

The Children's Administration strives to provide quality services to Washington's most vulnerable children and their families.

As a dedicated service organization, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration (CA) strives to provide quality services and to maintain accountability to those utilizing CA services and to the community at large.

The administration's primary imperative is to ensure that the children of Washington state are safe. Secondly, the administration endeavors to provide stability and permanency for children and to support the well-being of those children and the families of which they are a part.

This document, the eighth annual Children's Administration Performance Report, demonstrates the administration's efforts to ensure child safety, permanency and family well-being. This report provides statistical information in compliance with RCW 74.13.031, in addition to other relevant information and stories about real children whose lives have been touched by the Children's Administration. As required by law, detailed outcome information is provided with reference to the administration's four priority goal areas:

1. Safety
2. Permanency
3. Well-Being
4. Supporting Client Outcomes

The administration has developed a series of performance measures designed to assess specific aspects of service delivery and resultant child outcomes. It is important, as a child welfare organization, that we ask ourselves difficult questions about the work the administration performs and what specific impact that work is having upon the lives of children and families.

Data in this report reflects the period from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004. Some measures may be calculated based upon calendar year rather than fiscal year and are noted as such within this document. The data is drawn from two primary sources: The Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) is a fully automated system which stores data regarding referrals, placement, case activity, contracts, licensing, and other case-specific information. In addition there are a few remaining measures which the administration deems crucial but for which the automated management information system does not have the capacity to track. For those outcomes, the administration relies upon regional hand counts.

During the past fiscal year, the administration has made concerted efforts to evaluate and improve the efficacy of its current management information system. Through the creation of a Data Warehouse, restructuring of the Children's Administration Technology Services Division, and other ongoing efforts, the administration has demonstrated its continual work toward improving the methods by which data is collected, calculated and reported.

Ultimately every system-wide decision, practice implementation and policy change is undertaken in an effort to improve the quality of children's lives throughout Washington state.

The administration's primary imperative is to ensure that the children of Washington state are safe.



Do you know

- 1 The Administration's four priority goal areas?
- 2 On what goods or services is more than 60 percent of the administration's biennium budget spent?
- 3 What age group represents the highest proportion of children in out of home care?

Answers: 1) Safety, Permanency, Well-Being, Supporting Client Outcomes, pg. 5
 2) Services provided by non-employees, pg. 7
 3) Ages 1-3 years old, pg. 8

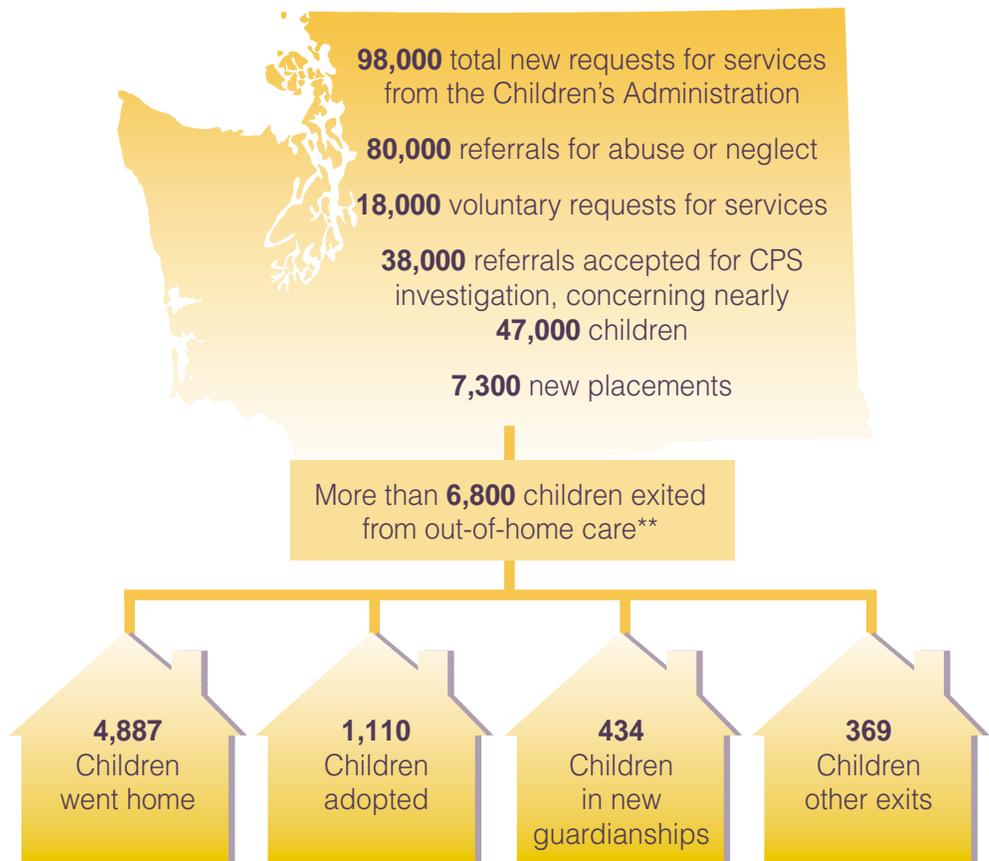
Children's Administration Activities

During the course of any given year, the Children's Administration will impact the lives of nearly four percent of the Washington state population. Annually, the administration provides direct or ancillary services to an estimated 240,000 individuals. In Fiscal Year 2004, more than 18,200 vulnerable children were cared for in homes or facilities licensed or certified by the Children's Administration, with nearly 8,000 children in care at any given time. More than 3,000 children were directly cared for by relatives, maintaining vital continuity of familial relationships.

In Fiscal Year 2004, mandatory reporters, conscientious community members and concerned relatives reported suspected abuse or neglect of approximately one of every 35 children in Washington state. Each referral received by the administration was assessed, triaged and met with the level of response deemed most appropriate by federal and state law in accordance with the needs of each specific family.

The administration strives not only to provide for the needs of children while they are in out-of-home care, but to secure safe and permanent placements in the community as expediently as is prudent with consideration given to the needs of the child. Often foster parents or legal guardians of children in care go on to make their commitments to those children permanent through adoption. In Fiscal Year 2004, the total number of children adopted includes children adopted from prior guardianship placements.

Fiscal Year 2004 Children's Administration Service Delivery Activities*



*All numbers with the exception of placements and exits from out-of-home care are rounded to the nearest 1000.

**Total exits from out-of-home care is inclusive of "other" exits which includes: reached age of majority, transfer of custody, no exit reason, or deceased.

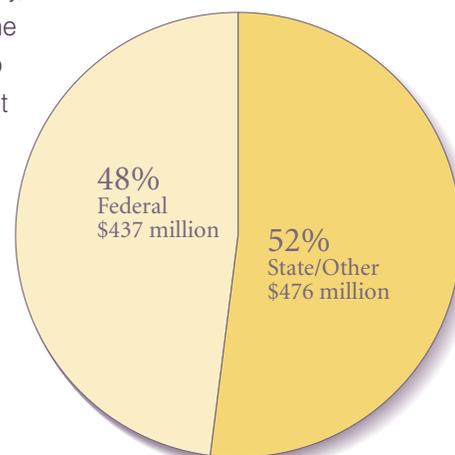
Children's Administration Activities

In an effort to be make services readily accessible and culturally competent, the Children's Administration provides services through 44 field offices in six geographic regions throughout the state.

Field offices are strategically located to make access as easy as possible for those living in both urban and rural areas. Regional boundaries may be redrawn and field offices relocated when the specific needs of an area suggest customer service might be improved.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Children's Administration underwent reorganization in an effort to improve service delivery, accountability and customer service. Historically, the administration has maintained a system of "checks and balances" through the separation of service delivery and licensing services. These services continue to be provided through different chains of command at the regional level in an effort to avoid conflicts of interest and have been combined under one reporting structure of Field Operations at the headquarters level to facilitate resolution of problems. In addition, new divisions have been created addressing the needs of Practice Improvement and Technology Services. This new structure was designed as part of the administration's ongoing work toward improving outcomes for children and families.

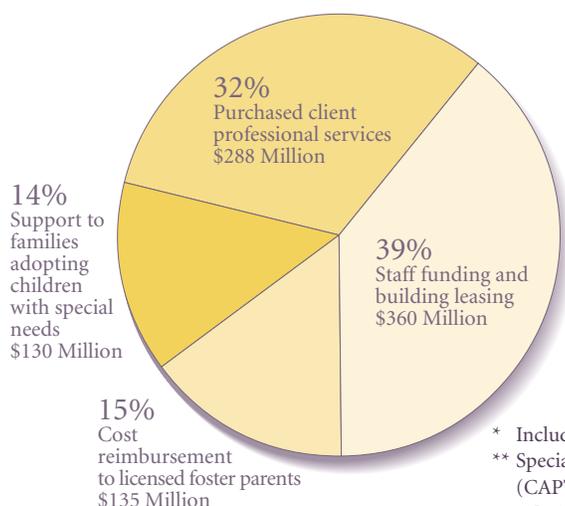
Forty-eight percent of the budget comes from federal funds



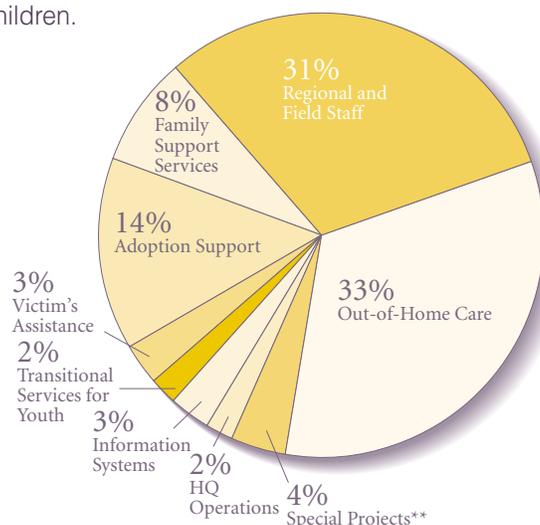
Comprehensive Service Delivery

The Children's Administration funds a wide array of integrated services for vulnerable children and their families. Of the \$913* million biennium budget for 2003-2005, about 61 percent or roughly \$553 million is used to purchase services including: services provided by nearly 6,100 licensed foster homes or other state licensed facilities, purchased professional services, and financial support to over 10,000 families who have adopted children with special needs to assist them in providing for their adoptive children.

Over sixty percent of the Children's Administration budget funds services provided by non-employees



Children's Administration funding provides a wide array of services



* Includes unanticipated receipts

** Special Projects include: Independent Living Services; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) grants; Office of Children's Administration Research (OCAR); Staff Development; Academy Training; Quality Improvement (QI); Indian Child Welfare (ICW), and other federal, state and private foundation grant funded programs.

Overview

Child Demographics

Child abuse and neglect is a social phenomenon that makes no exclusions on the basis of race, age or gender.

Children and families from every cross-section of the state, nation and world are impacted by the effect of child abuse and neglect, often in proportion demographically to children and families in the general population.

In Washington state about 51 percent of the children who have been placed in state care due to abuse or neglect are male and about 49 percent are female. The gender ratio is virtually identical to the overall state population of children between the ages of birth and 18.

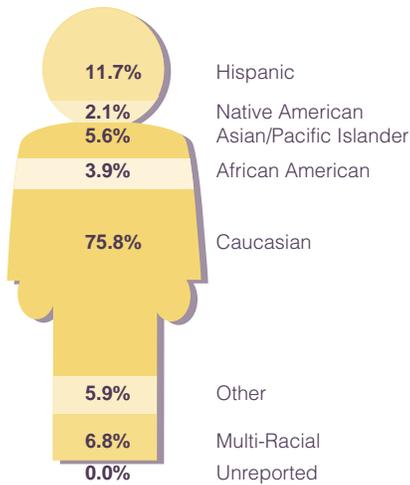
The ages of children in out-of-home care vary somewhat from the age breakouts of children in the general population. In Washington state the largest proportion of children under age 18 is represented in the 8-11 age group. The largest percentage of children in out-of-home care is represented in the 1-3 age group.

The largest disproportionality is visible in the category of race and ethnicity. While Caucasian children represent the largest proportion both in the general population and in state care, other racial and ethnic groups are represented in

significantly higher numbers in out-of-home care. Specifically, African American children and Native American children are represented markedly higher in state care than in the general population. This is the case, not only in Washington state but nationwide. In Washington, the Children's Administration is working diligently to address the issue of over-representation of minority children in out-of-home care through the development of offices, work-groups and tribal and community-based partnerships designed to address the needs of culturally diverse children.

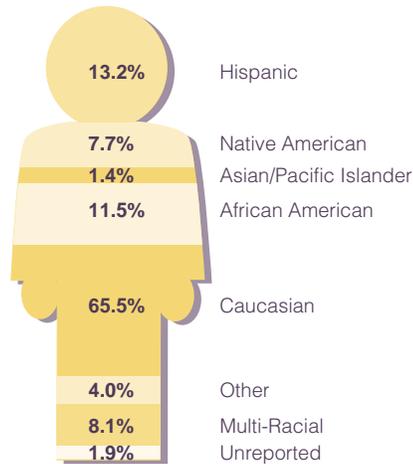
Race/Ethnicity

General Child Population (Age 0-17)



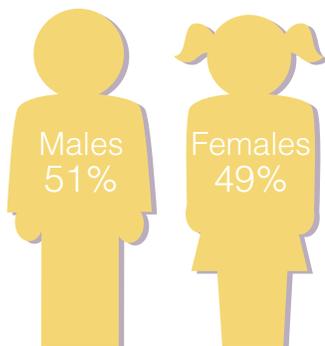
Race/Ethnicity

All Children in Placement



Gender

General Child Population and All Children in Placement



Age

General Child Population and All Children in Placement (Age 0-17)

