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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

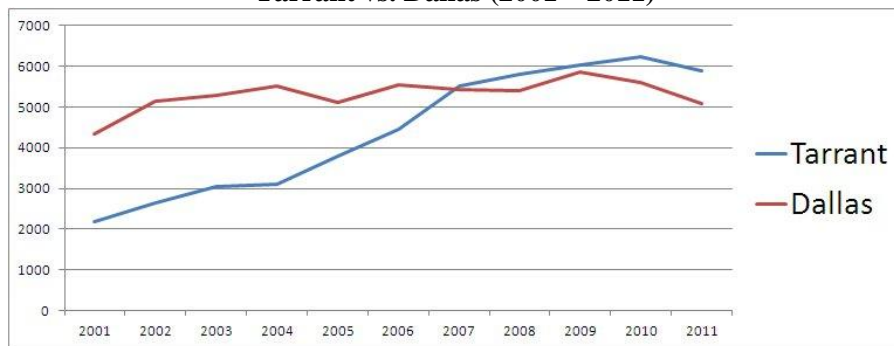
**5,888 Abused and Neglected Tarrant County Children in 2011:  
Number Down for The First Time In a Decade**

Feb. 15, Fort Worth, TX – According to the [Texas Department of Family & Protective Services 2011 Data Book](#), 5,888 Tarrant County children were confirmed as victims of abuse and neglect last year. This number only tallies *confirmed* cases. Experts and law enforcement agents believe that only one in 10 child abuse cases is confirmed; many children, who may only live just a few miles from us, are still shrouded in secrecy. Surprisingly, this number broke a decade-long upward trend in abused and neglected children; Since 2001, the rate of abused and neglected children in Tarrant County has increased by 193% while the child population has only increased by 20% during this same time period. Several factors may have contributed to Tarrant County's rising child abuse numbers in recent years:

1. Individuals in Tarrant County may feel more confident reporting abuse since 2001 than in prior years
2. Previously untraceable families are being found and investigated
3. Pressures on families continue to increase in our community, creating high-stress situations and amplifying the risk of child abuse

Although this number decreased from the year prior, **Tarrant County still has the second highest number of abused and neglected children in the entire State of Texas.** As the graph below shows, in 2007 Tarrant County surpassed Dallas County in the number of abused and neglected children although the child population in Dallas County is 40% larger:

**Confirmed Child Abuse & Neglect Cases  
Tarrant vs. Dallas (2001 – 2011)**



Sadly, the vast majority of abusers are parents or caregivers of the abused. Parenting education is proven to be one of the most effective ways to prevent this cycle of abuse. The Parenting Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, provides parenting education, counseling, case management and co-parenting programs that prevent child abuse and provide aid after abuse occurs. To learn more, please visit [www.TheParentingCenter.org](http://www.TheParentingCenter.org).

Source: [Data Books of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2001 – 2011.](#)