

CPS in Harris County Annual Report

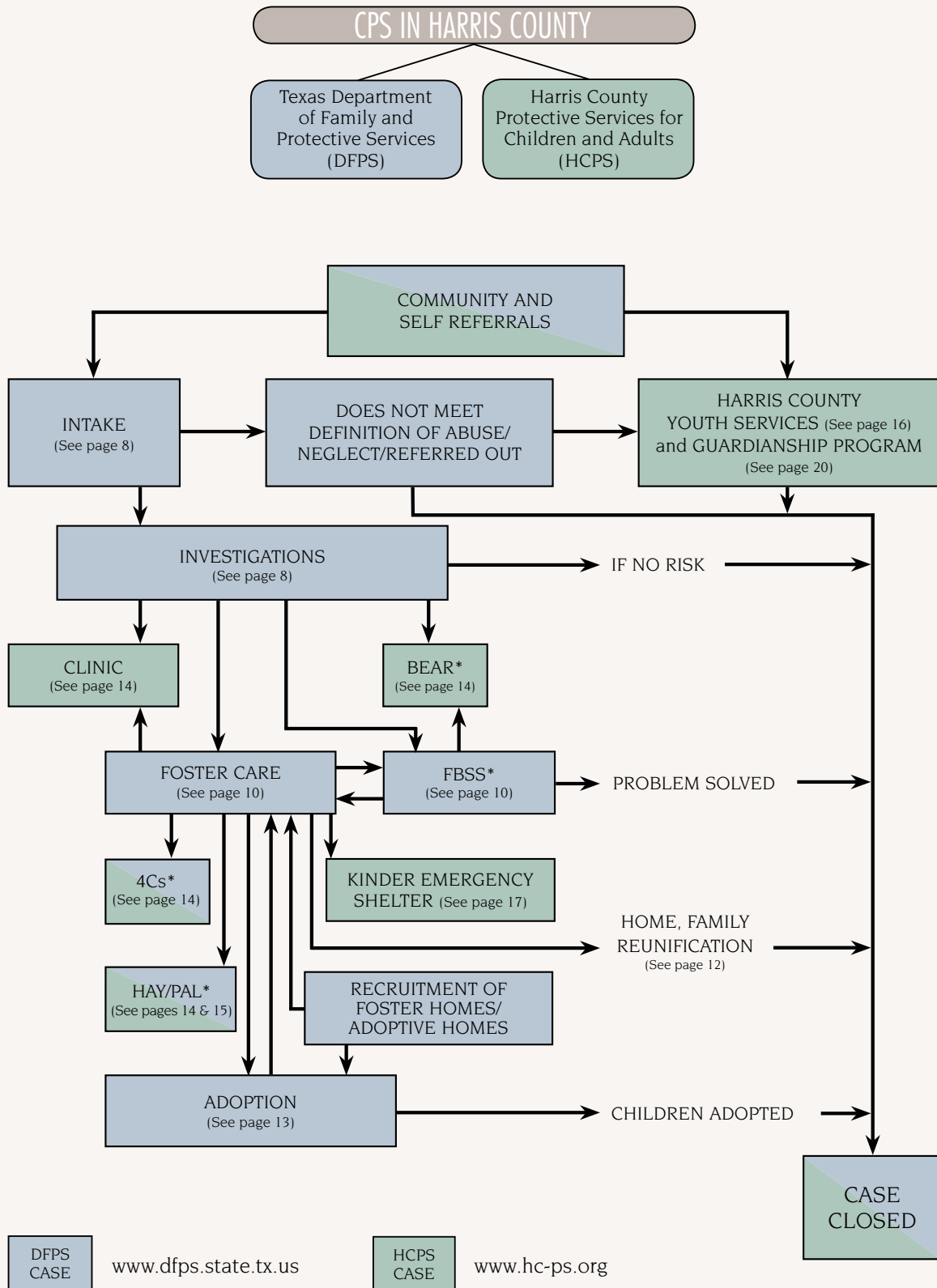
2011 STATISTICS

2012 PROGRAM INFORMATION

*There's no wrong door,
when connecting to the right help*



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

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CPS in Harris County is pleased to present our 2011-2012 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of our programs and services, and 2011 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

In August of 2011, the HCPS Board approved the Champions Project recommendations. The goal of the project was to realign the HCPS organizational structure in a manner that strengthens efforts to achieve positive outcomes, "core" to the agency mission, for more efficient use of available resources.

The recommendations called for the establishment of a divisional structure and the creation of a centralized intake and assessment process within the Youth Services Division. In the fall of 2011, the Youth Services Division was created and given a new initiative to create a new model of service delivery. This new model will offer a comprehensive and seamless continuum of services from intake diversion to community based programs to all school age children, youth and their families. In the old structure, a family might have to enter through "multiple doors" (points of entry) to access the service they needed. In the new structure, we will connect families to the help they need regardless of the type of service they need, where they tried to get access to the service, or the agency that provides the service. This "NO WRONG DOOR" approach will help families to access the array of services that Harris County Protective Services-Youth Services Division offers. It is our endeavor that the community will view the Youth Services Center as a hub that provides an array of direct services to at-risk children, youth and families of Harris County. All services will continue to be free and voluntary.



DFPS Highlights

Region 6 has over 3,200 children and youth in permanent managing conservatorship (PMC) and over 2500 of them are in Harris County. Since these children cannot be safely returned home, CPS tries to find other permanent homes for them. To facilitate this process, CPS has initiated Permanency Roundtables (PRT). A PRT is an internal agency staffing that reviews the cases of children who have been in the system a long time to determine what can be done to move the children into a permanent setting. This process is designed to help establish lifelong connections to and/or supports for these children. The roundtables help identify realistic solutions to obstacles for permanency for children. This Texas model involves a team consisting of caseworkers, supervisors, program directors, program administrators, and other agency subject matter experts who meet to discuss and create child-specific action plans to achieve permanency. In many cases, a child will be placed with a relative or someone who has a significant relationship with the child. The relative or fictive kin then becomes legally responsible for the child.

In June 2012, Region 6 was the first region in the state to begin PRT staffings. In a two week time frame over 160 cases were reviewed. Of the cases staffed, 18% are already on the path to permanency. Some success stories include a sibling group that found permanency within the first two days of conducting the roundtables. In another case, a teen is being reunited with his father who had been searching for him for a number of years. We are excited that this process will bring wonderful outcomes for PMC children. CPS plans to have Permanency Roundtables implemented in every region across the state by November 2013.

Marilyn DeMontrond
Board President, HCPS

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

Scott Dixon, MSW
CPS Regional Director

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

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CPS in Harris County

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults

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CPS in Harris County 2011 Funding

Board of Directors & Administrative Staff



HCPS 2012 Board of Directors

Marilyn DeMontrond, *President*
 Frances Castaneda Dyess, *Vice President*
 Philip J. Kunetka, *Treasurer*
 Jerry LeVias, *Secretary*

Katherine Barillas, Ph.D.

Ron S. Davis, M.P.A.

Elizabeth DeLuca

Ernest Frugé, Ph.D.

Charlene Hunter James

Sherea McKenzie

Sean Kelly McPherson

James G. Olson

Sarah J. Spindler, RN, MSN, FNP

Janet Stansbury, M.Ed

Jo Ellen Sweeney

HCPS 2012 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*

Bernadette Cashin, *Director, BEAR*

Deborah Colby, LCSW, LMFT, *Director,*

TRIAD Prevention Program

Mary Green, MA, *Director, Transitional Services*

Ginger B. Harper, LMSW-AP, *Youth Services Administrator*

Pam Schaeffer, LMSW-AP, Ph.D., *Director, Systems of Hope*

Claudia Gonzales, LMSW, *Director, Adult Services Administrator*

Estella Olguin, *Community Relations Director*

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

Services Administrator

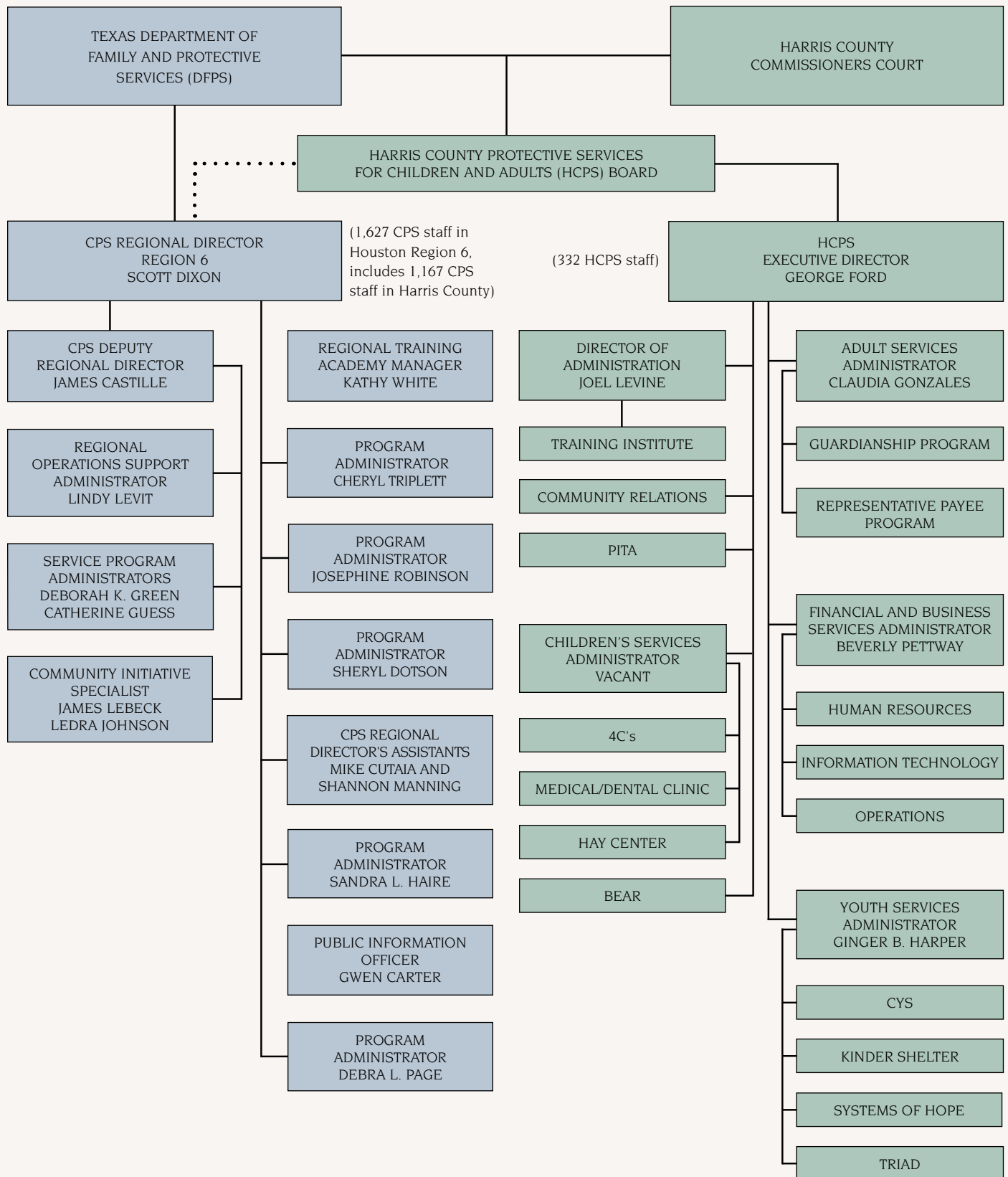
John Prior, LCSW, ACSW, *Program Improvement Team Leader*



DFPS 2012 Administrative Staff for CPS Houston Region 6

Scott Dixon, MSW, CPS <i>Regional Director</i>	Bernita Hagan, <i>Quality Assurance Leader</i>
Candance J. Broussard, <i>Inter Regional Managing Attorney, Regions 4,5,6</i>	Cheryl Harvick, <i>Program Director for Investigations and FBSS</i>
Gwen Carter, LMSW, <i>Media Specialist</i>	Sheila Hazley, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County</i>
James H. Castille, MA, LBSW, LPC-Intern, CPS <i>Deputy Regional Director</i>	Evelyn Jacobs, MSW, LMSW, <i>Program Director for FBSS</i>
Michael Cutaia, MA, CPS <i>Regional Director Assistant</i>	Keema Jones, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County</i>
Sheryl T. Dotson, LMSW-AP, <i>Program Administrator for Children in Custody in Harris County</i>	Patricia Johnson, LBSW, <i>Program Director for Adoption Preparation</i>
Deborah K. Green, MSW, CDVC-III, MAC, CCJS, BEI-I, <i>Service Program Administrator</i>	Tye Kelley, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County</i>
Catherine Guess, M.ED, LPC, LMFT, LCDC, LBSW, <i>Service Program Administrator</i>	Renatta Kost, MSW, <i>Program Director for FBSS</i>
Sandra L. Haire, MPA, LMSW, MSSW, <i>Program Administrator for Investigations and FBSS</i>	Deborah Kumar-Misir, LMSW, <i>Well-Being Specialist</i>
Ledra Johnson, <i>Community Initiative Specialist</i>	Renita Laury, <i>Program Director for Investigations Resolution Specialist</i>
James Lebeck, <i>Community Initiative Specialist</i>	Natarsha Lewis, <i>Residential Team Placement Coordinator</i>
Lindy Levit, SPHR, <i>Regional Operations Support Administrator</i>	Glenda Martin, <i>Foster/Adoptive Home Development Program Director</i>
Shannon Manning, LMSW, CPS <i>Regional Director Assistant</i>	Daphne McCadney, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody in outlying counties</i>
Debra L. Page, MSW, <i>Program Administrator for Investigations and FBSS</i>	Wyndi McPeters-Grant, <i>Program Director for Adoption Preparation and Child Placing Unit (CPU)</i>
Josephine Robinson, MSW, <i>Program Administrator for Foster and Adopt, Adoption Preparation and Children in Custody for the Outlying Counties.</i>	Evelyn Peters, <i>Risk Manager</i>
Cheryl Triplett, MA, <i>Program Administrator for Investigations and FBSS</i>	Carolyn Polk, <i>Program Director for FBSS</i>
Sherryl Becker, M.S., LCDC, CSW, <i>Program Director for FBSS</i>	Marilyn Polk, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>
Kristina Belcher, BS, BBA, <i>Kinship Initiative Program Director</i>	Angela Rhoden, MSW, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County</i>
Katara Butler, LMSW, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County</i>	Krista Rodriguez, MSW, <i>Resolution Specialist</i>
Manett Butler, <i>Residential Team Placement Coordinator</i>	Monica L. Sanders, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>
Ivy Chambers, BS, MS, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>	Barbara Shinall, LMSW-AP, <i>Lead Child Safety Specialist, Region 6</i>
Tonya Clay, MA, LPC-Intern, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County</i>	Vanessa Shippard, MSW, <i>Risk Manager</i>
Rosie Christal, <i>Program Director for CPS Special Investigators</i>	Doris Thomas-Buckler, Ph.D., CCC, <i>Program Director for FBSS</i>
Willis Corbin, <i>Program Director for CPS Special Investigators</i>	Debra Thornton, <i>Resolution Specialist</i>
Jerry Dowse, <i>Program Director for CPS Special Investigators</i>	Teplah Toomey, MSW, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>
Charlene Figueroa-Bustamante, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>	Cindy Umlang, LMSW-AP, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>
Leshia Fisher, <i>Program Director for Children in Custody outlying counties</i>	Jarita Wharton, LBSW, MSW, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>
	Kathy White, BSW, MA, <i>Training Academy Manager</i>
	Diana Wilson, <i>Program Director for Investigations</i>
	Kimberly Wiseburn, MSW, <i>Program Director for Investigations and FBSS</i>
	Jennifer C. Williams, MA, <i>Lead Child Safety Specialist, Regions 6 & 3</i>

CPS in Harris County Organizational Chart • 2012

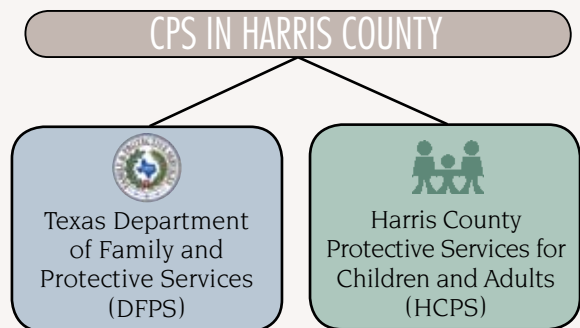




*Help is wherever
you turn*

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).



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

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

Overview



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



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

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.

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, 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, the Training Institute and Preparation for Adult Living and HAY Center.

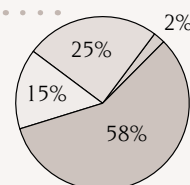
Total Children Served Monthly

Breakdown of (children) in Protective Custody

Approximate number of children receiving services from CPS in Harris County per month in 2011, including those children serviced in DFPS and HCPS programs.

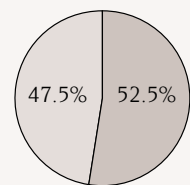
Completed investigations (children).....	4,700
Receiving Family-Based Safety Services (children).....	5,600
In Protective Custody (children).....	5,300
(See Breakdown charts at right)	
Receiving TRIAD Prevention Program Services (youth).....	2,000
Receiving CYS Services (youth).....	5,300

TOTAL (Approximate number of children served per month by CPS in Harris County)..... 22,900



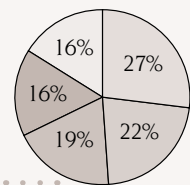
Race and Ethnicity

- 58% African American
- 15% Anglo
- 25% Hispanic
- 2% Other



Diversity

- 52.5% Male
- 47.5% Female



Ages

- 27% Under 2 yrs
- 22% 3 to 5 yrs
- 19% 6 to 9 yrs
- 16% 10 to 13 yrs
- 16% 14 to 17 yrs

Statistics for CPS in Harris County 2011

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Harris County Child Population for Year 2011: 1,117,039

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

CPS Program of DFPS 2011 Activities ¹ • FY September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011

Intakes of child abuse and neglect assigned for investigation		27,565 ²
Completed investigations	families	22,097 ²
	alleged victims	36,198
	total children	56,721
Children adopted	in Region 6 ³	1,051
Children served in Family-Based Safety Services		10,946
Children taken into protective custody		2,388
Total children in protective custody	as of August 31, 2011	5,629
Foster and Foster/Adopt Homes	as of August 31, 2011	208

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

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS)

HCPS 2011 Activities ⁴ • January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids ⁵	CPS children served in BEAR Necessities	12,274
	CPS children served in BEARing Gifts	8,478
	CPS children served in Back to School	5,126
	in-kind and cash contributions	\$1,322,342
Children's Crisis Care Center (4Cs)	children evaluated	1,042
	families assessed	436
	Family Group Decision-Making conferences	714
	Permanency Planning Team meetings	3,175 ⁶
Community Youth Services (CYS)	youth referrals	6,776
	parents and teens in Survival Skills	341
Student Support Services		56,468
Guardianship Program	adult wards as of Dec. 31, 2011	1,395
Kinder Emergency Shelter	youth sheltered	364
Medical-Dental Clinic	children served	2,696
Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)	youth served in Harris County ⁷	1,161
TRIAD Prevention Program	at-risk youth served	24,106 ⁸

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 18 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, must report the situation to the DFPS' Texas Abuse Hotline. DFPS administers a toll-free, 24-hour statewide hotline (1-800-252-5400) located in Austin, Texas. Reports can also be made online through a secure website at www.txabusehotline.org

In FY 2011, CPS in Harris County assigned 27,565 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. 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.

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 2011, CPS in Harris County completed 22,097 investigations. 5,493 children were confirmed to have been abused or neglected in Harris County. The rate of confirmed abuse/neglect victims in Harris County was 4.9 per 1,000 children, compared to 9.9 children per 1,000 in Texas.

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

Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

It is a heart breaking tragedy whenever a child dies due to abuse or neglect. CPS has developed both internal and external mechanisms to review these fatalities. Citizen Review Teams, Child Fatality Review Teams, CPS Child Safety Specialists and Risk Managers, Regional Child Safety review committees, and the state Child Safety Review Committee all review deaths. A common goal is to help CPS and communities identify the causes of child fatalities and develop strategies, programs, and training to reduce the rate of preventable child deaths; as well as to provide intervention services to families and children at risk.

continued



*At any point of entry
a family can get help*

Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

Abuse and Neglect Fatalities *continued*

CPS has collaborated with other DFPS programs and Health and Human Service agencies to increase public awareness of three causes of accidental deaths: water fatalities, hyperthermia, and co-sleeping (bed sharing with infants).

In 2011 there were 38 child abuse or neglect related fatalities in Harris County and 231 in Texas.

For more information on **Public Awareness Campaigns**:

Drowning Prevention:

www.watchkidsaroundwater.org

Hot Car Death Prevention:

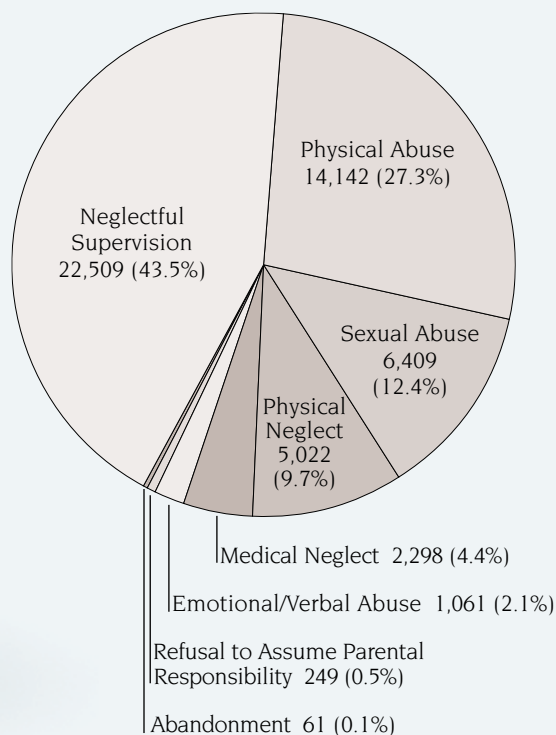
www.dfps.state.tx.us/SeeAndSave/hotcars-stats.asp

Safe Sleep:

www.babyroomtobreathe.org

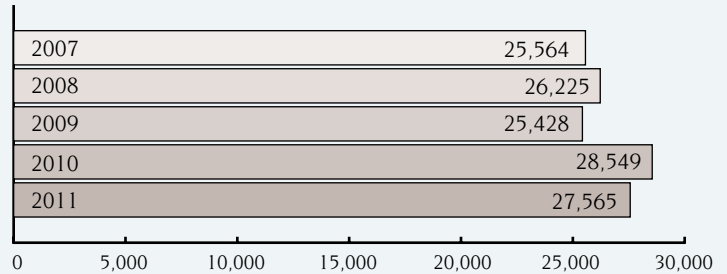
Completed CPS Investigations in Harris County

The total exceeds 36,198 alleged victims in completed investigations in 2011 since children may have more than one type of abuse/neglect allegation.

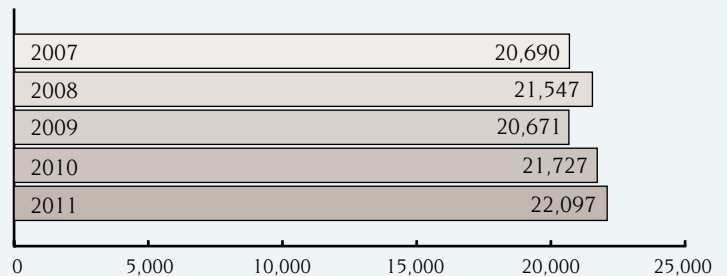


Breakdown of Types of Abuse/Neglect of Alleged Victims in Completed Investigations

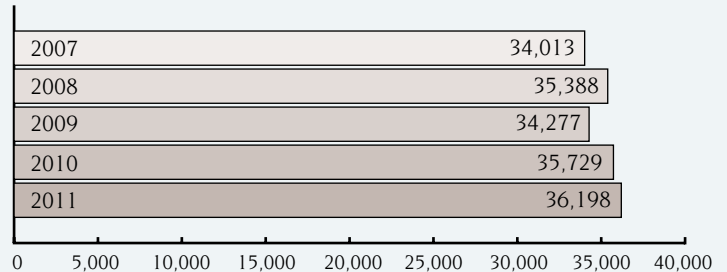
Intakes



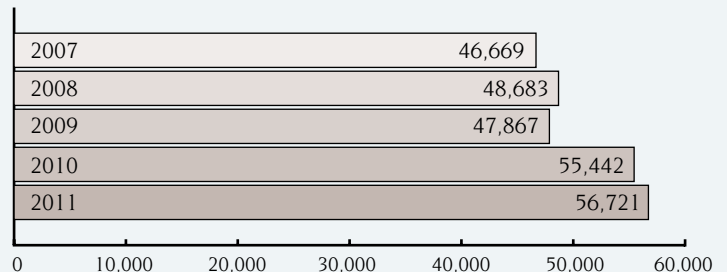
Families



Alleged Victims



Total Number of Children

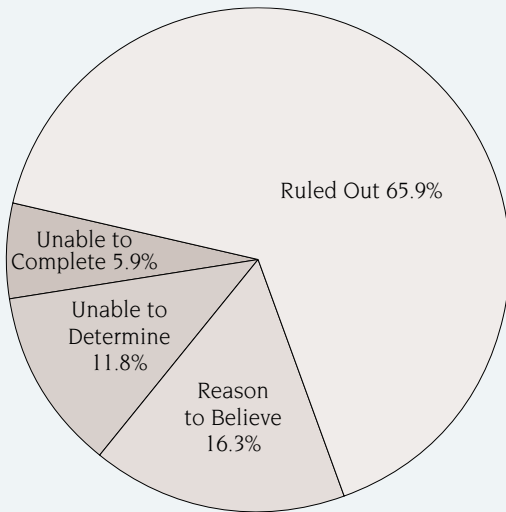


The difference between Intakes and Completed Investigations is the families currently under investigation or investigation merged or administratively closed.

Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

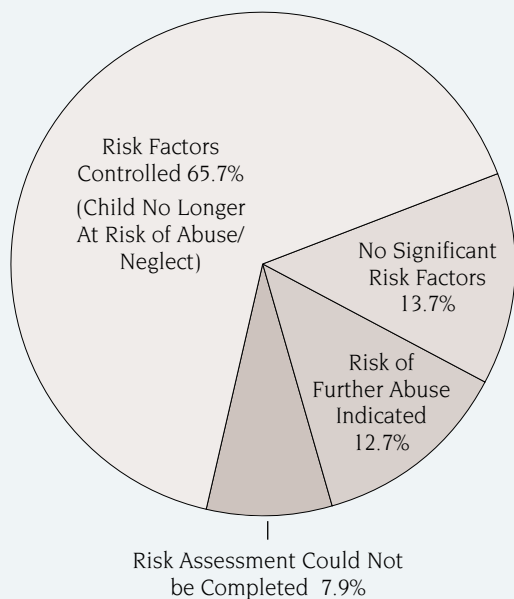
Findings of Allegations in Families in Completed Investigations

During FY 2011, 22,097 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 2011, FBSS provided services to 10,946 children in Harris County. In 2011 an average of 5,600 children received in-home services each month.

Foster Care

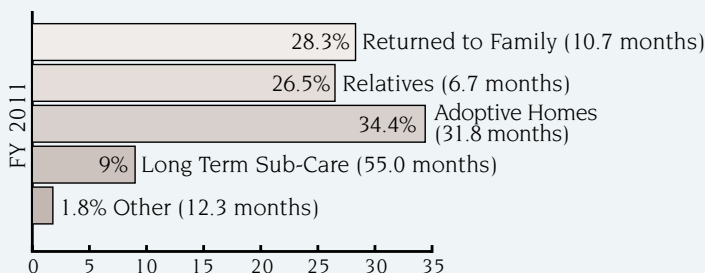
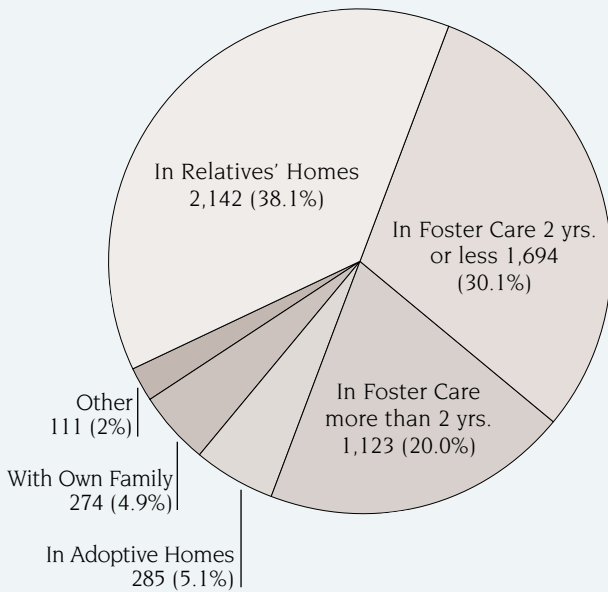
When it is not safe for children to live with their own families, CPS petitions the court to remove the children from their home. While in CPS custody, children may be placed temporarily with relatives, a foster family, an emergency shelter, or another foster care facility. Foster families provide a safe, nurturing environment for children in CPS care. Foster families receive reimbursements for the costs associated with caring for children. CPS and the foster parents are required to 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 2011, 2,388 children were taken into protective custody and the average number of children in foster care each month in Harris County was 5,300.

For more information on **Foster Care**, go to:
www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Foster_Care

Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

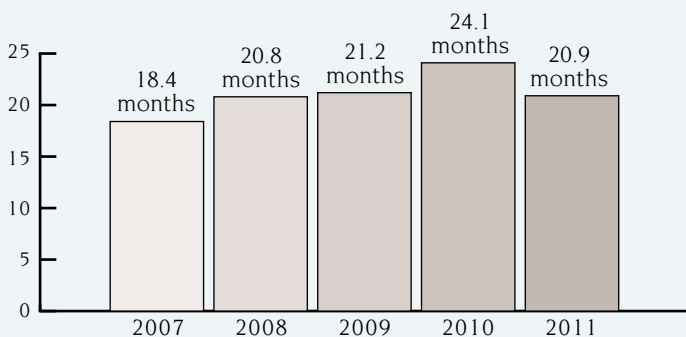
Location of Children in DFPS Protective Custody in Harris County

At the end of FY 2011, 5,629 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 2011 was 20.9 months

Comparison of total average length of time children in custody 2007 - 2011



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. It is up to the family to decide if they want to have one. 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 meetings that are youth-driven. The primary goal is 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. The meetings are required for youth 16 and older but can begin as early as age 14.

For more information on
Family Group Decision Making, go to:
www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/About_Child_Protective_Services/fgdm.asp



Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

Family Reunification

During FY 2011 2,440 children in CPS custody in Harris County were placed in a permanent living arrangement. With court approval, 28.3% of the children were returned to their own families, 26.5% were placed with relatives, and 34.4% were placed in adoptive homes.

Kinship

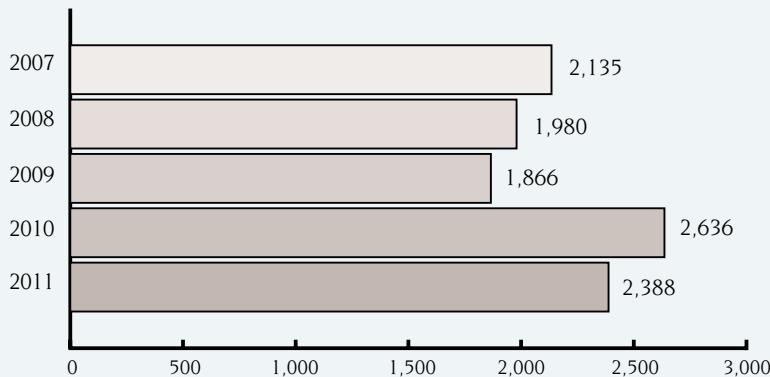
For generations, extended families have played a significant role in the rearing of children when parents were unable to do so. When removing children from their homes to ensure immediate safety, DFPS and the courts are required to consider temporary placements with safe relatives and to ask

parents to provide information on relatives who may be able to care for the children. Referred to as kinship care, 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 assists kinship families by providing support services and limited financial assistance to caregivers who accept placement of related children in CPS custody. At the end of August 2011, 2,158 children were living in kinship care homes in Harris County.

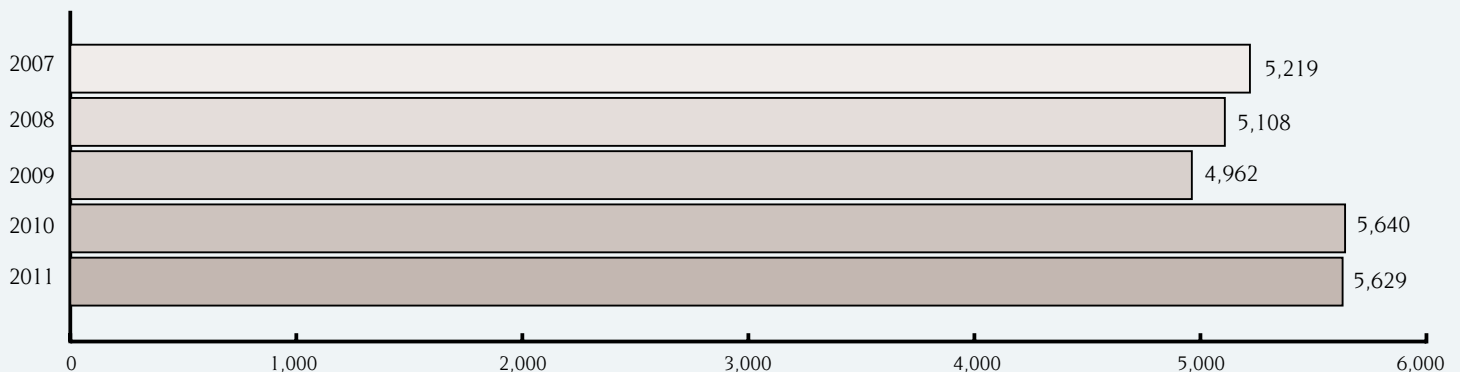
For more information about **Kinship**, go to:
www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Kinship_Care/

Comparison of total average length of time children in custody 2007– 2011

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

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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 2011, DFPS completed 1,051 adoptions in Houston Region 6 (Harris County and the 12 surrounding counties). 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

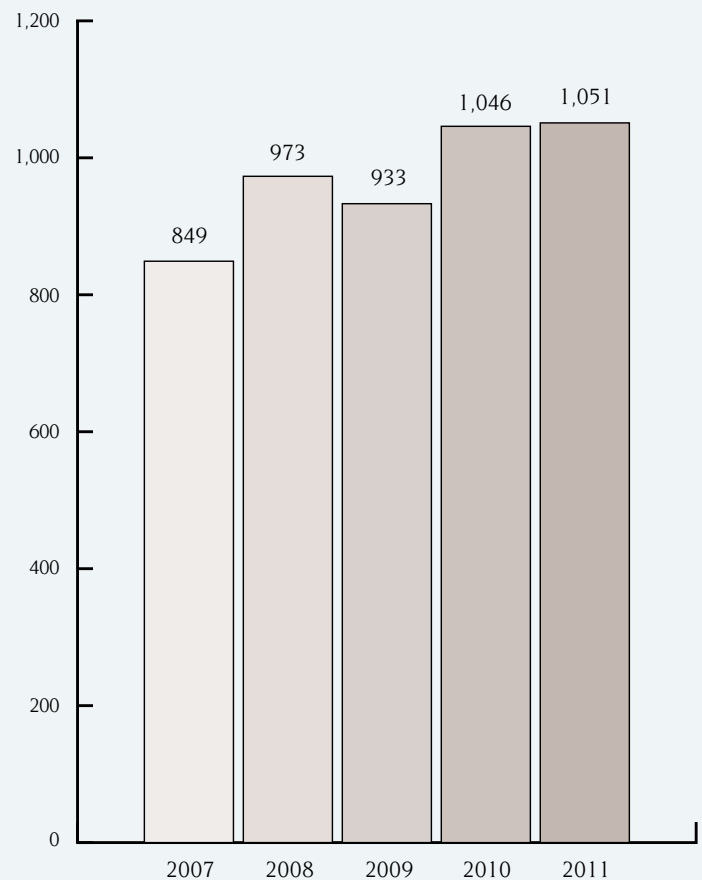
Most foster youth leave state care after their 18th birthday. But youth can stay in extended foster care through age 21 or 22, depending on their circumstances, while they pursue a high school diploma or GED. They can also remain in extended foster care through age 21 to attend college or a vocational/technical training program, participate in a program or activity to improve job skills, 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:

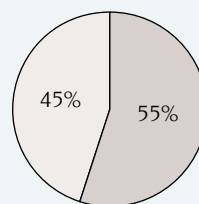
- To attend high school or complete a GED course (up to age 22)
- To attend a vocational or technical program (up to age 21)
- Return to foster care during holidays, breaks, and vacations from college or a vocational program for at least one month, but no longer than four months (up to age 21)

Adoptions Completed in Houston Region 6



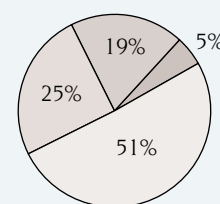
Waiting (as of September 31, 2012)
www.adoptchildren.org • 1-800-233-3405

1,740 Children in the Houston Region are
Waiting to be Adopted (1,503 in Harris County)



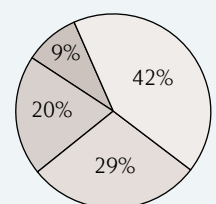
Diversity

- Male: 55%
- Female: 45%



Race & Ethnicity

- African American: 51%
- Hispanic: 25%
- Anglo: 19%
- Other or Mixed Race: 5%



Ages

- Birth to 5 yrs: 42%
- 6-10: 29%
- 11-14: 20%
- 15-17: 9%

72.5% (1,261) of the children are part of a sibling group

Children Services

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. In 2011, 4Cs became a partner with the newly formed 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.

During 2011

Children assessed	1,042
Families assessed	436
Permanency Planning Team meetings	3,175
(For each custody child in Region 6)	
Family Group Decision-Making conferences	714

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

HCPS Medical/Dental 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 2011, 2,696 children were provided services at the HCPS Clinic. 1,764 children received medical services and 932 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 adult clients connected with the children we serve, when requested by the caseworkers. During 2011 drug tests were administered to 1,960 adult clients.

BE A Resource for CPS Kids (BEAR)



The mission of BEAR, which stands for 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 received support from DFPS and Harris County as well as numerous generous individuals, corporations, churches and foundations. In 2011, BEAR received \$1,322,342 in cash and in kind donations.

During 2011, BEAR Necessities, emergency supply rooms co-located in eight CPS offices, served more than 12,000 children and BEARING Gifts, which provides holiday gifts to CPS kids, served almost 8,500 children. The BEAR Back to School program provided school uniforms and supplies to more than 5,100 children. BEAR also sponsored its annual graduation 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 139 CPS youth get started on their journey to adulthood. Some children with open CPS cases are served by all programs each year.

Hundreds of volunteers ensure that BEAR is able to serve as many children as possible. In 2011, 28 year-round volunteers assisted in the BEAR rooms, 112 volunteers assisted with BEAR Back to School and 407 volunteers participated in BEARING Gifts.

For more information about **BEAR** and opportunities to get involved, please call **713-940-3087** or go to www.bearesourcehouston.org

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 2011, 1,632 youth from Region 6 (1,161 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.

Children Services

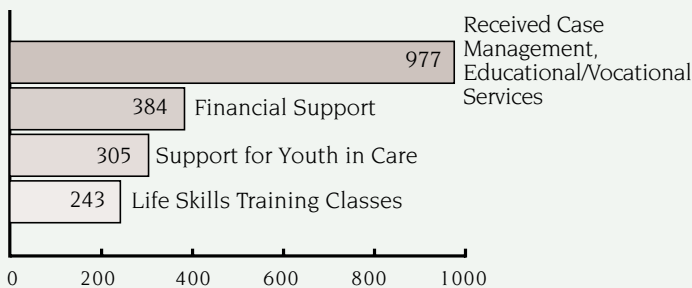
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The Houston Alumni and Youth Center (HAY)

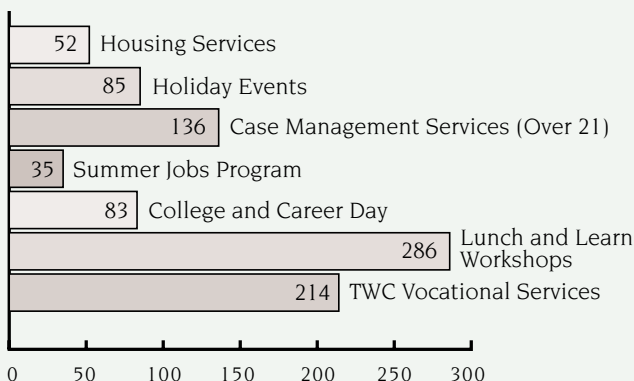
The HAY Center provides transitional services for current and former foster care youth ages 15 through 25 with an emphasis on education and employment. The mission of the HAY Center is to empower youth to become productive successful adults. This is accomplished through a variety of services. The Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program for youth ages 15 through 21 offers transitional services to foster youth including Life Skills Training, Case Management Services, Aftercare Financial Support, and Educational / Employment Counseling and Placement

PAL Services to foster youth in FY 2011



Through a contract with the Texas Workforce Commission, The HAY Center is designed as a one stop resource center for all current and former foster youth ages 16 through age 25 including those who might not qualify for PAL services. These young adults are assisted through housing programs, employment opportunities, parenting classes, educational services and a host of other programs to assist with their transition to adulthood.

HAY Center Services Provided to all Youth



For more information about **PAL Services** or **the HAY Center**, go to www.haycenter.org or call 713-884-3300

Region 6 Training Institute (TI)



The Region 6 Training Institute (TI) 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 staff, including: Basic Skills Development (BSD) Courses designed for new DFPS/CPS workers, Management Training, and a wide range of continuing education courses of interest for HCPS workers and supervisors. The Training Institute also provides Computer Based - Basic Skills Development classes for all new Guardianship Caseworkers and continuing education classes designed specifically for our geriatric care managers and supervisors. The TI, along with its community partners, hosted the Dianne Bynum Administrative Support Services Conference. The framework for this conference was modeled to show support for our administrative support professionals by demonstrating a "reversal of service" where Harris County CPS administrators and others spend a day serving those who spend their time serving others. On this day, our support staff attends some much need staff development training while their managers either work as volunteers during the conference or they provide coverage for the office.

During 2011, Region 6 Training Institute provided 77 workshops for 2,291 participants. A total of 242 new state CPS caseworkers participated in the BSD program. BSD is a 12 week intensive training program consisting of classroom core training, on-the-job training with veteran peer trainers, and specialized training tracks for such concentrations as Investigations, Family Based Safety Services, and Conservatorship services.

In 2007, The Region 6 Training Consortium was formed. The Consortium is a collaboration of 11 private agencies, non-profit organizations, for profit business groups, and government entities, who provide training and workshops designed to enhance the personal, professional, and organizational performance of our staff.



Youth Services



*Finding ways
to get you the
help you need*

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, Systems of Hope and BEAR), the DFPS’ Child Protective Services Point of Entry, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, and DePelchin Children’s Center.



Youth Services

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Community Youth Services (CYS)



CYS, a crisis intervention and case management program, with 75 staff members, offers free, voluntary assistance to at-risk children and youth and their families.

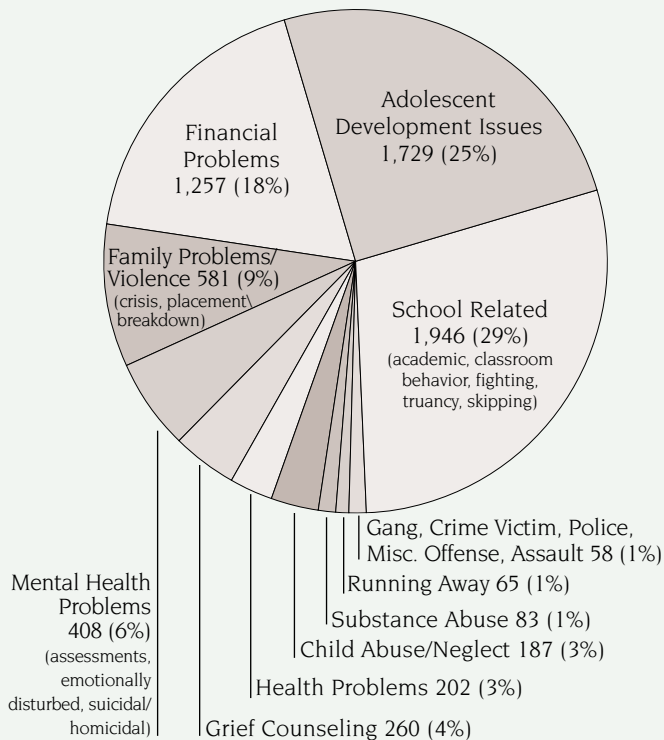
Sixty of the CYS staff members have a unique shared funding partnership with 13 districts as well as the Pasadena Police Department, the Educational Services Division of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, and the Community Education Partners Charter School. The goal of this program is to 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 2011, 341 parents and teens completed the 5-week course.

During 2011, CYS staff served 6,776 new referrals. CYS staff provided an additional 56,468, 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 go to www.hc-ps.org

Reasons for New Referrals to CYS

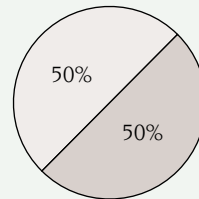
During 2011 CYS staff served 6,776 new youth referrals.



Kinder Emergency Shelter (KES)

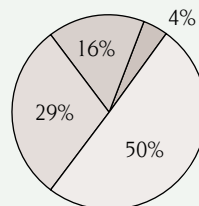


The Nancy and Rich Kinder Emergency Shelter (KES) is an emergency residential facility that provides short-term services to youth, ages 12-17, which are in need of shelter and care due to abuse, neglect, or severe family conflict that prevents them from being safely reunited with their family. Youth stay at the Shelter until they can be safely returned home or to an alternative long-term placement. During 2011, 364 youth were placed in the 24 bed Shelter by caseworkers from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)/Child Protective Services (CPS), Community Youth Services (CYS), Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG), Systems of Hope, TRIAD Prevention Program and the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. Also in 2011, KES continued to assist DFPS with foster care crisis by providing overnight stays for CPS youth who otherwise would have spent the night in a caseworker's office due to the unavailability of an appropriate placement for the youth. KES provided 279 nights of emergency shelter to a total of 632 youth (duplicate count) during the year.



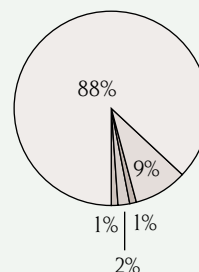
The Diversity of the Youth Sheltered

- 50% Female
- 50% Male



Race and Ethnicity

- 50% African American
- 29% Anglo
- 16% Hispanic
- 4% Other Races
- <1% Asian
- <1% Unknown



Referral Resource

- 88% DFPS
- 9% Harris Co. Juvenile Probation
- 1% TRIAD
- 2% CYS
- 1% SOH

Youth Services

TRIAD Prevention Program



During 2011 24,106 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.

Phone calls coming into three hotlines are handled by TRIAD Intake Diversion staff 24-hours a day: the Baby Abandonment Prevention Hotline, the TRIAD hotline and STAR* hotline. A total of 1,947 hotline calls were handled by TRIAD staff in 2011.

TRIAD Prevention Program At-Risk Youth served in year 2011

JP Court Program	17,436
JP Court WRAP Program.....	62
Truancy Learning Camp*	83
Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR)*	421
Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL).....	126
Intake/Diversion	1,445
Mental Health Services	57
Community Youth Development (CYD)*	2,529
Hotline calls.....	1,947
TOTAL	24,106

*STAR, CYD and the Universal Child Abuse Prevention Project are programs funded by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Truancy Learning Camp is funded by Harris County Community Services Department.

For more information on **TRIAD Prevention Programs**, go to www.hc-ps.org



*Connecting people with
quality services*

Systems of Hope (SOH)



Harris County Systems of Hope (SOH) is a project funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration), TRIAD, and the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health to develop a county-wide system of care to assist children and youth, from age 6 to 15, with severe emotional disturbance and their families.

SOH provided services to families in two areas of Houston. The first is as a partner in the South Region Children's Mental Health Collaborative. This collaborative is funded by a Hogg Foundation grant to the Collaborative

continued

Youth Services

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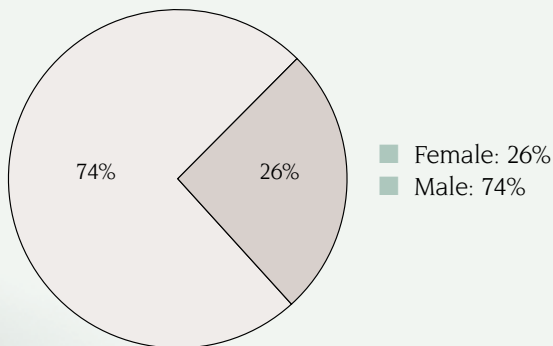
Systems of Hope *continued*

for Children, who in turn contracts with SOH to provide the services. A Care team, consisting of a Parent Partner and a Care Coordinator, work with children with complex mental health concerns and their families using the wraparound planning process. The second is the Kashmere School-based Wraparound Project (SWAP) funded through a Hogg Foundation for Mental Health grant to HCPS. This project focuses on the Kashmere/Trinity Gardens areas of Houston and is based within the schools of the Kashmere High School feeder pattern. In the Kashmere project, two Care Coordinators and one Parent Partner work with youth who have complex mental health issues and their families.

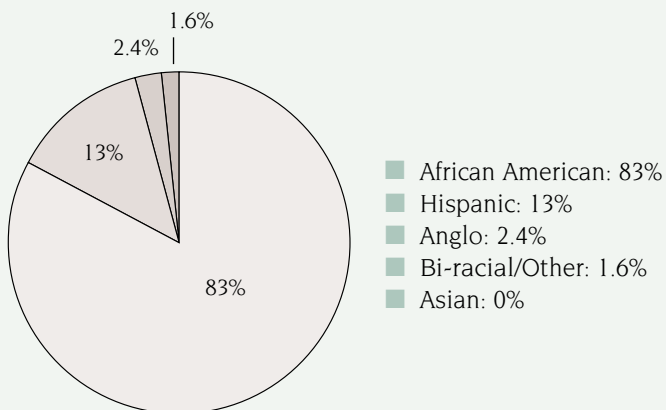
For more information on **Systems of Hope** contact:
713-795-HOPE • www.systemsofhope.org

Diversity

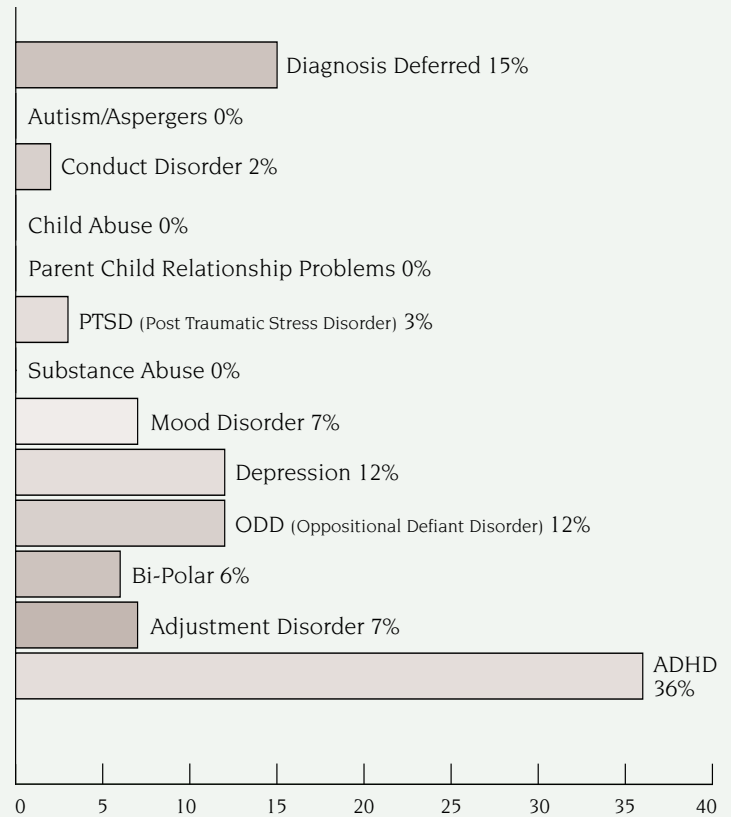
Total Number of Children Served: 122



Race and Ethnicity



Diagnosis



Adult Services

The Harris County Guardianship Program (HCGP)

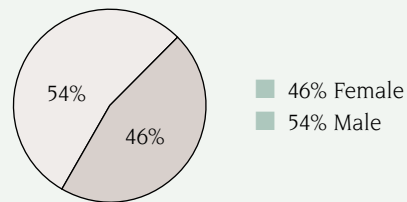


The Harris County Guardianship Program (HCGP) provides guardianship services to adults who are determined by one of Harris County's four Probate Courts to be incapacitated. Specially trained case managers ensure that the wards maintain the highest degree of independence, dignity and respect, while protecting 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. At the end of December 31, 2011, there were 1,395 court-appointed wards in the Guardianship Program.

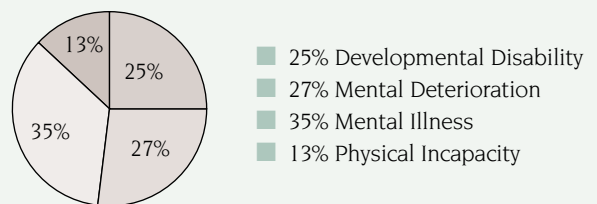
REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE PROGRAM (RPP): The Guardianship Program administers the Representative Payee Program (RPP). RPP is a case management program designed to assist eligible low-income Harris County adults who are elderly, physically, or mentally disabled with financial management so they can remain 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 and opportunities to get involved, contact the **Guardianship Program** at **713-363-2300**

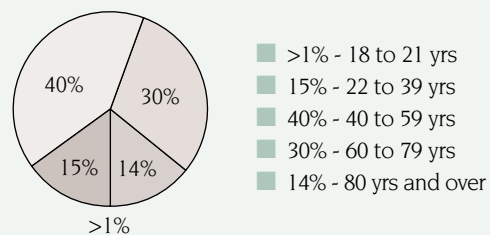
The Diversity of the Wards



Incapacities



Wards by Age



Total number of wards at the end of 2011: 1,395



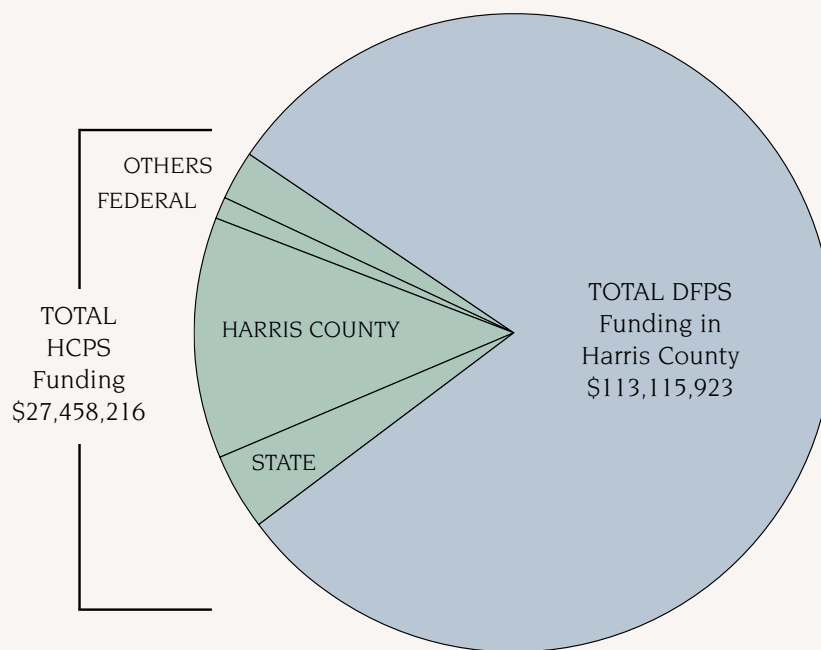
*There's no wrong door,
when connecting to the right help*

CPS in Harris County 2011 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	\$41,980,070	\$2,889,135	\$14,057,724	\$869,090	\$2,821,942	\$20,637,891	\$62,617,962
Children's Foster and Institutional Care	63,261,110	523,206	853,733	0	0	1,376,939	64,638,049
Children's Services Contract	6,377,734	1,215,463	335,251	591,823	6,500	2,149,037	8,526,771
Children's Medical Services	0	183,700	123,057	0	0	306,757	306,757
General and Administrative	1,497,008	762,727	1,556,069	1,379	667,416	2,987,591	4,484,600
TOTAL	\$113,115,923	\$5,574,231	\$16,925,834	\$1,462,292	\$3,495,859	\$27,458,216	\$140,574,139

* DFPS fiscal year: September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2011
DFPS funding sources: state and federal government.

** HCPS fiscal year: March 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012
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 (4 C'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
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.....	713-884-3300
Kinder Emergency Shelter	713-295-2700
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)
Texas Youth Hotline (help for youth under 21 yrs of age)...1-800-98-YOUTH (96884)	
TRIAD Prevention Program	713-295-2600
Systems of Hope	713-795-HOPE (4673)

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
Child Abuse Prevention.....	www.itsuptoyou.org
BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids	www.bearesourcehouston.org
Texas Adoption Resource Exchange	www.adoptchildren.org
To Volunteer	www.volunteerdfps.org
Systems of Hope	www.systemsofhope.org
Houston Alumni & Youth (HAY) Center.....	www.haycenter.org
Help for Parents (Resource and Information).....	www.helpandhope.org
Texas Youth Connection.....	www.texasyouthconnection.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