

REQUEST:

How many children, ages 0 – 17, were victims of sexual assault in the Greater Houston Area, or by county (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Waller), or evaluated/treated at Texas Children's Hospital?

RESPONSE:

It is difficult to find accurate data on the number of children who are victims of sexual abuse. These data are seen as sensitive and confidential. The data we found is provided by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and is titled “Confirmed” Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse by Region in 2014. See table, below

It is generally acknowledged that child sexual abuse is under-reported. The numbers are likely to greatly underestimate incidents of actual abuse. In fact, the real prevalence of child sexual abuse is not known because of the lack of disclosure and reporting. Professionals in the field of abuse suggest that only 8% to 20% of abuse cases are ever reported<sup>1,2</sup>.

**Table: Child Sexual Abuse – 2014**

Region	Sexual Abuse
1 Lubbock	293
2 Abilene	180
3 Arlington	1,422
4 Tyler	257
5 Beaumont	148
6 Houston	949
7 Austin	606
8 San Antonio	613
9 Midland	176
10 El Paso	166
11 Edinburg	750
Unknown	3
<b>State Total</b>	<b>5,563</b>
Source: DFPS - <a href="https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_and_Statistics/child_protective_services/cps-chart_Confirmed_Allegations_by_Type_of_Abuse.asp">https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_and_Statistics/child_protective_services/cps-chart_Confirmed_Allegations_by_Type_of_Abuse.asp</a>	

REFERENCES:

1. The Children’s Assessment Center. Child Sexual Abuse Facts. <http://cachouston.org/child-sexual-abuse-facts/>.

2. United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Website. Raising Awareness about Sexual Abuse.  
[https://www.nsopw.gov/\(X\(1\)S\(5ngh3oeyu3xuwdwr5uhe3t0t\)\)/en-US/Education/FactsStatistics?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](https://www.nsopw.gov/(X(1)S(5ngh3oeyu3xuwdwr5uhe3t0t))/en-US/Education/FactsStatistics?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)