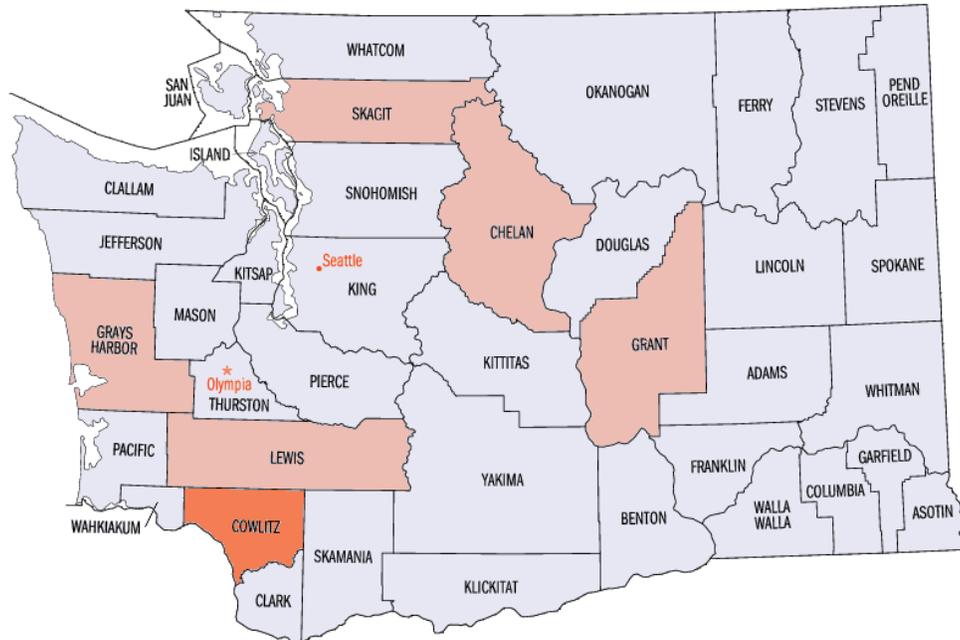


August 2009

Comparative Analysis of Six Washington Superior Courts



Introduction

This study compares and analyzes caseloads, budget and staffing in six superior courts in counties of comparable population. The study resulted from a request in June 2009 by the Cowlitz County Superior Court that the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) examine the demands on the court and the resources available compared to other courts. The court was concerned that recent funding changes have negatively impacted its effectiveness.

This research project involved utilizing standard indicators of organizational effectiveness in the courts of Washington, including caseload, budget, and staffing data. The review of caseload data in all six courts addresses time standards required by RCW 2.56.030 (11) as published in the Washington Court Rules, and the review of staffing data addresses judicial needs as produced and published by the AOC. Due to limits in the data available, these gauges were selected as proxy measures addressing the concerns highlighted by Cowlitz County Superior Court.

This project looked at the court's activities over the last five years (with emphasis on the most recent years). It should be noted that this report documents the very recent past. However, at this point in time there is no way to document the impacts of recent budget decisions because data necessary to measure the effects will not be available for a year or more. Complete caseload data will not be available for 2009 until mid-2010.

Citation: Appel, J., Austin, G., Backus, B., Zipoy, J. (2009), *Comparative Analysis of Six Washington Superior Courts*. Olympia: Washington State Center for Court Research

Methods

Comparison Courts

The following jurisdictions were chosen as comparison courts based on county population and total superior court filings: Chelan, Grant, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Skagit, and Whatcom. AOC asked the Cowlitz Superior Court Presiding Judge, the Superior Court Administrator, and the County Clerk to contact their counterparts to describe the project and to inform them that AOC would be contacting them to obtain budget and staffing data. The majority of those contacts were completed by the second week of July. Ultimately, Whatcom was eliminated from the analysis because the data needed were unavailable.

Budget Data

Budget analysis in the report is based on budget and actual expenditure data available in July 2009, including revised and amended 2009 budgets. AOC called the contacts in each jurisdiction to ask them to provide budget and expenditure data for 2007, 2008, and 2009. Information came in over the last two weeks of July in a variety of formats: primarily printed budgets and .pdf files. Because the report was due by mid-August, courts who had not submitted budgets were re-contacted and asked to provide actual expenditure totals for 2007 and 2008 and budget totals for 2009. If budget information could not be obtained directly from the courts and clerk's offices, actual expenditures and budget data were collected from county web sites, where available. All the budget data were entered and compiled by AOC staff (63 sets).

Indigent defense is included in some superior court budgets in some years. In order to try to compare similar data among the comparison jurisdictions, indigent defense amounts were removed from superior court budgets. Capital expenditures were removed from all budgets where it could be identified (generally small amounts under \$20,000). Some, but not all budgets include interfund transfers (payments made for centralized county services such as communications or computer services). However, when data were compared with and without interfund transfers, the difference was not statistically significant. Therefore, interfund transfers were included.

As many budgets were only available at a summary or total level, it was not possible to identify funding sources, such as state funds and grants, other than county funds.

Staffing Data

AOC contacted each jurisdiction to obtain detailed 2008 and 2009 staffing data, and staffing reductions over the previous year. The data were entered and compiled by AOC staff. Staffing data for 2007 were obtained from the Caseloads of the Courts of Washington published by AOC. Staffing to judicial officer ratios were calculated by AOC staff. Cowlitz County Clerk staffing data includes two clerk positions funded from the County's Law & Justice budget.

Judicial Officer Data

Judge and Commissioner FTE data, judicial need data, and the judicial need gap data were obtained from the Caseloads of the Courts of Washington. Judicial need is derived from the objective workload analysis conducted by AOC (see Appendix A).

Caseload Data

Case filing and resolution data, and case processing time standard data were obtained from the Caseloads of the Courts of Washington. Total prosecutor staffing data was obtained from county websites, entered and compiled by AOC staff who then calculated filings per prosecutor. Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data (showing felony reports to law enforcement) were obtained from the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM). UCR data were compiled by AOC staff in order to compare crime rates among jurisdictions and compare those rates to filing data.

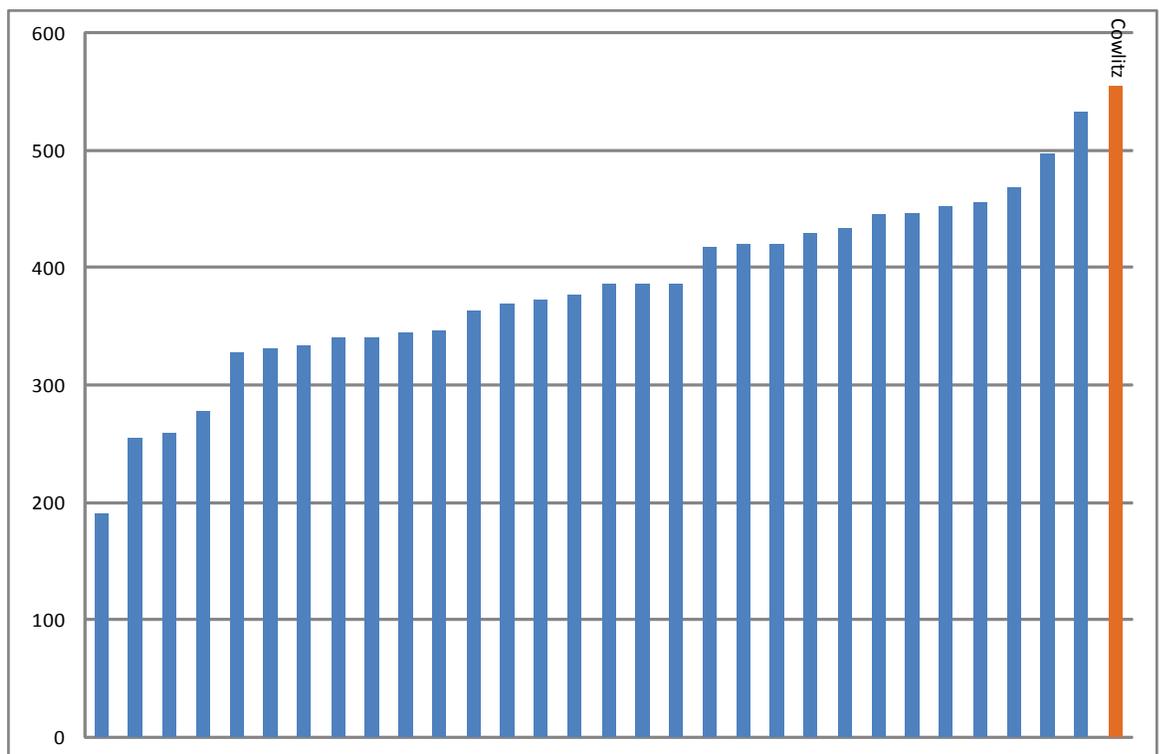
Results - Summary of Findings

1. In 2008 there were more cases filed in Cowlitz County Superior Court per capita than in any other superior court in Washington.
2. Cowlitz Superior Court has the third highest number of cases filed per judicial officer of all superior courts in the state.
3. The judicial needs estimates report produced by the Washington State Center for Court Research in 2008 shows that the Cowlitz Superior Court needs 1.24 more judicial officers than it currently has. An additional judge has been authorized in statute, but neither this judicial position nor the necessary supporting staff has been funded.
4. In 2008, Cowlitz had 4.36 supporting staff per judicial officer compared to the average of 5.36 for the comparison courts. Cuts in the 2009 budget reduced staff in the Cowlitz Clerk's office by 18.2% and in the Juvenile Court by 11.4% below 2008 levels.
5. Cowlitz Superior Court's 2007 and 2008 expenditures show a lower budget to case filing ratio than the average of the comparison courts.
6. From 2003 through 2007, Cowlitz had 18% more felonies reported per capita than the average of the comparison counties, and 55% more felony cases per capita were filed in Cowlitz than in the comparison counties.
7. A higher percentage of the reported felonies resulted in cases being filed than in the comparison counties (27% compared to 24%).
8. Substantially more adult criminal and juvenile offender cases are being filed in Cowlitz Superior Court per judicial officer (55% in 2008) than in the superior court in any comparison county.
9. Substantially more adult criminal and juvenile offender cases are being filed in Cowlitz Superior Court per prosecutor (98% in 2008) than the average of four comparison counties.

Results - Statewide Views

Figure 1. Cases Filed per 10,000 population

Per capita more cases are filed in Cowlitz County Superior Court than in any other superior court in Washington. In 2008, 556 cases per 10,000 population were filed in Cowlitz, 46 % more than the statewide average of 380.

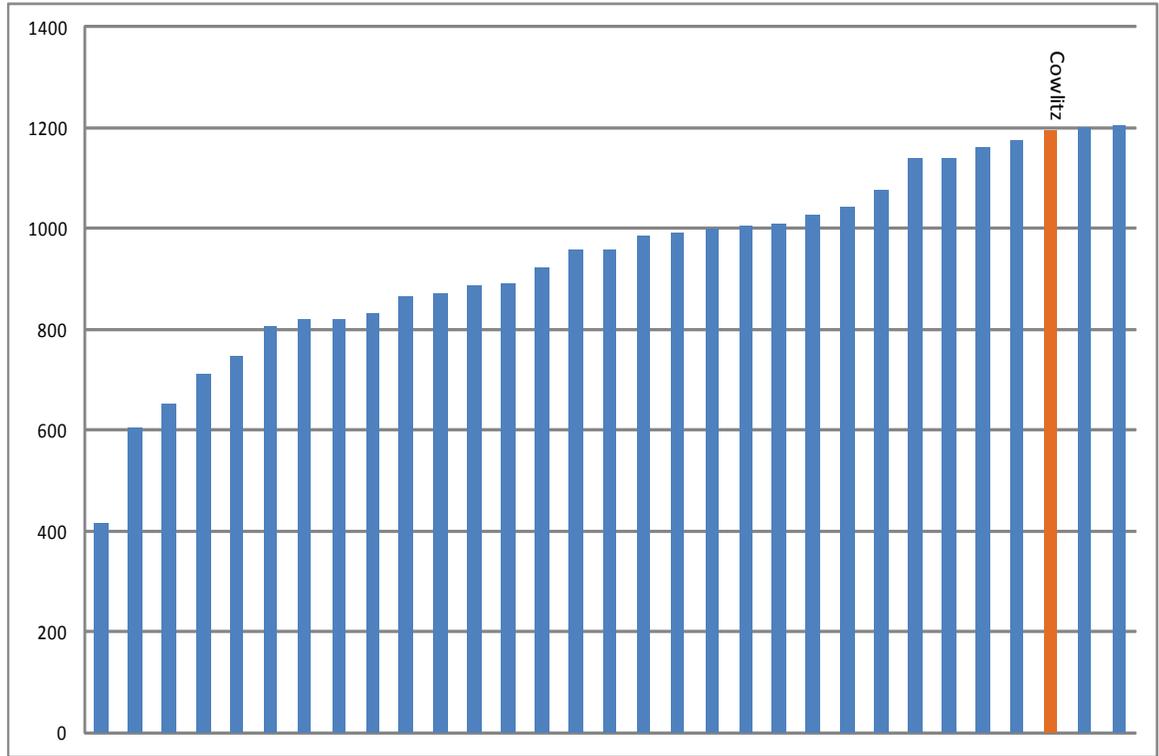


Please Note: All data used to create the charts in this report can be found in Appendix B.

Results - Statewide Views

Figure 2. Filings per Judicial Officer

Compared to other superior courts in 2008, the Cowlitz County Superior Court had the third highest number of cases filed per judicial officer. In 2008, 1193 cases per judicial officer were filed in Cowlitz versus the average statewide of 1016, a 17 % difference.



Results - Court Specific

To get a better understanding of the caseload and resources in Cowlitz, five superior courts in counties with similar populations, case filings, numbers of judicial officers and staff, and characteristics (essentially rural) were chosen to examine in more detail. This section of the report examines how Cowlitz Superior Court compares to these five similar courts.

Because proportionally more criminal cases were filed in Cowlitz than in the comparison counties in the

years studied, the study gathered information on reported felonies and on county prosecutor staff.

The report also provides information on clearance ratios for felonies and on the courts' success in meeting time standards for criminal cases.

Finally, the report looks at the resources available to Cowlitz in relation to the workload expressed in cases filed and compared to the other five courts.

Table 1. Characteristics of the Six Included Courts, 2008

County	2008 Population	2008 Filings	Number of Judges	Number of Commissioners	Total Judicial Officers	Number of Clerk Staff	Number of Court Staff	Number of Juvenile Staff
Chelan	72,100	3,287	3.00	1.00	4.00	19.00	7.00	40.00
Cowlitz	99,000	5,502	4.00	0.61	4.61	22.00	3.20	44.00
Grant	84,600	3,273	3.00	0.75	3.75	16.50	3.00	37.00
Grays Harbor	70,900	3,528	3.00	0.00	3.00	12.00	4.20	28.00
Lewis	74,700	3,328	3.00	1.00	4.00	15.00	7.00	no data
Skagit	117,500	6,265	4.00	1.50	5.50	21.00	11.20	35.10

Results - Court Specific

Figure 3. Gap between Total Judicial Officers and Judicial Needs, 2008

In 2008 Cowlitz had 1.24 fewer judicial officers than judicial needs estimates.

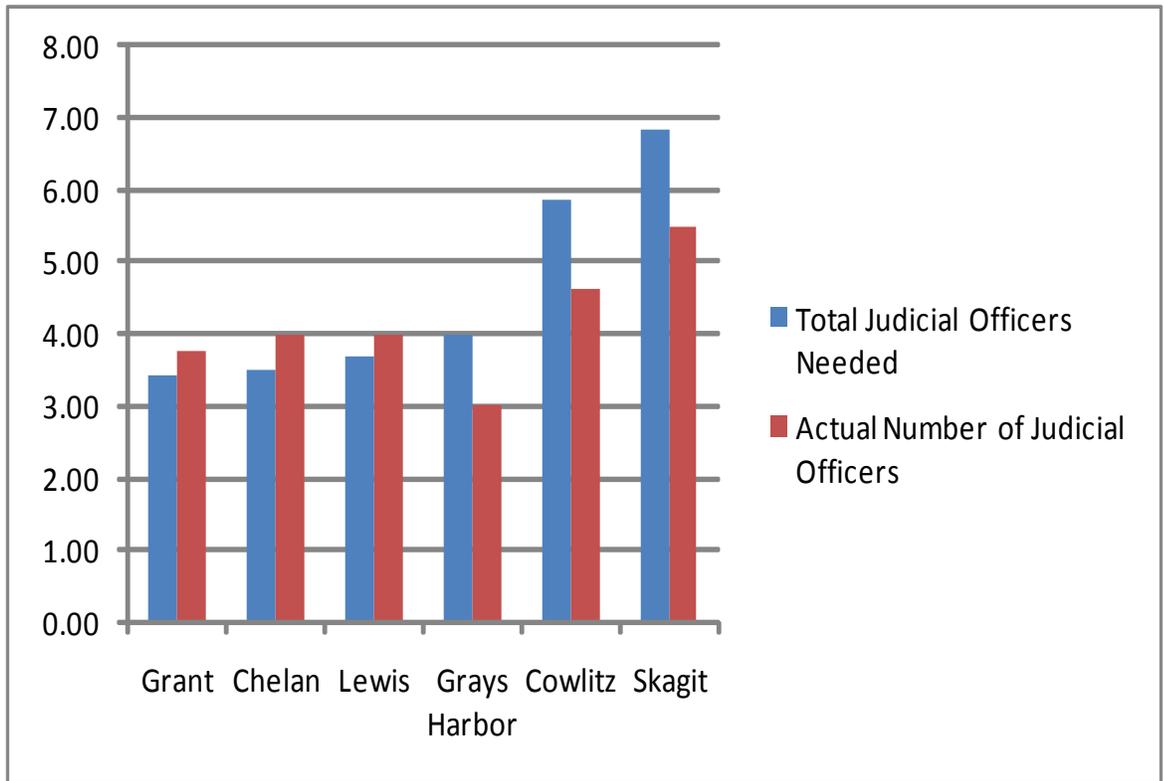
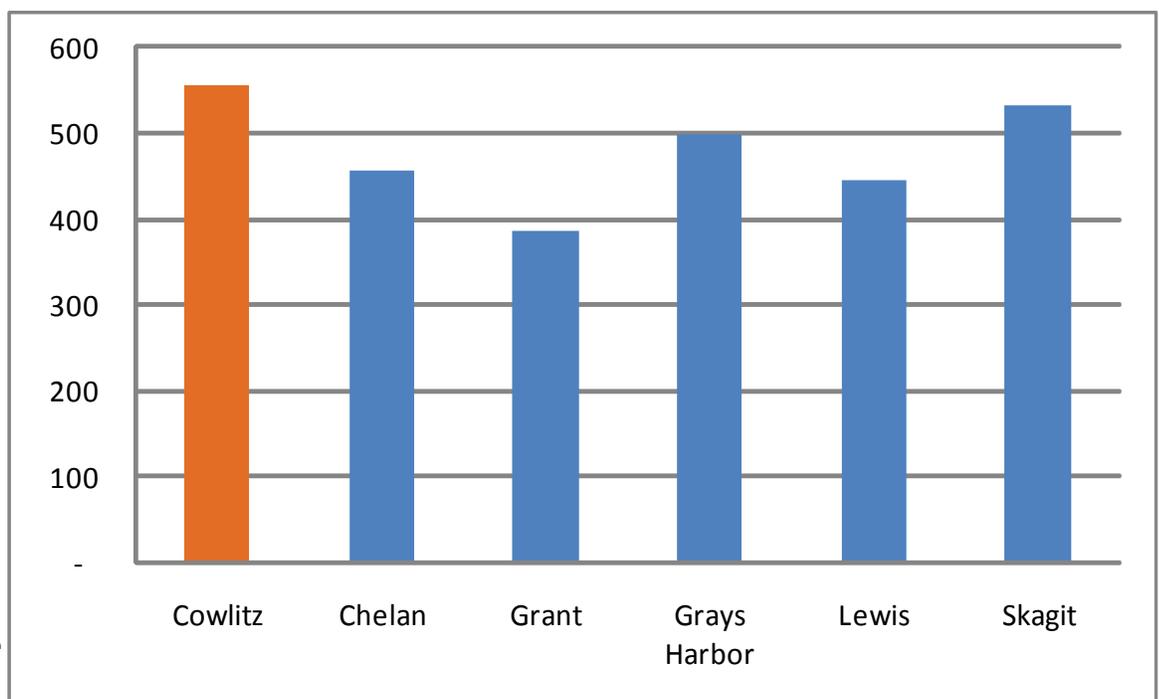


Figure 4. Cases Filed per 10,000 Population, 2008

All of the comparison counties, as well as Cowlitz, had more than the statewide average number of cases (380 per 10,000 population) filed per capita in 2008.



Please Note: A table comparing 2008 filings per 10,000 population across specific case types can be found on page 19 in Appendix B.

Results - Court Specific

Over the five year period (2003 through 2007) Cowlitz had more felonies reported per capita than all but one of the comparison counties. In 2008, Cowlitz had 18 % more reported felonies than the average of the comparison counties and 55 % more felony cases per capita were filed in Cowlitz than in the comparison counties.

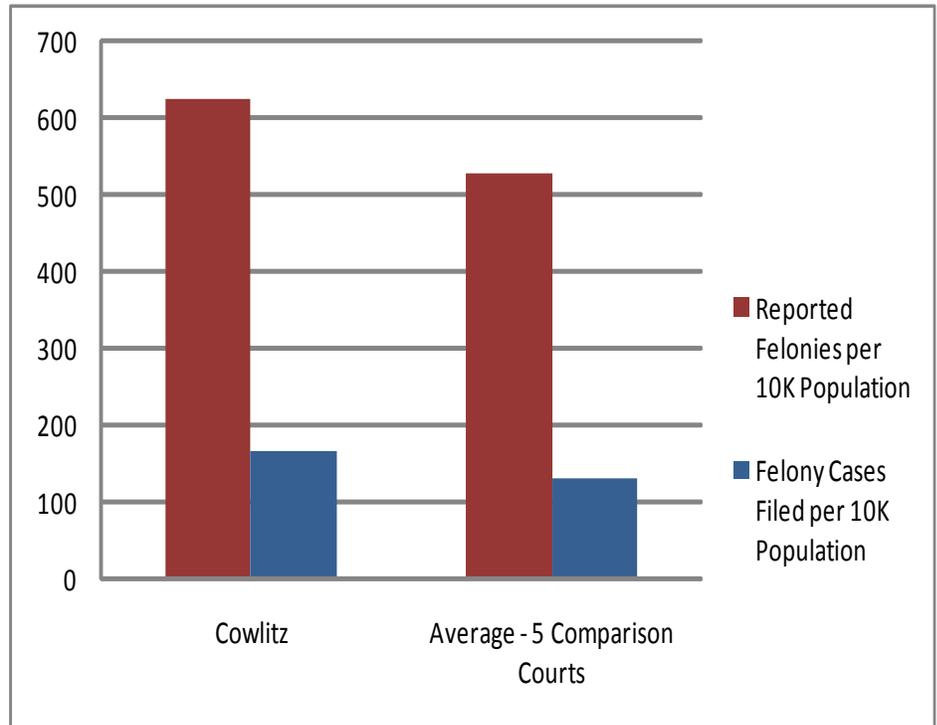


Figure 5. Reported Felonies and Case Counts; 5 Year Average, 2003 - 2007

In addition, in Cowlitz during the five-year period a higher percentage of incidents resulted in cases filed than in the comparison counties. In Cowlitz the number of cases filed was 27 % of reported felonies compared to 24 % in the comparison counties.

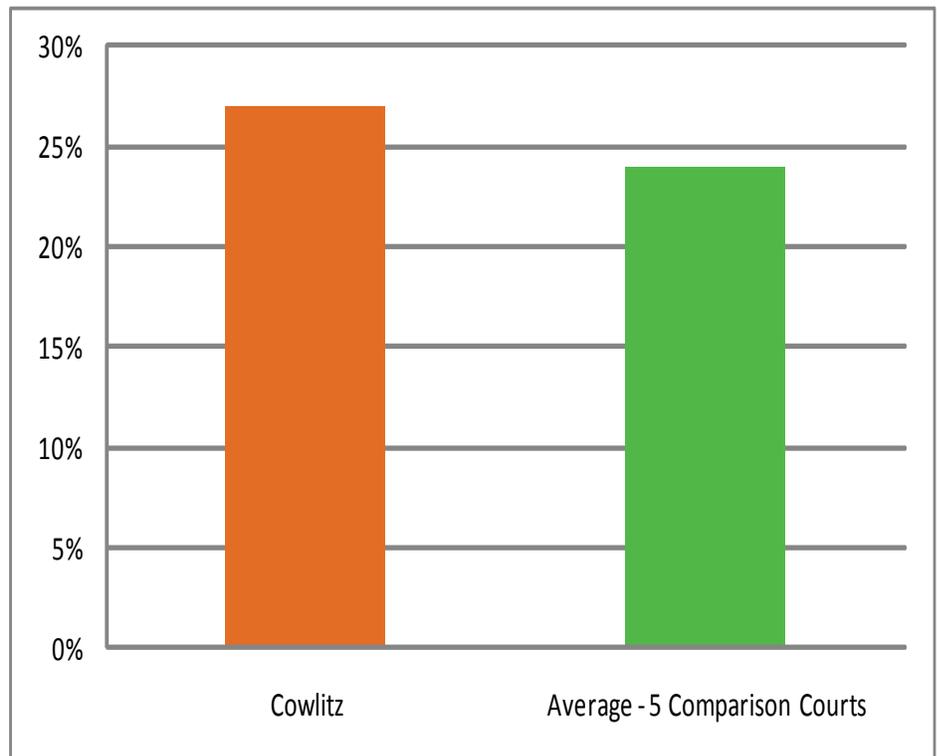


Figure 6. Felony Cases Filed as a Percent of Reported Felonies; 5 Year Average, 2003 - 2007

Results - Court Specific

The clearance ratio is the ratio of cases resolved to cases filed during a given time period. A ratio of less than 1.0 indicates that more cases were filed than resolved. That suggests that the court's capacity to handle cases has been exceeded and that its backlog of cases is growing.

Despite a higher rate of felony case filings, Cowlitz's clearance ratio for felony cases is better than the comparison courts'. However, neither Cowlitz nor any of the comparison courts has met the 1.0 standard during the five year period 2004 through 2008.

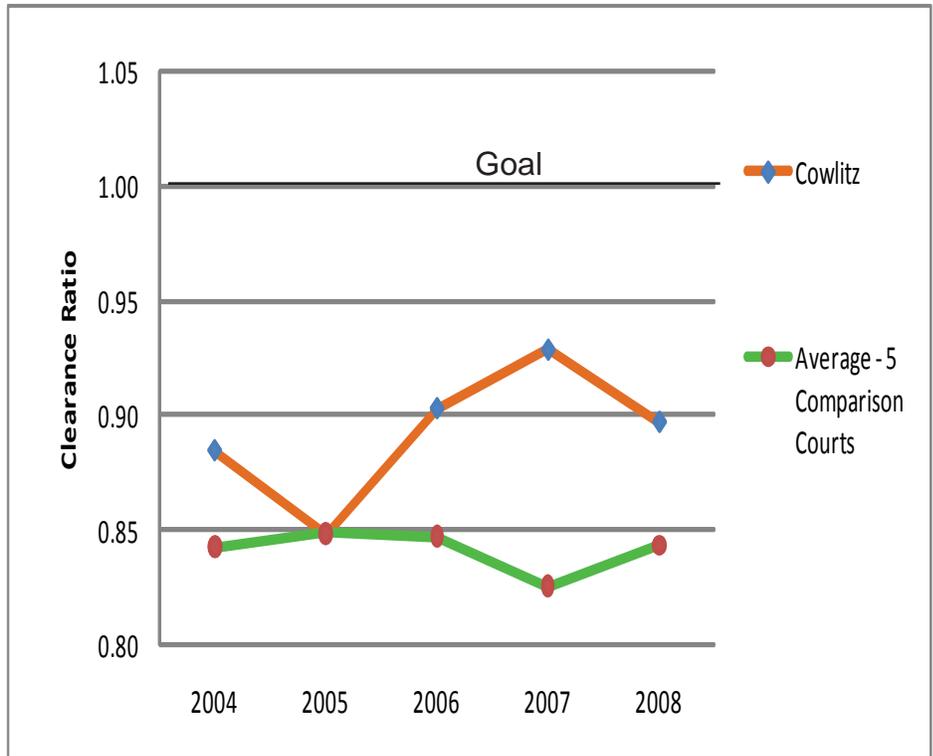


Figure 7. Clearance Ratios for Adult and Juvenile Felonies

Cowlitz Superior Court's clearance ratio for other types of cases has been dropping. It exceeded the standard in 2004, met it in 2005, and fell below in the most recent three years of the period.

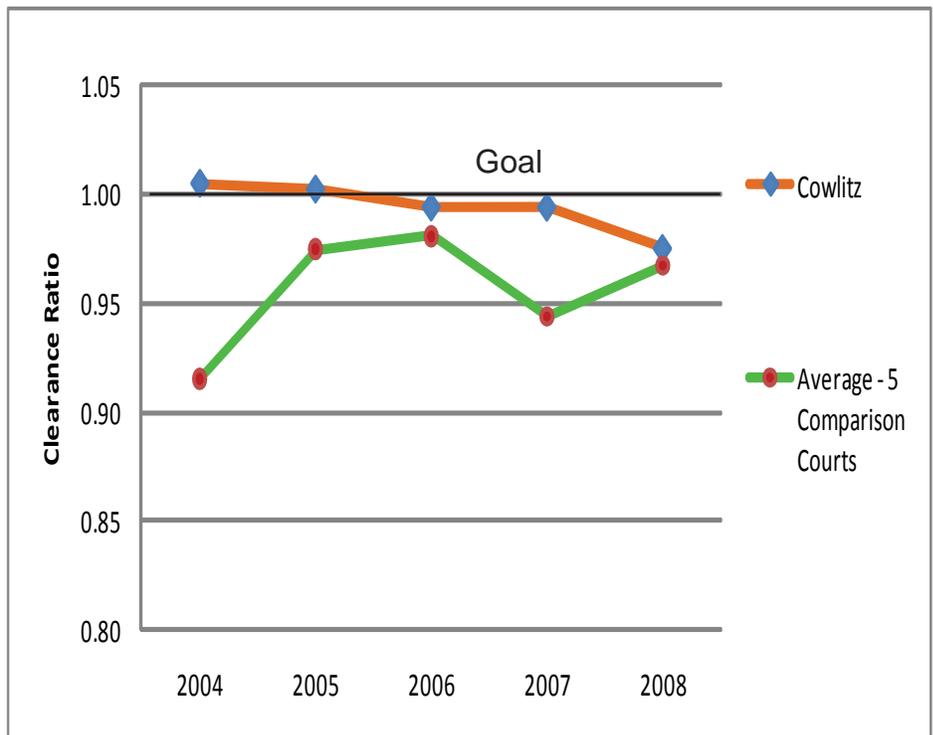


Figure 8. Clearance Ratios for All Other Case Types (No Felonies Included)

Results - Court Specific

Washington Court Advisory Case Processing Time Standards (see Appendix A) provide that 100 % of criminal cases be resolved within nine months from filing. None of the six courts has met this standard in recent years and during most of the five year evaluation period the percentage has dropped. Cowlitz, which had done better than the average comparison court, fell behind in 2008 when it completed only 89 % of its cases within the nine month period.

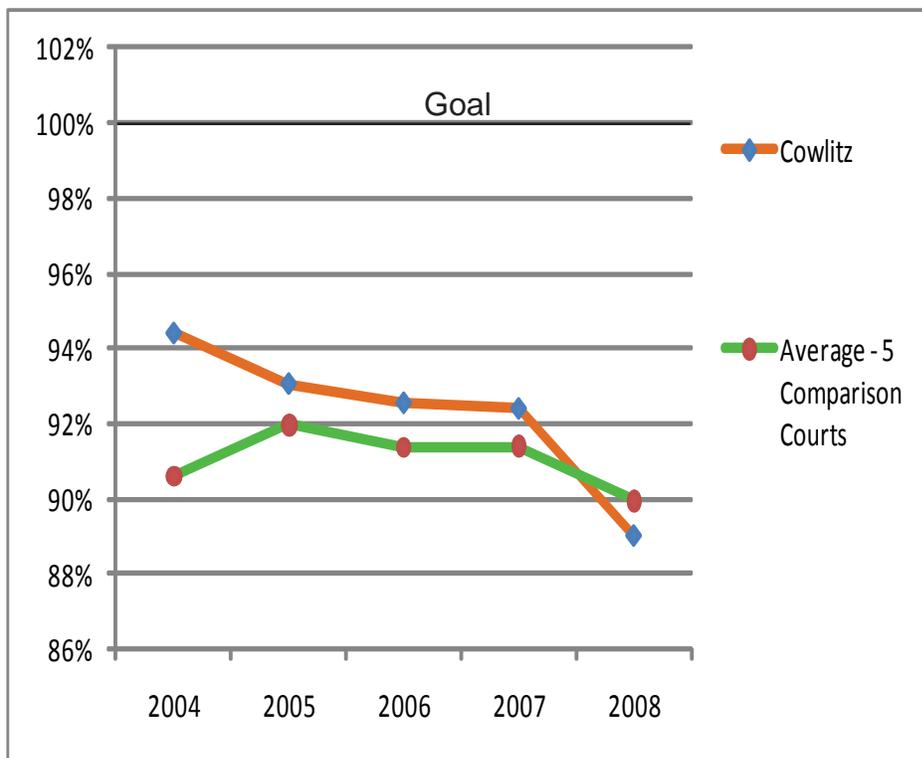


Figure 9. Percentage of Criminal Cases Adjudicated within 9 Months of Filing

In 2007 and 2008 Cowlitz spent less per case filed than the average of the comparison courts. The Cowlitz 2009 budget provides 27 % less per case than the average of the comparison courts, assuming the same rate of filing in 2009 as in 2008.

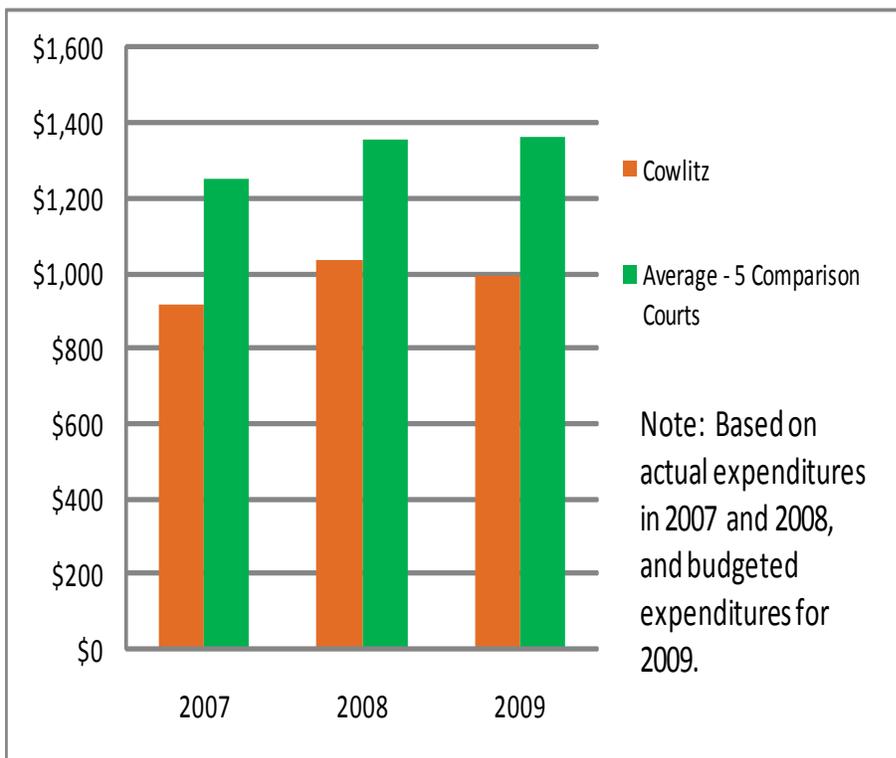


Figure 10. Budget/Expenditures Per Filing

Results - Court Specific

All six courts had more funds available in 2008 than in 2007. Cowlitz is one of three that has less in its 2009 budget than it spent in 2008. Overall the Cowlitz Superior Court (including the County Clerk's Office and the Juvenile Department) has 1.9 % less in its 2009 budget than it spent in 2008.

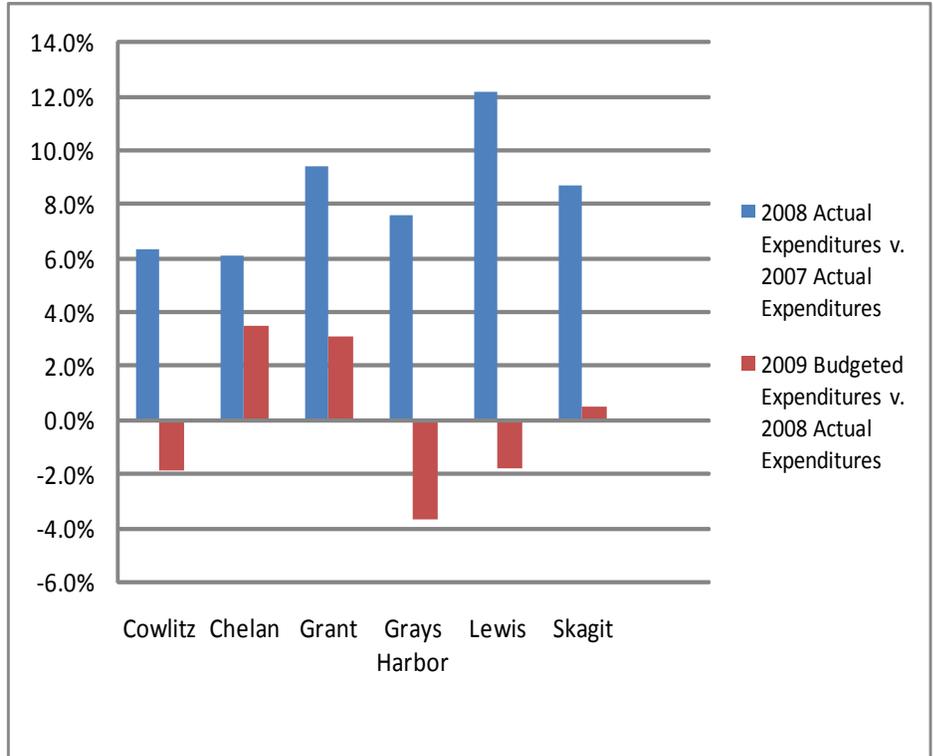


Figure 11. Year To Year Differences in Expenditures and Budgets

In the group of comparison courts Cowlitz ranks among those with the greatest unmet need when the gap is expressed as a percentage of the total judicial needs met. In 2008 Cowlitz had 79 % of the judicial officers needed.

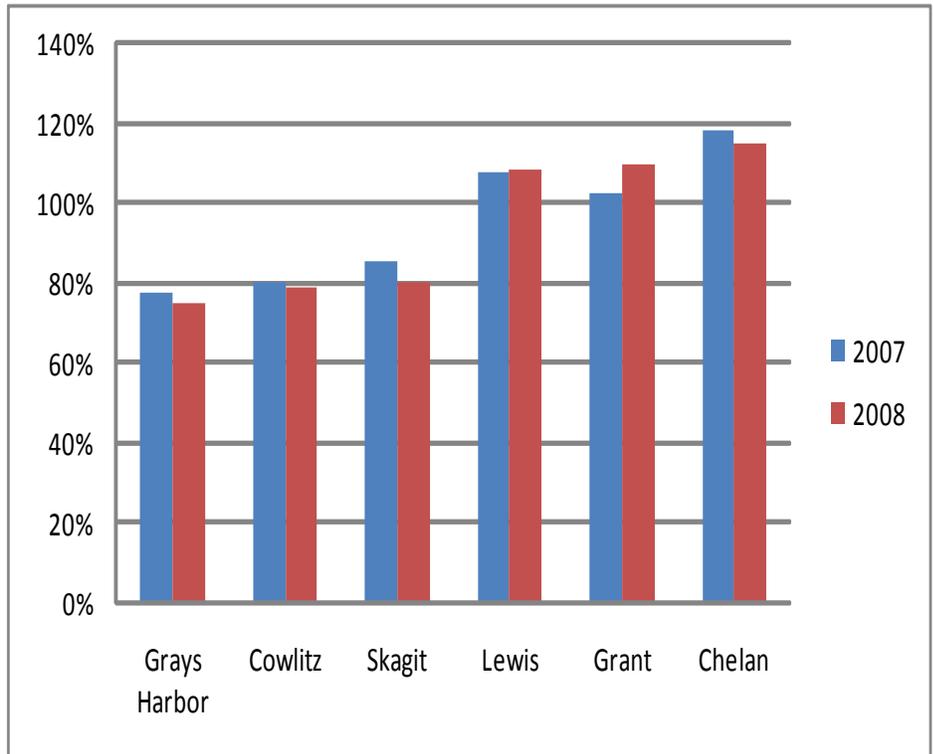


Figure 12. Percent of Judicial Officer Needs Met

Results - Court Specific

In 2008 Cowlitz had 4.36 FTE total (court administration and clerks' office) staff per judicial officer, less than the 5.36 average FTEs for the six comparison courts. Superior court administration staffing in Cowlitz (.69 FTE per judicial officer) ranks substantially below the average staffing for the six comparison counties (1.55 FTE per judicial officer). Clerk's office staffing in Cowlitz (3.66 FTE per judicial officer) also falls below the average for the six comparison courts (3.99 FTE per judicial officer).

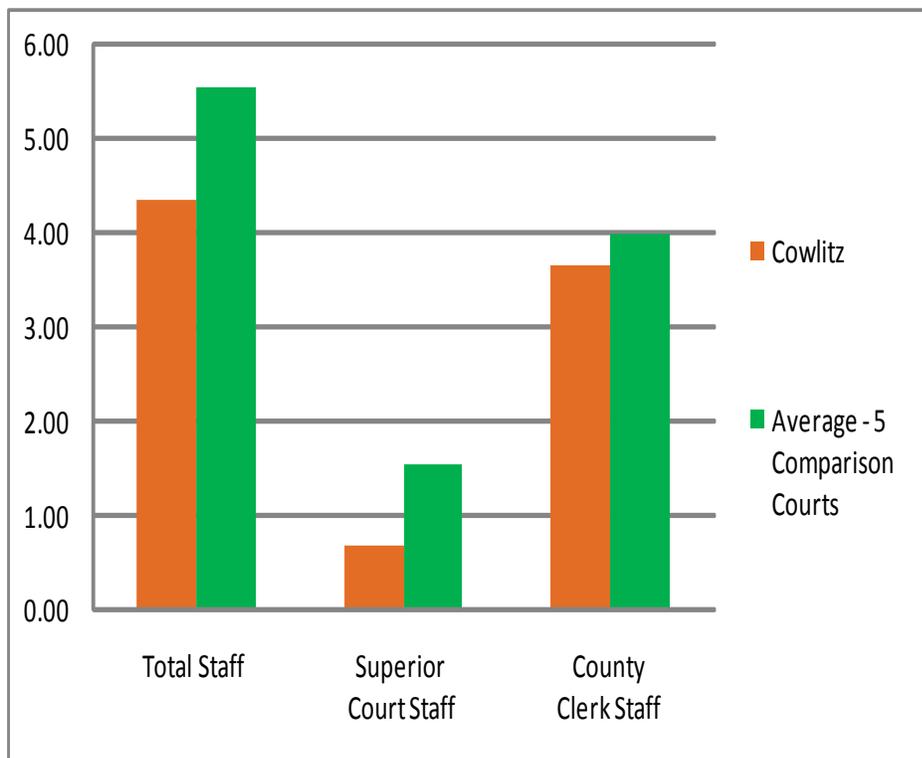


Figure 13. Staff FTE Per Judicial Officer, 2008

In Cowlitz staff cuts in 2009 had substantial impact in the clerk's office (18.2 %) and in the juvenile court (11.4 %)

Note: Courts listing a zero percent loss in staff will artificially lower the average presented (see Appendix B). Of the five comparison courts, three listed a zero percent loss in Clerk staff and in Superior Court staff. For Juvenile staff, two courts listed a zero percent loss and there was no data for a third.

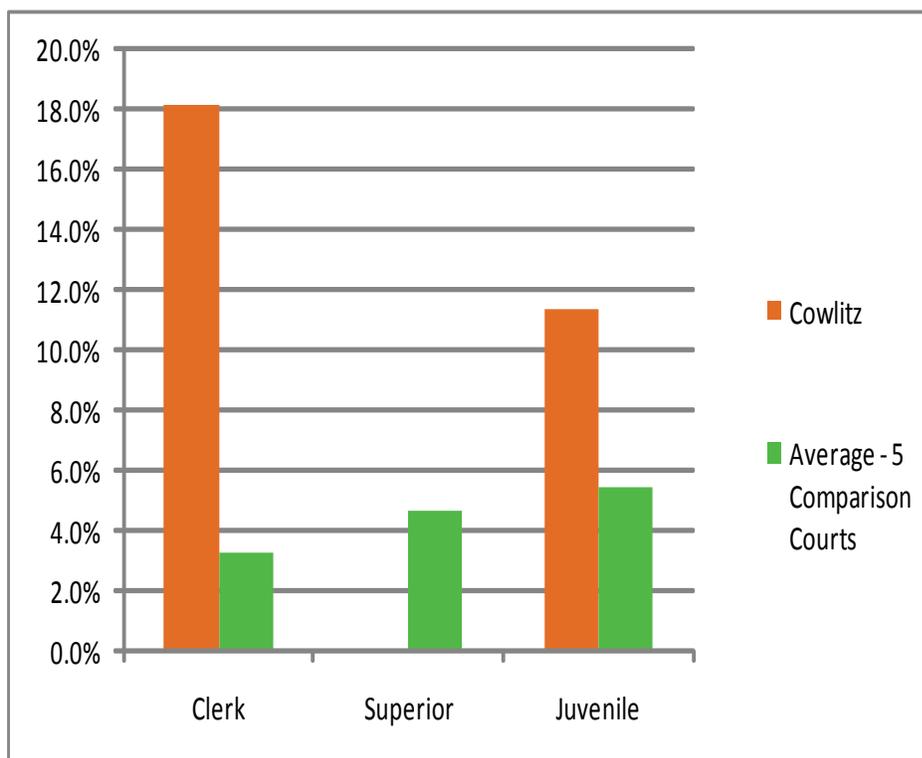


Figure 14. 2009 Staff FTE Losses as a Percent of 2008 Staffing Level

Results - Court Specific

Substantially more criminal, including juvenile offender, cases are being filed in Cowlitz Superior Court per judicial officer than in the superior court in any comparison county. In 2008, 55 % more cases were filed per judicial officer in Cowlitz than in the average of the comparison counties; 70 % more were filed than in the county with the lowest volume per judicial officer; 48 % more were filed than in the county with the next highest volume.

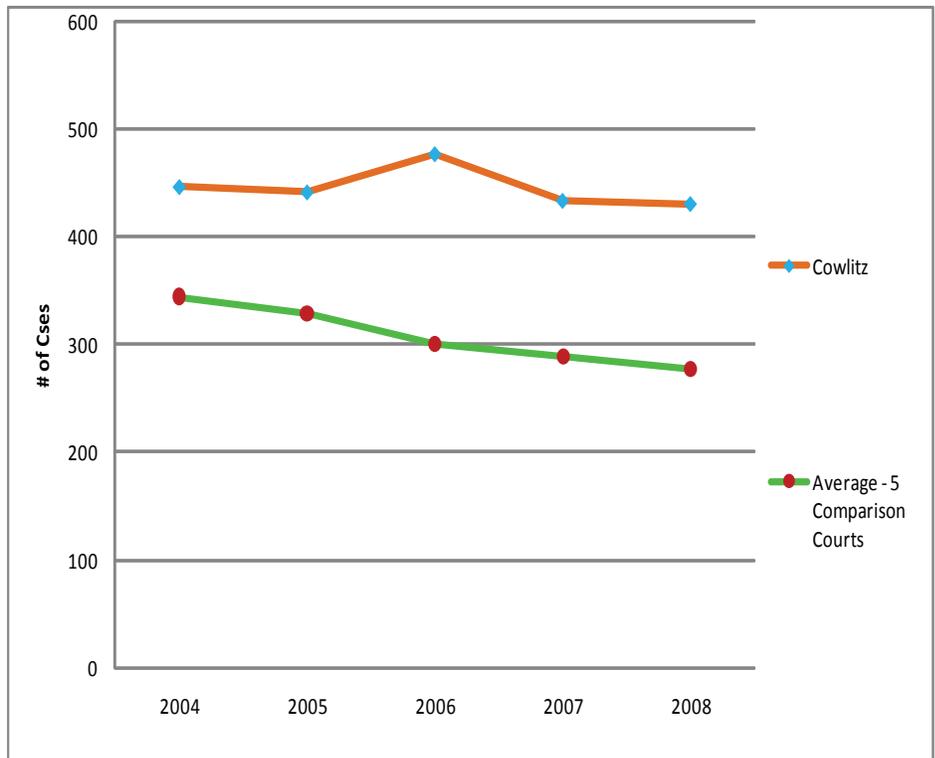


Figure 15. Adult Criminal & Juvenile Offender Cases Filed per Judicial Officer

As with filings per judicial officer, substantially more criminal, including juvenile offender, cases are being filed in Cowlitz Superior Court per prosecutor than in the superior court in any comparison county. (Prosecutor staffing for Cowlitz and four of the comparison counties was found in county websites. Staffing data was not found for the two other counties.) In 2008, 98 % more cases were filed per prosecutor in Cowlitz than in the average of the comparison counties; 117 % more were filed than in the county with the lowest volume per prosecutor; 70 % more were filed than in the county with the next highest volume after Cowlitz.

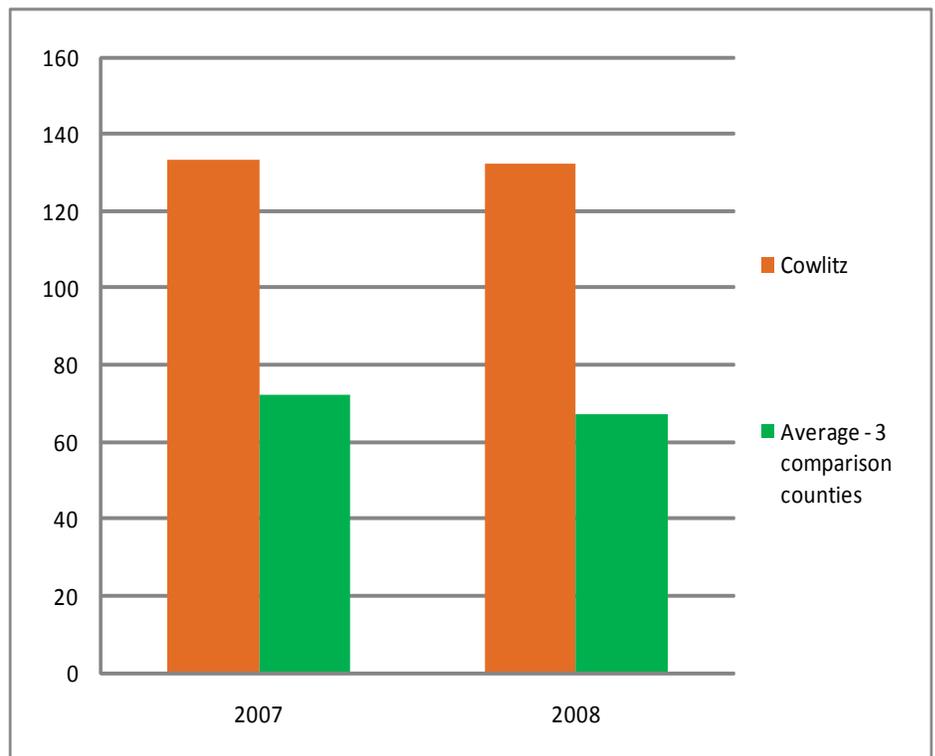


Figure 16. Adult Criminal & Juvenile Offender Cases Filed per Prosecutor

Results - Court Specific

In each of the last five years substantially more cases per judicial officer have been filed in Cowlitz County Superior Court than in the average comparison court. In 2008, filings in Cowlitz were 23 % more than in the average comparison court.

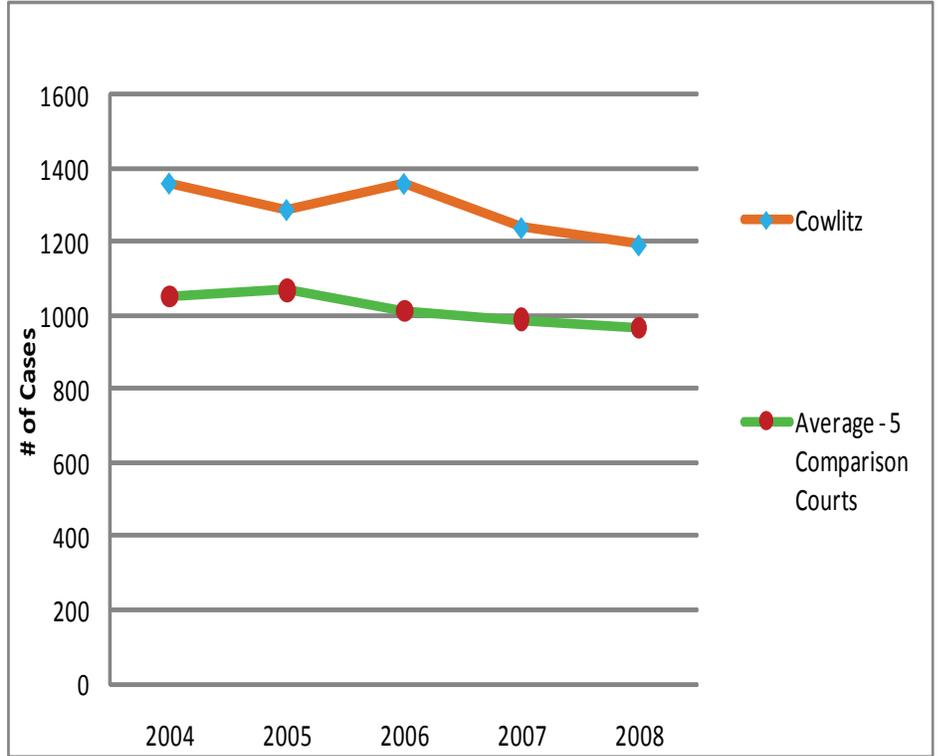


Figure 17. Cases Filed per Judicial Officer

Similarly, during the last five years, more cases per FTE court staff (Superior Court Administration and County Clerk) have been filed in Cowlitz Superior Court than in the average comparison court. In 2008, filings per FTE in Cowlitz were 54 % more than in the average comparison court.

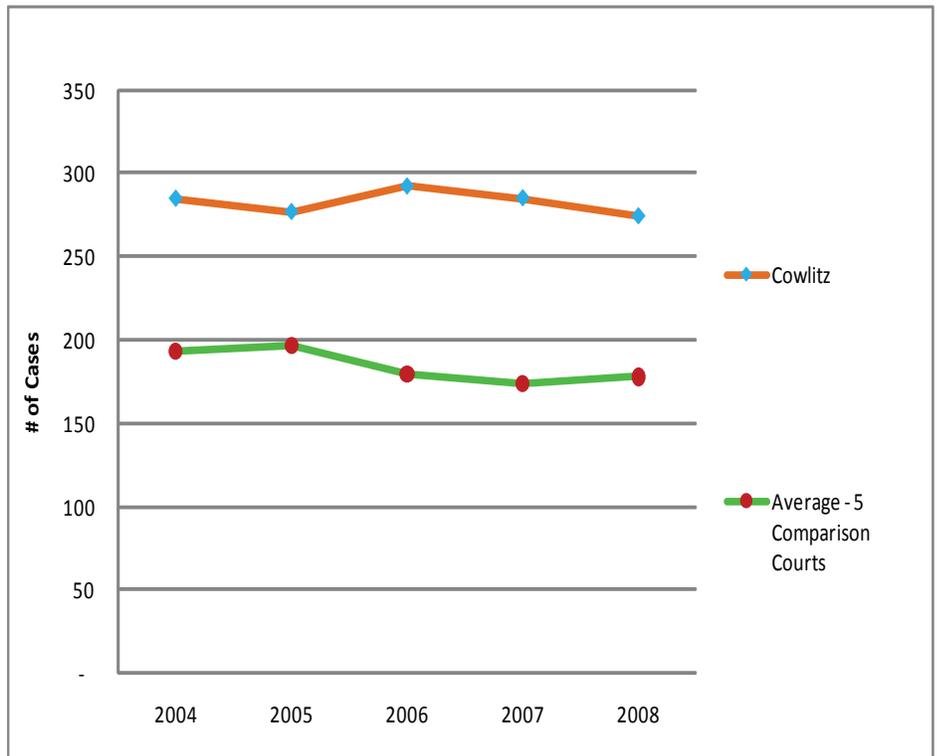


Figure 18. Cases Filed per Total Court Staff

Discussion

This research study shows that the Cowlitz County Superior Court experiences a large volume of case filings compared to other courts in the state and has relatively limited resources to handle this business load. The court is not able to keep up and throughput indicators are declining.

Caseloads: In 2008, more cases were filed in Cowlitz County Superior Court per capita than in any other superior court in Washington, and the court has the third highest number of cases filed per judicial officer. The study found a significantly higher criminal caseload in Cowlitz than in the comparable counties and traces the difference to higher numbers of felonies reported per capita and to significantly higher numbers of cases filed per prosecutor.

From 2003 through 2007, Cowlitz had 18% more felonies reported per capita than the average of the comparison counties, and 27% more felony cases per capita were filed in Cowlitz than in the comparison counties. In addition, a higher percentage of the reported felonies resulted in cases being filed than in the comparison counties (27% compared to 24%). This points to law enforcement policies and prosecutor filing practices that are aggressive and not supported with sufficient court resources.

Substantially more adult criminal and juvenile offender cases are being filed in Cowlitz Superior Court per judicial officer (55% in 2008) than in the superior court in any comparison county. In addition, substantially more adult criminal and juvenile offender cases are being filed in Cowlitz Superior Court per prosecutor (98% in 2008) than the average of four comparison counties. Overall, during the study period substantially more cases per judicial officer and per FTE court staff were filed in Cowlitz than in the average comparison county.

Throughput: The study indicates that Cowlitz's ability to handle the caseload has not been adequate and is weakening further. Neither Cowlitz nor any of the comparison courts has met the 1.0 clearance ratio* standard during the five year period 2004 - 2008. Nevertheless, despite a higher rate of felony case filings, Cowlitz's clearance ratio for felony cases has been better than the comparison courts'. However, Cowlitz's clearance ratio for criminal cases dropped

* The clearance ratio is the ratio of cases resolved to cases filed during a given time period. A ratio of less than 1.0 indicates that more cases were filed than resolved. That suggests that the court's capacity to handle cases has been exceeded and that its backlog of cases is growing.

significantly in 2008 and the ratio for other types of cases has been dropping. It exceeded the standard in 2004, met it in 2005, and fell below in the most recent three years of the period, suggesting that as the court tried to meet the felony clearance ratio standard, the clearance ratio for other case types slipped.

In recent years none of the courts studied has met the Washington Court Advisory Case Processing Time Standard that 100 % of criminal cases be resolved within nine months from filing. During most of the five year evaluation period the percentage dropped for these courts. The rate in Cowlitz dropped each year during the 2004-2008 evaluation period. In the first years of the period Cowlitz did better than the average of the comparison courts, but it fell behind in 2008 when it completed only 89 % of its cases within the nine month period.

Resources: In spite of higher than average case filings Cowlitz ranks below the average comparison court both in judicial officer and administrative staffing. In 2008 Cowlitz had 1.24 fewer judicial officers than judicial needs estimates. An additional judge has been authorized in statute, but neither this judicial position nor the necessary supporting staff* has been funded.

There is also a lower staff to judge ratio in Cowlitz than in the comparison courts. In 2008 Cowlitz had 4.36 supporting staff per judicial officer compared to the average of 5.36 for the comparison courts. Cases filed per FTE court staff were 54% higher than in the average comparison court. The lower than average judicial officer and staff to caseload ratios are reflected in the Cowlitz Superior Court's 2007 and 2008 expenditures which show a lower budget to case filing ratio than the average of the comparison courts analyzed for this study. Further, staff cuts in the 2009 budget had substantial impact in the Cowlitz Clerk's office (18.2% reduction in staff) and in the juvenile court (11.4%). As a result, Cowlitz Superior Court's capacity to process cases is negatively impacted.

These and other findings detailed in the report are likely to be further negatively impacted by the budget cuts imposed in 2009. However, data to measure that impact and any resulting trends in case processing will not be available for some time.

** Superior Court administrative staff and County Clerk staff

If you have questions about this report, please contact
Dirk Marler, Director of AOC's Judicial Services
Division, at dirk.marler@courts.wa.gov.

APPENDIX A: Standard Effectiveness Measures

Caseloads of the Courts of Washington

AOC was created in 1957 with a primary mission to report on the caseloads of the courts of Washington. The caseload tables, available on the Washington Courts web site for the years 1998 – 2008, summarize caseloads of Washington courts. Data are drawn from the Judicial Information System (JIS), a statewide system of computer applications employed by the courts for recording and processing cases. The Supreme Court, all three divisions of the Court of Appeals, and all Washington State superior courts and courts of limited jurisdiction are represented in these automated databases and statistical tables.

Time Standards

The case-processing time standards were adopted by the BJA as an objective means for courts to measure the pace of cases from filing to resolution. They are published in the Washington Court Rules.

The intent is to provide the trial courts with advisory standards to assist the courts in developing internal goals that can and should be reached and maintained.

Washington State's case processing time standards address two phases in the life of a case: (1) the period from filing to resolution, and (2) the period from case resolution to completion. Case "resolution" is defined as the adjudication or settlement of all issues in a case (via plea, trial verdict, notice of settlement, oral order, et cetera). Resolution occurs when the case is "tried, settled, or otherwise concluded." Case "completion" is defined as the filing of final dispositive documents with the Clerk.

Judicial Needs

The Administrator for the Courts, under the supervision and direction of the Chief Justice, is required to examine the need for new superior court and district court judge positions under an objective workload analysis. The results of the objective workload analysis is reviewed by the BJA which then makes recommendations to the legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that the objective workload analysis become the basis for creating additional district and superior court positions, and recommendations address that objective. See Powers and Duties of the Administrator for the Courts, RCW 2.56.030(11).

Chapter 2.08 RCW specifies the number of superior court judges authorized for each county. Individual counties or judicial districts may choose to establish and fund court commissioner positions instead of superior court judge positions.

APPENDIX B: Data Tables

Since comparison courts are presented as an average, it may be useful to be able to directly compare county by county, but multiple counties are not clearly presentable in graphic form. Therefore, data for all charts and graphs has been included below for reference. Lincoln County has been excluded because of caseload anomalies.

Figure 1. Cases Filed per 10,000 population

	Filings
Whitman	191
Douglas	255
San Juan	260
Island	277
King	328
Kittitas	332
Ferry/Stevens/PendOreille	335
Adams	341
Whatcom	341
Clark	345
Snohomish	346
Jefferson	364
Pacific/Wahkiakum	369
Kitsap	373
Klickitat/Skamania	377
Mason	386
Okanogan	386
Grant	387
Thurston	417
Benton/Franklin	419
Walla Walla	419
Asotin/Columbia/Garfield	430
Pierce	433
Lewis	446
Spokane	447
Clallam	452
Chelan	456
Yakima	468
Grays Harbor	498
Skagit	533
Cowlitz	556

Figure 2. Filings per Judicial Officer, 2008

	Filings
San Juan	418
Adams	607
Kittitas	653
Mason	712
Clallam	745
Jefferson	806
Whitman	820
Chelan	821
Lewis	832
Douglas	866
Grant	872
Ferry/Stevens/PendOreille	886
Asotin/Columbia/Garfield	891
King	922
Pacific/Wahkiakum	957
Whatcom	958
Yakima	986
Okanogan	992
Island	999
Thurston	1005
Kitsap	1010
Klickitat/Skamania	1027
Walla Walla	1045
Clark	1076
Skagit	1139
Spokane	1139
Benton/Franklin	1163
Grays Harbor	1176
Cowlitz	1193
Pierce	1202
Snohomish	1204

APPENDIX B: Data Tables

Figure 3. Gap between Total Judicial Officers and Judicial Needs, 2008

	Number of Judicial Officers Needed	Number of Current Judicial Officers	Gap
Grant	3.42	3.75	0.33
Chelan	3.48	4	0.52
Lewis	3.69	4	0.31
Grays Harbor	4.00	3	-1.00
Cowlitz	5.85	4.61	-1.24
Skagit	6.84	5.5	-1.34

Figure 6. Felony Cases Filed as a Percent of Reported Felonies; 5 Year Average, 2003 - 2007

	Percent
Cowlitz	23%
Chelan	20%
Grant	19%
Grays Harbor	19%
Lewis	28%
Skagit	13%
Average	24%



Figure 4. Cases Filed per 10,000 Population in 2008

	Number of Cases
Cowlitz	556
Chelan	456
Grant	387
Grays Harbor	498
Lewis	446
Skagit	533

Figure 7. Clearance Ratios for Adult and Juvenile Felonies

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cowlitz	0.88	0.85	0.90	0.93	0.90
Average	0.84	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.84
Chelan	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.84	0.82
Grant	0.78	0.77	0.72	0.78	0.74
Grays Harbor	0.92	0.90	0.93	0.96	0.87
Lewis	0.90	0.90	0.87	0.80	0.87
Skagit	0.75	0.81	0.87	0.80	0.90



Figure 5. Reported Felonies and Case Counts; 5 Year Average, 2003 - 2007

	Reports per 10K Population	Felony Cases Filed per 10K Population
Cowlitz	625	167
Chelan	433	126
Grant	570	146
Grays Harbor	516	120
Lewis	442	157
Skagit	678	110
Average	528	132

Figure 8. Clearance Ratios for All Other Case Types (No Felonies Included)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cowlitz	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.98
Average	0.92	0.97	0.98	0.94	0.97
Chelan	1.01	1.04	0.99	0.87	1.09
Grant	0.85	1.13	0.96	1.00	0.95
Grays Harbor	0.92	1.03	0.89	1.05	0.95
Lewis	0.89	1.14	0.94	1.00	0.84
Skagit	0.91	1.21	1.05	0.99	1.03

APPENDIX B: Data Tables

Figure 9. Percentage of Criminal Cases Adjudicated within 9 Months of Filing

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cowlitz	94%	93%	93%	92%	89%
Chelan	79%	94%	96%	95%	93%
Grant	96%	95%	95%	94%	91%
Grays Harbor	96%	95%	97%	94%	94%
Lewis	94%	93%	90%	89%	88%
Skagit	89%	82%	79%	85%	83%
Average	91%	92%	91%	91%	90%

Figure 12. Percent of Judicial Officer Needs Met

	2007	2008
Grays Harbor	78%	75%
Cowlitz	80%	79%
Skagit	85%	80%
Lewis	108%	108%
Grant	102%	110%
Chelan	118%	115%

Figure 10. Budget/Expenditures Per Filing

	2007	2008	2009
Cowlitz	\$916	\$1,034	\$994
Average	\$1,250	\$1,358	\$1,362
Chelan	\$1,450	\$1,498	\$1,550
Grant	\$1,253	\$1,256	\$1,295
Grays Harbor	\$1,123	\$1,268	\$1,221
Lewis	\$1,381	\$1,585	\$1,557
Skagit	\$1,042	\$1,182	\$1,188

Figure 13. FTE Staff Per Judicial Officer, 2008

	Total Staff per JO	Superior Ct Staff per JO	Clerk Staff per JO
Cowlitz	4.36	0.69	3.66
Average	5.54	1.55	3.99
Chelan	6.3	1.75	4.50
Grant	5.6	0.80	4.80
Grays Harbor	4.7	1.40	3.33
Lewis	5.3	1.75	3.50
Skagit	5.9	2.04	3.82

Figure 11. Year To Year Differences in Expenditures and Budgets

	2008 Actual Expenditures v. 2007 Actual Expenditures	2009 Budgeted Expenditures v. 2008 Actual Expenditures
Cowlitz	6.3%	-1.9%
Chelan	6.1%	3.5%
Grant	9.4%	3.1%
Grays Harbor	7.6%	-3.7%
Lewis	12.2%	-1.8%
Skagit	8.7%	0.5%

Figure 14. 2009 Staff FTE Losses as a Percent of 2008 Staffing Level

	Clerk	Superior	Juvenile
Cowlitz	18.2%	0.0%	11.4%
Average	3.2%	4.6%	5.4%
Chelan	7.9%	14.3%	7.5%
Grant	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grays Harbor	8.3%	0.0%	14.3%
Lewis	0.0%	0.0%	no data
Skagit	0.0%	8.9%	0.0%

APPENDIX C: 2008 Filings by Case Type per 10,000 Population

	<i>Criminal¹</i>	<i>Civil²</i>	<i>Probate/ Guardianship</i>	<i>Mental Illness & Alcohol</i>
Cowlitz	133.9	147.9	29.6	12.6
Chelan	83.9	118.6	44.0	0.6
Grant	93.7	111.7	20.7	5.8
Grays Harbor	88.3	150.6	33.7	0.6
Lewis	118.1	136.5	34.4	0.9
Skagit	86.6	124.3	34.9	103.8

	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Parentage³</i>	<i>Adoption</i>	<i>Dependency⁴</i>
Cowlitz	68.7	12.4	9.1	21.1
Chelan	81.1	12.2	4.0	16.6
Grant	56.5	19.9	6.5	18.2
Grays Harbor	76.9	19.2	6.2	46.1
Lewis	59.7	16.9	4.6	14.7
Skagit	62.7	12.4	4.7	19.8

	<i>Truancy</i>	<i>Juvenile Offender¹</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cowlitz	53.5	66.9	555.8
Chelan	38.0	56.9	455.9
Grant	23.0	30.9	386.9
Grays Harbor	42.2	33.9	497.6
Lewis	22.2	37.5	445.5
Skagit	41.3	42.7	533.2

NOTE:

1. *Adult Criminal and Juvenile Offender filings exclude non-charge cases.*
2. *Civil filings exclude "other matters" cases.*
3. *Parentage filings exclude confidential name changes and pre-placement reports filed.*
4. *Dependency filings exclude truancy filings.*

APPENDIX D: SELECTED STATUTES AFFECTING COURT COSTS

Superior Court Costs Mandated by Law:

Jury and witness fees

RCW 2.40.010, 2.40.020, 2.36.050, RCW 10.46.230. Payable by the county, reimbursed by Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Jury Meals and Lodging

RCW 4.44.310, County expense at discretion of the Judge

Court Commissioners

Article IV, Sec. 23 Washington State Constitution, RCW 2.24.010-030

Interpreters

RCW 2.42.120 (hearing impaired), RCW 2.43.040 (non-English speaking)

Guardians ad Litem (incapacitated persons)

RCW 11.88.090

Guardians ad Litem, attorneys

RCW 26.09.110, 26.26.555, General Rule 33

Extra Help, Bailiffs

RCW 2.32.330-370

Courthouse and Courtroom Expenses and Maintenance

RCW 2.28.139-140, 2.16.010-040, 2.32.180, 13.04.033, RAP 9.1-9.2

Sexually Violent Predators

RCW 71.09.050 (State Pass-Through Funds)

Family Court (not mandated)

RCW 26.12.175 (Guardian ad Litem)

Drug Court (not mandated)

RCW 2.28.170 (partially funded by CTED and HIDTA grants)

Superior Court Family & Juvenile Court Improvement Project (not mandated)

RCW 2.56.030 (Grant)

Juvenile Department (Probation and Detention) Mandated Costs:

Juvenile Court Administrator

RCW 13.04.035

Probation Counselors

RCW 13.04.040

Supplies, Utilities

RCW 13.04.050, 13.04.135, 13.16.040, 2.28.139-140

Professional Services Contract Services

RCW 13.40.038, 13.40.160, 13.40.165, 13.40.167

Extraordinary Trial Expense

RCW 13.40.140

Guardian ad litem

RCW 13.32A.170, 13.34.100

Witness Fees

RCW 13.40.140

Juvenile Detention

RCW 13.16.040 (Mandatory function of counties)