

Washington State Office of Public Defense

2021 County Status Report

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Adams County

2020 Population	20,613
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	23.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$51,601
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$26,148

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Adams County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The County contracts with six 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$497,500.00
Amount spent per capita	\$24.14

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	105
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	104

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	496
Number of cases assigned to counsel	89

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	34
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	47

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Adams County spent its state funding to continue supporting public defense services with investigator, expert, and interpreter services, and provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars in Superior Court. The County plans to use its funds in 2022 to continue these improvements.

Asotin County

2020 Population	22,285
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	13.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$53,941
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$28,665

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 10 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$464,795.00
Amount spent per capita	\$20.86

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	125
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	137

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	411
Number of cases assigned to counsel	183

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	54
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	61

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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 2022 to continue these improvements.

Benton County

2020 Population	206,873
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	10.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$72,046
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$183,295

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 six 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,802,298.49
Amount spent per capita	\$18.38

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,581
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,525

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

County misdemeanor cases filed	6628
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,557

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	290
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	291

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Benton County used state funds to maintain the position of Public Defense Manager to oversee public defense services, and to continue providing public defense services at all preliminary appearance calendars in District and Superior Court. The county plans to use its 2022 funds for the same purposes.

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

Chelan County

2020 Population	79,141
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	10.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$61,304
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$85,932

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 County also maintains contracts with approximately 16 attorneys to provide representation in conflict matters.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,720,526.64
Amount spent per capita	\$34.38

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	582
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	657

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	853
Number of cases assigned to counsel	572

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	91
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	91

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Chelan County used its state funding to maintain increased investigator and expert services.

Clallam County

2020 Population	77,155
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	13.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$55,090
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$69,075

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 County also maintains contracts with approximately eight attorneys to provide representation should a conflict arise.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,892,807.03
Amount spent per capita	\$24.53

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	413
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	511

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	536
Number of cases assigned to counsel	417

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	83
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	100

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Clallam County spent its state funding to maintain staffing compensation increases, attorney caseloads, and provide expert services. The County also reported utilizing grant funds to ensure public defense representation at all in-custody first appearance calendars in superior and district court for adult criminal cases. The County anticipates using its state funds in 2022 for the same purposes.

Clark County

2020 Population	503,311
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	9.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$77,184
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$394,454

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 57 different firms and attorneys to provide representation over various case types.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$5,820,376.00
Amount spent per capita	\$11.56

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,761
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,881

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,550
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,124

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	245
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	331

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Clark County used RCW 10.101 funds to support an attorney coordinator (Indigent Defense Manager) position, hiring at new office staff position to assist the Indigent Defense Manager, adding additional contract attorneys to reduce caseloads, providing investigator services, and increasing defense attorney compensation. The County anticipates using 2022 funds for the same improvements.

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

Columbia County

2020 Population	3,952
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	6.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$61,779
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$14,668

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Columbia County contracts with two private firms 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 county maintains an appointment list of one additional attorney if needed.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$144,000.00
Amount spent per capita	\$36.44

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	37
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	9.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	34

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	76
Number of cases assigned to counsel	113

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	6
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	7

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Columbia County spent its state funding to maintain increases to attorney compensation. The County intends to use its state funds in 2022 to continue this improvement.

Cowlitz County

2020 Population	110,730
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	13.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$58,791
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$147,024

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. Approximately eight attorneys maintain contracts with the County for matters in superior court cases. The County also maintains as list of approximately 11 attorneys who are available to take certain cases if needed.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,959,689.00
Amount spent per capita	\$26.73

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,345
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	12.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,297

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,557
Number of cases assigned to counsel	769

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	148
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	37

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Cowlitz County used its state funding to maintain and expand the county Office of Public Defense, provide an attorney coordinator to oversee contracts with attorneys providing public defense, increasing the number of attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads, increase public defense attorney compensation, provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars, provide expert and investigator services, provide interpreter services for attorney-client interviews and other necessary communications, and provide social work services or sentencing mitigation as part of the public defense team. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to maintain these improvements.

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

Douglas County

2020 Population	42,938
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	11.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$65,730
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$37,979

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Douglas County administers its public defense system through contracts. The County contracts with approximately eight private attorneys to provide public defense services.

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

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$624,696.12
Amount spent per capita	\$14.55

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	218
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	98

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	631
Number of cases assigned to counsel	250

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	31
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	21

Use of State Funds:

Douglas County used 2021 RCW 10.101 grant funds to fund investigator and expert services. In 2022, the County anticipates utilizing funds for compensating attorneys and funding training to ensure the County maintains compliance with WSBA and Washington Supreme Court indigent defense standards.

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

Ferry County

2020 Population	7,178
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	17.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$41,685
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$14,104

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Ferry County administers public defense services through a contract system. The County contracts with approximately eight private attorneys to provide public defense services of various casetypes. Five other attorneys are maintained on an appointment list if needed and paid at on an hourly basis.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$190,903.76
Amount spent per capita	\$26.60

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	52
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	64

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	158
Number of cases assigned to counsel	158

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	6
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	8

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Ferry County spent its state funding to provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars and interpreter services for public defense services. The county intends to use its state funds in 2022 to continue this improvement.

Franklin County

2020 Population	96,749
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	14.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$66,904
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$92,183

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 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,306,516.00
Amount spent per capita	\$13.50

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	630
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	684

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,000
Number of cases assigned to counsel	969

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	111
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	327

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Franklin County used its state funding to fund investigator and expert services and increase public defense compensation. The County anticipates utilizing state funds in 2022 for the same purposes and to add attorneys to reduce overall attorney caseloads.

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

Garfield County

2020 Population	2,286
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	8.3%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$56,923
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$11,300

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Public defense services in Garfield County are administered through a contract and appointment system. The County contracts with one private attorney to provide primary public defense representation. Eight other attorneys are available on an appointment basis if needed and paid on an hourly basis.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$50,875.32
Amount spent per capita	\$22.26

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	21
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	9.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	18

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	107
Number of cases assigned to counsel	36

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	5
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	4

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Garfield County spent its state funding to provide defense expert and interpreter services. In 2022, the County plans to maintain these improvements as well as increasing public defense compensation, support investigator services, and providing public defense representation at preliminary hearings.

Web Link to Program Information:

Grant County

2020 Population	99,123
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	14.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$59,163
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$90,340

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 eight attorneys with additional in-house support staff for attorney/litigation support and investigation services.

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,

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,113,174.59
Amount spent per capita	\$31.41

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	519
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	429

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,917
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,622

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	159
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	43

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Grant County spent its state funding for additional attorneys to reduce caseloads, investigative and expert services, increasing public defense attorney compensation, and providing public defense representation at preliminary appearances. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to continue the improvements.

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

Grays Harbor County

2020 Population	75,636
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	14.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$50,665
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$84,329

Administration of Public Defense Services:

In 2019, Grays Harbor County created their Department of Public Defense. Grays Harbor County Department of Public Defense delivers public defense representation through a contract system with an experienced attorney managing and coordinating contracts and appointments. The County contracts with approximately 19 private attorneys who represent indigent clients in Superior Court and District Court. Grays Harbor Department of Public Defense anticipates expanding to include in-house representation in the near future.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,306,692.00
Amount spent per capita	\$17.28

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	517
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	765

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,288
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,385

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	111
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	117

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Grays Harbor County spent its state funding on expansion of the Department of Public Defense, by supporting the public defense coordinator position, increasing attorneys numbers 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 2022 to maintain the improvements as well as to increase attorney compensation.

Island County

2020 Population	86,857
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	7.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$70,765
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$57,115

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 eight private attorneys and firms if needed.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$793,819.93
Amount spent per capita	\$9.14

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	208
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	124

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	746
Number of cases assigned to counsel	447

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	18
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	58

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Island County spent its state funding to continue providing defense counsel at preliminary appearance calendars and investigator services. The county plans to use its state funds in 2022 for similar purposes.

Jefferson County

2020 Population	32,977
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	13.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$57,693
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$35,085

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. Jefferson Associated Counsel maintains the services of one in-house investigator; 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$747,088.00
Amount spent per capita	\$22.65

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	212
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	190

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	630
Number of cases assigned to counsel	278

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	11
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	8

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Jefferson County spent its state funding to support operations of Jefferson Associated Counsel, 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 2022 to continue these improvements.

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

King County

2020 Population	2,269,675
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	8.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$99,158
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$1,207,292

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$67,415,629.00
Amount spent per capita	\$29.70

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	5,877
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	5,906

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	8,232
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,626

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	788
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,049

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, King County used state funds to increase compensation for attorneys assigned conflict cases. In 2022, the County plans to continue to use state funds for the same purposes.

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

Kitsap County

2020 Population	275,611
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	8.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$78,969
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$208,355

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,311,455.46
Amount spent per capita	\$12.01

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,459
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,466

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,794
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,754

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	108
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	95

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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 2022 to continue these enhancements.

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

Kittitas County

2020 Population	46,468
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	16.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$59,703
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$45,614

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Kittitas County administers its public defense system primarily through a contract system. The County contracts with six private attorneys to deliver public defense services across various case types. Approximately 11 other attorneys are part of an appointment system should any contract attorney not be able to take a specific case. The County is exploring the possibility of establishing a county public defense agency.

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

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$577,595.00
Amount spent per capita	\$12.43

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	315
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	248

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,836
Number of cases assigned to counsel	567

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	63
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	66

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Kittitas County spent its state funding for increased compensation for its public defense attorneys, providing representation at preliminary appearance calendars, and providing interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings. The County anticipates utilizing state funds for these improvements as well as for establishing a county public defense agency in 2022.

Klickitat County

2020 Population	22,735
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	15.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$56,667
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$24,666

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,

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$298,643.53
Amount spent per capita	\$13.14

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	69
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	70

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	342
Number of cases assigned to counsel	279

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	21
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	19

Use of State Funds:

Klickitat County used its state funds in 2021 to sustain providing investigators, experts, and interpreter services for assigned counsel representation. The county plans to use its state funds in 2022 to maintain these improvements.

Lewis County

2020 Population	82,149
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	13.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$54,970
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$101,827

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 indigency with plans to continue this practice through 2022.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,855,544.05
Amount spent per capita	\$22.59

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,098
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	13.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,032

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,880
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,250

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	148
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	156

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Lewis County spent its state funding to continue interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings and to fund an attorney coordinator to oversee public defense contracts. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to continue these improvements.

Lincoln County

2020 Population	10,876
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	11.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$58,584
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$17,193

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Lincoln County administers public defense representation using a system of contracts and list appointments. The County contracts with four attorneys 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$153,235.85
Amount spent per capita	\$14.09

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	75
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	18

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	633
Number of cases assigned to counsel	218

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	6
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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 interpreter services and representation at preliminary appearance calendars. The county plans to use its state funds in 2022 to continue these improvements.

Mason County

2020 Population	65,726
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	13.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$60,565
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$59,097

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. A contract with one private firm provides coverage in the event that the Mason County Public Defender, and multiple attorneys are available by appointment on a case-by-case basis.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,067,818.26
Amount spent per capita	\$16.25

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	399
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	359

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	772
Number of cases assigned to counsel	768

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	48
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	55

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Mason County spent its state funding to sustain increases for investigative and expert services as well as to increase public defender compensation. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to continue these improvements.

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

Okanogan County

2020 Population	42,104
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	20.6%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$48,528
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$50,023

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.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$998,264.05
Amount spent per capita	\$23.71

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	334
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	285

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

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,123
Number of cases assigned to counsel	819

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	65
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	171

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Okanogan County spent its state funding for defense coordinator to oversee contracts, providing representation at preliminary appearance calendars, supporting investigative and interpreter services, and adding attorneys to reduce overall attorney caseloads. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to sustain most of these improvements.

Pacific County

2020 Population	23,365
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	14.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$50,873
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$31,365

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Pacific County provides indigent defense representation through a contract system. The County contracts with seven private attorneys to provide services over various case types.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$438,574.83
Amount spent per capita	\$18.77

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	171
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	155

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	460
Number of cases assigned to counsel	243

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	24
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	14

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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 2022 to continue these improvements.

Pend Oreille County

2020 Population	13,401
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	9.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$55,021
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$18,793

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Pend Oreille County provides public defense representation through contracts with six 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$408,199.37
Amount spent per capita	\$30.46

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	113
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	8.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	106

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	296
Number of cases assigned to counsel	247

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	18
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	16

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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 for these same purposes in 2022.

Pierce County

2020 Population	920,393
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	9.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$76,438
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$624,955

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$13,687,110.00
Amount spent per capita	\$14.87

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	3,068
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,624

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	5,056
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,550

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	354
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	330

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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 2022 to continue these improvements.

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

San Juan County

2020 Population	17,788
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	10.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$64,753
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$19,319

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$249,474.20
Amount spent per capita	\$14.02

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	16
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	38

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	218
Number of cases assigned to counsel	191

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	5
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	0

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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, and representation at preliminary appearance calendars. The county plans to use its state funds in 2022 to continue funding these improvements.

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

Skagit County

2020 Population	129,523
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	10.7%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$71,021
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$140,810

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$4,527,986.00
Amount spent per capita	\$34.96

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	716
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	968

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,325
Number of cases assigned to counsel	986

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	89
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	157

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, 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 2022 to continue these positions.

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

Skamania County

2020 Population	11,604
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	10.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$69,296
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$18,716

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Skamania County delivers Superior Court public defense representation through contracts with three 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$175,093.47
Amount spent per capita	\$15.09

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	56
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	34

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	401
Number of cases assigned to counsel	176

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 2021, 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 2022 to sustain these improvements.

Snohomish County

2020 Population	827,957
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	7.2%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$89,273
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$456,401

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Snohomish County administers its public defense system through the Snohomish County Office of Public Defense, which maintains a primary contract for public defense services 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$11,659,312.03
Amount spent per capita	\$14.08

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,896
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,239

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	6,705
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,913

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	584
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	506

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Snohomish County used the State improvement grant to increase public defender compensation and to support expanded IT capabilities of PDA. The County will use 2022 funds to maintain these improvements, ensuring support staff compensation parity with the Snohomish Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

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

Spokane County

2020 Population	539,339
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	12.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$60,101
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$572,690

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$11,162,821.08
Amount spent per capita	\$20.70

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	3,830
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,575

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,755
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,060

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	439
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	632

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Spokane County use state funds to provide add five attorney positions in both the District Court and Superior Court units to reduce attorney caseloads. In 2022, the County plans to sustain these improvements.

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

Stevens County

2020 Population	46,445
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	12.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$54,426
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$50,402

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Stevens County administers public defense through a contract system. The County contracts with a combination of firms and solo attorneys. Combined, approximately 12 attorneys provide public defense services across various case types. The County maintains a case-weighting system in accordance with WSBA and Washington Supreme Court standards to ensure attorneys are within established caseload limits. In 2022, the County plans on establishing a county public defense agency with one staff attorney maintaining a caseload and managing attorney contracts.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,178,260.07
Amount spent per capita	\$25.37

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	396
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	8.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	329

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	778
Number of cases assigned to counsel	348

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	56
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	45

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Stevens County spent its state funds to add attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads and to provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars. The County intends to use its state funds in 2022 to continue these improvements as well as establishing a county public defense agency.

Thurston County

2020 Population	294,793
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	9.8%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$75,867
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$256,256

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. TCPD contracts with approximately 24 private attorneys for overage and conflict services.

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

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$6,083,923.00
Amount spent per capita	\$20.64

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,379
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,624

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,154
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,175

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	237
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	259

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Thurston County spent its state funding to add attorneys to reduce caseloads. The County intends to continuing using state funds in 2022 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 Information: <http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/pd>

Wahkiakum County

2020 Population	4,422
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	9.1%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$54,524
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$11,778

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$93,030.15
Amount spent per capita	\$21.04

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	27
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	29

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	115
Number of cases assigned to counsel	135

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	3
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	4

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Wahkiakum County used state funds to ensure sufficient number of public defense attorneys to maintain reductions to overall 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 2022 for the same purposes.

Walla Walla County

2020 Population	62,584
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	11.4%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$60,615
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$58,030

Administration of Public Defense Services:

Walla Walla County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. Approximately nine private attorneys 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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$988,514.00
Amount spent per capita	\$15.79

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	412
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	435

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,472
Number of cases assigned to counsel	352

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	55
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	78

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Walla Walla County spent its state funding to sustain increases to public defense attorney compensation; provide public defense services at most preliminary appearance calendars; and utilize investigator, expert, and interpreter services. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to continue these improvements.

Whatcom County

2020 Population	226,847
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	13.9%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$65,420
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$183,409

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 and maintains an appointment list with private attorneys to represent client in cases the Public Defender could not accept.

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$4,909,253.15
Amount spent per capita	\$21.64

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,587
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,402

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,300
Number of cases assigned to counsel	893

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	138
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	140

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Whatcom County spent its allocation on two deputy public defense attorney positions, and plans to continue doing so in 2022.

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

Whitman County

2020 Population	47,973
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	26.0%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$42,288
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$43,767

Administration of Public Defense Services:

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

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

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$400,000.00
Amount spent per capita	\$8.34

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	195
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	236

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	626
Number of cases assigned to counsel	441

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	23
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	18

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Whitman County spent its state funding to sustain increases to public defense attorney compensation. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to maintain this improvement.

Yakima County

2020 Population	256,728
Percent Below Poverty Level 2016-2020	16.5%
Estimated Median Household Income 2016-2020	\$54,917
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2021	\$249,221

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.

2020 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$5,298,528.00
Amount spent per capita	\$20.64

Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,911
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,853

Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,934
Number of cases assigned to counsel	885

Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	394
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	499

Use of State Funds:

In 2021, Yakima County used state funds to maintain reductions to caseloads. This has included adding additional support staff, increasing contract compensation, and appearing at preliminary appearances. The County plans to use its state funds in 2022 to continue these improvements.

Web Link to Program Information: <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.

2020 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 2021 applications for calendar year 2022 funding. Because these applications were submitted in August 2021, the data reflects public defense assignments and expenses in 2020.

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

2020 population: Total county population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2021--[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](#). (5-year estimate: 2016 – 2020)

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1901 Income](#). (5-year estimate: 2016 – 2020)

2021 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. 2020 Statistics

1. Amount spent for public defense: The county-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2020 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 2020 as reported in the [Superior Court 2020 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 2020 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 2020 as reported in the [Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2020 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 2020 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 2020 as reported in the [Superior Court 2020 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 2020 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 2020.