

**Testimony
 Department of Human Services
 Human Services Committee
 Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman
 October 4, 2012**

**Caseload Comparison - Children and Family Services
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	<u>2005 - 2007 Biennium</u>			<u>2007 - 2009 Biennium</u>			<u>2009 - 2011 Biennium</u>			<u>SFY 2012</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Biennial</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Biennial</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Biennial</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>2012</u>
Foster Care	968	869	918	760	768	764	768	736	752	760

The foster care caseload continues to experience fluctuations, reflecting both increases (SFY 2012) and decreases (2009-2011 biennium). Increases are due to more children being placed in care, as they are not able to safely remain at home when there is an incident of child abuse and neglect. This increase is due in part to population increases and growing number of families in communities without parental or relative resources to assist in safely maintaining children in their homes. Increases are occurring across the state, not in one geographical area. Also, the caseload budgeted for SFY 2012 included a slight increase for tribal IV-E cases and youth over the age of 18 who choose to remain in foster care.

Subsidized Adoption	744	816	780	877	946	912	980	1,028	1,004	1,077
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The subsidized adoption program for children with special needs continues to increase based on the federal mandate and practice of finalizing the permanency outcome for children formerly in foster care. The caseload for SFY 2012 shows an increase and reflects the use of this permanency outcome for children and accommodates the cumulative growth in the number of adopted children in the program. An adoptive family is eligible for a monthly subsidy payment while the child remains in an adoptive home until, and sometimes after, the child reaches the age of 18.