



A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

# 2017 Annual Report

SUPPORT · PROTECT · ADVOCATE



## PREVENTING ABUSE

Child sexual abuse affects children of all ages, in all kinds of communities. 90% of abused children know their abuser. In fact, most abusers are well liked and trusted by the child, the child's family, and the communities in which they live. Empower children to protect themselves with these tips:

- Take an active role in your child's life. Pay attention to the people your child spends time with and watch for any possible grooming behaviors. Warning signs include: someone who frequently seeks alone time with the child, insists on being physical with the child, ignores the child's need for privacy, and/or gives gifts for no particular reason. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable about leaving your child with someone, don't do it.
- Remind your child that he/she is in charge of his/her own body. Teach him/her to shake hands or give a high five if he/she doesn't want a hug.
- Use the correct names for private parts. Teaching children the proper names for body parts decreases feelings of embarrassment and makes it easier to talk about any problems.
- Monitor your child's use of electronic devices and social media. Know his/her passwords and check messages, apps, and search histories.
- If your child tells you that he/she has been abused, stay calm, listen carefully, and don't blame the child in any way. Thank your child for telling you. Report the abuse immediately by calling your local law enforcement agency and/or Michigan's Children's Protective Services at 855.444.3911.

## SERVICES PROVIDED



**225**

Child Advocacy & Support

**209**

Forensic Interviews

**57**

Children received therapy

**39**

Medical Evaluations  
(non-emergent)

**229**

Non-offending Family Member  
Therapy & Support Services

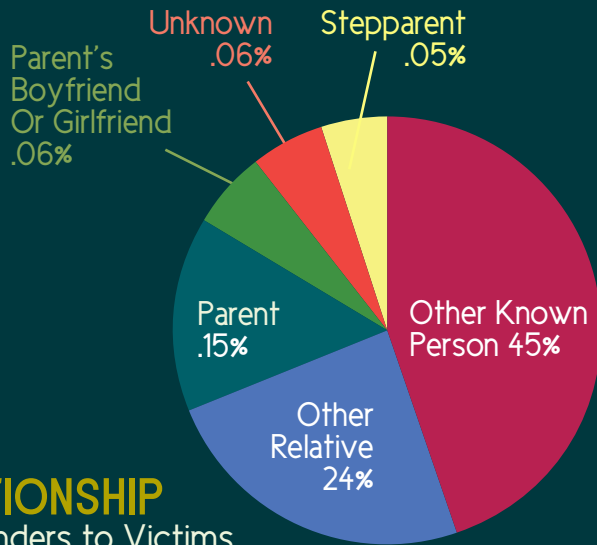
## WCAC SERVED

**230**  
Children

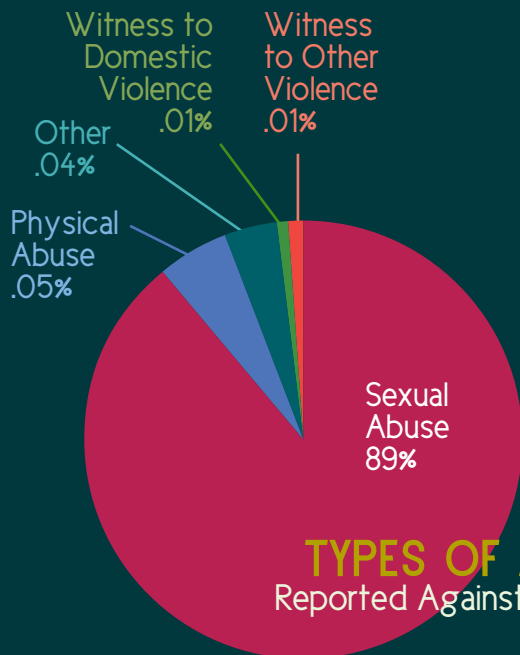
**237**  
Family Members



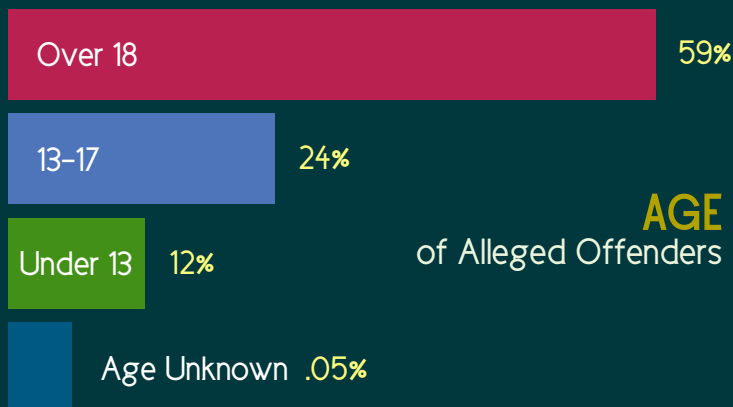
## RELATIONSHIP of Offenders to Victims



## ALLEGED OFFENDERS 232



## TYPES OF ABUSE Reported Against Victims



## AGE of Alleged Offenders

## 360° SUPPORT

**DANIELLE DALE-WILLIAM & TRISHA LERETTE**  
MDHHS CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES SUPERVISORS

As members of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), we have been involved with the WCAC since its inception in 2005. The MDT approach facilitates communication between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Children's Protective Services (CPS), law enforcement, and prosecutors, enabling CPS caseworkers to voice specific concerns and identify questions for forensic interviews. The goal of this approach is to get the best possible legal outcome for the child(ren).

The WCAC is also an invaluable resource to the children themselves. The child-friendly environment and the experienced staff excel in providing comfort and support for families. Moreover, WCAC's streamlined interview process allows all stakeholders in the case to be present at the same time, so the child only has to be interviewed once. Counseling services offered to the entire family provide yet another key component in addressing the multi-faceted impact of child sexual abuse. The WCAC is truly a "one-stop shop" for families enduring a highly traumatic experience, and we are fortunate to have such a strong MDT working collaboratively.



## UNACCEPTABLE ODDS DISPELLING THE MYTHS



10% of all children are sexually abused by their family members, a sense of sexual assault before reaching the age of 18.

Complicating this process for child victims is the fact that 30% of their own families.

It's well known that childhood is the fastest growing time for victims are under the age of twelve. During this time, sexual assault scrambles, stops, and even reverse.

**30%**

of sexually abused children are abused by family members.

Perhaps most troubling is the fact that many children do not know and trust their family members.

The Washtenaw County Children's Protective Services, in partnership with the Washtenaw County Attorney's office, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Washtenaw County Children's Advocacy Center, has created a coordinated, comprehensive approach to address sexual abuse and protect our communities safe.

## NEW OUTREACH BILLBOARDS & BUSSES



90% of all children who are  
**sexually abused**  
know and trust their abuser.

Listen. Believe.



Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center  
[www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac)

With child sexual assault making daily headlines, WCAC supporters, including the Edward F. Redies Foundation and the Michigan Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, wanted to make sure our community knew about the critical resources we provide children and families. A campaign with the tagline, "Listen. Believe." made the rounds in April and May of 2018 through billboards, a bus ad, and a Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County (CSSW) website promotion and social media campaign. An article about sexual abuse was also included in CSSW's newsletter.

The response has been significant—a 33% increase in hits to the WCAC section of the CSSW website since March, and strong engagement on social media. Increasing visibility in the community is critical to our mission, and we're committed to building on this campaign to help give children a safer future.

# 100%

of children are at risk for being sexually abused, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, age, income, or family structure.

the age of 18. Child victims have the burden of making their own sexual and intellectual maturity.

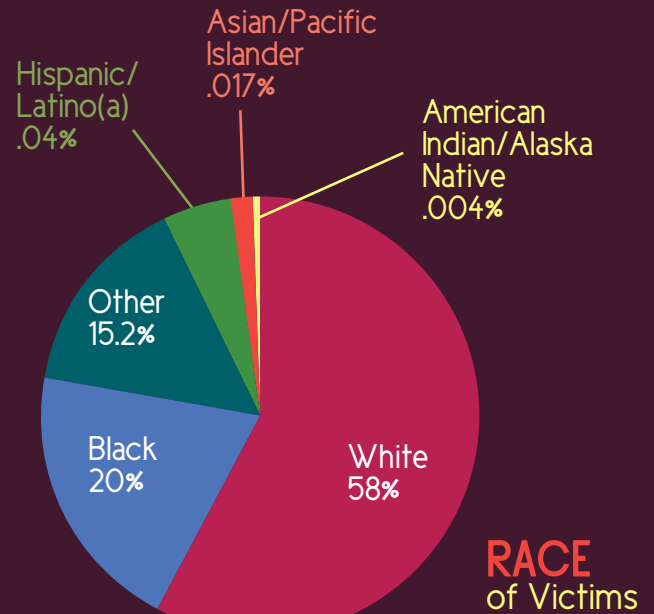
is the fact that 30% of them are abused by members

st period of brain development in children. 35% of child during the critical phases of child development, sexual abuse is normal development.

nnings is the fact that 90% of child sexual abuse victims know their abusers.

Child Advocacy Center (WCAC) is a collaboration involving all eleven county law enforcement jurisdictions, the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney, Michigan Medicine/Child Protection Team, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Washtenaw Community Mental Health. The WCAC provides a comprehensive response for children and teens referred for suspected child sexual or severe physical abuse. Working together, we can keep children in our community safe, while bringing justice and hope to those who've been harmed.

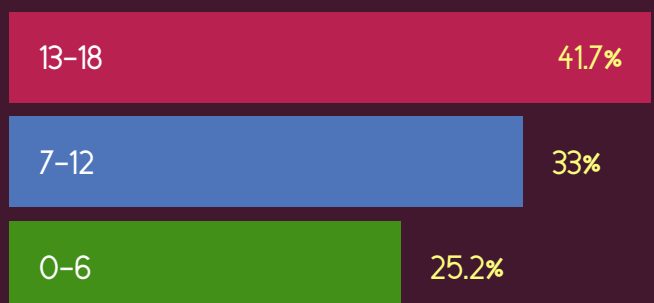
## GENDER of Victims



## CHILDREN 230 SERVED

## 237 FAMILY MEMBERS

## AGE of Victims





## WHO WE ARE

The Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center (WCAC) is a child-focused program in which the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, local law enforcement agencies, mental health & medical professionals, and victim advocates work together to conduct forensic interviews and make decisions about the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases.

## WHO WE SERVE

The WCAC serves all children in Washtenaw County with reported cases of sexual abuse, up through age seventeen. The WCAC also serves children who have experienced severe physical abuse, or witnessed violent crime, such as the death of a parent or sibling. Families and caretakers are also served throughout the investigation and treatment process.

## WHAT WE DO

The Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center (WCAC) provides a coordinated, community approach to investigations, prosecutions, and treatments for abused children. This approach includes a single interview for the child, a single physical exam, and crisis counseling for both the child and any non-offending family members. All services are provided at one child-friendly site, at no cost to the family. The WCAC is fully accredited by the National Children's Alliance (NCA).

By providing a thorough, coordinated process, the WCAC seeks to reduce trauma and promote safety, well-being, and healing.



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Community Health & Human Services Partners:

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health | St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) | Michigan Medicine | Washtenaw County Department of Health and Human Services

### Washtenaw County Law Enforcement Agencies:

Washtenaw Prosecuting Attorney | Ann Arbor Police Department | Chelsea Police Department | Eastern Michigan University Department of Public Safety | Michigan State Police | Milan Police Department | Northfield Township Police Department | Pittsfield Department of Public Safety | Saline Police Department | University of Michigan Department of Public Safety | Washtenaw County Sheriff | Ypsilanti Police Department

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Victims of Crime Act | Edward F. Redies Foundation | National Children's Alliance | Michigan Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board | Washtenaw Coordinated Funders

### IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED

Contact Children's Protective Services (CPS) toll-free reporting line, 855.444.3911, or the local police.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Financial contributions are important for sustaining the services offered by the WCAC. Gift card donations are also welcome to purchase healthy snacks, art supplies, books, and other items for counseling activities.

For information, contact us at 734.544.2925.

"IT'S EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN  
THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN"

—Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and statesman



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE®



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY  
CENTERS of Michigan