

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS

Every child.
Every service.
Every effort.



children's advocacy
centers™ of texas

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS (CACs)

Improving Texas' response to child abuse: A true public- private partnership

A multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to the investigation, intervention, and prosecution of child abuse cases, providing the following core services:

71 CACS SERVING 61,891 CHILDREN IN TEXAS



**JOINT
INVESTIGATION
COORDINATION**



**FORENSIC
INTERVIEWS**



**FAMILY ADVOCACY
AND VICTIM SUPPORT**



**TRAUMA-FOCUSED
THERAPY**



**MEDICAL
EVALUATIONS**



**MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
CASE REVIEW**

OUR TEXAS CAC NETWORK BRINGS TOGETHER:

OVER 1,300 dedicated CAC staff members

OVER 1,000 law enforcement jurisdictions

MORE THAN 230 district and county attorneys

COUNTLESS medical and mental health professionals

EVERY Department of Family and Protective Services region in the state, Child Care Investigations, and Adult Protective Services.

While **over 98%** of Texas' population resides in a county that is officially served by one of our 71 programs, the challenge remains to not only reach all 254 counties, but also to ensure that every child who walks through our doors has access to the full array of vital CAC services. As such, our CAC network is on a mission to achieve a shared vision:
Every child. Every service. Every effort.

WHY CACS MATTER

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES STUDY¹ DEMONSTRATES NEED FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

Children who have experienced trauma are more likely to engage in early initiation of smoking, sexual activity, illicit drug use, adolescent pregnancies, and suicide.

Children with multiple traumas have significantly higher rates of heart disease, chronic pulmonary lung disease, hepatitis, depression, and diabetes.

1 in 10 children
will be sexually abused
before their 18th birthday²

IMPACT OF TEXAS CAC THERAPY SERVICES

71% of clients initially diagnosed with significant depression symptoms showed none after 12 therapeutic sessions.

52% of clients starting with post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms showed none after 12 sessions.

As a result, an astonishing number of courageous children have restored their essential self.

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE³ ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN ARE
59% more likely to be arrested for juvenile crime
28% more likely to be arrested as an adult

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE⁴ ESTIMATES

93% of youth in detention reported exposure to previous “adverse” events, including physical and sexual abuse.

NATIONAL RESEARCH INDICATES

36% higher average cost per case to investigate child abuse versus non-CAC investigations⁵.

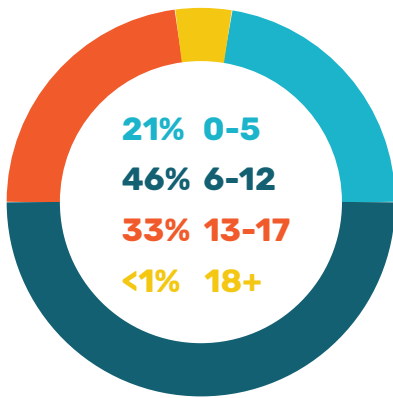
WHO CACS SERVE

61,891

Texas Children in 2020



AGES SERVED:



TYPES OF ABUSE:

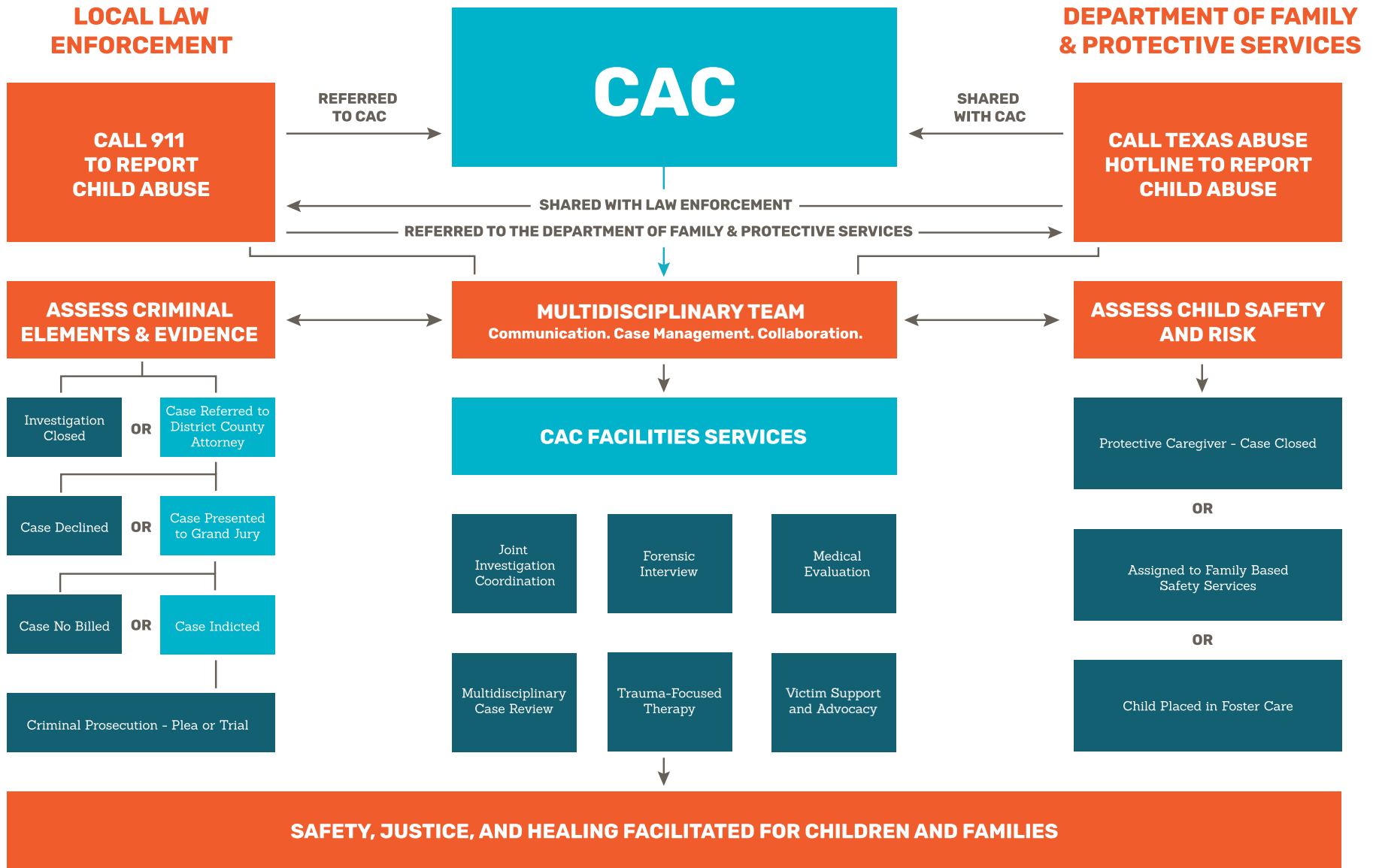
- 66%** sexual abuse
- 17%** physical abuse
- 7%** child witness to crime
- 6%** neglect
- 2%** other
- 1%** sexual and physical abuse
- 1%** fatality

582 children involved in sex trafficking

98% of child victims knew their alleged perpetrator

19% of alleged perpetrators were juveniles

HOW THE CAC MODEL WORKS



SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2020

Joint Investigation Coordination

251,147 DFPS reports of abuse & neglect were reviewed

Forensic Interviews

40,786 children forensically interviewed

Victim Support and Advocacy

60,493 families received family advocacy services

Trauma-Focused Therapy

23,231 children received mental health services

9,983 adults received mental health services (non-offending caregivers)

Medical Evaluations

7,627 children received medical evaluations

MDT Case Review

33,330 cases were reviewed by the MDT (facilitated by the CAC)

CACS FACILITATE SAFETY, JUSTICE & HEALING

94% of MDT members reported that the CAC MDT approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations.⁶

95% of caregivers felt that the CAC facilitated healing for their child and for themselves.⁷

There are 71 children's advocacy centers in the state of Texas serving over 60,000 children each year.



CACS IN TEXAS STATUTE

Texas Family Code Section 264.401-411:

Defines CACs; contains mandates, requirements, and protections; allows for sharing of confidential case information.

Texas Family Code Section 261.3126:

Promotes co-location of Department of Family and Protective Services and local law enforcement investigators at CACs, where feasible.

- 1 Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study; <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>.
- 2 Darkness to Light, "Estimating a Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence Rate for Practitioners: A Review of Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence Studies" by C. Townsend and A.A. Rheingold (2013).
- 3 U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Research in Brief, "An Update on the 'Cycle of Violence'" by Cathy S. Widom and Michael G. Maxfield (2001).
- 4 National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, Research and Program Brief, "Trauma Among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: Critical Issues and New Directions" by Julian D. Ford, John F. Chapman, Josephine Hawke, and David Albert (2007).
- 5 National Children's Advocacy Center, "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Community Responses to Child Maltreatment" by Amy L. Shadoin, Suzanne N. Magnuson, et al. (2006).
- 6 CACTX Outcome Measurement System, 1,070 surveys were collected from MDT members in FY20.
- 7 CACTX Outcome Measurement System, 9,018 surveys were collected from caregivers of child victims receiving services at a CAC in FY20.

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