

Assessing Our Children's Quality of Life



**W**e are pleased to present the first edition of *Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County*, a comprehensive report on the quality of life for children in our community. More than 179,000 children call Collin County home and we are blessed with the birth of about 28 babies every day.

*Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County* is a tool to better understand children's needs through objective data and to encourage active involvement in making our community an even better place for children. The report presents 12 years of data on 61 indicators of child health, education, safety and economic security.

The data show that Collin County residents clearly demonstrate a strong commitment to an enriching environment for children and youth. Crime rates are significantly lower than the nation at large. There are extensive opportunities for constructive activities for children and youth. High-quality education is widely available and parents strongly support the schools. Yet the report identifies significant problems that threaten the well-being of Collin County children and makes recommendations for action.

We are grateful to the members of the *Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County* Advisory Board who devoted significant effort to developing this report. The Advisory Board includes city and county staff, educators, civic group members, non-profit agency leaders and healthcare providers.

We hope this report helps you better understand our children's needs, as together we seek to continue to make Collin County a premier community for children to grow, to thrive and to fulfill their potential. The full report with data and information on each of the 61 indicators is available at [www.childrens.com/BeyondABC](http://www.childrens.com/BeyondABC).

Thank you for working with us to actively address issues that impact our children.



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2008

# Beyond ABC:

## Growing Up in Collin County

Assessing Our Children's Quality of Life

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### PUBLISHED BY

Children's Medical Center  
and  
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*We gratefully acknowledge Children at Risk for allowing the use of the methodology of its "Growing Up in Houston" report. We also are grateful to Texans Care for Children, the Center for Public Policy Priorities, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and the Foundation for Community Empowerment for ongoing support.*

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## MAJOR FINDINGS

### Good News

This report describes many positive trends in Collin County, demonstrating that investments in the health, education, safety and economic security of our children have clearly paid off.

- The rate of adolescent pregnancy declined 40 percent between 1995 and 2004.
- Eighty-three percent of Collin County 2-year-olds were fully immunized in 2006, well above the Texas immunization rate of 79.5 percent.
- Collin County has the highest median income and lowest child poverty rate among Texas counties.
- Half of the children here live in families with incomes greater than \$75,000, and 42 percent of Collin County children's families have incomes greater than \$100,000.
- The rate of juvenile crime is decreasing.

### EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN COLLIN COUNTY ARE PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING.

- Ninety-six percent of third graders met standard reading criteria for TAKS tests.
- Eighty-six percent of public school students passed the TAKS tests in 2007, well above the state average of 70 percent.
- Most seniors in the 14 public school districts are prepared to enter college.

## Community Concerns

Yet significant threats remain for Collin County children.

### HEALTH

- The rates of prematurity and infant mortality are increasing.
- More than 50,000 Collin County children have limited access to healthcare as a result of being uninsured or being enrolled in Children's Medicaid or CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- There is a severe lack of behavioral health treatment for children and youth in Collin County.
- During the 2006-2007 school year, 768 public school students in Collin County were disciplined for possessing alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances on school grounds.
- Nine Collin County children's and teens' deaths in 2004 were alcohol-related.

### ECONOMIC SECURITY

- More than 11,000 Collin County children live in poverty.
- Nearly one in five students is considered economically disadvantaged and is eligible for free or reduced-cost school lunches in the 14 public school districts.
- Nearly 8 percent of Collin County families earn less than \$25,000 annually, suggesting that many parents may struggle to provide the basic necessities for their children.
- The supply of affordable housing is inadequate.



## The “Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County” Advisory Board identified the following recommendations.

### PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP COLLIN COUNTY CHILDREN

- Establish a coalition to focus on the needs of Collin County children.
- Increase financial support and access to health and dental services for children and pregnant women, including outreach and health education programs and increasing the network of health-care providers who accept Medicaid or CHIP.
- Strengthen the infrastructure for mental-health and substance-abuse treatment for children and youth.
- Establish a family justice center to deal more effectively with family violence.
- Expand the supply of affordable quality child-care and preschool programs to ensure school readiness.
- Expand the availability of after-school and summer programs that are affordable, safe, engaging and include transportation.
- Mobilize faith groups, civic leaders and volunteers to help low-income families access resources such as Medicaid, CHIP, WIC, food stamps and child-care subsidies.
- Ensure that multilingual education, health and social services are available for non-English-speaking families.

### ADDITIONAL HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase coordination of immunization efforts and strengthen the use of the state’s central immunization registry (ImmTrac) in Collin County.
- Ensure the implementation of the state’s

approved school health programs in all Collin County schools and increase student physical activity levels to prevent childhood obesity.

### ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase the stock of safe, affordable housing units in Collin County.
- Support local efforts to ensure children in low-income families receive adequate nutrition.

### ADDITIONAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase awareness about the availability of existing mentoring programs for children and youth, and expand truancy education classes.
- Teach independent living and marketable skills in high schools, and expand career-training options for students.

### ADDITIONAL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen the Foster and Adoptive Parents of Collin County organization to increase the number of foster and adoptive homes for children in custody of Child Protective Services.
- Infuse resources into the Texas Child Protective Services system to reduce caseloads, hire more workers to keep pace with the growth in children entering the system, increase pay for all direct and professional staff, and invest in effective child-abuse-prevention services.
- Strengthen Texas child passenger safety laws, and intensify enforcement of traffic regulations and child passenger safety regulations.
- Increase the capacity of the John R. Roach Juvenile Detention Center.
- As the community grows, evaluate the need for a dedicated juvenile court, and support Collin County Juvenile Services initiatives to reduce juvenile offenses.





## Access to Healthcare Limited for Nearly One-Third of Collin County Children

**Insurance Status of Collin County Children With Limited Healthcare Access (2007)**



*Data Sources: Kids Count 2000-2005; Texas Health and Human Services Commission, 2006-2007.*

More than 50,000 Collin County children have limited access to healthcare as a result of being uninsured or being enrolled in Children’s Medicaid or CHIP, the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Children who lack health insurance are less likely to have a medical home with timely access to a doctor or to specialty care when needed. They are more likely to receive sporadic care from emergency rooms or clinics, and that drives up healthcare costs for everyone.

More than 22,000 low-income Collin County children were insured through Children’s Medicaid and CHIP in December 2007. These joint state and federal programs are the backbone of the healthcare safety net in Texas. Yet a very limited number of pediatricians

and dentists in Collin County will accept children enrolled in these programs. As a result, many families must travel out of the county to seek care for their children, and less than half of low-income Texas children enrolled in Medicaid received dental care in 2006.

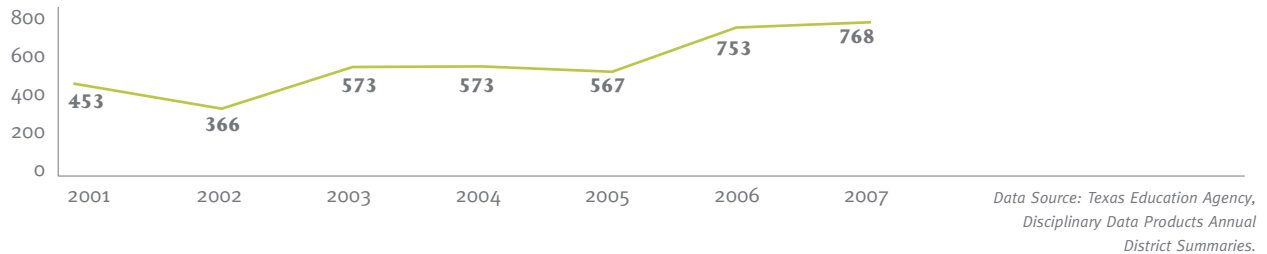
In addition, many children are underinsured: Their health insurance is not comprehensive and thus limits their access to healthcare. Very limited health resources are available for uninsured and underinsured children. Although local faith groups, healthcare providers and philanthropic organizations work cohesively to operate health clinics for uninsured, low-income and immigrant children, they are unable to ensure adequate access to care.





## Substance Abuse Among Children and Teens

### Students Disciplined for Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco or Controlled Substances on School Grounds

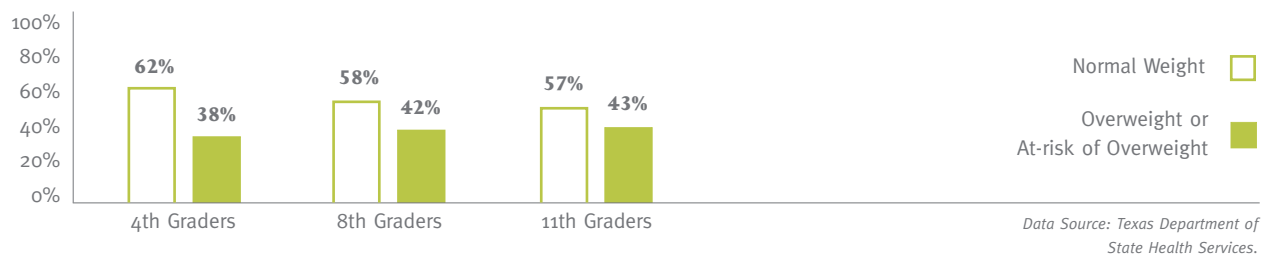


Nine Collin County children's and teens' deaths were alcohol-related in 2004. Substance abuse among young people is a significant issue in Collin County and throughout the nation. During the 2006-2007 school year, 768 public school students in the county were disciplined for possessing alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances on school grounds. The majority of the offenses (61 percent) involved possession of drugs at school; 22 percent involved possession of alcohol; and 14 percent involved possession of tobacco. Three percent of these were felony-level violations.

The 2006 Texas School Survey of Substance Use conducted by the Texas Department of State Health Services surveyed 141,905 students in grades 7 to 12 from 81 school districts on their self-reported use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. One-third of Texas students in grades 7 to 12 reported having used alcohol within the past 30 days; 15 percent reported using tobacco within the past 30 days; 11 percent reported using marijuana during the past 30 days; and 3 percent reported having used some form of cocaine in the past 30 days.

## Prevalence of Overweight Children

### Weight Classification of North Texas Children in 2005



Texas was ranked the 12th most overweight state in the nation with an average of 26.3 percent of adults overweight in a 2007 report by Healthy Americans. In North Central Texas, 38 percent of fourth graders, 42 percent of eighth graders and 43 percent of 11th graders are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, according to a 2005 report from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

An overweight child has a 70 percent chance of becoming an overweight adult. Serious health risks are associated with being overweight, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, certain cancers, breathing problems, arthritis and joint problems. Children who are overweight are at greater risk of social stigma and low self-esteem, and they are less likely to succeed in school.



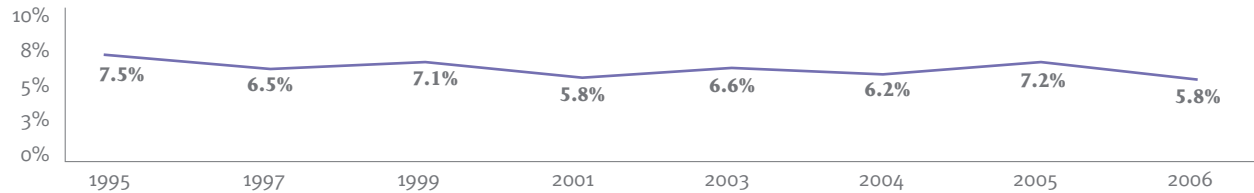




## Children Living in Poverty

### Children Living in Poverty

Percent of children in families with incomes below the federal poverty level



Data Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau (<http://factfinder.census.gov>).

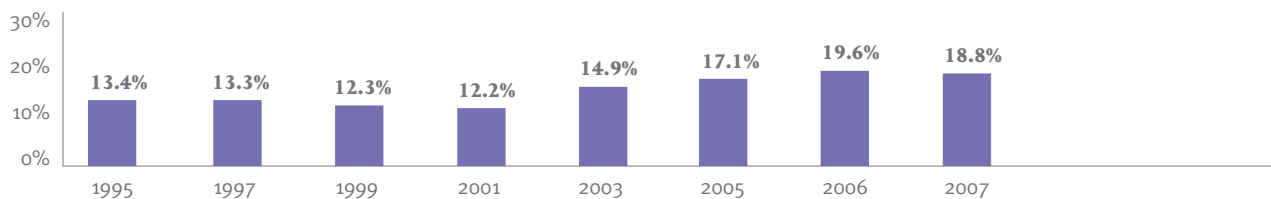
More than 11,000 Collin County children lived in poverty in 2006. That's 5.8 percent of all children in the county. Families headed by single mothers were most at risk, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, with 14 percent of those families having incomes below the federal poverty level that year.

The working poor face significant challenges in caring for their children's basic needs. Poverty is associated with poor outcomes in children's health, education and emotional welfare as well as higher rates of delinquency.

## Nearly One-Fifth of Students Qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Lunches

### School Lunch Program Eligibility

Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches



Data Sources: Texas Education Agency: *Approved Free and Reduced Students Report*; *Snapshot Summary Tables Distribution Statistics*; *Students Economically Disadvantaged Report*.

Nearly 20 percent of Collin County public school students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in 2007, an increase of 54 percent since 2001. The school lunch program provides free or reduced-price school meals for children who are economically disadvantaged. Children from households with income below 130 percent of the

federal poverty level (\$26,845 for a family of four) are eligible for free meals, and those from households with income between 130 percent and 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$38,202 for a family of four) receive reduced-price meals.

## Inadequate Supply of Affordable Housing

### Subsidized Housing Units



Almost 8 percent of Collin County families earn less than \$25,000 annually and are in need of affordable housing. In 2007 there were 1,657 units of subsidized housing or housing vouchers in Collin County. The fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the county was \$798 in 2006, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s “Out of Reach” report.

Subsidized housing programs in the Collin County area are administered by the cities of Farmersville, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Princeton.

In addition, the recent mortgage crisis makes it difficult for many families to pay their mortgages and stay in their homes. In February 2008, 623 homes were scheduled for foreclosure, a record high for the county.

## Homeless Children and Teens

### Homeless Children and Teens in Collin County Shelters



In the 2006-2007 school year, 840 homeless students were identified in Collin County schools. The number of homeless children and teens who received shelter at the Samaritan Inn and CITY House more than doubled between 1999 and 2007. In addition, the Collin County Homeless Coalition identified 108 homeless women and children during a census conducted in January 2007. This “point-in-time” count provides a good snapshot of the homeless population that can be identified in one night but does not reflect the full extent of homelessness in

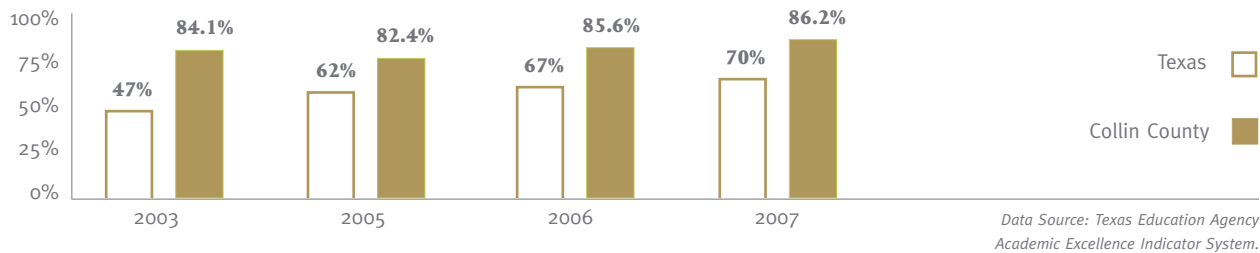
Collin County. Of the 49 children and teens identified as homeless, 40 percent were younger than 7, and nine were “unaccompanied,” meaning they were not with their parents or other relatives. These children were located in emergency shelters for runaway, homeless, abused or neglected children and youth. Half of the people interviewed cited family problems or domestic abuse as the main cause of their homelessness, and 41 percent reported job loss as a reason they were homeless.



## Students Significantly Surpass Statewide Passing Rates on TAKS Tests

### Students Passing All TAKS Tests

Percent of students in Collin County and the State of Texas



In 2007, 86.2 percent of students in Collin County public schools passed all Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests, significantly above the statewide passing rate of 70 percent.

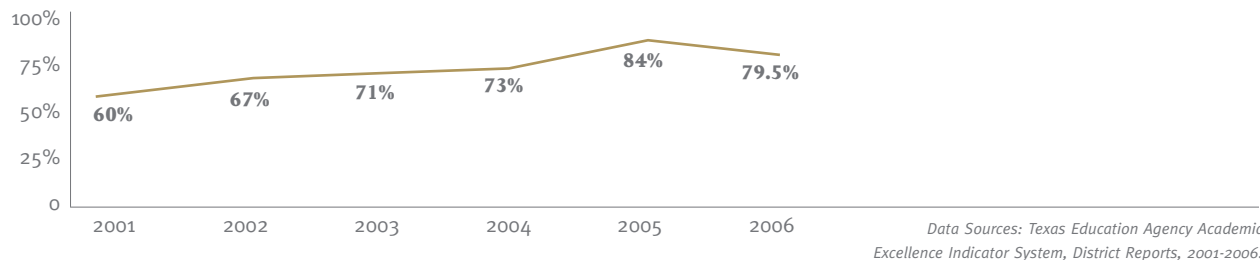
TAKS is the statewide testing program that measures academic learning and higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills. Test content reflects material that should have been mastered in the previous grade, covering basic areas such as mathematics, reading and writing.

The Student Success Initiative has specific requirements for students to be promoted from one grade to the next based on TAKS scores. Every third grader must pass the TAKS reading test to be promoted to the fourth grade. Every fifth grader must pass both reading and mathematics tests to be promoted to the sixth grade. To graduate from a Texas public high school, students in grade 11 must pass all parts of the TAKS exit-level tests.

## Majority of Students Prepared for College

### College Readiness

Recommended High School Program/Distinguished Achievement Program (RHSP/DAP) graduates



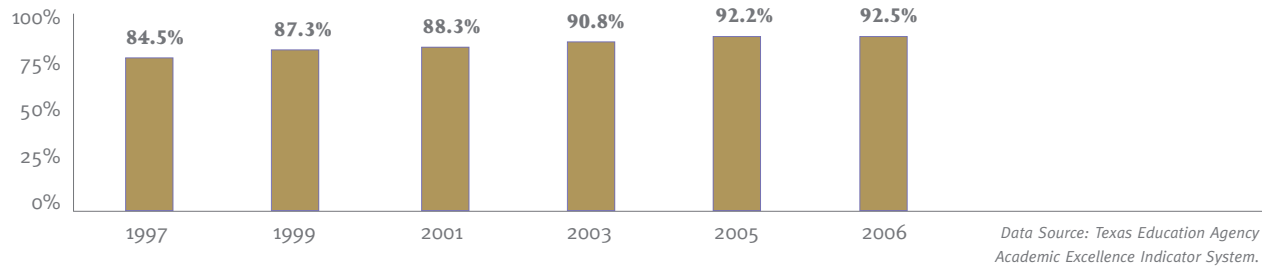
Eighty percent of the graduates of Collin County public high schools are considered to be very well prepared for college. Several indicators are used to evaluate college preparedness, including advanced course/dual enrollment completion, Recommended High School Program/Distinguished Achievement Program graduates and

SAT/ACT results. Many factors influence college grades, however, including personal motivation, prior scholastic achievement, use of time and parental expectations. Fifty-five percent of Collin County residents age 25 or older have completed a college degree, compared to 31 percent of adults statewide.

## High Rate of Seniors Graduating From Public Schools

### Senior Graduation Rate

Percent of students graduating out of their senior class



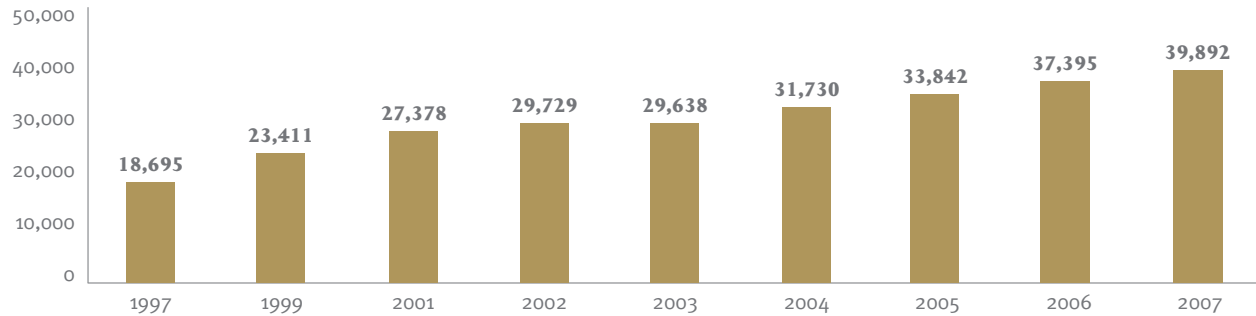
The graduation rate reflects the percent of seniors who stayed in school until they finished their senior year. This does not quantify the percent of students who dropped out prior to their senior year. It also does not

reflect the number of students who graduate in the summer or winter after their senior year. The latter has significantly increased in recent years.

## Child-Care Capacity

### Licensed Child-Care Slots

Number of state-licensed child-care slots



*Data Sources: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Care Licensing; Texas Workforce Commission.*

Collin County has the highest rate of licensed child-care slots per 1,000 children under the age of 12 in North Texas.

Collin County is home to nearly 112,000 children under the age of 12, and that number is steadily growing. The majority of these children will spend at least part of each day in child care because their parents work.

Research indicates that high-quality child care increases children’s language and literacy development as well as their mathematical and reasoning abilities.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredits early childhood programs that meet professional standards for high-quality care. In January 2008, 17 early childhood programs in Collin County had received NAEYC accreditation.



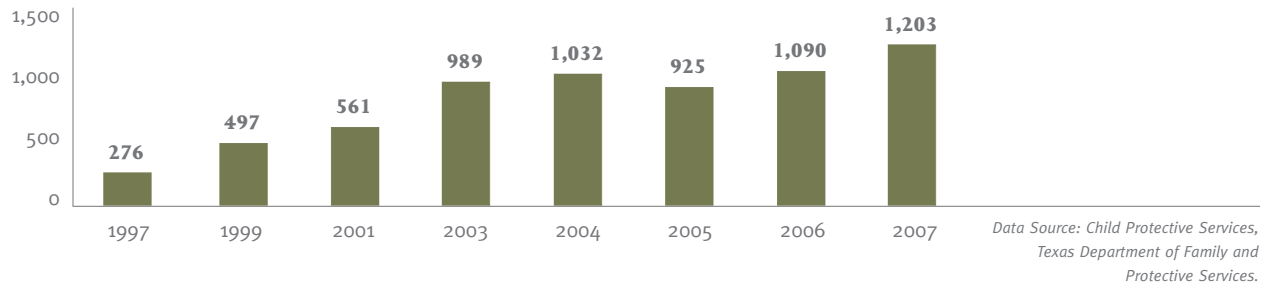






## Children Suffering From Child Abuse and Neglect

### Confirmed Victims



### Children in Conservatorship



More than 1,000 Collin County children are confirmed as victims of child abuse and neglect each year on average, and 10 children's deaths were attributed to child abuse or neglect in 2006. Child Protective Services (CPS) handled 4,450 reports of child abuse in Collin County in 2007, an increase of 84 percent since 2001. After investigation, 1,203 children were confirmed as victims. Parents, other relatives or a parent's partner account for more than 95 percent of all perpetrators in Texas CPS cases.

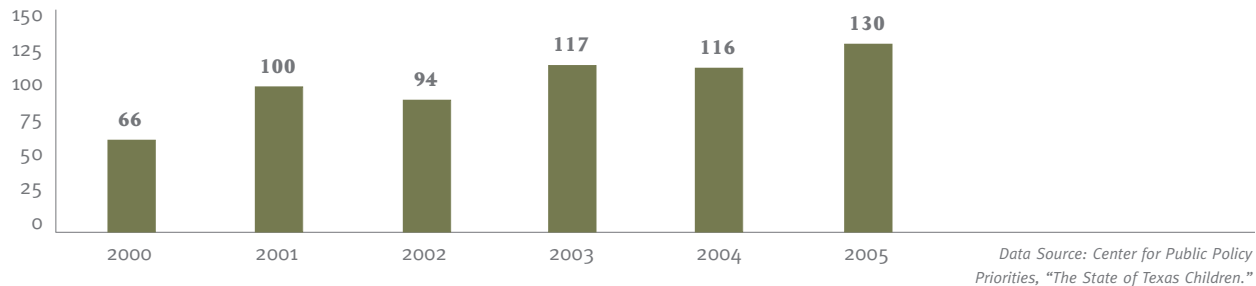
In 2007 CPS had legal responsibility for 737 Collin County children who had been removed from their homes. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services had 57 state-licensed foster or adoptive homes in Collin County in February 2008; additional homes are

available through private agencies. Due to this severe shortage of foster homes, nearly 80 percent of children in foster care must be placed outside the county, increasing the trauma to those children.

More than 70 percent of the reported child victims in North Texas were neglected or abandoned by their caregivers, 18 percent were physically abused, 8 percent were sexually abused, and 1 percent were emotionally abused. Limited funding and staffing hinder the effectiveness of CPS. Heavy caseloads and uncompetitive salaries at CPS result in high turnover, high vacancy rates and an inexperienced work force. Although child-abuse prevention works and is cost-effective, Texas makes minimal investments in prevention and early intervention.

## Children Displaced by Violence

### Number of Children Displaced by Violence



Many Collin County children regularly witness family violence and, in the worst cases, they are forced to leave their homes. Collin County domestic violence shelters served 130 children in 2005, nearly doubling the number served in 2000. This number does not include children who were displaced by violence and had to be sent to shelters and facilities outside Collin County. Police departments in the county handled 3,054 cases of family violence in 2006.

The Collin County Council on Family Violence recommends the establishment of a Family Justice Center to support both child and adult victims of violence and sexual assault. The Family Justice Center's goals would include increased safety for victims and their families; decreased expenditures for the county; increased prosecution and conviction rates in family violence cases; and the ability to respond to the increased number of adults and children seeking services.

## Increasing Rate of Children Dying in Motor Vehicle Crashes

### Motor Vehicle Crashes

Number of unintentional deaths of children



The rate of deaths of children 19 or younger due to motor vehicle crashes increased by 54 percent in Collin County between 1999 and 2004. Car crashes are the No. 1 killer of children less than 14 years old in the United States. In 2005 nearly half of the U.S. children who died while riding in motor vehicles were not wearing seat

belts or secured in a car seat. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, car seats can reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for children under 1 year old and by 54 percent for toddlers ages 1 to 4 if the seat is installed correctly.

**This report is intended to create clarity and provide strategic direction to our community as we work together to make a lasting and measurable difference in the lives of our children. Everyone in Collin County can contribute to this effort.**

We thank the advisory board members for giving so generously of their time, expertise and insights. We greatly appreciate their outstanding leadership and guidance during the preparation of this report. We are also grateful to our numerous technical advisers, who provided invaluable information on specific aspects of the quality of life of Collin County children.

## **TO VIEW THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT**

This executive summary of “Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County” provides only the major findings of our comprehensive analysis of 61 indicators covering issues of health, education, safety and economic security. By compiling data for 1995 through the most recent data available (2004/2007), this report provides a clear view of the status of children. The full report with data and information on each of the 61 indicators is available at [www.childrens.com/BeyondABC](http://www.childrens.com/BeyondABC).

## **METHODOLOGY**

The quality of life indicator model covers four issues significant to children: health, education, safety and economic security. Indicators define children’s well-being in each of these areas. The data provides comparison of statistics over time.

The indicators focus on children ranging from newborns to age 17, although some variation occurs due to the data-collection processes of various agencies. Whenever possible, statistics include all cities in Collin County. In instances where data is not readily available on a county-wide basis, the report provides Texas data and national data for comparison purposes. All data sources are listed in the full report online at [www.childrens.com/BeyondABC](http://www.childrens.com/BeyondABC).

In some cases data requested for the quality-of-life indicator was unavailable and is shown as N/A (not available). The most recent data available in March 2008 has been reported for each indicator. The most recent county data for births and deaths from the Texas Vital Statistics Bureau was for 2004 (or preliminary data for 2005 in some cases). Preliminary data is noted.





### Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Cases in people under age 20

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006
Syphilis	4	0	0	<3	<3	<3	4
Chlamydia	136	166	232	270	297	372	374
Gonorrhea	60	68	104	89	62	70	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>459</b>

### Children With Developmental Disabilities

Estimated number of children with developmental disabilities

1995	1997	2000	2001	2003	2005	2007
N/A	N/A	4,416	4,578	4,878	5,144	5,368

### Children Receiving Services for Special Healthcare Needs

Number of clients in the state's Children With Special Healthcare Needs Services Program

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006
Clients Served	39	47	41	49	21	34	36
Waiting List	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	32	32

### Students Disciplined for Possessing Alcohol, Tobacco or Controlled Substances on School Grounds

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
453	366	573	573	567	753	768

## Economic Security

### Annual Family Income

Percent of families in income range

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0-\$24,999	8.6%	6.9%	7.5%	10.9%	8.8%	7.8%
\$25,000-\$49,999	15.1%	17.4%	16.6%	18%	16.6%	15.2%
\$50,000-\$74,999	18%	17.4%	20%	18.9%	16.6%	17.5%
\$75,000-\$99,999	20.2%	19.4%	19.1%	15.6%	16.4%	16.9%
\$100,000-\$199,999	30.9%	30.5%	29.2%	28.1%	32.8%	32.5%
>\$200,000	7.3%	8.4%	7.6%	8.6%	8.9%	10.2%

### Families With All Parents Working

Percent of families where all parents are in the labor force

2001	2003	2004	2005	2006
N/A	N/A	61%	64%	68%

### Children Living in Poverty

Percent of children in families with incomes below the federal poverty level

1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006
7.5%	6.5%	7.1%	5.8%	6.6%	6.2%	7.6%	5.8%





**Licensed Child-Care Slots**

Number of state-licensed child-care slots

1997	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
18,695	23,411	27,378	29,729	29,638	31,730	33,842	37,395	39,892

**Licensed, Registered or Listed Child-Care Facilities**

Number of facilities

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Child-Care Centers	235	271	281	294	328	340
Registered Family Day Homes	235	224	267	210	226	241
Listed Homes	94	174	221	356	207	194
Licensed 24-Hour Care	19	20	31	80	128	144

**Eligible Children in Subsidized Child Care**

Number of children receiving free or reduced-price child care

1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
N/A	304	712	1,016	1,215	1,441	1,430	1,520

**Texas Rising Star Providers**

Number of child-care facilities meeting the Texas Rising Star requirements

1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
20	18	18	35	30	24	19	19

**Safety****Violent Crime Rate**

Rate of violent crimes per 100,000 people

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
258.3	219.5	200.4	212	217.9

**Property Crime Rate**

Rate of property crimes per 100,000 people

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
3,336	3,127	2,908	2,902	2,925

**Child Abuse and Neglect Reports**

Number of referrals to Child Protective Services and rate per 1,000 children

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number	N/A	N/A	2,088	2,415	2,994	3,647	3,380	4,351	4,450
Rate	N/A	N/A	19	16.6	19.4	20.7	18.2	23.3	23

**Child Abuse and Neglect: Confirmed Victims**

Number of cases confirmed by Child Protective Services and rate per 1,000 children

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number	N/A	276	497	561	989	1,032	925	1,090	1,203
Rate	N/A	2.7	4.5	3.9	6.4	5.8	5	5.8	6.2









**Children's Medical Center is a private, not-for-profit healthcare system, and is one of the largest pediatric healthcare providers in the nation.**

As the only academic healthcare system in North Texas dedicated exclusively to the comprehensive care of children from birth to age 18, Children's provides patient care ranging from simple eye exams to specialized treatment in areas such as heart disease, hematology-oncology and cystic fibrosis at facilities across the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex. Through an affiliation with the region's premier medical school - UT Southwestern Medical Center - Children's offers its patients leading-edge therapies and some of the nation's best physicians.

Children's is licensed for 411 beds, and features the only designated Level I trauma center for pediatrics in the Southwestern United States. In addition, Children's is a major pediatric kidney, liver, intestine, heart and bone marrow transplant center. Children's also offers outpatient specialty services at satellite outpatient centers across the area. The satellite centers are strategically located to offer the services patients in those areas need the most.

Children's Medical Center Legacy in Plano began its staged opening in 2008 to provide local access to the best in pediatric healthcare to families in the five-county area north of Dallas. The Children's Legacy Ambulatory Care Pavilion opened in April and now offers the largest suburban group of pediatric specialists in the nation. By the end of 2008, Children's Legacy will offer 36 beds, intensive care services, an ER and full-service diagnostics.

The Legacy Pavilion is outfitted with specialized equipment to diagnose and treat a wide variety of disorders and diseases, including lab and radiology services. The Pavilion features the Ambience™ system from Philips, an MRI machine that is one of only seven in the world. A full array of pediatric

lab services also are available onsite for patients, making the Children's Legacy campus a central location for all of a patient's needs.

Children's enjoys a stellar reputation as one of the finest pediatric healthcare providers in the United States. The Joint Commission awarded Children's an "outstanding" ranking. Both *U.S. News & World Report* and *CHILD* magazines have named Children's as one of the nation's top pediatric providers, and the *Dallas Business Journal* recognized Children's as a "Best Place to Work." Children's makes life better for the patients it sees during more than 340,000 visits each year.

Child advocacy is an important part of the Children's mission as we continually work to educate officials and the public on matters of healthcare, education, safety and security for the children of Texas. Children's is the founding member of the Coalition for North Texas Children, a nonpartisan educational alliance of national, state and local nonprofit organizations working together to solve the serious problems children face. Advocacy efforts extend into the areas of children's health insurance (Medicaid and CHIP), child abuse, early childhood education, pediatric AIDS, childhood obesity, immunizations and community health. Children's also leads the Dallas Area Safe Kids Coalition, spearheading local efforts to raise awareness about childhood injury prevention.

As a private, not-for-profit healthcare organization, Children's relies upon generous philanthropic and volunteer support as it expands to meet the needs of North Texas' fast-growing pediatric population (three times the national average). Please visit our Web site [www.childrens.com](http://www.childrens.com) to make a financial gift or to explore volunteer opportunities. With your help, we will continue our mission to make life better for children.







