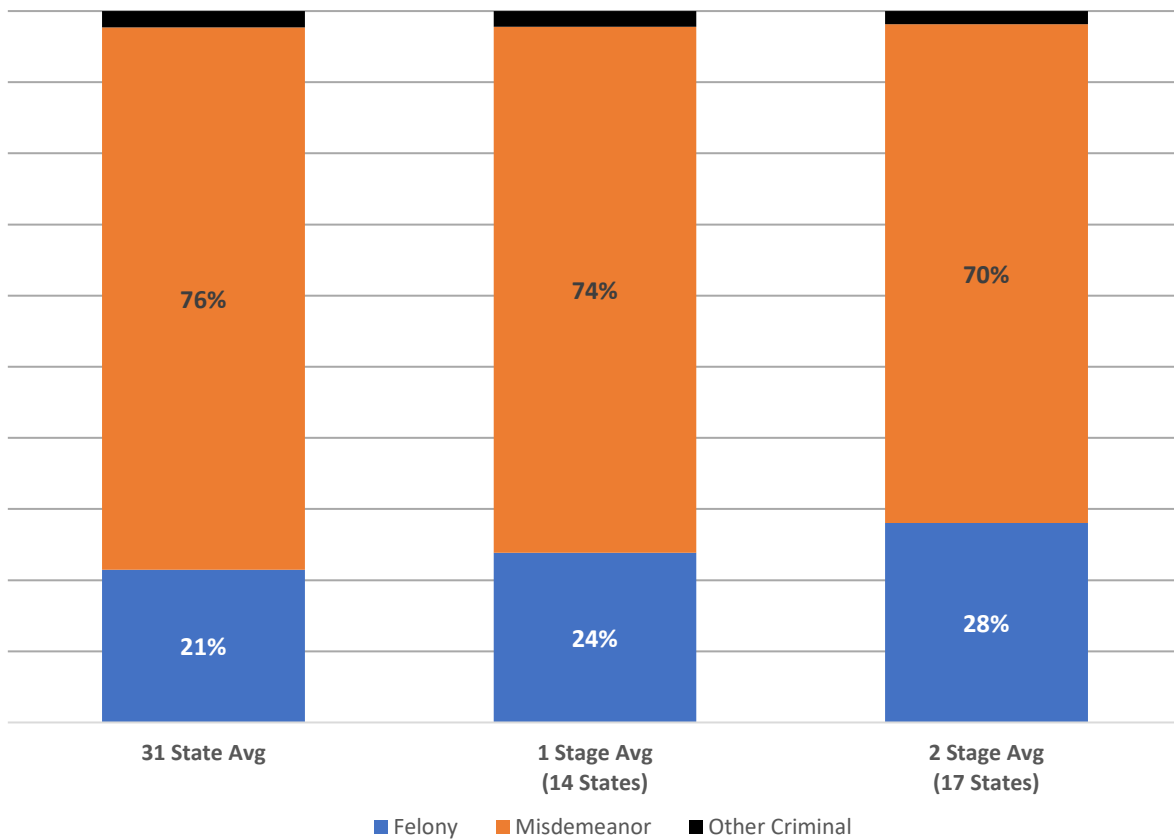


Statewide Criminal Caseload Composition in 31 States, 2016



States use different approaches to processing felony cases. Single-tiered systems process the entire case start to finish in the same court in which it was filed. Some two-tiered states also use this approach, but others often begin felony processing in the limited jurisdiction tier for a preliminary hearing. If sufficient evidence is presented the case is typically "bound over" to the general jurisdiction court level for trial. This process correctly results in two filings: one in the lower tier and another in the upper tier. This chart shows that in the states where a two-stage process is used, felonies account for 28 percent of the Criminal caseload versus 24 percent in the states using a one-stage process.

