

CPS in Harris County Annual Report

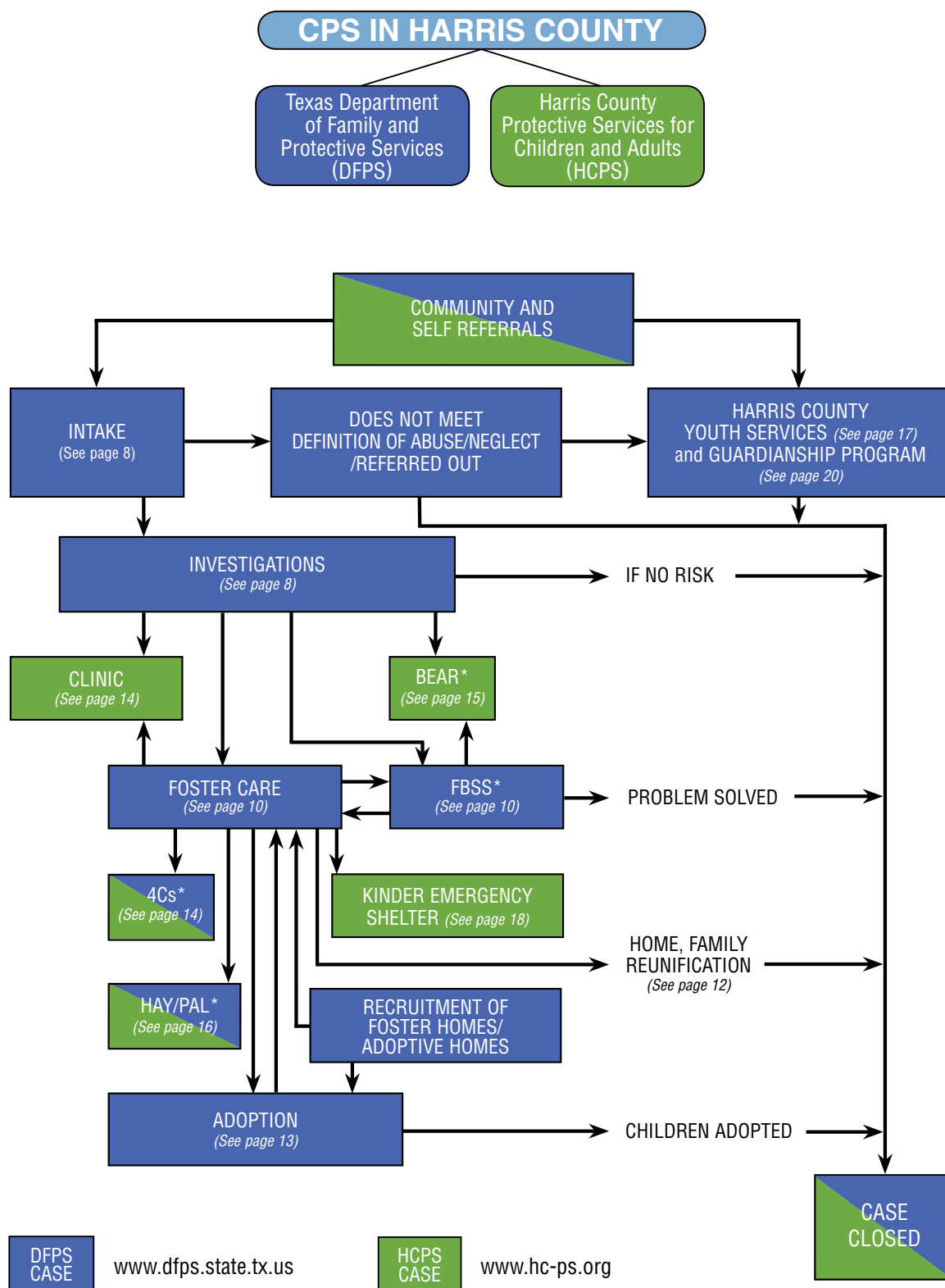
2013 STATISTICS • 2014 PROGRAM INFORMATION

THE POWER OF CHANGE

“Bringing Futures into Bloom”



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

*HAY - Houston Alumni Youth Center
 *PAL - Preparation for Adult Living

LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF HARRIS COUNTY

CPS in Harris County is pleased to present our 2013-2014 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of our programs and services, and 2013 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 (HCPS) works in close partnership with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) in the delivery of the child protective services (CPS) program in Harris County. A large portion of this partnership is through the delivery of services in the **Children's Services Division** (i.e. BEAR, Children's Crisis Center, Medical and Dental Clinic, transitional services to youth aging out of care). Highlights in this division include:

- The integrated Behavioral Health Care Program, in collaboration with DFPS and the Hogg Foundation, completed a successful pilot and the program is operational. The medical services and the 4C's assessment process were combined for a true continuum of care for CPS children.
- Funding was received from the Harris County Hospital District Foundation for Family Peer Navigators. The Family Navigator will support and assist families and caregivers that are accessing services from the HCPS clinic for children under the care of CPS.
- At the HAY Center, a transition coaching program was launched. This program targets college bound CPS foster youth beginning their junior year in high school. Transition coaches, paired with a CPS foster youth, are adult volunteers who help mentor and guide the youth through college.
- In response to a critical need, HCPS contracted with DFPS to provide funding for redaction services in Harris County in order to expedite the adoption process and to remove a barrier delaying children's placement in a permanent home. The average time to finish an adoptions request is now only 36 days as contrasted with 154 days at the beginning of FY 2014.

Other HCPS Division highlights include:

- The **Youth Services Division** restored contracts with Alief and Tomball school districts. These districts were forced to terminate the contracts during the economic downturn. We are delighted that these district join the 13 other school districts that participate in the jointly funded Community Youth Services (CYS) Program. Each CYS Youth Services Specialist serves an average of 300 children per year.
- The **Adult Services Division** collaborated with the City of Houston in the development of the registration requirement for personal care homes in Houston. In addition to replacing outdated office equipment, three vehicles were purchased to transport wards and deliver items to the over 1,300 wards served by the Guardianship Program.

Philip J. Kunetka
Board President, HCPS

HARRIS COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT

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

TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF FAMILY AND
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES



DFPS Highlights

DFPS is currently undergoing CPS Transformation, a rigorous improvement process, to transform itself into the most effective program possible. CPS transformation is guided by recommendations from three reviews:

- The Stephen Group Operational Review
- Sunset Commission
- Casey Family Program

In 2014, DFPS hired The Stephen Group, an experienced outside consulting firm to conduct a top-to-bottom review of CPS. This review, based largely on extensive input from frontline CPS staff across Texas, yielded a set of recommendations in June 2014. In that same timeframe, the Sunset Advisory Commission, which reviews state agencies every 12 years, released its recommendations for DFPS. In addition Casey Family, a nationally known non-profit organization partnered with DFPS to address permanency for children in Harris County. Casey Family Programs studied children in foster care in Harris County. The study found that children stay in care longer than the state average and are less likely to be reunified with their families. Casey Family Program provided CPS with recommendations on improving foster care in Harris County and is providing technical support to assist in implementation of the recommendation. One recommendation is a goal of moving 600 children to permanency. CPS is making great strides in meeting the goal of moving 600 children to permanent homes by December 31, 2014. Transformation brings together all the three sets of recommendations. Initial priorities have been set and they are:

- Reduce turnover and improve employee retention.
- Improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children.
- Make CPS an efficient and effective organization.

While the three reviews found many areas that need improvement, it also identified many aspects of exemplary performance. Among them, it found that CPS is filled with talented people who are committed to children and families. It found that CPS plays a critical role in ensuring safety, well-being, and permanency of tens of thousands of children each year by helping families build safe environments or by finding homes for children. The executive team in Harris County makes up over 100 years of child welfare experience and expertise. We look forward to the changes that will help us do a better job protecting children and helping families.

C.J. Broussard-White, J.D., LLM
Harris County CPS Regional Director

ACCREDITED



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



CHILD
WELFARE
LEAGUE OF
AMERICA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Path Through the Programs of CPS in Harris County

Letter to the Citizens of Harris County	1
HCPS Board of Directors	2
HCPS Administrative Staff	3
DFPS Administrative Staff	3
CPS in Harris County Organizational Chart	4
Overview: HCPS and DFPS	5 & 6
Statistics for CPS in Harris County	7

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

Intake and Investigations	8
Abuse and Neglect Fatalities	8 & 9
Investigation Statistical, Charts, Graphs	9 & 10
Family-Based Safety Services (FBSS)	10
Foster Care	10
Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)	11
Family Reunification	12
Kinship	12
Adoption	13
Extended Foster Care	13
Return to Care	13

CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY

HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

CHILDREN SERVICES

The Children's Crisis Care Center (4Cs)	14
HCPS Clinic	14
BEAR	15
Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)	16
Houston Alumni and Youth Center (HAY)	16
Region 6 Training Institute (TI)	16

YOUTH SERVICES

Community Youth Services (CYS)	18
Kinder Emergency Shelter (KES)	18
TRIAD Prevention Program	19

ADULT SERVICES

The Harris County Guardianship Program (HCGP)	20
---	----

CPS in Harris County 2013 Funding

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



HCPS 2014 Board of Directors

Philip J. Kunetka, *President*

Jerry LeVias, *Vice President*

Ron S. Davis, M.P.A., *Treasurer*

Jo Ellen Sweeney, *Secretary*

Frances Castaneda Dyess

Marilyn DeMontrond

Ernest Frugé, Ph.D.

Charlene Hunter James

Sherea McKenzie

Patrice B. McKinney

Sean Kelly McPherson

James G. Olson

Sarah J. Spindler

Janet Stansbury, M.Ed

Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund

The Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund operates for the benefit of the children, adults and their families who are direct or potential recipients of services from Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults.

2014 Board of Trustees

George DeMontrond, *Chairman*

J. Victor Samuels, *Vice President*

Sally Meadows, *Treasurer*

Barbara Hermes, *Secretary*

Philip Kunetka

Ivan J. Pineda

Jack Sweeney

Adama Traore

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



HCPS 2014 Administrative Staff

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

Debra J. Garner, MBA, CPA
Director of Administration

Claudia Gonzalez, LMSW, TxCG
Adult Services Administrator

Ginger B. Harper, LMSW-AP
Youth Services Administrator

Joel A. Levine, LCSW
Children's Services Administrator

Beverly Pettway, MBA, CPA
*Financial and Business
Services Administrator*

Debra Andrews, MA
Director, Region 6 Training Institute

Bernadette Cashin
Director, BEAR

Deborah Colby, LCSW, LMFT
Director, TRIAD Prevention Program

Mary Green, MA
Director, Transitional Services

Estella Olguin
*Community Relations Director
and Media Specialist*

Anna M. Bell, LMSW-AP
*Program Improvement
Team Leader*



DFPS 2014 CPS Houston Region 6 Executive Team

C.J. Broussard-White, J.D., LLM
Harris County CPS Regional Director

Sherryl Becker, M.S., LCDC, CSW
Program Administrator for Investigations and FBSS

Sheryl T. Dotson, LMSW-AP
*Program Administrator for Children in
Custody in Harris County*

Ledra Johnson
Community Initiative Specialist

Renita Laury
Program Administrator for Investigations and FBSS

Lindy Levit, SPHR
Regional Operations Support Administrator

Debra L. Page, MSW
*Program Administrator for Foster and
Adopt Program and Children in Custody
for the Outlying Counties*

LaTaisha Plummer
Assistant for Harris County CPS Regional Director

Marilyn Polk
*Program Administrator for
Investigations and FBSS*

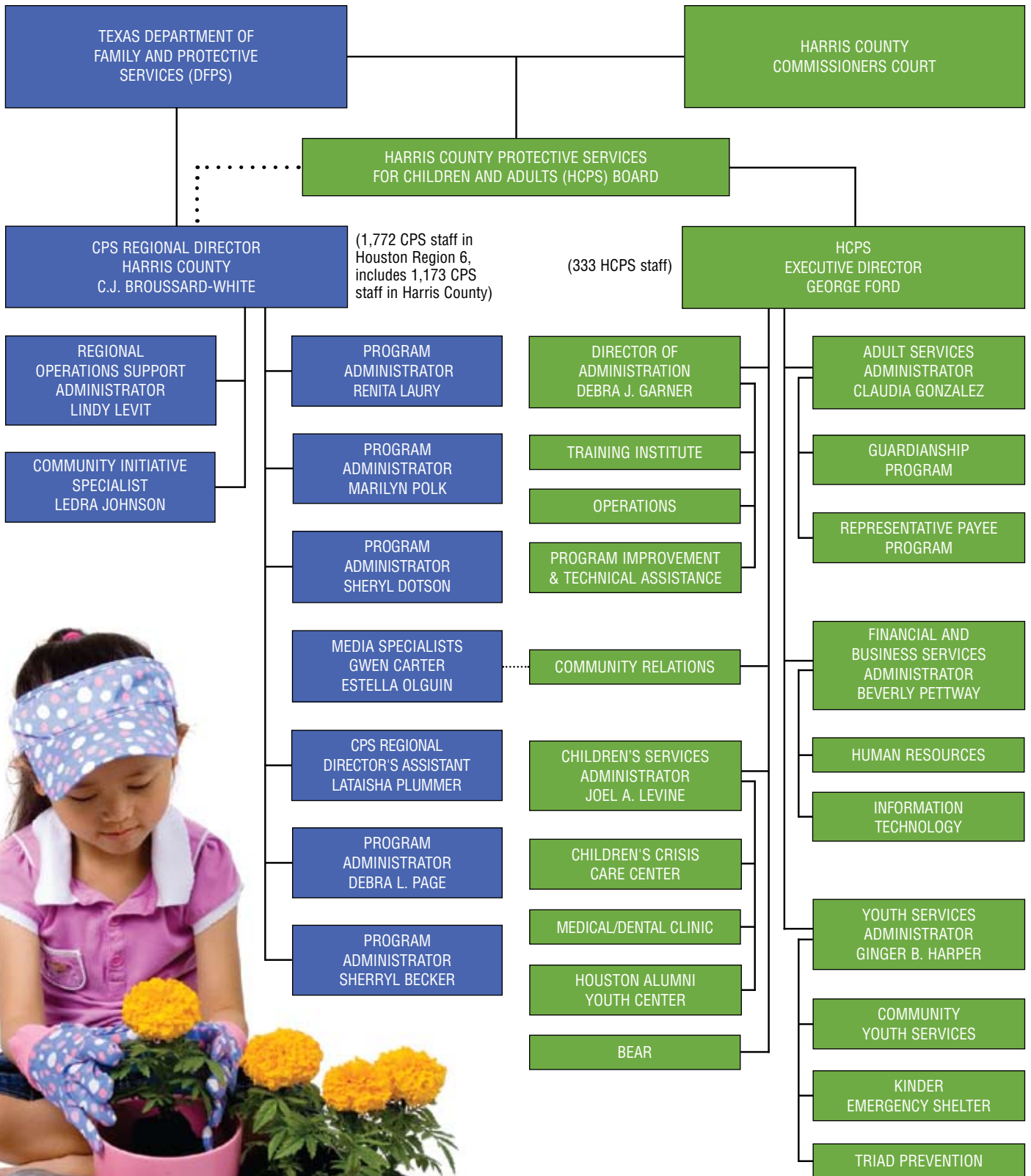
Bridgett Smith-Lawson, J.D.
*Managing Regional Attorney,
APS and CPS*

**THE POWER
OF CHANGE**

*"Bringing Futures
into Bloom"*



CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2014



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)

The Texas Department
of Family and
Protective Services
(DFPS)
www.dfps.state.tx.us



Harris County
Protective Services for
Children and Adults
(HCPS)

Harris County
Protective Services for
Children and Adults
(HCPS)
www.hc-ps.org



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 children, youth, families, and people who are elderly or have disabilities. The DFPS mission is to protect children and people who are elderly or who have disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation by involving 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 reports of child abuse and neglect,
 - Protect children from abuse and neglect,
 - Promote the safety, integrity and stability of families,
- Provide permanent homes or living arrangements 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.

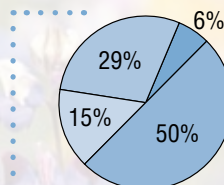
HCPS, a county department advocating for Harris County children and adults, works to accomplish its mission through three divisions: Adult Services; Youth Services, i.e. Kinder Emergency Shelter, Community Youth Services, and the TRIAD Prevention Program; and Children's Services, i.e. BEAR...BE A Resource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

Total Children Served Monthly

Approximate number of children receiving services from CPS in Harris County per month in 2013 including those children serviced in DFPS and HCPS programs.

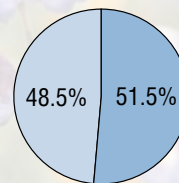
Completed investigations (children)	4,300
Receiving Family-Based Safety Services (children)	5,600
In Protective Custody (children)	4,600
(See Breakdown charts at right)	
Receiving TRIAD Prevention Program Services (youth)	1,700
Receiving CYS Services (youth)	5,200
TOTAL (Approximate number of children served per month by CPS in Harris County)	21,400

Breakdown of (children) in Protective Custody



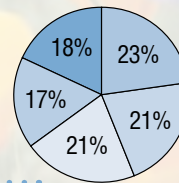
Race and Ethnicity

- 50% African American
- 15% Anglo
- 29% Hispanic
- 6% Other



Diversity

- 51.5% Male
- 48.5% Female



Ages

- 23% Under 2 yrs
- 21% 3 to 5 yrs
- 21% 6 to 9 yrs
- 17% 10 to 13 yrs
- 18% 14 to 17 yrs

STATISTICS FOR CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY 2013

Harris County Child Population for Year 2013: 1,185,780

Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

CPS Program of DFPS 2013 Activities ¹ • FY September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013

Intakes of child abuse and neglect assigned for investigation		24,807 ²
Completed investigations	families	19,996 ²
	alleged victims	31,384
	total children	51,950
Children adopted	in Harris County	1,010
Children served in Family-Based Safety Services		10,583
Children taken into protective custody		1,982
Total children in protective custody	as of August 31, 2013	4,547
Foster and Foster/Adopt Homes	as of August 31, 2013	140

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.

Additional information
can be found at:
www.dfps.state.tx.us/statistics

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS)

HCPS 2013 Activities ³ • January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids ⁴	CPS children served in BEAR Necessities	12,077
	CPS children served in BEARing Gifts	10,145
	CPS children served in Back to School	4,848
	in-kind and cash contributions	\$1,288,837
Children's Crisis Care Center (4Cs)	children evaluated	917
	families assessed	383
	Family Group Decision-Making conferences	308
	Permanency Planning Team meetings	3,767 ⁵
Community Youth Services (CYS)	youth referrals	6,316
	parents and teens in Survival Skills	322
Student Support Services		55,811
Guardianship Program	adult wards as of Dec. 31, 2013	1,356
Kinder Emergency Shelter	youth sheltered	310
Medical-Dental Clinic	children served	2,481
Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)	youth served in Harris County ⁶	841
TRIAD Prevention Program	at-risk youth served	20,502 ⁷

³ Source: The EVOLV Database System

⁴ Some children are served by multiple programs.

⁵ Special professional teams to ensure that children do not linger in foster care.

⁶ PAL served youth during DFPS fiscal year.

⁷ Refer to page 19 for breakdown

Additional information
can be found at:
www.hc-ps.org



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

For more information on services, go to:
www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_protection

■ Intake:

State law requires anyone who believes a child is being abused or neglected, or an adult who is 65 years or older or who has a disability is being abused, neglected, or exploited, to report it. Reports can be made through the DFPS Texas Abuse Hotline (1-800-252-5400) or online through a secure website at www.txabusehotline.org. The Texas Abuse Hotline operates 24-hours a day, every day of the year.

In FY 2013, CPS in Harris County assigned 24,807 reports 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. Intake caseworkers at the hotline notify law enforcement of reports involving children.

■ Investigations:

When an intake report is assigned, CPS workers interview children (when verbal), parents and others with knowledge of the family. These interviews help determine if child abuse or neglect has occurred, if the children are safe, and to assess the risk of further harm to the child. If criminal conduct is involved, law enforcement may investigate to determine if criminal charges will be filed. If needed, CPS 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 childcare.

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.

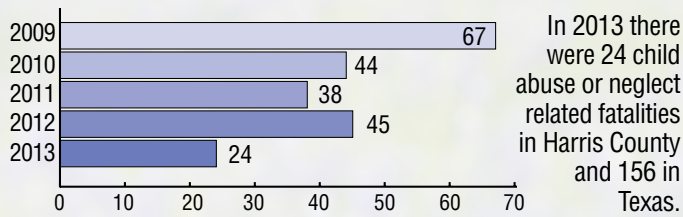
During FY 2013, CPS in Harris County completed 19,996 investigations. 5,929 children were confirmed to have been abused or neglected in Harris County. The rate of confirmed abuse/neglect victims in Harris County was 5.0 per 1,000 children, compared to 9.3 children per 1,000 in Texas.

For more information on Investigations, go to
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/About_Child_Protective_Services/investigation.asp



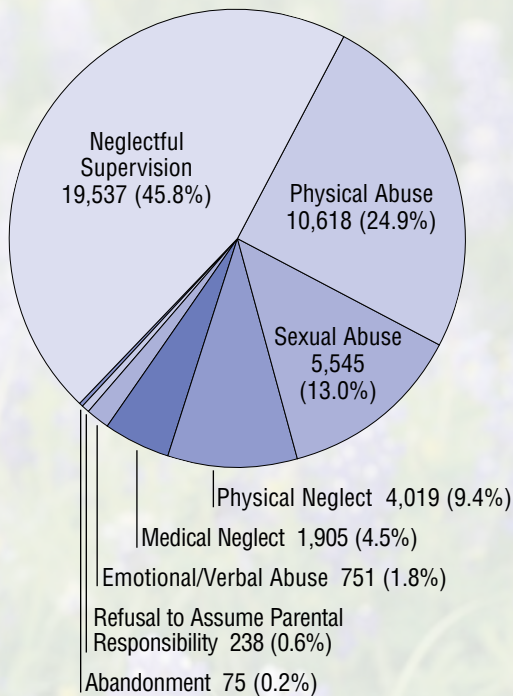
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

Child Abuse or Neglect Fatalities in Harris County



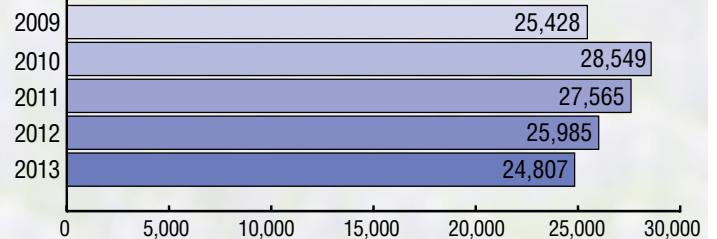
Completed CPS Investigations in Harris County

The total exceeds 31,384 alleged victims in completed investigations in 2013 since children may have more than one type of abuse/neglect allegation.

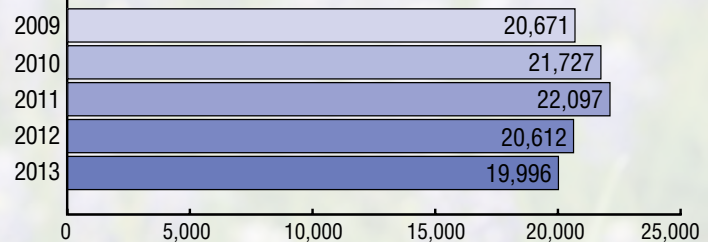


Breakdown of Types of Abuse/Neglect of Alleged Victims in Completed Investigations

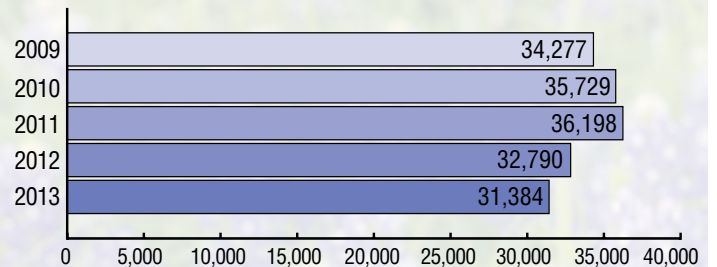
Intakes



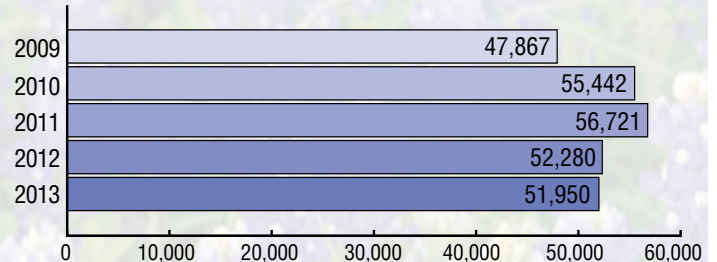
Families



Alleged Victims



Total Number of Children

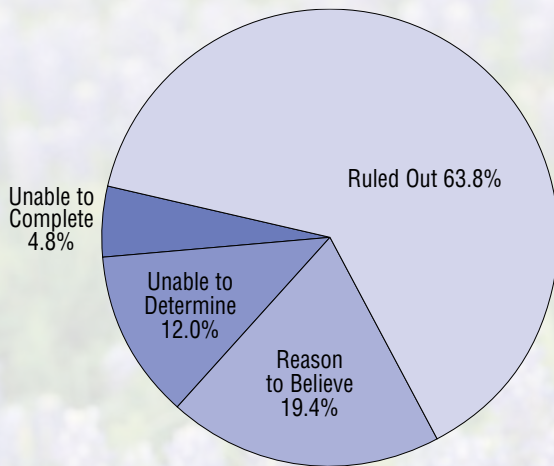


The difference between Intakes and Completed Investigations is the families currently under investigation or investigation merged or administratively closed.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

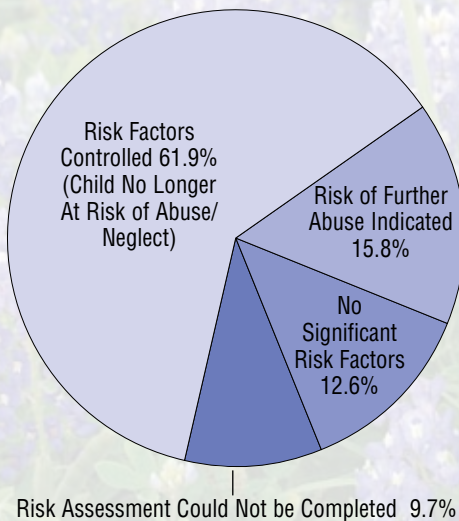
Findings of Allegations in Families in Completed Investigations

During FY 2013, 19,996 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. FBSS can help avoid the need to remove children from their home by strengthening the family's ability to protect their child and reduce threats to their child's safety. Services provided include family counseling, crisis intervention, mental health services, parenting classes, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence intervention, and day care. Most children served by FBSS continue to live at home while CPS works with their families. In some cases, children may live elsewhere temporarily, usually with relatives or family friends, until it is safe for them to return home.

In FY 2013, FBSS provided services to 10,583 children in Harris County. In 2013 an average of 5,600 children received in-home services each month.

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. While in CPS custody, children may be placed temporarily with relatives, a foster family, an emergency shelter, or another foster care facility. These caregivers provide children with a safe, nurturing environment. Foster families receive reimbursements for the costs associated with caring for children. CPS and the foster parents arrange all educational, medical, dental, and therapeutic services needed by the child. Some children have emotional or other needs that can be difficult to address in a foster home. These children may live in specialized group homes, residential treatment centers, or other facilities that best meet their needs. While children are in foster care and parental rights are intact, CPS provides services to parents until the family is reunited or another permanent living arrangement for the children is approved by the courts. In Harris County, 1,982 children were taken into protective custody in 2013 and the average number of children in foster care each month in Harris County was 4,600.

For more information on
FOSTER CARE

www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Foster_Care

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

■ Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

CPS protects children and acts on their behalf. At the same time, CPS thinks all families have strengths. Families know their children best and want them to be safe. FGDM describes a variety of practices to work with and engage families in problem solving including Family Team Meetings, Family Group Conferences, and Circles of Support.

If the children are still living with their own families, CPS may set up a meeting called a Family Team Meeting (FTM) as a rapid response to child safety and placement concerns. It is used to achieve positive outcomes for children in the earliest stages of interaction between CPS and families. Families can invite anyone who is important in their children's lives to be part of this planning team.



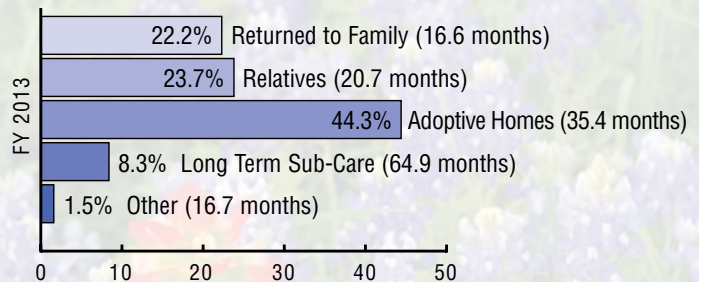
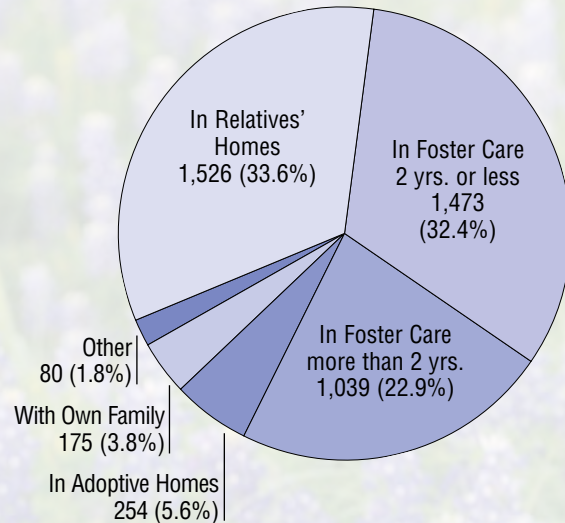
■ **A Family Group Conference (FGC)** happens most frequently when children have been temporarily removed from their families. Families join with relatives, friends, and others in the community to develop a plan to ensure children are cared for and protected from future harm. In Region 6, either through Family Group Decision-Making or a Permanency Planning Team, this coordination is by the Children's Crisis Care Center (page 14).

■ **Circles of Support (COS)** are youth-focused, youth-driven meetings to develop a plan for older youth to transition from foster care to adulthood and to connect youth with caring adults who will support them.

For more information on
CIRCLES OF SUPPORT
see "Services for Foster Youth Transitioning out of Care"
www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/resources/Texas/circle_of_Support.asp

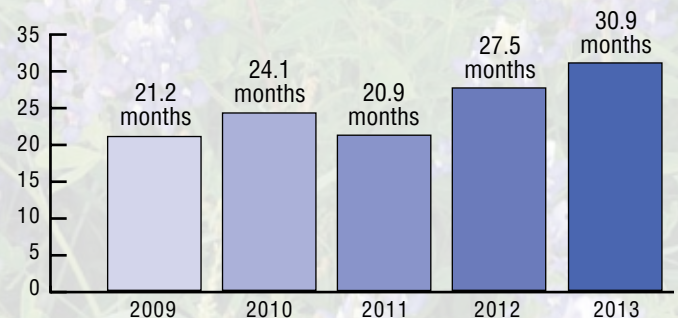
Location of Children in DFPS Protective Custody in Harris County

At the end of FY 2013, 4,547 children were in the state's Managing Conservatorship (custody) in Harris County.



The average length of time children were in state custody in Harris County until placed in a permanent living arrangement during FY 2013 was 30.9 months

Comparison of Total Average Length of Time Children in Custody 2009 - 2013



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) PROGRAM OF DFPS

Family Reunification

In Harris County 2,327 children in CPS custody were placed in a permanent living arrangement in 2013. With court approval, 22.2% of the children were returned to their own families, 23.7% were placed with relatives, and 44.3% were placed in adoptive homes.

The average length of time children were in state custody in Harris County until placed in a permanent living arrangement during FY 2013 was 30.9 months.

Kinship

DFPS and the courts are required to consider temporary placements with safe relatives when removing children from their homes for their safety, DFPS asks parents to provide information on relatives

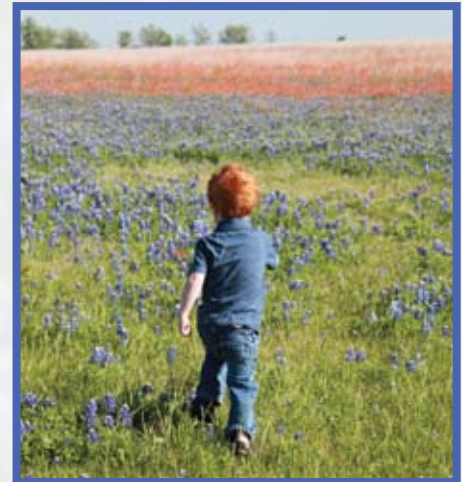
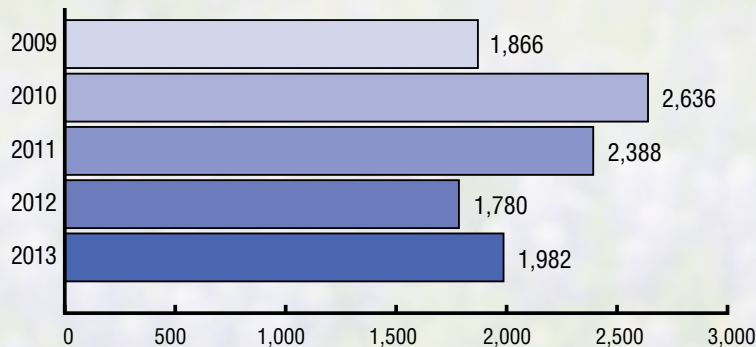
and close family friends who may be able to care for their children. Referred to as kinship care, these caregivers provide children the benefit of more stability when they cannot live with their birth parents. The CPS kinship program assists kinship families by providing support services and limited financial assistance to caregivers who accept placement of related children in CPS custody. In 2013, CPS in Harris County placed 3,445 children in kinship homes. Kinship caregivers may also provide permanent homes by adopting or accepting legal responsibility for children. Kinship placements move children out of foster care and into the care of relatives, helping children stay connected to their families and their communities.

For More Information on
KINSHIP

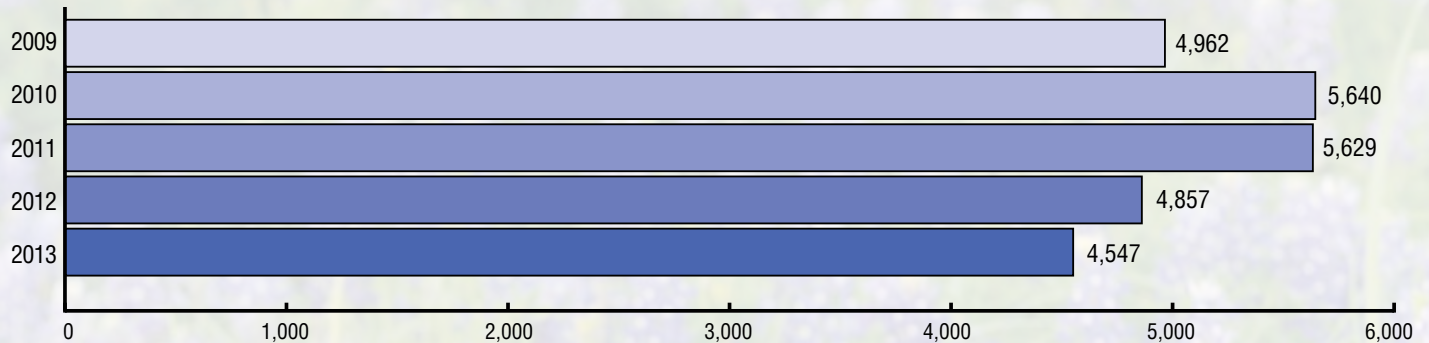
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/

Children in Custody 2009 – 2013

Children Taken Into Protective Custody During Fiscal Year



Children in Protective Custody at End of Fiscal Year



Source: DFPS Forecasting and Program Statistics

The rate of children in DFPS custody in Harris County is 5.8 children per 1,000 compared to 6.5 children per 1,000 children in Texas.

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 2013, DFPS completed 1,275 adoptions in Houston Region 6 (1,010 in Harris County). DFPS contracts with licensed, private child-placing agencies to increase the number of parents available to adopt children in foster care.

CPS recruits foster parents and adoptive families through local, state, and national campaigns and through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) website www.adoptchildren.org. TARE is the department's leading recruitment tool for prospective foster and adoptive homes. TARE provides information on children waiting to be adopted. The website's most prominent feature is its photo-listing of Texas children waiting adoption. TARE also includes children's profiles and videos. TARE also offers a toll-free nationwide adoption and foster care inquiry line (1-800-233-3405).

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. CPS contracts with private agencies to provide post-adoption services to adopted children and their new families, including case management, mental health services, therapeutic services, parent training, support groups and respite care for adoptive parents.

■ Extended Foster Care

Most foster youth leave state care after their 18th birthday. But youth can stay in extended foster care through age 21 or 22, depending on their circumstances, while they pursue a high school diploma or GED. They can also remain in extended foster care:

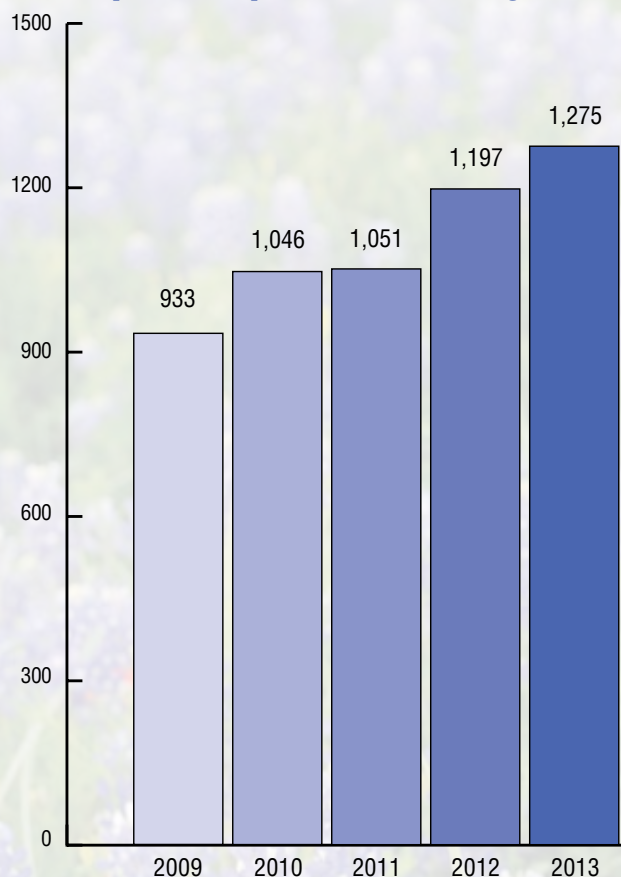
- To attend college or a vocational or technical training program;
- To participate in a program or activity to help them get a job;
- To work at least 80 hours a month; or
- If they are not capable of performing activities due to a medical condition.

■ Return to Care

Since November 2007, youth ages 18 to 20 who have aged out of foster care can choose to return to CPS care:

- To attend high school or complete a GED course (up to age 22);
- To attend a vocational or technical program (up to age 21); or
- Return to foster care during holidays, breaks, and vacations from college or a vocational program.

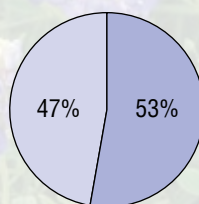
Adoptions Completed in Houston Region 6



Waiting (as of June 30, 2014)

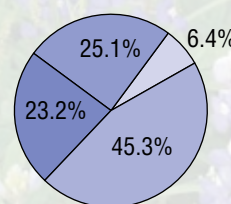
www.adoptchildren.org • 1-800-233-3405

1,566 Children in the Houston Region are Waiting to be Adopted (1,293 in Harris County)



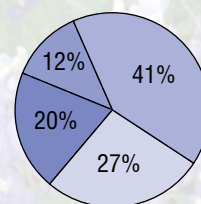
Diversity

- Male: 823 (53%)
- Female: 743 (47%)



Ethnicity

- African American: 709 (45.3%)
- Hispanic: 394 (25.1%)
- Anglo: 363 (23.2%)
- Other: 100 (6.4%)



Age

- Birth to 5 yrs: 637 (41%)
- 6-10: 416 (27%)
- 11-14: 320 (20%)
- 15-17: 193 (12%)

65.8% (1,030) are part of a sibling group

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

CHILDREN'S
CRISIS CARE
CENTER



■ The Children's Crisis
Care Center (4Cs)

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 is structured into three program teams: Children, Family and Permanency Planning. 4C's is also a partner with the Infant Toddler Court team, under Judge Bonnie Hellums, to provide Parent-Child Interaction Assessments and Visit Coaching for families in the CPS system with children 0-3 years of age.

For complete information on 4Cs
and its programs go to www.hc-ps.org



In 2013

Children's Assessments	917
Family Assessments	383
Permanency Conferences	3,767
Family Conferences	308



■ 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 2013, HCPS Clinic provided services to 2,481 children. 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 adult clients connected with the children we serve, when requested by the caseworkers.

For more information on HCPS CLINIC
Please call HCPS Clinic at **713-295-2570**
or go to www.hc-ps.org

— Clinic Services Provided in 2013 —

Medical Appointments	1,577
Dental Appointments	904
Drug Testing	2,181

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

BEAR
BE A RESOURCE
for CPS Kids

■ BEAR

The mission of BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids is to offer hope and help 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. BEAR is very fortunate to have support from the State and County as well as numerous generous individuals, corporations, churches and foundations. In 2013, BEAR received \$1,288,837 in cash and in-kind donations.

During 2013, BEAR Necessities, emergency supply rooms co-located in eight CPS offices, served more than 12,077 children and BEARING Gifts, which provides holiday gifts to CPS kids, served 10,145 children. The BEAR Back to School program provided school uniforms, backpacks and supplies to more than 4,848 children. BEAR also sponsored its annual graduation celebration party for CPS/PAL (Preparation for Adult Living) youth graduating from high school and aging out of foster care. Whether the youth were going to college or getting their first apartment, BEAR helped 102 CPS youth get started on their journey to adulthood. Many children with open CPS cases are served by all programs each year.

BEAR is so grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who ensure that we are able to serve as many children as possible. In 2013, 24 year-round Junior League volunteers assisted in the BEAR rooms, 105 volunteers assisted with BEAR Back to School and 541 community and corporate volunteers participated in BEARING Gifts.

For more information on BEAR and opportunities to get involved,

Please call **713-940-3087** or go to

www.bearesourcehouston.org

www.facebook.com/BEARResourceforCPSKids



CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION



■ Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)

The Region 6 Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Program helps youth in foster care make the transition to adulthood more successfully. PAL services include independent living assessment, financial help for a limited time, and training in such areas as money management, job skills, educational planning and interpersonal skills.

In Region 6 (13 counties), 1116 youth (841 from Harris County) received services through the PAL Program in 2013. PAL Services ensure that DFPS foster youth and those aging out of care receive the tools, resources, supports, and personal and community connections they need to become self-sufficient adults. Support services and benefits are provided to eligible youth ages 16 to 21.

For more information on
PAL SERVICES
and services to youth and young adults go to
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/
Youth_and_Young_Adults/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/default.asp)

HAY and PAL Services to Foster Youth in FY 2013

PAL Services (In-Care & Aftercare)	901
Financial Support	144
Support for Youth In-Care	539
Completed Life Skills Training Classes	269
Summer Jobs Program	52
College Tours	23
Special Events	507
Workforce Services	231



■ Region 6 Training Institute (TI)

The Region 6 Training Institute (TI) provides organizational staff development and training for both HCPS and DFPS employees. Each year TI provides more than 60 varied training courses and staff development opportunities for all levels of HCPS and DFPS staff, including: comprehensive new employee and new board orientation programs, Basic Skills Development (BSD) programs, Core Competency Courses, interactive web-based training classes, Management/Leadership courses, as well as, cutting-edge continuing education courses designed to address the diverse needs and interests of staff. As an authorized provider of Continuing Educational Unit (CEU) credits we are able to provide CEU credits for all professionals requiring certificates or licenses to practice various professions. This year more than 2200 professionals participated in course offerings sponsored by HCPS.

In 2013, TI joined with the Youth Services Division of HCPS to develop a specialized web-based curriculum for the Residential Child Care workers in the Kinder Emergency shelter. All staff received extensive training in the areas of trauma, worker safety, and understanding the DSM V as a way to better prepare workers to deal with the growing challenges in child welfare. A total of 513 DFPS-CPS caseworkers participated in the BSD program. BSD is a 12 week intensive training program for new caseworkers. The training consists of classroom core training, on-the-job training, and specialized training tracks for such concentrations as Investigations, Family Based Safety Services, and Conservatorship services. TI also hosted the 5th Dianne Bynum Administrative Support Services Conference for our administrative support professionals for more than 180 participants across nine different agencies.



■ The Houston Alumni and Youth Center (HAY Center)

The HAY Center provides transitional services for current and former foster care youth ages 16 through 25 with an emphasis on education and employment. The mission of the HAY Center is to empower youth to become productive successful adults. This is accomplished through a variety of services. The Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program offers transitional services to foster youth including Life Skills Training, Case Management Services, Aftercare Financial Support, and Educational /Employment Counseling and Placement.

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION

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 is 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, and DePelchin Children's Center.



YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION



■ Community Youth Services (CYS)

CYS, a crisis intervention and case management program offers free, voluntary assistance to at-risk children and youth and their families.

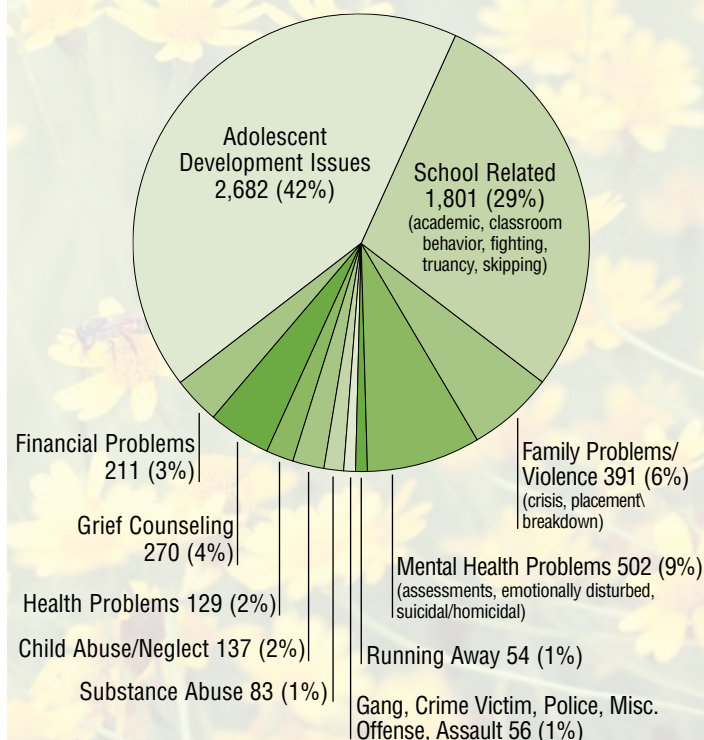
CYS staff members have a unique shared funding partnership with 15 school districts as well as the Pasadena Police Department, the Educational Services Division of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, and the Community Education Partners Charter School. The goal of this program is to prevent 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 program.

During 2013, CYS staff served 6,316 new referrals. CYS staff provided an additional 55,811 Student Support Services to students at school and in the community not related to open cases. Students may participate in multiple outreach event services.

For more information on
COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES (CYS)
www.hc-ps.org

Reasons for New Referrals to CYS

During 2013 CYS staff served 6,316 new youth referrals.



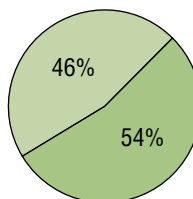
■ Kinder Emergency Shelter (KES)

The Nancy and Rich Kinder Emergency Shelter (KES) is an emergency residential facility that provides short-term services to youth, ages 12-17, which are in need of shelter and care due to abuse, neglect, or severe family conflict that prevents them from

being safely reunited with their family. Youth stay at the Shelter until they can be safely returned home or to an alternative long-term placement. During 2013, 310 youth were placed in the 24 bed Shelter by caseworkers from CPS, Community Youth Services (CYS), Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG), TRIAD Prevention Program and the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department.

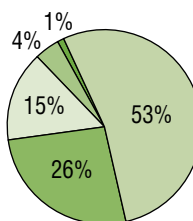
The Diversity of the Youth Sheltered Included:

Number of Youth Served (unduplicated) 310



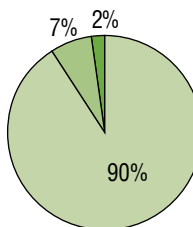
Gender

- 54% Female
- 46% Male



Race and Ethnicity

- 53% African American
- 26% Anglo
- 15% Hispanic
- 4% Bi-racial
- <1% Asian
- <1% American Indian
- 1% Unknown



Referral Resource

- 90% DFPS
- 7% Harris Co. Juvenile Probation
- 2% TRIAD
- <1% CYS
- <1% YMCA

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION



■ TRIAD Prevention Program

In 2013, TRIAD served 20,502 at-risk youth.

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.

Phone calls coming into two hotlines are handled by TRIAD Intake Diversion staff 24-hours a day: the Baby Abandonment Prevention Hotline and the TRIAD hotline. A total of 1,667 hotline calls were handled by TRIAD staff in 2013.

For more information on
TRIAD PREVENTION PROGRAMS
www.hc-ps.org

TRIAD Prevention Program At-Risk Youth Served in Year 2013

JP Court - Program	15,116
JP Court WRAP Program	68
Truancy Learning Camp*	83
Parenting with Love and Limits	170
Intake/Diversion	1,089
Mental Health Services	79
Community Youth Development (CYD)*	2,230
Hotline Calls	1,667
TOTAL	20,502

*CYD is funded by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Truancy Learning Camp is funded by Harris County Community Services Department.

**DON'T
ABANDON
YOUR BABY**

**NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
NO POLICE.
NO PROSECUTION.**

Under the Baby Moses Law, parents are allowed to surrender their babies younger than 60 days at a hospital, fire station or EMS station.

YOUR IDENTITY WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

Sponsored by:
Harris County
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Harris County Community Services Department

Call 1-877-904-SAVE

ADULT SERVICES DIVISION



■ The Harris County Guardianship Program (HCGP)

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. On December 31, 2013, there were 1,356 court-appointed wards in the Guardianship Program.



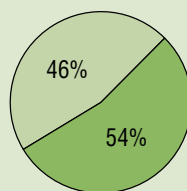
■ Representative Payee Program

The guardianship program administers the Representative Payee Program (RPP). RPP 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.

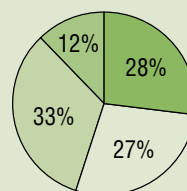
For more information on
THE HARRIS COUNTY GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM
and opportunities to get involved please call **713-363-2300**

Number of wards and cases as of December 31, 2013: 1,356



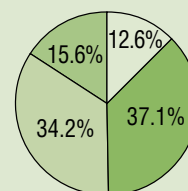
Diversity of Wards

- Female 628 (54%)
- Male 728 (46%)



Incapacities

- Developmental Disability 367 (27%)
- Mental Deterioration 379 (28%)
- Mental Illness 454 (33%)
- Physical Incapacity 156 (12%)



Wards by Age

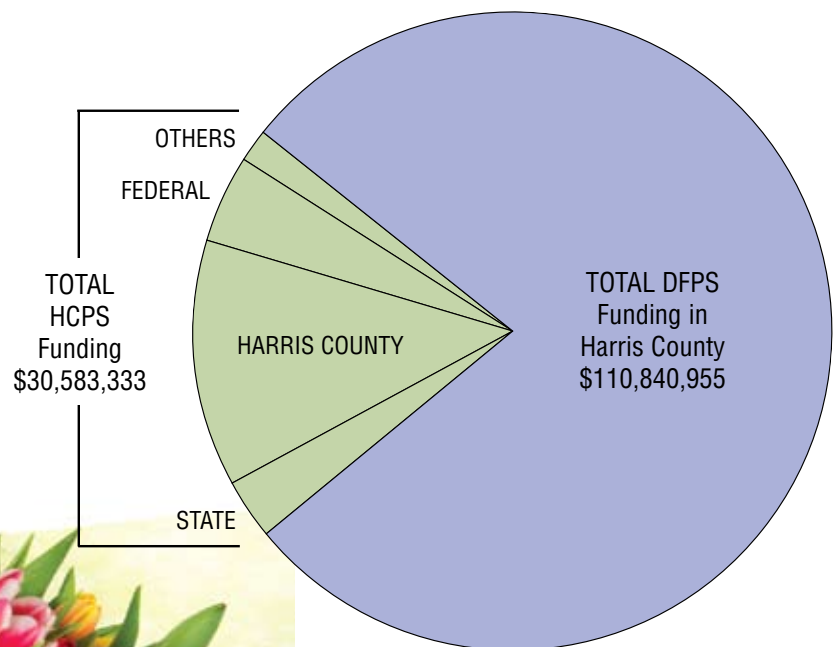
- 18 to 21 yrs 5 (<1%)
- 22 to 39 yrs 171 (12.6%)
- 40 to 59 yrs 504 (37.1%)
- 60 to 79 yrs 464 (34.2%)
- 80 yrs and over 212 (15.6%)

CPS IN HARRIS COUNTY 2013 FUNDING

	DFPS*	HCPS**					Combined Funding in Harris County
	DFPS Funds in Harris Co.	State	Harris County	Federal	Others	Total HCPS	
Staff Salaries, Benefits and Travel	\$46,096,340	\$2,730,395	\$14,653,151	\$3,753,862	\$1,834,766	\$22,972,173	\$69,068,513
Children's Foster and Institutional Care	56,166,261	0	824,492	457,190	0	1,281,682	57,447,943
Children's Services Contract	6,955,355	849,101	361,245	1,583,560	0	2,793,906	9,749,261
Children's Medical Services	0	158,788	205,752	0	0	364,540	364,540
General and Administrative	1,623,000	678,580	1,714,775	417,441	360,237	3,171,032	4,794,032
TOTAL	\$110,840,955	\$4,416,863	\$17,759,415	\$6,212,053	\$2,195,003	\$30,583,333	\$141,424,289

* DFPS fiscal year: September 1, 2012 - August 31, 2013
DFPS funding sources: state and federal government.

** HCPS fiscal year: March 1, 2013 - February 28, 2014
HCPS funding sources: state, county, federal government and other sources such as grants and foundations.



THE POWER OF CHANGE
"Bringing Futures into Bloom"



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 (4 C's)	713-394-4402
Clinic	713-295-2570
Community Youth Services	713-295-2530
Foster and Adoption Inquiry Line	1-800-233-3405
Guardianship Program	713-363-2300
PO Box 20605, Houston, TX 77225	
Gulfton and Pasadena Community Youth Development (CYD)	713-501-7004
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 and PAL Program	713-250-7000
Kinder Emergency Shelter	713-295-2700
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	512-438-4800
Texas Runaway Hotline	1-888-580-4357(HELP)
Texas Youth Hotline (help for youth under 21 yrs of age)	1-800-98-YOUTH (96884)
TRIAD Prevention Program	713-295-2600

AGENCY WEB SITES

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults	www.hc-ps.org
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	www.dfps.state.tx.us
To Report abuse on a secure web site	www.txabusehotline.org
BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids	www.bearesourcehouston.org
Texas Adoption Resource Exchange	www.adoptchildren.org
To Volunteer	www.volunteerdfps.org
Houston Alumni & Youth (HAY) Center	www.haycenter.org
Help for Parents (Resource and Information)	www.helpandhope.org
Texas Youth Connection	www.texasyouthconnection.org
Homeless Youth Network of Houston/Harris County	www.homelessyouthnetwork.org
Drowning Prevention	www.watchkidsaroundwater.org
Safe Sleep	www.babyroomtobreathe.org



CPS in Harris County

2525 Murworth Drive • Houston, Texas 77054

713-394-4000

To report abuse and neglect: 1-800-252-5400

www.txabusehotline.org