

EXHIBIT H

COMPASSION • HEALING • HOPE



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF ARKANSAS

# 2022 Annual Report to the 93rd General Assembly

In compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 9-5-113



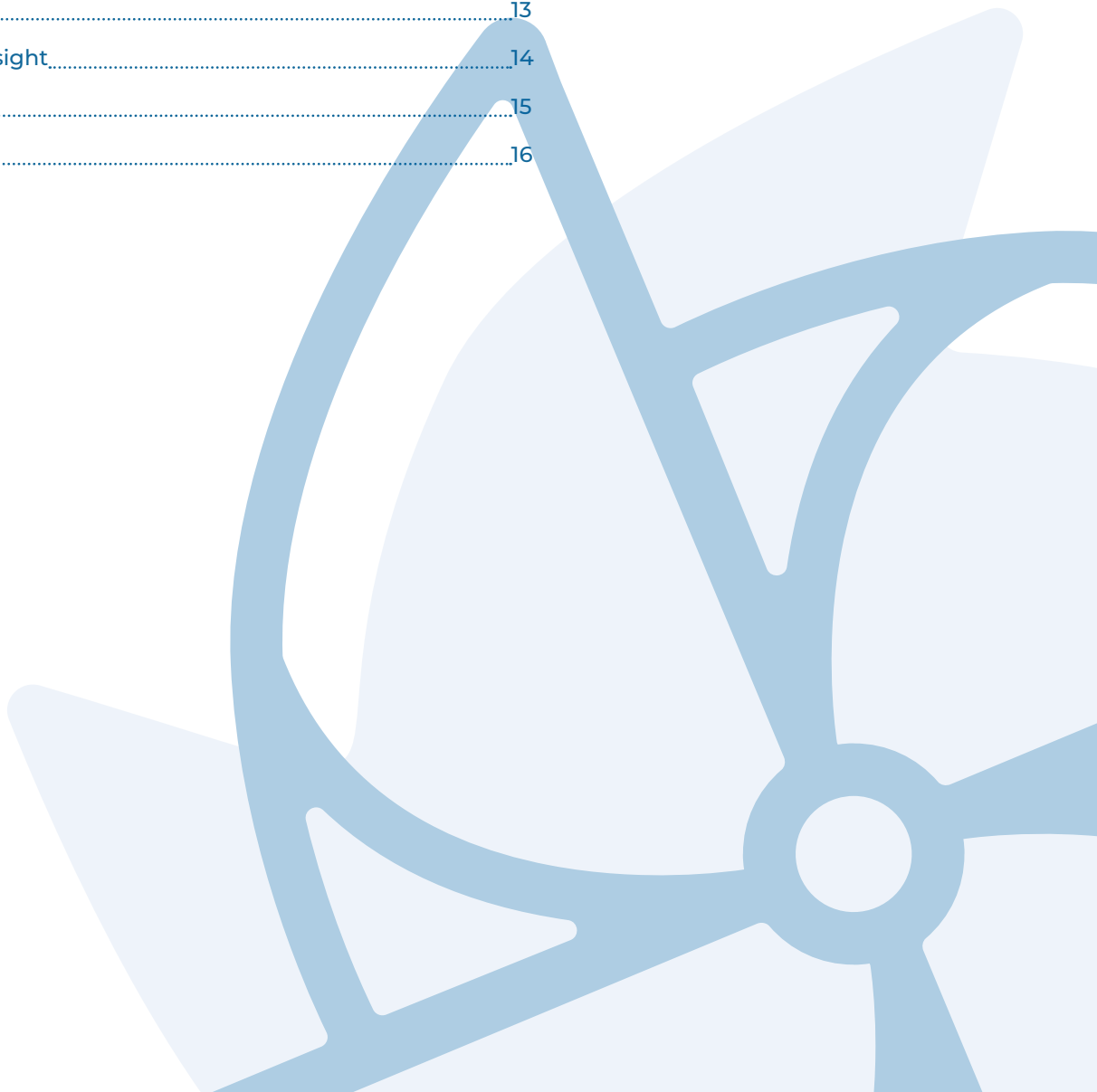
**CACar**

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS  
OF ARKANSAS

Compassion. Healing. Hope.

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## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The children's advocacy center (CAC) model has emerged in the last 30 years as a nationally preferred response to child abuse. The vital resources offered through CACs are now established in every state and over 10 countries. CAC services started in Arkansas during the 1990s and have expanded throughout the state in the last 10 years because of the great need for direct services to support children and families.

Our children's advocacy center (CAC) network has worked countless hours to provide compassion, hope and healing to over 10,000 children and families in 2022. The number of children receiving these critical services has more than doubled in the last 5 years. The stories of abuse the staff hear daily are horrific, but the CACs become the beacon of hope in their greatest time of need.

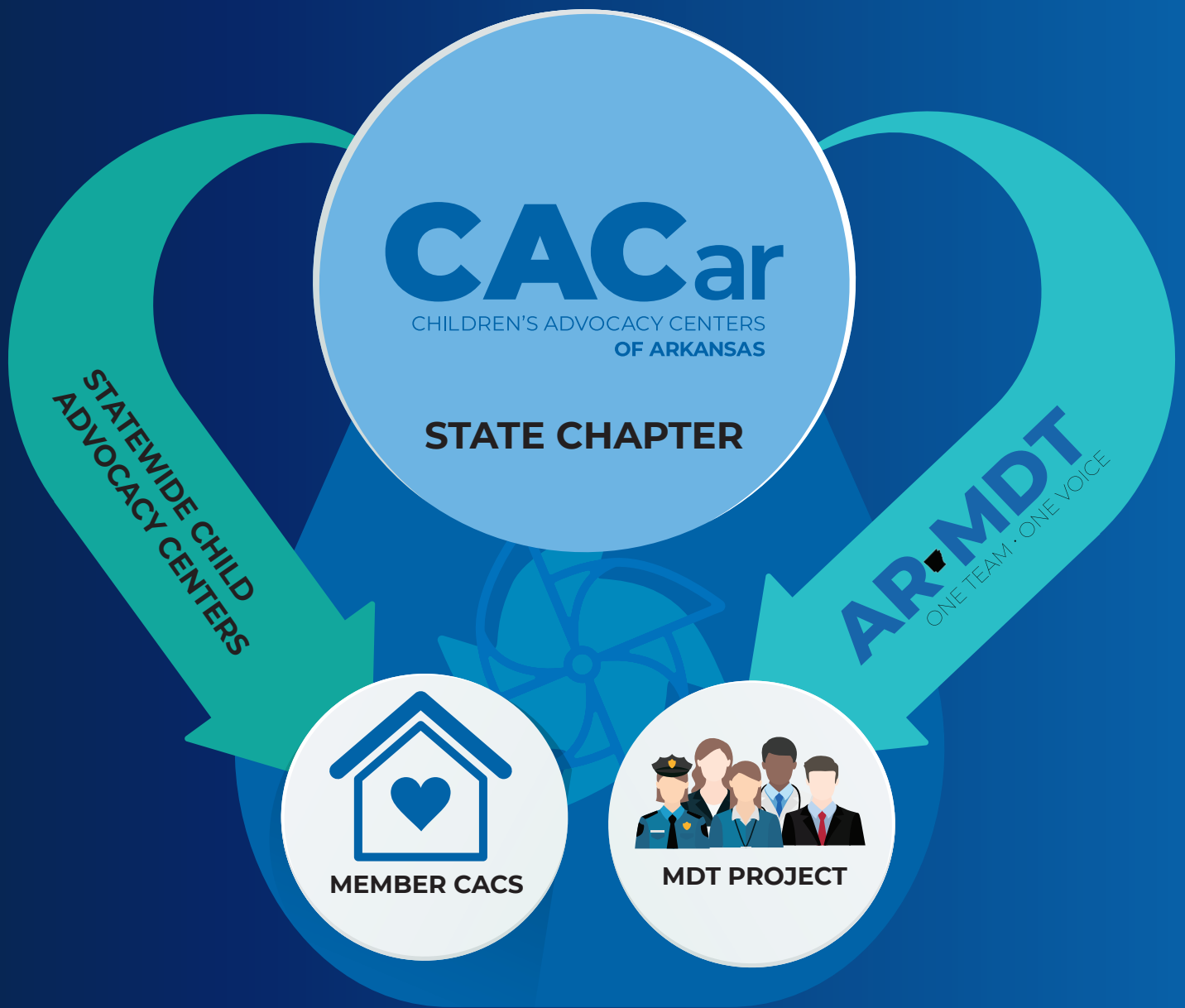
There is still more work to do! We have an opportunity to implement real change that moves awareness into action by a shared responsibility to find bright spots in often dark spaces and to prevent children from ever experiencing abuse in the first place. The Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas continues to take on this challenge, but we cannot do it alone. We are committed to providing top quality services in Arkansas with trained professionals who value collaboration through our multidisciplinary team partnerships. It will take all of us working together to bring lasting change and to build a brighter tomorrow for victims of abuse.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pulley  
Executive Director, CACar





**CACar provides CAC and MDT development, quality assurance, standards, best practices and policies, training, and sustainability.**



# CACar

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS  
OF ARKANSAS

Compassion. Healing. Hope.

## ABOUT CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF ARKANSAS

Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas is a non-profit organization that is a chapter of the National Children's Alliance operating in Arkansas for the purpose of promoting, assisting and supporting the development, growth and continuation of child advocacy centers. Our network of 30 Child Advocacy Center locations in Arkansas provides direct services, free of charge, to child victims and their non-offending family members, while serving as a resource for the 64 MDTs across the state.

## OUR PURPOSE

Protecting Arkansas' children by investing in CACs and MDTs.

## OUR HISTORY

The Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas initially began as a network of three CACs called the Arkansas Association of Children's Advocacy Centers in 1999. In 2003, the organization changed its name to Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas. Our purpose and mission has remained the same: to assist and support the state's local CACs and communities.

Act 975 of 2021 transferred administration of the MDT project to CACar. As CACar has evolved, our purpose of protecting Arkansas children remains steadfast as the leading resource within the State dedicated to a coordinated and comprehensive response to child abuse.



# The Work of the CACar

## Professional Trainings

**875** Individuals received professional skills training

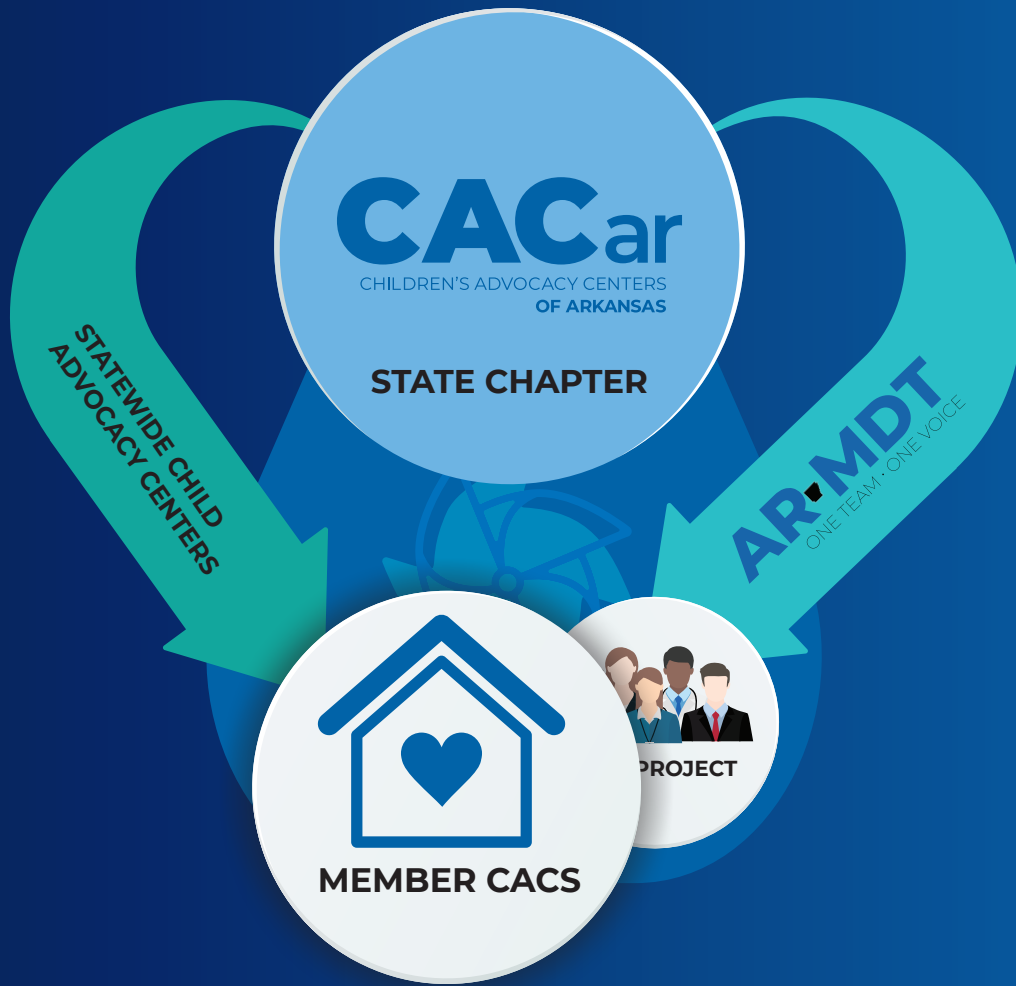
## CACar Trainings

- ChildFirst Arkansas - Forensic Interview Protocol
- Advocacy 101 - Basic Training for Advocates
- Advocacy 201- Advanced Training for Advocates
- New Directors Training and Orientation
- Data Standards and Reporting
- Crime Scene to Trial
- CAC Fiscal Training for Directors
- CAC Board Training
- MDT Vision and Mission



## 2022 CACar Highlights

- Strengthened state level partnerships
- Created a relational and supportive environment for the CAC network and MDTs.
- Provided renewed vision of the collaborative multidisciplinary team approach
- Developed practical tools for our CACs and MDTs
- Implemented a statewide case management system and standardized statewide data practices
- Obtained administrator's license to be the sole provider of ChildFirst® Trainings for the State of Arkansas
- Enhanced fiscal management practices within CACs
- Conducted CAC site visits to promote and ensure transparency and accountability
- Facilitated individualized accreditation technical assistance
- Developed a training website to help connect MDT and CAC professionals to available training opportunities and resources
- Established ARMDT Training Center
- Increased our training programs to ensure all CAC and MDT professionals have access to quality training



## WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER?

A child advocacy center (CAC) is “a nonprofit child-friendly facility that provides a location for forensic interviews and forensic medical examinations and ensures access for specialized mental health services during the course of a child maltreatment investigation.” Ark. Code Ann. § 9-5-103(a)(3). CACs “receive, review, and track reporting from the Department of Human Services relating to the alleged abuse or neglect of a child in order to ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach to providing services to a child and the family of a child who is the victim of alleged abuse or neglect.” Ark. Code Ann. § 9-5-104(d)(1). CACs, as community-based and trauma-informed organizations, coordinate a multidisciplinary response to child abuse or neglect, and offer evidence-based intervention and support directly to children and families at no cost.

# CAC SERVICES

## ADVOCACY

- NEEDS BASED ASSESSMENT
- ONGOING FAMILY SUPPORT
- SUPPORT THROUGHOUT INVESTIGATION
- COURT SUPPORT
- CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES SUCH AS, MENTAL HEALTH, FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING, LEGAL, AND IMMIGRATION

## FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

- TRAINED INTERVIEW PROFESSIONALS
- ADHERES TO CHILD FIRST® PROTOCOL
- AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDED

## MENTAL HEALTH

- TRAUMA ASSESSMENT
- CRISIS INTERVENTION
- TRAUMA-INFORMED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## MEDICAL EXAMS

- PROVIDERS WITH CHILD ABUSE EXPERTISE (SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS- SANES)
- SPECIALIZED MEDICAL EXAMS
- DOCUMENTING PHYSICAL AND FORENSIC FINDINGS
- DIAGNOSING AND TREATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS RELATED TO SEXUAL ABUSE
- EVIDENCE COLLECTION

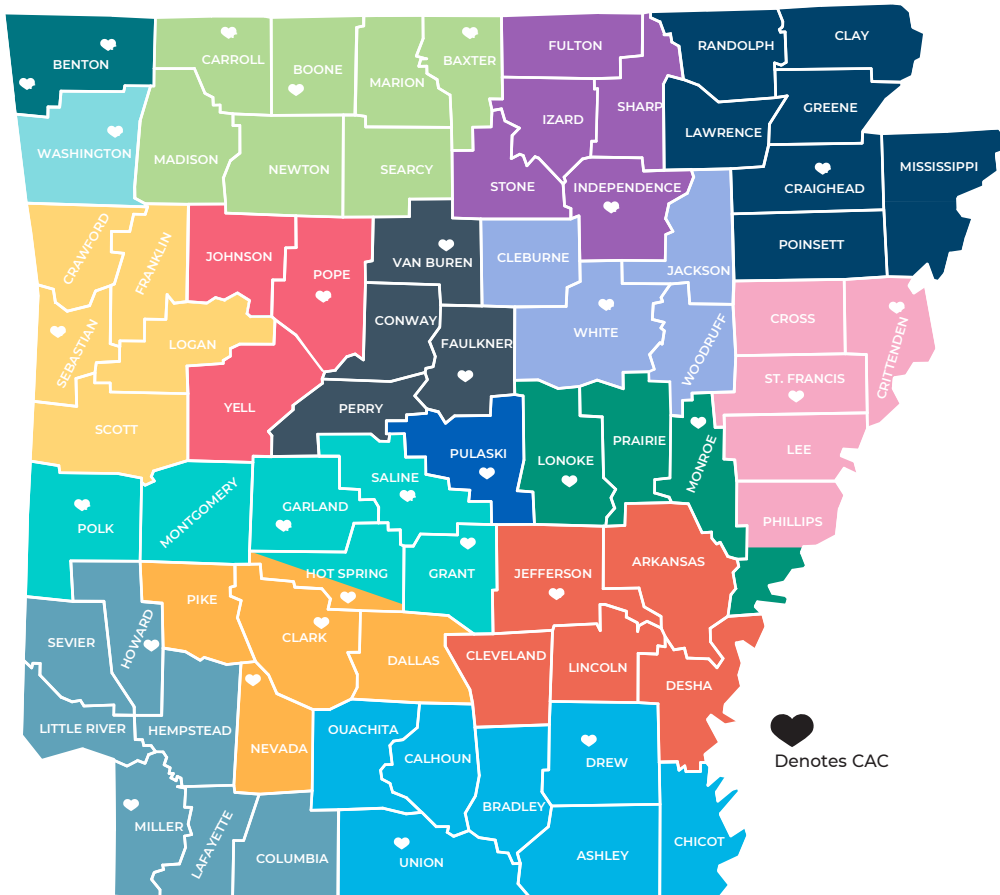
## COMMUNITY AWARENESS & EDUCATION

- MANDATED REPORTER TRAININGS
- PREVENTION
- BODY SAFETY
- INTERNET SAFETY
- EMPOWER ME
- CHURCHES, CHILD CARE FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

## OUTCOMES

- FORENSIC INTERVIEWS ENHANCE INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS
- ADVOCACY BUILDS CHILD AND FAMILY RESILIENCE
- MENTAL HEALTH REDUCES LONG TERM EFFECTS OF TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES
- MEDICAL EXAMS ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF A CHILD
- PREVENTION EDUCATION BRINGS AWARENESS AND EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES

## 30 CAC Locations and 64 MDTs serving Children and Families in Arkansas



## SERVICE AREAS

- Central Arkansas CAC  
Central Arkansas CAC of Van Buren County
- CAC of Benton County  
Western Benton County CAC
- Mending Hearts CAC  
Mending Hearts CAC of Forrest City
- CAC of Independence County
- CAC of South Arkansas  
CAC of Monticello
- CAC of SouthEast Arkansas
- Children's Protection Center
- Children's Safety Center of Washington County
- Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC  
Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC of Mena  
Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC of Saline County  
Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC of Grant County
- Grandma's House CAC  
Grandma's House CAC of Baxter County  
Grandma's House CAC of Carroll County
- Hamilton Center for Child Advocacy
- Percy & Donna Malone Child Safety Center  
Percy and Donna Malone of Hot Spring County  
Percy and Donna Malone CSC of Nevada County
- Northeast Arkansas CAC
- River Valley CAC
- Texarkana CAC  
Howard County CAC
- Wade Knox CAC  
Wade Knox CAC Brinkley
- Child Safety Center of White County

♥ Denotes CAC



# CAC Network | Better Together



Advocacy and Victim Support  
10,300 children and families received advocacy services



Forensic Interview  
7,500 children were forensically interviewed



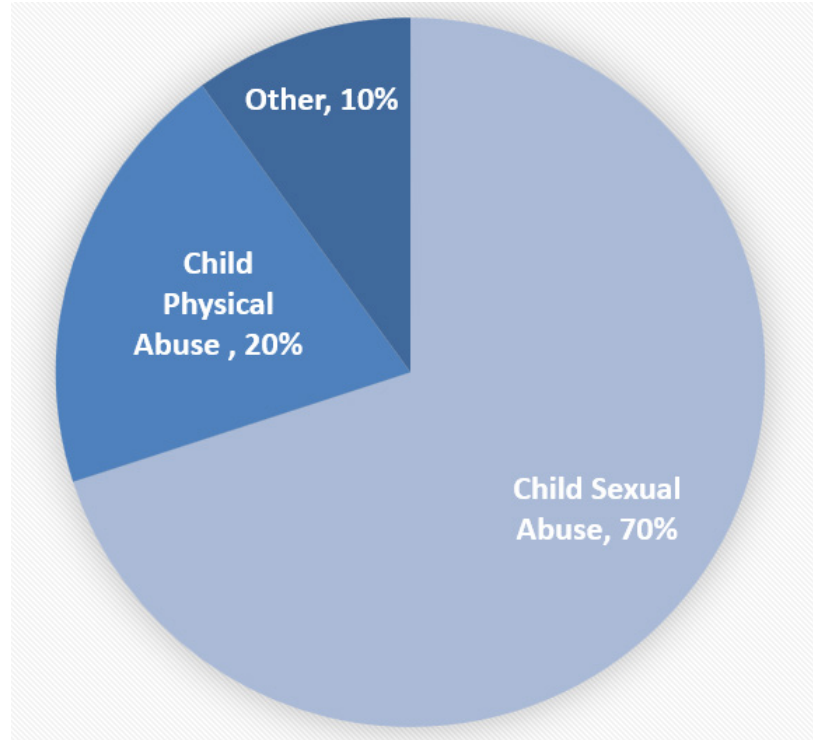
Medical Evaluations  
1,000 children received specialized medical exams



Trauma Focused Therapy  
8,000 children and families received mental health therapy



Educating our Communities  
48,000 children and adults attended awareness trainings



## Types of Abuse

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Child Physical Abuse
- Neglect
- Witness to Sexual Abuse/Violence/Death
- Domestic/Family Violence
- Accidental Death
- Stalking/Harassment
- Bullying (Verbal, Cyber, or Physical)



Statistics compiled from Jan. 1-Dec 31, 2022

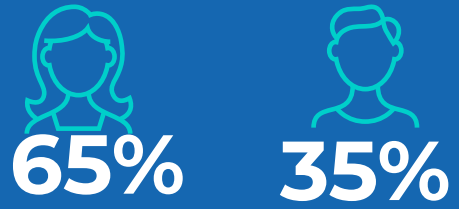
# Who We Serve

## 10,300 Child Victims of Abuse in Arkansas

### Ages of Children

0-5	17%
6-12	44%
13-15	26%
16-18	13%

### Biological Sex

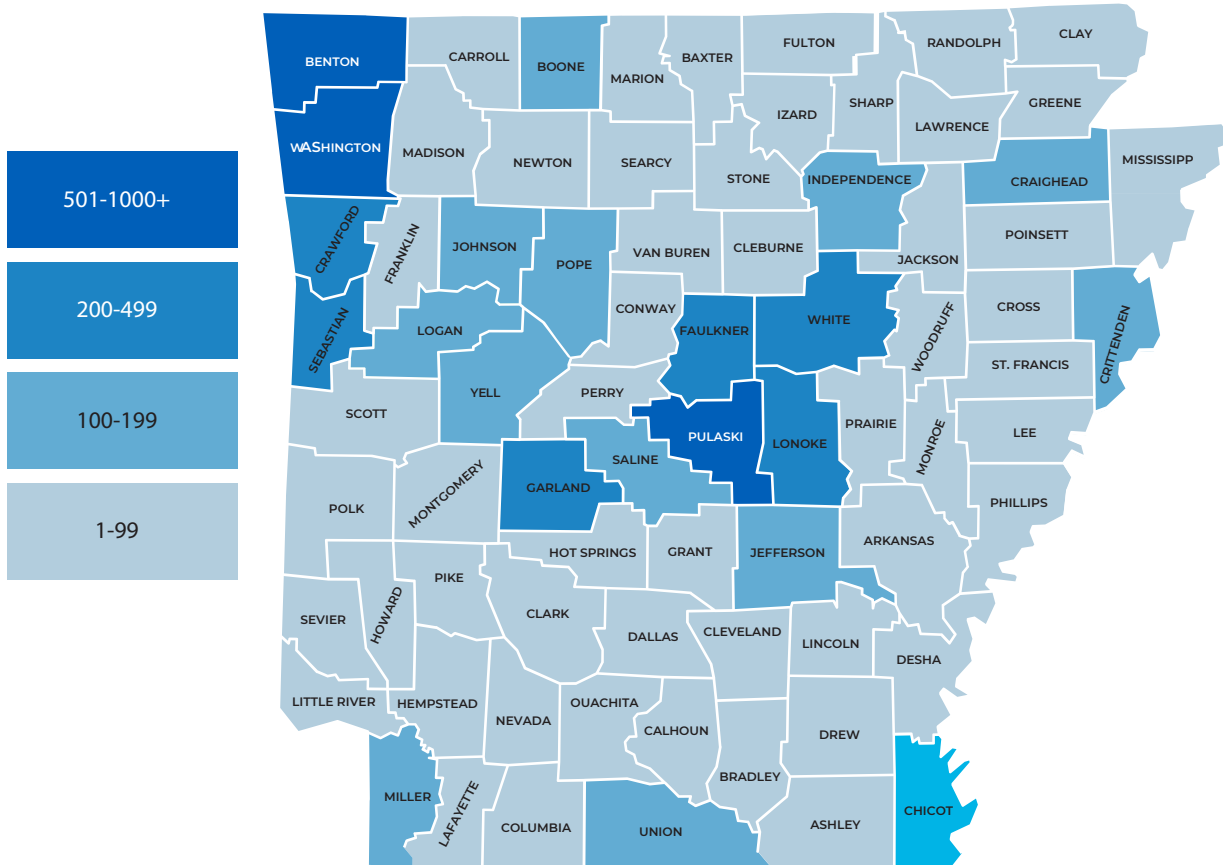


### Race

White Non-Latino or Caucasian	65%
Black or African American	16%
Hispanic or Latino	9%
Biracial	7%
Other	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%

Statistics compiled from Jan. 1-Dec 31, 2022

### Children served at a CAC by county of residence



# Collective Impact

**30 CAC Locations serving Children and Families in Arkansas**

*14 Nationally accredited CACs*

## Highlights from Child Advocacy Centers

Additional Locations in Madison County, Grant County, and Hot Spring County

Children's Safety Center of Washington County broke ground on a much needed new facility

Hamilton Center for Children's Advocacy moved into a larger center in partnership with Mercy Hospital

Established Mending Hearts CSC in West Memphis

Mending Hearts CSC added medical program

CAC of Monticello moved into new building

Children's Protection Center in Little Rock major building expansion

CAC of Independence County added a facility dog program

## CAC Network Staffing Resources

Executive Directors	17
Program Directors	5
Administrative Staff	7
Forensic Interviewers	35
Advocates	44
Full-Time Mental Health Providers	25
Part-Time Mental Health Providers	2
Clinical Directors	4
Contract Mental Health Providers	26
Part-Time Nurses	5
Contract Nurses	51
Development Staff	17
Prevention   Education Staff	12
Part-Time Prevention   Education Staff	1
Support Staff	5



*Children's Safety Center of Washington County Ground Breaking*



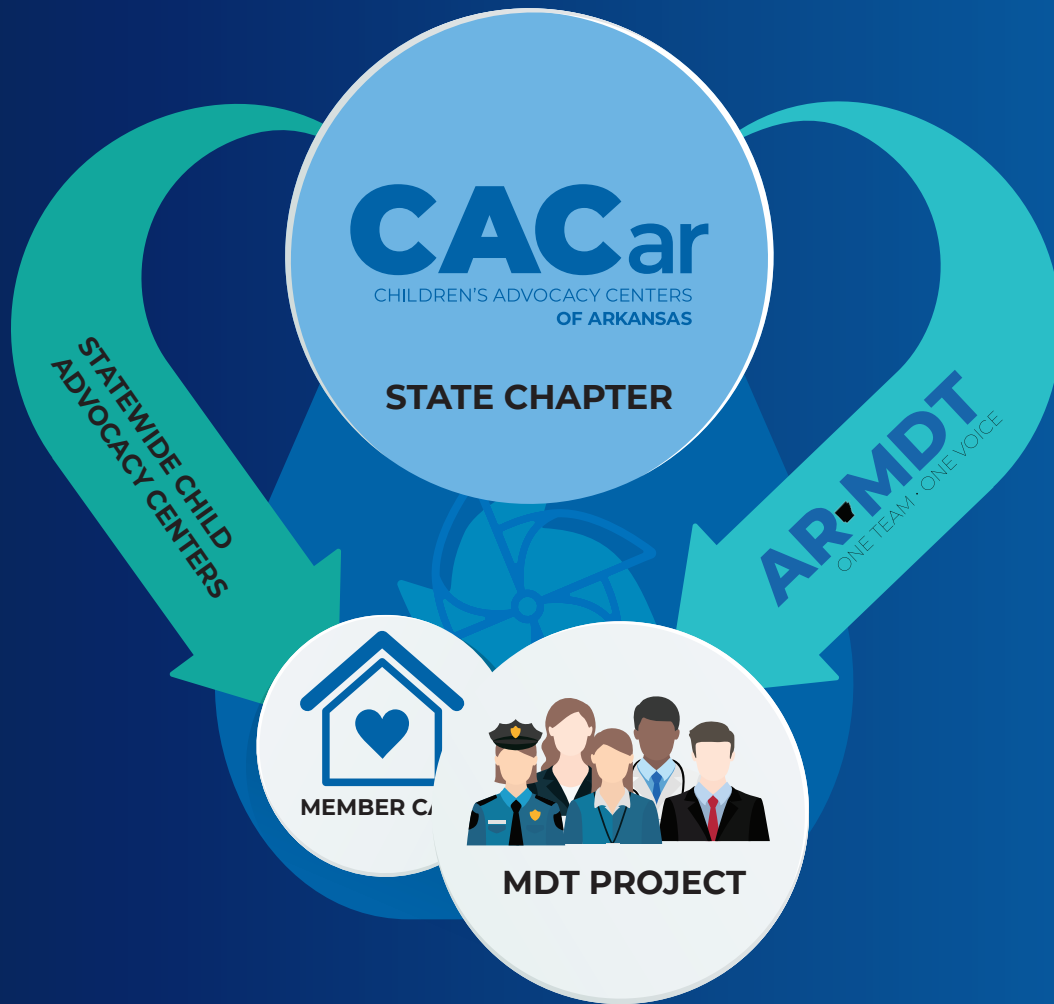
*Malvern CAC location forensic interview room*



*Mario, facility dog of CAC of Independence County*



*Hamilton Center for Children's Advocacy*



## WHAT IS MDT?

**MDT is the child abuse response team.**

The MDT, as a child abuse response team, is a “collaborative group of individual professionals from diverse organizations and agencies who,” are trained and equipped to, “work together in a coordinated manner to ensure an effective response to child abuse and neglect cases so a child victim is not overlooked and essential services are provided in a timely manner.” Ark. Code Ann § 9-5-103(a)(4).

# AR-MDT

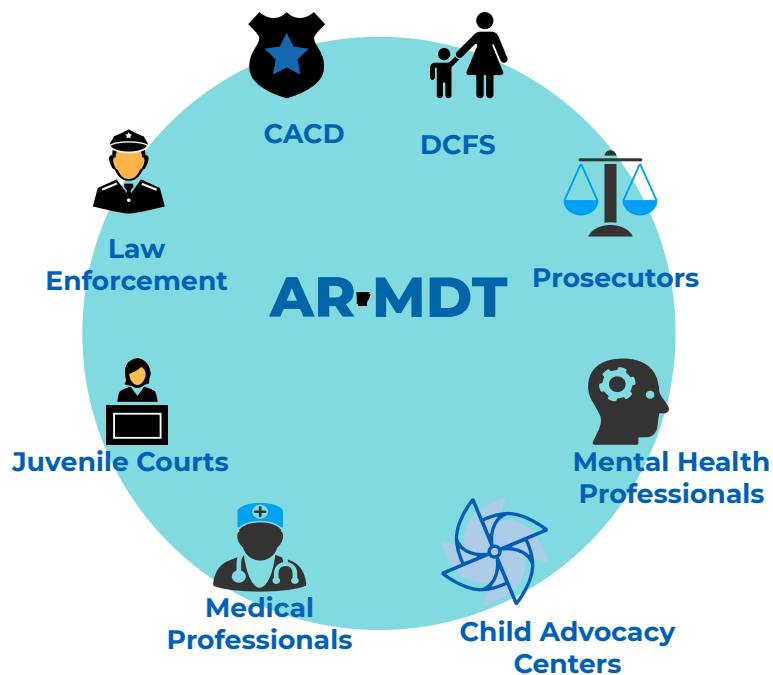
## *Defining a vision*

### MDT VISION

We envision the MDT as the leaders in innovative and collaborative child abuse response whereby ALL children enjoy the right to be protected from abuse and neglect and have access to ALL services through our coordinated efforts.

### MDT VALUES

- Above all else, the child comes first.
- Every child matters. Every service matters. Every member matters.
- Collaboration and coordination is essential.
- Uniqueness is powerful.
- Demonstrating trust, mutual respect, and appreciation will yield greater outcomes.
- It's about getting it right; not being right!
- Justice and accountability are vital to a strong MDT and community
- Data-driven decisions are crucial to systemic progress.



### 2022 MDT HIGHLIGHTS

- Branded the MDT Project as AR-MDT
- Defined a statewide vision
- Renewed investment in the multidisciplinary approach
- Trained MDT Facilitators and provided technical assistance
- Created MDT Facilitator Job Description
- Updated facilitator compensation structure
- Developed a team-based MDT Facilitator evaluation tool
- Engaged MDTs in crucial conversations
- MDT professionals participated on CACar Steering Committees to guide MDT Project
- Extended wellness benefits to active MDT members statewide

# One Team•One Voice

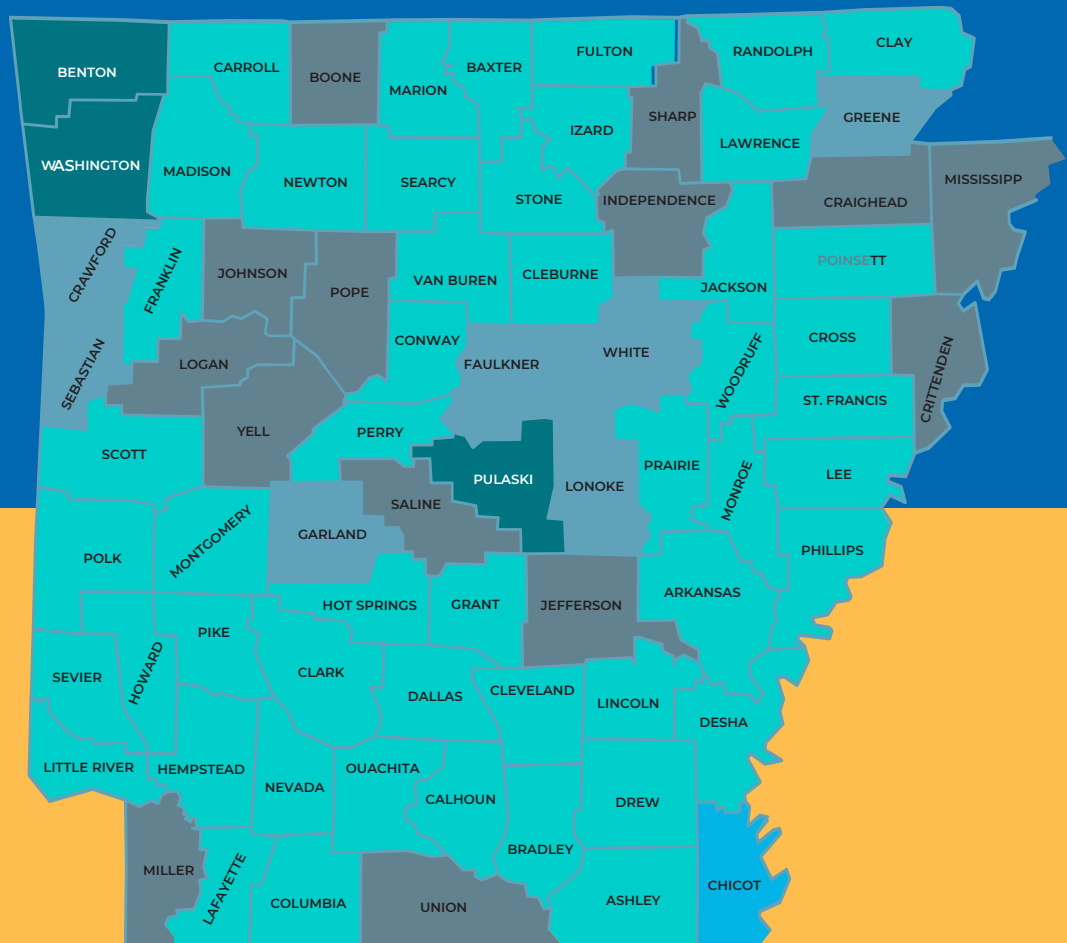
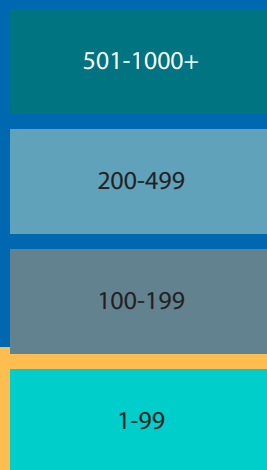
**8,600** Child Abuse Cases Reviewed Statewide

**40** Multidisciplinary Team Facilitators

**64** County Based Teams

*Collaboration is the cornerstone of the CAC / MDT model*

## MDT cases by county of incident



Statistics compiled from Jan. 1-Dec 31, 2022

# *Planting seeds for future growth*

- Statewide Growth and Development Plan
  - Identifying gaps in services, and improving resources in rural communities
- Equipping CAC and MDT members in training and technical assistance
- Enhancing CAC core services
- Work with Child Trafficking Committee to develop coordinated response and statewide protocol (per EO 23-17)



# CACar Staff



*Elizabeth Pulley*  
Executive Director



*Anna Bunch*  
Special Projects  
Coordinator



*Robin Connell*  
Director of Strategic  
Initiatives



*Rebecca Estep*  
Grants and Policy  
Manager



*Markett  
Humphries*  
MDT Project Director



*Misty Hunt*  
Development  
and Public Policy  
Specialist



*Dawn Meyer*  
Database and  
Technology Specialist



*Savannah  
Robbins*  
Program Assistant

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## Reach out to CACar

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Little Rock, AR 72201

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For more information email [info@cacark.org](mailto:info@cacark.org)



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