

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



Understanding Judicial Performance Measures

When analyzing the work of Ohio's courts and judges, the Case Management Section of the Supreme Court of Ohio regularly evaluates two key performance indicators: clearance rates and overage rates. This document is intended to help courts and judges understand the meaning of these measures and how they are calculated. Both measures can be applied to a court's overall docket or to individual case types or groups of case types.

A. CLEARANCE RATE

This measure identifies how well a court is keeping up with its incoming caseload. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Clearance Rate} = \frac{\text{Total number of outgoing cases}}{\text{Total number of incoming cases}}$$

Using the monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of outgoing cases is determined using the reported 'Total Terminations' values and the total number of incoming cases is determined using the sum of the reported 'New Cases Filed' and 'Cases Transferred in, Reactivated, or Redesignated' values.

Clearance rates can be calculated over any time period so long as the incoming and outgoing values apply to that same time period.

The ratio of outgoing cases to incoming cases (produced using the above formula) is ordinarily multiplied by 100 and expressed as percentage.

The target is a clearance rate of 100%

A clearance rate of 100% means that a court terminated over a given time period exactly as many cases as it took in during that same time period. If a court's clearance rate is regularly less than 100% over a series of time intervals, the court will likely develop a backlog because the pace of incoming cases exceeds the pace of outgoing cases.

Clearance rates, while valuable as a bellwether statistic, do not alone accurately depict a court's success in moving its entire docket forward in a timely fashion. A court may regularly

demonstrate a 100% or greater clearance rate while simultaneously keeping a sizable number of cases from being disposed of within applicable time standards. Accordingly, clearance rates should be viewed alongside a measure that gauges the extent to which a court's caseload is pending beyond time standards, such as the overage rate.

B. OVERAGE RATE

This measure identifies the extent to which a court's pending caseload is lagging past applicable time standards, or, overage. Put another way, it measures the size of a court's backlog. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Overage Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of cases pending beyond time guidelines}}{\text{Total number of pending cases}}$$

Using the monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of cases pending beyond the time guideline is determined using the reported 'Cases Pending Beyond Time Guideline' value and the total number of cases pending is determined using the reported 'Pending End of Period' value. The result is multiplied by 100 and expressed as a percentage.

The target is less than 10%

This measurement can be calculated at a single moment in time or as an average (or rolling average) based on a series of months. In any event, the most useful information is obtained by viewing this measurement repeatedly over a series of time periods in order to identify trends.