

The authors go on to estimate the cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States in 2007 to be \$103.8 billion. This cost is based on the number of children who could be classified as being abused or neglected according to the Harm Standard in the Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-3) and only the cost related to victims are included.

While the causes of child abuse and neglect are complex, research has identified risk factors that contribute to child maltreatment. These factors include: family history of abuse, parental substance abuse, mental illness or mental retardation, childhood disability, domestic violence, lack of parenting skills and knowledge, extreme poverty, social isolation, and life stress overload. Effective prevention programs identify family risk factors and develop service approaches that target these risk factors.

Placement/Counseling Services for Youth

Regional Crisis Residential Centers

Regional Crisis Residential Centers (CRCs), as authorized by state statute, are emergency, temporary shelters available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to runaway youth and youth in conflict with their families. Access to these shelters is usually arranged through the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Children's Administration (CA), DSHS. When the youth enters the CRC, the CRC staff contacts the family and can arrange on-site family counseling. Foster homes can also provide short-term temporary care for youth in conflict with their families.

The number of regional CRC beds has declined notably in recent years, as a result of the 2005-2007 budget, which reduced regional CRC spending by 25 percent. There were 52 regional CRC beds from 2002 to 2004; in September 2012, there are 29 regional CRC beds available statewide. These 29 CRC beds are located in six of the state's 39 counties (Clark, King, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, and Yakima).

Secure Crisis Residential Centers

The At-Risk/Runaway Youth Act, effective in July

1995, authorized the creation of "Secure" Crisis Residential Centers (S-CRCs) to receive runaway children taken into custody by law enforcement officers. It also provides for the creation of multi-disciplinary teams to provide assistance and support to a youth and his or her parents. Teams may be formed at the request of a youth placed at the facility, or at the request of a parent. The administrator of the facility may also convene a team if there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is in need of services and the parent is unavailable or unwilling to continue efforts to maintain the family structure.

RCW 13.32A.130 was amended in 2009, to provide that a youth admitted to a secure crisis residential facility not located in a juvenile detention center or a semi-secure facility may remain for up to 15 consecutive days. "If a child is transferred between a secure and semi-secure facility, the aggregate length of time a child may remain in both facilities, shall not exceed 15 consecutive days per admission, and in no event may a child's stay in a secure facility located in a juvenile detention center exceed five days per admission."

Youth may be placed in a S-CRC by law enforcement, and under limited circumstances, by transfer from a semi-secure facility if the youth is assessed as a risk to run. Additionally, in 2000 the Act was amended to expand the population of youth eligible for admission to some S-CRCs. Since June 2000 state law has allowed juvenile courts to order detention of a child for contempt of court related to a status offense proceeding/order to either a detention facility or a S-CRC which is located within a separate section of a detention facility. No more than 50 percent of the S-CRC population can be comprised of youth held for contempt of court.

In 2009, the number of Secure CRC beds was reduced from 60 beds total within nine facilities to 40 beds total within six facilities, as a result of reductions to the 2009 operating budget. As of September 2012, there are 33 total Secure CRC beds statewide within five facilities. Two of these CRCs are located within specific designated areas of secure juvenile detention facilities—in Chelan and Clallam counties, representing 8 beds total—and

¹⁵ Data obtained in September 2012 from the DSHS Research & Data Analysis (RDA) Executive Management Information System (EMIS), "Crisis Residential Center Services—Secure CRC" report.

the remaining 3 are privately operated facilities that meet the federal definition of staff-secure facilities. During SFY 2011 (July 2010 to June 2011), there was a total of 1,016 admissions/placements of youth to the secure crisis residential centers (combined), a decrease (37 percent) from SFY 2010 when there were 1,612 total admissions.¹⁵

Findings from the second year of a multi-site evaluation conducted by Rainier Research Associates provide characteristics of the runaway youth placed in S-CRCs. During SFY 06, data for admissions to the privately-operated (non-detention) S-CRCs showed: 59 percent of the admissions were female youth; average age was 15.1 years; almost one-half (43 percent) were minority; the average number of visits to a S-CRC during the past 12 months was 2.1 visits; and the average length of stay was 57 hours (about 2-1/2 days). Less than one-half of the admissions were released to a parent (46 percent); consequently, the release destination for only about one-half (52%) of the youth was 'home.' Approximately two-thirds (63%) of the youth had parental guardians and 27 percent were wards of the state, while six percent were in the custody of an "other guardian" or foster parent (legal status at release from the facility).

Conclusions from the third year multi-site evaluation report¹⁶ (including a summary/process analysis of the Snohomish County D.A.R.T.S. Bridges project) included: boys are more likely to repeat runaway behavior than are girls; youth who are in the custody of a foster parent are much more likely to repeat their runaway behavior compared to youth who are in the custody of a parent or parents; there is consistent evidence that receipt of FRS Phase II counseling services may reduce runaway behavior by about 19 percent; the use of a multidisciplinary team did not have a statistically significant effect on reducing recidivism to runaway behavior; and, in general, if a youth is put under the protection of a CHINS, he or she is neither more nor less likely to repeat runaway behavior than is a youth who does not have such protection (i.e., the filing of a CHINS did not have a statistically significant effect on reducing recidivism).

¹⁶ "Net Impact Study - Multi-Site Evaluation for Runaway Youth Projects, 2006-2007 Project Year: Process Analysis of the Snohomish County D.A.R.T.S./Bridges Project: A Three Year Summary from 2004-05 through 2006-07," Rainier Research Associates, Olympia, Washington, February 2008.

Assessment Services

Diagnostic Assessment Services are offered to children and youth in the care of the state who may qualify for more intensive services. Assessment services typically last no more than 90 days. Assessment services provided to youth include: assessment of the contributing factors to the child's behaviors; assessment of the strengths and needs of the family system; case planning; case management; and individual and family treatment. From assessment care, a child may be placed in treatment foster care, residential care or may return to the family setting with additional community supports.

Hope Centers and Responsible Living Skills Programs

The 1998 Washington State Legislature established HOPE Centers and Responsible Living Skills Programs to address the needs of dependent homeless and/or street youth who were not the primary focus of the "Becca Law," in that they do not have active, responsible parents in their lives. A "street youth" is defined in RCW as a person under the age of 18 who lives outdoors or in another unsafe location not intended for occupancy.

The objective of Hope Centers is to perform a comprehensive assessment of the youth, and establish an appropriate permanency placement plan. HOPE Centers are 30-day temporary residential facilities, primarily intended to serve older adolescent "street youth," for whom traditional child welfare services have proved ineffective.

Responsible Living Skills (RLS) Programs are designed for dependent street youth age 16 to 18, who have not found success in other traditional state placement. The RLS Program provides residential and transitional living services with an emphasis on independent living skills. In order for a youth to be eligible for the RLS Program, a youth must have first resided in a HOPE Center or in a S-CRC. However, this requirement may be waived if the social worker feels this is the most suitable placement; occasionally, a youth age 14-15 may qualify to reside in an RLS program.

Currently (September 2012), there are a total of 23 Hope beds, a decrease from 2007 through 2009, when there were 27-28 beds available statewide, and a significant increase from prior years (there were 15-18 beds from 2003 to 2006).

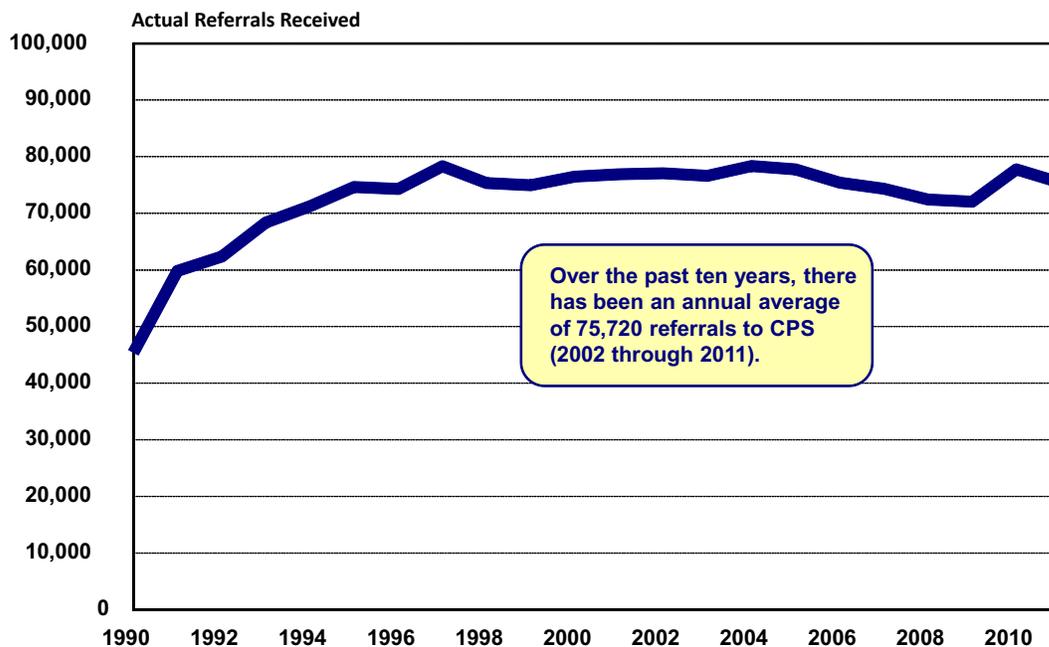
TABLE 36
Referrals to Child Protective Services *
2002 - 2011

Month	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
January	6,593	6,613	6,088	6,335	6,446	6,933	6,645	6,296	6,582	6,983
February	6,127	6,426	6,032	6,143	6,177	6,245	6,104	6,666	6,067	6,298
March	7,479	7,498	6,677	6,701	7,280	7,358	7,320	7,832	6,764	7,029
April	6,597	7,421	6,595	6,622	6,317	6,134	6,559	7,136	6,626	7,041
May	7,148	7,192	6,529	6,792	7,292	7,414	7,717	7,075	7,373	7,690
June	6,467	6,076	6,225	5,870	5,999	6,364	6,757	6,662	6,185	6,146
July	4,454	5,411	5,253	5,306	5,291	5,237	5,427	5,517	5,797	5,466
August	5,673	5,809	5,098	5,170	5,666	5,794	5,990	5,852	5,400	5,481
September	6,477	6,508	5,934	6,147	5,905	6,138	6,760	6,245	6,671	6,336
October	6,560	6,961	6,076	6,680	6,846	6,815	6,831	6,763	7,274	7,128
November	5,926	6,040	5,790	5,520	6,083	5,819	6,107	6,251	5,739	5,792
December	5,911	5,819	5,743	5,137	5,053	5,162	5,553	6,041	6,143	5,661
TOTAL	75,412	77,774	72,040	72,423	74,355	75,413	77,770	78,336	76,621	77,051
Average per Month	6,284	6,481	6,003	6,035	6,196	6,284	6,481	6,528	6,385	6,421

Data obtained from Research and Data Analysis, Dept. of Social & Health Services, Exec. Mgmt. Information System (EMIS) Reports; Source: Case Management Information System (CAMIS) REFPRT - Intake Referral Statistics Report, *Total Intake Referrals by Program*; 2011 data using EMIS report last updated 1/25/2012.

* The data represent counts of field workers receipts of reportings and referrals about incidences (includes multiple counts of incidents and/or individuals). The data provided is the "Actual" number of referrals received.

Graph 15
Referrals Received by Child Protective Services
1990 - 2011



Source: DSHS Research & Data Analysis, Exec. Management Information System, Case Management Information System (CAMIS) -Intake Referral Statistics Reports (updated February 2012 using EMIS report update 1/25/2012).

In 2012, there are six Responsible Living Skills Program providers, with a total of 28 beds.

Foster Care and Residential Care

Family foster care serves most of the children who need out of home care due to abuse, neglect or family conflict. Children live with individual families who are licensed by the Children's Administration (CA) either through the Division of Licensed Resources or through authorized Child Placing Agencies.

Family Reconciliation Services

Within CA, the Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) program provides services to families in conflict and to runaway youth and their families. The goal of FRS is to preserve, strengthen, and reconcile families in conflict. The range of services provided is designed to help families find solutions to their conflicts by developing skills and supports to maintain the family unit. Service delivery begins with the least intensive, least intrusive intervention appropriate in the individual case circumstance.

Services are voluntary, family-focused, and rely on the family's participation. FRS is available at no cost to the family. Participation in FRS cannot be a condition on a family for dismissing a dependency or closing a CPS case. If appropriate, FRS services may be offered to families involved in other CA programs, including CPS or CFWS.

FRS is comprised of two service categories:

Assessment & Brief Intervention: These are short-term interactions between Children's Administration (CA) staff and the family requesting services. The services are directed towards de-escalating the immediate crisis, defining the goals of the family seeking services, and exploring options to meet those goals. When possible, the family's kinship and community support systems should be utilized.

Contracted Counseling: When it is determined the family would benefit from services from CA beyond assessment and brief intervention, the social worker may offer the family contracted services based on the unique needs of the family. Contracted counseling for FRS primarily consists of Crisis Family Intervention and Functional Family Therapy.

From 2010 to 2011 there was a decrease (11.6 percent) in the number of families receiving As-

essment and Brief Intervention services (formerly Phase I), and approximately an 11 percent decrease in the number of families served through FRS In-Home Contracted counseling.

Family Preservation Services

In addition to FRS, preservation services are provided through the Division of Children and Family Services, Children's Administration, DSHS. Family Preservation Services (FPS) and Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) are available. FPS is available to families whose children face a substantial likelihood of being placed outside of the home or to reunify a child with their family from out-of-home care. These services are available within 48 hours of the referral, and are offered for a maximum of six months provided by a contracted service provider. IFPS is a voluntary service that provides up to 20 hours of in-home therapy weekly, when a family has a child who DCFS believes is at imminent risk of foster care placement. These services are available seven days per week, 24 hours per day, for approximately a 40-day period of time.

Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and At-Risk Youth (ARY)

Under the provisions of the Child in Need of Services (CHINS), the parent, the child or DSHS can file a petition for out of home placement. Placement may be in a foster home or a group home. A multidisciplinary team may be formed to provide assistance and support to children and parents.

In 2010, a total of 246 CHINS were filed, a slight increase (3 percent) from 239 CHINS filings in 2009. In July 1995, CHINS replaced the Alternative Residential Placement process. From 1997 to 1999, the number of CHINS petitions filed had remained fairly constant at 529 to 534 filings, and ranged from 467 to 408 filings during the period 2001 to 2004. From 2006 to 2010, the number of filings per year has ranged from a high of 354 in 2006, to a low of 239 in 2009. There were 26 contempt hearings held related to a CHINS order/proceeding in 2010.

Parents of at-risk youth may petition the court to order the youth to remain in the home. An at-risk youth is defined by statute as a juvenile (under the age of 18): who is absent from home for more than 72 consecutive hours without parental consent; who is beyond the control of the parent

such that the child's behavior substantially endangers the health, safety or welfare of the child or another person; or who has a substance abuse problem for which there are no pending criminal charges related to the substance abuse.

In 2010, there were 1,861 At-Risk Youth filings, a 5 percent increase from 1,771 ARY filings in 2009. There has been an average of 1,988 ARY petition filings annually over the past five years (from 2006 to 2010). There were 2,118 contempt hearings held in 2010 related to an ARY order/proceeding. The number of contempt hearings held related to an ARY proceeding or order continues to be significant from 1998 forward. From 2006 to 2010, the number of contempt hearings held related to an ARY petition averaged 2,306 annually, with a 1.4 percent increase in the number of hearings held from 2009 to 2010.

Truancy

Changes in the state law in 1995 require the filing of truancy petitions by school districts under certain conditions when a youth required to attend public school has seven unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a school year. Additionally, a parent may file a truancy petition with the juvenile court if the school district fails to file a petition, if a child has five or more unexcused absences in any month during a school year, or upon the 10th unexcused absence during a school year.

In 2012, the state legislature made changes to the truancy provisions (Senate bill 6494) that changed the applicability of mandatory truancy petition filing provisions to children under seventeen years of age (i.e., districts are not required to file on 17 year olds); that require initial petitions to contain information about the child's academic status; that prohibit issuance of a bench warrant at an initial truancy status hearing; and that modify school district reporting requirements after the court assumes jurisdiction in a truancy case (the school district must periodically update the court about the child's academic status).

In 1996, in conjunction with the enactment of the At Risk/Runaway Youth Act, the number of petitions filed quadrupled (over a 300 percent increase in the number of filings). Approximately 15 to 16,000 truancy petitions were filed annually with juvenile courts from 1997 through 2001.

From 2002 to 2004, the number of truancy filings declined (to an average of 13,145 annually). From 2005 through 2008, the number of truancy petitions filed again increased, ranging from 14,500 to over 16,000 filings annually. There was a 17.5 percent decrease in truancy petitions filed from 2008 to 2009, and a slight decrease (3.7%) from 2009 to 2010 (there were 12,374 filings in 2010). In 2010, 46 percent of the truancy filings were female youth, and approximately 54 percent were male youth.

From 2004 to 2008, the number of contempt hearings held related to a truancy order/proceeding averaged 5,100 annually. In 2009, there was a significant decrease (55 percent) in the number of contempt hearings held related to a Truancy order (see information regarding Court of Appeals opinion, below). In 2010, the number of contempt hearings related to a truancy order increased by approximately 54 percent from 2009 (from 2,278 to 3,500).

On January 12, 2009, the State Court of Appeals published an opinion that had a significant impact on the truancy petition process (and subsequently on significantly reducing truancy contempt filings and admissions to juvenile detention facilities related to a truancy order/proceeding—for contempt or FTA). The case, titled "Bellevue School District v. E.S." found that the youth had not been afforded legal counsel at the time the original truancy petition was filed in court (the fact-finding stage). The appellate court concluded that a child's interest in liberty, privacy and right to an education are in jeopardy, and a child is unable to protect those interests without counsel; due process demands that the child be represented at the initial truancy hearing.

As a result of this decision (Bellevue School District v. E.S., 148 Wash. App. 205 (2009), petition for review granted July 7, 2009), in 2009 most of the juvenile courts across the state subsequently dismissed all current contempt cases related to a truancy filing if the youth had not been afforded counsel at the fact finding stage; sentenced truants were released from detention, EM or other alternative programming. Also, truancy warrants were recalled by the court for students that did not respond to the contempt hearing if they were not represented by counsel at the initial hearing.

The statewide total orders on contempt, and admissions to detention facilities related to a truancy contempt finding, showed a significant (over 60%) decrease from 2008 to 2009.

On June 9, 2011, the Washington State Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals decision, and found that neither the due process clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution nor the due process clause set forth in the Washington State Constitution would require appointment of counsel at the initial truancy proceeding stage; it was concluded there were no significant interests at stake (i.e., the youth's physical liberty) warranting appointment of counsel at the initial hearing where the determination is made if the student is truant under state statute; and it was noted that the youth has the right to counsel at contempt hearings related to a truancy order.

TABLE 37

**Crisis Residential Center (CRC),
Responsible Living Skills Program (RLSP)
and Hope Center Beds by County -- 2012**

County	Regional CRC Beds	Secure CRC Beds	RLSP Beds	Hope Ctr Beds
Chelan		4		
Clallam		4		
Clark	4	6		3
King	3	15	4	4
Pierce			7	
Skagit			3	
Snohomish	6		4	4
Spokane	8		4	5
Thurston	4		6	3
Whatcom				1
Yakima	4	4		3
Total	29	33	28	23

Source of data: Children's Administration, DSHS, updated September 2012.