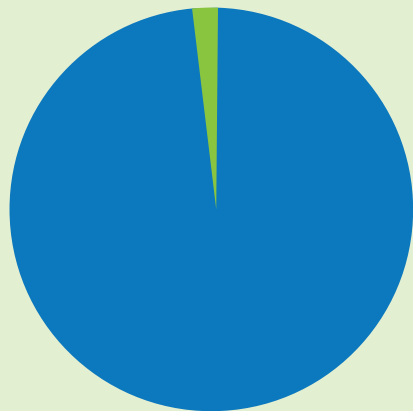


# Forensic Interviews & Victim Advocacy

Forensic interviews are of vital importance in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and other crimes against children. Child victims are interviewed by DCAC's highly qualified, neutral forensic interviewers in a warm, welcoming child-friendly facility that helps to mitigate their trauma while police and prosecutors watch the interviews in observation rooms. Victim advocates are there for the family from the time they arrive at DCAC until the case has concluded. We provide immediate crisis counseling, ongoing support throughout the criminal investigation, and referrals to treatment and community resources.

Total Served in 2013



■ 437 Children ■ 6 Adults



# Get Involved

## Contribute Financially

DCAC relies on charitable contributions to meet the needs of children and families. Donations can be made online at [www.DenverCAC.org](http://www.DenverCAC.org). Please contact Lauren Mueller, Development Associate, at 303.996.8582 or [Lauren@DenverCAC.org](mailto:Lauren@DenverCAC.org) for more information. Thank you!

## Donate Used Clothing and Household Items

Clean out your closet and donate your used clothing, furniture, infant items, kitchenware, and more at one of the many Advocacy Center Foundation drop boxes all around Colorado. Please visit [DenverCAC.org/waystohelp](http://DenverCAC.org/waystohelp) for more information.

## Donate a Vehicle

Donate your car, boat, truck, RV, Jet Ski or snowmobile to DCAC and receive a tax deduction! Please call our fundraising partner, Donation Line LLC, at 877.227.7487, ext. 2926 for more information on this easy process.

## Become a DCAC Volunteer!

Volunteers are an integral part of our mission. Please contact Lauren Mueller, Development Associate, at 303.996.8582 or [Lauren@DenverCAC.org](mailto:Lauren@DenverCAC.org) to become a volunteer.

## Prevent Abuse

- **Teach** your children about abuse. Let them know that they can come to you with questions.
- **Listen** to your children and teens. Ask them about their day, talk about their friends, and discuss their use of social media.
- **Talk** with your kids about appropriate interaction with family and friends.
- **Know** who you can trust.
- **Report** suspected abuse to your county human services or law enforcement with as many details as possible. In Denver County, call the Human Services Child Abuse Hotline at 720.944.3000.



Denver Children's  
Advocacy Center

## Contact Us

303.825.3850

[www.DenverCAC.org](http://www.DenverCAC.org)

[info@DenverCAC.org](mailto:info@DenverCAC.org)



Denver Children's  
Advocacy Center



Preventing Abuse,  
Strengthening Families,  
and Restoring  
Childhood.

# About DCAC

# Child & Adolescent Assessment and Treatment

# Prevention & Training

Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) works to improve the lives of children traumatized by physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and violence—as well as those at high risk—with prevention, education, and direct services.

Our mission is to prevent abuse, strengthen families, and restore childhood.

We achieve this mission by providing a continuum of care in a safe, welcoming environment.

At DCAC, we operate under two core principles:

- We are the first responders to reports of child abuse in the Denver metro area—our staff are on call 24 hours a day/365 days a year to provide crisis management for child victims and their families and to support our colleagues in the Denver Police Department, Denver District Attorney's Office, the Denver Department of Human Services, and Denver Health.
- Children and their needs are at the center of our work—our partners on the multi-disciplinary team—police, prosecutors, social workers and medical staff—come to DCAC to mitigate the child's trauma and to ensure integration of services along our continuum of care.

Our goals are to:

- Meet the child's complete health, mental health and welfare needs.
- Prevent abuse and violence through education and outreach.
- Break the cycle of abuse and violence by engaging the family as a whole.
- Ensure that every at-risk child in Denver and surrounding counties who has been traumatized by neglect, abuse and violence receives immediate, compassionate and effective intervention.
- Children and their needs are at the center of our work—our partners on the MDT come to DCAC to mitigate the child's trauma and to ensure integration of services along our continuum of care.

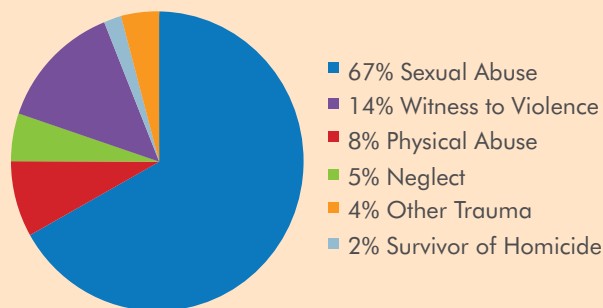
This program serves children from birth through age 17 who have been sexually abused, neglected, or traumatized by witnessing violence. DCAC uses a neuro-developmentally informed approach to coordinated health and mental health care. Research on this method shows extremely positive treatment outcomes, even for children who are severely traumatized or whose trauma has been untreated for many years. Intensive, coordinated care management draws in all the people involved in the child's life—family members, foster parents, social service caseworkers, day care providers, victim advocates, medical doctors, teachers and school personnel. By working together as an integrated team we are able to help the children heal more effectively.

## Prevention: Denver Safe from the Start

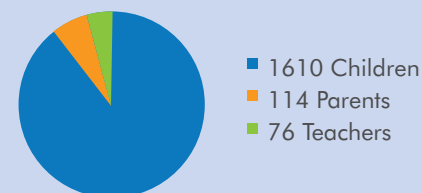
Prevention is at the heart of our programming, and we are focusing an increasing amount of our resources into the prevention of abuse and neglect, and the promotion of healthy childhood development. Denver Safe from the Start, our bilingual, bicultural school-centered prevention program for children ages 3-8 has research-based results to show that we are helping high-risk families to protect and support their young children.

This program has also allowed us to identify children in urgent need of mental health intervention, and then ensure they receive these essential services. The program works on three levels by engaging and educating teachers, parents and the children themselves.

### Children Served in 2013



### Total Served in 2013

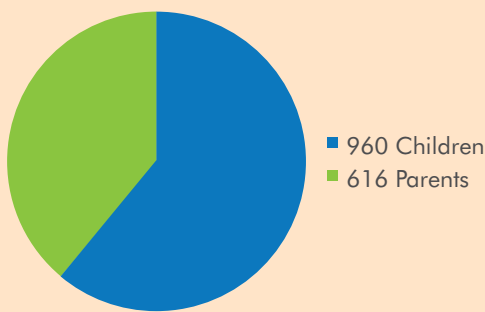


## Training & Community Education

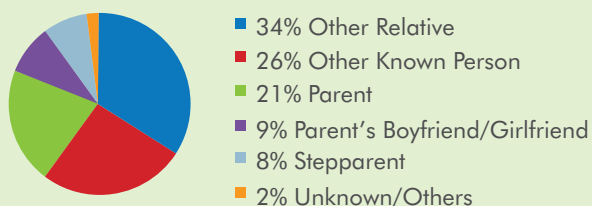
We receive many requests to provide training and consultation for mental health professionals, but we also focus on trauma-informed training for the many professionals and non-professionals who are not mental health specialists. It is critical that people who work with children and adolescents understand the impact of trauma on their developing brains. Even with the best intentions, adults' efforts can exacerbate, rather than ameliorate, child trauma. Once they understand how trauma affects children's brain functioning and behavior, they can adapt their approach to both mitigate that trauma and improve interactions with young trauma victims.

We provide training for daycare providers, educators, police, prosecutors, victim advocates, juvenile justice personnel, social workers, medical professionals, parents, foster parents, grandparents, and many others who live and work with children.

### Total Served in 2013



### Perpetrators of Abuse in 2013



### Total Trained in 2013

