



## Vulnerable Children & Adults Forum Summary

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

State social workers are ramping up their effort to make monthly visits to the 12,000 Washington children who have been designated by courts as dependents of the state, according to a written GMAP accountability report this week to Governor Chris Gregoire.

By June 2009, leaders of the Department of Social and Health Services expect staff members to visit monthly with 95% of dependent children who are (1) living in their families' homes; (2) under the age of 6 and living with unlicensed relatives, and (3) over 6 and living in foster homes or with unlicensed relatives. Currently, the rates of monthly visits range from 69% for older children to 79% for the other two groups.

Here are other highlights of the report on Vulnerable Children and Adults provided by DSHS, the Department of Early Learning (DEL), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

- Rates of repeat abuse and neglect remain significantly lower than in the past among children who receive visits from state social workers within 24 hours of the initial report of abuse and within 72 hours in cases of neglect. DSHS said re-victimization has fallen by more than 30% since the Governor directed the agency to speed up its response times. When the 24/72-hour policy was established in 2005, 11.6% of children were re-abused within six months. Since then, the rate has fallen to 8.1%. The rate of repeat neglect cases within six months of the initial allegation has fallen from 14.4% to 8.8%.
- DEL reports that the rates of timely child-care monitoring inspections of family homes and licensed centers are running below the target levels. The agency said 60% of family homes and 75% of child care centers received on-time visits this summer, compared with the target of 85% for both groups. However, in both cases the percentage of visits that are more than 30 days overdue has fallen significantly over the past year, the agency said.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.accountability.wa.gov/reports/vulnerable/default.asp>