

Children's Advocacy Centers in Texas



What is A Children's Advocacy Center?



If your child
made an outcry of abuse...

...wouldn't you want the investigation, prosecution
and intervention services to be handled
in a manner sensitive to the needs of a child?

Prior to children's advocacy centers, a child's outcry of abuse didn't necessarily mean the hurt was over. For many young victims, it often meant the beginning of a stressful, scary and difficult journey through our adult-minded criminal and civil justice systems.

Due to the complex nature of these cases, our systems require the involvement of many different professionals to investigate, prosecute and intervene. Historically, information was not routinely shared, efforts were rarely coordinated, and obtaining successful outcomes for these child victims was virtually impossible.

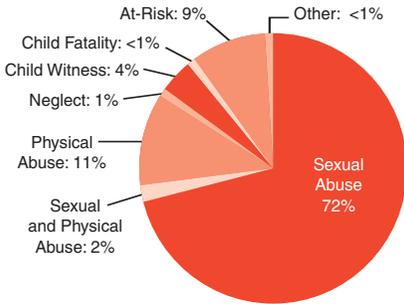
Children's advocacy centers provide a safe, child-friendly environment where law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals can share information and develop effective, coordinated strategies sensitive to the needs of each unique case and child. Local centers provide an array of child-focused services including the following core components:

- Specialized Forensic Interviewing
- Medical/Mental Health Assessments and Treatment
- Multidisciplinary Team Case Reviews
- Comprehensive Advocacy Services

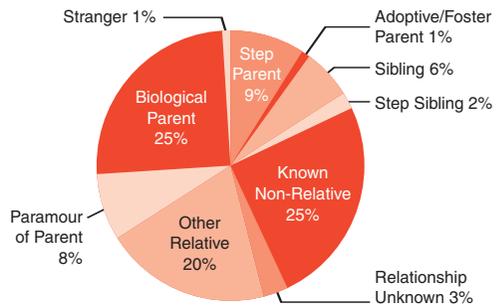
By the Numbers...

The number of children served by children's advocacy centers in Texas has increased by **700%** since 1995.

Type of Abuse



Relationship to Victims



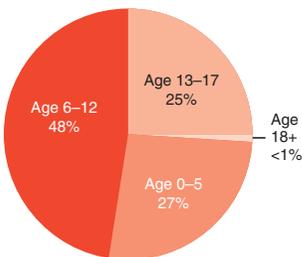
Of the total number of children served last year,

74% were involved in sexual abuse cases

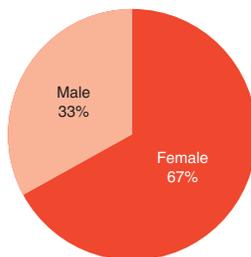
99% knew their perpetrator

27% were not old enough to attend kindergarten

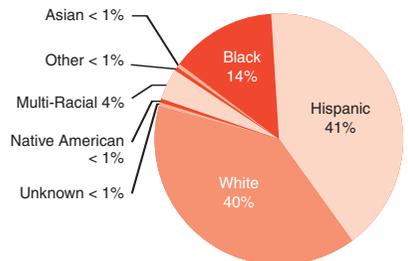
Child Client Age



Child Client Gender



Child Client Ethnicity



Each year almost **40,000** children receive critical services at one of **64** children's advocacy centers in Texas.

How Can I Be One With Courage?



One with Courage is Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas, Inc.'s statewide initiative centered around the courage it takes to talk about child sexual abuse. As the nation's leading state membership association of children's advocacy centers, our goal each and every day is to change the way Texas responds to child abuse.

CACTX believes that the eradication of child abuse begins with building informed, empowered communities.

Child sexual abuse is a crime of secrecy which, tragically, breeds within our communities because it's difficult to talk about.

That's why conversation—openly discussing this issue—is the most effective tool we have to eradicate child abuse.

You can be the One With Courage to talk openly and inspire others to start a dialogue, too.



To learn how to recognize the signs & symptoms of abuse and find your local children's advocacy center, visit:

www.onewithcourage.org

Report suspected child abuse in Texas.

**Call 9-1-1 or the
Texas Abuse & Neglect Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.**

Mission Statement



The mission of CACTX is to restore the lives of abused children by supporting CACs in partnership with local communities and agencies investigating and prosecuting child abuse.



*Breaking the Cycle of Abuse
One Child at a Time*

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