

Color Key	
	No Standards
	NAC Standards
	Couldn't confirm data from Standards for Indigent Defense Services and/or Gideon at 50
	Standards found, but not mandatory; some used just for budget purposes
	State mandatory standards

Caseloads

Organization/ State	Delivery Model	Caseload Standards (assumes full-time lawyer working 1875 hours/year)	Source	Date	Notes
ABA		ABA does not endorse specific numerical caseload standards, except to reiterate a statement contained in the commentary to existing principles approved by the ABA: "National caseload standards should in no event be exceeded." This statement refers to numerical annual caseload limits published in a 1973 national report. As noted by the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, while these standards "may be considered, they are not the sole factor in determining whether a workload is excessive. Such a determination depends not only the number of cases, but also on such factors as case complexity, the availability of support services, the lawyer's experience and ability, and the lawyer's nonrepresentational duties."	Eight Guidelines of Public Defense Related to Excessive Workloads	2008-2009	
American Council of Chief Defenders (ACCD)		In general, defender caseloads should not exceed the limits recommended by the NAC 150 felonies 400 misdemeanors (excluding traffic) 200 juvenile cases 200 mental health cases 25 non-capital appeals	American Council of Chief Defenders Statement on Caseloads and Workloads	2007	
National Advisory Commission (NAC)		150 felonies 400 misdemeanors 200 juvenile cases 200 mental health 25 appeals	Keeping Defender Workloads Manageable	Est. in 1973	
NAPD		NAC standards as "absolute maximums"	NAPD Statement on Workload	2015	

Alabama	Assigned Counsel	200 felonies 400 misdemeanor and traffic offenses 100 open juvenile dependency 100 GAL 36 appeals	AL Dept. of Finance Admin. Code Ch. 355-9-1-.10	Effective 11/18/2015; operative 1/4/2016	
Alaska	Staffed PD	No standards ¹			
Arizona	County Based	150 felonies 300 misdemeanors 200 juvenile cases 200 mental commitment cases 25 appeals	State of Arizona v. Joe U. Smith, 681 P. 2d 1374 (1984) recommends these standards		
Arkansas	Staffed PD	N/A			
California	County Based	N/A			
Colorado	Staffed PD	5 felony 1 32 felony 2 97 felony 3 or 4 (COV) 150 felony 3 or 4 (Non-COV) 235 felony 5 or 6 174 misdemeanor 1 316 misdemeanor 2 or 3 193 juvenile 927 probation violation	From EM PDF – #s from David Kaplan – CO Public Defender Commission		
Colorado (cont.)		Delphi-estimated time required for case tasks for an attorney to provide reasonably effective defense by case type 427.3 felony 1 134.5 felony 2 87.1 felony 3 or 4 (COV) 47.0 felony 3 or 4 (Non-COV) 28.3 felony 5 or 6 28.6 drug related felony 1, 2, 3, or 4 98.9 sexual assault felony 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6	The Colorado Project	Aug. 2017	Office of the State Public Defender Fiscal Year 2019/20 Budget Request

¹ The Public Defender agencies used the ABA standards to [request additional funding](#) for FY2019. The request cited the current caseloads, “The projected caseload for trial attorneys in FY18 is 160 felonies per attorney. Current estimates of the work necessary to meet ethical obligations for the actual FY2017 caseload require trial attorneys to work between 75 and 90 hours per week (more than 10-12 hours per day, seven days per week).”

		<p>29.9 driving under the influence felony 4 16.3 misdemeanor 1 11.4 misdemeanor 2 or 3 15.5 misdemeanor driving under the influence 6.9 misdemeanor traffic/other 33.8 misdemeanor sex offense 7.4 felony probation revocation 4.3 misdemeanor probation revocation 23.4 juvenile felony 13.1 juvenile misdemeanor 42.4 juvenile sex offense</p> <p>“Broad-based averages, as provided in these standards, are appropriate for developing estimates of staffing needs.”</p>			
Connecticut	Staffed PD	<p>75 class A or B felonies 450 – 500 lower felonies and misdemeanors 300 – 400 juvenile 20 – 25 habeas corpus</p> <p>“Public Defender Services Commission establishes caseload goals”</p>	https://www.clearringhouse.net/chDocs/public/PD-CT-0001-0003.pdf	Adopted June 15, 1999	
Delaware	Staffed PD	N/A	Interview w/ Delaware State Public Defender O'Neill	2017	
Florida	Elected County PD	<p>200 (150) felonies 400 (598) misdemeanors 250 (250) juvenile Cases 40 (50) appeals</p> <p>“Priority #2 Goal for the Public Defender: Establish standard caseload”</p>	Long-Range Program Plan FY 2017-2018 through 2021-2022		Bureau of Justice Statistics in parentheses
Georgia	Hybrid	<p>Caseload limitations in the Supreme Court Guidelines applies, by its terms, to full-time public defenders. Under §6.1, the following caseload is recommended per year, per attorney for public defenders:</p> <p>150 felonies 300 misdemeanors</p>	Executive Summary Status of Indigent Defense in Georgia: A	2002	Unable to find these guidelines or verify that these

		250 juvenile offender cases 60 juvenile dependency clients 250 civil commitment cases 25 appeals	Study for the Chief Justice's Commission on Indigent Defense, Part I		guidelines are used
Georgia (cont.)		150 felonies 400 misdemeanors 250 Juvenile cases 50 appeals	Bureau of Justice Statistics; Gideon at 50		Unable to verify these numbers
Hawaii	Staffed PD	N/A			
Idaho	County Based	Estimated total time in hours necessary to dispose cases from each round of the study (2 rounds): 64.11-67.19 hours per felony 21.95-31.97 misdemeanor 46.81-48.05 appeal 17.47-24.7 juvenile case 23.75-27.41 family 15.53-17.42 contempt 9.67-11.25 other 10.37-13.77 probation violation	Idaho Public Defense Workload Study	2018	
Idaho (cont.)		210 felonies 520 misdemeanors 232 juvenile 105 juvenile dependency 608 civil commitment 35 appeals	From EM PDF – no source listed on PDF		
Illinois	Staffed PD	N/A			
Indiana	County Based	With Adequate Support Staff: 120 felony 5 and above 200 felony 6 400 misdemeanor 400 other (prob. Viol., contempt, extradition, etc.) 250 juvenile felony 5 and above 300 juvenile felony 6 400 juvenile misdemeanor 500 juvenile status offense 500 juvenile probation violation 400 juvenile other	The Right to Counsel in Indiana	Oct. 2016	“The Commission has established standards for the maximum number of cases a county can

		<p>120 CHINS and TPR 270 attorney who only handles level 6 felony cases</p> <p>Without Adequate Support Staff: 100 felony 5 and above 150 felony 6 300 misdemeanor 300 other (prob. Viol., contempt, extradition, etc.) 200 juvenile felony 5 and above 250 juvenile felony 6 300 juvenile misdemeanor 400 juvenile status offense 400 juvenile probation violation 300 juvenile other 100 CHINS and TPR 225 If attorney only handles level 6 felony cases</p>			allow its public attorneys to be assigned during a rolling 12-month period, if a county is to be certified as in compliance with standards and eligible to be reimbursed by the state for a given quarter.”
Iowa	Staffed PD	N/A			
Kansas	Staffed PD	N/A			
Kentucky	Staffed PD	N/A – Department of Public Advocacy report compares to “national standards,” but does not state which national standard it refers to	Annual Caseload Report Fiscal Year 2018	2018	
Louisiana	Hybrid	<p>Appropriate amount of time an attorney should spend on certain case types to provide reasonably effective assistance of counsel based on Delphi method</p> <p>7.94 hours per misdemeanor or City Parish Ordinance 12.06 enhanceable misdemeanor 21.99 low-level felony 41.11 mid-level felony 69.79 high-level felony 200.67 felony-life without parole 19.78 juvenile delinquency</p>	The Louisiana Project	2016	As of 10/31/2016, Louisiana only had the capacity to handle 21% of the workload in compliance with the Delphi

		9.66 families in need of service 25.08 child in need of care 8.47 revocation			Panel's consensus opinions
Louisiana (cont.)		200 felonies 450 misdemeanors 250 juvenile	https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/documents/appendix_exhibit_d.pdf	2015	These standards are from 2015, but the workload study was completed after
Maine	Assigned Counsel	N/A			
Maryland	Staffed PD	<p>Rural: 207 felony 191 felony (including homicide) 644 misdemeanor 670 misdemeanor (including traffic) 314 juvenile cases</p> <p>Suburban: 157 felony 140 felony (including homicide) 680 misdemeanor 705 misdemeanor (including traffic) 238 juvenile cases</p> <p>Urban: 170 felony 156 felony (including homicide) 719 misdemeanor 728 misdemeanor (including traffic) 182 juvenile cases</p> <p>Generally: 180 felony 180 felony (including homicide) 480 misdemeanor 480 misdemeanor (including traffic) 240 juvenile cases</p>	Maryland Attorney and Staff Workload Assessment	2005	<p>OPD Managing for Results is 120% of the American Bar Association (ABA) standard</p> <p>"[T]he Maryland Legislative and Executive Branches requested that OPD develop caseload standards upon which to base its operating budget."</p>

Massachusetts	Assigned Counsel	<p>Committee adopted a weighted system of caseload limits, with a particular weight for each type of case assignment and an absolute limit of 250 cases per year</p> <p>250 District Court jurisdiction criminal cases (weight=1) 125 superior court jurisdiction criminal cases (weight=2) 125 youthful offender cases (weight=2) 165 delinquency cases (weight=1.5) 250 revocation advocacy cases (weight=1) 125 children and family law cases (weight=2) 165 children requiring assistance cases (weight=1.5) 165 mental health cases (weight=1.5) 165 sex offender registry board cases (weight=1.5) 125 sexually dangerous person cases (weight=2)</p> <p>"Bail only" cases do not count towards case load computation</p>	Assigned Counsel Manual	1/1/2019	Youthful Offender cases are determined by the type of charge, and not by the actual indictment or potential for indictment of a juvenile
Michigan	County Based	N/A			
Minnesota ²	Staffed PD	"According to a February 2010 report from the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor, "Workloads are too high..."	Do Overworked and Underpaid MN Public Defenders Put Justice at Risk?	2019 article	
Mississippi	County Based	N/A			
Missouri	Staffed PD	<p>Average time in hours required to provide reasonably effective representation for each type of case.</p> <p>MPSD shall ensure that PDs do not exceed the MSPD caseload standard.</p> <p>106.6 hours per murder/homicide 47.6 A/B felony 25.0 C/D felony 63.8 sex felony 11.7 misdemeanor 19.5 juvenile Case 96.5 appellate/PRC 9.8 probation violation</p>	Deal Reached To Reduce Missouri Public Defender Workloads	5/13/2019	Hours mandated through a settlement agreement in the case Randall Lee Dalton, et al. v. Michael Barrett, et al.

² January 1991 study had the following standards, but a 2019 article said Minnesota does not have caseload standards: 3 Homicide cases, 100-120 Felony, 250-300 Gross misdemeanor, 400 Misdemeanors, 80 Child Welfare, 175 Juvenile cases, and 200 Other cases.

		No more than 2,080 hours of case work each year			
Montana	Hybrid	<p>100 hours per homicide 50 felony sex offense 20 felony theft, offenses against the person</p> <p>10 hours misdemeanor sex crime 7 hours DUI, other misdemeanors</p> <p>-Maximum caseloads as defined herein are intended to be strongly recommended while understanding that unusual circumstance, in any office may make them unrealistic.</p> <p>-When an attorney's monthly hours reach 125, the regional manager or managing attorney must meet with the staff attorney to discuss the attorney's caseload.</p>	Office of the State Public Defender Administrative Policies	4/29/13	See pages 4 and 5 of the Admin Policies for full explanation of the case weight hours
Nebraska	County Based	<p>Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy estimate felony caseload standards for only most serious felony offenses</p> <p>50 felonies 40 appeals</p>	Standards for Indigent Defense Services		
Nevada	County Based	Nevada does not have any statewide limits on the number of cases that an attorney representing indigent clients may handle in a year	The Right to Counsel in Rural Nevada		
Lincoln County, NV AND White Pine County, NV		<p>Public defense contracts require attorneys to "maintain average annual caseloads per full-time attorney, or full-time equivalent (FTE) no greater than" the NAC standards for felony, misdemeanor, juvenile delinquency, and appellate cases.</p> <p>Caseload limits for the following case-types: 60 juvenile dependency cases 250 civil commitment cases 250 contempt of court cases drug court cases</p>	The Right to Counsel in Rural Nevada		Outside of these two instances, there are no other local government standards limiting excessive caseloads in rural Nevada
New Hampshire	Staffed PD	"Allocation of Cases. – The allocation of cases between the public defender program and assigned counsel shall be in accordance with a plan adopted by the public defender program and approved by the judicial council. The plan shall establish caseload limits for defender attorneys in accordance	NH Rev Stat § 604-B:6 (2018)		

		with professional standards under the code of professional responsibility and shall provide for appointment of assigned counsel only where maximum caseloads have been reached or public defender attorneys are otherwise unavailable.” Unable to find the “maximum caseload plan.”			
New Jersey	Staffed PD	N/A			
New Mexico	Staffed PD	“The caseload record will be reviewed by the LOPD chief quarterly. After three months of consistently high caseloads, based on national standards, the chief would then examine the work time logs and decide what resources can be moved or other measures taken to address the situation.”	New protocol for public defenders		
New York		50 violent felonies (37.5 hours) 100 non-violent felonies (18.8) 300 misdemeanors and violations (6.3) 200 post-deposition (including probation revocation) (9.4) 200 parole revocation (9.4) 12 appeals of verdict (156.3) 35 appeals of guilty pleas (53.6)	A Determination of Caseload Standards pursuant to § IV of the Hurrell-Harring v. The State of New York Settlement		
Brooklyn, NY		28 violent felonies (67 hours) 54 non-violent felonies (35) 117 unindicted felonies (16) 375 misdemeanors (5) 49 DWI (38) 234 probation (8) 156 youthful offender – misdemeanor (12) 45 youthful offender – felony (42)	Indigent Defense Reforms in Brooklyn, New York, Center for Court Innovation, April 2015 [From A Determination of Caseload Standards from Hurrell-Harring v. The State of New York Settlement]		Hours from Current Attorney Workload and Recommended Case Weights

Indigent Legal Services Board New York (ILSB)		50 violent felonies (37.5 hours) 100 non-violent felonies (18.8) 300 misdemeanors and violations (6.3) 200 post-disposition, including probation revocation (9.4) 200 probation revocation (9.4) 12 appeals of verdicts (156.3) 35 appeals of GP (53.6)	Determination of Caseload Standards pursuant to Hurrell-Harring v. The State of New York Settlement	2016 (full implementation 4/30/19)	
North Carolina	County Based	N/A			
North Dakota	Staffed PD	N/A			
Ohio	County Based	Varies greatly			
Oklahoma	Hybrid: Tulsa and Oklahoma Cities have offices separate from the statewide system	N/A			
Oregon	Contract PD	240 felonies 400 misdemeanors 480 juvenile Cases	Standards for Indigent Defense Services; Gideon at 50	2001	
Pennsylvania	County Based	N/A			
Rhode Island	Staffed PD	Delphi Method of how many hours should be spent in providing representation to provide reasonably effective assistance of counsel pursuant to prevailing professional norms 181.6 hours per murder case 108.1 non-murder, max life 51.9 felony Class I 28.3 felony Class II 16.9 probation violation 12.7 misdemeanors 29.5 juvenile wayward 46.1 juvenile delinquent 27.2 dependency and neglect	The Rhode Island Project	Nov. 2017	
South Carolina	County Based	N/A			
South Dakota	County Based	N/A			

Tennessee ³	Elected County PD	“Tennessee Code Annotated 16-2-513 requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to maintain and update a weighted caseload study for the state judges, district attorneys, and public defenders. Due to insufficient data and outdated case weights, the Comptroller's Office will not publish weighted caseload studies for Tennessee's District Attorneys and District Public Defenders.”	District Public Defenders Weighted Caseload	May 2018	
Texas	County Based	[138 felonies; 239 misdemeanors] ⁴		2019	
Texas (cont.)		77 felony 1 105 felony 2 144 felony 3 174 state jail felony 216 misdemeanor A 236 misdemeanor B	Guidelines for Indigent Defense Caseloads, Public Policy Research Institute, January 2015 [From A Determination of Caseload Standards from the Hurrell-Harring v. The State of New York Settlement]		
Texas (cont.)		230 juvenile misdemeanors with investigator 127 felonies w/ non-determined sentence with investigator 36 felonies w/ determined sentence with investigator 210 juvenile misdemeanors without investigator 108 felonies w/ non-determined sentence without investigator 30 felonies w/ determined sentence without investigator 40 appeals with record < 100 pages 30 appeals with record 100 - 500 pages 20 appeals with record 500 - 1500 pages 14 appeals with record > 1500 pages	EM PDF Appellate Addendum and Juvenile Addendum: Guidelines for Indigent Defense Caseloads, Public Policy Research		

³ 1995: 5 Capital/1st degree Murder, 233 Felonies, 500 Misdemeanors, 273 Juvenile Cases, 25 Appeals, and 795 Other

⁴ On original document, but couldn't confirm

			Institute, January 2015		
Utah	County Based	N/A			
Vermont		150 felonies 400 misdemeanors 200 juvenile cases 25 appeals	Standards for Indigent Defense Services		
Virginia	Hybrid: Staffed public defender & large court-appointed counsel program	N/A			
Washington	County-Based System: non-profit organizations or staffed PD offices	150 felonies 400 misdemeanors 250 juvenile cases 25 or 36 appeals (different numbers on SIDS and Gideon) [NAC standards but some have implemented rules that allow for lower #s]	Standards for Indigent Defense Services; Gideon at 50	2015	Washington State Supreme Court adopted caseload standards for all public defense providers in the state
West Virginia	County Based	N/A			
Wisconsin	60% assigned to staff attorneys 37% assigned to private bar	Except for 10 assistant state public defenders exempted, any of the following constitutes an annual caseload standard for an assistant state public defender in the subunit responsible for trials 184.5 felony cases 15 first-degree intentional homicide cases 492 misdemeanor cases 246 other cases	Wisconsin Statutes & Annotations Section 977.08(5)	2017	
Wyoming	Staffed PD	NAC standards	https://wyodefender.wyo.gov/statistics#h.p_ID_13		Total FY17 caseload was 109.7% of maximum caseloads

					and FY18 caseload was 103.5% of maximum caseloads
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