



**TEXAS**  
**HUMAN**  
**TRAFFICKING**  
**PREVENTION** **TASK**  
**FORCE**

**REPORT**

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TO THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

DECEMBER  
**2020**



# **Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force**

**Fiscal Year 2020 Report of Annual Activities**


December 2020

Office of the Attorney General



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# Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force

## 2020 Legislative Report


Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime impacting every continent and economic structure in the world. Affecting every ethnicity, gender, and age, regardless of immigration, socioeconomic, or family status, human trafficking knows no boundaries. Since 2008, when Texas issued its first report on human trafficking in the state, there are five times the number of trafficking arrests and four times the number of human trafficking convictions. Compared to the growing number of human trafficking victims that are estimated to be in Texas every day, these numbers illustrate the magnitude of the crime and the need to strengthen our statewide efforts. In fact, in 2020, when many industries in Texas slowed down because of COVID-19, human trafficking flourished. During the first 11 months of 2020, there have been more than 1,500,000 unique commercial sex advertisements posted in the state of Texas, over 20 percent of which advertised suspected children.

Texas Penal Code § 20A identifies four major types of trafficking:

- **ADULT SEX TRAFFICKING:** Trafficking of adults for commercial sex by force, fraud, or coercion
- **ADULT LABOR TRAFFICKING:** Trafficking adults for labor by force, fraud, or coercion
- **CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING:** Trafficking children, under the age of 18, for commercial sex by any means
- **CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING:** Trafficking children, under the age of 18, for labor by force, fraud, or coercion

All fall under one statute, which can be used to prosecute anyone who recruits, harbors, transports, entices, or provides another person for forced labor or sexual exploitation, as well as anyone who benefits from that labor or exploitation. To successfully combat trafficking, however, Texas needs strong criminal statutes as well as other laws that prevent victimization, support and protect victims, educate industry and the public on how to identify trafficking, and that hold traffickers accountable through non-criminal means.

Victims of human trafficking are among society's most vulnerable, with limited access to supportive resources. Due to systemic distrust of law enforcement and emotional manipulation by traffickers, victims generally do not self-disclose. Victims of human trafficking are traditionally returned to the environment from which they were trafficked, which makes them vulnerable to re-victimization. Victims and individuals at risk of human trafficking frequently intersect with key stakeholders from a variety of disciplines, including but not limited to, local, state, and national government systems, law enforcement, judicial systems, educators, medical providers, social service agencies, and local nonprofit organizations. As such, it is imperative that human trafficking be addressed through a



collaborative multidisciplinary approach to amplify prevention, intervention, and support for those who have been victimized or are at risk of victimization.

Texas consistently ranks second worst in the nation for the number of reported human trafficking cases. It has been clear for a long time that human trafficking is a Texas-sized problem, and we need Texas-sized solutions. Seventeen years have passed since Texas's first anti-trafficking statute. Texas has made tremendous strides in this effort over the years, and the time is now ripe to collaborate with new partners, study new practices, and explore new responses to achieve the best statewide response to this pervasive crime. As required by Texas Government Code § 402.035(g), this report serves as both a starting point and a renewed effort to address the challenges of developing an effective statewide response to human trafficking.

## Task Force Background

The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1121, 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, which required the Office of the Attorney General of Texas (OAG) to issue a report regarding the laws on human trafficking. In response to House Bill 1121, in 2008 the OAG published the first report on human trafficking in the state, titled *The Texas Response to Human Trafficking*. The report focused on how Texas laws impact trafficking prosecutions, investigations, and service provisions for victims. It subsequently recommended the creation of a statewide multi-agency human trafficking task force.

In 2009, the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature passed House Bill 4009, formally creating the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force (Task Force) to address the growing crisis of human trafficking in the state. The 81st Texas Legislature designated the OAG as the presiding officer of the Task Force. Containing more than fifty member organizations, including state agencies, local law enforcement agencies, district attorney's offices, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Task Force has resulted in an expanded network of local and regional efforts focused on educating the public to recognize human trafficking, identifying victims and directing them to services, and ensuring traffickers are effectively investigated and prosecuted.

The Task Force serves as a collaborative multidisciplinary body aimed at coordinating anti-human trafficking efforts across local, state, and federal levels. It is a communication hub, drawing together the state and regional coalitions and providing direction, consistent messaging, and sharing of best practices. The Task Force is required under Texas Government Code § 402.035 to collect data, provide training, report to the Legislature, and develop legislative recommendations that will enhance the state's efforts to address the crime of human trafficking.

Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 402.035(g), the Task Force is required to submit a report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Legislature on Task Force activities, findings, and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, by December 1st of every even-numbered year. This report serves as a compendium of information regarding the ongoing anti-trafficking efforts across the state. Providing a historical record of past Task Force activities and

deliverables, this report fulfills the Task Force's statutory reporting requirements. The information in this report represents not only the work of Task Force members, but also anti-trafficking partners across the state.

## Previous Task Force Deliverables

Since its creation, the Task Force has published several reports, manuals, and trainings on anti-trafficking efforts across the state as guidance to organizations and individuals addressing human trafficking.

<b>Biennial and Annual Reports to the Legislature</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force: Fiscal Year 2019 Report of Annual Activities</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report (2018)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force: Fiscal Year 2017 Report of Annual Activities</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report (2016)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force: Fiscal Year 2015 Report of Annual Activities</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report (2014)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report (2012)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report (2011)</a></li></ul>
<b>Other Legislative Required Reports</b>
<p>Pursuant to House Bill 1930 (82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session), the Task Force has completed a report detailing the association between the operation of sexually oriented businesses and the workplace or public health concerns that are created.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report (2013), also known as, <i>Report to the Texas Legislature Sexually Oriented Businesses and Human Trafficking: Associations, Challenges, and Approaches</i></li></ul>
<b>Training Manuals and Web-Based Trainings</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Texas Education Professionals (July 2014)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Criminal Justice Professionals (September 2013)</a></li></ul> <p>The Task Force assisted in the development of two web-based trainings pursuant to House Bill 1272 (83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Texas Rise to the Challenge: An Introduction to Human Trafficking for Education Professionals</a> was published on the Texas Education Agency website in October 2014.</li><li>• Training for Department of Family and Protective Services staff was rolled out September 2, 2014.</li></ul>

## Report on Task Force Collaborative Efforts

Established to increase collaborative efforts across the state, the Task Force brings together local, state, and federal agencies and nongovernmental partners to bring an end to human trafficking in Texas and address its impact. Texas must be equipped to recover and care for victims of human trafficking and to prosecute the traffickers who have exploited them. Strengthening the Task Force's structure and role, fostering a vision of cooperation through workshops and training, and building alliances with other human trafficking task forces and coalitions will further increase the palpable impact and utility of the statewide Task Force. Texas already has a multitude of community collaborations across the state addressing human trafficking, some formal, some informal, but all doing important work. These multidisciplinary collaborations capture the entire human trafficking spectrum from prevention, to investigation, to prosecution, and to the support services necessary to provide a comprehensive perspective.

### Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council

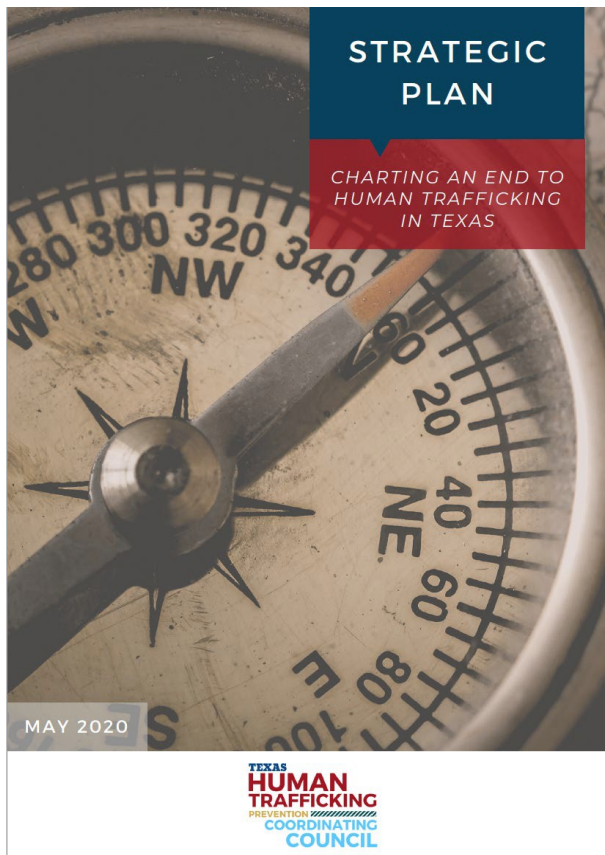


While the Task Force coordinates state agencies, local law enforcement, and NGOs to fight human trafficking, Texas legislators expressed a need for more coordination and collaboration among state agencies to ensure an effective and efficient use of appropriated funds for human trafficking programs and efforts across the state. In response to the calls for coordination of human trafficking prevention programs and services administered in Texas, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 72 during the 86th Legislative Session (2019) directing the OAG to establish the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council) to work towards effectively and efficiently eradicating human trafficking through the coordination and collaboration of programs, services, and state resources.

As leading members of the Task Force, the Coordinating Council members are:

- Presiding Officer, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
- Office of the Texas Governor (OOG)
- Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
- Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
- Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)





Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 402.034, the Coordinating Council is tasked with inventorying and evaluating all human trafficking programs administered by state agencies, higher education, and political subdivisions. Through this inventory, the Coordinating Council is responsible for developing a plan of action for fighting human trafficking in Texas. To develop a strategy to prevent human trafficking in Texas, we must first understand the effectiveness of our current efforts. To this end, the Coordinating Council issued a comprehensive statewide survey to collect data from primary stakeholders who deal directly with human trafficking.

In March 2020, the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council Survey was distributed to a diverse range of organizations representing many regions, demographics, and types of trafficking. The survey respondents included victim-

serving organizations, prevention programs, advocacy groups, law enforcement, prosecutors, health care professionals, and regulatory agencies working to fight human trafficking in Texas. The goal of the survey was to identify and compile a list of best practices, collect data on program effectiveness, pinpoint potential gaps or redundancies in services, and gather information regarding current expenditures of state funds to address human trafficking in Texas. More than 2,000 respondents completed the survey, yielding a substantial volume of data that is currently undergoing analysis.

With this data, the Coordinating Council submitted a five-year strategic plan to the Texas Legislature in May 2020 to assess Texas's current landscape of human trafficking partnerships, prevention, investigation, prosecution, and support services.

While legislation uses the term "prevention," the Coordinating Council's work is comprehensive across all aspects of trafficking from prevention to victim identification, investigation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and beyond. Never before has Texas created a coordinated, multi-system strategy to combat human trafficking. This Strategic Plan, [Charting an End to Human Trafficking](#), is a historic step toward eradicating human trafficking in Texas.

Through a coordinated and strategic effort, the Coordinating Council identified the following pillars to guide the strategy to end human trafficking in Texas:



In addition to the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council, other initiatives and collaborations have been implemented that are changing the way Texas responds to human trafficking. Many such efforts are outlined alphabetically below. Unless otherwise noted, the efforts are for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

## Allies Against Slavery

- Allies Against Slavery has spent 2020 working in close partnership with the Office of the Governor to launch new capabilities in [Lighthouse](#) making it the only software to aggregate statewide trends, data, and insights in one place—using the Texas Human Trafficking Data model—to better serve survivors.
- Allies Against Slavery has a keen interest and belief in policies that expand data sharing mandates which allow for increased collaboration and understanding of human trafficking in Texas. To truly understand what trafficking looks like in Texas, all relevant stakeholders are needed at the table to share information.
- Allies Against Slavery hopes to continue to partner closely with the Office of the Attorney General and the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force to ensure human trafficking policy is data-informed.

## Bexar County District Attorney's Office

- For the 2020-21 grant year, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office's Human Trafficking Unit will receive \$100,000.00 towards a prosecutor's salary through a grant from the federal Violence Against Women Act, distributed through the Governor's Office. The grant-funded prosecutor will work together and in conjunction with an additional prosecutor, investigator, and victim advocate.
- Bexar County District Attorney's Office's Human Trafficking Unit staff are responsible for all sex-related human trafficking cases presented to the office for review and prosecution. They are responsible for the analysis, assessment, review, and indictment of these types of cases. This prosecutor will prepare, plead, or try these cases. The prosecutor coordinates with law enforcement to ensure quality cases and prosecutions and provide legal assistance for the design and implementation of proactive law enforcement initiatives. As needed, they also provide trafficking education to law enforcement, school faculty, counselors, social workers, healthcare personnel, prosecutors, and parents and citizens throughout Texas.
- Grant personnel are responsible for collecting and analyzing defendant, victim, crime location, and community data to aid in the creation of a data-driven human trafficking interdiction strategic plan. They will assist in the coordination and implementation of the interdiction plan with law enforcement. Lastly, this prosecutor participates in the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking to ensure that public awareness and training regarding the issues and dangers of human trafficking continues to be provided to the community. It would be impossible to fulfill these duties with only one prosecutor.
- Since January 1, 2020, local law enforcement filed 43 human trafficking and related cases with the unit. Of that number, only 17 cases were specifically charged as sex trafficking or compelling prostitution. No cases of labor trafficking were filed. The other cases include crimes like Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution, Prostitution with a Child, Sexual Assault of Child, Employment Harmful to Children, Kidnapping, Sexual Performance by a Child, and Online Solicitation of a Minor. When there is a commercial aspect to the sexual conduct, these cases are handled by Bexar County District Attorney's Office's Human Trafficking Unit.
- Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office's Human Trafficking Unit have been unable to resolve many of the cases on the docket. No cases from the unit have been tried before a judge or jury. Twenty-one of the cases filed this year were

indicted, and 8 cases were rejected after review. Five defendants who were suspected of being trafficked by others were charged with Sexual Assault of a Child and pled to prison sentences this year. The Bexar County District Attorney's Office's Human Trafficking Unit presently has 47 indicted cases, awaiting trial, and about 20 more awaiting indictment.

### **Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department**

- The Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department (BCJPD) has a dedicated unit for trafficking victims, Restore Hope. Restore Hope has 6 Probation Officers, 1 Assistant Unit Supervisor, 1 Supervisor, and 1 Office Assistant.
- Within this unit, there is a specialty court (Restore Court) in the 436 District Court with Judge Lisa Jarrett presiding. This court has a phase system, and the victims receive incentives for positive behavior. The average caseload for each probation officer is 10 to 13 cases.
- The department received a 2-year grant (New Life Expansion Project) from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for funding between October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021. This grant is designed to work with law enforcement, service providers, and other practitioners to build community capacity to address the issue of child sex trafficking and exploitation. Further, the grant seeks to provide and support delivery of a continuum of services that focus on each individual's return to physical, mental, and emotional health to the fullest extent possible. The funding pays for 2 probation officers. The grant also funds services from Ransomed Life. Ransomed Life provides evidenced-based trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, trust-based relational intervention care therapy, mentoring, and many other resources to traffic victims.
- BCJPD is a partner of the Law Enforcement and Care Coordination multidisciplinary team. The BCJPD is a member of the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT).
- Every other month, AACAT meets at the BCJPD. There are over 80 agencies and over 300 community partners who participate in AACAT. BCJPD is a partner who participates with SIGNIFY. SIGNIFY is a network of community organizations who enter real-time data and share information about traffic victims involved in active law enforcement investigations.

### **Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)**

- Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) Texas is a project managed by CHILDREN AT RISK and funded by the Office of the Texas Governor.
- In 2020, through the support of the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team and spearheaded by CHILDREN AT RISK, teams of volunteers were recruited and trained in Corpus Christi and Dallas to engage in online buyer disruption tactics on a monthly basis. These new teams join Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and Georgetown to make up the current CEASE Texas network of cities, with accompanying anti-demand coalitions. Efforts are already underway to establish the next two CEASE expansion cities: El Paso and San Angelo. CEASE volunteer teams disrupted over 800 attempted sex purchases during live, online patrols over the year, with patrol teams meeting virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- CEASE research shows that the demand for commercial sex has not measurably decreased during COVID-19, outside of regions which have additional cofactors such as a large tourism industry. The CEASE Database collected over 340,000 unique ads scraped from online sites

across Texas, and Dashboard upgrades to perform deeper analysis on ad contents are underway. The CEASE chatbot received over 3,000 texts from buyers, to whom deterrent messages were sent.

- More in-depth CEASE data on the demand for commercial sex in Texas is available at [ceasetexas.org](http://ceasetexas.org).

## Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX)

- In fiscal year 2020, the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas™ (CACTX) in partnership with the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) and the Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation division from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services continue to collaborate strategically and engage in the development and implementation of the statewide response to combat child sex trafficking (CST) in Texas.
- In an effort to utilize and strengthen the children's advocacy center (CAC) best practice multidisciplinary team (MDT) response to CST cases, CACTX and CSTT conducted regional care coordination introductory seminars with local CACs and their MDT partners. With the guidance of CSTT and CACTX, care coordination development is led by local CACs, engaging with MDT partners and specialized service providers to ensure a trauma-informed response in CST cases.
- During fiscal year 2020, several additional jurisdictions officially launched the care coordination response to CST, including Bexar, Collin, Comal, Denton, Montgomery, and Travis Counties. The CACs serving each of these counties are the official care coordinators for their respective jurisdictions. These care coordination teams join Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties to lead the charge of establishing a statewide response to CST.
- CACTX responded to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child abuse reporting by partnering with the Texas Education Agency to create educational resources that meet state requirements and promote recognizing and reporting child abuse, including CST, in both in-person and virtual settings for teachers, other school employees, and administration.
- The state funding appropriated by the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature for the 71 CACs in Texas supported case coordination and specialized service delivery to child victims of sexual and physical abuse, including victims of CST. This funding ultimately allowed CACs to increase their capacity to serve 61,891 child victims of abuse in fiscal year 2020, a 3.3% increase in children served over fiscal year 2019. Of those 61,891 children served, 35,476 cases involved an allegation of child sexual abuse, including over 580 children identified as victims of CST.
- As demand for CAC services for all types of abuse increases and without funding specific to CST care coordination, CACs must seek additional grants or private funding to support these enhanced efforts. Additional funding is needed to meet CST specific service demand and ensure that CACs are able to continue to partner with CSTT and MDT partners to lead, facilitate, and expand a coordinated response for CST victims statewide.

## Children's Commission

- The Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families (Children's Commission) provides training and resources to assist judges and lawyers in preventing, recognizing, and responding to the commercial sex exploitation of children and youth in DFPS conservatorship.

- The Children's Commission publishes annual updates to a Child Protection Law Bench Book for Texas judges who handle child protection cases which includes a chapter and checklist on addressing child sex trafficking.
- Through collaborative efforts with the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, the Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team, the DFPS Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation team, and the Office of Court Administration, the Children's Commission focuses on raising awareness about human trafficking and the impact on the child welfare system.
- The Children's Commission participates in state and national trainings on human trafficking to stay informed of successful strategies to combat trafficking and develop expertise to relay information to judges and attorneys as needed.

### Freedom in the 806 Anti-Trafficking Coalition

- The Freedom in the 806 Anti-Trafficking Coalition was formed in 2015 by Family Support Services (FSS) to bring together professionals from area agencies to collaborate in the fight against human trafficking. Core team/start-up agencies included local, state and federal law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers, governmental and NGOs, faith-based groups, and the local university. To date, the coalition has 163 active members.
- In 2018, the Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime awarded FSS funding (as a subgrantee under the fiscal management of Refugee Services of Texas and in partnership with the Voice of Hope in Lubbock) to create an anti-trafficking collaboration between the South Plains and the Panhandle. This project allowed for more intensive oversight and organization of the coalition, direct service provision, community mobilization, and education. This has been a unique collaboration with many lessons learned, including the challenges faced when there is significant distance between each of the main partners. As a result, this partnership ended September 2020, but the program is continuing to be funded by a VOCA grant and services will remain the same.
- FSS and the Freedom in the 806 Coalition hosted creative and innovative awareness events to generate conversation around what human trafficking really looks like and not just what is portrayed in the media. Through these events, FSS and Freedom in the 806 Coalition:
  - Provided education to professionals and community members locally and in surrounding counties;
  - Spoke to large audiences such as at the Women's March;
  - Hosted virtual conferences and awareness campaigns that sought out participation from community members;
  - Created partnerships with other local anti-trafficking organizations and speakers to build a Speaker's Bureau to ensure the education provided is robust and multidisciplinary; and
  - Partnered with youth services programs to offer empowerment and resiliency building curriculums.
- With a majority of efforts focused solely on sex trafficking response, the call for increased attention to labor trafficking was recognized by leadership, legislative bodies, survivors, victim advocates, and others for several years. To bring more attention to labor trafficking, FSS was awarded funding through a partnership with the Buffett McCain Initiative from October 2018 to April 2020 with the responsibility to hire, host, and manage a Northwest Texas Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator. The Coordinator expands the reach of current localized trafficking task forces, covering 57 counties in the Northwest and South Plains region and

addresses labor trafficking. As of May 2020, this project has continued to be funded also by VOCA and will expand efforts to include an outreach component to the Panhandle's many labor camps.

### Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)

The Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Human Trafficking Unit's mission is to focus on the recovery of juvenile and adult sex trafficking victims, to successfully prosecute the traffickers and pimps, and to work with NGOs towards victim recovery efforts.

- The HCSO continues to have dedicated personnel assigned to this effort with working relationships with the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance Task Force (HTRA) of the Southern District of Texas. HTRA includes over 23 state, local, and federal agencies all working together, along with NGOs in a collaborated effort to fight against human trafficking.
  - Partners within HTRA include: The Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Houston Police Department, the United States Attorney's Office, the Harris County District Attorney's Office, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's and District Attorney's Offices, the Department of Labor, Montgomery County Sheriff's and District Attorney's Offices, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the Texas Governor's Office, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Houston Independent School District, Conroe Independent School District, the Department of State, a host of NGOs led by YMCA International, and civilian allies such as the Deliver Fund and Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners.
- The Human Trafficking Unit also conducts internal departmental operations with the Narcotics/Vice Unit as drugs are a common element in human trafficking cases. Such locations and operations include cantinas and brothels.
- The HCSO Human Trafficking Unit is comprised of 1 Sergeant and 4 certified Deputy Investigators. One of these investigators is also working in the Project 180 program with the Harris County District Attorney's Office.
  - Project 180 allows female victims between the ages of 17-25 charged with prostitution to enter into a diversion program in exchange for cooperation and treatment. The DA investigator and HCSO investigator use intel and analytical research to target sex traffickers resulting in greater charges for these violent offenders.
- The HCSO Human Trafficking Unit currently has a caseload of 101 active cases. From this caseload, approximately 45-50% are involving juveniles. Case investigations include grand jury subpoenas, preservation letters for social media, evidence submissions for both physical and DNA, search warrants, operation plans, surveillance, cell phone data extraction, reports, interviews, charges and arrests, assisting other units, and testimony. Training, database access, and certifications include TCOLE Instructor certification, Sexual Assault Family Violence Certification, TLOxp, SPOTLIGHT ad search, TrafficJam ad search, SECURUS communication system, Vigilant license plate reader program, LENS, RMS, and others. The HCSO Human Trafficking Unit is also working on a human trafficking lesson plan to be presented to future Basic Peace Officer Course cadet classes, lateral transfer classes, and quarterly classes to be given at the Harris County Sheriff's Office Academy.

- The HCSO Human Trafficking Unit continues to educate the public with human trafficking awareness by attending events such as church programs, schools/universities, and other community events.

**Special Investigations Division**

**Human Trafficking Unit**



**October 2020**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<b>OPERATIONS / CASE LOAD</b>													
New Investigations	12	10	16	3	6	3	4	24	9	4			91
Closed Investigations	0	4	2	4	0	4	12	10	13	9			58
Total Active Investigations	82	88	102	99	105	104	96	110	106	101			103
Human Trafficking Operations	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0			7
Surveillance	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	8	15	4			31
Assisting Other Units	4	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	5	3			19
Total Operations	7	3	0	0	0	2	5	9	24	7			57
<b>INVESTIGATIONS</b>													
Call Outs	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0			8
Declined Call Outs	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0			4
Charges Filed (DIMS-JOTS)	16	1	2	2	5	0	3	0	2	2			33
Arrests	16	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	52	0			70
Search Warrants	2	4	7	2	3	2	2	3	3	0			28
Grand Jury Subpoenas	0	7	0	0	3	1	1	1	18	4			35
Interviews	29	5	12	2	1	0	17	2	16	2			86
Individual Team Member Training Hours	0	67	12	48	49.5	168	4	10	6	176			540.5
Clues Received	0	2	0	0	5	2	8	5	4	3			29
Clues Assigned	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	13	4	3			28
Clues Open	0	2	2	2	1	0	8	0	1	0			1
Clues Closed	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	7	5			16

**Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

- The Texas Human Trafficking Resource Center (HTRC)** serves as the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) point of contact liaising between external stakeholders and agency programs on issues pertaining to victims of human trafficking. HTRC seeks to increase awareness of human trafficking by responding to inquiries from HHSC staff, health care practitioners, community members and other stakeholders and providing information about available human trafficking-related resources across the state.
- Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council:** HTRC serves on the Coordinating Council established by Senate Bill (S.B.) 72, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, representing HHSC. In fiscal year 2020, the Coordinating Council developed a strategic plan of action to fight human trafficking. As a Coordinating Council member, HTRC contributed to the strategic plan and serves as a subject matter expert on combatting and preventing human trafficking in health care environments.
- Child Sex Trafficking Treatment Programs:** S.B. 20, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, requires HHSC, in collaboration with a health-related institution of higher education, to establish an inpatient and outpatient treatment program for victims of child sex trafficking, create opportunities for research and workforce expansion related to treatment of victims of child sex



trafficking, and assist other health-related institutions of higher education in Texas to establish similar programs. HHSC is currently developing the program design for the child sex trafficking inpatient and outpatient treatment programs and expects the program to be operational beginning fiscal year 2021.

- **Sex Trafficking Prevention Needs Assessment:** S.B. 20 also requires HHSC to establish a matching grant program to award a municipality a grant for the development of a sex trafficking prevention needs assessment. The awarded municipality must collaborate with a local institution of higher education on the needs assessment, which must outline the prevalence of sex trafficking crimes in the area, strategies for reducing the number of those crimes, and the need for additional funding for sex trafficking prevention programs and initiatives. HHSC has developed the sex trafficking prevention needs assessment program design and expects to engage municipalities in early 2021.
- **Human Trafficking Prevention Training for Health Care Practitioners:** House Bill (H.B.) 2059, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, requires HHSC to approve training courses on human trafficking prevention for certain health care practitioners (including at least one that is free of charge), post the list of approved trainings on the HHSC website, and update the list as necessary. The completion of an approved training course is a condition for registration, permit, or license renewal for certain health care practitioners as of September 1, 2020.
- HHSC established the training standards and a review and approval process for all human trafficking trainings submitted to HHSC for consideration. HHSC has also developed proposed Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rule in Title 26, Part 1, § 370.1, outlining the human trafficking training requirements. The proposed rule is expected to be adopted by early 2021.
- As of November 18, 2020, HHSC has approved 10 human trafficking trainings, which are available on the HHSC HTRC webpage. Additionally, HHSC developed a human trafficking prevention training (HEART) that will be made available online free of charge in early 2021.
- **Provider Guidebook:** HTRC developed and published, the *HHSC Provider Guidebook: Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in Texas*. The guidebook is for health care professionals and outlines HHSC services that may be useful to victims and survivors of human trafficking. Goals of the guidebook project are to provide current information on HHSC programs that may benefit victims of human trafficking and offer information on the enrollment process for these programs.

## Mosaic Family Services

- Mosaic Family Services works with survivors of labor and sex trafficking, including men, women, adults, children, foreign and domestic born. Programs include shelter, legal (immigration law and family law), counseling, transitional housing, economic empowerment, and human trafficking outreach. These programs assist victims and survivors in overcoming socioeconomic barriers.
- In 2019, Mosaic worked with over 157 survivors of human trafficking, serving not only survivors but also their children. Between January-June 2020, Mosaic served 73 active clients: 33 new and 40 existing. Of the new clients, 22 are foreign nationals and 11 are U.S. Citizens/Lawful Permanent Residents, and are labor trafficking survivors, 21 are sex trafficking survivors, and 4 are both labor and sex trafficking survivors.
- The human trafficking outreach staff prioritized collaborating with community healthcare, city, state, law enforcement and social services agencies, with the goal of structuring a wide network

of professionals and community members as a resource for survivors to increase victim identification.

- In 2019, the outreach program reached over 7,000 at-risk persons by leveraging these partnerships and providing outreach in community clinic waiting rooms, consulate waiting areas, high-risk streets and neighborhoods, day labor centers, local schools, after-school programs, churches, juvenile detention centers, inmate programs, illicit massage businesses, low-income apartment complexes, and other locations.
- Mosaic's staff and human trafficking outreach program worked closely with Dallas Police Department administrators as the department worked to reestablish the Vice Unit. Mosaic advised the Vice Unit team by sharing its expertise about the issue and impact of human trafficking and by providing guidance about victim-centered approaches to police actions. Once the Vice Unit began executing illicit massage business actions, Mosaic continued to serve as the on-site social service entity during the operation. Mosaic would meet with every potential victim and provide resources, education and transportation, should a victim choose to seek services.
- Mosaic developed a collaboration with Dallas County's District Attorney's Office. This collaboration led to Mosaic facilitating the Healthy Options for Personal Empowerment (HOPE) class to mostly Chinese, Thai, and Korean women charged with prostitution, with services in over 30 languages. The specialist provides information about sexual exploitation and human trafficking, with a focus on force, fraud, and coercion.
- Since the strengthening of H.B. 1272 and the passing of H.B. 403, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, the outreach team has seen a steady increase in requests for training on the issue of human trafficking. Staff have developed partnerships with local school districts and professional training organizations, such as the Education Service Center Regions 10 and 11, to streamline training for school staff and administrators on topics including: "The Elements and Dynamics of Human Trafficking," "Human Trafficking and Vulnerable Youth," and "Youth, Trauma, and the Brain." The human trafficking outreach program has trained over 1,000 education professionals on human trafficking and will continue to provide comprehensive training on the topic.

### Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

- Established in January 2016, the Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section (HTTOC) of the Office of the Attorney General approaches the issue of human trafficking holistically, working on cases involving sex and labor trafficking, child and adult victims, and international and domestic trafficking.
- The OAG- HTTOC section assists law enforcement and prosecutors on human trafficking cases, pursues civil litigation against traffickers and businesses, assists victims with resources, engages the public through training, develops initiatives to enhance the state's support and coordination of human trafficking efforts, and facilitates collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors.
- The current HTTOC team consists of 6 criminal prosecutors, 2 criminal legal assistants, 1 victim advocate, 1 program specialist, 2 civil attorneys, 1 civil investigator, 1 civil legal assistant, and 1 policy attorney. Using specially-appropriated funds in FY 2020-21, HTTOC is in the process of hiring 1 additional criminal prosecutor and 3 program specialists for data analysis, policy, and paralegal support.

The activities described below reflect the OAG's multi-faceted approach to combat trafficking:

### **Criminal Prosecution**

- Since its inception, HTOC has resolved 20 cases, resulting in 463 years in prison sentences for human traffickers. HTOC is currently involved in 18 human trafficking cases pending across the state and 12 ongoing human trafficking investigations.

### **Civil Litigation**

- With original jurisdiction, the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 140A.052 authorizes the OAG to investigate and pursue civil litigation against sex and labor traffickers and those profiting from these ventures.
- Landlord Engagement Program: HTOC partners with cities, counties, and local law enforcement to educate and empower landlords leasing to illicit massage business to combat the proliferation of illicit massage businesses in Texas.

Eradicating human trafficking in Texas requires educating and mobilizing the public, leading special initiatives, developing and collecting statistical data, and driving policy development. Along with prosecuting and litigating human trafficking cases, HTOC leads these efforts through:

### **Training**

- Collaborates with regional and local anti-trafficking taskforces, coalitions, and statewide partners (Office of the Texas Governor, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Transportation, etc.) to develop anti-trafficking programs.
- Trains law enforcement, prosecutors, community partners, educators, and business organizations in human trafficking prevention and awareness.
- Conducted more than 300 in-person and 6 virtual trainings for over 28,000 people and produced the [Be the One in the Fight Against Human Trafficking](#) (Be the One) video as a documentary training tool to equip all state employees and the general public. This video has been viewed over 144,000 times online in 49 states and 131 countries.
- Led a three-day citywide immersive training in Beaumont attended by 600+ community members.

### **Policy**

- **Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force: [Texas Government Code § 402.035 \(2009\)](#).** HTOC chairs the Task Force, which is made up of over 50 member organizations. The Task Force collects data, provides training, and develops and reports to the Legislature legislative recommendations that will enhance the state's efforts to combat human trafficking.
- **Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council: [Texas Government Code § 402.034 \(2019\)](#).** HTOC also leads the Coordinating Council, which consists of 9 state agencies tasked with evaluating and coordinating state efforts to fight human trafficking in Texas. In March 2020, HTOC led the Coordinating Council in conducting a comprehensive statewide survey to collect data from primary human trafficking stakeholders. With that information, in May 2020, the Coordinating Council published Texas's [first strategic plan](#) for preventing human trafficking in Texas to the Legislature.

- **Texas Human Trafficking Data Collection: Texas Code of Criminal Procedure § 2.305 (2019).**  
In August 2020, pursuant to H.B. 3800, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, HHTOC collected human trafficking case and investigation data from DPS and every state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial office in the top 12 largest counties in Texas. This serves as Texas's first centralized human trafficking data collection system. With funding, the data collection has the potential to (1) create a real-time, statewide information sharing system to help law enforcement identify victims and generate more proactive human trafficking investigations; and (2) accurately track human trafficking activity to better quantify the types and volume of human trafficking in Texas.

#### **Strategic Partnerships in the Trafficking Fight**

- Partner with trafficking survivors for outreach and policy development.
- Partner with universities for H.B. 3800.
- Engage with federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors to build effective human trafficking responses across Texas.
- Collaborate on human trafficking outreach and prosecution with OOG's Border Prosecution Unit.
- Build relationships with existing human trafficking taskforces and develop new taskforces in Central, East, and West Texas.
- Continue to partner with TxDOT to develop signs to be placed in transportation hubs in accordance with S.B. 1219, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019.
- Collaborate with various state agencies to identify and target businesses engaged in or profiting from trafficking.

#### **Plan to Combat Trafficking**

- **Prosecute Traffickers:** Continue to develop relationships and partner with DAs, U.S. Attorney's Offices and regional trafficking taskforces to provide trafficking subject matter expertise in investigations and prosecutions. Support and develop new law enforcement focused trafficking task forces in Austin, East and West Texas.
- **Support Prosecutors and Law Enforcement:** In January of 2021, HHTOC will launch the [HT Blue Line](#), a 24/7 HHTOC attorney help line to provide investigative and prosecution support for local, state and federal law enforcement and prosecutors throughout Texas.
- **Train and Collaborate to Raise Awareness:** Increase public awareness and continue to educate law enforcement, prosecutors, businesses, and the community on trafficking virtually and in-person.
- **Collect and Share Trafficking Intelligence:** Develop a statewide law enforcement information-sharing platform to connect investigators across the state to accurately track human trafficking activity from initial report, to investigation, to prosecution.
- **Collect and Analyze Human Trafficking Data:** Collect statewide human trafficking data (pursuant to H.B. 3800) that, with the proper database and software, will lead to meaningful trafficking data for Texas.
- **Create Victim Service Online Platform:** Using a digital resource guide, create a comprehensive online compilation of victim service providers in Texas to help connect victims to needed services.

In addition to HHTOC, the OAG's Crime Victim Services Division and Law Enforcement Division aid in the fight against human trafficking.

- The **Crime Victim Services Division (CVSD)** assists victims of human trafficking in several ways. The Crime Victims' Compensation Program provides reimbursements for crime-related expenses, such as medical costs, rent and relocation expenses, loss of wages, and counseling.

The Address Confidentiality Program provides a substitute post office box for victims of certain violent crimes, including human trafficking, and mail forwarding services to increase victim security. CVSD is also instrumental in providing grants to counties to fund positions, such as crime victim coordinators and crime victim liaisons. Grants are also awarded to rape crisis centers.

- The **Law Enforcement Division's Human Trafficking Unit** investigates adult and child sex and labor trafficking and presents cases for prosecution in state and federal courts. The Child Exploitation Unit serves as the Southern Texas Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, investigating child pornography and online solicitation cases across South Texas. In addition, the Digital Forensics Unit supports both these units and preserves evidence collected from digital storage devices such as phones, tablets, and computer systems.

### Office of the Governor (OOG)

- Governor Abbott's Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) was created by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature to coordinate a holistic response to child sex trafficking in Texas. CSTT is a division within the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) and its mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and leverage collaborations to:
  - **Protect** children and youth from sexual exploitation;
  - Help the public **recognize** sexual exploitation;
  - **Recover** victims with protective and empowering collaborative responses;
  - **Support healing** of survivors through a variety of trauma-informed and responsive services and supports;
  - **Bring justice** for survivors by holding exploiters accountable.
- The OOG received \$5.6 million in state appropriations over the 2019-20 biennium. The Texas Legislature has earmarked approximately \$2.5 million of these funds to provide grants to support victim services. The vast majority of grants from the CSTT to support victim services utilize federal VOCA funds administered by the Office of the Governor. The state appropriation for victim services is currently primarily leveraged to support victim services, which may not be eligible under more restrictive federal funding. The remaining state appropriation is utilized for the administrative costs of operating CSTT and grants focused on prevention, capacity building, and law enforcement support.
- The OOG also received \$1,750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2019-20 biennium for the purpose of making grants to counties to address commercial sexual exploitation. Grants administered in FY 2020 supported local responses, such as specialized investigation and prosecution of exploiters, diversion of those engaged in prostitution, and Commercially Sexually Exploited Persons Specialty Courts.
- CSTT efforts to protect children and youth from exploitation in FY 2020 include:
  - Partnering with the TEA to clarify requirements on human trafficking for Texas schools and to draft and implement updates to its rules on abuse and neglect to specifically incorporate human trafficking. These rules went into effect November 6, 2019 and

require that human trafficking be incorporated into district policy and school employee training and that schools provide research-based, age-appropriate education for students on sexual abuse and trafficking. CSTT is collaborating with TEA and other partners to equip schools with the resources needed to fulfill these requirements as well as staff training under H.B. 111, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and school board and superintendent training under H.B. 403, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019.

- Funding statewide projects to increase capacity and access to prevention education in the state, including:
  - Partnering with 3Strands Global Foundation to provide schools across Texas with free access to the PROTECT Texas online learning system. This platform provides human trafficking training to educators as well as access to age-appropriate, research-based prevention education to implement with students. From October 2019 - October 2020, over 750 educators from 40 school districts have utilized the program.
  - Partnering with Unbound to expand the reach of its Keeping Students Safe program. During FY 2020, this program provided training directly to caregivers, educators, and other professionals, as well as prevention education for students in Waco, Houston, Fort Worth, and Bryan/College Station. The program also created an online licensing platform in order to equip providers in other regions of the state with access to the program through a train-the-trainer model. From October 2019 - October 2020, over 700 caregivers have been educated, over 2,500 school staff have been trained, and over 8,700 students have received prevention education.
  - Partnering with Love146 to provide free training and increase the number of facilitators licensed to implement the research-based #NotANumber curriculum to high risk youth. From October 2018 - October 2020, over 100 new facilitators have been licensed statewide, over 400 professionals have received training, and over 1,000 youth have completed the curriculum.
  - Partnering with the Texas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs to increase protective factors and provide human trafficking prevention and awareness to at-risk children ages 8-18 through 58 club sites across the state.
- Funding CEASE Texas to analyze the online marketplace for commercial sex and engage local stakeholders in efforts to disrupt demand. During FY 2020, efforts were focused on Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, the Permian Basin, and San Antonio. Expansion is currently underway in Corpus Christi and El Paso.
- CSTT efforts to improve the recognition of victimization in FY 2020 include:
  - Supporting implementation of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool (CSE-IT) in child-serving organizations and systems. Between December 2017 and April 2020, 23,103 high risk children and youth have been screened with the tool, and 2,542 (11%) were determined to have a “clear concern” for exploitation. Youth who score “clear concern” are presumed victims and eligible for services, including a full needs assessment to start the healing process.
  - In October 2019, CSTT partnered with First Lady Cecilia Abbott, A21, and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Texas to launch the *Can You See Me?* public awareness campaign. The campaign features billboards in 70 Texas markets along with radio PSAs,

- social media posts, and numerous press conferences to educate the public about the signs of trafficking and urge reporting to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- CSTT is supporting the recovery and healing of victims by building collaborative and coordinated responses to identification of victims and developing short and long-term services. Key components of this response include:
    - Care Coordination: “Care coordination” is the collaborative process being developed statewide in partnership with the Children’s Advocacy Centers and DFPS to coordinate services for child sex trafficking victims. Multidisciplinary care coordination teams (CCTs) staff the cases of survivors up to 18 years of age, regardless of system involvement, and ensure effective victim-centered and trauma-response care while supporting the investigation and prosecution of exploiters. As of April 2020, 600 child sex trafficking victims were provided care coordination in Bexar, Comal, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties.
    - CSEY Advocacy Programs: CSEY (Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth) Advocates are specifically trained to provide crisis intervention, ongoing case management, and a healthy, supportive long-term relationship for survivors under age 22. Advocates work under a set of minimum standards and best practices developed by CSTT and Praesidium. CSTT currently provides funding, training, and technical assistance for 17 advocacy agencies serving 117 counties across the state. As of April 2020, these agencies had provided services to 1,613 young victims, two-thirds of whom had been recovered from crisis by law enforcement or first responders.
    - Specialized Services: CSTT also continues to expand the continuum of care across the state for survivors and now has 8 drop-in centers, 4 emergency shelters, 9 long-term residential providers for youth, 4 juvenile justice based programs, 6 residential providers for adults, and 13 community-based case management and counseling programs for adults.
  - CSTT efforts to bring justice for survivors in FY 2020 include:
    - Funding specialized investigators, prosecutors, and support positions in Fort Bend County, Harris County, McLennan County, Montgomery County, and the Office of the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute child sexual exploitation.
    - Supporting diversion programs and specialty courts to divert potential victims away from the criminal justice system and into services in Bexar County, Collin County, Dallas County, Harris County, Montgomery County, and Tarrant County.
    - Partnering with Collective Liberty to provide 4.5-day intensive and hands-on experiential workshops for law enforcement and prosecutors on eradicating human trafficking.
    - In February 2020, Governor Abbott established a customized clemency application specifically for survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence in coordination with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.
  - In FY 2020, CSTT also worked to build knowledge and expertise in Texas on human trafficking.
    - CSTT partnered with Allies Against Slavery to enhance Lighthouse. Lighthouse is an innovative software platform that integrates data from multiple sources to visualize the landscape of sex trafficking in Texas. These visualizations will provide insights for the state and inform future strategies.
    - CSTT launched the North Texas Academic Collaborative on Trafficking, an interdisciplinary network of collaborative scholars that empirically generates and translates evidence to end the commercial sexual exploitation of youth.

- CSTT facilitates a monthly webinar series for stakeholders on a variety of issues related to sexual exploitation. During FY 2020, over 1,000 individuals attended these trainings and nearly 1,000 more accessed [archived recordings](#).
- CSTT provides updated summaries of and links to relevant [research](#), along with a variety of additional resources, on its website: <https://gov.texas.gov/cstt>.

### Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)

- Texas Businesses Against Trafficking (TBAT) is a human trafficking prevention business partnership, established by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, and implemented by the Office of the Secretary of State in January of 2016. See Texas Government Code § 405.023.
- The TBAT program recognizes businesses for taking voluntary steps to prevent and combat human trafficking in Texas. To date, there are 7 partner-level and 4 associate-level businesses recognized as members of TBAT.
- Businesses may participate in TBAT at one of two levels: (1) partner or (2) associate. Partners must adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards human trafficking, take measures to ensure that the business's employees comply with the policy, and participate in a public awareness/education campaign. Businesses that have not yet adopted a zero-tolerance policy and other requirements of partner-level membership may participate in TBAT at the associate level. Additionally, businesses that participate are asked to help raise awareness of TBAT and share best practices with the Office of the Secretary of State and other members of the program.
- In early 2020, Secretary Hughs met with various industry groups including airlines, the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association, and the Texas Restaurant Association to discuss how businesses can collaborate to help eradicate human trafficking in Texas.
- In October of 2020, Secretary Hughs welcomed Jessica E. Hart, Director of the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice during her visit to Texas. Secretary Hughs and Director Hart exchanged ideas on the state and federal efforts to continue the fight against human trafficking.
- In an effort to increase participation, the Office of the Secretary of State is collaborating with TBAT members to host a virtual TBAT Partnership Forum in December.
- The TBAT program does not currently receive funding from the Legislature. Any future appropriations to the TBAT program may potentially be utilized to offset costs in printing materials or in efforts to help increase the number of businesses participating in TBAT.

### Regional Victim Crisis Center (RVCC)

- Regional Victim Crisis Center (RVCC) serves victims of human trafficking within Taylor County and surrounding counties in West Texas.
- RVCC received the Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth grant through the Texas Office of the Governor for the 2019-20 fiscal year and 2020-21 fiscal year. This funding went towards the development of an advocacy and case management program to serve sexually exploited minors and youth (ages 22 or below). RVCC employed 2 case managers to serve in this program.
- In addition, RVCC partnered with the Department of Family and Protective Services, Juvenile Justice Department, Child Advocacy Center, law enforcement, and other local organizations and agencies to connect survivors to services.



- During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the agency served 5 minor and youth victims of human trafficking. Four adult survivors that fell outside of the grant requirements were also served through other programs within the agency. Further, the agency screened 91 individuals (ages 22 or below) for their risk level for human trafficking through the Commercially Sexually Exploited Identification Tool (CSE-IT). Eight individuals were assessed at a clear concern level and 16 were assessed at a possible concern level for human trafficking. RVCC strives to continue to grow their advocacy and case management program to allow for more survivors to be served in the Big Country area.
- RVCC leads the Big Country Human Trafficking Coalition. This coalition aims to educate the community, advocate on behalf of survivors, and address barriers to identifying and providing services to human trafficking survivors.

### Paso del Norte Center of Hope

- The Paso del Norte Center of Hope's mission is to lead a community-wide response to eradicate human trafficking and its effects in the El Paso region through advocacy, training, direct survivor services, and collaboration.
- Located in El Paso, Texas, the Center offers trauma-informed, victim-centered services including 24/7 crisis intervention, emergency shelter, and long-term case management in a supportive environment to help victims work towards their goals and identify as survivors. The Paso del Norte Center of Hope collaborates with the El Paso community to educate, train, and raise awareness about human trafficking and possible collaborative ways to stop human trafficking.
- The Center's emergency shelter, "The Safe-Haven," houses up to 4 victims at one time, providing basic needs such as clothing, toiletries, food, and supplies.
- Its case managers work with each victim to create an individualized service plan utilizing the Lotus VCLS-LPT "Goals, Beliefs, Change" tool, an evidence-based instrument designed in 2012 by Dr. Karen Countryman- Roswurm from Wichita State University.
- The initial services focus on emotional support, crisis intervention, and safety planning. If it is identified that the client wishes to continue with more intensive case management and is staying in the El Paso area, additional support is provided by the Center. Additional support includes advocacy, referrals, service coordination, long-term housing or shelter assistance, life skills, transportation, and court accompaniment as needed.
- The Center currently has a fully funded full-time CSEY Case Manager through funding received from the OOG, who serves victims ages 0-24, with an increasing number of referrals coming in from the El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department and the El Paso Center for Children, both current parents of the Center. The Center has a second full-time Case Manager serving adult victims over the age of 24, who is partially funded by OOG and a grant from the MMI Foundation for human trafficking victim services. Due to a recent award (10/01/2020) from OOG, the Center will be bringing on a third full-time Case Manager and Victim Advocate this month to support the additional needs of the CSEY population. Additionally, through a grant with El Paso Human Services, the Center has a Community Youth Development (CYD) Coordinator who supports efforts in the 79924 zip code to reduce the risk of trafficking in high at-risk youth populations.
- The Center supports additional anti-trafficking efforts by providing outreach and education to the community with a full-time Outreach Coordinator and support for trainings and presentations by the Executive Director. The Center's team delivers presentations about human

trafficking risk factors, warning signs, misconceptions, and prevention with age-appropriate activities, videos, and discussions to students, educators, and community members from other non-profits and faith-based organizations. The Center's curricula have been pre-approved by all 8 El Paso County school districts.

- Additionally, the Center of Hope continues to lead the El Paso Human Trafficking Prevention Coalition (formally the El Paso Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force). The Center's goal is to work with partners of the coalition to develop a continuum of care for victims from the moment they are identified until they are able to create their own stability. The continuum of care model would replicate that of others like it in the state of Texas as advised by the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council's strategic plan.
- In the past year, the Center's staff have worked hard to train and certify in motivational interviewing (MI), trauma-informed care (TIC), and Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) for use as evidence-based and best practices for work with this very specific population. The Executive Director and Outreach Coordinator are also trained in the evidence-based prevention education and training through Unbound's "Keeping Students Safe" program funded by the OOG. Additionally, staff who provide community training and awareness are certified in LOVE 146 "Not Just a Number" and have created an internal HT101 presentation with resources and support from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), Polaris Project, and the Blue Campaign through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- Since October 1, 2019, the Center has provided emergency services and case management to 42 newly identified victims of sex and labor trafficking. Of those, 19 were victims under the age of 18. In addition to the 42 new victims, continued case management was provided to 56 victims already receiving prior services. Of those victims, 9 utilized the emergency shelter. Through the Community Youth Development program, 44 at-risk youth received summer camp activities and backpacks filled with school supplies and completed training on trust, healthy relationships, and age-appropriate videos on consent. Through the outreach program, 449 educators received anti-human trafficking training and 2,168 youth (ages 5-18) received age-appropriate training on prevention. Due to COVID, all trainings were done via distance learning and virtual platforms.
- Through a contract with the Texas Department of State Health Services, Office of Border Public Health the Center's Outreach Coordinator created resource maps to support outlying counties with limited resources and funding.
- The Center of Hope is the only agency providing emergency shelter and services specifically for the human trafficking victim population in the surrounding 9 counties in the El Paso area (including El Paso County). Finally, the Center's program was the only agency funded in the region by the Office of Victims of Crime to deliver specialized services to trafficking victims of all ages and genders and types of trafficking from 2016-2019, without renewal of funding as of October 2019.

### San Antonio Police Department (SAPD)

- The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) was awarded the FY 2016 Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking Competitive Solicitation. This grant was designed to provide a law enforcement task force, chaired by the U.S. Attorney's Office to coordinate the fight against human trafficking in Bexar and surrounding counties. This concept promotes effective working relationships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies including the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. The Collaborative Grant partners law

enforcement with a core team member as the Victim's Services advocate which enhances victim services. SAPD was selected as a recipient for the FY 2020 solicitation for the grant, effective October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023. This grant (\$650,000 for 3 years) and the City of San Antonio's general operating budget is the only funding sources for their efforts against human trafficking.

- The Bexar County area's Care and Coordination protocol was developed as a best practice to respond to situations of human trafficking of children. This program took over a year to develop and involves 20 partner agencies, including both law enforcement and NGOs. NGOs were trained in the use of CSE-IT developed by the West Coast Children's Clinic to recognize high concerns for trafficking among their clientele. Once identified as being a clear concern to be a victim, the Care and Coordination agreement is followed to develop a strategy that is unique for each child. This process is supported by a HIPPA-compliant database which has shared use among the Care and Coordination partners to ensure accountability and prevent duplication of efforts.
- SAPD has also conducted or hosted numerous training events in Bexar County and surrounding areas. Events include hosting a three-day labor trafficking training conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a three-day course on kidnapping conducted by the FBI, and conducting a total of 37 Bureau of Justice Assistance-approved training events in calendar year 2019 and 2020.

Below are statistics of human trafficking (HT) cases investigated by the Special Victims Unit (SVU) of SAPD for 2019:

- 97 HT investigations were conducted by SVU.
- 24 confirmed victims identified and 63 identified potential victims.
- 29 investigations led to 36 cases being filed with the DA's office against 33 suspects.
- 22 arrests have been made and 16 indictments at present.

YTD 2020 (as of September 2020):

- 80 HT investigations were conducted by SVU.
- 14 confirmed victims identified and 50 identified potential victims.
- 15 investigations led to 23 cases being filed with the DA's office against 20 suspects.
- 19 arrests have been made and 9 indictments at present.

## Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)

House Bill 1545, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission's (TABC) Sunset Bill, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, establishes prevention of human trafficking at licensed and permitted locations as a TABC duty and priority.

### Appropriations:

TABC received a biennial total of \$5,231,908 and 29 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions for human trafficking prevention. Currently the funds have been utilized for salaries: 1 Director, 4 criminal intelligence analysts, and 23 investigators. Undercover vehicles and police equipment, computer equipment, and software have been procured.

### Grants:

- TABC was awarded two grants through the OOG's Criminal Justice Division:

- Strengthening Human Trafficking Investigations Project: TABC was awarded an Officer of the Governor Grant starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The grant is for \$265,817.12 and will enable TABC to hire 1 full-time employee as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst. The analyst will be assigned to the Criminal Intelligence Unit and will support TABC Enforcement and Special Investigations Unit investigations into human trafficking. The grant also enables TABC to hire 1 additional full-time employee as an attorney. The attorney will be assigned to the Legal Services Division. The attorney will participate on human trafficking task forces, liaison with federal and state prosecutors, provide pre-litigation counsel, seek temporary nuisance orders, interpret laws and regulations, and render legal advice and counsel to related investigations.
- Connecting Human Trafficking Victims to Services Project: TABC was awarded an Officer of the Governor Grant starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The grant is for a total of \$89,453.00 and will enable TABC to contract for a Victim Services Coordinator. This person/entity will assist victims of human trafficking that TABC has identified/rescued during investigations. The goal is for the agency to support human trafficking victims and ensure they receive the services needed to speed their recovery.

**Legislation:**

S.B. 72, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, created the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council, including the participation of TABC as a member.

**Special Investigations and Financial Crimes Unit:**

This unit focuses on organized criminal activity that has a nexus to the alcoholic beverage industry. This unit investigates allegations of human trafficking and related offenses, such as narcotics sales, prostitution, drink solicitation, and money laundering. The unit utilizes a multidisciplinary response model by collaborating with joint task forces at the local, state, and federal levels and with various NGOs and victim service providers to help disrupt and dismantle human trafficking organization and link victims with a comprehensive array of services.

**Joint task forces include but are not limited to:**

- The Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI):
  - Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST)
  - North Texas Human Trafficking Task Force (NTHTTF)
- The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI):
  - Safe Streets Task Force (SSTF)
  - Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF)
- The Texas Anti-Gang centers (TAG)
- Houston Police Department’s Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA)

From September 1, 2020, the TABC Special Investigations and Financial Crimes Unit has participated in or led several operations that investigated allegations of human trafficking. The investigations have resulted in 41 persons rescued/identified as human trafficking victims. When TABC finds an affirmative nexus to a location holding a TABC permit, it will seek to have the permit cancelled. Having a permit cancelled for cause results in that location being ineligible for another permit to sell alcohol for 1 year and the owner cannot have a permit to sell alcohol for 3 years. This is a powerful tool in the fight to eradicate human trafficking from the alcoholic beverage industry and Texas.

### **Criminal Intelligence Unit:**

TABC created a Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) that focuses on providing analytical support to Enforcement and Special Investigations Agents as they investigate human trafficking allegations and other criminal offenses. The team consists of a Director and four analysts, 3 of which are stationed in Austin and 2 in Houston. The unit has the Penlink (PLX) and Analysts Notebook (I2) software suites to enhance analytical capabilities and to help identify criminal pattern and networks. The CIU certified 3 analysts to do basic forensic Cellebrite phone extractions and analysis, with one analyst certified to conduct advanced phone and computer forensics. To date, the CIU has supported multiple human trafficking operations with tactical analysis using the Cellebrite technology. Analysts regularly coordinate with case agents and provide case support to further active investigations by providing link analysis, subject identification, and telephone analysis. The CIU has created tactical intelligence products in support of major human trafficking investigations throughout the state. To enhance CIU effectiveness, case support personnel regularly collaborate and share intelligence with DHS, FBI, HSI and many other agencies. The CIU provided significant input in the development of the Financial Crimes Course and the practical portion of the 3-Week Advanced Human Trafficking/Undercover School.

### **Training Division:**

The TABC Training Division has made human trafficking training a priority for all employees. Specific training has been created or modified to accomplish this goal. Some of those accomplishments are listed below:

- 3-Week Advanced Human Trafficking/Undercover School: This course was created and begins with classroom, policy, and victim advocacy instruction that focuses on UC/HT foundational knowledge with emphasis on human trafficking survivor perspective is victimization, recruitment, and vulnerabilities. Created a HT glossary on frequently used terminology that are used by human traffickers. It leads into building alias identities and conducting multiple short scenarios teaching agents how to conduct undercover investigations and help ensure they understand policy and procedures and can identify signs of criminal activity, specifically human trafficking. The emphasis during this instruction is focused on human trafficking laws both federal and state that incorporate lessons on building prosecutorial cases and resources available for human trafficking victims. The CAPSTONE training phase of the school is a week-long real-world scenario that is designed to take students through a full investigation, building a pattern of life of suspects, conducting mock undercover operations, and culminating in the execution of a mock search warrant and the rescue of victims.
- Financial Crimes Course: This course was designed to provide TABC agents, auditors, and licensing personnel with a basic understanding of how to spot suspicious activity and conduct investigations of potential financial crimes related to the alcoholic beverage industry. The criminal element has attempted to infiltrate the industry to further their criminal activity and hide illegal proceeds through money laundering and/or tax evasion using a licensed establishment as a front to hide the criminal activity.
- Advanced Human Trafficking 3271 (TCOLE training site) On-Line Human Trafficking Awareness Course (3271): This course was developed by TABC and meets the training requirement for both Basic and Advanced Human Trafficking. This course contains 10 PDFs that one can download followed by 5 course content modules and a final exam. The student will be required to take and pass a final exam with a minimum score of 70% to successfully complete this course and receive credit.

- Three-Day Basic Undercover/Human Trafficking Course Update: This course was created and begins with classroom, TABC policy, and victim advocacy that focuses on undercover and human trafficking foundational knowledge. It incorporates 4 short scenarios and 2 long scenarios as a practical application of the culmination of knowledge acquired. This course is embedded in the TABC training Academy.

## Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)

Below are the human trafficking updates for Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA):

- Provided curriculum development and specialized training to organizations seeking to implement a model of advocacy for human trafficking survivors. These trainings covered the dynamics of human trafficking, regional trends and resources, and an introduction to Care Coordination and Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) advocacy models developed by the CSTT.
- Additionally, conducted integrated and complimentary trainings incorporating trauma-informed interviews and human trafficking investigations with law enforcement specialists. TAASA provided over 30 trainings to individuals and organizations across the state in 2020.
- Provided technical assistance and capacity assessment to rape crisis centers and domestic violence and sexual assault agencies across the state for the development of a human trafficking response and specialized human trafficking advocacy services. Organizations include: San Antonio Rape Crisis Center, BCFS, East Texas Family Crisis Center, Midland Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy Center, Refugee Services of Texas, Resource & Crisis Center of Galveston County, Midcoast Family Services, Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter, Sexual Assault Resource Center-Bryan, Noah Project of Abilene, Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center, El Paso Del Norte, SCAN Sexual Assault Services and Information SASI-Laredo, Mosaic Family Services, New Friends New Life, Traffick911.
- Provided crisis intervention services, resources, referrals, and systems advocacy to over 40 agencies and organizations.
- Worked with the CSTT to study Coordinate Care model, CSEY advocacy model, and CSE-IT.
- Coordinated with the CSTT's five regional administrators to identify gaps in service and TAASA stakeholders best positioned to provide advocacy to human trafficking survivors.
- Convened meeting of current TAASA stakeholders providing CSEY advocacy to identify best practices and challenges experienced in executing program objectives.
- Collaborated with survivor leader consultants to create content around personal narrative, systems advocacy, and the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- Developed and disseminated a stakeholder survey to capture service provision, problem areas, and possible solutions to human trafficking work conducted by TAASA membership organizations.
- Provided coordination and facilitation of Human Trafficking Survivor Leader Advisory Council, including monthly conference calls and a survivor leader retreat. Drafted membership application, groups, mission, vision, values, and project goals. TAASA will consult with a survivor leader to take up facilitation responsibilities of this group.
- Coordinated with the Texas Center on Family Violence (TCFV) to develop an agency survey, robust Human Trafficking Tip Sheet, and best practices webinar for shared stakeholders.

- Participated in the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Taskforce, Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Adult and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Working Group, Policy Committee, Chair of National Crime Victim Rights Week Central Texas Planning Committee, Co-Chair of Immigrant Services Network of Austin, and Co-Chair Best Practices for CSEY Residential Programs Committee. Participation in the University of Texas’s School of Social Work and IDVSA Expert Witness Training.

### Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Texas CASA is the association of the 72 local CASA programs in Texas. In FY 2020, Texas CASA undertook several efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and to help prevent trafficking and CSEC in Texas. During FY 2020, Texas CASA collectively served approximately 30,000 children and youth in foster care with over 11,000 volunteers in 219 Texas counties. The primary activities Texas CASA and local CASA programs engage in include:

- Texas CASA promotes general awareness of the prevalence of human trafficking and CSEC among CASA program staff and CASA volunteers through distribution and promotion of informational videos and materials including the OAG video, “Be the One.” Texas CASA communicated with local programs to share the link to “Be the One” to promote understanding of how to recognize signs of trafficking, and what to do and how to report suspected trafficking to law enforcement or Child Protective Services. CASA programs work with children and youth in the foster care system who are one of the populations at greatest risk for trafficking and CSEC.
- With support from the OOG and CSTT, Dallas CASA and the sex trafficking survivors organization, Saving Innocence, developed and produced an online curriculum on advocacy for survivors of child sex trafficking or CSEC. Texas CASA hosts this curriculum on its website, which requires registration but is free for all users who would benefit from this training. The CSEC Advocacy course was created to equip CASA program staff and volunteer advocates to identify victims of trafficking, understand the unique needs of exploited youth, and provide them with the highest level of advocacy. The training encompasses 9 chapters with 46 segments featuring expert advice from CSEC survivors and totals over two and half hours of material. Dallas CASA is piloting use of this information to develop advocacy specifically for trafficking and CSEC victims. This training can be found at <https://texascasa.org/csec/>.
- Texas CASA is in discussions and planning with CSTT to conduct training for local CASA program staff on the CSE-IT. The CSE-IT is a validated screening or assessment tool used to help determine whether a child may be at risk of trafficking or sexual exploitation. The OOG is encouraging child-serving organizations to get trained to use this assessment tool, which has already been used with over 23,000 children in Texas.

### Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has made the fight against human trafficking a priority. It must be eradicated. DFPS’s Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation (HTCE) division was initially established in June 2017 through the DFPS Human Trafficking (HT) Initiative, a grant funded by the OOG, which concluded at the end of FY 2019. The 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature recognized the value of the work and graciously appropriated 1.2 million dollars to permanently

integrate the division into the DFPS infrastructure. This funding provided for a total of 5 positions: a Director and 4 Program Specialists positions.

- The HTCE division supports the DFPS mission to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, through the development of policy, practices, and identification services that are survivor-informed, trauma-responsive, victim-centered and evidenced-based, where possible.
- For the children and youth served by DFPS, the DFPS HTCE division strives to:
  - Strengthen continued compliance with all federal and state human trafficking mandates;
  - Develop best practices in the prevention of trafficking; and
  - Improve DFPS capacity to identify, report, recover, and support victims of trafficking in their restoration journey.
- The HTCE division coordinates across all agency programs such as Statewide Intake, Child Protective Investigations, Special Investigations and Child Protective Services to improve outcomes for victims of trafficking. Additionally, DFPS fosters a collaborative multidisciplinary approach in the prevention of human trafficking in concert with its partners and has well-functioning ties to law enforcement, local city and county governments, state agencies, advocacy agencies, and faith organizations to leverage resources and coordinate efforts.

**FY 2020 accomplishments include:**

- An additional 2,597 DFPS staff completed the mandatory human trafficking awareness training, “Be the One.” As of August 31, 2020, DFPS has trained a total of 16,770 staff (total includes former staff).
- DFPS enhanced and expanded professional development human trafficking training modules for all new Child Protective Investigations and Child Protective Services caseworkers to support foundational knowledge, discernment of trafficking types, victimology, as well as trafficker and buyer behaviors.
- DFPS enhanced data collection capabilities for children and youth served by DFPS who are suspected and/or confirmed victims of trafficking.
- GRACE: Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation
  - DFPS collaborated with the OOG on strategies to address child sex trafficking in Texas. GRACE (Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation) will empower communities of faith to improve awareness and increase service capacity and prevention efforts across Texas. It complements the agencies’ shared vision of a statewide Network of Nurture, as proposed by Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott, to meet the needs of children and their families.
  - In December 2020, DFPS Commissioner Masters will attend First Lady Cecilia Abbott’s Listening Session with a select group of faith leaders, to discuss ways to put faith in action and answer the call to help the oppressed and abused.
- National Human Trafficking Month Efforts
  - A Day of Prayer 2020—a GRACE initiative—DFPS invited all faith communities to join in a day of prayer to put an end to human trafficking on January 12 or any other day during the month. Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott’s promotional video was distributed to all partners.
  - January 10, 2020, DFPS staff statewide participated in Wear Blue Day and captured their solidarity against trafficking by taking a photo to share on social media with the national campaign.
  - Daily social media human trafficking awareness messages were sent in the month of January to DFPS community stakeholders and followers.



- **Care Coordination Teams**

The OOG's CSTT, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc., DFPS, and local communities are establishing Care Coordination Teams (CCT) across the state to provide youth victims of sex trafficking with a continuum of care through a multidisciplinary approach. The HTCE division developed and launched the DFPS Care Coordination Toolkit (CCT Toolkit) to support regional staff efforts through the planning and development of a CCT. The Toolkit includes a variety of resources such as:

- The DFPS Blueprint for CCT Development and Implementation that provides DFPS staff guidance on the expected steps as a community moves from human trafficking awareness to a fully functioning CCT.
- The DFPS Protocol for Care Coordination that outlines the agency's expected and coordinated response when working with the identification and recovery of victims and subsequent service provision through a specific CCT. Note: The DFPS Protocol for Care Coordination excludes Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Travis and Tarrant Counties who have been operating under the DFPS Human Trafficking Response Protocol since March 2019.
- DFPS executed 12 Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with human trafficking or CSEY Advocate Agencies for advocacy services in 96 Texas counties.
- DFPS staff participate in over 20 human trafficking taskforces or coalitions, including the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force led by the OAG.
- DFPS is a member of the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council, who is working to effectively and efficiently eradicate human trafficking through the coordination and collaboration of programs, services, and state resources.
- Throughout the year, the HTCE division provided subject matter expertise and delivered training both in Texas and nationally for internal and external partners.
- HTCE continues to lead the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region VI Human Trafficking Workgroup to build strong alliances amongst ACF Region VI states and optimize collaboration to effectively and efficiently conserve resources and minimize duplication of efforts amongst partners, other ACF Regions, and ACF as it relates to individuals up to the age 24 who are victims of human trafficking or at risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking.

## **Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)**

Following receipt of funding appropriated by the 86th Legislative Session related to human trafficking prevention, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) staffed their first Anti-Trafficking Unit dedicated to fighting human trafficking, specifically targeting TDLR's licensee population. TDLR's Anti-Trafficking Unit received training from several partners in the fight against trafficking, planned and strategized methods to best fight trafficking, and continues in active collaboration in the fight.

### **Partnership Collaboration in the Fight Against Human Trafficking:**

- Training Partnerships:
  - Office of the Governor
  - Office of the Attorney General
  - Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
  - City of Houston Anti-Trafficking
  - Houston Police Department

- Planning, Strategy, and Community Partnerships:
  - Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council
  - Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force
  - Allies Against Slavery
  - Children At Risk
  - Lighthouse Data Initiative
  - Heyrick Research Organization
  - Refugee Services of Texas
  
- Law Enforcement Partnerships:
  - Texas Department of Public Safety
  - Federal Bureau of Investigations
  - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security
  - Office of the Attorney General
  - Austin Police Department and Victim Services
  - Richardson Police Department
  - Hays County Sheriff's Office
  - Stephenville Police Department
  - Tarrant County Sheriff's Department
  - Castle Hills Police Department
  
- Though TDLR's Anti-Trafficking Unit's ability to travel has been limited by COVID 19 infection rates in areas of the state, as well as a 5% budget reduction, TDLR has maximized the partnerships developed since hiring and staffing of the Unit was completed in January of 2020. Since operation, the team has reviewed and monitored at least 8 explicit websites, referred over 20 cases to TDLR's Enforcement Division or its law enforcement partners, and has participated in a dozen sting operations with its Task Force partners. This body of work has resulted in 9 arrests, including 1 arrest of an owner of multiple illicit massage locations, 1 illicit massage business being shut down by city officials during a joint sting operation, and has helped identify and secure the outcry of two trafficking survivors. Online reference articles can be found here: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/crime/2020/09/09/el-paso-massage-parlors-raided-texas-dps-fbi-and-hsi-agents/5765236002/> and <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/hays/hays-county-deputies-arrest-woman-accused-of-sex-trafficking-others-out-of-san-marcos-spa/#:~:text=The%20Hays%20County%20Sheriff's%20Office,search%20at%20her%20Austin%20home.&text=The%20sheriff's%20office%20said%20the,people%20who%20were%20found%20there.>

### Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) continues to investigate human trafficking crimes, intervene with children at risk for trafficking or other crimes, and provide comprehensive services to victims and their family members.
- In FY 2020 and FY 2021, DPS appropriated funds and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions to assist with efforts to combat human trafficking. These funds were derived from the General

Appropriations Act (2020-21), Department of Public Safety, Page V-57, Rider #50, to assist with human trafficking prevention and enforcement.

	STRATEGY A.1.1, ORGANIZED CRIME		STRATEGY A.2.1, INTELLIGENCE	
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2021
<b>Appropriated Funds</b>	\$13,042,438	\$7,775,086	\$3,754,575	\$3,278,035
<b>FTE Positions</b>	68.4	68.4	47.0	47.0

- The funds and FTE positions were allocated in the biennium as follows:
  - \$15,817,524 for Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Anti-Gang (TAG) Squads, and 47 FTE positions;
  - \$7,032,610 for Human and Child Sex Trafficking Investigative Squads, and 47 FTE positions; and
  - \$5,000,000 for Regional Human Trafficking Investigative Squads, and 21.4 FTE positions.
- The Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division (ICT) was allocated funding for a total of 40 non-commissioned FTEs. The remaining funding and FTEs were allocated to indirect positions, such as the Information Technology Division and Cyber Security. In addition, as directed by Rider 50 Section C, \$4,950,011 from the appropriated funds in Strategy A.1.1, Organized Crime, were allocated in Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 to the Dedicated Sexual Assault Program Account No. 5010 for human trafficking enforcement and partial funding for 14 existing FTEs for the Victim Services Program.
- These allocations have allowed DPS to:
  - Assign 62 CID special agents and supervisors to work human trafficking investigations throughout the state. There are currently dedicated human trafficking teams in the North, Southeast, and West Regions, while special agents in the Northwest, South, and Central Regions conduct human trafficking investigations with federal and local partners, with the goal of establishing dedicated task forces and/or working groups for human trafficking operations. Some of these special agents have dual roles, such as working at the TAG or conducting other investigations, depending on the requirements of the duty station.
  - Provide emergency and on-going services to survivors through co-location and coordination among investigators and internal Victim Services Counselors.
  - Participate in and support local and statewide coalitions and taskforces created to combat trafficking. In particular, CID and Victim Services Program personnel are actively engaged in the OOG's initiative to implement regional care coordination teams to address the needs of child victims.
  - Commit more than 40 non-commissioned professional analysts to address human trafficking and anti-gang activities in the state.
- As human trafficking education and investigative strategies improve, DPS will continue to strengthen its ability to work human trafficking investigations, while utilizing a trauma-informed approach with survivors. Some of the department's training and other initiatives include:
  - DPS ICT's Human Trafficking Unit continuously analyzes human trafficking information from a variety of sources, including the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Suspicious Activity Reporting networks, as well as intake reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

that have been flagged for human trafficking indicators. Analysts located at headquarters coordinate additional research with DPS regional analysts to develop and share investigative leads with CID investigators and disseminate actionable intelligence products to statewide law enforcement partners as emerging human trafficking trends become evident.

- Regardless of assignment, officers that promote to Special Agent receive specialized training on conducting human trafficking investigations, applying trauma-informed principles, understanding crime victims' rights and addressing victim safety.
- Due to high demand, DPS continuously provides the Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) classes to DPS and other criminal justice agency personnel to help identify children who may be victims of crime, including human trafficking. During FY 2019 and FY 2020, DPS provided 24 IPC classes (1,253 students) and 2 IPC Train the Trainer courses in Texas. As of August 31, 2020, DPS has 30 certified IPC instructors.
- The ICT Human Trafficking Unit hosted the 3rd Annual Human Trafficking Analyst Training for human trafficking analysts nationwide, and routinely hosts training for DPS personnel, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and other law enforcement partners. In addition, ICT analysts presented at several law enforcement seminars and conferences, including Texas Department of Public Safety Strengthening Law Enforcement Identification of At-Risk Youth, Special Programs Seminar in partnership with Border Prosecution Unit, the Sex Offender Registration Conference, and Texas Association of Law Enforcement Polygraph Investigators Conference.
- The "Be the One" video remains incorporated into new employee orientation on-boarding materials.
- DPS will continue to work in partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, as well as prosecutors and NGOs, to leverage resources to arrest traffickers and recover and provide services to trafficking victims.

## Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is committed to the fight against human trafficking. At the start of FY 2019, the DSHS Regional Human Trafficking Work Group was developed with an assigned central office coordinator and at least one point of contact in each of 8 Public Health Regions. These regional points of contact led the activities within their regions and provided education and training to their regional staff and in their communities. Regional activities range from prevention and education to incorporation of strategies within clinical services. The agency does not receive any funding for anti-human trafficking activities.

### Prevention and Awareness Education

- For internal regional staff, regional policies and procedures were developed regarding human trafficking identification and reporting. Annual and refresher trainings include components of human trafficking education on screening for red flags.
- Various regional human trafficking trainings and presentations provided educational opportunities for the public/communities, schools (nurses, administrators, and students), healthcare workers, first responders, faith-based organizations, and hospitality staff.
- Texas DSHS collaborated with HHSC's Texas Human Trafficking Resource Center to provide feedback while developing HHSC's online "HEART" training for practitioners.

### **Clinical Settings**

- Human trafficking screening questions were incorporated into clinical practice in regional clinics across the state through inclusion of content within each region's Standing Delegation Orders, which are physician's orders for performing clinical interventions.

### **Collaboration with Stakeholders**

- Regional staff actively participate in various human trafficking stakeholder group meetings and discussion groups ranging from community coalitions to local/county government agencies to other non-profit anti-human trafficking organizations.
- Texas DSHS also collaborates with HHSC's Texas Human Trafficking Resource Center and Texas Department of Family Protective Services.

Since February 2020, DSHS has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic response and prevention. While the regional staff have been busy with COVID-19-related activities, there were still efforts to incorporate human trafficking education and awareness through regional staff's annual and refresher trainings and staff newsletters. Clinical staff continued to work with school nurses and students to increase knowledge and awareness and performed screening and awareness education when assessing for COVID-19 testing, administering influenza vaccine, and providing clinical services in clinics and outreach settings.

## **Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA)**

- From December 2019 to October 2020, Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA) and its programs trained 517 law enforcement officers and criminal justice professionals to better identify, investigate, and respond to trafficking cases.
- TMPA participated in local and statewide human trafficking and victim services coalitions and worked with stakeholders to develop new training for officers on how to conduct a trauma-informed interview.

## **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)**

### **Legislative Impact / Legislative Funding**

- As a participating member of the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is designed to prevent human trafficking and has collaborated with state, local, and federal partners for training, enforcement, and information and intelligence sharing. The impact to the agency is funding based on costs associated with training and enforcement programs.
- TPWD did not receive legislative funding related to the prevention, enforcement, or training for human trafficking.

### **Training**

- The Game Warden Training Center hosted an Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) course this past year and is coordinating with DPS to host future courses.
- Since 2011, 466 Game Wardens and Park Peace Officers have taken the TCOLE Courses 3720 Human Trafficking or 6050 Advanced Human Trafficking.

- Since September 2018, 221 Game Wardens, Special Game Wardens, and Park Police Officers have taken the IPC course.
- The Game Warden Training Center is mandating the IPC course as part of the Field Training Program for all new officers.

**TPWD Collaborative Efforts**

- In October 2020, Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers participated in the Crimes Against Children Patrol Operation. This operation was part of the DPS-led IPC program with multiple law enforcement agencies participating throughout the state. During the operational period, Game Wardens and Park Police Officers conducted routine patrols, while being hypervigilant and documenting and reporting any suspected activity.

**Crimes Against Children Patrol Operation Data Collected**

- During the operation, TPWD had 421 Game Wardens and Park Police Officers participating in the operation. As a result of the operation, TPWD conducted 192 traffic stops and 2,859 non-traffic stops.
- These contacts produced 7 children under the age of 16 being checked through National Crime Information Center and 3 children ages 16 and 17 being checked.
- As part of the operation, 2 registered sex offenders were contacted by TPWD.
- 1 Suspicious Activity Report relating to Crimes Against Children was reported and 1 cellphone and 1 computer were searched.

**Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

- September 2019: TWC applied and was approved for continued inclusion in the National Human Trafficking Hotline Referral Directory.
- October 2019: TWC attended the Texas Businesses Against Trafficking Partnership Forum.
- October 2019: TWC hosted a convening of agencies and organizations who serve foster youth. Partner agencies included Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Supreme Court’s Children’s Commission, Texas Education Agency, multiple community and 4-year colleges and universities, Education Service Centers, the Texas Local Workforce Development Boards, and the Foster Youth Transition Centers.
- February 2020: 3,361 TWC employees have taken the human trafficking training and viewed the “Be the One” video. Learning objectives included how to prevent, recognize, and report human trafficking, and how the Texas workforce system can assist victims of human trafficking.
- July 2020: TWC shared information with staff on World Day Against Human Trafficking, providing resources and webinars to raise awareness and learn more about Texas’s efforts to combat human trafficking.
- TWC staff actively participated in the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force meetings.
- TWC maintains a leadership role in the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council, which coordinates with the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force.
- During FY 2020, TWC hosted a statewide virtual human trafficking training with six Local Workforce Development Boards that was well-received. Trainings were held by an average of 80-90 local workforce staff in attendance, including the Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Outreach Program workers, National Farmworker Jobs Program grantees, key staff, and complaint specialists who are trained on how to identify potential human trafficking victims.

## United Against Human Trafficking (UAHT)

- United Against Human Trafficking (UAHT) launched a Case Management program in May 2020 with the hiring of 1 case manager. The program has 9 participating clients. UAHT is currently hiring for another case manager and plans to employ a total of 3 by the end of 2021, each to serve 20 long-term clients.
- UAHT completed the initial build out of The Pathway: an online referral network for both survivors and victim assistance providers. The Pathway connects survivors of trafficking to vital human services as they forge their individualized path to freedom. Four service providers are registered and trained to utilize The Pathway and are adding a limited number of clients to the system. UAHT expects full launch in January of 2021 and the onboarding of more agencies.
- UAHT continues to provide Real Talk, a trauma-healing support group to survivors of trauma and/or human trafficking. UAHT launched another support group, Family Huddle, to support the entire familial unit recovering from child sex trafficking, including the parents, survivor, and siblings. Family Huddle relaunched virtually in June 2020 after being initially cancelled due to COVID-19 and has reached 27 individuals. UAHT support groups have reached 238 individual.
- The UAHT-led Houston Rescue & Restore Coalition (HRRC) continues to act as a unified front against local human trafficking. HRRC hosted the City of Houston's Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January. The Coalition convened 4 times during 2020. HRRC recently released "Human Trafficking Lexicon," a manual outlining common language and terms to better educate organizations and communities on the issue of trafficking. The manual creates a standard approach to the area's anti-trafficking movement with the goal of clarifying communication between agencies of all types: nonprofit and for-profit, governmental and private, faith-based and secular. The HRRC Survivor Service committee worked on completing standards of care in serving survivors of human trafficking. The standards covered 6 different categories of service: Behavioral Health, Language Support, Media, Ethics, Shelter and Residential Care, Survivor Peer Support.
- In September of 2020, UAHT was awarded a grant from the US Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. Funding will support the organization's Case Management activities and allow for the hiring of additional case managers to grow out the program.
- UAHT trains frontline professionals how to identify trafficked persons they encounter in their work. The organization has trained 4,331 professionals this year both virtually and in-person.
- UAHT hosts webinars to the public that spread awareness of different issues related to human trafficking. The organization developed new sessions, such as "Trafficking in the LGBTQ+ Community" and "Trafficking in the African American Community." UAHT has reached 4,054 individuals through education efforts this year.
- Youth program efforts reached 5,470 children and their parents, dispelling myths about trafficking and giving them the tools to spot grooming tactics that lead to exploitation.
- Outreach engaged at-risk individuals through 21 workshops and engaged 3,359 people through onsite visits, spreading information on how to stay safe and access community resources to break free of and/or avoid exploitation. UAHT has begun informational flyer drop-offs at apartment complexes and partner sites. Virtual outreach activities such as Facebook Live and PSA's have reached over 10,000 people.
- The COVID-19 pandemic forced UAHT to shift its programming online for the summer. Success in the virtual space has spurred UAHT to begin reaching out to organizations beyond Texas for the delivery of programs. UAHT has cultivated relationships out-of-state and in Canada.

## Voice of Hope

- Lubbock Rape Crisis Center dba Voice of Hope continues to serve Lubbock and the surrounding 11 counties covering 9,780 square miles in its service area.
- Voice of Hope offers medical accompaniment, crisis intervention, 24-hour crisis hotline, law enforcement accompaniment, judicial accompaniment, professional counseling, and case management at no cost to survivors. The additional funds allocated in the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session allowed the agency to hire an additional advocate and Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).
- In 2019, Voice of Hope assisted with 60 new trafficking cases. The demand for counseling services continue to be high. Within 8 weeks of hiring a second LPC, Voice of Hope was forced back to having a waitlist. The year 2020 has proven to be a challenging year for the community and the survivors. The need to provide quality and affordable and/or free counseling to survivors in the community continues to be one of its greatest needs.
- Voice of Hope offers relocation assistance and CSEY advocacy to survivors for sex trafficking. The agency maintains cooperative working agreements with law enforcement and District Attorneys from all surrounding counties.
- Voice of Hope also offers training to the community. In collaboration with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, an 8-week sex trafficking elective course was offered to second-year medical students. The positive survey results allowed the course to be brought back in 2020 for a second year.

## The Women's Center of East Texas

- The Women's Center of East Texas has collaborated with Longview Police Department on meeting the needs of suspected and confirmed trafficking victims.
- The Women's Center provides emergency short-term shelter. It often refers victims to other long-term programs such as Purchased: Not for Sale in Louisiana or Unbound in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It has provided short-term shelter for victims referred by Child Protective Services, Homeland Security, and self-reporting victims over the past year. The Women's Center's clients have testified against their traffickers in successful prosecutions. The agency has continued to educate its advocates and case managers on the reality of human trafficking in the area.
- Although considered a domestic violence and sexual assault crisis center, the Women's Center has opened its doors as a hub for healing and support. As a result of S.B. 1219, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, there are numerous signs on billboards, buses, and local business doors about identifying human trafficking. This has made the community more aware of the horrors and prevalence of trafficking.
- The Women's Center does not receive specific funding for trafficking victims, but it provides outreach services from its sexual assault program to better serve the population and to ensure trafficking is not going unnoticed.
- The wave of awareness has created an opportunity for more local citizens to get involved in combatting sexual exploitation. The Women's Center has served in this capacity by providing sexual assault support and guidance regarding sexual assault or trafficking reporting.



## Human Trafficking Statistics in Texas

Texas is frequently cited as being the second worst in the United States for human trafficking incidents and number of victims. However, human trafficking data, and therefore, related statistics, are currently lacking and incomplete. In order to fully combat the problem, Texas needs a complete statistical picture of the current condition of human trafficking in the state. Without accurate data on the number of human trafficking incidents, victims, and offenders in the state, Texas cannot efficiently dedicate resources to anti-trafficking efforts. To better understand the magnitude of human trafficking in Texas, the 86th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3800 (adding Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.305) to serve as a central database of human trafficking information. Once fully gathered and analyzed, this data will provide policy makers evidence-based information to determine what tools law enforcement, prosecutors, and other human trafficking stakeholders need to successfully fight human trafficking. The OAG collected the required data, but it lacks the resources to fully analyze it.

The charts below provide data on the number of arrests and convictions for human trafficking and related offenses, including compelling prostitution, promotion of prostitution, and aggravated promotion of prostitution. This data excludes federal human trafficking arrests and prosecutions.<sup>1</sup> The data is in fiscal years with the exception of 2007, which covers only January 1, 2007, (the creation of the Task Force) through August 31, 2007. It should be noted that arrests and cases from recent years, may be ongoing and delayed in the court process because of COVID-19, thus producing a relatively low number of convictions compared to prior years as of the date of this Report.

The charts below provide data on the number of arrests and convictions for compelling prostitution and human trafficking. The data is in fiscal years with the exception of 2007, which covers only January 1, 2007, (the creation of the Task Force) through August 31, 2007. It should be noted that cases from recent years, especially 2020, may be ongoing, thus producing a relatively low number of convictions compared to prior years as of the date of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Texas Department of Public Safety. All data by fiscal years. 2007 from January 1-August 31. This does not include any data obtained in accordance with House Bill 3800, as there has not been sufficient resources or time to evaluate the data received.

<b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</b>					
<b>FY</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>DISPOSED BY PROSECUTOR</b>	<b>CONVICTIONS</b>	<b>DEFERRED</b>	<b>DISMISSAL</b>
2007	39	11	9	7	3
2008	24	5	10	10	5
2009	12	2	4	0	10
2010	16	7	3	2	3
2011	24	8	5	1	2
2012	68	10	5	5	3
2013	109	20	11	1	20
2014	110	26	19	1	14
2015	120	19	32	6	40
2016	142	26	53	6	34
2017	128	18	41	6	46
2018	184	20	62	3	39
2019	165	27	46	7	53
2020	185	21	28	5	39
2021	45	2	2	2	5

<b>COMPELLING PROSTITUTION</b>					
<b>FY</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>DISPOSED BY PROSECUTOR</b>	<b>CONVICTIONS</b>	<b>DEFERRED</b>	<b>DISMISSAL</b>
2007	45	0	13	3	5
2008	45	4	22	0	16
2009	51	2	13	6	14
2010	48	6	13	3	4
2011	65	4	10	2	16
2012	70	4	21	3	14
2013	85	7	19	2	22
2014	113	16	25	5	34
2015	105	19	38	6	49
2016	142	6	35	12	37
2017	141	7	31	15	81
2018	106	7	43	7	35
2019	105	5	26	6	53
2020	97	5	18	3	28
2021	21	1	4	0	4

<b>PROMOTION OF PROSTITUTION</b>					
<b>FY</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>DISPOSED BY PROSECUTOR</b>	<b>CONVICTIONS</b>	<b>DEFERRED</b>	<b>DISMISSAL</b>
2007	91	6	90	0	20
2008	128	3	103	0	11
2009	96	5	86	1	8
2010	97	4	66	3	17
2011	91	11	49	7	21
2012	77	6	46	0	14
2013	81	7	52	4	10
2014	68	6	38	1	14
2015	65	8	54	1	20
2016	88	9	57	7	23
2017	120	13	53	11	30
2018	71	11	54	12	32
2019	84	11	36	7	11
2020	96	7	20	11	13
2021	26	4	10	0	0

<b>AGGRAVATED PROMOTION OF PROSTITUTION</b>					
<b>FY</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>DISPOSED BY PROSECUTOR</b>	<b>CONVICTIONS</b>	<b>DEFERRED</b>	<b>DISMISSAL</b>
2007	43	0	7	1	7
2008	31	1	8	3	5
2009	38	0	10	5	3
2010	28	10	16	4	10
2011	27	0	18	6	5
2012	20	1	13	9	8
2013	32	4	12	12	9
2014	33	6	9	5	3
2015	42	7	15	10	12
2016	55	3	13	8	13
2017	40	5	17	8	17
2018	36	6	13	9	9
2019	65	5	14	1	21
2020	49	0	5	1	15
2021	18	0	0	0	2



## **Task Force 87<sup>th</sup> Session Legislative Recommendations**

Since 2010, the Task Force, made up of an array of well-informed human trafficking stakeholders, has made 84 recommendations to the Texas Legislature to address human trafficking. Of the 84 recommendations made, 76 have become law. These legislative enhancements have equipped law enforcement and prosecutors with the tools needed to effectively punish traffickers and seek justice for victims. They have also aided in human trafficking prevention and education efforts, as well as supporting trauma-informed care for trafficking survivors. The recommendations put forth by the Task Force and passed by the Texas Legislature over the past 10 years reflect the statewide partnerships and commitment to improving Texas's response to trafficking.

Texas has made significant strides in combatting human trafficking, but there is still much work to do. Effectively fighting this crime requires a comprehensive, coordinated response from all facets of human trafficking prevention, protection, prosecution, and support services. The recommendations below are the product of several months of collaboration by Task Force members, and they garnered overwhelming support from Task Force members as ways to improve Texas's anti-human trafficking efforts. Further, the proposals support the strategies and recommendations outlined in the Texas Human Trafficking Coordinating Council's five-year strategic plan. The proposed legislative changes will continue to keep Texas at the forefront in the fight against human trafficking.

# LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

## 87th Regular Session

PROPOSAL	STATUTE	BACKGROUND
<b>STATUTORY CLEAN-UP</b>		
<b>Extend the Definition of "Coercion" To Apply to Adult Labor Trafficking and Child Labor Trafficking</b>	Repeal Texas Penal Code § 20A.02(a-1) and amend Texas Penal Code § 20A.01 to include a definition of "coercion" applicable to the entire statute.	Adult sex trafficking, adult labor trafficking, and child labor trafficking all require force, fraud, or coercion. This proposed change would extend the existing definition of "coercion" to conduct related to adult sex trafficking, adult labor trafficking, and child labor trafficking.
<b>Remove Intercounty Requirement for Civil Cause of Action</b>	Amend Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 140A.002 by removing intercounty requirement.	To prove a civil cause of action for human trafficking, the current statute requires the offense or an element of the offense to have occurred or been facilitated in more than one county. Often many human trafficking incidents occur within a single county. This proposed change would remove the unnecessary and impractical burden for civil actions.
<b>Clarify Available Remedies for Civil Causes of Actions</b>	Amend Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 140A.102(b)(1)-(8) by changing "or" to "and."	The list of remedies under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 140A.102(b)(1)-(8) includes an "or" between subsections 102(b)(7) and 102(b)(8) instead of an "and." This proposed change would clarify available remedies for human trafficking civil actions.
<b>Clarify Common and Public Nuisance Provisions</b>	Amend various provisions of Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Chapter 125 that relate to massage establishments.	Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Chapter 125 contains duplicative and conflicting versions of subsections relating to massage establishments. The proposed changes will remove duplication and conflicts in the statute.
<b>Prevent Reckless Tolerance of Trafficking</b>	Amend Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 140A.104(d) by adding conduct of "a person," to include individuals who enter into a contract for a performance of work or provision of service.	Currently, an enterprise may not be held liable unless the finder of fact finds that a director or high managerial agent performed, authorized, requested, commanded, participated in, ratified, or recklessly tolerated the unlawful conduct of the agent. This proposed change would include conduct of agents and individuals who enter into a work contract for the enterprise.
<b>INCREASING INVESTIGATIVE AND PROSECUTORIAL TOOLS</b>		
<b>Add Drink Solicitation as Investigative Tool</b>	Amend Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code §§ 11.44(b), 11.46(c), 61.42(c) by adding "drink solicitation" to the offenses listed that would deny a license or permit at that location or to a person for a certain period.	The criminal activity known as drink solicitation is the practice by a retail employee or agent of engaging a customer to purchase alcohol for consumption. This practice is routinely used as a gateway for prostitution, often in concert with human trafficking. This proposed change would include drink solicitation as conduct that makes a location ineligible for a license or permit.
<b>Redefine Prostitution to Reduce Demand</b>	Add a new section, Texas Penal Code § 43.021 to distinguish the offense of purchasing sex from the offense of selling sex and to increase the penalty for purchasing sex to a state jail felony.	Currently, a person who purchases sex and a person who sells sex are guilty of the same offense, prostitution. Yet, the crime of buying sex differs in important ways from the crime of selling sex, including the circumstances and vulnerabilities of the people who are committing the offenses. The current punishment range for buying sex does not curb demand, and as long as there is demand, there will be supply. The proposed change will add a new section, Texas Penal Code § 43.021, to separate out the act of buying sex from the act of selling sex - effectively redefining "prostitution" - and adding "solicitation of prostitution," and making the penalty for first time sex-buying a state jail felony.
<b>VICTIM PROTECTIONS</b>		
<b>Increase Residential Treatment and Emergency Center Protections</b>	Texas Penal Code § 30.05(b)(2); Chapter 42 of the Texas Human Resources Code; Texas Health and Safety Code § 481.134; Texas Code of Criminal Procedure § 42A.453.	In Texas, traffickers are targeting residential child-care or treatment facilities (RTCs) to solicit vulnerable young children into prostitution. Because pimps are free to approach vulnerable youths without impediment, traffickers have been successful in luring/recruiting these children in RTC parking lots. The proposal will require all providers/owners of RTCs and emergency facilities to post "no trespassing" notices along the exterior boundaries of the property and designate RTCs as child safety zones and gang- and drug-free zones.
<b>Protect Victim Testimony</b>	Expand existing exceptions for evidence in criminal actions in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure § 38.37 to include all human trafficking and sexual assault victims.	Acknowledging the unique dynamic between the victim and the trafficker, and the potential to tamper with the witness, we need to present a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to victim testimony. Chapter 38 lacks the ability to put into evidence outcry statements of all human trafficking and sexual assault victims. This proposed change would lessen the burden on human trafficking victims at trial, avoiding retraumatizing the victim, while still protecting the rights of the defendant.
<b>Prohibit SOB's from Employing Individuals Under Age 21 or Allowing Individuals Under Age 18 on the Premises</b>	Amend Texas Labor Code § 51.016 and Texas Penal Code § 43.251 to increase and verify the minimum age of employment in sexually oriented businesses from 18 to 21 with a criminal penalty for offending businesses. Amend the Alcoholic Beverage Code and Business & Commerce Code to prohibit sexually oriented businesses from allowing individuals under 18 on the premises. Amend Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 125.0015 to include this activity in the list of common nuisances.	Sexually oriented businesses are a high-risk location for potential trafficking and exploitation. These businesses are primarily regulated at the local level, but additional protections for youth could be enacted statewide. The proposed change would raise the age of employment in sexually oriented businesses from 18 to 21, prohibit sexually oriented businesses from allowing minors on the premises, and hold offending businesses accountable. This change would provide mechanisms to help prevent exploitation in sexually oriented businesses statewide.



## The Work Continues

During 2020, when many industries slowed down because of COVID-19, traffickers have accelerated. Between January and November 24, 2020, there were 1,500,660 online commercial sex advertisements posted in Texas. Of those ads, 291,478 are believed to advertise children for commercial sex. In addition, 37,840 of those advertisements were for illicit massage businesses; storefront brothels often operated next door to local businesses in communities throughout Texas. Even more startling, most of the more than 1.5 million commercial sex ads were likely reused on several occasions, making the actual number of commercial sex transaction substantially higher. Unfortunately, the war against human trafficking rages on.

As we move forward, Texas must continue to develop efforts and work strategically to eradicate human trafficking. Task Force members remain dedicated to working together, preventing human trafficking victimization, protecting and recovering human trafficking victims, prosecuting all human trafficking cases, and providing support to survivors. By coordinating local, state, and federal efforts, Texas will win this battle.