**ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN TARRANT COUNTY**

**Abuse and Neglect** – an act or a failure to act that leads to harm or increases the risk of harm.

**Forms of Abuse** – physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, and exploitation (including financial abuse among adults). **Forms of Neglect** – failure to protect from harm, address medical needs, and provide basic needs of living (food, water, shelter, hygiene, clothing, supervision, etc.) excluding financial reasons. **NOTE:** Abuse/neglect of adults with disabilities and older adults is underrepresented due to a lack of standardized definitions, reporting processes, data, and training/awareness.

Figure 1. Rates of confirmed/validated victims of abuse/neglect by age group and location, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 children, adults with disabilities, or older adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bexar County</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas County</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis County</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018, 5,842 children and 2,898 adults were identified as victims of abuse/neglect in Tarrant County.

Figure 2. Forms of abuse/neglect and perpetrator types among confirmed Tarrant County child victims aged 0-17 years, 2018

- Neglectful Supervision: 77%
- Physical Abuse: 10%
- Sexual Abuse: 8%
- Other Types**: 5%
- Non-Parent Relative/Other^^: 15%
- Parent: 78%

****: abandonment, emotional abuse, medical neglect, physical neglect, refusal to accept parental responsibility, and sex trafficking

^^ i.e. sibling, aun/uncle, grandparent, etc.
Figure 3. Forms of abuse/neglect and perpetrator types among validated Tarrant County adult victims aged 18+ years, 2018

- **Physical Neglect**: 73%
- **Medical Neglect**: 18%
- **Mental Health Neglect**: 4%
- **Other Types**: 5%

**Perpetrator Types**
- **Spouse**: 1.50%
- **Adult Children**: 3%
- **Older adults aged 65+ years**: 92%
- **Adults with disabilities aged 18-64 years**: 7%
- **Adults with disabilities and older adults**: 3%

**Signs and Symptoms of Abuse/Neglect**

**Children**
- Problems at school
- Risk-taking behaviors
- Self-destructive behaviors
- Regression in mental and behavioral development
- Changes in how they interact with peers and adults
- Inappropriate sexual behavior
- Problems sleeping and eating
- Lack of clean and weather appropriate clothes
- Anger/hostility

**Adults**
- Over or under-medicated
- Sudden or unexplained changes in bank accounts, will, property, bills, Social Security, etc.
- Unsanitary/dangerous living conditions
- Lack of heat, A/C, running water, or electricity
- Confused/disoriented
- Lethargic/uninterested

**State/Local Resources and Support**

- **Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline**: Call 1-800-252-5400 TTY 1-800-735-2989 [txabusehotline.org]
- **Aging & Disability Resource Centers**: Call 1-855-937-2372 [tarrantcountyadrc.org]
- **MHMR of Tarrant County**: Call 1-800-866-2465 TTY 817-569-4488 [mhmrtarrant.org]
- **Tarrant County Elder Financial Fraud Unit**: Call 817-884-1400
- **Financial Exploitation Prevention Center of Tarrant County**: Call 817-720-6556

**Education and Prevention**

- **Child Abuse/Neglect**
  - allianceforchildren.org
  - cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety/Pages/maltreatment-prevention.aspx
  - helpandhope.org
  - playit safe.org/index.php
  - shakenbaby.org

- **Adult Abuse/Neglect**
  - www.endabusepwd.org
  - everyonesbusiness.org
  - fwscc.org/elder-abuse-prevention
  - ncea.acl.gov
  - tarrantcounty.com/en/criminal-district-attorney/criminal-defense/ElderFraud.html

Data sources: Alliance for Children, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Data Brief provided by: Division of Epidemiology and Health Information