

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 enforcement 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, now funded through Incentive Funds, is described in this section. The purpose of the grant was 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 continued

Child Support Program

Highlights

- Child Support served about 1 out of every 10 state residents during SFY 2010.
- Child Support served an average of 336,580 children per month during SFY 2010.
- The average monthly child support caseload increased from 351,315 in SFY 2009 to 356,436 in SFY 2010, a 1.5% increase.
- Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases increased 10.4% from 54,604 in SFY 2009 to 60,304 in SFY 2010; Former Assistance cases decreased 1.7% from 181,589 to 178,488; and Never Assistance cases increased 2.2% from 115,122 to 117,644.
- Most (85.4%) non-custodial parents are male with an average age of 38.4 years, while most (88.6%) custodial parents are female with an average age of 38.5 years.
- Total collections for SFY 2010 were \$678,663,012 million; about \$21.8 million more than projected.
- In SFY 2010, child support cost avoidance was \$31.3 million (a 21.5% increase over SFY 2009) for the Food Stamp program and \$17.1 million (a 5.3% increase over SFY 2009) for the TANF program. These equal about 8% of the \$604 million government expenditure on these two programs for DCS custodial parents and children in the same year.
- In 2009, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported 29,652 births to an unmarried mother. Of these births, DOH reports that 22,587 (76.2%) of the unmarried parents collectively signed and filed WA State Paternity Affidavit forms with DOH. The vast majority of these Affidavits were signed at the hospital as a result of Washington State's Paternity Affidavit Program.

Child Support Program

Child Support Incentive Scorecard

FFY2009¹ and FFY2010²

Source: Division of Child Support

Measure	Goal Needed to Obtain 100% Funding	Actual Performance		Percent of Maximum Incentive Reached		Estimated Incentive Payment ³ (\$Millions)	
		2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Paternity Establishment Percentage	80%	100.7%	101.4%	100%	100%	\$3.30	\$3.30
Support Order Establishment	80%	89.6%	89.5%	100%	100%	\$3.30	\$3.30
Current Collections	80%	65.9%	65.8%	75%	75%	\$2.48	\$2.47
Arrearage Collections	80%	65.8%	62.9%	75%	72%	\$0 ⁴	\$1.78
Cost-Effectiveness	\$5.00	\$4.61	4.43	90%	80%	\$2.23	\$2.23
INCENTIVE TOTALS							
				88.0%	85.4%	\$11.31	\$13.07

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

Paternity Establishment Percentage: Number of Children in the Caseload in the FFY or as of the End of the FFY 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.

¹ FFY 2009 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2009 Preliminary Report.

² FFY 2010 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

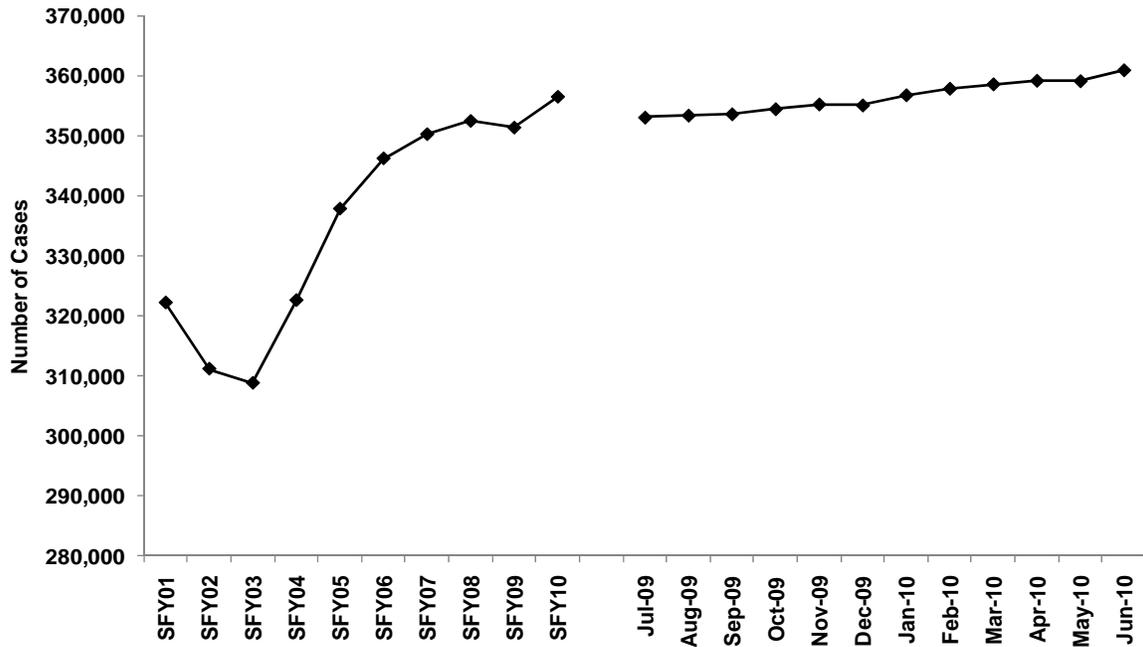
³ DCS incentive payments for FFY09 are based on DCS actual FFY09 performance and OCSE FFY09 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY10 are based on DCS actual FFY10 performance and OCSE FFY09 preliminary performance results for all other states. In addition, it is assumed that federal incentive pool will change from \$504 million to \$502 million in FFY10. Data source: ESA Fiscal Services Office.

⁴ Due to a Data Reliability Review (DRR) finding, DCS did not receive an incentive for this measure.

Child Support Program

Child Support Caseload¹ SFY 2001 through SFY 2010

Source: Division of Child Support



Year	Cases	Year	Cases
SFY01	322,167	SFY06	346,184
SFY02	311,127	SFY07	350,206
SFY03	308,760	SFY08	352,422
SFY04	322,564	SFY09	351,315
SFY05	337,810	SFY10	356,436

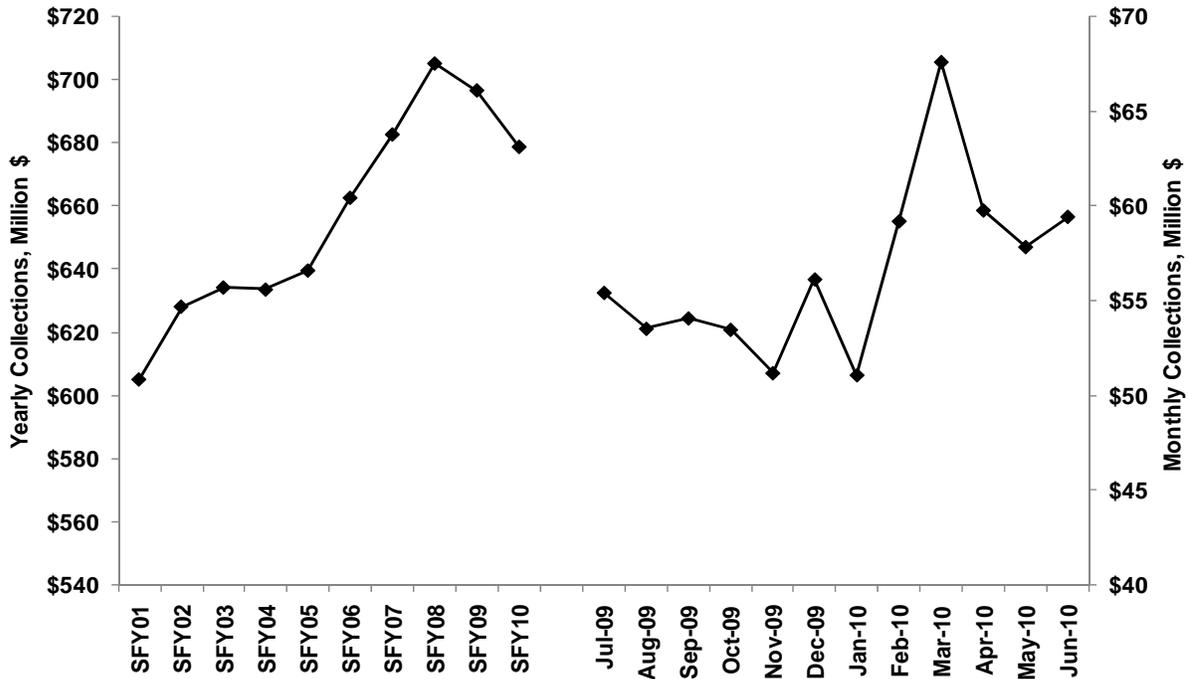
SFY 2010	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Caseload
July	57,449	178,995	116,654	353,098
August	59,147	178,042	116,233	353,422
September	58,953	178,419	116,272	353,644
October	60,349	177,578	116,551	354,478
November	60,961	177,338	116,957	355,256
December	59,864	178,236	116,992	355,092
January	61,574	177,541	117,646	356,761
February	61,168	178,590	118,076	357,834
March	60,482	179,650	118,427	358,559
April	61,093	179,169	118,879	359,141
May	61,435	178,488	119,154	359,077
June	61,168	179,812	119,889	360,869
Mo. Avg.	60,304	178,488	117,644	356,436

¹ Case counts are unduplicated.

Child Support Program

Child Support Collections SFY 2001 – SFY 2010

Source: Division of Child Support



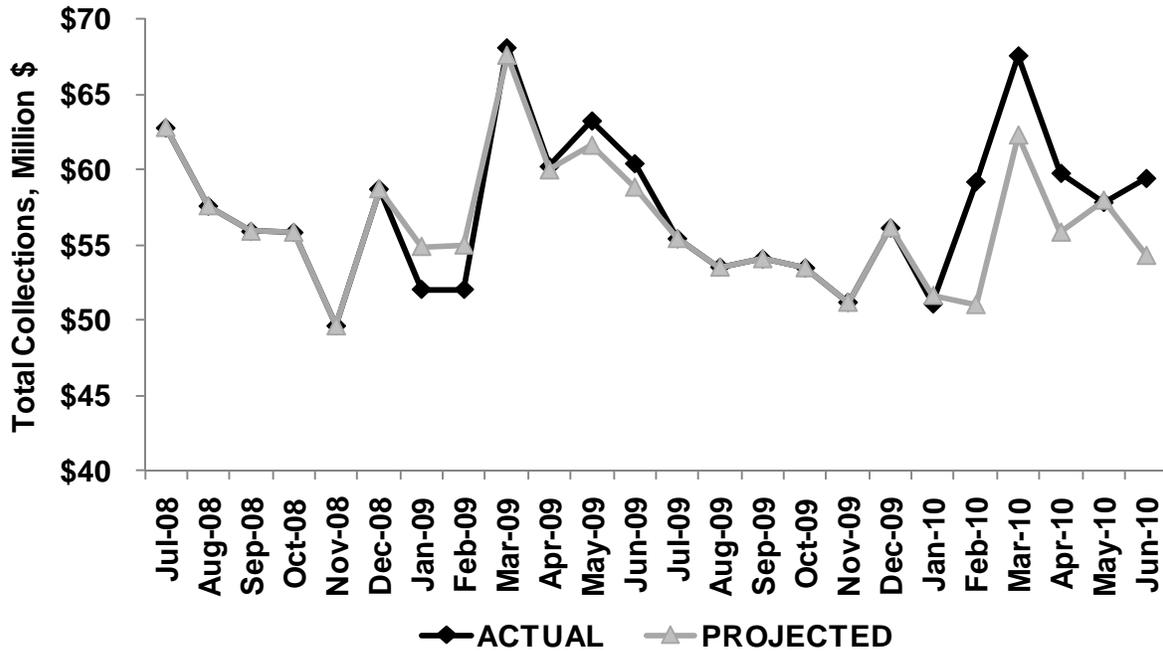
Year	Collections	Year	Collections
SFY01	\$605,215,474	SFY06	\$662,571,225
SFY02	\$628,199,101	SFY07	\$682,569,955
SFY03	\$634,240,288	SFY08	\$704,983,914
SFY04	\$633,591,434	SFY09	\$696,497,265
SFY05	\$639,591,288	SFY10	\$678,663,012

SFY 2010	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Collections
July	\$3,756,658	\$21,927,393	\$29,733,086	\$55,417,137
August	\$3,569,174	\$20,927,230	\$29,028,936	\$53,525,340
September	\$3,672,508	\$20,906,446	\$29,494,954	\$54,073,908
October	\$3,706,036	\$20,727,611	\$29,039,173	\$53,472,820
November	\$3,509,640	\$19,443,534	\$28,233,561	\$51,186,735
December	\$4,016,484	\$21,390,938	\$30,719,819	\$56,127,240
January	\$3,672,929	\$19,218,325	\$28,189,574	\$51,080,828
February	\$5,146,712	\$23,421,509	\$30,620,316	\$59,188,538
March	\$5,597,346	\$27,129,243	\$34,849,513	\$67,576,101
April	\$4,525,266	\$23,418,265	\$31,816,971	\$59,760,502
May	\$4,222,250	\$22,709,029	\$30,899,470	\$57,830,749
June	\$4,283,061	\$22,794,003	\$32,346,048	\$59,423,113
Total	\$49,678,063	\$264,013,528	\$364,971,421	\$678,663,012

Child Support Program

Child Support Collections Actual and Projected – July 2008 to June 2010

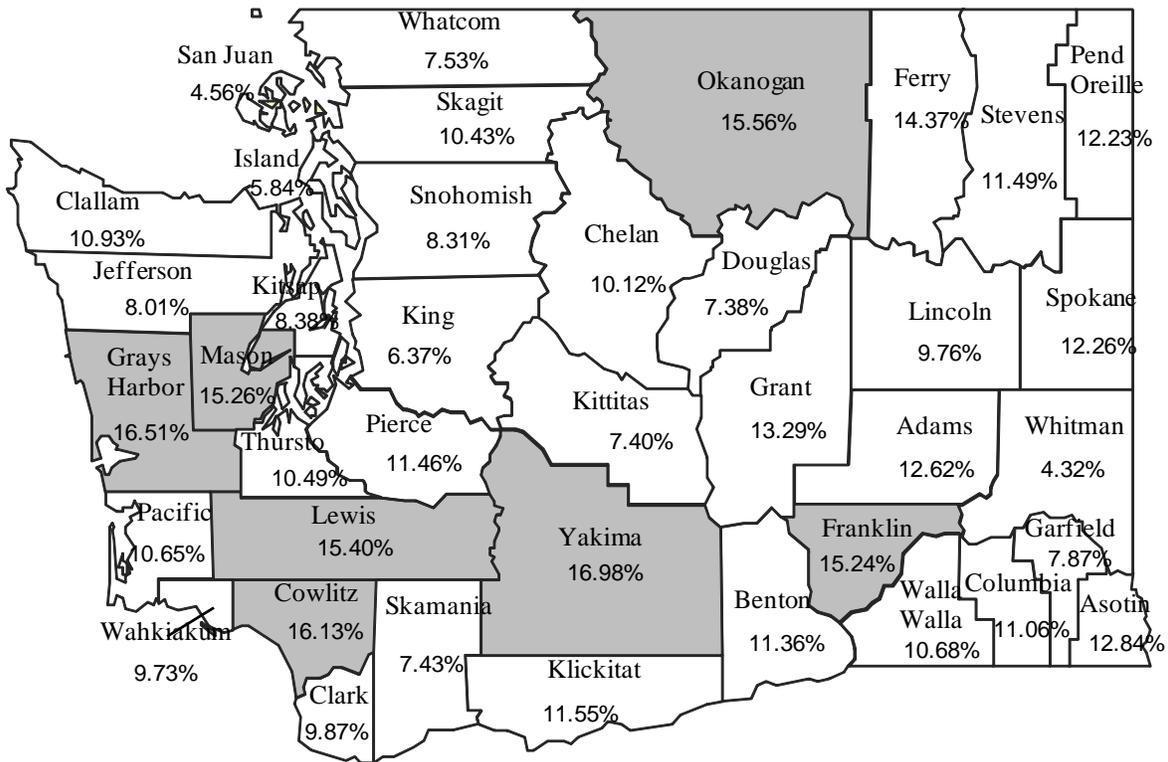
Source: Division of Child Support



	<u>SFY2009</u>		<u>SFY2010</u>	
	Actual	Projected	Actual	Projected
July	\$62,777,615	\$62,777,509	\$55,417,137	\$55,411,863
August	\$57,582,368	\$57,582,218	\$53,525,340	\$53,521,298
September	\$55,898,358	\$55,898,334	\$54,073,908	\$54,073,865
October	\$55,831,774	\$55,831,762	\$53,472,820	\$53,475,195
November	\$49,623,928	\$49,623,922	\$51,186,735	\$51,186,729
December	\$58,711,942	\$58,711,918	\$56,127,240	\$56,127,185
January	\$52,049,558	\$54,889,456	\$51,080,828	\$51,647,411
February	\$52,050,286	\$54,984,554	\$59,188,538	\$51,033,240
March	\$68,110,329	\$67,561,335	\$67,576,101	\$62,273,664
April	\$60,212,561	\$59,961,439	\$59,760,502	\$55,839,393
May	\$63,242,143	\$61,597,677	\$57,830,749	\$57,959,347
June	\$60,406,403	\$58,819,539	\$59,423,113	\$54,294,294
Total	\$696,497,265	\$698,239,663	\$678,663,012	\$656,843,484

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Percentage of Residents Served by DCS During June 2010



Note: The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2010 by the OFM 2010 County Population estimates.

County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served
Adams	2,309	18,300	12.6%	Lewis	11,644	75,600	15.4%
Asotin	2,787	21,700	12.8%	Lincoln	1,025	10,500	9.8%
Benton	19,642	172,900	11.4%	Mason	8,712	57,100	15.3%
Chelan	7,418	73,300	10.1%	Okanogan	6,365	40,900	15.6%
Clallam	7,660	70,100	10.9%	Pacific	2,354	22,100	10.7%
Clark	42,983	435,600	9.9%	Pend Oreille	1,602	13,100	12.2%
Columbia	459	4,150	11.1%	Pierce	93,335	814,600	11.5%
Cowlitz	16,127	100,000	16.1%	San Juan	753	16,500	4.6%
Douglas	2,843	38,500	7.4%	Skagit	12,440	119,300	10.4%
Ferry	1,128	7,850	14.4%	Skamania	810	10,900	7.4%
Franklin	11,504	75,500	15.2%	Snohomish	59,075	711,100	8.3%
Garfield	181	2,300	7.9%	Spokane	57,649	470,300	12.3%
Grant	11,658	87,700	13.3%	Stevens	5,088	44,300	11.5%
Grays Harbor	11,824	71,600	16.5%	Thurston	26,466	252,400	10.5%
Island	4,734	81,100	5.8%	Wahkiakum	404	4,150	9.7%
Jefferson	2,347	29,300	8.0%	Walla Walla	6,364	59,600	10.7%
King	123,128	1,933,400	6.4%	Whatcom	14,728	195,500	7.5%
Kitsap	20,817	248,300	8.4%	Whitman	1,883	43,600	4.3%
Kittitas	2,998	40,500	7.4%	Yakima	40,594	239,100	17.0%
Klickitat	2,367	20,500	11.5%	State Total	646,205	6,733,250	9.6%

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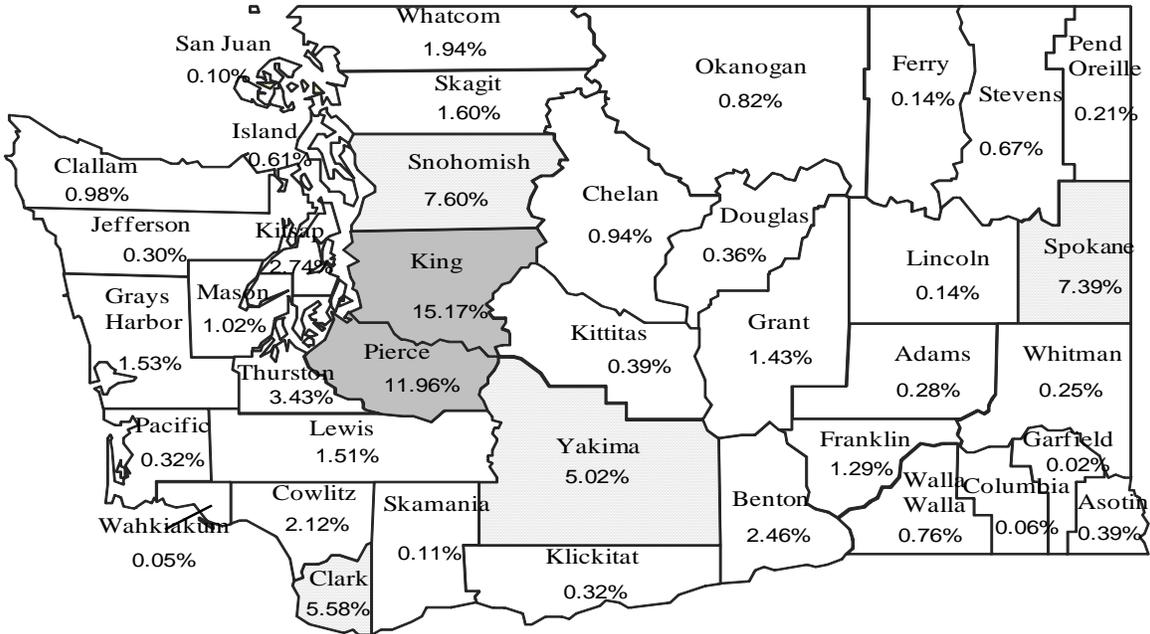
Child Support Client Demographics June 2010

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

Characteristic	Non-Custodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	273,430	100.0%	287,580	100.0%	337,157	100.0%
Gender						
Female	39,129	14.3%	254,753	88.6%	170,974	50.7%
Male	233,476	85.4%	29,834	10.4%	165,515	49.1%
Unknown	825	0.3%	2,993	1.0%	668	0.2%
Age of Parents						
< 26 Years Old	24,977	9.1%	33,209	11.5%		
26 – 35 Years Old	88,567	32.4%	93,440	32.5%		
36 – 45 Years Old	96,430	35.3%	92,615	32.2%		
46 – 55 Years Old	49,642	18.2%	47,554	16.5%		
55+ Years Old	9,633	3.5%	16,804	5.8%		
Age of Children						
< 6 Year Old					87,182	25.9%
6 – 10 Years Old					91,215	27.1%
11 – 15 Years Old					101,763	30.2%
16 – 18 Years Old					48,317	14.3%
18+ Years Old					8,234	2.4%
Mean Age	38.4 Years Old		38.5 Years Old		10.2 Years Old	
Median Age	38.0 Years Old		37.3 Years Old		10.4 Years Old	

Child Support Program

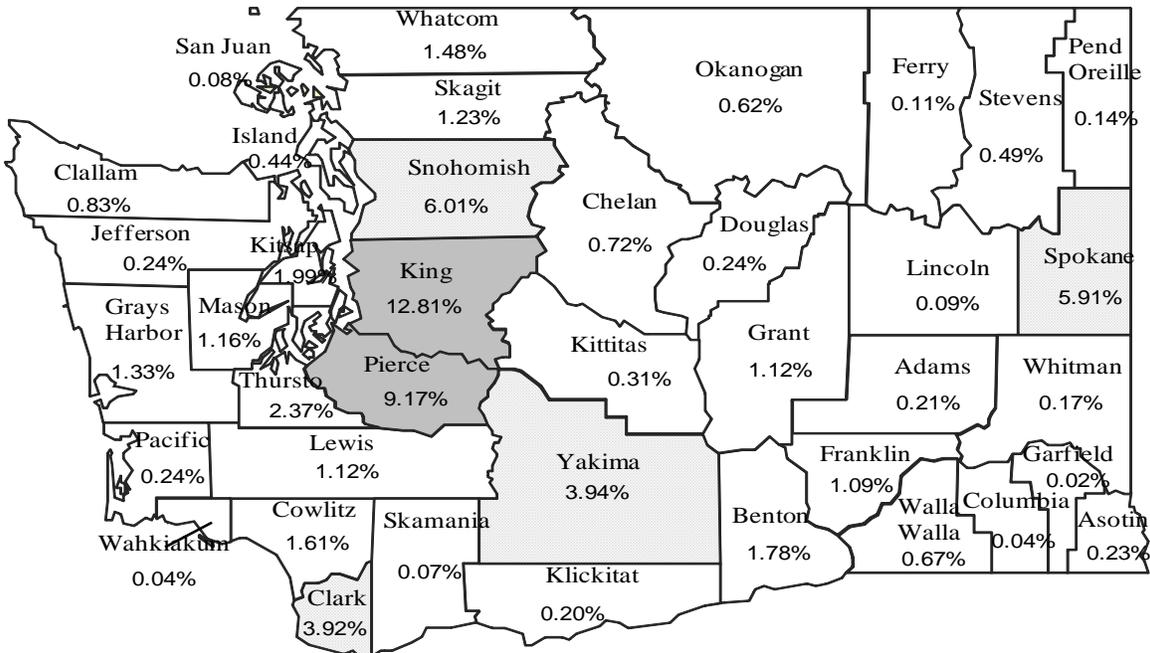
Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2010



Note: 17.99% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid Fipscode.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS - October 21, 2010

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2010



Note: 35.77% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid Fipscode.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS - October 21, 2010

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Child Support Cost Avoidance for Food Stamps and TANF SFY 2010

SFY10	<u>Food Stamps</u>			<u>TANF</u>		
	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	\$82.29	\$139.92	\$2,526,782	\$21.04	\$54.89	\$1,402,629
August	\$82.88	\$142.14	\$2,568,315	\$21.54	\$56.25	\$1,403,245
September	\$83.14	\$143.51	\$2,589,781	\$21.81	\$57.32	\$1,422,151
October	\$84.59	\$145.57	\$2,621,756	\$21.81	\$58.73	\$1,494,379
November	\$85.65	\$147.67	\$2,619,329	\$21.92	\$58.97	\$1,449,489
December	\$85.53	\$147.59	\$2,630,642	\$21.71	\$58.63	\$1,451,339
January	\$85.74	\$148.74	\$2,678,927	\$21.15	\$58.09	\$1,455,202
February	\$89.75	\$148.92	\$2,584,558	\$23.14	\$57.51	\$1,357,386
March	\$91.22	\$149.40	\$2,635,402	\$23.78	\$57.62	\$1,393,954
April	\$92.18	\$150.63	\$2,670,808	\$23.90	\$57.79	\$1,426,264
May	\$94.16	\$151.25	\$2,609,129	\$24.05	\$57.91	\$1,412,365
June	\$95.30	\$151.45	\$2,593,116	\$24.39	\$58.49	\$1,436,394
Total	-	-	\$31,328,545	-	-	\$17,104,797

Source: 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

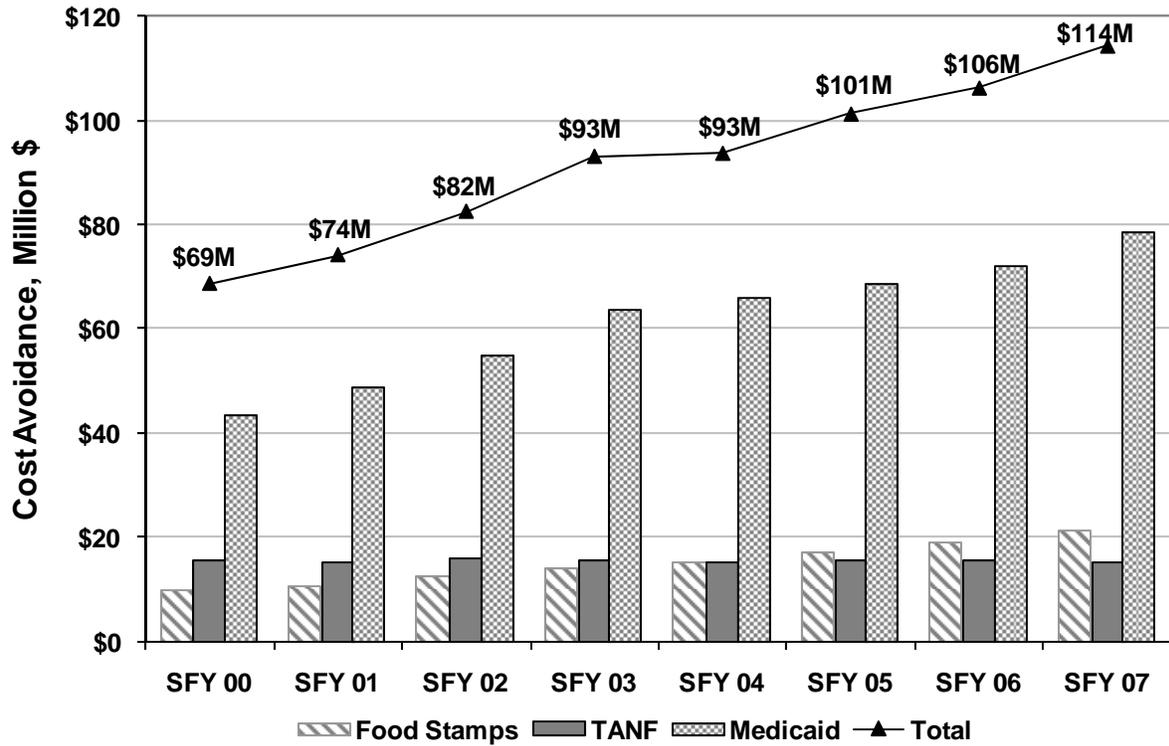
Source: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data

¹ Medicaid expenditure data after SFY 2007 is not available at this time

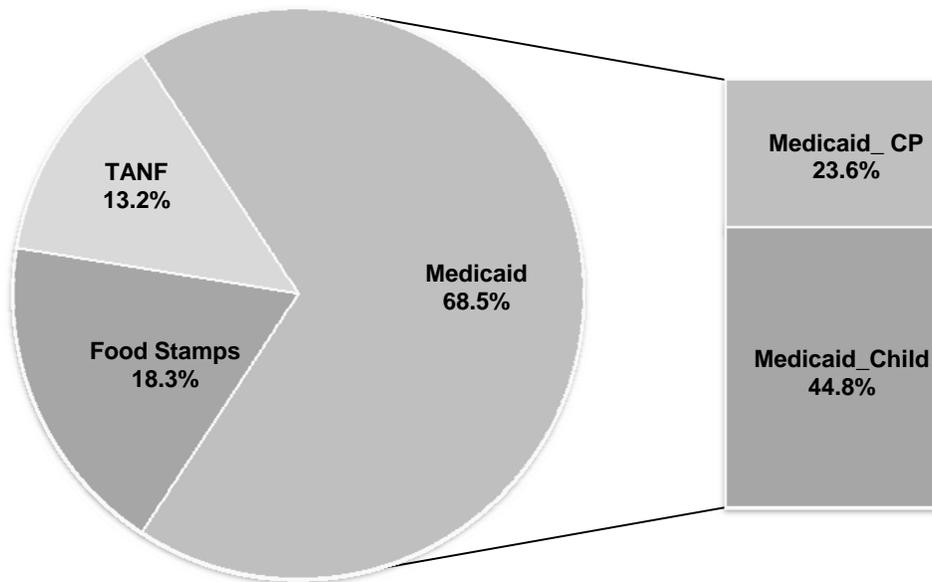
² CP: custodial parents

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Child Support Cost Avoidance, Millions SFY 2000 - SFY 2007



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



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

Voluntary Paternity Affidavits and Bright Start

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 and RCW 26.26 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 time of the child's birth. The parents are entitled to both a written statement of 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 unmarried 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) 2010, 26,002 paternitys were established, 74.5 percent by Paternity Affidavit, up from 73.4 percent in SFY 2009.

Bright Start Background

More than 15 years after Washington State created its Paternity Affidavit Program, hospitals generated 70 percent of the voluntary Paternity Affidavits in the state, establishing paternity for nearly half of all births to unmarried mothers. The program was a big success; however, variations in performance continued to persist across the state. 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

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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 continued through July 31, 2009.

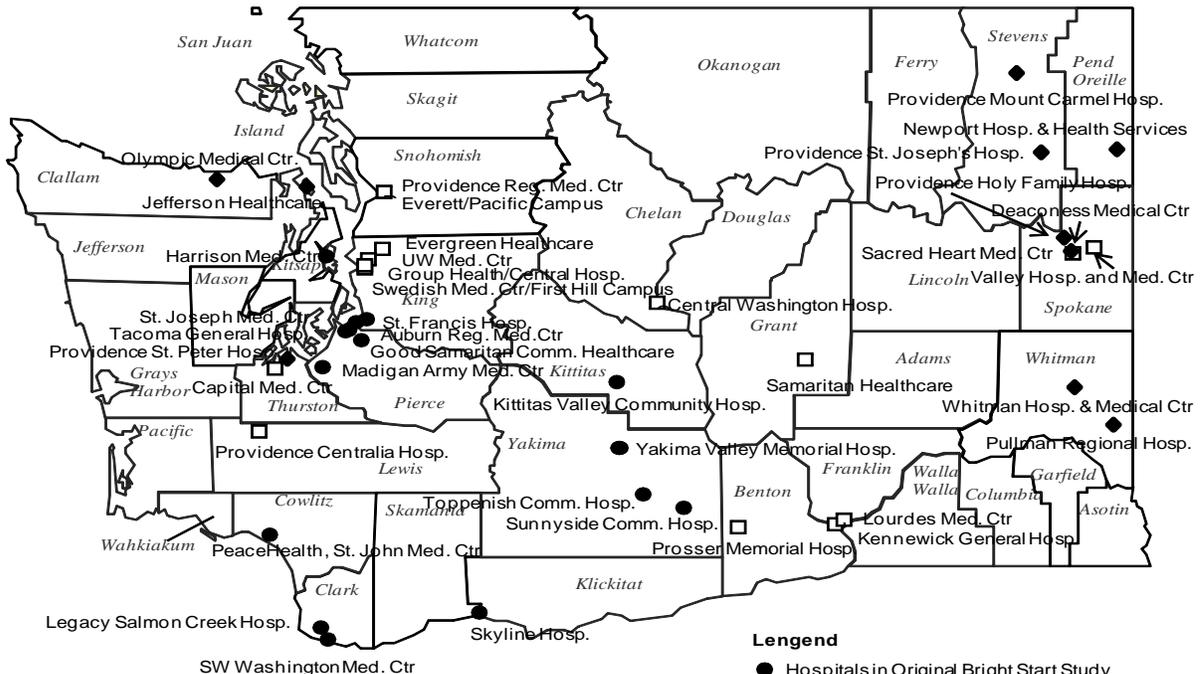
A major focus of Bright Start was to re-engage with hospital administrators and key hospital staff. The statewide Paternity Coordinator visited every Bright Start hospital, meeting with administrators and conducted staff trainings on Bright Start and on the Paternity Affidavit.

There are two successful strategies from the demonstration grant that previous were not part of the usual child support program. First, the grant permitted 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 unmarried parents no-cost genetic testing in a non-judicial setting. With Bright Start voluntary paternity testing, hospital staff can offer an application for genetic testing to unmarried parents uncertain of paternity.

Bright Start Sites: The first three years the project operated in 15 hospitals in eight counties, covering four of the state’s ten field offices. These hospitals were selected to represent an urban/rural mix and a range of performance. In August 2008, 14 low-performing hospitals were added to the demonstration for a total of 29 Bright Start hospitals. In the Fall of 2009, eleven additional hospitals were added. (See map.)

Bright Start Hospitals



Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS - Oct. 28, 2010

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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. Previously low-performing Bright Start hospitals showed the greatest gains during the demonstration. 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 around 446 applications for genetic testing for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Bright Start was able to provide genetic testing on two thirds of these applications. The others were closed because the parties did not meet the requirements (they had already signed a paternity affidavit, were married, did not cooperate, or otherwise requested closure). Of the men tested, 74 percent were 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.

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 (8/08-7/09) to obtain more research findings. A final report by the evaluators came out in October 2009.

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 40 birthing hospitals.

DCS began adding the remaining 40 birthing hospitals in the Fall of 2009. Currently, 40 of the 70 birthing hospitals in the State are participating. DCS has incorporated the following Bright Start strategies into their child support program: (1) pay for hospitals to add notaries, and (2) offer no-cost genetic testing for a mother and a possible father who do not sign a Paternity Affidavit at the hospital.