



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

Children and Youth Missing from  
DFPS Conservatorship  
&  
Human Trafficking  
Data

Fiscal Year 2021 Report

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May 2022

## Background

Pursuant to Texas Family Code § 264.017(b)(12) and (13) and Texas Family Code § 264.123, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is required to report annually:

- The number of children who are missing from the children's substitute care provider while in the managing conservatorship of DFPS;
- The number of children who were victims of trafficking under Chapter 20A, Penal Code, while in the managing conservatorship DFPS;
- Whether a child who went missing was a victim of the offense under Chapter 20A, Penal Code Trafficking of Persons;
- Whether the managing conservatorship of DFPS is temporary or permanent;
- The type of substitute care in which the child is placed; and
- The child's county of residence, sex, age, race, and ethnicity.

In Fiscal Year 2016, DFPS began investigating allegations of sex and labor trafficking committed by a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare. Prior to Fiscal Year 2016, these allegations were investigated as sexual abuse or neglectful supervision.

## Report Outline

There are four distinct sections of this report which provide data for Fiscal Year 2021 and the preceding two fiscal years when available. Each section will respectively identify human trafficking victimization. Each section should be reviewed independently of one another to understand the trends, per area, where identification occurs.

1. Children and Youth Missing from Care<sup>1</sup> and Recoveries.
2. Reports and Investigations of Sex Trafficking
3. Reports and Investigation of Labor Trafficking
4. Human Trafficking Victim Identification

This is a new section that provides data of all children and youth identified, by DFPS in any child welfare stage of service, Fiscal Year 2021, as a Suspected-Unconfirmed<sup>2</sup> or Confirmed<sup>3</sup> victim of trafficking, regardless of the type of trafficking experienced and when the incident occurred.

For Sections 2 and 3, investigation data is specifically for investigations that met DFPS's jurisdictional purview to investigate.

## Children and Youth Missing while in DFPS Conservatorship

In Fiscal Year 2021, 45,870 children and youth were in DFPS conservatorship. Of these, 1,695 unique children and youth were reported missing during Fiscal Year 2021. There were 72 additional children and youth who were missing on the first day of the fiscal year.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, a total of 1,767 unique children and youth were missing at some point during Fiscal Year 2021.<sup>5</sup>

Of the 1,767 children and youth who were missing at some point during Fiscal Year 2021:

- 1,495 (85%) had been located as of August 31, 2021.
- 185 (10%) were still missing and still in DFPS conservatorship on August 31, 2021. Of these, 74 (40%) had gone missing during August 2021.
- 87 (5%) children and youth exited conservatorship while missing.<sup>6</sup> Of these:
  - 43 youth turned 18 while on missing status;
  - 42 had legal responsibility terminated by the court of jurisdiction while on missing status and before they turned 18; and
  - 2 passed away while missing.

From Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2021, there was a decrease in the percentage of children and youth in DFPS conservatorship who had at least one or more missing event during the fiscal year (see **Table 1**).<sup>7</sup>

**Table 1**  
**Total Number of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were Missing**  
**FY 2019-2021**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Number of children and youth in conservatorship at some point during fiscal year.	51,417	47,913	45,870
Number of children and youth in conservatorship who were reported missing during fiscal year.	1,973	2,094	1,695
Percent of children and youth in conservatorship who were reported missing during fiscal year.	3.8%	4.4%	3.7%

## Demographics of Children and Youth Missing from DFPS Conservatorship

Of the children and youth who were newly reported as missing in Fiscal Year 2021, 67% were age 15-17 at the time of their first missing event in the fiscal year (see **Table 2**).

**Table 2**  
**Ages of Children and Youth at the Time of the First FY 2021 Missing Event**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Age	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
17	473	24%	507	24%	401	24%
16	470	24%	494	23%	403	24%
15	363	18%	419	20%	325	19%
14	249	13%	236	11%	220	13%
13	151	8%	168	8%	118	7%
12	67	3%	58	3%	60	4%
Less than 12 <sup>s</sup>	200	10%	215	10%	168	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>100%</b>

The gender breakdown of those missing from care has remained consistent, though the percentage of females who had a missing incident increased in Fiscal Year 2021 (see **Table 3**).

**Table 3**  
**Gender of Missing Children and Youth**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Gender	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Female	1053	53%	1122	54%	966	57%
Male	919	47%	972	46%	729	43%
Unknown	1	< 1%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>100%</b>

Race/Ethnicity for children and youth missing have remained consistent across fiscal years (see **Table 4**)

**Table 4**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Children and Youth with Missing Episodes**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Race/Ethnicity of Missing Children and Youth Race/Ethnicity	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 % of All Children and Youth in Care
African American	476	24%	558	27%	457	27%	21%
Anglo	557	28%	547	26%	450	27%	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	< 1%	3	< 1%	8	< 1%	< 1%
Hispanic	829	42%	912	44%	737	43%	42%
Multiple (Non-Hispanic)	78	4%	41	2%	20	1%	6%
Native American	2	< 1%	3	< 1%	5	< 1%	< 1%
Unable to Determine	28	1%	30	1%	18	1%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

As in prior fiscal years, the living arrangements from which children and youth are missing from DFPS conservatorship most frequently in Fiscal Year 2021 are Residential Treatment Centers and Emergency Shelters (see **Table 5**).

**Table 5**  
**Living Arrangements for Children and Youth at the Time of the Missing Event**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Substitute Care Type	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Residential Treatment	466	24%	547	26%	347	20%
Emergency Shelter	377	19%	315	15%	229	14%
Kinship Home	223	11%	238	11%	213	13%
Therapeutic Foster Care	283	14%	272	13%	207	12%
DFPS Supervision	19	1%	21	1%	161	9%
Missing at Time of Removal	191	10%	154	7%	150	9%
General Residential Operation	129	7%	147	7%	143	8%
Unauthorized Placement	50	3%	79	4%	65	4%
Own Home	82	4%	64	3%	65	4%
Foster Care: Child Care Services	67	3%	98	5%	49	3%
Other Foster Care	48	2%	100	5%	38	2%
Other <sup>9</sup>	14	1%	54	3%	26	2%
Unknown	24	1%	5	< 1%	2	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>100%</b>

Most children and youth who were missing continue to be under Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC), followed by Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) with termination of parental rights, then PMC without termination of parental rights (see **Table 6**). Note: Most children and youth in DFPS conservatorship are under TMC.

**Table 6**  
**Legal Status of Missing Children and Youth**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Legal Status	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Temporary Managing Conservatorship	936	47%	1,002	48%	852	50%
Permanent Managing Conservatorship with Termination	603	31%	661	32%	526	31%
Permanent Managing Conservatorship Without Termination	377	19%	403	19%	307	18%
Other Legal Basis <sup>10</sup>	2	< 1%	4	< 1%	8	< 1%
Care, Custody, and Control	9	< 1%	6	< 1%	1	< 1%
Not Recorded	46	2%	18	1%	1	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 7** shows the six highest placement counties from which children and youth experienced the first missing event in Fiscal Year 2021.

**Table 7**  
**Highest Six Counties Placement Counties for Children and Youth at the First Missing Event<sup>11</sup>**  
**FY 2019-2021**

County	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Harris	439	20%	385	21%	359	21%
Bexar	169	14%	267	8%	178	11%
Dallas	149	8%	154	7%	129	8%
Fort Bend	81	6%	111	4%	90	5%
Tarrant	56	5%	89	3%	83	5%
Travis	95	4%	75	5%	75	4%
All other counties	892	45%	1105	53%	781	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 8**  
**Placement Counties of Children and Youth at the First FY 2021 Missing Event<sup>11</sup>**  
**(Highest to Lowest)**

County	Number of Children Missing	County	Number of Children Missing	County	Number of Children Missing
Harris	359	Atascosa	5	Jim Wells	<5
Bexar	178	Ellis	5	Jones	<5
Dallas	129	Hill	5	Karnes	<5
Fort Bend	90	Hunt	5	Kleberg	<5
Tarrant	83	Grayson	5	La Salle	<5
Travis	75	Washington	5	Lamar	<5
Taylor	48	Anderson	<5	Liberty	<5
Smith	39	Andrews	<5	Llano	<5
Montgomery	35	Aransas	<5	Madison	<5
Denton	33	Austin	<5	Marion	<5
Comal	33	Bandera	<5	Medina	<5
Lubbock	31	Bastrop	<5	Midland	<5
Randall	27	Bee	<5	Milam	<5
El Paso	27	Bowie	<5	Mills	<5
Nueces	25	Brown	<5	Mitchell	<5
Potter	23	Burnet	<5	Moore	<5
Hidalgo	22	Caldwell	<5	Nacogdoches	<5
Jefferson	20	Calhoun	<5	Navarro	<5
Cameron	18	Callahan	<5	Nolan	<5
Bell	18	Chambers	<5	Orange	<5
Brazoria	16	Cherokee	<5	Palo Pinto	<5
Tom Green	15	Cooke	<5	Panola	<5
McLennan	15	Coryell	<5	Parker	<5
Collin	14	Dewitt	<5	Polk	<5
Kendall	13	Dickens	<5	Red River	<5
Brazos	12	Eastland	<5	Refugio	<5
Hays	12	Ector	<5	Robertson	<5
Williamson	10	Falls	<5	Rusk	<5
Kaufman	10	Floyd	<5	Sutton	<5
Angelina	9	Frio	<5	Terry	<5
Webb	9	Gaines	<5	Titus	<5
Victoria	8	Gray	<5	Upshur	<5
Johnson	8	Gregg	<5	Van Zandt	<5
San Patricio	7	Hale	<5	Walker	<5
Matagorda	6	Hardin	<5	Waller	<5
Henderson	6	Hockley	<5	Wilson	<5
Harrison	6	Hood	<5	Young	<5
Guadalupe	6	Howard	<5	Zapata	<5
Galveston	6	Hutchinson	<5		
Kerr	6	Jack	<5	Out of State	13
Wichita	6	Jasper	<5	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,695</b>

## Total Number of Missing Events

In Fiscal Year 2021, while there was a total of 1,695 unique children and youth who were reported missing, the total number of missing events was 3,528. (see **Table 9**).

**Table 9**  
**Number of Missing Events of Children and Youth**

	FY 2019 Number	FY 2020 Number	FY 2021 Number
Total Number of Missing Events	Not available <sup>12</sup>	3,311	3,528

## Children with Multiple Missing Events

In Fiscal Year 2021, of the 1,695 unique children and youth that were reported as missing, 59% had only one missing event, while 41% had more than one missing event. The median number of runs was 1, while the average number of runs was 2.1. **Table 10** below shows the number of children with each associated number of missing events during Fiscal Year 2021.

**Table 10**  
**Number of Missing Events During FY 2021 of Children and Youth**

Number of Missing Incidents During FY2021	Number of Children	%	Average Age of Children
1	992	59%	13.6 <sup>8</sup>
2	317	19%	15.3
3	153	9%	15.3
4	86	5%	15.5
5	42	2%	15.4
6	30	2%	15.3
7	24	1%	15.3
8	21	1%	15.2
9 or more	30	2%	15.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14.3</b>



## Reasons Given for Missing Event

When children and youth are recovered, they are given an opportunity to share the reason for the missing event. A total of 3,354 recoveries were documented and for 2,060 of these recoveries, the children and youth reported why they were missing from care in Fiscal Year 2021.<sup>13</sup> The top seven reasons children and youth gave are similar to those given in previous years, which include:

- Dislike of rules of placement (18%)
- Anger at CPS or the system (16%)
- Desire to be on one's own (16%)
- Frustration / anger with caregivers (10%)
- Desire to see family/relatives (10%)
- Desire to be with boyfriend or girlfriend (10%)
- Desire new placement (9%)

## Children and Youth Trafficked while Missing

There were 1,632 unique children recovered from missing status in Fiscal Year 2021.<sup>14</sup> Of the 1,632 children and youth who were recovered in Fiscal Year 2021, 119 (7.3%) were identified as being victimized while missing, 43 (2.6%) of whom were identified as a victim of sex trafficking and 3 (< 0.2%) of whom were identified as a victim of labor trafficking (see **Table 11**).

**Table 11**  
**Overview of Texas Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship**

FY 2021	
Total number in DFPS Conservatorship at some point in FY 2021	45,870
Total number of unique children and youth missing from DFPS Conservatorship	1,767
Total number of unique children recovered during FY 2021	1,632 <sup>14</sup>
Number of unique children who were identified as being victimized during missing episode	119
Number of unique victims identified as sex victims during missing episode	43
Number of unique victims identified as labor trafficking victims during missing episode	3

In Fiscal Year 2021, 119 children and youth were victimized while they were on missing status, with some experiencing multiple types of victimization (see **Table 12**).

**Table 12**  
**Children and Youth Victimized During Missing Event**  
**FY 2019-2021**

	FY 2019 Number of Children	FY 2020 Number of Children	FY 2021 Number of Children
Identified as being Sex Trafficked	46	68	43
Identified as being Labor Trafficked	0	0	3
Identified as being Sexually Abused	72	64	47
Identified as being Physically Abused	19	23	9
Identified as experiencing Other Form of Victimization	Not Available <sup>15</sup>	Not Available <sup>15</sup>	35
<b>Total Identified as being Victimized*</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>119</b>

\*Numbers do not sum to total as youth may have experienced multiple types of victimization

**Tables 13-15** provide the age, gender, and race/ethnicity of the 43 children and youth who were identified as being sex trafficked during a missing event in Fiscal Year 2021, as well as the children and youth who were identified being sex trafficked during a missing event in previous Fiscal Years.

**Table 13**  
**Ages of Children and Youth Sex Trafficked During a Missing Event**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Age	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
17	14	30%	19	28%	11	26%
16	15	33%	24	35%	15	35%
15	9	20%	19	28%	12	28%
14	3	7%	3	4%	4	9%
13	4	9%	1	1%	1	2%
12	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
11	1	2%	1	1%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 14**  
**Gender of Children and Youth Sex Trafficked During a Missing Event**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Gender	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Female	45	98%	67	99%	40	93%
Male	1	2%	1	1%	3	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 15**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Children and Youth Sex Trafficked During a Missing Event**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Race/Ethnicity	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 % of All Children and Youth in Care
African American	12	26%	32	47%	12	28%	21%
Anglo	14	30%	13	19%	15	35%	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	< 1%
Hispanic	13	28%	16	24%	13	30%	42%
Multiple (Non-Hispanic)	3	7%	4	6%	2	5%	6%
Native American	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%	< 1%
Unable to Determine	4	9%	2	3%	1	2%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Tables 16-18 provide the age, gender, and race/ethnicity of the three children and youth who were identified as being labor trafficked during a missing event in Fiscal Year 2021. No children were identified being labor trafficked during a missing event in Fiscal Year 2019 or Fiscal Year 2020.

**Table 16**  
**Ages of Children and Youth Labor Trafficked During a Missing Event FY2021**

Age	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
17	2	67%
16	1	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 17**  
**Gender of Children and Youth Labor Trafficked During a Missing Event FY2021**

Gender	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Female	1	33%
Male	2	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 18**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Children and Youth Labor Trafficked During a Missing Event FY2021**

Race/ Ethnicity	FY 2021 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 % of All Children and Youth in Care
African American	0	0%	21%
Anglo	1	33%	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	< 1%
Hispanic	2	67%	42%
Multiple (Non-Hispanic)	0	0%	6%
Native American	0	0%	< 1%
Unable to Determine	0	0%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Reports and Investigations of Sex and Labor Trafficking

Child Protective Investigations (CPI) investigates reports with allegations of child sex trafficking and/or labor trafficking by an alleged perpetrator who is traditionally responsible for a child or youth’s care, custody, or welfare such as a family member, or an adult living in the home of an alleged minor victim. Reports of child trafficking not under DFPS investigative jurisdiction are sent to local law enforcement and children’s advocacy centers, as well as the Texas Department of Public Safety.

**Table 19** provide data on reports of Sex Trafficking received in Fiscal Years 2019-2021.

**Table 19**  
**Sex Trafficking Reports**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Reports Received with Sex Trafficking as an Allegation	732	800	866
Alleged Victims of Sex Trafficking*	859	876	987
Reports with a Sex Trafficking Allegation Investigated by CPI	549	543	679
Reports with a Sex Trafficking Allegation sent to CPI Alternative Response	2	3	3

\*Multiple victims may be identified in a single report, resulting in a higher victim count than reports received.

While **Table 19** shows the number of reports **opened** for investigations, **Table 20** provides the outcomes for sex trafficking allegations in which the investigations **closed** during Fiscal Year 2021. These allegations could be the result of the initial report or could have been added during an investigation with other abuse/neglect allegations.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 20**  
**CPI Sex Trafficking Investigations**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Investigations with one or more Allegation of Sex Trafficking	544	547	665
Investigations with a Disposition of “Reason to Believe” for one or more Sex Trafficking Allegations	29	35	32
Unique Victims of Sex Trafficking Allegations with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition*	29	39	36

\*Multiple victims may be identified in a single investigation, resulting in a higher victim count than investigations.

Tables 21-23 provide the demographics for confirmed victims of sex trafficking.

**Table 21**  
**Ages of Unique Victims of Sex Trafficking Allegations**  
**with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Age	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
17	4	14%	3	8%	2	6%
16	5	17%	15	38%	10	28%
15	8	28%	4	10%	5	14%
14	3	10%	2	5%	6	17%
13	2	7%	5	13%	2	6%
12	1	3%	1	3%	1	3%
Less than 12	6	21%	9	23%	10	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 22**  
**Gender of Unique Victims of Sex Trafficking Allegations**  
**with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Gender	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Female	27	93%	34	87%	32	89%
Male	2	7%	5	13%	4	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 23**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Unique Victims of Sex Trafficking Allegations**  
**with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Race/ Ethnicity	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 % of All Children and Youth in Care
African American	8	28%	8	21%	7	19%	21%
Anglo	7	24%	14	36%	9	25%	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	< 1%
Hispanic	14	48%	12	31%	19	53%	42%
Multiple (Non-Hispanic)	0	0%	5	13%	0	0%	6%
Native American	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	< 1%
Unable to Determine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 24** provides data on reports of Labor Trafficking received in Fiscal Years 2019-2021.

**Table 24**  
**Labor Trafficking Reports**  
**FY 2019-2021**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Reports Received with Labor Trafficking as an Allegation	102	103	111
Alleged Victims of Labor Trafficking*	125	135	127
Reports with a Labor Trafficking Allegation Investigated by CPI	64	76	61
Reports with a Labor Trafficking Allegation sent to CPI Alternative Response	3	6	4

\*Multiple victims may be identified in a single report, resulting in a higher victim count than reports received.

While **Table 24** shows the number of reports opened for investigations, **Table 25** provides the outcomes for labor trafficking allegations in which the investigations **closed** during Fiscal Year 2021. These allegations could be the result the initial report or could have been added during an investigation of other abuse/neglect allegations.<sup>17</sup>

**Table 25**  
**CPI Labor Trafficking Investigations**  
**FY 2019-2021**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Investigations with one or more Allegation of Labor Trafficking	63	75	64
Investigations with a Disposition of “Reason to Believe” for one or more Labor Trafficking Allegations	4	4	2
Unique Victims of Labor Trafficking Allegations with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition*	11	4	3

\*Multiple victims may be identified in a single investigation resulting in a higher victim count than investigations.

**Tables 26-28** provide the demographics for **confirmed** victims of labor trafficking.

**Table 26**  
**Ages of Unique Victims of Labor Trafficking Allegations**  
**with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Age	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
17	1	9%	0	0%	1	33%
16	3	27%	0	0%	0	0%
15	3	27%	2	50%	1	33%
14	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%
13	1	9%	2	50%	0	0%
12	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%
Less than 12	1	9%	0	0%	1	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Table 27**  
**Gender of Unique Victims of Labor Trafficking Allegations**  
**with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Gender	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Female	3	27%	3	75%	1	33%
Male	8	73%	1	25%	2	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 28**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Unique Victims of Labor Trafficking Allegations**  
**with a “Reason to Believe” Disposition**  
**FY 2019-2021**

Race/ Ethnicity	FY 2019 Number of Children	%	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 % of All Children and Youth in Care
African American	1	9%	0	0%	1	33%	21%
Anglo	6	55%	0	0%	0	0%	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	<1%
Hispanic	3	27%	4	100%	2	67%	42%
Multiple (Non- Hispanic)	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%	6%
Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	<1%
Unable to Determine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Sex and Labor Trafficking Incidents

During April of Fiscal Year 2019, the DFPS IMPACT system was enhanced with the ability to capture data known about sex and labor trafficking victimization incidents for any child or youth involved in any DFPS child welfare stage of service. Fiscal Year 2020 is the first full year of data collected through this system enhancement therefore only Fiscal Years 2020 – 2021 data is provided.

In this section, the Fiscal Year refers to the year in which an incident was recorded in the data system. Incidents are reported by Fiscal Year, but victimization may not have occurred at the time of victim identification. For children who have more than one trafficking incident in a fiscal year, the highest level of confirmation status (Confirmed over Suspected-Unconfirmed) is reported. A child can only be in one cohort per fiscal year.

**Table 29** provides data on reported incidents of Suspected-Unconfirmed and Confirmed sex trafficking for children and/or youth involved with DFPS that were identified in Fiscal Years 2020-2021.

**Table 29**  
**Sex Trafficking Incidents Identified for Children Involved with DFPS**  
**FY 2019-2021**

	FY 2020	FY 2021
Number of Suspected-Unconfirmed Incidents of Sex Trafficking	100	115
Number of Unique Suspected-Unconfirmed Sex Trafficking Victims*	86	82
Number of Confirmed Incidents of Sex Trafficking	177	188
Number of Unique Confirmed Sex Trafficking Victims*	158	142

\*Number of Unique Victims may be different from number of incidents as a child or youth may have experienced multiple incidents.

Tables 30-33 provide data on reported incidents of confirmed sex trafficking for children and/or youth involved with DFPS who were identified in Fiscal Years 2020-2021.

**Table 30**  
**Period of Victimization for Confirmed Sex Trafficking Victims Identified**  
**FY 2020-2021**

Period of Victimization	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Before Agency Involvement	89	56%	74	52%
During INV or A-R or FBSS	18	11%	18	13%
During CVS Agency Care	50	32%	49 <sup>18</sup>	35%
During PAL Aftercare	1	< 1%	1	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 31**  
**Ages at Time of Incident for Confirmed Sex Trafficking Victims Identified**  
**FY 2020-2021**

Age	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
17	21	13%	14	10%
16	40	25%	34	24%
15	27	17%	38	27%
14	15	9%	20	14%
13	17	11%	10	7%
12	7	4%	9	6%
Less than 12	24	15%	17	12%
Unknown <sup>19</sup>	7	4%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 32**  
**Gender of Confirmed Victims of Sex Trafficking of Children Involved with DFPS**  
**FY 2020-2021**

Gender	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Female	145	92%	134	94%
Male	13	8%	8	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 33**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Victims of Sex Trafficking of Children Involved with DFPS FY 2020-2021**

Race/ Ethnicity	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 % of All Children and Youth in Care
African American	37	23%	28	20%	21%
Anglo	52	33%	42	30%	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%	< 1%
Hispanic	52	33%	61	43%	42%
Multiple (Non-Hispanic)	17	11%	11	8%	6%
Native American	0	0%	0	0%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 34** provides data on reported incidents of Suspected-Unconfirmed and Confirmed labor trafficking for children and youth involved with DFPS identified in Fiscal Years 2020-2021.

**Table 34**  
**Labor Trafficking Incidents for Children Involved with DFPS**  
**FY 2020-2021**

	FY 2020	FY 2021
Number of Suspected-Unconfirmed Incidents of Labor Trafficking	2	4
Number of alleged victims of a Suspected-Unconfirmed Labor Trafficking Incident*	2	2
Number of Confirmed Incidents of Labor Trafficking	2	8
Number of victims of a Confirmed Labor Trafficking Incident*	2	7

\*Number of Unique Victims may be different from number of incidents as child or youth may have experienced multiple incidents.

Tables 35-38 provide data on reported incidents of confirmed labor trafficking for children and youth involved with DFPS identified in Fiscal Years 2020-2021.

**Table 35**  
**Period of Victimization for Confirmed Labor Trafficking Victims Identified**  
**FY 2020-2021**

Period of Victimization	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Before Agency Involvement	2	100%	6	86%
During INV or A-R or FBSS	0	0%	0	0%
During CVS Agency Care	0	0%	1 <sup>20</sup>	14%
During PAL Aftercare	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 36**  
**Ages of Confirmed Victims of Labor Trafficking**  
**at Time of Incident of Children Involved with DFPS**  
**FY 2020-2021**

Age	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
16	0	0%	2	29%
15	0	0%	2	29%
14	0	0%	1	14%
13	0	0%	0	0%
12	2	100%	0	0%
Less than 12	0	0%	2	29%
Unknown <sup>21</sup>	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 37**  
**Gender of Confirmed Victims of Labor Trafficking of Children Involved with DFPS**  
**FY 20-2021**

Gender	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%
Female	1	50%	3	43%
Male	1	50%	4	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 38**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Victims of Labor Trafficking of Children Involved with DFPS**  
**FY 2020-2021**

Race/ Ethnicity	FY 2020 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 Number of Children	%	FY 2021 % of All Children and Youth in Care
African American	1	50%	1	14%	21%
Anglo	0	0%	1	14%	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%	< 1%
Hispanic	1	50%	5	71%	42%
Multiple (Non- Hispanic)	0	0%	0	0%	6%
Native American	0	0%	0	0%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> DFPS categorizes a child or youth in DFPS conservatorship as *Missing*, if any of the following apply: The child or youth runs away; the child or youth is abducted by a known or unknown person; or the child or youth is otherwise absent from care with no known location. See CPS Policy Handbook: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS\\_pg\\_6400.asp#CPS\\_6461](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6461)

<sup>2</sup> 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](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6462)

<sup>3</sup> 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](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6462)

<sup>4</sup> To avoid duplicative counting, demographic data for youth already missing at the start of Fiscal Year 2021 is not included in the demographic data of this report, unless the youth had a new missing event within Fiscal Year 2021.

<sup>5</sup> In Fiscal Year 2021, 1,695 children and youth had a new missing event. This includes 72 of the 144 youth who were already missing at the start of the fiscal year and were subsequently recovered but also had a new missing event in Fiscal Year 2021. The remaining 72 of the 144 youth who were still missing start of the fiscal year are not captured in the new missing event population as they did not have a subsequent missing event in Fiscal Year 2021. Therefore, the total number of unique children and youth missing during Fiscal Year 2021 is calculated as 1,695 youth with new events + 72 youth missing at the start of the fiscal year who did not have a subsequent missing event = 1,767.

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<sup>6</sup> DFPS continues to search for any youth missing from conservatorship until DFPS no longer has legal authority.

<sup>7</sup> Reasons for the decrease may include a reduction in the overall number of children in DFPS conservatorship; practice improvements in responding to youth who may run away from care; and limited access to only six months of National Crime Information Center (NCIC) data in Fiscal Year 2021. The Texas Department of Public Safety and DFPS have recently reinstated a data sharing agreement to support NCIC reconciliation efforts in the future.

<sup>8</sup> The majority of these children were either missing because parent(s) absconded with the children before DFPS could take possession or abducted after DFPS took possession.

<sup>9</sup> This category includes Adoptive Placements, Independent Living Arrangements, Institutions for Intellectual Disabilities (IDD), Adult – Assisted Programs, and “Other” in addition to seven cases in which the child or youth was recovered but was missing again before placement could occur in the same day.

<sup>10</sup> This category includes children and youth who were missing prior to obtaining conservatorship.

<sup>11</sup> For children and youth who were missing at the time of removal, or whose first Fiscal Year 2021 missing event was preceded by a different missing event, the county of legal jurisdiction was used as the placement county from which the child/youth went missing.

<sup>12</sup> For Fiscal Year 2019, IMPACT entries are not available for the full year as the functionality did not exist. Therefore, Fiscal Year 2019 data is not listed.

<sup>13</sup> The number of recoveries is greater than the number of unique children and youth who were missing, as well as the number of unique children and youth who were recovered, because youth may have multiple missing events and recovery events within the fiscal year.

<sup>14</sup> In Fiscal Year 2021, there were a total of 1,632 recoveries throughout the fiscal year. This number differs from the 1,495 recoveries (page 3) which is reporting the number of children or youth whose status on August 31, 2021 was recovered.

<sup>15</sup> Fiscal Year 2022 is the first time this data is available for reporting; therefore FY 2019-2020 data is not available.

<sup>16</sup> In Table 19, “Reports with a Sex Trafficking Allegation Investigated by CPI” are cases that were opened but may not have closed in Fiscal Year 2021. Table 20 reflects investigation cases that were initiated and closed in Fiscal Year 2021, in addition to those cases that were initiated in Fiscal Year 2020 but closed in Fiscal Year 2021.

<sup>17</sup> In Table 20, “Reports with a Labor Trafficking Allegation Investigated by CPI” are cases that were opened but may not have closed in Fiscal Year 2021. Table 25 reflects investigation cases that were initiated and closed in Fiscal Year 2021, in addition to those cases that were initiated in Fiscal 2020 but closed in Fiscal Year 2021.

<sup>18</sup> The majority (84%) of these incidents occurred during a missing episode.

<sup>19</sup> Age at time of incident is unknown, as this data element was not required until December 2019.

<sup>20</sup> Victimization occurred during a missing episode.

<sup>21</sup> Age at time of incident is unknown, as this data element was not required until December 2019.