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PERFORMANCE MEASURES  
KEY RESULTS AND MEASURES  
ANNUAL REPORT

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September 2021



MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL  
BRANCH

Prepared by State Court Administrator's Office  
Court Services Division, Research & Evaluation

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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*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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the courts. 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.

## **COVID-19 AND PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS**

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The Minnesota Judicial Branch and statewide court operations were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in fiscal years 2020 (FY20) and 2021 (FY21).

In early March 2020, Chief Justice Gildea, in consultation with the Minnesota Judicial Council, issued a series of orders that suspended most in-person court proceedings, limited public access to court facilities, and restricted courthouse service windows to only telephone and email support.

In the months that followed, the Judicial Branch undertook numerous efforts to maintain access to justice for the people of Minnesota during the pandemic. This included:

- Conducting most district and appellate court hearings through remote (online) hearing technology;
- Implementing a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in all courthouse locations before slowly resuming in-person court services and a limited number of in-person court proceedings; and
- New health and safety guidelines for in-person jury trials.

Efforts to protect the health and safety of courthouse visitors continued into FY21 and have allowed the Judicial Branch to maintain essential court operations through the COVID-19 pandemic. However, these unprecedented efforts have created significant challenges to the Judicial Branch's timeliness goals. As will be evident throughout the annual report, several Key Results and Measures in FY21 continue to be impacted by the pandemic.

**POSITIVE PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS BY GOAL**

**Access to Justice**

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

- Over 6,000 Access & Fairness Surveys were collected across all courthouses between December 2018 and March 2019.
- Nine out of ten respondents agreed or strongly agreed to four of the ten statements in the Access portion of the survey.
- Over 2,000 court users were also surveyed if they used the public website, paid a citation online, or used the phone to access the Court Payment Center (CPC).
- Eight out of ten respondents to the CPC online survey agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “The hours that the Minnesota Court web payment site was available made it easy for me to do my business.”

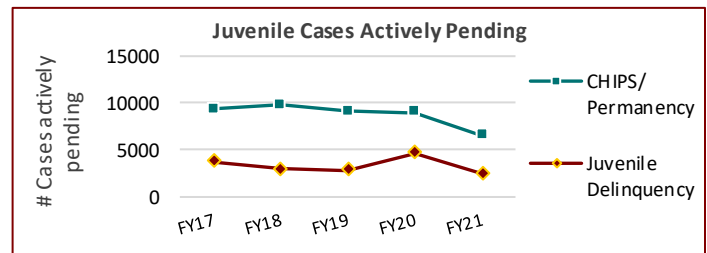
Access & Fairness Survey - Access Statements	% Strongly Agree/ Agree	N
Finding the courthouse was easy.	91%	5,859
I was treated with courtesy and respect.	89%	5,855
I felt safe in the courthouse.	89%	5,861
It was easy to find the courtroom or office I needed.	88%	5,823

**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.

Case Group	Clearance Rates	
	FY20	FY21
Major Crim	80%	85%
Major Civil	97%	102%
Prob/MH	95%	98%
Family	101%	100%
Juvenile	91%	123%
Minor Civil	97%	99%
Minor Crim	95%	103%
<b>State</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>102%</b>

◆ Clearance Rates improved in FY21 compared to FY20 in six case groups – Major Criminal, Major Civil, Probate/Mental Health, Juvenile (Delinquency and CHIPS/Permanency), Minor Civil, and Minor Criminal. The statewide Clearance Rate in FY21 for all case groups combined was 102%, also an improvement over the previous fiscal year (95% in FY20). (100% means as many cases were disposed in a year as were newly filed.)



- ◆ The number of Juvenile (Delinquency and CHIPS/Permanency) cases actively pending (excludes dormant and on warrant) at the end of FY21 decreased as a result of higher Clearance Rates in FY21. The number of actively pending cases dropped 34% in Juvenile Delinquency and 30% in CHIPS/Permanency from FY17 to FY21.

- ◆ In FY21, the Court of Appeals exceeded the timing objective by disposing more than 75% of Civil, Juvenile Protection, and Juvenile Delinquency cases within 290 days of filing. Across all Court of Appeals case categories, 89% of cases disposed met the 365-day objective (goal is 90%).

Case Group	99 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Objective (Months)	FY21 % Cases Disposed at 99 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Major Civil	24	99%
Dissolutions	24	99%
Domestic Abuse	4	99%

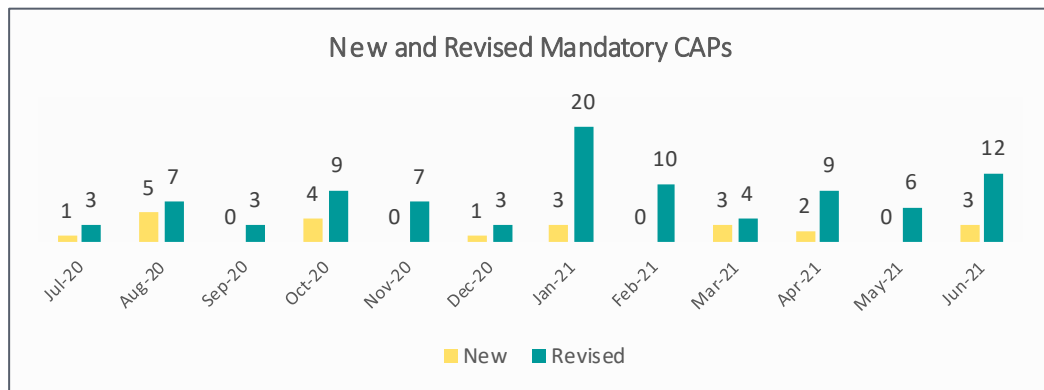
- ◆ Statewide Time to Disposition results in FY21 met the timing objectives for Major Civil, Dissolution (with and without child), and Domestic Abuse cases.

- ◆ In FY21, more than 80% of children reached permanency by 18 months in five districts, and more than 90% of children reach permanency by 18 months in one district (goal = 99%). One district had more than 60% of children reach adoption within 24 months of removal from the home (goal = 60%). (See pages 26-27 for details.)

### 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. 115 (new and revised) CAPs were published during FY21.

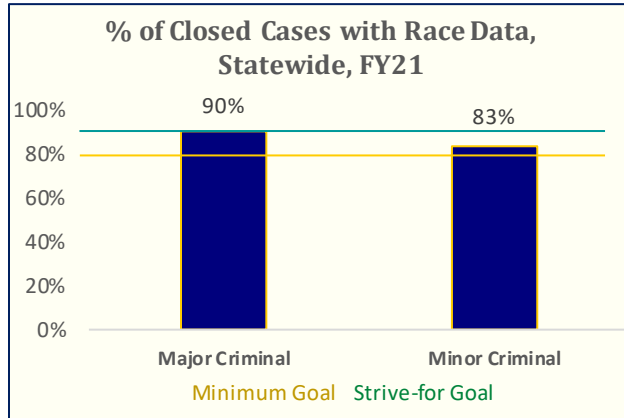




### Fairness and Equity

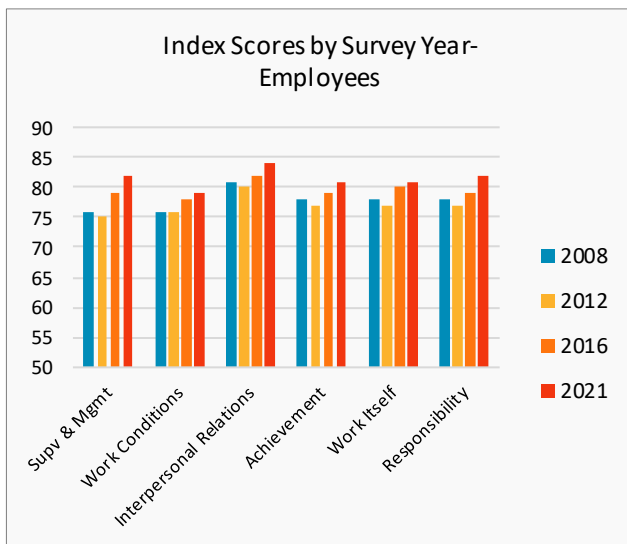
Measures for this goal area include juror representativeness, statements from the Access and Fairness survey, and race data collection rates.

- ◆ Nearly all 23,069 jurors who reported for service in FY21 returned the Juror Questionnaire and completed race information (99%). Of all racial groups, American Indian and multiracial jurors in the statewide FY21 jury pool most closely mirrored their share in the adult population of the communities in Minnesota.
- ◆ In FY21, the minimum goal of having 80% of closed cases with race information recorded was exceeded statewide for Major Criminal and Minor Criminal cases, and the ‘strive-for’ goal of 90% of closed cases with race data collected was met for Major Criminal cases.



### Quality Court Workplace Environment

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



- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Results of the employee Quality Court Workplace Survey were the highest in 2021 compared to all previous survey years (2016, 2012, and 2008).
- ◆ 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 or strongly agree). The highest level of agreement among judges/justices was: “I am proud that I work in my court” (96% agree or strongly agree).

**POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONCERN**

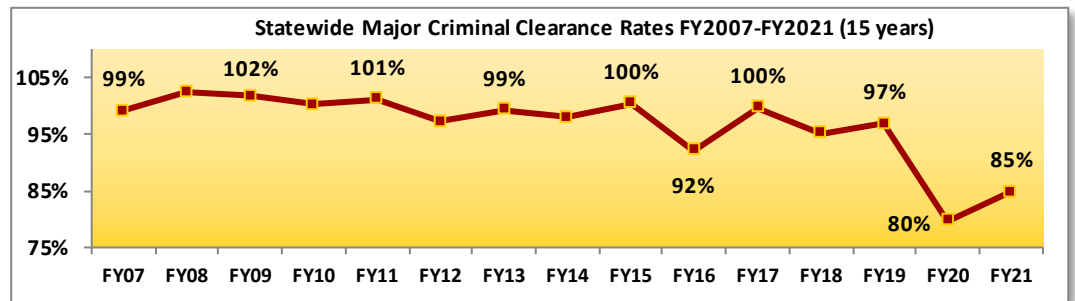
The measures in this section show possible areas of concern, but do not necessarily reflect poor performance.

**Access to Justice**

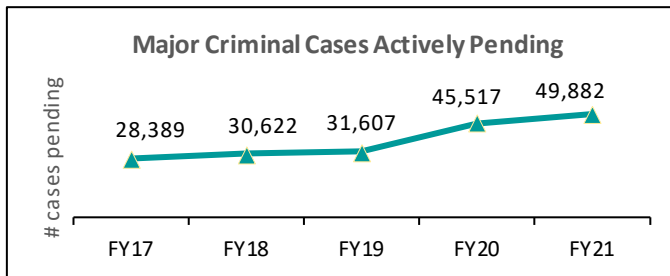
- ◆ Responses to the 2019 courthouse survey suggested that wait times were a significant issue. Agreement levels were lowest all three times the Access & Fairness Survey was conducted for: “I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time.” In the most recent survey, the number one suggestion for improving court experience was “Less of a wait at the courthouse.” (47% selected this option.)

**Timeliness**

- ◆ In FY21, the Major Criminal Clearance Rate was the second lowest in 15 years (85%). A backlog of Major Criminal cases has resulted from

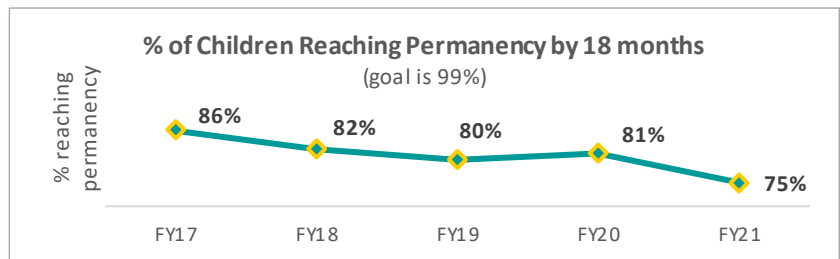


Clearance Rates being below 100% for four of the last five years; the number of pending cases has increased 76% from about 28,400 cases in FY17 to nearly 49,900 cases in FY21.

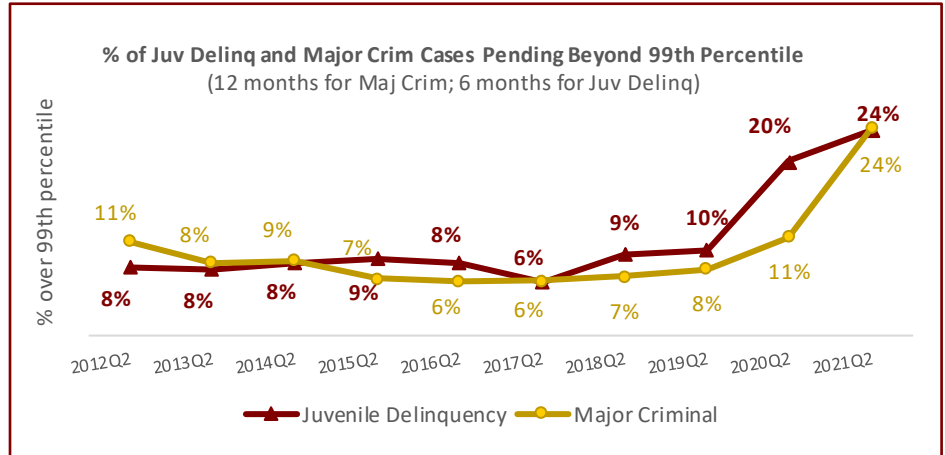


- ◆ The number of Major Criminal cases actively pending (excludes dormant and on warrant) worsened as a result of the pandemic and increased by 58%, from about 31,600 cases at the end of FY19 to nearly 49,900 pending cases at the end of FY21.

- ◆ The goal of having 99% of children reach permanency by 18 months was not met in FY21. The result of 75% in FY21 was the lowest in five fiscal years.



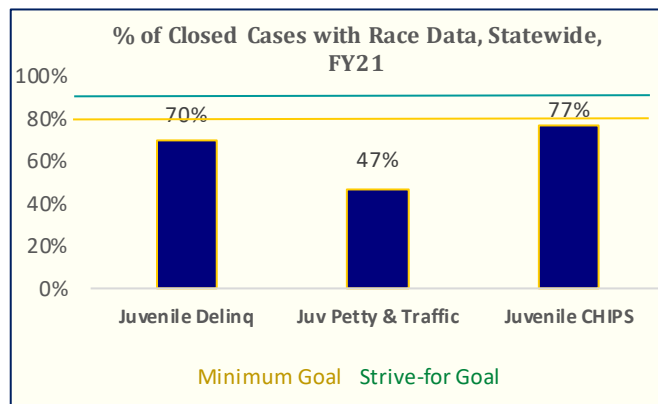
- ◆ The percentage of Juvenile Delinquency and Major Criminal cases pending beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile objective was 24% statewide (lower is better) as of 7/2/2021. This result was the highest percentage of Juvenile Delinquency and Major Criminal cases pending beyond the timing objective within the last decade.



**Fairness and Equity**

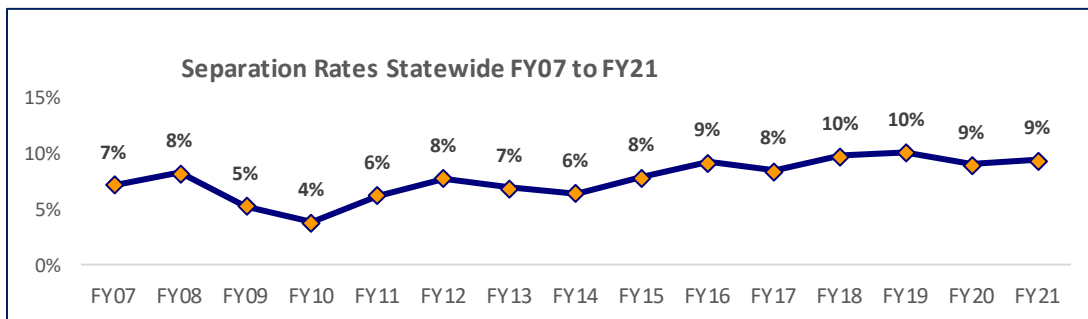
- ◆ Statewide, and to varying degrees across districts, Black, Asian, and Hispanic jurors in the FY21 jury pool are under-represented compared to their share in the adult population.

- ◆ The minimum goal of having 80% of closed cases with race information recorded was not met for Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty/Traffic, or Juvenile CHIPS case types. Results ranged from 47% in Juvenile Petty/Traffic cases to 77% in Juvenile CHIPS cases. The decline in race data collection corresponds to a significant change in the collection process made necessary by remote hearings.



**Quality Court Workplace Environment**

- ◆ There have been regular periods of increase in the separation rate since FY10. Although the separation rate of 9% in FY21 may not be a concern by itself, the increasing rates of separation



point to the need for more recruitment, hiring and training of new employees.

## 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 2021 and oral reports are to be given in September 2021.
- ◆ Reviewing results of performance measures has become routine at bench meetings and within court administration.

### DISTRICT COURT REVIEW RESULTS

The reviews of performance measure results by districts from the March 2021 written reports were directed to highlight specific remote hearing strategies to promote and/or improve performance measure results. Since March 2021, some districts may have had to shift away from the plans or practices reported due to the pandemic.

Specific examples of these reviews include:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> District presented districtwide training for judge teams and administrative staff on effective remote hearings, added public access terminals/technology at each courthouse for the public to participate in zoom hearings, and scheduled regular meetings with justice partners to discuss how remote hearings could be improved.
- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, scheduling conferences were utilized to consolidate cases by defendant. This reduced the overall number of hearings and resulted in unified resolutions for defendants in criminal cases.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> District noted that all counties had been calendaring remote hearings on all case types. In addition, the district had been utilizing unused jury trial sessions to set pleas from the pre-trial calendar for cases where parties were close to case resolution, which resulted in case dispositions.

*“Criminal division judges, in partnership with county leadership and our justice partners, have significantly improved hearing appearance rates during the pandemic from less than 30% to over 70%. This can be attributed to making technology available at the courthouse and in the community for defendants to use to attend Zoom hearings, and work with the county and the community to promote hearings and scheduling.”*

*2<sup>nd</sup> District*

*“Document sharing in real-time is a critical piece of remote technology we are still trying to make efficient on mandatory calendars. We are promoting the use of SharePoint and signing queues to make the flow of paperwork more efficient.”*

*4<sup>th</sup> District*

- The 4<sup>th</sup> District reported that civil, probate/mental health, and family hearings were being held remotely, in addition to most hearings on juvenile delinquency and neglect cases. Additionally, individual appearances on judge calendars were being held remotely in the criminal division, which had been working well using Zoom.

- The 5<sup>th</sup> District reported that remote hearings were being held in all case types and proceedings except jury trials, and that staff had worked diligently with customers and stakeholders to encourage and educate participants on the use of Zoom. Strategies used across different courts included organizing Zoom sessions by prosecutor and public defender to streamline admittance of parties to hearings and allowing extra time during block sessions for the defense counsel to speak with their clients (in breakout rooms) in an effort to resolve cases faster.

*"The district is hosting Zoom practice sessions twice weekly.... These sessions are being offered as an opportunity for hearing participants to check their connectivity and practice logging into the sessions. We hope that this will improve hearing appearance rates with a goal of resolving more cases."*

*5<sup>th</sup> District*

- The 6<sup>th</sup> District enhanced its remote access point rooms. The enhancement included Zoom testing sessions, which allowed the public to join a practice Zoom session with staff, days prior to their hearing, to test out internet connections and become familiar with Zoom. If litigants' internet access was too poor for remote access from home, they were scheduled to use an onsite remote access point. The goal of the enhancement was to decrease remote calendar time by identifying problematic connections before the calendar begins.

*The 6<sup>th</sup> District "hosted a community and case specific remote blitz calendar in hopes it would impact clearance rates in major criminal.... This event led to the highest number of dispositions and clearance rate the district had experienced in the cases since the start of the pandemic. It was a significant success and is now being implemented in each service area..."*

- In the 7<sup>th</sup> District, Zoom carts were purchased for judges and computer tablets were purchased for court administration offices to be used by parties without a device to participate and connect to remote hearings. In addition, Benton and Mille Lacs counties explored the use of webcams on the witness stand for public viewing of jury trials due to space limitations within the courtroom for members of the public.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> District planned to ensure availability of tablets in courthouses for members of the public without the appropriate technology, install virtual technology equipment in all courtrooms to facilitate hybrid appearances, and convert desktop computers to laptops for all staff to accommodate remote work when appropriate and necessary.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> District hired two temporary referees to assist with minor cases districtwide using Zoom. In addition, many counties in the district adjusted their calendars for more efficient handling of remote hearings by creating separate calendars for: defendants with complex or multiple cases, interpreter cases, public defender cases, and private attorney cases.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> District increased efficiencies with remote hearing technology and hired Senior Judges to assist with calendars. In addition, the district prepared for an end to the eviction moratorium, identifying specific strategies to handle the anticipated influx of eviction and conciliation court cases to be filed.

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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*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

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- ◆ The most recent Access and Fairness Survey was conducted in all courthouses in the state between December 2018 and March 2019, along with surveys of website users and Court Payment Center (CPC) customers. Two previous surveys were completed in 2008 and 2013.
- ◆ The next district court Access and Fairness Survey is tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2023.

Complete results of the survey are 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.

- Across each type/location of survey, the 2019 Access and Fairness survey generated 8,200 responses between December 2018 and March 2019.
  - 6,052 surveys were completed in courthouses statewide. This compared to 4,614 surveys in 2013 and 7,769 in 2008.
  - 841 surveys of CPC customers were completed over the phone.
  - 824 surveys of CPC customers were completed after paying a fine online.
  - 483 surveys of web visitors were completed on the MNCourts.gov website.

Statewide results from courthouse survey Access statements showed little change over 2013 and 2008 results, and generally fell within the National Center for State Court's "Doing a good job<sup>1</sup>" category.

- The highest levels of agreement in the Access section of the survey were for the following statements:
  - Finding the courthouse was easy (91% agreed/strongly agreed)
  - I was treated with courtesy and respect (89%)
  - I felt safe in the courthouse (89%)
  - It was easy to find the courtroom or office I needed (88%)
- Responses to the courthouse survey suggest that wait times are a significant issue.
  - Since 2008, the access statement "I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time" consistently received among the lowest levels of agreement.
- Responses throughout the different survey arms suggest a desire for more online services.
  - Since 2008, the courthouse access statement "I found the court's web site useful" has consistently received the lowest levels of agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> 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**.

The Access Index<sup>2</sup> score provides a composite measure of responses to all ten statements in the Access section of the survey. The statewide Access Index score was 83 (out of 100), compared to 84 in 2013 and 83 in 2008.

- Access Index scores by district ranged from 86 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts to 80 in the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

### ***MNCourts.gov Survey***

The Web survey generated 483 responses over the course of about two weeks. The most common reasons respondents reported visiting MNCourts.gov were obtaining information (44%) and searching for court records (38%). The majority (85%) of Web survey respondents reported being comfortable navigating the internet, as may be expected in a survey of on-line users.

### ***CPC Online Survey***

824 court customers who paid a fine online completed this survey.

In the past surveys, barriers to service were likely more related to physical accessibility of courthouses, ability to hear, or language barriers. Based on survey comments, respondents reported that a website that doesn't operate as they feel it should is a barrier to service.

Respondents aged 25-34 and 35-44 were the least likely to agree or strongly agree that "The Minnesota Court web payment site made reasonable efforts to remove physical and language barriers to service" (68% agreed or strongly agreed).

### ***CPC Phone Survey***

The CPC Phone survey was offered to court customers who called to get information about their citation or to pay a fine over the phone and was administered through the Sonant automated phone system. 824 court users completed this survey.

- Responses to the following Access questions were at the lower end of "Doing OK" based on the National Center for State Courts:
  - I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time (59% agreed/strongly agreed)
  - The hours the automated phone system is available made it easy for me to do business (60%)

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

## 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 FY21 filing counts fell 14% year-over-year from FY20 and 32% compared to FY17. The only increase, by category, from FY17 to FY21 was Major Probate (+15%). Juvenile cases (Delinquency and CHIPS/Permanency) had the largest decrease with 44% fewer filings in FY21 than in FY17, followed by a 36% decline in Minor Criminal cases, and a 29% 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	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	% Change FY20 to FY21	% Change FY17 to FY21
Serious Felony	1,368	1,319	1,357	1,490	1,550	4%	13%
Felony DWI	611	661	642	649	678	4%	11%
Other Felony	32,710	34,992	34,448	35,111	34,411	-2%	5%
Gross Misdemeanor DWI	13,822	14,200	14,079	13,011	11,541	-11%	-17%
Other Gross Misdemeanor	16,901	17,979	17,366	17,284	15,362	-11%	-9%
<b>Major Criminal Total:</b>	<b>65,412</b>	<b>69,151</b>	<b>67,892</b>	<b>67,545</b>	<b>63,542</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Personal Injury	2,489	2,395	2,310	2,345	2,109	-10%	-15%
Contract	6,762	6,790	7,113	8,852	6,786	-23%	0%
Wrongful Death	118	137	137	104	105	1%	-11%
Malpractice	113	76	67	96	103	7%	-9%
Property Damage	237	234	226	190	146	-23%	-38%
Condemnation	136	153	115	119	100	-16%	-26%
Conciliation Appeal	553	576	519	417	383	-8%	-31%
Harassment	11,187	11,955	11,727	11,294	12,047	7%	8%
Employment	331	346	390	339	290	-14%	-12%
Other Civil	9,067	8,317	8,016	7,329	6,206	-15%	-32%
<b>Major Civil Total:</b>	<b>30,993</b>	<b>30,979</b>	<b>30,620</b>	<b>31,085</b>	<b>28,275</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Trust	368	388	363	337	366	9%	-1%
Supervised Administration	274	272	245	265	275	4%	0%
Unsupervised Administration	3,098	3,151	3,215	3,007	3,656	22%	18%
Special Administration	266	255	243	261	328	26%	23%
Informal Probate	3,303	3,264	3,466	3,514	4,001	14%	21%
Estate/Other Probate	1,109	1,082	1,047	1,076	1,120	4%	1%
Guardianship/Conservatorship	2,701	2,751	2,993	2,757	2,906	5%	8%
Commitment	4,243	4,373	4,453	4,496	5,034	12%	19%
<b>Major Probate Total:</b>	<b>15,362</b>	<b>15,536</b>	<b>16,025</b>	<b>15,713</b>	<b>17,686</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>



**Filing Trends, Cont.**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>% Change FY20 to FY21</b>	<b>% Change FY17 to FY21</b>
Dissolution with Child	7,461	7,428	7,143	6,796	7,099	4%	-5%
Dissolution without Child	7,676	7,639	7,512	7,057	7,392	5%	-4%
Support	11,017	11,005	10,067	8,260	7,094	-14%	-36%
Adoption	1,492	1,721	1,788	1,547	1,570	1%	5%
Other Family	3,199	3,057	3,249	2,941	2,826	-4%	-12%
Domestic Abuse	10,964	10,819	10,586	10,094	10,010	-1%	-9%
<b>Major Family Total:</b>	<b>41,809</b>	<b>41,669</b>	<b>40,345</b>	<b>36,695</b>	<b>35,991</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-14%</b>
Delinquency Felony	3,714	3,692	3,528	3,705	2,950	-20%	-21%
Delinquency Gross Misdemeanor	1,413	1,452	1,447	1,435	883	-38%	-38%
Delinquency Misdemeanor	11,115	10,922	9,363	8,752	5,456	-38%	-51%
Status Offense	3,475	3,500	3,369	2,562	1,105	-57%	-68%
Dependency/Neglect	7,102	6,863	6,037	5,480	4,505	-18%	-37%
Permanency - TPR	2,537	2,884	2,633	2,443	1,903	-22%	-25%
Permanency - Non TPR	1,092	1,254	1,105	1,076	987	-8%	-10%
Truancy	2,280	1,773	1,800	1,104	647	-41%	-72%
Runaway	169	193	119	123	104	-15%	-38%
<b>Major Juvenile Total:</b>	<b>32,897</b>	<b>32,533</b>	<b>29,401</b>	<b>26,680</b>	<b>18,540</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>-44%</b>
Unlawful Detainer	17,953	17,439	17,594	13,642	2,331	-83%	-87%
Implied Consent	4,234	3,922	3,971	3,344	3,024	-10%	-29%
Transcript Judgment	19,487	23,446	27,041	20,368	14,053	-31%	-28%
Default Judgment	19,977	24,768	25,965	25,793	20,341	-21%	2%
Conciliation	50,693	55,072	52,640	45,702	40,267	-12%	-21%
<b>Minor Civil Total:</b>	<b>112,344</b>	<b>124,647</b>	<b>127,211</b>	<b>108,849</b>	<b>80,016</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-29%</b>
5th Degree Assault	12,573	12,784	12,128	12,544	11,515	-8%	-8%
Other Non-Traffic	113,254	110,633	102,644	101,999	82,519	-19%	-27%
Misdemeanor DWI	18,997	19,463	19,735	17,048	14,155	-17%	-25%
Other Traffic	614,240	579,148	516,894	454,572	395,879	-13%	-36%
Juvenile Traffic	6,306	6,410	5,713	4,884	4,801	-2%	-24%
Parking	363,823	359,026	335,961	245,547	214,719	-13%	-41%
<b>Minor Criminal Total:</b>	<b>1,129,193</b>	<b>1,087,464</b>	<b>993,075</b>	<b>836,594</b>	<b>723,588</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-36%</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>1,428,010</b>	<b>1,401,979</b>	<b>1,304,569</b>	<b>1,123,161</b>	<b>967,638</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-32%</b>

**CLEARANCE RATES**

- ◆ The statewide Clearance Rate for all case groups combined was 102% (Goal = 100% or above) in FY21.
- ◆ Juvenile (Delinquency and CHIPS/Permanency) cases had the highest Clearance Rate in FY21 at 123%, while Major Criminal cases had the lowest Clearance Rate at 85%.
- ◆ Lower Clearance Rates in the Major Criminal case group over the past five fiscal years have led to an increased number of cases pending in this area.

**Figure 2.1: Statewide Clearance Rates FY2017 – FY2021**

Case Group	Clearance Rates				
	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Major Crim	100%	95%	97%	80%	85%
Major Civil	105%	106%	101%	97%	102%
Prob/MH	99%	98%	98%	95%	98%
Family	102%	99%	99%	101%	100%
Juvenile	97%	97%	103%	91%	123%
Minor Civil	98%	99%	99%	97%	99%
Minor Crim	101%	105%	100%	95%	103%
<b>State</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>104%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>102%</b>

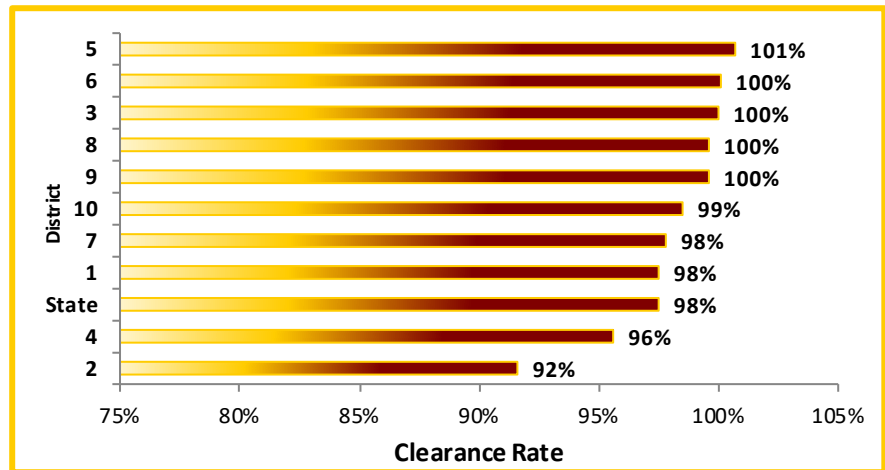
A Clearance Rate of 100% indicates a court is ‘keeping up’ with cases filed. A Clearance Rate under 100% indicates a possible growing backlog.

FY21 Clearance Rate results improved over FY20 in all case groups except Family, which dropped to 100% from 101% in FY20. The Clearance Rate in Major Criminal increased to 85% in FY21. This was an improvement over FY20 (80%), the lowest Clearance Rate result for Major Criminal in five fiscal years. Major Civil, Family, Juvenile (Delinquency and CHIPS/Permanency), and Minor

Criminal case groups maintained Clearance Rates at or above 100% in FY21.

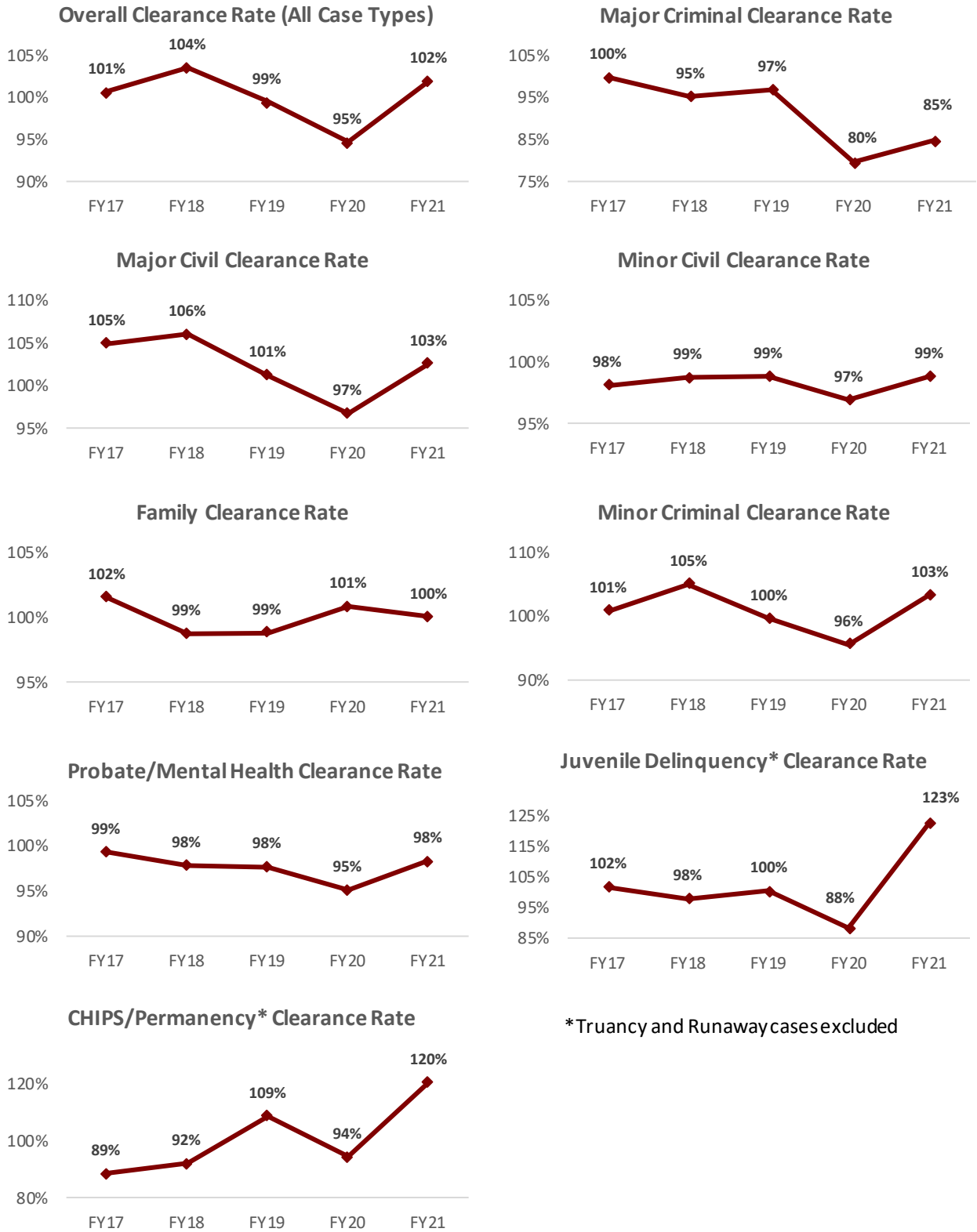
**Figure 2.2: Overall (Excluding Minor Criminal) Clearance Rates FY2021 by District**

Figure 2.2 shows that the overall FY21 Clearance Rates, excluding Minor Criminal, by district, were within 9% of each other, ranging from 92% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District to 101% in the 5<sup>th</sup> District.



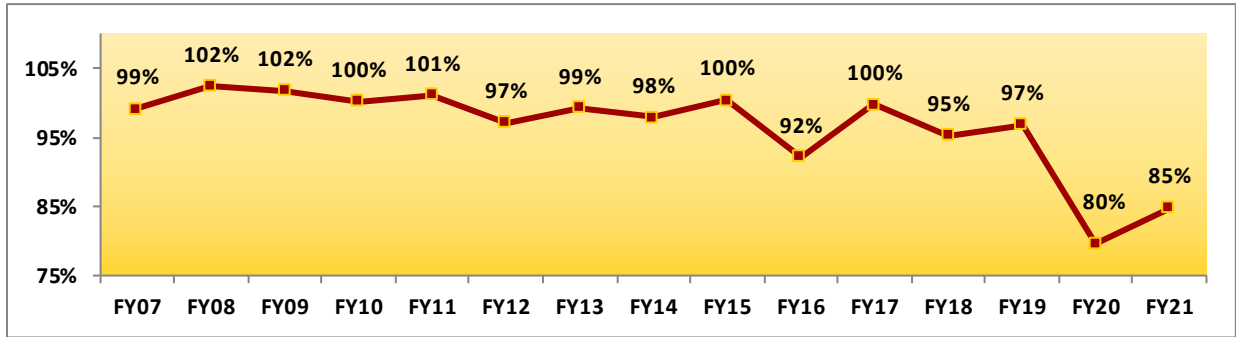
The graphs in Figure 2.3 (next page) show statewide Clearance Rates by case group for the past five fiscal years.

Figure 2.3: Statewide Clearance Rates FY2017 - FY2021, by Case Group



\*Truancy and Runaway cases excluded

Figure 2.4: Statewide Major Criminal Clearance Rates – FY2007-FY2021 (15 Years)



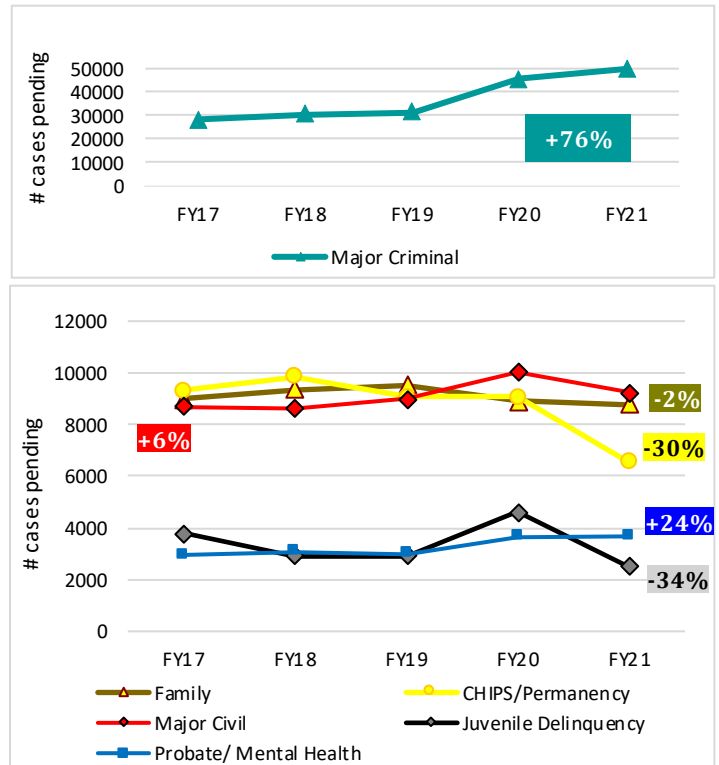
The Major Criminal Clearance Rate rose again in FY21 (85%) following a significant decline in FY20 (80%) due to impacts of the pandemic. During the last 15 years, Major Criminal Clearance Rates were highest in FY08 and FY09 (102%). The more recent trend of Major Criminal Clearance Rates falling below 100% has led to a backlog of cases. As evidence of this issue, the number of ‘active’ pending Major Criminal cases has increased by 76% in the last five years as shown below.

Figure 2.5: Statewide Active Pending Caseload, Major Cases FY2017 – FY2021

Figure 2.5 shows that the number of cases pending in major case groups from FY17 to FY21 declined significantly in CHIPS/Permanency (-30%) and Juvenile Delinquency (-34%) cases.

There was a significant increase in the number of pending cases in Major Criminal from FY17 to FY21 (+76%). 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 Family have remained steady, decreasing only 2% from FY17 to FY21. Probate/ Mental Health and Major Civil pending numbers have increased 24% and 6% respectively, over the same period.



Excludes Dormant Cases and Out on Warrant

**TIME TO DISPOSITION**

- ◆ Statewide, 88% of all cases disposed in FY21 were disposed within the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile time objective (for cases with timing objectives).
- ◆ Major Civil, Dissolution (with or without child), and Domestic Abuse cases met the timing objectives at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile in FY21.
- ◆ Juvenile Delinquency cases had the highest percentage disposed beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile time objective (25%). (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.

**Figure 2.6: Statewide Time to Disposition Cases Disposed in MNCIS, FY2021**

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	16,715	31.0	6	8,092	46.0	12	17,418	78.4	11,656	21.6	53,881	245
Major Civil	12	26,770	92.4	18	1,436	97.4	24	449	98.9	306	1.1	28,961	109
Dissolutions	12	13,368	92.8	18	664	97.4	24	239	99.0	138	1.0	14,409	117
Domestic Abuse	2	9,555	96.3	3	185	98.1	4	69	98.8	116	1.2	9,925	13
Juvenile Del	3	5,655	50.0	5	2,003	67.7	6	825	75.0	2,830	25.0	11,313	127
Minor Crim	3	273,429	63.6	6	66,384	79.0	9	40,699	88.5	49,515	11.5	430,027	112
State Total		345,492	63.0		78,764	77.3		59,699	88.2	64,561	11.8	548,516	124

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 Juvenile Delinquency category had the highest percentage of cases disposed beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile objective in FY21 (25.0%) (goal is 1% or lower), followed by Major Criminal (21.6%), while Major Civil, Dissolution, and Domestic Abuse cases met the goal for Time to Disposition.

**Figure 2.7: Percent of Cases Disposed Beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> Percentile Objective, FY2021, by Case Group, by District**

District	% of Cases Disposed Beyond the 99 <sup>th</sup> Percentile					
	Major Criminal	Major Civil	Dissolutions	Dom Abuse	Juvenile Delinq.	Minor Criminal
1	24.2%	0.9%	1.0%	2.0%	22.0%	13.2%
2	23.3%	1.7%	1.2%	1.6%	9.6%	11.2%
3	24.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	33.3%	9.8%
4	15.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	21.1%	16.1%
5	15.0%	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	23.8%	6.3%
6	19.9%	0.8%	0.7%	1.4%	23.8%	7.3%
7	26.2%	1.2%	0.5%	0.9%	36.4%	12.2%
8	18.9%	1.0%	0.2%	1.3%	31.1%	5.9%
9	18.5%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	23.0%	7.7%
10	27.2%	1.0%	1.4%	1.4%	24.6%	10.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>

Figure 2.7 shows the percent of cases disposed beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile by district and case group for FY21.

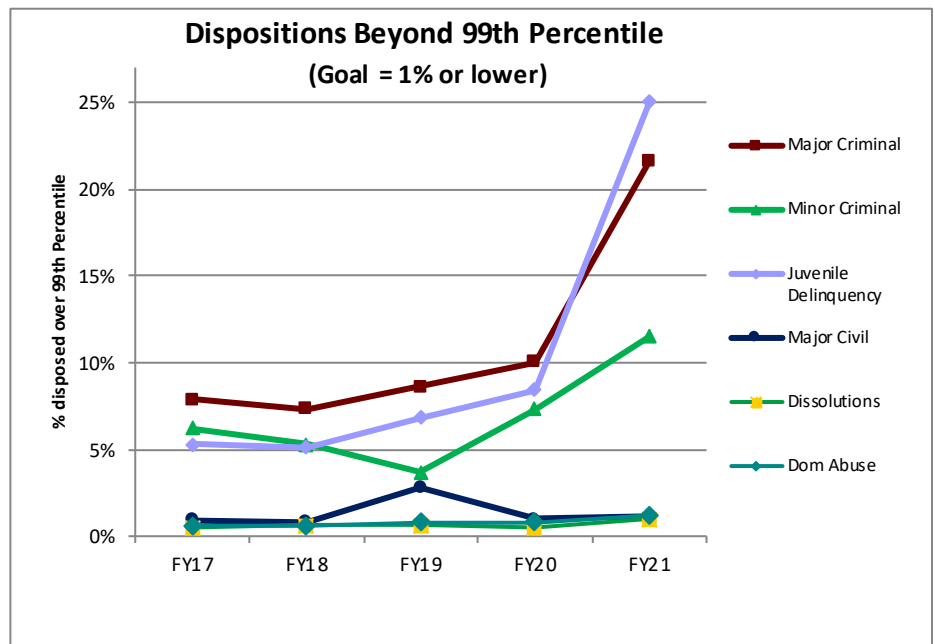
There were variations among districts in Juvenile Delinquency; the 2<sup>nd</sup> District disposed of 9.6% of cases beyond the timing objective of six months, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts disposed of 23.8% beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile, and the 7<sup>th</sup> District disposed of 36.4% over the time objective.

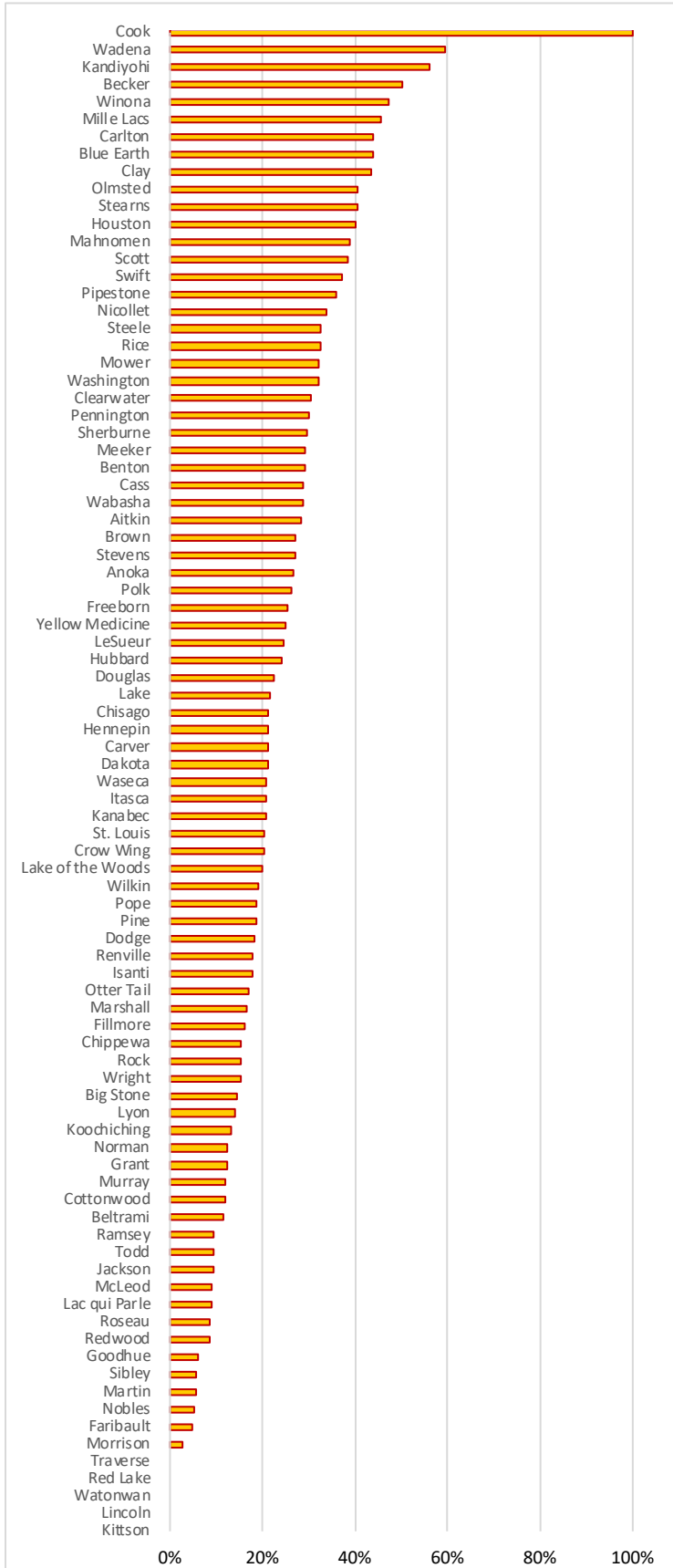
Statewide, Dissolution cases were disposed within the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile objective. All districts except three met the timing objective for Dissolution cases, while no districts met the timing guidelines for Major Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency, or Minor Criminal cases. Major Criminal cases disposed beyond 12 months ranged from 15.0% (lower is better) in the 5<sup>th</sup> District to 27.2% in the 10<sup>th</sup> District.

Statewide, Dissolution cases were

**Figure 2.8: Percent of Cases Disposed Statewide Beyond 99<sup>th</sup> Percentile, FY2017- FY2021, by Case Group**

In FY21, the percent of Juvenile Delinquency cases disposed beyond six months (25.0%) and Major Criminal cases disposed beyond 12 months (21.6%) increased to their highest levels in five fiscal years. (Lower percent is better.) Domestic Abuse and Dissolutions remained steady over the past five years. Similarly, 1.1% or less of all Major Civil cases were disposed beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile objective every year since FY17, except for FY19 (2.8%).





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 FY21. It shows that the percent of cases disposed beyond the 6-month objective (99<sup>th</sup> percentile) ranged from 0% to 100%.

**Figure 2.9: Percent of Delinquency Cases Disposed Beyond 6 Months FY2021, by County**

Statewide, 25% of all Delinquency cases (Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, and Misdemeanor) were disposed beyond the time objective in FY21. More than half of all counties (56%) disposed of 20% or more Delinquency cases beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile goal in FY21.

However, a small number of dispositions can produce large variations in the percent of cases that were disposed beyond the timing objective. For example, Cook County disposed of one Major Juvenile case in FY21; the same case was beyond the 6-month objective, resulting in 100% of cases disposed beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile goal.

Numbers of Delinquency dispositions in FY21 varied from nine counties with fewer than ten dispositions to Hennepin County with 2,226 Delinquency dispositions.

**AGE OF PENDING CASES**

- ◆ Statewide, timing objectives for Age of Pending cases were not met in FY21 (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 99<sup>th</sup> percentile ranged from 14% in the 5<sup>th</sup> District to 25% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (lower is better).

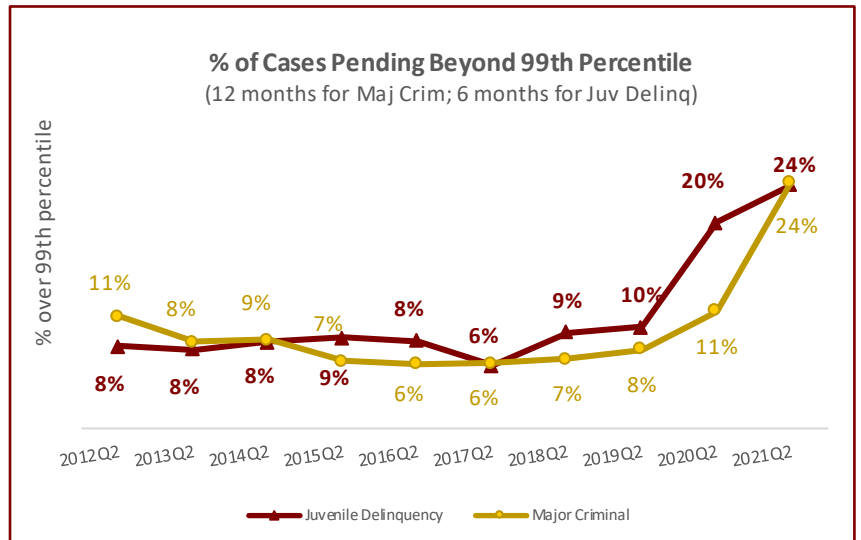
**Figure 2.10: Statewide Age of Pending Cases as of 7/2/2021**

Case Group	90th Percentile	Cum 97th Percentile	Cum 99th Percentile	Over 99th Percentile	Total Active Cases Pending
Major Crim	38%	52%	76%	24%	49,929
Major Civil	76%	88%	94%	6%	9,256
Dissolutions	88%	95%	98%	2%	4409
Dom Abuse	76%	79%	83%	17%	424
Juv Delinq	58%	73%	77%	24%	2,497
Minor Crim	52%	64%	72%	28%	108,171

The statewide average for non-Minor Criminal case types pending beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile ranged from 2% of Dissolutions to 24% of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases. (Goal is 1% or lower.) Larger percentages of Major Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency, and Minor Criminal cases pending over the timing objectives could increase Time to Disposition results for these case groups in FY22.

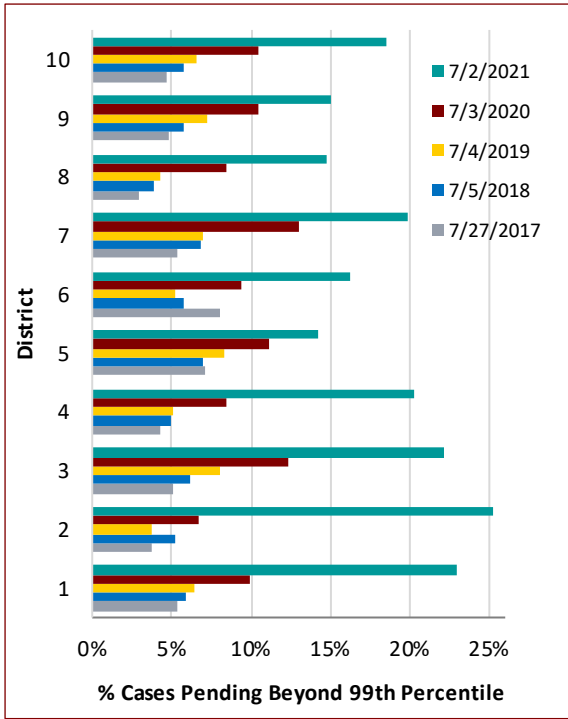
**Figure 2.11: Trend of Statewide % of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Cases Pending Beyond 99<sup>th</sup> Percentile Time Objective**

Results of Major Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Age of Pending cases significantly worsened over the last two fiscal years (lower number is better), reaching the highest percentage of cases pending beyond the timing objectives in FY21 (24%). The increased number of cases pending beyond the timing objectives 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.





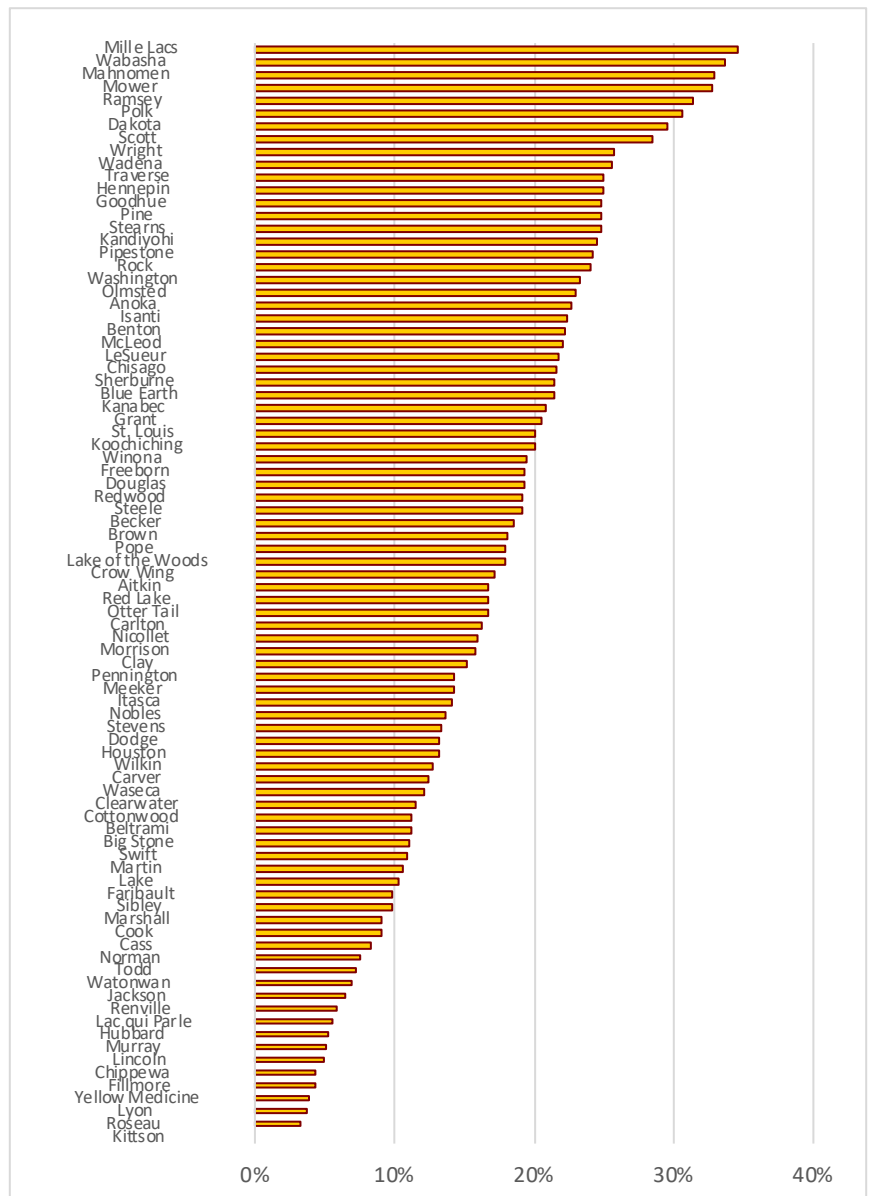
**Figure 2.12: Trends in District Age of Pending Cases Past 99<sup>th</sup> Percentile, All Case Groups except Minor Criminal**



The overall results of Age of Pending cases at the end of FY21 (excluding Minor Criminal) varied from 14% of cases pending beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile timing objectives in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, to 25% of cases beyond the timing objectives in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

All district results declined in FY21, and all districts reached the highest percentage of cases pending beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile in five years (higher numbers = declined).

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



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 7/2/2021.

Statewide, 24% of these cases were pending beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile at the end of FY21. Across counties, the percent of Major Criminal cases pending beyond one year ranged from 0% to 37%. The largest number of these cases pending as of 7/2/2021 was in Hennepin County which had over 9,948 Major Criminal cases pending, 25% pending beyond one year.

**LENGTH OF TIME TO PERMANENCY AND ADOPTION**

- ◆ During FY21, 75% 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), compared to 81% in FY20. (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 FY21, 38% of children statewide were adopted within 24 months. District numbers ranged from a high of 63% of children who reached adoption by 24 months down to 10%.

*“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 FY2021, by District**

Figure 2.14 shows that, statewide, the goals of having 50% of children reach permanency by 6 months, 90% by 12 months and 99% by 18 months were not met during FY21.

There was variation among districts for the percentage of children who reached permanency within 18 months (goal is 99%). The range was from 57% in the 4<sup>th</sup> District to 95% in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. The number of children who reached permanency was highest in the 4<sup>th</sup> District (863) and lowest in the 8<sup>th</sup> District (267) with 4,136 children, statewide, who reached permanency in FY21.

District	% reaching perm by 6 months	Cum % reaching perm by 12 months	Cum % reaching perm by 18 months	Total Number Children
1	20%	47%	74%	327
2	16%	33%	59%	268
3	30%	65%	84%	437
4	16%	33%	57%	863
5	34%	65%	89%	311
6	13%	25%	59%	287
7	23%	52%	80%	537
8	29%	70%	95%	265
9	37%	68%	88%	466
10	22%	48%	81%	375
<b>State</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>4,136</b>

<b>Goal</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>99%</b>
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Figure 2.15: Five Year Trend, Children Reaching Permanency by 18 months, by District

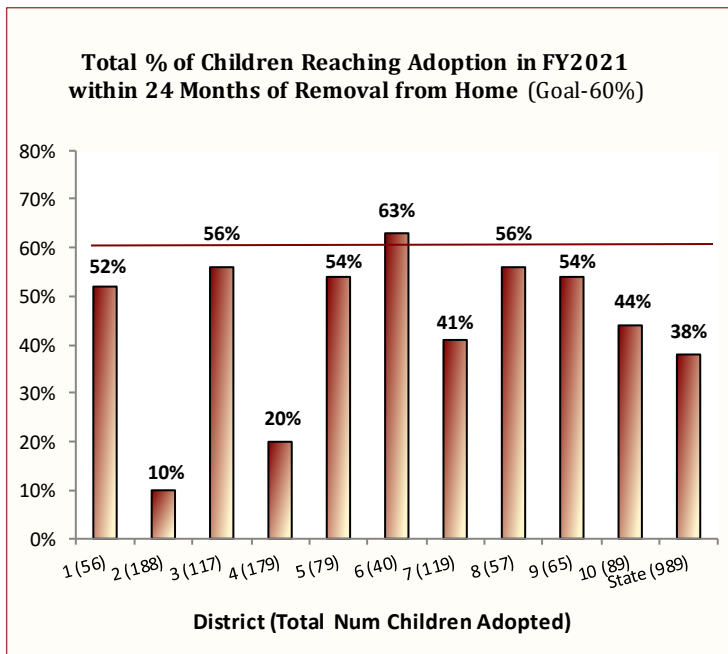
<b>% of children reaching permanency by 18 months (goal is 99%), FY2017 to FY2021</b>					
District	FY17 %	FY18 %	FY19 %	FY20 %	FY21 %
1	91	90	86	90	74
2	80	78	66	64	59
3	94	88	91	94	84
4	78	67	67	61	57
5	93	91	87	90	89
6	73	74	66	76	59
7	89	92	89	86	80
8	94	94	96	93	95
9	91	83	89	91	88
10	91	87	88	87	81
<b>State</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b># children</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>4,962</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>4,136</b>

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 FY21 result of 75% of children reaching permanency within 18 months is the lowest in the past five fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	# Children with CHIPS/ Perm Filing
FY17	10,730
FY18	10,988
FY19	9,769
FY20	9,005
FY21	7,394

The number of children with a CHIPS or Permanency case filed decreased 31% over the past five fiscal years. There has been a consistent downward trend in the number of children with filings over the past four fiscal years.

Figure 2.16: Length of Time for Children to Reach Adoption, FY2021, 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.

More than one third (38%) of the 989 children under State Guardianship adopted in FY21 reached adoption within 24 months of removal from home (goal is 60%). The 6<sup>th</sup> District exceeded the goal, while the remaining districts had from 10% to 56% of children reach adoption within two years.

**Figure 2.17: Percent of Children Adopted by 24 Months, Statewide, FY2017 – FY2021**

Year Adoption Finalized	% Adopted by 24 Months (Goal is 60%)	Total # Children Reaching Adoption
FY2017	54%	849
FY2018	50%	978
FY2019	47%	1,226
FY2020	47%	950
FY2021	38%	989

The 38% of children who reached adoption by 24 months of being out of home in FY21 declined from FY20 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 increased during this time from 849 in FY17 to 989 in FY21 – an increase of 17%.

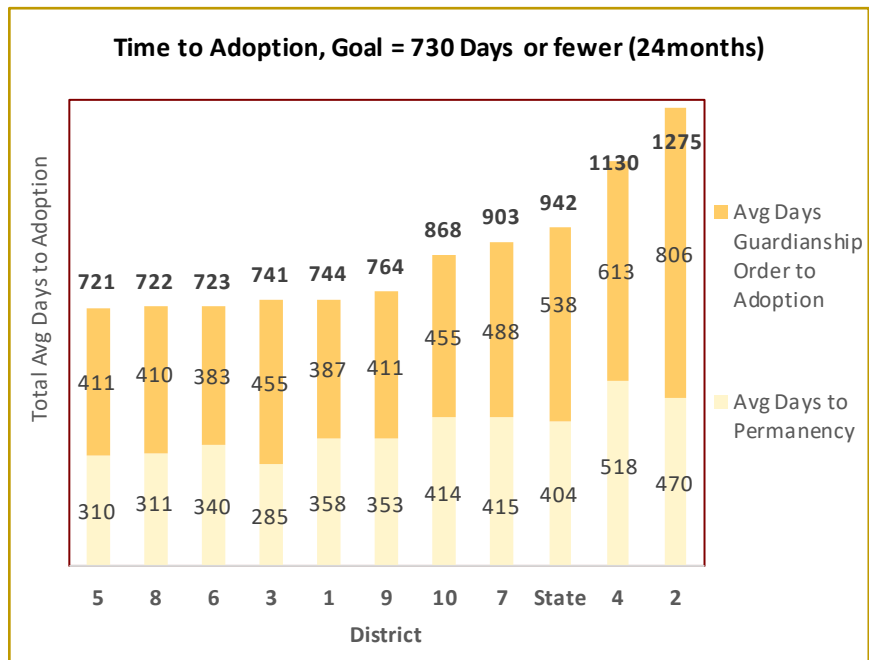
The automated Time to Adoption for Children Under State Guardianship report shows details for each child with the time to adoption broken into the time from removal from home to the guardianship order and then the time from guardianship order to adoption order. Figure 2.18 below shows that there was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

**Figure 2.18: Average Number Days to Adoption, by Phase, by District, FY2021**

Three districts 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 (404 average days to permanency) comprised 43% of the total time to adoption, and 57% was the time from the guardianship order to adoption (538 days).

The variation in Time to Adoption by district was from 721 days in the 5<sup>th</sup> District to 1,275 days in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.



**COURT OF APPEALS DISPOSITIONS WITHIN TIME STANDARDS**

The Court of Appeals adopted the American Bar Association (ABA) 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 FY21, the Court of Appeals disposed of 86% of civil cases, 100% of juvenile-protection cases, and 94% of juvenile delinquency cases within 290 days, far exceeding the ABA standard of disposing of 75% of cases within 290 days.
- ◆ The court disposed of only 44% of criminal cases in 290 days, down from 52% in FY20 and 48% in FY19. The lower case-disposition rate in criminal cases continues to be driven largely by transcript-processing timelines and, this year, also by the peacetime emergency.

**Figure 2.19: Percent of Court of Appeals Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing, FY2019-FY2021**

Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing From Filing to Disposition Goal = 75% of Cases						
	FY2021		FY2020		FY2019	
	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective
<b>Civil</b>						
General Civil	534	80%	592	88%	625	79%
Unemployment	64	83%	77	92%	79	86%
Family	200	97%	191	100%	187	92%
Other	60	98%	97	100%	80	100%
<b>Total Civil</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Criminal</b>						
Criminal	702	44%	892	52%	828	48%
<b>Juvenile Protection</b>						
Protection	61	100%	87	99%	95	99%
<b>Juv. Delinquency</b>						
Delinquency	18	94%	15	100%	18	100%
<b>Total Cases*</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>69%</b>

\* 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 89% of all cases within 365 days of case filing, very close to the ABA standard of disposing of 90% of cases within that time period. The court far exceeded the standard for most case types, including civil and juvenile cases. For criminal cases, the court was able to dispose of 78% of cases within 365 days. Thus, while only 44% of criminal cases were disposed of within the 290-day goal, the court was able to close that gap significantly for criminal case dispositions within the 365-day goal.

**Figure 2.20: Percent of Court of Appeals Cases Disposed Within 365 Days of Filing, FY2019-FY2021**

Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 365 Days of Filing From Filing to Disposition Goal = 90% of Cases						
	FY2021		FY2020		FY2019	
	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective	# Cases	% of cases meeting objective
<b>Civil</b>						
General Civil	534	96%	592	98%	625	96%
Unemployment	64	100%	77	100%	79	100%
Family	200	100%	191	100%	187	98%
Other	60	98%	97	100%	80	100%
<b>Total Civil</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Criminal</b>						
Criminal	702	78%	892	88%	828	88%
<b>Juvenile Protection</b>						
Protection	61	100%	87	100%	95	100%
<b>Juv. Delinquency</b>						
Delinquency	18	100%	15	100%	18	100%
<b>Total Cases*</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>93%</b>

\* 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**

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

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

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

Based on its study, the Supreme Court revised its timing objectives by reducing the number of case-processing events to which the standards apply, reducing the time allotted for disposition of an appeal, and reducing the percentage of cases (from 10% to 5%) that are not subject to a time standard ("Beyond 95<sup>th</sup> 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).

"Days" in the table represents the court's goal – number of days – to complete the event (circulation or disposition).

"Cases" in the table represents the number of cases that met or did not exceed the 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 exceed the objective (number of days).

"Total/Aver." represents the total number of cases in the time period that completed the specific case-processing event and the average number of days to do so.

Figure 2.21: Supreme Court Timing Standards, FY2021

<b>Supreme Court Time Standards</b>											
<b>Performance Report: Cases Disposed of July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 (FY2021)</b>											
<b>Case Type: Event</b>	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>			<b>95<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>			<b>Beyond 95<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>			<b>Total/Aver.</b>	
	Days	Cases	%	Days	Cases	%	Days	Cases	%	Cases	Aver
<i>All case types: submission to circulation of majority</i>	45	61	49%	75	92	75%	N/A	31	25%	124	52.3
<i>All case types: submission to disposition</i>	120	66	65%	180	86	84.4%	N/A	16	15.6%	102	102
<i>Discretionary: PFR filing to disposition</i>	50	257	45%	60	471	82%	N/A	104	18%	575	50.1
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): PFR filing to disposition</i>	25	13	81%	25	13	81%	N/A	3	19%	16	17.4
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): submission to circulation of majority</i>	20	1	50%	30	1	50%	N/A	1	50%	2	33
<i>Expedited (TPR, Adopt'n): submission to disposition</i>	45	0	0	60	0	0	N/A	2	100%	2	74.5



## 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

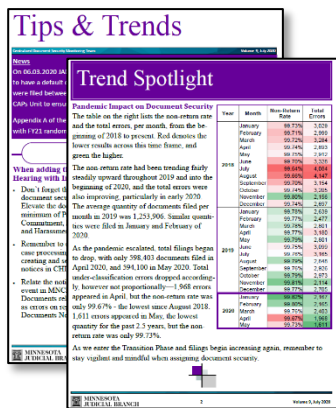
The Data Quality Team is part of the Court Services Division at SCAO. This team was created to define data quality standards, identify data quality issues, and determine when it is necessary to develop and implement standard business processes statewide. A focus on safety, public interest, statute and 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 ensuring appropriate access to court documents to justice partners and the public, as well as simplifying and clarifying certain document security requirements with changes to Court Rules. In addition, focus was placed on preparation for the implementation of Minnesota Court Records Online (MCRO), which grants the public remote electronic access to certain documents. Several internal processes were amended to increase accuracy in performance measures reporting, and new functionality was introduced to improve the document security classification of court-generated documents. Several reporting deficiencies were also identified and addressed.

*"...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 Data Quality Team, which is responsible for routine statewide monitoring of all data quality performance, has been able to identify and address several deficiencies in data quality reports. Work is underway to centralize access to data quality reports and simplify how errors are viewed by staff.



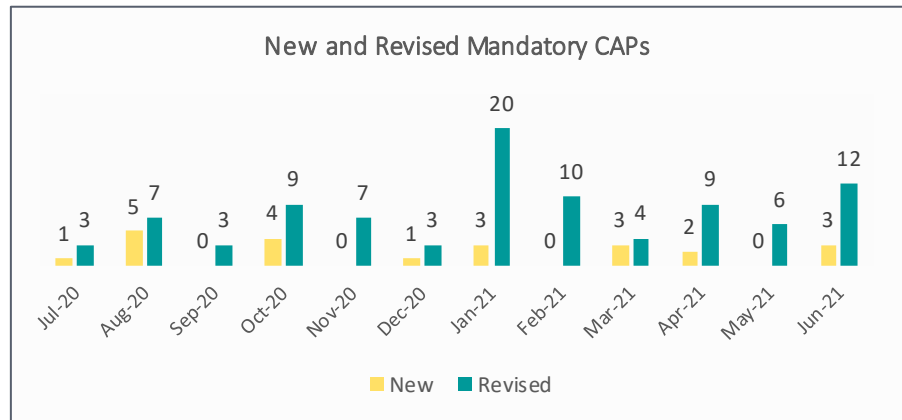
Additionally, the Data Quality Team continued to identify and address statewide trends and worked with the Education Team to develop new training for judges and staff to increase comprehension of the nuances associated with document security.

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 Legal Counsel Division. 115 (new and revised) CAPs were published during FY21. 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 Data Quality Team will monitor for compliance, as well as what local court administration’s responsibilities are regarding the 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), FY2021**

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 Access and Fairness Surveys were completed between December 2018 and March 2019. Statewide, 6,052 courthouse visitors submitted survey responses.
- ◆ 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 Fairness section of the 2019 Access & Fairness Survey had 78% or more respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement in the section.
- ◆ Responses varied by race. Statewide, people of color who responded to the Fairness section of the 2019 Access & Fairness Survey reported lower levels of agreement to the fairness statements compared to White respondents.

The Fairness Section of the 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 5.1.

**Figure 5.1: Fairness Section Responses Statewide 2019**

Q#	Fairness Section	% Strongly Disagree	% Disagree	% Neutral	% Agree	% Strongly Agree	% Strongly Agree/ Agree	Mean	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
<b>Fairness Index Score</b>		<b>82</b>							

See footnote numbers 1 and 2 on pages 14 and 15 for explanations of the mean score and index score.

Figure 5.2: Fairness Index Scores by District 2019

Fairness Index scores by district ranged from 85 (out of 100) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District to 79 in the 6<sup>th</sup> District, as shown in Figure 5.2.

Index scores across all court locations, as well as trends by district and location, are available through interactive dashboards on CourtNet.

Although the Fairness Index score has shown little movement over the three survey periods, there are gradually declining rates of agreement to the Fairness Section statements. Each statement had a lower percentage of respondents who reported they agreed or strongly agreed in 2019 than in 2008, as shown in Figure 5.3.

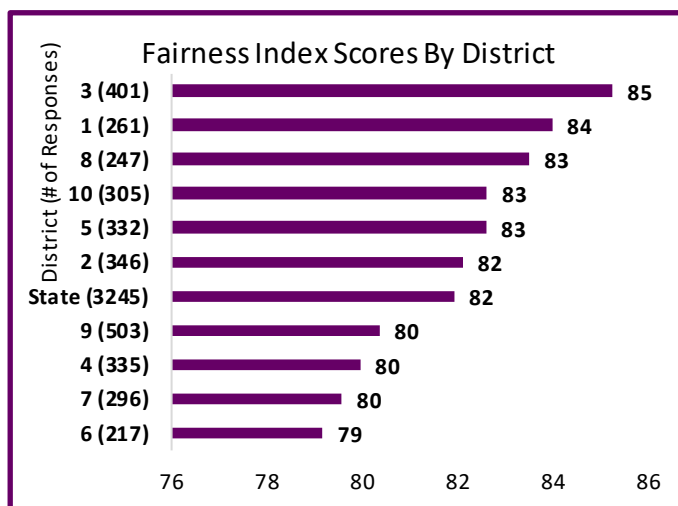


Figure 5.3: Fairness Section Trends, 2008-2019

Q#	Fairness Section Statements	2008		2013		2019	
		% Strongly Agree/ Agree	Mean	% Strongly Agree/ Agree	Mean	% Strongly Agree/ Agree	Mean
11	The way my case was handled by the court was fair.	81%	4.1	78%	4.1	78%	4.0
12	The judge listened to my side of the story before making a decision.	82%	4.1	80%	4.1	78%	4.1
13	The judge had the information necessary to make good decisions about my case.	82%	4.1	80%	4.1	78%	4.1
14	I was treated the same as everyone else.	85%	4.2	83%	4.2	81%	4.1
15	I know what to do next about my case.	85%	4.2	84%	4.2	81%	4.2
<b>Fairness Index Score</b>		<b>83</b>		<b>82</b>		<b>82</b>	

**FAIRNESS AND EQUITY, CONTINUED**

*Are jurors representative of our communities?*

**JURY POOLS**

- ◆ Of all racial groups, American Indian and multiracial jurors in the statewide FY21 jury pool most closely mirror their share in the adult population. Black, Asian, and Hispanic jurors in the FY21 jury pool are under-represented compared to their share in the adult population, statewide, and to varying degrees at the district level.
- ◆ Statewide, and to varying degrees across districts, female jurors in the FY21 jury pool are over-represented compared to their share in the adult population.

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.<sup>3</sup> Census Population Estimates are released annually; the most recent estimates reflect the population on July 1, 2020. 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.<sup>4</sup> However, reliable data on the jury-eligible population are not available.

Figure 5.4, below, shows the total number of residents who reported for jury service in FY21. 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 5.4: Number of Jurors who Reported for Service in FY2021**

	<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> District</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> District</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> District</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> District</b>
<b>Jurors</b>	23,069	3,378	2,888	1,453	5,298	1,408	1,084	2,463	1,313	1,831	1,953

Figure 5.5, next page, shows juror race and ethnicity data compared to adult population estimates. Statewide, race and ethnicity data were unspecified for just 1.4% 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 except the 9<sup>th</sup>, white, non-Hispanic jurors are over-represented compared to their representation in the adult population. Corresponding under-representation of Black or African

<sup>3</sup> 2020 Census data were not available at the time of this report. Census Population Estimates are available on the Census Bureau’s website at this URL: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Following a [2020-2021 study on jury race data](#) completed by the [Committee for Equality and Justice](#), the Minnesota Judicial Branch is working to identify and remedy possible barriers in the jury selection process. This includes studying the use of supplemental source lists, studying whether race data collection from disqualified jurors can be improved, and studying whether juror response rates can be improved, among other efforts.

**Figure 5.5: FY2021 Juror Race and Ethnicity Compared to 2020 Adult Population**

	White		Black or African American		American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian or Pacific Islander		Multiracial		Hispanic*	
	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>82.3%</b>	<b>87.8%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> District	83.8%	89.5%	4.6%	2.1%	0.5%	0.3%	4.6%	3.3%	1.3%	1.2%	5.3%	3.6%
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	66.9%	74.6%	10.8%	6.0%	0.5%	0.7%	13.4%	11.4%	2.0%	2.6%	6.3%	4.7%
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	86.9%	94.1%	3.4%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	3.5%	1.3%	0.9%	0.4%	4.9%	2.9%
4 <sup>th</sup> District	73.2%	81.8%	11.5%	5.9%	0.6%	0.4%	7.2%	5.6%	1.9%	2.5%	5.6%	3.7%
5 <sup>th</sup> District	88.3%	92.0%	2.1%	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%	2.2%	1.7%	0.9%	1.0%	6.0%	3.9%
6 <sup>th</sup> District	92.2%	93.8%	1.3%	0.7%	2.4%	1.5%	1.0%	0.7%	1.6%	2.2%	1.4%	1.1%
7 <sup>th</sup> District	90.7%	94.6%	3.2%	0.2%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%	0.7%	1.1%	1.5%	2.6%	1.7%
8 <sup>th</sup> District	90.4%	96.7%	1.6%	0.2%	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%	5.5%	1.4%
9 <sup>th</sup> District	90.4%	89.6%	0.7%	0.3%	4.9%	5.6%	0.7%	0.4%	1.4%	2.7%	2.0%	1.4%
10 <sup>th</sup> District	86.6%	93.0%	4.2%	1.5%	0.6%	0.5%	3.9%	2.3%	1.3%	1.3%	3.4%	1.5%

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

**Figure 5.6: FY2021 Juror Gender Compared to 2020 Adult Population**

Figure 5.6, at right, shows juror gender data compared to adult population estimates. Statewide, gender data were missing from just 1.2% of jurors; those jurors are not included in these percentages. Female jurors are over-represented statewide, and all districts except the 4<sup>th</sup> had a higher percentage of female jurors than were in the adult population.

	Female		Male	
	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors	2020 Adult Pop.	FY21 Jurors
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>50.6%</b>	<b>52.0%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>48.0%</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> District	51.0%	52.0%	49.0%	48.0%
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	51.9%	53.6%	48.1%	46.4%
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	50.7%	51.4%	49.3%	48.6%
4 <sup>th</sup> District	50.9%	50.7%	49.1%	49.3%
5 <sup>th</sup> District	50.2%	50.8%	49.8%	49.2%
6 <sup>th</sup> District	49.8%	51.5%	50.2%	48.5%
7 <sup>th</sup> District	50.0%	53.9%	50.0%	46.1%
8 <sup>th</sup> District	49.7%	50.5%	50.3%	49.5%
9 <sup>th</sup> District	50.0%	51.1%	50.0%	48.9%
10 <sup>th</sup> District	50.0%	54.0%	50.0%	46.0%

## 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, and the ‘strive-for’ goal of 90% of closed cases with race data was met for Major Criminal cases.
- ◆ The goal of 80% of closed cases with race data was not met for Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty/ Traffic, or Juvenile CHIPS case types. Results ranged from 47% in Juvenile Petty/ Traffic cases to 77% in Juvenile CHIPS cases.

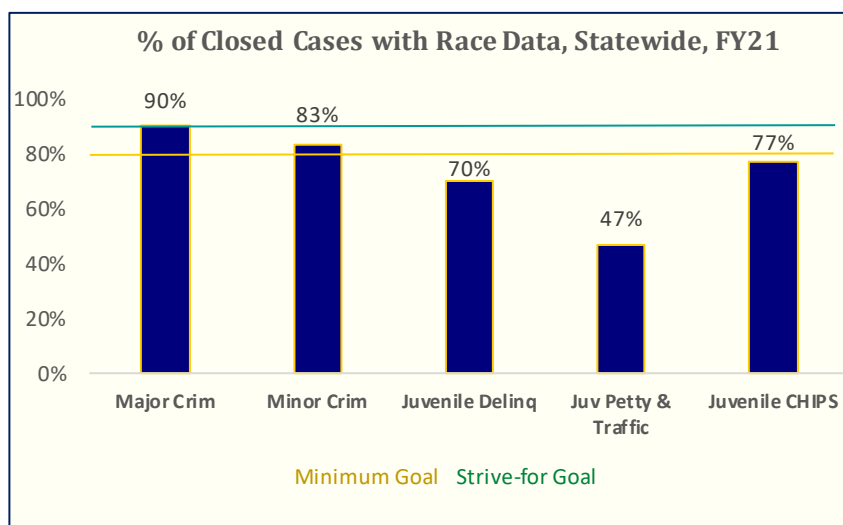
Minnesota Judicial Branch Policy 505.2 contains the following language related to race data collection:

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

**Figure 5.7: Race Data Collection Rates on Closed Cases, Statewide, FY2021**

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 5.7 shows that for Major Criminal and Minor Criminal cases, 83% or more were closed with race data reported statewide in FY21. Major Criminal met the ‘strive-for’ goal of 90% of closed cases with race data. Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Petty/ Traffic, and Juvenile CHIPS case types did not meet the minimum goal of 80% of closed cases with race data. Less than half (47%) of Juvenile Petty/ Traffic cases were closed with race data in FY21, while 70% of cases were closed with race data for Juvenile Delinquency cases, and 77% of cases were closed with race data for Juvenile CHIPS cases.





**Figure 5.8: Race Data Collection Rates on Closed Cases, Statewide, FY2020 – FY2021**

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

Figure 5.8 shows the percentage of closed cases with race data, by case type, for the last two 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 from FY20 to FY21. The largest decline was in Juvenile Petty/ Traffic cases, which dropped from 81% in FY20 to 47% in FY21. 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 several possible improvements to the remote hearing race data collection process.

**Figure 5.9: Race Data Collection Rates, Closed Cases, by District, FY2021**

% of Closed Cases with Race Data (July, 2020 – June, 2021)					
Dist	Major Criminal	Minor Criminal	Juvenile Delinquency	Juvenile Petty & Traffic	Juvenile CHIPS
1	91%	77%	78%	56%	87%
2	88%	73%	75%	58%	80%
3	89%	77%	69%	50%	79%
4	92%	93%	80%	36%	86%
5	89%	74%	58%	44%	64%
6	88%	78%	53%	43%	83%
7	94%	83%	72%	53%	74%
8	91%	79%	69%	68%	75%
9	92%	81%	66%	54%	81%
10	83%	75%	60%	33%	57%
<b>State</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>77%</b>

All race data collection rates by district were at 80% or above for Major Criminal cases in FY21, with five 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 33% of Juvenile Petty/ Traffic cases closed with race data in the 10<sup>th</sup> District to 93% of Minor

Criminal cases closed with race data in the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 FY21, by district/Minnesota Judicial Center (MJC), ranged from a low of 5.9% in the 6<sup>th</sup> District to a high of 11.9% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.
- ◆ Retirements and resignations together comprised 93% of all separations in FY21.
- ◆ The total Branch separation rate for FY21 (9.3%) increased slightly from FY20 (8.9%).

**Figure 6.1: Separation Rates by District and MJC, FY2021**

FY2021 (July 2020-June 2021)										
District/ MJC	Retirement		Resignation*		Dismissal**		Layoff		Total Separations	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	15.0	6.4%	9.0	3.8%	0.0	0.0%	0	0%	24.0	10.2%
2	4.5	2.1%	14.0	6.6%	7.0	3.3%	0	0%	25.5	11.9%
3	9.8	6.0%	6.0	3.7%	1.0	0.6%	0	0%	16.8	10.3%
4	12.3	2.6%	26.5	5.6%	2.0	0.4%	0	0%	40.8	8.6%
5	8.0	7.1%	4.0	3.5%	1.0	0.9%	0	0%	13.0	11.5%
6	3.0	2.6%	3.9	3.4%	0.0	0.0%	0	0%	6.9	5.9%
7	9.5	5.0%	8.5	4.5%	4.0	2.1%	0	0%	22.0	11.6%
8	4.0	6.5%	2.0	3.2%	0.0	0.0%	0	0%	6.0	9.7%
9	5.0	3.1%	7.5	4.6%	0.0	0.0%	0	0%	12.5	7.7%
10	8.0	2.7%	16.0	5.4%	0.0	0.0%	0	0%	24.0	8.1%
MJC***	13.3	3.1%	24.3	5.6%	1.0	0.2%	0	0%	38.6	8.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>229.9</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

# = 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, 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 FY21 (229.9) was a slight increase over FY20 (224.8). The variation by location in total separations ranged from 5.9% in the 6<sup>th</sup> District to 11.9% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

Voluntary separations - retirements and resignations - accounted for 93% of the FTEs leaving the Branch in FY21, while dismissals accounted for the remaining 7% of separations.

**Figure 6.2: Total Separation Rates by District and MJC, FY2017 – FY2021**

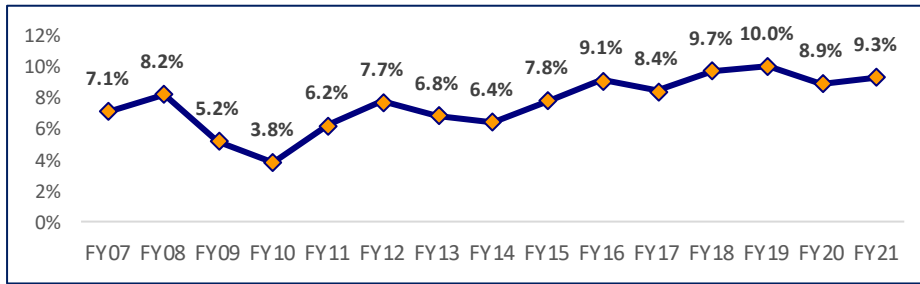
District/ MJC	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
1	3.6%	5.5%	8.8%	11.9%	10.2%
2	12.6%	14.6%	9.3%	12.2%	11.9%
3	6.6%	8.4%	17.6%	5.2%	10.3%
4	8.2%	11.9%	13.2%	9.5%	8.6%
5	11.8%	9.0%	8.0%	10.0%	11.5%
6	14.4%	9.5%	16.2%	9.4%	5.9%
7	6.7%	7.6%	3.3%	9.0%	11.6%
8	4.6%	6.9%	8.8%	4.5%	9.7%
9	10.5%	7.4%	10.7%	7.7%	7.7%
10	8.9%	11.1%	9.0%	9.8%	8.1%
MJC	7.0%	9.2%	7.0%	6.8%	8.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>
Total # Separations	198.3	231.5	253.6	224.8	229.9

The statewide separation rate in FY21 (9.3%) was a slight increase over the previous fiscal year. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District FY21 separation rates were the highest in five fiscal years (11.6% and 9.7%, respectively). In contrast, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> District FY21 separation rates were the lowest over the same time period (5.9% and 8.1%, respectively).

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 9.3% for the Branch was roughly estimated at 0.8% 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, 2021<sup>5</sup>.

**Figure 6.3: Total Separation Rates Statewide, FY2007 – FY2021**

Figure 6.3 shows the statewide separation rate from FY07 (when first reported) to FY21. After a low of 3.8% in FY10, there have been regular periods of increase in the separation rate. The separation rate in FY21 (9.3%) is a slight increase over the previous fiscal year and the third highest in the past five fiscal years.



**Figure 6.4: Statewide Separation Rates by Type, FY2017 – FY2021**

As shown in Figure 6.4, the overall separation rate in FY21 increased from the previous year. The largest percentage increase in separation rate from FY20 to FY21 was in the Retirement category. The separation rate for Dismissals decreased by half from FY20 (1.2% in FY20 to 0.6% in FY21).

Separation Type	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Retirement	3.4%	3.8%	3.8%	3.0%	3.7%
Resignation	3.9%	4.7%	5.3%	4.7%	4.9%
Dismissal	1.1%	1.3%	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%
Layoff	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

<sup>5</sup> <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. Figure 6.5 shows the number of responses and response rates for all survey years.

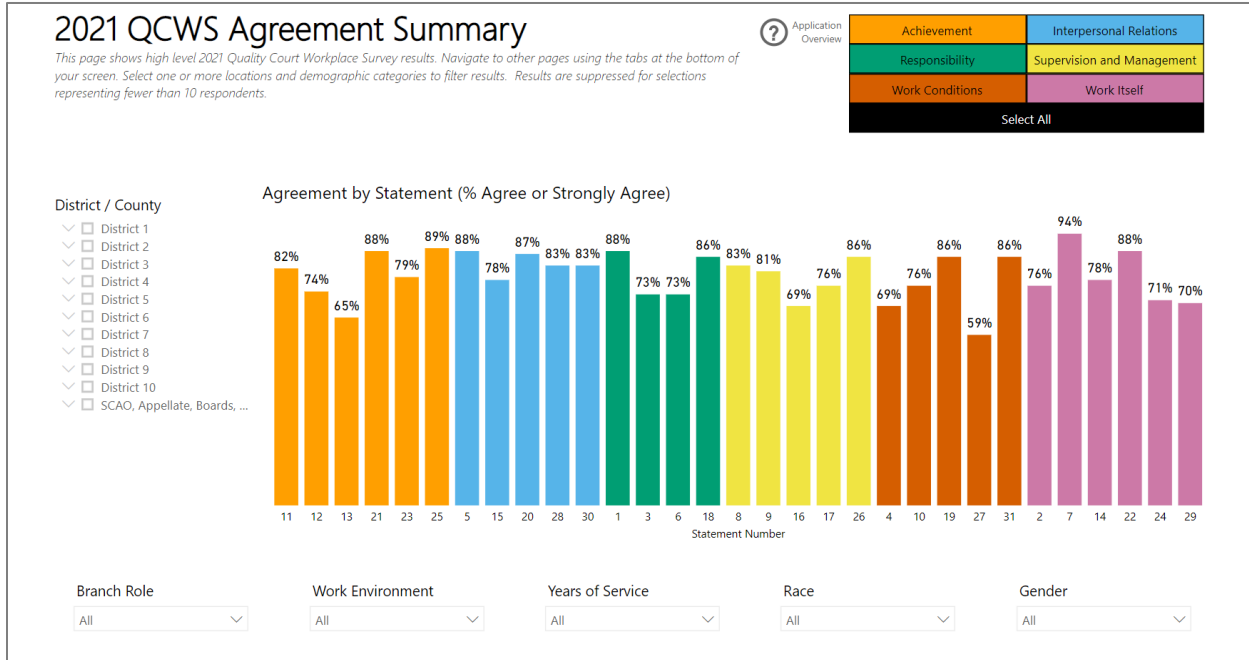
**Figure 6.5: Response Numbers and Rates by Survey Year**

	2008		2012		2016		2021	
Employees	2,036	75%	1,754	68%	1,936	74%	2,108	76%
Judges/Justices	219	71%	225	74%	199	63%	266	83%

**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 6.6: 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 6.7, 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 6.6.

**Figure 6.7: Employee Statements with the Highest Levels of Agreement and/or Mean Scores in 2021**

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

**Employees, cont.**

#	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree or Strongly Agree	Mean
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

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 of the survey was in the Work Conditions index: “I am able to keep up with my workload without feeling overwhelmed.” (20% disagree or strongly disagree).

**Figure 6.8: Employee Statement Levels of Agreement and/or Mean Scores in 2021 – Work Conditions Index**

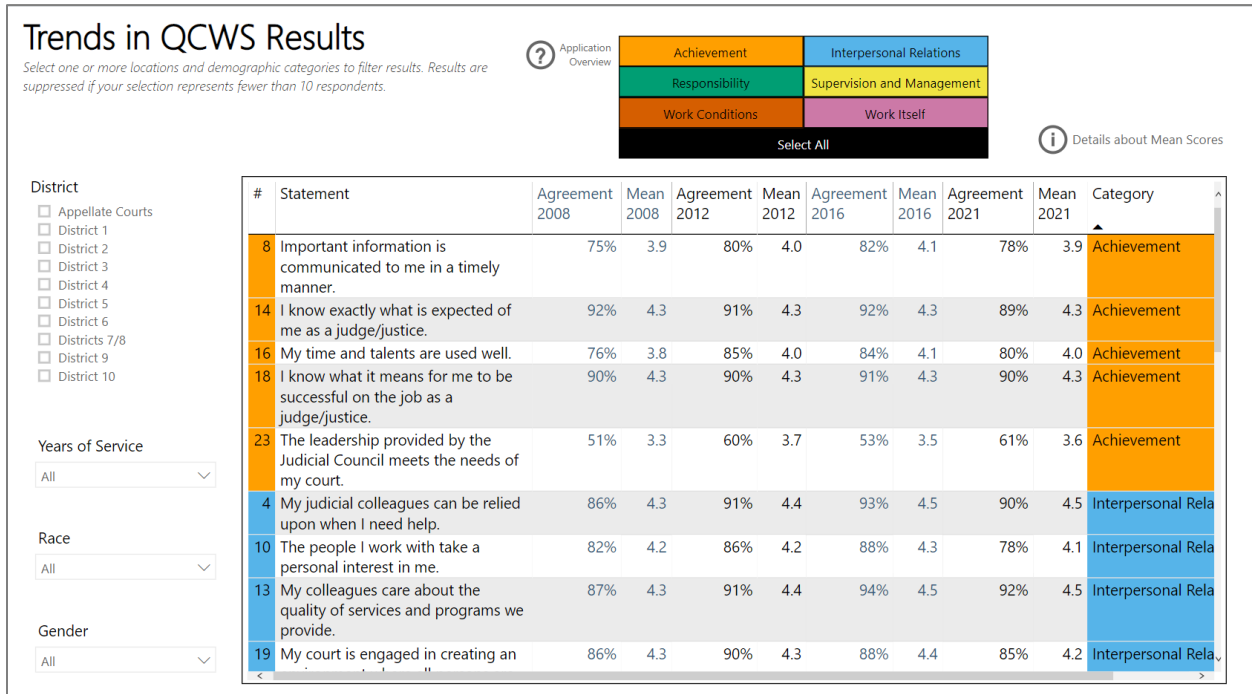
#	Statement	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
4	My court/MJB is respected in the community.	3%	0%	3%	28%	47%	22%	3.9
10	My working conditions and environment enable me to do my job well.	8%	2%	6%	16%	44%	32%	4.0
19	I have the materials, equipment, and supplies necessary to do my job well.	5%	1%	4%	9%	50%	36%	4.2
27	I am able to keep up with my workload without feeling overwhelmed.	20%	6%	14%	21%	41%	18%	3.5
31	I feel safe at my workplace.	4%	1%	3%	10%	46%	40%	4.2
<b>Work Conditions Index Score</b>		<b>79</b>						

See footnote number 2 on page 15 for an explanation of the index score.

**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 6.9: Example of Judge/Justice Quality Court Workplace Survey Dashboard of Results**



Statewide results for five of the 25 statements with the highest levels of agreement and/or mean scores in 2021 appear in Figure 6.10, 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 6.9.

**Figure 6.10: 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

*Judges, cont.*

#	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree or Strongly Agree	Mean
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).

**Figure 6.11: Judge/Justice Statement Levels of Agreement and/or Mean Scores in 2021 – Work Conditions Index**

#	Statement	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
3	My court/MJB is respected in the community.	2%	1%	1%	13%	59%	26%	4.1
7	My working conditions and environment enable me to do my job well.	10%	2%	8%	14%	48%	28%	3.9
12	I have the materials, equipment, and supplies necessary to do my job well.	11%	2%	9%	8%	52%	29%	4.0
24	I feel safe at my workplace.	6%	0%	6%	13%	52%	29%	4.0
25	I am able to keep up with my workload without feeling overwhelmed.	22%	6%	16%	24%	44%	10%	3.4
<b>Work Conditions Index Score</b>		<b>77</b>						

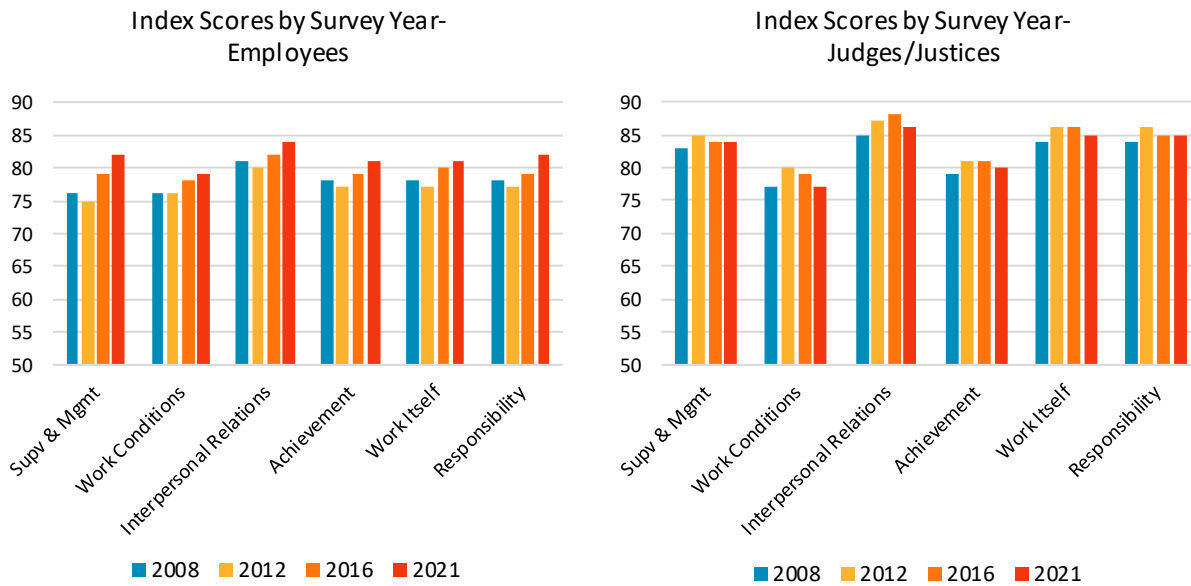


**Comparisons of Employee and Judge/Justice Results**

In 2021, index scores were higher for judges/justices than for employees in four of the six index categories. The largest difference was four points in Work Itself (compared to a seven-point difference in 2016) for which judges/justices had an index score of 85 and employees had a score of 81. (Index scores in these comparisons were calculated using only the 24 statements the two surveys had in common.) The gap between judge/justice and employee results was smaller in 2021 than in 2016. The narrowing was due to an increase in employee results, while judge/justice results mostly decreased or stayed the same.

Figure 6.12 shows all six index scores for the four times the Quality Court Workplace survey was conducted. The results are shown for all employees and judges/justices. All employee index scores are higher in 2021 compared to previous surveys. Judge/Justice index scores in 2021 are similar or slightly lower than previous years.

**Figure 6.12: All Index Scores for Quality Court Workplace Surveys 2008, 2012, 2016, 2021, Comparing Employees and Judges/Justices**



## DATA DETAILS (APPENDIX)

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### DEFINITION OF TERMS

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#### **Dates**

**State Fiscal Year** – All figures that are reported by year are reported using state fiscal year. For example, state fiscal year 2021 includes data from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. This number is also referred to as FY2021, FY21.

#### **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 97<sup>th</sup> percentile and at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile. Any more than 1% of cases disposed beyond the 99<sup>th</sup> 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 99<sup>th</sup> 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><b>1. What is the race of the child?</b></p> <p>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><b>2. Is the child Hispanic or Latino?</b></p> <p>Mark the correct response regarding Hispanic or Latino</p> <p>(N) <b>NO</b>, Not Hispanic or Latino                  (Y) <b>YES</b>, Hispanic or Latino</p>
--	--

Child's Name <b>List each child.</b>	Race <b>Circle response(s)</b>	Hispanic
1.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
2.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
3.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
4.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
5.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N
6.	<i>I A B H W O*</i>	Y / N

\*Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Definitions:

Race Categories: \*

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

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

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

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

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

Ethnicity: \*

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

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

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## ANALYSIS NOTES

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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 FY2021 and include trends back to FY2007. Juror information comes from the jury management system and includes jurors from FY2021 compared to results of the most recent Census Population Estimates (most recent estimates reflect the population on July 1, 2020).

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.