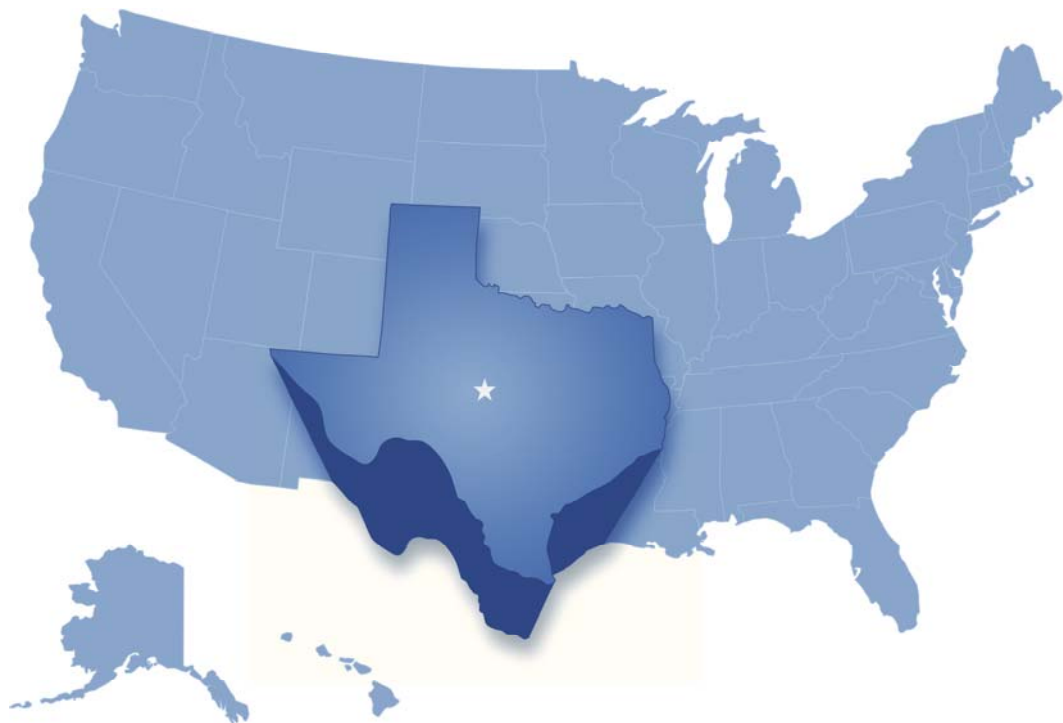


2015 Crime Victims' Institute Dashboard



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

What is the 2015 Texas Dashboard?

The 2015 Texas Dashboard is a broad overview of key indicators of victimization in Texas. The Dashboard looks at reported incidents, service utilization, offender accountability, and victimization survey results over the last four years.

This is the first year that data has been compiled into the Dashboard by the Crime Victims' Institute at Sam Houston State University. This tool will monitor trends in these key indicators to inform efforts to strengthen intervention policies and practices, to implement prevention strategies, and to revise existing policies and programs to adopt practices better suited to ending certain types of victimization and assisting the victims and survivors.

We encourage you to go beyond the numbers by reading the more detailed indicator definitions to better understand what is being reviewed and what progress has been made or still needs to be made in responding to these types of victimization.

We should all think carefully about what we can do to bring about change, whether we are policy makers, service providers, or concerned citizens. Each of the numbers in the Dashboard represents a life affected by these crimes. The level of domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors in our state remains unacceptably high – any amount is too much.

Join Us!

We hope you will join us in our efforts to bring attention to these types of victimizations and those individuals affected by them in order to increase victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their actions. Call your local victim service provider to learn about your community's efforts in this area or visit the Crime Victims' Institute website at www.crimevictimsinstitute.org to find ways to get involved.

For more information contact:

Crime Victims' Institute
College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University
936-294-3100
crimevictims@shsu.edu



2015 Crime Victims' Institute Dashboard

Indicators of Victimization in Texas

Reports of crime, utilization of services, and reports to law enforcement are much lower than actual incident rates due to underreporting, especially when considering highly personal victimization experiences like intimate, family, and sexual violence. Victims may be reluctant to report their experiences for a variety of reasons, including fear of reprisal, financial dependence on the offender, or fear of the criminal justice system response. It is important to remember that these numbers reflect only those incidents reported, while a vast amount of victimization goes unrecognized.

Key Population Indicators for Texas	Texas by Year					
	Source	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Child and Youth Victimization						
1. Percent of students experiencing physical dating violence in the past year	YRBSS		11.8		9.9	
2. Percent of students physically forced to have sex ever	YRBSS		8.8		9.9	
3. Percent of students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe	YRBS		7.1		7.7	
4. Percent of students who were electronically bullied	YRBSS		13.0		12.8	
5. Percent of students who were bullied on school property	YRBSS		16.5		19.1	
6. Percent of students threatened or injured with weapon on school property	YRBSS		6.8		7.1	
Reports of Harm (Child and Youth)						
7. Confirmed allegations of child physical abuse	DFPS	13,616	12,547	11,789	11,734	11,514
8. Confirmed allegations of child sexual abuse	DFPS	5,992	6,094	5,931	6,009	5,563
9. Confirmed rate of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children	DFPS	10.2	9.9	9.1	9.3	9.2
10. Child abuse/neglect related fatalities	DFPS	227	231	212	156	156
11. Number of completed investigations where family violence was indicated in risk assessment	DFPS	54,842	56,068	53,705	55,754	57,624
Adult and Elder Victimization						
12. Number of women who have lost their lives to domestic violence	TCFV	142	102	114	119	N/A
13. Validated investigations of abuse of elders and vulnerable adults	DFPS	56,053	58,068	59,595	48,392	54,731
14. Maltreatment rate per 1,000 adults	DFPS	13.2	12.4	13.2	10.4	11.4
Reports to Law Enforcement						
15. Forcible rape incidents	TXDPS	7,626	7,445	7,692	7,443	N/A
16. Rate of forcible rape reported to law enforcement per 100,000	TXDPS	30.3	29	29.5	28.1	N/A
17. Sexual assault incidents	TXDPS	19,007	18,088	17,835	17,844	N/A
18. Number of family violence incidents	TXDPS	193,505	177,983	198,366	185,453	N/A
19. Number of intimate partner homicides reported to law enforcement	TXDPS	162	146	147	155	N/A
Utilization of Services						
20. Adults and children sheltered	TCFV	26,907	26,411	26,528	25,392	23,311
21. Hotline calls answered	TCFV	205,793	207,510	191,301	183,836	185,373
22. Number of victims notified (VINE/Call-out Feature)	TDCJ	496	788	1,076	1,492	1,661
23. Number of mediations completed	TDCJ	43	49	36	43	36
Offender Accountability						
24. Forcible rape clearance rate	TXDPS	44.0	45.0	44.0	41.0	N/A
25. Percent sexual assault of adult cases with conviction	TJB	39.5	48.6	44.4	41.6	39.9
26. Percent sexual assault of child cases with conviction	TJB	44.0	43.4	42.9	42.5	42.0
27. Percent family violence assault cases with conviction	TJB	N/A	46.4	52.8	49.6	51.3

N/A = Not Available

2015 Crime Victims' Institute Dashboard

National Comparisons

National data for comparison purposes is only available for a few of the indicators on the Texas Dashboard. Few of the data sources on the Texas Dashboard are available nationally or in other states. When they are available, data is rarely directly comparable. In particular, different states may have different definitions for domestic violence and sexual assault, different reporting requirements for child and elder abuse, and different crime classifications. Listed below are a few indicators for which Texas data is directly comparable to national data.

Key Indicators	Starting TX Data (2011)	Current TX Data (2013)	Percent Change	Current US Data (2013)	National Comparison
Child and Youth Victimization					
1. Percent of students experiencing physical dating violence in the past year	11.8	9.9	-16.1%	10.3	-3.9%
2. Percent of students physically forced to have sex ever	8.8	9.9	12.5%	7.3	+35.6%
4. Percent of students who were electronically bullied	13.8	13.0	-5.8%	14.8	-12.2%
Reports of Harm (Child and Youth)					
9. Confirmed rate of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children	9.9	9.3	-9.1%	9.1	+2.2%
Reports to Law Enforcement					
16. Rate of forcible rape reported to law enforcement per 10,000	29.0	28.1	-3.1%	25.2	+11.5%

Percent Change

Percent change is the increase or decrease in a particular indicator relative to a given start date or to another standard. Percent change is not an absolute difference in percent. Percent change may or may not be statistically significant since some change randomly occurs from year to year.

Change Over Time

For example, the percent of students experiencing physical dating violence (indicator #1) has decreased from 11.8% in 2011 to 9.9% in 2013. The absolute difference is 1.9 percentage points. The percent change over time is -16.1%, because 1.9 is 16.1% of 11.8, the starting Texas data.

$$\text{Percent Change Over Time} = \left[\frac{(\text{Current TX Data} - \text{Starting TX Data})}{\text{Starting TX Data}} \right] \times 100$$

National Comparison

Additionally, the percent of students experiencing physical dating violence in the past year was 9.9% in Texas in 2013 compared to 10.3% in the US. Thus, the prevalence of experiencing physical dating violence is 3.9% lower in Texas as compared to the U.S. as a whole.

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

Confirmed rate of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children

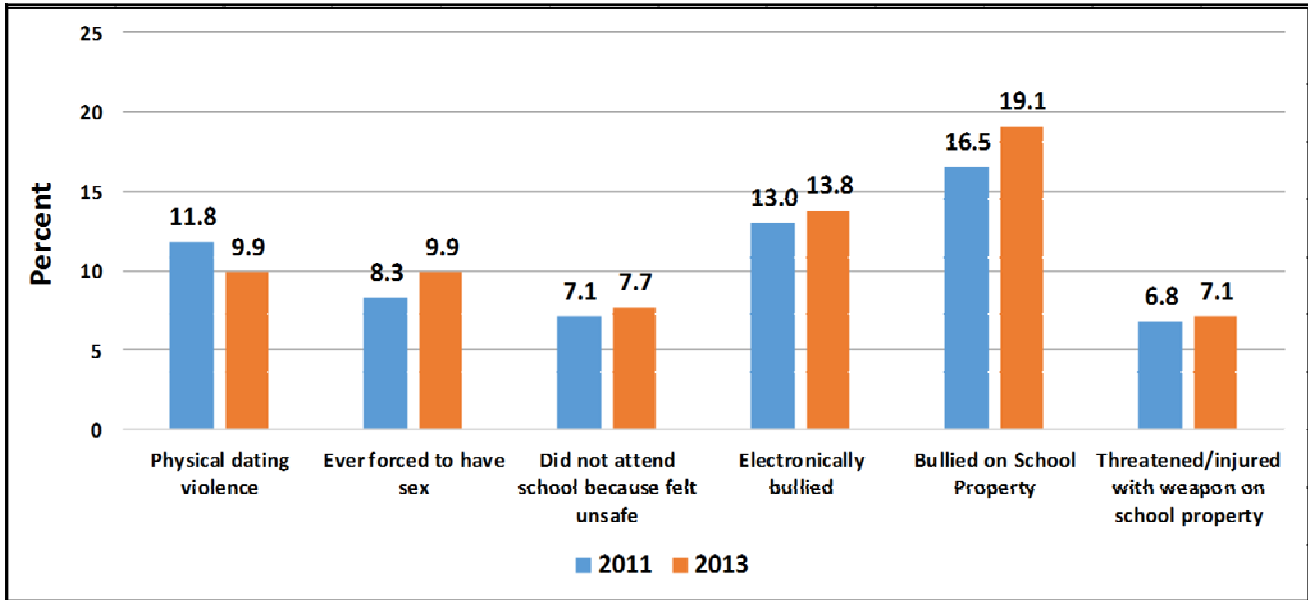
Rates of child abuse/neglect in the U.S. have remained fairly stable since 2011, but Texas rates have declined by 9.1% over the same time period (from 9.9 in 2011 to 9.3 in 2013). In 2013, the rate of reported and substantiated child abuse and neglect was 9.3 per 1,000 children in Texas, compared to 9.1 per 1,000 children in the U.S. The Texas rate was 2% higher than the U.S. rate.

Rate of forcible rape reported to law enforcement per 100,000

Forcible rape rates in the U.S. have declined nearly 10% since 2010. In Texas, rates declined about 3% between 2011 and 2013. In 2013, the rate of forcible rape reported to police was 28.1 per 100,000 women in Texas, compared to 25.2 per 100,000 women in the U.S. The Texas rate was 11.5% higher than the U.S. rate.

Key Indicators of Child and Youth Victimization

The indicators of child and youth victimization are taken from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), conducted every two years by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The YRBSS includes both a national survey of health risk behaviors and a state and local survey that are conducted among high school students (grades 9-12). The indicators presented here represent different types of victimization experienced by high school students. With one exception (physical dating violence), the percent of students experiencing each of these types of victimization increased between 2011 and 2013.



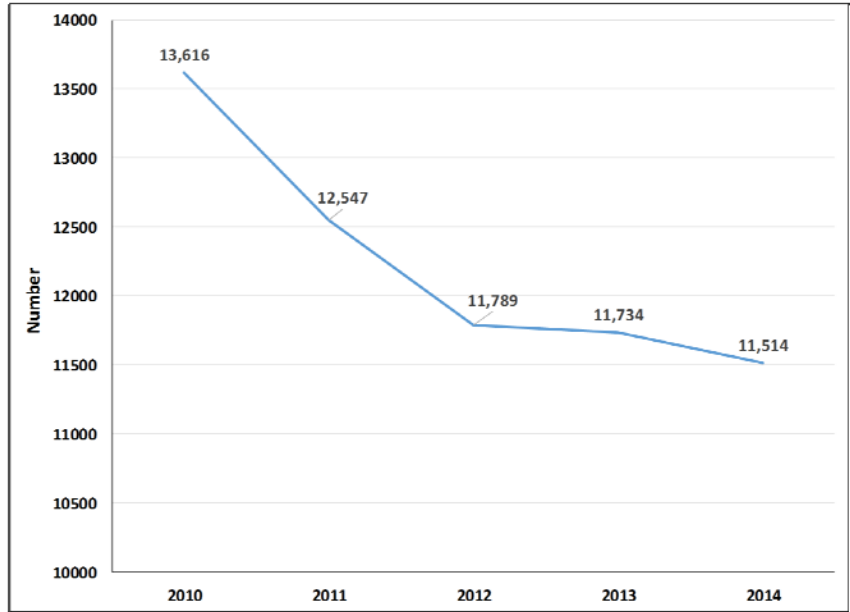
1. The percent of students who reported experiencing physical dating violence within the previous year declined from 11.8% in 2011 to 9.9% in 2013.
2. The percent of students who reported having ever been physically forced to have sex increased from 8.8% in 2011 to 9.9% in 2013.
3. The percent of students who reported that they did not attend school because they felt unsafe increased from 7.1% in 2011 to 7.7% in 2013.
4. The percent of students who reported that they had been electronically bullied increased slightly from 13.0% in 2011 to 13.8% in 2013.
5. The percent of students who reported that they had been bullied on school property showed both the highest prevalence of all types of victimization and the greatest increase, from 16.5% in 2011 to 19.1% in 2013.
6. The percent of students who reported that they had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property increased slightly from 6.8% in 2011 to 7.1% in 2013.

Key Indicators of Reports of Harm among Children and Youth

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) publishes an annual report and data book that provides information on a number of relevant indicators of harm experienced by children and youth in the state. Change in these indicators over time is presented in the following graphs.

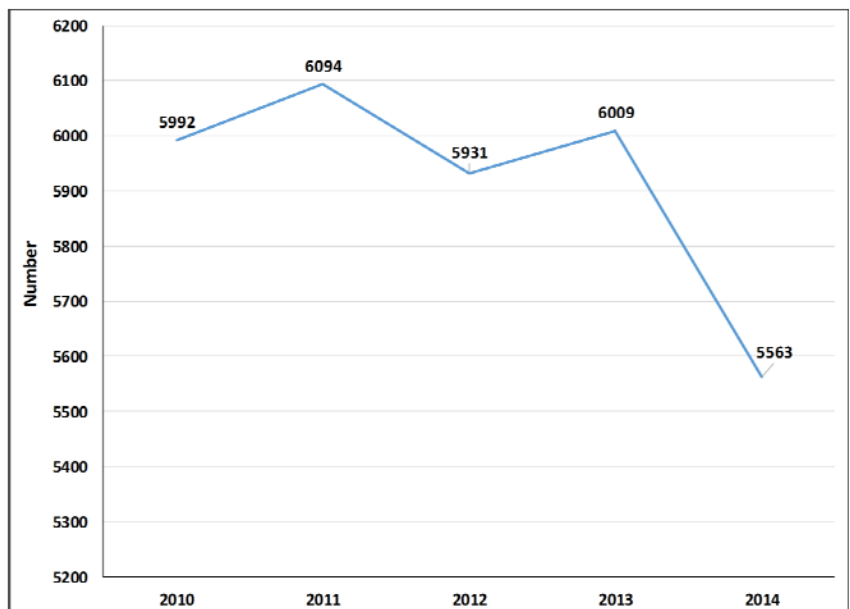
7. Confirmed allegations of child physical abuse.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This indicator reflects the number of allegations of physical abuse of a child that have been confirmed by investigation, which means staff can conclude that physical abuse occurred based on a preponderance of the evidence.



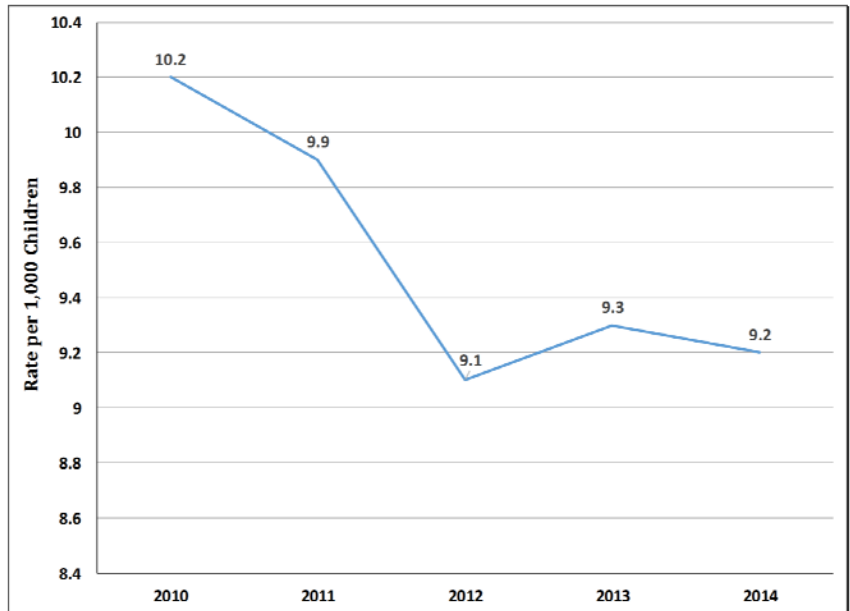
8. Confirmed allegations of child sexual abuse.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This indicator reflects the number of allegations of sexual abuse of a child that have been confirmed by investigation, which means staff can conclude that sexual abuse occurred based on a preponderance of the evidence.



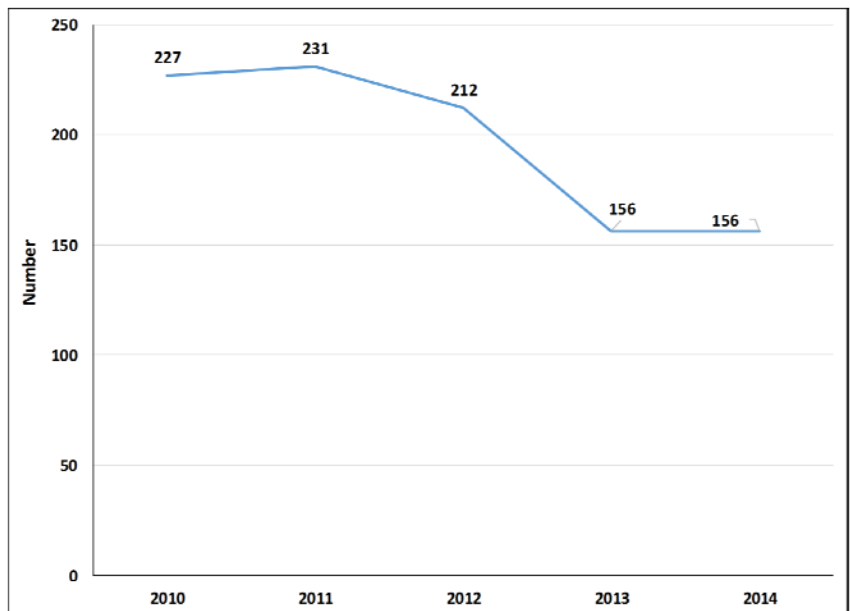
9. Confirmed rate of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This indicator reflects the number of children who are alleged or confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children in the population. In 2014, the rate of child abuse/neglect (9.2 per 1,000) corresponded to 66,572 child victims



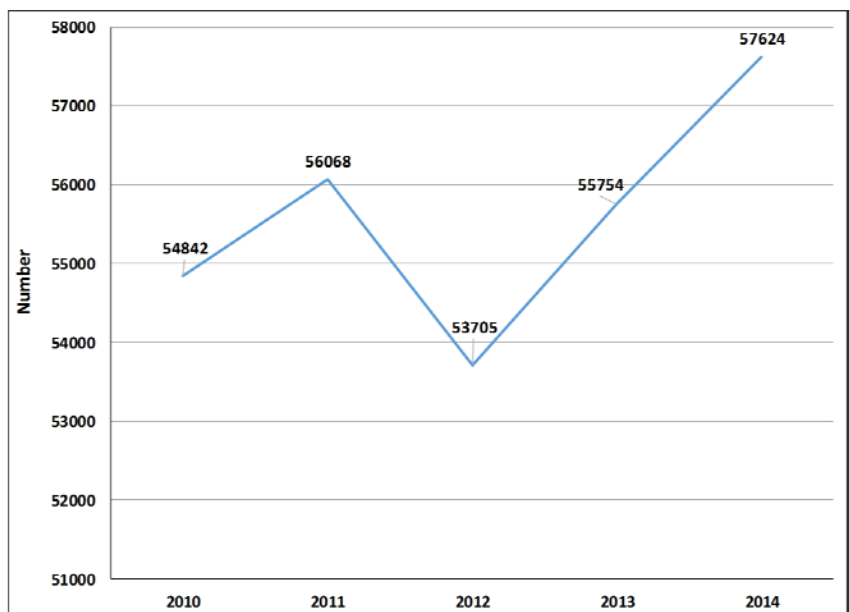
10. Child abuse/neglect related fatalities

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This indicator reflects the number of abuse/neglect related fatalities investigated and confirmed by DFPS.



11. Number of completed investigations where family violence was indicated in risk assessment.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). As part of the investigation process, DFPS conducts a risk assessment. This indicator reflects the number of completed investigations in which family violence was indicated by a positive response to one of two questions: 1) has any person in the home been a victim of family violence, or 2) has any person in the home ever been the perpetrator of family violence.

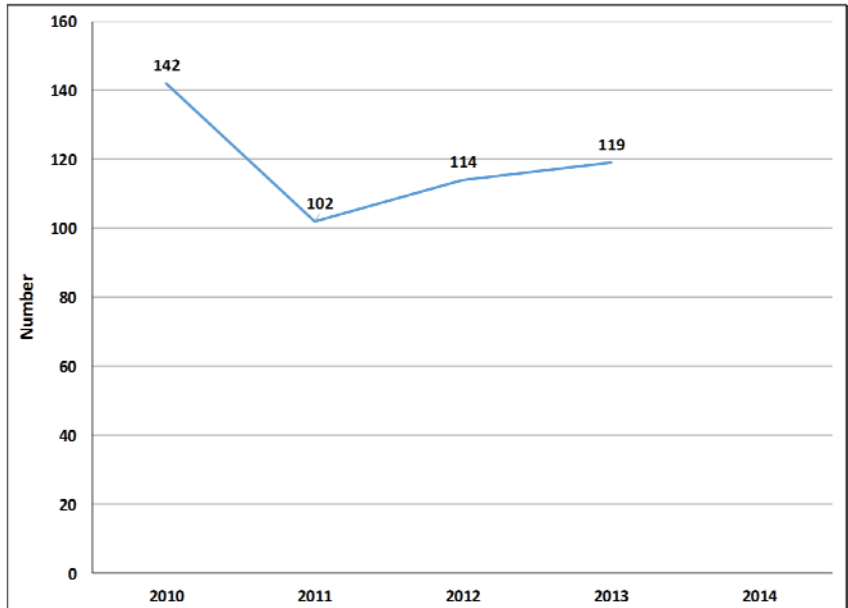


Key Indicators of Adult and Elder Victimization

Indicators of adult and elder victimization can be derived from two sources; Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV), and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Change in these indicators over time is presented in the following graphs.

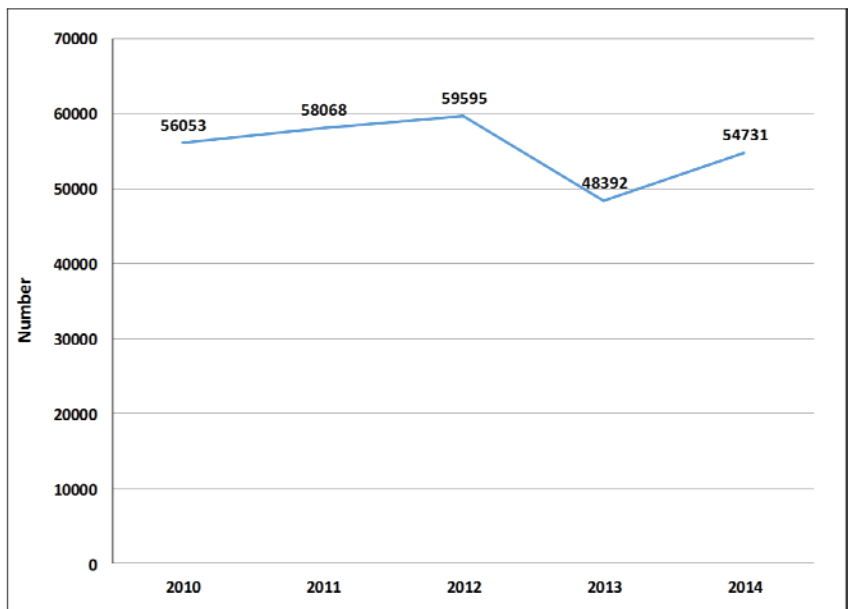
12. Number of women who have lost their lives to domestic violence

Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV). TCFV conducts an annual fatality review to determine the number of women killed each year as a result of domestic violence.



13. Validated investigations of abuse of elders and vulnerable adults

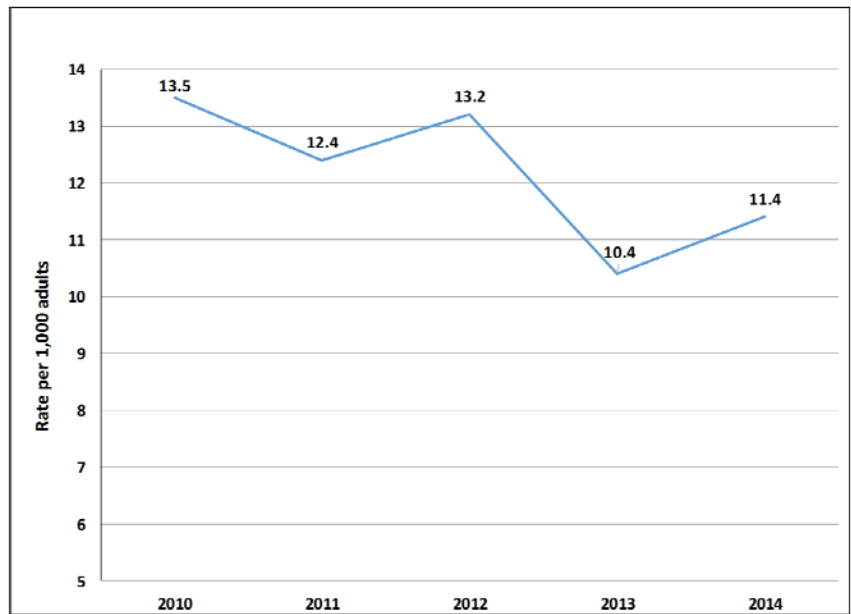
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This indicator reflects the number of completed investigations in which reports of abuse were validated. Reports to DFPS include allegations of abuse of elders (age 65 or older) or vulnerable adults (age 18-64 with a disability).



According to the DFPS 2014 Data Book, the most common referral source is medical personnel, and the most common type of abuse in validated investigations is physical neglect.

14. Maltreatment rate per 1,000 adults

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The maltreatment rate represents the incidence of validated maltreatment reports per 1,000 adults in Texas (18 or older in the Texas population).

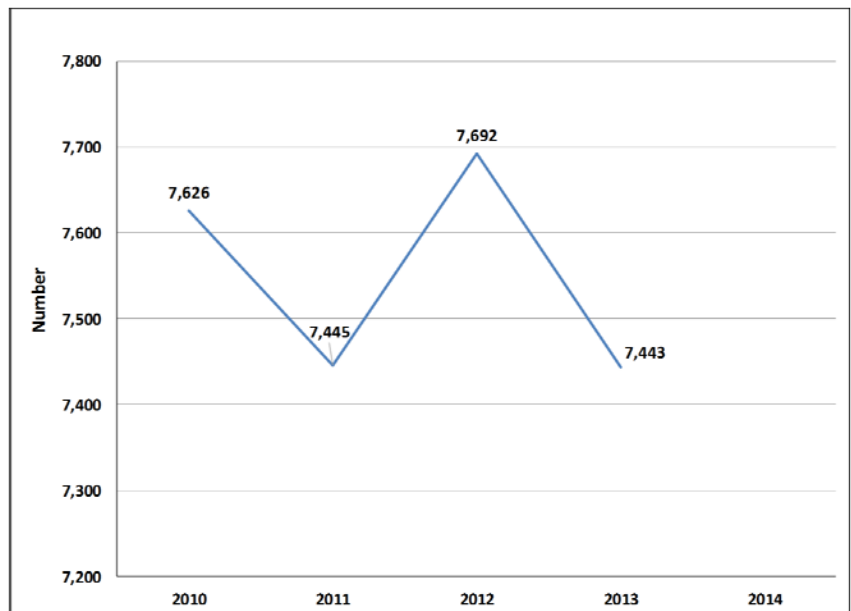


Key Indicators of Reports to Law Enforcement

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) publishes an annual report with information on a number of relevant indicators of victimization as reported to police. Change in these indicators over time is presented in the following graphs.

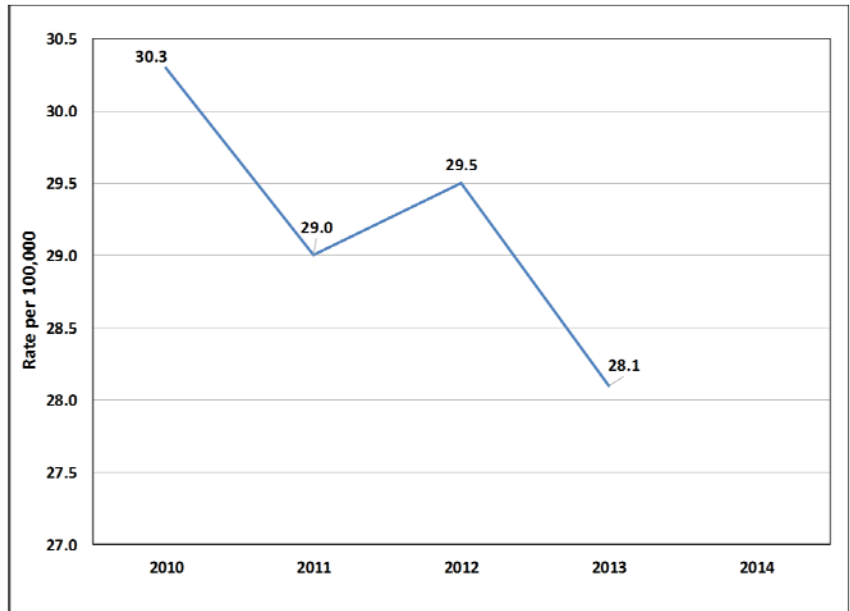
15. Number of forcible rape incidents reported to law enforcement

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This indicator reflects the number of forcible rape incidents reported to law enforcement. Forcible rape is defined in the Uniform Crime Reports as carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. According to the DPS report, this indicator includes assaults with the intent to commit rape but not statutory rape or sexual assault against male victims.



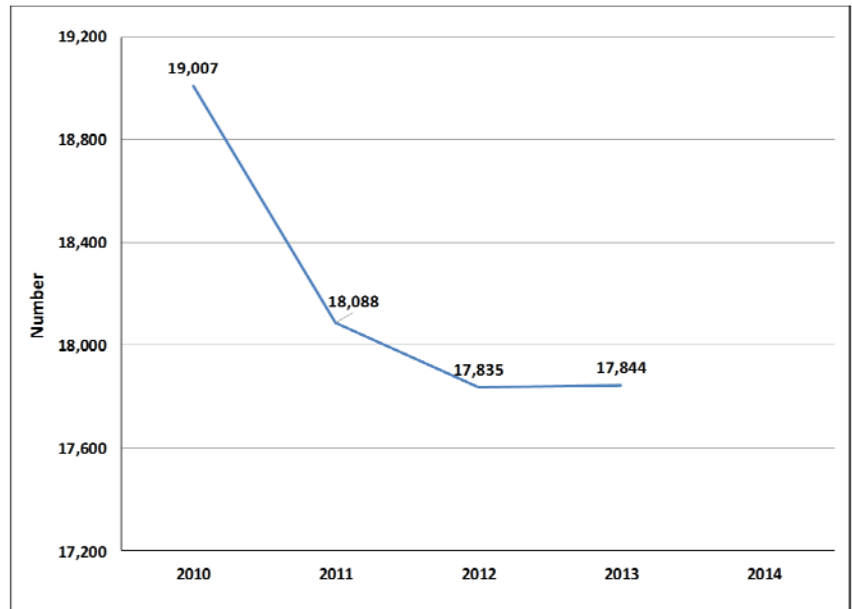
16. Rate of forcible rape reported to law enforcement per 100,000

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This indicator reflects the number of forcible rape incidents reported to law enforcement for every 100,000 persons.



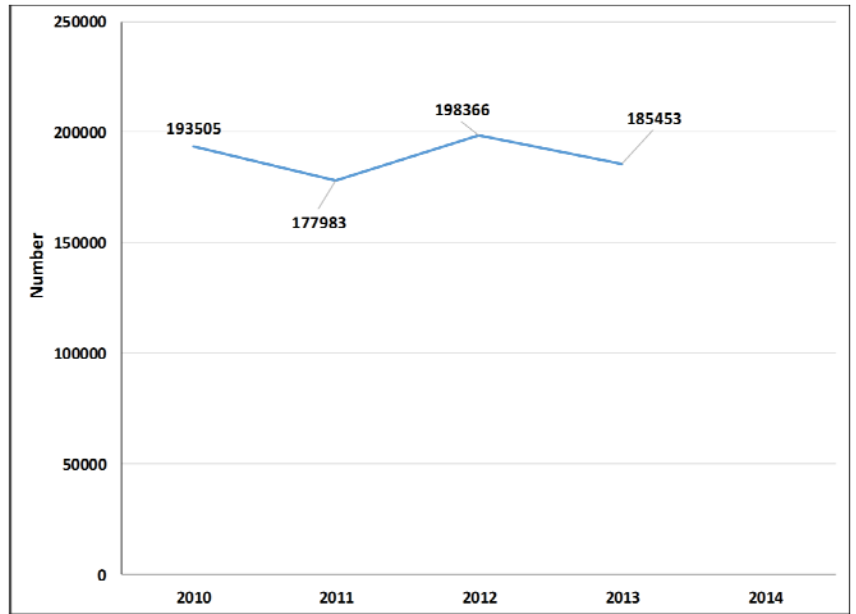
17. Number of sexual assault incidents reported to law enforcement

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). Beginning in 2008, DPS is required to collect data on specific sexual assault incidents. This indicator is a more expansive view of sexual assault than that provided in the Uniform Crime Reports definition of forcible rape. Sexual assault is defined by six offense categories as listed in the Texas criminal code; continuous sexual abuse of a young child, indecency with a child by contact, indecency with a child by exposure, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, and sexual performance by a child.



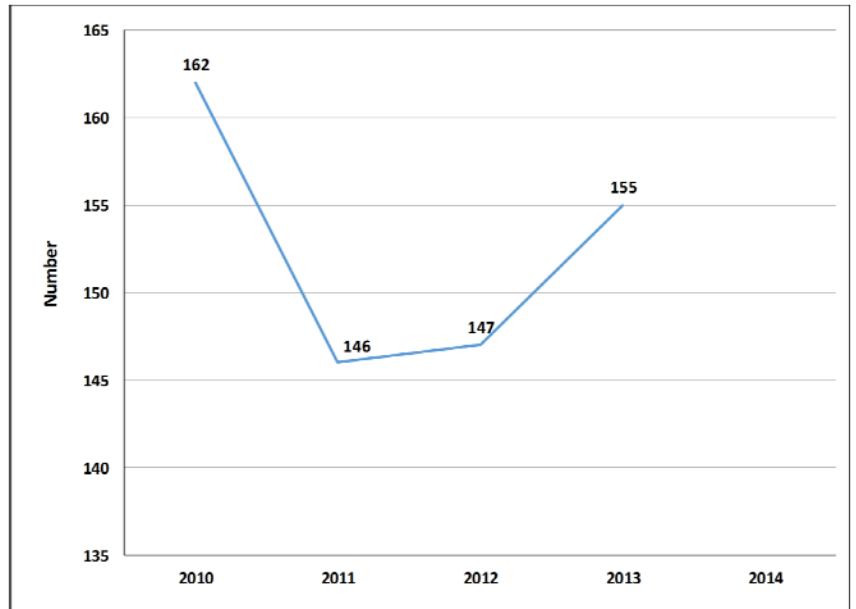
18. Number of family violence incidents reported to law enforcement

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The DPS annual report includes a chapter for family violence, defined in the Texas Family Code as an act by a member of a family or household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, or a reasonable threat of physical harm. "Family" includes those in current or former romantic relationships, including dating relationships, parent/child relationships, or members of the same household, including roommates. Texas law excludes "reasonable discipline of a child" from this type of offense.



19. Number of intimate partner homicides reported to law enforcement

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This indicator reflects the number of homicides in which the victim and offender shared an intimate relationship. The definition of intimate includes current and former spouse, common law spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, and same-sex relationships.

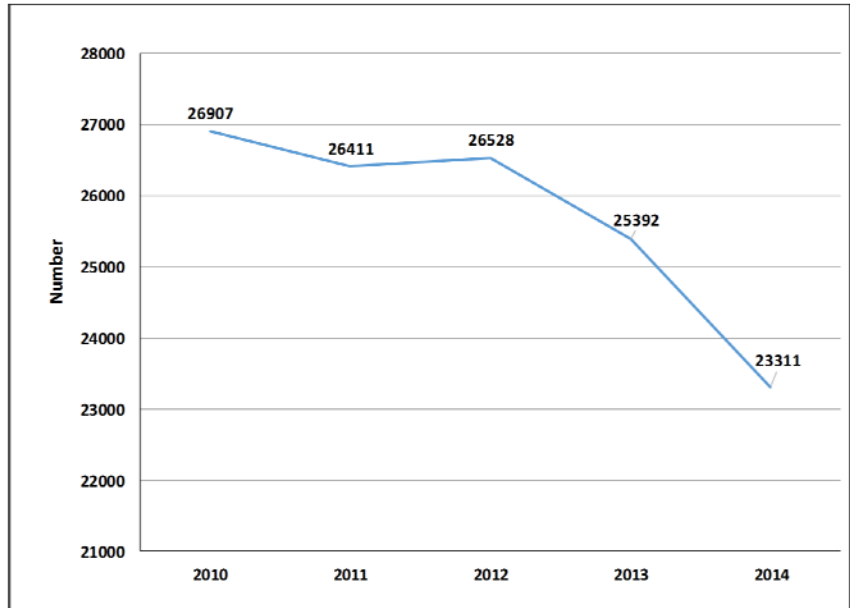


Key Indicators of Utilization of Victim Services

Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) provides information on victim service utilization, including those seeking shelter and those contacting victim service hotlines. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division also provides victim services and tracks information about victim notification and victim-offender mediation. Change in these indicators over time is presented in the following graphs.

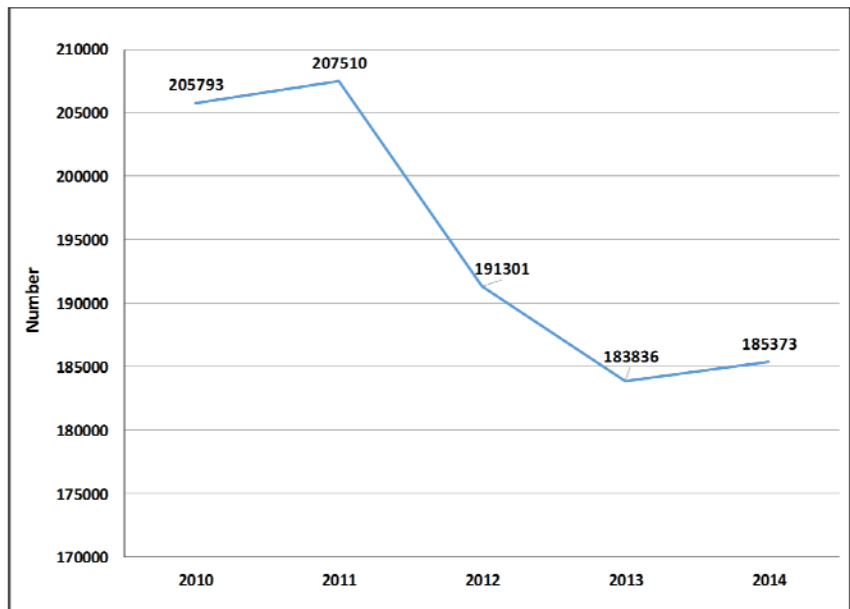
20. Adults and children sheltered

Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV). This indicator reflects the number of individuals seeking shelter in emergency family violence shelters or transitional housing through a family violence agency.



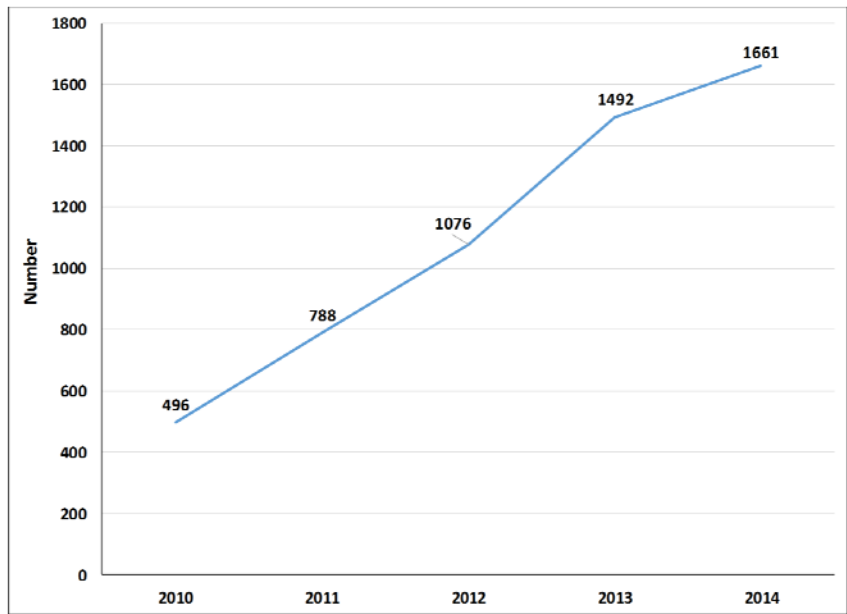
21. Hotline calls answered

Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV). This indicator reflects calls answered by victim service hotlines.



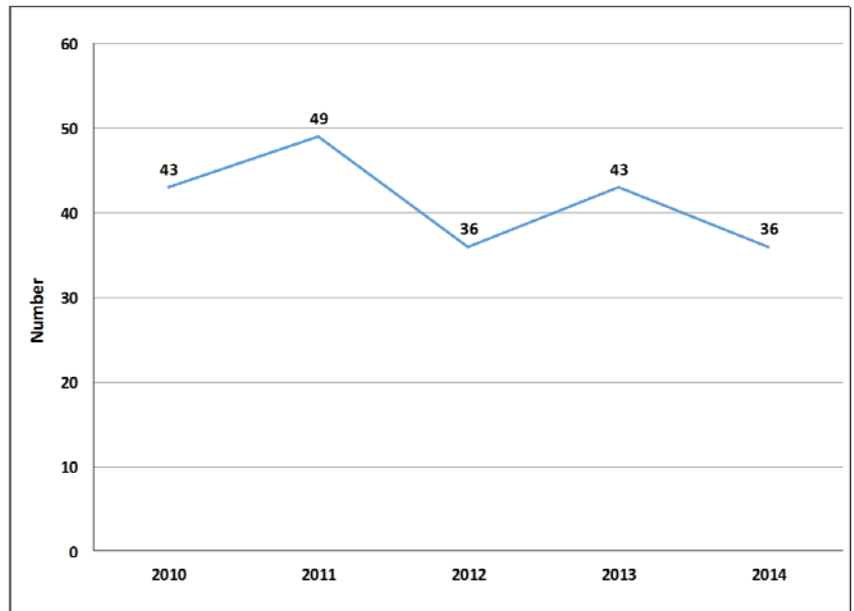
22. Victims notified (VINE/Call-out feature)

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Victim Services Division (TDCJ). This indicator reflects the number of calls made to notify registered victims that the offender is being processed for release from TDCJ custody.



23. Victim-offender mediations completed

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Victim Services Division (TDCJ). TDCJ Victim Services Division provides an opportunity for victim offender mediation dialogue (VOMD). The Victim Services Division initiates a VOMD case at the request of a victim or surviving family member of violent crime. The program is voluntary for both victim and offender, and cases proceed to mediation only when both participants and the mediator agree on readiness. Mediations occur face-to-face in the facility in which an offender is housed or at their probation/parole office. Creative alternatives to mediation may also occur, which typically includes a letter written by the victim. This indicator reflects the number of victim offender mediations conducted, including both face-to-face mediations and creative alternatives.

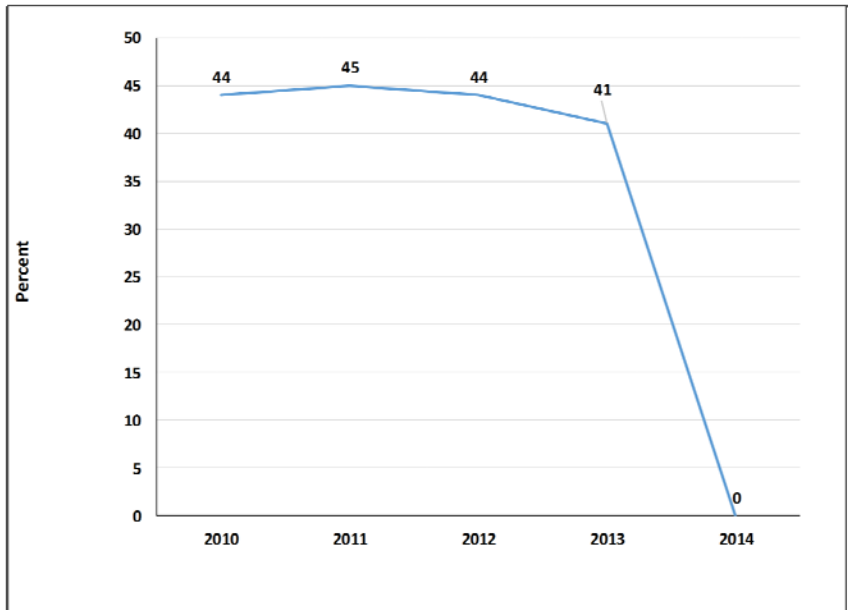


Key Indicators of Offender Accountability

Offender accountability includes the effectiveness of the criminal justice system response to the specific types of victimizations reported here. The information for these indicators of offender accountability are available from a variety of sources. In their annual reports, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Texas Judicial Branch (TJB) provide specific information related to offender accountability. Change in these indicators over time is presented in the following graphs.

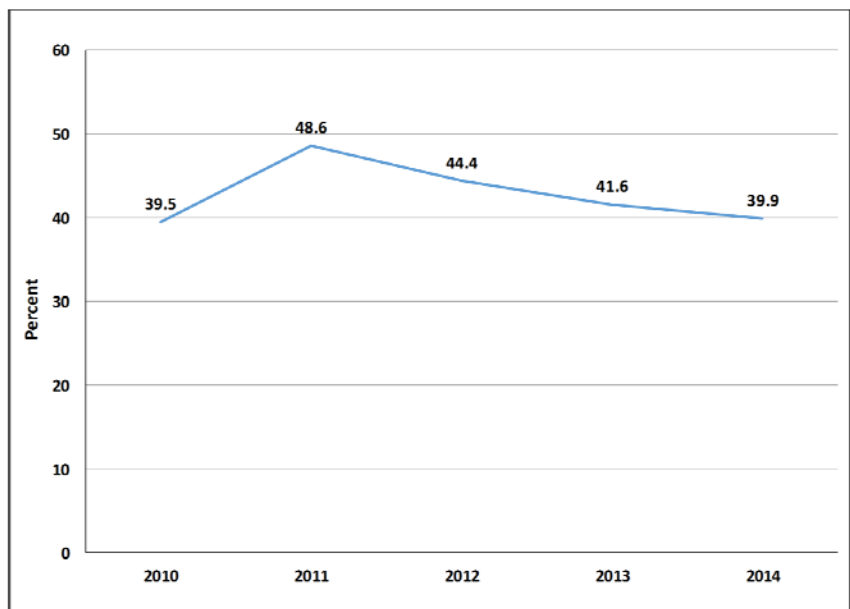
24. Forcible rape clearance rate

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This indicator reflects the percent of forcible rape incidents cleared by police. Offenses can be determined cleared by arrest or by exceptional means. Clearance by exceptional means can occur if four conditions are met: 1) the investigation has confirmed the identity of the offender; 2) there is enough information to support an arrest or charge; 3) the location of the offender is known; 4) there is some reason beyond the control of police that prevents arrest or charging.

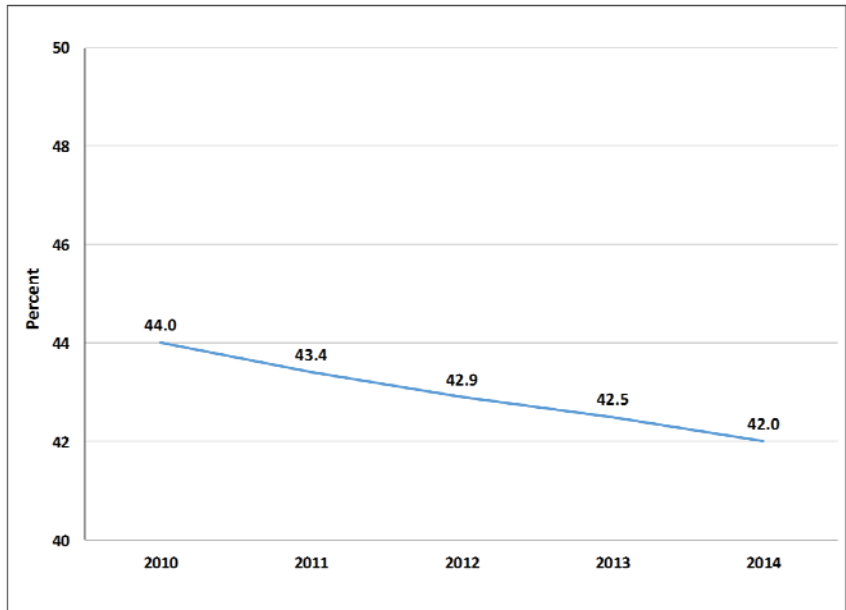


25. Percent sexual assault of adult cases with conviction

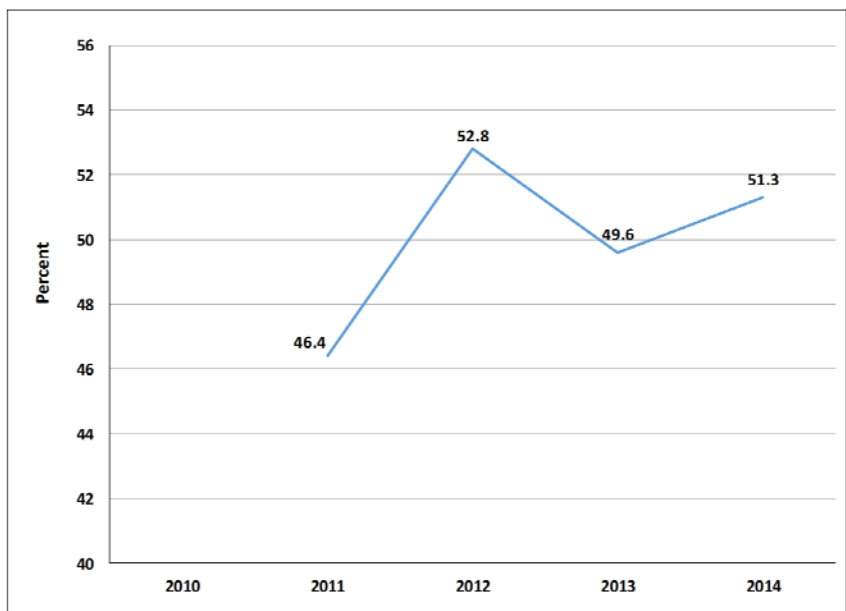
Texas Judicial Branch (TJB). This indicator reflects the percent of cases filed in district courts for sexual assault of an adult for which the defendant was convicted. This offense category includes sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault where the victim is 17 years or older.



26. Percent indecency with or sexual assault of child cases with conviction
Texas Judicial Branch (TJB). This indicator reflects the percent of cases filed in district courts for indecency or sexual assault of a child for which the defendant was convicted. This offense category includes sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children, indecency with a child, or improper relationship between educator and student where the victim is younger than 17 years old.



27. Percent of family violence assault cases with conviction
Texas Judicial Branch (TJB). This indicator reflects the percent of family violence assault cases filed in district courts for which the defendant was convicted. Family violence assault is a misdemeanor offense against a person with a familial or family type relationships.



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