



2018 Annual Report



Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

Who We Are



Dakota Children's Advocacy Center

The Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) provides a compassionate and effective way to bring services to children and families affected by abuse. Our collaboration with multidisciplinary team members significantly reduces the trauma associated with child abuse and improves case outcomes. We help coordinate care and investigation from first report to conviction and beyond, while keeping the child at the center of everything the team does.

The mission of the DCAC is to provide a safe, family-friendly environment that promotes hope, health, and healing to traumatized children and their families.



Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER



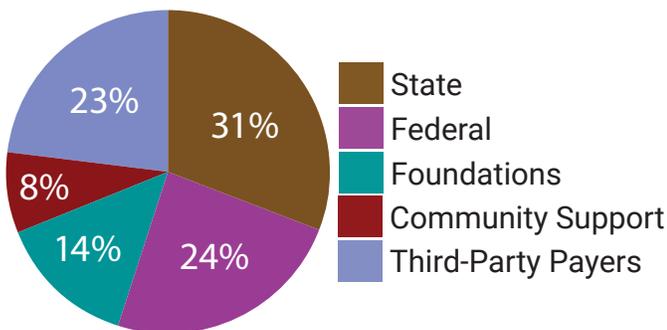
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ALLIANCE®

How We Are Funded

2018 Revenue and Expenses

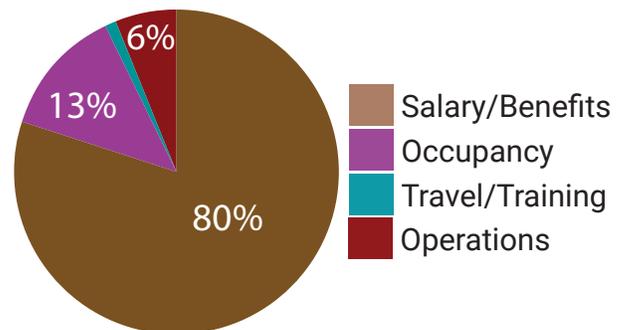
Revenue

As a non-profit organization, the DCAC is dependent on the generosity of the communities we serve. CACs never bill families for services. We are funded through grants, foundations, community support and third-party payers.



Expenses

By far a majority of our expenses go to supporting direct services to traumatized kids and their families. We do this so we can provide a safe, family-friendly environment that promotes hope, health, and healing.



Partners in Our Success



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NORTH DAKOTA
Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation



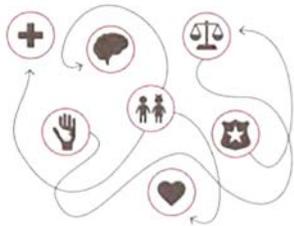
CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA



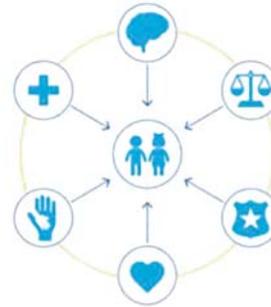
What We Do

To understand what a Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again, to doctors, law enforcement, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may have to talk about that traumatic experience in a police station where they think they might be in trouble, or may be asked the wrong questions by a well-meaning teacher or other adult that could hurt the case against the abuser.

Without CACs



With CACs



When police or child protective services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC—a safe, child-focused environment—by a caregiver or other “safe” adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not re-traumatize the child. Then, a team that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocacy, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child based on the interview. CACs offer therapy and medical exams, plus courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and other services. This is called the multidisciplinary team (MDT) response and is a core part of the work of CACs.

Our Goals



Do the best job possible in finding out what happened.



Help make the process as comfortable as possible for you.



Work in cooperation with other services/programs to help your child and you.



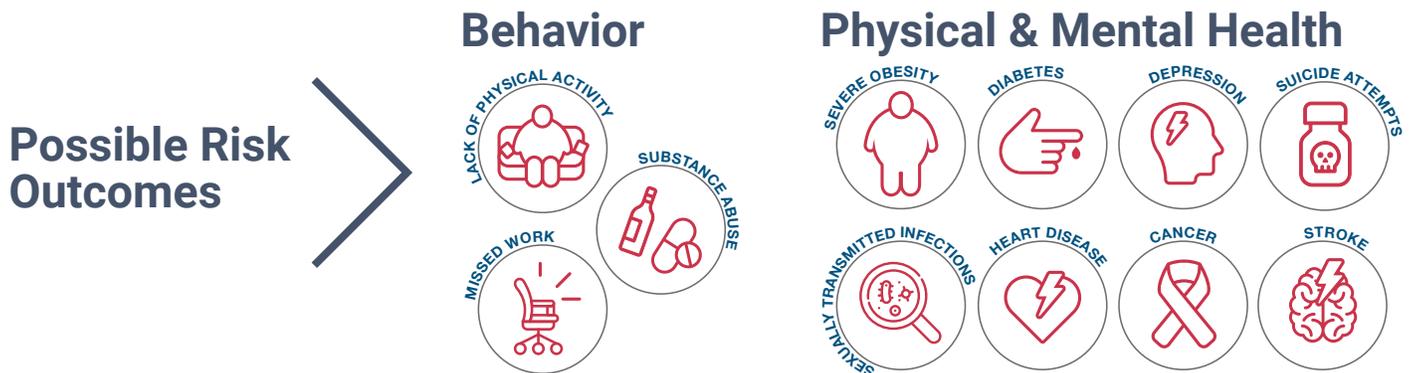
Help your family begin to heal.

Why It Matters

Child abuse and other forms of trauma can have lifelong effects on children, families, and communities.

Child trauma can last a lifetime.

Many studies have shown the strong relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), which include childhood trauma like abuse, and serious outcomes such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, substance use, health problems, and even poverty and early death.



Trauma is both common and costly to society.

How many children are we talking about? Nearly half of all U.S. children experience at least one type of childhood trauma. That exacts a toll on children, their caregivers, and their community, and our country as a whole also pays a price. Quite literally: In addition to the physical, emotional, and social costs of child abuse, it also carries economic costs.¹

Abuse and other forms of trauma are common.

Nearly half of all U.S. children—some **34 million**—have experienced at least one type of childhood trauma, while **16 million** have experienced two or more types of trauma.²

Abuse carries a heavy cost.

The lifetime cost for each victim is

\$210,012¹

Each year, total lifetime costs of new cases of child abuse reach approximately

\$124 billion

¹ Fang, X.; Brown, D., Florence, C., and Mercy, J. The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. (2012) Child Abuse and Neglect, Volume 36, Issue 2, February 2012, pages 156-165.

² Bethell, C, Newacheck, P, Hawes, E, Halfon, N. Adverse childhood experiences: assessing the impact on health and school engagement and the mitigating role of resilience. (2014) Health Affairs Dec; 33(12):210-2016

Our Services

Attention to the needs and abilities of children is the hallmark of the Children's Advocacy Center model to ensure that children are not further victimized by the systems intended to protect them. From the initial allegation of abuse, the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) approach allows the child an opportunity to talk with a single interviewer in a safe, neutral setting, thus protecting the victim from being unnecessarily interviewed by multiple people from each specific field. The team continues to work together to guide the investigation, treatment, management and possible prosecution of the case to ensure the greatest level of protection and care for the child and his/her family.

Forensic Interviews

Specially trained Forensic Interviewers work with the MDT to ensure victims are not interviewed unnecessarily and allow them to share their story in a safe, legally sound and neutral setting.

Advocacy Services

Advocacy focuses on the needs of the youth and non-offending caregiver(s), providing needed support and information along with a compassionate, listening ear.

Medical Evaluations

Specialized medical evaluations are offered to ensure the health and safety of each victim, identify any evidence of abuse, and refer for additional care as needed.

Mental Health Care

Specialized, evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health services are offered to the victim and family to help them cope with the trauma and to assist them through the healing process.

MDT Collaboration

CAC's and MDT members come together to improve the response of the investigation and intervention of child abuse.

Prevention and Education

While there is no one thing we can do to guarantee children will be safe, there are things we can do to decrease the likelihood of abuse and improve our response to it.

241
Forensic Interviews



3139
Advocacy Services



71
Medical Evaluations



936
Mental Health
Sessions



79
MDT Members at
Case Review



1645
Prevention and
Education Services



How You Can Help



The services of the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) are made possible because of the generous support of the community. We have grown out of a community need to better the response and intervention of those most vulnerable and we need you to partner with us to make that happen. Donate today!

The DCAC is solely funded through grants, donation and third-party payers. Every penny donated helps make a difference in the lives of children.

Support Kids

Support legislation that keeps kids safe. Children are our future and we need to make their health and safety a priority.



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For more information on how you can help visit our website @ www.dakotacac.org/how-you-can-help

Volunteer

In order to provide services free to families, the DCAC truly depends on the help of volunteers. Volunteers contribute their unique talents, skills and knowledge to help restore hope, health and healing to children and their families.

Wish List

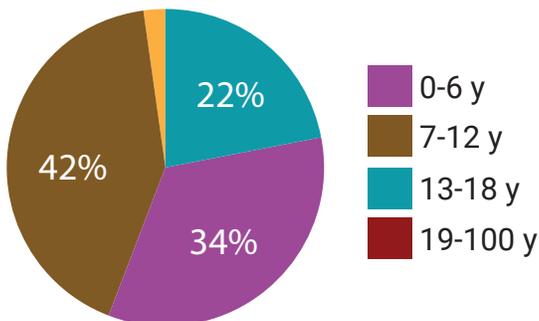
Visit us @ www.dakotacac.org to view our Wish List of needed items that help us support the families we serve.



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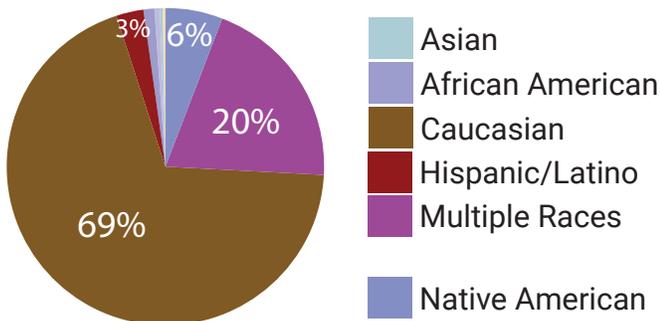
Who We Serve

One in every 10 children will be a victim of sexual abuse by their 18th birthday; approximately 65% will be female. Based on data from the CDC, a conservative estimate for the cost of maltreatment in North Dakota is more than \$525 million in one year.



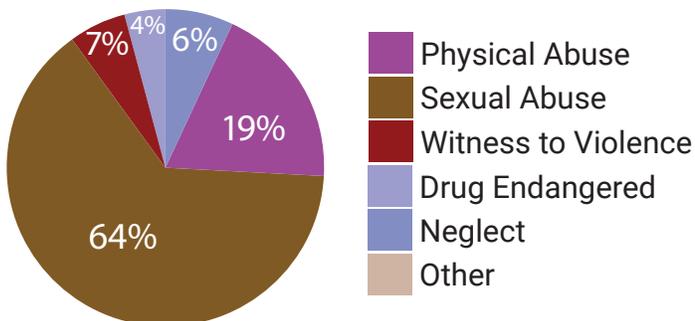
Age

Though abuse affects children of all ages, the majority of children seen at Children’s Advocacy Centers in North Dakota are under 12.



Race

As North Dakota has grown over the past 10 years so has the ethnic diversity of our victims. Although 69% of our victims are Caucasian, representation of other races have increased nearly 10% in the last 10 years.



Types of Abuse

The majority of cases seen at the CACs in North Dakota involve an allegation of sexual abuse. In fact, more than one in ten of all substantiated victim abuse and neglect referrals to social service agencies nationwide are victims of sexual abuse.

The Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center exists to change those numbers and lead the fight against the cycle of child abuse through a more coordinated and compassionate approach.

Our Numbers

DCAC provided
6018



services to
562



people in
2018

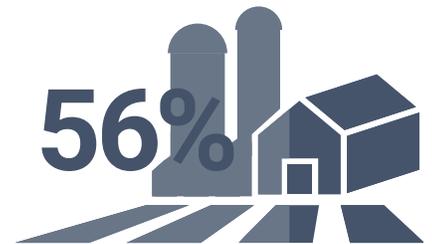
65% Female
35% Male



42%

of North Dakota counties and
1 Native American
reservation referred to the
DCAC last year.

56%



of referrals came from
rural counties.

96%

knew their offender. Most of
the time, the dangers to
children are not from
strangers, but from someone
they know and trust.

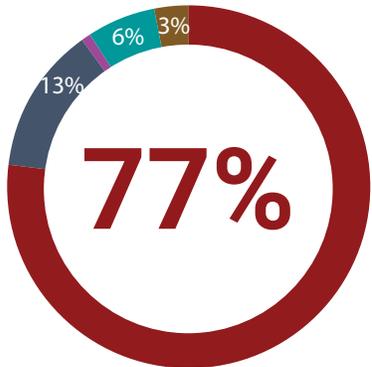
26%

of offenders were < 18,
highlighting the need for
evidence-based services
for kids with sexual
behavior problems.

Our Impact

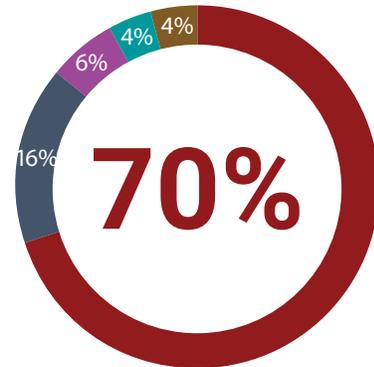
"This has been such a hard thing for us and the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center has literally been a life-saver. Your services are amazing and we are so grateful."

I believe my child felt safe at the center.



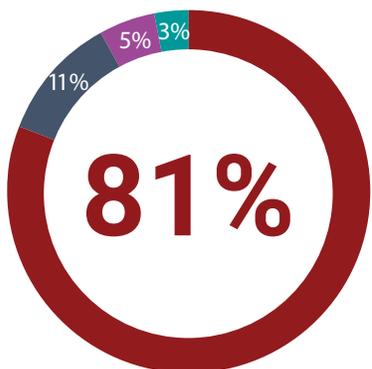
Strongly Agree Somewhat Disagree
Somewhat Agree Strongly Disagree
I don't know

The DCAC provided me with resources to support my child.



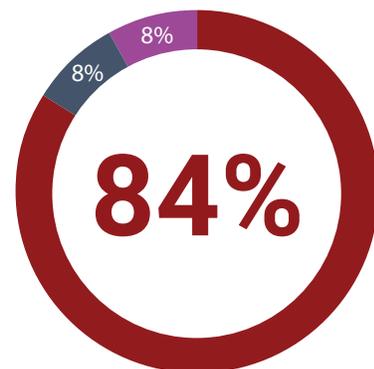
Strongly Agree Somewhat Disagree
Somewhat Agree Strongly Disagree
I don't know

The DCAC provides resources that build better cases.



Strongly Agree Somewhat Disagree
Somewhat Agree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

MDT members feel clients benefit from the collaborative approach.



Strongly Agree Somewhat Disagree
Somewhat Agree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

"The Dakota Children's Advocacy Center is an invaluable resource"



January

Launched our new website www.dakotacac.org to connect with our community, inform those in need, and provide resources to our families and team members.



April

Sponsored a Family Day Make and Take along with community partners to increase protective factors and prevent child abuse. Over **150** parents and kids from our community attended.

July

Held a Multidisciplinary Team picnic for over **60** of our team partners to thank them for the work that they do.



October

Held our first annual Monster Mash Bowling Bash fundraiser. **41** teams brought in over **\$11,000** to continue to provide services to abused children and their families in our community.



December

Trained **165** Multidisciplinary Team members in working on Technology Facilitated Crimes Against Children cases. Thanks to a grant from the National Children's Alliance.

