

OFFICE OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S OMBUDS



DCYF Placement Exceptions

2025 Report

OFCO tracks the Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF) use of hotels, 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 2025 reporting year runs September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025. This data summarizes placement exceptions during this period.

www.ofco.wa.gov

Last updated October 18, 2024

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
2025 Reporting Year	173												173
<i>Hotel</i>	8												8
<i>Night-to-Night</i>	5												5
<i>Leased Facility</i>	160												160
2024 Reporting Year	437	324	297	209	180	170	215	111	159	196	186	139	2623
2023 Reporting Year	296	378	356	381	411	220	468	452	469	477	369	293	4570
2022 Reporting Year	298	353	213	254	394	334	436	406	547	487	529	431	4682

Placement Exceptions by DCYF Region*	Count	Percent
Region 1	33	19.1%
Region 2	0	0.0%
Region 3	1	0.6%
Region 4	78	45.1%
Region 5	34	19.7%
Region 6	27	15.6%

*For a map of DCYF Regions, see https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/COMM_0008.pdf

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child	Count	Percent
Only 1 night	3	18.8%
2 to 5 nights	3	18.8%
6 to 9 nights	5	31.3%
10 to 19 nights	1	6.3%
20 or more nights	4	25.0%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	4	25.0%
Male	10	62.5%
Transgender Female	0	0.0%
Transgender Male	0	0.0%
Other	2	12.5%

*** 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	
Region 1	2
Region 2	0
Region 3	1
Region 4	6
Region 5	4
Region 6	3
Total	16

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	1	6.3%	47.6%
5-9 years	4	25.0%	23.3%
10-14 years	2	12.5%	19.1%
15-17 years	9	56.3%	10.0%

** Department of Children, Youth, and Families. *Number and Percent of Children/Youth Who Experienced Out-of-Home Care, by Age, SFY 2023*. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/agency-performance/cw?page=1>

Child Race and Ethnicity****	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care*****
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	31.3%	17.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	12.5%	3.0%
Black/African American	3	18.8%	15.0%
Hispanic/Latino	1	6.3%	17.0%
White/Caucasian	5	31.3%	46.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%	--

**** 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 2016-2023*. <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		33	33
Region 2			0
Region 3	1		1
Region 4	1	77	78
Region 5	3	31	34
Region 6	8	19	27
Type Total	8	160	173

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						1
Region 2															
Region 3					1										
Region 4					1										2
Region 5						1	2								1
Region 6	1								1					1	