

SERIES 1

Children and Families
of Incarcerated
Parents



AUGUST 20, 2008
Report 11.138

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Children of DOC incarcerated parents use DSHS services at very high rates

Briefing prepared for

Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents Advisory Committee

By

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services
Planning, Performance & Accountability Administration
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Olympia, Washington

ABOUT THESE FINDINGS

This is the **first of a series** of analyses prepared to satisfy reporting requirements under E2SHB 1422 which requires the Department of Social and Health Services to “gather information and data on the recipients of assistance who are the children and families of inmates incarcerated at department of corrections facilities.

The findings represent preliminary analyses from the initial round of matching of **DSHS client data**, **DOC facility data**, and **birth certificate records**. The numbers of children with DOC parents will increase as more sources are added.

Future analyses will be refined to include:

- Information from linkages to data in other systems (for example, school outcomes)
- Additional information to establish family relationships (for example, support enforcement data)
- Data over a longer time period that will allow us to look at all children under 18
- More information about the timing of incarceration and service events in relation to outcomes for children and families

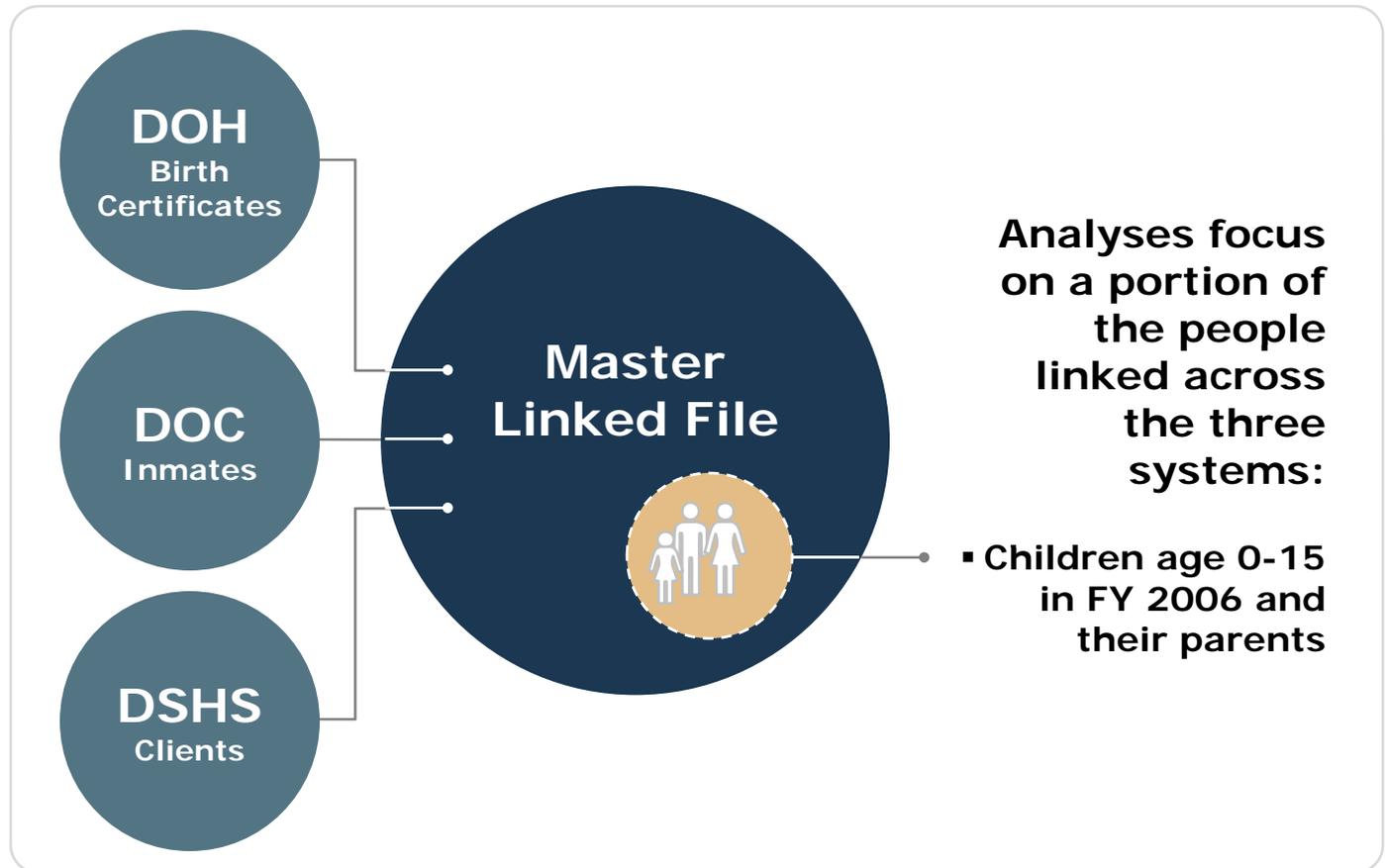


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Overview

Files from Departments of Health, Corrections, and Social and Health Services were linked:

- **Washington Birth Certificates (DOH)**—1990 to 2005
- **Inmates (DOC)**—Several decades prior to October 2007
- **Clients (DSHS)**—FY 2006



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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About the Department of Corrections (DOC)

The Department of Corrections is responsible for administering adult corrections programs operated by the state of Washington. This includes state correctional institutions and programs for offenders supervised in the community. The confinement population consists of over 18,000 inmates a month who reside at any one of 15 institutions throughout the state.

For the following analyses, records were available for persons confined at DOC facilities only. Information about time spent under community supervision, housed in a local jail, in federal prison, or another state correctional or jail facility was not available.

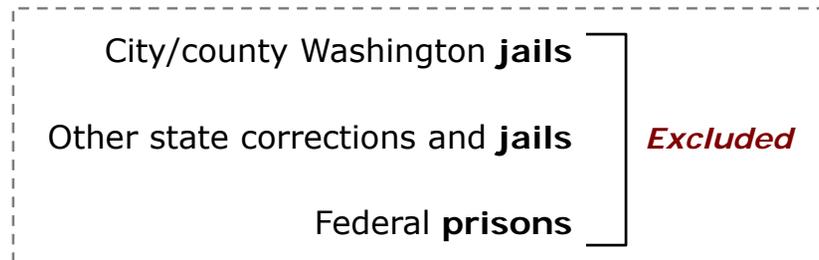


The Universe of Placement Options

Washington State
Department of Corrections



Other facilities:



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ACRONYMNS

CA	Children's Administration
DASA	Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
DD	Division of Developmental Disabilities
ESA	Economic Services Administration
JRA	Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
MA	Medical Assistance
MHD	Mental Health Division

About the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

DSHS is Washington State's umbrella agency for people who turn for help in times of need. The Department serves over 2 million people a year—one third of the state's population. DSHS' major service areas are:

1. **Children's Administration**—Seeks to ensure the safety and protection of children who are abused or neglected by their caregivers. Promotes family reconciliation.
2. **Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse**—Provides alcohol- and drug-related prevention, intervention, treatment, and aftercare services to low-income persons.
3. **Division of Developmental Disabilities**—Provides support services and opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities resulting from mental retardation, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, or similar neurological conditions originating before adulthood.
4. **Economic Services Administration**—Provides cash assistance, work-focused services, food benefits, and social services to help low-income individuals and families meet their basic needs and achieve economic independence. Also manages court ordered child support enforcement.
5. **Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration**—Serves youth who have been adjudicated in Juvenile Court and sentenced for a minimum and maximum term in state facilities.
6. **Medical Assistance**—Assures necessary medical care is available to persons on income assistance and other eligible low-income persons.
7. **Mental Health Division**—Administers treatment services for adults and children who are severely and/or chronically mentally ill.
8. **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation***—Serves individuals who want to work but have difficulty with employment due to a physical, sensory, cognitive, or mental disability.
9. **Agging and Adult Services***—Serves fail elderly persons, as well as functionally disabled people over 17 years of age.

** These two programs were excluded from the subsequent findings because relatively few children or families of incarcerated parents were found to be in need of these services.*

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Key Findings

- 1. In FY2006, there were 44,368 young people under the age of 16 born in Washington State between 1989 and 2005 to parents who have served time in a state prison operated by DOC—some may no longer be living in Washington**
- 2. 80 percent of the youth born to DOC ever-incarcerated parents used services from DSHS during FY2006 (35,344 out of 44,368)**
- 3. The 35,344 children of ever-DOC-incarcerated parents served by DSHS in FY2006 were more likely than the average DSHS client of the same age to use services suggesting family difficulties and personal problems. These include high use of:**
 - *Mental health services, provided to persons who are seriously, chronically or acutely mentally ill*
 - *Child-protective services, including foster care and other abuse-neglect related services*
 - *Economic services such as food stamps, TANF funds, and subsidized child-care*
 - *Medical assistance services*
 - *Alcohol/drug treatment services*
 - *Juvenile rehabilitation services*
 - *Highest service use rates were found among those youth where both parents have a DOC incarceration history.*

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7.1% of children (35,344 total) under 16 born to Washington residents and served by DSHS in FY 2006 have a parent who has been in a DOC prison

Child served by DSHS has a Washington State birth certificate identifying at least one parent?

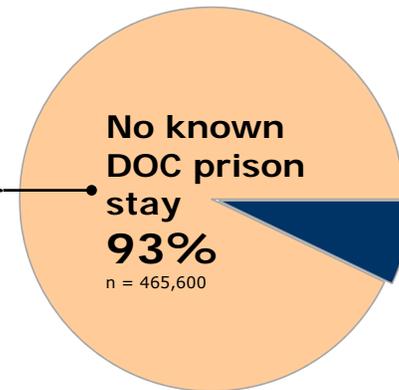
No
31%
n = 223,571

Yes
69%
n = 500,944



Total children under 16 served by DSHS in FY 2006 = 724,515

Child has at least one PARENT who has been in a DOC PRISON?



Total number of children served by DSHS with an identified parent = 500,944

Child's parent was in a DOC prison in FY 2006
2.3%
n = 11,337

YES
7.1%
of children
n = 35,344
Child's parent was in prison but not in FY 2006
4.8%
n = 24,007

▪ By comparison, fewer than 2% of non-DSHS children under 16 had at least one parent who has been in a DOC prison

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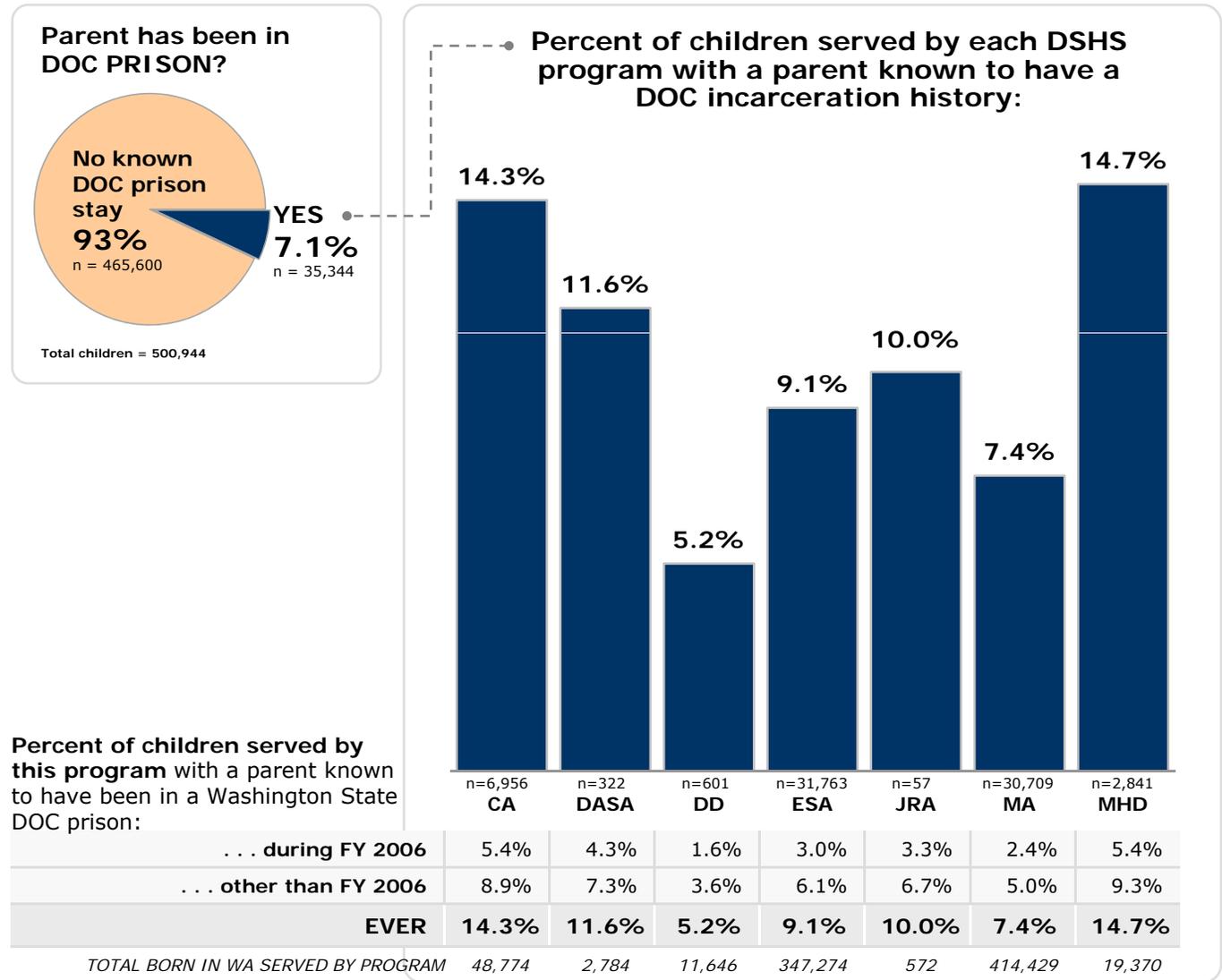
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ACRONYMNS

- CA Children's Administration
- DASA Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- DD Division of Developmental Disabilities
- ESA Economic Services Administration
- JRA Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
- MA Medical Assistance
- MHD Mental Health Division

DSHS children under 16 with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents have greatly increased use rates of mental health, child welfare, alcohol/drug, and juvenile rehabilitation services



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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1.2% of children under 16 born to Washington residents and served by DSHS in FY 2006 have a MOM who has been in a DOC prison

Child served by DSHS has a Washington State birth certificate identifying MOM?

No
31%
n = 223,633

Yes
69%
n = 500,882



Child has a MOM who has been in a DOC PRISON?

No known
DOC prison
stay
99%
n = 494,996

YES
1.2%
of children
n = 5,886

Child's MOM was in a DOC prison during FY 2006
0.3%
n = 1,535

Child's MOM was in a DOC prison but not in FY 2006
0.9%
n = 4,351

Total number of children served by DSHS with an identified mother = 500,882

Total children under 16 served by DSHS in FY 2006 = 724,515

▪ By comparison, fewer than 0.3% of non-DSHS children under 16 had a mother who has been in prison

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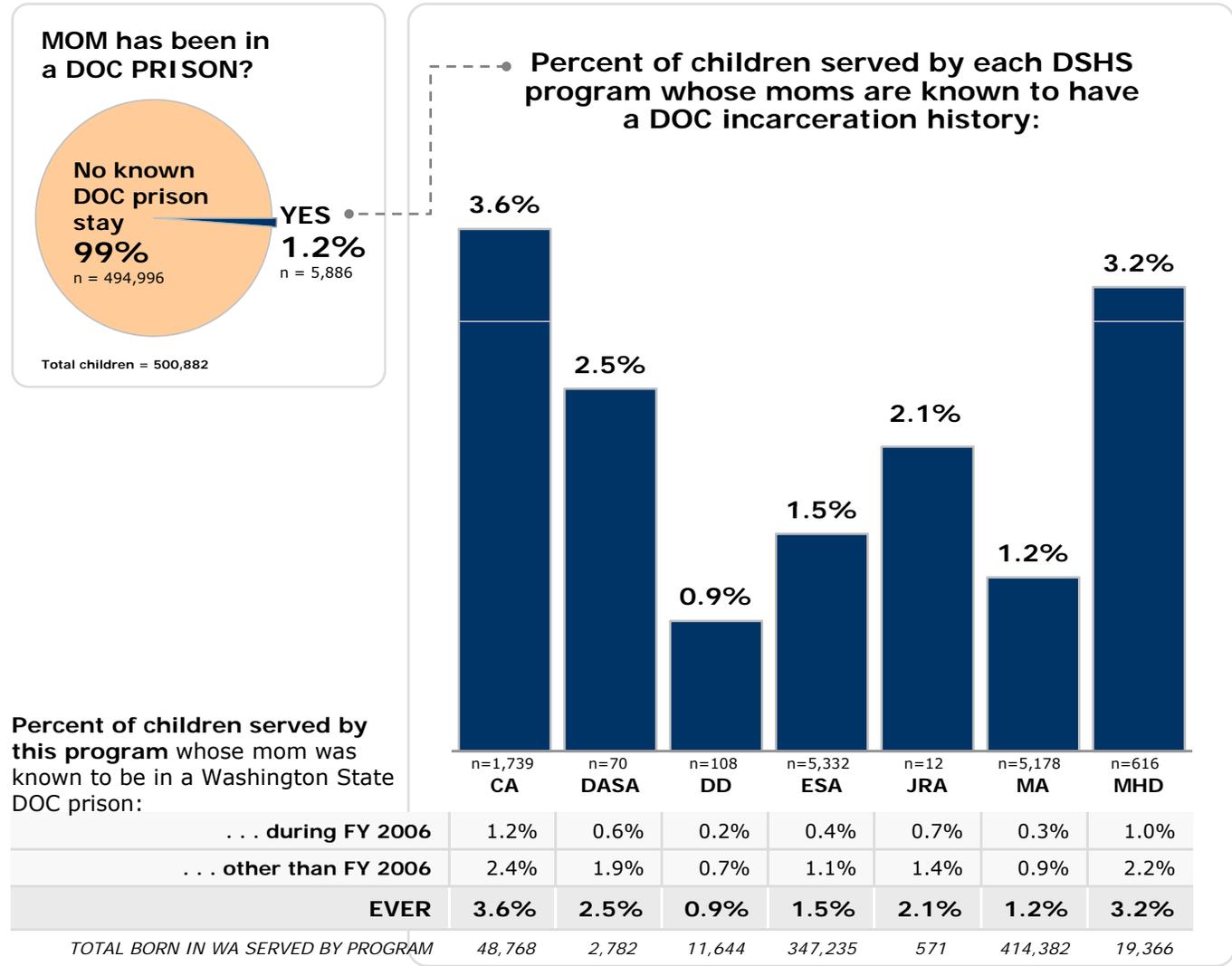
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ACRONYMNS

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- DD Division of Developmental Disabilities
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DSHS children under 16 with ever-DOC-incarcerated mothers have greatly increased use rates of child welfare, mental health, alcohol/drug, and juvenile rehabilitation services



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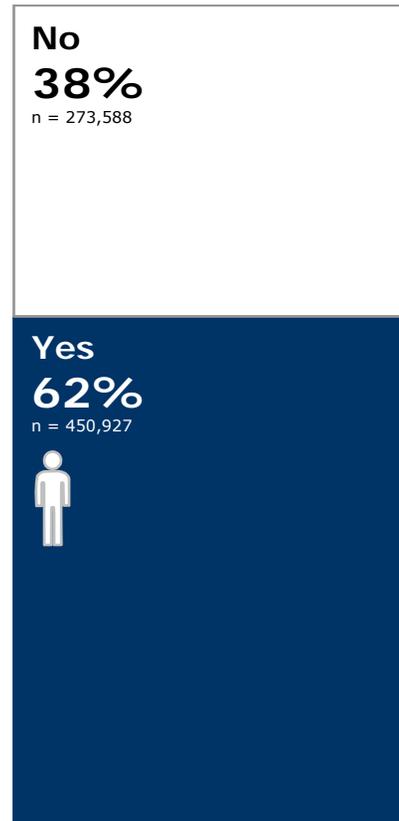
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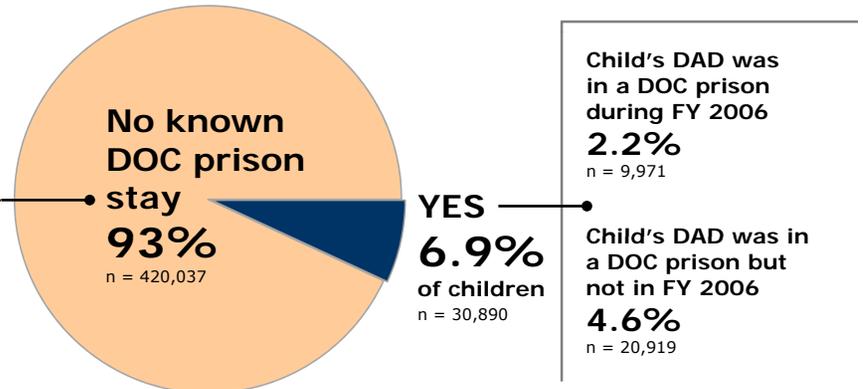
6.9% of children under 16 born to Washington residents and served by DSHS in FY 2006 have a **DAD** who has been in prison

Child served by DSHS has a Washington State birth certificate identifying DAD?



Total children under 16 served by DSHS in FY 2006 = 724,515

Child has a DAD who has been in a DOC PRISON?



Total number of children served by DSHS with an identified father = 450,927

▪ By comparison, fewer than 2% of non-DSHS children under 16 had a father who has been in a DOC prison

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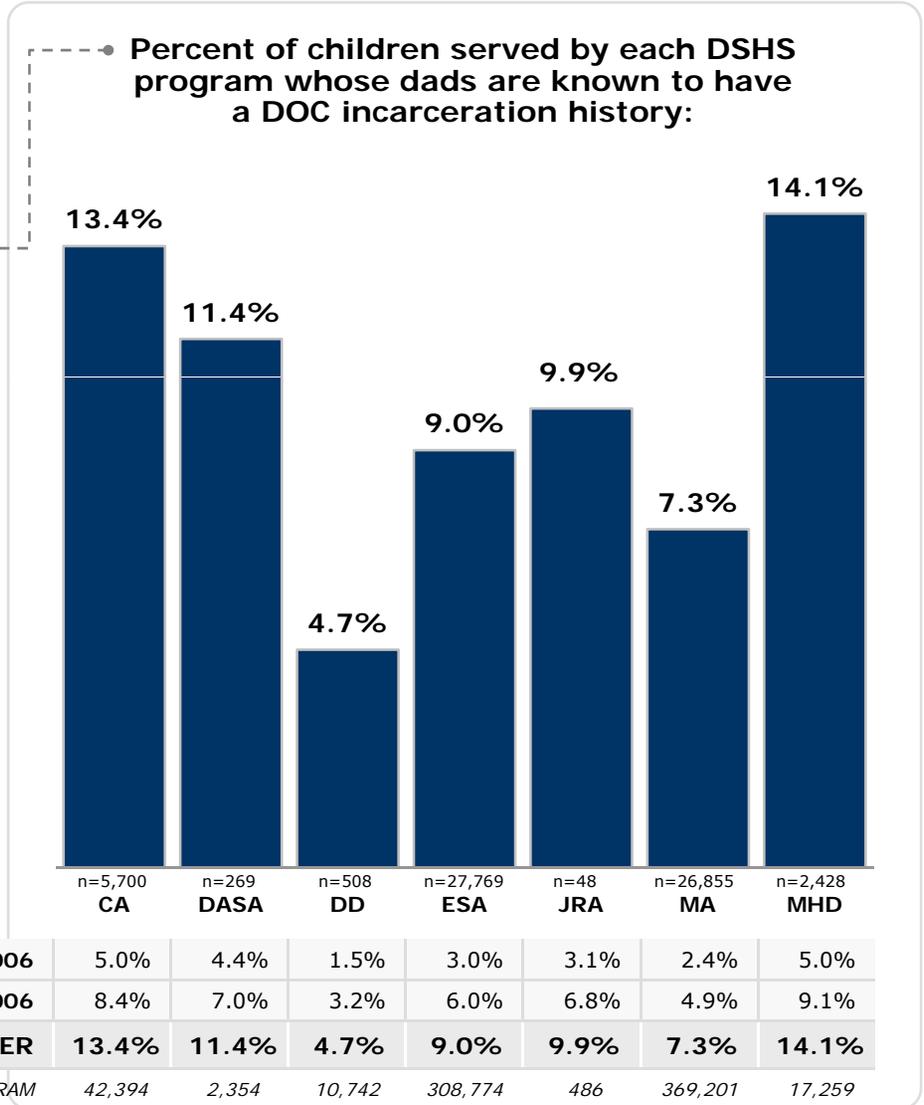
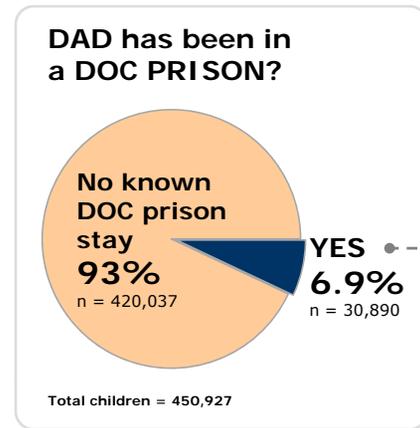
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- MHD Mental Health Division

DSHS children under 16 with ever-DOC-incarcerated fathers have greatly increased use rates of mental health, child welfare, alcohol/drug, and juvenile rehabilitation services



Percent of children served by this program whose dad was known to be in a Washington State DOC prison:

	CA	DASA	DD	ESA	JRA	MA	MHD
... during FY 2006	5.0%	4.4%	1.5%	3.0%	3.1%	2.4%	5.0%
... other than FY 2006	8.4%	7.0%	3.2%	6.0%	6.8%	4.9%	9.1%
EVER	13.4%	11.4%	4.7%	9.0%	9.9%	7.3%	14.1%
TOTAL BORN IN WA SERVED BY PROGRAM	42,394	2,354	10,742	308,774	486	369,201	17,259

SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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82% of the children under 16 born to Washington State mothers in a DOC prison in FY 2006 received DSHS services in FY 2006

Female DOC inmate identified as mother of child under 16 in Washington State birth certificate records?

No
57%

n = 1,462

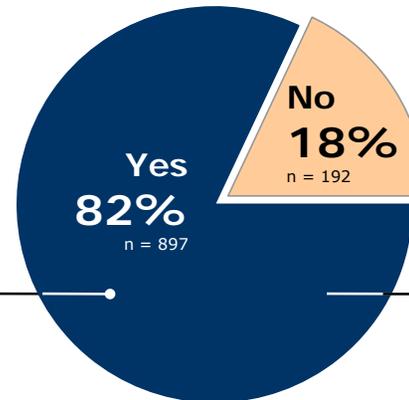
Yes
43%

n = 1,089



Total female inmates in FY 2006 = 2,551

What percent of DOC MOMs have children served by DSHS?



Total moms = 1,089

How many children born to these MOMs are on DSHS' rolls?

Number of children
1,530

On average, DOC moms with DSHS kids have 1.7 children served by DSHS

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86% of the children under 16 born to Washington State fathers in a DOC prison in FY 2006 received DSHS services in FY 2006

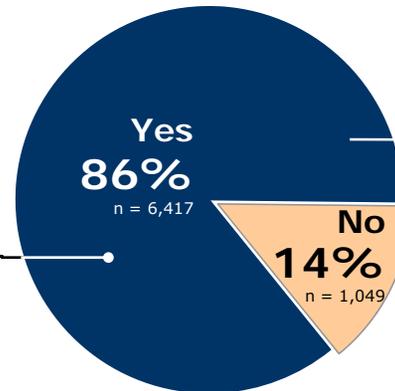
Male DOC inmate identified as father of child under 16 in Washington State birth certificate records?

No
66%
n = 14,752

Yes
34%
n = 7,466

Total male inmates in FY 2006 = 22,218

What percent of DOC DADs have children served by DSHS?



Total dads = 7,466

How many children born to these DADs are on DSHS' rolls?

Number of children
9,967

On average, DOC dads with DSHS kids have 1.5 children served by DSHS

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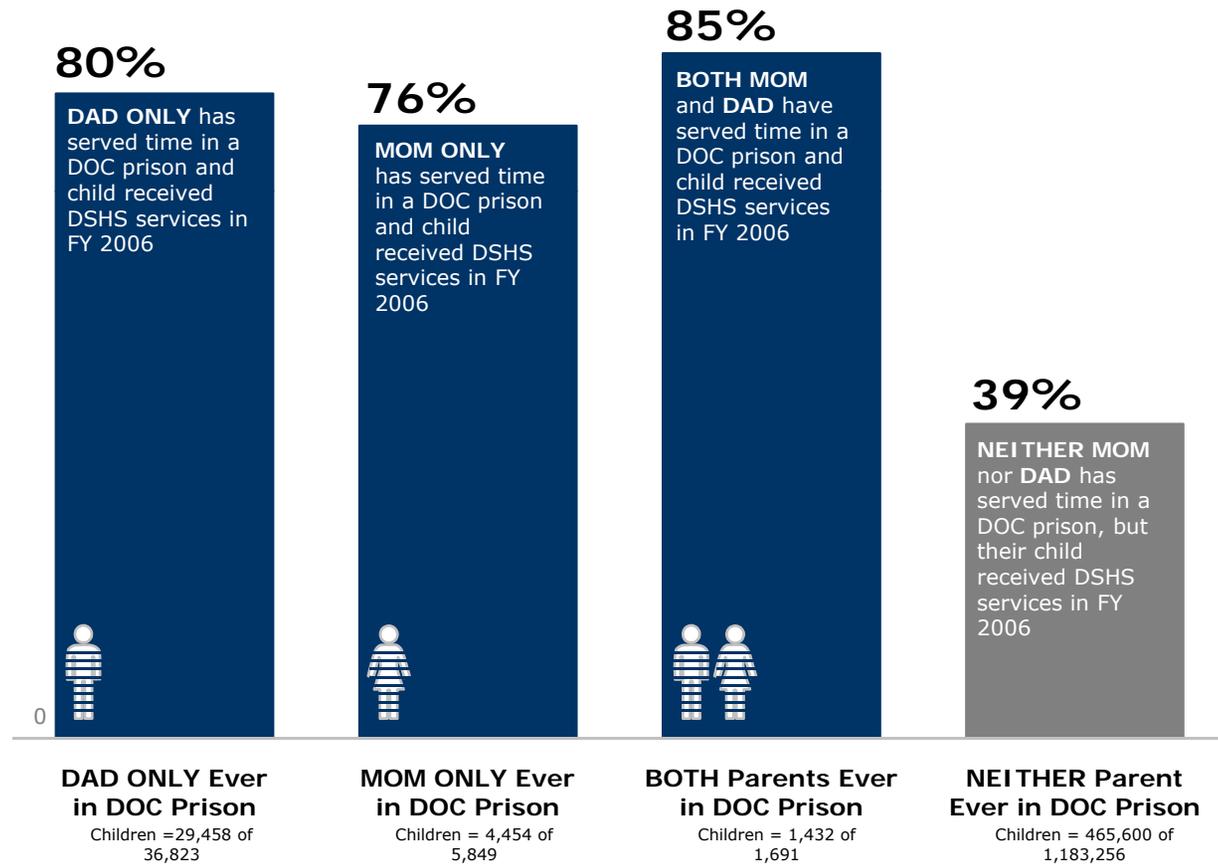


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Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are **twice as likely** as the others to be **DSHS clients in FY 2006**

Of all the children in Washington State with a parent who has ever served time in a DOC prison, what percent received DSHS services in FY 2006?



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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What is CPS?

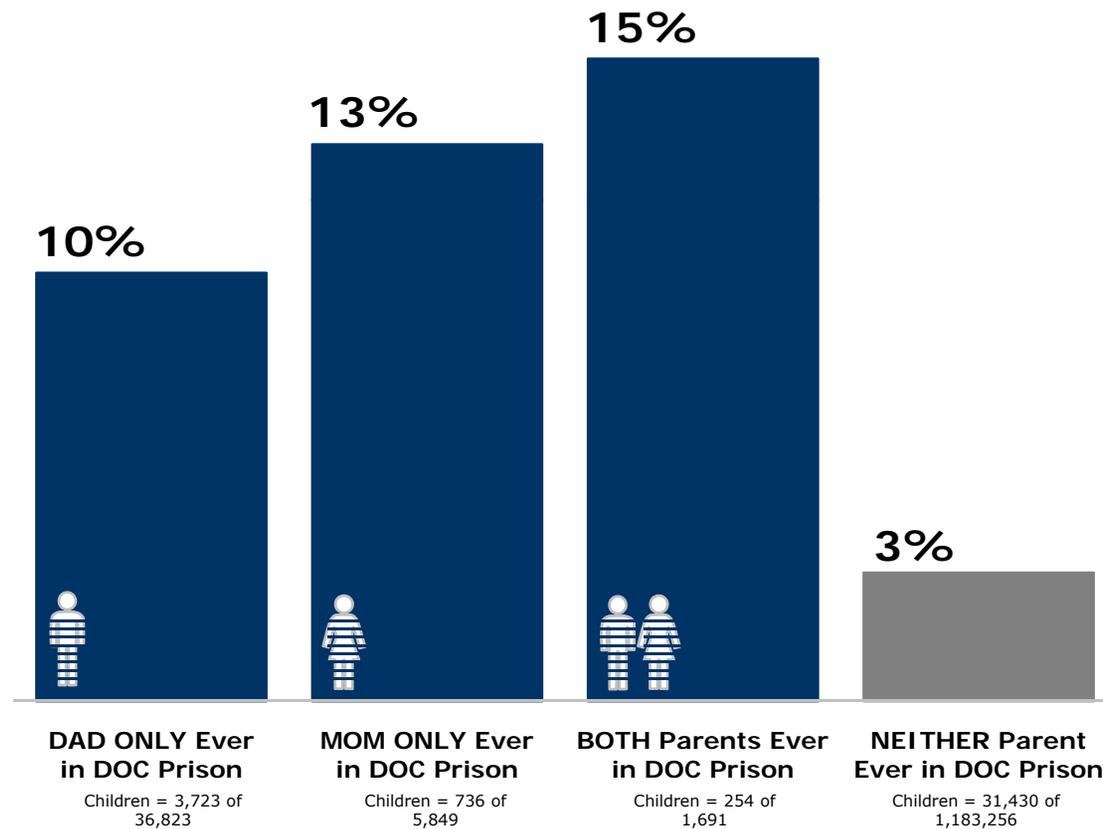
CPS falls within the Children's Administration and stands for **Child Protective Services**. CPS case workers provide family services to reduce risk and maintain children in their own homes.

Cases receive 24-hour intake, assessment, and emergency intervention services. Ongoing CPS includes direct treatment, coordination and development of community services, legal intervention, and case monitoring.

Cases are investigated based on risk level after initial screening and risk assessment, for which collateral contacts, key witnesses, and other sources provide input.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be **part of a CPS case management case**

Percentage of children receiving Child Protective Services from DSHS Children's Administration, Division of Children and Family Services, by parent incarceration history



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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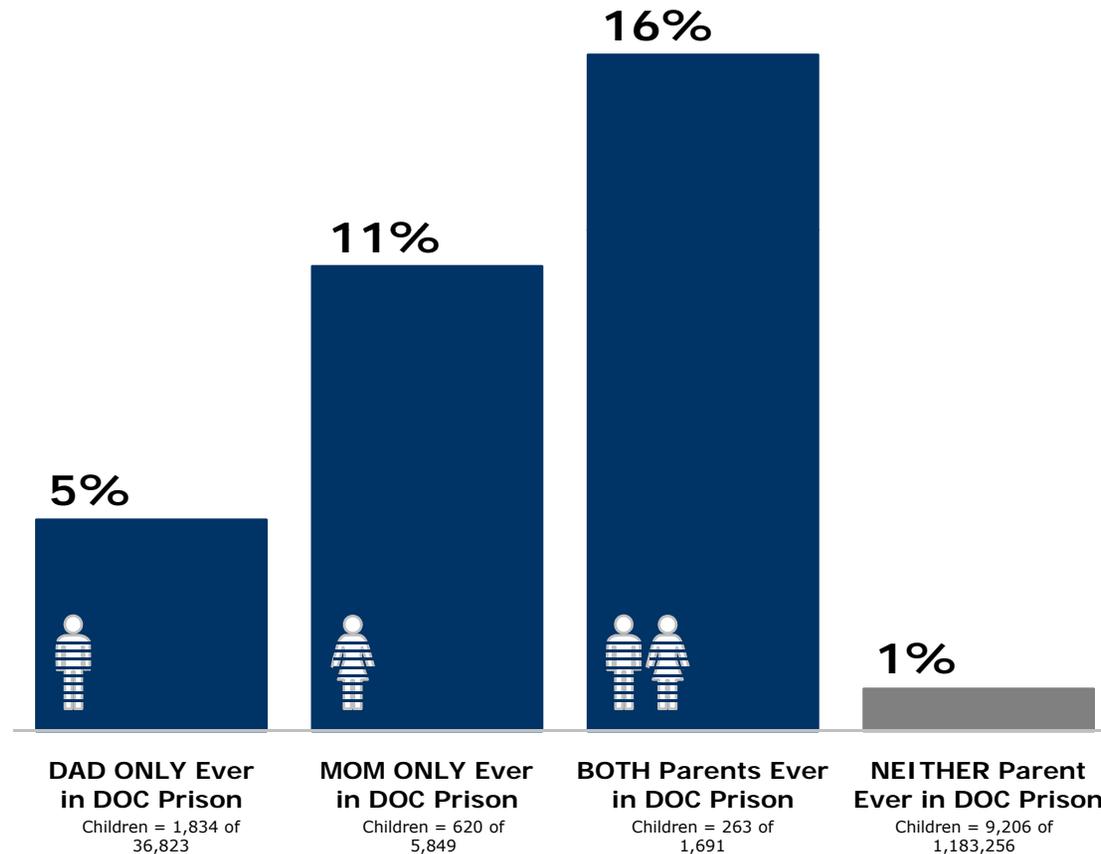
What are child welfare services?

Child welfare services are provided by the Children's Administration and include case management services designed to strengthen, supplement, or substitute for parental care and supervision.

Child welfare services may involve substitute care such as foster care or adoption services.

Among children under 16 born to Washington, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to use **child welfare services**

Percentage of children receiving Child Welfare Services Case Management from DSHS Children's Administration, by parent incarceration history



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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What are foster care placement services?

Foster care placement services are provided by the Children's Administration when children need short-term or temporary protection due to abuse, neglect, and/or family conflict.

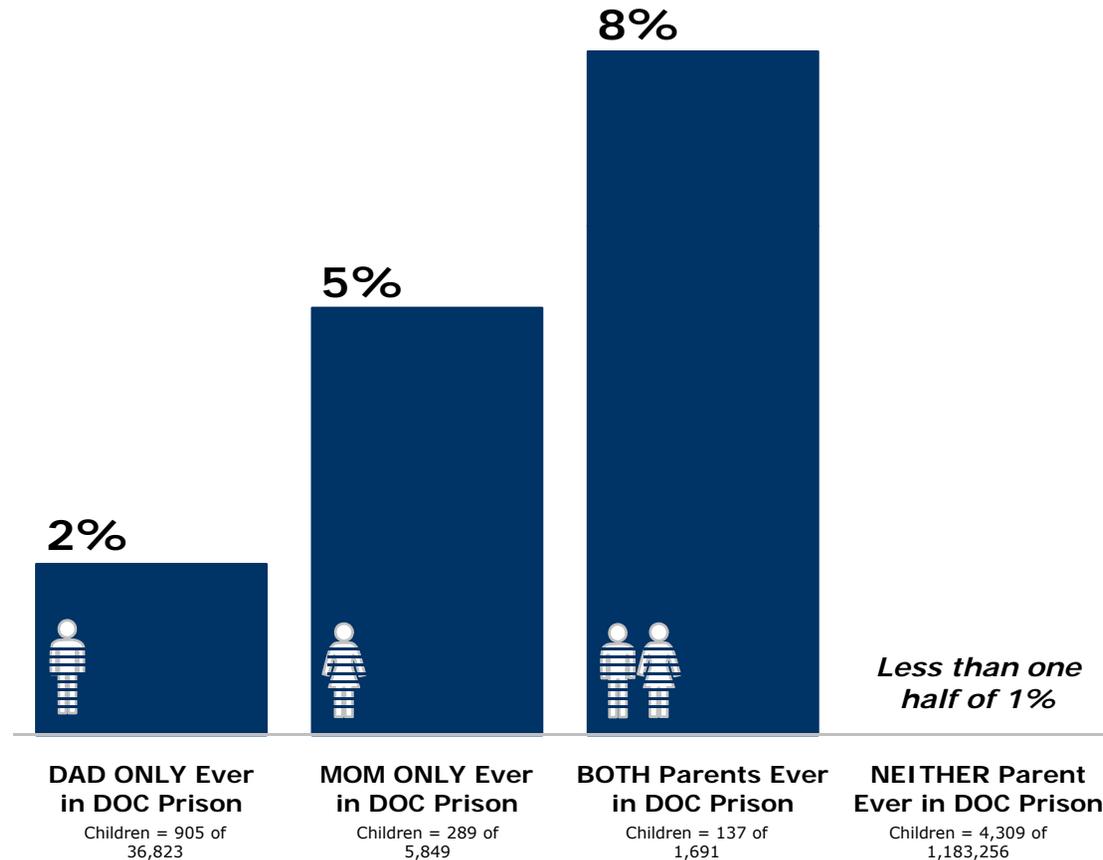
Children here are served in out-of-home placements exclusively.

The goal of foster care placement is to return children to their homes or to find another permanent home as early as possible.

Placement types include traditional Foster Care Placements as well as placements in Family Receiving Homes.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be **in foster care placement**

Percentage of children receiving Foster Care Services—In Placement from DSHS Children's Administration, by parent incarceration history
Excludes relative care and Group Care



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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What are community mental health services?

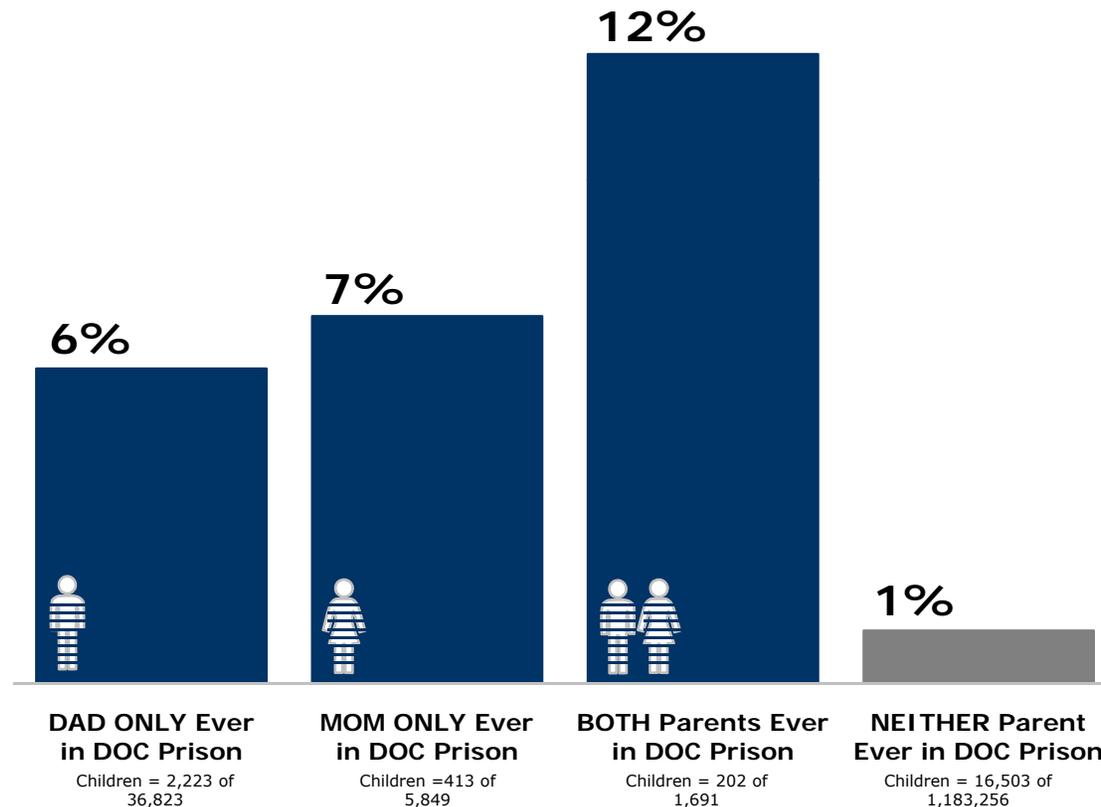
Community mental health services are provided by the Mental Health Division through the Regional Support Networks (RSNs).

The services are delivered by community mental health providers and include individual therapy, group therapy, day treatment and medication management on an outpatient basis in both emergent and non-emergent situations.

Community mental health services are only provided to persons who are chronically, persistently, or acutely mentally ill.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be **using community mental health services**

Percentage of children receiving Community Services from DSHS Health and Recovery Services Administration, Mental Health Division, by parent incarceration history



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What are TANF cash grants?

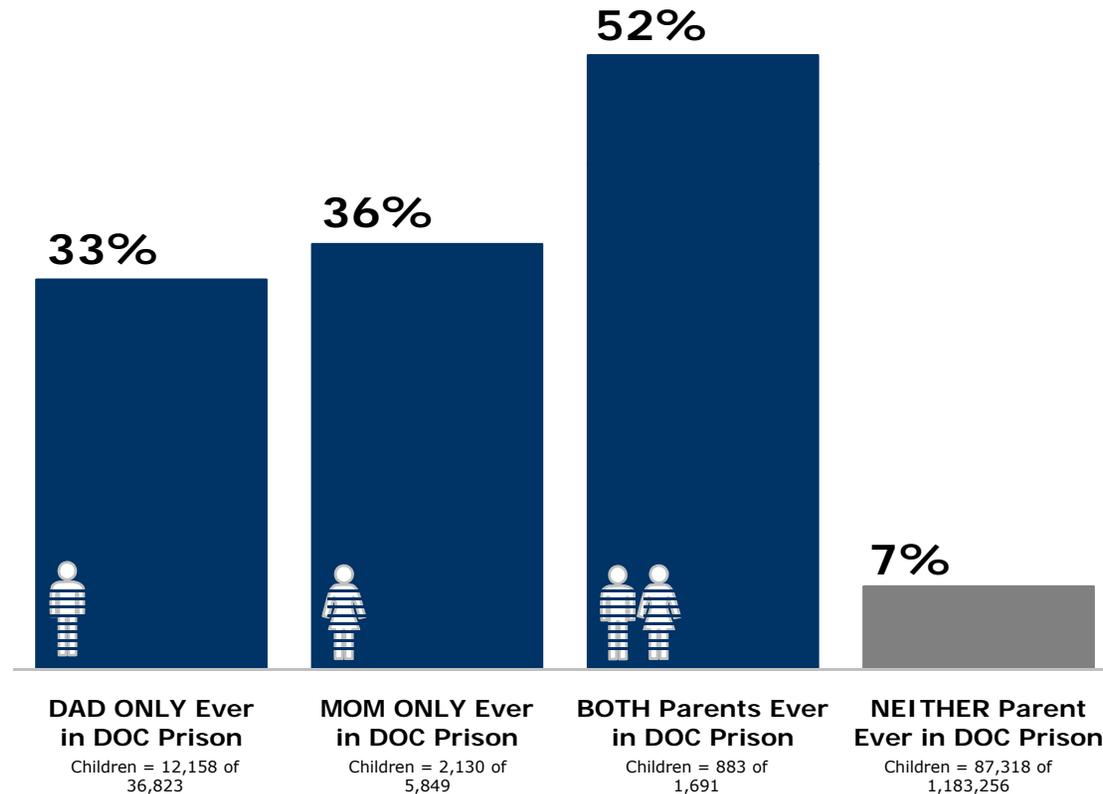
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federally funded program administered by the Economic Services Administration.

Monthly cash grants are provided to needy families, children under age 18 (or under 19 if attending high school or working toward a GED full-time), parents or caretaker relatives of these children, unmarried teen parents under age 18, and pregnant women.

As a condition of eligibility, adult members of the family or assistance unit are expected to participate in the WorkFirst employment and training program.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be **receiving TANF cash grants**

Percentage of children receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/State Financial Assistance Grants from DSHS Economic Services Administration, by parent incarceration history



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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What is subsidized child care?

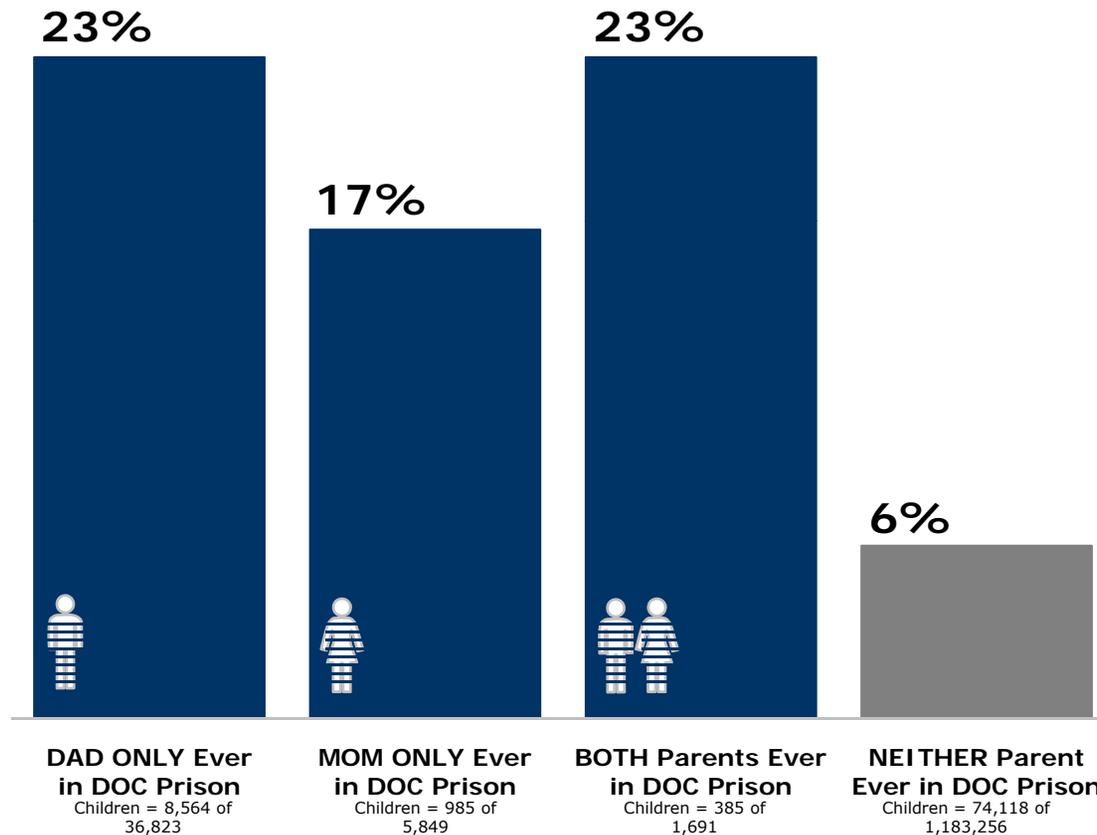
Subsidized child care is a means tested program authorized by the Economic Services Administration, which determines eligibility for subsidy payments through the Working Connections Child Care program administered by the Department of Early Learning.

Subsidized child care assistance is available to eligible TANF families who require child care to participate in approved WorkFirst activities, job search, employment or training.

Subsidy payments are also provided for non-TANF families who require child care to maintain employment or to attend approved training.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be **receiving subsidized child care**

Percentage of children receiving Child Care from DSHS Economic Services Administration, by parent incarceration history



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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What is food assistance?

Food assistance is provided by the Economic Services Administration to individuals and families with incomes below 130 percent of federal poverty and whose resources are below established limits.*

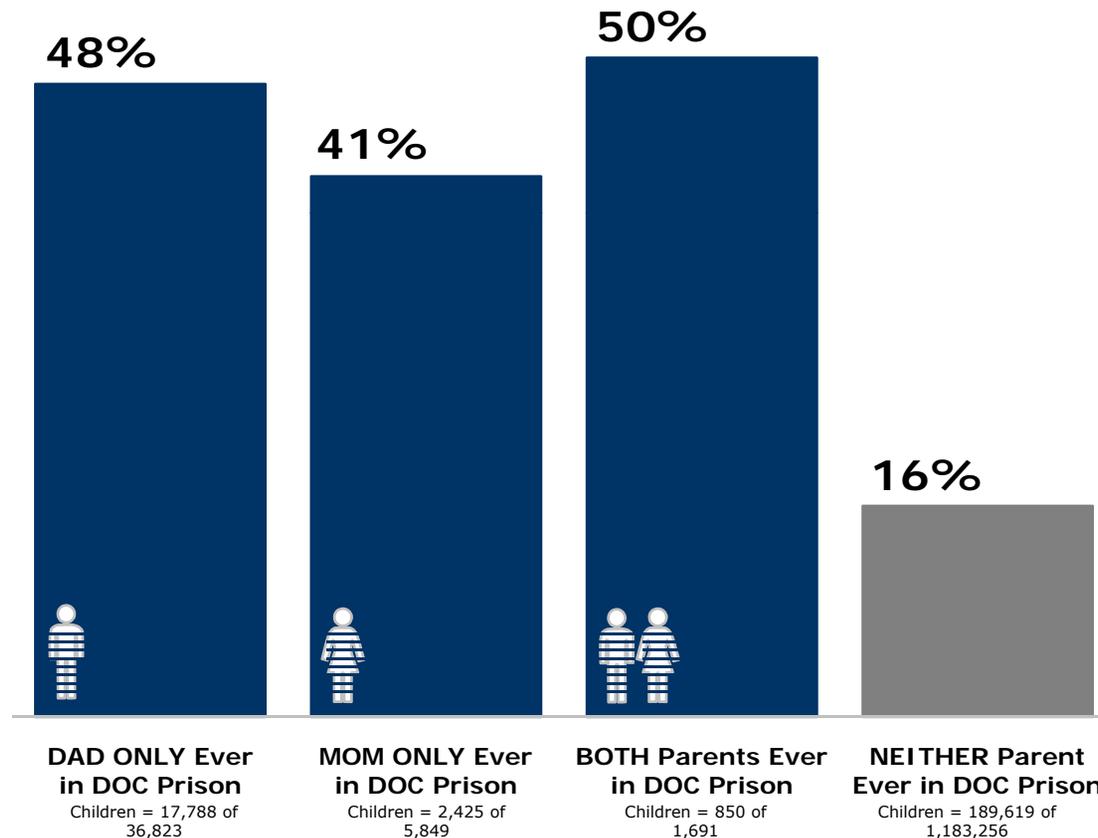
The program is comprised of the federal Food Stamp Program and the state Food Assistance Program for legal immigrants ineligible for the federal Food Stamp Program.

Benefits can only be used to purchase food items at participating stores.

*Effective October 2008, eligibility for food assistance will increase to include individuals and families whose income is below 200 percent of federal poverty.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC incarcerated parents are more likely to be **receiving food assistance**

Percentage of children receiving Basic Food Program support from DSHS Economic Services Administration, by parent incarceration history



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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What is a child support case?

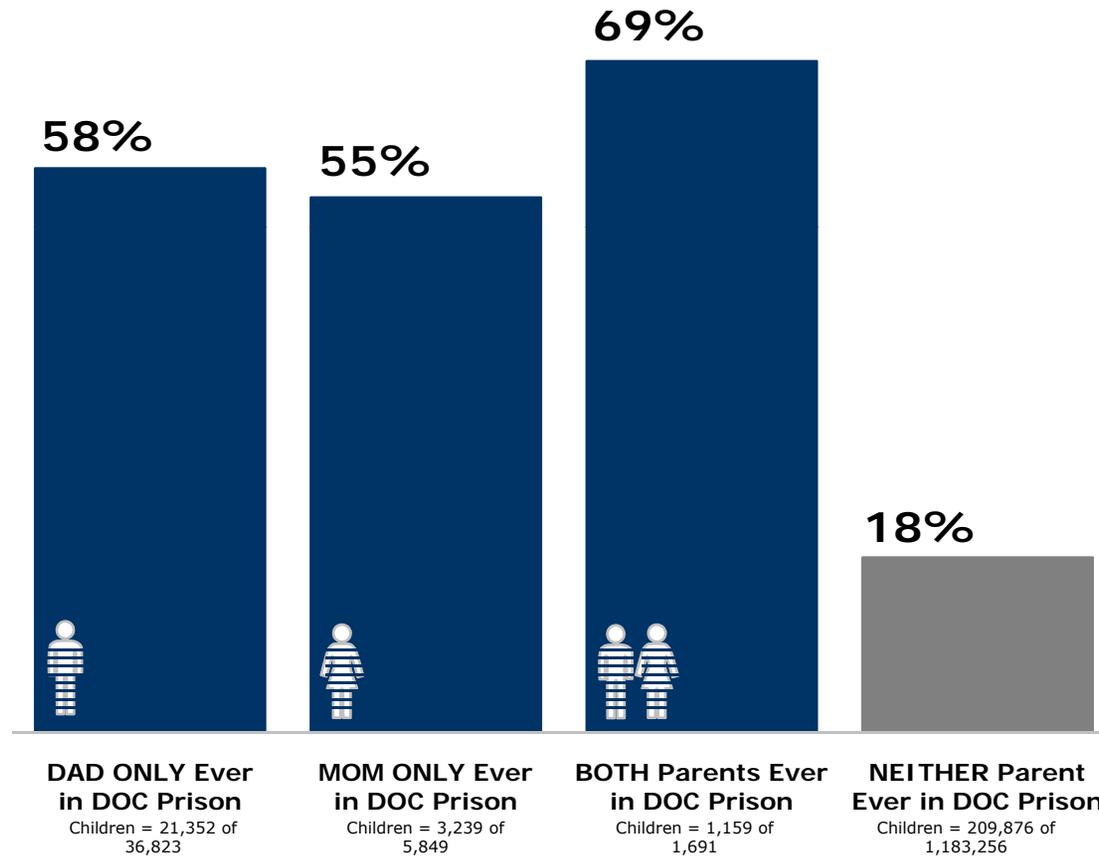
Child support cases are services provided by the Economic Services Administration to establish paternity and locate non-custodial parents as well as to establish, enforce, and modify child support and medical support orders.

The Division of Child Support initiates services when a parent submits an application, another state or nation requests help, a court order requires payment or a parent enrolls in either the TANF program or certain Medicaid programs.

Nearly 575,000 clients receive child support services from DSHS every year.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be **part of a child support case**

Percentage of children receiving Child Support services from DSHS Economic Services Administration, by parent incarceration history



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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What is Medicaid?

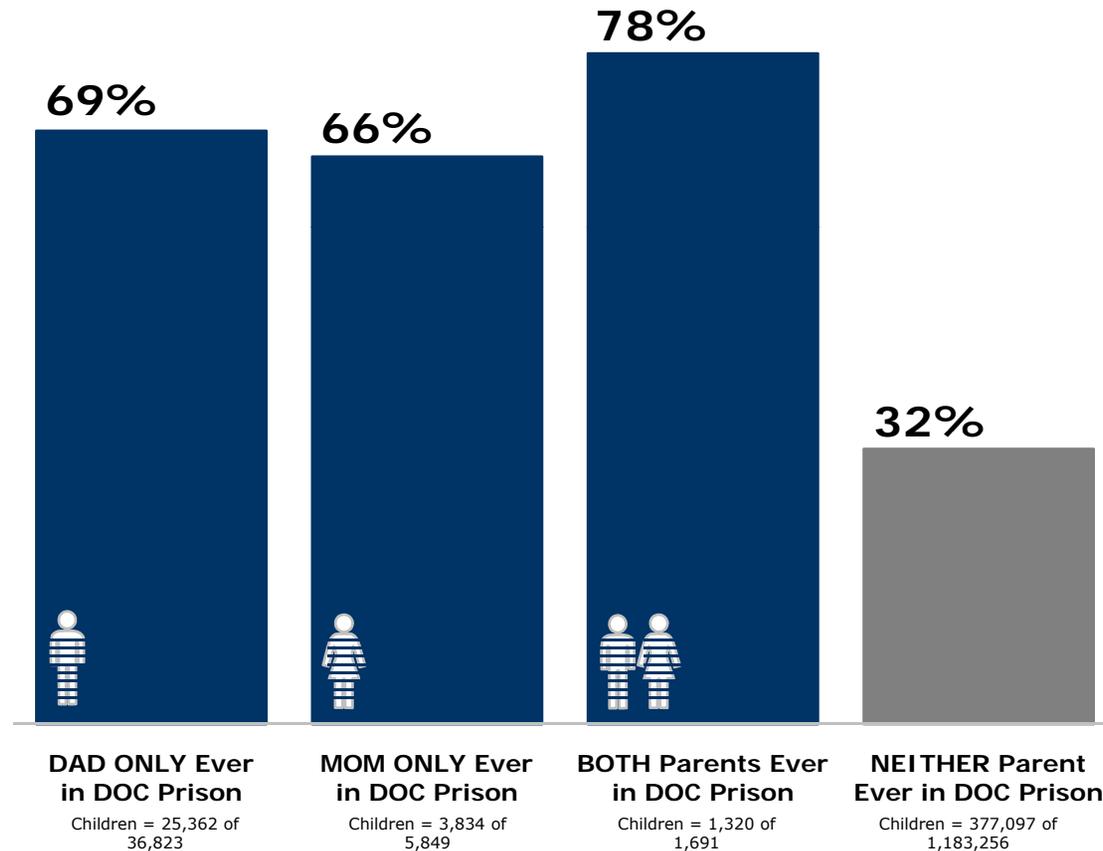
State Medicaid is administered by Medical Assistance and assures necessary medical care is available to income assistance and other eligible low-income persons.

Major Medicaid programs are:

- **Categorically Needy** for low-income families with dependent children, seniors, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women with incomes up to 185 percent of federal poverty.
- **Medically Needy**, mostly for elderly and disabled persons meeting set income guidelines.
- **Children's Medical** for all low and moderate income children in families with incomes up to 200 percent of federal poverty.

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be **enrolled in Medicaid**

Percentage of children enrolled in Medicaid coverage from DSHS Health and Recovery Services Administration, Medical Assistance



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons • SFY 2006 • Washington State • Children under 16
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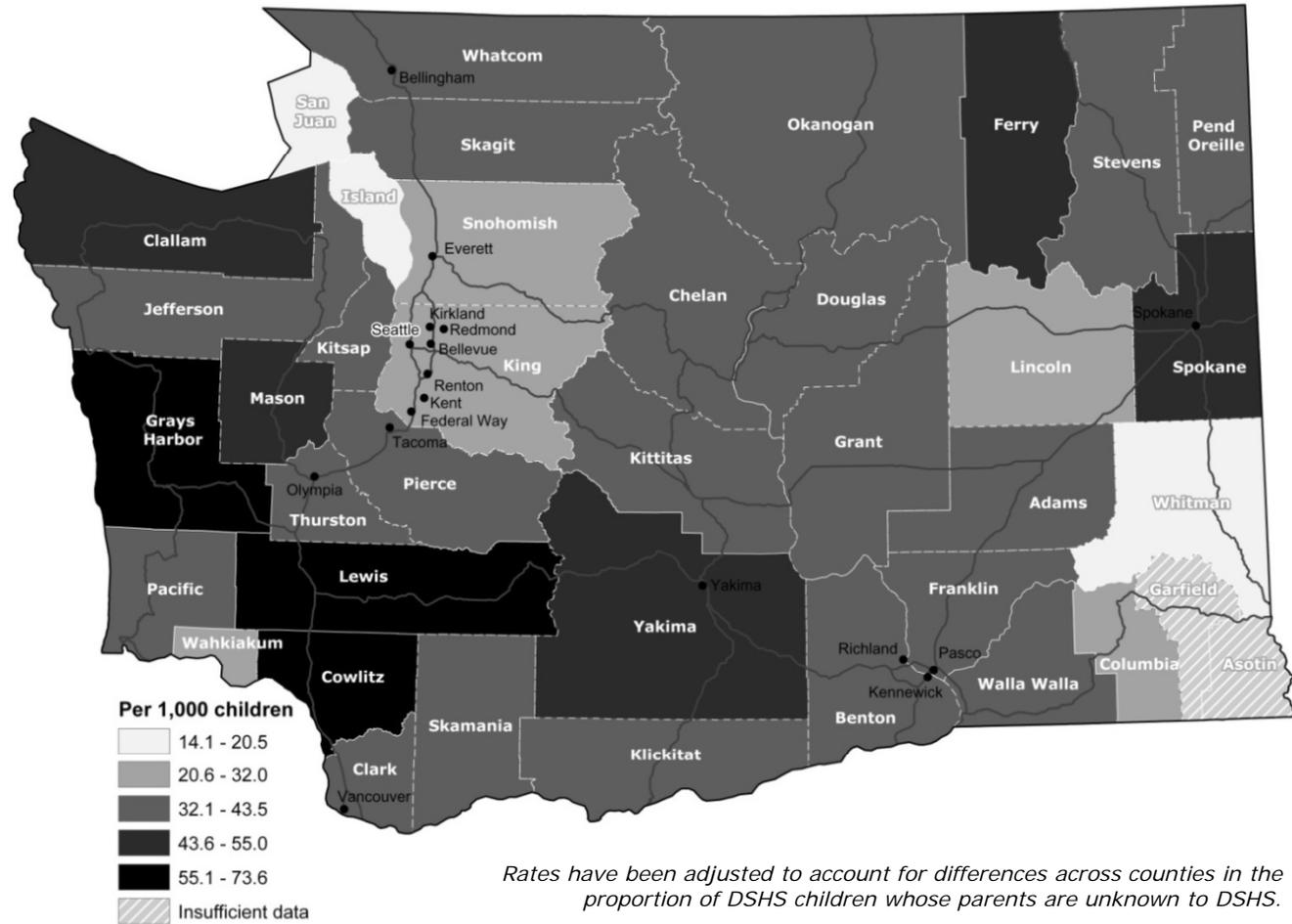
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Southwest Washington has the highest rate of children of ever-DOC-incarcerated parents



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Subsequent analyses will:

1. **Look at school outcomes by matching data with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction**
2. **Identify more parent-child relationships by using support enforcement data and other sources**
3. **Add more years of data and examine service use and outcomes for all children under age 18**
4. **Create profiles of randomly selected children and families that will tell us more about their life experiences**
5. **Examine the timing of DOC incarceration and DSHS service events in relation to outcomes for children and families to make inferences about causal relationships**

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Participants of the **Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents (CFIP) Statewide Advisory Committee**, include:

- **Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development** (convener)
- **Department of Social and Health Services** (DSHS)
- **Department of Corrections** (DOC)
- **Department of Early Learning** (DEL)
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction** (OSPI)
- **Non-profit, community and governmental partners**

This briefing is available from DSHS' Research & Data Analysis Division in Olympia, Washington <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/RDA/> or by calling 360.902.0701.

Please request report number 11.138.

The briefing and a guide can also be found on DSHS' website for families of the incarcerated at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/incarcerated>.