



Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

HOPE
HAPPENS
HERE

WWW.DAKOTACAC.ORG



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Who We Are

Dakota Children's Advocacy Center

When something difficult happens, families deserve a place that feels safe, calm, and supportive. At the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, children are met with care, patience, and respect from the moment they arrive.

We work alongside trusted professionals in our community so children don't have to share their story over and over, and families don't have to navigate the process alone. Our role is to help create a path forward—one that centers the child's wellbeing while offering guidance and support to caregivers every step of the way.



Hope happens here because of the people who show up for children and families every day.

Our Mission

*The mission of the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center is to provide a safe, family friendly environment that promotes **hope**, **health**, and **healing** to children and their families who have experienced trauma.*

What We Do

The Challenge:

Without a Children's Advocacy Center, a child may have to retell their story of abuse multiple times to untrained adults in intimidating settings—increasing trauma and hindering investigations.

The Solution:

We provide a calm, child-focused environment where a child shares their story once with a specially trained professional. Our multidisciplinary team (MDT) then coordinates a single, unified response that keeps the child's well-being at the center of the process.

Without CACs



With CACs



Our Goals



Provide thoughtful, high-quality care.



Create a safe, comfortable experience for children.



Work together to maximize support for families.



Help children and families begin healing.



Support and strengthen the people who do this work.

Our Services

Our services support children and families during difficult moments through a coordinated, child-centered approach. From the moment a family arrives, care is designed to reduce stress, avoid repeated interviews, and ensure children feel safe, supported, and respected.

Families may receive one or more of the following services, depending on their needs.



Forensic Interviews

A child-friendly interview where children can share their experiences safely and at their own pace.



Advocacy Services

Advocates partner with non-offending caregivers, providing guidance and ongoing support throughout the process.



Medical Evaluations

When needed, medical evaluations focus on the child's health, safety, and overall wellbeing.



Mental Health Services

Mental health services help children and families begin healing and build long-term emotional wellbeing.

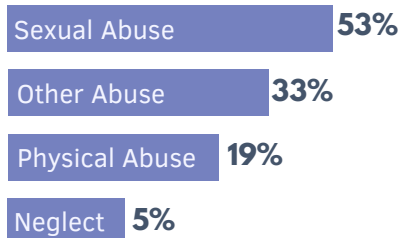


Working Together for Children

Professionals collaborate behind the scenes to ensure coordinated care and reduce additional trauma for children.

Who We Serve

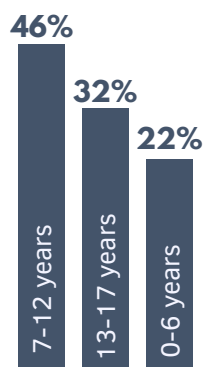
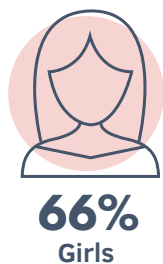
Most Common Types of Abuse



More than half of children served experienced **sexual abuse**.



Abuse Impacts Children of All Ages & Backgrounds



Ages of Children Served

Race & Ethnicity

Caucasian	70%
Native American	14%
Hispanic/Latino	8%
African American	4%
Multiple Races	4%

Supporting Youth Through Specialized Care

Some cases involve youth who have harmed another youth. These situations call for developmentally appropriate assessment and care. Our Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) services provide evidence-based intervention that helps youth build healthy behaviors, supports families, and promotes safety and healing.





Healing Happens Together

Through **Project SPARCS** (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress), teens participated in a fully Spanish speaking group where they could show up as themselves. Many were living with chronic stress and uncertainty. In this space, they found safety, trust and connection. Learning coping skills, supporting one another, and beginning to move forward with confidence.



Watching their confidence grow and seeing them support one another was a powerful reminder of how healing begins when young people feel they belong.

*Eneida Vilella-Loraas,
Director of Mental Health Services*

Project SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress) is part of Sanford Research North's initiative

Our Year in Review

This year, our work reached children and families across our communities, a reminder that far too many children in North Dakota continue to experience abuse. Through forensic interviews, children were given a safe space to share their stories. Families received advocacy and guidance, and mental health services offered support beyond the moment of crisis. At the same time, our prevention efforts strengthened protections for children statewide.



Restoring hope.
Rebuilding lives.

The Reach of Our Mission



18,157

total services provided



1,009

children and families served



7,907

people educated

Direct Support for Children and Families



341

Forensic Interviews



146

Medical Evaluations



2,385

Mental Health Sessions



6,165

Advocacy Services

2025 Highlights



GROWING OUR REACH:

Expanded services to more communities across the state.



SUSTAINING MENTAL HEALTH CARE:

Maintained therapy services while reducing wait times.



SUPPORTING OUR PARTNERS:

Launched MDT orientation to better equip professionals.



STRENGTHENING PREVENTION:

Doubled education efforts to reach more children and adults.

Stories of Impact

Behind every statistic is a child, a family, or a moment that changed a path forward.

An Art Room That Honors Her Legacy

In 2025, a donor sponsored rooms at the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center in honor of his late wife, a survivor of childhood abuse. The Art Room now offers children a creative space to express, process, and heal.

"My wife was an artist, and people have told me how much she would have loved that we sponsored the Art Room."



Awareness Saves Kids

After attending a body safety presentation in a small western North Dakota community, a child realized that what was happening to them was abuse. With that understanding, the child found the courage to tell a trusted adult and was connected to the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center for support. As a result, the child is now safe.

Support Beyond the Interview

A forensic interview is often a family's hardest day. Our advocates ensure it isn't their last day of support. By providing consistent follow-up care and guidance on communication, we helped one local family transform a moment of trauma into a commitment to recovery. Today, they are no longer navigating the aftermath alone—they are healing together in counseling.

Giving Tree Gifts

During the holidays, more than 200 Giving Tree gifts were provided to families we serve.

"I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I just wanted a few things for my kids for Christmas, and you have made that a reality."

How We Are Funded

Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center services are provided at no cost to families and are made possible through a mix of public and private funding sources.



Federal Grants

28%



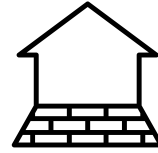
State Grants

18%



Donations

16%



Foundations

6%



Third-Party Payments

32%

Together, these resources make it possible for children and families to receive care when they need it most.

Partners in Our Success



BRAVERA



Powered by Community

277 Volunteers

366 Service Hours
in 2025

Volunteers support children and families through events, outreach, and behind-the-scenes work that makes our mission possible.



How You Can Help

Every gift of time, resources, or support helps children feel safe and begin healing.

The Dakota Children's Advocacy Center is made possible by the generosity of individuals, businesses, and community partners who believe every child deserves safety and support.



Give Financially



Get Involved



Partner With Us

Wish List

Help create a welcoming, child friendly space by donating items families and children can use every day.

[View Our Wish List](#)



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ADVOCACY CENTER

Scan to Donate
dakotacac.org
(701) 323-5626



For information, visit:
dakotacac.org/how-you-can-help

Behind every number in this report is a child, a family, and a moment where support mattered.

Thank you for being part of this work.

Dakota CAC provides services across North Dakota, with Centers located in

Bismarck
1800 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

Jamestown
2205 Cottage Lane
Jamestown, ND 58401

Dickinson
2680 Empire Road, Suite D
Bismarck, ND 58503

Watford City
201 5th St. NW, Suite 790
Watford City, ND 58854

Standing Rock
198 Standing Rock Ave.
Fort Yates, ND 58538



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