



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

# **Human Trafficking Identification, Deterrence and Response**

As Required by the 2022-23 General Appropriations  
Act, Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session,  
2021 (Article II, DFPS, Rider 29)

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November 2023

## Background

The 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill (S.B.) 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 (Article II, Department of Family and Protective Services [DFPS], Rider 29) requires DFPS to report the following:

- By November 1 of each year, the number of youth identified as victims of human trafficking within DFPS conservatorship; the number of youth referred for treatment services who are victims of human trafficking; the number of staff trained to detect and prevent human trafficking; a description of the deterrence and enforcement actions the agency has been involved in with Texas Juvenile Justice Division (TJJD), Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Office of Attorney General (OAG) and other state or local law enforcement agencies to the Legislative Budget Board, the Human Trafficking (Prevention) Task Force, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Human Services Committee.

This report serves to meet these reporting requirements.

## Report Outline

There are three distinct sections of this report which provide data for Fiscal Year 2022.

1. Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship
2. Treatment Service Referrals for Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

This section that provides data of all children and youth identified who were in DFPS conservatorship at any point in Fiscal Year 2022 and were as a Suspected-Unconfirmed<sup>1</sup> or Confirmed<sup>2</sup> victim of trafficking, regardless of the type of trafficking experienced (sex and/or labor).

3. DFPS Staff Training
4. DFPS Interagency Coordination

## Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

During Fiscal Year 2022, 38,294 children and youth were in DFPS Conservatorship at any point in the fiscal year. Of these, 382 (1%) unique children and youth were identified as either Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed for human trafficking (sex or labor) trafficking victimization while in substitute care.

Of the 382 children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship at some point during Fiscal Year 2022 who were identified as either Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed for human trafficking (sex or labor) trafficking victimization:

- 366 (96%) were identified as experiencing sex trafficking victimization. Of these,
  - 253 (69%) were listed as Confirmed victimization, and
  - 113 (31%) were listed as Suspected-Unconfirmed victimization.
- 11 (3%) were identified as experiencing labor trafficking victimization. Of these,
  - 9 (82%) were listed as Confirmed victimization, and
  - 2 (18%) were listed as Suspected-Unconfirmed victimization.
- 5 (1%) were identified as experiencing both sex trafficking and labor trafficking victimization. Of these,
  - 3 (60%) were listed as Confirmed victimization for sex trafficking, and
  - 2 (40%) were listed as Suspected-Unconfirmed victimization for sex trafficking.
  - 3 (60%) were listed as Confirmed victimization for labor trafficking, and
  - 2 (40%) were listed as Suspected-Unconfirmed victimization for labor trafficking.

## Demographics for Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

Of the children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were identified as experiencing human trafficking victimization the majority were 15-17 years of age. (see **Table 1** below).

**Table 1**  
**Ages of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2022**  
**Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization**

Age	FY 2022 Number of Children and Youth	%
17	21	5%
16	96	25%
15	92	24%
14	51	13%
13	39	10%
12	21	5%
Less than 12	62	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100%</b>

The gender breakdown of those children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were identified as experiencing human trafficking victimization are as follows. (see **Table 2**).

**Table 2**  
**Gender of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2022**  
**Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization**

Gender	FY 2022 Number of Children and Youth	%
Female	347	91%
Male	35	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100%</b>

The race breakdown of those children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were identified as experiencing human trafficking victimization are as follows. (see **Table 3** below).

**Table 3**  
**Race of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2022**  
**Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization**

Race/Ethnicity	FY 2022 Number of Children and Youth	%
African American	85	22%
Anglo	104	27%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	1%
Hispanic	172	45%
Native American	0	0%
Other <sup>6</sup>	19	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Treatment Services for Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship**

For each child and youth in DFPS Conservatorship for FY 2022 identified as experiencing Suspected-Unconfirmed and Confirmed trafficking victimization, their respective case management Region was surveyed to collect information regarding treatment services received during FY 2022. In Fiscal Year 2022, of the 382 children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship identified as experiencing trafficking victimization:

- 12 (3%) received specialized trafficking residential treatment services.
- 107 (28%) received non-trafficking residential treatment services.
- 7 (2%) received both specialized trafficking residential treatment services and non-trafficking residential treatment services.
- 35 (9%) received psychiatric behavioral treatment services.
- 1 (0.3%) received specialized trafficking residential treatment services, non-trafficking residential treatment and psychiatric behavioral treatment services.

As not every child and youth identified as a suspected-unconfirmed or confirmed victim of trafficking requires specialized residential treatment services, additional information was gathered on services that can support an individualized restoration journey for those who experience such victimization. In Fiscal Year 2022, for children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship with identified trafficking victimization:

- 114 (30%) received Care Coordination via a Care Coordination Team
- 136 (36%) received Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy
- 64 (17%) received Substance Abuse Treatment services
- 121 (32%) received counseling services specifically for their trafficking victimization
- 90 (23%) received STAR Health Intensive Case Management
- 75 (20%) had an assigned Wellbeing Specialist
- 23 (6%) had an assigned Development Disability Specialist
- 57 (15%) received Preparation for Adult Living Services

### DFPS Staff Training

DFPS remains committed to the fight against trafficking. For the children and youth served by DFPS, the DFPS Human Trafficking (HT) Division strives to:

- Strengthen continued compliance with all federal and state human trafficking mandates,
- Develop best practices in the prevention of trafficking, and
- Improve DFPS capacity to identify, report, recover and support victims of trafficking in their restoration journey.

One way the HT Division achieves these goals is through training and education. The DFPS HT Division develops, presents, and/or facilitates quality training opportunities in partnership with the DFPS's Center for Learning and Organizational Excellence, Child Protective Programs, or with key anti-trafficking stakeholders. In Fiscal Year 2022, of the 13,402 individuals trained, 9,175 (69 %) were DFPS staff. Below (Table 4) is a listing of trainings in which DFPS staff participated:

**Table 4**  
**Human Trafficking Related Trainings Attended by DFPS Staff**  
**FY 2022**

FY 2022 Trainings	Number of DFPS Staff
Compassionate Communication: Connecting with Trafficked Youth	75
DFPS Human Trafficking Efforts at C7 HT Coalition	5
DFPS Human Trafficking Protocol and CSE-IT Overview Training	831
DFPS Human Trafficking Protocol and CSE-IT User Training	3
DFPS Human Trafficking Training Featuring Be the One	2654
DFPS Light the Way End Human Trafficking - Faith IN Action	3
DFPS Protocol for Care Coordination Overview	160
Foundations of Human Trafficking Child Care Investigations Refresher - Existing Staff	194
Foundations of Human Trafficking Child Protective Investigations - Professional Development for New Staff	1093
Foundations of Human Trafficking Child Protective Services - Professional Development for New Staff	973
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Care Investigations - New Staff	37
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Watch Support Coordinators	507
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Existing Staff	1483
Highlighting the Intersections of Sex and Labor Trafficking	78
Intersectionality and Resilience Factors for Trafficked Minority Youth	60
Leadership in Human Trafficking - Alternative Response Leadership Conference	69
Light the Way End Human Trafficking Summit 2022	796
Region 3 Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocates	38
Region 6 Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocates	1
Responding to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys and Young Men	106
Statewide Parent Collaboration Group Advisory Committee Human Trafficking Division Efforts	8
Texas Human Trafficking and Child Welfare for Harris County Healthcare Consortium	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,175</b>

## DFPS Interagency Coordination

To support human trafficking deterrence and enforcement actions by partners, DFPS maintains well-functioning ties to law enforcement, local city and county governments, state agencies, advocacy agencies, and faith organizations to leverage resources and coordinate efforts. Below are some key partnerships that exemplify such efforts.

DFPS is a named and active member of the Texas Office of Attorney General's Human Trafficking Prevention Taskforce (Taskforce) as well as the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council). In concert with our Taskforce and Coordinating Council partners, DFPS fosters a collaborative multidisciplinary approach in the prevention of human trafficking,

DFPS and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) have a long-standing and collaborative relationship, particularly regarding children involved in both systems (often referred to as crossover youth). Child Protective Services works closely TJJD and local Juvenile Probation Departments (JPD) to share information and facilitate coordinated service planning. As these youth are considered vulnerable to trafficking, the HT Division also works with TJJD to help identify youth who are victims of trafficking. In Fiscal Year 2022, the Office of the Governor -Child Sex Trafficking Team, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, and DFPS HT Division collaborated with TJJD on TJJD's roles and support in the development of Care Coordination Teams for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth in Texas.

The DFPS Statewide Intake (SWI) Division is the "front door to the front line" for all DFPS programs. SWI assesses all reports of child abuse, neglect, (including sex and/or labor trafficking) or exploitation, and routes them to the appropriate local DFPS office and local law enforcement agency if allegations meet DFPS' jurisdictional authority. Reports of child trafficking not under DFPS investigative jurisdiction are processed as an Information & Referral (I&R) and sent to the respective local law enforcement (LE) jurisdiction. Additionally, **all** trafficking allegations involving children, regardless of DFPS jurisdiction, are also sent to local law enforcement, the Department of Public Safety Joint Crimes Information Center (JCIC), and the local Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

DFPS coordinates and works joint investigations with local LE and CACs for all investigations under DFPS's purview. The DFPS Special Investigation (SI) Division provides support and acts as a liaison with local law enforcement, DPS, and/or Office of Attorney General. Investigatory Multi-Disciplinary Teams and forensic interviews are



coordinated with LE officials to support successful investigations, evidence collection and prosecution.

DFPS and DPS work collaboratively in the fight against human trafficking from investigations to supporting efforts for DFPS's vulnerable children and the timely recovery of children and youth who are missing from DFPS care. To such end, DFPS and DPS have a Data Sharing Agreement that allows for *Matching Data of Children in DFPS Conservatorship Against the Active Missing Persons File*. This checks and balance system ensures accurate records are available to DFPS staff and law enforcement agencies statewide, so that efforts to locate are tightly focused.

The DFPS Special Investigations Division also supports a variety of law enforcement agencies as requested when conducting special operations to combat trafficking and/or missing children recoveries. Support efforts can include intelligence and information sharing about children who are missing from care. In FY 2022, the SI Division provided support efforts to a variety of partners including DPS, Federal Bureau of Investigations, United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations, and the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance of the Southern District of Texas.

DFPS and Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) collaborate and communicate daily about regulated childcare operations under investigation and/or regulatory compliance reviews. To support these functions DFPS has access to HHS Child Care Regulation (CCR) CLASS system and HHS CCR has access to DFPS's IMPACT system. HHS CCR provides the DFPS HT Division with a monthly listing of operations servicing human trafficking victims that includes the operations' permit status to support understanding of operations serving this vulnerable population.

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<sup>1</sup> A trafficking event is *Suspected-Unconfirmed* when specific information regarding the child or youth and the surrounding circumstances creates a reasonable belief that the child or youth has been trafficked. Note: A runaway episode, in and of itself, is not equal to *Suspected-Unconfirmed*. See CPS Policy Handbook: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS\\_pg\\_6400.asp#CPS\\_6462](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6462)

<sup>2</sup> A trafficking event is *Confirmed* when evidence supports the conclusion that the child or youth has been trafficked. Note: The supporting evidence must be more than just an allegation or suspicion and does not have to be a direct outcry from the child or youth. See CPS Policy Handbook: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS\\_pg\\_6400.asp#CPS\\_6462](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6462)