

**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 April 3, 2024*

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
<b>2024 Reporting Year</b>	394	285	276	207	175	141	212						1690
<i>Hotel</i>	60	16	11	6	16	4	16						129
<i>Office</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0						1
<i>Night-to-Night</i>	80	54	31	25	21	5	14						230
<i>Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing</i>	254	215	234	176	138	131	182						1330
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0	0	0	0	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>	6	0.4%
<b>Region 2</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Region 3</b>	46	2.7%
<b>Region 4</b>	677	40.1%
<b>Region 5</b>	88	5.2%
<b>Region 6</b>	873	51.7%

\*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>	69	41.8%
<b>2 to 5 nights</b>	48	29.1%
<b>6 to 9 nights</b>	14	8.5%
<b>10 to 19 nights</b>	14	8.5%
<b>20 or more nights</b>	20	12.1%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
<b>Female</b>	62	37.6%
<b>Male</b>	99	60.0%
<b>Transgender Female</b>	1	0.6%
<b>Transgender Male</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Other</b>	3	1.8%

\*\*\* 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>	2
<b>Region 2</b>	0
<b>Region 3</b>	18
<b>Region 4</b>	41
<b>Region 5</b>	26
<b>Region 6</b>	78
<b>Total</b>	165

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
<b>0-4 years</b>	11	6.7%	47.8%
<b>5-9 years</b>	39	23.6%	22.9%
<b>10-14 years</b>	59	35.8%	19.1%
<b>15-17 years</b>	56	33.9%	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>	18	10.9%	18.0%
<b>Asian or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</b>	1	0.6%	1.0%
<b>Black/African American</b>	43	26.1%	16.0%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	24	14.5%	16.0%
<b>Multiracial, Other</b>	5	3.0%	2.0%
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	72	43.6%	46.0%
<b>Unknown</b>	2	1.2%	--

\*\*\*\* 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
Placement Exceptions by Region and Type				
November				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Region Total
Region 1	5			5
Region 2				0
Region 3	2	15		17
Region 4		1	85	86
Region 5	4	4		8
Region 6		11	149	160
Type Total	11	31	234	276
Placement Exceptions by Region and Type				
December				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Region Total
Region 1				0
Region 2				0
Region 3	1	2		3
Region 4	2	3	69	74
Region 5	3	13		16
Region 6		7	107	114
Type Total	6	25	176	207

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			
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
Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type															
November															
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							2							
Region 4		1				3						3			1
Region 5	1			1	2										
Region 6		3	1		3	2						2			5
Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type															
December															
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															
Region 4	1				1										
Region 5			2	1	1	3			1			1			1
Region 6	1			1	6										
Region 6		7	1			3			1			1			3

Placement Exceptions by Region and Type					
January					
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Office	Region Total
Region 1					0
Region 2					0
Region 3	3	1			4
Region 4	12	1	43		56
Region 5		17	8		25
Region 6	1	2	87		90
Type Total	16	21	138	0	175

  

Placement Exceptions by Region and Type					
February					
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Office	Region Total
Region 1					0
Region 2					0
Region 3	2				2
Region 4	2		47		49
Region 5		2			2
Region 6		3	84	1	88
Type Total	4	5	131	1	141

  

Placement Exceptions by Region and Type					
March					
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Office	Region Total
Region 1					0
Region 2					0
Region 3	6	1	1		8
Region 4	7	4	91		102
Region 5	2	6			8
Region 6	1	3	90		94
Type Total	16	14	182	0	212

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type																
January																
Only 1 night				2 to 5 nights			6 to 9 nights			10 to 19 nights			20 or more nights			
	Hotel	Office	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		1											
Region 4	1		1				1			2	1					1
Region 5			4			1				1		1				
Region 6	1		2	2			2			3						2

  

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type																
February																
Only 1 night				2 to 5 nights			6 to 9 nights			10 to 19 nights			20 or more nights			
	Hotel	Office	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											
Region 4	2			3												2
Region 5			1			1										
Region 6		1	3	2			2						1			2

  

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type																
March																
Only 1 night				2 to 5 nights			6 to 9 nights			10 to 19 nights			20 or more nights			
	Hotel	Office	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	1	1											
Region 4	7		2	1		1	3			1						2
Region 5	2		2			1										
Region 6	1		3										2			2