

**OFFICE OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S OMBUDS**



**DCYF Placement Exceptions**

**2024 Report**

*OFCO tracks the Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF) use of hotels, Department offices, leased facilities, and/or night-to-night foster care placements as emergency placements for children under DCYF care. These are also referred to as "placement exceptions."*

*The source of this data is notifications from DCYF's Administrative Incident Reporting System (AIRS).*

*The OFCO 2023 reporting year runs September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. This data summarizes placement exceptions during this period.*

[www.ofco.wa.gov](http://www.ofco.wa.gov)

*Last updated November 2, 2023*

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
<b>2024 Reporting Year</b>	394	285											679
<i>Hotel</i>	60	16											76
<i>Office</i>	0	0											0
<i>Night-to-Night</i>	80	54											134
<i>Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing</i>	254	215											469
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0											0
<b>2023 Reporting Year</b>	296	378	356	381	411	220	468	452	469	477	369	293	4570
<b>2022 Reporting Year</b>	298	353	213	254	394	334	436	406	547	487	529	431	4682
<b>2021 Reporting Year</b>	183	233	171	142	165	186	183	151	194	260	352	315	2535

Placement Exceptions by DCYF Region*	Count	Percent
<b>Region 1</b>	1	0.1%
<b>Region 2</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Region 3</b>	11	1.6%
<b>Region 4</b>	311	45.8%
<b>Region 5</b>	29	4.3%
<b>Region 6</b>	327	48.2%

\*For a map of DCYF Regions, see [https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/COMM\\_0008.pdf](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/COMM_0008.pdf)

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child	Count	Percent
<b>Only 1 night</b>	34	41.0%
<b>2 to 5 nights</b>	21	25.3%
<b>6 to 9 nights</b>	9	10.8%
<b>10 to 19 nights</b>	9	10.8%
<b>20 or more nights</b>	10	12.0%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
<b>Female</b>	28	33.7%
<b>Male</b>	53	63.9%
<b>Transgender Female</b>	1	1.2%
<b>Transgender Male</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Other</b>	1	1.2%

\*\*\* While DCYF documents the reported pronouns and gender identity of the child, some children may not feel comfortable sharing this information.

Number of Children Over This Period Who Have Experienced At Least One Placement Exception	
<b>Region 1</b>	1
<b>Region 2</b>	0
<b>Region 3</b>	7
<b>Region 4</b>	14
<b>Region 5</b>	8
<b>Region 6</b>	53
<b>Total</b>	83

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
<b>0-4 years</b>	7	8.4%	47.8%
<b>5-9 years</b>	20	24.1%	22.9%
<b>10-14 years</b>	28	33.7%	19.1%
<b>15-17 years</b>	28	33.7%	10.2%

\*\* Department of Children, Youth, and Families. *Number and Percent of Children/Youth Who Experienced Out-of-Home Care, by Age, SFY 2022*. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/agency-performance/cw?page=1>

Child Race and Ethnicity ****	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care *****
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	11	13.3%	18.0%
<b>Asian or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</b>	1	1.2%	1.0%
<b>Black/African American</b>	13	15.7%	16.0%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	13	15.7%	16.0%
<b>Multiracial, Other</b>	4	4.8%	2.0%
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	39	47.0%	46.0%
<b>Unknown</b>	2	2.4%	--

\*\*\*\* WSRDAC/M: American Indian/Alaska Native, Multiracial has been combined with American Indian/Alaska Native, and Black/African American, Multiracial has been combined with Black/African American.

\*\*\*\*\* Department of Children, Youth, and Families. *Children in Care by Race/Ethnicity, Last Day of SFY 2016-2022*. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/agency-performance/cw?page=1>

Placement Exceptions by Region and Type				
September				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Region Total
Region 1	1			1
Region 2				0
Region 3	2	3		5
Region 4		17	172	189
Region 5	1	20		21
Region 6	56	40	82	178
Type Total	60	80	254	394
Placement Exceptions by Region and Type				
October				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Region Total
Region 1				0
Region 2				0
Region 3	6			6
Region 4		9	113	122
Region 5		8		8
Region 6	10	37	102	149
Type Total	16	54	215	285

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type															
September															
	Only 1 night			2 to 5 nights			6 to 9 nights			10 to 19 nights			20 or more nights		
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing
Region 1	1														
Region 2															
Region 3	2	3													
Region 4		2	2			1				1	4				4
Region 5	1	1			3					1					
Region 6	2	5	2	1	9	3	1	1	3	3	3	3			
Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type															
October															
	Only 1 night			2 to 5 nights			6 to 9 nights			10 to 19 nights			20 or more nights		
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing
Region 1															
Region 2															
Region 3	1			1											
Region 4		2	1			1		1	2			1			3
Region 5		4			2										
Region 6	1	12	3		5	5	1	2	3			1			2