

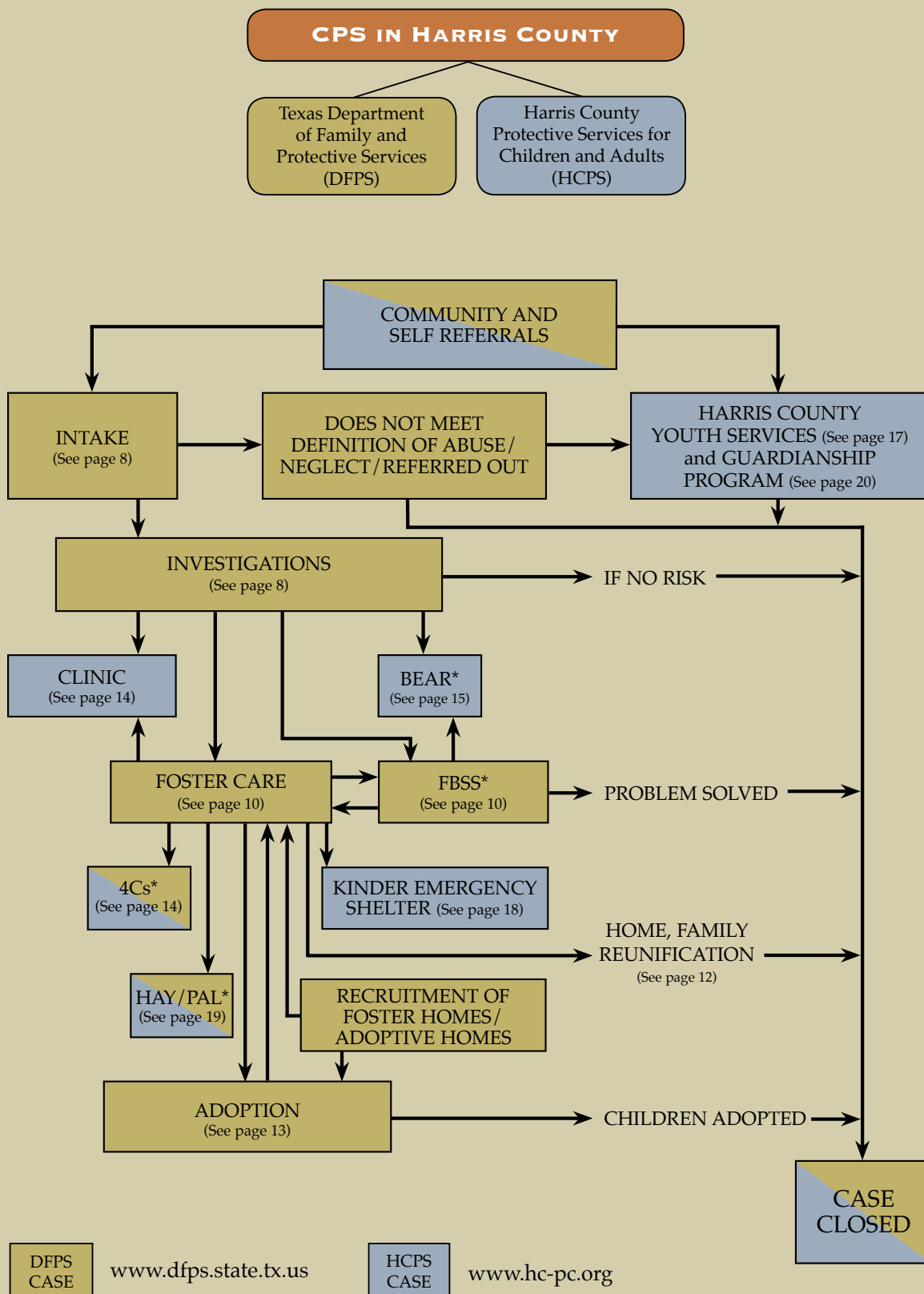
# **CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT**

**2008 STATISTICS  
2009 PROGRAM INFORMATION**



**“WE’RE ON TARGET WITH PERMANENCY - FOREVER HOMES”**

# A CHILD, YOUTH, FAMILY OR ADULT'S PATH THROUGH THE PROGRAMS OF CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY



\*BEAR... BE A Resource for CPS Kids  
\*FBSS, Family-Based Safety Services

\*4Cs, Children's Crisis Care Center  
\*PAL, Preparation for Adult Living

## LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF HARRIS COUNTY

CPS in Harris County is pleased to present our 2008-2009 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of our programs and services, and 2008 statistics and funding of both Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS) and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).



### HCPS HIGHLIGHTS

Harris County Protective Services has evolved from a small department providing support services to the state CPS program, into a full services accredited social service agency now providing services to clients from birth to 108, the age of our current oldest ward. When our program began in 1966, we had a total of 9 staff working in an office over a bowling alley on West Dallas Street. Now the county has a total staff of 461 and our budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year is over \$21 million dollars. (See page 7 for the total number of clients served and services provided by HCPS.) The Commissioners Court approved 42 new positions for the Guardianship program (See page 20). The additional staff will help reduce caseloads from over 40 per case manager to twenty per case manager. This will allow us to provide better services to wards, increase quality assurance and enable the program to comply with national standards.

The challenge that our ever growing department now faces relates to the sustainability of grant funded programs, specifically Systems of Hope (SOH) and the HAY Center. The HAY Center (see page 19) is a one-stop transition center that provides services to empower CPS foster youth to become successful, productive adults. SOH (see page 16) has shown a reduction in arrests, school suspensions, and suicide behaviors in youth. SOH was cited as a "What Works" program in stopping the Cradle to Prison pipeline. In order to continue to serve those populations we are in the process of looking at a series of options and exploring other resources to help sustain these two programs.

Dianne Wilson Bynum  
Board President, HCPS

George Ford, LMSW-AP, J.D.  
Executive Director, HCPS

Scott Dixon, MS  
CPS Regional Director,  
Houston Region, DFPS

HARRIS COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
COURT

TEXAS DEPARTMENT  
OF FAMILY AND  
PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON  
ACCREDITATION  
OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES  
AND CHILDREN, INC.

CWLA CHILD  
WELFARE  
LEAGUE OF  
AMERICA



### DFPS HIGHLIGHTS

Last year, DFPS began an investigation into allegations of abuse at the FLDS ranch in El Dorado, Texas. The case quickly grew into the largest CPS investigation in United States history with taking custody of more than 400 children from the compound. For almost a month, more than 700 DFPS staff from across Texas worked around the clock to meet the needs of the 463 children removed from the compound. A total of 150 staff from Region 6, including 100 staff from Harris County attended and assisted with the children removed from the Ranch. We are proud of the Region 6 staff who went to San Angelo and sacrificed time away from their own families to help children who desperately needed them. We are also proud of staff who stayed behind and took on additional work during the absence of their fellow employees so that the needs of the clients here in Region 6 were being met.

To increase the role of families in solving abuse and neglect-related crises, the Kinship program was strengthened with additional staff and funding. As a result more children are being diverted from foster care to kinship placements. (See page 12). In Harris County, there are about 5,000 children in CPS custody. Of those children, over 1,800 are in kinship care. These kinship caregivers provide children with the benefit of stability when they cannot live with their birth parents. They also move children out of foster care and into the care of relatives, helping children stay connected to their families and their communities.

We want to thank our legislators, our partners, and the community for their help and continued support. We look forward to another year of growth and continued progress.



**"I WANT TO LIVE IN A HOME  
WHERE I AM LOVED"**



## **HCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**



### **2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dianne Wilson Bynum, *President*  
Michael M. Sheppard, AIA, *Vice President*  
Larry B. Litton, Sr., *Treasurer*  
Sean Kelly McPherson, *Secretary*

Frances Castaneda Dyess  
Ron S. Davis, MPA  
Marilyn DeMontrond  
Ernest Frugé, PhD  
Philip J. Kunetka  
James G. Olson  
Paula Price  
Janet Stansbury, M.Ed  
Jo Ellen Sweeney  
Kim Szeto  
Martin T. Woodard, LCSW

### **2009 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

George Ford, LMSW-AP, J.D., *Executive Director*  
Joel A. Levine, LCSW, *Director of Administration*  
Debra Andrews, MA, *Director, Region 6 Training Institute*  
Janis Bane, MS, *Director, Systems of Hope*  
Robert Lee Brewer, LCSW, LCDC, LCCA, *Director,  
Harris County Youth Services Center*  
Deborah Colby, LCSW, LMFT, *Director, TRIAD Prevention  
Program*  
Mary Green, MA, *Director, BEAR*  
Ginger B. Harper, LMSW-AP, *Director, Community Youth  
Services*  
Jan McLaughlin, RG, *Director, Guardianship Program*  
Willie Nelson, RN, *Director, Medical/Dental Clinic*  
Estella Olguin, *Community Relations Director*  
Beverly Pettway, CPA, MBA, *Director of Financial and  
Business Services*  
Kimberly Poré, LCSW, *Director, Children's Services*  
John Prior, LCSW, ACSW, *Program Improvement Team Leader*  
Pamela R. Walker, MA, LCDC, LBSW, DAPA, *Director,  
Region 6 PAL and Houston Alumni & Youth  
Center Programs*



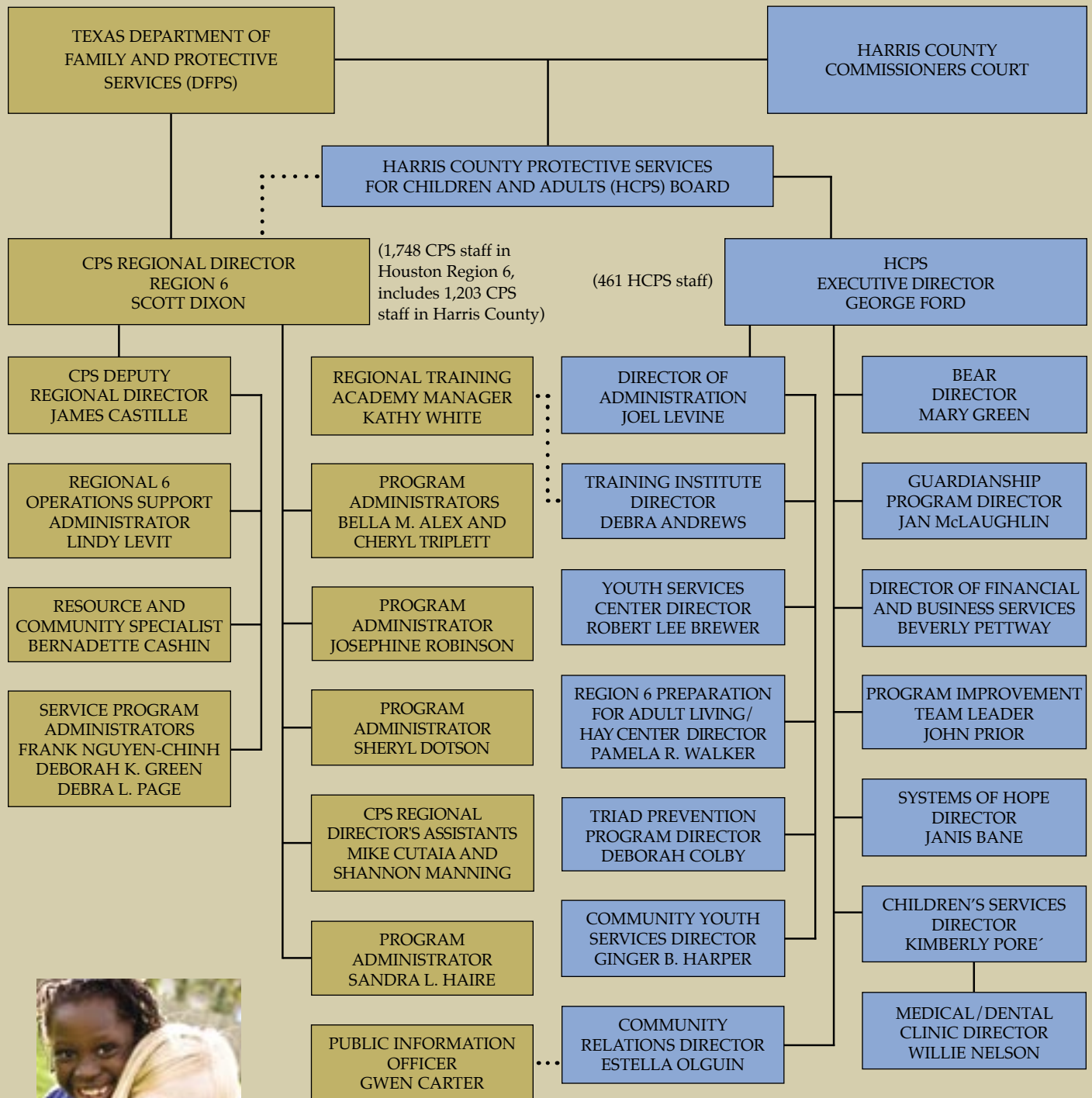
## DFPS 2009 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FOR CPS HOUSTON REGION 6



Scott Dixon, MS, CPS Regional Director  
Bella M. Alex, LMSW-AP, Program Administrator for  
Investigations  
C. J. Broussard-White, Inter Regional Managing Attorney,  
Regions 4,5,6  
Gwen Carter, MSW, Public Information Officer  
Bernadette Cashin, Community Initiatives Specialist  
James H. Castille, MA, LBSW, LPC-Intern, CPS Deputy  
Regional Director  
Frank Nguyen-Chinh, MSW, MA, Service Program  
Administrator  
Michael Cutaia, MA, CPS Regional Director Assistant  
Sheryl T. Dotson, LMSW-AP, Program Administrator for  
Children in Custody in Harris County  
Deborah K. Green, MSW, CDVC-III, MAC, CCJS, BEI-1,  
Service Program Administrator  
Sandra L. Haire, MPA, LMSW, MSSW, Program  
Administrator for all Family Based Safety Services and  
Children in Custody cases in outlying counties  
Lindy Levit, SPHR, Regional Operations Support  
Administrator  
Shannon Manning, CPS Regional Director Assistant  
Debra L. Page, MSW, Service Program Administrator  
Josephine Robinson, MSW, Program Administrator for  
Foster and Adopt  
Cheryl Triplett, MA, Program Administrator for  
Investigations  
Dory Allen, Family Group Decision Making Specialist  
Sherryl Becker, M.S., LCDC, CSW, Program Director for  
Family Based Safety Services  
Kristina Belcher, BS, BBA, Kinship Initiative Program  
Director  
Katara Butler, MSW, Program Director for Children in  
Custody in Harris County  
Ivy Chambers, Program Director for Investigations  
Tonya Clay, MA, LPC-Intern, Program Director for  
Children in Custody in Harris County  
Willis Corbin, Program Director for Special Investigators  
Bettye Davis-Sanders, MSW, LBSW, Permanency  
Program Director  
Albert Drones, Program Director for Special Investigators

Leshia Fisher, Program Director for Children in Custody  
outlying counties  
Peggy Gartman, LMSW-AP, Program Director for  
Children in Custody in outlying counties  
Bernita Hagan, Program Improvement Specialist  
Cheryl Harvick, Program Director for Investigations  
Sheila Hazley, Program Director for Children in Custody  
in Harris County  
Evelyn Jacobs, LMSW, MSW, Program Director for  
Family Based Safety Services for 12 outlying counties  
Patricia Johnson, LBSW, Program Director for Adoption  
Preparation  
Renatta Kost, Program Director for Family Based Safety  
Services  
Deborah Kumar-Misir, LMSW, Program Director for  
Investigations  
Renita Laury, Program Director for Investigations  
Natarsha Lewis, Residential Team Placement Coordinator  
Manett Butler, Residential Team Placement Coordinator  
Angela Rhoden, MSW, Program Director for Children  
in Custody in Harris County  
Krista Rodriguez, MSW, Program Director for Investigations  
Monica L. Sanders, Program Director for Investigations  
Karen Sheehan, Region 6 Risk Manager  
Barbara Shinall, LMSW-AP, Lead Child Safety Specialist,  
Region 6  
Vanessa Shippard, MSW, Region 6 Risk Manager  
Doris Thomas-Buckler, Ph.D., BCCC, Program Director  
for Family Based Safety Services  
Debra Thornton, Program Director for Investigations  
Cindy Umlang, LMSW-AP, Program Director for  
Investigations  
Jarita Wharton, LBSW, MSW, Program Director for  
Investigations  
Kathy White, BSW, MA, Training Academy Manager  
Diana Wilson, Program Director for Investigations  
Kimberly Wiseburn, MSW, Program Director for  
Investigations  
Mia Williams, MA, Region 6 Disproportionality Specialist  
Jennifer C. Williams, MA, Lead Child Safety Specialist,  
Regions 6 & 3

# CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART • 2009





**“MY LITTLE SISTER AND I, WOULD  
LIKE TO FIND A FOREVER FAMILY”**



## OVERVIEW

*While Child Protective Services (CPS) in Texas is a state-managed program through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), there has been a tradition of county-level involvement since 1966 in Harris County.*

*In a unique governmental collaboration, protective services for children and adults in Harris County are seamlessly provided by the state of Texas, acting through DFPS, and Harris County through Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS).*

### CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY



Texas Department  
of Family and  
Protective Services  
(DFPS)



Harris County  
Protective Services for  
Children and Adults  
(HCPS)

The Texas Department of Family and  
Protective Services (DFPS)  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

Harris County Protective Services for  
Children and Adults (HCPS)  
[www.hc-ps.org](http://www.hc-ps.org)

## OVERVIEW



**THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF  
FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES (DFPS)**  
**WWW.DFPS.STATE.TX.US**

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services serves the state's youth, families, elderly and people with disabilities. The DFPS mission is to protect children, the elderly and people who have disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation by working with clients, families and communities. DFPS works to accomplish that mission through four programs: Child Protective Services (CPS), Adult Protective Services (APS), Child Care Licensing (CCL), and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs. DFPS is an agency of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

### THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS ARE TO:

- Conduct civil investigations of reported child abuse and neglect,
- Protect children from abuse and neglect,
- Promote the safety, integrity and stability of families,
- Provide permanent placements for children who cannot safely remain with their own families.



**HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN  
AND ADULTS (HCPS)**  
**WWW.HC-PS.ORG**

The Vision of Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS) is to better the lives of children and adults in Harris County.

### HCPS' MISSION IS TO:

- Provide direct services to children not served by DFPS,
- Provide support services designed to enhance the efficiency of the DFPS program,
- Provide guardianship services to adults,
- Advocate for Harris County's children and adults.

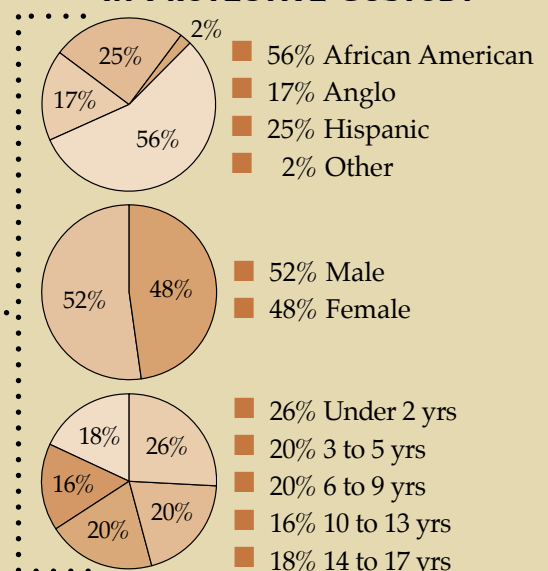
HCPS, a county department advocating for Harris County children and adults, works to accomplish its mission through three programs: Guardianship Services and Representative Payee Program; Youth Services, i.e. Kinder Emergency Shelter, Community Youth Services, Preparation for Adult Living, Systems of Hope, and the TRIAD Prevention Program; and Children's Services, i.e. BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids, Children's Crisis Care Center, Medical and Dental Clinic and the Training Institute.

### TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED MONTHLY

Approximate number of children receiving services from CPS in Harris County per month in 2008, including those children serviced in DFPS and HCPS programs.

Completed investigations (children).....	4,500
Receiving Family-Based Safety Services (children).....	4,900
In Protective Custody (children).....	5,100
(See Breakdown charts at right) .....	
Receiving TRIAD Prevention Program Services (youth).....	1,600
Receiving CYS Services (youth).....	4,500
<hr/>	
Total (Approximate number of children served per month by CPS in Harris County)	20,600

### BREAKDOWN OF (CHILDREN) IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY





# STATISTICS FOR CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY 2008

Harris County Child Population for Year 2008: 1,061,217

## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS)

### CPS Program of DFPS 2008 Activities <sup>1</sup> - FY September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008

Intakes of child abuse and neglect assigned for investigation		26,225 <sup>2</sup>
Completed investigations	families	21,547 <sup>2</sup>
	alleged victims	35,388
	total children	48,683
Children adopted	in Region 6 <sup>3</sup>	973
Children served in Family-Based Safety Services		10,050
Children taken into protective custody		1,980
Total children in protective custody	as of August 31, 2008	5,108
Foster and Foster/ Adopt Homes	as of August 31, 2008	194

1 Source: DFPS Forecasting and Program Statistics.

2 The difference between Intakes and Completed investigations is the families currently under investigation or investigations merged or administratively closed.

3 Houston Region 6 includes Harris County and 12 surrounding counties.

Additional information  
can be found at:  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/statistics](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/statistics)

## HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS (HCPS)

### HCPS 2007 Activities <sup>4</sup> - January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids <sup>5</sup>	CPS children served in BEAR Necessities	10,500
	CPS children served in BEARing Gifts	7,435
	CPS children served in Back to School	5,050
	in-kind and cash contributions	\$1,235,575
Children's Crisis Care Center (4Cs)	children evaluated	1,349
	families assessed	421
	Family Group Decision-Making conferences	560
	Permanency Planning Team meetings	3,084 <sup>6</sup>
Community Youth Services (CYS)	youth referrals	6,213
	parents and teens in Survival Skills	454
Student Support Services		48,736
Guardianship Program	adult wards as of Dec. 31, 2006	1,447
Kinder Emergency Shelter	youth sheltered	344
Medical-Dental Clinic	children served	3,852
Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)	youth served in Harris County <sup>7</sup>	999
TRIAD Prevention Program	at-risk youth served	19,944 <sup>8</sup>

4 Source: The new EVOLV Database System

5 Some children are served by multiple programs.

6 Special professional teams to ensure that children do not linger in foster care.

7 PAL served youth during DFPS fiscal year.

8 Refer to page 19 for breakdown

Additional information  
can be found at:  
[www.hc-ps.org](http://www.hc-ps.org)



**“I WANT MY DAUGHTERS TO  
ALWAYS FEEL SAFE AND LOVED”**



**CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY**  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

## **CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS**

For more information on services, go to:  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/child\\_protection](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_protection)

### **INTAKE**

State law requires anyone who believes a child is being abused or neglected to report the situation to the DFPS abuse hotline. DFPS administers a toll-free, 24-hour state-wide hotline (1-800-252-5400) located in Austin, Texas for reporting suspected abuse and neglect of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities at 1-800-252-5400. People can also report online through a secured website at [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org). Anyone needing to report abuse or neglect can reach a professional English or Spanish speaking intake worker. Law enforcement agencies are also notified of reports regarding children.

In FY 2008, CPS in Harris County assigned 26,225 intakes of child abuse and neglect for investigation. All reports meeting the statutory definitions of abuse and neglect are assigned a priority based on the level of risk to the alleged victim. The highest priority reports (P1) must be responded to within 24 hours. Priority 2 cases must be responded to within 72 hours.

### **INVESTIGATIONS**

When an intake report is assigned, CPS workers interview children, parents and others with knowledge of the family. These interviews help determine if child abuse or neglect has occurred and assess the risk of further harm to the child. If criminal conduct is involved, law enforcement may investigate at the same time to determine if criminal charges will be filed. Even if evidence of abuse or neglect is not found, caseworkers may refer families to services in the community, such as individual or family therapy, parenting classes, medical assistance, mental health services, or programs offering financial assistance for utilities, rent, and child care.

In recent years, CPS has hired subject matter experts to assist caseworkers conducting investigations. These subject matter experts include child safety specialists who have expertise in assessing risk and safety of children, law enforcement liaison staff, nurses, youth specialists, legal liaison staff, substance abuse experts, and investigations screeners who provide additional review when CPS reports are received.

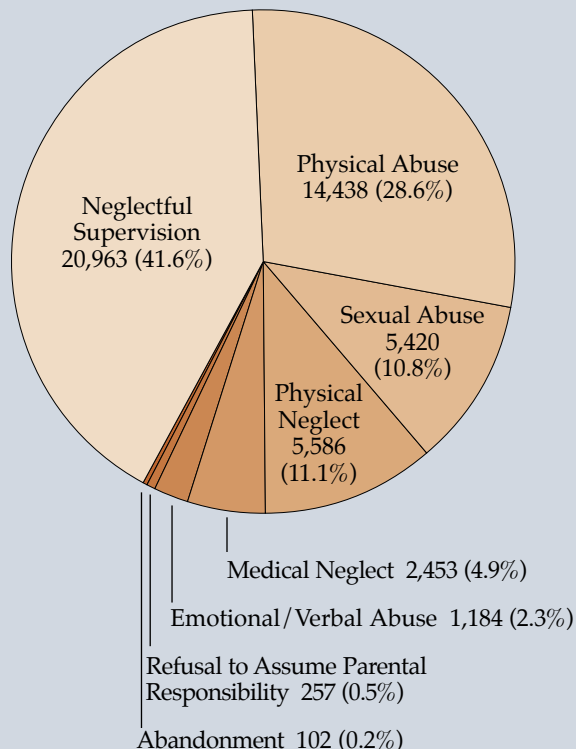
## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

The Child Protective Services Point of Entry, located at the Harris County Youth Services Center, helps to coordinate investigations for victims of physical abuse or neglect 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Victims of sexual abuse are referred to the Children's Assessment Center for investigation by CPS staff, law enforcement, medical professionals, specialized interviewers and therapists.

During FY 2008, CPS in Harris County completed 21,547 investigations. 6,365 children were confirmed to have been abused or neglected in Harris County. The rate of confirmed abuse/neglect victims in Harris County was 6.0 per 1,000 children. In Texas, 11.0 children per 1,000 were confirmed as child abuse/neglect victims.

### BREAKDOWN OF TYPES OF ABUSE/NEGLECT OF ALLEGED VICTIMS IN COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS

The total exceeds 35,388 alleged victims in completed investigations in 2008 since children may have more than one type of abuse/neglect allegation.



### COMPLETED CPS INVESTIGATIONS IN HARRIS COUNTY

#### FY 2004

intakes	22,706
families	18,509
alleged victims	29,288
total number of children	40,399

#### FY 2005

intakes	25,856
families	20,976
alleged victims	33,675
total number of children	46,326

#### FY 2006

intakes	25,915
families	21,439
alleged victims	35,033
total number of children	47,438

#### FY 2007

intakes	25,564
families	20,690
alleged victims	34,013
total number of children	46,669

#### FY 2008

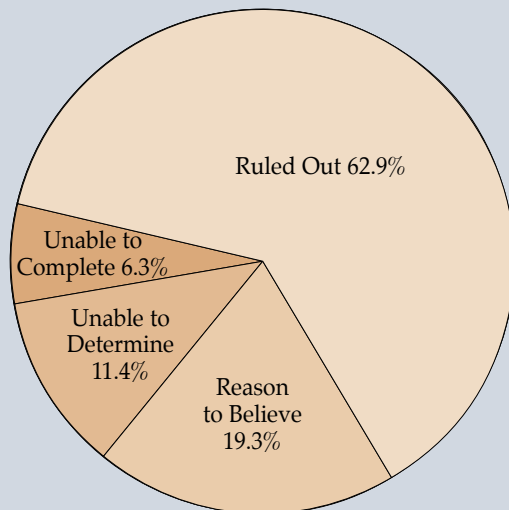
intakes	26,225
families	21,547
alleged victims	35,388
total number of children	48,683

The difference between Intakes and Completed Investigations is the families currently under investigation or investigation merged or administratively closed.

## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

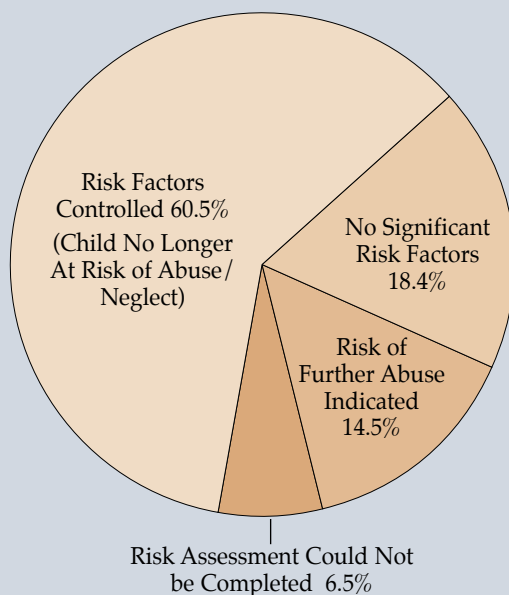
### FINDINGS OF ALLEGATIONS IN FAMILIES IN COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS

During FY 2008, 21,547 family investigations were completed.



CPS investigations help determine if child abuse or neglect has occurred and assess the risk of further harm to the child.

### OUTCOME OF RISK ASSESSMENT OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT IN FAMILIES IN COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS



### FAMILY-BASED SAFETY SERVICES (FBSS)

When child safety can be reasonably assured, CPS provides in-home services to help stabilize the family and reduce the risk of future abuse or neglect. Services provided include family counseling, crisis intervention, mental health services, parenting classes, substance abuse treatment and childcare. Most children served by FBSS continue to live at home while CPS works with their families. In other cases, children may live elsewhere temporarily, usually with relatives or family friends, until the home becomes safe enough for the children to return.

In FY 2008, 10,050 children in Harris County received family-based safety services in their own homes. In 2008 an average of 4,900 children per month received in-home services. During 2008, CPS implemented a substance abuse protocol for use by Family Based Safety Services staff working with families dealing with this issue.

### FOSTER CARE

When it is not safe for children to live with their own families, CPS petitions the court to remove the children from their home. They may be placed temporarily with relatives, a foster family or an emergency shelter. Some children have special emotional needs or other disabilities that can be difficult to address in a foster home. These children may be placed in specialized group homes, residential treatment centers, or other facilities. In 2008 the average number of children in foster care in Harris County each month was 5,100.

The Intensive Permanency Placement Initiative (IPPI) is a new pilot that began last year in Harris County to help support CPS youth, 14 years and older, with multiple placements and who have been in permanent custody of CPS for 2 or more years. Experienced caseworkers are each assigned to 7 cases so they can do intensive case management and have more frequent contacts with the youth and develop closer relationships with the youth. The hope is that there will be a reduction in placement breakdowns with the youth and there will be better outcomes for the youth when they age out of foster care.

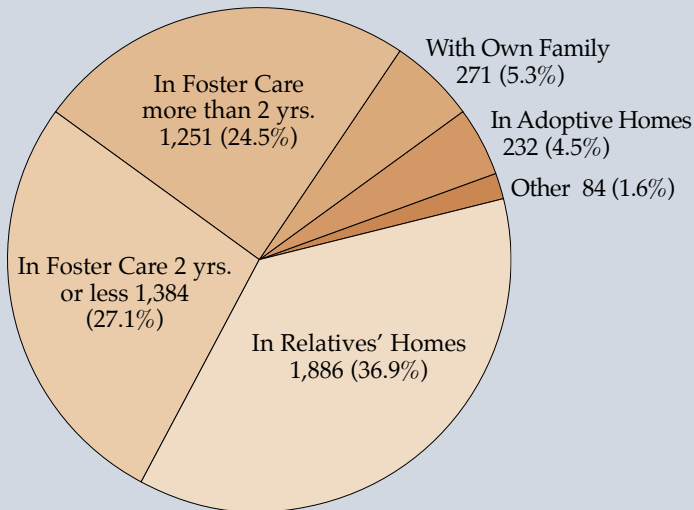
For more information on foster care, go to:  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection/Foster\\_Care](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Foster_Care)



## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

### LOCATION OF CHILDREN IN DFPS PROTECTIVE CUSTODY IN HARRIS COUNTY

At the end of FY 2008, 5,108 children were in the state's Managing Conservatorship (custody) in Harris County.

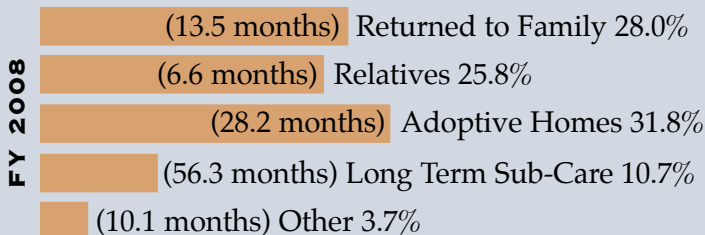


### FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM)

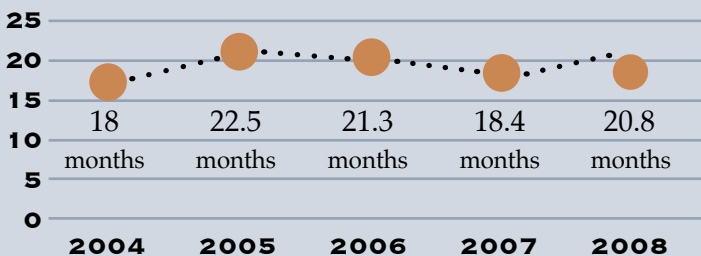
CPS protects children and acts on their behalf. However, CPS recognizes that families have strengths and families know their children best and want them to be safe. That's why CPS wants the family's input and has integrated a "family focus" in all areas of service. Parents and families can often help fix the problems that led to the abuse and neglect.

If the children are still living with their own families, CPS may set up a meeting called a Family Team Meeting as a quick way to resolve some safety concerns. Families can invite anyone who is important in their children's lives to be part of this planning team.

When children are removed from their homes and placed in the state's custody, a special team of CPS staff and other professionals work together with families to develop a plan to address the factors that caused the abuse/neglect. A Family Group Conference happens most frequently when children have been removed from their families. It is up to the family to decide if they want to have one. In Houston Region 6, either through Family Group Decision-Making or a Permanency Planning Team, this coordination is by the Children's Crisis Care Center (page 14).



The average length of time children were in state custody in Harris County until placed in a permanent living arrangement during FY 2008 was 20.8 months



Comparison of total average length of time children in custody 2004 - 2008

### DISPROPORTIONALITY

In the Texas CPS system, a higher percentage of minority children are removed from their homes, a lower percentage are successfully reunited with their families, and a higher percentage age out of foster care. However, CPS is partnering with community organizations and using data to reduce disparate outcomes. This past year, some of the efforts in addressing the disproportionality issue in the Houston area have included a partnership between CPS, Casey Family Services, and the Houston Area Urban League to provide wrap-around services for identified youth. CPS also collaborated with City of Houston and Systems of Hope in the development of the Kids Village Model. Services to families involved with CPS in the Sunnyside area can be provided at one location, the Sunnyside multi-service center. The Disproportionality Advisory Group developed an outreach and networking team. This group is providing education on how the CPS system works to various housing complexes within the disproportionality zip codes.

## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

### FAMILY REUNIFICATION

During FY 2008, 2,118 children in CPS custody in Harris County were placed in a permanent living arrangement. With court approval, 28% of the children were returned to their own families, 25.8% were placed with relatives, and 31.8% were placed in adoptive homes.

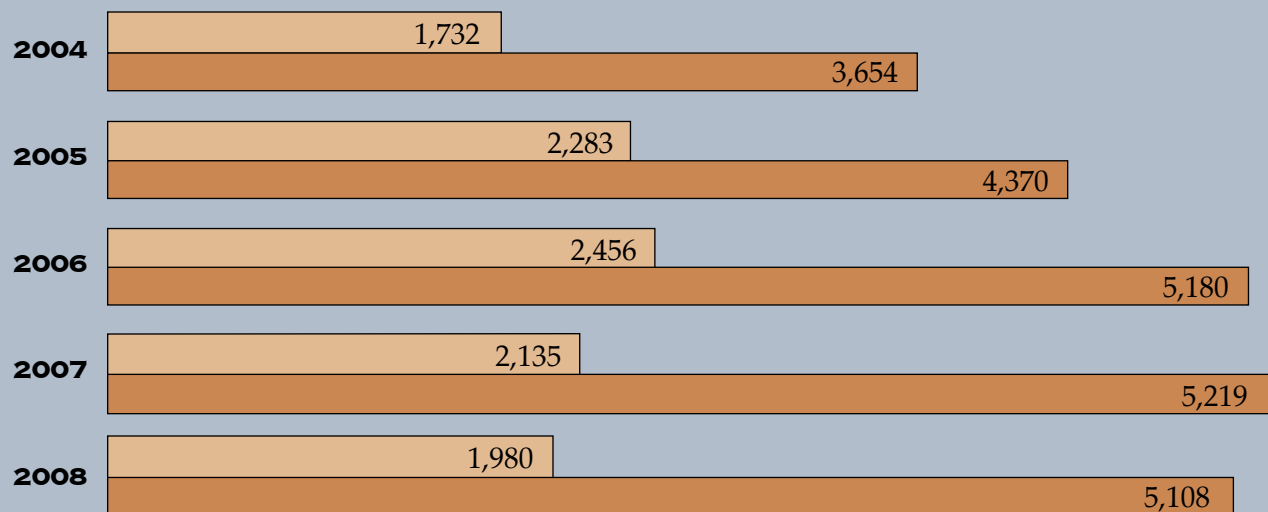
**KINSHIP:** For generations, extended families have played a significant role in the rearing of children when parents are having a difficult time. Referred to as kinship care or relative care in CPS, these caregivers provide children the benefit of more stability when they cannot live with their birth parents. Kinship placements move children out of foster care and into the care of relatives, helping children stay connected to their families and their communities.

The CPS kinship program supports relative caregivers by assisting with initial costs of accepting a child and through ongoing case management. In 2008, over 1,800 children were in a kinship placement in Harris County each month.



### CHILDREN TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY DURING FISCAL YEAR

### CHILDREN IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY AT END OF FISCAL YEAR



Source: DFPS Forecasting and Program Statistics

## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

### ADOPTION

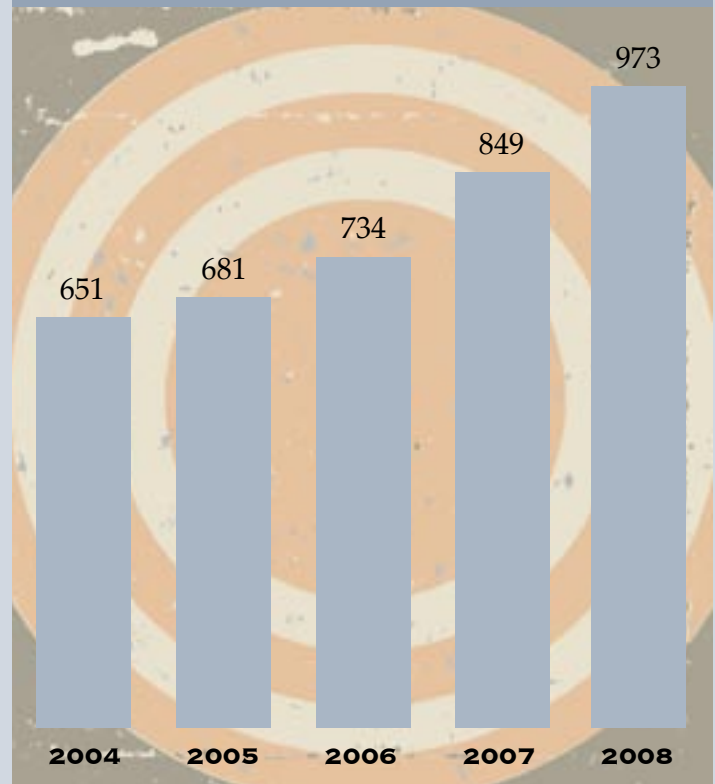
When it is not possible for a child to return home, the court may terminate the parents' rights and legally make the child available for adoption. In 2008, DFPS completed 973 adoptions in Houston Region 6 (Harris County and the 12 surrounding counties). DFPS contracts with over 100 licensed private child-placing agencies to increase the number of adoptive homes available to adopt foster children. CPS recruits foster parents and adoptive families through local, state, and national campaigns and through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) website. TARE provides information on children waiting to be adopted. Photos, profiles, videos, and inquiry forms are available at [www.adoptchildren.org](http://www.adoptchildren.org)

### OTHER EXAMPLES OF RECRUITMENT EFFORTS INCLUDE:

- Foster Care Month activities in May across the state.
- The "Why Not Me" public awareness campaign, which is aimed at increasing adoptions of older children in CPS custody and encouraging families to foster or adopt older children.
- Adoption Awareness Month activities in the month of November, such as mass adoptions events. These celebrations were created by working with the juvenile courts, adoptive families, attorneys, and others to schedule adoptions hearings in November and using media coverage to encourage families to become adoptive parents.
- Faith-based collaborations such as the Congregations Helping in Love and Dedication (CHILD) and One Church, One Child programs.

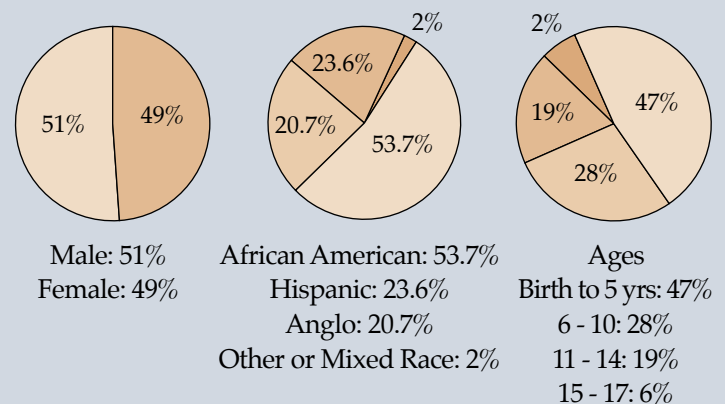
Adopted children who have suffered abuse or neglect often need help coping with the effects of these experiences and the loss of their birth families. Region 6 contracts with private agencies to provide post-adoption services to adopted children in their new families, including case management, mental health, therapeutic services, parent training, support groups and respite care for adoptive parents.

### ADOPTIONS COMPLETED IN HOUSTON REGION 6



### WAITING [WWW.ADOPTCHILDREN.ORG](http://WWW.ADOPTCHILDREN.ORG) 1-800-233-3405

1,772 children in the Houston Region are waiting to be adopted.







**“MY ARMS WILL ALWAYS  
WELCOME YOU HOME”**



**CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY  
HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR  
CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

**CHILDREN SERVICES**

**THE CHILDREN’S CRISIS CARE CENTER**



The Children’s Crisis Care Center (4Cs) is a community collaboration focused on meeting the unique needs of each physically abused and neglected child entering CPS custody. This service is only available to children referred by DFPS.

The Children’s Crisis Care Center, with 35 staff, 22 contracted professionals, and interns from local graduate programs, is structured into three program teams: Children, Family and Permanency Planning.

**DURING 2008:**

Children evaluated .....	1,349
Families assessed .....	421
Permanency Planning Team meetings .....	3,084
(For each custody child in Region 6)	
Family Group Decision-Making conferences .....	560

For complete information on 4Cs  
and its programs, go to:  
**[www.hc-ps.org](http://www.hc-ps.org)**

**HCPS CLINIC**



HCPS Clinic, which is located at the Youth Services Center, is available to all child clients of DFPS and HCPS and operates with the University of Texas Medical School.

During 2008, 3,852 children were provided services at the HCPS Clinic. 2,778 children received medical services and 1,074 received dental services. Services included helping caseworkers identify suspected child abuse/neglect, providing medical and dental services to children in foster care and the Kinder Emergency Shelter, as well as various medical presentations and trainings.

The Clinic also performed drug screens on adults, connected with the children we serve, when requested by the caseworkers.



## CHILDREN SERVICES

### BEAR



BEAR, which stands for BE A Resource for CPS Kids, offers help and hope for abused and neglected children and the caseworkers who protect them. BEAR is a 501(c)(3) public/private partnership that provides goods and services to children under the care of CPS in Harris County.



During 2008, BEAR Necessities, an emergency supply room, served 10,500 children and BEARing Gifts, which provides holiday gifts to CPS kids, served more than 7,400 children. BEAR Back to School provided school uniforms and supplies to over 5,000 children. Some children are served by all programs.

BEAR is so grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who ensure that we are able to serve as many children as possible. In 2008 25 year-round volunteers assisted in the BEAR rooms, 150 volunteers assisted with BEAR Back to School and more than 300 volunteers participated in BEARing Gifts.

For more information about BEAR and opportunities to get involved, go to:  
[www.bearesourcehouston.org](http://www.bearesourcehouston.org)

### REGION 6 TRAINING INSTITUTE



The Region 6 Training Institute consists of both HCPS and DFPS employees. The Training Institute provides a variety of training courses and staff development opportunities for all levels of HCPS and DFPS employees, including: Basic Skills Development Courses designed for new DFPS/CPS workers, CPS Supervisors, and a wide range of continuing education courses of interest for HCPS workers and supervisors; Computer Based - Basic Skills Development classes for all new Guardianship Caseworkers, and a wide range of specialty courses of interest for Guardianship workers and supervisors; Basic Management training for all supervisors and managers, and Distance Learning opportunities through video-conferencing technologies.

The Region 6 Training Consortium, is a collaboration of individuals, private agencies, non-profit organizations, for profit business groups, and government entities, who provide training and workshops that enhance an individual's personal, professional, and organizational performance.

## CHILDREN SERVICES

### SYSTEMS OF HOPE



Harris County Systems of Hope (SOH) is a program designed to assist children and youth, from age 6 to 16, with severe emotional disturbance and their families.

The program utilizes the wraparound process, which includes the following essential elements of system of care:

- Family driven/families as partners
- Youth guided
- Culturally and Linguistically Competent
- Individualized and strength based
- Community based
- Collaborative
- Flexible funding
- Balance of formal and informal supports
- Unconditional commitment
- Outcomes determined and measured.

The SOH initiative collaborates with other child serving agencies in Harris County including Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, DePelchin Children's Center, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County, the City of Houston, and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

SOH Care Teams, consisting of a Care Coordinator and a Parent Partner, are assigned to seven regions covering Harris County. The teams provide support for the youth and families through the use of traditional and non-traditional services. The SOH Youth Advisory Council meets at least monthly and ensures that the youth in the program have a voice.

A national evaluation of the project supports the effectiveness of Systems of Hope through the following outcomes:

- School attendance and performance have improved
- Living situations have stabilized
- In-patient hospitalization days per youth has dropped
- Caregivers report overall improvement in family functioning
- Decrease in substance abuse.

In February 2009, Systems of Hope became one of the service providers for the new Juvenile Mental Health docket. This innovative program is one of few in the juvenile specialty courts in the country. Youth in the Juvenile Justice system identified with having a mental health challenge as the root cause of their law breaking behavior may be assigned to the specialized docket in Judge John Phillips' 314th District Court. The Systems of Hope uses the system of care to support these youth and families.

For more information on Systems of Hope, go to: [www.systemsofhope.org](http://www.systemsofhope.org) or call 713-795-HOPE

Total Number of Children Served: 179

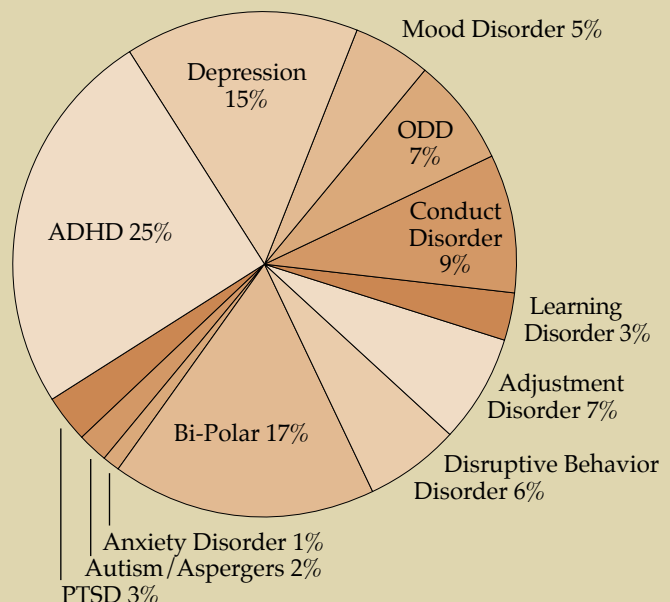
### DEMOGRAPHICS: AVERAGE AGE IS 13

■ Female: 28% ■ Male: 72%

### RACE AND ETHNICITY

■ Hispanic: 36% ■ African American: 42%  
 ■ Anglo: 20% ■ Asian: 1% ■ Other: 1%

### DSM DIAGNOSIS





**“MY BROTHER AND I ARE ALWAYS HOME,  
AS LONG AS WE’RE TOGETHER”**



**CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY**  
**HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR**  
**CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

## **YOUTH SERVICES**

*The Harris County Youth Services Center (YSC) is a “hub” of support services for children and youth needing help. The facility, located at 6300 Chimney Rock, allows the various agencies housed at the YSC to better coordinate the many services they offer.*

*Located in the building are staff from HCPS (Kinder Emergency Shelter, CYS, TRIAD Prevention Program, Medical/ Dental Clinic and BEAR), the DFPS’ Child Protective Services Point of Entry, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, DePelchin Children’s Center and Systems of Hope.*





## YOUTH SERVICES

### COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES (CYS)



CYS, a crisis intervention and case management program, with 92 staff members, offers free, voluntary assistance to at-risk children and youth and their families. For more information go to [www.hc-ps.org](http://www.hc-ps.org)

Seventy-five of the CYS staff members have a unique shared funding partnership with 16 school districts as well as the Pasadena Police Department, the Educational Services Division of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, and the Community Education Partners Charter School. The goal of this program is to prevent at-risk youth from becoming victims of child abuse, running away, dropping out of school or entering into delinquent behavior. Additionally, CYS provides support services to runaway/homeless youth through the Safety Net program, and conflict resolution/mediation to youth and their parents through the Parent/Teen

Survival program. During 2008, 454 parents and teens completed the course.

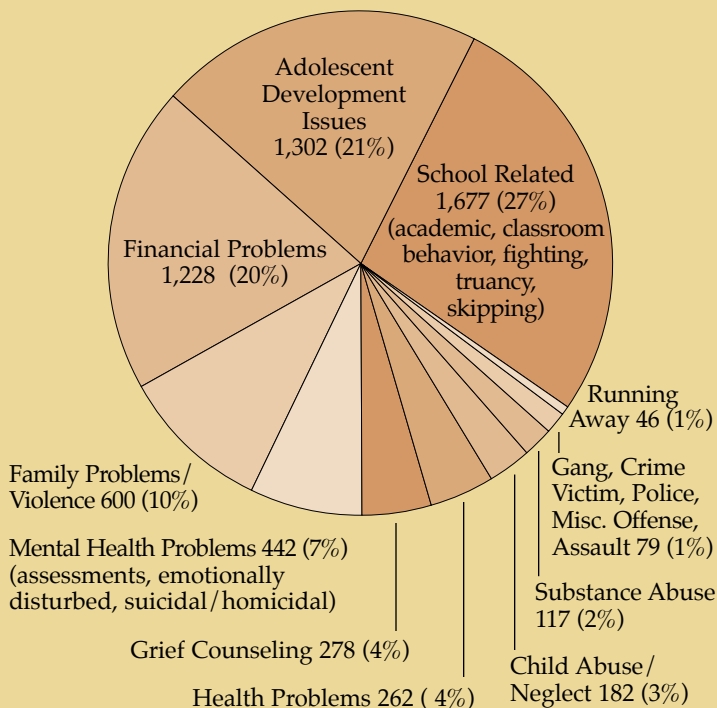
Through a Criminal Justice grant, CYS has partnered with the Harris County District Attorney's Stay in Schools Program, and Clear Creek Independent School to develop and administer the Truancy Intervention Program (T.I.P.). This collaborative project identifies early truancy behaviors, diverts students from entering the juvenile justice system and decrease the potential for juvenile delinquent behaviors.

CYS staff served 6,213 youth referrals.

CYS staff provided an additional 48,736, Student Support Services to students at school or in the community not related to open cases. Students may participate in multiple outreach event services.

### REASONS FOR NEW REFERRALS TO CPS

During 2008, staffed served 6,213 new youth referrals.



### KINDER EMERGENCY SHELTER



During 2008, 344 youth, ages 12-17, who required emergency short-term residential care, were placed in the 24 bed Nancy and Rich Kinder Emergency Shelter by case-workers from DFPS/CPS, CYS, Systems of Hope and the TRIAD Prevention Program.\* The shelter continued to help with the foster care crisis. In 2008 there was an increase in DFPS referrals. Some of the referrals included overnight stays for CPS youth who otherwise would have spent the night in caseworker's offices due to unavailable placements appropriate for the youth. The Shelter provided 288 nights of emergency shelter to a total of 780 youth (duplicate count).

### THE DIVERSITY OF THE YOUTH SHELTERED INCLUDED

■ 57% female ■ 43% male.

#### RACE AND ETHNICITY

- 45% African American
- 29% Anglo
- 21% Hispanic
- 5% Other Races

#### REFERRAL RESOURCE

- 97% DFPS\*
- 3% TRIAD, CYS, SOH



## YOUTH SERVICES

### TRIAD



During 2008, 19,944 at-risk youth were served.

TRIAD Prevention Program is a consortium of three county agencies (Protective Services for Children and Adults, Juvenile Probation and Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority) working together to coordinate their resources to serve at-risk youth. TRIAD provides countywide prevention and early intervention services to divert youth and families from involvement with the CPS, mental health and/or juvenile justice systems.

The Baby Abandonment Prevention Hotline staffed by TRIAD Intake Diversion, received 98 calls during 2008.

#### TRIAD PREVENTION PROGRAM AT-RISK YOUTH SERVED IN YEAR 2008

JP Court Program .....	13,545
Truancy Learning Camp .....	99
Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR)* .....	348
Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL).....	69
Intake/Diversion .....	2,419
Mental Health Services .....	46
Community Youth Development (CYD)* .....	3,418
<hr/>	
TOTAL .....	19,944

\*STAR, CYD and the Universal Child Abuse Prevention Project are programs that are funded by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

For more information on  
TRIAD Prevention Programs, go to:  
[www.hc-ps.org](http://www.hc-ps.org)

### PAL



The Region 6 Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Program, with 16 HCPS and 8 DFPS staff

members, helps make the transition to adulthood successful for youth in foster care. PAL services include independent living assessment, time-limited financial help, and training in such areas as money management, job skills, educational planning and interpersonal skills.

In 2008, 1,329 youth from Region 6 (999 from Harris County), ages 14 through 20, received services through the PAL Program. Through funds of the federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Act, PAL provided aftercare room-and-board assistance and case management services for young adults ages 18 through 21 who have exited foster care.

### HAY CENTER



In 2008, the Houston Alumni and Youth Center (HAY) served 513 young adults between the ages of 16 to 25 at 2800 Antoine Dr., in Houston. The

HAY Center provides a one-stop transition center for foster youth and former foster youth still in need of employment, education or support. HCPS staff members provide employment, education, counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting classes, and limited financial assistance in conjunction with PAL staff and numerous partner agencies to empower foster youth and alumni to become successful, productive adults.

For more information about  
PAL Services or the HAY Center, go to:  
[www.haycenter.org](http://www.haycenter.org) or call 713-600-2800.





**“I WANT TO FEEL THE COMFORT OF  
KNOWING THAT I’LL BE CARED FOR”**



**CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY**  
HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

**GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM**



The Harris County Guardianship Program (HCGP) provides guardianship services to adults who are determined by one of Harris County’s four Probate Courts to be incapacitated. Specially trained case managers ensure that the wards maintain the highest degree of independence, dignity and respect, while protecting them from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. They also provide appropriate management of wards’ property, finances, and daily needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. Guardianship services continue until the wards improve to a point where the court finds them fully capable of handling their own affairs; until the court appoints successor guardians, such as family or friends; or until the wards pass away. At the end of December 31, 2008, there were 1,447 court-appointed wards in the Guardianship Program.

The Guardianship Program began administering the Representative Payee Program (RPP) in September 2007. The Representative Payee Program is a case management program designed to assist eligible low-income Harris County adults who are elderly, physically, or mentally disabled with financial management so they can remain living independently in the community. A case manager with the Guardianship Program is responsible for paying the client’s monthly rent and bills and verifies that the basic needs of the client are met.

Community volunteers, such as the Guardianship Angels, also play a significant role in the lives of HCGP wards and representative payee clients by either giving of their time, talents or resources.

For more information and opportunities to get involved, contact the Guardianship Program at **713-363-2300**.

**THE DIVERSITY OF THE WARDS INCLUDED**

■ 52% Male ■ 48% Female

**INCAPACITIES**

- 26% Developmental Disability
- 30% Mental Deterioration
- 34% Mental Illness
- 10% Physical Incapacity

**WARDS BY AGES**

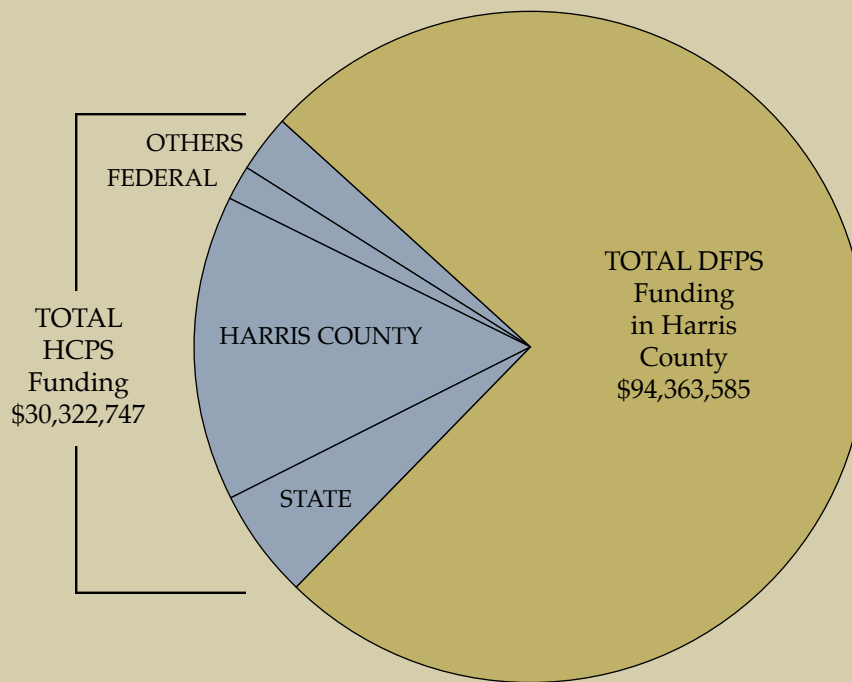
- 1% - 18 to 21 yrs
- 17% - 22 to 39 yrs
- 40% - 40 to 59 yrs
- 28% - 60 to 79 yrs
- 14% - 80 yrs and over

## CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY 2008 FUNDING

	<b>DFPS*</b>	<b>HCPS**</b>					Combined Funding in Harris County
	DFPS Funds in Harris Co.	State	Harris County	Federal	Others	Total HCPS	
<b>Staff Salaries, Benefits and Travel</b>	\$34,862,629	\$3,726,881	\$13,644,318	\$1,495,565	\$2,742,607	\$21,609,371	\$56,472,000
<b>Children's Foster and Institutional Care</b>	52,183,956	414,695	856,587	0	0	1,271,282	53,455,238
<b>Children's Services Contract</b>	4,559,901	1,631,426	755,910	566,018	357,829	3,311,183	7,871,084
<b>Children's Medical Services</b>	0	68,750	379,188	0	0	447,938	447,938
<b>General and Administrative</b>	2,757,098	843,314	2,550,625	8,417	280,617	3,682,973	6,440,071
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$94,363,585</b>	<b>\$6,685,066</b>	<b>\$18,186,628</b>	<b>\$2,070,000</b>	<b>\$3,381,053</b>	<b>\$30,322,747</b>	<b>\$124,686,332</b>

\* DFPS fiscal year: September 1, 2007 - August 31, 2008  
DFPS funding sources: state and federal government.

\*\* HCPS fiscal year: March 1, 2008 - February 28, 2009  
HCPS funding sources: state, county, federal government and other sources such as grants and foundations.



## AGENCY PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES

### AGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Texas Abuse Hotline ..... (children & adults) .....	1-800-252-5400
Baby Abandonment Hotline .....	1-877-904-SAVE
BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids .....	713-940-3073
Child Protective Services (DFPS) Point of Entry .....	713-295-2650
Children's Crisis Care Center (4C's) .....	713-394-4402
Clinic ..... (medical and dental) .....	713-295-2570
Community Youth Services .....	713-295-2530
Foster and Adoption Inquiry Line .....	1-800-233-3405
Gulfton Youth Development Program .....	713-660-8008
Guardianship Program .....	713-363-2300
PO Box 20605, Houston, TX 77225	
Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults .....	713-394-4000
Harris County Youth Services Center .....	713-295-2500
6300 Chimney Rock, Houston, TX 77081	
Houston Alumni & Youth (HAY) Center .....	713-600-2800
Kinder Emergency Shelter .....	713-295-2700
Preparation for Adult Living .....	713-295-2741
Pasadena Youth Development Program .....	713-473-8393
Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) .....	713-664-3459
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services .....	512-438-4800
Texas Runaway Hotline .....	1-888-580-4357(HELP)
TRIAD Prevention Program .....	713-295-2600

□

### AGENCY WEB SITES

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults .....	<a href="http://www.hc-ps.org">www.hc-ps.org</a>
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services .....	<a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us">www.dfps.state.tx.us</a>
To Report abuse on a secure web site .....	<a href="http://www.txabusehotline.org">www.txabusehotline.org</a>
Child Abuse Prevention.....	<a href="http://www.itsuptoyou.org">www.itsuptoyou.org</a>
BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids .....	<a href="http://www.bearesourcehouston.org">www.bearesourcehouston.org</a>
Texas Adoption Resource Exchange .....	<a href="http://www.adoptchildren.org">www.adoptchildren.org</a>
To Volunteer .....	<a href="http://www.volunteerdfps.org">www.volunteerdfps.org</a>
Systems of Hope .....	<a href="http://www.systemsofhope.org">www.systemsofhope.org</a>
Houston Alumni & Youth (HAY) Center.....	<a href="http://www.haycenter.org">www.haycenter.org</a>



### CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY

2525 Murworth Drive • Houston, Texas 77054 • 713-394-4000

To report abuse and neglect: 1-800-252-5400 • [www.hc-ps.org](http://www.hc-ps.org)