



# FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Presentation

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Bob Gast

State Court Administrator



# Iowa Judicial Branch Overview



# Judicial Branch People

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**Judges and Magistrates** use their legal expertise and knowledge to impartially apply laws to serve the public.

**Clerks of Court and Clerk Staff** oversee the operations of the clerks' offices in each of Iowa's county courthouses. Across 99 counties, clerks' office staff perform a wide variety of tasks including: processing and maintaining all documents filed with the court; collecting and processing fines, fees, and restitution; assisting citizens with filing documents; and sharing court information with state agencies.

**Juvenile Court Officers** and their staff protect the public by working directly with delinquent youths and their families to develop skills needed to address negative behaviors.

**Court Reporters** keep the record of trials, hearings, and court proceedings and provide administrative support to judges.



# Judicial Branch People

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**Court Administrators** and their staff help schedule trials and manage the business side of the courts, such as human resources, accounting, purchasing, information technology, and training and education.

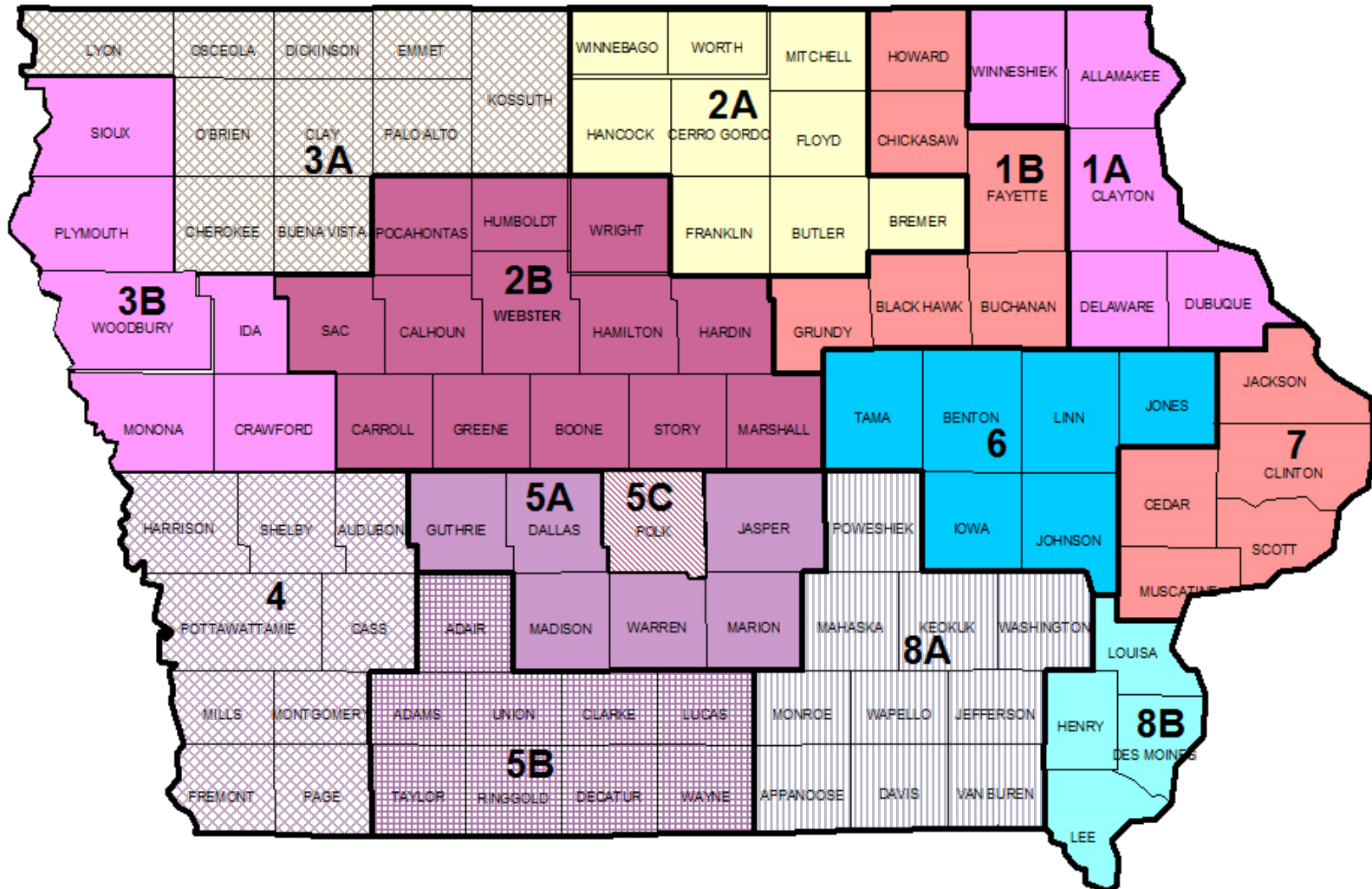
**Judicial Specialists** conduct scheduling conferences, prepare scheduling and other orders, and assist with jurors and jury trials and other court proceedings.

**Information Technology Professionals** provide ongoing maintenance, support, refinement, and improvement of the subsystems that comprise the Electronic Document Management System as well as other systems.

**Law Clerks** are attorneys who conduct legal research and analysis, draft routine court orders, and perform other law-related duties.



# Judicial Election Districts





# Workload Staffing Formulas



# Judicial and Court Support Staff Formulas

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- **“Weighted caseload” formulas** are used to determine the staffing needs for **judges, magistrates, juvenile court officers, and clerks’ offices.**
- Based on **work-time studies** – conducted by consultants from the National Center for State Courts – to determine the **average amount of time** judges and other staff spend on each of several different case types each year.
- The average time on each case type **(the case weight) is multiplied** by the number of filings of each of those case types to estimate the average annual amount of work-time (translated into **full-time equivalent judges or other staff**) needed to handle the workload.
- The filings for the weighted caseload calculations **are updated** each year.
- **A new work time study** is conducted about every eight years to determine the average time factors for the case weights.

# National Center for State Courts Judicial Officer Workload Formula



	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	State
<b>Judges needed per caseload formula</b>	23.1	28.5	23.2	17.4	53.1	25.5	22.7	22.2	<b><u>215.6</u></b>
<b><u>Actual</u> number Judges</b>	23.5	27.5	20.8	13.8	47.5	22.5	18.0	18.0	<b><u>191.5</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	0.4	-1.0	-2.4	-3.6	-5.6	-3.0	-4.7	-4.2	<b>-24.1</b>
<b>% diff.</b>	1%	-4%	-10%	-21%	-11%	-12%	-21%	-19%	<b>-11%</b>

D = judicial district





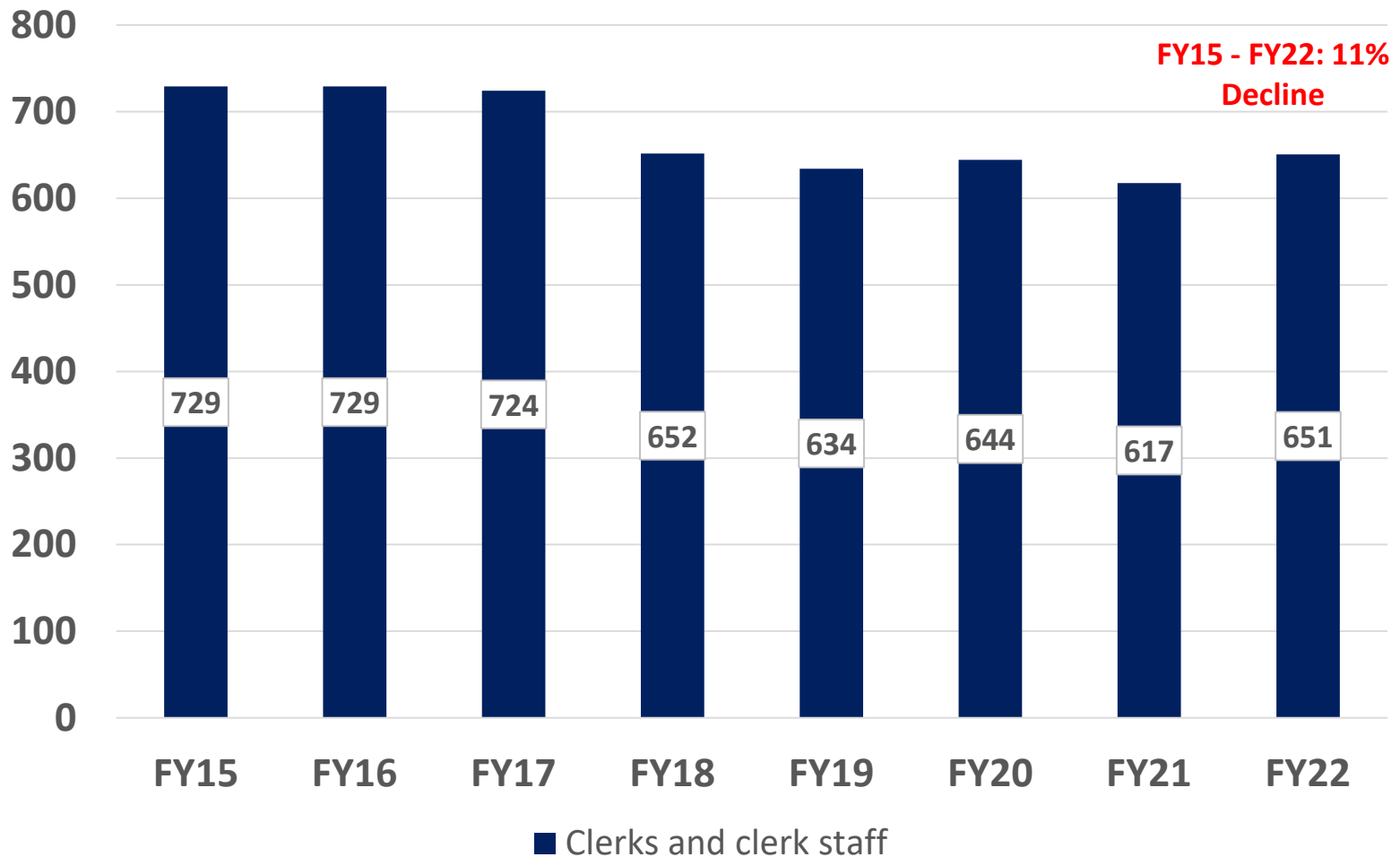
# Rural Courts Initiative Employees

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- **District 1:** All filled – Working in Howard and Allamakee Counties
- **District 2:** All filled – Working in pairings with Humboldt/Pocahontas, Franklin/Butler, Hancock/Winnebago, Worth/Mitchell, & Greene/Calhoun
- **District 3:** 1 open – Working in pairings with Osceola/Lyon, Palo Alto/Emmet, and one position for Ida has not been filled due to lack of qualified applicants
- **District 4:** Filled – Audubon County
- **District 5:** All filled or interview process – Working in pairings with Adair/Guthrie, Adams/Taylor, Lucas/Wayne, & Ringgold/Decatur
- **District 8:** 2 open – Filled positions in Louisa and Monroe Counties, Keokuk and Davis counties currently open but openings are posted
- **Districts 6 & 7:** No rural courts employees were allocated

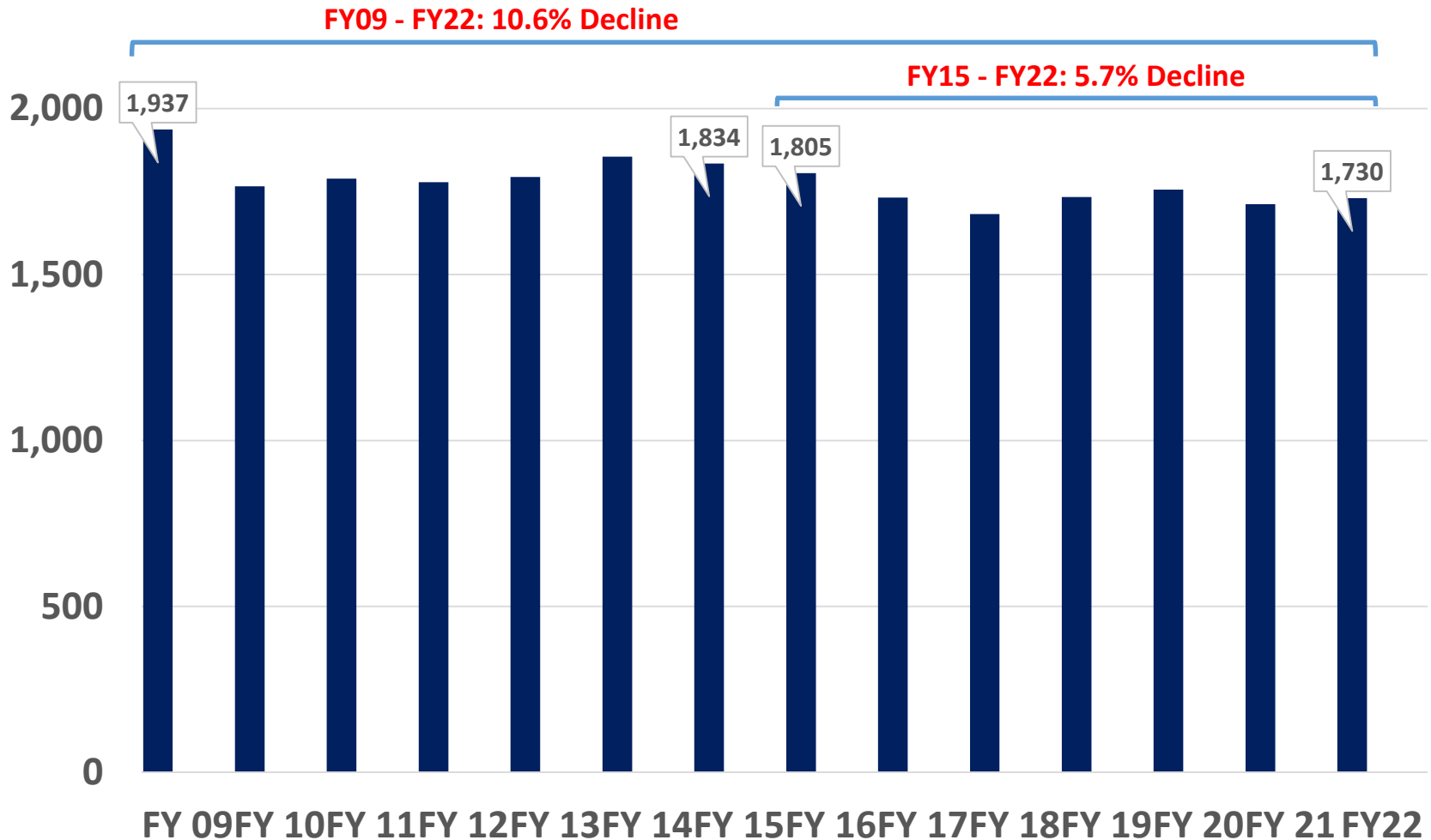


# Budgeted clerks and clerk staff





# Judicial Branch Employees: FY 09-FY 22



Note: Data reflect all active permanent employees at the start of each fiscal year. This does not include board members, vacant positions, or temporary positions (if any exist)



# Case Filing Trends



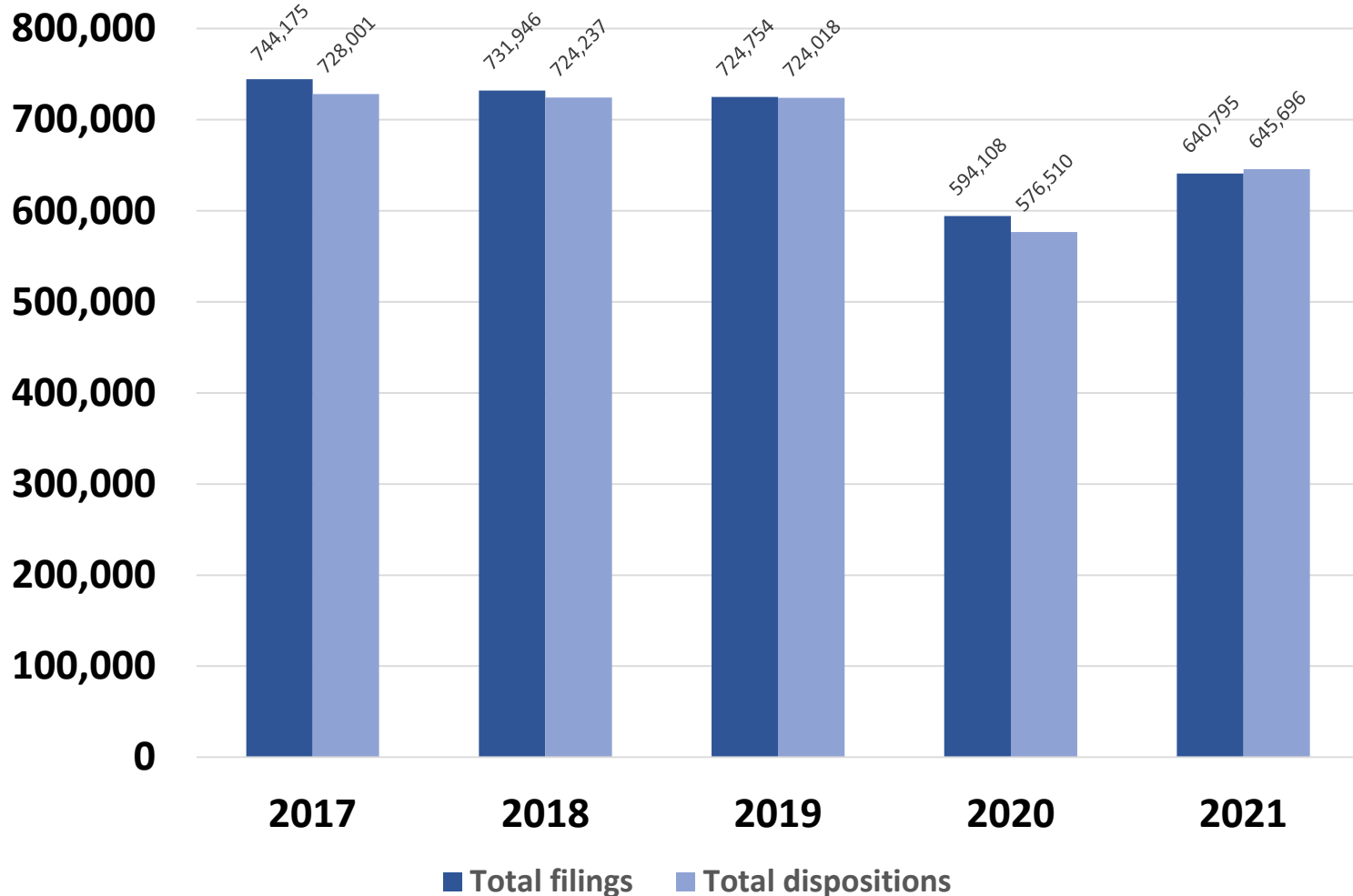
# Filings, Contempts, & Probation Revocations by Case Type

## 2021 Calendar Year Filings

<b>Simple Misdemeanors</b>	<b>• 415,919</b>	<b>Other Civil</b>	<b>• 15,154</b>
<b>Indictable Criminal</b>	<b>• 85,305</b>	<b>Probate</b>	<b>• 14,974</b>
<b>Small Claims &amp; FEDs</b>	<b>• 71,822</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>• 8,977</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	<b>• 32,767</b>	<b>Tort</b>	<b>• 2,578</b>
<b>Total Filings</b>		<b>• 661,302</b>	



# Five Year Case Filing & Disposition Trend

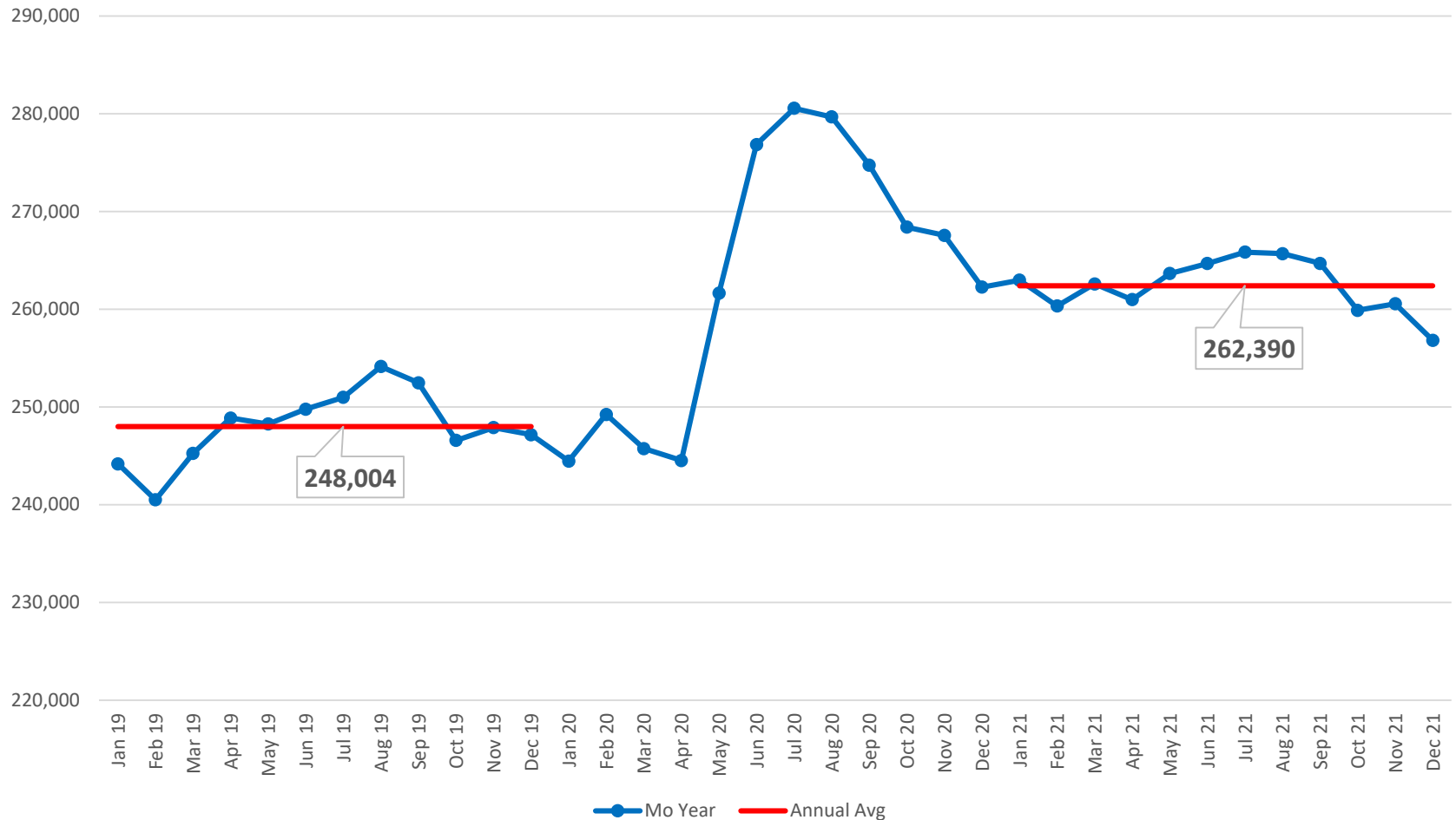


*Note: This chart does not include contempt or probation revocations*



# End of Month Pending Cases

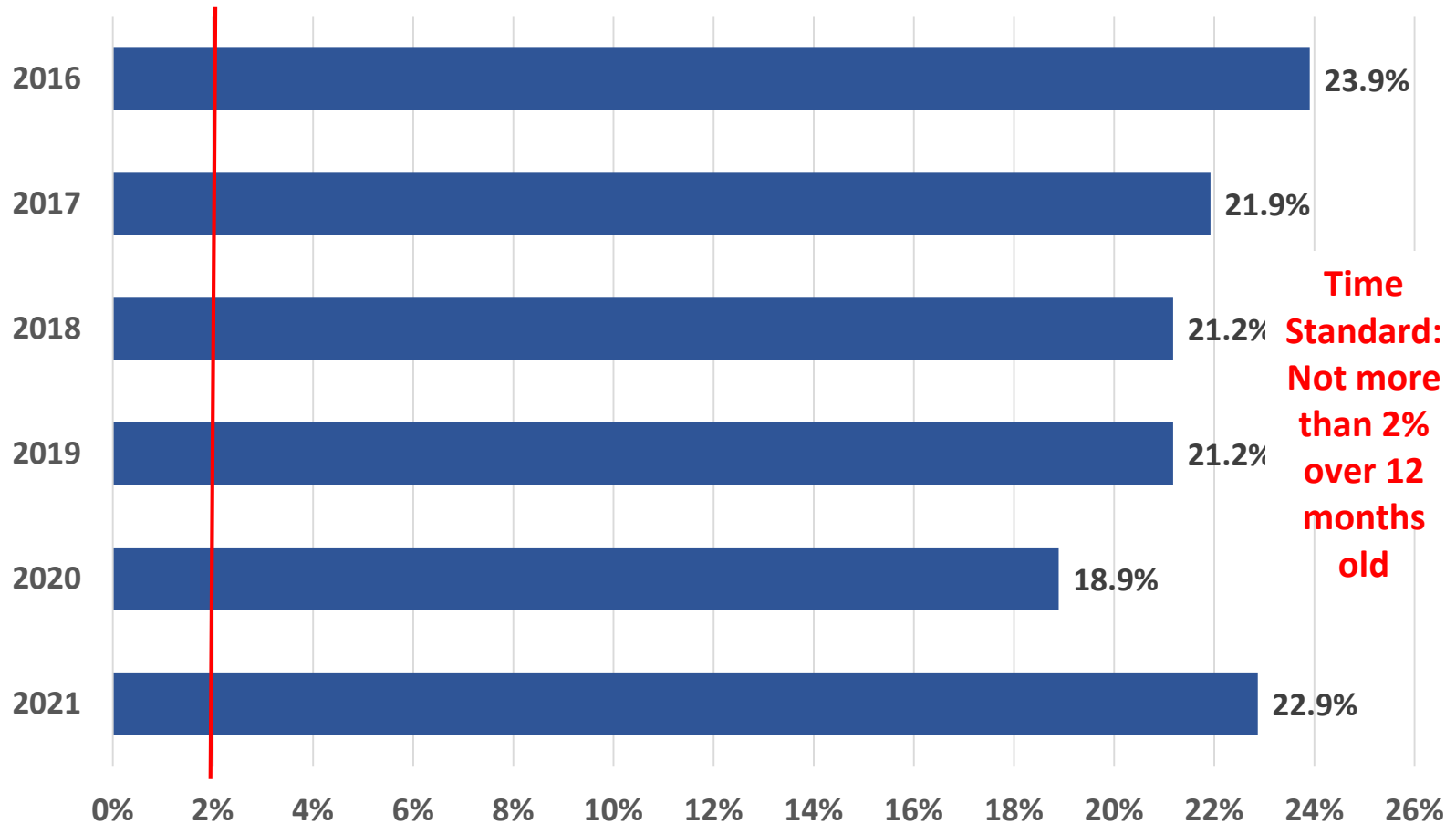
January 2019 through December 2021





# Age of Pending Cases

Felony criminal cases: End of year percentage of pending cases more than 12 months old

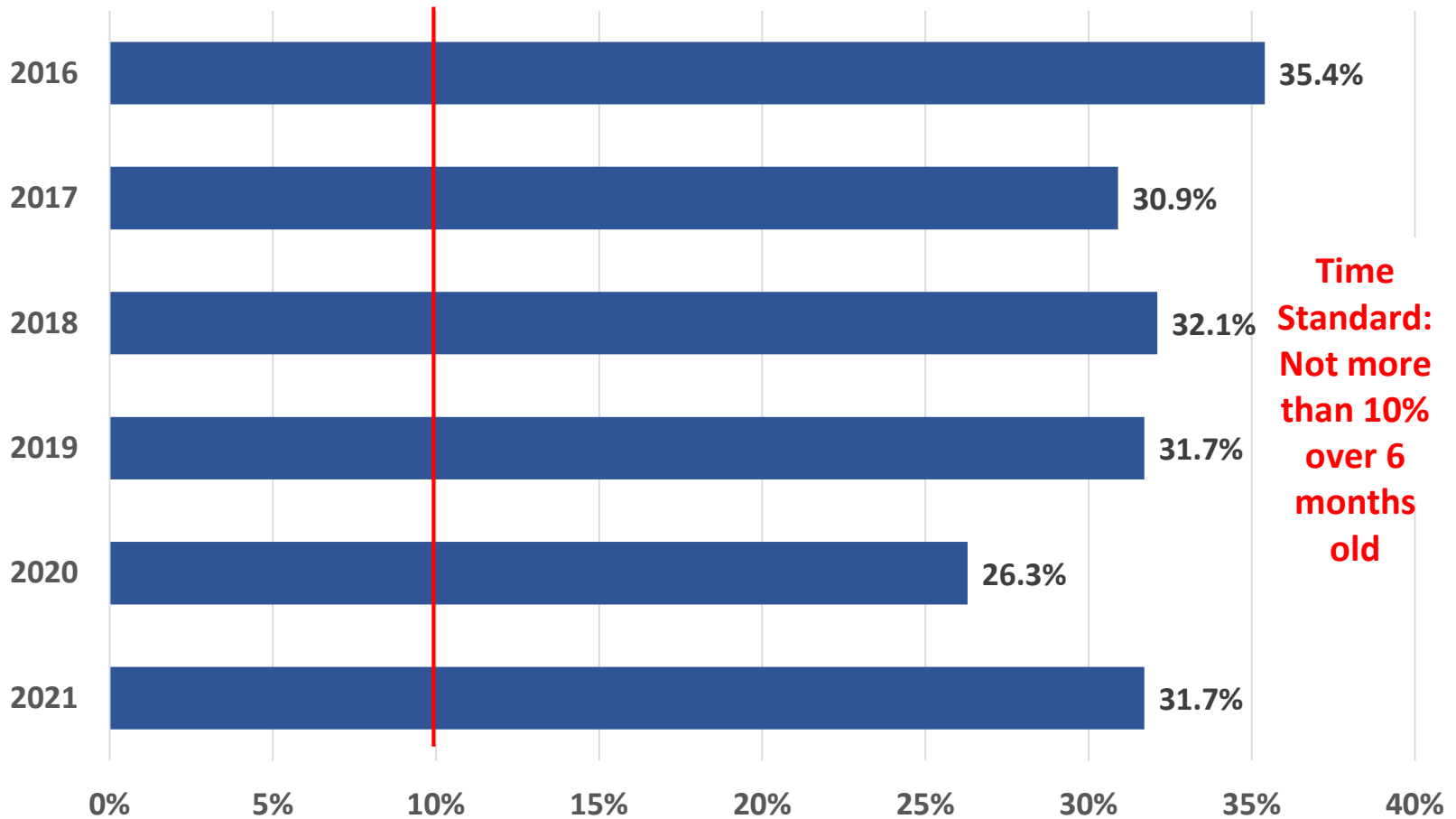






# Age of Pending Cases

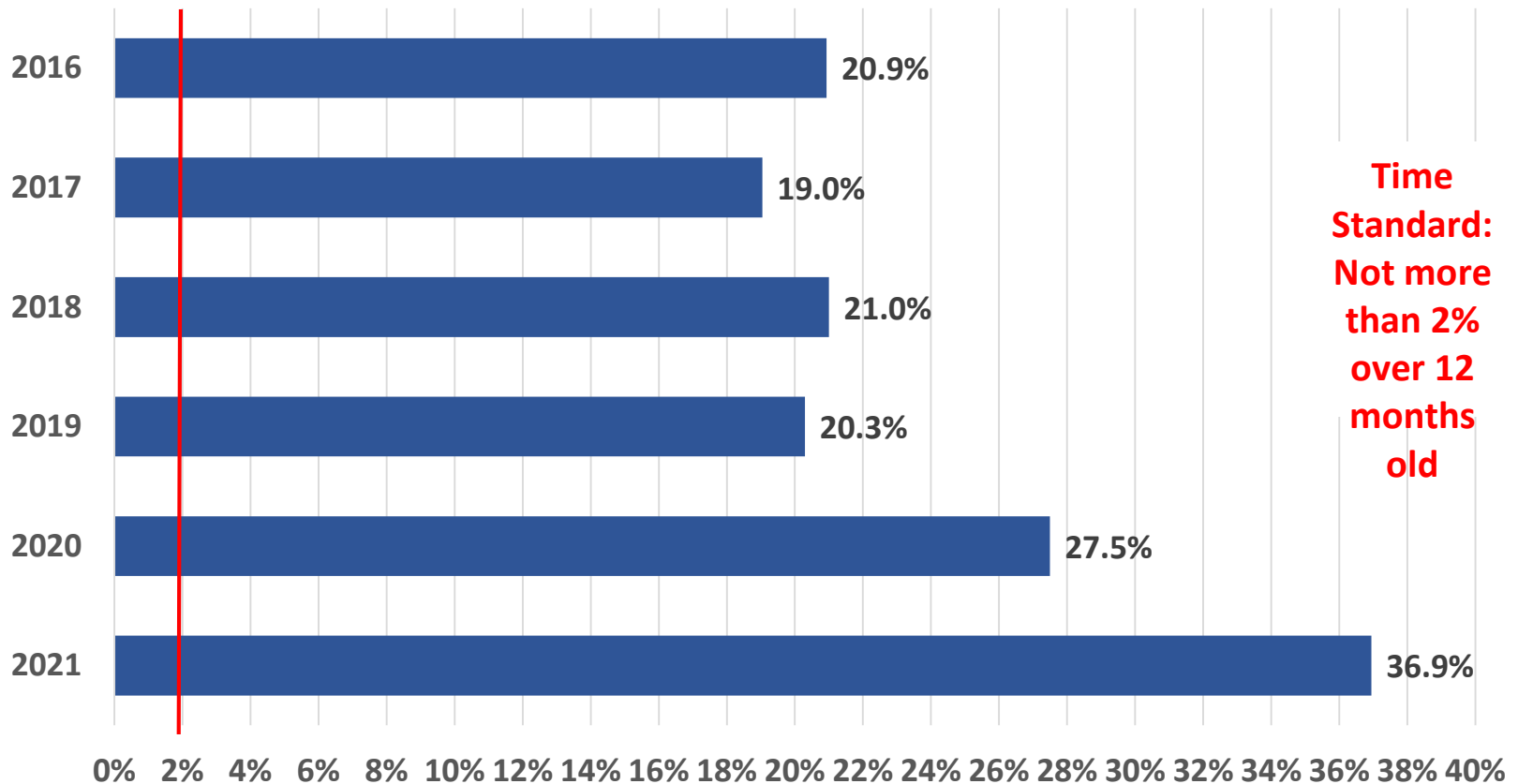
Indictable misdemeanor criminal cases: End of year percentage of pending cases more than 6 months old





# Age of Pending Cases

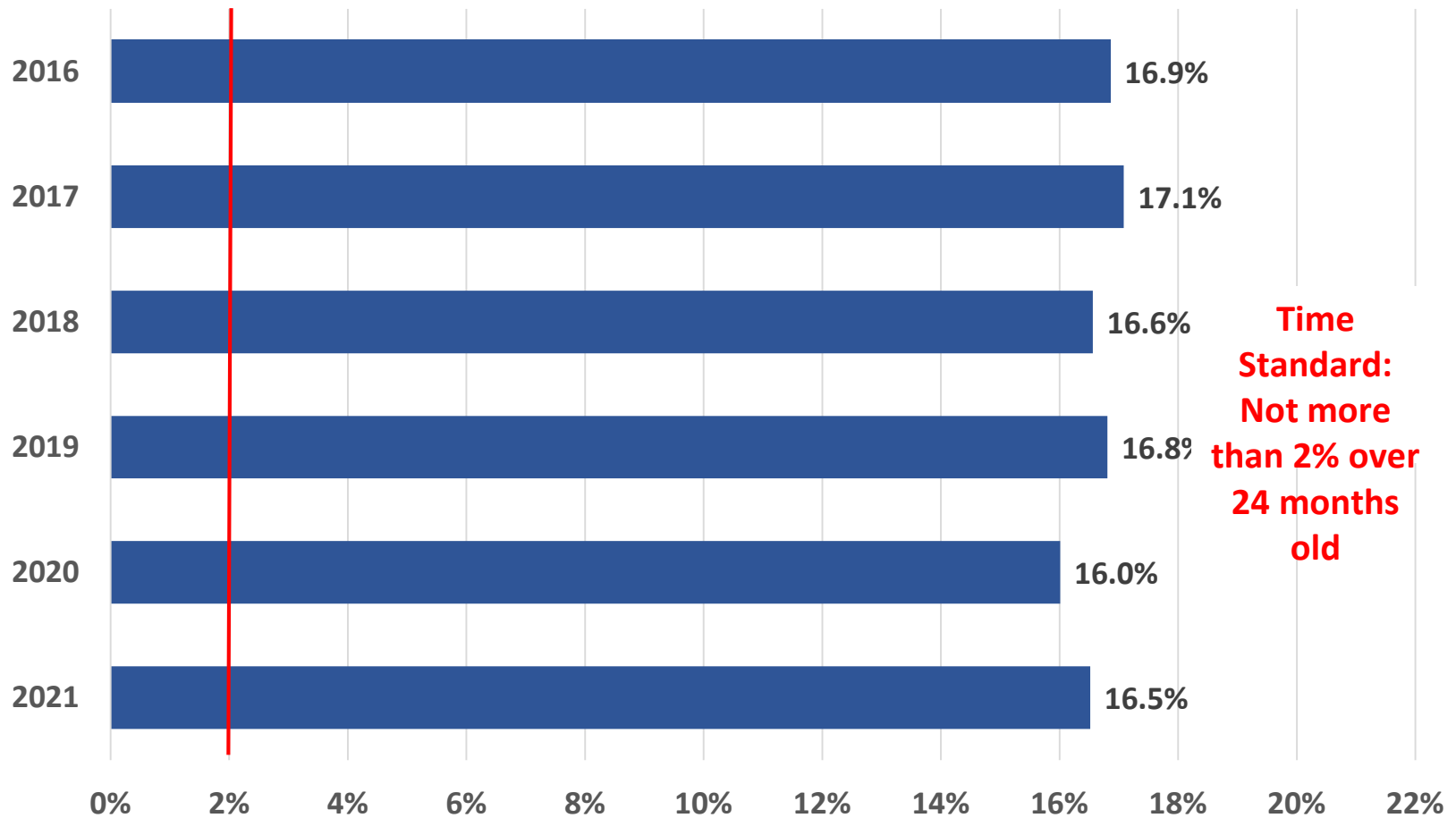
Domestic relations - dissolution, custody, paternity:  
End of year percentage of pending cases more than 12  
months old





# Age of Pending Cases

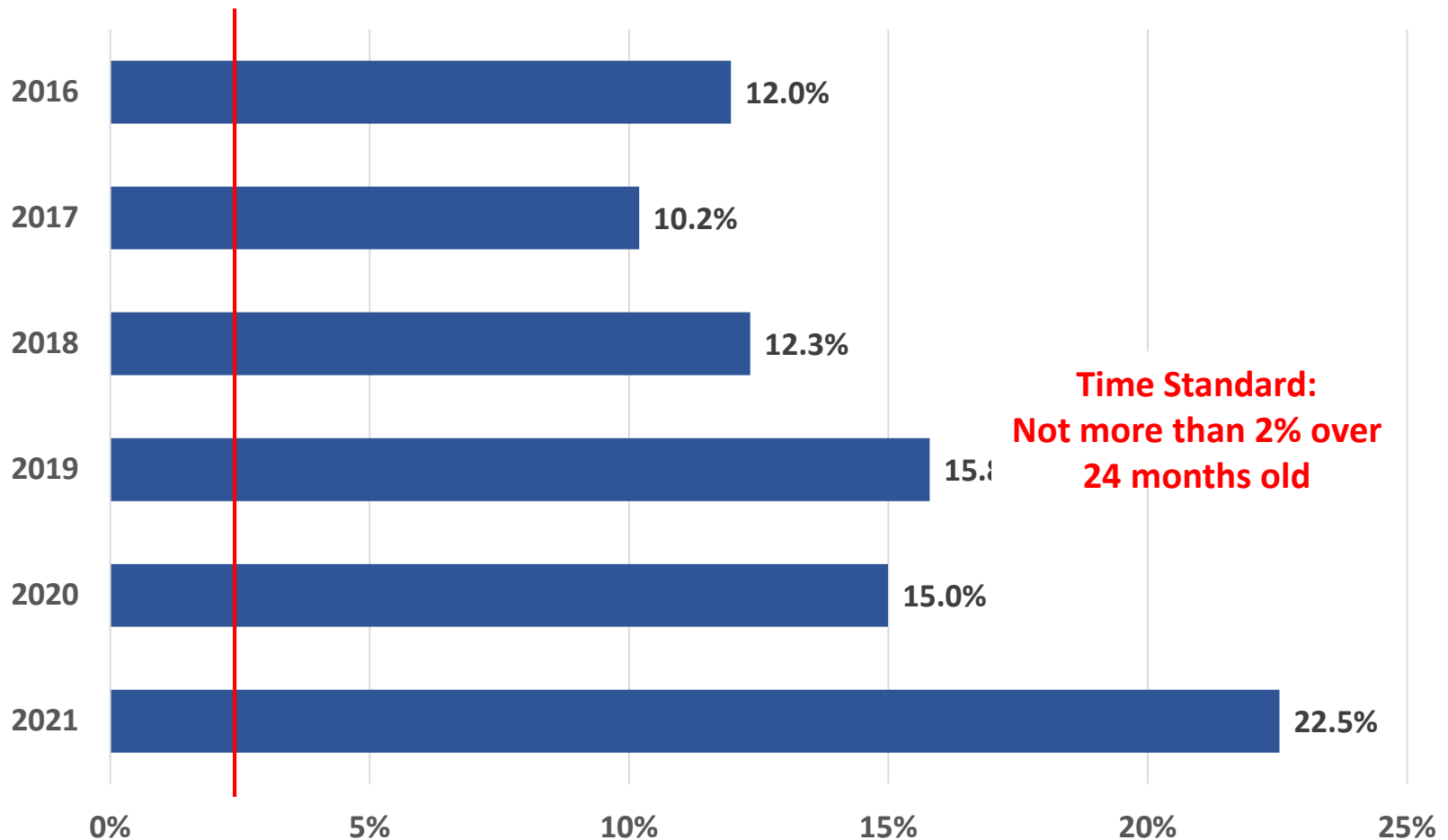
Probate - full estates:  
End of year percentage of pending cases older than 24 months





# Age of Pending Cases

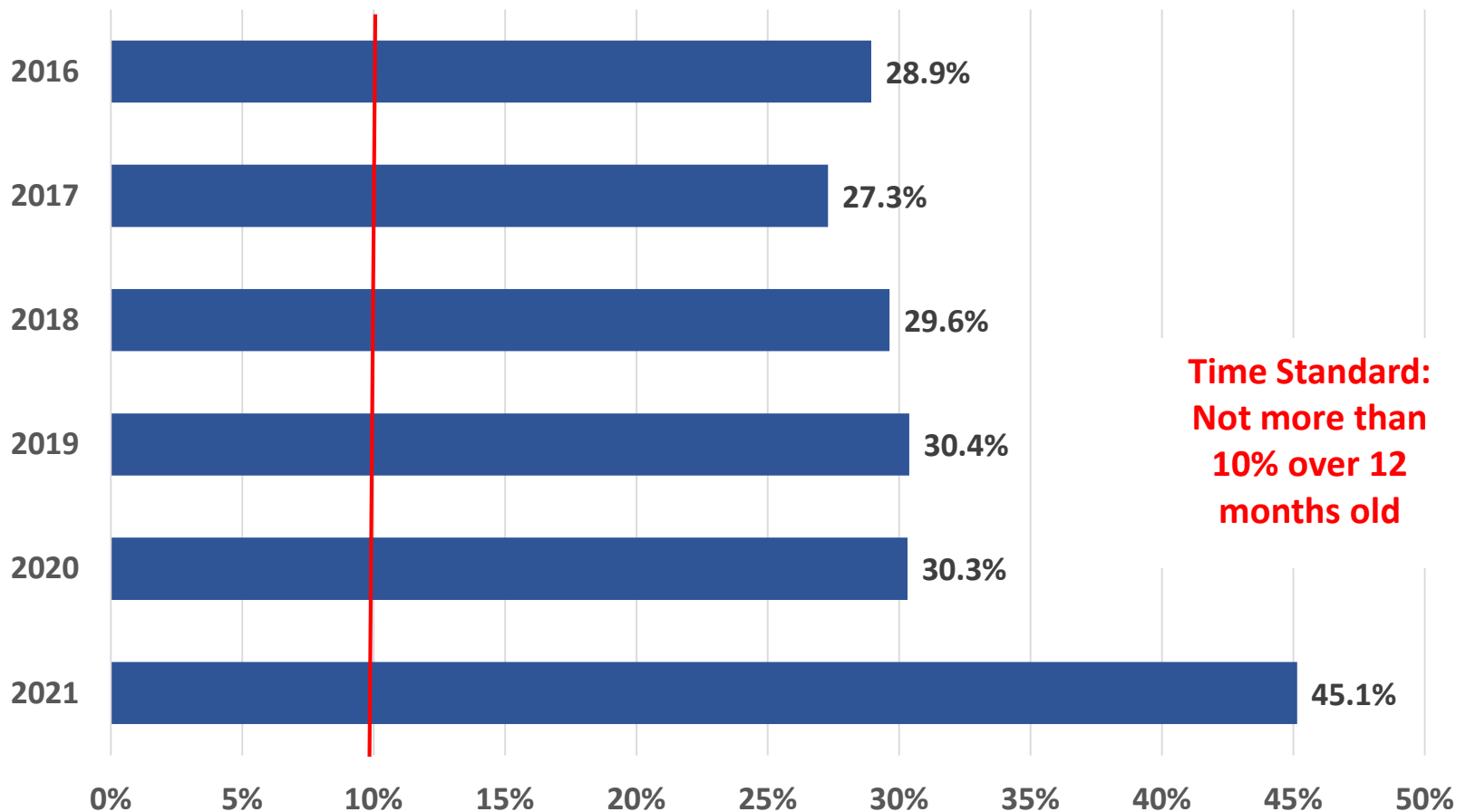
Complex civil cases: End of year percentage of pending cases more than 24 months old





# Age of Pending Cases

Regular civil cases: End of year percentage of pending cases more than 12 months old





# Iowa Judicial Branch Finances



# Division of Funding

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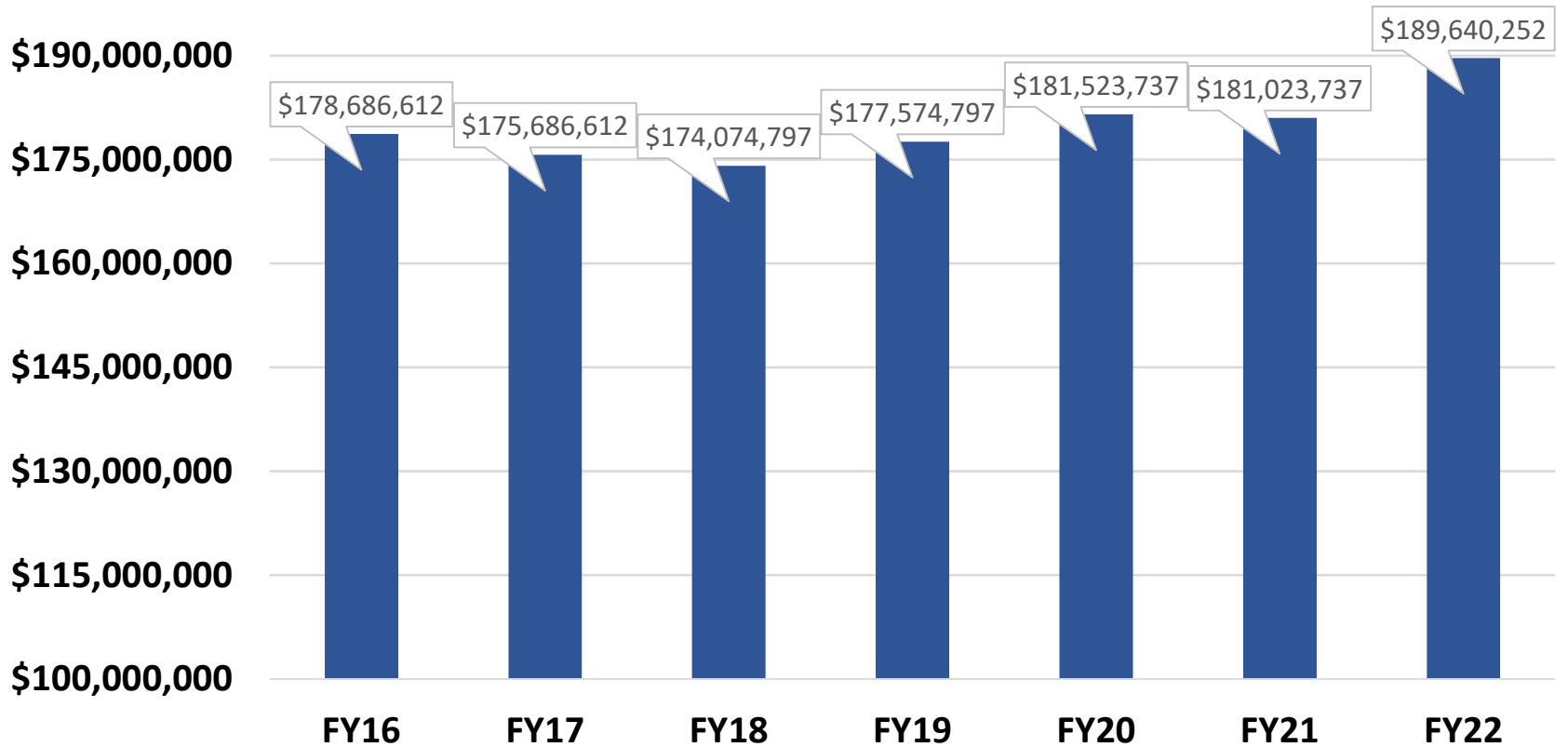
## State funding:

- **Judges and court staff**
- **Information technology**
- **Continuing education**
- **Furniture and equipment**

## County funding:

- **Courthouses**
- **Court security**

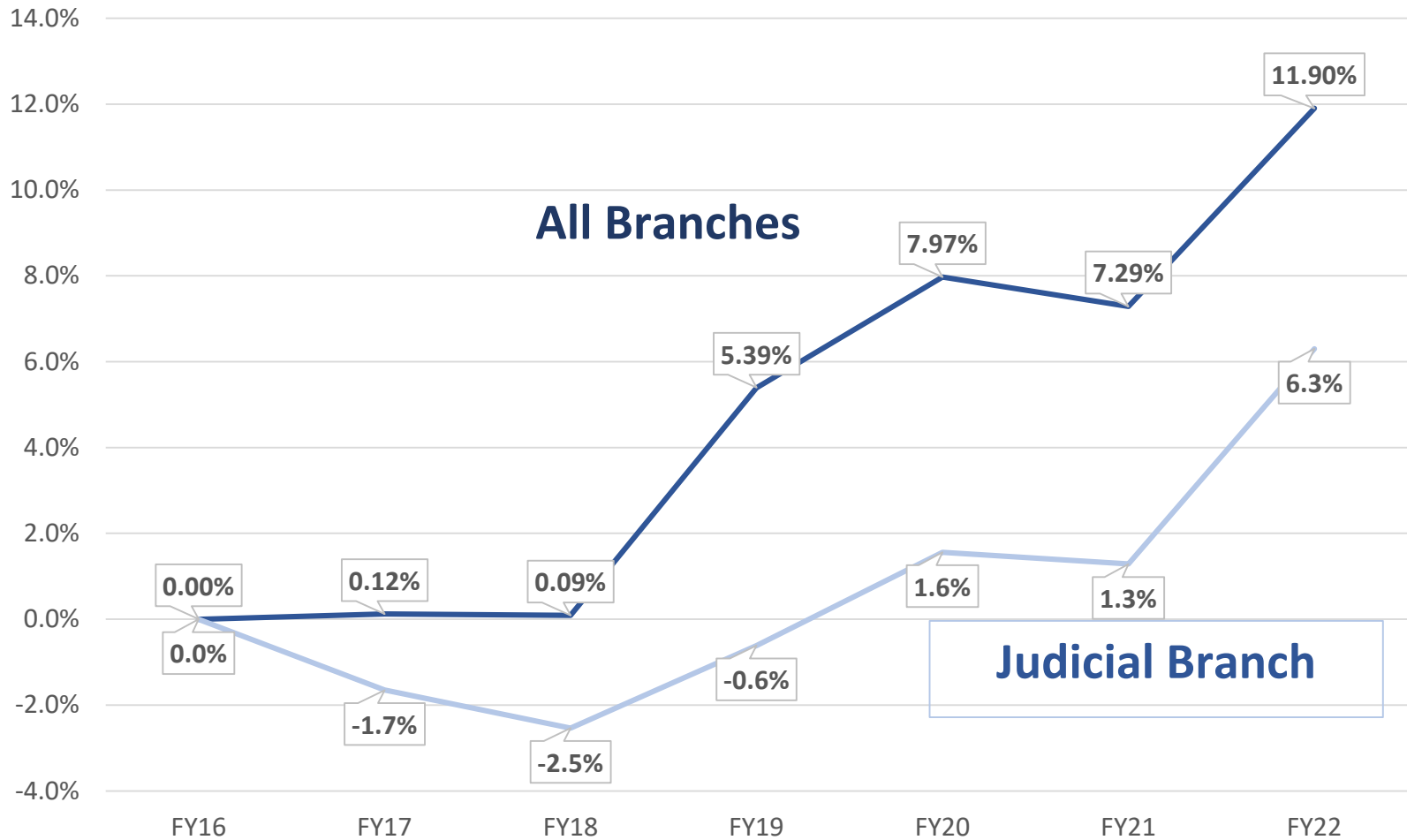
# General Fund Appropriation History (excluding jury and witness fund)







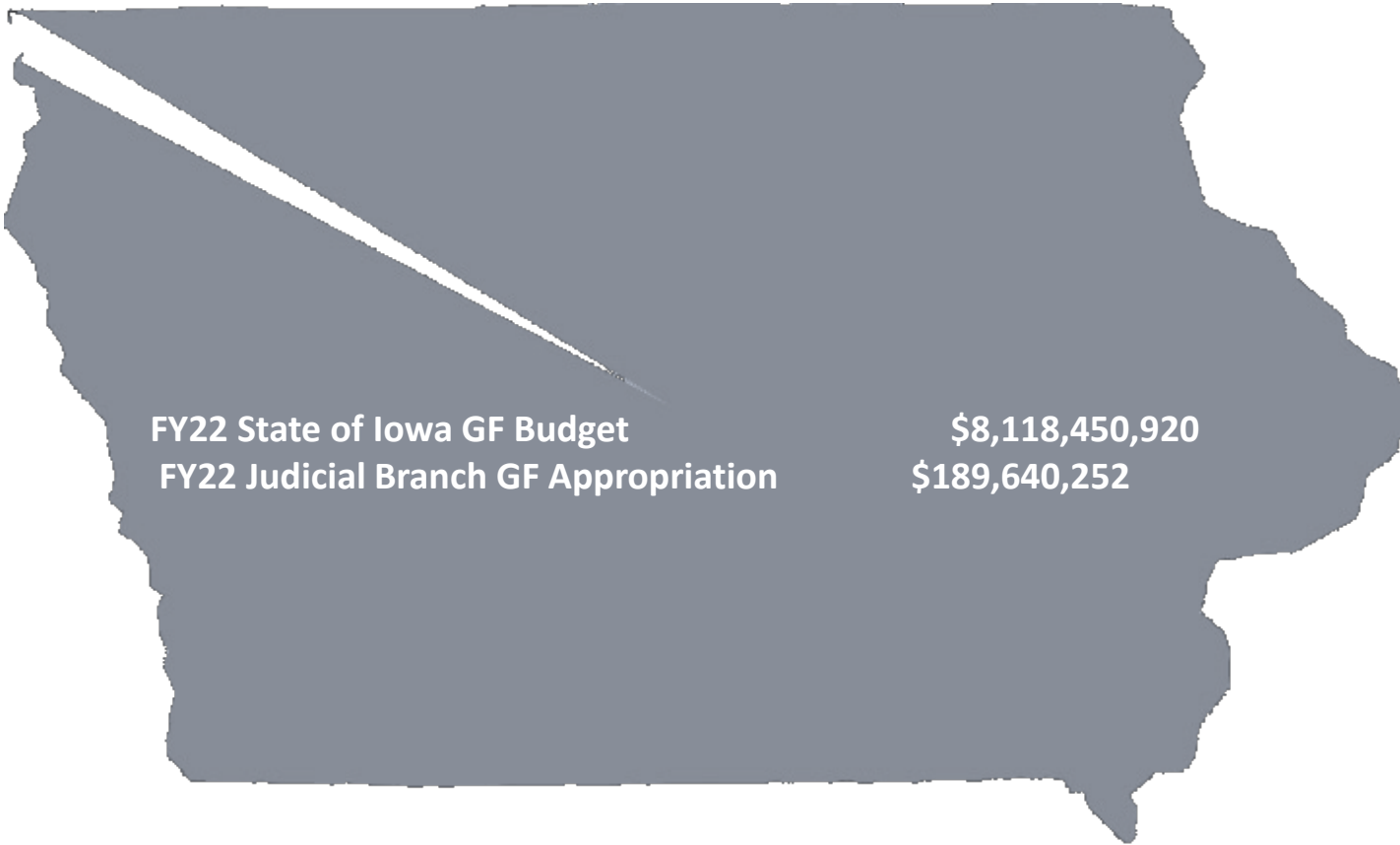
# Judicial Branch and State Budget Change Since FY 2016





# Judicial Branch Funding as Percent of State Budget

2.3%



FY22 State of Iowa GF Budget	\$8,118,450,920
FY22 Judicial Branch GF Appropriation	\$189,640,252



## Iowa Court Clerk Revenue Collections – FY 2021

Fines, infractions, civil penalties, LE surcharge	\$55,121,473
Miscellaneous court fees and items	\$20,955,285
Court costs	\$15,856,042
County and city fines, fees, surcharges, etc.	\$20,297,998
Filing fees	\$14,536,303
Criminal surcharges	\$13,602,112
Indigent defense reimbursement	\$3,727,955
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$144,097,169</b>

*\*Categories may not add to total due to rounding.*



## FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Request

Description	Amount
FY22 judicial branch appropriation	\$189,640,252
FY23 new funding request details:	
• Fill frozen positions	\$2,074,025
• Negotiated contract increase (also applied to non-contract) & health insurance	\$2,701,270
• Judicial officer salary increase (same percent as social security COLA)	\$2,969,362
• Year 2 of market research adjustment to attract and retain quality employees	\$1,047,549
• Match executive branch 3% ATB extended to non-contract in FY22	\$1,735,000
• Investing in human capital – 4 new DAJs (and related staff)	\$1,371,720
• Investing in human capital – finance staff, 1 family treatment court coordinator, 2 IT security, 2 judicial specialists, 5 staff attorneys	\$929,717
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$202,468,895</b>



# FY23 Budget Request

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## Maintaining Service Levels

- Fill positions that were vacant on June 30, 2021, and frozen to balance the branch budget for FY 22 (\$2,074,025)
- Negotiated contract increases and extension of same increase to non-contract employees, 3% ATB for all employees, and fund 5% increase in health insurance costs (\$2,701,270)
- **Maintaining Service Levels Total: \$4,775,295**



# FY23 Budget Request

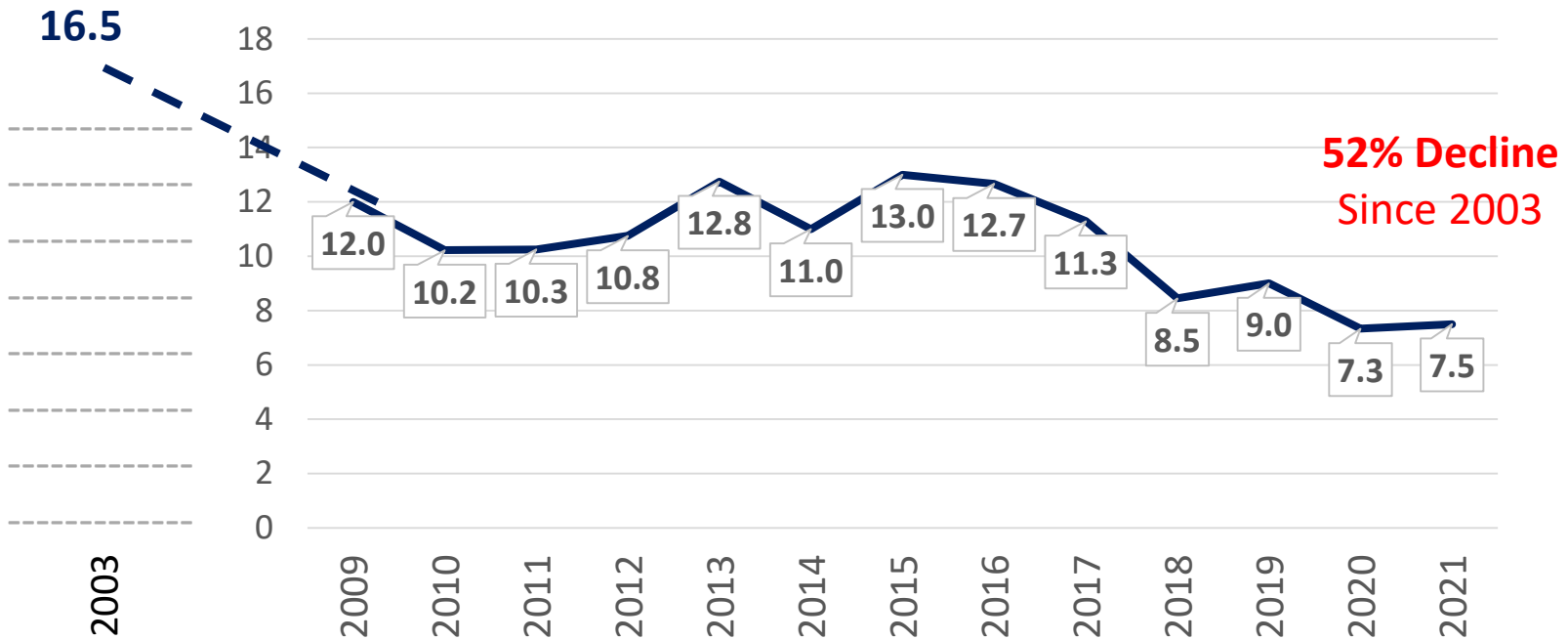
## Investing in Human Capital- Existing Personnel

- Overall number of applicants for open judicial officer positions decline and fewer applicants are in private practice. Requesting funding to increase judicial officer salaries 5.9% (consistent with the social security COLA increase of 5.9%) (\$2,969,362)
- Year 2 of a four year plan to use labor market research to review and adjust certain staff classifications as needed for competitiveness (\$1,047,549)
- Match 3% increase extended to executive branch non-contract employees in FY2022 (\$1,735,000)
- **Investing in Human Capital-Existing Total: \$5,751,911**



# FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Investing in Human Capital

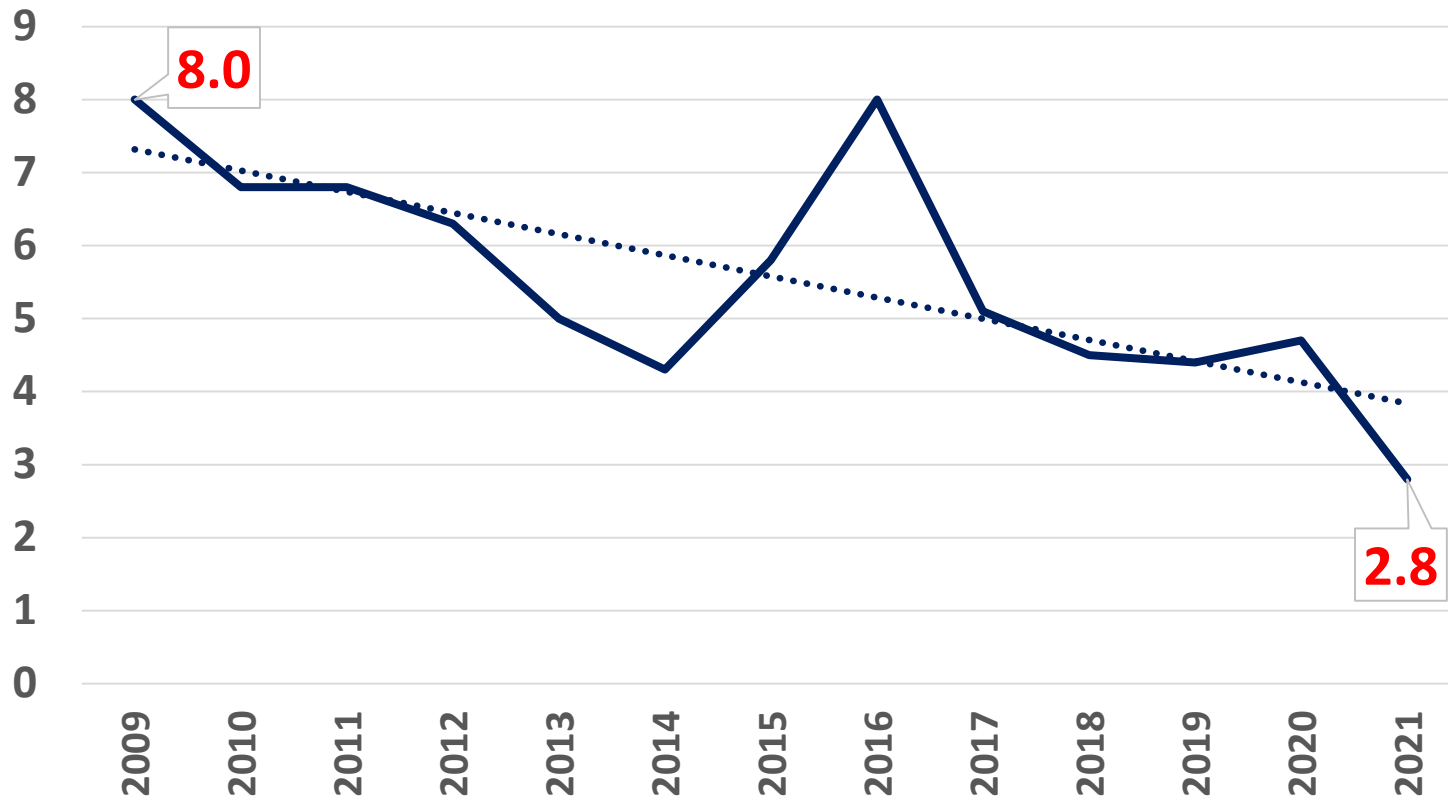
## Average number of applicants per district court judge vacancy from 2003 to 2021





# FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Investing in Human Capital

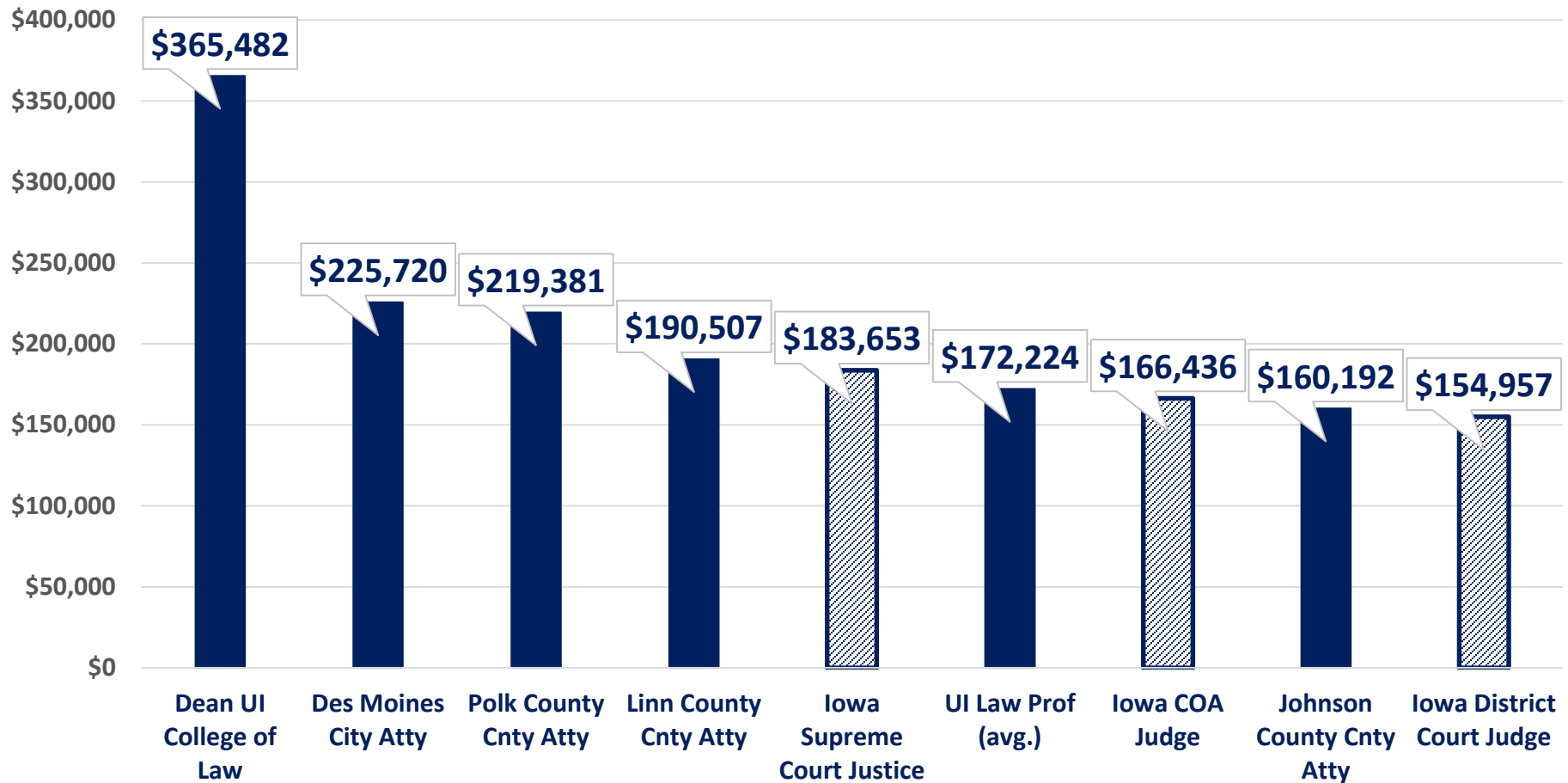
Average number of private practice  
applicants per district court judge vacancy  
2009 to 2021







# FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Investing in Human Capital



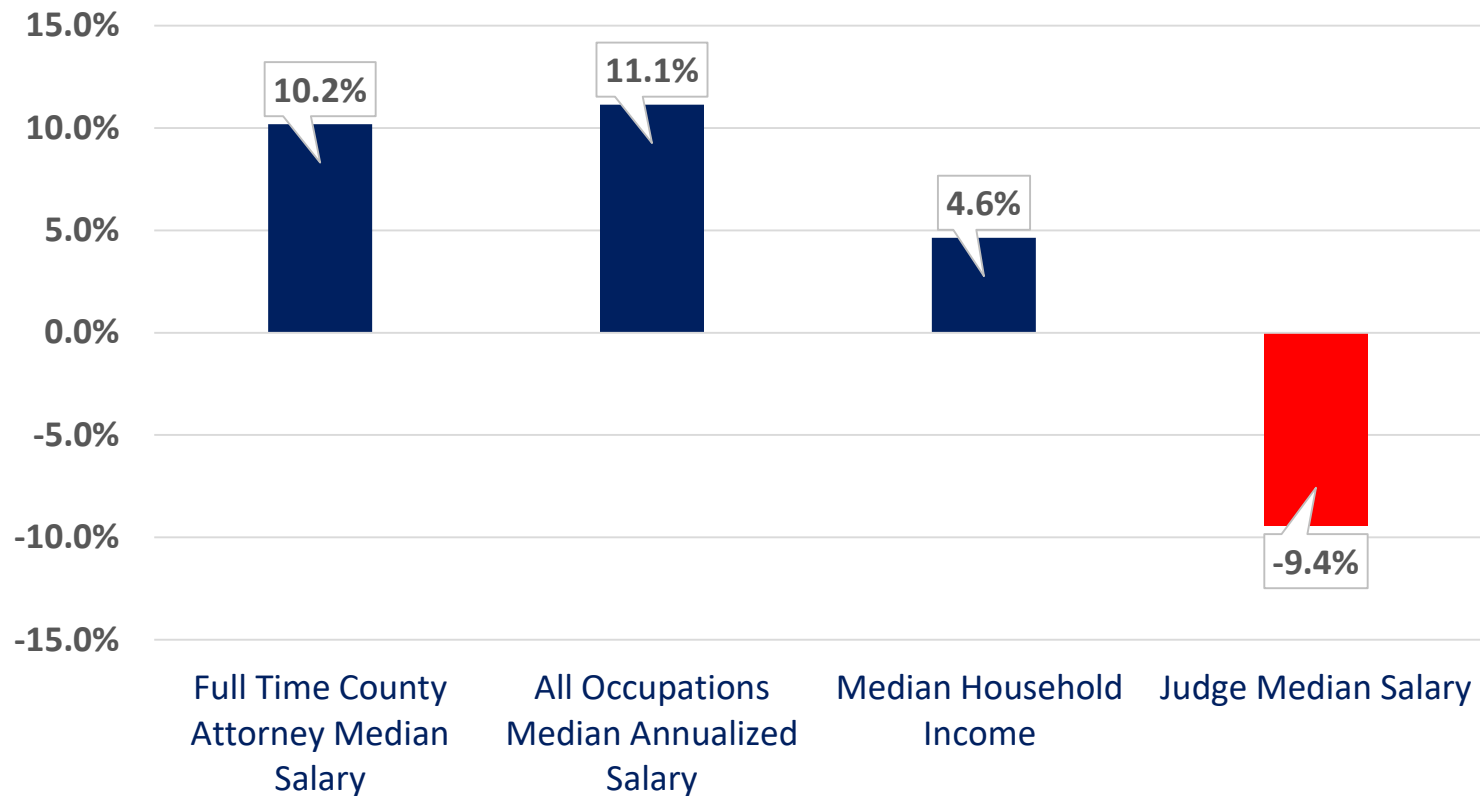
Note 1: All values are FY22, except UI salaries, which are FY21

Note 2: UI law professor salary data is FY21 base pay, excluding additional earnings above base pay. Data includes professors and associate deans, but excludes the dean, assistant professors, and associate professors.



# FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Human Capital Initiatives

**Inflation-Adjusted Real Wage/Income Change in Iowa:  
2010-2021**





# FY23 Budget Request

## Investing in Human Capital- New Personnel

- Year 2 of a five year plan to add 4 district associate and 10 staff (e.g. court reporters, judicial specialists, law clerks) (\$1,371,720)
- Family Treatment Court Coordinator (\$50,723)
- Staff support in state court administration finance department (\$156,584)
- Staff attorneys for business court (1), court of appeals (1), supreme court (3) (\$147,285)
- Information security analysts (\$147,285)
- Judicial specialists (2) (\$106,348)
- **Investing in Human Capital-New Total: \$2,301,437**