

Children Exposed to Domestic Violence:

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE RESPONSE AND NEEDS IN TEXAS

Key Statistics ^{1 2}

Family Stabilization and Safety



Housing:

Housing support is a critical lifeline for families exposed to domestic violence (DV).

Over **84%** of agencies surveyed (n=65) offer emergency shelter for families.

Just over half (**53.8%**) provide additional housing, including vouchers and transitional housing.

15.4% of Texas DV Agencies have shelter facilities for unaccompanied minors from the child welfare system.

Safety Planning:

Safety planning is set of tools to work with survivors to help reduce risks for violence and increase resources to get safer.

Over **71%** of staff working in a Texas DV program report engaging with youth in safety planning.

Childcare:

Childcare is the second most requested service and is the hardest service to access. Access issues intensified during COVID-19.

Only **40%** of DV agencies surveyed (n=65) provide any form of onsite childcare.

Only **18.5%** provide full-day, onsite childcare for some survivor parents while they work.

Only **19%** of workers reported affordable, quality childcare to generally be available in their area for clients.

Onsite Schools and Academics:

Some DV agencies provide onsite schools and academic support services, such as tutoring.

Just **9.2%** of agency survey respondents offer an onsite school, primarily for shelter residents.

55% of DV agencies offer afterschool activities and tutoring for youth in shelter.

Only **23%** have tutoring during the day for shelter children who cannot safely attend school.

Over **55%** of agencies report offering after school programming.

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¹ These statistics are from data from a comprehensive assessment of Texas services for children exposed to domestic violence which included an availability survey completed by 65 Texas domestic violence agencies; a survey of 201 child welfare and domestic violence direct service staff; and interviews with 50 staff members, 21 parents who are survivors of DV, and 14 youth, ages 12 and older, who were exposed to DV. The full report reference is:

Wood, L., McGiffert, M., Wasim, A., Hairston, D., Backes, B., Baumler, E., & Faulkner, M. (2021). Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Understanding the Community Service Response and Needs in Texas-Project Technical Report. Center for Violence Prevention; The University of Texas Medical Branch.

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Contact Information: Please contact Leila Wood at leiwood@utmb.edu with questions or inquiries.

Healing from Trauma and Adverse Events



Child, Parent, and Family Counseling:

Counseling can help survivors of violence heal from trauma and learn protective strategies.

78% of surveyed DV agencies provide children's counseling.

33% of agencies surveyed have no dedicated children's counselors.

58% of agencies reported that they would need to increase counseling capacity for youth by at least 50% to meet demand.

Child, Parent and Family Case Management/Advocacy:

Child advocacy services operate both on an individual child-level—addressing the goals of youth—and on a system-level, supporting children exposed to domestic violence and their needs in the community.

Nearly all DV agencies surveyed (**96.9%**) offered some kind of child advocacy services.

53% of agencies reported that they would need to increase advocacy capacity for youth by at least 50% to meet demand.

Building Healthy Connections



Parenting Classes:

DV agencies offer parenting classes, which focus on the needs of children and families in the aftermath of DV.

65% of agencies have parenting classes for shelter residents.

Only **12%** of responding agencies offer early intervention home visiting programs.

Mentoring:

Mentoring helps children exposed to violence build supportive relationships and develop new skills.

Over **35%** of DV staff surveyed reported mentoring services are available at their agency for youth in residential services.

Prevention of Future Violence



Prevention Programming:

DV agencies provide healthy relationships and violence prevention programming in schools, youth-serving agencies, juvenile detention centers, and with children living in their residential services.

80% of DV agencies offer one-time presentations to middle schoolers and **53.4%** of DV agencies offer multiple sessions to this age group.

Over **83%** of agencies offer one-time sessions to high schools and **61%** offer multiple sessions.

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