



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

# **Human Trafficking Identification, Treatment Services, Staff Training and Facilities**

As Required by the 2024-2025 General  
Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 88th Legislature,  
Regular Session, 2023 (Article II, DFPS, Rider 29)

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December 2024

## Background

The 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act, House Bill (H.B.) 1, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 (Article II, Department of Family and Protective Services [DFPS], Rider 29) requires DFPS by December 1 of each year to report to the Legislative Budget Board, the Human Trafficking Task Force, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Human Services Committee the following:

- The number of children and youth identified as victims of human trafficking within DFPS Conservatorship.
- The number of children and youth referred for treatment services who are victims of human trafficking.
- The number of staff trained to detect and prevent human trafficking; and
- The number of licensed facilities serving those populations.

This report serves to meet these reporting requirements.

## Report Outline

There are four distinct sections of this report which provide data for Fiscal Year 2023.

1. Children and Youth who are Victims of Sex and/or Labor Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship.<sup>1</sup>

a. Sex Trafficking

Compelling or encouraging the child to engage in sexual conduct as defined by Section [43.01](#), Penal Code, including compelling or encouraging the child in a manner that constitutes an offense of trafficking of persons under Section [20A.02\(a\)\(7\)](#) or (8), Penal Code, solicitation of prostitution under Section [43.021](#), Penal Code, or compelling prostitution under Section [43.05\(a\)\(2\)](#), Penal Code

[-Texas Family Code §261.001\(1\)\(G\)](#)

b. Sex and/or Labor Trafficking

Knowingly causing, permitting, encouraging, engaging in, or allowing a child to be trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under Section [20A.02\(a\)\(5\)](#), (6), (7), or (8), Penal Code, or the failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under any of those sections;

[-Texas Family Code §261.001\(1\)\(L\)](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Victimization may not have occurred at the time of victim identification. This includes victimization that occurred prior to and/or during DFPS Conservatorship.

2. Treatment Services 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 2023 and were identified as a *Suspected-Unconfirmed* or *Confirmed* victim of trafficking, regardless of the type of trafficking experienced (sex and/or labor).<sup>1</sup>

a. Suspected-Unconfirmed Victimization

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*. [CPS Policy HB: 6462](#)

b. Confirmed Victimization

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. [CPS Policy HB: 6462](#)

3. DFPS Staff Training

4. Licensed Facilities Serving Trafficked Children and Youth

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

During Fiscal Year 2023, 31,475 children and youth were in DFPS Conservatorship at any point in the fiscal year.<sup>2</sup> Of these, 359 (1%) unique children and youth were identified as either Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed for human trafficking (sex or labor) victimization.<sup>3</sup> To be counted, victimization must have occurred prior to the child/youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but could have occurred in any prior fiscal year, not only Fiscal Year 2023. Victimization may not have occurred at the time of victim identification. This includes victimization that occurred prior to and/or during DFPS Conservatorship.

Of the 359 children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship at some point during Fiscal Year 2023 who were identified with either Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed for human trafficking (sex or labor) victimization<sup>1</sup>:

- 344 (96%) were identified as experiencing sex trafficking victimization. Of these,
  - 253 (74%) were listed as Confirmed victimization, and
  - 91 (26%) were listed as Suspected-Unconfirmed victimization.
- 6 (2%) were identified as experiencing labor trafficking victimization. Of these,
  - 4 (67%) were listed as Confirmed victimization, and
  - 2 (33%) were listed as Suspected-Unconfirmed victimization.
- 9 (3%) were identified as experiencing both sex trafficking and labor trafficking victimization. Of these,
  - 4 (44%) were listed as Confirmed for both sex and labor trafficking victimization
  - 4 (44%) were listed as Confirmed for sex trafficking victimization and Suspected-Unconfirmed labor trafficking victimization
  - 1 (11%) was listed as Suspected-Unconfirmed for both sex and labor trafficking victimization

NOTE: PERCENTAGES DO NOT EQUAL 100 DUE TO ROUNDING.

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<sup>2</sup> Data Book, Children in DFPS Legal Responsibility During the Fiscal Year.

[https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About\\_DFPS/Data\\_Book/Child\\_Protective\\_Services/Conservatorship/Children\\_in\\_Conservatorship.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Conservatorship/Children_in_Conservatorship.asp)

<sup>3</sup> DRIT 109251, Human Trafficking Data and Services for Youth Considered to be in Substitute Care; Data as of February 7, 2024.

## Demographics for Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship<sup>1,4</sup>

Of the children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship who were identified as experiencing human trafficking victimization the majority were 14-16 years of age at the time of the first incident. (See **Table 1** below).

**Table 1**  
**Ages of Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2023**  
**Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization<sup>1,2</sup>**

Age at Time of First Incident	FY 2023 Number of Children and Youth	%
17	20	6%
16	71	20%
15	73	20%
14	51	14%
13	47	13%
12	30	8%
Less than 12	67	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</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 2023**  
**Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization<sup>1,2</sup>**

Gender	FY 2023 Number of Children and Youth	%
Female	323	90%
Male	36	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>4</sup> Demographic information is based on the child's first trafficking incident.

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 2023**  
**Identified as Experiencing Human Trafficking Victimization<sup>1,2</sup>**

Race/Ethnicity	FY 2023 Number of Children and Youth	%	FY 2023 % of All Children in Care <sup>2</sup>
African American	83	23%	22%
Anglo	101	28%	28%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	<1%	<1%
Hispanic	157	44%	43%
Native American	0	0%	<1%
Other*	15	4%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*This category includes Multiple Race (non-Hispanic), Declined to Indicate (non-Hispanic), and Unable to Determine (non-Hispanic).

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

Of the 359 youth in care identified with Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed trafficking victimization during Fiscal Year 2023 who had Medicaid enrollment months while in DFPS conservatorship, 336 (93.59%)<sup>5</sup> received services through Star Health. Of these, 309 (86%) received treatment Medicaid services such as mental health supportive therapies and/or medications, substance abuse treatment, and intensive treatment case management.

For all children and youth, DFPS provided supportive services through case management, service referrals and purchased contracted services such as housing, and caregiver support. Additional services included:

- Of the 359 youth in care identified with Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed trafficking victimization during Fiscal Year 2023, there were 76 unique youth who received treatment services through settings such as foster family treatment foster care, a residential treatment facility or an intensive psychiatric stabilization program.

<sup>5</sup> TX Medicaid Utilization among Specific Clients, SFY 2023, Data Dissemination & Reporting, Office of Data, Analytics and Performance, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Sept. 2024 (JM/JHY)

- Of the 359 youth in care identified with Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed trafficking victimization during Fiscal Year 2023, 115 (32%) unique number of youths received Preparation for Adult Living Services such as Life Skills Training, Independent Living Assessments, Education and Vocational Education Services, Transitional Living Services, Auxiliary Services as well as Pre and Post Transition Support.
- Of the 359 youth in care identified with Suspected-Unconfirmed or Confirmed trafficking victimization during Fiscal Year 2023, 70 (19%)<sup>6</sup> unique youth received Care Coordination for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth<sup>7</sup>, and 118 (33%)<sup>6</sup> unique youth received Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocate Agency Services.<sup>8</sup>

### 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 Learning and Development, Child Protective Programs, or with key anti-trafficking stakeholders. In Fiscal Year 2023, of the 12,385 individuals trained, 7,065 (57 %) were DFPS staff. Below (Table 4) is a listing of trainings in which DFPS staff participated:

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<sup>6</sup> Data was collected from local Care Coordination Teams and Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocate Agency Services who serve youth victims of trafficking. Data was collected on the youth's legal county of Conservatorship. Some youth may have received these services in counties where placed, but that data is not readily available.

<sup>7</sup> Texas Care Coordination promotes sustainable autonomy, healing, justice, and stability for youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. Care Coordination employs awareness, education, creativity, multi-disciplinary collaboration, and capacity building to identify and recover CSEY, and to facilitate tailored, accessible, trauma-informed, and holistic resources through a coordinated network of providers.

<sup>8</sup> Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth advocacy programs provide crisis intervention, ongoing case management, and healthy, supportive relationships that help survivors heal and thrive.

**Table 4  
Human Trafficking Related Trainings Attended by DFPS Staff  
FY 2023**

FY 2023 TRAININGS	NUMBER OF DFPS STAFF
DFPS Human Trafficking Protocol and CSE-IT Overview Training	840
DFPS Human Trafficking Protocol and CSE-IT User Training	183
DFPS Human Trafficking Training Featuring Be the One	2,304
DFPS Protocol for Care Coordination Overview	110
Domestic Familial Trafficking Stark Realities and Service Provision	3
Faith-Based Champions	52
Foundations of Human Trafficking (existing staff trained prior to December 2019)	308
Foundations of Human Trafficking Child Protective Investigations (new staff)	1,033
Foundations of Human Trafficking Child Protective Services (new staff)	856
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Care Investigations	95
Foundations of Human Trafficking for Child Watch Support Coordinators	41
How to Effectively Meet the Needs of Male Survivors	53
Human Trafficking and DFPS Youth Leadership Council	23
Human Trafficking Basics for Preparation for Adult Living Staff	15
Light the Way End Human Trafficking Summit 2023	845
Reducing Elopement Using Strengths-Based Approaches in CSEY	76
Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocates (Regions 3, 5, 6, 8 and 11)	29
Tackling the Issues of Human Trafficking with Dr. Tonya Stafford Manning	137
Understanding Buyers is the Key to Stopping Demand	62
<b>FY 2023 TOTAL</b>	<b>7,065</b>
<b>FY 2018 – 2023 GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>60,163</b>



### Licensed Facilities Serving Trafficked Children and Youth

As of September 7, 2024, there are 16 active facilities licensed to provide services specific to victims of human trafficking. Of the licensed facilities,

- 6 (38%) are General Residential Operations offering multiple services
- 1 (6%) is a General Residential Operation – Emergency Care Services Only
- 4 (25%) are General Residential Operations – Residential Treatment Centers
- 5 (31%) are Child Placing Agencies

**Table 5**  
**Locations of Licensed Facilities Serving Victims of Human Trafficking**

Region	Number of Facilities
1	1
2	1
3	5
6	3
7	3
8	2
11	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>