

Child Support Program

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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 awards 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 Division of Child Support (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 assistance, food stamps and Medicaid 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

Child Support Program (continued)

Highlights

- The Division of Child Support (DCS) served about 1 out of every 10 state residents during SFY 2013.
- The Division of Child Support served an average of 344,687 children per month during SFY 2013.
- The average monthly child support caseload increased from 370,830 in SFY 2012 to 372,701 in SFY 2013, a .5% increase.
- Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased 8.6% – from 49,452 in SFY 2012 to 45,176 in SFY 2013; Former Assistance cases increased 1.3% from 194,170 to 196,769; and Never Assistance cases increased 2.8% from 127,209 to 130,756.
- Most non-custodial parents are male (84.9%) with an average age of 38.7 years, while most custodial parents are female (88.0%) with an average age of 38.9 years.
- Total collections for SFY 2013 were \$687.0 million – about \$14.3 million more than projected.
- In SFY 2013, child support cost avoidance was \$29.5 million (a 3.2% decrease over SFY 2012) for the Basic Food program and \$9.7 million (a 5.8% decrease over SFY 2012) for the TANF program. These equal about 6.3% of the \$619 million government expenditure on these two programs for DCS custodial parents and children in the same year.
- In 2013, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported 30,362 births to an unmarried mother. Of these births, DOH reports that 23,001 (75.8%) of the unmarried parents collectively signed and filed WA State Paternity Acknowledgment forms with DOH. The vast majority of these Acknowledgments were signed at the hospital as a result of Washington State's Paternity Acknowledgment Program.

Child Support Program
Child Support Incentive Scorecard
FFY 2012¹ and FFY 2013²

Source: Division of Child Support

MEASURE	GOAL NEEDED TO OBTAIN 100% FUNDING	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE		PERCENTAGE OF MAXIMUM INCENTIVE REACHED		ESTIMATED INCENTIVE PAYMENT (\$MILLIONS) ³	
		2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Paternity Establishment Percentage	80%	101.3%	100%	100%	100%	\$3.35	\$3.20
Support Order Establishment	80%	90.5%	91.2%	100%	100%	\$3.35	\$3.20
Current Collections	80%	64.5%	64.7%	74%	74%	\$2.48	\$2.37
Arrearage Collections	80%	60.4%	60.7%	70%	70%	\$1.78	\$1.70
Cost- Effectiveness	\$5.00	\$5.05	\$5.09	100%	100%	\$2.26	\$2.26
INCENTIVE TOTALS				88.8%	88.8%	\$13.22	\$12.73

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.

¹ FFY 2012 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2012 Preliminary Report.

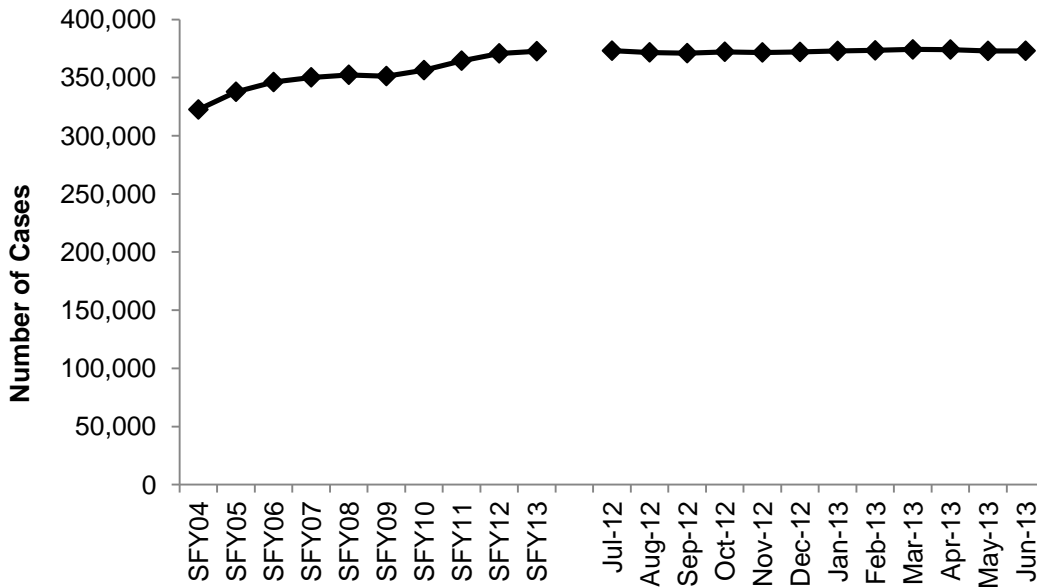
² FFY 2013 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

³ DCS incentive payments for FFY12 are based on DCS actual FFY12 performance and OCSE FFY12 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY13 are based on DCS actual FFY13 performance and OCSE FFY12 preliminary performance results for all other states. Data source: ESA Fiscal Services Office.

Child Support Program

Child Support Caseload⁴
SFY 2004 through SFY 2013

Source: Division of Child Support



Year	Cases	Year	Cases
SFY 04	322,564	SFY 09	351,315
SFY 05	337,810	SFY 10	356,436
SFY 06	346,184	SFY 11	364,535
SFY 07	350,206	SFY 12	370,830
SFY 08	352,422	SFY 13	372,701

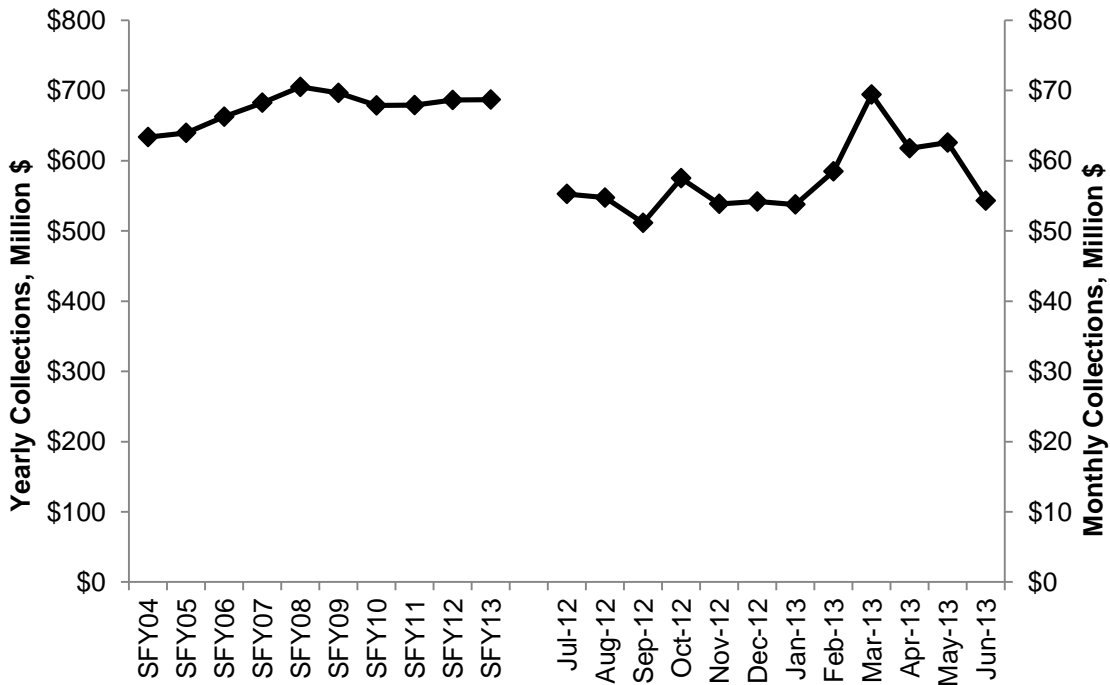
SFY 2013	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Caseload
July	46,875	195,550	130,701	373,126
August	45,672	196,155	129,869	371,696
September	46,362	195,107	129,533	371,002
October	45,606	196,393	130,202	372,201
November	45,522	196,101	130,014	371,637
December	45,915	195,828	130,308	372,051
January	46,041	196,152	130,757	372,950
February	44,971	197,375	131,054	373,400
March	44,850	197,884	131,458	374,192
April	44,312	198,165	131,649	374,126
May	43,142	198,174	131,655	372,971
June	42,841	198,345	131,876	373,062
Mo. Avg.	45,176	196,769	130,756	372,701

⁴ Case counts are unduplicated.

Child Support Program

Child Support Collections
SFY 2004 – SFY 2013

Source: Division of Child Support



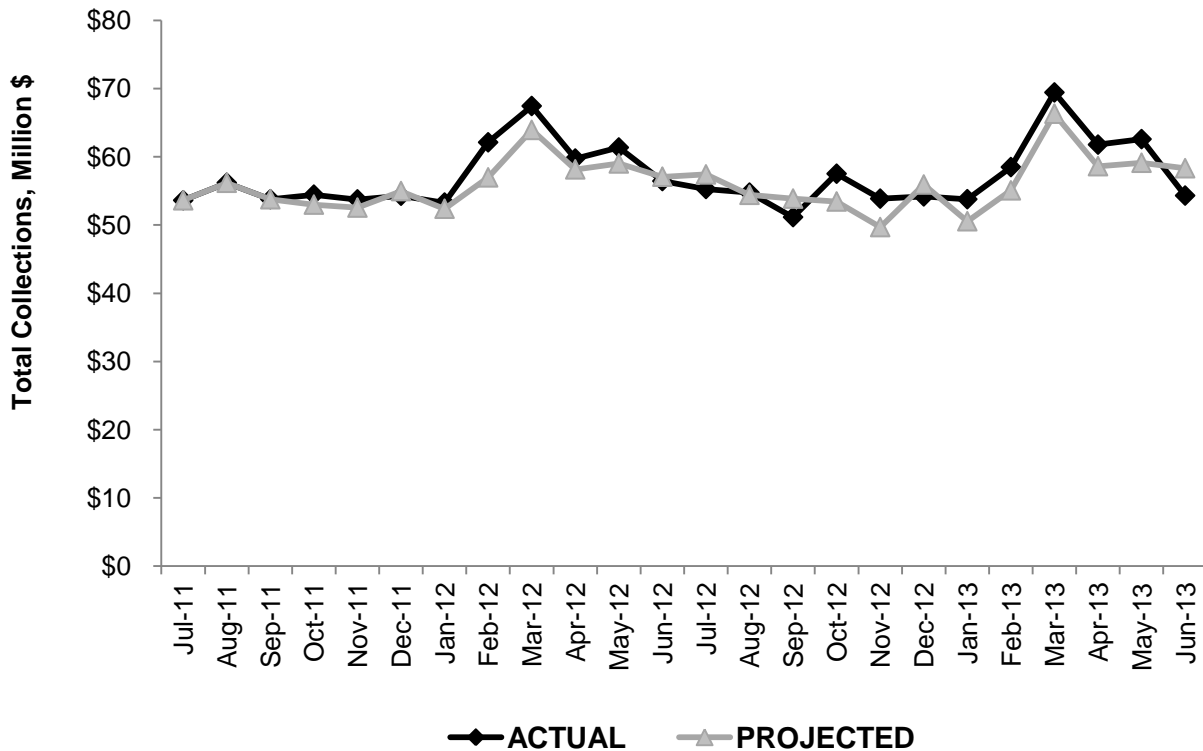
Year	Collections	Year	Collections
SFY 04	\$633,591,434	SFY 09	\$696,497,265
SFY 05	\$639,591,288	SFY 10	\$678,663,012
SFY 06	\$662,571,225	SFY 11	\$679,114,124
SFY 07	\$682,569,955	SFY 12	\$686,339,317
SFY 08	\$704,983,914	SFY 13	\$686,994,705

SFY 2013	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Collections
July	\$2,468,525	\$20,881,850	\$31,914,328	\$55,264,703
August	\$2,572,010	\$20,683,804	\$31,477,411	\$54,733,224
September	\$2,345,694	\$19,040,179	\$29,756,953	\$51,142,826
October	\$2,683,685	\$21,797,623	\$33,023,087	\$57,504,395
November	\$2,468,834	\$20,364,647	\$31,023,462	\$53,856,943
December	\$2,489,586	\$20,172,232	\$31,519,135	\$54,180,952
January	\$2,380,134	\$20,088,163	\$31,299,960	\$53,768,257
February	\$3,137,474	\$22,988,829	\$32,351,953	\$58,478,256
March	\$4,129,121	\$28,668,483	\$36,622,027	\$69,419,631
April	\$2,896,954	\$24,257,680	\$34,614,327	\$61,768,961
May	\$2,732,819	\$24,700,778	\$35,141,081	\$62,574,678
June	\$2,281,302	\$20,479,150	\$31,541,427	\$54,301,879
Total	\$32,586,138	\$264,123,418	\$390,285,151	\$686,994,705

Child Support Program

Child Support Collections
Actual and Projected – July 2011 to June 2013

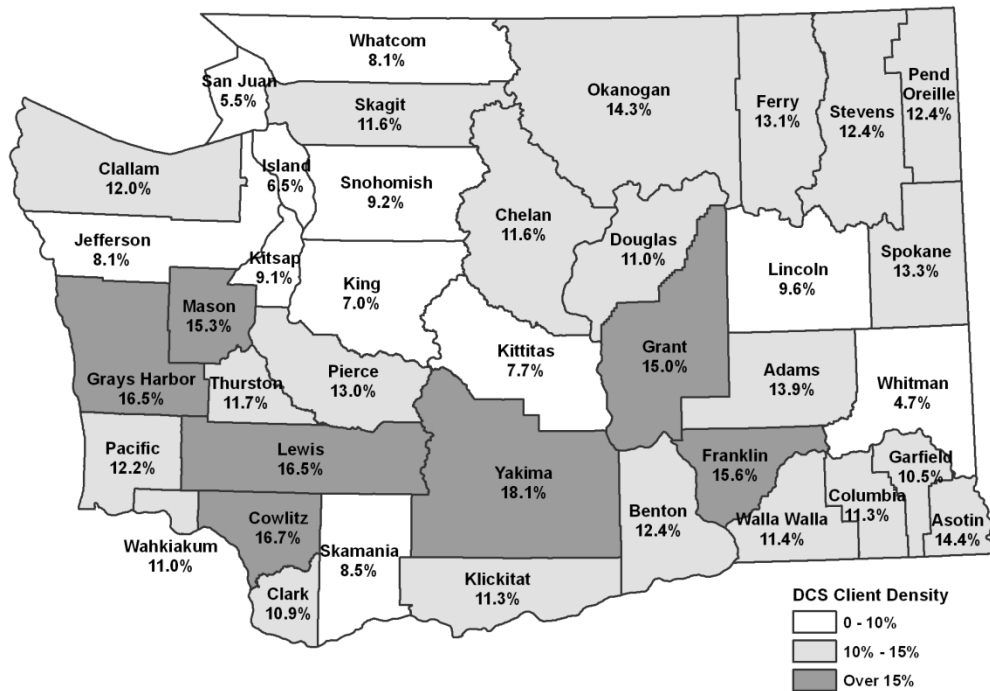
Source: Division of Child Support



	<u>SFY 2012</u>		<u>SFY 2013</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected</u>
July	\$53,613,906	\$53,613,907	\$55,264,703	\$57,406,400
August	\$56,180,202	\$56,180,201	\$54,733,224	\$54,417,334
September	\$53,771,044	\$53,771,043	\$51,142,826	\$53,863,485
October	\$54,436,505	\$52,983,235	\$57,504,395	\$53,438,259
November	\$53,741,354	\$52,550,694	\$53,856,943	\$49,688,778
December	\$54,281,154	\$54,964,541	\$54,180,952	\$55,925,898
January	\$53,277,161	\$52,377,895	\$53,768,257	\$50,545,200
February	\$62,104,618	\$56,974,114	\$58,478,256	\$55,070,286
March	\$67,428,630	\$63,931,773	\$69,419,631	\$66,307,181
April	\$59,731,226	\$58,146,110	\$61,768,961	\$58,616,173
May	\$61,346,186	\$59,015,434	\$62,574,678	\$59,116,128
June	\$56,427,331	\$57,070,723	\$54,301,879	\$58,316,013
Total	\$686,339,317	\$671,579,670	\$686,994,705	\$672,711,137

**Child Support Program
Percentage of Residents Served by DCS
June 2013 Snapshot**

Percentage of Residents Served by DCS During June 2013



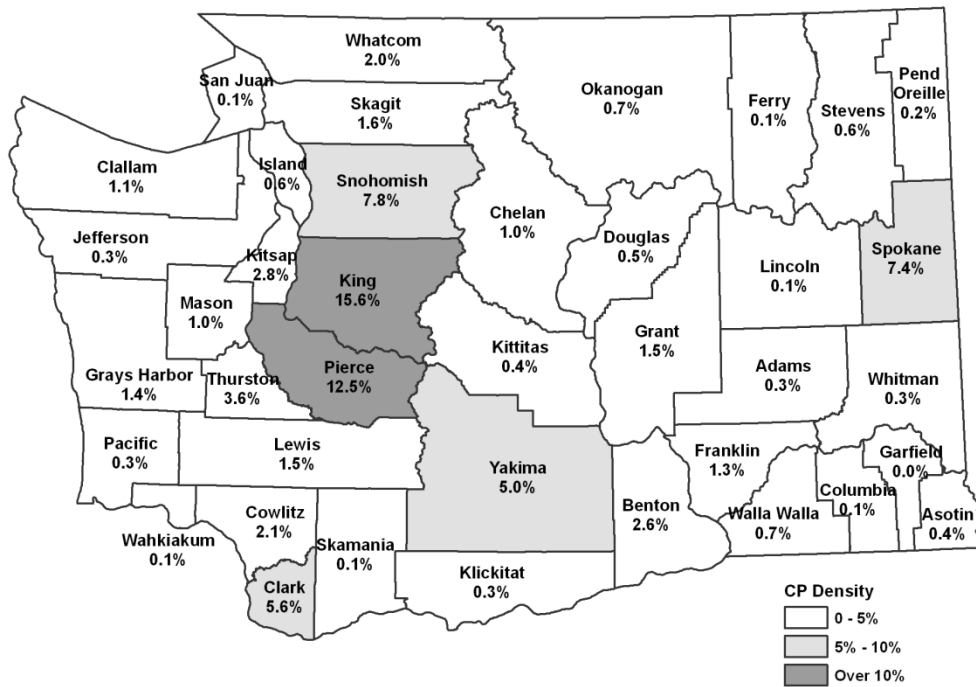
Note: The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2013 by the OFM 2013 County Population estimate.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Oct. 2013

County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served
Adams	2,670	19,200	13.9%	Lewis	12,573	76,200	16.5%
Asotin	3,140	21,800	14.4%	Lincoln	1,025	10,675	9.6%
Benton	22,770	183,400	12.4%	Mason	9,429	61,800	15.3%
Chelan	8,535	73,600	11.6%	Okanogan	5,953	41,500	14.3%
Clallam	8,692	72,350	12.0%	Pacific	2,568	21,000	12.2%
Clark	47,588	435,500	10.9%	Pend Oreille	1,636	13,150	12.4%
Columbia	465	4,100	11.3%	Pierce	106,175	814,500	13.0%
Cowlitz	17,245	103,300	16.7%	San Juan	873	16,000	5.5%
Douglas	4,310	39,280	11.0%	Skagit	13,773	118,600	11.6%
Ferry	1,000	7,650	13.1%	Skamania	960	11,300	8.5%
Franklin	13,211	84,800	15.6%	Snohomish	67,279	730,500	9.2%
Garfield	236	2,250	10.5%	Spokane	63,683	480,000	13.3%
Grant	13,785	91,800	15.0%	Stevens	5,414	43,800	12.4%
Grays Harbor	12,111	73,200	16.5%	Thurston	30,355	260,100	11.7%
Island	5,191	79,700	6.5%	Wahkiakum	443	4,020	11.0%
Jefferson	2,466	30,275	8.1%	Walla Walla	6,797	59,500	11.4%
King	139,684	1,981,900	7.0%	Whatcom	16,742	205,800	8.1%
Kitsap	23,211	254,000	9.1%	Whitman	2,166	46,000	4.7%
Kittitas	3,236	41,900	7.7%	Yakima	44,743	247,250	18.1%
Klickitat	2,335	20,700	11.3%	State Total	724,468	6,882,400	10.5%

Child Support Program

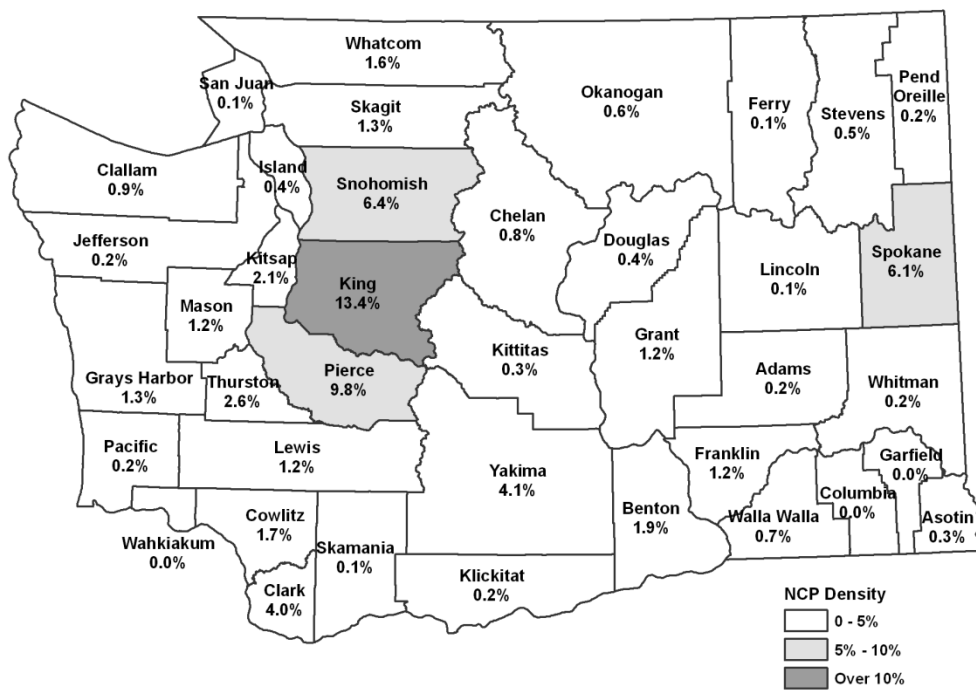
Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2013



Note: 16.5% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Oct. 2013

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2013



Note: 32.5% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Oct. 2013

**Child Support Program
Child Support Client Demographics
June 2013 Snapshot**

Source: Division of Child Support SEMS (Support Enforcement Management System)

Characteristic	Non-Custodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	277,329	100.0%	295,518	100.0%	339,307	100.0%
Gender						
Female	41,243	14.9%	260,035	88.0%	166,688	49.1%
Male	235,346	84.9%	32,943	11.1%	172,250	50.8%
Unknown	740	0.3%	2,540	.9%	369	0.1%
Age of Parents						
< 26 Years Old	23,545	8.5%	31,432	10.6%		
26 – 35 Years Old	91,556	33.0%	96,648	32.7%		
36 – 45 Years Old	96,516	34.8%	94,800	32.1%		
46 – 55 Years Old	51,001	18.4%	49,720	16.8%		
55+ Years Old	11,653	4.2%	20,267	6.9%		
Age of Children						
< 6 Year Old					86,136	25.4%
6 – 10 Years Old					95,290	28.1%
11 – 15 Years Old					103,215	30.4%
16 – 18 Years Old					46,151	13.6%
18+ Years Old					8,234	2.4%
Mean Age	38.7 Years Old		39.0 Years Old		10.2 Years Old	
Median Age	38.0 Years Old		37.6 Years Old		10.1 Years Old	

Child Support Program

**Child Support Cost Avoidance for Basic Food and TANF
SFY 2013**

Source: DCS SEMS, ESA-ACES, ESD wage data

SFY 13	<u>Basic Food</u>			<u>TANF</u>		
	Average CR ⁵ Basic Food Expenditure	Average CI ⁶ Basic Food Expenditure	Total Basic Food Savings	Average CR TANF Expenditure	Average CI TANF Expenditure	Total TANF Savings
July	\$109.5	\$162.7	\$2,477,188	\$14.3	\$35.4	\$854,290
August	\$109.4	\$164.0	\$2,496,193	\$13.9	\$35.6	\$859,302
September	\$108.0	\$163.0	\$2,452,206	\$13.2	\$35.2	\$867,873
October	\$108.6	\$165.4	\$2,544,411	\$13.3	\$35.3	\$868,048
November	\$107.3	\$164.5	\$2,545,165	\$12.7	\$34.2	\$831,135
December	\$105.9	\$164.2	\$2,559,992	\$12.7	\$34.1	\$817,997
January	\$104.8	\$163.9	\$2,588,569	\$12.6	\$34.1	\$820,888
February	\$107.7	\$163.9	\$2,529,535	\$12.9	\$33.6	\$806,255
March	\$108.7	\$161.8	\$2,516,514	\$13.6	\$32.2	\$757,834
April	\$108.2	\$162.0	\$2,537,577	\$12.8	\$31.9	\$798,874
May	\$107.9	\$161.3	\$2,232,504	\$12.4	\$30.9	\$740,127
June	\$107.6	\$159.9	\$2,035,749	\$11.9	\$30.4	\$674,870
Total	-	-	\$29,515,602	-	-	\$9,697,494

**Child Support Cost Avoidance for Medicaid
SFY 2012⁷**

Source: DCS SEMS, ESA-ACES, ESD wage data

SFY 12	Total CP ⁸ Medicaid Savings	Total Child Medicaid Savings	Total Medicaid Savings
July	\$2,203,377	\$4,034,025	\$6,237,403
August	\$2,379,992	\$5,131,422	\$7,511,414
September	\$2,188,045	\$4,652,762	\$6,840,806
October	\$2,002,570	\$5,018,337	\$7,020,906
November	\$2,134,565	\$4,761,312	\$6,895,877
December	\$2,284,907	\$4,428,670	\$6,713,577
January	\$1,951,586	\$4,643,017	\$6,594,602
February	\$2,140,867	\$4,655,971	\$6,796,838
March	\$2,248,883	\$5,177,937	\$7,426,820
April	\$2,368,541	\$4,371,004	\$6,739,545
May	\$1,957,555	\$4,899,931	\$6,857,486
June	\$1,966,656	\$3,932,036	\$5,898,692
Total	\$25,827,543	\$55,706,424	\$81,533,967

⁵ CR: Custodial parents with regular child support payments. Regular child support payments are defined as summed monthly order amount more than \$0 and summed total arrearage debt less than twice the summed monthly order amount.

⁶ CI: Custodial parents without regular child support payments.

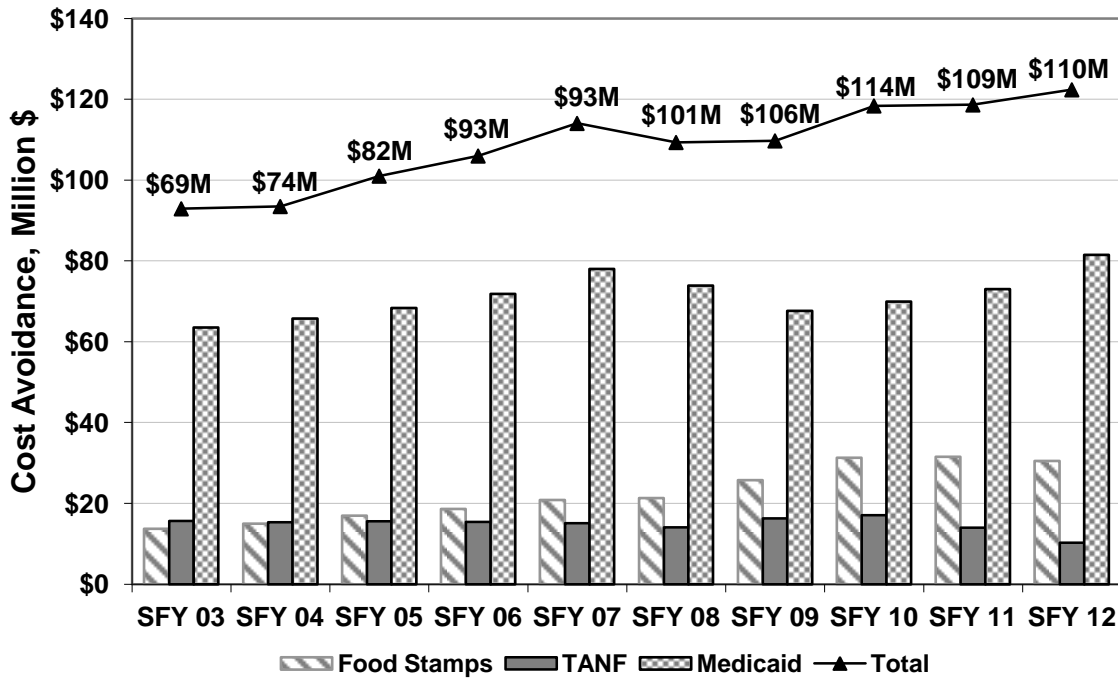
⁷ Medicaid expenditure data after SFY 12 is not available at this time.

⁸ CP: Custodial parents

Child Support Program

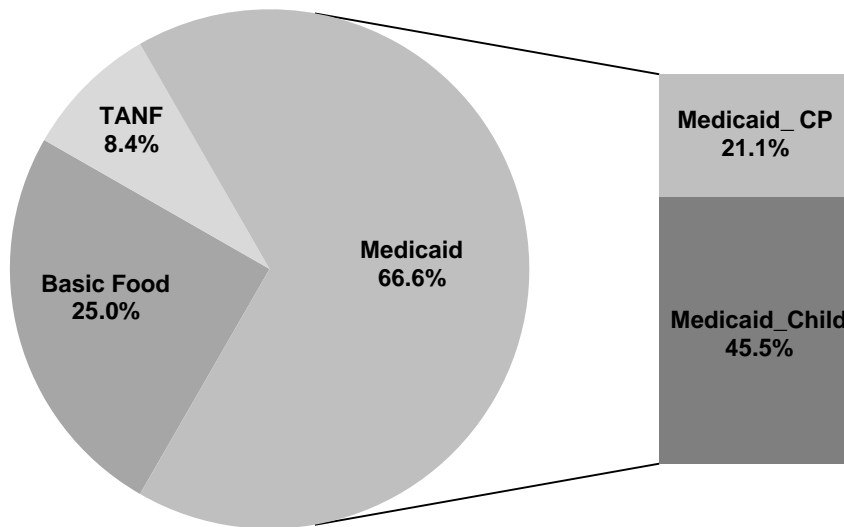
**Child Support Cost Avoidance, Millions
SFY 2003 - SFY 2012⁹**

Source: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include:
DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data.



**Sources of \$122 Million in Child Support Cost Avoidance
SFY 2012⁹**

Source: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include
DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data.



⁹ SFY 2012 is being reported rather than SFY 2013. Reporting data for cost avoidance measures is always delayed by several months due to data availability.

Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgments and Genetic Testing

Voluntary Paternity Program Background

The Washington State Paternity Acknowledgment Program began in 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 a later date. Most Paternity Acknowledgments are signed at a birthing hospital. Based on its success of increasing paternity establishments using the voluntary acknowledgment 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.

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) 2013, 21,937 paternities were established, 72.6% by Paternity Acknowledgment, compared to 76.5% in SFY 2012.

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, but are included in the program now. DCS pays for Notaries Public at the State's birthing hospitals, increasing the availability for parents to sign a Paternity Acknowledgment. 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.