

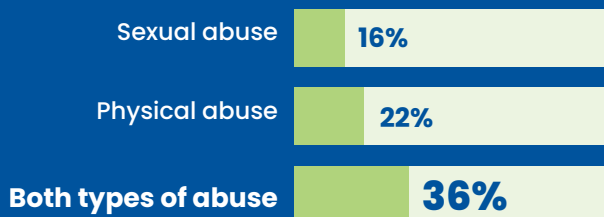
Efficacy of the Children's Advocacy Center Model

Dealing with child abuse, especially sexual abuse, is very hard for children, their families, and the people who try to help. Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) bring everyone together in one safe, child-friendly place where the child's needs come first. In this setting, child protection workers, police, prosecutors, victim advocates, interviewers, counselors, and doctors all work as one team. By working together, they help reduce extra stress and trauma for the child and family while making sure the investigation is careful and professional. This teamwork also supports the healing process and gives families hope for the future.



Efficacy of the Children's Advocacy Center Model

Annual medical costs for survivors¹



Economic impact:

Child sexual abuse survivors were significantly less likely to own:



Bank accounts



Homes



Cars



Stock

National survey of child and adolescent well-being (NSCAW) 1990–2000³



\$2,635
More Per Year
Health Expenses

- Psychiatric care
- Inpatient hospital
- Outpatient (physician and clinic)
- Prescription drugs
- Targeted case management



Per year earnings compared to a non-abused person

<\$8000



Women abused in childhood appear to have 3x greater

long-term economic impacts than men who were abused in childhood.²



Why are CACs and MDTs so important?



Coordinated services⁴

CAC communities demonstrated significantly higher rates of:

- Coordinated investigations between law enforcement and CPS
- Team forensic interviews
- Case reviews
- Recording of forensic interviews
- Interviews in child-friendly settings



Access to medical care⁵

Children served at CAC were much more likely to receive forensic medical exams:

- No penetration in abuse disclosure:
4.0 times more likely
- Penetration in abuse disclosure:
1.5 times more likely



Prosecution rates⁶

Use of the CAC approach leads to a dramatic increase in felony prosecutions of child sexual abuse:

- District with significant CAC usage -
196% increase
- District with limited CAC usage -
1% decrease



Client satisfaction⁷

Caregivers whose children were seen at the CAC:

- Higher rates of satisfaction than caregivers whose children were seen at the comparison sites
- Significantly more satisfied with the experience than caregivers from the comparison samples

Children who were seen at the CAC:

- More significantly described themselves as "not at all" or "not very" scared versus kids from the comparison communities

Case Processing Time⁸

Faster criminal charging decisions in child sexual abuse cases:

Within 1-60 days



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