



MASSACHUSETTS
TRIAL COURT

JUSTICE WITH DIGNITY AND SPEED

Executive Office of the Trial Court Case Flow Metrics Report

Fiscal Year 2026

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 2026 presented operational challenges for the Trial Court, including budget and staffing constraints. Despite these challenges and continued growth in case filings, Trial Court case flow metrics performance improved over the previous fiscal year.

The number of cases resolved increased by more than 36,000, while the clearance rate reached over 100 percent, and percentage of cases pending beyond time standards declined to 37.9%. These results are particularly notable given the continued growth in filings and reflect the tremendous efforts of Trial Court departments to implement targeted case management practices and address pending caseloads.

As we enter FY 2027, we remain committed to improving the timeliness of case resolution across all departments. Case flow metrics will continue to help us measure our progress and identify opportunities for improvement as we work to deliver justice with dignity and speed.

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

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Court Administrator





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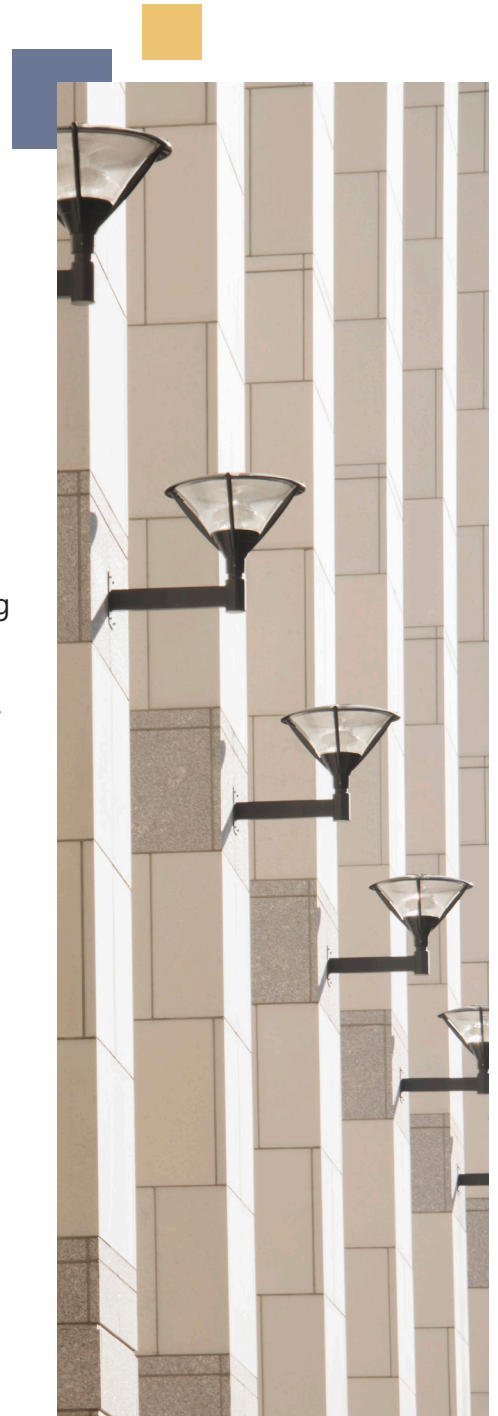


Executive Summary

Timely case resolution is central to the Trial Court's mission to deliver justice with dignity and speed. Case flow metrics help assess the Court's ability to manage caseloads effectively, process cases in a timely manner, and adapt to operational disruptions and changing demands. This report presents a year-over-year comparison of the Trial Court's case flow performance.

- Metric case filings continued to rise in FY 2026. Filings increased by 2.5% from the previous year, representing nearly 20,000 additional cases.
- Metric case filings totaled 803,087 in FY 2026, and disposed metric cases reached 803,536.
- The clearance rate increased to over 100%. The clearance rate measures outgoing cases relative to incoming cases.
- More than 579,500 cases subject to time standards were disposed of in FY 2026. Of those cases, 430,984, or 74.4%, were disposed of within time standards – an increase of 14,000 cases from the previous year, demonstrating the Trial Court's ability to reach more cases for initial resolution than the previous year.
- The number of cases pending beyond time standards decreased, even as the overall number of pending cases subject to time standards increased. The percentage of cases pending beyond time standards decreased from 39.3% to 37.9%. This progress reflects the Trial Court's effective management of increased filings while maintaining the pending beyond time standards caseload.
- More than 1.9 million events were scheduled in FY 2026, of which 1.3 million, or 72.1%, were held. This represents an increase of 66,000 held events from the previous fiscal year and highlights the Trial Court's capacity to hold more timely events. Events may not be held for various reasons, including requests by litigants or agreements to resolution.

Overall, FY2026 case flow results show that the Trial Court managed a significant increase in metric case filings while reducing pending cases and disposing of as many cases as were filed. At the same time, the clearance rate increased, more cases were disposed of within time standards, and fewer cases remained pending beyond time standards.





About Case Flow Metrics

Case flow metrics were implemented in 2006 to help court leaders, judges, and staff manage court operations. These metrics, which are a set of performance measures adapted from the National Center for State Courts, help manage the timely resolution of cases. Time standards are benchmarks for evaluating timely case management. They are established through the standing orders of each court department.

The Trial Court's key case flow metrics are:

Metric Case Filings

All 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 outgoing cases to the number of incoming cases. Its purpose is to determine if the court is disposing cases at the same rate as the number of cases filed.

Time to Disposition

The rate of cases disposed of 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 processing.

Event Date Certainty

A measure of court events with recorded outcomes compared to total 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.



FY26 Court Department Case Management Highlights

The seven Trial Court departments implemented a variety of strategies during FY2026 to manage caseloads, address backlogs, and improve case flow.

Boston Municipal Court

- Increased its case management reporting, contributing to a decrease of 7 percentage points in criminal and civil cases pending beyond time standards.

District Court

- Increased its efforts to reduce criminal firearms cases pending for more than 12 months, contributing to a 68% decrease in those cases pending beyond time standards.

Housing Court

- Expanded communication with Clerks' Offices about pending and disposed caseloads, contributing to an increase in the percentage of cases disposed of within time standards to approximately 80%.

Juvenile Court

- Maintained an average quarterly clearance rate of 108%, resulting in 2,000 more dispositions than the previous year and a corresponding reduction in the Court's backlog of pending cases.

Land Court

- Implemented new procedures to address Servicemembers cases that had been pending for more than three (3) years without prosecution, resulting in 4,524 dispositions.

Probate and Family Court

- Increased its focus on resolving cases pending beyond time standards, contributing to a clearance rate of 100%.

Superior Court

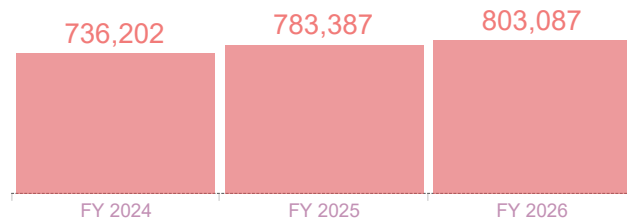
- Standardized metrics data collection and reporting, contributing to an increase in cases disposed of within time standards and a decrease in the percentage of cases pending beyond time standards.



TRIAL COURT CASE FLOW METRICS, 3-YEAR COMPARISON

Annual Percent Change in Metric Case Filings
Subject to Metrics

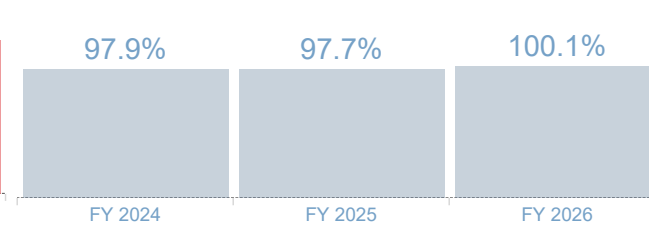
2.5%



How many cases have been filed?

Annual Rate Change in Clearance Rate

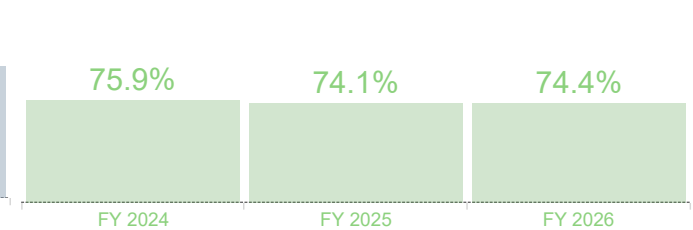
2.4% points



What percent of cases have been disposed?

Annual Rate Change in Disposed W/ Time Standards

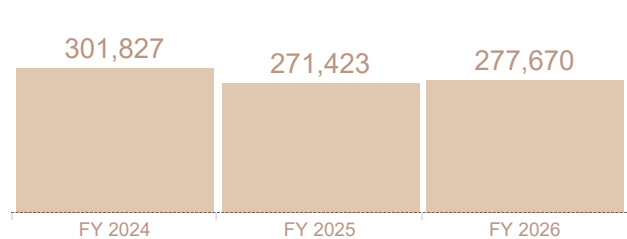
0.3% points



What percent of disposed cases are current?

Annual Percent Change in Pending Cases

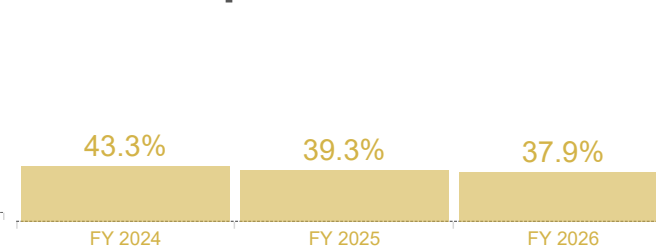
2.3%



How many cases remain?

Annual Rate Change in Pending Beyond Time Standards

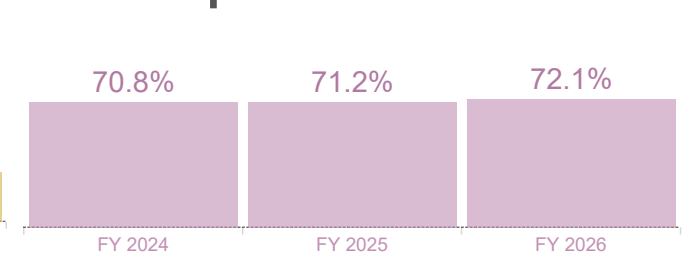
-1.4% points



What percent of cases are aged?

Annual Rate Change in Event Date Certainty

0.9% 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	68,654	76,659	68,181	80,503	99.3%	105.0%	5.7%
District Court	529,980	550,277	509,623	537,898	96.2%	97.8%	1.6%
Housing Court	40,624	40,195	45,479	45,140	112.0%	112.3%	0.4%
Juvenile Court	25,977	25,110	28,173	27,154	108.5%	108.1%	-0.3%
Land Court	7,843	7,688	8,192	12,038	104.4%	156.6%	52.1%
Probate and Family Court	86,981	79,583	84,535	79,759	97.2%	100.2%	3.0%
Superior Court	23,079	23,575	20,678	21,044	89.6%	89.3%	-0.3%
Total	783,138	803,087	764,861	803,536	97.7%	100.1%	2.4%

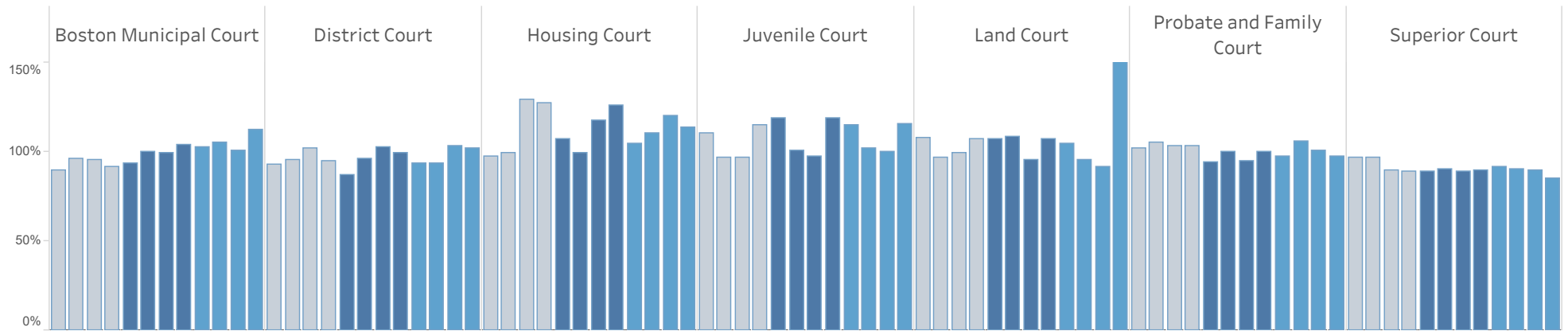
Metric Case Filings			Disposed Metrics Cases		Clearance Rate		
By General Case Type	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Civil Matters	350,155	364,672	341,815	360,998	97.6%	99.0%	1.4%
Criminal Matters	320,603	327,039	313,037	334,179	97.6%	102.2%	4.5%
Domestic Relations	37,607	35,719	36,365	34,818	96.7%	97.5%	0.8%
Juvenile Matters	23,520	22,735	25,264	24,318	107.4%	107.0%	-0.5%
Traffic / Ordinance	51,253	52,922	48,380	49,223	94.4%	93.0%	-1.4%
Total	783,138	803,087	764,861	803,536	97.7%	100.1%	2.4%



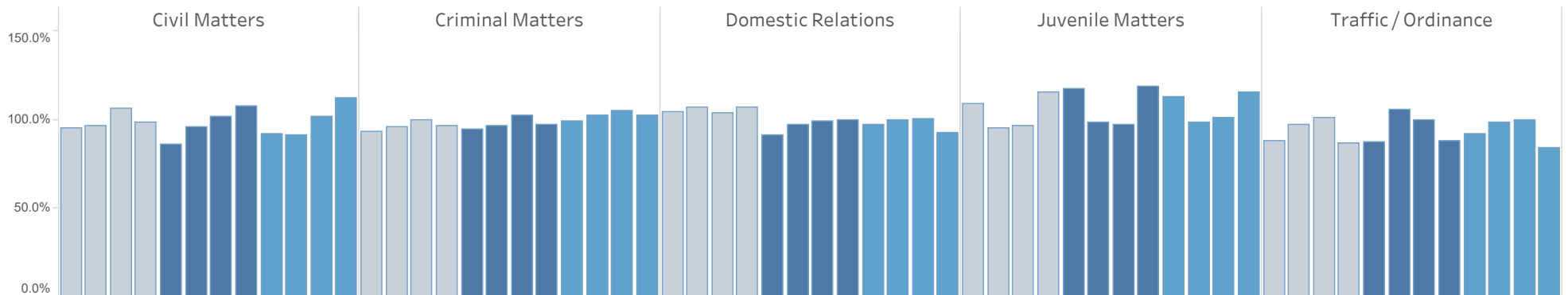
Clearance Rate

Color Legend: Fiscal Year
FY 2024 FY 2025 FY 2026

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	45,605	53,926	33,241	40,305	72.9%	74.7%	1.9%
District Court	370,132	382,206	276,167	284,702	74.6%	74.5%	-0.1%
Housing Court	45,475	45,133	35,611	36,059	78.3%	79.9%	1.6%
Juvenile Court	17,178	16,394	9,515	9,112	55.4%	55.6%	0.2%
Land Court	1,709	1,346	1,063	801	62.2%	59.5%	-2.7%
Probate and Family Court	65,365	63,308	50,730	48,751	77.6%	77.0%	-0.6%
Superior Court	17,200	17,193	10,651	11,254	61.9%	65.5%	3.5%
Total	562,664	579,506	416,978	430,984	74.1%	74.4%	0.3%

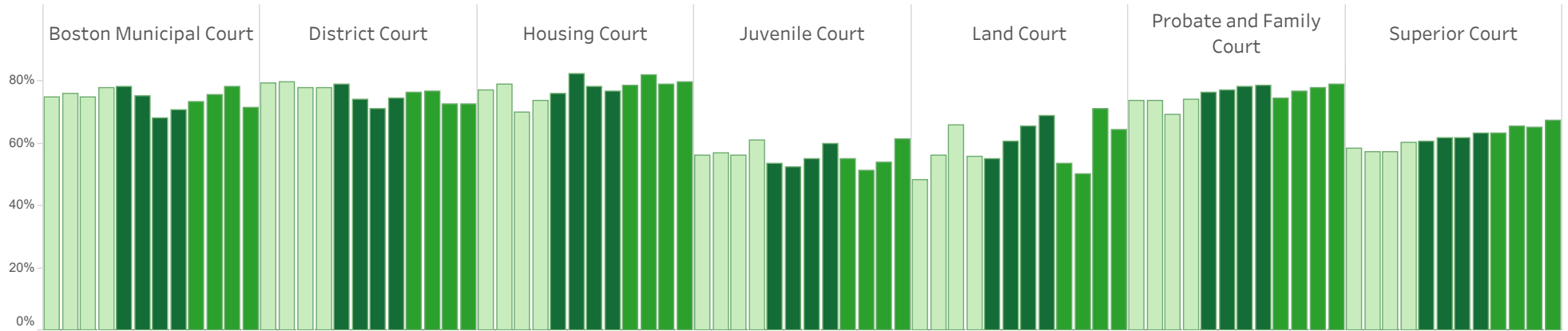
Disposed Cases Subject to Time Standards			Disposed Within Time Standards		Timely Disposed Rate		
By General Case Type	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Civil Matters	324,610	341,645	222,941	232,485	68.7%	68.0%	-0.6%
Criminal Matters	148,199	148,822	128,115	131,859	86.4%	88.6%	2.2%
Domestic Relations	27,313	26,355	16,509	15,887	60.4%	60.3%	-0.2%
Juvenile Matters	14,165	13,461	7,215	6,824	50.9%	50.7%	-0.2%
Traffic / Ordinance	48,377	49,223	42,198	43,929	87.2%	89.2%	2.0%
Total	562,664	579,506	416,978	430,984	74.1%	74.4%	0.3%



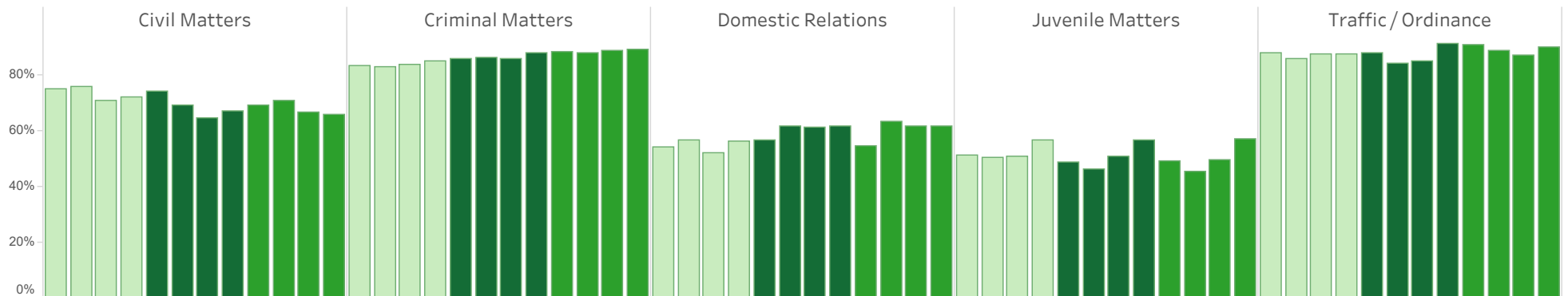
Time to Disposition

Color Legend: Fiscal Year
FY 2024 FY 2025 FY 2026

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	28,176	25,080	15,110	11,701	53.6%	46.7%	-7.0%
District Court	160,250	171,186	65,055	69,175	40.6%	40.4%	-0.2%
Housing Court	7,848	7,443	1,846	1,415	23.5%	19.0%	-4.5%
Juvenile Court	9,189	8,457	2,986	2,723	32.5%	32.2%	-0.3%
Land Court	3,805	3,555	2,567	1,836	67.5%	51.6%	-15.8%
Probate and Family Court	35,767	34,343	11,723	11,215	32.8%	32.7%	-0.1%
Superior Court	26,388	27,606	7,466	7,256	28.3%	26.3%	-2.0%
Total	271,423	277,670	106,753	105,321	39.3%	37.9%	-1.4%

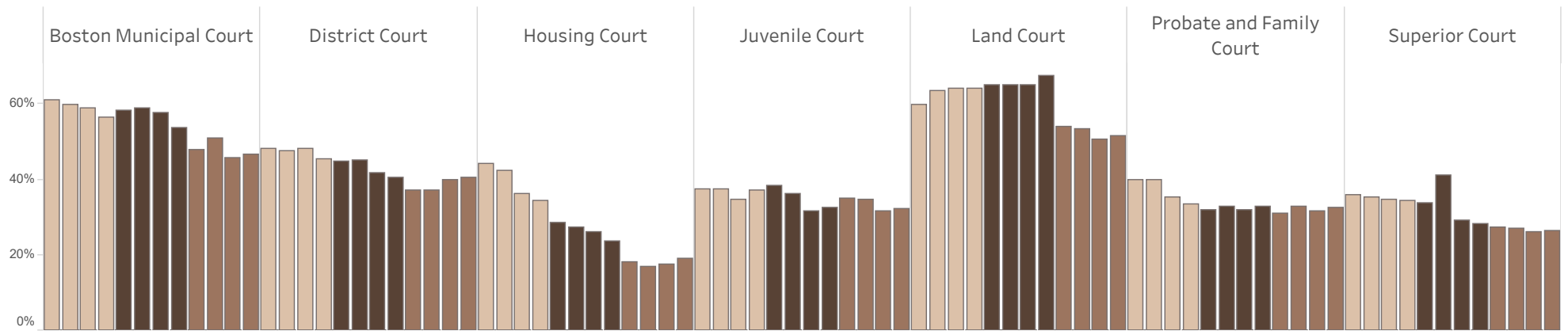
Pending Cases Subject to Time Standards			Pending Beyond Time Standards		Pending Beyond Rate		
By General Case Type	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Change
Civil Matters	159,283	169,233	75,888	77,672	47.6%	45.9%	-1.7%
Criminal Matters	53,831	52,260	7,712	7,421	14.3%	14.2%	-0.1%
Domestic Relations	26,638	26,071	8,772	8,350	32.9%	32.0%	-0.9%
Juvenile Matters	8,193	7,595	2,564	2,358	31.3%	31.0%	-0.2%
Traffic / Ordinance	23,478	22,511	11,817	9,520	50.3%	42.3%	-8.0%
Total	271,423	277,670	106,753	105,321	39.3%	37.9%	-1.4%



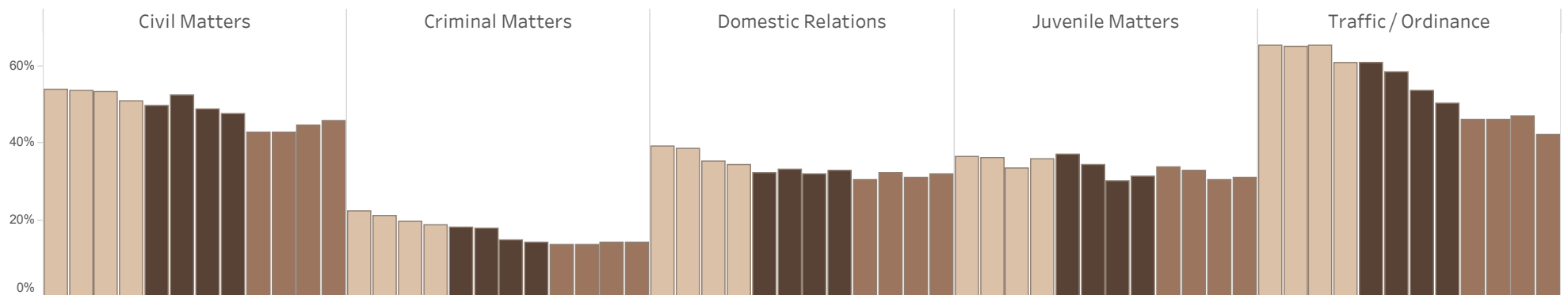
Pending Beyond Caseload

Color Legend: Fiscal Year
FY 2024 FY 2025 FY 2026

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	179,093	189,402	135,631	145,503	75.7%	76.8%	1.1%
District Court	1,137,222	1,189,485	810,943	861,753	71.3%	72.4%	1.1%
Housing Court	80,882	81,581	48,965	51,718	60.5%	63.4%	2.9%
Juvenile Court	155,324	153,083	104,166	101,125	67.1%	66.1%	-1.0%
Land Court	2,660	3,102	2,455	2,878	92.3%	92.8%	0.5%
Probate and Family Court	149,522	157,794	126,981	134,241	84.9%	85.1%	0.1%
Superior Court	131,276	129,999	77,865	76,178	59.3%	58.6%	-0.7%
Total	1,835,979	1,904,446	1,307,006	1,373,396	71.2%	72.1%	0.9%

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	405,964	485,881	278,954	352,280	68.7%	72.5%	3.8%
Criminal Matters	1,138,834	1,132,960	809,633	809,640	71.1%	71.5%	0.4%
Domestic Relations	93,883	88,165	75,844	70,722	80.8%	80.2%	-0.6%
Juvenile Matters	141,281	139,171	95,541	92,674	67.6%	66.6%	-1.0%
Traffic / Ordinance	56,017	58,269	47,034	48,080	84.0%	82.5%	-1.4%
Total	1,835,979	1,904,446	1,307,006	1,373,396	71.2%	72.1%	0.9%

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.

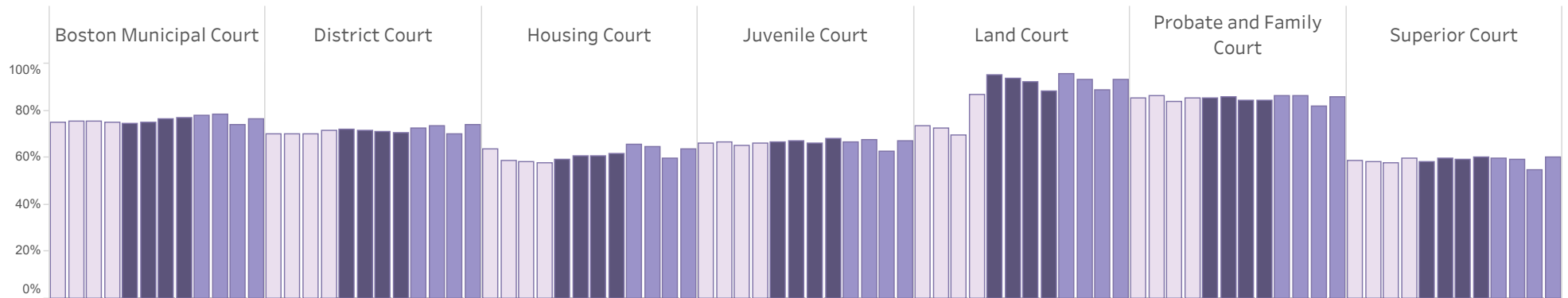


Event Date Certainty

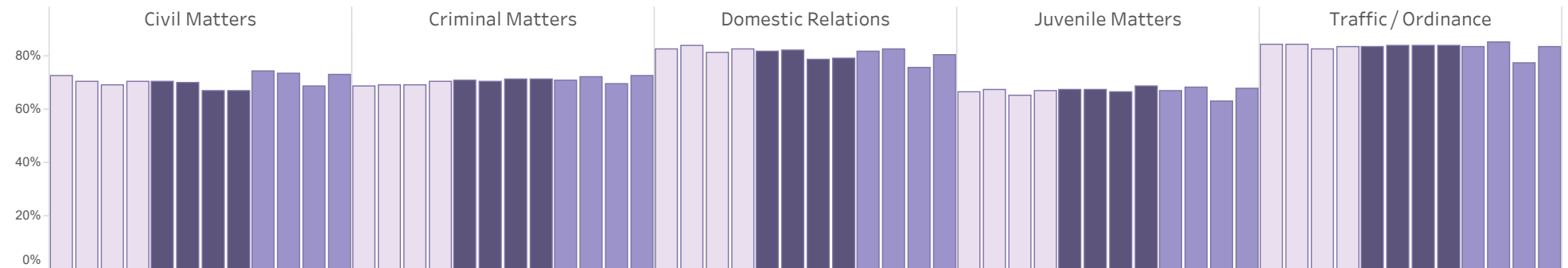
Color Legend: Fiscal Year

FY 2024 FY 2025 FY 2026

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	92.5%	98.4%	65.2%	66.0%	65.3%	56.5%	71.7%	74.5%
	Criminal Matters	103.7%	111.1%	78.3%	83.0%	18.7%	17.8%	76.1%	77.0%
	Traffic / Ordinance	100.2%	94.5%	94.2%	98.7%	75.1%	60.8%	88.0%	86.7%
District Court	Civil Matters	95.3%	94.5%	62.6%	61.7%	52.8%	52.2%	68.1%	73.2%
	Criminal Matters	97.2%	101.2%	89.6%	91.3%	7.7%	8.6%	71.3%	71.6%
	Domestic Relations						0.0%		
	Juvenile Matters						0.0%	50.0%	
	Traffic / Ordinance	93.7%	92.9%	87.1%	88.8%	47.2%	40.0%	83.7%	82.1%
Housing Court	Civil Matters	112.6%	113.2%	79.5%	80.9%	21.6%	16.9%	61.7%	64.6%
	Criminal Matters	99.9%	99.9%	64.8%	67.9%	66.2%	42.2%	40.2%	37.9%
	Traffic / Ordinance	121.8%	87.7%	21.0%	34.9%	47.4%	71.3%	76.5%	84.1%
Juvenile Court	Civil Matters	132.4%	133.6%	64.9%	66.6%	55.0%	56.3%	61.9%	61.4%
	Criminal Matters	95.6%	94.0%	64.4%	70.5%	25.0%	15.4%	37.0%	36.7%
	Domestic Relations	99.3%	105.2%	98.1%	98.4%	26.6%	32.9%	72.1%	74.3%
	Juvenile Matters	107.6%	107.1%	50.9%	50.7%	31.3%	31.1%	67.6%	66.6%
Land Court	Civil Matters	104.4%	156.6%	62.2%	59.5%	67.5%	51.6%	92.3%	92.8%
Probate and Family Court	Civil Matters	97.6%	102.5%	90.1%	89.2%	32.2%	34.6%	91.4%	90.9%
	Domestic Relations	96.6%	97.3%	59.0%	58.8%	33.0%	32.0%	80.9%	80.3%
Superior Court	Civil Matters	94.1%	89.9%	70.1%	73.8%	21.3%	20.2%	51.1%	51.7%
	Criminal Matters	80.6%	88.1%	23.4%	24.3%	58.1%	56.3%	62.9%	61.9%
	Juvenile Matters	72.7%	79.0%					63.6%	47.7%

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.

**Small claims and certain other civil case types are often continued at a party's request to allow additional time for payment, which can affect timely case processing.