



FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Presentation

February 22, 2022

Bob Gast

State Court Administrator



Iowa Judicial Branch Overview



Judicial Branch People

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

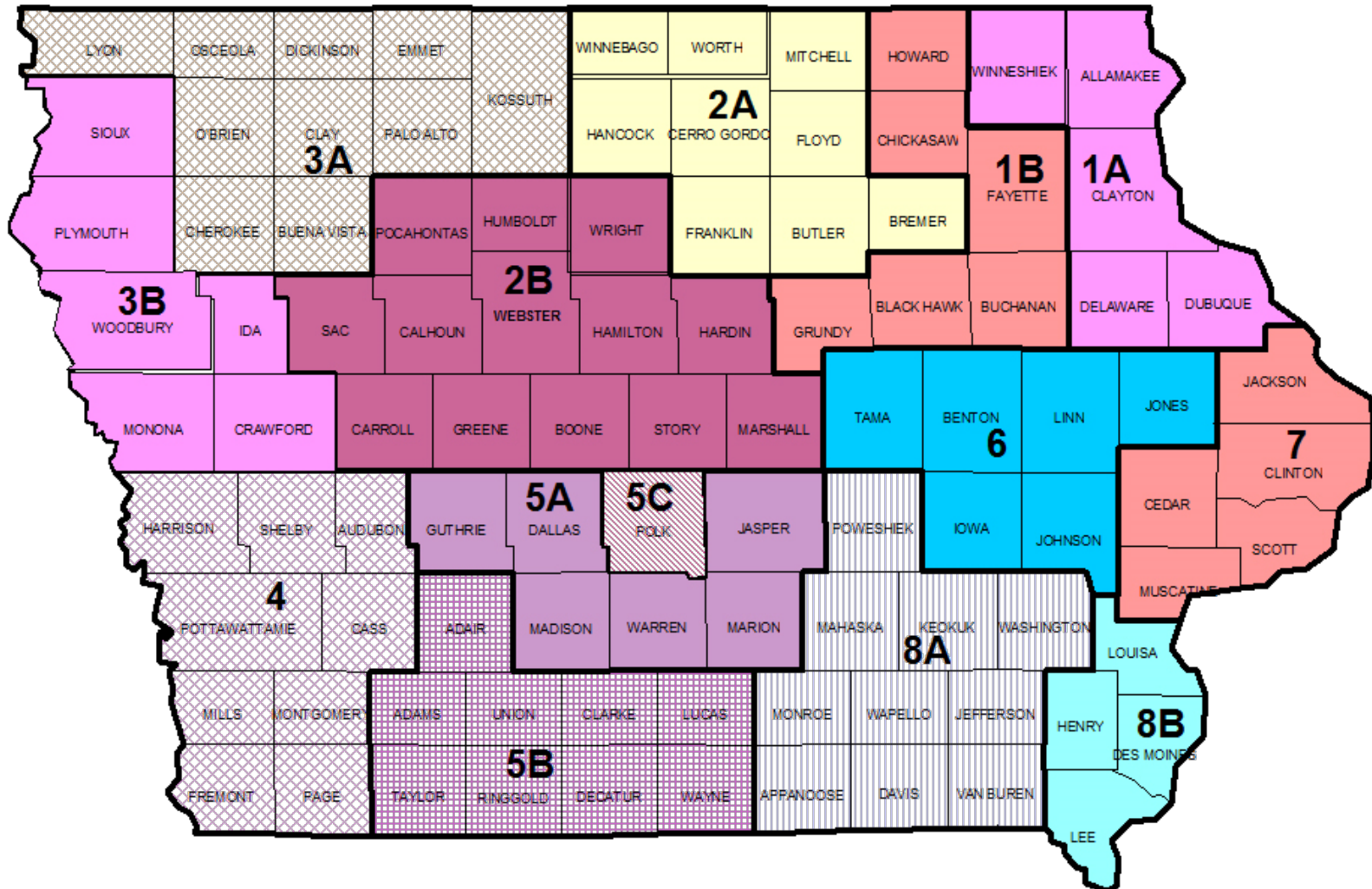
Court Administrators and their staff help schedule trials and manage the business side of the courts, such as human resources, accounting, purchasing, information technology, and training and education.

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

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

D = judicial district

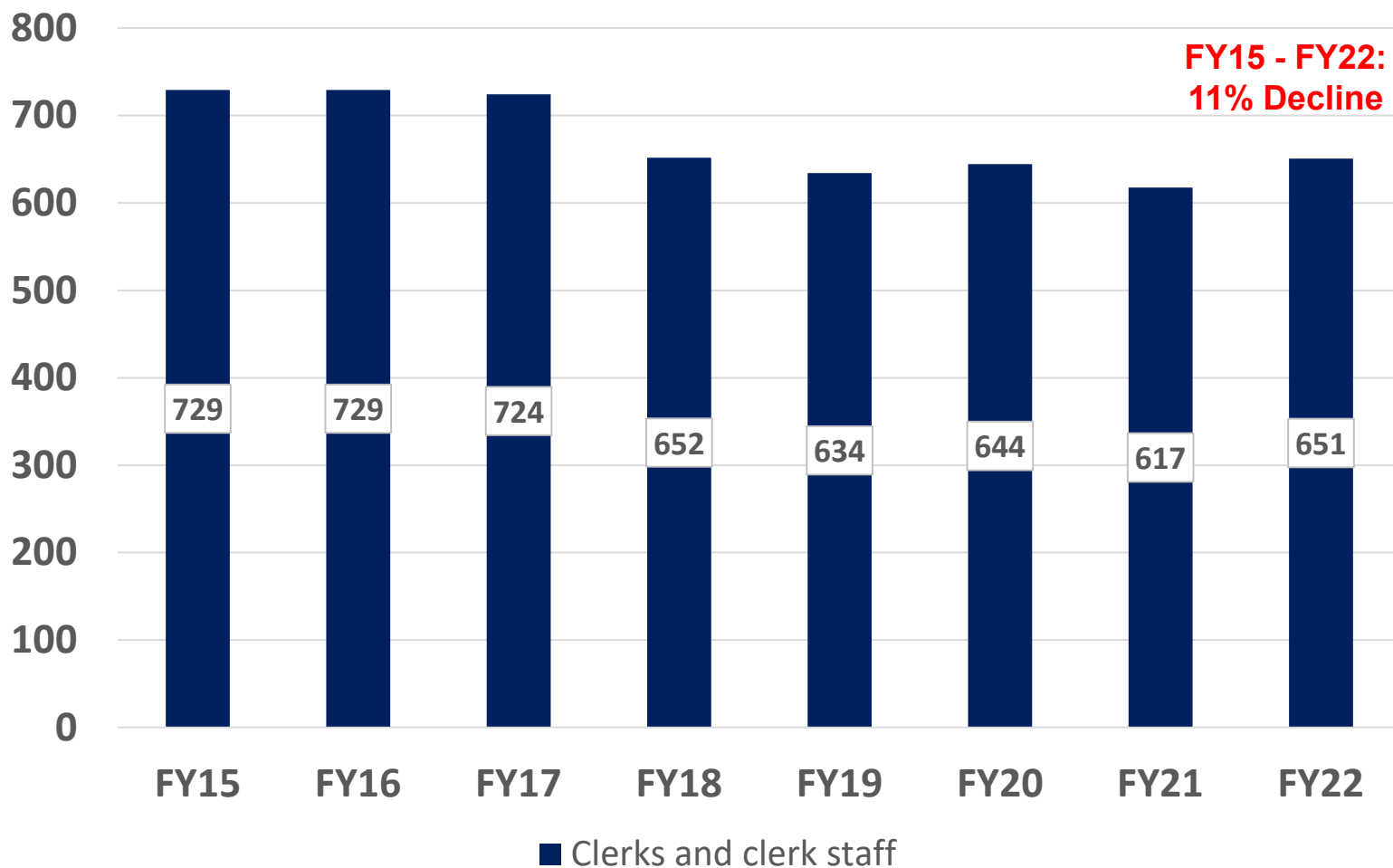


Rural Courts Initiative Clerk of Court Employees

- **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 clerk of court employees were allocated

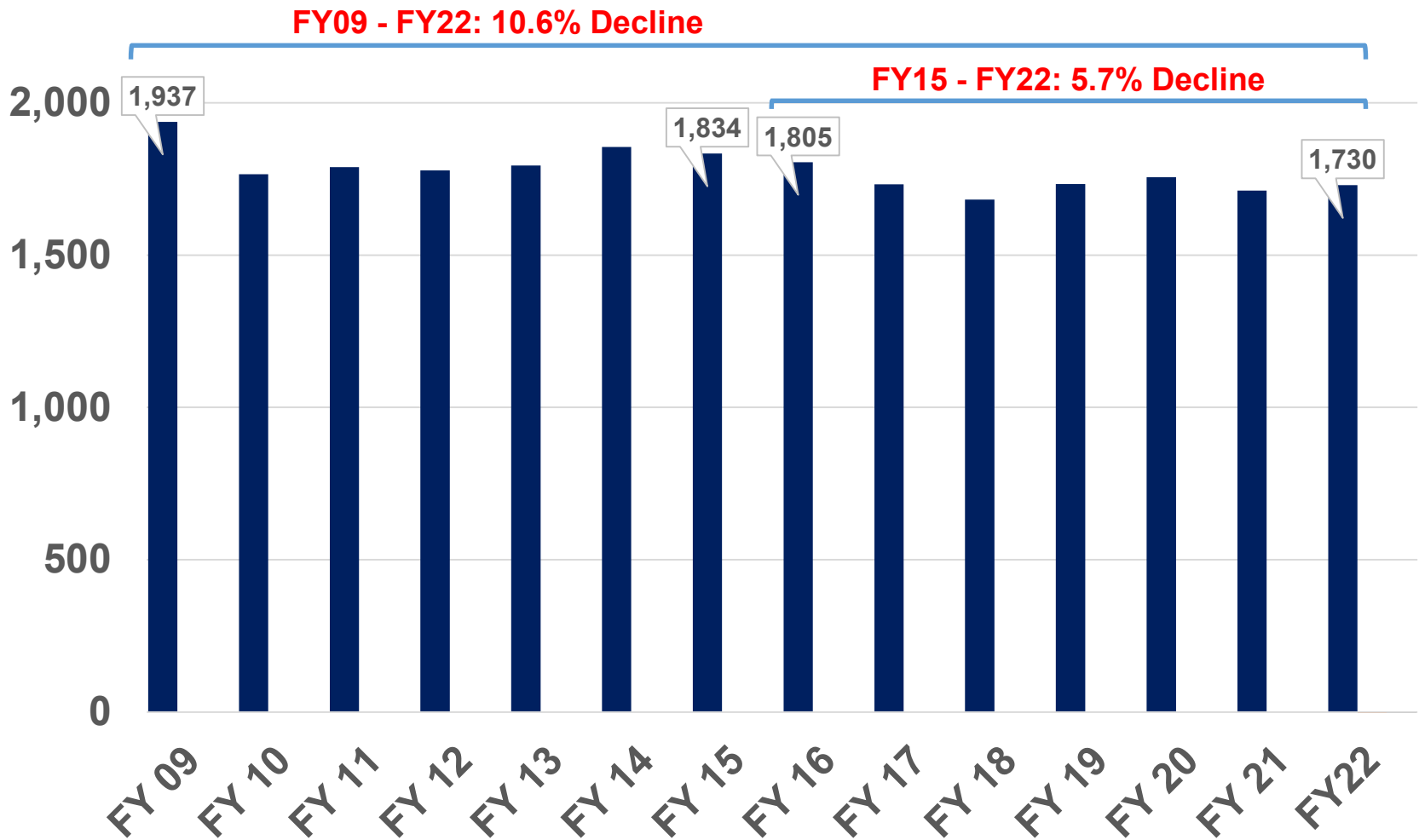


Budgeted clerks and clerk staff





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

**Simple
Misdemeanors**

• 415,919

Other Civil

• 15,154

**Indictable
Criminal**

• 85,305

Probate

• 14,974

**Small Claims
& FEDs**

• 71,822

Juvenile

• 8,977

Domestic

• 32,767

Tort

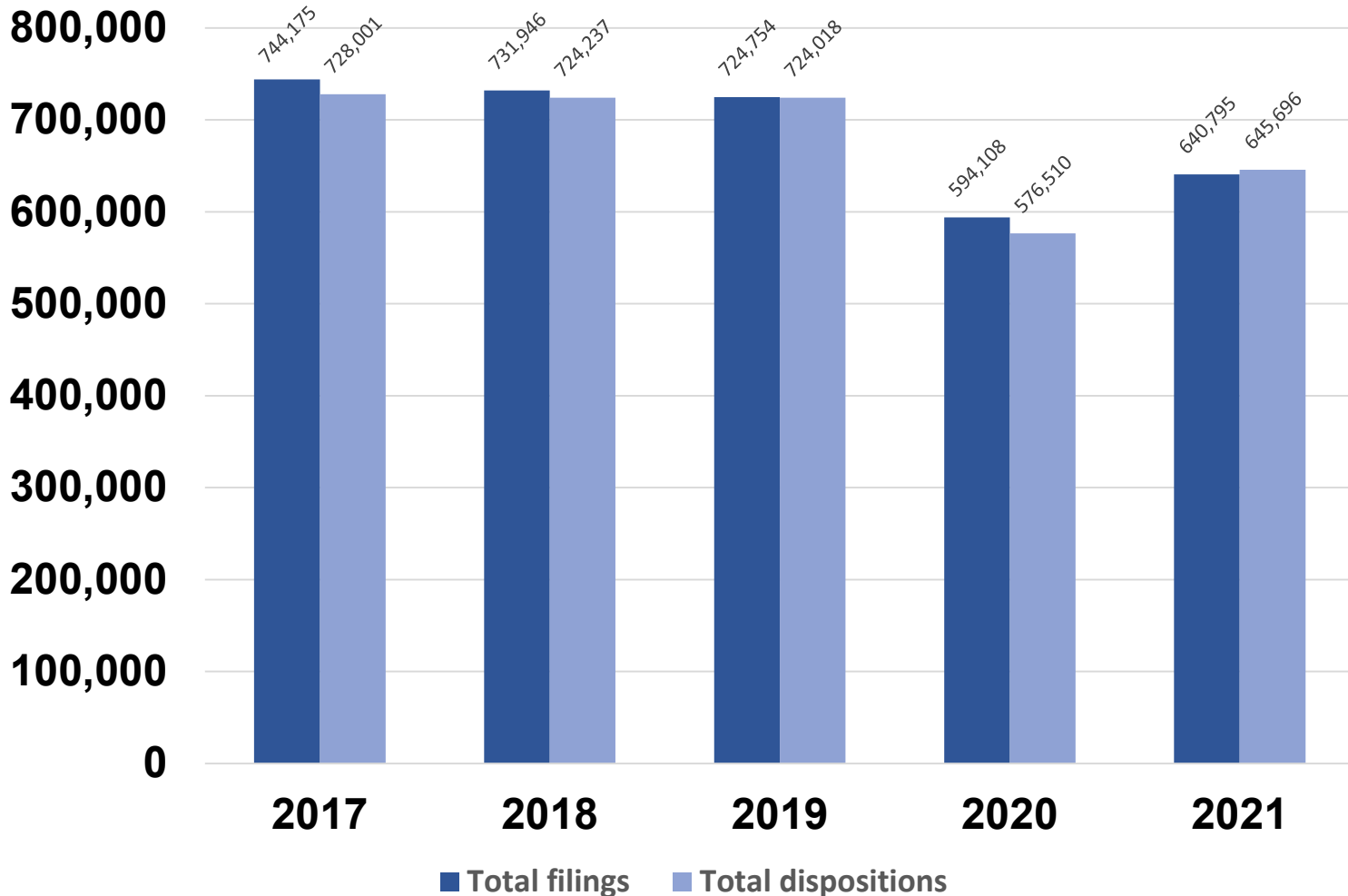
• 2,578

Total Filings

• 661,302



Five Year Case Filing & Disposition Trend

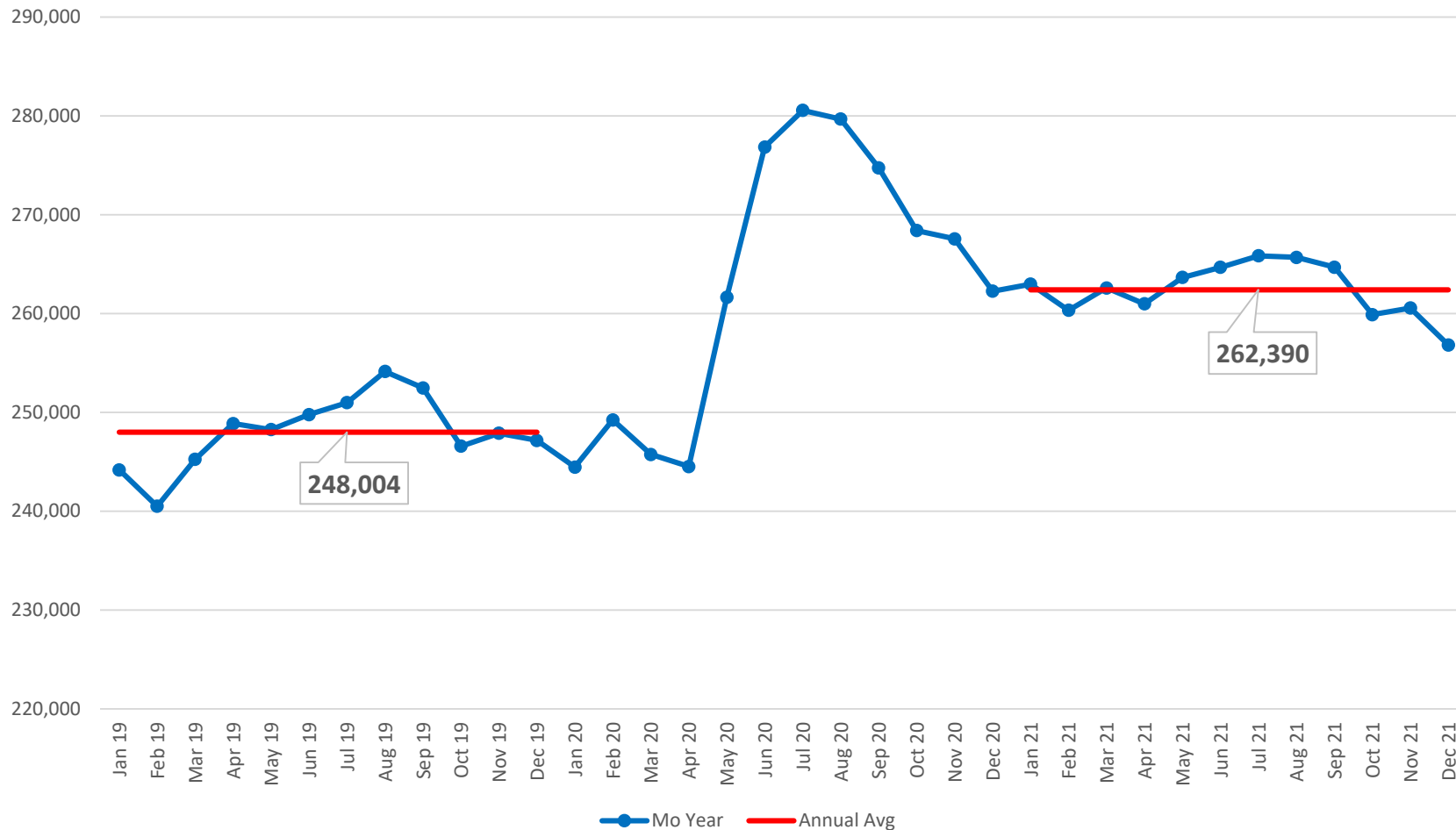


Note: This chart does not include contempt or probation revocations



End of Month Pending Cases

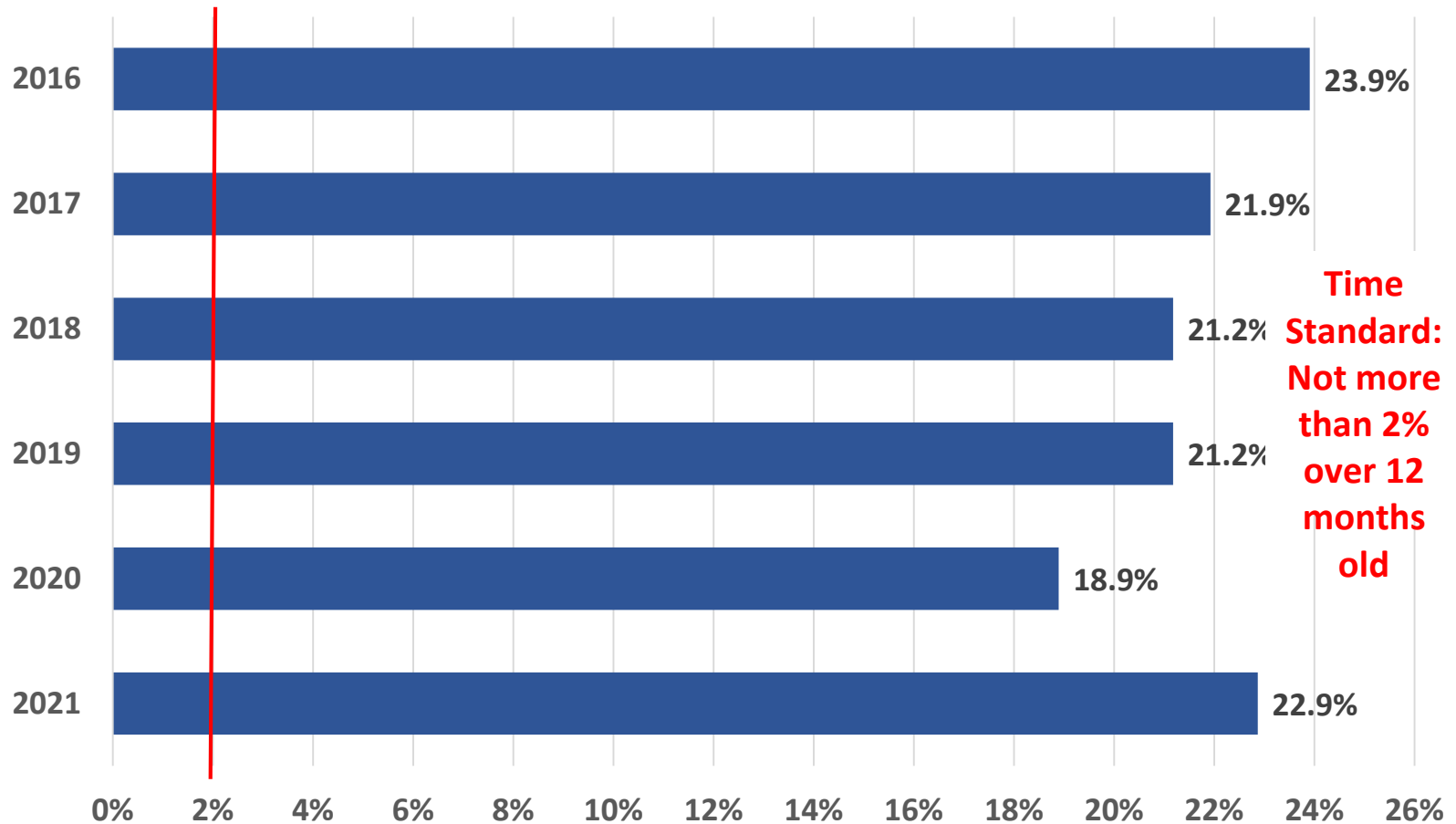
January 2019 through December 2021





Age of Pending Cases

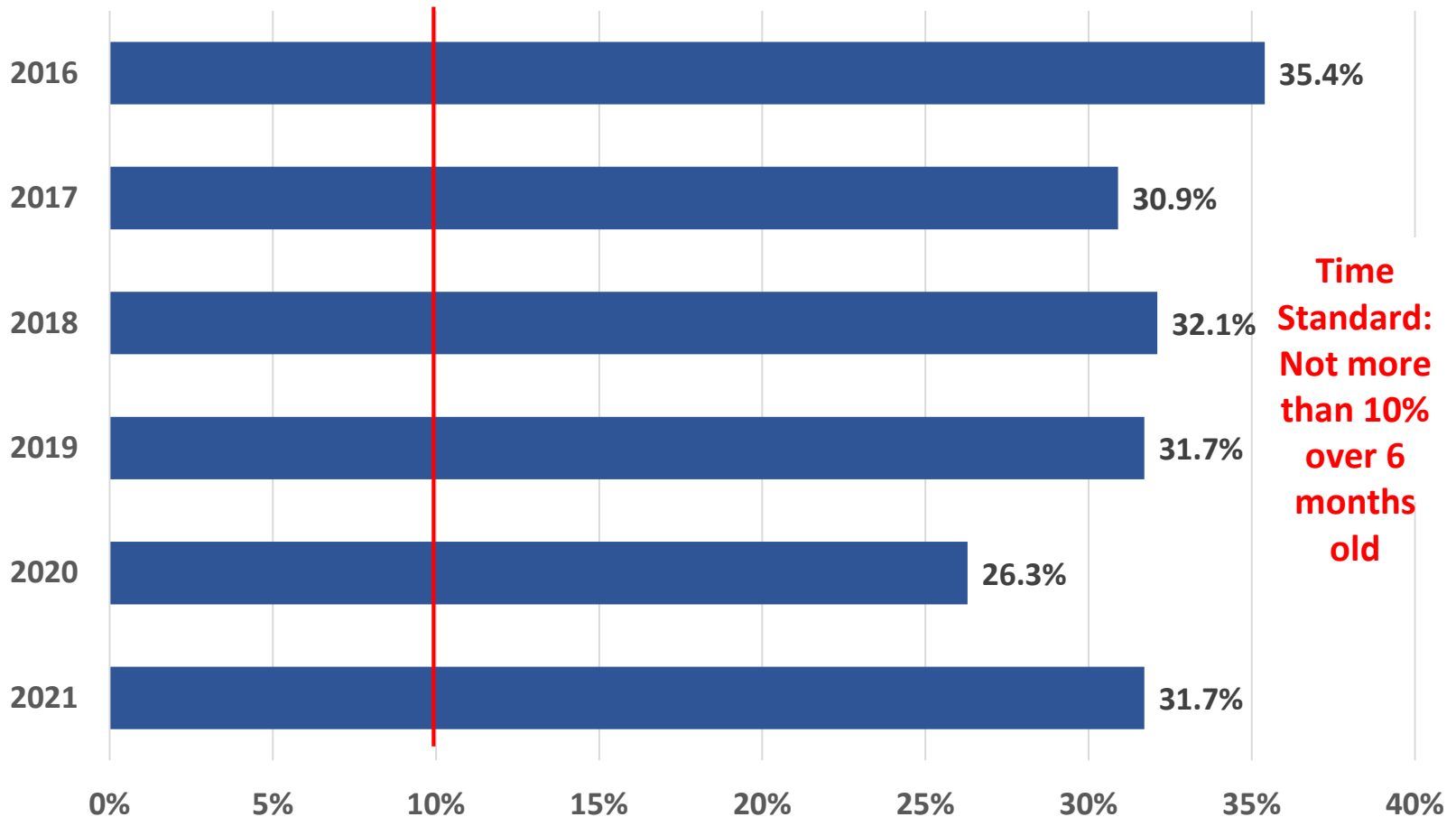
Felony criminal cases: End of year percentage of pending cases more than 12 months old





Age of Pending Cases

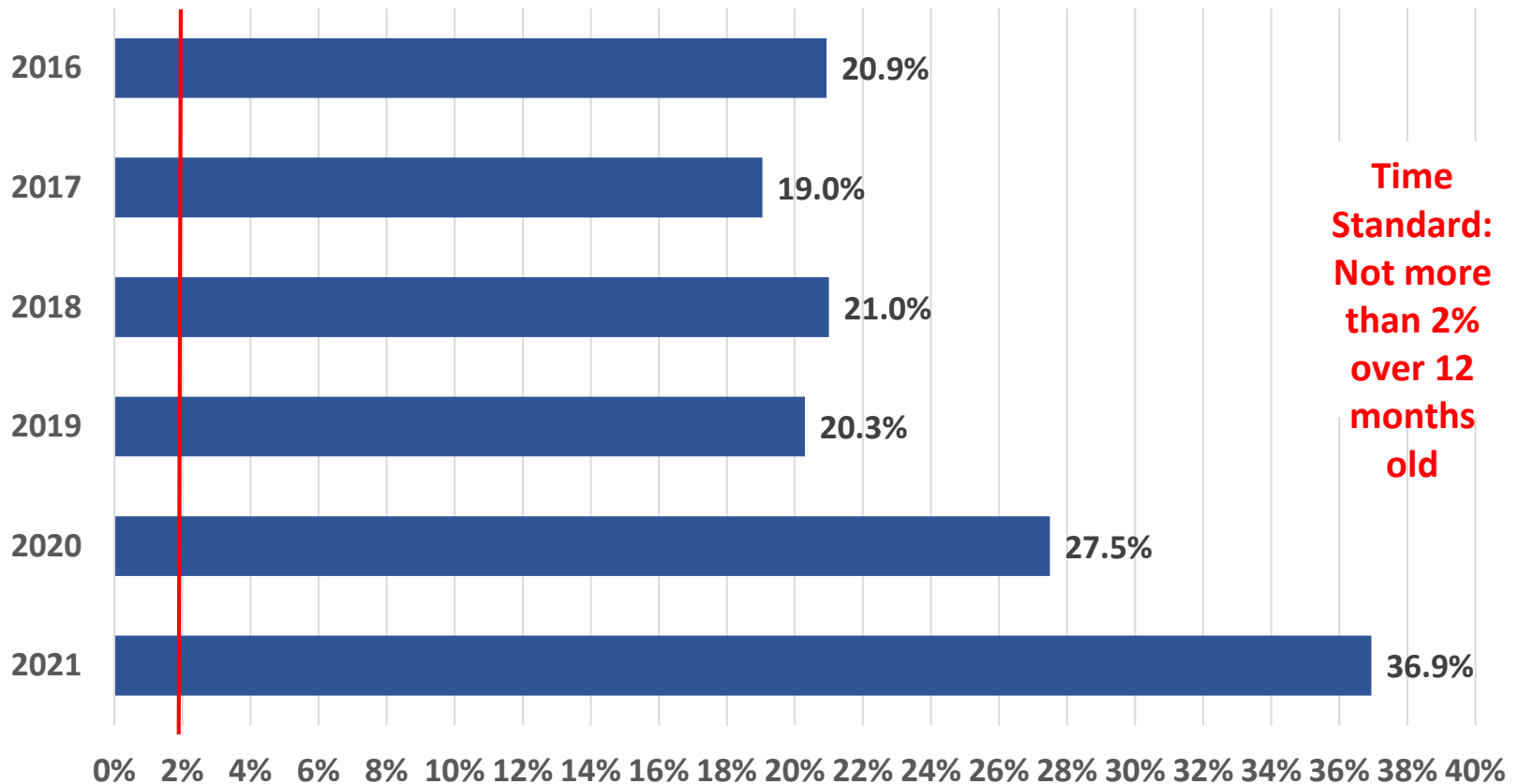
Indictable misdemeanor criminal cases: End of year percentage of pending cases more than 6 months old





Age of Pending Cases

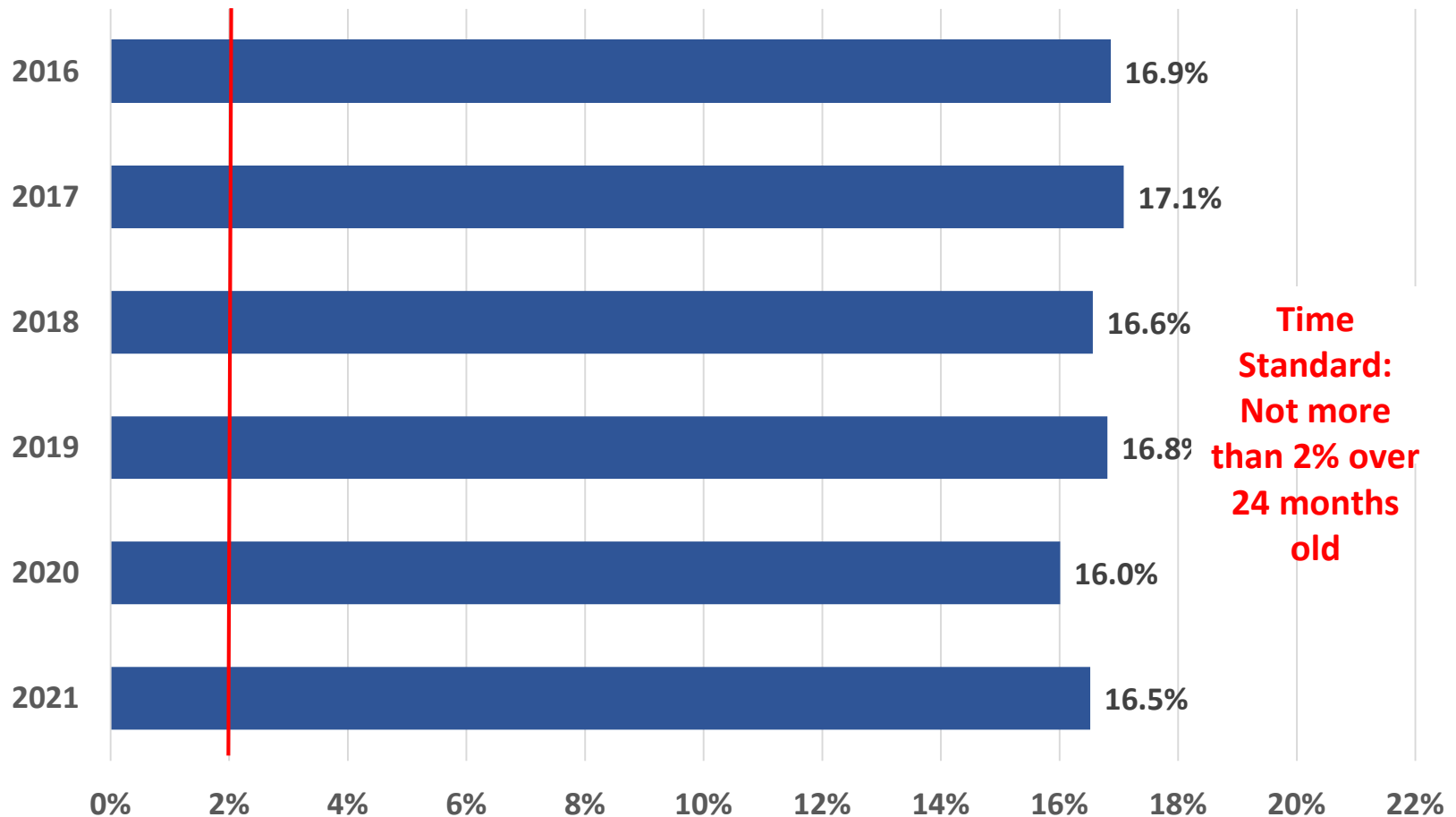
Domestic relations - dissolution, custody, paternity:
End of year percentage of pending cases more than 12 months old





Age of Pending Cases

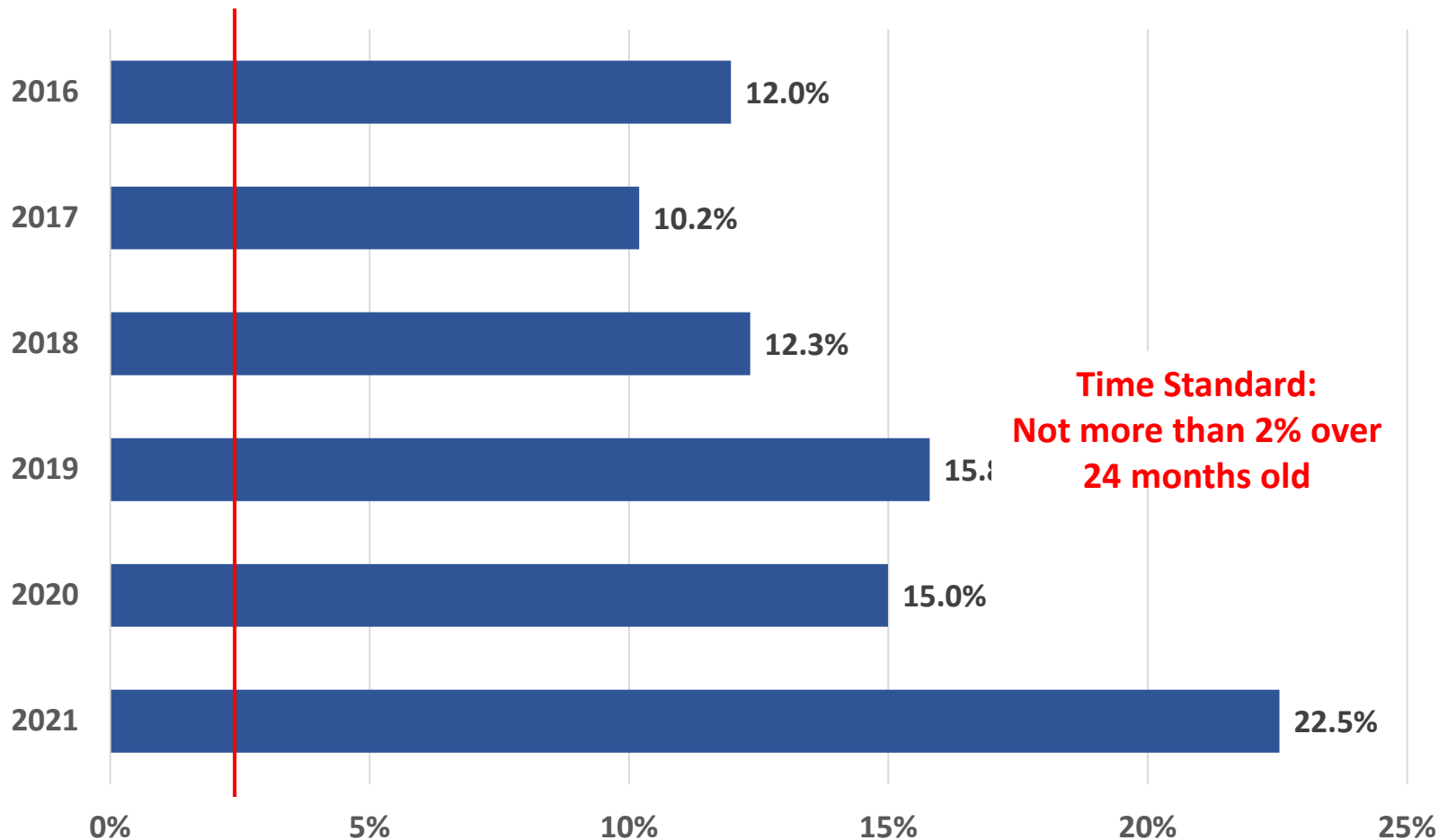
Probate - full estates:
End of year percentage of pending cases older than 24 months





Age of Pending Cases

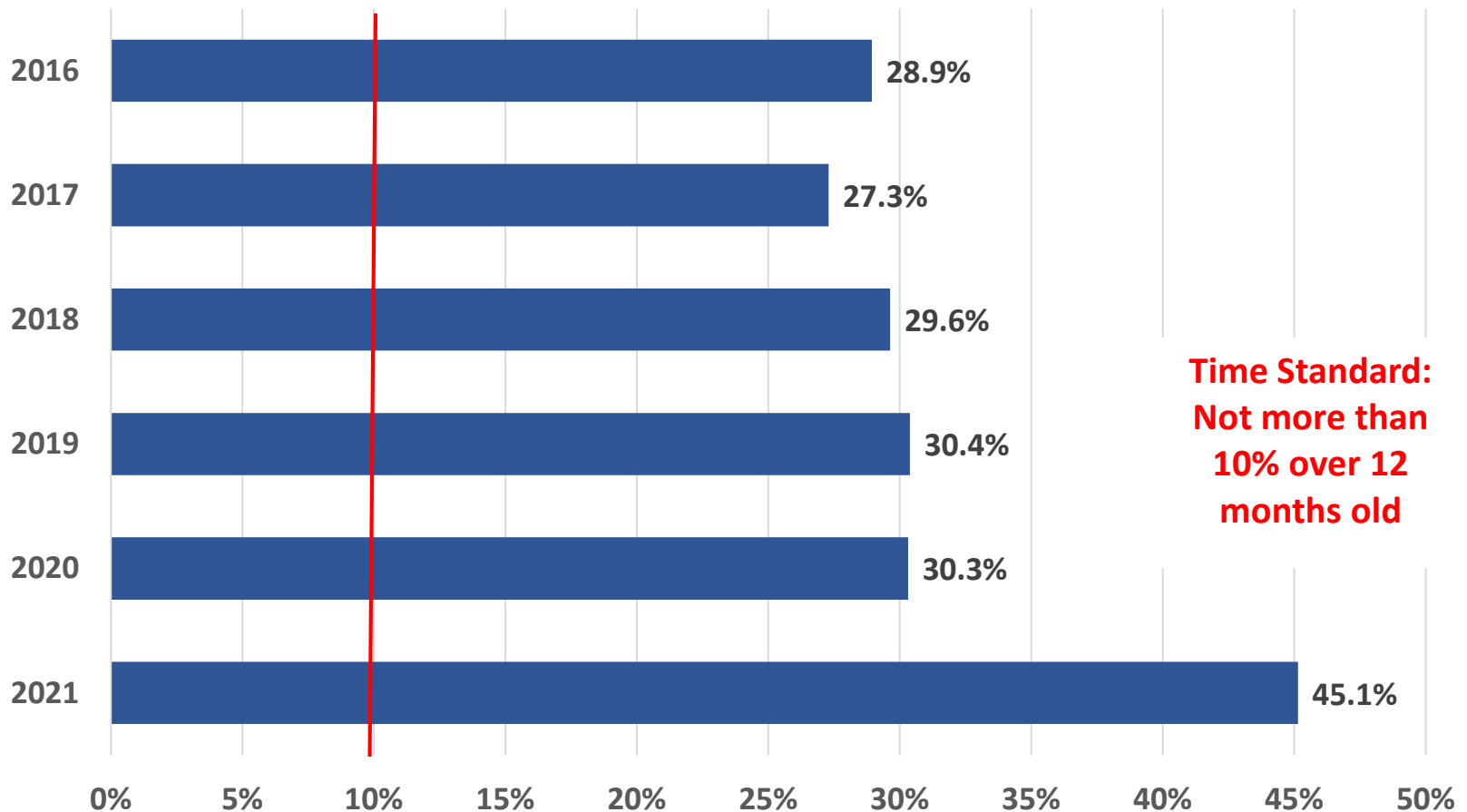
Complex civil cases: End of year percentage of pending cases more than 24 months old





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

State funding:

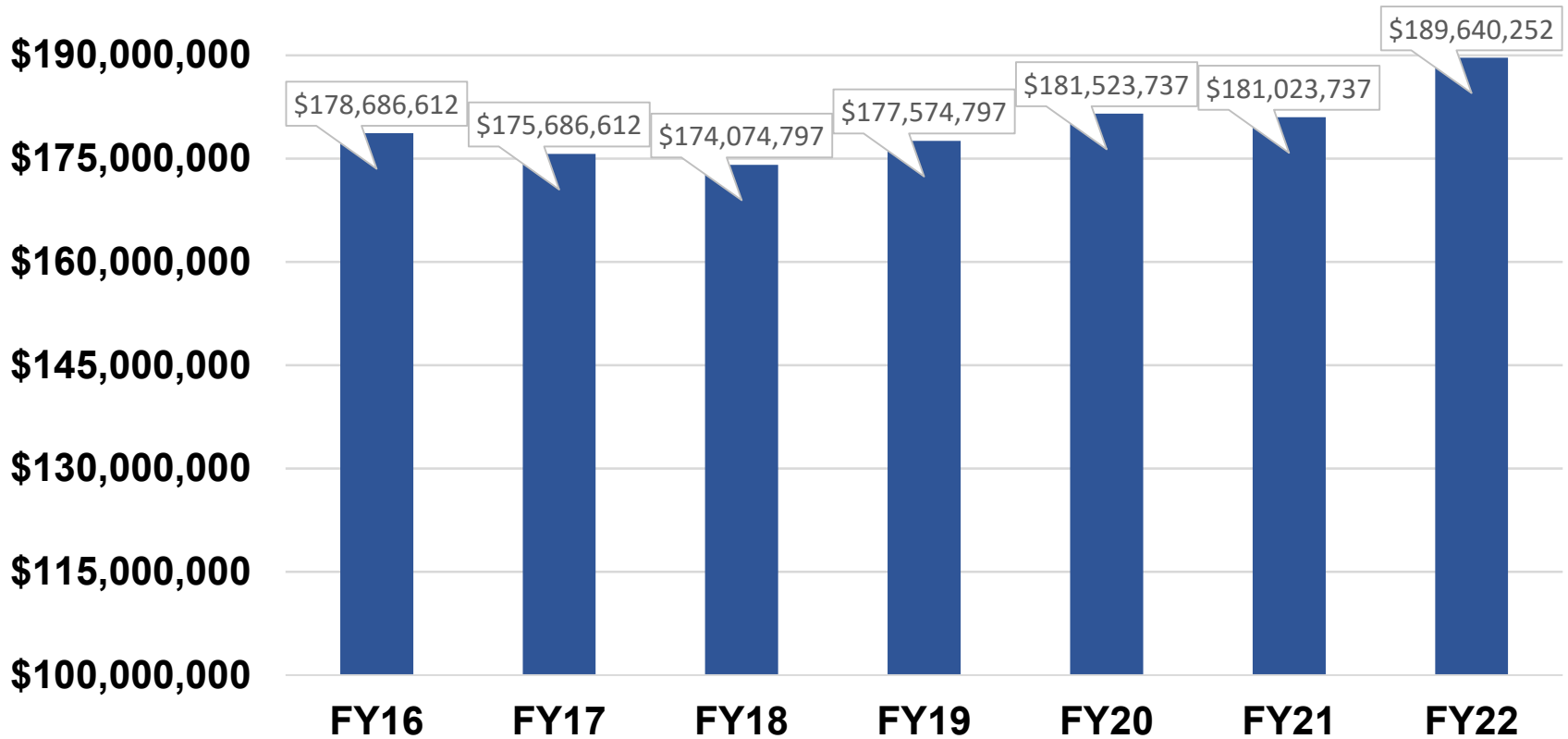
- **Judges and court staff**
- **Information technology**
- **Continuing education**
- **Furniture and equipment**

County funding:

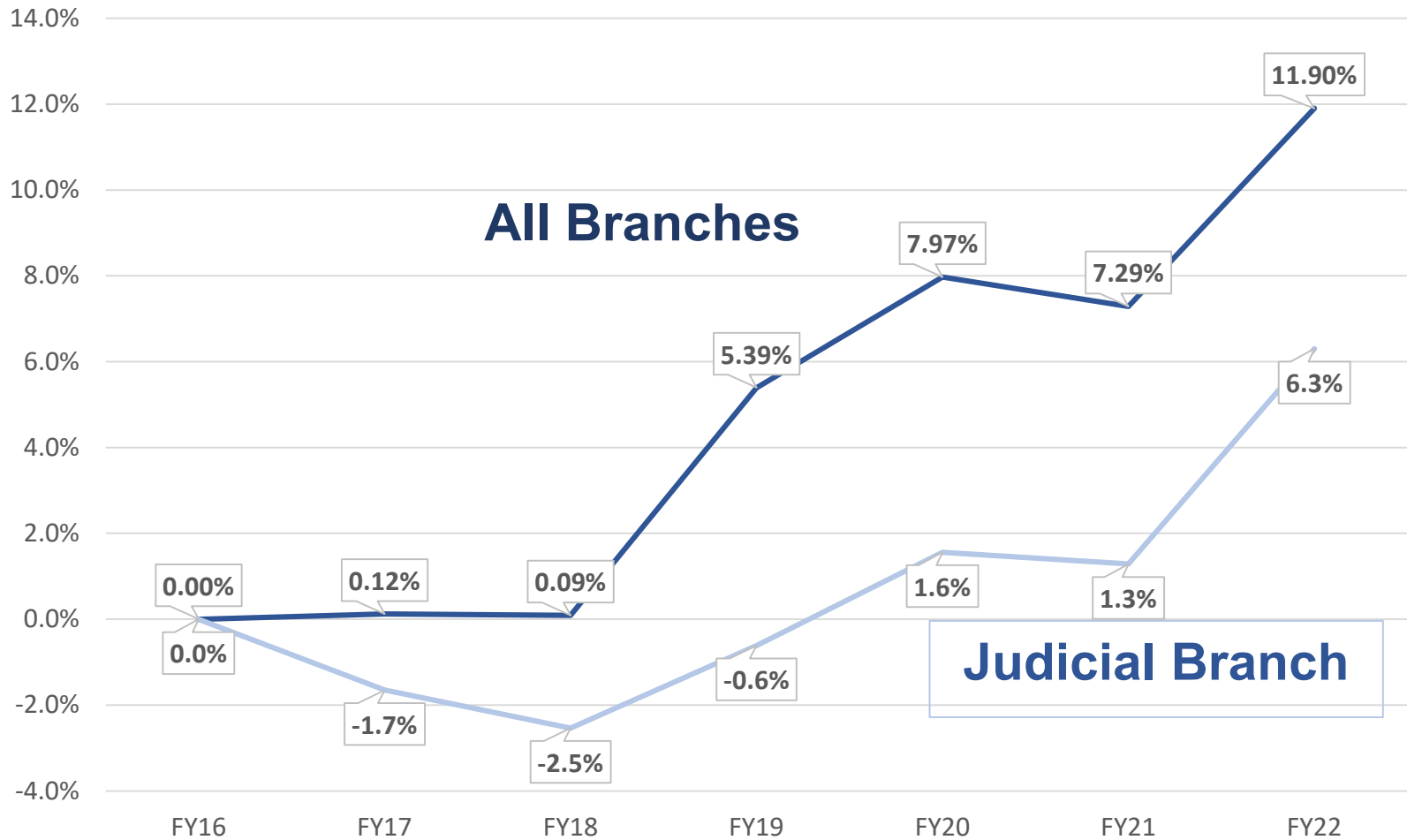
- **Courthouses**
- **Court security**



General Fund Appropriation History (excluding jury and witness fund)



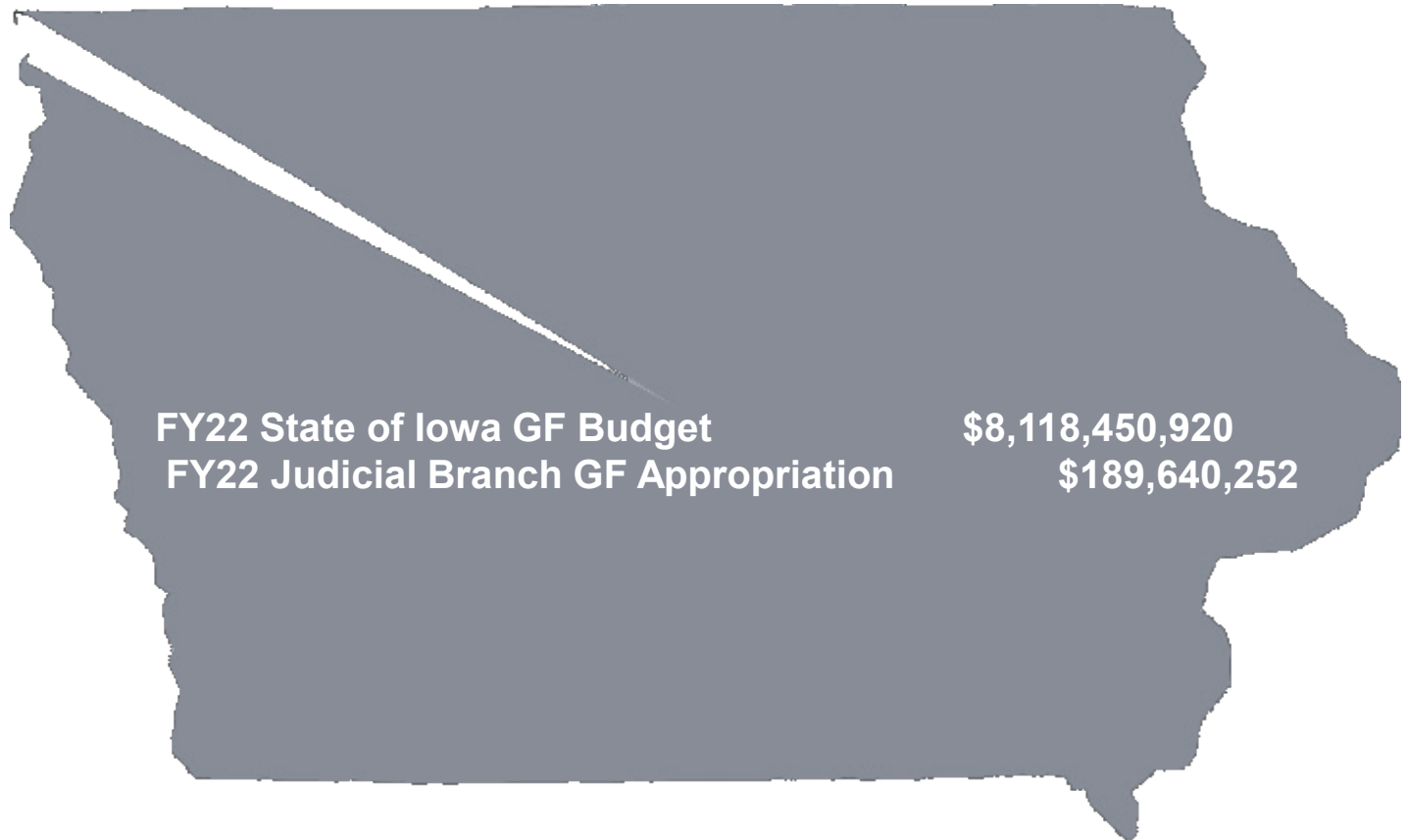
Judicial Branch and State Budget Change Since FY 2016





Judicial Branch Funding as Percent of State Budget

2.3%





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
Total*	\$144,097,169

**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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill frozen positions 	\$2,074,025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiated contract increase (also applied to non-contract) & health insurance 	\$2,701,270
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial officer salary increase (same percent as social security COLA) 	\$2,969,362
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 of market research adjustment to attract and retain quality employees 	\$1,047,549
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match executive branch 3% ATB extended to non-contract in FY22 	\$1,735,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in human capital – 4 new DAJs (and related staff) 	\$1,371,720
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in human capital – finance staff, 1 family treatment court coordinator, 2 IT security, 2 judicial specialists, 5 staff attorneys 	\$929,717
TOTAL	\$202,468,895



FY23 Budget Request

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

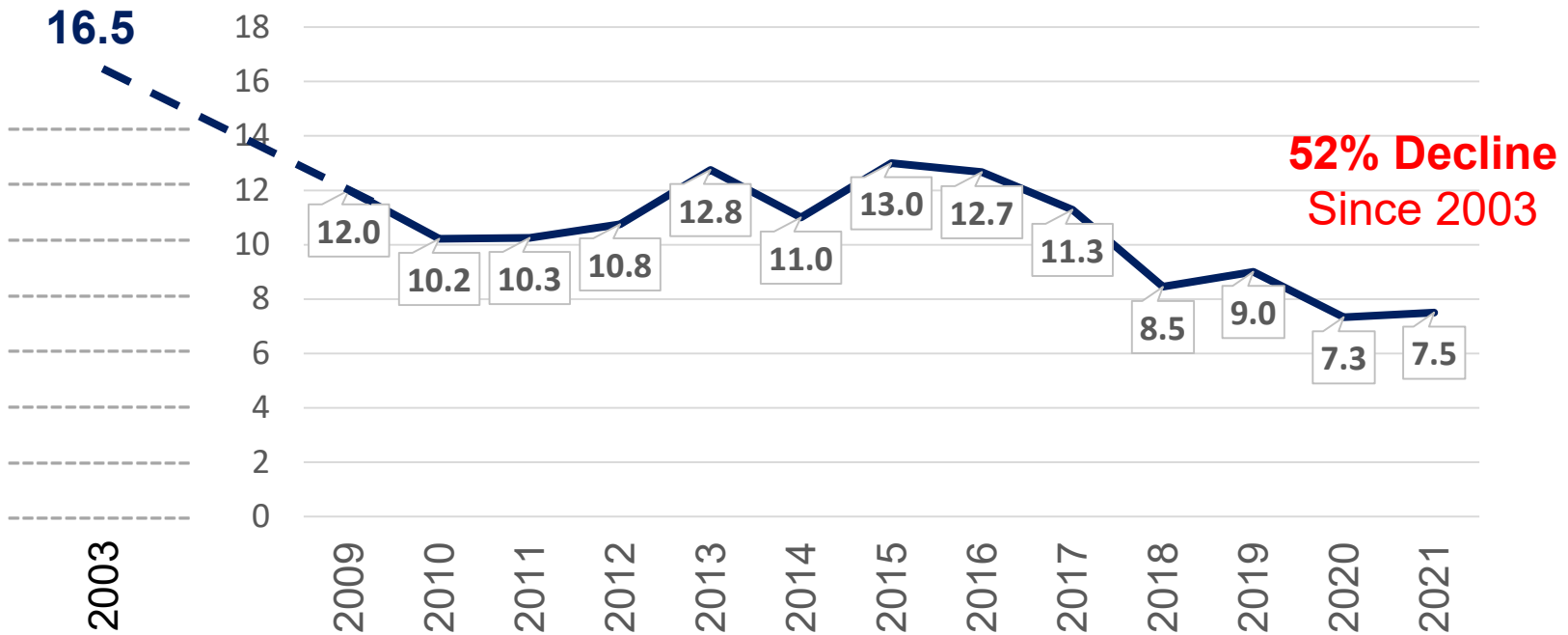
Investing in Human Capital- Existing Personnel

- 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

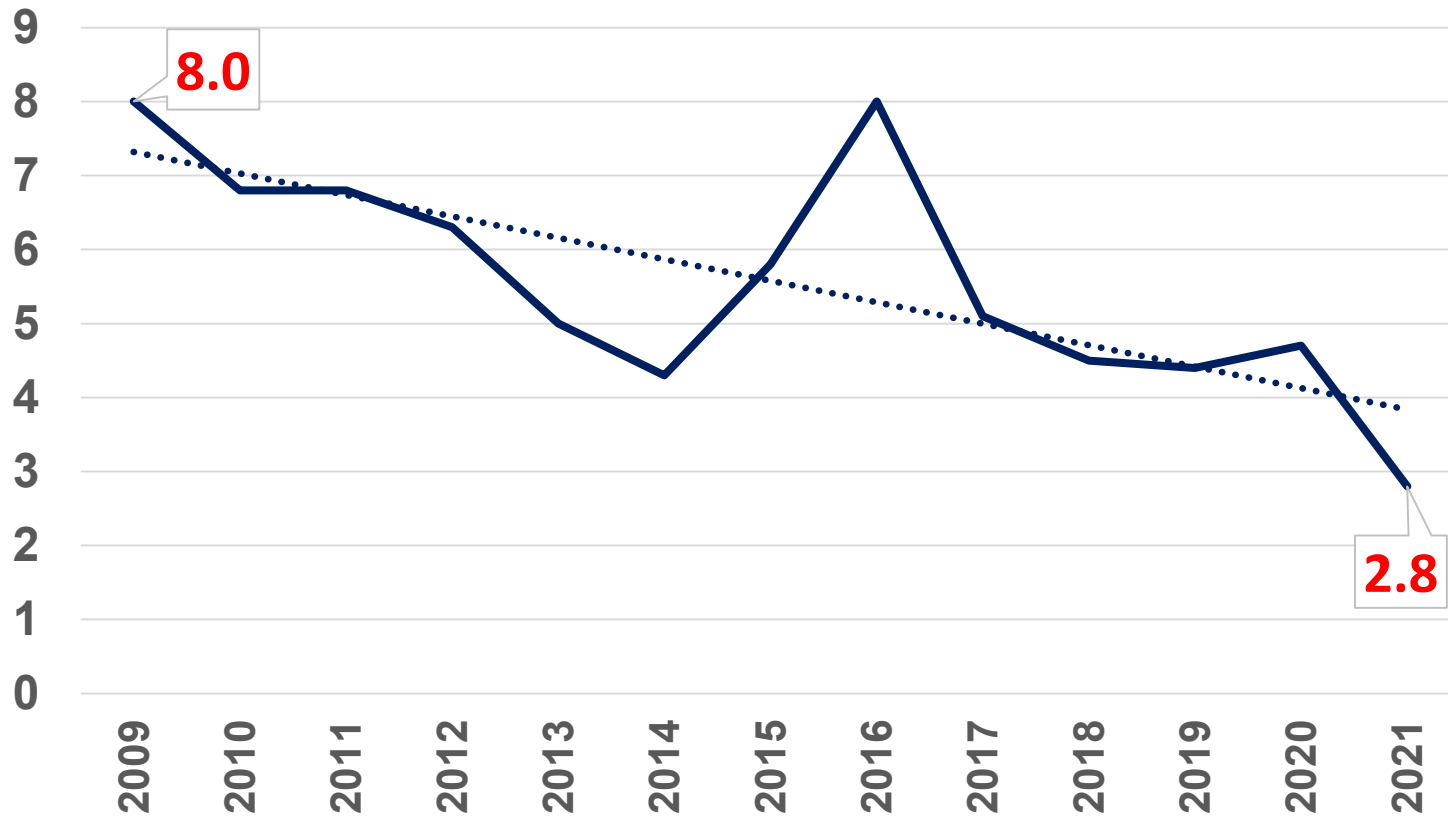
Average number of applicants per district court judge vacancy from 2003 to 2021





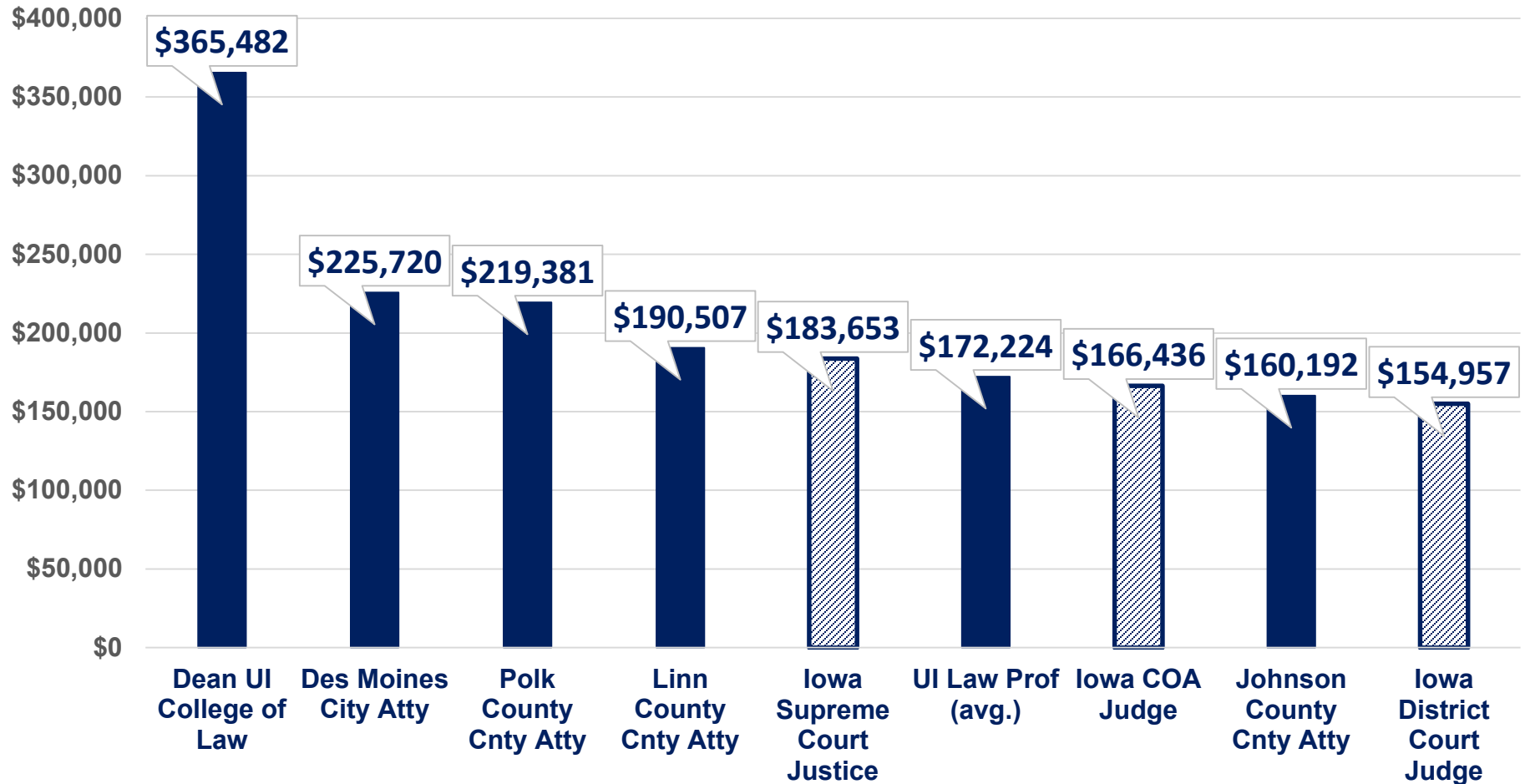
FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Investing in Human Capital

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





FY23 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Investing in Human Capital



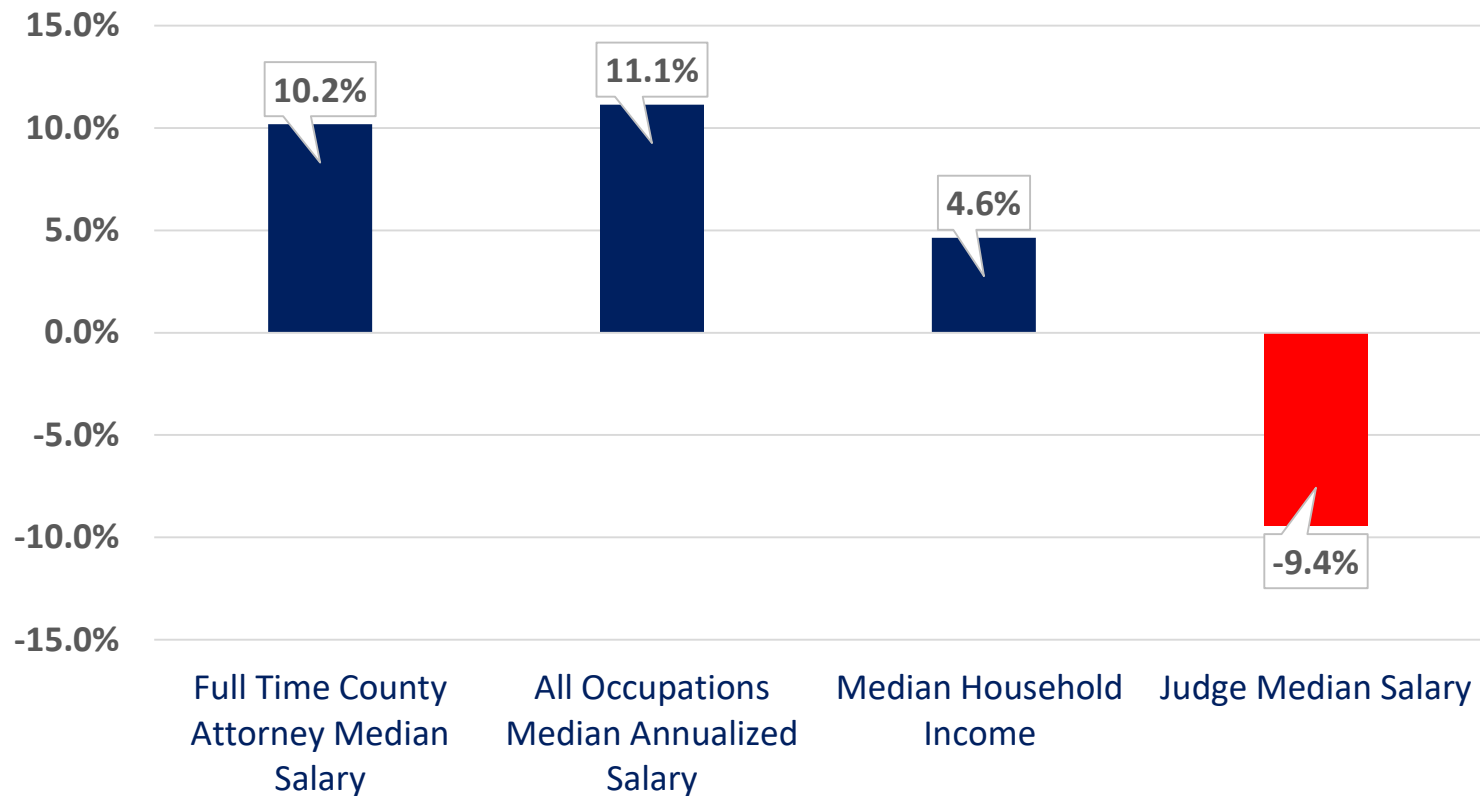
Note 1: All values are FY22, except UI salaries, which are FY21

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**