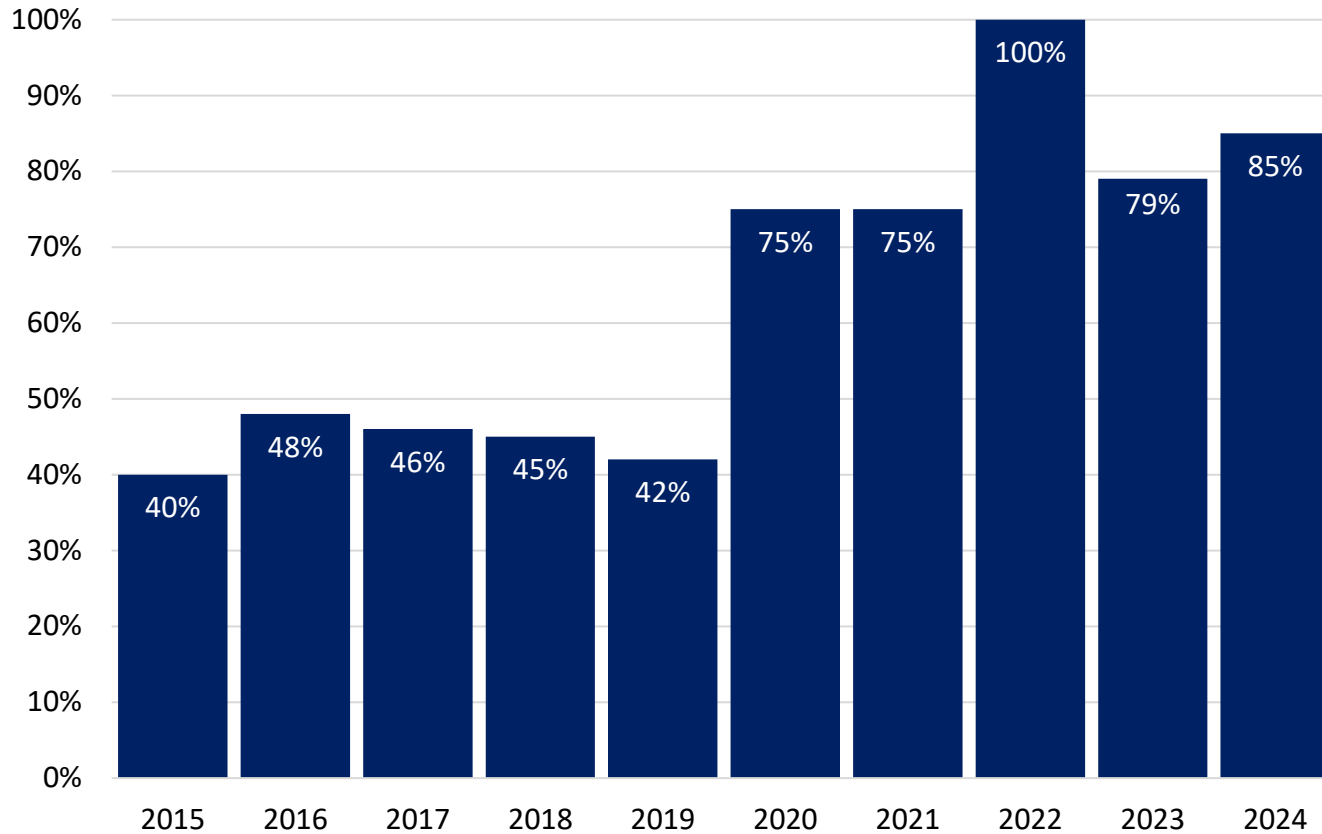


# FY 2024 state reimbursement rate for county indigent defense costs at 85%

Indigent Defense Cost State Reimbursement Rate



Source: Ohio Public Defender Commission

- In FY 2024, the state reimbursement rate for county indigent defense costs was 85%. Counties are required to provide and pay for legal counsel for indigent persons when a right to counsel exists. The state reimburses a portion of these costs.
- In 2022, the reimbursement rate reached 100%. However, in FY 2023 and FY 2024, the rate dropped to 79% and 85%, respectively. The FY 2020-FY 2021 biennial operating budget removed the 50% cap on the state’s annual reimbursement rate and authorized 100% reimbursement, subject to available appropriations.
- From FY 2022 to FY 2024, the total cost to the state and counties for providing indigent defense services increased by approximately \$50.5 million (29.9%), from \$169.0 million to an estimated \$219.4 million.
- Counties use one of four primary methods of providing indigent defense services: court-appointed counsel (39 counties), county public defender (32 counties), contract with the state’s Office of the Ohio Public Defender (10 counties), or contract with a nonprofit corporation (7 counties).