Indiana Child Advocacy Centers Conducted 9,968 Forensic Interviews In 2021



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 is a child-focused, community-oriented facility in which members of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) work together in child abuse investigations.

A MDT consists of a member of law enforcement, child protective services, a prosecutor, a victim advocate, a forensic interviewer, a mental health person and someone from the medical community.

This team approach ensures that the child is not subjected to numerous interviews during an investigation and that the investigation begins in a child-focused environment in which the child's needs come first, while also providing for follow-up services.

Expanding coverage, services, and efficiency

- There are 26 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 saved about \$13.1 million by using Children's Advocacy Centers when investigating child abuse cases instead of relying solely on DCS or law enforcement¹.

946 LaGrange Steuben 568 339 Saint Joseph DeKalb Noble Marshall 130 Kosciusko 798 58 Fulton Pulaski Newton 103 Wabash White Cass luntinator Miami Adams Wells Benton Carroll 386 Howard Blackford Grant 807 Jay Tippecanoe Tipton 185 403 135 Delawa 753 155 Fountain Montgomery Boone 399 122 546 491 Wayne Hendricks Parke Union Putnam Favette Rush 207 472 Shelby Morgan Franklin Vigo Clav Owen 489 640 Sullivan Ripley Greene Ohio Jackson Lawrence Jefferson Switzerla Washington Orange Clark 324 160 Gibson Dubois 0-200 Cases 115 201-500 Cases 333 501-1000+ Cases

Nine new Executive Directors and three new CACs have begun operating in the last two years. The Chapter has helped these local leaders navigate setup, best practices, accreditation, training, and ensuring multidisciplinary teams are setup for success.

248-762-5520

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. 9,968 children \times \$1,318.60 = \$13,143,804.80 total cost savings.)

