2021		FY2020	
	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective
Civil						
General Civil	539	98%	534	96%	592	98%
Unemployment	122	100%	64	100%	77	100%
Family	201	100%	200	100%	191	100%
Other	88	100%	60	98%	97	100%
Total Civil	950	99%	858	97%	957	99%
Criminal						
Criminal	543	95%	702	78%	892	88%
Juvenile Protection						
Protection	87	100%	61	100%	87	100%
Juv. Delinquency						
Delinquency	17	94%	18	100%	15	100%
Total Cases*	1597	98%	1,639	89%	1,951	94%

* 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 studied 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, 2021-June 30, 2022 (FY2022)" 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, 2021 - June 30, 2022 (FY 2022)

"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 October 14, 2022, and the average number of days to do so.

Figure 2.21: Supreme Court Timing Standards, Fiscal Year 2022

Supreme Court Time Standards											
Performance Report: Cases Submitted July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 (FY2022)											
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	41%	75	55	66%	N/A	28	34%	83	68
<i>All case types: submission to disposition</i>	120	40	55.5%	180	58	80.5%	N/A	14	19%	72	131
<i>Discretionary: PFR filing to disposition</i>	50	206	46%	60	373	83%	N/A	76	17%	449	51
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): PFR filing to disposition</i>	25	15	94%	25	15	94%	N/A	1	6%	16	23
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): submission to circulation of majority</i>	20	1	100%	30	1	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	16
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): submission to disposition</i>	45	N/A	N/A	60	1	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	50

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 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 DQ reports. The DQ Team launched the DQ Portal, a Power BI report, that effectively and aesthetically presents all weekly DQ reports to users in one area. Additionally, the DQ Team reviewed current reports to ensure local level review was still necessary. Many reports were retired from weekly local review and are now monitored annually by the DQ Team.

“...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*

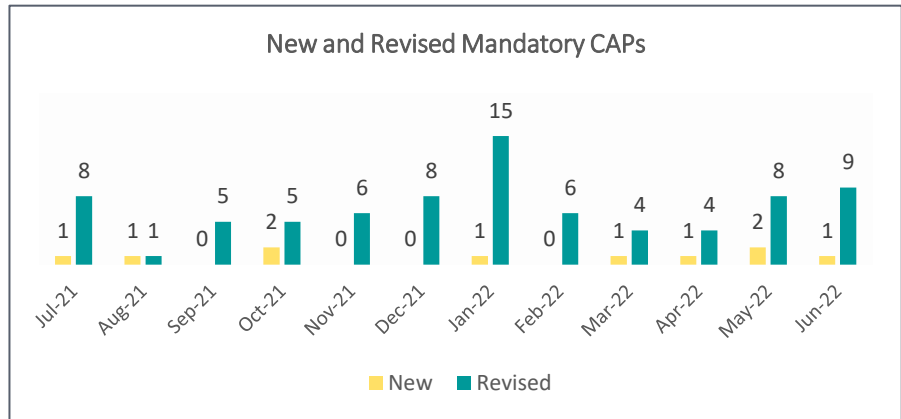
The DQ Team, which is responsible for routine statewide monitoring of all data quality performance, continued to identify and address statewide trends and worked with the Education Team and the Coordinator Team to develop new training for judges and staff to increase comprehension of the nuances associated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

Mandatory Court Administration Processes (CAPs) and compliance monitoring of these mandatory processes is another data quality focus. Each CAP is drafted with input and testing from local court administration representatives, as well as state court administration members, including representatives from the Legal Counsel Division. Eighty-nine (89) new and revised CAPs were published during FY22. Upon publication of each CAP, the processes become mandatory and must be followed statewide.

Each fiscal year, an updated CAPs Compliance Monitoring Plan is developed and approved by a statewide committee. The plan details what processes the DQ 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.

Figure 3.1: Total Mandatory Court Administration Process (CAPs), FY2022

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



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 next district court Access and Fairness Survey is scheduled for fall 2023.
- ◆ Statewide, the mean score for the excellence statement in the Fairness section of the survey was 4.2, the same as it was in the 2008 and 2013 surveys. In 2019, 81% of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, which is the highest level of agreement within the Fairness section.

The measure for the Excellence goal is the final statement in the Fairness section of the Access and Fairness Survey: “I know what to do next in my case.” The Fairness section of the survey is targeted to respondents who answered “Yes” to the question “Did you appear in front of a judicial officer today?” Overall, eighty-one percent (81%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Complete results for the 2019 Access and Fairness survey are available to members of the Judicial Branch on CourtNet.

Figure 4.1: Access and Fairness Survey Responses to Excellence Question 2019

Excellence									
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree or Strongly Agree	Mean	(N)
Q 15	I know what to do next about my case.	4%	3%	12%	36%	45%	81%	4.2	3,024

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 most recent district court Access and Fairness Surveys were completed in 2019. The next district court Access and Fairness Survey is scheduled for fall 2023.
- ◆ The Access and Fairness survey for appellate courts found district court judges with high levels of agreement for issues of fairness for both appellate courts.
- ◆ 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.

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 FY22 jury pool most closely mirror their share in the adult population. Black, Asian, and Hispanic jurors in the FY22 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 FY22 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, 2021. 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 FY22. 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 FY2022

	Minnesota	1st District	2nd District	3rd District	4th District	5th District	6th District	7th District	8th District	9th District	10th District
Jurors	45,934	5,235	5,490	3,599	9,708	2,060	2,990	6,008	2,246	2,657	5,941

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 1.7% 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 Black or African

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.

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

Figure 5.4: FY2022 Juror Race and Ethnicity Compared to 2021 Adult Population

	American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian or Pacific Islander		Black or African American		Hispanic*		Multiracial		White	
	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors
Minnesota	0.9%	0.8%	5.0%	3.5%	6.1%	2.7%	4.7%	2.9%	1.5%	1.6%	81.9%	88.5%
1 st District	0.5%	0.6%	4.7%	3.1%	4.9%	2.6%	5.5%	3.2%	1.3%	1.9%	83.2%	88.6%
2 nd District	0.5%	0.4%	13.6%	11.2%	11.0%	6.0%	6.4%	4.5%	2.1%	2.3%	66.4%	75.6%
3 rd District	0.3%	0.5%	3.6%	1.8%	3.6%	1.4%	5.1%	3.8%	1.0%	0.7%	86.4%	91.8%
4 th District	0.6%	0.4%	7.2%	5.3%	11.7%	5.9%	5.7%	3.7%	2.0%	2.1%	72.8%	82.6%
5 th District	0.6%	0.9%	2.3%	1.1%	2.2%	0.8%	6.3%	3.4%	0.9%	1.0%	87.8%	92.8%
6 th District	2.4%	1.5%	1.0%	0.5%	1.4%	0.2%	1.5%	1.0%	1.6%	1.6%	92.0%	95.2%
7 th District	1.1%	0.9%	1.3%	0.7%	3.3%	0.5%	2.7%	1.5%	1.1%	1.1%	90.4%	95.3%
8 th District	0.8%	0.4%	1.0%	0.3%	1.6%	0.6%	5.8%	2.4%	0.8%	0.9%	90.1%	95.5%
9 th District	4.9%	3.9%	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	0.1%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	90.2%	92.5%
10 th District	0.6%	0.5%	4.1%	2.4%	4.5%	1.7%	3.5%	2.2%	1.4%	1.6%	85.8%	91.6%

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

Figure 5.5: FY2022 Juror Gender Compared to 2021 Adult Population

Figure 5.5, at right, shows juror gender data compared to adult population estimates. Statewide, gender data were missing from just 1.6% of jurors; those jurors are not included in these percentages. Female jurors are slightly over-represented statewide, and all districts except the 8th had a higher percentage of female jurors than were in the adult population.

	Female		Male	
	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors	2021 Adult Pop.	FY22 Jurors
Minnesota	50.2%	51.1%	49.8%	48.9%
1 st District	50.6%	51.7%	49.4%	48.3%
2 nd District	51.6%	51.7%	48.4%	48.3%
3 rd District	50.3%	51.6%	49.7%	48.4%
4 th District	50.6%	51.5%	49.4%	48.5%
5 th District	49.7%	49.8%	50.3%	50.2%
6 th District	49.5%	50.9%	50.5%	49.1%
7 th District	49.7%	52.0%	50.3%	48.0%
8 th District	49.3%	48.6%	50.7%	51.4%
9 th District	49.6%	49.7%	50.4%	50.3%
10 th District	49.6%	50.1%	50.4%	49.9%

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 exceeded statewide for Major Criminal and Minor 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 25% in Juvenile Petty and Traffic cases to 90% in Juvenile Delinquency 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, FY2022

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.

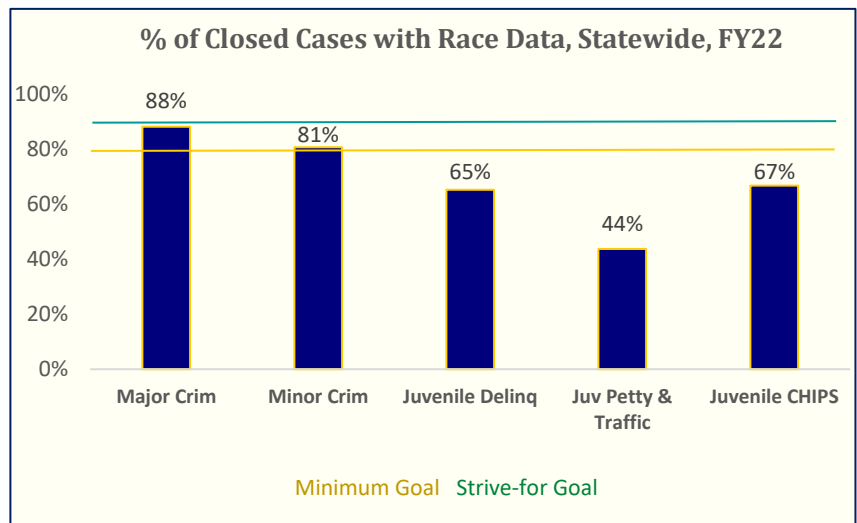


Figure 5.6 shows that for Major Criminal and Minor Criminal cases, 81% or more were closed with race data reported statewide in FY22. The ‘strive-for’ goal of 90% of closed cases with race data was not met for Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency, or Juvenile Protection cases. Further, the minimum goal of 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 (44%) of Juvenile Petty and Traffic cases, 65% of Juvenile Delinquency cases, and 67% of Juvenile CHIPS cases were closed with race data in FY22.

Figure 5.7: Race Data Collection Rates on Closed Cases, Statewide, FY2020 – FY2022

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

Figure 5.7 shows the percentage of closed cases with race data, by case type, for the last three 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 declined across all case types over the last three fiscal years. The largest decline was in Juvenile Petty and Traffic

cases, which dropped from 81% of closed cases with race data in FY20 to 44% in FY22. The decline in race data collection corresponds to a significant change in the collection process made necessary by remote hearings. In response to the decline, State Court Administration is analyzing new methods to improve the remote hearing race data collection process, including a statewide eCheckIn tool to improve the hearing check-in process and ensure that important ‘up front’ administrative work is complete before the hearing, including collection of race and ethnicity data.

Figure 5.8: Race Data Collection Rates, Closed Cases, by District, FY2022

% of Closed Cases with Race Data (July, 2021 – June, 2022)					
Dist	Major Criminal	Minor Criminal	Juvenile Delinquency	Juvenile Petty & Traffic	Juvenile CHIPS
1	92%	81%	82%	58%	80%
2	84%	68%	67%	57%	84%
3	86%	75%	58%	42%	64%
4	93%	93%	90%	64%	89%
5	88%	78%	61%	43%	61%
6	86%	74%	54%	41%	50%
7	91%	78%	57%	32%	52%
8	91%	80%	69%	43%	72%
9	88%	76%	52%	38%	67%
10	81%	70%	52%	25%	46%
State	88%	81%	65%	44%	67%

All race data collection rates by district were at 80% or above for Major Criminal cases in FY22, with four districts exceeding the ‘strive-for’ goal of 90%.

There was variation among districts in race data collection rates across all other case types. Results ranged from 25% of Juvenile Petty and Traffic cases closed with race data in the 10th District to 93% of Minor

Criminal 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 FY22, by district/Minnesota Judicial Center (MJC), ranged from a low of 8.0% in the 8th District to a high of 17.8% in the 6th District.
- ◆ Retirements and resignations together comprised 92% of all separations in FY22.
- ◆ The total Branch separation rate for FY22 (14.1%) increased from FY21 (9.3%).

Figure 6.1: Separation Rates by District and MJC, FY2022

FY2022 (July 2021-June 2022)										
District/ MJC	Retirement		Resignation*		Dismissal**		Layoff		Total Separations	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	10.4	4.4%	21.5	9.0%	1.0	0.4%	0	0%	32.9	13.8%
2	7.0	3.3%	17.4	8.2%	3.0	1.4%	0	0%	27.4	12.9%
3	3.0	1.8%	12.0	7.2%	0.0	0.0%	0	0%	15.0	9.0%
4	17.8	3.6%	58.6	11.9%	8.0	1.6%	0	0%	84.3	17.1%
5	4.0	3.4%	9.0	7.7%	2.0	1.7%	0	0%	15.0	12.8%
6	1.5	1.3%	17.1	14.8%	2.0	1.7%	0	0%	20.6	17.8%
7	7.0	3.7%	14.5	7.6%	3.0	1.6%	0	0%	24.5	12.8%
8	3.0	4.8%	2.0	3.2%	0.0	0.0%	0	0%	5.0	8.0%
9	9.0	5.5%	16.5	10.0%	2.0	1.2%	0	0%	27.5	16.7%
10	12.0	3.8%	35.1	11.1%	2.0	0.6%	0	0%	49.1	15.5%
MJC***	14.0	3.1%	37.0	8.2%	4.0	0.9%	0	0%	55.0	12.1%
Total	88.7	3.5%	240.6	9.5%	27.0	1.1%	0	0%	356.3	14.1%

= 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 FY22 (356.3) increased by 55% over FY21 (229.9). The variation by location in the total number of FTEs separated ranged from 5.0 FTEs in the 8th District to 84.3 FTEs in the 4th District.

Voluntary separations - retirements and resignations - accounted for 92% of the FTEs leaving the Branch in FY22, while dismissals accounted for the remaining 8% of separations.

Figure 6.2: Total Separation Rates by District and MJC, FY2018 – FY2022

District/ MJC	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
1	5.5%	8.8%	11.9%	10.2%	13.8%
2	14.6%	9.3%	12.2%	11.9%	12.9%
3	8.4%	17.6%	5.2%	10.3%	9.0%
4	11.9%	13.2%	9.5%	8.6%	17.1%
5	9.0%	8.0%	10.0%	11.5%	12.8%
6	9.5%	16.2%	9.4%	5.9%	17.8%
7	7.6%	3.3%	9.0%	11.6%	12.8%
8	6.9%	8.8%	4.5%	9.7%	8.0%
9	7.4%	10.7%	7.7%	7.7%	16.7%
10	11.1%	9.0%	9.8%	8.1%	15.5%
MJC	9.2%	7.0%	6.8%	8.8%	12.1%
Total	9.7%	10.0%	8.9%	9.3%	14.1%
<i>Total # Separations</i>	231.5	253.6	224.8	229.9	356.3

The statewide separation rate in FY22 increased by over 50% from the previous fiscal year to the highest separation rate in five fiscal years (14%). FY22 separation rates for seven districts and MJC were also the highest in five fiscal years and ranged from 8% in the 8th District to 18% in the 6th District.

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 14.1% for the Branch was roughly estimated at 1.2% per month, compared to U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics figures for State and Local government employees (excluding education) of 1.9% separations in June, 2022⁶.

Figure 6.3: Total Separation Rates Statewide, FY2008 – FY2022

Figure 6.3 shows the statewide separation rate from FY08 to FY22. Following a low of 4% in FY10, there have been regular periods of increase in the separation rate. The separation rate in FY22 (14%) was the highest in fifteen years. The rise was driven by a significant increase in the resignation rate from FY21 to FY22.

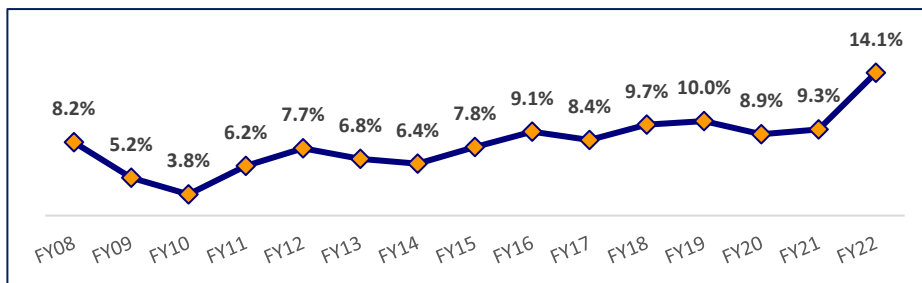


Figure 6.4: Statewide Separation Rates by Type, FY2018 – FY2022

As shown in Figure 6.4, the overall separation rate in FY22 increased from the previous year. The largest percentage increase in separation rate from FY21 to FY22 was in the Resignation category. The separation rate for Retirements decreased slightly from FY21 (3.7% in FY21 to 3.5% in FY22).

Separation Type	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Retirement	3.8%	3.8%	3.0%	3.7%	3.5%
Resignation	4.7%	5.3%	4.7%	4.9%	9.5%
Dismissal	1.3%	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%	1.1%
Layoff	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	9.7%	10.0%	8.9%	9.3%	14.1%

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 Quality Court Workplace (QCW) Survey was conducted for the fourth time from January 22 to February 10, 2021. Previous rounds of the survey were completed in 2008, 2012, and 2016.
- ◆ 2,108 employees and 266 judges/justices participated in their respective QCW surveys in 2021; response rates were 76% and 83% respectively. The 2021 QCW survey generated the largest number of responses and highest response rates, for both employees and judges/justices, compared to previous survey years.
- ◆ 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).
- ◆ Employee QCW survey results were the highest in 2021 compared to all previous survey years. All six index category scores were highest in 2021, and 30 out of 31 statements had the same or higher mean score in 2021 compared to 2016, 2012, and 2008.

The QCW survey is adapted from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) CourTools Court Employee Satisfaction survey. The QCW survey is comprised of two surveys, one for employees and one for judges/justices. The survey contained 31 statements for employees, and 25 statements for judges/justices, with responses ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. Results are shown below along with the mean score for each statement. The statements and results are broken into six Index areas (e.g. Supervision and Management, Work Conditions), and into two types of statements – Environmental Factors Leading to Dissatisfaction and Motivational Factors Leading to Satisfaction. More information describing these two types of statements is available on CourtNet.

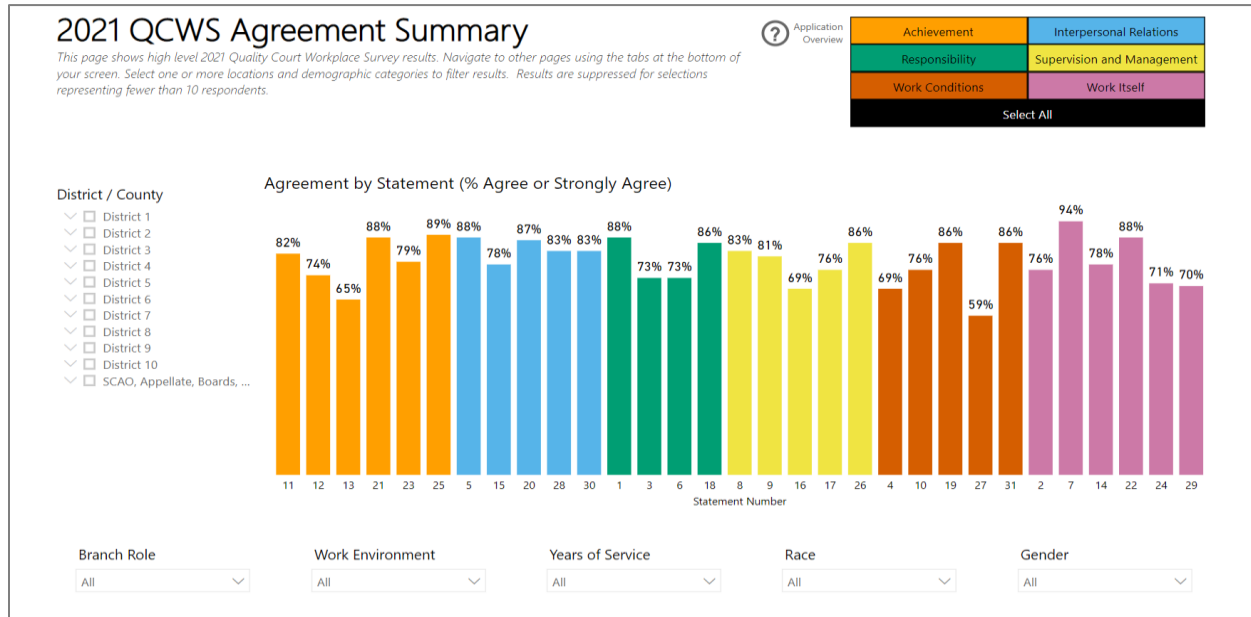
Complete results of the survey are also available on CourtNet for judges and staff to review dashboards of results, written survey analysis presented to the Judicial Council, and an overview of results presented to the Judicial Council.

The 2021 QCW survey generated 2,108 employee responses and 266 judge/justice responses between January 22 and February 10, 2021.

Employees

QCW survey employee results were the highest in 2021. 30 out of 31 statements had the same or higher mean score in 2021 compared to 2016, 2012, and 2008, and 27 statements had the same or higher agreement level (the percentage who agree or strongly agree) in 2021 compared to all previous survey years.

Figure 6.5: Example of Employee Quality Court Workplace Survey Dashboard of Results



Statewide results for seven of the 31 statements with the highest levels of agreement and/or mean scores in 2021 appear in Figure 6.6, ranked according to the percentage of employee respondents who agree or strongly agree. Agreement levels and mean scores for all statements from the employee survey are available through interactive dashboards on CourtNet. An example of results from the interactive dashboards is shown in Figure 6.5.

Figure 6.6: 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
1	My work unit looks for ways to improve processes and procedures.	0%	3%	9%	45%	43%	88%	4.3
21	On my job, I know exactly what is expected of me.	1%	2%	9%	51%	37%	88%	4.2
26	My supervisor is available when I have questions or need help.	1%	3%	10%	37%	49%	86%	4.3

Employees, cont.

The different colors of mean scores on reports represent an objective assessment of how good/poor a score is by using a framework created by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). As shown here, if you see a score using green text, that means that by the NCSC standard, your workplace is “Doing a good job” on that measure.

Greater than 4.0, Doing a good job **Between 3.5 to 4.0, Doing OK** **Less than 3.5, Needs Improvement**

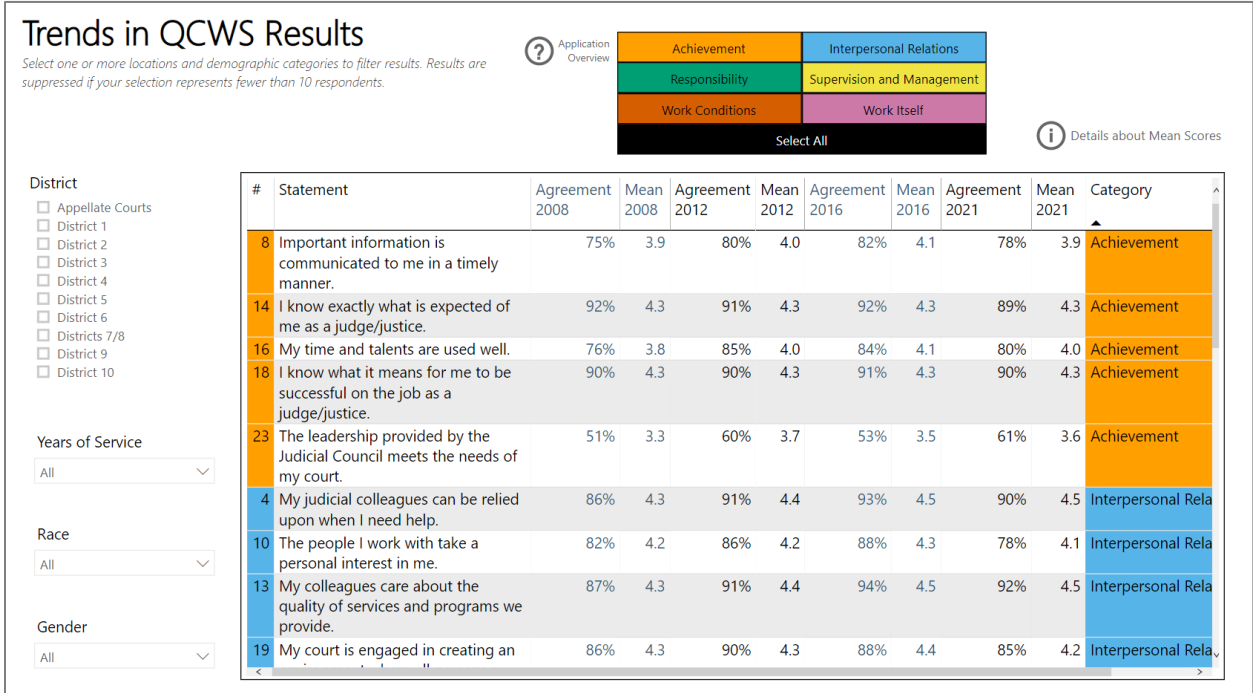
The statement with the highest level of disagreement on the survey was “I am able to keep up with my workload without feeling overwhelmed.” (20% disagree or strongly disagree, 3.5 mean score).

To respond to the findings in the employee survey, each local district, court, and office will be engaging in an employee-centered campaign focused on a specific issue of interest and benefit to their local employees. Districts/courts/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. Employee-centered campaigns in several districts/courts/offices are already underway.

Judges

QCW survey judge/justice results were similar or slightly lower than previous years, but higher than employees on most statements in common. Of the 25 statements on the judge/justice survey, 15 had a lower mean score in 2021 compared to 2016, eight were the same, and two were higher. 19 out of 25 statements showed lower levels of agreement in 2021 compared to 2016, while six were higher.

Figure 6.7: Example of Judge/Justice Quality Court Workplace Survey Dashboard of Results



Judges, cont.

Statewide results for five of the 25 statements with the highest levels of agreement and/or mean scores in 2021 appear in Figure 6.8, ranked according to the percentage of judge/justice respondents who agree or strongly agree. Agreement levels and mean scores for all statements from the judge/justice survey are available through interactive dashboards on CourtNet. An example of results from the interactive dashboard is shown in Figure 6.7.

Figure 6.8: 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
4	My judicial colleagues can be relied upon when I need help.	1%	2%	7%	25%	65%	90%	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/justice survey results, the Human Resources/Education and Organization Development (HR/EOD) Committee of the Minnesota Judicial Council directed that a follow-up survey of district court judges, Court of Appeals judges, and Supreme Court justices be conducted. The purpose of the 13-question survey was to examine the workplace experiences of judges/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 judicial officers. HR/EOD will lead a session on addressing judicial wellness and workload through affinity groups at an upcoming Bridging the Gap conference. Additionally, HR/EOD is examining strategies to improve demographic responses on the QCW survey which will result in recommendations for future QCW surveys.

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 2022 includes data from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This number is also referred to as FY2022, FY22.

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>
---	---

Child's Name	Race	Hispanic
List each child.	Circle response(s)	
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 FY2022 and include trends back to FY2008. Juror information comes from the jury management system and includes jurors from FY2022 compared to results of the most recent Census Population Estimates (most recent estimates reflect the population on July 1, 2021).

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.