

## Month of March 2023

# Executive Office of Resiliency and Health Security Youth Situation Report

### Purpose

The intended audience for this report includes response planners and any organization responding to or helping to mitigate the negative health impacts of emerging and existing events.

Data presented in this report are for individuals ages **18 and below** unless otherwise specified.

As of January 9, 2023, this report has been updated to remove data that are no longer beneficial to the Executive Office of Resiliency and Health Security (ORHS). If mission critical information has been removed, please contact Alaine Ziegler at [Alaine.Ziegler@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Alaine.Ziegler@doh.wa.gov) to address the data.

### Key Takeaways

For the most recent reporting period ([CDC Week<sup>1</sup> 9](#), week March 4, 2023) all four syndromic indicators (psychological distress, suicidal ideation, suspected suicide attempt, and suspected drug overdose) **decreased** from the previous reporting period (CDC weeks 5-8).

For the most current reporting period, suspected suicide attempt is **decreasing**, and psychological distress, suicidal ideation, and suspected drug overdose are **increasing**.

- No statistical alerts or warnings were issued.

[Survey data](#) collected by the U.S. Census Bureau for February 1 – 13, 2023, show a 48% **increase** of respondents who have a baby or infant under 1 year of age, who have been affected by the infant formula shortage.

Filings from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for January 2023 show the year-over-year<sup>2</sup> percentage change for sex crimes **decreased** 68%, robberies **decreased** 57%, assaults **decreased** 43%, thefts/burglaries **decreased** 13%, motor vehicle thefts **increased** 22%, and controlled substances **decreased** (50%) compared to the previous year.

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<sup>1</sup><https://ibis.doh.nm.gov/resource/MMWRWeekCalendar.html#part2>

<sup>2</sup> Year-over-year: a comparison of two or more years, for example, 2019 to 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to date.

## Impact Assessment

### Syndromic Surveillance

The Department of Health collects syndromic surveillance data in near real-time from hospitals and clinics across Washington. Key data elements reported include patient demographic information, chief complaint, and coded diagnoses.

Statistical warnings (yellow dot), and alerts (red dot), are raised when a CDC algorithm detects a weekly count at least three standard deviations<sup>3</sup> above a 28-day average count, ending three weeks prior to the week with a warning or alert. These warnings or alerts are indicated as needed, within each respective syndrome section. Alerts indicate more caution is needed than a warning.

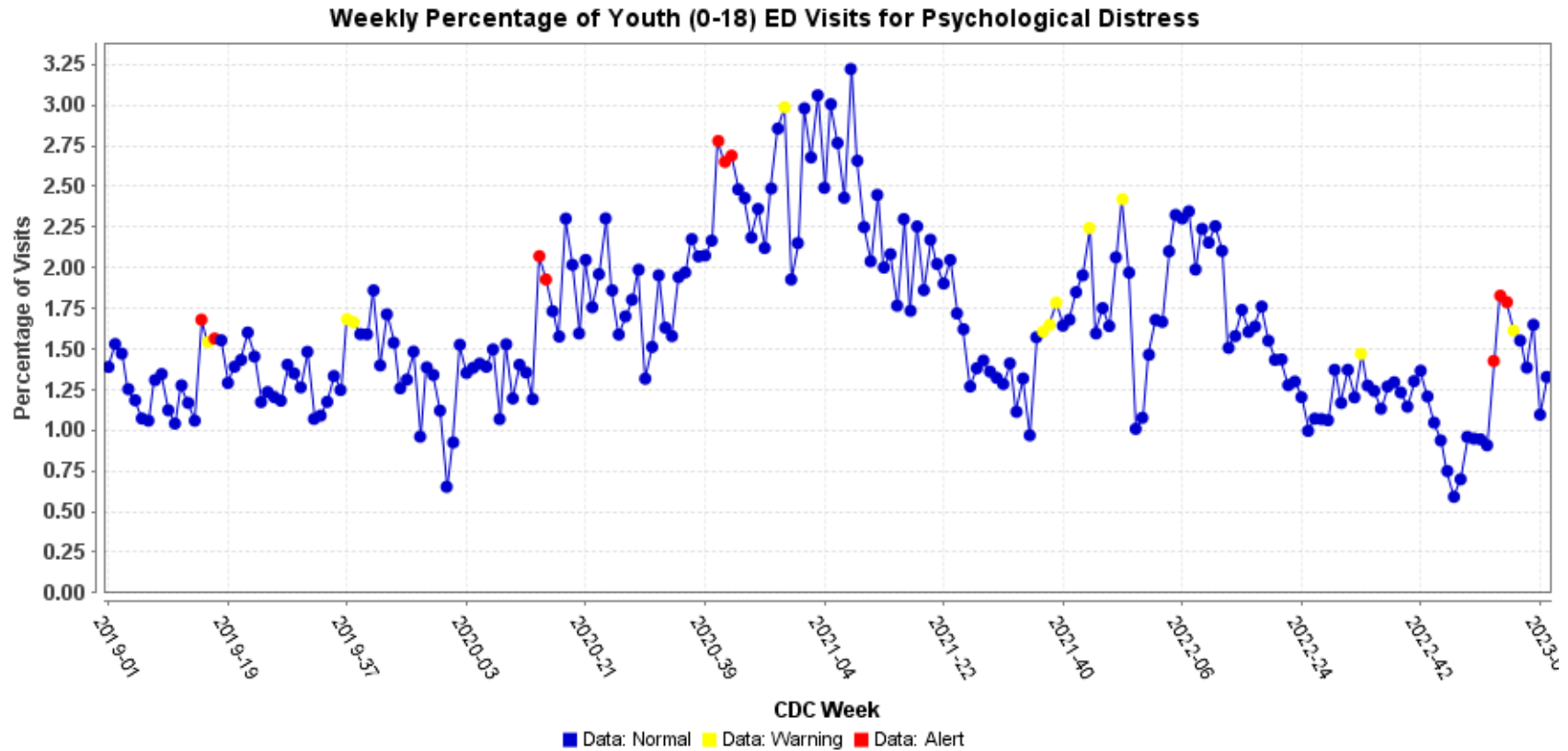
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<sup>3</sup> Standard deviation: A measure of the amount of variation or dispersion of a set of values. Standard deviation is often used to measure the distance of a given value from the average value of a data set.

### Psychological Distress

During CDC Week 9 (week ending March 4, 2023), the reported relative percentage of emergency department (ED) visits for psychological distress<sup>4</sup> among youth **decreased** from the previous reporting period (CDC weeks 5-8), and the current week is **increasing** (Graph 1). No statistical alert or warning was issued.

**Graph 1: Percentage change of ED visits for psychological distress among youth in Washington, by week (Source: CDC ESSENCE)**

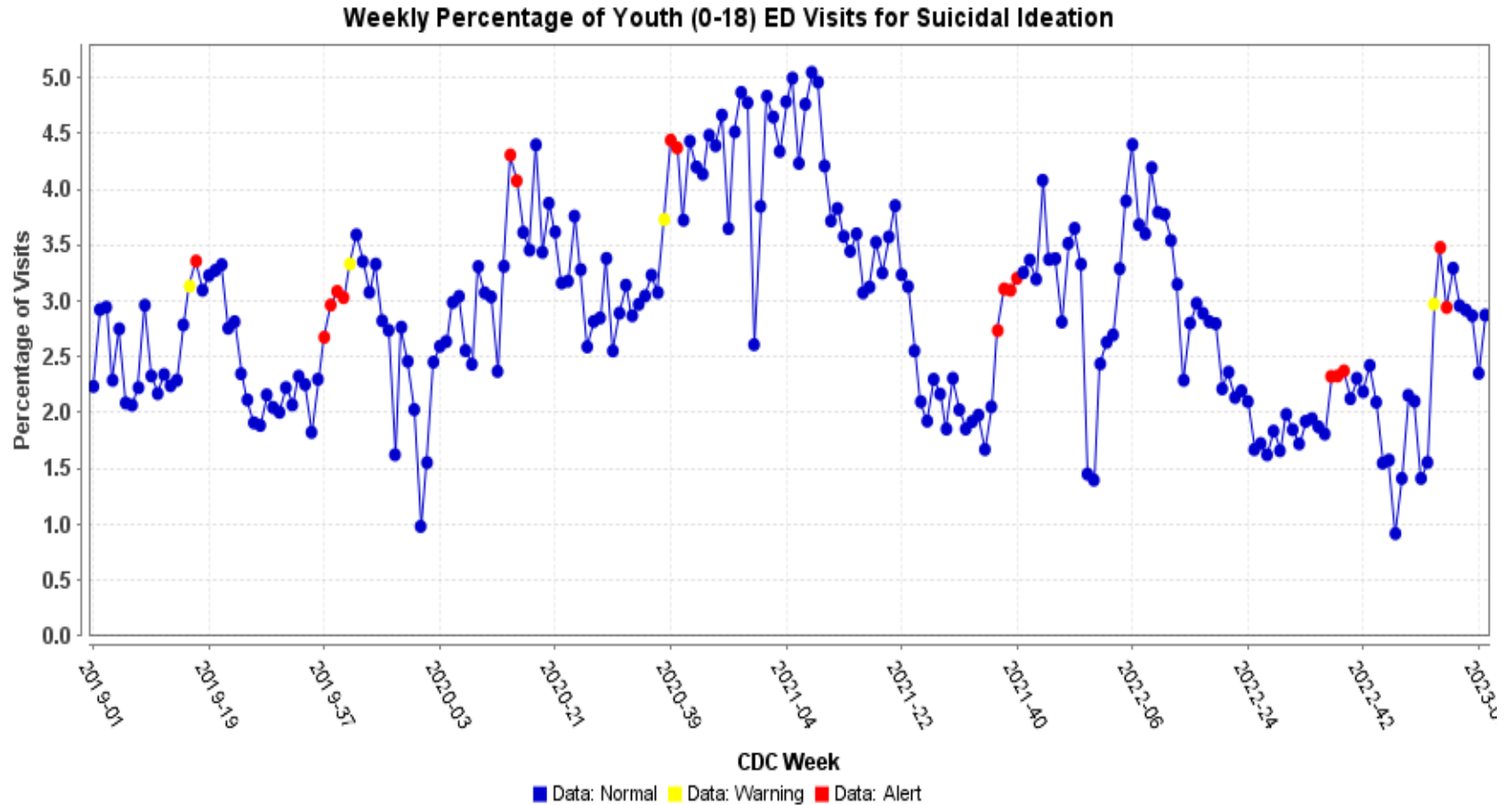


<sup>4</sup> Psychological distress in this context is considered a disaster-related syndrome comprised of panic, stress, and anxiety. It is indexed in the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) platform as Disaster-related Mental Health v1. Full details are available at <https://knowledgerepository.syndromicsurveillance.org/disaster-related-mental-health-v1-syndrome-definition-subcommittee>.

### Suicidal Ideation and Suspected Suicide Attempt

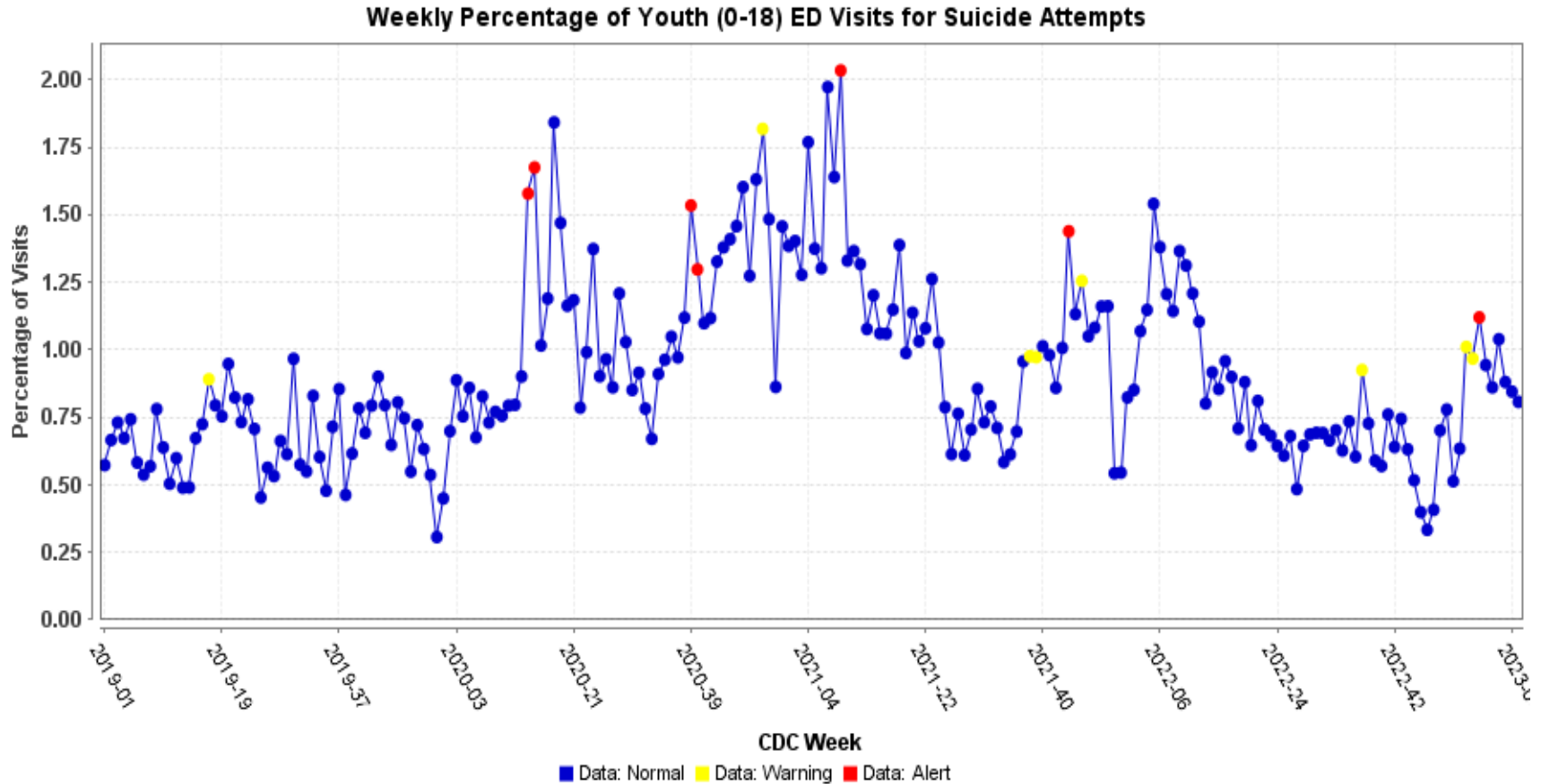
During CDC Week 9 (week ending March 4, 2023), the reported relative percentage of ED visits for suicidal ideation among youth **decreased** from the previous reporting period (CDC weeks 5-8), and the current week is **increasing** (Graph 2). No statistical alert or warning was issued.

**Graph 2: Percentage change of ED visits for suicidal ideation among youth in Washington, by week (Source: CDC ESSENCE)**



During CDC Week 9 (week ending March 4, 2023), the reported relative percentage of ED visits for suspected suicide attempt<sup>5</sup> among youth **decreased** from the previous reporting period (CDC weeks 5-8), and the current week is **decreasing** (Graph 3). No statistical alert or warning was issued.

**Graph 3: Percentage change of ED visits for suspected suicide attempt among youth in Washington, by week (Source: CDC ESSENCE)**

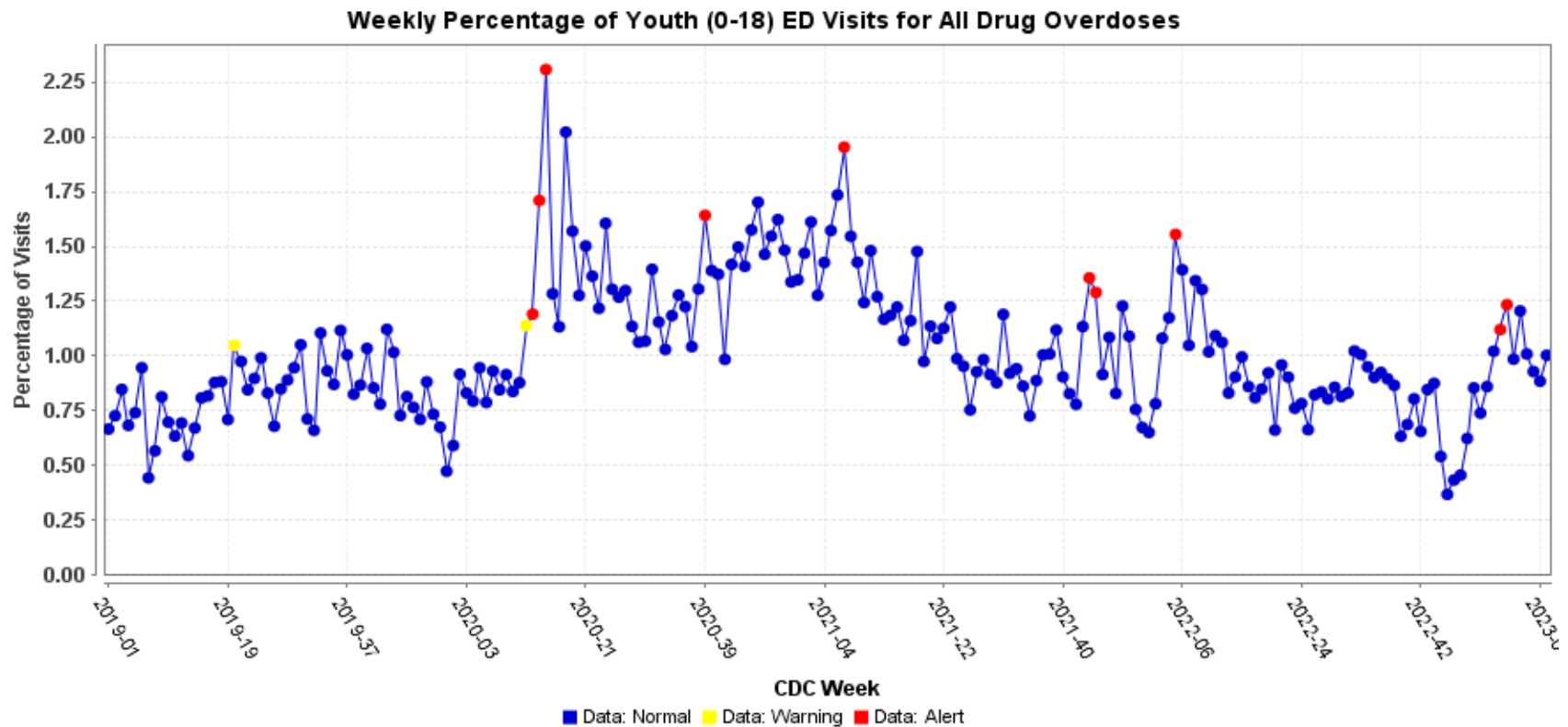


<sup>5</sup> Data should be interpreted with caution. The current CDC definition for suspected suicide attempt, due to its broad inclusion of intentional self-harm behaviors that may or may not be interpreted as a suicidal act, could artificially inflate both the count and percentage of such visits

### Substance Use – All Drug-Related Overdose

During CDC Week 9 (week ending March 4, 2023), the reported relative percentage of all drug<sup>6</sup>-related overdose ED visits among youth **decreased** from the previous reporting period (CDC weeks 5-8), and the current week is **increasing** (Graph 4). No statistical alert or warning was issued.

**Graph 4: Percentage change for all drug-related ED visits among youth in Washington, by week (Source: CDC ESSENCE)**



<sup>6</sup> All drug: This definition specifies overdoses for any drug, including heroin, opioid, and stimulants. It is indexed in the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) platform as CDC All Drug v1. Full details available at <https://knowledgerepository.syndromicsurveillance.org/cdc-all-drug-v1>

## General Surveillance

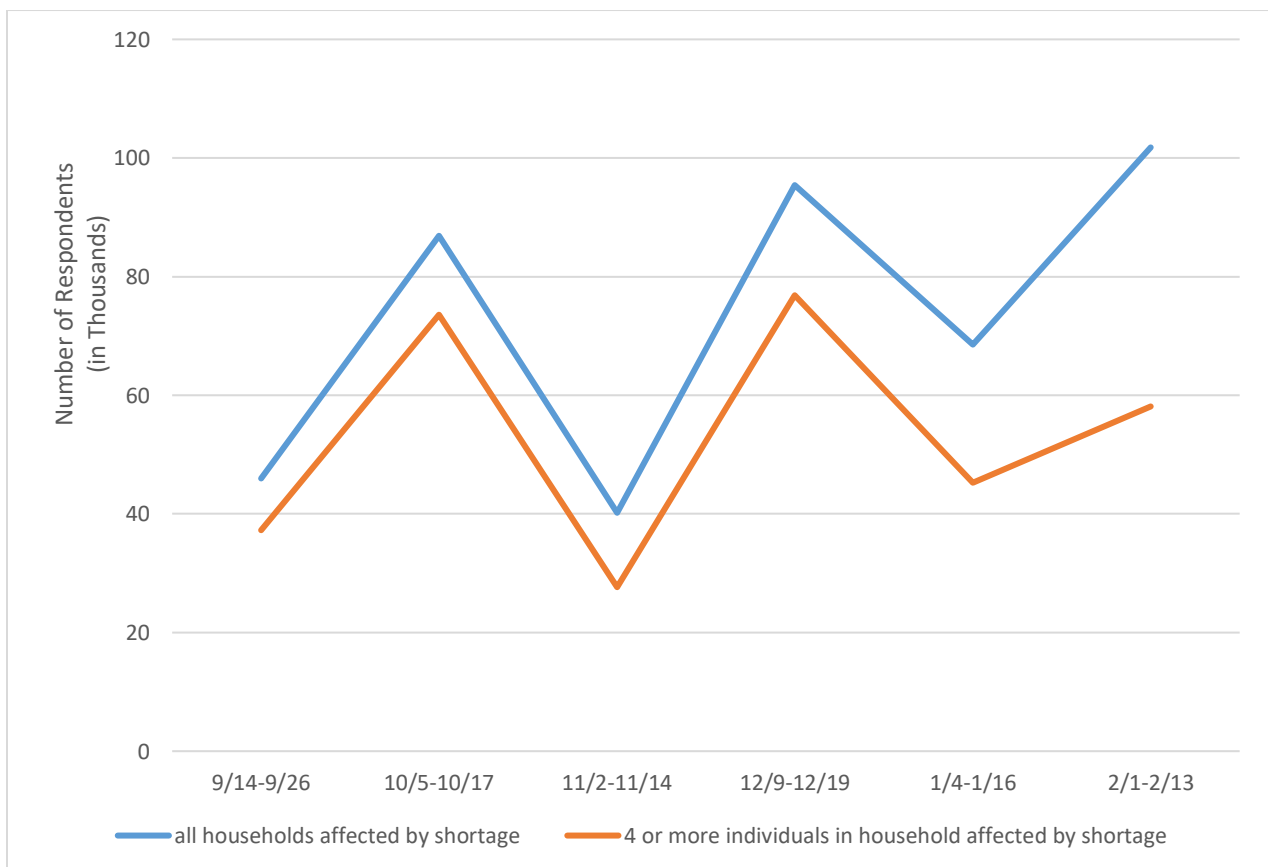
### Infant formula shortage

[Survey data](#) collected by the U.S. Census Bureau for February 1 – 13, 2023, show a 48% **increase** in respondents (who are Washington adults with children under age 5) who have a baby or infant under 1 year of age, and have been affected by the infant formula shortage compared to the previous reporting period. Households with four or more individuals show a 29% **increase** compared to the previous reporting period.

Of those affected, 57% of households reported having four or more individuals in the household compared to the previous reporting period. Graph 5 shows the number of respondents who have been affected by the shortage.

Approximately 1,530 (0.22%) of respondents affected by the infant formula shortage identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender.

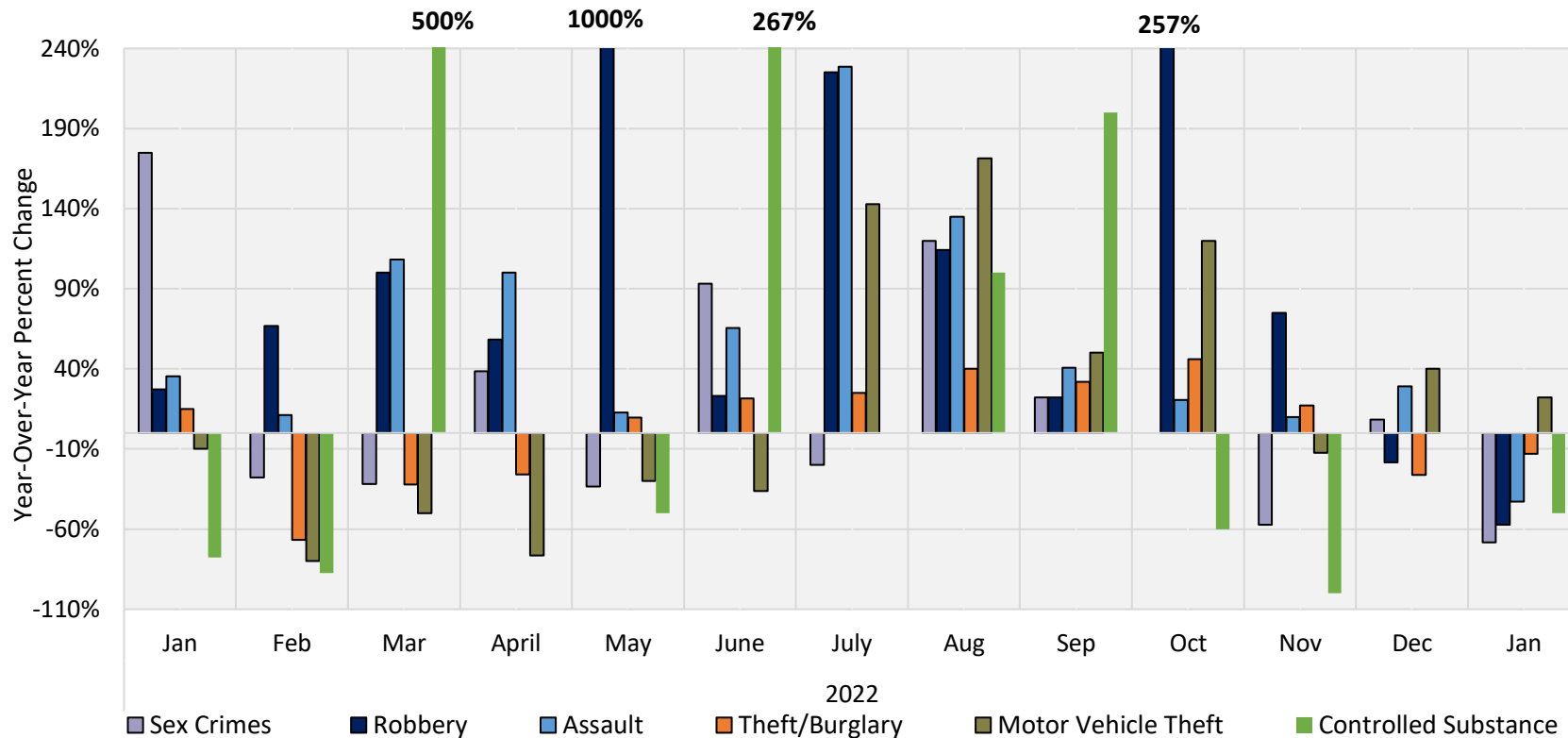
**Graph 5: Number of Respondents who have been affected by the infant formula shortage**  
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)



### Juvenile Offender Filings

Case filings from the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for each juvenile offender are categorized by the primary (i.e., most serious) charge. The year-over-year percentage changes for January 2023 for these filings show sex crimes **decreased** 68%, robberies **decreased** 57%, assaults **decreased** 43%, thefts/burglaries **decreased** 13%, motor vehicle thefts **increased** 22%, and controlled substances **decreased** (50%) compared to the previous year (Graph 6).

**Graph 6: Percentage change of juvenile offender filings, by charge and month (Source: AOC)**



Note: **Sex crimes** involve sexual exploitation of a minor, incest, rape, statutory rape, or indecent liberties. **Robbery** involves theft of property by the use of force, violence, or fear of injury to a person or their property. **Assault** involves assault or intent to cause another person physical harm, including malicious harassment and coercion. **Theft/burglary** involves theft of property (other than a motor vehicle), possession of stolen property, extortion, burglary, or criminal trespass. **Motor vehicle theft** involves taking a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. **Controlled Substances** involves cases where the primary charge involves violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (UCSA) or violation of regulations regarding prescription drugs.



## Resources

[Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report | CDC](#)<sup>7</sup>

[Influenza Surveillance Data | Washington State Department of Health](#)<sup>8</sup>

[RSV State Trends - NREVSS | CDC](#)<sup>9</sup>

[RSV in Infants and Young Children | CDC](#)<sup>10</sup>

[Washington Shelter List](#)<sup>11</sup> (warming shelters)

[Be Prepared, Be Safe | Washington State Department of Health](#)<sup>12</sup> (general emergency response resources)

[Behavioral Health Resources and Recommendations | Washington State Department of Health](#)<sup>13</sup>

## Acknowledgements

This document was developed by the Washington State Department of Health's Behavioral Health Epidemiology Team. Lead author is Alaine Ziegler, MPH.

Syndromic graphs are provided by The Rapid Health Information NetwOrk (RHINO) team. They can be contacted at [RHINO@doh.wa.gov](mailto:RHINO@doh.wa.gov).<sup>14</sup> RHINO work requests can be submitted here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/363e054d62fe4850912687b509c6f9c7?confirm=true>.<sup>15</sup>

To request this document in another format, please call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, call 711 ([Washington Relay](#))<sup>16</sup> or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

<sup>8</sup> <https://doh.wa.gov/data-statistical-reports/diseases-and-chronic-conditions/communicable-disease-surveillance-data/influenza-surveillance-data>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html#WA>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/high-risk/infants-young-children.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.shelterlist.com/state/washington>

<sup>12</sup> <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/be-prepared-be-safe>

<sup>13</sup> <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/healthcare-providers/behavioral-health-resources>

<sup>14</sup> [RHINO@doh.wa.gov](mailto:RHINO@doh.wa.gov)

<sup>15</sup> <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/363e054d62fe4850912687b509c6f9c7?confirm=true>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/odhh/telecommunication-relay-services>

<sup>17</sup> [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov)