



Amarillo Mayor & City Council

May 28, 2024

The travesty of human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse continues to escalate across Texas and the country. Like cities across the state, the Amarillo area continues to grapple with sex and human trafficking embedded in the city and traffic passing through the area from the Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston metroplex. It is well documented that abortions are used as a tool to further the abuse and exploitation of women and children.¹

Due to the location, Amarillo is a pass-through point for so many taken across state lines for abortions coming from Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston metroplex areas, which are also the top two locations of sex trafficking cases in Texas.

Sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking are often done at the hands of family members, friends, and even the victim's parents. Frequently, abortions are used to cover up the ongoing abuse of the victims and are used as a tool to further the abuse. Abortions not only end the beating heart of an innocent life but further the emotional, physical, and spiritual death of women and children the procedures are forced upon.

Thanks to the joint law enforcement efforts, including Amarillo Police Department, 47 people were arrested and charged with sex crimes against children, and 13 children were rescued from sexual abuse.² Earlier this month, 13 arrests were made in connection with suspected trafficking and alleged prostitution.³

The porous borders are also an immense contributing factor to trafficking across Texas. In fact, under the current administration, Randall/Potter Counties have experienced a sharp increase in unaccompanied minors who have crossed illegally into the country. Many of these children are highly vulnerable and end up in trafficking and exploitative situations.

¹ Sheena Rodriguez. Dallas Express. "Abortions Performed on Unaccompanied Minors Under the Current Administration." May 7, 2024. <https://dallasexpress.com/opinion/opinion-abortion-performed-on-unaccompanied-minors-under-the-current-administration/>.

² Jamie Burch. ABC 7. "47 suspected child predators arrested in joint sting involving Amarillo Police Department." Mar. 5, 2024. <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/47-child-predator-suspects-arrested-in-joint-sting-involving-amarillo-police-department-operation-janus-north-texas-internet-crimes-against-children-adrian-dominquez-alqindia-nunez-reyes-andrew-trejo-angel-flores-arsenio-rodriguez-bryan-larumbe>.

³ Amarillo Globe-News. "Amarillo police make several arrests during human trafficking operation." May 2, 2024. <https://www.amarillo.com/story/news/2024/05/02/amarillo-police-arrest-13-suspects-in-human-trafficking-prostitution-operation/73547701007/>.

Over 60% of the unaccompanied minors released to sponsors residing in Potter/Randall Counties were released to individuals who were not their parents, raising additional concerns of potential exploitation and trafficking.⁴

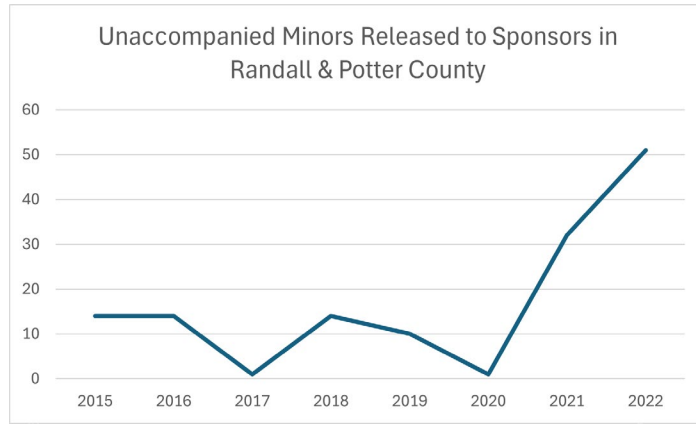


Chart: Alliance for a Safe Texas, Source: New York Times

Like most areas across Texas, Amarillo has a serious problem. In the face of the evils of abuse and exploitation, we must do what we can to help save lives and safeguard our communities. We encourage the Amarillo City Council to pass the Sanctuary City for the Unborn Ordinance, which would prohibit abortions performed on residence of Amarillo and the abortion trafficking of unborn children across state lines. By taking this necessary step, the City Council will play a pivotal role in helping to stop the further abuse and exploitation of women and children.

Sheena Rodriguez
Sheena Rodriguez, President

Alliance for a Safe Texas

Contact: sheena.rodriquez@securetheborder.us

⁴ New York Times.