

**Program Name: Criminal Case Processing
Judicial Branch, Court Operations Division**

Quality of Life Result to which the Program Contributes:

Any person linked to a crime may appear before the court and have their matter resolved in a fair, timely, efficient and open manner.

Program's Contribution to Result:

“Criminal Caseflow Processing” is an extremely broad term chosen to describe one of the major functions of the court which encompasses a large number of activities and case types with distinctly different sets of possible results and performance measures.

Criminal caseflow processing provides the court with the ability to effectively manage its criminal and motor vehicle caseloads.

Partners:

- Attorneys
- Law enforcement
- Division of Criminal Justice
- Public Defenders
- Department of Correction
- Court Support Services Division

Performance Measures:

Percentage of criminal cases pending over time standard and turnover rate are broad measures that show the overall effect that caseflow processing procedures may have on one quality of life factor for parties to a criminal case, the timely disposition of the criminal matter.

Performance Measure #1:

Percentage of Criminal Cases Pending Over Time Standard

The percentage of criminal cases pending over time standard is a composite measure of the age of all pending criminal matters. Time standards have been defined for the disposition of different types of criminal offenses. When any case exceeds its defined time period, it is counted as exceeding the time standard. This measure is defined as the percentage of criminal cases exceeding time standards in comparison to the total number of criminal cases pending. It serves as an indicator of timeliness.

FY 2006-07: Geographic Area Courts: 25.9%	Judicial District Courts: 26.7%
FY 2007-08: Geographic Area Courts: 24.5%	Judicial District Courts: 25.4%
FY 2008-09: Geographic Area Courts: 25.2%	Judicial District Courts: 24.9%

Performance Measure #2:

Turnover Rate for Criminal Cases (Geographic Area Courts)

The turnover rate is defined as the percentage of criminal cases disposed in comparison to the number of criminal cases added in a year. It serves as an indicator of efficiency.

2007: 98%

2008: 92%

2009: 95%

Story Behind the Baseline:

The number of criminal cases added to the court's dockets has steadily increased over the past three years, rising from 123,454 in fiscal year 2006-07, to 125,049 in fiscal year 2007-08 to 127,689 in fiscal year 2008-09, while the percentage of cases pending over time standards and turnover rates have remained relatively unchanged. As case volume increases, methods to better manage cases from filing to disposition are needed to maintain and improve timeliness by which criminal cases are disposed, and to improve additional quality of life results for individuals involved in criminal cases.

Proposed Actions to "Turn the Curve":

The court has begun to implement a number of caseflow procedures meant to improve quality of life results for the parties to criminal proceedings, both as a result of recommendations made by its Criminal Practice Commission, and in connection with the implementation of the Branch's strategic plan. These include the use of special sessions and alternatives to court appearances, which address underlying issues for various offenses rather than just the offense itself; development of uniform court procedures, to increase the efficiency and fairness of court proceedings for all those involved; simplified procedures for self-represented parties; development of stringent quality assurance measures; and, adaptation of technology throughout the Branch, to help make better use of information.

Each of these efforts, while contributing to the overall result sought through "Criminal Caseflow Processing" concentrates upon a more specific set of quality of life results targeted to individuals involved a particular type of criminal proceeding and in each case is meant to provide a more positive outcome for the individual, as defined by the particular subject addressed by the initiative. For example, the quality assurance initiative is of particular importance, as it seeks to reduce errors that may have serious consequences on an individual's life, liberty, property and children.

Future Results Based Accountability reporting will be presented regarding the effectiveness of each of the specific efforts outlined previously, and will concentrate more on their intended quality of life results, rather than on their effect upon very broad measures of overall program performance, such as efficiency and timeliness shown by time standards and turnover rates.