

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.

Child Support Program continued

Child Support Program

Highlights

- Washington State's Child Support Program served about 1 out of every 10 state residents during SFY 2011.
- The Child Support Program served an average of 342,644 children per month during SFY 2011.
- The average monthly child support caseload increased from 356,436 in SFY 2010 to 364,535 in SFY 2011, a 2.3% increase.
- Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased 2.7% from 60,304 in SFY 2010 to 58,705 in SFY 2011; Former Assistance cases increased 3.6% from 178,488 to 184,832; and Never Assistance cases increased 2.9% from 117,644 to 120,997.
- Most (85.2%) non-custodial parents are male with an average age of 38.5 years, while most (88.3%) custodial parents are female with an average age of 38.6 years.
- Total collections for SFY 2011 were \$679.1 million; about \$27.1 million more than projected.
- In SFY 2011, child support cost avoidance was \$31.6 million (a 0.8% increase over SFY 2010) for the Basic Food program and \$14.0 million (an 18.3% decrease over SFY 2010) for the TANF program. These equal about 7% of the \$638 million government expenditure on these two programs for DCS custodial parents and children in the same year.
- In calendar year 2010, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported 28,341 births to an unmarried mother. Of these births, DOH reports that 22,724 (80.2%) 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**

FFY2010¹ and FFY2011²

Source: Division of Child Support

MEASURE	GOAL NEEDED TO OBTAIN 100% FUNDING	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE		PERCENTAGE OF MAXIMUM INCENTIVE REACHED		ESTIMATED INCENTIVE PAYMENT (\$MILLIONS) ³	
		2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Paternity Establishment Percentage	80%	101.4%	101.6%	100%	100%	\$3.29	\$3.35
Support Order Establishment	80%	89.5%	89.8%	100%	100%	\$3.29	\$3.35
Current Collections	80%	65.8%	64.7%	75%	74%	\$2.47	\$2.51
Arrearage Collections	80%	62.9%	61.5%	72%	71%	\$1.78	\$1.81
Cost-Effectiveness	\$5.00	\$4.43	\$4.68	80%	90%	\$2.22	\$2.26
INCENTIVE TOTALS				85.4%	87.0%	\$13.05	\$13.27

¹ FFY 2010 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 2011 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

³ DCS incentive payments for FFY10 are based on DCS actual FFY10 performance and OCSE FFY10 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY11 are based on DCS actual FFY11 performance and OCSE FFY10 preliminary performance results for all other states. In addition, it is assumed that federal incentive pool will change from \$502 million to \$510.9 million in FFY11. Data source: ESA Fiscal Services Office.

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.

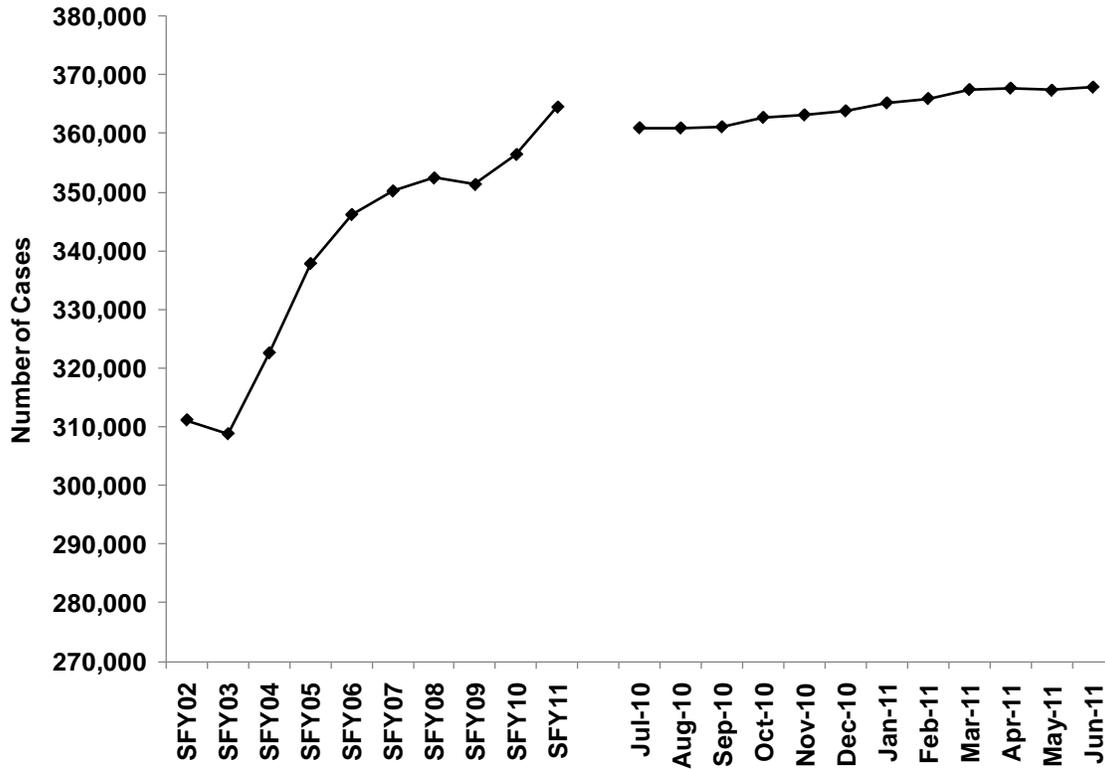
ARREARAGE COLLECTIONS: Number of IV-D Cases Paying Toward Arrears divided by Number of IV-D Cases with Arrears Due.

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

Child Support Program

Child Support Caseload¹ SFY 2002 through SFY 2011

Source: Division of Child Support



Year	Cases	Year	Cases
SFY02	311,127	SFY07	350,206
SFY03	308,760	SFY08	352,422
SFY04	322,564	SFY09	351,315
SFY05	337,810	SFY10	356,436
SFY06	346,184	SFY11	364,535

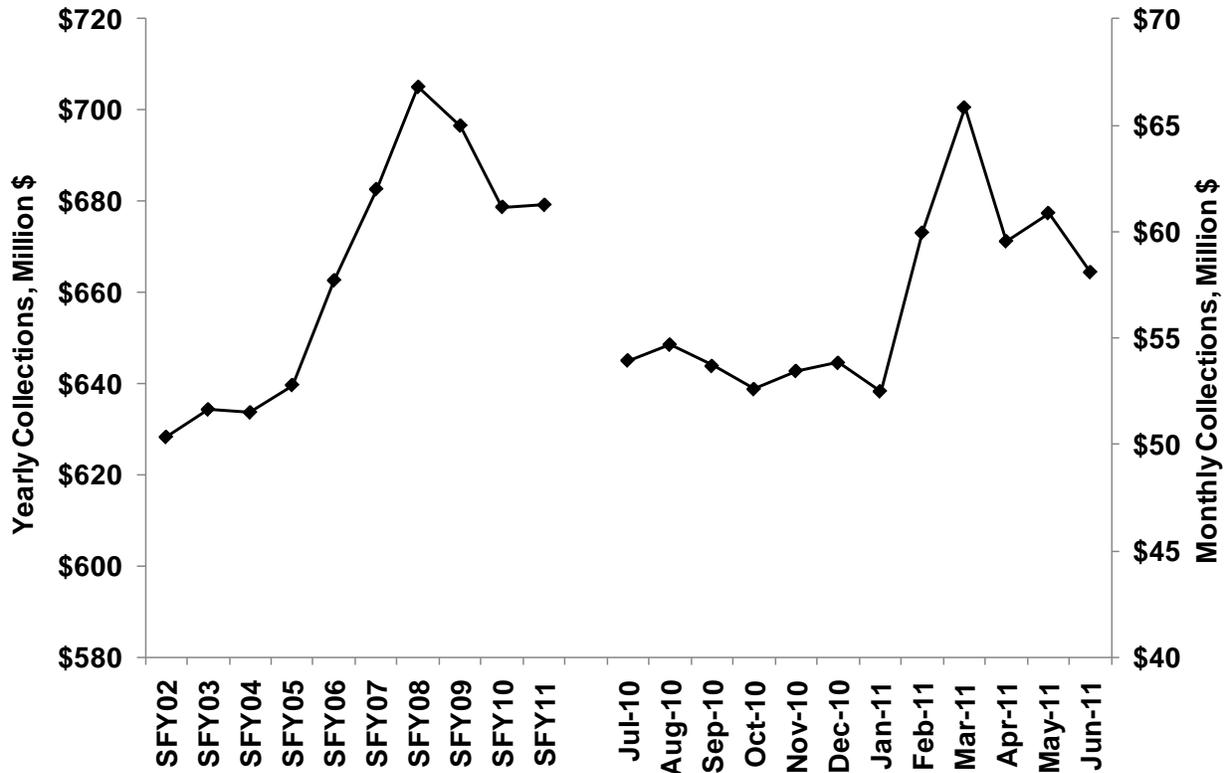
SFY 2011	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Caseload
July	62,044	179,122	119,788	360,954
August	62,485	178,906	119,531	360,922
September	62,587	179,050	119,483	361,120
October	63,655	179,044	120,030	362,729
November	63,726	179,429	120,003	363,158
December	63,458	180,162	120,230	363,850
January	58,404	186,019	120,789	365,212
February	51,644	193,069	121,239	365,952
March	55,640	189,704	122,150	367,494
April	54,777	190,385	122,575	367,737
May	53,783	190,798	122,797	367,378
June	52,260	192,299	123,349	367,908
Mo. Avg.	58,705	184,832	120,997	364,535

¹ Case counts are unduplicated.

Child Support Program

Child Support Collections SFY 2002 – SFY 2011

Source: Division of Child Support



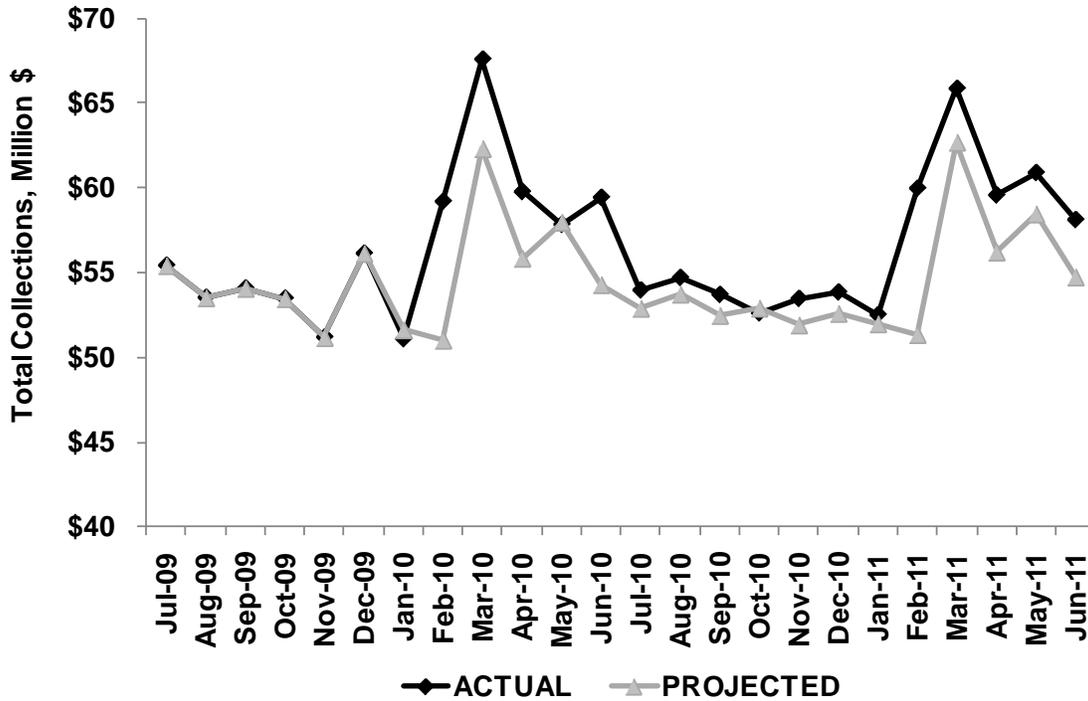
Year	Collections	Year	Collections
SFY02	\$628,199,101	SFY07	\$682,569,955
SFY03	\$634,240,288	SFY08	\$704,983,914
SFY04	\$633,591,434	SFY09	\$696,497,265
SFY05	\$639,591,288	SFY10	\$678,663,012
SFY06	\$662,571,225	SFY11	\$679,114,124

SFY 2011	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Collections
July	\$3,796,902	\$20,573,847	\$29,584,805	\$53,955,554
August	\$3,966,517	\$20,644,781	\$30,085,320	\$54,696,617
September	\$3,985,604	\$20,082,328	\$29,626,317	\$53,694,249
October	\$3,953,100	\$19,734,924	\$28,916,905	\$52,604,929
November	\$3,854,405	\$19,665,052	\$29,940,479	\$53,459,936
December	\$3,931,850	\$19,743,638	\$30,164,558	\$53,840,045
January	\$3,785,114	\$19,117,235	\$29,600,537	\$52,502,885
February	\$5,034,658	\$23,554,519	\$31,371,995	\$59,961,172
March	\$5,073,907	\$26,728,034	\$34,044,811	\$65,846,752
April	\$4,012,424	\$23,380,574	\$32,167,905	\$59,560,903
May	\$3,622,750	\$24,282,073	\$32,978,380	\$60,883,203
June	\$3,351,445	\$22,675,338	\$32,081,096	\$58,107,879
Total	\$48,368,675	\$260,182,343	\$370,563,106	\$679,114,124

Child Support Program

Child Support Collections Actual and Projected – July 2009 to June 2011

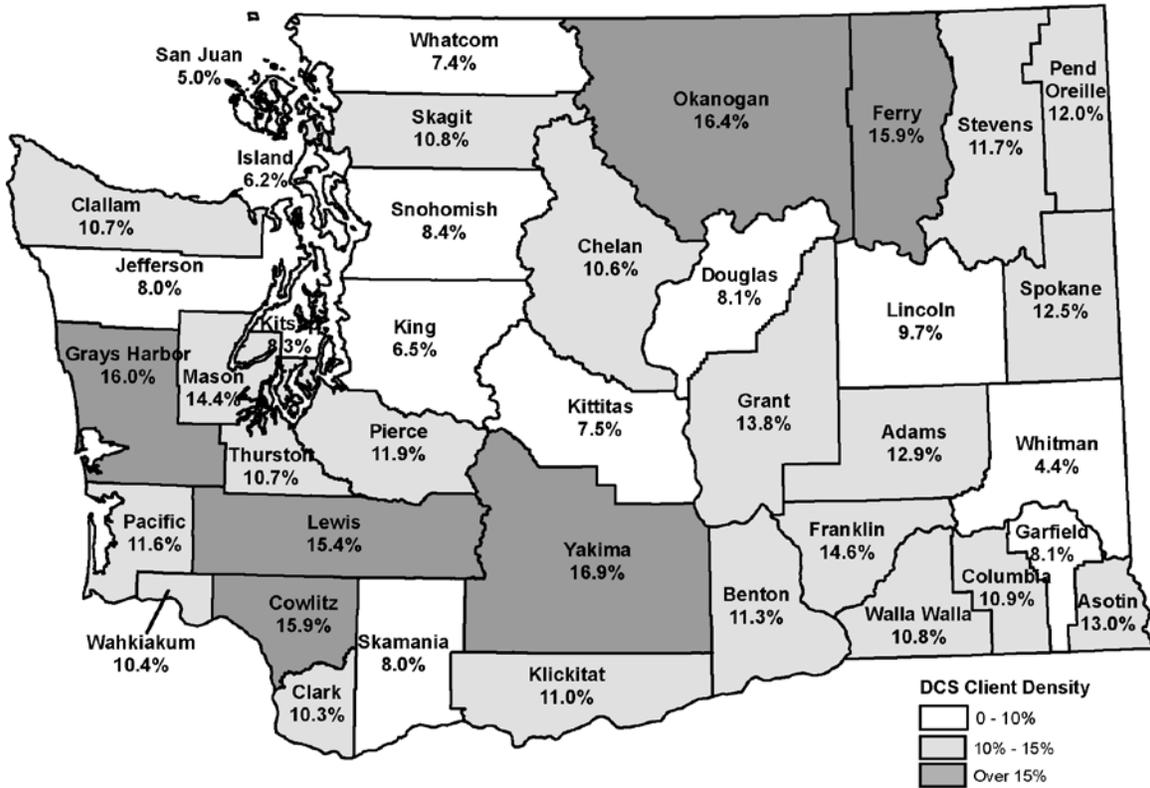
Source: Division of Child Support



	<u>SFY2010</u>		<u>SFY2011</u>	
	Actual	Projected	Actual	Projected
July	\$55,417,137	\$55,411,863	\$53,955,554	\$52,906,551
August	\$53,525,340	\$53,521,298	\$54,696,617	\$53,735,633
September	\$54,073,908	\$54,073,865	\$53,694,249	\$52,487,701
October	\$53,472,820	\$53,475,195	\$52,604,929	\$52,918,115
November	\$51,186,735	\$51,186,729	\$53,459,936	\$51,928,281
December	\$56,127,240	\$56,127,185	\$53,840,045	\$52,608,073
January	\$51,080,828	\$51,647,411	\$52,502,885	\$51,995,967
February	\$59,188,538	\$51,033,240	\$59,961,172	\$51,365,785
March	\$67,576,101	\$62,273,664	\$65,846,752	\$62,651,700
April	\$59,760,502	\$55,839,393	\$59,560,903	\$56,201,013
May	\$57,830,749	\$57,959,347	\$60,883,203	\$58,441,774
June	\$59,423,113	\$54,294,294	\$58,107,879	\$54,743,557
Total	\$678,663,012	\$656,843,484	\$679,114,124	\$651,984,152

Child Support Program

Percentage of Residents Served by DCS During June 2011



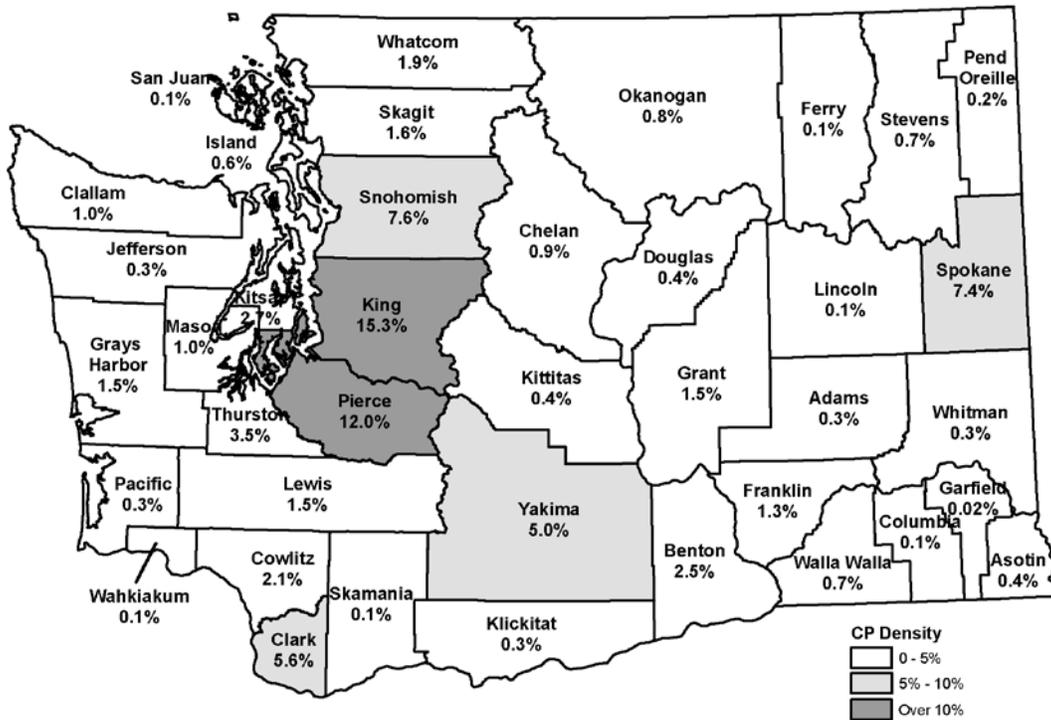
Note: The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2011 by the OFM 2011 County Population estimates.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2011

County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served
Adams	2,437	18,950	12.9%	Lewis	11,674	76,000	15.4%
Asotin	2,815	21,650	13.0%	Lincoln	1,030	10,600	9.7%
Benton	20,030	177,900	11.3%	Mason	8,824	61,100	14.4%
Chelan	7,685	72,700	10.6%	Okanogan	6,742	41,200	16.4%
Clallam	7,690	71,600	10.7%	Pacific	2,419	20,900	11.6%
Clark	44,131	428,000	10.3%	Pend Oreille	1,554	13,000	12.0%
Columbia	445	4,100	10.9%	Pierce	95,330	802,150	11.9%
Cowlitz	16,371	102,700	15.9%	San Juan	799	15,900	5.0%
Douglas	3,126	38,650	8.1%	Skagit	12,709	117,400	10.8%
Ferry	1,205	7,600	15.9%	Skamania	891	11,150	8.0%
Franklin	11,780	80,500	14.6%	Snohomish	60,259	717,000	8.4%
Garfield	182	2,250	8.1%	Spokane	59,031	472,650	12.5%
Grant	12,466	90,100	13.8%	Stevens	5,100	43,600	11.7%
Grays Harbor	11,692	72,900	16.0%	Thurston	27,071	254,100	10.7%
Island	4,858	78,800	6.2%	Wahkiakum	417	4,000	10.4%
Jefferson	2,419	30,050	8.0%	Walla Walla	6,323	58,800	10.8%
King	126,214	1,942,600	6.5%	Whatcom	14,911	202,100	7.4%
Kitsap	21,024	253,900	8.3%	Whitman	1,988	44,800	4.4%
Kittitas	3,091	41,300	7.5%	Yakima	41,436	244,700	16.9%
Klickitat	2,252	20,500	11.0%	State Total	660,421	6,767,900	9.8%

Child Support Program

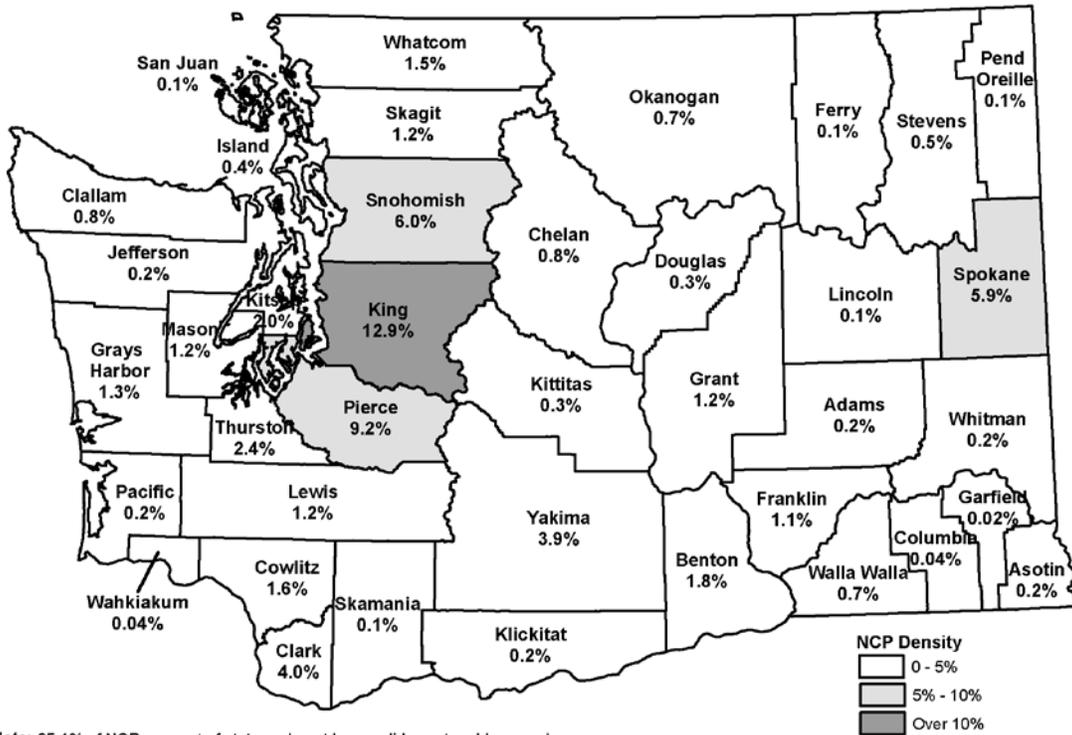
Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2011



Note: 17.7% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2011

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2011



Note: 35.1% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2011

Child Support Program

Child Support Client Demographics June 2011

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

Characteristic	Non-Custodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	277,485	100.0%	293,247	100.0%	342,266	100.0%
Gender						
Female	40,209	14.5%	258,940	88.3%	173,402	50.7%
Male	236,429	85.2%	31,356	10.7%	168,295	49.2%
Unknown	847	0.3%	2,951	1.0%	569	0.2%
Age of Parents						
< 26 Years Old	25,232	9.1%	33,579	11.5%		
26 – 35 Years Old	90,486	32.6%	95,355	32.5%		
36 – 45 Years Old	96,775	34.9%	93,788	32.0%		
46 – 55 Years Old	50,858	18.3%	48,982	16.7%		
55+ Years Old	10,231	3.7%	18,030	6.1%		
Age of Children						
< 6 Year Old					89,377	26.1%
6 – 10 Years Old					92,506	27.0%
11 – 15 Years Old					103,645	30.3%
16 – 18 Years Old					47,598	13.9%
18+ Years Old					8,727	2.5%
Mean Age	38.5 Years Old		38.6 Years Old		10.2 Years Old	
Median Age	38.0 Years Old		37.4 Years Old		10.3 Years Old	

Child Support Program

Child Support Cost Avoidance for Basic Food and TANF SFY2011

Source: DCS SEMS, ESA-ACES, ESD wage data

SFY11	<u>Basic Food</u>			<u>TANF</u>		
	Average CR ¹ Basic Food Expenditure	Average CI ² Basic Food Expenditure	Total Basic Food Savings	Average CR ¹ TANF Expenditure	Average CI ² TANF Expenditure	Total TANF Savings
July	\$96.1	\$152.6	\$2,586,520	\$22.8	\$54.2	\$1,315,521
August	\$97.3	\$155.7	\$2,648,096	\$22.4	\$54.6	\$1,334,288
September	\$97.4	\$156.4	\$2,632,816	\$21.9	\$52.8	\$1,267,654
October	\$98.6	\$158.2	\$2,607,939	\$24.5	\$60.2	\$1,457,806
November	\$98.2	\$159.0	\$2,630,484	\$23.8	\$59.7	\$1,451,052
December	\$97.9	\$159.2	\$2,615,364	\$23.6	\$60.0	\$1,455,529
January	\$97.8	\$160.1	\$2,653,403	\$23.1	\$59.3	\$1,447,791
February	\$104.6	\$163.8	\$2,647,060	\$19.4	\$41.5	\$832,953
March	\$105.3	\$165.2	\$2,696,540	\$18.3	\$39.9	\$826,319
April	\$103.1	\$163.1	\$2,700,893	\$17.2	\$39.0	\$853,400
May	\$104.1	\$162.9	\$2,645,154	\$15.9	\$37.9	\$867,852
June	\$104.8	\$161.6	\$2,525,380	\$15.2	\$37.0	\$858,673
Total	-	-	\$31,589,649	-	-	\$13,968,838

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 SFY2009¹

Source: DCS SEMS, ESA-ACES, ESD wage data

SFY09 ¹	Total CP ² Medicaid Savings	Total Child Medicaid Savings	Total Medicaid Savings
July	\$2,498,138	\$4,110,436	\$6,608,575
August	\$2,469,901	\$4,022,962	\$6,492,863
September	\$2,693,780	\$2,004,216	\$4,697,995
October	\$2,629,581	\$3,246,220	\$5,875,802
November	\$2,619,539	\$3,327,380	\$5,946,919
December	\$2,748,968	\$3,324,786	\$6,073,754
January	\$2,943,175	\$2,640,070	\$5,583,245
February	\$2,359,578	\$2,426,677	\$4,786,255
March	\$2,521,881	\$3,373,917	\$5,895,798
April	\$2,352,855	\$3,264,598	\$5,617,454
May	\$2,245,923	\$3,274,339	\$5,520,261
June	\$2,336,603	\$2,261,609	\$4,598,211
Total	\$30,419,921	\$37,277,211	\$67,697,132

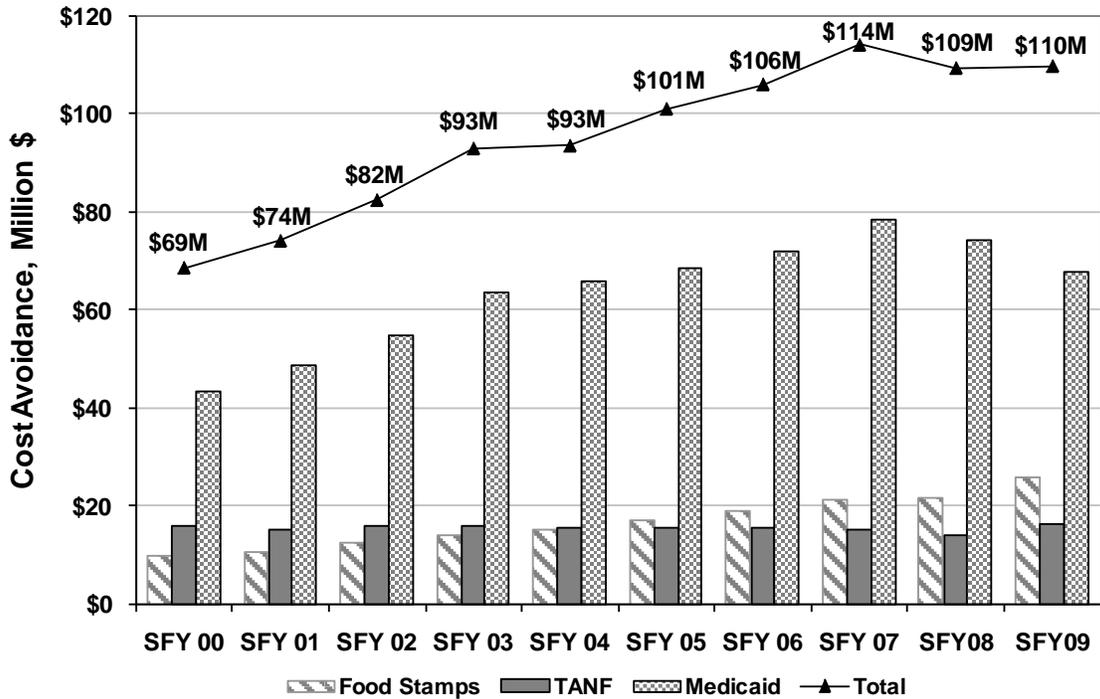
¹ Medicaid expenditure data after SFY09 is not available at this time

² CP: custodial parents

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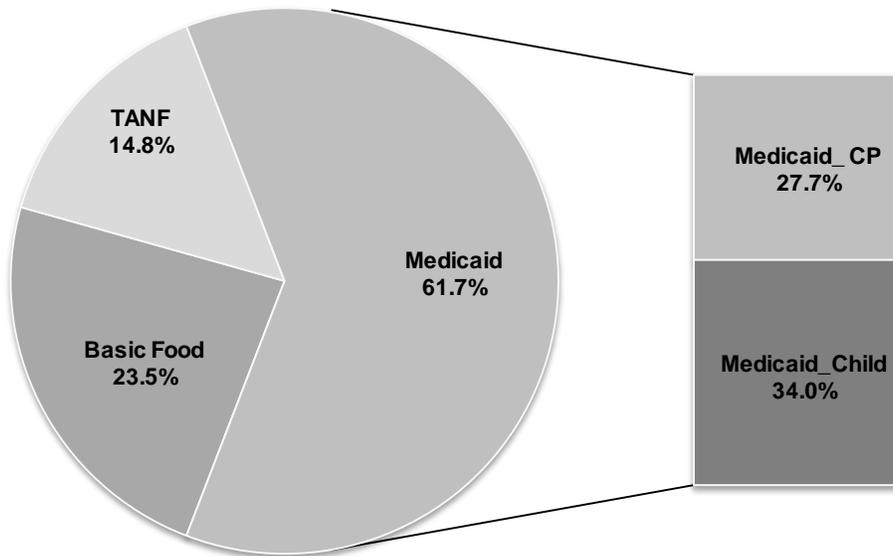
Child Support Cost Avoidance, Millions SFY 2000 - SFY 2009

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



Sources of \$110 Million in Child Support Cost Avoidance SFY 2009

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



Voluntary Paternity Affidavits and Genetic Testing

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) 2011, 24,932 paternities were established, 73.7 percent by Paternity Affidavit, compared to 74.5 percent in SFY 2010.

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 as a grant through July 31, 2009.

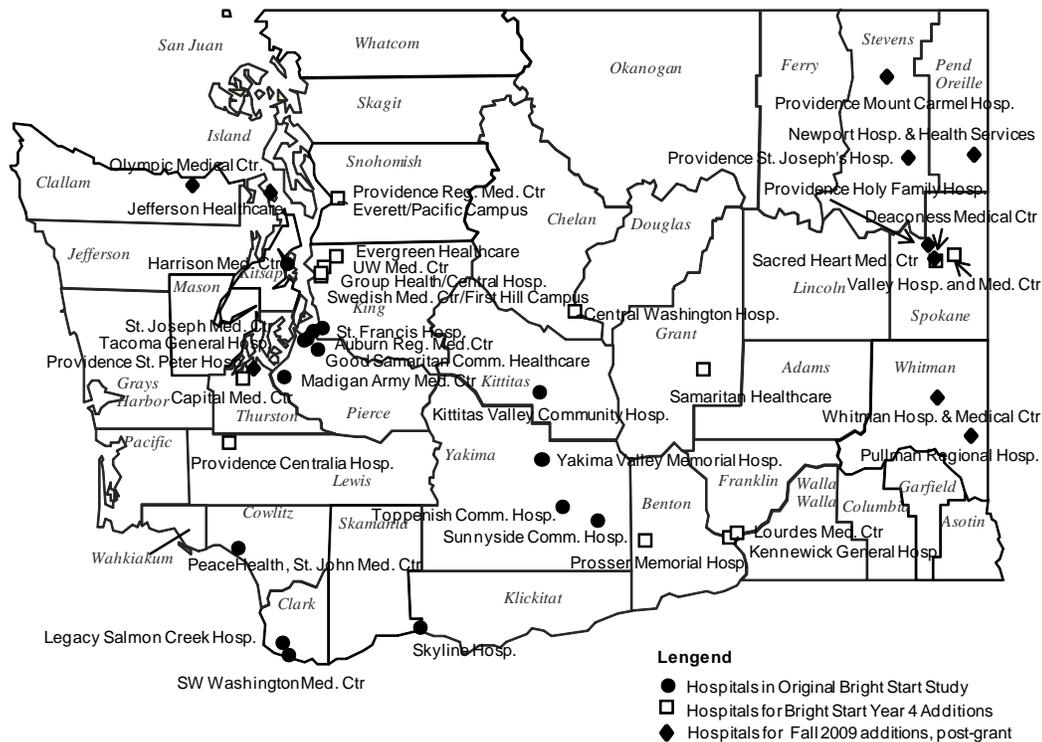
A major focus of Bright Start was to re-engage with hospital administrators and key hospital staff. The statewide Paternity Coordinator visited every Bright Start hospital, meeting with administrators and conducted staff trainings on Bright Start and on the Paternity Affidavit.

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 paternity establishment 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 395 applications for genetic testing for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. 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, one or both were minors, did not cooperate, or otherwise requested closure). Of the men tested, 78 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.

Bright Start Transition to DCS Voluntary Paternity Testing: 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 fund Notaries Public in the state's birthing hospitals and provide no-cost genetic testing.

DCS began expanding services to the remaining 40 birthing hospitals in the fall of 2009. Currently, 40 of the 67 birthing hospitals in the State are participating. The program is now officially called the DCS Voluntary Paternity Testing Program (VPTP).