



**INCLUDING RECENT
CHILD CARE SECTOR DATA
From
FAMILYCONNECTIONS**

**AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY
CHILD MALTREATMENT
PREVENTION**

**UPDATED NEEDS ASSESSMENT
& RESOURCES SCAN**

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**TRAVIS COUNTY
CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION
UPDATED NEEDS ASSESSMENT
& RESOURCES SCAN**

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Travis County, Texas, has long relished its reputation as an upscale place to live, a technologically advanced place to work and a great place to raise children, but this rosy image no longer applies (if it ever did) community-wide. In fact, Travis County has a much darker side that threatens the well-being and survival of increasing numbers of its youngest and most vulnerable residents, particularly children in economically disadvantaged, minority and other families experiencing significant social stress.

Needs Assessment

Residents of Travis County were shocked and dismayed to discover the number of confirmed cases of child maltreatment in Travis County escalated some 24.2 percent between 2002 and 2003; they have been further rocked by evidence that 2003 was unfortunately no anomaly. In fact, the rate of increase in

the number of confirmed child maltreatment victims between 2002 and 2005 was nearly identical, with some 1,971 children confirmed as abused or neglected.

In March 2005, for example, the Austin Children's Shelter, which serves youngsters removed from their homes as a result of life-threatening abuse or neglect, turned away 60 children at very high risk of maltreatment because it lacked capacity.

Other local child and family service providers routinely face similar difficult service allocation decisions as increasing evidence of substantial family deterioration strain current resources. The County's foster care system is among those most stretched and stressed, although children removed from their homes often have no other safety net to assure their survival or promote their well-being.

Travis County Child Maltreatment, 2005. According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' (DFPS) 2005 *Data Book*, Travis County has a child population of some 205,500. Between January 1 and December 31, some 9,545 allegations of child maltreatment were logged by the Department, and 5,869 investigations were completed, resulted in 1,294 confirmations involving 1,971 victims of child abuse and neglect in the period, a rate of 9.6 per thousand youngsters countywide.

Some 453 of these children were removed from their homes in the year, becoming part of the cohort of 1,598 Travis County children in care during the period, including 1,563 children in substitute care, of which 1,297 were in foster homes.

Six Travis County children died in 2005 as a result of the abuse and/or neglect to which they were subjected.

Many of these children who experienced abuse and/or neglect were very young. As Table 1 shows, in 2002, the most recent year for which age-specific data for Travis County is available, over 40% of the children confirmed as maltreated were 3 years old or younger, including 18% who were less than 12 months of age.

Table 1: Age of Confirmed Child Abuse/Neglect Victims in Travis County, 1999 & 2002				
Age	1999		2002	
Under 1	157	12%	266	18%
1-3 Years	226	18%	343	23%
4-6 Years	265	21%	288	20%
7-9 Years	239	19%	241	16%
10-12 Years	185	15%	153	10%
13-17 Years	198	16%	185	13%
Total	1,270		1476	

Root causes of child maltreatment. In examining root causes of the current child maltreatment and foster care epidemic in Travis County, local focus has increasingly turned to the home environments into which many Austin-area

children are born and in which they are thereafter raised, with a growing recognition that the presence of numerous, specific risk factors is highly correlated with rates of confirmed child maltreatment, removal from the home and placement in foster care and with other substitute caregivers. All evidence locally points to parental relationship instability (particularly the presence of family violence) and/or to the stresses of single parenthood and/or teen parenthood, as well as family poverty and parental unemployment as closely tied to family environments in which the risks of child abuse and/or neglect are unacceptably high. In addition, in Travis County, as elsewhere in Texas, African-American parents are more often involved as perpetrators of abuse and neglect than parents of other racial or ethnic backgrounds, although rates are also disproportionately high among Hispanics as well.

A geographic concentration. Although child maltreatment in Travis County occurs within all racial and ethnic groups, all neighborhoods and communities and within every economic strata, abuse and neglect of the county's youngest residents are nevertheless most highly concentrated in a relatively small geographic area within the county's central city of Austin. This area comprises five zip codes¹ that year after year have tended to have the largest number of substantiated child abuse reports. In 2003 – the most recent year for which

¹ The six Austin zip codes with the greatest number of substantiated child abuse incidents since 2000 are (in order): 78702, 78745, 48444, 78741, 78721 and 78723.

maltreatment data disaggregated by zip code is accessible -- some 56.3 percent of Travis County's victims of substantiated child abuse six years old or younger lived in one of these five zip codes.

Local correlates of child maltreatment. In the elementary schools within these zip codes, more than 85 percent of students are economically disadvantaged; not surprisingly poverty rates in these areas range from 26.9 to 54.7 percent (U.S. Census, 2000). Furthermore, according to the Texas Department of Health (2000), almost one-fifth of pregnant women in Travis County receive inadequate prenatal care (Community Action Network Issues Report: Maternal Health, 2004) – a disproportionate percentage of these women live in Any Baby Can's Healthy and Fair Start (HFS) service area, many of them delivering infants who have not had the healthy start in life to which they are entitled.

Disproportionality deconstructed. Of the children in foster care in Travis County in 2004, some 32.8% were non-Hispanic Caucasian; 29.0% were African American; 36.4% were Hispanic; 0.3% were Asian; 0.3% were Native American, and 1.1% were of other racial or ethnic backgrounds. Many of these proportions represent a disparity when compared to the proportion of residents by race and ethnicity countywide.

This disparity is evident in Table 2 on the following page.

Table 2: Disparity between proportion of ethnic groups in the overall population and the proportion of children in these ethnic groups in foster care

Ethnic Population	2003 Proportion in Travis County, Texas	2004 Proportion of Children in Foster Care in Travis County, Texas
Non-Hispanic Caucasian	54.3%	32.8%
Non-Hispanic African American	8.4%	29.0%
Hispanic	31.5%	36.4%
Asian	5.1%	0.3%
Native American	.01%	0.3%
Other	.7%	0.3%

Sources: 2003 American Community Survey, US Bureau of the Census; Texas Department of Family & Regulatory Services 2004 Data Book

As the table demonstrates, African American, Hispanic and Native American children are overrepresented in the foster care system of Travis County, while non-Hispanic Caucasian (Anglo) and Asian children and those of “other” races are underrepresented. The table also shows that the most significant disproportion occurs locally among African American children, where their representation in foster care is more than three-and-a-half-times African Americans’ proportion in the population. The disparity between non-Hispanic Caucasians (White) and non-Hispanic African Americans (Black) is particularly striking, with the White disparity between population proportion and foster care proportion showing a 21.5% under representation, and the Black disparity showing a 20.6% over representation.

Although the overrepresentation of Hispanic children in the local foster care system is not as dramatic, it is nevertheless high enough to be of concern to the community, particularly since the Hispanic population is the fastest growing in Travis County and an increasing proportion of infants born here annually are born to Hispanic mothers who are first-generation US residents.

An examination of 2000 U.S. Census data provides additional information about the family patterns of these subgroups of Travis County parents, including the head of household arrangements that contribute to the stress for families and their young children.

Table 3: Head of household patterns for Travis County families

Families	Married couple with own children < 18 years old	Single father with own children <18 years old	Single mother with own children <18 years old	Total
White	47,103 76.9%	3,438 5.6%	10,710 17.5%	61,251 100%
African-American	4,563 45.3%	763 7.6%	4,784 47.4%	10,083 100%
Hispanic	19,980 61.8%	2,207 6.8%	10,106 31.4%	32,293 100%
TOTAL	71,574 69.1%	6,408 6.2%	25,600 24.7%	103,582 100%

Source: 2000 US Census for Travis County, US Bureau of the Census

As illustrated, more than 75% of Travis County's White families and 61.8% of its Hispanic families with children younger than 18 were headed by a married

couple in 2000, but fewer than half of the county’s African-American families with children younger than 18 lived in such a family arrangement that year. Overall in Travis County, nearly 70% of families with children are headed by a two parents, with the remaining 30% headed by either a single mother (approximately 25%) or a single father (approximately 6%).

This disparity is readily apparent in other measures of child disadvantage associated with elevated risk of child maltreatment. For instance, as Table 4 shows, some 56% of all African Americans infants, 35.6% of Hispanics infants and 13% of non-Hispanic White infants in Travis County start life in families where the mother is not married.

Table 4: Births in Travis County by Marital Status & Race, 1993-2003

	Married	Not Married	Unknown	All Mothers
Race	Number	Number	Number	Number
White	52,427	7,835	45	60,307
Black	6,404	8,203	6	14,613
Hispanic	37,861	20,045	30	57,936
Other	6,787	505	16	7,308
All Races	103,479	36,588	97	140,164

Historical trends for minority status and martial status in Travis County viewed together provide additional information upon which to base future prevention strategies. Between 1993 and 2004, for example, statistics from the Texas

Department of State Health Services shows the number of local children born to single women increased 170%, totaling 4,065 infants in the final year of the period. Increases during the 12-year period occurred across all age groups and races, but the greatest spikes were documented in the African-American and Hispanic populations. Among African Americans, the number of births to single mothers increased 180% in the period, while among Hispanics, the number increased 263%. In 1993 some 14.3% of infants in Travis County were born to single mothers; but by 2003, this proportion had nearly doubled, reaching 28%.

These trends are concerning, not only in terms of the evident ethnic/racial disparities they reveal and such disparities' demonstrated associations with child maltreatment and risk of children's removal from their homes, but also in terms of other well-known economic, social and psychological stressors on single parents and the disadvantageous child outcomes convincingly linked to single parenthood. As the 2003 Roundtable Report of the African American Health Marriage Initiative (AAHMI) noted: *All things being equal, children who grow up in healthy, married two-parent families do better on a host of outcomes than those who do not. Further, many social problems affecting children, families and communities could be prevented if more children grew up in healthy, married families* (p.1). These local findings are consistent with ethnic and racial patterns for marriage and single parenting reported by a range of studies (Brody, 2002; Carson & McLanahan,

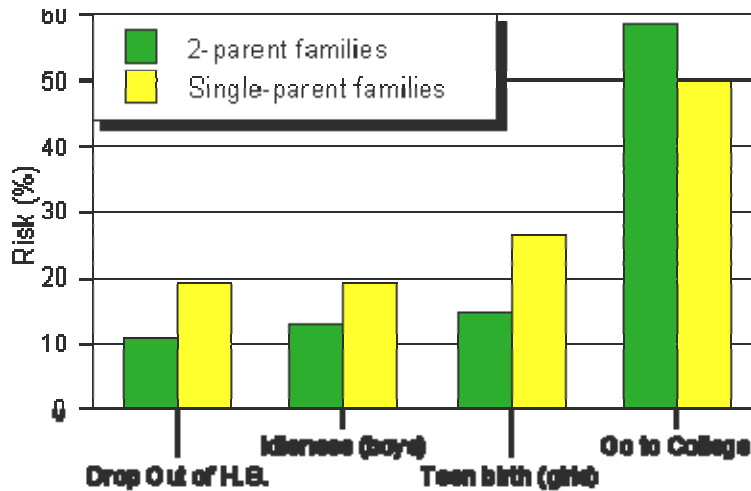
2002; Bumpass & Lu, 1998; Garfinkel, McLanahan & Hanson, 1998; Edin, 1997; Furstenberg & Harris, 1992; Mare & Winship, 1991) throughout the U.S. over the past 15 years.

The AAHMI further reports: Studies show that while 35% of Americans between the age of 24 and 34 have never been married, that percentage increases to 54% among African Americans in the same age group. Additionally, married couples head 76% of American families, while African American couples head only 47.9% of American families. While the overall rate for single parent households in America has increased for all children, it is especially alarming among African Americans. Between 1960 and 1995, the number of African American children with two married parents dropped from 75% to 33%. At this moment, 69% of African American births are to single mothers, as compared to 33% nationally.

More than a decade ago, McLanahan and Sandefur (1994) provided estimates of the impacts of single parenting on children by comparing the relationship of family structures to youngsters' likelihood of achieving success in school, in the workplace, and in avoiding teen parenthood.

Their results appear in Figure 1 on the next page.

Figure 1: Relationship of Family Structure to Child Future



Results such as these raise concern locally because of the significant numbers of children in Travis County being raised in single parent homes. In addition to those born to single mothers, each year more than 1,500 Travis County children experience a parental divorce; several hundred more experience the death of a parent or other primary caretaker, such as a custodial grandparent.

As considerable research² has shown, children whose parents divorce are more likely to leave home because of friction, to cohabit, and to have a child outside marriage than are those whose parents do not divorce. Other research³ has confirmed the intergenerational transmission of divorce risk, particularly for

² Kathleen E.; Chase-Lansdale, P. Lindsay. August 1995. Parental divorce in childhood and demographic outcomes in young adulthood. *Demography*, 32: 299-318

³ Diekmann, A. & Engelhardt, H. 1995. *Sex-specific effects in the intergenerational transmission of divorce risks*. *Soziologie*, Vol. 24, No. 3, Jun 1995. 215-28 pp. Stuttgart, Germany. In Ger. with sum. in Eng.

sons of divorced couples. Such evidence supports a conclusion that unhealthy marriages put into play forces that reverberate across decades, ultimately contributing to new waves unfavorable social consequences for a widening number of families and neighborhoods in Austin.

In fact, single parenthood is recognized as conferring lasting disadvantage from the prenatal period onward, through childhood and adolescence (Ventura & Bachrach, 2000; Letiecq, Anderson & Koblinsky, 1998; Crinic et al., 1983): Recent research has documented a strong relationship between marriage, responsible maternal prenatal health behaviors, and positive birth outcomes, as well as longer-term parenting behaviors. The Fragile Families Project, for example, reported that married mothers are more likely to secure first trimester prenatal care, and less likely to report having consumed alcohol, smoked and used drugs during pregnancy. This project (for which Travis County served as one of the initial seven demonstration sites) also found that married mothers are less likely to have a low birth weight baby (8%) than are unmarried mothers (14%). As this research noted, however, such results should not be interpreted as meaning that marriage *causes* better health behavior and pregnancy outcomes, even though marriage was found to be significantly associated with these favorable results (p. 2).

As Table 6 shows, the likelihood of Austin-area children being born into a two-parent family been adversely influenced by declining rates of marriage in Texas.

Table 5: Rates of Marriage in Texas, 1975 -2003

YEAR	NUMBER	RATE*
1975	153,154	12.0
1985	201,632	12.3
1995	177,581	9.5
2000	182,327	9.0
2003	178,751	8.1

Source: Texas Department of Health Vital Statistics

In 2003 (the most recent year for which statewide figures are available), the Texas marriage rate reached a modern low of 8.1 per 1,000 adults – which included some 7,298 marriages in Travis County. The statewide divorce rate in the period was almost half of the marriage rate, at 3.8 per 1,000 adults, with some 3,020 divorces in Travis County in the period. According to Fragan and Rector (2000), the Texas rate of marital dissolution is not uncommon: half of all children in the US born to parents who are married will experience a parental divorce before they turn 18, totaling some 1 million or more affected children annually.

The deleterious impacts of divorce on children’s emotional, social and emotional development and financial status are now as well or better

documented as the effects of single parenthood on infant outcomes (Amato, 1996; Amato & Booth, 1997; Shaw, 1993; Buchanan, 1992; Needle, Su & Doherty, 1990; Zaslow, 1989, 1988; Heatherington & Anderson, 1988; Block, 1986; Hetherington, Cox & Cox, 1985; Warshak & Santrock, 1983). Fragan and Rector (2000), for example, enumerate the following broad and damaging consequences:

- Children whose parents have divorced are increasingly the victims of abuse. They exhibit more health, behavioral, and emotional problems, are involved more frequently in crime and drug abuse, and have higher rates of suicide and adolescent pregnancy (Harris, 1998; Teachman et al., 1966).
- Children of divorced parents perform more poorly in reading, spelling, and math. They also are more likely to repeat a grade and to have higher drop-out rates and lower rates of college graduation (Flouri & Buchanan, 2003).
- Families with children that were not poor before a divorce see their income drop as much as 50 percent after a divorce. Almost 50 percent of the parents with children that are going through a divorce move into poverty after the divorce (Seltzer, 1998).
- Children's and parents' connections to faith-based organizations (including churches, synagogues and mosques), which has been linked to better health, longer marriages, and better family life, decrease after parents divorce.

As a result of fewer marriages, high rates of divorce in families with children, and high rates of births to unmarried women, the social and economic fabric of life in Travis County is unraveling in more families every year, a higher proportion of which are either African American or Hispanic. These disparities are believed associated with barriers to the formation and strengthening of Black and Hispanic families in this community, including but not limited to historic patterns of discrimination and prejudice that have resulted in geographic and social isolation and reduced academic and economic opportunity for minority groups; the historic establishment and enforcement of federal, state and local welfare, housing and tax policies that served as obstacles to forming stable low-income, 2-parent families; the continuing impacts of violence, criminal behavior, drug use, AIDS and gang participation in local low-income neighborhoods that result in a lowered availability of stable male partners for females (particularly Black females); changes in social mores and approaches to marriage that support higher rates of cohabitation (without the benefit of marriage) in all economic and social strata and in all racial/ethnic subpopulations; and, changes in social mores and social acceptance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy and giving birth that have reduced or eliminated the stigma formerly associated with having a child outside of marriage (Kirby,

2001; Wertheimer, Jager & Moore, 2000; Duncan & Hoffman, 1999; Maynard, 1997).

Furthermore, although progress is obviously being made in reducing the number of single teens giving birth in Travis County and elsewhere in the state and nation, Sawhill (2001) has noted such births remain problematic, in no small part because teen parents have not developed many of the social and emotional strengths they need to guide and nurture a young child's development or the economic resources to meet a young child's basic needs.

The Aftermath of Katrina. Families and neighborhoods are also vulnerable to external threats, including natural disasters. In 2005, for instance, many highly stressed families re-located to Austin from Louisiana and other areas of the Gulf coast in the days, weeks and months following the devastation created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened the Austin Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) on East Rundberg Lane on September 27, providing services to 9,186 victims of the two hurricanes before closing its doors on January 11, 2006. The American Red Cross of Central Texas opened approximately 10,000 financial assistance cases for hurricane victims in this period. A significant number of the families receiving federal and Red Cross aid had young children with significant medical, educational and emotional needs

– and most of them were already economically disadvantaged well before Katrina and Rita came ashore. As of June 1, 2006, several hundred of these hurricane displaced families with children – a disproportionate proportion of whom are African American -- remained in Austin, adding to the numbers here already needing family strengthening services.

Summary: There is ample evidence that Travis County is home to many children at risk of child maltreatment whose parents will benefit from the availability of adequate and accessible services and resources directed toward increasing their resilience factors and protective characteristics and strengthening their ability to meet their children’s needs.

CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION RESOURCES UPDATE

In addition to substantial levels of child abuse maltreatment prevention need, Travis County also has a number of organizations ready, willing and able to deliver child abuse and neglect prevention programming – including many who are already delivering programs, projects and services that strengthen families in ways strongly documented to reduce child maltreatment risk. These include:

The "Blue Ribbon" Public Awareness Campaign -- This Travis County-wide campaign is implemented each April during National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Austin by a organizations collaborating under the auspices of the Children's Services Network, a coalition of providers which oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project, the CB CAP-funded OUR VOICES project and the US Administration of Children and Families-funded CRADLES project.

Any Baby Can Child and Family Resource Center (ABC) – ABC provides family strengthening and parent resiliency and protective factor development services through its Texas Families, Together and Safe-funded Healthy & Fair Start program, Parent Education Classes, Family Literacy and ESL Classes, No Solo Estes counseling, Title V Population Program for Teen Parents (Texas DSHS), and Early Childhood Intervention program. ABC created, convenes and manages the Children's Services Network, a coalition of providers which

oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project, the CB CAP-funded OUR VOICES project and the US Administration of Children and Families-funded CRADLES project.

FamilyConnections – FC provides family strengthening services through its Parent Education Classes, Parents of Newborns Project, Our Voices (CB CAP program); federally-funded HHS Child Abuse Prevention Act program under the Abandoned Infants Assistance division known as CRADLES, in collaboration with Any Baby Can; Family Place Library; and Child Care Resource & Referral Services. In addition it provides services to licensed child care providers designed to strengthen family relationships and prevent the maltreatment of children served in these settings. FC collaborates in the Children’s Services Network, Children’s Services Network, a coalition of providers which oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project, the DFPS-funded Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) OUR VOICES project and the US HHS Administration of Children and Families-funded Coalition to Reduce Abandonment and Deliver Local Education & Supports (CRADLES) project.

African-American Family Support Conference– This event occurs annually on the two days following Thanksgiving, within the five zip codes where child maltreatment risk is highest. It provides child maltreatment agencies and

organizations with an opportunity to present findings of recent projects serving African American families, as well as access to presentations updating local information about African American adults, children and families in Austin.

ARC of the Capital Area – The ARC provides support, information, referral, and case management services to children and adults with disabilities, including services and supports that strengthen families and reduce the risk of child maltreatment for youngsters with mental or physical disabilities.

Austin Child Guidance Clinic– ACGC delivers clinical mental health services for families and children with mental or emotional issues affecting child development and child rearing that strengthen families and protect children from maltreatment.

Austin Learning Academy – ALA provides teen parent education; parent home visiting programming and parent education services directed at maltreatment prevention and family strengthening.

Austin Police Department (APD) – APD is an active partner in identifying families at risk of child maltreatment and other violence. The Department collaborates in the Children’s Services Network, a coalition of providers that oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project under implementation by ABC known as “Healthy & Fair Start,” the CB CAP-funded

OUR VOICES project and the US Administration of Children and Families-funded CRADLES project.

Austin/Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Services –

A/TCMHMR's Child & Family Services' Family Support Cooperative provides prevention-oriented education and support for parents and families of children with mental health issues in a monthly meeting. The services strengthen families' abilities to manage difficult child behaviors in a family and community context.

Austin/Travis County Youth Advocate Program (known as the Youth Advocate Program, Inc. nationally) -- ATCYAP subcontracts with other organizations to provide culturally competent childcare services that support parents' participation in family strengthening experiences. HATCYAP collaborates in the Children's Services Network, a coalition of providers that oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project, the CB CAP-funded OUR VOICES project and the US Administration of Children and Families-funded CRADLES project.

Austin/Travis County Crime Victims' Task Force – A body convened by the Travis County District Attorney's Office, this Task Force supports all local efforts to strengthen families and reduce family violence, particularly child maltreatment and domestic violence.

Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas— This body provides economic supports for struggling families, including rent/utility assistance for families in crisis. The Coalition collaborates in the Children’s Services Network, which oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project at ABC.

Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) Austin Chapter -- Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) exists to create a safer environment for abused children. The organization collaborates in child maltreatment prevention efforts.

Casey Family Programs (CFP)-Austin – Casey Family Programs’ mission is to provide and improve—and ultimately to prevent the need for—foster care. The local office of a Seattle-based national operating foundation, CFP has served children, youth, and families in the child welfare system since 1966. It collaborates with foster, kinship, and adoptive parents to provide safe, loving homes for youth in direct care and with counties, states, and native tribes to improve services and outcomes for the more than 500,000 young people in out-of-home care across the U.S. CFP has recently become a member of the Children’s Services Network.

Center for Child Protection – The Center’s primary focus is reducing the trauma to children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases; however it also collaborates in child maltreatment prevention work, including public education campaigns.

Children’s Advocacy Center – The Center collaborates with other organizations to distribute parenting information promoting injury prevention awareness and child safe practices to the Travis County community.

City of Austin Early Education and Care Division– The City of Austin provides financial supports and administrative oversights to many programs designed to strengthen the families who live within its boundaries, including matching funds for existing Texas Families, Together and Safe local programming at ABC. The City sponsors and staff support for the community’s Child Care Council, which plans and evaluates the provision of care the young children while their parents work.

City of Austin Women Infants and Children (WIC) Clinics - WIC clinics provide nutritional supports for women and young children and afford family strengthening projects and programs a venue for recruiting and screening participants to family strengthening programming of all types community-wide.

Communities In Schools – CIS-Austin delivers a range of family strengthening programs including Parents as Teachers (PAT), HIPPI, XY Zone adolescent male project promoting healthy relationship choices; Youth and Family Assessment Center (county-funded family child mental health system of care)

Family Forward (formerly Parent Anonymous) – The FF Austin office serves as the statewide headquarters for Family Forward. In addition to administrative

oversight for the agency, this office also provides significant direct service within Travis County, including Middle Way Family Education Program, YouthSolution, Circle of Parents, and Anger Management. The Austin staff also works extensively with children and their families in local schools to strengthen them.

Foundation Communities Learning Centers – FC’s Centers provide classes and resources for children and adults that strengthen families, promote acquisition of parenting knowledge and skills, improve financial decisions, and increase family self-sufficiency while participants get to know their neighbors and build a stronger community.

Glimmer of Hope Foundation-Austin Program – The Foundation provided funds to Austin organizations to strengthen and support displaced Katrina families with children. Those organizations are True Light, Theatre Action Project, Latina Mami, Assistance League, Communities in Schools, 4-H Capital Area, Frameworks and Family Link.

LifeWorks – LifeWorks provides Teen Parent Services to expectant/parenting teens in Austin/Travis County to encourage teens to stay in school and to prevent subsequent pregnancies. Case management services are provided to help teens access resources in order to stay in school and to teach positive parenting skills. Case managers work with teen parents to develop individual plans for attaining

these goals by identifying areas in which the teen is in need of additional support. Staff assist with and advocate for clients' needs, including housing, child care, employment, health care, and basic needs, such as food, utilities, clothes, etc. Teen parent group services are offered primarily in area high schools in order to promote and teach positive parenting skills. Teens are provided parenting information on topics such as infant/child growth and development, discipline and guidance, budgeting, and many other relevant topics. Program staff are actively involved in the community in order to provide current information and referrals to participants.

Marywood Children & Family Services – Marywood serves pregnant and parenting women in the Austin community, providing emotional support, practical advice and concrete education as well as residential options. After a merger with Lifeline in 2005, the organization expanded its outreach to pregnant women in the community, especially in the Hispanic community, through its Lifeline bilingual staff.

Mind the Gap 4 Kids – MTG4K works on social marketing campaigns focused on actively involving families and others in Travis County to prevent child abuse. MTG4K collaborates in the Children's Services Network, a coalition of providers that oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project, the

CB CAP-funded OUR VOICES project and the US Administration of Children and Families-funded CRADLES project.

SafePlace - SafePlace exists to end sexual and domestic violence and abuse. It helps those hurt by this violence to heal and empower themselves and provides prevention, intervention, education, and advocacy so that women, children, and men can lead safe and healthy lives.

Success By 6 (Capital Area United Way) – A program of Capital Area United Way, SB6 focuses on strengthening families to reduce risk of academic failure in the early grades. The program is the fiscal agent for the community's second Early Learning Opportunity Act program through mid-2006, when the 17-month grant concludes. Funds from ELOA have provided services to strengthen families through child care, elementary-school based and community based programs and home visiting and early literacy and related play group activities. SB6 collaborates in the Children's Services Network, a coalition of providers that oversees the current Texas Families, Together and Safe project, the CB CAP-funded OUR VOICES project and the US Administration of Children and Families-funded CRADLES project.

Saheli-- Provides assistance to Asian families seeking help in preventing domestic violence and child maltreatment.

Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Prevention Project – The local Shaken Baby Syndrome Coalition provides educational seminars and materials to prevention and intervention professionals, childcare providers, teenage babysitters and parents in Travis County to increase SBS awareness, maximize resources and reduce services duplication. It partners with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service to conduct baby-sitter-training classes to teenagers ages 12-15. Between 100-200 middle school students in the area complete this course annually.

Southwest Key - Southwest Key assists parents improve the quality and circumstances of life for themselves, their children and future generations. Its mission is to advocate for youth and families and to impact children, youth, and their families by empowering them to succeed.

The Austin Academy – The Academy provides GED, job training, and subsidized childcare for single mothers who are moving from TANF to work, in order to strengthen them economically and socially.

Travis County Healthy Families –Travis County Healthy Families (TCHF) is a voluntary, home-visiting program for first time mothers and their families. As a primary prevention program, it is designed to promote healthy parent-child relationships, support appropriate child development, prevent child abuse, and enhance family functioning. TCHF collaborates in the Children’s Services Network, a coalition of providers that oversees the current Texas Families,

Together and Safe project, the CB CAP-funded OUR VOICES project and the US Administration of Children and Families-funded CRADLES project.

True Light Child Development Center Community Awareness Campaign –

This African American-centric faith based child care provider sponsors the Austin Community Awareness Day in East Austin 78721 each year. The campaign provides service providers that deliver family strengthening services with access both to African American families and to elected officials interested in child maltreatment prevention services.

**ADDENDUM:
THE STATUS OF CHILD CARE PROVISION
AND THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THE CHILD CARE SECTOR
FOR CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION
IN AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY, 2006**

Forward

This addendum is appended to the Austin/Travis County (Texas) Updated Assessment of Child Maltreatment Prevention of the Children's Services Network to expand consideration of local venues where evidence-based child maltreatment prevention services can be delivered. Mounting evidence confirms the key role child care providers – both center and home-based – can play in planning, delivering and evaluation child maltreatment prevention efforts.

This assessment summarizes the most recent data available in Travis County about this community's existing child care sector its current potential as a child maltreatment prevention resource, an assessment integral to FamilyConnections' Childcare Austin Maltreatment Prevention Services (Family CAMPS) approach.

Sources of Assessment Data

Each year since 2004, FamilyConnections has participated in the development and implementation of an assessment of the child care sector in Austin/Travis County. This assessment is funded by the City of Austin Office of Early Care and Education, and overseen by the Austin/Travis County Child Care Council, on which FamilyConnections is represented by two Council members. The City of Austin considers regular assessments to be integral to its longstanding and ongoing child care quality improvement initiative in which it makes a substantial investment each year. For example, in 2006, the City's investment in child care quality totaled \$1.6 million.

In 2003, this child care assessment was conducted by the evaluation team of Aletha Huston, Ph.D., Holly C. VanScoy, Ph.D. and Catherine Malerba, MA, with administrative support from the local Fund for Child Care Excellence. In 2005, this assessment was completed under the auspices of Austin-based FamilyConnections, supported by its contract with the City of Austin by Dr. Holly VanScoy, with administrative support from Academic Research Associates.

This addendum is based on data collected and analyzed in these 2004 and 2005 Austin/Travis County Child Care reports.

Assessment Findings

Number and capacity of child care providers. A wide range of child care options are available to parents and other caregivers in Travis County, and a significant number of them make use of these services, including care from regulated providers in center- and home-based programs, as well as care offered by a range of individuals falling outside the regulated continuum. In 2005, there were some 881 child care providers in Travis County listed with, registered or licensed by the Texas DFPS Child Care Licensing Division. Within these - all of them known to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) - there was capacity to care for almost 40,000 children.

The two most recent child care assessments found this formal capacity is distributed as follows across provider types, with some variations over time as care providers enter and leave the formal systems of licensing, registration or listing:

- Listed providers operate *Listed Family Homes (LH)*: Individuals required by law to be listed with DFPS include all who are paid to provide regular child care (at least four hours per day, three or more days a week, for more than nine consecutive weeks) in their own homes for one to three unrelated children. A listed home is not “regulated” in a conventional sense, but operating even a very small child care business for pay in Texas without being listed is not legal.

In 2005, there were 211 listed family homes in Travis County, with a combined capacity to serve 630 children.

- Registered providers operate *Registered Child Care Home (RCCH)*: These child care facilities provide care in a caregiver's home for up to six children under age 14. RCCHs may also serve up to six additional school-age children. The number of children allowed to be served by a RCCH is determined by their ages. No more than 12 children can be in care at any time, including children of the caregiver younger than 14.

In 2005, there were 219 registered child care homes in Travis County, with a capacity to serve 2,538 children.

- Licensed providers operate Child Care Homes (LCCH) and Child Care Centers (LCCC). Licensed Child Care Homes provide care for less than 24 hours per day for 7-12 children under 14 years old. Licensed Child Care Centers provide care for 13 or more children under 14 years old for less than 24 hours per day.

In 2005, there were 423 Licensed Child Care Centers in the county with a capacity to serve 36,346 children.

In 2005, there were 28 Licensed Child Care Homes in Travis County, with a capacity to serve 336 children.

The combined capacity of all of these provider types in 2005 was **39,850** children.

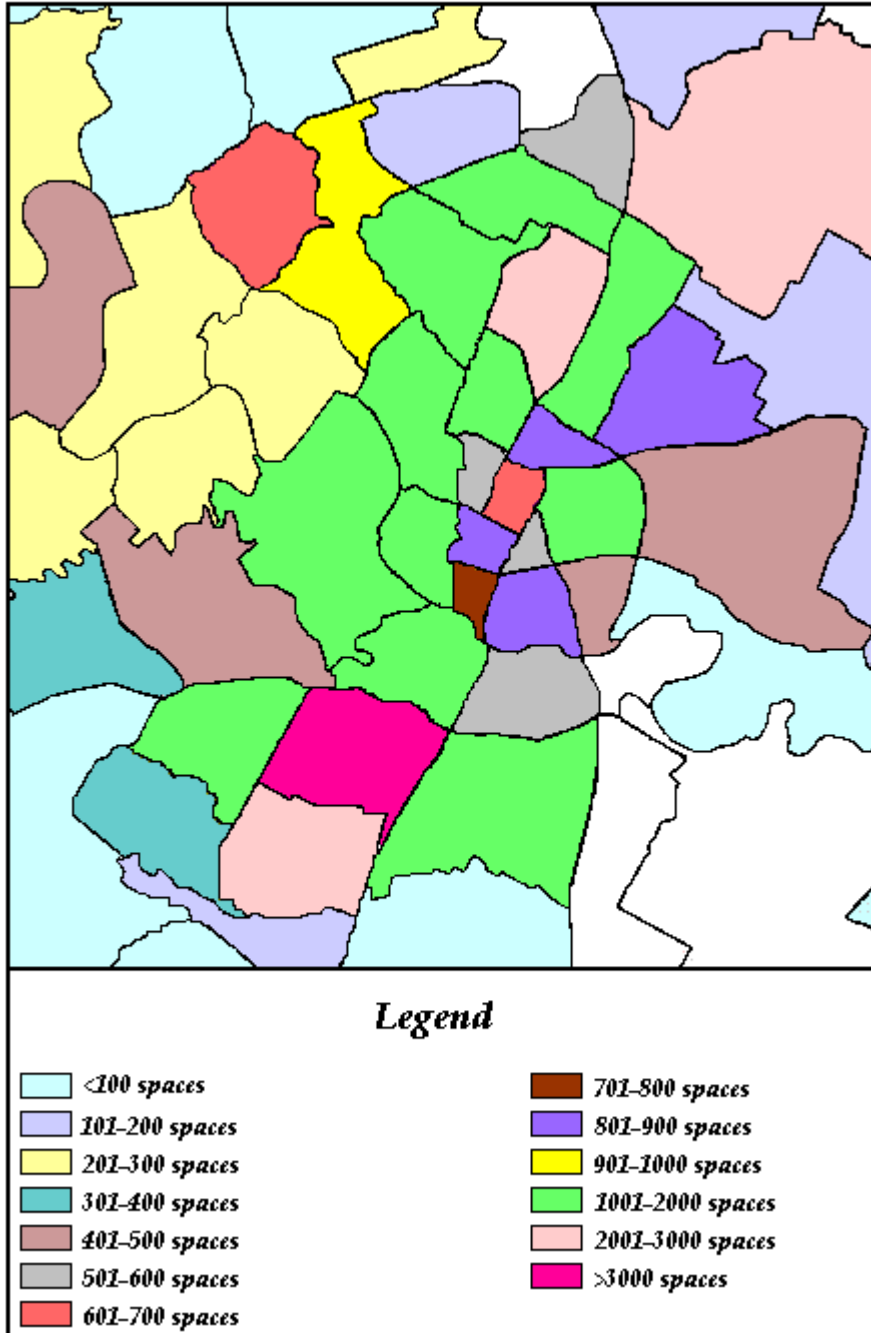
Geographic distribution of centers. Child care centers are distributed county-wide. Some have capacity to serve fewer than 100 children, others have capacity to serve more than 3,000. In the table below showing capacity by zips, areas that consistently have the highest rates of substantiated child maltreatment are highlighted.⁴ A map is provided on the following page summarizing this data.

Travis County Zip Codes by Total Child Care Capacity, 2005

Total Capacity	Zip Codes
<100 spaces	78612, 78613, 78641, 78619, 78620, 78725, 78737, 78747
101 – 200 spaces	78729, 78669, 78664, 78652, 78691, 78653, 78712
201 – 300 spaces	78732, 78733, 78730, 78717, 78738, 78645
301- 400 spaces	78739, 78736
401 – 500 spaces	78724, 78735, 78734, 78721
501 – 600 spaces	78722, 78756, 78728, 78741
601 – 700 spaces	78751, 78726
701- 800 spaces	78701
801 – 900 spaces	78754, 78752, 78705, 78702
901 – 1000 spaces	78750
1001 – 2000 spaces	78744, 78727, 78703, 78753, 78746, 78731, 78757, 78759, 78704, 78723, 78749
2001 – 3000 spaces	78748, 78758, 78660
> 3000 spaces	78745

⁴ The six Austin zip codes with the greatest number of substantiated child abuse incidents since 2000 are (in order): 78702, 78745, 48444, 78741, 78721 and 78723.

Travis Child Care Capacity by Zip Code 2005



As the table and chart illustrate, child care capacity is good to excellent in the neighborhoods of Travis County where the risk of child maltreatment appears to be the highest. Given consistent concerns with the disproportionality of child maltreatment substantiation and the proportions of minority children removed from Travis County African American homes, it is helpful to note that child care capacity is generally good to excellent in the zip codes where African Americans (and Hispanics) are more highly concentrated, including historic "East Austin."

Number and Distribution of Local Children for Whom Child Care Providers Can Serve as the Nexus for Maltreatment Prevention

Child care is provided principally to Travis County children younger than ten years of age. (Unless children have a developmental disability that impairs their emotional and social functioning or require adult supervision as a result of a physical impairment, the broadest age range for which adult supervision (operationally defined as "child care") is generally considered to be necessary is in the period from birth through age 13, however many local youngsters 10 and older are not in formal child care. For this reason child care maltreatment services delivered through child care providers is assessed to be most effective for the parents of children birth through nine years of age, with a declining likelihood of reaching the parents of children 10 through 13 in these venues. In other words, child maltreatment programs delivered in child care venues will be most successful in strengthening the families of children who are not yet adolescents, with the greatest penetration into local families with children younger than 10.

Number of children. According to the 2004 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau), the household population in Travis County (excluding children living in institutions or group quarters) includes an estimated 71,243 children under 5 years of age. Another 59,228 are 5-to-9 years of age and 50,790 are 10-to-14 years of age. Subtracting an estimated 10,158 youngsters 14 years old results in an estimate of 171,103 children birth through age 13 in Travis County. The distribution of children 9 and younger is shown on a table on the next several pages. The zip codes that have highest numbers of confirmed child maltreatment cases year after year are highlighted.

Distribution of Children Younger than 10 Years Old By Zip Code

ZIP CODE	#children < 5	#children 5 - 9	# all children < 10
78612	681	776	1,457
78613	3,691	3,333	7,024
78617	1,306	1,244	2,550
78620	603	749	1,352
78641	1,636	1,708	3,344
78645	410	444	854
78652	170	223	393
78653	335	337	672
78660	3,349	3,388	6,737
78664	4,694	4,326	9,020
78669	297	301	598
78691	NA	NA	0
78701	46	31	77
78702	1,986	1,978	3,964
78703	1,203	952	2,155
78704	2,745	2,116	4,861
78705	200	158	358
78712	NA	NA	0
78719	176	188	364
78721	973	976	1,949
78722	296	243	539
78723	2,644	2,218	4,862
78724	1,519	1,572	3,091
78725	152	165	317
78726	600	736	1,336
78727	1,577	1,318	2,895
78728	1,388	1,048	2,436
78729	1,826	1,829	3,655
78730	488	389	877
78731	1,081	1,084	2,165
78732	422	327	749
78733	732	917	1,649
78734	734	906	1,640

Table continued

ZIP CODE	#children < 5	#children 5- 9	# children < 10
78735	710	507	1,217
78736	399	516	915
78737	403	556	959
78738	152	180	332
78739	794	897	1,691
78741	2,756	1,959	4,715
78744	3,552	3,451	7,003
78745	3,887	3,482	7,369
78746	1,415	2,081	3,496
78747	339	333	672
78748	2,122	1,948	4,070
78749	2,375	2,280	4,655
78750	1,470	1,637	3,107
78751	538	405	943
78752	1,551	1,189	2,740
78753	4,344	3,630	7,974
78754	423	366	789
78756	351	283	634
78757	1,160	978	2,138
78758	3,235	2,484	5,719
78759	2,168	2,015	4,183
TOTAL	72,104	67,157	139,261

Although current information on the most recent distribution of confirmed abuse and neglect in Travis County by zip code was not available for analysis, a relatively recent distribution from 2000 was available for use as a proxy indicator. This information is shown in the table below.

Confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect by select zip code and type of abuse or neglect, Travis County, FY 2000 (Source: Forecasting and Program Statistics Division, TDPRS)

Zip Code	Abandonment	Emotional abuse	Medical neglect	Neglectful supervision	Physical abuse	Physical neglect	RAPR	Sexual abuse	Total
78610	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
78615	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78617	0	0	1	39	11	1	0	14	66
78641	0	4	1	19	14	2	1	3	44
78645	0	0	1	12	5	2	2	1	23
78653	0	2	0	4	4	0	0	4	14
78660	0	2	0	19	20	4	3	7	55
78701	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
78702	2	2	8	71	42	19	7	20	171
78703	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	2	11
78704	7	1	3	52	24	1	1	12	101
78705	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	5
78706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78707	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78708	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78709	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78710	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78711	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78712	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78713	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78714	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78715	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78716	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78717	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78718	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78719	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	4	10
78720	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78721	1	0	4	45	28	11	6	10	105
78722	0	2	1	0	9	0	1	0	13
78723	1	0	0	53	29	8	1	11	103
78724	0	3	1	43	10	9	1	12	79
78725	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	5
78726	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	4
78727	0	3	0	5	4	0	0	2	14
78728	0	0	0	7	6	0	0	3	16
78729	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
78730	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78731	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
78732	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78733	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
78734	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	3	10
78735	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	7
78736	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4

Zip Code	Abandonment	Emotional abuse	Medical neglect	Neglectful supervision	Physical abuse	Physical neglect	RAPR	Sexual abuse	Total
78737	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
78738	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78739	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78740	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78741	3	4	1	63	24	1	3	15	114
78742	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	4
78743	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78744	2	0	5	49	35	12	2	20	125
78745	2	0	1	55	40	6	4	28	136
78746	1	0	0	7	1	3	0	1	13
78747	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
78748	0	1	2	13	7	1	0	3	27
78749	0	0	0	4	8	0	1	4	17
78750	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	6
78751	1	0	1	12	3	6	0	2	25
78752	1	0	3	45	21	13	0	1	84
78753	0	4	6	57	33	6	5	11	122
78754	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	6
78755	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78756	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	1	8
78757	3	0	1	12	5	0	1	2	24
78758	1	0	2	45	26	13	3	13	103
78759	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	2	18
*Travis County TOTAL	38	35	54	921	473	133	54	24	1950

Conclusion

Based on this evidence, the following conclusions can be supported:

1. There is a significant child population in Travis County. It is distributed unevenly by zip code.

2. Substantiated child abuse occurs in an uneven pattern county wide, with the most significant proportion in zip codes with high numbers of children.

3. Child care providers are geographically distributed unevenly by zip code, but every zip code with high numbers of children and high rates of substantiated child maltreatment have a good to excellent supply of formally licensed, registered or listed providers.
4. The local distribution of children, substantiated child maltreatment and child care providers supports a strategy of engaging child care providers as a resource in family strengthening efforts using one or more evidence-based approaches.

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