

Indiana Child Advocacy Centers Conduct Nearly 9,000 Forensic Interviews In 2020



Our Mission

The mission of the Indiana Chapter of National Children's Alliance (ICNCA) is to promote the development, growth and sustainability of Children's Advocacy Centers in the state of Indiana through education and training, mentoring, collaboration, advocacy, development of resources and legislation.

What is a Children's Advocacy Center?

A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a child-focused, facility-based program in which representatives from core disciplines—law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy—collaborate to investigate child abuse reports, conduct forensic interviews, determine and provide evidence-based interventions, and assess cases for prosecution.

As community-based programs, CACs are designed to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve and, as such, no two CACs look or operate exactly alike. They are founded on a shared belief that child abuse is a multifaceted community problem and no single agency, individual, or discipline has the necessary knowledge, skills, or resources to serve the needs of all children and their families.

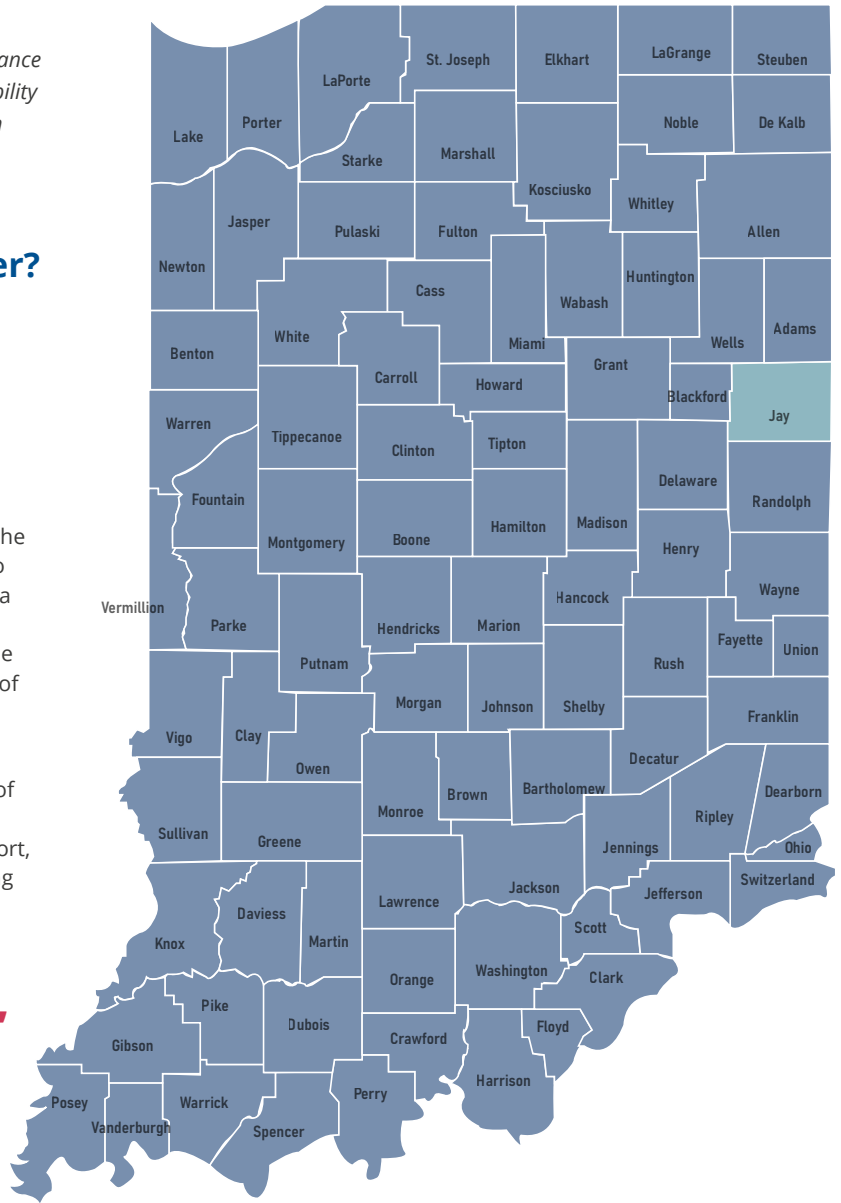
The CAC's coordinated and comprehensive response is also guided by a shared philosophy that the combined expertise of professionals across disciplines results in a more complete understanding of case issues and better provides help, support, and protection to children and families as they pursue healing and justice.

Expanding coverage, services, and efficiency

- There are **26 ICNCA member Children's Advocacy Centers/MDTs** in Indiana.
- Additional counties and regions are actively pursuing Children's Advocacy Center development.
- **8,889 children were interviewed** in ICNCA member Children's Advocacy Centers in 2020.

Reports to the Indiana Child Abuse hotline and law enforcement were down significantly in 2020 as children were away from schools, churches, friends, and other safe adults. The full extent of this period is not known yet, but CACs experienced their first-ever statewide decline since 2009 when DCS changed reporting requirements.

- **Indiana saved approximately \$11,721,035.40 by using Children's Advocacy Centers** when investigating child abuse cases instead of relying solely on DCS or law enforcement¹.



The Indiana Chapter of the National Children's Alliance is committed to providing Children's Advocacy Center services to all Indiana children in need. **91 out of Indiana's 92 counties are regularly served by a CAC.**

¹ (An Economic Impact of Child Maltreatment Work Group has conducted a cost-benefit analysis study comparing investigative cost in communities with and without Children's Advocacy Centers. The analysis showed a cost savings of \$1,318.60 per indicated case in a community with a Children's Advocacy Center...\$4,221.28 without and \$2,902.68 with a Children's Advocacy Center. 8,889 children x \$1318.60 = \$11,721,035.40 total cost savings.)