

Washington State Office of Public Defense

2024 County Status Report

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Adams County

2023 Population	21,200
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	20.5%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$65,042
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$30,704

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Adams County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The County contracts with seven attorneys to handle indigent defense cases in Superior Court and District Court. Each attorney maintains different caseloads involving different case types, and one contractor handles conflict cases, primarily.

Adams County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance No. 0-02-09). The public defense contractors are required by local ordinance to attend at least seven hours of criminal defense training per year, and to report on their non-public defense attorney workload on a quarterly basis.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$740,000
Amount spent per capita	\$34.91

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	83
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	180

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	383
Number of cases assigned to counsel	240

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	24
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	55

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Adams County spent its state funding to continue supporting public defense services with interpreter services. The County plans to use its funds in 2025 to continue these improvements.

Asotin County

2023 Population	22,650
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	14.9%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$69,107
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$30,299

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Asotin County delivers public defense representation through a contract and appointment system. The County contracts with four attorneys for indigent cases in Superior and District Court. Asotin County maintains an appointment list of eleven attorneys for various case types.

Asotin County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance No. 09-04). The ordinance requires each contract attorney to attend criminal defense training once per year, and the contracts require attorneys to report hours billed for non-public defense attorney hours.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$826,248
Amount spent per capita	\$36.48

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	180
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	182

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	262
Number of cases assigned to counsel	111

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	56
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	59

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Asotin County spent its state funding to maintain increased investigator, expert, and interpreter services for the public defense attorneys. In addition, state funds were used to maintain previous increases to public defense attorney compensation, and reductions to public defense caseloads. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements.

Benton County

2023 Population	215,500
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.1%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$87,316
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$184,425

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Benton County provides public defense services through a hybrid model consisting of both county-employed staff attorneys and contract attorneys. The Public Defense Manager oversees all public defense operations including contract compliance, management for contracted defenders, and supervision of staff defenders. Benton County Department of Public Defense maintains a staff of two attorneys with associated support staff and contracts with 34 attorneys to provide various indigent defense services in the County.

Benton County has adopted local public defense standards under Resolution No. 09-435 and Ordinance No. 470. In addition, Benton County has adopted a case weighting policy for Superior Court and District Court cases. Staff and contract attorneys are required by ordinance to attend a minimum of seven hours of training annually on topics relating to public defense practice.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$5,032,103
Amount spent per capita	\$23.35

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	946
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,211

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court including Richland, West Richland, Kennewick, and Prosser

County misdemeanor cases filed	5,745
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,112

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	275
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	449

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Benton County used state funds to maintain the position of Public Defense Manager to oversee public defense services; to continue providing public defense services at all preliminary appearance calendars in District and Superior Court; to add attorneys to reduce caseloads; and to add investigator, social work, and interpreter services for public defense use. The County plans to use its 2025 funds for the same purposes, but also increase attorney compensation and reimburse public defense training costs.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.BentonCountyDefense.org>

Chelan County

2023 Population	81,500
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.0%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$78,306
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$81,079

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Chelan County contracts with Counsel for Defense, a private nonprofit agency, to provide public defense services for Superior and District Court cases. Counsel for Defense provides direct supervision of attorneys, in-house investigation services, and resolution of client complaints. The Courts appoint conflict counsel from a list of private attorneys.

Chelan County has adopted a public defense standards resolution (Resolution No. 2012-126) which incorporates by reference the Standards for Indigent Defense adopted by the Washington Supreme Court.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,648,026
Amount spent per capita	\$44.76

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	451
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	473

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,156
Number of cases assigned to counsel	757

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	109
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	130

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Chelan County used its state funding to maintain increased investigator and expert services. The county plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these prior improvements.

Clallam County

2023 Population	78,075
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.8%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$67,999
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$69,748

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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 County courts appoint supplemental private investigators on a case-by-case basis. The court appoints conflict counsel from a list of private attorneys.

Clallam County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance, Clallam County Code, Chapter 3.38, which incorporates the Supreme Court Standards for Indigent Defense by reference. The ordinance includes a system for weighting adult and juvenile cases in Superior Court.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,121,147
Amount spent per capita	\$27.17

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	282
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	345

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	398
Number of cases assigned to counsel	286

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	131
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	114

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Clallam County spent its state funding to maintain staffing compensation increases, attorney caseloads, and provide expert services. The County anticipates using its state funds in 2025 for the same purposes as well as providing public defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars and investing in technological solutions.

Clark County

2023 Population	527,400
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.4%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$94,948
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$439,905

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Clark County's Indigent Defense Office contracts with private counsel to provide indigent defense services. The IDO falls under the auspices of the Assistant County Manager. The county's Indigent Defense Coordinator oversees the contracting system, reviews motions for non-attorney services in all criminal cases, and provides training and assistance to the contractors to improve the level of public defense representation. The County maintains various contracts with 49 different attorneys to provide representation over various case types. During this period, the County Council of Clark County voted to establish a public defense agency.

Clark County has adopted a public defense ordinance (Ordinance 2007-07-11) and a case counting and case weighting policy. In addition, the Clark County public defense contracts require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$8,891,420
Amount spent per capita	\$16.86

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,883
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,824

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,039
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,363

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	351
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	386

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Clark County used RCW 10.101 funds to support an attorney coordinator overseeing contracts and supporting the newly created public defense agency; adding additional contract attorneys to reduce caseloads; providing interpreter, expert and investigative services; maintaining previously provided increases in defense attorney compensation; and providing attorney coverage for first appearance calendars. The County anticipates using 2025 funds for the same improvements as well as for investments in technological solutions and reimbursement of training costs.

Web Link to Program: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/general-services/indigent-defense>

Columbia County

2023 Population	3,950
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.0%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,528
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$15,133

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Columbia County contracts with one private firm (two attorneys) and one additional attorney for public defense services. Each contract specifies that the law firm or private attorney is responsible for approximately one-half of all case types assigned, paid on a monthly basis. The court appoints conflict counsel from a list of private attorneys.

Columbia County has a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance 09-03). The attorney contracts require, and reimburse the cost of tuition and materials for annual participation in seven hours of continued legal education relating to public defense.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$146,026
Amount spent per capita	\$36.97

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	47
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	11.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	59

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	92
Number of cases assigned to counsel	65

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	6
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	8

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Columbia County spent its state funding to maintain increases to attorney compensation. The county intends to use its state funds in 2025 to continue this improvement.

Cowlitz County

2023 Population	113,000
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.0%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$72,932
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$160,182

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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

Cowlitz County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Cowlitz County Code Chapter 2.44) which incorporates, by reference, the Standards for Indigent Defense adopted by the Washington Supreme Court. The Cowlitz County Office of Public Defense has a Case Weighting Policy and Procedure for adult and juvenile offender cases filed in Superior Court.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$4,020,349
Amount spent per capita	\$35.58

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	844
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,082

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,614
Number of cases assigned to counsel	870

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	157
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	135

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Cowlitz County used its state funding to maintain and expand the county Office of Public Defense, 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 state funds in 2025 to maintain these improvements and reimburse training costs.

Web Link to Program: <https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/2498/Office-of-Public-Defense>

Douglas County

2023 Population	44,500
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	7.9%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$80,374
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$40,188

Administration of Public Defense Services:

In 2022, Douglas County established the Douglas County Office of Public Defense. During this period, the County continued to transition to a primarily public defense agency model for Superior Court cases. While Douglas County OPD attorneys provide primary representation for Superior Court matters, the Office contracts with two local attorneys to provide primary representation in Douglas County District Court matters. Douglas County OPD anticipates transitioning to in-house representation of district court cases in the near future.

Douglas County has not adopted indigent defense standards in accordance with RCW 10.101.030.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$709,806
Amount spent per capita	\$15.95

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	143
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	138

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	720
Number of cases assigned to counsel	502

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	66
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	39

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Douglas County used its state funds to expand its public defense agency, adding attorneys to maintain manageable caseloads, adding investigator and expert services, providing interpreter services for attorney-client needs, and providing defense services at preliminary hearings. The County anticipates using these funds for the same purposes in 2025.

Web Link to Program: <https://www.douglascountywa.net/656/Office-of-Public-Defense>

Ferry County

2023 Population	7,300
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.6%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$54,650
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$14,192

Administration of Public Defense Services:

In 2023, Ferry County contracted with one law firm to provide primary public defense representation.

Ferry County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Resolution 2016-22) which incorporates a case weighting policy. The ordinance requires all contract public defense attorneys to participate in annual training relating to indigent defense.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$194,561
Amount spent per capita	\$26.65

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	42
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	42

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	61
Number of cases assigned to counsel	61

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	6
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	7

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Ferry County spent its state funding to provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars. The County intends to use its state funds in 2025 to add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads; providing interpreter, investigator, social work services, and expert services; increasing public defense compensation; and providing attorney representation at preliminary hearings.

Franklin County

2023 Population	101,100
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.0%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$82,755
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$93,790

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Franklin County established the Office of Public Defense (OPD) in 2016, a county office to oversee public defense services. OPD's Administrator oversees the work of one in-house attorney, manages attorney contracts, reviews motions for non-attorney services in all criminal cases, and provides training and assistance to the contractors to improve the level of public defense representation.

Franklin County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 13.04) and uses a case weighting policy for cases in Superior Court. The County requires contract public defense attorneys to annually participate in criminal defense training, and report on their non-public defense workload.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,376,835
Amount spent per capita	\$13.62

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	407
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	503

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	793
Number of cases assigned to counsel	229

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	160
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	172

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Franklin County used its state funding to add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, increase public defense attorney compensation, and providing interpreter services for confidential attorney-client communications. The County anticipates utilizing state funds in 2025 for the same purpose and to invest in technological solutions for public defense.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.franklinopd.org/>

Garfield County

2023 Population	2,300
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.8%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$62,411
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$10,768

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Garfield County contracts with one private attorney to provide primary public defense representation. The court appoints conflict counsel from a list of private attorneys.

Garfield County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance Number 13850). The Garfield County public defense contractor is required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$71,321
Amount spent per capita	\$31.01

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	9
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	8

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	28
Number of cases assigned to counsel	12

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	5
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	5

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Garfield County spent its state funding to sustain increases in attorney compensation, adding investigator and expert services, providing defense services at preliminary appearances, and providing defense interpreter services. In 2025, the County plans to maintain these improvements.

Grant County

2023 Population	103,300
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.0%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,115
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$92,818

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Grant County operates a public defender agency that uses a mixed system of county-employed public defense attorneys and contract counsel. Grant County Public Defense provides direct supervision of attorneys, in-house investigation services, and resolution of client complaints.

Grant County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.30) which incorporates the Supreme Court Standards by reference. All attorneys are required to attend annual training,

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,181,004
Amount spent per capita	\$30.79

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	510
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	669

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,636
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,563

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	245
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	261

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Grant County spent its state funding on investigative and expert services, increasing public defense attorney compensation, and social work services. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue the improvements and reimburse training costs and invest in technological solutions.

Web Link to Program: <https://www.grantcountywa.gov/848/Public-Defense>

Grays Harbor County

2023 Population	77,000
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	14.1%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$63,539
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$78,337

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Grays Harbor County administers their indigent defense system through the Grays Harbor County Department of Public Defense. Grays Harbor County Department of Public Defense delivers public defense representation primarily through a contract system with an experienced attorney managing and coordinating contracts and appointments. The County recently added two in-house staff attorneys to provide representation to indigent individuals.

Grays Harbor County adopted local public defense standards per Resolution #2008-160, which was amended by #2014-112 to also include a case weighting system for District Court. In addition, the Superior Court adopted a case weighting system for Juvenile Offender cases. The Grays Harbor contract public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,470,971
Amount spent per capita	\$19.10

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	489
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	552

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,407
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,470

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	115
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	118

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Grays Harbor County spent its state funding on expansion of the Department of Public Defense, continuing recent increases to 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 state funds in 2025 to maintain the improvements as well as hiring two additional staff attorneys to handle district court cases.

Island County

2023 Population	88,150
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	7.0%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$88,358
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$56,740

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Island County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. A single private law firm provides primary public defense services with in-house investigative services. The court appoints conflict counsel from a list of seven private attorneys and firms.

Island County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance No. 100-09). The Island County Standards for Public Defense Services require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,053,575
Amount spent per capita	\$11.95

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	163
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	1.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	156

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	377
Number of cases assigned to counsel	291

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	38
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	76

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Island County spent its state funding to increase attorney compensation and increasing the number of public defense attorneys. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 for the same purposes as well as to potentially hire an attorney coordinator to oversee contracts.

Jefferson County

2023 Population	33,425
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.6%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,143
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$29,406

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Jefferson County contracts with Jefferson Associated Counsel, a private nonprofit corporation, for primary 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 is 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.

Jefferson County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.20). Attorneys are required to participate in annual training relating to public defense.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$948,187
Amount spent per capita	\$28.37

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	146
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	112

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	466
Number of cases assigned to counsel	264

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	23
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	20

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Jefferson County spent its state funding to maintain attorney levels that had been established to reduce caseloads, and to sustain increases to investigator and expert services. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.jacdefender.org/6414.html>

King County

2023 Population	2,347,800
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.4%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$122,148
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$1,232,875

Administration of Public Defense Services:

King County has a county government-based public defense agency with four separate units. Approximately seven percent of public defense services are provided through an assigned counsel panel composed of private attorneys accepting assignments and compensated on an hourly basis.

The King County Council has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.60). Both contract and staff attorneys are required to attend annual training related to public defense services, and contract attorneys are required to submit annual reports on the size and nature of their private workloads.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$81,857,087
Amount spent per capita	\$34.87

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	4,896
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	5,342

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	9,405
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,577

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	723
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,005

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, King County used state funds for providing public defense services at first appearance calendars and increase hourly compensation for conflict counsel. In 2025, the County plans to utilize state funds to increase attorney compensation.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/public-defense.aspx>

Kitsap County

2023 Population	283,200
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.3%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$98,546
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$196,751

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Kitsap County operates a public defender agency that uses a mixed system of county-employed public defense attorneys and contract counsel. Staff attorneys employed by the county handle the majority of county felony cases, and contracted counsel are assigned to represent clients on felony, misdemeanor, juvenile, and civil commitment cases.

Kitsap County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.23). The compensation section establishes salary parity benefits between public defense attorneys and county prosecuting attorneys. Kitsap County requires attorneys to attend approved annual training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$4,149,786
Amount spent per capita	\$14.65

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	857
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	858

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,118
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,564

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	136
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	118

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Kitsap County continued use of its state funds to expand the public defense agency, to provide legal research and case management tools, funding technology acquisitions, adding attorneys to reduce individual caseloads, and increase attorney compensation. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these enhancements.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.kitsapgov.com/pubdef/>

Kittitas County

2023 Population	47,300
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	14.3%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$69,928
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$52,170

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Kittitas County Office of Public Defense provides the primary public defense services for the mixed-representation system in the county. Representation in the district courts is now provided primarily by the Office of Public Defense, though contracts are utilized for overage and conflict cases. Appointed attorneys are paid at a published rate per case unless otherwise authorized.

Kittitas County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.09) which requires public defense training for attorneys.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$655,537
Amount spent per capita	\$13.86

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	290
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	235

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court including Ellensburg and Kittitas

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,346
Number of cases assigned to counsel	875

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	34
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	35

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Kittitas County spent its state funding for expanding its Office of Public Defense. Other uses include adding attorneys to reduce caseloads; increasing attorney compensation; providing representation at preliminary appearance calendars; and interpreter, investigative, and experts services for public defense. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to maintain these improvements as well as reimbursing training costs.

Klickitat County

2023 Population	23,250
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.7%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$70,400
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$22,403

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Klickitat County administers public defense representation under a contract signed by two private attorneys for all Superior Court matters. The contract requires the two attorneys to provide indigent defense services in all 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 appointment by the court.

Klickitat County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 1.45). The County requires all attorneys to attend annual training on criminal defense,

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$401,963
Amount spent per capita	\$17.29

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	59
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	54

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	379
Number of cases assigned to counsel	349

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	6
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	10

Use of State Funds:

Klickitat County used its state funds in 2024 to sustain providing investigators, experts, and interpreter services for assigned counsel representation. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to maintain these improvements as well as to reimburse training costs.

Lewis County

2023 Population	84,075
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.0%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$69,690
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$103,435

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Lewis County administers public defense services through a contract system. The county contracts with numerous private attorneys for specific case types, with some attorneys accepting more than one case type. The county also contracts with one attorney to represent clients at in-custody first appearances, screen defendants for indigence, and investigate complaints about public defense services with plans to continue this practice through 2024.

Lewis County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.40). Lewis County public defense contracts require approved annual attorney training and reporting of non-public defense attorney hours.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,092,956
Amount spent per capita	\$24.89

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	890
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	10.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	765

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,367
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,397

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	208
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	169

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Lewis County spent its state funding to continue contracting with an attorney to provide representation at preliminary appearances. Lewis County also plans on utilizing state funds for an attorney coordinator. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements as well as providing interpreter services for attorney-client meetings.

Lincoln County

2023 Population	11,125
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.4%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,227
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$19,204

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Lincoln County administers public defense representation using a system of contracts and list appointments. The County contracts with one attorney for representation in both Superior and District Court cases. The County utilizes appointment list counsel for other cases, paid on an hourly basis.

Lincoln County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (07-02). All attorneys providing public defense services are required to participate in regular trainings on criminal defense law, including a minimum of seven hours annually.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$178,686
Amount spent per capita	\$16.06

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	51
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	43

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	294
Number of cases assigned to counsel	106

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	15
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	16

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Lincoln County used state funds to reduce attorney workloads by adding additional attorneys, and by providing better compensation. In addition grant funds supported public defense investigative and interpreter services, and representation at preliminary appearance calendars. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements as well as creating a county regional public defense agency, providing an attorney coordinator who oversees contracts with attorneys providing public defense, adding social work services, reimbursing training costs, and investigating in technological solutions for public defense.

Mason County

2023 Population	67,000
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.6%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$78,359
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$62,656

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Mason County operates a public defender agency that uses a mixed system of county-employed public defense attorneys and contract counsel. The Director provides supervision of staff attorneys, administers and monitors contracts, and addresses client complaints.

Mason County has adopted local public defense standards (Ordinance No. 139-08). Attorneys providing indigent defense services are required to participate in annual training on criminal defense law.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,116,844
Amount spent per capita	\$16.67

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	269
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	327

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	702
Number of cases assigned to counsel	730

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	68
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	108

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Mason County spent its state funding to sustain increases for investigative and expert services. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements.

Web Link to Program: https://www.co.mason.wa.us/public_defender/index.php

Okanogan County

2023 Population	43,000
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	18.5%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$60,293
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$48,919

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Okanogan County contracts with one law firm for all public defense services. The contracted firm provides representation on a portion of the cases, and subcontracts with and assigns remaining cases to local private attorneys. The County recently voted to establish a county public defense agency.

Okanogan County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.78). The attorney contract and subcontracts require counsel to attend annual training on criminal defense.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,224,662
Amount spent per capita	\$28.48

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	274
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	231

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court including Brewster, Coulee Dam, Elmer City, Okanogan, Omak, Oroville, Pateros, Tonasket, Twisp, Winthrop

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,104
Number of cases assigned to counsel	982

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	55
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	81

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Okanogan County spent its state funding for defense coordinator to oversee contracts, providing representation at preliminary appearance calendars, increasing attorney compensation, additional attorneys to reduce caseloads, and supporting expert and interpreter services. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to sustain these improvements.

Pacific County

2023 Population	23,775
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.6%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$62,350
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$26,856

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Pacific County provides indigent defense representation through a contract system. Private attorneys contract for a maximum number of cases or types of cases at each court level.

Pacific County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance No. 159). Contracted attorneys are required to attend a minimum of seven hours per year on training related to public defense practice.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$592,196
Amount spent per capita	\$24.91

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	99
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	96

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	289
Number of cases assigned to counsel	139

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	12
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	17

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Pacific County spent its state funding to sustain additions made to attorney levels to reduce public defense caseloads, and additional investigator and expert services. The county plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements as well as providing attorney representation at preliminary hearing calendars.

Pend Oreille County

2023 Population	13,725
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.6%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$63,750
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$21,111

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Pend Oreille County provides public defense representation through contracts with two private firms and two private attorneys. Conflict cases are assigned to list-appointed attorneys who are paid at an hourly rate.

Pend Oreille County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance No. 2008-4). The county public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$355,079
Amount spent per capita	\$25.87

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	81
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	79

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	223
Number of cases assigned to counsel	273

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	5
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	5

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Pend Oreille County spent its state funding to provide public defense representation at arraignment calendars and to increase compensation for defense attorneys. The County indicates it anticipates utilizing the state funds in 2025 for investigator and expert services, preliminary appearance calendar representation, and interpreter services.

Pierce County

2023 Population	946,300
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.9%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$96,632
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$640,504

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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.

Pierce County has adopted a public defense standards by ordinance (Ordinance No. 95-148). 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.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$24,997,015
Amount spent per capita	\$26.42

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	3,680
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,506

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,390
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,526

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	510
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	491

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Pierce County spent its state funding to sustain increases to public defense attorney compensation and maintain positions created in 2007 and 2008. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=92>

San Juan County

2023 Population	18,350
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.5%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$83,682
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$18,557

Administration of Public Defense Services:

San Juan County delivers public defense through a hybrid system with one county-employed public defender, who also manages the contract system. The contracts use a case-point system. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list and paid according to a published fee schedule.

San Juan County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.128). The San Juan County public defense attorneys are required to attend approved annual attorney training and report non-public defense attorney hours.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$309,610
Amount spent per capita	\$16.87

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	18
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	1.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	24

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	251
Number of cases assigned to counsel	133

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	Not Reported
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	Not Reported

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, San Juan County spent its state funding to fund a public defense agency/contract coordinator, as well as to continue previous increases to compensation, expert and investigative services, interpretation services, social work services, and representation at preliminary appearance calendars. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue funding these improvements.

Web Link to Program: <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/1791/Public-Defender>

Skagit County

2023 Population	132,000
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.6%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$85,474
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$129,604

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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 conflict cases.

Skagit County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.36). In addition, the Skagit County Public Defender agency requires approved annual attorney training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$4,764,603
Amount spent per capita	\$36.10

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	869
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,122

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,654
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,389

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	100
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	124

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Skagit County spent its state funding to continue the employment of an additional attorney to maintain caseload compliance, staff specialty courts, and staff first appearance calendars. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these positions.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicDefender/main.htm>

Skamania County

2023 Population	12,000
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.3%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$90,085
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$18,404

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Skamania County delivers Superior Court public defense representation through contracts with two attorneys. One contract attorney handles cases in the Skamania County District Court. When a conflict is identified, counsel is appointed from a list.

Skamania County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.90). The ordinance requires public defense attorneys to attend approved annual attorney training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$176,580
Amount spent per capita	\$14.72

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	36
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	37

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court including Stevenson and North Bonneville

County misdemeanor cases filed	241
Number of cases assigned to counsel	178

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	7
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	7

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Skamania County spent its state funding on investigator services, expert services, and interpreter services for attorney-client communications. The County also states that they plan to use the funds to increase the number of attorneys to reduce attorney caseloads while increasing compensation and providing counsel at preliminary appearances. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to sustain these costs and possibly adding an attorney coordinator to oversee contracts with public defense attorneys.

Snohomish County

2023 Population	859,800
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	7.9%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$107,982
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$436,528

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Snohomish County provides public defense representation in most adult criminal and juvenile offender cases 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. Conflict cases are appointed to attorneys from a list through a separate government office, the Snohomish County Office of Public Defense.

Snohomish County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Title 2 Chapter 2.09) which incorporates, by reference, the Standards for Public Defense Services adopted in 1989 by the Washington Defender Association.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$16,585,561
Amount spent per capita	\$19.29

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,784
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,347

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	5,800
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,966

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	323
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	346

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Snohomish County used the State improvement grant to assist the Snohomish County Public Defender Association in expanding its support staff. In 2025, Snohomish County anticipates utilizing state funds for adding attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads.

Web Link to Program: <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/199/Office-of-Public-Defense>

Spokane County

2023 Population	554,600
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.2%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$73,513
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$486,164

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Spokane County provides public defense representation through two 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 felony conflict cases and juvenile offender cases. Employees are compensated at parity with Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney Office employees. Each agency director is responsible for attorney supervision and resolution of client complaints. The Spokane County Public Defender contracts with private attorneys to handle felony cases conflicted from both agencies. Most misdemeanor conflicts are handled through an inter-local agreement with the City of Spokane Public Defender.

Spokane County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 1.17A). The Spokane County public defense agencies require approved annual attorney training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$9,711,964
Amount spent per capita	\$17.51

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	3,676
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,362

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court including Deer Park, Fairfield, Latah, Liberty Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle, Waverly, and Spokane Valley

County misdemeanor cases filed	4,661
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,312

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	510
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	638

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Spokane County utilized state funds to provide add five attorney positions in both the District Court and Superior Court units to reduce attorney caseloads as well as for investigative services. In 2025, Spokane County plans to sustain these improvements.

Web Link to Program: <http://wa-spokanecounty.civicplus.com/459/Public-Defender>

Stevens County

2023 Population	47,350
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.9%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$67,405
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$47,147

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Stevens County established an Office of Public Defense with one Public Defender, who both maintains a caseload and manages contract public defense service with private attorneys to represent indigent clients in District, Superior and Juvenile Courts. Conflict cases at all court levels are handled through list appointments.

Stevens County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance No. 2019-00). The Stevens County public defense contractors are required to attend approved annual attorney training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,030,669
Amount spent per capita	\$21.77

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	352
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	362

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court including Colville, Chewelah, and Kettle Falls

County misdemeanor cases filed	891
Number of cases assigned to counsel	589

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	36
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	56

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Stevens County spent its state funds to support the expansion of an attorney coordinator/public defense agency position. The County further utilized funding to add attorneys to reduce caseloads and provide representation at preliminary appearances. The county intends to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements as well as adding investigator and expert services, increasing public defense compensation, and investing in technological solutions for public defenders.

Thurston County

2023 Population	303,400
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.7%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$93,985
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$216,629

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Thurston County provides public defense representation through a county government-based agency – Thurston County Public Defense (TCPD). TCPD staff are compensated at parity with the county prosecutor’s office. Overflow and conflict cases are assigned to contract attorneys. TCPD employs a director and three senior defense attorneys to assist in the supervision of staff and resolution of client complaints.

Thurston County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 10.100), and requires all public defense attorneys to comply with required annual training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$8,171,368
Amount spent per capita	\$26.93

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,238
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,994

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,411
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,605

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	328
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	333

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Thurston County spent its state funding to add attorneys to reduce caseloads and adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as supporting in-house investigative services. The County intends to continuing using state funds in 2025 to ensure compliance with the Supreme Court Standards for Indigent Defense Services, to support attorneys’ requests for experts and investigators, represent indigent defendants at all critical stages of a criminal case, and fund interpreter services for attorney-client communications.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/pd>

Wahkiakum County

2023 Population	4,550
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.7%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$57,091
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$12,216

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Wahkiakum County delivers public defense representation for all felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile offender cases 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 established hourly rate.

Wahkiakum County has adopted a public defense ordinance (Chapter 2.144). All public defense attorneys are required to attend annual training relating to criminal defense.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$94,862
Amount spent per capita	\$20.85

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	24
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	25

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	122
Number of cases assigned to counsel	126

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	7
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	9

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Wahkiakum County used state funds to increase public defender compensation, maintain reductions to attorney caseloads, provide representation at some preliminary appearance calendars and pay for interpreter services for attorney-client communications. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 for the same purposes.

Walla Walla County

2023 Population	63,100
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.7%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$72,212
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$63,687

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Walla Walla County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. Nine private law offices contract to provide public defense services at all court levels.

Walla Walla County has adopted a public defense standards resolution (Resolution No. 04335). All public defense attorneys are required to attend annual training relating to criminal defense.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,066,955
Amount spent per capita	\$16.91

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	290
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	359

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,287
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,573

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	51
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	48

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Walla Walla County spent its state funding to sustain increases to public defense attorney compensation and utilize investigator, expert, and interpreter services. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements as well as potentially hiring an attorney coordinator to oversee public defense contracts.

Whatcom County

2023 Population	235,800
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.7%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$80,989
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$213,905

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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 supervision and the resolution of client complaints. The agency employs in-house investigative staff. The County also contracts with private attorneys for child representation in dependency cases and BECCA cases. Conflict attorneys are appointed from a list.

Whatcom County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.09). The county public defense agency requires approved annual attorney training. All attorneys are required to adhere to standards of conduct established by the Washington State Bar Association and American Bar Association.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$7,045,579
Amount spent per capita	\$29.88

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,443
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,735

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,056
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,198

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	148
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	174

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Whatcom County spent its allocation on two deputy public defense attorney positions, and plans to continue doing so in 2025.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/311/Public-Defender>

Whitman County

2023 Population	48,100
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	23.7%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$52,893
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$42,353

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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

Whitman County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Chapter 2.07).

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$584,700
Amount spent per capita	\$12.16

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	113
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	Not Reported

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	526
Number of cases assigned to counsel	489

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	24
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	Not Reported

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Whitman County spent its state funding to sustain increases to public defense attorney compensation. The county plans to use its state funds in 2025 to maintain this improvement.

Yakima County

2023 Population	261,200
2019-2023 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.4%
2019-2023 Estimated Median Household Income	\$68,015
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2024	\$281,884

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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 and contract investigators, who are also available to contract counsel. Interpreter services are available through an approved list of providers managed by DAC.

Yakima County has adopted a public defense standards ordinance (Ordinance 10-2007). The Yakima County DAC requires approved annual attorney training.

2023 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$5,556,918
Amount spent per capita	\$21.27

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,442
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,465

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,614
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,321

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	338
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	327

Use of State Funds:

In 2024, Yakima County used state funds to maintain reductions to caseloads. This has included adding an attorney, increasing contract compensation, and appearing at preliminary appearances. The County plans to use its state funds in 2025 to continue these improvements.

Web Link to Program: <http://www.yakimacounty.us/1662/Assigned-Counsel>

Appendix A: Methodology and Data Reporting for County Reports

In preparing the county data reports, OPD used information submitted as part of each jurisdiction's application for grant funding as well as data from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) [Caseload Reports](#). OPD contacted the counties and cities to clarify and augment data where necessary. County staff were gracious and generous with their time during this process, and the reports would not have been possible without their help.

Because of the individualized nature of Washington's local public defense systems, making comparisons is challenging. However, county 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.

2023 Data in the County Reports: The County Reports present data on funding and caseload levels in each of the thirty-eight counties that participate in the Chapter 10.101 RCW funding program. The data contained in these County Reports reflect the figures reported in the 2024 applications for calendar year 2025 funding. Because these applications were submitted in August 2024, the data reflects public defense assignments and expenses in 2023.

Counting Cases and Expenses: The processes used for calculating public defense caseloads vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. There is no standard method; systems differ, sometimes even within individual jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions report their case numbers based on "payment points" or weighted "credits" rather than individual cases. This means that a single case may constitute a higher or lower amount of case credits.

Discrepancies in Data: In comparing case filings with public defense appointments, it is important to keep in mind that these figures are reported from different sources, and may have limitations for purposes of identifying public defense appointment rates. All case filings are based on data contained in the Caseload Reports and reflect cases filed in courts in the stated year. However, public defense attorneys may be appointed to cases that were filed in previous years. Public defense appointments may also apply to situations that do not necessarily reflect new case filings, such as representation of a witness, or representing a client who had been on warrant status for an extended period.

The number of filings in District and Municipal Courts may be overrepresentations of the number of actual cases stemming from the same factual basis due to the courts' case management system. In that system, charges are organized by three categories: DUI, other traffic offenses, and non-traffic offenses. Therefore, cases containing charges from more than one category may be counted as multiple filings.

Appendix B: Glossary for County Reports

2023 population: Total county population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2024--[Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties publication](#).

Percent below poverty level: Percent of individuals in the county population below the federal poverty level as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1701 Poverty Status](#).

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1901 Income](#).

2024 Chapter 10.101 RCW distribution: The county's allocation of the Chapter 10.101 RCW funds appropriation as determined by the distribution formula contained in [RCW 10.101.070](#).

I. 2023 Statistics

1. Amount spent for public defense: The county-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2023 in annual applications submitted to OPD for state funds. In jurisdictions where counties also provide public defense services for municipal cases, municipal costs were subtracted (if municipal amounts were reported to OPD).
2. 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, local attorney availability, the county's poverty rate, and case filing rates.

II. Adult Felony

1. Adult Superior Court cases filed: The number of new adult Superior Court cases filed during 2023 as reported in the [Superior Court 2023 Annual Caseload Report](#). The number of filings does not include non-charges.
2. Adult Superior Court 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 2023 as reported by counties in their Chapter 10.101 RCW grant applications.

III. Adult Misdemeanor

1. County misdemeanor cases filed: The number of new (non-probation violation) District Court cases filed during 2023 as reported in the [Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2023 Annual Caseload Report](#). The total listed is the sum of DUI, Other Traffic, and Non-Traffic misdemeanor filings. In some jurisdictions, this figure is a combination of both county and municipal court filings.
2. Number of cases assigned to counsel by county: The county-reported number of new adult District Court cases assigned to public defense counsel during 2023 as reported by counties in their Chapter 10.101 RCW grant applications. In some jurisdictions, this includes a combination of county and municipal cases.

IV. Juvenile Offender

1. Juvenile offender cases filed: The number of new (non-probation violation) juvenile offender cases filed during 2023 as reported in the [Superior Court 2023 Annual Caseload Report](#). The number of filings does not include non-charges.
2. Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population: The total number of new juvenile offender cases filed during 2023 divided by the county population as expressed in thousands.
3. Number of cases assigned to counsel: The county-reported number of new juvenile offender cases assigned to public defense counsel during 2023.