State of the State
Texas Child Welfare System Trends
Mission and Focus
TexProtects protects Texas children from the trauma of abuse and neglect and empowers families to thrive through education, research, and advocacy.

CHILD PROTECTION

- Child Abuse Prevention
- Family Preservation
- CPS System and Workforce
- Foster Care
- Transition and Support Services for Youth

Healing and Trauma-Informed Care
1 in Every 10 U.S. Children Live in Texas

There has been an 9.45% growth rate in the number of children in Texas since 2010.
The State of Texas’ Babies Report

- Late or no prenatal care received 9.6%
- Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health 17.6%
- Crowded housing 19.4%
- Eligibility limit (%FPS) for pregnant women in Medicaid avg. 203
- TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty 5.9%
- Housing instability 1.1%
- Mothers in the Labor Force 55.7%
- Daily parent-child interaction (reading 28.9% and singing 47.6%)

The State of Texas’ Babies Report

- Low or very low food insecurity: 13.6%
- Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers: 7.8%
- Babies with low birth weight: 8.5%
- Developmental screening received: 36.8%
- Infants ever breastfeed: 84.8%
- Infant mortality rate: 5.5 deaths per 1,000
- Infant/toddler maltreatment rate: 18.3
- Infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services: 4.9%
- Received recommended vaccines: 72.3%

The Impact of Trauma/Abuse

At-risk children are more likely to...

- Be Arrested for a Violent Crime: 30%
- Become Involved in the Juvenile Justice System: 59%
- Never Attend College: 60%
- Drop Out of School: 25%
- Become Pregnant as a Teenager: 40%
- Have School Related Problems: 50%
- Become Involved with Drugs: 66%
- Face Learning Disorders Requiring Special Education: 50%

Incidences of Abuse


Confirmed Investigations: 41,591, 40,126, 39,336, 39,263, 38,725, 40,249, 40,369, 40,506, 36,166, 39,570, 41,120, 41,975, 42,717
Child Abuse and Neglect Related Fatalities

DFPS Data Book - Texas Child Fatality Investigations: Abuse/Neglect Related Texas Child Fatalities
State Intakes, Assignments, Outcomes (2020)

- Reports to SWI: 272,248
- Assigned to INV: 187,378
- Completed Investigations: 154,593
- Confirmed Allegations: 75,350
- Confirmed Victims: 68,461
- Opened for FBSS: 20,026
- Removals: 16,522

DFPS Data Book: CPI Intakes: Priority, Screening and Assignment; CPI Completed Abuse/Neglect Investigations: Activity; CPI Completed Investigations: Alleged & Confirmed Types of Abuse; Completed Child Protective Investigations: Referred to Family Preservation; Child Protective Services (CPS): Removals
Confirmed Allegations (2020)

Types of Child Maltreatment

- Neglectful Supervision: 72.7%
- Physical Abuse: 10.2%
- Sexual Abuse: 8.8%
- Abandonment: 0.2%
- Emotional Abuse: 0.5%
- Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility: 0.7%
- Medical Neglect: 1.4%
- Physical Neglect: 3.4%

68,461 Confirmed Victims

Victims By Age

- 0-5 years: 56.8%
- 6-11 years: 26.1%
- 12-17 years: 17.0%

Confirmed Allegations 0-3 years: 29,428 (42.9%)

DFPS Data Book - CPI Completed Abuse/Neglect Investigations: Victims; CPI Completed Investigations: Alleged & Confirmed Types of Abuse
Removals by Region (2020)

DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Removals
Removal Rates by Region (2020)
4/10 Families Were Re-reported for Abuse/Neglect within 5 Years of Family Based Safety Services

Something isn’t working for families who receive services in FBSS. Recurrence has remained steady.
Children in Substitute Care by Placement Type on 8/31/20

- Foster and/or Adoptive Home, 50.4%
- Kinship Home, 36.8%
- Residential Treatment Center, 5.6%
- Emergency Shelter, 2.1%
- Other, 2.0%

“Other” captures placements such as psychiatric hospitals, juvenile justice placements, child specific contracts, HCS homes, etc.

DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Children in DFPS Legal Responsibility during the Fiscal Year; CPS Placements: Children in Substitute Care on August 31
More Than 40% of Children in Substitute Care are Placed in a Kinship Home Across Most Regions (2020)

DFPS Data Book - CPS Substitute Care: Placements During Fiscal Year

TexProtects
Champions for Safe Children
Prevent Child Abuse
Texas
Sibling Groups Placed Together (2020)

Overall: 66.2% Placed Together, 33.8% Not Placed Together
Sibling Group of 2: 77.4% Placed Together, 22.5% Not Placed Together
Sibling Group of 3 or More: 53.5% Placed Together, 46.5% Not Placed Together

DFPS Data Book - CPS Placements: Sibling Groups in Substitute Care Placed All Together on August 31
Out of County and Out of Region Placements

DFPS Data Book - CPS Foster Care Placements: Children (0-17) Placed in Originating County/Region on August 31
In 2020, More Kids Left Foster Care Than Entered

Exits from Substitute Care (2020)

- Reunification: 34%
- Custody to Relatives: 24%
- Relative Adoption: 15%
- Non-Relative Adoption: 14%
- Custody to Relatives (PCA): 5%
- Aged Out: 7%
- Aged Out: 7%

Statewide

DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody
# of Youth Aging Out

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DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody
Recurrence within 5 Years of Service for Children in Custody

Within 5 years of exiting DFPS custody, almost half of the children served are subsequently alleged as a victim in an investigation.
Based on the lawsuit against DFPS, Texas has agreed to a caseload size of 14-17 for CVS caseworkers.
Caseworker Turnover

DFPS Data Book - Child Protective (CPI / CCI / CPS): Staff Turnover
Texas Prevention vs. Child Protection Budget (2021)

- PEI: 107,089,243 (5%)
- CPS: 1,909,473,727 (87%)
- APS
- SWI
- Indirect
- Automated Systems

5% of Texas’ budget is spent on early prevention efforts in comparison to CPS
Texas can expect to spend $55 billion across the lifetime for confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect that occurred in 2019.
Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Prevention Spectrum

**Primary**
Primary prevention focuses on reaching families **before** the first occurrence of child maltreatment.

**Secondary**
Secondary prevention focuses on efforts to prevent maltreatment among families considered to be at high risk.

**Tertiary**
Tertiary prevention focuses on mitigating the negative effects and prevent re-occurrence in families where maltreatment has already occurred.

Intervening with families to meet their needs can occur at various times to prevent child maltreatment.
The early support of a caring adult can build a child’s resiliency and prevent/mitigate the damaging effects of stress responses to ACEs.
Evidence Based Home Visiting Outcomes

- Reduction in premature delivery: 18% (NFP)
- Reduction in infant deaths: 69% (NFP)
- Reduction in low birth weight babies: 50% (NFP)
- Fewer subsequent teen births: 36% (NFP)
- Reduction in ER Visits: 5-44% (Triple P and NFP)
- Reduction in child abuse and neglect: 28-48% (Triple P, HFA, Family Connects, NFP)
- Reduction in language delays at 21 months: 45% (NFP)
- Reduction in out-of-home placements: 44% (Triple P)
- Reduction in months on welfare: 20% (NFP)
- Increase in mom’s labor force (child age 4): 83% (NFP)
- Reduction in child arrests at age 17: 53% (NFP)