



**Annual Report on  
Forensic Services in  
State Supported  
Living Centers for  
Fiscal Year 2020**

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**As Required by  
Texas Health and Safety Code  
Section 555.002(e)**

**Health and Human Services**

**February 2021**



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

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# 1. Introduction and Charge

The Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 555.002(e), requires the Health and Human Services Commission to collect data about the commitment of alleged offender residents to state supported living centers (SSLC). The information must include any offense with which an alleged offender resident is charged, the location of the committing court, whether the alleged offender resident has previously been in the custody of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department or the Department of Family and Protective Services, and whether the alleged offender resident receives mental health services or previously received any services under a Section 1915(c) waiver program. HHSC submits the report every year to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives and standing committees of the Legislature with primary subject matter jurisdiction over SSLCs. The report cannot contain identifiable information for any resident.

For the purposes of this report, and as set out in Health and Safety Code, §555.001(1), an “alleged offender resident” of living center is defined as a “person with an intellectual disability who (a) was committed to or transferred to a living center under Chapter 46B or 46C, Code of Criminal Procedure, as a result of being charged with or convicted of a criminal offense; or (b) is a child committed to or transferred to a living center under Chapter 55, Family Code, as a result of being alleged by petition or having found to have engaged in delinquent conduct constituting a criminal offense.”

The following information provides context for and trending of data related to the provision of appropriate services and supports for residents classified as “alleged offender residents” of SSLCs in Texas. As of August 31, 2020, 195 alleged offenders were receiving services in living centers, representing 6.9 percent of the 2,817 SSLC service population (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Alleged Offenders in Residence As of 8-31-2020**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Abilene	0	0.00%
Austin	1	0.51%
Brenham	0	0.00%
Corpus Christi	8	4.10%
Denton	4	2.05%
El Paso	0	0.00%
Lubbock	4	2.05%
Lufkin	1	0.51%
Mexia	143	73.30%
Richmond	3	1.54%
Rio Grande	0	0.00%
San Angelo	29	14.88%
San Antonio	2	1.03%
Total	195	

## **2. Designation of Primary Forensic Facilities and High-Risk Determinations**

Consistent with direction set by Senate Bill 643, 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, and Senate Bill 1300, 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, HHSC designated Mexia and San Angelo SSLCs as the primary providers of residential services and supports for alleged offender residents. Policies, procedures, practices and organizational structures have been modified to ensure facilities assess all alleged offender residents following admission to determine if they are at risk of inflicting substantial physical harm to another and should be classified as a high-risk alleged offender. If determined to be at high risk, the resident will be assessed annually thereafter. If determined not to be at high risk, the resident may request a transfer to another living center.

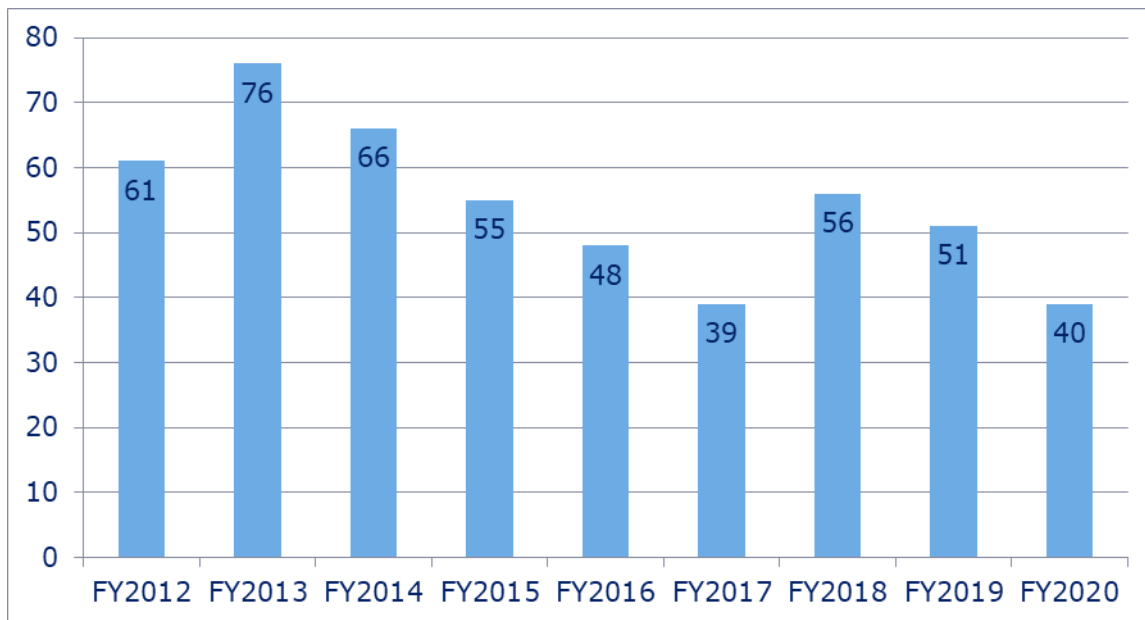
Currently, all male alleged offenders admitted under Chapter 46B of the Code of Criminal Procedure or Chapter 55 of the Family Code are initially served at Mexia SSLC and female alleged offenders are initially served at San Angelo SSLC.

Mexia SSLC currently serves approximately 73.3 percent of all alleged offenders in the system, which is a decrease from 77.3 percent in fiscal year 2019. San Angelo currently serves 14.8 percent of all alleged offenders, compared to 19 percent in 2019.

### 3. Trends in Admission and Separation of Alleged Offenders

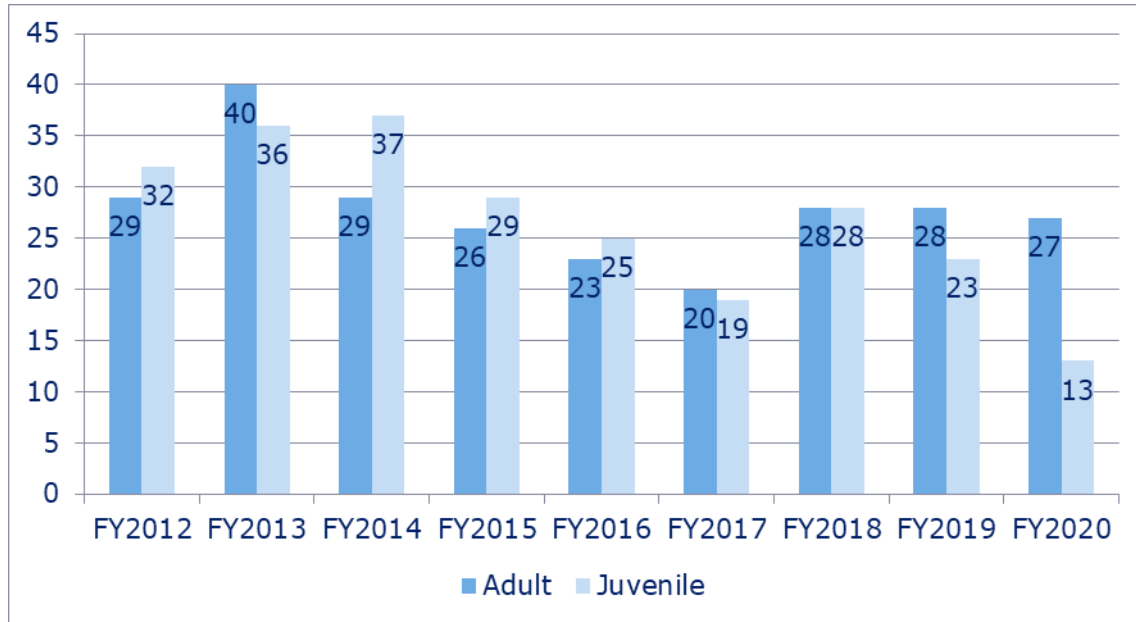
A total of 492 residents classified as alleged offenders were admitted to the living centers between fiscal years 2012 and 2020 (Figure 1). The majority of admissions were to Mexia SSLC, with a much smaller percentage of admissions to San Angelo SSLC. All alleged offenders whose admission to the SSLC system is ordered by a court are initially admitted to Mexia SSLC (males) or San Angelo SSLC (females).

**Figure 1. Alleged Offender Admissions**



Admissions of adult alleged offenders decreased slightly from FY19 to FY20. There was a larger decrease of 10 admissions of juvenile alleged offenders from FY19 to FY20 (see Figure 2). A contributing factor to the decrease in admissions in FY20 was the initial effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the pandemic, SSLCs implemented required protocols for quarantine and COVID-19 testing. These additional safety protocols prolonged the admission process, contributing to a decrease in the rate of admissions. SSLCs admitted 30 alleged offenders during the first six months of FY20 compared to 10 admissions during the last six months.

**Figure 2. Alleged Offender Admissions to State Supported Living Centers (Juvenile versus Adult Admissions)**



Seven counties accounted for 32 of the 40 court-ordered admissions (Table 2). Tarrant, Bexar, Harris, and Dallas counties had four or more court-ordered admissions.

**Table 2. Two or More Admissions**

County	# of Orders
Tarrant	9
Dallas	7
Harris	5
Bexar	4
Travis	3
Lubbock	2
Freestone	2

Data related to the primary alleged offenses for the 40 people admitted in FY20 reveal a large majority of the alleged offenses (Table 3) are in two major areas: assault/injury (50 percent), and sexual offenses (27.5 percent).

**Table 3. Primary Alleged Offenses (FY20 Admissions)**

Alleged Offenses	# of Residents	Percentage
Assault/Injury	20	50.00%

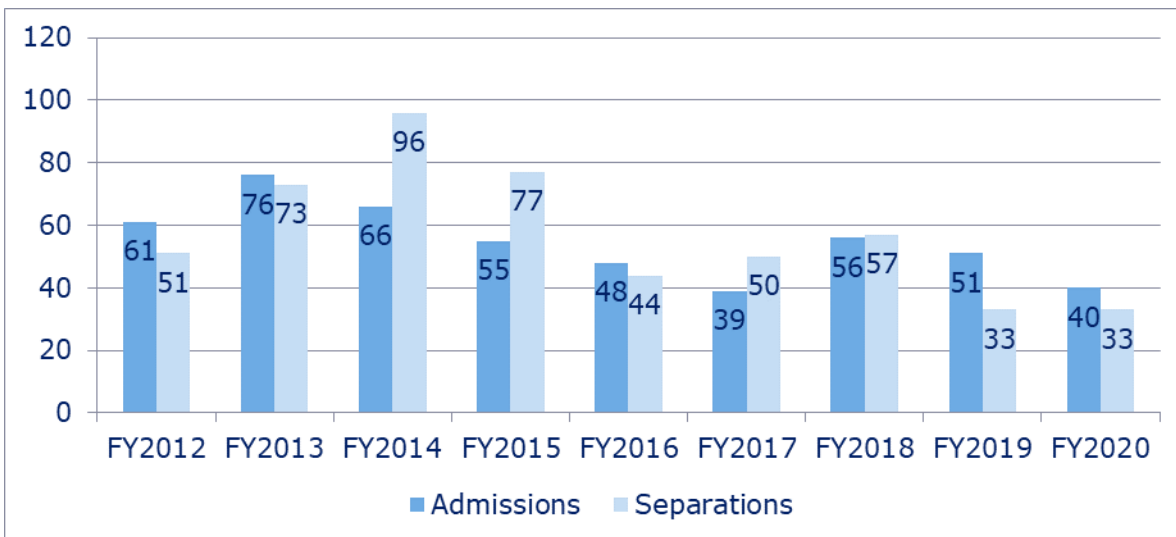
<b>Alleged Offenses</b>	<b># of Residents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sexual Offenses	11	27.50%
Burglary/Theft/Robbery	6	15.00%
Threats/Harassment	2	5.00%
Violation of Parole	1	2.50%
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>40</b>	

The 40 admissions in FY20 included one person who received services through the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; 14 people who had previously been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Proctive Services; six who had previously received services under the Section 1915(c) waiver program; and 38 receiving mental health/psychiatric services.

Once a resident is admitted to an SSLC through court order, the resident’s interdisciplinary team determines appropriate services and also determines, in accordance with federal regulations, when the resident is able to move to a less-restrictive setting. If a resident is determined to be appropriate for transition from the SSLC, the SSLC notifies the committing court about the planned transition.

Figure 3. outlines admissions and separations of alleged offenders from SSLCs from FY12 through FY20. During this same period, an average of 57 alleged offenders were discharged or transitioned from the SSLCs each fiscal year. However, FY19 and FY20 showed the fewest separations of alleged offenders from SSLCs, with 33 separations each year. Data from the last four fiscal years reflect an average of 43 separations per year.

**Figure 3. Admission and Separation of Alleged Offenders**



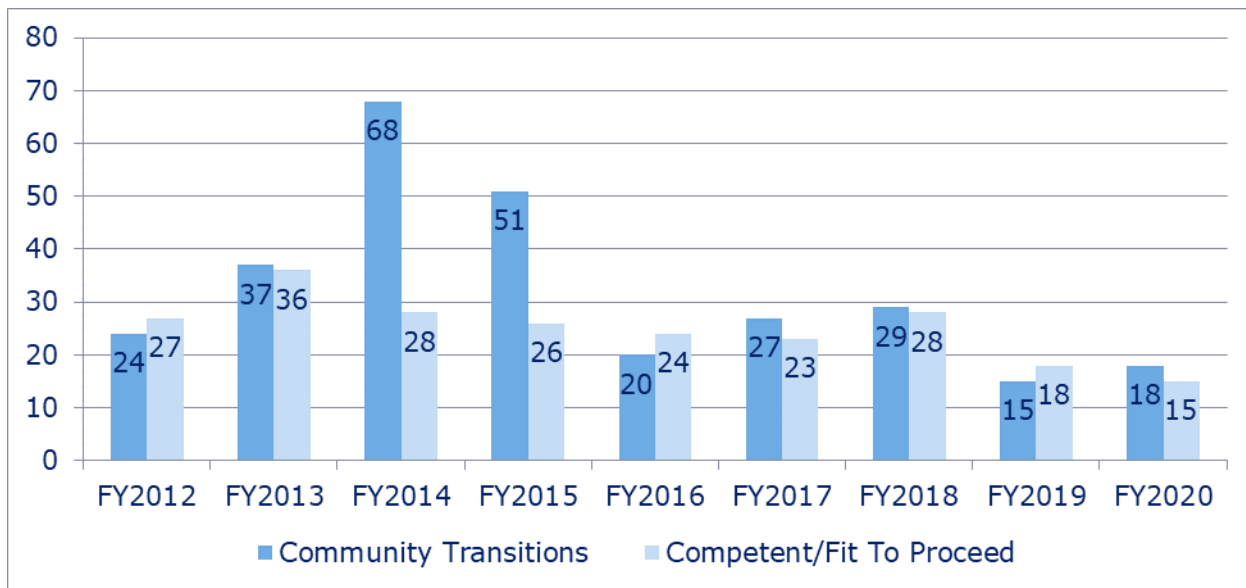
Separations of alleged offenders fall into two main categories:

- Discharge because of a determination of competency/fitness to proceed through the court system
- Transition to the community

If the resident is assessed during his or her initial evaluation period and is determined competent or fit to proceed, he or she is returned to the criminal justice system for appropriate dispensation of pending charges. If determined not competent or not fit to proceed, the resident is provided services and supports to develop appropriate skills and abilities to transition safely and appropriately to a less-restrictive residential setting.

From FY12 to FY20, 225 alleged offender residents were determined competent/fit to proceed. In the same time period, 289 alleged offender residents transitioned to a community setting. Community transitions only occur after the SSLC determines the resident no longer requires the extensive services and supports provided by the SSLC system (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Separations of Alleged Offenders**





## 4. Demographic Trends of Alleged Offender Residents

An analysis of the 195 alleged offenders receiving SSLC services as of August 31, 2020, found:

- **Alleged offenders are younger.**

The average age of the alleged offender resident is 34 which compares to the average age of 51 for non-alleged offenders. Of the alleged-offender residents, 14 percent are 21 or younger and 45 percent are in the 24- to 34-year-old age range. Approximately 11 percent are 55 or older. Refer to Table 4 for a further breakdown of age.

**Table 4. Age Categories**

Age Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age 0-17	11	5.64%
Age 18-21	17	8.72%
Age 22-34	88	45.13%
Age 35-44	37	18.97%
Age 45-54	21	10.77%
Age 55-64	13	6.67%
Age 65-75	8	4.10%
Total	195	

- **Alleged offenders are predominantly male.**

Of the alleged offender residents in SSLCs, 88 percent are male.

- **Alleged offenders require support for behavior management and psychiatric needs.**

Severe, profound or moderate behavior management needs are those that cause major disruption and threaten the health and safety of the resident, peers or staff if not addressed. These behaviors often require intensive intervention. Behavior management needs are categorized as moderate, severe or profound for 51 percent of alleged-offender residents. Additionally, alleged-offender residents require psychiatric support. In FY20, 95 percent of alleged offender admissions received mental health/psychiatric services.

## Appendix A. Data Tables for Figures 1–4

**Data Table A-1. Alleged Offender Admissions to State Supported Living Centers**

Fiscal Year	Admissions
2012	61
2013	76
2014	66
2015	55
2016	48
2017	39
2018	56
2019	51
2020	40

Presented as [Figure 1](#) in the body of this report

**Data Table A-2. Alleged Offender Admissions to State Supported Living Centers (Juvenile versus Adult Admissions)**

Fiscal Year	Adult Admissions	Juvenile Admissions	Total Admissions
2012	29	32	61
2013	40	36	76
2014	29	37	66
2015	26	29	55
2016	23	25	48
2017	20	19	39
2018	28	28	56
2019	28	23	51
2020	27	13	40

Presented as [Figure 2](#) in the body of this report.

**Data Table A-3. Admission and Separation of Alleged Offenders**

Fiscal Year	Admissions	Separations
2012	61	51
2013	76	73

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Admissions</b>	<b>Separations</b>
2014	66	96
2015	55	77
2016	48	44
2017	39	50
2018	56	57
2019	51	33
2020	40	33

Presented as [Figure 3](#) in the body of this report.

**Data Table A-4. Separation of Alleged Offenders**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Community Transitions</b>	<b>Competent/Fit to Proceed</b>	<b>Total Separations</b>
2012	24	27	51
2013	37	36	73
2014	68	28	96
2015	51	26	77
2016	20	24	44
2017	27	23	50
2018	29	28	57
2019	15	18	33
2020	18	15	33

Presented as [Figure 4](#) in the body of this report.

# List of Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name</b>
SSLC	State Supported Living Center
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission

