

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**MISSION:** To administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient and impartial system of dispute resolution that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law.

## MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE



POPULATION OF MAINE..... 1,328,188  
 GEOGRAPHIC AREA..... 30,843 sq. mi.  
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 38

### FY'12 EXPENDITURES:

Judicial Branch Operations ..... \$45,228,269  
 Personal Services ..... \$33,173,478  
 All Other Operation Expenses ..... \$12,054,791  
 Guardians ad Litem, Psychological Exams..... \$2,915,799  
 Debt Service ..... \$5,812,242  
 % of State General Fund..... 1.7%

**TOTAL: \$53,956,310**

### FY'12 REVENUE:

Deposited to Maine's General Fund..... \$32,225,057  
 Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts..... \$8,412,202

**TOTAL: \$40,637,259**



JUDGES (Total)..... 60  
 Supreme Judicial Court Justices ..... 7  
 Superior Court Justices ..... 17  
 District Court Judges ..... 36

FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES..... 8

STAFF (clerks, security & support) ..... 423.5

**TOTAL: 491.5**

\* FY'12 legislative position count was 493. Adjustments made by the JB eliminated 15 positions.



TOTAL 2012 CASES FILED ..... 243,385  
 Supreme Judicial Court..... 675  
 Superior Court ..... 15,705  
 Unified Criminal Dockets..... 17,197  
 District Court..... 107,894  
 Violations Bureau ..... 101,914



## IMPROVED COURTHOUSE SAFETY

With the support of the Governor and the Legislature, the last budget included an increase for courthouse entry screening. As a result, entry screening takes place on nearly 50% of all days in the Maine Courts. Maine Courts are not yet secure every day of the week, but FY '12 saw a major improvement in courthouse security.



Entry screening at the West Bath District Courthouse.

## ELECTRONIC WARRANTS

In the spring of 2012, the Courts, along with Maine law enforcement, converted from paper warrants to electronic warrants. Although an invisible change to most Maine people, electronic warrants significantly improve public safety, as warrants are issued and returned, or recalled, electronically and instantaneously.

## PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE RENOVATED



The packed hallway at the District Court in Dover-Foxcroft prior to renovations.

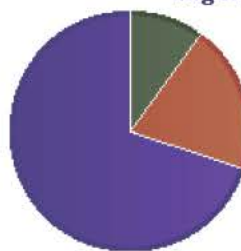


The courtroom in the recently renovated Piscataquis County Courthouse in Dover-Foxcroft.

With 14 courthouses that are over 100 years old, and another 8 that are 50 years old or older, the Judicial Branch is challenged to renovate or replace aging, unsafe, and inefficient courthouses across the state. In 2012, the Piscataquis County Courthouse renovation was completed on time and under budget. The renovation resulted in the closure of the unsafe "farmhouse" style building that served as the District Court, and transformation of the Superior Court courthouse into a safe and secure, modern, efficient, and physically accessible building, while maintaining the architectural significance of the 1886 courthouse.

## THE NEW SERVICE CENTER: IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICE & GREATER EFFICIENCY

### Region 3 Calls From the Public



Maine court clerks receive approximately half a million telephone calls a year, in addition to all of their other work at the courthouses. Because the calls are received in busy courthouses, they cannot always be answered quickly or completely. To improve that aspect of public service, the Judicial Branch Service Center Pilot Project was created to receive and answer questions by phone, with the goal of answering the public's calls quickly and completely.

The pilot began in 2012, without additional funding, through the repurposing of existing positions. The Service Center staff receive all incoming court calls in Judicial & Prosecutorial Region 3 - Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties. In the first few months of operation, 70% of all calls were successfully handled by the Service Center, and only 30% required further assistance from the Clerks' Offices. Public service by phone has been greatly improved, and the clerks' ability to provide uninterrupted public service in the courthouses has increased dramatically. The public response has been excellent, and further expansion of the Service Center is planned in the upcoming year.

# THE COURTS OF MAINE

## SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



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Front Row: Justice Donald G. Alexander, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, Justice Jon D. Levy

Back Row: Justice Ellen A. Gorman, Justice Warren M. Silver, Justice Andrew M. Mead, Justice Joseph M. Jabar

## CHIEFS



© Michael C. York

From Left to Right: THOMAS E. HUMPHREY, Chief Justice, Superior Court; LEIGH I. SAUFLEY, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court; CHARLES C. LAVERDIERE, Chief Judge, District Court; ROBERT E. MULLEN, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court

## ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP



From Left to Right: LAURA M. O'HANLON, Chief of Court Management; TED GLESSNER, State Court Administrator; DEBORAH CARSON, Chief of Finance and Administration

## TRIAL COURT CASE FILINGS FY'12 TOTAL: 242,710

### CRIMINAL FILINGS: 57,355

District Court Criminal	31,116
District Ct. Probation Revocations	387
Superior Court Criminal	8,969
Super. Ct. Probation Revocations	2,594
Unified Criminal Dockets	13,622
UCD Probation Revocations	667

### DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION: 25,999

Juvenile	3,136
Divorce	6,428
Other Family Matters	2,824
Family Post-Judgment	6,500
Child Protective	861
Protection from Abuse	6,250

### CIVIL FILINGS: 39,360

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT
Contract	473	6,828
Foreclosure	1,405	3,044
Tort	905	134
Other Civil	1,359	956
Small Claims		14,747
Money Judgments		4,157
FEDs (Eviction)		5,352
<b>TOTAL(S):</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>35,218</b>

### OTHER ACTIONS: 18,082

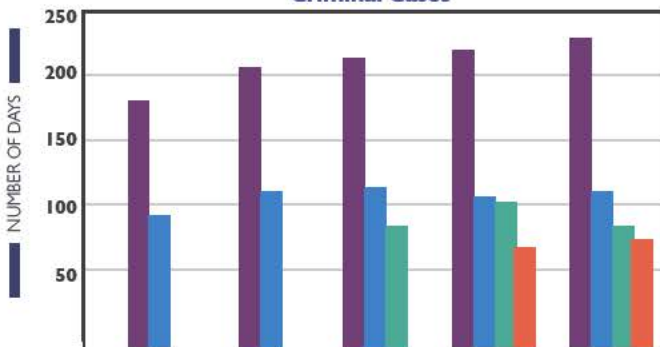
Mental Health (District Court)	1,024
Protection from Harassment (District Court)	4,100
Civil Violations (District Court & UCDs)	12,958

### VIOLATIONS BUREAU

Traffic Infractions	101,914
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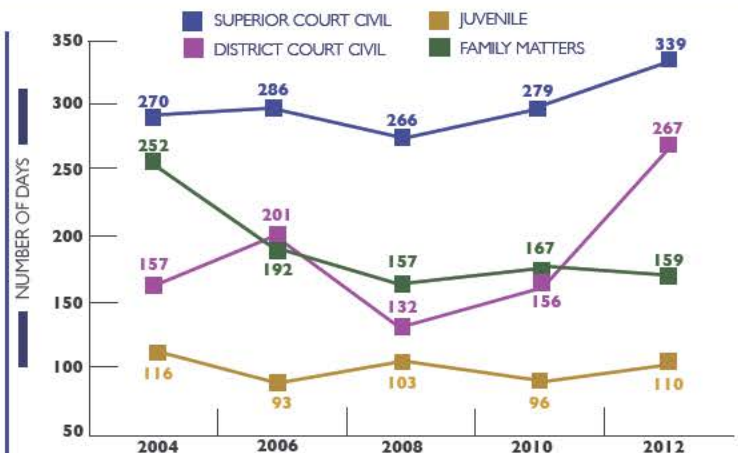
## TIME TO RESOLUTION OF CASES

### Criminal Cases



	FY '08	FY '09	FY '10	FY '11	FY '12
Superior Court Criminal	179	205	219	229	237
District Court Criminal	93	109	110	113	115
Portland UCD			84	101	84
Bangor UCD				68	76

The trial courts in Portland and Bangor have adopted a unified process for criminal cases and have eliminated the need for transferring cases from District to Superior Court. This model has simplified procedures for litigants and stakeholders, has eliminated duplication of work by clerks, and has substantially reduced the time for felony resolution.

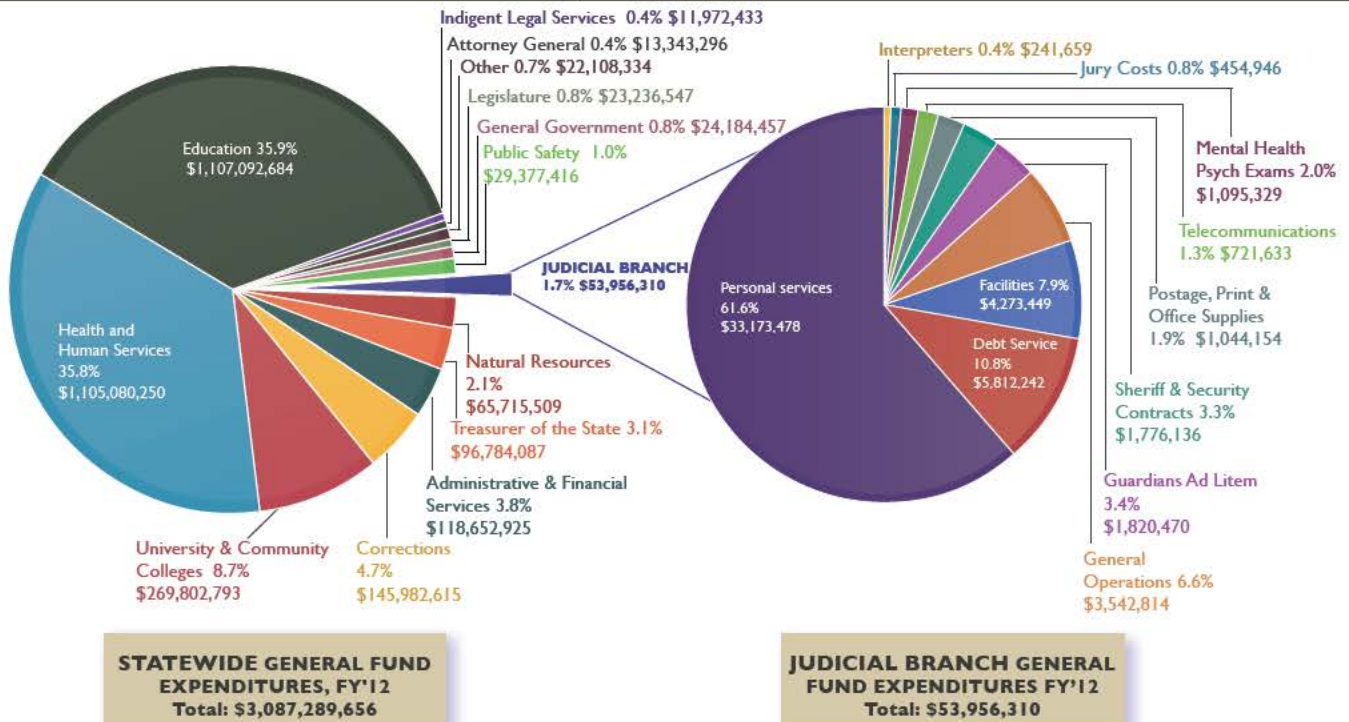


Coordinated regional scheduling has greatly reduced the time it takes to dispose of the most critical cases – those dealing with violence, children, and families.

The processing of civil cases, however, has slowed because of the increased volume of cases associated with the economic downturn, (foreclosures, credit card and collection cases); increased volume of complex and multi-party litigation; changing processing requirements; and substantial judicial and clerk vacancies.

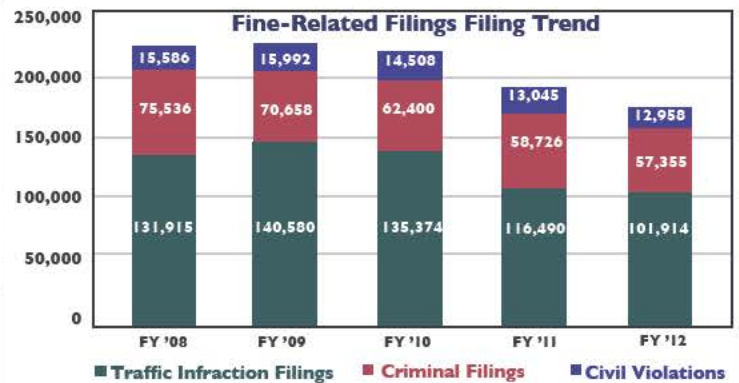
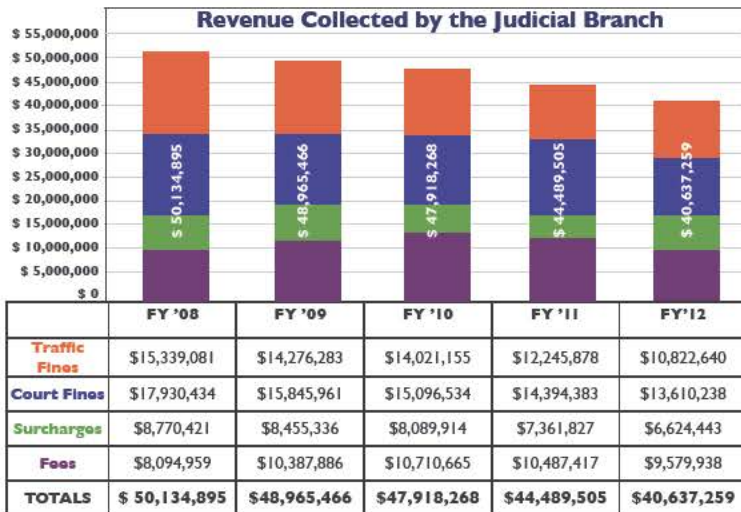
# FISCAL INFORMATION

## GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES



In FY'12, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were less than 2% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (61.5%) of Judicial Branch expenditures.

## FY'12 REVENUE

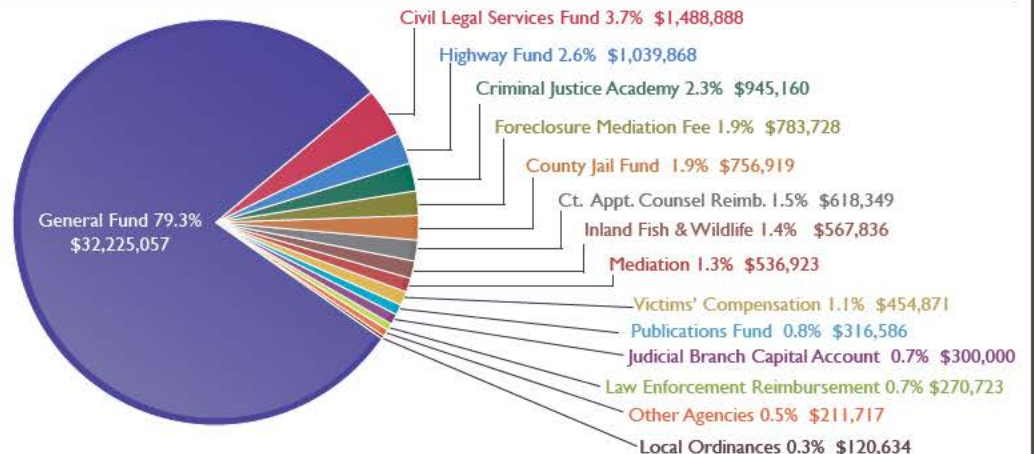


After reaching a record high in FY'08, fine and related surcharge revenue has decreased in recent years. A primary cause for the reduction is the decline in the number of criminal cases, civil violations, and traffic infractions filed in the courts, as illustrated by the chart above.

## REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

**FY'12 Revenue Distribution**  
Total: \$40,637,259

All revenue collected by the Judicial Branch is deposited into the State's General Fund and to other dedicated accounts as required by Maine Statutes. Sources of revenue include fees, fines, and surcharges.



# COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

## REGION 5

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 18,694  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....171,205  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 5

### PENOBSCOT 3,397 square miles

Bangor Superior.....553  
 Penobscot UCD .....6,347  
 Bangor District.....5,540  
 Newport District.....2,303  
 Lincoln/Millinocket District...2,280

### PISCATAQUIS 3,961 square miles

Dover-Foxcroft Superior.....154  
 Dover-Foxcroft District.....1,517

## REGION 4

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 19,456  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....173,963  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 6

### SOMERSET 3,924 square miles

Skowhegan Superior.....795  
 Skowhegan District.....4,937

### KENNEBEC 868 square miles

Augusta Superior.....1,836  
 Augusta District.....6,636  
 Waterville District.....5,252

## REGION 3

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 22,301  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....195,839  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 7

### FRANKLIN 1,697 square miles

Farmington Superior.....366  
 Farmington District.....2,750

### OXFORD 2,077 square miles

South Paris Superior.....787  
 South Paris District.....2,399  
 Rumford District.....2,306

### ANDROSCOGGIN 468 square miles

Auburn Superior.....2,138  
 Lewiston District.....11,555

## REGION 2

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 25,134  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....282,401  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 2

### CUMBERLAND 835 square miles

Portland Superior.....1,073  
 Cumberland UCD .....10,850  
 Portland District.....9,706  
 Bridgton District.....3,505

## REGION 1

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 21,814  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....198,199  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 4

### YORK 991 square miles

Alfred Superior.....3,765  
 Biddeford District.....8,699  
 Springvale District.....5,649  
 York District.....3,701

## REGION 8

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 8,240  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....71,482  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 5

### AROOSTOOK 6,671 square miles

Caribou/Houlton Superior.....1,157  
 Caribou District.....1,555  
 Houlton District.....1,567  
 Presque Isle District.....2,608  
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District...1,353

## REGION 7

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 8,365  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....87,215  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 3

### HANCOCK 1,587 square miles

Ellsworth Superior.....485  
 Ellsworth District.....4,539

### WASHINGTON 2,563 square miles

Machias Superior.....432  
 Machias District.....1,598  
 Calais District.....1,311

## REGION 6

**CASE TOTAL** ..... 16,792  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....147,884  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 6

### WALDO 730 square miles

Belfast Superior.....466  
 Belfast District.....3,026

### KNOX 365 square miles

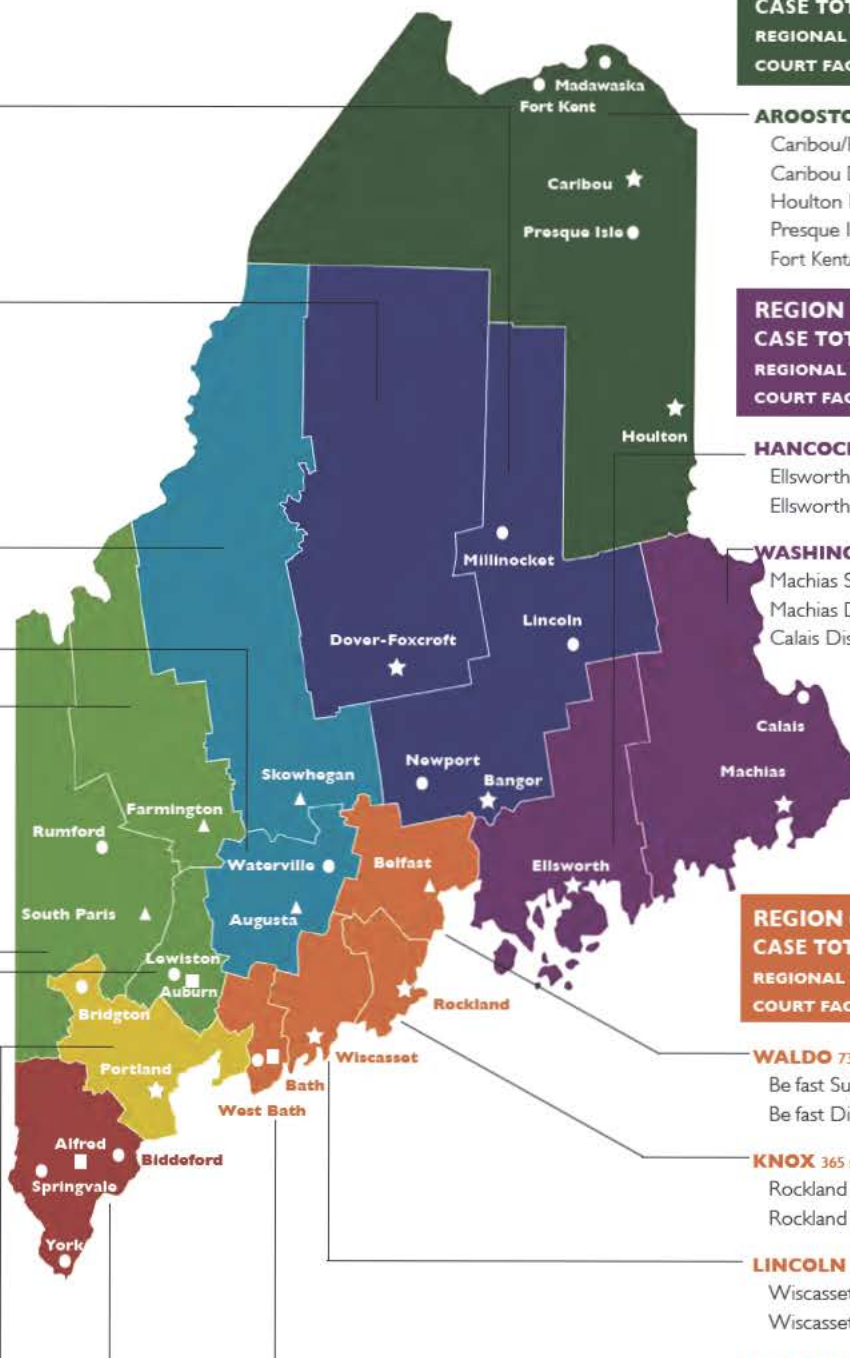
Rockland Superior.....678  
 Rockland District.....3,878

### LINCOLN 456 square miles

Wiscasset Superior.....562  
 Wiscasset District.....2,492

### SAGadahoc 254 square miles

Bath Superior.....458  
 West Bath District.....5,232



**KEY**

- District Court
- Superior Court
- ▲ District and Superior in the same city/town.
- ★ District and Superior Court occupy the same building.

Counties grouped together by color are part of a single court **REGION**, where resources and scheduling are coordinated.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE**  
**If You Are In Immediate Danger Call 9-1-1.**  
 For information about Protection Orders visit  
[www.courts.state.me.us/maine\\_courts/district/protection\\_orders.html](http://www.courts.state.me.us/maine_courts/district/protection_orders.html)

Visit the Court's web page at [www.courts.state.me.us](http://www.courts.state.me.us) or scan the QR code below.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
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 Portland, ME 04112-4820  
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**TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS:**  
 Total: 101,914

\* Population statistics and square mileage data source: US Census Bureau