



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Human Trafficking Identification, Treatment Services, Staff Training and Facilities

As Required by the 2026-2027 General
Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 89th Legislature,
Regular Session, 2025 (Article II, DFPS, Rider 27)

December 1, 2025

Background

The 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill (S.B.) 1, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025 (Article II, Department of Family and Protective Services [DFPS], Rider 27) 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.
- 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 2024.

1. The number of children and youth identified as victims of human trafficking within DFPS Conservatorship.

This section provides data on all children and youth who were in DFPS conservatorship at any point in Fiscal Year 2024 and were identified as a *Confirmed* victim of sex, or labor (or both) trafficking.¹ Key definitions are:

- 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\(1\)\(G\)](#)

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

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\(1\)\(L\)](#)

c. 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 Handbook: 6462](#)

2. The number of children and youth referred for treatment services who are victims of human trafficking.

This section provides treatment service data on all children and youth who were in DFPS conservatorship at any point in Fiscal Year 2024 and were identified as a *Confirmed* victim of sex and/or labor trafficking.

Research emphasizes the importance of addressing both immediate and long-term needs of victims. Individuals who experience victimization often face complex challenges, including trauma, exposure to repeated or multiple forms of victimization, toxic stress, delayed medical diagnoses, chronic physical and mental health conditions, lifelong disabilities, and, in some cases, premature death. Services are individualized to each survivor's circumstances. Not all victims are ready to access services immediately, and the level and type of support required can vary significantly among individuals.

DFPS uses a comprehensive approach to serving survivors that align with the principles of safety, permanency, and well-being that underpin the child welfare system. These principles also complement the key principles of the *Whole Survivor Care*², as developed by the Office of the Texas Governor Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force on standards for best practices in provision of services to survivors. The goal is to provide services and support that promote stabilization, healing, and

² Part 1 - Resources for Texas Sexual Assault Survivors: *Inventory and Survey Findings on Services, Gaps, and Accessibility* (November 2020); Part 2 - *Voices of Texas Sexual Assault Survivors: Services, Gaps, and Recovery Journeys* (January 2022)

recovery.

Therefore, DFPS's reporting on treatment services includes not only traditional residential treatment programs and behavioral health data but also other Medicaid service information, purchased and contracted services, and connections to community programs that support commercially sexually exploited youth.

3. The number of staff trained to detect and prevent human trafficking.

This section provides data on DFPS staff participation in training and the associated topics related to human trafficking.

DFPS remains steadfast in its commitment to combating human trafficking. The DFPS Human Trafficking (HT) division strengthens the agency's capacity to prevent, identify, and address human trafficking at all stages of service delivery through targeted training and education initiatives. In collaboration with DFPS's Learning and Development division, child protective programs, and key anti-trafficking stakeholders, the division develops, delivers, and facilitates high-quality training opportunities for staff and partners.

4. The number of licensed facilities serving those populations.

This section provides data from Texas Health and Human Services Child Care Licensing Reporting Database on facilities whose licensing records reflect Human Trafficking Services as a part of their operation. While licensing operations may have human trafficking service capacity as a part of their licensing record, operations may not serve children and youth with human trafficking victimization.

Children and Youth who are Victims of Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship

During Fiscal Year 2024, 28,008 children and youth were in DFPS Conservatorship at any point in the fiscal year.³ Of these, 246 (< 1%) unique children and youth were identified as *Confirmed* for trafficking victimization.⁴ To be counted, victimization must have occurred prior to the child/youth's 18th birthday but could have occurred in any prior fiscal year, not only Fiscal Year 2024. 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 246 children and youth in DFPS Conservatorship at any point during Fiscal Year

³ *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

⁴ *DRIT 112568, Human Trafficking Data and Services for Youth Considered to be in Substitute Care.*

2024 who were identified with *Confirmed* for trafficking victimization:

- o 240 (98%) were identified as *Confirmed* sex trafficking victimization,
- o 3 (1%) were identified as *Confirmed* labor victimization, and
- o 3 (1%) were identified as *Confirmed* for both sex and labor trafficking victimization.

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

Of the 246 youth in care identified with *Confirmed* trafficking victimization during Fiscal Year 2024, 236 (96%)⁵ had Medicaid enrollment while in DFPS conservatorship and received services through STAR Health. Of these, 216 (92%) received treatment Medicaid services such as mental health supportive therapies and/or medications, substance abuse treatment, and intensive treatment case management.

Table 4 below provides additional Medicaid services to inform whole survivor care support provided to youth in care identified with *Confirmed* trafficking victimization during Fiscal Year 2024.

⁵ TX Medicaid Utilization among Specific Clients, SFY 2024, Data Dissemination & Reporting, Office of Data, Analytics and Performance, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Nov. 2025 (jmj/brb)

Table 4
Additional Medicaid Services⁵ for
Children and Youth in DFPS Conservatorship in FY 2024
Identified as Confirmed Human Trafficking Victimization²

Service Type	FY 2024 Number of Children and Youth	%
Preventative Health	193	82%
Telehealth	176	75%
Emergency Room	152	64%
Diabetes/Asthma	28	12%
Therapies Ex: Physical, Occupational, Speech	11	4.7%
Non-emergency Medical Transport	4	1.7%
Long Term Support Services Ex: Private Duty Nurse, Personal Care Services and Community First Choice - Personal Care Services, Emergency Services, Support Management and Habilitation	3	1.3%

All children and youth in DFPS conservatorship are provided supportive services through case management, service referrals and purchased contracted services such as housing, and caregiver support.

Additional services in Fiscal Year 2024 for youth in care with *Confirmed* trafficking victimization included:

- Treatment service settings, such as foster family treatment foster care, a residential treatment facility or an intensive psychiatric stabilization program, served 63 unique youth.
- Care Coordination Teams for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth⁶ reported

⁶ 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.

serving 58 unique youth⁷.

- Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocacy programs⁸ reported serving 116 unique youth⁷.

DFPS Staff Training

In Fiscal Year 2024, there were 13,786 training attendees recorded, of which 7,217 (52%) were DFPS staff. Individuals may be counted more than once as they may have attended a variety of courses. Human Trafficking (HT) topics include:

- DFPS HT Protocol and CSE IT Overview and User Training
- DFPS HT Training Featuring Be the One in the Fight Against Trafficking
- DFPS HT for Psychiatric Hospital Liaisons
- DFPS Protocol for Care Coordination Overview
- DFPS Summit 2024
- Dissecting Family-Facilitated Child Sex Trafficking Trends
- Human Trafficking (Foundations, The Basics, Overview, 101, and Identifying Risks and Responding to HT)
- Light the Way End HT 2024 Lunch and Learn Series:
 - From the Street for the Street - A Lived Experience Lens
 - Collaborative Settings
 - Reducing Vulnerabilities for Sex Trafficking
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocate (Regions 3, 6, 8 and 11)
- Working with HT Victims/Survivors

⁷ Data was collected from local Care Coordination Teams and Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Advocate Agency Services who serve youth victims of trafficking. Utilization of Care Coordination and CSEY Advocacy services can be impacted by a variety of events, such as a criteria, and service area availability, in conjunction with the timing of a youth's identified victimization and placement locations.

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

Licensed Facilities Serving Trafficked Children and Youth

Tables 5 and 6 below show the fiscal year totals for the types of facilities licensed⁹ to provide services specific to victims of human trafficking.

Table 5
General Residential Operations by Types
Facilities Licensed for Human Trafficking Services

Fiscal Year	Emergency Care Services Only	Residential Treatment Centers	Multiple Services
2024	1	4	6

Table 6
Child Placing Agencies
Licensed for Human Trafficking Services

Fiscal Year	Child Placing Agencies
2024	5

⁹ Data Source: Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Child Care Licensing Reporting Database, Operations Serving Victims of Human Trafficking as of October 7, 2025.