

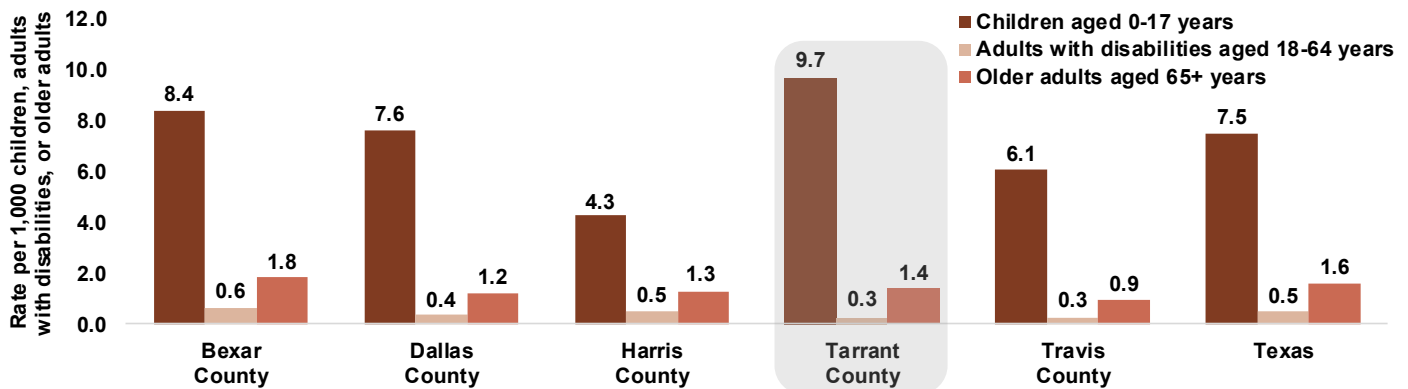
TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN TARRANT COUNTY

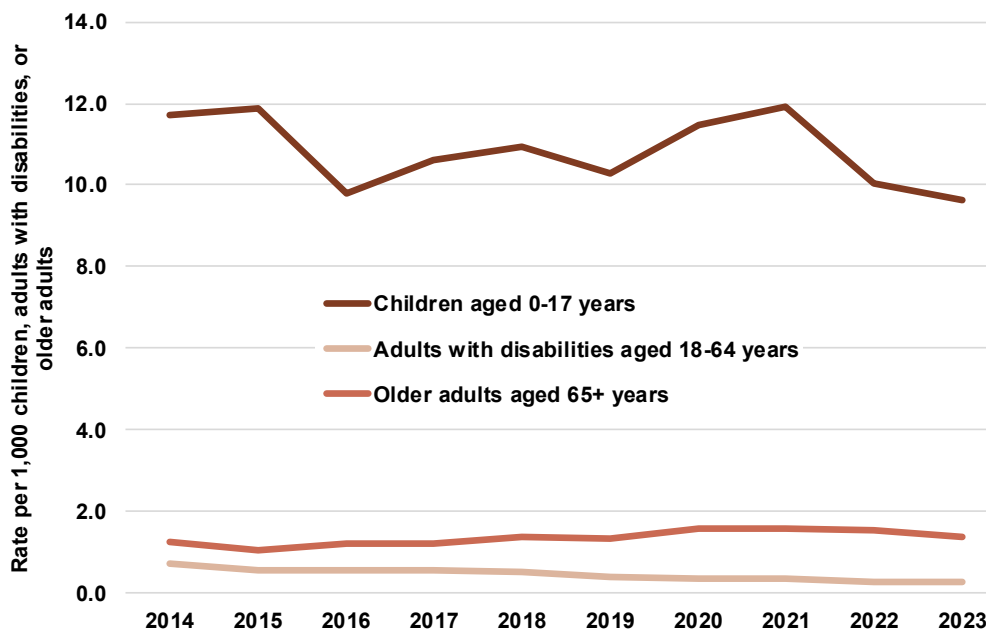
Abuse and Neglect includes an act or a failure to act that leads to harm or increases the risk of harm. When a child experiences abuse and/or neglect, it is considered an adverse childhood experience (ACE). Abuse/neglect of adults with disabilities and older adults is underrepresented due to a lack of standardized definitions, reporting, data, and training/awareness. **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.

Figure 1. Rates of confirmed/validated victims[‡] of abuse/neglect by age group and location, 2023



In 2023, 5,332 children and 2,756 adults[‡] were identified as victims of abuse/neglect in Tarrant County

Figure 2. Tarrant County rates of confirmed/validated victims[‡] of abuse/neglect by age group, 2014-2023

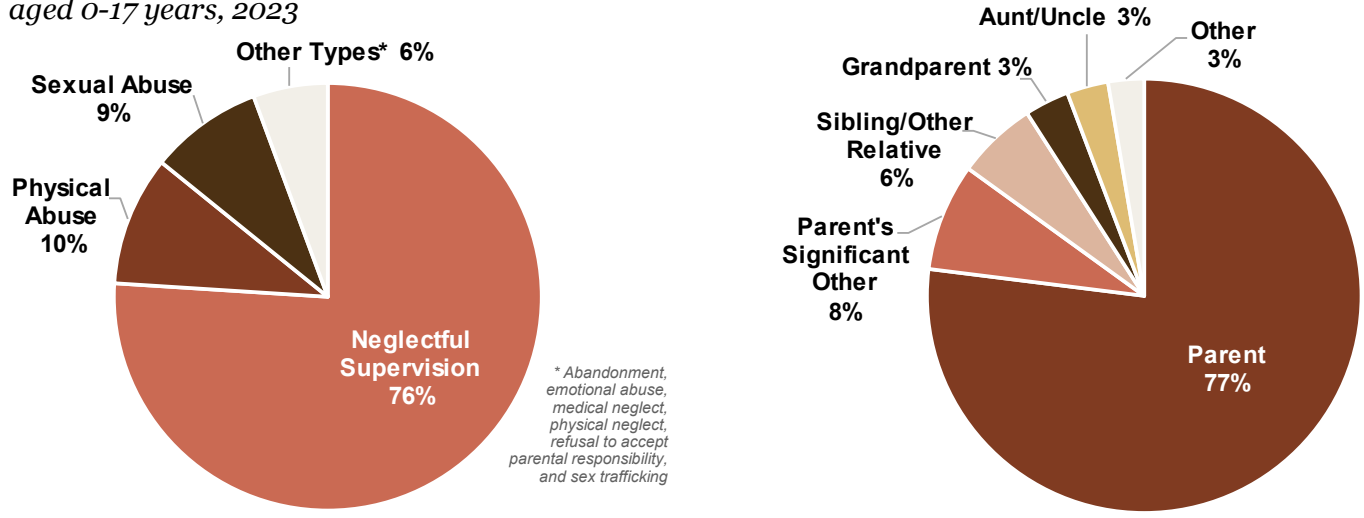


From 2014-2023 in Tarrant County:

- Abuse/neglect rates among children were highest (11.9) in 2015 and 2021
- Abuse/neglect rates among adults[‡] were more consistent over time
- Abuse/neglect victims included 58,021 children, 7,126 adults with disabilities, and 21,197 older adults

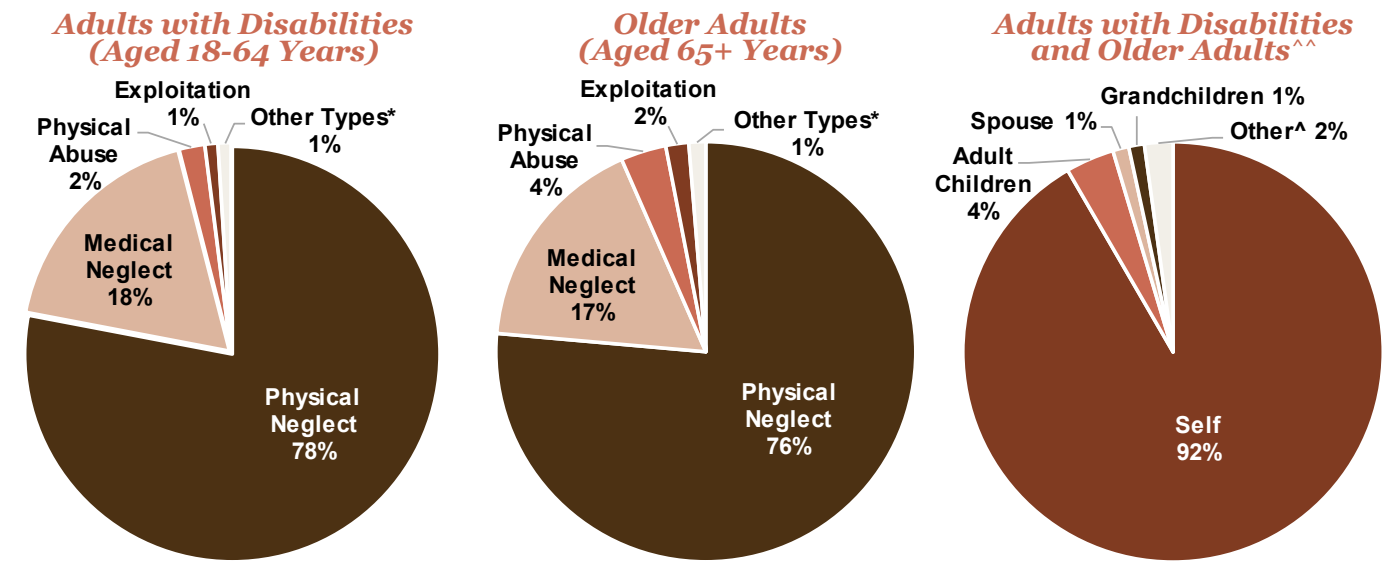
[‡] Victims have been unduplicated by investigation stage. Texas Adult Protective Services (APS) & Child Protective Investigations (CPI) definitions: **Disability**- a mental, physical, or developmental disability that substantially impairs the ability to live independently or provide for their own self-care or protection. **Confirmed Victim (child)**- a victim in a completed investigation who is a child and a victim of at least one allegation with a disposition of "reason to believe." **Validated Victim (adult)**- based on the standard of preponderance of the evidence, it is more likely than not that the maltreatment occurred. Includes victims who were also perpetrators (i.e. self-neglect).

Figure 3. Forms of abuse/neglect and perpetrator types among confirmed[‡] Tarrant County child victims aged 0-17 years, 2023



In 2023, the majority of Tarrant County child victims experienced neglectful supervision, which the Texas Family Code defines as “placing the child in or failing to remove the child from a situation that a reasonable person would realize requires judgment or actions beyond the child’s level of maturity, physical condition, or mental abilities that results in bodily injury or a substantial risk of immediate harm to the child”

Figure 4. Forms of abuse/neglect and perpetrator types among validated[‡] Tarrant County adult[†] victims aged 18+ years, 2023



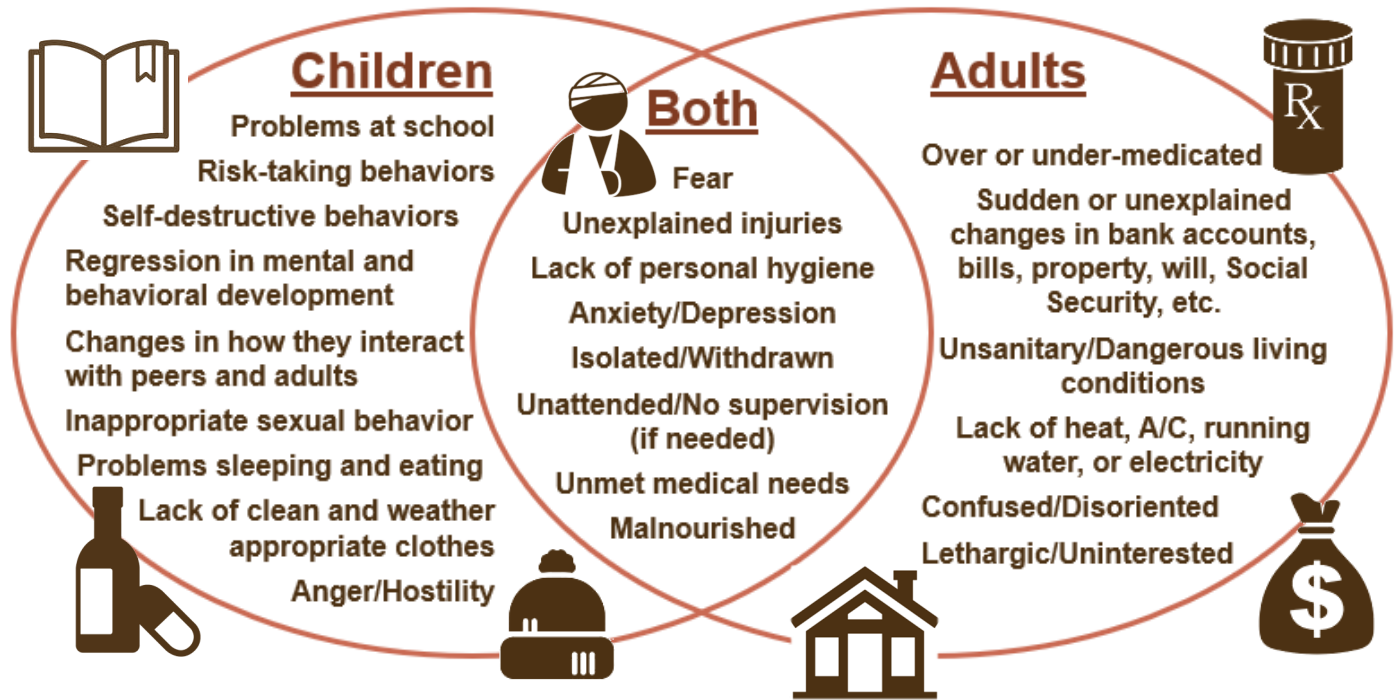
In 2023, the majority of Tarrant County adult[†] victims experienced physical neglect, which the Texas Administrative Code defines as “the failure to provide for oneself the goods or services which are necessary to avoid physical or emotional harm or pain, or the failure of a caretaker to provide such goods or services”

In situations of neglect, the perpetrator may also be the victim themselves, which is called self-neglect. There are many causes of self-neglect, but it can occur when someone is left on their own with no caregiver or family, and may result in poor living conditions

^^ Adults with disabilities and older adults are combined due to data limitations; * Emotional/verbal abuse, mental health neglect, and sexual abuse; ^ Facility/institutional staff, friend/neighbor, no relationship, other, other relatives, parents, service provider, sibling, and unknown

[‡] See definition on page 1; [†] Adults with disabilities (aged 18-64 years) and older adults (aged 65+ years); Data sources: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; Data Brief provided by: Statistical Analysis Team

Signs and Symptoms of Abuse/Neglect



Education and Prevention

Child Abuse/Neglect

- [allianceforchildren.org]
- [cdc.gov/child-abuse-neglect/about/]
- [cookchildrenscommunity.org/abuse/abuse-neglect/]
- [cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety/maltreatment-prevention]
- [dfps.texas.gov/child_protection/child_safety/report_abuse.asp]
- [dshs.texas.gov/dshs-ems-trauma-systems/links-resources-references/child-abuse-reporting-requirements]
- [getparentingtips.com]
- [playitsafe.org/index.php]
- [shakenbaby.org]

Adult Abuse/Neglect

- [cdc.gov/elder-abuse/about/]
- [dfps.texas.gov/protect_texas_adults/]
- [dfps.texas.gov/training/APS_reporting/default.asp]
- [endabusepwd.org]
- [ncea.acl.gov]
- [specialneedsalliance.org/special-needs-101/additional-resources/]

Resources and Support

Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline:

Call **1-800-252-5400** [txabusehotline.org]

If there is immediate danger, call 911. Texas law requires that any person suspecting abuse/neglect of a child, older adult, or adult with disabilities must immediately make a report. [dfps.texas.gov/contact_us/report_abuse.asp]

Aging & Disability Resource Center

Call **1-855-937-2372**

[tarrantcountyadrc.org]

MHMR of Tarrant County

Call/Text **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**