# 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 awarded 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, food and medical assistance 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)

### Highlights

- Washington's child support program served about 1 out of every 10 state residents during SFY 2012.

- The program served an average of 346,719 children per month during SFY 2012.

- The average monthly child support caseload increased from 364,535 in SFY 2011 to 370,830 in SFY 2012, a 1.7% increase.

- Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased 15.8% from 58,705 in SFY 2011 to 49,452 in SFY 2012; Former Assistance cases increased 5.1% from 184,832 to 194,170; and Never Assistance cases increased 5.1% from 120,997 to 127,209.

- Most (85.2%) non-custodial parents are male with an average age of 38.8 years, while most (88.2%) custodial parents are female with an average age of 38.5 years.

- Total collections for SFY 2012 were $686.3 million; about $18.8 million more than projected.

- In SFY 2012, child support cost avoidance was $29.9 million (a 5.4% decrease over SFY 2011) for the Basic Food program and $10.3 million (a 26.3% decrease over SFY 2011) for the TANF program. These equal about 6.3% of the $638 million government expenditure on these two programs for DCS custodial parents and children in the same year.

- In 2011, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported 28,293 births to an unmarried mother. Of these births, DOH reports that 21,863 (77.3%) of the unmarried parents collectively signed and filed WA State Paternity Acknowledgment forms with DOH. The vast majority of these Acknowledgements were signed at the hospital as a result of Washington State's Paternity Program.

# Child Support Program
## Child Support Incentive Scorecard
## FFY2011[1] and FFY2012[2]
Source: Division of Child Support

| MEASURE | GOAL NEEDED TO OBTAIN 100% FUNDING | ACTUAL PERFORMANCE | | PERCENTAGE OF MAXIMUM INCENTIVE REACHED | | ESTIMATED INCENTIVE PAYMENT ($MILLIONS)[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Paternity Establishment Percentage | 80% | 101.6% | 101.3% | 100% | 100% | $3.35 | $3.35 |
| Support Order Establishment | 80% | 89.8% | 90.5% | 100% | 100% | $3.35 | $3.35 |
| Current Collections | 80% | 64.7% | 64.5% | 74% | 74% | $2.48 | $2.48 |
| Arrearage Collections | 80% | 61.5% | 60.4% | 71% | 70% | $1.78 | $1.76 |
| Cost-Effectiveness | $5.00 | $4.68 | $5.30 | 90% | 100% | $2.26 | $2.51 |
| INCENTIVE TOTALS | | | | 85.4% | 87.0% | $13.05 | $13.27 |

[1] FFY 2011 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2011 Preliminary Report.

[2] FFY 2012 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

[3] DCS incentive payments for FFY11 are based on DCS actual FFY11 performance and OCSE FFY11 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY12 are based on DCS actual FFY12 performance and OCSE FFY11 preliminary performance results for all other states. 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.
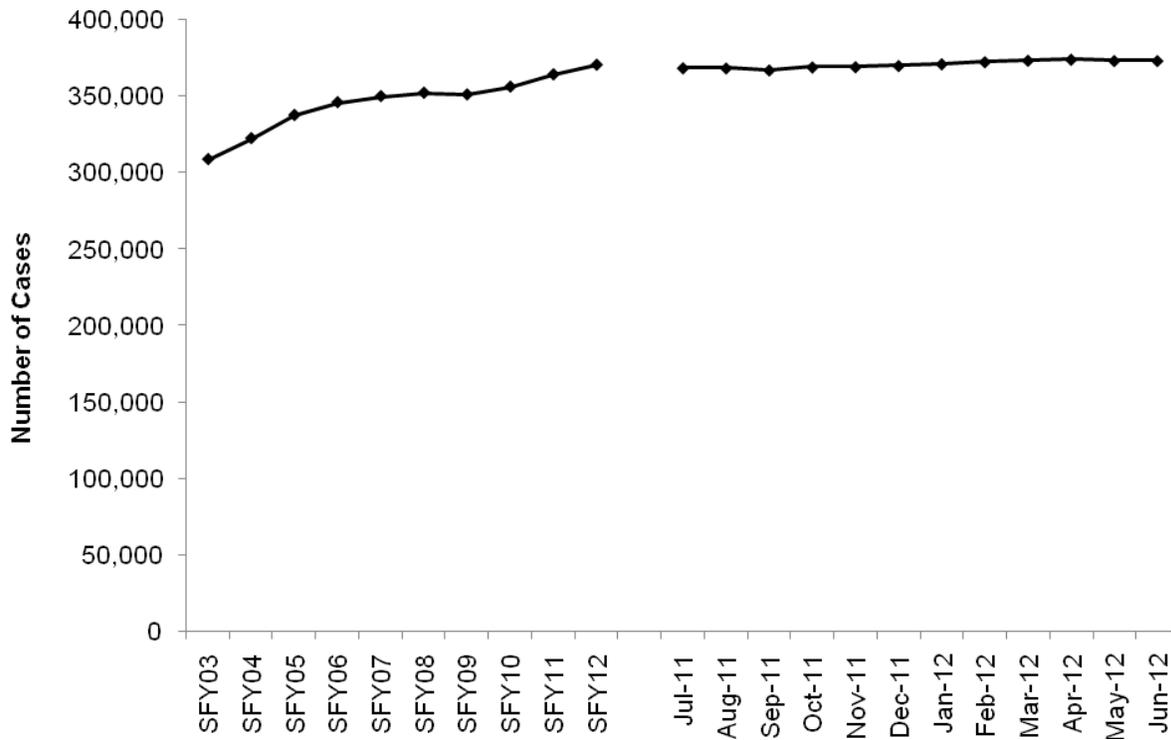
**ARREARAGE COLLECTIONS:** Number of IV-D Cases Paying Toward Arrears divided by Number of IV-D Cases with Arrears Due.

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

## Child Support Caseload[1]
## SFY 2003 through SFY 2012
Source: Division of Child Support



| Year | Cases | Year | Cases |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| **SFY03** | 308,760 | **SFY08** | 352,422 |
| **SFY04** | 322,564 | **SFY09** | 351,315 |
| **SFY05** | 337,810 | **SFY10** | 356,436 |
| **SFY06** | 346,184 | **SFY11** | 364,535 |
| **SFY07** | 350,206 | **SFY12** | 370,830 |

| SFY 2012 | TANF/Foster Care | Former Assistance | Never Assistance | Total IV-D Caseload |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| July | 53,623 | 191,020 | 123,846 | 368,489 |
| August | 53,019 | 191,562 | 123,789 | 368,370 |
| September | 51,776 | 191,314 | 123,937 | 367,027 |
| October | 49,742 | 193,957 | 125,332 | 369,031 |
| November | 48,620 | 194,710 | 125,886 | 369,216 |
| December | 48,558 | 194,681 | 126,705 | 369,944 |
| January | 49,144 | 194,495 | 127,506 | 371,145 |
| February | 48,225 | 195,665 | 128,607 | 372,497 |
| March | 48,031 | 195,936 | 129,541 | 373,508 |
| April | 48,520 | 195,356 | 130,297 | 374,173 |
| May | 47,352 | 195,488 | 130,460 | 373,300 |
| June | 46,808 | 195,852 | 130,604 | 373,264 |
| **Mo. Avg.** | **49,452** | **194,170** | **127,209** | **370,830** |

[1] Case counts are unduplicated.

# Child Support Collections
## SFY 2003 – SFY 2012
Source: Division of Child Support
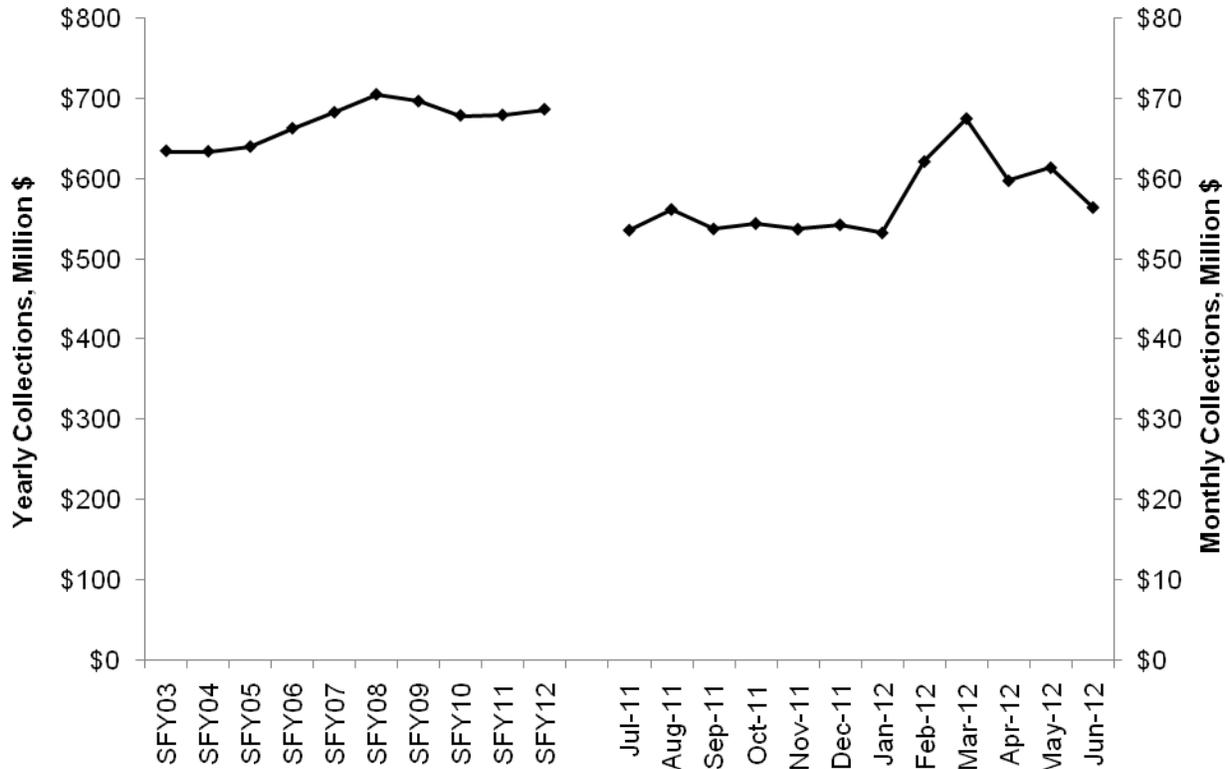


| Year | Collections | Year | Collections |
|---|---|---|---|
| **SFY03** | $634,240,288 | **SFY08** | $704,983,914 |
| **SFY04** | $633,591,434 | **SFY09** | $696,497,265 |
| **SFY05** | $639,591,288 | **SFY10** | $678,663,012 |
| **SFY06** | $662,571,225 | **SFY11** | $679,114,124 |
| **SFY07** | $682,569,955 | **SFY12** | $686,339,317 |

| SFY 2012 | TANF/Foster Care | Former Assistance | Never Assistance | Total IV-D Collections |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **July** | $2,766,187 | $20,818,171 | $30,029,549 | $53,613,906 |
| **August** | $3,076,373 | $21,678,825 | $31,425,003 | $56,180,202 |
| **September** | $2,982,296 | $20,522,409 | $30,266,338 | $53,771,044 |
| **October** | $2,945,348 | $20,852,039 | $30,639,117 | $54,436,505 |
| **November** | $2,725,964 | $20,628,259 | $30,387,131 | $53,741,354 |
| **December** | $2,649,830 | $20,616,044 | $31,015,280 | $54,281,154 |
| **January** | $2,590,463 | $20,041,582 | $30,645,116 | $53,277,161 |
| **February** | $3,962,919 | $25,128,149 | $33,013,549 | $62,104,618 |
| **March** | $4,141,646 | $28,056,497 | $35,230,487 | $67,428,630 |
| **April** | $3,036,185 | $23,320,373 | $33,374,667 | $59,731,226 |
| **May** | $2,998,082 | $24,357,838 | $33,990,266 | $61,346,186 |
| **June** | $2,601,704 | $21,598,352 | $32,227,275 | $56,427,331 |
| **Total** | **$36,476,997** | **$267,618,538** | **$382,243,778** | **$686,339,317** |

# Child Support Collections
## Actual and Projected – July 2010 to June 2012
Source: Division of Child Support
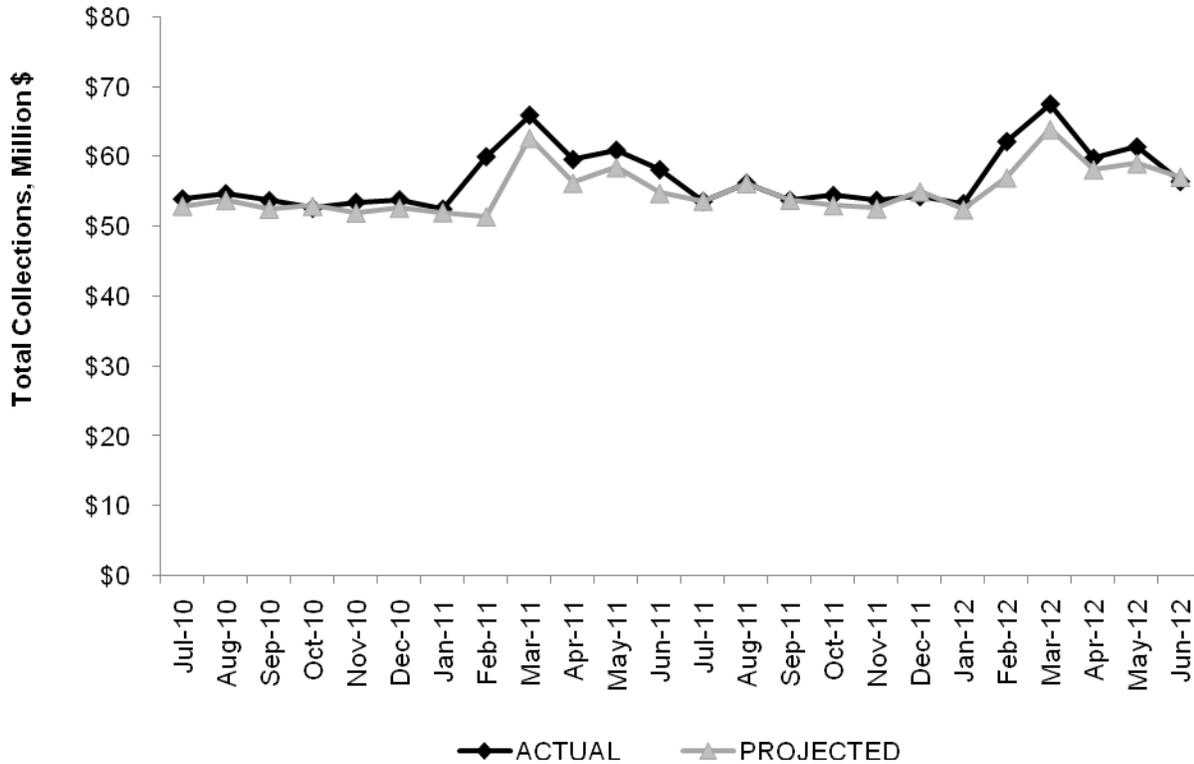


| | SFY2011 | | SFY2012 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Actual** | **Projected** | **Actual** | **Projected** |
| **July** | $53,955,554 | $52,906,551 | $58,107,879 | $54,743,557 |
| **August** | $54,696,617 | $53,735,633 | $53,613,906 | $53,613,907 |
| **September** | $53,694,249 | $52,487,701 | $56,180,202 | $56,180,201 |
| **October** | $52,604,929 | $52,918,115 | $53,771,044 | $53,771,043 |
| **November** | $53,459,936 | $51,928,281 | $54,436,505 | $52,983,235 |
| **December** | $53,840,045 | $52,608,073 | $53,741,354 | $52,550,694 |
| **January** | $52,502,885 | $51,995,967 | $54,281,154 | $54,964,541 |
| **February** | $59,961,172 | $51,365,785 | $53,277,161 | $52,377,895 |
| **March** | $65,846,752 | $62,651,700 | $62,104,618 | $56,974,114 |
| **April** | $59,560,903 | $56,201,013 | $67,428,630 | $63,931,773 |
| **May** | $60,883,203 | $58,441,774 | $59,731,226 | $58,146,110 |
| **June** | $58,107,879 | $54,743,557 | $61,346,186 | $59,015,434 |
| | | | | |
| **Total** | **$679,114,124** | **$651,984,152** | **$686,339,317** | **$671,579,670** |

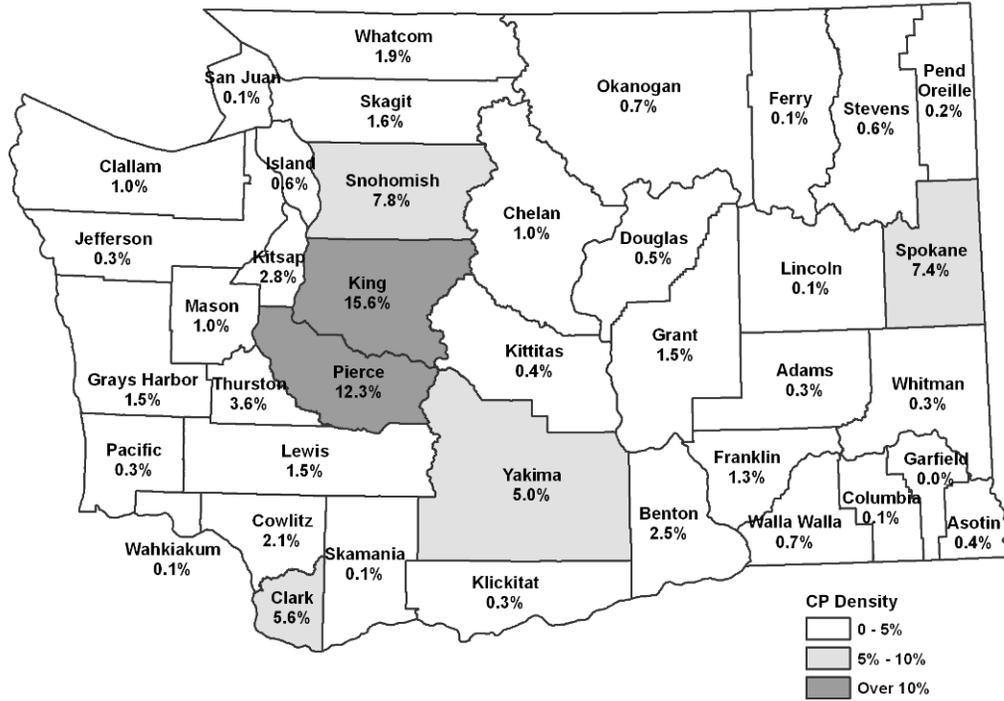## Percentage of Residents Served by DCS During June 2012
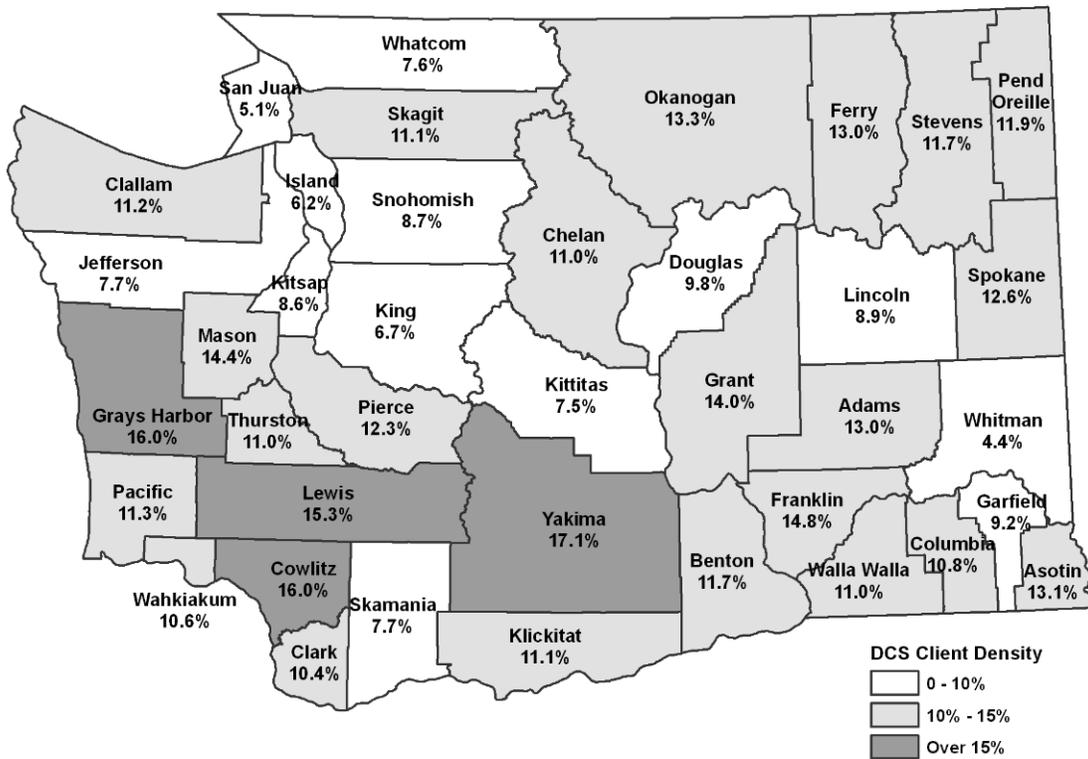


**Note:** The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2012 by the OFM 2012 County Population estimate.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2012

| County | DCS Clients | Population Estimate | % of Residents Served | County | DCS Clients | Population Estimate | % of Residents Served |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 2,486 | 19,050 | 13.0% | Lewis | 11,707 | 76,300 | 15.3% |
| Asotin | 2,844 | 21,700 | 13.1% | Lincoln | 950 | 10,675 | 8.9% |
| Benton | 20,980 | 180,000 | 11.7% | Mason | 8,829 | 61,450 | 14.4% |
| Chelan | 8,047 | 73,200 | 11.0% | Okanogan | 5,528 | 41,425 | 13.3% |
| Clallam | 8,093 | 72,000 | 11.2% | Pacific | 2,362 | 20,970 | 11.3% |
| Clark | 44,989 | 431,250 | 10.4% | Pend Oreille | 1,559 | 13,100 | 11.9% |
| Columbia | 443 | 4,100 | 10.8% | Pierce | 99,020 | 808,200 | 12.3% |
| Cowlitz | 16,494 | 103,050 | 16.0% | San Juan | 817 | 15,925 | 5.1% |
| Douglas | 3,816 | 38,900 | 9.8% | Skagit | 13,044 | 117,950 | 11.1% |
| Ferry | 993 | 7,650 | 13.0% | Skamania | 864 | 11,275 | 7.7% |
| Franklin | 12,205 | 82,500 | 14.8% | Snohomish | 62,619 | 722,900 | 8.7% |
| Garfield | 207 | 2,250 | 9.2% | Spokane | 60,135 | 475,600 | 12.6% |
| Grant | 12,710 | 91,000 | 14.0% | Stevens | 5,097 | 43,700 | 11.7% |
| Grays Harbor | 11,675 | 73,150 | 16.0% | Thurston | 28,252 | 256,800 | 11.0% |
| Island | 4,911 | 79,350 | 6.2% | Wahkiakum | 426 | 4,025 | 10.6% |
| Jefferson | 2,323 | 30,175 | 7.7% | Walla Walla | 6,489 | 59,100 | 11.0% |
| King | 131,139 | 1,957,000 | 6.7% | Whatcom | 15,437 | 203,500 | 7.6% |
| Kitsap | 21,951 | 254,500 | 8.6% | Whitman | 2,015 | 45,950 | 4.4% |
| Kittitas | 3,093 | 41,500 | 7.5% | Yakima | 42,102 | 246,000 | 17.1% |
| Klickitat | 2,277 | 20,600 | 11.1% | **State Total** | **678,928** | **6,817,770** | **10.0%** |

## Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2012

Whatcom 1.9%
San Juan 0.1%
Skagit 1.6%
Okanogan 0.7%
Ferry 0.1%
Stevens 0.6%
Pend Oreille 0.2%
Clallam 1.0%
Island 0.6%
Snohomish 7.8%
Chelan 1.0%
Douglas 0.5%
Lincoln 0.1%
Spokane 7.4%
Jefferson 0.3%
Kitsap 2.8%
King 15.6%
Mason 1.0%
Grant 1.5%
Adams 0.3%
Whitman 0.3%
Grays Harbor 1.5%
Thurston 3.6%
Pierce 12.3%
Kittitas 0.4%
Lewis 1.5%
Yakima 5.0%
Franklin 1.3%
Garfield 0.0%
Pacific 0.3%
Columbia 0.1%
Asotin 0.4%
Wahkiakum 0.1%
Cowlitz 2.1%
Skamania 0.1%
Klickitat 0.3%
Benton 2.5%
Walla Walla 0.7%
Clark 5.6%

**CP Density**
0 - 5%
5% - 10%
Over 10%

Note: 16.8% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2012

## Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2012

Whatcom 1.6%
San Juan 0.1%
Skagit 1.3%
Okanogan 0.5%
Ferry 0.1%
Stevens 0.5%
Pend Oreille 0.1%
Clallam 0.9%
Island 0.5%
Snohomish 6.3%
Chelan 0.8%
Douglas 0.3%
Lincoln 0.1%
Spokane 6.1%
Jefferson 0.2%
Kitsap 2.1%
King 13.3%
Mason 1.2%
Grant 1.2%
Adams 0.2%
Whitman 0.2%
Grays Harbor 1.3%
Thurston 2.6%
Pierce 9.6%
Kittitas 0.3%
Lewis 1.2%
Yakima 4.0%
Franklin 1.2%
Garfield 0.0%
Pacific 0.2%
Columbia 0.0%
Asotin 0.3%
Wahkiakum 0.0%
Cowlitz 1.6%
Skamania 0.1%
Klickitat 0.2%
Benton 1.9%
Walla Walla 0.7%
Clark 4.1%

**NCP Density**
0 - 5%
5% - 10%
Over 10%

Note: 33.1% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2012

# Child Support Client Demographics
## June 2012
Source: Division of Child Support SEMS (Support Enforcement Management System)

| Characteristic | Non-Custodial Parents | | Custodial Parents | | Children | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| **TOTAL** | **279,315** | **100.0%** | **296,381** | **100.0%** | **345,500** | **100.0%** |
| **Gender** | | | | | | |
| Female | 40,682 | 14.6% | 261,406 | 88.2% | 169,513 | 49.1% |
| Male | 237,870 | 85.2% | 32,298 | 10.9% | 175,538 | 50.8% |
| Unknown | 763 | 0.3% | 2,677 | .9% | 449 | 0.1% |
| **Age of Parents** | | | | | | |
| < 26 Years Old | 25,232 | 9.0% | 33,579 | 11.2% | | |
| 26 – 35 Years Old | 90,486 | 33.1% | 95,355 | 32.9% | | |
| 36 – 45 Years Old | 96,775 | 34.5% | 93,788 | 31.8% | | |
| 46 – 55 Years Old | 50,858 | 18.3% | 48,982 | 16.7% | | |
| 55+ Years Old | 10,231 | 3.9% | 18,030 | 6.4% | | |
| **Age of Children** | | | | | | |
| < 6 Year Old | | | | | 91,605 | 26.5% |
| 6 – 10 Years Old | | | | | 94,105 | 27.2% |
| 11 – 15 Years Old | | | | | 103,970 | 30.1% |
| 16 – 18 Years Old | | | | | 46,793 | 13.5% |
| 18+ Years Old | | | | | 8,731 | 2.5% |
| **Mean Age** | 38.8 Years Old | | 38.5 Years Old | | 10.1 Years Old | |
| **Median Age** | 37.4 Years Old | | 38.0 Years Old | | 10.2 Years Old | |

## Child Support Cost Avoidance for Basic Food and TANF
### SFY2012
Source: DCS SEMS, ESA-ACES, ESD wage data

| SFY12 | Basic Food | | | TANF | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 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 | $106.5 | $162.2 | $2,425,894 | $15.4 | $37.1 | $843,899 |
| August | $106.7 | $164.2 | $2,508,862 | $15.3 | $37.9 | $870,447 |
| September | $106.0 | $164.8 | $2,538,459 | $14.9 | $37.9 | $877,693 |
| October | $106.1 | $166.7 | $2,592,056 | $14.6 | $38.4 | $912,094 |
| November | $105.3 | $166.2 | $2,592,237 | $14.4 | $37.9 | $876,053 |
| December | $104.8 | $165.5 | $2,568,231 | $13.9 | $37.4 | $876,404 |
| January | $104.6 | $167.7 | $2,684,562 | $13.8 | $37.4 | $874,988 |
| February | $107.4 | $164.3 | $2,524,965 | $15.2 | $36.5 | $800,072 |
| March | $108.1 | $163.0 | $2,537,884 | $15.1 | $35.7 | $818,693 |
| April | $108.2 | $163.3 | $2,567,319 | $15.0 | $35.9 | $841,316 |
| May | $108.7 | $163.7 | $2,326,485 | $14.8 | $36.1 | $868,165 |
| June | $109.5 | $162.0 | $2,082,181 | $14.2 | $35.2 | $803,836 |
| Total | - | - | $29,949,138 | - | - | $10,263,660 |

[1] CR: Custodial parents with regular child support payments. Regular child support payments are defined as summed monthly order amountsmore 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
### SFY2009[1]
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.
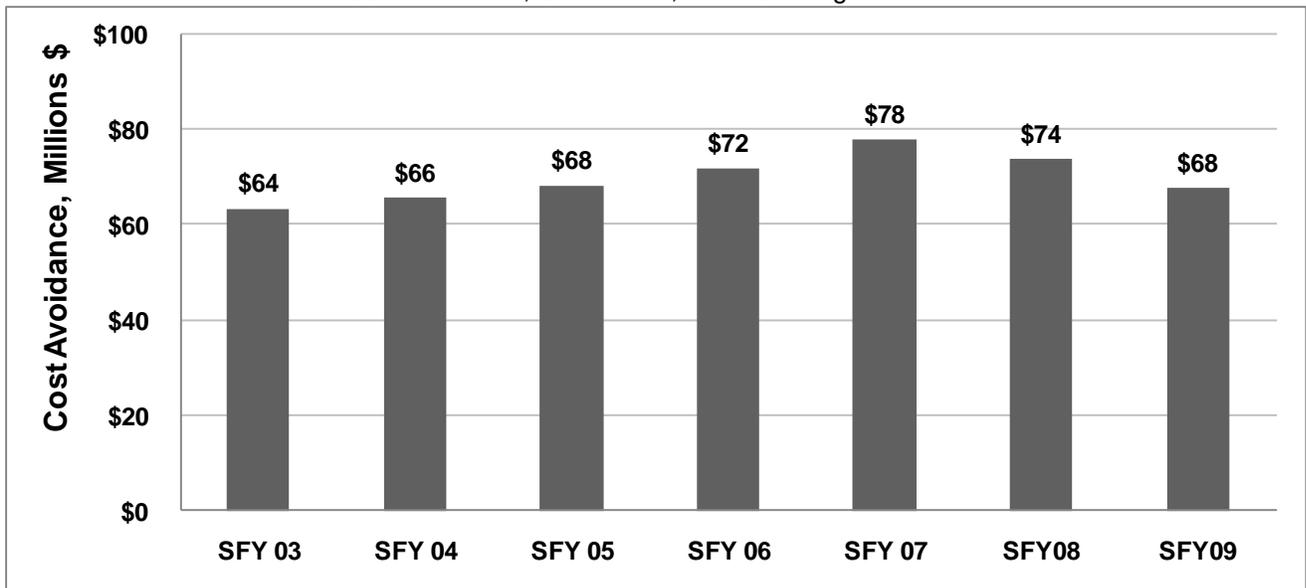
[2] CP: custodial parents

## Child Support Cost Avoidance, Millions – Basic Food & TANF
### SFY 2003 - SFY 2012
Source: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include:
DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data
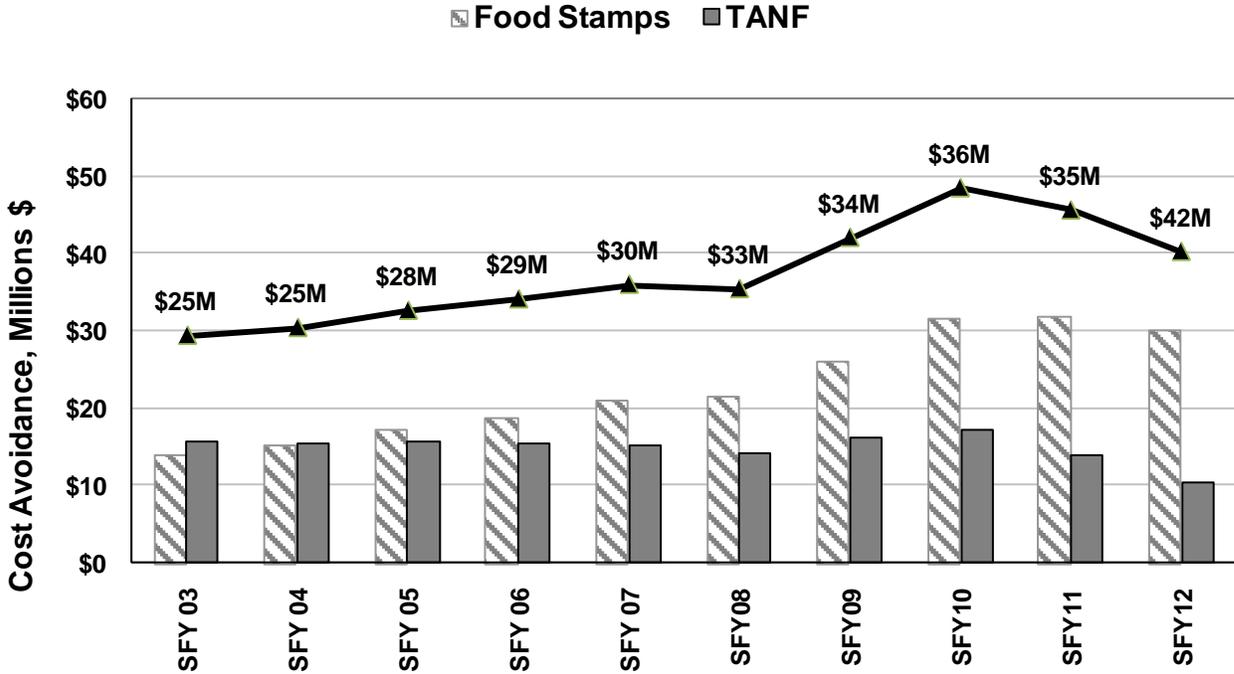


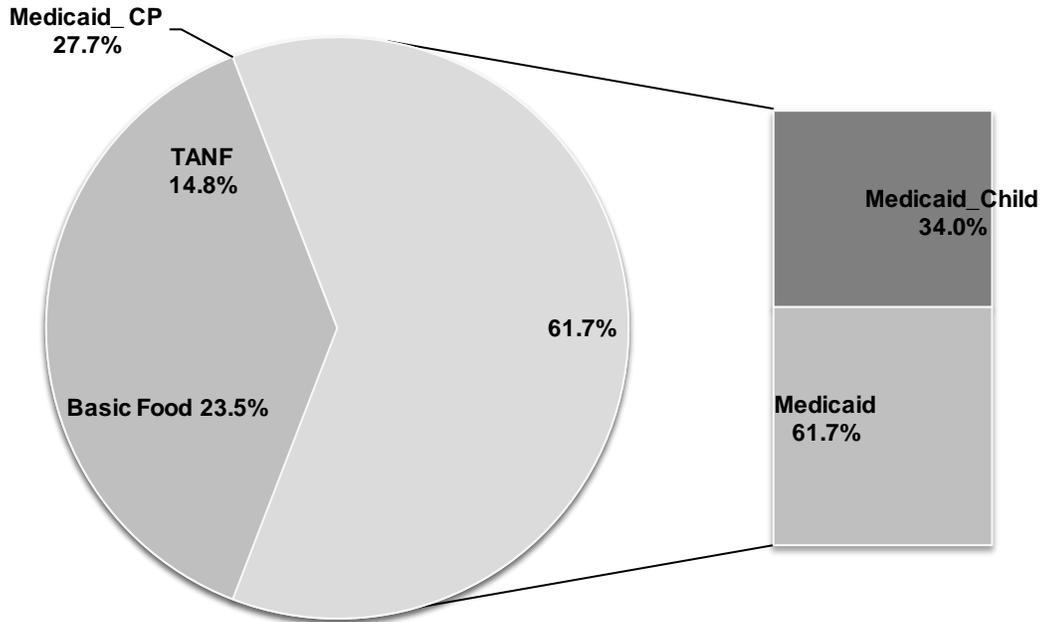## Child Support Cost Avoidance, Millions – Medicaid
### SFY 2003 - SFY 2009
Source: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include:
DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data

# 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

**Medicaid_ CP**
**27.7%**

**TANF**
**14.8%**

**61.7%**

**Basic Food 23.5%**

**Medicaid_Child**
**34.0%**

**Medicaid**
**61.7%**

# Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgments and Genetic Testing

## Voluntary Paternity Program Background

Until July 2011, Washington State's Department of Health (DOH) called its acknowledgment of paternity form a "paternity affidavit." As of July 22, 2011, DOH changed the name of the form to a Paternity Acknowledgment to be consistent with statutory language.

The Washington State Paternity Acknowledgment 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 Acknowledgment at the child's birth or shortly thereafter.  Most Paternity Acknowledgments 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.

The 2011 Legislature enacted significant changes to the Uniform Parentage Act, Chapter 26.26 RCW. These changes went into effect July 22, 2011. The Paternity Affidavit is now the Paternity Acknowledgment. There were content and format changes to the document. The video and brochure, *Establish Parentage for Your Child's Sake, What Every Parent Should Know,* were updated to reflect changes in the law. Birthing hospitals and other providers were provided with the new information and materials. They were also asked to destroy all pre-July 2011 materials as DOH would no longer accept the **Paternity Affidavit** form effective July 22, 2011.

A hospital, midwife, or other entity must provide an opportunity for unmarried parents to sign a Paternity Acknowledgment 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 Acknowledgment) and oral notice (a short video, 1-800 line). Upon receipt of a properly completed and notarized Paternity Acknowledgment, DOH must name the father on the birth certificate.

**Effects of the Paternity Acknowledgment:**  A properly filed Paternity Acknowledgment 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 Acknowledgment also makes a child eligible to participate in any available social security, veterans', life insurance and health insurance benefits.

**Results:**  The signed Paternity Acknowledgment 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 Acknowledgment.  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 Acknowledgment Program, DCS saves the taxpayers more than $13,000,000 yearly.  In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012, 25,785 paternities were established, 76.5 percent by Paternity Acknowledgment, compared to 73.7 percent in SFY 2011.

## Voluntary Paternity Testing Program

DCS continues to operate the Voluntary Paternity Testing Program (VPTP), after the conclusion of the successful Bright Start demonstration grant which operated August 1, 2005 through July 31, 2009. There were two successful strategies from the demonstration grant that previously were not part of the Paternity Program.  First, DCS pays for Notaries Public at the State's birthing hospitals.  Second, the DCS also

offers unmarried parents no-cost genetic testing in a non-judicial setting.  With the VPTP, hospital staff can offer an application for genetic testing to unmarried parents uncertain of paternity.