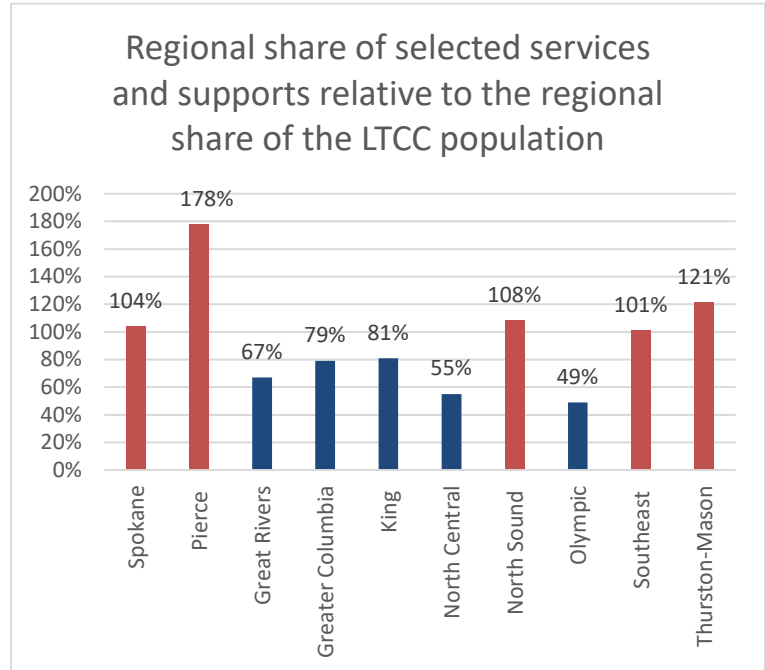


Geographic Equity in Discharge from State Facilities

What is the problem?

Individuals are discharged from state facilities into Pierce County at a far higher rate compared to other communities throughout the state. This inequity was quantified in the Department of Commerce Report on [Housing Related Support for People Discharging from Long-Term Care](#), dated April 2023. The table to the right shows the ratio of a region's share of services and supports relative to the region's share of the overall population of people discharged from a long-term civil commitment (LTCC). A value of 100% indicates a region's share of services and supports is on par with its share of the long-term civil commitment population. Pierce County has a ratio of 178%, indicating the region's availability of services and supports far exceeds its proportional share.



Recent Examples:

- A sexually violent predator, also classified as Level 3 sex offender, committed in Thurston County was released from the Special Commitment Center to an adult family home in Lakewood on the basis that adequate housing was not available in his county of commitment. He received treatment in King County.
- A sexually violent predator, also classified as Level 3 sex offender, committed in Spokane County was released from the Secure Community Transition Facility in Pierce County on the basis that return to his county of commitment would be inappropriate. He received treatment in Thurston County.
- A sexually violent predator, also classified as Level 3 sex offender, committed in Mason County was released from the Special Commitment Center to an adult family home in Lakewood.
- Level 3 sex offender who was committed in Okanagan County, was determined likely to reoffend was planned to be released from Eastern State Hospital to an adult family home in Lakewood.

Proposed Solutions:

- 1) Per the findings from the April 2023 Commerce Report, the state needs to procure additional services and supports in Olympic, North Central, Great Rivers, Greater Columbia, and King regions. The report also shows that adult family homes in Pierce County are serving a large percentage of LTCC patients. Incentivize providers, particularly adult family homes, to provide services in underserved areas.
- 2) Institute fair share policies for discharge planning from state hospitals and secure community transition facilities. Expand SB 5163 (2021) policies which only apply to the Special Commitment Center.

