KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

QUARTERLY DATA UPDATE

APRIL 2025

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

- The law is meeting the intended impact of reducing removals
- 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:

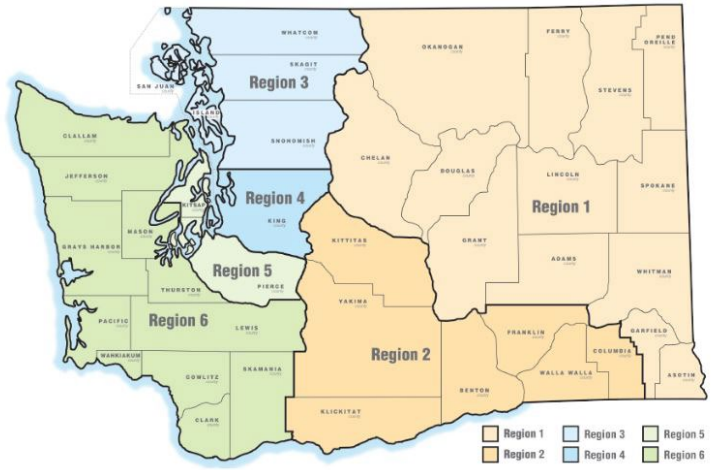
- Between state fiscal year (SFY) 2018 and the implementation of HB1227 at the end of SFY2023, Washington saw a 35.6% decrease in the number of children in out of home care (point in time). This trend is largely consistent with the national trends on children in out of home care.
- Since 2020, DCYF has 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.

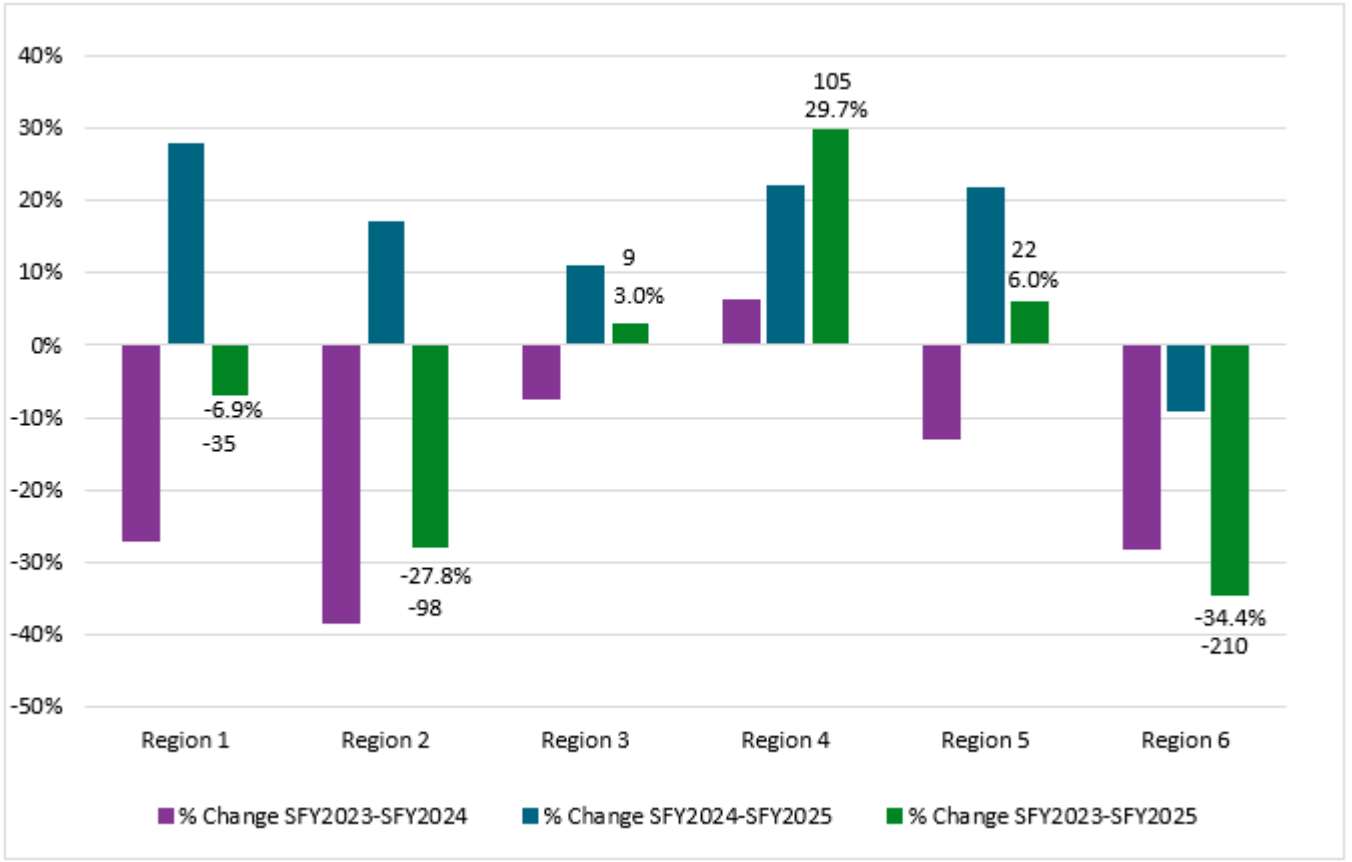
ENTRIES INTO CARE HAVE DECREASED BY 7.5% SINCE THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT

SFY2023-2025 Percent Change in Children Entering Care by Region, July 1-March 31

Statewide:

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





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[1]2025 estimate adjusted for known data lag, observed 2025 count=2,297
DCYF OIAA (April 2025). CW Reporting Portal,
Out of Home Exits and Entries
[July 2022- March 2025].

WHILE ENTRIES INTO CARE HAVE INCREASED SINCE LAST YEAR, THEY CONTINUE TO BE LOWER THAN BEFORE THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT WAS IMPLEMENTED. FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH FVS CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

ALL ENTRIES INTO CARE

	July 1 – Mar 31, 2023	July 1 – Mar 31, 2024	July 1 – Mar 31, 2025
Voluntary Placements	409	402	312
Protective Custodies	1,217	1,111	1,238
Court Approved Placements	901	511	762
TOTAL REMOVALS	**2,527**	**2,02**	**2,312**

CASES RECEIVING SERVICES

Family Voluntary Services	1,403	1,572	1,866
In Home Pre Fact Finding	11	176	247

*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.

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DCYF OIAA (April 2025). CW Reporting Portal,
Out of Home Exits and Entries and CW Assignment Report
[July 2022- Mar 2025]

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

Total Difference in Children Entering Care by Age Group

July 1 – Mar 31, 2022, compared to July 1 – Mar 31, 2025

	Number (n)	Percentage (%)
Age 0-1	-94	-10.9%
Age 2-3	5	1.7%
Age 4-11	-74	-8.9%
Age 12-17	-52	-9.8%

*Number identifies the change in children entering care for this period, since SFY 2022
**Percentage identifies the reduction seen in this age group for this period, since SFY 2022

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