

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER?

A **Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)** is the ONE non-profit that serves as the first stop for children victimized by sexual abuse or severe physical abuse or who have witnessed a violent crime. **CACs** 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. It is the goal of all local centers to reduce trauma to child abuse victims and their families by offering six core services:

Specialized Forensic
Interviewing

Medical Evaluations/
Referrals

Trauma Focused
Therapy

Multidisciplinary Team
Case Reviews

Family Advocacy and
Victim Support

Joint Investigation
Coordination

CACs are present to coordinate all aspects of child abuse investigation and provide mental and medical health services in a holistic manner to correct social injustices. **CAC** advocates work hand-in-hand with law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical, and mental health providers to ensure each child receives the best care possible to promote healing and ensure safety.

Child abuse and other forms of childhood trauma can have lifelong effects on children, families, and communities. Many studies have shown the strong relationship between childhood trauma and serious outcomes such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, substance use, physical health problems, and even poverty and early death. **But we can prevent these outcomes, especially when children receive services and support early on. Evidence-based mental health treatments like those delivered at Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) to child victims of abuse can significantly reduce trauma symptoms and prevent the long-term effects of exposure to trauma.**

Suspect abuse?
Call your local LE or DHR office.

#ItsYourBusiness
nationalchildrenalliance/iyb



**Hear Allie's
Story**



Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

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Children's Advocacy Centers do
more than investigate child abuse.

**We help children reclaim
their childhood.**



Our Alabama Network of CACs bring services to children and families all in one place.



Without CACs, children and families must find mental health, medical, and other services on their own.



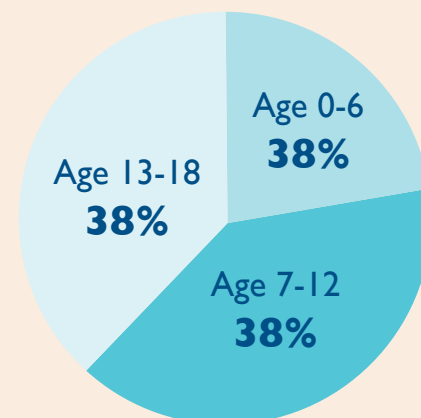
1 in 10 children



1 in 4 girls

will be sexually abused before the age of 18.

1 in 6 boys



90%

of child sexual abuse victims know their abuser

31%

of children tell someone within the first year

For over 26 years, the **AL Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (ANCAC)** has served as the membership association for the state's 47 local **Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)** serving 67 counties to ensure access to safety, justice, and healing for AL children impacted by abuse. As we continue to serve these children, **ANCAC** is dedicated to building a future where all children are free from child abuse. Through collaborative partnerships and visionary, evidence-based prevention, awareness, and education strategies, we are working to stop child sexual abuse before it starts.

ANCAC
provided more than
\$2.8 million in
Mental Health
Services in 2022.

In 2022, the Network of CAC's (ANCAC) conducted:

7,172

forensic Interviews

25,805

counseling sessions

2,320

prosecution referrals

1,083

medical referrals