

OFFICE OF THE FAMILY
AND CHILDREN'S OMBUDS



DCYF
Placement Exceptions

2026

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, 2025 - August 31, 2026. This data summarizes placement exceptions during this period.

www.ofco.wa.gov

Last updated October 13, 2025

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
2026 Reporting Year	80												80
Hotel	4												4
Leased Facility	74												74
Night-to-Night	2												2
DCYF Office	0												0
2025 Reporting Year	173	29	62	58	106	81	69	119	103	108	82	83	1073
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

Placement Exceptions by DCYF Region*	Count	Percent
Region 1	0	0.0%
Region 2	9	11.3%
Region 3	1	1.3%
Region 4	15	18.8%
Region 5	26	32.5%
Region 6	29	36.3%

*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	4	36.4%
2 to 5 nights	3	27.3%
6 to 9 nights	2	18.2%
10 to 19 nights	0	0.0%
20 or more nights	2	18.2%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	5	45.5%
Male	5	45.5%
Transgender Female	1	9.1%

*** 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	0
Region 2	1
Region 3	1
Region 4	6
Region 5	2
Region 6	1
Total	11

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	2	18.2%	49.9%
5-9 years	1	9.1%	22.9%
10-14 years	5	45.5%	18.8%
15-17 years	3	27.3%	8.4%

** Department of Children, Youth, and Families. *Children Entering Care in SFY, by Age in SFY 2024* . <https://dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/agency-performance/reduce-out-of-home-care/cw-dashboard>

Child Race and Ethnicity****	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care*****
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	9.1%	17.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	3.0%
Black/African American	2	18.2%	15.0%
Hispanic/Latino	3	27.3%	17.0%
White/Caucasian	5	45.5%	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>

