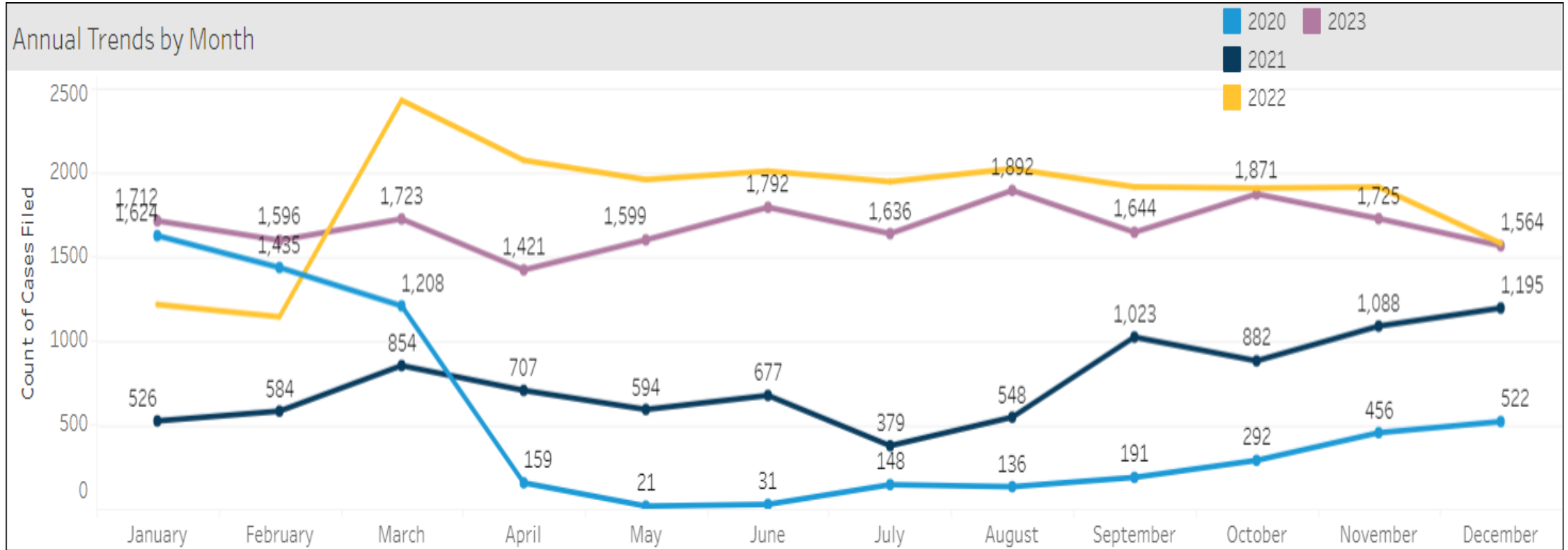


CT Right to Counsel Update

February 16, 2024



Filing Trends - Statewide

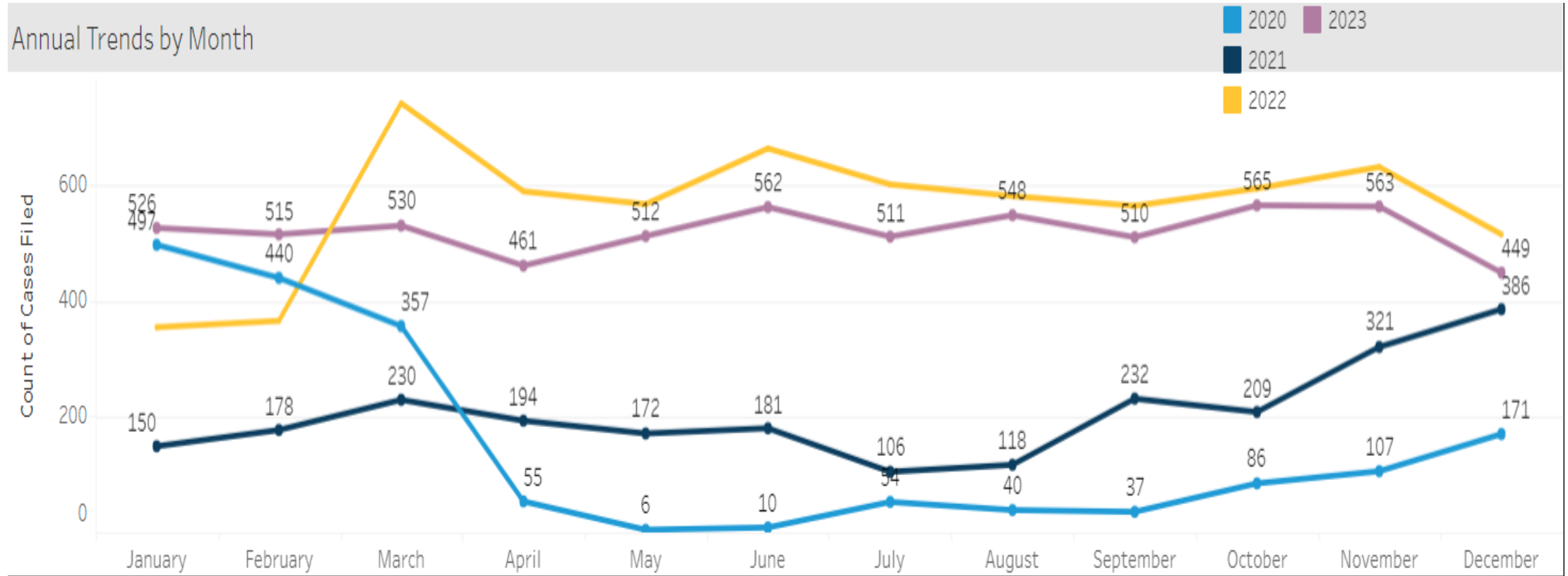


2019 Eviction Filings: 18,922

2022 Eviction Filings: 22,448

2023 Filings: 20,154

Filing Trends – RTC Zip Codes

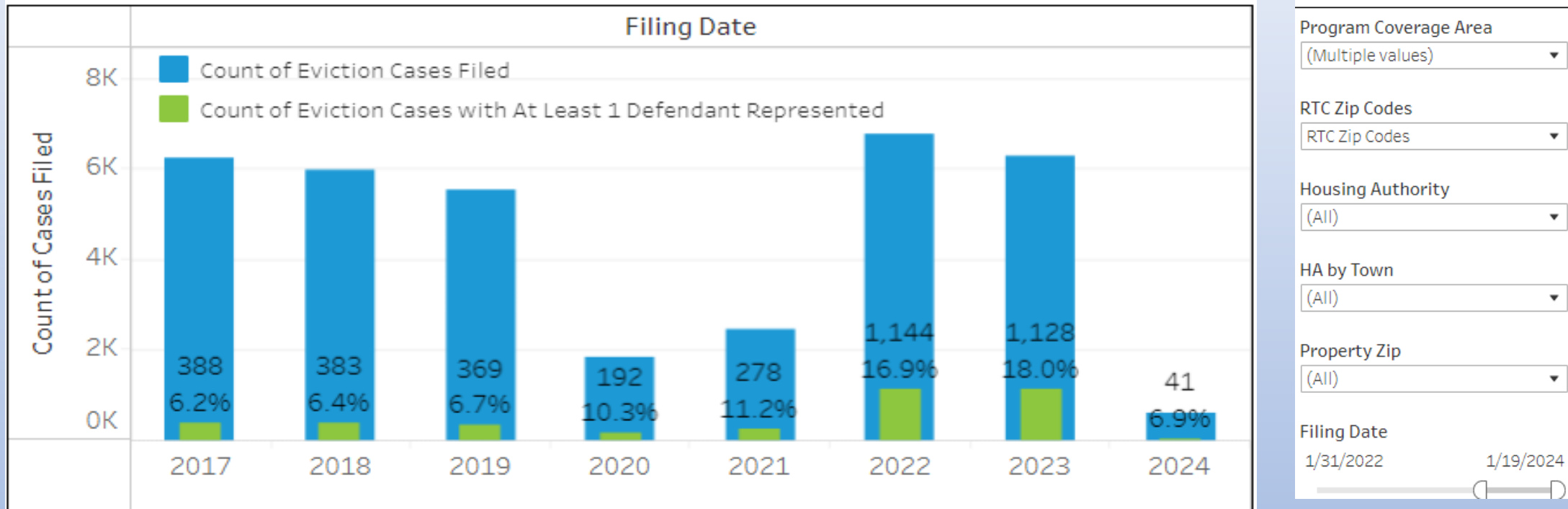


2019 RTC zip code filings: 5,509

2022 RTC zip code filings: 6,767

2023 RTC zip code filings: 6,252

Defendant Representation Rate – RTC Zip Codes

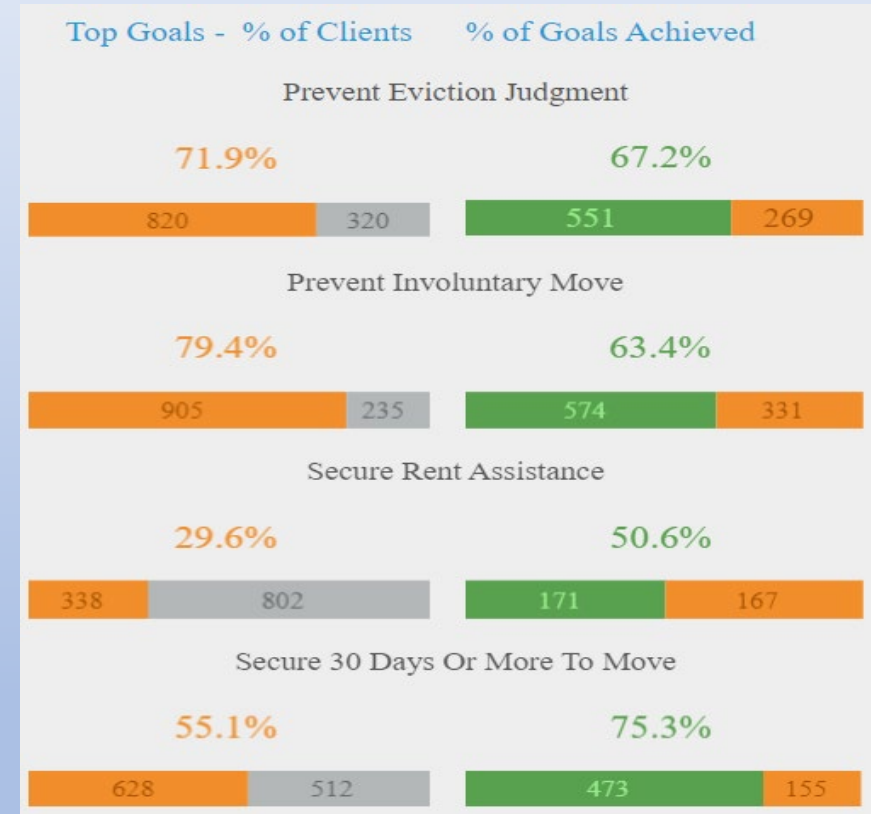


Note: this information is not real-time.

Launch of
RTC program

Program Data 1/31/2022 – 1/31/2024

- **4,372** clients received services, **2,577** received full representation.
- **Gender:** 2,914 (68.2%) female; 1,263 (29.56%) male; 95 (2.2%) not specified.
- **Disability:** 1,891 (48.5%) of clients report someone in home has a disability.



2023 RTC Evaluations

Highlights

- Access to counsel during the eviction process minimizes harm by preventing disruptive moves.
- Access to counsel can secure additional time to move, when an eviction can't be prevented, thereby minimizing the overall harm to the client and their family.
- Connecticut realized economic benefits of at least \$17.6 million - \$21.4 million between January 31, 2022, and November 30, 2023, because of CT-RTC. The cost savings are attributable to savings in areas such as emergency shelter services, child welfare, increased employment and income stability, health care, and education.

External Factors Which Impact RTC Program's Efficacy

- Lack of affordable housing.
- Low vacancy rates.
- Landlords refusing to participate in rental assistance program which would allow tenants to make financial reparations.
- Landlords can evict tenants at the end of lease without just cause.

Recommendations Moving Forward

- Evaluate current zip code model-how do we move toward statewide services.
- Focus on policy/systemic changes: Just Cause Eviction proposed legislation, sustainable Rental Assistance Programs, increasing access to affordable housing.
- Develop post-service client feedback mechanism.
- Explore pathways to preventing evictions by collaborating with certain property owners and housing authorities.

Funding

- Governor Lamont released his budget on February 7, 2024, and he has included a \$2,000,000 budget adjustment from remaining ARPA funds to ensure that the RTC program will be fully funded through the original contracted time frame.
- CBF, GHLA, NHLAA and CVLC all testified at the Appropriations Committee public hearing on Tuesday, February 13th, in support of the Governor's proposal.

Questions?

Angela Schlingheyde
Executive Director
Connecticut Bar Foundation