

Child Support Program

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Child Support Program

Child Support Program

This section describes the child support program. Three types of cases make up the Title IV-D child support program:

- **Current Assistance** (individuals receiving TANF or Title IV-E Foster Care)
- **Former Assistance** (individuals who previously received TANF/AFDC or Title IV-E Foster Care)
- **Never Assistance** (individuals who have never received TANF/AFDC or Title IV-E Foster Care. Medicaid; child care only and State Only Foster Care are also Never Assistance cases)

The Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998 awards incentives to states' child support programs based on their performance on five measures:

1. Paternity establishment
2. Order establishment
3. Current support collected
4. Cases paying toward arrears
5. Cost effectiveness

The Child Support Incentive Scorecard shows DCS outcomes on the five measures over the past two federal fiscal years. Information is presented in federal fiscal years because that is the time frame used for awarding incentives earned by the state's child support program.

Cost avoidance, one of the indirect benefits of the child support program, is referred to as reductions in public expenditures in cash assistance, food stamps, and Medicaid for custodial families. Washington state studies have shown that a dependable stream of child support income for custodial parents and medical insurance coverage for children help custodial families increase levels of financial stability and independence, and consequently, leads to less reliance on public safety net programs and greater family self-sufficiency.

Bright Start, funded by a federal grant from the Office of Child Support Enforcement, from August 1, 2005 through July 31, 2009, is described in this section. The purpose of the project is to reinvigorate the paternity affidavit program, an essential low-cost voluntary alternative to costly judicial paternity establishment. The establishment of paternity is a necessary first step to establishing a child support obligation among unmarried parents.

Child Support Program

Child Support Program continued

Highlights

- Child Support served about 1 out of every 9 state residents during SFY 2008.
- Child Support served an average of 434,017 children per month during SFY 2008.
- The average monthly child support caseload increased from 350,206 in SFY 2007 to 352,422 in SFY 2008, a 0.6% increase.
- Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased 4.9% from 53,125 in SFY 2007 to 50,500 in SFY 2008; Former Assistance cases increased 0.5% from 187,377 to 188,306; and Never Assistance cases increased 3.6% from 109,705 to 113,616.
- Most (85.3%) non-custodial parents are male with an average age of 38.4 years, while most (89.4%) custodial parents are female with an average age of 37.4 years.
- Total collections for SFY 2008 reached a record \$704,983,914; over \$14 million more than projected.
- In SFY 2007, child support cost avoidance was \$114 million (a 7.6% increase over SFY 2006) for TANF, Food Stamp and Medicaid programs. This is about 11% of the \$1,062 million government expenditure on these three programs for DCS custodial parents and children in the same year.
- Filed affidavits increased from 15,418 in SFY 2005 to 20,906 in SFY 2008, a 36 percent change. By SFY 2009, affidavits are expected to increase to 22,020.

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Child Support Incentive Scorecard

FFY2007¹ and FFY2008²

Source: Division of Child Support

MEASURE	GOAL NEEDED TO OBTAIN 100% FUNDING	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE FFY		PERCENTAGE OF MAXIMUM INCENTIVE REACHED (COLUMN A)		ESTIMATED MAXIMUM VALUE OF INCENTIVE (\$MILLIONS) (COLUMN B)	ESTIMATED ³ INCENTIVE PAYMENT (\$MILLIONS) (COLUMN A * B)	
		2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008
Paternity Establishment Percentage	80%	99.3%	98.5%	100%	100%	\$3.34	\$3.26	\$3.34
Support Order Establishment	80%	90.0%	89.9%	100%	100%	\$3.34	\$3.26	\$3.34
Current Collections	80%	65.7%	66.4%	75%	76%	\$3.34	\$2.44	\$2.54
Arrearage Collections	80%	67.1%	68.0%	77%	78%	\$2.58	\$1.94	\$2.01
Cost-Effectiveness	\$5.00	\$4.60	\$4.14	90%	80%	\$2.58	\$2.19	\$2.07
INCENTIVE TOTALS				88.4%	86.8%	\$15.19	\$13.09	\$13.30

¹ FFY 2007 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2007 Preliminary Report.

² FFY 2008 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

³ Calculations for FFY 2008 assume Washington state's total and relative incentive base does not change, but the federal incentive pool grows from \$471 Million to \$483 Million as set by federal law.

Incentive Measure Formulas Used by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement

PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT PERCENTAGE: Number of Children in the Caseload in the FY or as of the End of the FY Who Were Born Out-of-Wedlock (BOW) with Paternity Established or Acknowledged divided by Number of Children BOW in the Caseload as of the End of the Preceding FFY.

SUPPORT ORDER ESTABLISHMENT: Number of IV-D Cases with Support Orders divided by Number of IV-D Cases.

CURRENT COLLECTIONS: Amount Collected for Current Support in IV-D Cases divided by Amount Owed for Current Support in IV-D Cases.

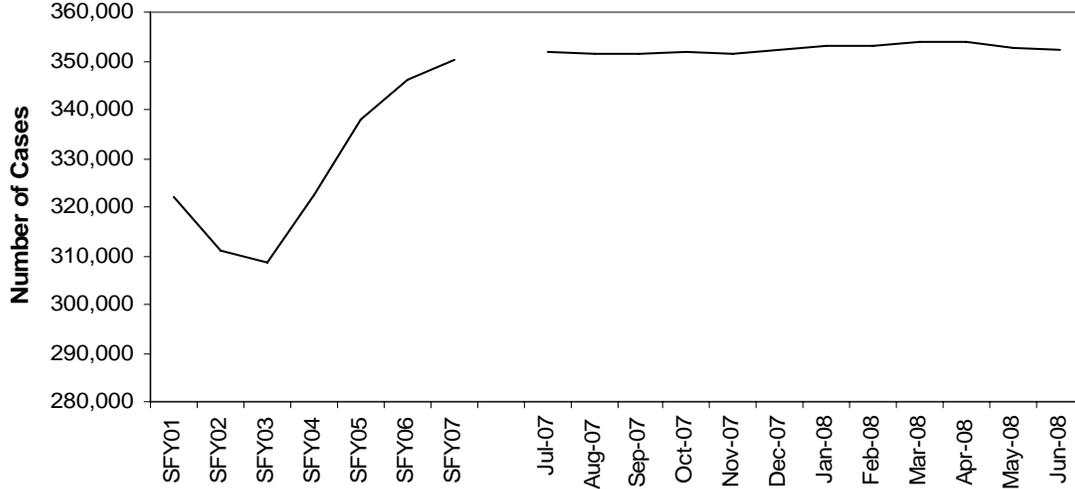
ARREARAGE COLLECTIONS: Number of IV-D Cases Paying Toward Arrears divided by Number of IV-D Cases with Arrears Due.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS: Total IV-D Dollars Collected divided by Total IV-D Dollars Expended.

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Child Support Caseload SFY 2007 and SFY 2008

Source: Division of Child Support



	TANF/ FOSTER CARE ¹	FORMER ASSIST ²	NEVER ON ASSIST ³	TOTAL IV-D CASELOAD
SFY01	52,756	180,718	88,692	322,167
SFY02	49,048	170,994	91,085	311,127
SFY03	47,330	166,805	94,625	308,760
SFY04	50,729	173,564	98,271	322,564
SFY05	55,476	180,455	101,879	337,810
SFY06	56,375	185,738	104,071	346,184
SFY07	53,125	187,377	109,705	350,206
Jul-07	50,599	188,490	112,725	351,814
Aug-07	48,956	189,809	112,571	351,336
Sep-07	50,511	188,247	112,555	351,313
Oct-07	49,861	189,352	112,763	351,976
Nov-07	49,945	188,784	112,864	351,593
Dec-07	50,548	188,330	113,226	352,104
Jan-08	50,879	188,327	113,707	352,913
Feb-08	50,850	188,410	113,979	353,239
Mar-08	51,500	187,893	114,420	353,813
Apr-08	50,945	188,233	114,649	353,827
May-08	50,843	187,015	114,854	352,712
Jun-08	50,562	186,782	115,084	352,428
SFY08 Mon. Avg.	50,500	188,306	113,616	352,422

Note: Case counts are unduplicated

¹ TANF/Foster Care or Current Assistance (TANF or Title IV-E Foster Care)

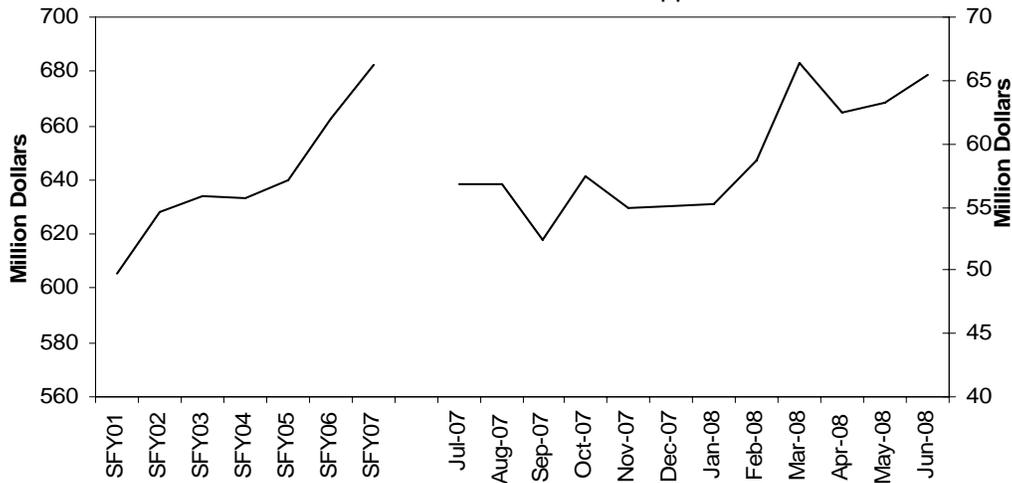
² Former Assistance (individuals who have ever received TANF/AFDC or Title IV-E Foster Care)

³ Never Assistance (individuals who have never received TANF/AFDC or Title IV-E; Medicaid only, child care only and State Only Foster Care are also considered Never Assistance). Payment Service Only and medical and subrogated debt cases are excluded from Title IV-D cases.

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Child Support Collections July 2007 to June 2008

Source: Division of Child Support



	TANF/ FOSTER CARE ¹	FORMER ASSIST ²	NEVER ON ASSIST ³	TOTAL IV-D CASELOAD
SFY01	45,149,016	279,325,979	280,740,478	605,215,474
SFY02	45,558,184	285,848,705	296,792,212	628,199,101
SFY03	43,337,974	281,061,653	309,840,661	634,240,288
SFY04	41,260,899	277,149,051	315,181,484	633,591,434
SFY05	41,983,515	273,498,265	324,109,508	639,591,288
SFY06	42,662,352	282,060,420	337,848,453	662,571,225
SFY07	42,839,859	289,938,476	349,791,620	682,569,955
Jul-07	\$3,417,201	\$23,711,655	\$29,724,871	\$56,853,727
Aug-07	\$3,236,780	\$23,739,713	\$29,870,854	\$56,847,347
Sep-07	\$2,953,054	\$21,630,989	\$27,756,870	\$52,340,914
Oct-07	\$3,236,487	\$23,899,690	\$30,237,308	\$57,373,485
Nov-07	\$3,127,661	\$22,897,395	\$28,833,249	\$54,858,305
Dec-07	\$3,105,031	\$22,414,212	\$29,529,592	\$55,048,835
Jan-08	\$3,126,321	\$22,540,819	\$29,624,923	\$55,292,063
Feb-08	\$3,936,994	\$24,628,309	\$30,195,371	\$58,760,673
Mar-08	\$4,755,096	\$29,284,397	\$32,347,198	\$66,386,691
Apr-08	\$3,776,071	\$26,555,670	\$32,207,035	\$62,538,777
May-08	\$3,934,199	\$27,370,686	\$31,980,201	\$63,285,086
Jun-08	\$4,038,741	\$28,512,656	\$32,846,615	\$65,398,013
SFY08 Total	\$42,643,636	\$297,186,191	\$365,154,088	\$704,983,914

Note: Case counts are unduplicated

¹ TANF/Foster Care or Current Assistance (TANF or Title IV-E Foster Care)

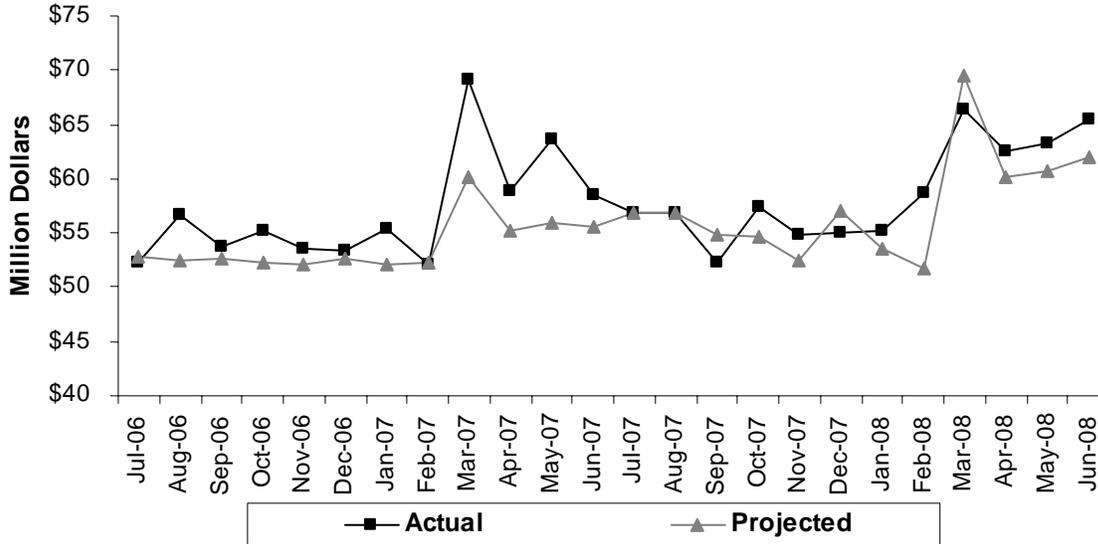
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³ Never Assistance (individuals who have never received TANF/AFDC or Title IV-E; Medicaid only, child care only and State Only Foster Care are also considered Never Assistance). Payment Service Only and medical and subrogated debt cases are excluded from Title IV-D cases.

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Child Support Collections Actual and Projected - July 2006 to June 2008

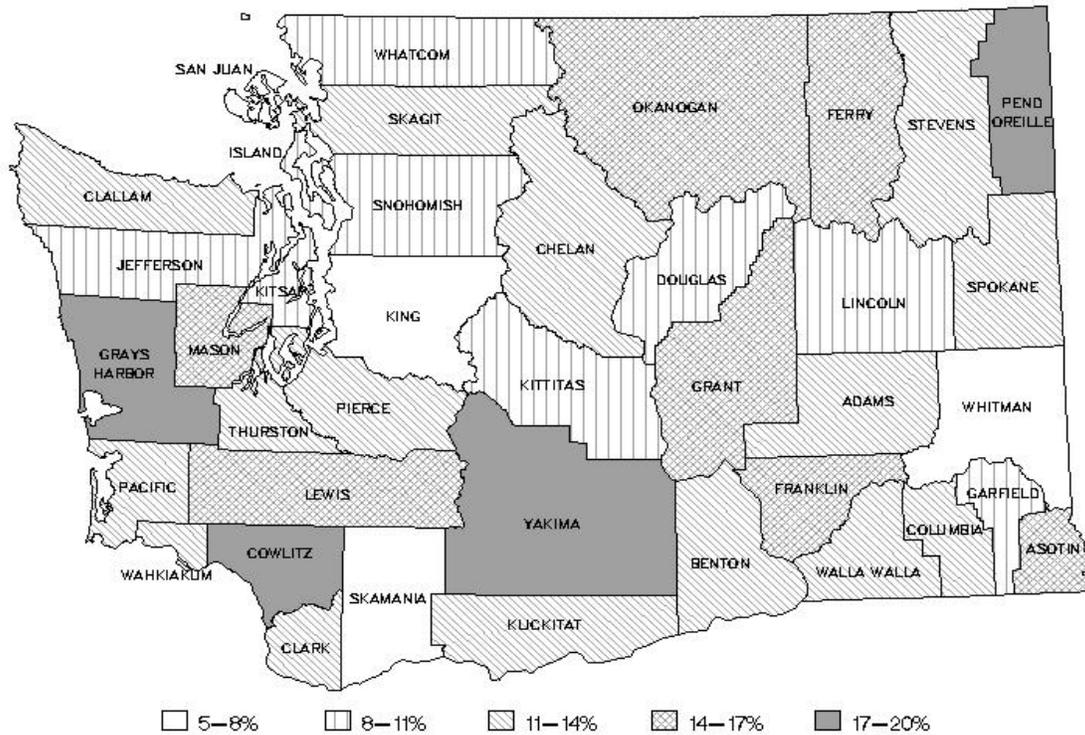
Source: Division of Child Support



	<u>SFY2007</u>		<u>SFY2008</u>	
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PROJECTED</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PROJECTED</u>
July	\$52,328,998	\$52,879,117	\$56,853,727	\$56,853,722
August	\$56,715,992	\$52,511,204	\$56,847,347	\$56,847,331
September	\$53,703,936	\$52,692,959	\$52,340,914	\$54,841,557
October	\$55,266,425	\$52,301,378	\$57,373,485	\$54,740,039
November	\$53,552,037	\$52,131,176	\$54,858,305	\$52,476,282
December	\$53,288,815	\$52,604,971	\$55,048,835	\$57,103,137
January	\$55,332,654	\$52,155,810	\$55,292,063	\$53,585,094
February	\$52,169,502	\$52,199,992	\$58,760,673	\$51,726,991
March	\$69,190,725	\$60,081,367	\$66,386,691	\$69,567,845
April	\$58,928,683	\$55,287,122	\$62,538,777	\$60,218,603
May	\$63,562,606	\$55,887,699	\$63,285,086	\$60,738,340
June	\$58,529,581	\$55,487,952	\$65,398,013	\$61,994,241
Total	\$682,569,955	\$646,220,746	\$704,983,914	\$690,693,182

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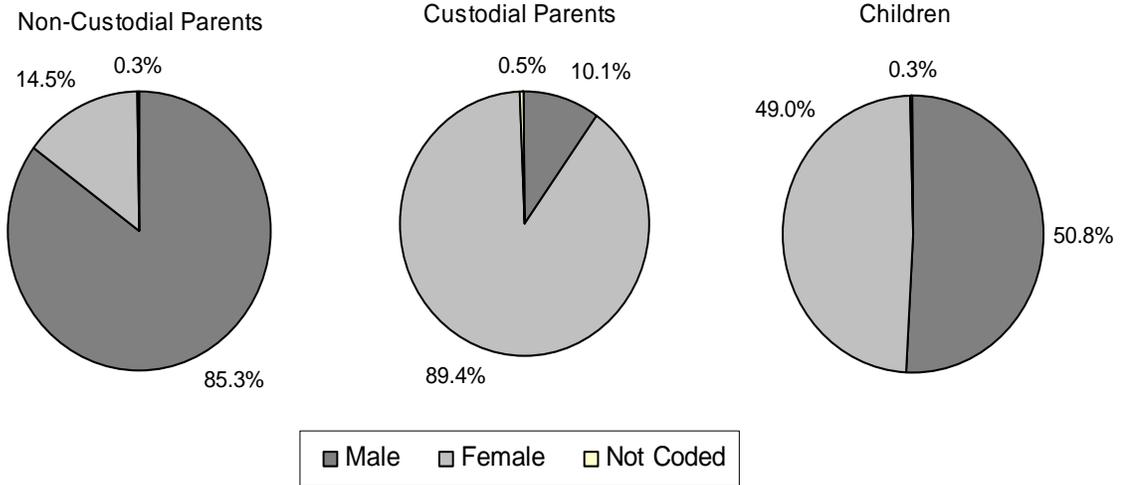
Percentage of Residents Served by DCS During June 2008



The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2008 by the OFM 2008 County Population estimates.

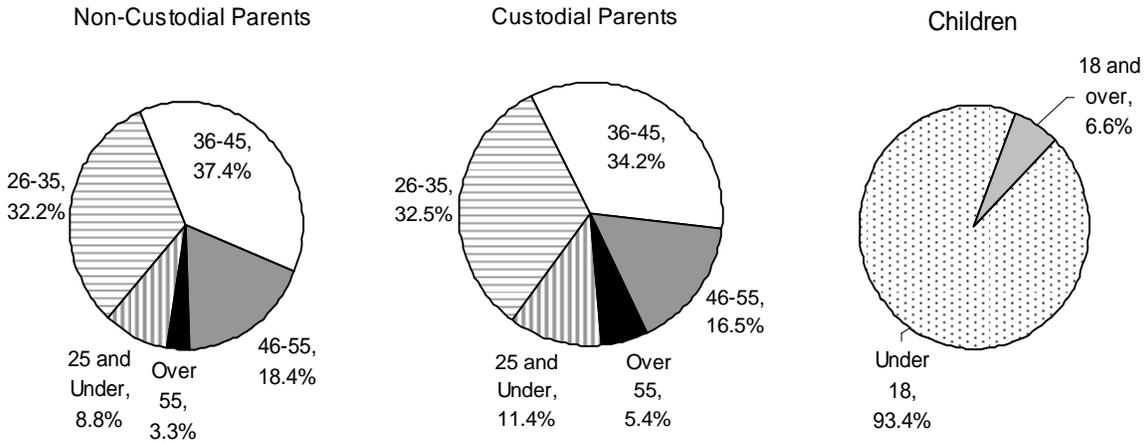
County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served
Adams	2,229	17,800	12.5%	Lewis	12,628	74,700	16.9%
Asotin	3,186	21,400	14.9%	Lincoln	989	10,400	9.5%
Benton	21,266	165,500	12.8%	Mason	9,303	56,300	16.5%
Chelan	8,100	72,100	11.2%	Okanogan	6,431	40,100	16.0%
Clallam	9,275	69,200	13.4%	Pacific	2,728	21,800	12.5%
Clark	46,932	424,200	11.1%	Pend Oreille	2,246	12,800	17.5%
Columbia	476	4,100	11.6%	Pierce	105,103	805,400	13.0%
Cowlitz	18,177	99,000	18.4%	San Juan	832	16,100	5.2%
Douglas	3,902	37,000	10.5%	Skagit	13,916	117,500	11.8%
Ferry	1,101	7,700	14.3%	Skamania	855	10,700	8.0%
Franklin	10,193	70,200	14.5%	Snohomish	68,427	696,600	9.8%
Garfield	215	2,300	9.3%	Spokane	63,569	459,000	13.8%
Grant	12,082	84,600	14.3%	Stevens	5,491	43,700	12.6%
Grays Harbor	13,730	70,900	19.4%	Thurston	30,863	245,300	12.6%
Island	6,537	79,300	8.2%	Wahkiakum	473	4,100	11.5%
Jefferson	2,668	28,800	9.3%	Walla Walla	6,699	58,600	11.4%
King	137,425	1,884,200	7.3%	Whatcom	17,114	191,000	9.0%
Kitsap	24,536	246,800	9.9%	Whitman	2,274	43,000	5.3%
Kittitas	3,282	39,400	8.3%	Yakima	42,486	235,900	18.0%
Klickitat	2,756	20,100	13.7%	State Total	720,495	6,587,600	10.9%

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Gender of Client Types, June 2008



Source: Division of Child Support SEMS (Support Enforcement Management System)

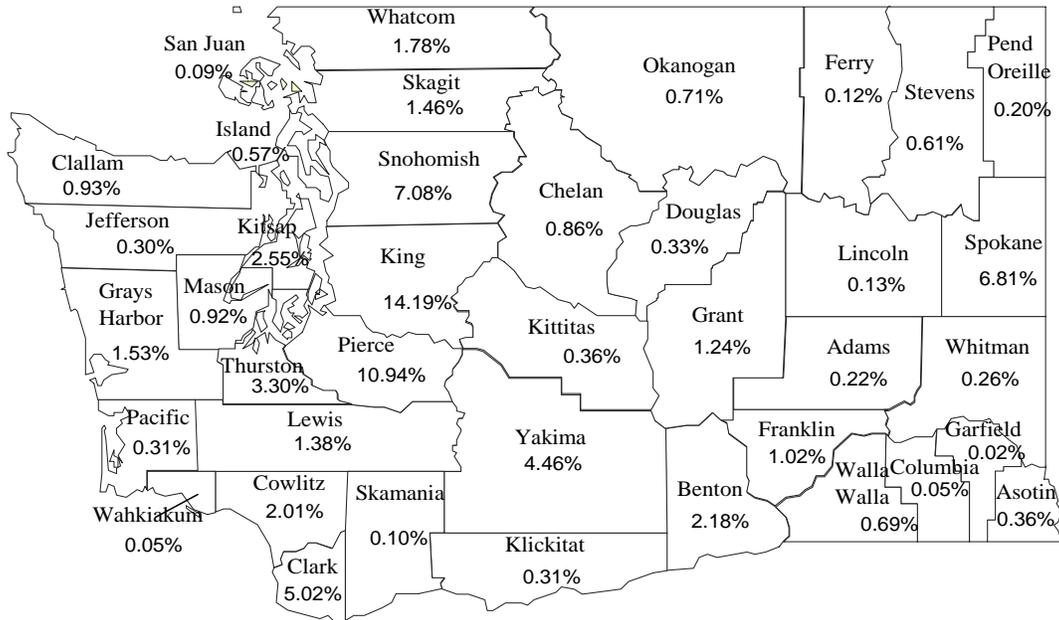
Age Distribution of Client Types, June 2008



Source: Division of Child Support SEMS (Support Enforcement Management System)

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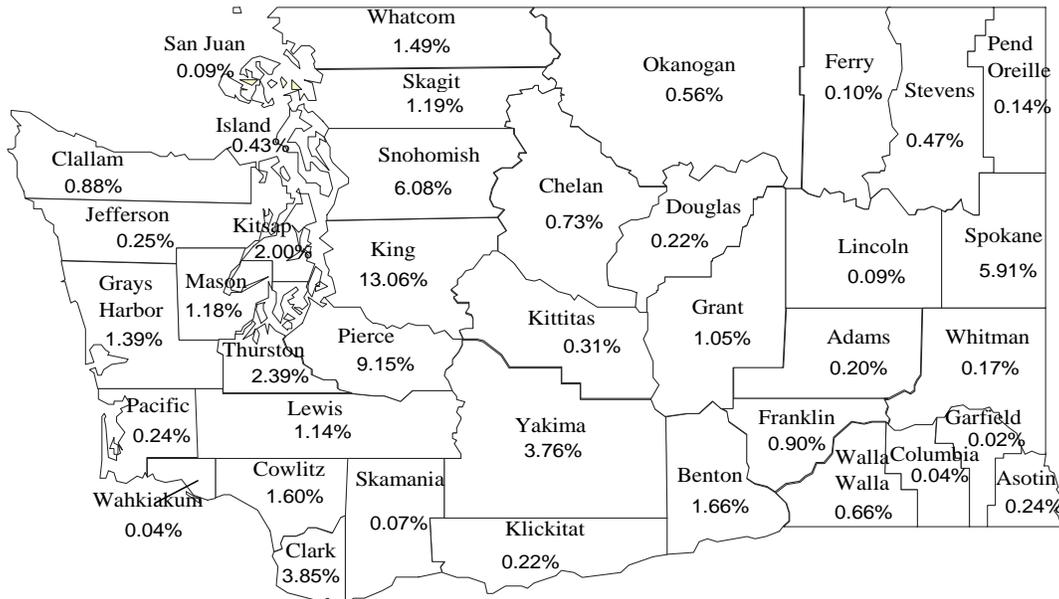
Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: April 2008



Note: 24.54% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid Fipscode.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OS/E-MAPS - May 14, 2008

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: April 2008



Note: 36% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid Fipscode.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OS/E-MAPS - May 14, 2008

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Child Support Cost Avoidance for Food Stamps and TANF SFY 2008

SFY08	Food Stamps			TANF		
	Average CR ¹	Average CI ²	Total	Average CR ¹	Average CI ²	Total
	Food Stamp Expenditure	Food Stamp Expenditure	Food Stamp Savings	TANF Expenditure	TANF Expenditure	TANF Savings
July	\$40.99	\$82.15	\$1,684,467	\$13.88	\$42.57	\$1,163,463
August	\$40.64	\$82.18	\$1,674,474	\$14.23	\$42.77	\$1,116,686
September	\$40.11	\$82.11	\$1,665,204	\$13.66	\$42.12	\$1,104,415
October	\$43.83	\$88.62	\$1,779,772	\$13.55	\$42.71	\$1,157,444
November	\$42.85	\$87.97	\$1,762,872	\$13.04	\$41.98	\$1,111,606
December	\$46.25	\$94.48	\$1,942,746	\$13.07	\$43.07	\$1,158,293
January	\$41.80	\$88.25	\$1,827,496	\$12.79	\$43.58	\$1,182,186
February	\$43.39	\$88.33	\$1,775,218	\$13.29	\$43.72	\$1,171,298
March	\$45.20	\$88.65	\$1,781,829	\$14.59	\$44.49	\$1,205,399
April	\$45.40	\$89.38	\$1,839,395	\$15.13	\$45.15	\$1,225,859
May	\$45.76	\$89.08	\$1,813,124	\$14.87	\$44.89	\$1,227,313
June	\$46.41	\$88.82	\$1,822,656	\$15.14	\$44.16	\$1,213,796
Total	-	-	\$21,369,253	-	-	\$14,037,758

Notes: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include DCS SEMS data, ESA-ACES data, ESD wage data

¹ CR: Custodial parents with regular child support payments. Regular child support payments are defined as summed monthly order amount more than \$0 and summed total arrearage debt less than twice the summed monthly order amount.

² CI: Custodial parents without regular child support payments

Child Support Cost Avoidance for Medicaid SFY 2007¹

SFY07 ¹	Total CP ²	Total Child	Total
	Medicaid Savings	Medicaid Savings	Medicaid Savings
July	\$2,124,736	\$3,784,138	\$5,908,874
August	\$2,023,553	\$4,361,639	\$6,385,192
September	\$2,270,385	\$4,131,878	\$6,402,263
October	\$2,167,483	\$3,948,880	\$6,116,363
November	\$2,227,046	\$4,264,149	\$6,491,195
December	\$2,202,468	\$3,731,399	\$5,933,867
January	\$2,504,993	\$4,680,038	\$7,185,031
February	\$2,180,787	\$4,416,934	\$6,597,721
March	\$2,110,994	\$4,432,228	\$6,543,222
April	\$2,231,454	\$4,591,628	\$6,823,082
May	\$2,379,733	\$4,534,461	\$6,914,194
June	\$2,503,912	\$4,272,684	\$6,776,596
Total	\$26,927,544	\$51,150,056	\$78,077,600

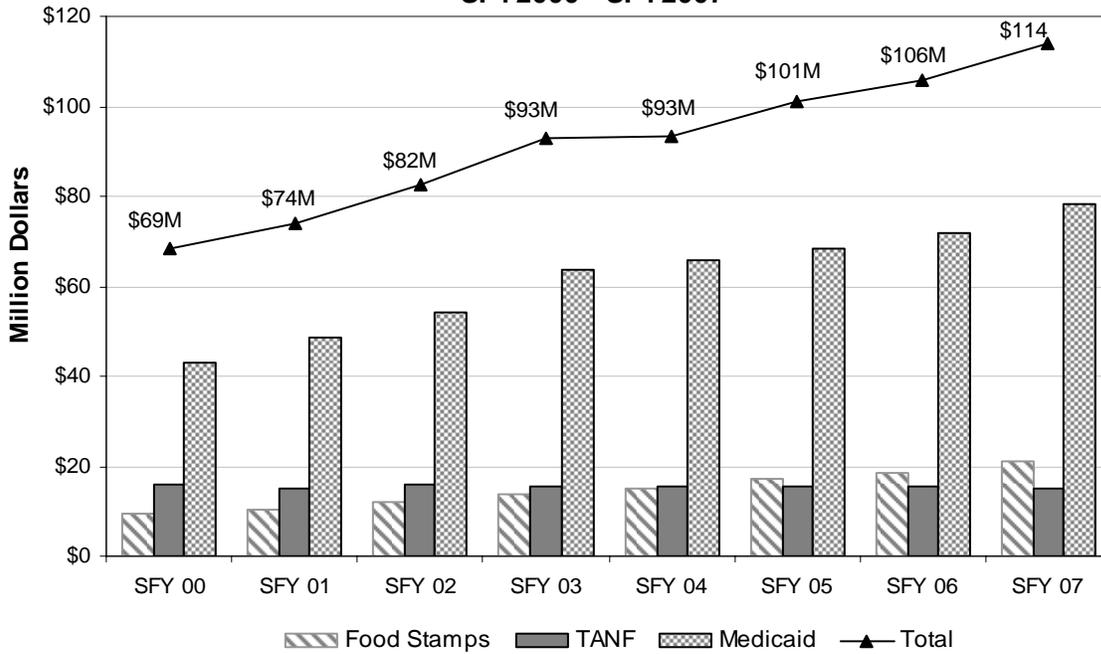
Notes: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data

¹ Medicaid expenditure data of SFY 2008 is not available until 2009

² CP: custodial parents

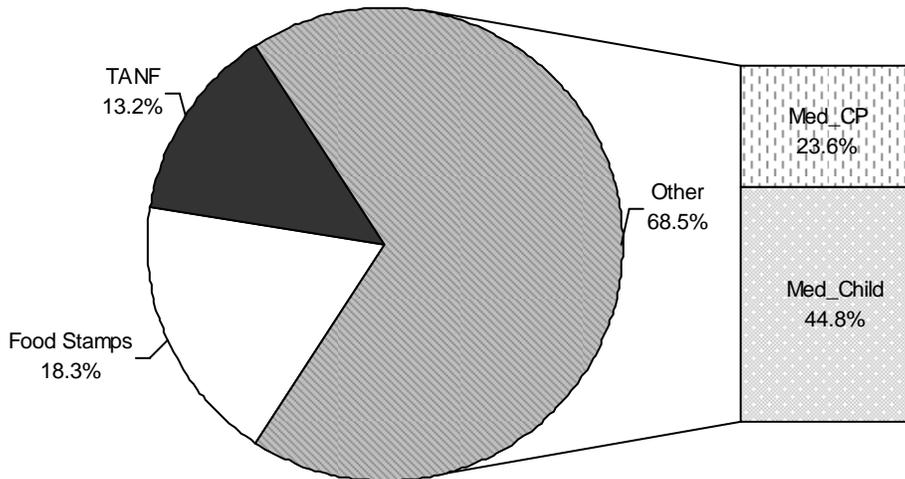
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Child Support Cost Avoidance, Millions SFY2000 - SFY2007



Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data.

Sources of \$114 Million in Child Support Cost Avoidance SFY 2007

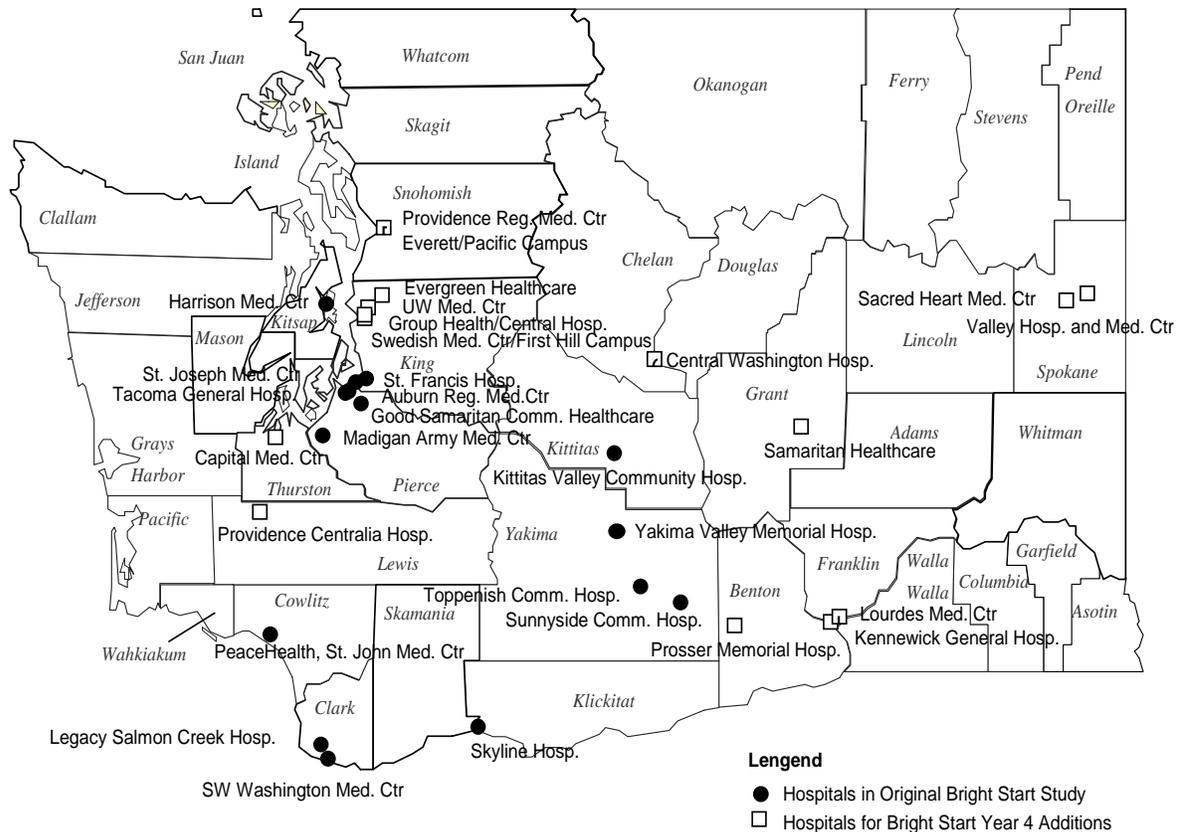


Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data.

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Voluntary Paternity Affidavits and Bright Start

Bright Start Hospitals



Provided by DSHS/ESA/OS/E-MAPS - Oct. 3, 2008

Voluntary Paternity Affidavit Program Background

The Washington State Paternity Affidavit Program began July 1989 as a partnership between the Washington State Division of Child Support (DCS) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The program provides cooperative unmarried parents an opportunity to sign a Paternity Affidavit at the child's birth or shortly thereafter. Most Paternity Affidavits are signed at a birthing hospital. Based on its success of increasing paternity establishments using the voluntary affidavit and its cost effectiveness, Washington's program was soon recognized as a national best practice. In the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, the U.S. Congress required that every state implement a voluntary paternity establishment program based on Washington state's model.

Legal Requirements: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) of 1996 forms the basis of federal law. 45CFR 303.5 (g) provides the applicable federal regulations. RCW 70.58.080, RCW 26.26.040, RCW 74.20A.055, and RCW 74.20A.060 are the applicable state laws.

A hospital, midwife, or other entity must provide an opportunity for unmarried parents to sign a Paternity Affidavit at the child's birth. The parents are entitled to both a written statement of

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their rights and responsibilities (on the back of the Paternity Affidavit) and oral notice (a short video, 1-800 line). Upon receipt of a properly completed and notarized Paternity Affidavit, DOH must name the father on the birth certificate.

Effects of the Paternity Affidavit: A properly filed Paternity Affidavit creates a legal finding of paternity immediately. Paternity for a child of unwed parents must be determined before a child support order can be established for financial and medical obligations. The determination of paternity created by the Paternity Affidavit also makes a child eligible to participate in any available social security, veterans', life insurance and health insurance benefits.

Results: The signed Paternity Affidavit allows DCS to establish a child support obligation quickly and at low cost. Usually, DCS obtains a child support order in 90 days or less from the date DOH files the Paternity Affidavit. DCS administrative costs total less than \$200 per case. That compares with an average \$1,350 each time DCS must establish paternity in court. As a result of the Paternity Affidavit Program, DCS saves the taxpayers more than \$13,000,000 yearly. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2008, 22,413 paternities were established, 71.3 percent by Paternity Affidavit.

Bright Start Background

More than 15 years have passed since Washington state created its Paternity Affidavit Program. Hospitals generate 70 percent of the voluntary Paternity Affidavits in the state, establishing paternity for nearly half of all births to unwed mothers. The program has been successful, but Paternity Affidavits began to slow even though births to unwed mothers continued to grow. By looking at individual birthing hospitals in terms of affidavits filed with DOH, it was clear that DCS needed to renew efforts with hospitals to increase the number of Paternity Affidavits.

In the grant announcements from the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) for 2005, there was a priority area for "Reducing Intervention and Use of Adversarial or Formal Proceedings while Increasing Financial Security for Children Born Out of Wedlock." E-MAPS (ESA Management Audit and Performance Statistics) applied for and received the grant, Bright Start, for DCS. The three-year grant began August 1, 2005. E-MAPS received approval for an additional year, using existing funding. Bright Start continues through July 31, 2009.

A major focus of Bright Start was to re-engage with hospital administrators and key hospital staff. The statewide Paternity Coordinator visited every Bright Start hospital, meeting with administrators and conducted staff trainings on Bright Start and on the Paternity Affidavit.

There are two successful strategies from the demonstration grant that are not part of the usual child support program. First, the grant permits DCS to pay for Notary Public training at hospitals. There is a shortage of trained notaries at hospitals to affirm paternity signatures on the Paternity Affidavit, which is required by state law. The notary training of additional hospital staff increases the access to notaries at all times of the day and on weekends, thereby increasing the number of Paternity Affidavits filed with DOH from the hospitals.

Second, Bright Start offers unwed parents no-cost genetic testing in a non-judicial setting. Unwed parents with a child support case who are uncertain of paternity are referred to the Prosecutor for judicial paternity establishment, which includes genetic testing. With the grant, hospital staff can offer an application for genetic testing to unwed parents uncertain of paternity.

Bright Start Sites: The project operated in 15 hospitals the first three years in eight counties, covering four of the state's ten field offices. These hospitals were selected to represent an

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urban/rural mix and a range of performance. As of August 1, 2008, 14 low-performing hospitals were added to the demonstration hospitals for a total of 29 Bright Start hospitals. (See *map*.)

Results: Bright Start hospitals improved their relative performance in the area of signed Paternity Affidavits by 7 percent compared to a 4 percent increase in non-Bright Start hospitals. Preliminary findings indicate that relationships with key hospital staff assure that every unmarried mother and possible father are offered an opportunity to sign a Paternity Affidavit. In addition, improved notary coverage, particularly on the weekends, has contributed to the increased affidavits. The offer to pay an average of \$220 per notary is a cost-effective way to demonstrate to hospitals that DCS is committed to the affidavit program and is willing to share in its costs.

Genetic testing complements the Paternity Affidavit program. The mothers and possible fathers receive their results within 4-6 weeks of the date of application. Bright Start received 379 applications through July 31, 2008. Testing has been completed on 277 of those applicants. Of the men tested, 74 percent have been found to be the father. Hospital staff have embraced the service and see it as filling a critical gap for couples who are unsure of the paternity of their newborn.

Filed affidavits increased from 15,418 in SFY (State Fiscal Year) 2005 to 20,906 in SFY 2008, a 36 percent change. By SFY 2009, affidavits are expected to increase to 22,020.

Future of Bright Start: Bright Start has gotten the attention of OCSE as a possible model for other states. OCSE extended the grant an additional year to have more research findings. Notary training at hospitals and genetic testing of parents outside the child support caseload are not covered by federal child support funding. OSCE approved the use of incentive funding for Bright Start after July 31, 2009 to allow DCS to expand services to the remaining 44 birthing hospitals.