

2021 Crime Victims' Institute Dashboard

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What is the 2021 Texas Dashboard?

The 2021 Texas Dashboard provides a broad collection of key indicators of victimization in Texas during the past year. The Dashboard includes reported victimization incidents, the scope of service utilization from various government and non-government resource providers, offender accountability, and results from victimization surveys. The presentation of these statistics allows for monitoring of trends, strengthens intervention policies and practices, and informs implementation of prevention tactics. Additionally, the Dashboard assists with amending existing programs and policies, allowing for the adoption of practices that are better suited to reduce and ultimately end victimization and assist victims and survivors.



Crime Victims' Institute is affiliated with the Criminal Justice Center
Sam Houston State University
A Member of the Texas State University System



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Indicators of Victimization in Texas

Official reports of crime, utilization of services, and reports to law enforcement are lower than actual incidents rates, particularly when considering highly personal victimization experiences, such as intimate, family, and sexual violence. Victims may be apprehensive about reporting their experiences for numerous reasons, such as fear of reprisal, financial dependence on the offender, or fear related to the criminal justice process. It is important to keep in mind that the numbers below reflect only those incidents reported to formal agencies, and that a substantial amount of victimization goes unrecognized.

Key Population Indicators for Texas	Source	Starting Data (2010)	Previous Year (2019)	Current Data (2020)	Percent Change
Reports of Harm (Child and Youth)					
Confirmed allegations of child physical abuse	DFPS	13,616	7,974	7,650	-4.06%
Confirmed allegations of child sexual abuse	DFPS	5,992	7,035	6,632	-5.73%
Confirmed rate of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children	DFPS	10.2	9.05	9.11	0.66%
Confirmed child abuse/neglect-related fatalities	DFPS	227	235	251	6.81%
Completed investigations where family violence was indicated in risk assessment	DFPS	54,841	20,245	12,973	-35.92%
Adult and Elder Victimization					
Intimate partner homicides involving female victims	TCFV	142	150	183	22.00%
Validated investigations of abuse of elders and vulnerable adults	DFPS	56,053	51,429	52,506	2.09%
Maltreatment rate per 1,000 adults	DFPS	3.1	2.4	2.4	0.00%
Reports to Law Enforcement					
Forcible rape incidents	TXDPS	7,626	14,656	13,327	-9.07%
Rate of forcible rape reported to law enforcement per 100,000	TXDPS	30.3	50.5	45.4	-10.10%
Sexual assault incidents	TXDPS	19,007	18,057	16,969	-6.03%
Family violence incidents	TXDPS	193,505	196,902	213,875	8.62%
Number of human trafficking offenses reported to law enforcement	TXDPS	N/A	451	488	8.20%
Number of hate crime incidents reported to law enforcement	TXDPS	168	407	550	35.14%
Utilization of Services					
Adults and children sheltered	TCFV	26,907	1,518,400 ¹	1,354,880 ¹	-10.77%
Hotline calls answered	TCFV	205,793	629,260 ¹	570,495 ¹	-9.34%
Offender Accountability					
Forcible rape clearance	TXDPS	44.0	23.70%	20.3	-14.35%
Percent of adult sexual assault cases with conviction	TJB	39.9	9.6	7.7	-19.79%
Percent of child sexual assault cases with conviction	TJB	44.0	14.0	9.7	-30.71%
Percent of family violence assault cases with conviction	TJB	N/A	17.8	12.5	-29.78%

¹=Average number of victims on a given day was multiplied by 365 to get an estimate of the annual totals **N/A**= Not Available; **DFPS**= Department of Family and Protective Services; ²= Reflects the average number of adults and children sheltered and the average number of hotline calls on any given day in the state of Texas; **TCFV**= Texas Council on Family Violence; **TJB**= Texas Judicial Branch; **TXDPS**= Texas Department of Public Safety

Trends and National Comparisons

CVI's 2021 Dashboard provides current data for 2020 for comparison to the same indicators in 2019. Starting or baseline data from 2010 have also been included as a reference. Percent change is a calculation of the increase or decrease in a particular indicator relative to the previous year (2019; see formula below). Percent change is not the absolute difference in percent and may or may not be statistically significant since some change randomly occurs from year to year. For some indicators, national comparisons can also be made (see formula).

$$\left[\frac{(\text{Current TX Data} - \text{Previous Year's TX Data})}{\text{Previous Year's TX Data}} \right] \times 100$$

$$\left[\frac{(\text{Current TX Data} - \text{Current US Data})}{\text{Current US Data}} \right] \times 100$$

Reports of Harm (Child and Youth)

- The number of reported child physical and sexual abuse incidents and the confirmed rate of child abuse and neglect has decreased and increased from 2019 to 2020. Rates of child abuse/neglect in the U.S. have remained fairly stable since 2010, but Texas rates have declined by 10.7% over the same time period (from 10.2 in 2010 to 9.11 in 2020). There was a 0.66% increase in rates of child abuse/neglect from 2019 to 2020 in Texas.
- The confirmed child abuse/neglect-related fatalities has increased by 6.81% from 2019 to 2020.

Adult and Elder Victimization

- Validated investigations of abuse of elders increased 2.09% from 2019 to 2020 and the adult maltreatment rate per 1,000 adults remained stable during the same time frame.
- The number of female victims of intimate partner homicide increased by 22% from 2019 to 2020.

Reports to Law Enforcement

- The number of forcible rape incidents reported to law enforcement decreased 9.07%.
- In 2020, the rate of forcible rape incidents reported to police in Texas was 45.4 per 100,000, compared to 50.5 per 100,000 inhabitants in Texas in 2019—a 10.10% decrease.
- The number of sexual assault incidents reported to law enforcement were 6.03% lower, and family violence incidents reported to law enforcement were 8.62% higher in 2020.
- The number of reported hate crime incidents increased 35.14% from 2019 to 2020.
- There were 451 human trafficking incidents reported to law enforcement in 2019 and 488 incidents in 2020—a 8.20% increase.

Utilization of Services

- It is important to note that data efforts used to comprise the statistics for the reported number of adults and children sheltered have differed since 2016. The new statistics reflect an estimate of the number of adults and children sheltered that year and the average number of hotline calls answered that year in Texas based on a sample the TCFV collected over a 24-hour period during 2020.
- The average number hotline calls answered decreased 9.34% from 2019 to 2020.
- Shelter services provided to children and adults decreased by 10.77% from 2019 to 2020.

Offender Accountability

- Forcible rape clearance, the percent of family violence assault cases with conviction, sexual assault cases with convictions and child sexual assault cases with conviction decreased in 2020.

Note: Few of the data sources on the CVI Texas Dashboard are available nationally or in other states for comparison purposes. When they are available, data is rarely directly comparable. In particular, different states may have different definitions for family violence, maltreatment, domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault; different reporting requirements for child and elder abuse, and different crime classifications. Additionally, comparing incident counts across states is not advised due to differences in population size.

The conditions of the coronavirus pandemic may impact the true nature of data presented.

Join Us!

We hope you will join us in our efforts to raise awareness surrounding victimization incidents and for those individuals impacted by these crimes. Doing so will ultimately increase victim safety and offender accountability. Call your local victim services provider to learn more about your community's endeavors, or visit the Crime Victims' Institute's website at www.crimevictimsinstitute.org to find ways to get involved. Follow us on Twitter or Instagram @cvi_shsu.

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