



To: The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Michael D. Hurley, Clerk of the Senate
The Honorable Steven T. James, Clerk of the House

From: Ezequiel Ayala, Jr., Chief Fiscal Officer, Massachusetts District Attorneys Association

Date: January 12, 2022

Re: **Annual Report on the District Attorneys' Prosecution Statistics**

As required by Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021¹ the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association submits to the Ways & Means Committees data from the District Attorneys relative to their criminal prosecutions and workloads for calendar year 2021.

While the reports of the individual districts delineating their workloads by charge or category of work are attached, below please find a synopsis of the calendar year 2021 totals per listed category² pertaining to the 11 District Attorney Offices:

¹ 0340-2100 "[N]ot later than January 14, 2022, the association shall work in conjunction with the 11 district attorneys' offices to prepare and submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate; provided further, that the association shall provide said offices with an agreed-upon template for the report to be filled out; provided further, that said offices shall submit said report in a standard electronic format; provided further, that said template shall include, delineated by charge type: (a) the number of criminal cases initiated by arraignment in each department of the trial court; (b) the number of criminal cases disposed of in each department of the trial court; (c) the number of cases appealed to the appeals courts, the supreme judicial court, a single justice of the appeals court or the supreme judicial court or any other appeals; (d) the number of cases reviewed but not charged; and (e) the number of cases under active management where the case includes charges for drug offenses under chapter 94C of the General Laws, motor vehicle charges under chapter 90 of the General Laws or firearm offenses under chapter 140 of the General Laws."

² Data lists total charges with the exception of "Appellate Work," "Cases Reviewed/Not Charged," and "Other Work," all of which measure cases, investigations or a specific event.

Superior Court/Youthful Offender:

Arrested: 265

Disposed: 202

Actively Managed: 952

Juvenile Court:

Arrested: 6,837

Disposed: 8,259

Actively Managed: 15,642

Diversion: 4,223

Superior Court (Adult):

Arrested: 16,878

Disposed: 10,362

Actively Managed: 48,949

District Court (Adult):

Arrested: 279,503

Disposed: 277,164

Actively Managed: 446,180

Appellate Work: 3,125

Cases Reviewed/Not Charged: 56,903

Other Work: 104,675

As also required by the reporting language of line item 0340-2100, please find specific charges below, broken down by court:

Superior Court/Youthful Offender:

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arrested: 5

Disposed: 7

Actively Managed: 30

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arrested: 3

Disposed: 7

Actively Managed: 20

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arrested: 89

Disposed: 91

Actively Managed: 278

Juvenile Court:

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arrested: 1018

Disposed: 1175

Actively Managed: 1796

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arrested: 186

Disposed: 240

Actively Managed: 391

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arrested: 486

Disposed: 376

Actively Managed: 934

Superior Court (Adult):

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arrested: 392

Disposed: 304

Actively Managed: 1,098

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arrested: 2,416

Disposed: 1,884

Actively Managed: 7,944

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 3,825

Disposed: 1,726

Actively Managed: 7,851

District Court (Adult):

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arraigned: 118,072

Disposed: 118,930

Actively Managed: 162,791

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arraigned: 23,586

Disposed: 22,646

Actively Managed: 42,947

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 10,845

Disposed: 8,510

Actively Managed: 17,239

Attached to this memo are the individual submissions from the 11 District Attorney Offices. The District Attorneys utilize the same case management system (DAMION) but differ significantly in how each office defines its data and inputs and reports that data, as well as whether certain data is even tracked at all. Please also note that, due to administrative staffing issues, not all offices are able to input all cases (especially those in the district courts) into DAMION, resulting in underreporting of cases; and not all offices are able to quickly close disposed cases, resulting in over reporting. Finally, please recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ensuing court closures, have limited the District Attorneys' ability to prosecute cases in 2020 and 2021. Moreover, the number of actively managed cases continues to increase substantially. Furthermore, the backlog of cases continues to grow in 2022.