

# Supportive Services

## Child Abuse Hotline

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect in Texas may be made to local child protective services offices or to the statewide Child Abuse Hotline in Austin. The hotline number is 1-800-252-5400. The hotline was established in 1974 to ensure 24-hour statewide intake coverage for the child protective services program. Also, DHS did not want to exclude anyone

from reporting because of long distance charges. In addition to relaying reports to local offices for investigation, hotline employees provide policy information about child protective services and give information and referral services for a variety of social services programs throughout the state.

The category "resulting reports" in the chart below reflects both the number of child abuse or neglect reports taken by the hotline and the calls in which the complainant agreed to report directly to the local child protective services unit.

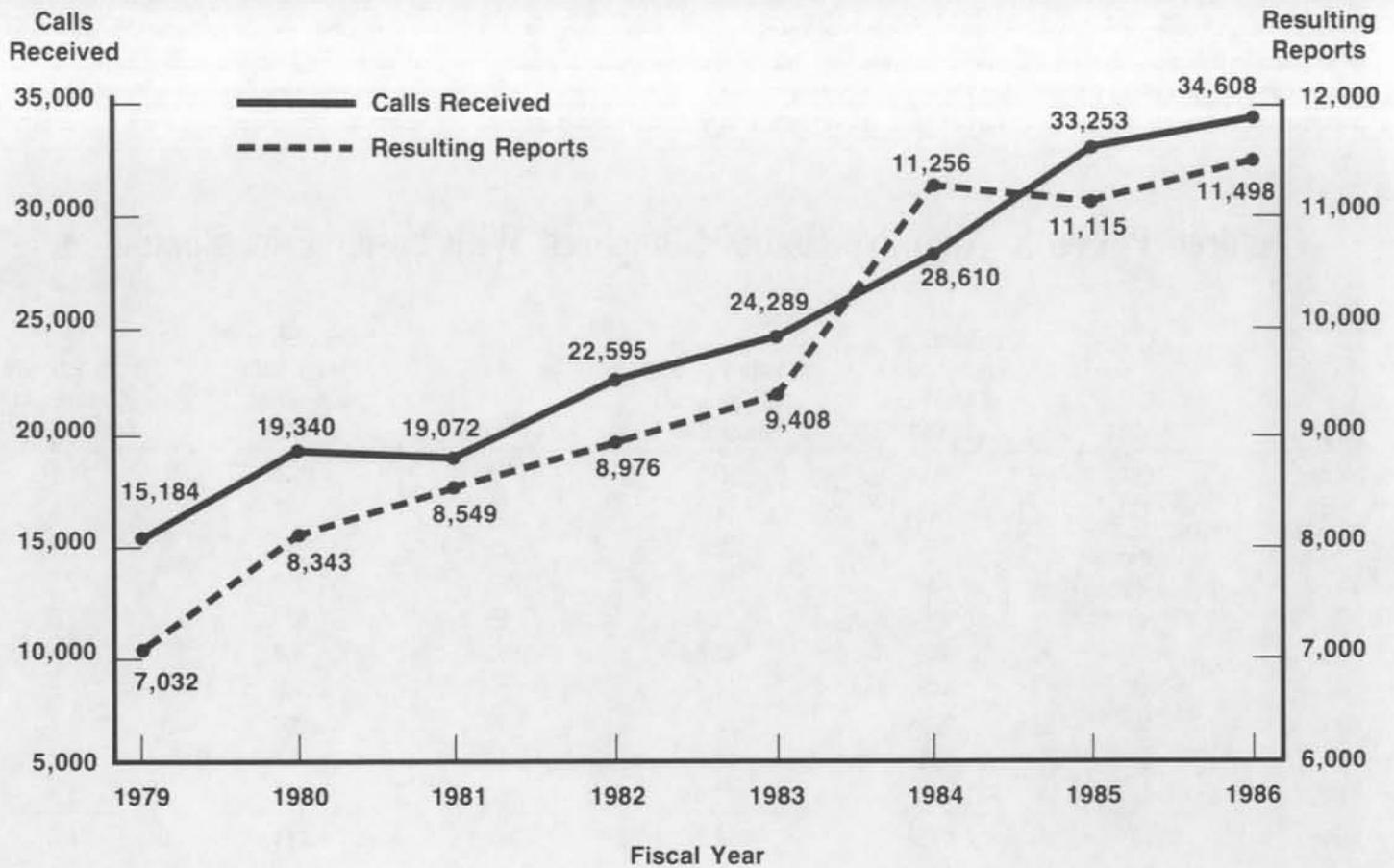
**Note:** The hotline also receives calls

reporting suspected abuse and neglect of the aged and disabled.

## Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is administered through the Texas Interstate Placement Section (TIPS) of the Protective Services for Families and Children Branch. In fiscal year 1986, TIPS processed 1,646 requests for approval to place a child in Texas from another

### Child Abuse Hotline Calls Received and Resulting Reports



state, and 1,044 requests from Texas to place children in other states. The second table below shows that the majority of placements in Texas are with the child's relatives or are a reunification with parents. Most of the placements from Texas to other states are adoptions.

Texas, which ratified the compact in 1975, is one of 49 states that have enacted the agreement, which promotes cooperation among participating states.

To safeguard the child and the parties involved in the child's placement, the Interstate Compact:

- allows the prospective receiving state to ensure that the placement is not contrary to the interests of the child

and that its applicable laws and policies have been followed before it approves the placement;

- offers the child legal and financial protection by ensuring that these responsibilities continue to be met by the sending agency or individual; and

- ensures that the sending agency or individual does not lose jurisdiction over the child once the child moves to the receiving state.

These safeguards are routinely available when the child, the person or responsible agency, and the placement are all in a single state or jurisdiction. When the placement involves two states or jurisdictions, these safeguards are available only through the compact.

## Placements Considered Under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children FY 1986

	Into Texas	Percent of Total	Out of Texas	Percent of Total
Total Approved*	998	60.6	833	79.8
Total Denied	648	39.4	211	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Placements Approved by Type of Placement

For adoption	137	13.7	460	55.2
For reunification with parents	407	40.8	100	12.0
For placement with relatives	321	32.2	217	26.1
For foster home care	26	2.6	10	1.2
For other types of care**	107	10.7	46	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Updated totals; includes placements into and out of New Jersey, the only state which has not adopted the compact.

\*\*Includes group home care, residential treatment, basic child care, and institutional care.