

# CPS in Harris County Annual Report

*2007 Statistics • 2008 Program Information*

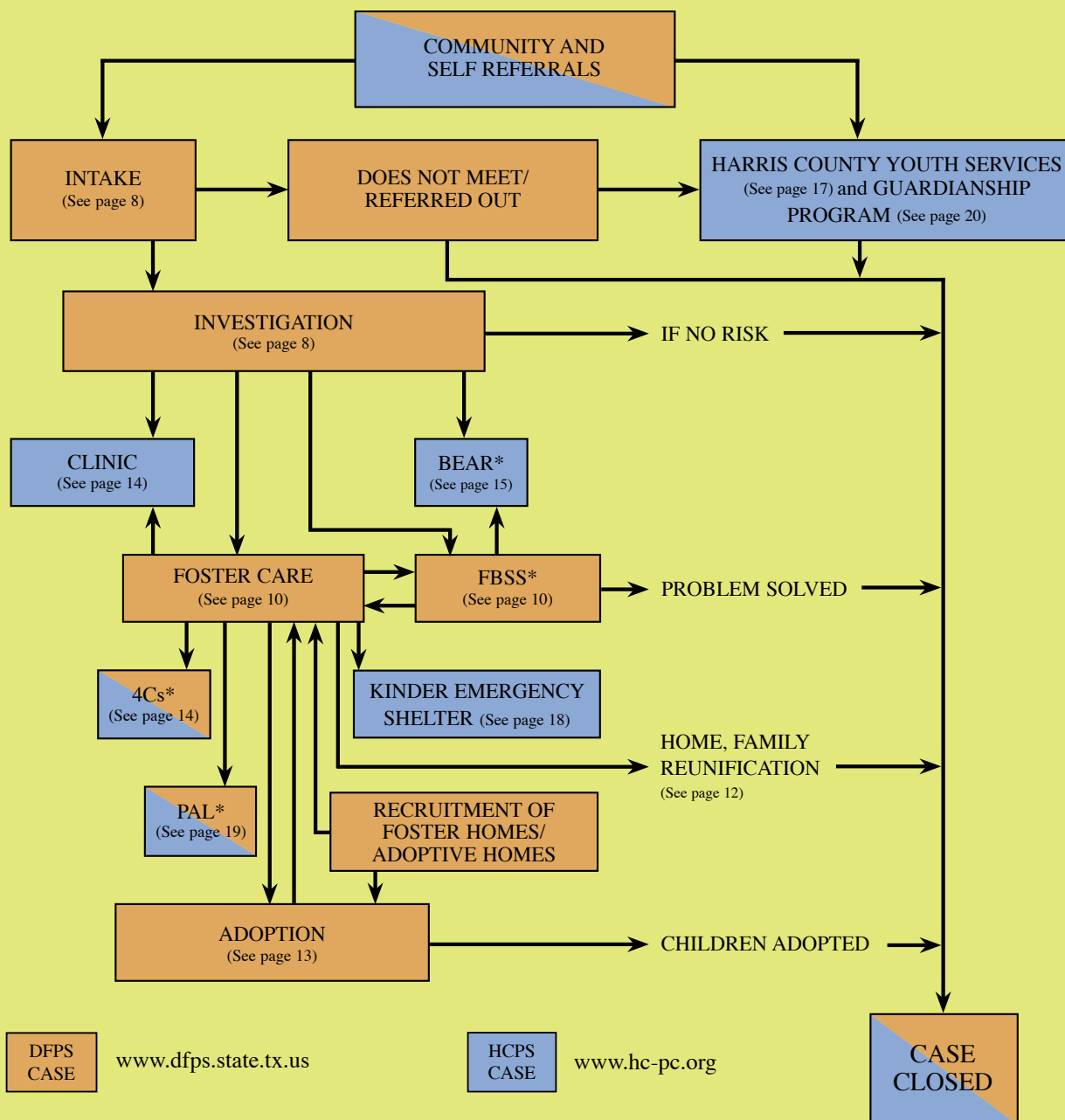


## CPS in Harris County

Texas Department  
of Family and  
Protective Services  
(DFPS)

Harris County  
Protective Services for  
Children and Adults  
(HCPS)

## A child, youth, family or adult's path through the programs of CPS in Harris County



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

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



## Letter to the Citizens of Harris County

*CPS in Harris County is pleased to present our Annual Report. This report covers 2007 statistics and funding of both Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS) and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS/CPS). Throughout this annual report you will be able to distinguish between the programs administered by the county and the state. At the top of the pages the agencies will be identified with the names and the logos of each agency. We hope that this will help readers understand the unique governmental collaboration between the two agencies providing services to children and adults in Harris County.*



### HCPS Highlights

*Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults is more developed than other child protective services county programs in the state. The agency is overseen by a 15 member-board appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court. Since the program was established in 1966 the county has sought to compliment but not duplicate state services. The first county program was the medical clinic established in 1972 to lessen the time staff and children were spending awaiting medical appointments. In 2007 almost 4,500 CPS children were seen at the medical and dental clinic and drug tests were performed on nearly 4,000 CPS clients. These tests are instrumental in identifying risk in families involved with the state CPS program. Last year the Kinder Shelter helped with the foster-care crisis by providing beds for youth would have otherwise slept in their caseworker's offices.*

*In addition to supporting the efforts of the state, the county, with over 400 employees, provides direct services to youth through school and court based youth services as well as administering the Preparation for Adult Living and Houston Alumni and Youth Center. In 2003 the Harris County Guardianship Program was transferred to HCPS. In 2007 the Representative Payee program was transferred to HCPS.*



### DFPS Highlights

*In 2007, one of the most important bills passed was Senate Bill 758 (SB 758), the "Reform II" bill. While Senate Bill 6 (SB 6) of the previous regular session dealt mostly with investigation programs, SB 758 focused on other parts of the system, including more prevention programs and more family based services. The legislature also repealed the requirement for DFPS to contract with private entities to provide all case management and substitute care, which was scheduled to begin in the San Antonio region in 2007.*

*During the 80th Legislative Session in 2007, DFPS received funding for positions to meet the following objectives:*

- *Keep families together by engaging families during the investigation to help prevent removal (family team meetings)*
- *Reduce the length of time children remain in state care.*
- *Ensure a realistic Plan of Service and to increase placement with relatives after removal.*

*Additional conservatorship and family based safety services (FBSS) staff were added to reduce caseloads of caseworkers providing family preservation services and services to children and families in custody of the state. Beginning October 1, 2007, CPS started conducting Family Team Meetings, one of the five different family involvement strategies. These meetings are designed as a rapid response to child safety and placement concerns. They are being used to achieve positive outcomes for children in the early stages of CPS interactions with families by improving family member involvement in the actual case planning.*

Dianne Wilson Bynum  
Board President, HCPS

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

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

HARRIS COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
COURT

TEXAS DEPARTMENT  
OF FAMILY AND  
PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES

ACCREDITED



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

**CWLA** CHILD  
WELFARE  
LEAGUE OF  
AMERICA





## HCPs Board of Directors & Administrative Staff

### 2008 Board of Directors

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Michael M. Sheppard, AIA, *Vice President*  
Larry B. Litton, Sr., *Treasurer*  
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James Olson  
Paula Price  
Janet Stansbury, M.Ed  
Martin T. Woodard, LCSW

### 2007 Administrative Staff

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

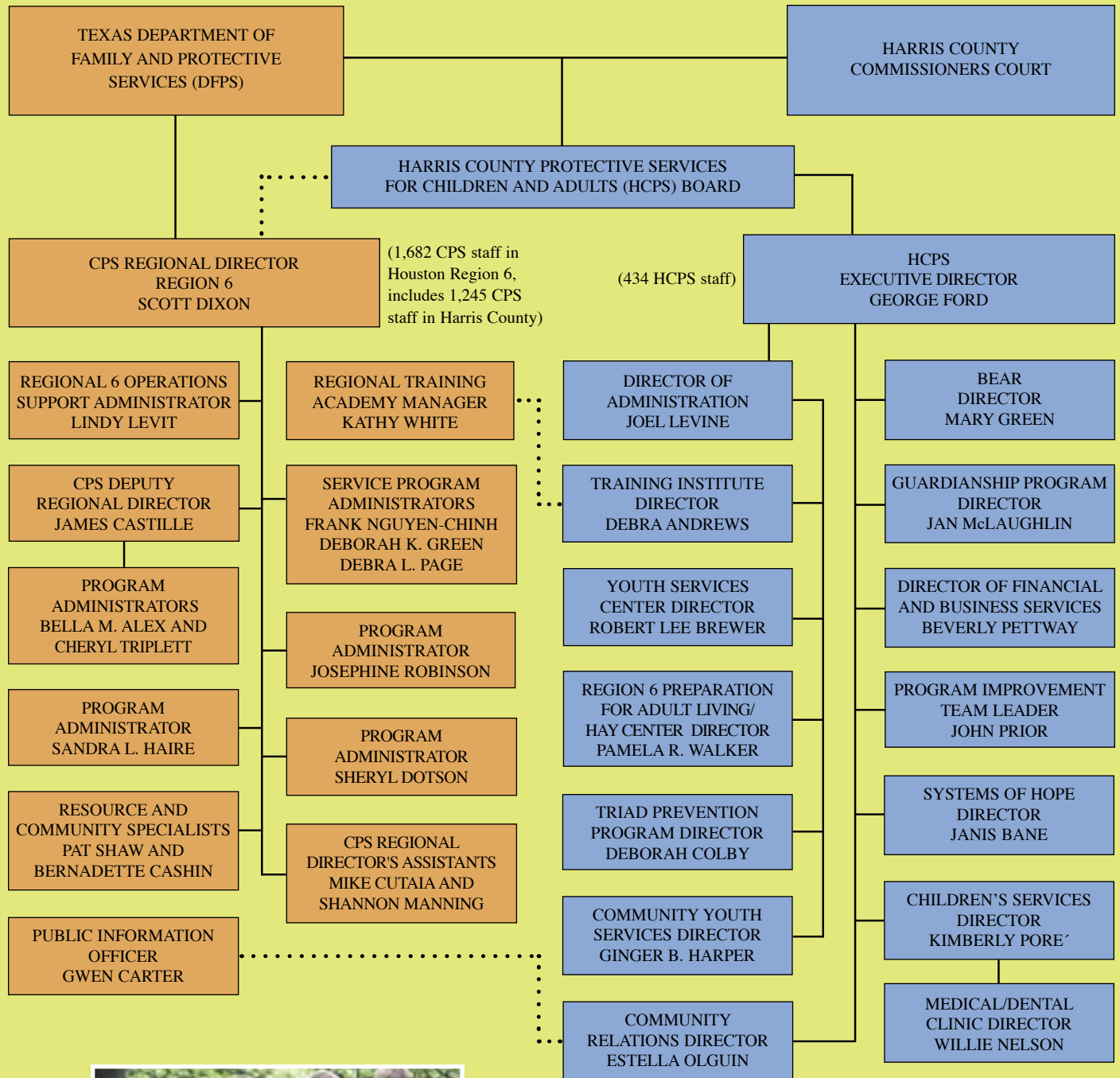


## DFPS 2007 Administrative Staff for CPS Houston Region 6

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

Peggy Gartman, LMSW-AP, *Program Director for Children in Custody in outlying counties*  
Bernita Hagan, *Program Improvement Specialist*  
Cheryl Harvick, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Sheila Hazley, *Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County*  
Evelyn Jacobs, LMSW, MSW, *Program Director for Family Based Safety Services for outlying counties*  
Ledra Johnson, *Program Director for Foster/Adopt*  
Patricia Johnson, LBSW, *Program Director for Adoption Preparation*  
Renatta Kost, *Program Director for Family Based Safety Services*  
Deborah Kumar-Misir, LMSW, *Program Director for Investigations*  
John Landis, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Issac Laryea, MA, MS, LPC-Intern, *Region 6 Disproportionality Specialist*  
Renita Laury, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Natarsha Lewis, *Residential Team Placement Coordinator*  
Lisa McCartney, *Permanency Director*  
Angela Rhoden, MSW, *Program Director for Children in Custody in Harris County*  
Krista Rodriguez, MSW, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Monica Sanders, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Laura Saunders, LMSW, LCDC, *Family Group Decision Making Specialist*  
Karen Sheehan, *Risk Director*  
Vanessa Shippard, MSW, *Risk Director*  
Doris Thomas-Buckler, Ph.D., LPC Intern, *Program Director for Family Based Safety Services*  
Debra Thornton, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Cindy Umlang, LMSW-AP, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Jarita Wharton, LBSW, MSW, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Kathy White, BSW, MA, *Training Academy Manager*  
Diana Wilson, *Program Director for Investigations*  
Kimberly Wiseburn, MSW, *Permanency Director*

# CPS in Harris County Organizational Chart • 2008





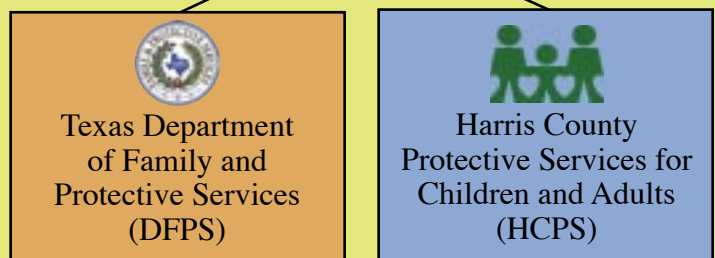


## Overview

*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



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

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

## Overview



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

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

### The responsibilities of the Child Protective Services (CPS) program of DFPS are to:

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



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

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

### HCPS' mission is to:

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

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

## Total Children Served Monthly

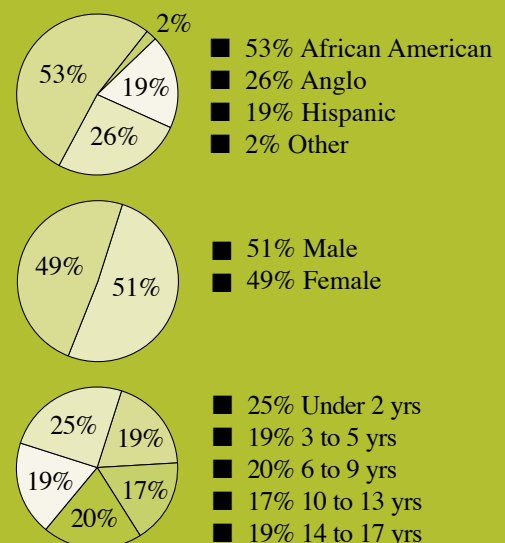
Approximate number of children receiving services from CPS in Harris County per month in 2006, including those children serviced in DFPS and HCPS programs.

Completed investigations (children).....	4,300
Receiving Family-Based Safety Services (children).....	5,100
In Protective Custody (children).....	5,200
(See Breakdown charts at right)	
Receiving TRIAD Prevention Program Services (youth).....	1,700
Receiving CYS Services (youth).....	3,300

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Total (Approximate number of children served per month by CPS in Harris County)	19,600
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### Breakdown of (children) in Protective Custody





## Statistics for CPS in Harris County 2007

Harris County Child Population for Year 2007: 1,051,989

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

#### CPS Program of DFPS 2007 Activities <sup>1</sup> - FY September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007

Intakes of child abuse and neglect assigned for investigation		25,564 <sup>2</sup>
Completed investigations	families	20,690 <sup>2</sup>
	alleged victims	34,013
	total children	46,669
Children adopted	in Region 6 <sup>3</sup>	849
Children served in Family-Based Safety Services		10,595
Children taken into protective custody		2,135
Total children in protective custody	as of August 31, 2007	5,219
Foster and Foster/Adopt Homes	as of August 31, 2007	214

1 Source: DFPS Forecasting and Program Statistics.

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

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

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

### Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS)

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

BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids <sup>5</sup>	CPS children served in BEAR Necessities	12,534
	CPS children served in BEARing Gifts	8,000
	CPS children served in Back to School	5,000
	in-kind and cash contributions	\$1,155,558
Children's Crisis Care Center (4Cs)	children evaluated	1,662
	families assessed	431
	Family Group Decision-Making conferences	400
	Permanency Planning Team meetings	3,690 <sup>6</sup>
Community Youth Services (CYS)	youth referrals	7,018
	parents and teens in Survival Skills	419
Student Support Services		33,210
Guardianship Program	adult wards as of Dec. 31, 2006	1,432
Kinder Emergency Shelter	youth sheltered	270
Medical-Dental Clinic	children served	4,469
Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)	youth served in Region 6 <sup>7</sup>	1,431
TRIAD Prevention Program	at-risk youth served	20,479 <sup>8</sup>

4 Source: The new EVOLV Database System

5 Some children are served by multiple programs.

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

7 PAL served youth during DFPS fiscal year.

8 Refer to page 19 for breakdown

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



**CPS in Harris County**  
**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY**  
**AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

**Child Protective Services (CPS)**  
**Program of DFPS**

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

**Intake:**

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

In FY 2007, CPS in Harris County assigned 25,564 intakes of child abuse and neglect for investigation. All reports meeting the statutory definitions of abuse and neglect are assigned a priority based on the level of risk to the alleged victim. Senate Bill 6 directed DFPS to develop rules by September 2007 which required CPS to reduce the response time to Priority 2 cases. The highest priority reports (P1) must be responded to within 24 hours. Priority 2 cases must be responded to within 72 hours, instead of the 10 day response time previously required.

**Investigations:**

In 2007, CPS continued to transform its operations and policies in response to Senate Bill 6, the sweeping protective services reform bill passed by the Texas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry.

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

When an intake report is assigned, CPS workers interview children, parents and others with knowledge of the family. These interviews help determine if child abuse or neglect has occurred and assess the risk of further harm to the child. If criminal conduct is involved, law enforcement may investigate at the same time to determine if criminal charges will be filed. Even if evidence of abuse or neglect is not found, caseworkers may refer families to services



**Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS**

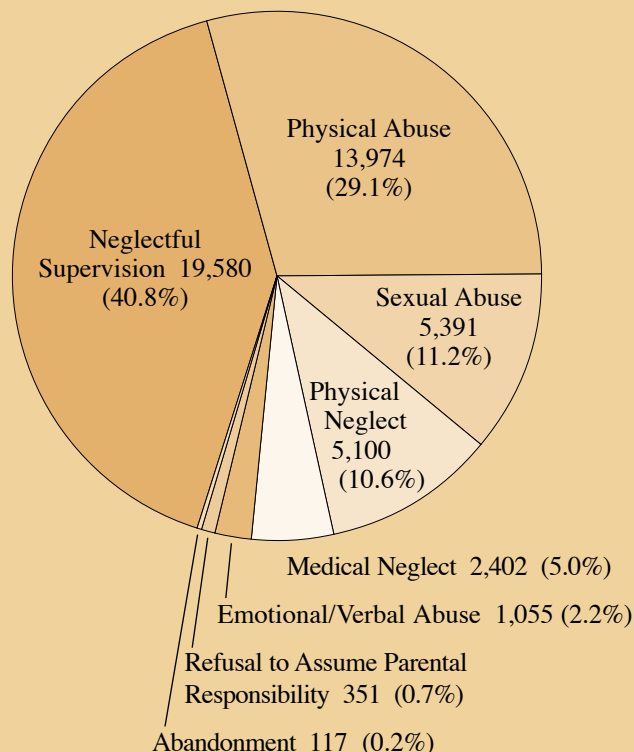
in the community, such as individual or family therapy, parenting classes, or programs offering financial assistance for utilities, rent, and child care.

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 2007, CPS in Harris County completed 20,690 investigations. 6,315 children were confirmed to have been abused or neglected in Harris County. The rate of confirmed abuse/neglect victims in Harris County was 6.0 per 1,000 children. In Texas, 11.2 children per 1,000 were confirmed as child abuse/neglect victims.

**Breakdown of types of abuse/neglect of alleged victims in completed investigations**

The total exceeds 34,013 alleged victims in completed investigations in 2007 since children may have more than one type of abuse/neglect allegation.

**Completed CPS investigations in Harris County****FY 2003**

intakes	20,342
families	17,007
alleged victims	26,855
total number of children	38,188

**FY 2004**

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

**FY 2005**

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

**FY 2006**

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

**FY 2007**

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

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



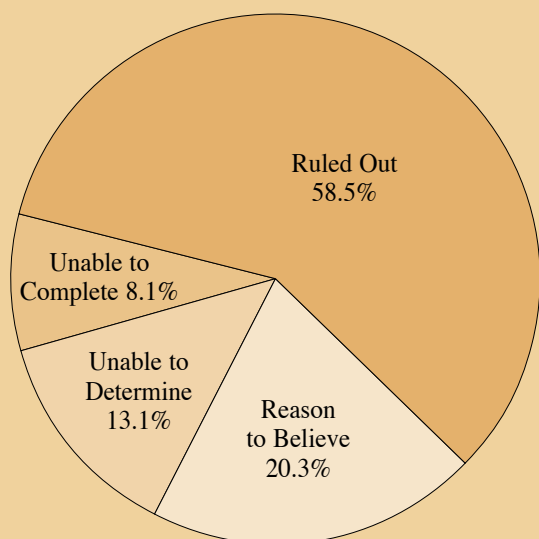




## Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

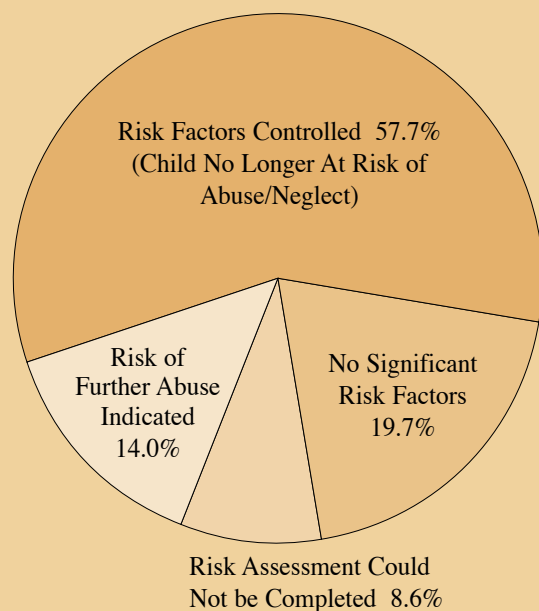
During FY 2007, 20,690 family investigations were completed.

### Findings of allegations in families in completed investigations



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

### Outcome of risk assessment of child abuse/neglect in families in completed investigations



### Family-Based Safety Services (FBSS)

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

In FY 2007, 10,595 children in Harris County received family-based safety services, including purchased services, in their own homes. In 2007, an average of 5,100 families per month received in-home services

### Foster Care

When it is not safe for children to live with their own families, CPS petitions the court to remove the children from their home. They may be placed temporarily with relatives, a foster family or an emergency shelter. Foster families provide a safe, nurturing environment for most children in CPS care. Foster families receive reimbursements for the cost of caring for children. CPS is required to arrange all medical, dental, and therapeutic services needed by the child. Some children have special emotional needs or other disabilities that can be difficult to address in a foster home. These children may be placed in specialized group homes, residential treatment centers, or other facilities. In 2007 the average number of children in foster care each month was 5,200.

For more information on foster care go to:

[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection/Foster\\_Care](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Foster_Care)

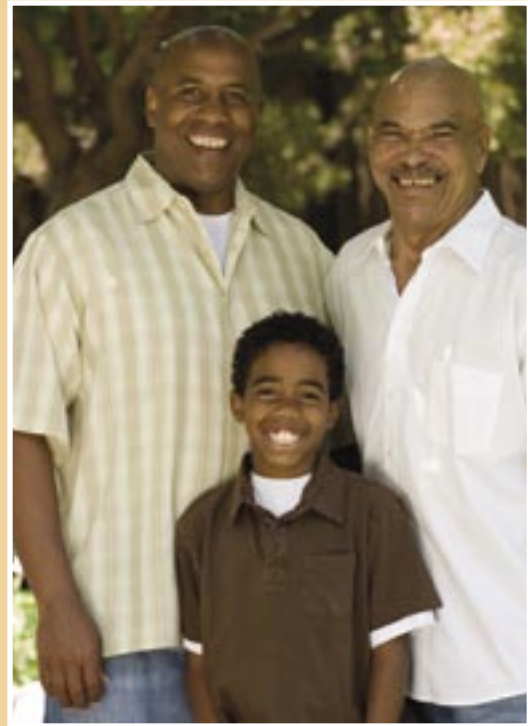
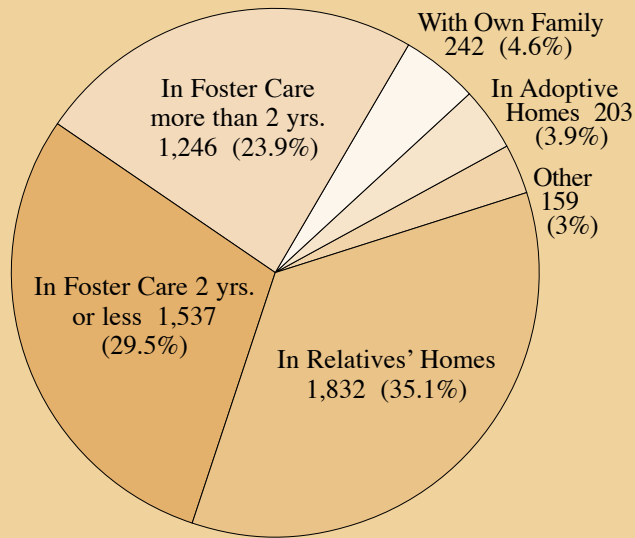
When children are removed from their homes and placed in the state's custody, a special team of CPS staff and other professionals work together to develop a written plan to address the factors that caused the abuse/neglect. They also review the progress made in the case plan on a regular basis. The goal is to ensure that children live in stable, nurturing environments and do not remain in foster care. In Houston Region 6, either through Family Group Decision-Making or a Permanency Planning Team, this coordination is by the Children's Crisis Care Center (page 14).



## Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

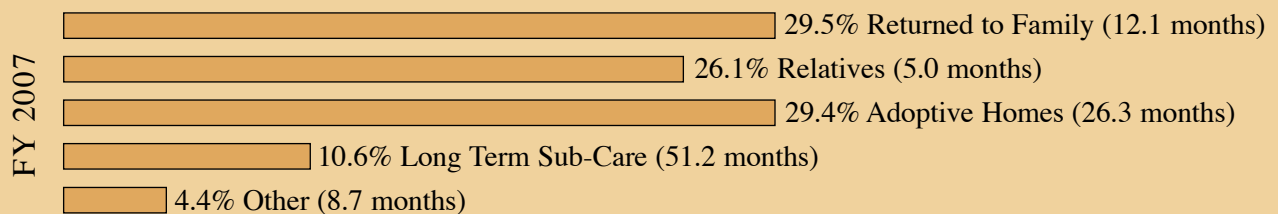
### Location of children in DFPS Protective Custody in Harris County

At the end of FY 2007, 5,219 children were in the state's Managing Conservatorship (custody) in Harris County.

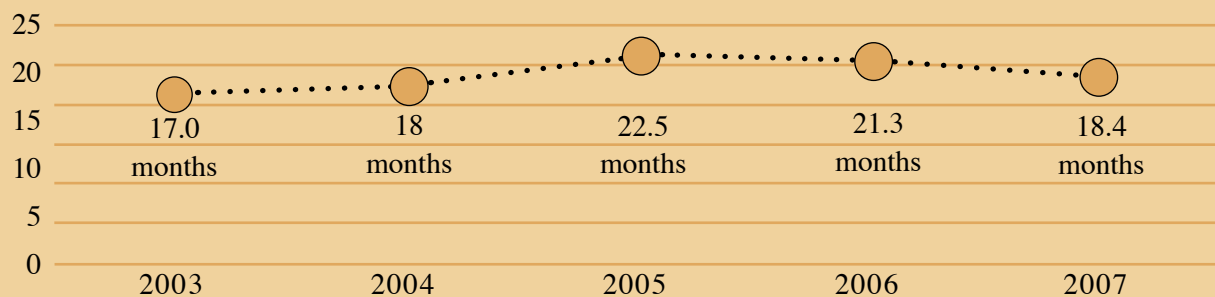


### Family Reunification

During FY 2007, 2,100 children in CPS custody in Harris County were placed in a permanent living arrangement. With court approval, 29.5% of the children were returned to their own families, 26.1% were placed with relatives, and 29.4% 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 2007 was 18.4 months



Comparison of total average length of time children in custody 2003 - 2007



## Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

### Family Reunification

#### *Continued*

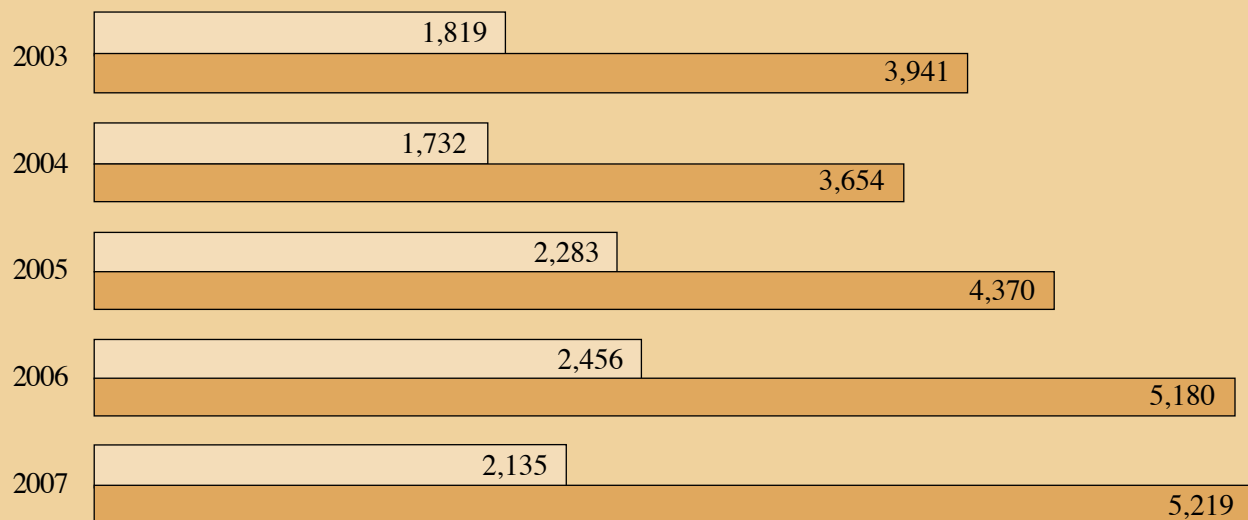
In 2007, CPS continued to expand kinship care. The kinship program includes a variety of supportive services for relatives and other caregivers who are caring for children in DFPS conservatorship. In 2007, Region 6 completed more than 2,479 home studies on relatives or family friends who might become caregivers for children in foster care. In Region 6, CPS placed 2,486 children with relatives and 270 children with family friends. Kinship placements move children out of foster care and into the care of relatives, helping children stay connected to their families and their communities.

In 2007, DFPS continued to address systemic factors and identify improvements in practices to address disproportionality, which is the over representation of a race or cultural group in a program or system. In the Texas CPS system, disproportionality means a higher percentage of African-American children are removed from their homes, a lower percentage are successfully reunited with their families, and a higher percentage age out of foster care. CPS is partnering with community organizations, using data, and conducting training for staff on “Undoing Racism” to reduce disparate outcomes.



☐ Children taken into protective custody during fiscal year

☐ Children in protective custody at end of fiscal year



Source: DFPS Forecasting and Program Statistics





## Child Protective Services (CPS) Program of DFPS

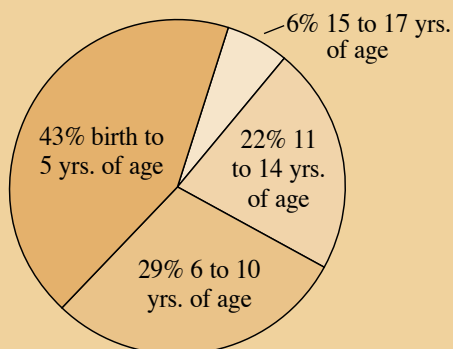
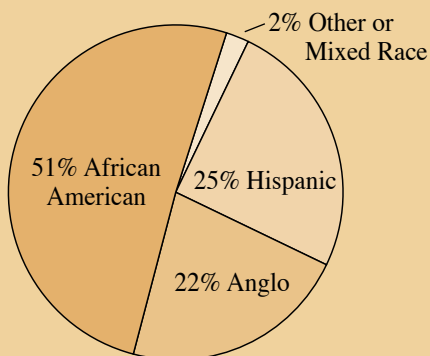
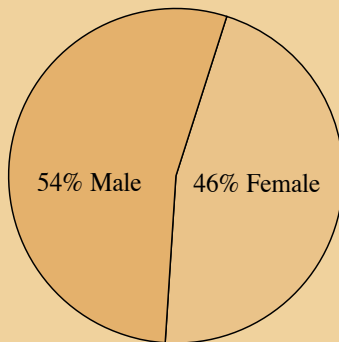
### Adoption

When it is not possible for a child to return home, the court may terminate the parents' rights and legally make the child available for adoption. DFPS completed 849 adoptions in Houston Region 6 (Harris County and the 12 surrounding counties) in 2007. DFPS contracts with licensed private child-placing agencies to increase the number of adoptive homes available to adopt foster children.

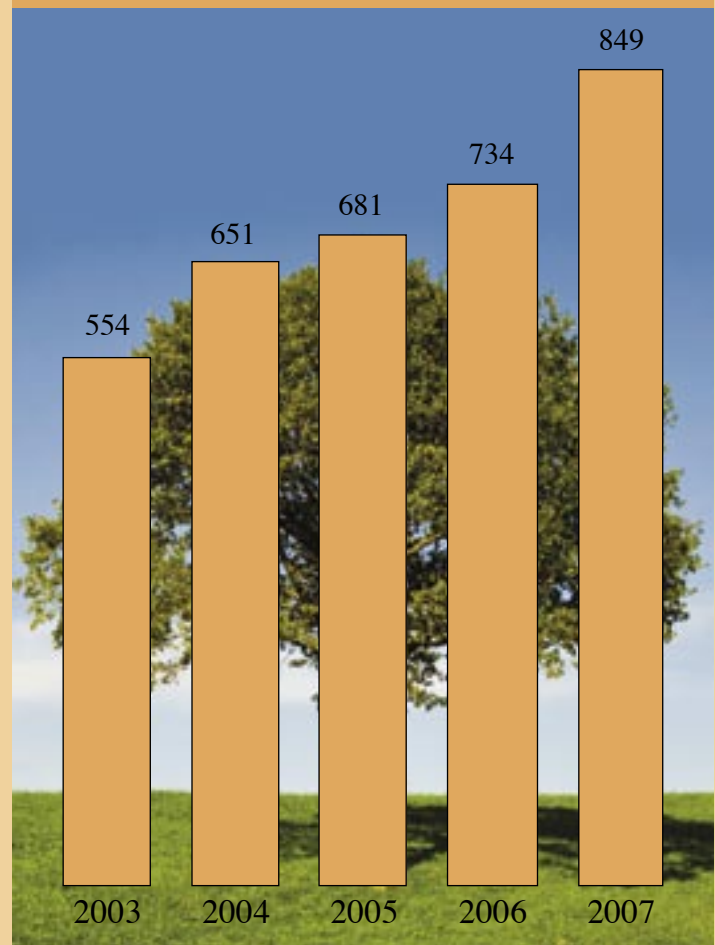
### WAITING

[www.adoptchildren.org](http://www.adoptchildren.org) • 1-800-233-3405

1,291 children in the Houston Region are waiting to be adopted.

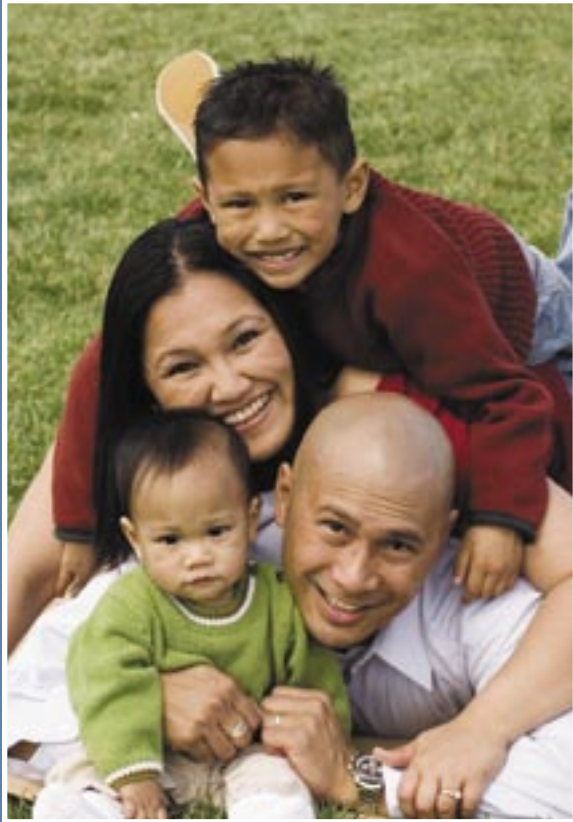


### Adoptions completed in Houston Region 6



CPS recruits foster parents and adoptive families through local and national campaigns and through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) website at [www.adoptchildren.org](http://www.adoptchildren.org). TARE provides information on children waiting to be adopted. CPS initiated the "Why Not Me" public awareness campaign, which was aimed at increasing adoptions of older children in CPS custody and encouraging families to foster or adopt older children.

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



## Children Services



### The Children's Crisis Care Center

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

The Children's Crisis Care Center, with 34 staff, 22 contracted professionals, and interns from local graduate programs, is structured into three program teams: Children, Family and Permanency Planning.

During 2007:

Children evaluated .....	1,662
Families assessed .....	431
Permanency Planning Team meetings .....	3,690
(For each custody child in Region 6)	
Family Group Decision-Making conferences .....	400

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



### HCPS Clinic

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

During 2007, 4,469 children were provided services at the HCPS Clinic. 2,936 children received medical services and 1,533 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 at the caseworkers' request. During 2007, drug tests were administered to 3,982 adult clients.





## Children Services



### BEAR

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

During 2007, BEAR Necessities, an emergency supply room, served 12,534 children and BEARING Gifts, which provides holiday gifts to CPS kids, served more than 8,000 children. BEAR Back to School provided school uniforms and supplies to 5,000 children. Some children are served by all programs.

BEAR is so grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who ensure that we are able to serve as many children as possible. In 2007 25 year-round volunteers assisted in the BEAR rooms, 150 volunteers assisted with BEAR Back to School and more than 350 volunteers participated in BEARING Gifts.

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



*Pictured is a BEAR volunteer, Fionna Guinn, with a CPS child at the BEAR Back to School party.*

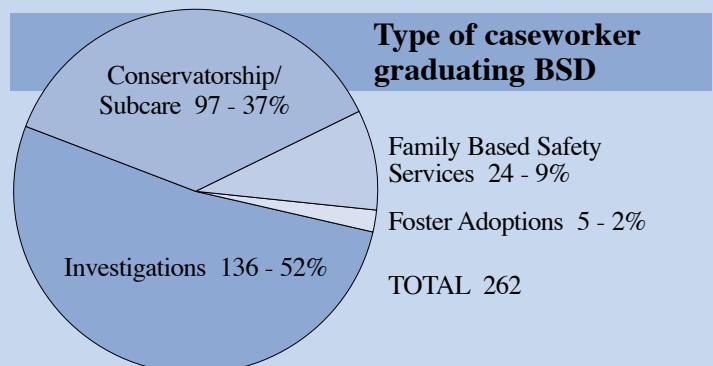


### Region 6 Training Institute

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

During 2007, the Region 6 Training Institute provided 75 workshops for 1,452 participants and 10 Basic Skills Development classes. A total of 262 new state CPS caseworkers including 11 BSW/MSW interns from six different local universities successfully completed the Basic Skills Development (BSD) program. BSD is a twelve week intensive training program consisting of five-weeks of Core training, six-weeks of On-The-Job training with veteran caseworkers, and specialized training tracks for such concentrations as Investigations, Conservatorship, Family-Based Safety Services and Foster and Adoptions services.

The Region 6 Training Consortium, is a collaboration of individuals, private agencies, non-profit organizations, for profit business groups, and government entities, who provide training and workshops that enhance an individual's personal, professional, and organizational performance. Since its inception, our community partner agencies have grown from 11 community partners to 24. 119 workshops were delivered to more than 1,937 participants over the past year. Many of the workshops are videotaped and a video archive has been created for all materials.







## Children Services



### Systems of Hope

Harris County Systems of Hope (SOH) began serving children in October 2006 and is in its third year of a six year federally funded grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration. The program is designed to assist children and youth, from age 6 to 16, with severe emotional disturbance and their families. The program utilizes the wraparound process, which includes the following essential elements of system of care:

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

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

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

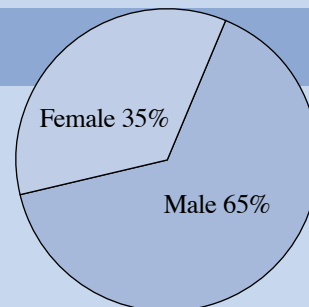
A national evaluation of the project supports the effectiveness of Systems of Hope through the following outcomes:

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

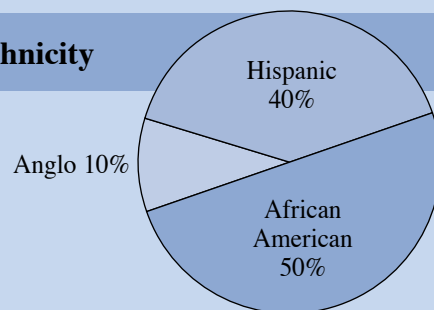
For more information on Systems of Hope contact:  
**713-795-HOPE • [www.systemsofhope.org](http://www.systemsofhope.org)**

The following data comes from the National Evaluation CQI Progress Report, December 2007.

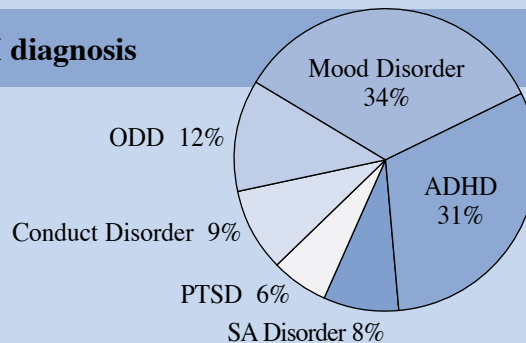
### Demographics: average age is 12



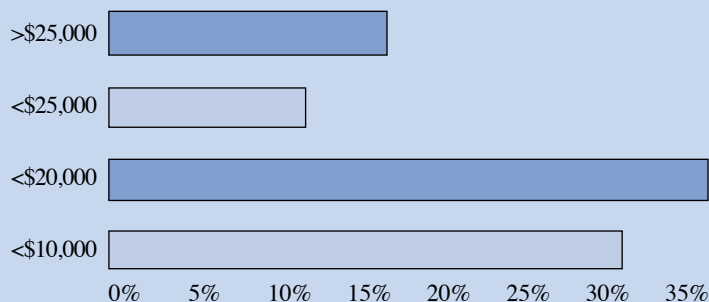
### Race and ethnicity



### DSM diagnosis



### Household income





## **Youth Services**

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

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





## Children Services



### Community Youth Services (CYS)

CYS, a crisis intervention and case management program, with 95 staff members, offers free, voluntary assistance to at-risk children and youth and their families. For more information go to [www.hc-ps.org](http://www.hc-ps.org)

Seventy-eight of the CYS staff members have a unique shared funding partnership with 16 school districts as well as the Pasadena Police Department, the Educational Services Division of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Communities In Schools-Houston and the Community Education Partners Charter School. The goal of this program is to prevent at-risk youth from becoming victims of child abuse, running away, dropping out of school or entering into delinquent behavior.



Additionally, CYS provides support services to runaway/homeless youth through the Safety Net program, and conflict resolution/mediation to youth and their parents through the Parent/Teen Survival program. During 2007, 419 parents and teens completed the course.

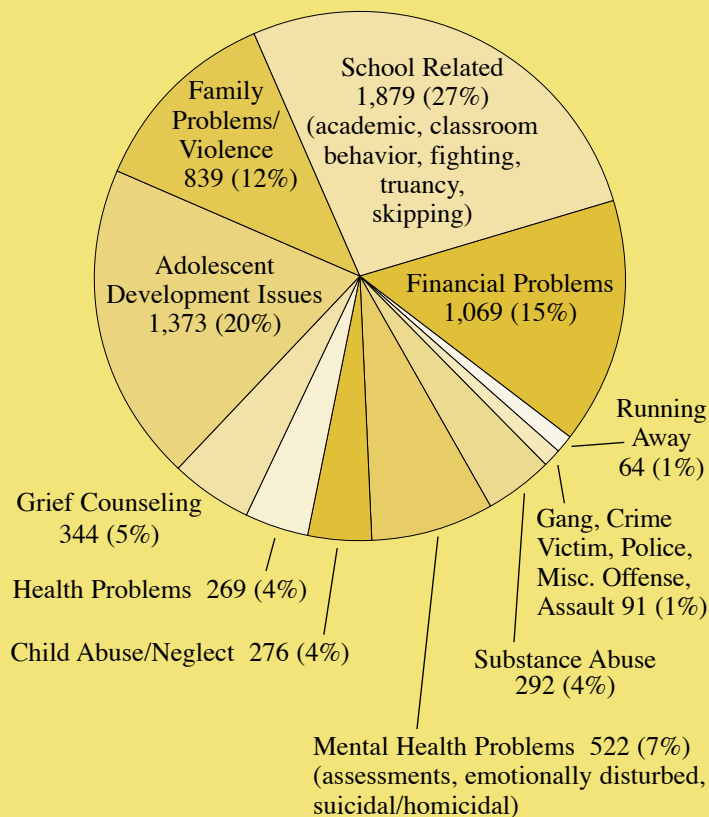
Through a Criminal Justice grant, CYS has partnered with the Harris County District Attorney's Stay in Schools Program, and Clear Creek Independent School to develop and administer the Truancy Intervention Program (T.I.P.). This collaborative project identifies early truancy behaviors, diverts students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

CYS staff served 7,018 new youth referrals.

CYS staff provided an additional 33,210, Student Support Services to students at school or in the community not related to open cases. Students may participate in multiple outreach event services.

### Reasons for new referrals to CPS

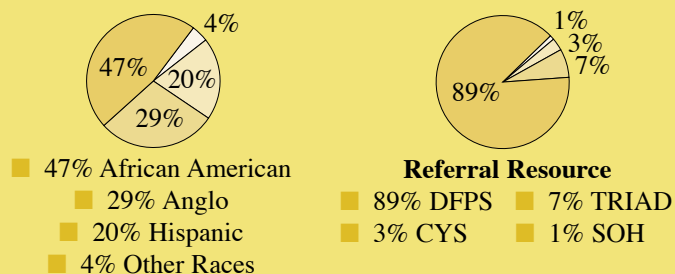
During 2007, staff served 7,018 new youth referrals



### Kinder Emergency Shelter

During 2007, 270 youth, ages 12-17 who required emergency short-term residential care, were placed in the 24 bed Nancy and Rich Kinder Emergency Shelter by caseworkers from DFPS, CYS, Systems of Hope and the TRIAD Prevention Program.

The diversity of the youth sheltered included 55% female and 45% male.







## Children Services



### TRIAD

During 2007 20,479 at-risk youth were served.

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

The Baby Abandonment Prevention Hotline staffed by TRIAD Intake Diversion, received 63 calls during 2007.

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

### TRIAD Prevention Program At- Risk Youth served in year 2007

JP Court Program .....	15,390
Truancy Learning Camp .....	155
Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR)*.....	293
Intake/Diversion .....	2,706
Mental Health Services .....	70
Community Youth Development (CYD)*.....	1,865
<hr/>	
TOTAL .....	20,479

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



### PAL

The Region 6 Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Program, with sixteen HCPS and eight DFPS staff members, helps make the transition to adulthood successful for youth in foster care. PAL services include independent living assessment, time-limited financial help, and training in such areas as money management, job skills, educational planning and interpersonal skills.

In 2007, 1,431 youth from Region 6 (1,047 from Harris County) and an additional 208 out of region youth living in Harris County, ages 14 through 20, received services through the PAL Program. Through funds of the federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Act, PAL provided aftercare room-and-board assistance and case management services for young adults ages 18 through 21 who have exited foster care.



### HAY Center

In 2007, the Houston Alumni and Youth Center (HAY) served 361 young adults at 2103 N. Main in Houston. The HAY Center provides a one-stop transition center for foster youth and former foster youth still in need of employment, education or support. Three HCPS staff members provide employment, education, counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting classes, and limited financial assistance in conjunction with PAL staff and numerous partner agencies to empower foster youth and alumni to become successful, productive adults. During 2006, funding for the HAY Center by the Department of Labor was discontinued. However, the Texas Work Force Commission continued to provide funding for the Program in 2007. In addition, Casey Family Programs provided funding for the HAY Center during 2007 and is conducting an employment study to identify "Best practices" in helping foster youth and alumni achieve stable employment. With the change in funding, the HAY Center was able to expand services to youth from ages 16 thru 25. In addition, HAY is now also able to serve young adults who were traditionally not eligible for PAL services, those who left foster care after the age of 16 but prior to age 18. Of the 361 young adults served at the HAY Center, 58 youth were between the ages of 21 and 25.



## Guardianship Program



The Harris County Guardianship Program (HCGP) provides guardianship services to adults who are determined by one of Harris County's four Probate Courts to be incapacitated. Specially trained case managers ensure that the wards maintain the highest degree of independence, dignity and respect, while protecting them from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. They also provide appropriate management of wards' property, finances, and daily needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. Guardianship services continue until the wards improve to a point where the court finds them fully capable of handling their own affairs; until the court appoints successor guardians, such as family or friends; or until the wards pass away. At the end of December 31, 2007, there were 1,432 court-appointed wards in the Guardianship Program.

In 2007, the HCGP acquired a new program from the Office of Community and Economic Development, now known as Harris Co. Community Services Dept. The Representative Payee Program is a case management program that provides money management assistance to senior and/or disabled adults who want to remain living independently in the community, but are in need of some assistance. 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 or resources.

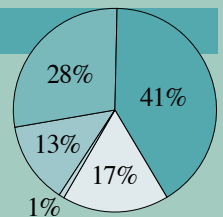
For more information and opportunities to get involved, contact the Guardianship Program at **713-363-2300**.

Number of wards served at the end of 2007: 1,432

■ 52% Male ■ 48% Female

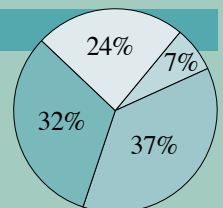
### Wards by ages

■ 1% - 18 to 21 yrs ■ 28% - 60 to 79 yrs  
 ■ 17% - 22 to 39 yrs ■ 13% - 80 yrs  
 ■ 41% - 40 to 59 yrs and over



### Incapacities

■ Developmental Disability 24%  
 ■ Mental Deterioration 32%  
 ■ Mental Illness 37%  
 ■ Physical Incapacity 7%



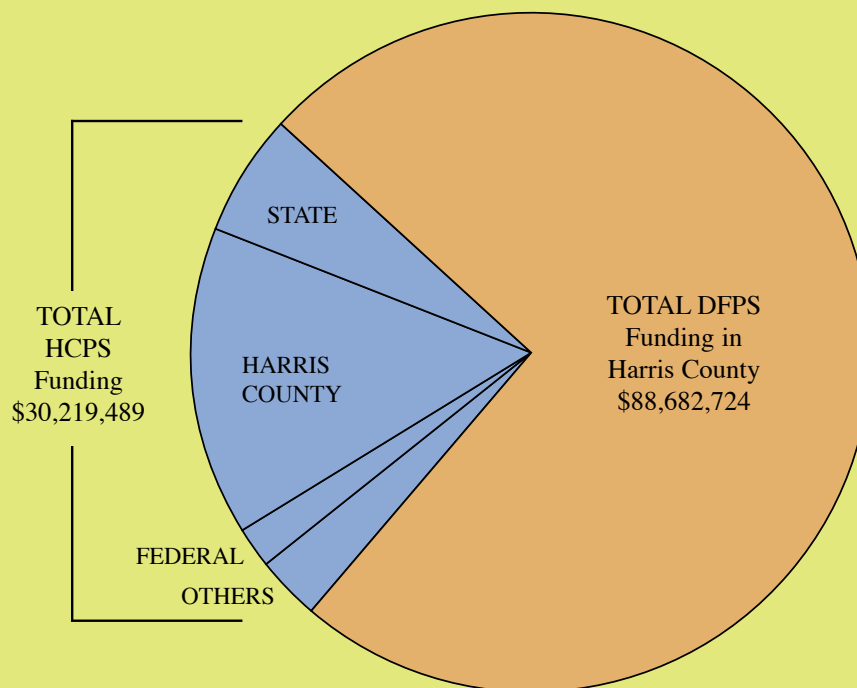
*Pictured above is Joyce Taylor with an HCPS ward. She has been volunteering as a Guardianship Angel for 3 years. During her visits with the ward she reads, goes for walks and provides companionship.*

## CPS in Harris County 2007 Funding

	DFPS*	HCPS**					Combined Funding in Harris County
	DFPS Funds in Harris Co.	State	Harris County	Federal	Others	Total HCPS	
<b>Staff Salaries, Benefits and Travel</b>	\$31,655,632	\$3,950,007	\$12,903,464	\$1,017,371	\$2,812,070	\$20,682,912	\$52,338,544
<b>Children's Foster and Institutional Care</b>	51,016,748	438,849	879,832	0	0	1,318,681	52,335,429
<b>Children's Services Contract</b>	5,553,829	1,577,372	949,142	1,206,439	324,563	4,057,516	9,611,345
<b>Children's Medical Services</b>	0	102,500	234,605	0	0	337,105	337,105
<b>General and Administrative</b>	456,515	862,062	2,686,943	1,981	272,289	3,823,275	4,279,790
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$88,682,724</b>	<b>\$6,930,790</b>	<b>\$17,653,986</b>	<b>\$2,225,791</b>	<b>\$3,408,922</b>	<b>\$30,219,489</b>	<b>\$118,902,213</b>

\* DFPS fiscal year: September 1, 2006 - August 31, 2007  
DFPS funding sources: state and federal government.

\*\* HCPS fiscal year: March 1, 2007 - February 28, 2008  
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
Gulfton Youth Development Program .....	713-314-3154
Guardianship Program .....	713-363-2300
PO Box 20605, Houston, TX 77225	
Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults .....	713-394-4000
Harris County Youth Services Center .....	713-295-2500
6300 Chimney Rock , Houston, TX 77081	
Houston Alumni & Youth (HAY) Center .....	713-600-2800
2800 Antoine Dr., Suite 2872, Houston, TX 77092	
Kinder Emergency Shelter .....	713-295-2700
Preparation for Adult Living .....	713-600-2800
Pasadena Youth Development Program .....	713-473-8393
Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) .....	713-664-3459
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services .....	512-438-4800
Texas Runaway Hotline .....	1-888-580-4357(HELP)
TRIAD Prevention Program .....	713-295-2600
Systems of Hope .....	713-795-HOPE

### Agency Web Sites

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults .....	<a href="http://www.hc-ps.org">www.hc-ps.org</a>
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services .....	<a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us">www.dfps.state.tx.us</a>
To Report abuse on a secure web site .....	<a href="http://www.txabusehotline.org">www.txabusehotline.org</a>
Child Abuse Prevention .....	<a href="http://www.itsuptoyou.org">www.itsuptoyou.org</a>
BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids .....	<a href="http://www.bearesourcehouston.org">www.bearesourcehouston.org</a>
Texas Adoption Resource Exchange .....	<a href="http://www.adoptchildren.org">www.adoptchildren.org</a>
To Volunteer .....	<a href="http://www.volunteerdfps.org">www.volunteerdfps.org</a>
Systems of Hope .....	<a href="http://www.systemsofhope.org">www.systemsofhope.org</a>
Houston Alumni & Youth (HAY) Center .....	<a href="http://www.reg6PALHouston.org">www.reg6PALHouston.org</a>



### CPS in Harris County

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

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