

## SERVICES PROVIDED AT CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS IN 2024



### Joint Investigation Coordination

339,590 DFPS reports of abuse and neglect received



### Multidisciplinary Case Review

34,117 cases reviewed by the MDT and facilitated by CACs



### Forensic Interviews

39,979 children received a forensic interview by a trained professional



### Trauma-Focused Therapy

25,411 children received mental health services  
7,378 adults received mental health services



### Medical Evaluations

7,386 children received a specialized medical evaluation for proper assessment and treatment in cases of potential abuse



### Victim Support and Advocacy

53,050 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, provide **every service** required by that child, and make **every effort** to facilitate those services to the highest standard of care.

**98.6%** of all Texans live in a county that is officially served by a local 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, 2023 to August 31, 2024.

## CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS

# Every child. Every service. Every effort.

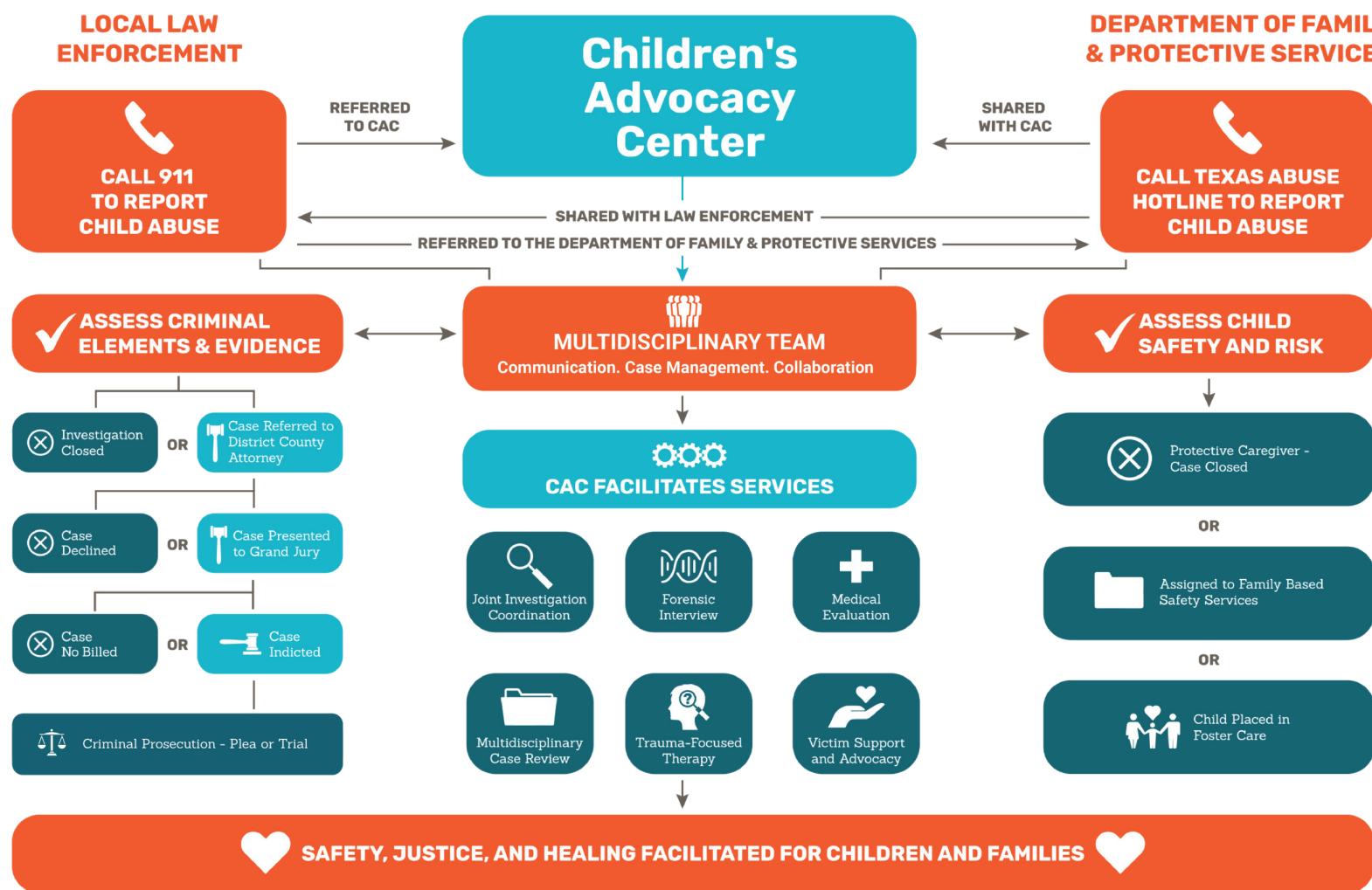


Children's advocacy centers (CACs) provide a safe, child-friendly environment that facilitates access to safety, justice, and healing for Texas children impacted by crime. CACs provide a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach that improves the response to these crimes while supporting the emotional well-being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

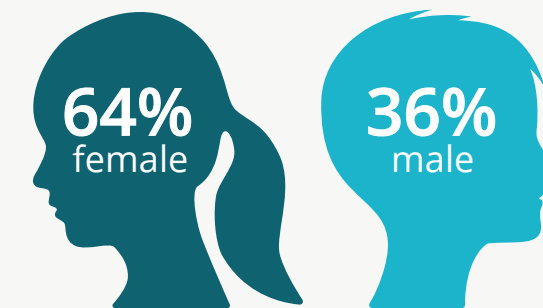
CACs and their MDT partners, including law enforcement, local district and county attorneys, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), medical and mental health professionals, and victim and family advocates, collectively work towards a unified and coordinated response on behalf 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 **70 Texas CACs** brings together:

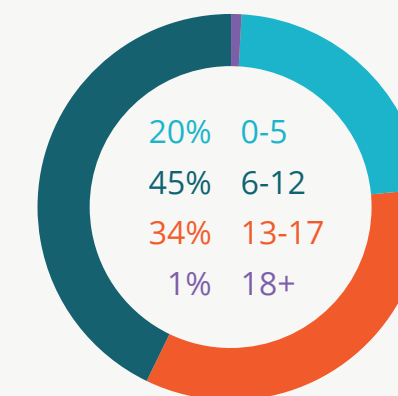
-  **OVER 1,500** dedicated CAC staff members
-  **OVER 1,000** law enforcement jurisdictions
-  **MORE THAN 250** district and county attorneys
-  **MORE THAN 300** medical and mental health professionals
-  **EVERY DFPS REGION IN THE STATE** including Child Protective Investigations, Child Care Investigations, and Adult Protective Services



**60,328 children** received critical services at a Texas CAC in 2024.<sup>1</sup>



**AGES SERVED:**



**TYPES OF ABUSE:**

- 64% sexual abuse
- 20% physical abuse
- 11% neglect
- 2% child witness to crime
- 2% other victimization
- <1% sexual & physical abuse
- <1% child fatalities

**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 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.

**FY24 CAC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**25,411** children provided with mental health services

**127,889** child mental health sessions provided to children

- 815** children were victims of sex trafficking
- 99%** of child victims knew their alleged perpetrator
- 18%** of alleged perpetrators were juveniles