

Child Abuse Investigation The Role of the Children's Advocacy Center

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Cooper-Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center



Child Abuse Hotline
1-844-SAVEACHILD

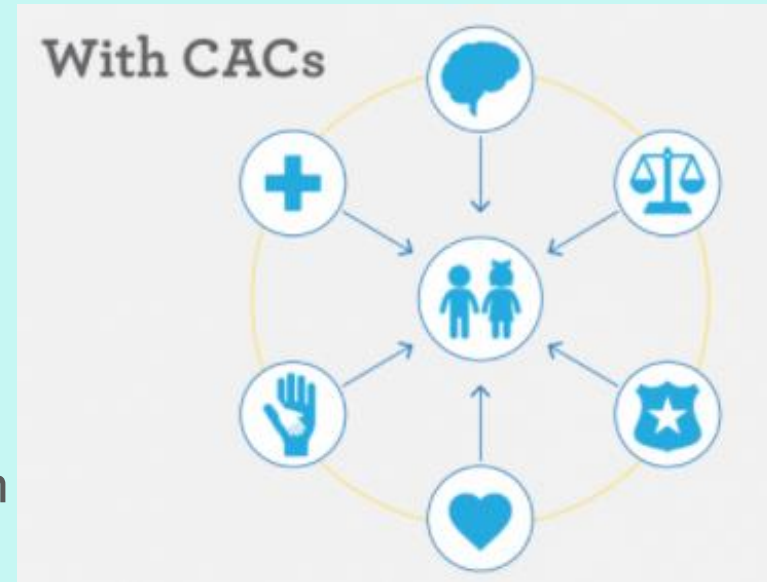
REMEMBER TO
DUAL REPORT
TO LOCAL
LAW
ENFORCEMENT

Department of Human
Services
Division of Children and
Family Services
Priority 2 – 72 hours

Arkansas State Police
Crimes Against Children
Division
Priority 1 – 24 hours

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

- Advocacy
- Forensic Interviewing
- Medical Exams
- Mental Health Services
- Prevention Education & Community Education
- All services are free



Before Child Advocacy Centers

- No teamwork – multiple interviews
- Double teamed interviews
- Interviews conducted in stressful environment for the child:
 - Police interrogation rooms
 - Open office spaces
 - Hospital Emergency Rooms
 - Principal's offices
 - Child's home

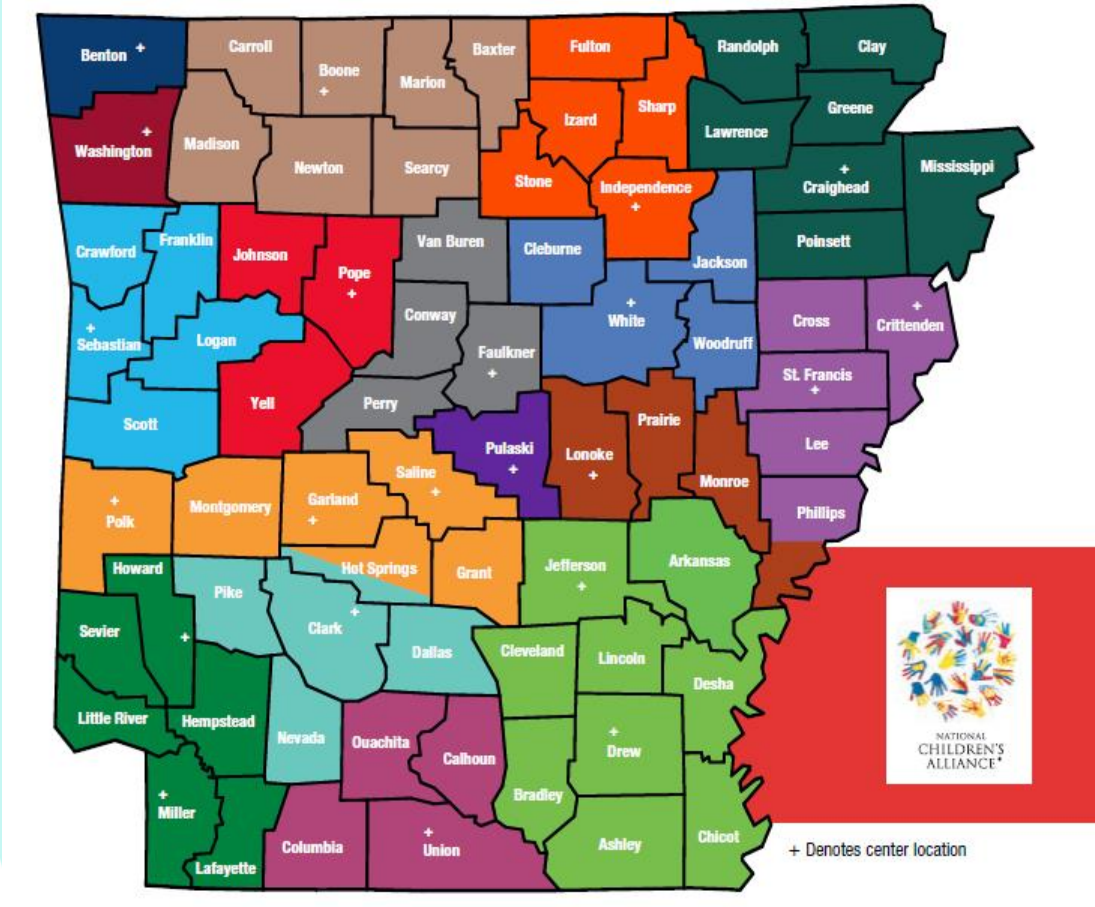


Child Advocacy Centers of Arkansas

- There are 17 CACs in the state
- Goal is for families not to travel more than 1 hour for services.
- CACs work as part of a multi-disciplinary team that includes:
 - Arkansas State Police: Crimes Against Children Division
 - Arkansas Department of Human Services: Division of Children and Family Services
 - Local Law Enforcement
 - Prosecutors
 - Mental Health Professionals
 - Other local and state agencies



Child Advocacy Centers of Arkansas



Cooper-Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center (CAMCAC)

- Created in 2003 by the Sisters of Mercy
- All services are free
- On average it costs \$2,800/child
- Always on call 24/7 – emergent care
- Serve 6 counties: Garland, Saline, Polk, Montgomery, Hot Spring, Grant
- 3 offices: Hot Springs, Benton, & Mena



2021 CAMCAC Statistics

Hot Springs: 376

Benton: 275

Mena: 74

Total: **726**

Sexual Abuse: 62%

Physical Abuse: 16%

Neglect/Other: 22%





Questions?

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