



The Children's Safety Center, Inc. 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

RESTORING DREAMS



The Children's
Safety Center
served a total
of 804 alleged
victims of
child abuse
in 2019



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 2020 approaches and we leave behind 2019, I know our team is able to be proud of our accomplishments. Here are only a few:

Advocacy: The CSC child advocates continued to grow their caseloads and provided support to the children and families brought to the center. The child advocates connected the families to community resources, attended court with clients, assisted with camp registration forms, they provided school supplies, they gave out gas cards, and more than 220 children received Christmas gifts.

Forensic Interview: The CSC was able to update both forensic interview rooms and both observation rooms, with new, more comfortable furniture, as well as anatomical dolls for both interview rooms. The CSC updated our iRecord system to a digital system.

Medical: The Regional SANE Coordinator is continuing to grow our medical program; the CSC did see a 14% increase in forensic medical exams. The CSC was able to have all the medical documents translated from English to Spanish.

Therapy: The CSC hired a second therapist, Caitlin Houk, LMSW. She joined the team and through a grant provides trauma focused behavioral therapy to underserved populations and Caitlin holds a girls group one evening a week. In her first year, Caitlin was able to provide 44 additional children or parents/guardians therapy services.

Prevention & Education: There were 54 trainings held, in Washington County, covering more than 1,700 adults and children. The CSC Bilingual Child Advocate also began holding trainings, in Spanish, for Univision, Westwood Elementary, and St. Raphael Catholic Church.

Development – Emily worked with the Fund Development and Dream Big Charity Gala committees to raise a record amount of \$205,000 for CSC's annual Dream Big Charity Gala. The CSC improved the design and navigation of our website. The CSC team also held two Open Houses and provided hundreds of tours to community members.

I hope as we move into 2020, you will continue raising awareness of the Children's Safety Center and the need for our unique services in the community, as well as continuing to financially invest in the services we provide children and their families.

I wish you all the best for a prosperous year. I would like to leave you with a note from one of our clients who received Christmas thanks to our generous donors:

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Moore Shackelford
Executive Director



CHILD ABUSE IN OUR COUNTY

Since 1997, the Children's Safety Center has been the expert resource on child abuse in Washington County. Our teams are first responders to reports of child sexual and physical abuse, and we coordinate the response of the county's law enforcement, child protection and medical professionals.

Child abuse occurs in every community in Washington County

- Regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status or any other demographic
- Sexual abuse is most often a repeated crime
- Victims often suffer in silence for months, years or a lifetime before abuse is discontinued or reported
- 90% of sexual abuse is by someone the child knows
- Abusers often have regular access to victims by being a family friend, babysitter or family member

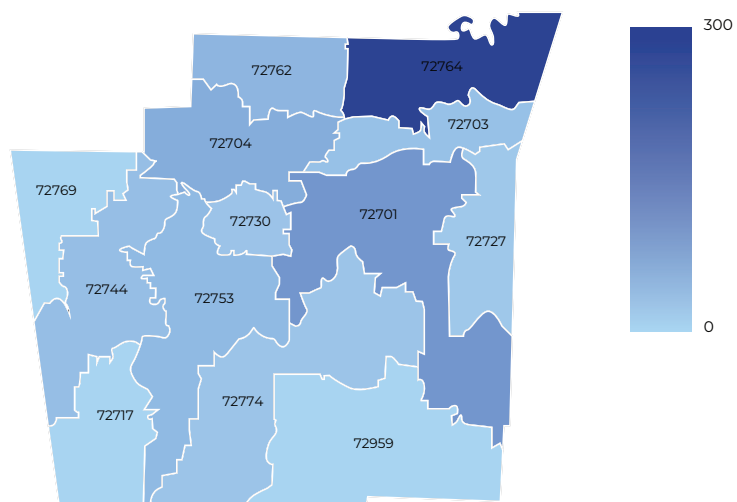
Sexual abuse across the U.S.

- 1 in 10 children are sexually abused before turning 18
- Only 20-40% of child sexual abuse is ever reported to authorities
- Experiencing child sexual abuse has long-term health impacts, as well as increased risk of poor academic performance, being a victim of other violence, drug abuse, depression and suicide

Location of cases of child abuse received by the CSC

January 1, 2019 -
December 31, 2019

635 TOTAL





SERVICES

Advocacy

In the midst of a crisis, we believe our priority should be the safety and healing of our children and families. Our child advocates strive to provide families with the resources they need as well as navigating them through the legal process during their moments of crisis and beyond. Services provided by the program include: needs assessments, community resource referrals, home visits, attending court hearings with the children and help applying for Crime Victims' Compensation funds. Advocacy may be on-going and is not defined by any specific time frame.

Forensic Interviews

Minimizing the number of times children must tell their stories of trauma is fundamental to the center's mission. Trained CSC forensic interviewers conduct non-leading, fact-finding interviews at the beginning of the investigative process in order to minimize the number of times a child has to tell his/her story of abuse or neglect. The interviews are recorded to preserve the child's statement, while law enforcement and/or the Department of Children and Family Services watch the outcry behind secure doors, in hopes that the child will have to tell his/her story once.

Medical Services

Onsite in the center's medical suite, the CSC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (S.A.N.E) conduct forensic medical examinations for children. Services also include sexually transmitted infection testing, pregnancy testing, and case consultations.

Mental Health Therapy

The ultimate goal of our therapy program is simple, to help child abuse victims and their non-offending family members heal from trauma. Through highly individualized and specialized therapeutic counseling using trauma informed therapeutic interventions, our therapists strive to restore emotional functioning and to ensure a positive and productive adulthood.

We attempt to eliminate any barriers between the services a child needs and the services a child receives. For this reason, all of our services are offered at no charge, as long as the family needs them. Our empirically sound, innovative types of therapy are diverse and include: art, play, music, individual, family and group therapy. Our therapy program is comprised of two full-time therapists and the center serves as an accredited training site for graduate clinical internships from local universities.

In 2019, the Children's Safety Center...



804

children & families received
advocacy services



714

children received
forensic interviews



105

children received S.A.N.E.
examinations



1483

therapy sessions
provided

GENDER



Female | 502



Male | 302

AGE

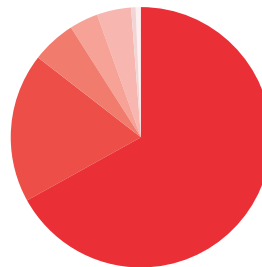
0-10 | 455

11-17+ | 349

Youngest:
2 months old

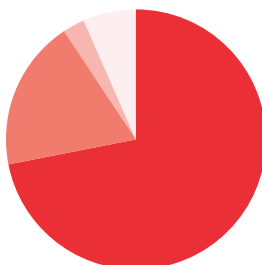
Average age:
10 years old

RACE



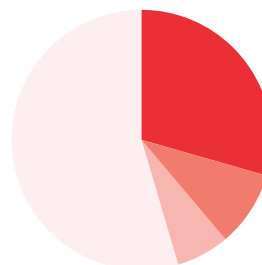
- Caucasian/White | 62%
- Hispanic/Latino | 22%
- African American/Black | 4%
- Multiracial | 6%
- Pacific Islander | 4%
- Asian | 1%
- American Indian | 1%

ALLEGATION



- Sexual Abuse | 74%
- Physical Abuse | 18%
- Neglect | 1%
- 2 or More Allegations | 7%

ALLEGED KNOWN OFFENDER



- Biological Parent | 30%
- Step-Parent | 8%
- Parent Boyfriend/Girlfriend | 7%
- Other Known Person | 55%



PREVENTION

Prevention – Keeping Children Safe

Protecting Children is our top priority. That is why we are continuing to educate our community on child abuse prevention implementing Empower Me! Curriculum as well as Stewards of Children Training. These programs raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating children and adults about the steps they may take to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to the threat of child sexual abuse.

Empower Me!

The CSC Program Director continued to implement the Empower Me! curriculum throughout Washington County Public School Districts and Private Schools in 2019. Our program director visits local area schools and trains school counselors on the body safety education curriculum. The counselors then implement Empower Me! directly with students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Since the children who are receiving the new education will likely disclose to a teacher or other school staff if they have been abused, the CSC will then go back into each school and train the teachers and other staff with a first responder/mandated reporter training. By the end of 2019 the CSC implemented the child abuse curriculum in all Washington County Public School Districts.

Stewards of Children

In 2019, over 1,000 community members completed our Stewards of Children child abuse prevention training. Stewards of Children is a two hour evidence-based training with the goal of teaching adults five steps to protect children from sexual abuse. The CSC Program Director may go to any agency, organization or business in the community to conduct this presentation. The training applies to any adult who comes in contact with children whether through their job, church, or as a parent or relative to any child. Each quarter in 2020, the CSC will have open enrollment trainings for any community member interested in receiving this free training.

Financials

Federal/State Grant Funds	\$252,314.28
Crime Victim Reparations	\$97,333.68
Fundraising Events	\$263,747.41

Individual/Family/Business	\$266,865.18
Organization/Church Donations	
Local Grants	\$101,592.70
Total	\$981,853.25

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Our Multidisciplinary Team consists of:

- Arkansas State Police Crimes Against Children Division
- Washington County Prosecutors Office
- Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Fayetteville, Springdale, Farmington, Greenland, Prairie Grove, Lincoln, and West Fork Police Departments
- Children's Safety Center
- Arkansas Children's Hospital Northwest
- Juvenile Court



CSC Staff

Elizabeth Shackelford
Executive Director

Casey Atwood, LSW
Program Director

Karen Blackstone, BSW
Forensic Interviewer

Emily Rappe' Fisher
Development Director

Debbie O'Brien
Child Advocate

Liliana Garcia
Bilingual Child Advocate

Brittni Jeffers, LSW
Child Advocate

Savanah Thorne
Child Advocate

Jeni McIntyre, LMSW
Therapist

Caitlin Houk, LMSW
Therapist

Dawn Thompson Hannah
Regional SANE Coordinator

Crystal Nagel
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Kacie Parrish
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Amber O'Malley
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Rachel Thurman
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Christi Turnage
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Regina Welch
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Board of Directors

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President

Jordan Greer
Vice President

Dan Prier
Treasurer

Brittney Duke
Secretary

Susan Antony
Matt Bumgarner
Dale Brown
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Will Clark
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Ryan Faust
Amanda Foster
Sheri Koch
Hunter Norton
Chris Perkins
Philip Schmidt
Sean Simons
Crandall Streett





RESTORING DREAMS FOR

23

YEARS

FIRST CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
IN THE STATE