

Child Welfare Caseload Standards

Service Categories:	Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) ¹ Recommended Caseload Standards	Council on Accreditation (COA) ² Standards and guidelines for accreditation	Colorado (2014) ³ Caseload to Achieve Objectives and Meet Requirements ⁶	Minnesota (2009) ⁴ Case Practice Standards ⁷	Washington (2007) ⁵ Constructed standards ⁸
Intake/ Screening			32.82	70.47	76.77
CPS Investigation/ Assessment	12 active cases per month	Generally, caseloads do not exceed 15 investigations or 15-30 open cases.	13.05	6.14 (Investigation) 8.31 (Family Assessment)	11.62
Case Management— Voluntary/ In-Home Services	17 active families and no more than 1 new case assigned for every six open cases (On-going cases)	Generally, caseloads do not exceed: (1) 12-18 families in programs providing family preservation and stabilization services and (2) 2-6 families in programs providing intensive family preservation and stabilization services.	13.37	31.90	14.34
Case Management —Out-of-Home Placement	12-15 children (Foster Family Care)	Nationally recognized caseload guidelines recommend no more than 15 children in foster care or kinship care, and no more than 8 children in treatment foster care.	7.57	10.91 (Non-Relative Family Foster Care)	11.78
Adoptions		Generally, caseloads do not exceed 12-25 families.	8.60	13.93 (Non-relative Pre-adoptive Home)	19.19

¹ For more information on CWLA standards, see: <http://66.227.70.18/newsevents/news030304cwlacaseeload.htm>

² For more information on COA standards, see: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/management/workforce/compendium/aboutcomp/coa/#two>

³ ICF International Incorporated, LLC (2014). *Colorado Department of Human Services: Colorado Child Welfare County Workload Study*. Fairfax, VA: ICF International Incorporated. Available at: [http://www.leg.state.co.us/OSA/coauditfor1.nsf/All/E5214710B77C878487257D320050F29A/\\$FILE/1354S%20-%20Colorado%20Childrens%27%20Welfare%20Workload%20Study%20Report%20August%202014.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us/OSA/coauditfor1.nsf/All/E5214710B77C878487257D320050F29A/$FILE/1354S%20-%20Colorado%20Childrens%27%20Welfare%20Workload%20Study%20Report%20August%202014.pdf)

⁴ Homby Zeller Associates, Inc. (2009). *CHILD WELFARE WORKLOAD STUDY and ANALYSIS: Final Report*. Troy, NY: Homby Zeller Associates, Inc. Available at: http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/county_access/documents/pub/dhs16_151042.pdf

⁵ Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc. (2007). *Washington State Children's Administration Workload Study: SUMMARY REPORT*. Sacramento, CA: Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/CA/pub/documents/WLS%20Summary%20Report%2011-2007.pdf>

⁶ Based upon 108.3 hours available for casework/ month, as determined in CO.

⁷ Based upon 104.3 hours available for casework/ month, as determined in MN.

⁸ Based upon 119 hours available for casework/ month, as determined in WA.