



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Human Trafficking Identification, Deterrence and Response

As Required by the 2022-23 General Appropriations
Act, Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session,
2021 (Article II, DFPS, Rider 29)

November 2022

Background

The 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill (S.B.) 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 (Article II, Department of Family and Protective Services [DFPS], Rider 29) requires DFPS to report the following:

- By November 1 the number of youth identified as victims of human trafficking within DFPS conservatorship; the number of youth referred for treatment services who are victims of human trafficking; the number of staff trained to detect and prevent human trafficking; a description of the deterrence and enforcement actions the agency has been involved in with Texas Juvenile Justice Division (TJJD), Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Office of Attorney General (OAG) and other state or local law enforcement agencies to the Legislative Budget Board, the Human Trafficking (Prevention) Task Force, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Human Services Committee, and
- By December 1, 2022, coordination efforts between DFPS and the Health and Human Services Commission to better identify and track human trafficking victims, or those at risk of human trafficking and facilities serving those populations to the Legislative Budget Board, the Governor, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and any standing Joint Legislative Oversight Committees, as appropriate.

This report serves to meet both reporting requirements as it relates to children and youth who are victims of trafficking in DFPS conservatorship.

Report Outline

There are three distinct sections of this report which provide data for Fiscal Year 2021.

1. Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship
2. Treatment Service Referrals for Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

This section that provides data of all children and youth identified who were in DFPS conservatorship at any point in Fiscal Year 2021, and were as a Suspected-Unconfirmed¹ or Confirmed² victim of trafficking, regardless of the type of trafficking experienced (sex and/or labor).

3. DFPS Staff Training
4. DFPS Interagency Coordination

Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

In Fiscal Year 2021, 45,870 children and youth were in DFPS conservatorship at some point during Fiscal Year 2021. Of these, 173 (0.0004 %) unique children and youth were identified as either suspected-unconfirmed or confirmed for human trafficking (sex or labor) trafficking victimization.

Of the 173 children and youth in DFPS conservatorship at some point during Fiscal Year 2021 who were identified as either suspected-unconfirmed or confirmed for human trafficking (sex or labor) trafficking victimization:

- 167 (96.5%) were identified as experiencing sex trafficking victimization. Of these, 106 (63.5%) were listed as confirmed victimization while 61 (36.5 %) were listed as suspected-unconfirmed victimization.
- 6 (3.5%) were identified as experiencing labor trafficking victimization. Of these, four (67%) were listed as confirmed victimization while two (33%) were listed as suspected-unconfirmed victimization.

Demographics for Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

Of the children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were identified as experiencing human trafficking victimization, 80% were 13-17 years of age. (see **Table 1**).

Table 1
Ages of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2021
Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization

Age	FY 2021 Number of Children and Youth	%
17	18	10%
16	41	24%
15	44	25%
14	24	14%
13	12	7%
12	11	6%
Less than 12	23	13%
Total	173	100%

The gender breakdown of those children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were identified as experiencing human trafficking victimization are as follows. (see **Table 2**).

Table 2
Gender of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2021
Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization

Gender	FY 2021 Number of Children and Youth	%
Male	18	10%
Female	155	90%
Total	173	100%

The race breakdown of those children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were identified as experiencing human trafficking victimization are as follows. (see **Table 3**).

Table 3
Race of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2021
Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization

Race/Ethnicity	FY 2021 Number of Children and Youth	%
African American	36	21%
Anglo	47	27%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Hispanic	83	48%
Multiple (Non-Hispanic)	6	3%
Native American	1	1%
Total	173	100%

Treatment Services for Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

For each child and youth in DFPS conservatorship for FY 2021 identified as experiencing suspected-unconfirmed and confirmed trafficking victimization, their respective case management Region was surveyed to collect information regarding treatment services received during FY 2021. Of the 173 children and youth in DFPS conservatorship in Fiscal Year 2021 identified as experiencing trafficking victimization:

- 38 (22%) received specialized trafficking residential treatment services.
- 37 (21%) received non-trafficking residential treatment services.
- 60 (35%) received psychiatric behavioral treatment services.
- 10 (6%) received both specialized trafficking residential treatment services and non-trafficking residential treatment services.
- 6 (3.5%) received specialized trafficking residential treatment services, non-trafficking residential treatment and psychiatric behavioral treatment services.

As not every child and youth identified as a suspected-unconfirmed or confirmed victim of trafficking requires specialized residential treatment services, additional information was gathered on services that can support an individualized restoration journey for those who experience such victimization. In Fiscal Year 2021, for children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship with identified trafficking victimization:

- 40 (23 %) received Care Coordination via a Care Coordination Team
- 59 (34%) received Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy
- 39 (23%) received Substance Abuse Treatment services
- 62 (36%) received counseling services specifically for their trafficking victimization
- 33 (19%) received STAR Health Intensive Case Management
- 37 (31%) had an assigned Wellbeing Specialist
- 9 (5%) had an assigned Development Disability Specialist
- 102 (59%) received Preparation for Adult Living Services

DFPS Staff Training

DFPS remains committed to the fight against trafficking. For the children and youth served by DFPS, the DFPS Human Trafficking (HT) Division strives to:

- Strengthen continued compliance with all federal and state human trafficking mandates,
- Develop best practices in the prevention of trafficking, and
- Improve DFPS capacity to identify, report, recover and support victims of trafficking in their restoration journey.

One way the HT Division achieves these goals is through training and education. The HT Division develops, presents, and/or facilitates quality training opportunities in partnership with the DFPS's Center for Learning and Organizational Excellence, Child Protective Programs, or with key anti-trafficking stakeholders. In Fiscal Year 2021, of the 17,217 individuals trained, 14,951 (87%) were DFPS staff. Below (Table 4) is a listing of trainings in which DFPS staff participated:

Table 4
Human Trafficking Related Trainings Attended by DFPS Staff
FY 2021

FY2021 Trainings	Number of DFPS Staff
Child Welfare and a Survivor's View of Family Facilitated Child Sex Trafficking	136
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth: Debunking Myths of Human Trafficking to Create Victim-Centered Services	72
Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocate Agency (CSEY AA) Learning Opportunity: DFPS 101	4
CSEY AA Learning Opportunity: Child Protective Investigations 101	6
DFPS Human Trafficking Protocol and Commercially Sexually Exploited-Identification Tool Overview Training	509
DFPS Human Trafficking Training Featuring Be the One In the Fight Against Trafficking	4,280
DFPS Protocol for Care Coordination Overview	675
Ending Demand to End Human Trafficking	98
Finding Digital Connections and Following the Flow	5
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Care Investigators	217
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Protective Investigations -New Staff	1,290
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Protective Services -New Staff	1,118
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Protective Staff hired before December 2019	4,916
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Watch Support Coordinators	38
Guiding Principles for Agencies Service Survivors of Human Trafficking (Part 2)	31
Guiding Principles for Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking (Part 1)	25
Houston Area Human Trafficking Healthcare Consortium: Human Trafficking and The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	2
Human Trafficking and Race Equity 0003894	406
Off the Beaten Path: Labor Trafficking in the Texas Agricultural Sector - Lessons Learned from 3-Year Pilot	191
Promoting Resilience for Survivors of Trafficking	239
Region 3 Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocate Agencies	289
Region 5 Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocate Agency	23
Region 6 Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocate Agencies	86
Regions 8 and 11 Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocate Agency	278
Roadmap for Texas Communities to Address Child Sex Trafficking	4
The Journey of Creating a True Place of Healing for Human Trafficking Survivors	4
The Next Stage of Anti-Child Sex Trafficking Policy Reform	9
Total	14,951

DFPS Interagency Coordination

As a named and active member of the Texas Office of Attorney General's Human Trafficking Prevention Taskforce (Taskforce), as well as, the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council), DFPS fosters a collaborative multidisciplinary approach in the prevention of human trafficking in concert with our partners. DFPS maintains well-functioning ties to law enforcement, local city and county governments, state agencies, advocacy agencies, and faith organizations to leverage resources and coordinate efforts.

DFPS's Statewide Intake (SWI) Division is the "front door to the front line" for all DFPS programs. SWI assesses all reports of abuse, neglect, (including sex and/or labor trafficking) or exploitation, and routes them to the appropriate local DFPS office and local law enforcement agency if allegations meet DFPS' jurisdictional authority. Reports of child trafficking not under DFPS investigative jurisdiction are processed as an Information & Referral (I&R) and sent to the respective local law enforcement (LE) jurisdiction. Additionally, **all** trafficking allegations, regardless of DFPS jurisdiction, are also sent to local law enforcement, the Department of Public Safety Joint Crimes Information Center (JCIC), and the local Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

DFPS coordinates and works joint investigations with local LE and CACs for all investigations under DFPS's purview. The DFPS Special Investigation Division provides support and acts as a liaison with local law enforcement, DPS, and/or Office of Attorney General. Investigatory Multi-Disciplinary Teams and forensic interviews are coordinated with LE officials to support successful investigations, evidence collection and prosecution.

DFPS and DPS work collaboratively in the fight against human trafficking from investigations to supporting efforts for DFPS's vulnerable children and the timely recovery of children and youth who are missing from DFPS care. To such end, DFPS and DPS have a Data Sharing Agreement that allows for *Matching Data of Children in DFPS Conservatorship Against the Active Missing Persons File*. This checks and balances system ensures accurate records are available to DFPS staff and Texas Law Enforcement agencies statewide, so that efforts to locate are tightly focused.

The DFPS Special Investigations (SI) Division also supports a variety of law enforcement agencies as requested when conducting special operations to combat trafficking and/or missing children recoveries. Support efforts can include intelligence and information sharing about children who are missing from care. In FY 2021, the SI Division collaborated by providing information to DPS, the United States Marshall Services, Federal Bureau of Investigations, United States Department of Homeland Security

Investigations, and the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance of the Southern District of Texas.

DFPS and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) have a long-standing and collaborative relationship, particularly regarding children involved in both systems (often referred to as crossover youth). Child Protective Services works closely TJJD and local Juvenile Probation Departments (JPD) to share information and facilitate coordinated service planning. As these youth are considered vulnerable to trafficking, the Human Trafficking division also works with TJJD to help identify youth who are victims of trafficking. In Fiscal Year 2021, DFPS's Statewide Intake and Human Trafficking Divisions, provided TJJD technical assistance and supported TJJD's efforts in guiding local JPDs to cross report youth identified or suspected to be victims of trafficking. This can occur when JPDs use the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool that yields a possible or clear concern score. Also, human trafficking technical assistance was provided to the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission for their training on Serving Dual Status Youth and the Judicial Bench Book and Card on Human Trafficking.

DFPS and Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) collaborate and communicate on a daily basis about regulated childcare operations under investigation and/or regulatory compliance reviews. To support these functions DFPS has access to HHS Child Care Regulation (CCR) CLASS system and HHS CCR has access to DFPS's IMPACT system. HHS CCR also has developed a monthly listing of operation servicing human trafficking victims that includes the operations permit status that is provided to DFPS.

In August 2021, DFPS analyzed the changes needed to claim qualified Title IV-E funds for victims of human trafficking receiving specialized services in congregate care setting, as allowed by the Family First Prevention Services Act. Through this analysis, CCR and its Information Technology Division provided technical assistance to DFPS programs working to identify the IT requirements and edits needed. This collaboration identified the need for both agencies to make IT changes. HHS facilitated the changes to support DFPS goals. All needed edits were coordinated, and DFPS IT enhancements were rolled out in May 2022.

The DFPS Human Trafficking Division also collaborates with HHS's Texas Human Trafficking Resource Center (THTRC). HHS THTRC is currently working to implement the Trafficked Persons Grant Program. HHS advised DFPS that its initial plans are to set up foundational expectations for establishing the collection of funds and they do not plan to move forward with further implementation until sufficient funding is collected in the Trafficked Persons Grant Program. HHSC identified that technical assistance may be needed from DFPS once sufficient funding has been established and HHS is ready to implement the Trafficked Persons Grant program fully.

¹ A trafficking event is *Suspected-Unconfirmed* when specific information regarding the child or youth and the surrounding circumstances creates a reasonable belief that the child or youth has been trafficked. Note: A runaway episode, in and of itself, is not equal to *Suspected-Unconfirmed*. See CPS Policy Handbook: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6462

² A trafficking event is *Confirmed* when evidence supports the conclusion that the child or youth has been trafficked. Note: The supporting evidence must be more than just an allegation or suspicion and does not have to be a direct outcry from the child or youth. See CPS Policy Handbook: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6462