

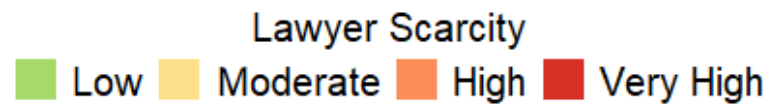
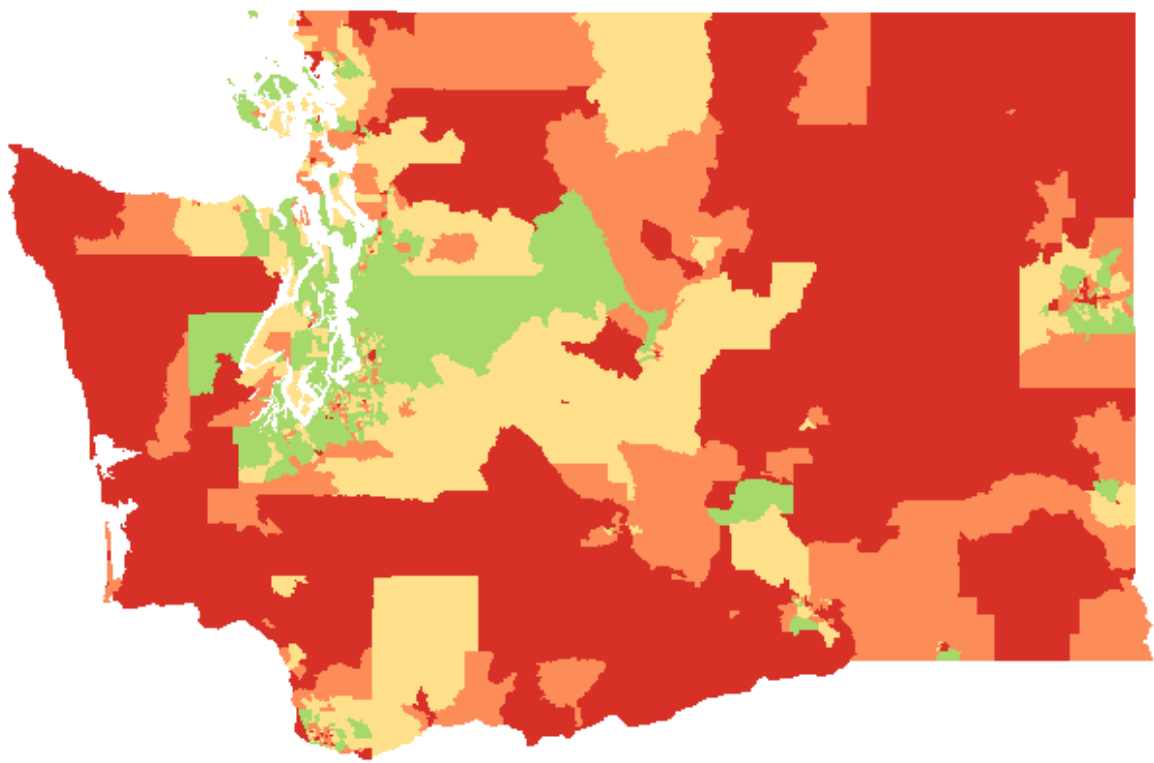


Local Measures of Lawyer Scarcity

Washington State Center for Court Research
July 26, 2024

On average, there are 2x more criminal law attorneys per 1,000 adults, and 2.5x more family law attorneys per 1,000 families accessible in **low** versus **very high** scarcity neighborhoods

Lawyer Scarcity by Census Tract

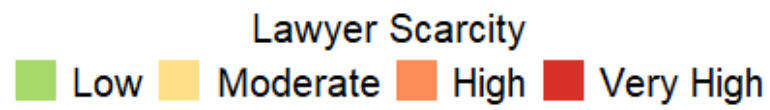
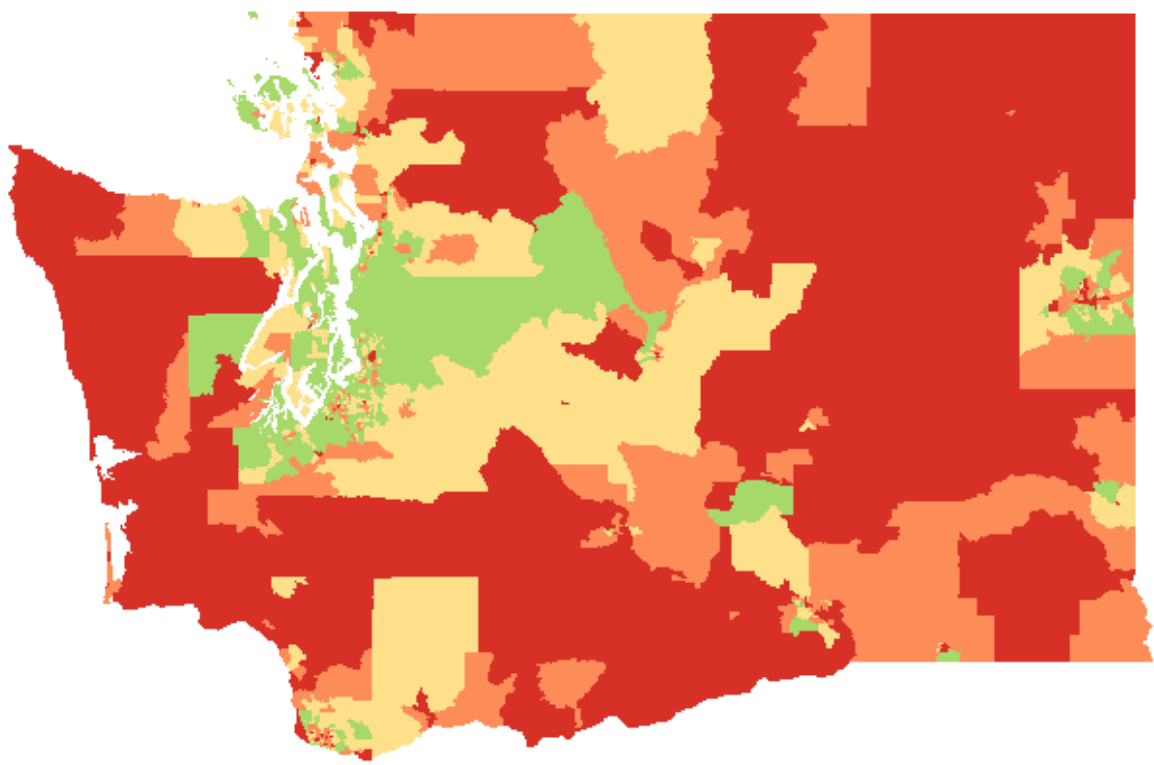


	Average Criminal Law Attorneys per 1,000 population ages 18 and over	Average Family Law/ Guardianship Attorneys per 1,000 families
Low	81	67
Moderate	67	54
High	45	36
Very High	36	26

NOTE: Data includes attorneys located in Oregon and Idaho licensed to practice in Washington.

High and **very high** scarcity areas represent 1/3 of state population but over half of trial court case filings between 2020 and 2023.

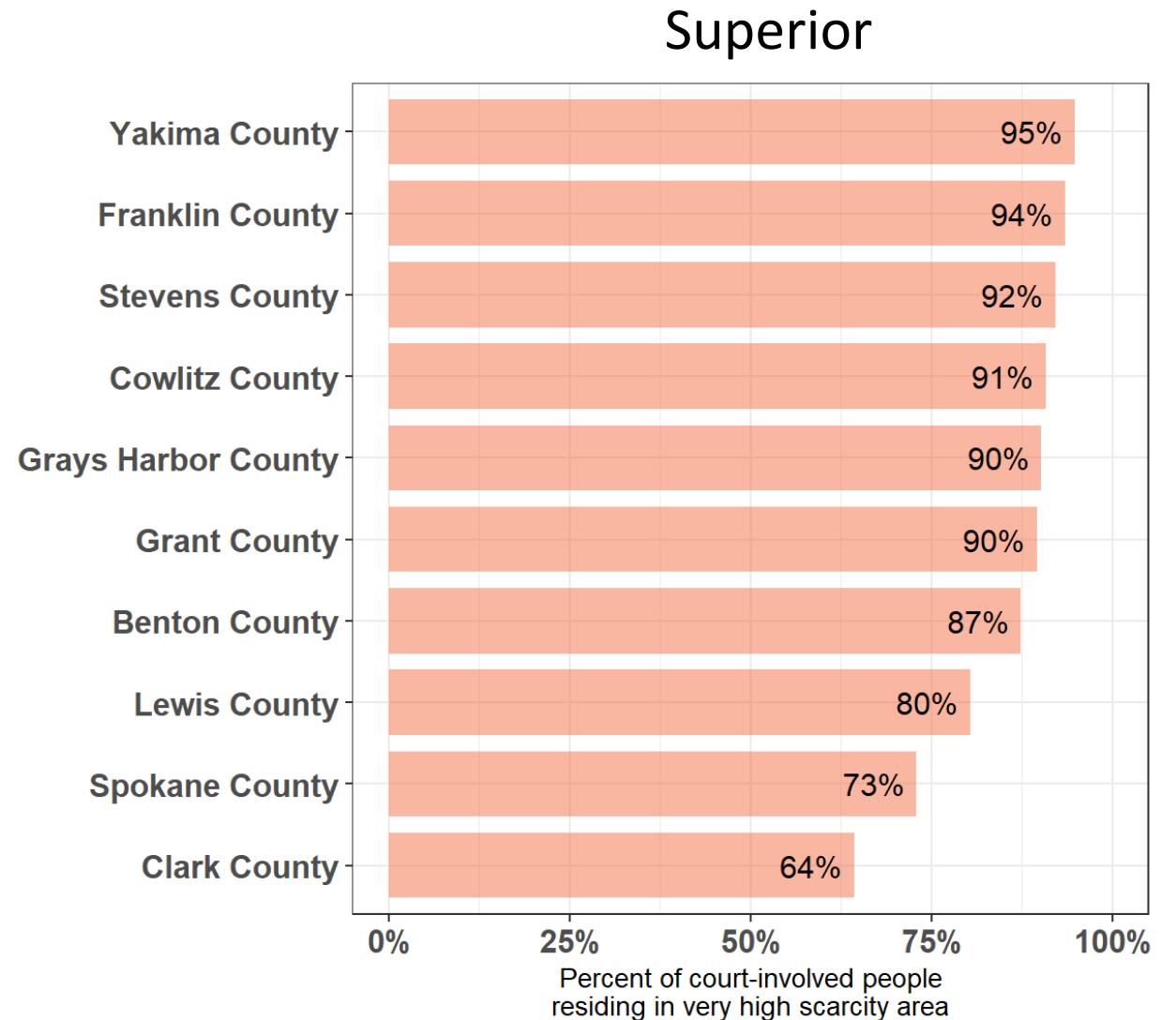
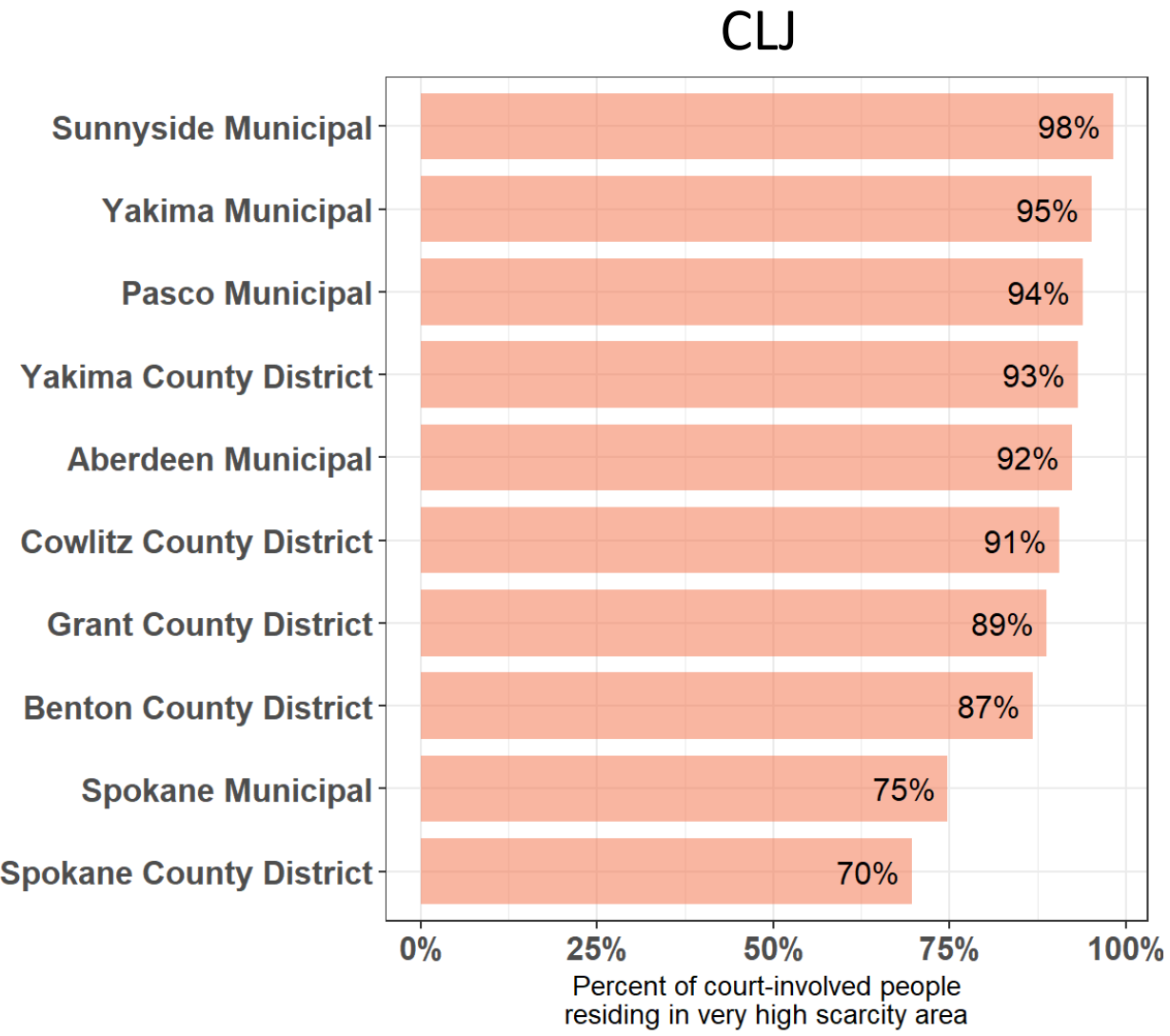
Lawyer Scarcity by Census Tract



	Percent of State Population	Percent of State Trial Court Case Filings
Low	49%	28%
Moderate	18%	18%
High	18%	23%
Very High	15%	31%

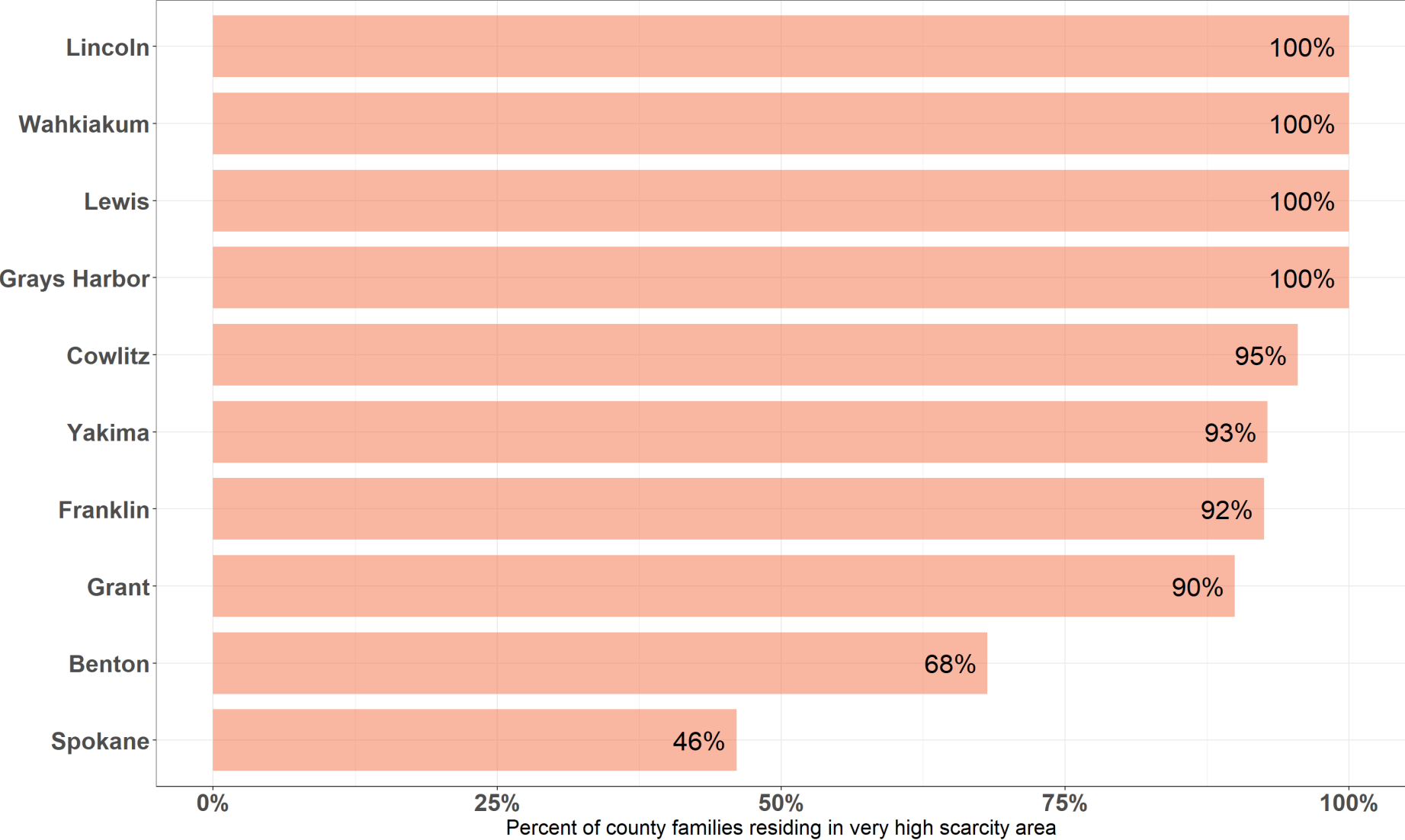
NOTE: Data includes attorneys located in Oregon and Idaho licensed to practice in Washington.

Trial courts with most court-involved population residing in **high** and **very high** scarcity areas, 2020-2023.



NOTE: Selection into top ten weighted by court share of statewide criminal case filings.

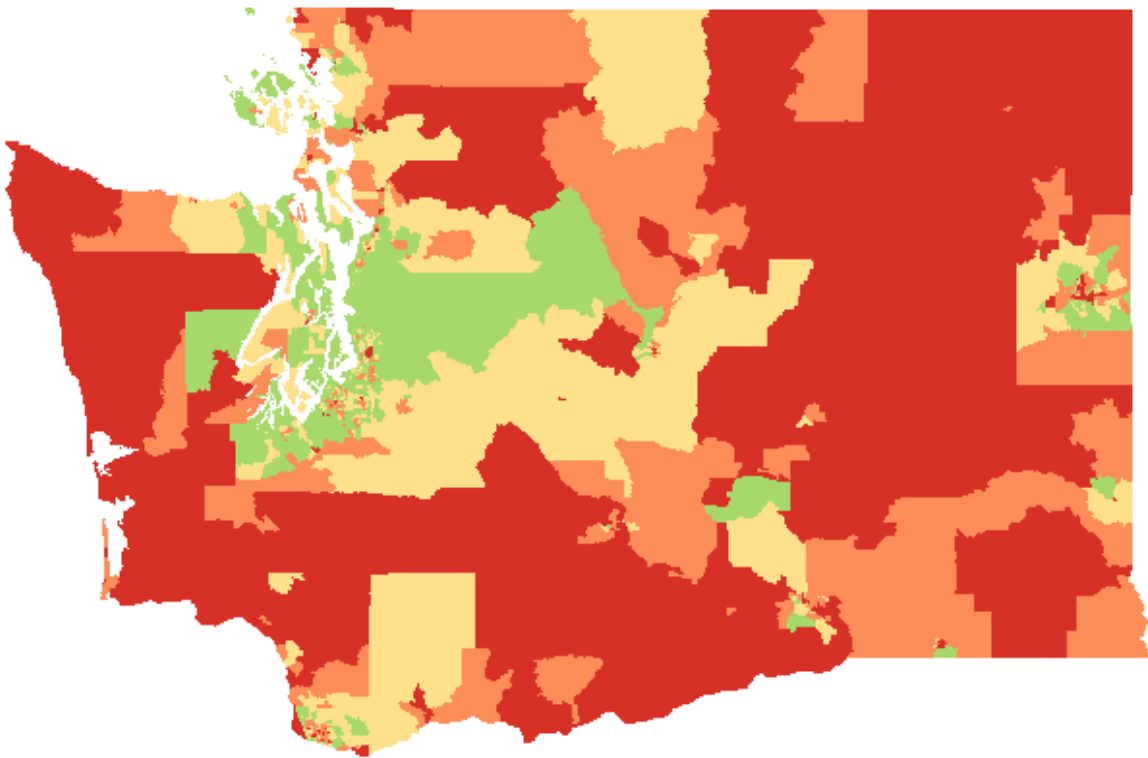
Superior courts with most families in jurisdiction residing in **high** and **very high** scarcity areas, 2020-2023.



NOTE: Selection into top ten weighted by court share of statewide domestic and parentage civil case filings.

60% of Washington’s Native American population and half of the Latino/Hispanic population resides in areas of **high** or **very high** lawyer scarcity.

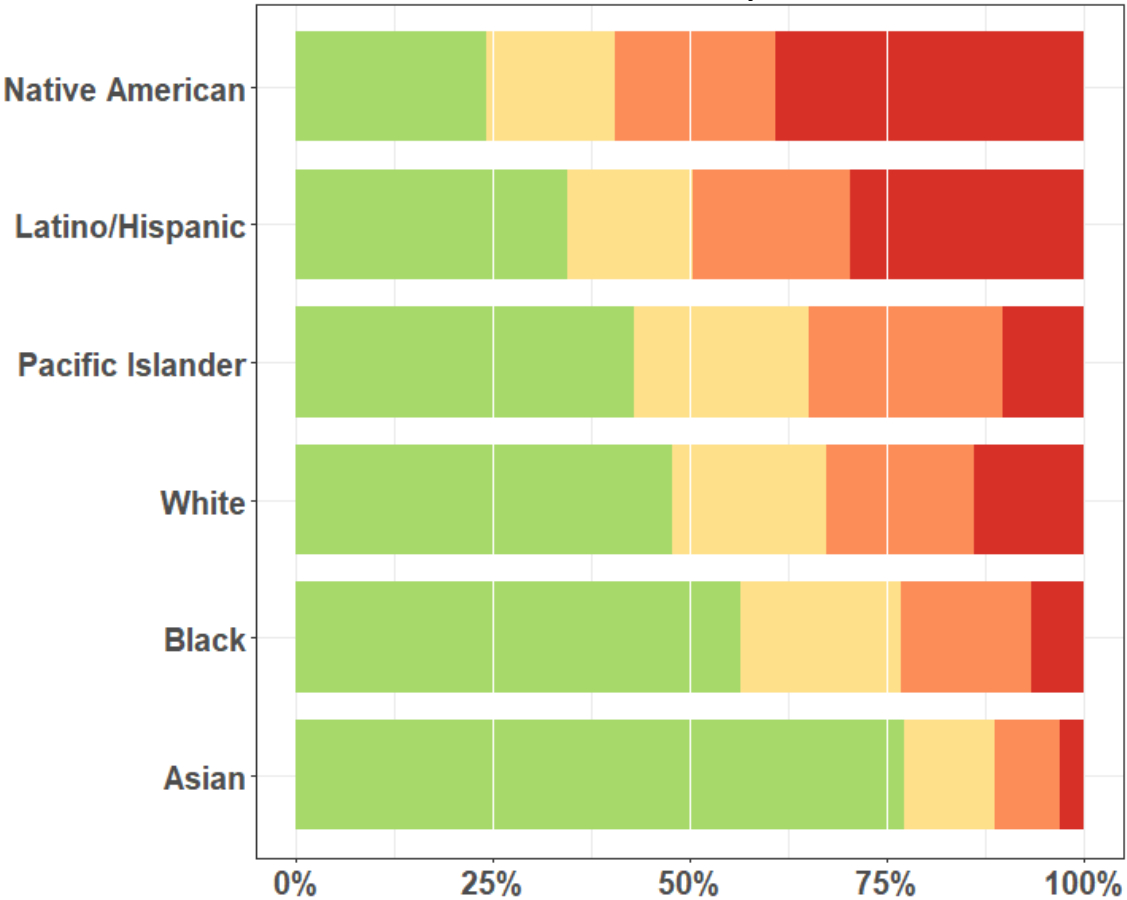
Lawyer Scarcity by Census Tract



Lawyer Scarcity

Low Moderate High Very High

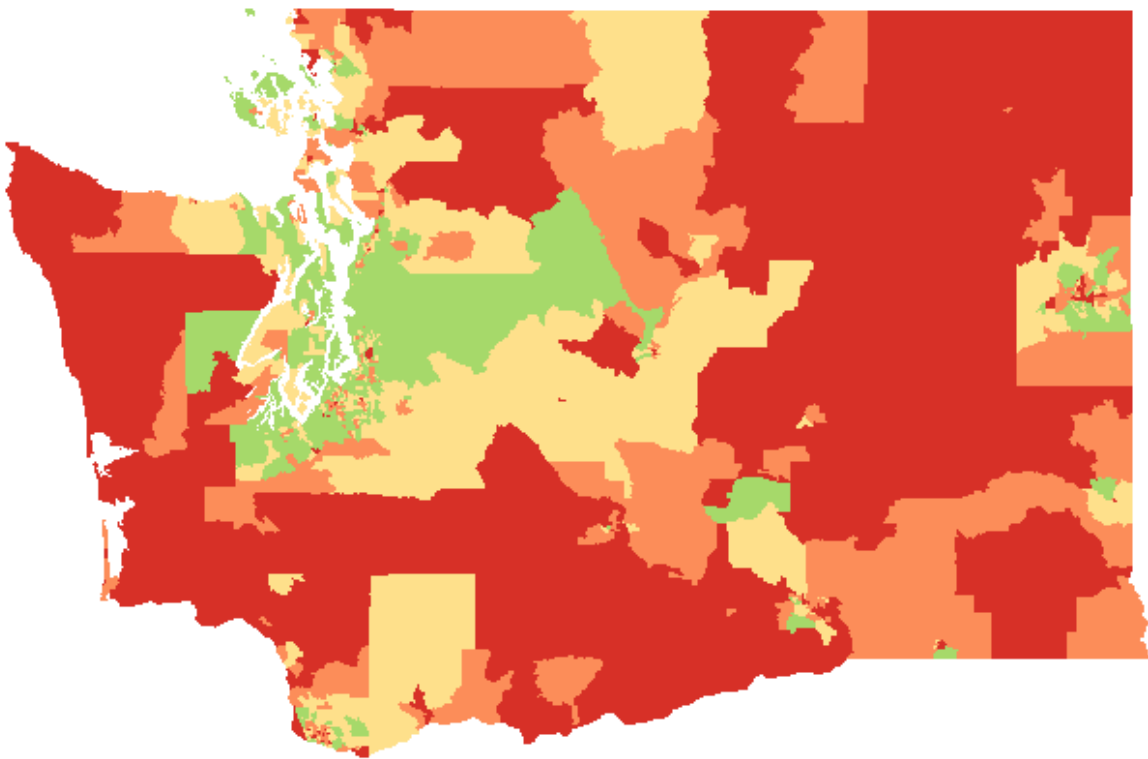
Population distribution by race and ethnicity over scarcity level



NOTE: Data includes attorneys located in Oregon and Idaho licensed to practice in Washington. Population data are OFM 2020-2023 tract-level estimates.

Nearly all residents of Washington’s most socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods reside in areas of **high** or **very high** lawyer scarcity.

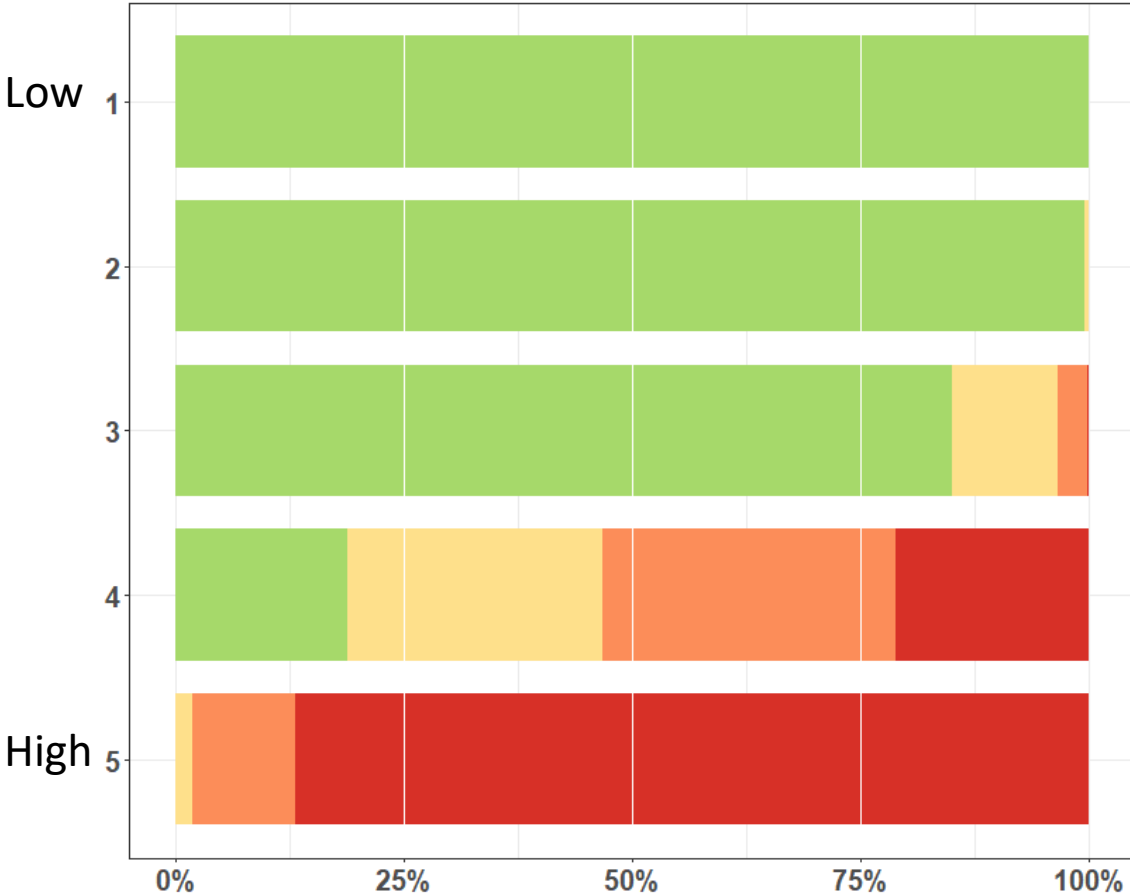
Lawyer Scarcity by Census Tract



Lawyer Scarcity

Low	Moderate	High	Very High
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Population distribution by neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage over scarcity level



NOTE: Data includes attorneys located in Oregon and Idaho licensed to practice in Washington. Population data are OFM 2020-2023 tract-level estimates.

Measuring Scarcity

- **Attorneys per neighborhood area:** Active, eligible attorneys in criminal, traffic offense, family or guardianship practice areas located in Washington, Oregon or Idaho (from WSBA) were assigned to census tracts based on each tract's commuting outflow area, with outflow areas including Oregon and Idaho for areas with out-of-state commuters. Attorney counts in a commuting-zone were weighted using a distance decay function.
- **Attorneys per cases filed:** Court-level measure based on attorneys within 3-mile radius of court location and criminal cases (criminal/traffic offense practice area) or domestic/parentage cases filed (family/guardianship practice area). All else being equal, neighborhoods with criminal court-involved people or families in jurisdictions with low ratio of case filings over attorneys within three miles of a court house will have greater access.
- **Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage:** Composite measure of disadvantage informed by level of poverty, educational attainment, unemployment, and other household characteristics.
- **Limited English Proficiency:** Percent of census tract population age 18 or over with at least some difficulty speaking English.
- **No internet access:** Percent of census tract households with no internet access.
- **Court-involvement:** Census tract residents with criminal charges filed in a Washington trial court