

Measure 9

Number of Judicial Officers Per Case

Percentage of cases in which all hearings were heard by one judicial officer.

What is the goal? *Due Process.*

Assure continuity of judicial officers, which according to the [NCJFCJ RESOURCE GUIDELINES](#), results in better decisions for children. This goal is based on the assumption that some families come to court with some regularity. The principle at work is consistency of decisions and information as well as the avoidance of loss of relationships.

A good management information system should present basic information to any judge hearing a case. However, basic information is not of sufficient depth to provide the history and details of a case needed to allow judges to make the best decisions.

How is it calculated?

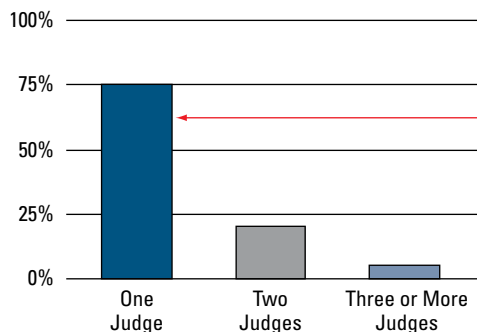
From a sample of all cases closed in the selected time frame, identify all hearings by name of Judicial Officer who presided over the hearing. Compare the judicial officer for the first hearing with the name of the judicial officers at subsequent hearings.

Sort cases according to whether all hearings were conducted by one, two, three or more judicial officers. When calculating this measure identify the judicial officer presiding at the hearing, who is not necessarily the judge assigned to the case.

What is required to measure?

- Case number or child identifier
- Hearing dates
- Presiding judicial officer at each hearing
- Case closure date

Percentage of Cases by Number of Judicial Officers



For example, in 75% of cases sampled, one judge presided over the case from initial hearing through case closure.

Percentage of Cases by Number of Judicial Officers, 2004-2006

