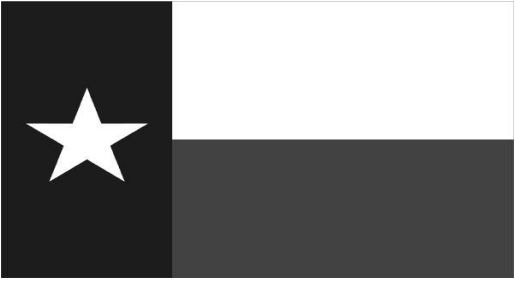


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**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

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**Texas Department of Family and  
Protective Services and Texas  
Drug Endangered Children's  
Alliance:  
A Collaborative Initiative for  
Keeping Children Safe**

Colleen McCall, Director of Field  
Milton R Ayala, Substance Abuse Program Specialist  
Paul Black, Special Investigator Program Director  
November 10, 2010

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**Presentation Overview**

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Participants will:

- Receive information about the partnership between the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the Texas Drug Endangered Children's Alliance (DEC);
- Be given information about Texas substance use trends and DFPS substance use data;
- Recognize the challenges and successes DFPS and Texas DEC Alliance have experienced; and
- Examine possible outcomes for DEC children in the DFPS system

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### The Mission of Child Protective Services (a division of DFPS)

The mission of Child Protective Services is to protect children and to act in the children's best interest. To seek active involvement of the children's parents and other family members to solve problems that lead to abuse and neglect.

Source: <http://intranet/CPS/>



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### Legislative Mandates

House Bill 164 (2005):  
DFPS is given the authority to "take possession of a child" without a court order in an emergency (exigent circumstance)



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### Legislative Mandates

- Senate Bill 758 (enacted FY 2007): Amendment to the Human Resources Codes, Section 26: Sec. 40.071. DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILD INITIATIVE.
  - The department shall establish a drug-endangered child initiative aimed at protecting children who are exposed to heroin, cocaine or any of its forms, or methamphetamine or to chemicals and other hazardous materials used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

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## Who is a Drug Endangered Child?

Drug Endangered Children (DEC) are those children who suffer physical or psychological harm or neglect resulting from exposure to illegal drugs or persons under the influence of illegal drugs or exposure to dangerous environments where drugs are being manufactured or chemicals used to make drugs are accessible.



Source: DFPS-TEXAS DEC Alliance MOU, March 1, 2006

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## DEC Definition

Texas DEC Alliance's new definition:

*"Children who suffer physical or emotional risk as a result of illegal drug use, manufacturing, cultivation or distribution."*

Source: TXDEC. (2010, July 29). *Neglect and Drug Endangered Children.*  
[http://www.texasdec.org/downloads/Neglect\\_Webinar.pdf](http://www.texasdec.org/downloads/Neglect_Webinar.pdf)

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## Initiatives

Collaboration, shown by:

- Memorandum of Understanding among Texas DEC Alliance members.
- Participation in statewide DEC teams.
- Co-location of Special Investigators in law enforcement facilities.

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### Key MOU Provision

"...accept control of the child from law enforcement or first responders; taking control of a child must be consistent within the context of DFPS general removal policies..."



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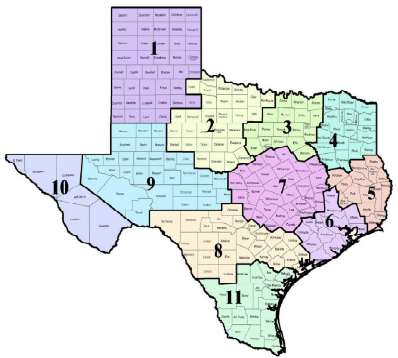
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### Texas DEC Teams

Region	# Teams
1	4
2	2
3	8
4	4
5	3
6	1
7	3
8	2
9	0
10	1
11	0
Total	28



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### Texas Drug Trends and Child Safety

Let's look at the data...



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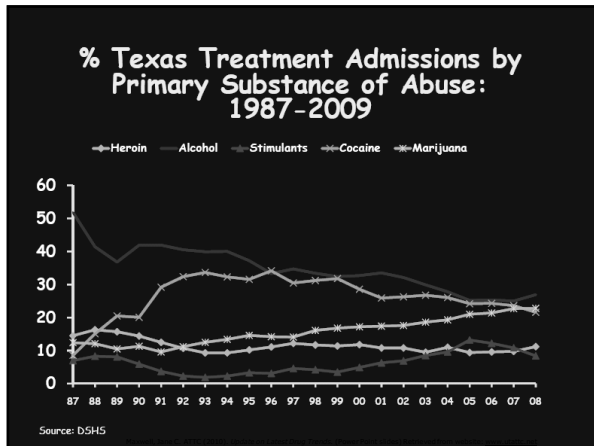
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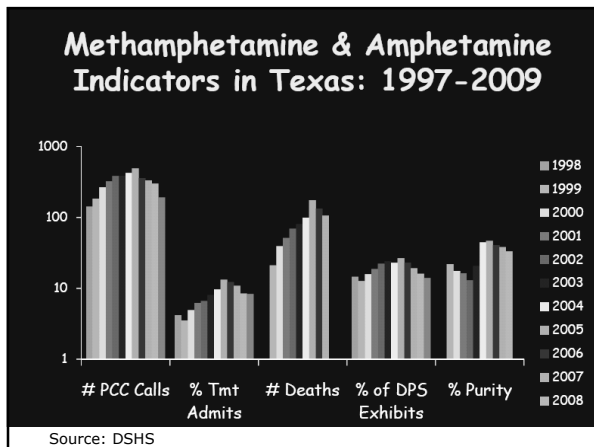
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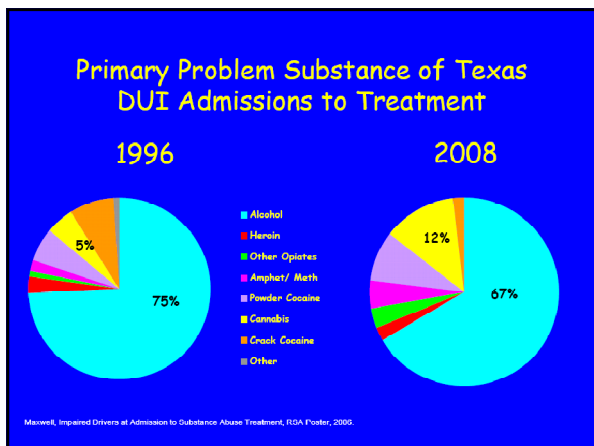
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### Texas CPS Substance Abuse and Children

- About 40% of child abuse and neglect investigations had a person characteristic of drug or alcohol usage. Nationally, figure ranges from 33%-66%. (samsha.gov)
- 60 % of removals were connected to the existence of drug or alcohol use/abuse. Nationally, the estimated percent is 75%. (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, March 2005)



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### Legislative Mandate

- § 40.072. DUTY TO REPORT; DEPARTMENT RECORDS. (a) *To the extent that reporting does not interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation, the Department of Public Safety and each local law enforcement agency shall report to the department on discovering the presence of a child in a location where methamphetamine is manufactured. (b) The department shall maintain a record of reports received under this section and shall include in the record information regarding actions taken by the department to ensure the child's safety and well-being.*

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### Texas DFPS Substance Abuse and Children

- 235 Methamphetamine Lab Intakes.
- 465 Methamphetamine Lab Cases Discovered or Confirmed during Investigation.

Source: DFPS Data Warehouse (FY 2009)



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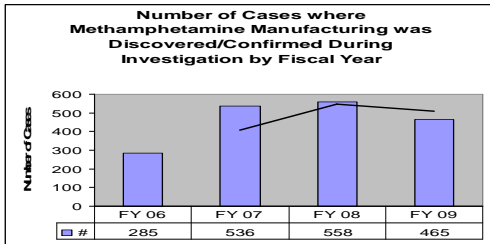
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### Methamphetamine Trend Line based on DFPS Investigations

Less than 1 % (0.007%) of all investigation cases involving substance abuse were related to methamphetamine manufacturing



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### DEC Team and Drug Raids

What have we learned?



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### DEC Team Lessons Learned

- Law enforcement partnership is needed.
- Some teams become inactive due to lack of collaboration and coordination.
- DFPS should be an active player in DEC team formation and sustaining teams.

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### **DEC Team Lessons Learned**

- DEC teams should be expanded in the border areas.
- DEC teams should include a variety of community partners other than law enforcement and DFPS.
- Aggregate data feedback should be provided to community stakeholders.

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### **DEC Team Lessons Learned**

- The establishment of DEC teams is a lengthy process.
- An effective starting point for the establishment of a DEC team is the local Children's Advocacy Center.

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### **Drug Raid Lessons Learned**



- Co-location of DFPS Special Investigators in law enforcement facilities is effective.
- Trust between DFPS and law enforcement is required.
- Coordination between law enforcement or first responders and DFPS is critical prior to children being placed with another caregiver.

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### **Drug Raid Lessons Learned**

- Sometimes not all children are home.
- Law enforcement expects immediate response from DFPS Investigators.
- DFPS has the capability to track DEC children through the DFPS Data Warehouse.

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### **DFPS and DEC Children**

*What happens to DEC children in an open DFPS case?*

- Safety Plan
- Parental-Child Safety Placement
- Family Based Safety Services
- Removal (Temporary Managing Conservatorship)

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### **After Removal**

Possible Outcomes

- Family Reunification
- Permanent Placement out of the home:
  - Relative Home
  - Adoptive Home
  - Other Caregiver

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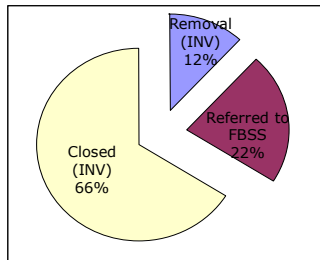
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**FY2009: Percent Outcomes for 841 DFPS Methamphetamine Lab Investigation Cases**



(Data Source: DFPS Data Warehouse)

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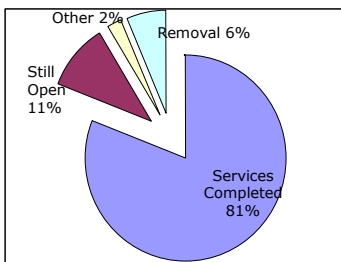
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**FY2009: Percentage Outcomes for 477 Children in the FBSS stage from the Original 183 INV Cases Referred to FBSS**



(Data Source: DFPS Data Warehouse)

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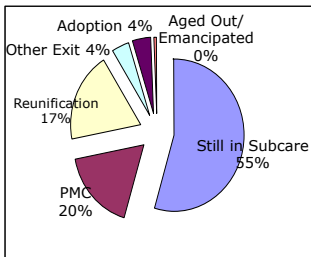
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**FY2009: Percent Outcomes for 213 Children Removed from the Original 97 DFPS INV Removal Cases and 16 FBSS Removal Cases:**



(Data Source: DFPS Data Warehouse)

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**Panel Discussion: Questions**



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