



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Annual Foster Youth Runaway Report

Fiscal Year 2017

H. L. Whitman, Jr., Commissioner

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Background

Runaways continue to be a national issue, particularly for children in foster care. To better understand the size, scope and risk of children running from foster care, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) documents how often children run away while in the custody of DFPS, how many reported being trafficked, and other contextual data.

This report is designed to meet the statutory requirements for reporting certain data elements on these vulnerable populations and to inform the legislature and stakeholders in their discussions on efforts to address the issue as a community. Law enforcement and the general public also have a role to play, because our foster children belong to a Texas community. If our aim as a state is to stem the flow of children who runaway and are ultimately at risk of being trafficked, we must address this issue from a united front. DFPS will continue to improve efforts in addressing runaways and sex trafficking within the foster care system and to collaborate with other agencies and non-profits.

Efforts to Address Runaways and Human Trafficking

Historic DFPS Efforts to Stem Human Trafficking of Foster Youth

DFPS has been actively involved in educating staff, youth and communities on the dangers of sex trafficking, as well as the warning signs. DFPS has partnered with the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division and Child Sex Trafficking Team, along with the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Public Safety and others to treat victims of sex trafficking and work to prevent new victimization. In July 2017, DFPS expanded its efforts by establishing the Division of Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation. This division is funded through a grant from the Office of the Governor. The grant will fund the division through May 2019.

Prior to the creation of the division, the CPS Investigations Division handled human trafficking efforts through:

- Awareness and training of CPS and DPS staff;
- Collaboration with other entities and non-profit groups;
- Becoming the second state in 2014 to enter a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to report children missing from care to NCMEC to engage them in efforts to find missing children; and
- Identifying more individualized placements and trauma-informed medical and psychological care for victims of trafficking.

The expanded mission of the Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Team encompasses the DFPS mission through programing that is survivor informed, trauma responsive, victim centered, and evidence based where possible.

The vision of the Team is to provide frontline staff with training to identify human trafficking, consistently participate in community discussions around human trafficking prevention, implement a statewide human trafficking identification tool, expand the existing continuum of care for victims of sex trafficking, and establish formal relationships with human trafficking stakeholders.

DFPS is working to provide Human Trafficking 101 training to all frontline staff and develop a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) curriculum for DFPS employees interested in becoming CSEC Champions. The Champions program will provide opportunities for professional development and further institutional knowledge around the issues of human trafficking.

Awareness though training is a vital step in lasting organizational and policy change. Ensuring that DFPS staff who have direct contact with children and their leadership have a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of human trafficking is a priority for the organization. The goal is to have 95 percent of frontline and Statewide Intake staff receive Human Trafficking 101 training by December 2018. Development of the Champions program will begin in fiscal year 2019.

The DFPS Human Trafficking team is committed to having consistent representation in community discussions of Human Trafficking and explore opportunities to bring people together where the conversation may not be occurring. Currently, DFPS staff are active members of the 27 taskforces across the state. These partnerships are crucial to coordinating inter-agency responses to our shared clients.

DFPS is planning to implement a CSEC identification tool statewide to help staff more quickly identify potential victims of sex trafficking. Early detection of at-risk youth is key to minimizing behaviors that may lead to exploitation. In summer 2018, DFPS will implement the Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Identification Tool (CSE-IT), developed by West Coast Children's Clinic in California. DFPS will screen high-risk youth aged 10 and older and at-risk youth aged 12 and older. Special Investigators will also screen any youth aged 10 and older who are alleged victims in a sex trafficking investigation.

DFPS is optimistic that increased training and the administration of the CSE-IT will lead to increased detection of Sex Trafficking. Training staff on the tool will begin in the summer of 2018 with the goal of training all staff by May 2019.

It is critical that DFPS and its partners strive to expand the existing continuum of care services for sex trafficking victims. DFPS has developed protocols which will not only help staff identify victims and at-risk youth, but also help identify service availability across Texas. The Human Trafficking team is working to expand the availability of specialized programming to the youth in our care.

DFPS is also working with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to identify areas of need. Developing existing agencies' programming and expertise to serve this

population will allow youth to remain in their homes, if appropriate, and in the least restrictive level of care while receiving specialized services in their community.

Texas must be unified in its approach to stemming the prevalence of human trafficking. Maybe the most crucial aspect of a united approach is the establishment of formal relationships with stakeholders who are also responding to the issue of Human Trafficking.

Since July 2017, DFPS has established formal relationships with three stakeholders: the Central Texas DMST Roundtable, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Co-training agreement, and the Office of the Attorney General for use of their “Be the One” video for training all DFPS staff. DFPS hopes to expand these partnership to fifteen by June 2019.

Trafficking and Runaways in Fiscal Year 2017

Trafficking Allegations¹ for Fiscal Year 2017

Sex trafficking allegations are received by DFPS at a much higher rate than labor trafficking. Allegations of sex trafficking reported to Statewide Intake’s child abuse hotline increased by 181 percent from 248 in fiscal year 2016 to 697 in fiscal year 2017 (see **Table 1**).

Table 1: Allegations Received

Allegation	FY2016	FY2017
Sex Trafficking	248	697
Labor Trafficking	45	47

It should be noted that an unknown number of these intakes categorized as sex trafficking are due to proper reclassification of cases that have previously been categorized as sexual abuse. These cases are now being tracked as referrals for sex trafficking cases to Investigations². Community education and awareness also play a role in an increase in all recognized forms of sex trafficking being reported to the hotline, including allegations where DFPS does not have jurisdiction to be involved with the youth and family.

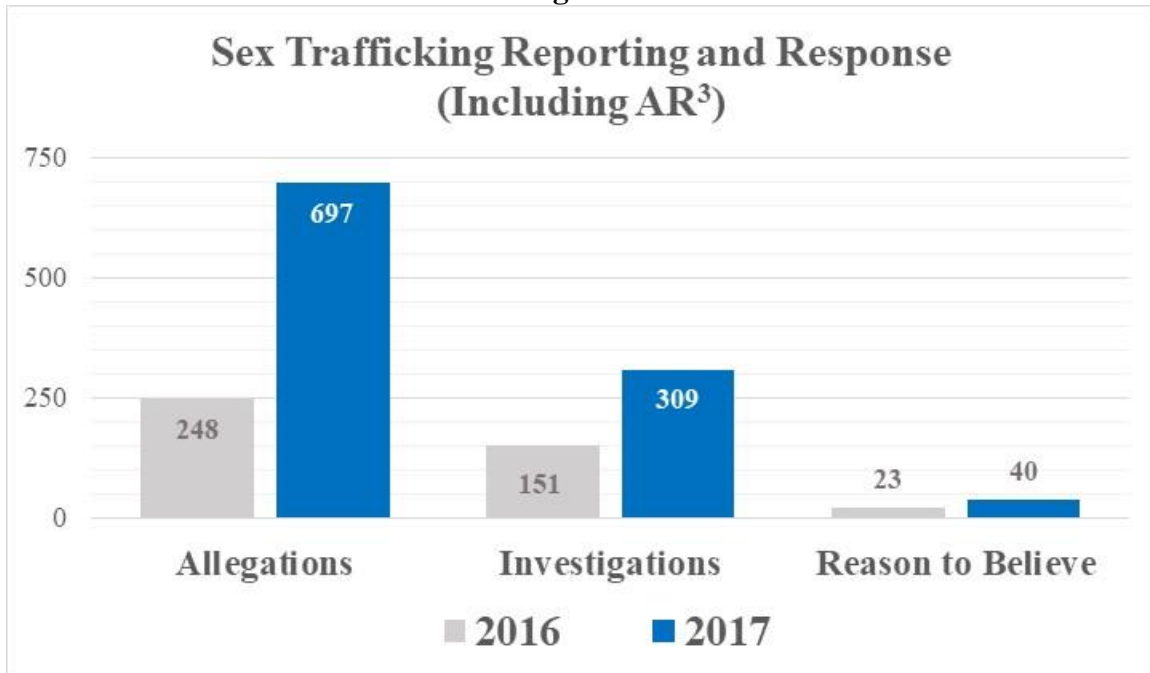
The number of these allegations that led to a disposition of “Reason to Believe” rose from 23 in fiscal year 2016 to 40 in fiscal year 2017 (see **Table 2**). The proportion of investigations for sex trafficking that ended in a disposition of “Reason to Believe” has not changed significantly from fiscal year 2016 (16 percent) to fiscal year 2017 (13 percent).

Table 2: Dispositions of ‘Reason to Believe’

Allegation	FY2016	FY2017
Sex Trafficking	23	40
Labor Trafficking	< 5	< 5

This increase in intakes has coincided with a significant decrease in the proportion of intakes for sex trafficking which progressed from intake to investigations: from 61 percent in fiscal year 2016 to 44 percent in fiscal year 2017 (see **Figure 1**).

Figure 1



Again, state law limits DFPS involvement with children and families in that DFPS may only be involved if the alleged perpetrator is a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child, such as a parent or legal guardian. If the alleged perpetrator is not a person responsible for the child’s care, custody, or welfare, DFPS has no legal authority to investigate the allegations. However, these cases are immediately referred by Statewide Intake to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction and to DPS.

It is important to note, sex trafficking investigations and Reason to Believe dispositions are a subset of the intakes for the fiscal year and are counted even if the Reason to Believe occurred in the subsequent fiscal year. So if an intake in fiscal year 2016 was confirmed in fiscal year 2017 it is counted in fiscal year 2016. The fiscal year 2016 numbers were refreshed in the fiscal year 2017 report to provide the most updated information for fiscal year 2016.

Runaway Data for Fiscal Year 2017

The number one risk factor for exploitation is being a runaway or homeless youth. DFPS began taking steps in 2013 to increase efforts to locate youth missing from conservatorship by being one of the first states to notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) when a youth was missing or had run away.

To further increase the agency’s efforts, Regional Director Assistants were incorporated into an updated system designed to ensure all runaway youth were assigned a Special Investigator to

locate them in fiscal year 2017. Improvements in the urgency and accuracy of reporting and searching for missing youth is evidenced by the significant increase in surveys completed by special investigators when youth ran from care and were located (see Appendix 2 for details).

Also in fiscal year 2017, DFPS executed a data share agreement with the Department of Public Safety in an effort to get the most accurate count of children who run away from conservatorship. The data provided allowed DFPS to see how many children were reported to law enforcement as runaway. The DFPS data for fiscal year 2016 was updated using the DPS data to provide a more accurate count of runaway youth, and so counts more children that were able to be identified in the previous report (for details on methodology, see Appendix 4).

Some 1,707 children and youth ran away during fiscal year 2017. The top seven reasons children and youth gave for running are listed below:

- Dislike of rules of placement (23%)
- Anger at CPS or the system (20%)
- Desire to be on one's own (20%)
- Desire to see family/relatives (16%)
- Frustration / anger with caregivers (14%)
- Desire to be with boyfriend or girlfriend (10%)
- Desire new placement (10%)

Note: There can be more than one answer, and the percentages shown are based on the 81 percent of surveys where youth talked about why they ran.³

Of the children and youth who ran away, about 72% were aged 15-17 when they first ran from care in the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 (see **Table 3**).

Table 3: Ages of Children and Youth at the Time of the Run Away Event

Age	FY2016 Number of Children	FY2016 (%)	FY2017 Number of Children	FY2017 (%)
17	443	26%	472	28%
16	459	27%	437	26%
15	323	19%	316	19%
14	234	14%	198	12%
13	127	7%	141	8%
12	34	2%	55	3%
Less than 12	75	4%	88	5%
Total	1,695	100%	1,707	100%

In both fiscal years, more females than males ran away.

Table 4: Gender of Children and Youth who Ran Away

Gender	FY2016 Number of Children	FY2016 (%)	FY2017 Number of Children	FY2017 (%)
Female	913	54%	895	52%
Male	781	46%	809	47%
Unknown	< 5	< 1%	< 5	< 1%
Total	1,695	100%	1,707	100%

Hispanic children accounted for nearly half of all runaways in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Table 5: Race/Ethnicity of Children and Youth that Ran Away

Race/Ethnicity	FY2016 Youth that Ran Away	FY2016 (%)	FY2017 Youth that Ran Away	FY2017 (%)
African American	390	23%	393	23%
Anglo	465	27%	476	28%
Hispanic	752	44%	746	44%
Native American	< 5	<1%	< 5	<1%
Other	70	4%	77	5%
Unknown	15-20	1%	10-15	1%
Total	1,695	100%	1,707	100%

Consistent with fiscal year 2016, the living arrangements with the highest number of runaway children were:

- Emergency Shelters (19%)
- Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) (19%)
- Therapeutic Foster Care (18%)

Table 6: Type of Substitute Care of Youth that Ran Away

Substitute Care Type	FY2016 Youth that Ran Away	FY2016 (%)	FY2017 Youth that Ran Away	FY2017 (%)
Emergency Shelter	313	18%	331	19%
Residential Treatment	369	22%	325	19%
Therapeutic Foster Care	370	22%	315	18%
Kinship Home	181	11%	201	12%
GRO	119	7%	131	8%
Other Foster Care	45	3%	82	5%
Unauthorized Placement	54	3%	71	4%
Own Home	79	5%	66	4%
DFPS Supervision	15	1%	36	2%
Foster Care: Child Care Services	55	3%	35	2%
Other	16	1%	18	1%
Unknown ⁴	79	5%	96	6%
Total	1,695	100%	1,707	100%

When youth run away or are missing from their placement, they are at greater risk of additional maltreatment. Sixty-two children⁵ and youth reported being victimized while they were on run away status in fiscal year 2017, with some experiencing multiple types of victimization (see **Table 7**).

Table 7: Children and Youth Victimized During Runaway Event

Youth that Reported Abuse	FY2016	FY2017
Reported Sex Trafficked	31	35
Reported Labor Trafficked	< 5	< 5
Reported Being Sexually Abused	20	34
Reported Being Physically Abused	8	< 5
<i>Total Found Surveys</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>1072</i>
<i>Youth Who Completed Found Survey</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>782</i>

As DFPS cannot know whether reports of runaway events from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT), or the surveys are duplicates, there is no way to synthesize all data sources to see how many times youth have run from care. The most sophisticated method DFPS can use is to see how many times youth were reported to DPS as having run away, with DPS having records for 89 percent of youth who ran from conservatorship.

Table 8 shows a breakdown of youth reported to DPS and on how many separate days they were reported as runaway. In fiscal year 2017:

- 56% were reported as a runaway once;
- 20% were reported as a runaway twice; and
- 24% of youth who ran were reported as runaway three or more times.

Table 8: Reports Made to DPS That Matched Name and Date of Birth of Youth in Care

Times Reported to DPS	FY2016 Youth	FY2016 % Youth	FY2017 Youth	FY2017 % Youth
1	858	57%	825	56%
2	306	20%	289	20%
3	135	9%	142	10%
4	79	5%	84	6%
5	43	3%	40	3%
6	29	2%	43	3%
7	13	1%	14	1%
8	16	1%	6	0%
9	13	1%	9	1%
10 or more	21	1%	30	2%
Total	1,513	100%	1,482	100%

Of the 1,707 children and youth who ran away during fiscal year 2017:

- 1,405 (82%) were located as of August 31, 2017.⁶
- A total of 223 (13%) youth were still missing on August 31, 2017⁷. These youth had been missing an average of 13 weeks as of August 31, 2017⁸.
- A total of 79 (5%) youth ran from care and exited conservatorship while missing in fiscal year 2017. DFPS continues to search for any youth missing from conservatorship until a judge orders the legal case closed due to the youth turning 18. Of the 79,
 - 51 (3%) youth turned 18 while on runaway status⁹.
 - < 5 youth ran away prior to DFPS receiving court ordered conservatorship¹⁰.
 - 27 (1.6%) had legal responsibility terminated while on runaway status before they had turned 18¹¹.

The number of children and youth who ran away and were located during the fiscal year was calculated by taking the 1,707 children and youth and looking at their living arrangement in IMPACT and the list maintained by the Regional Director Assistants on August 31, 2017. If the youth was recorded in care in IMPACT, and was not on the Regional Director Assistants' lists of runaway youth, they were counted as located. A child or youth may have had multiple located events during the fiscal year.

When a child or youth who has runaway is located, they are interviewed and an online form is completed.¹² The online form captures information about why the child or youth said they ran away and whether they reported being trafficked or victimized while on run away status. A child or youth can have multiple located events during the fiscal year.

Of the 36 children and youth located during the fiscal year 2017 with a completed located online form who reported being trafficked while they were on runaway status:

- Four females reported being sex trafficked twice
- One female reported being labor trafficked.

Conclusion

Vulnerable children, like those in the foster care system, struggle to maintain stable family environments. The number one risk factor for any youth being trafficked is being a runaway or homeless. DFPS continues to work to ensure dedicated staff and resources focusing on the complex issues of runaway and trafficked youth. By utilizing existing data and current research, DFPS is working to identify training and policy needs. DFPS continues efforts to mitigate runaway episodes for youth in conservatorship, identify individual risk factors for high-risk and at-risk youth and seek to provide specialized services as appropriate. DFPS is committed to treating complex trauma, a common characteristic for sexually exploited youth. DFPS will continue to serve these traumatized and victimized youth through necessary long-term treatment.

DFPS is committed to working with law enforcement, other local, state, and federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations to protect vulnerable children from predators.

For more information on human trafficking, including a review of national research and DFPS future efforts, please see the Senate Bill 1, Rider 45 [Victims of Sex Trafficking](#) Report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Report Requirements

Senate Bill 206 from the 84th Legislature modified Texas Family Code § 264.017(b)(12) and (13) to require DFPS to report on:

- The number of children who are missing from the children's substitute care provider while in the managing conservatorship of the department; and
- The number of children who were victims of trafficking under Chapter 20A, Penal Code, while in the managing conservatorship of the department.

House Bill 1217 from the 84th Legislature modified Texas Family Code § 264.123 to require DFPS to report on additional data points regarding the children who go missing from care. Specifically, DFPS must also report:

- Whether a child who went missing was a victim of the offense of Trafficking in Persons (Texas Penal Code Section 20A.02(a)(7));
- Whether the managing conservatorship of the department 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 September 2014, President Barack Obama signed the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, Public Law \(P.L. 113-183\)](#) into law. This law addresses many aspects of child welfare, but more specifically addresses child welfare's response to children in state custody who may be or are suspected of being a victim of human trafficking. This federal law also requires that state child welfare agencies track how many children run away while in state custody, what their experiences are while on the run, and why they ran away.

Appendix 2: DFPS System for Tracking Runaways

Child Protective Services (CPS) notes runaway events for children in CPS conservatorship in the "Contact Narrative" text section of the agency's statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS), IMPACT. Information in a contact narrative, however, can only be extracted through a manual case read. In other words, no automatic search of records can tell us how many children in the foster care system runaway each year. As a result, CPS used the living arrangement of "runaway" in IMPACT as an estimate of runaways; an indicator that is dependent on a child's placement. A placement can be held open for up to two weeks in case the child returns. This method of counting does not always include short-term runaways¹³ (e.g., a youth who ran away for a day or two and then returned to their placement and so never had a "runaway" living arrangement). Thus, the CPS report identifying children designated as having a "runaway" living arrangement in IMPACT¹⁴ does not fully capture the total number of runaway events.

To more efficiently and effectively comply with state and federal reporting requirements, changes need to be made to the agency's IMPACT computer system. These changes, which include an indicator for "runaway" independent of placement status, have been analyzed, prioritized, and are scheduled to occur by the end of fiscal year 2018.

Pending IMPACT changes, in fiscal year 2016, CPS created a process outside of IMPACT to better count all runaway events regardless of whether the children or youth had a "runaway" living arrangement. When a child runs away, the caseworker notifies a Special Investigator (SI), who is a former law enforcement officer, to help locate the child. When the SI is notified of a runaway event, he or she completes an online form regarding the event. When a child who has run away is located, the child is interviewed and another online form is completed to capture information about the child's experiences while on runaway and whether or not the child has been trafficked.

This process was updated in fiscal year 2017 to involve Regional Director Assistants to ensure all reported runaway children were assigned an SI. This process led to improvements in the number of SIs assigned and searching for children. Improvement in the urgency and accuracy of reporting and searching for missing youth is evidenced by the increase in the number of surveys completed both when youth ran and were found. There were 1,175 runaway surveys and 1,073 found surveys completed in fiscal year 2017, an increase from the 629 runaway surveys and 640 found surveys completed in fiscal year 2016.

Appendix 3: Explanation of How Runaway Data is Calculated

The number of children and youth who ran away and were located during the fiscal year was calculated by taking the 1,707 youth who ran away and looking at their living arrangement in IMPACT on August 31, 2017, and the lists of those runaway kept by the Regional Director Assistants. If their living arrangement was something other than "runaway" in IMPACT, and they were not on the Regional Director Assistant list as being on runaway status, they were counted as located. If their living arrangement was "runaway", or they were on the Regional Director Assistant list as currently run away, they were counted as not located. As there was no Regional Director Assistant list in fiscal year 2016, comparable data for the number of youth located cannot be calculated for that fiscal year. Youth who turned 18 years old while on runaway status were considered not to have been located. Youth were also counted as not located if they left care on runaway status prior to turning 18 years old. A child or youth may have had multiple located events during the fiscal year.

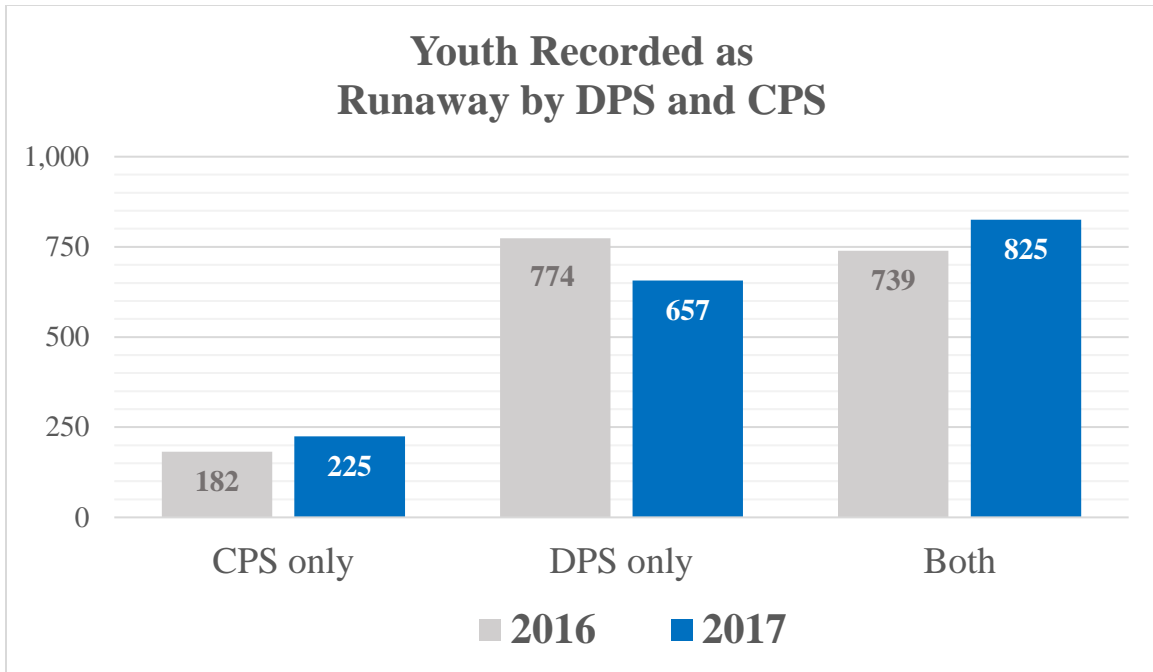
Appendix 4: CPS and DPS Data Sharing for Counting Runaways Not Captured in CPS Tracking

To better account for runaways, a data sharing agreement between CPS and DPS was executed in fiscal year 2017 to determine how many children in care were reported to law enforcement as runaway. This data match has provided a valuable new source of information to understand how many youth run from care. The number of children and youth who ran away during the fiscal year was calculated by combining and cross-referencing data returned from DPS, data from IMPACT, and data from the case records¹⁵. A child or youth may have had multiple runaway events during the fiscal year. A review of the fiscal year 2016 data using the same updated methodology was conducted to allow some comparisons to be made between fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017.

Data from DPS have confirmed that more children run from care than are able to be captured in the current CPS system. When DPS data was cross-referenced with DFPS data, it was found that there were records of 1,707 individual youth running from care in fiscal year 2017. Six hundred and fifty seven of these youth were not recorded as having run from care in the CPS system through either IMPACT or runaway surveys. There are several reasons why a youth's runaway episode would not have been captured. One reason is the child returned to care prior to the placement being changed in IMPACT. Another reason is not enough data regarding the child was provided to DPS to match with that child's CPS records. The current system of tracking runaways from conservatorship is likely to continue to have difficulty counting youth who run for short durations¹⁶. If the child returns before a Special Investigator (SI) has been assigned, no survey would be completed and there would be no mechanism for CPS to count the child's runaway event.

Impending updates to IMPACT will allow case workers to enter short term runaway events without changing the child's living arrangement. This will provide an opportunity to better record and understand this population once caseworkers become familiar with the updated process. Despite these challenges, the fiscal year 2017 introduction of the Regional Director Assistants manual tracking of runaway youth to ensure timely SI assignment filled the gaps in the existing IMPACT system and resulted in an increase in the number of surveys completed from 626 in fiscal year 2016 to 1,174 in fiscal year 2017. Simply stated, urgency was a priority and tracking increased accountability in early assignment of SIs leading to more accurate rates of identification and tracking missing youth. As a result, the percentage of total runaway youth not recorded in the CPS system decreased from 46 percent in fiscal year 2016 to 38 percent in fiscal year 2017 (see **Figure 2**).

Figure 2



As previously noted, some youth recorded as having run from DFPS care by CPS were not matched within the DPS system. Of the 182 youth identified as having run from DFPS care in fiscal year 2016 but not matched to DPS records, 90 had runaway surveys completed in fiscal year 2016, with 55 percent reporting law enforcement had been contacted.

Similar results were found in the fiscal year 2017 data, with 134 of the 225 unmatched youth with completed runaway surveys, with 97 percent of these indicating law enforcement had been contacted when the youth ran from care. It is possible that many of these youth could not be matched to the DPS database due to shortcomings in the methods available to match the data sets, where only name and date of birth were able to be used.

Appendix 5: Statewide Intake Trafficking Reports

Texas Statewide Intake (SWI) accepts reports of abuse or neglect regarding children and elderly or disabled adults in the State of Texas. By law, CPS's jurisdiction in investigating all abuse cases extends to a parent or a person traditionally responsible for the child's care. *Texas Family Code* §§ 261.001(5) and 261.301. If the alleged perpetrator is not a parent or person traditionally responsible for the child's care, it is not in CPS's jurisdiction to investigate. Statewide Intake refers to CPS intakes with an allegation of sex trafficking under the Texas Family Code when any component of (1) or (2) apply:

- (1) The actions of a parent or other person traditionally responsible for a child meet the core elements of sex trafficking when he or she:
 - knowingly provides the child to others, obtains the child for oneself, or allows the child to engage in or become the victim of any of the offenses listed in [Penal Code Subsection 20A.02\(a\)\(7\)](#);
 - maintains control over the child and makes the child believe that he or she has no other choice but to continue engaging in the offenses listed in [Penal Code Subsection 20A.02\(a\)\(7\)](#) , resulting in a pervasive loss of freedom for the child; or
 - receives a monetary or nonmonetary benefit as a result of the child participating in any of the offenses listed in [Penal Code Subsection 20A.02\(a\)\(7\)](#) . Benefits can include but are not limited to: sexual services, currency, drugs, etc.
- (2) A parent or other person traditionally responsible for a child fails to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being sex trafficked as described above.

Statewide Intake also refers to CPS an intake with an allegation of labor trafficking under the Texas Family Code when any component of (1) or (2) apply:

- (1) For the purposes of labor or services, a parent or other person traditionally responsible for a child uses force, fraud, or coercion and:
 - knowingly provides the child to others, obtains the child for oneself, or allows the child to be trafficked;
 - maintains control over the child and makes the child believe that he or she has no other choice but to continue with the labor or services, resulting in a pervasive loss of freedom for the child; or
 - receives a monetary or nonmonetary benefit for the child's labor or services, such as using the services for oneself.
- (2) A parent or other person traditionally responsible for a child fails to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being labor trafficked as described above.

By law, all intakes on all forms of abuse that are reported to the SWI hotline are referred to local law enforcement, *Texas Family Code* § [261.105\(b\)](#). DFPS has put into place a specialized protocol for intakes alleging sex trafficking when DFPS does not have jurisdiction to investigate. If a call comes into SWI alleging that a child is being trafficked, and if CPS does not have

jurisdiction to investigate, SWI not only sends the referral to the local law enforcement agency, but also sends a report to the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Joint Crime Information Center where the information can be used for strategic and analytical assistance to law enforcement statewide regarding criminal organizations, gangs, etc. Pimps or traffickers can be quite mobile, and DPS, armed with this information, helps local law enforcement agencies across the state recognize patterns and modus operandi on cases and suspects who travel to multiple locations.

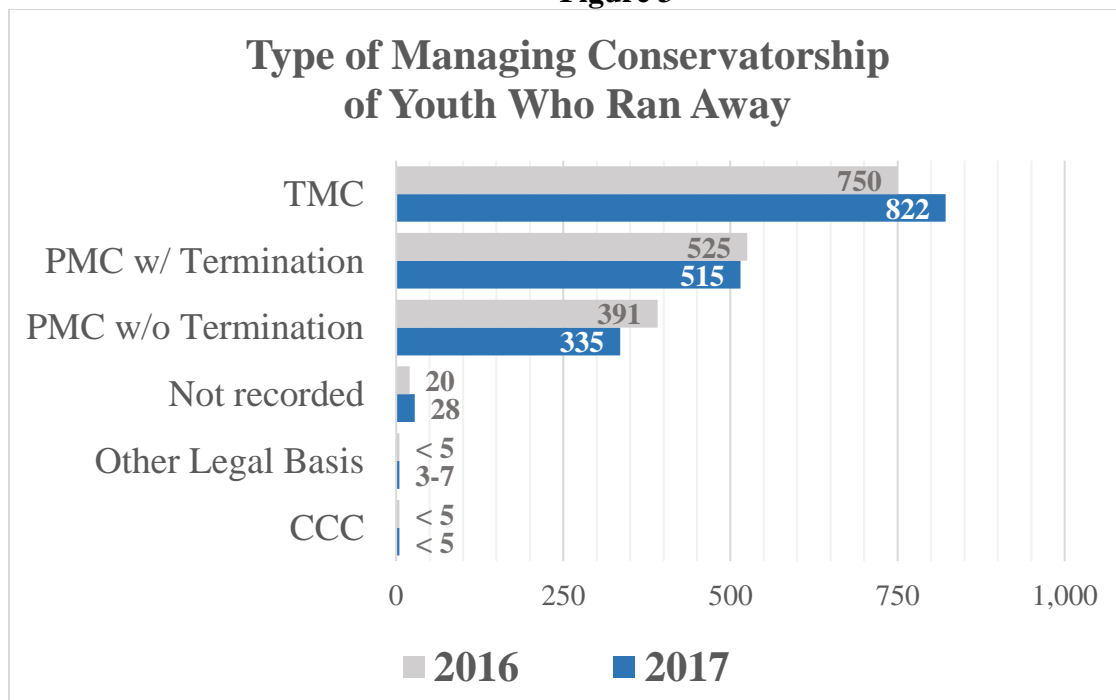
Appendix 6: Additional Data

Table 9: First Placement Counties Where Youth Ran From in Fiscal Year 2017

County	Number of Youth that Ran from Care	County	Number of Youth that Ran from Care
Harris	388	Hays	< 5
Bexar	165	Parker	< 5
Dallas	145	Johnson	< 5
Travis	116	Navarro	< 5
Tarrant	73	Rusk	< 5
Montgomery	51	Trinity	< 5
Cameron	39	Upshur	< 5
Comal	39	Angelina	< 5
Fort Bend	39	Caldwell	< 5
Hidalgo	37	Comanche	< 5
Smith	31	Ector	< 5
Webb	29	Hockley	< 5
Lubbock	28	Hood	< 5
Kendall	27	Houston	< 5
Randall	27	Jim Wells	< 5
McLennan	26	Nacogdoches	< 5
Bell	24	Orange	< 5
El Paso	19	Van Zandt	< 5
Potter	19	Wilson	< 5
Taylor	17	Andrews	< 5
Williamson	16	Aransas	< 5
Austin	13	Bandera	< 5
Jefferson	13	Calhoun	< 5
Lampasas	13	Castro	< 5
Nueces	13	Chambers	< 5
San Patricio	13	Childress	< 5
Denton	12	Clay	< 5
Harrison	12	Coryell	< 5
Walker	12	Fannin	< 5
Tom Green	11	Freestone	< 5
Kerr	10	Frio	< 5
Guadalupe	9	Gray	< 5
Brazoria	8	Hardin	< 5

Grayson	8	Jack	< 5
Hunt	8	Jasper	< 5
Matagorda	8	Lamar	< 5
Bee	7	Liberty	< 5
Brazos	7	Montague	< 5
Gregg	7	Moore	< 5
Kaufman	7	Morris	< 5
Wichita	7	Palo Pinto	< 5
Bastrop	6	Rockwall	< 5
Henderson	6	San Augustine	< 5
Midland	6	Terry	< 5
Brown	5	Tyler	< 5
Galveston	5	Waller	< 5
Atascosa	< 5	Washington	< 5
Cherokee	< 5	Willacy	< 5
Collin	< 5	Young	< 5
Ellis	< 5	Not Recorded Or Otherwise Unavailable	29
Erath	< 5	Total	1,707

Figure 3



Appendix 7: Online sources for more information

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Investigations/Human_Trafficking/human_trafficking_CPS_activity.asp

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Investigations/Human_Trafficking/

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Investigations/Human_Trafficking/human_trafficking_resources.asp

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/swi_procedures/files/SWP_pg_4290.asp

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Resource_Guides/Missing_Children_Resource_Guide.pdf

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6300.asp
(specifically 6314)

<https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/safety/human-trafficking.asp>

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/documents/Standards_and_Regulations/748_GRO.pdf
(Subchapter V)

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/documents/Standards_and_Regulations/749_CPA.pdf (Subchapter V)

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/Licensing/Files/LPPH_pg_3000.asp#LPPH_3321_3

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/HR/htm/HR.42.htm>
Human Resource Code 42.041 (b) (23)(b)

¹ DRIT 81100 was used as a starting point, with modifications made by the Analytics and Evaluation team.

² The SXTR (sex trafficking) allegation was introduced on 9/1 of FY2016.

³ Based on the 865 completed located surveys where the child discussed why they ran from their last placement. These surveys represent responses from 652 children and youth.

⁴ "Unknown" is what was recorded in IMPACT for the youth's living arrangement on the day the youth was reported to have run from care.

⁵ This is a count of children who disclosed experiencing any form of victimization, and so includes children who have experienced multiple forms of victimization or have been victimized multiple times. It does not include those who were suspected of having been the victim of trafficking but who did not disclose any form of victimization.

⁶ We cannot provide an accurate overall average time run from care. Reporting the average time missing among those entered into IMPACT would provide an overestimate of the average time run, as those entered into IMPACT are those that were missing for long enough to have their living arrangement changed to runaway.

⁷ 194 youth were recorded in the RDA lists as having run from care and not been located on August 31st 2017. A further 29 were recorded in IMPACT as having run from care and not been located on the same day, giving a total of 223 youth missing having run from care at the end of FY2017.

⁸ Time missing was calculated from the runaway date entered in the RDA list if available, or the last date run away in IMPACT to August 31st, 2017.

⁹ Counted if youth turned 18 and had a living arrangement of "runaway".

¹⁰ Have an end date to their runaway placement with legal status of CVS not obtained and no next placement entered

¹¹ Have an end date to their runaway placement with legal status of FPS responsibility terminated and no next placement entered

¹² There were 1072 completed located surveys in fiscal year 2017 representing 782 unique children and youth.

¹³ But did include children of teenage parents where the teenage parent ran away with their child and both the teenage parent and the child were in substitute care.

¹⁴ The Sa_25 shows which children are missing from care according to IMPACT data.

¹⁵ When collating data by child, the child's person ID and date run were listed from the DPS data, IMPACT data, and runaway survey data. This was matched to data in IMPACT to extract information for the child relating to the reported dates that the child ran from care. We are confident in the accuracy of the reported dates run, and so are confident the corresponding data retrieved from IMPACT will be correct, which has resulted in less missing data than in the FY2016 report. To get data by child, the first runaway event captured by DPS that matched a child in IMPACT was used. If the child was not present in the DPS data, the first runaway event recorded in IMPACT was used. If there was a runaway survey for a child that matched IMPACT, and the youth was not in the DPS or IMPACT data, they were then included. It should be noted that this sampling method will bias the data to reflect younger runaways, and more youth in TMC. Found surveys were not used as we do not know when these youth ran, so do not know if they ran in the fiscal year, and so we would not be able to match their data to IMPACT.

¹⁶ Short durations could be because someone worried about a youth being later than usual reported them as runaway or a youth returned before they were recognized in the DFPS tracking processes.