

Canopy Child Advocacy Center

Canopy Child Advocacy Center is a community-based partnership committed to providing a collaborative, multidisciplinary team (MDT) response to the prevention, investigation, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse cases in Cuyahoga County.



Mission

The mission of Canopy Child Advocacy Center is to serve children and families affected by child abuse through a multi-disciplinary partnership focused on safety, healing, and well-being.

Vision

We envision a community where children are safe, families are resilient, and those affected by child abuse are empowered to heal and thrive.

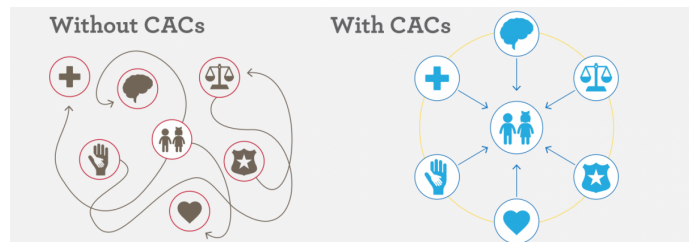
What is a Child Advocacy Center (CAC)?

It is a national best practice model used to reduce trauma to children and families impacted by child abuse and improve service delivery through interagency collaboration. This is done by providing a single location for children and their families where they will receive a wide array of services to help in both the short and long-term healing and by enhancing prosecutions.

Components of a CAC include medical exams, child protection, law enforcement, victim advocacy, mental health/trauma-informed response, prosecution, and allied community and social services. The partners work in close collaboration to ensure that there are timely and appropriate responses to the concerns of the child and their families.

How does it help kids?

Coordinated investigations conducted through the CAC result in the identification of significantly increased amounts of evidence and result in higher levels of satisfaction by parents and caregivers. More children involved with a CAC receive a specialized medical evaluation and are referred to mental health resources.



Creating a Child Advocacy Center in Cuyahoga County was a long overdue endeavor for our community. Cleveland was the last major urban area in the United States to build a Child Advocacy Center.

Our Partners

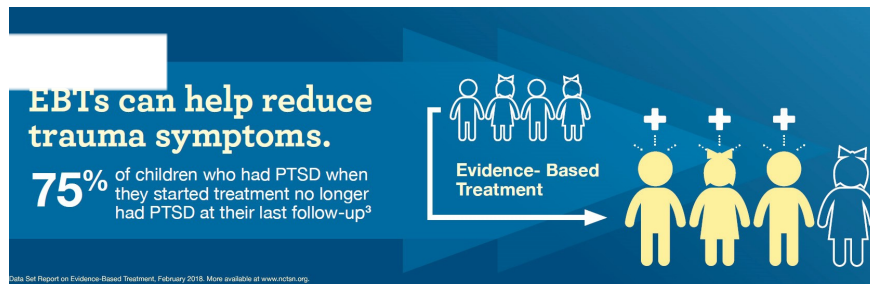
- Case Western Reserve University
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- Cleveland Division of Police
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Cuyahoga County Court of Commons Pleas
- Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services
- Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court
- Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court
- Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office
- Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department
- Cuyahoga County Witness Victim Service Center
- Family Justice Center
- FrontLine Service
- International Association of Forensic Nurses
- Journey Center for Safety and Healing
- MetroHealth System
- United Way of Greater Cleveland
- University Hospitals

Child Abuse Facts

- Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious array of consequences (www.d2l.org, 2013).
- One in 10 children will be sexually abused before age 18 (www.d2l.org, 2013).
- Only about one third of child sexual abuse incidents are identified, and even fewer are reported (www.d2l.org, 2012).
- Each year in Cuyahoga County, approximately 3000 reports of concern for child sexual abuse are made to Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS, 2018).
- Evidence-based mental health treatments like those delivered at National Children's Alliance's network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) to child victims of abuse can significantly reduce trauma symptoms and prevent the long-term effects of exposure to trauma (National Children's Alliance, 2018).

How You Can Help

- Learn more about child abuse and spread the word to family, friends and neighbors on how to keep kids safe.
- Report cases of suspected abuse to the proper authorities (216-696-KIDS or 911 in Cuyahoga County) and encourage others to do the same.
- Consider donating time or resources to Canopy Child Advocacy Center to support the work we do to help victims of abuse. Visit www.canopycac.org for more information.



Other Resources

Cuyahoga County 24 Hour Abuse Hotline
216-696-KIDS (5437)

National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD (422-4453)

Contact Canopy CAC

Phone: 216-574-HEAL (4325)

Fax: 216-574-9213

P.O. Box 5386, Cleveland, OH 44101

www.canopycac.org



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