



RED RIVER
CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTER

ANNUAL 20 REPORT 23

Who We Are



Red River Children's Advocacy Center

The Red River Children's Advocacy Center (RRCAC) provides a compassionate and effective way to bring services to children victimized by abuse. Our public-private collaboration significantly reduces the trauma associated with reporting child abuse. We help coordinate care and investigation from first report to conviction and beyond, while keeping the child at the center of everything the team does.

Our Mission

To facilitate healing and justice for victims of sexual and physical abuse, neglect and exploitation, and to engage the community to protect and support children.



What We Do

CAC stands for Children’s Advocacy Center. CACs are community-based, child-focused organizations that work as part of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) to coordinate communities’ responses to incidents of child abuse with the goal of promoting healing and justice for victims and their families.

By coordinating the response of agencies like law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors’ offices, advocates, mental health, and medical professionals, CACs help ensure that when a child discloses abuse, they are not further victimized by the systems designed to protect them. From the initial allegation of abuse, the multidisciplinary team allows the child an opportunity to talk with a single interviewer in a safe, neutral setting, thus protecting the victim from being unnecessarily interviewed by multiple people from each specific field. The team continues to work together to guide the investigation, treatment, management, and possible prosecution of the case to ensure the greatest level of protection and care for the child victim and family.

Without CACs



With CACs



At its core, the model is about teamwork—bringing the agency professionals involved in a case together on the front end—and about putting the needs of the child victim first. CACs provide an array of compassionate, professional, trauma-informed services to children and their families.

Our Goals



Do the best job possible in finding out what happened.



Help make the process as comfortable as possible.



Work in cooperation with other services/programs to help children and families.



Help families begin to heal.

Our Services

Connecting to RRCAC's services starts with a referral from Law Enforcement or Social Services following reported allegations of any type of child abuse, maltreatment, or exploitation. Our professionals set in motion a process that will begin the healing for children who have been abused, as well as their family members.

Our services include: forensic interviewing; referral for a specialized medical exam; family advocacy; specialized trauma-specific and evidence-based mental health screening, assessment, and treatment; case coordination; and prevention and education.

Red River Children's Advocacy Center provides services at no cost to children and families. These services are the stepping stones that enable our staff and partners to work as a team to support children and help them heal.



Forensic Interviews

Specially trained Forensic Interviewers work with the MDT to ensure children are not interviewed unnecessarily and allow them to share their experience in a safe, legally sound, and neutral setting.



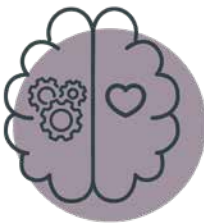
Medical Exams

Specialized medical evaluations are offered to ensure the health and safety of each victim, identify any evidence of abuse, and make referrals to additional care as needed.



Advocacy Sessions

Advocacy focuses on the needs of children and non-offending caregiver(s), providing them with needed support and information along with a compassionate, listening ear.



Mental Health Care

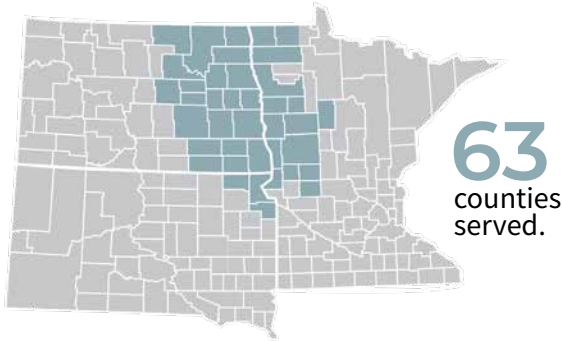
Specialized trauma-specific and evidence-based mental health screening, assessment, and treatment are offered to children and families to help them cope with the trauma and work toward healing.



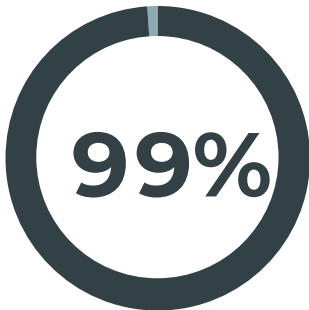
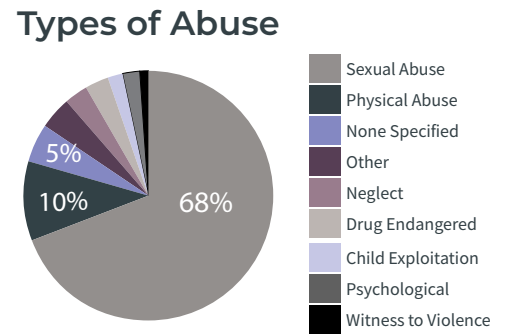
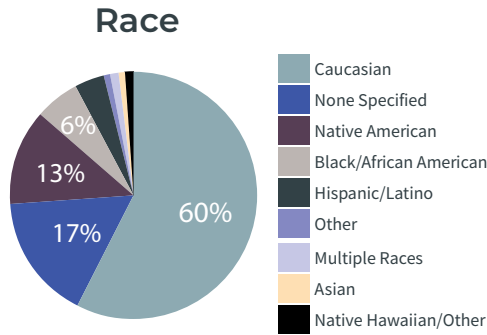
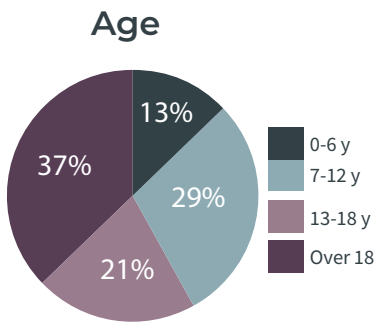
MDT Collaboration

Professionals from the CAC and multi-disciplinary team work together and share their expertise to reach the best outcomes for children.

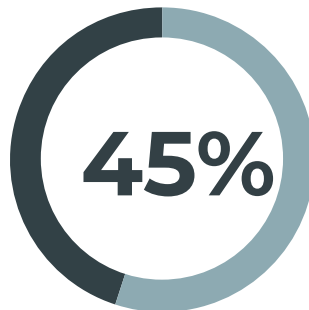
Who We Serve



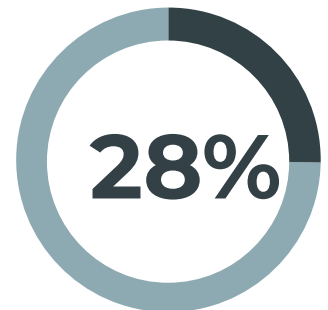
636 Female **236 Male**



knew their offender. Most of the time, the dangers to children are not from strangers, but from someone they know and trust.



of referrals came from rural counties.

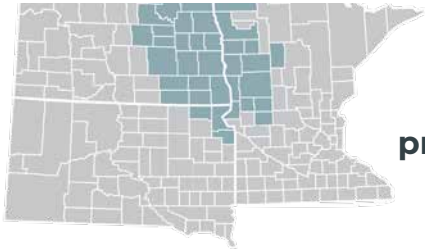


of offenders were <18, highlighting the need for evidence-based services for children and adolescents with sexual behavior problems.

The Red River Children's Advocacy Center exists to change those numbers and lead the fight against the cycle of child abuse through a more coordinated and compassionate approach.

Our Year in Review 2023

Our Numbers



100+
presentations and tours
to increase awareness and
community engagement



10,071
services



884
people

Our Services



374
Forensic Interviews




78
Medical Exams



8,312
Advocacy Sessions



1,307
Mental Health
Sessions



246
MDT Members Attended
Forensic Interviews and
Case Review

Our 2023 Highlights



Expanded services to youth with problematic sexual behavior.



Trained 200+ professionals at our annual Spring Conference.



Added a skills group for caregivers. (Skills for Psychological Recovery)



Initiated cross-training of staff responsibilities to streamline services.



Raised \$120,000 at the Children of Courage Gala.



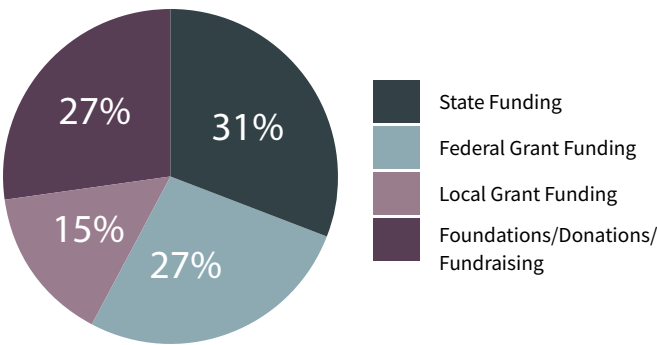
Opened a new space in Fargo.

How We Are Funded

Revenue and Expenses

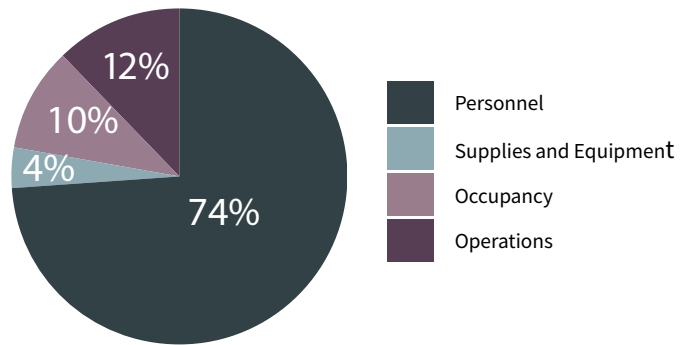
Revenue

As a non-profit organization, we are dependent on the generosity of the communities we serve. Our services are provided at no cost to children and families. We are funded through grants, foundations, and community support.



Expenses

By far the majority of our expenses go to supporting direct services for children and families impacted by abuse. We are focused on providing accessible services in a safe and family-friendly environment that promotes hope, health, and healing.



Partners in Our Success

Our work is made possible through the generous donations of individuals, agencies, businesses, and foundations. We thank all our partners and supporters who make the work we do in helping children possible!



Our Impact

“Just felt the team was very compassionate, patient. Gave us good resources to have support we may need further after this.”

-Child’s Caregiver

I believe my child felt safe at the center.



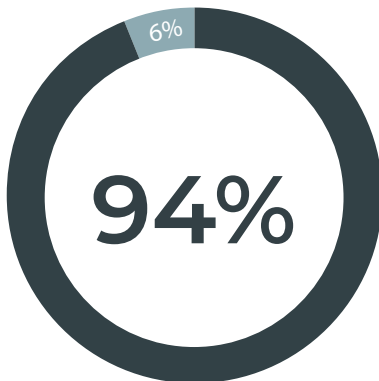
■ Agree ■ Unsure/Disagree

The RRCAC provided me with resources to support my child.



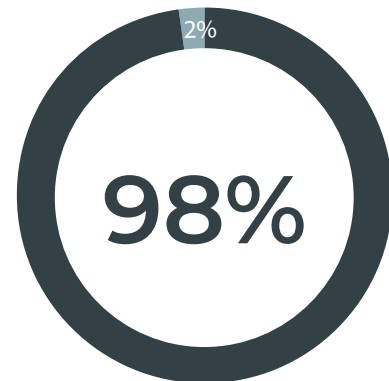
■ Agree ■ Unsure/Disagree

The RRCAC provides resources that build better cases.



■ Agree ■ Unsure/Disagree

MDT members feel clients benefit from the collaborative approach.



■ Agree ■ Unsure/Disagree

“Team has been outstanding in giving insight that law enforcement does not usually have access to.”

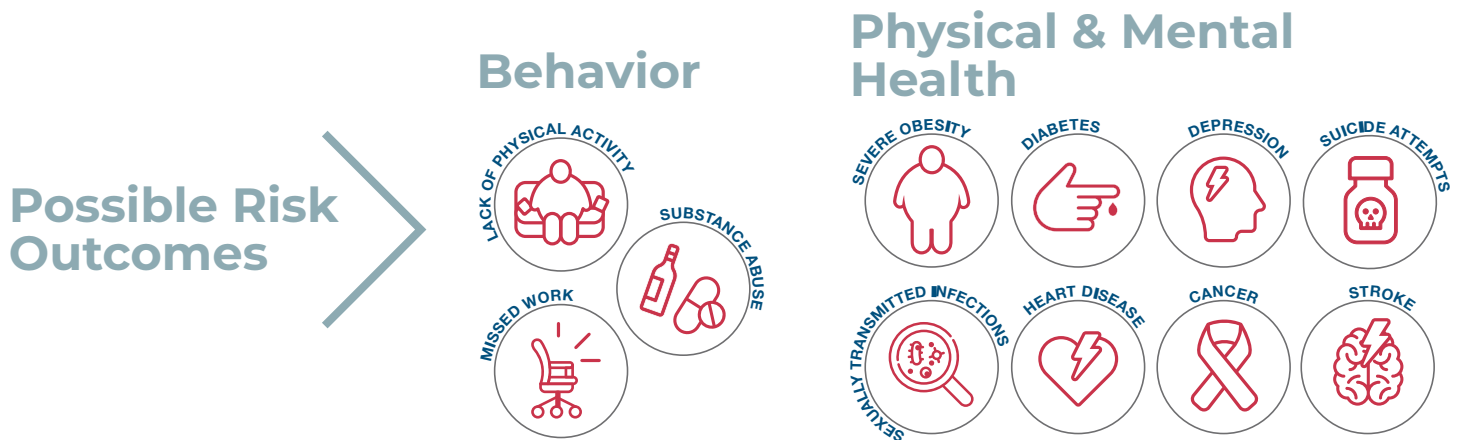
-MDT Member

Why It Matters

The impact of childhood trauma can last a lifetime.

Child abuse and other forms of trauma can have lifelong effects on children, families, and communities.

Many studies have shown the strong relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which include childhood trauma like abuse, and serious outcomes such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, substance use, health problems, and even poverty and early death.



Trauma is both common and costly to society.

How many children are we talking about? Nearly half of all U.S. children experience at least one type of childhood trauma. That exacts a toll on children, their caregivers, their community, and our country as a whole. For in addition to the physical, emotional, and social costs of child abuse, such trauma also carries economic costs.

Abuse and other forms of trauma are common.

Nearly half of all U.S. children—

some **34 million**—have experienced at least one type of childhood trauma, while

16 million have experienced two or more types of trauma.²

Abuse carries a heavy cost.

The lifetime cost for each victim is

\$210,012

Each year, total lifetime costs of new cases of child abuse reach approximately

\$124 billion¹

¹ Fang, X.; Brown, D., Florence, C., and Mercy, J. The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. (2012) Child Abuse and Neglect, Volume 36, Issue 2, February 2012, pages 156-165.

² Bethell, C, Newacheck, P, Hawes, E, Halfon, N. Adverse childhood experiences: assessing the impact on health and school engagement and the mitigating role of resilience. (2014) Health Affairs Dec; 33(12);210-2016

How You Can Help



The services of the Red River Children’s Advocacy Center (RRCAC) are made possible because of the generous support of the surrounding communities. We have grown out of communities’ needs to better the response to and prevention of the abuse of our children. We rely on your generous donations and your partnership to make our mission possible.

The RRCAC is funded through grants and donations.
Every dollar donated helps make a difference in the lives of children.

Donate

The Red River Children’s Advocacy Center is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status. Your contributions are tax deductible.



Volunteer

In order to provide services free to families, the RRCAC truly depends on the help of volunteers. Volunteers contribute their unique talents, skills and knowledge to help restore hope, health and healing to children and their families.

Wish List

Visit us at www.RRCAC.org to view our Wish List of needed items that bring comfort and support to the children and families we serve.

Sponsorships

Become a sponsor for one of our annual fundraising events. Unlock the power of giving and make a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we serve.



For more information on how you can help visit our website
<https://rrcac.org/make-a-difference/>.

