



## RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PLANNING

### IMPORTANT STATISTICS FISCAL YEAR 2016–17

#### Contracts

20 counties and municipalities  
96 positions  
~\$6.1 million

#### Grants

56 federal and local entities  
258 positions  
~\$16.8 million

### FISCAL YEAR 2015–16

#### Contracts

19 counties and municipalities  
87 positions  
~\$5.1 million

#### Grants

59 federal and local entities  
221.75 positions  
~\$13.8 million

### WHO WE ASSIST

Court officials and support staff  
News and trade media organizations  
State agencies  
Local government entities  
Academics and researchers  
Citizens of North Carolina



The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) Research, Policy, and Planning Division is responsible for conducting research and generating reports on court statistics, managing grants and contracts, maintaining the Court Performance Measures System (CPMS), and developing and analyzing workload data.

The purpose of the division is to expand access to research and planning in support of the NCAOC mission of helping the courts operate more efficiently and effectively. The major responsibilities and initiatives of the division include:

- Conducting research to provide insight on issues facing the Judicial Branch, including extracting and analyzing data from NCAOC databases (CCIS-CC, ACIS, VCAP, JWisE, etc.)
- Generating reports to answer requests for data from Judicial Branch customers and external customers (media, other state agencies, etc.)
- Maintaining court performance measures system (CPMS) data
- Managing the Judicial Branch grants and contracts process
- Working with Judicial Branch staff to analyze workload and staffing needs throughout the Judicial Branch

### NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF LAW AND JUSTICE

The North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice (NCCALJ) is an independent, multidisciplinary commission, convened by Chief Justice Mark Martin in 2015 to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the judicial system. Final recommendations for strengthening the court were presented to the Chief Justice in early 2017. The Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff assisted the work of the Commission in providing data and research on requested topics.

#### Estimating the Amount of Paper in Court Files

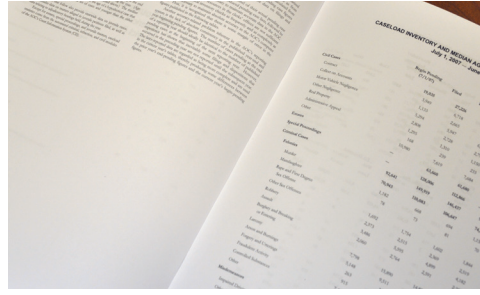
The Technology Committee requested information on how data is currently collected and stored in court files across the state. Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff conducted a study in six sample counties and reported findings on the average number of pieces of paper and the average number of images stored in case files of different case types, as well as the estimated total linear feet of documents collected, generated, and stored by the trial courts based on recent years' filing volumes.

#### Court Performance Measurement

The Criminal Investigation and Adjudication Committee requested information on how North Carolina's courts currently measure performance. Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff prepared materials and presentations that covered past and current efforts, the national standard developed by the National Center for State Courts, and discussed the practicality of how those standards could be implemented using existing trial court data, of the following three measures: Clearance Rate, Time to Disposition, and Age of Pending Cases.

#### Quantifying Court Dates

The work of the NCCALJ generated discussions about the number of court dates a typical case might experience between the filing date and the disposition date. Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff visited six counties to review a random sample of infractions and district criminal cases. Staff pulled cases to manually count court dates that were hand written on shucks and file folders. Data was analyzed to determine resource implications if the average number of court dates was reduced.



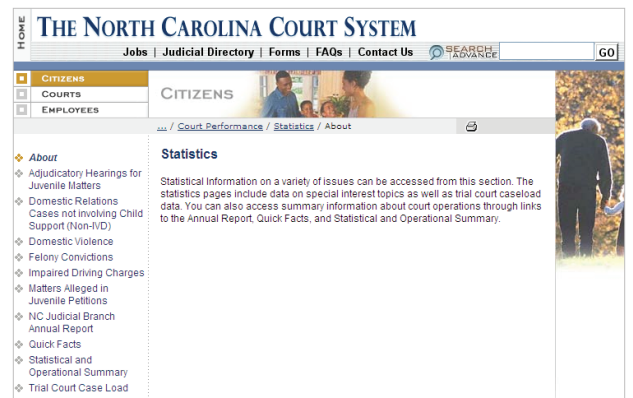
## ABOUT RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PLANNING

Services	Brief Description
<b>Grant and contract administration</b>	Coordination, information, assistance, and oversight are provided for all grants coming to and/or through the Judicial Branch. Common partners are federal government agencies, state government agencies, county governments, local municipalities, and nonprofit agencies.
<b>Legislative requests</b>	Responses are provided to legislators and North Carolina General Assembly staff ranging from workload, staffing, and fiscal impact matters to long-term policy research projects.
<b>Statistical analysis</b>	Data is extracted and analyzed from the following NCAOC databases and is used in policy analysis, media and legislative requests, and court performance management: ACIS, VCAP, JWisE, and NCAWARE
<b>Workload analysis</b>	Workload models have been developed and maintained for district court judges, assistant district attorneys, victim witness/legal assistants, clerks of superior court staff, family court coordinators, and magistrates. Staffing ratios have been developed and maintained for district court judicial support staff, superior court judicial support staff, and trial court administrators.

## JUDICIAL BRANCH STATISTICS ACCESSIBLE ONLINE

In conjunction with NCAOC's transparency and accountability efforts, the Research, Policy, and Planning Division provides access to data and information online to the general public. In addition to producing hundreds of custom reports for court officials, media organizations, and the public each year, the division annually updates and publishes numerous reports on the web, available at [www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/SRPlanning/Statistics/Default.asp](http://www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/SRPlanning/Statistics/Default.asp).

- Adjudicatory hearings for juvenile matters
- Domestic relations cases not involving child support (non IV-D)
- Domestic violence
- Felony convictions
- Foreclosures (residential and commercial)
- Impaired driving charges
- Matters alleged in juvenile petitions
- N.C. Judicial Branch Annual Report
- Quick facts
- Statistical and operational summary reports
- Trial court case load



**JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**  
DATA and INFORMATION