

Indiana Child Advocacy Centers Conducted 9,480 Forensic Interviews In 2024



Our Mission

The mission of the Indiana Chapter of National Children's Alliance (Indiana Chapter) 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.

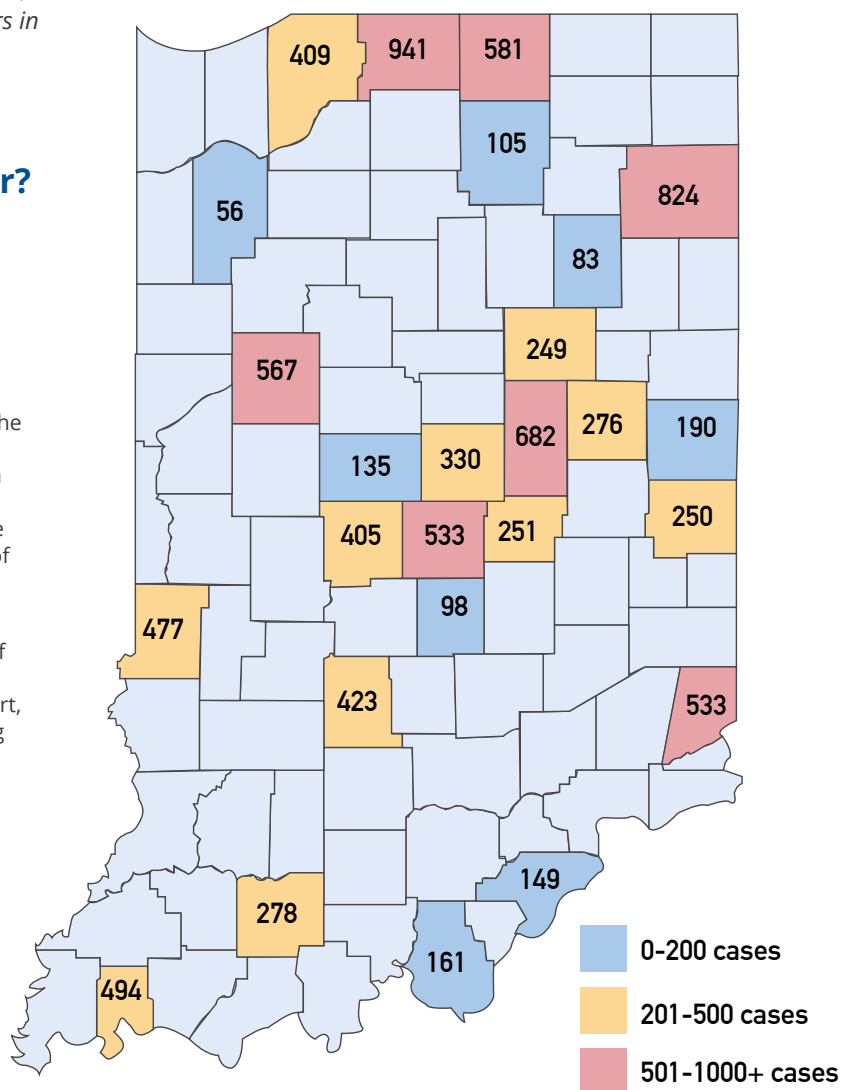
As community- based programs, CACs are designed to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve and, as such, no two CACs look or operate exactly alike. They are founded on a shared belief that child abuse is a multifaceted community problem and no single agency, individual, or discipline has 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 **25 Chapter member Children's Advocacy Centers/MDTs** in Indiana.
- To help meet new state laws, **Indiana CACs have stepped up to offer prevention education** to K-12 schools that request it.
- **CACs continue to report increased efficiencies** in case review, referrals, and case response time.
- **Indiana saves about \$12.4 million by using Children's Advocacy Centers** when investigating child abuse cases instead of relying solely on DCS or law enforcement¹.

2024 Caseload by CAC



Five new Executive Directors and one new CAC joined the Chapter in 2024. Two CACs merged to combine resources and ensure coverage in southern Indiana. One CAC achieved National accreditation. The Chapter has helped these local leaders navigate setup, best practices, accreditation, training, and ensuring multidisciplinary teams are set up for success.

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. 9,645 children x \$1,318.60 = \$12,717,897 total cost savings.)