

CT Right to Counsel Update

June 17, 2022

eviction
HELP_{CT}

Revisiting the Legislation

(g) The administering entity, in consultation with the working group and designated organizations, shall determine how to **phase in the right to counsel program** based on all relevant factors, including, but not

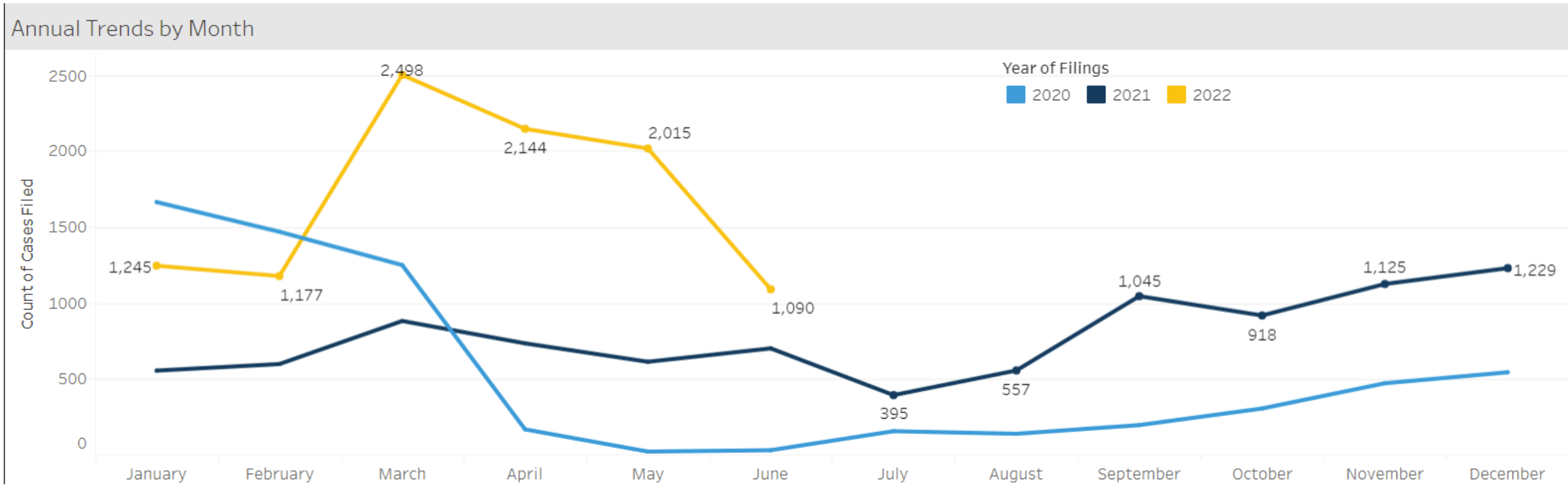
Public Act No. 21-34

5 of 14

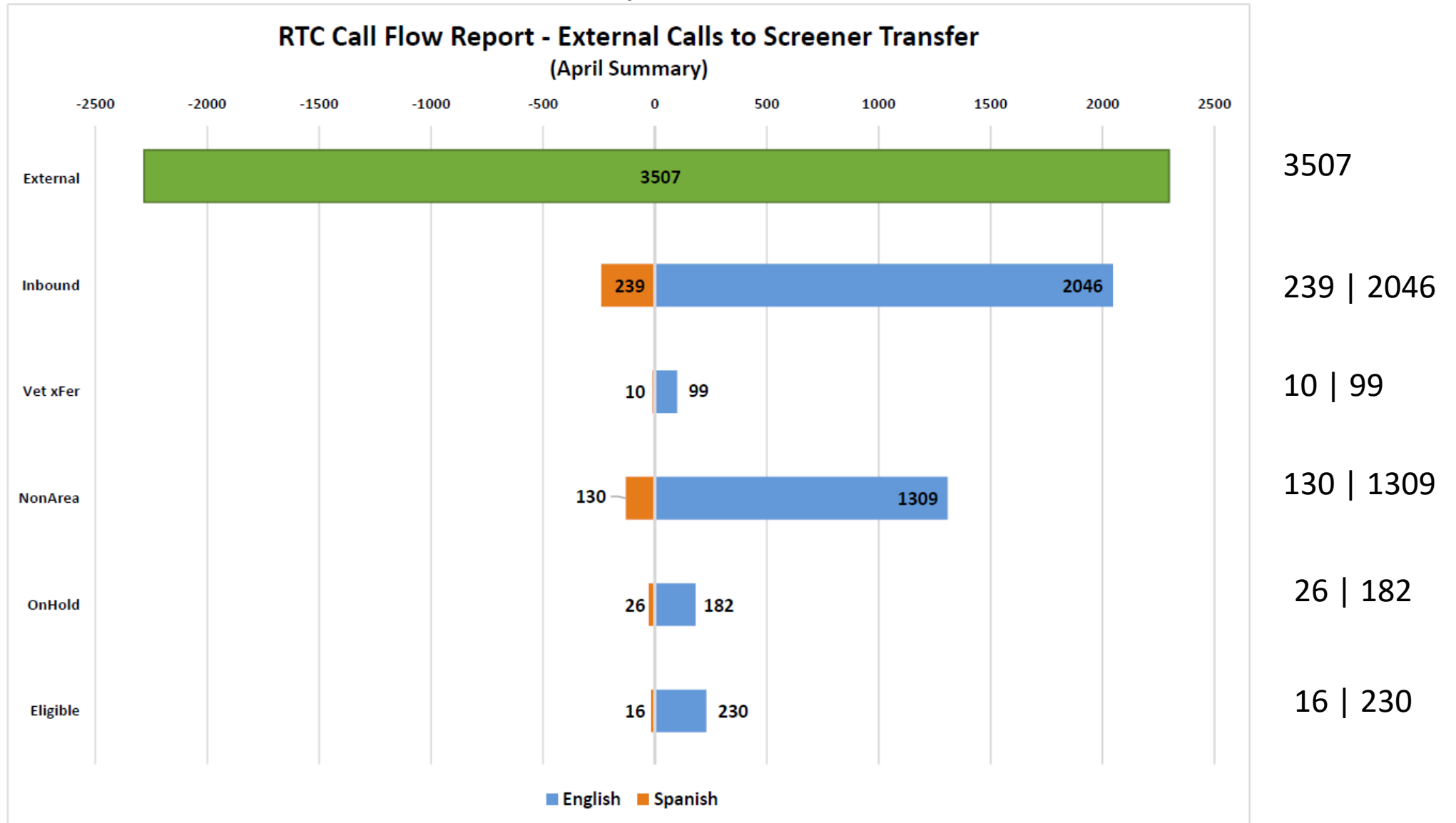
Substitute House Bill No. 6531

limited to: (1) The prioritization of certain groups of individuals by income, zip codes, census tracts or other priority criteria developed in consultation with the designated organizations and the working group; (2) the availability of program funding; (3) the number of trained legal services attorneys available to provide legal representation; and (4) the scope of the need for legal representation.

The Current Landscape

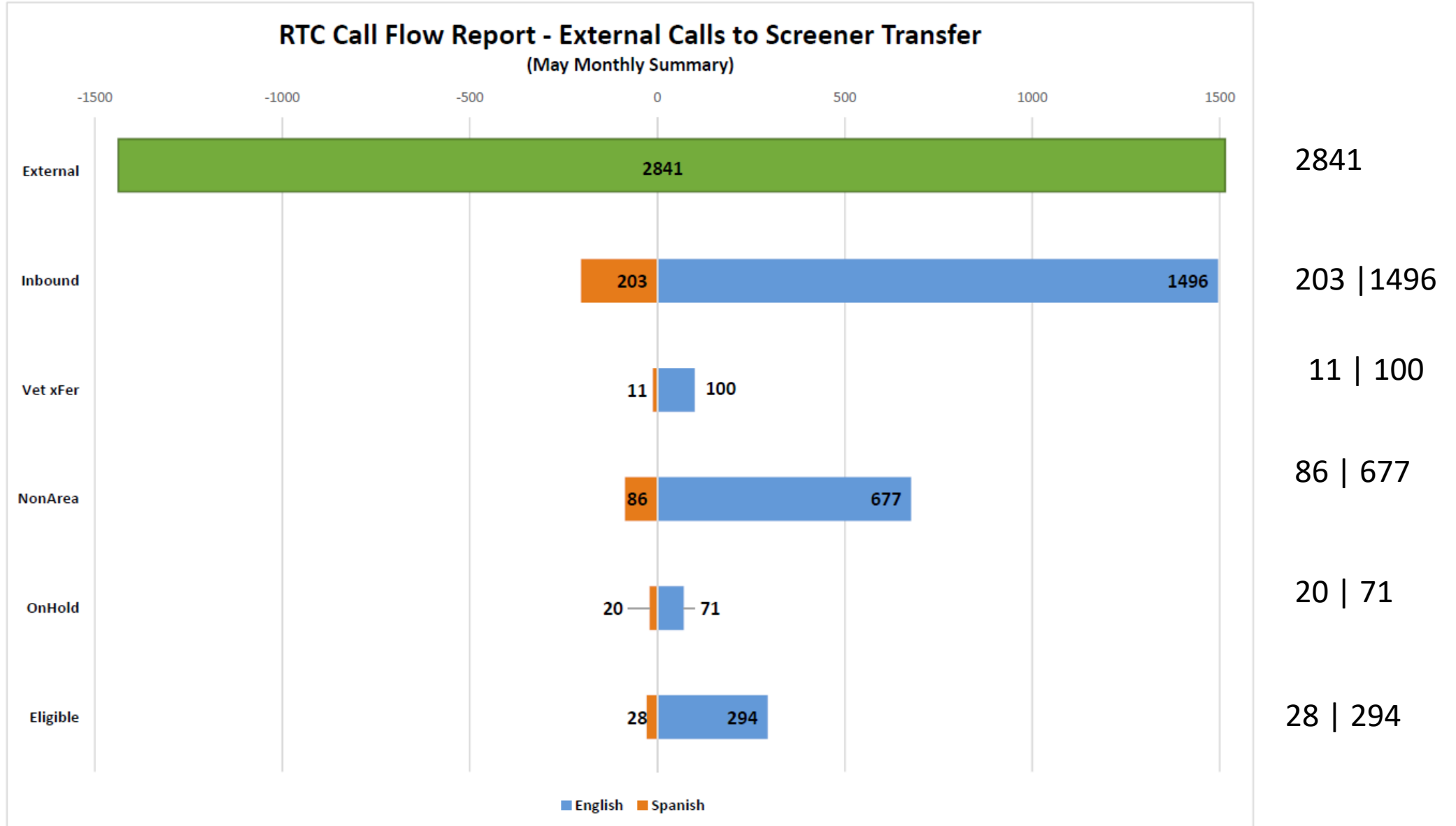


RTC Hotline Activity April



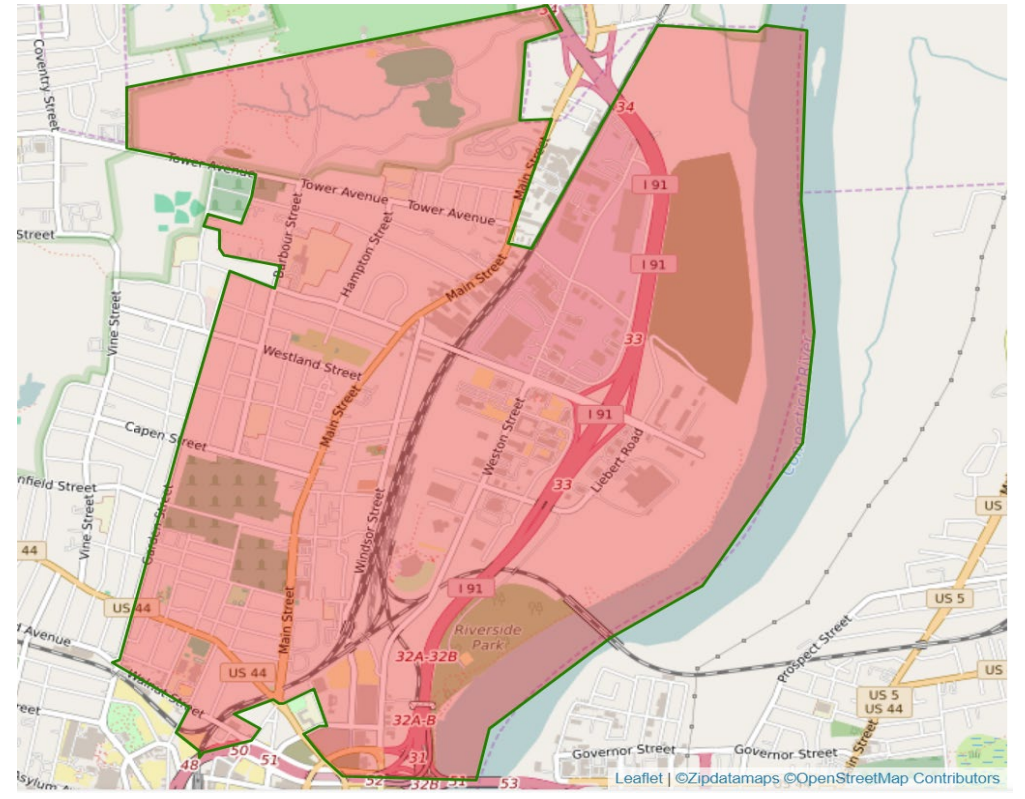
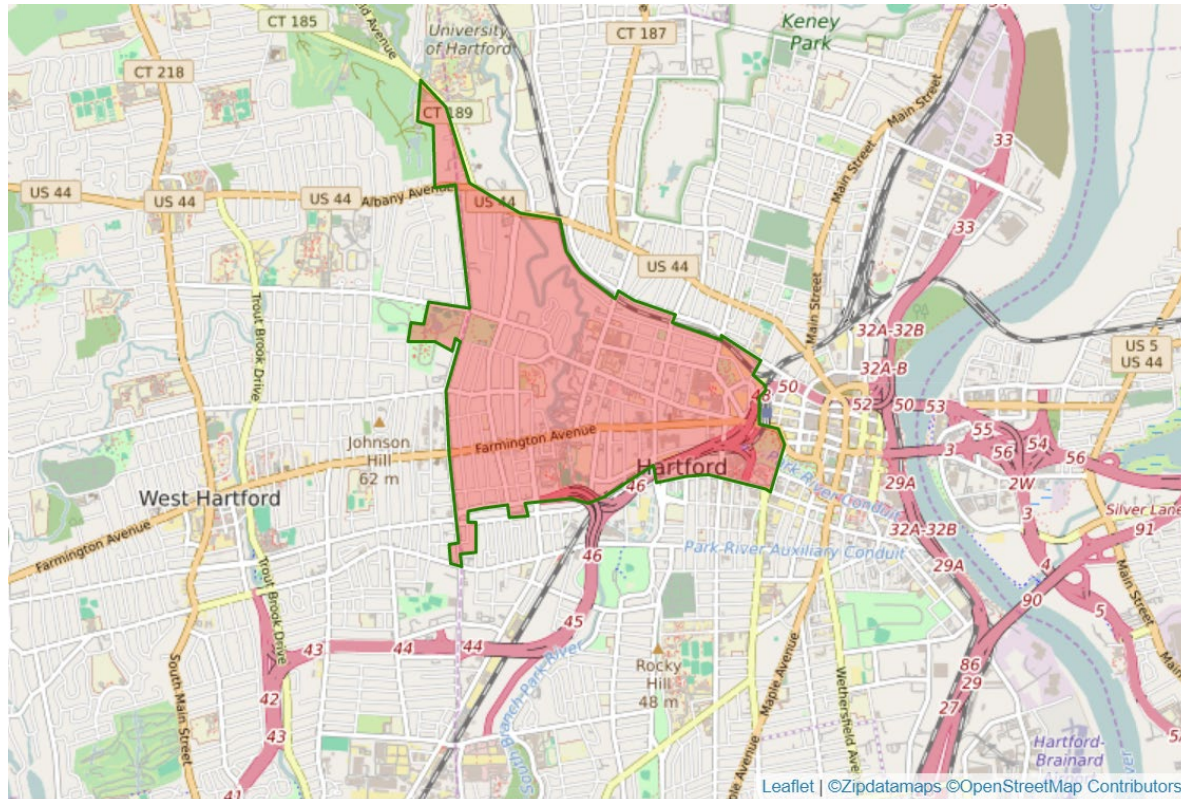
RTC Hotline Activity

May



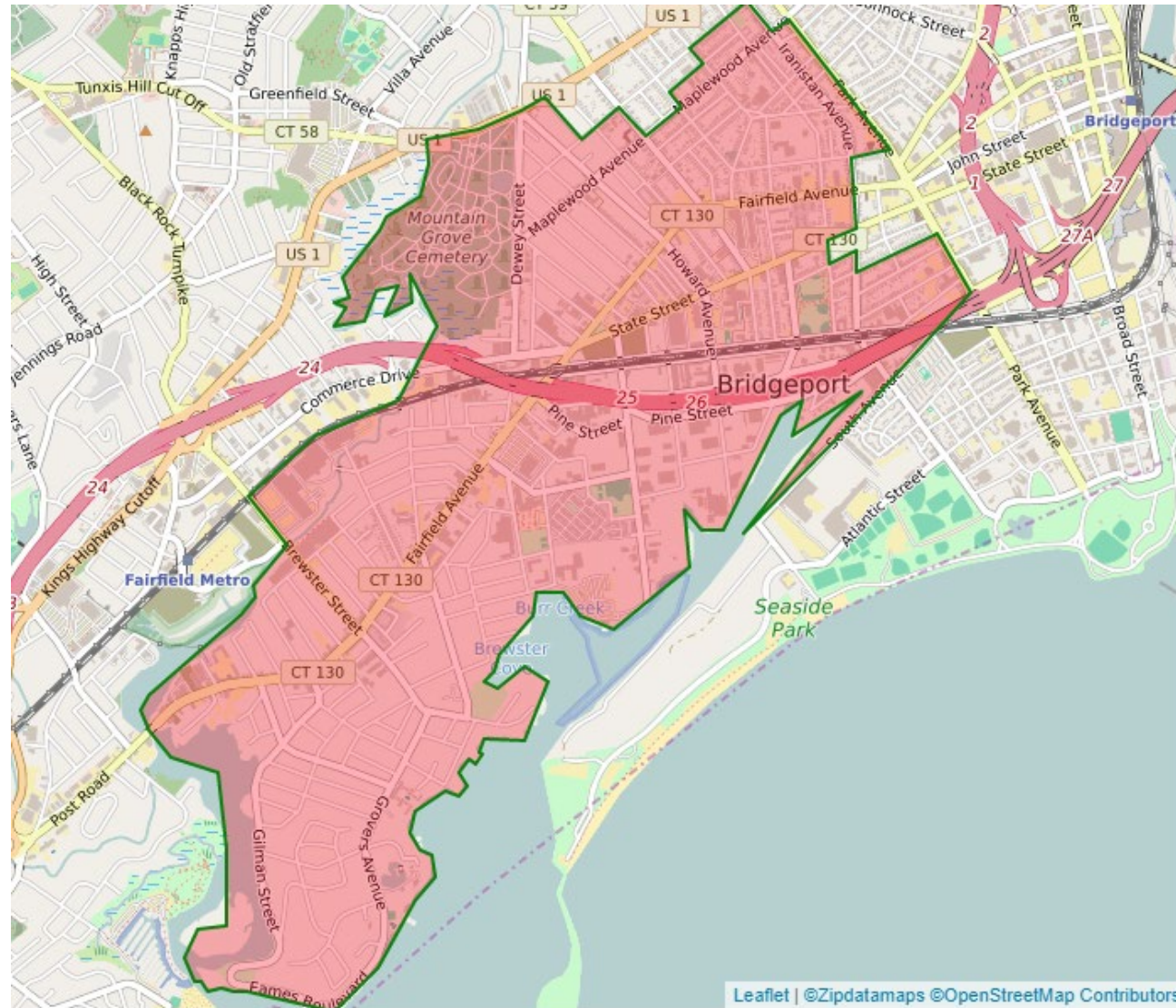
Hartford Zip Codes

- Current codes: 06105, 06120



Zip Code Switch

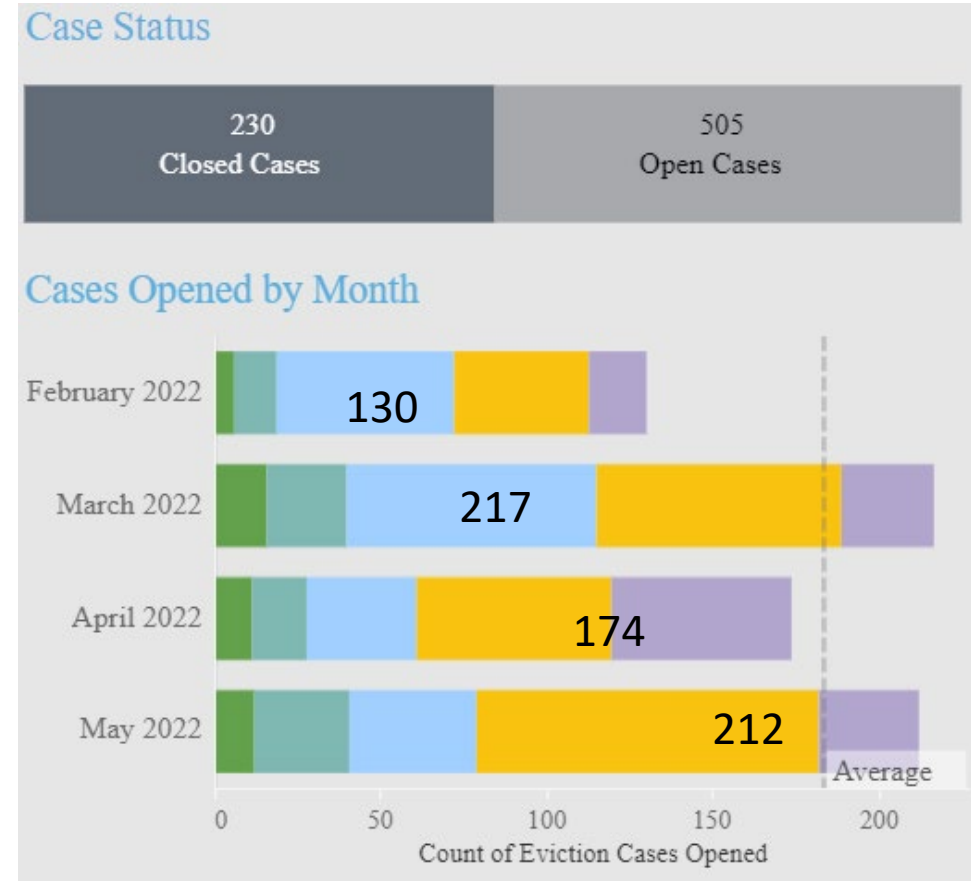
06605 - Bridgeport



Case Overview

Since January 31, 2022:

- 735 tenants assisted
- 652 tenants referred for legal representation



Client Goals

- Tableau Interactive Dashboard

Demographics

Of the 735 tenants assisted, these are the demographic details:

Race, Ethnicity	Total
Black or African-American	47% [+2% increase]
White, non-Hispanic	14% [+2% increase]
Hispanic or Latino	29% [-7% decrease]
Asian or Pacific Islander	2% [+1% increase]
Native American	1%
Other	6% [+2% increase]
Total	~100%

Gender	Total
Female	68% [-6% decrease]
Male	32% [+6% increase]
Transgender	0%
Non-binary	0%
Total	100%

Household Size	Total
1	51%
Of the 49% percent of households with child under 18:	
1 child	39%
2	33%
3	17%
4	7%
5	4%
Total	100%

Demographics cntd.

Disability

Of the tenants who answered disability question, **45% report having a disability**

- Approximately 22% had a physical disability or handicap
- 18% had a mental disability or handicap
- 1% had a learning disability
- 3% unspecified disability

Housing

- Of the people who responded to the question about the presence of defective conditions in their home, approximately **62% indicated there were defective conditions.**
- The 3 most common defective conditions were **infestation (53%), wall / ceiling/floor damage (46%), and mold (38%).**

Housing cntd.

Of the people who responded to the question about where they would stay **if they had to move**:

- ~34% did not know where they would stay
- 31% indicated they would live unsheltered/on the street
- 18% would enter shelter
- 8% would stay with friends/family in CT
- 3% would stay with friends/family outside of CT.

Tenants' Prior Eviction History

- 78% of tenants referred for legal representation report never having had a prior eviction filed against them.

Prior Eviction Filing	Total
No	78%
Yes	22%
Total	100%

RTC Staffing

- Current funding supports 40 attorneys. A statewide Right to Counsel would need approximately 100 attorneys.
- Two additional attorneys hired since April.

RTC Staff Overview							
Attorneys	CVLC	GHLA	NHLAA	SLS	CLS		Total
		3	5	6	4	8	26
Support Staff	CVLC	GHLA	NHLAA	SLS	CLS		
		3 Unspecified		1	4	3	11
Anticipated New Hires	Recruitment for 1 atty, 1 screener	1 Atty, 7/1	3 Atty, summer	Recruitment for 2 atty, 2, intake	Ongoing recruitment		
					Attorneys		6
					Support		2

Administrative Program Updates

Extended RTC expenditure timeline

- OPM guidance corresponds with federal SLFR guidance
- Amended contract needed to reflect new timeline

Administrative Program Updates cntd.

HUD Grant

- New Statement of Work submitted to HUD

New focus areas:

- Attorney training
- Increasing hotline capacity
- Pro-se education

Qualitative Research Update

- CBF has selected Annie Harper, PhD and Danya Keene, PhD to do conduct qualitative research
- Focus groups and interviews in New Haven, Hartford, and Windham.

RTC Notice Revision Needed

You are facing the loss of your home or housing subsidy. We are here to help.



The State of Connecticut created a **Right to Counsel** program (**CT-RTC**) to provide **free legal representation** to income eligible tenants facing eviction or loss of housing subsidy. The program will begin in a few communities on January 31, 2022 and grow over time.

To find out if **FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION** is available where you live and if you qualify call **1-800-559-1565** or visit **www.EvictionHelpCT.org**

ONLINE LEGAL HELP

Go to www.ctlawhelp.org/eviction to learn about the eviction process and how to respond to eviction notices.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Apply by going to www.bit.ly/UniteCT or call 1-844-864-8328 for a referral to a community agency that can help you apply.

2-1-1 HELPLINE

Call 211 for information and referrals for housing, utility, and food assistance or go to www.211ct.org.

Usted está en riesgo de perder su hogar o su subsidio de vivienda. Estamos aquí para ayudarle.



El estado de Connecticut ha creado el programa "**Derecho a un Abogado**" (**CT-RTC, por sus siglas en inglés**) con el fin de brindar **representación jurídica gratuita** a inquilinos de bajos ingresos que corran riesgo de desalojo o pérdida del subsidio de vivienda. El programa se lanzará el 31 de enero de 2022 en determinadas comunidades y luego se irá expandiendo.

Para saber si usted reúne los requisitos para obtener **REPRESENTACIÓN JURÍDICA GRATUITA** y si se ofrece en su zona, llame al **1-800-559-1565** o visite **www.EvictionHelpCT.org**

ASISTENCIA LEGAL POR INTERNET

Visite www.ctlawhelp.org/eviction para obtener información sobre el proceso de desalojo y cómo responder a una notificación de desalojo.

ASISTENCIA CON EL ALQUILER

Para presentar la solicitud, visite www.bit.ly/UniteCT o llame al 1-844-864-8328 para que se le remita a una agencia en la comunidad que le pueda asistir con la solicitud.

LÍNEA DE ASISTENCIA 2-1-1

Para información y derivaciones a programas de asistencia con el alquiler, servicios públicos y alimentos, llame al 211 o visite www.211ct.org.

Looking Ahead

A continued focus on recruiting, hiring, and training attorneys

CBF obtaining a revised contract which covers the funding expenditure timeline the legislature has granted

Continued exploration of enhancements to CTLawHelp to inform tenants about the eviction process

Continued collaboration with Connecticut Fair Housing Center regarding new HUD statement of work

Questions, Comments

Tiffany Walton
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Connecticut Bar Foundation

