

# Circuit Court of Cook County

## Arbitration Program Information

As a general jurisdiction trial court, the Circuit Court of Cook County is the largest unified court in the nation. The Supreme Court granted approval to implement an arbitration program in Cook County in January 1990. The arbitration center is located in downtown Chicago. A supervising judge oversees arbitration program matters and is assisted by arbitration program staff.

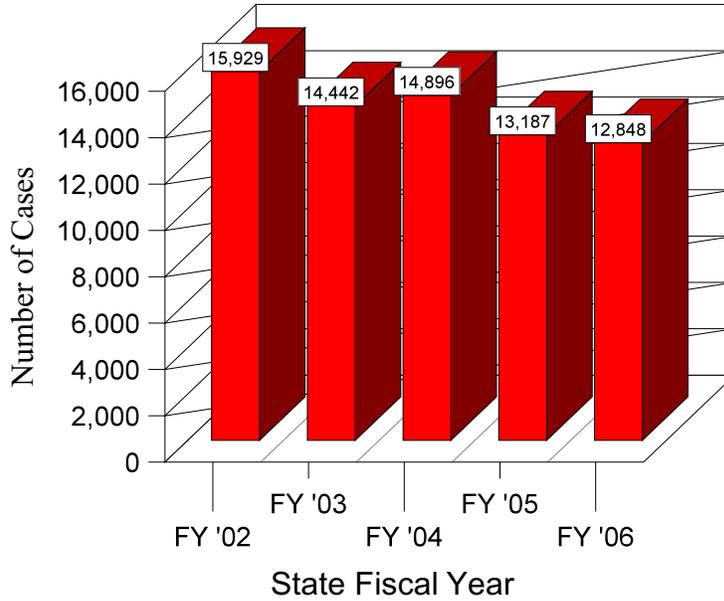
## DATA PROFILES

### Cook County

Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

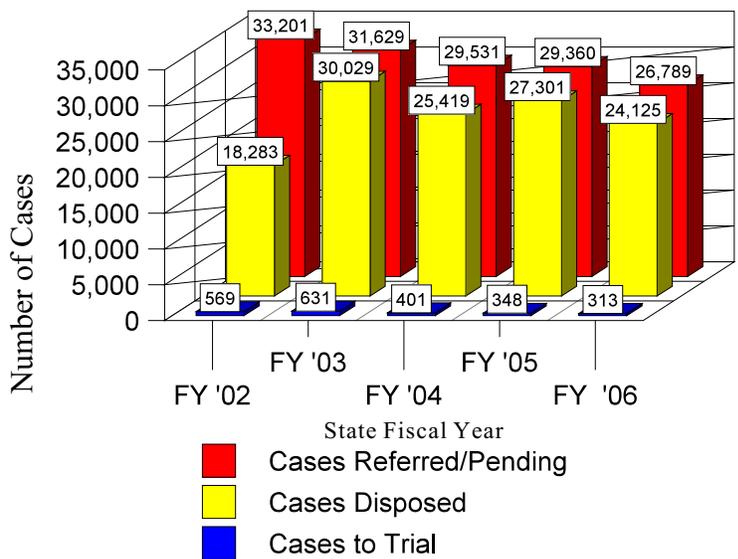
| <b>State Fiscal Year 2006<br/>Cook County *<br/>At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information</b> |        |
|--|--------|
| Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration . . . . .                                      | 26,789 |
| Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed . . . . .   | 24,438 |
| Number of Cases Pending . . . . .  | 3,513  |
| Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .   | 8,597  |
| Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .  | 2,008  |
| Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .  | 4,393  |
| Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial . . . . .                          | 313    |
| (* Only jurisdiction with a limit of \$30,000 for arbitration cases; others are \$50,000)        |        |

**Cook County**  
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration  
Five - Year Trend



While cases referred to Cook County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 14,260 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

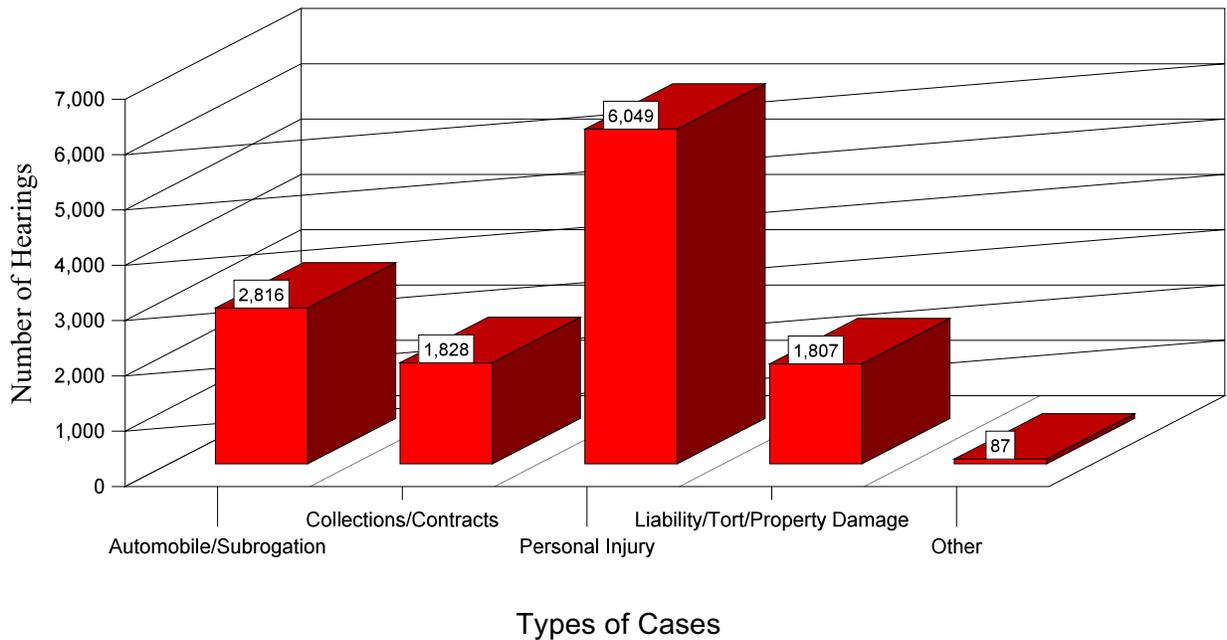
**Cook County**  
Five-Year Disposition Trend



The chart above presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which yielded either a disposition or, ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 90% (24,125 of 26,789 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Cook County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is higher than the five year average of 83% and is above the statewide average of 86%.

In Cook County, only one percent (1%) of cases (313 of the 26,789) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

### Cook County Types of Cases that Proceeded to Hearing



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. The data indicates that personal injury cases account for a majority (48%) of the arbitration hearings in Cook County.

**Cook County**  
**Average Award for Arbitration Hearing and**  
**Average Age (Number of Days) Pending in**  
**Arbitration System by Case Type**

| <b><i>Case Type</i></b>         | <b><i>Average Award</i></b> | <b><i>Average Age<br/>(Days)</i></b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Automobile/Subrogation          | \$3,399                     | 138                                  |
| Collections/Contracts           | \$4,620                     | 138                                  |
| Liability/Torts/Property Damage | \$3,465                     | 154                                  |
| Personal Injury                 | \$8,691                     | 146                                  |
| Other                           | \$5,354                     | 155                                  |

The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 144 days.