

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

*Last updated December 11, 2024*

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
<b>2025 Reporting Year</b>	173	29	62										264
<i>Hotel</i>	8	2	3										13
<i>Night-to-Night</i>	5	0	0										5
<i>Leased Facility</i>	160	27	59										246
<b>2024 Reporting Year</b>	437	324	297	209	180	170	215	111	159	196	186	139	2623
<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

Placement Exceptions by DCYF Region*	Count	Percent
<b>Region 1</b>	55	20.8%
<b>Region 2</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Region 3</b>	2	0.8%
<b>Region 4</b>	85	32.2%
<b>Region 5</b>	92	34.8%
<b>Region 6</b>	30	11.4%

\*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>	7	28.0%
<b>2 to 5 nights</b>	5	20.0%
<b>6 to 9 nights</b>	5	20.0%
<b>10 to 19 nights</b>	3	12.0%
<b>20 or more nights</b>	5	20.0%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
<b>Female</b>	8	32.0%
<b>Male</b>	15	60.0%
<b>Transgender Female</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Transgender Male</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Other</b>	2	8.0%

\*\*\* 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>	3
<b>Region 2</b>	0
<b>Region 3</b>	2
<b>Region 4</b>	10
<b>Region 5</b>	6
<b>Region 6</b>	4
<b>Total</b>	25

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
<b>0-4 years</b>	3	12.0%	47.6%
<b>5-9 years</b>	6	24.0%	23.3%
<b>10-14 years</b>	2	8.0%	19.1%
<b>15-17 years</b>	14	56.0%	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*****
<b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b>	5	20.0%	17.0%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	2	8.0%	3.0%
<b>Black/African American</b>	9	36.0%	15.0%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	1	4.0%	17.0%
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	8	32.0%	46.0%
<b>Unknown</b>	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>

