



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Office of the State Court Administrator

January 30, 2025
(SENT BY EMAIL)

The Honorable Anthony Broadman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Paul Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Responses to Committee Questions on January 29, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Broadman and Co-Chair Evans:

Thank you again for inviting us to present information about criminal caseload trends and the Oregon Judicial Department's (OJD) case management system, integrations, and dashboards. I am writing today to provide additional information in response to questions asked by committee members.

1. Representative Grayber asked a question about how polysubstances (multiple drugs) are classified in Drug Enforcement Misdemeanor (DEM) cases.

OJD does not participate in the decision-making process related to what charges are filed in individual cases. Local prosecutors decide how to charge a case, typically based upon the results of a field test performed by law enforcement. Note that a formal crime lab analysis can occur later in the case, which could result in an amended charging instrument.

It may be helpful for the committee to hear from the Oregon District Attorneys Association to learn more about how local prosecutors make decisions about how to charge a case in situations where they encounter multiple substances.

2. Representative Evans asked if it is possible to compare trends among counties to see which counties are charging crimes at a higher rate than others.

The question of which counties are charging crimes at higher rates is calculated by comparing total arrests to charges filed. Because OJD does not have information about arrests, it is unfortunately not a question we can answer. The Criminal Justice Commission is more likely able to provide that information.

We report cases filed on our public web page, so it is possible to see which counties are filing more cases, but that does not indicate the rate of charges compared to arrests.

See the [Cases Filed](#) dashboard on OJD's [Reports, Statistics, and Performance Measures](#) web page.

The Cases Filed dashboard can be filtered to show the number of felony, misdemeanor, and other case types filed statewide, and can be filtered by judicial district.

That data can be shown as a trendline (with the numerical data visible by hovering over a specific year) or as a table (with the number of filings and percentage change from the previous year).

I hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if you have additional questions, and thank you again for the opportunity to present to your committee.

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Cozine
State Court Administrator

NC:jm/25eNC001jm

cc: Aaron Knott
Phillip Lemman
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