

Update of the Resource Assessment Study Model and Workload Formula

Data Analytics Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

May 7, 2025



Agenda

- Overview of RAS model methodology
- 2024 RAS study findings
- Overview of Workload Formula (WF) policy and methodology

RAS: A Weighted Caseload Model

- Different types of cases are assigned weights to account for differences in workload
- Methodology developed by National Center for State Courts
- Used in at least 30 other states to measure court workload (judicial, court staff, etc.)

RAS: Judicial Council Approved Methodology

- July 2005: The Judicial Council first approved the RAS model methodology
- The Judicial Council approved updated RAS caseweights and other model parameters:
 - February 2013 (Based on a 2010 Time Study)
 - July 2017 (Based on a 2016 Time Study)
 - April 2025 (Based on a 2024 Time Study)

Measuring Workload Captures Variation Due to Multiple Factors

- Case volume
- Case mix
- Case complexity
- Changes over time

Quantifying Staff Workload

- (1) **Filings:** Three-year annual average
- (2) **Caseweights:** Estimates of time to process a case from filing through and including post disposition
- (3) **Work-year value:** The amount of time available for case-related work activities in a year.

$$\text{Assessed Need (FTE)} = \frac{\text{Filings} \times \text{Caseweight}}{\text{Workyear Value}}$$

RAS Output: Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Need

- An estimate of court resource need expressed as an FTE
 - Used in the Workload Formula calculation as the basis for funding allocations to trial courts
 - Caseweights used in other allocation methodologies and to estimate impact of new legislation

2024 Study

- Four-week time diary study in 19 courts
- All case processing staff participate
- Full scope of staff work activities captured and allocated to weights

2024 Study Courts	
Butte	Orange (Probate only)
Calaveras	San Benito
Contra Costa	San Bernardino
El Dorado	San Diego
Fresno	San Francisco
Humboldt	Santa Barbara
Kings	Santa Clara
Lake	Solano
Lassen	Yolo
Los Angeles	

2024 Study Output

- Updated weights for 22 casetypes
- New weights for mental health certification and CARE Act cases
- Consolidated weight for infractions cases
- Updated work-year value (WYV) to reflect new state holiday and updated leave averages

Proposed New WYV and Percent Change from Previous

Work-year Value (WYV) Change

Study	Total Minutes	Total Hours
2017 Time Study	98,550.00	1,642.50
2024 Time Study	97,965.00	1,632.75
Difference	585.00	9.75
% Difference	1%	1%

Study Findings

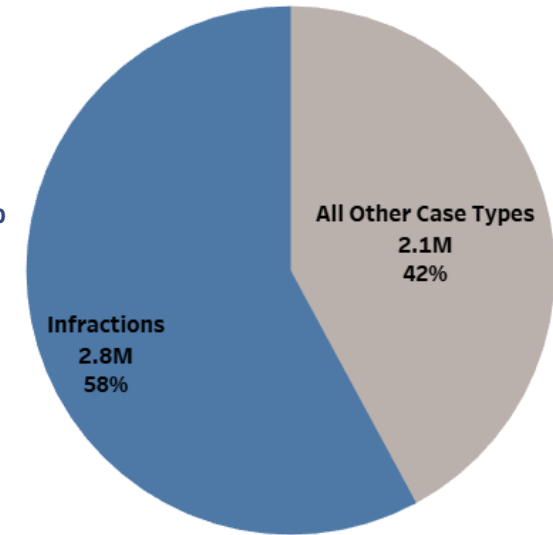
1. Number of court transactions \neq court workload
2. Case complexity increasing for many casetypes

FY 2023-2024 Filings and Weighted Filings

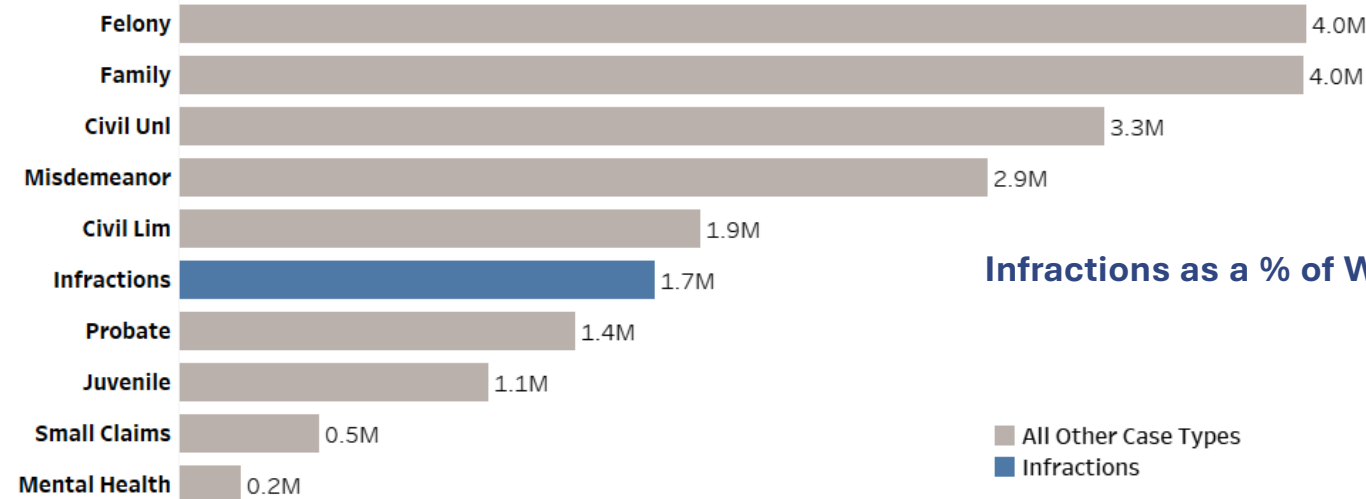
Number of Transactions (Filings/Volume)



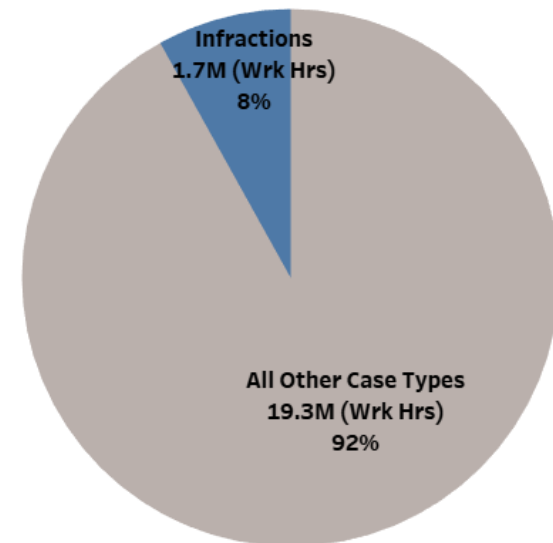
Infractions as a % of Transactions: 58%



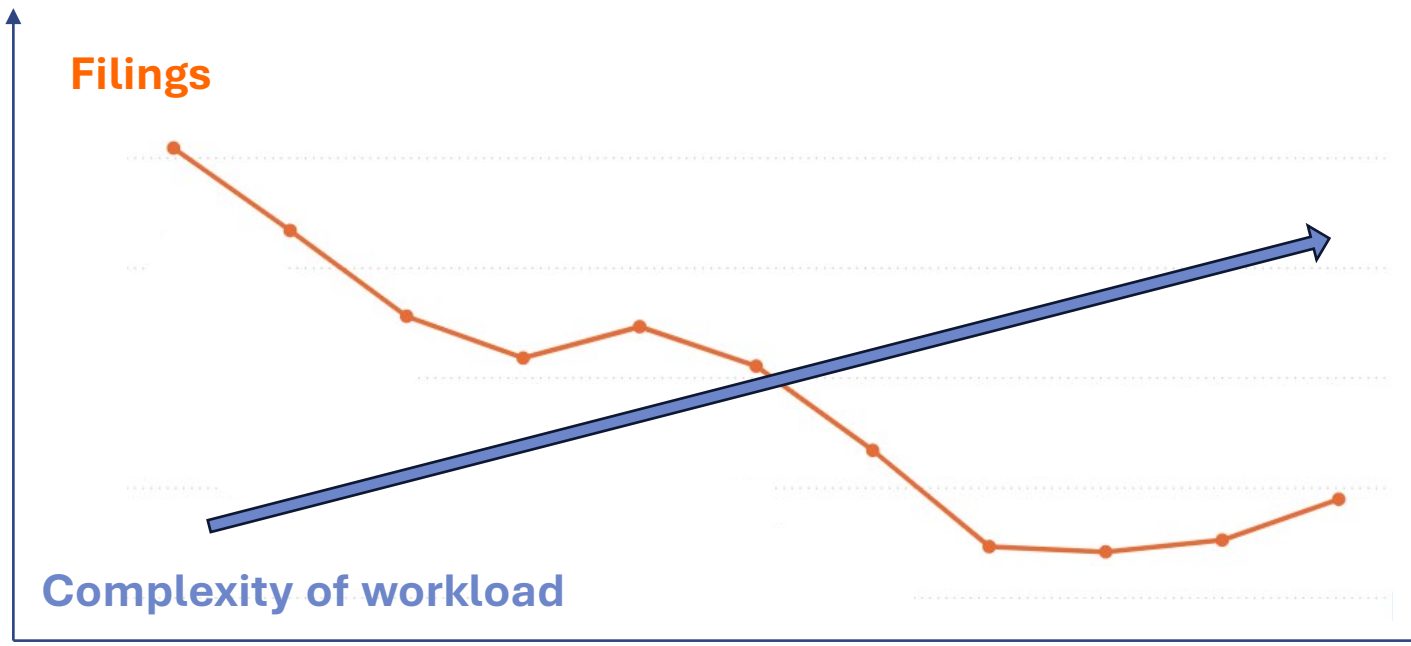
Amount of Workload (Weighted Filings)



Infractions as a % of Workload: 8%



Case Complexity Increasing (Conceptual Model)



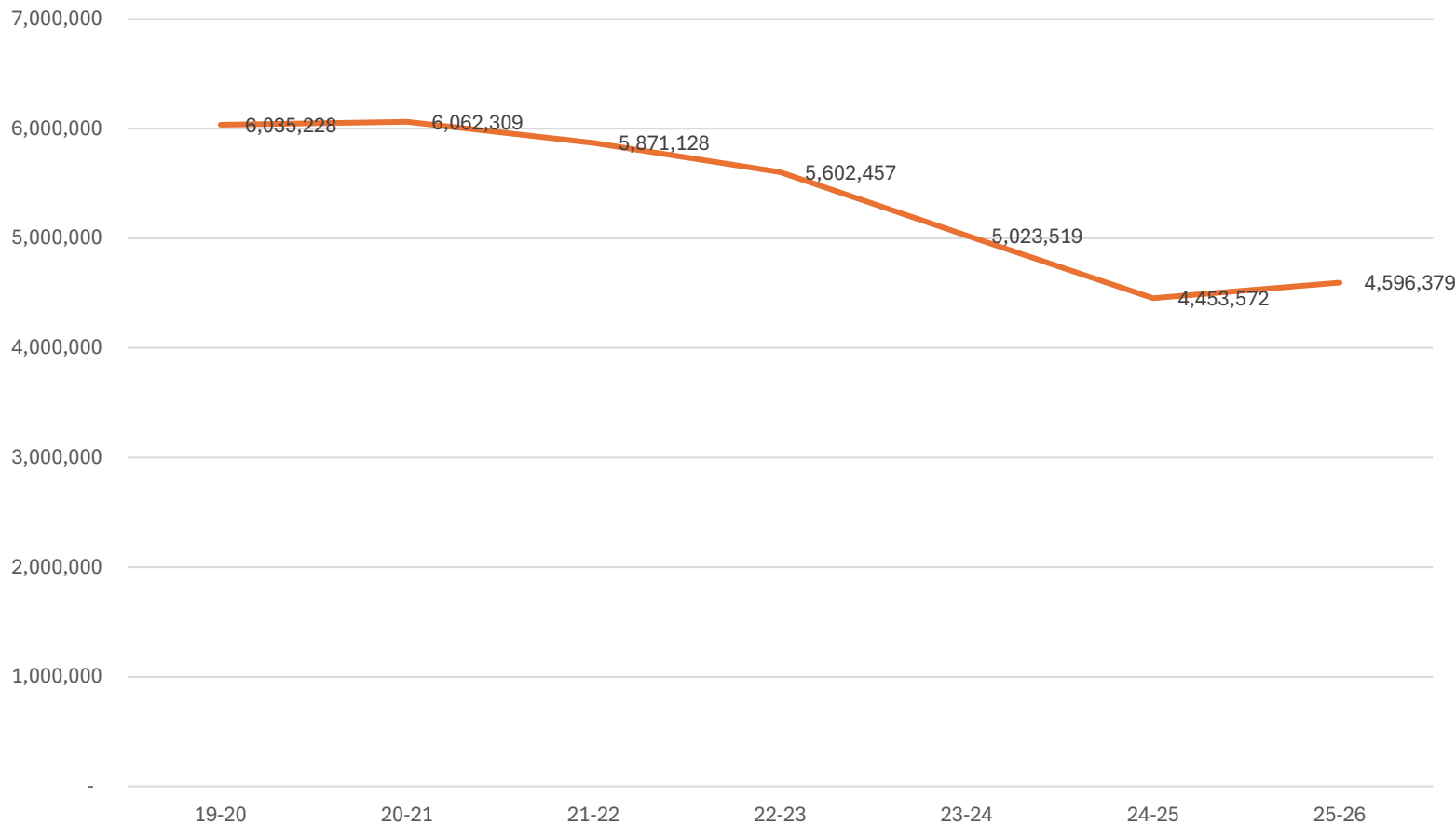
- Post-judgement resentencing (e.g., felony)
- Diversion (e.g., misdemeanor non-traffic)
- Some cases more serious, more violent, more complex (e.g., juvenile justice)

Filings trends since last RAS update



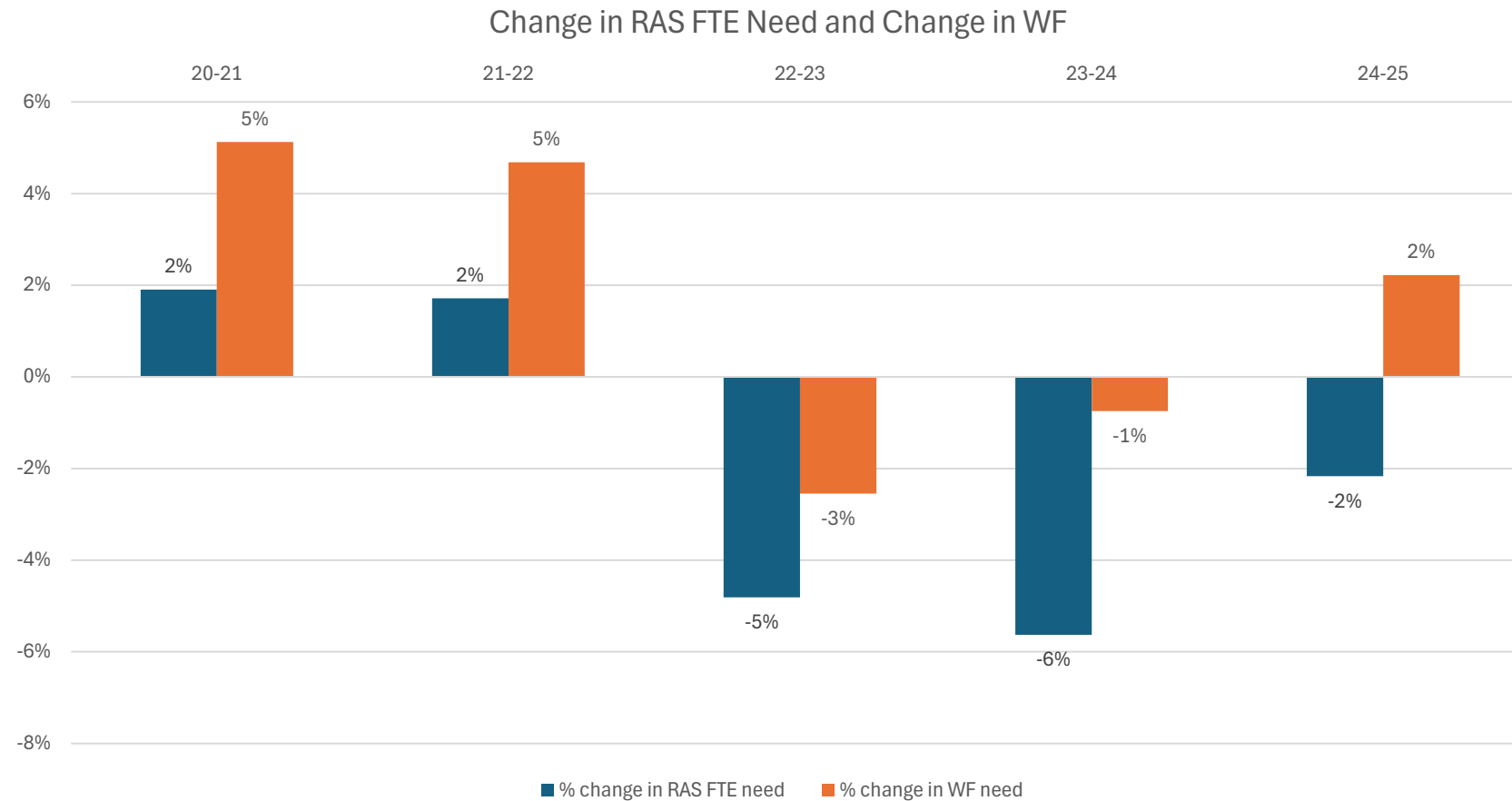
FY	Filings	Change
17-18	6,131,168	
18-19	6,104,504	-0.4%
19-20	5,336,733	-13%
20-21	4,460,874	-16%
21-22	4,413,834	-1%
22-23	4,518,895	2%
23-24	4,890,450	8%

Three-year average filings used in WF



FY	Three year avg filings	% change
19-20	6,035,228	
20-21	6,062,309	0.4%
21-22	5,871,128	-3%
22-23	5,602,457	-5%
23-24	5,023,519	-10%
24-25	4,453,572	-11%
25-26	4,596,379	3%

RAS FTE Need Change and WF Change



Areas of Committee Discussion

- Desire to understand reasons for changes in the weights
- Interest in understanding impact of authorized judicial positions to a court's workload need

Proposed New Weights and Percent Change from Previous Weights

Case Type	Caseweights 2017	Caseweights 2025	% Difference
Asbestos	3,625	4,120	14%
Complex	1,921	1,240	-35%
Conservatorship/ Guardianship	2,225	2,727	23%
Dissolution/Separation/Nullity	861	1,032	20%
Estates/Trusts	1831	657	-64%
Family Law- All other petitions	571	904	58%
Family Law- Child Support	405	406	0%
Family Law- Domestic Violence	475	525	11%
Family Law- Parentage	1,260	1,178	-7%
Felony	813	1,309	61%
Infractions (courts with <100k filings)	38	36	N/A
Infractions (courts with >100k filings)	22	36	N/A
Juvenile Delinquency	646	1,117	73%
Juvenile Dependency	1,211	1,455	20%
Limited Civil	182	203	12%
Mental Health	324	254	-22%
Mental Health Certification	49	29	-40%
Misdemeanor- traffic	103	246	139%
Misdemeanor-non traffic	478	464	-3%
Small Claims	259	387	49%
Unlawful Detainer	276	298	8%
Unlimited Civil	719	683	-5%

Next Steps

- Data Analytics Advisory Committee will continue to review the model and may recommend adjustments if needed

Using the RAS Output in the Workload Formula Policy

Workload Formula Policy

- Shift from funding model based on historical levels to workload need
- 5-year transition plan began in FY 2013–14 (WAFM)
- Workload Formula implemented in FY 2018–19
- Subsequent actions by Judicial Council to refine the Workload Formula policy

Workload Formula Policy Principles

- Minimize volatility, maximize stability and predictability
- Evaluate Adjustment Request Process submissions from trial courts
- Allow time for adjustment and adaptation
- Be responsive to local circumstances

Workload Formula Policy Principles (cont.)

- Maintain transparency and accountability
- Preserve independent authority of trial courts
- Simplify reporting while maintaining transparency

RAS Output to Workload Formula Calculation

- RAS generates an estimate of court resource need expressed as an FTE
- Adjustments include updated filings, salary, benefits, OE&E, BLS, and CEO salary data
- The FTE need is converted to a dollar need to be used in the Workload Formula calculation

FY 2024–25 Workload Formula Calculation

Workload Formula need is compared to available funding (allocation) to calculate the statewide funding percentage

Workload Formula Allocation (\$2.5B)

Workload Formula Need (\$2.7B)



**Workload
Formula
Percentage
91.3%**

Workload Formula Allocation Policies

Specific Workload Formula allocation policies are implemented for certain budget circumstances:

- Equity-based reallocation
- New money (discretionary)
- Funding reduction

FY 2025–26 Workload Formula Allocation

Workload Formula methodology will include:

- Updated need based on existing methodology and 2017 caseweights
- Ongoing \$55M baseline reduction
- Equity-based reallocation

FY 2025–26 Other Trial Court Allocations

Other significant trial court allocations proposed for FY 2025–26:

- \$40M for trial court operational cost increases
- \$20M for trial court employee benefits

Next Steps

- May 14 – Release of the Governor's May Revision update to the FY 2025–26 budget
- May 22 – TCBAC will consider trial court allocations for FY 2025–26 based on the Workload Formula Policy

Questions?

