

2014 Status Report on Public Defense in Washington State

April 2015

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Introduction

The U.S. and Washington constitutions guarantee the right to counsel for all criminal defendants. The State Office of Public Defense (OPD) is an independent judicial branch agency created by the Legislature in 1996 to help implement the constitutional and statutory rights to counsel and ensure effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense services funded by the state.

Washington law requires local jurisdictions to provide public defense services to those determined to be indigent. Locally administered and funded public defense representation has resulted in a varying array of services throughout the State. Recent years have witnessed significant improvements to local public defense services, yet 2014's may be the most dramatic to date. Attorneys representing juvenile offenders and adults charged with felonies now certify to compliance with mandatory caseload limits. Cities and counties have responded to recent litigation in federal court pertaining to government's obligation to ensure quality public defense, by increasing funding levels and paying closer attention to the quality of services. Attorneys representing adults charged with misdemeanors have been preparing for the 2015 implementation of mandatory misdemeanor caseload limits, the area that will see the most dramatic decrease in attorney caseloads.

This ninth annual status report highlights OPD's collaborative work with attorneys, courts, and local jurisdictions and includes:

- OPD's Public Defense Improvement Program's projects and accomplishments in 2014, which include providing technical assistance to cities and counties, delivering free training to public defense attorneys, and overseeing administration of state funds for public defense improvement.
- Evolving public defense practices and funding levels. Many jurisdictions have taken active steps to reduce caseloads and provide greater quality control oversight in response to the Supreme Court's Standards for Indigent Defense and recent litigation.
- Highlights from a report presented to the Washington House Judiciary Committee on the costs of implementing misdemeanor caseload limits.
- Data on public defense expenses, case assignments, and changes made to public defense services – particularly in light of the Supreme Court's Standards for Indigent Defense.
- Information pertaining to public defense services in all counties and cities receiving state funds.



Attorney Certification and Caseload Limits

In 2014 public defense attorneys statewide moved forward with implementing the Supreme Court's Standards for Indigent Defense (Standards). On a quarterly basis all attorneys appointed to represent indigent defendants submitted signed certifications in each court in which they practice affirming that they meet minimal qualifications, have access to necessary support and resources, and limit their caseloads to give each client the time and effort necessary for effective representation. Moreover, in 2014 public defense attorneys assigned to felonies and juvenile offender cases certified to compliance with the Supreme Court's caseload limits of 150 and 250 respectively.

Meanwhile, cities and counties continued to make preparations for staffing public defense services in light of misdemeanor caseload limits set to become effective in January 2015. The Standards permit fully-supported full-time attorneys to handle up to 400 misdemeanors per year, or 300 misdemeanor case weights. This limit will require a reduction in many attorneys' caseloads statewide. Cities are increasing public defense budgets, and seeking alternative case resolution methods for low-level misdemeanors that do not demand typical criminal case resources.

Many jurisdictions whose attorneys have excessive caseloads have increased their public defense budgets. These additional funds are used for hiring more attorneys to spread out caseloads, and/or to increase attorney compensation so that the attorneys can reduce their private-pay cases in excess of their public defense assignments. The following are examples of such budget increases for 2015 public defense expenditures:

- The City of Kent increased its public defense budget by \$250,000, representing a 28% increase.¹
- The City of Vancouver almost doubled its public defense budget to fund additional attorney positions, and increase compensation.²
- The City of Longview increased its 2015 public defense budget by \$200,000, representing a 43% increase, to hire more attorneys to manage the city's indigent defense caseload.³

¹ Steve Hunter, *City of Kent to Pay More in 2015 to Provide Public Defenders*, Kent Reporter (Dec. 30, 2014), <http://www.kentreporter.com/news/287153091.html#>.

² Stephanie Rice, *Vancouver Nearly Doubles Indigent Defense Fund*, The Columbian (Dec. 15, 2014), <http://www.columbian.com/news/2014/dec/15/vancouver-nearly-doubles-indigent-defense-fund/>.

³ Brooks Johnson, *Longview Council OKs \$200,000 to Hire Two More Public Defenders*, The Daily News (Sep. 25, 2014), http://tdn.com/news/local/longview-council-oks-to-hire-more-publicdefenders/article_6c861490-4551-11e4-942c-6b3a70a26572.html.

- The City of Kelso plans to spend an additional \$80,000 in 2015, representing an 89% budget increase, to reduce caseloads by half.⁴
- The City of Aberdeen will increase its public defense budget from \$92,000 to \$200,000.⁵

In addition, or as an alternative to increasing budgets, many jurisdictions are exploring alternative case resolutions which lower the number of misdemeanor filings in court, and reduce dependence on public defense services and other criminal justice resources. In some courts, cases which typically have resulted in negotiated reductions to infractions due to their low risk level and defendants' lack of criminal history are now being filed instead as infractions. This shift lessens the reliance on public defense attorneys and other criminal justice resources, yet yields the same consequences for the offenders. Similarly, there has been an increased interest in pre-file diversion programs, giving potential defendants an opportunity to address and eliminate the root causes of the criminal behavior. Successful completion can result in the case not being filed in court, or being filed as an infraction.

Many jurisdictions are exploring alternative case resolutions which lower the number of misdemeanor filings in court, and reduce dependence on public defense services and other criminal justice resources.

In the City of Yakima, the Prosecutor's Office has implemented an alternative method for screening new misdemeanor charges. Through this screening process, attorneys identify which charges may be appropriate for filing as infractions, or being referred to pre-file diversion.⁶ In 2008 and 2009, the city filed approximately 6,000 misdemeanors per year. By 2014, that number had been reduced almost in half, to 3,118 misdemeanor filings. Similarly the City of Kent has implemented various steps to review and, where appropriate, divert cases before being filed in court. From 2008 to 2014 Kent's criminal filings have been reduced by 22%.⁷

In addition to responding to the Supreme Court's Standards, local jurisdictions have taken additional steps to improve public defense services pursuant to the decision issued in *Wilbur, et al., v. City of Mount Vernon, et al.*, No. C11-1100RSL (W.D. Wash.). This 2013 federal court decision found that the attorneys providing public defense to the named cities each closed approximately 1,000 public defense cases annually in addition to representing privately retained

⁴ Shira Moskowitz, *New State Standards Will Double Kelso's Public Defender Budget in 2015*, The Daily News Online (Aug. 19, 2014), http://tdn.com/news/local/new-state-standards-will-double-kelso-s-public-defender-budget/article_1f5a7f46-2835-11e4-a8f3-001a4bcf887a.html.

⁵ Erin Hart, *Aberdeen's Cost of Public Defense to Double in 2015*, The Daily World (Aug. 14, 2014), <http://thedailyworld.com/news/local/aberdeen-s-cost-public-defense-double-2015>.

⁶ Ada Chong, *Fewer Criminal Cases Filed with Yakima Court System*, KIMATV (Aug. 11, 2014), <http://www.kimatv.com/news/local/Fewer-criminal-cases-filed-with-Yakima-court-system-270834761.html>.

⁷ Caseloads of the Courts of Washington, www.courts.wa.gov/caseload.

clients. The Court concluded that the cities are liable for civil rights violations under 42 U.S.C. §1983 for the systemic flaws that deprived indigent criminal defendants of their Sixth Amendment right to the assistance of counsel. Among the corrective actions identified by the Federal District Court, the cities were ordered to hire a public defense supervisor to oversee improvements, and to require contract public defense attorneys to regularly submit reports detailing caseloads, dispositions, motion and trial activity, and time spent representing indigent clients.

While the cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon are taking corrective action consistent with the Court's order, the *Wilbur* decision's influence has had a statewide impact. Many cities now require their contract attorneys to maintain data and submit non-confidential reports identifying the time spent on cases, dispositions achieved, and the frequency of other activities such as motions and trials. Moreover, an increasing number of cities are employing or contracting with experienced defense attorneys to oversee public defense services. These oversight attorneys provide training, consultation, and evaluation of local attorneys' performance.



Misdemeanor Public Defense Costs Workgroup

In response to many cities' and counties' concern about funding public defense services following the adoption of the Supreme Court's caseload limits, the Washington State House Judiciary Committee tasked OPD with creating and staffing a workgroup on misdemeanor public defense costs. The workgroup was composed of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, representatives of cities and counties, and members of the OPD Advisory Committee. The workgroup was requested to examine:

1. The cost of misdemeanor public defense in Washington.
2. Current public defense costs, and revenue generated by misdemeanor courts.
3. The impacts and additional costs associated with implementing the Supreme Court Standards.
4. Alternative case resolutions that may mitigate costs.
5. Caseloads, costs and revenues for each misdemeanor court in the state.



The workgroup created a survey for cities and counties to calculate public defense expenses, and identify jurisdictions' anticipated impacts of implementing caseload limits. The responses reflected a representational range of population sizes and the variations in indigent defense delivery models. While many jurisdictions had been preparing for the implementation of the misdemeanor caseload standards by adjusting their staffing and pay rates, some jurisdictions had not.

Using survey results along with data derived from Chapter 10.101 RCW grant applications, the workgroup projected that in 2013 cities statewide spent \$28,155,452 for public defense services, and counties spent \$123,941,336. State funds for public defense improvement in 2013 provided through RCW 10.101.050 accounted for 2.1% of all municipal public defense expenditures statewide, and 4.4% of county public defense expenditures. The report catalogues revenue and public defense expenses for all courts of limited jurisdiction, but the lack of uniform reporting processes makes it difficult to accurately determine statewide amounts.

Following its data gathering and analysis, the workgroup established 11 findings and five recommendations. Findings reflect the diverse nature of misdemeanor courts in Washington, including a lack of uniform comprehensive data gathering and reporting. Likewise, local funding levels for misdemeanor public defense vary greatly, and at the time they were surveyed, many jurisdictions were uncertain how Supreme Court Standards and a recent federal court decision would impact their budgets. Most jurisdictions provide misdemeanor public defense through contracts with private attorneys as opposed to city/county public defense agencies.

Recommendations include implementing statewide uniform tracking for public defense appointments and costs, further research into alternative case resolutions, and continued monitoring of the impact of public defense in local jurisdictions. The full report of the misdemeanor workgroup is available [here](#).



OPD's Defense Improvement Program

Technical Assistance to Counties and Cities

Since 2005, OPD has implemented a local public defense consulting and training program with state funds appropriated for this purpose. All Washington counties and cities are eligible for OPD technical assistance with any of the various structural approaches they may choose to utilize in providing trial-level criminal defense services. In 2014, OPD worked with numerous local governments, courts, and attorneys in addressing administrative questions and implementing Chapter 10.101 RCW, Court Rules and the Washington Supreme Court's Standards for Indigent Defense (Standards). OPD support included:

- Compiling and analyzing local trial-level public defense data, including county and city ordinances and contracts related to public defense services.
- Advising public defense attorneys and local agencies regarding implementation of the Standards. In addition to providing individualized consultation, OPD created an online [FAQ](#) with detailed information on implementing the Standards.
- Developing a [model](#) case weighting policy for misdemeanors, and providing jurisdiction-specific analysis of caseloads to determine the advantages and disadvantages of using case weighting for attorney caseload calculations.

- Responding to formal and informal public requests for information about public defense in Washington.

During 2014 OPD staff visited six counties and 12 cities that received state funds, observing courtroom proceedings as well as meeting directly with judges, court administrators, public defense agency directors and coordinators, public defense attorneys, county/county officials and their staff. These personal visits and ongoing practical assistance from the state agency directly and positively impact local efforts to improve public defense, as the Washington State Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

(JLARC) found in its 2008 review of OPD.⁸

OPD's 2014 CLE Series

Sep. 25 – Spokane
 Oct. 24 – Wenatchee
 Nov. 7 – Tumwater
 Nov. 14 – Everett



OPD Regional Training Program in Tumwater, Nov. 7, 2015.

During 2015, OPD will continue to monitor compliance with the requirements of Chapter 10.101 RCW, ensuring that each jurisdiction receiving state funds has substantially complied with statutory requirements. In addition OPD will continue to support local efforts to implement the Standards and mandatory caseload limits.

Regional Training Program

OPD delivers free continuing legal education classes (CLE) for public defense attorneys in various locations where such classes are not often available. Any county or city receiving state funds under Chapter 10.101 RCW must require local defense attorneys to participate annually in at least seven hours of CLE classes in defense-related criminal law. OPD's program allows public defense attorneys to obtain some of these credits for no charge with relevant, up-to-date live presentations. The CLEs also provide attorneys an opportunity to network with colleagues in neighboring jurisdictions.

In 2014 OPD provided programs in Spokane, Wenatchee, Tumwater, and Everett. Topics presented at each session included:

- Working with Investigators
- Public Records Requests as an Investigative Tool
- Updates on the Standards for Indigent Defense
- Preserving Issues for Appeal
- Ethical Communication with Non-English Speaking Clients

⁸ http://www.opd.wa.gov/documents/0015-2008_JLARC_Report.pdf

A variety of experienced subject-matter experts volunteered their time to serve as faculty:

- Robert Butler
- Gabe Caballero
- Linda Coburn
- Mark Conrad
- Daniel Fessler
- Jaime Hawk
- John Hays
- Brooks Holland
- Katrin Johnson
- Manek Mistry
- Kristina Nichols
- Kathleen Shea
- Lisa Tabbut
- Les Tolzin
- George Yeannakis

Indigency Screening

Indigent persons facing certain court proceedings, including criminal charges, civil commitment, and child welfare cases, are constitutionally and statutorily entitled to representation by competent public defense counsel. Pursuant to state statute, counties and cities have developed local policies and practices associated with determining whether a person is indigent and eligible for public defense representation.

In 2014 OPD published an [updated report](#) on indigency screening. The report describes legal standards, local screening practices, processes for verifying financial information, expenses and cost recoupment, recent developments in case law, and recommendations for improved and more consistent practices statewide.

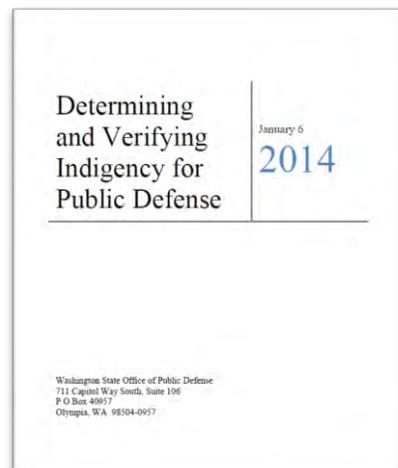


Capital Case Litigation Initiative

In late 2012 OPD received a Capital Case Litigation Initiative grant from the U.S.

Department of Justice. The grant funded two separate two-part training series on death penalty litigation: one series for defense attorneys and one for prosecuting attorneys. OPD contracted with the Washington State Death Penalty Assistance Center to design and deliver the defense series, and with the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys to design and deliver the prosecution series. Both groups held their first sessions in August 2013 in Spokane and their second sessions in August 2014 in Vancouver, WA.

Washington Court Rules require that defense attorneys serving on death penalty cases be specifically approved by the Capital Counsel Panel. Approval by the Panel requires, among other criteria, training and education on death penalty defense. The primary goal of this training program was to provide national-caliber instruction to local defense attorneys working toward the experience requirements for Panel approval. Currently a disproportionate number of the approved attorneys reside and practice in urban areas, creating a financial hardship to rural



counties when faced with appointing counsel to death penalty cases. Therefore, defense attorney participants at the grant-funded training were selected based on several criteria, the most prominent of which was preference given to geographic diversity.

Participants in each group took pre- and post-tests to measure the effectiveness of the training. Both groups demonstrated significant increase in knowledge of death penalty litigation, and also identified ways in which their general trial practice has improved because of the training.

Criminal Defense and Immigration Resource Attorneys

OPD continued to contract with the Washington Defender Association (WDA) for criminal law and immigration law resource attorney services during 2014, and helped to secure state funding for an additional immigration attorney. The criminal resource attorneys provide technical assistance and individual case consultation to public defense attorneys who contact them about specific case-related issues. In addition, they develop and distribute practice advisories and sample memos to assist attorneys with motion practice, trials, and other proceedings, and conduct various trainings live and via webinar. In 2014 WDA's criminal defense resource attorneys provided individualized consultation in response to 1,586 technical assistance requests.

The immigration resource attorneys deliver case-by-case assistance to criminal defense attorneys representing noncitizen clients, fulfilling U.S. and Washington supreme courts' constitutional requirements, and provide research memos and practice advisories. In addition, they also present information about emerging issues at live and online training programs. In 2014 the immigration resource attorneys provided individualized consultation to 3,092 technical assistance requests.

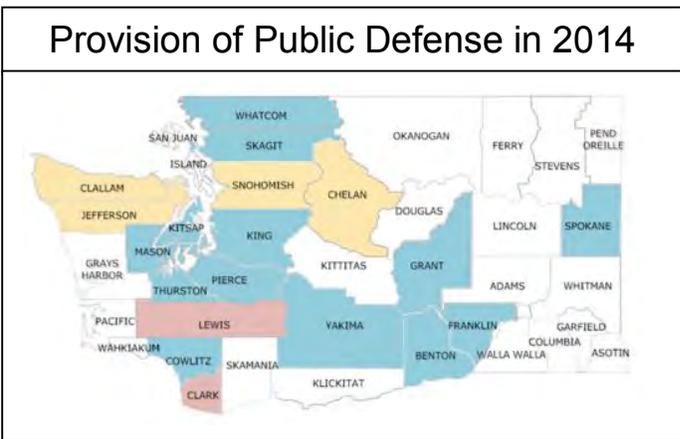
Other Agency Activities

In addition to administering the state agency's programs and assisting with statewide implementation of Standards and Attorney Certification, OPD staff continued in 2014 to exercise leadership roles with the WSBA's Council for Public Defense (CPD). The OPD director, deputy director and public defense services managers also were invited speakers at other organizations' meetings: the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants' 9th Annual Summit on Indigent Defense; The National Center for State Courts – Washington State Juvenile Justice Reform Summit; the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys; the Washington Cities Insurance Authority; the Defender Initiative's Fourth Annual Conference on Public Defense, and state legislative committee hearings.



Report on County Public Defense Services

Across the state, county public defense systems vary widely. Except for the smallest, all counties have a primary public defense system and a method of appointing other attorneys for conflict cases. Substantial changes have been made statewide since 2005, with the development of additional county public defense agencies and public defense coordinators. As of December 2014, 13 counties operate public defender offices as agencies of county government, four counties contract with non-profit providers, two counties employ a professional public defense coordinator, three counties appoint attorneys from a list, and 18 counties contract with independent private attorneys or firms to provide public defense, or have a system combining both contracts and list appointments.



- Public defender agencies** are county government agencies.
- Nonprofit systems** involve the county contracting with a nonprofit group that is organized exclusively to provide public defense services.
- Public defense coordinators** are county employees or contractors hired to provide varying degrees of oversight and accountability for public defense contracts with individual private attorneys or firms.
- Contract public defense systems** are utilized in counties that enter into contracts with one or more private attorneys or firms to provide representation. In **List appointment systems**, courts appoint on a case-by-case basis using lists of private attorneys who have agreed to accept public defense cases.

The following pages provide summaries of county public defense expenditures and appointments, general descriptions of their public defense services, and steps taken in compliance with the requirements set forth in Chapter 10.101 RCW.⁹

⁹ For an explanation of the methodology and data reporting procedures utilized for this report, see Appendix A. For a complete glossary of terms, see Appendix B.

Adams County

2013 population	19,200
Percent below poverty level 2009-2013	22.9%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$43,926
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$21,546

Adams County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The county contracts with one law firm and three private attorneys that handle most of the indigent cases in Superior and District courts.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	57.8
Amount spent for public defense	\$415,000
Amount spent per capita	\$21.61

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	94
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	4.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	655
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,016
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	52.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	634

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	83
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	4.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	81

Adams County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Adams County spent its state funding to increase investigator, expert, and interpreter services for the public defense attorneys and to provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars. The county plans to use its funds in 2015 to continue these improvements.

Asotin County

2013 population	21,800
Percent below poverty level 2009-2013	13.6%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$43,175
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$29,701

Asotin County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. During 2013, virtually all of the contracted public defense services in Asotin County were handled by four attorneys for Superior Court and Juvenile Court cases and two attorneys for District Court cases with the exception of conflict cases, for which the court appoints separate counsel from a list.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	55.7
Amount spent for public defense	\$381,564
Amount spent per capita	\$17.50

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	208
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	9.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	170

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	422
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,007
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	46.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	277

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	89
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	4.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	65

Asotin County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Asotin County public defense attorneys are required to attend training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Asotin County spent its state funding to add investigator, expert, and interpreter services, add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads and to increase public defense attorney compensation. The county plans to use its state funds in 2015 to continue these improvements.

Benton County

2013 population	183,400
Percent below poverty level 2009-2013	12.8%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$60,485
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$165,916

The bi-county Office of Public Defense (Benton County and Franklin County) employs an attorney coordinator overseeing the public defense program in both counties. Benton County provides indigent defense services with a “hybrid” model consisting of both county-employed staff attorneys and contract attorneys.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	54.5
Amount spent for public defense	\$2,760,825
Amount spent per capita	\$15.05

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	1,419
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,136

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	2,866
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	8,574
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	46.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1,306

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	581
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	3.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	453

Benton County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Benton County public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and to report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Benton County used its state funding to support the bi-county Office of Public Defense with an indigent defense coordinator and provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars. The county plans to use its 2015 funds to continue these activities.

Chelan County

2013 population	73,600
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	13.2%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$51,354
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$76,759

Chelan County contracts with Counsel for Defense in Chelan County, a private nonprofit agency, to provide public defense services for Superior and District Court cases. The county contracts with private attorneys to handle conflict cases.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	50.6
Amount spent for public defense	\$1,743,321
Amount spent per capita	\$23.69

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	650
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	8.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	630

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,662
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	3,071
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	41.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1047

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	229
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	3.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	213

Chelan County has adopted a public defense standards resolution, and is working on adopting an ordinance. The Chelan County public defense primary contract requires approved annual attorney training.

In 2014 Chelan County used its state funding to add investigator and expert services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain prior improvements.

Clallam County

2013 population	72,350
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	14.6%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$46,033
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$65,130

Clallam County contracts with the Clallam Public Defender, a private nonprofit corporation, for public defense representation. The Clallam Public Defender provides direct supervision of attorneys, in-house investigation services, and resolution of client complaints. The Clallam County courts appoint supplemental private investigators on a case-by-case basis. Conflict counsel is appointed by the courts from private attorneys who have conflict contracts with the county.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	41.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$1,868,217
Amount spent per capita	\$25.82

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	473
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	6.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,031
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	2,490
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	34.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	789

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	211
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	180

Clallam County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Clallam County public defense contract requires approved annual attorney training.

In 2014 Clallam County spent its state funding to maintain staffing compensation increases, attorney caseloads, and provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars. The county anticipates using its 2015 state funds for the same purposes.

Clark County

2013 population	435,500
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	12.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$58,225
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$325,408

Clark County employs an attorney indigent defense coordinator who oversees the public defense contracting system, administers contracts with private attorneys, reviews Superior Court motions for non-attorney services, and provides assistance to the contractors to improve public defense services. The coordinator has taken many steps, including consulting with OPD, to implement best practices in Washington's largest county contract public defense system.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	33.3
Amount spent for public defense	\$5,213,936
Amount spent per capita	\$11.97

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	2,468
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	5.7
Number of felony cases assigned to counsel	2,216

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	5,454
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	12,043
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	27.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	2,446

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	832
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	811

Clark County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance, and Clark County public defense contracts require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Clark County used its state funding to continue the indigent defense coordinator position, add attorneys to lower public defense caseloads, and add investigator services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Columbia County

2013 population	4,100
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	17.1%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$42,519
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$12,298

Columbia County delivers public defense services through a contract system. During 2014, the county contracted with one law firm and one private attorney for public defense representation. Each contract specified that the law firm or private attorney is responsible for 50 percent of all case types assigned, paid on a monthly basis. The courts appoint attorneys from a list for conflict cases.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	35.1
Amount spent on public defense	\$158,471
Amount spent per capita	\$38.65

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	36
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	8.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	31

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	61
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	108
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	26.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	Unable to determine

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	25
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	6.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	25

Columbia County has a public defense standards ordinance. The Columbia County public defense contracts require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Columbia County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation. The county intends to use its 2015 state funds to maintain this improvement.

Cowlitz County

2013 population	103,300
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	17.6%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$47,596
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$155,259

Cowlitz County operates a county government-based public defender agency that uses a mixed system of contracts and county-employed public defense attorneys. The Cowlitz County Office of Public Defense provides representation to indigent clients in felony, misdemeanor and juvenile offender matters.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	64.1
Amount spent for public defense	\$2,014,839
Amount spent per capita	\$19.50

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	1,720
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	16.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,402

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,422
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	4,905
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	47.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	798

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	419
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	4.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	353

Cowlitz County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. In addition, the Cowlitz County public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training and contract attorneys are required to report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Cowlitz County used its state funding to maintain and expand the county Office of Public Defense, add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, increase public defense attorney compensation, provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, provide expert and investigator services, and provide interpreter services for attorney-client interviews and other necessary communications. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain these improvements.

Douglas County

2013 population	39,280
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	15.8%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$51,908
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$0

Douglas County has not participated in the Chapter 10.101 RCW funding since the application process began in 2006. Accordingly, financial data and information relating to the amount spent for public defense services or the number and percentage of new cases assigned to counsel was not available. The number of new cases filed is derived from the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) caseload report.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	39.9
Amount spent for public defense	
Amount spent per capita	

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	213
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	5.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	787
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,353
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	34.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	82
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	

Ferry County

2013 population	7,650
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	20.7%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$37,571
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$15,063

Ferry County administers public defense representation through a contract system. Ferry County contracts with two private attorneys. The court appoints conflict counsel from a list and pays conflict counsel on an hourly basis.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	32.4
Amount spent for public defense	\$174,486
Amount spent per capita	\$22.81

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	59
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	52

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	125
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	189
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	24.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	Unable to determine

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	23
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	3.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	17

Ferry County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Ferry County public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Ferry County spent its state funding to increase attorney compensation. The county intends to use its 2015 state funds to maintain this improvement.

Franklin County

2013 population	84,800
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	20.2%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$55,177
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$77,498

Franklin County provides public defense representation through a contract system coordinated and monitored by a bi-county (with Benton County) indigent defense coordinator. The program also oversees investigative services.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	46.4
Amount spent for public defense	\$871,898
Amount spent per capita	\$10.28

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	596
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	444

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	881
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	3,338
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	39.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	283

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	224
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	214

Franklin County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Franklin County public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Franklin County used its state funding to support an indigent defense coordinator and to provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars. The county plans to use its 2015 funds to continue these improvements.

Garfield County

2013 population	2,250
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	12.1%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$51,548
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$10,667

Garfield County provides public defense representation through a contract with one attorney who is responsible for 100 percent of the cases in all of the county courts except conflict cases. The court uses a list of attorneys for appointment in conflict cases at an hourly rate of \$75.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	64.9
Amount spent for public defense	\$36,922
Amount spent per capita	\$16.41

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	21
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	9.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	20

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	125
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	125
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	55.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	5

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	3
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	3

Garfield County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Garfield County public defense contractor is required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Garfield County spent its state funding to add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, increase attorney compensation, provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, add expert services, add investigator services, and provide interpreter services for attorney-client interviews and other necessary communications. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain these improvements.

Grant County

2013 population	91,800
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	20.3%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$45,949
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$93,969

Grant County has a county government-based agency with oversight responsibilities for felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile offender related indigent defense services. Felony representation is provided by staff public defense attorneys and contracts with private attorneys. Grant County contracts with private attorneys for District Court and Juvenile Court representation.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	54.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$2,898,019
Amount spent per capita	\$31.57

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	816
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	8.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	4,143
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	4,145
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	45.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	3,821

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	267
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Grant County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance and the Grant County public defense contracts require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Grant County spent its state funding to add attorneys to reduce caseloads, provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, and provide interpreter services for attorney-client interviews and other communications. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain the improvements already implemented.

Grays Harbor County

2013 population	73,200
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	19.0%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$42,405
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$67,148

Grays Harbor County delivers public defense representation through a contract system with 14 private attorneys who handle adult felony cases, one attorney who handles juvenile offender cases, and seven who handle District Court cases.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	72.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$800,641
Amount spent per capita	\$10.94

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	500
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	6.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	473

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,607
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	4,774
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	65.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1,139

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	116
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	116

Grays Harbor County has a public defense standards resolution. Grays Harbor contract attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Grays Harbor County spent its state funding on increasing compensation for contract public defense attorneys, adding attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, providing public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, providing investigator and expert services, and providing interpreter services for attorney-client interviews and other necessary communications. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain these improvements.

Island County

2013 population	79,700
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	9.0%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$58,455
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$54,349

Island County delivers public defense representation through a mixed system, contracting with a single private law firm to provide virtually all criminal defense representation and using list appointments for conflict and other specific case types. Conflicts and other appointments are compensated according to a published county fee schedule.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	22.6
Amount spent for public defense	\$725,727
Amount spent per capita	\$9.11

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	259
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	3.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	151

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	905
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,546
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	19.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	349

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	97
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	50

Island County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance, and the Island County Standards for Public Defense require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Island County spent its state funding to provide defense counsel at preliminary appearance calendars and to provide investigator services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Jefferson County

2013 population	30,275
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	13.3%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$46,320
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$35,929

Jefferson County contracts with Jefferson Associated Counsel, a private nonprofit corporation, for all public defense representation. The office director provides direct supervision of attorneys and is responsible for handling client complaints. Some investigative services are provided by support staff; the balance are provided by private investigators appointed by the court on a case-by-case basis. The court appoints conflict counsel from a list of private attorneys.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	40.9
Amount spent for public defense	\$604,704
Amount spent per capita	\$19.97

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	257
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	8.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	219

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	762
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	980
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	32.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	489

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	61
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	55

Jefferson County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Jefferson County public defense contract requires approved annual attorney training.

In 2014 Jefferson County spent its state funding to add an attorney to reduce caseloads and to add additional investigator services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

King County

2013 population	1,981,900
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	11.5%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$71,811
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$1,133,923

King County has a county government-based agency with four separate divisions. Ten percent of the public defense representation (for conflict cases) is provided through an assigned counsel panel composed of private attorneys who are compensated on an hourly basis.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	28.9
Amount spent for public defense	\$47,947,262
Amount spent per capita	\$24.19

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	6,211
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	3.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	5,404

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	11,625
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	51,130
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	25.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	6,301

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	1,809
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,719

The King County Council has adopted an ordinance setting compensation and caseload standards for public defenders. King County public defense attorneys attend approved attorney training.

In 2014 King County spent its state funding to maintain a program manager to oversee public defense contracts, to increase conflict attorney compensation, and to provide public defense training programs. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue the conflict attorney compensation increase and public defense training programs.

Kitsap County

2013 population	254,000
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	10.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$62,413
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$188,956

Kitsap County has a county government-based public defense agency with in-house public defense attorneys and a supervisor who also oversees contracts with private attorneys for conflict, felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile offender representation..

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	35.4
Amount spent for public defense	\$3,457,791
Amount spent per capita	\$13.61

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	1370
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	5.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	4344
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	7,621
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	30.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	2,005

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	507
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	445

Kitsap County has adopted a public defense standards resolution and a pay-parity resolution for attorneys and staff employed by the county public defense agency, and is in the process of adopting a public defense ordinance. Kitsap County requires contract public defense attorneys to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Kitsap County spent its state funding to partially pay for the Kitsap County public defense supervisor, an administrator, and a staff member employed by the public defense agency, and to provide legal research tools. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these enhancements.

Kittitas County

2013 population	41,900
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	22.6%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$42,982
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$46,919

Kittitas County Superior Court and Upper Kittitas District Court appoint public defense attorneys from lists. Contracts are utilized in extraordinary circumstances such as specific serious felonies. Appointed attorneys are paid at a published rate per case unless otherwise authorized. In Lower Kittitas District Court, three attorneys contract for all indigent defense cases, and conflicts or cases exceeding the attorneys' caseload limits are assigned to other attorneys.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	65.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$563,060
Amount spent per capita	\$13.44

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	363
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	8.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	259

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	2,236
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	2,361
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	56.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1,112

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	54
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	36

Kittitas County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Lower Kittitas County District Court public defense contract requires approved training for attorneys and reporting of non-public defense hours.

In 2014 Kittitas County spent its state funding to provide public defense representation at the Lower Kittitas County District Court preliminary appearance and arraignment calendars for both in-custody and out-of-custody defendants. State funds were also used to provide expert services and investigator services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain these improvements.

Klickitat County

2013 population	20,700
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	17.5%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$41,694
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$29,483

Klickitat County contracts with three private attorneys for public defense representation. Under these contracts, the attorneys provide 100 percent of indigent defense services in adult felony, juvenile offender, and other juvenile cases. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list.

The county administers two District Court sites; defense services in each court are handled through list appointments by the court.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	50.4
Amount spent for public defense	\$270,605
Amount spent per capita	\$13.07

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	211
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	10.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	185

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	544
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	833
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	40.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	235

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	48
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	41

Klickitat County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Klickitat County public defense contract requires approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

Klickitat County used its state funds in 2014 to add expert, interpreter, and investigator services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain these improvements.

Lewis County

2013 population	76,200
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	15.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$42,860
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$92,863

Lewis County administers public defense representation through a public defense contract system. The county contracts with numerous private attorneys for specific case types. In addition, an attorney coordinator is contracted to represent clients at daily initial appearances and to provide quality oversight for the other contracts.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	52.4
Amount spent for public defense	\$1,449,032
Amount spent per capita	\$19.02

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed:	890
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	11.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	825

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,495
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	3,102
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	40.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1,326

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	237
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	3.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Lewis County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Lewis County public defense contracts require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Lewis County spent its state funding to contract with the attorney coordinator for initial appearance representation and for quality monitoring. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Lincoln County

2013 population	10,675
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	14.2%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$47,195
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$17,255

Lincoln County administers public defense representation using a mixed system. Public defense representation for adult misdemeanors is handled through a contract with one attorney. Representations in District Court conflict cases, adult felony, juvenile offender, and all other Superior Court case types are handled by list appointments.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	55.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$135,987
Amount spent per capita	\$12.74

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	76
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	509
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	511
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	47.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	275

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	23
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	17

Lincoln County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Lincoln County public defense contract requires approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Lincoln County spent its state funding to add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, increase public defense attorney compensation, provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, and provide interpreter services for attorney-client interviews and communications. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Mason County

2013 population	61,800
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	17.3%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$48,755
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$66,714

Mason County provides public defense representation through a hybrid system featuring a county agency with employee attorneys and contract attorneys who are monitored by the agency director. Conflict counsel is appointed from a list of qualified attorneys.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	43.1
Amount spent for public defense	\$933,415
Amount spent per capita	\$15.10

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	560
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	9.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	463

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,381
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	2,102
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	34.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	883

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	102
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	62

Mason County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Mason County public defense contracts require approved annual training and require attorneys to report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Mason County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain the compensation increase and reduced public defense caseloads.

Okanogan County

2013 population	41,500
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	20.7%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$40,368
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$51,440

Okanogan County delivers public defense representation through a contract with one primary law firm covering all case types. The contract includes five subcontractors that accept conflict cases.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	58.9
Amount spent for public defense	\$925,441
Amount spent per capita	\$22.30

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	437
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	10.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	302

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	2,005
Total new district or municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	2,008
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	48.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1,578

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	222
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	5.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Okanogan County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Okanogan County public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Okanogan County spent its state funding to add additional investigator services and expert services. The county plans to use its state funds in 2015 to reduce public defense caseloads.

Pacific County

2013 population	21,000
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	17.2%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$39,830
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$30,982

Pacific County provides indigent defense representation through a contract system. Private attorneys contract for a percentage of cases or types of cases at each court level. The county also provides representation by list appointment.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	69.7
Amount spent for public defense	\$310,080
Amount spent per capita	\$14.77

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	233
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	11.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	217

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	767
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,230
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	58.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	287

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	55
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	50

Pacific County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Pacific County public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Pacific County spent its state funding to add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, increase public defense attorney compensation, and for expert services. The county plans to use its state funds in 2015 to continue these improvements.

Pend Oreille County

2013 population	13,150
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	20.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$40,567
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW Total distribution	\$21,389

Pend Oreille County provides public defense representation through a contract with three private attorneys handling 100 percent of the caseload in all courts except conflicts. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	50.9
Amount spent for public defense	\$239,196
Amount spent per capita	\$18.19

Adult Felonies

New adult superior court cases filed	127
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	9.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	112

Adult Misdemeanors

New county misdemeanor cases filed	346
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	542
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	41.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	Unable to determine

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	15
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	19

Pend Oreille County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The county public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Pend Oreille County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation. The county plans to use its state funds in 2015 to continue these improvements.

Pierce County

2013 population	814,500
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	12.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$59,204
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$626,063

Pierce County provides public defense representation through a county government-based agency, the Department of Assigned Counsel (DAC). DAC employees receive salary and benefits at parity with the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney Office employees. DAC maintains felony, misdemeanor and juvenile divisions, each supervised by a senior attorney. These supervisors, along with DAC's director and chief deputy, oversee staff attorneys and are responsible for resolving client complaints. The agency contracts with outside attorneys for conflict counsel and provides investigative services through a panel of pre-approved investigators.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	43.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$15,088,775
Amount spent per capita	\$18.53

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	5,010
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	6.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	4,531

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	11,489
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	29,973
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	36.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	4,115

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	1,418
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,209

Pierce County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. In addition, Pierce County DAC requires approved annual attorney training, and public defense conflict contracts require approved training and reporting of non-public defense hours.

In 2014 Pierce County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation and maintain positions created in 2007 and 2008. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain these improvements.

San Juan County

2013 population	16,000
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	10.8%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$53,376
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$17,144

San Juan County delivers public defense through a contract system with one primary attorney for adult representation in Superior and District courts and one of the attorney for juvenile representation. The contracts use a case-point system. The conflict attorney is appointed from a list and paid according to a published fee schedule.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	17.8
Amount spent for public defense	\$181,050
Amount spent per capita	\$11.32

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	43
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	2.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	242
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	242
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	15.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	169

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	14
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	Unable to determine
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Not Available

San Juan County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The San Juan County public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 San Juan County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation, provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, for expert services, and for investigator services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Skagit County

2013 population	118,600
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	13.5%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$55,925
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$132,721

Skagit County delivers public defense representation through the Skagit County Public Defender, a county government-based agency. The agency's director and chief deputy are responsible for the supervision of staff attorneys and resolution of client complaints. Investigative services are provided in-house. Skagit County also contracts with private law firms for mental health, involuntary commitment, and District Court additional public defense representation.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	63.4
Amount spent on public defense	\$2,343,423
Amount spent per capita	\$19.76

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	1,273
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	10.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,210

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	3,531
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	6,244
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	52.6%
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1,905

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	257
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Skagit County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance, and the Skagit County Public Defender agency requires approved annual attorney training.

In 2014 Skagit County spent its state funding to maintain additional attorney and support staff positions. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Skamania County

2013 population	11,300
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	12.5%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$53,712
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$19,253

Skamania County delivers Superior Court public defense representation through one contract with one private attorney and a law firm. When a conflict is identified, counsel is appointed from a list.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	49.5
Amount spent for public defense	\$140,722
Amount spent per capita	\$12.45

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	104
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	9.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	376
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	455
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	40.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	246

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	36
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	3.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	38

Skamania County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Skamania County public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense legal services hours.

In 2014 Skamania County spent its state funding to reduce public defense caseloads, to increase compensation, and to increase resources for defense investigation, interpreter and expert services. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Snohomish County

2013 population	730,500
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	10.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$68,381
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$449,990

Snohomish County provides public defense representation in adult criminal cases in both Superior and District courts through a contract with the Snohomish County Public Defender Association (PDA), a private nonprofit corporation. PDA is managed by a director, an assistant director and a misdemeanor supervisor who are responsible for attorney supervision and resolution of client complaints. PDA provides investigative services in-house. The county contracts with PDA and one private law firm to handle juvenile offender cases. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	35.8
Amount spent for public defense	\$6,926,078
Amount spent per capita	\$9.48

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	2,712
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	3.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	2,259

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	7,829
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	23,466
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	32.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	2,890

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	1,288
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,304

Snohomish County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Snohomish County public defense contract requires approved annual attorney training.

In 2014 Snohomish County used its state funding to provide an attorney coordinator who oversees contracts with attorneys providing public defense, add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, increase attorney compensation, add investigator services, and provide public defense services at first appearance calendars. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Spokane County

2013 population	480,000
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	15.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$49,233
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$481,119

Spokane County provides public defense representation through two separate county government-based agencies, the Spokane County Public Defender and Counsel for Defense. The Spokane County Public Defender handles most Superior and District court cases; Counsel for Defense handles the majority of Superior Court conflict cases. Employees are compensated in parity with Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney Office employees. Each agency director is responsible for attorney supervision and resolution of client complaints. Both agencies provide investigative services in-house. The Spokane County Public Defender contracts with private attorneys to handle Superior Court cases that present a conflict of interest for both agencies. District Court conflicts are handled through an inter-local agreement with the City of Spokane Public Defender.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	48.6
Amount spent for public defense	\$8,561,550
Amount spent per capita	\$17.84

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	4,675
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	9.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	3,503

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	6,308
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	18,663
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	38.9
Number of new cases assigned counsel by county	Unable to determine

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	829
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	443

Spokane County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance, and the Spokane County public defense agencies require approved annual attorney training.

In 2014 Spokane County spent its state funding to provide public defense services at first appearance calendars and to add attorneys to reduce caseloads. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Stevens County

2013 population	43,800
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	16.5%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$41,742
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$41,187

Stevens County provides public defense representation through numerous contracts with private attorneys to represent indigent clients in District, Superior and Juvenile courts. Conflict cases at all court levels are handled through list appointments.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	34.8
Amount spent for public defense	\$661,285
Amount spent per capita	\$15.10

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	261
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	6.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	863
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,262
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	28.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	108

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	88
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	69

Stevens County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Stevens County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation. The county intends to use its 2015 state funds to continue this improvement.

Thurston County

2013 population	260,100
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	11.7%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$62,229
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$226,418

Thurston County provides public defense representation through the Thurston County Office of Assigned Counsel (OAC), a county government-based agency. OAC employees are compensated in parity with Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney Office employees. The county contracts with several private attorneys to assist one in-house attorney with juvenile offender cases. Overflow and conflict cases are appointed from a list and paid an hourly rate. OAC employs a director and two senior defense attorneys to assist in the supervision of staff and resolution of client complaints.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	40.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$3,767,726
Amount spent per capita	\$14.49

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	1,928
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,665

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	2,884
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	8,470
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	32.6
Number of new cases assigned counsel by county	1,960

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	776
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	3.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	685

Thurston County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Office of Assigned Counsel requires approved annual training and requires contract attorneys to provide public defense services to report all public defense contracts as well as hours billed for non-public defense legal services.

In 2014 Thurston County spent its state funding to maintain numeric caseload standards that were adopted in 2008. The county plans to use its 2015 state to maintain caseload standards.

Wahkiakum County

2013 population	4,020
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	22.6%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$41,815
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$12,331

Wahkiakum County delivers public defense representation for all felony, misdemeanor, juvenile offender, and probation violations solely through list appointment. Private attorneys on the court's list are not under contract although they have agreed to accept appointments and are compensated at an hourly rate.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	44.3
Amount spent for public defense	\$82,976
Amount spent per capita	\$20.64

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	37
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	9.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	37

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	141
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	141
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	35.1
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	77

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	24
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	6.0
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	24

Wahkiakum County has adopted a public defense ordinance, and public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual training.

In 2014 Wahkiakum County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation and to provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars and interpreter services for attorney-client communications. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds for the same purposes.

Walla Walla County

2013 population	59,500
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	17.8%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$46,597
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$59,112

Walla Walla County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. Ten private attorneys contract to provide public defense services at all court levels.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	38.1
Amount spent for public defense	\$723,159
Amount spent per capita	\$12.15

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	453
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	399

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,545
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,816
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	30.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	280

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	219
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	3.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	216

Walla Walla County has adopted a public defense standards resolution. Walla Walla's public defense contracts require attorneys to agree to comply with Chapter 10.101 RCW.

In 2014 Walla Walla County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation, provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, utilize investigator and expert services, and procure interpreter services for attorney-client interviews and other necessary communications. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.

Whatcom County

2013 population	205,800
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	16.4%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$51,939
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$177,929

Whatcom County provides public defense representation through the Whatcom County Public Defender, a county government-based agency. Public Defender employees are compensated at parity with the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney Office employees. The agency director is responsible for attorney supervision and the resolution of client complaints. The agency employs in-house investigative staff. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	50.0
Amount spent for public defense	\$3,806,556
Amount spent per capita	\$18.50

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	1,478
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	1,382

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	3,107
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	8,802
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	42.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	1,581

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	445
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.2
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	Unable to determine

Whatcom County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The county public defense agency requires approved annual attorney training. Conflict attorneys must perform services pursuant the Washington Defender Association Standards for Public Defense.

In 2014 Whatcom County spent its state funding on additional defense attorneys to reduce caseloads. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain this improvement.

Whitman County

2013 population	46,000
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	32.6%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$36,257
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$41,560

Whitman County delivers public defense representation through a contract system with four private attorneys.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	35.9
Amount spent for public defense	\$315,000
Amount spent per capita	\$6.85

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	254
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	5.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	163

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	1,331
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	1,398
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	30.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	337

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	36
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	23

Whitman County is in the process of finalizing a public defense standards ordinance. Public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

In 2014 Whitman County spent its state funding to increase public defense attorney compensation. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to maintain this improvement.

Yakima County

2013 population	247,250
Percent below poverty level in 2009-2013	22.6%
2009-2013 projected median household income	\$43,506
2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution	\$217,624

Yakima County delivers public defense representation through the Yakima County Department of Assigned Counsel (DAC), a county government-based agency. The agency's director and senior staff attorneys are responsible for attorney supervision and resolution of client complaints. DAC also administers attorney contracts and panels of private attorneys who provide both overflow and conflict coverage. DAC handles investigative services through two in-house investigators, who are also available to contract counsel, and through a panel of contract investigators. Interpreter services are available through an approved list of providers managed by DAC.

2013 Statistics

Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population	65.2
Amount spent for public defense	\$4,162,870
Amount spent per capita	\$16.84

Adult Felony

New adult superior court cases filed	1,864
New adult superior court cases per 1,000 population	7.5
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	738

Adult Misdemeanor

New county misdemeanor cases filed	4,343
Total new district and municipal court misdemeanor cases filed in county	14,256
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	57.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county	931

Juvenile Offender

New juvenile offender cases filed	729
New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.9
Number of new cases assigned to counsel	403

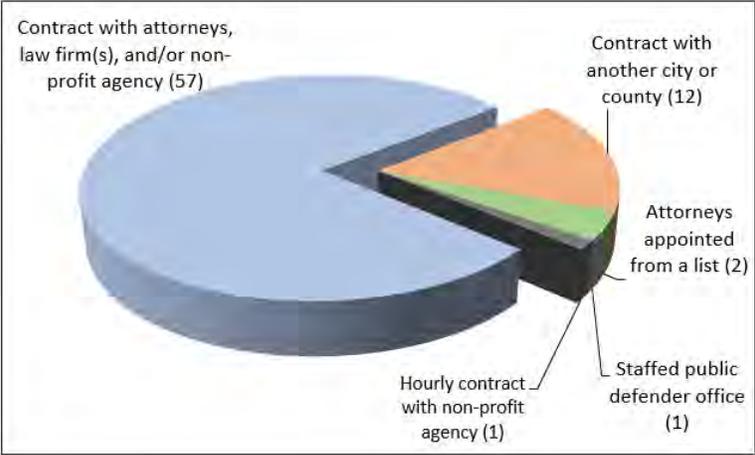
Yakima County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The Yakima County DAC requires approved annual attorney training, and contract attorneys must report hours billed for non-public defense legal services.

In 2014 Yakima County spent its state funding to increase compensation for contract attorneys, add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, provide defense attorneys at arraignments and meet professional standards. The county plans to use its 2015 state funds to continue these improvements.



Report on Municipal Public Defense Services

Like counties, cities are responsible for administering and funding trial level criminal public defense services in municipal courts. Across the state, cities vary in their public defense service models. In 2014 OPD administered a statewide survey for the House Judiciary Workgroup on Misdemeanor Public Defense Costs. Seventy-three cities responded to a question regarding what model they use for public defense services. As shown in the chart below, a significant majority – 57 cities -- contract with attorneys, law firms, and/or nonprofit agencies for public defense representation. A smaller number contract with another city or county to utilize their public defense service system. A handful of cities identified other service models.



Public defense structures in the cities that received state funding in 2014 through a Chapter 10.101 RCW process are similar to these survey results. The strong majority—10 of 12—contract with independent private attorneys or firms to provide public defense services. For conflict cases, the cities administer additional contracts or combine both contracts and list appointments. Only one city receiving state grant funding—Spokane—provides public defense services through a city government agency. One other city—Tacoma—contracts with the county government-based public defender agency.

The following pages provide public defense summaries of the cities that received Chapter 10.101 RCW funds during 2014. The summaries identify public defense expenditures and appointments, general descriptions of their public defense services, and steps taken in compliance with the requirements set forth in Chapter 10.101 RCW.¹⁰

¹⁰ For an explanation of the methodology and data reporting procedures utilized for this report, see Appendix A. For a complete glossary of terms, see Appendix B.

City of Bellingham

2012 population	81,360
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	24.1%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$40,648
2013 competitive grant award	\$90,250

The City of Bellingham delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with one primary law firm, Bellingham Assigned Counsel (BAC), to handle the cases in Bellingham Municipal Court. BAC and the Whatcom County Public Defender have a contract to exchange representation for conflict cases at no additional cost to either jurisdiction.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$735,749
Amount spent per capita	\$9.04

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	3,442
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	42.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	1,891

The City of Bellingham has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The primary city public defense contract requires annual training for attorneys and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

The city used its 2014 grant funding to provide attorneys at both the in-custody appearance calendar and the out-of-custody arraignment calendar and to increase compensation for public defense attorneys.

City of Bremerton

2012 population	39,650
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	20.4%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$43,183
2013 competitive grant award	\$15,000

The City of Bremerton delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with one primary law firm to handle the eligible cases in Bremerton Municipal Court. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list and are paid a flat fee for each case.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$222,256
Amount spent per capita	\$5.61

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	2,086
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	52.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	901

The City of Bremerton has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The primary city public defense contract requires that attorneys attend annual training of attorneys and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

Bremerton continues to provide attorneys at all arraignments and has reduced the caseload for each attorney. The City of Bremerton also provides office space within the court facility, which has improved attorney-client communication.

City of Cheney

2012 population	10,820
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	39.7%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$24,767
2013 competitive grant award	\$18,000

The City of Cheney delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with one primary attorney to handle the cases in Cheney Municipal Court. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list and are paid a flat fee for each case.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$51,076
Amount spent per capita	\$4.72

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	414
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	38.3
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	324

The City of Cheney has adopted a public defense ordinance. The primary city public defense contract requires attorneys to attend annual training and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

The city used its 2014 state grant funds to enhance indigent defense services by providing a public defender at arraignments. The public defender also visits in-custody defendants at the jail prior to their court date and arrives early for hearings to meet with defendants to prepare paperwork and speak to the prosecutor before court begins.

City of Olympia

2012 population	47,500
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	15.8%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$51,902
2013 competitive grant award	\$20,250

The City of Olympia delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with three private attorneys to handle the cases in Olympia Municipal Court and one additional private attorney to alternate at the first appearance and arraignment calendars. When a case presents a conflict for all three contracted attorneys, the court appoints additional conflict counsel.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$144,000
Amount spent per capita	\$3.03

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	2,252
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	47.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	1,459

The City of Olympia has adopted a public defense ordinance. The city's public defense contracts require attorneys to attend approved annual training and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

The city used its 2014 state grant funding to continue providing a public defense attorney at all arraignment calendars. This allowed defendants to be represented by counsel at every critical hearing stage, resulting in fewer continuances and more timely resolution of cases.

City of Port Angeles

2012 population	19,100
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	18.0%
Median Household Income, 2009-2013	\$39,577
2013 competitive grant award	\$15,000

The City of Port Angeles delivers public defense representation through a contract system with the Clallam Public Defender, a private non-profit organization. When the contractors have a conflict, the court appoints a conflict attorney from a list and with compensation based on an hourly rate.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$103,558
Amount spent per capita	\$5.42

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	871
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	45.6
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	693

The City of Port Angeles anticipates the adoption of an ordinance by the end of 2014. The contractors are required to participate in regular training programs on public defense and report the number and types of cases that they handle.

The city used 2014 state grant funds to support increased attorney compensation and continue providing a public defense attorney at arraignment.

City of Shelton

2012 population	9,870
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	28.9%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$38,729
2013 competitive grant award	\$30,000

The City of Shelton delivers public defense representation through a contract with two private law firms. When a case presents a conflict for both law firms, the court appoints conflict counsel from a list with compensation based on an hourly rate.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$81,380
Amount spent per capita	\$8.25

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	836
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	84.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	Unable to determine

The City of Shelton has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The city's public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual training and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

The city used 2014 state grant funds to support an additional attorney to reduce caseloads, increase attorney compensation, and provide a public defense attorney at arraignment.

City of Spokane

2012 population	210,000
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2003-2013	19.2%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$42,092
2013 competitive grant award	\$84,000

The City of Spokane delivers public defense representation through a city public defender agency. The City of Spokane Public Defender Office has a director, 17 attorneys, and an investigator. The City of Spokane agency and the Spokane County Public Defender's Office have an inter-local agreement to provide representation for each other's conflict cases.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$1,939,566
Amount spent per capita	\$9.24

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	8,962
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	42.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	6,078

The City of Spokane has adopted a public defense ordinance. The City of Spokane Public Defender Office pays for approved attorney training.

The city used 2014 state grant funds to continue providing a public defender at daily inmate first appearance hearings and weekly arraignment and bench warrant recall dockets.

City of Sunnyside

2012 population	16,130
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	26.1%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$34,698
2013 competitive grant award	\$50,000

For a number of years, the City of Sunnyside has delivered public defense representation through a contract system with two primary attorneys and an attorney to handle conflict cases. Under their previous contracts, the primary attorneys were paid a monthly rate and the conflict attorney was paid by the case. In 2014, City began negotiations with the current primary attorneys to institute payment on a per-case basis for all public defense attorneys.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$171,798
Amount spent per capita	\$10.65

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	2,345
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	145.4
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	1,353

The City of Sunnyside requires public defense attorneys to attend approved training. The city used 2014 state grant funds to contract with an additional primary attorney to reduce caseloads.

City of Tacoma

2012 population	199,600
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	18.0%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$50,503
2013 competitive grant award	\$53,250

The City of Tacoma delivers public defense representation through an interlocal agreement with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel (DAC), the county government-based public defender agency.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$1,509,150
Amount spent per capita	\$7.56

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	6,549
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	32.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	3,100

Pierce County has adopted a public defense ordinance that is followed in DAC's public defense representation in Tacoma Municipal Court. The public defense attorneys are required to attend seven hours of OPD-approved training annually.

The city used its 2014 state grant funds to reduce attorney caseloads by maintaining an additional attorney position created in 2012 with OPD grant funds.

City of Tukwila

2012 population	19,080
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	25.4%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$43,331
2013 competitive grant award	\$25,629

The City of Tukwila delivers public defense representation by contracting with a law firm and two additional attorneys who handle conflict cases.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$199,618
Amount spent per capita	\$10.46

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	2,035
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	106.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	1,611

The City of Tukwila is in the process of updating its public defense standards ordinance to reflect caseloads in Standard 3. Public defense attorneys are required to attend approved training annually.

The city used its state grant funds to increase compensation to public defenders, provide investigator services, and provide interpreter services for client meetings outside of court.

City of Vancouver

2012 population	163,200
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	16.5%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$48,979
2013 competitive grant award	\$70,425

The City of Vancouver delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with a law firm to handle cases in Vancouver Municipal Court, as well as three contracts with additional attorneys to provide conflict case representation..

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$582,695
Amount spent per capita	\$3.57

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	4,869
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	29.8
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	4,456

The City of Vancouver has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. Attorneys are required to attend approved annual training and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

The city used its 2014 state grant funds to continue to fund an additional full-time attorney to reduce caseloads.

City of Yakima

2012 population	91,930
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	24.4%
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$39,462
2013 competitive grant award	\$130,725

The City of Yakima delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The city contracts with two law firms to provide public defense services. A third law firm provides representation for conflict cases. Additional attorneys are appointed from a list on an as-needed basis when the conflict attorney has a conflict or appellate services are needed.

2012 Statistics

Amount spent for public defense	\$563,800
Amount spent per capita	\$6.13

Adult Misdemeanors

New city misdemeanor cases filed	5,306
Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population	57.7
Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city	4,775

The City of Yakima has adopted a public defense standards ordinance. The primary city public defense contract requires attorneys to attend approved annual training and report their non-public defense attorney hours.

The city used its state grant funds for additional attorneys and a conflict attorney to help reduce caseloads and provide public defender services at arraignment.



Appendix A: Methodology and Data Reporting for County/City Reports

Because of the individualized nature of Washington’s local public defense systems, making comparisons is challenging. However, county and city defense contracts along with other data included in the funding applications submitted pursuant to Chapter 10.101 RCW yield important information about actual public defense practice in Washington.

County Report: The County Report presents data on funding and caseload levels in each county that applied for and received state funding for use during calendar year 2014. Thirty-eight counties submitted funding applications under RCW 10.101.050. Each applying county provided 2013 data regarding public defense assignments and costs of public defense.

City Report: The City Report presents data on funding and caseload levels in the 12 cities that received competitive grants for 2014 expenditures. Because the application cycle for cities occurred in mid-2013, the most current annual information available was from 2012.

OPD reviewed the data provided by the counties and cities, consulted with particular jurisdictions where questions arose, and used the information to prepare the reports.

Initial data from counties and cities alike varied widely due to differing case-counting and reporting practices. There is no standard method; systems differ, sometimes even within individual jurisdictions. Some are based on “points” or “credits” rather than cases, while others assign differing values to certain case types.

The manner in which jurisdictions deal with post-conviction hearings such as probation violations (PVs) also impacts caseload calculations.¹¹ Generally, PVs are less time-consuming than new cases. Some counties count PVs as a case; some do not count or report them at all; and others count them as a fraction of a case (often one-third).

Methods of accounting for and tracking cases assigned to these public defense providers are as varied as the systems. For example, many counties and cities rely on the attorneys to cover all cases assigned and do not have any system for tracking the number of assigned cases; some counties lump together juvenile offender and Becca cases assigned to public defenders and some counties do not. Similarly, the tracking of dollars spent on public defense is varied, and includes different elements in different jurisdictions. These variations make a comparative analysis challenging and some conclusions tentative. Nevertheless, the data gathered during the Chapter 10.101 RCW application process presents a valuable picture of public defense statewide.

¹¹ Probation Violations (PVs) are proceedings in which convicted persons on probation are accused of non-compliance with their conditions of probation. Because these individuals are subject to further sanctions, including incarceration, they are eligible for court-appointed counsel.

In preparing the county and city data reports, OPD used information submitted as part of each jurisdiction's application for funding as well as data from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) caseload reports. OPD's public defense service managers contacted the counties and cities to clarify and augment data where necessary. Completed data reports were returned for review. Each county and city had an opportunity to make additional comments and input to the final product. County and city staff was gracious and generous with their time during this process, and the reports would not have been possible without their help.



Appendix B: Glossary for County/City Reports

COUNTY PROFILE

2013 population: Total county population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2014--Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties publication.

Percent below poverty level: Percent of county population below the federal poverty level as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau – American FactFinder.

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau – American FactFinder.

2014 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution: The county's allocation of the Chapter 10.101 RCW funds appropriation as determined by the statutory distribution formula.

I. 2013 Statistics

1. Total adult criminal cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new trial level adult felony and misdemeanor criminal cases (including misdemeanors filed in some municipal courts) as reported by AOC divided by the county population as expressed in thousands.
2. Amount spent for public defense: The county-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2013.
3. Amount spent per capita: The county-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation divided by the total county population. **Caution:** The amount spent per capita is not directly comparable county to county. This per capita amount is influenced by a number of variables, including geography, the number of cases filed, the number of major cases filed, and the number of attorneys practicing in the county, local attorney availability, the county's poverty rate, and case filing rates.

II. Adult Felony

1. New adult felony cases filed: The number of new (non-probation violation) adult Superior Court cases filed during 2013 as reported by AOC.
2. New adult felony cases per 1,000 population: The number of new adult Superior Court cases filed divided by the county population as expressed in thousands.
3. Number of new cases assigned to counsel: The county-reported number of new adult Superior Court cases assigned to public defense counsel during 2013.

III. Adult Misdemeanor

1. New county misdemeanor cases filed: The number of new (non-probation violation) District Court cases filed during 2013 as reported by AOC.
2. Total new misdemeanor cases filed in county: The total number of new misdemeanor cases filed in all courts in the county, including municipal courts, during 2013 as reported by AOC.
3. Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new misdemeanor cases filed during 2013 divided by the county population as expressed in thousands.
4. Number of new cases assigned to counsel by county: The county-reported number of new adult District Court cases assigned to public defense counsel during 2013.¹²

IV. Juvenile Offender

1. New juvenile offender cases filed: The number of new (non-probation violation) juvenile offender cases filed during 2013 as reported by AOC.
2. New juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new juvenile offender cases filed during 2013 divided by the county population as expressed in thousands.
3. Number of new cases assigned to counsel: The county-reported number of new juvenile offender cases assigned to public defense counsel during 2013.

CITY PROFILE

2012 population: Total city population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2013-Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties publication.

Percent below poverty level: Percent of city population below the federal poverty level as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau – American FactFinder.

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau – American FactFinder.

2013 Competitive Grant Award: The city's grant funding from the state as determined through a competitive application process pursuant to RCW 10.101.080. The distributions occurred in December 2013, and were used during calendar year 2014.

¹² Some counties included contract municipal cases in the reported number.

I. 2012 Statistics

1. Amount spent for public defense: The city-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2012, including any Chapter 10.101 RCW grant funds.
2. Amount spent per capita: The city-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation divided by the total city population. **Caution:** The amount spent per capita is not directly comparable city to city. This per capita amount is influenced by a number of variables, including geography, the number of cases filed, the number of major cases filed, local attorney availability, the number of attorneys practicing in the city, the city's poverty rate and case filing rates.

II. Adult Misdemeanor

1. New city misdemeanor cases filed: The number of new (non-probation violation) Municipal Court cases filed during 2012 as reported by AOC.
2. Total new misdemeanor cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new misdemeanor cases filed during 2012 divided by the city population as expressed in thousands.
3. Number of new cases assigned to counsel by city: The city-reported number of new Municipal Court cases assigned to public defense counsel during 2012.