



Oregon Judicial Department

Unrepresented Crisis – April 2025

Key Insights

[Unrepresented Trends](#)

The total number of unrepresented persons and unrepresented cases *decreased* for the first time in the past 12 months, to 4,355 unrepresented persons and 4,739 unrepresented cases ([Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#)). There were 141 fewer unrepresented cases (2.9%) and 104 fewer unrepresented persons (2.3%).

Daily updates are available on the [Unrepresented Dashboard](#) on the OJD website.

More cases exited the unrepresented list than entered for the first time since October 2024. ([Figure 3](#)). A large increase in the number of attorney appointments in March contributed to the increase in exits from the unrepresented list.

Unrepresented persons appeared in court an average of five times and waited an average of 62 days (a 5% increase since January 2025) before an attorney was assigned ([Figure 4](#) and [Figure 5](#)).

[Unrepresented – Out-of-Custody](#)

The average number of days an out-of-custody person in a felony case is unrepresented continues to increase, to an average of 122 days in March 2025 -- a 28% increase since September 2024 ([Figure 6](#)).

[Unrepresented – In-Custody](#)

The average number of days a person is in custody and is unrepresented on any case decreased to 19 days in March 2025, a 24% decrease from February 2025 ([Figure 7](#)).

[Criminal Case Filing and Disposition Trends](#)

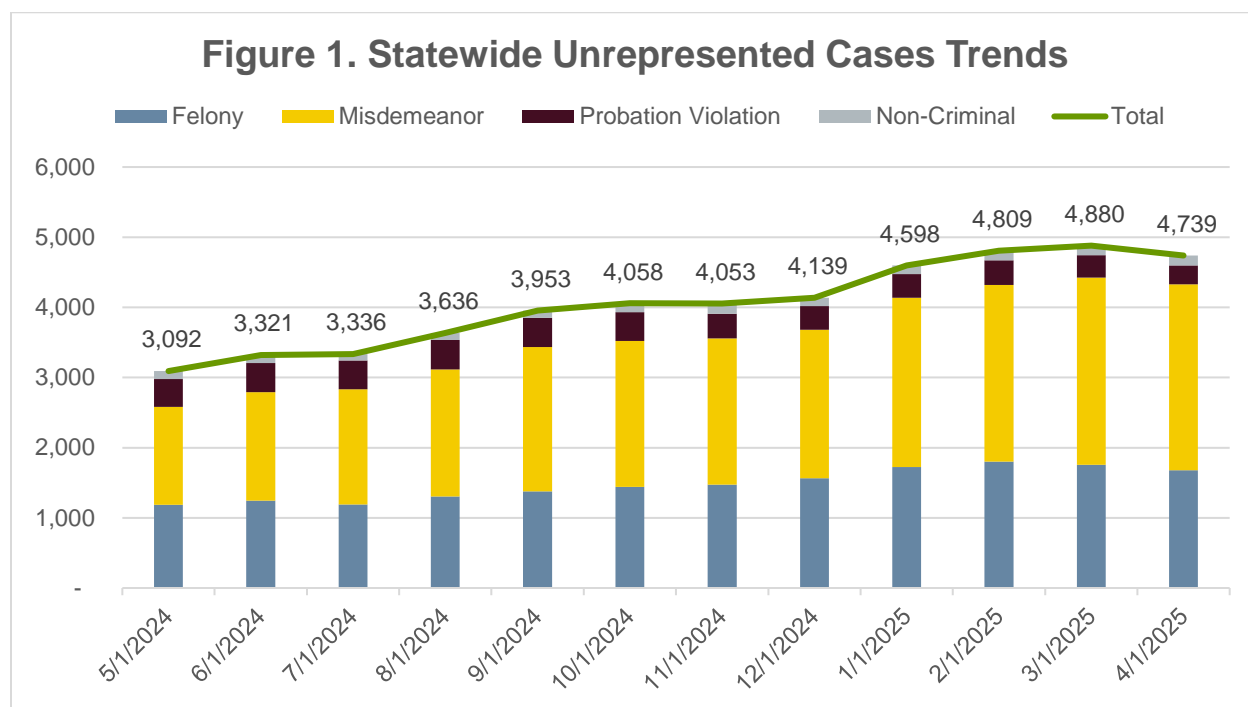
The number of criminal cases filed increased by 9.5% in March 2025 to 5,775 cases filed ([Figure 8](#)). The number of cases disposed of in March 2025 also increased by 10.7% compared to February 2025 ([Figure 9](#)).

[Unrepresented by County](#)

Multnomah, Jackson, Washington, Marion, Douglas, Coos, Klamath, and Union counties continue to have the highest number of unrepresented persons in Oregon ([Figure 11](#)). Multnomah and Washington saw increases in the number of unrepresented people between March 1 and April 1, 2025; but the other counties saw decreases. The largest decreases were in Klamath (-25.6%) and Marion (-19.1%).

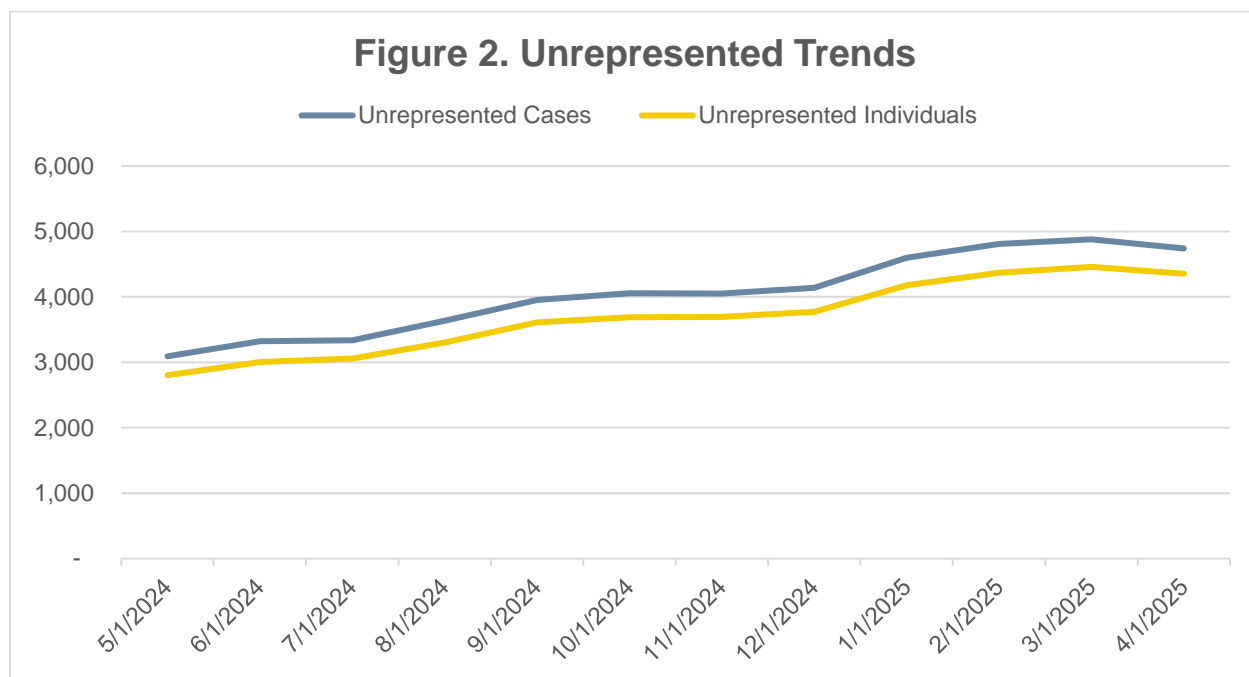
Unrepresented Trends

Figure 1 shows the number of unrepresented cases by case type. **The number of unrepresented cases decreased for the first time in the past 12 months.** On April 1, 2025, there were 4,739 unrepresented cases, down 141 cases (2.9%) between March 1 and April 1, primarily from fewer unrepresented felony and probation violation cases.



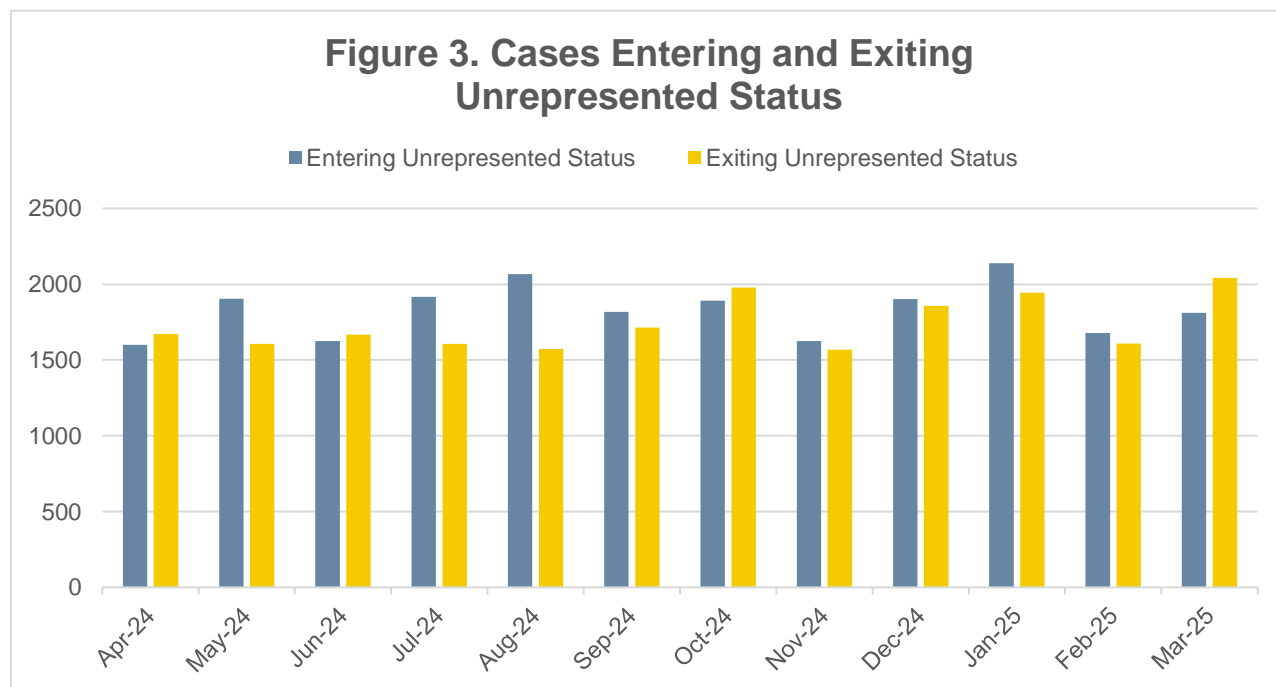
Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Figure 2 shows the number of unrepresented cases and unrepresented individuals. **The number of unrepresented persons decreased between March 1 and April 1**, with a total of 4,355 unrepresented persons on April 1, 2025, which is 104 (2.3%) fewer than the previous month.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Figure 3 shows the number of cases entering and exiting the unrepresented list each month. In March 2025, more cases exited the unrepresented status than entered, reversing a four-month trend.



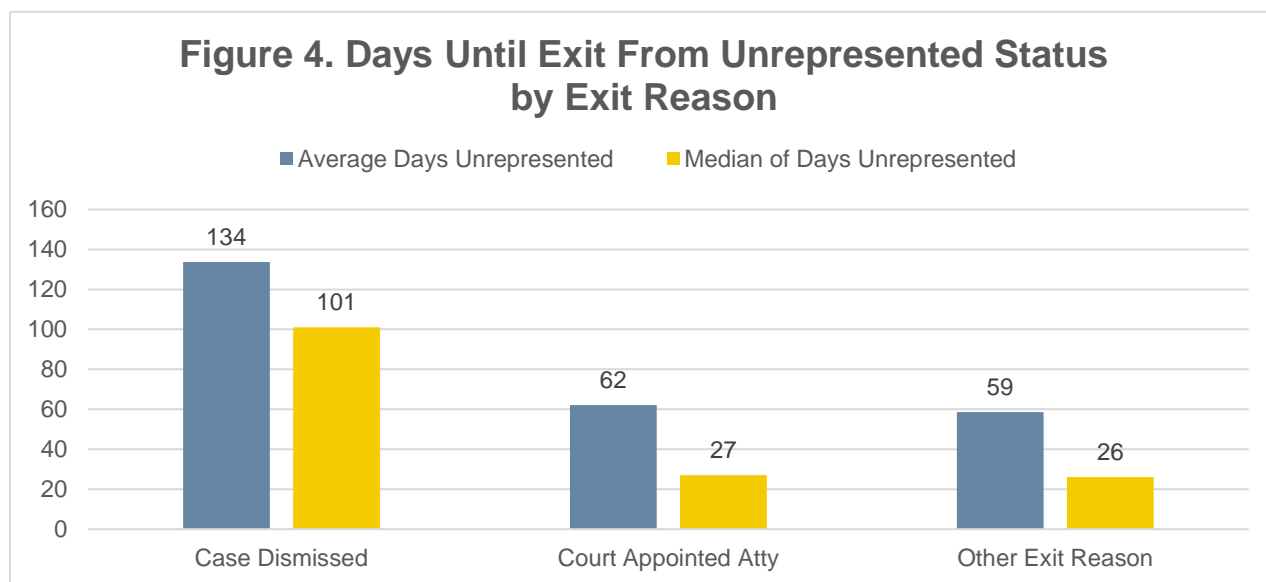
Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Figure 4 shows the *average number of days* until a case exits the unrepresented list based on the exit reason. **Figure 5** shows the *average number of appearances* in an unrepresented

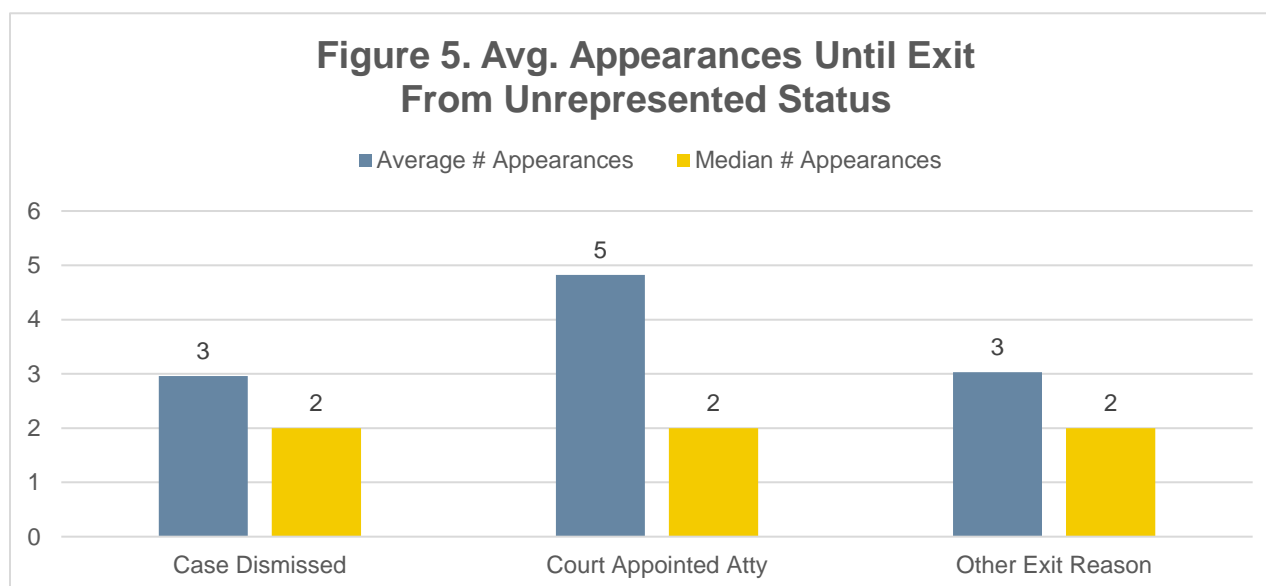
case before exiting the unrepresented list by exit reason. These charts include both in-custody and out-of-custody cases.

Cases exit unrepresented status because the case was dismissed, an attorney was appointed, or “other exit reason.” In March 2025, cases exiting unrepresented status because an attorney was appointed were on the unrepresented list for an average of 62 days and involved an average of five court appearances. In January 2025, the average days before a case exited unrepresented status because an attorney was assigned was 59 days.

Some courts require unrepresented persons to appear in court, either physically or remotely. Other courts require unrepresented persons to check-in with the court’s release assistance office and are documenting those check-ins as “appearances” for tracking purposes.



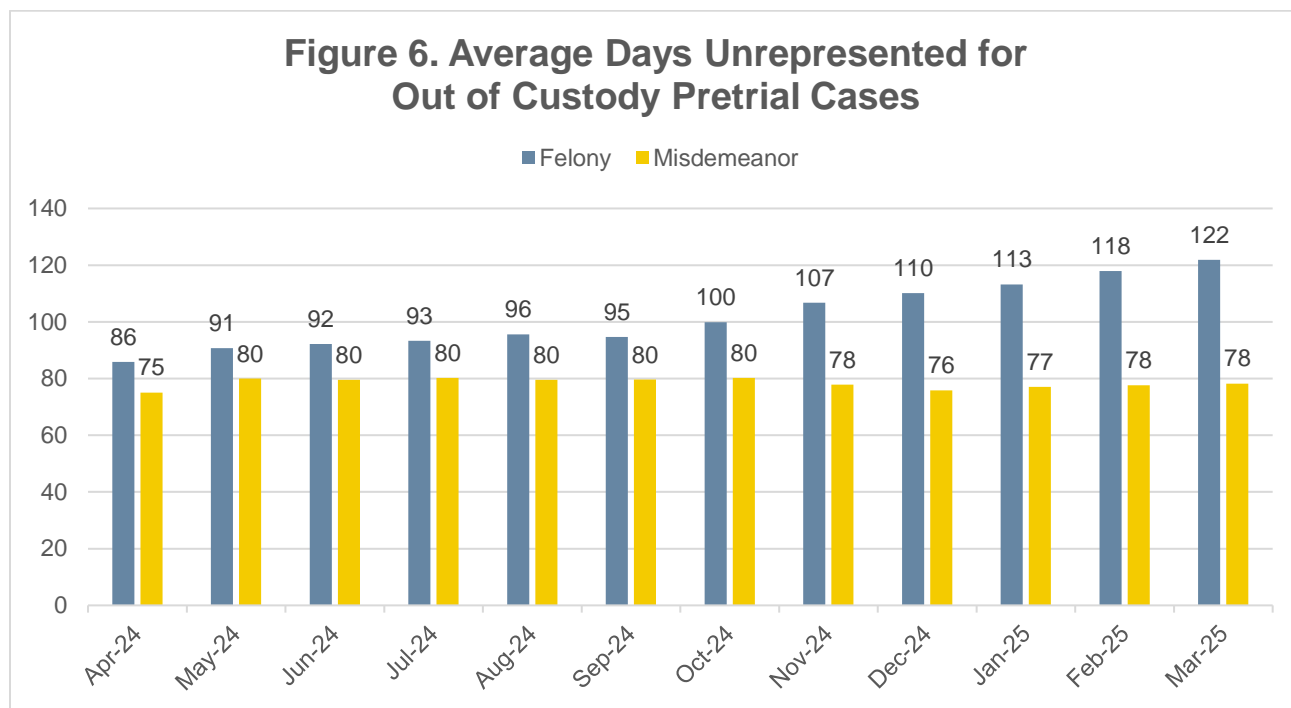
Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented – Out-of-Custody

Figure 6 shows monthly data on the average days an out-of-custody felony or misdemeanor case is unrepresented. The average days an out-of-custody felony case is unrepresented continues to increase, reaching an average of 122 days in March 2025. The average time an out-of-custody misdemeanor case is unrepresented continues to remain relatively stable.

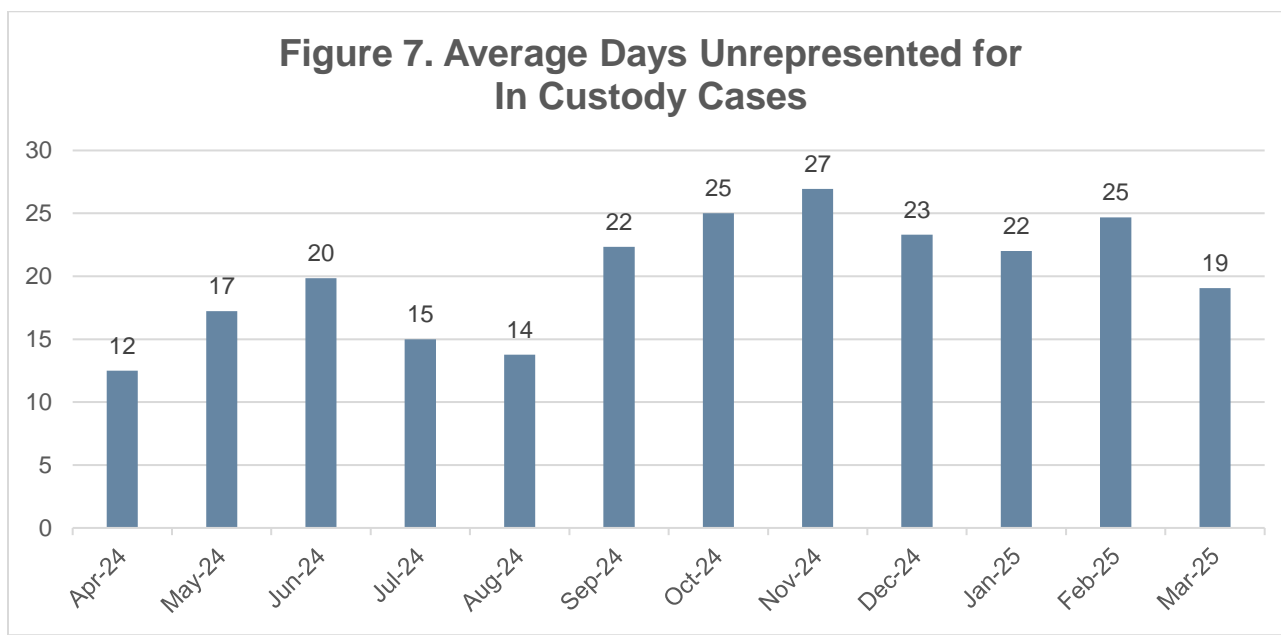


Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented – In Custody

Figure 7 shows trends in the average number of days a person is both in custody and is unrepresented in any case. The average days a person is unrepresented and in custody on any case decreased sharply in March 2025 to an average of 19 days.

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 those other reasons.



Criminal Case Filing and Disposition Trends

Figure 8 shows the criminal case filing trends since April 2024. Criminal case filings increased 9.5% in March 2025 compared to February 2025.

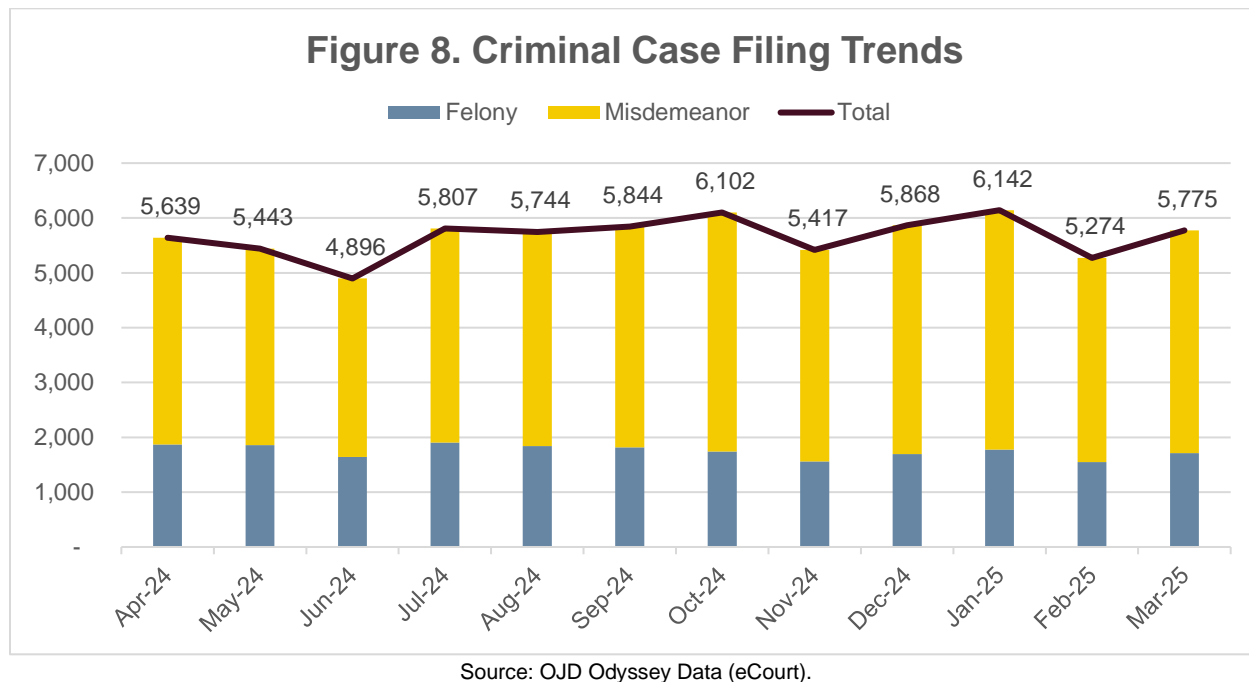
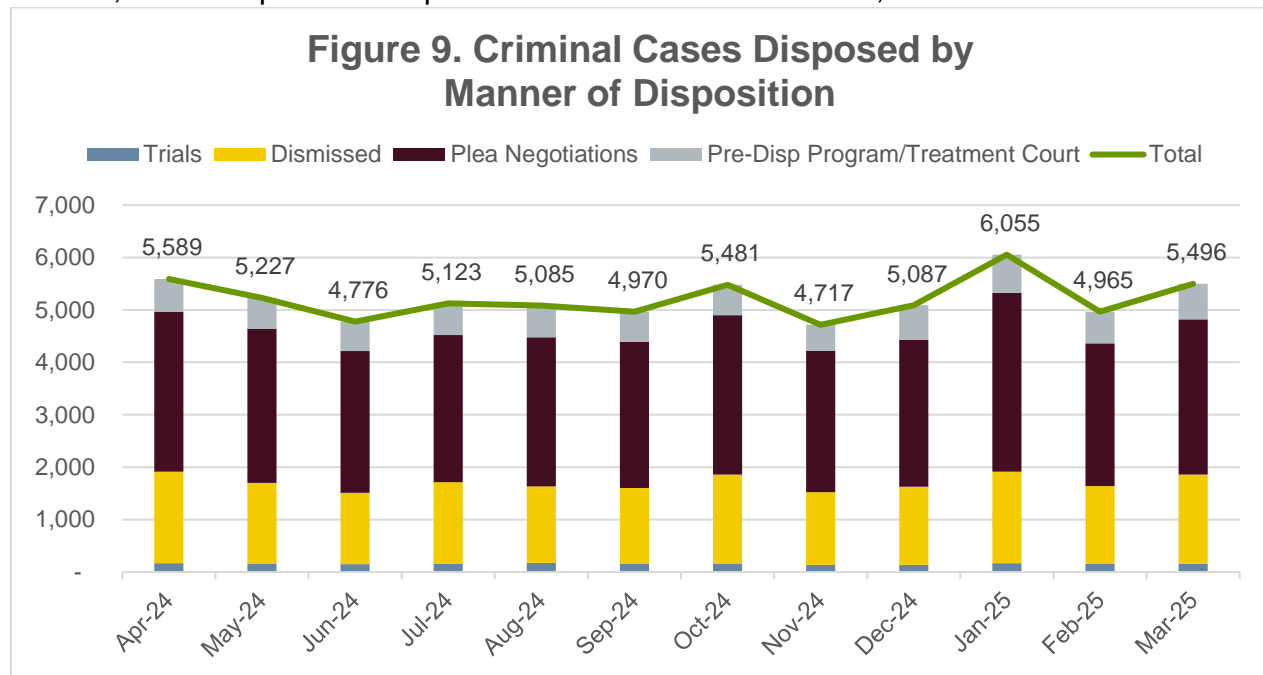


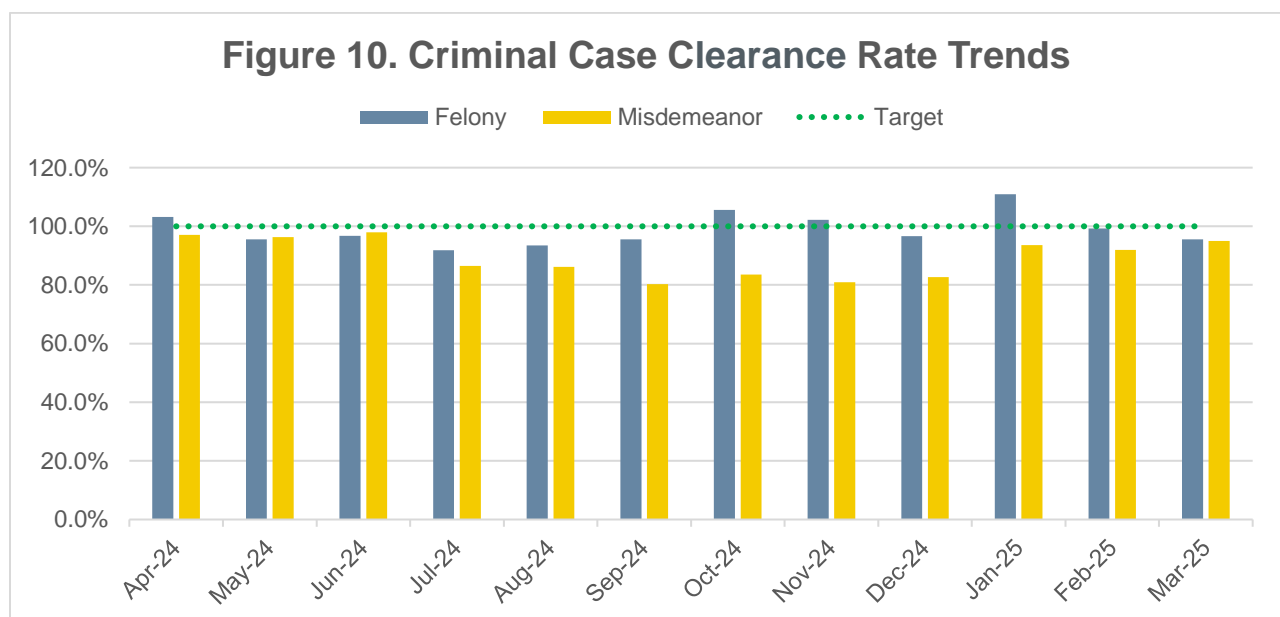
Figure 9 shows the number of criminal cases disposed each month, by manner of disposition. Most criminal cases resolve through plea negotiations, followed by being dismissed. Over the past 12 months, on average 55.6% of cases resolved through plea negotiations and 29.7% of cases were dismissed. Dismissed cases includes cases where the parties negotiated a global

resolution and in exchange for the defendant pleading guilty in one or more cases, another case was dismissed. Cases also could be dismissed when a defendant is found not able to aid and assist, at the request of the prosecutor and then later refiled, or other reasons.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

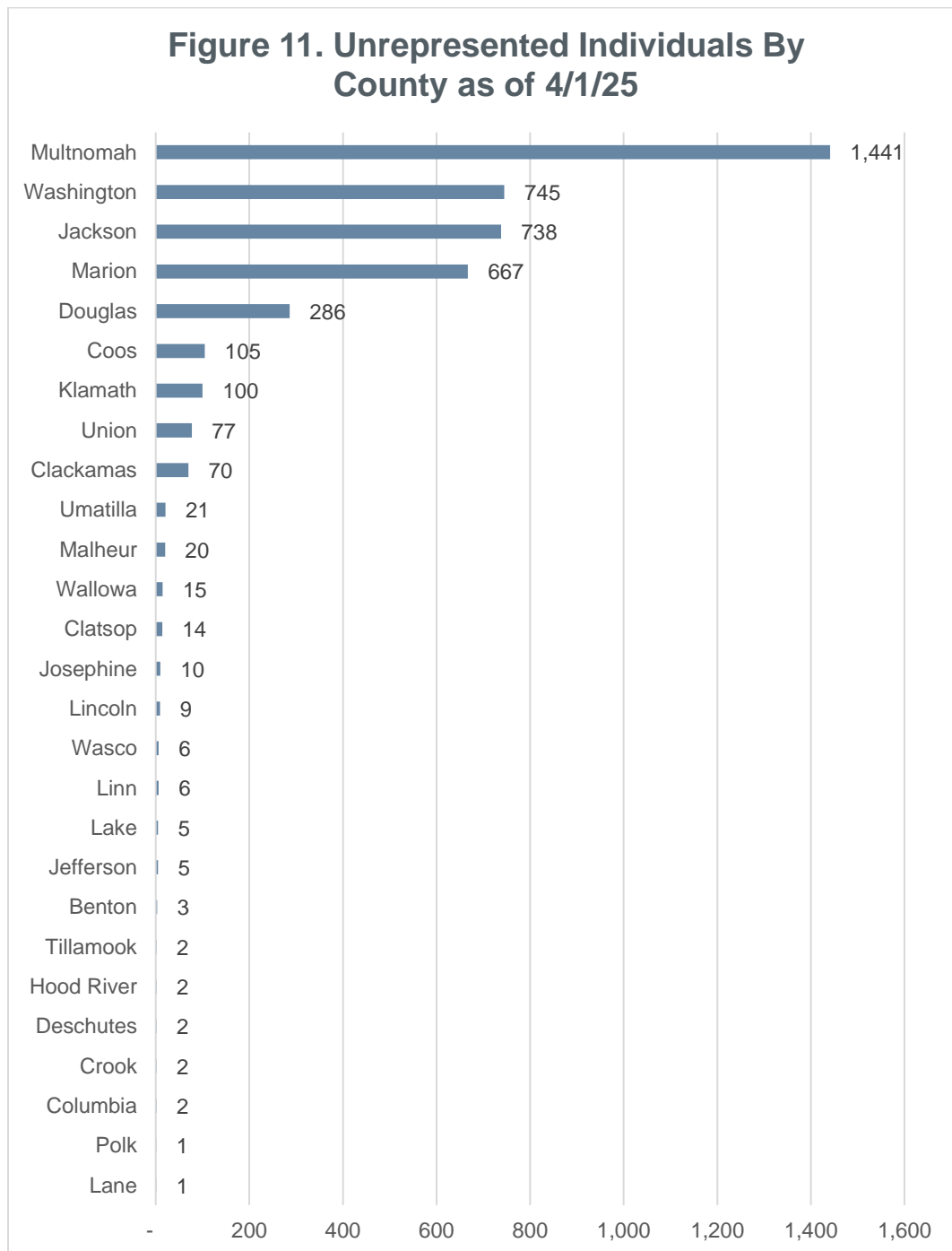
Figure 10 shows criminal case clearance rate trends for the past 12 months. The statewide average in March for felony cases was 95.5% and the average for misdemeanor cases was 95%. When clearance rates are above 100%, courts are reducing the number of pending criminal cases. When clearance rates are below 100%, the number of pending cases is increasing. In the past 12 months, felony clearance rates generally have been higher than misdemeanor clearance rates.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented by County

Figure 11 shows the number of unrepresented persons by county as of April 1, 2025. Multnomah, Washington, Jackson, Marion, Douglas, Coos, Klamath, and Union counties continue to have the highest number of unrepresented persons in Oregon. The number of unrepresented persons increased in Multnomah and Washington counties but decreased in the other counties between March 1 and April 1, 2025.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).