CASE PROCESSING ASSESSMENT

What to Expect

March 14, 2018

SAFETY+JUSTICE CHALLENGE

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Poll Questions

- Do you know, on average, how long it takes for a felony or a misdemeanor case to be disposed (from charging to sentencing) in your jurisdiction? Yes/No
- How effective do you think your jurisdiction is at disposing cases in a timely manner?
  - Very Effective
  - Somewhat Effective
  - Not Effective

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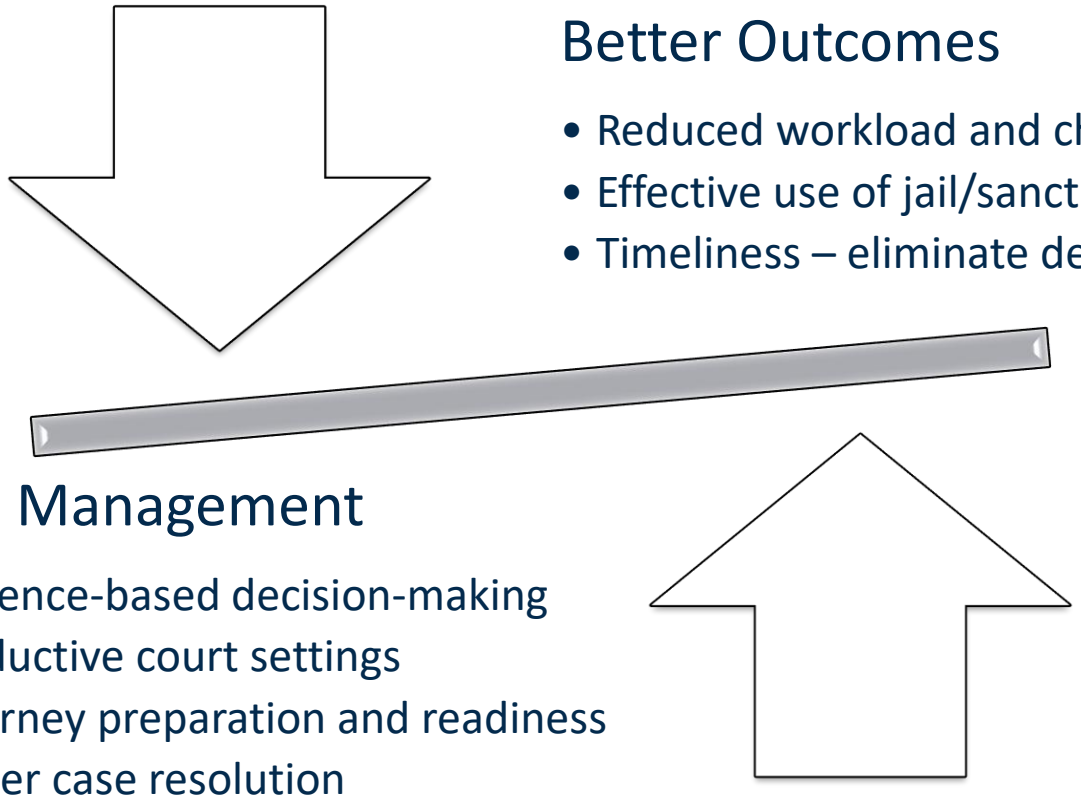
Why Do We Care about Case Processing?



Better Outcomes

- Reduced workload and churn
- Effective use of jail/sanctions
- Timeliness – eliminate delay

Case Management

- Evidence-based decision-making
- Productive court settings
- Attorney preparation and readiness
- Earlier case resolution

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Results

And for all this you get…

- Increased public trust and confidence
- Reduced crime and recidivism
- Improved system performance
- Less cost

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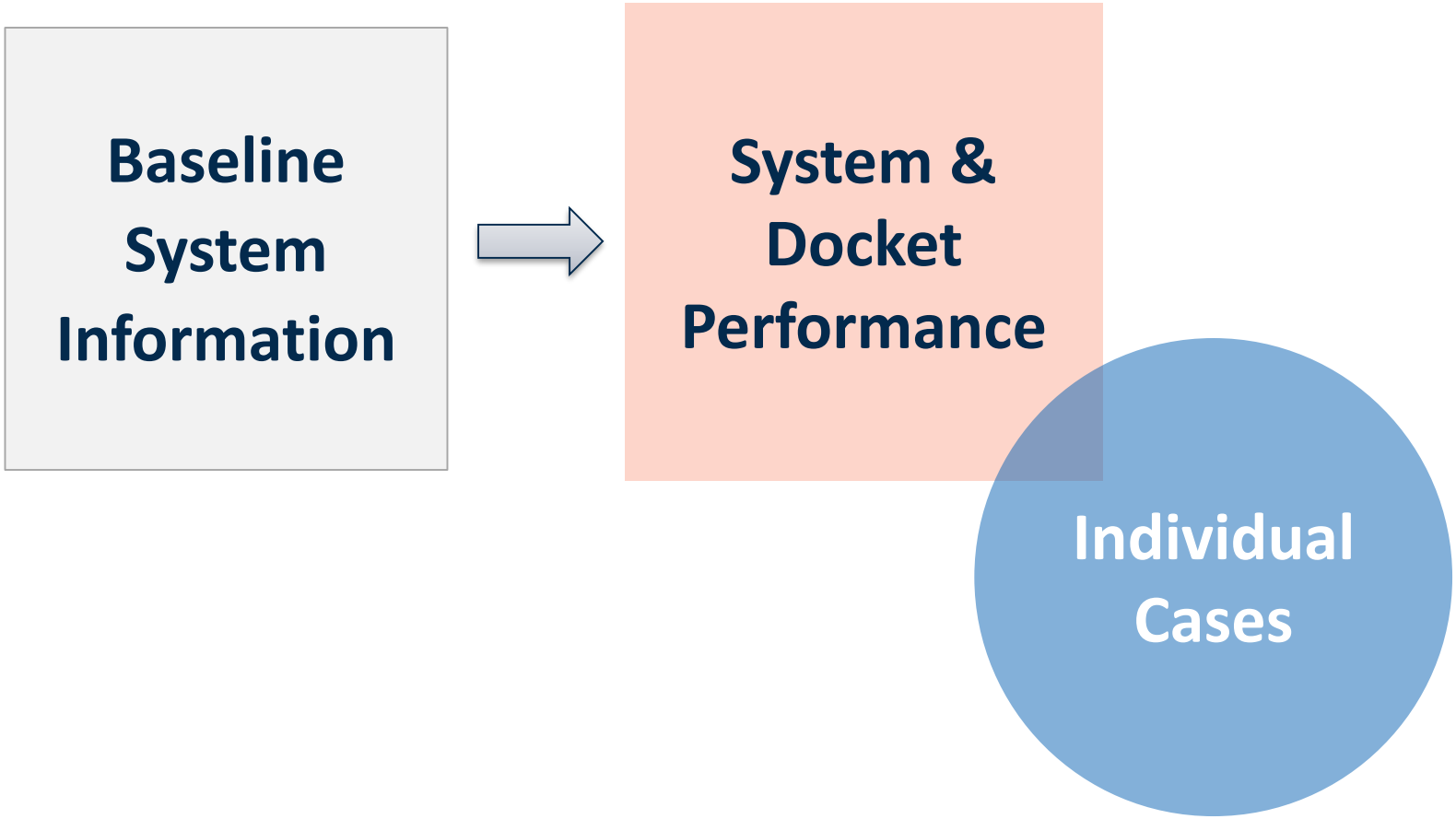
Overview of the Process



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Baseline System Information

- Filings and dispositions
- Clearance rate
- Active pending cases (inventory)
- Formal or de facto time standards

- By time periods
- By docket/case type
- By judge (some courts)

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System & Docket Performance

- Clearance rate
- Age of active pending cases
- Time to disposition
- Hearing and trial rates
- Postponement rates

- Inventory and analysis of current performance
- Analysis of trends across times
- External and internal factors impacting performance

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Individual Cases

- How old is this case? When does it go into backlog (considered delayed)?
- How many postponements/continuances have been granted?
- How long since the last hearing? Until the next hearing?
- How many hearings have been conducted?
- How many trials have been set without resolution?

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Interpretation

- Data issues
- Processing issues
- System issues
- Resource issues

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DATA ELEMENTS

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Units of Analysis

- Macro: Aggregate level data
- Micro: Individual level data

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Poll Questions

- Are aggregate level data from the courts in your jurisdiction available?
  - Yes, No, Don't Know
- How are cases counted in your jurisdiction?
  - By defendant (one record for all charges arising from a single incident)
  - By charge (each charge against an individual is counted)
  - Different parts of the system count differently
  - Don't know

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Aggregate Level Data Needed

- By Major Case Type
  - Annual number of cases filed
  - Annual number of cases disposed by disposition type
  - Annual number of active pending cases
  - Annual clearance rate
  - Annual time to disposition for 75%, 90%, and 98% of cases (average can be derived)
- Minimum 5 years of data

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Individual-level Data

- By defendant/unique case
  - Case status
  - Case type
  - Filing date
  - Disposition date
  - Disposition type
  - Case event type and date
  - Court/courtroom/judge/docket

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Individual-level Data (cont'd)

- Jail Data by Detainee/Inmate
  - Booking date
  - Release date
  - Jail admission status: pretrial, sentenced, violation

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Sample Data Record

ID#	FILEDATE	STATUS	DISPDATE	CASETYPE	#EVENTS	HEARING TYPE	HEARING DATE	CONTD	BOOKDATE	RELEASEDATE
39857	2/15/2016	DISP	12/1/2017	F	8	TRIAL	2/17/2016		2/15/2016	2/20/2016
67281	5/19/2017	DISP	6/4/2017	M	3	1STAPP	6/4/2017		5/19/2017	6/4/2017
38471	12/4/2016	OPEN		F	6	PTH		Y		

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

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First Stage Analysis

- Baseline Determination
  - Filings and disposition trends
  - Clearance rate trends
  - Active pending cases
  - Time standards

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First Stage Analysis

- Basic Questions to Be Answered
  - How are trends changing over time?
  - Does the jurisdiction have a time standard?
  - If so, is there a backlog of pending cases?
  - What is the average/longest time to disposition?
  - What is the average number of events/case?
  - What is the average number of continuances/case?
  - How many pending cases are there by age category?
  - What percentage of cases are disposed by age of case?

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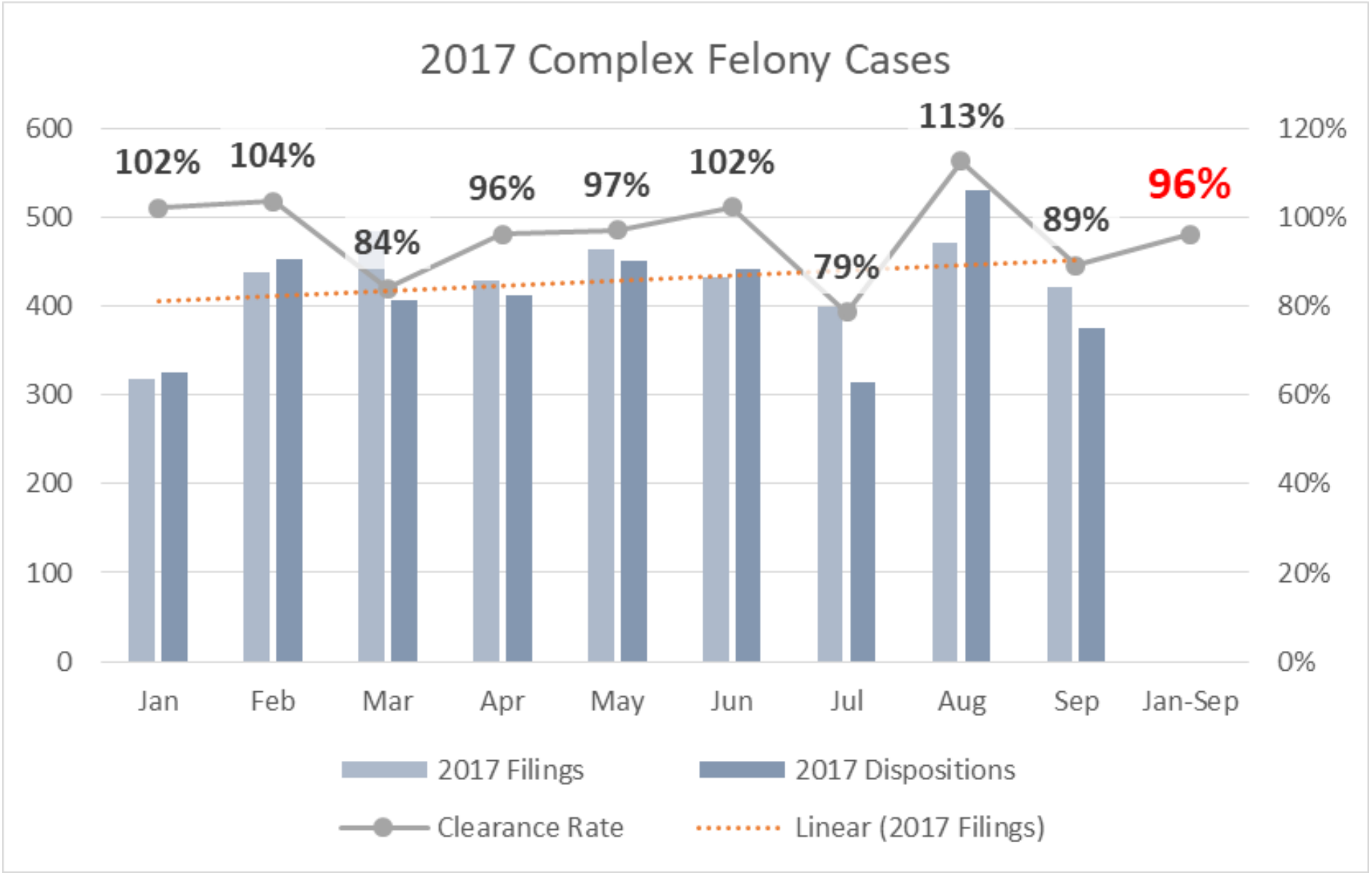
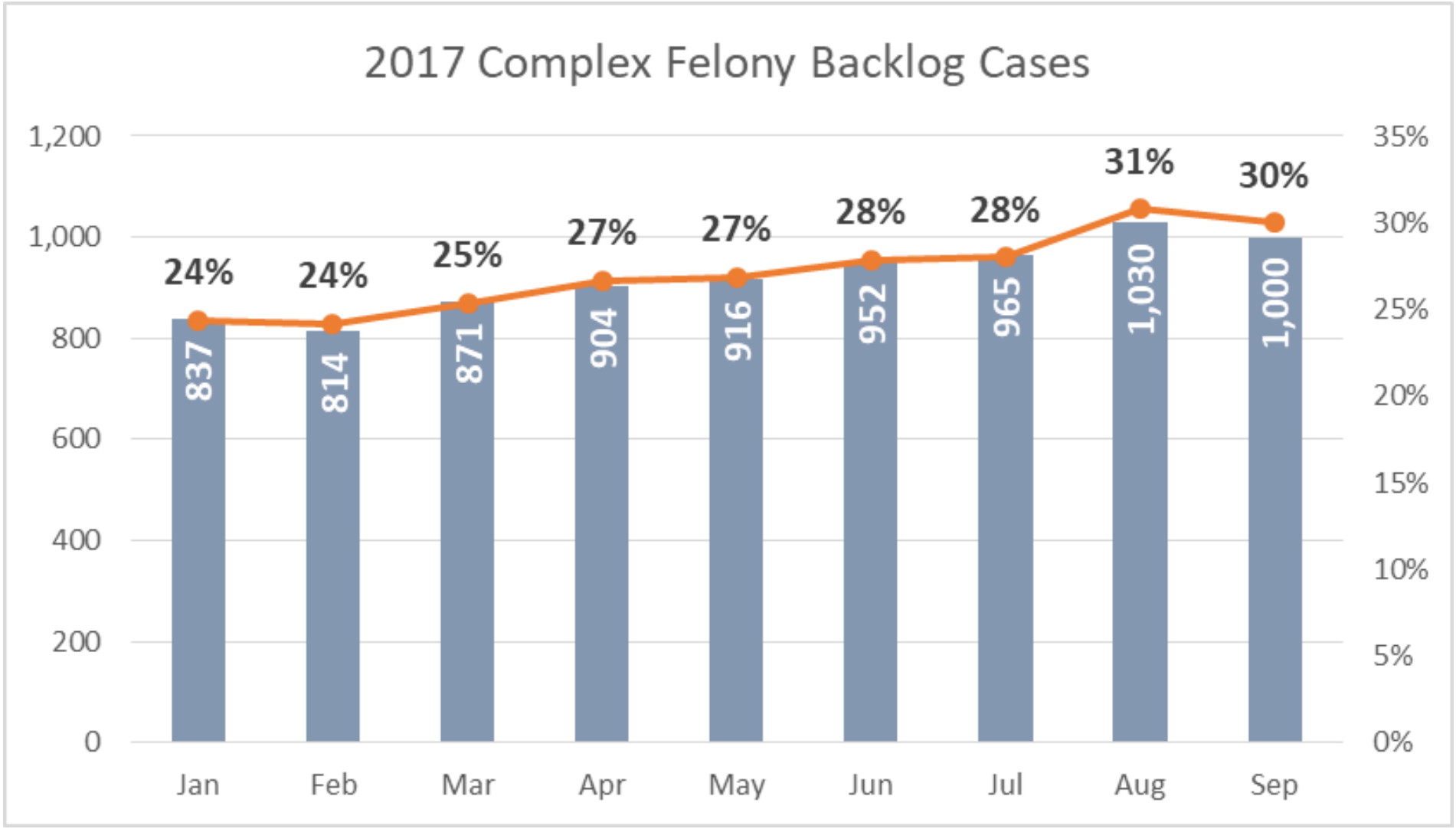
Filings, Disposition, & Clearance



Backlog of Cases



Second Stage Analysis

- Variation based on key factors, such as:
  - Case type/track (simple, medium, complex)
  - Docket/courtroom
  - Judge
  - Custody status
- Questions to be answered:
  - Are there major differences?
  - What external or internal factors may be at play?

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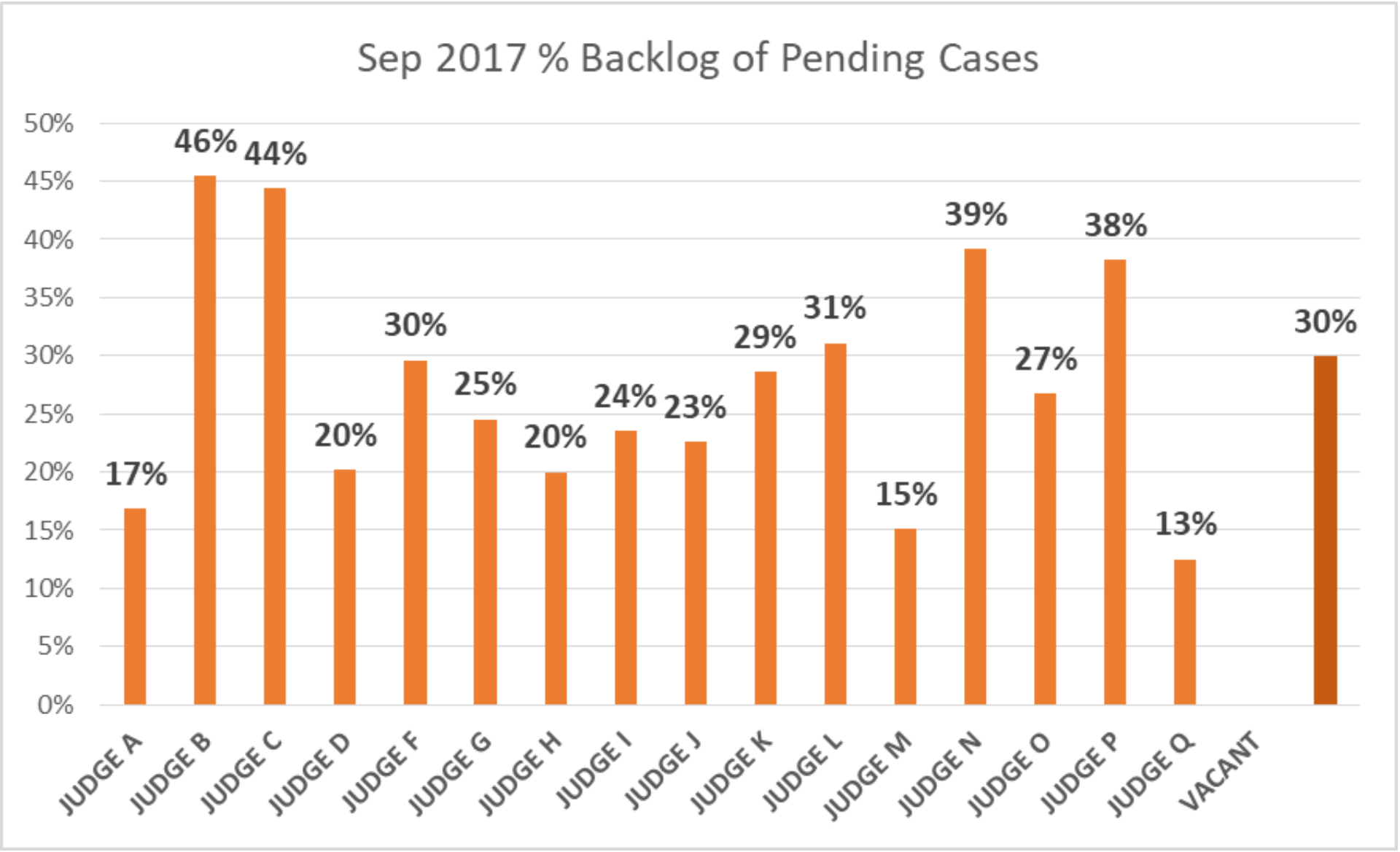
Individual Analysis of Backlog



INTERPRETATION

Common Issues & Challenges

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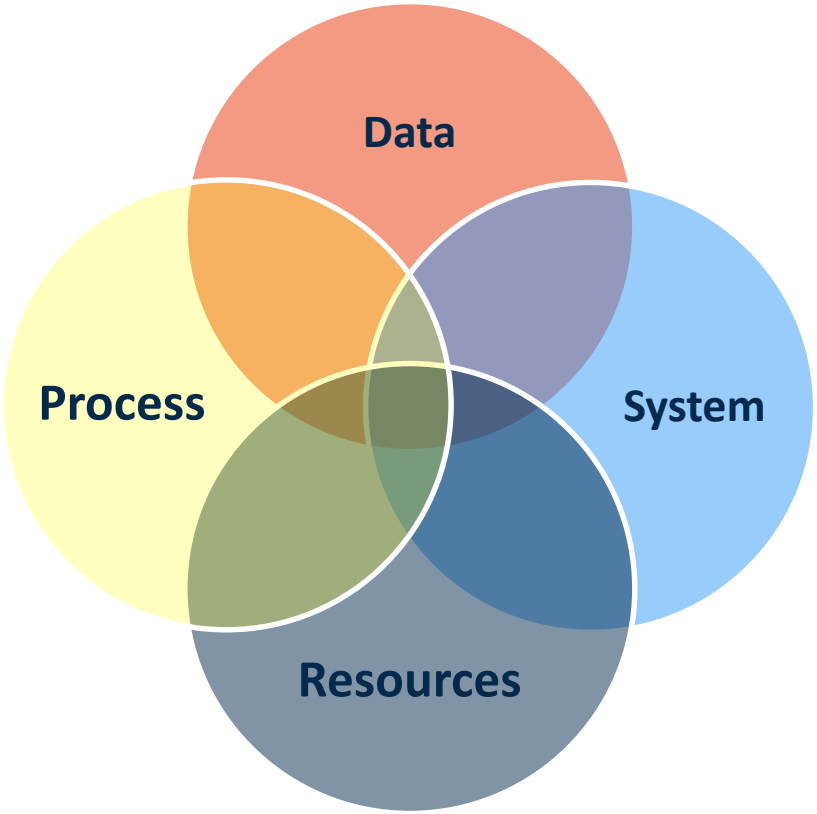
Issues for Consideration



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Data Issues & Challenges

- Differences in how things are counted
- “Docket cleaning”
- Time standards
- No means for counting time
- Inability to link court & jail data

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Process Issues

- Local practice for managing dockets
- Timeliness of information transmission
  - Discovery
  - Law enforcement reports
  - PSIs/risk assessment
- Indigency assessment & assignment of counsel

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Resource Issues

- Trial team composition—availability of attorneys
- Availability of treatment beds
- Secure transportation of defendants/inmates

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System Issues

- Legislative/policy changes
- External system delays
  - Crime labs
  - Competency evaluations
- Transfers to correctional facilities

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