



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

2025 Annual Report

**Strengthening Our
State's Response to
Child Abuse**

www.cacnd.org







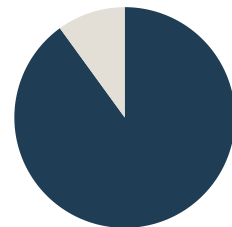
THE ISSUE OF **CHILD ABUSE**



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.

"I couldn't be happier with the collaborative effort of the CAC model, recognizing the need for wrap around services while respecting the fact that various entities have different roles and responsibilities."

-Law Enforcement 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 2025

3,012

Total Number of Individuals Served

1,768

Total Number of Children Served

1,046

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.

8,544

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.

6,685

Mental Health

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

268

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.

624

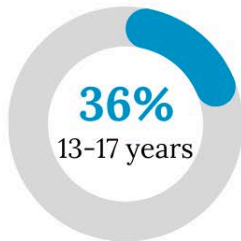
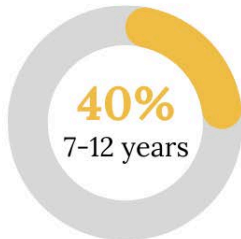
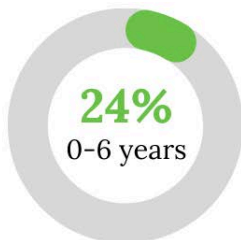
Multidisciplinary Team

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



This year's report offers a look at the reality of child sexual abuse and other forms of child maltreatment in North Dakota. Every day, staff at Children's Advocacy Centers across our state walk alongside children and families during some of their hardest moments. The numbers in this report reflect both the need for these services and the importance of continuing to strengthen intervention, prevention, and community awareness efforts.

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

The center really cared about my child's wellbeing. As a parent I felt like all the staff there were very knowledgeable and dependable.

Throughout this entire process, the child advocacy center was the only place that I felt listened to what I was saying. I felt there was sincerity behind their concern for my daughter, and that their intent was honest and caring. That was the only time there was a sense of security in any of this.

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.

319

**Technical Assistance
Requests Completed**

50

Staff from CACs trained

How Our Work Is Making a Difference

"The resources, insights, and real experiences shared during the training will make a real difference in my work."

-Forensic Interviewer

"Hearing from other advocates and sharing ideas was invaluable, it inspired me to grow and improve advocacy at my location."

-Family Advocate

Where We're Going in 2026



Elevating prevention as a statewide priority. Advancing strategies that stop abuse before it occurs and strengthen parents and caregivers across North Dakota.



Strengthening the Children's Advocacy Center network. Supporting multidisciplinary teams and building long-term infrastructure to ensure every child has access to coordinated care.



Advancing policy and funding solutions. Working with state and federal leaders to strengthen laws and secure sustainable resources for children's services.



Equipping communities to protect children. Expanding training, outreach, and partnerships that build local capacity to recognize and respond to abuse.



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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