



MASSACHUSETTS  
TRIAL COURT

JUSTICE WITH DIGNITY AND SPEED

# Executive Office of the Trial Court Case Flow Metrics Report

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Fiscal Year 2025

Honorable Heidi E. Brieger  
Chief Justice of the Trial Court

Thomas G. Ambrosino  
Court Administrator







## Message from the Trial Court Chief Justice and Court Administrator

Fiscal Year 2025 marked the third full year of regular Trial Court operations since the pandemic, and we are pleased to report continued progress in reducing the backlog of pending cases and increasing the number of resolved cases.

Case filings continued to increase, while the clearance rate remained strong at 97.7%. The number of cases resolved increased by more than 40,000, and the percentage of cases pending beyond time standards dropped to 39.3%, a four percentage point improvement over FY 2024. This strong performance reflects the sustained efforts of Trial Court departments and the legal community in restoring and maintaining pre-pandemic levels of efficiency.

As we move forward in FY 2026, our focus remains on improving the timeliness of case resolution across all departments and reducing the number of aged cases. These metrics are essential to showing the public that justice is delivered with both dignity and efficiency.

For more information about Trial Court data, please visit the Court Data, Metrics and Reports web page at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/court-data-metrics-reports>.

**Heidi E. Brieger**  
Chief Justice of the Trial Court

**Thomas G. Ambrosino**  
Court Administrator





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# Executive Summary

Timely resolution of cases is central to the Trial Court's mission of delivering justice with both dignity and efficiency. Case flow metrics play a vital role in this effort, equipping court leaders with the data needed to improve operations and services and promote transparency and accountability throughout the court system.

This report presents a year-over-year comparison of the Trial Court's key case flow metrics.

- Case flow metrics for FY 2025 show an increase in the number of disposed cases and a decrease in the pending caseload, which peaked in FY 2021 as a result of the pandemic.
- Case filings and disposed cases subject to metrics reporting increased by more than 40,000, respectively. Metric case filings reached 783,138, and disposed metrics cases reached 764,861, for FY 2025.
- The clearance rate reached 97.7%, consistent with the previous fiscal year, indicating that courts are resolving cases at pace with the number of cases received. This metric reflects the ratio of outgoing to incoming cases.
- There were more than 562,000 cases subject to time standards resolved in FY 2025. Of those cases, 416,978 (74.1%) were disposed of within time standards. The number of disposed time standard cases increased by 6.6%, demonstrating the Trial Court's ability to reach more cases for initial resolution than the previous year.
- The number of pending cases subject to time standards decreased by 30,000 cases (10.1%) from the previous year to 271,423 cases. The number of cases pending beyond time standards was 106,753, representing a 4 percent decrease (43.3% to 39.3%) in the pending beyond rate from the last fiscal year.
- Over 1.8 million events were scheduled in FY 2025, of which 1.3 million events (71.2%) were held. This is an increase of 0.4 percentage points from the previous fiscal year, indicating the Trial Court's efforts to increase capacity for holding more events. Events may not be held for various reasons, including requests by litigants or agreements to resolution.





## About Case Flow Metrics

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In 2006, court leaders, staff, and judges implemented case flow metrics to manage court operations. These metrics, adapted from the National Center for State Courts' performance measures, are a set of performance measures used to manage the timely resolution of cases. Time standards are benchmarks for assessing timely case management. Time standards are established through the standing orders of each court department.

Following are the Trial Court's terms for key case flow metrics:

### **Metric Case Filings**

This refers to case filings that are subject to metric analysis. Its purpose is to assess the volume and type of cases filed.

### **Clearance Rate**

A measure of resolved cases compared to the number of newly-filed cases. Its purpose is to determine if the court is disposing of cases at the same rate as the number of cases filed.

### **Time to Disposition**

The rate of cases disposed or resolved within established time standards. Its purpose is to assess the length of time it takes a court to process cases.

### **Age of Pending Cases**

A measure of active, pending cases that are beyond the disposition date set by the time standards. Its purpose is to assess whether there are delays in case resolution.

### **Event Date Certainty**

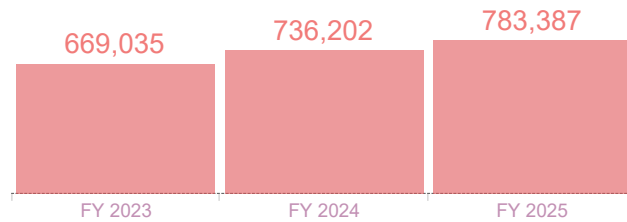
A measure of court events with recorded outcomes compared to the total of court events scheduled. An event may not be held by request of a litigant or attorney or by agreement to an informal resolution. Its purpose is to assess the court's capacity to hold case events.



## TRIAL COURT CASE FLOW METRICS, 3-YEAR COMPARISON

Annual Percent Change in Metric Case Filings  
Subject to Metrics

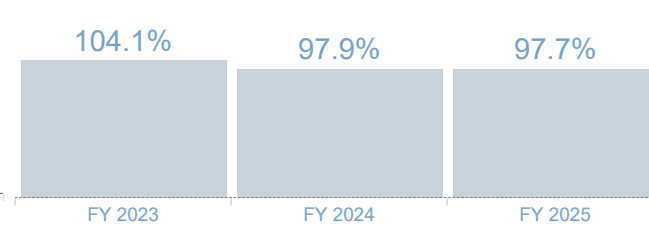
**6.4%**



How many cases have been filed?

Annual Rate Change in Clearance Rate

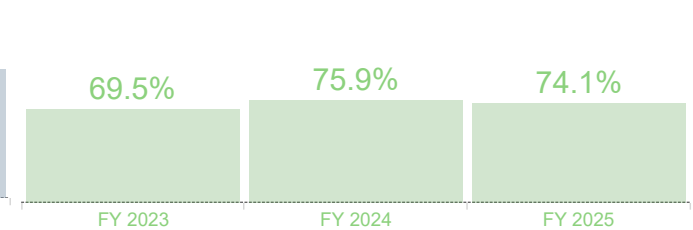
**-0.3% points**



What percent of cases have been disposed?

Annual Rate Change in Disposed W/ Time Standards

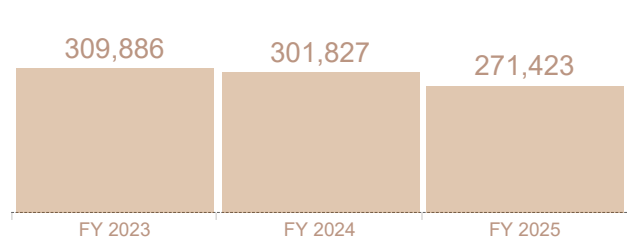
**-1.8% points**



What percent of disposed cases are current?

Annual Percent Change in Pending Cases

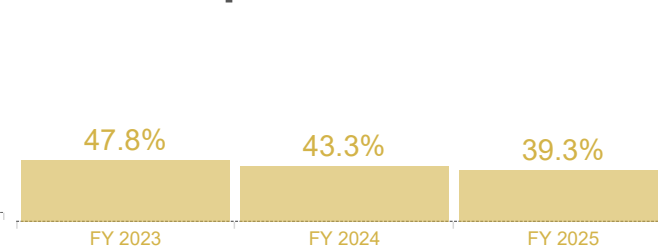
**-10.1%**



How many cases remain?

Annual Rate Change in Pending Beyond Time Standards

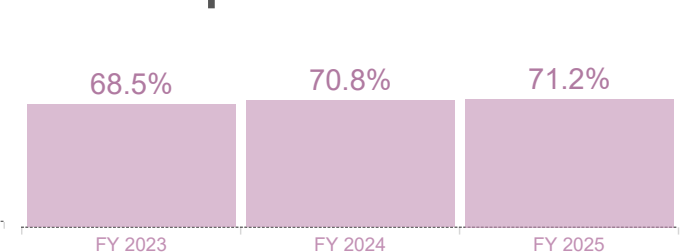
**-4.0% points**



What percent of cases are aged?

Annual Rate Change in Event Date Certainty

**0.4% points**



What percent of events were held?

### Data Notes:

\*Event Date Certainty measures the number of events with recorded outcomes to the number of events held before the court. There are reasons an event may be a recorded outcome but not held, including by request of a litigant or attorney, by agreement to an informal resolution, or for emergency or weather-related matters.

\*\*Annual percent change measures the year-over-year change in case volume, whereas annual rate change measures the year-over-year difference in rate percentage points.



## Clearance Rate: Metric Case Filings and Disposed Cases (Year-Over-Year)

Metric Case Filings			Disposed Metrics Cases		Clearance Rate		
By Department	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Boston Municipal Court	64,042	68,654	59,696	68,181	93.2%	99.3%	6.1%
District Court	491,042	529,980	472,479	509,623	96.2%	96.2%	-0.1%
Housing Court	39,313	40,624	44,377	45,479	112.9%	112.0%	-0.9%
Juvenile Court	27,532	25,977	28,760	28,173	104.5%	108.5%	4.0%
Land Court	8,865	7,843	9,090	8,192	102.5%	104.4%	1.9%
Probate and Family Court	83,676	86,981	86,453	84,535	103.3%	97.2%	-6.1%
Superior Court	21,732	23,079	20,203	20,678	93.0%	89.6%	-3.4%
Total	736,202	783,138	721,058	764,861	97.9%	97.7%	-0.3%

Metric Case Filings			Disposed Metrics Cases		Clearance Rate		
By General Case Type	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Civil Matters	314,847	350,155	311,758	341,815	99.0%	97.6%	-1.4%
Criminal Matters	314,662	320,603	302,905	313,037	96.3%	97.6%	1.4%
Domestic Relations	36,431	37,607	38,402	36,365	105.4%	96.7%	-8.7%
Juvenile Matters	24,671	23,520	25,571	25,264	103.6%	107.4%	3.8%
Traffic / Ordinance	45,591	51,253	42,422	48,380	93.0%	94.4%	1.3%
Total	736,202	783,138	721,058	764,861	97.9%	97.7%	-0.3%

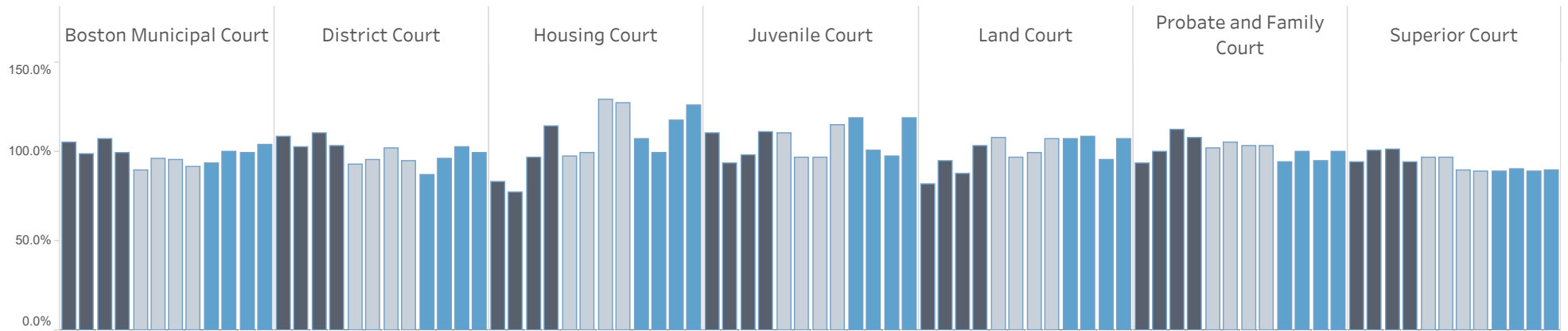




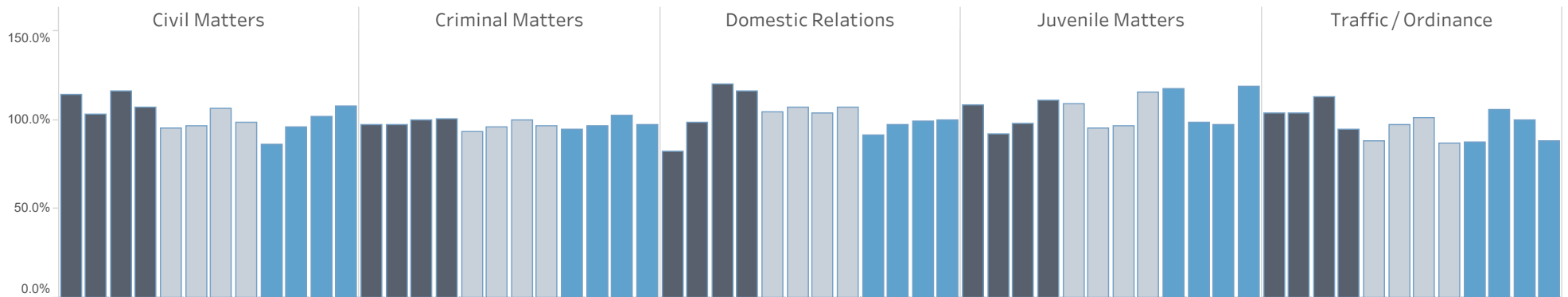
# Clearance Rate

Color Legend: Fiscal Year  
■ FY 2023 ■ FY 2024 ■ FY 2025

Clearance Rate by Court Department  
Most Recent 12 Quarters



Clearance Rate by General Case Type  
Most Recent 12 Quarters





## Time to Disposition: Disposed Cases, Disposed Within Time Standards (Year-Over-Year)

Disposed Cases Subject to Time Standards			Disposed Within Time Standards		Timely Disposed Rate		
By Department	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Boston Municipal Court	39,086	45,605	29,686	33,241	76.0%	72.9%	-3.1%
District Court	340,637	370,132	267,663	276,167	78.6%	74.6%	-4.0%
Housing Court	44,375	45,475	33,098	35,611	74.6%	78.3%	3.7%
Juvenile Court	17,463	17,178	10,080	9,515	57.7%	55.4%	-2.3%
Land Court	1,811	1,709	1,015	1,063	56.0%	62.2%	6.2%
Probate and Family Court	67,880	65,365	49,348	50,730	72.7%	77.6%	4.9%
Superior Court	16,540	17,200	9,641	10,651	58.3%	61.9%	3.6%
Total	527,792	562,664	400,531	416,978	75.9%	74.1%	-1.8%

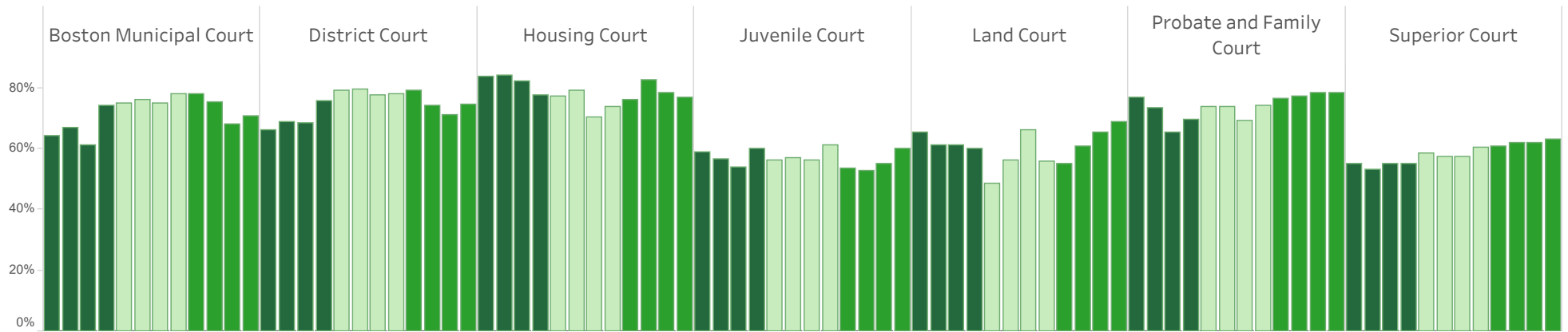
Disposed Cases Subject to Time Standards			Disposed Within Time Standards		Timely Disposed Rate		
By General Case Type	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Civil Matters	294,533	324,610	216,502	222,941	73.5%	68.7%	-4.8%
Criminal Matters	147,331	148,199	123,487	128,115	83.8%	86.4%	2.6%
Domestic Relations	29,346	27,313	16,090	16,509	54.8%	60.4%	5.6%
Juvenile Matters	14,162	14,165	7,450	7,215	52.6%	50.9%	-1.7%
Traffic / Ordinance	42,420	48,377	37,002	42,198	87.2%	87.2%	0.0%
Total	527,792	562,664	400,531	416,978	75.9%	74.1%	-1.8%



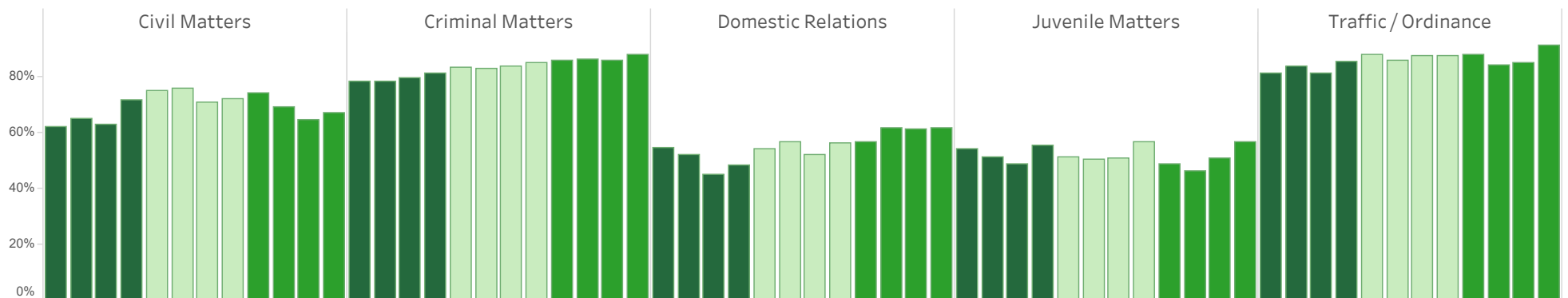
# Time to Disposition

Color Legend: Fiscal Year  
■ FY 2023 ■ FY 2024 ■ FY 2025

Percent of Cases Disposed Within Time Standards by Court Department  
Most Recent 12 Quarters



Percent of Cases Disposed Within Time Standards by General Case Type  
Most Recent 12 Quarters





## Age of Cases: Pending Cases, Pending Beyond Time Standards (Year-Over-Year)

Pending Cases Subject to Time Standards			Pending Beyond Time Standards		Pending Beyond Rate		
By Department	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Boston Municipal Court	30,635	28,176	17,257	15,110	56.3%	53.6%	-2.7%
District Court	174,155	160,250	78,981	65,055	45.4%	40.6%	-4.8%
Housing Court	9,191	7,848	3,156	1,846	34.3%	23.5%	-10.8%
Juvenile Court	10,206	9,189	3,784	2,986	37.1%	32.5%	-4.6%
Land Court	4,205	3,805	2,701	2,567	64.2%	67.5%	3.2%
Probate and Family Court	35,482	35,767	11,873	11,723	33.5%	32.8%	-0.7%
Superior Court	37,953	26,388	13,060	7,466	34.4%	28.3%	-6.1%
Total	301,827	271,423	130,812	106,753	43.3%	39.3%	-4.0%

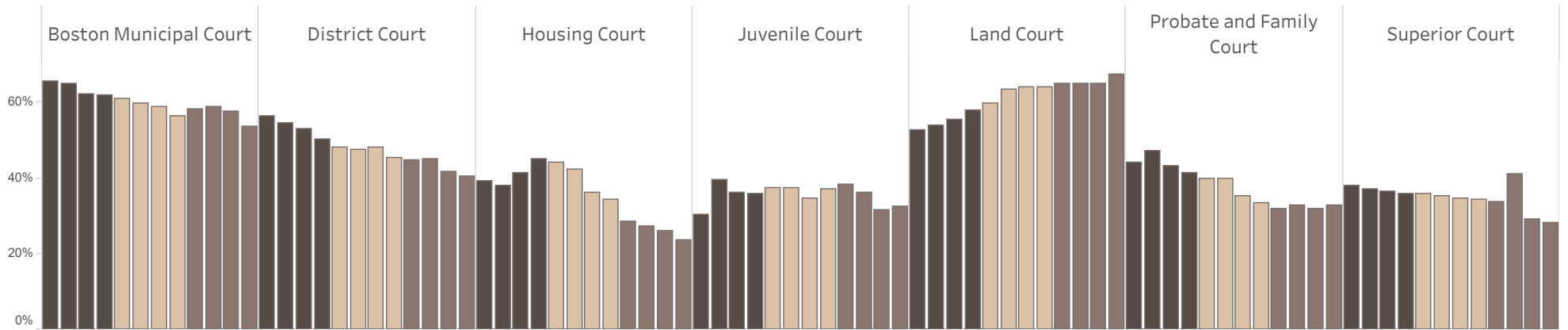
Pending Cases Subject to Time Standards			Pending Beyond Time Standards		Pending Beyond Rate		
By General Case Type	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Civil Matters	174,897	159,283	89,109	75,888	50.9%	47.6%	-3.3%
Criminal Matters	62,260	53,831	11,646	7,712	18.7%	14.3%	-4.4%
Domestic Relations	26,829	26,638	9,223	8,772	34.4%	32.9%	-1.4%
Juvenile Matters	9,017	8,193	3,233	2,564	35.9%	31.3%	-4.6%
Traffic / Ordinance	28,824	23,478	17,601	11,817	61.1%	50.3%	-10.7%
Total	301,827	271,423	130,812	106,753	43.3%	39.3%	-4.0%



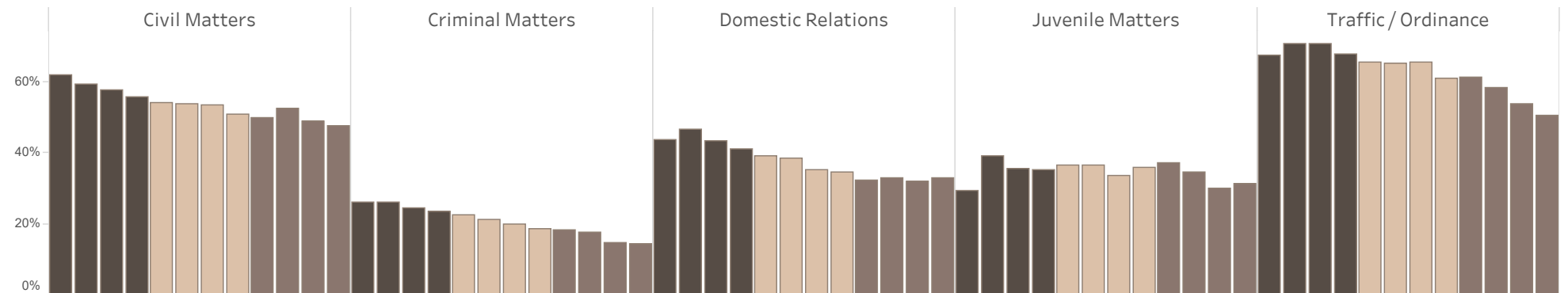
# Pending Beyond Caseload

Color Legend: Fiscal Year  
■ FY 2023 ■ FY 2024 ■ FY 2025

Percent of Cases Pending Beyond Time Standards by Court Department  
Most Recent 12 Quarters



Percent of Cases Pending Beyond Time Standards by General Case Type  
Most Recent 12 Quarters





## Event Date Certainty: Events Resulted, Events Held (Year-Over-Year)

Events with Recorded Outcomes			Events Held		Event Date Certainty		
By Department	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Boston Municipal Court	182,391	179,093	137,121	135,631	75.2%	75.7%	0.6%
District Court	1,155,813	1,137,222	815,210	810,943	70.5%	71.3%	0.8%
Housing Court	77,578	80,882	46,151	48,965	59.5%	60.5%	1.0%
Juvenile Court	165,323	155,324	109,116	104,166	66.0%	67.1%	1.1%
Land Court	3,530	2,660	2,658	2,455	75.3%	92.3%	17.0%
Probate and Family Court	191,286	149,522	163,132	126,981	85.3%	84.9%	-0.4%
Superior Court	132,246	131,276	77,688	77,865	58.7%	59.3%	0.6%
Total	1,908,167	1,835,979	1,351,076	1,307,006	70.8%	71.2%	0.4%

Events with Recorded Outcomes			Events Held		Event Date Certainty		
By General Case Type	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Civil Matters	421,951	405,964	298,135	278,954	70.7%	68.7%	-1.9%
Criminal Matters	1,149,598	1,138,834	798,084	809,633	69.4%	71.1%	1.7%
Domestic Relations	137,221	93,883	113,448	75,844	82.7%	80.8%	-1.9%
Juvenile Matters	150,069	141,281	100,107	95,541	66.7%	67.6%	0.9%
Traffic / Ordinance	49,328	56,017	41,302	47,034	83.7%	84.0%	0.2%
Total	1,908,167	1,835,979	1,351,076	1,307,006	70.8%	71.2%	0.4%

### Data Notes:

\*Event Date Certainty measures the number of events with recorded outcomes to the number of events held before the court. There are reasons an event may be a recorded outcome but not held, including by request of a litigant or attorney, by agreement to an informal resolution, or for emergency or weather-related matters.

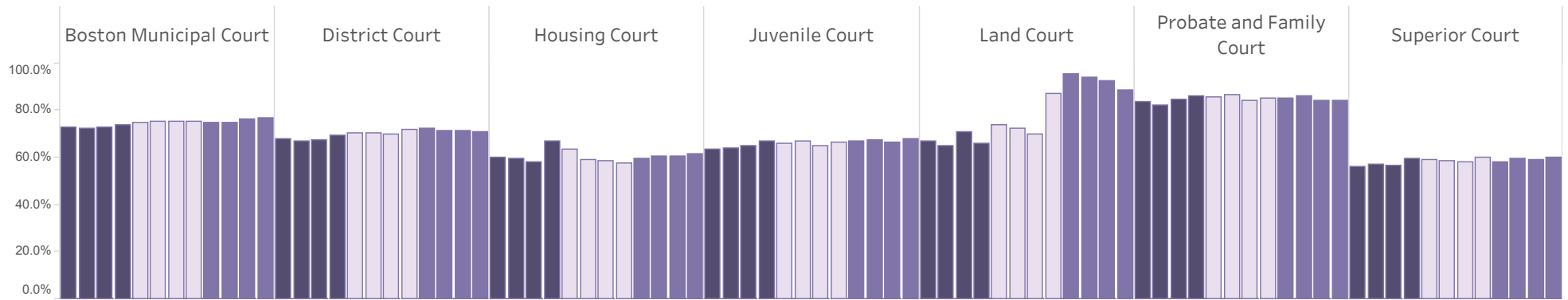


# Event Date Certainty

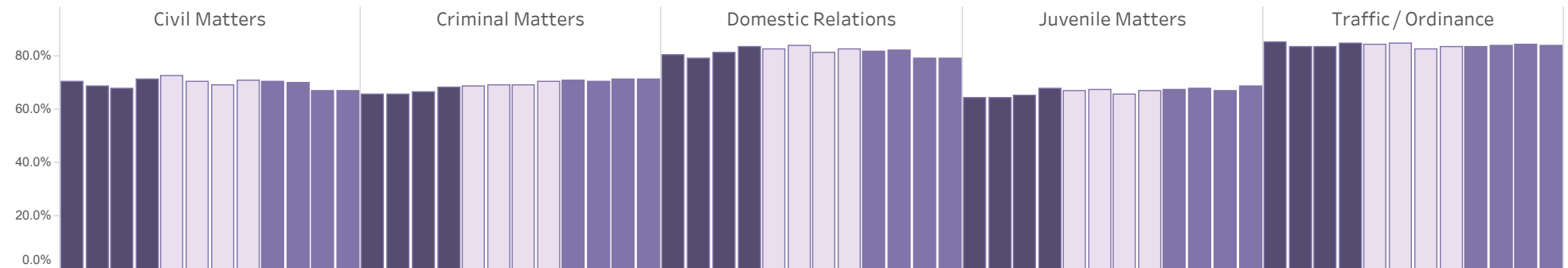
Color Legend: Fiscal Year

■ FY 2023 ■ FY 2024 ■ FY 2025

Event Date Certainty by Court Department  
Most Recent 12 Quarters



Event Date Certainty by General Case Type  
Most Recent 12 Quarters



## Data Notes:

\*Event Date Certainty measures the number of events with recorded outcomes to the number of events held before the court. There are reasons an event may be a recorded outcome but not held, including by request of a litigant or attorney, by agreement to an informal resolution, or for emergency or weather-related matters.



## CASE FLOW METRICS, PERFORMANCE RATES, YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON

By Department	By General Case Type	Clearance Rate		Timely Disposed Rate		Pending Beyond Rate		Event Date Certainty	
		Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year
Boston Municipal Court	Civil Matters	92.2%	92.5%	72.9%	65.2%	69.5%	65.3%	74.6%	71.7%
	Criminal Matters	94.2%	103.7%	75.5%	78.3%	22.2%	18.7%	75.0%	76.1%
	Traffic / Ordinance	89.4%	100.2%	97.7%	94.2%	74.4%	75.1%	85.1%	88.0%
District Court	Civil Matters	95.9%	95.3%	70.9%	62.6%	57.2%	52.8%	72.9%	68.1%
	Criminal Matters	96.9%	97.2%	86.7%	89.6%	12.8%	7.7%	69.3%	71.3%
	Juvenile Matters								50.0%
	Traffic / Ordinance	93.0%	93.7%	87.0%	87.1%	59.3%	47.2%	83.7%	83.7%
Housing Court	Civil Matters	113.4%	112.6%	75.6%	79.5%	32.9%	21.6%	60.4%	61.7%
	Criminal Matters	100.6%	99.9%	64.3%	64.8%	50.9%	66.2%	40.3%	40.2%
	Traffic / Ordinance	140.3%	121.8%	26.8%	21.0%	88.0%	47.4%	79.9%	76.5%
Juvenile Court	Civil Matters	122.3%	132.4%	68.9%	64.9%	56.3%	55.0%	59.6%	61.9%
	Criminal Matters	94.9%	95.6%	72.2%	64.4%	31.1%	25.0%	34.7%	37.0%
	Domestic Relations	97.0%	99.3%	98.5%	98.1%	32.0%	26.6%	69.7%	72.1%
	Juvenile Matters	103.8%	107.6%	52.6%	50.9%	35.9%	31.3%	66.7%	67.6%
Land Court	Civil Matters	102.5%	104.4%	56.0%	62.2%	64.2%	67.5%	75.3%	92.3%
Probate and Family Court	Civil Matters	101.6%	97.6%	86.7%	90.1%	30.7%	32.2%	91.3%	91.4%
	Domestic Relations	105.7%	96.6%	53.0%	59.0%	34.4%	33.0%	82.8%	80.9%
Superior Court	Civil Matters	98.6%	94.1%	66.7%	70.1%	29.7%	21.3%	49.2%	51.1%
	Criminal Matters	83.0%	80.6%	21.8%	23.4%	63.1%	58.1%	62.9%	62.9%
	Juvenile Matters	74.7%	72.7%					77.5%	63.6%

### Data Notes:

\*Event Date Certainty measures the number of events with recorded outcomes to the number of events held before the court. There are reasons an event may be a recorded outcome but not held, including by request of a litigant or attorney, by agreement to an informal resolution, or for emergency or weather-related matters.