

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

*Last updated May 19, 2025*

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
2025 Reporting Year	173	29	62	58	106	81	69	119					697
Hotel	8	2	3	3	8	7	20	25					76
Night-to-Night	5	0	0	0	1	8	2	96					112
Leased Facility	160	27	59	55	94	66	47	1					509
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	67	9.6%
Region 2	0	0.0%
Region 3	75	10.8%
Region 4	215	30.8%
Region 5	299	42.9%
Region 6	41	5.9%

\*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
Only 1 night	25	34.2%
2 to 5 nights	21	28.8%
6 to 9 nights	8	11.0%
10 to 19 nights	7	9.6%
20 or more nights	12	16.4%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	24	32.9%
Male	43	58.9%
Transgender Female	1	1.4%
Transgender Male	0	0.0%
Other	5	6.8%

\*\*\* 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	
Region 1	4
Region 2	0
Region 3	13
Region 4	26
Region 5	23
Region 6	7
Total	73

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	8	11.0%	47.6%
5-9 years	13	17.8%	23.3%
10-14 years	13	17.8%	19.1%
15-17 years	39	53.4%	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/oiiaa/agency-performance/cw?page=1>

Child Race and Ethnicity ****	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care*****
American Indian/Alaska Native	15	20.5%	17.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	4.1%	3.0%
Black/African American	21	28.8%	15.0%
Hispanic/Latino	3	4.1%	17.0%
White/Caucasian	31	42.5%	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/oiiaa/agency-performance/cw?page=1>



