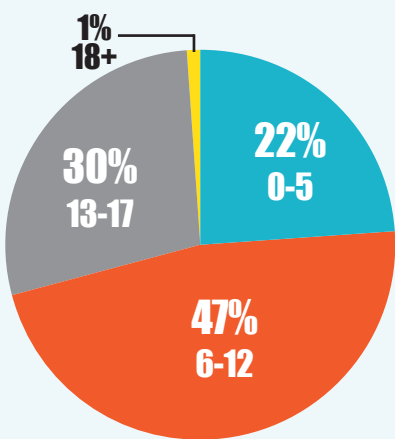


WHO CACS SERVE

43,000 Texas Children in 2016



Ages Served:



Types of Abuse:

- 71%** sexual abuse
- 14%** physical abuse
- 6%** child witness to crime
- 3%** neglect
- 3%** other
- 2%** sexual and physical abuse
- 1%** fatality

94%

of child victims
KNEW their
alleged perpetrator.



18%

of alleged
perpetrators were
juveniles.

There are **70 children's advocacy centers** in the state of Texas serving over **43,000 children each year.**



CACs in Texas Statute

Texas Family Code Section 264.401-411: Defines CACs; contains mandates, requirements, and protections; 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, where feasible.

- 1 CACTX Outcome Measurement System, 1,235 surveys were collected from MDT members in FY 16.
- 2 CACTX Outcome Measurement System, 6,643 surveys were collected from caregivers of child victims receiving services at a CAC in FY 16.
- 3 Darkness to Light, "Estimating a Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence Rate for Practitioners: A Review of Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence Studies" by C. Townsend and A.A. Rheingold (2013).
- 4 Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study; <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>.
- 5 U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Research in Brief, "An Update on the 'Cycle of Violence'" by Cathy S. Widom and Michael G. Maxfield (2001).
- 6 National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, Research and Program Brief, "Trauma Among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: Critical Issues and New Directions" by Julian D. Ford, John F. Chapman, Josephine Hawke, and David Albert (2007).
- 7 National Children's Advocacy Center, "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Community Responses to Child Maltreatment" by Amy L. Shadoin, Suzanne N. Magnuson, et al. (2006).

CACTX-B1-01/2017



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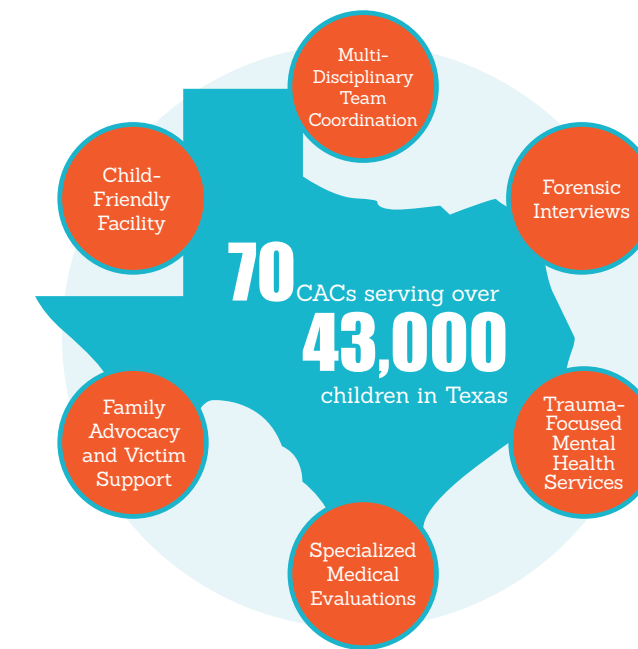
Children's Advocacy Centers in Texas



WHAT IS A CAC?

Improving Texas' response to child abuse: A true public-private partnership

A victim-centered, multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, providing specialized forensic interviews, therapeutic recovery services, medical evaluations, and case management.



CACs Facilitate Healing & Justice

96% of MDT members reported that the CAC MDT approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations.¹

93% of caregivers felt that the CAC facilitated healing for their child and for themselves.²

Our Texas CAC network brings together over **1,000** dedicated CAC staff members, every Child Protective Services region in the state, Child Care Licensing, Adult Protective Services, **1,000** law enforcement jurisdictions, more than **200** district and county attorneys, and countless medical and mental health professionals. While **97 percent** of Texas counties are served by one of our 70 programs, the challenge remains to not only reach all 254 counties, but also to ensure that every child who walks through our doors has access to the full array of vital CAC services. As such, our network is on a mission to achieve a shared vision: **Every Child. Every Service. Every Effort.**

Services Provided in FY16:

32,973 children forensically interviewed	26,597 cases were reviewed by the MDT (facilitated by the CAC)
6,270 children received medical exams	151,438 DFPS reports of abuse and neglect were reviewed
18,151 children received mental health services	31,260 families received family advocacy services
8,187 adults received mental health services (usually non-offending caregivers)	

Every Child. Every Service. Every Effort.

WHY CACS MATTER

1 in 10 Children will be sexually abused before their **18th BIRTH DAY** ³

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study⁴

Without early intervention:

- Children who have experienced trauma are more likely to engage in early initiation of smoking, sexual activity, illicit drug use, adolescent pregnancies, and suicide.
- Children with multiple traumas have significantly higher rates of heart disease, chronic pulmonary lung disease, hepatitis, depression, and diabetes.

According to the National Institute of Justice⁵ abused and neglected children are:

59% more likely to be arrested for juvenile crime. **28%** more likely to be arrested as an adult.

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice⁶ estimates:

93% of youth in detention reported exposure to previous “adverse” events, including physical and sexual abuse.

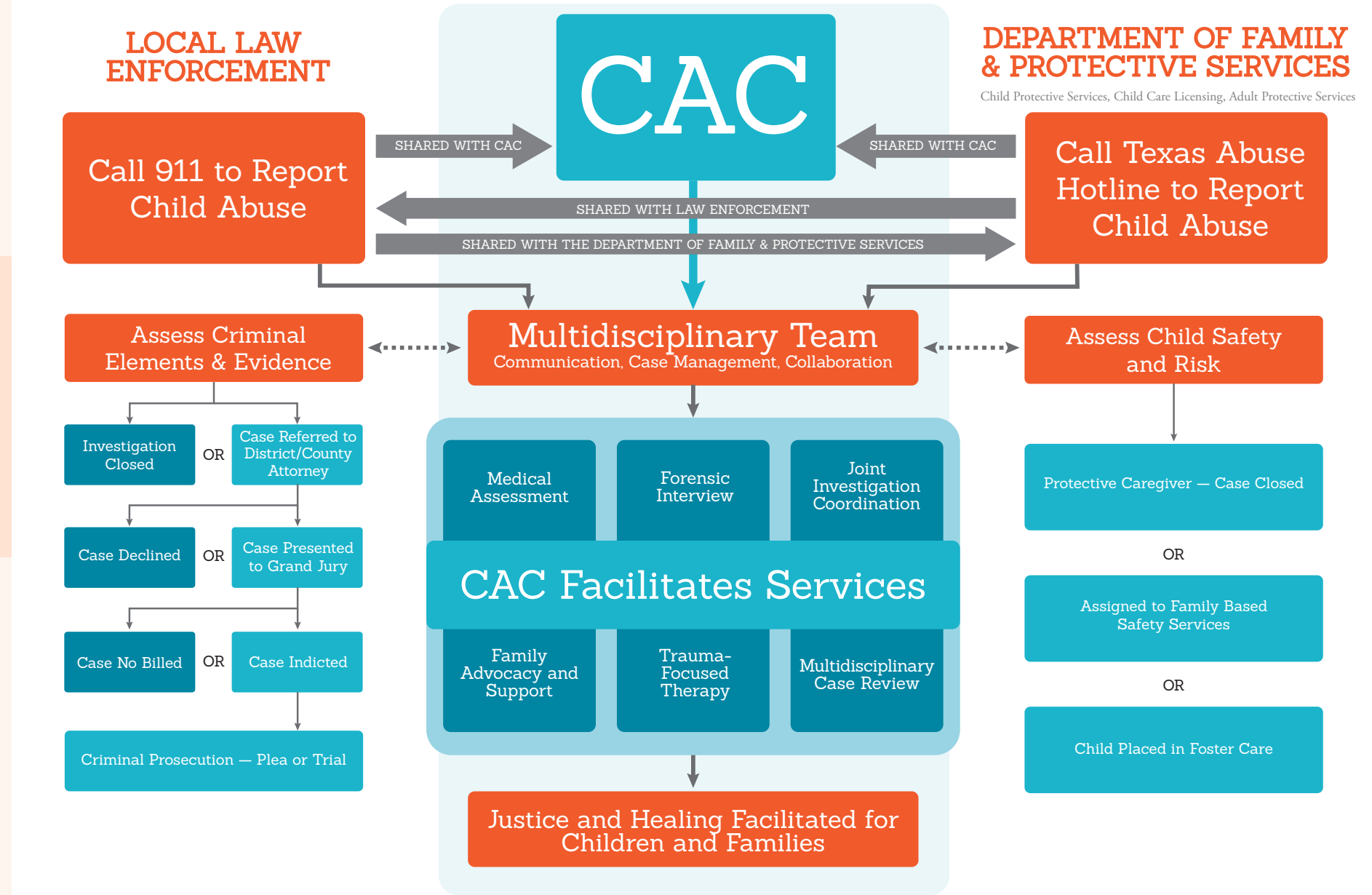
National research indicates:

36% higher average cost per case to investigate child abuse versus non-CAC investigations.⁷

60 OUT OF 254

counties remain outside the official CAC services area, leaving Texas children without the full services of a CAC.

HOW THE CAC MODEL WORKS



MDT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The CAC Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is the cornerstone of the CAC model.

2014 Launched in 2014, the MDT Enhancement Program refocused Texas CACs on the importance of the multidisciplinary response by strengthening CAC MDTs statewide to **promote better joint investigations of abuse** and ultimately better outcomes for children and families.

2015 In 2015, the Texas Legislature boosted the effectiveness of the CAC MDT Enhancement Program by funding its statewide expansion. With access to all notifications of reported child abuse referred to law enforcement through the Department of Family and Protective Services Statewide Intake, **CACs can now coordinate joint investigations of child abuse earlier in the process and provide critical services faster.**

2016 As a result, **the number of children receiving critically important CAC services** and whose abuse cases benefited from the MDT's coordinated investigations **jumped 15%** in FY16.

GOALS OF THE MDT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

