



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development



Workers' Compensation Advisory Council February 14, 2024

Maura Healey, Governor

Kim Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor

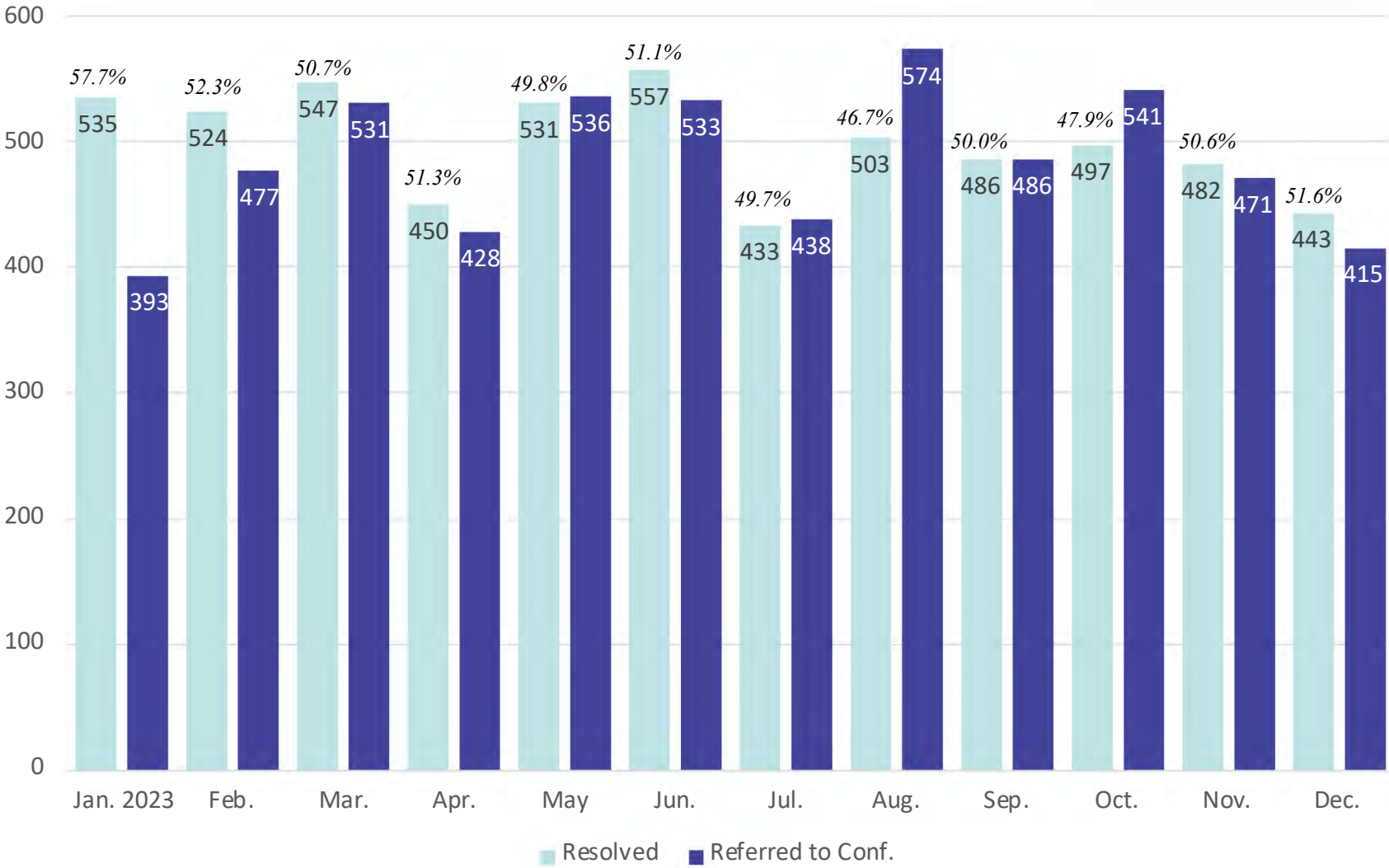
Lauren E. Jones, Secretary of Labor &
Workforce Development

Sheri Bowles, Director - DIA



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Conciliations Resolved v. Referred to Conference

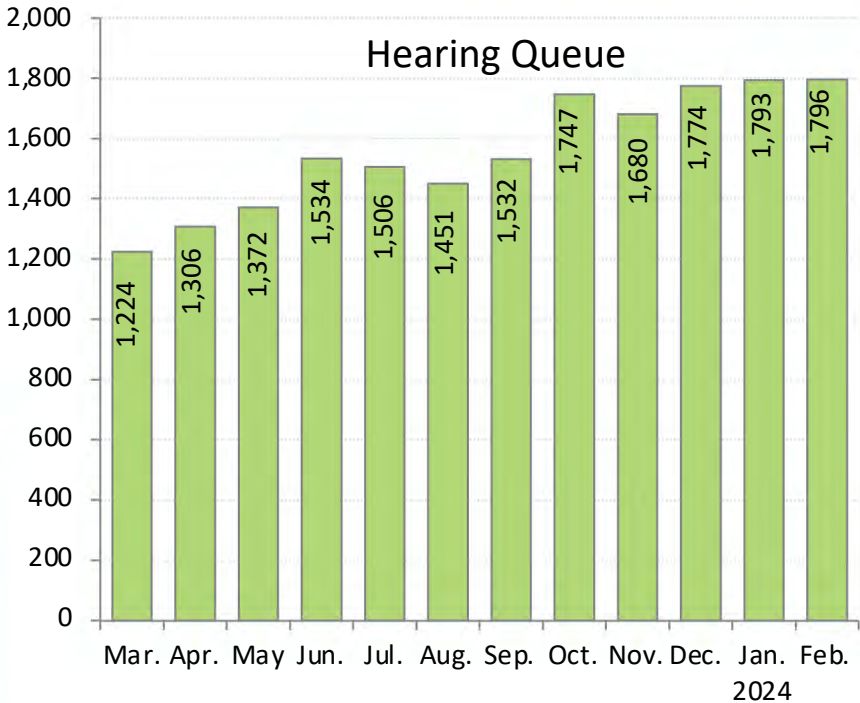
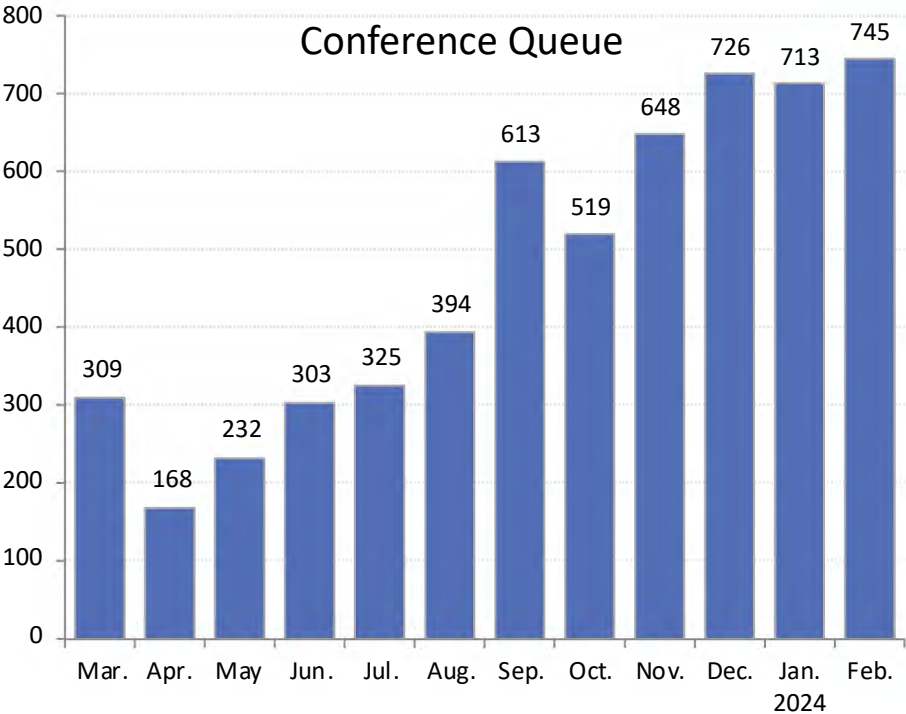


Percent resolved indicated.



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Dispute Resolution: Fluctuations in the conference & hearing queues will depend upon number of cases being referred from conciliation, conference order appeals, judges scheduling cycles, continuance requests and regional variations. In addition, during FY 2024 attorneys have requested a total of 3,353 continuances. For FY 2023, there were 7,912 continuances.



Currently, the average waiting period for a conference is 10 to 18 weeks.

December 2023 *Estimated*

Conf. Sched.:	403	Hear. Sched.:	262
Orders issued:	258	Appeals to RB:	4
% Claimants recv. WC – 110 filed		% Claimants recv. WC. – no 110 filed	
Conference	49%		92%
Hearing	78%		86%



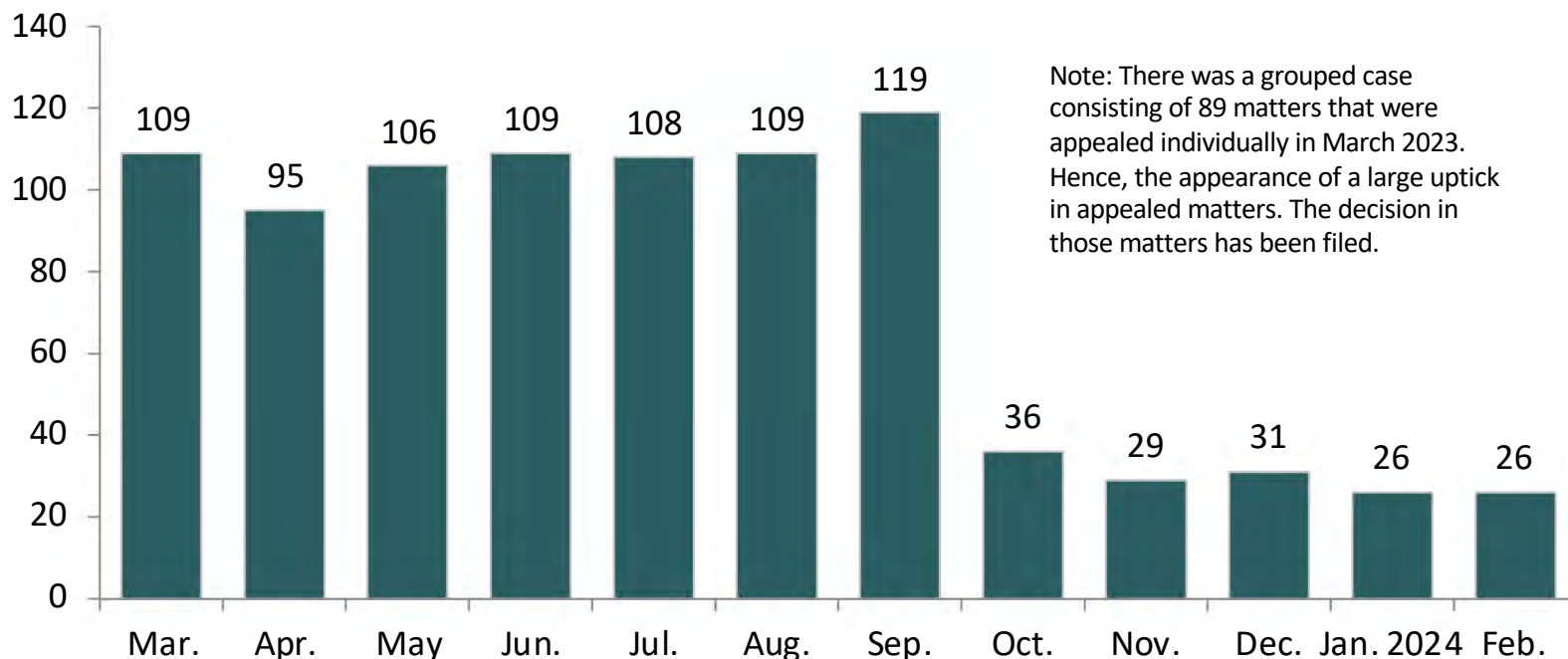
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Pending Hearing Decisions	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
6 to 9 months post hearing	6	5	4
9 to 12 months post hearing	1	1	0
12 to 36 months post hearing	4	4	5
36 + months post hearing	0	0	0
Total	11	10	9



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Review Board Inventory



Other Figures

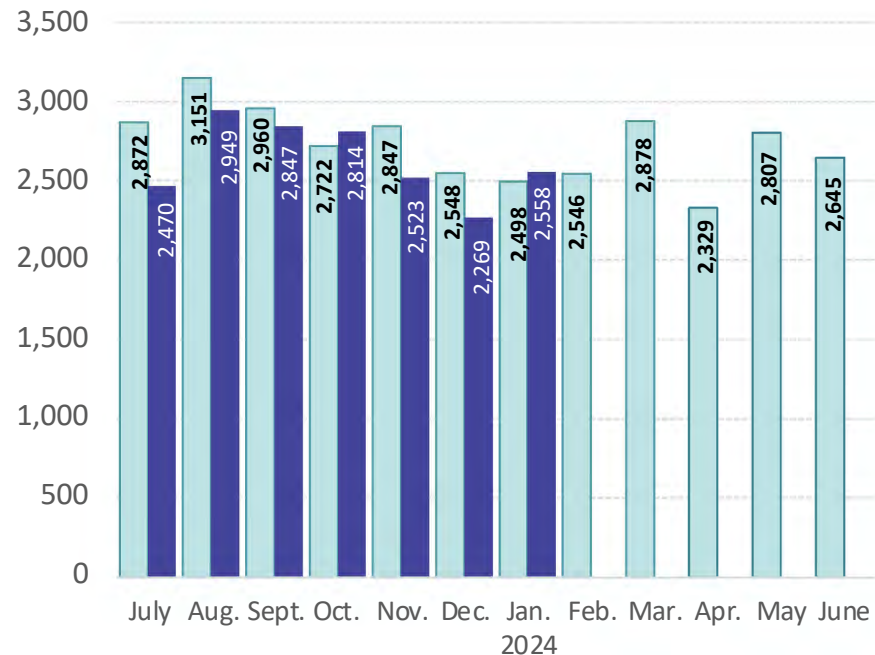
	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022
Fee Waivers Granted:	40	78	52
Exam Fees Collected:	\$ 788,500	\$ 1,504,226	\$ 1,493,843
Attorneys' Fees (all proceedings)	\$52,727,864	\$94,666,107	\$89,590,462
Referral Fees	\$ 2,005,875	\$ 3,964,110	\$ 4,143,382
Sec. 7 & 8 Penalties	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,274

FY 2023 as of 1/31/2024 – Note: Attorneys Fees are not paid by the DIA. These fees are paid by the insurer to the claimant's counsel at certain stages of the dispute resolution process by statute.

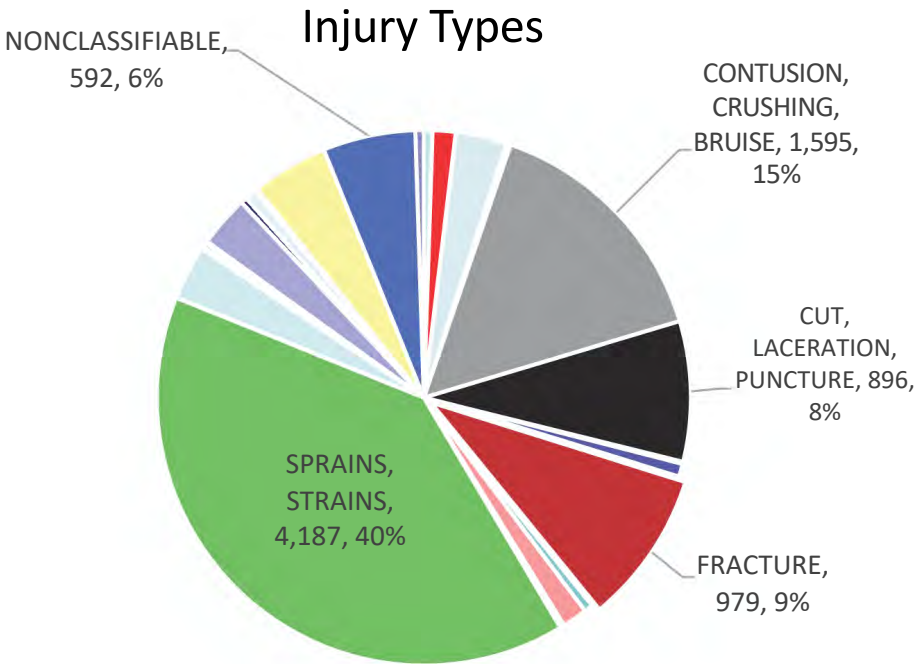


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First Reports of Injury by Month



First Reports of Injury –
FY 2023 v. FY 2024 as of 1/31/2024



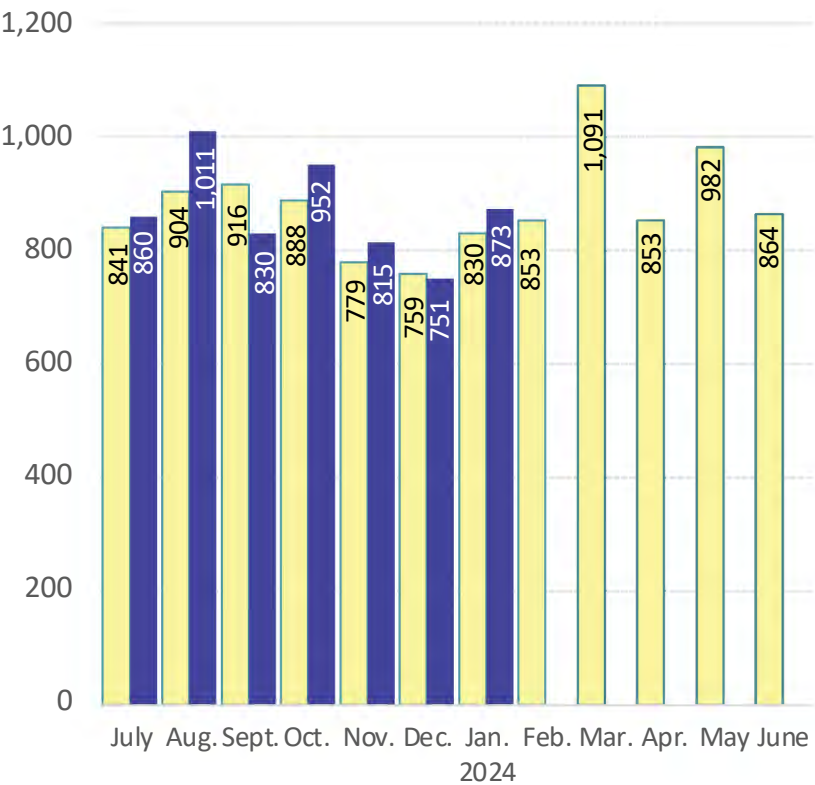
Injury Types for FY 2024
As of 1/31/2024

First Report of Injury (FRI) filings for January 2024 were 2,558. Total FRIs filed for FY 2024 are 18,430. The total FRIs file for FY 2023 were 32,803.

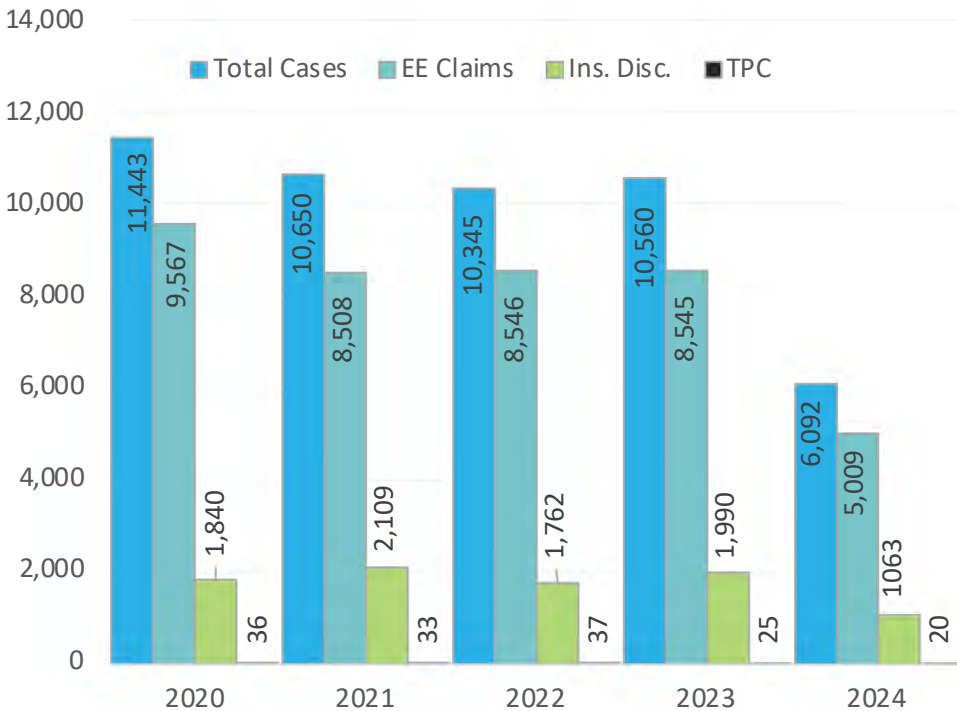


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Cases Filed by Month



Cases by Type and Fiscal Year



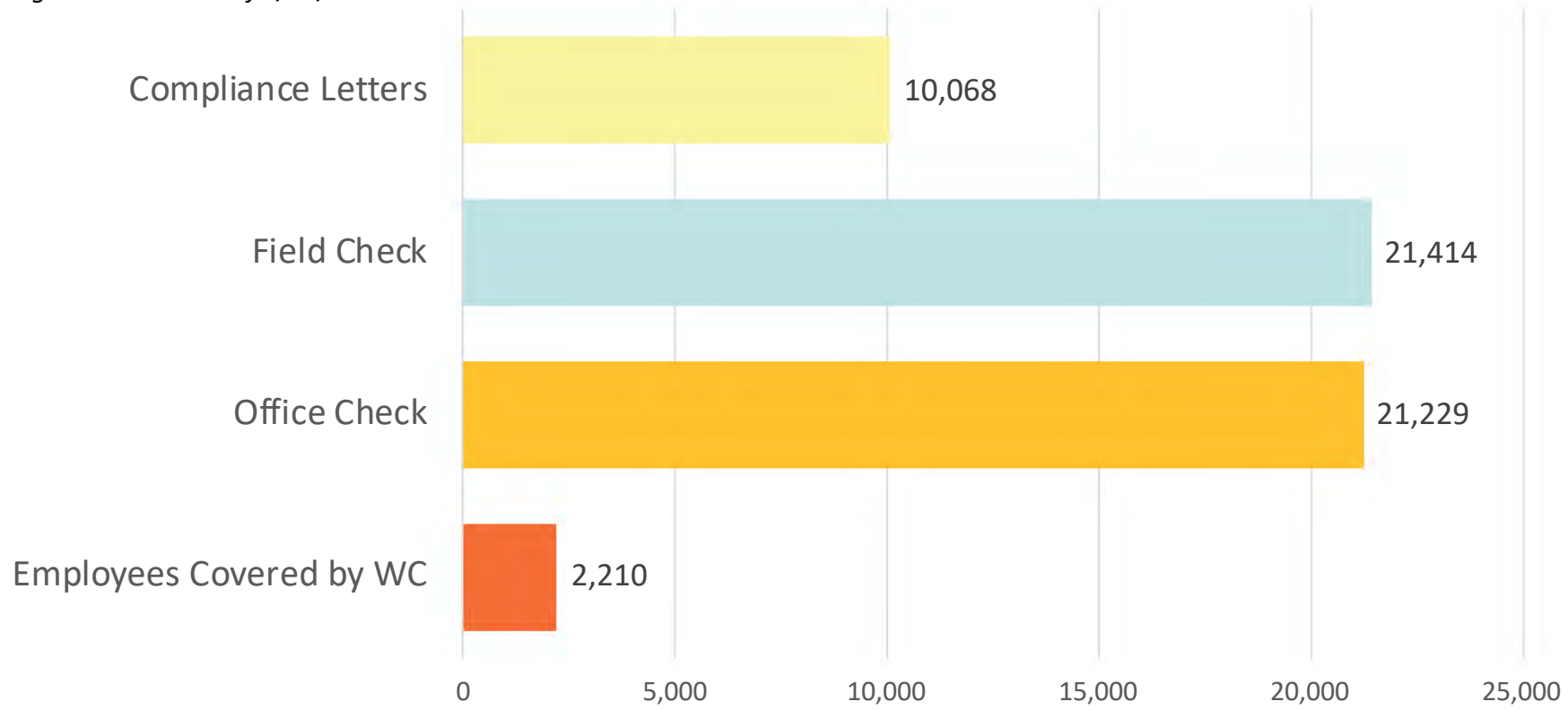
The number of Cases filed for January 2024 was 873.
Total cases filed for FY 2024 stands at 6,092.



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Compliance & Enforcement Office of Investigations

Total Figures FY 2024 as of 1/31/2024

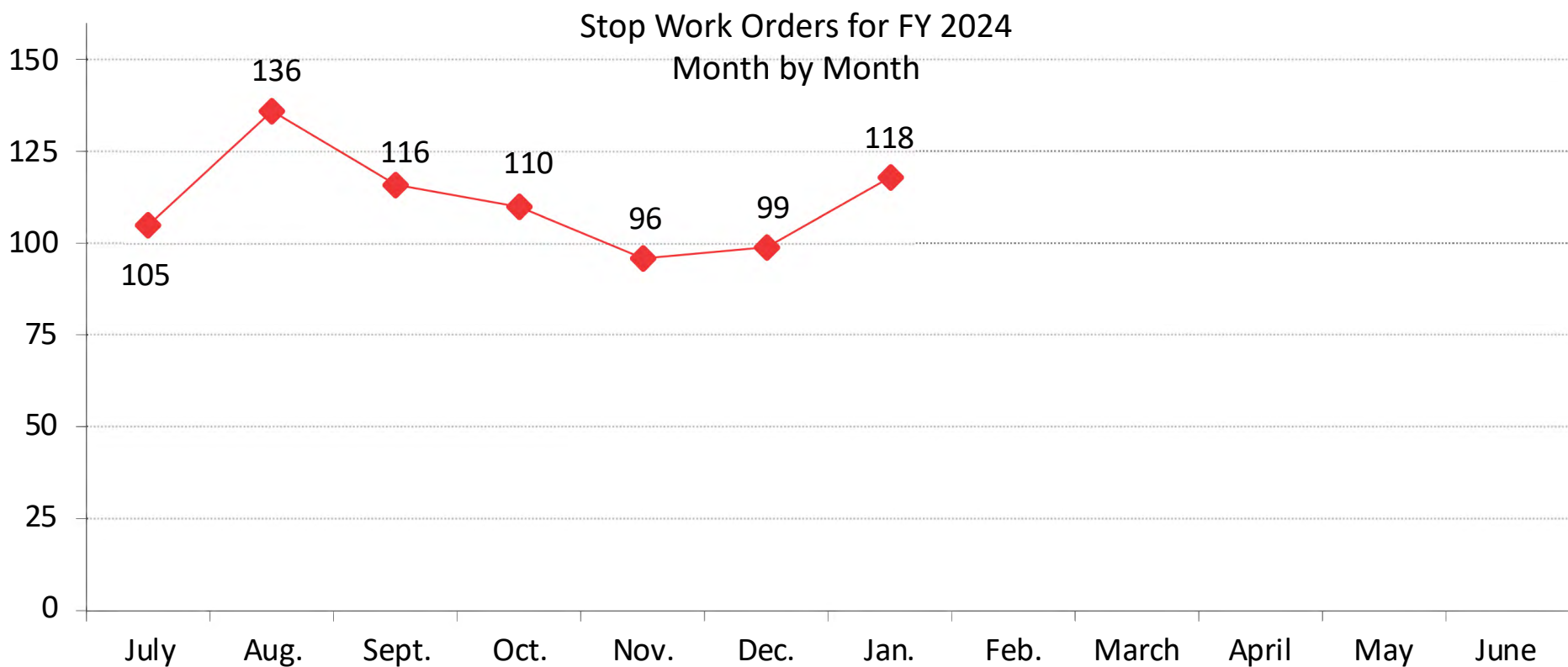


The DIA conducted 7,817 total compliance checks and 266 field investigations in January. In addition, the unit sent out 1,642 compliance letters. As a result, 2,210 employees are now covered by workers' compensation insurance in FY 2024. For FY 2023, DIA conducted 64,506 compliance checks. As a result of these efforts, 4,356 employees now covered by WC insurance who were not previously protected by a policy.



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Compliance

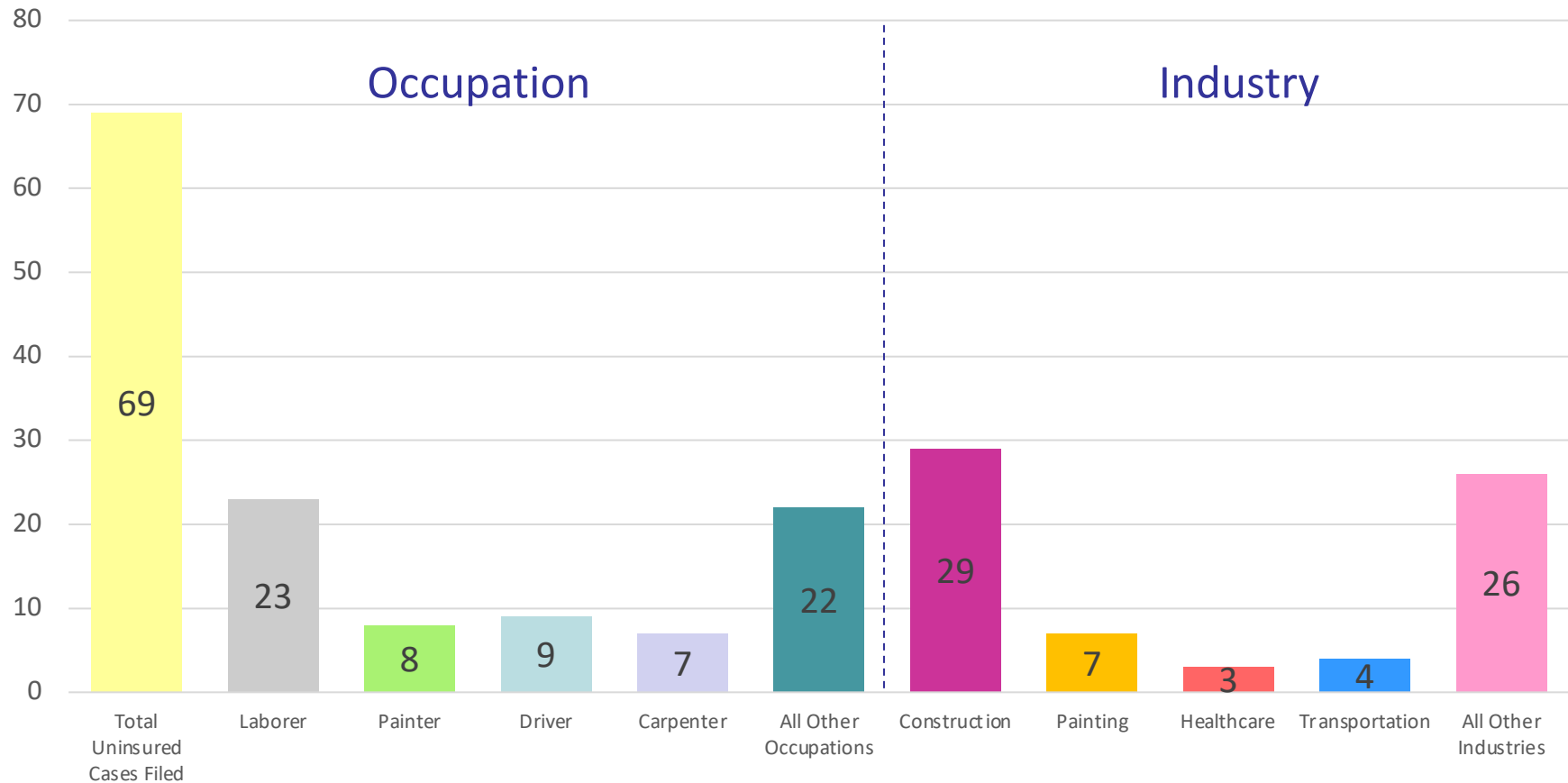


In January, the DIA issued 115 Stop Work Orders (SWO) with 3 default for a total of 744 for FY 2024. Fine collection for FY 2024 total of \$783,239 For FY 2023 a total of 1,375 SWOs were issued, and total fines collected was \$936,757.



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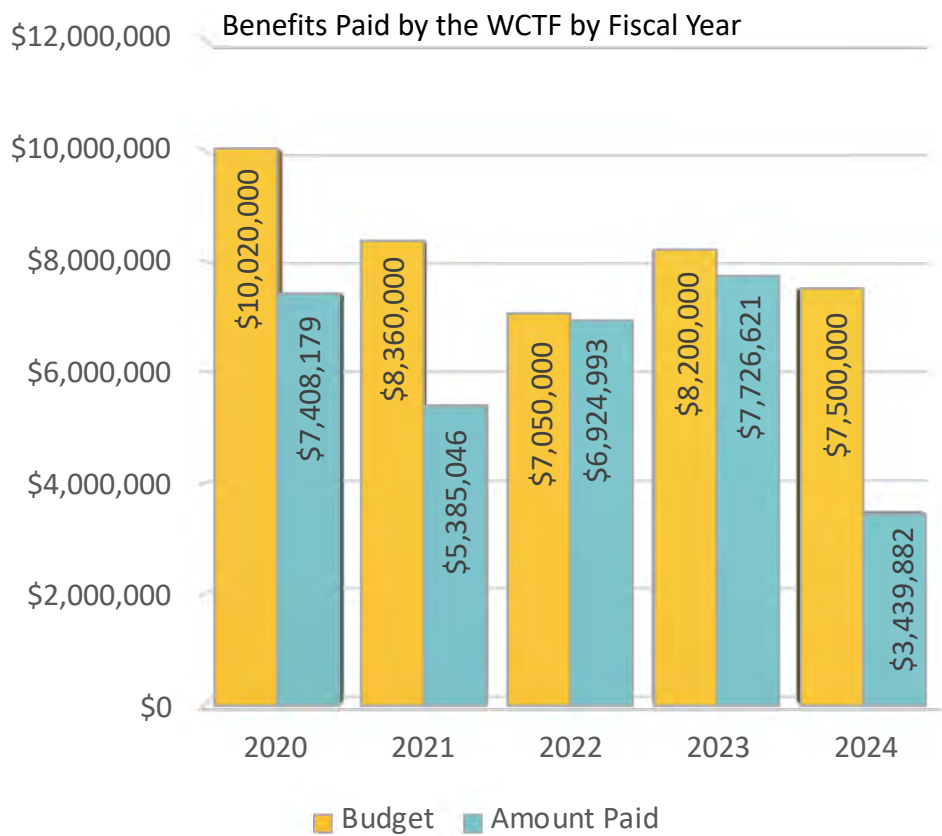
Uninsured Claims by Occupation & Industry - FY 2024



As of January 31st, 69 uninsured injuries have been reported to the WCTF for Fiscal Year 2024. For Fiscal Year 2023, a total of 95 new Sec. 65 injuries were recorded. Please note, claims may be determined to be insured or uninsured after they have been filed.



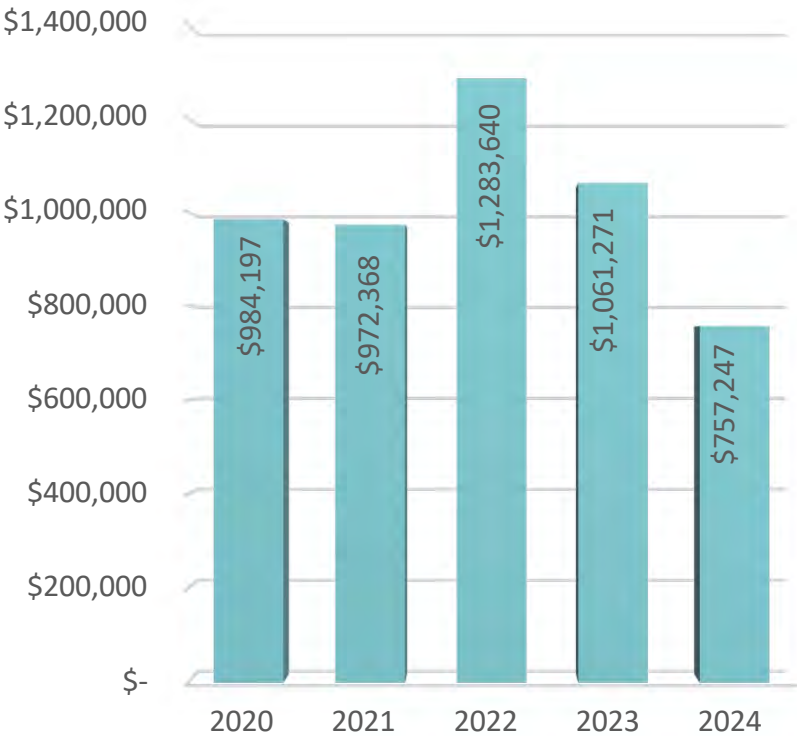
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As of the end of last month, payments against open claims in FY 2024 stands at \$3,439,882. Please note that claims paid in the current fiscal year may have occurred in prior year. The WCTF issued \$7,726,621 in payments against open claims during FY 2023.

Dollar amount collected to date.

The Civil Litigation Unit make every effort to recover monies owed by utilizing the authority of M.G.L. Chapter 152 to recover money paid on uninsured claims through legal action against the employer in question.





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Second Injury Fund Budget & Payments by Fiscal Year

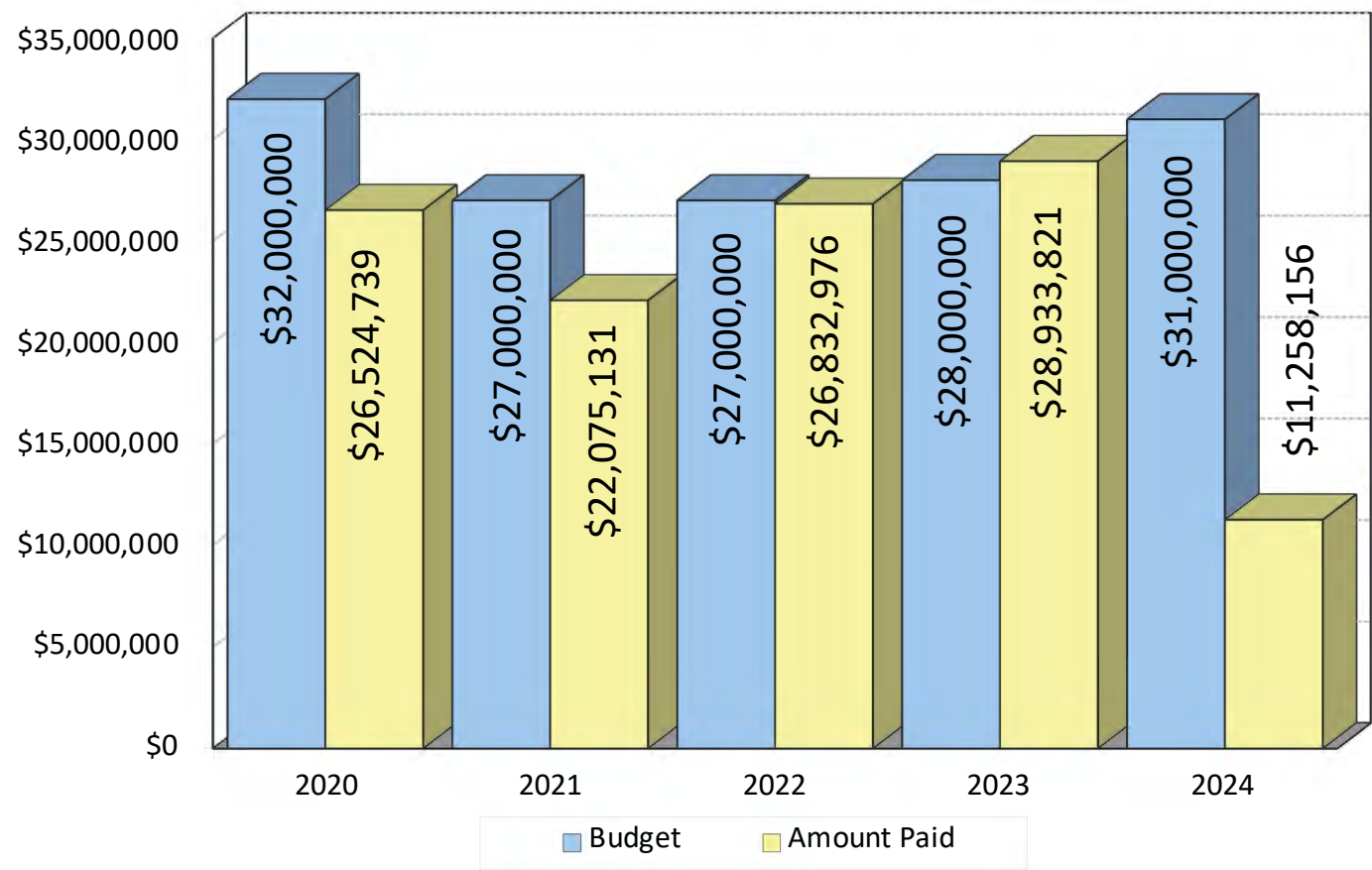
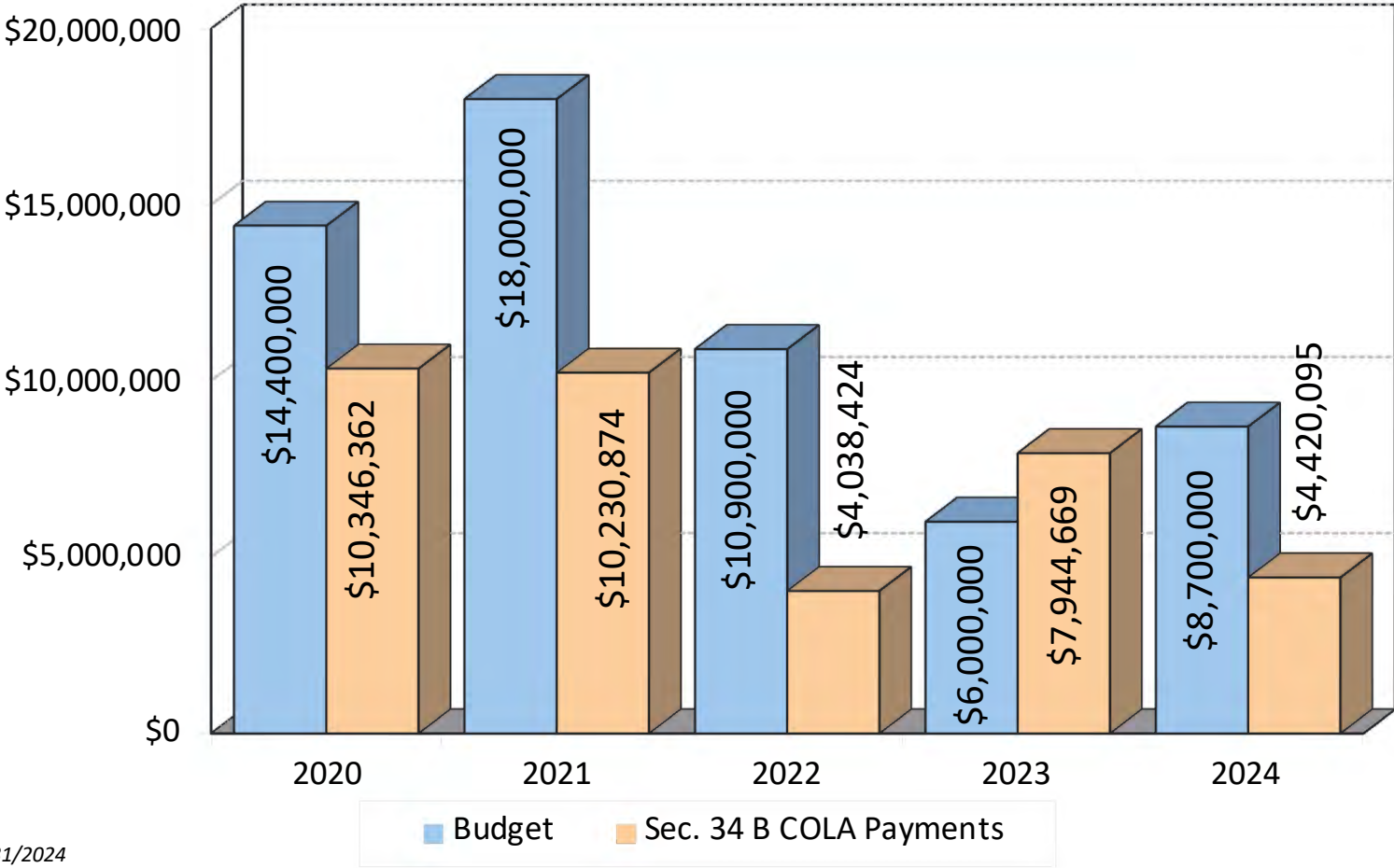


Chart shows dollars paid for Sec. 37 /37A Claims (including quarterly payments and interest) by Fiscal Year. Sec. 37/37A claims are filed by insurers who are seeking reimbursement of up to 75% of benefits paid for a second injury per the statute. In addition, the numbers indicate final payments have been registered in the state accounting system known as MMARS. Additional payments may be in process and are not yet registered in MMARS at the time of this publication.



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COLA Reimbursement Payments to Insurers by Fiscal Year.



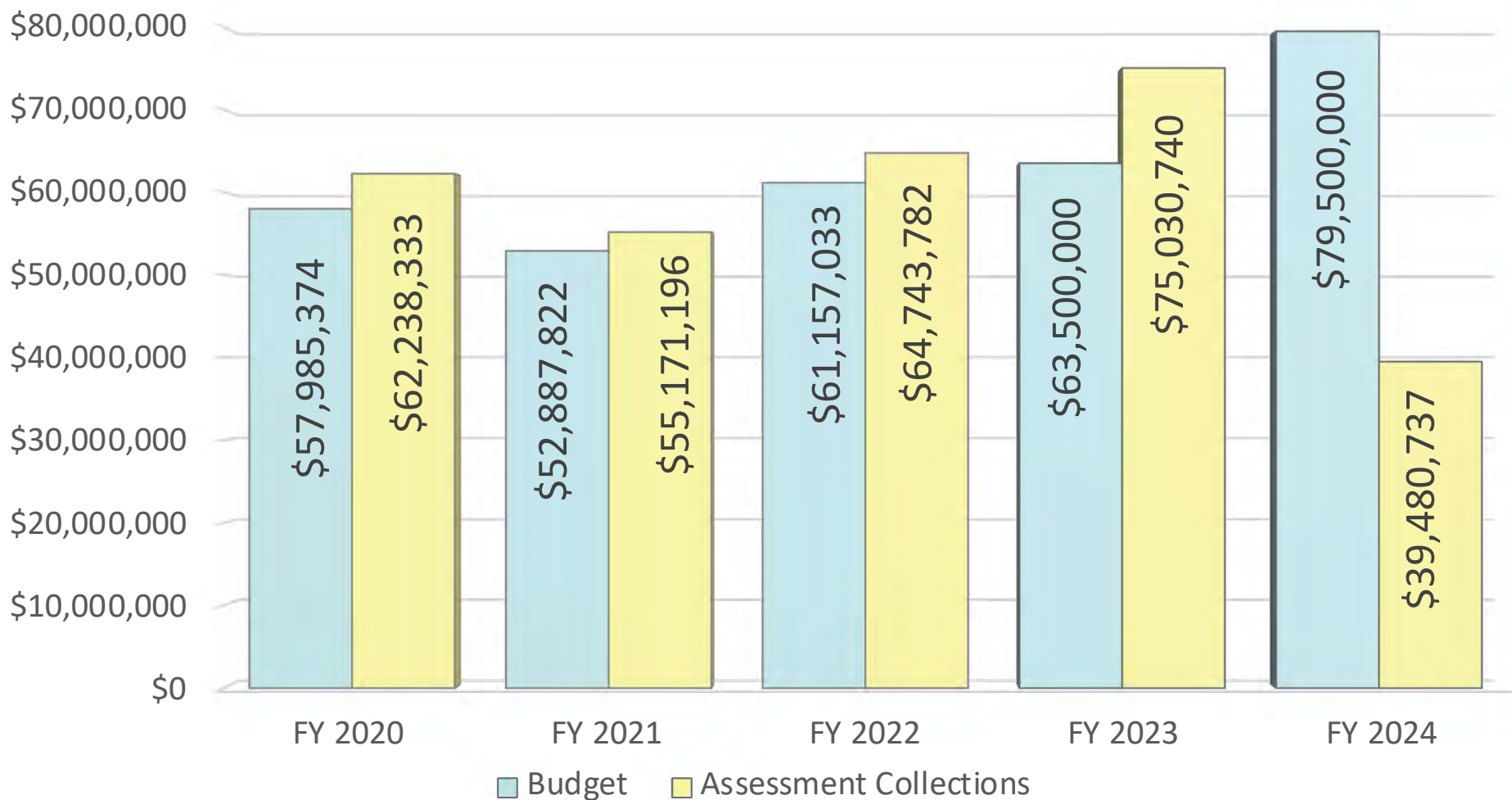
FY 2024 as of 1/31/2024

The dollar amounts indicate the final payments that have been registered in the state accounting system known as MMARS. Additional payments are often in process that have not yet registered in MMARS at the time of this publication.



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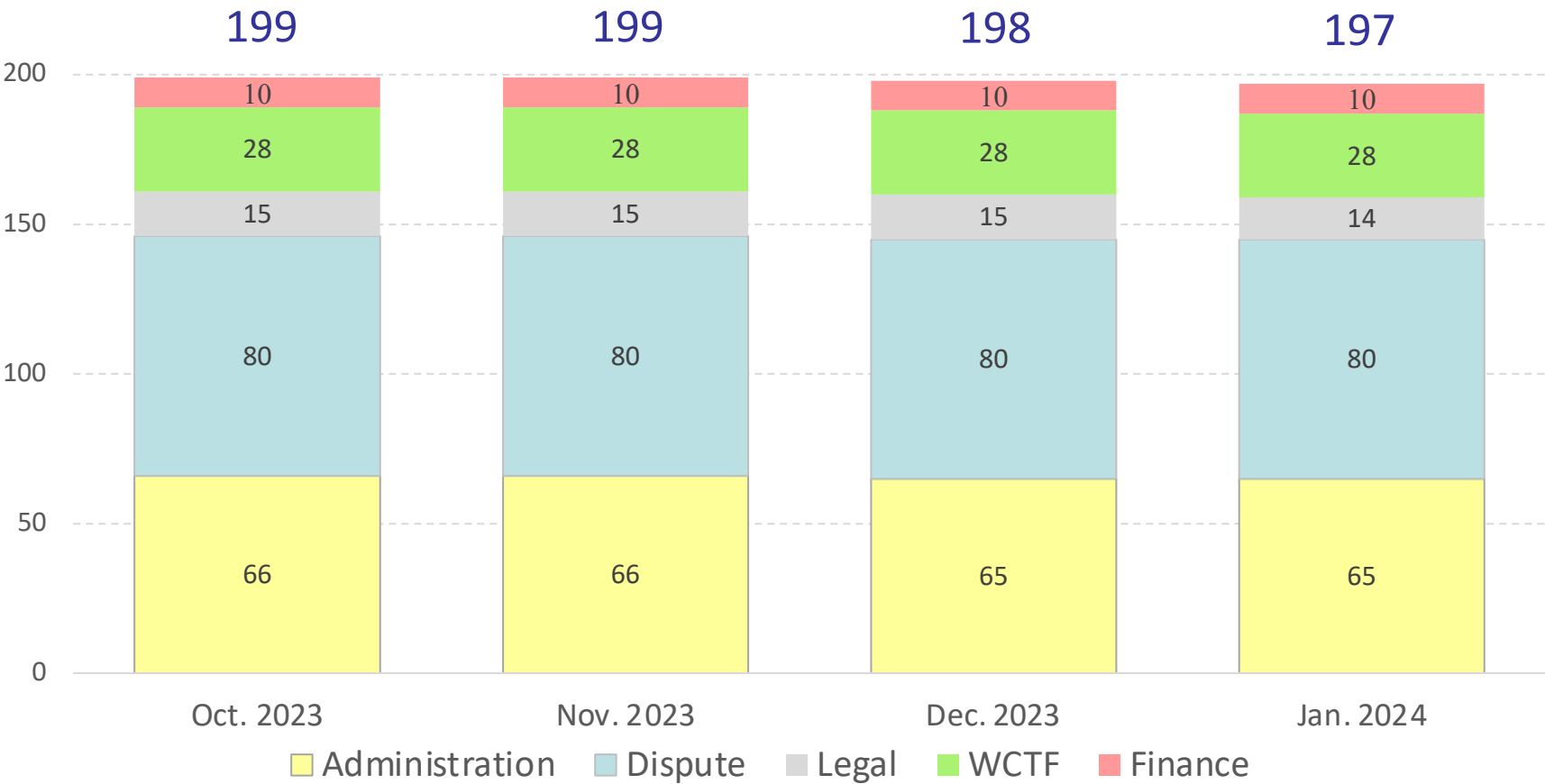
Assessment Collections



FY 2024 as of 1/31/2024



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Staff are paid from either the General Appropriation Account or the WCTF depending upon their job. These number while the Administrative Services Unit brought a new staff member on board. Count as of 1/31/2024 reflect full-time and part-time employees as of the close of the month.