

Healing, Justice, & Trust

Measuring Outcomes for Kids



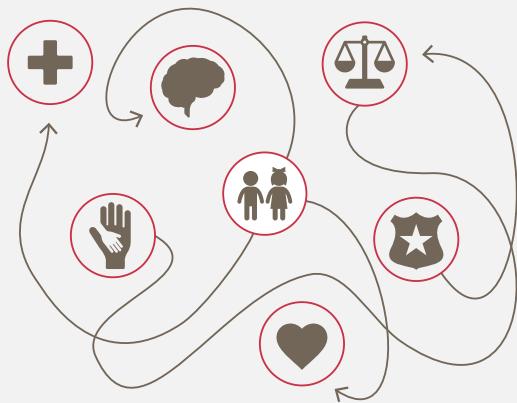
What is the West Virginia Children's Advocacy Network?

West Virginia Child Advocacy Network is the statewide leader in the fight against child abuse — we connect the community and professionals to the resources they need to ensure all children have access to safe, high-quality care through our 20 member CACs—Children's Advocacy Centers.

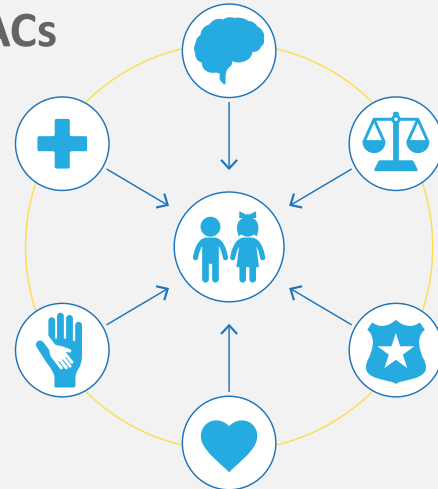
What are CACs and how do they help kids?

CACs are how communities mount a coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. To understand what a Children's Advocacy Center is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again, to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may not get the help they need to heal once the investigation is over, either.

Without CACs



With CACs



When police or child protective services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC—a safe, child-focused environment—by a caregiver or other “safe” adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask. Then, based on the interview, a multidisciplinary team (MDT) that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health providers, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocates, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child. Finally, they offer a wide range of services like therapy, medical exams, courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and more.

CACs provide healing, justice, and trust for child victims of abuse

In 2015, CACs nationwide demonstrated that their model works through tens of thousands of surveys from caregivers and MDT members. Here are some highlights from West Virginia that show our families and partners believe in the healing, justice, and trust we provide.

- **Healing:** 96% of caregivers agree that CACs provide them with resources to support their children.
- **Justice:** 96% of team members believe clients benefit from the collaborative approach of the MDT.
- **Trust:** If caregivers knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, 99% would tell that person about the center.



We are a member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA), the national association and accrediting body for more than 800 CACs around the country. This template and the accompanying data provided by NCA. Learn more at www.nationalchildrensalliance.org.

The West Virginia CAC movement is growing and improving

With **20 member CACs** serving **3,471 children** each year, WVCAN represents a growing movement providing more and better services to children and families statewide.

Since 2008, the number of children WVCAN member centers serve each year has grown 130%

In that time, our member CACs have come to serve, each year...



- **Nearly five times as many** child victims of physical abuse
- **Nearly double** the number of child victims of sexual abuse
- **More than triple** the number of child witnesses to violence
- **Almost five times as many** more children endangered by drugs

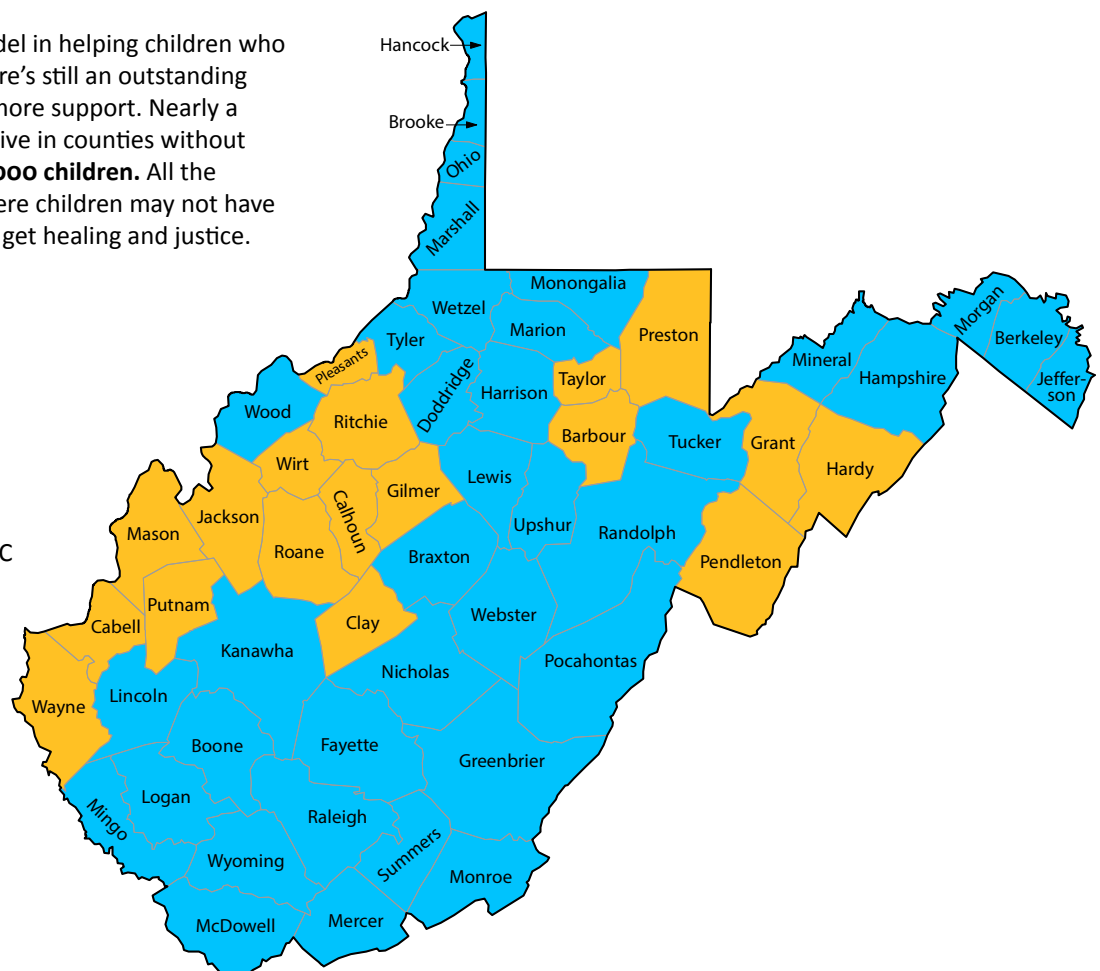
And provided...

- **More than triple** the number of children with counseling and other mental health services
- **Two-and-a-half times** as many children with onsite forensic interviews
- **231%** more children and family members with case management services
- **135%** more children, family members, and community members with prevention education

The need remains

Despite the success of the CAC model in helping children who have been victimized by abuse, there's still an outstanding need for more CAC coverage, and more support. Nearly a quarter of West Virginia's children live in counties without access to a CAC...**that's almost 90,000 children**. All the counties in red represent areas where children may not have access to the services they need to get healing and justice.

-  County covered by a CAC
-  County without access to a CAC



- **\$250,000** in additional support would help expand CAC services to 5 more counties.
- **\$100,000** would provide 2,000 therapy hours for children who have experienced abuse.
- **\$50,000** would help 5 CACs make capital improvements to ensure a cheerful, hospitable environment for all children who enter their doors.

Funding and legislative support helps ensure children statewide have access to a CAC when they need it, and helps expand capacity and geographic coverage to reach more children and families with the services they need. Thank you for your support of this crucial resource for children and families in communities across the state.