



2023 Annual Report



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

What Is a CAC?

A Children's Advocacy Center is a victim-focused, community-orientated, safe facility in which members of a multidisciplinary team work together to provide a comprehensive coordinated and compassionate investigation and intervention of abuse allegations.



Without CACs



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



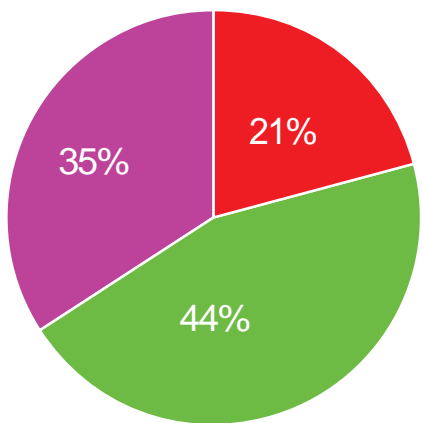
With CACs, children only need to tell their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not retraumatize the child.

Who CACs Serve

2,055 Female



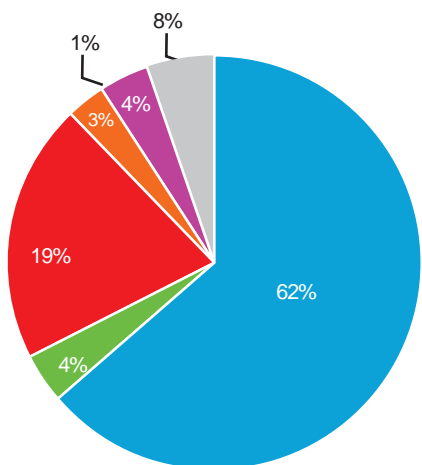
941 Male



- 0-6 years
- 7-12 years
- 13-18 years

Age

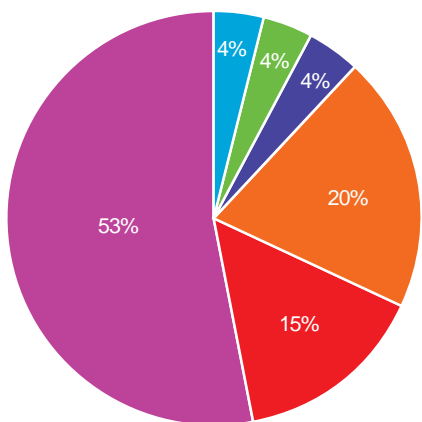
Though child abuse affects individuals of all ages, the majority of children seen at Children's Advocacy Centers in North Dakota are under 12.



- Caucasian
- Native American
- Multi-racial
- African American
- Hispanic
- Other

Race

As North Dakota has grown over the past 10 years so has the ethnic diversity of our victims. Although 64% of our victims are Caucasian, representation of other races have increased nearly 10% since 2007.



- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Other
- Neglect
- Psychological
- Drug Endangered

Survivors of Abuse and Neglect

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.

One in every 10 children in North Dakota will be a victim of sexual abuse by their 18th birthday; approximately 65% will be female.

What CACs Do

Forensic Interviews

Specially trained Forensic Interviewers work with the multidisciplinary team (MDT) to ensure victims are not interviewed unnecessarily and allow them to do so 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 evidenced 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.

Multidisciplinary Team

In the past, responses to child abuse were fragmented and poorly coordinated. Now children and families receive a collaborative approach from a multidisciplinary team made up of law enforcement, social services, prosecutors, victim advocates, forensic interviews, mental health clinicians, and medical personnel.

1,058

Forensic Interviews



46,637

Advocacy Services



248

Medical Evaluations



6,625

Mental Health Care



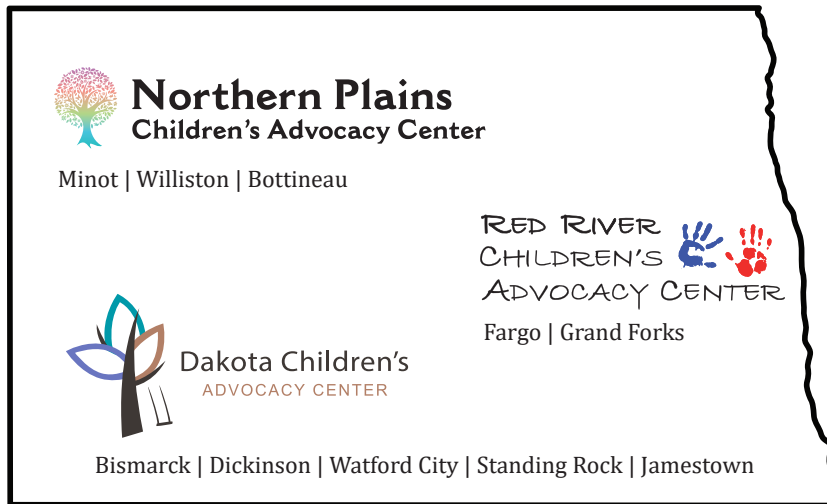
502

MDT Members at
Case Review



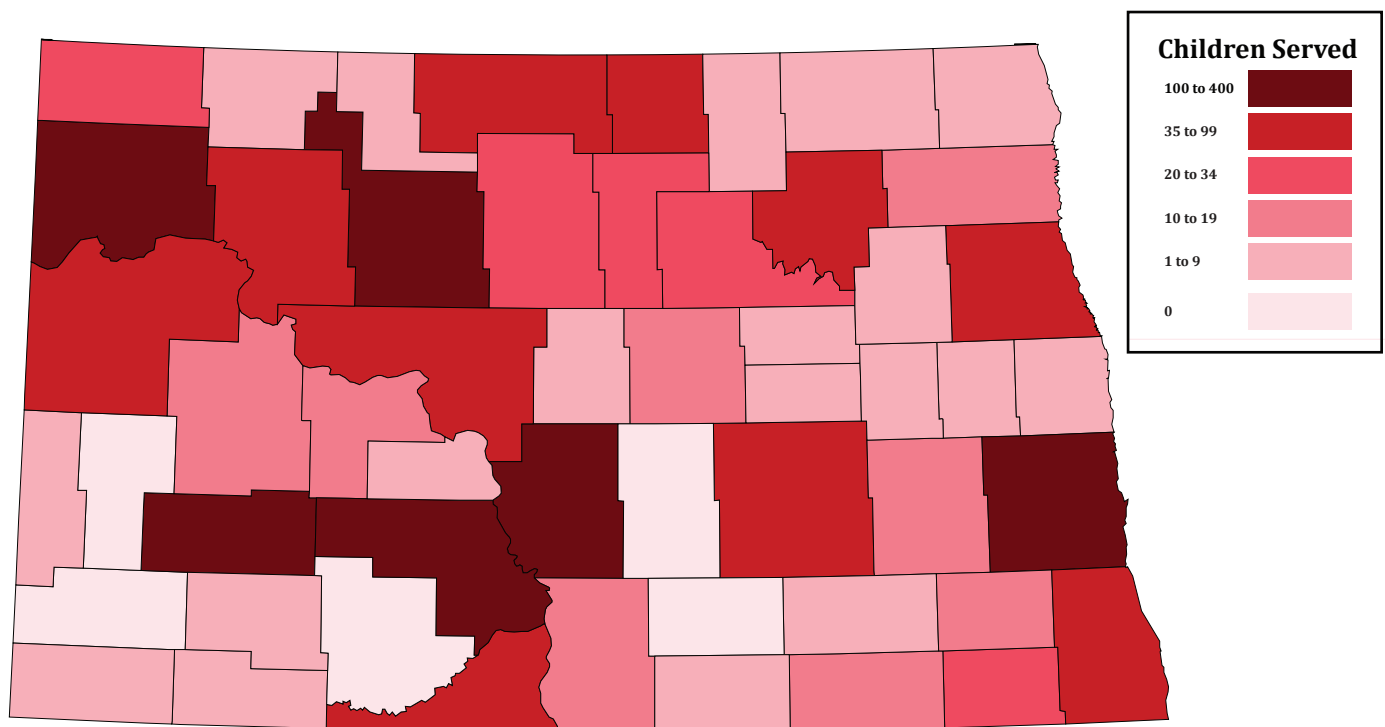
Where CACs Serve

CAC Locations



Our 3 Children's Advocacy Centers operate in 10 location, while serving all 53 counties and 5 reservations in our state. Our services ensure all suspected child victims of abuse get the help they need to live healthy lives. Each of our Children's Advocacy Centers coordinate with law enforcement, human service workers, medical professionals, counselors, and prosecutors to provide healing to child abuse victims and their families.

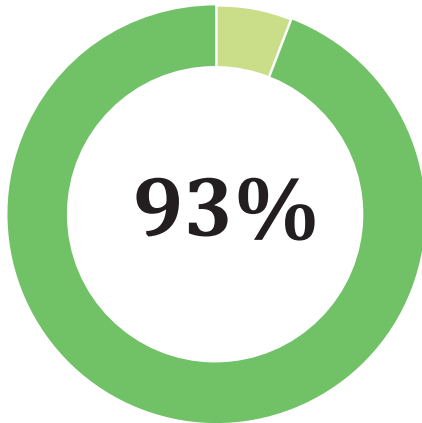
Children Served by County



How CACs Made an Impact

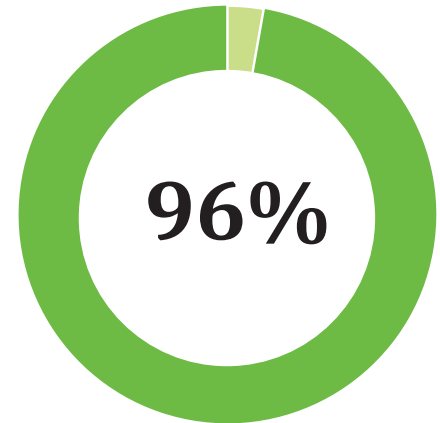
"They made sure to reassure me and my child that they were here to do anything they could to help the situation at hand, they also made sure to reassure her that my daughter was not in any trouble and that she could be very comfortable in the environment she was in."

My child felt safe at the CAC.



■ Agree
■ Unsure/Disagree

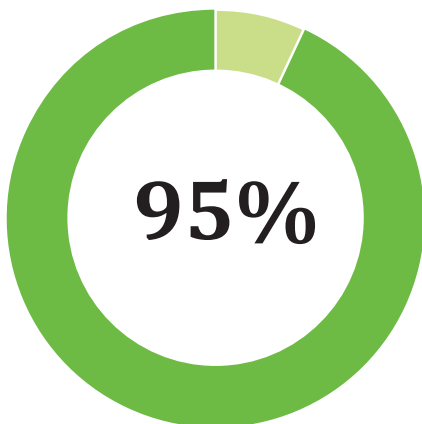
The CAC provided me with resources to support my child.



■ Agree
■ Unsure/Disagree

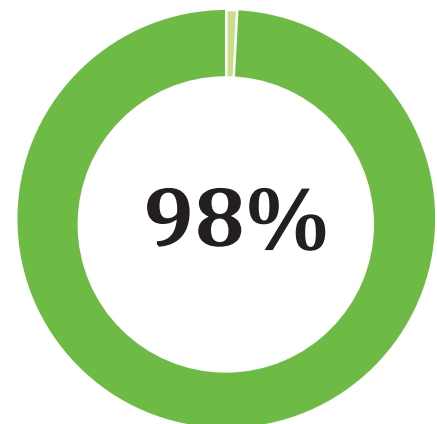
"Thank you for all your kindness and willingness to help my child."

MDT members feel the CAC provides resources to build better cases.



■ Agree
■ Disagree/Not Applicable

MDT members feel clients benefit from the collaborative approach.



■ Agree
■ Disagree/Not Applicable

"I feel that the center is a huge asset to our agency. Being able to use a well trained and experienced person for forensic interviews is incredibly important."