

Appendix 1: *Methodology*

Court Statistics Project: Goals and Organization

The Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts compiles and reports comparable court caseload data from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Project publications and technical assistance encourage greater uniformity in how individual state courts and state court administrative offices collect and publish caseload information. Progress toward these goals should result in more meaningful and useful caseload information for judges, court managers, and court administrators.

The *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* series is a cooperative effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Responsibility for project management and staffing is assumed by the NCSC's Court Statistics Project. COSCA, through its Court Statistics Committee, provides policy guidance and review. The Court Statistics Committee includes members of COSCA and representatives of state court administrative office senior staff, the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, the National Association for Court Management, and the academic community. Preparation of the 1998 caseload report was funded by an ongoing grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI-91-N-007-O99-1) to the NCSC.

In addition to preparing publications, the Court Statistics Project responds to thousands of requests for information and assistance each year. These requests come from a variety of sources, including state court administrative offices, local courts, individual judges, federal and state agencies, legislators, the media, academic researchers, students, and NCSC staff.

Evolution of the Court Statistics Project

During the Court Statistics Project's original data compilation efforts, the *State of the Art* and *State Court Caseload Statistics: 1975 Annual Report*, classification problems arose from the multitude of categories and terms used by the states to report their caseloads. This suggested the need for a model annual report and a statistical dictionary of terms for court usage.

The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* provides common terminology, definitions, and usage for reporting appellate and trial court caseloads. Terms for reporting data on case disposition methods are provided in the *Dictionary* and in other project publications. The classification scheme and associated definitions serve as a model framework for developing comparable and useful data. A new edition of the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* was published in 1989, consolidating and revising the original 1980 version and the 1984 *Supplement*.

Once a set of recommended terms was adopted, the project's focus shifted to assessing the comparability of caseload data reported by the courts to those terms. It became particularly important to detail the subject matter jurisdiction and methods of counting cases in each state court. Problems related to categorizing and counting cases in the trial and appellate courts were resolved through the development of the *1984 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting* and the *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting*. Key information from both guides is updated annually as part of the preparation for a new caseload report. The introduction to the 1981 report details the impact of the *Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide* on the Court Statistics Project data collection and the introduction to the 1984 report describes the effect of the *Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide*.

The *State Court Organization* series, being updated for 1998, serves as a valuable complement to the *Report* series. *State Court Organization 1998* is a reference book that describes in great depth the structure, organization, and management of the state trial and appellate courts.

Sources of Data

Information for the national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data typically come from official state court annual reports, which vary widely in form and detail. Although constituting the most reliable and valid data available at the state level, they arrive from statistical data filed monthly, quarterly, or annually by numerous local jurisdictions and, in most states, several trial and appellate court systems. Moreover, these caseload statistics are primarily collected to assist states in managing their own systems and are not prepared specifically for inclusion in the COSCA/NCSC caseload statistics report series.

Some states either do not publish an annual report or publish only limited caseload statistics for either trial or appellate courts. The Court Statistics Project receives unpublished data from those states in a wide range of forms, including internal management memos, computer-generated output, and the project's statistical and jurisdictional profiles, which are updated by state court administrative office staff.

Extensive telephone contact and follow-up correspondence are used to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and determine the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected concerning the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state

population (based on Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. Appendix 2 lists the source of each state's 1998 caseload statistics.

Data Collection Procedures

The following outline summarizes the major tasks involved in compiling the 1998 caseload data reported in this volume:

A. The 1998 state reports were evaluated to note changes in the categories and terminology used for data reporting, changes in the range of available data, and changes in the state's court organization or jurisdiction. This entailed a direct comparison of the 1998 material with the contents of individual states' 1997 annual reports. Project staff used a copy of each state's 1997 trial and appellate court statistical spreadsheets, trial and appellate court jurisdiction guides, and the state court structure chart as worksheets for gathering the 1998 data. Use of the previous year's spreadsheets provides the data collector with a reference point to identify and replicate the logic used in the data collection and ensures consistency over time in the report series. The caseload data were entered onto the 1998 spreadsheets. Caseload terminology is defined by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*. Prototypes of appellate and trial court statistical spreadsheets can be found in Appendix 3.

B. Caseload numbers were screened for significant changes from the previous year. A record that documents and, where possible, explains such changes is maintained. This process serves as another reliability check by identifying statutory, organizational, or procedural changes that potentially had an effect on the size of the reported court caseload.

C. The data were then transferred from the handwritten copy to computer databases that are created as Excel spreadsheets. Mathematical formulas are embedded in each spreadsheet to compute the caseload totals. Linked spreadsheets contain the information on the number of judges, court jurisdiction, and state population needed to generate caseload tables for the 1998 report.

D. After the data were entered and checked for entry errors and internal consistency, individual spreadsheets were generated for the appellate and trial courts using Excel software. The spreadsheet relates the total for each model reporting category to the category or categories the state used to report its caseload numbers.

E. Trial and appellate court spreadsheets for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are sent directly to the states' administrative offices of the courts and/or the appellate court clerks' offices for

verification. This step in the data collection process (which began with the 1989 report) provides further assurance of data accuracy and often yields the bonus of additional caseload data or improved information on the content and accuracy of the data.

F. The final databases are stored in SPSS and Excel at the NCSC. The annual CSP databases are also archived with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

Ongoing Data Collection

Four basic types of data elements are collected by the Court Statistics Project: (1) trial court caseload statistics, (2) trial court jurisdictional/organizational information, (3) appellate court caseload, and (4) appellate court jurisdictional/organizational information.

For trial courts, emphasis is placed on reporting the total number of civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic/other violation cases according to the model reporting format. Each of these major case types can be reduced to more specific caseload categories. For example, civil cases consist of tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, mental health, estate, and domestic relations cases, as well as trial court civil appeals and appeals of administrative agency cases. In some instances, these case types can be further refined; for example, domestic relations cases can be divided into marriage dissolution, support/custody, interstate support, adoption, paternity, and domestic violence cases.

Currently, only filing and disposition numbers are entered into the database for each case type. Data on pending cases were routinely collected by the project staff until serious comparability problems were identified when compiling the 1984 report. Some courts provide data that include active cases only; others include active and inactive cases. The COSCA Court Statistics Committee recommended that the collection of pending caseload be deferred until a study determines whether and how data can be made comparable across states.

The trial court jurisdictional profile collects an assortment of information relevant to the organization and jurisdiction of each trial court system. Before the use of Excel spreadsheets for reporting statistical data, the main purpose of the profile was to translate the terminology used by the states when reporting statistical information into generic terms recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Each court's spreadsheet captures the state's terminology, and the jurisdiction guide format has been streamlined. The jurisdictional profile currently collects information on number of courts, number of judges, methods of counting cases,

availability of jury trials, dollar amount jurisdiction of the court, and time standards for case processing.

There are also statistical spreadsheets and jurisdiction guides for each state appellate court. Two major case types are used on the statistical spreadsheet: mandatory cases that the court must hear on the merits as appeals of right and discretionary petition cases that the court decides whether to accept and then reach a decision on the merits. The statistical spreadsheet also contains the number of petitions granted if it can be determined. Mandatory and discretionary petitions are further differentiated by whether the case is a review of a final trial court judgment or some other matter, such as a request for interlocutory or postconviction relief. When possible, the statistics are classified according to subject matter, chiefly civil, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, or administrative agency.

The appellate court jurisdiction guide contains information about each court, including number of court locations, number of justices/judges, number of legal support personnel, point at which appeals are counted as cases, procedures used to review discretionary petitions, and use of panels.

Supplementary Data Collection

The Court Statistics Project supplements its ongoing, general data collection efforts by collecting manner of disposition data from the states' general jurisdiction courts. All of the states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were contacted and asked to make an effort to supply manner of disposition data to the project. Thirty states provided comprehensive criminal disposition data, and this year civil disposition data were taken from the Civil Trial Court Network Project. Disposition statistics from these courts present a picture of the way cases are disposed in state trial courts nationally. They are useful in comparing court backlogs, case management systems, and the impact of specialized programs such as arbitration and mediation.

Several obstacles hinder the achievement of comprehensive national statistics on manner of disposition for court cases. First, some states do not collect any disposition data. There were 16 such states in 1998. Second, other states define disposition categories differently, so information may not be comparable. For example, many states have a different definition of what a bench trial is and what is considered a hearing before a judge. States with a very high bench trial rate are using a more liberal definition of what constitutes a bench trial. Third, the mix of cases included in disposition totals may vary. For example, some states report contested and uncontested divorce cases together, while others do not. Also, differences in subject matter jurisdiction, court structure, and units for counting cases will affect the use of manner of disposition statistics.

Each of the states that could provide manner of disposition data for 1998 was sent a copy of how the state's data were to be reported. Fifteen of the states verified these and returned them to the Court Statistics Project.

Completeness

States vary in their ability to report comprehensive and complete manner of disposition data. For criminal cases, Maryland reported only trial dispositions; Massachusetts and Rhode Island reported total criminal trials, but did not distinguish between jury and bench trials. Louisiana provided the number of criminal cases disposed by jury trials only.

Comparability

Comparability is possible when states count trials similarly, use similar methods for counting cases, and report information for a similar range of case types. The point at which a state counts a jury trial varies widely. The table below shows the relative use of alternative trial definitions.

The definitional differences for trials explain some of the variation in trial rates. Generally, most states providing data define a trial in a way that inflates the number of cases disposed at trial.

Definitions	Number of states which use definition for criminal	Number of states which use definition for civil
A) A jury trial is counted when a jury is selected, empaneled, or sworn. A nonjury trial is counted when evidence is first introduced or first witness is sworn.	34	32
B) A jury trial is counted at introduction or swearing of first witness. A nonjury trial is counted when evidence is first introduced or swearing of first witness.	2	3
C) A jury trial is counted at verdict or decision.	16	17

On the criminal side, courts also vary in the point at which they count a case as initially filed. Most states count a criminal case as filed at the information or indictment, although some use the arraignment. Since a number of cases will drop out of the system between these two points (usually by a plea or a dismissal), those courts that use an early count will have a higher rate of nontrial dispositions. Courts also differ in case unit

of count. As shown below, states differ on whether they count charges, defendants, or indictments.

Definitions for unit of count—Criminal	Number of states
Single Defendant/Single Charge	5
Single Defendant/Single Incident	20
Single Defendant/Single Incident (maximum number of charges)	0
Single Defendant/One or More Incidents	10
Single Defendant/Varies with Prosecutor	6
One or More Defendants/Single Incident	4
One or More Defendants/One or More Incidents	4
One or More Defendants/Varies with Prosecutor	1
Varies with Prosecutor/Varies with Prosecutor	2

Definition of point of count—Criminal	Number of states
At the filing of the Information or Indictment	38
At the filing of the Information or Complaint	5
At the filing of Complaint (Warrant/Accusation)	4
At the Arraignment (First Appearance)	5

Footnotes

Footnotes indicate the degree to which a court’s statistics conform to the Court Statistics Project’s reporting categories defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Footnoted caseload statistics are either overinclusive in that they contain case types other than those defined for the term in the *Dictionary* or underinclusive in that some case types defined for the term in the *Dictionary* are not included. It is possible for a caseload statistic to contain inapplicable case types while also omitting those which are applicable, making the total or subtotal simultaneously overinclusive and underinclusive.

The 1998 report uses a simplified system of footnotes. An “A” footnote indicates that the caseload statistic for a statewide court system does not include some of the recommended case types; a “B” footnote indicates that the statistic includes some extraneous case types; a “C” footnote indicates that the data are both incomplete and overinclusive. The text of the footnote explains for each court system how the caseload data differ from the reporting category recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Caseload statistics that are not qualified by a footnote conform to the *Dictionary*’s definition.

Case filings and dispositions are also affected by the unit and method of count used by the states, differing subject matter and dollar amount jurisdiction, and different court system structures. Most of these differences are described in the figures found in this volume and are summarized in the court structure chart for each state. The most important differences are reported in summary form in the main caseload tables.

Variations in Reporting Periods

As indicated in Figure A, most states report data by calendar year, others by fiscal year, and a few appellate courts by court term. Therefore, the 12-month period covered in this report is not the same for all courts.

This report reflects court organization and jurisdiction in 1998. Since 1975, new courts have been created at both the appellate and trial level, additional courts report data to the Court Statistics Project, and courts may have merged and/or changed counting or reporting methods. The dollar amount limits of civil jurisdiction in many trial courts also vary. Care is therefore required when comparing 1998 data to previous years. The trend analysis used in this report offers a model for undertaking such comparisons.

Final Note

Comments, corrections, and suggestions are encouraged and can be sent to:

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Appendix 2: *Sources of 1998*

State Court Caseload Statistics

Sources of 1998 State Court Caseload Statistics

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Alabama	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the clerks of these courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.
Alaska	Alaska Court System 1998 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1998 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1998 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1998 Annual Report
Arizona	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
Arkansas	Statistical Supplement to the 1997-1998 Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary	Statistical Supplement to the 1997-1998 Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary	Statistical Supplement to the 1997-1998 Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary	Statistical Supplement to the 1997-1998 Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary
California	Data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Judicial Council of California www.courtinfo.gov	Judicial Council of California www.courtinfo.gov
Colorado	Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Report FY 1998 Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Report FY 1998 Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Branch FY 1998 Annual Report Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Branch FY 1998 Annual Report Statistical Supplement.
Connecticut	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.
Delaware	1998 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary	-----	1998 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary & 1998 Statistical Report	1998 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary & 1998 Statistical Report
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report, 1998. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Clerk.	-----	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report, 1998. Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Officer.	-----
Florida	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Department of Highways, Safety, and Motor Vehicles.
Georgia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Hawaii	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998 & Statistical Supplement	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998 & Statistical Supplement
Idaho	The Idaho Courts Annual Report Appendix, 1998	The Idaho Courts Annual Report Appendix, 1998	The Idaho Courts Annual Report Appendix, 1998	The Idaho Courts Annual Report Appendix, 1998
Illinois	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.	-----
Indiana	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Director, Supreme Court of Indiana.	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Director, Supreme Court of Indiana.	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Director, Supreme Court of Indiana.	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Director, Supreme Court of Indiana.

Sources of 1998 State Court Caseload Statistics

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Iowa	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	-----
Kansas	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1997-1998 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1997-1998 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: FY 1998	Annual Report of the Kansas Municipal Courts: FY 1998
Kentucky	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
Louisiana	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.
Maine	Maine Judicial Branch Data, FY 1998	-----	Maine Judicial Branch Data, FY 1998	Maine Judicial Branch Data, FY 1998
Maryland	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1997-1998	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1997-1998	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1997-1998. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1997-1998
Massachusetts	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appeals Court.	FY 1998 Annual Report on the State of the Massachusetts Court System	FY 1998 Annual Report on the State of the Massachusetts Court System
Michigan	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Minnesota	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	-----
Mississippi	Unpublished data were provided by the Appellate Court Clerk.	Unpublished data were provided by the Appellate Court Clerk.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.
Missouri	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Missouri Judicial Report Supplement, FY 1998.	Data were not available.
Montana	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	-----	1998 Annual Report of the Montana Judiciary	1998 Annual Report of the Montana Judiciary
Nebraska	The Courts of Nebraska 1998 Annual Caseload Report. Additional unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	The Courts of Nebraska 1998 Annual Caseload Report.	The Courts of Nebraska 1998 Annual Caseload Report. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	The Courts of Nebraska 1998 Annual Caseload Report. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
Nevada	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Data were not available.
New Hampshire	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
New Jersey	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	NJ Judiciary: Superior Court Caseload Reference Guide, 1994-1998. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
New Mexico	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	New Mexico State Courts, 1998 Annual Report & Statistical Addendum. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	New Mexico State Courts, 1998 Annual Report & Statistical Addendum. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
New York	1998 Annual Report of the Clerk of Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	Unpublished data were provided by the clerks of these courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.
North Carolina	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
North Dakota	North Dakota Courts Annual Report, 1998. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	_____	North Dakota Courts Annual Report, 1998. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	North Dakota Courts Annual Report, 1998. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
Ohio	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director.
Oklahoma	Data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Court of Criminal Appeals.	Data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Data were not available.	Data were not available.
Oregon	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Pennsylvania	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Superior Court of Pennsylvania Annual Report, 1998. Additional unpublished data were provided by the clerks of these courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Puerto Rico	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of Courts Administration.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of Courts Administration.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	_____
Rhode Island	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	_____	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
South Carolina	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, SC Court Administration.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, SC Court Administration.
South Dakota	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary, 1998. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	_____	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary and FY 1998 Annual Report of SD Unified Judicial System	_____

Sources of 1998 State Court Caseload Statistics

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Tennessee	Tennessee Judicial Council Annual Report and Statistical Supplement, 1997-1998. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Tennessee Judicial Council Annual Report and Statistical Supplement, 1997-1998. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary, FY 1997-1998. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerks of Probate Court.	State of Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 1998 Annual Statistical Report.
Texas	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1998	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1998	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1998	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1998
Utah	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Internet: www.courtlink.utcourts.gov	Internet: www.courtlink.utcourts.gov
Vermont	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1998. Additional unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Court Administrator.	-----	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1998.	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1998.
Virginia	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of Court Administration.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of Court Administration.	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report, 1998.	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report, 1998.
Washington	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of Court.	Caseloads of the Courts of Washington 1998	Caseloads of the Courts of Washington 1998
West Virginia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
Wisconsin	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.
Wyoming	Unpublished data were provided by the state Court Coordinator.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.

Appendix 3: *Prototypes of State Appellate Court
and Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheets*

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet

State Name, Court Name
 Court of last resort or intermediate appellate court
 Number of divisions/departments, number of authorized justices/judges
 Total population

	<u>Beginning pending</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>End pending</u>
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:				
Appeals of final judgments:				
Civil				
Criminal:				
Capital criminal				
Other criminal				
Total criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other mandatory cases:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other mandatory				
Total mandatory cases				
	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Filed Petitions Granted</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Filed Petitions Granted Disposed</u>
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:				
Petitions of final judgment:				
Civil				
Criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other discretionary petitions:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other discretionary				
Total discretionary cases				
GRAND TOTAL				
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:				
Rehearing/reconsideration requests				
Motions				
Other matters				
Number of supplemental judges/justices				
Number of independent appellate courts at this level				

MANNER OF DISPOSITION

	Predecision disposition (dismissed/ withdrawn/settled)	Opinions		Decision without opinion (memo/order)	Transferred	Other
		Signed opinion	Per curiam opinion			
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:						
Appeals of final judgment						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other mandatory cases:						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Interlocutory decisions						
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases						
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:						
Petitions of final judgments:						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other discretionary petitions						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Total discretionary cases						
GRAND TOTAL						

TYPE OF DECISION IN MANDATORY CASES/GRANTED PETITIONS OF FINAL JUDGMENT

	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Administrative agency	Other mandatory cases	Total
Opinions:						
Affirmed						
Modified						Reversed
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						
Total decisions:						
Affirmed						
Modified						Reversed
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						

TYPE OF DECISION IN OTHER DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS

	Petition granted	Petition denied	Other
Other discretionary petitions:			
Disciplinary matters			
Original proceedings			
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases			

TIME INTERVAL DATA (MONTH/DAYS)

	Notice of appeal or ready for hearing			Ready for hearing or under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed)			Under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed) to decision			Notice of appeal to decision		
	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:												
Appeals of final judgment												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other mandatory cases												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases												
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:												
Petitions of final judgments												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other discretionary petitions												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Advisory opinions												
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases												
GRAND TOTAL												

AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)

	Not ready for hearing									Submitted or oral argument completed			Average age of pending caseload
	Awaiting court reporter's transcript			Awaiting appellant's brief			Awaiting respondent's brief			Ready for hearing			
	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:													
Appeals of final judgment													
Civil													
Criminal													
Juvenile													
Administrative agency													
Unclassified													
Other mandatory cases													
Disciplinary matters													
Original proceedings													
Interlocutory decisions													
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases													
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:													
Petitions of final judgments													
Civil													
Criminal													
Juvenile													
Administrative agency													
Unclassified													
Other discretionary petitions													
Disciplinary matters													
Original proceedings													
Interlocutory decisions													
Advisory opinions													
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases													
GRAND TOTAL													

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet

State Name, Court Name
 Court of general jurisdiction or court of limited jurisdiction
 Number of circuits or districts, number of judges
 Total population

	Beginning Pending	Filed	Disposed	End Pending
CIVIL:				
Tort:				
Auto tort				
Product liability				
Medical malpractice				
Unclassified tort				
Miscellaneous tort				
Total Tort				
Contract				
Real property rights				
Small claims				
Domestic relations:				
Marriage dissolution				
Support/custody				
Interstate support				
Adoption				
Paternity				
Domestic violence				
Miscellaneous				
Unclassified				
Total domestic relations				
Estate:				
Probate/wills/intestate				
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship				
Miscellaneous estate				
Unclassified estate				
Total estate				
Mental health				
Appeal:				
Appeal of administrative agency case				
Appeal of trial court case				
Total civil appeals				
Miscellaneous civil				
Unclassified civil				
Total civil				
CRIMINAL:				
Felony				
Misdemeanor				
DWI/DUI				
Appeal				
Miscellaneous criminal				
Unclassified criminal				
Total Criminal				
TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:				
Moving traffic violation				
Ordinance violation				
Parking violation				
Miscellaneous traffic				
Unclassified traffic				
Total traffic/other violation				

	Beginning Pending	Filed	Disposed	End Pending
JUVENILE:				
Criminal-type petition				
Status offense				
Child-victim petition				
Miscellaneous juvenile				
Unclassified juvenile				
Total juvenile				

GRAND TOTAL

Drug cases

OTHER PROCEEDINGS:

- Postconviction remedy
- Preliminary hearings
- Sentence review only
- Extraordinary writs
- Total other proceedings

MANNER OF CIVIL DISPOSITIONS

	Uncontested/ Default	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Settled	Transferred	Arbitration	Total
CIVIL:							
Tort:							
Auto tort							
Product liability							
Medical malpractice							
Unclassified tort							
Miscellaneous tort							
Total Tort							
Contract							
Real property rights							
Small claims							
Domestic relations:							
Marriage dissolution							
Support/custody							
Interstate support							
Adoption							
Paternity							
Domestic violence							
Miscellaneous							
Unclassified							
Total domestic relations							
Estate:							
Probate/wills/intestate							
Guardianship/conservatorship							
/trusteeship							
Miscellaneous estate							
Unclassified estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeals							
Miscellaneous civil							
Unclassified civil							
Total civil							

MANNER OF CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS AND TYPE OF DECISION

	<u>Felony</u>	<u>Misdemeanor</u>	<u>DWI/DUI</u>	<u>Appeal</u>	<u>Miscellaneous criminal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Nonjury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Guilty Plea						
Dismissed/nolle prosequi						
Bail forfeiture						
Bound over						
Transferred						
Other						
Total dispositions						

MANNER OF TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION DISPOSITIONS AND TYPE OF DECISION

	<u>Moving traffic violation</u>	<u>Ordinance violation</u>	<u>Parking violation</u>	<u>Miscellaneous traffic violation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jury trial:					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Nonjury trial:					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Guilty Plea					
Dismissed/nolle prosequi					
Bail forfeiture					
Parking fines					
Transferred					
Other					
Total dispositions					

MANNER OF DISPOSITION: TRIALS

	Trial				Trial		
	Jury	Nonjury	Total		Jury	Nonjury	Total
CIVIL:				CRIMINAL:			
Tort:				Felony			
Auto tort				Misdemeanor			
Product liability				DWI/DUI			
Medical malpractice				Appeal			
Unclassified tort				Miscellaneous criminal			
Miscellaneous tort				Unclassified criminal			
Total Tort				Total criminal			
Contract				TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:			
Real property rights				Moving traffic violation			
Small claims				Ordinance violation			
Domestic relations:				Parking violation			
Marriage dissolution				Miscellaneous traffic			
Support/custody				Unclassified traffic			
Interstate support				Total traffic/other violation			
Adoption				JUVENILE:			
Paternity				Criminal-type petition			
Domestic violence				Status offense			
Miscellaneous				Child-victim petition			
Unclassified				Miscellaneous juvenile			
Total domestic relations				Unclassified juvenile			
Estate:				Total juvenile			
Probate/wills/intestate				GRAND TOTAL			
Guardianship/conservatorship							
/trusteeship							
Miscellaneous estate							
Unclassified estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeals							
Miscellaneous civil							
Unclassified civil							
Total civil							

AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)

	<u>0-30</u> <u>days</u>	<u>31-60</u> <u>days</u>	<u>61-90</u> <u>days</u>	<u>91-180</u> <u>days</u>	<u>181-360</u> <u>days</u>	<u>361-720</u> <u>days</u>	<u>over 720</u> <u>days</u>	<u>Average age</u> <u>of pending cases</u>
CIVIL:								
Tort:								
Auto tort								
Product liability								
Medical malpractice								
Unclassified tort								
Miscellaneous tort								
Total Tort								
Contract								
Real property rights								
Small claims								
Domestic relations:								
Marriage dissolution								
Support/custody								
Interstate support								
Adoption								
Paternity								
Domestic violence								
Miscellaneous								
Unclassified								
Total domestic relations								
Estate:								
Probate/wills/intestate								
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship								
Miscellaneous estate								
Unclassified estate								
Total estate								
Mental health								
Appeal:								
Appeal of administrative agency case								
Appeal of trial court case								
Total civil appeals								
Miscellaneous civil								
Unclassified civil								
Total civil								

AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)

	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-360 days	361-720 days	over 720 days	Average age of pending cases
CRIMINAL:								
Felony								
Misdemeanor								
DWI/DUI								
Appeal								
Miscellaneous criminal								
Unclassified criminal								
Total criminal								
TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:								
Moving traffic violation								
Ordinance violation								
Parking violation								
Miscellaneous traffic								
Unclassified traffic								
Total traffic/other violation								
JUVENILE:								
Criminal-type petition								
Status offense								
Child-victim petition								
Miscellaneous juvenile								
Unclassified juvenile								
Total juvenile								
GRAND TOTAL								
Drug cases								
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:								
Postconviction remedy								
Preliminary hearings								
Sentence review only								
Extraordinary writs								
Total other proceedings								

A

ppendix 4: *State Populations*

State Populations

Resident Population, 1998

State or territory	Population (in thousands)		
	1998 Juvenile	1998 Adult	1998 Total
Alabama	1,084	3,268	4,352
Alaska	192	422	614
Arizona	1,263	3,405	4,668
Arkansas	654	1,885	2,539
California	8,911	23,755	32,666
Colorado	1,041	2,930	3,971
Connecticut	791	2,483	3,274
Delaware	179	565	744
District of Columbia	103	420	523
Florida	3,540	11,376	14,916
Georgia	2,022	5,620	7,642
Hawaii	298	895	1,193
Idaho	351	878	1,229
Illinois	3,187	8,858	12,045
Indiana	1,517	4,382	5,899
Iowa	722	2,140	2,862
Kansas	697	1,932	2,629
Kentucky	988	2,948	3,936
Louisiana	1,191	3,178	4,369
Maine	292	953	1,245
Maryland	1,287	3,848	5,135
Massachusetts	1,458	4,689	6,147
Michigan	2,552	7,266	9,818
Minnesota	1,259	3,466	4,725
Mississippi	757	1,995	2,752
Missouri	1,407	4,032	5,439
Montana	224	656	880
Nebraska	446	1,217	1,663
Nevada	467	1,280	1,747
New Hampshire	299	886	1,185
New Jersey	1,990	6,125	8,115
New Mexico	504	1,233	1,737
New York	4,503	13,673	18,176
North Carolina	1,920	5,627	7,547
North Dakota	163	476	639
Ohio	2,844	8,365	11,209
Oklahoma	879	2,467	3,347
Oregon	825	2,457	3,282
Pennsylvania	2,860	9,142	12,002
Puerto Rico	1,139	2,718	3,857

State Populations

Resident Population, 1998 (continued)

State or territory	Population (in thousands)		
	1998 Juvenile	1998 Adult	1998 Total
Rhode Island	238	751	989
South Carolina	959	2,877	3,836
South Dakota	201	537	738
Tennessee	1,331	4,099	5,430
Texas	5,629	14,130	19,759
Utah	701	1,398	2,099
Vermont	141	450	591
Virginia	1,645	5,147	6,792
Washington	1,472	4,217	5,689
West Virginia	404	1,407	1,811
Wisconsin	1,351	3,872	5,223
Wyoming	129	352	481

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999.

Total State Population for Trend Tables, 1989-1998

State or territory	Population (in thousands)									
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Alabama	4,119	4,041	4,089	4,136	4,187	4,219	4,253	4,273	4,319	4,352
Alaska	527	550	570	587	599	606	603	607	609	614
Arizona	3,557	3,665	3,750	3,832	3,936	4,075	4,218	4,428	4,555	4,668
Arkansas	2,407	2,351	2,372	2,399	2,424	2,453	2,484	2,510	2,523	2,539
California	29,064	29,760	30,380	30,867	31,211	31,431	31,590	31,878	32,268	32,666
Colorado	3,316	3,294	3,377	3,470	3,566	3,656	3,746	3,823	3,893	3,971
Connecticut	3,239	3,287	3,291	3,281	3,277	3,275	3,275	3,274	3,270	3,274
Delaware	672	666	680	689	700	707	717	725	732	744
District of Columbia	604	607	598	589	578	570	555	543	529	523
Florida	12,671	12,938	13,277	13,488	13,679	13,953	14,165	14,400	14,654	14,916
Georgia	6,436	6,478	6,623	6,751	6,917	7,055	7,201	7,353	7,486	7,642
Hawaii	1,112	1,108	1,135	1,160	1,172	1,178	1,187	1,184	1,187	1,193
Idaho	1,014	1,007	1,039	1,067	1,099	1,133	1,163	1,189	1,210	1,229
Illinois	11,658	11,431	11,543	11,631	11,697	11,751	11,830	11,847	11,896	12,045
Indiana	5,593	5,544	5,610	5,622	5,713	5,752	5,803	5,841	5,864	5,899
Iowa	2,838	2,777	2,795	2,812	2,814	2,829	2,842	2,852	2,852	2,862
Kansas	2,513	2,478	2,495	2,523	2,531	2,554	2,566	2,572	2,595	2,629
Kentucky	3,727	3,685	3,713	3,755	3,789	3,827	3,861	3,884	3,908	3,936
Louisiana	4,383	4,220	4,252	4,287	4,295	4,315	4,342	4,351	4,352	4,369
Maine	1,222	1,228	1,235	1,235	1,239	1,241	1,241	1,243	1,242	1,245
Maryland	4,694	4,781	4,860	4,908	4,965	5,006	5,042	5,072	5,094	5,135
Massachusetts	5,912	6,016	5,996	5,988	6,012	6,041	6,074	6,092	6,118	6,147
Michigan	9,274	9,295	9,368	9,437	9,478	9,496	9,549	9,594	9,774	9,818
Minnesota	4,352	4,375	4,432	4,480	4,517	4,567	4,609	4,658	4,686	4,725
Mississippi	2,621	2,573	2,592	2,614	2,643	2,669	2,697	2,716	2,731	2,752
Missouri	5,160	5,117	5,158	5,193	5,234	5,278	5,324	5,359	5,402	5,439
Montana	805	799	808	824	839	856	870	879	879	880
Nebraska	1,611	1,578	1,593	1,606	1,607	1,623	1,637	1,652	1,657	1,663
Nevada	1,109	1,202	1,284	1,327	1,389	1,457	1,531	1,603	1,677	1,747
New Hampshire	1,106	1,109	1,105	1,111	1,125	1,137	1,148	1,162	1,173	1,185
New Jersey	7,736	7,730	7,760	7,789	7,879	7,903	7,946	7,988	8,053	8,115
New Mexico	1,528	1,515	1,548	1,581	1,616	1,653	1,685	1,713	1,730	1,737
New York	17,950	17,990	18,058	18,119	18,197	18,169	18,136	18,185	18,137	18,176
North Carolina	6,570	6,629	6,737	6,843	6,945	7,070	7,195	7,323	7,425	7,547
North Dakota	661	639	635	636	635	638	641	645	641	639
Ohio	10,908	10,847	10,939	11,016	11,091	11,102	11,151	11,173	11,186	11,209
Oklahoma	3,223	3,146	3,175	3,212	3,231	3,258	3,278	3,301	3,317	3,347
Oregon	2,820	2,842	2,922	2,977	3,032	3,086	3,141	3,204	3,243	3,282
Pennsylvania	12,039	11,882	11,961	12,009	12,048	12,053	12,072	12,056	12,020	12,002
Puerto Rico	3,291	3,521	3,522	3,522	3,622	3,686	3,719	3,733	3,806	3,857
Rhode Island	996	1,003	1,004	1,005	1,000	997	990	990	987	989
South Carolina	3,512	3,487	3,560	3,603	3,643	3,664	3,673	3,699	3,760	3,836
South Dakota	716	696	703	711	715	721	729	732	738	738
Tennessee	4,939	4,877	4,953	5,024	5,099	5,175	5,256	5,320	5,368	5,430
Texas	16,991	16,987	17,349	17,656	18,031	18,378	18,724	19,128	19,439	19,759
Utah	1,707	1,723	1,770	1,813	1,860	1,908	1,952	2,000	2,059	2,099
Vermont	566	563	567	570	576	581	585	589	589	591
Virginia	6,097	6,187	6,286	6,377	6,491	6,552	6,619	6,675	6,734	6,792
Washington	4,760	4,867	5,018	5,136	5,255	5,343	5,431	5,533	5,610	5,689
West Virginia	1,857	1,793	1,801	1,812	1,820	1,822	1,828	1,826	1,816	1,811
Wisconsin	4,867	4,892	4,955	5,007	5,038	5,081	5,123	5,160	5,170	5,223
Wyoming	474	454	460	466	470	476	480	481	480	481
TOTAL	251,524	252,230	255,703	258,553	257,904	264,026	266,477	269,018	271,442	274,156

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999.

State Court Organization 1998

The Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for State Courts announce *State Court Organization, 1998*. Copies will be available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service during the first half of 2000. The newest edition will cover most of the topics included in the 1993 edition and will cover new topics as well. Notable additions are tables on court automation, specialized courts, the administrative authority of presiding trial court judges, and the processing of domestic violence cases. A table of contents appears below:

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State Court Organization, 1998, the fourth in a series initiated in 1980, is a joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Conference of State Court Administrators, and the National Center for State Courts.