

**DALLAS COUNTY**

**COMPREHENSIVE**

**COMMUNITY**

**PLAN**

**FY2005**

**FY2005 Chairperson:**

**Mike Cantrell**  
**Dallas County Commissioner, District 2**

**DALLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN  
FY2005 GRANT CYCLE**

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## AN OVERVIEW OF DALLAS COUNTY

Dallas County covers 909 square miles in North Central Texas with a population density of 2,523 residents/square mile. The city of Dallas is the largest city and serves as county seat.

### Quality of Life

The Dallas area is one of the few areas in the nation with seven major league sports teams including: Cowboys football, Mavericks basketball, Rangers baseball, Stars hockey, Burn soccer, Sidekicks indoor soccer and Dragoons polo. In the Dallas metro area, cultural arts contribute more than \$22 billion to the local economy, which is 34.6% of the state's total. D/FW is also Texas' most "arts intensive" metro area on a per capita basis, with \$6,654 expended per person on cultural arts. The 60-acre Dallas Arts District is the largest urban arts in the country. It is anchored by the Dallas Museum of Art and the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

### Population Size and Recent Trends

Dallas County is the second largest of the 254 counties in Texas, with an estimated population of 2,218,899 in 2000. The U.S. Census also confirms a decade of rapid growth. The 16-county north central Texas region added more persons than the neighboring states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico combined and the regional population is now greater than 36 states. Dallas County experienced the greatest numeric increase, by adding 366,089 residents during the decade. The city of Dallas led all cities in growth by adding 180,962 persons (18%) for a total population of 1,188,580.

	1970 Census	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	% Hispanic (2000)
<b>Addison</b>	593	5,553	8,783	14,166	24%
<b>Balch Springs</b>	10,464	13,746	17,406	19,375	26%
<b>Carrollton</b>	----	----	82,169	109,576	20%
<b>Cedar Hill</b>	2,610	6,849	19,988	32,093	12%
<b>Cockrell Hill</b>	3,515	3,262	3,746	4,443	84%
<b>Coppell</b>	1,728	3,826	16,881	35,958	7%
<b>Dallas</b>	844,401	904,078	1,007,618	1,188,580	36%
<b>DeSoto</b>	6,617	15,538	30,544	37,646	7%
<b>Duncanville</b>	14,105	27,781	35,008	36,081	15%
<b>Farmers Branch</b>	27,492	24,863	24,250	27,508	37%
<b>Garland</b>	81,437	138,857	180,635	215,768	26%
<b>Glenn Heights</b>	257	1,033	4,564	7,224	16%
<b>Grand Prairie</b>	50,904	71,462	99,606	127,427	33%
<b>Highland Park</b>	10,133	8,909	8,739	8,842	3%
<b>Hutchins</b>	1,715	2,837	2,719	2,805	24%
<b>Irving</b>	97,260	109,943	155,037	191,615	31%
<b>Lancaster</b>	10,522	14,807	22,117	25,894	12%
<b>Mesquite</b>	55,131	67,053	101,484	124,523	16%
<b>Richardson</b>	48,405	72,496	74,840	91,802	10%
<b>Rowlett</b>	2,243	7,522	23,260	44,503	9%
<b>Sachse</b>	777	1,640	5,346	9,751	8%
<b>Seagoville</b>	4,390	7,304	8,969	10,823	18%
<b>Sunnyvale</b>	995	1,404	2,228	2,693	4%
<b>University Park</b>	23,498	22,254	22,259	23,324	3%
<b>Wilmer</b>	1,922	2,367	2,479	3,393	41%
<b>Total</b>	1,327,696	1,556,419	1,852,810	2,218,899	30%

**Demographic Characteristics**

The 2000 Census identifies Dallas County residents as evenly divided by gender (49.9% male; 50.1% female) and 31 as the median age. In addition, the revised Census questionnaire for 2000 enables respondents to identify themselves as Hispanic for the first time, which 662,729 persons did in Dallas County (shown in the following table). This number is more than twice the amount in any other county in the region and represents 30% of the total population in Dallas County. Of these, 531,729 persons identified themselves as having Mexican heritage.

Dallas County Residents (2000 Census)	Total Residents	% of Total	Hispanic # and % of Total Residents
<b>Total</b>	2,218,899	100%	662,729 (29.9%)
<b>One Race</b>	2,158,975	97.3%	
<b>White</b>	1,294,769	58.4%	311,452 (14%)
<b>Black or African American</b>	450,557	20.3%	4,841 (0.2%)
<b>American Indian Alaskan Native</b>	12,499	0.6%	4,393 (0.2%)
<b>Asian</b>	88,369	4%	874 (0%)
<b>Asian Indian</b>	23,752		
<b>Chinese</b>	12,094		
<b>Filipino</b>	6,617		
<b>Japanese</b>	2,193		
<b>Korean</b>	9,303		
<b>Vietnamese</b>	21,355		
<b>Other Asian</b>	13,055		
<b>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</b>	1,277	0.1%	351 (0%)
<b>Some other race</b>	311,504	14%	309,116 (13.9%)
<b>Two or More Races</b>	59,924	2.7%	31,702 (1.4%)

**POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF CHANGE**

Date	Dallas County Population	% Change	Components of Change				
			Total Population Change	Births	Deaths	International Immigration	Net Domestic Migration
1970	1,327,696	-	-	-	-	-	-
1971	1,351,100	1.8	23,404	-	-	-	-
1972	1,353,300	0.2	2,200	-	-	-	-
1973	1,370,400	1.3	17,100	-	-	-	-
1974	1,398,000	2.0	27,600	-	-	-	-
1975	1,426,800	2.1	28,800	-	-	-	-
1976	1,459,500	2.3	32,700	-	-	-	-
1977	1,476,500	1.2	17,000	-	-	-	-
1978	1,497,500	1.4	21,000	-	-	-	-
1979	1,522,100	1.6	24,600	-	-	-	-

Date	Dallas County Population	% Change	Components of Change				
			Total Population Change	Births	Deaths	International Immigration	Net Domestic Migration
1980	1,556,419	2.3	34,319	-	-	-	-
1981	1,597,905	2.7	41,486	36,870	13,734	-	-
1982	1,637,637	2.5	39,732	30,508	10,996	-	-
1983	1,678,364	2.5	40,727	31,310	11,161	-	-
1984	1,713,907	2.1	35,543	32,300	11,530	-	-
1985	1,760,803	2.7	46,896	34,196	11,772	-	-
1986	1,805,314	2.5	44,511	35,986	11,995	-	-
1987	1,816,641	0.6	11,327	36,494	12,004	-	-
1988	1,814,458	-0.1	-2,183	36,271	11,994	-	-
1989	1,832,113	1.0	17,655	36,165	12,156	-	-
1990	1,852,691	1.1	20,578	27,115	9,221	-	-
1991	1,906,149	2.9	53,458	45,769	15,436	11,172	-1,999
1992	1,938,264	1.7	32,115	37,247	12,711	10,205	-15,396
1993	1,969,978	1.6	31,714	36,716	13,101	11,274	-17,570
1994	1,999,337	1.5	29,359	36,667	13,251	11,085	-18,838
1995	2,032,742	1.7	33,405	36,326	13,398	11,584	-14,442
1996	2,073,484	2.0	40,742	37,421	13,757	13,679	-10,729
1997	2,118,835	2.2	45,351	38,606	13,034	14,057	-9,602
1998	2,163,082	2.1	44,247	39,400	13,347	13,732	-11,130
1999	2,197,658	1.6	34,576	39,611	13,289	14,318	-24,104
2000	2,218,899	1.0	21,241	-	-	-	-
2001	2,245,398	1.2	26,499	52,937	17,157	26,059	-35,419

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; (Decade years represent April 1, Census data, not the mid-year estimates.)

## Employment and Economic Indicators

Dallas County attracted a growing labor force during the late 1990's, including many new companies and businesses that relocated to the area. Part of this growth was fueled by the telecommunication industry and affiliated services, which have suffered a dramatic decline and many layoffs during the last two years.

The U.S. Census reports that professional occupations are the most common categories for those over age 16 who are employed; 34% of the workforce is in management, professional, and related occupations and 29% is in sales or office occupations. The private sector employs 84% and 10% are government workers. Median household income in Dallas County for 1999 was \$43,324, which is a 37% increase over the 1989 median of \$31,600. Median earnings for full-time, year-round workers differed by sex; males earned \$34,988 and females earned

\$29,539. Among families with children under age 6, all parents were employed for only 54%. Only 56.6% of females age 16 and older reported labor force participation.

Unemployment has risen during the last two years (shown below), in part to the decline in the telecommunications industry and affiliated companies, which have been prominently represented in Dallas County.

The D/FW area is considered an International Gateway for business. The area facilitates international business by offering the services of 30 foreign consulates and six foreign banks, as well as has more than 160 international organizations that offer businesses, cultural and educational programming (*Greater Dallas Chamber, 2002*). The D/FW area is also one of the largest beneficiaries of the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). D/FW trade with Mexico and Canada has doubled to \$2.3 billion since the enactment of NAFTA in 1993. (*NCTCOG, 2002*)

The top twenty employers in Dallas County, in alphabetical order, are the following: Albertsons Inc.; Baylor University Medical Center; Dallas County Community College District; Dallas County Hospital District; IBM Corporation; Northern Telecom Inc.; Postal data center; Southwest Airlines; Southwestern Bell; Sprint-United Management Co.; Texas Instruments Incorp.; the school districts of Dallas, Garland, Irving, Mesquite, Richardson; The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Tom Thumb; United Parcel Service; and Wal-Mart Associates Inc.

The Dallas area has tremendous capabilities in the technology arena. Efforts are underway to build on existing initiatives and to create around the Metroplex new corridors, research parks and centers of excellence. Some examples include:

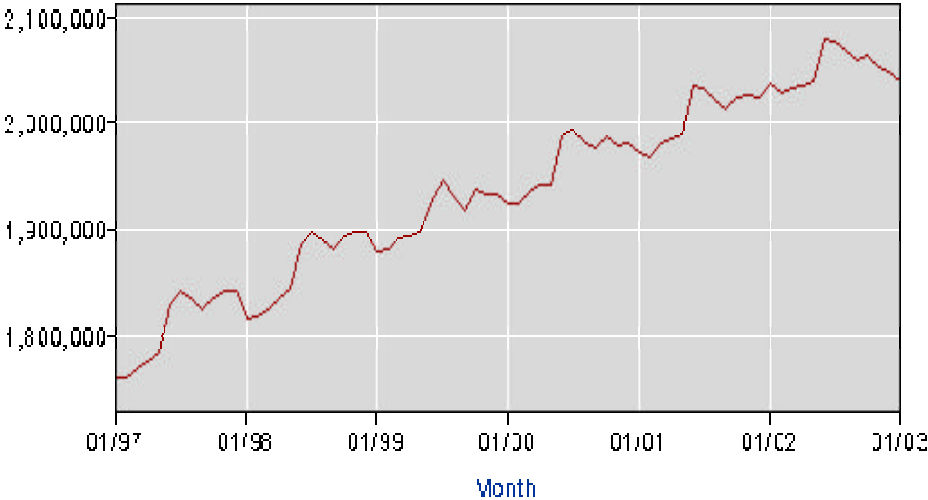
- The Richardson Telecom Corridor has undergone tremendous change in the last two years, and the “new” corridor will be at the front of the wireless telecommunications revolution.
- UT Southwestern continues to lead the nation in the areas of biotechnology and bioinformatics.
- The University of Texas at Dallas has brought Nobel Laureate Dr. Alan G. MacDiarmid to lead UTD’s new Nanotech Institute, paving the way for UTD to become one of the world’s leading centers in nanotechnology research and development.
- North Texas Enterprise Center for Technology (NTEC for Technology) is being created in Frisco to address the medical profession’s technological needs.

According to a 2002 study by U.S. News & World Reports, two of the nation’s top rated hospitals are located in Dallas: Parkland Memorial Hospital and Baylor University Medical Center. Parkland Memorial Hospital also leads the nation as the largest single-site delivery facility where 13,000 babies are delivered annually.

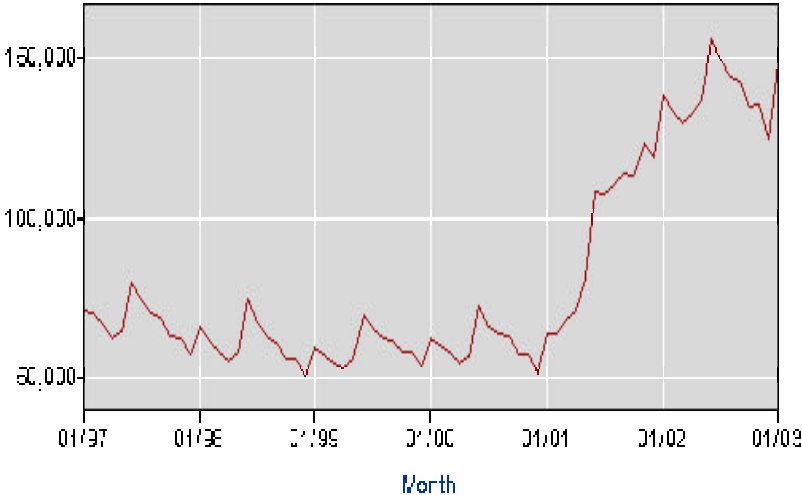
The U.S. Census reports that 13-15% of the Dallas County household incomes are below the official federal poverty threshold, and the Health and Human Services Commission’s poverty estimate for Dallas County is 11% of the non-institutional population. The Texas Comptroller of

Public Accounts reported that \$1,273,717,890 was expended on public assistance in Dallas County during 2000.

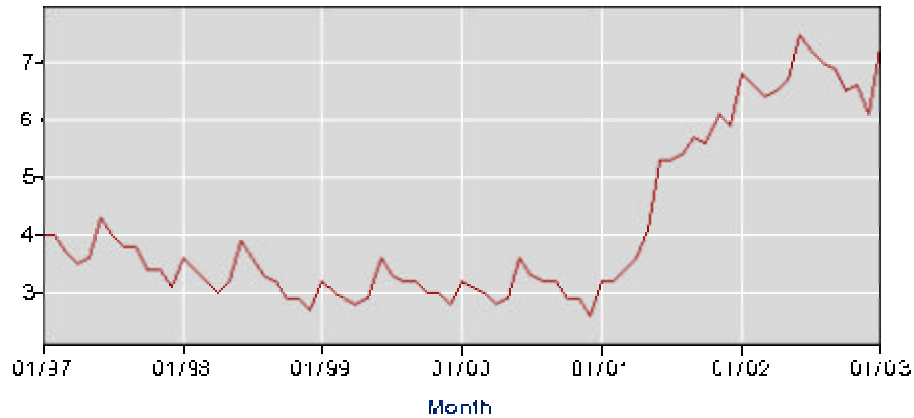
labor force



unemployment



### unemployment rate



### Education and Schools

According to the Census, 591,553 people in Dallas County were enrolled in school in 2000. Three-fourths of the residents of the county had at least a high school education and 27% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

There are fifteen regular-type independent school districts in Dallas County (shown in the table below). There is a ratio of 14-15 students per teacher in most of the districts. The average amount spent per student extends from a low of \$5,573 in Garland to a high of \$12,015 in Highland Park.

Public School Districts	Locale Code	Total Schools	Total Students	Classroom Teachers (FTE)	Student/Teacher Ratio	LEP Students	\$ Per Student
<b>Carrollton-Farmers Branch</b>	Urban fringe of large city	37	24,134	1693.8 Total 20.1preK 105.2 K 720.8 Elem 744.8 second 102.8 Ungrad	14.2	4,870	\$8,229
<b>Coppell</b>	Urban fringe of large city	15	9,243	668.3 Total 2.7 preK 56.1 K 300.0 Elem. 240.4 Second 69.1 Ungrad	13.8	440	\$7,701
<b>Cedar Hill</b>	Urban fringe of large city	10	6,481	435.7 Total 2.8 preK 20.5 K 174.0 Elem. 197.9 Second 40.5 Ungrad.	14.9	159	\$5,821



Public School Districts	Locale Code	Total Schools	Total Students	Classroom Teachers (FTE)	Student/Teacher Ratio	LEP Students	\$ Per Student
<b>Dallas</b>	Large Central City	221	161,548	10,637.1 Total 208.7 preK 651.3 K 4,303.2 Elem 3,668.3 Sec 1,805.6 Ungrad.	15.2	53,053	\$6,106
<b>Desoto</b>	Urban fringe of large city	12	6,941	468.1 Total 4.4 preK 19.3 K 192.9 Elem. 199.8 Second 51.6 Ungrad.	14.8	182	\$5,916
<b>Grand Prairie</b>	Urban fringe of large city	30	20,257	1,360.6 Total 9.8 preK 87.9 K 656.7 Elem. 459.8 second 146.3 Ungrad.	14.9	2,472	\$5,940
<b>Duncanville</b>	Urban fringe of large city	16	10,423	666.8 Total 4.0 preK 29.3 K 256.3 Elem 301.0 Second 76.1 Ungrad.	15.6	693	\$5,997
<b>Garland</b>	Urban fringe of large city	65	50,312	3,088.4 Total 22.5 preK 94.8 K 1,385.5 Elem. 892.2 second 693.3 Ungrad.	16.3	6,783	\$5,573
<b>Highland Park</b>	Urban fringe of large city	7	5,848	422.9 Total 1.4 pre K 18.0 K 185.9 Elem. 174.4 Second 43.2 Ungrad.	13.8	31	12,015
<b>Irving</b>	Mid-size central city	37	29,097	2,061.6 Total 41.6 preK 120.6 K 911.7 Elem. 728.9 second 258.7 Ungrad.	14.1	8,598	\$6,471
<b>Lancaster</b>	Urban fringe of large city	9	4,206	283.3 Total 3.9 preK 13.2 K 117.1 Elem. 120.8 second. 28.4 Ungrad.	14.8	204	\$5,940
<b>Mesquite</b>	Urban fringe of large city	43	32,334	1,952.7 Total 10.9 preK 69.3 K 866.9 elem. 764.9 second 240.6 Ungrad	16.6	1,831	\$5,893

Public School Districts	Locale Code	Total Schools	Total Students	Classroom Teachers (FTE)	Student/Teacher Ratio	LEP Students	\$ Per Student
Richardson	Large central city	55	35,138	2,388.7 Total 24.9 preK 76.6 K 1,162.9 elem 963.0 second 161.3 Ungrad	14.7	6,265	\$7,626
Sunnyvale	Rural, inside MSA	1	376	33.7 Total 0.0 preK 3.2 K 22.2 elem. 8.1 second 0.2 Ungrad.	11.2	3	\$8,747
Wilmer-Hutchins	Large central city	8	3,283	183.4 Total 19.0 preK 12.0 K 72.9 elem 67.1 second 12.4 Ungrad.	17.9	294	\$5,851

According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), 80% of eligible Dallas County students graduated from high school, and this rate remains fairly stable. However, TEA also reports a decline in the percentage of students dropping out of high school between ninth and twelfth grade from 10% in 1996 to 5% in 2001. The remaining 15% of students include those who moved or transferred elsewhere or did not succeed academically but did not officially drop out.

Dallas County also has several colleges and universities, which are listed below.

- Amberton University, private, located in Garland
- Dallas Baptist University, private, located in Dallas
- Dallas Theological Seminary, private, located in Dallas
- Paul Quinn College, private, located in Dallas
- Southern Methodist University, private, located in Dallas
- University of Dallas, private, located in Dallas
- University of Texas at Dallas, public, located in Richardson
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, public, located in Dallas

## Housing

The Census reports 854,119 total housing units for Dallas County in 2000. Of these, 5.4% are vacant units and 0.3% of those units is classified as seasonal or vacation homes. Among the 807,621 occupied housing units, 52.6% are owner-occupied and 47.4% are rental units. Sixty percent of the residents moved into their housing unit since 1995. The median monthly mortgage amount is \$1,076; the median monthly rent is \$647. According to real estate multi-list statistics, the median housing price in Dallas County for 2003 is \$142,000 (average is \$181,300).

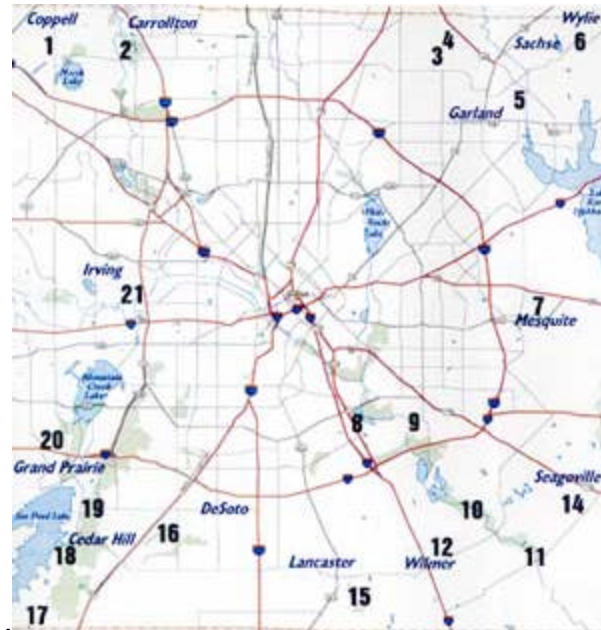
Families account for 66.1% of the households, non-family units are 6.7%, and single persons 27.3%. Among families, the average household size is 3.34 persons. Among the 533,613 family households, 70.9% are married couples and 21.3% have a female-head of house with no husband present. The Census identifies 33,470 Dallas County residents in group living situations, 70.6% of which are in institutionalized settings.

**Parks and Recreation**

There are many lakes, nearly 30,000 acres of parks and 572 municipal parks (table below describes the parks and services of many of the communities). The county also boasts several museums, including the Dallas Museum of Art, the Science Place, and the Mexican American Cultural Heritage Center. Special events in the county include the State Fair of Texas, the Dallas Grand Prix, the Cotton Bowl Classic football game, and the Byron Nelson Golf Classic.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Parks</b>	<b>Pools</b>	<b>Recreation Centers</b>	<b>Senior Centers</b>	<b>Tennis</b>	<b>Ball Fields</b>	<b>Golf course</b>
Addison	10		1				
Balch Springs			1			2	
Carrollton	9	2	5	1	1	3	
Cedar Hill	13	1			6	39	
Coppell	18					38	
Dallas	406	60	47	n/a	263	212	6
DeSoto	6	1				5	
Duncanville			1				
Farmers Branch	28	1	1	1		n/a	
Garland	50	4	5	2	14	73	
Grand Prairie	52	4	3		4	1	2
Highland Park	22	1			8		
Irving	42	7	10	1	7	5	1
Lancaster			1				
Mesquite	46	4	6	3	4	53	1
Richardson	29	5	4	1	n/a	n/a	
University Park	8	1			6	10	
Rowlett	9						1
Sachse	6		1			7	

Dallas County also has nearly 3,000 acres of preserved natural open spaces, which it acquired using a combination of bond funds, State and Federal grants, and cash donations. The map below notes 21 areas that have been designated as preserves within the county. Some of the preserves were donated to the County by private landowners, such as Lorch Park, North Mesquite Creek Preserve, and parts of several others. The preserves are located throughout the County and are open to the public. They offer a variety of topographical, geological, and environmental experiences for visitors. Some are hilly and rocky, some are broad meadows, some include wetlands, some are heavily wooded, and some are historically significant. The preserves set aside natural habitats where native plants, reptiles, birds, and mammals can continue to thrive.



1 Grapevine Springs; 2 Elm Fork; 3 Spring Creek; 4 Lee F. Jackson Spring Creek Forest; 5 Rowlett Creek; 6 Muddy Creek; 7 North Mesquite Creek; 8 Joppa; 9 McCommas Bluff; 10 Trinity River Greenbelt Goat Island; 11 Trinity River Greenbelt Riverbend; 12 Cottonwood Creek; 13 Palmetto - Alligator Slough Preserve (not on map; not yet open); 14 Post Oak Grove; 15 Tenmile Creek; 16 Windmill Hill; 17 Lester Lorch Park; 18 Cedar Mountain; 19 Escarpment; 20 Fish Creek Forest; 21 Trinity River Mountain Creek.

## Crime and Justice

There are many important crime and justice activities in Dallas County and surrounding areas. The North Central Texas area includes 65 local police agencies, nearly as many municipal courts, 12 counties, and 2 federal circuits. Texas ranks second to California in the overall size of the inmate population. Texas leads the country in the number of inmates on death row. When rates of violent crime declined in the U.S. in the late 1990's, the rate of decline was actually far greater in many Texas counties, including Dallas County and several others in the North Central region. However, Dallas recently took the lead among urban cities in the U.S. rates of robbery.

## Arrests\* in Dallas County Texas: 2000 -2002

\*Statistics presented are based on data collected by the FBI as part of its Uniform Crime Reporting Program. These data represent offenses reported to and arrests made by State and local law enforcement agencies as reported to the FBI. These data do not include Federal law enforcement activity.

## ARREST DATA

<b>Dallas County Total Juvenile Arrests</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Murder	7	15	12
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	4
Forcible Rape	105	85	89
Robbery	236	288	268
Aggravated Assault	400	388	334
Burglary	648	746	754
Larceny Theft	3,289	3,496	3,171
Motor Vehicle Theft	668	736	506
Other Assaults	1,145	1,286	1,489
Arson	57	28	45
Forgery and Counterfeiting	42	54	25
Fraud	73	76	62
Embezzlement	10	12	8
Stolen Property (Buying, Receiving, Possessing)	10	8	8
Vandalism	418	440	343
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	221	189	197
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	40	31	27
Sex Offenses (Except Forcible Rape and Prostitution)	109	111	164
Drug Abuse Grand Total	1,327	1,284	1,165
Sale/Manufacturing Subtotal	102	100	229
Opium or Cocaine	76	69	98
Marijuana	19	11	122
Synthetic Narcotics	0	7	6
Other Dangerous Non-Narcotic Drugs	7	13	3
Possession Subtotal	1,225	1,184	936
Opium or Cocaine	195	198	178
Marijuana	959	779	696
Synthetic Narcotics	19	23	24
Other Dangerous Non-Narcotic Drugs	52	184	38
Gambling	0	1	1
Bookmaking	0	0	0
Numbers and Lottery	0	0	0
All Other Gambling	0	1	1
Offenses Against Family and Children	8	9	2
Driving Under the Influence	108	122	87
Liquor Laws	169	313	278
Drunkenness	408	326	212
Disorderly Conduct	926	941	1,016
Vagrancy	0	0	1
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	2,004	2,097	2,150
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	520	485	503
Runaways	1,360	1,291	1,286
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,308</b>	<b>14,858</b>	<b>14,207</b>

<b>Dallas County Total Adult Arrests</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Murder	65	72	70
Manslaughter by Negligence	23	22	26
Forcible Rape	279	280	259
Robbery	800	975	904
Aggravated Assault	2,225	2,092	2,092
Burglary	1,054	1,188	1,153
Larceny Theft	7,365	7,581	7,813
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,007	2,092	2,070
Other Assaults	9,054	9,100	8,247
Arson	31	27	29
Forgery and Counterfeiting	891	1,089	976
Fraud	558	545	523
Embezzlement	27	59	57
Stolen Property (Buying, Receiving, Possessing)	28	40	66
Vandalism	516	463	437
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	1,336	1,242	1,184
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	1,292	1,669	1,691
Sex Offenses (Except Forcible Rape and Prostitution)	639	592	446
<b>Drug Abuse Grand Total</b>	<b>10,172</b>	<b>8,851</b>	<b>7,208</b>
Sale/Manufacturing Subtotal	1,510	1,505	1,168
Opium or Cocaine	1,270	1,219	874
Marijuana	54	74	140
Synthetic Narcotics	51	81	58
Other Dangerous Non-Narcotic Drugs	135	131	96
Possession Subtotal	8,662	7,346	6,040
Opium or Cocaine	4,094	3,402	2,843
Marijuana	3,658	3,098	2,501
Synthetic Narcotics	341	359	344
Other Dangerous Non-Narcotic Drugs	569	487	352
Gambling	7	34	14
Bookmaking	2	3	1
Numbers and Lottery	0	0	0
All Other Gambling	5	31	13
Offenses Against Family and Children	259	245	243
Driving Under the Influence	8,546	7,784	7,507
Liquor Laws	644	754	761
Drunkenness	20,082	20,204	18,296
Disorderly Conduct	1,019	901	749
Vagrancy	2	40	34
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	37,796	32,461	31,426
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,717</b>	<b>100,402</b>	<b>94,281</b>

## Transportation

Transportation within Dallas county is facilitated by Interstate Highways 20, 30, 35E, and 635; U.S. Highways 67, 75, 80, and 175; and by the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). DART currently serves approximately 210,000 passengers per day and covers a 700 square-mile area

that includes the city of Dallas and thirteen surrounding cities with a network of light rail and bus service. By 2015, DART plans to have 93 miles of light rail and 22 miles of commuter rail in full operation. Texas spent \$298,550,281 on highway construction and maintenance in Dallas County during 2000 (Texas Comptroller). Even with existing resources, traffic congestion is an issue in Dallas County that is likely to become more acute as the population continues to grow and resources within the state are constrained. On major expressways in Dallas County there are designated lanes for those who carpool. Despite this, the most recent U.S. Census shows that 75% of workers over age 16 drove alone in their commute to work with the average commute time being approximately 27 minutes.

Centrally located, the D/FW Metroplex does a fine job getting traveler to their destinations. D/FW is a major hub for most large airlines - two major airlines are based in the Dallas area (Southwest Airlines at Love Field, Dallas and American Airlines at D/FW Airport located in Irving).

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **DALLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN**

### ***INTRODUCTION***

This FY 2005 Dallas County Comprehensive Community Plan has been prepared in response to a more in-depth and extensive urban planning initiative set forth by the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division's (CJD) requirement for communities to come together and identify critical issues facing the citizens and agencies of Dallas County. These identified issues are to be data driven, (when applicable), and a sound action plan was to be developed to address these issues. The purpose of this extensive planning process is to create a coordinated approach to local problems and to concentrate resources on the issues identified by the planning group as priority problems. The result is a plan developed by a broad spectrum of community professionals and concerned citizens that recommends potential solutions effective in addressing identified problems, that attempt to avoid local duplication of effort, and that influence CJD funding allocations.

The plan has been prepared by many community participants, under the leadership of Regina L. Sobieski, Senior Criminal Justice Planner, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) through an organized planning effort that has grown in participation and depth of representation each year since the initial planning process in 1996. Commissioner Mike Cantrell is the Countywide Chairman for this planning endeavor. Dallas County has been fortunate to have the participation of a dynamic and diverse body of public, private, and non-profit entities, as well as concerned citizens, who have readily and enthusiastically participated in the development of this plan each year.

### ***Background***

The Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor, (CJD), initiated the urban community planning process with the goal of making justice-related plans comprehensive, more relevant to community needs, and strategically sound. The CJD has contracted with regional councils of governments throughout the metropolitan areas of Texas and in this region, to coordinate the CJD initiative in Dallas County. As a result, NCTCOG, as the grantee agency, will help assure that CJD guidelines and regulations are followed and that the plan meets CJD requirements. According to CJD, the plan will:

1. Be data driven and supported by factual information.
2. Support funding decisions and identify multiple funding sources.
3. Be meaningful to local/state agencies to help resolve service gaps and other needs.
4. Empower local communities' ownership of the plan.
5. Encourage communities to strategically plan in five-year increments.

### ***Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan***

The purpose of the five-year comprehensive plan is to identify justice-related needs throughout Dallas County so that gaps in services, existing programs, new initiatives, and funding opportunities may be addressed and resources increased. In addition to traditional criminal and juvenile justice operations, the planning process will encourage community inclusiveness and address non-justice functions, such as transportation, housing, health, business, recreation, and others because of their impact on the justice system.



## **Planning Characteristics Goals and Objectives**

This planning process enabled Dallas County government, cities, and agencies to exceed the traditional community justice plans because the process:

- Encouraged all communities, agencies, and individuals to participate in problem identification and goal setting.
- Provided the community with a functional, living document which will be evaluated yearly for effectiveness and updated as necessary based on current and changing conditions.
- Identified and prioritized risk factors, gaps in services, and duplication of existing services.
- Focused on community needs, as well as the ability to fund priorities.
- Required issues to be data-supported and community driven to justify funding priorities.
- Served as a tool to help communities coordinate services, resources, and funding opportunities.
- Afforded greater utilization of limited local, state, and federal funds through community partnerships and collaborative efforts.
- Projected future needs based on current trends and planned projects and expenditures accordingly.

During the past two years more than 480 individuals from across Dallas County participated in the ten community planning focus groups. The community planning focus groups are as follows:

Government & Community Partners	Juvenile Justice
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence
Justice System	Mental Retardation
Child Maltreatment	Victims of Crime
Mental Health	Substance Abuse & Treatment

These groups include representation from the areas of education, health, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, juvenile justice, law enforcement, criminal justice, child welfare, victim's services, children's services, family services, the courts, public agencies, non-profit organizations, government, the private sector, community associations, and concerned citizens. The participating agencies provide a broad range of services throughout Dallas County and a few offer services beyond the boundaries of the County. The scope of this plan, however, is generally focused on Dallas County. A complete list of participants for each focus group is included at the end of each focus group section of the full report.

As Dallas County's planning process has evolved and been refined over the past years, the planning effort itself has become more than simply a means to identify community needs for a justice plan. It generated collaborative efforts and partnerships among participants used to address other community and agency issues, to create new initiatives, and to develop solutions to problems not described in the plan.

Members of the planning body's expertise and input have enabled the group as a whole to better identify problems and to search for solutions among disciplines. For example, the group has addressed domestic violence as an interpersonal and a law enforcement problem, understanding that chaotic and violent homes have an impact on the criminal justice system, as well as many other disciplines including social services, health, substance abuse, and mental health delivery systems.

The outcome of this improved ability to characterize needs, however, has been to create more, not less, demand on local resources, and has further strained an already over-burdened system.

It is anticipated, however, that this planning process and the enhanced ability to recognize needs will lead to the development of programs and resources that will improve the system, provide optimal services, and contribute to productive and satisfying lives for the individuals, children and families touched by these resources.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The focus group members and chairpersons are gratefully thanked for their hard work and concern for the community. Each member has offered unique expertise and insight, increasing the value and relevance of the focus group's recommendations. The effort put forth by the entire planning body has ensured that this plan is truly representative of the problems encountered in Dallas County and expresses those needs that must be addressed. Such comprehensiveness in this plan would not have been possible without the input of each member of the planning body. Special gratitude is given to the chairpersons and their assistants who provided leadership and synthesized the many ideas generated by their groups into the written reports that make up the substance of this plan.

The FY 2005 Comprehensive Community Plan Chairpersons and assistants were:

<b>Child Maltreatment</b>	<b>Howard Blackmon</b> , Dallas County District Attorney's Office <b>Christian DeVore Smith</b> , Dallas County District Attorney's Office
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	<b>Paige Flink</b> , The Family Place <b>Jennifer Morrison</b> , New Beginning Center
<b>Government and Community Partners</b>	<b>Evy Kay Ritzen</b> , Transitional Action Resource Center
<b>Justice System</b>	<b>Larry James</b> , Central Dallas Ministries <b>Brian Flood</b> , Dallas County District Attorney's Office
<b>Juvenile Justice</b>	<b>Ron Stretcher</b> , Dallas County Juvenile Justice Department <b>Virginia Ward</b> , Dallas County Juvenile Justice Department (Asst)
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Jesse Herrera</b> , Dallas County Sheriff's Department <b>Chris Dyer</b> , Dallas County Sheriff's Department (Asst)
<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>David Kellogg</b> , Mental Health Association of Greater Dallas <b>Vacharee Buckland</b> , Mental Health Association of Greater Dallas
<b>Mental Retardation</b>	<b>Drew Dixon</b> , The ARC of Dallas <b>Lilli Hallam</b> , The ARC of Dallas (Asst)
<b>Substance Abuse and Treatment</b>	<b>Janet Harrison</b> , Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse
<b>Victims of Crime</b>	<b>Kristianne Hinkamp</b> , Victims Outreach <b>Debbie Walsh</b> , Neighborhood Youth and Family Counseling

## **FY 2005 PLANNING PROCESS**

In late 2000, seven Urban Planners were contracted through the six largest Councils of Governments by CJD to address the specific needs of the seven most populated and crime-ridden counties. NCTCOG has two Urban Planners - one for Tarrant County and another for Dallas County. The initial planning process began in the spring of 2001. The authors of the previous Community Plan were invited to a round-table discussion to address the new initiative set forth by the Governor's Office. This process was implemented to assure that the voice of all those involved had the opportunity to be heard, and that the true "experts", those grappling daily with the issues described herein, would provide the primary input into the plan. The focus group structure also allowed for participants to speak freely and without the imposed formally present with the "committee" mindset.

Planning for the FY 2005 plan began early to assure adequate time for the comprehensive planning process. In the summer of 2001, ten main focus group areas were formed and a county wide kick-off meeting was held in October to encourage future participation. Chairpersons were selected with input from Commissioner Mike Cantrell. The FY 2005 focus groups are:

Government & Community Partners	Juvenile Justice
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence
Justice System	Mental Retardation
Child Maltreatment	Victims of Crime
Mental Health	Substance Use/Treatment

Participants chose the focus group(s) on which they wished to serve. Each Chairperson was asked to schedule monthly meetings January-June at a location of their choosing. During the two-year planning process participants were asked to identify problems facing Dallas County. Once the problem statements were identified participants were asked to provide the supporting data, to identify current resources available in the community, to develop a list of gaps in services and resources, to recommend the types of programs and services that should be provided in the community and develop goals and objectives for those identified needs.

The Steering Committee, composed of the chairpersons from each of the ten focus groups, met in May 2002 to present each group's draft report. Final focus group problem statements were submitted to NCTCOG in June 2003 for inclusion into a final document. The initial problem statements were placed online in August 2002 on NCTCOG's Criminal Justice Program website and will be replaced with the final Comprehensive Community Planning document in September 2003. This document can be viewed and/or downloaded (as a Word document) at: <http://dfwinfo.com/hs/criminal/dallasplan/home.html>.

This innovation allows easy access to the document for the broad spectrum of participants and other interested individuals who use the information contained within the plan. It also saves the costly and time-consuming process of printing multiple copies of the plan for all users.

## **ORGANIZATION OF PLAN**

The FY 2005 Dallas County Community Plan is divided into nine of the ten focus group topic areas (one is a work in progress). Issues are defined by problem statements, and include topics such as supporting data, goals and objectives, gaps in services, current service providers, and evaluation measures. In the problem statement section, the problem is clearly identified, justification is provided describing the extent of the problem, followed by a section addressing the potential solutions the

community needs to take to alleviate the situation, and lastly the impact for Dallas County if the potential solutions are implemented.

Each of the represented organizations interacts with others within the planning body itself as well as with other agencies and organizations in the community. These varied organizations attempt to provide a full range of services to adult and juvenile offenders, victims and victimizers, families, children, the mentally ill and mentally retarded, and to substance abusers. Additionally, they work together to bring the full force of law enforcement and the criminal justice system on offenders. Community resources are committed to reducing repeat offenses and to addressing problem areas from a prevention and early intervention standpoint.

**SUMMARY**

Problem statements and potential solutions for the FY 2005 Dallas County Community Plan are outlined in the following sections. The problem statements seek new/additional resources to expand services to underserved populations and geographic locations as well as improve the quality of services and technologies in Dallas County. A few of the problem statements respond to new issues related to population changes within the County or crime challenges that have grown, such as environmental contamination and computer-related offending and others hope to fill gaps caused by the recent decline in the economy. All problem statements provide justification for the services, personnel, and technology requests based on evidence that these are effective elsewhere or necessary to meet new demands. Also following these sections is a chart outlining the population trends per municipality for Dallas County. This chart provides a visual, indicating which municipalities are currently growing.

**Special Acknowledgment**

Kimberly K. Leonard, PhD, and Emilie Fay, MSW, deserve special recognition and heartfelt appreciation for their many, many hours assisting with the writing, editing and formatting of the FY2005 Dallas County Comprehensive 5-Year Community Plan.

**DALLAS COUNTY POPULATION**

**DALLAS COUNTY  
CITY POPULATIONS AND TRENDS**

City	1990	2000	2002	2003
Addison	8,783	14,166	14,700	14,750
Balch Springs	17,406	19,375	19,400	19,400
Carrollton	82,169	109,576	112,250	113,750
Cedar Hill	19,988	32,093	36,150	38,000
Cockrell Hill	3,746	4,443	4,450	4,450
Combine	1,329	1,788	1,800	1,800
Coppell	16,881	35,958	38,000	38,700
Dallas	1,007,618	1,188,580	1,203,050	1,211,000
DeSoto	30,544	37,646	39,550	41,100
Duncanville	35,008	36,081	36,200	36,300
Farmers Branch	24,250	27,508	27,800	28,000
Garland	180,635	215,768	220,700	222,350
Glenn Heights	4,564	7,224	7,800	8,050

<b>City</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Grand Prairie	99,606	127,427	134,600	137,850
Highland Park	8,739	8,842	8,900	8,900
Hutchins	2,719	2,805	2,700	2,700
Irving	155,037	191,615	195,800	197,850
Lancaster	22,117	25,894	27,550	28,700
Mesquite	101,484	124,523	128,050	129,650
Ovilla	2,027	3,405	3,600	3,600
Richardson	74,840	91,802	94,150	95,650
Rockwall	10,486	17,976	21,050	22,850
Sachse	5,346	9,751	12,200	13,050
Seagoville	8,969	10,823	11,100	11,450
University Park	11,259	23,324	23,300	23,300
Wilmer	2,479	3,393	3,100	3,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,852,810</b>	<b>2,218,899</b>	<b>2,264,500</b>	<b>2,285,600</b>

Source: North Central Texas Council of Governments, 2003

## CHILD MALTREATMENT PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Child Protective Services Caseworkers  
*Problem:* Dallas County has a shortage of caseworkers to serve children and families.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Addition of 18 caseworkers, distributed across investigations, family-based services, and legal staff.
  
2. Prosecutors and Investigators in the District Attorney's Office  
*Problem:* Additional prosecutors and investigators are needed to effectively handle these cases in a timely manner.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Hire 7 additional investigators and 3 prosecutors to handle the increasing Child Maltreatment caseload.
  
3. Child Abuse Prevention Programs  
*Problem:* In-home service delivery to all low-income neighborhoods of Dallas County is only offered by the CAP Center, which recently has lost funding with discontinuance of Healthy Families.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Funding to assure that 30-40 young women currently served by Healthy Families program will continue to be served.
  
4. Mental Health  
*Problem:* There is an acute shortage of services for victims of child maltreatment and parents of those children. In 2002, only 2,436 (14%) of the alleged victims were provided services. Barriers to services exist with income, location, language, and for youths with disabilities.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Add 150 therapists within five years
  
5. Substitute Care Facilities  
*Problem:* There is an acute shortage of substitute care housing for children who have been removed from their homes for reasons of abuse and neglect in Dallas County.  
  
*Potential Solution:* An additional 1,500 beds would meet the expected growth of needs for placement of children removed from their homes.
  
6. Law Enforcement  
*Problem:* Law enforcement and justice agencies inadequately share or disseminate information, skills and training, necessary to effectively respond to child maltreatment cases.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Improved coordination/dissemination of information and training among justice agencies throughout Dallas County.
  
7. Assessment Center  
*Problem:* Without a thorough assessment or being given the necessary time to take all considerations into account placements are often not made in the best interest of the child.

*Potential Solution:* A central location is needed to thoroughly evaluate the needs of a child being placed in a foster home or other protective care.

8. Reach Clinic

*Problem:* Reach Clinic is the sole provider of child abuse medical evaluations in Dallas County. A staff of four cannot serve the needs of the area (5,138 cases, 350 CPS workers, police, prosecutors, and court system).

*Potential Solution:* Expand the services by hiring additional staff members and establishing a fellowship program to inspire future medical providers to work in the field of child abuse.

9. Trained Forensic Interviewers in a Multidisciplinary Setting

*Problem:* Of 16,000 alleged offenses in FY 2001, the more effective third-party forensic interviewers in more neutral settings interviewed only 876 child victims of physical or sexual abuse.

*Potential Solution:* Add twelve trained forensic interviewers to work within a multidisciplinary model and setting to serve victims and criminal justice processing far better.

10. Increasing Access to Care

*Problem:* The needs of crime victims, especially child victims, require a coordinated multidisciplinary response. Lack of transportation to services is one area that has been neglected in Dallas County.

*Potential Solution:* Establish a case management team approach that assures victims gain access to services they need.

11. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

*Problem:* The CASA program is shown to be very beneficial in helping oversee treatment and legal processing of abused and neglected children, but the services in Dallas County need to be expanded to help a growing number of children.

*Potential Solution:* CASA will recruit and train 90 new volunteer advocates, provide a trained supervisor, and serve 950 children annually.

12. Criminal Child Abuse Courts

*Problem:* There are not enough Felony District Courts in Dallas County to process child abuse cases in an expeditious manner. The overcrowded docket results in too many children being re-victimized while awaiting court intervention.

*Potential Solution:* Designate and staff a Child Abuse Court, modeled after a successful pilot initiative in 1995.

13. Victim Services in the District Attorney's Office

*Problem:* The Dallas County D.A. does not have sufficient personnel to process the cases of child victims of physical and sexual abuse in a timely manner to assure re-victimization does not occur.

*Potential Solution:* The District Attorney's Office of Dallas County would hire eight additional staff members to assure that every child victim and their family would have a victim service advocate and support staff to help them with the court process.

14. Data Collection

*Problem:* Agencies throughout Dallas County fail to keep adequate data substantiating efficacy of services provided.

*Potential Solution:* Allow for agencies to contract with experts to collect, manage and disseminate pertinent data.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Transitional Housing  
*Problem:* Many survivors do not have access to transitional housing programs and may feel forced to remain in a violent relationship or become homeless.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Increase the number of transitional housing programs for victims of family violence.
2. Support Groups  
*Problem:* Domestic Violence survivors/witnesses do not have adequate access to support groups.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Provide additional adult and child support groups strategically located throughout Dallas County.
3. Shelter  
*Problem:* Domestic violence survivors and their children may not have access to immediate safety or designated shelters due to capacity issues.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Expand current shelter facilities and personnel in the county to meet the rising consumer demand and demand associated with shelter services.
4. Civil Legal Services  
*Problem:* Domestic Violence survivors lack access to free and low-cost legal services.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Provide free and low cost civil legal services for victims of domestic violence.
5. Victim Advocates  
*Problem:* There are not enough advocates, much less those culturally/linguistically sensitive to meet the increasing caseloads of domestic violence survivors.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Hire additional advocates, including those qualified to meet the diversity of the county.
6. District Attorney's Office and Courts  
*Problem:* Additional caseloads for prosecutors and investigators have dramatically increased, resulting in less quality time devoted to each case.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Additional prosecutors and investigators need to be hired who are trained and devoted to prosecuting family violence cases.
7. Law Enforcement  
*Problem:* Law enforcement agencies throughout Dallas County may not always employ qualified personnel to thoroughly investigate family violence cases.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Train and designate qualified personnel to effectively investigate family violence offenses.

8. Educational Resources for Outreach Clients  
*Problem:* Many survivors do not have the employment skills or money to leave an abusive situation and make a fresh start.  
  
*Solution:* Provide information and financial assistance related to training/education for employment for survivors of domestic violence
9. Transportation  
*Problem:* Many domestic violence survivors do not have access to transportation to access medical and legal appointment, go to work or flee their abusers.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Increase the availability of public transportation and/or DART passes to survivors.
10. Education Programs in Schools  
*Problem:* Dallas County ISDs rarely address issues regarding family and domestic violence.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Mandate instruction regarding domestic violence and other forms of interfamilial abuse multiple times through grades K-12.
11. Professional Training  
*Problem:* Many allied professionals are not trained to identify signs of domestic violence, offer safe and appropriate interventions or document the situation effectively when presented.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Develop resources to provide up-to-date specialized training and education to professionals.
12. Supervised Visitation  
*Problem:* Dallas County lacks low-cost supervised visitation services that are needed to adequately provide supervised visitation (SV) and monitored exchanges (ME) for court-ordered families.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Affordable supervised visitation and monitored exchange services for all parents, including those with language and socio-economic barriers
13. Immigration  
*Problem:* There is a shortage of culturally and linguistically competent caseworkers to help immigrants.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Increase the number of trained multilingual case managers; training for police/law enforcement to work with this victim population; increase the number of attorneys willing to provide low cost or free services who are cognizant of the implications of actions on their client's immigration status.
14. Juvenile BIPP  
*Problem:* Juveniles who commit family and/or partner assault crimes rarely have services available to them to address their particular needs.

*Potential Solution:* Develop resources and provide staff in order to track specific types of juvenile assault crimes and provide services to teen family and partner assault perpetrators.

15. Felony Court

*Problem:* Dallas County lacks a felony court specializing in family violence cases.

*Potential Solution:* Dedicate a family violence felony court with specialized and properly trained prosecutors, judges and court personnel in Dallas County.

16. Partner Contact

*Problem:* Inconsistent program monitoring of the level of victim/partner contact throughout the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program.

*Potential Solution:* Consistency needs to occur with program implementation throughout the county.

17. Perpetrator Compliance

*Problem:* A high number of batterers tend to be non-compliant with their court order and Dallas County lacks the personnel to monitor and enforce compliance with the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program.

*Potential Solution:* Hire additional personnel to provide monitoring of those court ordered into BIPP.

## GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Collaboration Efforts

*Problem:* Organizations that deliver workforce development services operate independently and are not fully aware of each other's efforts, therefore often duplicating efforts.

*Potential Solution:* A neutral convener/process manager is needed to create and manage a system of service provision so improved and more comprehensive services can be delivered in a more cost-efficient manner.

## JUSTICE SYSTEM PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Re-Entry Courts

*Problem:* Budget cuts threaten the re-entry court program in Dallas County that has proven successful in reducing recidivism among severely addicted offenders. This program currently is the best option available to Dallas County judges.

*Potential Solution:* Add a case manager and a program coordinator to enable the re-entry court to serve twice as many clients each year.

2. Courts

*Problem:* Justice is not being served adequately due to overcrowded court dockets in Dallas County.

*Potential Solution:* Establish specialized courts, such as Child Abuse Court, Drug Court, and Protective Order Court, to make better use of expertise of court personnel and thereby to expedite case processing.

3. Court Technology

*Problem:* Court dockets in Dallas County are crowded, backlogged, and cases are not handled efficiently because of outdated technology.

*Potential Solution:* Upgrade the technological infrastructure to enable each court clerk, coordinator, judge, and support staff to have computers that allow for inter-office and intra-office coordination within the court and with other courts.

4. Prosecutors

*Problem:* There is a shortage of prosecutors in Dallas County to adequately dispense justice.

*Potential Solution:* Increase the total number of prosecutors 2 percent every year and analyze caseloads to redistribute workload more effectively.

5. Technology

*Problem:* Agencies and offices that comprise the justice system in Dallas County use various information systems and technologies that are uncoordinated and often unable to link cases. The result is high costs in time and effort, duplication of efforts, and less effective case processing.

*Potential Solution:* Implement technology to link information systems and data across the court offices, police departments, probation offices, and the state's attorney office to expedite the judicial process, avoid duplication of efforts, and improve communication within the justice system in Dallas County.

6. Investigators

*Problem:* There is a shortage of investigators to assist prosecuting attorneys in post-indictment investigations. A misdemeanor investigator has to handle 3 cases every hour, while a felony prosecutor has only 2 hours and 15 minutes to work on such cases.

*Potential Solution:* Increase the number of staff investigators to assist in case development and post indictment processing, for an average time of 10 hours per case.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. After-School Programs

*Problem:* Youth who are unsupervised after school or when school is not in session are at heightened risk of crime, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy. CDC estimates that roughly 64,000 youth (40%) in Dallas County are in need of supervision but only 282 “slots” are available within school districts or private programs.

*Potential Solution:* Provide cost efficient non-school hour programs for children in Dallas County.

2. Mental Health Treatment

*Problem:* An alarming number of youth who need mental health treatment currently do not receive services, due to lack of access to services and ongoing public distrust of the delivery systems.

*Potential Solution:* Establish intensive in-home intervention services using multi-systems models; develop a single portal authority to overcome existing barriers for a comprehensive service delivery system.

3. Violent Acts and Victimization Services for Females

*Problem:* There is an alarming increase in the rate of violence by females, many of who have been victims of abuse or other violence. There are no programs that exist specifically to serve the needs of this growing population.

*Potential Solution:* The Dallas County Juvenile Department will develop a continuum of treatment interventions specifically to serve the needs of females and stop the cycle of violence.

4. Parent Education Programs

*Problem:* Poor parenting skills affect children in very damaging ways and often lead to multi-generational risk factors in families.

*Potential Solution:* Establish three parent education programs to serve: teenage parents through schools; parents referred to Child Protective Services through community agencies; all adjudicated teenage parents as a condition of probation.

5. Courts and Assessments

*Problem:* There are a high number of Class C contempt cases for truancy and misdemeanors heard by Municipal and Justice of the Peace Courts particularly in the southern sector of Dallas County, that do not have the resources to intervene effectively. As a result, many of the youths repeat and escalate in their offending.

*Potential Solution:* Resources to establish an assessment process that will provide case management and referral services within the Courts. Specifically, the request is for 5 court liaison/case workers.

6. Integrated Justice Information System (JIS)

*Problem:* Relevant information about juveniles need to be accessible across the 70 agencies that comprise the juvenile justice system in Dallas County (including 26 police

departments and municipal courts, 15 school districts, and county prosecutors, judges and probation officers.)

*Potential Solution:* Implemented in 2000, improvements in the Dallas County Juvenile Information System (JIS) would make it more comprehensive as well as accessible to more agencies.

7. Independent/Transitional Living

*Problem:* Many youths referred to the Dallas County Juvenile Department, including a high proportion of those who complete their residential placement, lack an appropriate home environment. Without independent and transitional living services, they have difficulty obtaining and maintaining employment, housing, and law-abiding behavior.

*Potential Solution:* Provide transitional living for 12-24 youth during each of the next three years, for a total capacity of 36 to 72 youths.

8. Student Transition Center

*Problem:* There are many barriers to successful education for youths who leave residential care with the Dallas County Juvenile Department, including prominently difficulty in access and returning to their home schools.

*Potential Solution:* Establish an educational transition center to facilitate education and re-entry to home school for youths following release from residential treatment.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Countywide Central Repository for DNA Evidence  
*Problem:* Each of the 35 Dallas County policing agencies needs assistance to comply with new legislation regarding identification, collection, and storage of DNA and biological material containing DNA.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Establish a countywide repository for processing and storage of DNA evidence.
2. Countywide Satellite Booking Facilities  
*Problem:* Recent legislation requires appearance before a magistrate within 48 hours, which sometimes requires transportation of arrestees to Lew Sterrett Justice Center.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Feasibility study regarding creation of satellite booking and jail facilities.
3. Specialized Innovative Training  
*Problem:* Computer-related crimes are increasing and policing expertise currently is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing sophistication of criminal activity.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Provide policing agencies with the necessary technology training to investigate computer-related crimes.
4. Training for Proper Collection and Preservation of DNA Evidence  
*Problem:* Current crime scene protocol and training is offered on a limited basis.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Offer additional trainings regarding proper collection of forensic DNA evidence.
5. Computer Forensics  
*Problem:* Computer-related crimes are increasing and current equipment is inadequate to keep pace with the ever-changing technology.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Provide policing agencies with the technology, training and staff to identify, investigate, and prosecute computer-related crimes and similar resources to analyze digital evidence.
6. Environmental Courts  
*Problem:* Dallas County has significant problems with illegal dumping and environmental crimes, but inadequate resources to effectively investigate and prosecute these crimes that differ significantly from other serious crimes.  
  
*Potential Solution:* Implement a structured enforcement program; establish an environmental court and a dedicated prosecutor who can specialize in environmental crime.
7. Super Court  
*Problem:* More high profile cases are being heard in Dallas County causing undue strain on the victims, defendants and justice personnel.

*Potential Solution:* The creation of a Super Court or a courtroom specifically designed to handle high profile cases and defendants will address the safety, security and victim sensitivity issues associated with such cases.

8. Police Civilian Investigators for Domestic Violence

*Problem:* Many police departments lack specially trained investigators. There are a many serious offenses with high costs, yet many victims are hesitant to contact police.

*Potential Solution:* A specialized unit of properly trained investigators who are sensitive to the dynamics of domestic violence, and are bi-lingual.

## MENTAL RETARDATION PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Offenders With Disabilities

*Problem:* Offenders with developmental disabilities are often given standard options such as jail time and probation without any recognition of their special needs.

*Potential Solution:* Personalize justice plans for the developmentally disabled offender delineating community-based services.

2. The Justice System

*Problem:* The criminal justice system and people with developmental disabilities (victims, witnesses or suspects) are unable to interact effectively or with adequate understanding of each other's perspective.

*Potential Solution:* Train those living with disabilities about how to obey the law, interact effectively with justice officials as well as provide training to justice officials on the nature of developmental disabilities.

3. Recreation

*Problem:* Significant numbers of people with disabilities are not benefiting from existing recreation center programs. Dallas County has few specifically designed programs for clients with developmental disabilities, so access and transportation barriers are an issue.

*Potential Solution:* Provide staff and volunteer training on how to develop accessible programs and create an active outreach program to bring folks to the centers.

4. Support for Those Living With Disabilities

*Problem:* Home and Community Based Services, Medicaid waiver program has an 8-10 year waiting list to move people with mental retardation into mainstream public programs.

*Potential Solution:* Provide additional funding to Home and Community Based Services to expand their services to alleviate the lengthy waiting list.

5. Legal Training

*Problem:* Attorneys and judges do not understand the impact developmental disabilities have on the abilities of victims, witnesses and offenders to participate in the justice system.

*Potential Solution:* Appropriate course work should be incorporated in all law schools.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Mental Illnesses and Substance Abuse

*Problem:* Failure to provide case managed integrated treatment services for individuals with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse results in the negative consequences of hospitalization, incarceration, and recidivism at great cost to the community and impact on the health care and criminal justice systems.

*Potential Solution:* Increase case management and integrated treatment to improve the success of treating adults and adolescents with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders with the resulting decrease in the burden on the mental health and justice system.

2. Prevention of Prenatal Drug Abuse

*Problem:* An estimated 3,000 Dallas County newborns are placed at risk by maternal substance abuse during pregnancy, which poses an increased burden on medical, educational, child welfare, and criminal justice systems in the County.

*Potential Solution:* Implement outreach initiatives to provide prevention and intervention services to 160 pregnant women per year.

3. Offender Substance Abuse Services

*Problem:* Demand for substance abuse treatment for indigent offender populations far exceeds present criminal justice system capacity. The ratio of treatment slots available to offenders on community supervision for felony drug related offenses are eight slots for every 100 probationers.

*Potential Solution:* Existing offender counseling programs must be expanded to address treatment needs of offender populations.

4. Evidence-Based Prevention Programs

*Problem:* Youth in Dallas County report increased use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and inhalant use, which also are associated with heightened risks of premature sexual activity, truancy, and offending.

*Potential Solution:* Implement school-based and community-based prevention programs throughout Dallas County to reduce the risks for youths involved in substance abuse and related high-risk behaviors.

5. After School Programs

*Problem:* Unsupervised youth often engage in negative behaviors such as substance abuse, delinquency and early sexual encounters if they do not have a safe alternate environment to spend their time.

*Potential Solution:* Identify youth who engage in these behaviors and provide alternatives- whether through rehabilitative and/or therapeutic after-school services.

6. Latino Treatment Programs

*Problem:* Only 10 of the nearly 100 programs in Dallas County provide Spanish-speaking services; therefore, the County lacks adequate substance abuse treatment services to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Spanish-speaking Hispanic population.

*Potential Solution:* Provide 15 additional bi-lingual, college-degreed and licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors over the next three years specifically to serve the Hispanic community.

## VICTIMS OF CRIME PROBLEM STATEMENT SUMMARY

1. Victim Advocates

*Problem:* There is a shortage of victim advocates in Dallas County Courts.

*Potential Solution:* Add 40 victim advocates over the next three years

2. Law Enforcement

*Problem:* Only 9 of the 24 police agencies surveyed in Dallas County have a victim advocate on staff, which means that some victims do not receive the services and attention in accordance with Texas law implemented in 1989.

*Potential Solution:* Add 39.5 victim advocates to police agencies in Dallas County by 2005.

3. Counseling for Victims of Crime

*Problem:* Many crime victims need outpatient counseling services, but not necessarily emergency shelter care. These services are not geographically accessible, particularly to low income victims, in Dallas County.

*Potential Solution:* Provide geographically accessible and no or low cost outpatient counseling services to estimated 16,650 crime victims.

4. Underserved Victims of Crime

*Problem:* Crimes against persons who are disabled, mentally ill, or elderly have increased in Dallas County, and services are inadequate for these groups of victims with special needs.

*Potential Solution:* Add 10 new victim advocates who have special training to know what services are required by these underserved victims of crime and to assist them in getting assistance.