

049 - OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Program: 08049 - Central Management

Investigations -- Felony Cases - PM4901

Rhode Island Public Defender investigators perform investigations in numerous types of cases. The National Legal Aid and Defender Association sets standards that include a requirement that, "Counsel has a duty to conduct an independent investigation regardless of the accused's admissions or statements to the lawyer of facts constituting guilt. The investigation should be conducted as promptly as possible." For that reason, the agency has determined that percentage of cases including an independent investigation is a reasonable proxy measure of quality. The figures below represent the investigation percentage in felony cases. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

Frequency: Quarterly

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	14.0%	15.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%
Actual	16.9%	15.6%	14.4%		

Continuing Legal Education Attendance - PM4902

The Public Defender sponsors a continuing legal education (CLE) program for its legal staff. CLE attendance is a proxy indicator of quality delivery of legal services. Although continuing education is offered through the Rhode Island Bar Association and other organizations, the coursework is not specifically related to the criminal defense function. For that reason, the agency provides CLE courses tailored to the needs of its staff. The figures below represent the average percentage of the ten-hour CLE requirement fulfilled with Public Defender-sponsored courses. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

Frequency: Quarterly

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Actual	93.8%	90.0%	95.8%		

Misdemeanor Caseloads - PM4903

Attorney caseload is a surrogate indicator of the quality of indigent legal representation provided. National caseload standards call for an attorney to handle no more than 150 felonies per attorney per year and no more than 400 misdemeanors per year. The figures below represent the percentage by which the average attorney caseload exceeds the national standards for misdemeanors. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

Frequency: Annual

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Actual	162.1%	154.8%	210.9%		