**HED: Texas Reports Nine-Year Low in CPS Allegations**

**DEK: Across Texas’s 254 counties, CPS investigations are trending downward according to state data released in January.**

Fewer families are being investigated for allegedly abusing or neglecting their children, according to new data from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. In 2024, the agency reported 306,489 allegations to Child Protective Services–a decrease from 355,292 cases in 2023 and 356,345 in 2022. It’s the lowest number of reported claims statewide since before 2015.

Across Texas’s 254 counties, Harris County, which is home to Houston and Texas’s most populous county, led the state with 44,565 cases reported in 2024. Bexar County, home to San Antonio, followed with 26,222. Dallas County had the third most cases at 23,983. And Tarrant County, which is home to Fort Worth and Arlington, about 30 miles west of Dallas, had 22,161. Of the most populous counties, Travis County, which includes Austin, reported 9,780 cases.

Neglectful supervision was the leading cause of CPS investigations last year. The state defines it as putting a child in or failing to remove them from a situation that is “beyond their level of maturity” and eventually leads to a child harming themselves or others. Among the thousands of allegations,159,035 cases were for neglectful supervision, 55,785 were for physical abuse, and 21,328 were reported for physical neglect.

**Analysis of Texas CPS Investigation data set — 01/2014 to 12/2024**

This repository contains data, analytic code, and findings that support portions of the article, “Texas Reports Nine-Year Low in CPS Allegations,” published April 20, 2025. Please read that article, which contains important context and details, before proceeding.

**Data**

This analysis uses one spreadsheet containing claims from the Texas Department of Family Protective Services, which tracks how many cases of child abuse were made in Texas’s 254 counties. The spreadsheet comes from the following sources:

- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services:

* investigation.sheets: Raw data of claims from 2014 to 2024

Each of the spreadsheets contain, among others, the following columns relevant to the analysis:

- Fiscal Year — The year the claim was filed

- County — The county where the alleged abuse was reported

-Region– What region the claim was made in

-Type of Allegation- what type of abuse category was it filed under

-Allegation Count

**Methodology**

The notebook (notebooks/texascpsproject) performs the following analyses:

Part 1: Finds the number of CPS complaints per year since 2015

* Calculates the number of Texas CPS abuse claims by year
* Finds the average of claims filed by year
* Calculates the number of allegations per county
* Calculates the type of allegations per county and region

**Outputs**

The results are saved as: texascpsproject.ipynb).

**Running the analysis yourself**

You can run the analysis yourself. To do so, you'll need the following installed on your computer:

- Python 3

**Licensing**

All code in this repository is available under the [MIT License](https://opensource.org/license/MIT). The data file in the output/ directory is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) (CC BY 4.0) license. All files in the data/ directory are released into the public domain.

**Feedback / Questions?**

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