

# Children's Administration 2010 year in review

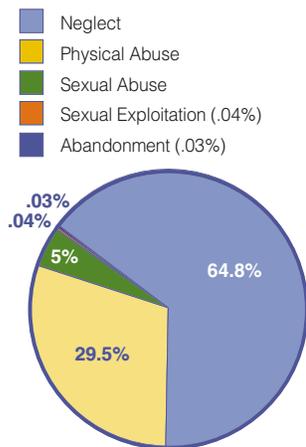
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

## Introduction

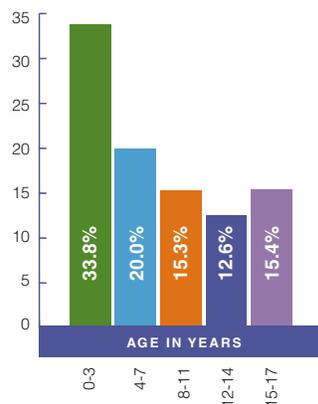
This document highlights a review of 2010 Children's Administration's performance, areas of progress, and priorities moving forward. The Children's Administration is the mandated public child welfare agency in Washington state that serves abused and neglected children and their families.

Data in this document is for 2010; however, it may be reported by state fiscal year (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010), federal fiscal year (October 1, 2009-September 30, 2010), or calendar year, depending upon data source.

### Accepted Referrals by Types of Abuse<sup>2</sup>



### Children in out-of-home care by age<sup>2</sup>



## Snapshot of Children and Families Served

There are approximately **1.6 million** children in Washington state<sup>1</sup>

Children's Administration received **78,544** reports alleging possible child abuse or neglect in State Fiscal Year 2010<sup>2</sup>

Of those referrals, **37,711** were screened in for investigation<sup>2</sup> (40,833 did not meet the legal criteria for abuse, neglect, or abandonment or were referred to Alternative Services)

As of September 30, 2010, there were **11,625** children in the care of Children's Administration<sup>3</sup>

Of those, **9,757** were in out-of-home care such as foster care or group homes (1,868 were state dependent but living at home)

Of those, **3,554** children lived with relatives<sup>3</sup> (Approximately 13% of relative caregivers are licensed)<sup>2</sup>

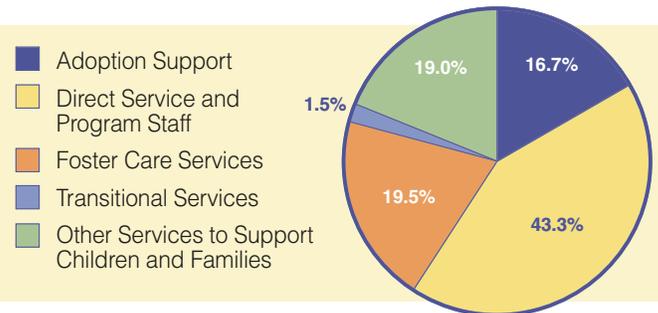
**5,183** children exited care in Federal Fiscal Year 2010<sup>3</sup>

## Guiding Principles Driving Budget Decisions

- Keep children safe, whether in their own homes or in out-of-home care placements, with child and family focus.
- Strengthen and expand home-and community-based service delivery systems.
- Provide integrated case management services to high-need/high-cost children, youth, and families.
- Control General Funds-State expenditures while preserving services for our most vulnerable citizens.
- Maximize use of federal funds.

## Budget Distribution and Impact

- Of the \$576.4 million, FY 2010 Children's Administration budget, 44 percent was from federal funding and 56 percent came from state and other funds.
- The combined mandates of Executive Order 10-04 and HB-3225 resulted in significant FY2011 budget reductions in administrative costs and many major program areas. There are legally required programs that cannot be impacted by budget cuts or federal funding could be lost.
- To date the Children's Administration has implemented \$21.7 million in reductions. Further reductions in the 2011 budget may be enacted during the current legislative session.



## Child Fatalities<sup>4</sup>

The loss of any child is a tragedy. We honor each child by using that child's case as a lesson learned to identify trends and evaluate training, practice, current laws, and how we can improve future practice.

Child fatalities on open CA cases	<b>28</b>
Child abuse related fatalities	<b>7</b>
Abuse related fatalities on open CA cases	<b>1</b>

1. www.census.gov 2. FamLink data extraction for FY2010  
3. AFCARS Federal Fiscal Year 2010 data submission/CFSR data profile 01/12/2011

4. www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/fatalitiesinwa.pdf

Safety is at the forefront of every aspect of our work; we endeavor to:

# SAFELY

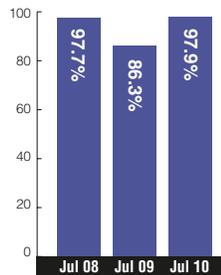
- Maintain children in their own homes, preventing out-of-home placement.
- Serve and support children in temporary out-of-home care.
- Return children home as quickly as possible.
- Support children in the homes of relatives.
- Secure permanent homes for children who cannot return home.
- Decrease the over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.

## Progress in Outcome Areas of Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being

### Safety

Children's Administration implemented a number of strategies to intervene on behalf of abused and neglected children in an effort to prevent further harm. Social workers must make face to face contact with children who are the subjects of abuse allegations within 24 hours of emergent referrals and 72 hours in non-emergent referrals. The Administration has performed well on this measure for the past year, exceeding 95 percent in response to both emergent referrals and non-emergent referrals. In March 2011 established new policy requiring that all referrals about infants with any bruises and referrals from medical practitioners regarding children from birth to age five be screened in for investigation.

Percentage of children in emergent referrals seen within 24 hours<sup>1</sup>



### Permanency<sup>2</sup>

In most cases, children are able to safely return to their families following removal due to abuse or neglect. When parents are unable or unwilling to make the life changes necessary to ensure they can safely parent their children, other permanent families are sought. In 2010:

2,658 children (51%) went home • 1,514 children (29%) were adopted • 513 children (10%) went into guardianship • 414 (8%) reached age of majority or emancipated from care

### Well-Being

- Education: Children's Administration has Agreements with 192 school districts regarding educational stability and success for children in foster care.
- Health: Implemented Fostering Well-Being program to provide health care coordination for children entering foster care and establish a medical home for foster children.
- Adolescent Services: For youth in foster care, graduation rates vary between 32 and 44 percent. While these rates are significantly below statewide graduation rates, graduation numbers for foster youth have improved in each of the last three years.
- The Education and Training Voucher program offers financial assistance to youth in and aging out of foster care for tuition and expenses related to the pursuit of post-secondary education and training<sup>3</sup>.
- Washington hosted a National Governor's Association seven-state lab on initiatives supporting educational outcomes for youth exiting foster care, including: policies and best practices, Foster Care to College Partnership, Educational Advocacy, and the Building Bridges dropout prevention program.

### Systemic Areas of Progress

- Implemented Indian Child Welfare Act training for Children's Administration supervisors to clarify the role of supervisors and strengthen compliance.
- Improved stakeholder engagement, partnerships and collaboration as acknowledged by federal Child and Family Services Review partners, the Child and Family Ombudsman and key stakeholders.
- Implemented internal case staffing for critical incident protocols, to identify trends, lessons learned and improve future practice.
- Strengthened focus on child safety in collaboration with National Resource Center on Child Protection.
- Implemented Washington/Oregon Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Border Agreement to expedite placement of children in the Vancouver/Portland area.
- Consistently met the target for average caseloads of 18 children for each social worker. This reflects an estimated average caseload assigned to case carrying social workers across the major program areas<sup>4</sup>.

### Key Priorities Moving Forward

- Continually assess success in achieving accountability, consistency, partnership and quality of work while keeping child safety at the forefront of everything we do.
- Reduce over-representation of children of color in the public child welfare system.
- Demonstrate full compliance with Indian Child Welfare Act in collaboration with Tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations.
- Fully implement Performance-Based Contracting for Services to reduce and consolidate contracts through lead agencies that are accountable for an array of quality services for children and families, improve access and availability of culturally-competent services statewide, and improve outcomes for children and families.
- Build statewide capacity for in-home services with increased emphasis on adolescents and young children.
- Expand integrated case management and wraparound approach to safely serve children and youth with complex needs who have multi-system involvement in family homes and in the community. Work closely with Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, Division of Development Disabilities, mental health and those receiving state financial benefits to integrate services and coordinate case management.
- Assure transparency by reporting key performance outcome data through quarterly core metrics reports. To view reports go to: [www.dshs.wa.gov/ppa/coremetrics.shtml](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ppa/coremetrics.shtml)

1. DSHS Core metrics, January 2011 [www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ppa/PerformanceMeasures.pdf#page=5](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ppa/PerformanceMeasures.pdf#page=5)

2. AFCARS FFY2010 data submission/CFR data profile 01/12/2011

3. Washington State Institute for Public Policy - Foster Care Graduation and Dropout Trends 2005-2009

4. GMAP 11/10/11, measure 1.1