



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Law Enforcement
Assistance Administration**

**National Criminal Justice
Information and Statistics Service**

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**State Court
Caseload Statistics:**

Advance Report, 1975

This advance report presents selected caseload data for general jurisdiction courts for 1975. The data included in this report were extracted from the forthcoming State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report, 1975, which was prepared by the National Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts in close cooperation with the Conference of State Court Administrators. The data were collected from published annual reports provided by the States and from unpublished material requested from and supplied by the State court administrators and appellate court clerks.

The District of Columbia and 43 States reported that more than 6 million criminal, civil, and juvenile cases were filed in their courts of general jurisdiction in 1975.¹ Civil cases accounted for 63 percent of these; criminal, 28 percent; and juvenile, slightly more than 8 percent.

The distribution of the pending caseload at the end of 1975 looked considerably different from that for cases filed. Whereas there were twice as many civil as criminal cases filed, there were 4 1/2 times as many civil as criminal cases reported pending at the end of 1975. Some of this difference is to be expected because civil matters tend to be protracted (for example, probating a will). Also, the Speedy Trial Act and simi-

lar State and local provisions may cause criminal cases to move through the system more quickly than civil cases.

Thirty-four States and the District of Columbia² reported data on pending cases for the beginning and end of the 1975 judicial year. Not all categories of cases were included in the pending data for some of these; however, data were available for the same types of cases to calculate both beginning and end pending data for 1975. Thus it is possible to examine the change in pending cases for the year.

Of the 35 States that did report the number of cases pending at the beginning and end of 1975, only 5 reported a decrease in that period. These decreases ranged from less than 1 percent to 22 percent. The median percent increase for those States reporting an increase was 10.5 percent, with 25 of these 30 States having an increase of less than 20 percent.

Looking at total cases only, however, masks some interesting patterns that emerge when civil and criminal cases are examined separately. Although there were 4 1/2 times as many civil cases pending as criminal cases, percent increases in the pending criminal caseload were greater than in the pending civil caseload. The median percent increase for criminal cases was 16 compared with 10 for civil cases.

Thirty-one States and the District of Columbia indicated that they handle all or some of their juvenile cases in general jurisdiction courts. Of these, 22 reported

¹More cases were filed in these courts than the figures indicate because some courts did not report for certain types of cases filed; for example, a court that had jurisdiction over all types of cases may have reported the number of filings for only one or two types.

²The District of Columbia is treated as a State in the remainder of this report unless otherwise noted.

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some data for juvenile cases, but only 14 (including D.C.) reported pending data for both the beginning and the end of 1975. Of the 14, 5 reported a decrease in the pending juvenile caseload, ranging from 18.8 percent to 0.3 percent. The percent increase for the remaining nine States ranged from slightly less than 5 percent to 70 percent, with a median of 29 percent. This is considerably higher than the median percent increase in civil or criminal cases. However, only half of the States handling juvenile cases in their general jurisdiction courts reported pending case data for the beginning and end of 1975. Moreover, juvenile cases are frequently heard in limited and special jurisdiction courts, which are not included in these data.

Methodology

General jurisdiction court data were compiled from published and unpublished data received from the States. In addition to review of these materials, instructions used by the States to collect caseload statistics from their respective courts were reviewed. Additional information was secured from appropriate personnel in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia as necessary.

To improve the comparability of data from State to State, standard categories were established and the State-produced data were classified accordingly. The data were then submitted to the appropriate State court administrators and the appellate court clerk offices for review and verification.

Definitions

Case--the unit of count for court workload data. Because the caseload data were collected from already published State sources that used different definitions, the definition of case in this report varies from State to State. In general jurisdiction courts the predominant unit of count used in civil cases is the complaint action or petition. In criminal cases, most general

jurisdiction courts use either the number of indictments/informations/complaints or the number of defendants on each indictment/information/complaint. The data tables in this report are footnoted to indicate each State's definition of case.

Court--an agency of the judicial branch of government, authorized or established by statute or constitution and consisting of one or more judicial officers, which has the authority to decide upon controversies in law and disputed matters of fact brought before it.

A court was considered to be a general jurisdiction trial court if it met one of the following criteria:

- the individual State considers it to be a general jurisdiction court;
- felony cases are tried and felony sentences given; or
- the judges of the court are general jurisdiction court judges sitting on temporary assignment.

All other trial courts were classified as limited or special jurisdiction courts.

These are trial courts whose legal jurisdiction covers only a particular class of cases, such as probate, juvenile, traffic, or cases where the amount in controversy is below a prescribed sum or is subject to specific exception. For example, civil jurisdiction may be limited to civil cases with a maximum of \$500 in controversy; criminal jurisdiction may be limited to cases with a maximum \$500 fine or 6-month sentence.

Filing--the commencement of a judicial proceeding by formally entering a document or a piece of information into the official record of a court.

Disposition--the action which terminates the jurisdiction of a particular court over a person or a case.

Pending--the status of a case that has not been terminated or disposed of by the court. Beginning pending is the number of cases pending in a particular court at the beginning of a reporting period. End pending is the number of cases pending in a particular court at the end of a reporting period.

Indictment--a formal written accusation made by a grand jury and filed in a court,

alleging that a specified person(s) has committed a specific offense(s). An indictment usually represents the beginning of a criminal case.

Information--a formal written accusation made by a prosecutor and filed in a court, alleging that a specified person(s) has committed a specific offense(s).

Limitations of data

To classify the great diversity of data provided by the States, standard categories were established by the National Court Statistics Project, and the State-produced data were classified accordingly. The data were then submitted to the appropriate State court administrators or appellate court clerks for review and verification. However, there was no way of verifying whether the data initially reported were complete or accurate.

Variations in reference periods

This report reflects court organizations and jurisdictions as they existed in 1975. Hence, caution should be used in attempting to compare the data in this report with a State's current data without ascertaining whether or not the organization or jurisdictional characteristics of that State's court system have been altered since 1975.

Some States report data by calendar year and some by fiscal year. Hence, even within the 1975 period used in this report, the time spans covered are not always directly comparable.

Variations in jurisdiction

General jurisdiction courts vary widely in the kinds of cases over which they have jurisdiction. As one example, general jurisdiction courts in States with unified trial courts may hear all cases from parking violations to the largest civil cases. An adjacent State may have general jurisdiction courts with a criminal division hearing felony matters only (after prelim-

inary hearing in a limited jurisdiction court) and a civil division hearing only civil cases involving more than \$10,000. Both civil and criminal cases are handled at the general jurisdiction level in each State, but general jurisdiction courts may have civil jurisdiction only, criminal jurisdiction only, or both, depending on the State. Some general jurisdiction courts handle juvenile matters; others do not. In comparing general jurisdiction court statistics, the differences in the types of cases handled both within and between States must be taken into consideration.

Variations in definitions

Definition problems abound in general jurisdiction court data. The definitions used in this report have been chosen for practical purposes as a means of classifying the data gathered.

General jurisdiction court data have problems concerning the unit of count used, especially in criminal cases. The most common unit of count in general jurisdiction criminal cases, used in 21 States, is the number of informations, indictments, or complaints; some States count criminal cases when the complaint is filed, while others require an information or indictment before a criminal case is counted. There are 19 States that count the number of defendants on each information, indictment, or complaint; one State counts the case number assigned at arraignment; one State simply counts a "case."

Units of count for civil cases in general jurisdiction courts present far fewer problems. There are 41 States that count a civil case at the point of filing. One State counts civil cases at the filing of a note of issue; one when the case is placed on the calendar; and yet another at time of first answer. One State reports that it does not have a specific unit of count for civil cases. A few have indicated that prescribed unit-of-count definitions are not followed uniformly by their local courts.

Information on unit of count used for general jurisdiction courts is provided in the table in this report.

Number of civil, criminal, and juvenile cases pending at the beginning of 1975, filed and

States and courts	Unit of count		Beginning pending				Filed		
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Total	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile
Alabama—Circuit	1	1	45,688	10,540	NH	56,226	75,869	25,777	NH
Alaska—Superior	1	2	4,426	451	N/A	4,877 ⁵	9,283	1,075	1,985
Arizona—Superior	1	1	54,344 ^a	4,924	760 ⁵	60,028 ⁵	63,599 ^a	13,662	3,256 ⁵
Arkansas—TOTAL			46,709 ⁵	6,881	(b)	53,590 ⁵	58,441	12,987	(b)
Circuit	1	2	13,854	6,881	(b)	20,735	19,808	12,987	(b)
Chancery & Probate	1	NH	32,855 ⁵	NH	NH	32,855 ⁵	38,633	NH	NH
California—Superior	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	467,092	57,656	77,722
Colorado—TOTAL			64,166	7,460	7,135	78,761	84,801	14,559	21,798
District ^c	1	1	55,704 ^d	7,460	7,135	70,299 ^d	82,545 ⁵	14,569	21,798
Water ^f	1	NH	8,462	NH	NH	8,462	2,256	NH	NH
Connecticut—Superior	1	1	31,960	2,202	NH	34,162	25,176	4,941	NH
Delaware—TOTAL			11,617	1,734	NH	13,351	9,351	4,087	NH
Superior	1	1	4,307	1,734	NH	6,041	7,173	4,087	NH
Chancery	1	NH	7,310	NH	NH	7,310	2,450	NH	NH
District of Columbia—Superior	2	3	12,259 ⁵	3,609*	1,617	17,485 ⁵	171,959	34,246*	7,756
Florida—Circuit	1	3	203,633	42,463	15,271	261,367	254,148	82,222	62,811
Georgia—Superior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hawaii—TOTAL			19,145	1,845	2,959	23,949	16,903	2,085	7,739
Circuit	1	1	19,025	1,845	2,959	23,829	16,665	2,086	7,739
Land ^h	1	NH	65	NH	NH	65	49	NH	NH
Tax ^h	1	NH	55	NH	NH	55	189	NH	NH
Idaho—TOTAL			17,931 ⁵	5,573 ⁵	1,902 ⁵	25,406 ⁵	37,224	34,602*	7,523
District	1	1	7,231 ⁵	979 ⁵	3 ⁵	8,213 ⁵	9,701	3,094	17
Magistrate	1	3	10,700 ⁵	4,594 ⁵	1,899 ⁵	17,193 ⁵	27,523	31,508*	7,506
Illinois—Circuit	1	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	632,664	520,847*	27,983
Indiana—TOTAL			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Circuit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NH
Superior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Criminal	N/A	N/A	NH	NH	NH	N/A	NH	N/A	NH
Iowa—District	1	2	46,231 ⁵	14,184*	N/A	60,415 ⁵	124,185	89,925*	5,685
Kansas—District	1	4	18,309	1,810	NH	20,119	35,312	6,728	NH
Kentucky—Circuit	1	1	75,628	10,825	NH	86,453	58,859	12,732	NH
Louisiana—District ^k	1	6	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	122,633	212,523	NH
Maine—Superior	1	4	7,394	4,100	NH	11,494	5,158	8,734	NH
Maryland—Circuit	1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	57,330	29,726	25,210
Massachusetts—Superior	1	2	85,301	37,967	NH	123,268	32,247	35,483	NH
Michigan—TOTAL			100,274	15,361 ⁵	NH	115,635 ⁵	133,180	57,130 ⁵	NH
Circuit	1	3	100,043	8,804	NH	108,847	132,202	27,576	NH
Recorder's	NH	3	NH	6,557 ⁵	NH	6,557 ⁵	NH	29,554 ⁵	NH
Claims ^k	1	NH	231	NH	NH	231	978	NH	NH
Minnesota—District	3	7	7,237	1,227	N/A	8,464 ⁵	21,342	7,991	N/A
Mississippi—TOTAL			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	52,889	7,445	N/A
Circuit	1	2	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	15,223	7,445	NH
Chancery	1	NH	N/A	NH	N/A	N/A	37,666	NH	N/A
Missouri—Circuit ^m	1	2	59,093	8,765	8,217	76,075	74,314	17,760	18,751
Montana—District	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nebraska—District	1	1	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	15,229	6,543	NH
Nevada—District	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire—Superior	5	7	16,835	3,773	NH	20,608	17,398	6,321	NH
New Jersey—Superior & County	4	2	43,955	23,178	NH	67,133	63,231	31,500	NH
New Mexico—District	1	2	19,798	1,913	2,120	23,831	30,374	4,771	5,454
New York—Supreme & County	1	1	63,156	N/A	NH	63,156 ⁵	119,009	35,754	NH
North Carolina—Superior	1	7	13,517 ^o	16,327	NH	29,844	10,919 ^o	53,505	NH
North Dakota—District	1	2	3,873	273	224	4,370	6,430	1,076	855
Ohio—Common Pleas	1	1	172,169 ⁵	6,099	21,322	199,590 ⁵	249,822	31,554	194,288
Oklahoma—District	1	2	109,255	32,427 ⁵	2,047	143,729 ⁵	157,853	66,716*	8,311
Oregon—TOTAL			39,767	4,019 ⁵	N/A	43,786 ⁵	47,064	14,360	11,305
Circuit	1	5	39,671 ^p	4,019 ⁵	N/A	43,690 ⁵	46,832	14,360	11,305
Tax ^q	1	NH	96	NH	NH	96	232	NH	NH
Pennsylvania—Common Pleas									
& Philadelphia Municipal	1	1	40,840 ^r	26,064	4,388	71,292	143,832 ^r	109,894	39,882
Rhode Island—Superior	1	2	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	6,542	3,665	NH
South Carolina—Circuit,	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Dakota—Circuit ^s	1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,210
Tennessee—TOTAL			54,171 ^t	14,948 ^t	NH	69,119 ^t	80,724	29,462	NH
Circuit & criminal	1	2	35,980 ^t	14,948 ^t	NH	50,928 ^t	46,589	29,462	NH
Chancery	1	NH	15,451 ^t	NH	NH	15,451 ^t	29,569	NH	NH
Law and equity	1	NH	2,740 ^t	NH	NH	2,740 ^t	4,566	NH	NH
Texas—District ^u	1	1	246,045	68,720	5,764	320,529	264,888	80,732	11,919
Utah—District	1	4	7,817	81	NH	7,898	26,029	2,643	NH
Vermont—TOTAL			22,120	4,009*	267	26,396*	21,748	16,954*	968
Superior	1	2	6,529	20	NH	6,549	6,275	44	NH
District	1	4	15,591	3,989*	267	19,847*	15,473	16,910*	968
Virginia—Circuit	1	1	79,058 ^t	11,420 ^t	NH	90,478 ^t	62,938	41,644	NH
Washington—Superior	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90,663	14,048	11,929
West Virginia—Circuit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin—Circuit & County	1	2	90,923 ⁵	20,461*	N/A	111,384 ⁵	192,243 ⁵	55,710*	N/A
Wyoming—District	1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,987 ^v	1,629	N/A

Guide to UNIT OF COUNT columns:

Civil cases

1. Filing of a petition or complaint.
2. Placement on the jury or nonjury calendar.
3. Filing of note of issue.
4. Filing of first answer.
5. No consistent definition used.

Criminal cases

1. The number of defendants on each information or indictment.
2. The number of informations or indictments.
3. The number of defendants on each information, indictment, or complaint.

4. The number of informations, indictments, or complaints.
5. The case.
6. The case number assigned at arraignment.
7. No consistent definition used.

SEE ALPHABETICAL FOOTNOTES ON PAGES 6-7.

disposed during 1975, and pending at the end of 1975 in courts of general jurisdiction, by State.

Disposed				End pending				Population In thousands	Number of judges	
Total	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Total	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile			
101,646	75,981	25,980	NH	101,961	45,554*	10,337	NH	55,891*	3,814	102
11,744	6,327	955	1,121	8,403	7,982	571	N/A	7,953 [§]	352	17
80,517 [§]	58,889 [§]	13,045	3,222 [§]	72,656 [§]	61,554 [§]	5,541	794 [§]	67,885 [§]	2,224	72
71,428	50,025 [§]	12,233	(b)	62,258 [§]	49,386 [§]	7,835	(b)	57,021 [§]	2,116	55
32,795	19,077	12,233	(b)	31,310	14,585	7,835	(b)	22,220	-	29
38,633	30,948 [§]	NH	NH	30,948 [§]	34,801 [§]	NH	NH	34,801 [§]	-	26
602,470	370,551	52,525	74,312	497,388	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21,185	501
121,168	78,391	11,998	20,138	110,527	70,576	10,031	3,795	89,402	2,534	87
118,912	73,345	11,998	20,138	105,481	64,904 ^d	10,031	8,795	83,730 ^d	-	87
2,256	5,046	NH	NH	5,046	5,672	NH	NH	5,672	-	-
30,117	24,157	3,773	NH	27,930	32,979	3,370	NH	36,349	3,095	45
13,710	7,051	3,807	NH	10,858	14,189	2,014	NH	16,203	579	14
11,260	4,878	3,807	NH	8,685	6,602	2,014	NH	8,618	-	11
2,450	2,173	NH	NH	2,173	7,587	NH	NH	7,587	-	3
213,981*	168,478 [§]	31,039*	7,410	205,927* [§]	13,149 [§]	6,816*	1,963	21,928* [§]	716	44
399,181	227,925	72,443	57,315	357,683	229,856	52,242	20,767	302,865	8,957	272
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,926	88
26,728	16,669	2,128	7,749	26,546	19,379	1,803	2,949	24,131	865	22
26,490	16,434	2,128	7,749	26,311	19,256	1,803	2,949	24,008	-	22
49	38	NH	NH	38	78	NH	NH	78	-	-
189	197	NH	NH	197	47	NH	NH	47	-	-
79,349*	34,499	33,697*	7,374	75,470*	20,670 [§]	6,578*	2,051	29,299* [§]	820	88
12,812	9,411	3,250	16	12,677	7,536 [§]	823	4	8,862 [§]	-	24
66,537*	25,088	30,347*	7,358	62,793*	19,185	5,755*	2,047	20,937*	-	64
1,181,494*	602,054	491,022*	30,266	1,123,342*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11,145	603
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,311	146
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	84
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	58
N/A	NH	N/A	NH	N/A	NH	N/A	NH	N/A	-	4
219,795*	117,767 [§]	85,141*	5,535	208,443* [§]	47,083 [§]	18,968*	N/A	66,051* [§]	2,870	113
42,038	35,175	6,636	NH	41,811	18,446	1,900	NH	20,346	2,267	63
71,591	49,449	12,608	NH	62,057	84,882 [†]	10,834 [†]	NH	95,716 [†]	3,996	82
335,156	93,111	204,945	NH	298,056	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	3,791	125
13,892	4,364	8,990	NH	13,354	8,188 [†]	3,844 [†]	NH	12,032 [†]	1,059	14
112,266	53,570	27,685	24,627	105,882	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,098	85
67,730	27,558	34,086	NH	61,644	89,990	39,964	NH	129,954	5,828	46
190,310* [§]	123,284	54,897*	NH	178,181*	110,170	19,125* [§]	NH	129,299* [§]	9,157	158
159,778	122,334	24,349	NH	146,683	109,911 [†]	12,031	NH	121,942	-	138
28,594* [§]	NH	30,548*	NH	30,548*	NH	7,094* [§]	NH	7,094* [§]	-	20
978	950	NH	NH	950	259	NH	NH	259	-	-
29,333 [§]	20,334	7,453	N/A	27,787 [§]	8,261 [†]	1,763* [†]	N/A	10,024* [†]	3,926	70 [†]
60,334 [§]	29,645	5,307	N/A	34,952 [§]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,846	65
22,668	12,153	6,307	NH	17,460	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	-	30
37,666 [§]	17,492	NH	N/A	17,492 [§]	N/A	NH	N/A	N/A	-	35
110,825	70,357	16,257	15,372	102,996	63,050	10,268	10,596	83,914	4,783	111
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	748	28
21,872	14,272	6,936	NH	21,208	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	1,546	45
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	592	25
23,719	15,791	5,642	NH	21,433	18,441 [†]	4,508* [†]	NH	22,949* [†]	818	12
94,731	57,872	27,248	NH	85,120	49,314	27,430	NH	76,744	7,316	201
40,599	31,786	4,588	4,888	41,262	17,305 [†]	2,096	2,734 [†]	22,135 [†]	1,147	32
154,763	114,731	38,674	NH	153,405	67,170 ^{n§}	N/A	NH	67,170 ^{n§}	18,120	357
64,424	9,220 ^d	52,551	NH	61,773	15,214 ^o	17,281	NH	32,495	5,451	56
8,361	7,351	1,063	897	9,311	2,952	286	182	3,420	635	19
475,664	250,167	31,230	196,503	477,900	166,522 [§]	6,423	19,107	192,052 [§]	10,759	296
232,880*	132,636	61,352*	6,873	201,061*	134,272	37,677* [§]	3,485	175,434* [§]	2,712	186
72,729	46,035	14,383	N/A	60,418 [§]	40,655	3,996	N/A	44,651 [§]	2,288	67.5
72,497	45,890 ^p	14,383	N/A	60,273 [§]	40,472	3,996	N/A	44,468 [§]	-	66.5
232	145	NH	NH	145	183	NH	NH	183	-	1
293,608	138,991 ^r	104,576	38,350	281,317	46,281 ^r	33,382	5,920	85,583	11,827	285
10,207	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	N/A	N/A	NH	N/A	927	15
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,818	25
4,210 [§]	16,116	12,470	3,972 [§]	32,558 [§]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	683	37
110,186	80,660	28,396	NH	109,056	54,236	16,014	NH	70,249	4,188	109
76,051	48,119	28,396	NH	76,515	34,450	16,014	NH	50,464	-	78 ^t
29,569	28,338	NH	NH	28,338	16,682	NH	NH	16,682	-	31 ^t
4,566	4,203	NH	NH	4,203	3,103	NH	NH	3,103	-	5
357,509	240,243	80,440	12,361	333,044	270,690	68,982	5,322	344,994	12,237	261
28,672	21,343	2,647	NH	23,990	12,503	77	NH	12,580	1,208	21
39,670*	21,871	16,397*	980	39,248*	21,997	4,566*	255	26,818*	471	18
6,319	6,020	45	NH	6,065	6,784	19	NH	6,803	-	7
33,351*	15,851	16,352*	980	33,183*	15,213	4,547*	255	20,015*	-	11
104,582	59,563	41,630	NH	101,193	82,433	11,434	NH	93,867	4,967	103
116,640	76,825 [§]	14,284	N/A	91,113 [§]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,544	100
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,803	58
247,953* [§]	229,143	57,033*	15,760	301,936*	91,154 [§]	19,138*	N/A	110,292* [§]	4,607	182
9,616 ^{sv}	7,332 ^w	1,357 ^w	N/A	8,689 ^{ws}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	374	13

Guide to symbols

- N/A This case type is handled by the court, but the data are not available.
- NH This case type is not handled in this court.
- * Minor traffic and minor ordinance cases are not included for those courts handling them.
- † The number of pending cases was computed by NCSF staff when filings, dispositions, and either beginning or end pending were available.
- ‡ Change in pending does not equal the difference between filings and dispositions. Numbers appear as reported in the source document.
- § Not all data were available for inclusion in the total. Explanation will be provided in State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report, 1975.

SEE ALPHABETICAL FOOTNOTES ON FOLLOWING PAGE.

Variations in completeness and accuracy of data

All States were requested to provide complete breakdowns for civil, criminal, and juvenile cases in their general jurisdiction courts. Whereas 6 States could provide no data at all, the remaining 44 and the District of Columbia provided at least criminal and civil breakdowns for total cases processed in 1975. There were 22 States and the District of Columbia that reported juvenile cases as part of their general jurisdiction court data, whereas general jurisdiction courts in 19 States did not process juvenile cases. Three States processed juvenile cases as part of their general jurisdiction caseload but collected no data for juvenile cases. The six States that provided no general jurisdiction data for 1975, however, indicated that they processed juvenile cases as part of the general jurisdiction caseload.

Extensive efforts were required to validate the classifications of the data provided by the States and to avoid further distortion of the data received. No attempt, however, was made by the National Court Statistics Project staff to assess the underlying validity or accuracy of the data received from the States. For example, the cumulative statistics for case categories published by the States frequently did not agree with reported totals within each category. Such discrepancies were seldom footnoted or explained in published State reports.

These questions of validity and accuracy of source data, as well as previously discussed caveats concerning variation in court structure and subject matter jurisdiction among the States, make it imperative that the data contained in this report be used with extreme caution. Care must be exercised in attempting to compare even the broadest categories of caseflow for 1975. Direct comparisons of the statistics for any two jurisdictions presented in this report are questionable and quite probably invalid. Meaningful comparisons among the jurisdictions require more complete information about each jurisdiction's court structure,

operating procedures, statistical reporting procedures, and demographic characteristics.

Availability of data

The data contained in this advance report were extracted from State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report, 1975, to be published in the spring. That report contains data not included here, such as appellate caseflow, some data from courts of limited and special jurisdiction, and felony trial data and time-to-disposition data for the few States reporting on these subjects. In addition, the annual report contains information on the organization of each State court system. The annual report will be announced and distributed by the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Md. 20850, when it becomes available. Persons with a special need for data before then should contact the Director, Statistics Division, National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, LEAA, Washington, D.C. 20531, telephone (301) 492-9077.

Footnotes to Table

Arizona Superior Court

^aDoes not include data from Maricopa County on adoption, reciprocal support, or mental health cases.

Arkansas Circuit Court

^bCriminal data contain a nominal number of juvenile cases and juvenile appeals.

Colorado District Court

^cIncludes data from the Denver Superior, Juvenile, and Probate Courts.

^dPending figures do not balance owing to the inclusion of Denver Probate Court filings and dispositions. No pending data were available for this court.

^eTotal filings include postjudgment actions.

Colorado Water Court

^fData for this court are included with the general jurisdiction courts because district court judges serve.

District of Columbia Superior Court

^gIncludes an upward adjustment of 16 cases in the number of pending cases for habeas corpus cases.

Hawaii Land Court and Tax Court

^hData for this court are included with the general jurisdiction courts because circuit judges serve. Some land cases are also handled in the Circuit Court.

Iowa District Court

ⁱDoes not include 3 substitute magistrates and 191 part-time magistrates.

Kansas District Court

^jData from this court are included with the general jurisdiction courts because circuit judges serve.

Louisiana District Court

^kIncomplete data were submitted for St. Martin, St. Helena, and Terrebonne parishes and Orleans Criminal District court.

Minnesota District Court

^lDoes not include two juvenile judges. Juvenile data for the court were not available.

Missouri Circuit Court

^mIncludes data on Court of Common Pleas. Circuit court judges serve in the Court of Common Pleas.

New York Supreme and County Court

ⁿChange in pending does not equal difference in filings and dispositions owing to adjustment made by the court.

North Carolina Superior Court

^oAdditionally, there were 25,263 estates files, 24,278 disposed, and 42,946 pending at the end and 26,349 special proceedings filed, 23,974 disposed, and 23,293 pending at the end. These matters are handled by the clerk of the Superior Court and hence were not included.

Oregon Circuit Court

^pDispositions and beginning-of-year pending for estates includes cases handled by the county court. The filings and end-of-year pending for the county court are presented in the limited jurisdiction court.

Oregon Tax Court

^qData from this court are included with

the general jurisdiction courts because ORS 305.405 designates the tax court as one of general jurisdiction within the substantive areas defined by ORS 305.410.

Pennsylvania Common Pleas Court

^rDoes not include 28,902 cases filed, 38,770 cases disposed, and 15,272 cases pending at the end of the year, all of which were assigned to boards of arbitration.

South Dakota Circuit Court

^sNo data were available for the Lay Magistrates or Lawyer Magistrates Divisions of the Circuit Court.

Tennessee Circuit and Criminal Court

^tFive of the circuit judges are also chancellors.

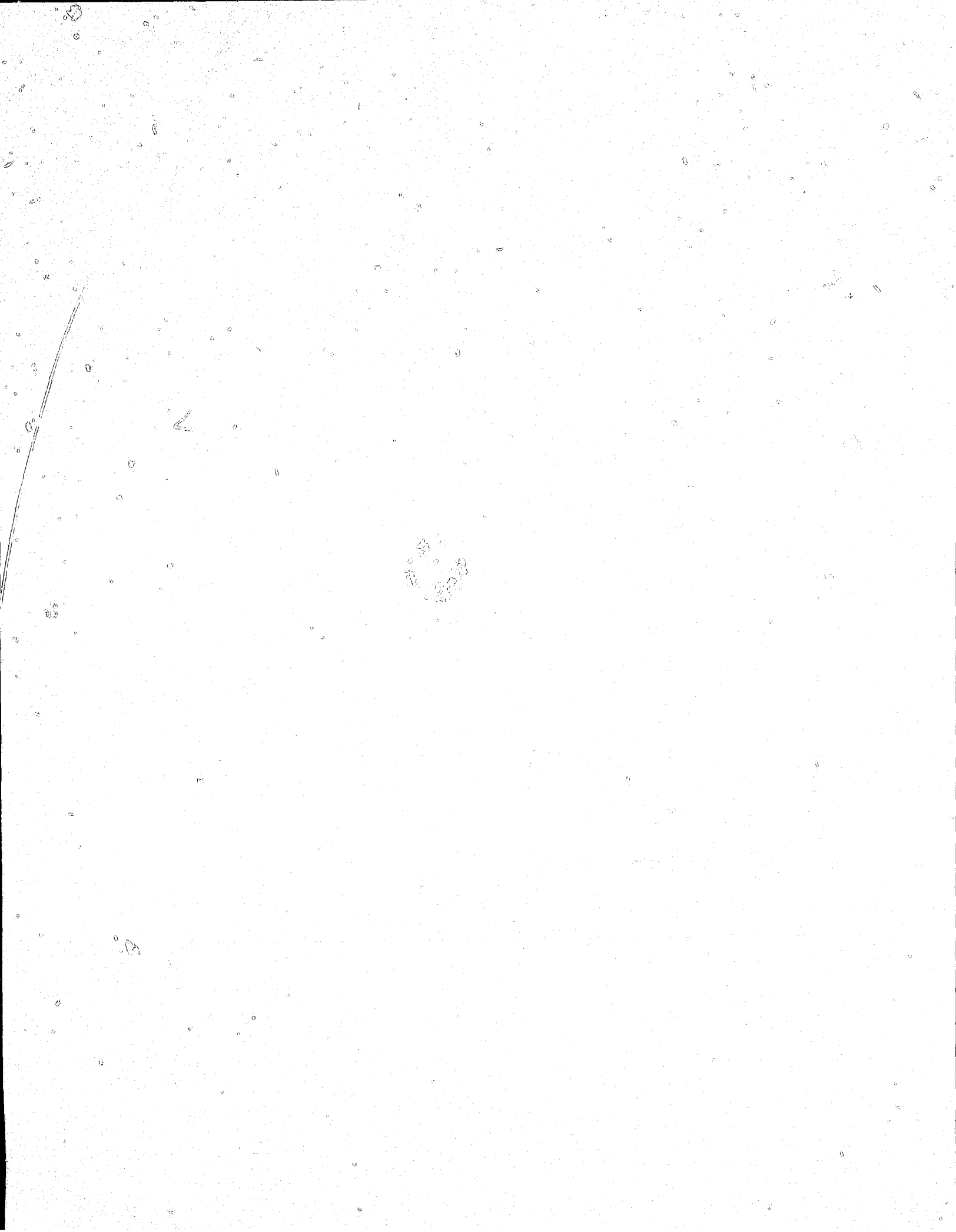
Texas District Court

^uIncludes data on District, Criminal District, Domestic Relations, and Juvenile courts.

Wyoming District Court

^vData were not available for juvenile, guardianship, adoption, workmen's compensation, or probate cases.

^wIncludes only dispositions of cases filed in 1974 and 1975.



END