



City of Dallas

Overview of Dallas Police Proposed Initiatives for Human Trafficking

**Public Safety Committee
January 14, 2025**

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City of Dallas

DPD Human Trafficking Investigations



- Adult human trafficking cases are handled by the Human Trafficking Squad within the Special Investigations Division (SID).
- Juvenile human trafficking is investigated by the High-Risk Victim and Trafficking Squad of the Special Victims Division.
 - **Offenses Investigated:**
 - Trafficking and Continuous Trafficking of Persons
 - Smuggling and Continuous Smuggling of Persons
 - Promotion and Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution
 - Online and Aggravated Online Promotion of Prostitution
 - Compelling and Aggravated Compelling of Prostitution



Where Do the Victims Originate



- Human trafficking knows no boundaries, with victims identified in Dallas originating from all 50 states and numerous countries around the world.
- The Human Trafficking Unit has observed individuals frequently traveling to Dallas from cities like Houston, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; Phoenix, Arizona; and Atlanta, Georgia, among others.
- These cities are large metropolitan areas commonly associated with human trafficking activity, making them frequent points of origin for individuals arriving in Dallas.
- Human traffickers often rotate victims through a "track" or "circuit," intentionally disorienting them with unfamiliar surroundings. This tactic isolates victims from law enforcement and coerces them by instilling a fear of being stranded.



DPD Human Trafficking Statistics



Year	Reported to DPD	Reported to Advocacy Group	Arrests
2024	140	216 Served (199 Females / 8 males / 1 transgender)	182
2023	157	386 Served (359 females, 24 males, 2 transgender, 1 non-binary)	135
2022	142	No Data Available	88
2021	62	No Data Available	49

as of 12/31/24



Options for Adults



- Dallas adopts a "Victim-Centered Approach" in its investigations, prioritizing support over prosecution for survivors whose actions were a direct result of their victimization.
- In certain cases, incarceration may be the safest option to protect individuals from further victimization, when they are uncooperative but still evidently a victim of a crime.
- The Human Trafficking Case Worker connects survivors with trusted Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), ensuring access to safe and reliable support.
- The Human Trafficking Unit collaborates with several NGO partners, including A21, Rescue Her, Unbound Now, North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking, The Harbor (Salvation Army), Rescue Hill, Our Calling, Ranch Hands Rescue, and the Mayor's Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Advisory Council.



Juvenile Trafficking



High-Risk status is met based on the following criteria:

- Missing Children for more than 30 consecutive days, or more than 4 times in a 12-month period.
- Missing Children who are 12 years of age or younger.
- Children with 2 or more separate incidents of sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Identified as a prior victim of sex trafficking.
- Other risk factors include drug use, inter-generational sexual abuse, housing instability, immigration status, or childhood experiences of domestic violence or neglect.



Juvenile Issues



The High-Risk Victims Unit is the lead investigative unit when it's discovered a juvenile is being victimized

Year	Youths Recovered by DPD
2024	117
2023	99
2022	101
2021	81

As of 12/31/24



Options for Juveniles



Education and Outreach:

- The Unit includes a full-time education and outreach officer responsible for creating, organizing, and delivering presentations on cyber safety, child sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking awareness to teenagers, educators, coaches, caregivers, parents, and community leaders.
- Conducted 379 presentations for more than 15,800 attendees in 2024.

Partnerships:

- Mayor's Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Advisory Council
- Homeland Security Investigations North Texas Trafficking Task Force
- North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
- Traffick911
- Refuge City
- New Friends New Life
- The Underground
- Precious Child, Inc.



Juvenile Process



- The Human Trafficking Unit includes two Federal Task Force Officers (TFO) assigned to the North Texas Trafficking Task Force of the United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).
- These officers also investigate child trafficking offenses. When the Human Trafficking Unit encounters a juvenile victim, they are typically transferred to the High-Risk Victims Unit.
- In most cases, juveniles are transported to a local Children's Advocacy Center, where they receive advocacy, placement assistance, and social services, assigned a case worker and interviewed by Child Protective Services. Juveniles are fully evaluated at an approved medical facility.



How DPD Combats Human Trafficking



- Law enforcement proactively identifies suspected human traffickers through surveillance, monitoring their patterns, frequented locations, and associates.
- Locations where human traffickers are known to congregate are also targeted.
- The Special Investigation Division has carried out numerous "Demand Suppression" operations to target individuals who knowingly engage in purchasing sex.
- Operations targeting commercial sex workers believed to be trafficking victims, connecting them with NGOs for social services and safe exit support.
- Law enforcement encounters often give victims a rare chance to escape traffickers and access services.



Resources for Victims



- The Dallas Police Department works with numerous 501(c)(3) organizations addressing human trafficking but thoroughly vets each one before collaboration.
- Each resource is thoroughly vetted to ensure the advertised services are accurately provided. Our Case Worker and Detectives meet with NGO staff and visit the facility.
- Each survivor comes with a specific set of needs. By collaborating with NGOs, who provide different resources, we are making it possible to better serve the survivor.
- Resources range from emergency support to long-term restorative care, tailored to the specific needs of each trafficking victim.
- Services include housing, food, counseling, medical care, job training, and ID assistance, representing a fraction of the resources available through our partnerships.



Partnerships in Fighting Human Trafficking



- The Human Trafficking Unit collaborates extensively with law enforcement agencies across the DFW Metroplex and nationwide to investigate trafficking crimes. **Key partners include the Texas Attorney General's Office, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Houston Police Department, and the FBI.**
- The Human Trafficking Unit partners with **DeliverFund and Collective Liberty** to enhance their efforts in combating human trafficking. Through survivor-led and analytical training, these organizations support the Unit's mission to prevent trafficking and promote survivor empowerment and recovery.



Human Trafficking Dashboard



Human Trafficking Awareness Dashboard

- Developed by The Office of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence (DBI), in partnership with the Dallas Police Department.
- Data and metrics related to DPD's efforts to prevent human trafficking.
- Data and metrics from partner shelters and advocacy groups.
- Tracks offense locations, incident frequencies, and victim demographics.
- Regularly updates data.



Next Steps



- Increased continued collaboration with NGO partners
- Development of a Human Trafficking class for DPD officers
- Continued discussions with the Community Court and advocacy partners about the efficacy of relaunching the Prostitution Diversion Initiative (PDI).
- Human Trafficking grant research for juveniles and adults
- High Risk Victims unit will continue proactive operations to identify and locate juveniles who fit the high-risk criteria
- Public Service Announcements during the month of January





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