


**VERMONT
JUDICIARY**

JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MEETING


JANUARY 12, 2023



Backlogs

- How backlogs are determined
 - Backlogs existed pre-pandemic
 - The pandemic exacerbated the backlog situation
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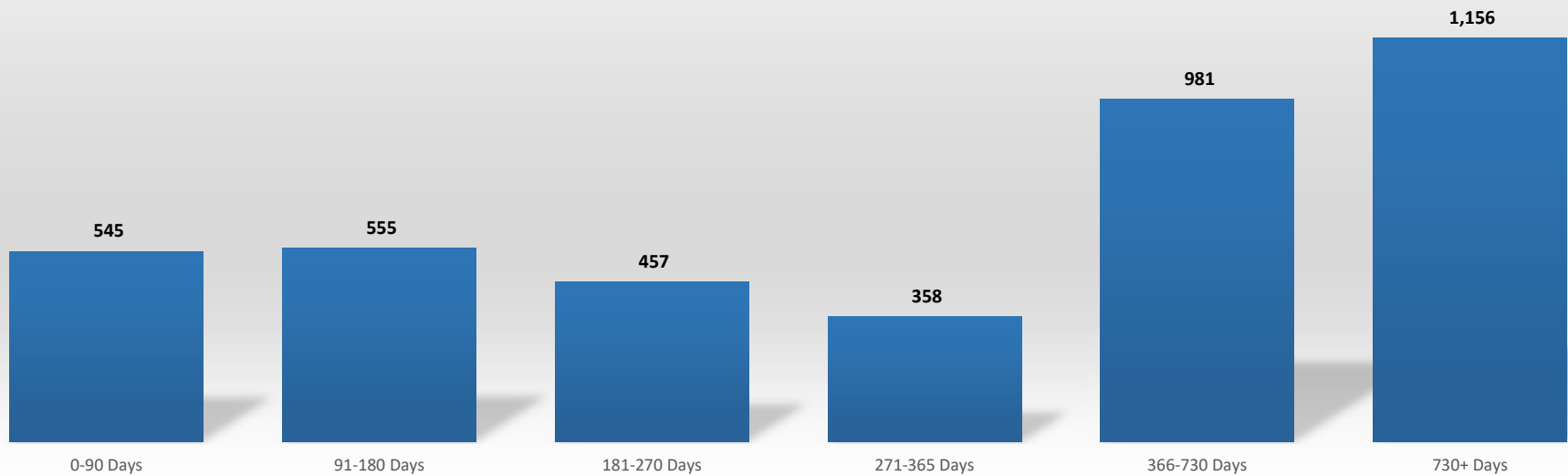
Pandemic Impact - Backlogs

- Pandemic restrictions severely limited ability to schedule hearings and trials
 - Jury trials halted for over a year
 - Pivot to remote hearings
 - New case management and e-filing system
 - Court staff turn-over
 - Inadequate HVAC systems in many courthouses
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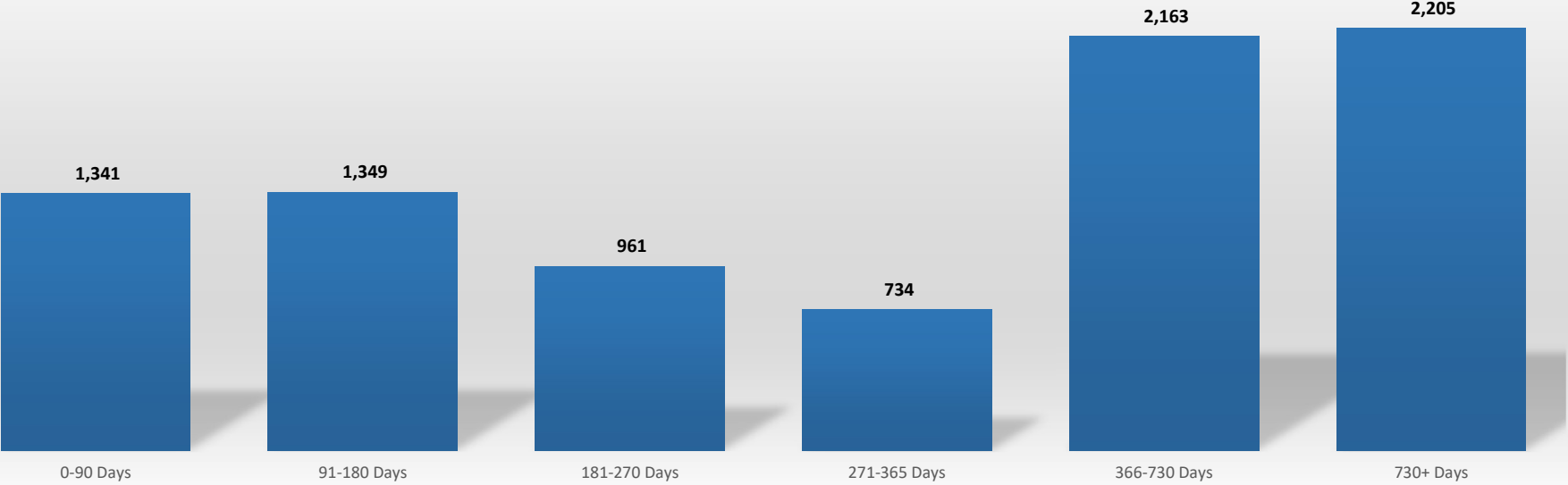
Active Cases Pending in Criminal Division: Pre-Pandemic and Now



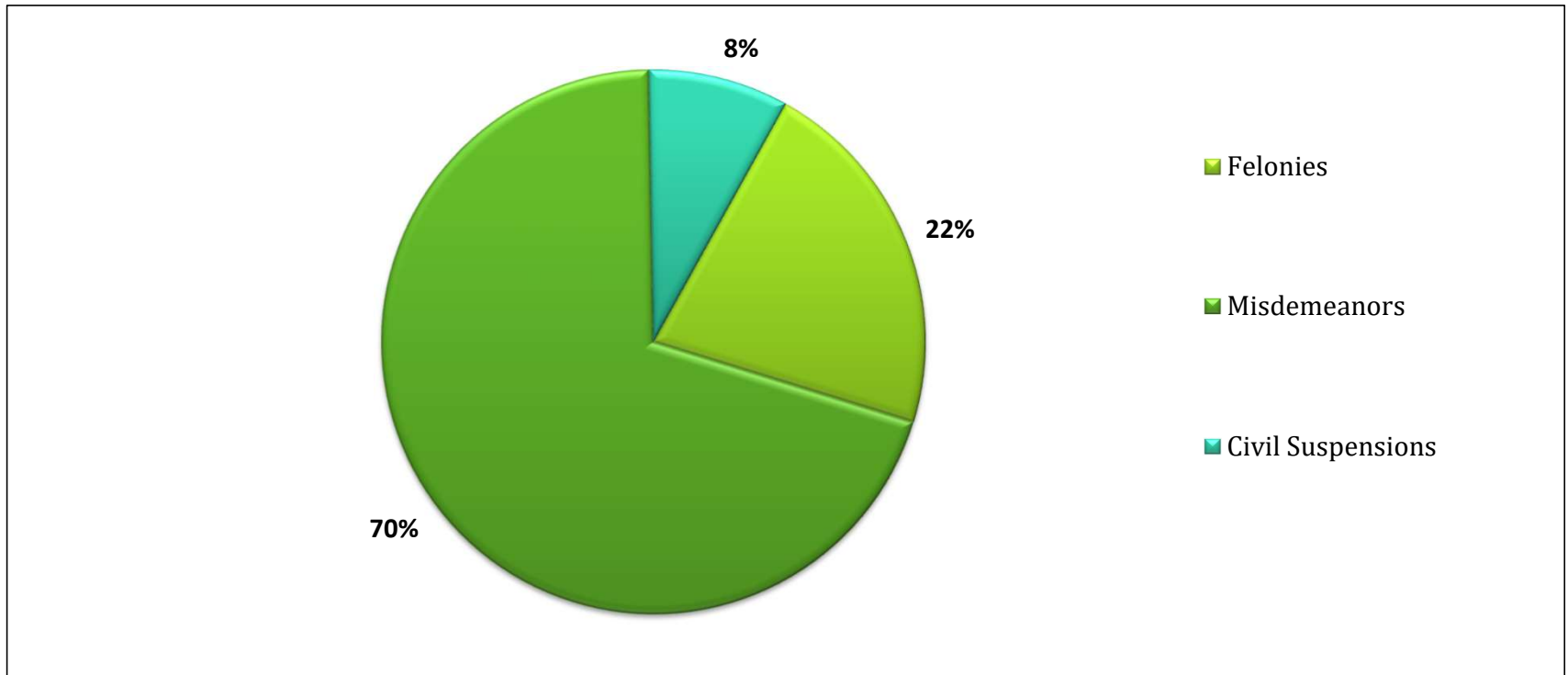
Criminal - Felonies Active Pending Cases as of 1/6/2023



Criminal - Misdemeanors Active Pending Cases as of 1/6/2023



Breakdown of Criminal Division New Filings Calendar Year 2022

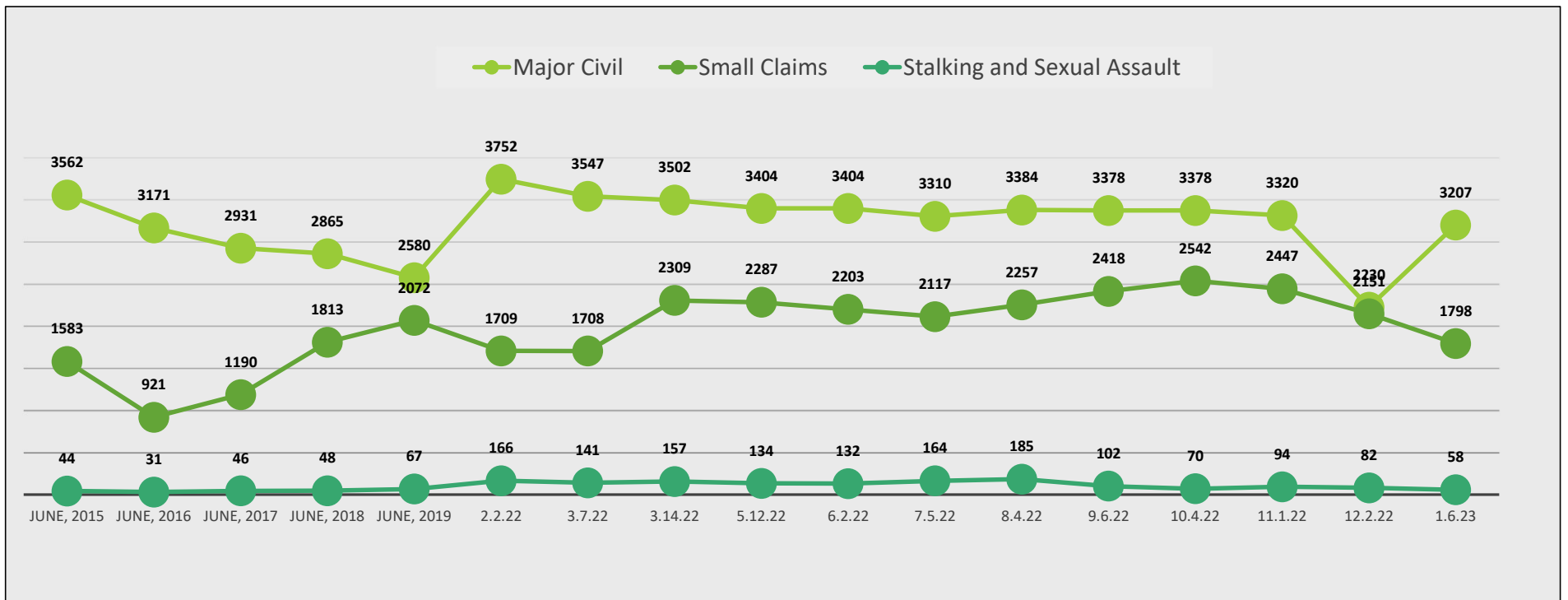


Criminal Cases

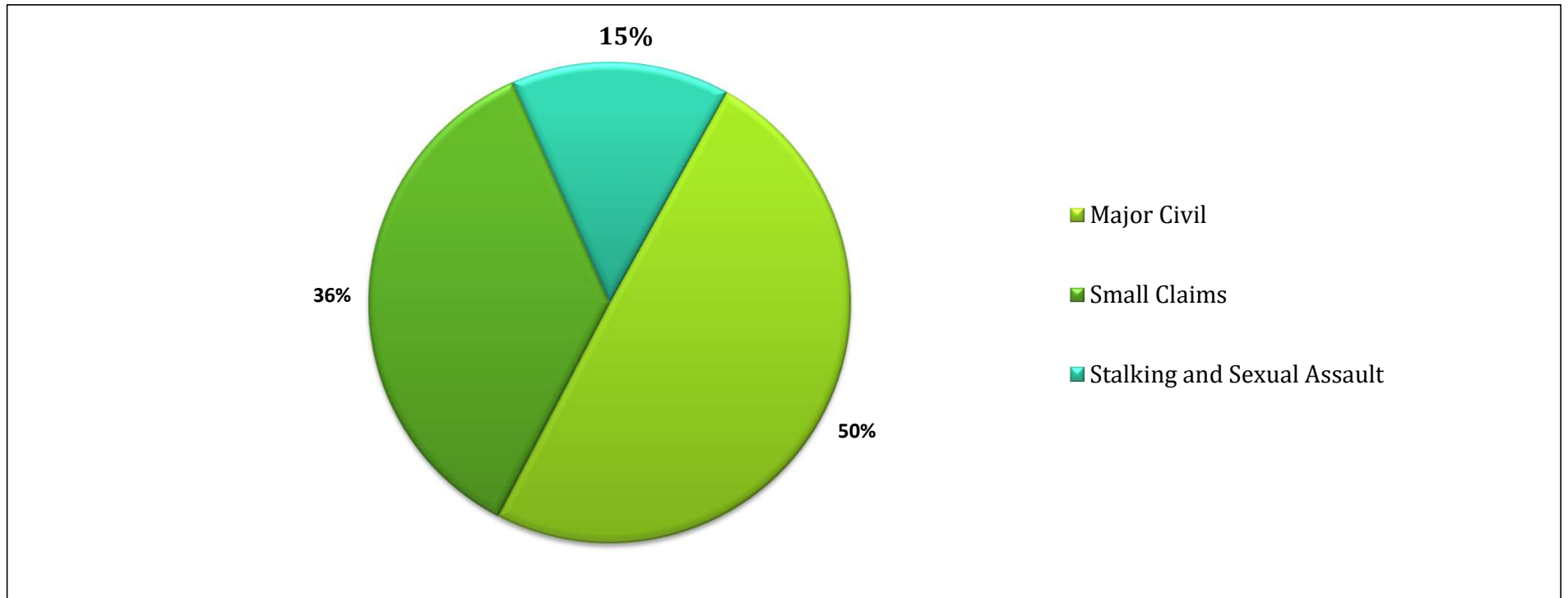
Trials vs. Plea/dismissal – last 12 mos.

- 40 cases resolved by jury trial and 12,367 resolved by plea or dismissal
- This means that 99.68 % of cases were resolved by plea or dismissal

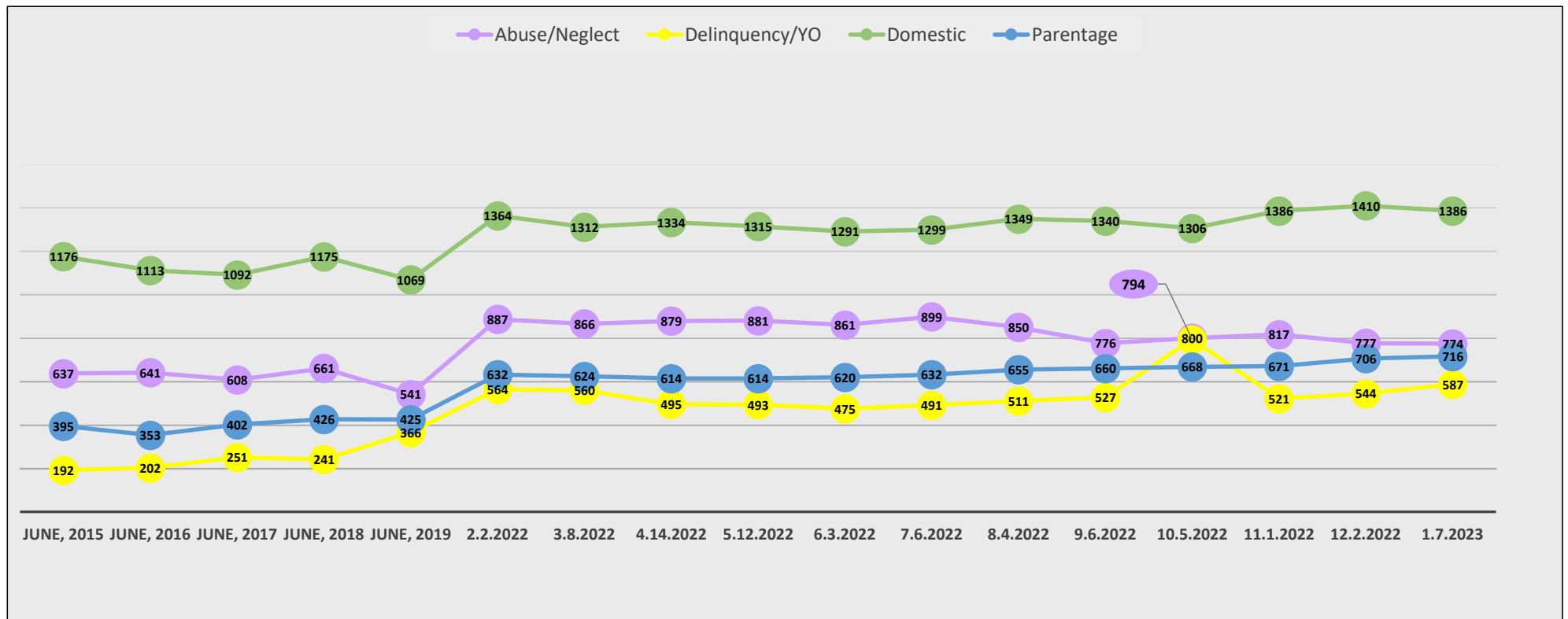
Active Cases Pending in Civil Division: Pre-Pandemic and Now



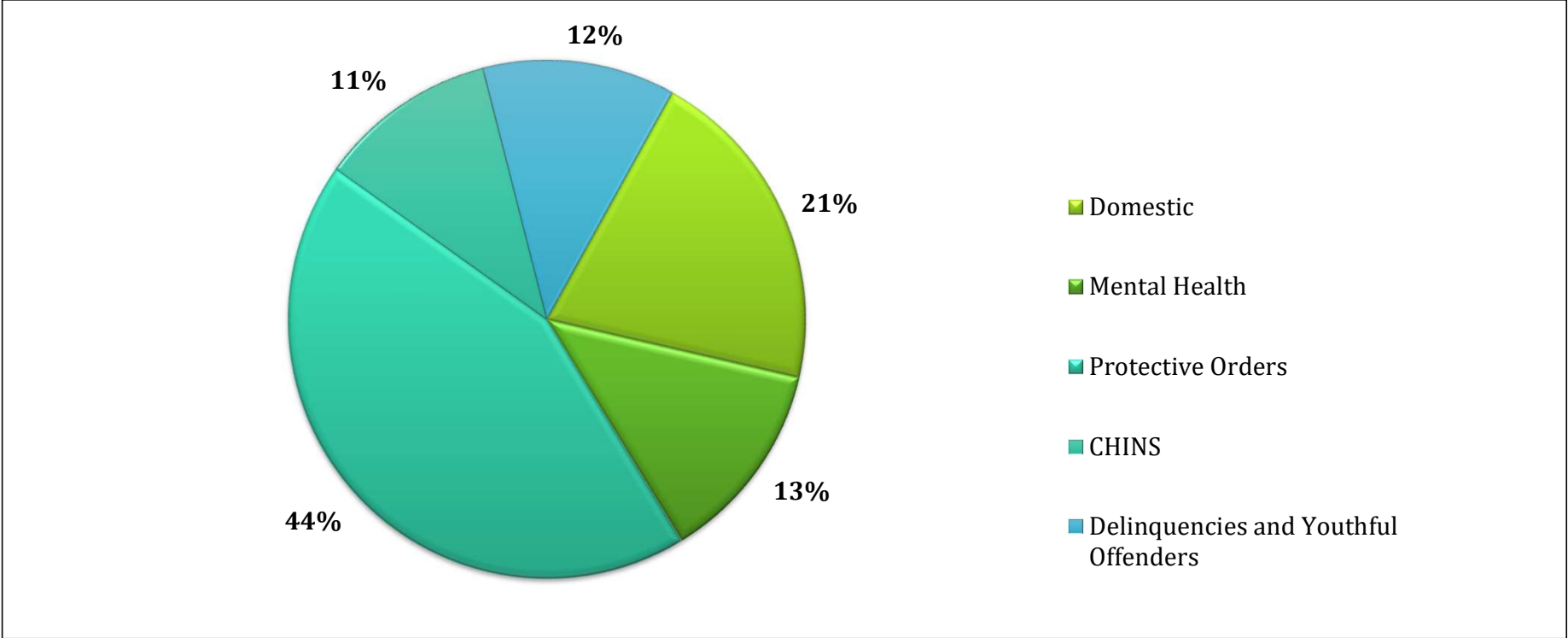
Breakdown of Civil Division New Filings Calendar Year 2022



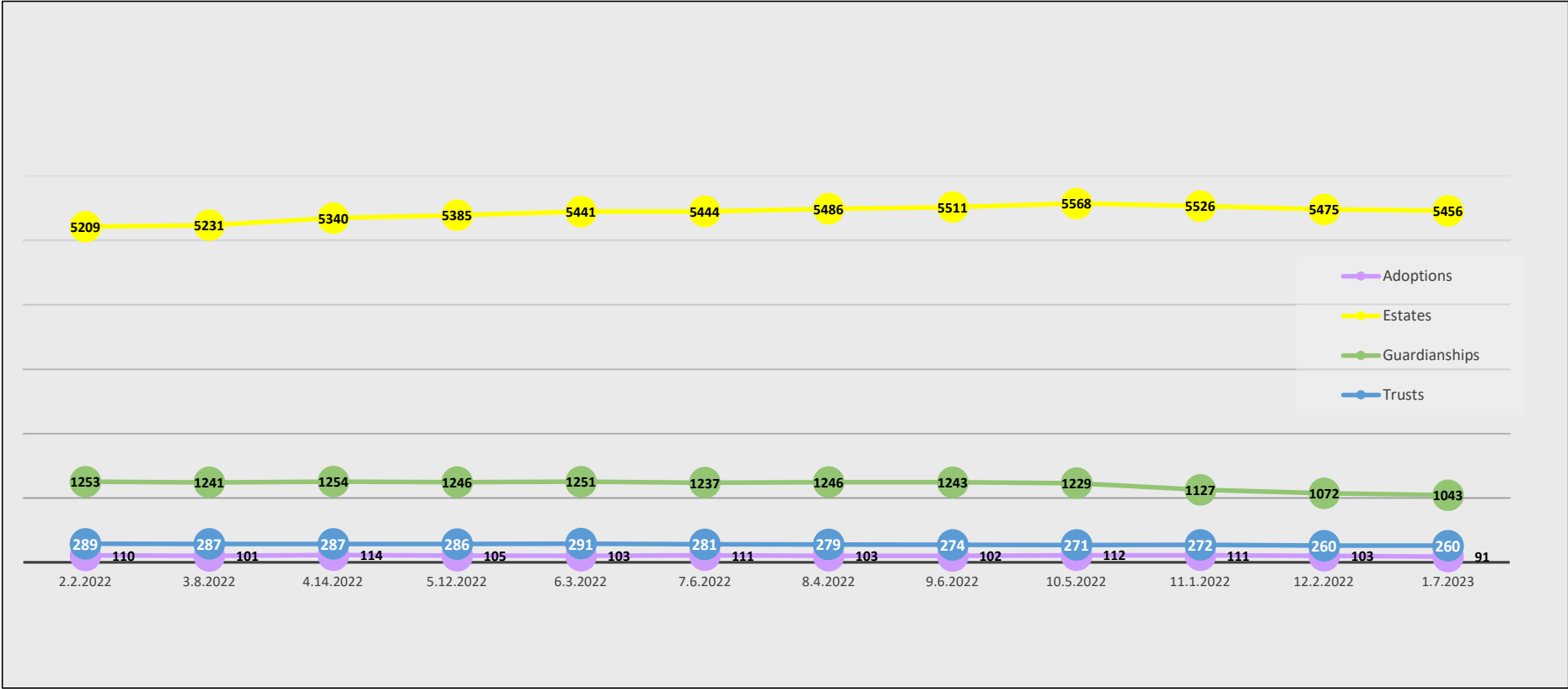
Active Cases Pending in Family Division: Pre-Pandemic and Now



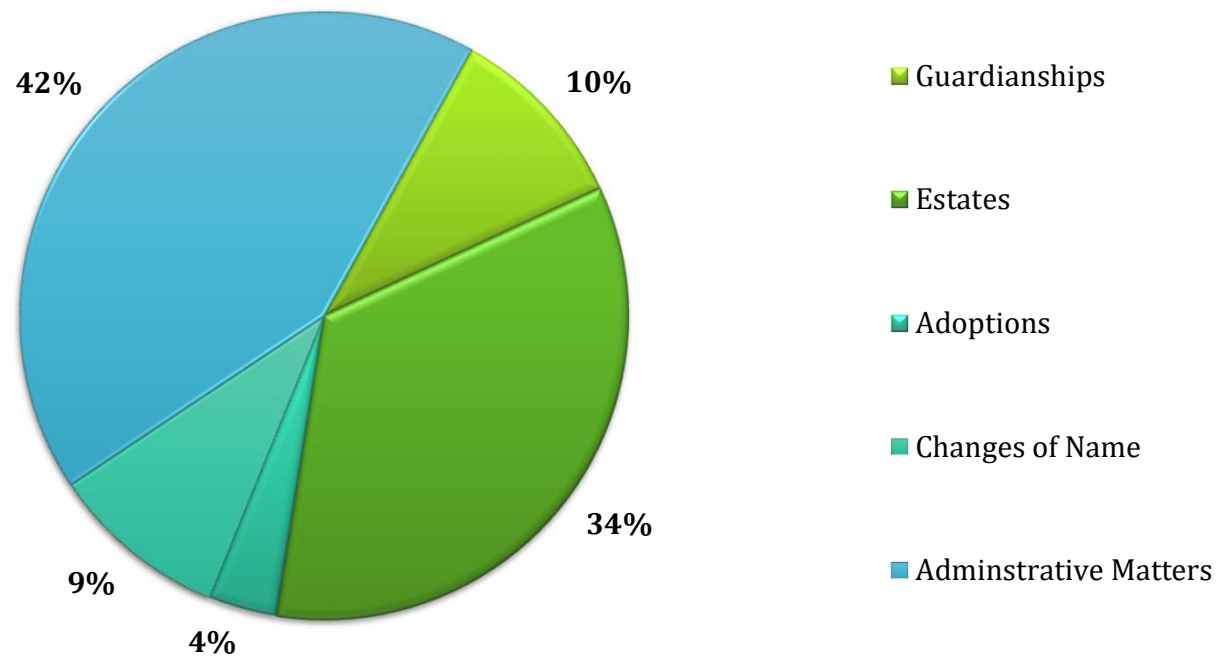
Breakdown of Family Division New Filings Calendar Year 2022




Active Cases Pending in Probate Division




Breakdown of Probate Division New Filings Calendar Year 2022




Judiciary Backlog Plans

- Scheduling Measures
 - Report Measures
 - Judicial Officer and Court Staff Resource Measures
 - Data Clean-Up Plan
 - Dispositional Guideline Review Plan
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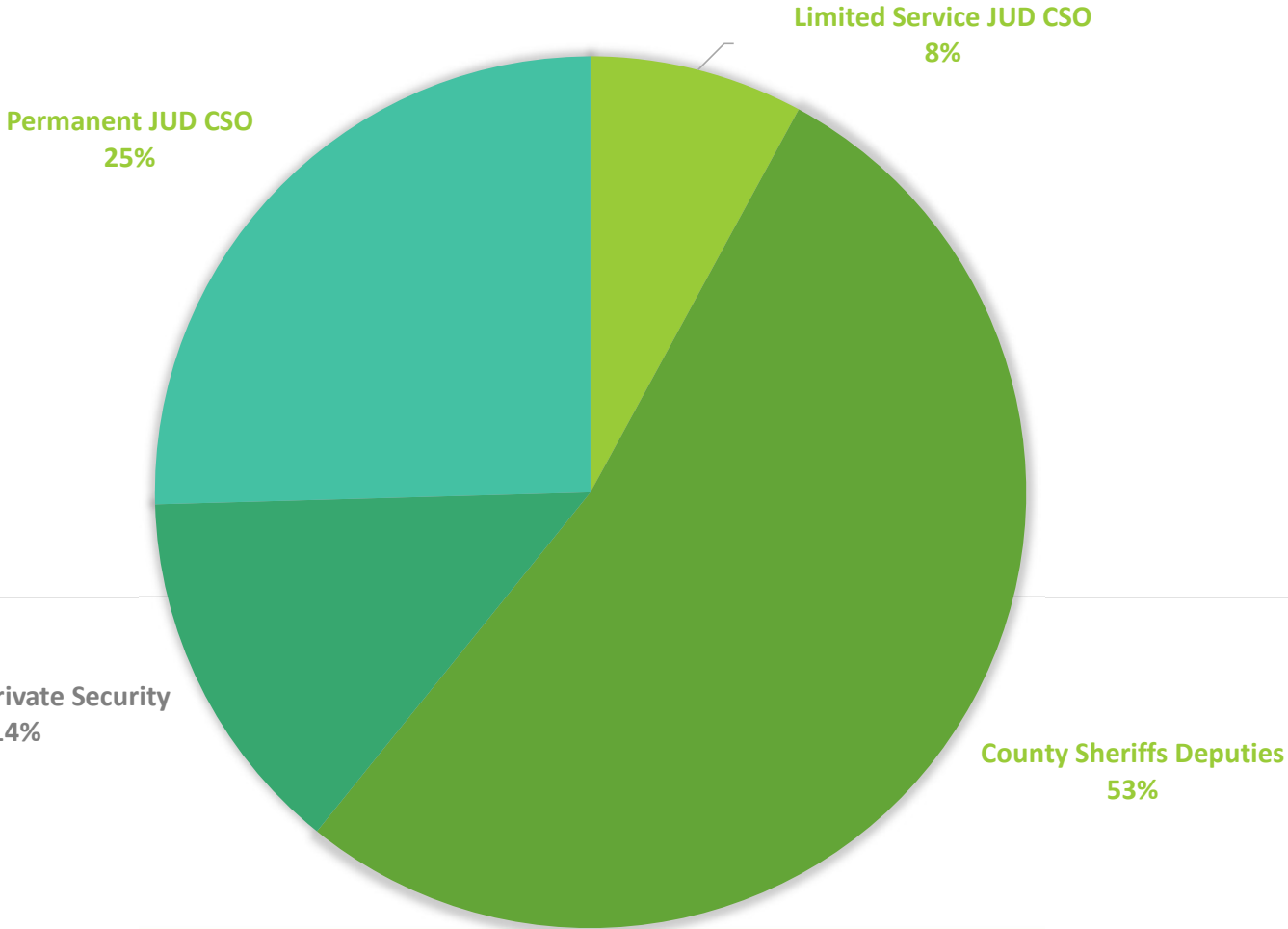
Unit Backlog Plans

- Review of each unit's oldest cases
 - Review of each unit's scheduling strategies
 - Review of what statistical reports would be helpful to unit
 - Review of jury draw and jury trial numbers
 - Unit specific recommendations
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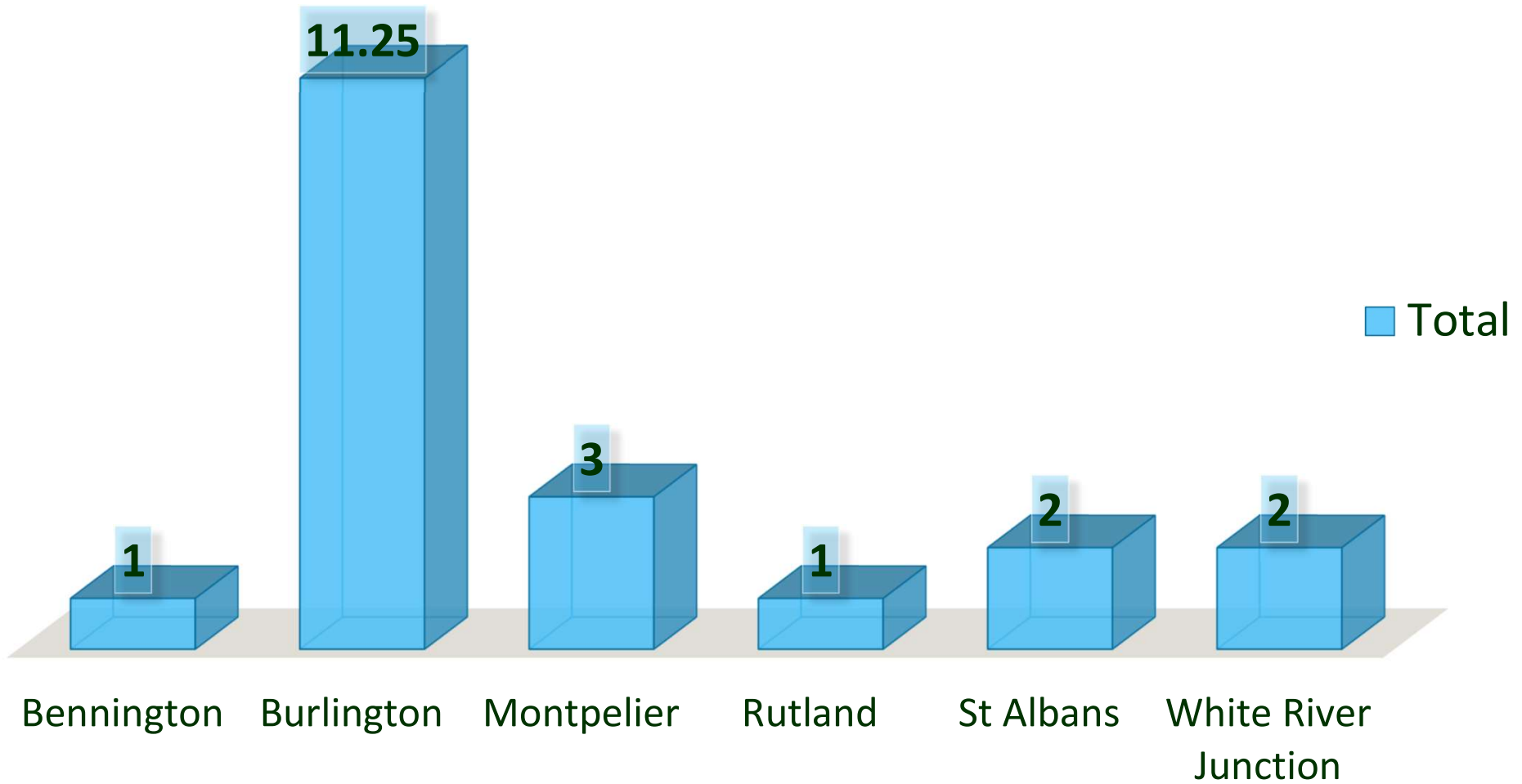
Security

- Sheriffs continue to struggle to recruit deputies.
 - We have had a number of counties reduce the number of deputies they can provide to the courthouses.
 - One county recently terminated their contract due to lack of staffing.
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VERMONT JUDICIARY COURT SECURITY COMPOSITION



VERMONT JUDICIARY STATE EMPLOYEE COURT SECURITY COMPOSITION BY FTE



Expungement/Sealing (all categories)

- Total completed to date: 54,117
 - Total outstanding: 20,326*
 - Staff time to complete by an experienced judicial assistant: 17-23 minutes per case
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- * There are additional petitions to be completed not reflected in this number.