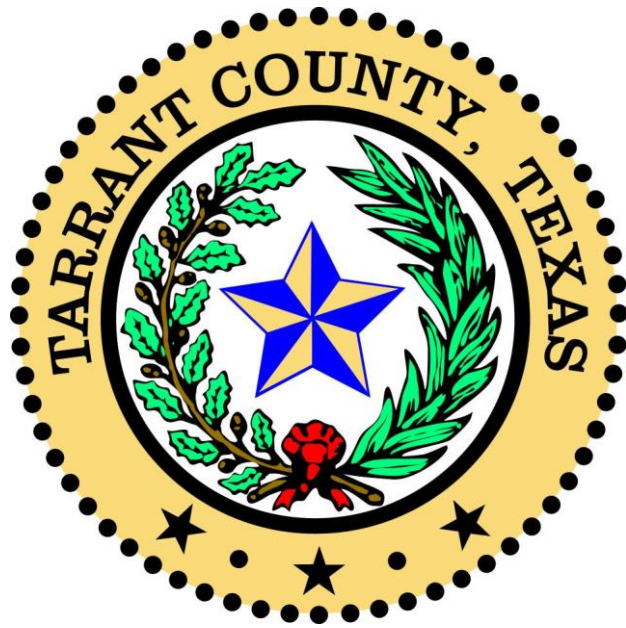


TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY PLAN

Tarrant County Criminal Justice Community Planning Group



2015

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TARRANT COUNTY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY PLAN 2015

Statistics Updated 2014

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Planning Group (TCCJCPG) is to research, analyze, and write the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Community Plan (hereinafter, Plan) and to maintain and update the Plan to reflect changing needs and gaps in services. The Plan will focus on four civic ideals:

1. Doing justice
2. Promoting secure communities,
3. Restoring crime victims, and
4. Promoting noncriminal options.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments no longer requires this planning group to produce a plan. However the TCCJCPG continues to collaborate as a voluntary organization with criminal justice stakeholders to reduce crime and make Tarrant County a safer place to live and work. The plan will be continually upgraded so gaps in services, existing programs, new initiatives and funding opportunities may be addressed and resources increased.

Located in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area, Tarrant County, Texas is the third most populous county in the state, and the sixteenth most populous county in the United States. Established in 1849, Tarrant County was named after General Edward H. Tarrant, commander of militia forces of the Republic of Texas at the Battle of Village Creek in 1841. Today, Tarrant County's estimated 2011 population is 1,849,815 individuals. This is a 1.8% increase from 2010 and a 23.8% increase from 2000. Fort Worth, with a population of 757,810, is the county's government seat as well as its largest city.

Tarrant County contains 41 municipalities, 21 school districts and encompasses 863 square miles. The population density of Tarrant County is 1675.8 persons per square mile with only 2% of the county's land deemed rural and 98% considered urban.

Located in North Texas, Tarrant County contains four major Interstate Highways: I-20, I-30, I-35, and I-820 and partially contains the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the third busiest airport in the world. Major employers in Tarrant County include: Alcon, AMR Corporation (American Airlines), Bell Helicopter, BNSF Railway, Cook Children's Healthcare, D.R. Horton, JP Morgan Chase, JPS Health Network, Lockheed Martin Corporation, RadioShack, and SBC Communications.

Thank you to the Criminal Courts Administration Office for their help in updating this plan.

TARRANT COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW¹

	Tarrant County	Texas
Population, 2013 estimate	1,911,541	26,448,193
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	5.6%	5.2%
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2013	7.4%	7.6%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2013	27.3%	26.6%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2013	9.9%	11.2%
Female persons, percent, 2013	51.0%	50.3%
White Persons, percent, 2013	75.7%	80.3%
Black persons, percent, 2013	15.9%	12.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native Persons, percent, 2013	0.9%	1.0%
Asian persons, percent, 2013	5.0%	4.3%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, percent, 2013	0.2%	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2013	2.2%	1.8%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2013	27.6%	38.4%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2013	50.1%	44.0%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	84.0%	80.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	29.1%	26.3%
Veterans, 2008-2012	120,320	1,611,660
Per capita money income, 2008-2012	\$28,125	\$25,809

In 2012, 14.7% of the population lived under the poverty level. The median household income was \$56,859 and the average occupancy per household is 2.75 persons. In 2012, 730,656 individual housing units existed in Tarrant County and the county's homeownership rate was 62.3%. As of September 2014, Tarrant County's unemployment rate was 5%.

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

According to data compiled in the Texas Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR), crime increased in Tarrant County between 2012 and 2013. Index crime increased 2%; the total Violent Crimes decreased 3.0% and total Property Crimes increased 3.0%; Murder was up 15%; Rape was down 7%; Robbery was up 2%; Assault was down 5%; Burglary was down 5%; Theft was up 6%; and Motor Vehicle Theft decreased 2%.²

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Tarrant County, Texas State & County Quick Facts, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48439.html> (last visited Nov. 5, 2014).

² State of Texas 20013 UCR Index Crime Rate increased 0.4% when compared to 2012: Source: Crime in Texas 2013.

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CRIME PREVENTION/REDUCTION—COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Participant List -Criminal Justice Focus Group						
Role	First Name	Last Name	E-mail Address	Business Phone	Agency	Title
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INTRODUCTION:

The goal of community justice is to **reduce recidivism**ⁱ by improving confidence in the justice system and prevent crime by strengthening community partnerships and other social services within the community to address crime and the underlying conditions that produce crime. Community justice normally addresses lower level offenders and requires law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and corrections officials to interact more closely and collaborate with community representatives and institutions in order to become more familiar with the social issues and conditions. Community justice engages the community as an active partner in the criminal justice and reintegration process. Community justice includes the principles of “problem-solving justice”ⁱⁱ that can be traced to community and problem oriented policing. These innovative policing strategies encouraged the use of similar approaches in community prosecution; problem-solving courts, problem-solving probation and reentry courts; reentry councils; and the use of prisons and jails as reintegration organizations working collaboratively. The intent of this section is to identify the gaps in the community justice initiative, address strategies that specifically address reintegration and recidivism, and call for more community-based coordination, **problem-solving justice**, and sentencing practices that will lead to the prevention and reduction of crime.

GAPS IN THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE STRATEGY:

Many community justice partnerships are decentralized where participants, such as community representatives, reentry officials, police officers, lawyers, social workers, probation officers and parole officers are co-located in one-stop type **community justice centers** in order to enhance the communication process and problem-solving efforts. Although Tarrant County participates in various types of community justice partnerships, **more decentralization and collaboration** is needed to develop a more holistic strategy to effectively address local crime and recidivism rates.ⁱⁱⁱ

More meetings are needed at the local and state levels of government that address this strategy. A 2007 Tarrant County Community Justice Survey suggested that there was broad support for this type of a strategy but that more community education and coordination are needed for the successful implementation of such a program. More community justice training and coordination are still needed leading to improvements in reentry planning and resource coordination with local communities. Overall, there is a need to develop a **comprehensive community justice strategy** that is more conducive to problem solving, reducing recidivism and effective reintegration.

The research suggests that the criminal justice system should be more committed in connecting with local communities and intentional about its impacts on neighborhoods. Based on this premise, there is a need for a seamless **community justice and reentry strategic plan** in Tarrant County (and the State of Texas) that includes a long-term reintegration strategy that is incorporated into each local jurisdictions criminal justice plan. The following is a summary of various community justice strategies that include reentry and reintegration strategies that attempt to **address this charge** and may be instrumental in identifying and/or filling some of the gaps:

- There is a need for more community engagement through the use of **community surveys** to measure public attitudes about their community and the justice system and the establishment of community-based criminal justice advisory committees. More collaboration is needed between the public, practitioners and researchers to understand the issues the community is facing.
- Community justice programs should address lower-level felonies and misdemeanors and “quality of life crimes” such as those associated with code violations, truancy, vandalism, prostitution and petty drug-offending. These programs should emphasize the use of **local advisory groups**, community-based restorative justice for **low risk offenders** that include but are not limited to, community restitution programs and projects.
- Law enforcement agencies should become more engaged in community and **problem oriented policing** as well as ex-offender reentry efforts. These efforts should include, but not be limited to, serving as a source of information for community supervision officials and operating as a source of information for returning ex-offenders about local services, programs and employment opportunities.
- Prosecutor offices should consider **decentralizing and work closer with the community**, local law enforcement agencies, and defense teams in addressing and prioritizing community issues. It is important to ensure individuals are treated fairly and, when released from incarceration are closely monitored, held accountable for their actions and have appropriate resources that make recidivism less likely.
- The courts should become more **neighborhood-focused** and attempt to harness the power of the justice system to address local problems and focus on creative partnerships, problem-solving courts and restorative justice strategies to address juvenile and young adult crimes. These practices should assist in developing **risk reduction strategies**, which can be used as early as pretrial release, plea bargaining, and prior to sentencing.
- Community supervision organizations should build **closer partnerships** with law enforcement agencies and the community to enhance public safety. With help from these partnerships, improved communication will occur with active clients and those released from the criminal justice system. This strategy will enhance community safety and also connect these individuals to the community by being given an opportunity to succeed rather than recidivate.

- While care, custody and control of inmates have been the primary mission of prisons and jails, these responsibilities must be enhanced to include the more effective pre-release strategies to address behavioral changes and reintegration into the community. Corrections administrators must increase awareness and deal more effectively with **reentry planning** and connecting to **resources** and organizations in local communities such as employment, vocational training, therapeutic treatment services, and financial counseling.

Each component of the criminal justice system will be impacted under this strategy and traditional organizational cultures challenged. The traditional bureaucratic models of criminal justice will remain but will be **augmented by new “problem solving” justice approaches** that will enhance existing practices. These approaches will require enhanced training and educational curriculums for police, prosecution, courts and corrections officials. There will be a need for more hands-on training that focuses on problem-oriented approaches to assess community and public safety issues and crafting workable, practicable solutions to police officers, judges, attorneys, corrections officials and other criminal justice officials as needed, and other community and government organizations.

In order to measure the impacts of new procedures, there is a need to provide more rigorous **individual risk assessments and community evaluations**. Community issues such as poverty, educational deficiencies, inadequate housing, and unemployment may have an adverse impact on the individual and if these risk factors can be addressed properly, re-offending may be minimized. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program entitled County Health Ranking and Road Maps <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> has community wellness rankings that can be used for this purpose.

Better staff training is needed about complex issues such as domestic violence and drug addiction; combined with better information about complainants and victims, all within the community context of crime, can help improve the decision making of police officers, judges, attorneys, corrections officials, and other justice officials.

High-quality information gathered with the **assistance of technology and shared** in accordance with confidentiality laws can assist criminal justice practitioners to make more nuanced decisions related to the **discovery and sentencing process**, treatment needs and the risks individual pose to public safety, ensuring offenders receive an **appropriate sentence** and adequate levels of supervision^{iv} and services.

There is a need for communities to have access to **case management software** that will facilitate cross-sector resource linking and communication. Integrated tools of this type allow work to be done in-concert via a network of all stakeholders including human services, non-profits, private industry, faith-based and neighborhood-centric organizations addressing social issues related to poverty, community revitalization, and ex-offender reintegration.

It is anticipated that there will be an immediate need for **additional personnel and equipment for the aforementioned strategies especially related** to the reentry and diversion program coordination associated with the community justice model. There are also long-term needs associated with staffing a local *one-stop community justice center* for parolees, which are yet to be specified.

THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CRIME

The following are a list of **crimes and violations** normally associated with community justice:

Person, property, and drug offenses: Felony offenses may include burglary of a building, theft, criminal mischief, and forgery and are tried in felony courts. Additional offenses may include domestic violence and delinquency.

Misdemeanor offenses may include offenses such as prostitution, fraud, shopping, vandalism, truancy, and alcohol-related crimes that are tried in misdemeanor courts.

City code violations: The code enforcement officers and community city prosecutors coordinate their efforts to enforce city codes and prevent and abate nuisances on private property. These offenses are tried in municipal courts. Such nuisances include vacant and dangerous buildings, illegal dumping, weeded lots, graffiti, junk motor vehicles, and other problems that serve as breeding grounds for crime.

Building and fire code violations: These offenses are tried in municipal courts, do not carry any jail time, and usually result in a fine.

Specialized programs, staff: The aforementioned offenses and violations are normally processed through community prosecution programs, community courts and state jails.

There are important elements associated with **community prosecution** initiatives which can enhance crime prevention and reduction strategies. The Bureau of Justice Assistance delineates seven key dimensions: 1) the target problems, 2) the geographic target area, 3) the role of the community, 4) the content of the response to community problems, 5) organizational changes within the prosecutor's office, 6) case processing adaptations, and 7) interagency collaboration and partnerships relating to the initiative. Refer to the Bureau of Justice Assistance *Bulletin* <https://www.ncjrs.gov/html/bja/commpros/bja2.html>.

Many **community courts** are decentralized and located closer to the communities they serve. Community courts use traditional and therapeutic approaches to justice that concentrates on the laws impact on emotional life and psychological well-being of the individual. Therapeutic jurisprudence strategies have emerged as the theoretical foundation for the increasing numbers of "**problem-solving courts**," Problem solving courts ensure that the same judges and prosecutors will be involved in the adjudication of cases. This approach has transformed the role of the judiciary. These include specialized courts such as drug courts, truancy courts, domestic violence courts, mental health courts, re-entry courts, and community courts. The punishment for many of these cases is community supervision/probation, a county jail term^v or a separate sentence to a state jail. ^{vi}

While there is existing staff with the training and equipment to manage these various programs such as the drug court, domestic violence courts, mental health court, prostitution court and veterans court they are not identified exclusively within the community justice initiative. The training, staff and specialized community justice programs within law enforcement, prosecution and corrections remain undetermined and are not identified exclusively as a community justice initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A FORMAL COMMITMENT TO A COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND REINTEGRATION STRATEGY

There has been little progress at addressing recidivism rates throughout the years and the "revolving door" issues remain. State and **local recidivism rates are high** and Texas prisons are at capacity levels. ^{vii} Criminal justice reform is needed that calls for **changes in the handling of certain offenders** and the introduction of more community-based problem-solving principles that support national trends and the more notable justice reforms in

Texas.^{viii} This strategy does not replace “get tough” policies that remain an option for predatory recidivists that commit serious crimes.

There is a need to carefully address **individual culpability** factors and specialized sanctions for certain age groups. Better in-custody treatment, rehabilitation, reentry and aftercare programs are needed in all institutions so **all inmates can be released safely to the community** and under some form of community-based supervision. For example, Texas State Jail inmates complete their sentence and are released directly to the street without supervision and may be one of the variables contributing to the currently high recidivism rates for this group. A reform strategy that addresses **reintegration as a new sentencing goal** should be considered by adding reintegration to the four traditional goals of sentencing; incapacitation, deterrence, punishment and rehabilitation. This approach should **solidify a commitment** to the reintegration strategy and help reduce the chances of recidivism because *reintegration* becomes a shared responsibility with the community. The use of **more rigorous risk assessments**, other related risk and recidivism reduction strategies are also suggested.

There is a need for a **seamless community justice and reentry strategic plan** in Texas that includes a long-term reintegration strategy and should be incorporated into each jurisdiction's criminal justice plan. Reintegration is a shared responsibility between the community and the criminal justice system and is most successful when the offender has the benefit of being connected with resources and organizations in his or her own community. Many analysts believe that a **commitment** to a reintegration strategy drives the problem-solving and community justice strategy. This plan should address the need to establish **reintegration as a core goal** in the sentencing process, accompanied by more enhanced coordination of reentry services and resources. This plan should target each prisoner **from the time of arrest**, entry into the county jail, pretrial release, adjudication, the prison system, through parole and reintegration into the community. More **comprehensive risk assessments and presentence reports** should also be included in this process to assure the defendant's fair release, adjudication, and successful reentry and reintegration into society.

More research, training and staff are needed within the local communities, law enforcement, prosecution, courts and corrections exclusively related to community justice initiatives and programs. Community justice pilot programs should target certain zip code(s), **conduct community surveys** and track performance measures related to crime and recidivism rates. These studies should include problem identification, evaluation of existing resources, and outcome measures in order to compare the results to traditional programs.

Community justice is gaining support within criminal justice; however, efforts **will remain fragmented** unless reintegration is added to the four traditional goals of sentencing and, in turn, will establish a vision, mission and values message that will strengthen each agency's **commitment** to the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff or equipment

The following types of violations and crimes are associated with a community justice strategy:

Violations/Offenses Normally Associated with Community Justice

City Code violations: The code enforcement officers and community city prosecutors coordinate their efforts to enforce city codes and prevent and abate nuisances on private property. These offenses are tried in municipal courts. Such nuisances include vacant and dangerous buildings, illegal dumping, weeded lots, graffiti, junk motor vehicles, and other problems that serve as breeding grounds for crime.

Building and fire code violations: These offenses are tried in municipal courts, do not carry any jail time, and usually result in a fine.

Person, property, and drug offenses: Misdemeanor offenses such as prostitution, fraud, shopping, vandalism, truancy, and alcohol-related crimes that are tried in misdemeanor courts. Felony offenses may include burglary of a building, theft, criminal mischief, and forgery and are tried in felony courts. Additional offenses may include domestic violence and delinquency. **Describe the components you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction.**

EXISTING TRAINING, SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, STAFF OR EQUIPMENT:

While there is existing staff that can operate this program, they are not collectively in one location nor approved for a community justice effort.

GAPS IN TRAINING, SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, AND STAFF:

Specialized Programs: There is no formally established community justice planning partnership or forum at the local and state levels of government that addresses the community justice strategy. There is a need to develop a criminal justice strategy that is more conducive to reducing recidivism and enhancing community safety. More reentry planning and coordination with local communities on these types of offenders is essential in order to have a positive impact on recidivism rates.

There is also a need for decentralized community justice organizations where participants, such as community representatives, police officers, prosecutors, probation officers, parole officers, and related equipment used by these organizations are housed together.

Training/Staff: Hands-on training that focuses on assessing public safety problems and crafting workable, practicable solutions should be provided to judges, attorneys, criminal justice officials, and community organizations. In order to measure the impacts of new procedures, experts need to provide rigorous community needs assessment.

It is anticipated that there will be an immediate need for additional program coordinators to manage the reentry and diversion processes associated with the community justice model. The long-term needs that are associated with staffing the local community justice centers have yet to be determined.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

This concept has not been formally accepted or implemented. Additionally, lack of funding is the primary reason why these resources are not available.

CRIME PREVENTION/REDUCTION—REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

I Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff, or equipment.

In 2012, the average number of inmates released from the penitentiary and state jail into Tarrant County was approximately 5,494.⁹ Of the 5,494 inmates released from prison and state jail in 2012, 3,030 were released to finish out their sentences under supervision and 2,464 were released without supervision. In 2012, Tarrant County jail released 37,330 inmates. Of those inmates released by Tarrant County jail, an estimated 22,106 inmates were released into the community supervision.

	INMATES RELEASED TO TARRANT COUNTY 2012				
Release Type	Tarrant County Jail	Penitentiary	State Jail	SAFP	Total
Total Released	37,330	3442	1795	257	42,824
Supervision After Release Community Supervision	22,106	2795	2	233	25,136
Released to Community without Supervision	15,224	647	1793	24	17,688

***Source: TDCJ 2012 Statistical Report, Tarrant County Jail Administrator, and Tarrant County CSCD.**

The TDCJ Fiscal Year 2005-2012 Statistical Reports revealed that TDCJ has received approximately the same number of inmates from local jails since 2005 even when crime rates have declined. Releases were steady until 2012 when there was a *9.0% increase*; approximately 6,000 (77,316) more inmates than the previous seven years. In the 2013 the TDCJ Statistical Report revealed that TDCJ has continued to receive approximately the same number of inmates from local jails and total releases equated to 74,311 the 2nd highest in eight years. The 2013 Texas Legislative Budget Board recidivism study revealed that the prison 3-year re-arrest rates were 47.2 % and State Jail re-arrest rates equated to 62.7%. This study also suggested that that these rates have remained relatively the same since 2004 and that State Jail releases to counties may be on the rise. ***For example, from 2011–2013 there was a 20% increase in State Jail Releases to Tarrant County, Texas (i.e., 62.7% recidivism rate).***¹⁰

Describe the components you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction.

EXISTING PROGRAMS FOR REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION

Tarrant County has the following resources to address recidivism:

Tarrant County Reentry Coalition - Formed in 2013, The Tarrant County Reentry Coalition is a county-wide coalition that has formed to enhance reentry collaboration. The goal of the Coalition is to develop and execute a long-range strategy aimed at breaking the devastating cycle of recidivism in tangible ways. The Coalition meets the third Friday of each month, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, at Cornerstone Assistance Network in Fort Worth.

Tarrant County Reentry Resource Directory - This reentry-friendly website provides resources for individuals, their families, and the professionals assisting them to achieve successful reentry to Tarrant County. This website was first launched in February 2013 and will continue to add resources as they become available.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Parole Division: supervises offenders released from Texas state prisons who are serving out their sentences in the community. In 2012, 81% of those released from state prison served out their sentences under supervision in the community.¹¹

Temporary Housing Assistance Program (THAP): authorized under Texas Government Code § 508.157, is a program funded by Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) that provides temporary housing assistance at no cost to certain individuals who are awaiting release from TDCJ. The program applies only to individuals who are approaching their mandatory supervision release date and to those who have been approved for parole but who are awaiting a halfway house placement.

TDCJ Resource Center (DRC): provides classes for parolees in the following areas: GED certification, parenting, anger control, and substance abuse. Additional services include: case management and family services. Many parolees do not obtain services from the DRC because not all are required to do so. The DRC in Tarrant County is located at the parole office at 3628 McCart in Fort Worth, 76110.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Reentry and Integration Division: The Reentry and Integration Division combines the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), and an expanded reentry initiative, to better focus state resources to reduce recidivism and address the needs of juvenile and adult offenders. **Cheryl McDonald has been assigned as the Case Manager for Tarrant County.

Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP) - The Tarrant County Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP) is a post adjudication program for the high-risk repeat DWI offender. To reduce injuries and deaths resulting from alcohol related motor vehicle crashes, the Tarrant County Felony Alcohol Intervention Program requires convicted repeat DWI offenders to undergo a judicially supervised regimen of intensive supervision and treatment.

Project RAPP (Rehabilitation Alternatives for Parolees and Probationers): focuses on reducing the rate of reoffending for mentally impaired probationers and parolees through psychiatric and psychosocial rehabilitation. RAPP is a collaborative effort by Tarrant County Mental Health & Mental Retardation (MHMR), Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), and TDCJ. RAPP provides mental health services to ex-offenders diagnosed with mental impairments. It currently serves 107 probationers and 122 parolees.

Community Supervision and Corrections Department Reentry Courts: supervise the aftercare of defendants released from Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF), authorized by Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12 § 14; or the Intensive Day Treatment (IDT-Jail) Facility. Judges donate their time to oversee these reentry courts. Judge George Gallagher oversees the reentry court for SAFPF participants. Judge Timmie White oversees the reentry court for IDT-Jail program participants.

Diversion Courts: Problem-solving courts designed to divert offenders out of the traditional criminal justice process and into appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. Reentry courts in Tarrant County include Veteran's Court, Mental Health Court, D.I.R.E.C.T Diversion Drug Court, Youth Offender Diversion Alternative, the HOPE Program, and the Reaching Independence through Successful Empowerment (RISE) Program.

Tarrant County Jail: Tarrant County Sheriff's Office offers voluntary classes to inmates housed in Tarrant County jail focusing on GED certification, mental health, substance abuse, batterer's intervention, and sexually-transmitted

diseases and prevention. The Tarrant County Inmate Reintegration Program (TCJIRP) is designed to prevent adult offender re-arrests and establish successful reintegration into the community. The program worked with eligible men and women (pre- release) who were at a high risk of recidivism and who will return to Tarrant County.

Halfway facilities: The Fort Worth Transitional Center is a halfway house facility with 200 beds available offered through TDCJ. There are two transition treatment centers offered through SAFPF: Abode Treatment, Inc. with 200 beds available and Volunteers of America (VOA) with 65 beds available.

Faith-based programs (churches and religious institutions): There are a number of faith-based programs throughout Tarrant County that are dedicated to help offenders reentering the community. Please see the Tarrant County Reentry Resource Directory, <http://www.tcreentry.org> for a list of faith-based programs.

Non-profit agencies and organizations dedicated to assisting persons in reentry - can be found on the Tarrant County Reentry Coalition website, www.tcreentry.org which can also be accessed on the Tarrant Cares website, www.tarrantcares.com. This directory is designed to be useful to individuals who are reentering society from incarceration or supervision, their families, and the professionals assisting them to achieve successful reentry to Tarrant County.

GAPS IN PROGRAMS FOR REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION

Inmates released from Tarrant County Jail, like those discharged from the institutional division of TDCJ, typically lack necessary skills and/or resources for successful reintegration.

Training, specialized programs, staff, and equipment are necessary to supplement Tarrant County's **Existing Resources** to address the growing recidivism rate. A reentry program specific to individuals sentenced to Tarrant County jail for state felonies or misdemeanors should assist with the following needs:

Personal records, such as:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driver license | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit reports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship records | <input type="checkbox"/> GED certification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Social development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community responsibility | |

Counseling programs, such as:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anger Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and alcohol education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse disorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health assessments |

Individuals returning to Tarrant County who have been in a Community Correction Facility (CCF) operated by other CSCDs across the State and individuals being released from a Substance Abuse Residential Treatment program within Tarrant County could benefit from having a Reentry Court designed to meet the specific needs of this population.

Additional gaps exist in housing, job training, mental healthcare resources, and family reunification:

Housing: Tarrant County’s current capacity for affordable and stable housing falls short of its need as evidenced by the high percentage of homeless individuals who have a previous history of incarceration (state or local level).¹²

Job Training: These individuals with criminal history lack the marketable skills that are currently in demand by local industries (e.g. oil & gas drilling, wind energy industry, and green technologies).

Mental Healthcare Resources: Even though many individuals in the reentry population suffer from mental illnesses, they have not been diagnosed with a DSM axis-1 diagnosis. Proper diagnosis is essential to reducing recidivism because those with axis-1 disorders are more likely to commit future crimes.¹³ An increase in medical healthcare resources is necessary for those who are diagnosed with a mental disorder but stop taking their medication allowing for conditions that could lead to antisocial behavior.

Family Reunification: Many individuals lack the support system necessary to successfully reenter the community, especially from their family. This need can be met by encouraging family members to be involved with counseling, conflict resolution, and boundary setting.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding is the primary reason why these programs and services have not been created.

¹ The January 2013 Texas Legislative Budget Board 3 year recidivism rates shows that the re-arrest results for the prison population analyzed from 2004-2008 remained relatively the same at approximately 48% and for State Jail 63%. This study does not include re-arrest for technical violations of probation and parole supervision conditions.

² *Principles of Problem-Solving Justice* (2007) by Robert Wolf, Director of Communications at the Center for Court Innovation, A Public/Private Partnership with the New York State Unified Court System pp. 1-9.

³ In 2008, the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Office conducted a recidivism rate study addressing 14,851 individual paroled to Tarrant County from 2000 through 2006. The study revealed that after eight years, based on the 2000 release cohort, 63.7% were re-arrested. Based on the 2005 release cohort after 3 years the re-arrest recidivism rate was 51.4%. This study includes *any re-arrest* by a law enforcement agency. A follow up study is that will begin in June 2014, and will be conducted by the Council of State Governments of which will provide recidivism rates beginning with a 2011 releases from local jails, probation, and those paroled from prison.

⁴ Ibid. Wolf pp. 1-9

⁵ As of April 24, 2014 there are 253 inmates housed in the Tarrant County Jail under the category of “court programs” with an average length of stay equating to 65 days. These inmates are serving time for various crimes related to substance abuse, family violence and mental health issues of which are associated with drug courts, family violence courts and mental health courts. There are only 61 sentenced to a State jail. Additionally, many mental health issues are related to substance abuse and petty crime and more community-based alternatives to jail such as community mental health centers or permanent supporting housing are needed for this population.

⁶ Texas State Jails are part of the prison system and house inmates charged with State Jail Felonies or those lower level crimes such as theft and drug violations. State jails were originally a part of the community supervision system and associated with time in a state jail, or as punishment for probation violation, however this practice was discontinued by the 1997 Texas Legislature. This concept was ahead of its time, as drug courts and other related problem solving courts such as the HOPE program currently employ swift and sure sanctions using ongoing oversight and the threat of jail time for offenders to comply with conditions and have seen significant reductions in

recidivism. State jails as part of the community supervision system, and using the state jails as a punishment for probation violations while strongly emphasizing rehabilitation may be the solution to the community justice model.

⁷ On May 31, 2014 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Daily Maximum Offender Population reported that the prison population was 150,461, the operating capacity 150,540 (99%) with only 79 available beds.

⁸ *Right on Crime* a project of the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Cooperation With Justice Fellowship <http://www.rightoncrime.com/reform-in-action/state-initiatives/texas/>.

⁹ Fiscal Year 2012 Statistical Report – Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Page 13.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² 2004 Tarrant County Homeless Survey and 2009 Tarrant County Homeless Census, available at <http://www.ahomewithhope.org/media/20806/2004%20homeless%20survey.pdf>, also available at <http://www.ahomewithhope.org/media/20800/2009%20homeless%20count%20brief.pdf>.

¹³ According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, an Axis-1 diagnosis is defined as mental health symptoms that cause a severe disruption in multiple areas of an individual's life. Axis-1 includes all mental health conditions except for personality disorders and mental retardation.

- i. ¹ The January 2013 Texas Legislative Budget Board 3 year recidivism rates shows that the re-arrest results for the prison population analyzed from 2004-2008 remained relatively the same at approximately 48% and for State Jail 63%. This study does not include re-arrest for technical violations of probation and parole supervision conditions.
- ii. ¹ *Principles of Problem-Solving Justice* (2007) by Robert Wolf, Director of Communications at the Center for Court Innovation, A Public/Private Partnership with the New York State Unified Court System pp. 1-9.
- iii. ¹ In 2008, the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Office conducted a recidivism rate study addressing 14,851 individual paroled to Tarrant County from 2000 through 2006. The study revealed that after eight years, based on the 2000 release cohort, 63.7% were re-arrested. Based on the 2005 release cohort after 3 years the re-arrest recidivism rate was 51.4%. This study includes *any re-arrest* by a law enforcement agency. A follow up study is that will begin in June 2014, and will be conducted by the Council of State Governments of which will provide recidivism rates beginning with a 2011 releases from local jails, probation, and those paroled from prison.
- iv. ¹ Ibid. Wolf pp. 1-9
- v. ¹ As of April 24, 2014 there are 253 inmates housed in the Tarrant County Jail under the category of “court programs” with an average length of stay equating to 65 days. These inmates are serving time for various crimes related to substance abuse, family violence and mental health issues of which are associated with drug courts, family violence courts and mental health courts. There are only 61 sentenced to a State jail. Additionally, many mental health issues are related to substance abuse and petty crime and more community-based alternatives to jail such as community mental health centers or permanent supporting housing are needed for this population.
- vi. ¹ Texas State Jails are part of the prison system and house inmates charged with State Jail Felonies or those lower level crimes such as theft and drug violations. State jails were originally a part of the community supervision system and associated with time in a state jail, or as punishment for probation violation, however this practice was discontinued by the 1997 Texas Legislature. This concept was ahead of its time, as drug courts and other related problem solving courts such as the HOPE program currently employ swift and sure sanctions using ongoing oversight and the threat of jail time for offenders to comply with conditions and have seen significant reductions in recidivism. State jails as part of the community supervision system, and using the state jails as a punishment for probation violations while strongly emphasizing rehabilitation may be the solution to the community justice model.
- vii. ¹ On May 31, 2014 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Daily Maximum Offender Population reported that the prison population was 150,461, the operating capacity 150,540 (99%) with only 79 available beds.
- viii. ¹ *Right on Crime* a project of the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Cooperation With Justice Fellowship <http://www.rightoncrime.com/reform-in-action/state-initiatives/texas/>

INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County government has a work force of approximately 4,000 employees and approximately one-half are employed in criminal justice related jobs.³ Tarrant County’s resident population is 1,849,815 with 5,854 police officers, which equates to 328 officers per 100,000 residents.⁴ Tarrant County has the lowest number of police officers (per capita) when compared to Dallas, Harris, and Bexar Counties.⁵ Further, compared to the previous three counties, Tarrant County has the lowest crime and incarceration rate.⁶

REPORTS OF CRIMES AND ARRESTS IN TARRANT COUNTY

Year	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Report—Violent Crime (Without Family Violence) ⁷	7,624	7,847	7,624
Report—Violent Crime (With Family Violence)	12,188	13,177	12,466
Arrests—Violent Crime (Without Family Violence)	2,725	2,584	2,537
Report—Property Crime ⁸	67,901	99,061	85,033
Arrests—Property Crime	12,592	11,999	12,039

Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office

Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office employs 1,200 individuals and patrols a county of almost 1,000 square miles.⁹ The Sheriff’s Department houses more than 3,000 inmates in four separate jail facilities throughout Tarrant County; receives and attempts to serve more than 35,000 warrants a year and provides security for more than 60 courtrooms.¹⁰

Law Enforcement Entities and Staff

Tarrant County has a total of 38 police agencies with 4,068 commissioned officers. The police agencies consist of the sheriff’s office, airport, municipality, university, and hospital district police departments.

AGENCY	Number of Agencies	Commissioned Officers
Tarrant County SO	1	470
Municipality PD	32	3,163
University PD	2	66

³ Tarrant County Budget and Risk Management, *available at* <http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/docs/incar.pdf>.

⁴ Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, *available at* <http://www.tcleose.state.tx.us/>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Texas Commission on Jail Standards, Incarceration Rate Report July, 1 2010, *available at* <http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/docs/incar.pdf>.

⁷ The Texas Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Texas 2013, *available at* <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/crimereports/>; Texas Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Texas 2012, *available at* <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/crimereports/>, Crime in Texas 2011, *available at* <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/crimereports/>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Tarrant County Texas Website, Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office, *available at* <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/eSheriff/site/default.asp> (last visited August 6, 2010).

¹⁰ *Id.*

DFW Airport	1	167
Hospital District PD	2	49
Total	38	3,915

The largest municipal police departments in Tarrant County are the City of Fort Worth with 1,536 officers and the City of Arlington with 624 officers.¹¹

Tarrant County Constables Offices

Tarrant County Constables have 8 Precincts with a total of 70 sworn officers. It is the Constable's duty to execute and return all process, warrants, summons, and judgment enforcement documents as directed by lawful officials.¹² The Constable may seize and sell real and personal property upon lawful order of a court, returning the proceeds according to law.¹³ Constables are Texas Peace Officers and may arrest, with or without a warrant, violators of state penal laws and persons who commit breaches of the peace in their presence.¹⁴

Tarrant County District Attorney's Office

The Tarrant County District Attorney's office has a staff approximately 325,164 of whom are attorneys.¹⁵ The annual budget provided by Tarrant County to the District Attorney's office is approximately \$35 million.¹⁶ The District Attorney's office has a 91% felony conviction rate and 73% misdemeanor conviction rate.¹⁷ In 2009, the Tarrant County District Attorney's office prosecuted more than 45,000 combined felony and misdemeanor cases.¹⁸

Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department

Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department has a staff of approximately 358, of which 215 are adult probation officers who provide supervision, on a monthly basis, to 21,353 probationers living in our community and outside of Tarrant County. In addition, the department annually supervises approximately 2,900 Pre-Trial Bond cases for the Courts. CSCD currently supervises 15,157 offender/defendants who live in Tarrant County. We average about 700 new Felony and Misdemeanor placements a month and on average terminate 900 a month. In addition to probation placements ordered by the Tarrant County Judiciary, the CSCD accepts supervision from other Counties or States of 200 CSCD receives formula and grant funding from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Community Justice Assistance Division, the Office of The Governor Criminal Justice Division and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. These funds allow the department to provide regular and intensive supervision, specialized caseloads, specialty courts, substance abuse and cognitive treatment to offender/defendant's placed on probation.

Statistical Impact of Inmates Released to Tarrant County

¹¹ Texas Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Texas 2008*, Austin, TX, at 79.

¹² Tarrant County Texas Website, Tarrant County Constables, available at <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/eConstable/site/default.asp>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, Official Website, available at <http://www.tarrantda.com/>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Office of Court Administration Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2009-2013, available at http://www.courts.state.tx.us/oca/Strategic_plan/stratplan08.pdf (last visited Aug. 6, 2010).

¹⁸ Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, Official Website, available at <http://www.tarrantda.com/>.

As of August 31, 2012, The Texas Department of Criminal Justice reported that Texas has 152,303 inmates, with Tarrant County housing 10,829 of those inmates.¹⁹ Annual release records for 2003–2006 denote that a total of over 6,000 formerly incarcerated persons returned to Tarrant County from confinement within the correctional facilities of the TDCJ and Federal Bureau of Prisons. Approximately two thirds of the formerly incarcerated are highly likely to be rearrested for a new offense within three years of their release date from incarceration. Between 2003 and 2006, a total of 19,964 TDCJ inmates were released to Tarrant County.²⁰ During these 4 years, the annual average of inmates returning from TDCJ to Tarrant County was 5,000.²¹

In 2008, Tarrant County conducted a recidivism rate study addressing 1,850 individuals paroled to Tarrant County in 2000. The study found that after eight years post-release 63.7% were re-arrested. In 2003, after five years, 58.9% were re-arrested, and in 2005, after three years, 51.4% were re-arrested.²²

Tarrant County Criminal Court System

There are twenty adult criminal courts in Tarrant County. Additionally, Tarrant County has adult specialty courts, including: D.I.R.E.C.T. (Drug Impact Rehabilitation Enhanced Comprehensive Treatment), Veteran's Court Diversion Program, Mental Health Court Program, and F.A.I.P. (Felony Alcohol Intervention Program). These programs address drug crimes, offenders with mental health issues, veteran offenders, domestic violence crime and felony DWI crime.²³

TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS AND JUDGES

Criminal District Courts²⁴

Criminal District Court No. 1	Judge Elizabeth Beach
Criminal District Court No. 2	Judge Wayne Salvant
Criminal District Court No. 3	Judge Robb Catalano
Criminal District Court No. 4	Judge Mike Thomas
213 th District Court	Judge Louis Sturns
297 th District Court	Judge Everett Young
371 st District Court	Judge Mollee Westfall
372 nd District Court	Judge Scott Wisch
396 th District Court	Judge George Gallagher
432 nd District Court	Judge Ruben Gonzalez

¹⁹ Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Fiscal Year 2012 Statistical Report, http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Statistical_Report_FY2012.pdf.

²⁰ Ex-offender Reentry to Tarrant County, A. Ibarra, Tarrant County Administrators Office.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Tarrant County Criminal Justice Office, 2010.

²³ Tarrant County Texas Official Website, Tarrant County Criminal Courts, *available at* <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/ecriminalcourts/site/default.asp>.

²⁴ *Id.*

County Criminal Courts²⁵

County Criminal Court No. 1	Judge Sherry Hill
County Criminal Court No. 2	Judge Mike Mitchell
County Criminal Court No. 3	Judge Billy Mills
County Criminal Court No. 4	Judge Deborah Nekhom Harris
County Criminal Court No. 5	Judge Jaime Cummings
County Criminal Court No.6	Judge Molly Jones
County Criminal Court No. 7	Judge Cheril Hardy
County Criminal Court No. 8	Judge Darryl Coffey
County Criminal Court No. 9	Judge Brent A. Carr
County Criminal Court No. 10	Judge Phil Sorrells

Number of Felony and Misdemeanor Case Filings

Year	2013	2012	2011
Felony ²⁶	17,139	17,025	15,551
Misdemeanor ²⁷	31,492	30,480	29,456

Reported Crime in Texas and Tarrant County

2013²⁸

OFFENSE	TEXAS	TARRANT
Murder	1,151	83
Rape	7438	630
Robbery	31,858	2,175
Aggravated Assault	65,268	4,736
Burglary	190,572	14,906
Larceny/Theft	604,398	48,697
Motor Vehicle Theft	65,676	4,298

²⁵ Tarrant County Texas Official Website, Tarrant County Criminal Courts, available at <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/ecriminalcourts/site/default.asp>.

²⁶ District Courts: Case Activity by County 2007-2009.

²⁷ From Holly Webb, criminal courts manager, county clerk's office. Misdemeanor new filed cases that were reported to the Office of Court Administration. <http://www.dm.courts.state.tx.us/oca/ReportCriteria.aspx?ddlReportName=30>

²⁸ See, *supra* note 7.

2012²⁹

OFFENSE	TEXAS	TARRANT
Murder	1,144	72
Rape	7,692	675
Robbery	30,375	2,132
Aggravated Assault	67,050	4,968
Burglary	204,976	15,763
Larceny/Theft	605,362	78,908
Motor Vehicle Theft	64,982	4,390

2011³⁰

OFFENSE	TEXAS	TARRANT
Murder	1,089	87
Rape	7,445	647
Robbery	28,399	2,120
Aggravated Assault	68,028	5,045
Burglary	215,512	30,766
Larceny/Theft	613,528	48,780
Motor Vehicle Theft	63,379	5,487

PARTICIPANT LIST -CRIMINAL JUSTICE FOCUS GROUP

Role	First Name	Last Name	E-mail Address	Business Phone	Agency	Title
Co-Chair	Mike	Young	myoung@nrhtx.com	817-427-7005	North Richland Hills Police Department	Assistant Chief
Co-Chair	Leticia	Martinez	lmartinez@tarrantcounty.com	817-884-1400	Tarrant County District Attorney	Assistant DA
Sub-Chair	Cheryl	Bennett-Wright	cbwright@tarrantcounty.com	817-212-7077	Tarrant County Criminal Courts	Criminal Justice Analyst
Participant	Steve	Carpenter	Steven.Carpenter@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-4321	Fort Worth Police Department	Captain
Participant	Mark	Chamberlin	leon.chamberlin@mhmrct.org	817-569-5052	MHMR of Tarrant County	Assistant Director
Participant	Edna	Chisholm-Nicholas		817-569-5290		
Participant	EG	Edney			Fort Worth Police Department	

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

Participant	Michelle	Espy	maespy@tarrantcounty.com	817-884-1486	Tarrant County CSCD	Budget and Program Coordinator
Participant	Janice	Gentry	jegentry@tarrantcounty.com	817-884-3486	Tarrant County Criminal District Court	Assistant Manager
Participant	Jennifer	Gilliy	jen@tcchallenge.org	817-336-6617	Tarrant County Challenge	
Sub-Chair	Stevie	Hansen	stephanie.Hansen@mhmrtc.org	817-569-4452	MHMRTC Addiction & Veterans Services	Chief
Participant	Randy	Heddins		817-301-5102		
Sub-Chair	Sue	Howe	srhowe@tarrantcounty.com	817-920-5700 Ext. 8370	Tarrant County Medical Examiner	Crime Laboratory Director
Participant	Marty	Humphrey	marty.humphrey@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-4242	Fort Worth Police Department	Police Planner
Sub-Chair	Tracy	Koller	tracy.koller@mhmrtc.org	817-569-5076	MHMR of Tarrant County	Director
Participant	Librado	Luevanos	Librado.Luevanos@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-4385	Fort Worth Police Department	Detective
Participant	Sandra	Lydick	sandralydick@crimevictimsCouncil.org	817-675-6367	Crime Victims Council	Executive Director
Participant	Michelle	Morgan	mmorgan@safecitycommission.org	817-885-7774	One Staff Place	Director
Participant	Chris	Morgan	cmorgan@nrhtx.com	817-427-7000	North Richland Hills Police Department	Officer
Participant	Michael	Munday	Michael.Munday@fortworthtexas.gov	817-437-392-4253	Fort Worth Police Department	
Participant	Kathy	Noland	knoland@nrhtx.com	817-427-7039	North Richland Hills Police Department	Admin Tech
Participant	Wayne	Pavlik	wpavlik@eulesstx.gov	817-685-1559	Eules Police Department	Commander
Participant	Kevin	Rodricks		817-392-3642	Fort Worth Police Department	Captain
Participant	Ron	Singer		817-920-5700 Ext. 8330	Tarrant County Medical Examiner	Technical & Administrative Director
Participant	Regina C.	Smith	rcsmith1@tarrantcounty.com	817-413-6320	Tarrant County Public Health	
Participant	Bryan	Stevens	Bryan.Stevens@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-3671	Fort Worth Police Department	Lieutenant
Participant	Julie	Swearingin	julie.swearingin@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-4401	Fort Worth Police Department	Lieutenant
Participant	Sherri L.	Thomson	Sherri.Thomson@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-4351	Fort Worth Police Department	Sergeant
Sub-Chair	Todd	Wadlington	Curtis.Todd.Wadlington@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-4182	Fort Worth Police Department	Captain
Sub-Chair	Stacy	Wasinger	stacy.wasinger@fortworthtexas.gov	817-392-4245	Fort Worth Police Department	Planner
Participant	Christi	Weaver	cweaver@lenapopehome.org	817-255-2612	Lena Pope Home	Supervisor - Substance Abuse Treatment Services
Participant	George	Worledge	gworledge@richlandhills.com	817-616-3786	Richland Hills Police Department	Commander
Participant	Courtney	Young	cdyoung@tarrantcounty.com	817-884-3225	Tarrant County Veteran's Court	Program Manager
Participant	S.	Young			Fort Worth Police Department	
Participant	Os	Flores	osflores@arlingtontx.gov	817-459-5713	Arlington Police Department	Deputy Chief

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff, or equipment.

Drug Related Crimes. The Bureau of Justice Statistics explains drugs are related to crime in multiple ways. *Drug-defined* offenses are those including violations of laws prohibiting or regulating the possession, distribution, or manufacture of illegal drugs. *Drug-related* crimes include offenses in which the pharmacological effects of drugs contribute to crime; crimes motivated by offenders’ need for money to continue drug usage; and crimes connected to drug distribution itself, such as violence against rival drug dealers.

According to the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the overall violent crime rates decreased in 2012 by 2.5 compared to 2011. The overall property crime rate showed a slight increase of less than 1 percent compared to 2011. However, the highest arrest counts were for drug abuse violations estimated at 1,552,432 arrests followed by driving under the influence estimated at 1,282,957 nationwide. In a 2004 study conducted by the Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Statistics, 17% of state prisoners reported that their offenses were committed in order to obtain money for drugs.

In 2013, the UCR shows 8410 *drug-defined* offenses for Tarrant County – 578 for sale/manufacturing and 7829 for drug possession; this figure does not include *drug-related* offenses such as theft, burglary, forgery or credit card fraud in order to obtain money for drugs and numerous other offenses offenders commit in order to support their drug habits. This number is almost impossible to ascertain and is undoubtedly in the thousands.

ADULT ARRESTS FOR DRUG POSSESSION TARRANT COUNTY									
2006-2013									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Number of Arrests	6,202	8,080	7,213	7,627	7,688	7,943	8,598	7,832	61,183

ADULT ARRESTS FOR SALE & MANUFACTURING OF DRUG TARRANT COUNTY									
2006-2013									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Number of Arrests	1,125	1,017	1,266	491	678	799	743	578	6,697

Alcohol Related Crimes.

Tarrant County reported 3,671 DWI arrests, 956 arrests for liquor law violations, and 3,769 public intoxication arrests in 2013.

OFFENSE	NUMBER OF ARRESTS						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
DWI	5,707	6,571	6,312	6,267	5,762	5,620	3,671
Liquor Law Violations	2,271	3,526	2,571	2,675	1,886	2101	956
Public Intoxication	10,168	11,202	9,727	9,446	8,390	7,780	3,769

DWI arrests decreased 34.7% from 2012 to 2013. This is over twice the decrease seen in the state as a whole Texas reported an overall decrease of 16.23% in DWI arrests.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents resulting in fatal injury between the years 2009 - 2012 in Tarrant County totaled 243, with a mean fatality rate of 60.75 per year. In 2012, the number of Tarrant County fatalities resulting from motor vehicle crashes was 121 individuals with 41% (50) of those deaths caused from an alcohol-impaired driver. Stated another way, Tarrant County has 2.6 crash fatalities per 100,000 persons caused from alcohol-impaired drivers.

Describe what specialized programs/staff you have versus what you do not have as related to crime prevention reduction.

EXISTING PROGRAMS.

Detoxification/Rehabilitation Treatment Facilities/Programs:

Overview: Tarrant County’s prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts to address the needs of adults with substance use disorder are facing a serious crisis. The treatment gap continues to expand, and for those without insurance, their access to treatment is a growing concern. The last legislative session resulted in a small increase in funding for The Department of State Health Services. These funds were directed toward the expansion of detoxification services.

Currently in Tarrant County, with a population of over 1.9 million, there are only 20 detox beds available for individuals in need of this level of care. In 2012, the number of detoxification beds at the Billy Gregory Detoxification facility increased to its current number of 20. In 2013, 790 clients were able to be admitted to the program, which represents a 49% increase from 2011. On average, there was a 20 day wait for these beds in 2013. Clients who abuse alcohol, opiates, or prescription drugs usually require medical detoxification.

Intensive residential services are offered at the 50-bed Pine Street residential unit. This facility also averaged a 30 day wait for these beds in 2013.

NUMBER OF DETOX/REHAB CLIENTS SERVED TARRANT COUNTY								
2007- 2013								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Billy Gregory	690	746	708	649	529	739	790	4,851
Pine Street	742	793	774	709	700	874	919	5,511

AVERAGE DAYS TO WAIT FOR ADMISSION TO DETOX/REHAB CENTERS – TARRANT COUNTY									
2006-2013									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average
Billy Gregory	21	21	21	21	32	38	24	20	25
Pine Street	28	28	21	21	33	38	31	30	29

In 2013, 4,862 adults were admitted to Tarrant County Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Funded Treatment Programs. There are only approximately 62 residential treatment beds in Tarrant County that are supported by DSHS funds. The DSHS rates have remained constant for several years, despite the rising care of treatment costs. One of the largest treatment facilities in Tarrant County report that they lose \$19.00 a day for every client that is under-going residential treatment. There is always a waiting list and typically the wait is anywhere from seven (7) to twenty-one days (21) depending on the priority population of the individual in need of care.

At the time of admission, 26% reported alcohol as their primary drug use at the time; 16% reported Amphetamines/ Methamphetamines; 9 Cocaine/Crack; 28% Opiates; 13% Marijuana; and 8% other (Barbiturates, Inhalants, Ecstasy).

Existing Resources:

DWI Intervention- ANIMO: Education and Counseling; Center for Therapeutic Change; North Texas Addiction Counseling and Education; Phoenix Associates Counseling Services; and Tarrant Community Outreach

Outpatient Counseling- C.D.H.S., Inc.; Center for Therapeutic Change, Ltd.; ANIMO: Education and Counseling; Helping Open Peoples' Eyes; The Excel Center for Adults; North Texas Addiction Counseling & Education; Phoenix Associates Counseling Services; Austin Drug & Alcohol Abuse Program; The Right Step – DFW; ABODE Treatment, Inc.; Family Matters Counseling; MHMR – Ambulatory Detox; MHMR – Tarrant County Jail Program; MHMR – Billy Gregory – Pine Street Recovery Center; MHMR-Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus; MHMR – Community Addiction Treatment Services; Merit Family Services; The Excel Center; Opportunities Counseling Center, Inc.; Santa Fe Adolescent Services; Volunteers of America Texas, Inc.; Grapevine Valley Hope; MHMR – Alcohol Outpatient; and SAGE Substance Abuse Guidance and Education, PLLC.

Faith Based Resources- Coming Home Counseling Ministry; Eastland Street Baptist Church; More Communities in Action (M.C.I.A.); The Oasis Village/Gospel Temple Ministries, Inc.; The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center; and Turning Point Ministries of Life, Inc.

Residential- The Right Step – DFW; Cenikor Foundation, Inc.; MHMR – Billy Gregory – Pine Street Recovery Center; MHMR-Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus; The Salvation Army - First Choice Program; Volunteers of America Texas, Inc.; LIGHT Program Volunteers of America Texas; Grapevine Valley Hope; and ABODE Treatment, Inc.

Community Supervision & Corrections Department (CSCD):

Overview: Alcohol Related Offenses: Currently, there are 4,655 offenders under community supervision for 4,836 alcohol related offenses. There are 41 offenders under supervision for intoxication manslaughter and 73 under supervision for intoxication assault.

Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) - A tool/device used to monitor the individual for the suspicion of alcohol consumption by a passive and non-evasive technique that at determined intervals the tool/device captures the transdermal alcohol readings by sampling the insensible perspiration collected from the air above the skin. Continuous Alcohol Monitoring is typically used in conjunction with non-residential supervision programs to enhance supervision.

Ignition Interlock Device- A device used to prevent individuals from driving under the influence of alcohol. It is preferable to include this within a program, not as a stand-alone program.

Substance Abuse Life Circumstance Evaluation (SALCE) - Measures the extent to which the offender's life circumstances and environment correlate to a substance abusing lifestyle. The results of the SALCE help determine the type of services that will best meet the needs of the offender, e.g., DWI education classes, supportive or intensive outpatient counseling, day treatment, or residential treatment.

DWI Education Classes-

At a minimum, misdemeanor offenders attend 12 hours of DWI education classes based on a curriculum developed by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA).

Offenders who have committed a second DWI offense will attend a 32-hour state-approved DWI Repeat Offender program.

Victim Impact Panel (VIP) - Additionally, all offenders will attend a VIP coordinated by CSCD's Victim Services Unit. The VIP allows victims of DWI offenders the opportunity to describe to offenders in a group setting the impact the DWI offense has had on the lives of victims and their families.

Overview- Drug Related Offenses: Currently, there are 3,464 offenders under community supervision for 4,070 drug related offenses.

The following are some methods of supervision for drug offenders:

Screening- A written device administered to an offender/defendant to determine if the offender/defendant has a chemical dependency problem that may require further evaluation. A screening tool, Texas Christian University Drug Screen II (TCUDS), is administered to determine if there is of: no referral needed Brief Intervention, or a complete substance abuse assessment/evaluation.

Substance Abuse Evaluation - If the offender is in need of a substance abuse evaluation, he/she is referred to the CSCD TAIP Unit to be evaluated by a counselor and referred for education and/or treatment if determined appropriate.

Similar resources as alcohol related issues -Many of the same resources available for offenders with alcohol related issues provide services to offenders with drug use problems.

Drug/Alcohol Testing - CSCD utilizes Hair, Urine, Saliva and Breath tests to determine if the offender/defendant has used either drugs or alcohol while on probation.

Brief Intervention - Motivational discussions focus on raising the probationers' awareness of their particular behavioral health issue and its consequences on their lives and then enhancing their intrinsic motivation to change. Successful brief interventions encompass support of the probationer's empowerment to make behavioral change.

Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program (TAIP) – provides offender/defendants with screening, evaluation, referral and placement into a licensed and approved chemical dependency residential or outpatient treatment when appropriate. TAIP serves as a linkage between community-based chemical dependency treatment systems and the criminal justice system in order to serve the chemically dependent offender population more efficiently.

Day Treatment - The purpose of the Day Treatment program is to provide substance abuse treatment to probationers either in jail or in an outpatient setting. This program also provides a Relapse Track for probationers who have completed treatment within the past year but have had a positive urinalysis and provides a Cognitive Behavioral track which is designed to increase motivation for behavior change, to develop tools used in changing criminal thinking and behavior and to improve problem-solving skills.

Contract Residential Treatment - The purpose of this program is to provide intensive and supportive residential substance abuse treatment within Tarrant County.

Existing Resources: Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF); C Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP); Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); community treatment providers; and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

FAMILY DRUG COURT:

Overview: In November 2007, the 323rd District Court implemented a Family Drug Court in an effort to break the cycle of drug-addicted mothers giving birth to multiple drug-addicted babies. Tarrant County's Family Drug Court is a specialty treatment court serving families whose children have been removed by Child Protective Services due to parental substance abuse or addiction. The Family Drug Court is not a separate court, but is a subset of the court's child welfare caseload, which consists of the majority of cases filed in Tarrant County by Child Protective Services due to child abuse and neglect. An increasingly common component of these cases is substance abuse. The Family Drug Court provides an opportunity for participants to achieve long-term, stabilized recovery through a comprehensive and collaborative program of rehabilitation so they can provide safe, sober, stable, and nurturing homes for their children within mandatory legal timeframes.

The Tarrant County Family Drug Court team consists of the presiding judge, District Attorney's office, Department of Family and Protective Services, CASA, Early Childhood Intervention, Lena Pope Home intensive case managers, local area treatment providers, and Tarrant County Challenge. The program is voluntary and parents are provided with the necessary support and services to become drug and alcohol free. Eligible parents are assessed for treatment services at the outset of the case and often enter inpatient drug treatment before the initial court hearing.

In addition to addressing the participant's addiction, the Family Drug Court team assists with matching participants with appropriate community resources for assistance with mental health needs, medical conditions, parenting support, educational and vocational training, transportation, housing, criminal justice involvement, and employment.

Number of Participants Served:

- 106 Clients
- 175 Children

Completion of the Program:

- 58% of families involved in Family Drug Court cases have successfully completed the 18-month program.
- Of the successful graduates of the program, only 1 in 10 participants has experienced a post-discharge referral to DFPS, resulting in a "Reason to Believe" finding of Neglectful Supervision.

Completion of a Treatment Episode:

Over 90% of participants have completed at least one treatment episode.

Many of these participants have completed between 3-4 treatment episodes, equipping them with skill sets to support and continue to develop their own recovery long after the team is no longer involved in their lives.

Drug Testing:

Participants are frequently and randomly drug tested.

93% of collected tests show Family Drug Court participants to be "clean" from drugs and alcohol.

This period of sobriety provides adequate recovery time for the brain and allows for the acquisition of skills (parenting, educational, vocational, and coping) to assist the family in transitioning into sober living and engaged parenting.

Drug-Exposed Babies:

Many participants have extensive histories of delivering drug-exposed babies.

Due to the intervention of the Family Drug Court, 17 babies have been born to women without drugs in their system, resulting in an enormous cost-savings to the taxpayers of Tarrant County.

EXISTING RESOURCES: The Family Drug Court maintains an active community collaboration of service providers and concerned community groups in an effort to sustain our mission. The primary partners include:

323rd District Court; Tarrant County Challenge; Lena Pope Home; Department of Family and Protective Services; MHMRTC- Early Childhood Intervention; MHMRTC- Addiction Services; Court Appointed Special Advocates; Union Gospel Mission; Salvation Army First Choice Program; Cornerstone; Recovery Resource Council; Department of Rehabilitative Services; Community Enrichment Project; Texas Wesleyan School of Law; North Texas Addictions Counseling & Education; Volunteers of America; Positive Influences; The Right Step; The Women's Center; Nexus; Red Oak Books; Bearden Investigation Agency; Ladder Alliance; Department of State Health Services; Narcotics Anonymous; Alcoholics Anonymous; Officer of the Governor; and Court Improvement

Alcohol Education Programs for Minors- A Change Life with Education, Counseling, and You; ACE – Alcohol/Drug Counseling and Education; Alcohol Awareness; Alcohol Education Program for Minors; Alive and Well Alcohol Education Program for Minors; ALIVIO Program of Volunteers of America Texas, Inc.; Amigos & Associates: Education & Counseling; ANIMO: Education and Counseling; Armor Care; Bee Services, Inc.; Dallas Symposium; Green Light Ministries, Inc.; M.B. Education Services; MADD North Texas Chapter; Opportunities Counseling Center; Solutions 2 Changing Lives/Solutions MIP Program; Tarrant County Challenge, AEPM; and Tarrant-Johnson County Youth Outreach.

GAPS IN PROGRAMS:

- Transportation assistance for indigent offenders such as bus passes
- In-custody treatment programming to address the needs of offenders who do not receive community supervision; short-term and long-term programming for offenders serving sentences of varying lengths, including weekend programming for inmates serving weekends in jail.
- Additional specialty courts to address a wide range of problems surrounding substance abuse
- Screening and Brief Intervention Therapy should be offered at all emergency rooms and as a part of any medical services. First offenders and others at risk from the use of substances could benefit from SSBIRT which deals with ambivalence and states maximum amounts of alcohol consumption that put people at risk for alcohol related injuries/
- Wellness and Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) is an evidence-based plan that pulls together the elements of recovery and works toward the development of an individualized “plan” with peer support and assistance. Especially effective with individuals with mental health issues. Not only is the individual responsible for keeping themselves on target with their plan but their peer also monitors them to keep them in check and intervenes when the individual strays from the plan. WRAP is a peer recovery approach and Peers in Recovery have been proven to be cost effective and efficient in long term recovery for the disease of addiction.
- *Recruit research students at a local university to evaluate services to offenders receiving treatment for the disease of addiction.*
- Special residential services for offenders with children

Housing: Tarrant County’s current capacity for affordable and stable housing falls short of its need as evidenced by the high percentage of homeless individuals who have a previous history of incarceration (state or local level).³¹

Job Training: These individuals with criminal history lack the marketable skills that are currently in demand by local industries (e.g. oil & gas drilling, wind energy industry, and green technologies).

Mental Healthcare Resources: Even though many individuals in the reentry population suffer from mental illnesses, they have not been diagnosed with a DSM axis-1 diagnosis. Proper diagnosis is essential to reducing recidivism because those with axis-1 disorders are more likely to commit future crimes.³² An increase in medical healthcare resources is necessary for those who are diagnosed with a mental disorder but stop taking their medication allowing for conditions that could lead to antisocial behavior.

³¹ 2004 Tarrant County Homeless Survey and 2009 Tarrant County Homeless Census, *available at* <http://www.ahomewithhope.org/media/20806/2004%20homeless%20survey.pdf>; *also available at* <http://www.ahomewithhope.org/media/20800/2009%20homeless%20count%20brief.pdf>.

³² According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, an Axis-1 diagnosis is defined as mental health symptoms that cause a severe disruption in multiple areas of an individual’s life. Axis-1 includes all mental health conditions except for personality disorders and mental retardation.

Family Reunification: Many individuals lack the support system necessary to successfully reenter the community, especially from their family. This need can be met by encouraging family members to be involved with counseling, conflict resolution, and boundary setting.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding is the primary reason why these programs and services have not been created.

SPECIALTY COURTS

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff, or equipment.

Tarrant County hopes to prevent and reduce domestic violence, alcohol-related crimes, substance abuse, crimes related to mental-health issues, and crimes committed by veterans through the use of specialty court programs addressing each issue.

Describe the components you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Tarrant County has the following seven adult specialty courts to prevent or reduce crime: Domestic Violence Diversion Program, Drug Impact Rehabilitation Enhanced Comprehensive Treatment (DIRECT), Felony Alcohol Intervention Project (FAIP), Mental Health Diversion Program (MHDP), Veterans' Court Diversion Program, S.W.I.F.T Court and the Reaching Independence through Self-Empowerment (RISE) which are detailed below.

Domestic Violence Diversion Program:

Overview: In regards to domestic violence cases, this specialty court offers immediate counseling for the defendant and immediate support services for the victim. The program consists of four phases, which lasts twelve months. Selected defendants charged with domestic violence in Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 5 are placed into the Pretrial Diversion Court which monitors the defendant's progress in a non-adversarial manner, and is in lieu of traditional case processing. Defendants are selected based on the following eligibility criteria:

- Partner-on-partner violence
- No current or prior violations of protective orders
- No stalking activity
- No open warrants
- No other pending charges
- No prior history of diversion
- Commitment to completing a prescribed program
- Consent of victim for offender participation.

This program is not funded by a grant. The participation cost for the program is \$50.00.

TARRANT COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIVERSION COURT							
FY 2007 through September 2013							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Referred	194	257	140	243	203	241	1278
Placed	109	141	91	171	106	101	719
Successful Completion	76	79	99	121	90	83	548
Unsuccessful Completion	26	25	31	38	25	25	170
Removed/ Other	5	4	2	0	0	0	11

Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP) provides psycho-education/counseling to prevent future domestic violence. Topics include the nature of domestic violence; non-violence planning; attitude and belief changes; maintaining non-abusive behavior; role of substance abuse/mental illness in domestic violence; and the effects of domestic violence on children. The counseling is available to offenders who are in custody in the Tarrant

County Jail or on Labor Detail.

Domestic violence offenders in custody in the Tarrant County Jail may voluntarily participate in group counseling. The curriculum is taught in ten (10) modules running consecutively and repeating continuously. The continuous repetition allows inmates to start at any point in the program and complete all modules prior to release. Batterer's intervention counseling is mandated for every family violence offender sentenced to labor detail. The offender attends three hours of psycho-education/counseling before spending the remainder of the day on labor detail.

IN CUSTODY BIP						
County Criminal Court #5 2009-2013						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Class Hours	9,220	7,176	7,420	7,054	7,274	66,871
# of Participants	463	233	268	232	254	2,993

LABOR DETAIL BIP						
County Criminal Court #5 2012-2013						
	English Speaking Labor Detail			Spanish Speaking Labor Detail		
	2012	2013	Total	2012	2013	Total
Class Hours	1,838	1,524	3,362	543	573	1,116
# of Participants	118	78	196	28	32	60

Existing Resources: Safe Haven of Tarrant County; Tarrant County Community Supervision & Corrections Department (CSCD); ANIMO; Center for Therapeutic Change; Opportunities Counseling Center; and the Vet Center of North Texas.

Drug Impact Rehabilitation Enhanced Comprehensive Treatment (DIRECT)

Overview: The Tarrant County Adult Drug Court Treatment Program offers two options under D.I.R.E.C.T.

1. Diversion Program for Low Risk/Low Need Offenders

This D.I.R.E.C.T. program offers non-violent offenders an opportunity to correct a mistake. Once the offender has been approved by the DA office, they complete a screening process to determine if they fit the criteria of the Low risk/Low need drug treatment program. In the Diversion Low Risk Program/Low Needs program the participants require less monitoring than the Post Adjudicated Program.

Participants are required to enter a plea of guilty and the judge will defer a finding of guilt. This program consists of both a misdemeanor and a felony track. Both tracks will require random drug testing, checking in with a case manager, hair testing and a drug and alcohol education class.

This program is received partial funding from the city of Fort Worth. Participants' cost for this program is between \$600-\$850.

2. Post Adjudication Program for High Risk/High Need Offenders

This D.I.R.E.C.T. program offers non-violent offenders a judicially supervised treatment regimen. Potential participants complete an assessment and promptly enter into a high risk/high need substance abuse treatment program tailored to meet their individual needs.

The treatment plan consists of four phases, each with a specific treatment objective and identified goals. Most phases require regular attendance at Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) sessions. Participants are referred to treatment providers and required to attend therapeutic rehabilitative activities. Drug testing is conducted at regular intervals. Sanctions are imposed for relapse and failure to follow program guidelines.

This program receives partial funding from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's office. The participation cost for the program varies from \$1000 - \$3500 (depending on the cost of drug test and the number of test ordered).

D.I.R.E.C.T. Program Statistical Report								
FY 2007 through September 2013								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Admitted	133	79	151	139	147	146	65	860
Graduated	78	71	65	89	93	85	126	607
Discharged	48	33	61	35	36	53	45	311
Currently Enrolled	127	102	127	142	160	168	62	

Existing Resources: DIRECT works with community partners to provide outpatient substance abuse counseling and inpatient treatment on a limited basis. Additionally, partnerships provide classes focusing on vocational training, mental health, family education, life skills training, and AIDS/HIV education.

Felony Alcohol Intervention Project (FAIP)

Overview: FAIP is a post-conviction court for the high-risk repeat DWI offender designed to divert offenders out of the traditional criminal justice process and into appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. Participants are selected based on the following eligibility criteria:

- Charged with felony DWI (two or more prior DWI convictions)
- 17 years of age or older
- Reside in Tarrant County
- No prior convictions under TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. 42.12 § 3g
- No intoxication assault convictions
- No prior involuntary or intoxication manslaughter convictions
- U.S. citizen
- Not currently on parole or community supervision in another jurisdiction.

Once selected, participants undergo a judicially-supervised regimen of intensive treatment.

FELONY ALCOHOL INTERVENTION PROGRAM (FAIP)										
Commenced Operations 11/1/2007										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Screened	78	560	623	624	431	314	367	134 ^[1]	311	3442
Admitted	4	33	23	45	39	63	53	47	42	349
Revoked	0	2	4	5	6	6	14	6	8	51
Currently Enrolled	4	35	54	94	127	159	188	179	159	-----

Existing Resources: The FAIP Project is funded by TDCJ-CJAD and the Governor’s Office Criminal Justice Division and has the following community partners: local law enforcement agencies, M.A.D.D., Dr. Kevin Knight of the TCU Institute of Behavioral Sciences, Tarrant County ADA, Tarrant County Public Health, Recovery Healthcare, Smart Start and Center for Therapeutic Change.

^[1] FAIP - In FY 2013 probationers with pending revocations or misdemeanor DWIs with a pending felony DWI were not screened for eligibility to FAIP.

Mental Health Diversion Program (MHDP):

Overview: As a pretrial post-booking diversion program for mentally impaired offenders, MHDP offers eligible offenders a judicially-supervised treatment program, which usually lasts 9 to 12 months. Eligible offenders include misdemeanor or low-level felony offenders who have documented psychological and psychiatric disorders, where substance abuse and/or mental health disorders were related to the commission of their crime. Violent offenses against a person are generally not accepted into MHDP and family violence cases are considered on a case-by-case basis by the district attorney and the judge of the program. Program eligibility is determined by prior criminal record, offense reports, and medical documents.

Participants are required to attend monthly compliance hearings before the judge and to comply with the recommendations provided by the licensed treatment providers. The court hears and monitors progress and/or non-compliance. Incentives and sanctions are both utilized as methods of motivation. Upon completion of the program, case(s) pending are dismissed. Should the contract agreement be terminated, the case(s) are remanded to the court of origin.

TARRANT COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION COURT								
FY 2007 through September 2013								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Admitted	35	53	51	47	36	38	34	294
Graduated	37	44	49	34	39	24	36	263
Discharged	3	6	3	9	7	7	2	37
Currently Enrolled	35	38	37	40	30	37	33	

This program is funded by a grant from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's office. There is no cost to the participants for this program.

Existing Resources: Mental Health Diversion Program staff work with community partners to provide outpatient substance abuse counseling, and inpatient treatment on a limited basis. Additionally, partnerships provide classes focusing on vocational training, mental health, family education, life skills training, and AIDS/HIV education.

Veterans' Court Diversion Program:

Overview: This specialty court offers a judicially supervised treatment option for Justice-Involved Veterans (JIV) facing prosecution. The targeted population includes individuals who have undergone a clinical diagnosis of a brain injury or mental illness that resulted from military service in a combat zone or another hazardous duty area. Treatment provides participants with need-specific alternatives that improves mental health and assists with reentry into the community.

	TARRANT COUNTY VETERAN'S COURT DIVERSION COURT				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Admitted	12	22	30	38	102
Graduated	0	9	25	20	54
Discharged	0	2	3	5	10
Current Enrollment	12	23	25	38	

This program is funded by a grant from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's office and United Way. The maximum participation cost for this program varies between \$500 and \$1,100.

Existing Resources: VA North Texas Health Care System, VA Benefits, Center for Therapeutic Changes, Tarrant County MHMR, Recovery Resource Council, North Texas Addiction and Counseling Education and the Mental Health Association.

S.W.I.F.T.

The purpose of this program is to provide probationers with swift, predictable, and immediate sanctions administered for technical violations which have shown to reduce revocation rates and increase successful completions. The sanctions court is an intervention strategy involving regular judicial review and monitoring of offender compliance to community supervision with appropriate, timely and consistent use of sanctions and incentives.

Reaching Independence through Self-Empowerment (RISE)

Overview: RISE is a post-conviction prostitution prevention court. The RISE Program seeks to identify women who have a history of experiencing significant trauma in their past which has contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system. The program offers offenders an individual treatment program that is monitored by a case manager. RISE is an intervention program that is designed to divert participants from criminal activity and into a safe and healthy lifestyle.

Once selected, participants undergo a judicially-supervised regimen of treatment designed to meet the needs of the participant.

REACHING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SELF EMPOWERMENT (RISE)					
Commenced Operations on 2/24/2011					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Admitted	5	10	13	20	50
Graduated	0	0	1	1	2
Discharged	0	2	3	13	20
Currently Enrolled	5	13	22	28	---

Existing Resources: RISE is funded through the Governor’s Office Criminal Justice Division and has the following community partners: The Women’s Center, Texas Wesleyan University – Glick House, Union Gospel Mission, VOA, Salvation Army, The Net and Tarrant County MHMR.

GAPS IN PROGRAMS:

Gaps in DIRECT, Mental Health Diversion Court, and Veterans’ Court: In order to manage and track an increase in the number of participants, additional funding is needed for an electronic case management software system. This system would also help to track program statistics.

Gaps in Mental Health Diversion Court: This specialty court is currently unable to provide adequate treatment to the increasing number of offenders who suffer from substance abuse, psychological and psychiatric disorders, and co-occurring disorders due to lack of financial resources.³³ Licensed counselors are necessary in order to provide contracted therapy services, screenings, and assessments. In order to provide both outpatient and inpatient treatment to all participants, additional funding is essential.

Gaps in Programs for Addressing Prostitution: Due to the excessive number of days spent by persons charged with prostitution in the Tarrant County Jail and state confinement facilities, the high levels of substance abuse, mental illness and homelessness, experienced by this population, it is necessary to establish a court supervised program that will result in better criminal justice outcomes for this population.

IF YOU DON’T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding is the primary reason why these resources are not available.

VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff, or equipment.

Violent Crime- Crime, particularly violent crime, should be aggressively addressed as a public health issue. The chain of causality begins in infancy or even before birth with poor medial care of mother and infant. It proceeds through the preschool years with inadequate supervision and nutrition, through the school years in an educational

³³ A co-occurring disorder is defined as having both a mental illness and a substance abuse addiction.

system that is financially deprived, and on to the streets where the same children are introduced to drugs and various other social ills.

The National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has consistently called for the use of an epidemiological model to address crime as a public health issue and the serious problems associated with juvenile crime and violence in our society.³⁴ The use of the epidemiological model involves an emphasis on prevention and early positive intervention at a point when the first delinquency would begin. The epidemiological model suggests that crime is not one-dimensional and requires a multidisciplinary approach if it is to be dealt with effectively. This, in turn, requires a more multidisciplinary and integrated approach to crime prevention and control.

In order to implement an epidemiological model, it is necessary to identify the paradigm of risk factors. The National Research Council classifies risk factors for violent behavior by temporal proximity to the violent event and specifies the four levels at which the risk factors exist.³⁵ The temporal proximity categories are:

Predisposing Risk Factors- circumstances that can increase the probability that violent events will occur months or even years before they take place.

Situational Risk Factors- circumstances that surround an encounter between people, which can increase the chance that violence or harm will occur.

Activating Events- events that immediately lead to a violent act (also known as “trigger mechanisms”).

The four levels at which the risk factors exist, two are social and two are individual.

Macro social – large social units such as countries and communities

Micro social – encounter among people such as exchange of insults by a group of bystanders.

Psychosocial – Characteristics of individuals that influence patterns of interactions with others, such as ways of expressing anger.

Biological- chemical, electrical, and hormonal interactions, primarily in the brain, which underlie all human behavior.

Drug Endangered Children. Drug Endangered Children impact public health and places a significant strain on the community’s financial and human services resources. Children of Alcoholics/Addicts (COAs) and Drug Endangered Children (DEC) are often the victims of abuse, neglect, and family violence. These children are at risk of severe medical complications and are more often plagued by long-term mental health issues, unless they receive support and treatment to overcome these risk factors.

National: Children are considered to be drug endangered if they are less than 18 years of age, suffer physical harm or neglect from direct or indirect exposure to illegal drugs or alcohol, or live in a dwelling where illegal drugs are used or manufactured.

³⁴ Center for Disease Control (CDC), “EXCITE: Excellence in Curriculum Integration through Teaching Epidemiology,” *available at* <http://www.cdc.gov/excite/about.htm>

³⁵ Jeffrey Roth, “Understanding and Preventing Violence,” *available at* <http://www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles/unprv.txt>

Local, County, and State Governments: Drug abuse causes legal, medical, environmental, and social problems. County governments and their citizens must pay for investigating, making arrests, holding law breakers in detention centers, trying them in court, providing treatment for those addicted to drugs, and disrupting illegal drug use.

There are also many societal effects that must be considered. In an alarming number of drug arrests, there are children living in the homes.³⁶ These children many times suffer from neglect and abuse. Many of these children are angry, antisocial, physically aggressive, and even violent. They may perform poorly in school and engage in delinquent behavior. For some, the consequences include low self-esteem, depression, hopelessness, suicide attempts, and self-mutilation. These children tend toward dangerous play and sexual promiscuity. These children are also at high risk to continue intergenerational patterns of drug abuse, criminal behaviors, and neglectful parenting.

Describe what specialized programs/staff you have versus what you do not have as related to crime prevention reduction.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Existing Resources for Violent Crime: The following are potential resources in the community:

Tarrant County Public Health Department; Fort Worth Public Health Department; Public and Private Schools; Media: Print, TV, Radio, Video, & Music; Community-Based Organizations; Faith-Based Organizations; Employers; Law Enforcement; Courts; Criminal Justice System; Concerned Citizens; and Advocacy Groups

Existing Resources for Drug Endangered Children: The following are potential resources in the community:

- Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children;
- Tarrant County Alliance for Drug Endangered Children;
- Child Protective Services;
- Tarrant Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse;
- Tarrant County Challenge;
- Police Departments;
- Fire and Accident First Responders;
- Victim Assistance Units;
- Human Service Agencies;
- Faith-Based Organizations;
- Prosecutors; and
- Medical Personnel

GAPS IN PROGRAMS:

Violent Crime- Additional resources are needed in the following areas to address violence as a public health issue:

³⁶ National Association of Counties (NACO), "Meth Abuse Causes More Emergency Room Visits Than All Other Drugs," *NACO News Release* (Jan. 18, 2006) available at www.ihs.gov/Medicalprograms/Behavioral/documents/Template.pdf

- ❑ Opportunities for further collaboration among groups and agencies to promote the recognition that violence is a health problem that can be prevented through the use of established steps of detection, data collection, and the development and implementation of preventive strategies.
- ❑ Education for the whole community around the issue of violence as a public health issue and specific educational activities aimed at targeted groups within the community to show how their activities can be incorporated into a more holistic approach to violence.
- ❑ Financial support to build awareness, bring together the community around the issue, and provide education, training, and opportunities for collaboration.
- ❑ Diversity building in the development of violence as a public health idea and in the planning for education and collaboration.
- ❑ Resources to systematically identify individuals countywide who are affected by risk factors.
- ❑ Resources to identify clusters of individuals affected by risk factors through countywide mapping technology.
- ❑ A strategic plan to provide intervention countywide to individuals as risk factors are diagnosed or identified.

Drug Endangered Children. Additional resources are needed in the following areas to address drug endangered children:

- ❑ Sustainability funding for the local Tarrant County Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.
- ❑ Funding to cover the costs of items associated with the rescue of children in these volatile drug environments: decontamination tents, clothing, diapers, car seats for transport, etc.
- ❑ Continuum of services for the children, adults, and families affected.
- ❑ Services available to non-English speaking victims.
- ❑ Legal resources for families involved in the aftermath of the drug arrest.
- ❑ Awareness that the problem is a community problem and its costs to all citizens.
- ❑ Affordable and accessible quality childcare.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding is the primary reason why these resources are not available.

CRIME LABORATORIES

1. Identify the types of crimes you want to respond to with training, specialized programs, staff, or equipment.

Tarrant County hopes to respond to violent crimes against persons, substance abuse, alcohol-related crimes, crimes involving firearms and any other crimes where the use of forensic laboratory services may provide information that can aid in the investigation of criminal activity.

2. Describe the components you have versus those you do not have as related to responding to crime.

EXISTING COMPONENTS:

Crime laboratory services of varying degrees are presently offered in North Texas by a number of public and private laboratories accredited through the Texas Department of Public Safety. Public laboratories and

their accredited forensic testing disciplines (per the DPS website) include:

- Arlington Police Department Crime Laboratory
 - Controlled substances (limited) and Firearm/Toolmark (limited)
- Dallas Police Department Firearms Laboratory
 - Firearm/Toolmark (limited)
- Department of Public Safety (DPS) Garland
 - Controlled substances, Toxicology (limited), Biology/DNA, Firearm/Toolmark, Trace Evidence
- DPS Waco
 - Controlled substance, Toxicology (limited), Biology/DNA
- DPS Tyler
 - Controlled substances, Toxicology (limited), Firearm/Toolmark
- Drug Enforcement Administration South Central Laboratory
 - Controlled substances
- Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (FWPD)
 - Controlled substances, Toxicology (limited), Biology/DNA, Firearm/Toolmark
- Plano PD Crime Scene Investigation Unit
 - Firearm/Toolmark (limited)
- Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (SWIFS)
 - Controlled substances, Toxicology, Biology/DNA, Firearm/Toolmark, Trace Evidence
- Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office Forensic Laboratory Services (TCME)
 - Controlled substances, Toxicology, Biology/DNA, Firearm/Toolmark, Trace Evidence (limited)
- University of North Texas Center for Human Identification (UNT)
 - Biology/DNA

The private laboratories operating in North Texas and their accredited forensic disciplines include:

- Alliance Forensics
 - Firearm/Toolmark
- Armstrong Forensic Laboratory
 - Controlled substances, Trace Evidence (limited)
- Cellmark Forensics
 - Biology/DNA
- Fondren Forensics
 - Toxicology (limited)
- Integrated Forensic Laboratories
 - Controlled substances, Toxicology (limited), Biology/DNA (limited), Firearm/Toolmark

In addition, a number of the laboratories referenced above offer Latent Fingerprint processing and comparisons and Breath Alcohol calibration services, both of which are currently exempted from DPS accreditation requirements. Digital Evidence examination is also exempted from DPS accreditation requirements; several agencies within North Texas perform digital evidence examination, including the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office Computer Crimes Unit.

Among the public laboratories, TCME and SWIFS offer services for law enforcement agencies outside their respective jurisdictions. These two laboratories charge a fee for service and offer comparable pricing. To date, the forensic testing provided by DPS is free to law enforcement agencies in Texas and is supported by the state's biennial appropriation process. The services provided by laboratories associated with a police department are utilized primarily by the individual law enforcement agency and are supported by funding from their respective governmental entities. The federal DEA laboratory provides analysis of drug evidence for federal officers as well as limited services for local law enforcement.

A number of crime laboratories have utilized grant dollars to supplement their allocated operating budgets. Available grants have included funding through the National Institute of Justice for DNA Capacity Enhancement/Backlog Reduction grants, or state or federal Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants. The continued and future availability of these grant programs is uncertain at this time.

COMPONENTS MISSING IN PROGRAMS:

1. Training

Participation in ongoing training and continuing education for case working forensic examiners is an integral part to the maintenance of a robust laboratory Quality Management System. While limited training can be provided in-house, online, or through grant funded opportunities, attendance at regional and national meetings such as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners, International Association for Identification, and the Society of Forensic Toxicologists is paramount to ensuring that forensic examiners in Texas are appraised of the latest thinking and developments in their individual fields of expertise. Such ongoing training is expensive and additional opportunities for this type of extended training would greatly benefit many laboratories within the region.

Additionally, employees must successfully complete a rigorous technical training program before being authorized to perform independent casework in a particular category of testing. While training of this sort may be conducted in-house, it is very labor intensive, and not all laboratories have the personnel resource with the time or knowledge base to provide training in all types of examinations. A separate agency devoted to training new personnel would be most beneficial in increasing the output of crime labs in North Texas.

There has been much recent discussion at state and national levels regarding mandatory certification of forensic examiners. Certification in the forensic sciences encompasses testing and completion of other requirements confirming specialized knowledge and skills in a specific technical area. It is likely that certification of forensic examiners will become mandatory on a state or federal level over the next decade and will be tied to receipt of federal grant dollars. Educational programs that help to prepare analysts to take certification examinations will be important to coordinate and fund for all laboratories in the region.

Funding for training in additional administrative aspects in forensic casework, including information regarding ethics, Brady or Michael Morton act issues, or laboratory assessor training would also be beneficial.

2. Staffing

(a) DNA Analysis – Currently, DNA analysis is offered by TCME, SWIFS, UNT, Fort Worth PD, DPS, and Cellmark laboratories. As demand for DNA analysis, considered to be the “gold standard” in forensic

analysis, continues to grow, backlogs and turn-around times will increase.

The analysis and placement of DNA profiles into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) can dramatically enhance the chances that potential crime victims will be spared the violence of repeat offenders. In addition, there is a large positive return on investment when investing in forensic DNA infrastructure. Taking into account the average recidivism rate for repeat offenders committing sexual assaults, for example, there is significant benefit to the timely generation and upload of DNA evidence profiles into CODIS. Property crime offenders also have high recidivism rates, and their crimes can escalate to crimes against persons. The timely analysis of biological evidence collected from "no suspect" property crimes, and subsequent entry of DNA profiles into CODIS can prevent future property crimes and more serious offenses. Expanded DNA services need to be added to the overall forensic capabilities in North Texas.

(b) Drug analysis – The State must indict a defendant charged with a felony drug offense within 90 days from the commencement of detention, or the defendant must be released from custody, Art.17.151, Code of Criminal Procedure. Several events must occur within that 90 day period: transport of the evidence under proper chain of custody to the lab, the lab must test the evidence, a detective must write a report, the report must be forwarded to the prosecutor, the prosecutor must prepare and present the case to a Grand Jury, and an indictment must be returned to the court.

Changes in legal requirements for criminal forensic laboratories have significantly delayed the processing of evidence, especially in drug cases. As the population of the North Central Texas region grows and the projected workload for forensic laboratories increases, inadequate laboratory equipment, personnel shortages, and insufficient laboratory space significantly delay processing of evidence. Consequently, the time between filing and disposition for drug cases is constantly on the rise. In addition, as the cases get older, the costs to the criminal justice system increase due to unnecessary detention of the accused and attorney's fees.

(c) Other disciplines

Other specialized forensic disciplines should continue to be supported throughout the region, and involve analysts performing examinations involving violent crimes or other crimes against persons.

Within the Firearm/Toolmark discipline, an examination of fired ammunition and a comparison to a suspect weapon provides courts with an expert opinion as to whether that weapon is associated with a particular offense. Additional examinations can provide information of the muzzle to target distance at the time of the discharge of a weapon, or can restore obliterated serial numbers of firearms used in the commission of a crime.

Trace Evidence examinations incorporate the examination and/or comparison of items such as hairs, fibers, paint, glass, footwear and tire tread impression, and may also include testing for primer gunshot residues. Trace evidence can provide probative information in the investigation of criminal activity.

Latent fingerprints can be recovered at a crime scene or developed from items of evidence and subsequently searched through a database or compared to a known suspect.

Testing of blood samples from suspected intoxicated drivers or urine samples from victims of sexual assault are performed by crime laboratories across the state. While breath alcohol testing remains a popular means

of assessing impairment, the number of requests for blood testing of impaired drivers has risen dramatically over the last decade. Drug abuse continues to be a significant concern, and driving under the influence of drugs, whether over the counter, prescription, or illicit, is something that full scale toxicology laboratories must address in their testing schemas.

3. Equipment

While training and staffing are important components to a laboratory's Quality Management System, analysts must also have access to state of the art equipment and technologies in order to fully implement and utilize their training. As forensic techniques continue to evolve, it is imperative that laboratories keep pace in order to provide the best service possible to the citizens they serve as well as to reduce the time required for analysis and increase the information obtained from each item of evidence. A laboratory cannot operate most efficiently or effectively without a significant capital investment in complex scientific instrumentation.

Equipment needed to effectively operate a forensic laboratory is very costly. State of the art instrumentation can cost as much as \$300,000 - \$400,000 for a liquid chromatograph/ mass spectrometer, for example, and the average useful life of such instrumentation is less than eight years before it becomes obsolete and should be replaced. Unfortunately, most forensic laboratories in North Texas must utilize instrumentation much older than this, reducing the information that can be obtained from evidence, as well as increasing the cost of maintenance and instrument "down time" for repairs.

Agencies that are operating crime laboratories in the North Texas area should commit to maintaining state of the art equipment in those laboratories in order to ensure that the services provided produce as much information as possible and to increase the quality and timeliness of those services.

4. Information Management and Processing

Laboratory Information Management Systems are essential tools for forensic laboratories. They allow collection and storage of information on casework, evidence tracking, automated reporting of results, and statistical tracking of performance and output measures. These systems automate many redundant processes previously handled via hard copy exchange of information, and allow benchmarking of performance for management review and resource allocation planning. Quality Management software allows laboratories to electronically manage many processes required for laboratory accreditation, including document control, corrective and preventive action monitoring, proficiency testing, purchasing, and testimony evaluation.

These systems must include networked computer terminals accessible to all staff members, network printers, and software configured to the workflows and needs of individual laboratories. These systems are costly to procure, configure for individual users, and to maintain, but essential for operation of an efficient forensic laboratory. Funding in support of these systems would be highly beneficial for all laboratories operating in the region.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding for training, scientific instrumentation, and personnel are the primary reason why these resources are not available.

LACK OF ALTERNATIVES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff, or equipment.

Texas population is projected to be 25,373,947 in 2010, and the number of state hospital beds are 2,477³⁷ (9.76 beds per 100,000). Texas has been identified as one of the fastest growing states in the US³⁸. The state is currently experiencing a shortage of state hospital beds. DSHS reported to the HB 3793 Advisory Panel that as of Sept 2013 48% of the state hospital beds were used for competency restoration to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity. As access to state hospital beds has decreased, the percentage of mentally ill defendants has increased. Although Tarrant County has been a leader in Texas regarding collaboration and programming for Jail Diversion activities, and has implemented programs along the arrest-to-conviction continuum, many service gaps remain.

SUPPORTING STATISTICS:

Tarrant County statistics are consistent with overall U.S. statistics regarding the prevalence of mental illness in our jails and prisons – approximately 16% of Tarrant County inmates have a mental illness diagnosis.³⁹ A statistic that might not be as commonly known is that mentally ill individuals are also more likely to be victims of crimes. A 2005 study by researchers at Northwestern University found that more than one-fourth of people with severe mental illnesses are the victims of violent crime each year. People with mental illness were 23 times more likely to be raped, 15 times more likely to be assaulted, 8 times more likely to be robbed and were the victims of theft 140 times more often than those in the general population.⁴⁰

Describe the components you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction.

EXISTING PROGRAMS FOR OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS.

Tarrant County has the following resources to promote diversion from the criminal justice system and to reduce recidivism for offenders with mental impairments

PROGRAM	FUNDER
Mental Health Law Liaison Project (MHLL) - Provides 24/7 direct phone consult / information for law enforcement officers that encounter mentally ill citizens, as well as assertive in-filed follow ups. Also provides extensive training for area law enforcement in CIT and MHPO.	Tarrant County / small amount grant.
TCOOMMI Juvenile Program - Provides CBT, Provides Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) and Family Preservations services to youth in the juvenile justice system.	TCOOMMI / Medicaid / some in-kind from MHMRTC

³⁷ Texas Department of State Health Services Website <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/popdat/ST2010.shtm>

³⁸ U.S. Census Bureau News, 4/21/05

³⁹ 2007 Tarrant County Correctional Center and MHMR of Tarrant County data

⁴⁰ Chicago Herald Tribune, 2/21/08

PROGRAM	FUNDER
JPD / MHMRTC Screening Program - Joint staff to screen, assess, and refer into services for youth in the juvenile justice system	MHMRTC / JPD
Juvenile Drug Court - Provides community supervision, treatment referrals, and deferred adjudication/dismissal of charges to eligible youth with Substance Abuse and MH diagnosis in juvenile courts of Judge Jean Boyd and Assoc. Judges Tim Menikos, Kim Brown and Ellen Smith.	GR / CHIP / Medicaid
MHMRTC Forensic Mental Health Program at Tarrant County Jail - 24/7 Psychiatric services to mentally ill inmates.	Tarrant County
Project RAPP (Rehabilitative Alternatives for Probationers and Parolees) - Provides intensive wrap-around services for severely and persistently mentally ill ex-offenders.	TCOOMMI / Medicaid / some in-kind from MHMRTC
Adult Mental Health Court - Cases are dismissed for eligible adults with Mental Illness that complete the program in Judges Brent Carr's court. Case management and clinical services are provided to participants who then report to the MH Court each month to update the judge on their progress.	Tarrant County / CJD
Adult Drug Court - Provides screening, assessment, referral, case-management, drug testing, and counseling, and deferred adjudication in Judge Deborah Nekhom's court.	CJD
Tarrant Community Assertive Treatment (TCAT) - Provides pre-trial psychiatric services to felony defendants awaiting case disposition.	TCOOMMI / some in-kind from MHMRTC
Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCR) - Provides pre-trial competency restoration services to defendants determined incompetent to stand trial.	Crisis Redesign
Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) - Provides mobile psychiatric services in Tarrant County - can interface with criminal, juvenile, justice and child welfare system	Crisis Redesign
BHIPS Assessment - Joint venture to assess and refer youths involved in substance abuse but not involved in the Juvenile Drug Court.	JPD / MHMRTC Addiction Services
Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus (TYRC) offers intensive residential services, intensive and supportive outpatient treatment and school-based programs for substance abusers between 13 and 17 years of age.	UTSW Medical Ctr. / TCADA / JPD / Donations
CSCD Mental Health Initiative The mission of the Mental Impairment Specialized Caseload is to stabilize and maintain functional, non-criminal behavior for the mentally ill/disabled offender. This is done by providing a continuity of care allowing a systematic, coordinated, and intensive level of supervision based on the needs of the offender.	Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Community Justice Assistance Division

PROGRAM	FUNDER
<p>Tarrant County Veterans Diversion Court</p> <p>The program supervises Veterans in the pre-trial phase of an offense while leading to their graduation after six to twenty-four months in the program (based on their needs, risk, and progress) and ultimately, the dismissal of their cases. Qualified veterans must be a Tarrant County resident, a U. S. citizen, be charged with a “non-3G” crime, and have an officially diagnosed mental illness which can be tied to the offense with which they are charged. They must also have served in a combat zone or hazard zone, according to official records.</p>	<p>Grant awarded in January 2010 from CJD in the amount of \$201,000.</p>

Action Plan (See Mental Health Diversion Task Force Resource Identification & Planning Exercise for further detail on the following)⁴¹:

GAPS IN PROGRAMS FOR OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS

Mental Health Crisis

- After-hours Magistrate’s warrants – currently available only during normal business hours.
- Specialized mental health training for 911 dispatch officers
- Evaluate current civil commitment process in view of legal requirements
- Expand current rehabilitative skills training curriculum to include training how mentally impaired individuals can protect themselves from crime

Initial Contact with Law Enforcement

- Certified Mental Health Officers – Increase the number of officers trained.
- Expanded police officer training – current training should be expanded to more police officers – include non-arrest alternatives, use of less-than-lethal apprehension devices (pepper spray, Taser, etc.)
- Mental health cross-training for Victim Assistance Personnel
- Identification system for the mentally impaired who frequently encounter police
- Expand MHMRTC Mental Health Law Enforcement Liaison Project staff to provide adequate training and technical assistance to law enforcement
- Create diversion options other than jail or warrantless detention.

Arrest and Custody

- Mental health assessments at City Jails in Tarrant County.
- Mental Health Stabilization Facility – to treat defendants who have a mental health crisis or whose competency becomes questionable while case is pending.
- Treatment and discharge planning at city jails.
- Develop and implement procedure for discharge of homeless persons coordinated with law enforcement, city jails, JPS, and emergency shelters to assure persons are not discharged to the street.

Booking Into County Jail

- Arresting agency notification – should advise of mental health issues when transferred to county custody.

⁴¹ Resource Identification and Planning Exercise developed by the Tarrant County Jail Diversion Coalition under leadership of the Honorable Brent Carr, Tarrant County Criminal Court #9, completed 4/25/08 - excerpts

- Jail run notification – a notification system should be developed to insure that the attorneys and court are aware that a defendant is mentally impaired to avoid an unjust result
- Create attorney appointment system for mentally impaired defendants.
- Discharge referral for defendant released on bail.

Filing of Charges

- (a) Diversion criteria – established criteria especially for low level offenses that may warrant the referral of a mentally impaired defendant to a diversion program that may result in no charges filed, dismissed charges or reduced offer, if defendant meets program requirements

Pending Court Cases

- Notification of district attorney when a mentally impaired defendant is to be filed on.
- CSCD Mental Health Bond Caseload.
- Mental Health Court (or court with a specialized mental health docket) to handle all cases of persons with mental impairments.
- Mental health attorney training program.
- Mental Health Stabilization Facility – to treat defendants who have a mental health crisis or whose competency becomes questionable while case is pending.
- Pre-Trial Case Management services to offenders charged only with Misdemeanor offenses.
- Guardianship for defendants – determine appropriateness of establishing a guardianship for certain mentally impaired offenders that frequently enter local justice system.
- Develop and implement procedure for discharge of homeless persons coordinated with law enforcement, city jails, JPS, and emergency shelters to assure persons are not discharged to the street.
- Strengthen and support Continuity of Care position at Tarrant County Corrections Center to insure that all offenders with mental health issues are provided support necessary to obtain community treatment upon release.

CSCD (Probation)

- Fee waiver in appropriate cases
- CSCD Mental Health Bond Caseload
- Mental health court officers – handle the court proceedings involving the mentally impaired
- Transition program – program that prepares a mentally impaired probationer for success after CSCD supervision is completed

Sentence to Jail

- All agencies should work in conjunction and in consultation with the Tarrant County Re-Entry Council
- Strengthen and support Continuity of Care position at Tarrant County Corrections Center to ensure that all offenders with mental health issues are provided support necessary to obtain community treatment upon release.
- Mental health program to work off fines / court costs

Sentenced to Prison

- Re-Entry Court - A local judicial authority would be established that would hold parolees accountable for complying with release conditions including maintenance of mental health by taking prescribed medications and submitting to the designated counseling and treatment programs. Texas law does not currently appear to authorize this approach. Special mental health training may be necessary for court officers involved here.
- Program for individuals discharged from prison with no probation or parole
- Establish Discharge Planning Case Manager position within a central resource facility to coordinate possible rapid re-housing of parolees within supportive housing programs – facilitate re-entry for homeless individuals

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding is the primary reason for most of the programs listed.

TECHNOLOGY

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce and respond to with training, specialized programs, staff, and/or equipment.

Tarrant County hopes to prevent and reduce all types of crime through the acquisition and improved utilization of technology.

Describe the training components, specialized programs/staff and equipment you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction and responding to crime.

EXISTING TECHNOLOGY:

Agencies in Tarrant County currently have a wide range of technology components, including radio and emergency responders' communications equipment; mobile command units; in-car video and audio recording equipment, both digital and analog; officer lapel digital audio and/or video recording equipment; interview rooms with digital video and/or audio recording equipment; portable digital video and/or audio recording equipment; computer-based case filing program and prosecution case management system; computer-based court management system; computer-based indigent defendant management system; digital courtroom technology; computerized fingerprint, criminal history, and gang databases; as well as other common technological equipment such as personal computers, laptop computers, WiFi in the courtrooms and numerous servers.

E-citation technology, Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) technology, License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology, facial recognition software, and Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are not universally used in Tarrant County; however, some Tarrant County law enforcement agencies have found these technologies to be beneficial. Other criminal justice agencies in Tarrant County should consider adopting such technology.

GAPS IN EXISTING TECHNOLOGY:

As related elsewhere in this document, Tarrant County is composed of a diverse array of criminal justice entities. There are several large city police departments, a large sheriff's department and numerous small jurisdictions. Over the last several years, each Tarrant County criminal justice entity has made considerable budgetary outlays

for technological equipment ranging from the above-mentioned equipment to the internal servers needed to store, backup and transmit digital files. Interoperability of technological systems is a critical issue for the future. Effective law enforcement necessitates the ability to manage information on jurisdictional, local and regional levels. In order to properly serve the public, each law enforcement agency in the county must have the ability to exchange justice and emergency management information effectively with all other jurisdictions. Communication with other counties, the State of Texas and Federal jurisdictions is also critical to effective local law enforcement.

It has not been until recently that umbrella criminal justice agencies have begun to develop and mandate specifications for digital data gathering, storage and transmission. Recently, the Federal Government has created the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) project.⁴² NIEM is an effort to allow diverse jurisdictions to share useful and critical data. Texas has followed up with the Texas Path to NIEM project aimed at allowing Texas jurisdictions to effectively gather, share, accept, translate and store digital information on the NIEM model.⁴³ Texas has also created the Texas Integrated Justice Information Systems (TIJIS) project to facilitate the flow of justice information.⁴⁴ When the data gathering, storage and transmission specifications are in place, each jurisdiction must adapt its technology to be compliant with the specifications. Failure to be compliant will leave an agency without effective inter-agency communication.

i. **Radio communications equipment:** Tarrant County is approaching a time of critical need with regard to radio communications equipment. Various agencies within the county are in the process of switching from analog to digital-trunked radio equipment. It will be necessary for all other jurisdictions to make the switch in order that there can be cross-jurisdictional communication on critical incidents. Upgrades will be required to the system hardware and software. New radio towers will be necessary and operators will have to be trained on the new systems.

ii. **Mobile command units:** Because of the increased mobility of criminals and the nature of homeland security needs, mobile command units are becoming more necessary to carry out effective local law enforcement. Some Tarrant County law enforcements jurisdictions have begun to utilize and others are in need of this technology to effectively serve their citizens. Jurisdictions employing this technology will be required to train officers and support personnel to properly utilize it.

iii. **In-car video and audio recording equipment:** Many jurisdictions in Tarrant County currently use in-car video and audio recording equipment. Those jurisdictions that currently use the technology need to expand their use of the technology by equipping more patrol units. Those jurisdictions that do not currently use in-car video and audio recording equipment need to incorporate this equipment into their technology repertoire. The use of in-car video and audio recording equipment raises other technology issues. The more units that an agency equips with recording equipment, the more data they gather, then the more data they must ultimately store and transmit. Also, the more agencies that use the equipment, the more different formats of equipment are in use. This makes it necessary for the justice agencies that ultimately use the data to have the capacity to access and use data in many different formats. All agencies in the county must upgrade current technology to become NIEM compliant. Officers must be trained in the proper use of this equipment.

⁴² See National Information Exchange Model, www.niem.gov (last visited October 7, 2010).

⁴³ See TIJIS – Texas Integrated Justice Information System, “Texas Path to NIEM Project,” http://www.tijis.org/assoc/cms/Texas_Path_to_NIEM_Project/ (last visited October 7, 2010).

⁴⁴ See TIJIS – Texas Integrated Justice Information System, www.tijis.org (last visited October 7, 2010).

iv. **Lapel-mounted digital video and audio recording equipment:** Many departments are beginning to equip patrol officers with lapel-mounted wireless digital video and audio recording devices that record the officers' encounters with citizens. Current technology allows both video and audio recording through wireless lapel-mounted devices. As with the in-car recording equipment, issues arise as to data gathering, storage and transmission. There is a need also to make each department NIEM compliant with this equipment. Departments will need to train officers in the proper use of this equipment.

v. **Interview rooms with digital video and/or audio recording equipment:** Many departments are beginning to equip their interview rooms with digital recording devices that record the officers' interviews with suspects and witnesses. There is current legislative impetus to require law enforcement agencies to utilize this technology. As with the in-car recording equipment and lapel recording equipment, issues arise as to data gathering, storage and transmission. There is a need also to make each department NIEM compliant with this equipment. The interview rooms themselves often need renovation to ensure the recording equipment operates properly. Departments will need to train officers in the proper use of this equipment.

vi. **Portable digital video and/or audio recording equipment:** Many departments are beginning to equip their officers with portable digital recording devices that record video (used by many crime scene personnel) and audio (often used by detectives to record witness interviews in the field). As with the above-discussed digital equipment, issues arise as to data gathering, storage and transmission. There is a need also to make each department NIEM compliant with this equipment. The persons who use the equipment will have to be trained to use the equipment properly.

vii. **Computer-based case filing and case management systems:** Tarrant County has implemented a computer-based case filing and management system, the Electronic Case Filing System (ECFS). Each law enforcement jurisdiction in the county is mandated to electronically file cases with the criminal district attorney. This system requires computer equipment and transmission equipment to transmit the case and Digital Multimedia Evidence (DME) from the law enforcement agency to the prosecuting agency. With the increased use and file size of DME, the equipment used for transmission must be more sophisticated and powerful to accommodate the needs. Officers and support staff must be trained to effectively utilize this system.

viii. **Computer-based court case management system:** Tarrant County also utilizes a computer-based system to move criminal cases through the justice system. The Differentiated Felony Case Management System (DFCM) has technological requirements for its use by the various local agencies. Upgrades to DFCM require upgrades to local systems. Court employees and support personnel must be trained to use this system.

ix. **Computer-based indigent defendant management system:** Tarrant County has a multi-functional web-based system called Indigent Defense Online (IDOL), which maintains all indigent defendants' paperwork electronically. Because the IDOL system is a piece of Tarrant County's larger information management system, indigent defendants' paperwork moves through the entire system faster, resulting in improved efficiency while reducing the risk of lost or misplaced important documentation. Ultimately, better data management can ensure that counties are meeting the timeframes set in the Fair Defense Act and lessen administrative challenges and barriers to defendants being appointed counsel timely. Court employees and support personnel must be trained to use this system.

x. **Digital courtroom technology:** The increased availability of DME raises the issue of how to transmit it from the law enforcement agency that gathered it to the prosecuting agency, and then how to enable it to be presented in court. The issue of transmitting the data from police to prosecutor raises issues of adequate gathering capacity, adequate bandwidth availability and ultimately adequate storage capacity. Another major issue is managing the many formats in which the data is gathered in order to allow the data to be effectively used

by agencies with whom the data has been shared. An agency receiving DME must have an ingestion station which allows the data to be reliably transferred. Also, persons who serve on juries are becoming more sophisticated and demanding in the type of digital evidence they accept and demand. It is necessary to equip our agencies and courtrooms so that the available DME can be effectively presented to a court or jury.

xi. **Databases:** As noted above, a number of databases are made available to law enforcement in Tarrant County. In particular, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) allows the Tarrant County crime lab to search latent fingerprint databases for fingerprint comparisons. GangNet is a computer database that makes the most recent information about gang members immediately available to prosecutors as well as law enforcement officers across the county and helps them to identify, capture and prosecute these gang members. Improvements are necessary to the databases to make them more widely available to Tarrant County law enforcement. Individual jurisdictions need to make upgrades to their systems and train personnel in order to be able to access and effectively use the various databases.

xii. **E-Citations:** A relatively new technological innovation is the use of digital ticketing. An E-citation system is an electronic system that replaces paper ticket books and allows digital entry of the data currently handwritten on paper citations. E-citations allow officers to enter driver information automatically into the application by scanning the barcode on the back of a driver license. The officer can enter multiple violations and capture the driver's signature electronically, all in a matter of minutes. The reduced time to issue tickets decreases the minutes an officer is standing roadside, where they are exposed to unnecessary risk. This technological advancement reduces the time required to issue tickets, decreases the cost of managing tickets and improves officer safety. Law enforcement officers, court employees and support personnel must be trained to use this system.

xiii. **Forward Looking Infrared technology:** Similar to the technology used in police helicopters, Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) technology is mounted on patrol units and use detection of thermal energy to create an image that can be used to allow officers to detect warm objects against a cooler background. The technology will have to be purchased, installed and users trained to effectively use the technology.

xiv. **License Plate Recognition technology:** Current technology allows optical equipment mounted on patrol units to read license plate numbers from vehicles in the vicinity of the patrol unit and search those numbers through a database. This technology is known as License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology and is useful for locating stolen vehicles and vehicles associated with persons with outstanding warrants. Some agencies have purchased and implemented units; for others, units will have to be purchased, installed and users trained to effectively use the technology.

xv. **Facial recognition software:** Software is recently available that allows the automatic identification or verification of a person from a digital image or a video frame from a video source. This technology is useful for locating persons with outstanding warrants, gang members and security threats. Cameras and software must be purchased, installed and users trained to effectively use the technology.

xvi. **Radio-Frequency Identification tags:** Current technology allows documents and physical evidence to be tagged with a unique frequency that would allow a reader to locate the particular item among thousands of other items. This technology is known as Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and would be useful to track a piece of evidence from the time it is located by an officer or crime scene technician, to the evidence locker, to the crime lab, and then all the way through the court system. The technology will have to be purchased, installed and users trained to effectively use the technology.

xvii. **Records Systems:** Many agencies within Tarrant County are in the need for replacement of older Records Management Systems (RMS), Computer Aided Dispatch Systems (CAD) and Jail Management Systems (JMS). As agencies have focused on interoperability with the radio systems, they must also focus on the same sharing of information with RMS/CAD/JMS systems. Be it through the operation of a joint record system or the transfer of data between systems, this is critical. As is known, offenders often travel between communities to commit crimes, so information must be shared quickly. The data being shared will be used by patrol officers, detectives and other criminal justice professionals many times a day. The continued restriction of data within only single jurisdictions will continue to hamper the investigative process. Record systems software and hardware will have to be purchased, installed and employees trained on the proper use of the systems.

xviii. **Cyber Crime:** Law enforcement agencies need to commit to dedicating resources, technology and educational efforts to combat Cyber Crime. In today's digital world, it is no longer just identities, social security numbers and credit cards being stolen; criminals have recently targeted and stolen proprietary, confidential and other personal information/data that can catastrophically impact individuals and organizations. With large data breaches occurring with increasing frequency, the emerging trend of cybercrime is inextricably linked with technology. Law enforcement agencies will require specialized training, software, and equipment in response to these trends. There is no one piece of technology that exemplifies these efforts; it is multi-faceted and will create a systems approach. Law enforcement professionals must stay up-to-date with advancements in technology, and more importantly, use it, to help combat, investigate, and prevent future Cyber Crime. Additionally, agencies must develop creative educational outreach efforts. Law enforcement agencies would need to research, purchase, install, and train employees in all aspects of these resources to efficiently and effectively implement this method.

xiv. **Real Time Data Collection, Analysis, and Evaluation:** Operating crime suppression and response activities in real time is becoming a focus for many agencies. Technology is an essential component of this type of operation. From social media to mapping, technology allows monitoring of hot spots and high crime areas, thereby allowing a real time view of criminal activity and the success of law enforcement efforts to address it. This approach can lead to more creative and innovative methods of collecting and analyzing data. It also allows law enforcement the advantage of quickly determining what works, what does not, and what should be changed to more efficiently combat crime. There is no one piece of technology that exemplifies these efforts; it is multi-faceted and will create a systems approach. Law enforcement agencies would need to research, purchase, install, and train employees in all aspects of the system to efficiently and effectively implement this method.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding is the primary reason these resources are not available.

SCHOOL SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce and respond to with training, specialized programs, staff, and/or equipment.

Tarrant County hopes to prevent and reduce all types of crime through the addition of officers and training to specifically address school related crimes.

Describe the training components, specialized programs/staff and equipment you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction and responding to crime.

SCHOOL SECURITY UNIT MISSION OF THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

The function of the Fort Worth Police Department School Security Initiative is to work in coordination with school administrators as School Resource Officers (SROs) to ensure a safe environment in the schools that contract with the police department for SRO services located in Fort Worth through efforts in crime prevention, intervention with students, and enforcement of the law.

PURPOSE OF SCHOOL SECURITY INITIATIVE

The primary role of SSI is to ensure the safety of the students and faculty in the independent school districts in Fort Worth that have requested Fort Worth officers to serve as SROs. Officers work in partnership with school administrators and parents to reduce the occurrence of violent acts, property crime and status offenses.

Officers' efforts are directed toward preventing a serious violent incident on their campus, but they will be prepared to respond to any large-scale violent incident. Officers investigate criminal offenses; take appropriate enforcement action and file criminal charges when appropriate by issuing citations or through the unit detective.

In their capacity as School Resource Officers (SROs), officers interact with students and faculty in a proactive role and may be called upon to provide classroom instruction, civic demonstrations, and power point lesson plans, and serve as a liaison to resources within the department and the community.

STAFFING:

The Fort Worth Police Department's School Security Initiative Unit (SSI) currently is staffed with:

- 59 Officers
- 1 Detective
- 4 Sergeants
- 1 Lieutenant

The SSI Unit is responsible for 57 school campus's to include:

- 28 High Schools
- 29 Middle Schools

The area school districts that are provided with Fort Worth police officer coverage are:

- Fort Worth ISD
- Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD
- Lake Worth ISD
- Keller ISD
- Crowley ISD

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Safety Expert and Law Enforcer

As sworn police officers, SROs play a unique role in preserving order and promoting safety on campus by, for example:

- Assuming primary responsibility for handling calls for service from the school and in coordinating the response of other police resources
- Addressing crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities occurring in or around the school
- Making arrests and issuing citations on campus
- Providing leads and information to the appropriate investigative units
- Taking action against unauthorized persons on school property
- Serving as hall monitors, truancy enforcers, crossing guards, and operators of metal detectors and other security devices
- Responding to off-campus criminal mischief that involves students
- Serving as liaisons between the school and the police and providing information to students and school personnel about law enforcement matters.

Beyond serving in a crime prevention and response role, SROs are likely to serve as first responders in the event of critical incidents at schools, such as accidents, fires, explosions, and other life threatening events. In addition, SROs often support advance planning for managing crises, including assisting with:

- Developing incident response systems
- Developing and coordinating emergency response plans (in conjunction with other emergency responders)
- Incorporating law enforcement onto school crisis management teams
- Developing protocols for handling specific types of emergencies
- Rehearsing such protocols using tabletop exercises, drills, and mock evacuations and lockdowns.

EXISTING TRAINING, SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, STAFF OR EQUIPMENT:

There currently is annual active shooter training that is provided to the School Security Initiative (SSI) Unit. In order to be able to deal with the trends across the nation in regards to on campus school violence the Fort Worth Police Department School Security Unit needs to move in a more tactical response to deal with this type of incident. Every high school and middle school within the City of Fort Worth is staffed by a school resource officer (SRO). Of the 59 officers in the SSI Unit only approximately 10 are equipped with high powered AR-15 firearms.

GAPS IN TRAINING, SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS AND STAFF:

The plan to address the gaps would be to increase staffing by 10 officers. This staffing increase would allow additional SRO's in more middle school campuses. The resources would be strategically assigned throughout the City of Fort Worth to ensure a quick tactical response to on campus incidents including area elementary school campuses. Critical Incident Response Teams (CIRT) will be formulated in 4 geographical areas within the City of Fort Worth and staffed by SWAT trained school resource officers. These 10 CIRT team members will be rovers within the 4 geographical zones.

With the additional staff leads to more equipment needed such as tactical gear and weapons. The 4 CIRT teams will each have a designated team leader that will be designated as a sergeant. Each sergeant will need a fully equipped incident command SUV. This mobile incident command SUV will be equipped with computer equipment that can wirelessly access the school campus video and communication equipment.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Funding is the reason for not being able to implement this plan. With funding Tarrant County police agencies can be more proactive in response to school campus violence and prevent a tragedy from occurring in our community such as the one at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012. We should not allow funding to be a contributing factor to a gap in a children's safety.

INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County is an urban county located in the north central part of Texas. Fort Worth serves as the county seat to a county population of approximately 1.9 million citizens. According to the 2005 and 2011 census data, the following demographic information provides a more detailed look at the population of the County (U.S. Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts):

Population by Age	2005 %	2011 %	Population by Gender	2005 %	2011 %
Persons < 5	8.4%	7.8%	Male	49.8%	49.1%
Persons < 18	28.0%	27.8%	Female	50.2%	50.9%
Persons 65 and >	8.4%	9.1%			
Median Age	31.6				

Population by Race	2005 %	2011 %
White (a)	79.8%	76.7%
Black or African American (a)	13.8%	15.3%
Asian (a)	4.2%	4.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native (a)	0.7%	0.9%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander (a)	0.2%	0.2%
More than One Race		
Hispanic or Latino origin (b)	23.9%	27.3%
White, not of Hispanic/Latino origin (b)	56.8%	51.3%

- (a) Includes persons reporting only one race
- (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories

The cities of Fort Worth and Arlington are both contained within the Tarrant County borders. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, both cities are ranked in the top 50 largest cities by population. Fort Worth has seen a 38.6% increase in its population between 2000 and 2010, one of the highest percentages of change in the country. For the same time period, Arlington has seen a 9.8% increase.

By statute, within Tarrant County, Tarrant County Juvenile Services (TCJS) is the agency designated to receive law enforcement reports of law violations defined either as delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision allegedly committed by juveniles (children ages 10 through 17). Delinquent conduct includes Class A&B misdemeanors as well as felony-grade offenses. Conduct indicating a need for supervision includes Class C misdemeanors transferred from a justice or municipal court and include public intoxication, truancy, running away, inhalant abuse, and violation of school disciplinary codes that result in expulsion.

The mission of Tarrant County Juvenile Services is “to operate a justice organization that supports victim rights and community safety while fostering productive, responsible behavior for youth and families.” Services are provided to juveniles under the authority of the Tarrant County Juvenile Board, which has designated the 323rd State District Court to serve as the Juvenile Court. The current presiding judge of the Juvenile Court is Judge Jean Boyd. Three associate judges assist Judge Boyd: Judge Tim Menikos, Judge Ellen Smith and Judge Kim Brown.

TCJS operates the Juvenile Detention Center, which is a twenty-four hour secure facility for the temporary detention of up to 120 juveniles for serious law violations. The goal of the center is to provide supervision, activities, and counseling that will benefit each child during his/her stay. Services provided include medical, recreational and life skills training as well as daily written observations of each child for use by the court.

TCJS has developed programs and operations with the goal of diverting youth from the juvenile justice system at the earliest appropriate point. The Juvenile Court endorses this belief by striving to identify the least restrictive environment for the care and rehabilitation of children while assuring community safety. To this end, TCJS has developed a range of community and home-based programs as additional options in solving the problem of juvenile crime. Juvenile Services has the ability to offer a diverse continuum of services to youth and families of Tarrant County.

Over the course of 2012-2013, TCJS has also developed a 5-year Strategic Plan to address both internal operations and the enhancement of effective resources for the youth and families served by the agency. The Strategic Plan contains Platforms, Goals, and Objectives that will provide the foundation for the agency's work over the next five years and beyond. Platforms include: **Leadership, Employee and Organizational Development, Communication, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, Prevention Planning and Case Management, Resources, and Partnerships**. This information is being developed further to focus the work of the agency to further enhance the culture and operation of the organization, and to further develop the most effective and efficient resources possible to best serve the Tarrant County community. Copies of this document can be obtained by contacting the Director/Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Tarrant County Juvenile Services:

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PROBLEM CONTRIBUTORS

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

THE RELATIONSHIP/SIGNIFICANCE OF DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) defines disproportionate minority (DMC) contact as “the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.” Research from OJJDP reflects that ethnic minority youth are arrested, referred to juvenile services, and processed through the juvenile court system at rates greater than the percent of minority youth in the general population. Professional literature indicates that DMC may lead to minority youth penetrating deeper into the juvenile service legal system. It can also be argued that youth who penetrate deeper into the juvenile justice system have a higher risk of future involvement with the criminal justice system, dropping out of school, joining a criminal street gang, and engaging in substance abuse.

Tarrant County Juvenile Services (TCJS) utilizes the OJJDP’s DMC Reduction Model to measure the significance of DMC in the local juvenile justice system. This model measures the rate of minority youth contact with Law Enforcement, Juvenile Services, the Juvenile Court, and District Attorney Office. TCJS also includes referrals to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) as part of its DMC measurement.

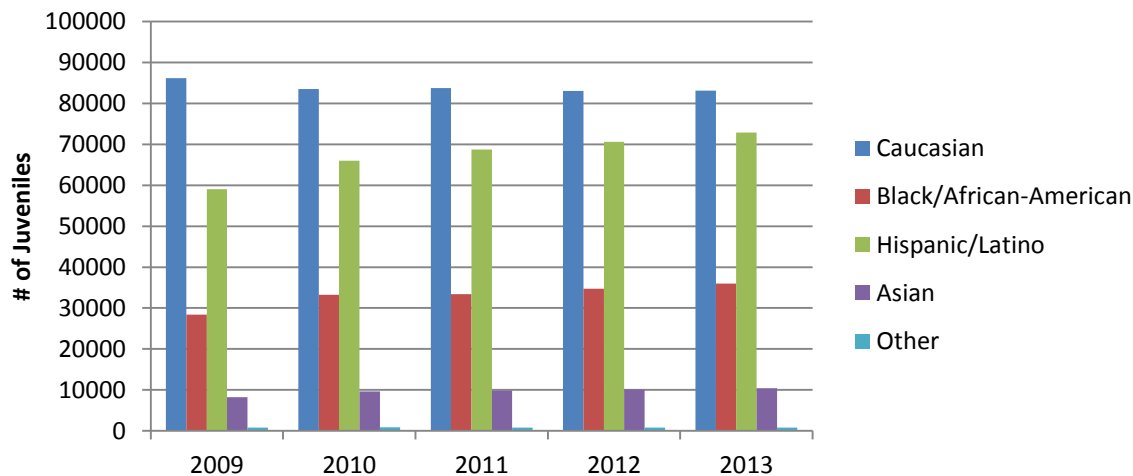
SUPPORTING DATA CONCERNING DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT AND THE IMPACT ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

This analysis provides a thorough overview of DMC in Tarrant County at the following juvenile justice system contact points: arrest, referral, diversion, detention, petitioned, delinquent/violated findings, probation, confinement in secure correctional facilities, and referral to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP). In order to examine trends, DMC at each juvenile justice system contact point is analyzed over a five year period (2009-2013).

Juvenile Population

The Texas Family Code legally defines “juvenile” as anyone over the age of nine and under the age of seventeen.⁴⁵ Juveniles account for 10% of the Tarrant County population.⁴⁶ In regard to the racial breakdown of Tarrant County juveniles, approximately 40.9% are Caucasian, followed by Hispanic (35.9%), African American (17.7%), Asian (5.1%) and Other (0.4%).^{47,48} Between 2009 and 2013, the proportion of minority juveniles has gradually increased, while the proportion of Caucasian juveniles has gradually decreased (see Figure 1). This trend is most apparent in the Hispanic juvenile population which increased 23.4% from 2009-2013.

Figure 1. Racial Distribution of the Tarrant County Juvenile Population: 2009-2013



Referrals

The Texas Family Code defines referral to juvenile court as “the referral of a child or child’s case to the office or official, including intake officer or probation officer, designated by the juvenile board to process children within the

⁴⁵ Beckham, D. B. (2009). *Penal laws of Texas*. Austin, TX. Texas District and County Attorneys Association.

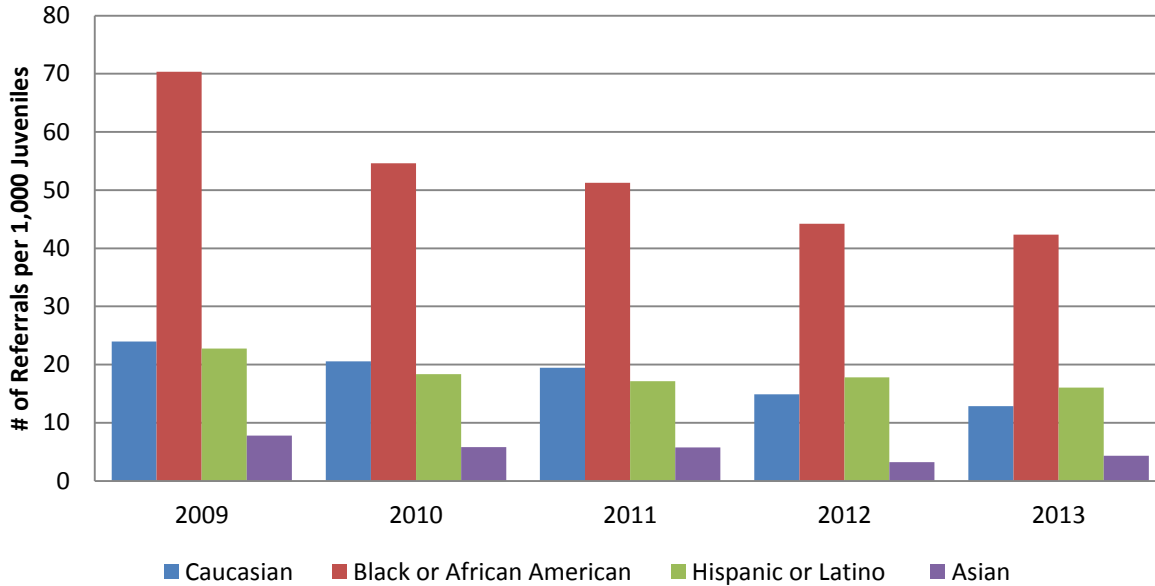
⁴⁶ Texas State Data Center. (2009). *Estimates of the population by age, sex, and race/ethnicity for July 1, 2008 for Tarrant County*. San Antonio, TX: Office of the State Demographer.

⁴⁷ Population estimates were taken from: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2014). *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2013*. Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

⁴⁸ Other races are defined as all youth who self-identify as belonging to a race that is not Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, or Asian.

juvenile justice system” (p. 163).⁴⁹ Juveniles referred to TCJS have allegedly committed a criminal or status offense. A juvenile can be referred to TCJS by a law enforcement agency, school, or probation department. Between 2009 and 2013, the number of referrals to TCJS has gradually decreased. The TCJS referral rate is calculated per 1,000 juveniles in the Tarrant County population.

Figure 2. Referral Rate by Race: 2009-2013



Between 2009 and 2013, the referral rate for minorities to TCJS was significantly greater than the referral rate for Caucasians. This finding was largely attributed to the disproportionate number of African American youth who were referred to TCJS on an annual basis. As seen in Figure 2, each year the referral rate for African American youth was at least twice as large as the second most referred race. For all years under investigation, the Relative Rate Index (RRI) for African American juveniles was significantly greater than Caucasian youth. Another stable trend that emerged in this analysis was that Asian juveniles are referred to TCJS at significantly lower rates than Caucasian youth. The referral rate for Hispanic youth has changed over the five years under study. In 2009, there was not a significant difference in the referral rate for Hispanic and Caucasian youth. In 2010 and 2011, the referral rate for Hispanic youth is significantly less than the referral rate for Caucasian youth (RRI=0.89 and 0.88, respectively). In the most recent years, the referral rate for Hispanic youth was significantly greater than Caucasian youth (2012: RRI=1.20; 2013: RRI=1.25).

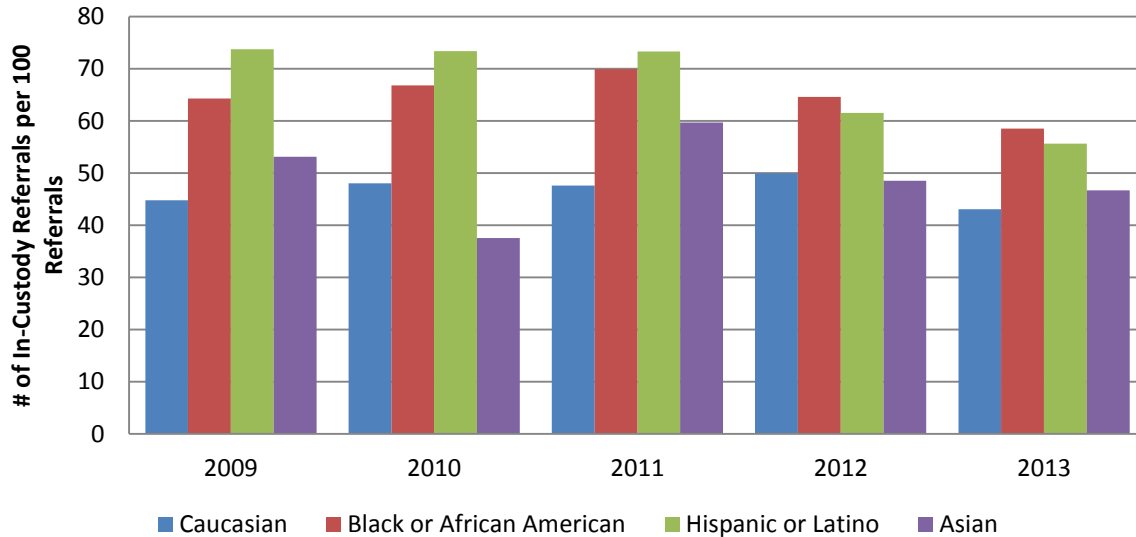
Arrests (In-Custody Referrals)⁵⁰

Local police departments have two methods for referring youth to TCJS: out-of-custody and in-custody. When a youth is referred out-of-custody, the local police department notifies TCJS of the offense, and a letter is sent by TCJS to the youth’s residence requesting that they appear for intake and processing. A youth who is referred in-custody is physically brought to the Lynn W. Ross Detention Center by a law enforcement agency for processing and temporary holding/detainment. An arrest is defined as any in-custody referral. This is one of the few points in the juvenile justice system where the discretion to engage the juvenile in the process resides outside of the Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Services or 323rd District Court. Approximately sixty percent of the annual referrals to TCJS are in-custody. The arrest rate is calculated per 100 referrals to TCJS.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.* 1

⁵⁰ Only arrests that result in a youth being referred in-custody to TCJS are included in this analysis. Arrests that do not generate a referral to TCJS are excluded, since that data is not tracked by TCJS.

Figure 3. Arrest Rate by Race: 2009-2013



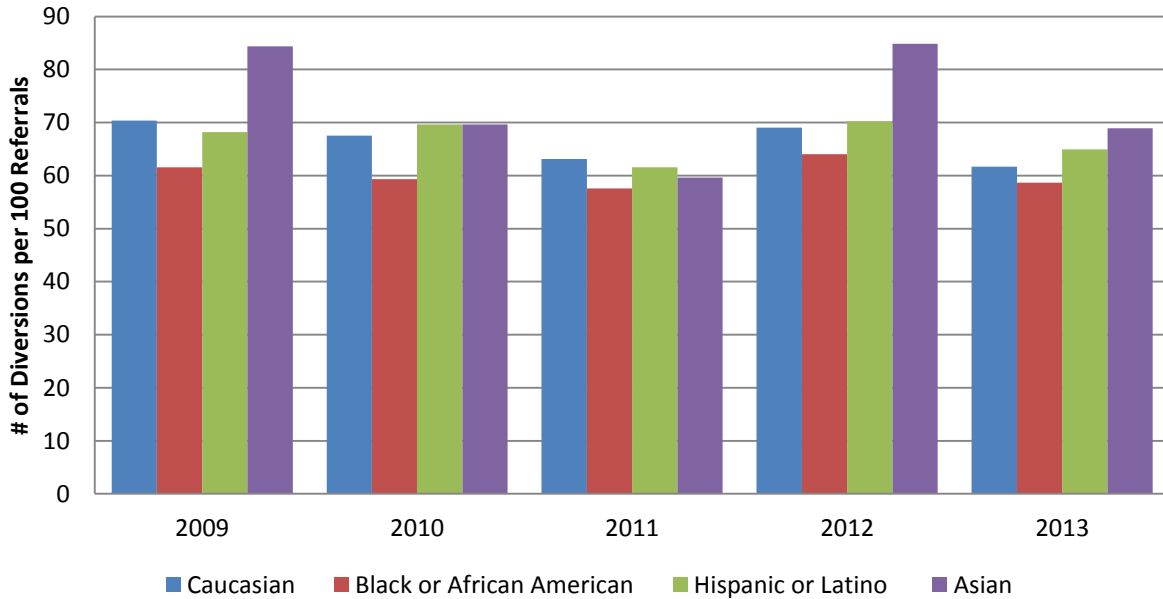
Between 2009 and 2013, the arrest rate for African Americans and Hispanics was consistently greater than Caucasian youth (see Figure 3). Hispanic juveniles had the highest arrest rate in all years but the most recent, with an average 67 Hispanic youth arrested for every 100 Hispanic youth referred. Each year, the RRI for African American and Hispanic youth being arrested was significantly greater than Caucasian youth. Although the arrest rate for Asian youth in some years exceeded the arrest rate for Caucasian youth, this difference was not significant. Caucasian youth consistently received the fewest in-custody referrals to TCJS, with an average of 47 arrests per 100 Caucasian youth referred.

Diversions

Diversions, as a concept in juvenile justice, is theoretically based on labeling theory. According to labeling theory, the further the youth penetrates the system, the more he/she will associate with a delinquent lifestyle.⁵¹ TCJS offers several options to divert referred juveniles from formal processing including: supervisory caution, deferred prosecution probation, drug court, Neighborhood Conference Committee (NCC) program, and other targeted diversion programs. The diversion rate is calculated per 100 referrals to TCJS.

⁵¹ Akers, R.L. & Sellers, C.S. (2004). *Criminological theories: Introduction, evaluation, and application*. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing Company.

Figure 4. Diversion Rate by Race: 2009-2013

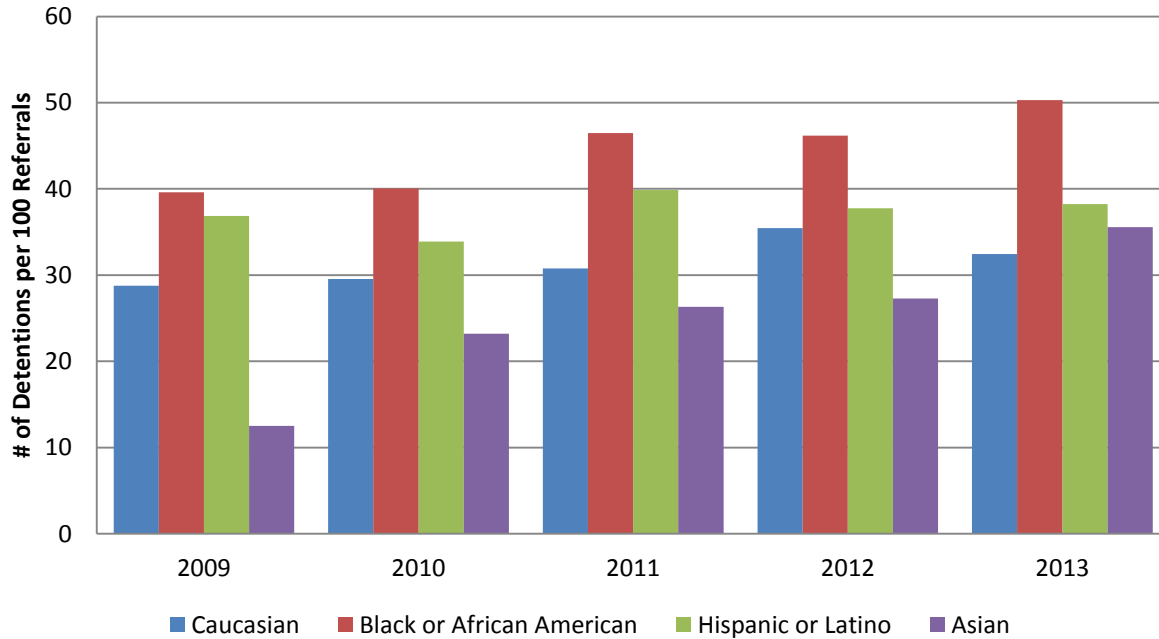


Historically, diversion has been one of the only steps in the Tarrant County juvenile justice system where Caucasian youth were consistently overrepresented. This finding was primarily attributed to the diversion rate and associated RRI for African American youth being significantly less than the diversion rate for Caucasian youth in all years under analysis except the most current. This finding indicates a disadvantage for minority youth because the majority of youth who are not diverted experience formal processing, and typically more restrictive disposition. In the five years under analysis, the diversion rate for Hispanics was not significantly different than rate for Caucasians. The diversion rate for Asian youth has been consistently greater than Caucasian youth; however, in recent years this difference was not significant.

Detention

Tarrant County Juvenile Services operates the Lynn W. Ross Detention Center. This secure detention facility is used to detain youth who are awaiting preliminary investigation, adjudication, court-ordered placement, or transportation to a Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) facility. The detention rate is calculated per 100 referrals to TCJS.

Figure 5. Secure Detention Rate by Race: 2009-2013



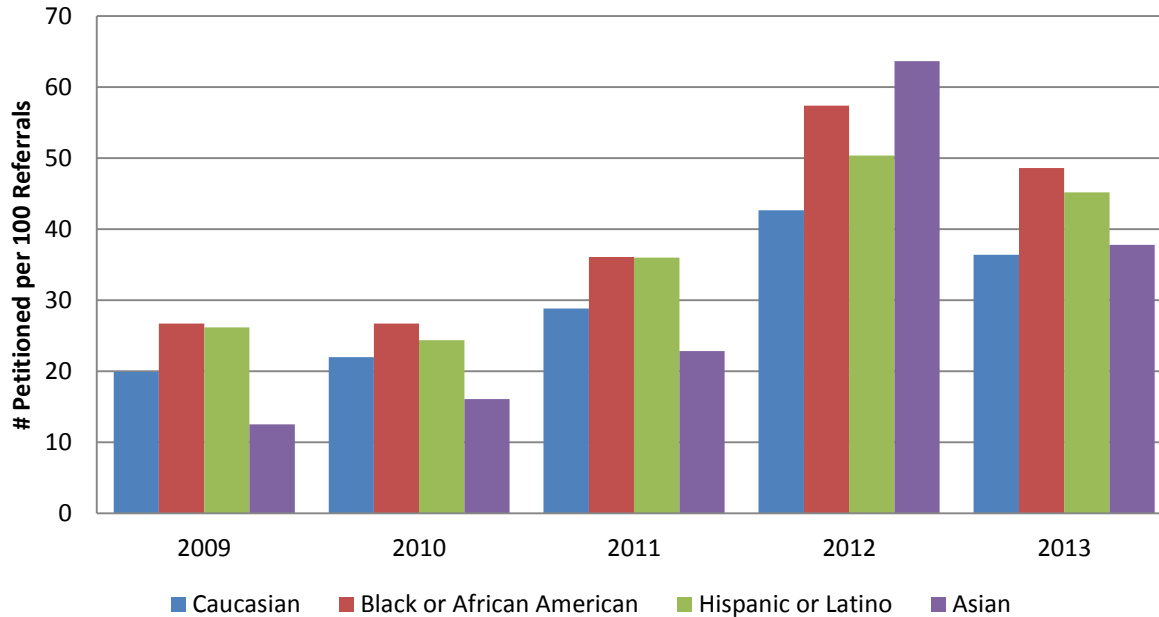
Between 2009 and 2013, minority youth were significantly more likely to be detained than Caucasian youth. In 2012, this difference disappeared for Hispanic youth, but reemerged in 2013. On average, 45 African American youth were detained for every 100 African American youth referred, 37 Hispanic youth were detained for every 100 Hispanic youth referred. In contrast, 31 Caucasian youth were detained for every 100 Caucasian youth referred to TCJS. In every year except 2009, there was not a significant difference in detention rates for Asians and Caucasians.

Petitioned/Charge Filing

OJJDP defines petitioned cases as “those that appear on a court calendar in response to the filing of a petition, complaint, or other legal instrument requesting the court to adjudicate a youth as a delinquent or status offender, or to waive jurisdiction and transfer the youth to criminal court.”⁵² The formal filing of charges is the responsibility of the District Attorney’s office. The petitioned rate is calculated per 100 referrals to TCJS.

⁵² Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009). *Disproportionate minority contact technical assistance manual*. Fourth Edition. OJJDP: Washington DC.

Figure 6. Petitioned Rate by Race: 2009-2013



When compared to Caucasian youth, African American and Hispanic youth were consistently petitioned at significantly greater rates. The only year where this trend did not emerge was 2010. In this year there was not a significant difference between the rate at which Hispanic and Caucasian youth were petitioned. African American youth were petitioned at the highest rate with an average of 39 petitions for every 100 African American youth referred to TCJS, followed by Hispanics (36 petitions for every 100 referrals) and Caucasians (30 petitions for every 100 referrals). In 2012 only, there was a significant difference in the petitioned rates for Asians and Caucasians, with Asian youth being petitioned at a higher rate.

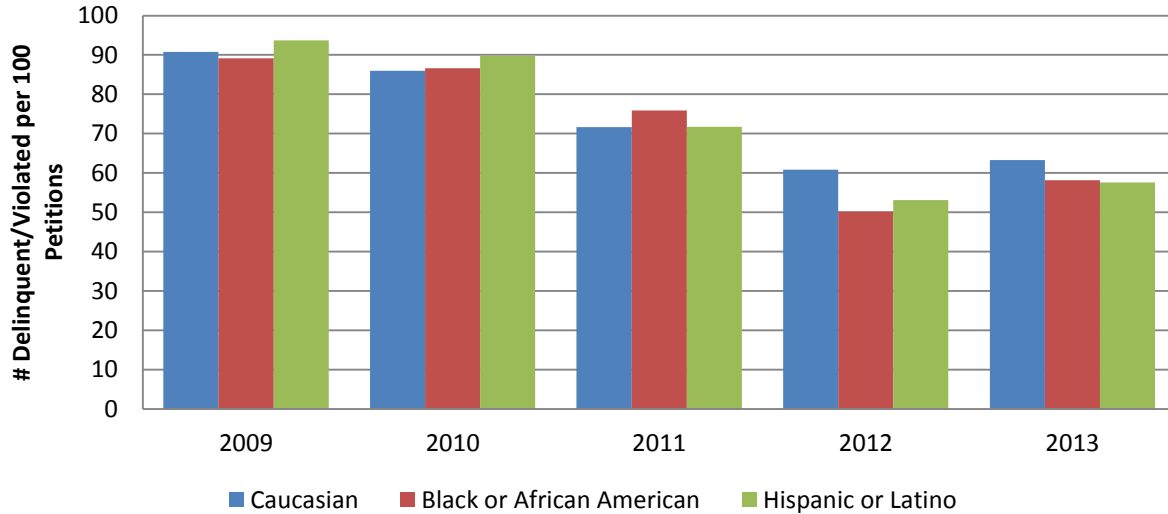
Delinquent/Violated Findings⁵³

Youth are found delinquent as a result of an adjudication hearing. A finding of delinquency is equivalent to being convicted of a criminal offense in the adult criminal justice system. Youth who are charged with a violation of probation are found to have violated the terms and conditions of their probation as a result of a modification hearing. Youth who are adjudicated delinquent can receive a term of court-ordered probation. Juveniles found to have violated the terms and conditions of their probation can receive an extension on their current term of probation. Both delinquent findings and violations can result in the youth being placed in a secure correctional facility or committed to TJJD.⁵⁴ The delinquent/violated findings rate is calculated per 100 youth petitioned.

⁵³ Beginning at the delinquent/violated findings stage there was an insufficient number of Asian youth for analysis.

⁵⁴ After June 8, 2007 only youth who commit a felony offense or violate the terms of a felony court-ordered probation are committable to TJJD.

Figure 7. Delinquent/Violated Rate by Race: 2009-2013

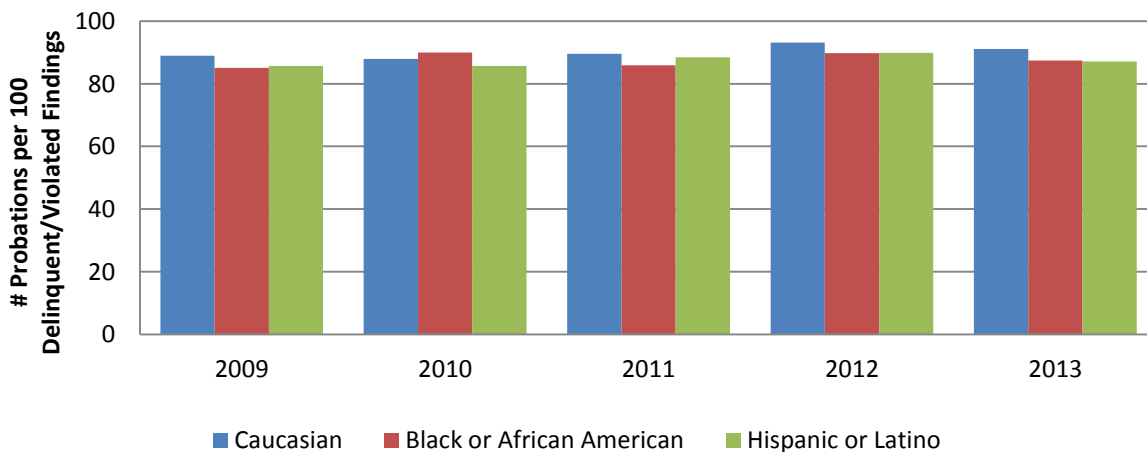


Between 2009 and 2011, there was not a significant difference in the delinquent/violated rates for minority and Caucasian youth. In 2012, however, both Hispanic and African American youth were significantly less likely to be found delinquent or in violation when compared to Caucasian youth. This difference disappeared again in 2013.

Probation

The majority of youth adjudicated delinquent by the 323rd District Court are placed on formal, court-ordered probation. Probation terms typically consist of 12 months of community supervision; however, terms are at times shorter or longer. Furthermore, youth who are found to have violated the terms and conditions of their probation can receive an extension or modification to their existing probation. The probation rate is calculated per 100 delinquent/violated findings.

Figure 8. Probation/Modification Rate by Race: 2009-2013

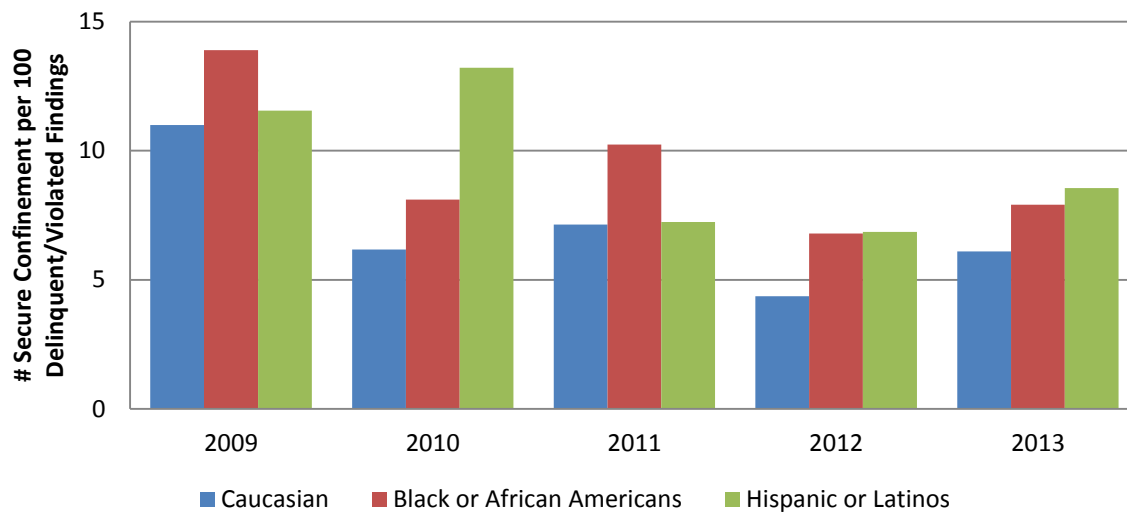


For all years under investigation the probation rates for Hispanic, African American, and Caucasian youth were nearly identical. On average, Caucasian youth have the highest probation rate at 91 of every 100 Caucasian youth who were found delinquent or to have violated the terms of their probation, followed by 88 out of every 100 African American youth, and 87 out of every 100 Hispanic youth. Significantly fewer probation placements indicate a disadvantage for minority youth because youth who are not placed on probation at the dispositional phase in the system typically receive more restrictive dispositions, such as commitment to a secure correctional facility.

Confinement in Secure Correctional Facilities

Secure correctional facilities are used to confine youth who have been adjudicated delinquent of a criminal offense and remanded to treatment in a secure placement facility or committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The confinement in secure correctional facilities rate is calculated per 100 delinquent/violated findings.

Figure 9. Secure Confinement Rate by Race: 2009-2013

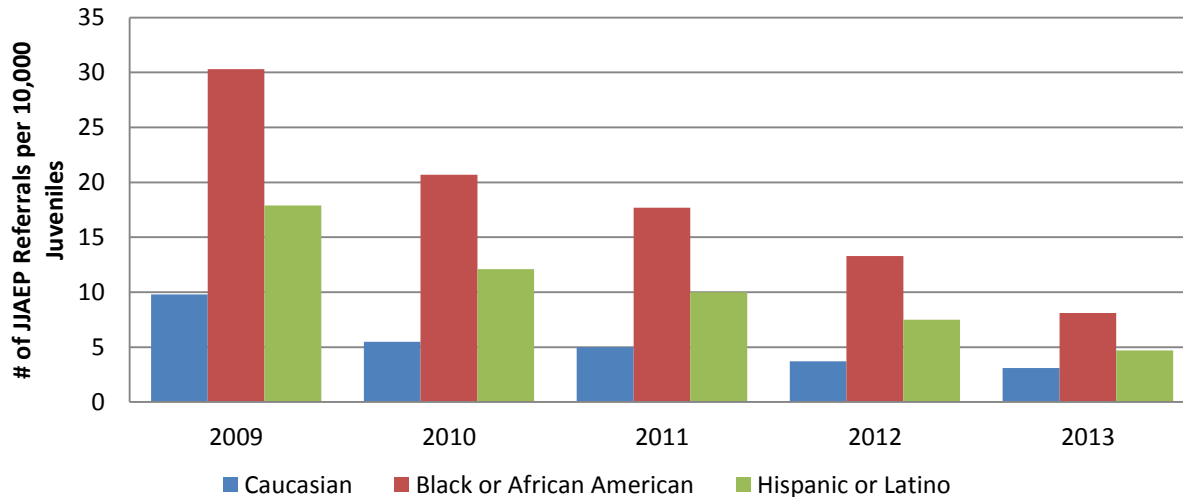


For all years under investigation there was not a significant difference in the secure confinement rate of African Americans and Caucasians. This trend largely prevailed for Hispanic and Caucasian youth as well. There was, however, a significant difference in the secure confinement rate of Hispanics and Caucasians in 2010 (RRI=2.14). On average, 9 African American youth were placed in secure confinement for every 100 African American youth found delinquent/violated, followed by 9 Hispanic youth and 7 Caucasian youth

Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)

The Texas Legislature mandates that local juvenile boards in counties with a population over 125,000 operate a JJAEP to serve the educational needs of juvenile offenders and at-risk youth who are expelled from the regular classroom or school district alternative education program. Referrals to JJAEP are received from local school districts. The JJAEP referral rate is calculated per 10,000 juveniles in the Tarrant County juvenile population.

Figure 10. JJAEP Referral Rate by Race: 2009-2013



As indicated in Figure 10, the JJAEP referral rate for minority races has steadily decreased since 2009. This decrease is most pronounced for African American youth whose JJAEP referral rate has decreased by 73.3% between 2009 and 2013. Despite decreasing referral rates, the JJAEP referral rate for African American youth was significantly greater than Caucasian youth. On average, 18 African American youth were referred to JJAEP out of every 10,000 African American youth in the Tarrant County juvenile population, whereas 5 Caucasian youth were referred to JJAEP for every 10,000 Caucasian youth in the juvenile population. Similarly, but to a lesser extent, the JJAEP referral rate for Hispanic youth was consistently greater than the JJAEP referral rate for Caucasian youth in all years except the most recent. On average, 10 Hispanic youth were referred to JJAEP out of every 10,000 youth in the Tarrant County juvenile population. In 2013, this significant difference in the JJAEP referral rates of Caucasian and Hispanic youth disappeared.

DISCUSSION OF DATA PRESENTED ABOVE

The analysis presented above revealed several important findings:

1. African American youth are disproportionately referred to TCJS when compared to Caucasian youth. In the most recent two years, Hispanic youth were overrepresented at the referral level, which should be monitored.
2. Hispanic and African American youth are consistently overrepresented in the number of in-custody referrals (arrests) to TCJS.
3. Historically, African American youth were consistently underrepresented in diversionary programs offered at TCJS. This difference disappeared in the most recent year and should be monitored for the reemergence of minority underrepresentation.
4. Hispanic and African American youth are detained at significantly higher rates than Caucasian youth.
5. African American and Hispanic youth are petitioned at higher rates than Caucasian youth.
6. Youth from all races are being found delinquent or in violation at similar rates.
7. There does not appear to be disproportionate minority contact in regard to the number of youth receiving a modification to an existing term or new term of court-ordered probation.
8. Youth from all races are being remanded to secure confinement facilities at similar rates.
9. There is a consistent trend of minority overrepresentation in JJAEP referrals. In the most recent year, this trend disappeared for Hispanic youth.

The identification phase of the DMC research model identifies areas for assessment and intervention. OJJDP suggests that the “objective is to identify a small set (maximum 3-5) of contact point/racial group combinations that will be the focus of later assessment, intervention and evaluation work.”⁵⁵ Ideally, the contact point/racial group combinations identified for further action should be statistically significant, have the greatest magnitude of disproportionate contact, involve a greater volume of activity, and feasible areas to implement DMC reduction strategies in the local context. Taking these guidelines into account suggests that the Tarrant County contact points identified for possible further analysis are as follows:

1. Referrals for African American youth
2. Arrest for Hispanic and African American youth
3. Secure detention for African American and Hispanic youth
4. Diversion programs for African American youth
5. JJAEP Referrals for African American
6. Cases petitioned for African American and Hispanic youth

It is essential to note this data is not intended to suggest or provide evidence of racial bias or explain, to any degree, the various factors that contribute to disproportionate contact. A number of complex decisions and events impact DMC. Research has shown decisions made at arrest, referral, diversion, detention, petition, delinquent findings, probation, secure corrections, and transfer to adult court impact DMC. Other contributing factors to DMC may be differential offending behaviors/patterns, mobility effects, indirect effects, differential opportunities for prevention and treatment, differential processing, and/or legislation/policies.⁵⁶ The assessment phase of the DMC reduction cycle provides an in-depth examination of the various factors that contribute to DMC.

DMC reduction is a complex issue that requires expertise and resources of multiple agencies for maximum success. Most importantly, it requires commitment to reduce disproportionate minority contact and administer justice equitably. This analysis has identified several contact points in the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice System where DMC exists. These findings provide a foundation for assessment and, ultimately, the development of interventions to alleviate DMC in Tarrant County. Through this process, Tarrant County will contribute to the statewide and national movements toward reducing disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system.

HOW THE COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES OF DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

Several county-wide activities are underway to address disproportionate minority contact.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities (CEDD) are leading efforts to address DMC in Tarrant County. The CEDD mission statement is: To partner with health and human services agencies and external stakeholders, as well as other systems and communities to identify and eliminate disproportionality and disparities affecting children, families, and vulnerable citizens.

The CEDD has convened a Tarrant County Advisory Committee that meets monthly to develop strategies to eliminate disproportionality and disparities, and increase equity within the juvenile services, education, child welfare, and child protective systems of Tarrant County. The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from law enforcement, schools, juvenile services, higher education, county administration, health care institutions, faith based organizations and private citizens. The Advisory Committee convenes regular Town Hall meetings to engage the community and solicit citizen input. The Committee organizes Leadership Round Table meetings to engage system leaders and address community concerns. The committee also offers monthly educational

⁵⁵ *Ibid.* 8

⁵⁶ *Ibid.* 8

opportunities on subjects related to DMC, cultural and linguistic competency, and equity in systems of care. The monthly educational courses are free to members of the community and professional staff.

The Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County (MHC) has taken the initiative to address the need to enhance cultural and linguistic competency within its partner agencies. The MHC, through its Cultural Connection program offers quarterly trainings utilizing the California Brief Multicultural Competence Scale (CBMCS) curricula to enhance the cultural and linguistic competency of member agencies. The Cultural Connection also convenes Learning Communities to address issues which contributes to disparities in systems of care.

Tarrant County Juvenile Services is addressing DMC through its adoption of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency DMC Reduction Model. The data presented in this report is based on the Relative Rate Index measurement that is recommended by OJJDP model. TCJS is an active participant in the CEDD Advisory Committee, has designated an employee to serve on the committee, and participated in the 2014 CEDD Equity Survey. TCJS has a staff member trained to deliver the California Brief Multicultural Competence Scale (CBMCS) curricula, and serves on the MHC Cultural Connection training team.

Juvenile Service has an internal committee referred to as "TEAM" (Training Employees to Achieve Multicultural Competence) whose goal is to create opportunities for staff to enhance cultural competence and linguistic competence. The efforts of this committee will have an impact on addressing issues related to DMC, and equity in the juvenile justice system.

Crime Victims Council (CVC), a 501(c)3 charitable non-profit organization, supports local efforts to address DMC in the Juvenile Justice system by implementing restorative justice approaches based on best practices to assist juveniles resolve incidents so they have the opportunity to participate in diversion programs which are proven to reduce recidivism. This is a victim-centered response to crime that gives the individuals who are directly affected by the act an opportunity to be directly involved in responding to the harm caused by the act, and thereby restoring the health and well-being to the community.

CURRENT NEEDS WITHIN TARRANT COUNTY TO RESPOND TO DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

The reduction in DMC requires multiple strategies that include programmatic and system changes.

Agency Leaders can begin these changes by supporting efforts to implement the OJJDP DMC Reduction Model locally, supporting the CEDD Advisory Committee, allow staff to participate in training on cultural and linguistic competency, participate in cross systems planning to reduce DMC, allocate funding for training and consultation, and address policy issues that contribute to DMC.

Professionals can support DMC reduction by attending training on cultural and linguistic competency; implementing culturally and linguistically competent practices, recommending policy changes to address DMC, and participating on internal departmental teams to reduce DMC.

Community members can effect DMC reduction by organizing community groups to address DMC, participate in training to understand DMC reduction methods, recruit other community members to participate in DMC reduction efforts, encourage elected officials to participate in DMC reduction efforts, and encourage elected officials to enact policies that support DMC reduction initiatives.

THE RELATIONSHIP/SIGNIFICANCE OF EDUCATION TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Research shows that young people who do not complete high school are more likely to become unemployed, homeless, pregnant, or become involved with the juvenile justice or criminal justice system. The lack of a diploma often closes doors to gainful employment and keeps young people in environments that do not support longer term academic and vocational achievement. Consequently, their contributions to the nation's economic and social growth are far more limited than they could be. Students dropping out of high school jeopardize the future economic security in Tarrant County, and place a strain on social service and law enforcement agencies with many cycling in and out of prison.

As the economy continues to become more global, the attainment of higher and specialized education will be crucial to an individual's ability to be self-supporting and to thrive. Without a high school diploma or vocational training, more young people will be playing catch-up for the rest of their lives, experiencing limited opportunities and low earnings without the skills to succeed in the new economy. In addition, the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation predicts that each class of dropouts costs Texans \$377 million every year in Medicaid, prison expenses and lost tax revenues.

The National Dropout Prevention Center with Clemson University found that...

“disengaging from school is a result of the dynamic relationship among individual characteristics (race, gender, income); known risk factors (failing courses, low attendance, behavior problems, or being overage for a particular grade); and context (school climate, interest of teachers, relationships with adult community, and poverty level of the community surrounding the school). In addition, research shows that disconnection from school is a long term process, not a sudden event” (Source: Dropout Risk Factors and Exemplary Programs. National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson University).

It often begins months or years before they stop attending school altogether. According to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, warning signs for these students is persistent absenteeism, low grades, behavioral problems, lack of school involvement, pregnancy, grade retention, frequent transfers, and difficulty transitioning to 9th grade.

In a 2014, the America's Promise Alliance at Tufts University released results of an extensive research project from youth who did not complete high school. Their interviews and surveys found that:

- Disengagement from and re-engagement with school both result from clusters of factors. There is no single reason or factor that drives students to leave school, nor is there a uniform profile of students who fail to graduate on time.
- Young people who leave high school are likely to be growing up in a home, school or community environment characterized as “toxic”.
- Connectedness to others is both a risk *and* protective factor for disengaging from school. Young people seek and prioritize connections with adults, peers, and /or younger family members. The value placed on these relationships can lead young people toward or away from school, depending on other circumstances.
- Persistent resilience was evident among non-graduates. Their data suggests that this resilience is a necessary quality for coping from day to day and for re-engagement, but insufficient by itself for longer-term positive development.

SUPPORTING DATA CONCERNING EDUCATION AND THE IMPACT ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The TEA *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools Report* provides annual dropout rates for students attending Texas public schools, the longitudinal graduation and dropout rates for students who were expected to graduate in 2013-14, and extended longitudinal rates for students expected to graduate in previous years. The *annual dropout rate* measures the percentage of students who drop out of school during one school year. The *longitudinal rates* reflect the percentages of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who, by the fall following their anticipated graduation date, graduate, remain enrolled, receive General Educational Development (GED) certificates, or drop out. The *extended longitudinal rates* reflect the percentages of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who, by the fall a year or more after their anticipated graduation date, graduate, remain enrolled, receive GED certificates, or drop out. Texas uses the National Center for Education Statistics dropout definition: student who is enrolled in public school in Grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not graduate, receive a GED, continue school outside the public school system, begin college, or die. (*Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2012-13, TEA*)

The table below shows the longitudinal rates for 9th to 12th graders, (classes of 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13), the number of students who enrolled, and the number who dropped out. High school students who fail to graduate after four years are at higher risk for poverty, unemployment, and future (or continued) engagement with the criminal justice system.

Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9 – 12 Tarrant County									
School District	2010-11			2011-12			2012-13		
	Students	Drop out	Rate (%)	Students	Drop Out	Rate (%)	Students	Drop out	Rate (%)
Arlington	18,924	633	3.3	18,740	574	3.1	19,220	534	2.8
Azle	<2,000	--	0.2	<2,000	--	0.2	<2,000	--	0.5
Birdville	<7,200	--	3.1	<7,200	180	2.5	<7,300	--	2.0
Carroll	2,534	0	0	2,624	0	0	<2,600	--	0.1
Castleberry	<1,000	--	1.0	<1,000	--	1.3	<1,000	--	1.7
Crowley	4,570	63	1.4	<4,700	--	0.9	<4,700	--	0.9
Eagle Mt.-Saginaw	4,720	37	0.8	<4,900	--	0.6	<5,200	--	1.0
Everman	<1,400	--	1.0	<1,400	--	0.8	1,487	26	1.7
Fort Worth	21,031	889	4.2	21,142	937	4.4	20,873	804	3.9
Grapevine/Colleyville	4,622	38	0.8	4,606	24	0.5	<4,600	--	0.3
HEB	<6,500	--	0.4	<6,600	--	0.4	<6,600	--	0.6
Keller	<9,800	--	0.7	<10,100	117	1.2	<10,300	--	0.9
Kennedale	<1,100	--	1.7	<1,100	9	0.9	<1,100	--	0.8
Lake Worth	<800	--	2.9	827	22	2.7	<900	--	1.6
Mansfield	<10,000	--	1.5	<10,300	146	1.4	<10,500	--	1.3
White Settlement	<1,900	--	2.4	<1,900	47	2.5	<1,900	--	1.3

Source: Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2012-13, TEA)

Note. A dash (-) indicates data are not reported to protect student anonymity. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group while maintaining student anonymity.

The table below shows 2012-13 the number of students that graduated within the traditional four-year period, continued their education, or received a GED, and the number who dropped out, from the six largest Tarrant County school districts.

Grade 9 Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, Class of 2013											
		Graduated		Continued Education		Received GED		Dropped out		TOTAL Graduated, Continued, GED	
District	Class	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
FortWorth	4,462	3,526	79.0	207	4.6	38	0.9	691	15.5	3,771	84.5
Arlington	4,161	3,508	84.3	252	6.1	35	0.8	366	8.8	3,795	91.2
Birdville	1,574	1,383	87.9	66	4.2	7	0.4	118	7.5	1,456	92.5
Everman	286	261	91.3	12	4.2	0	0.0	13	4.5	273	95.5
Keller	2,284	2,156	94.4	52	2.3	14	0.6	62	2.7	2,222	97.3
Mansfield	2,276	2,078	91.3	82	3.6	16	0.7	100	4.4	2,176	95.6

Source: TEA <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/acctres/completion/2013/district.html>

The table below illustrates the percentage of **economically disadvantaged 7th to 12th graders** in Texas and in Tarrant County's five largest school districts for 2002-03, 2007-08 and 2012-13. Economically disadvantaged students now make up more than half (56%) of Texas' public school enrollment of 7th through 12th graders. In Fort Worth ISD, the largest school district in Tarrant County, enrollment of 7th through 12th graders decreased from 35,758 in 2002-03 to 33,259 in 2012-13; however, in that same time period, economically disadvantaged 7th to 12th grade students increased from 46% to 61%. Arlington, Birdville, Keller and Mansfield school districts have experienced a substantial increase in the rate of economically disadvantaged students over the past 10 years. The failure to prepare those students for academic success often leaves them falling behind which contributes to many eventually dropping out of school.

Tarrant County 5 Largest School Districts Economically Disadvantaged 7th to 12th Graders									
	2002-03			2007-08			2012-13		
School District	Total Students	Econ. Disadv	Rate (%)	Total Students	Econ. Disadv	Rate (%)	Total Students	Econ. Disadv	Rate (%)
Arlington	28,113	8,744	31%	28,906	11,899	41%	29,336	17,362	59%
Birdville	10,765	2,831	26%	10,388	3,704	36%	10,999	5,906	54%

Fort Worth	35,758	16,526	46%	32,559	17,907	55%	33,259	20,281	61%
Keller	9,097	720	8%	13,352	1,709	13%	15,768	3,674	23%
Mansfield	8,917	1,580	18%	14,039	3,636	26%	15,839	6,083	38%
TEXAS	1,891,361	771,666	41%	2,042,203	938,680	46%	2,189,442	1,217,153	56%

Source: TEA <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/acctres/completion/2013/district.html>

High school graduation rates in Texas have gradually improved over the course of the past decade, which mirrors national trends. The table below shows these trends for Fort Worth ISD, the largest school district in Tarrant County. The proportion of students graduating from public high schools has risen across all racial and ethnic groups. However, despite some narrowing of the gap, disparities in graduation between whites and disadvantaged minorities remain problematic.

Fort Worth ISD 9-12 Graders Annual Dropout Rates by Race								
Year	African American		Hispanic		Asian		White	
	Total Number	Dropout/Rate (%)	Total Number	Dropout/Rate (%)	Total Number	Dropout/Rate (%)	Total Number	Dropout/Rate (%)
2012-13	4,802	260 (5.4%)	12,339	438 (3.5%)	<300	--(4.1%)	<1,600	-- (0.8%)
2011-12	5,041	338 (6.7%)	12,142	459 (3.8%)	<600	-- (4.0%)	3,063	95 (3.1%)
2010-11	5,059	304 (6.0%)	11,826	439 (3.7%)	<500	--(2.3%)	<3,400	--(3.4)
2009-10	5,204	292 (5.6%)	11,309	364 (3.2%)	<500	--(4.1%)	3,386	103 (3.0%)
2008-09	5,676	411 (7.2%)	11,289	609 (5.4%)	<500	-- (3.3%)	<3,700	--(2.2%)

Source: TEA <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/acctres/completion/2013/district.html>

DISCUSSION OF DATA PRESENTED ABOVE

Numerous studies show that failure to obtain a high school diploma is an important indicator of future engagement with the criminal justice system.

- Nationally, about 75% of state prison inmates did not complete high school.
- A dropout is 8 times more likely to be incarcerated than a person with a high school diploma.
- In 2012, for all Tarrant County ISDs, the longitudinal dropout rate was 8.4% and the attrition rate was 28%. Attrition rates are calculated by subtracting 9th grade enrollment from 12th grade enrollment for a specific class. (Source: Texas Education Agency <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/cgi/sas/broker>)

Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education analyzes the impact of high school dropout rates on local economies in the nation's fifty largest cities, including a report specific to the Fort Worth/ Arlington/Dallas region. Using this sophisticated socioeconomic impact tool, it is estimated that increasing high school graduation by just forty individuals would add over half a million dollars to the Fort Worth/Arlington economy each year. This statistic has profound and disturbing implications not only for these students whose future prospects are severely reduced, but for Tarrant County as a whole. Over the course of their careers, these forty "new" graduates would

increase the local economy by contributing over \$20 million in the form of personal earnings, local tax revenues, home and auto purchases, etc. (Source: Alliance for Excellent Education. 2008 study funded by State Farm) Because a high correlation has been shown to exist between high school dropout rates and juvenile crime, there will also be savings in law enforcement, incarceration, and welfare costs that are closely associated with failure to complete high school. Various studies place the cost at between \$200,000.00 and \$300,000.00 per student dropout.(Source: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/178942.pdf>)

Texas remains a majority minority state: non-white students make up more than half of student enrollment in the state's public school system. This trend has continued as the state becomes even more diverse. Economic Policy Institute's research shows that race and socioeconomic status are factors that can contribute to dropping out of school. According to demographer Steve Murdock, Director of the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University and former director of the U.S Census Bureau in the administration of President George W. Bush, "Texas' young population is overwhelmingly minority and under-educated. All of K-12 enrollment growth over the past decade comes from low-income children, those whose family income qualifies them for free and reduced-cost school lunches." Immigrant and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations are also at a higher risk of dropping out. Furthermore, dropout rates are higher in metropolitan counties like Tarrant County than in the rest of the state.

Juvenile offenders are at a particularly high risk for failing to reach educational and vocational goals. Not only are they more likely to be minority males living in low-income urban areas, but they also enter the juvenile justice system with greater histories of cumulative and significant social and academic failure. (Source: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/178942.pdf>) Their average reading and math achievement is at least five years behind their non-offending peers. The correlation between learning disabilities, school failure, and entry into the juvenile justice system is well documented.

HOW THE COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES OF EDUCATION

The Tarrant County community continues to be responsive to addressing the needs of the community's youth through a combination of community and school based prevention and intervention services. Mirroring national trends, high school graduation rates in Texas and Tarrant County have improved over the past decade.

Local districts and municipalities have worked in concert, bringing district and community professionals together for discussions relating to this topic and to brainstorm on ideas to address the concern. A host of community-based organizations provide services to students at-risk of dropping out, including counseling, mentoring, and tutoring. Area youth serving social service agencies have services that include school-based dropout prevention and academic intervention programs which help to improve performance in the areas of academic achievement, attendance, and behavior. Community based programs collaborate with a variety of organizations including schools, the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice, the police, counseling agencies. Through an array of approaches, these services help young people avoid excessive absenteeism and disruptive behaviors, to achieve academic success, and remain in or to return to school.

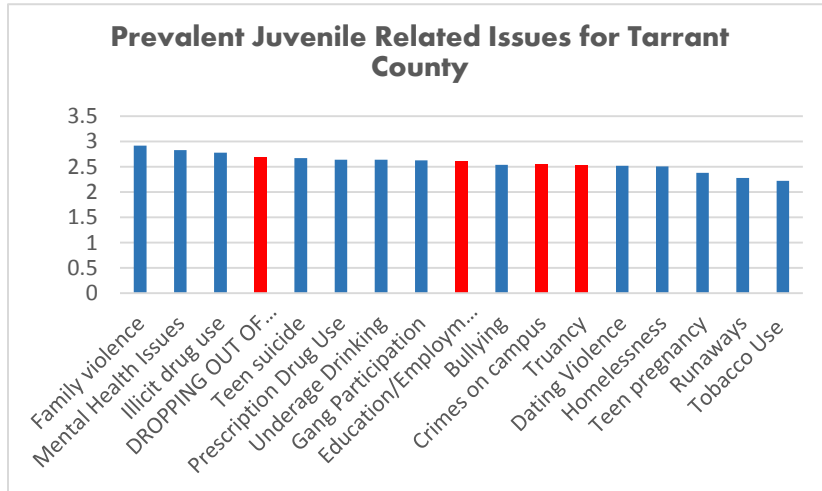
The Mental Health Connection, a collaboration of public and private agencies, and individuals who work together to improve the mental health service delivery system in Tarrant County, facilitates successful partnerships between the school, juvenile services, and other social service agencies to address challenges of our community. Members develop plans for long-term changes in the system while addressing key issues and providing immediate solutions when possible. Truancy, drop-out rates, bullying, and youth mental health and substance abuse issues are all part of the Mental Health Connection's platform.

Local school districts provide resources such as AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at Arlington and Mansfield ISD, credit recovery programs in Crowley ISD and a teen leadership program in Castleberry ISD. The largest district of the county, Fort Worth ISD, has developed an office of Student Engagement and School Completion, employs 13 Stay in School Coordinators, 44 Interventionist Specialists to address the social, emotional and behavioral needs of students, and also provides four school-based community health/mental health centers to address the stressors that impede student's ability to achieve academic success.

CURRENT NEEDS WITHIN TARRANT COUNTY IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO EDUCATION

Although youth in Tarrant County have numerous resources available to help them, it should be noted that these programs have been hard-pressed to keep up with the phenomenal population growth of the area. Fueled by a surging Hispanic population, Fort Worth grew 38.6 percent to 741,206 residents in the last decade, far outpacing other major Texas cities, according to 2011 census figures. Tarrant County grew by 25% to 1,809,034 residents, which outpaces the population growth of the state, which was 21%. The population in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington region grew more than any other metropolitan area in the country between July 2011 and 2012, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And perhaps most significant, more than 28% of the population is under age 18.

North Central Texas Council of Government's (NCTCOG) 2014 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan identified and assessed the justice-related priorities of the 16 county region it represents. Information was collected by reviewing existing plans and collecting information an online region wide survey was distributed to over 600 stakeholders which included elected officials, community-based organizations, judicial and law enforcement organizations, ISD/s social service providers, colleges and universities, and interested citizens. The survey collected information around the topics of criminal justice/law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health, victims of crimes and substance abuse. When asked to rank the "Prevalent Juvenile Related Issues for Tarrant County", "dropping out of school", "education", "crimes on campus", "truancy" were among the most identified issues.



During difficult economic times, it is critical now more than ever that we identify students at risk of struggling with or discontinuing their education. The consequences are too great to ignore. To effectively impact dropout rates research suggest that schools and districts need to combine systemic and comprehensive approaches to school reform with the best components of individually focused programs for the most at-risk students. Comprehensive reforms focused on school practices will need to address the problems of absenteeism, behavioral problems, and course failure for the majority of students, while providing additional individually focused efforts for students with more intensive needs. (Source: Mac Iver, M. A. & Mac Iver, D. J. (2009), Beyond the Indicators, Arlington, VA: The Mid-Atlantic Equity Center, George Washington University Center for Equity and Excellence in Education)

Suggested priorities would include:

- Increased opportunities for supportive services such as mentoring, attendance monitoring, tutoring, TAKS instruction, transportation assistance, etc.
- Increased specialized instruction and access for struggling students, such as extra time with teachers
- Increased opportunities for strong child-adult relationships
- Increased parental involvement and investment in education and decision-making regarding student needs

- Increased provision of prevention services to assist in creating supportive, safe learning environments for children (ex. conflict resolution, peer mediation, peer tutoring, enrichment opportunities, etc.)
- Increased intervention services to address issues and concerns that impede a child’s ability to be academically successful (ex. school peace officers, reintegration programs, strength-based planning, counseling, gang prevention, etc.)

FAMILY INSTABILITY

THE RELATIONSHIP/SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY INSTABILITY TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

One key to an emotionally healthy life is having the support of a strong, supportive family. This family may be as small as two people or as large as a kinship network of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The family has undergone many changes over recent decades, largely due to major social and cultural changes. Families today find it more difficult to spend time together, to feel committed to each other, to communicate with each other, to share spiritual values and to cope with crises together. Many experts believe that today’s youth face more serious and critical risks than any previous generation. Research shows that at-risk youth struggle with complex issues and scenarios that are brought on by peers, mentors, family members, and difficult social environments. The deteriorating family structure exacerbates the risk factors facing children and youth.

Much attention and research has been given to the issues associated with “at-risk youth” including youth crime, violence, sexual behavior, substance abuse, poor academic performance, etc. The 2006 National Report: Juvenile Offenders & Victims reveals that a significant contributing factor to a juvenile’s law-violating behavior is family structure. Consequently, children who have trouble coping with the stresses of life are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, engage in criminal activity, are sexually promiscuous, and attempt suicide. End results include adolescents running away from home, truancy and dropping out of school, homelessness, or involvement in the juvenile justice system.

A strong and thriving family life, however, can be the key in helping youth overcome social pressures and threats. The feeling of belonging and the sense of sustenance associated with a stable family system is directly related to one’s ability to deal with the stresses of everyday living. The increased complexity of today’s at-risk youth requires a collaborative and coordinated effort between parents, schools, community resources, social services, and federal agencies to work together to find solutions.

SUPPORTING DATA CONCERNING FAMILY INSTABILITY AND THE IMPACT ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Texas Family Code defines Family Violence as “an act by a member of a family or household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault or a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm.”

Texas Family Violence						
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Incidents	Texas	193,505	196,713	193,505	177,983	198,366
	Tarrant	13,244	12,938	12,772	12,155	13,177
Number of Victims	Texas	208,073	212,106	211,769	192,856	198,504
	Tarrant	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: TDPS Crimes in Texas
http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/pages/crimestatistics.htm

Approximately 18% of the victims were under age 19 and approximately 11% of offenders were under the age of 19.

Protective Orders Served			
	2011	2012	2013
Total Filings	292	347	344

Source: Tarrant County District Attorney's Protective Order Unit

Child Abuse

Confirmed Child Abuse Cases								
		Alleged Victims of child abuse/neglect	Alleged Victims in unconfirmed investigations	Alleged Victims in ruled out investigations	Alleged Victims Provided services	Alleged Victims not provided services	Children removed from the home	Abuse related fatalities
2008	Texas	280,557	201,461	162,306	54,847	225,496	11,444	213
	Tarrant	20,348	13,942	9,609	3,951	16,397	555	16
2009	Texas	288,080	207,055	168,713	57,032	226,620	9,037	280
	Tarrant	21,238	14,529	9,723	4,228	17,010	450	13
2010	Texas	288,080	213,101	175,273	57,936	230,144	12,055	227
	Tarrant	22,161	15,233	10,812	4,786	17,475	740	18
2011	Texas	297,971	223,550	186,215	50,757	247,214	12,514	231
	Tarrant	23,083	16,427	11,752	3,862	19,221	636	8
2012	Texas	275,961	203,383	170,710	49,014	226,947	12,900	212
	Tarrant	21,673	15,368	11,626	3,154	18,519	662	19
2013	Texas	258,996	185,662	153,564	52,524	206,472	13,190	156
	Tarrant	19,664	13,265	9,866	3,386	16,278	16,278	14

Source: Texas DFPS Databook http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/

CPS reports of Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations							
		Child Population	Confirmed victims of Child abuse/Neglect	Confirmed Victims per 1000 children	Total Completed CPS investigations	Confirmed CPS investigations	Percent of investigations confirmed
2008	Texas	6,442,738	70,589	11.0	165,010	41,591	25.2%
	Tarrant	467,139	5,804	12.4	11,896	3,377	28.4%
2009	Texas	6,510,210	68,326	10.5	165,444	40,126	24.3%
	Tarrant	474,768	6,030	12.7	12,476	3,545	28.4%
2010	Texas	6,548,709	66,897	10.2	169,583	39,337	23.2%
	Tarrant	482,819	6,222	12.9	13,046	3,608	27.7%

2011	Texas	6,663,942	65,948	9.9	175,421	39,263	22.4%
	Tarrant	491,551	5,888	12.0	13,537	3,537	26.0%
2012	Texas	7,054,634	64,366	9.1	166,211	38,725	23.3%
	Tarrant	517,952	5,598	10.8	13,098	3,426	26.2%
2013	Texas	7,159,172	66,398	9.3	160,240	40,249	25.1%
	Tarrant	523,735	5,689	10.9	12,284	3540	28.8%

Source: Texas DFPS Data Book http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/

Foster care

Children in Foster Care						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas	31,058	27,422	29,072	31,092	31,302	29,523
Region 3*	5,647	5,270	5,781	6,062	6,295	6,609
Tarrant County	1,677	1,565	1,697	1,657	1,742	1,756

Source: Texas DFPS Data Book http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/

* Region 3 includes Tarrant, Dallas, Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Wise, Denton, Collin, Hunt, Pala Pinto, Parker, Haufman, Ellis, Johnson, Hood, Erath, Navarro,

DFPS Placement Statistics as of August 2013**							
	DFPS Foster Homes	Contracted Foster Homes	Basic Child Care	Residential Treatment	Emergency Shelter	Other Foster Care	**Total Foster Care
Texas	1,631	11,409	702	1,476	538	751	27,288
Region 3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tarrant County	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available

Source: Texas DFPS Data Book http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/

** This does not include total substitute care children (those in kinship and family placement)

Single Parent Families

Cases of Divorce						
	2010		2011		2012	
Tarrant County	7,944		7,654		7,462	
Texas	82,098		79,024		80,030	

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services – Vital Statistic Annual Reports
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/CHS/VSTAT/annrpts.shtm>)

Criminal behavior and single parent families (2013)		
	Living with BOTH Biological Parents	Living in Other Family Structures
Gang Activity	5%	12%
Marijuana Use	30%	40%
Hard Drug Use	9%	13%
Selling Drugs	13%	19%
Running Away from Home	13%	25%
Vandalism	34%	41%
Assault w/intent to injure	20%	35%
Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department (http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/statistics/default.aspx)		

Youth committed to Texas Juvenile Justice Department in 2013	
54%	Never-Married Parent homes
22%	Divorced-Parent homes
12%	Biological/Married/Two-Parent homes
12%	All-Other home types
Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department (http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/statistics/default.aspx)	

Single Parent Households			
	2010	2011	2012
Texas	18.8%	19.06%	19.09%
Tarrant County	18.8%	18.9%	19.2%
American Community Survey : http://locallabs.org/tarrantcounty-texas			

Rates of Unemployment				
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas	1,007,008	990,262	864,376	812,541
Tarrant County	76,029	73,413	63,486	59,502
Source: http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/PeriodSelection.asp?menuchoice=labforce				

According to these figures, unemployment in Texas decreased 19% between 2010 and 2013. In Tarrant County, these data indicate the unemployment decrease was also 22%.

DISCUSSION OF DATA PRESENTED ABOVE

A healthy home environment is the single most important factor necessary to keep children from becoming delinquent. The aforementioned data speaks to a variety of challenges impacting the creation of a healthy family environment. Children who are inadequately supervised by parents (including a failure to monitor their whereabouts, friends, or activities) and who discipline them erratically or abusively are more likely to become delinquent. While many juvenile delinquents do not become adult offenders, behavioral problems during childhood often predict subsequent delinquency and criminality. Research suggests that some of these behavior problems initiate within the family. In contrast, positive parenting practices during the early years and later in adolescence appear to act as buffers, preventing delinquent behavior and assisting adolescents in desisting from further delinquent behavior.

The data stated above highlights a number of subgroups who represent areas of serious concern and carry elevated risk factors for delinquent behavior. These include foster care youth (particularly those aging out of foster care); youth living in poverty or economically disadvantaged; single parent households; children of incarcerated parents; children of substance abusers; victims of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse. Children from unstable, conflicted and/or inattentive families are at greater risk of delinquent behavior. The presence of more than one of these negative family attributes compounds the likelihood of delinquency. Not all children follow the same path to delinquency; different combinations of life experiences may produce delinquent behavior. Source: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pub/order> (NCJ 140517)

Family functioning and delinquency:

Research on causes of delinquency makes a major contribution to the understanding of the interaction of the family and delinquency. A child's predisposition toward impulsive, aggressive, and antisocial behavior, if left unaddressed, may initiate a process within the family that ultimately leads to delinquency. Parents of a difficult child may stop disciplining to gain peace within the home and may come to resent the child. As the child enters adolescence, delinquent acts may further weaken the youth's attachment to family, school, and conventional ties.

Parents play a critical role in moral development. Children who have criminal parents are at greater risk of becoming delinquent themselves. Antisocial patterns established within the family may be exacerbated and reinforced as the child enters school. Delinquency is more likely when normative development is incomplete and children are unable to distinguish right from wrong, feel little or no obligation toward standards of behavior, and have little respect for rights and welfare of others.

Marital discord is a more powerful predictor of delinquency than even divorce or single-parent family structure. The consistent correlation between marital discord and delinquency does indicate a significant risk factor. Social learning theory argues that aggressive behavior is learned; as parents display aggressive behavior, children learn to imitate it as an acceptable means of achieving goals.

Child abuse and delinquency:

Research shows a correlation between child abuse to delinquency. Childhood abuse and neglect hinder healthy emotional and social development (www.tdprs.state.tx.us). This impacts the child, the family and has devastating long term consequences on a community. Abused and neglected children are more likely to be arrested as juveniles. Infants and toddlers who grow up in violent environments are more likely to become violent children and youth.

Abuse directly affects the child, yet the link between abuse and delinquency is not as strong as the link between rejection and delinquency. While abused children tend to manifest more problematic and aggressive behavior than children who are not abused, neglected children may withdraw, become self-destructive, or focus their reaction inward. Being abused and/or neglected increases the chances of delinquency. Parental emotional and physical neglect appears to be one of the most significant predictors of delinquency. Conversely, a healthy home environment, one in which parents and children share affection, cohesion, and involvement, reduces the risk of delinquency.

Single parenting:

Approximately 60% of U.S. children living in mother-only families are impoverished, compared with only 11 percent of two-parent families. The rate of poverty is even higher in African-American single-parent families, in which two out of every three children are poor. The 2010 Census indicates that 13.2% of households in Tarrant County were headed by single women and 8.2% of those households had children under 18 years of age. This presents a 12% increase in households headed by single women with children under the age of 18. Of the households headed by single women, 30.7% had incomes below the poverty level.

A significant contributing factor to a juvenile's law-violating behavior is family structure. Research shows that juveniles who lived with both biological parents had a lower lifetime prevalence of law-violating behaviors than did juveniles who lived in other family types. (2006 National Report: Juvenile Offenders & Victims). Single parent

households are at a higher risk to be low income and thus increase the risks for children living in those homes to become involved in law-violating activities. A greater number of children living in poverty are in single parent households. Economic conditions inherent to single-parent families may place children at greater risk. Lower income neighborhoods, where single parents often reside, may contribute to delinquency.

According to the “Cases of Divorce” table in the preceding section, a large number of children in Tarrant County have been affected by divorce and placed at increased risk for law-violating behaviors. In 2012 there were 7,462 divorces in Tarrant County. Statistically, that impacts approximately 6,000 new Tarrant County youth per year

HOW THE COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES OF FAMILY INSTABILITY

Tarrant County has numerous agencies that provide a diverse array of services that help to develop strong families. Because of the magnitude, frequent transitory nature and often restricted target populations of these services, the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee decided that listing specific agencies and programs was not the most useful or precise way to reply to this question. Instead, included here are listings of coalitions, collaborations, or other local factions that are responding to issues related to family instability.

- A useful resource for attaining current available information is the *Blue Book Directory* of Community Resources published by Tarrant County United Way This book is an information guide to health and human services in the Tarrant County area. It contains information on area programs (including some outside Tarrant County) for housing, counseling, financial assistance, educational opportunities, food assistance, senior citizen resources and much more. This resource book is updated every year and includes a comprehensive alphabetical list hundreds of major nonprofit and governmental agencies available to Tarrant County residents <http://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/FindHelp/BlueBook/tabid/140/Default.aspx>.
- Another resource is *The Tarrant Cares website* is an online information service for individuals, families, caregivers and agencies. It provides families with services to help address issues a family may be facing. Tarrant Cares provides information and resources about children and families, including: health, child care, mental and physical illnesses, parenting, mentoring programs, life skills, counseling, case management, substance abuse and addiction recovery, community services, emergency and crisis supports, and recreation and leisure. (www.tarrantcares.org.)
- *211 Texas* is information and referral service in Tarrant County and operated by the United Way of Tarrant County in partnership with Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Callers can talk to an information and referral specialist who will assess their needs and refer to services ranging from child care to transportation. Caller can also speak with representative from Texas Access Alliance to enroll for state benefits such as food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, Chip and long-term care services.
- *Healthy Marriage-Healthy Families Coalition of Tarrant County* offers marriage strengthening and pre-marriage classes – at no charge – monthly through its member organizations. These classes are offered in English and in Spanish at various locations throughout the county.
- The *Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County* promotes father friendly activities and programs. They conduct an annual “Fathers Hall of Fame” dinner and collaborate throughout the year to promote the value of fathers in the lives of their children in Tarrant County. (www.tcfatherhood.com)
- *Family Support Council of Tarrant County* is a coalition of Tarrant County resources for advocates and families of children and adults with developmental disabilities and special needs.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has launched Foster Care Redesign in Tarrant and surrounding counties, consolidating services under a Single Source Continuum Contract (SSCC) awarded to ACH Child and Family Services. For foster care youth, the community has begun work with the Mental Health Connection to develop strategic collaborations to insure effective and innovate services to foster care youth and families.

For protective orders issues, the District Attorney's office works closely with community organizations to fight the rising problem of family violence and the community is responded in the following ways:

- Numerous social service agencies provide anger management classes, offer counseling services to victims, conduct school programs about domestic and dating violence and facilitate support groups for victims and offenders.
- That office has a number of policies directed at limiting future occurrences of family violence. Since 1991, the District Attorney's office has had a "no drop" policy to prevent family violence cases from being routinely dropped, even if the victim requests dismissal. They initiated this policy because many victims requested dismissal of their abuser's cases only to become repeat victims of family violence.
- The District Attorney's office also uses the "pretrial diversion program," which is run by the judge of the family violence court. The program is aimed at certain first-time offenders who can benefit from intensive counseling programs. Defendants who are not suited for the program often are placed on probation with strict conditions, including the successful Batterers Invention Program, anger control counseling, parenting classes, and alcohol and drug treatment, when appropriate.
- The District Attorney's office hopes to reduce the number of repeat offenders by aggressively prosecuting first-time offenders. When that plan fails, their office will prosecute repeat offenders to the full extent of the law as felons.

CURRENT NEEDS WITHIN TARRANT COUNTY IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO FAMILY INSTABILITY

In order to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, a full array of prevention and intervention services must be easily accessible to all Tarrant County youth and their families. Without proper interventions to address mental health, substance abuse, family problems, and other related issues, the potential for youth to become involved in the justice systems dramatically increases. Below are the current Tarrant County needs to address family instability:

- *Youth and family needs are growing faster than available services.* As a result of Tarrant County's rapid growth, need for juvenile prevention and intervention services are growing faster than services are being created. In addition, siloed and short cycle funding creates fragmented and inefficient program implementation.
- *More access to services restricted by limited or nonexistent public transportation options.* Growth in Tarrant County cities outside of Fort Worth has created an increased need for juvenile services in those areas. The majority of services for juveniles are located in Fort Worth; and, most residents who live outside Fort Worth do not have access to public transportation. Consequently, there is a growing need for home and community based services that provide evidenced based interventions for youth demonstrating serious behavior, mental health, or substance abuse issues, but are unable, unwilling, or who do not meet criteria for traditional treatment or therapy.
- *Intensive services for youth experiencing trauma.* Research shows that unresolved trauma –including child abuse, sexual abuse, being victim/witness of family or community violence –is a major indicator for youth to abuse alcohol/drugs, run away from home, commit crime, and go on to abuse others including their children and domestic partners. The community has taken significant steps in becoming trauma informed, including hosting conferences and initiating community wide training and education efforts.
- *More shelters for youth.* Short-term respite sites for youth who may need temporary shelter during family crisis situations are very limited while the number of homeless youth is steadily increasing in Tarrant County. Many juveniles do not have a stable home environment or have no parent in the home. An unstable living environment creates a situation where young people often are forced or choose to leave home. In addition, when a mother leaves home as a result of domestic violence, many shelters restrict teen males from accompany their parent. In addition, many short-term teen shelters restrict youth who have committed misdemeanor offenses.

- *Community education to increase awareness about available programs and services.* Community agencies, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, schools, and other youth related organizations have a lack of familiarity with many existing programs and services in the area. As a result, many services/programs have extensive waiting lists, while other services are underutilized. In addition, the lack of coordination and communication between involved programs results in fragmented and inefficient service delivery.
- *Competent cultural and linguistic diversity in service delivery and providers.* As the population of Tarrant County becomes increasingly diverse with regards to race, ethnicity, religion, language, and gender identity issues services must be responsive in meeting the specific needs of these populations. While there has been an improvement in providing services in Spanish, this continues to be a challenge for the community. Additional, services in languages other than English and Spanish are becoming increasingly needed.
- *Evidenced based intervention strategies that address specific areas of behavior* such as anger management, grief, domestic and partner violence, including early childhood development, teenage parenthood, developmental needs of young children.
- *Additional interventions to assist single parent families* - Programs should provide assistance to single mothers in breaking the cycle of poverty including continuing education opportunities to help low-income mothers train for higher paying employment.
- *Cultural and linguistic programs designed to address parenting issues* with special emphasis on single parent families, teenage mothers and fathers, high risk teens demonstrating substance abuse and mental health issues.
- *Accessible, affordable, quality culturally competent childcare.* Community based childcare for all young children through collaborations of school districts and child care; community based after-school programs.
- *Job mentoring services to promote higher success among job seekers.* Job seekers need more rigorous resources available to them. As shown in mentor programs across the country, success is much more likely with hands on and intensive intervention.
- *Programs for children experiencing disruption in family system as a result of divorce, military separation, parent incarceration.* Also needed are interventions with families at high risk for divorce.
- *Assistance to Kinship families* – The community is experiencing an increase in youth living with extended family members. This can present unique financial and parenting challenges, especially for older guardians operating on fixed incomes. Programs sensitive to these challenges and able to address these issues are needed.
- *Support for LGBTQ youth and families* – This issue has recently received increased attention. There are limited resources specifically for youth and families dealing with these issues. Services and providers capable of appropriately addressing this sensitive issue are needed.
- *School-based anti-bullying and violence prevention programs.* More responsive programs to include prevention and intervention strategies for youth being bullied and support for parents in addressing these problems. In addition, there is a need for programs to train school personnel and parents on deterring, recognizing, and intervening with bullying, to include the rising incidents of cyber bullying, and all forms of school and youth violence.
- *Specialized Training for Lead Community Responders.* Training on substance abuse, mental health and/or family instability. There is a need for more multidisciplinary training for lead community responders (DA's office, law enforcement, child protective services and social service agency personnel).
- *Services for foster care families and youth transitioning out of the foster care system.* The level of acuity has steadily increased in the past few years placing additional pressure on foster families to provide more of the individual needs of the foster children including clothing, food and transportation as well as working with CPS to provide medical, dental and therapeutic services. More comprehensive education and recruitment programs for foster parents are also needed.

THE RELATIONSHIP/SIGNIFICANCE OF GANGS TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The State of Texas defines a criminal street gang as three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

There are a variety of reasons why young people join gangs and many consequences to their actions, both immediate and long term. It is important to note that while gang-involvement may result in the commission of juvenile crime and delinquency, it may or may not be in combination with other factors. Conversely, youth involved in crime and delinquency are not always associated with gangs. However, the underlying risk factors (such as lack of family support, poor educational attainment and performance, poverty, etc) are often found in common for these at-risk youth.

Based on formal referrals to Tarrant County Juvenile Services in 2012, approximately 16% of juveniles referred self-identified themselves as gang members. For 2012, there were 4,214 referrals, 674 of which were for juveniles who reported as either being in a gang or suspected gang involvement. This trend has been steady over a multiple year period.

Please note that the following information about Tarrant County gang-involved youth also includes overview information about gang activity in general. The information may combine data for juveniles and adults as a breakdown by age was unavailable. The discussion does not distinguish between adult and youth gangs except where explicitly stated.

Gang members are normally between the ages of 10 and 21. Most have not performed well in school, and many have dropped out of school entirely. Typically, the most deeply involved gang members have histories gone without adult supervision for extended periods of time from an early age. These young people turn to gangs in search of acceptance, companionship, recognition, and a feeling of belonging.⁵⁷

There are many different types of gangs. The kinds of gangs most commonly found in Texas are:

Delinquent Youth Gangs are groups of young people (mostly juveniles) who "hang out" together. They have developed some identifying signs such as similar clothing style, colors, and/or hand signs. They have engaged in delinquent or undesirable behavior (truancy, minor vandalism, status offenses) often enough to attract negative attention from law enforcement, neighborhood residents and/or school officials; but they have not yet committed serious crimes.

Traditional Turf-Based Gangs are groups of young people (juveniles and/or adults) with a name, a leader or leaders, and identifying signs such as clothing style, colors, or hand signs. The group is associated with a territory, which it defends against rival gangs. Offenses include vandalism (graffiti), assault and sometimes even homicide. Turf and rivalries are key identifying characteristics of these groups.

Gain-Oriented Gangs are groups of young people (juveniles and/or adults) with a name and a leader or leaders, who repeatedly engage in criminal activities both as a group and individually, for economic gain. Offenses may include robbery, theft, and distribution and sale of controlled substances.

⁵⁷ <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/criminal/gangs.shtml>

Violent/Hate Gangs are groups of young people (juveniles and/or adults) with a name and a leader or leaders, who collectively engage in acts of violence toward groups or individuals. Geographical turf and material gain appear to be of secondary importance, if present at all. Offenses may include serious assaults and homicide.

Law Enforcement

• Fort Worth

Prevalence - Since May, 1983, the Fort Worth Police Department's Gang Intelligence Unit has identified and profiled 260 gangs with 12,500 gang members (NOTE: Does not include associates, fringe members, or "at-risk" members). In 2011, 197 gangs and 5,300 gang members were identified in the FWPD database. Numbers reported for the current plan include 60 criminal street gangs and 4,309 gang members, approximately 3% (131) are juveniles (NOTE: Juvenile gang members are purged from collection every two years. It is likely that the juvenile number is higher but cannot be tracked in the same manner as adults. Gang members in their early 20s are currently the most common age being handled by law enforcement. Included in these numbers are Hispanic street gangs, black gangs, motorcycle gangs, white-supremacist gangs, prison gangs and Asian gangs. It is considered that 15-25% of gang members are 'hard core' members (those actually involved in criminal activity), with the remaining percentage being, associates, fringe members, and 'at-risk' members. Gang members are involved in many types of criminal activity, which include homicide, robbery, assault, burglary, auto theft and sexual assault, as well as every other type of reported crime.

Association - Most Fort Worth gangs take their name from the neighborhood in which they live in. They mark the area with graffiti, but will also mark the area of the school they attend or throughout the city as they travel about. Many gang members will have their gang's initials on articles of clothing or as tattoos. Most have 'Street' names, and sign their graffiti with these.

Cost of Gang Activity - The cost of gang activity to Fort Worth is very high. The quality of life in the neighborhoods where gangs are active is greatly affected. Gang activity costs the community through the property crimes committed, through vandalism and graffiti, as well as the cost to the taxpayer for agencies tasked with addressing this problem. In human suffering, the costs are astronomical. Gang violence is directed at other gang members as well as family members, and innocent citizens. The families of these victims and society carry the scars.⁵⁸

Changes in Gang Activity- While there has been a trend toward the age of the offender increasing, there has been an increase in graffiti offenses indicating a juvenile presence in the city's gang culture. This change may signal a new generation of gang members.

• Arlington

Arlington Police Department's Gang Unit was "created in 1992 as a response to an increase in gang-related crime. The Arlington Gang Unit investigates gang-related crime, provides street level gang enforcement, gathers gang intelligence and performs gang awareness presentations to the community." The Arlington Gang Unit's philosophy/strategy is "Prevention, Intervention, Suppression and Re-Integration." Gang investigations and enforcement are handled by two units within the Criminal Investigations Section. The Gang Unit has primary responsibility for the enforcement component. This unit consists of one sergeant and seven detectives. Gang

⁵⁸ <http://www.fortworthpd.com/gang.htm>

related investigations are handled by the Robbery/Gang Investigations Unit. This unit consists of one sergeant and eight detectives.⁵⁹

Prevalence – From calendar years 2011-2013, APD witnessed a 65% reduction in gang violent crime. But gang membership has remained static. There are currently 70 identified gangs in Arlington with over 1,200 members. (NOTE: Many law enforcement units in Tarrant County do not separate gang activity by victim or offender age. Adult and juvenile statistics are often captured together because age of membership crosses juvenile and adult boundaries.)

Change in Gang Activity – In addition to the reduction in gang violent crime, APD has seen a transition from traditional to non-traditional gangs with more informal hierarchies, social co-mingling of members from different gangs, and reduced acts that draw attention to the gang by the police.

Enforcement Strategies – Gang unit responsibilities include:

- Investigation of gang-related violent crime.
- Investigation of graffiti cases.
- Field enforcement operations.
- Community education.
- Home visits of gang members.

• Mansfield

Prevalence – Four juvenile gangs have been identified operating in Mansfield (5 duce, Money over bitches, Southern united Raza, and Trill Fam) and 15 juvenile gang members. Currently, Trill Fam is responsible for most juvenile gang activity. (Majority of identified gang members live in another city - Arlington.)

Cost of Gang Activity – In the first half of 2014, Mansfield Police Department responded to 13 gang related incidents including graffiti/criminal mischief (6), aggravated assault (2), sexual assault (1), deadly conduct (1), and other (3).

Changes in Gang Activity – There has been increased juvenile gang activity, including increased membership, increased number of offenses, and increased violence, in city and schools.

• Tarrant County District Attorney's Office

Cost of Gang Activity – Juvenile gang crime is one of the most pressing issues in the county due to the types of crimes gangs are involved in, including murder, rape, drug dealing, drug and human trafficking, property crimes, burglaries, aggravated robbery, aggravated assault (with a deadly weapon), and graffiti.

Changes in Gang Activity – Gang activity has remained static.

Enforcement – Prosecuting violent, drug, and/or property crimes. The Gang Unit of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office "*responds to something that happened,*" and participates with local police departments in their Zero Tolerance initiative to reduce and/or eliminate gang membership and activities in local communities

• Community Perspective: Boys and Girls Club of Fort Worth – Comin'Up Program

⁵⁹ <http://www.arlingtonpd.org/index.asp?nextpg=Gang/index.htm>

Prevalence – Program supports 949 members with an average daily attendance of 536. This is slightly down from 2013.

Cost of Gang Activity – Juvenile gang activity is a significant problem. Many more minor juvenile crimes and petty crimes go unnoticed or undocumented until a major offense comes to the attention of law enforcement.

Changes in Gang Activity – Advanced technology has allowed gang members to communicate in real time and use social media as an outlet for criminal activity. There has been a noticeable increase in internet white-collar crime. Traditional signs of affiliation have changed to include car clubs, street sets, and school colors or logos, sport apparel, and designer clothing.

SUPPORTING DATA CONCERNING GANGS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Tarrant County is home to two of the country’s most populous cities (Fort Worth and Arlington), both ranked by USA Today in the top 50 cities by population. As of the 2013 US Census population estimates, there are around 1.91 million people living in Tarrant County, and of those, approximately 27.3% or 521,900 are age 18 or younger. According to NTCOG, the county experienced a 2% growth rate during 2007-2008.⁶⁰

Collecting accurate data on the number of gang-related crimes committed by juveniles faces several challenges, including: 1) affiliation data is self-reported by youth; 2) gang affiliation is not entered consistently in the Case Management System database managed by Tarrant County Juvenile or GangNet database managed by the Tarrant County District Attorney Office; 3) gang affiliation is not entered accurately; 4) gang affiliation may be counted more than once due to multiple referrals; and, 5) status of affiliation may change between referrals (in other words, at an initial intake a youth may not be involved in a gang, but may subsequently become gang-involved).

The following chart presents data for juveniles identified as engaging in gang activity and referred to the Tarrant County Juvenile Services. This is the only mechanism currently in use that tracks county and state juvenile gang affiliation trends. Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity is an offense which is used only in conjunction with other offenses and is not a stand-alone offense.

OFFENSE	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	TCJS	TCJS	TCJS	TCJS	TCJS
Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity	102	59	78	23	27

⁶⁰ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48439.html>

The number of Tarrant County juveniles who have committed an offense while ***Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity***, has fluctuated annually but on a general downward trend. The last two years in which data is available at the county level indicate that criminal activity is less likely to be reported as gang-involved. However, caution should be taken when reflecting on these statistics as changes in reporting and lack of information sharing between jurisdictions likely influences collection.

The Fort Worth Police Department currently reports 4,309 identified gang members (adult and youth) in the city in 60 gangs (approximately 3% of those are juvenile). Comparatively, the Arlington Police Department currently reports 1,200 identified gang members in the city in 70 distinct gangs. Clusters exist in the East and Southeast areas of Arlington.

DISCUSSION OF DATA PRESENTED ABOVE

Gathering data related to juvenile gang involvement proves difficult at this time. In previous years, this report has included numbers of offenses committed by juveniles that may or may not be specifically gang related. Due to the lack of reliability in gang reporting, these offenses have been removed from the current report. At this time, there is no reliable source for collecting and reporting juvenile gang involvement and subsequent criminal activity across Tarrant County. Agencies responsible for handling juvenile offenders do not communicate or share data. Additionally, the county tool, GangNet, implemented for the collection, storage, and reporting of gang activity is not being used by most agencies for a number of reasons. Most importantly, agencies do not have access to GangNet due to the extensive training requirements to input or use the system. Any information currently pulled from GangNet is not representative of Tarrant County juvenile offending patterns.

HOW THE COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES OF GANG INVOLVED YOUTH

There are limited resources in Tarrant County to combat gang related issues. A majority of efforts include coordination and partnerships among many local agencies. These agencies include law enforcement, educational, religious and service related organizations to provide both prevention and intervention strategies.

The OJJDP offers the following five strategies for addressing youth gangs in their Comprehensive Gang Model:⁶¹

Community Mobilization: Involvement of local citizens, including former gang-involved youth, community groups, agencies, and coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies.

Opportunities Provision: Development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth.

Social Intervention: Involving youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, police, and other juvenile/criminal justice organizations in “reaching out” to gang-involved youth and their families, and linking them with the conventional world and needed services.

Suppression: Formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision and monitoring of gang-involved youth by agencies of the juvenile/criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.

⁶¹ <http://www.iir.com/nygc/publications/gang-problems.pdf>

Organizational Change and Development: Development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.

In 1991, the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs established Operation Weed and Seed. The goals of Weed and Seed are to “prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Weed and Seed sites range in size from several neighborhood blocks to several square miles, with populations ranging from 3,000 to 50,000.” The mission of Weed and Seed is “to promote comprehensive strategies to reduce crime and revitalize communities.” Weed and Seed is a community-based initiative involving a two-pronged approach where (1) law enforcement agencies and prosecutors work together to reduce crime and “weed” out violent criminals and (2) community-based organizations/agencies collaborate to “seed” in prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs and social services. A third approach of “sustainability” supports the continuation of “best practices” efforts and planning to enable a community’s health and resilience to be long-standing once the federal grant contract period is completed.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice designated East Arlington and Northside Ft. Worth as Weed and Seed sites. However, as of 2012, federal funding for Weed and Seed was eliminated from the federal budget of the U.S. Department of Justice and no future funds are anticipated at this time.⁶²

Project R.E.A.C.H. – Project REjuvenating Arlington, Creating Hope was designated and funded as an official Weed and Seed Site by the U.S. Department of Justice in October 2009. It is administered by the City of Arlington. The target area includes the 76010 area of East Arlington. It serves 7 square miles with a population of 34,463 of which 41.1% are Hispanic. The target area includes three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Approximately 25% of identified gang members in Arlington reside and/or operate within East Arlington.⁶³

City of Fort Worth’s Graffiti Abatement Program: Because graffiti is often an indicator of the existence of a gang problem, several municipalities have established graffiti abatement programs. According to these authorities, there are two types of graffiti: gang graffiti and tagger graffiti. Graffiti is marking on property of another without consent. Gang graffiti is graffiti which relates to a particular gang. Tagger graffiti is graffiti which relates to a particular person or crew. A crew typically consists of 5 to 10 individuals who “tag.”

Arlington Mayor’s Youth Council: A youth council established by the mayor to help identify issues of concern to the youth of Arlington and to provide a method for them to work with city departments to address those concerns.

Safe City Commission:⁶⁴ “The broad goal of the Safe City Commission is to help make Fort Worth the safest major city in the United States.” The Safe City Commission promotes a culture of nonviolence in Fort Worth and Tarrant County particularly among our youth. They do this through a number of programs, including Crime Stoppers, CORE (Community Organizations for Restoration and Empowerment), Bright Futures, Bike Patrol Citizens Support Group, Imagine No Violence Art and Video Contest, and SCC Training and Education Program.

⁶² <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/faqs.html#q1>

⁶³ <http://www.arlingtonpd.org/index.asp?nextpg=WeedAndSeed/index.htm>

⁶⁴ <http://www.safecitycommission.org>

The Safe City Commission Training and Education Program's goal is "to facilitate information sharing and relevant training and education programs to ensure that Tarrant County has a synchronized, effective plan to combat violence and crime, with a focus on information related to gang, youth and crimes against children." As a part of this training program, the Safe City Commission coordinates an annual Gang & Youth Violence Education and Awareness Conference in the fall that is rapidly growing into a regional event. The conference includes nationally recognized speakers, and workshop presenters include professionals from the Offices of the United States and Texas Attorneys General, the director and local staff of GangNet, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth, Tarrant County Juvenile Services, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security/ICE, North Texas Crime Commission, as well as many local police departments, school districts, social service agencies and anti-gang advocates.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth (BGCFW): BGCFW conducts both prevention and intervention activities to limit youth involvement in gangs. Gang awareness and prevention activities are offered to members through the various components of programming in the organization's seven branches throughout Fort Worth. A national program, Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach, is also conducted in branches and cooperating FWISD elementary and middle schools. The goal of the program is to give at-risk youth the skills necessary to avoid gangs and delinquency now, as well as the tools to achieve success in the future.

The Comin' Up Gang Intervention program has shown to positively impact the lives of gang-involved youth by providing needs-based services and activities as part of the overall collaborative effort to reduce the level of gang violence in Fort Worth. The Comin' Up Gang Intervention program operates in nine sites across Fort Worth and is located in areas designated as having high-gang activity and high rates of crime associated with gang activity and serves youth between the ages of 13-24. Gang members, who frequently depend upon crime as a source of income, are limited to the traditional methods of illegal activity: drug dealing, robbery and burglary as a means of providing income. Many gang members need employment not only for self-sufficiency, but many also have families who depend on them. Operating in areas identified by the Fort Worth Police Department as "hotspots" for gang-related crime (Fort Worth Police Department, "Gang Related Crimes: January – September 2007"), the Career Launch Program supplements Comin' Up's efforts and provides individual educational assistance, job-training and job placement assistance to gang-involved youth.

School Districts: Many of the 20 school districts serving Tarrant County work in conjunction with school resource officers to provide school-based strategies. Some of these strategies include law enforcement officers speaking with youth to deter them from criminal activity and gang lifestyle, identifying juveniles who have not yet been identified as gang members but show the beginning signs of gang involvement, and conducting home visits to educate the parents of these children on their activities and the recognizable signs of gang membership.

The following Tarrant County agencies and organizations provide education, prevention, and intervention services to gang-involved youth:

All Church Home (formerly Bridge Emergency Youth Services) – general information provided via counseling services

Boys & Girls Clubs of Arlington—provides information via the "Street Smart" program, which includes movies about gang violence, and conducts interactive community activities

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth (see above)

Communities in Schools—Via public Speaker; e.g., Sergeant from Recovery Resource Center or on occasion an officer from the gang unit. (Presenter will speak to the entire school, if needed.)

Community Service Clinic UTA—provides solution-focused therapy at a reduced rate (for AISD students, counseling is offered at no cost). Services offered as applicable to target population include, individual counseling, stress management and trauma recovery, relaxation therapy, and group therapy,

Cindy Bishop Ministries (formerly Green Light Ministries)—is a faith-based homeless shelter for men, serving ages 15-65, in Azle, Texas. Programming includes gang intervention strategies as well as education remediation for male teens who have dropped out of school. The primary focus of education remediation is to return the youth to school on a path to high school graduation but also provides GED services when needed. Programming also focuses on prisoner re-entry, alcohol and substance abuse, anger management, parenting, and life skills.

Santa Fe Youth Services—Second Step Violence Prevention Program is offered to middle school students in Fort Worth ISD, Crowley ISD and Everman ISD.

Tarrant County Advocate Program—North & South—Classes are offered to teach life skills, job preparation, character development and anger management. Participants may join the supportive work program. A more intensive program provides the youth with an advocate for 30 hours per week. Counseling is available. Services provided to juveniles on probation only.

Tarrant County Juvenile Services—provides community supervision and intervention services for juvenile offenders.

CURRENT NEEDS WITHIN TARRANT COUNTY IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO JUVENILE GANG-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Although there is some communication and coordination among agencies providing services to gang-involved youth, there is still an outstanding need for additional services throughout Tarrant County to provide an alternative to gang lifestyles using relationship building techniques, as well as need based programming designed to educate gang members on improving life skills by reaching the mind, body, and soul. Additionally, there is a vast need for improved communication and coordination among law enforcement agencies in providing and sharing data about gang-involved youth in Tarrant County.

Data Collection and Sharing

The most important challenge in responding to juvenile gang-related issues is in capturing accurate and uniform data from agencies throughout Tarrant County.

While there is a system to facilitate communication and coordination among law enforcement agencies to share data about gang-involved youth in Tarrant County, GangNet, the system is not being utilized as designed and, therefore, ineffective. Most law enforcement agencies have “read-only” access to GangNet. Training is either inaccessible or too cumbersome for most agencies to participate. Additional training is required to enter data into the system. Most agencies lack the available staff to participate in data sharing through this system. Without valid measures of gang involvement and activity, decision-making regarding allocation of resources across Tarrant County continues to be compromised.

New Concerns and Innovative Responses

One of the ever-increasing challenges when responding to the issue of youth gangs is dealing with the rapid evolution of gangs. One of the major influences of this evolution is technology and social media. Social media has become a vital part of communication for gangs. The majority of gangs are now placing their day-to-day

activities online. The larger, hierarchy-structured gangs are utilizing social media to communicate with each other covertly while the smaller, local gangs use social media more loosely. Social media is increasingly being used for anonymity in drug transactions, drug distribution, and many forms of trafficking including prostitution and human trafficking. Traditional forms of gang identification (colors, turf, rivalries) are changing through the use of technology.

The most popular social media tool is Facebook. Gangs display their membership and alliances on their Facebook pages including names, pictures, dates, etc. Facebook, as well Twitter, Instagram, and Kik, , have been a key source of reference for law enforcement agencies to obtain information about gangs. Online gaming consoles such as Xbox and Playstation 3/4 are other devices youth gangs exploit to communicate among gang members.

Youth gangs have become more sophisticated in dealing with their day-to-day business, and as such law enforcement agencies will also need to become more sophisticated. While some law enforcement agencies in Tarrant County have the accessibility to investigate and gather intelligence from social media networks, there is a need for funding for increased manpower and/or use of different investigative tools not only for intelligence gathering but safety of officers as well. Furthermore, funding is needed to explore the use of social media for prevention and/or intervention efforts.

Several other challenges when responding to the issue of youth gangs include:

Increase in violence among youth outpaces growth in prevention and intervention services;
Increase in violence among children at earlier ages outpaces the growth in prevention and intervention services;
Challenges in identifying and reporting youth as gang-involved;
Individual entities are reluctant to identify a “gang problem”;
Minimal/lack of re-entry services to youth released from Texas Juvenile Justice Department;
Obtain funding sources dedicated to prevention programs (focused on elementary school-aged youth) and intervention programs (focused on middle and high school-aged youth).

In order to respond to these challenges, local agencies must provide programs, services, and activities such as:

- Accessible parenting classes and assistance resources
- Drug treatment and family assistance resources
- Anger management classes for parents as well as for students
- Reconnecting Youth classes and other evidence-based programs similar to those offered at JJAEP
- Conflict resolution assistance
- After school programs with supervised activities, community service opportunities as well as tutoring and homework assistance
- Job training and assistance for youth
- Mentors such as big brothers and business partners to serve as positive role models
- School Resource Officers
- Social Workers and Counselors who support healthy personal and emotional development on campus and in the community
- Meaningful Community Service and/or Service Learning opportunities to instill self-worth
- Temporary shelter and assistance for runaway youth
- Services and case management for youth wanting to disassociate to gangs
- Support services for long term homeless students
- Easily accessible grief counseling services for students and families
- Tutoring/ Academic success services both on campus as well as in the community
- Schools with specialized high interest curricula options (Magnet Schools)
- Violence prevention resources/ programs
- Team building programs/ resources to help students from diverse cultural backgrounds learn to work together cooperatively

- Gang prevention programs and activities starting in elementary school and continuing through high school

MENTAL HEALTH

THE RELATIONSHIP/SIGNIFICANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

There are increasing numbers of juveniles with mental health problems entering the justice system. There is also growing recognition of the prevalence and impact of trauma within this population. These mental health and trauma-related issues often play an active role in the initial delinquent behavior and, if left untreated, increase the risk of recidivism. This growing group of juveniles with involvement in the justice system and mental health problems are a specialized population with different contributing factors to justice system involvement when compared to youth without mental health issues. Because of this, traditional justice system interventions are often less effective in reducing recidivism. This group often requires more specialized mental health services. The stress of incarceration and moving through the legal system is likely to exacerbate their psychiatric symptoms. Once these juveniles enter the institutional stage of the justice system, they have a constitutional right to treatment, placing a significant obligation on the justice system.

SUPPORTING DATA CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH AND THE IMPACT ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

In a report released in January 2014 by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide remains the third leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 24. Death from youth suicide is only part of the problem as more young people survive suicide attempts than actually die. In the 2012, United Way of Tarrant County Community Assessment Update reported suicide as the 4th leading cause of death among youth ages 10-14 in Tarrant County, following homicide.

According to the Care Matching statistics maintained by MHMR, 45% of juveniles admitted to the Tarrant County Juvenile Detention Center during 2013 were current or prior clients of MHMR. This demonstrates a steady increase from previous years (16% in 1999 and 26% in 2007, 41% in 2009, 45% in 2012).

In 2013, there were 1,580 admissions to the Tarrant County Juvenile Detention Center. Of these, 603 (38%) were referred to the Psychological Services division for a mental health crisis evaluation in response to positive suicide screening or mental health screening at intake or indications of emergent risk while in detention, indicating that 38% of the juveniles admitted to detention showed signs of acute mental health issues requiring immediate assessment and intervention. This is an increase from prior years (20% in 2007 and 28% in 2009, 37% in 2011). In 2011, 44% of the juveniles committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department were identified as having a mental health needs. (https://www.tjjd.texas.gov/research/youth_stats.aspx).

In Tarrant County, 775 juveniles were referred to the Family Partnership Program, a specialized probation unit that addresses the needs of juveniles with mental health needs. Seventy-eight percent of these referrals were prompted by the results of the MAYSI-2, a mental health screening tool, with the remaining 22% being identified by probation, court or clinical staff as potentially having mental health problems.

According to State Representatives Sylvester Turner's office, 1.2 million Texas children live with some form of mental health disorder. Correspondingly, Texas also has the largest number of children without health insurance, more than 852,000 according to 2012 American Community Survey estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Texas has fallen to the 51st place in per capita funding for mental health services, behind Washington, D.C. reports the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#). The national average for state spending on mental health services is \$109 per capita, but Texas spends \$36. (www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Texas-facing-mental-health-crisis-4214980.php)

According to data on the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry website there are only 10 board certified child & adolescent psychiatrists in Tarrant County. The majority of these are in private practice and do not offer services to the public sector. In addition to those listed on the AACAP website, MHMR of Tarrant County currently employs 4 board certified child & adolescent psychiatrists. In a survey conducted by the United Way, community leaders in Tarrant County identified the availability of quality mental health services as one of the 10 most serious problems facing Tarrant County (United Way of Tarrant County, 2005).

HOW THE COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Community-wide efforts: Tarrant County has numerous agencies that provide a diverse array of services to assist children and adolescents with mental health problems. Because of the large number of providers and frequent changes in specific services provided or eligibility criteria, the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee has chosen to highlight larger coalitions and collaborative initiatives rather than listing specific agencies and programs.

- Additional and current information about specific programs can be found in the Blue Book Directory of Community Resources published by Tarrant County United Way (<http://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/FindHelp/BlueBook/tabid/140/Default.aspx>) or the Tarrant Cares website (www.tarrantcares.org) are helpful guides to health and human services in the Tarrant County area.
- Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County is a collaboration of public and private agencies as well as individuals who need mental health care services and their caregivers. The organization works to revolutionize the mental health service delivery system in Tarrant County. Its members develop plans for long-term changes in the system while addressing key issues and providing immediate solutions where possible. Today Mental Health Connection includes active participation from more than 150 members representing public and private provider agencies, health care providers, advocacy organizations, elected officials, educators, the judiciary, criminal justice system, clergy, consumers and their caregivers, and other concerned citizens. They are currently involved in several multi-year initiatives. One is their Trauma-Informed Community initiative, which has included a public awareness campaign and several trainings for service providers and the community. Another is the Resiliency initiative, which is currently coordinating the implementation of the Reaching Teens curriculum across 13 different agencies.

Juvenile Department Efforts: Tarrant County Juvenile Services (TCJS) is active in the local mental health community, collaborating with other agencies to address the needs of youth and families with mental health issues. Department representatives are active members of the following groups and committees:

- CRCG
- MHMR Children's Advisory Committee
- Mental Health Connection (MHC)
- MHC Trauma Committee
- MHC Resilience Committee

TCJS has participated in community-wide initiatives through the Mental Health Connection related to evidence-based practices, including participation in research studies on the implementation of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Cognitive Behavior Therapy. TCJS partners with community providers to make appropriate mental health services available to youth. This includes partnering with MHMR of Tarrant County to run the Special Needs Diversionary Program, which offers intensive probation services partnered with in-home therapy for youth with significant mental health issues. Efforts continue to enhance mental health services for youth in detention. Through a combination of TCJS-employed mental health professionals and contracted services from community-providers, youth in detention have access to mental health professionals six days per week, including evening hours, have access to psychiatric services four hours per week, and have access to group therapy several times per week.

TCJS has enhanced training provided to all staff. This includes training related to mental health, trauma, and enhancing youth resilience. In addition, TCJS is taking active steps to improve cross-system collaboration. The department has active partnerships with the mental health system to provide an array of services to justice-

involved youth. The department also has a joint program with CPS to provide joint case management services for youth involved in both the juvenile justice and child protection system.

CURRENT NEEDS WITHIN TARRANT COUNTY IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO JUVENILES WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

In order to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, a full array of prevention and intervention services must be easily accessible to all Tarrant County youth. Without proper interventions to address mental health, substance abuse, family problems, and other related issues the potential for youth to become involved in the justice systems increases. As a result of Tarrant County's rapid growth, need for juvenile prevention and intervention services are growing faster than services are being created. In addition, siloed and short cycle funding creates fragmented and inefficient program implementation. Consistent and coordinated prevention, intervention, counseling and treatment options are critical to meet the ever growing needs of Tarrant County youth to avert them from the more costly options once involved with the juvenile justice system.

- *Improved system for identifying mental health needs within the juvenile system*
 - While advances have been made in recent years at improving the early screening procedures to identify juveniles with mental health problems, additional improvements are needed. Early screening also needs to include improved screening for trauma histories that may be exacerbating the youth's current problems.
 - A system for responding to identified mental health needs by facilitating referrals to appropriate treatment providers and ensuring that services are obtained would greatly improve the likelihood of positive outcomes.
 - Enhanced data collection of treatment needs of youth served by TCJS is needed to assist in program development activities
- *Address barriers to accessing available services*
 - The shortage of child/adolescent psychiatrists and other qualified mental health professionals in Tarrant County needs to be addressed by increasing recruitment and retention efforts
 - Those youth who are not insured, underinsured and who don't qualify for Medicaid, CHIP have limited access to quality mental health services.
 - Increase availability of specialized services mental health for youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
 - The majority of services that are available are located in Fort Worth and Arlington. For people living in other parts of Tarrant County there are limited options for mental health services. Lack of public transportation in parts of the county make existing services inaccessible to many who need the services.
 - For juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system, the legal system must balance the potential need for mental health services with the legal/civil rights of the youth and family. While a need for mental health services may be identified early, they often cannot enroll in services through the juvenile department until legal proceedings are initiated and the youth is adjudicated and under the direction of the Juvenile Court.
 - There is very limited availability of bilingual, culturally competent clinicians in Tarrant County to meet the needs of our diverse population.
 - Consideration of establishing an individualized treatment court/mental health court to ensure needed treatment services are available and to encourage engagement in the services
- *Enhance existing services*
 - Many of the programs available have limited flexibility to address the multiple problem areas that affect the lives of youth and families served in the juvenile justice system, due to narrow treatment focus, narrow eligibility requirements or arbitrary length of treatment limitations. Addressing these factors to better match the service to the individual needs of clients would lead to improved outcomes
 - Increased availability of appropriate comprehensive special education services for youth with multiple disabilities, such as behavioral and emotional disturbance as well as learning disabilities

- Increased understanding among the various professional providers of the complexity of this population
- Improved continuity of care practices as consumers transition between agencies/programs or levels of care to ensure that they engage in services and maintain treatment gains
- Improved youth/family engagement practices
- Service options in consideration limited public transportation options - Growth in Tarrant County cities outside of Fort Worth has created an increased need for juvenile services in those areas. The majority of services for juveniles are located in Fort Worth; and, most residents who live outside Fort Worth do not have access to public transportation. Consequently, there is a growing need for home and community based services that provide evidenced based interventions for youth demonstrating serious behavior, mental health, or substance abuse issues, but are unable, unwilling, or who do not meet criteria for traditional treatment or therapy.
- Support for LGBTQ youth and families. Services and providers capable of appropriately addressing this sensitive issue are needed.
- *Increase availability of specialty treatment services*
 - Short-term local residential facilities are needed to provide stabilization services, allowing active involvement of family members in order to maximize treatment outcome and improve likelihood of successful transition back into the home
 - Integrated treatment approaches/facilities that can address mental health issues, substance abuse issues and trauma-related symptoms simultaneously are needed
 - Increased availability of trauma-informed care and trauma-specific treatment.
 - Due to the complex problems and high rates of comorbidity in this population, more treatment services that offer specialized evidence-based treatment approaches designed to address multiple problems are needed.
 - Enhance county-wide collaboration between service providers and public entities to maximize resources, improve quality of services and improve treatment outcomes
 - Service access needs to be improved by utilizing multiple community providers who can work collaboratively to meet the multiple service needs of individual youth and families.
 - Improved coordination between the various child-serving institutions (juvenile justice system, school system, CPS, MHMR and other youth and social service agencies); developing a way to blend funding of these different agencies to jointly address the needs of youth involved with multiple systems would be create a more efficient and seamless system of care.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

THE RELATIONSHIP/SIGNIFICANCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

There is an undeniable link between substance abuse and delinquency. Arrest, adjudication, and intervention by the juvenile justice system are eventual consequences for many youth engaged in alcohol and other drug use. Substance abuse is associated with both violent and income-generating crimes by youth. Gangs, drug trafficking, prostitution, and growing numbers of youth homicides are among the social and criminal justice problems often linked to adolescent substance abuse. Declining grades, absenteeism from school and other activities, and increased potential for dropping out of school are problems associated with adolescent substance abuse. (OJJDP.Gov/PUBS). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) reports that “young people who persistently abuse substances often experience an array of problems, including academic difficulties, health-related problems (including mental health), poor peer relationships, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Additionally, there are consequences for family members, the community, and the entire society.” <http://www.ojjdp.gov/PUBS/drugid/ration-03.html>

Substance use among adolescents can impede the attainment of important developmental milestones, including the development of autonomy, the formation of intimate interpersonal relationships, and general integration into adult society. Drugs of abuse affect the regions of the brain that help control decision making, judgment, desires, and emotions. Substance-abusing youth are at higher risk than nonusers for mental health problems, including depression, conduct problems, personality disorders, suicidal thoughts, attempted suicide, and suicide (Bureau of

Justice Statistics, 2002).

In addition, behaviors caused by impaired judgment, decreased inhibitions, and impulsive actions while using substances contribute to an increase in high risk behaviors such as driving under the influence or riding with an intoxicated driver. Slightly higher than the state wide rate of 15%, 16% of Fort Worth ISD 12th graders reported driving a car at least once the past year after "having a good bit to drink"(Source: Texas A&M PPRI Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use 2012). Unprotected sex and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases are also behaviors that increase with the use of substances (Gruber and Pope, 2002). The effects of possible overdoses are among the high risk consequences of adolescent substance abuse. In many cases, teenagers attend parties where a variety of prescription drugs are indiscriminately taken together

Certain environmental factors increase the risk of substance abuse. The influence of the home/family environment is usually most important in childhood. Parents or older family members who abuse alcohol or drugs, or who engage in criminal behavior, can increase children's risks of developing their own drug problems. As peers have the greatest influence during adolescence. drug-abusing peers can sway even those without risk factors to try drugs for the first time.

www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugs-brains-behavior-science-addiction/drug-abuse-addiction

Adolescents and individuals with mental disorders are at greater risk of drug abuse and addiction than the general population. Studies show a strong correlation between **substance abuse/addiction and suicidal ideation**. Individuals with substance use disorder are 6 times more likely to report a lifetime suicide attempt.

Alcohol remained the most widely used substance among elementary and secondary students statewide and in Tarrant County. Adolescent alcohol use has been shown to cause poor performance in school if the youth is using on a regular basis. Youth who use alcohol have trouble concentrating in class on assignments. They also have difficulty with relationships with peers, teachers, and other authority figures. Alcohol use takes a greater toll on brain development of those under the age of twenty-one than on any other age group. When used during the adolescent years, alcohol is associated with damage to memory and learning capabilities as well as to the decision-making and reasoning areas in the brain (<http://www.ehow.com/info>). One of the most serious long term effects of teenage drinking is that it can lead to alcohol dependence in adulthood. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports that youth who start drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop an alcohol addiction than those who do not begin drinking before the legal age of twenty one.

Marijuana remained the most widely used illegal drug among Texas youth. Rising marijuana use reflects changing perceptions and attitudes. Historically, as perception of risks goes down, use goes up (and vice versa). Young people are showing less disapproval of marijuana use and decreased perception that marijuana is dangerous. The growing perception of marijuana as a safe drug may reflect recent public discussions over "medical marijuana" and movements to legalize the drug for adult recreational use in some states. (<http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/>) The diminishing perception of the drug's risks caused by the increased public debate over the drug's legal status, could cause marijuana to become an even more dangerous drug as many of America's 12th graders think *it is safe*, versus the perception of risk seen in the early 90s.

Marijuana affects brain function and the ability to do complex tasks can be compromised. Consequently, the pursuit of academic, athletic, or other such goals may be affected. Regular marijuana users performed worse on tests of attention, nonverbal memory, and learning. (US National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health, January 2012). New England Journal of Medicine, June 2014, published a report entitled "Adverse Health Effects of Marijuana Use" from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA),www.enterhealth.com/resource-library/multimedia/newsletter-archive/the-mystery-of-marijuana which summarizes the latest research into marijuana use:

- Particularly harmful to children and youths under 21 years of age. A study of people who began using marijuana in adolescence revealed substantially-reduced connectivity among brain areas responsible for learning and memory.

- Associated with "significant declines in IQ" if used frequently when one is an adolescent or a young adult. The brain continues developing until the age of 21, and studies have shown that those who began smoking marijuana heavily in their teens lost an average of eight IQ points between ages 13 and 38 and the lost cognitive abilities were not fully restored in those who quit smoking marijuana as adults.
- Affects short-term memory "making it difficult to learn and to retain information". Two to five years of heavy use has been shown to produce the following changes in the brain for up to one year: lack of concentration, impaired short-term memory, risky behavior, poor decision-making and/or inability to sustain motivation.
- Impairs motor coordination, interfering with driving skills and increasing the risk of injuries while operating a vehicle.
- Marijuana is addictive with 17% of those who start using as adolescents becoming addicted with that percent increasing to as much as 50% among those who use pot daily. Among young people, marijuana has long been the major drug problem leading to addiction treatment.
- Mental health issues may be accelerated by use of marijuana and it may cause increased stressors in daily life, depression or make a person's existing problems worse.

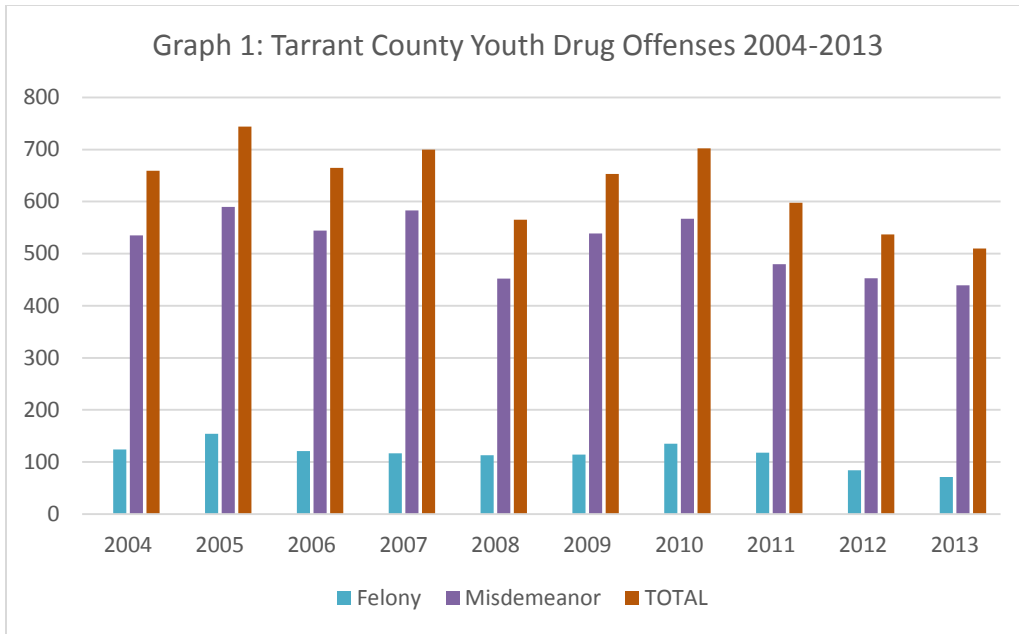
Adolescent prescription drug use can lead to increased truancy and behavioral problems, as well as abuse of alcohol and other drugs. It can also negatively affect academic performance (www.casacolumbia.org). Research shows that it is possible that teen prescription drug use can lead to an increasing dependency on the drug, as well as an increased chance of overdose as it takes more and more of the drug to have the same effects (Office of National Drug Control Policy).

Introducing drugs while the brain is still developing has shown to have profound and long-lasting consequences. The brain continues to develop into adulthood and undergoes dramatic changes during adolescence. One of the brain areas still maturing during adolescence is the prefrontal cortex¹¹ - the part of the brain that enables one to assess situations, make sound decisions, and keep our emotions and desires under control, all skills needed to make healthy and pro-social decisions. Conversely, deficiencies in these areas contribute to negative decisions and behaviors that can result in criminal behaviors.

SUPPORTING DATA CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND IMPACT ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Tarrant County Juvenile Services (TCJS) is the agency designated to receive law enforcement reports of juvenile law violations committed by children ages 10 through 16. The following chart and graph reflects drug-related referrals at both misdemeanor and felony levels. The chart provides specific referral numbers while the chart will provide a more visual picture of the trends over the past 10 years.

Offense Level	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Felony	124	154	121	117	113	114	135	118	84	71
Misdemeanor	535	590	544	583	452	539	567	480	453	439
TOTAL	659	744	665	700	565	653	702	598	537	510



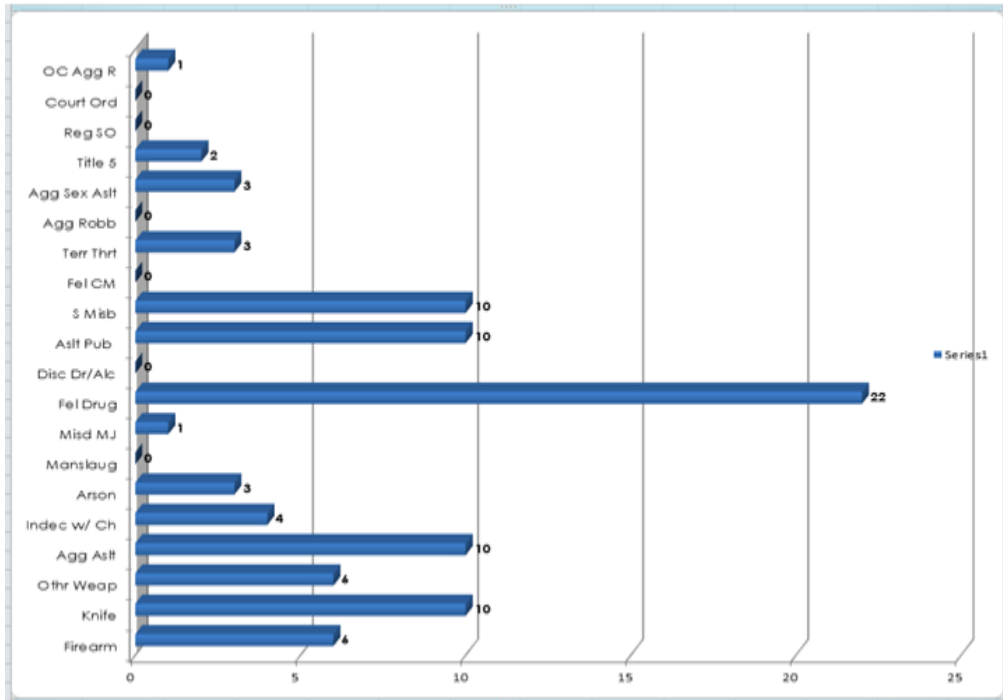
There continues to be a downward trend in drug offense referrals to Tarrant County Juvenile Services, as with most other referrals for juveniles. Referrals for both felony and misdemeanor drug offenses are the lowest they have been in the last 10 years.

The information below in Graph 1B comes from PACT assessment instrument used by Tarrant County Juvenile services for all referrals to the department. It lists the percent of youth reporting use of specific drugs.

Graph 1B: Drugs used as reported to Tarrant County Juvenile Services	2013	2013
Marijuana	72.6%	73.1%
Other drugs	6.4%	7.4%
Amphetamines	5.3%	5.9%
Cocaine	3.4%	3.3%
Other prescription medications not prescribed to the minor	2.9%	3.1%
Ecstasy	2.0%	0.8%
Other Opiates	1.9%	1.7%
Tranquilizers/Sedatives	1.1%	0.3%
Barbiturates	1.0%	0.9%
Over-the-counter Medications	1.0%	1.3%
Crack Cocaine	0.8%	0.3%
Heroin	0.8%	0.7%
Inhalants	0.6%	1.0%
Hallucinogens	0.2%	0.2%
<i>Source: 2013 TCJS PACT Data</i>		

Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program is run by the juvenile department and provides educational services to youth expelled from public school for serious school related violations for which youth was subsequently placed on probation. Graph 1C below shows that the greatest percent of youth referred to the JJAEP as result of expulsion from their home school was the result of felony drug charges.

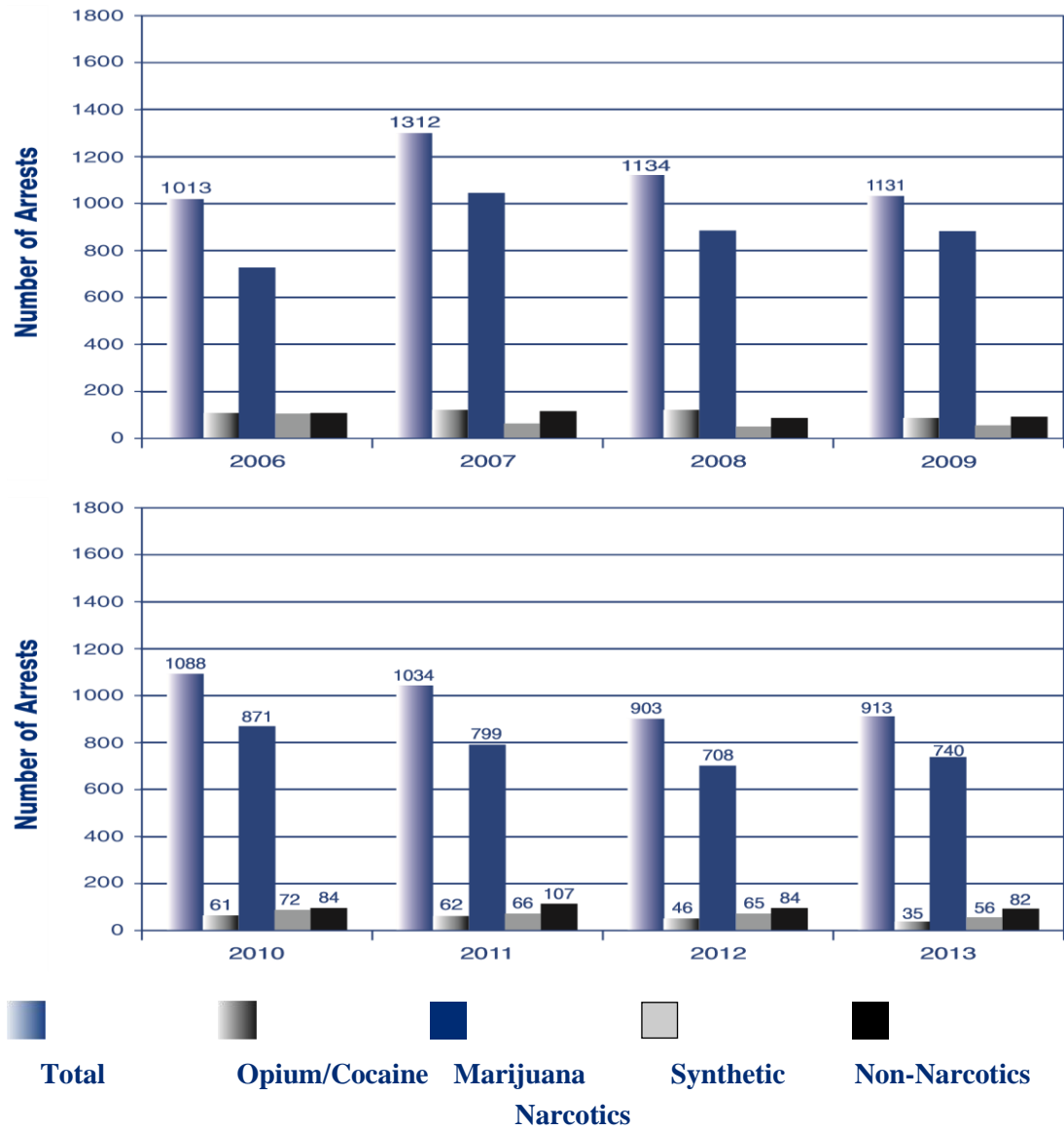
Graph 1C: Cause for Expulsion to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) 2013-14



Source: JJAEP 2013-14 Juvenile Board Report

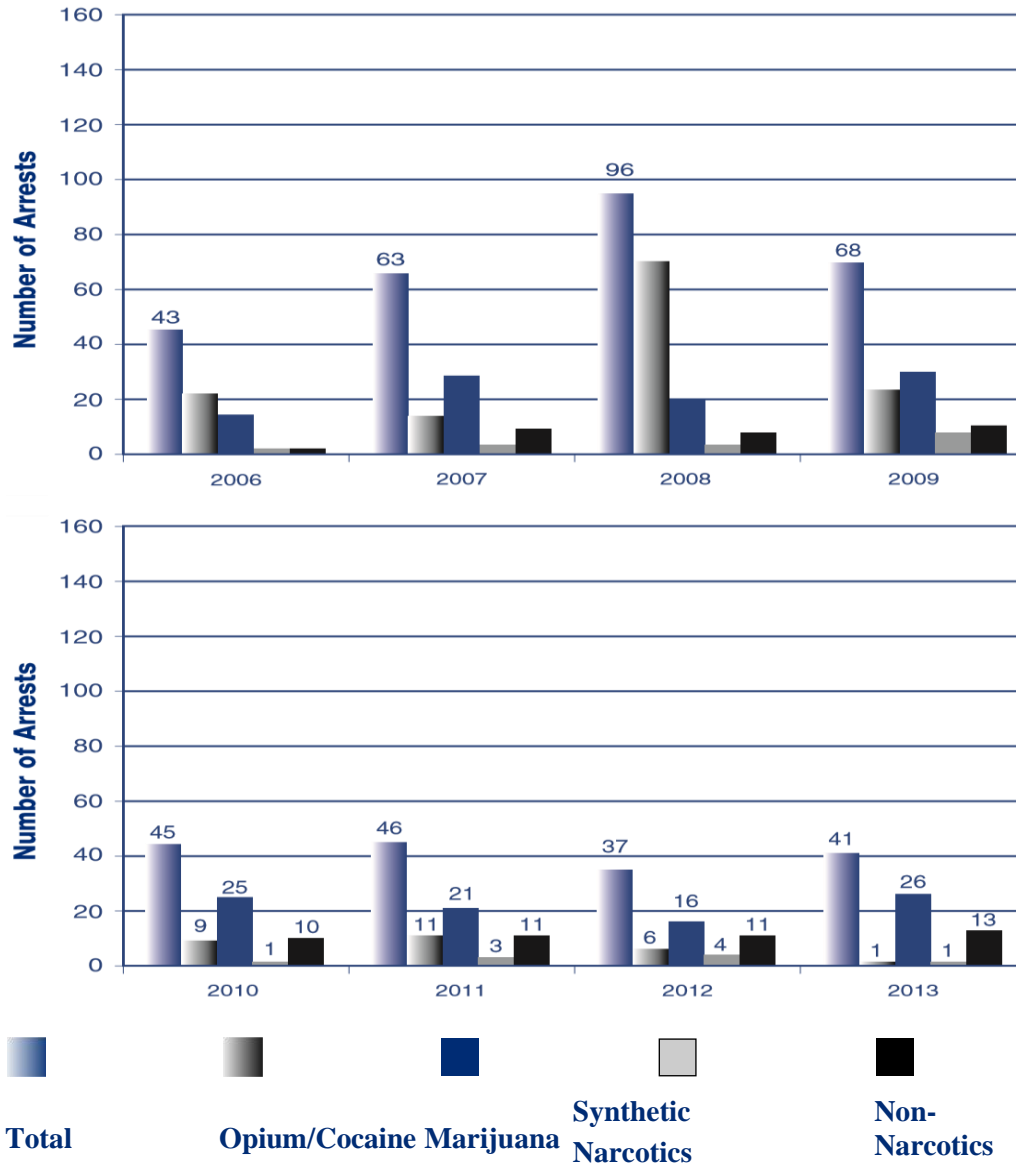
The three charts on the following pages include data from Texas Department of Public Safety, and were reported in the Tarrant County Challenge, Inc, SAID 2013: **Chart 1: Juvenile Arrests in Tarrant County for Drug possession; Chart 2: Drug Sales and Manufacturing in Tarrant County; Chart 3: Youth Alcohol-related Arrests in Tarrant County.** It is also noted that an arrest will not always result in a referral to TJCS, particularly due to some arrests are for Class C Misdemeanors that are referred to Municipal Courts.

Graph 2: Youth Arrests for Drug Possession Tarrant County



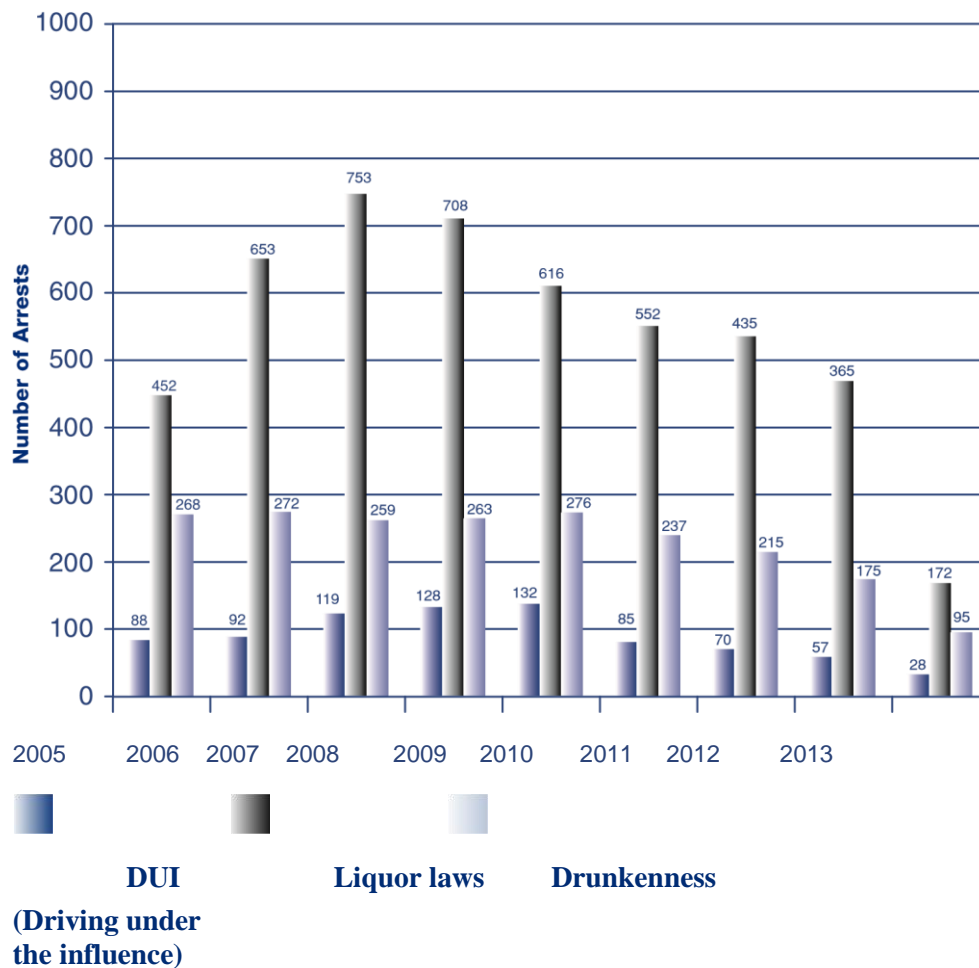
NOTE: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 17 years of age and under. Synthetic narcotics are prescriptions drugs which contain opium derivatives. The non-narcotics category includes prescription drugs which are not opium derivative based, inhalants, and all other illicit drugs which do not fall into the categories marijuana or opium/cocaine. **SOURCE:** Texas Department of Public Safety.

Graph 3: Youth Arrests for Drug Sales and Manufacturing in Tarrant County



NOTE: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 17 years of age and under. Synthetic narcotics are prescription drugs which contain opium derivatives. The non-narcotics category includes prescription drugs which are not opium derivative based, inhalants, and all other illicit drugs which do not fall into the categories marijuana or opium/cocaine.

Graph 4: Youth Alcohol Related Arrests in Tarrant County



NOTE: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 17 years of age and under.
SOURCE: Texas Department of Public Safety.

The following two tables describe **state wide alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use** trends for the past 12 years (DSHS: Texas Drug Facts Among Youth 2012).

Graph 6 : Elementary Students "Lifetime Use"				Graph 7: Secondary Students "Lifetime Use"			
Yr	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana	Yr	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana
2000	33%	13%	2%	2000	71%	51%	34%
2002	25%	9%	3%	2002	71%	45%	34%
2004	25%	8%	3%	2004	68%	39%	30%
2006	22%	6%	2%	2006	66%	35%	26%
2008	23%	5%	2%	2008	63%	32%	25%
2010	21%	6%	2%	2010	62%	30%	26%
2012	18%	5%	2%	2012	58%	28%	26%

Source: Texas A&M Texas PPRI School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2012)

Graph 8 shows four of Tarrant County's largest school districts "lifetime alcohol use" by grade level compared to those of the state. Alcohol "lifetime use" remains higher than that of tobacco. The rate of reported alcohol use varied by grade level.

GRAPH 8: Alcohol ever used	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
State Wide	24%	36%	48%	60%	64%	69%	73%
Fort Worth ISD	16%	23%	45%	63%	69%	63%	74%
Arlington	25%	41%	48%	60%	65%	65%	69%
Keller	19%	26%	40%	49%	57%	68%	70%
Eagle Mt/Saginaw	21%	39%	47%	54%	62%	67%	73%

Source: Texas A&M PPRI Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2012)

Graph 9 illustrates four of Tarrant County's largest school districts "lifetime marijuana use" by grade level compared to those of the state.

GRAPH 9: Marijuana lifetime use	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
State Wide	1%	1%	3%	5%	9%	15%	19%	20%	25%
Fort Worth ISD	1%	1%	2%	3%	14%	21%	22%	20%	25%
Arlington	1%	1%	2%	8%	9%	16%	21%	22%	21%
Keller ISD	1%	0	1%	2%	4%	9%	16%	20%	25%
Eagle Mt/Saginaw	0%	0%	2%	4%	7%	12%	15%	15%	19%

Source: Texas A&M PPRI Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2012)

Graph 10 shows four of Tarrant County's largest school districts "lifetime prescription drug use" by grade level compared to those of the state.

Graph 10: Prescription Drug Lifetime Use					
	Cough Syrup	Oxycodone/ Oxycontin/ Percodan/ Percocet	Hydrocodone/ Vicodin/ Lortab/Lorcet	Valium or Diazepam	Xanax or Alprazolam
State Wide	11%	4%	7%	2%	4%
Fort Worth ISD	9%	3%	7%	1%	2%
Arlington ISD	12%	4%	9%	2%	5%

Keller ISD	9%	4%	8%	2%	3%
Eagle Mountain/Saginaw ISD	9%	4%	9%	3%	5%
Source: Texas A&M Texas PPRI School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2012)					

DISCUSSION OF DATA PRESENTED ABOVE

As with most referrals for juveniles, there continues to be a downward trend in **Drug Offense** referrals to Tarrant County Juvenile Services. Drug offenses remained relatively stable through 2007. In 2008 there was a 19.2% decrease in the number of referrals, followed by an increase in 2009 and 2010, with 2010's total being the highest since 2007. However, since 2010 there has been a continual decrease in both felony and misdemeanor drug offenses with 2013 being the lowest in 10 years.

As illustrated in Graph 2, after a significant increase (22%) in **juvenile drug possession arrests** in 2007, the data reflects that juvenile arrests continue to decrease from 2008 to 2012. From 2007 to 2013, there has been a decrease of 30% for marijuana arrests. Total drug arrests have also declined from 1,312 in 2007 to 913 in 2013. However, there was a slight increase of 1% from 2012 to 2013 in total arrests. And, from 2012 to 2013, marijuana arrests increased 4% from 708 in 2012 to 740 in 2013. **This trend needs to be monitored to determine if arrests will continue to climb and require further evaluation and implementation of intervention strategies.**

Historical data from 2004 to 2005 indicates that there was a sizeable increase (74%) in the number of **juveniles arrested from drug sales and manufacturing** in Tarrant County. As reflected in **Graph 3**, this number then decreased to a reported low in 2006 (43 arrests) and jumped again in 2007 (63 arrests) and 2008 (96 arrests). Since 2008, the number of juvenile arrests for drug sales has continued to decrease or remained fairly steady. Between 2008 and 2013, there was a 57% decrease in the number of juvenile arrests for drug sales. However, in 2013, youth arrests for sale of marijuana increased from 16 in 2012 to 26 in 2013, an increase of 38%. **Again, this trend needs to be monitored to determine if arrests will continue to climb and require further evaluation and implementation of intervention strategies.**

From 2003 to 2011, the most frequent category of **juvenile alcohol related arrests (Graph 4)** each year was for liquor laws. Similar to trends reported above, there was an increase in the number of liquor law arrests in 2007 and a decrease since that time. From 2007 to 2013, juvenile arrests related to liquor laws has decreased 77% from 753 arrests in 2007 compared to 172 arrests in 2013. Juvenile arrests for **DUI** were relatively constant from 2007 to 2009, and in the most recent years 2010 through 2013, they have decreased. Between 2005 and 2009, the number of arrests for drunkenness has remained relatively stable. However, between 2009 and 2013 there was a 65% decrease in arrests in this category.

According to the 2012 Texas A&M Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) Texas School Survey of Substance Use, alcohol use among elementary and secondary students continue a downward trend. However, alcohol remains the most widely used substance among elementary and secondary students statewide and in Tarrant County. In 2012, 58% of secondary school students reported they had used alcohol at some point in their lives, a significant decrease (**Graph 6 and 7**). (DSHS: Texas Drug Facts Among Youth 2012)

Alcohol "lifetime use" remains higher than that of tobacco. **Graph 8** shows the rate increase from 23% of 7th graders to 74% of 12th grade at Fort Worth ISD reported lifetime alcohol use. Reported "past month alcohol use" for Tarrant County students is similar to the state's rate of 25%.

In Texas, adolescent **marijuana** use has remained level over the past few years. Among Tarrant County youth, marijuana remained the most widely used illegal drug. Of Tarrant County adolescent treatment admissions to DSHS funded facilities in 2011, 88% were for marijuana use. In 2012, an average of 26% of secondary students reported **lifetime use of marijuana statewide**. **Table 9** illustrates four of Tarrant County's largest school districts "lifetime marijuana use" by grade level compared to those of the state. Fort Worth ISD, by far the largest school district in Tarrant County, reports 8th, 9th, 10th grade marijuana use that exceeds that of the state rate. Notably,

the other three districts listed in the table all reflect “lifetime use” rates that are equivalent to or slightly less than the state use rate. Reported “past month use” for Fort Worth ISD’s 9th, 10th, and 12th graders and Arlington ISD’s 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders are higher than the state rate.

According to the *Substance Abuse Trends in Texas: June 2012 Report*, in the Fort Worth/Dallas area, large scale amounts of both imported Mexican marijuana and domestically grown cannabis can be found. The local DEA office reports “an increased number of seizures of domestic outdoor cultivated cannabis, which may be due to a demand for the higher quality produced in domestic grows. Marketing the locally grown cannabis avoids transportation costs, border violence, and risk of detection at the border.”

Non-medical use of **prescription and over-the-counter medicines** remains a significant part of the teen drug problem. Prescription drugs are the second most commonly abused illicit drug among adolescents—surpassed only by marijuana. Among students nationwide, the prevalence of having ever taken prescription drugs without a doctor’s prescription remained steady at 20% for 2009 and 2011. The United States is responsible for 5% of the world population and 75% of the world’s prescription drug abuse problem. These disproportionate percentages are caused by a multitude of reasons. Availability of prescription drugs is saturated. In fact, about 50% of high school students reported that opioids other than heroin are “fairly easy” or “very easy” to obtain for personal, not prescription use, and 70% of persons ages 12 and up report that their supply comes from a relative or friend, not a dealer. Studies show that 1 in 4 teens have misused prescription drugs at some point in their lives. It has been reported that 12-17 year olds abuse prescription drugs more than ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and methamphetamines combined. These alarmingly high numbers for youth could be due to the fact that parents and adults do not recognize the significance of the problem. Four out of five parents find time to talk to their children about marijuana, alcohol and other drugs. However, only about 15% of those parents are thorough enough about prescription drug abuse. www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugs-brains-behavior-science-addiction/drug-abuse-addiction

According to a recent report from the Drug Policy Alliance, abuse of prescription drugs by Texas youth is at a startling high. The non-medical use of prescription drugs were first queried in the 2008 Texas School Survey, with use trends differing among products. Over the past few years, the use of Oxycodone products (OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet) and Hydrocodone products (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet) has increased, while the use of Valium, Xanax and Codeine cough syrup has decreased over the same time period. As illustrated in **Graph 10**, cough syrup with codeine was abused most frequently, with hydrocodone products being the second most abused group of prescription drugs. Overall, Arlington ISD reported prescription drug lifetime use was slightly higher than the state average for three of the six drug types queried (cough syrup, Vicodin/Hydrocodone and Xanax).

HOW THE COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE NEEDS:

Tarrant County has numerous agencies that provide a diverse array of services that are responding to the needs around issues of substance abuse.

Juvenile Drug Court: Tarrant County Juvenile Services operates a Drug Court program for juveniles. This program is offered as a diversion for lower level first time offenders. It is an opportunity for intervention for possible substance abuse issues with juveniles who are at risk of involvement with juvenile justice primarily only because of their substance use. Over the course of the program, and in the calendar years for 2012 and 2013, the numbers remain fairly steady. Approximately 85% of those who enter the program graduate successfully and 15% do not graduate and are referred on to traditional juvenile justice alternatives. In 2012, 97% of the graduates remained referral/arrest free for the year following completion. This is in contrast to those unsuccessful in the program, as 44% of them were referred back to the department for a subsequent referral/arrest.

In collaboration with community partners, Tarrant County Juvenile Services provides a continuum of services for adolescents in the drug court program to include group and individual drug education and counseling, family counseling, and follow up services after residential care.

Because of the frequent transitory nature and often restricted target populations of treatment services, the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee decided that listing specific agencies and programs was not the most useful or precise way to provide information. Instead, included here are listings of coalitions, collaborations, or other local factions that are responding to issues related to substance abuse. A useful resource for attaining current available services is *Tarrant Cares* at www.tarrantcares.org. This is an online information service for individuals, families, caregivers and agencies that provides up to date resources for Tarrant County, including substance abuse

Treatment Services: In 2014, there are two adolescent residential substance abuse treatment providers in Tarrant County for a total of 30 beds for adolescent males and 15 beds for adolescent females. MHMR of Tarrant County provides the Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus which consists of 16 beds for male adolescents ages 13-17 with an average stay of 45-60 days. Payor sources include Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Medicaid, and third party payers. There is one private hospital that provides substance abuse residential treatment for 14 male adolescent and 15 female adolescent and accepts third party payers only. There are also a limited number of agencies who provide dual diagnoses residential and intensive outpatient services for adolescents. As many youth do not meet criteria for residential treatment or intensive outpatient treatment, most youth are recommended and approved for outpatient treatment. Currently, adolescent substance abuse outpatient services for community youth who are not referred by Tarrant County Juvenile Services are provided by an estimated 8 to 10 providers with payers including Medicaid and private insurance companies.

Prevention Services There are a number of non-profit agencies that provide substance abuse prevention services in a variety of community settings for all different age groups. The majority of agencies provide evidence-based programs that focus on enhancing protective factors and reversing or reducing risk factors.

Coalitions and Referral sources:

- A useful resource for attaining current available services is *Tarrant Cares* at www.tarrantcares.org. This is an online information service for individuals, families, caregivers and agencies that provides up to date resources for Tarrant County, including substance abuse.
- *United Way Blue Book* is an information guide to health and human services in the Tarrant County area. It contains information on area programs (including some outside Tarrant County) for housing, counseling, financial assistance, educational opportunities, food assistance, and much more. This resource book is updated every year and includes a comprehensive alphabetical list hundreds of major nonprofit and governmental agencies available to Tarrant County residents. <http://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/about-us/agency-directories>
- *211 Texas* is information and referral service in Tarrant County and operated by the United Way of Tarrant County in partnership with Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Callers can talk to an information and referral specialist who will assess their needs and refer to services ranging from child care to transportation. Caller can also speak with representative from Texas Access Alliance to enroll for state benefits such as food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, Chip and long-term care services.
- *Recovery Resource Council (RRC)* provides screening and assessments to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured and in need of assistance with treatment for a substance abuse problem. The screening process links clients to state funded treatment centers providing inpatient and/or outpatient services. RRC offers a wide range of assessment services to individuals who are employer mandated, court ordered or self-referred. Services are provided by qualified Licensed Professional Counselors or Substance Abuse Professionals. The Information & Referral department is a community hotline assisting substance abusers and their families, professionals and the general public in obtaining support and services for substance abuse issues.
- *The Challenge County Challenge Treatment Providers Coalition* (www.tchallenge.org) is comprised of representatives from Tarrant County area substance abuse treatment organizations. This group meets monthly and focuses on identifying and resolving gaps in treatment services, mobilizing resources, and staying abreast of legislative issues related to substance abuse treatment.

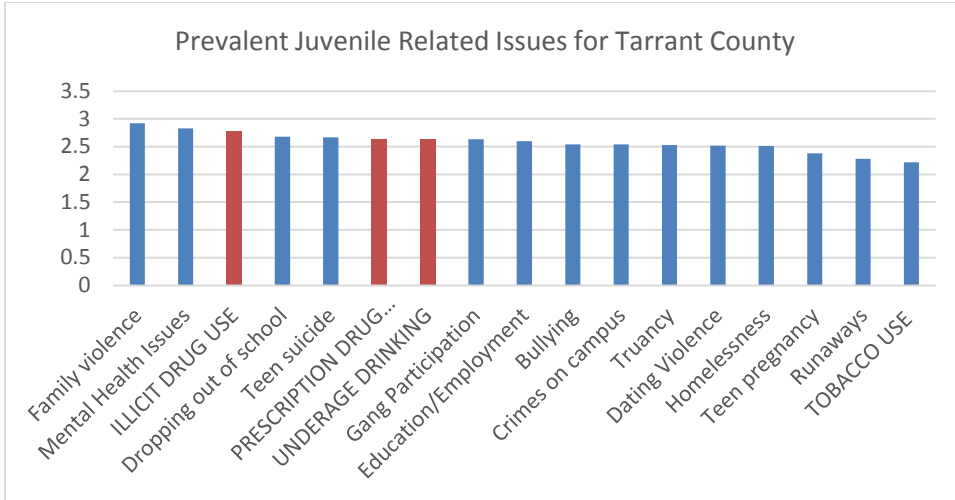
- The *Tarrant County Challenge Prevention Providers* meets monthly and collaborates with school and local substance abuse prevention specialists, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, and community members to network and share information on effective prevention programs and strategies, funding, resources, and trainings. The group also organizes countywide drug-free awareness activities.
- The *Tarrant County Challenge Bottom Line Coalition* meets monthly and collaborates with representatives from Texas Christian University and the community who focus on awareness surrounding alcohol and drug issues, thus promoting safe and responsible choices which target both the campus population and surrounding community.
- The *Tarrant County Challenge SMART Coalition* meets monthly and collaborates with representatives from the University of Texas at Arlington and the surrounding community who focus on awareness surrounding alcohol and drug issues and are interested in developing a culture that supports responsible, informed decision-making regarding overall health and wellness
- The *Tarrant County Challenge SMART Arlington Coalition* meets monthly and is a drug free community coalition that focuses on providing meaningful prevention services that reduce risk factors and enhance resiliency for youth living in Arlington.
- *Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County* <http://www.mentalhealthconnection.org/> is a collaboration of public and private agencies, as well as individuals, consumers and/or family members. The organization works to revolutionize the mental health service delivery system in Tarrant County. Its members develop plans for long-term changes in the system while addressing key issues and providing immediate solutions where possible. Mental Health Connection is supported through membership dues, sponsorships, grants and private donations and has over 30 agency partners. Meetings are held the second Monday of every month.

CURRENT NEEDS WITHIN TARRANT COUNTY IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO JUVENILE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Tarrant County is the fourth largest metropolitan area by population as of 2012. Over 500,000 youth under the age of 17 were included among the estimated 1,814,667 population (<http://www.factfinder.census.gov>). This growth has greatly contributed to the current need for additional substance abuse services to address the ongoing population surge that Tarrant County has and continues to experience.

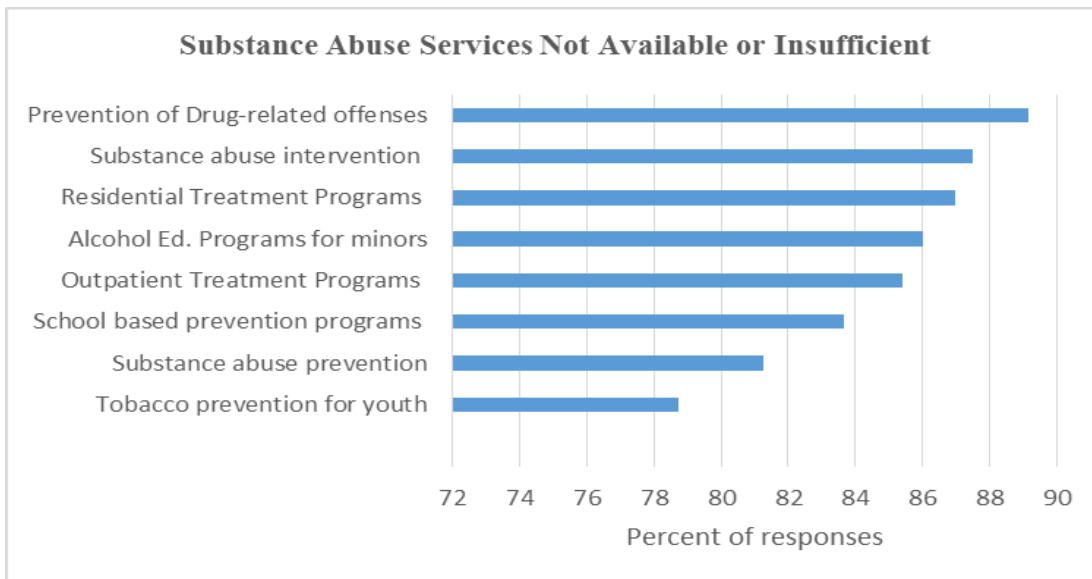
North Central Texas Council of Government's (NCTCOG) 2014 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan identified and assessed the justice-related priorities of the 16 county region it represents. Information was collected by reviewing existing plans and collecting information an online region wide survey was distributed to over 600 stakeholders which included elected officials, community-based organizations, judicial and law enforcement organizations, ISD/s social service providers, colleges and universities, and interested citizens. The survey collected information around the topics of criminal justice/law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health, victims of crimes and substance abuse.

- The "**prevalent juvenile-related issues**" identified in the strategic plan are identified on the chart below:



Illicit drug use, prescription drug use, underage drinking were all identified in the top 10 juvenile related issues. In addition, research confirms that substance abuse plays a significant role in most of the other issues identified as well (i.e. dropping out of school/truancy, suicide, gang participation).

- The most important **substance abuse issues** identified in Tarrant County were: (listed in order of importance)
 1. Illicit drug use
 2. Underage drinking
 3. Prescription drug abuse
 4. Youth Tobacco use
- Below, the chart illustrates the survey's responses to the **adequacy of substance abuse services in Tarrant County**. More than 50% responders identified substance abuse services as not available or insufficient to meet Tarrant County needs.



- Also identified on the survey as the **three most underserved juvenile populations in Tarrant County** were non-English speaking youth, racial/ethnic minorities, and girls.

To effectively identify and confront the prevalence of alcohol and drug use in Tarrant County, implementation of an array of culturally competent evidence based programming entrenched in a strong family systems model with supportive data and measurable outcomes will be essential. Further programming consideration must encompass treatment, prevention and implementation efficacy.

In summary, these are the current needs to address youth substance abuse:

- Increase in evidence-based substance abuse prevention and education programs that address risk and protective factors.
- Increase in services to address illicit and prescription drug use, underage drinking and tobacco use.
- Increase in innovative substance abuse treatment options for adolescents to include in-home, residential and out-patient services regardless of payer (insured, Medicaid, uninsured)
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment services to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of non-English speaking youth and families.
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment services to meet the unique and specific needs of adolescent females.
- Additional services at other “points of entry” before the juvenile justice system.
- Improved continuity of care practices for youth as they transition between levels of care and/or agencies.
- Integrated treatment approaches that can successfully address youth mental health and substance abuse issues.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County is the third most populous county in the State of Texas with a population over 1.9 million. It is also one of the fastest growing counties in the country. This rapid growth is stretching the resources of both public and private agencies developed to address the needs of victims of crime.

Tarrant County continues to be innovative in its services and support for victims of crime. As a community, we work collaboratively to support victims of crime in many areas and to find resources for new areas of need as they emerge.

Victims of Crime Focus Group-Participant List

Co-Chairs, Victims of Crime Focus Group			
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Elizabeth Page	Disabled Crime Victims Assistance	dcva@sbcglobal.net

CHILD VICTIMS

Child maltreatment includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role (e.g., clergy, coach, teacher).⁶⁵

Physical abuse is the use of intentional physical force, such as hitting, kicking, shaking, burning or other show of force against a child.

Sexual abuse involves engaging a child in sexual acts. It includes fondling, rape, and exposing a child to other sexual activities.

Emotional abuse refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional wellbeing. Examples include name calling, shaming, rejection, withholding love, and threatening.

Neglect is the failure to meet a child's basic needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, and access to medical care.

IMPACT ON CHILD VICTIMS AND COMMUNITY

⁶⁵ <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CM-FactSheet-a.pdf>

Child maltreatment is known to have considerable long-term psychological and behavioral effects on survivors that include intellectual, developmental and social deficiencies, as well as an increased risk for difficulty in school, delinquency, and violent criminal behavior.⁶⁶

Risk Factors for Child Maltreatment⁶⁷

A combination of individual, relational, community and societal factors contribute to the risk of child maltreatment. Although children are not responsible for the harm inflicted upon them, certain characteristics have been found to increase their risk of being maltreated. Risk factors are those characteristics associated with child maltreatment – they may or may not be direct causes.

Risk factors for Victimization

Individual Risk Factors

- Children younger than 4 years of age
- Special needs that may increase caregiver burden (e.g., disabilities, mental retardation, mental health issues, and chronic physical illnesses)

Risk factors for Perpetration

Individual Risk Factors

- Parents' lack of understanding of children's needs, child development and parenting skills
- Parents' history of child maltreatment in family of origin
- Substance abuse and/or mental health issues including depression in the family
- Parental characteristics such as young age, low education, single parenthood, large number of dependent children, and low income
- Non-biological, transient caregivers in the home (e.g., mother's male partner)
- Parental thoughts and emotions that tend to support or justify maltreatment behaviors

Family Risk Factors

- Social isolation
- Family disorganization, dissolution, and violence, including intimate partner violence
- Parenting stress, poor parent-child relationships and negative interactions

Community Risk Factors

- Community violence
- Concentrated neighborhood disadvantage (e.g., high poverty and residential instability, high unemployment rates, and high density of alcohol outlets), and poor social connections

Protective Factors for Child Maltreatment

⁶⁶<https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/programs/whatworks/report/report.pdf>

⁶⁷ <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Protective factors buffer children from being abused or neglected. These factors exist at various levels. Protective factors have not been studied as extensively or rigorously as risk factors. However, identifying and understanding protective actors are equally as important as researching risk factors.

There is scientific evidence to support the following protective factor:

Family Protective Factors

- Supportive family environment and social networks

Several other potential protective factors have been identified. Research is ongoing to determine whether the following factors do indeed buffer children from maltreatment.

Family Protective Factors

- Nurturing parenting skills
- Stable family relationships
- Household rules and child monitoring
- Parental employment
- Adequate housing
- Access to health care and social services
- Caring adults outside the family who can serve as role models or mentors

Community Protective Factors

- Communities that support parents and take responsibility for preventing abuse

SUPPORTING DATA ⁶⁸

	Tarrant 2011	State 2011	Tarrant 2012	State 2012	Tarrant 2013	State 2013
Child Population	499,451	6,663,942	517,952	7,054,634	523,735	7,159,172
Confirmed Victims	5,888	65,948	6,030	64,336	5,689	66,398
Number of Children Removed from Home						

⁶⁸ DFPS Databook http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2013/

	636	12,514	662	12,900	708	13,190
Children in Foster Care	1,657	31,092	1,742	31,302	1,756	30,740
Child Abuse/Neglect Fatalities	8	231	19	212	14	156

In 2013, Tarrant County confirmed child abuse victims decreased by 5.8% over the confirmed victims in 2012. At the same time, there was a small increase (1.5%) in the Tarrant County child population. Despite this small decrease, child abuse continues to be a serious issue in our community and with higher rates of abuse per population than most areas.

During this time the number of children removed to protective care in Tarrant County increased by 6.7% over the previous year. The number of child deaths in Tarrant County decreased by 30% in 2013, as compared to 2012, which matches the overall decrease statewide. It is difficult to explain why the number of child deaths has appeared to fluctuate in Tarrant County in recent years. Physically abused children, especially infants and children under the age of five, appear to be more seriously abused at the time of their first hospitalizations than children of previous years. This may speak to the lack of support their caregivers have. Substance abuse and domestic violence are also more known to be contributing factors than in previous years.

Type of Abuse ⁶⁹	2011	2012	2013
Hospitalized Physical Abuse	79	60	64
Other admissions to include drug exposure, near drowning, medical neglect, neglectful supervision			452
Deaths	8	5	5

⁶⁹ C.A.R.E. Team at Cook Children's Medical Center

Sexual	695	781	449
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RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY

Children who have been physically and/or sexually abused may receive investigative and diagnostic services through the following agencies: Cook Children’ Medical Center; Department of Family and Protective Services; law enforcement, Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office, Tarrant County Juvenile Services and Alliance For Children.

Children and families in need of counseling services may receive services through the following agencies: The Parenting Center; Women’s Center; Alliance For Children, Catholic Charities, ACH Child and Family Services and Lena Pope.

Children who require an out of home placement/foster care may receive services at ACH Child and Family Services and the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Children who need advocacy services through family courts as a result of child abuse and subsequent court ordered removal from their homes may be assigned a court appointed special advocate through CASA of Tarrant County.

Children who have been emotionally, sexually or physically abused as a result of domestic violence in the home may receive shelter and counseling services at Safe Haven Arlington/Fort Worth.

Parents who are searching for additional Parenting Classes may receive services at the following locations: Catholic Charities Fort Worth ISD- Family Resource Centers (FRC); The Parenting Center; Recovery Resource Council.

Individuals that may have a problem with alcohol or other drugs may receive services at the following agencies: Cenikor Foundation, Excel Center, Millwood Hospital, MHMR, Santa Fe Adolescent Services and Recovery Resource Council

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Tarrant County responds to the problem of child abuse as a community in addition to actual service delivery by individual agencies. Child abuse investigations are initiated through the Department of Family and Protective and/or law enforcement. Both agencies work collectively to complete a teamed response on serious, life-threatening case of abuse in our community. Services are provided by individual agencies as previously indicated to meet the needs of children and families that have been identified. Additionally, many agencies focus on child abuse prevention education in our community for both children and adults. A number of community and agency coalitions meet regularly to share information and resources.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Tarrant County Plan seeks to decrease risk factors to children either already identified as abused or at risk of being abused, while increasing protective factors within the community for identified child abuse victims and potential child abuse victims. To break the cycle of maltreatment and reduce the likelihood of long-term consequences, Tarrant County agencies must continue to identify and implement evidence informed strategies that prevent abuse or neglect from happening. While the priority is to prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring, it is equally important to respond to those children and adults who have experienced abuse and neglect.⁷⁰

Increased funding for child abuse treatment, intervention, and prevention

Increased funding for substance abuse treatment for children and adults

Increased funding for mental health services for children and adults

Culturally competent care woven throughout the systems

Services to improve outcomes for children in foster care

Wraparound services for children, youth, and families

Parent Education Programs/Engagement

Home Visitation Programs

Community Education Programs for recognizing and reporting child abuse, as well as opportunities to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of child abuse and neglect.

Affordable childcare

Respite Care

Foster Parent/Adoptive Parent Recruitment

Support Groups including grandparent and kinship groups

Mentoring

Advocacy services

Community volunteers to support prevention and intervention efforts

Child Personal Safety Education

Family Resource Centers

⁷⁰ https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long_term_consequences.pdf

Ensure Continuity of Care by supporting partnerships and collaborative efforts

Trauma Informed Practice throughout the systems

Continued development of a specialized mental health provider system to treat the unique needs of abused and/or neglected children

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

IMPACTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

The Texas Family Code, Section 71.004, defines family violence as: (1) an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself; (2) abuse, as that term is defined by Sections 261.001 (1) (C), (E), and (G), by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household; or (3) dating violence, as that term is defined by Section 71.0021.

The Office on Violence Against Women defines domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic Violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.⁷¹ Domestic violence occurs within all communities and populations. It does not discriminate based on race, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender, socioeconomic background or education level.⁷²

Domestic Violence not only directly affects victims, but also has significant effects on children, family members, friends, co-workers, businesses, other witnesses and the community at large. A study by the World Health Organization found that children raised in households where domestic violence occurred are more likely to have behavioral problems, drop out of school early, and experience juvenile delinquency.⁷³ A child who witnesses domestic violence between his or her parents is more likely to view violence as an acceptable method of conflict resolution.⁷⁴ Studies have consistently shown that boys who witness domestic violence are more likely to become abusers, and girls who witness domestic violence are more likely to become victims of domestic violence as adults.⁷⁵

⁷¹ USDOJ: Office on Violence Against Women: Crime of Focus: Domestic Violence, available at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm>.

⁷² National Domestic Violence Hotline, available at <http://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/abuse-defined/>.

⁷³ Butchart et al., Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence and women, 5; Duvvury, Grown and Redner, Costs of Intimate Partner Violence at the Household and Community Levels, 4, 16.

⁷⁴ Unicef Innocenti Research Centre, *Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls*, 12.

⁷⁵ Duvvury, Grown and Redner, *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence at the Household and Community Levels*, 11; Morrison and Orlando, "Social and Economic Costs of Domestic Violence: Chile and Nicaragua," 51-52, 64.

The transmission of domestic violence to the next generation further compounds the long-term costs to society. The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.⁷⁶ Victims of intimate partner violence *lost almost 8 million days of paid work* because of the violence perpetrated against them by current or former husbands, boyfriends and dates. This loss is the equivalent of more than *32,000 full-time jobs* and almost *5.6 million days of household productivity* as a result of violence.⁷⁷ Within the United States, there is an annual average of 16,000 homicides and \$2.2 million cost related to medically treated injuries due to intimate partner violence, which cost society \$37 billion each year.⁷⁸ Multiple studies have proven that domestic violence is a human rights violation and its impact is felt far beyond the financial well-being of those abused, affecting businesses, governments, and entire national economies. Due to its economic consequences, nations can no longer afford to ignore domestic violence.

SUPPORTING DATA

Although several Tarrant County agencies offer assistance to domestic violence victims, some community needs remain unaddressed. Unfortunately, 2008 to 2012 data collected by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Tarrant County agencies and Tarrant County Courts show that the number of domestic violence cases, and there for the incidents of domestic violence, has increased. Applications for protective orders filed in Tarrant County were 292, 347 and 344 for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively.⁷⁹

In 2012, the National Domestic Violence Hotline reported that 16,471 calls to the Hotline came from Texas. Texas ranks 2nd in the nation with calls to the Hotline with 55% of the total call volume. Fort Worth and Arlington rank 5th and 8th in Texas, respectively, with Fort Worth reporting 4% of the overall Texas call volume to the Hotline, and Arlington reporting 2%. 55% of the callers are seeking assistance with legal issues. (NDVH National Report – Texas State Report).

According to data collected by the Texas Council on Family Violence (“TCFV”), the number of deaths linked to the victim’s intimate partner state-wide that directly resulted from or were related to domestic violence incidents in 2012 was 114. The TCFV 2012 report lists the number of Tarrant County, the number of intimate partner deaths in 2012 in Tarrant County as 6. The state-wide number of estimated intimate partner-related deaths in 2011 was 102, plus 26 collateral deaths. Of that 102, 9 of those deaths occurred in Tarrant County, and 9 of the collateral deaths occurred in Tarrant County as well. (TCFV – Facts & Statistics)

In 2010, the TCFV reported that the number of intimate partner-related deaths was 142. In Tarrant County, that estimated number was 12. 2011 saw a decrease in both the estimated numbers for the State and Tarrant County, down to 102 and 9, respectively. Estimated intimate partner-related deaths rose again in 2012, up to an estimated 114 for the State and 10 in Tarrant County. (TCFV – Facts & Statistics)

⁷⁶ *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.

⁷⁷ *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.

⁷⁸ *The Cost of Violence in the United States*. 2007. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.

⁷⁹ Tarrant County District Clerk’s Office

In 2008, law enforcement agencies in Tarrant County reported 13,244 incidents of domestic violence to the Texas Department of Public Safety.⁸⁰ In 2011, that number decrease -8.6% down to 12,188.⁸¹ However, the number of victims involved in the 2011 reported incidents was 14,624, a 3% increase from 2008, when the number of victims reported was 14,144. In 2009, the number of domestic violence incidents reported was 12,938, and in 2010, that number decreased by 1.3% to 12,772, which was an overall 3.7% decrease from 2008. Once again, the number of incident-related victims rose in 2009 to 14,277, up .9% from 2008.⁸² The number of victims decreased very slightly in 2010 to 14,045, but rose again in 2011 to 14,626.⁸³ In 2012, the number of state wide incidents rose by 11.5% to 198,366, with a 2.9% increase in victims to 198,504. In 2012, law enforcement agencies in Tarrant County reported 13,177 incidents of domestic violence, or domestic disturbances, to the Texas Department of Public Safety.⁸⁴ That is a 9% increase in reported incidents from 2011. Statewide, the number of incidents reported in 2012 was 198,336, and the number of victims associated with those incidents was 198,504. Of that number, 27% were male and 73% were female. The age group with the highest number of victims was the 20-24 year-old age group.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Crisis Response/Intervention

Victims access the 911 emergency response system and law enforcement responds to a domestic violence incident, responding officers will conduct an initial investigation at the scene to determine whether the elements of a criminal offense exist. If officers are able to make a probable cause determination that a family violence offense has occurred, and if the offender is still on scene, officers shall make an arrest, per mandatory arrest polices. Officers use a standardized Family Violence Packet that contains a checklist to assist with the investigation and Emergency Protective Order (“EPO”) paperwork. The victim, or the officer on behalf of the victim, may request an EPO at the scene, and fill out the paperwork immediately. If the offender is in custody, he/she may be served with the EPO while still in custody. In a situation where the offender used a weapon or the victim sustained serious bodily injury, a mandatory EPO is completed on behalf of the victim. Police assistance can range from issuing a citation, making an arrest, referring the victim to emergency shelters, or arranging for emergency medical service if the victim needs medical assistance.

SafeHaven of Tarrant County provides a 24-hour crisis hotline and operates the only 2 emergency shelters for domestic violence victims in Tarrant County. Between the two facilities, they can house up to ___ women and children. Emergency shelter access begins with a call to the crisis line, were highly trained individuals are prepared to assist with a crisis. In the shelter, victims have access to emergency housing, legal services, counseling, case management, children services, medical referrals and treatment, transitional living programs, support with gaining employment and many other referrals. In 2013, SafeHaven of Tarrant County offered services to 784 Adults and 998 Children in their residential program, and 3,007 Adults and 343 in their non-

⁸⁰ Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime Statistics

⁸¹ Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime Statistics

⁸² Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime Statistics

⁸³ Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime Statistics

⁸⁴ Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime Statistics

residential programs. The legal services program of SafeHaven of Tarrant County represented 78 adult in Family Law cases.

Hospitals and physicians' offices/clinics are another resource for Tarrant County domestic violence victims. Within Tarrant County, John Peter Smith (JPS) Medical Services offers physical and mental health evaluations and treatment for victims regardless of ability to pay. Some medical professionals are trained in screening for and treating domestic violence. The majority of hospitals in the county have mandatory reporting policies and procedures to law enforcement when victims of domestic violence present with injuries sustained from domestic violence.

Criminal Justice

Law Enforcement

The Arlington and Fort Worth police departments each have dedicated Family Violence Units, comprised of detectives and Victim Assistance coordinators. Once a case is assigned for investigation, the victim is contacted by Victim Assistance and provided with additional referral assistance and updates and the investigation progresses. If an EPO was not issued at the time the offense occurred and a determination is made during the course of the investigation that probable causes exists, then the arrest of the suspect is mandatory and the detective assigned can request an EPO for the victim. Other law enforcement agencies within Tarrant County follow the same general orders. Although all agencies do not have a dedicated family violence unit, the majority have a dedicated family violence liaison and victim liaison.

Tarrant County District Attorney's Office – Family Violence No-drop Policy

The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office will not drop (dismiss) a family violence case based solely on a victim/injured party's request. Although a victim/injured party may memorialize a request to dismiss the case via an Affidavit of Non-Prosecution, the decision to dismiss the case is at the discretion of the prosecutor and the court's consent must be obtained. If, during the pendency of criminal prosecution, a victim chooses not to assist in the prosecution of the offender, he/she has the option to attend "Alternatives", a class conducted by SafeHaven of Tarrant County. Once the class is completed, the victim must complete an interview with the assigned Tarrant County Victim Assistance coordinator, and an Affidavit of Non-Prosecution may be signed by the victim and submitted to the District Attorney's Office. The submission does not guarantee that a case will be dropped or dismissed.

Tarrant County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance

Once a case is filed with the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney, meaning the charges submitted by law enforcement have been accepted for prosecution, the case is assigned to one of the seven victim assistance coordinators in the Criminal District Attorney Victim Assistance Unit. The coordinators work with the victims to answer questions regarding general case processes and procedures, including questions about grand jury procedures. The Victim Assistance coordinators also assist victims in safety planning, meeting with investigators and prosecutors, working with the Attorney General's Crime Victim's Compensation program, registering for Texas VINE, and attending court settings with the victim.

County Criminal Court #5

Tarrant County Criminal Court #5 (“CCC #5”) is the county's misdemeanor court that hears family violence cases on a full-time basis. In 2010, the court heard 3,000 cases. In 2011, the number of new cases appearing before the court increased to 3,200, and in 2012 it rose yet again to 3,612. In 2013, the number dropped slightly to 3,565.⁸⁵ CCC #5 also has several programs to assist both victims and offenders. The main program is Pre-Trial Diversion (“PTD”). Upon successful completion of the program, which includes extensive counseling, the offender may return to court and have the guilty plea withdrawn. The case is then dismissed and expunction eligible. An offender’s admission to the program requires the District Attorney’s Office’s recommendation, the victim’s consent and the offender’s plea of guilty to the domestic violence charge. Another program is Youthful Offender Diversion Alternatives (“YODA”). This program is specifically available to first-time offender’s ages 17-23 years old with no criminal history. This program is for non-intimate partner family relationships, meaning child/parent, sibling/sibling or other family relationships where the parties reside in the same household. The District Attorney’s Office’s recommendation of the offender for the program is required. However, different from PTD, YODA does not require the victim’s consent or a guilty plea. The program typically lasts for 6 months. The offenders must still be referred by the District Attorney for acceptance into the program. Successful completion of program will result in dismissal of the criminal case, and the case is expunction eligible. Finally, CCC #5 has OBI-WAN – YODA for offenders ages 24-27 years old. This program is also for non-intimate family member residing in the same household. As with YODA, there is no requirement for a guilty plea and the victims do not need to consent to the offender entering the program. The program also lasts for 6 months, and the offenders must be referred by the District Attorney. Successful completion of program will result in dismissal of the criminal case, and the case is expunction eligible.

Civil Legal Advocacy

According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, Texas State Report, an overwhelming 55% of the callers to the hotline are seeking assistance with civil legal issues, including divorce, child custody, and protection orders.

The current response in civil legal advocacy services for victims of domestic violence includes obtaining permanent protective orders from the Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office Protective Order Unit which is located in the Tarrant County Family Courts Building. Applicants submit a protective order questionnaire and within a 2-3 days an attorney will review the questionnaire and determine if they are able to proceed with filings.

Victims may also seek legal assistance from non-profit organizations, including Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Methodist Justice Ministry, and SafeHaven of Tarrant County. These agencies, provide no-cost legal consultation and representation on family-related matters, including applications for protective orders, divorce, child support, and child access and visitation. Catholic Charities provides free legal consultation on immigration matters, however, fees may be applied on filings.

Texas law allows individuals to apply for protective orders *Pro Se*, meaning “self-represented”. Although the law permits prosecuting attorneys and the Department of Family and Protective services to file applications for protective orders, the law also permits certain family and non-family members to make the same filings.⁸⁶ An applicant may not be assessed a fee, cost, charge or expense in connection with the filing, serving or entering of

⁸⁵ Tarrant County Criminal Court #5

⁸⁶ Texas Family Code §82.002

a protective order.⁸⁷ The Tarrant County Family Courts offer guidance and forms on the Tarrant County public website, www.tarrantcounty.com,⁸⁸ under the “Family Courts” tab. Links to other agencies that may represent indigent or low-income individuals are also available, as well as information about free legal clinics and the Tarrant County Bar Association.

Social Services

Tarrant County victims seeking to address a multitude of issues relating to their domestic violence situation can benefit from One Safe Place, the Tarrant County Regional Family Justice Center which is located in Fort Worth and works with dozens of local partner agencies and the National Family Justice Center Alliance. One Safe Place is a collaboration of partner agencies, working together under one roof, to address the issues of domestic violence. A few of the partner agencies include: Tarrant County law enforcement agencies; social service agencies such as SafeHaven of Tarrant County, The Women’s Center, Inc., New Day Services, YWCA and The Ladder Alliance; civil legal advocacy agencies Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas and Methodist Justice Ministry; and the Criminal District Attorney of Tarrant County. Victims seeking assistance through One Safe Place will be assessed and referred to appropriate agencies to meet their identified needs.

Either through One Safe Place or the specific agency, victims may receive counseling, assistance with emergency and transitional housing, and job readiness and training. When financial resources are an issue, victims who are indigent or at or below the poverty level can qualify for legal assistance through Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, SafeHaven of Tarrant County or Methodist Justice Ministry for legal advocacy in civil cases, including child custody, divorce and protective orders. The District Attorney’s Office represents individuals in applications for protective orders at no cost to the victim. Fees and court costs⁸⁹ and reasonable attorney’s fees⁹⁰ related to protective orders are assessed, as appropriate, against the respondent.

There are several transitional housing programs that provide a long-term housing option for victims of domestic violence. Those agencies are Community Enrichment Center Open Arms, Cornerstone Assistance Network, GRACE (Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange), Salvation Army, SafeHaven of Tarrant County and the YWCA of Fort Worth. While a resident of these programs, a client can receive a vast array of services.

Victims can also obtain referrals to and information about social service agencies and programs in Tarrant County by dialing 211 to reach the Texas Department of Health and Human Services Commission, or go to www.yourtexasbenefits.com.

The individual identified as the abuser in the domestic violence situation can also receive counseling services, either through a court-ordered program, or through organizations such as New Day Services, SafeHaven of Tarrant County Men’s Program, Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, and the Fort Worth Brief Therapy Center. Fort Worth Brief Therapy Center offers an 8 weeks Batterers Intervention program that assists both male and female DV offenders. It is a counseling oriented, court-ordered program for offenders. The center also offers an Anger

⁸⁷ Texas Family Code §81.002

⁸⁸ www.tarrantcounty.com

⁸⁹ Texas Family Code §81.003

⁹⁰ Texas Family Code §81.005

Control Counseling program, a 12-week program covering anger management and stress management, which is also open to individuals with other criminal cases in addition to Family Violence. Father's for Equal Rights is a non-profit legal advocacy group that offers assistance to individuals with family law issues.⁹¹

Families seeking support programs and counseling for domestic violence-related issues and parenting skills can see assistance from organizations such as the Lena Pope Home, The Parenting Center, and Catholic Charities.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Domestic violence is common in the United States, its causes are complex and increased efforts are needed to prevent violent behavior. An extensive study into the reasons for such violence and possible measures against it calls for improved coordination among all systems, further scientific research and political action is necessary.

Domestic violence is not limited to particular groups or levels of society, although reported cases suggest that low income or poor living conditions can be among the factors involved. A lack of economic resources has devastating consequences for women to alter their environments or live in safety, particularly if they have dependent children⁹²

In relation to domestic violence, Tarrant County requires a multiple of increased needs that include the following:

- Financial support for the purposes of sustaining housing, attorney fees, food, clothing, medical, and mental health services.
- Adult and youth domestic violence victims require educational and therapeutic services that related to prevention, dating violence, power and control, bullying and services for children who witness domestic violence.
- Additional resources is needed for juveniles, disabled victims, male victims, elderly victims, gay and lesbian populations and victims of diverse groups.
- Immigrant and underserved populations require additional resources such as, legal staff, counseling staff, and support services provided in multiple languages.
- Transportation and affordable and accessible childcare services are needed to assist family violence victims who cannot access other options.
- Batter intervention and prevention programs are needed to address the abuser in domestic violence cases.
- Additional collaboration from family violence provider and community business employment resources and training services are needed to better assist victims of domestic violence.

In conclusion, it is imperative that continued cross-system solutions be identified that include health, mental health, and substance abuse, battered women's services, criminal justice, and child welfare systems. All systems should continue to work towards a shared response and collaboration to provide better access of services for victims of domestic violence.

⁹¹ <https://fathers4kids.com/>

⁹² Fisher, Bonnie, *Violence Against Women and Family Violence: Developments in Research, Practice and Policy*, available at www.ncjrs.gov.

IMPACT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

In January, 2013, the FBI began using a revised definition of rape in the *Uniform Crime Reporting Program* (UCR), replacing the previously used 80-year-old definition. The Texas Department of Public Safety began using this expanded definition in January, 2014. In the new definition, rape is defined as “Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.” (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/cjis-link/march-2012/ucr-program-changes-definition-of-rape>) This new definition more accurately reflects that both victims and perpetrators can be of either gender. Additionally, it demonstrates that rape can be committed with an object, and it can occur when the victim is unable to give consent because of mental or physical incapacity. This definition recognizes that a victim incapacitated by drugs or alcohol cannot give consent to sexual activity. While these critical updates to the definition were long in coming, they paint a more realistic picture of the scope of these crimes, and while it may initially lead to an increase in the number of reported rapes in this country, it will be a more accurate count.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (2012, 2013), 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be sexually assaulted in her/his lifetime. In 2007, there were 248,300 victims of sexual assault in the United States. These rates indicate that someone is sexually assaulted in this country every 2 minutes. A *Health Survey of Texans* (2003) found that nearly two million adults in Texas have been sexually assaulted. Of those sexually assaulted, this study found that only 18% of victims reported the assault to law enforcement. Alarming as these statistics sound, it is pivotal that 58% of Texans are not aware that a rape crisis center exists in their own community, according to a *Survey on Sexual Assault in Texas*, 2003. People from all ages, genders, and ethnic groups experience this very personal crime.

Just as with victims of sexual violence, the perpetrators of these crimes come from all walks and stages of life and may include strangers, acquaintances, family members, spouses, and intimate partners. Approximately 73% of rape victims know their assailants, and within the juvenile sexual assault victim population, the perpetrator is known to the victim 93% of the time. (www.rainn.org/statistics) While some offenders utilize physical violence to commit the sexual assault, others may use threats, coercion, and other types of manipulation. Motivation for this type of offender is power and control and this is achieved by degrading and humiliating the victim through forced sexual acts.

While there is no typical sexual assault, the victim’s response to the assault is also unique. This form of victimization often leads to emotional and psychological trauma, with victims often left with extreme feelings of helplessness and powerlessness. According to the *Crime in Texas 2004* report, many victims do not report forcible rape because of the stigma and fear of embarrassment. Sexual assault is an extremely personal and potentially devastating form of victimization. It may take the victims of this type of crime many years to recover from the physical, emotional, and spiritual effects caused by the sexual assault. Physical problems often appear in the form of eating and sleep disturbances, substance abuse, breathing problems, body aches, nausea, and memory problems. Many victims of rape experience the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and may exist in a psychological cycle of depression, fear, anxiety, anger, shame and secrecy. Based on the work of Robin Warshaw (1994), 82% of rape victims reported that the assault had permanently changed their lives. According to the *National Crime Victim Survey* conducted in 1992, 30% of rape victims contemplate suicide with 13% making an actual attempt. (Kilpatrick, D.G., Edmunds, N.N. & Seymour, A. *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*. Arlington, VA: National Victim Center, 1992)

The crime of sexual assault may also greatly impact an entire community in a variety of ways. It can shatter the sense of safety and trust among the citizens. A community may also experience both a psychological and financial toll as well. The cost of sexual assault to Americans is an estimated \$127 billion per year (US Department of Justice, 1996). Because of its far-reaching effects, this is truly a crime with no boundaries.

Certainly great strides have been made in the arena of sexual violence over the last two decades. Many of the large law enforcement agencies, child protection entities, and district attorneys' offices now have specialized units dedicated to investigating and prosecuting these crimes. Much has been discovered about the psychological and emotional impact of sexual assault on the victim and rape crisis centers, advocacy centers, victim assistance units, and other crisis and treatment oriented programs have emerged to provide support and intervention to these victims. Knowledge about recognizing and treating offenders has also grown. Prevention programs have been developed and disseminated to various aspects of the community. However, such proactive programs have not been uniform throughout all local, state, and national communities. Even in areas where exceptional programs exist, there remains a lack of needed resources and a need for additional shifts in societal attitudes regarding sexual victimization. Waiting lists for victims seeking services need to be nonexistent. Prevention programs need to be extensively utilized, including those that address risk reduction for potential victims as well as those at the primary level of addressing the factors in society that perpetuate the tolerance of such victimization. Sexual assault is a community problem that continues to require a community response in order to be addressed effectively.

For a more detailed discussion on child sexual victimization and intimate partner abuse, see the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence sections of this plan.

SUPPORTING DATA

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Women's ⁹³ Center Responses to Hospital Rape Exams	570	608	579	493
Rapes ⁹⁴ Reported in Tarrant County	673	621	631	675
Rapes ⁹⁵ Reported in Texas	8287	7626	7445	7692

Victims of sexual assault are:⁹⁶

⁹³ The Women's Center of Tarrant County's Rape Crisis & Victim Services Program

⁹⁴ Uniform Crime Reports: Crime in Texas, Texas Department of Public Safety

⁹⁵ Uniform Crime Reports: Crime in Texas, Texas Department of Public Safety

⁹⁶ Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, www.rainn.org/get-information/statistics/sexual-assault-victims

- 3 times more likely to suffer from depression
- 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder
- 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol
- 26 times more likely to abuse drugs
- 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide

Statistics maintained by The Women's Center indicate that the number of victims presenting to sexual assault exam sites in Tarrant County increased in 2010, decreased in 2011, and dropped even lower in 2012. Likewise, the *Uniform Crime Report* (UCR) data reported by local law enforcement agencies in Tarrant County shows the number of sexual assaults decreasing in 2010, slightly increasing in 2011, and showing a more significant increase in 2012.

An age-old question is raised when reviewing trends in sexual assault statistics. The discussion that usually ensues is whether the crime is up or down, or is it an increase/decrease in reporting. The most likely answer is both situations are at play. As part of the Metroplex, Tarrant County is already a highly populated area and continues to see an increase in new residents. As sexual assault is a crime of opportunity, more people usually equates to more availability of potential victims. There are multiple universities and colleges scattered throughout Tarrant County and students in this age range typically experience a higher rate of sexual assault. Likewise, Tarrant County has worked diligently to establish a community that is sensitive to the sexual assault victim. Law enforcement, criminal justice personnel, advocates, and many other interdisciplinary professionals have worked collaboratively for many years to create an environment where sexual assault survivors feel comfortable in reporting their victimization. Whatever the basis, the number of sexual assaults in Tarrant County still warrants a continued collaborative effort to reduce both the incidence of this crime and the impact on the victim.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

In providing services for the victims of sexual assault/abuse, many agencies have been very helpful in assisting with the needs of our Tarrant County residents.

The agencies to notify if sexual assault/abuse is suspected are The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and local law enforcement. John Peter Smith, Texas Health Resources, and Cook Children's hospitals will conduct forensic examinations for victims of sexual assault.

Effective September 1, 2013, Texas Senate Bill 1191 requires that any health care facility that has an emergency department (no matter the size or trauma designation) shall comply with Section 323.004 of the *Texas Health and Safety Code* in regards to emergency services for survivors of sexual assault. The sexual assault survivor may be stabilized and transferred to a facility in the community designated as the primary health care facility in the community for treating sexual assault survivors or the survivor may receive the service at the original facility. The designated primary health care facility in Tarrant County for treating sexual assault survivors is John Peter Smith Hospital. The survivor is to be provided access to a rape crisis center advocate regardless of which facility is providing the exam.

The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system through the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office was designed to notify victims when the defendant in their case is released from custody. Victims can call and register with VINE if they wish to be notified of a defendant's release from custody from the county jail.

Victim notification letters and information about the criminal justice system will be provided to the victim throughout the legal process. The first agency to provide information on Crime Victims' Compensation and community referrals will be the law enforcement victim assistance liaison. The law enforcement victim assistance liaison will be the person who works with the victim making referrals and providing the services needed by the victim until the case is filed with the District Attorney's Office. Once the case is filed with the District Attorney's Office, the victim will be assigned a victims service liaison according to which court the case will be assigned. If the defendant is sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the victim should be informed that they can request to be notified of all Parole Board reviews as well as the defendants projected release date. If the defendant is given probation, the victim will be notified by letter that the defendant was given probation along with his/her conditions of probation. The victim will be given the name and number of the victim liaison so that they will have access to community resources or information on the defendant's progress while on probation (juvenile or adult). At any point in the legal process, the victim can file for Crime Victims' Compensation through the Attorney General's Office.

There are multiple agencies that specialize in the intervention and treatment of sexual assault/abuse victims. If the victim is in need of after-hours crisis intervention, the victim can contact one of the following crisis lines: The Women's Center 24-hour hotline, Suicide Prevention Hotline, or Mental Health and Mental Retardation Crisis Line. If the victim is in need of immediate crisis intervention, they should be encouraged to go to John Peter Smith Hospital immediately for stabilization. The Women's Center, Alliance for Children, The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Child Study Center, The Parenting Center, Mental Health America of Greater Tarrant County and the United Way all offer various types of information, referral and counseling services.

When a court orders that contact with the defendant and the victim are to be supervised, Family Court Services can provide a trained staff member to be present during the visit. In most cases, if the defendant is on probation, the court will require that the defendant have an approved chaperone for any contact with a child under the age of 17. The Community Supervision and Corrections Department has a Chaperone Program for defendants needing to have an approved chaperone for contact with victims or any other child under the age of 17.

If a victim is hearing impaired, The Goodrich Center for the Deaf assists with translation needs. Also, if an elderly or disabled victim has special needs, the Adult Resource Center of Tarrant County or the Area Agency on Aging can provide assistance. The organization, Disabled Crime Victims, assists crime victims who become disabled as a result of crime as well as those that are already disabled and become a crime victim.

If a victim wishes to have mediation between themselves and the defendant in their case, this can be done through Dispute Resolution Services. If the offender is in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), mediation services can be provided through the TDCJ Victim Services.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

The current needs in the community surrounding the issue of sexual assault are to provide more education to the public about acquaintance rape, dating violence and sexual assault in the marital relationship. There is also a need to educate the public and professionals about sexual offenses committed by juvenile offenders and the resources available in the community for rape victims. The expansion of counseling and advocacy services for all rape victims and especially for male rape victims and disabled rape victims is a critical need of the community. The Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) program will assist with paying for counseling services, however, there still seems to be a lack of awareness of the program within the community. There is an ongoing effort to fulfill the

need for educating the public on increasing the reporting of rape incidents and for providing information and specific cultural services to non-English speaking victims of rape. Services specific to homeless, trafficking, immigrant and military victims remain a need. There is an ongoing need for continued improvement of collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies.

UNDERSERVED VICTIMS

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, ROBBERY, AND HOME INVASION ROBBERY

Aggravated Assault, Robbery, and Home Invasion are violent crimes. Victims of these crimes face the possibility of imminent death or serious bodily injury, in addition to financial or property loss. Traumatic violent crimes place the victim, who is in a state of crisis, in a role in the criminal justice process for which they are most likely unprepared. As the criminal case progresses the victim must deal with the demands made upon them by the criminal justice system while simultaneously trying to recover from the incident itself.

IMPACT ON VICTIM AND THE COMMUNITY

Many crimes involve the use of force or violence against victims. Crime victims of all types of crime may experience trauma - physical damage to their bodies or emotional wounds or shock caused by the violence against them. Reactions to trauma vary from person to person and can last for hours, days, weeks, months, or years.

Physical trauma: Crime victims may experience physical trauma—serious injury or shock to the body, as from a major accident. Victims may have cuts, bruises, fractured arms or legs, or internal injuries. They may have intense stress reactions: their breathing, blood pressure, and heart rate may increase, and their muscles may tighten. They may feel exhausted but unable to sleep, and they may have headaches, increased or decreased appetites, or digestive problems.

Emotional trauma: Victims may experience emotional trauma—emotional wounds or shocks that may have long-lasting effects. Emotional trauma may take many different forms:

- Shock or numbness: Victims may feel “frozen” and cut off from their own emotions. Some victims say they feel as if they are “watching a movie” rather than having their own experiences. Victims may not be able to make decisions or conduct their lives as they did before the crime.
- Denial, Disbelief, and Anger: Victims may experience “denial,” an unconscious defense against painful or unbearable memories and feelings about the crime. Or they may experience disbelief, telling themselves, “this just could not have happened to me!” They may feel intense anger and a desire to get even with the offender.
- Acute Stress Disorder: Some crime victims may experience trouble sleeping, flashbacks¹, extreme tension or anxiety, outbursts of anger, memory problems, trouble concentrating, and other symptoms of distress for days or weeks following a trauma. A person may be diagnosed as having acute stress disorder (ASD) if these or other mental disorders continue for a minimum of two days to up to four weeks within a month of the trauma. If these symptoms persist after a month, the diagnosis becomes posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Secondary Injuries: When victims do not receive the support and help they need after the crime, they may suffer “secondary” injuries. They may be hurt by a lack of understanding from friends, family, and the professionals they come into contact with—particularly if others seem to blame the victim for the crime (suggesting they should have been able to prevent or avoid it). Police, prosecutors, judges, social service providers, the media, coroners, and even clergy and mental health professionals may contribute to such secondary injuries.(National Center for Victims of Crime: How Crime Victims React to Trauma, 2008)

SUPPORTING DATA

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

The FBI’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR) captures data on Aggravated Assaults (Assaults with serious bodily injury, the use of a deadly weapon, or threat of the use of a deadly weapon), but not misdemeanor assaults.

- There were an estimated 760,739 aggravated assaults in the nation in 2012. The estimated number of aggravated assaults in 2012 increased 1.1 percent when compared with the 2011 estimate.
- In 2012, the estimated rate of aggravated assaults was 242.3 per 100,000 inhabitants. A 10-year comparison of data from 2003 and 2012 showed that the rate of aggravated assaults in 2012 dropped 18.0 percent.
- Of the aggravated assault offenses in 2012 for which law enforcement provided expanded data, 26.8 percent were committed with personal weapons, such as hands, fists, or feet. Firearms were used in 21.8 percent of aggravated assaults, and knives or cutting instruments were used in 18.8 percent. Other weapons were used in 32.6 percent of aggravated assaults (Uniform Crime Report 2012)

In Texas, the number of Aggravated Assaults reported to the Department of Public Safety’s Uniform Crime Reporting, has followed a downward State trend, however the reported cases from Tarrant County have fluctuated over the past three years.

Area	2010	2011	2012
Texas	71,561	68,028	67,050
Arlington	1258	1176	1225
Fort Worth	2584	2908	2809
Other Tarrant County Cities	1116	1072	935

ROBBERY

Robbery, in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force, threat of force or violence, or by putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a violent crime that frequently results in injury to the victim. Included in this category are assaults to commit robbery and attempted robberies.

Anyone can become a victim of robbery. It is the second most committed violent crime in the United States, with 367,832 incidents accounting for 30 percent of violent crime in 2010. Robberies occur in almost any setting: on the street, in the home, on public transportation, or in a business such as a store, hotel, or gas station. Victims, especially men, are more likely to be robbed by a stranger than by someone they know. The financial cost of robbery can be substantial. In 2010, the average dollar loss per robbery was \$1,239, most of which was never recovered. (USDOJ Office for Victims of Crime Help Series 2010)

National and State Data- Robbery

- There were an estimated 354,520 robberies nationwide in 2012. The 2012 estimated number of robberies decreased 0.1 percent from the 2011 estimate and 20.1 percent from the 2008 estimate.
- The estimated robbery rate of 112.9 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2012 showed a decrease of 0.8 percent when compared to the 2011 rate.
- In 2012, robberies accounted for an estimated \$414 million in losses
- The average dollar value of property stolen per reported robbery was \$1,167. Banks experienced the highest average dollar loss at \$3,810 per offense.
- Among the robberies for which the UCR Program received weapon information in 2012, strong-arm tactics were used in 42.5 percent, firearms in 41.0 percent, and knives or cutting instruments in 7.8 percent. Other dangerous weapons were used in 8.8 percent of robberies in 2012.
- The national average per 100,000 population for Robbery based on the UCR for 2012 was 116.3. (FBI's Uniform Crime Report)
- The average for Texas was 110.6 per 100,000.
- The reported number of robberies committed in Texas in 2012 was 30,375. This represented a 7 percent increase in the number of robberies when compared with 2011.
- More robberies were committed in Texas in December than in any other month, while the fewest robberies were committed during the month of February. (DPS Uniform Crime Report data)

Texas and Tarrant County Robbery Statistics for 2010-2012 are:

Area	2010	2011	2012
Texas	32,865	28,399	30,375
Arlington	532	540	532
Fort Worth	1333	1267	1280
Other Tarrant County Cities	386	313	320

HOME INVASION

Home invasion generally means a robbery that occurs in the victim's home, although sometimes other violent crimes can be committed against the victim or victims during the course of the incident. Texas does not specifically describe home invasion as a discrete criminal act. Instead, home invasions may be reported to the Uniform Crime Report as burglaries, robberies, assaults, or sexual assaults, depending on decisions made about charges filed.

Home Invasion Data: The following national information- the most recent found- was Included for purposes of estimating the occurrence of home invasion.

- An estimated 3.7 million household burglaries occurred each year on average from 2003 to 2007. In about 28% of these burglaries, a household member was present during the burglary. In 7% of all household burglaries, a household member experienced some form of violent victimization ... These estimates of burglary are based on a revised definition of burglary from the standard classification in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Historically, burglary is classified as a property crime except when someone is home during the burglary and a household member is attacked or threatened. When someone is home during a burglary and experiences violence, NCVS classification rules categorize the victimization as a personal (rape/ sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault) rather than a property crime (household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft). In this report, the definition of household burglary includes burglaries in which a household member was a victim of a violent
- "Home invasion" has been used widely to describe an array of victimizations
- "Home invasion" has been used broadly to describe any crime committed by an individual unlawfully entering a residence while someone is home. More narrowly, home invasion has been used to describe a situation where an offender forcibly enters an occupied residence with the specific intent of robbing or violently harming those inside

Between 2003 and 2007:

- A household member was home in 28% of the 3.7 million average annual burglaries that occurred between 2003 and 2007
- In nonviolent burglaries, household members knew the offender in 30% of the burglaries taking place while some-one was home; the offender was a stranger in 24%. The identity of the offender was unknown in 46% of burglaries.
- On average, household members became victims of violent crimes in about 266,560 burglaries annually. Offenders known to their victims accounted for 65% of these burglaries; strangers accounted for 28%.

(National Crime Victimization Survey :Victimization During Household Burglary, Shannan Catalano, Ph.D. U.S. Department of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs, Bureau Of Justice Statistics)

- Tarrant County law enforcement agencies reported 15,769 burglaries to the DPS Uniform Crime Report for 2012. (DPS Uniform Crime Report data)

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Victims of assault may need a range of support including advocacy within the criminal justice system, counseling, financial assistance, medical assistance, or help meeting other needs that arise as the result of the crime.

Victims of robbery and home invasion may need a range of support including advocacy within the criminal justice system, counseling, financial assistance, medical assistance, or help meeting other needs that arise as the result of the crime.

Criminal Justice System support is provided by victim services units within most law enforcement agencies and the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office.

Counseling for victims is provided by: Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, The Community Service Clinic at the University of Texas Arlington, Center Street Counseling Services, The Women's Center of Tarrant County, Trauma Support Services of North Texas, and mental health providers in private practice in Tarrant County.

Financial Resources include the Crime Victims' Compensation program through the Office of the Attorney General, which assists with out of pocket expenses associated with counseling, medical care, and loss of wages. Crime Victims' Compensation does not reimburse for loss of property or cash.

The financial loss associated with these crimes can impact a victim's immediate security needs when the loss causes deficits in housing, food, or utility budgets. Agencies and charities in the community that provide emergency financial assistance on a limited basis include Mission Arlington, Catholic Charities, Tarrant County Department of Human Services, Arlington Urban Ministries, Broadway Community Center, several local churches or faith based organizations, and food pantries.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Additional resources for substantial financial assistance for victims
- Additional trauma specific counseling for assault, robbery, and home invasion victims.
- Advocacy to assist with identity theft issues that may arise in the aftermath of a robbery/home invasion
- Additional legal resources for victims in order to assist with financial institutions and credit issues that may arise as a result of the financial loss.

DISABLED CRIME VICTIMS

IMPACT ON DISABLED VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, there are approximately 56.7 million individuals with a disability in the United States (American with Disabilities:2010, United States Census Bureau Issued July 2012). In 1990 the American Disabilities Act recognized that individuals with disabilities were in need of accommodations. It addressed and prohibits discrimination by mandating accommodations to buildings and offices, employment to individuals with disabilities, transportation, telecommunications and accommodations to programs and services to individuals with disabilities. It has made great strides in ensuring that individuals with a disability receive appropriate accommodations in receiving services and being able to obtain better access. In addition Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities by any entity receiving federal funds. The Fair Housing Act that was amended in 1988 contains anti-discrimination provision for individuals with a disability for all housing and also for programs that provide temporary housing to crime victims

(Cantos, 2006). The Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act Public Law 105-301 addresses the need to increase public awareness of crime victims with a developmental disability and increase safety and justice for these individuals.

The term disability is a vast term and with each type of disability there is a variety of characteristics and needs. Crime victims with disabilities are in need of specialized services to address issues and provide resources for their victimization and their disability. Tracking can be difficult especially if it is a hidden disability which may require an individual's disclosure. It also makes providing services very specialized where one size does not fit all.

Crime victims that become disabled due to the crime have multiple medical problems, financial problems, changes in ability to function independently, and dealing with the criminal justice system. Their family often become caregivers and their needs for assistance can be long-term. The cost of crime is high for the community when a person becomes disabled due to the long term medical expenses and loss of productivity of these individuals since they may not be able to return to work. For instance a crime victim that sustains a spinal cord injury due to the crime, the estimated lifetime cost: \$500,000 to more than \$3 million, depending on injury severity. (www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/scifacts.html) First responders may not know the extent of the injuries so they may not identify them as a victim with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities that become crime victims are often underserved. The Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act (1998) states that individuals with disabilities are at a greater risk of being victims of violence. The risk of being physically or sexually assaulted for adults with a disability is estimated to be 4 to 10 times higher than it is for adults without a disability (Sobsey, 1994). A more recent study published in July 2012 showed that children with disabilities are 3.7 times more likely than non-disabled children to be victims of violence, 3.6 times more likely to be victims of physical violence, and 2.9 times more likely to be victims of sexual violence. Children with mental or intellectual impairments appear to be among the most vulnerable, with 4.6 times the risk of sexual violence than their non-disabled peers. In February 2012 the systematic review on violence against adults with disabilities, found that overall they are 1.5 times more likely to be a victim of violence than those without a disability, while those with mental health conditions are at nearly four times the risk of experiencing violence. (www.who.int/disabilites/violence/en/) It is found that these victims do not know the resources that are available to them. These victims are often not included in the criminal justice system. This is a cost to the community because any time a victim does not receive justice it leaves a perpetrator in the community that puts others at risk of being a victim. Justice is for all no matter the type of disability or limitations. These individuals deserve justice and for their voice to be heard even if that is not an audible sound.

SUPPORTING DATA

Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency in Fort Worth, continues to provide services to disabled crime victims in Tarrant County and across Texas. DCVA is in the process of developing additional programs to enhance services.

Statistics for crime victims with disabilities are limited since at the time of police reports or when a crime victim applies for services it may be unknown that they have a long term injury or disability.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc. was established in 1999 and has provided services to crime victims in this community for a number of years. This includes crime victims that become disabled as a result of the crime and those who already have a disability and become a crime victim. DCVA receives referrals and works with a

number of agencies to collaborate services to best serve these victims, which include but is not limited to District Attorney's office, law enforcement, community agencies, and hospitals that serve crime victims with disabilities. Goals are to continue to serve disabled crime victims, to increase collaborations and strengthen relationships in the community to better serve disabled crime victims.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

There is accessible public transportation in Fort Worth and in some of the surrounding cities, however, the accessible transportation system does not cross from city to city. Although there is some accommodations depending on location this presents challenges and may cause hardship for crime victims with disabilities who depend on public transportation. Other ongoing needs are to provide education and awareness to those who serve crime victims on how to address the needs of disabled crime victims. Increase the information, outreach, and services to non-English speaking communities in Tarrant County.

ECONOMIC AND PROPERTY CRIMES

IDENTITY THEFT

The Texas Penal Code addresses identity theft in section 32.51. FRAUDULENT USE OR POSSESSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION. (a) In this section:

(1) "Identifying information" means information that alone or in conjunction with other information identifies a person, including a person's: (A) name and date of birth; (B) unique biometric data, including the person's fingerprint, voice print, or retina or iris image; (C) unique electronic identification number, address, routing code, or financial institution account number; (D) telecommunication identifying information or access device; and (E) social security number or other government-issued identification number.

(2) "Telecommunication access device" means a card, plate, code, account number, personal identification number, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, or other telecommunications service, equipment, or instrument identifier or means of account access that alone or in conjunction with another telecommunication access device may be used to:

(A) obtain money, goods, services, or other thing of value; or

(B) initiate a transfer of funds other than a transfer originated solely by paper instrument. (Texas Penal Code Sec. 32.51)

Data (including social security numbers, credit history, and PIN numbers) are often acquired through the offender's unlawful access to information from government and financial entities, or via lost or stolen mail, wallets and purses, identification, and credit or debit cards. Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the nation, robbing its victims of time, money and peace of mind. Identity thieves often use the Internet but also can obtain sensitive personal data from trash cans and other unsecured locations.

Unlike a robbery or burglary, identity theft often occurs without the victim's knowledge. Most identity theft victims only find out after they see strange charges on their credit card statements or apply for a loan. While prevention is always the best policy, sometimes personal information is exposed through security breaches at banks or companies with which you do business. Thus, identity theft can happen to even well-prepared consumers.

(FindLaw.com: Identity Theft- See more at: <http://criminal.findlaw.com/criminal-charges/identity-theft.html#sthash.HMB29owD.dpuf>)

BURGLARY

Texas law defines burglary in Sec. 30.02. (a) A person commits an offense if, without the effective consent of the owner, the person: (1) enters a habitation, or a building (or any portion of a building) not then open to the public, with intent to commit a felony, theft, or an assault; or (2) remains concealed, with intent to commit a felony, theft, or an assault, in a building or habitation; or (3) enters a building or habitation and commits or attempts to commit a felony, theft, or an assault. (Texas Penal Code, Sec. 30.02)

THEFT

Theft is documented in two categories of the Texas DPS Uniform Crime Report: 1) Larceny-Theft—includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, bicycle thefts, and other things of value in which no use of force, violence or fraud occurs; and 2) Motor Vehicle Theft, including thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of motor vehicle parts and accessories.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

Victims of property crimes typically endure significant loss that can impact their daily lives. Victims of property offenses often become increasingly aware of their vulnerability to crime and may struggle to regain a sense of security in their homes or vehicles. Property crimes also result in substantial financial losses for individual victims, communities, and the nation.

Property Crimes in Texas

The number of property crimes occurring during 2012 was reported at 875,320. Property crimes decreased 1.9 percent from 2011. Burglary accounted for 23 percent of all property offenses, larceny-theft accounted for 69 percent, and motor vehicle theft accounted for 8 percent. The 2012 property crime rate was 3,359 crimes per 100,000Texans, a decrease of 3.4 percent when compared to the rate for 2011. (Uniform Crime Report)

In 2012, Texas burglary victims suffered losses totaling \$516,173,705. This total represented an increase of .1 percent when compared to 2011 total burglary losses. The average dollar loss per burglary was \$2,518. The average loss for residential offenses was \$2,528, while for non-residential property, it was \$2,492. (DPS Uniform Crime Report 2012)

Identity Theft: National

- About 7% of persons age 16 or older were victims of identity theft in 2012.
- The majority of identity theft incidents (85%) involved the fraudulent use of existing account information, such as credit card or bank account information.
- Victims who had personal information used to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes were more likely than victims of existing account fraud to experience financial, credit, and relationship problems and severe emotional distress.
- About 14% of identity theft victims experienced out-of-pocket losses of \$1 or more. Of these victims, about half suffered losses of less than \$100.

•Over half of identity theft victims who were able to resolve any associated problems did so in a day or less; among victims who had personal information used for fraudulent purposes, 29% spent a month or more resolving problems Erika Harrell, Ph.D., Lynn Langton, Ph.D. December 12, 2013 NCJ 243779
<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4821>

SUPPORTING DATA

Across the State and locally property offenses overall have decreased the last three years, as shown in the table below (DPS Uniform Crime Report, 2012).

Area	2010	2011	2012
Texas			
Burglary	229,269	215,512	204,976
Larceny-Theft	654,483	613,528	605,362
Motor Vehicle Theft	68,219	63,379	64,982
Arlington			
Burglary	4763	4388	3543
Larceny-Theft	13,342	11,757	10,616
Motor Vehicle Theft	1245	1063	950
Fort Worth			
Burglary	9358	10,061	8442
Larceny-Theft	23,162	22,498	21,537
Motor Vehicle Theft	2470	2444	2420

Other Tarrant County Cities			
Burglary	4633	4639	3778
Larceny-Theft	15,902	14,525	13,788
Motor Vehicle Theft	1202	1137	1020

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Tarrant County offers victims of property and economic crimes a variety of resources.

For victims of economic crimes, two valuable resources are Credit Bureaus and the Social Security Administration. These offices assist victims with fraud issues related to stolen identification. Another important resource for victims of economic crimes is the District Attorney’s Economic Crimes Unit. It is composed of six prosecutors and four investigators to help victims in the investigation and legal process of their crimes.

The financial loss associated with property crime can impact a victim’s immediate security needs when the loss causes deficits in housing, food, or utility budgets. Agencies and charities in the community that provide emergency financial assistance on a limited basis include Mission Arlington, Catholic Charities, Tarrant County Department of Human Services, Arlington Urban Ministries, Broadway Community Center, several local churches or faith based organizations, and food pantries.

Many victims of property and economic crimes also experience some level of emotional or mental hardship. VICARS (Victims Initiative for Counseling, Advocacy, and Restoration of the Southwest) offers victim counseling, legal advocacy, and a toolkit for recovery. Counseling for victims is also provided by: Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, The Community Service Clinic at the University of Texas Arlington, Center Street Counseling Services, The Women’s Center of Tarrant County, Trauma Support Services of North Texas, and mental health providers in private practice in Tarrant County.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Relocation options for victims of burglary
- Local resources for information, advocacy, and support for victims of identity theft
- Increase knowledge of service providers and improve coordination of their efforts in assisting victims of economic crimes
- Culturally relevant educational courses and prevention efforts within the community

IMPACT ON ELDER ABUSE VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

The problem of elder abuse impacts the victim because older adults are often vulnerable, isolated and dependent on others for care and support. Elder abuse impacts the community by not affording senior citizens the dignity and quality of life that we value for all citizens in our country. Because the signs of elder abuse often go unrecognized, there is a gross underreporting of the problem. The true national incidence of elder abuse is not known although various studies have attempted to estimate the scope of the problem.

Further, abuse of the elderly through neglect, exploitation, abandonment, physical mistreatment or other means, is difficult to define. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), broadly-defined elder abuse falls into three basic categories: domestic, institutional, and self-neglect or abuse.

According to The Texas Human Resources Code Chapter 48 (Investigation and Protective Services for Elderly and Disabled persons) definitions are as follows:

Abuse yes: The negligent or willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical or emotional harm or pain to an elderly or disabled person by the person's caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the person; or sexual abuse of an elderly or disabled person, including any involuntary or nonconsensual sexual conduct that would constitute an offense under Section 21.08, Penal Code (indecent exposure) or Chapter 22, Penal Code (assault offenses), committed by the person's caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the person.

Exploitation yes: The illegal or improper act or process of a caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the elderly or disabled person using the resources of an elderly or disabled person for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain without the informed consent of the elderly or disabled person.

Neglect yes: The failure to provide for yourself the goods or services, including medical services, which are necessary to avoid physical or emotional harm or pain or the failure of a caretaker to provide such goods or services.

The effects of elderly and disabled person abuse, neglect, and exploitation on the community can have a domino effect. When an elderly individual is the victim of a crime, multiple resources are needed to assist that person who may already need assistance with managing daily tasks. With abuse, neglect, and exploitation, an elderly or disabled person, may need increased financial assistance such as paying for utilities, receiving medical assistance for increased physical and emotional problems as a result of the abuse, exploitation, or neglect. They may also need greater assistance with transportation; in some cases they may need to transition to assisted living or nursing home facility. If they leave their home, they may not have the resources, i.e. financial or human, to assist them in the care and sale of property causing detrimental effects on the neighborhood if the property is not cared for.

Crimes such as physical and sexual abuse, crimes against older mentally ill or homeless individuals, also have a ripple effect through the community as individual victims need to access many services from many providers in order survive. In addition to the physical, emotional, and psychological pain of the victim, the community suffers the economic and social costs as its resources are strained to meet needs. With elderly victims, crimes may go

unreported or under-reported. Thus the individual may suffer in silence while the community suffers the loss of that individual's ability to be a more active, whole, and healthy member of the community.

SUPPORTING DATA

In 2011 Tarrant County had an estimated 150,939 elderly age 65 or older. That number increased to 173,925 in 2012 which is an increase of 22,986 in just one year.⁹⁷

In 2011, The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Service, Adult Protective Services (APS) confirmed 58,068 cases of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. In 2012 there were 2,795 in Tarrant County alone.⁹⁸

Tarrant County ⁹⁹	2011	2012	2013
Total APS completed Investigations	4,042	4,330	3,522
Total Validated Investigations	2,340	2,795	2,464
APS Clients Receiving Services	1,572	2,456	1,647
Population Over 65	150,939	173,925	182,040

State of Texas	2011	2012	2013
Total APS completed Investigations	87,741	87,487	69,183
Total Validated Investigations	58,068	59,595	48,392
APS Clients Receiving Services	60,359	61,857	38,197
Population Over 65	2,581,170	2,818,076	2,954,172

⁹⁷ www.dfps.state.tx.us

⁹⁸ Id.

⁹⁹ www.dfps.state.tx.us

The population over 65 continues to increase at both the Tarrant County and state levels and Adult Protective Services clients receiving services has also increased. Those who are over 65 are expected to increase in number as Baby Boomers age which is beginning to show heavily in the data as the overall numbers are rapidly increasing. In 2006, there was a state-wide public awareness campaign with a focused effort to educate more people as to what constitutes elder abuse. With a focused effort to educate more people, reporting numbers tend to increase which is also shown clearly in the data with those numbers increasing from year to year. Another factor affecting the number of investigations and clients receiving services is the trend to refer potential clients to existing programs. As caseworkers are educated about existing programs, more referrals are made instead of APS providing direct services.¹⁰⁰

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Tarrant County is responding to elder abuse by utilizing the many existing resource agencies. Those agencies are, but are not limited to the following:

Adult Protective Services (APS) is responsible for investigating abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults who are elderly or have disabilities. The major components of APS are In-home Investigations and Services, and Facility Investigations. APS provides prevention and public awareness, handbooks, manuals, and rules. The mission of APS program is: To protect older adults and persons with disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation by investigating and providing or arranging for services as necessary to alleviate or prevent further maltreatment.

Aging and Disability Resource Center is another agency utilized in Tarrant County. At the Center, staff provides access and assistance, person-and family-centered planning and the tools needed to support people who are aging or have a disability, as well as their caregivers.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association dedicated to shaping and enriching the experience of aging for its members and all Americans. It serves its 32 million members' needs and interests through information and education, research, advocacy, and community services. Through its publications, web site, and forums, AARP informs members and the public about consumer issues, economic security, work, health, and independent living issues. AARP engages in legislative, judicial, and consumer advocacy.

United Way Area Agency on Aging is the advocate and leader in Tarrant County in providing services and opportunities for older people, enabling them to lead dignified, independent and productive lives. Services such as respite care, ramps, grab bar and benefits counseling are provided. Also, caregiver evidence based programs are provided through Healthy Aging and Independent Living programs funded by United Way of Tarrant County. These programs are REACH II and Stress Busting programs, which focus on caregivers taking care of their loved ones with Alzheimer's disease. Other evidence based programs include: Diabetes/Nutrition education, Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, Home Meds (medication management program) and Matter of Balance. Congregate meals are provided through Senior Citizen Services and home delivered meals through Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County.

Also, the Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly is located at the University of Delaware, is the nation's largest archive of published research, training resources, government documents, and other sources on elder abuse including ElderCare locator, state resources, resources for families, Adult Protective Services,

¹⁰⁰ Linda Lawrence, APS Unit 61 Supervisor

resources for professionals, nursing home abuse, publications, laws, statistic and research, training library. The Clearinghouse is funded by the National Center on Elder Abuse.

The Elder Options of Texas Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General works to identify and aggressively prosecute those who cheat or deceive the elderly. The division files lawsuits under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act and facilitates the resolution of disputes between consumers and businesses. The Consumer Protection Division focuses its efforts on advertising and sale of insurance and retirement-oriented investments, financial planning services, estate planning and legal services directed at senior Texans, the advertising and sale of home improvements, medical devices and other services and products that target seniors, and telemarketing and mail fraud aimed at senior citizens. Through conferences, publications, videos and presentations to groups around our state, the Office of the Attorney General educates Texas seniors about personal security, elder abuse, consumer fraud and Crime Victims' Compensation.

Guardianship Services serves adults who lack the ability to manage personal or financial affairs. The Volunteer Guardian Program recruits, trains and supports volunteers who serve as volunteer guardians for adults who lack the capacity to make personal and business decisions and have no family members or friends to serve in that capacity. The Money Management Program utilizes volunteers in the roles of bill payers and representative payees.

The National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) is an association of researchers, practitioners, educators, and advocates dedicated to protecting the safety, security, and dignity of older adults. The mission of NCPEA is to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons and adults with disabilities through research, advocacy, public and professional awareness, interdisciplinary exchange, and coalition building.

The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) serves as a national resource center dedicated to the prevention of elder mistreatment. NCEA disseminates elder abuse information to professionals and the public, and provides technical assistance and training to states and to community-based organizations. The NCEA makes news and resources available on-line, collaborates on research, provides training, identifies and provides information about promising practices and interventions.

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) is a county-wide program whose aim is to reduce the criminal victimization of older persons. S.A.L.T. was created by a joint effort between the Sheriff of Tarrant County, Chiefs of Police, the Attorney General for the State of Texas and AARP. S.A.L.T. sponsors an annual conference for seniors to explore senior issues such as crime prevention, senior health care and senior assistance, and information that affects seniors.

Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County, Inc. provides a wide range of programs and services that enable senior adults to live independently with dignity. Programs include but are not limited to: congregate meal program, senior centers (30 centers around the county offering services and activities), retired and senior volunteer program (volunteers 55 and older involved in community service), seniors and volunteers for childhood immunization (counsel parents and grandparents of newborns regarding the importance of immunization), Texercise (center based physical fitness and wellness program), benefits counseling (information and assistance regarding public benefits and health insurance), case management (assessment and coordination of services for senior center participants), and Neighbor Helping Neighbor (help socially isolated seniors 65 and older). Volunteers and professionals are involved in providing a variety of services: transportation, minor home repairs, shopping assistance, wheelchair ramps, safety equipment, yard maintenance, food bank pickup, household chores, visits by phone and in person, information and referral, and meals.

The United Way 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service connects callers with information about caregiver support, child care, health services, financial assistance, food, housing, in-home services, legal assistance and transportation. The 2-1-1 program is a collaborative effort with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

The Widowed Persons Service is a grief support program utilizing trained volunteers for widowed persons which provides telephone services, outreach, group sessions, social events, referral services, and public education.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Although Tarrant County has many services for the elderly, there is a need for services for populations with special needs such as homelessness, multi-languages, mental health issues; just to name a few.

The following needs are the most critical for elderly victims in Tarrant County:

- house repairs and yard work,
- transportation, household chores,
- shopping assistance,
- wheelchair ramps and safety equipment,
- food assistance and free or low cost shelter/housing services.
- Other areas where there are gaps in services include:
- services specific to the victimization of the elder victim,
- services for the non-English speaking,
- seamless continuum of care,
- awareness of services to address victims' rights,
- resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps,
- healthcare and medications, and
- specialized services and awareness of the elderly victims of domestic violence.

There are also needs for:

- mental health services,
- improved collaborative relationships among services providers,
- law enforcement and other local agencies, shelter services, educational curriculum,
- services that support older victims with age-related disabilities or limitations,
- streamlined services between Adult Protective Services, domestic violence agencies and law enforcement for domestic violence victims, including caregiver abuse, and
- additional needs for elderly in geographic areas not covered by United Way's Neighbor Helping Neighbor program

VICTIMIZATION THROUGH GANG VIOLENCE

The Texas Penal Code section 71.01 defines organized crime as: "...three or more persons who collaborate in carrying on criminal activities... (d) "Criminal street gang" means three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities." [1] The Texas Attorney General's office expounds upon this definition as is related in the earlier section of the Community Plan on Juvenile Justice—Gangs.

Victimization from gang violence is a complex issue. This section will highlight some of the issues surrounding victimization through gang violence. One of the needs that will be stated later in this analysis is the need for more evidence-based research on effects of gang presence in communities and victimization from gang violence.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

Victims of this crime may suffer a wide variety of offenses against them. In 2001, the national youth gang survey noted that a large portion of gang members were involved in aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny/theft, and drug sales.[2] In addition to community members being negatively affected by gang violence, gang members and their families may also be victims of gang violence as well; such as being injured in drive by shootings while not engaged in “gang activities”. In some cases, tagged gang members and their families have difficulty receiving Crime Victims’ Compensation and other benefits when they have been victimized because of their association with gangs. The National Crime Victimization Survey published in 2005 looking at gang related crimes from 1993-2003 discovered that victims perceived perpetrators to be gang members in about 6% of violent offenses.[3]

The effects of gang violence in the community are difficult to determine on a very local level as there is a lack of research to determine this issue. However, on a national level there have been several studies that indicate the cost (whether social, economic or health) of gang related violence in the community is very high. “The total volume of crime is estimated to cost Americans \$655 billion per year, and gangs are responsible for a substantial proportion of this. Gangs in the United States have long had a significant economic crime impact.”[4] The same bulletin stated that in Los Angeles County the medical cost of gang violence was nearly \$5 million from 272 gang-related gunshot victims.[5] As has been cited in the media recently, there are many Americans who do not have health insurance or health plans. Logically, this issue exists in our community as well. Some of these uninsured residents may be gang members or victims of gang violence who may need medical assistance. Without insurance or some type of health plan, taxpayers will likely cover the costs of their medical needs. Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT) cited a survey which indicated that 27% of the 2600 Tarrant County residents surveyed did not have health insurance which exceeds the state average of 25%.[6] This is another associated cost to the victimization from gang violence for which there is not a clear figure.

The cost of gang activity to Tarrant County is very high, those affected include: ¹⁰¹

[1] Texas Penal Code:Sec P.C. 71.01 Organized Crime Definitions. [http://www. Tgia.net/Texas_Gang_Laws/texas_gang_laws.html](http://www.Tgia.net/Texas_Gang_Laws/texas_gang_laws.html)

[2] Howell, James C. (2006) The Impact of Gangs of communities. OJJDP: NYGC Bulletin, No. 2. (pp3-4)

[3] Harrell, Erica. (2005) Violence by Gang Members, 1993-2003. Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief: June 2005, NCJ 208875 (pg 1)

[4] Ziedenburg, Jason (2005) Ganging Up on Communities?: Putting gang crime in context. Justice Policy Institute: [www.justicepolicy.org.pg.9](http://www.justicepolicy.org/pg.9)

[5] Ibid, pg. 5

[6] <http://alliedcommunities.org/downloads/ACTbrief8.pps#347,12,The> Health Care Challenge

[7] Howell, James C. (pg.5)

[8] Ibid, (pg.6)

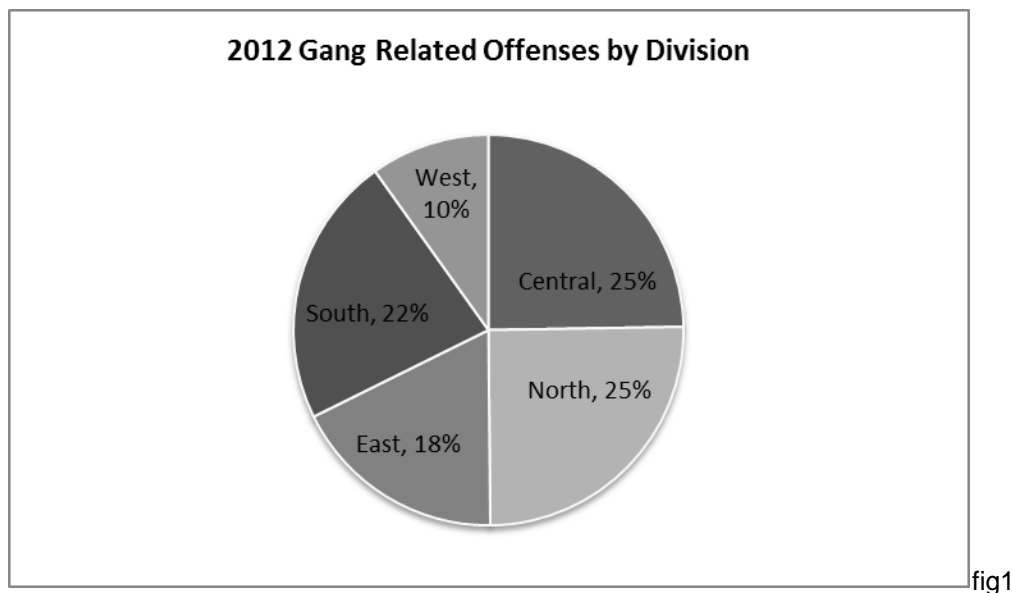
[9] Ibid, (pg.6)

- Citizens through property crimes, vandalism and graffiti, including cost to the taxpayer for agencies tasked with addressing the problem; and
- Victims and their families, several innocent individuals have been victims of drive-by shootings, and other types of violence directed by gang members.

Gang presence in schools is not a new phenomenon. The effects of gang presence in schools have been studied through a number of different investigations. The National Crime Victim Survey indicated four important correlations on the effects of such presence in schools: 1) a strong correlation between guns and drugs in school and gang presence; 2) more students report knowing a peer who has brought a gun to school when gang presence was also reported; 3) students reported that the availability of any drug at school increased with the report of gangs present in the school; and 4) "...the presence of gangs more than doubles the likelihood of violent victimization at school".[7] Schools have responded to this threat by housing local police officers in the schools and installing security devices throughout the schools. While this provides some level of security and deters some students from committing violent offenses, higher levels of security in schools also instills a certain amount of fear in students and school faculty giving gangs a perception of having more power. [8] The learning environment then is compromised as teachers may not be as focused on actual teaching as they are preoccupied with disciplining unruly students and their worries of personal safety as well as the students' preoccupation with peer distractions, peer pressure, and personal safety. Higher delinquency rates and truancy rates have also been associated with youth and gangs. Schools do not regulate security beyond the school campus; however, gang related crime does extend beyond school grounds before and after school hours. [9]

SUPPORTING DATA

A total of 725 crimes were designated by the Fort Worth Police Department as gang related in 2013; 1,044 such offenses occurred in 2012. Gang related crimes are those crimes that are committed by gang members and in the context of gang business. Of these gang related offenses, 24.97% were assault offenses, 24.41% were drug/narcotics violations (excluding DUI), and 14.21% were weapon law violations. Gang related offenses represent approximately 1% of all crimes in 2013. The following graphs were contributed by the Fort Worth Police Department.



2013 Gang Related Offenses by Division

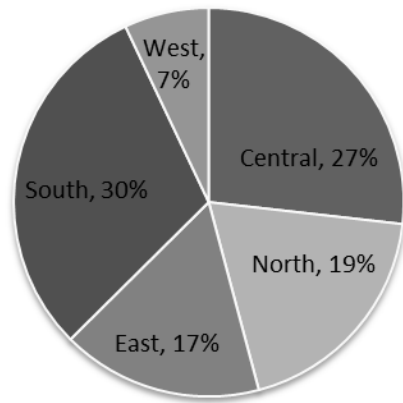


fig2

Gang Related Offenses, Monthly 2012-2013

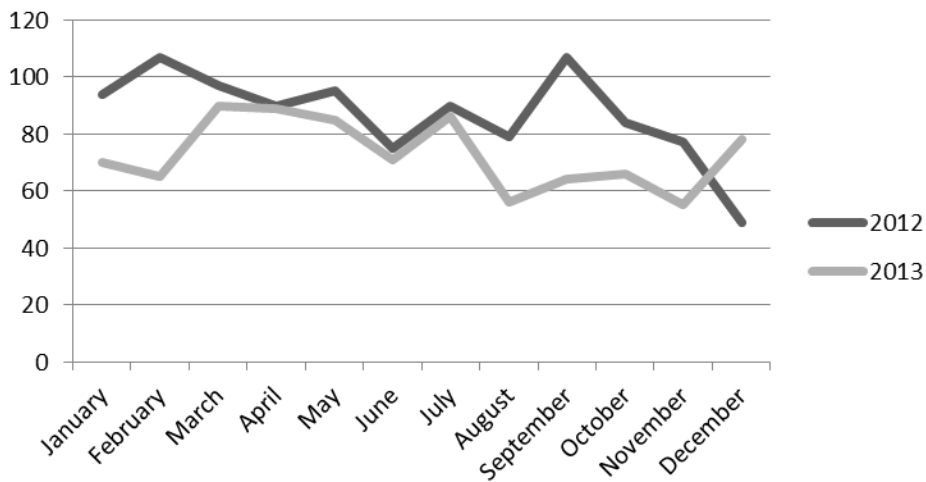


fig3

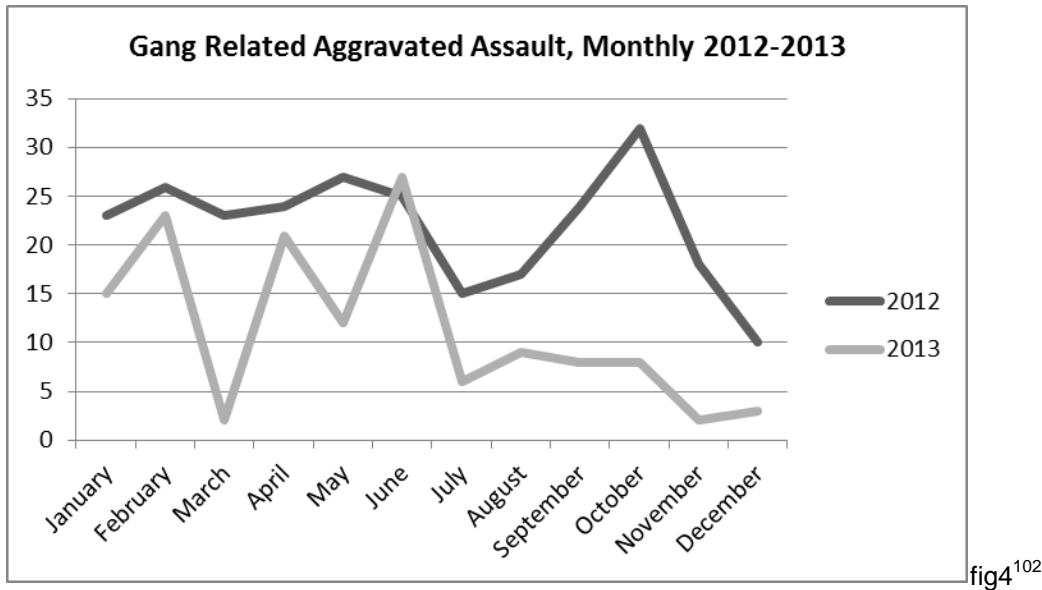


fig4¹⁰²

Please refer back to the Juvenile Justice—Gang Section of the Community Plan for other state and local statistics.

There is little data available concerning the victimization from gang violence pertaining to Tarrant County. One must infer from the types of crimes attributed to the gangs as to the rates of victimization; which does not give a holistic view of victimization by gang violence.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The two largest cities in Tarrant County, Arlington and Fort Worth both have Gang Units in their Police Departments. The Fort Worth Police Department’s Gang Unit started in 1983 with 3 officers and a sergeant. Currently, the Unit operates with 37 officers and supervisors.

Federal and state law enforcement agencies also have anti-gang related units which work in tandem with local law enforcement.

The Fort Worth Police Department Gang Unit has trained officers who serve as teachers in school-based educational programs such as the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.). This suggests that the community has the support of the police who are actively involved in not only enforcement but also in the education of gang prevention and intervention.

Tarrant County also has a number of social service agencies which offer programs to prevent youth from joining gangs, assist youth already involved with gangs and assist the families affected by gang activities. Most of these programs are focused on preventing gang recruitment or intervention and/or violence deterrence programs.

¹⁰² Fig1-4 Fort Worth Police Department/Gang Unit—“This report provides a snapshot of the Fort Worth Police Department’s National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data that was queried from the Records Management System (RMS) on July 17, 2014.

To address the victimization from gang violence, there are many other social service agencies in the Tarrant County area that can provide general services to victims of crime including, but not limited to, general counseling, rape trauma, violent trauma counseling, drug counseling and intervention, financial assistance, and victim's assistance. Schools also have gang prevention and/or intervention programs as noted in the juvenile section. In Fort Worth, the graffiti abatement program is available to those whose property has been vandalized (victimized) by gang graffiti.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

The needs in the community to better respond to the issue of victimization through gang violence are plentiful. There needs to be a good balance in the community at all levels of prevention and intervention; law enforcement and social service; community involvement and service involvement.

Maintaining a fully staffed Gang Unit has been proven to be essential in combating gang related issues. Fort Worth PD and Arlington PD have gang units that have been successful in their efforts at enforcing anti-gang laws. Perhaps one manner of encouraging balancing enforcement and service provision is to ensure that gang officers refer victims of gang violence to victim's assistance units or agencies for follow-up after their victimization if they are not currently doing so as part of their standard operating procedure.

More research-based evidence is needed for Tarrant County specific information. There are a number of grant opportunities available which require evidence-based research to substantiate the need for the program(s). There is an obvious lack of data on the effects of victimization on individuals in the community and the community at large in Tarrant County.

Anti-gang leaders have also suggested that a strategy group at the local level involving school officials, Chief of Police, Gang Unit Lieutenant, probation officers, patrol officers, religious leaders, and social service providers to discuss the issues of gangs and gang violence in the community and strategize ways to address these issues at their sources rather than responding to the surface problems.

According to the National Gang Center a combination of various practices of prevention, intervention and suppression are needed and a list of suggested practices are given to help with gang involved youth ages 12-17.[10] Tarrant County would benefit because there are documented gang members. The following are examples of practices suggested that could be implemented by the community, ultimately lessening the number of victims from gang violence:

One of the 13 Prevention Practices, which is at the top of the list, is: *Providing family-strengthening/effectiveness training to improve parenting skills, build life skills in youth, and strengthen family bonds.*

- In the Prevention Section, one of the 13 suggested practices at the top of the list, is: *Providing family-strengthening/effectiveness training to improve parenting skills, build life skills in youth, and strengthen family bonds.*
- In the Intervention Section one of the 12 suggested practices is: *To intervene with Victims in the community or in hospital emergency rooms to break the cycle of violence.*
- In the Suppression Section, one of the 8 suggestions is: *The creation of a one-stop center that addresses gang involvement and general delinquency involvement with individual problem assessment, services, service referral, and recreational activities.*

These practices engage family and interested agencies like hospitals, police, social service providers and other organizations in the community joining together to make an impact on gang violence.

[10] Nationalgangcenter.gov/spt/planning-implementation/best-practices

HOMELESS VICTIMS

IMPACT ON VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

The impact of crime within the homeless community in Tarrant County affects the ongoing process of doing justice, maintaining a secure community, contributes to and sustains the existence of homelessness. According to national estimates, homeless persons are up to 4 times more likely than their housed counterparts to become victims of a violent crime. The homeless community is overwhelmed with crimes such as physical and sexual assault, intimate partner violence, intimidation, theft and rape. During a State of Homeless Address (2013) hosted by the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition the following statistics were reported:

- 53% of homeless reported being the victim of a physical assault while being homeless
- Over 70% reported being the victim of robbery or theft while homeless
- 33% reported being threatened or victim of intimidation.

The above statistics confirm the homeless population in Tarrant County is infested with violence and crimes that are underrepresented. It is important to note that these statistics are generated from surveys rather than actual police reported offenses. Homeless crimes are less likely to be reported or taken serious by the local law enforcement.¹⁰³ The homeless are not regarded well within most communities. Rather than being seen as victims of crimes, the homeless are often treated as criminals for the offense of being homeless.

The effects of victimization often include shame, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and long-term health problems; such are shared for both housed victims and homeless victims. Nationally, men and women who experience violence were more likely to report frequent headaches, chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, activity limitations, poor physical health and poor mental health.¹⁰⁴ Despite this commonality, the consequences of victimization for homeless people are greater because of the barriers to access traditional victim services. Inability to access services for recovery and participate in the criminal justice process is largely attributed to not having a permanent address, telephone number, transportation and financial constraints. Without contact information, it is difficult for service providers and law enforcement agencies to follow up with homeless victims. As a result, most homeless victims never receive the support needed to aid in recovery. One's inability to heal from psychological trauma creates the potential to be re-victimized and remain homeless longer. Lack of participation and coordination from homeless victims with law enforcement means the offender is not brought to justice and free to commit the same offense.

While homeless individuals overall are vulnerable, there exist sub-populations that are particularly vulnerable, most notably those with mental illness, physical and mental disabilities, the elderly, women, children, lesbian ,gay, bi-sexual and transgender persons. Among these populations previous data of crime is unknown; collection of data is beginning to emerge as the numbers of homelessness increases in Tarrant County. Existing data is mostly centered on homeless women as victims of crime. In the recent Point in Time Count (2014), women represented 40% of the homeless population while men represented 60% of the homeless population. Ironically,

¹⁰³ Day Resource Center-Victims Advocacy Project

¹⁰⁴ NISVS: An Overview of 2010 Summary Report findings

women account for 65% of the population of homeless victims of crime, with 35% of men accounting for victims of crime.¹⁰⁵ According to a Pilot Study conducted by the University of North Texas School of Health Science with homeless women in Fort Worth:

- 29% of women reported being physically attacked ;
- 29% reported being threatened to be killed;
- 24% of women experienced unwanted sexual contact;
- 23% reported being threatened with a weapon;
- 16% of women reported being raped within 12 months of being homeless.¹⁰⁶

The negative impact of crime against homeless women in Tarrant County has shown to have a ripple effect as society acknowledges the prevalence of crime in the community. Within the past few years, the shelters of Tarrant County have operated at 100%-plus capacity. Homeless families are typically headed by young single women who have limited education and young children. With high rates of trauma exposure, frequent moves, inadequate nutrition, and constant stressors of homelessness, the impact of homelessness and victimization can last a lifetime and affect an entire family.

The problem facing homeless women who are victims of crime is that there are few residential facilities that meet the needs of homeless victims in healing from a traumatic event occurrence healing process. Homeless women who have experienced various forms of violence have few safe options; they are not permitted to remain in the shelters during the day and often not eligible for domestic violence shelters or services. With no safe haven, homeless women resort to selecting another abuser or offender to protect them from the prevalence of violence. This cycle creates an unending pattern of victimization that homeless women in Tarrant County encounter. Combating the pattern of victimization for homeless victims requires community support.

Economically homelessness services, such as mental health care, medical resources, education systems, law enforcement, criminal justice departments increase taxpayer cost by 36% over those same services provided to individuals who are housed.¹⁰⁷ The estimated amount spent on homelessness in Tarrant County was \$30.9 million in 2007, and provided services to 2,876 individuals.¹⁰⁸ The Point in Time Count (2014) indicated 2,424 homeless individuals in Tarrant County are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or in emergency shelters, which translates into an estimated \$26 million to be spent in Tarrant County.¹⁰⁹ Additionally, access to bathroom facilities is limited therefore making for undesirable sanitary conditions. When considering generated monies from tourism, the impact and conditions of homelessness could potentially affect the influx of tourist to Tarrant County as well as the entire state of Texas.

Attempts to end homelessness by housing individuals throughout Tarrant County, without addressing the underlining cause of homelessness and victimization has the potential to deteriorate the neighborhoods in which they are housed. Failure to address the issues of domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse associated with victimization of homeless will erode and become a financial burden for many communities.

¹⁰⁵ Day Resource Center-Victim Advocacy Project (2014)

¹⁰⁶ Spencer-Almaguer & Saks (2013)

¹⁰⁷ Haynes, J. & Petrovich, J. (2012). Evaluation of directions home supportive housing and the use of critical service systems.

¹⁰⁸ University of North Texas Health Science Center (2008). A Plan to Deliver Health Care to the Homeless of Tarrant County.

¹⁰⁹ Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (2014). Point in Time Count Results.

The homeless community is isolated from mainstream society resulting in a creating a culture therefore “us” versus “them” culture susceptible to hate crimes in some instances.¹¹⁰ The victimization of the homeless is often not seen as a significant issue, as homeless individuals are frequently seen as responsible for their situation and their victimization.

Major statistics and study are on the impact of homelessness on a community, rather than the community impact from victimization of the homeless population. High rates of victimization leads to increased need in law enforcement and medical costs, but this impact has not been measured or tabulated. By reducing both the incidents of violent crime, addressing victimization when it occurs, and providing systemic supports to these individuals, both the individual and community impact can be reduced.

SUPPORTING DATA

There are a number of statistics concerning the homeless population. A “point in time” count of the homeless persons is conducted every year in many counties across Texas, including Tarrant County. Local municipalities compile data for their local homeless initiatives; State information is available through the Texas Homeless Network; as well as US Census data. The Point in Time count conducted in January of 2014 indicates a slight increase in homelessness over the prior year of 1.5%.

Total Homeless within Tarrant County

Year	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
2014	184	2241	2,425
2013	281	2109	2,390

Domestic violence continues to be a primary factor in causes of homelessness with almost a quarter of homeless individuals surveyed indicating it as the primary cause. While domestic violence shelters do exist within Tarrant County, they have limits on the number of days allowed within the shelters, leaving traditional homeless shelters as the secondary shelter for those individuals.

Domestic Violence as Primary Cause within Tarrant County

Year	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total	As % of Total Homeless
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¹¹⁰ National Coalition for the Homeless (January 2012). Hate Crimes and Violence against People Experiencing Homelessness.

2014	5	581	586	24.2%
2013	23	547	570	23.8%
2012	No Surveys completed			

Offenses within the primary shelter area within Fort Worth occur in much higher concentration than they do in the surrounding community. The shelter corridor along East Lancaster, as defined by the City of Fort Worth Directions Home Program is a Primary Impact Zone, comprised of approximately one-half square mile. The surrounding community, defined as the Secondary High Impact Zone, is comprised of approximately 2.5 square miles. The rates of crime when compared per square mile are significantly higher in the shelter corridor with 7.3 times the rates of assault, 2.8 times the rates of sex offenses, and 7 times the rate of theft. For individuals living within the corridor area, the risk of being victimized is thus significantly greater than in any other area of Tarrant County.

Offenses Reported within Homeless Corridor/Shelter Area

Year	Assault	Forcible Sex Offenses	Larceny/Theft
2013	89	4	82
2012	94	4	64

Comparing and contrasting the statistics noted above, Tarrant County has a higher homeless percentage count than the state of Texas as a whole. As a state, homelessness decreased by 15% from 2012 to 2013 a significant difference from the 1.5% decrease in Tarrant County. Regardless of local, state or national statistics there is a large percentage of the homeless population that has experienced domestic abuse. National estimates place 30 to 50 percent of homeless women as victims of domestic violence. Victimization rates for homeless individuals are not captured on a state level, so state to local comparisons are not possible.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The community response to homelessness and victimization encompasses a variety of proposed solutions dedicated to providing permanent housing. Initiatives to combat homeless have emerged from a number of local churches, social agencies, governmental efforts and persons in the Tarrant county Community.

For instance, Direction Home has presented a 10 year plan to end homelessness in Tarrant County by 2018¹¹¹. The idea is to coordinate the efforts of public, private and social agencies in the community.

Directions Home Sample Action Plan Items (2014)¹¹²

Action Item	Target Date	Lead Entity/ Partners	Possible Funding Sources	High	Medium	Low
Create/ identify 1,088 permanent supportive housing units by year 10	2018	CFW-Housing Department, Homelessness Team, CoC	See PSH production model	1,088 units by end of Year 10	1,088 units by end of Year 10	1,088 units by end of Year 10
Increase the number of background friendly employers	2008; ongoing	Tarrant County Re-Entry Council, Faith Communities, Workforce Solutions, Chambers of Commerce,	Tarrant County Re-Entry Council	Use existing staff and resources	Use existing staff and resources	Use existing staff and resources
Fund one-time eviction, foreclosure & utility shut off prevention assistance programs & link persons to HUD approved	2009; ongoing	Tarrant County Human Services, Utility Companies,	Foundation, Corporate Partners	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$250,000

¹¹¹ directionshome.org

¹¹² directionshome.org

foreclosure counseling agency.		Tarrant County JP Courts	& Utilities			
Develop an annual legislative and advocacy agenda to support plan Implementation.	2009; ongoing	MACH , TCHC, CFW- City Council, Tarrant County Commissioners Court	Use existing staff and resources	Use existing staff and resources	Use existing staff and resources	Use existing staff and resources

The Homeless Victims Advocacy Project of the Day Resource center has expanded victims' services to homeless victims in Tarrant County. Due to the unique needs and barriers of the homeless population it is often difficult for local law enforcement and victim service providers to engage them in an effort to appropriate responses needed. The Homeless Victims Advocacy Project is solely unique by dedicating its services to address the needs of the homeless community by serving as a liaison between them and the overall criminal justice system. It is a grassroots project located in the homeless community which makes responding to traumatic occurrences promptly.

Additionally, YWCA offers a woman-only shelter to meet the first line of defense to the victim of crime and homelessness to ensure there is a sanctuary for the recovery and healing process to begin. This basic need must be met before the participant can began to think about the safety needs of body, as illustrated by Maslow's hierarchy of needs. It is during this stabilization that the participant will have access to a wide range of services: crime victim support advocates, Crime Victim Compensation (CVC) application assistance, individual counseling from professionals, peer-support group therapy, and various opportunities of financial stability support and training. Local research shows that this project is in high need in Tarrant County and there must be a place for victims of crime to receive emergency shelter and services for their healing to allow the victim to reach self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

As a vulnerable population, the homeless are at high risk for victimization. Ending homelessness in our community is one solution to that problem, and area homeless service providers address that issue through a variety of services. However, serving homeless victims of crime is not an area that has emphasis within Tarrant County. The following services are needed within Tarrant County:

1. Education on victims' rights and empowerment in order to encourage crime reporting and police intervention.
2. Increase law enforcement's awareness of the unique service needs of the population and the unique barriers that they experience.

3. Safe storage for documents, medication, money to prevent theft.
4. Additional services for male domestic violence victims, particularly LGBT individuals.
5. Fast track to housing for crime victims.
6. Separated housing for women where they will not encounter their assailant or abuser.
7. Safety planning for shelters.
8. Substance abuse programs to decrease affiliated violence.
9. Access to mental health care despite one's homeless status.
10. Increase shelter beds for homeless victims of violent crimes.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IMPACT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

Human Trafficking, or modern day slavery, is a growing phenomenon in our world today. Most people are not aware that human trafficking exists and many who believe human trafficking only involves female foreign nationals being kidnapped and forced to be sex slaves elsewhere in the world. Those who work with the population of human trafficking victims know that human trafficking definitely exists and that no country, state, town or person is immune from trafficking.

Human trafficking impacts victims as they are systematically stripped of their personal liberties, spirit, and personal identity. Human trafficking is a human rights violation. The impact of human trafficking on the community is perhaps felt at a more macro level. Human trafficking undermines values and morals held at high regards by the community (i.e., individual liberty, free will, safety for men, women and children, and freedom of choice).¹¹³ Human trafficking also negatively affects the business community by corrupt business practice methods like money laundering, extortion and bribery.¹¹⁴ Human trafficking, by nature, holds people in a “climate of fear” hence undermines our laws, our social safety nets and our communities.¹¹⁵

To better understand human trafficking as it exists in Tarrant County, we must first look at how human trafficking is defined nationally and at the state level; what kinds of statistics are available at the national level; and what services are currently available to rescued victims of human trafficking.

¹¹³ Lagon, Mark P. December 10, 2007. The Impact of 21st Century Slavery and Human Trafficking on Development. Speech made to World Bank. (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/07/96708.htm>)

¹¹⁴ The U.S. Salvation Army Human Trafficking Division. What is Human Trafficking: harms to Society. (http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn.nsf/vw-sublinks/8203847F6BA996E585256F25005D5274?openDocument)

¹¹⁵ Lagon, Mark P.

In October, 2000, Congress passed the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act (TVPA)¹¹⁶. It established the definition of human trafficking for the United States, provided guidance for law enforcement and social service agencies and established the concept of a victim centered approach to rescuing and restoring victims of this egregious crime.¹¹⁷

The TVPA defined a "victim of trafficking" as someone who is the victim of sex trafficking or someone who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking.¹¹⁸ Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.¹¹⁹

A victim of a "severe form of trafficking" is: (1) a victim of commercial sex trafficking who was induced by force, fraud, or coercion; (2) a victim of commercial sex trafficking who is under the age of 18 years; or (3) a victim of labor trafficking which is defined as the recruitment, harboring, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.¹²⁰

The three key elements of the federal definition of a victim of a severe form of trafficking are: force, fraud or coercion. Human trafficking victims can be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals who present in the U.S. who are essentially victims of trickery, deception or outright force for the purposes of making a profit from that person's labor. Another essential part of the federal definition is anyone under the age of 18 forced to commit a commercial sex act is a victim of a severe form of human trafficking.

The TVPA was reauthorized three times since 2000.¹²¹ In each reauthorization more provisions were made to assist victims gain restitution, assistance and increased the seriousness with which the United States regards human trafficking around the world.¹²²

To be clear, human trafficking is not synonymous with prostitution. These are very different crimes and are often confused. Exploitation of oneself for the purposes of making a profit is not a human rights abuse, is voluntary, and is not induced by force, fraud or coercion. Therefore, exploitation of oneself cannot be classified as trafficking in persons or victimization through human trafficking. Exploitation of another for the purposes of making a profit, is a human rights abuse, is not voluntary, and may be induced by force fraud or coercion. Therefore, exploitation of another can be classified as trafficking in persons or victimization through human trafficking.

Cited in a 2009 report published by the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, estimates of the number of forced laborers working in the U.S. ranged from 10,000 to 17,000 at any given time.¹²³ The United States government also estimates nearly 300,000 American youth are trafficked in the United States

¹¹⁶ Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (VTVPA) of 2000, 22 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7110.

¹¹⁷ *Id.*

¹¹⁸ *Id.* at § 7102(14).

¹¹⁹ VTVPA at § 7102(9)

¹²⁰ *Id.* at § 7102(8)

¹²¹ <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/laws/>

¹²² *Id.*

¹²³ http://www.slatlanta.org/Publications/HSPS/Human_Trafficking.pdf

each year.¹²⁴ 800,000 men, women and children are estimated to be trafficked around the world each year (80% of these cases are women and children).¹²⁵ It is also estimated 12.3 million people currently live in some form of slavery around the world.¹²⁶ The Department of State cites an International Labor Organization (ILO) study finding that 8.1 million forced labor victims are denied more than \$20 Billion in earnings annually.¹²⁷ The ILO also reports that for every one sex trafficking victim (forced sex/prostitution) there are 9 forced labor victims.¹²⁸

State and local statistics are harder to find. Even so, Department of Justice Taskforce funded areas are mandated to report their aggregate statistical information to the Department of Justice on a regular basis. Limitations of types of information gathered have been cited by the ILO as a global issue, not U.S. specific; however, similar complaints can be made domestically as well. These issues include, lack of global standardization of what information to gather, lack of cross-referencing related crimes where trafficking may have occurred but was not charged or convicted as such and other such limitations to collected information. In Texas, House Bill 4009 mandated, among other things, that the Office of the Attorney General of Texas spearhead a state level Human Trafficking Taskforce and take on the responsibility to collect state-wide data concerning human trafficking investigations and prosecutions. This taskforce was launched in January 2010. There have been several state and national research projects completed many of which are available on-line: (http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/human_trafficking.pdf; <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/reports/texasresponsehumantrafficking.pdf>; http://www.sharedhope.org/dmst/national_report.asp).

Two years after the TVPA was enacted, in 2002, one of the biggest cases of human trafficking in U.S. history was discovered in Fort Worth, Texas; the largest city in Tarrant County. Sixty-four Honduran women were rescued from bars on the north side of Fort Worth.¹²⁹ They were tricked into coming to the United States and becoming virtual sex slaves. As a result of this investigation, and subsequent raid, the Texas State Legislature passed a state law prohibiting the trafficking of persons in the state of Texas. At the time, Texas was one of the first two states in the nation to establish such a law. In 2003, the State defined human trafficking in Chapter 20A of the penal code very similarly to the federal definition; however, originally, it focused on transportation as a primary component of trafficking along with forcing someone to engage in commercial sex or any other form of forced labor.¹³⁰ In 2007, the state legislature changed the elements of the crime by adding the requirement of force, fraud or coercion to the state charge.¹³¹

In September 2006, City of Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) was awarded a three year grant from the Department of Justice to fund a specialized police unit to investigate reports of human trafficking and promote

¹²⁴<http://www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/prostitution.html>

¹²⁵ <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105501.pdf>

¹²⁶ <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf>

¹²⁷<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/2009/126554.htm>

¹²⁸ <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf>

¹²⁹ <https://www.fortworthpd.com/Divisions/human-trafficking.aspx>

¹³⁰ Texas Penal Code § 20A.01 (2003).

¹³¹ Texas Penal Code § 20A.02 (2007).

²⁰ Texas Office of Attorney General (July 2008) 21st Century Slavery: The Texas Response to Human Trafficking.

public awareness. The Unit started operation in January 2007. In Stember 2009, the grant period was to end; however, FWPD received a one year extension and supplemental grant award to continue its anti-trafficking operations. There was no formal grant solicitation disseminated to begin another 3 year grant cycle at that time. In late spring 2010, FWPD was solicited to apply for continuation funding to maintain anti trafficking operations for another year. If awarded, this funding would carry FWPDs anti trafficking operations through FY 2011. It is expected that regular grant RFPs will be disseminated in 2011, but it is unknown when, for how much the award would be, or for how long.

SUPPORTING DATA

Reporting requirements across the State make it difficult to obtain overall statistics on human trafficking “, Texas law does not require law enforcement agencies or the courts to report statistics specific to human trafficking cases, therefore, it is impossible to determine the true number of cases investigated or prosecuted statewide.”²⁰

Available data, although limited, has been compiled from State, local, and local juvenile sources.

The 2014 Human Trafficking Summit lists the following data for the State:

- 29% of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline originate from Texas (2013);
- 436 cases of human trafficking were reported in Texas in 2013; and
- 1 in 5 Human trafficking victims will travel through Texas.

A 2008 statewide report to the 81st legislators on human trafficking lists several assessments and statistical information. The report entitled “The Texas Response to Human Trafficking can be found at <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/reports/texasresponsehumantrafficking.pdf>.

The Fort Worth Police Human Trafficking Unit has reported the following number of cases for the last two years: 2013—12; 2014—20.

While not all runaways and juveniles prostitution cases involve Human Trafficking, there can often be a correlation. Tarrant County Juvenile Services reports the following information, showing a decline in runaway referrals over the last three years.

Offense	2011	2012	2013
Runaway	209	199	144
Prostitution	3	2	1

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Tarrant County is currently responding to the problem as the City of Fort Worth, the largest city in the county, applied for and received a federal grant from the Department of Justice to design and implement a specialized

police unit that responds to reports of human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Unit of Fort Worth Police Department investigates reports of human trafficking and rescues potential victims of trafficking. The Human Trafficking Unit operates under a larger North Texas Anti Trafficking Taskforce which includes all of Tarrant County, Dallas, Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Abilene, San Angelo, and all regional areas. Also, in the North Texas Anti Trafficking Taskforce are various social service providers including Mosaic Family Services, Inc. Mosaic Family Services meets basic needs (foods, clothing, short-term housing), ESL, financial aid, medical/mental health, legal services, translation/interpretation specifically for international victims of trafficking. Currently, there is a response specifically targeting the issue of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST or Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children CSEC). Agencies such as ACH Child and Family Services based in Tarrant County are spear heading this effort through an organized, collaborative approach to this issue. Additionally, Alliance For Children is able to conduct forensic interviews, as requested by law enforcement, on alleged child victims of human trafficking and then refer for services as appropriate.

ACH Child and Family Services, located in Fort Worth, Texas, in Tarrant County, operates a 16-bed Emergency Youth Shelter. The Emergency Youth Shelter is the only emergency youth shelter in the six-county service area (Tarrant, Erath, Hill, Johnson, Palo Pinto and Parker) that serves both male and female clients both community clients (privately placed) and those in the custody of Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (TDFPS). The ACH Shelter serves runaway, homeless and throwaway youth, those same youth identified as most likely to be involved in DMST. For the past three years, ACH has served 118 runaway, homeless and throwaway youth.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

The current needs of Tarrant County to better respond to this population are plentiful. This population has not been a significantly recognized problem in our community before and as such, specific resources to meet the needs of this client population have not been developed.

Law Enforcement: Law enforcement has done a tremendous job increasing its ability to respond to human trafficking in Tarrant County through trainings, protocol development, taskforce establishment and personnel assignment. However, there is much more that is needed. Currently, Fort Worth Police Department Human Trafficking Unit has two full time officers assigned to the unit to respond to all of the reports of human trafficking. Continued collaboration is required between social service agencies and law enforcement to establish guidelines for assisting trafficking victims.

Additional shelter is needed in Tarrant County that can offer safe and secure housing for both foreign and domestic victims, housing for male victims of trafficking is also needed, desperately, as there is no such housing available anywhere currently, and more specialized mental health services are needed. Currently the only specialized mental health facility appropriate for human trafficking survivors is located in Dallas, TX and is difficult to get to without transportation. For domestic victims of trafficking, there are no specialized mental health facilities in Tarrant County. The medical services established in the Tarrant County area are adequate and reliable. Emergency medical services have been trained as well as county and city public health officials.

“John Schools” or a prostitution solicitor rehabilitation program would also be an improvement to the law enforcement and social service arenas as there is virtually no punishment afforded the people to supply the demand for sex trafficking activity. Fort Worth Police Department has a John TV program in which convicted sex solicitors are published on city cable for the public to see. This is a tremendous step forward to punishing those to supply the demand for the sex trade.

JUVENILE WITNESSES

IMPACT ON JUVENILE WITNESSES AND THE COMMUNITY

Children in the United States are more likely to be exposed to violence and crime than adults. More than sixty percent of children report being exposed, directly or indirectly, to violence within the past year (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, and Kracke, 2009). Two out of every five children report witnessing two or more types of violence within the previous year (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, and Kracke, 2009). Exposure to violence affects children of all ages, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses, and backgrounds, and each child affected in a different way (Meltzer, Doos, Vostanis, Ford, and Goodman, 2009). Unfortunately, witnessing violence at any young age can lead to long term physical, mental, and emotional difficulties (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, and Kracke, 2009).

SUPPORTING DATA

Not enough is known about the number of juvenile witnesses. Although several studies have attempted to measure children's (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, & Kracke, 2009) exposure to violence, these estimates have varied greatly. Though some information exists on the types of violence a child is exposed to, it is difficult to record the variety of responses. For example, exposure to violence can be categorized as seeing and/or hearing the violence, seeing the injuries as a result of the violence, or just being told of the violence afterwards (Hamby, Finkelhor, Turner, and Ormond, 2011). Currently, juvenile witnesses of violent crime are severely underserved and underreported due to services being more victim-oriented as opposed to witness-oriented. Until recently, this population has been overlooked.

This is the first year of the One Safe Place Child Witness Project so little information exists for child witnesses in Tarrant County. However, from April 2012 to April 2014, eighty percent of clients at One Safe Place reported having children under eighteen years old. Seventy-one percent of those parents reported that their child or children have witnessed domestic violence within the home. These statistics greatly motivated the creation of the Child Witness Project once a need became so obvious.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Safe City Commission and One Safe Place have prioritized the needs of children that have been affected by violence. In spring 2014 Safe City Commission, in partnership with Project Safe Neighborhoods, developed the Child Witness Project for children between three and sixteen years old that have witnessed violence. The Child Witness Project is an intervention program intended to connect these children to services within the community in an effort to reduce the impact of exposure to violence. Research indicates intervention services with young children that have witnessed violent behavior reduces their chances of perpetuating violence, becoming involved in delinquency, developing psychological disorders, and/or developing other behavioral issues (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, and Kracke, 2009). The Child Witness Coordinator will receive referrals from school social workers, community professionals, law enforcement, and other partnering agencies that encounter a child witness to violence. Upon referral, the program coordinator will educate the parent about what constitutes as trauma, the signs and symptoms of trauma, and the benefit of interventions at a young age. The Child Witness Project Coordinator strives to educate and inform parents about trauma and adversity with hope that this education and awareness will reduce the long-lasting side effects of trauma. The Project Coordinator has a strong knowledge base of local agencies that provide trauma-focused therapy to children and adolescents and refers the children to the most appropriate agency.

Safe City Commission and One Safe Place created Tarrant County's own Camp Hope & Heart, a weeklong overnight camping adventure for children that have been impacted by domestic violence. Camp Hope and Heart is designed to allow children between eight and thirteen years old an opportunity to gain independence, experience outdoor activities, and learn how to be a child again. In addition to the weeklong camp, One Safe Place will host follow up events to reunite the campers together every three months. These educational and recreational activities are intended to help the children maintain friendships made at camp, keep children and parents engaged in activities, and instill hope and strength in these children to break the cycle of family violence. The first annual Camp Hope & Heart was held in August 2014 for over forty children.

Tarrant County is making holistic efforts to respond to the negative effects of trauma throughout the community. The Tarrant County Mental Health Connection was created in 1999 and has expanded over the years into an organization with a variety of professionals that interact together to provide mental health services to community members. This is a way for mental health professionals to be aware of new community resources and stay informed on constantly evolving techniques for services. Under the Tarrant County Mental Health Connection is a subcommittee of trauma-focused professionals representing an array of underprivileged people and taking initiative to educate the community about trauma and its effects. The Recognize Trauma media campaign was launched by the Trauma Subcommittee in May 2013.

Several social services agencies in Tarrant County provide trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. ACH Child and Family Services, Alliance for Children, Lena Pope Home, The Parenting Center, SafeHaven, Santa Fe Youth Services, Trauma Support Services of North Texas, and The Women's Center provide services to children, adolescents, and adults needing trauma-focused counseling. Agencies communicate and refer to one another to ensure that each client is referred to the most appropriate agency for his or her needs.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

In order for the juvenile witnesses to receive the services and assistance they need, there are several gaps within the community that first need to be addressed. The needs include:

- the development of prevention and awareness programs that identify children at risk of being exposed to violence,
- more programs for child witnesses that are considered either high risk or are presenting general behavior issues,
- better training for personnel working with children to recognize the effects and symptoms of trauma, (4)
- more mentoring programs for juvenile witnesses,
- more comprehensive mental health/case management services for child victims and witnesses at a low cost or sliding scale,
- more programs that allow the child and family to stay connected for long term services, and
- evaluation of the effects of child witness identification programs.

SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS

IMPACT ON SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE AND THE COMMUNITY

Survivors of homicide are often faced with extreme emotional and financial burdens that can impact the grief process and hinder their recovery. Grief is a common human experience. People experience grief when they leave particular places; they divorce, when someone they know dies. But grief for families of homicide victims

has unique qualities. It is different from normal grief. It is more profound, more lingering, and more complex. Homicide changes normal reactions and responses and, without a doubt, influences the length of time necessary to resolve grief. It intensifies feelings and makes the journey to recovery for family members long, slow, and difficult.

Just as families, people and culture differ, grief takes on a great many forms. Men and women experience grief in different ways. Even a person's religious beliefs can affect the way grief is experienced. There are definite stages of grief, but it is important to understand that most individuals will not go through these stages in a rigid and fixed manner. Some may experience many feelings and stages at once, while others may take the grief one step at a time. The way these stages are experienced by survivors of homicide may also differ somewhat from the way they are experienced by others.

The stages in the grieving process are shock, emotion, depression and loneliness, physical symptoms of distress, panic, guilt, hostility and resentment, inability to return to usual activities, hope, and affirming reality. These stages may occur in no logical sequence.

The founders of 'Parents of Murdered Children,' learned that "the grief caused by murder does not follow a predictable course. It does not neatly unfold in stages. When a person dies after a long illness, his or her family has time to prepare emotionally for the death, to feel anticipatory grief. When someone is murdered, the death usually comes without warning. A parent might have breakfast with a child on an ordinary morning and then never see or hold or speak to that child again. The period of mourning after a natural death lasts, one, two, perhaps three years. The much more complicated mourning that follows a homicide may be prolonged by the legal system, the attitudes of society, the nature of the crime, and the final disposition of the case. A murder is an unnatural death; no ordinary rules apply. The intense grief experienced by survivors can last four years, five years, a decade, even a lifetime."¹³²

Financial Burdens start almost immediately when a homicide has occurred. Homicide may mean a significant loss of income for a family, especially if the victim was the primary 'breadwinner'. Survivors may be unable to return to work following the loss of the loved one for one reason or another. The possibility of losing the family home is real if mortgage payments cannot be made. Plans to return to or complete school may have to be postponed. There may be unexpected medical/funeral bills to pay.

The community as a whole is impacted by homicides; particularly if the homicide is highly publicized in the media. Depending upon how the media portrays the homicide, the community may feel a sense of togetherness and come together for community activism. While the media has the power to positively affect the community after a homicide, they also have the power to instill a sense a fear, too. For example, a domestic violence homicide, may illicit community activism, and local domestic violence agencies to be highlighted in the media. The sudden media attention is an avenue for local domestic violence agencies and law enforcement to remind the community of available resources, discuss prevention methods, and also increase awareness of the underlying problem (domestic violence) that lead to the homicide. The result of such publicity positively impacts the community, when the media takes the role of an information outlet.

On the other, the media also has the influence to cause community members to be afraid and overly concerned regarding random acts of violence. For example, if an innocent victim was murdered by a drive-by gang shooting, the media may portray that gang violence is on the rise or that it is more prevalent than it is in actuality. In this instance, the community may become fearful and begin to believe that crime rates are rising. Often, the media

¹³² A Grief Like No Other, Eric Schlosser, 1997

only illustrates a small glimpse of the actual issue, but the community takes the information and develops opinions and reactions based upon what they learned from the media. In either case, of a homicide resulting from a personal relationship or a stranger, the media has the potential to greatly impact the community's reaction to homicides. Attention to community resources, awareness of state and local policy, and also an understanding of needed services and funding may be the end result of increased media attention to homicides victims. Depending upon how the media reports homicides, the community may respond with a positive attitude towards addressing the underlying issues or respond with fear and avoidance of the issues.

SUPPORTING DATA

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program estimated that there were 1,089 homicides in Texas in 2011. Arlington and Fort Worth, the largest major cities in Tarrant County and had similar trends as the state in regards to yearly population increase and homicide rates. Information from the following table was gathered from the Texas Department of Public Safety's Uniform Crime Report Information (http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/pages/crimestatistics.htm).

Area	2010	2011	2012
Texas	1,249	1,089	1,144
Arlington	16	22	17
Fort Worth	63	49	44
Other Tarrant County Cities	n/a	16	11

Homicide trends vary depending upon many factors, especially since homicide is often the result of being a victim of other violent personal crimes such as robbery, family violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The data provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report suggests that population increase does not necessarily equate to an increase in homicides. Due to the many factors involved in homicides, there appears to be no specific trends noted in the above table.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Survivors of homicide are left to deal with many emotionally and financially stressful issues, and in order to maintain function, they generally need the support and assistance of agencies specifically trained to deal with their unique set of issues. Survivors of homicide victims are unlike other crime victim's because they must address their emotional response to the trauma and grief of losing a loved one, while also having to deal with immediate need of financial issues involved in planning the funeral and burial of their loved one. These issues can

be overwhelming and require intervention from people who are trained specifically trained in dealing with unique set of circumstances that these victims must confront.

The first point of contact for survivors of homicide victims is usually through the local police or sheriff department's victim assistance program. They are equipped to provide crisis intervention and crisis counseling, however most are not set up to offer long term counseling. Victim assistance programs are vital in providing victims with referrals for local short term and long term counseling options. They are also vital in providing families with information on obtaining immediate financial assistance for funeral and burial. One of the main functions of victim assistance is to provide information and assistance with the Crime Victim's Compensation application, which offers financial assistance with funeral and burial costs, lost wages compensation, and counseling.

Although the Crime Victim's Compensation fund provides for the financial aspect of obtaining counseling, victims still require assistance with locating grief counselors. There are several existing entities providing various types of counseling such as individual, group, family, and children's play therapy for the families of homicide victims, these include:

- a support group that meets twice a month at the Women's Center,
- Trauma Support Services of North Texas provides counseling for all types of victims and survivors of traumatic events and offers a specific group for survivors of homicide,
- The Mental Health Association provides links to many resources useful to survivors of homicide, and
- Our Garden of Angels offers a remembrance setting as an alternative method for families to express their grief.

Additional agencies have free or reduced fee counseling services, and are listed with the United Way (<http://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/get-help>) or with Tarrant Cares (www.tarrantcares.org). While there are quite a few general counseling options available for survivors of homicide, there is still a great need for programs tailored specifically to meet their unique immediate and long term financial and emotional needs.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Additional resources are needed to provide crime/trauma specific grief counseling
- There is an additional need for a county-wide resource packet of information and resources specific to survivors of homicide
- There is a need for a local chapter of the national organization, Parents of Murdered Children
- Additional resources are needed to provide financial assistance for victims

It is important to improve services available to survivors of homicide. This involves increased knowledge of multi-cultural issues and crisis reactions that surround trauma-related deaths. The development of a standardized death notification packet that provides survivors of homicide with important and useful information pertaining to the death of their loved one is imperative to improving services. This packet would provide important phone numbers, counseling resources, and answers to commonly asked questions that can assist families during their time of grief.

VEHICULAR CRIMES

IMPACT OF VEHICULAR CRIME ON VICTIMS AND THE COMMUNITY

There are a number of specific vehicular crimes which impact victims on a daily basis in Tarrant County. Among the most prevalent are DWI-related offenses which include Intoxication Manslaughter, Intoxication Assault (involving Serious Bodily Injury), DWI/Child Endangerment (DWI with minor child in car), and DWI (with minor injury/property damage). Also, the offense of Failure to Stop and Render Aid (FSRA) occurs in the community frequently. These “Hit and Run” crashes often result in no charges against the offending party, leaving the victim to deal with the full brunt of the crash emotionally, physically, and financially.

Any type of vehicular crash can be traumatic. The effects of vehicular crashes are numerous and evident. They may involve death, serious injury, emotional trauma, physical suffering, and financial devastation.

However, when the crash involves a crime, the trauma is instantly compounded and complicated. Often, the victim participates in the criminal justice process. This is a very daunting experience for citizens unfamiliar with the criminal justice process. Having to participate in the area of justice often adds an additional level of stress to the victims. The victim becomes involved with all aspects of the criminal justice process including involvement with law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, investigators, judges, probation, and possibly the parole process. With this process comes the extreme need of most victims for involvement, information, and of course intense interest in the outcome of the case.

Vehicular crimes obviously affect the victims involved. In addition, these crimes affect the community as is evident in the budgets of public hospital trauma units. The need for increased funding for hospitals to care for these victims becomes a tax burden on community members who share the burden of support for the hospitals.

SUPPORTING DATA

Fatality rates are a universal statistic used by most entities to determine the level of concern in a state or community. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the following statistics are relevant to Texas and Tarrant County:

Total Traffic Fatalities					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas	3104	3023	3054	3398	3377*
Tarrant	136	134	148	123*	141*
% of State Offenses	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%

Alcohol Impaired Fatalities					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Texas	1253	1259	1216	1298	1089*
Tarrant	62	64	54	41*	46*
% of State Offenses	5%	5%	4%	3%	4%

**Tarrant County statistics for 2012 and 2013 provided by TxDOT based on Texas Peace Officer Crash Reports. Actual statistics are typically higher.*

*All other statistics reported by NHTSA.
(2013 County information unavailable at document creation)*

Alcohol-related traffic fatalities account for 38% of all traffic deaths in Texas. In 2012, Texas had the largest increase of alcohol related fatalities nationwide with an increase of 80 fatalities (NHTSA). In 2013, Tarrant County ranked fourth in the State of Texas with 1,704 drunk driving crashes (TxDOT).

In 2012, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, which is one every 51 minutes (NHTSA). Impaired driving is a concern in Tarrant County as well as around the state. As a metropolitan county in close proximity to Dallas County, the “Metroplex” accounts for a majority of deaths in Texas due to drinking and driving. NHTSA has determined that Texas and California are the two most dangerous states in the U.S. with each vying for first or second place for most of the last decade.

The cost of alcohol related crashes exceed more than non-alcohol related crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2010, alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes cost more than an estimated \$199 billion annually. That is almost \$800 per adult (NHTSA).

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

MADD opened its first Tarrant County office in the mid-1980’s to respond to the needs of victims, their families, and friends who were most affected by the crime of impaired driving. The office continues to serve over 500 victims each year by providing a variety of programs and services that help to alleviate the trauma resulting from impaired driving crashes. Services include emotional support, information, and referrals.

In 2013, Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney’s office had filed 289 cases involving DWI repeat offenders. This number increased as in 2012, there were 261 cases filed and in 2011 there were 246 cases filed involving DWI repeat offenders (TCCDA).

The Tarrant County Felony Alcohol Intervention Project (FAIP) provides intensive supervision to repeat DWI offenders in an effort to reduce and eliminate their recidivism and prevent future victimizations. The specific goals of the program are:

- Increasing successful treatment outcomes for those who are most likely to jeopardize the safety of the community

- Reducing the costs of repeated crime
- Addressing DWI as a substance abuse problem thereby increasing public safety
- Changing the attitudes and behavior of DWI offenders

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Two in three people will be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lifetime (NHTSA). Although MADD continues to extensively outreach to law enforcement, trauma professionals, and court personnel, many citizens continue on a journey of pain without the two major components of relief—solace and information. More training for law enforcement, hospital personnel, and criminal justice workers would go a long way toward allowing victims to feel a part of the “system”.

Additional resources for MADD are needed in order to continue providing comprehensive services to all victims of impaired driving crashes. MADD recognizes that most victims of vehicular crimes enjoy the specific nature of the services offered by MADD advocates as opposed to the more generic work of trauma professionals who work with all types of crime. The services MADD offers are more personalized and offer the victims/survivors targeted services based on their specific needs during their healing journey.

UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS

IMPACT ON UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS AND THE COMMUNITY

Undocumented persons are at increased risk of victimization because they are less likely to report crimes committed against them for fear of deportation and their lack of knowledge of the laws and their rights as crime victims. As a result, undocumented crime victims receive fewer services than their documented or U.S. citizen counterparts. Long term consequences of this may be that these crime victims go without needed medical treatment, counseling and other services to help them deal with their victimization. Impact on the individual victim may be isolation and increased fear resulting in the exacerbation of medical and psychological injuries due to the victimization. Other factors that should be considered are language barriers and cultural beliefs. Many undocumented victims may be hesitant about seeking assistance if it is not available in their native language. Some types of offenses, especially domestic violence and sexual assault, may not be reported because the victim may view it as a family issue and may not report it for fear of bringing shame to the family or exposing themselves and their families to law enforcement and/or customs authorities.¹³³ The lack in reporting or underreporting of crime undermines the work of the police and encourages further criminal activity.

Impact to the community can include increased emergency care spending. Although undocumented victims may not initially seek medical care for their injuries because of the concerns already mentioned, they may wait until the situation has worsened to the point of needing long term or costlier care than had they sought treatment immediately. This is a challenge for hospital systems as well because they have to decide which care is emergent and which is not. While undocumented victims have a right to emergency medical care; oftentimes they are unable to receive non-emergent care because they do not have insurance or funding to pay the high cost of treatment. Some agencies that are set up to assist undocumented persons may see a decrease in their funding if the numbers do not support the need for the service. As mentioned before, because of the fear of deportation, undocumented victims may not utilize services available, therefore, the services are unable to justify the needed funding.

¹³³ www.ncdsv.org/images/ImmigrantWomenPCwheel_NO%20SHADING_NCDSV.pdf

There are several immigration remedies available to undocumented immigrant victims of crime.¹³⁴ One remedy is known as a “VAWA” self-petition. The basic requirements for a VAWA self-petitioner are the petitioner must (1) be married in good faith to a United States citizen or U.S. lawful permanent resident (LPR), (2) have cohabitated with the U.S. citizen or LPR spouse in the United States, (3) suffer or have suffered severe physical or psychological abuse at the hands of the citizen or LPR spouse, (4) be a person of good moral character (i.e. clean criminal history).¹³⁵

Another remedy is the U visa. This is available to victims who (1) are victims of qualifying criminal activity¹³⁶; (2) have suffered physical or mental abuse due to the qualifying crime; (3) possess information relating to the qualifying crime; (4) are, were, or are likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying crime by federal, state, or local law enforcement or prosecutor, federal or state judge, or federal or state authority investigating or prosecuting the crime (e.g. Child Protective Services).¹³⁷

A final remedy is the T visa for victims of a severe form of human trafficking. To qualify for a T visa, the victim must (1) be a victim of a severe form of trafficking as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000; (2) be physically present in the United States because of the trafficking; (3) comply with reasonable requests from the law enforcement agency investigating or prosecuting the trafficking offense unless he or she is unable to provide assistance due to physical or mental trauma or is a victim who is not yet 18 years old; (4) would suffer extreme hardship including severe and unusual harm if he or she were removed (deported) from the United States.¹³⁸

SUPPORTING DATA

While there have been attempts to get an accurate count of the undocumented in Tarrant County, it is uncertain how accurate these numbers are.

The Tarrant County Hospital District hired Phase 2 Consulting of Austin to conduct a study, which was released in July 2007 that estimated the number of undocumented persons in Tarrant County at 107,000. Patricia Gaffney, a member of Allied Communities of Tarrant, an advocacy group for undocumented residents, who helped research and write their report, challenged some of the basic assumptions of the Phase 2 Study. She said that the study projects a 56% increase in Tarrant County’s undocumented immigrant population in the next decade even though federal reports show that illegal immigration is decreasing. ACT estimates the undocumented population of Tarrant County to be closer to 96,800. This information came from the US Census Bureau’s latest American Community Survey (ACS).

The Pew Hispanic Center fact sheet estimates the unauthorized (undocumented) Texas population as of March 2005 at 1.4 – 1.6 million, with the US total estimated to be from 10.7 to 11.5 million.

¹³⁴ <http://www.dhs.gov/immigration-options-victims-crimes>

¹³⁵ I.N.A. § 204(a); 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a).

¹³⁶ See I.N.A. § 101(a)(15)(U)(iii); 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(U)(iii) (listing the qualifying crimes for a U visa).

¹³⁷ I.N.A. § 101(a)(15)(U); 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(U).

¹³⁸ I.N.A. § 101(a)(15)(T); 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(T).

North Central Texas 2030 Demographic Forecast

Tarrant County

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Population	1,435,186*	1,620,761	1,746,082	1,909,469	2,047,553	2,184,869
Households	540,420*	608,127	653,358	716,420	770,619	821,149
Employment	864,360	985,109	1,077,319	1,168,731	1,265,489	1,340,172

All projections based on 2000 city boundaries. *NCTCOG estimate adjusted from 2000 Census count. Does not include group quarters.

The above table illustrates the population growth that is projected in Tarrant County, it is expected that the growth of the undocumented population will grow as well. However, the current economic downturn may affect these numbers causing many undocumented persons to return to their native countries.

CURRENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Catholic Charities has programs to assist undocumented persons by providing services for VAWA, U and T Visas; as well as general family based immigration and humanitarian relief benefits. Within the Spanish Speaking community, there are grass-root organizations that assist the undocumented such as Casa Chihuahua, etc.

CURRENT NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Increased need for more bilingual/ bi cultural services
- Increased need for public awareness of the rights of the undocumented and available immigration remedies for crime victims. Their basic rights include police assistance, emergency medical care, shelter, protective orders, and divorce and/or custody of children
- Push for the full compliance for the implementation of the civil Rights Act on limited English Proficiency regulations
- A more focused effort of agency partnering to increase awareness and services to the undocumented population.
- Revision of the Fort Worth Police Department and Fort Worth District Attorney’s current policy on issuing U Visa certifications to victims of crime so that the agency policy is not more restrictive than the requirements for a certification under federal law.
- Revision of the Fort Worth Police Department’s policy on issuing police reports by allowing adult victims of crime to obtain full copies of his or her police incident reports and voluntary statements.

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

IMPACT ON STALKING AND HARASSMENT AND THE COMMUNITY

The criminal offenses of Stalking and Harassment are defined in the Texas Penal Code under sections 42.07 and 42.072:

§ 42.07. HARASSMENT: A person commits an offense if, with intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another, the person initiates communication and in the course of the communication makes a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene; threatens, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property; conveys, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury; causes the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or makes repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another; makes a telephone call and intentionally fails to hang up or disengage the connection; knowingly permits a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section; or sends repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another.

An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if the actor has previously been convicted under this section.

§ 42.072. STALKING: A person commits an offense if the person, on more than one occasion and pursuant to the same scheme or course of conduct that is directed specifically at another person, knowingly engages in conduct that constitutes an offense under Section 42.07, or that the actor knows or reasonably should know the other person will regard as threatening bodily injury or death for the other person; bodily injury or death for a member of the other person's family or household or for an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship; or that an offense will be committed against the other person's property; causes the other person, a member of the other person's family or household, or an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship to be placed in fear of bodily injury or death or in fear that an offense will be committed against the other person's property, or to feel harassed, annoyed, alarmed, abused, tormented, embarrassed, or offended; and would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily injury or death for himself or herself, fear bodily injury or death for a member of the person's family or household or for an individual with whom the person has a dating relationship, fear that an offense will be committed against the person's property; or feel harassed, annoyed, alarmed, abused, tormented, embarrassed, or offended.

An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree, except that the offense is a felony of the second degree if the actor has previously been convicted of an offense under this section or of an offense under any of the following laws that contains elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense under this section, including the laws of another state, the laws of a federally recognized Indian tribe, the laws of a territory of the United States, or federal law.

Stalking may often be a component of the power and control tactics in a family violence dynamic. Stalkers use a variety of actions to frighten, harass, and control their victims. Stalking may include following a person; driving by a victim's place of employment or school; sending unwanted gifts, cards, or e-mails; persistently calling or text messaging; tracking a victim's whereabouts using technology such as cameras or global positioning systems

(GPS); vandalizing property; and threatening to hurt the victim, his or her family, another person, the person's property or pets.¹³⁹

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and at the federal level, and it can happen to anyone regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or personal associations. The majority of stalking victims are women and most stalkers are men, but men can be victims, too.¹⁴⁰

Three out of four stalking victims were stalked by someone they know; of these, 45 percent of stalkers were acquaintances of the victim and 30 percent were intimate partners.¹ Stalking by an intimate partner is the most dangerous type of stalking. Intimate partner stalkers have considerable leverage over their victims because they know so much personal information about the victim. These stalkers also tend to be more insulting, interfering, and threatening than non-intimate partner stalkers. Alarming, a strong link exists between stalking and women who were murdered by their current or former intimate partner.¹⁴¹

- 6.6 million people are stalked in one year in the United States.
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.
- Using a less conservative definition of stalking, which considers any amount of fear (i.e., a little fearful, somewhat fearful, or very fearful), 1 in 4 women and 1 in 13 men reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime.
- The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. 66% of female victims and 41% of male victims of stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.
- More than half of female victims and more than 1/3 of male victims of stalking indicated that they were stalked before the age of 25.
- About 1 in 5 female victims and 1 in 14 male victims experienced stalking between the ages of 11 and 17.¹⁴²
- 46% of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.
- 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.¹⁴³
- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach.
- Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases.
- Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked before.
- Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly.[Kris Mohandie et al., "The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers," *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51, no. 1 (2006).
- 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next.
- 29% of stalking victims fear the stalking will never stop.
- 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.

¹³⁹ USDOJ Office of Justice Programs, OVC Help Series; <http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/helpseries>

¹⁴⁰ USDOJ Office of Justice Programs, OVC Help Series; <http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/helpseries>

¹⁴¹ USDOJ Office of Justice Programs, OVC Help Series; <http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/helpseries>

¹⁴² Michele C. Black et al., "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report," (Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011)

¹⁴³ Katrina Baum et al., "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009)

- 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization.¹⁴⁴
- The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially if the stalking involves being followed or having one's property destroyed.¹⁴⁵
- 21% of stalking occurs during the relationship.¹⁴⁶
- 36% of stalking occurs during and after the relationship ends.¹⁴⁷
- 43% of stalking occurs after the relationship has ended.¹⁴⁸

Using stalking as a Lethality Indicator, 76% of women killed by an intimate partner were stalked by that partner, and 79% of women killed by their partner reported being stalked during the same period in which they were abused. 54% of women killed by an intimate partner reported the stalking to the police before.¹⁴⁹

The National Network to End Domestic Violence "The Safety Net Project" outlines and highlights the multiple ways that stalkers and abusers can misuse technology to further control, monitor, and harm their victims. The project also discusses how agencies can further educate survivors regarding identifying spyware technology and protecting their identifying information.¹⁵⁰

Regarding Teens and Stalking, according to the Stalking Resource Center / National Center for the Victims of Crime, relatively little is known about children (those 12 and under) and adolescents (those 13-18) in stalking situations.¹⁵¹ About 1 in 5 female victims and 1 in 14 male victims experience stalking victimization between the ages of 11-17. 77% of youth ages 12-17 have cell phones, and three quarters of all teens texts. 95% of youth ages 12-17 are online. Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and Midnight, 1 in 3 teens communicate with their dating partners 10-30 times an hour. Between the hours of Midnight and 5:00 a.m., 1 in 4 teens talk or texted their partners hourly, and 1 in 6 report texting or talking 10 or more times an hour. The easy accessibility of technology facilitates stalking situations between teens. It's easier for offenders to monitor, track and follow victims, and teens are less likely to report this type of stalking behavior. In a 2007 study about Tech Abuse in Teen Relationships, 78% of teens harassed and embarrassed on social networking sites didn't tell their parents. 72% of teens who were checked on 10 times per hour by email or texting didn't tell their parents. 82% of teens asked to engaged in sexual activity didn't tell their parents. Seven years later, these numbers are likely higher. According to the report, reasons why teens didn't report included thinking that the behavior wasn't serious enough, concern that their parents would take away their computer or cell phone, or fear that their parents would prevent them from seeing their partner.

¹⁴⁴ Eric Blauuw et al., "The Toll of Stalking," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, no. 1 (2002):50-63

¹⁴⁵ Eric Blauuw et al., "The Toll of Stalking," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, no. 1 (2002):50-63

¹⁴⁶ Texas Advocates Guide: Stalking & Technology, 2012 Texas Council on Family Violence

¹⁴⁷ Texas Advocates Guide: Stalking & Technology, 2012 Texas Council on Family Violence

¹⁴⁸ Texas Advocates Guide: Stalking & Technology, 2012 Texas Council on Family Violence

¹⁴⁹ Texas Advocates Guide: Stalking & Technology, 2012 Texas Council on Family Violence

¹⁵⁰ www.NNEDV.org

¹⁵¹ www.victimsofcrime.org/src.

Under Title 4, Chapter 81 of the Texas Family Code, victims of stalking, minors or adults, can seek a protective order as provided by Articles 6.09 and 7A of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. A protective order granted under this section prohibits the alleged offender from communicating directly or indirectly with the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household in a threatening or harassing manner or in any manner with the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household except through the applicant's attorney or a person appointed by the court, if the court finds good cause for the prohibition; from going to or near the residence, place of employment or business, or child-care facility or school of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household; from engaging in conduct directed specifically toward the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household, including following the person, that is reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass the person; and from possessing a firearm. A stalking protective order can prohibit the alleged offender from going within 200 yards or more of the protected areas, and can be put in place for at least 2 years.

There remains a need for support for victims of stalking. Technology is ever-evolving and changing making it difficult to police some activities of stalking offenders. Stalking causes emotional turmoil that should not be denied. Responses of "Don't take the call," "Ignore the texts," "Just hang up," and the like are ill-conceived and possibly dangerous. It is critically important that the effects of stalking on victims and their households/family members not be minimized. Stalking is a crime and victims of such should be treated with care.

ⁱ The January 2013 Texas Legislative Budget Board 3 year recidivism rates shows that the re-arrest results for the prison population analyzed from 2004-2008 remained relatively the same at approximately 48% and for State Jail 63%. This study does not include re-arrest for technical violations of probation and parole supervision conditions.

ⁱⁱ *Principles of Problem-Solving Justice* (2007) by Robert Wolf, Director of Communications at the Center for Court Innovation, A Public/Private Partnership with the New York State Unified Court System pp. 1-9.

ⁱⁱⁱ In 2008, the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Office conducted a recidivism rate study addressing 14,851 individual paroled to Tarrant County from 2000 through 2006. The study revealed that after eight years, based on the 2000 release cohort, 63.7% were re-arrested. Based on the 2005 release cohort after 3 years the re-arrest recidivism rate was 51.4%. This study includes *any re-arrest* by a law enforcement agency. A follow up study is that will begin in June 2014, and will be conducted by the Council of State Governments of which will provide recidivism rates beginning with a 2011 releases from local jails, probation, and those paroled from prison.

^{iv} Ibid. Wolf pp. 1-9

^v As of April 24, 2014 there are 253 inmates housed in the Tarrant County Jail under the category of "court programs" with an average length of stay equating to 65 days. These inmates are serving time for various crimes related to substance abuse, family violence and mental health issues of which are associated with drug courts, family violence courts and mental health courts. There are only 61 sentenced to a State jail. Additionally, many mental health issues are related to substance abuse and petty crime and more community-based alternatives to jail such as community mental health centers or permanent supporting housing are needed for this population.

^{vi} Texas State Jails are part of the prison system and house inmates charged with State Jail Felonies or those lower level crimes such as theft and drug violations. State jails were originally a part of the community supervision system and associated with time in a state jail, or as punishment for probation violation, however this practice was discontinued by the 1997 Texas Legislature. This concept was ahead of its time, as drug courts and other related problem solving courts such as the HOPE program currently employ swift and sure sanctions using ongoing oversight and the threat of jail time for offenders to comply with conditions and have seen significant reductions in recidivism. State jails as part of the community supervision system, and using the state jails as a punishment for probation violations while strongly emphasizing rehabilitation may be the solution to the community justice model.

^{vii} On May 31, 2014 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Daily Maximum Offender Population reported that the prison population was 150,461, the operating capacity 150,540 (99%) with only 79 available beds.

^{viii} *Right on Crime* a project of the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Cooperation With Justice Fellowship <http://www.rightoncrime.com/reform-in-action/state-initiatives/texas/>