
Florida Department of Children and Families Annual Human Trafficking Report 2013-14 Federal Fiscal Year



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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

Florida Department of Children and Families

Annual Human Trafficking Report December 2014

I. Background

Section 39.001(5), F.S., establishes the following goals for the treatment of sexually exploited children who are residing in the dependency system:

- Ensure these children are safe;
- Provide for the treatment of such children as dependent children, rather than as delinquents in the criminal or juvenile systems;
- Sever the bond between exploited children and traffickers, and reunite these children with their families or provide them with appropriate guardians;
- Enable these children to be willing and reliable witnesses in the prosecution of traffickers.

II. Purpose

This report provides information as required in section 39.524(3), F. S., as follows:

- The number of children placed in safe houses and safe foster homes during the year.
- The criteria used to determine the placement of children.
- The number of children who were evaluated for placement.
- The number of children who were placed based upon the evaluation.
- The number of children who were not placed.
- The number of children who were referred to a safe house or safe foster home for whom placement was unavailable.
- The counties in which such placement was unavailable.

This report also provides information as required by the 2014 Appropriations Act, Specific Appropriation 342:

- The allocation methodology for funds appropriated to community-based care lead agencies for costs associated with placement and services for sexually exploited children.
- How the funds were disbursed.

The majority of activities described within this report cover activities that occurred between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014 (Federal Fiscal Year), unless otherwise noted.

Since January 1, 2013, the Department began recording Human Trafficking allegations by three primary categories:

- *Human Trafficking-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child (CSEC) Non-caregiver:* This maltreatment type is used for those cases in which the allegations appear to involve commercial sexual exploitation of a child (e.g., adult entertainment clubs, escort services, prostitution, etc.), and the alleged perpetrator is not considered to be a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver.
- *Human Trafficking-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child (CSEC) Caregiver:* This maltreatment type is used for those cases in which the allegations appear to involve commercial sexual exploitation of a child (e.g., adult entertainment, escort services, prostitution, etc.), and the alleged perpetrator appears to be a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver.
- *Human Trafficking-Labor:* This maltreatment type is used in those cases in which the allegations appear to involve issues associated with labor trafficking, slavery, or servitude that do not appear to be sexual in nature.

Investigative Intake

During FFY 2010-11, the total number of reports, initial and additional, received by the Florida Abuse Hotline alleging one of the human trafficking maltreatments was 480. In FFY 2011-12, this number increased to 788, and over the course of FFY 2012-13, this number increased to 935. In FFY 2013-14, this number continued to increase to 978.

The Florida Department of Children and Families identifies the number of reports received by Victim ID Number per region. This totals 755 Victims identified in the 978 reports received. The regions are listed below in the order of the highest number to the lowest number of victims alleged. Approximately 15% of the reports received were male victims, which is consistent with the volume of reports received during the prior three years.

Region	Reports Received by Victim ID
Central	209
Southeast	184
Suncoast	140
Southern	105
Northeast	81
Northwest	36

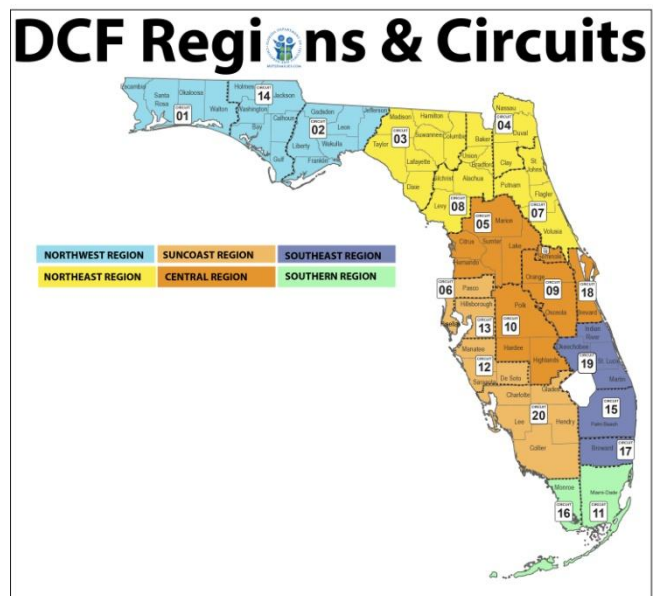
Available Safe Houses and Safe Foster Homes

In FFY 2013-14, there were six Safe Homes available with a total of 28 beds. Two new safe homes opened in the fall of 2014. All of the safe homes are gender-specific and serve only females. These beds may not be filled in every instance as decisions to make placement are based on the existing make-up of residents and the individuals' specific needs. The complexity of the resident's needs may limit the number of children a safe home takes at any given time. Often, there is a desire to not introduce too many new children into a placement at any given time, to ensure good assimilation of the children into the program and staff engagement with the existing children. Each facility has its own intake and assessment process, and ultimately, determines the appropriateness of that child for that specific placement.

There are two residential campus settings that have a CSEC track and specialized treatment for the population. The residential campus settings are able to serve female, male and transgender children. The beds available on these campuses fluctuate based on the total number of residents in all programs offered.

There were 5 -7 beds available within the existing Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively Impacted by Commercial Exploitation (CHANCE) Program, a pilot treatment program by Citrus Health Network being implemented in Miami-Dade County, Florida, to address the unique mental and behavioral health needs of youth who have been engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. Devereux Florida also has begun recruiting in the Central Florida region for its DELTA Foster Home programs. The Safe Foster Home model will also be able to serve male, female, or transgender children; there is a one-child-in-a-residence standard. In addition, several adult programs have opened, including Selah Freedom's 17-bed program in the Bradenton area. This is a critical factor as survivors age out of programs for minors and need to transition to extended foster care and/or Independent Living programs.

All specialized placements at this time exist in the Central, Suncoast, Southeast and Southern Regions. No programs exist in the Northeast or Northwest Regions. With the exception of the CHANCE program, which takes only children from the Miami area, all of the specialized programs are available to any child in the state of Florida. Therefore, while safe homes have



not currently been established in the Northeast or Northwest, placement in specialized programs is available in the other regions.

One positive observation has been the growth of a continuum of care in the areas where specialized treatment is available. In Central Florida, Miami and Estero/Fort Myers, providers have created programs that provide several levels of treatment. This becomes critical for children to maintain continuity of care. Devereux, in Central Florida, and Citrus Health Network, in Miami, both offer residential treatment and community wraparound services within the home. As children leave a structured safe house, campus environment and/or foster home, and step down to less restrictive placement, they can maintain their therapist and case manager, rather than have to transfer to another treatment provider. Wings of Shelter in the Fort Myers/Estero area has created an affiliated foster home, which children can step down into after leaving their safe house. This transition allows children more responsibility, more freedom of movement, and the ability to transition into a more traditional environment, which they will need to manage as they move back into the mainstream.

Placement of victims in Safe Houses and Safe Foster Homes

The Department queried all Community-Based Care lead agencies in the state to obtain counts of the number of children they assessed for placement in a specialized Safe House or Safe Foster Home.

Between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014, a total of 79 children were placed with foster parents or providers focused on children who have been commercially sexually exploited. Of the children evaluated for placement, 110 were not placed in a CSEC placement. Reasons for not being placed in a CSEC placement included being on runaway status, being placed instead in treatment for substance abuse or mental health issues, and refusal of the victim to accept placement.

For 31 of the children referred for CSEC placement, such placement was unavailable for reasons such as the child's age, juvenile justice history, recruitment history, gender, the group home's limited capacity, or the lack of a specialized placement within the victim's county.

At this time, there are no emergency placement options specifically for CSEC victims. There is often a delay between identifying the victim and placement in a specialized program. Available programs that focus on the specific trauma needs of these children have their own individualized intake and assessment processes. Such processes often require an interview of the child and/or a willingness of the child to participate in the program. Limitations on placement can also include factors such as gang affiliation and commonality of exploiter – meaning these types of factors must be considered in determining placement and the makeup of the safe house or CSEC program. Children who have a shared gang affiliation or a conflicting gang affiliation, or children who have shared exploiters, often cannot be placed together due to the degree of conflict it may cause in the home.

The current mechanism for assessment of placement is through the Multidisciplinary Staffing (MDT). Children and Families Operating Procedure 175-14 requires that an MDT occur upon the identification of the CSEC victim. These staffings include a conversation between the Child Protective Investigator, Dependency Case Manager, Criminal Justice Coordinator, and any other participant identified as relevant to the conversation, such as active law enforcement agents. They discuss the specific needs of the child, risks or dangers to the child, engagement of their family/support center, and the potential placements that exist. This conversation will also include any specific substance abuse and/or mental health treatment needs.

A Human Trafficking Screening Instrument has been developed within the joint Department of Children and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice Statewide Tools workgroup. This tool is designed to assist child welfare professionals and Department of Juvenile Justice staff with identifying youth who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation and determining the appropriate level of services needed. The tool aims to initiate a comprehensive conversation of the needs of the child and which components should be a priority in determining placement needs. Training is slated to be provided to DJJ and DCF staff in January 2015, and the tool will be distributed for use following the training.

Through multiple local, statewide and national partnerships, including state agencies, community-based care lead agencies, service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, the judiciary and concerned citizens, the support available to victims of commercial sexual exploitation is growing. However, the evidence does not yet exist to demonstrate which type of program is the most appropriate or effective for which child. In Florida, the sole program evaluation completed to date is a pilot study of the CHANCE program, conducted by the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida.

To find out more about the 2014 legislative changes to support child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, go to this link:

<http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/LegislativeChanges/HB7141.shtml>

Additional resources for child welfare professionals about human trafficking can be found at:

<http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/SexualExploitation/SexualExploitation.shtml>

Methodology for Distribution of Funds

The Florida Legislature in 2014 appropriated \$3,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to serve the needs of children who are victims of sexual exploitation and have been adjudicated dependent or are the subject of an open investigation due to allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. As directed by the Legislature, the funds were provided to community-based care lead agencies for costs associated with placement and services for sexually exploited children. The Department determined the areas of greatest need based on the number of victims in each area and developed the allocation methodology below based on these findings.

Distribution of Children in an Out-of-Home or In-Home Placement with at Least one Indication of Human Trafficking 6/11/14			Sex				
Region	Circuit	Community Based Care Lead Agency	F	M	Grand Total	Percentage	Allocation
Northwest	Circuit 1	Lakeview Center, Inc. - Families First Network	1	0	1	0.5%	\$ 15,306
	Circuits 2 & 14	Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc.	4	0	4	2.0%	\$ 61,224
Northwest Total			5	0	5	2.6%	\$ 76,531
Northeast	Circuits 3 & 8	Partnership for Strong Families	3	0	3	1.5%	\$ 45,918
	Circuit 4	Family Support Services of North Florida	5	0	5	2.6%	\$ 76,531
	Circuit 4	Kids First of Florida, Inc.	1	0	1	0.5%	\$ 15,306
	Circuit 7	St. Johns Board of County Commissioners	1	0	1	0.5%	\$ 15,306
	Circuit 7	Community Partnership for Children	1	0	1	0.5%	\$ 15,306
Northeast Total			11	0	11	5.6%	\$ 168,367
Suncoast	Circuit 6	Eckerd Community Alternatives, Inc. - Pasco/Pinellas	13	0	13	6.6%	\$ 198,980
	Circuit 12	Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc.	4	0	4	2.0%	\$ 61,224
	Circuit 13	Eckerd Community Alternatives, Inc. - Hillsborough	12	1	13	6.6%	\$ 198,980
	Circuit 20	Children's Network of Southwest Florida	7	0	7	3.6%	\$ 107,143
Suncoast Total			36	1	37	18.9%	\$ 566,327
Central	Circuit 5	Kids Central, Inc.	4	0	4	2.0%	\$ 61,224
	Circuit 9	Community Based Care of Central Florida - Orange/Osceola	11	1	12	6.1%	\$ 183,673
	Circuit 10	Heartland for Children, Inc.	10	2	12	6.1%	\$ 183,673
	Circuit 18	Community Based Care of Brevard, Inc.	1	1	2	1.0%	\$ 30,612
	Circuit 18	Community Based Care of Central Florida - Seminole	1	0	1	0.5%	\$ 15,306
Central Total			27	4	31	15.8%	\$ 474,490
Southeast	Circuit 15	ChildNet, Inc. - Palm Beach	19	1	20	10.2%	\$ 306,122
	Circuit 17	ChildNet, Inc. - Broward	32	1	33	16.8%	\$ 505,102
	Circuit 19	Devereux Community Based Care	4	0	4	2.0%	\$ 61,224
Southeast Total			55	2	57	29.1%	\$ 872,449
Southern	Circuit 11 & 16	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.	54	1	55	28.1%	\$ 841,837
Southern Total			54	1	55	28.1%	\$ 841,837
Grand Total			188	8	196	100.0%	\$ 3,000,000