## 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, 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 2025 reporting year runs September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025. This data summarizes placement exceptions during this period.

## www.ofco.wa.gov

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
2025 Reporting Year	173	29	62	58	106								428
Hotel	8	2	3	3	8								24
Night-to-Night	5	0	0	0	1								6
Leased Facility	160	27	59	55	94								395
DCYF Office				-	3								3
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	58	13.6%
Region 2	0	0.0%
Region 3	31	7.2%
Region 4	135	31.5%
Region 5	174	40.7%
Region 6	30	7.0%

<sup>\*</sup>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	13	32.5%
2 to 5 nights	9	22.5%
6 to 9 nights	6	15.0%
10 to 19 nights	3	7.5%
20 or more nights	9	22.5%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	14	35.0%
Male	23	57.5%
Transgender Female	1	2.5%
Transgender Male	0	0.0%
Other	2	5.0%

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> 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	3
Region 2	0
Region 3	5
Region 4	15
Region 5	13
Region 6	4
Total	40

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	4	10.0%	47.6%
5-9 years	9	22.5%	23.3%
<b>10-14</b> years	4	10.0%	19.1%
15-17 years	23	57.5%	10.0%

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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	11	27.5%	17.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	7.5%	3.0%
Black/African American	13	32.5%	15.0%
Hispanic/Latino	1	2.5%	17.0%
White/Caucasian	12	30.0%	46.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%	

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> 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.

<sup>\*\*\*\*\*</sup> 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	5	160	173								
		October										
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Region Total								
Region 1			6	6								
Region 2				0								
Region 3			1	1								
Region 4	2		1	3								
Region 5			19	19								
Region 6				0								
Type Total	2	0	27	29								
		Novembe	r									
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Region Total								
Region 1			16	16								
Region 2				0								
Region 3				0								
Region 4	3			3								
Region 5			40	40								
Region 6			3	3								
Type Total	3	0	59	62								
		Decembe	r									
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility	Region Total								
Region 1			3	3								
Region 2				0								
Region 3				0								
Region 4	3		30	33								
Region 5			22	22								
negion 3												
Region 6				0								

				Number of Placement E	xceptions	per Child by Region, Length of S	Stay, and T	уре						
					9	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				3				2				
Region 5				1 2						1				
Region 6	1				1			1						
	October October 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						1								
Region 2														
Region 3		1												
Region 4		1	1											
Region 5						1		1						
Region 6														
						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														
Region 4	3													
Region 5								1		1				
Region 6				1										
						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										
Region 2														
Region 3														
Region 4		1		1						1				
Region 5				1				1						
Region 6														

	Placement Exceptions by Region and Type												
January													
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	Region Total								
Region 1					0								
Region 2					0								
Region 3			29		29								
Region 4	8		10		18								
Region 5		1	55	3	59								
Region 6					0								
Type Total	8	1	94	3	106								

	Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type															
	January															
		Only 1	l night			2 to 5 nights	6		6 to 9 nights	S	:	10 to 19 nigh	ts	20	or more nig	hts
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility									
Region 1																
Region 2																
Region 3			1				1									1
Region 4	2						1	1		1						
Region 5		1		3			1									2
Region 6																