

WHAT ARE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS?

A Children's Advocacy Center is a safe place for the evaluation of child sexual abuse. Children's Advocacy Centers enhance the response to suspected child abuse cases by combining the wisdom and professional knowledge of various investigative agencies and other professionals. These coordinated efforts provide the knowledge, skills and resources to assist suspected child abuse victims and their families. CACs maintain focus on the child and help to ensure that systems designed to protect children are able to do so effectively.

Georgia's centers provide the following services:

- Videotaped interviews of suspected child abuse victims conducted in safe, child-friendly surroundings. The interviews are completed by professionally trained forensic interviewers and coordinated with the involved investigative agencies. This reduces trauma to the child by avoiding multiple interviews and preserving statements for legal purposes
- Forensic medical exams of suspected child abuse victims utilizing specialized equipment for accurate diagnoses, offered on-site or through referral
- Crisis intervention and emotional support for victims and non-offending family members, and guidance in accessing the crime victim's compensation system
- Counseling and medical services to help child victims begin the healing process, offered on-site or through referral
- Interdisciplinary review of cases by a team of professionals, including but not limited to law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, medical and mental health professionals, victim's assistance staff, and child advocates
- Professional training and community education to effectively respond to child abuse

Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia is a nonprofit membership organization which sets standards, assists developing and existing centers, promotes effective public policy, compiles statistical data and is a chapter of the National Children's Alliance.

**For more information contact:
Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia
P. O. Box 1192
Decatur, GA 30031-1192**

**404-377-6127
cacga@cacga.org**

**404-377-1365 Fax
www.cacga.org**

This Program is supported in part by the Children's Trust Fund of Georgia through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly

OUR LOCATIONS

MEMBER CENTERS

Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County

Valdosta
229-245-5369

Sunshine Center

Albany
229-431-1121

Children's Tree House

Columbus
706-327-9612

The Gateway Center

Cordele
229-273-0600

The Sunshine House Children's Advocacy Center

Swainsboro
478-237-7801

The Center for Advocacy and Protection

Atlanta
404-250-2674

The Tree House

Winder
770-868-1900

Rainbow House Children's Resource Center

Warner Robins
478-923-5923

Edmondson-Telford Center for Children

Gainesville
770-534-5151

Anna Crawford Children's Center

Woodstock
770-592-9779

C.A.R.E. Cottage

Forsyth
478-994-7287

The Shelter and Child Advocacy Center

Augusta
706-737-4631

Harbor House

Rome
706-235-5437

Coastal Children's Advocacy Center

Savannah
912-236-1401

SafePath Children's Advocacy Center

Marietta
770-801-3465

Child Advocacy Center of the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit

Fort Oglethorpe
706-866-8811

Crescent House

Macon
478-633-7044

Sexual Assault Center of Northeast Georgia

Athens
706-546-1133

Georgia Center for Children

Atlanta
678-904-2880

The GreenHouse

Dalton
706-278-4769

Forsyth County Children's Advocacy Center

Cumming
678-208-1908

Stepping Stone

Dublin
478-275-9010

Appalachian Children's Center

Ellijay
706-273-2225

Golden Isles Children's Center

Brunswick
912-554-0609

Rainbow Connection – Children's Advocacy & Assessment Center

Jonesboro
770-478-6905

Power House for Kids

Toccoa
706-886-2290

Children's Advocacy Center of Colquitt County

Moultrie
229-890-5549

Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center, Inc.

Duluth
770-497-9122

Child Advocacy Center of Coffee County

Douglas
912-260-1492

Satilla Advocacy Services

Waycross
912-285-7355

DEVELOPING CENTERS

Prevent Child Abuse Hart County

Hartwell
706-376-5607

Children's Advocacy Center of Troup County

LaGrange
706-298-2148 ext. 102

NEW INITIATIVES

The Gordon County Family Resource Center

Calhoun

Pataula Center for Children

Blakely

Grady County Child Advocacy Center

Cairo

Mitchell County DFCS

Camillia

Bryan County Family Connection

Pembroke



Children's Advocacy Centers
of Georgia
P.O. Box 1192
Decatur, GA 33031-1192



Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

Providing a multi-disciplinary team approach
to the evaluation and treatment
of abused children.

Chronicle

Volume IV

CHRIS NEWLIN PRESIDENT

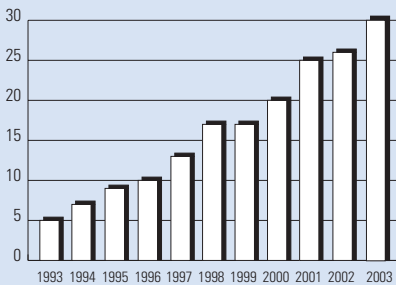
I am pleased to report that Georgia is one of the leading states in helping alleged victims of child maltreatment, especially sexual abuse. With 30 fully established Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), and an additional eight communities developing Centers, only Texas, Illinois, California and New York, each with much larger populations, have more CACs.

This rapid growth, from six CACs in 1993, would not have been possible without active community support, dedicated CAC staff, and the professional commitment of our partners from the Division of Family and Children Services, law enforcement, medical and mental health, prosecution, and school systems.

We have broad bipartisan support in the General Assembly and continue to establish CACs where there is an interest and need. We hope some of our most rural counties will be opening Centers in the next year or two.

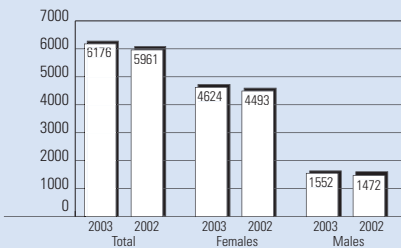
Since 1993, the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia has grown dramatically from six to 30 fully functioning CACs covering 58 counties, where 70% of Georgia's children reside. Additionally, 15 of the CACGA members are Full Members of the National Children's Alliance, the national membership organization for CACs.

CACGA MEMBERS



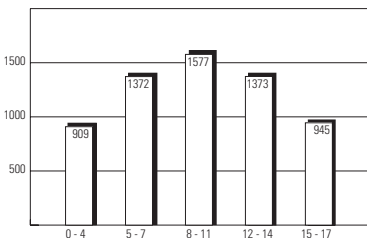
During 2003, the CACGA provided services (forensic interviews, therapy, medical exams, crisis intervention, etc.) to more than 6,000 alleged victims of child maltreatment.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO ALLEGED VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE



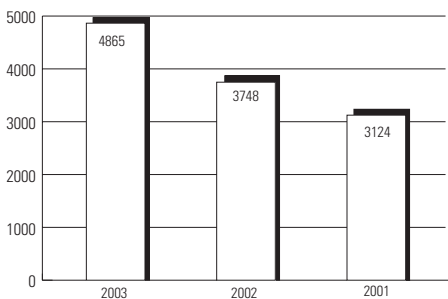
Additionally, as reflected in the following graph, 62% of the children served by CACGA members are under the age of 11, with most of these falling between ages five and eleven. These represent not only our most vulnerable citizens, but also Georgia's future leaders and workforce.

AGE OF ALLEGED VICTIMS – 2003



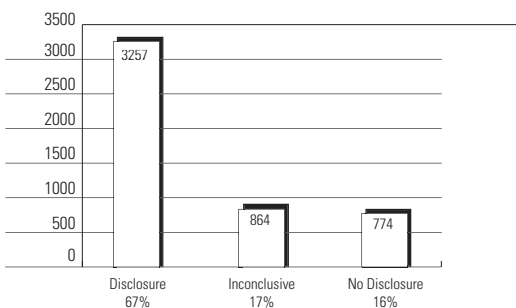
Sexual abuse is the most common type of alleged abuse referred to CACs (84% of cases). However, CAC services are frequently utilized with alleged victims of physical abuse and children exposed to other traumatic events (domestic violence, murder, etc.). One of the core services provided by CACs is the forensic interview of alleged victims of child abuse where the multidisciplinary team is seeking to learn about the alleged child maltreatment from the child’s perspective. As reflected below, in 2003 CACGA members provided 4,865 forensic interviews, a 30% increase compared to 2002.

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS – 2003



The following graph illustrates that children disclosed abuse in 67% of these interviews, did not disclose any abuse in 16% of these interviews, and provided tentative/inconclusive disclosures in 17% of these interviews. This clearly demonstrates that the CACGA is committed to learning the truth regarding allegations of abuse, not seeking to just confirm suspicions or allegations.

FORENSIC INTERVIEW OUTCOMES – 2003



Disclosure: The child disclosed abuse during the interview.

Inconclusive: The child did not clearly disclose abuse during the interview.

No Disclosure: The child did not disclose abuse during the interview.

STATE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Since its inception in 1982, state employees have generously donated over \$34 million to assist community based programs and services through the State Charitable Contributions Program. Voluntary contributions come from every department, local public health and family and children's service office, technical college, and state university and college. In fiscal year 2003-2004 donation will exceed \$2,500,000 in support for more than 1,200 social, environmental, welfare and health programs all across Georgia.

Children's Advocacy Center will receive more than \$26,000 in support this year. Since most contributions are given anonymously, we would like to express appreciation to all state employees for their personal and professional contribution and commitment to improving the quality of life for all Georgians.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Harbor House (Floyd and Paulding Counties), SafePath (Cobb County), and the Sunshine House (Emanuel, Candler, Toombs, Jefferson, and Washington Counties) Children's Advocacy Centers were selected by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for special recognition for their service to victims.

In separate ceremonies, Governor Perdue and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council staff expressed appreciation for their efforts to "improve the functioning of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on serving the needs of victims of violent crimes."

CHILD ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Governor Sonny Perdue has announced the appointments of Laura Eubanks to the Office of the Child Advocate's Child Advocates Advisory Committee. Laura is Practice Manager at the Center for Advocacy and Protection a Children's Advocacy Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

The Office of the Child Advocate for the Protection of Children was established by statute in 2000 for the purpose of assisting, protecting, and restoring the security of children whose well-being is threatened. With the creation of the Office of the Child Advocate, Georgia became the twelfth state to open an independent ombudsman office designed to protect the rights of children in state care and to monitor the agencies charged with protecting those children.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP – 2003

Andrew Agaston*

Marietta

Katherine Barnes*

Tiger

Vicki Boardman

Atlanta

Michael & Peggy Buchholz*

Decatur

Carol Bunn

Forsyth

Jim Burton

Rome

Susan Campbell*

Newnan

Brant Davis

Atlanta

Carol Donaldson*

Swainsboro

Terese DeGrandi

Atlanta

Amy Economopoulos

Woodstock

Carol Hanna

Warner Robins

Kristen Hart

Ellijay

Gayle Hutcherson

Louisville, Kentucky

Memorial Gift - Herbert D. Lucy Jr.

Amy Gaylor*

Augusta

Phil Kouns

Jonesboro

Chuck and LaVann Landrum*

Newnan

Beth & Chris Newlin

Rome

Mr. & Mrs. Irwin L. Potts, Jr.

Savannah

In honor of Amy Gaylor

Ashley and Jeff Roesler*

Douglas

Judith Tutin

Rome

Ellen Williams*

Robert Wilson*

Decatur

*Supporting membership with an additional donation

Supporting Membership information
is available at www.cacga.org

