

WHY IT MATTERS TO TEXAS?



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:

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 Justice⁶ ESTIMATES

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

\$5 CACs raise an additional for every **\$1** the state appropriates.

36% National research indicates that the average cost per case to investigate child abuse was higher for non-CAC investigations.⁷

CACs: An Effective Public-Private Partnership
Strengthening child abuse investigations & prosecutions



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 15.
- 3 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).
- 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 and Michael G. Maxfield (2001).
- 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 N. Magnuson, et al. (2006).
- 8 Official TF-CBT National Therapist Certification Program, <https://tfcbt.org/>; percentages reflect data as of November 2015.

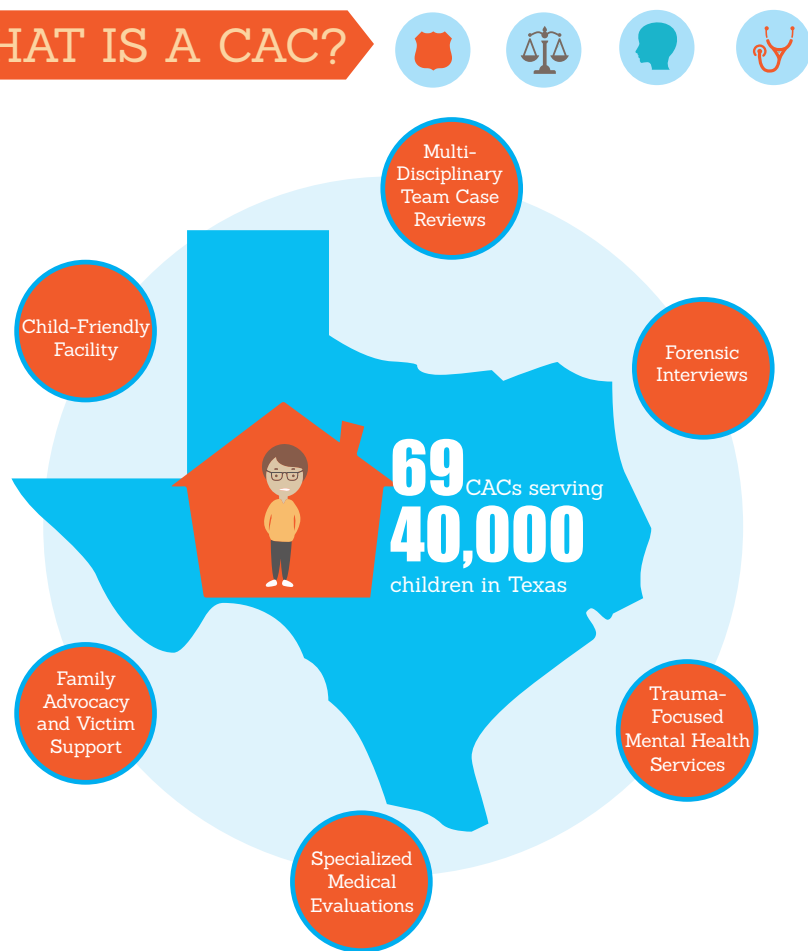
Understanding the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Model in Texas



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WHAT IS A CAC?



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

98% of MDT members reported that the CAC MDT approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations.¹

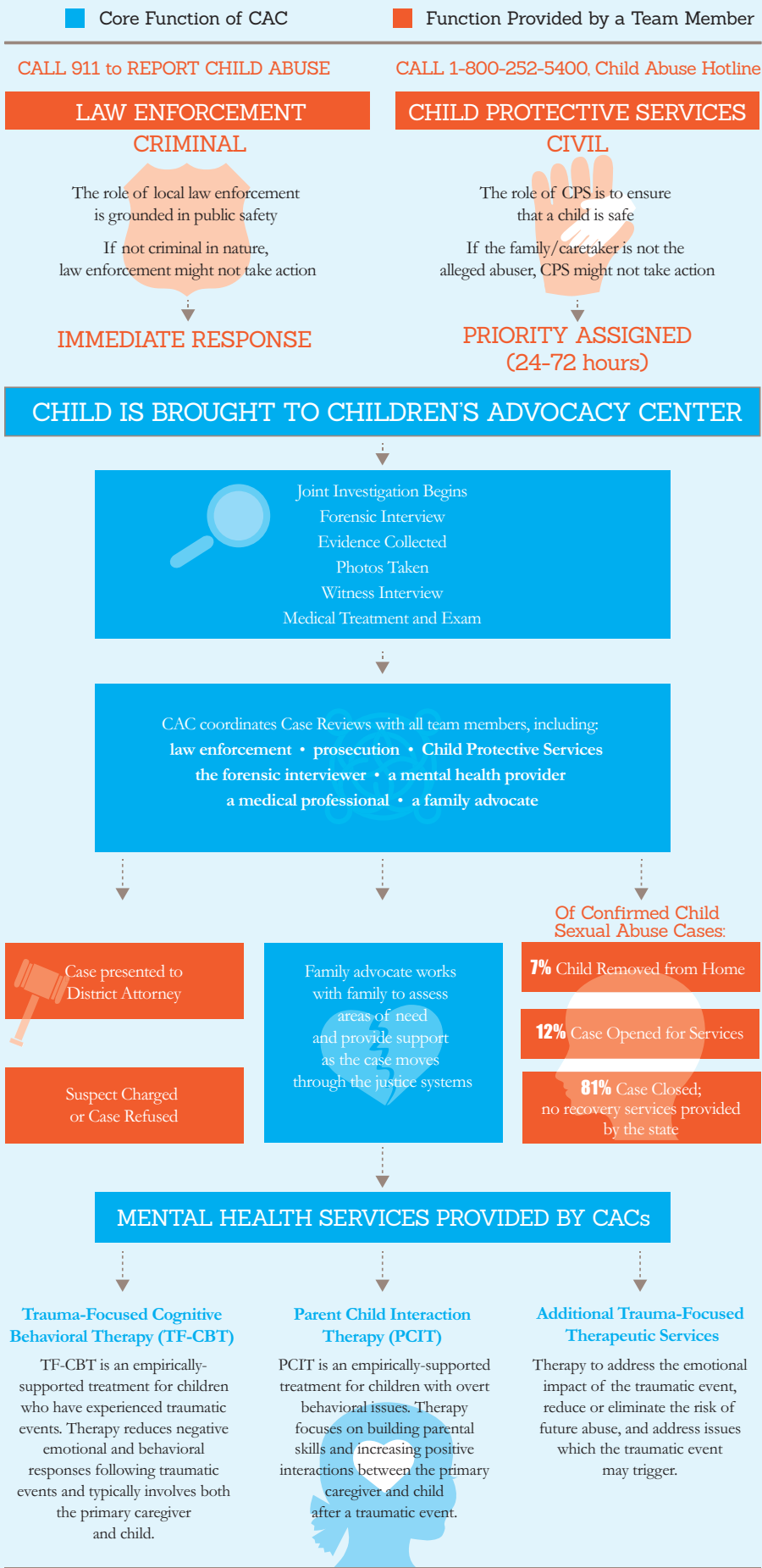
93% of caregivers felt that the CAC facilitated healing for their child and for themselves.²

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 **70** programs..

Services Provided in FY15:

- 31,194** children were interviewed
- 6,533** children received medical exams
- 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)

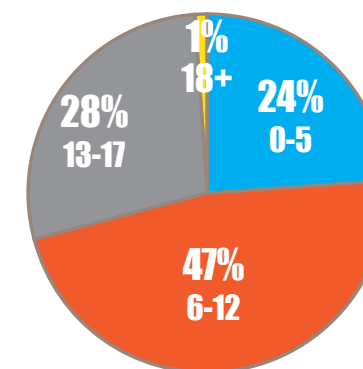
HOW DOES THE CAC MODEL WORK?



WHO CACs SERVE?



Ages of Children Served:



Type of Abuse:

- 68%** sexual abuse
- 12%** physical abuse
- 8%** child at-risk/secondary victim
- 6%** child witness to crime
- 2%** sexual and physical abuse
- 2%** other
- 1%** neglect
- 1%** fatality

95% of child victims KNEW their alleged perpetrator.



19% of alleged perpetrators are juvenile.