SERVICES PROVIDED AT CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS IN 2025

Joint Investigation Coordination
349,470 Texas Abuse Hotline reports received & reviewed by CACs

Forensic Interviews
40,109 children received a forensic interview by a specially trained CAC professional

Medical Evaluations
8,340 children received a specialized medical evaluation for proper assessment & treatment

Multidisciplinary Case Review
35,934 cases reviewed by the MDT and facilitated by CACs enhancing collaboration & case outcomes

Trauma-Focused Therapy
25,138 children received **127,170** mental health sessions

8,639 adults received **35,398** mental health sessions

Case Management & Victim Support
56,700 families received individualized support to keep them connected with the investigation & healing 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 at the highest standard of care.

IMPORTANCE OF CAC REFERRALS

Referral of children to CACs is critical, as it is often the only way a child has access to restorative services. In FY25 cases where DFPS confirmed allegations of sexual abuse, only 4% of children entered foster care and just over 6% accessed Family-Based Safety Services. For the remaining 90%, DFPS closed cases following safety determinations, with no additional services provided by DFPS.

For this population of children, CACs play an essential role by offering access to ongoing, trauma-informed care from specially trained professionals at no cost.

CACS IN TEXAS STATUTE

These statutes ensure that CACs and MDT partners coordinate cases effectively and deliver services to children impacted by crime.

Texas Family Code Sections 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, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

97.6% of Texans live in a county that is officially served by a local CAC.

children's advocacy centers™ of texas

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CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS

Every child. Every service. Every effort.

children's advocacy centers™ of texas

Protecting childhood for all Texas children.

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 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 support specialists, 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 case management & victim support.

The network of 70 Texas CACs brings together:

OVER 1,500
dedicated CAC staff members

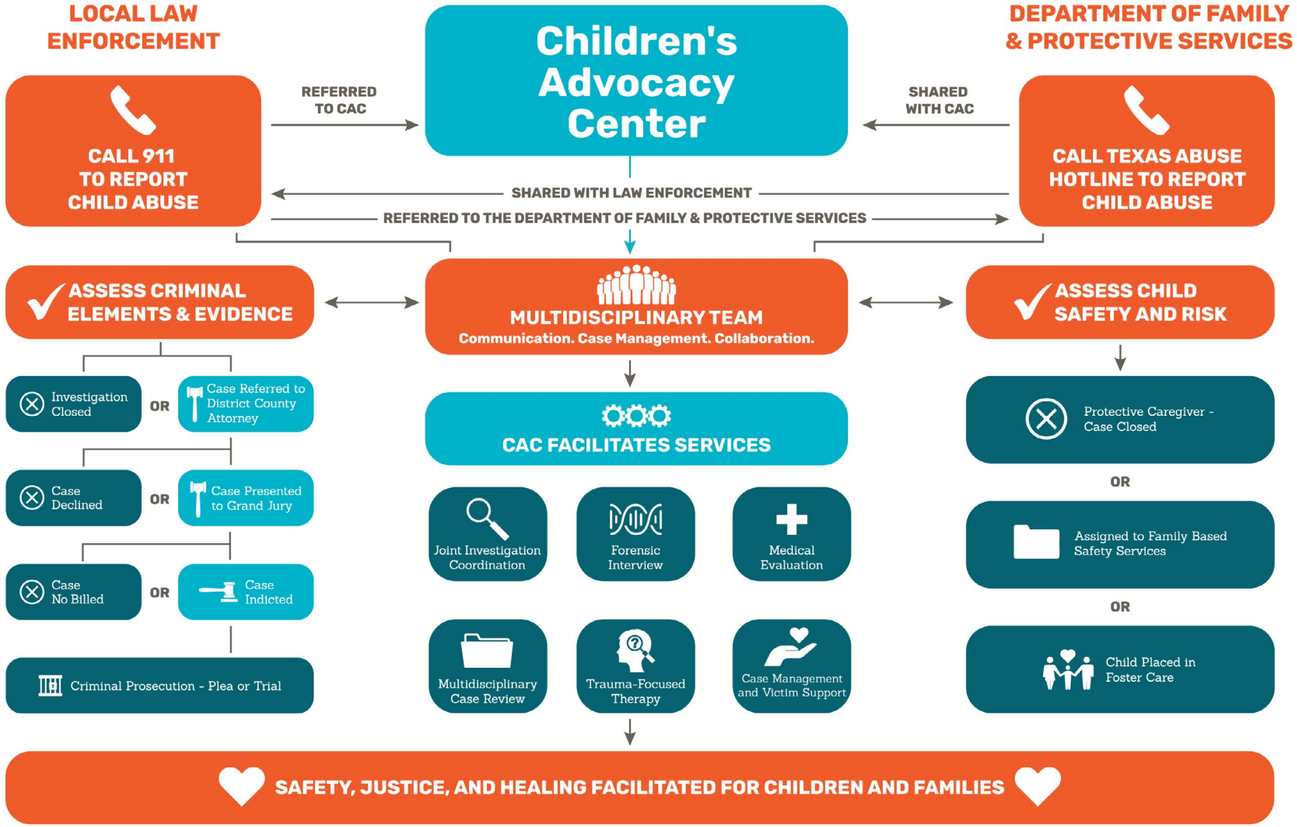
OVER 1,000
law enforcement jurisdictions

MORE THAN 250
district and county attorneys' offices

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



WHY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS MATTER

Reducing the Long-Term Impact of Victimization

Early access to trauma-informed, evidence-based mental health care can reduce long-term consequences and improve outcomes for child victims of crime. CACs provide safe, child-centered environments where children can share their experiences, access early intervention, and begin healing.

CACTX strengthens CAC mental health services by training clinicians in evidence-based practices, expanding treatment options such as **Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention**, **Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy**, and **Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing**, equipping CACs to respond to the unique needs of clients and create lasting, positive impact across Texas communities.

CACTX has trained over 1,100 clinicians since beginning evidence-based treatment training in 2012.

1 in 6

1 in 6 Texas high school students reported having experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime.

Child sexual abuse is recognized as one of the most severe Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Child sexual abuse can have lasting effects when children do not receive timely, effective support.

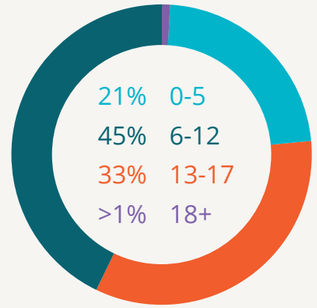
Research shows increased risk for:

- Depression
- Suicide
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Academic Challenges
- Substance Use Disorders

WHO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS SERVE

62,785 children
received critical services at a Texas CAC in 2025.[1]

AGES SERVED:



TYPES OF ABUSE:

64%	sexual abuse
20%	physical abuse
12%	neglect
2%	child witness to crime
1%	other victimization
<1%	sexual & physical abuse
<1%	child fatalities

596 children were alledged victims of sex trafficking

99% of child victims knew their alleged perpetrator

18% of alleged perpetrators were juveniles