

2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2173

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
1/20/2025
9:32 AM

Relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.

9:32 a.m. Chairman Lee called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Trends
- Information sharing
- Verbal communication
- Referrals
- Levels of intrusion

9:33 a.m. Greg Kasowski, Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center, testified in favor and submitted testimony #30092.

9:46 a.m. Cheslea Flory, Director for Burleigh County Human Service Zone, testified in favor and submitted testimony #30173.

10:00 a.m. Johnathan Byers, ND States Attorney Association, testified in support.

Additional written testimony:

Dustin Amundson submitted testimony in opposition #29891.

Kristie Wolff, Communications Coordinator for Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners, submitted testimony in support #30084.

10:04 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

My name is Dustin Amundson. I live in Bismarck (District 30). Thank you for your time and consideration. I am asking you to give this bill a do NOT pass recommendation (unless it is amended). The first step needs to be a court order and a sheriff investigation. If the sheriff finds evidence of abuse, THEN, and only then, should the Child Advocacy Center become involved....otherwise it is a violation of the 14th amendments due process clause.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."



**Kristie Wolff – Communications Coordinator
Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners**

**Support SB 2173
Senate Human Services Committee**

January 20, 2025

Chair Lee and members of the Seante Human Services Committee, my name is Kristie Wolff, I am the Communications Coordinator for Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners (CDFNE).

CDFNE is a North Dakota based non-profit organization providing forensic medical services to children and adult survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, and neglect across 23 counties in western North Dakota. I am testifying today in support of SB 2173.

CDFNE forensic nurses have the privilege of working alongside Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) staff in western North Dakota. Together, we serve as members of multidisciplinary teams that respond to reports of criminal sexual conduct, neglect, and abuse against children. This collaborative approach ensures victims receive comprehensive wraparound services to achieve the best possible outcomes. Coordinating the efforts of multiple agencies requires a high level of communication. This bill clarifies our ability to communicate with CAC staff, ensuring individuals we serve receive the care and justice they deserve.

Therefore, I am asking for your DO PASS recommendation on SB 2173.

Thank you,
Kristie Wolff
kristie.cdfne@midconetwork.com
701-751-4884



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SB 2173

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES
CHAIR: SENATOR JUDY LEE

JANUARY 20, 2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02 and section 50-25.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?

A place for victims of child abuse to heal

Our state's 3 Children's Advocacy Centers operate in 11 locations, serving all 53 counties and 5 Tribal nations.



Fargo | Grand Forks | Devils Lake
www.rrcac.org



Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

Bismarck | Dickinson | Watford City
Standing Rock | Jamestown
www.dakotacac.org



Northern Plains
Children's Advocacy Center

Minot | Stanley | Bottineau
www.northernplainscac.org



CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?

Without CACs



With CACs





CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?

2023

1,058

Forensic Interviews

Highly trained professionals, guided by research and best practices, ask age-appropriate questions to gather evidence and allow kids to share their story of abuse.

6,625

Mental Health Sessions

Trauma-informed, evidenced-based therapists offer in-person and telehealth counseling to combat the emotional effects of child abuse.

248

Medical Exams

Trained medical professionals ensure the health and safety of children while identifying any evidence of sexual or physical abuse.

46,637

Victim Advocacy Services

With a compassionate, listening ear, advocates provide needed support, resources, referrals, and information—from the first day, throughout the court process, and beyond.

502

Multidisciplinary Team Partners

Law enforcement, human services, prosecutors, mental health, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, and medical professionals gathered to provide a collaborative response to cases of child abuse.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

OVERVIEW

SB 2173

- Updates the definition of a Children's Advocacy Center.
- Clarifies how Children's Advocacy Centers should handle confidential verbal communications about cases.
- Current Century Code only addresses records and digital media.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 1 AMENDMENT

Subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02

~~"a full~~ an accredited"

- Updates the definition of a Children's Advocacy Center
- Aligns with language used by our accrediting body the National Children's Alliance

<https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/ncas-standards-for-accredited-members/>



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT

Section 50-25.1-11.1

advocacy,

- Adds victim advocacy to the list, as this a core service of CACs.

or shared with

- This could be amended out because it is covered under the verbal communication section.

a prosecutor,

- Prosecutors are also part of the multidisciplinary team —along with law enforcement, human services, medical, and mental health.

a court,

- CACs may receive a request for information from a court, such as Juvenile Court.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT

Section 50-25.1-11.1

another children's advocacy center,

- CACs are each independent nonprofits.
- CACs best serve children and families when working cohesively and providing a continuity of care.
 - Children may receive a forensic interview at one location and counseling services in another. Information sharing would prevent revisiting further trauma.
 - A family may not like an outcome of a case and may seek assistance from another jurisdiction.
 - It's not uncommon for families experiencing child abuse to move to another area.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT

Section 50-25.1-11.1

2. The staff of a children's advocacy center may communicate with a law enforcement agency, the department or the department's authorized agent, a prosecutor, a court, another children's advocacy center, or a medical or mental health professional in that individual's official capacity, for the purpose of discussing a forensic medical examination, forensic interview, advocacy, or therapy.

- Clarifies how Children's Advocacy Centers should handle confidential verbal communications about cases.
- Current Century Code only addresses records and digital media.

Testimony Prepared for the
The North Dakota Senate Human Services
Senate Bill 2173 Relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center
and the confidentiality of communications and records possession of a
children's advocacy center

January 20th, 2025

By: Chelsea Flory, Burleigh County Human Service Zone Director

Chair Lee, and members of the North Dakota Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Cheslea Flory, and I serve as the Director for the Burleigh County Human Service Zone, which includes the county of Burleigh. Additionally, I am a member of the North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association. I am here today to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2173 relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records possession of a children's advocacy center (CAC).

Human Service Zones are mandated to provide child welfare services to include child protection services (CPS), foster care, in home case management and handling Children in Need of Services (CHINS) referrals for the state of North Dakota. As authorized agents of the Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS), we are tasked with assessing reports of alleged abuse or neglect to determine whether maltreatment occurred. When reports of maltreatment involve potential criminal activity, we collaborate closely with law enforcement agencies, who investigate the criminal aspects of these cases. In such instances, law enforcement and Human Service Zones may determine if services from the children's advocacy center, such as forensic interviews and medical exams, are necessary to compile comprehensive records. These records support the facts and findings of both the CPS assessment and law enforcement

investigation. CAC's are not involved on all CPS cases and utilization of services, and capacities varies throughout the state. However, CAC's are a valuable resource for cases that meet criteria for their involvement and when there is a criminal investigation.

SB 2173 and the proposed amendments would enhance communication between CACs and human service zones (as the department's authorized agent) amongst other key partners. This allows for discussion regarding the services received, better service delivery and multi-disciplinary team collaboration to best address the safety and service needs of the family. This collaboration is critical to ensuring accurate and timely assessment, as well as ongoing service delivery for children that Human Service Zones may be legal ordered care, custody and control.

The North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association supports the passage of this bill and thanks you for your time and consideration; I stand for questions from the committee.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
1/20/2025
11:34 a.m.

Relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.

11:34 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Accreditation
- Notification of family

11:37 a.m. Senator Roers moved do pass.

11:37 a.m. Senator Clemens seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

11:44 a.m. Motion passed 6-0-0.

11:44 a.m. Senator Lee will carry the bill.

11:46 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2173 ([25.0814.01000](#))

Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2173 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
1/21/2025

Relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.

3:47 p.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Grammatical changes

3:51 p.m. Senator Roers moved to reconsider.

3:51 p.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

3:51 p.m. Voice vote, motion passed.

3:57 p.m. Senator Hogan moved to adopt amendment LC#25.0814.01001.

3:58 p.m. Senator Weston seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

4:01 p.m. Motion passed 6-0-0.

4:01 p.m. Senator Roers moved Do Pass as amended.

4:01 p.m. Senator Clemens seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y

Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y
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4:01 p.m. Motion passed 6-0-0.

4:01 p.m. Senator Lee will carry the bill.

4:01 p.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

January 21, 2025

Pass 1/21/25
1 of 2

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2173

Introduced by

Senators Lee, Cleary, Larson

Representatives Beltz, Ista, Jonas

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02 and section
2 50-25.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of a children's
3 advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a
4 children's advocacy center.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02 of the North Dakota
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 8 10. "Children's advocacy center" means a ~~full~~ full accredited or associate member of the
9 national children's alliance which assists in the coordination of the investigation in
10 response to allegations of child abuse by providing a dedicated child-friendly location
11 at which to conduct forensic interviews, forensic medical examinations, and other
12 appropriate services and which promotes a comprehensive multidisciplinary team
13 response to allegations of child abuse. The team response may include forensic
14 interviews, forensic medical examinations, mental health and related support services,
15 advocacy, and case review.

- 16 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **50-25.1-11.1. Children's advocacy centers - Confidentiality of records - Criminal**
2 **history record checks.**

- 3 1. Records and digital media in the possession of a children's advocacy center relating to
4 a forensic medical examination, forensic interview, advocacy, or therapy are
5 confidential and only may be released ~~only~~ to ~~or shared with~~ a person other than a law
6 enforcement agency, the department or the department's authorized agent, a
7 prosecutor, a court, another children's advocacy center, or a medical or mental health
8 professional when the child comes before the medical or mental health professional in
9 that person's professional capacity, upon service of a subpoena signed by a judge.
- 10 2. The staff of a children's advocacy center may communicate with a law enforcement
11 agency, the department or the department's authorized agent, a prosecutor, a court,
12 another children's advocacy center, or a medical or mental health professional in that
13 individual's official capacity, for the purpose of discussing a forensic medical
14 examination, forensic interview, advocacy, or therapy.
- 15 3. The department may submit a request for a criminal history record check under
16 section 12-60-24 on a board member, an employee, a final applicant for employment
17 of a children's advocacy center, a contractor, or a volunteer of a children's advocacy
18 center who has contact with a child at or through a children's advocacy center.
- 19 3-4. As used in this section, "board member" means an individual serving on the board of a
20 children's advocacy center.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2173**

Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0814.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2173 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2173

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
3/12/2025

Relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.

10:07 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Verbal communications

10:08 a.m. Senator Lee, District 13, introduced the bill.

10:14 a.m. Greg Kasowski, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #40899.

10:18 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SB 2173

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES
CHAIR: REP. MATTHEW RUBY

MARCH 12, 2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02 and section 50-25.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
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WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?

A place for victims of child abuse to heal

Our state's 3 Children's Advocacy Centers operate in 11 locations, serving all 53 counties and 5 Tribal nations.



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Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

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Standing Rock | Jamestown
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Northern Plains
Children's Advocacy Center

Minot | Stanley | Bottineau
www.northernplainscac.org



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?

Without CACs



With CACs





CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?

2024

1,921

Children Served



362

Medical Exams

Trained medical professionals ensure the health and safety of children while identifying any evidence of sexual or physical abuse. These medical services are referred to partners.

1,109

Forensic Interviews

Highly trained professionals, guided by research and best practices, ask age-appropriate questions to gather evidence and allow kids to share their story of abuse.

27,401

Victim Advocacy Services

With a compassionate, listening ear, advocates provide needed support, resources, referrals, and information—from the first day, throughout the court process, and beyond.

7,458

Mental Health Sessions

Trauma-informed, evidenced-based therapists offer in-person and telehealth counseling to combat the emotional effects of child abuse.

573

Multidisciplinary Team Partners

Law enforcement, human services, prosecutors, mental health, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, and medical professionals gathered to provide a collaborative response to cases of child abuse.



CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA

OVERVIEW

SB 2173

- Updates the definition of a Children's Advocacy Center.
- Clarifies how Children's Advocacy Centers should handle confidential **verbal** communications about cases, because current Century Code only addresses records and digital media.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 1 AMENDMENT

Subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02

~~"a full"~~ an accredited

- Updates the definition of a Children's Advocacy Center
- Aligns with language used by our accrediting body the National Children's Alliance

<https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/ncas-standards-for-accredited-members/>



CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT

Section 50-25.1-11.1

advocacy,

- Adds victim advocacy to the list, as this a core service of CACs.

only may be released ~~only~~

- Grammar change for consistency with Century Code

a prosecutor,

- Prosecutors are also part of the multidisciplinary team —along with law enforcement, human services, medical, and mental health.

a court,

- CACs may receive a request for information from a court, such as Juvenile Court.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT

Section 50-25.1-11.1

another children's advocacy center,

- CACs are each independent nonprofits.
- CACs best serve children and families when working cohesively and providing a continuity of care.
 - Children may receive a forensic interview at one location and counseling services in another. Information sharing would prevent revisiting further trauma.
 - A family may not like an outcome of a case and may seek assistance from another jurisdiction.
 - It's not uncommon for families experiencing child abuse to move to another area.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT

Section 50-25.1-11.1

~~person~~ individual

- Should be updated on:
 - Page 1: Line 22
 - Page 2: Line 3
- This was missed in the latest version of the bill and may need to be amended.



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT

Section 50-25.1-11.1

2. The staff of a children's advocacy center may communicate with a law enforcement agency, the department or the department's authorized agent, a prosecutor, a court, another children's advocacy center, or a medical or mental health professional in that individual's official capacity, for the purpose of discussing a forensic medical examination, forensic interview, advocacy, or therapy.
 - Clarifies how Children's Advocacy Centers should handle confidential verbal communications about cases.
 - Current Century Code only addresses records and digital media.



ANNUAL REPORT

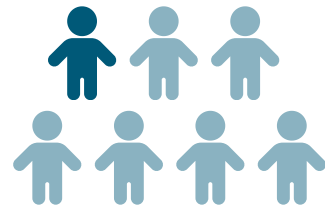


CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTERS
OF NORTH DAKOTA

2024



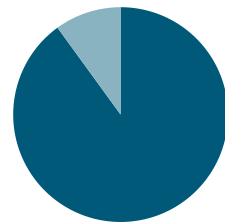
THE ISSUE OF **CHILD ABUSE**



**1 IN 7 CHILDREN EXPERIENCED
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN
THE LAST YEAR**



**ESTIMATED KIDS IN NORTH DAKOTA
WHO EXPERIENCED CHILD ABUSE
AND NEGLECT LAST YEAR**



**90%+ OF CHILD
VICTIMS KNOW AND
TRUST THEIR ABUSER**



**MOST CHILD VICTIMS
DELAY OR NEVER DISCLOSE
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>



WHAT IS A **CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY**

A Safe, Child-Friendly Place for Forensic Interviews

Highly trained professionals, guided by evidence-based research and trauma informed principles, allow kids to share their story of abuse.

Wraparound Mental Health and Medical Services for Victims

Trained professionals interview children, guided by evidence based research and trauma informed principles to ensure every child has an opportunity to share their story.

A Coordinated, Multi-Disciplinary Team Response to Child Abuse

Law enforcement, child protective services, mental health, medical, prosecution, and advocacy collaborate to provide compassionate care.

“

As a police officer, we rely heavily on the child-centered approach and expertise of Children's Advocacy Centers.

-North Dakota Police Officer

”



CENTER



Before CACs children had to tell the worst story of their life over and over again to social workers, nurses, law enforcement, lawyers, therapists, investigators, etc.



With CACs children only need to tell their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not retraumatize the child.

WHAT SERVICES CACs OFFER

Total number of services for all Children's Advocacy Centers in North Dakota in 2024

3,153

Total Number of Individuals Served

1,921

Total Number of Children Served

1,109

Forensic Interviews

Highly trained professionals, guided by research and best practices, ask age-appropriate questions to gather evidence and allow kids to share their story of abuse.

27,401

Victim Advocacy

With a compassionate, listening ear, advocates provide needed support, resources, referrals, and information—from the first day, throughout the court process, and beyond.

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Medical Services

Trained medical professionals ensure the health and safety of children while identifying any evidence of sexual or physical abuse. These medical services are referred out to our partners.

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Multidisciplinary Team

Law enforcement, human services, prosecutors, mental health, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, and medical professionals gathered to provide a collaborative response to cases of child abuse.

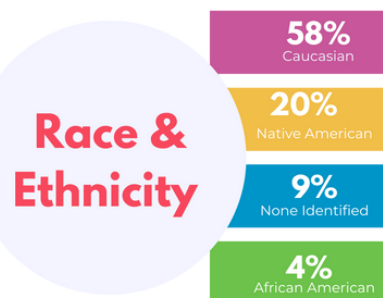
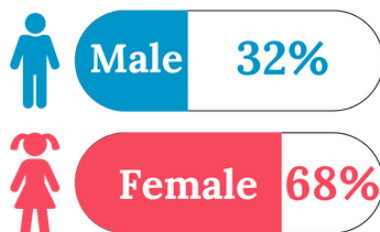


WHO CACs SERVE

Age of Individuals Served



Type of Abuse

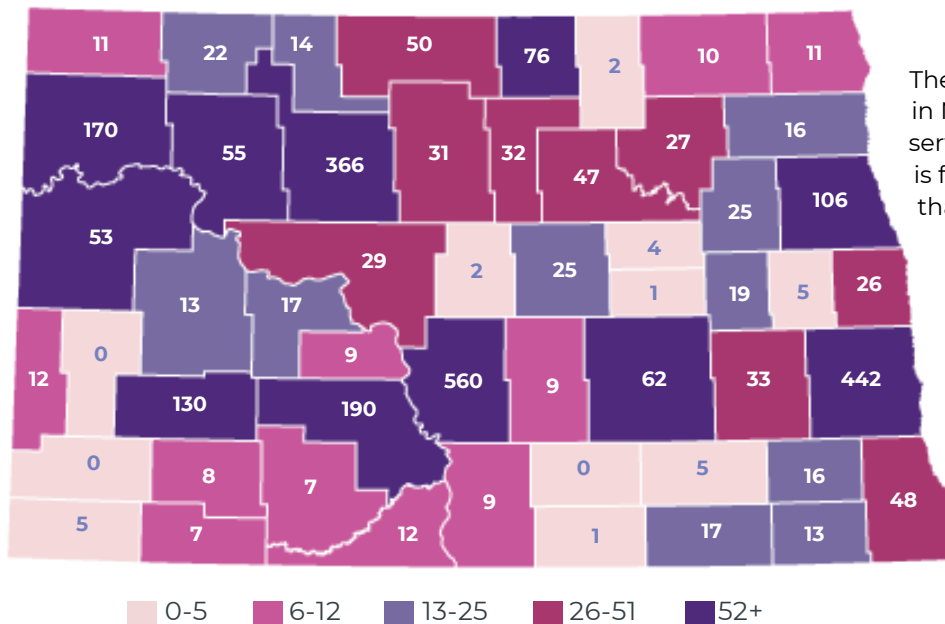


This year's report on Children's Advocacy Centers provides a glimpse into the reality of child sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment in our state. While our Children's Advocacy Centers' staff's tireless efforts have provided crucial support and services to countless children and families, the numbers underscore the urgent need for continued intervention, prevention, and community awareness.



WHERE CACs SERVE

Children served by county



The number of children impacted by abuse in North Dakota is much higher than those served by Children's Advocacy Centers. This is for a variety of reasons including the fact that only 16% of child sexual abuse victims disclose the abuse.

Münzer et al. (2016)
Collin-Vézina et al. (2015)
Foster & Hagedorn (2014)
Sorsoli et al. (2008)

Our state's 3 Children's Advocacy Centers operate in 11 locations, serving all 53 counties and 5 Tribal nations.



Fargo | Grand Forks | Devils Lake
www.rrcac.org



Northern Plains
Children's Advocacy Center

Minot | Stanley | Bottineau
www.northernplainscac.org



Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

Bismarck | Dickinson | Watford City
Standing Rock | Jamestown
www.dakotacac.org

“

The Children's Advocacy Center is completely victim centered. Kids who are abused have a story to tell and the CAC offers that safe space.

”

Steph Wieland,
Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone

THE EFFICACY OF THE CAC MODEL

\$2.4 million

**Lifetime Cost for Each Victim of
Child Abuse or Neglect in the U.S.**

Due to increased medical and mental health
costs, risky behaviors, and reduced productivity



\$87,528

**Yearly Cost for Each Victim of Child
Abuse and Neglect in the U.S.**



\$663

**Amount Saved for Every \$1 Spent
on a Children's Advocacy Center**

Peterson. Economic Burden of Health Conditions Associated With Adverse Childhood Experiences Among US Adults. JAMA Netw Open. Published December 06, 2023. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.46323
Gelles, R. J., & Perlman, S. (Eds.). (2012). Estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect. Office of Justice Programs. Amount adjusted for inflation. Maryland Children's Alliance, 2021

What Caregivers Are Saying

This has been very stressful and hard on our family. I am so thankful the CAC is listening and helping us.

Mental health therapy at the CAC has saved my daughter's life and our relationship.

I brought my daughter to the CAC after she disclosed trauma. Her therapy sessions have been successful and now we can move forward as a family and establish healing for all of us.

How CACs Are Funded



Federal
Grants



State
Grants



Donations



Community
Foundations



Third-Party
Payments

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
3/12/2025

Relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.

10:40 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

10:41 a.m. Representative Dobervich moved a Do Pass.

10:41 a.m. Representative Holle seconded the motion.

10:42 a.m. Greg Kasowski, Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota, testified and answered questions.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

10:45 a.m. Motion passed 13-0-0.

Representative Bolinske will carry the bill.

Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2173 ([25.0814.02000](#))**

Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2173 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.