

**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 September 17, 2024*

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
<b>2024 Reporting Year</b>	437	324	297	209	180	170	215	111	159	196	186	139	2623
<i>Hotel</i>	64	21	12	8	18	10	17	2	1	3	7	2	165
<i>Night-to-Night</i>	72	57	34	27	20	6	16	5	5	2	1	1	246
<i>Leased Facility</i>	301	246	251	174	142	154	182	104	153	191	178	136	2212
<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>	58	2.2%
<b>Region 2</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Region 3</b>	48	1.8%
<b>Region 4</b>	1007	38.4%
<b>Region 5</b>	345	13.2%
<b>Region 6</b>	1165	44.4%

\*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>	80	37.0%
<b>2 to 5 nights</b>	56	25.9%
<b>6 to 9 nights</b>	18	8.3%
<b>10 to 19 nights</b>	28	13.0%
<b>20 or more nights</b>	34	15.7%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
<b>Female</b>	85	39.4%
<b>Male</b>	124	57.4%
<b>Transgender Female</b>	1	0.5%
<b>Transgender Male</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Other</b>	6	2.8%

\*\*\* 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>	8
<b>Region 2</b>	0
<b>Region 3</b>	20
<b>Region 4</b>	65
<b>Region 5</b>	45
<b>Region 6</b>	78
<b>Total</b>	216

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
<b>0-4 years</b>	14	6.5%	47.8%
<b>5-9 years</b>	49	22.7%	22.9%
<b>10-14 years</b>	79	36.6%	19.1%
<b>15-17 years</b>	74	34.3%	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/Alaska Native</b>	29	13.4%	18.0%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	11	5.1%	1.0%
<b>Black/African American</b>	57	26.4%	16.0%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	26	12.0%	16.0%
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	89	41.2%	46.0%
<b>Unknown</b>	4	1.9%	--

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

\*\*\*\*\* 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 Total
Region 1	1			1
Region 2				0
Region 3	1	3		4
Region 4		19	167	186
Region 5	1	20		21
Region 6	61	30	134	225
Type Total	64	72	301	437
Placement Exceptions by Region and Type				
October				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Region Total
Region 1				0
Region 2				0
Region 3	4			4
Region 4		11	110	121
Region 5		8		8
Region 6	17	38	136	191
Type Total	21	57	246	324
Placement Exceptions by Region and Type				
November				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Region Total
Region 1	6			6
Region 2				0
Region 3	2	16		18
Region 4		1	91	92
Region 5	4	4		8
Region 6		13	160	173
Type Total	12	34	251	297
Placement Exceptions by Region and Type				
December				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Region Total
Region 1	1	2		3
Region 2				0
Region 3	1	2		3
Region 4	3	3	69	75
Region 5	3	13		16
Region 6		7	105	112
Type Total	8	27	174	209

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	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility
Region 1	1														
Region 2															
Region 3	1	3													
Region 4		2			1	1				1	5				3
Region 5	1	1			3					1					
Region 6	5	3	1	1	6	5	1	1	1	3	2				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	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility
Region 1															
Region 2															
Region 3	1			1											
Region 4		1	1		1			1	2					1	
Region 5		4			2										3
Region 6	6	12	2	1	5	4	1	2	2			1			4
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	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility
Region 1							1								
Region 2															
Region 3	2							2							
Region 4		1				2			1				2		2
Region 5	1			1	2										
Region 6		4	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	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility
Region 1	1				1										
Region 2															
Region 3	1				1										
Region 4	3				1										
Region 5	1			1	1	3			1			1			1
Region 6		7	1			3			2			0			3



