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	81	69	119	103	108	81		989
Hotel	8	2	3	3	8	7	20	25	12	4	7		99
Night-to-Night	5	0	0	0	1	8	2	1	3	0	0		20
Leased Facility	160	27	59	55	94	66	47	93	88	104	74		867
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	141	14.3%
Region 2	0	0.0%
Region 3	82	8.3%
Region 4	297	30.0%
Region 5	419	42.4%
Region 6	50	5.1%

^{*}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	37	35.6%
2 to 5 nights	33	31.7%
6 to 9 nights	11	10.6%
10 to 19 nights	8	7.7%
20 or more nights	15	14.4%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	36	34.6%
Male	61	58.7%
Transgender Female	1	1.0%
Transgender Male	0	0.0%
Other	6	5.8%

^{***} 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	9
Region 2	0
Region 3	15
Region 4	37
Region 5	33
Region 6	10
Total	104

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	11	10.6%	47.6%
5-9 years	19	18.3%	23.3%
10-14 years	22	21.2%	19.1%
15-17 years	52	50.0%	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*****
American Indian/Alaska Native	18	17.3%	17.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6	5.8%	3.0%
Black/African American	28	26.9%	15.0%
Hispanic/Latino	7	6.7%	17.0%
White/Caucasian	44	42.3%	46.0%
Unknown	1	1.0%	

^{****} 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

Pl	acement	Exceptions by	Region and Ty	ре
		Septembe		
	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
		November	f	
	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
		December	f	
	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
Region 6				0
110510110				<u> </u>

				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				
		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										

	Placemei	nt Exception	s by Regioi	n and Type	
		Janu	ıary		
	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
		Febr	uary		
	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
71		Mai	rch		
		Night-to-	Leased		Region
	Hotel	Night	Facility	Office	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
		Ap	ril		
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Office	Region Total
Region 1			9		9
Region 2					0
Region 3	1		2		3
Region 4	23	1	16		40
Region 5	1		64		65
Region 6		<u> </u>	2		2
Type Total	25	1	93	0	119

				N	lumber of	Placement E	xceptions	per Child	by Region, L	ength of St	ay, and Ty	pe				
								January								
		Only 1	l night			2 to 5 nights	•		6 to 9 nights	3	1	l0 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	l night			2 to 5 nights			6 to 9 nights	3	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	3				1											1
Region 4		1	1													
Region 5		2	1			1	1			1			1			
Region 6							2									
								March								
			l night			2 to 5 nights	•		6 to 9 nights	6	1	l 0 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						
Region 4	1	1			1		1				1		1			
Region 5										1			1			
Region 6																
								April								
			l night			2 to 5 nights	3		6 to 9 nights		1	l 0 to 19 nigh		20	or more nig	
	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										1						
Region 2																
Region 3	1		2													
Region 4		1			3		1				1		1			
Region 5	1						1						1			2
Region 6							1									

		eptions by R May		
	Hotel	Night-to- Night	Leased Facility	Region Total
Region 1			16	16
Region 2				0
Region 3				0
Region 4	8		27	35
Region 5	4	3	45	52
Region 6				0
Type Total	12	3	88	103
Place	ment Exc	eptions by R	Region and	Туре
		June		
	Hotel	Night-to-	Leased	Region
	посес	Night	Facility	Total
Region 1	1		29	30
Region 2				0
Region 3			6	6
Region 4	3		32	35
Region 5			37	37
Region 6				0
Type Total	4	0	104	108
Place	ment Exc	eptions by R	Region and	Туре
		July		
	Hotel	Night-to-	Leased	Region
	Hotel	Night	Facility	Total
Region 1			28	28
Region 2				0
Region 3	1			1
Region 4	1		11	12
Region 5			31	31
Region 6	5		4	9
Type Total	7	0	74	81

				Numb	er of Placer	nent Exce	otions per (Child by Reg	ion, Length	of Stay, a	nd Type				
							Μ.	1ay							
	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	2			2		1			2			1			
Region 5		3		2								1			1
Region 6															
				Numb	er of Placer	nent Exce	otions per (Child by Reg	ion, Length	of Stay, a	nd Type				
								ıne							
	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								2			1			
Region 2															
Region 3									1						
Region 4	3					2						2			
Region 5						2									1
Region 6															
				Numb	er of Placer	nent Exce	otions per (Child by Reg	ion, Length	of Stay, a	nd Type				
							J	uly							
	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						2			1			1			
Region 2															
Region 3	1														
Region 4	1					1			1						
Region 5			2			1			1			1			
Region 6			1	1		1									