KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

QUARTERLY DATA UPDATE

JULY 2025

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

- We are not removing as many children at high risk of future encounters with child welfare, and those children are more likely to remain with their families and communities.
- Internal reviews of Safe Child Consultations indicate that we are taking additional steps to prevent removal of a child and to support a safety plan for the family
- The overlap between 1227 and Plan of Safe Care is reducing screened in intakes involving substance-exposed newborns
- Fentanyl crisis leaves many children at risk
- A lack of SUD treatment services and other community-based supports for families places children at further risk

LONG-TERM TRENDS:

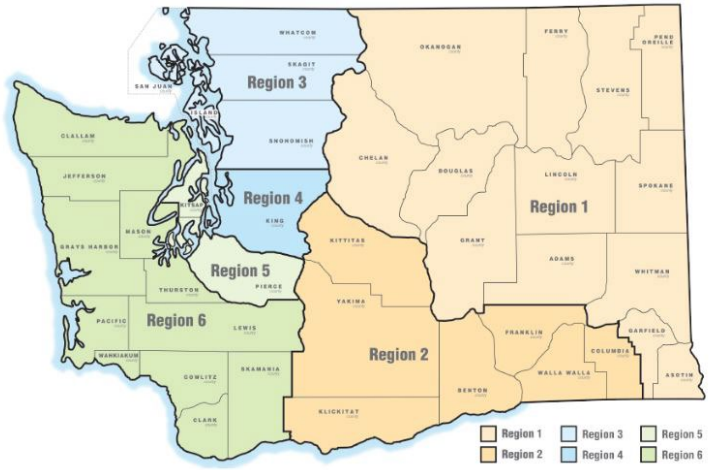
- Between state fiscal year (SFY) 2018 and the implementation of HB1227 at the end of SFY2023, Washington saw a 35.6% decrease in the number of children in out of home care (point in time). This trend is largely consistent with the national trends on children in out of home care.
- Since 2020, DCYF has seen an increasing percentage of moderately high to high-risk cases being re-referred to CPS intake and screening-in (within 90 days of the completion of the risk assessment.)
- Since 2019, opioid-related emergencies have dramatically increased for the entire population (both adults and children) in Washington.

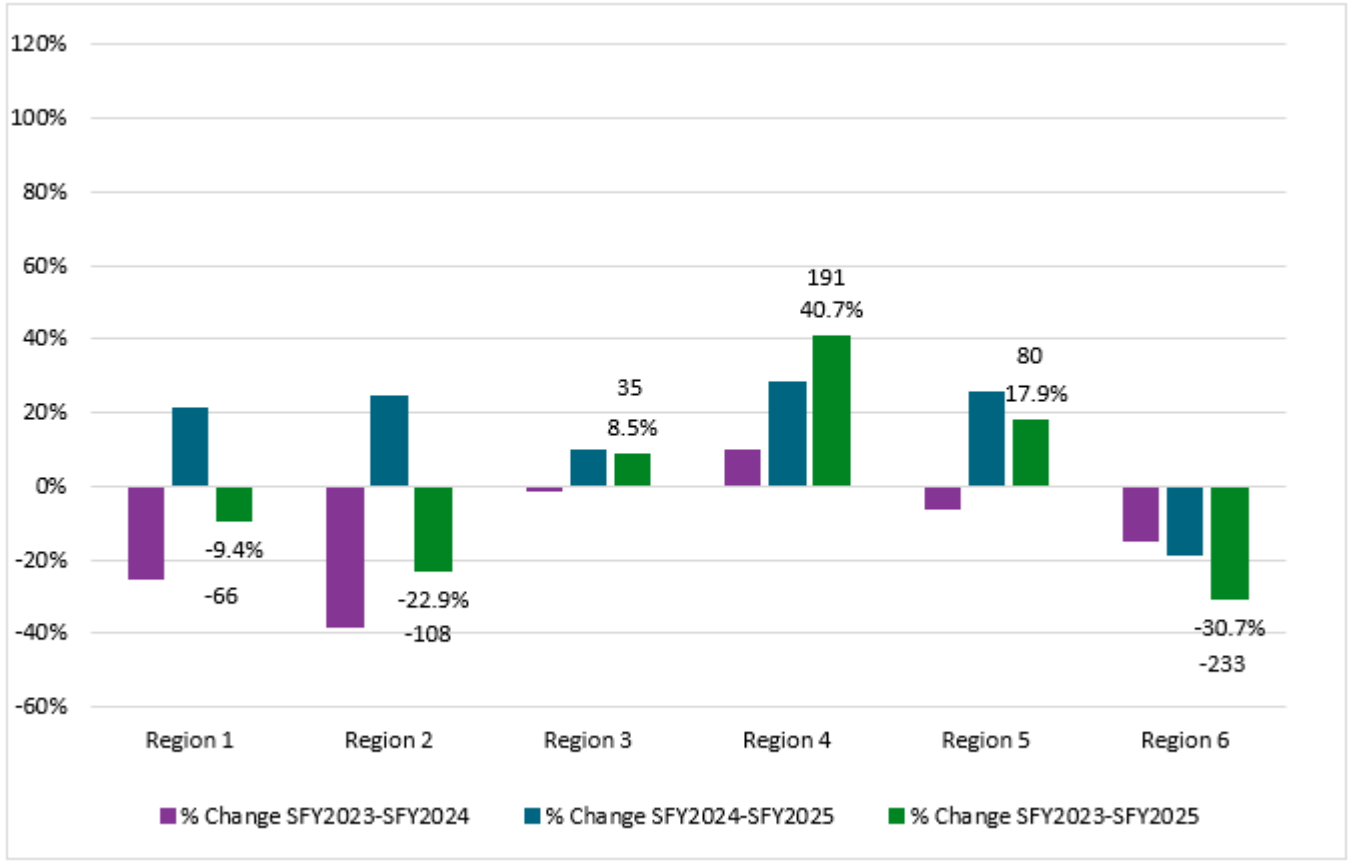
ENTRIES INTO CARE HAVE DECREASED BY 2.6% SINCE THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT

SFY2023-2025 Percent Change in Children Entering Care by Region, July 1 - June 30

Statewide:

- Clark, Cowlitz and Thurston Counties have shown more than a 30% reduction in removals since 7/1/23
- King County continues to show an increase in removals each year since SFY 2023.





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[1]2025 estimate adjusted for known data lag, observed 2025 count=3,179
DCYF OIAA (July 2025). CW Reporting Portal,
Out of Home Exits and Entries
[July 2022- June 2025].

ENTRIES INTO CARE DECREASED IN SFY2024 BUT INCREASED IN SFY2025. THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES ARE NOW SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN BEFORE THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT WAS IMPLEMENTED. FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH FVS CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

ALL ENTRIES INTO CARE

	Jul 1 – Jun 30, 2023	Jul 1 – Jun 30, 2024	Jul 1 – Jun 30, 2025
Voluntary Placements	544	499	462
Protective Custodies	1,656	1,603	1,684
Court Approved Placements	1,109	737	1,055
TOTAL REMOVALS	**3,309**	**2,839**	**3,200**

CASES RECEIVING SERVICES

Family Voluntary Services	1,809	1,994	2,397
In Home Pre Fact Finding	30	204	213

*Family Voluntary Services identifies the distinct count of families served by FVS during the time frame identified

**In Home Pre Fact Finding identifies children who are placed in the home; however, their case is under Court supervision. This does not include children who are documented as being placed with their parent through a Trial Return Home RCW 13.34.138. The number identifies the State Fiscal Year in which this began.

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Observed, *not* adjusted for data lag
DCYF OIAA (July 2025). CW Reporting Portal,
Out of Home Exits and Entries, IHPFF, and CW Assignment Report
[July 2022- Jun 2025]

THE LARGEST REDUCTION IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT ENTRIES ARE AMONG INFANTS

Total Difference in Children Entering Care by Age Group

July 1 – June 30, 2023, compared to July 1 – June 30, 2025

	Number (n)	Percentage (%)
Age 0-1	-85	-7.7%
Age 2-3	14	3.5%
Age 4-11	-3	-.3%
Age 12-17	-36	-5.3%

*Number identifies the change in children entering care for this period, since SFY 2023
**Percentage identifies the reduction seen in this age group for this period, since SFY 2023

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Observed, *not* adjusted for data lag
DCYF OIAA (July 2025), CW Reporting Portal,
Out of Home Exits and Entries
[July 2022- June 2025]