



# Adult Protective Services

January 2016

*Prepared for the  
Senate Committee on Business & Commerce*



# APS Mission

The mission of Adult Protective Services is to protect older adults and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



# APS Core Values

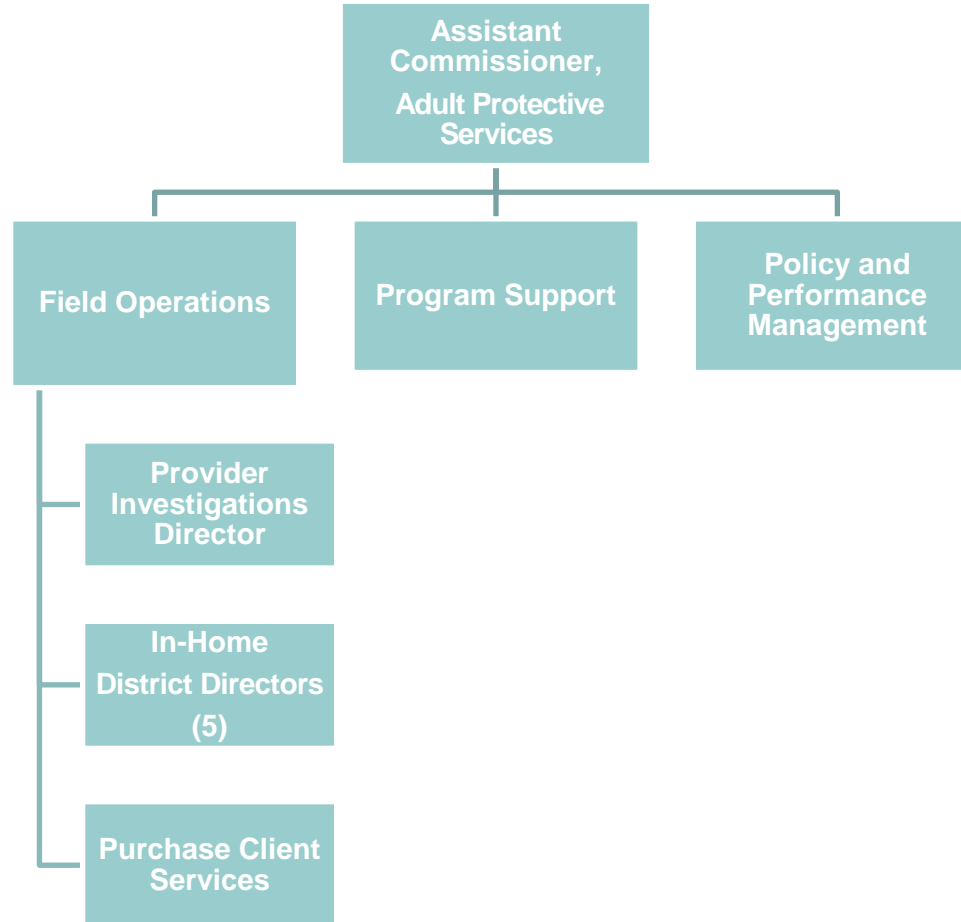
We champion the *safety* and *dignity* of vulnerable adults

We conduct ourselves with *integrity*

We demonstrate *respect* for all persons

We *collaborate* to improve outcomes

# APS Organizational Structure





# APS Timeline

- 1975 – Title XX required all states to serve elders in need of protection
- 1981 – Chapter 48 authorized state to provide Adult Protective Services
- 1985 – APS program was created; first line item appropriation was for 1986-87
- 1992 – MHMR Facility Investigations transferred to then DPRS
- 2005 – Senate Bill 6 Guardianship program moved to DADS, as well as other changes to strengthen the program



# APS Timeline (continued)

- 2007 – Staff added as a result of reform and increased intakes
- 2009 – DOJ Settlement Agreement; private ICF-IID investigations transferred to APS
- 2011 – Authority given to establish definitions of ANE in rule in lieu of the current statutory definitions for the In-Home program
- 2014 – Implemented structure decision making (SDM) in the In-Home program
- 2015 – Scope and Jurisdiction of Provider Investigations program was increased due to SB 1880



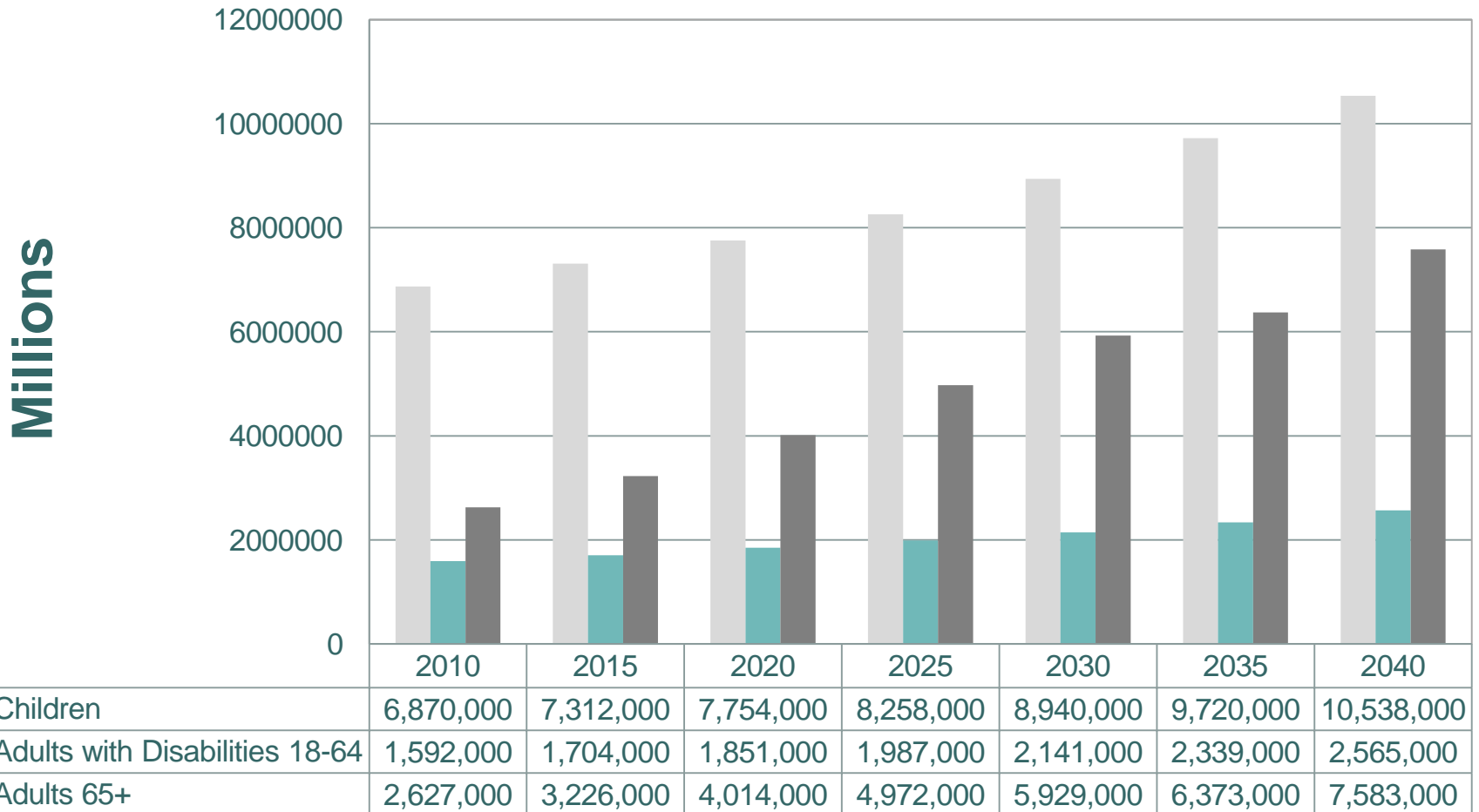
# APS Programs

APS conducts two types of investigations of abuse, neglect and exploitation (ANE) of persons age 65+ and persons with disabilities:

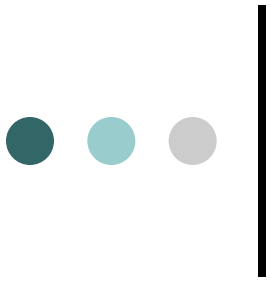
- **In-Home** investigates ANE allegations of vulnerable adults in the community. APS also provides services to alleviate ANE.
- **Provider Investigations** investigates allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation by certain providers.

# Population Growth 2010-2040

Projected State Population for Children,  
Adults with Disabilities 18-64, and Adults 65+







Adult Protective Services

# FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION



# Definition of Exploitation

**Exploitation is** "the illegal or improper act or process of a caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the elderly or disabled person using the resources of an elderly or disabled person for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain without the informed consent of the elderly or disabled person."



# Client Financial Resources

- Social Security number or identifying information
- Cash
- Money from checking or savings accounts
- Certificates of deposit or other interest-earning or investment accounts
- Credit, debit, or other electronic benefits such as a food stamp card
- Property that has monetary value from which the alleged perpetrator derives personal benefit, profit, or gain



# Assessing Financial Exploitation Allegations

- APS Investigates
  - Caretakers or paid caretakers
  - Family members
  - Individuals who have an ongoing relationship with alleged victim
- APS does not investigate when the alleged perpetrator does not have an ongoing relationship with the alleged victim.



# Assessing Financial Exploitation Allegations

APS specialists assess allegations of financial exploitation by:

- Interviewing victims, alleged perpetrators, and collaterals
- Obtaining financial records
- Consultation with Risk/Exploitation Subject Matter Experts
- Collaboration with law enforcement, financial institutions, and other government agencies as needed



# Protecting Victims of Financial Exploitation

APS specialists protect victims by:

- Educating victims and families
- Collaborating with financial institutions to protect the victim's funds
- Referring to, or arranging for, money management or payee services
- Emergency referral for guardianship to protect rapidly diminishing assets



# Financial Exploitation Figures

## APS In-Home Statewide Totals

Fiscal Year	Validated Allegations of Financial Exploitation of Adults with a Disability Aged 18-64 and Adults Aged 65 and Older
2011	1,118
2012	848
2013	1,045
2014	1,108
2015	935

In FY 2015 APS completed 78,180 In-Home investigations and validated 43,759.



# Financial Exploitation Figures

## APS In-Home Statewide Totals

Fiscal Year	Investigations with Validated Financial Exploitation of Adults Aged 65 and Older
2011	843
2012	633
2013	855
2014	890
2015	759





# APS Community Engagement Efforts

- **“It’s Everyone’s Business!” Campaign**
  - Occurs in October, districts work with community partners to provide education and awareness about financial exploitation.
  - Provides the public with information on recognizing financial exploitation, facts about adult abuse, and prevention tips.



# APS Community Engagement Efforts

## ○ Texas Partners for Adult Protective Services

A statewide non-profit organization that works with APS to help improve the lives of clients by developing resources and providing assistance to local boards that support APS.

## ○ Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign

The annual campaign is in May. The goals of the campaign include:

- raising awareness about the problems of adult abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation;
- enlisting community collaboration and support for APS clients and needed resources;
- Increasing awareness of APS programs and services.

## ○ Southwestern Automated Clearing House Association

APS collaborates with SACHA, a regional trade association providing education, training, and knowledge regarding electronic payments and payment system risks.