

Child Protective Services (CPS)

Responsibilities

- ◆ Conduct civil investigations of reports of child abuse and neglect.
- ◆ Protect children from abuse and neglect.
- ◆ Promote the safety, integrity, and stability of families.
- ◆ Provide permanent placements for children who cannot safely remain with their own families.

Continued Response to CPS Reform

In 2007, Child Protective Services continued to transform its operations and policies in response to Senate Bill 6, the sweeping protective services reform bill passed by the Texas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry in 2005. These initiatives included strengthening investigations, supporting quality casework, improving services and child outcomes, building community partnerships, and preventing maltreatment.

Strengthening Investigations

Forensic Investigation/Law Enforcement

In 2006, CPS created a new division to ensure forensic investigation techniques are incorporated into casework and to improve working relationships with law enforcement. In 2007, CPS began working with the University of Texas to implement a network of forensic assessment centers. These healthcare facilities have expertise in forensic assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. CPS also hired close to 200 special investigators with background in law enforcement, as well as liaisons who met with law enforcement agencies in more than 100 counties.

Subject Matter Experts and Support Staff

In recent years, CPS has hired subject matter experts to assist caseworkers conducting investigations. These subject matter experts include: child safety specialists with expertise in assessing risk and safety, law enforcement liaison staff, nurses, youth specialists, legal liaison staff, substance abuse experts, and investigation screeners who provide additional review when CPS reports are received. In 2007, CPS increased compliance with policy relating to child safety specialists and implemented an internet-based tool to ensure all appropriate cases were assigned to child safety specialists for review.

Joint Investigations

In 2007, DFPS worked with law enforcement agencies and Child Advocacy Centers of Texas to develop guidelines for conducting

joint investigations. These guidelines will help CPS and law enforcement agencies create local multidisciplinary teams. CPS has also begun providing advanced investigation training through the Shaken Baby Alliance.

Risk Assessment Initiative

While CPS has had a formal system for assessing the risk of future child abuse/neglect for more than 15 years, the program has not consistently gathered, assessed or used appropriate information to make accurate and timely decisions. Through this initiative, CPS began improving the risk assessment tool used by caseworkers. CPS updated the risk assessment tool in 2006 to make it easier to understand and use and made enhancements to it in FY 2007. Child Safety Specialists help staff focus on best practices for ensuring child safety and working with families to develop plans to mitigate identified risk.

Reducing Response Time

Senate Bill 6 directs DFPS to develop rules by September 2007, which require CPS to immediately respond to reports that could lead to the death of or severe harm to a child. Highest priority reports must be responded to within 24 hours. All other reports must be responded to within 72 hours. Previously, CPS was required to respond to the highest priority (Priority 1) cases within 24 hours. However the response time for lower priority cases (Priority 2) was 10 days. In 2007, CPS implemented pilot programs to shortened response time for Priority 2 cases to 72 hours, and by August made this change statewide.



Supporting Quality Casework

Hiring Additional Staff

In fiscal year 2006, CPS divided its direct delivery staff into investigations, family-based safety services, and conservatorship “functional units.” Each unit consists of five caseworkers and one supervisor, thereby reducing the supervisor’s span of control and increasing the time supervisors can spend with each worker teaching and guiding them to make sound casework decisions.

In the two years of reform from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2007, DFPS hired more than 4,851 CPS caseworkers, supervisors, and clerical support staff to directly provide services to clients. Using hiring specialists, DFPS has been able to quickly fill vacancies as well as the new positions created by the reform effort. Despite the challenge of high turnover, DFPS had a net gain of 1,397 CPS staff since fiscal year 2005. With new resources, CPS investigation caseloads steadily decreased from an annual daily average of 43.2 in fiscal year 2005 to 34.7 in fiscal year 2006, and again to 25.3 in fiscal year 2007.

Improving Documentation of Cases/Continued Rollout of Tablet PCs

To fully leverage the benefits of the tablet PCs used by all CPS investigators, “Super Skilled Users” began piloting an application called Mobile Protective Services (MPS) in January 2007. The application became available statewide in May 2007. Tablet PCs

are lightweight, portable computers that serve as a caseworker’s portable office. The addition of MPS allows caseworkers to download portions of case records into tablet PCs prior to leaving the office. Then, in the field, they can not only reference that information but also add to it, documenting the case on the go. Caseworkers then synchronize the files with DFPS’ master case database when they return to the office or via a wireless internet connection, updating each file in the agency’s system. In 2007, the Legislature also provided funding to put Tablet PCs in the hands of half of all CPS conservatorship workers by September 2009.

Reviewing Performance and Accountability

In fiscal year 2007, CPS began to require its staff to document certain critical actions within 24 hours. In December 2006, DFPS began providing performance management trainings to CPS supervisors on the use of data to monitor cases and make decisions. DFPS integrated performance management training into the CPS basic skills training in January 2007 and developed performance management computer-based training for CPS supervisors available in May 2007.

Training

In 2007, CPS increased use of web-based training on subjects such as transitional living services, the new managed health care model for those in foster care, kinship, family assessment, medical services, and certification of trainers for Casey Family Services’ “Knowing Who You Are.”

Improving Services and Child Outcomes

Outsourcing

In 2007, the 80th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 758. Signed into law by the Governor, this legislation continued the CPS reform process and repealed the requirement for DFPS to contract with private entities to provide all substitute care and case management services by Sept. 1, 2011.

Family Focus Initiative

Begun in 2005, this initiative is responsible for a cultural change in CPS to a more family-focused philosophy. Expanding the use of the Family Group Decision Making model throughout all stages of service has helped achieve this shift. This initiative matches services to individual family needs by improving family member involvement in the actual case planning process, as well



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as increasing opportunities to listen to the voices of parents and former foster youth.

Kinship Care

The kinship program includes a variety of supportive services for relatives and other designated caregivers who are caring for children in DFPS conservatorship. In 2007, CPS continued to expand kinship care and at the end of the fiscal year, 8,801 children were placed with kinship caregivers, compared with 7,907 children at the end of fiscal year 2006 and 6,240 children at the end of fiscal year 2005. Kinship development workers were hired statewide and in fiscal year 2007 more than \$5,133,708 were distributed in kinship caregiver assistance funds, which assisted 3,137 families and 5,689 children. Kinship placements help children stay connected with their relatives and communities when they must be out of their homes for their safety.

Disproportionality

In 2007, CPS continued to address systemic factors and identify improvements in practices to address disproportionality, which is the over representation of a race or cultural group in a program or system. CPS is using data, community advisory groups, and "Undoing Racism" training to reduce disparate outcomes. In the Texas CPS system, disproportionality means a higher percentage of African-American children are removed from their homes, a lower percentage are successfully reunited with their families, and a higher percentage age out of foster care.

Educational Passport

Begun as a result of Senate Bill 6, 79th Texas Legislature, the Educational Passport initiative is enhancing educational outcomes for children in foster care by ensuring school records follow children when their placements change. The Education Portfolio became operational in August 2006. In October 2006, CPS, the Texas Education Agency, and Casey Family Programs held joint video conference training to raise awareness on the educational needs of youth in out-of-home care. At the end of fiscal year 2007, 91.4 percent of children had an Education Portfolio.

Transitional Living Services

In fiscal year 2007, CPS expanded the Transitional Living Services Initiative, which is a systematic approach to improving services for youth who age out of the state's foster care system. As a result, CPS began allowing youth to stay in extended foster care from age 18 to the end of the month they turn 22, if they are enrolled in and regularly attend high school. CPS conducted a random survey of youth in substitute care who are at least age 14 to determine what improvements could be made to services; analysis indicated youth are generally satisfied with the quality of all services and benefits but simply need more. CPS also continued to expand a program called Circles of Support to make services available in one or more areas in each region statewide. This program brings together foster youth with families, friends, and professionals to discuss their strengths, hopes, dreams, and goals, and to develop a plan to help youth succeed.

Psychotropic Medication

In October 2007, HHSC published "Update on the Use of Psychoactive Medications in Texas Foster Children Fiscal Years 2005 - 2007," a follow-up to a June 2006 report called "Use of Psychoactive Medications in Texas Foster Children." As with the 2006 report, the 2007 update shows an overall decrease in the use of psychotropic medication.

Strengthened Medical Support for Children in Care

DFPS worked closely with HHSC and Superior HealthPlan Network on the effort to create a managed health care program for children in foster care, kinship care, and young adults who have aged out of care. Known as STAR Health, the program is scheduled to begin serving children in the spring of 2008. One component of STAR Health is a health passport. While not a comprehensive electronic medical record, the passport will provide important physical and behavioral health claims information for each child in DFPS care.

Through Thick and Thin, Worker and Former Client Stick Together



Out of all the Child Protective Services workers and clients, it seems destiny brought Carolyn Roberson and Veronica Lockett together. "I first met Veronica when she was 13," says Roberson (right, holding Lockett's daughter, Raney). She was a special kind of kid. I saw something in her. I knew she was going to be OK. Despite rough times, she has learned from it. She has never given up."

Lockett, now 26, wrote a guest column that ran in several Texas newspapers in the spring of 2007 that described how she came into foster care. "I was nine going on 10 when I was placed in the Texas foster care system. My mother abused drugs and alcohol and wound up in jail. Growing up, we were so poor I often had to wear the same clothes to school three days in a row, and the other children would make fun of me. There were times when I was so hungry that my throat burned when I finally got something to eat."

With Roberson's guidance, Lockett is on the road to what looks like a bright future. Lockett took advantage of a Texas law passed in 1993 that exempts youths who are in foster care or adopted from foster care from paying tuition and fees at state supported vocational schools, colleges, and universities. Now a student at Texas State University in San Marcos, she has been the recipient of several scholarships, awards for academic achievement, and is president of the local national honor society.

Since aging out of the foster care system, Lockett has participated in many meetings and focus groups with foster care officials, foster youth, and foster care alumni. "I have been in panel discussions on subjects such as undoing racism and disproportionality." Lockett has also helped get the word out about the tuition waiver program, and she advocated for Texas foster youth to begin participating in their own court hearings. She will graduate in May 2008 with a degree in social work and says if she ever ends up working for Child Protective Services, she hopes it will be to develop agency policy.

Regional Vignettes

Region 1 (Amarillo Region)

Region 1 saw the unveiling of two Heart Galleries in 2007. Premiering in Amarillo and Lubbock, the Heart Gallery of the High Plains and Heart Gallery of the South Plains generated widespread community interest in the growing need for adoptive families. More than 15 professional photographers from the community donated their skill, service and vision to capture the unique hopes of more than 60 children waiting for their forever families.

Region 2 (Abilene Region)

In April 2007, as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Child Protective Services in Sweetwater participated in Family FunFair. Organized by High Sky Children's Ranch and the West Texas Children's Advocacy Center, the goal of the annual event is to educate parents about child abuse prevention and awareness. The event also promotes programs that work with families, children, and youth while offering children a fun environment featuring games, food, raffles, and more. The community-wide event concluded with a vigil in memory of child abuse victims.

Region 3 (Arlington Region)

When stakeholders learned children were spending the night in CPS offices and workers were staying long hours with children in uncomfortable situations, the community pulled together to build a short-term resolution. All Church Home and Letot Shelter offered assistance with space and a more comfortable setting for children to sleep, while caseworkers and CPS staff monitored the situation until placements could be found. Other community organizations donated assistance such as laundry services, janitorial services, food, and basic need items.

Region 4 (Tyler Region)

In December 2006, CPS staff in Texarkana teamed up with area law enforcement agencies and their counterparts in Arkansas for the 12th annual Shop with a Cop program. Officials from both states' protective services agencies chose 100 low-income children, ages 2 through 12, to receive \$100 each. A charity golf tournament raised \$14,000 for the program. Since its inception, the program has raised \$94,000 and helped 850 children.

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Region 5 (Beaumont Region)

Port Arthur Helping Our People Excel (HOPE) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to remove barriers that prevent individuals and families from reaching their goals and becoming self-sufficient. HOPE worked with 10 single families in 2007 to provide them with the resources and support they needed to become self-sufficient. With help from HOPE, one single mother completed school, found a job at a local refinery, began looking at attaining certifications to advance her career, and found better housing for her family. Her story demonstrates how one can obtain their dreams through education and commitment.

Region 6 (Houston Region)

When foster care placements became scarce in FY 2007, Region 6 workers diligently requested home studies so that children could be moved out of foster care and into the care of extended families and other familiar caregivers. The Kinship program conducted more than 2,479 home studies on relatives or family friends who might become caregivers. In the 13-county region, CPS placed 2,486 children with relatives and 270 children with family friends. Staff continued to show their dedication to children by seeking the best possible placements in safe, nurturing, and loving environments with relatives or family friends.

Region 7 (Austin Region)

Region 7 staff moved the foster/adoption information meetings out of CPS offices and into the community. Informational meetings were held in a variety of locations such as community centers and churches. In addition, the region saw its first youth conference in April 2007 at Austin Community College (ACC). The event was planned by Casey Family Programs, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), CPS, ACC, youth alumni, foster parents and foster youth. About 100 youth, foster parents and staff were in attendance.

Region 8 (San Antonio Region)

Region 8 realizes how crucial family involvement is for the successful outcome of a case and the importance of parents reaching out to other parents. The local Parent Collaboration staff liaisons have worked with the parent representative to design what has become a successful parent support group called Parents Informing Parents (PIP). Led by experienced mentor parents, these support groups are held the first Wednesday of the month. Mentor parents share

the story of how they became involved with CPS, and the lessons learned from their experiences. A question and answer period follows in which parents are given advice and guidance.

Region 9 (Midland Region)

In March 2007, Child Protective Services participated in a new community coalition to fight drug abuse in the Concho Valley called the Concho Valley Community Action and Resources for Empowerment and Success (CV CARES). The coalition is comprised of 28 local agencies and nine individuals including the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley, and Shannon Health and Wellness. Representatives of various organizations identified community resources and ways to better curb use of illegal drugs. The group is inspired by a similar effort in San Antonio called the San Antonio Fighting Back Committee.

Region 10 (El Paso Region)

El Paso created a Heart Gallery, and a beautiful ceremony was held on August 2, 2007 at the Camino Real Hotel. Attended by more than 200 people, the event attracted television and newspaper coverage and featured speakers and videos about adoption and the importance of permanent connections. The finale was the unveiling of the traveling exhibit of 20 beautiful photographs of children awaiting adoption.

Region 11 (Edinburg Region)

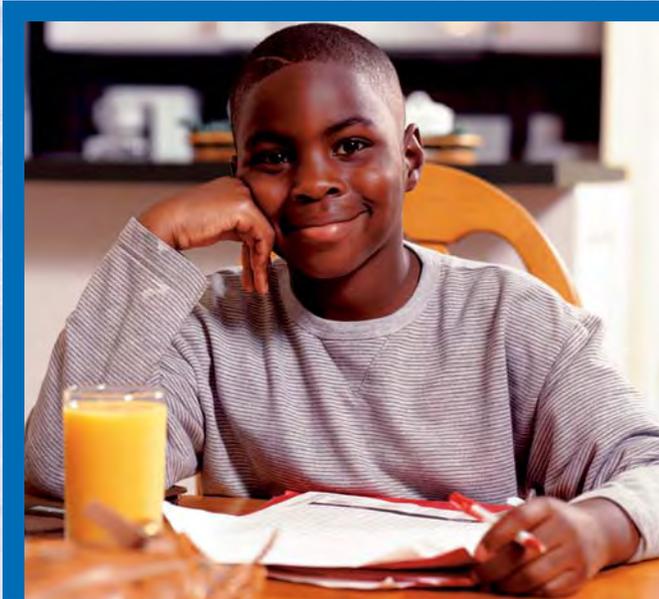
The Nueces County Family Drug Court Pilot Program was developed under the direction of Judge Carl Lewis. The program functions in partnership with DFPS, The Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and CASA. The Nueces County Court at Law #5's Family Drug Court Program (FDCP) serves as an alternative treatment and support therapy for families dealing with a parent suffering from drug addiction. The primary goal is for parents to successfully reunify with their children and function as responsible drug-free parents.



Building Community Partnerships

Community Engagement

Building community partnerships is an integral part of DFPS' work and is critical to providing clients with the support they need. As a part of the DFPS department-wide community engagement initiative, CPS has developed a comprehensive strategic plan to improve community engagement. In 2007, CPS leadership met with community providers of foster care around the state to gather input. CPS involved faith-based organizations and partnered with volunteers to use of Heart Galleries across the state to recruit more families for children awaiting adoption.



Co-location

In FY 2006, DFPS conducted a cost-benefit analysis to determine the feasibility of co-locating CPS staff with other community services such as hospitals, police departments, schools, and child advocacy centers. These opportunities for co-location would enhance services to clients. In 2007, the Neighborhood Place opened in San Antonio as a co-location site for CPS, law enforcement, and other social services agencies. CPS staff in Corpus Christi also developed plans to house Police Department Child Abuse Investigators with CPS staff.

Public Awareness

Why Not Me? Adoption Campaign

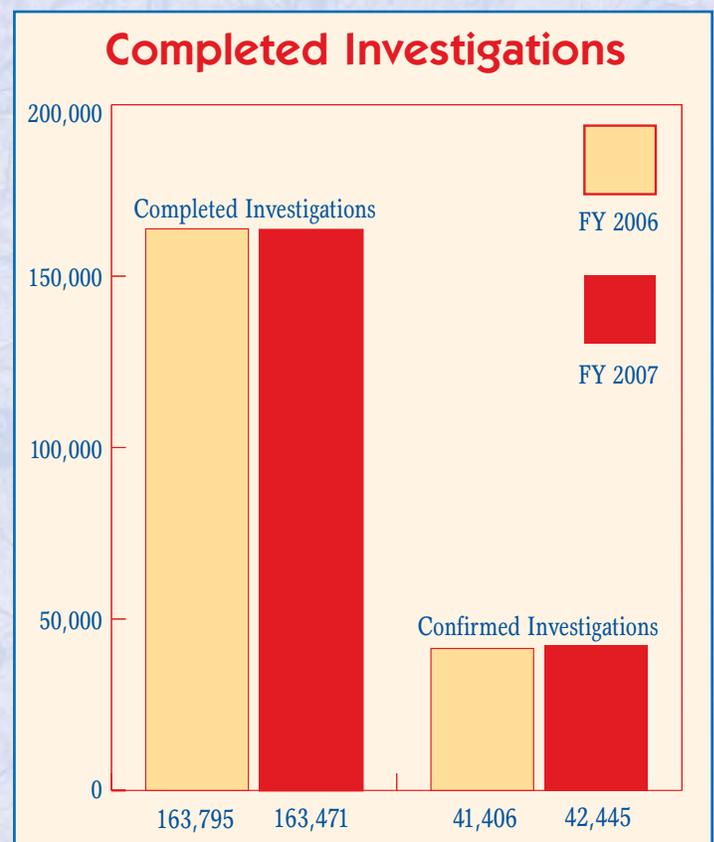
In cooperation with the DFPS Center for Consumer and External Affairs, CPS launched a comprehensive campaign called "Why

Not Me?" to encourage adoption, especially of older children who tend to linger longest in CPS conservatorship. Using a portion of a federal grant awarded for increasing adoptions in FY 2005, DFPS created high quality television and radio ads that ran statewide in April, May and June of 2007. Billboard and direct mail ads in predominately minority neighborhoods were utilized in July and August. This advertising worked in unison with free news media coverage in November 2006 (Adoption Awareness Month) and in April (Child Abuse Awareness Month) to raise awareness of the need for adoptive families for older children. CPS adoptions rose almost 19.2 percent in FY 2007.

Preventing Maltreatment

Drug Endangered Child Initiative

CPS partnered with the Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children to conduct training sessions, and formed local drug endangered children teams. CPS also completed the hiring of substance abuse specialists in every region. These specialists train CPS staff on substance abuse related issues and work with substance abuse treatment providers to ensure the treatment needs of clients are met.



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CPS Services

Intake

State law requires anyone who believes a child is being abused or neglected to report the situation to the DFPS abuse hotline. DFPS administers a toll free, 24-hour statewide hotline (1-800-252-5400) for reporting suspected abuse or neglect of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities. People can also report online through a secure web site at <https://www.txabusehotline.org>.

Anyone needing to report abuse or neglect (in English or Spanish) can reach a professional intake worker. All reports meeting the statutory definitions of abuse and neglect are assigned a priority based on the level of risk to the alleged victim. Law enforcement agencies are also notified of reports regarding children. DFPS received 241,125 reports of child abuse and neglect in 2007.

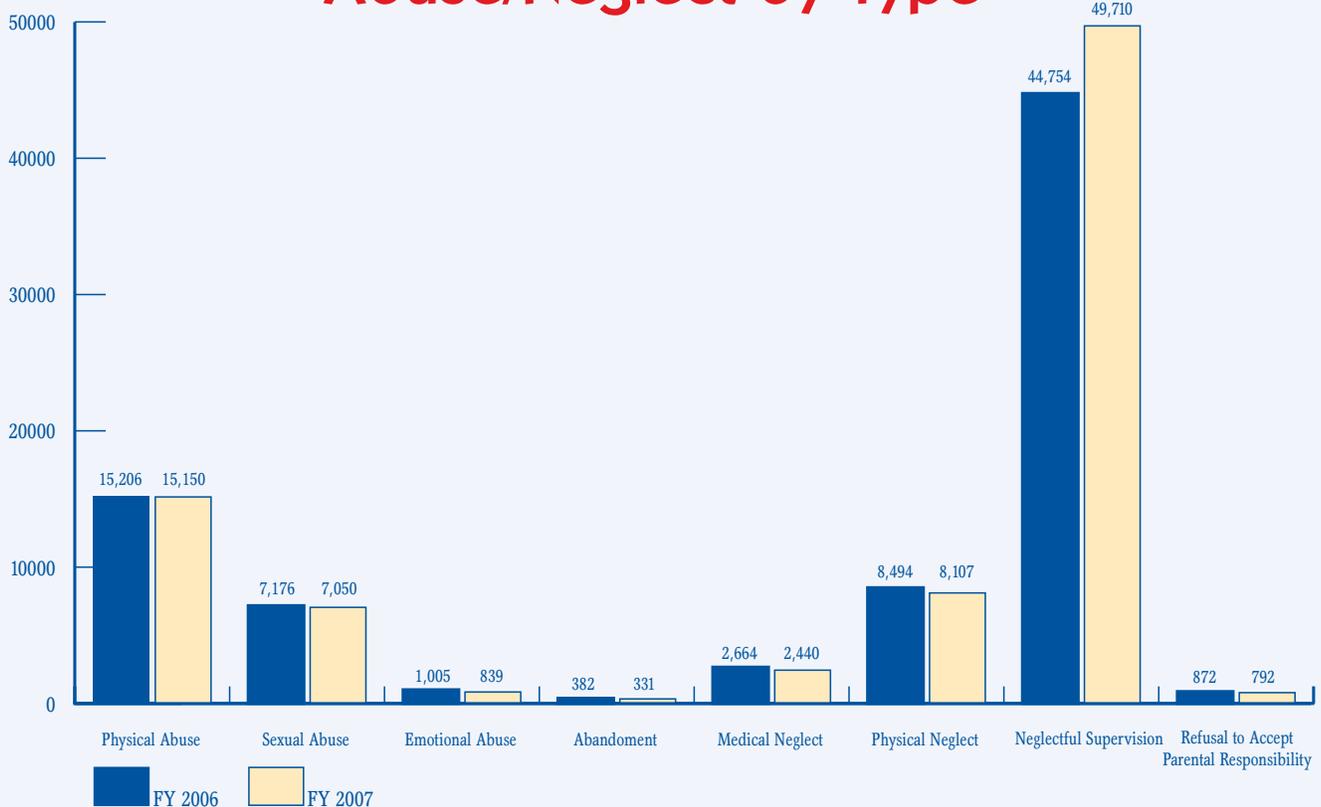
Investigations

When an intake report is assigned, CPS workers interview children, parents, and others with knowledge of the family. These interviews help determine if child abuse or neglect has occurred and assess the risk of further harm to the child. If criminal conduct is involved, law enforcement may investigate at the same time to determine if criminal charges will be filed. In 2007, CPS completed 163,471 investigations. Even if evidence of abuse or neglect is not found, caseworkers may refer families to services in the community, such as individual or family therapy, parenting classes, or programs offering financial assistance for utilities, rent, and child care.

Family-Based Safety Services (FBSS)

When child safety can be reasonably assured, CPS provides services to help stabilize the family and reduce the risk of future

Confirmed Allegations of Abuse/Neglect by Type

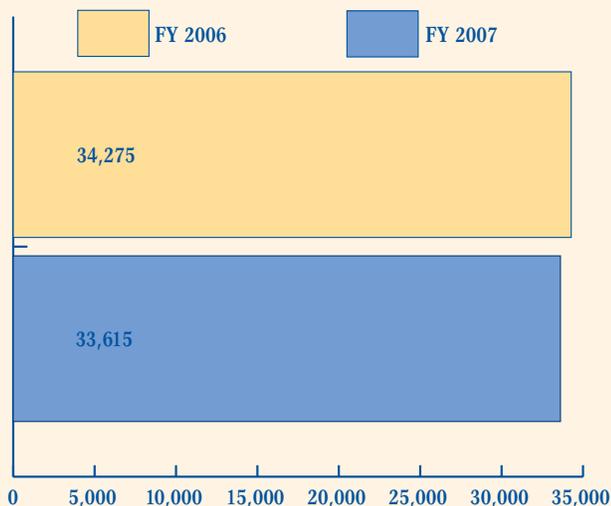


abuse or neglect. Services provided include family counseling, crisis intervention, parenting classes, substance abuse treatment, and child care. Most children served by FBSS continue to live at home while the department works with their families. In other cases, children may live elsewhere temporarily, usually with relatives or family friends, until the home becomes safe for them to return. In 2007, an average of 14,084 families per month received in-home services.

Foster Care

When it is not safe for children to live with their own families, CPS petitions the court to remove the children from their homes. They may be placed temporarily with relatives, a verified foster family, or an emergency shelter. Verified foster families provide a safe, nurturing environment for most children in CPS care. Foster families receive reimbursements for the cost of caring for children. CPS is required to arrange all medical, dental, and therapeutic services needed by the child. Some children have special emotional needs or other disabilities that can be difficult to address in a foster home. These children may be placed in specialized group homes, residential treatment centers, or other facilities. In 2007, the average number of children in foster care each month was 19,593.

Children in Foster Care During Fiscal Year 2007



Adoption

When it is not possible for a child to return home, the court may terminate the parents' rights and legally make the child available for adoption. DFPS completed 4,023 adoptions in 2007. DFPS contracts with licensed private child-placing agencies to increase the number of adoptive homes available to adopt foster children. At the end of 2007, there were 6,232 children in the department's custody awaiting adoption. Of the children awaiting adoption, 4,375 had not been placed with adults who planned to adopt them.

Dual-Licensed Homes

In 2007, 45.6 percent of adoptions were by foster parents. National studies indicate greater opportunities for successful adoptions in these situations because children and their new parents form a bond during the foster care placement. CPS makes a concerted effort to "dually license" homes for both foster care and adoption.

Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Families

CPS actively recruits foster and adoptive families through national, state, and regional campaigns, and through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange web site at www.adoptchildren.org. Examples include:

- ◆ The statewide Foster Care Month in May.
- ◆ Adoption Awareness Month in November. Activities include mass adoption events created by working with juvenile courts, adoptive families, attorneys, and others to schedule clusters of hearings for finalizing adoptions in November.
- ◆ The "Why Not Me?" campaign, which encourages families to become adoptive parents and adopt older children.
- ◆ Faith-based collaborations such as the Congregations Helping in Love and Dedication (CHILD) and the One Church, One Child programs currently in place in Dallas/Fort Worth, Beaumont, Tyler, and Houston.
- ◆ Heart Galleries, a national movement involving photo exhibits of children waiting for adoptive families. Professional photographers volunteer their time and skills to capture children's personalities and help them find loving homes.

Texas Adoption Resource Exchange

The Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) provides information on children awaiting adoption. Photos, profiles, videos, and inquiry forms are on the Internet at www.adoptchildren.org. TARE participates with other adoption organizations during national recruitment campaigns and promotes children on TARE

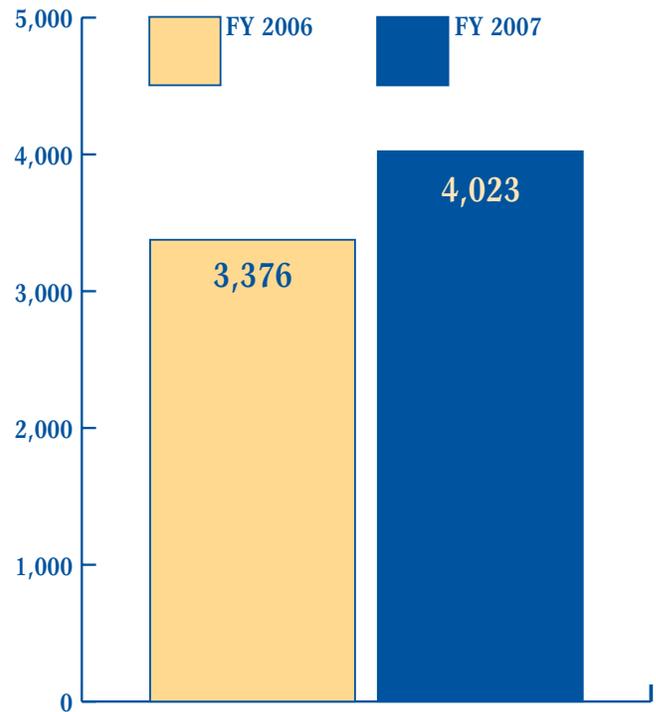
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in the AdoptUSKids national web site as well as other web sites. At the end of FY 2007, there were 1,361 children registered in TARE. In FY 2007, 349 children were adopted through TARE, 192 children were pending placement, 164 were removed due to numerous inquiries from approved adoptive families, and 213 children were removed from TARE due to changes in their permanency plan or medical needs.

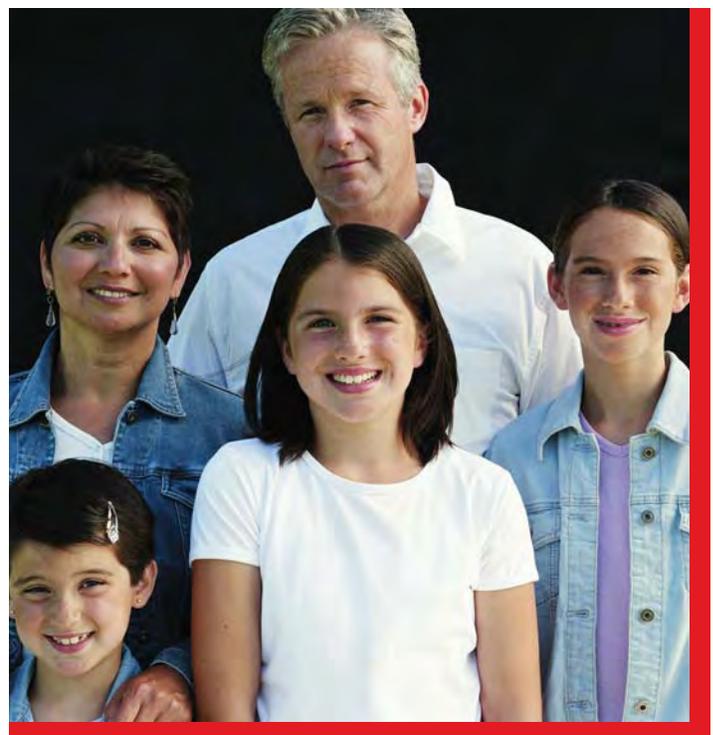
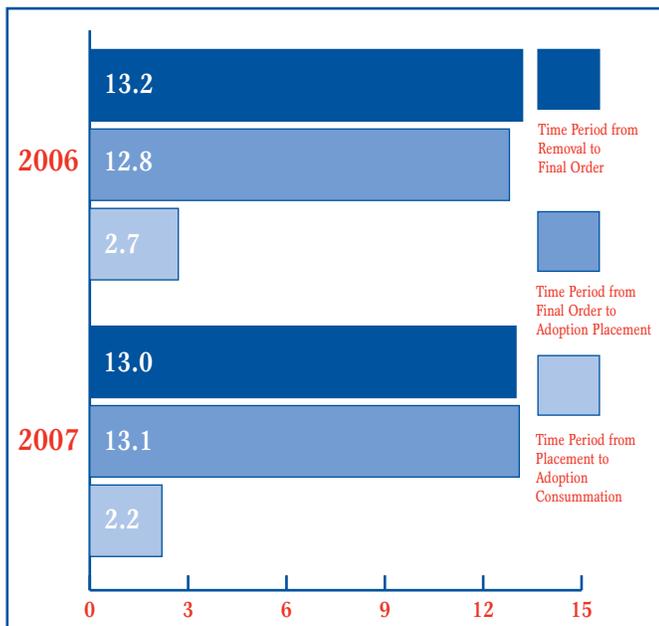
TARE offers a toll-free, statewide Adoption and Foster Care Inquiry Line (1-800-233-3405) and the Adoption Family Network (AFN). AFN is a free, self-registration listing of adoptive families and individuals across the United States approved for adoptions. Through AFN, families may list their preferences for children they are willing to parent, and this information is available to CPS adoption staff through a searchable database. The AFN has more than 2,000 approved adoptive families across the U.S. who registered their adoption preferences so that DFPS staff can match them with waiting children.

The toll-free statewide inquiry line receives about 150 to 200 calls a month from prospective foster care and adoptive families across the state. These calls are entered into Internet inquiry forms and forwarded to their respective regions as soon as they are received.

Completed Adoptions



Months Spent in State Care for Children whose Adoptions were Consumated



Adoption Support Services

Adopted children who have suffered abuse or neglect often need help coping with the effects of these experiences and the loss of their birth families. Each CPS region contracts with private agencies to provide post-adoption services to adopted children and their families. Those services include case management, mental health services, therapeutic services to children and families, parent training, support groups, and respite care for adoptive parents. Post-adoption services were provided to 2,337 children and families in 2007.

Services for Foster Youth Transitioning Out of Care

Preparation for Adult Living

The Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program helps make the transition to adulthood more successful for youth in foster care. PAL services include independent living assessments, time-limited financial help, and training in such areas as money management, job skills, educational planning, and interpersonal skills. A statewide youth leadership committee meets quarterly to review policies and practices, and submits recommendations to the DFPS Council and other decision-makers to improve services for children and youth. In 2007, 7,639 youths, ages 16 through 20, participated in the PAL program. In addition, 709 teenagers ages 14 and 15 received PAL services. Funds from the federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Act enabled CPS to provide aftercare room-

and-board assistance for 931 young adults, and case management services for 1,854 young adults, ages 18 through 21, who exited foster care.

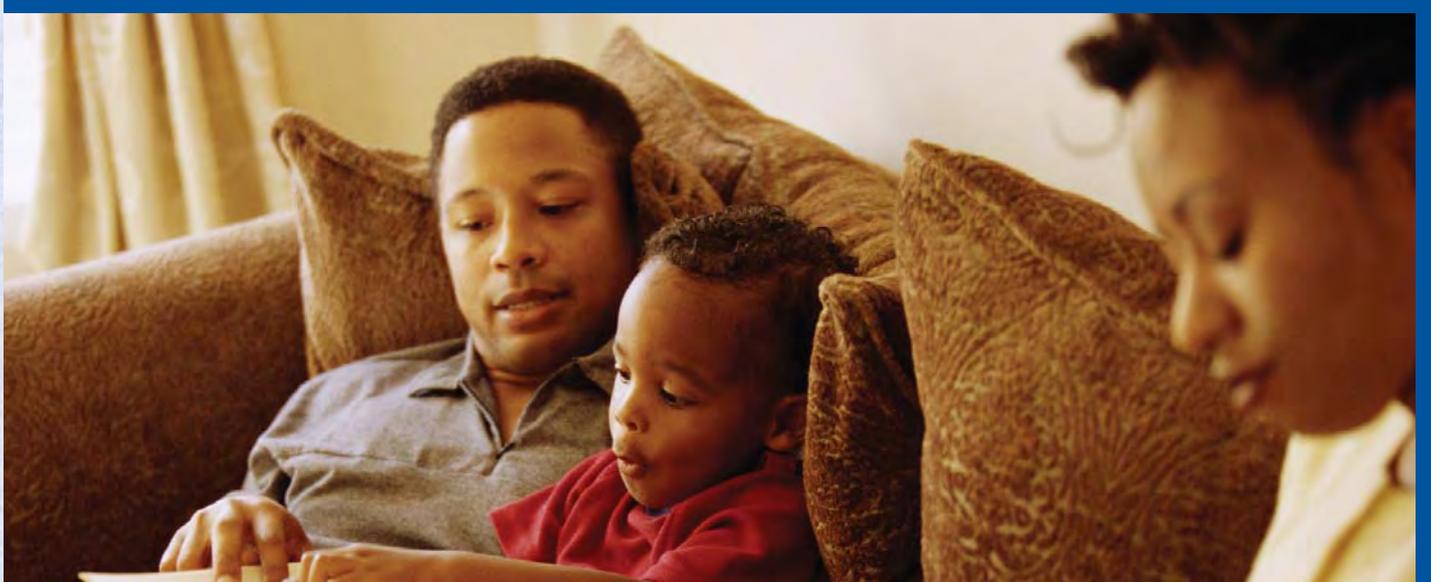
Education and Training Vouchers

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides additional money for youth who have left CPS care and are going to school to help cover expenses such as rent, computers, day care, and transportation. This program supplements the state's Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program, as well as a tuition waiver program at state-funded universities, colleges, junior colleges, and vocational schools. The ETV program served 610 youth in FY 2007.

Working with Partners

Child Welfare Boards

DFPS works with the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards (TCCWB), a statewide network of more than 2,000 volunteers appointed by county commissioners' courts to work in cooperation with CPS staff. Annually, child welfare boards distribute \$20 to \$30 million in County contributions to meet children's needs that cannot be met with DFPS funds. DFPS works with TCCWB and others to develop resources, programs, and strategies to enhance services to vulnerable children and families. Leaders from the regional councils come together with DFPS staff in Austin three to four times yearly for educational programs and to



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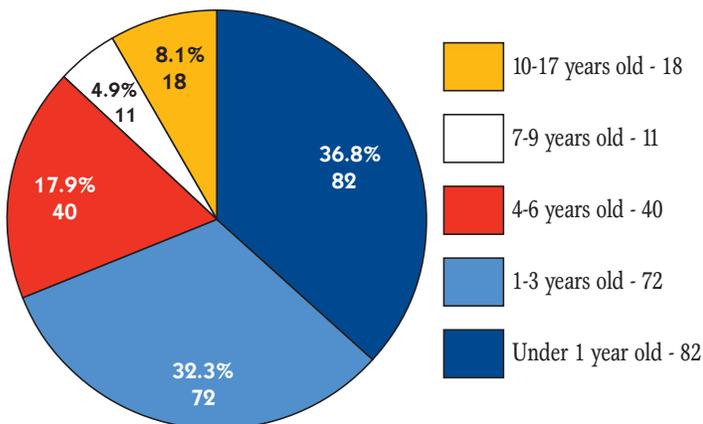
share information and strategies to provide for the safety and well being of children. Financial support is provided by DFPS, private donations, grants, and fundraising activities.

Greater Texas Community Partners

Greater Texas Community Partners supports two projects that help CPS caseworkers meet the needs of their clients: Rainbow Rooms and Adopt-A-Caseworker. Rainbow Rooms, supported by community contributions, provide donated clothes, toys, formula, and supplies to caseworkers in a store-like setting. Adopt-A-Caseworker projects pair church and civic groups, businesses, and individuals with CPS caseworkers to help children. Participants donate items such as birthday gifts, household goods, bus passes, new clothes, gift certificates for children's meals, and money to pay for utilities. These unique public/private partnerships between DFPS and local community partners groups throughout Texas support 113 Rainbow Rooms and 398 adopted caseworkers at 19 sites.

2007

Age of Fatality Victims Due to Abuse/Neglect



Abuse/Neglect Fatalities

CPS has developed both internal and external mechanisms to review child fatalities due to abuse/neglect. Citizen Review Teams, Child Fatality Review Teams, CPS child safety specialists, regional CPS child death review committees, and the state Child Safety Review Committee all review child deaths. While each entity reviews child deaths for unique purposes, a common goal is to help CPS and communities identify the causes of child fatalities and develop strategies, programs, and training to reduce the rate of preventable child deaths, as well as provide intervention services to families and children at risk.

CPS confirmed abuse or neglect as the cause of death for 223 children in FY 2007.

Texas State Strategy

The Texas State Strategy is a collaborative systems improvement effort of Casey Family Programs and DFPS. The strategy addresses challenges in the areas of kinship services and foster care transition services in Texas.