

Annual Report

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

"When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments — tenderness for what he is and respect for what he may become."

— Louis Pasteur, French chemist and microbiologist



Child Advocacy Center
of FREDERICK COUNTY

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COLLECTIVE IMPACT

The mission of the Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County is to promote child wellbeing by providing a child and family focused center to address reports of child maltreatment. Together we seek to prevent and reduce trauma to children and families using a multidisciplinary approach to investigation, prosecution, treatment, education, and advocacy.

Save their futures now.

Our early experiences literally become our biology. Family and community violence can affect the ways a child's brain grows and functions, creating risks of a lifetime of physical health, learning, and emotional problems. Children require safe, stable, and nurturing environments and relationships to preserve their potentials and offer hope for the healthy futures they deserve. You can help. Working together we can prevent abuse, stop it if it occurs, and help children heal. The Child Advocacy Center and its partners are committed to a bright future for every child. You can be part of that future.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a program of the Citizens Services Division of Frederick County Government. The CAC works collaboratively with the community, including formal partnerships with the State's Attorney's Office, Department of Social Services, Frederick Police Department, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Frederick Memorial Hospital, and the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, as well as informal partnerships with educational institutions, non-profit agencies, faith communities, businesses, and citizens.

Join us. Be the person a child can trust to tell when something is wrong. Call or email us if you need more information.

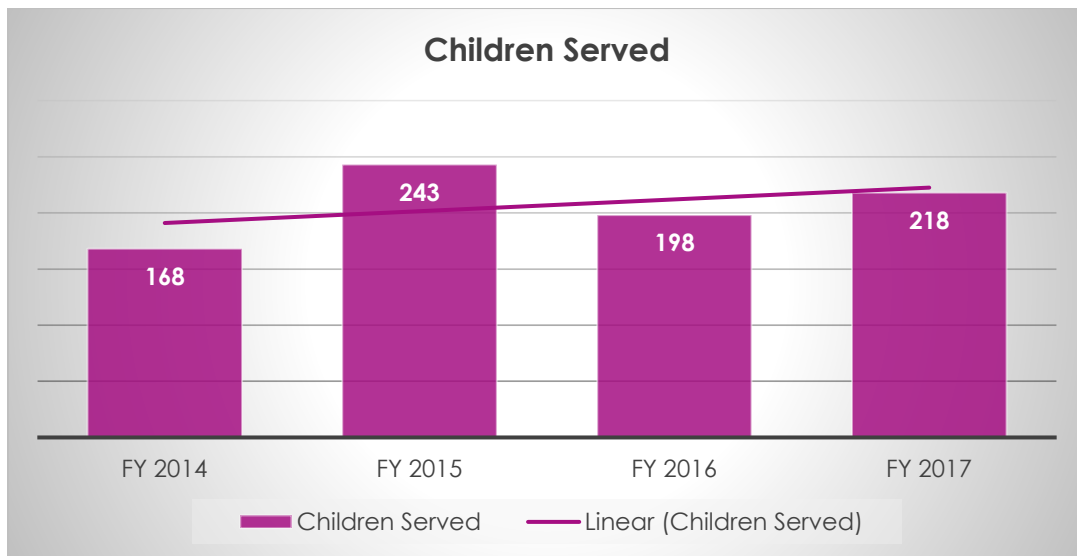
Lynn Davis, director
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QUALITY SERVICE

The Child Advocacy Center facilitates a multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and witnessing intimate partner violence.

CHILDREN SERVED

During fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) the Child Advocacy Center served 218 unduplicated children and 169 unduplicated caregivers of those children, for a total of 387 citizens. As shown in the first chart below, the number of children served has been trending up over the past four years.



When comparing total numbers of reports of child maltreatment received by the Frederick County Department of Social Services (reported on the calendar year) with the numbers of children seen at the CAC by calendar year, it is clear that the percentages referred have remained stable over the past three years.

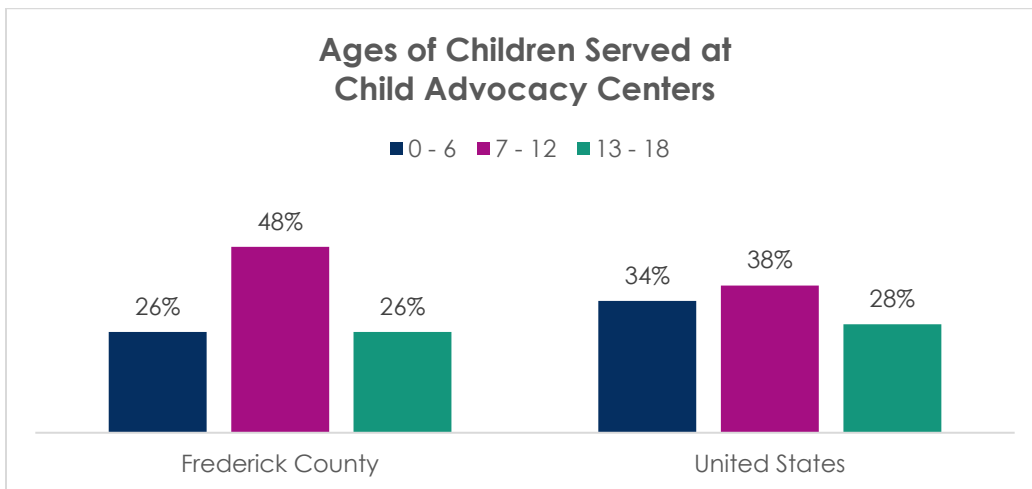
January - December	Total Reports to DSS	Total Children seen at the CAC	Percentage of DSS reported cases referred to CAC
2014	2677	220	8%
2015	2655	194	7%
2016	2682	215	8%

DEMOGRAPHICS

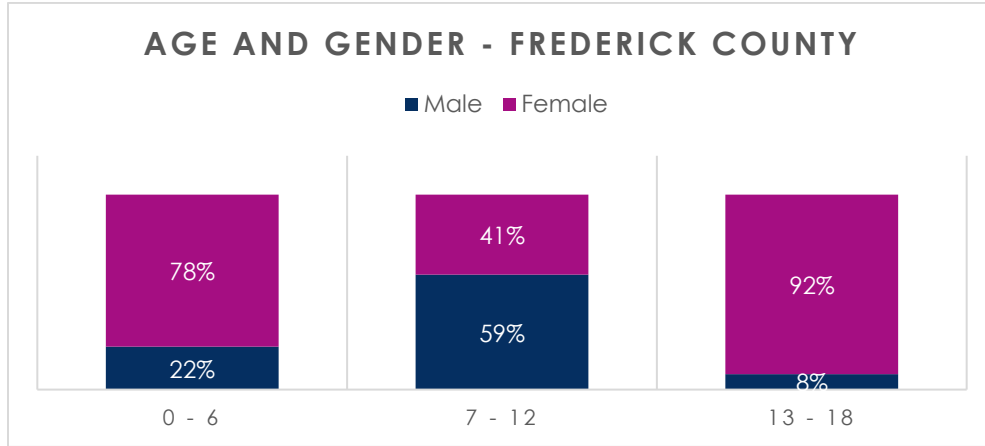
The Child Advocacy Center serves children ages 0 – 18, and in some cases to age 21, depending on individual considerations such as status in foster care or the presence of an intellectual disability.

AGES

The National Children's Alliance reports that in 2016, 324,602 children were served by child advocacy centers across the nation, with age group percentages shown in the chart below. As shown, Frederick County served a higher percentage of children ages 7 – 12 than the national average for this age group, and a lower percentage of children ages 0 - 6. The Frederick County percentage of older children (13 – 18) served is very similar to the percentages served throughout the United States in other centers. As with last year, the majority of the children seen at the CAC in FY 2017 were between the ages of seven and twelve.

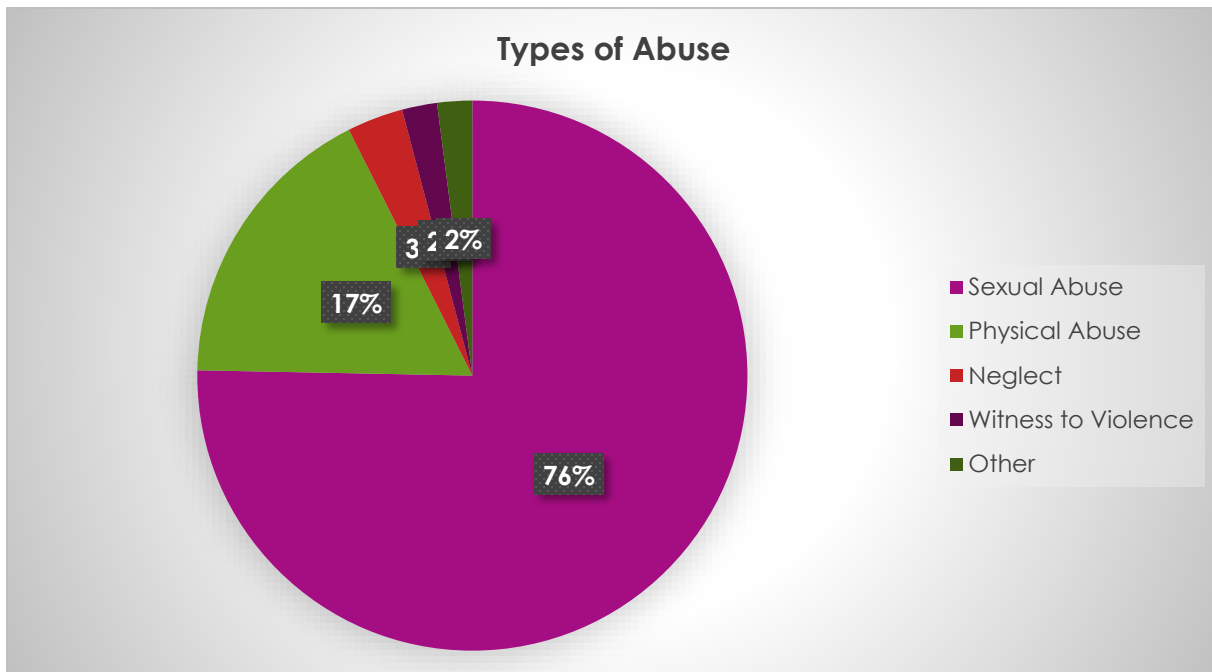


As illustrated in the chart below, males represented 22% of the 0 – 6 age category and only 8% of the 13 – 19 age category. However, they represented over half (59%) of the children ages 7 – 12.



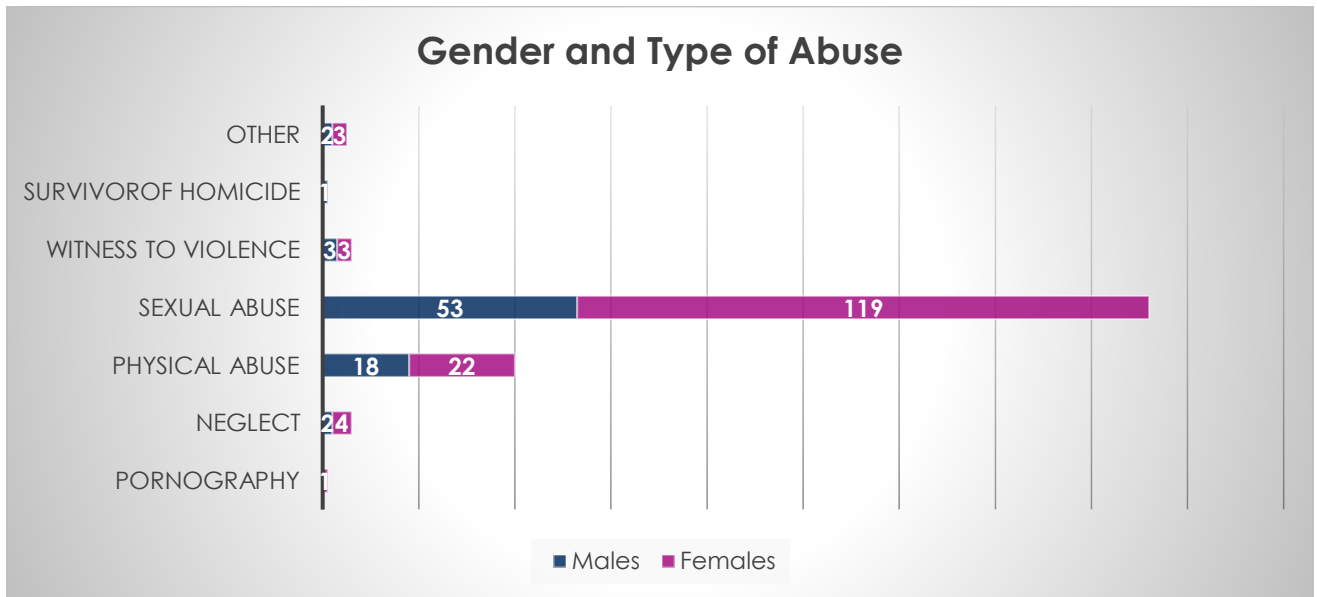
TYPES OF MALTREATMENT

Over three-fourths of the children referred to the CAC were referred due to concerns about sexual abuse. Several of the children seen at the CAC had experienced more than one type of abuse.



GENDER AND ABUSE TYPE

As shown in this chart comparing gender and types of abuse, the genders of children seen at the CAC were fairly equally distributed across all abuse types except sexual abuse, where females outnumbered males by two to one.



SERVICES

The Child Advocacy Center's staff provides direct services to support children and their non-offending caregivers through linkages to services, physical and mental health services, and gift cards to help meet emergent needs. The table below compares annual service totals for FY 2015 through FY 2017 (July 1 – June 30). As shown, total numbers of services increased each year for advocacy.

Fiscal Year Comparisons	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Advocacy / Follow up	308 encounters	416 encounters (Average 104/quarter)	567 encounters (Average 142/quarter)
Counseling	471 sessions	660 sessions (Average 165/quarter)	492 sessions (Average 123/quarter)
Medical Examinations	88 examinations	51 examinations (Average 13/quarter)	55 examinations (Average 14/quarter)

Financial Assistance	\$3,040 in gift cards	\$3,778 in gift cards Average \$944/quarter)	\$3,120 (Average \$780/quarter)
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OUTREACH

The Child Advocacy Center supports ongoing community and professional trainings that promote the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and services needed to help children and the communities in which they live to thrive. Increasingly, the CAC is focused on promoting awareness of and effective response to the toxic stress endured by children exposed to maltreatment. In FY 2017 over one thousand parents, teachers, mental health, and community services providers in Frederick County and throughout the state participated in CAC-sponsored, co-sponsored, and facilitated trainings on how exposure to adverse childhood experiences affects the developing brains of children, and how to help.

Professional trainings sponsored for CAC partners:

- Mid-Atlantic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Secondary Trauma: remaining effective working within 'child crime' environments
- Serving LGBTQ Youth: understanding the population and prevalence of sexual abuse/assault

Groups participating in CAC-facilitated trainings in FY 2017:

- Walkersville United Methodist Church
- YMCA
- Advocates for Homeless Families
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- FCPS counselors
- Forensic Nurse Examiners training
- FCPS speech/language pathologists
- Cindy and Lynn presenting to FAMA
- Brunswick police
- FCPS pre-school and special education teachers
- On Our Own
- Hood College social work classes
- Pediatric Nurses at Hood College
- Health Care Coalition
- FCPS Community Liaisons
- Rock Creek School
- Victims of Crime State Conferences

- Head Start
- Whittier Elementary
- Waverly Elementary
- Homeless Coalition
- Hillcrest Elementary
- Maryland State Department of Education
- Parks and Recreation Camp Counselors

Community outreach also included:

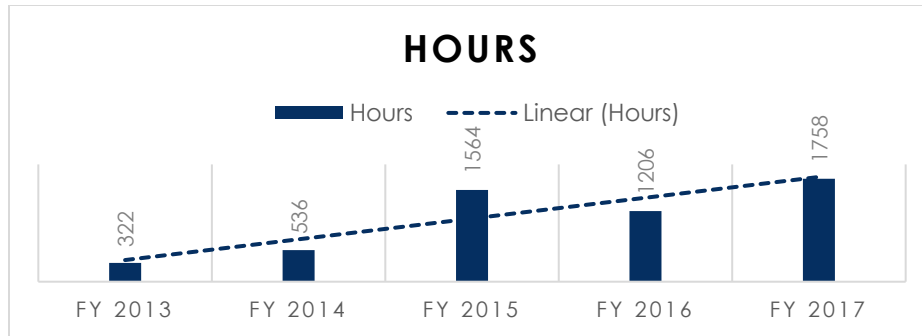
- Regional journalists invited to a discussion of the video produced on the effects of media reports on child victims of crime
 - <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/7067/Hold-the-Details-Not-the-Presses>
- A video highlighting the role of Hodge, the CAC's facility dog
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8MnzcvbSok&feature=youtube>
- First annual Frederick CARES symposium
- Participation on the Frederick County Human Trafficking Task Force, with CAC emphasis on the commercial sexual exploitation of children

VOLUNTEERS

The Child Advocacy Center depends on the support of volunteers to help meet the needs of the children and families who come to the center.

Friends of the Child Advocacy Center

The Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, a private non-profit organization, provided the bulk of the volunteer hours contributed to support our mission. In FY 2017, the members of this all-volunteer organization contributed an all-time high of 1758 hours. Activities included Child Abuse Prevention Month awareness efforts, fundraising to support meeting basic needs and healing activities for children, as well as planning for a new mentoring program pairing members of the Friends with transition-aged CAC youth and overburdened parents to help them meet their challenges.



The Friends of the Child Advocacy Center added to their mission this year and adopted Child Abuse Prevention Month activities as a crucial component of the organization’s mission. The impact of this all-volunteer effort greatly expanded the reach of what CAC staff alone could accomplish and resulted in expansion of community outreach activities in April, including a combined County-City proclamation in the Healing Garden at Bonita Maas Park, expanded WearBlue Day and Blue Worship Weekend participation, pinwheel gardens all over the county, and increased invitations to talk to interested groups about keeping children safe from maltreatment.

Interagency Basketball Tournament

This year marked the 6th annual Interagency Basketball Games tournament, an all-volunteer fundraising effort pitting teams of employees from Frederick County agencies who work with children against each other. This year, detectives from Frederick Police Department spearheaded the event. The Friends of the CAC provided the first “Matthew Fast Memorial Trophy” in honor of a young officer who died last year right before the tournament was held.

FUNDING

The CAC’s total budget for FY 2017 was \$498,652. Approximately 86% of budgeted funds pay for personnel (director, counselor, pediatrician, advocate, forensic nurse examiner, and administrative specialist) and 14% of budgeted funds pay for operating costs, including printing, program supplies, training, telephones, etc.

The Child Advocacy Center receives about two-thirds of its funding from Frederick County Government, followed by federal grants, state grants, reimbursement funds from pediatric forensic medical examinations, City of Frederick, and donations, as illustrated in the following chart.

In addition to direct donations to the CAC, businesses, citizens, and the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center donated gift cards to be used for emergent

needs, such as gas for families to get children to treatment appointments, or food and clothing to help a relative provide emergency care for a child. This year, gift cards valued at a total of \$3120 were distributed to families coming to the CAC.

