

# Clearance Rates Defined

Texas Office of Court Administration – Data & Research Division

## NCSC, CourTools Measure Two

The National Center for State Courts [defines clearance rates](#) as the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases.

The purpose of this measurement is to measure how a court is handling their caseload by comparing the number of cases disposed to the number of cases filed.

\*It should be noted this is only one of several measures that can be used to assess how cases are navigating through courts.

## TX Performance Measures Report

[Section 72.083\(b\)](#) of the Texas Government Code, added by [HB 2384](#) (88th Legislature, Regular Session), requires the Office of Court Administration to annually collect and publish a report including performance measures for each district, statutory county, statutory probate, and constitutional county court.

One of the performance measures includes *clearance rates* by case type. Below is the formula used to calculate the clearance rate:

$$\frac{\text{Disposed + Inactivated + Transferred Out}}{\text{Added + Reactivated + Transferred In}} = \text{Clearance Rate \%}$$

The Presiding Judge of each Administrative Judicial Region will receive the report from OCA to identify courts in need of additional resources. The OCA in collaboration with the Presiding Judges have set the benchmark at 90%, meaning that courts with a clearance rate below 90% will be evaluated to determine if additional resources are needed.

The OCA has published the performance measure data calculated from the reports submitted by the County and District Clerks and posted the link on the OCA website. Given that these new reports are requiring updates to local case management systems and process changes, we understand that jurisdictions may want to submit revised data at a later time. The OCA will continue to update the published data with any corrected reports submitted to the Data & Research Division.