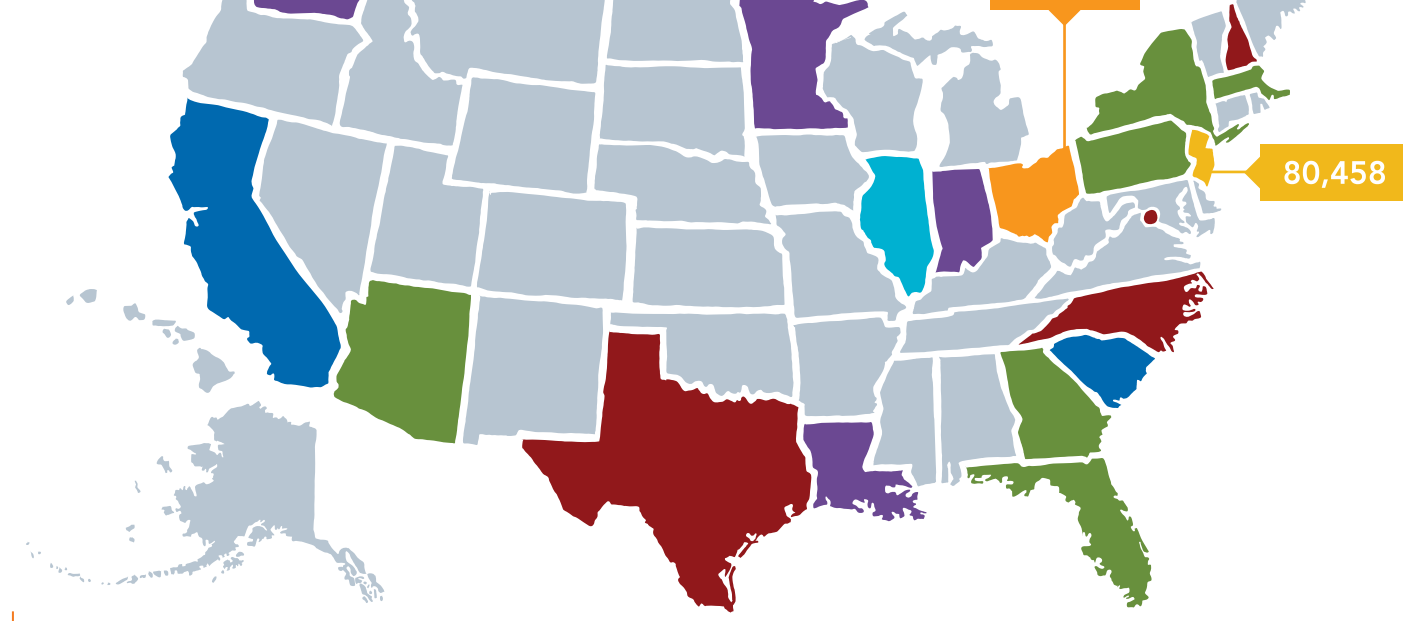


What's the Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) Footprint Across Industries?

MDLs by the Numbers: Scope & Scale

Active MDL Actions Across US Districts YTD 2025



~190K

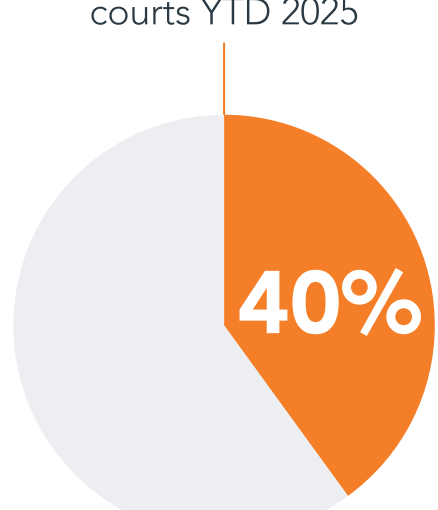
MDL cases currently pending in federal district courts YTD 2025

161

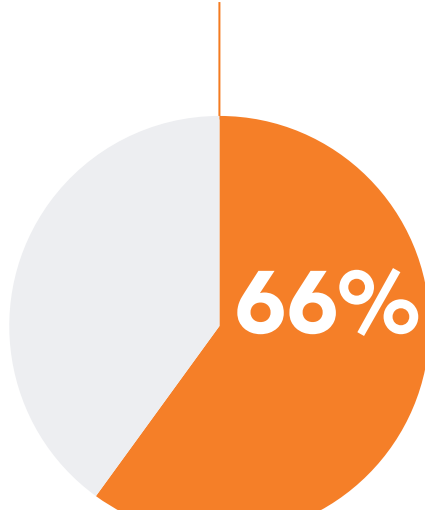
Separate dockets across 46 districts

43%

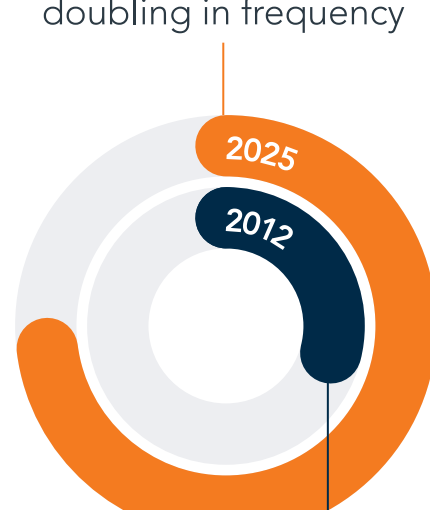
Increase in MDLs since 2012, more than doubling in frequency



of which make up the total district court pending civil actions

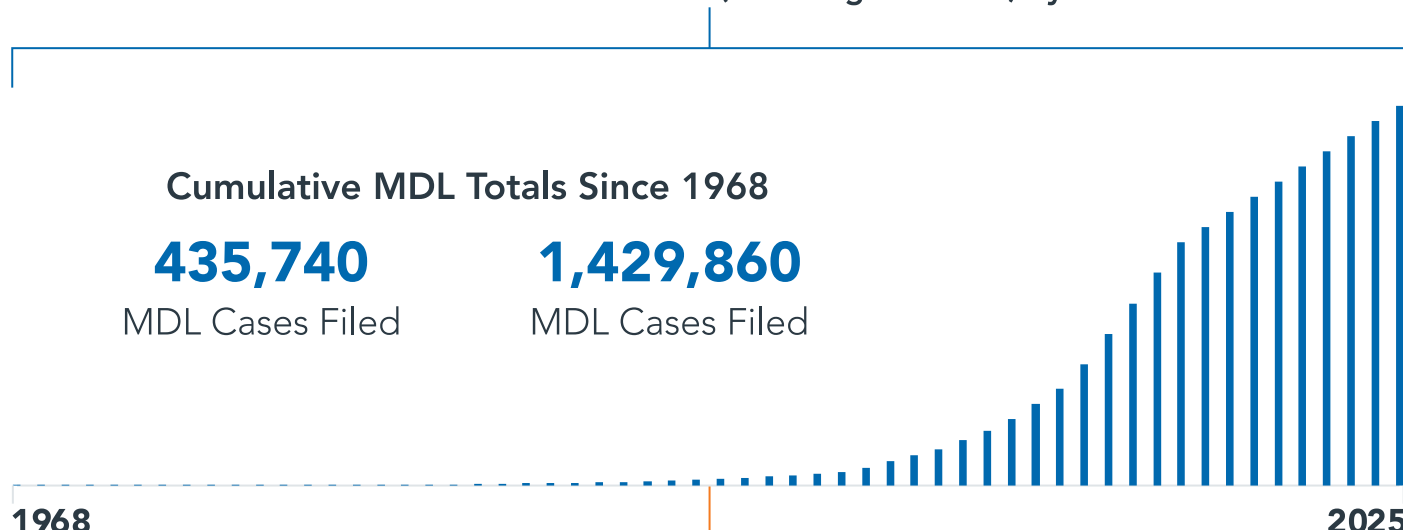


of which make up private civil cases



73% 29%

Estimated Total MDL Actions (Including Transfers) by Year



Cumulative MDL Totals Since 1968

435,740

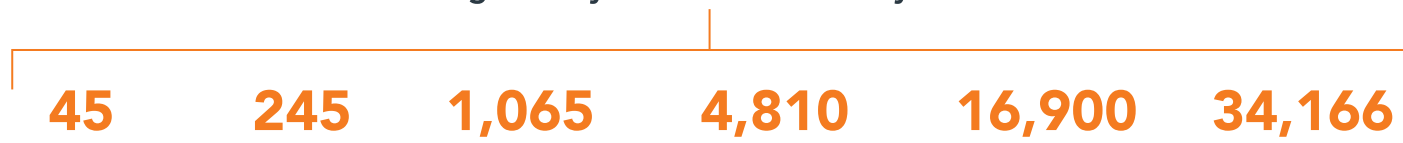
MDL Cases Filed

1,429,860

MDL Cases Filed

1968 2025

Average Yearly MDL Cases Filed by Decade



45

1968-70s

245

1980s

1,065

1990s

4,810

2000s

16,900

2010s

34,166

2020s

- US Congress passes the Multidistrict Litigation Act

Timelines and Settlements

On average, MDLs take **2x** as long to go through litigation as non-MDLs

22

Months

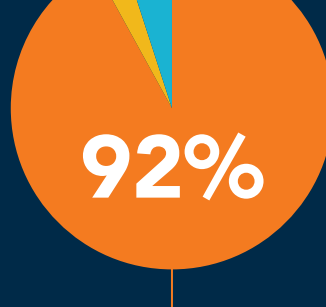
Non-MDL Cases

44

Months

MDL Cases

3% Remanded for Trial 5% Other (Dismissals, Stays, etc.)



of cases centralized in mass tort MDLs are resolved via settlement or dispositive motion, rather than being remanded to transferor courts

Notable Settlements in Top MDLs Across Industries



AUTO

\$14.7B



OIL

\$16B



PRO SPORTS

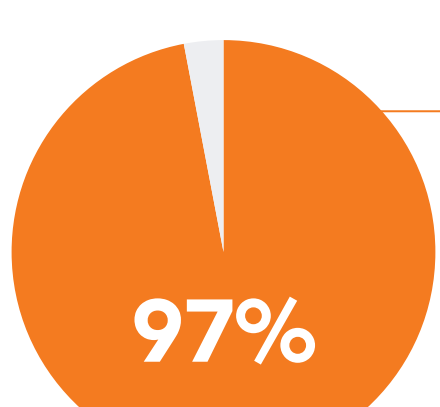
\$1.5B+



PHARMA

\$26B

Industries MDLs Hit the Hardest

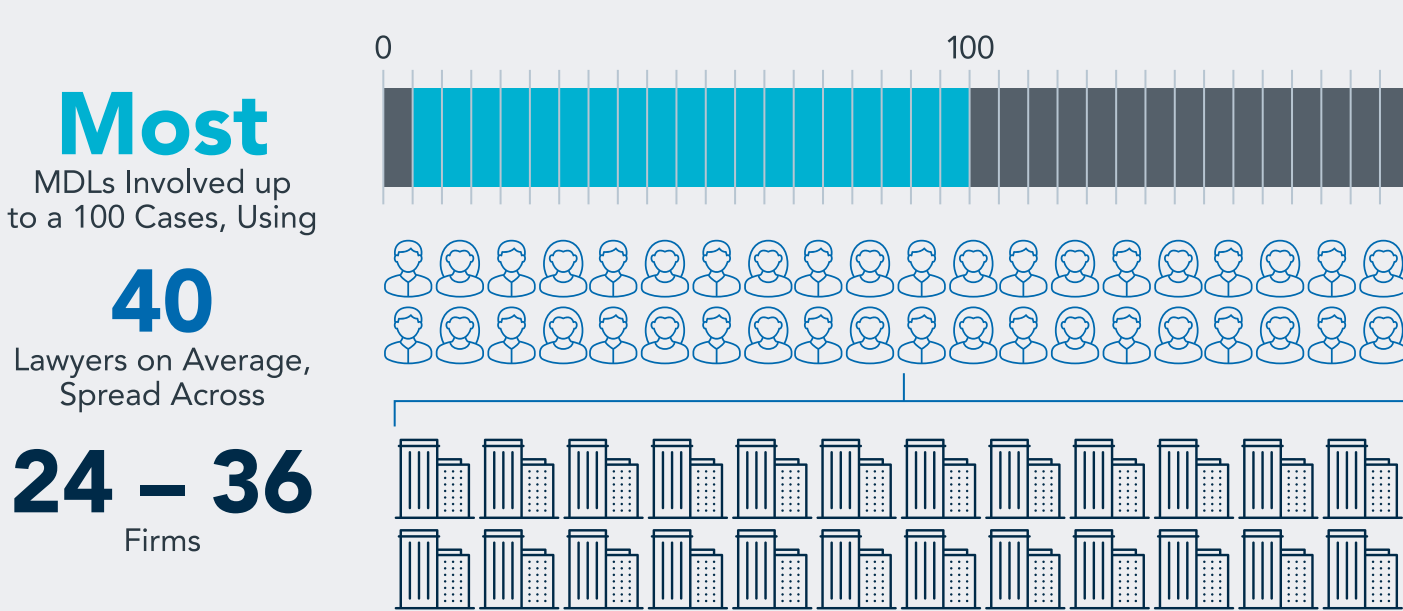


97% of MDLs are product liability cases, with pharmaceutical companies being primary targets:

14% Pharmaceutical Product MDLs

10% Medical Device MDLs

Litigation Complexity of MDLs



Most

MDLs Involved up to a 100 Cases, Using

40

Lawyers on Average, Spread Across

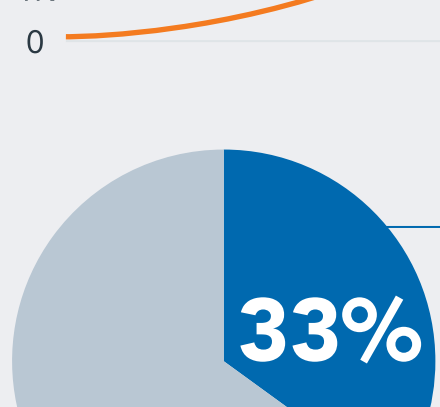
24 – 36

Firms



MDL Rule of Thumb

Once a mass tort MDL climbs above ~5,000 pending cases, the plaintiff bar often contains well over a hundred firms, each shepherding its own client inventory.



~70 elite law firms—only about **1/3** of the Am Law 200—secure the majority of leadership seats across MDLs.

Lighthouse: Your Strategic MDL Partner

In one recent cluster of cases in complex litigation, Lighthouse got results:

30+

US Jurisdictions

1.3K

Depo Kits Delivered

130+

State and Defensive Overviews Delivered Across 21 Jurisdictions

[Read the full case study](#)

Uplevel your multidistrict litigation with better insights, smarter workflows, and faster review. Get in touch to see how we can help guide a better way forward in complex MDLs.

[Connect with an expert](#)

Contact a Lighthouse complex litigation expert to get ahead of challenging MDLs.



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