

**Testimony**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman**  
**October 25, 2011**

**Caseload Comparison - Children and Family Services**  
**Tara Lea Muhlhauser, Director, Children and Family Services**

	<u>2005 - 2007 Biennium</u>			<u>2007 - 2009 Biennium</u>			<u>2009 - 2011 Biennium</u>			<u>Budgeted</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>2011-13</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>Biennium</u>
<b>Foster Care</b>	968	869	918	760	768	764	768	736	752	861

The foster care caseload decrease is due to state and federal emphasis on family preservation programs and practices in place to support permanency. This practice reduces the number of children in foster care while safely maintaining children in their homes, or in securing a permanent placement for children in adoptive homes. The caseload budgeted for the 2011-13 biennium includes a slight increase over the caseload in the previous biennium to address additional tribal IV-E cases and youth over the age of 18 who choose to remain in foster care.

<b>Subsidized Adoption</b>	744	816	780	877	946	912	980	1,028	1,004	1,073
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------	-------	-------

The subsidized adoption program for children with special needs continues to increase based on the federal mandate and practice of the permanency outcome of adoption for children formerly in foster care. The budget for the 2011-13 biennium supports the 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 subsidized adoption payment while the children remain in an adoptive home until, and sometimes after, the child reaches the age of 18.