

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

Last updated September 16, 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	103	108	82	83	1073
Hotel	8	2	3	3	8	7	20	25	12	4	7	10	109
Night-to-Night	5	0	0	0	1	8	2	1	3	0	0	0	20
Leased Facility	160	27	59	55	94	66	47	93	88	104	75	73	941
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	144	13.4%
Region 2	0	0.0%
Region 3	92	8.6%
Region 4	314	29.3%
Region 5	446	41.6%
Region 6	77	7.2%

*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	36	33.3%
2 to 5 nights	33	30.6%
6 to 9 nights	12	11.1%
10 to 19 nights	11	10.2%
20 or more nights	16	14.8%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	37	34.3%
Male	64	59.3%
Transgender Female	1	0.9%
Transgender Male	0	0.0%
Other	6	5.6%

*** 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	18
Region 4	37
Region 5	33
Region 6	11
Total	108

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	11	10.2%	47.6%
5-9 years	20	18.5%	23.3%
10-14 years	23	21.3%	19.1%
15-17 years	54	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	16.7%	17.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	4.6%	3.0%
Black/African American	28	25.9%	15.0%
Hispanic/Latino	10	9.3%	17.0%
White/Caucasian	47	43.5%	46.0%

**** 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>

