

Nebraska Judicial Branch

REVISED - Weighted Caseload Report

Separate Juvenile Courts

Reporting Period
Fiscal Year 2020

July 1, 2019 to
June 30, 2020



July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
Revised January 2021

Reason for Revised Weighted Caseload Report – Separate Juvenile Courts (FY 2020)

After the *Weighted Caseload Report – Separate Juvenile Court (FY 2020)* was published on the Nebraska Supreme Court website, the Nebraska State Court Administrator discovered a counting error regarding the number of 3A children. The error resulted from counting some children more than once. This overcounting also caused the need for judges to be overestimated in each district, as illustrated in the following table:

| | District 2 | District 3 | District 4 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Need for Judges (as originally reported) | 2.63 | 3.99 | 8.72 |
| CORRECT Need for Judges | 2.00 | 2.80 | 6.06 |

The issue that caused the overcounting has been corrected, and the Nebraska State Court Administrator is publishing this *REVISED Weighted Caseload Report – Separate Juvenile Court (FY 2020)* to correct the errors contained in the original report.

Nebraska County Courts Weighted Caseload Report

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 (AOCP) 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 AOCP'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 separate juvenile court. But weighted caseload statistics can approximate the number of judges needed to handle the current caseload in the separate juvenile courts. When weighted caseload statistics are examined in conjunction with other important influencing factors it provides an objective and standardized way to assess judicial need and to fairly allocate judicial resources among the separate juvenile courts.



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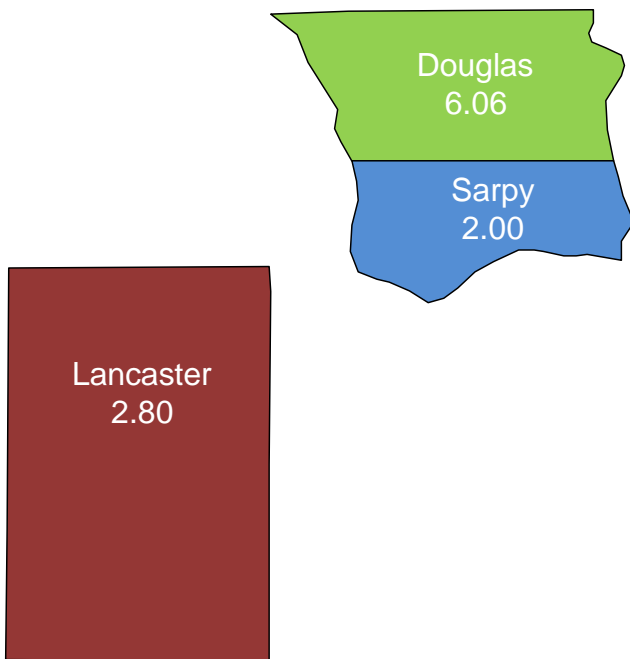
www.supremecourt.ne.gov

Weighted Caseload Report

Separate Juvenile Courts

| Judicial Need Metrics | Sarpy | Lancaster | Douglas | Total |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Total need for judges | 2.00 | 2.80 | 6.06 | 10.86 |
| Current number of judges | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 |
| Workload per judge | 1.00 | 0.70 | 1.01 | 0.91 |

Predicted judicial resources need by county



Judges of the Separate Juvenile Courts

Sarpy County - 2nd District

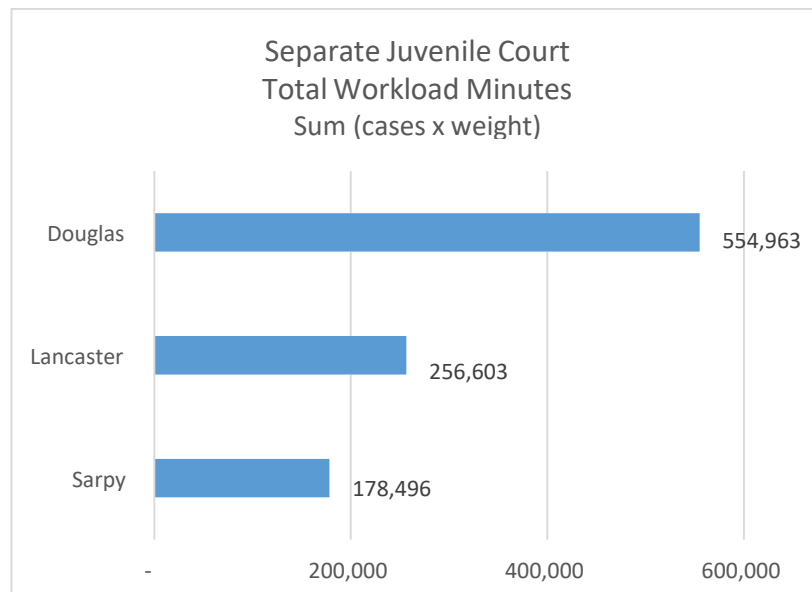
Gendler (Cass County Juvenile Cases)
O'Neal (Otoe County Juvenile Cases)

Lancaster County - 3rd District

Heideman
Porter
Ryder
Vacant

Douglas County - 4th District

Brown
Daniels
Kahler
Kelly
Schuchman
Stevens



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 |