



Section C: Program Information

(5) Monthly Caseworker Visits and State Plan Requirements

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

Child and Family Services Plan FY 2010 - FY 2014 Monthly Caseworker Visits and State Plan Requirements

The Washington State Plan for monthly visits for all children in CA custody was implemented statewide in September 2008.

Monthly Social Worker Visit - Policy Standards include:

Children in CA custody must receive private, individual face-to-face Health and Safety visits by the assigned CA social worker **every calendar month, not to exceed 40 days between visits.**

1. The first visit must occur within one week (seven calendar days) of initial placement. (*Placing a child is not considered a Health and Safety visit.*)
2. For in home dependencies **all** Monthly Health and Safety visits must occur in the home where the child resides. (This does not preclude additional visits outside the home.)
3. For out-of-home placements, the **majority** of Health and Safety visits in must occur in the home where the child resides. If the social worker visits the child in another location, the social worker must document the reason and benefit gained.

Children not in CA custody who receive Family Voluntary Services (FVS) must have face-to-face Health and Safety visits by the assigned CA social worker **every calendar month, not to exceed 40 days between visits.**

Visits with the child include, but are not limited to:

1. Observation of the child, including:
 1. How the child appears developmentally, physically and emotionally.
 2. How the parent/caregiver and the child respond to each other.
2. Discussion with the verbal child(ren) in private, separate from the parent/caregiver, either in the home or in another location where the child is comfortable.
3. Observation of the home environment.
4. Social workers must provide each child capable of reading, writing and using the telephone a card with the social worker's name, office address, and phone number.

This section contains Washington State Children's Administration's plan to achieve 90% monthly caseworker visits by 2011 (*includes runaways in the total count/visitation requirements*)

This information included the data tables and methodology used in the APSR report and provides targets or penalty thresholds for monthly visits for Federal Fiscal years (FFY) 2008-2011.

Table 1 displays data demonstrating Washington State's performance on social work visits with children in care for at least one calendar month during FFY 2008. The data shows a breakdown by region and the statewide total.

Table 1

Compliance with Federal Standard	Data	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Statewide Total
Meets Federal Goal	# of Children	399	278	570	227	260	311	2045
	% of Children	13.96%	16.22%	18.46%	8.22%	10.44%	10.83%	12.96%
Does not Meet Federal Goal	# of Children	2,459	1436	2517	2533	2230	2561	13736
	% of Children	86.04%	83.78%	81.54%	91.78%	89.56%	89.17%	87.04%
Total # of Children		2858	1,714	3087	2760	2490	2872	15,781
Total % of Children		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Methodology - Table 1 reflects a regional breakout of unduplicated children age 17 and under, served in out-of-home care (open out of home episodes) for at least one full calendar month during the FFY. Children are considered compliant if they received a visit from their social worker during every full month they were in care.

Table 2 represents data for FFY 2008 and whether the majority of the visits occurred in the child's residence. The table shows the number of children in care, the total months of care, the number of months children were seen every month, and of those seen every month the number of visits that occurred in their own residence. The data shows a breakdown by region and the statewide total.

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Statewide Total
Number of Children in Care	2,858	1,714	3,087	2,760	2,490	2,872	15,781
Total Number of Months of Care	23,699	14,839	28,149	25,440	21,092	25,148	138,367
Total Number of Months Child was Compliant with SW Visit	13,353	8,707	18,360	12,630	10,917	13,673	77,640
Total Number of visits in Child's Residence	5,734	2,954	7,723	5,187	4,334	6,767	32,699

Source: CAMIS files November 2008. Numbers reported are actual visits documented in CAMIS

Methodology

¹ Children with more than one episode in out-of-home care during the fiscal year are counted as one child. See methodology for Table 1.

² The following describes the calculation of visit months using an example: If 5 children were visited each and every calendar month they were in foster care during the period and 1 child was in foster care 12 calendar months, 2 children were in foster care 11 calendar months, and 2 children were in foster care 9 calendar months, the total visit months is calculated as: (1 child*12 months) + (2 children*11 months) + (2 children*9 months) = 52 visit months. The months, not individual visits are totaled; therefore, if a child has more than one visit in a calendar month, that is considered one visit month.

³ Reflects the number of total months children received a visit in the child's residence. If a child had more than one visit in one month, the visit month is counted in this total if at least one of the visits occurred in the child's residence.

Washington State's Monthly Visit Targets for 2008-2011

As part of the IV-B planning process, states are asked to set targets for the percentage of total children in out-of-home care who will receive a visit from their social worker every calendar month for 12 consecutive months. By FFY 2011, the Federal Standard to be achieved is 90 percent. For the interim years, states are asked to show how they will improve on this measure.

Federal targets establish a penalty threshold, unlike Washington State Braam Benchmarks, which are targets to which the state is striving. If a state's performance falls below the target it sets, federal funding penalties will be imposed. Clearly, states do not want to incur penalties and are therefore encouraged to set low penalty thresholds (targets) prior to FFY 2011.

Below are CA's annual penalty thresholds (targets) for FFY 2008-2011 for the *percent of children in care at least one full month who receive monthly visits every month they are in care.*

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011
Penalty Threshold (Target)	8.7%	10%	50%	90%