



Oregon Judicial Department

Unrepresented Crisis – February 2025

Key Insights

[Unrepresented Trends](#)

The total number of unrepresented persons and unrepresented cases continues to increase, reaching a new high on February 1, 2025, with 4,371 unrepresented persons and 4,809 unrepresented cases ([Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#)). Since March 1, 2024, the number of unrepresented cases has increased by 60% and the number of unrepresented persons has increased by 58%. The number of unrepresented persons with multiple unrepresented cases has been increasing since November 2024. Daily updates are available on the [Unrepresented Dashboard](#) on the OJD website.

[Cases Entering and Exiting Unrepresented Status](#)

More than 400 cases entered unrepresented status than exited that status in January, adding to the unrepresented case total.

[Unrepresented – Out-of-Custody](#)

The average number of days a person with an out-of-custody felony case is unrepresented continues to increase, reaching an average of 113 days in January 2025. That number remains higher than the average number of days an out-of-custody misdemeanor case is unrepresented, which has remained relatively stable ([Figure 4](#)).

[Unrepresented – In-Custody](#)

The average number of days a person who is in custody and is unrepresented on any case has decreased since November 2024 to 21 days in January 2024, but is 50% higher than in February 2024 ([Figure 5](#)).

[Criminal Case Filings](#)

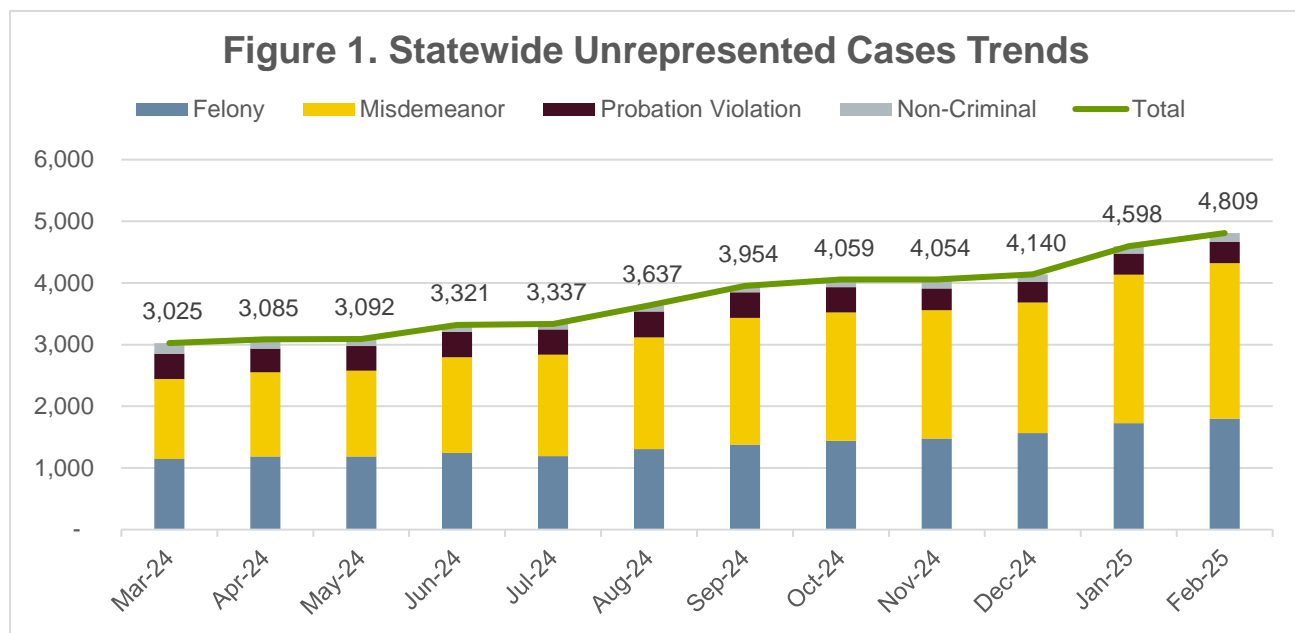
Criminal case filings have generally increased over the past twelve months, with a new monthly high in January 2025 of 6,104 cases ([Figure 6](#)).

[Unrepresented by County](#)

Multnomah, Jackson, Marion, Washington, Douglas, Klamath, and Coos counties have the highest number of unrepresented persons in Oregon ([Figure 7](#)). Klamath County recently lost a single contract attorney, causing a 160% increase in unrepresented persons between January and February 2025 and putting them as the county with the 6th highest number of unrepresented persons.

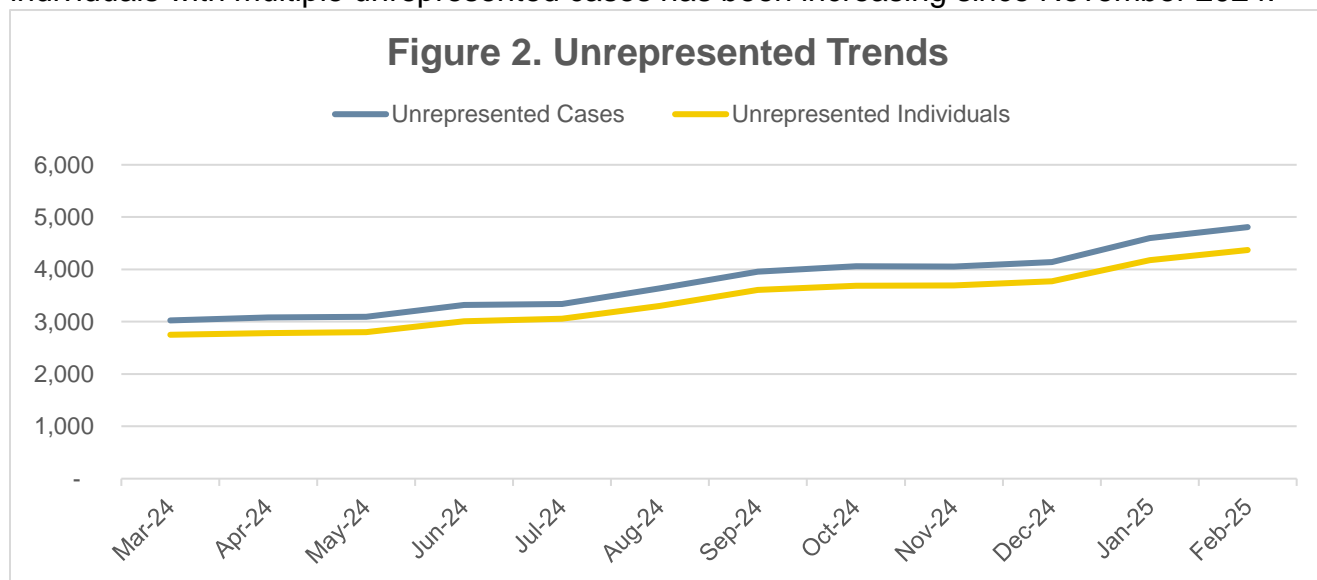
Unrepresented Trends

Figure 1 shows the number of unrepresented cases by case type. **Another new high was reached on February 1, 2025, with 4,809 unrepresented cases, a 60% increase since March 2024.** The number of unrepresented misdemeanor cases has increased each month since March 2024 and the number of unrepresented felony cases has increased each month since July 2024.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

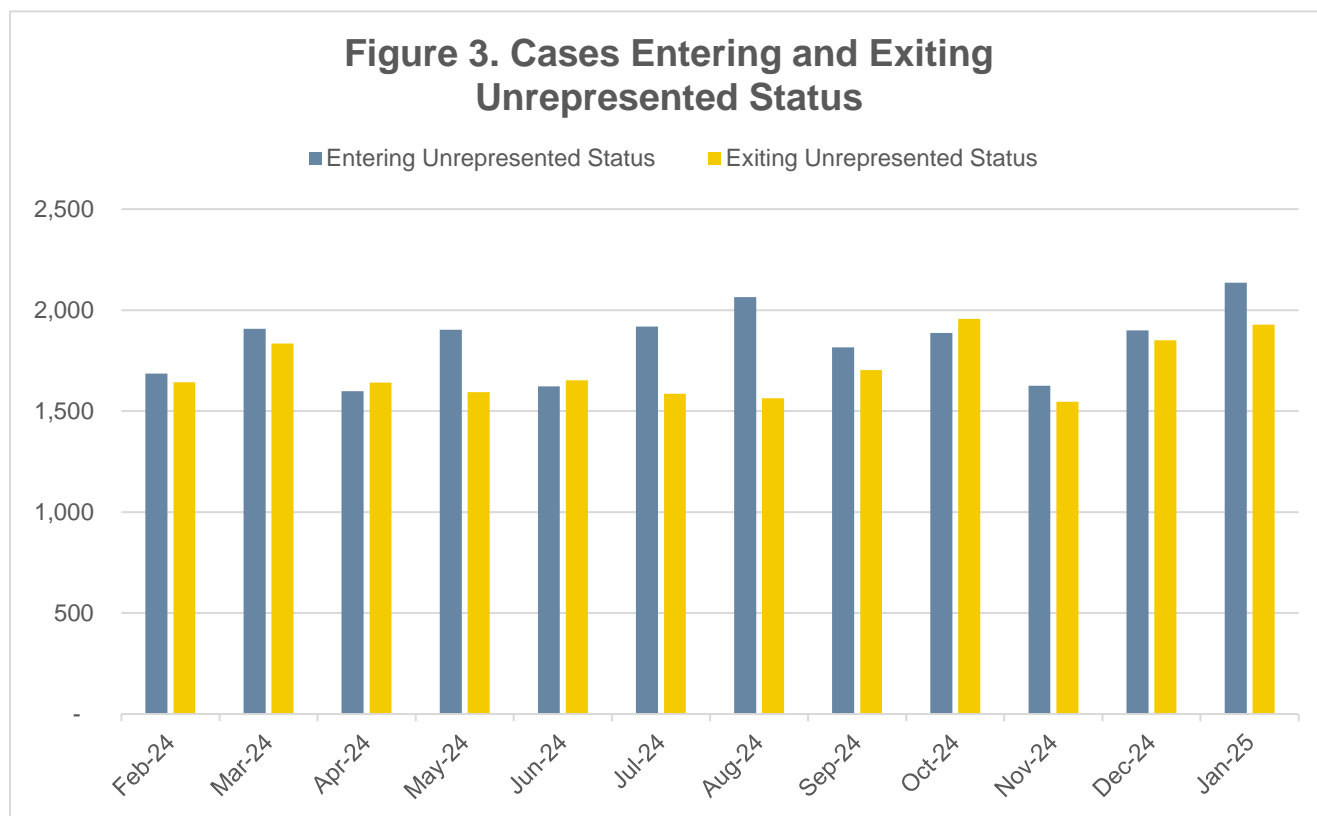
Figure 2 shows the number of unrepresented cases and unrepresented individuals. **On February 1, 2025, a new record high of 4,371 unrepresented individuals was set, a 59% increase from March 2024.** When there are more unrepresented cases than unrepresented individuals it means there are individuals with multiple unrepresented cases. The number of individuals with multiple unrepresented cases has been increasing since November 2024.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Cases Entering and Exiting Unrepresented Status

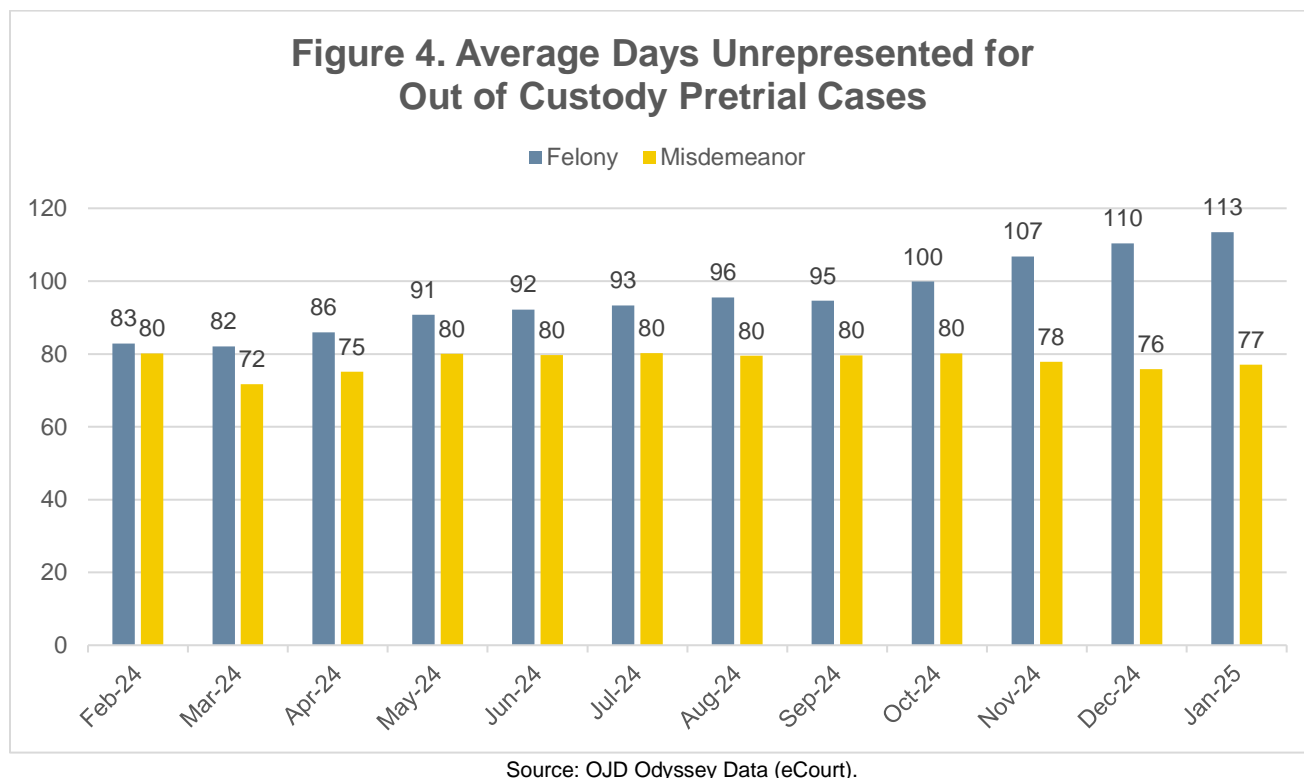
Figure 3 shows the number of cases entering and exiting the unrepresented list each month. When more cases enter the unrepresented list than exit, it means the unrepresented list is increasing. Between September and December 2024, the difference between the number of cases entering and exiting the unrepresented list was less than 100. In January 2025, though, 438 more cases entered the unrepresented list than exited. The number of cases exiting unrepresented status decreased by 154 between December 2024 and January 2025.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented – Out-of-Custody

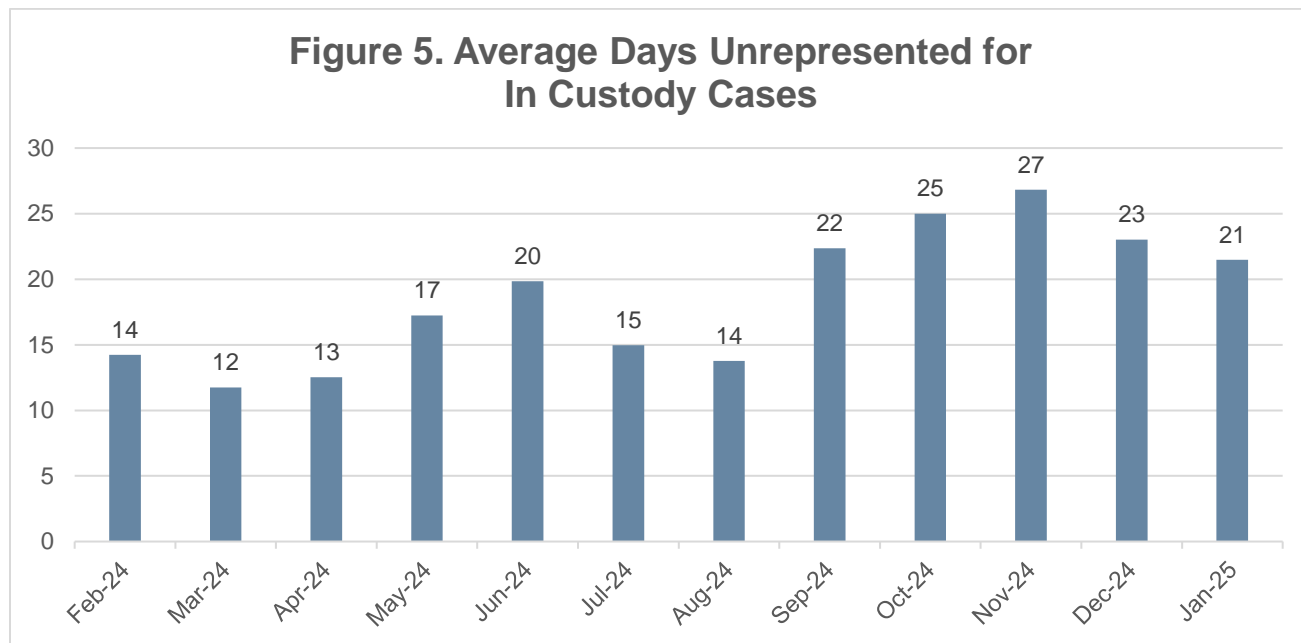
Figure 4 shows monthly changes in the average number of days an out-of-custody felony or misdemeanor case is unrepresented. The average number of days an out-of-custody felony case is unrepresented has continued to increase since September 2024 and reached an average of 113 days in January 2025.



Unrepresented – In-Custody

Figure 5 shows trends in the average number of days a person is both in custody and is unrepresented in any case. This chart primarily consists of people who are in custody and are unrepresented either on that in-custody case, another in-custody case, or an out-of-custody case. Because of the variety of circumstances in which being represented and unrepresented in different cases can occur while a person is in custody, this creates complexity in ensuring a person has appointed counsel on all their pending cases. If a person is being held in custody for reasons other than the unrepresented case, they may not be prioritized for appointment of counsel by OPDC because they will remain in custody for other reasons.

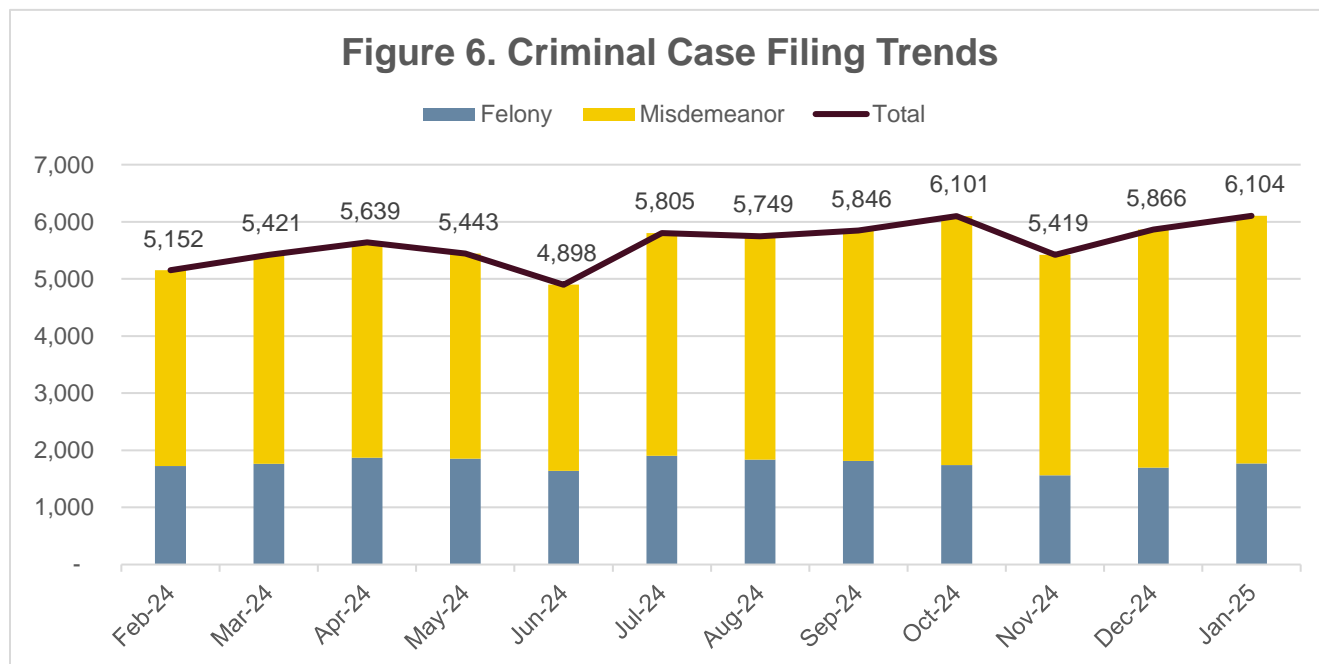
The average number of days a person is in custody and unrepresented on a case has been decreasing recently, from an average of 27 days in November 2024 to an average of 21 days in January 2025.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Criminal Case Filings

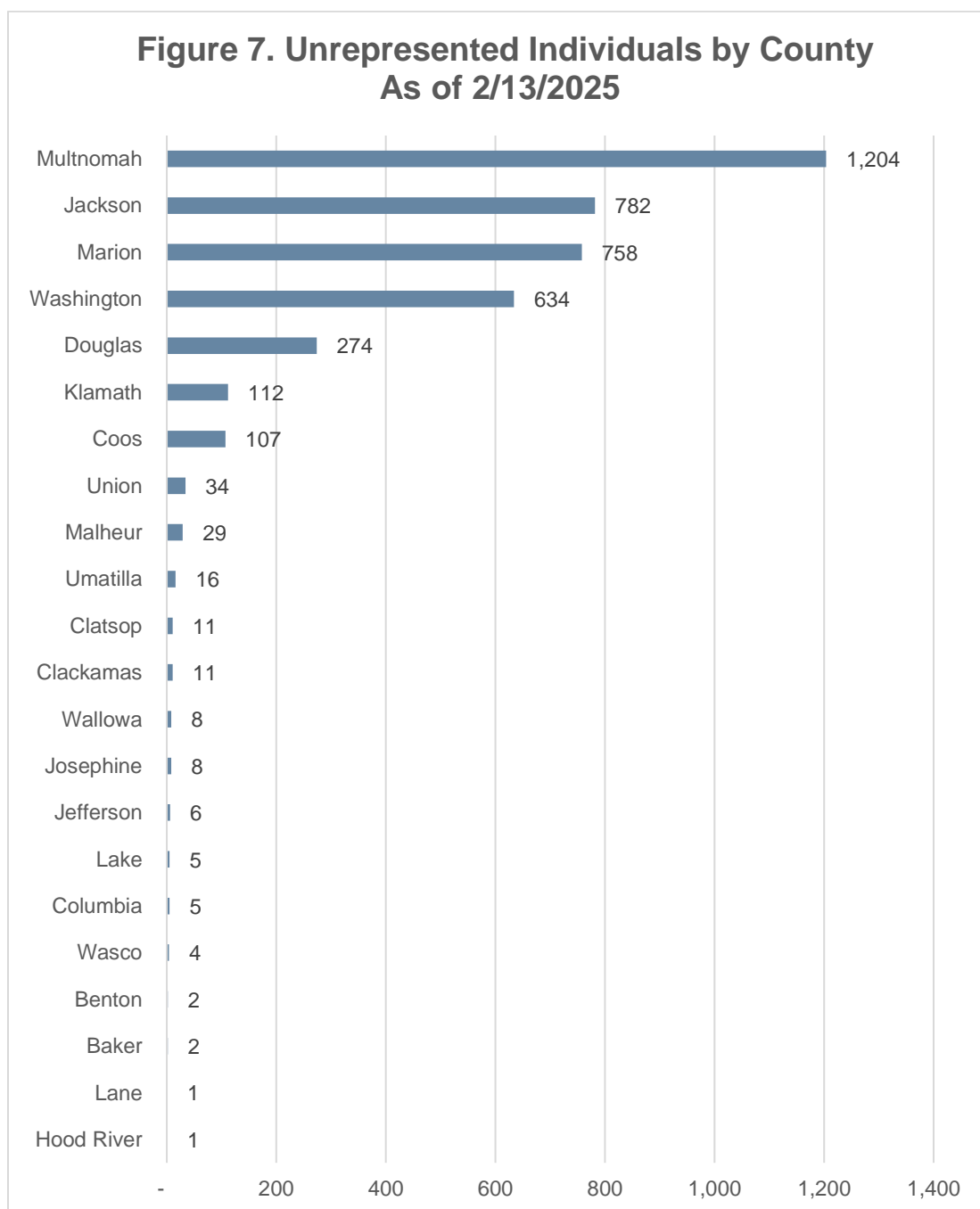
Figure 6 shows the number of criminal cases filed each month. Criminal case filings slowed in June and November 2024, both felony and misdemeanor case filings have increased. In January 2025, there were 6,104 criminal cases filed, an 18% increase since February 2024.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented by County

Figure 7 shows the number of unrepresented individuals by county as of February 13, 2025. Multnomah, Jackson, Marion, Washington, Douglas, Klamath, and Coos counties have the highest number of represented persons in Oregon. The largest increases were in Multnomah, Washington, and Klamath counties. An attorney who contracts directly with OPDC left Klamath County recently, jumping the number of unrepresented individuals from 43 on January 14, 2025 to 112 on February 13, 2025 -- a 160% increase. Klamath County is unique because it is the only judicial district that does not have a consortium or non-profit public defense office. All public defense attorneys who work there contract directly with OPDC.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).