



ANNUAL REPORT



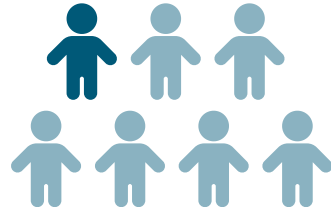
CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA

2024





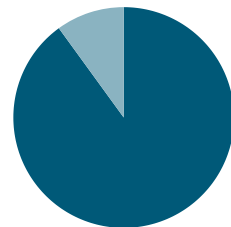
THE ISSUE OF **CHILD ABUSE**



**1 IN 7 CHILDREN EXPERIENCED
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN
THE LAST YEAR**



**ESTIMATED KIDS IN NORTH DAKOTA
WHO EXPERIENCED CHILD ABUSE
AND NEGLECT LAST YEAR**



**90%+ OF CHILD
VICTIMS KNOW AND
TRUST THEIR ABUSER**



**MOST CHILD VICTIMS
DELAY OR NEVER DISCLOSE
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**



WHAT IS A **CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY**

A Safe, Child-Friendly Place for Forensic Interviews

Highly trained professionals, guided by evidence-based research and trauma informed principles, allow kids to share their story of abuse.

Wraparound Mental Health and Medical Services for Victims

Trained professionals interview children, guided by evidence based research and trauma informed principles to ensure every child has an opportunity to share their story.

A Coordinated, Multi-Disciplinary Team Response to Child Abuse

Law enforcement, child protective services, mental health, medical, prosecution, and advocacy collaborate to provide compassionate care.

“

As a police officer, we rely heavily on the child-centered approach and expertise of Children's Advocacy Centers.

-North Dakota Police Officer

”



CENTER



Before CACs children had to tell the worst story of their life over and over again to social workers, nurses, law enforcement, lawyers, therapists, investigators, etc.



With CACs children only need to tell their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not retraumatize the child.

WHAT SERVICES CACs OFFER

Total number of services for all Children's Advocacy Centers in North Dakota in 2024

3,153

Total Number of Individuals Served

1,921

Total Number of Children Served

1,109

Forensic Interviews

Highly trained professionals, guided by research and best practices, ask age-appropriate questions to gather evidence and allow kids to share their story of abuse.

27,401

Victim Advocacy

With a compassionate, listening ear, advocates provide needed support, resources, referrals, and information—from the first day, throughout the court process, and beyond.

7,458

Mental Health

Trauma-informed, evidenced-based therapists offer in-person and telehealth counseling to combat the emotional effects of child abuse.

362

Medical Services

Trained medical professionals ensure the health and safety of children while identifying any evidence of sexual or physical abuse. These medical services are referred out to our partners.

573

Multidisciplinary Team

Law enforcement, human services, prosecutors, mental health, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, and medical professionals gathered to provide a collaborative response to cases of child abuse.



WHO CACs SERVE

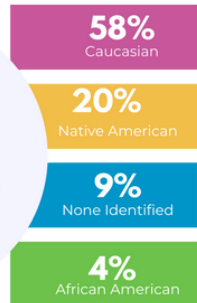
Age of Individuals Served



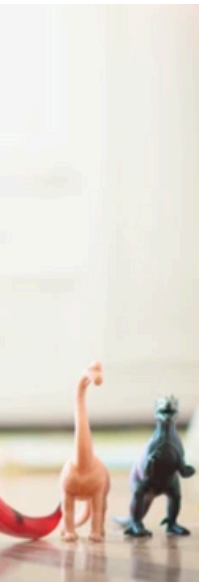
Type of Abuse



Race & Ethnicity

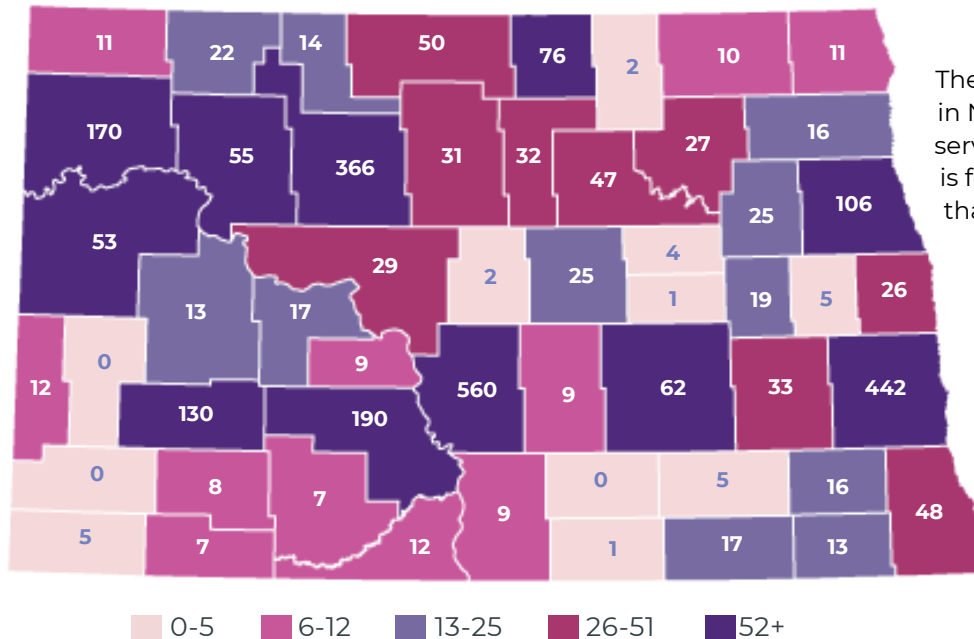


This year's report on Children's Advocacy Centers provides a glimpse into the reality of child sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment in our state. While our Children's Advocacy Centers' staff's tireless efforts have provided crucial support and services to countless children and families, the numbers underscore the urgent need for continued intervention, prevention, and community awareness.



WHERE CACs SERVE

Children served by county



The number of children impacted by abuse in North Dakota is much higher than those served by Children’s Advocacy Centers. This is for a variety of reasons including the fact that only 16% of child sexual abuse victims disclose the abuse.

Münzer et al. (2016)
Collin-Vézina et al. (2015)
Foster & Hagedorn (2014)
Sorsoli et al. (2008)

Our state’s 3 Children’s Advocacy Centers operate in 11 locations, serving all 53 counties and 5 Tribal nations.



Fargo | Grand Forks | Devils Lake
www.rrcac.org



Minot | Stanley | Bottineau
www.northernplainscac.org



Bismarck | Dickinson | Watford City
Standing Rock | Jamestown
www.dakotacac.org

“ The Children’s Advocacy Center is completely victim centered. Kids who are abused have a story to tell and the CAC offers that safe space. ”

Steph Wieland,
Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone

THE EFFICACY OF THE CAC MODEL

\$2.4 million

Lifetime Cost for Each Victim of Child Abuse or Neglect in the U.S.

Due to increased medical and mental health costs, risky behaviors, and reduced productivity



\$87,528

Yearly Cost for Each Victim of Child Abuse and Neglect in the U.S.



\$663

Amount Saved for Every \$1 Spent on a Children's Advocacy Center

Peterson. Economic Burden of Health Conditions Associated With Adverse Childhood Experiences Among US Adults. JAMA Netw Open. Published December 06, 2023. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.46323
Gelles, R. J., & Perlman, S. (Eds.). (2012). Estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect. Office of Justice Programs. Amount adjusted for inflation. Maryland Children's Alliance, 2021

What Caregivers Are Saying

This has been very stressful and hard on our family. I am so thankful the CAC is listening and helping us.

Mental health therapy at the CAC has saved my daughter's life and our relationship.

I brought my daughter to the CAC after she disclosed trauma. Her therapy sessions have been successful and now we can move forward as a family and establish healing for all of us.

How CACs Are Funded



Federal Grants



State Grants



Donations



Community Foundations



Third-Party Payments



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

WE ARE THE STATE CHAPTER OF CACs

Strengthening Our State's Response to Child Abuse

Our **MISSION** at the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota is to support and increase access to Children's Advocacy Centers through training, advocacy, awareness, partnerships, and prevention.

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota (CACND) is a statewide nonprofit organization with a **VISION** of every child in North Dakota who needs it having reasonable, consistent access to the full array of evidence-based Children's Advocacy Center services and an effective, multidisciplinary response to his or her case and care.

140

**Technical Assistance
Requests Completed**

40

Staff from CACs trained

“ Our team deeply values the high-quality trainings provided by CACND. Opportunities to collaborate with other mental health professionals at CACs statewide are essential for fostering strong relationships and sharing best practices, ultimately improving the quality of care we provide to children. ”



Dr. Anna Schimmelpfennig
Director, Mental Health Services
Red River Children's Advocacy
Center in Fargo

“ Thanks to CACND for bringing in another wonderful training! We are bursting with excitement and new ideas to continue the work of helping children in our community. ”



Benjamin Parker
Clinical Supervisor
Northern Plains Children's
Advocacy Center in Minot

Where We're Going in 2025



Providing **new trainings** for child welfare leaders, prosecutors, forensic interviewers, and mental health clinicians



Launching a **statewide awareness campaign**, which tells moving stories about the impact of Children's Advocacy Centers



Striving to **shore up access gaps** to Children's Advocacy Centers so every child abuse victim receives the full array of services



Ensuring Children's Advocacy Centers have the **sustainable resources** necessary to full their missions



CORE SERVICES

Increase Access to CAC Services



We work to expand the reach of CACs, ensuring that all children in North Dakota have access to all critical services from CACs.

Provide CAC Support



We offer a wide range of technical support as we aim to strengthen each CAC's response to child maltreatment.

Advocate for Better Policies



Systems-level change comes from developing strong policies that increase each family's safety and well-being.

Build Strong Partnerships



Collaborating with key stakeholders, through resource sharing and networking, leads to the best outcomes for kids.

Deliver Specialized Trainings



We provide leading-edge training and education to CAC staff and partners, enhancing their ability to serve children and families.

Advance Community Awareness



Informed, empowered communities is a powerful step in the work of child abuse intervention and prevention.

Preventing Child Abuse



We work to reduce the incidence of child abuse through partnerships in prevention programs and services.

“ Our own CAC has been able to grow and we have become stronger than we ever have been and much of that is due to the Chapter's assistance. ”
CAC Director





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OF NORTH DAKOTA**

