
STATE *of the* STATE



CREATING A SAFER TEXAS

2023 / 2024 / 2025 Update to the Texas Needs Assessment

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) extends sincere thanks to all Family Violence Centers. Your commitment to stand with survivors each day in nearly every county of our state displays your deep commitment to creating a safer Texas.

We want to ensure we send a special thanks to those staff who lead, or participate, in the comprehensive data collection and reporting that lifts up the needs of survivors and their children.

We also want each reader of this report to know every piece of data is so much more—it holds an important story of a strong Texan who sought services when their home was not safe. It is with that in mind we offer this compendium of data representing the State of the State report for 2023–2025.

STATE OF THE STATE

Creating a Safer Texas

TCFV offers this update to the Texas State Plan to tell the story of the needs and services provided to survivors of family violence in Texas.

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2023

Life-Saving Services for Survivors

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Funding from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Family Violence Program (FVP) supports the ongoing delivery of essential services. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, 79 Shelter and Nonresidential programs and 18 Special Nonresidential Projects (SNRP) were funded by HHSC and provided services to survivors across the state.



79
SHELTER AND
NONRESIDENTIAL
PROGRAMS



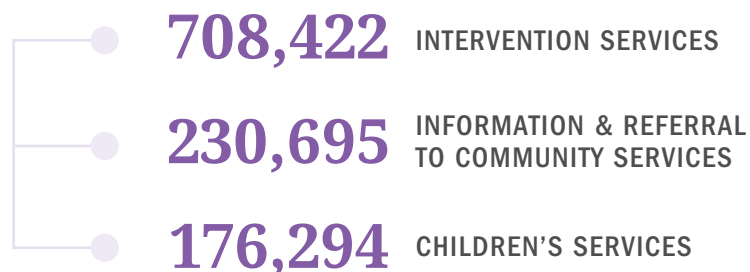
18
SPECIAL
NONRESIDENTIAL
PROJECTS

Programs offered immense support all over Texas:

- » Delivered approximately 1.67 million services¹
- » Served 65,683 survivors and their families²
- » Received 293,206 hotline calls in 2023, an increase of over 17,000 calls from the previous year³

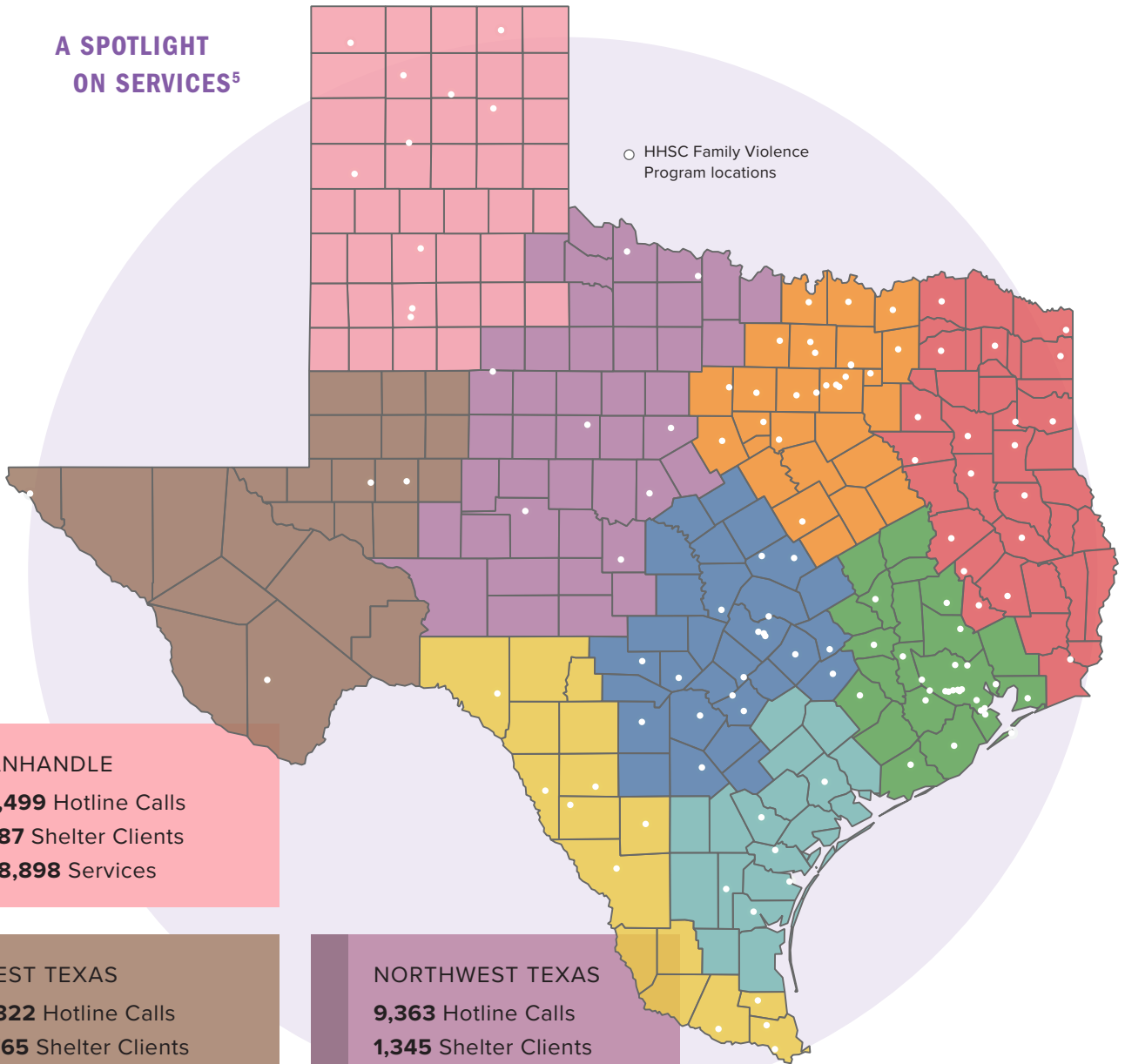
Key Support Services

Consistent with prior reporting years, the following services continue to be among the most frequently accessed by survivors and their families:⁴



A SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES⁵

○ HHSC Family Violence
Program Locations



PANHANDLE
14,499 Hotline Calls
1,187 Shelter Clients
188,898 Services

WEST TEXAS
8,322 Hotline Calls
1,765 Shelter Clients
112,491 Services

NORTHWEST TEXAS
9,363 Hotline Calls
1,345 Shelter Clients
91,657 Services

RIO GRANDE VALLEY
6,851 Hotline Calls
1,324 Shelter Clients
141,990 Services

CENTRAL TEXAS
45,074 Hotline Calls
5,076 Shelter Clients
284,856 Services

DALLAS + NORTH TEXAS
70,847 Hotline Calls
5,553 Shelter Clients
287,607 Services

GULF COAST
2,677 Hotline Calls
1,054 Shelter Clients
58,748 Services

HOUSTON + GALVESTON
120,123 Hotline Calls
4,005 Shelter Clients
322,598 Services

EAST TEXAS
15,450 Hotline Calls
2,100 Shelter Clients
179,346 Services

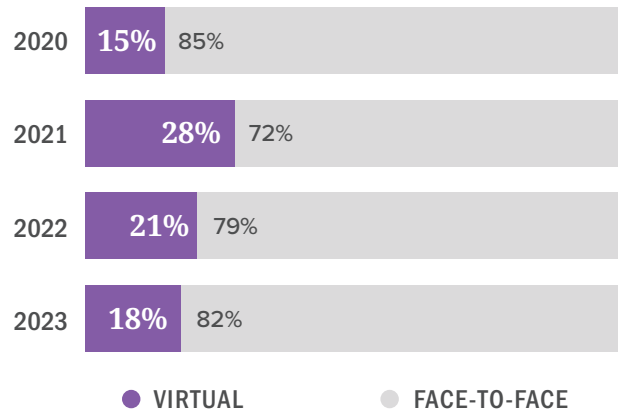
SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY⁶

Meeting survivors where they are is a cornerstone of the family violence movement. During the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual services became essential, relying on diverse communication channels such as text, chat, and video calls. Despite a 3% decrease in virtual services in 2023, virtual advocacy remains an essential avenue for ensuring accessibility. By leveraging technology to align with survivors' available and preferred communication channels, family violence centers have expanded their reach and use chat/text to deliver timely, survivor-centered, support and education.⁷

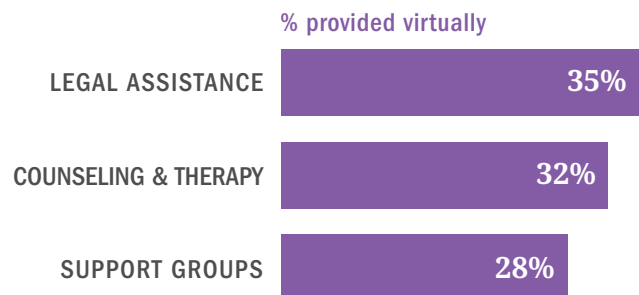
Shelter and Non-Residential Services

Although virtual service delivery has consistently declined from its height of use as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, support groups, counseling/therapy, and legal assistance are still among the top services delivered virtually in 2023.

Despite a 3% decrease in virtual services in 2023, virtual advocacy remains an essential avenue for ensuring accessibility.



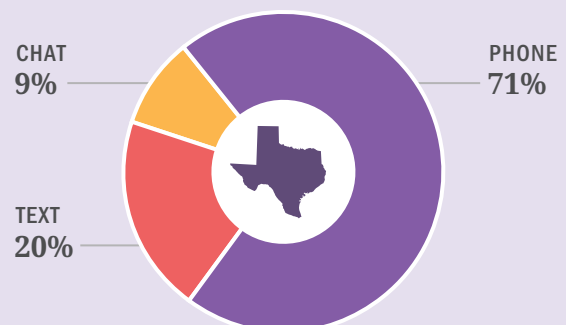
Legal assistance, counseling/therapy, and support groups are the top services delivered virtually in 2023.



VIRTUAL SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE (NDVH)⁸

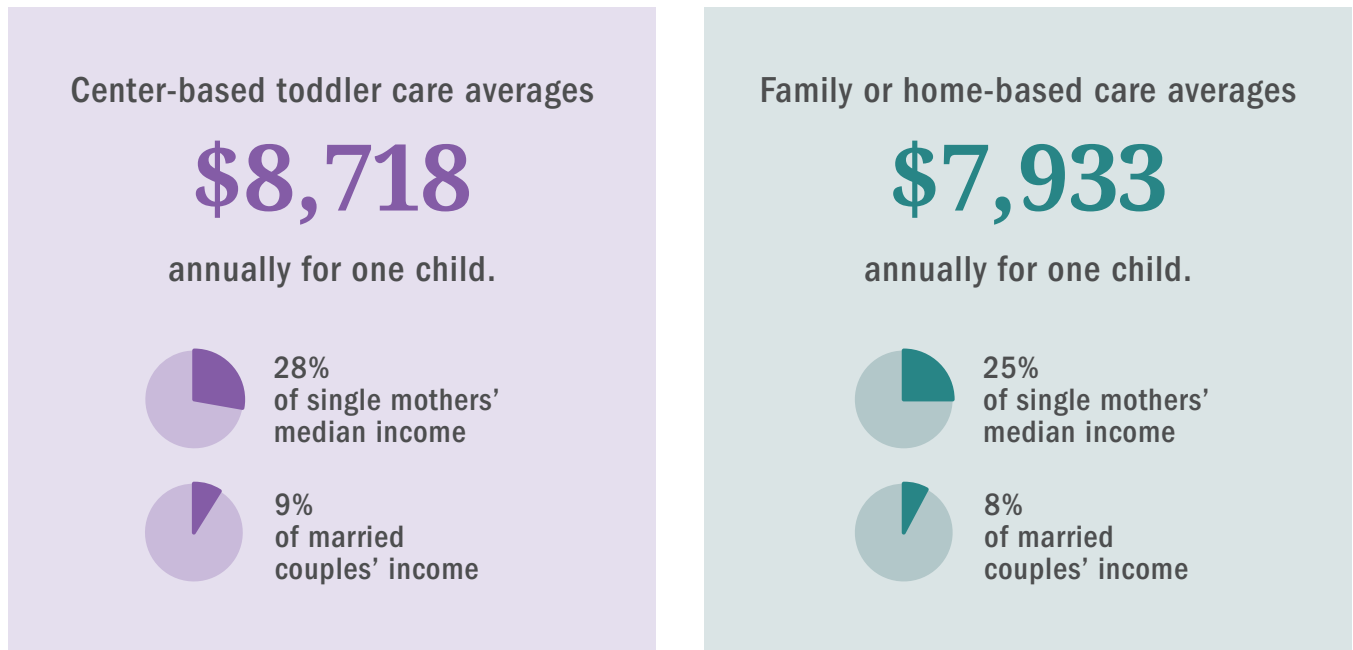
Survivors can contact the NDVH through phone, chat, or text, offering multiple avenues for support and expanding access to assistance. Between 2022 and 2023, the total number of Texas contacts to the NDVH increased by 48%, reflecting an expanded call volume across all hotline channels.

In 2023, almost 30% of hotline contacts from Texas were from chat and text channels.



Children's Services

For survivors who are parents, supporting their children and securing essential support for long-term stability is a top priority. However, in many communities, resource scarcity and high costs limit access to vital services like childcare.⁹



Childcare supports survivors in their ability to secure employment and navigate day-to-day life. Without affordable options and program-supported child services, creating a new safer future can remain out of reach. While childcare availability remains a gap, family violence centers offered thousands of support services to children:¹⁰



175,593
children received
non-counseling
services and
childcare.



23,212
children received
counseling services
either one-on-one or
in a group setting.

82% of Texas family violence programs offered children's services, including informational activities led by trained staff/volunteers, structured arts and crafts, and childcare.

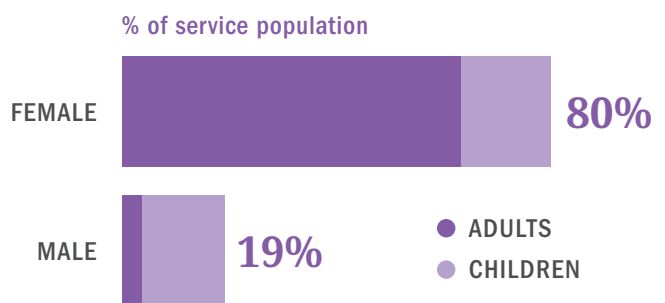
SERVICES ACROSS DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender¹¹

Nearly one in two women have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) at some point in their lifetime, whether through sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking.¹² One in four men have also reported experiencing similar forms of abuse by an intimate partner, highlighting that intimate partner violence (IPV) impacts people of all genders, though the prevalence and nature of specific types of violence may vary.

In FY 2023, female survivors represented a substantial share (80%) of the total service population in Texas, with 79% falling within the adult age group and 21% in the child age category. Male survivors represented only 19% of the total service population, where 81% of male survivors served were children and 19% were adults.

Adult females represent the most substantial group of survivors served.



LGBTQ+¹³

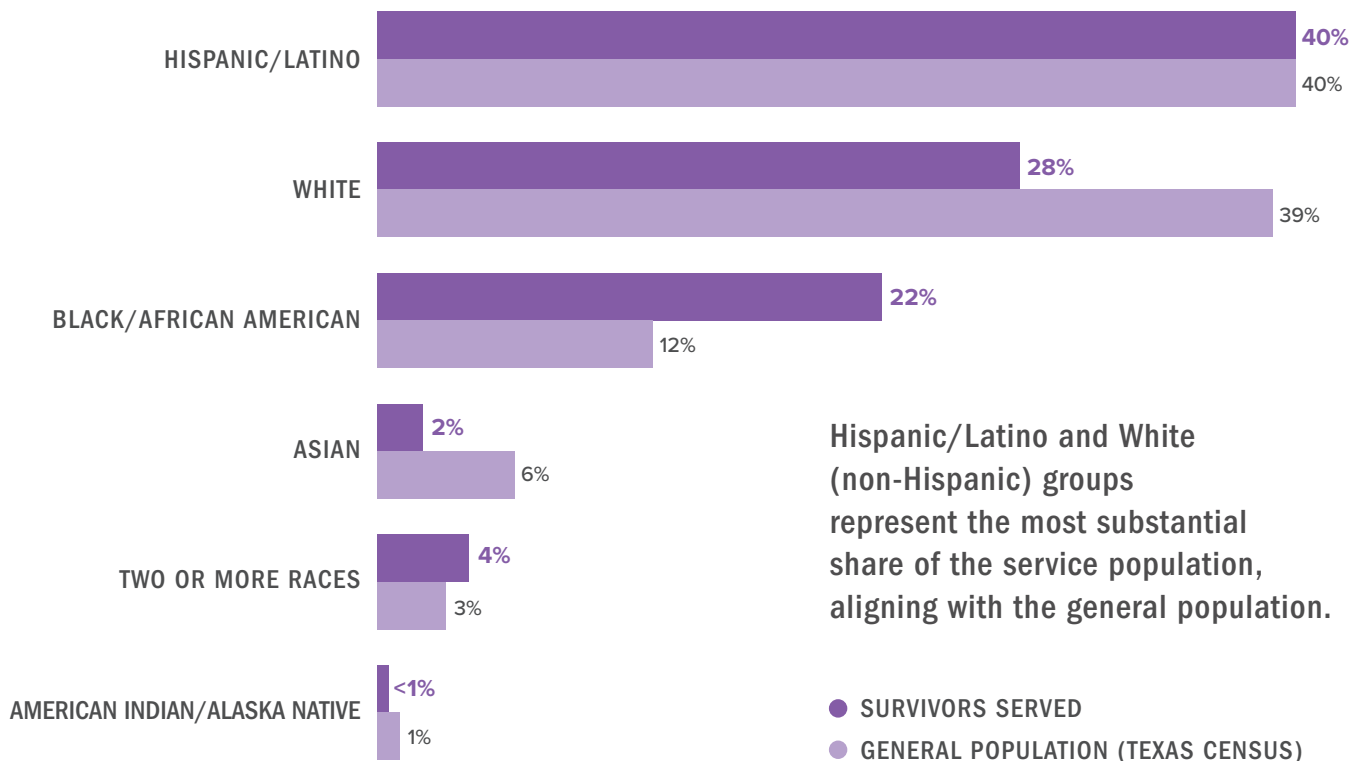
Pursuant to the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA) §1370.5, non-discrimination requirements prohibit exclusion from services on the basis of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.¹⁴

In FY 2023, 1,912 survivors identified as LGBTQ+ and represented 3% of all survivors served. Rates of intimate partner violence are disproportionately high among specific genders and sexual orientations, which are recognized and protected under FVPSA federal statute. Bisexual and lesbian women face higher prevalence of intimate partner-perpetrated violence (IPV) compared to heterosexual women.¹⁵ Similarly, transgender individuals face a high prevalence of IPV, with a two to three times higher risk of sexual and physical related victimizations.¹⁶

Race & Ethnicity¹⁷

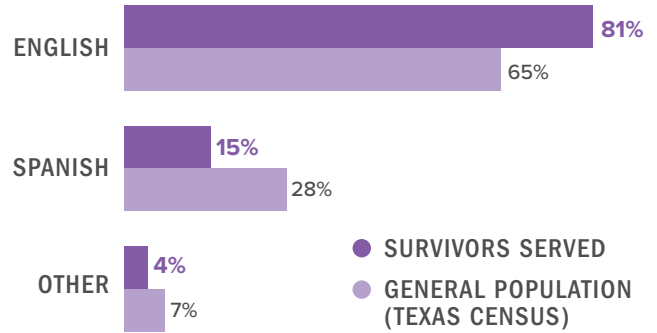
Family violence services in Texas are accessed by a diverse range of survivors, with some racial and ethnic groups consistently comprising a larger share of those served. Meanwhile, other racial and ethnic categories have remained a small share (< 10%) of the total service population in Texas, a trend that has persisted over the last few years.

Survivors who are Hispanic/Latino continue to represent a substantial share of Texas' service population, accounting for 40% of all survivors served in 2023. This proportion aligns with the broader demographic shifts in the state. White (non-Hispanic) survivors are the second largest demographic in Texas, representing 28% of individuals served by family violence programs. While Hispanic/Latino and White (Non-Hispanic) remain the most represented racial and ethnic groups among survivors served, there was an increase in the number of Black or African American survivors served in Texas compared to previous years. Lastly, consistent with previous years, Asian and American Indian/Alaska Natives are among the smallest number of survivors served.



Language¹⁸

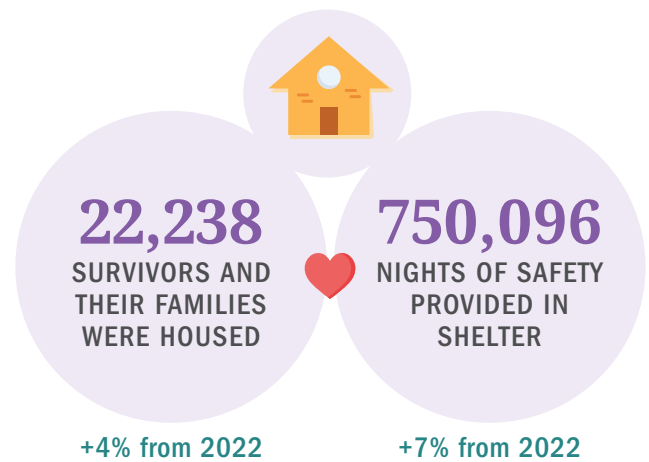
Improving service accessibility also relies on expanding language access. Family violence programs report survivors most commonly speak the following languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, French, and ASL.



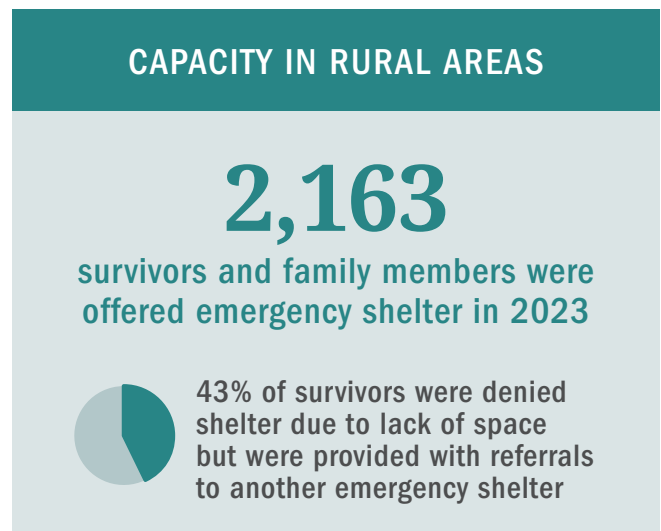
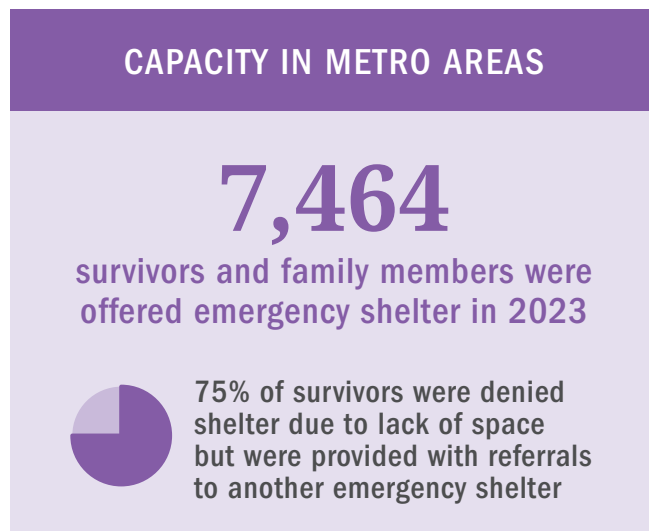
SAFETY IN SHELTER: CAPACITY CRISIS

Emergency and Temporary Shelter¹⁹

71 family violence programs funded by HHSC provide emergency and temporary shelter for survivors and their families fleeing violence. While the demand for shelter increased in FY 2023, persistent barriers continue to impact programs' ability to house survivors.



Lack of bed space and safer stable housing drives the ongoing safety and capacity crisis across the state. In 2023, 59% of survivors were denied shelter due to space limitations, which reflects an increase of 9% in denials compared to the previous year.²⁰



Increasing Housing Needs

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing remains the number one need requested by survivors of family violence, driven largely by the limited availability of safe and affordable housing options. While emergency shelter is a critical first step, transitioning survivors into housing after shelter remains an unmet need for far too many survivors.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness among women, with one in four homeless women reporting a history of violence prior to becoming unhoused.²¹

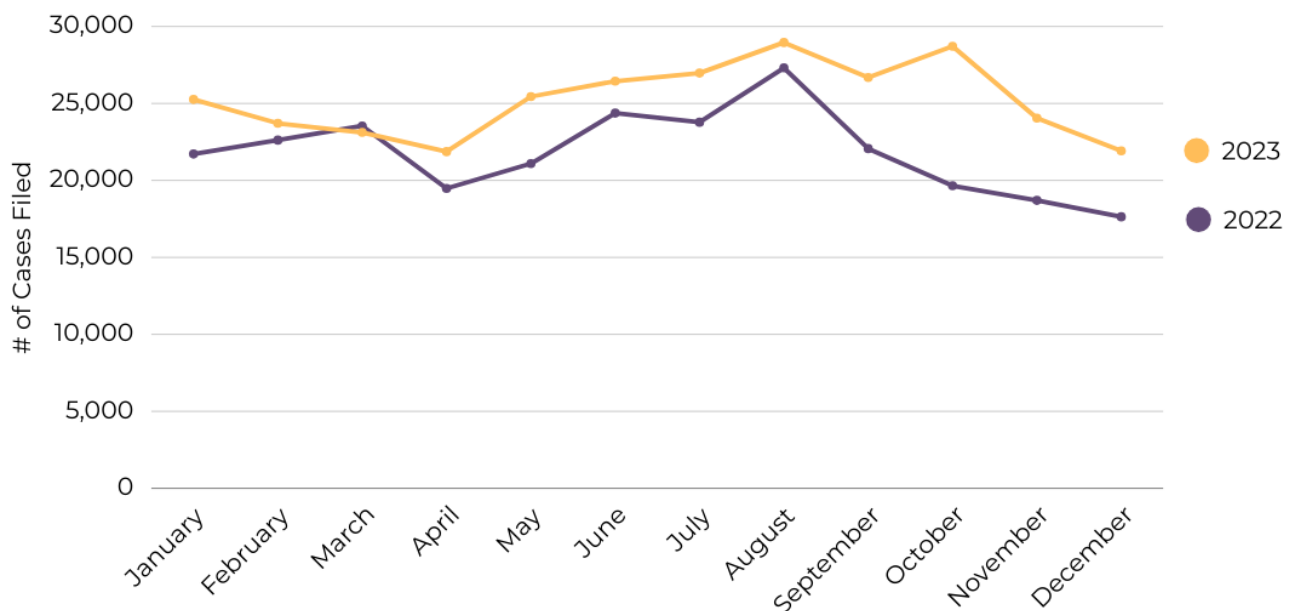


71.4%
of survivors
need assistance
finding housing²²



303,153
evictions were
recorded in
Texas in 2023

Texas recorded 303,153 total evictions (based on landlord-tenant cases), reflecting a 16% increase from the previous year and further highlighting the challenges related to housing stability.²³



The FY 2023 Average Texas Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom unit in a metropolitan area is \$1,076.²⁴ Texans needed to make at least \$20.69 an hour to afford housing in 2023.



Average FM rent
in 2023:
\$1,076



Hourly pay
needed to
afford housing:
\$20.69/hr

HOUSING IN A SINGLE DAY²⁵

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, housing is a crucial gap. Their 2023 one-day census found:

4,075

survivors found safety in emergency shelters, hotels, and other housing provided by domestic violence programs.

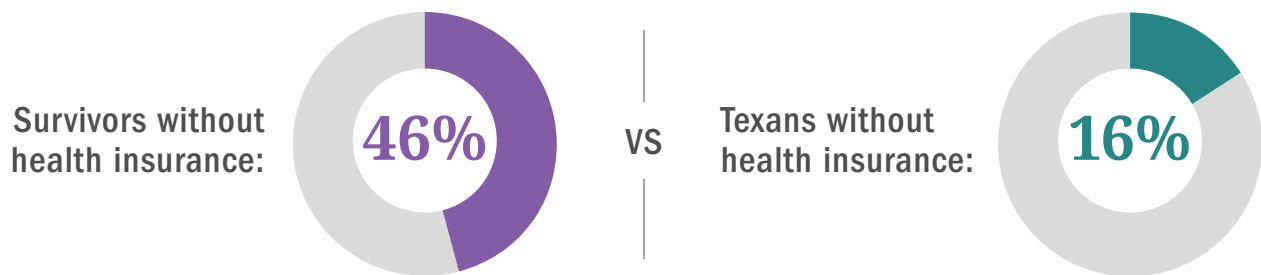
41%

of requests that could not be met were for emergency shelters, hotels, and other housing.



Access to Medical Care

Expanding health services for survivors, from mental health care to reproductive health care, is essential to addressing the impacts of violence and supporting survivors in healing from trauma. 46% of survivors surveyed who were receiving nonresidential services did not have health insurance compared to 16.4% of the Texas population.²⁶



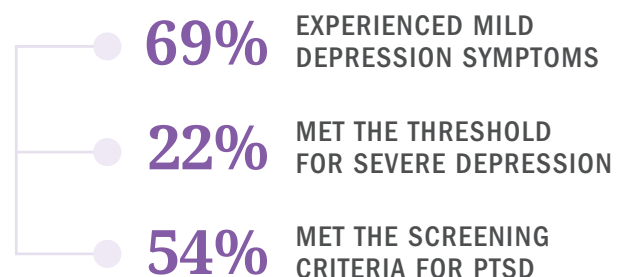
Women who experienced abuse report higher use of mental health services and those who experienced physical abuse had a greater use of emergency medical care, hospital outpatient services, primary care, and specialty medical services.²⁷ Annual healthcare costs are higher for victims of abuse, which creates a substantial financial burden, especially for those without insurance.

MENTAL HEALTH

Survivors have a significant need for mental health services as a result of exposure to trauma and violence that are not always accessible within their communities. Despite this clearly identified need, survivors struggle to access care due to the limited provider capacity and the lack of tailored mental health services.

Validated mental health assessments completed by survivors revealed symptoms across multiple areas, indicating a high likelihood of diverse mental health needs with varying severity. There is a critical need for personalized mental health support services.²⁸

Of survivor respondents...



REPRODUCTIVE COERCION

Reproductive coercion is another form of abuse that interferes with a woman's ability to make personal decisions related to her sexual and reproductive well-being. These are decisions that can deeply influence their future and create additional barriers to leaving an abusive partner. It can take many forms, such as ignoring or denying requests to use contraception, pressuring someone to become pregnant, or forcing the termination of a pregnancy.²⁹

Severity of Violence

OFFENSES & FIREARMS

Honoring Texas Victims³⁰

Extensive research on family violence homicide shows that it is both predictable and preventable. Every year, TCFV shares the stories of the women, men, and children who lose their lives to family violence.

205

TEXANS WERE KILLED BY THEIR INTIMATE PARTNER IN 2023.

Of these victims, **179** identified as female and **26** identified as male.

The impact of these deaths extends beyond the lives lost, leaving 218 children and adults without a parent due to domestic violence.



In 2023, 72% of female victims were shot by a firearm, making it the most common means of death. Family violence has no age limit and affects individuals of diverse age groups. Nearly one-third of femicide victims (30%) were between the ages of 30 and 39.

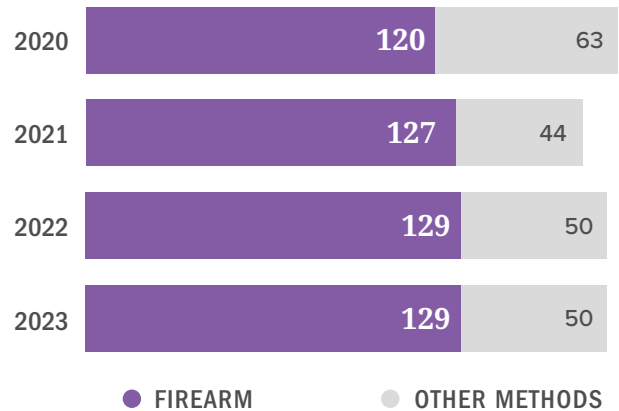
Among female victims killed by an intimate partner, ‘wife’ and ‘girlfriend’ are the most reported relationship statuses. However, an 11% increase from the previous year in the number of victims identified as wives positioned this group as the leading relationship category.

Firearms at the Scene

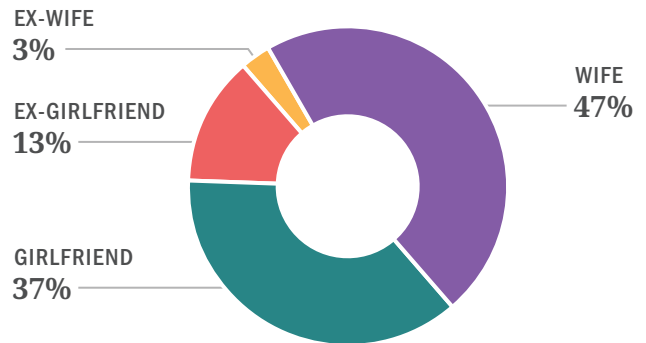
Texas recorded 247,995 family violence victims in 2023.³¹ Between 2019 to 2023, 34,030 firearms were found at scenes involving family violence.³² The number of incidents where a firearm was present at the scene increased significantly by 135% when comparing 2019 to 2023 reports.

Notably, this increase only accounts for cases where firearms were physically present at the scene and does not include situations where victims were aware that a firearm was accessible nearby, such as in the home or surrounding area.

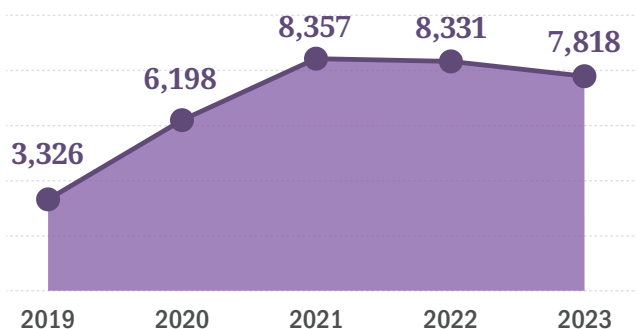
Firearms are consistently the most prevalent means of death for females victims of intimate partner homicide.



‘Wife’ is the most reported relationship status for female victims of intimate partner homicide in 2023, followed by ‘girlfriend.’



The number of firearms found at scenes involving family violence has increased significantly since 2019.



In 2023, the three most frequently cited offenses in family violence reports to law enforcement were simple assault, aggravated assault, and intimidation.³³

174,789
SIMPLE ASSAULT

35,034
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

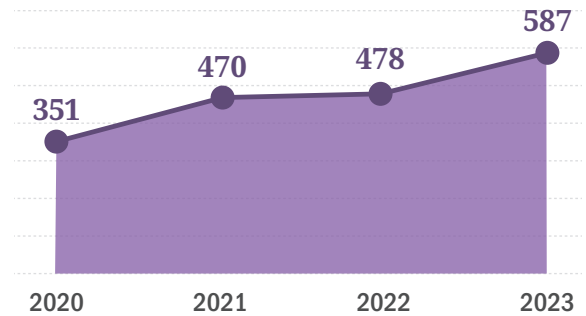
26,356
INTIMIDATION

PREVENTING DOMESTIC HOMICIDES

*Domestic Violence High Risk Teams (DVHRTs)*³⁴

DVHRTs create a community-coordinated initiative in which survivors at the highest lethality risk get enhanced support from law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors, and others. 73% of DVHRT cases in 2023 were initiated through referrals from law enforcement.

There were 587 DVHRT cases in 2023, a 22% increase in cases from 2022.



Findings from the DVHRT client tracking survey highlight the following:

- » **78% of offenders were reported to have strangled the survivor, indicating a 34% increase from the previous year.** As research links strangulation to a heightened risk of lethality, front-line identifiers can provide lifesaving assistance to victims by recognizing these warning signs.
- » **55% of offenders used a weapon to threaten a survivor, and 22% of offenders were reported to have owned a gun.** Death by firearm was the leading cause of death by intimate partner homicides in 2023. This raises serious safety concerns, as firearm accessibility heightens the potential for fatal outcomes in cases of intimate partner violence.
- » **Responses to risk assessment tools indicate the presence of stalking behaviors in 82.8% of cases,** highlighting a critical opportunity for intervention before situations escalate into an intimate partner homicide.

Maternal Mortality and Homicide

Pregnant survivors face an elevated risk of fatal outcomes when intimate partner violence involves a firearm as it is the most common method of lethal violence.³⁵

- » **Homicide during pregnancy surpasses other leading causes of maternal death, where women between 20 and 24 face a 65% higher risk compared to non-pregnant women.**³⁶
- » **In 2023, five pregnant women were killed by their intimate partners, and two more women were assaulted during pregnancy before they were killed.**³⁷

Professionals and institutions in maternal healthcare systems that frequently engage with pregnant women should be equipped to recognize the heightened risk and implement safeguards that promote safety and early intervention.

Community Intersections

ACCOUNTABILITY: BATTERING INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS (BIPPs)³⁸

BIPPs are a non-punitive approach to family violence intervention that aims to increase victim safety by promoting positive behavioral changes in perpetrators. As survivors may return to their abusive partners, prioritizing programs that protect their safety in the long-term is vital. BIPP services actively challenge, educate, and address the attitudes and beliefs that contribute to violent behavior. In 2023:

- » **25 BIPPs received funding in Texas, out of an estimated 1,100 to 3,000 programs funded nationally.**³⁹
- » **3,259 of family violence offenders were placed in a BIP program, out of the 5.9 million individuals who committed violent crimes (e.g., rape/sexual assault, robbery, assault) in the U.S.**⁴⁰
- » **72% of offenders completed the BIP program, surpassing the national average completion rate (50%) by 22%.**⁴¹

2024

Life-Saving Services for Survivors

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

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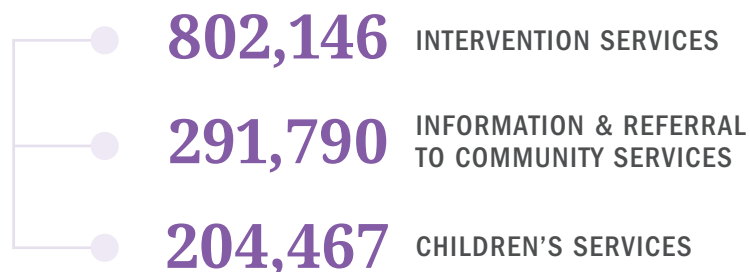
18
SPECIAL
NONRESIDENTIAL
PROJECTS

Programs:

- » Delivered approximately 1.87 million services¹
- » Served 66,829 survivors and their families²
- » Received 255,366 hotline calls in 2024³

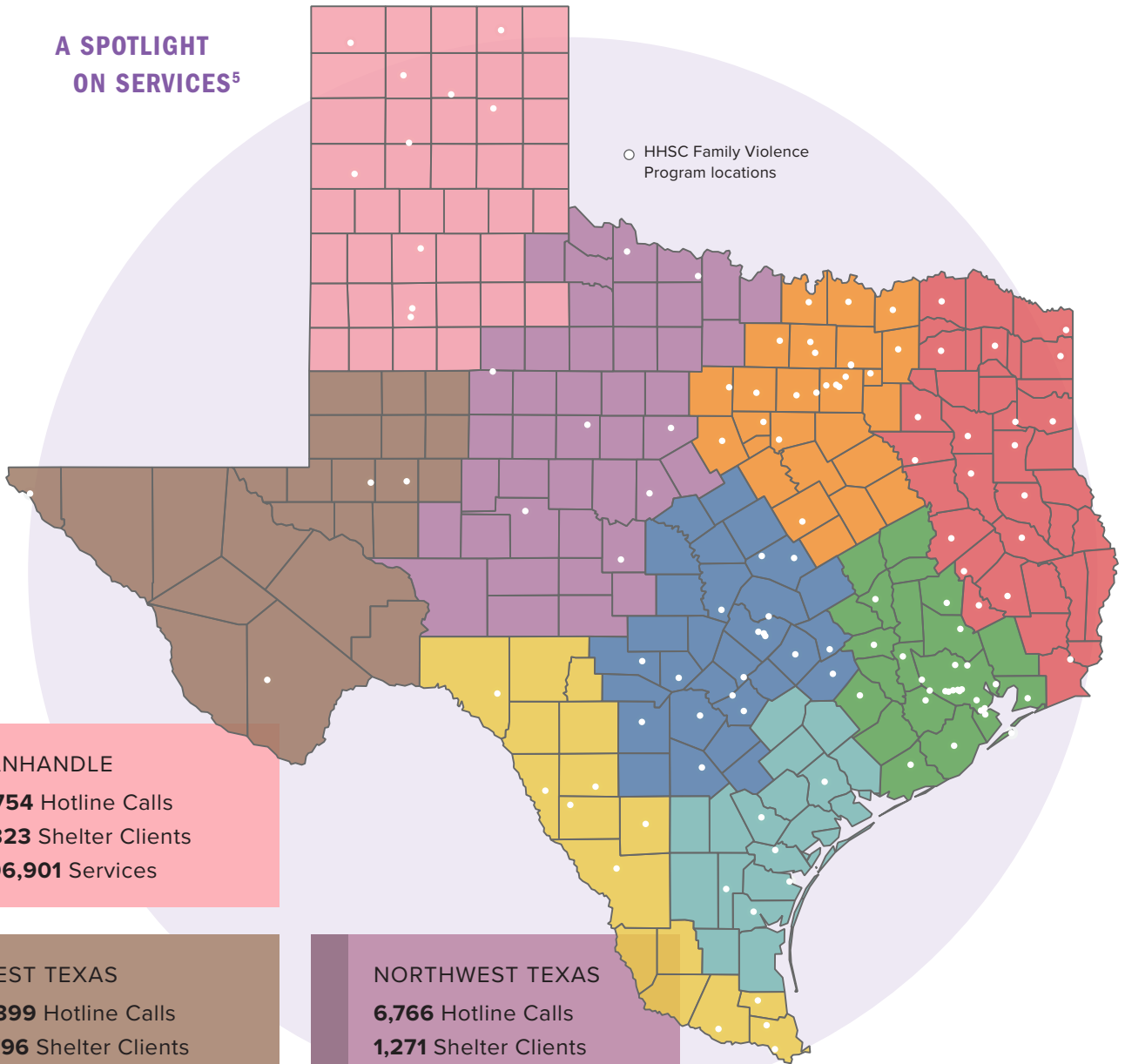
Key Support Services

Consistent with prior reporting years, the following services continue to be among the most frequently accessed by survivors and their families:⁴



A SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES⁵

○ HHSC Family Violence
Program Locations



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8,754 Hotline Calls
1,323 Shelter Clients
206,901 Services

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8,399 Hotline Calls
1,796 Shelter Clients
103,288 Services

NORTHWEST TEXAS

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RIO GRANDE VALLEY

14,456 Hotline Calls
1,402 Shelter Clients
157,380 Services

CENTRAL TEXAS

41,682 Hotline Calls
5,270 Shelter Clients
328,019 Services

DALLAS + NORTH TEXAS

62,681 Hotline Calls
5,855 Shelter Clients
269,855 Services

GULF COAST

1,819 Hotline Calls
1,172 Shelter Clients
74,125 Services

HOUSTON + GALVESTON

98,999 Hotline Calls
3,972 Shelter Clients
326,472 Services

EAST TEXAS

11,810 Hotline Calls
2,307 Shelter Clients
295,684 Services

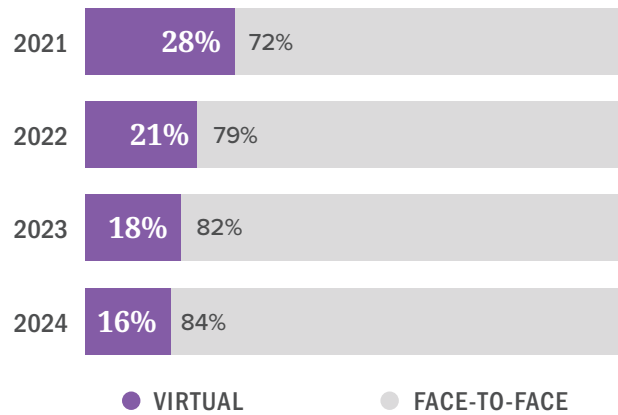
SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY⁶

Virtual services offer both accessibility and ease for many survivors as they seek services. Despite a 2% decrease in virtual services from 2023 to 2024, virtual advocacy remains an essential avenue for survivor support. Leveraging technology enables family violence programs to broaden their reach, delivering survivor-centered support and education through the communication channels survivors prefer and have available.⁷

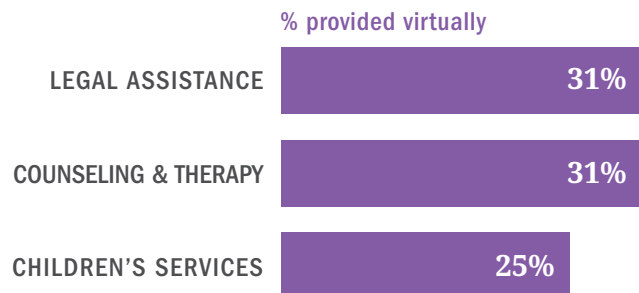
Shelter and Non-Residential Services

While virtual service delivery has consistently declined from its peak over the past couple of years, children’s services, counseling/therapy, and legal assistance are among the top services delivered virtually in 2024. In contrast, even though support groups were one of the services most frequently delivered virtually last year, this changed in 2024 with children’s services emerging as one of the top three virtual services.

Despite a 2% decrease in virtual services in 2024, virtual advocacy remains an essential avenue for ensuring accessibility.



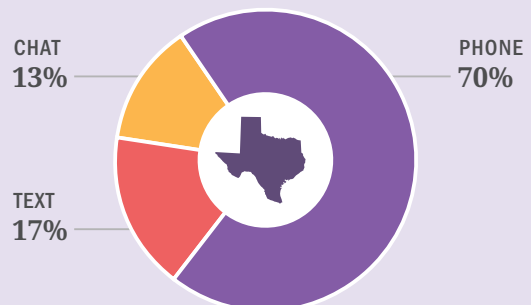
Legal assistance, counseling/therapy, and children’s services are the top services delivered virtually in 2024.



VIRTUAL SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE (NDVH)⁸

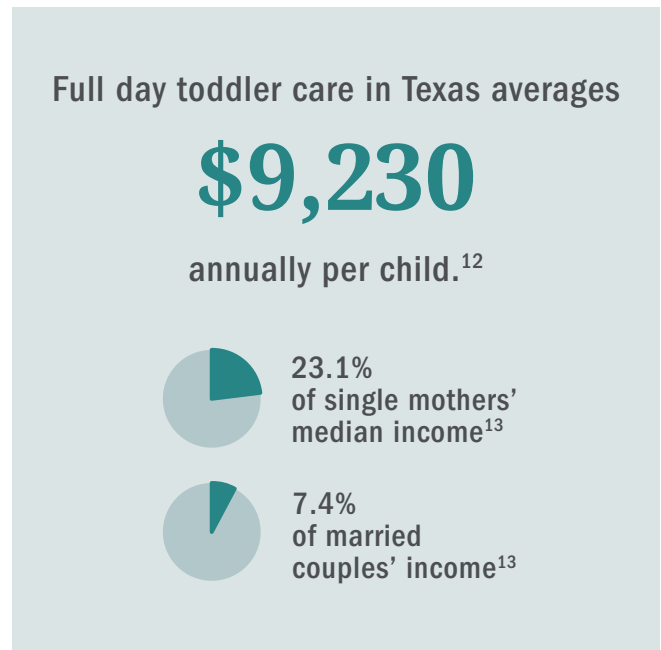
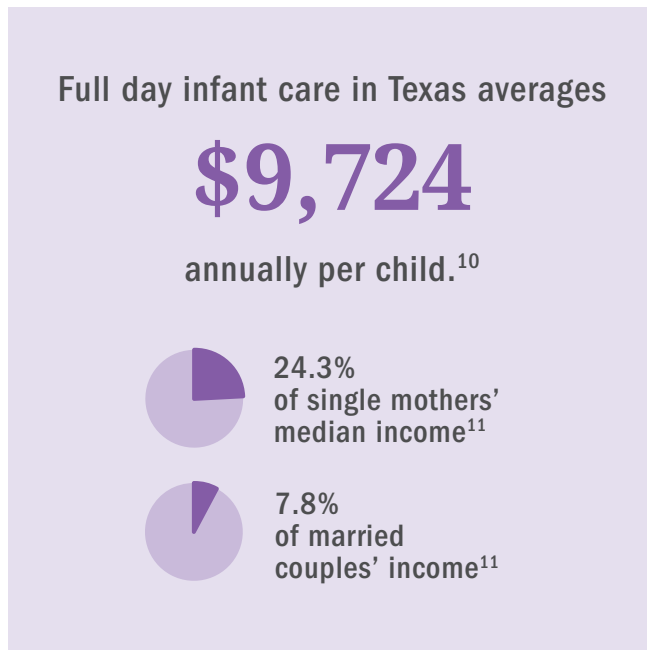
The NDVH is accessible to survivors through phone, chat, or text, ensuring multiple avenues of support and expanding access to services. From 2023 to 2024, Texas contacts to the NDVH increased by 3%, with a slight increase in chat-based contacts.

In 2024, 30.2% of hotline contacts from Texas were from chat and text channels.



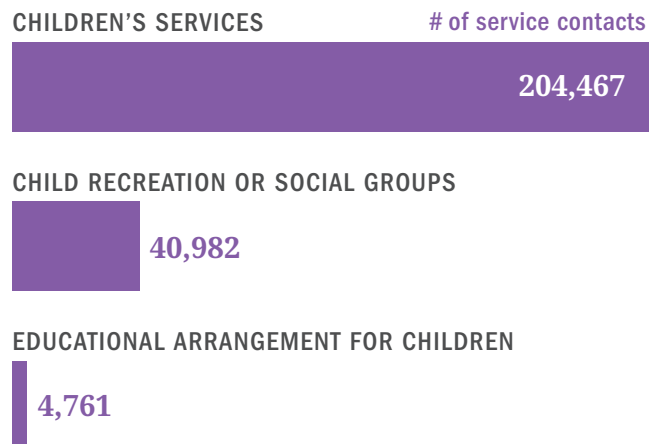
Children's Services

In Texas, 82% of family violence programs offered children's services, including informational activities led by trained staff/volunteers, structured arts and crafts, and childcare.⁹ Access to childcare is essential for survivors, as it enables them to secure employment and navigate daily responsibilities. Gaps persist in critical areas such as childcare, where affordability is a significant barrier.



Family violence programs provide thousands of support services to children each year. In 2024, they served 23,047 children, representing an increase of 8% from 2023.¹⁴

- » **204,467 children received non-counseling services such as structured activities and childcare.**
- » **40,982 participated in child recreation or social groups, which includes social activities such as daycare and after-school programming.**
- » **4,761 children were provided with educational arrangements, including services to support compliance with attendance requirements.**



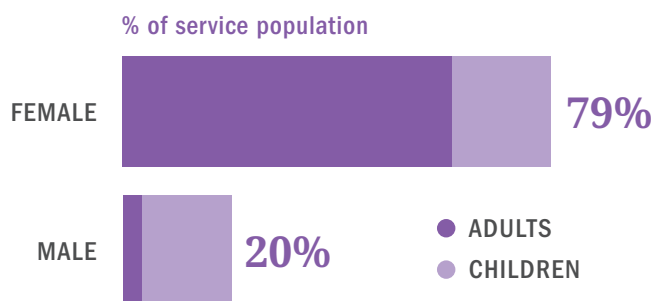
SERVICES ACROSS DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender¹⁵

As stated in prior years, nationally it is estimated that nearly one in two women have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) at some point in their lifetime, whether through sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking.¹⁶ One in four men have also reported experiencing similar forms of abuse by an intimate partner.

In FY 2024, female survivors represented a substantial share (79%) of the total service population in Texas, with 77% falling within the adult age group and 23% in the child category. Male survivors represented 20% of the total service population, where 83% of male survivors served were children and 17% adults.

Adult females represent the most substantial group of survivors served.



LGBTQ+¹⁷

Under §1370.5 of the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA), providers must comply with non-discrimination requirements which prohibit the denying services based on sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.¹⁸

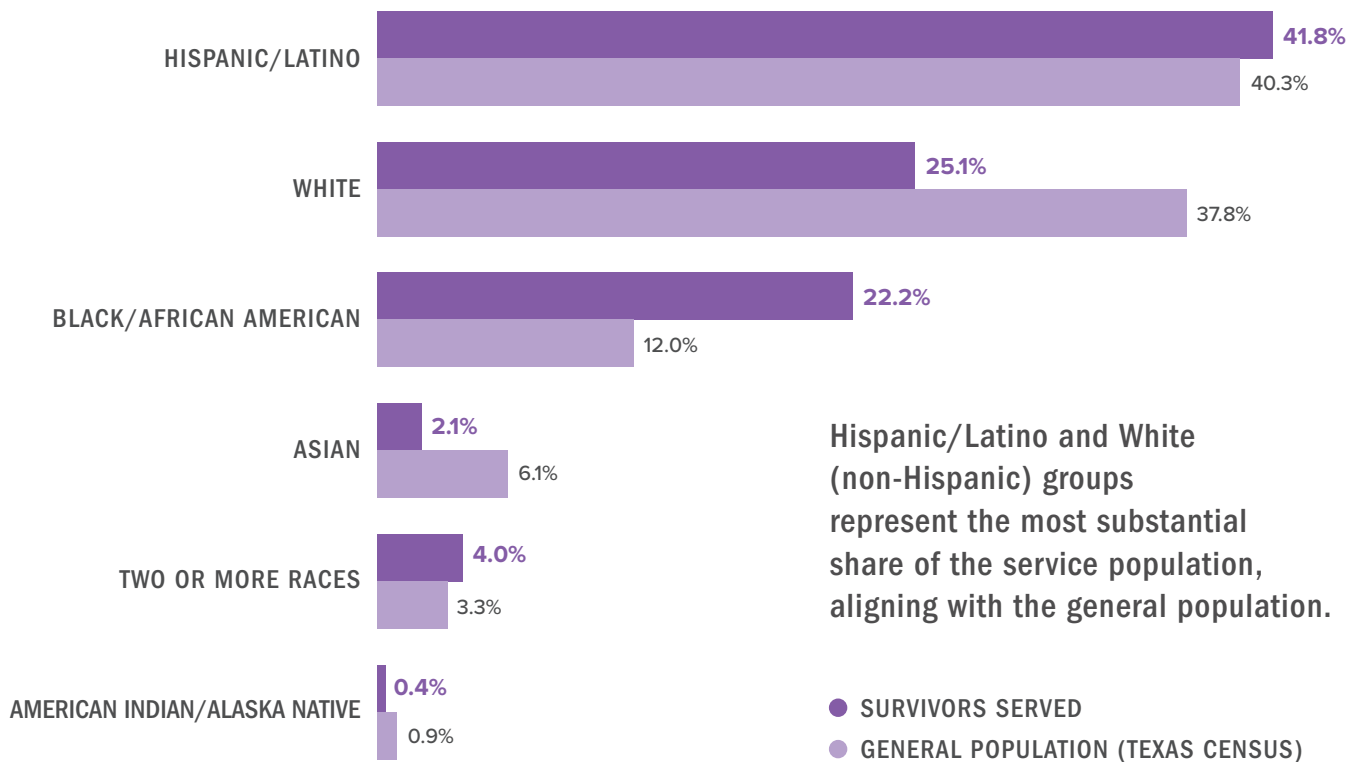
In FY 2024, 1,614 survivors identified as LGBTQ+ and represented 2% of all survivors served. Rates of intimate partner violence are disproportionately high among specific genders and sexual orientations, which are recognized and protected under FVPSA federal statute.¹⁹

Race & Ethnicity²⁰

In Texas, family violence services support a wide range of survivors. Specific racial and ethnic groups consistently represent a larger share of those receiving services, while others remain a small share of the total service population.

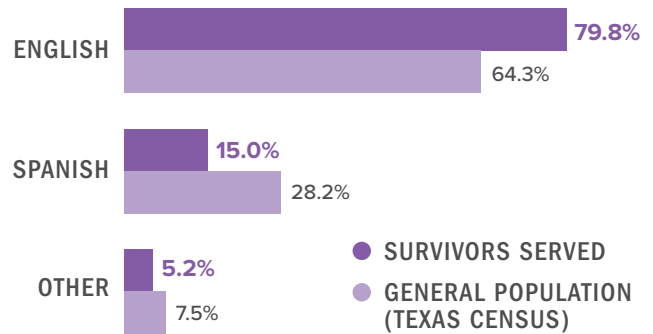
Hispanic/Latino survivors have consistently comprised a substantial share of Texas' service population, accounting for 41.8% (+1.5%) of all survivors served in 2024. White (non-Hispanic) survivors are the second largest demographic in Texas, representing 25.1% (-2.4%) of individuals served by family violence programs.

Although Hispanic/Latino and White (Non-Hispanic) survivors remain the predominant groups served, there was a slight increase (+0.6%) in Black or African American survivors served compared to the previous year. Consistently, Asian and American Indian/Alaska Natives are among the smallest number of survivors served every year.



Language²¹

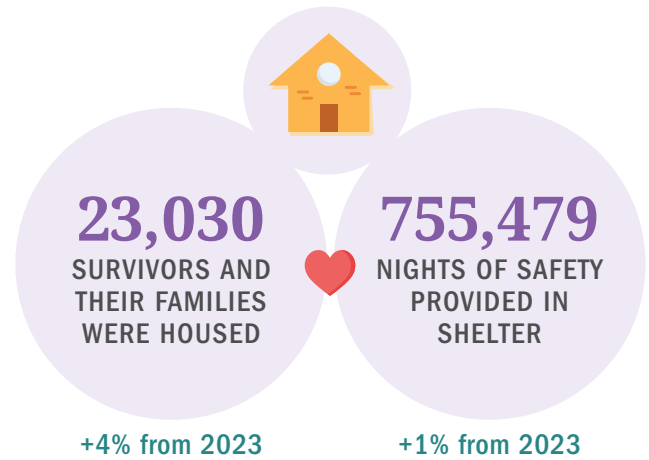
Ensuring adherence to federal laws surrounding language access is essential to expanding service accessibility. Family violence programs report survivors most commonly speak the following languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, French, ASL, and Vietnamese.



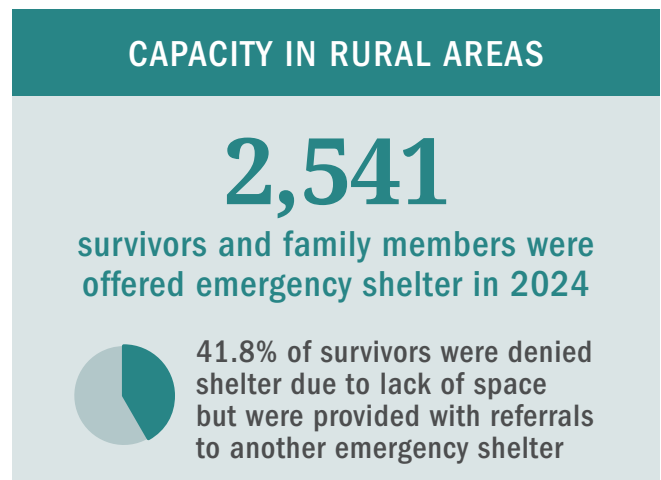
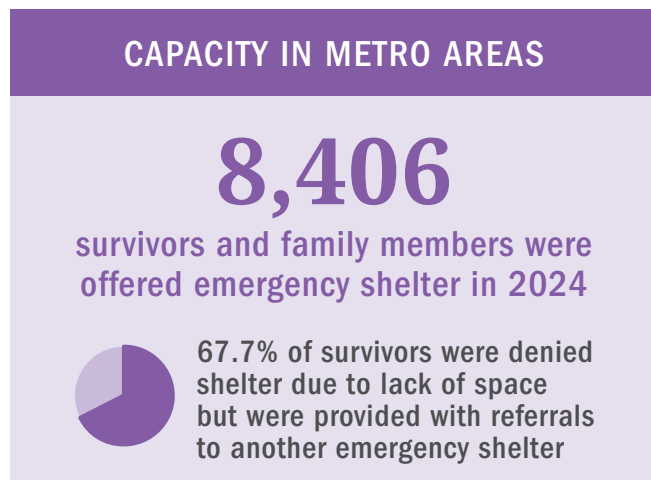
SAFETY IN SHELTER: CAPACITY CRISIS

Emergency and Temporary Shelter²²

72 family violence programs funded by HHSC provide emergency and temporary shelter for survivors and their families fleeing violence. While the demand for shelter increased in FY 2024, persistent barriers continue to impact programs' ability to house survivors.



Lack of bed space and safer stable housing drives the ongoing safety and capacity crisis across the state. In 2024, 50.5% of survivors were denied shelter due to space limitations, which reflects a decrease of 8.6% in denials compared to the previous year. This is in large part thanks to additional funds from the 88th Texas Legislature showing that barrier reduction investments are highly effective.



Increasing Housing Needs

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Safe and stable housing is vital to survivor safety and a top unmet need. Texas' network of emergency shelters offers key support at the time of fleeing, but obtaining long-term housing remains a major issue for survivors and their families. Consider these barriers:

- » Affordable rental units in Texas are severely limited, with only 25 affordable units for every 100 extremely low-income renter households.²³
- » Over a ten-year period from 2012 to 2022, the number of rental units with monthly costs below \$1,000 decreased by 29%.²⁴ Meanwhile, those with a monthly cost of \$2,000 increased significantly by 253%.
- » Texas recorded 287,308 total evictions in 2024 (based on landlord-tenant cases), reflecting a 5% decrease from the previous year.²⁵

The FY 2024 Average Texas Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom unit in a metropolitan area is \$1,200.²⁶ Texans must make at least \$23.08 per hour to afford housing in 2024.



Average FM rent
in 2024:
\$1,200



Hourly pay
needed to
afford housing:
\$23.08/hr

HOUSING IN A SINGLE DAY²⁷

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, housing is a crucial gap. Their 2024 one-day census found:



4,417
survivors found safety in emergency
shelters, hotels, and other housing
provided by domestic violence programs.

42%
of requests that could not be
met were for emergency shelters,
hotels, and other housing.

Access to Medical Care

Women who experience intimate partner violence consistently demonstrate greater use of medical services. In cases of physical abuse, this is reflected in higher rates of emergency medical care, outpatient hospital visits, and both primary and specialty care.²⁸

46% of survivors receiving nonresidential services reported they were uninsured.²⁹ When compared to the 16.7% of the Texas population who were uninsured in 2024, survivors' rates are disproportionately higher, causing great concern knowing the health risks associated with domestic violence.³⁰

The costs associated with medical care are a serious concern for financially unstable survivors who have been subject to economic abuse. Based on estimates reflected in 2017 dollars, the average cost of medical care after being physically assaulted by an intimate partner was \$4,273 per incident.³¹ Ongoing physical abuse often results in repeated hospital visits, causing expenses to accumulate and creating a significant financial burden.

MENTAL HEALTH

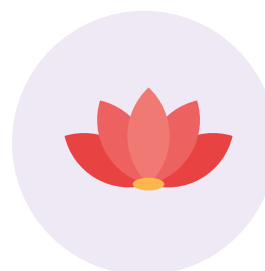
Beyond physical injuries, family violence has been linked to mental health disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and thoughts of self-harm.³² Although all family violence centers are required as of September 1st, 2024 to provide counseling services, high demand frequently results in long wait times and limited sessions.

The scarcity of qualified professionals also represents a major barrier to mental health care for Texas survivors who seek support outside the counseling sessions offered by programs. This prevents survivors from continuing the care necessary to sustain their recovery and well-being. In 2024, Texas had:³³



5,193
LICENSED
PSYCHOLOGISTS

145
COUNTIES HAD NONE



2,792
LICENSED
PSYCHIATRISTS

164
COUNTIES HAD NONE

For survivors seeking mental health support outside of shelter:³⁴

- » Psychologists' session fees range from \$175 to \$275 per visit.
- » Psychiatrists' session fees range from \$200 to \$300 per visit.

Notably, the cost of mental health services varies by region, and survivors located in major cities often face higher expenses.

Severity of Violence

OFFENSES & FIREARMS

Honoring Texas Victims³⁵

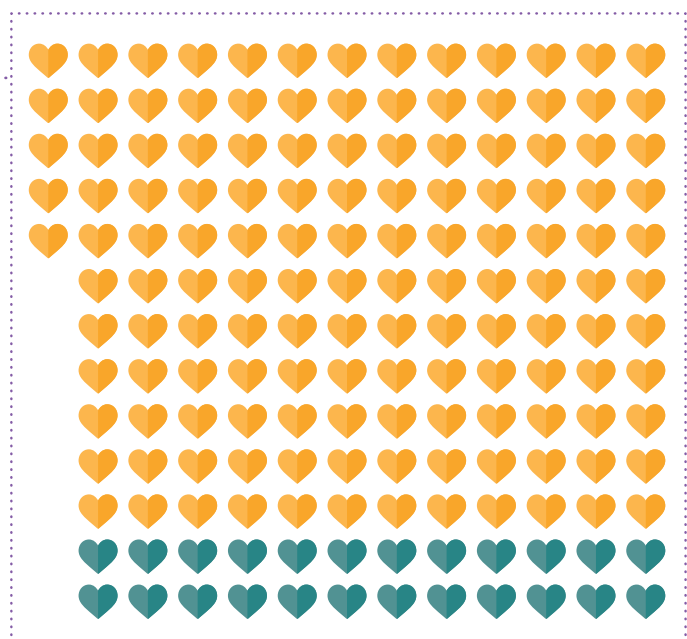
Extensive research on lethality factors such as stalking, strangulation, and the presence of a firearm in a home indicates that intimate partner homicide is both predictable and preventable. Every year, TCFV honors the women, men, and children whose lives are lost to family violence by sharing their stories.

161

TEXANS WERE KILLED BY THEIR INTIMATE PARTNER IN 2024.

Of these victims, **137** identified as female and **24** identified as male.

The impact of these deaths extends beyond the lives lost, leaving 104 children and adults without a parent due to domestic violence.



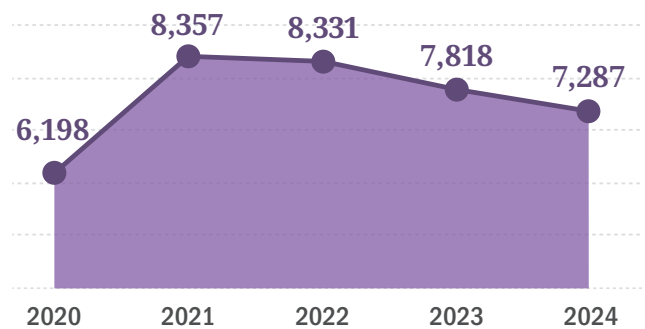
In 2024, 95 female victims were shot by a firearm, making it the most common means of death.

- » Femicide affects people of all ages, with victims ranging from 17 to 70 years old. In 2024, the age group with the highest number of homicides by an intimate partner were victims 30 to 39 years old.
- » Among the victims, 75 were killed by a ‘non-married partner’ and 68 were killed by their ‘spouse.’ Notably, 66% of offenders had a history of violent behavior.

Firearms at the Scene

Texas recorded 250,131 calls to law enforcement from family violence victims in 2024.³⁶ Between 2020 to 2024, 37,991 firearms were found at scenes involving family violence.³⁷ The number of incidents where a firearm was present at the scene increased by 18% when comparing 2020 to 2024 reports.

The number of firearms found at scenes involving family violence has increased 18% since 2020.



Reports on firearms only include cases where the weapon was physically present at the scene. Situations in which victims knew a firearm was accessible nearby, including at home, were not included.

In 2024, the three most frequently cited offenses in family violence reports to law enforcement were simple assault, aggravated assault, and intimidation.³⁸

175,525
SIMPLE ASSAULT

34,735
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

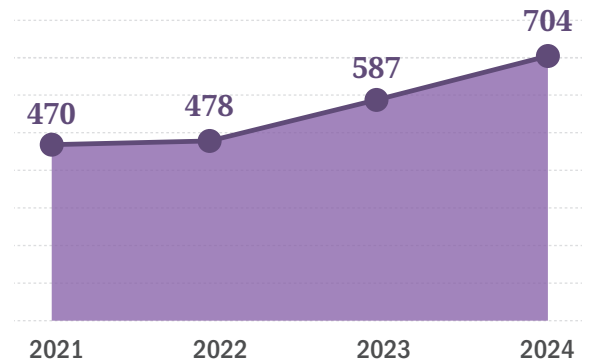
27,017
INTIMIDATION

PREVENTING DOMESTIC HOMICIDES

*Domestic Violence High Risk Teams (DVHRTs)*³⁹

Through DVHRTs, communities unite to deliver enhanced support from law enforcement, advocates, and prosecutors to survivors at the greatest risk of lethal harm. As in prior years, most cases were referred to by law enforcement. 82% of DVHRT cases in 2024 were initiated through referrals from law enforcement.

There were 704 DVHRT cases in 2024, a 20% increase in cases from 2023, and a 47.3% increase in cases from 2022.



Findings from the DVHRT client tracking survey highlight the following:

- » 66% of offenders were reported to have strangled the survivor, representing a 12% increase from the previous year.
- » 55.4% of offenders used a weapon to threaten a survivor, and 37% of offenders were reported to have owned a gun.
- » 83% of responses to risk assessment tools indicate a presence of stalking behaviors, highlighting a critical opportunity for intervention before escalation.

Maternal Mortality and Homicide

Pregnant survivors face an elevated risk of fatal outcomes when intimate partner violence involves a firearm. In fact, homicide during pregnancy surpasses other leading causes of maternal deaths.⁴⁰

- » In a five-year analysis of maternal deaths in the U.S., homicide accounted for 51.4% of pregnancy-associated fatalities.⁴¹
- » Texas recorded two homicides of pregnant women in 2024, each killed by an intimate partner. One case involved strangulation, while the other involved a firearm fatality.⁴²

Community Intersections

ACCOUNTABILITY: BATTERING INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS (BIPPs)

BIPPs provide a non-punitive intervention for family violence, designed to enhance survivor safety by fostering behavioral change among perpetrators. Because survivors may return to abusive partners, it is essential that programs safeguard long-term safety. These programs work to challenge and reshape harmful beliefs that contribute to violent behavior.

In 2024, 26 BIPPs received funding in Texas, out of an estimated 1,100 to 3,000 programs funded nationally.⁴³

- » From 2019 to 2023, the total number of BIPP placements consistently declined. During this five-year period, 17,125 offenders participated in BIPP as part of efforts to lower the risk of recurring violence.⁴⁴
- » From 2019 to 2023, successful BIPP completion rates increased by 13%.

Although the total number of BIPP placements has declined since 2019, the percentage of completion rates has increased.



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2025

Life-Saving Services for Survivors

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Funding from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Family Violence Program (FVP) supports the ongoing delivery of essential services. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, 79 Shelter and Nonresidential programs and 18 Special Nonresidential Projects (SNRP) were funded by HHSC and provided services to survivors across the state.



79
SHELTER AND
NONRESIDENTIAL
PROGRAMS



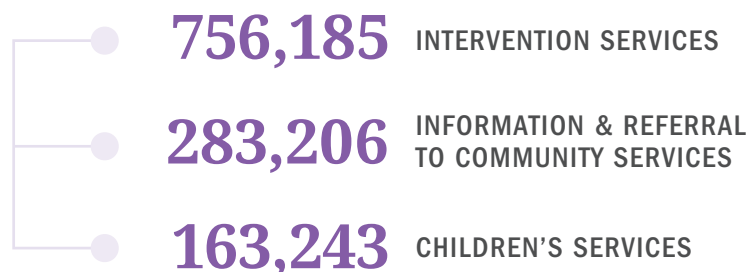
18
SPECIAL
NONRESIDENTIAL
PROJECTS

Programs:

- » Delivered approximately 1.77 million services¹
- » Served 65,920 survivors and their families²
- » Received 260,196 hotline calls in 2025, an increase of 2% from the previous year³

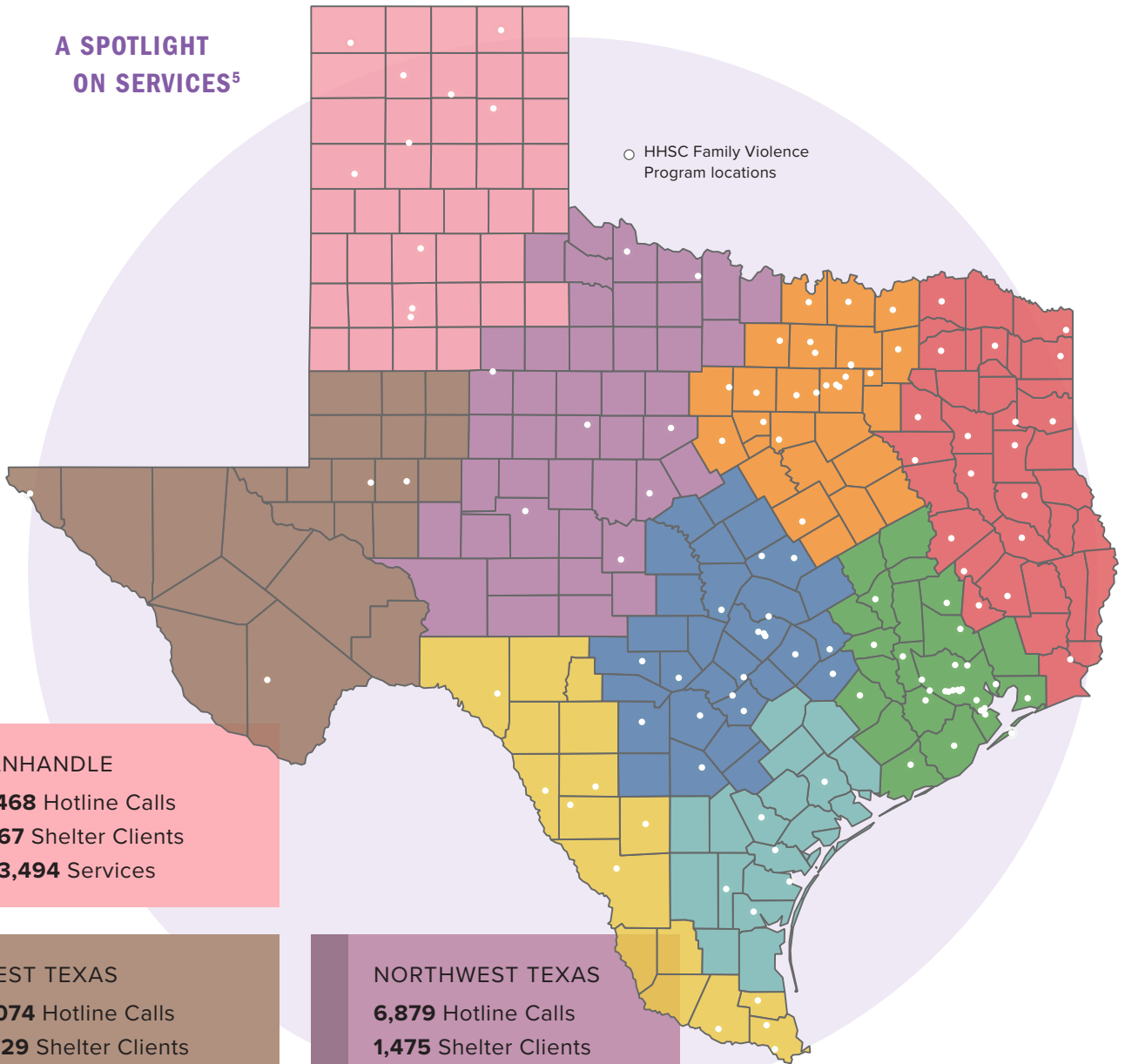
Key Support Services

Consistent with prior reporting years, the following services continue to be among the most frequently accessed by survivors and their families:⁴



A SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES⁵

○ HHSC Family Violence
Program Locations



PANHANDLE

8,468 Hotline Calls
1,167 Shelter Clients
183,494 Services

WEST TEXAS

8,074 Hotline Calls
1,729 Shelter Clients
142,469 Services

NORTHWEST TEXAS

6,879 Hotline Calls
1,475 Shelter Clients
107,159 Services

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

15,729 Hotline Calls
1,130 Shelter Clients
76,985 Services

CENTRAL TEXAS

38,166 Hotline Calls
4,629 Shelter Clients
260,887 Services

DALLAS + NORTH TEXAS

58,856 Hotline Calls
5,678 Shelter Clients
269,836 Services

GULF COAST

1,366 Hotline Calls
1,094 Shelter Clients
77,851 Services

HOUSTON + GALVESTON

111,493 Hotline Calls
4,243 Shelter Clients
330,803 Services

EAST TEXAS

11,165 Hotline Calls
2,168 Shelter Clients
317,969 Services

SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY⁶

For many survivors, virtual service delivery broadens the range of support available to offer services that feel easier to engage. This allows those facing transportation challenges or fears about seeking in-person services to safely connect with the help they need.

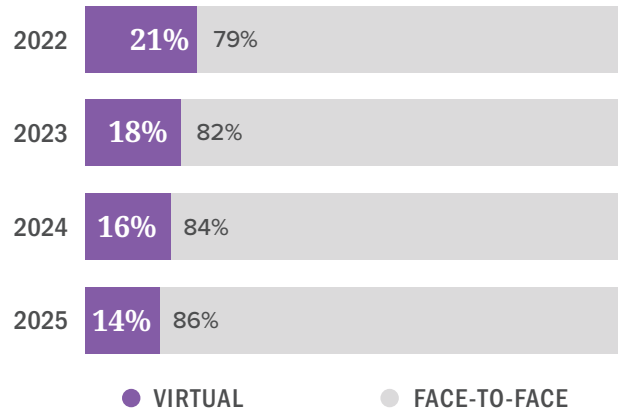
Although there was a 2% decrease in virtual services compared to FY 2024, virtual advocacy remains a crucial tool for expanding access to lifesaving services.

Family violence centers that provide support and education beyond traditional in-person services, such as chat or text, enable survivors to use communication methods available to them while also empowering them to choose the methods they prefer.⁷

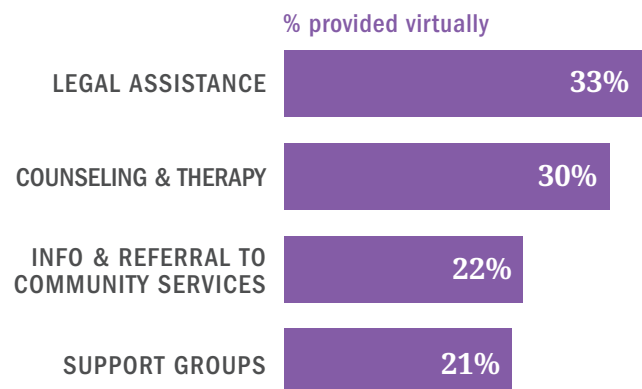
Shelter and Non-Residential Services

While overall virtual service delivery has steadily declined since its peak during the pandemic, certain services continue to rely on non-traditional channels, and others are increasingly expanding their use. In 2025, legal assistance, counseling/therapy, information and referral to community services, and support groups are among the top services delivered virtually.

Despite a 2% decrease in virtual services in 2025, virtual advocacy remains an essential avenue for ensuring accessibility.

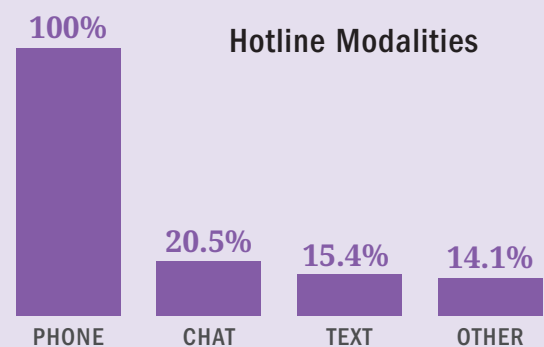


The top services delivered virtually in 2025 are as follows:



VIRTUAL SPOTLIGHT: TEXAS' AVAILABILITY SURVEY

In Texas, various modalities to meet survivors' needs virtually have been employed. A recent survey found that 20.5% of providers utilize chat services and 15.4% use text. These modalities have been shown to offer low barrier access to hotlines.⁸



Children's Services

Survivors who bring their children into shelters face diverse needs, ranging from arranging childcare while accessing essential services to coping with the high costs of securing care for young children. Texas programs reported in a recent study that survivors' childcare needs are complex and that there are significant limitations in meeting them:⁹



44.6% of shelters have limited childcare for residents while parents are onsite

84.5% of programs do not provide vouchers to clients for community-based childcare options

94.1% of programs provide information about and refer clients to local childcare facilities

Full day infant care in Texas averages

\$10,504

annually per child.¹⁰



26.3% of single mothers' median income¹¹



8.5% of married couples' income¹¹

Full day toddler care in Texas averages

\$10,088

annually per child.¹²



25.3% of single mothers' median income¹³



8.1% of married couples' income¹³

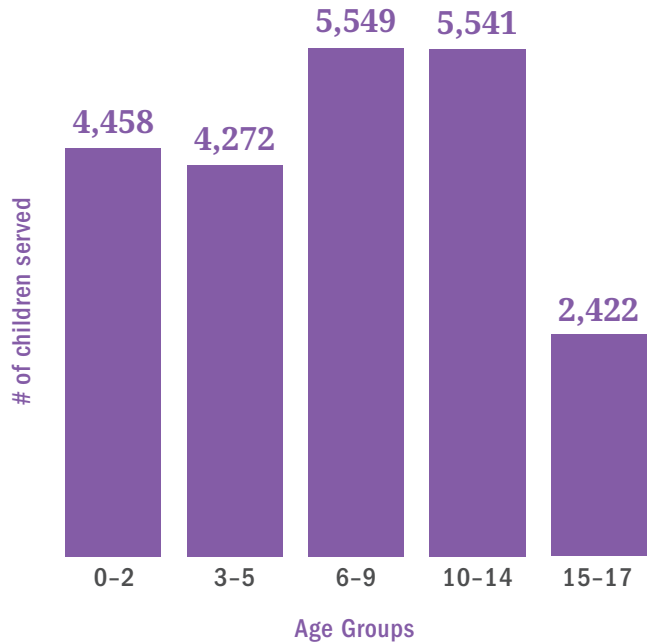
Family violence programs provide thousands of support services to children each year. In FY 2025, they served 22,415 children, representing a small decrease of 3% from the previous year.¹⁴

- » Children served were primarily between the ages of 6 to 9 (24.95%), within the school-age range, and ages 10 to 14 (24.91%), a range where survivors often face financial demands associated with educational expenses.
- » Children between the ages of 0 to 5 accounted for 39.25% of all children served, highlighting the need for accessible childcare options.

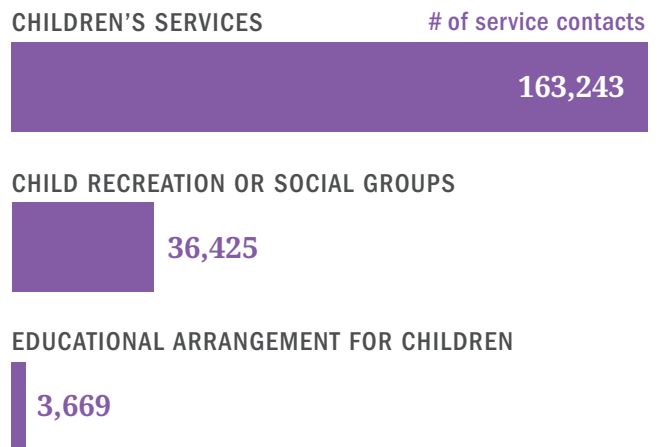
In FY 2025, the following services were provided to children in Texas Family Violence Centers:¹⁵

- » 163,243 instances of non-counseling services such as structured activities and childcare were offered.
- » 36,425 participated in child recreation or social group which includes social activities such as daycare and after-school programming.
- » 3,669 children were provided with educational arrangements, including services to support compliance with attendance requirements.

Differing age groups served by family violence programs highlight the need for accessible childcare options for a broad range.



Family violence centers provide non-counseling services, recreation and social groups, as well as educational arrangements.



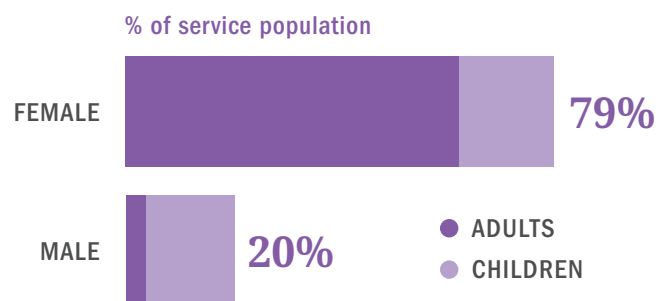
SERVICES ACROSS DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender¹⁶

As stated in prior reports, national data shows that nearly one in two women have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) at some point in their lifetime, whether through sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking.¹⁷ One in four men have also reported experiencing similar forms of abuse by an intimate partner.

In FY 2025, female survivors represented a substantial share (79%) of the total service population in Texas, with 78% falling within the adult age group and 22% in the child category. Male survivors represented 20% of the total service population, where 82% of male survivors served were children and 18% adults.

Adult females represent the most substantial group of survivors served.



LGBTQ+¹⁸

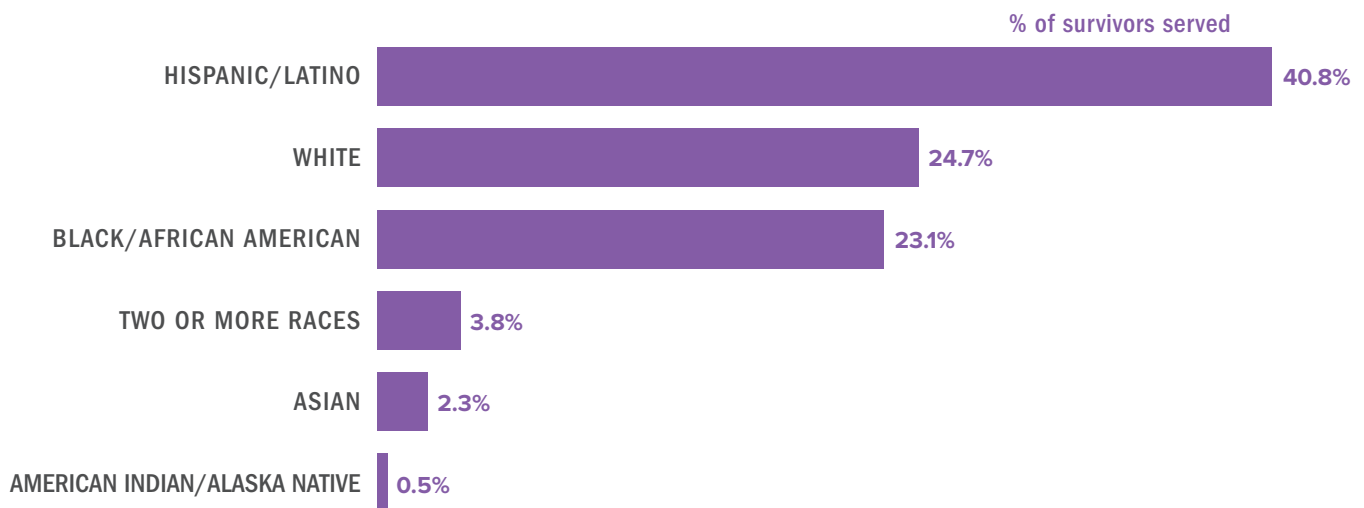
Pursuant to the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA) §1370.5, non-discrimination requirements prohibit exclusion from services on the basis of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.¹⁹

In FY 2025, 1,529 survivors identified as LGBTQ+ and represented 2.3% of all survivors served. Rates of intimate partner violence are disproportionately high among specific genders and sexual orientations leading to important recognitions and protections under FVPSA.

Race & Ethnicity²⁰

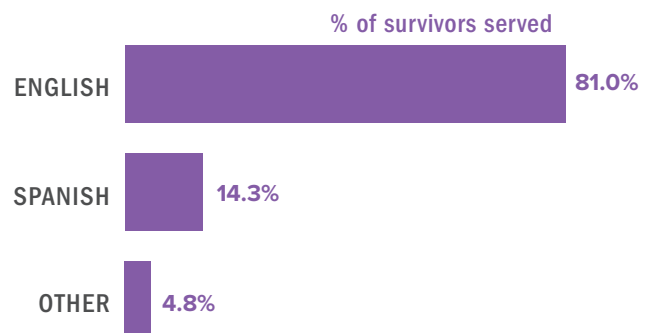
Survivors who self-identify as Hispanic/Latino continue to represent a substantial share of Texas' service population, accounting for 40.8% (-1%) of all survivors served in 2025. This proportion aligns with the broader demographic shifts in the state. White (non-Hispanic) survivors are the second largest demographic in Texas, representing 24.7% (-0.4%) of individuals served by family violence programs. While Hispanic/Latino and White (Non-Hispanic) remain the most represented groups among survivors served, there was a slight increase (+0.9%) in Black or African American survivors served compared to the previous year. Consistently, Asian and American Indian/Alaska Natives are among the smallest number of survivors served (<1%) every year.

Hispanic/Latino represents the most substantial share of the service population, aligning with broader demographic shifts in Texas.



Language²¹

Improving service accessibility also relies on expanding language access. Family violence programs report survivors most commonly speak the following languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, ASL, French, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

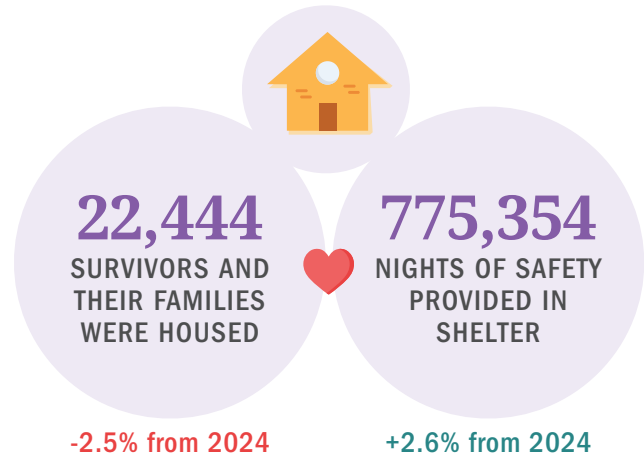


SAFETY IN SHELTER: CAPACITY CRISIS

Emergency and Temporary Shelter

71 family violence programs funded by HHSC provide emergency and temporary shelter for survivors and their families fleeing violence. In FY 2025, the capacity crisis addressed in all prior reports persisted with the demand for shelter increasing; however, persistent barriers

prevent programs from meeting survivors' housing needs. This dynamic plays out in the data showing that while slightly fewer survivors were housed, more nights of safety were offered—indicating that people stay in shelter longer while they wait for housing.²²



An Interrupted Path to Safety

Seeking Safety in Shelter

Many survivors are seeking shelter, but only about 50% will enter shelter due to lack of space.

A lack of key supports for survivors currently being served leads to longer wait times or denial of shelter for the next survivor seeking safety.

Lack of Housing Support

Without safe and affordable bridge housing options, survivors may be forced to return to an abusive partner or face homelessness. This is a retraumatizing experience that exacerbates health and mental health impacts and compounds their lethality risk.

Lack of Childcare Support

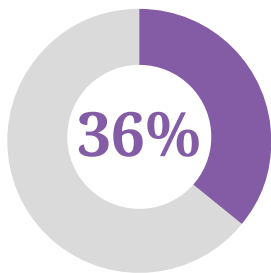
Without reliable childcare, survivors may be unable to work, attend court or counseling, or pursue education, making it harder to achieve safety, independence, and stability for themselves and their children.

Lack of Legal Support

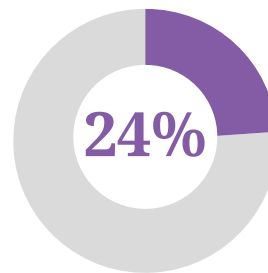
If survivors cannot access legal support they may remain unsafe, lose custody or housing, face ongoing financial abuse, and struggle to access justice.

Lack of bed space and safer stable housing drives the ongoing safety and capacity crisis across the state. In 2025, 50.92% of survivors were denied shelter due to space limitations, which reflects an increase of <1% in denials compared to the previous year.

Among survivors surveyed, more than 50% experienced at least one denial in their lifetime and 40.2% experienced a denial one to three months prior to being surveyed.²³ Denials expose survivors to heightened risk when no other housing arrangement can be made:



36% of survivors reported returning to their violent partner after being denied shelter



24% of survivors reported staying outside or in their vehicle after being denied shelter

Metro vs Rural²⁴

CAPACITY IN METRO AREAS


8,631
survivors and family members were offered emergency shelter in 2025



68.3% of survivors were denied shelter due to lack of space but were provided with referrals to another emergency shelter

CAPACITY IN RURAL AREAS

2,483
survivors and family members were offered emergency shelter in 2025



36.8% of survivors were denied shelter due to lack of space but were provided with referrals to another emergency shelter

Increasing Housing Needs

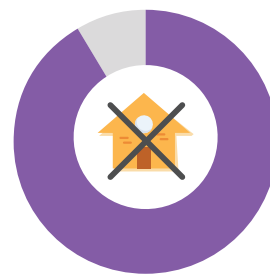
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Securing stable housing remains both the most urgent and central concern for survivors of family violence residing in emergency shelters. While emergency shelters provide a critical first layer of protection when leaving an abusive partner, the transition into safer, stable housing remains an unmet need for too many survivors. Across Texas, scarce affordable housing keeps permanent housing options out of reach for survivors exiting as they rebuild their financial security.

Programs reported the following:²⁵



81.7%
indicated that survivors requested financial assistance primarily to cover housing costs, including rent



91.6%
do not offer permanent supportive housing to survivors

Without this support, far too many survivors face a greater risk of homelessness due to ongoing housing instability.²⁶

- » 42.1% of survivors reported two to three homeless experiences in their lifetime.
- » 27.1% of survivors reported at least one homeless experience in their lifetime.

The FY 2025 Average Texas Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom unit in a metropolitan area is \$1,292.²⁷ Texans must make at least \$24.84 per hour to afford housing in 2025.

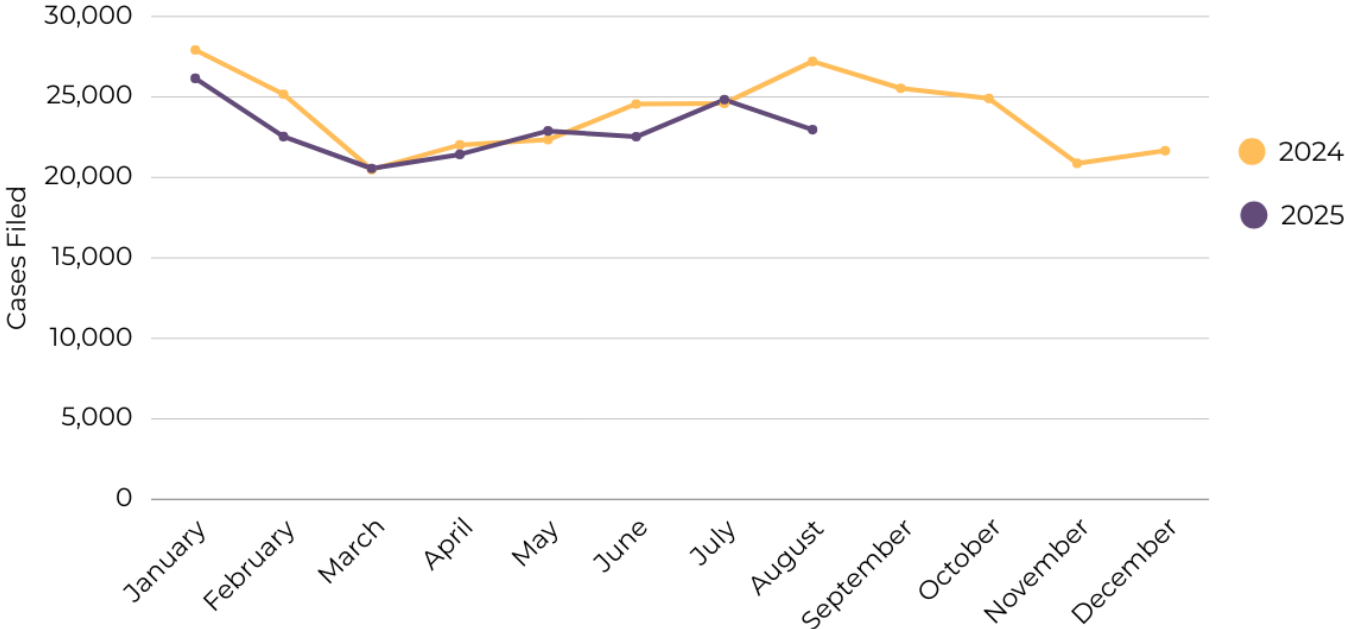


Average FM rent
in 2025:
\$1,292



Hourly pay
needed to
afford housing:
\$24.84/hr

Texas recorded 183,905 total evictions (based on landlord-tenant cases) from January to August of 2025.²⁸



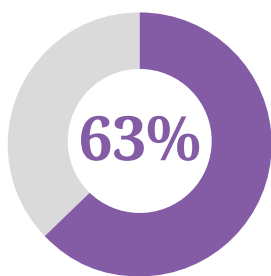
Access to Medical Care

Intimate partner violence is associated with greater use of medical services, and uninsured survivors face considerable challenges in accessing care due to high costs. These expenses can undermine survivors' ability to leave when economically unstable by deepening financial strain and accumulating debt related to emergency medical visits.

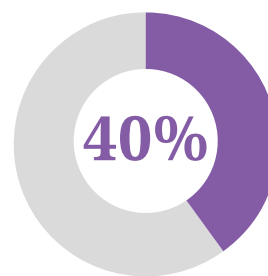
- » The uninsured rate among survivors was 54.5% for those utilizing nonresidential services.²⁹
- » The challenges of medical care extend to prescription medication where 59.7% are unable to cover the expenses of their prescriptions.³⁰
- » The number one health-related need for survivors reported by 34.6% of programs were emergency health care services due to family violence.³¹

MENTAL HEALTH

Family violence has been tied to mental health disorders in survivors, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and thoughts of self-harm.³²

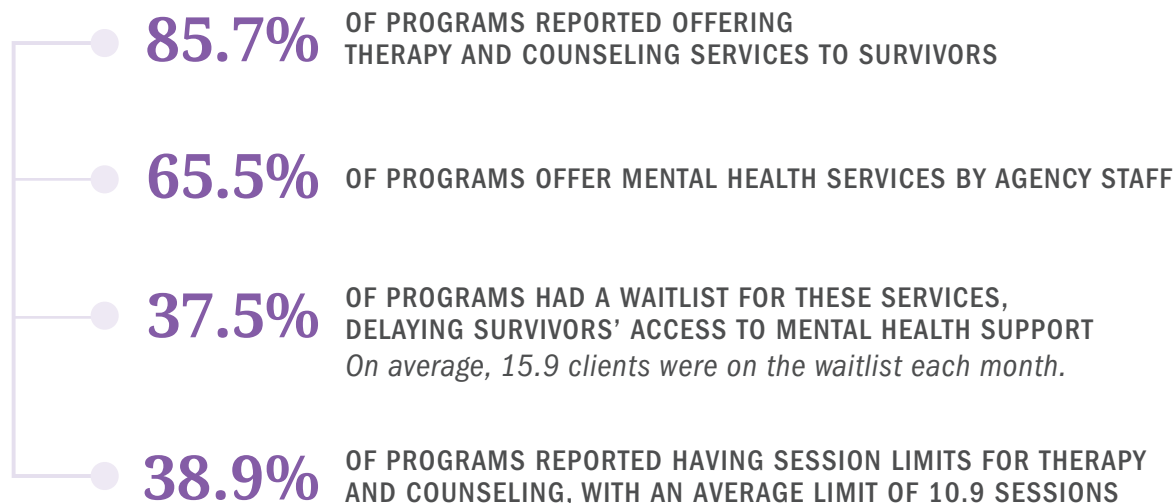


63.4% of survivors show indications of probable PTSD



40.2% of survivors had severe somatic symptoms

The availability of mental health support is critical to survivors' care and recovery, which depends on the availability of onsite counseling staff and the duration for which services can be offered.³³



Severity of Violence

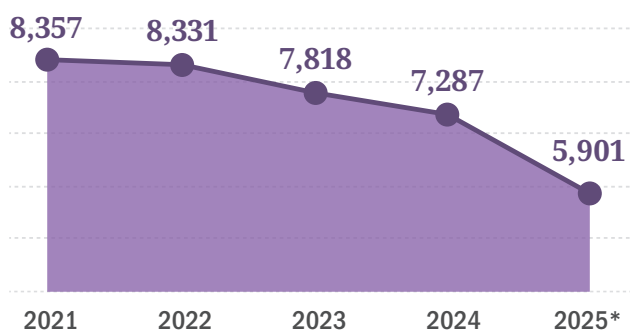
Intimate partner homicides can be anticipated and prevented by recognizing warning signs such as stalking, strangulation, and the presence of a firearm in the home, which increases the risk of lethality.

FIREARMS³⁴

Texas recorded 215,651 family violence victims in 2025 so far. Between 2021 and 2025, 37,694 firearms have been found at scenes involving family violence.

Firearms reported at the scene exclude situations where victims knew the firearm was nearby, such as in the home or surrounding area.

Between 2021 and 2025, 37,694 firearms have been found at scenes involving family violence.



*Firearms reported as of December 15, 2025

The three most frequently cited offenses in family violence reports to law enforcement in 2025 were simple assault, aggravated assault, and intimidation.

151,428
SIMPLE ASSAULT

28,414
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

23,875
INTIMIDATION

HOMICIDE AND RISK OF DENIALS

Measured risk is often used in prioritizing shelter stays. 46.4% of programs rely on structured tools, such as danger assessments, when making placement decisions.³⁵

In a recent study, responses from current and former shelter residents, indicates the following:³⁶

- » 57.7% were assessed as high risk when denied shelter.
- » 65.2% reported low levels of safety before entering shelter.
- » 57% of were at high risk of IPV homicide and danger.

Recognizing risk and danger is critical, as denial of shelter can have life-threatening consequences when survivors are forced to return to violent partners. Separation from a violent partner, followed by a rapid return, often escalates violence.³⁷ This places women especially at heightened risk of severe abuse, including lethal outcomes, when attempting to leave.

TCFV advocates with, and for, survivors of domestic violence every day. To learn more and get involved, visit [tcfv.org/public-policy](https://www.tcfv.org/public-policy).

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CITATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Texas Council on Family Violence promotes safe and healthy relationships by supporting service providers, facilitating strategic prevention efforts, and creating opportunities for freedom from domestic violence.



INDIVIDUALLY WE POWER CHANGE.
TOGETHER WE POWER A MOVEMENT.

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