WHY IT MATTERS TO TEXAS?

1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday³

INVEST UPSTREAM Untreated trauma is costly for both the child and Texas

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study⁴

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

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

ACCORDING TO THE National Institute of Justice⁵ abused and neglected children are:

more likely to be arrested for juvenile crime.

THE National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice⁶ ESTIMATES

of youth in detention reported exposure to "adverse" events, including physical and sexual abuse.

CACs raise an additional for every the state appropriates.

CACs: An Effective Public-Private Partnership

National research indicates that the average cost per case to investigate child abuse was higher for non-CAC investigations.7

Strengthening child abuse investigations & prosecutions



counties remain outside the official CAC services area, leaving Texas children without the full services of a CAC.

There are 69 children's advocacy centers in the state of Texas serving 40,000 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 DFPS and local law enforcement investigators at CACs, where feasible.

- 1 CACTX Outcome Measurement System, 1,211 surveys were collected from MDT members in FY 15.
- 2 CACTX Outcome Measurement System, 6,644 surveys were collected from caregivers of child victims receiving services at a CAC in FY
- 3 Darkness to Light, "Estimating a Child Cexual Abuse Prevalence Rate for Practitioners: A Review of Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence Studies" by C. Townsend and A.A. Rheingold (2013).
- 4 Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study; http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/.
- 5 U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Research in Brief, "An Update on the 'Cycle of Violence" by Cathy S. Widom
- 6 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)
- 7 National Children's Advocacy Center, "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Community Responses to Child Maltreatment" by Amy L. Shadoin, Suzanne
- 8 Official TF-CBT National Therapist Certification Program, https://tfcbt.org/; percentages reflect data as of November 2015.



1501 West Anderson Lane Bldg. B-1 Austin, Texas 78757 P 512-258-9920 F 512-258-9926

www.cactx.org

Understanding the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Model in Texas





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

A victim-centered, multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, providing specialized forensic interviews, therapeutic recovery services, medical evaluations, and case management.

CACS Facilitate Healing & Justice

of MDT members reported that the CAC MDT approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations.¹

of caregivers felt that the CAC facilitated healing for their child and for themselves.²

Our Texas CAC network brings together over 800 dedicated CAC staff members, every Child Protective Services region in the state, Child Care Licensing, Adult Protective Services, over **900** law enforcement jurisdictions, more than **200** district and county attorneys, and countless medical and mental health professionals. In a state the size of Texas, it is no small feat to claim that more than 95 percent of Texas counties are covered by one of our nearly **10** programs..

Services Provided in

31,194 children were interviewed

6,533 children received medical

16.587 children received mental health services

8,106 adults received mental health services (usually the non-offending caregiver)

26,000 cases were reviewed by the MDT (facilitated by the CAC)

HOW DOES THE CAC MODEL WORK?

Core Function of CAC

Function Provided by a Team Member

CALL 911 to REPORT CHILD ABUSE

CALL 1-800-252-5400. Child Abuse Hotline

LAW ENFORCEMENT **CRIMINAL**

The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety

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

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

CIVIL

The role of CPS is to ensure that a child is safe

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

PRIORITY ASSIGNED (24-72 hours)

CHILD IS BROUGHT TO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Forensic Interview Photos Taken Medical Treatment and Exam

the forensic interviewer • a mental health provider a medical professional • a family advocate

Of Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Cases

or Case Refused

and provide support

7% Child Removed from Home

81% Case Closed;

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY CACS

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

TF-CBT is an empiricallysupported treatment for children who have experienced traumatic events. Therapy reduces negative emotional and behavioral responses following traumatic events and typically involves both

the primary caregiver

and child.

Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

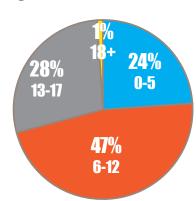
PCIT is an empirically-supported treatment for children with overt behavioral issues. Therapy focuses on building parental skills and increasing positive interactions between the primary caregiver and child after a traumatic event.

Additional Trauma-Focused Therapeutic Services

Therapy to address the emotional impact of the traumatic event. reduce or eliminate the risk of future abuse, and address issues which the traumatic event may trigger.



Ages of Children Served:



Type of Abuse:

68% sexual abuse

12% physical abuse

6 child at-risk/secondary victim

6% child witness to crime

2% sexual and physical abuse

2% other

1% neglect

1% fatality



of alleged perpetrators are iuvenile.