



# Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

## Conservatorship Average Daily Child Caseload per Worker

Pursuant to the 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 (Article II, Department of Family and Protective Services, Rider 45), the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) must submit a quarterly report on the conservatorship target case count of 14.5 cases. The report must also include information on the steps the agency is taking to achieve the target number. This report analyzes the months of June, July, and August 2023.

### Statewide Analysis

The statewide average daily caseloads rose slightly from Fiscal Year 2023, Quarter 3, but remains below the caseload target of 14.5.<sup>1</sup> At the end of this quarter, DFPS exceeded the goal with an average daily child count of 11.3.

Quarter 4 Fiscal Year 2023	Average Daily Child Count
June	10.9
July	11.1
August	11.3

Statewide, average child assignments per caseworker continue to be down in fiscal year 2023 compared to this time last year. Assigned child counts were down by 0.3 children per caseworker in August 2023 compared to August 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Data source: chl\_cps\_01: Average Daily Child Count for Substitute Care Workers SUB and ADO Stages; Data as of September 7, 2023.

As of August 2023, all but two regions in the state were below the Average Daily Child Count target of 14.5. Regions 4 and 5 rose above the target due to significant caseworker turnover.

Region	Average Daily Child Count
3E	11.3
3W	9.8
4	15.3
5	16.4
6A	9.2
6B	9.4
7	11.4
8A	12.0
9	11.8
10	10.3
11	11.0

## Q4 Efforts for Continued Progress

DFPS continues to evaluate current methods and uses various processes to reduce caseloads, such as:

- Focusing on retaining workers by using townhalls and virtual updates to improve staff communication;
- Monitoring staff trends, vacancies, caseloads, the completion critical tasks, and casework quality;
- Using the conservatorship caseload report to track progress while always considering case complexity, caseworker experience, and child and family needs;<sup>2</sup>
- Prioritizing adoptions and moving youth to permanency by breaking down barriers to finalization;
- Examining caseload size when allocating positions to different areas within a region;
- Ensuring the timely closure of cases in the Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas system; and

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<sup>2</sup> Managers also use this report to track the caseload sizes of new staff, ensuring they are receiving a full caseload when possible.

- Partnering with Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) to address high staff vacancy rates.<sup>3</sup>

The goal for all case-related decisions is stability for children and families, while considering case worker, child, and family relationships.

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<sup>3</sup> With Regions 3E, 4, and 5 moving toward Community-Based Care Stage II, these regions are experiencing higher than normal caseloads due to high vacancy rates. DFPS and SSCC Human Resources teams are coordinating hiring, staff meetings, and outreach.