



This Legislative Data Book has been compiled as a descriptive statistical resource of the services provided by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) to the people of the State of Texas. Information covered in this book covers the most frequently asked questions about child and adult protective services and licensing. Our hope is that it will be beneficial in answering some of the questions as well as being an ongoing resource document.

An annual update of the book is planned after the end of each state fiscal year.

Comments and/or questions are welcomed and can be addressed to this office.

All data is for Fiscal Year 1995 unless otherwise noted.
Fiscal Years 1996 through 1999 data are projected based
on trend analysis of current service levels.

This publication includes data most frequently requested.
Special requests, including more detailed breakdowns,
are available from:



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The mission of PRS is to protect the physical safety and emotional well-being of the most vulnerable citizens of Texas.

In pursuit of this charge, this organization is committed to:

- ★ reducing the risk and alleviating the effects of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of children, the elderly, and the disabled,
- ★ developing an agency culture which values quality client outcomes, innovation, and risk taking,
- ★ providing an environment which supports all members of the organization,
- ★ promoting full partnership with all stakeholders, including all levels of government, community organizations and interests, service providers, clients and families, and their advocates,
- ★ providing services which respect the diversity of Texas citizens reflected in differing values, cultures, beliefs, economic status, and geographic location,
- ★ encouraging efforts to prevent the need for services to those affected by abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and
- ★ supporting change of societal attitudes and tolerance of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Objectives

- ★ Ensure that children suspected to be at risk of abuse and/or neglect receive prompt and effective investigative services.
- ★ Deliver quality in-home/family preservation services to all children found, by investigation, to need them.
- ★ Ensure that all children who are found to need substitute care are provided effective services until returned to their homes or another permanent placement.
- ★ Provide timely and quality investigations and protective services to adults in the community who are elderly and who are victims of maltreatment.
- ★ Ensure that all allegations of abuse and/or neglect in Texas Mental Health Mental Retardation (TxMHMR) residential and outreach programs are promptly and effectively investigated.
- ★ Regulate all child care facilities as required by law, to reduce the risk of serious injury, abuse, and communicable disease to children in these facilities.

Definitions

APS Community/In-home - In previous years APS inhome counts have been referred to as community settings and separate statistics have been collected for MHMR and community centers. To avoid confusion, the title community settings will no longer be used when referring to our Inhome population.

APS Investigation - The total number of APS investigations equals the total number of initiated investigations not completed investigations. (CPS investigation totals equal investigations completed).

At Risk Child Population - A survey conducted by the Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University (Raymond H. C. Teske, Jr., Ph. D. and Gina Thurman, M.A.) with primary funding for the research by Children's Trust Fund of Texas Council, found that of the parents surveyed, 16.2% indicated that at least one of their children was abused or neglected. Using this finding, multiplying the Texas Child Population by 16.2% will give us the AT RISK CHILD POPULATION of abuse and/or neglect.

Children In Need (Of Services) - Historical data indicates the approximate number of children in confirmed reports who need services after investigation versus the actual number of children who received services. The agency estimates that 70 percent of children who are in confirmed reports of abuse or neglect actually need services beyond investigation. The total includes the victims and their siblings.

Children under the Legal Responsibility of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services - When a child who has been abused and neglected must be removed from their own home, a temporary court order must be obtained. After 14 days a CPS Worker must obtain from the court a more permanent order for either managing conservatorship or other legal basis for keeping the child in a safe placement outside their own home.

Children In TDPRS Legal Responsibility - All children for whom the courts have given the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory services legal responsibility by temporary or permanent managing conservatorship or other court ordered legal basis. These children may be residing in an out of home placement or may have been returned to their own home (home of origin).

Children in Substitute Care - Children under TDPRS' legal responsibility who are placed outside their own home (home of origin). This includes foster homes, institutions, foster group homes, residential treatment facilities, hospitals, adoptive homes, other juvenile facilities, relative home placements, and independent living arrangements. This is a subset of Children in TDPRS Legal Responsibility.

Children in Foster Care - All children under TDPRS' legal responsibility who are placed in foster homes, foster group homes, institutions, residential treatment facilities, and juvenile facilities who are in a paid or non-paid foster care setting. Foster care is considered a temporary placement until a child can safely be returned home or until a safe permanent living arrangement is found if the child cannot be returned home. This is a subset of children in Substitute Care.

Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect - The agency is required by state law to conduct civil investigations of reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Upon receipt, initial reports are assigned to priority groups based upon the alleged situations.

Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect - The agency receives many reports of children who are in situations that are not optimal for their growth or development, but do not appear to involve child abuse or neglect as defined by law. Only the reports that meet the statutory definition of abuse or neglect are required by state law to be investigated by this agency.

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