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 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 assistance 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
(cont'd)**

Highlights

- The Child Support program served about 1 out of every 10 state residents during SFY 2014.

- The Child Support program served an average of 328,773 children per month during SFY 2014.

- The average monthly child support caseload decreased from 372,701 in SFY 2013 to 364,295 in SFY 2014, a 2.3% decrease.

- Within this caseload, average monthly Current Assistance cases decreased 8.8% from 45,176 in SFY 2013 to 41,179 in SFY 2014; Former Assistance cases decreased slightly from 196,769 to 196,630; and Never Assistance cases decreased 3.3% from 130,756 to 126,486.

- Most (84.6%) non-custodial parents are male with an average age of 39.2 years, while most (88.0%) custodial parents are female with an average age of 39.5 years.

- Total collections for SFY 2014 were $682.4 million; nearly meeting the $684.0 million projected.

- In SFY 2014, child support cost avoidance was $48.5 million (an 8.4% decrease over SFY 2013) for the Basic Food program and $16.9 million (a 6.2% decrease over SFY 2013) for the TANF program.

- In 2014, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported 28,002 births to unmarried mothers. Of these births, DOH reports that 21,910 (78.2%) of the unmarried parents collectively signed and filed Washington State Paternity Acknowledgment forms. The vast majority of these Acknowledgments were signed at the hospital as a result of Washington State's Paternity Acknowledgment Program.

- The Alternative Solutions Program is a Statewide Employment Initiative implemented by DCS in July 2014 to assist non-custodial parents (NCPs) struggling to meet their child support obligations by connecting them to community resources that can help them remove those barriers, such as helping them with work related training, education, and supportive services. Between July 2014 and December 11, 2014 the program has received referrals. Participation in the program is voluntary. The program has been embraced by parents, field staff, prosecuting attorney staff, and community partners with

Child Support Program (cont'd)

real-life success stories already resulting from this cooperative effort.

- Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) – In September 2014, DCS was awarded two five-year grant projects from the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE). These grants will explore the potential relevance and application of behavioral economics to child support services. Behavioral economics uses insights from psychology and related fields to explain why and how people may act in ways that do not appear to be in their best interests. Within the child support system, behavioral economics is helpful to understanding how structural or informational bottlenecks could influence a noncustodial parent's fulfillment of their support obligation. The BICS demonstration grant will test behaviorally informed interventions to improve child support outcomes. This grant will involve pilot projects in the Seattle, Everett, and Olympia field offices which will focus on early engagement and intervention in the establishment, enforcement and modification of child support, with the intent of having more active engagement and better compliance towards meeting support obligations. A total of eight states/districts were awarded these demonstration grants. The BICS evaluation grant will manage and provide technical assistance and evaluation services for the eight states running the BICS demonstration grant projects. Washington was the only state to receive this larger, over-arching grant award. These grant projects run through September of 2019.

- Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self Sufficiency (BIAS) – DCS is also working on a project called BIAS which is based on a grant project which originated between OCSE and the State of Texas. This is a short-term non-grant project for DCS, the study of which will become a part of the larger BIAS study. The project involves a pilot at the Olympia Field Office which focuses specifically on revisiting child support orders that were based on the NCP's income prior to incarceration. These monthly support obligations continue to accrue during the NCP's period of incarceration, unless the NCP proactively seeks to change the support obligation to match his or her lack of income during incarceration. The grant focuses on NCPs incarcerated at the Washington Correction Center (WCC) in Shelton.

Child Support Program
Child Support Incentive Scorecard
FFY2013[1] and FFY2014[2]
Source: Division of Child Support

MEASURE	Goal Needed to Obtain 100% Funding	Actual Performance		Estimated Percentage of Maximum Incentive Reached	
		2013	2014	2013	2014
Paternity Establishment Percentage	80%	100.1%	97.2%	100%	100%
Support Order Establishment	80%	91.2%	93.2%	100%	100%
Current Collections	80%	64.7%	64.6%	74%	74%
Arrearage Collections	80%	60.7%	60.4%	70%	70%
Cost-Effectiveness	$5.00	$4.97	$4.78	90%	90%
INCENTIVE TOTALS				86.8%	86.8%

[1] FFY 2014 data is from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) 2013 Preliminary Report.

[2] FFY 2014 data is preliminary based on unaudited federal reports.

[3] DCS incentive payments for FFY13 are based on DCS actual FFY13 performance and OCSE FFY13 preliminary performance results for all other states. DCS incentive payments for FFY14 are based on DCS actual FFY14 performance and OCSE FFY13 preliminary performance results for all other states. Data source: DCS Fiscal Office.

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.
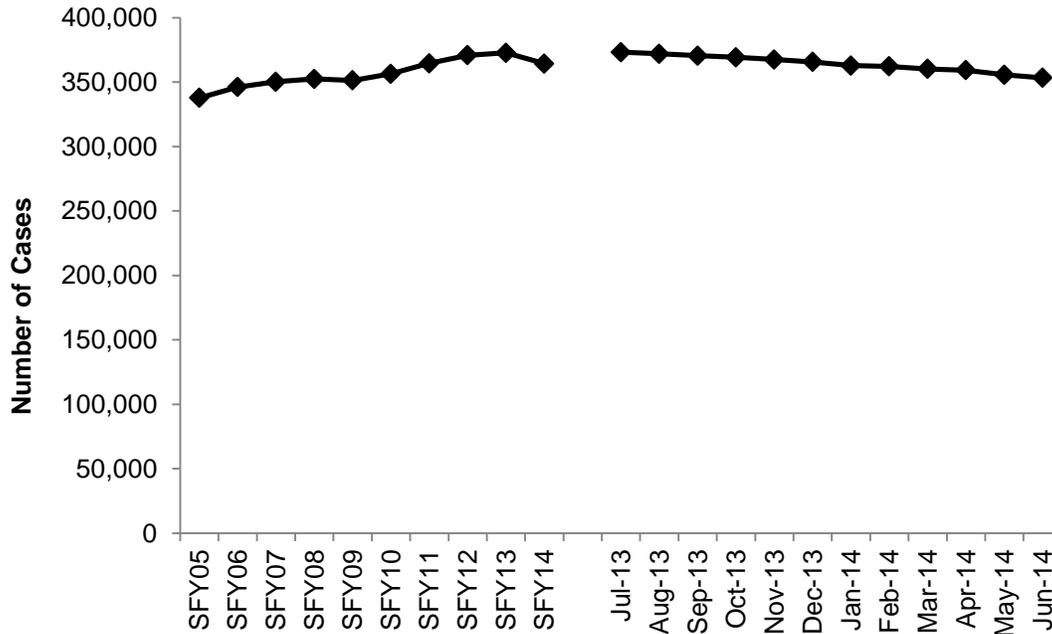
ARREARAGE COLLECTIONS: Number of IV-D Cases Paying Toward Arrears divided by Number of IV-D Cases with Arrears Due.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS: Total IV-D Dollars Collected divided by Total IV-D Dollars Expended.

Child Support Caseload[1]
SFY 2005 through SFY 2014
Source: Division of Child Support

| Year	Cases	Year	Cases
SFY05	337,810	**SFY10**	356,436
SFY06	346,184	**SFY11**	364,535
SFY07	350,206	**SFY12**	370,830
SFY08	352,422	**SFY13**	372,701
SFY09	351,315	**SFY14**	364,295

SFY 2014	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Caseload
July	42,306	198,890	131,959	373,155
August	42,271	198,444	131,184	371,899
September	42,529	197,967	130,027	370,523
October	41,641	198,466	129,140	369,247
November	41,557	197,827	128,135	367,519
December	41,262	197,275	127,140	365,677
January	41,771	195,565	125,438	362,774
February	40,873	196,249	125,050	362,172
March	41,006	195,567	123,706	360,279
April	40,135	195,857	123,303	359,295
May	39,841	193,928	121,855	355,624
June	38,960	193,527	120,890	353,377
Mo. Avg.	**41,179**	**196,630**	**126,486**	**364,295**

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[1] Case counts are unduplicated.

Child Support Program
Child Support Collections
### SFY 2005 – SFY 2014
Source: Division of Child Support
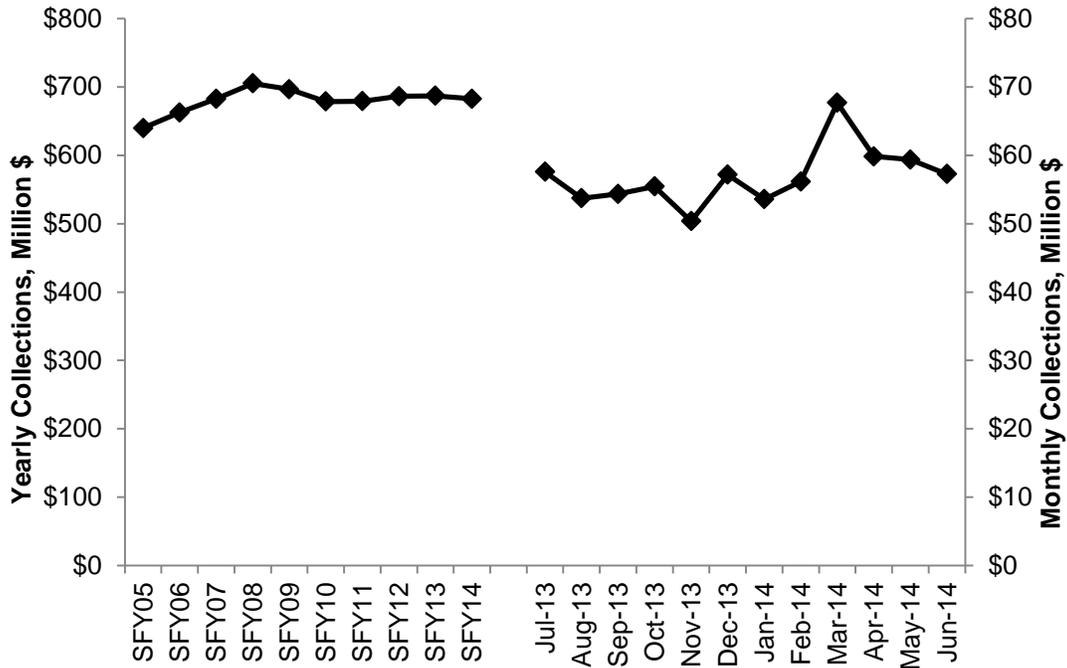
Year	Collections	Year	Collections
SFY05	$639,591,288	**SFY10**	$678,663,012
SFY06	$662,571,225	**SFY11**	$679,114,124
SFY07	$682,569,955	**SFY12**	$686,339,317
SFY08	$704,983,914	**SFY13**	$686,994,705
SFY09	$696,497,265	**SFY14**	$682,411,249

SFY 2014	TANF/Foster Care	Former Assistance	Never Assistance	Total IV-D Collections
July	$2,414,035	$21,711,200	$33,460,151	$57,585,386
August	$2,203,518	$20,046,450	$31,463,212	$53,713,179
September	$2,275,069	$20,409,363	$31,657,956	$54,342,387
October	$2,349,660	$20,848,807	$32,230,913	$55,429,379
November	$2,008,550	$18,808,788	$29,536,577	$50,353,916
December	$2,298,675	$21,426,481	$33,431,639	$57,156,795
January	$2,125,794	$19,753,120	$31,682,828	$53,561,741
February	$2,731,644	$21,639,048	$31,774,114	$56,144,807
March	$3,387,964	$27,649,450	$36,637,875	$67,675,290
April	$2,446,933	$23,215,302	$34,175,870	$59,838,105
May	$2,434,121	$22,838,098	$34,084,287	$59,356,506
June	$2,156,346	$21,567,907	$33,529,505	$57,253,759
Total	**$28,832,309**	**$259,914,014**	**$393,664,927**	**$682,411,250**

Child Support Program
Child Support Collections
## Actual and Projected – July 2012 to June 2014
Source: Division of Child Support
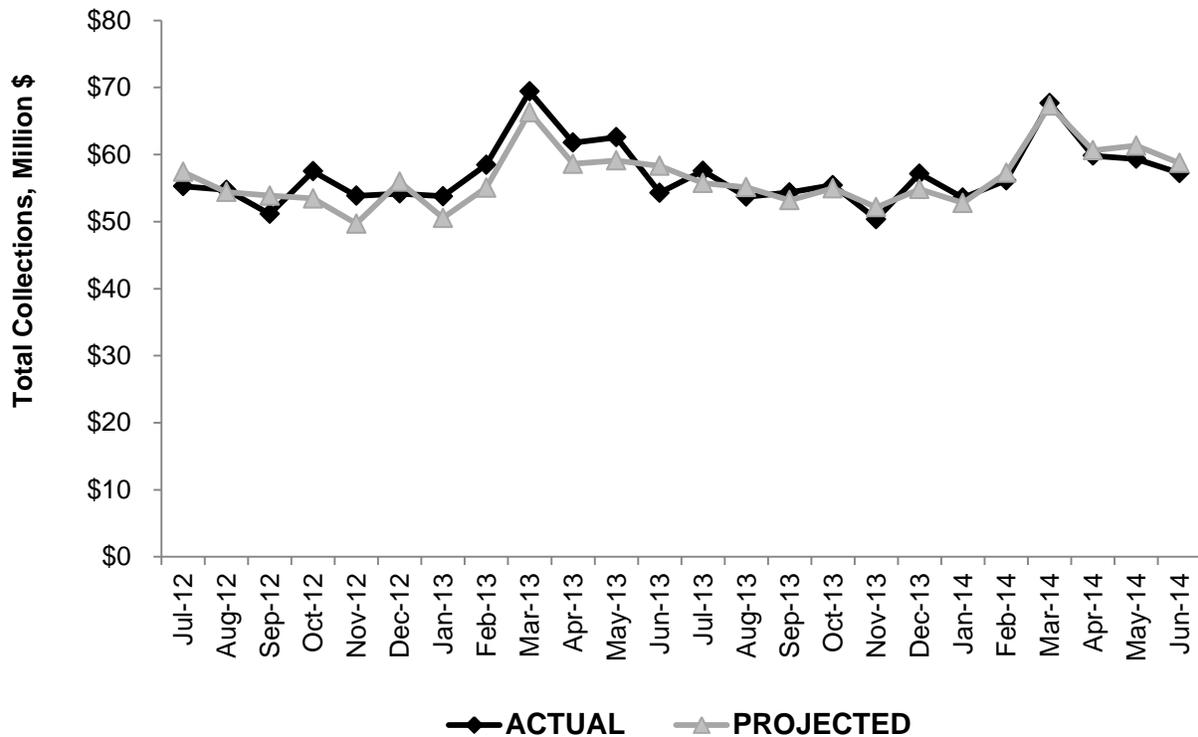
	SFY2013		SFY2014	
	Actual	**Projected**	**Actual**	**Projected**
July	$55,264,703	$57,406,400	$57,585,386	$55,737,235
August	$54,733,224	$54,417,334	$53,713,179	$55,134,973
September	$51,142,826	$53,863,485	$54,342,387	$53,186,170
October	$57,504,395	$53,438,259	$55,429,379	$54,953,071
November	$53,856,943	$49,688,778	$50,353,916	$52,151,569
December	$54,180,952	$55,925,898	$57,156,795	$54,956,396
January	$53,768,257	$50,545,200	$53,561,741	$52,776,578
February	$58,478,256	$55,070,286	$56,144,807	$57,270,181
March	$69,419,631	$66,307,181	$67,675,290	$67,312,371
April	$61,768,961	$58,616,173	$59,838,105	$60,624,324
May	$62,574,678	$59,116,128	$59,356,506	$61,313,557
June	$54,301,879	$58,316,013	$57,253,759	$58,730,687
Total	**$686,994,705**	**$672,711,137**	**$682,411,250**	**$684,036,113**

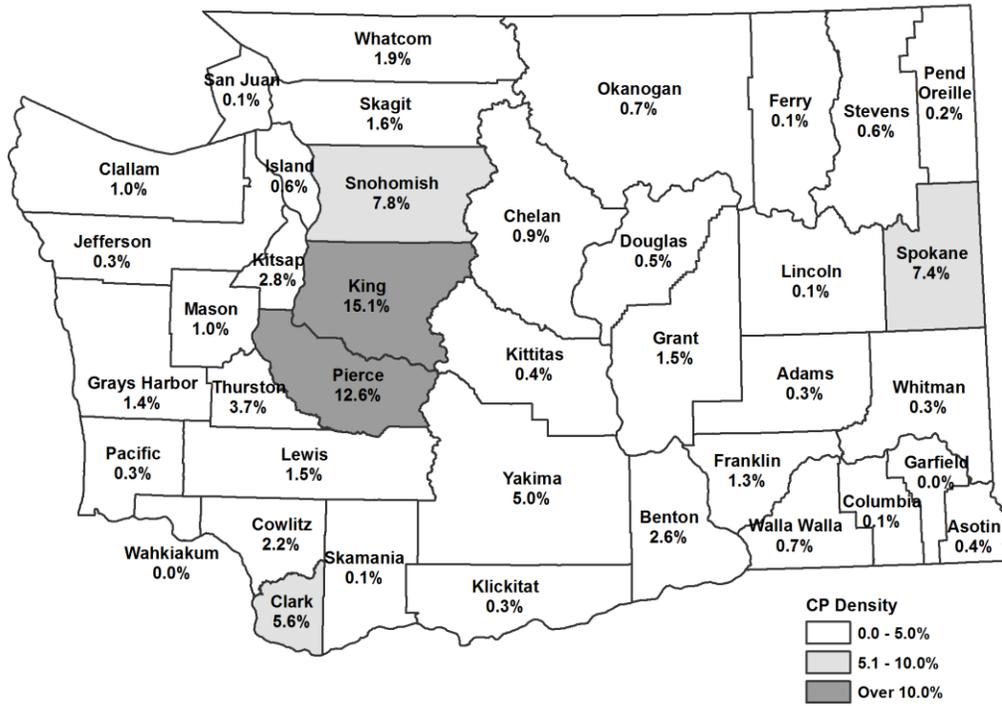## Percentage of Residents Served by DCS During June 2014
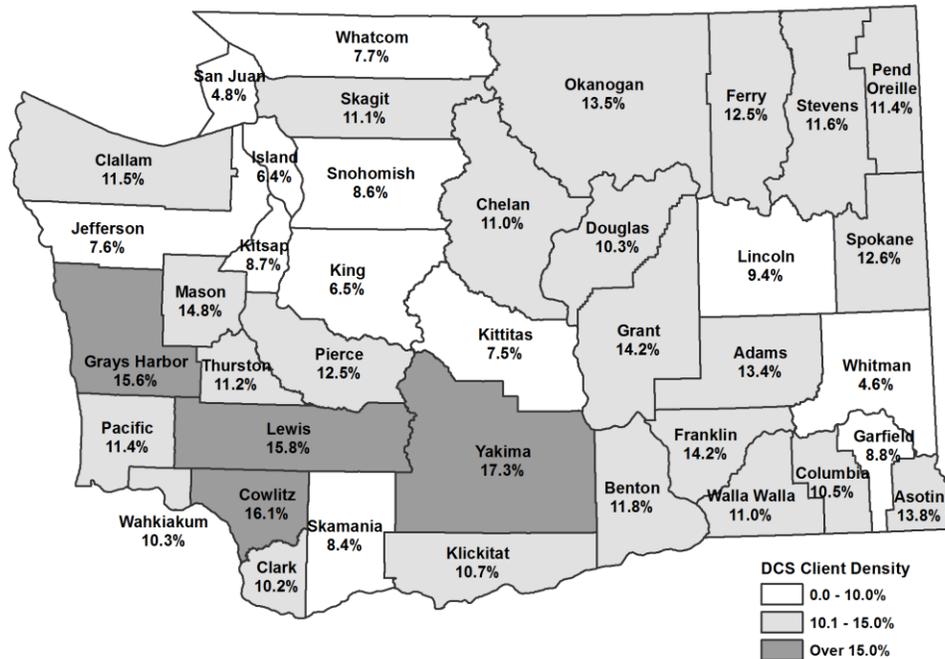
Note: The percentage of residents served is obtained by dividing the number of DCS clients in a county during June 2014 by the OFM 2014 County Population estimate.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Oct. 2014

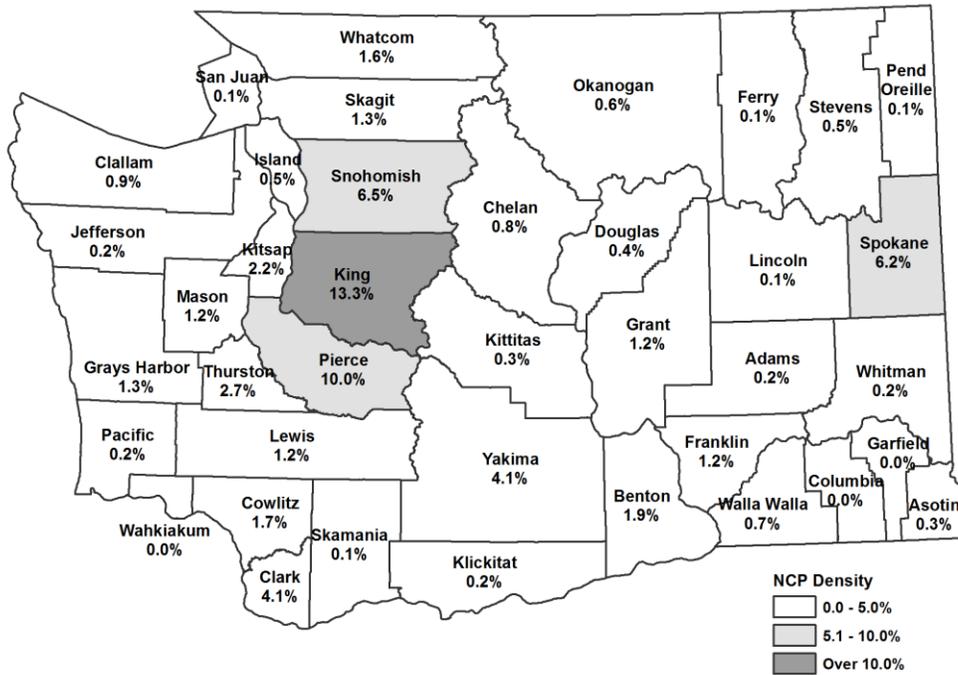| County	DCS Clients	Population Estimate	% of Residents Served	County	DCS Clients	County	% of Residents Served
Adams	2,593	19,400	13.4%	Lewis	12,062	76,300	15.8%
Asotin	3,023	21,950	13.8%	Lincoln	1,007	10,700	9.4%
Benton	21,996	186,500	11.8%	Mason	9,203	62,000	14.8%
Chelan	8,205	74,300	11.0%	Okanogan	5,612	41,700	13.5%
Clallam	8,364	72,500	11.5%	Pacific	2,402	21,100	11.4%
Clark	45,342	442,800	10.2%	Pend Oreille	1,511	13,210	11.4%
Columbia	428	4,080	10.5%	Pierce	102,990	821,300	12.5%
Cowlitz	16,743	103,700	16.1%	San Juan	773	16,100	4.8%
Douglas	4,102	39,700	10.3%	Skagit	13,247	119,500	11.1%
Ferry	957	7,660	12.5%	Skamania	959	11,370	8.4%
Franklin	12,340	86,600	14.2%	Snohomish	63,963	741,000	8.6%
Garfield	198	2,240	8.8%	Spokane	60,977	484,500	12.6%
Grant	13,194	92,900	14.2%	Stevens	5,091	43,900	11.6%
Grays Harbor	11,430	73,300	15.6%	Thurston	29,552	264,000	11.2%
Island	5,138	80,000	6.4%	Wahkiakum	412	4,010	10.3%
Jefferson	2,345	30,700	7.6%	Walla Walla	6,607	60,150	11.0%
King	131,814	2,017,250	6.5%	Whatcom	15,894	207,600	7.7%
Kitsap	22,361	255,900	8.7%	Whitman	2,131	46,500	4.6%
Kittitas	3,172	42,100	7.5%	Yakima	43,138	248,800	17.3%
Klickitat	2,237	20,850	10.7%	**State Total**	**693,513**	**6,968,170**	**10.0%**

Percentage of Custodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2014

Whatcom 1.9%
San Juan 0.1%
Skagit 1.6%
Okanogan 0.7%
Ferry 0.1%
Stevens 0.6%
Pend Oreille 0.2%
Clallam 1.0%
Island 0.6%
Snohomish 7.8%
Chelan 0.9%
Douglas 0.5%
Spokane 7.4%
Jefferson 0.3%
Kitsap 2.8%
King 15.1%
Lincoln 0.1%
Mason 1.0%
Kittitas 0.4%
Grant 1.5%
Adams 0.3%
Whitman 0.3%
Grays Harbor 1.4%
Thurston 3.7%
Pierce 12.6%
Pacific 0.3%
Lewis 1.5%
Yakima 5.0%
Franklin 1.3%
Garfield 0.0%
Columbia 0.1%
Walla Walla 0.7%
Asotin 0.4%
Wahkiakum 0.0%
Cowlitz 2.2%
Skamania 0.1%
Benton 2.6%
Clark 5.6%
Klickitat 0.3%

CP Density
0.0 - 5.0%
5.1 - 10.0%
Over 10.0%

Note: 17.1% of CPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Oct. 2014

Percentage of Noncustodial Parents by County in Washington State: June 2014

Whatcom 1.6%
San Juan 0.1%
Skagit 1.3%
Okanogan 0.6%
Ferry 0.1%
Stevens 0.5%
Pend Oreille 0.1%
Clallam 0.9%
Island 0.5%
Snohomish 6.5%
Chelan 0.8%
Douglas 0.4%
Spokane 6.2%
Jefferson 0.2%
Kitsap 2.2%
King 13.3%
Lincoln 0.1%
Mason 1.2%
Kittitas 0.3%
Grant 1.2%
Adams 0.2%
Whitman 0.2%
Grays Harbor 1.3%
Thurston 2.7%
Pierce 10.0%
Pacific 0.2%
Lewis 1.2%
Yakima 4.1%
Franklin 1.2%
Garfield 0.0%
Columbia 0.0%
Walla Walla 0.7%
Asotin 0.3%
Wahkiakum 0.0%
Cowlitz 1.7%
Skamania 0.1%
Benton 1.9%
Clark 4.1%
Klickitat 0.2%

NCP Density
0.0 - 5.0%
5.1 - 10.0%
Over 10.0%

Note: 31.8% of NCPs are out of state or do not have valid county address code.

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Oct. 2014

Child Support Client Demographics
June 2014
Source: Division of Child Support SEMS (Support Enforcement Management System)

Characteristic	Non-Custodial Parents		Custodial Parents		Children	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	**256,055**	**100.0%**	**277,354**	**100.0%**	**306,129**	**100.0%**
Gender						
Female	38,717	15.1%	244,158	88.0%	150,307	49.1%
Male	216,715	84.6%	30,771	11.1%	155,564	50.8%
Unknown	623	0.2%	2,425	.9%	258	0.1%
Age of Parents						
< 26 Years Old	19,639	7.7%	26,102	9.4%		
26 – 35 Years Old	82,867	32.4%	89,065	32.1%		
36 – 45 Years Old	90,599	35.4%	90,429	32.6%		
46 – 55 Years Old	48,968	19.1%	48,332	17.4%		
55+ Years Old	11,840	4.6%	21,025	7.6%		
Age of Children						
< 6 Year Old					70,889	23.2%
6 – 10 Years Old					89,128	29.1%
11 – 15 Years Old					94,866	31.0%
16 – 18 Years Old					43,570	14.2%
18+ Years Old					7,469	2.4%
Mean Age	39.1 Years Old		39.6 Years Old		10.4 Years Old	
Median Age	39.2 Years Old		39.5 Years Old		10.5 Years Old	

Child Support Program
Child Support Cost Avoidance for Basic Food and TANF
SFY2014
Source: DCS SEMS, ESA-ACES, ESD wage data

SFY14	**Basic Food**			**TANF**		
	Average CR[1] Basic Food Expenditure	Average CI[2] Basic Food Expenditure	Total Basic Food Savings	Average CR[1] TANF Expenditure	Average CI[2] TANF Expenditure	Total TANF Savings
July	$106.26	$179.71	$4,269,050	$10.87	$36.04	$1,353,756
August	$106.81	$182.00	$4,335,363	$10.60	$36.07	$1,349,932
September	$106.08	$180.57	$4,283,074	$10.68	$36.36	$1,364,090
October	$105.77	$180.67	$4,341,696	$10.40	$36.52	$1,420,359
November	$96.09	$165.13	$3,902,417	$9.86	$35.13	$1,329,449
December	$94.62	$163.58	$3,952,306	$9.73	$34.92	$1,346,706
January	$94.37	$162.28	$3,878,690	$9.82	$35.77	$1,409,824
February	$96.15	$161.83	$3,746,051	$10.42	$36.17	$1,398,014
March	$95.49	$160.05	$3,787,257	$10.14	$35.53	$1,427,236
April	$94.80	$159.38	$3,856,898	$10.04	$35.42	$1,455,259
May	$94.27	$158.37	$4,178,377	$9.52	$34.89	$1,581,247
June	$93.79	$156.41	$3,942,013	$9.19	$34.11	$1,499,971
Total	-	-	**$48,473,191**	-	-	**$16,935,844**

[1] 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.

[2] CI: Custodial parents without regular child support payments.

Child Support Cost Avoidance for Medicaid
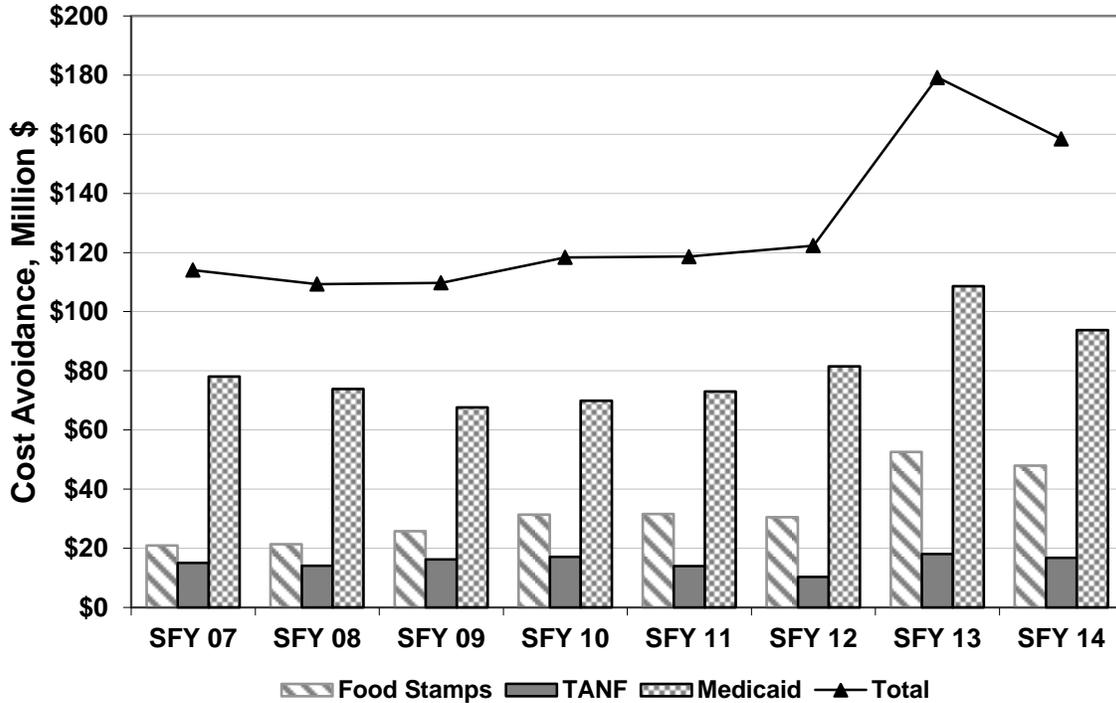## SFY2014
Source: DCS SEMS, ESA-ACES, ESD wage data

| SFY14	Total CP[1] Medicaid Savings	Total Child Medicaid Savings	Total Medicaid Savings
July	$2,910,243	$5,052,665	$7,962,907
August	$3,240,906	$5,279,451	$8,520,357
September	$3,179,630	$5,260,315	$8,439,946
October	$3,542,331	$5,288,230	$8,830,561
November	$3,032,136	$4,953,263	$7,985,399
December	$2,562,935	$4,947,347	$7,510,282
January	$3,619,489	$4,837,191	$8,456,681
February	$2,838,887	$4,450,843	$7,289,731
March	$3,169,323	$4,489,944	$7,659,267
April	$2,948,529	$4,389,895	$7,338,424
May	$2,978,804	$4,216,868	$7,195,672
June	$3,097,077	$3,458,720	$6,555,797
Total	**$37,120,290**	**$56,624,734**	**$93,745,024**

[1] CP: custodial parents

Child Support Cost Avoidance, Millions
SFY 2007 - SFY 2014
Source: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include:
DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data.

Sources of $158 Million in Child Support Cost Avoidance
SFY 2014
Source: Data sources of cost avoidance estimates include
DCS SEMS data, CSDB data, and ESD wage data.
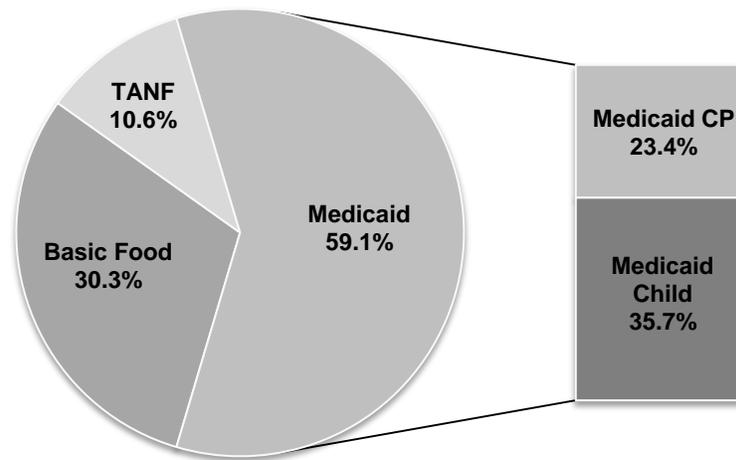
<u>**Voluntary Paternity Program Background**</u>
The Washington State Paternity Acknowledgment Program began July 1989 as a partnership between the Washington State Division of Child Support (DCS) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The program provides cooperative unmarried parents 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 created numerous state requirements, including the requirement that states afford all unmarried parents the opportunity to voluntarily acknowledge paternity. 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 authorized 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 signed and filed Paternity Acknowledgment creates a legal determination of paternity immediately without the need for a court order. 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 afforded by this simple administrative process also provides other benefits, such as making a child eligible to participate in any available social security, veterans', life insurance, and health insurance benefits.

Results: The signed and filed Paternity Acknowledgment allows DCS to establish a child support obligation quickly and at low cost. DCS is usually able to obtain a child support order in 90 days or less from the date DOH files the Paternity Acknowledgment, which is a much quicker and less costly process that establishing paternity through a court order. 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) 2014, 17,751 paternities were established, 71.6% by Paternity Acknowledgment,

<u>**Voluntary Paternity Testing Program**</u>
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 now. DCS pays for Notaries Public at the State's birthing hospitals, increasing the availability for parents to sign a Paternity Acknowledgment, since Washington State requires that parents' signatures be notarized on the document. DCS also offers unmarried parents no-cost genetic testing in a non-judicial setting. Through the VPTP, hospital staff can offer an application for genetic testing to unmarried parents. This gives parents who want to be certain that they are the child's biological parent before voluntarily agreeing to be legally established as the parent the opportunity certainty, which is good for both the parents and child if there is a question about paternity.