

MDL CASES CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE FEDERAL CIVIL CASELOAD



At the end of fiscal year 2019, **46.7% of civil cases** in the federal court system were in MDLs.^[1]

288,173 cases were pending in the federal court system. **134,462 of these cases** were pending in **194 MDLs**.^[2]



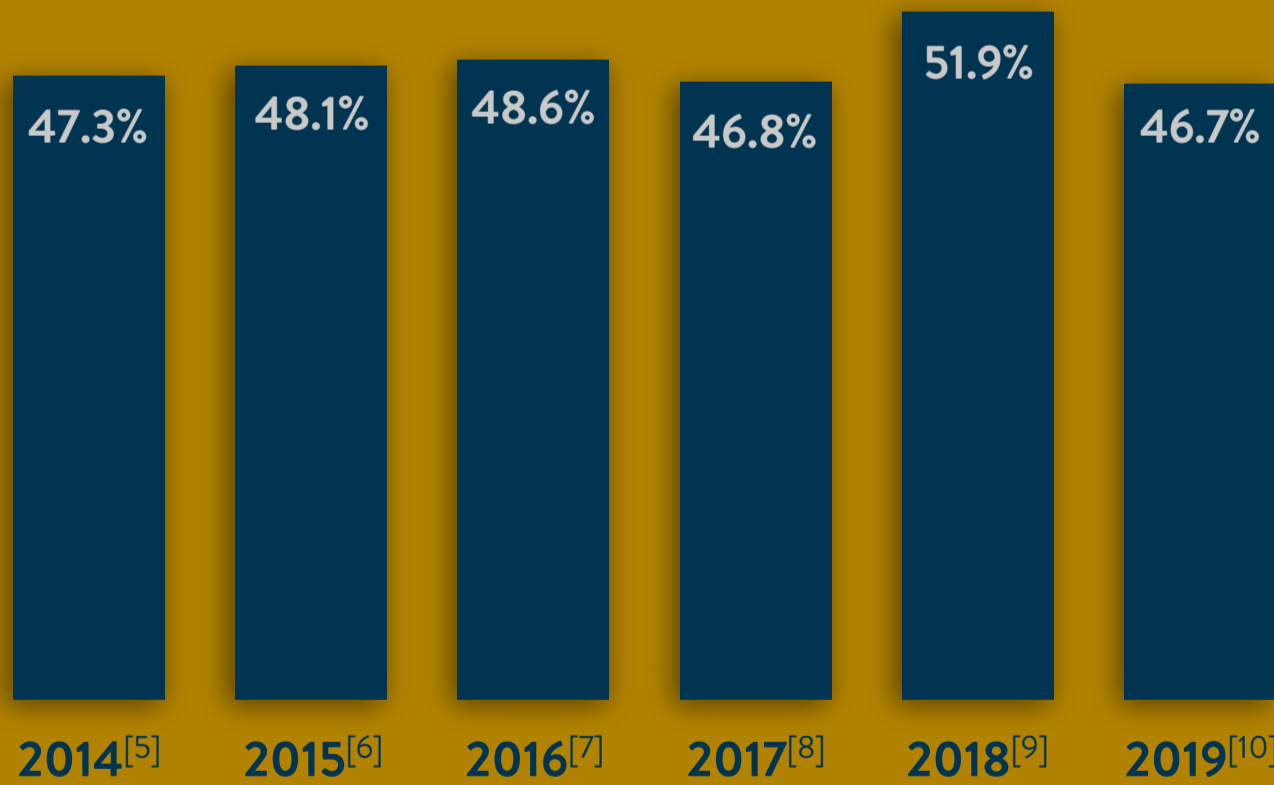
are overseen by



3.1%

121,295 cases in 22 largest MDLs^[3]

21 judgeships of 677 total^[4]



The percentage of federal civil cases concentrated in MDLs has **hovered around 50%** for the last 5 years.

SOURCES

[1] Based on Duke Law Center methodology. Civil cases include all cases minus social security and prisoner cases, except death penalty cases. https://www.jpml.uscourts.gov/sites/jpml/files/JPML_Statistical_Analysis_of_Multidistrict_Litigation-FY-2019_0.pdf
https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/data_tables/jb_c3a_0930.2019.pdf

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] <https://www.uscourts.gov/judges-judgeships/judicial-vacancies>

[5] Based on Duke Law Center methodology. Civil cases include all cases minus social security and prisoner cases, except death penalty cases. https://judicialstudies.duke.edu/sites/default/files/centers/judicialstudies/MDL_Standards_and_Best_Practices_2014-REVISED.pdf

[6] Based on Duke Law Center methodology. Civil cases include all cases minus social security and prisoner cases, except death penalty cases. https://www.jpml.uscourts.gov/sites/jpml/files/JPML_Statistical_Analysis_of_Multidistrict_Litigation-FY-2015_0.pdf
<https://www.uscourts.gov/statistics-reports/federal-judicial-caseload-statistics-2015>

[7] Based on Duke Law Center methodology. Civil cases include all cases minus social security and prisoner cases, except death penalty cases. https://www.jpml.uscourts.gov/sites/jpml/files/JPML_Statistical_Analysis_of_Multidistrict_Litigation-FY-2016_1.pdf
<https://www.uscourts.gov/statistics-reports/federal-judicial-caseload-statistics-2016>

[8] Based on Duke Law Center methodology. Civil cases include all cases minus social security and prisoner cases, except death penalty cases. https://www.jpml.uscourts.gov/sites/jpml/files/JPML_Statistical_Analysis_of_Multidistrict_Litigation-FY-2017.pdf
https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/data_tables/fcms_na_distprofile0930.2017.pdf

[9] Based on Duke Law Center methodology. Civil cases include all cases minus social security and prisoner cases, except death penalty cases. https://www.jpml.uscourts.gov/sites/jpml/files/JPML_Statistical_Analysis_of_Multidistrict_Litigation-FY-2018.pdf
<https://www.uscourts.gov/statistics-reports/federal-judicial-caseload-statistics-2018>

[10] Based on Duke Law Center methodology. Civil cases include all cases minus social security and prisoner cases, except death penalty cases. https://www.jpml.uscourts.gov/sites/jpml/files/JPML_Statistical_Analysis_of_Multidistrict_Litigation-FY-2019_0.pdf
https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/data_tables/jb_c3a_0930.2019.pdf