

2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study Highlights

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Background & Overview

Mandated under
Gov. Code § 68563

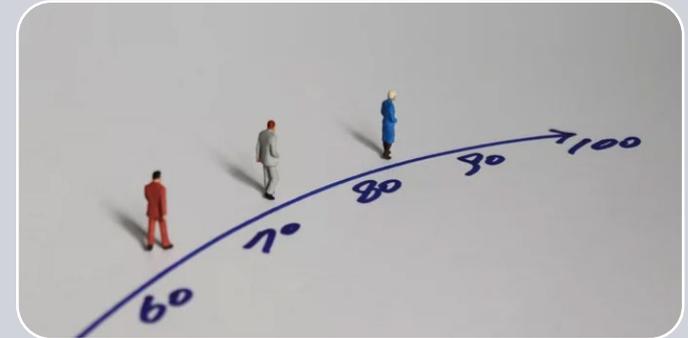
Fiscal years 2020–21
through 2023–24

Court Interpreter Data
Collection System
(CIDCS) or reporting
template

2.5 million
interpretations

Remote and
telephonic methods
peaked in FY 2020–21

Summary of Court Interpreter Pool



Continual need for interpreters to meet public's needs

- **1,856** certified & registered interpreters as of March 2025

Interpreters cover a myriad of languages

- **114** spoken languages and ASL are represented

Pool of interpreters are reaching retirement age

- **32%** of interpreters are over the age of 65

Most Interpreted Languages

Top Interpreted Languages

- Spanish
- Mandarin
- Vietnamese
- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Punjabi
- Cantonese
- Arabic
- Korean
- Russian
- Armenian (Eastern)
- Farsi
- Tagalog
- Portuguese (#19)

Top interpreted languages in study are already designated by the Judicial Council as certified languages



Regional Differences of Languages

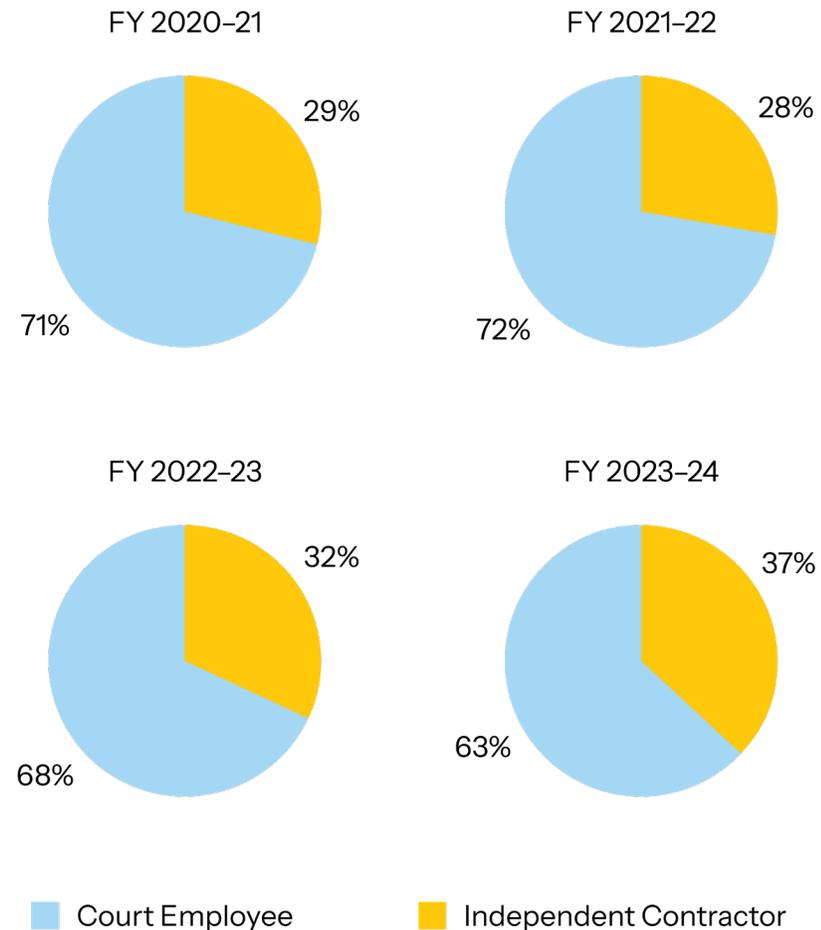


- Study data covers FY 2020–21 through FY 2023–24
- Due to COVID-19 and reduced case filings, overall usage declined 45% compared to 2020 Study
- Spanish accounted for about 88% of all interpretations
- The most interpretations overall occurred in Region 4

Certain languages are **highly concentrated in specific regions**. For example, Hmong in Region 3 (nearly 98% of total statewide interpretations).

Usage by Employment Status

Percentage of Interpretations by Employment Status



- The usage of contractors by percentage has grown from 29% in FY 2020-21 to **37%** in FY 2023-24
- This finding correlates with a recent marked **increase** in contractor costs
- Current priorities are ensuring adequate funding for interpreter services and assisting courts with filling employee vacancies

Projecting Future Language Need

6.4 million limited-English-proficient Californians, speaking over 200 languages

English learners in California public schools make up 19 percent of enrollment

Most-commonly interpreted languages generally match data from the U.S. Census and California Dept. of Education

Rising demand for interpreter services in indigenous languages from Mexico and Guatemala

Initiatives to Support Courts & Court Users

A user-friendly and effective online experience
to improve court navigation



Become a Court Interpreter

Have you ever wanted to be part of the court process as a court interpreter? Working directly with court users of limited English proficiency, court interpreters play an integral role in one of the largest and most diverse judicial branch court systems in the nation.

[Learn More →](#)



Language Access Resources for Courts

The Judicial Council of California provides recommendations, guidance, and a consistent statewide approach to ensure language access in the courts. Explore our resources and learn about how we can work to be more inclusive of the limited English proficient (LEP) court users who speak over 200 languages in California.

[Explore Our Resources →](#)



Court Resources in Your Language

Get information in your language about remote hearings, filing complaints, and other legal topics like fee waivers and serving court papers.

[Go To Resources →](#)

<https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov>

Initiatives to Support Courts & Court Users

**Court resources in multiple languages are provided
for easy access**

LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Find resources in your language

المصادر باللغة العربية

简体中文资源

繁體中文資源

Recursos en español

한국어 인력

منابع به زبان فارسی

संसाधन पंजाबी ਵਿੱਚ

Ресурсы на русском языке

Mga Resource sa Tagalog

Tài nguyên bằng tiếng Việt

<https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/language-resources>

Considerations Based on Study Findings



Maintain the designation of the top 12 interpreted languages and Portuguese (#19) as certified



Monitor emerging and indigenous languages



Strengthen the credentialing process for ASL court interpreters



Enhance court interpreter recruitment and training efforts



Expand remote and telephonic interpretation solutions to address coverage gaps

