



MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

12 CACs



6,709
children
served

14,294
services
provided*

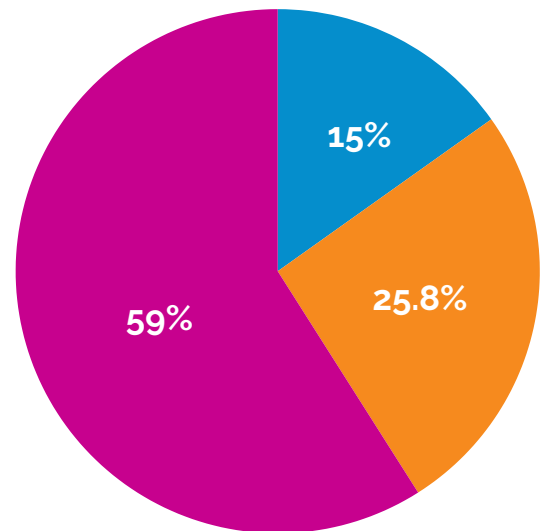
15,536
people
educated

*Services include Forensic Interviews, Medical Exams, Mental Health Services & Referrals & Community Education



1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday. Each year, thousands of child victims of abuse receive critical services through MACA's member Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) to address abuse and help them heal.

Age of Children at First Contact with CAC



0-6 Years 7-12 Years 13-17 Years

70.5% of CAC cases involved **Sexual Abuse**
14% of cases involved **Physical Abuse**
9% of cases involved **Neglect**

83% of victims knew their alleged perpetrator
26% of alleged perpetrators were juveniles

45% of victims were female
19% were male
40.5% were 12 or younger

1,389 VICTIMS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

CACs serve child and youth victims of **commercial sexual exploitation**: any child **under the age of 18** who engages in sexual conduct in exchange for money, clothing, food, shelter, education, goods, care, or **anything of value**.

- In 2024, CSEC Case Managers provided **233** outreach activities and trained **4,446** individuals, including MDT members and community members on CSEC and the services available to victims.

With the rise in time spent online, more and more children are at risk of exploitation. Reports of online enticement of children increased **300%** nationally from 2021-2023*.

*<https://www.missingkids.org/cybertiplinedata#reports>

Learn more at www.machildrensalliance.org, or email us at maca@machildrensalliance.org.

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse

 before their 18th birthday

Children who are sexually abused are at significantly higher risk for mental and physical health problems, such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, heart problems, and more.

Research has repeatedly shown that child sexual abuse can have a very serious impact on physical and mental health, as well as later sexual adjustment. Child sexual abuse can have wide-reaching and long-lasting effects, which can include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety, and their ability to trust adults to take care of them may also be jeopardized. Sadly, when children do not disclose sexual abuse and/or do not receive effective counseling, they can suffer difficulties long into the future. **On the other hand, children who have the support of an understanding caregiver and effective treatment can recover without long-term effects.**

Children who have been sexually abused may display a range of emotional and behavioral reactions, including:

- Nightmares and/or other sleeping difficulties
- Withdrawn behavior
- Angry outbursts
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Not wanting to be left alone with particular individual(s)
- Sexual knowledge, language, and/or behaviors that are inappropriate for the child's age

<https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/sexual-abuse/effects>