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.

Placement Exceptions by DCYF Region*	Count	Percent
Region 1	58	10.0%
Region 2	0	0.0%
Region 3	72	12.5%
Region 4	175	30.3%
Region 5	234	40.5%
Region 6	39	6.7%

Sept

173

8

5

160

437

296

298

Hotel

Night-to-Night

Leased Facility

DCYF Office

Oct

29

2

0

27

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324

378

353

Nov

62

3

0

59

297

356

213

Dec

58

3

0

55

209

381

254

Jan

106

8

1

94

3

180

411

394

Feb

81

7

8

66

170

220

334

Mar

69

20

2

47

215

468

436

Apr

111

452

406

May

159

469

547

June

196

477

487

July

186

369

529

Aug

139

293

431

Annual Total

578

51

16

508

3

2623

4570

4682

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

Placement Exceptions

2025 Reporting Year

2024 Reporting Year

2023 Reporting Year

2022 Reporting Year

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child	Count	Percent
Only 1 night	21	35.0%
2 to 5 nights	16	26.7%
6 to 9 nights	7	11.7%
10 to 19 nights	7	11.7%
20 or more nights	9	15.0%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	20	33.3%
Male	36	60.0%
Transgender Female	1	1.7%
Transgender Male	0	0.0%
Other	3	5.0%

*** 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	
Region 1	3
Region 2	0
Region 3	10
Region 4	21
Region 5	20
Region 6	6
Total	60

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	6	10.0%	47.6%
5-9 years	12	20.0%	23.3%
10-14 years	8	13.3%	19.1%
15-17 years	34	56.7%	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	14	23.3%	17.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	5.0%	3.0%
Black/African American	17	28.3%	15.0%
Hispanic/Latino	2	3.3%	17.0%
White/Caucasian	24	40.0%	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

www.ofco.wa.gov

Last updated April 10, 2025

Р	lacemen	t Exceptions by Re	egion and Ty	pe					Number of Placement E	Exceptions	per Child by Region, Length of	Stay, and T	уре		
		September									September				
				De des Tetel			Only 1 night		2 to 5 nights		6 to 9 nights		10 to 19 nights		20 or more nights
	Hotel	Night-to-Night L	eased Facility	Region Total		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			33	33		notet	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	потег	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	Hotet	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	Hotet	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	HULEL	Night-to-Night Leased Facility
Region 2				0	Region 1						1				1
Region 3		1		1	Region 2										
Region 4		1	77	78	Region 3		1								
Region 5		3	31	34	Region 4		1				3				2
Region 6	8		19	27	Region 5				1 2						1
Type Total	8	5	160	173	Region 6	1				1			1		
		October									October				
	Hotel	Night-to-Night L		Dogion Total			Only 1 night		2 to 5 nights		6 to 9 nights		10 to 19 nights		20 or more nights
	потег	Night-to-Night L	eased Facility	Region Total		Lintal	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	Hadal	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	Hotel	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	Untel	Night-to-Night Leased Facility	listel	Night-to-Night Leased Facility
Region 1			6	6		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 2				0	Region 1						1				
Region 3			1	1	Region 2										
Region 4	2		1	3	Region 3		1								
Region 5			19	19	Region 4		1	1							
Region 6				0	Region 5						1		1		
Type Total	2	0	27	29	Region 6										
		November					1				November				
							Only 1 night		2 to 5 nights		6 to 9 nights		10 to 19 nights		20 or more nights
	Hotel	Night-to-Night L	eased Facility	Region Total											
Region 1			16	16		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 2				0	Region 1								1		
Region 3				0	Region 2										
Region 4	3			3	Region 3										
Region 5			40	40	Region 4	3									
Region 6			3	3	Region 5								1		1
Type Total	3	0	59	62	Region 6				1						
		December									December				
							Only 1 night		2 to 5 nights		6 to 9 nights		10 to 19 nights		20 or more nights
	Hotel	Night-to-Night L	eased Facility	Region Total					-		_		-		-
Region 1			3	3		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 2				0	Region 1				1						
Region 3				0	Region 2										
Region 4	3		30	33	Region 3										
Region 5			22	22	Region 4		1		1						1
Region 6				0	Region 5				1				1		
Type Total	3	0	55	58	Region 6										
.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	-	-								I					

	Placeme	nt Exception	s by Regior	n and Type							
January											
	Hotel	Night-to- Leased Office Hotel Night Facility									
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						
February											
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	Region Total						
Region 1					0						
Region 2					0						
Region 3	7		26		33						
Region 4		1	1		2						
Region 5		7	30		37						
Region 6			9		9						
Type Total	7	8	66	0	81						
		Mai	rch								
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	Region Total						
Region 1					0						
Region 2					0						
Region 3		1	7		8						
Region 4	20	1	17		38						
Region 5			23		23						
Region 6					0						
Type Total	20	2	47	0	69						

				١	lumber of	Placement I	Exceptions		by Region, L	ength of St.	ay, and Ty	ре				
								January								
	Only 1 night				2 to 5 nights 6 to 9 nights					1	LO to 19 nigh	ts	20	or more nig	hts	
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	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									1
Region 4	2						1	1		1						
Region 5		1		3			1									2
Region 6																
					•			February	1		•					
	Only 1 night				2 to 5 nights	s		6 to 9 night	s	10 to 19 nights			20 or more nights			
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	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	3				1											1
Region 4		1	1													
Region 5		2	1			1	1			1			1			
Region 6							2									
					•			March								
		Only 1	night			2 to 5 nights	S	6 to 9 nights			1	LO to 19 nigh	ts	20 or more nights		
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	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				1		1			
Region 5										1			1			
Region 6																