

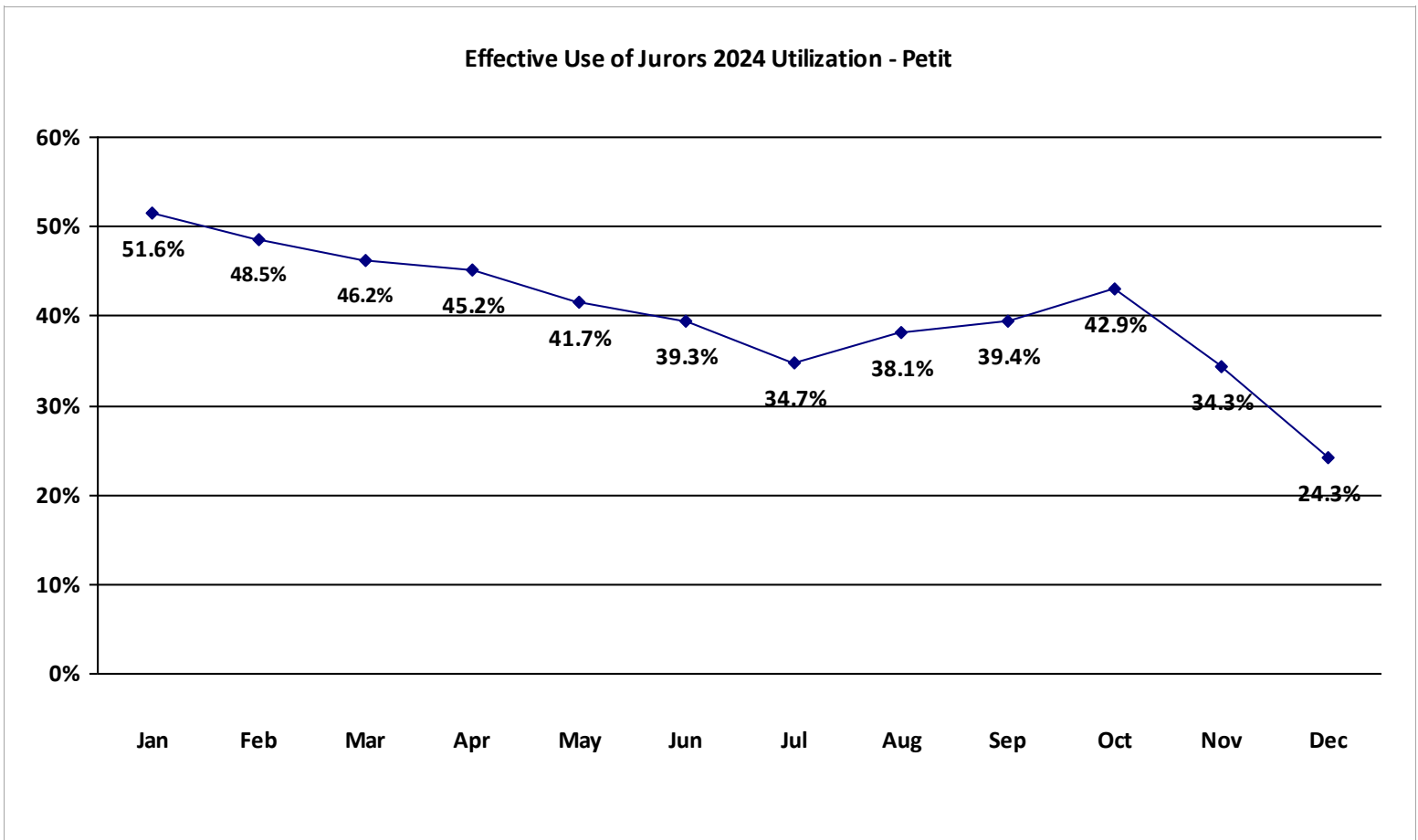
Effective Use Of Jurors

Juror Utilization is the rate at which qualified and available jurors are used at least once in trial or randomly selected to participate in the voir dire process. This CourTool is expressed as a percentage of the total number of qualified and available jurors.

The General Division of the Common Pleas Court summons jurors for one week of jury service. Jurors are generally given four weeks advance notice. In the past, jurors were not generally permitted to postpone their dates of juror service. If permitted to change their original date, jurors most likely would not be allowed to reset their jury service date a second time. This resulted in a decrease of juror satisfaction. Further, jurors were required to remain on jury service for five days.

Upon review of juror satisfaction surveys and general concerns from jurors, the Court changed the policies of the Jury Commission. Jurors are now provided an opportunity to change their dates for jury service once and sometimes twice before serving. This provides jurors additional flexibility so that personal conflicts are minimized (i.e. work, vacation, school, etc.) Although juror satisfaction has increased, jurors now summoned for jury duty generally do not appear on the dates originally assigned, resulting in a decrease in the Court's Juror Utilization Yield. Jurors are still advised that jury service will last five days, but most are now released after serving three days if they are not selected to serve as a juror in a trial.

There are occasions when a substantial number of jurors are summoned for a trial. For example, extra jurors can be summoned for a high-profile case to select a jury. However, the case may be resolved before trial or converted to a non-jury trial in which case the extra jurors would not be used. As a result, the jurors that were not used cause a substantial drop in the Court's Juror Utilization rate for the month and the Court's average Juror Utilization Rate for the year.



2024 Average Jury Utilization: 40.5%