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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

EXHIBIT A

MUNICIPAL COURT INTERPRETER SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Wisconsin Justice Initiative

October 2023

A summary and certain particular results from a survey conducted in August 2023, which was distributed to municipal court judges across the state via the municipal judges' listserv and conducted using Survey Monkey.

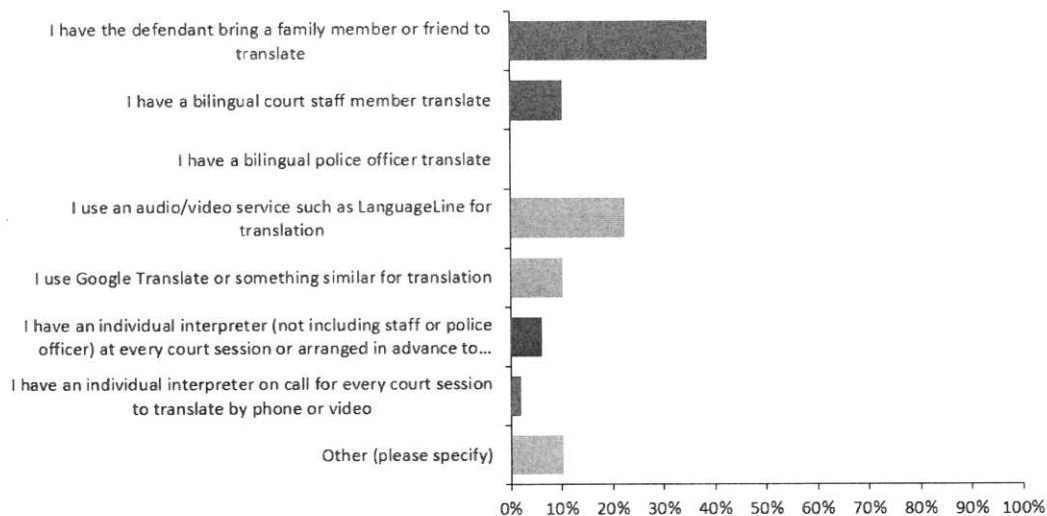
49 judges responded (approximately 21% of all municipal judges in Wisconsin).

63% of respondents come from courts with 2500 or fewer cases filed per year, 22% of respondents come from courts with between 2501 and 5000 cases filed per year, and 14% come from courts with 5001 or more cases filed per year.

Results

Q1: What is your primary (most common) way of communicating in court at intake/initial appearances with defendants who speak limited or no English and therefore require translation help? (Choose one.)

Answered: 49 Skipped: 0



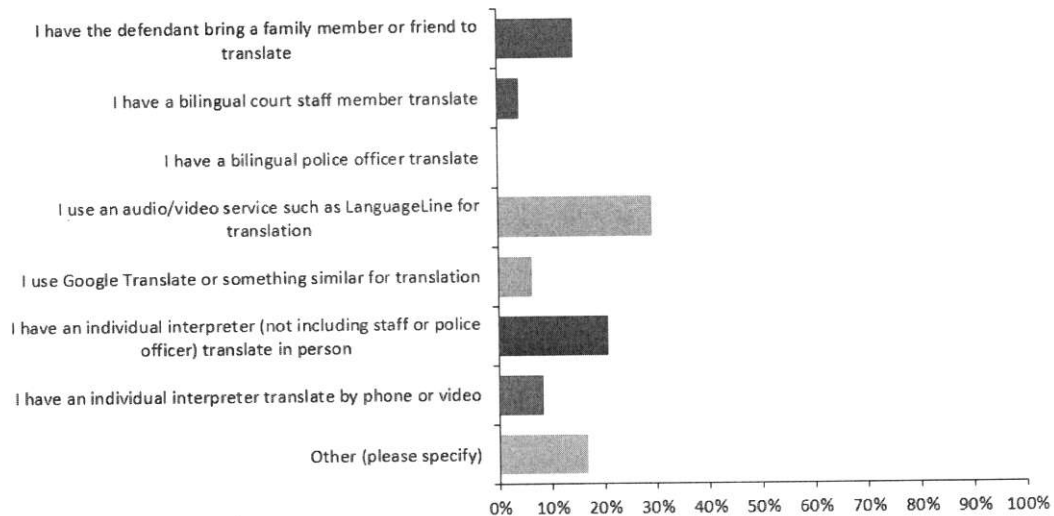
Powered by SurveyMonkey

“Other” responses:

- “I have not needed a translator, but our county sheriff's department has a few officers that I'm told will translate if we need one.”
- Both bilingual staff member and family
- “I don't ‘have’ the defendant bring a friend or family member to interpret, but if they do I allow that person to interpret. If they don't bring someone and we weren't made aware of the need for an interpreter in advance, we give them a new court date and arrange for an interpreter.”

Q2: What is your primary (most common) way of communicating in court at evidentiary hearings (or other longer hearings) or trials with defendants who speak limited or no English and therefore require translation help? (Choose one.)

Answered: 48 Skipped: 1



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“Other” responses:

- “I have the basic initial appearance printed in Spanish and will freely allow defendants to have an adjournment so that they make bring someone to translate at the next hearing.”
- “[I]n 32 years, I have never had a trial or motion hearing that required a translator. [T]he few cases that have come through my court, have been resolved at initial appearance or at a further proceedings hearing.”
- “County sheriff's department officers.”
- “I use a circuit court approved interpreter (off the list on CCAP). They appear in person.”
- “We pay an interpreter to appear in person. Lately they have repeatedly suddenly discovered inability to travel and have offered video services, which I believe to be unacceptable in certain respects.”

If you use an individual interpreter, is the person professionally trained?

Out of 26 respondents who said they use an individual interpreter, 20 (77%) reported that the person is professionally trained, 4 (15%) reported that the person is not professionally trained, and 2 (8%) did not know.

If you hire an interpreter or use a service, approximately how much does it cost per year?

11 respondents either did not know how much their interpreters or interpreter services cost or did not know yet because they were new judges or had only recently begun using paid interpreter services. 5 reported that the amount varies so they could not give an average number. A few reported the hourly rate that they pay.

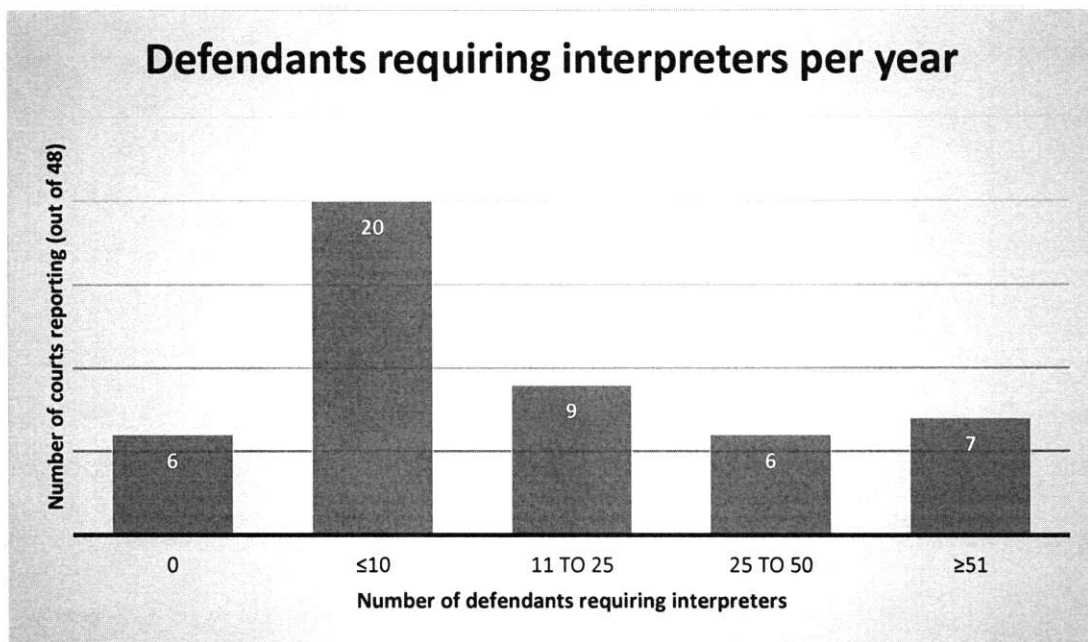
Of 12 respondents who gave a specific number or range (for which the maximum of the range was used), both the mode and median were \$500, and the mean was \$1000.

- 7 respondents reported \$500 or less in yearly costs, with 2 below \$100
- 10 respondents reported \$1000 or less in yearly costs
- 1 respondent indicated a range between \$1200 and \$2000 per year)
- 1 respondent indicated yearly costs of \$5000.

Interesting points:

- The respondent with \$5000 in costs per year is in a city with 5001 to 10,000 cases filed per year.
- The respondent with yearly costs between \$1200 and \$2000 is in a city with 1001 to 2500 cases filed per year.

Approximately how many defendants in your court per year speak such limited English that they need translation help?

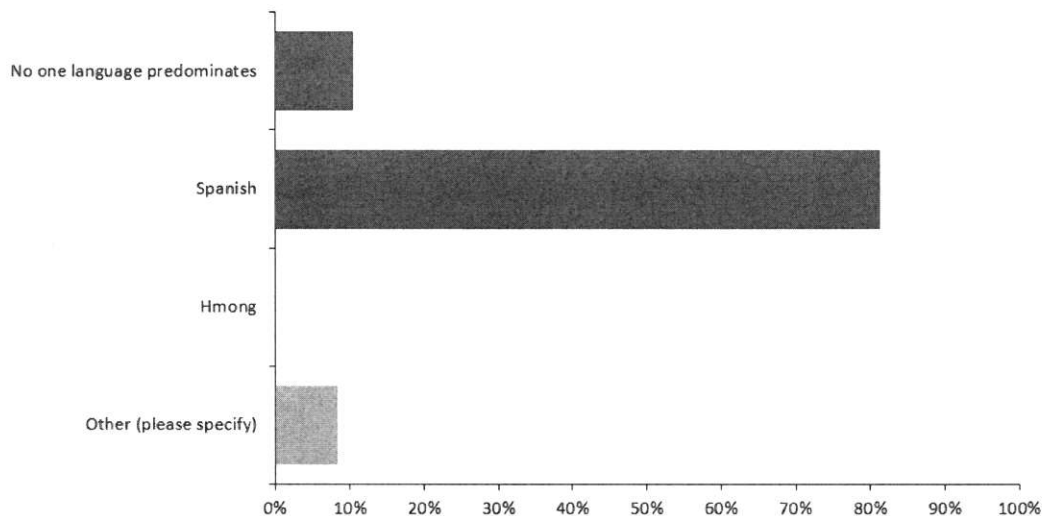


Interesting points:

- One municipality with 1001 to 2500 cases filed per year reported 300 defendants needing interpreters per year.
 - Another municipality with 1001 to 2500 cases filed per year reported 35% (between 350 and 875) of defendants needing interpreters per year.
 - One municipality with 2501 to 5000 cases filed per year reported 20% (between 500 and 1000) of defendants needing interpreters per year.
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Q7: What is the most common language that requires translation in your court?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 1



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Other languages mentioned: Albanian, American Sign Language, Lithuanian (this last in a court with only one instance of needing an interpreter).