

# Washington State Office of Public Defense

## 2022 County Status Report

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## Adams County

2021 Population	20,900
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	20.8%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$65,042
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$27,864

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

Adams County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. The County contracts with five attorneys/firms 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$697,500
Amount spent per capita	\$33.37

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	83
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	156

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	546
Number of cases assigned to counsel	728

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	21
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	33

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Adams County spent its state funding to continue supporting public defense services with investigator, expert, and interpreter services and to provide public defense services at preliminary appearance calendars in Superior Court. The County plans to use its funds in 2023 to continue these improvements.

## Asotin County

2021 Population	22,500
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.0%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$69,107
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$26,109

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

Asotin County delivers public defense representation through a contract and appointment system. The County contracts with three attorneys for indigent cases in Superior and District Court. Asotin County maintains an appointment list of 14 attorneys for various case types compensated on an hourly basis.

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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$576,687
Amount spent per capita	\$25.63

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	180
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	8.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	231

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	376
Number of cases assigned to counsel	218

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	39
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	57

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

## Benton County

2021 Population	209,400
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.6%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$87,316
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$201,069

### 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 38 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$4,009,532
Amount spent per capita	\$19.15

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	946
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,210

### Adult Misdemeanor –

#### County District Court including Richland, West Richland, Kennewick, and Prosser

County misdemeanor cases filed	5,579
Number of cases assigned to counsel	3,928

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	163
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	228

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 funds for the same purposes.

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

## Chelan County

2021 Population	80,000
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.7%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$78,306
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$87,228

### 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 11 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,740,777
Amount spent per capita	\$34.26

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	451
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	362

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	846
Number of cases assigned to counsel	581

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	77
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	85

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Chelan County used its state funding to maintain increased investigator and expert services. The County anticipates using its 2023 funding for the same purposes.

## Clallam County

2021 Population	77,750
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.3%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$67,999
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$68,725

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,890,475
Amount spent per capita	\$24.31

### 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	420

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	597
Number of cases assigned to counsel	538

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	55
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	75

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 for the same purposes.

## Clark County

2021 Population	513,100
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.1%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$94,948
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$388,023

### 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 56 different firms and attorneys to provide representation over various case types. The County reports that it is currently investigating moving to a public defense model centered around the establishment of a government 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$6,973,818
Amount spent per capita	\$13.59

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,883
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,177

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,066
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,991

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	163
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	196

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Clark County used RCW 10.101 funds to support an attorney coordinator (Indigent Defense Manager) position, adding additional contract attorneys to reduce caseloads, increasing defense attorney compensation, and providing defense representation at first appearance calendars. The County anticipates using 2023 funds for the same improvements and also potentially utilizing funds to create a public defense agency.

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

## Columbia County

2021 Population	3,950
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.3%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,528
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$13,352

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

Columbia County contracts with three 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 two additional attorneys 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$144,000
Amount spent per capita	\$36.46

### 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	16

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	55
Number of cases assigned to counsel	53

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	9
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	2.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	9

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Columbia County spent its state funding to maintain increases to attorney compensation. The County intends to use its state funds in 2023 to continue this improvement.

## Cowlitz County

2021 Population	111,500
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.8%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$72,932
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$157,477

### 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 four attorneys maintain contracts with the County for matters in superior court cases. The County also maintains as list of approximately 13 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,549,199
Amount spent per capita	\$31.83

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	844
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,128

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,254
Number of cases assigned to counsel	978

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	90
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	92

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 also reported using funds to hire an extra legal assistant. The County plans to use its state funds in 2023 to maintain these improvements.

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

## Douglas County

2021 Population	43,550
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.7%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$80,374
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$40,758

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

Douglas County established the Douglas County Office of Public Defense in 2022. The Office employs four attorneys, including a supervising attorney, primarily to handle Douglas County Superior Court cases. The County anticipates expanding the Office of Public Defense to include an in-house investigator. Douglas County OPD maintains contracts with two attorneys to represent clients in Douglas County District Court.

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

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$629,856
Amount spent per capita	\$14.46

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	143
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	160

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	578
Number of cases assigned to counsel	598

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	32
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	38

### Use of State Funds:

Douglas County used 2022 RCW 10.101 grant funds to assist in establishing Douglas County OPD, adding attorneys to reduce caseloads, providing defense attorneys at first appearance calendars, and fund investigator and expert services. In 2023, the County anticipates utilizing funds for the same purposes while also bringing investigation services in-house and funding legal research tools and education opportunities.

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

## Ferry County

2021 Population	7,250
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.0%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$54,650
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$15,625

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

Ferry County administers public defense services through a contract system. The County contracts with approximately nine private attorneys to provide public defense services of various casetypes. Eight 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$197,786
Amount spent per capita	\$27.28

### 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	54

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	82
Number of cases assigned to counsel	78

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	7
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	6

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue this improvement.

## Franklin County

2021 Population	98,350
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.1%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$82,755
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$93,122

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,604,898
Amount spent per capita	\$16.32

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	407
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	460

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	895
Number of cases assigned to counsel	393

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	114
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	228

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Franklin County used its state funding to expand the County's public defense agency, support the continued efforts of the Franklin OPD Administrator position, add attorneys to reduce attorney caseloads, provide public defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars, fund investigator services, fund expert services, fund interpreter services for confidential attorney-client meetings, and increase public defense compensation. The County anticipates utilizing state funds in 2023 for the same purposes.

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

## Garfield County

2021 Population	2,300
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.2%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$62,411
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$11,274

### 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. Six 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$55,563
Amount spent per capita	\$24.16

### 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	16

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	146
Number of cases assigned to counsel	64

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	2
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Garfield County spent its state funding to provide defense expert, interpreter, and investigator services; increase public defense compensation; and provide defense representation at preliminary appearance calendars. In 2023, the County plans to maintain these improvements.

## Grant County

2021 Population	100,800
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.0%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,115
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$83,018

### 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 nine 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,

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,212,207
Amount spent per capita	\$31.87

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	510
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	742

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	3,032
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,542

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	89
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	99

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue the improvements and increase public defense attorney compensation.

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

## Grays Harbor County

2021 Population	76,050
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.1%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$63,539
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$74,734

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,226,324
Amount spent per capita	\$16.13

### 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	664

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,718
Number of cases assigned to counsel	832

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	65
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	67

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Grays Harbor County spent its state funding on 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 2023 for the same purposes and to expand the Grays Harbor Department of Public Defense staff.

## Island County

2021 Population	87,100
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	7.6%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$88,358
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$57,719

### 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 six 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$864,273
Amount spent per capita	\$9.92

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	163
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	1.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	124

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	538
Number of cases assigned to counsel	380

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	21
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	35

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Island County spent its state funding to continue providing defense counsel at preliminary appearance calendars, add attorneys to reduce caseloads, increase public defender compensation, and support investigator services. The county plans to use its state funds in 2023 for similar purposes.

## Jefferson County

2021 Population	33,100
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	14.2%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,143
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$35,902

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$806,719
Amount spent per capita	\$24.37

### 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	131

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	355
Number of cases assigned to counsel	279

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	14
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	15

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

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

## King County

2021 Population	2,287,050
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.4%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$122,148
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$1,242,969

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$72,440,598
Amount spent per capita	\$31.67

### 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	4,794

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	7,647
Number of cases assigned to counsel	4,853

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	356
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	575

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, King County used state funds to increase compensation for attorneys assigned conflict cases. In 2023, 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

2021 Population	277,700
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.0%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$98,546
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$212,148

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$3,330,091
Amount spent per capita	\$11.99

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	857
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,061

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,506
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,777

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	64
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	30

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2024 to continue these enhancements.

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

## Kittitas County

2021 Population	45,225
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	14.8%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$69,928
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$50,664

### 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 eight 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$556,726
Amount spent per capita	\$12.31

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	290
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	265

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,464
Number of cases assigned to counsel	433

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	37
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	50

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Kittitas County spent its state funding for increased 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 2023 - which includes increasing public defense compensation and social work services.

## Klickitat County

2021 Population	23,000
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	14.7%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$70,400
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$22,241

### 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,

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$414,808
Amount spent per capita	\$18.04

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	59
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	80

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	398
Number of cases assigned to counsel	321

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	9
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	27

### Use of State Funds:

Klickitat County used its state funds in 2022 to sustain providing investigators, experts, and interpreter services for assigned counsel representation. The county plans to use its state funds in 2023 to maintain these improvements.

## Lewis County

2021 Population	82,700
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.2%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$69,690
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$117,669

### 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 2023.

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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$2,008,693
Amount spent per capita	\$24.29

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	890
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	10.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,108

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,660
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,398

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	100
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	110

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

## Lincoln County

2021 Population	10,900
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.9%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$71,227
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$18,487

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$137,567
Amount spent per capita	\$12.62

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	51
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	55

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	531
Number of cases assigned to counsel	232

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	7
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	9

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

## Mason County

2021 Population	65,750
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.8%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$78,359
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$67,070

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,200,477
Amount spent per capita	\$18.26

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	269
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	363

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	768
Number of cases assigned to counsel	717

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	40
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	51

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

**Web Link to Program Information:** [https://www.co.mason.wa.us/public\\_defender/index.php](https://www.co.mason.wa.us/public_defender/index.php)

## Okanogan County

2021 Population	42,350
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	20.1%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$60,293
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$49,888

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$1,159,341
Amount spent per capita	\$27.38

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	274
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	260

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	906
Number of cases assigned to counsel	684

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	46
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	1.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	54

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to sustain most of these improvements.

## Pacific County

2021 Population	23,425
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.7%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$62,350
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$29,738

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$450,292
Amount spent per capita	\$19.22

### 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	150

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	506
Number of cases assigned to counsel	240

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	16
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	24

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

## Pend Oreille County

2021 Population	13,475
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.2%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$63,750
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$22,170

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$427,826
Amount spent per capita	\$31.75

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	81
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	63

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	200
Number of cases assigned to counsel	200

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	8
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	10

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023.

## Pierce County

2021 Population	928,200
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	8.8%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$96,632
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$554,420

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$18,074,330
Amount spent per capita	\$19.47

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	3,680
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.0
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,605

### Adult Misdemeanor –

#### County District Court including Tacoma, Gig Harbor, Fircrest, Ruston, and University Place

County misdemeanor cases filed	6,897
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,595

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	250
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	219

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

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

## San Juan County

2021 Population	17,850
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.9%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$83,682
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$16,966

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$413,110
Amount spent per capita	\$23.14

### 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	22

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	178
Number of cases assigned to counsel	146

### Juvenile Offender

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

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue funding these improvements.

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

## Skagit County

2021 Population	130,000
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.1%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$85,474
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$121,256

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$4,431,923
Amount spent per capita	\$34.09

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	869
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,101

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,942
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,706

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	87
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	157

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Skagit County spent its state funding to continue the employment of an additional attorney. The County plans to use its state funds in 2023 to continue these positions.

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

## Skamania County

2021 Population	11,750
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.5%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$90,085
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$17,746

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$167,284
Amount spent per capita	\$14.24

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	36
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	3.1
Number of cases assigned to counsel	42

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	217
Number of cases assigned to counsel	134

### 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 2022, 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 2023 to sustain these improvements.

## Snohomish County

2021 Population	837,800
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	7.3%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$107,982
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$443,209

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$11,551,560
Amount spent per capita	\$13.79

### 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	1,964

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	4,991
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,770

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	228
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	101

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Snohomish County used the State improvement grant to increase public defender compensation and to support expanded IT capabilities of PDA. The County will use 2023 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

2021 Population	542,100
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.5%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$73,513
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$572,037

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$9,545,555
Amount spent per capita	\$17.61

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	3,676
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2,945

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,411
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,322

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	251
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	334

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023, the County plans to sustain these improvements.

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

## Stevens County

2021 Population	46,725
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	12.9%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$67,405
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$56,250

### 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 11 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 established 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$828,663
Amount spent per capita	\$17.73

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	352
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	7.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	234

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	532
Number of cases assigned to counsel	327

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	37
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.8
Number of cases assigned to counsel	36

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Stevens County spent its state funds to create/maintain a public defense agency/contract manager, 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 2023 to continue these improvements.

## Thurston County

2021 Population	297,800
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	9.7%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$93,985
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$227,494

### 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 14 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$6,159,452
Amount spent per capita	\$20.68

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,238
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.2
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,595

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	2,570
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,007

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	135
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	141

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Thurston County spent its state funding to add attorneys to reduce caseloads. The County intends to continuing using state funds in 2023 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

2021 Population	4,475
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	10.6%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$57,091
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$12,563

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$45,559
Amount spent per capita	\$10.18

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	24
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	14

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	96
Number of cases assigned to counsel	53

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	2
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	2

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 for the same purposes.

## Walla Walla County

2021 Population	62,100
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	11.1%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$72,212
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$65,973

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

Walla Walla County delivers public defense representation through a contract system. Approximately eight 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$987,200
Amount spent per capita	\$15.90

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	290
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	4.7
Number of cases assigned to counsel	331

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,219
Number of cases assigned to counsel	312

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	40
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	44

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 to continue these improvements with the possibility of adding an attorney coordinator position.

## Whatcom County

2021 Population	226,300
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	13.4%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$80,989
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$209,111

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$5,421,417
Amount spent per capita	\$23.96

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,443
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	6.4
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,216

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,809
Number of cases assigned to counsel	850

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	110
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	136

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Whatcom County spent its allocation on two deputy public defense attorney positions, and plans to continue doing so in 2023.

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

## Whitman County

2021 Population	44,600
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	24.7%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$52,893
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$48,093

### Administration of Public Defense Services:

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

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

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$455,305
Amount spent per capita	\$10.21

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	113
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	2.5
Number of cases assigned to counsel	178

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	448
Number of cases assigned to counsel	553

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	12
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.3
Number of cases assigned to counsel	13

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, Whitman County spent its state funding to sustain increases to public defense attorney compensation. The County plans to use its state funds in 2023 to maintain this improvement.

## Yakima County

2021 Population	258,100
2017-2021 Percent Below Poverty Level	15.8%
2017-2021 Estimated Median Household Income	\$68,015
RCW 10.101 distribution for use in 2022	\$261,515

### 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.

### 2021 Statistics

Amount spent on public defense	\$5,359,252
Amount spent per capita	\$20.76

### Adult Felony

Adult Superior Court criminal cases filed	1,442
Adult Superior Court criminal cases per 1,000 population	5.6
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,769

### Adult Misdemeanor – County District Court

County misdemeanor cases filed	1,736
Number of cases assigned to counsel	1,331

### Juvenile Offender

Juvenile offender cases filed	234
Juvenile offender cases per 1,000 population	0.9
Number of cases assigned to counsel	283

### Use of State Funds:

In 2022, 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 2023 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.

**2021 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 2022 applications for calendar year 2023 funding. Because these applications were submitted in August 2022, the data reflects public defense assignments and expenses in 2021.

**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

2021 population: Total county population as reported in the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 1, 2022--[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: 2017 – 2021)

Median household income: Median household income as reported by the [U.S. Census Bureau – S1901 Income](#). (5-year estimate: 2017 – 2021)

2022 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. 2021 Statistics

1. Amount spent for public defense: The county-reported total dollar amount spent for public defense representation during 2021 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 2021 as reported in the [Superior Court 2021 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 2021 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 2021 as reported in the [Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2021 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 2021 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 2021 as reported in the [Superior Court 2021 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 2021 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 2021.