

# INSPIRING HOPE. ENDING ABUSE. HELPING CHILDREN HEAL.

In 2021, local Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) served

# 15,474

child victims of abuse and their families across Pennsylvania by providing:



Child-friendly environment where children can feel comfortable disclosing abuse

Collaborative approach by law enforcement, child protective services, medical professionals, and trauma therapists working as a team



Forensic interviews with CAC staff trained to question children about abuse in a non-intimidating and non-leading manner



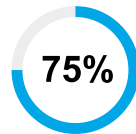
Medical evaluations to ensure health and safety



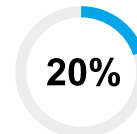
Trauma-focused therapy that involves parents and caregivers



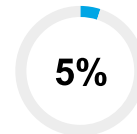
Victim advocacy to support caregivers and families on the healing journey



SEXUAL ABUSE



PHYSICAL ABUSE



OTHER  
(severe neglect, witness to violence, drug endangerment)

Over half (63%) of CAC cases involved children who experienced abuse before the age of 13.

## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse takes many forms, and they aren't just physical. At its core, sexual abuse is any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors when one exerts power over the other. It also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, and voyeurism. Child sexual abuse can occur anywhere. It happens in places like homes, neighborhoods, schools, and youth sports environments, but it also occurs online, such as child pornography or communicating in a sexual manner by phone or internet.

Darkness To Light ([www.d2l.org/child-sexual-abuse](http://www.d2l.org/child-sexual-abuse))

## ONLINE EXPLOITATION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, kids and teens are spending more time online than ever before. So are abusers:

# 29.3 million

Number of reports of suspected online child abuse made to National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in 2021, the highest annual total to date.

