

# 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?

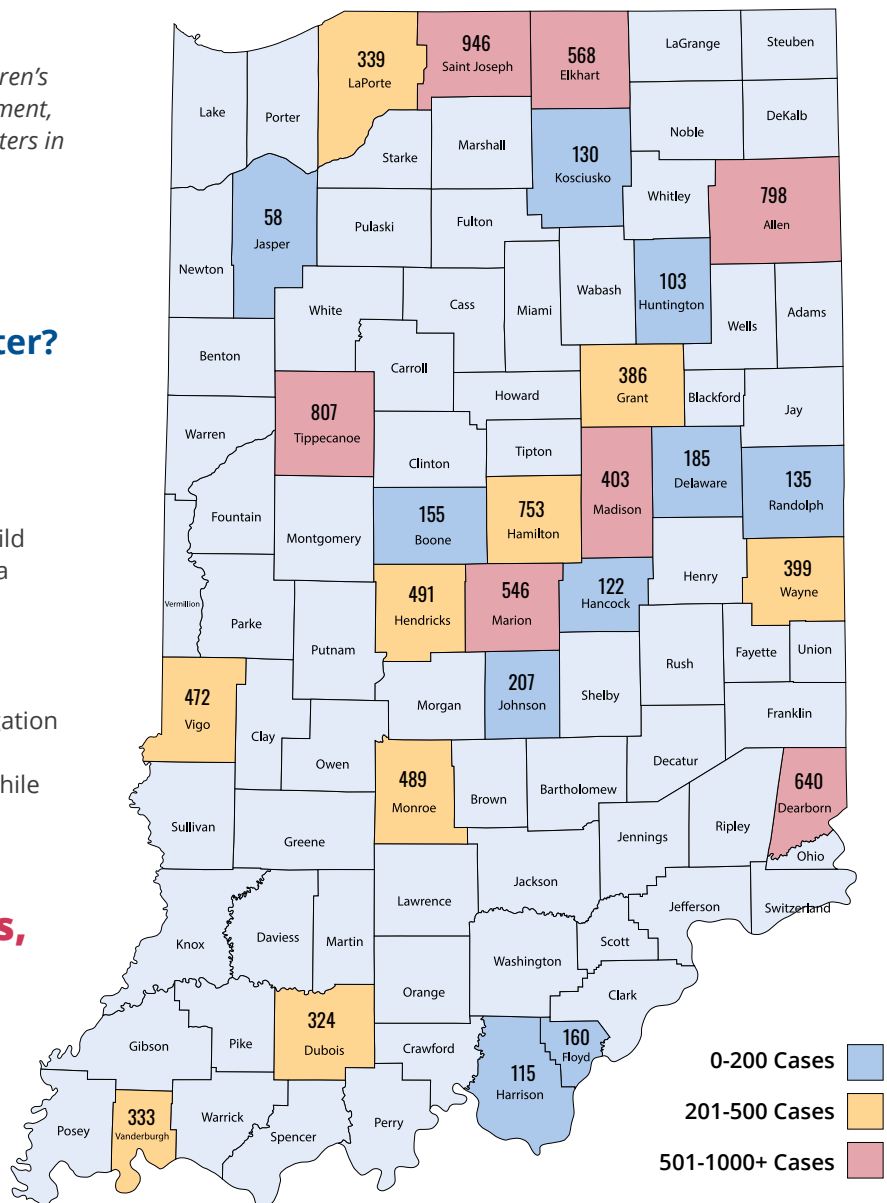
A Children's Advocacy Center is a child-focused, community-oriented facility in which members of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) work together in child abuse investigations.

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 enforcement<sup>1</sup>.



**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.

<sup>1</sup> (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 x \$1,318.60 = \$13,143,804.80 total cost savings.)