

HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?



Core Function of CAC



Function Provided by a Team Member

LAW ENFORCEMENT



The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety

If not criminal in nature, law enforcement may not take action

Immediate Response

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The role of CPS is to ensure that a child's home is safe

If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, CPS may not take action

Priority Assigned
(24-72 hours)



Child is brought to children's advocacy center

Joint Investigation Begins
Forensic Interview
Evidence Collected
Photos Taken
Witness Interview
Medical Treatment and Exam



CAC coordinates Case Review with all team members, including law enforcement, prosecution, Child Protective Services, the forensic interviewer, a mental health provider, a medical professional, and a family advocate



Case presented to District Attorney

Suspect Charged or Case Refused

Child & family receive mental health services— Family advocate works with family to assess critical resources and provide support as the case moves through the justice system

Child Removed from Home, or Case Opened for Services, or Case Closed

National Children's Alliance Standards for Children's Advocacy Centers (Effective 2023)

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

A committed and effective multidisciplinary team (MDT) with a shared common goal is the foundation of a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). A multidisciplinary team response to child abuse allegations includes representation from the following: Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, Prosecution, Medical, Mental Health, Victim Advocacy, Children's Advocacy Center.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & ACCESS

The CAC provides culturally responsive services for all clients throughout the duration of the case.

FORENSIC INTERVIEW

Forensic interviews are coordinated to avoid duplicative interviewing and are conducted in a manner that is legally sound and of a neutral, fact-finding nature.

VICTIM SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

Victim support and advocacy services are provided to all CAC clients and their caregivers as part of the multidisciplinary team response.

MEDICAL EVALUATION

Specialized medical evaluation and treatment services are available to all CAC clients and are coordinated as part of the multidisciplinary team response.

MENTAL HEALTH

Evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health services, designed to meet the unique needs of the child and caregivers, are consistently available as part of the multidisciplinary team response.

CASE REVIEW & COORDINATION

A formal process in which multidisciplinary discussion and information sharing regarding the investigation, case status and services needed by the child and family is to occur on a routine basis.

CASE-TRACKING

Children's Advocacy Centers must develop and implement a system for monitoring case progress and tracking case outcomes for all MDT components.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A designated legal entity responsible for program and fiscal operations has been established and implements basic sound administrative policies and procedures.

CHILD SAFETY & PROTECTION

The CAC is comfortable, private and both physically and psychologically safe for diverse populations of children and their family members

National Children's Alliance Optional Standards for Children's Advocacy Centers (Effective 2023)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to a range of crimes and activities (solicited, patronized or advertised) involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person.

The CAC identifies, screens, and provides services to children and youth who are at risk of, or have experienced the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

Child Abuse Prevention

The CAC provides evidence-supported child abuse prevention education, training, and community awareness.

Physical Abuse

Specialized care, evaluation and treatment services are available to all clients in cases of alleged physical abuse, and are coordinated as part of the multidisciplinary team response.



Pennsylvania Children's Advocacy Centers Statistics 2013-2022

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total number of children served at the CAC: | 9,525 | 11,092 | 13,617 | 13,999 | 15,734 | 16,645 | 16,722 | 13,040 | 15,474 | 15,735 |
| Gender of children: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 3,344 | 3,799 | 4,673 | 4,954 | 5,431 | 5,643 | 5,628 | 4,188 | 4,718 | 4,989 |
| Female | 6,174 | 7,289 | 8,940 | 9,032 | 10,294 | 10,962 | 11,071 | 8,799 | 10,685 | 10,574 |
| Undisclosed | 7 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 0 | 23 | 67 | 71 | 172 |
| Age of children at first contact with center: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-6 years | 3,359 | 3,435 | 4,110 | 4,060 | 4,469 | 4,658 | 4,440 | 3,378 | 3,756 | 3,751 |
| 7-12 years | 3,415 | 4,117 | 5,144 | 5,344 | 6,041 | 6,510 | 6,641 | 5,049 | 6,006 | 6,023 |
| 13-18 years | 2,734 | 3,540 | 4,350 | 4,593 | 5,224 | 5,474 | 5,638 | 4,619 | 5,592 | 5,938 |
| Undisclosed | 17 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 120 | 23 |
| Types of abuse reported: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sexual Abuse | 8,085 | 9,488 | 11,194 | 11,431 | 12,504 | 13,021 | 12,850 | 9,837 | 11,673 | 11,728 |
| Physical Abuse | 1,088 | 1,397 | 2,085 | 2,218 | 2,605 | 2,785 | 3,289 | 2,710 | 3,188 | 3,702 |
| Neglect | 287 | 85 | 170 | 211 | 253 | 285 | 243 | 271 | 376 | 406 |
| Witness to Violence | 217 | 269 | 387 | 410 | 541 | 613 | 702 | 659 | 913 | 974 |
| Drug Endangerment | 28 | 35 | 58 | 79 | 160 | 192 | 183 | 185 | 325 | 356 |
| Other | 115 | 118 | 228 | 253 | 463 | 506 | 493 | 454 | 507 | 598 |
| Number of the children receiving services: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical Exam/Treatment | 2,992 | 3,804 | 5,002 | 5,562 | 6,087 | 6,360 | 6,195 | 4,815 | 6,838 | 5,859 |
| Counseling Therapy | 1,741 | 2,263 | 2,547 | 2,511 | 2,732 | 2,400 | 2,538 | 2,487 | 2,489 | 1,695 |
| Referral to Counseling Therapy | 3,201 | 4,038 | 4,270 | 5,357 | 6,095 | 5,743 | 5,724 | 4,633 | 4,730 | 3,458 |
| Onsite Forensic Interviewing | 7,385 | 8,541 | 10,342 | 10,591 | 11,599 | 12,133 | 12,597 | 9,819 | 12,257 | 11,938 |
| Offsite Forensic Interviewing | 278 | 331 | 235 | 321 | 551 | 623 | 426 | 245 | 41 | 36 |

NCA Statistics - NCA National Statistics Report

2022

State: Pennsylvania

Total number of children served: 15,735

Gender of children:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Male | 4,989 |
| Female | 10,574 |
| Undisclosed | 172 |

Age of children at first contact:

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| 0-6 years | 3,751 |
| 7-12 years | 6,023 |
| 13-18 years | 5,938 |
| Undisclosed | 23 |

Total number of alleged offenders: 13,070

Relationship of alleged offender to child:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Parent | 3,967 |
| Stepparent | 489 |
| Other Relative | 2,606 |
| Parent's boyfriend/girlfriend | 1,047 |
| Other known person | 3,686 |
| Unknown | 1,578 |

Age of alleged offenders:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Under 13 | 658 |
| Age 13 to 17 | 1,755 |
| Age 18+ | 8,063 |
| Alleged Offender Age Undisclosed | 2,714 |

Types of abuse reported:

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Sexual Abuse | 11,728 |
| Physical Abuse | 3,702 |
| Neglect | 406 |
| Witness to Violence | 974 |
| Drug Endangerment | 356 |
| Other | 598 |

NCA Statistics - NCA National Statistics Report

2022

State: Pennsylvania

Race or ethnicity of total children seen:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| White | 9,503 |
| Black/African American | 2,924 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 1,451 |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 14 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 148 |
| Other | 959 |
| Undisclosed | 736 |

Number of the children receiving services:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Medical Exam/Treatment | 5,859 |
| Counseling Therapy | 1,695 |
| Referral to Counseling Therapy | 3,458 |
| Onsite Forensic Interviewing | 11,938 |
| Offsite Forensic Interviewing | 36 |

| Other Services Provided By CAC | <u>Children</u> | <u>Adults</u> | <u>Unknown Age</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Case Management/Coordination | 5,698 | 3,666 | 344 | 9,708 |
| Prevention | 25,501 | 6,839 | 128 | 32,468 |
| Other Categories | 2,151 | 2,127 | 63 | 4,341 |

Pennsylvania CAC Locations

| ACCREDITED | |
|------------------|--|
| Adams County | Adams County Child Advocacy Center 450 W. Middle St. Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 337-9888 |
| Allegheny County | A Child's Place, PA Child Advocacy Center 1515 Locust St., 3rd Fl., Suite 302 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-5166 (412) 232-8817 |
| Allegheny County | Child Advocacy Center at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh 4117 Penn Ave., Office 2112 Pittsburgh, PA 15224 (412) 692-8338 |
| Armstrong County | Kay's Cottage P. O. Box 983 325 Arch Street Kittanning, PA 16201 (724) 543-1180 |
| Berks County | Children's Alliance Center of Berks County 633 Court St., 15th Floor Reading, PA 19601 (610) 898-0535 |
| Blair County | Center for Child Justice 501 Howard Ave., Bldg D Suite 203 Altoona, PA 16601 (814) 201-2057 |
| Bradford County | The Children's House Child Advocacy Center P.O. Box 335 Towanda, PA 18848 (570) 265-4132 |
| Bucks County | Bucks County Children's Advocacy Center 2370 York Rd., Suite B5 Jamison, PA 18929 (267) 927-0639 |
| Cambria County | Circle of Support Child Advocacy Center 117 Work Drive Johnstown, PA 15904 (814) 254-4567 |

ACCREDITED

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Centre County | Children's Advocacy Center of Centre County, Mount Nittany Health 129 Medical Park Lane Bellefonte, PA 16823 (814) 234-6118 |
| Chester County | Chester County Children's Advocacy Center 201 W. Market St., Suite 4450 West Chester, PA 19380-0989 (610) 344-6875 |
| Clearfield County | Child Advocacy Center of Clearfield County P.O. Box 265 Hyde, PA 16843 (814) 768-3155 |
| Dauphin County | UPMC Child Advocacy Center of Central PA 2645 N. Third St. Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 782-6800 |
| Delaware County | Family Support Line of Delaware County 100 West 6th St., Suite 1 Media, PA 19063 (610) 268-9145 |
| Erie County | Bradley H. Foulk Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County 1334 W. 38th St. Erie, PA 16508 (814) 451-0202 |
| Franklin County | Over the Rainbow Children's Advocacy Center 40 N. 2nd St. Chambersburg, PA 17201 (717) 504-8491 |
| Indiana County | The CARE Center of Indiana County 125 N. 5th St. Indiana, PA 15701 (724) 463-8595 |
| Jefferson County | Western PA Cares for Kids 3262 Rt. 322 Brookville, PA 15825 (814) 849-1904 |
| Lackawanna County | Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern PA (NEPA) 1710 Mulberry St. Scranton, PA 18510 (570) 969-7313 |

ACCREDITED

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Lancaster County | Lancaster County Children's Alliance 430 N. Lime St. Lancaster, PA 17602 (717) 544-1929 |
| Lawrence County | Children's Advocacy Center of Lawrence County, Inc. 2010 W. State St. New Castle, PA 16101 (724) 658-4688 |
| Luzerne County | Luzerne County Child Advocacy Center 187 Hanover St. Wilkes Barre, PA 18702 (570) 208-2895 |
| McKean County | Children's Advocacy Center of McKean County 424 W. Main St. Smethport, PA 16749 (814) 887-3354 |
| Mercer County | Mercer County Children's Advocacy Center 8406 Sharon-Mercer Rd. Mercer, PA 16137 (724) 662-1550 |
| Montgomery County | Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County 180 West Germantown Pike, Suite 1 East Norriton, PA 19401 (484) 687-2990 |
| Northumberland County | Child Advocacy Center of the Central Susquehanna Valley, Geisinger 218 Chestnut St. Sunbury, PA 17801 (570) 473-8475 |
| Philadelphia County | Philadelphia Children's Alliance 300 E. Hunting Park Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 387-9500 |
| Wyoming County | Children's Center of Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties 55 West Street Tunkhannock PA 18657 (570) 836-7717 |
| York County | York County Children's Advocacy Center 28 S. Queen St. York, PA 17403 (717) 718-4253 |

ASSOCIATE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Butler County | Children's Advocacy Center of Butler County 101 Mahood Rd, Butler, PA 16001 (724) 431-3689 |
| Lehigh County | John Van Brakle Child Advocacy Center 1627 W. Chew St. Allentown, PA 18102 (484) 633-0935 |
| Monroe County | Children's Advocacy Center of Monroe County P.O. Box 608 Bartonsville, PA 18321 (570) 982-1902 |
| Pike County | Dickson House Children's Advocacy Center 506 Broad Street Milford, PA 18337 (570) 832-0089 |
| Somerset County | Somerset County Child Advocacy Center 513 Georgian Place Somerset, PA 15501 (814) 445-1628 |

AFFILIATE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Crawford County | Children's Interview Center of Crawford County (CICCC) 18282 Technology Dr. Meadville, PA 16335 (814) 333-7300 |
| Venango County | Venango County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) 1 Dale Ave. Franklin, PA 16323 (814) 432-9775 |
| Warren County | Warren County Children's Advocacy Center 110A E. Saint Clair St. Warren, PA 16365 (814) 313-1004 |

SATELLITE

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Beaver County | A Child's Place, PA at Beaver 1217 7th Ave., Suite 1 Beaver Falls, PA 15010 (412) 232-8837 |
| Fayette County | A Child's Place, PA at Fayette 6 Oliver Rd., Suite 119 Uniontown, PA 15401 (412) 232-8837 |
| Washington County | A Child's Place, PA at Washington Washington County Children and Youth 155 Wilson Ave. Washington, PA 15301 (412) 232-8837 |
| Westmoreland County | A Child's Place, PA at Westmoreland 8981 Norwin Ave., Suite 103 North Huntingdon, PA 15642 (412) 232-8817 |
| Montgomery County | Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County Satellite 929 Willow Street, Pottstown, PA 19464 (484) 687-2990 |

2023

SHINE WALK

*Because every child
deserves a Children's
Advocacy Center.*

Join us for a 1-mile walk to bring child sexual abuse out of the shadows, support survivors, and raise awareness of the work of Children's Advocacy Centers serving child victims of abuse and families in Pennsylvania.

Friday, September 15, 2023
11AM–12PM*

**City Island, Riverfront Park
& State Street**

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE
([or click here](#))



Did you know?

- 1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse by their 18th birthday
- There are 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse living in the U.S. today
- Last year 15,474 Pennsylvania children came to a Children's Advocacy Center because of suspected abuse

**Check-in begins at 10:15AM near Walnut Street bridge entrance via City Island. If you are unable to walk, please arrive at the Capitol steps facing State Street by 11:30AM to welcome walkers and take photos.*