

SERVICES PROVIDED AT CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS IN 2023



Joint Investigation Coordination
313,169 DFPS reports of
abuse and neglect reviewed



Multidisciplinary Case Review
35,993 cases reviewed by the
MDT and facilitated by CACs



Forensic Interviews
41,411 children
forensically interviewed



Trauma-Focused Therapy
25,953 children received
mental health services
8,742 adults received mental
health services



Medical Evaluations
6,836 children received
medical evaluations



Victim Support and Advocacy
54,013 families received
advocacy services

OVER ONE MILLION CHILDREN PROVIDED CRITICAL SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Texas CAC network seeks to reach **every child** that needs the services of a CAC, provides **every service** required by that child, and makes **every effort** to facilitate those services to the highest standard of care.

99% of Texas’ population
resides in a county served by a CAC

CACS IN TEXAS STATUTE

These statutes ensure that CACs and MDT partners coordinate cases effectively and deliver the highest standard of care to children impacted by abuse.

[Texas Family Code Section 264.401-411:](#)
Defines CACs; contains mandates, requirements, and protections; and 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.

1 Based on services from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS

**Every child.
Every service.
Every effort.**



IMPROVING TEXAS' RESPONSE TO CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Children's advocacy centers (CACs) provide a safe, child-friendly environment that facilitates access to safety, justice, and healing for Texas children impacted by abuse and violence. CACs provide a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach that improves the response to these crimes while supporting the emotional well-being of children and caregivers impacted by trauma.

CACs and their MDT partners, including law enforcement, local district and county attorneys, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), medical and mental health professionals, and victim and family advocates, collectively work towards a unified and coordinated response on behalf of children. The CAC MDT approach provides case coordination, forensic interviews, medical evaluations, mental health treatment, case review, and victim support and advocacy.

The network of Texas CACs brings together:



OVER 1,500
dedicated CAC
staff members



OVER 1,100
law enforcement
jurisdictions



MORE THAN 230
district and
county attorneys

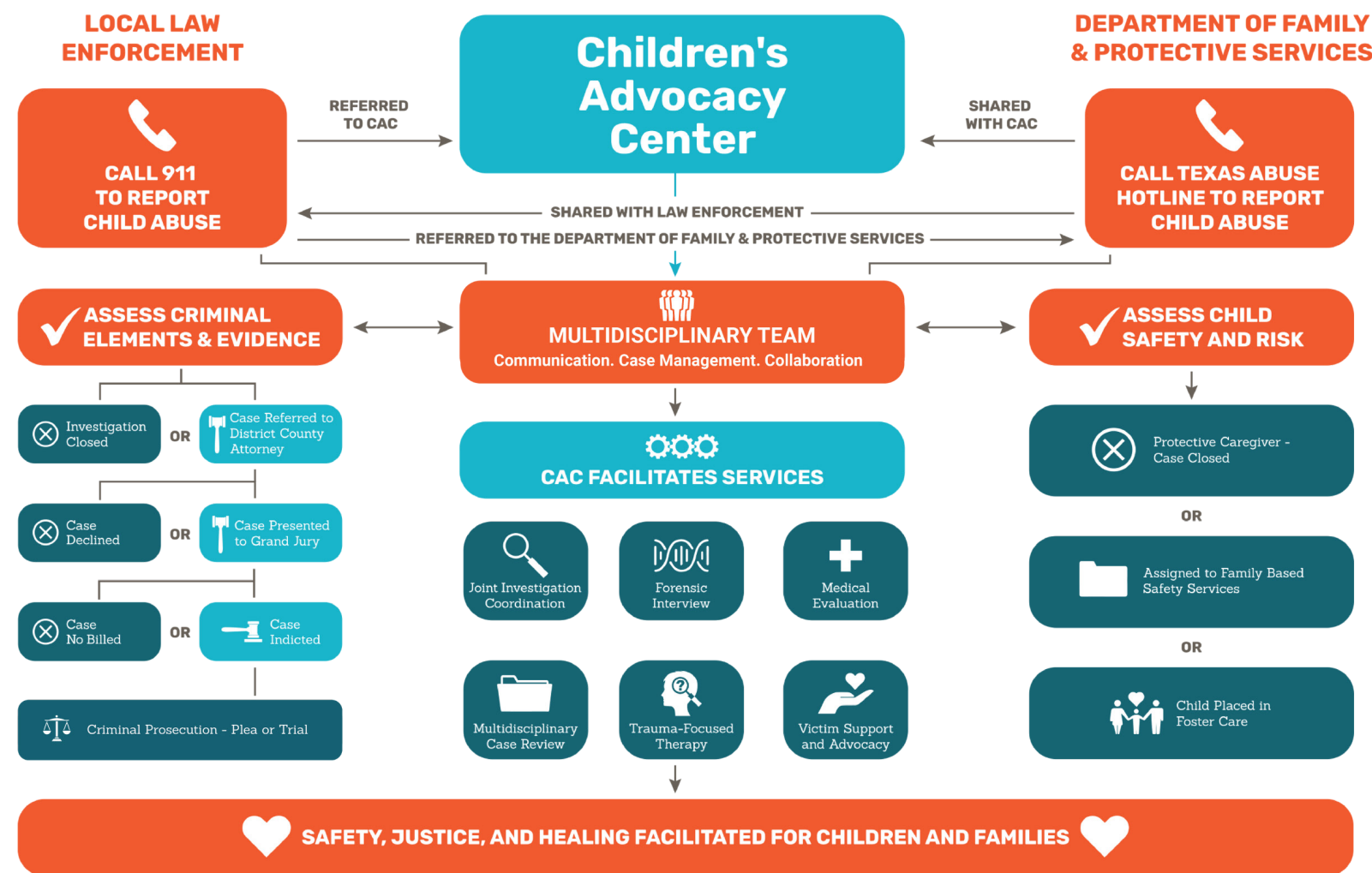


MORE THAN 300
medical and mental
health professionals



**EVERY DFPS REGION
IN THE STATE**
including Child Protective
Investigations, Child Care
Investigations, and Adult
Protective Services

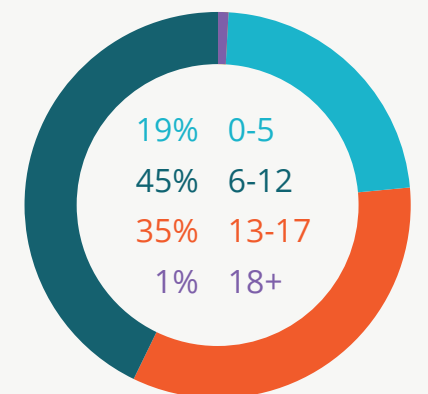
HOW THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORKS



64,938 children
received critical services
at a Texas CAC in 2023.¹



AGES SERVED:



TYPES OF ABUSE:

66%	sexual abuse
17%	physical abuse
7%	neglect
6%	child witness to crime
2%	sexual & physical abuse
2%	other victimization
<1%	child fatalities

732 children were victims
of sex trafficking

98% of child victims knew
their alleged perpetrator

20% of alleged perpetrators
were juveniles

WHY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS MATTER

CACs provide quality, trauma-informed services in the most effective, efficient, and consistent manner to help child victims of abuse and crime and their caregivers recover. Each CAC provides a safe environment that allows a child to tell their story, an opportunity for early intervention, and a path to healing.

CACTX has strengthened mental health services provided by CACs by training clinicians in various evidence-based practices to broaden the range of treatment modalities available, such as Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. As a result, CACs are better equipped to address the specific needs of all clients.

FY23 CAC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

25,953 children provided with
mental health services

134,922 child mental health
sessions provided to children