

Supportive Services

Abuse Hotline

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect in Texas may be made to local child protective services offices or to the statewide 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

Figure 33 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. The decrease in calls received, and the more significant drop in resulting reports in fiscal year 1987 compared to 1986, mirror the decreases experienced by most regions in the number of reports filed.

Note: The hotline also receives calls reporting suspected abuse and neglect of aged and disabled adults.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is administered through the Texas Interstate Placement

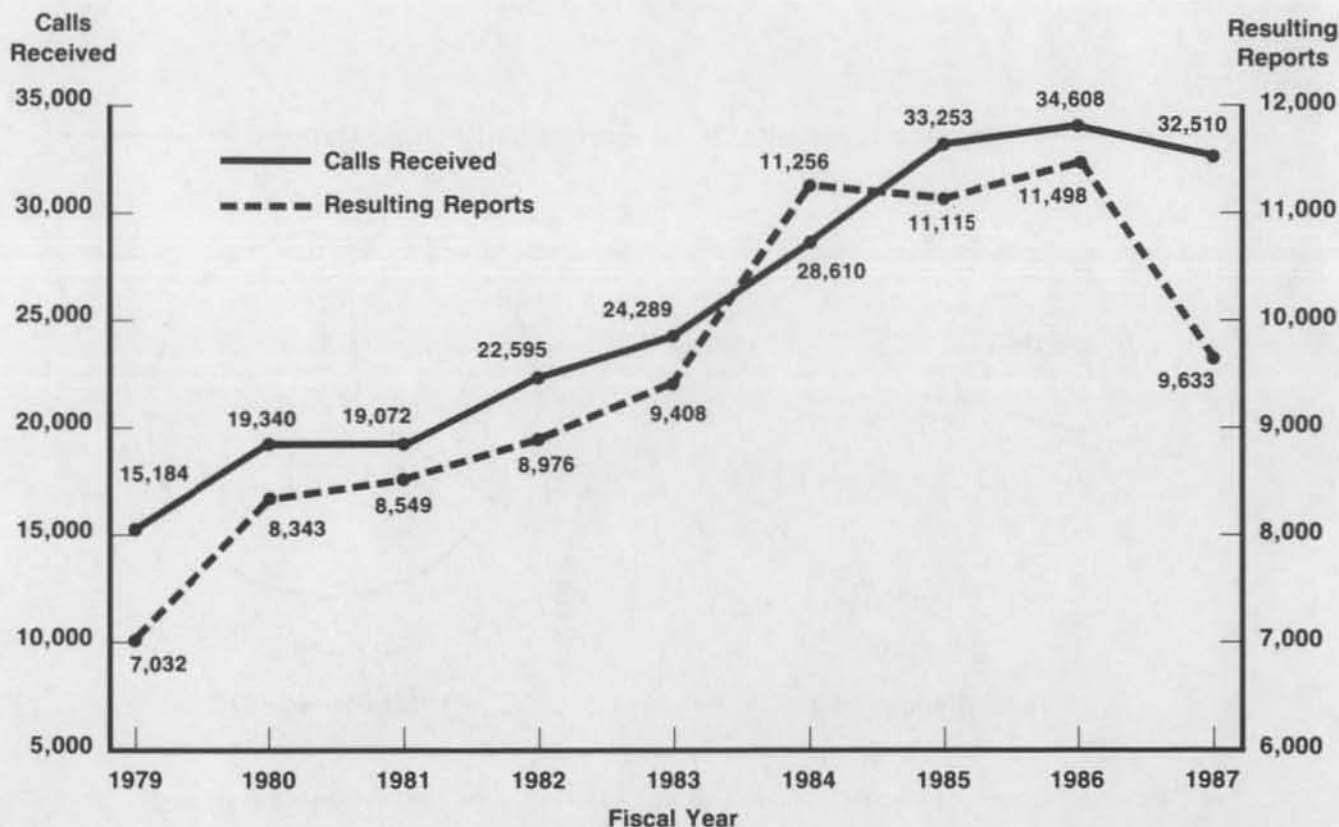
Section (TIPS) of the Protective Services for Families and Children Branch. In fiscal year 1987, TIPS processed 1,261 requests from Texas to place children in other states, up from 1,044 in 1986, and 1,706 requests for approval to place a child in Texas from another state, which was also an increase over 1986. Figure 34b shows that the majority of placements made into 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 has 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

Figure 33
Child Abuse Hotline
Calls Received and Resulting Reports



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.

Figure 34a

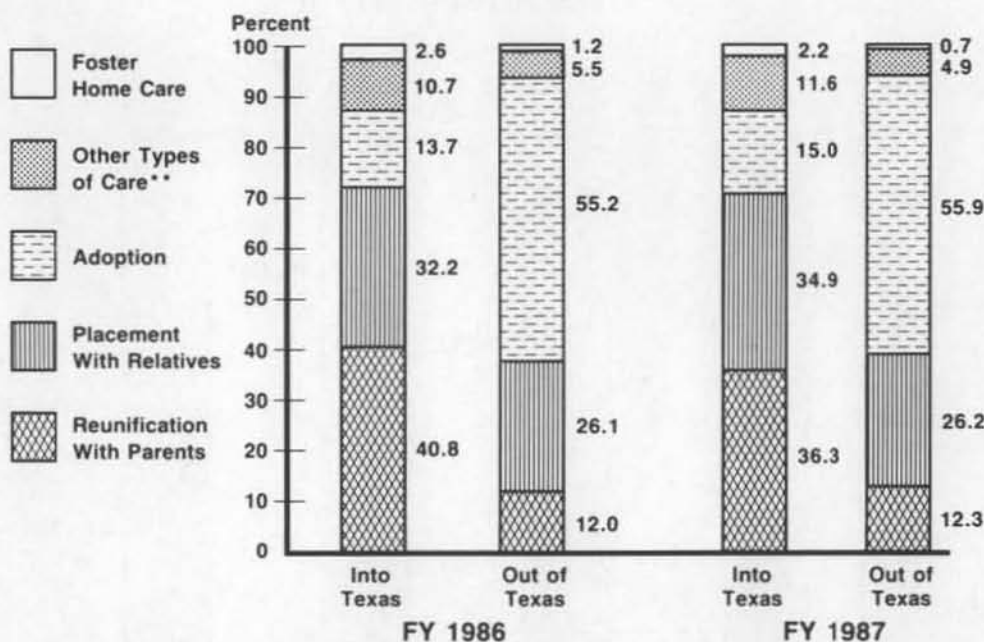
Total Placements Considered Under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) by Fiscal Year

FY 1986	Approved*	Percent of Total	Denied	Percent of Total	Total
Into Texas	998	60.6	648	39.4	1,646
Out of Texas	833	79.8	211	20.2	1,044
FY 1987					
Into Texas	999	58.6	707	41.4	1,706
Out of Texas	989	78.4	272	21.6	1,261

*Includes placements into and out of New Jersey, the only state which has not adopted the compact.

Figure 34b

ICPC Placements* Approved by Type of Placement by Fiscal Year



*Total includes placements by public and private child-placing agencies, courts, and individuals.

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