

# ANNUAL THE CHILD FIRST ADVOCACY CENTER IMPACT REPORT



2024

# What We Do

At the Child Advocacy Center (CFAC), we offer a safe and compassionate space to support victims and their families through the process of identifying, intervening, treating, and preventing child sexual abuse.

Our dedicated team of trained professionals shares a common goal: to reduce the traumatic impact of child abuse. Our top priority is the safety and well-being of the child and their non-offending family members, with the child at the heart of everything we do.

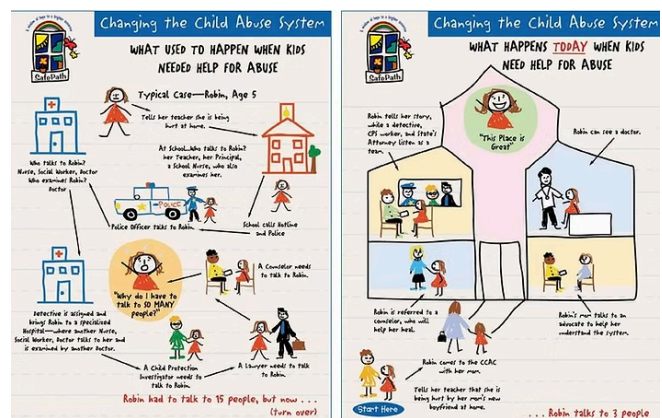
Child First Advocacy Center provides children and their families with:



We understand that discussing abuse is incredibly challenging. Our team is specially trained to help children address difficult topics. We are here to assist you in understanding what has happened to your child and to ensure they are protected from further harm.

**The Multidisciplinary Team** concept was a core aspect of the original Child Advocacy Center model developed by Bud Cramer during the early 1980's. Previously, the United States response to child sexual abuse was poorly coordinated between the various entities with a responsibility for conducting the initial investigation and response to child sexual abuse. With a committed group of community volunteers, Mr. Cramer refined and implemented the first Child Advocacy Center in Huntsville, AL in 1985. This innovative model recognized that in order for the United States to effectively respond to this issue that a unique public-private partnership was essential, and that the various agencies and departments responsible for the protection of children must be united in a collaborative effort to respond with the recognition that no one agency by itself could assure the protection of children. Only by working as a multidisciplinary team could we effectively respond to child abuse.

- CFAC's MDT Partners**
- Vermont State Police
  - Rutland City Police Department
  - Rutland Town Police Department
  - Rutland County Department of Children and Families
  - Rutland County State's Attorney's Office
  - NewStory Center
  - Rutland Regional Medical Center
  - Rutland County Department of Corrections
  - Rutland Mental Health
  - Private Mental Health
  - Rutland City School District



This bold effort to reformulate the nations response to child abuse was met with a mixture of skepticism and excitement. The various institutions of law enforcement, child protective services, mental health, medical health, and victim advocacy were unaccustomed to working in a collaborative fashion, but they quickly realized the value and impact of this multidisciplinary model. Currently, this approach has been widely adopted as a best practice in responding to child sexual abuse in the United States. Throughout the United States, there are now more than 950 Children's Advocacy Centers which served more than 300,000 children last year, and this model has now been implemented in more than 25 countries throughout the world.

## Child Advocacy Center's Save Money

A recent national cost-benefit analysis of the CAC model shows that CAC's save approximately \$1,000 per case in services to children and families during the course of an investigation.

2023

## National CAC Statistics

National  
Children's  
Alliance®The Force Behind  
Children's Advocacy Centers

## GENDER of children:

133,247	244,492	3,625
MALE	FEMALE	UNDISCLOSED

381,364	298,822
CHILDREN SERVED	ALLEGED OFFENDERS

## AGE of children at first contact:

0-6 years	111,243	13-18 years	126,416
7-12 years	141,587	Undisclosed	2,118

## RELATIONSHIP of alleged offender to child:

Parent	112,418
Stepparent	18,029
Other relative	60,081
Parent's boyfriend/girlfriend	18,309
Other known person	69,073
Unknown	36,208

## RACE/ETHNICITY of total children seen:

White	188,851
Black/African American	69,637
Hispanic/Latino	67,718
American Indian/Alaska Native	7,060
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,481
Other	24,640
Undisclosed	18,977

## AGE of alleged offenders:

Under 13	18,727	18+	190,296
13-17 years	29,249	Undisclosed	64,372

## # OF CHILDREN receiving services:

Medical exam/treatment	91,466
Counseling therapy	116,895
Referral to counseling therapy	114,995
Onsite forensic interviewing	259,794
Offsite forensic interviewing	7,235

## TYPES OF ABUSE reported:

Sexual abuse	236,601
Physical abuse	85,647
Neglect	30,737
Witness to violence	27,222
Drug endangerment	14,378
Other	34,460

## OTHER SERVICES provided by CAC

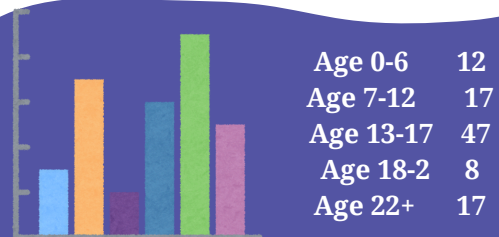
	CHILDREN	ADULTS	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Case management/coordination	370,160	113,085	27,776	511,021
Prevention	1,448,506	447,621	89,161	1,985,288
Other categories	190,270	168,513	304,764	663,547

# GLANCE OF Fiscal Year 2024

## CFAC Stats

CFAC served 121 Victims and 118 families, highlighting our ongoing commitment to addressing the needs of children affected by abuse in Rutland County. Our fully accredited center has been a trusted resource since its establishment in 1995 and has maintained accreditation by the National Children's Alliance since 2004.

Total "New" Victims 117



Adults  
Allegation of Abuse 10

Children Served-107  
Adults Served- 10

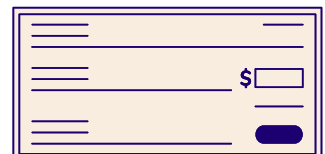
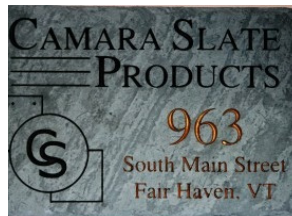


Children  
Allegation of Abuse 113

# Thank You for Your Support

## CFAC Partners

*We sincerely thank our partners and donors for your continued support. Your generosity has been crucial in helping us achieve our mission: to provide a safe and supportive environment for victims and their families in the discovery, intervention, treatment, and prevention of child abuse. We are grateful for your trust and look forward to our continued partnership in making a lasting impact.*



**To become a Sponsor or to Donate Today!**

Checks can be made out to the Child and Family Advocacy Center and mailed to:  
P.O. Box 6822

Rutland, Vermont 05702

Please indicate your desired sponsorship level in the memo line of your check.

Thank you for your support in helping us protect and advocate for children in our community!

For any inquiries, please contact: Mary Nichols Phone: 802-747-0200 or Email: [mary.nichols@partner.vermont.gov](mailto:mary.nichols@partner.vermont.gov)! We're here to assist you!