

14th Judicial District
CourTools Measure 4: Age of Active Pending Caseload

Definition: The age of the active cases pending before the court, measured as the number of days from filing until the time of measurement.

Purpose: Cases filed but not yet disposed make up the court's pending caseload. Having a complete and accurate inventory of active pending cases as well as tracking their number and age is important because this pool of cases potentially requires court action. Knowing the age of the active cases pending before the court is most useful for addressing three related questions: Does a backlog exist? Which cases are a problem? Given past and present performance, what is expected in the future?

This measure should be used in conjunction with Measure 2 Clearance Rates and Measure 3 Time to Disposition to get an accurate picture of how a court is managing its caseload. For example, a court may have a high clearance rate, and score well on Measure 2, yet still be building up an inventory of older cases (evaluated by Measure 4). This measure differs from Measure 3 Time to Disposition in that the cases being analyzed here have not reached a disposition in the court. Once the age spectrum of cases is determined, the court can focus attention on what is required to ensure cases are brought to completion within reasonable timeframes.

MEASURE 4: AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD IN DURHAM

		Goal	Preceding Fiscal Years			Current Fiscal Year 08/09			
			FY 05/06	FY 06/07	FY 07/08	Jul - Sep	Jul - Dec	Jul - Mar	Jul - Jun
S	CIVIL CASES - 90% of the Active Pending Caseload is Less Than One Year Old		90%	70%	79%	79%	81%	82%	80%
U									
P									
E	CRIMINAL FELONY CASES - 90% of the Active Pending Caseload is Less Than One Year Old	90%	76%	76%	71%	73%	73%	68%	69%
R									
I									
O	CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR APPEAL CASES - 90% of the Active Pending Caseload is Less Than 180 Days Old	90%	29%	35%	40%	33%	32%	39%	43%
R									
C									
T	CIVIL CASES - 98% of the Active Pending Caseload is Less Than 18 Months Old	98%	86%	91%	90%	88%	87%	87%	86%
D									
I									
S	DOMESTIC CASES - 90% of the Active Pending Caseload is Less Than Six Months Old	90%	72%	69%	61%	63%	59%	74%	86%
R									
I									
C	CRIMINAL NON-MOTOR VEHICLE CASES - 100% of Active Pending Caseload is Less Than One Year Old	100%	77%	74%	79%	81%	83%	86%	85%
T									
C									
T									

NOTE: The recommended measure of pending cases is "active pending cases." This measure assumes the ability to identify and screen out those pending cases which are inactive, e.g., cases in which a criminal defendant has absconded and for whom an order for arrest has been issued, or a civil matter in which a party files for bankruptcy, staying the State court matter indefinitely. The Judicial Department's information systems do not distinguish between active and inactive pending cases, so the percentages above reflect aging data on all pending cases. It is likely that the percentage of Durham's *active* pending caseload is somewhat closer to the State's goals than the percentages above. For additional information on case processing in Durham and throughout the State, go to the Court Performance Management System section of the North Carolina Court System's home page at <http://www.nccourts.org>.