

Nebraska Judicial Branch

Weighted Caseload Report

Separate Juvenile Courts

Reporting Period
Calendar Year 2022

January 1, 2022 to
December 31, 2022



Weighted Caseload Report for Nebraska Separate Juvenile Courts

Nebraska has a separate juvenile court in Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster counties. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-2,119, the Legislature determines the number of separate juvenile court judges who serve in counties which have established a separate juvenile court. An objective assessment of judicial workload allows informed decisions about district boundaries and the number of judges needed to timely resolve the cases in each of the counties that has a separate juvenile court.

To assist in evaluating judicial workloads, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 24-1007(1) requires the Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOCB) to compile judicial workload statistics based on caseload numbers weighted by category of case. These weighted caseload statistics are used by the Judicial Branch, the Judicial Resources Commission, and the Legislature to evaluate judicial need, and guide decisions and recommendations on how best to allocate judicial resources across the state.

To ensure the validity, uniformity and accuracy of the AOCB's judicial workload statistics, a statewide judicial time study was conducted in 2019-2020 under the direction and leadership of the National Center for State Courts. For a full description of the judicial time study and the recommended weighting methodology and standards, see *Nebraska Judicial Workload Assessment Final Report* (October 2020) on the Nebraska Supreme Court Website. Because this Weighted Caseload Report utilizes the methodology and standards from the 2020 workload assessment, direct comparison to archived reports is not recommended.

No quantitative judicial workload assessment method, including the weighted caseload method, can determine the exact number of judges needed within each court. For example, judges may be asked to assist non-home districts to ensure speedy trials for all involved and that one district is not unduly overburdened. However, in that case, the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) estimate without a weight for cases heard outside of their home district may underrepresent the actual FTE of both those districts. Left unadjusted, not only adds artificial FTE to the districts being assisted but the FTE for judge assistance between districts is also left unknown. To address this challenge, the Research and Data Team has developed a ratio of assistance to overall FTE. The weight for the help provided or received will be denoted at the top of the page in red.

Weighted caseload statistics approximate the number of judges needed to handle the current caseload based upon the calculations of a three-year rolling average of case filing data. Therefore, when weighted caseload statistics are examined in conjunction with other compelling and critical metrics, they provide a vital part of an objective and standardized assessment of judicial needs and the fair allocation of judicial resources across juvenile courts in the State of Nebraska.



Corey R. Steel | Nebraska State Court Administrator

Nebraska Supreme Court

Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation

Rm. 1213 State Capitol | P.O. Box 98910 |

Lincoln, NE 68509 T 402.471.3730 | F

402.471.2197 www.supremecourt.ne.gov

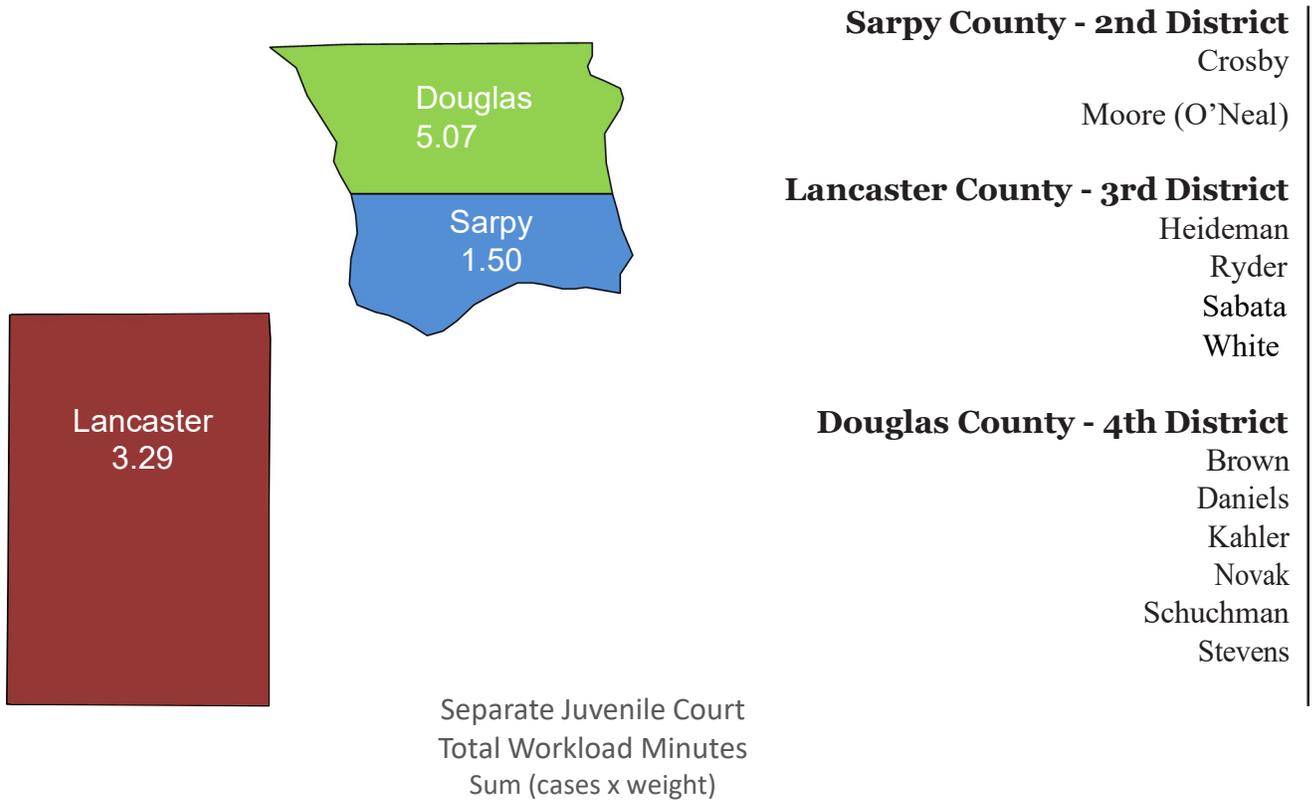
Weighted Caseload Report

Separate Juvenile Courts

| Judicial Need Metrics | Sarpy | Lancaster | Douglas | Total |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Total need for judges | 1.50 | 3.29 | 5.07 | 9.86 |
| Current number of judges | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 |
| Workload per judge | 0.75 | 0.82 | 0.85 | 0.82 |

Additional judicial assistance provided to other judicial district(s) by Lancaster County Separate Juvenile Court: 0.10

Predicted judicial resources need by county Judges of the Separate Juvenile Courts



Court Case Type Categories and Weights Appendix

| District Court Case Types | 2020 Case Weight (minutes) |
|---|----------------------------|
| Problem Solving Court Cases | 683 |
| Protection Orders | 32 |
| Civil | 219 |
| Class I Felony | 367 |
| Other Criminal | 149 |
| Domestic Relations | 97 |
| Appeals | 343 |
| Administrative Appeals | 540 |
| County Court Case Types | 2020 Case Weight (minutes) |
| Protection Orders | 32 |
| Felony | 26 |
| Misdemeanor | 23 |
| District Court: Adult Problem-Solving Court | 683 |
| Traffic | 1 |
| Civil | 8 |
| Probate | 61 |
| Guardianship/Conservatorship | 133 |
| Small Claims | 30 |
| Adoption | 92 |
| Domestic Relations | 97 |
| Juvenile: 3A Children | 487 |
| Juvenile: Delinquency | 100 |
| Juvenile: Status Offender 3B | 37 |
| Juvenile: Mentally Ill and Dangerous 3C | 265 |
| Juvenile: Bridge to Independence (B21) | 58 |
| Juvenile: Interstate Compact Hearings/Filings | 2 |
| Juvenile: Problem-Solving Court Cases | 654 |
| Separate Juvenile Court Case Types | 2020 Case Weight (minutes) |
| Adoption | 49 |
| Domestic Relations | 26 |
| Juvenile: 3A Children | 487 |
| Delinquency | 136 |
| Status Offender 3B | 54 |
| Mentally Ill and Dangerous 3C | 265 |
| Bridge to Independence B21 | 36 |
| Interstate Compact Hearing/Filings | 2 |
| Problem Solving Court Cases | 654 |