

Campaign for Baltimore's Children



Baltimore Child Abuse Center



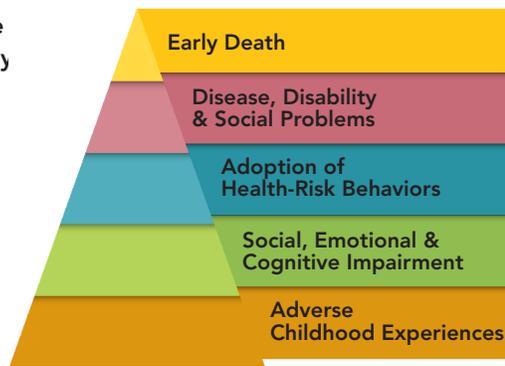
The Children Who Need You

Child abuse and exposure to violence happens in every community across Baltimore. One in four girls and one in six boys experience some form of sexual abuse or exploitation before the age of 18. One in ten is a victim of maltreatment. With almost half of BCAC's clients under the age of nine, many don't even have the capacity to understand that they have been abused; meeting with the right people and having the right systems in place is essential to the recovery of each one of these children.

In addition to the initial trauma of abuse, each of these children is at risk for a variety of conditions that, if left untreated, can negatively impact them throughout their lives. Children who have been exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences are **59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crimes.** Substantiated cases of adolescent maltreatment (against children ages 12 to 17) increase the odds of **arrest, general and violent offending, and illicit drug use in young adulthood.** Abused children are **25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy.** As many as **two-thirds of the people in treatment for drug abuse report**

being abused or neglected as children. Unfortunately, the result of untreated Adverse Childhood Experiences can be early death.

In a city where 1 in 6 families live below the poverty line, BCAC sees a disproportionate amount of low-income, minority households. More than 80% of BCAC's clients are minorities, and approximately 90% of families are eligible for Medicaid. This underserved population often lacks the resources to find intervention and crisis counseling services, including access to primary care and mental health treatment providers, which is crucial to setting them on the path to a successful recovery.



The rocky foundation formed by Adverse Childhood Experiences increases the risk of significant impairment later in life.

Giving Children a Voice for 30 Years

BCAC opened its doors to children and families in crisis in 1985 in response to growing awareness that sexually abused children were not only suffering the lasting effects of abuse, but they were also being revictimized by the lengthy and often repetitive investigative process intended to help them. BCAC has since developed a coordinated response that has resulted in timely, child-sensitive investigations of child sexual abuse in Baltimore City.



Year after year, BCAC helps approximately 1,000 children and their families by providing free services to ensure a healthy recovery. BCAC not only provides services for victims of child abuse, but has expanded to help children who have been sexually assaulted, victims of human trafficking, victims of internet exploitation, medical exams for children entering foster care, and witnesses to homicide.

BCAC stands as a leader in training which prevents future trauma. Over the last five years, staff has instituted a number of training initiatives which have enlightened 7,000 youth-serving professionals in schools, summer camps, law enforcement, and other child advocacy centers. This work protects tens of thousands of children under the care of these professionals from future abuse.

One in four girls and



one in six boys



experience some form of sexual abuse or exploitation.



Our Mission

The mission of Baltimore Child Abuse Center is to provide victims of child sexual abuse, trauma, and other Adverse Childhood Experiences in Baltimore and their non-offending caretakers with comprehensive forensic interviews, medical treatment, and mental health treatment with a goal of preventing future trauma.

BCAC Core Services

Crisis Response

BCAC ensures a professional response to child sexual abuse, trauma, and other Adverse Childhood Experiences will be conducted without forcing a child to be re-victimized or relive their experience for each investigator who needs information. Each child talks one-on-one with one of BCAC's professionals who are trained in national standards for forensic assessment giving the child the opportunity to tell what happened in their own words.

This crisis response has been the foundation of BCAC's operations for 30 years. BCAC is available within two hours of an outcry and includes a 24/7/365 on-call service: one of the first of its kind in the country and the only 24-hour program in the State of Maryland. Recognized for providing high-quality services, BCAC's program is a model for other communities. BCAC's caseload has grown with requests to help other groups of at-risk children, such as child witnesses to homicide and violence, and children entering state-sponsored foster care,



as well as child victims of human trafficking, exploitation and cybercrimes.

Medical Examinations

Medical examinations at BCAC provide law enforcement and prosecution with physical evidence of abuse, including identification of sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. Each examination is documented through the use of a non-invasive medical camera, providing photographic evidence which can often be an asset to prosecutors. Examination results can also aid law enforcement and Child Protective Services in cases where physical signs of abuse indicate that the child is at increased risk, even if he or she did not disclose abuse during the forensic interview.

Family Advocacy

Our team of family advocates is able to assist families with follow-up care, making referrals for mental health treatment and even helping families through the court process. Providing all services onsite furthers BCAC's goal of creating a child-friendly environment and streamlined care by eliminating the need for clients to make appointments at hospitals, with other clinicians, or with other agencies.

Access to Care

Baltimore's lack of transportation options for the majority of BCAC's clients is a significant impediment to successful outcomes. In order to minimize barriers to receiving help and to ensure that every child in Baltimore who reports abuse has access to services, BCAC provides transportation for each family that needs it. With a ride, 95% of families scheduled for an appointment come to the center; without a ride, only 60% successfully arrive.

Prevention and Community Outreach

BCAC's practical trainings for adults who work with children empower them to take action when abuse is suspected and develop effective practices to minimize the risk of abuse.



Two years ago BCAC introduced "Project Protect," a series of prevention initiatives aimed at educating youth-serving professionals about the issue of child sexual abuse. These trainings include information on how to recognize, respond to, and report suspected abuse effectively. Since 2013, BCAC has trained staff at schools, Head Start, various camps, police officers and child protective services workers, and other community members and youth-serving professionals from other nonprofit and governmental agencies.

Leadership

BCAC plays an integral role in child protection activities locally, regionally and nationally and serves as a model program for other Child Advocacy Centers across the country. BCAC partners with groups such as Sinai Hospital, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Health Care Access Maryland, and Maryland Child Abuse Medical Professionals, as well as Baltimore City's Children's Protection Team, Sexual Assault Response Team and Child Fatality Review Team. These activities allow BCAC to share best practices, implement programs to identify children at risk and provide more interventions for children who are abused or neglected.

Continuing the Journey Toward Healing

“Even the longest journey must begin where you stand.”

–Lao-Tzu, Chinese philosopher

BCAC excels at providing practical solutions for when abuse occurs and an immediate response as it's discovered. Mental health and therapy are critical links to help children recover from adverse childhood experiences yet success in mental health requires expensive interventions and advocacy to ensure completion.

What lacks in Baltimore is the ability to provide an adequate level of attention and therapy as each child seeks to get well again.

Further complicating each child's healing are many obstacles along this journey:

- Children as young as seven years old are being arrested for sex crimes without the appropriate interventions to find out what caused them to offend;

- A lack of available transportation for families seeking help;
- Long wait lists for a precious few expert providers;
- Teachers and professionals across the region are unsure how to appropriately respond to and report abuse;
- Constant turnover among government leaders;
- A Lack of understanding among communities about the impact of childhood trauma;
- Complex solutions which cannot be responsibly initiated without knowing that the funding to continue will be there.

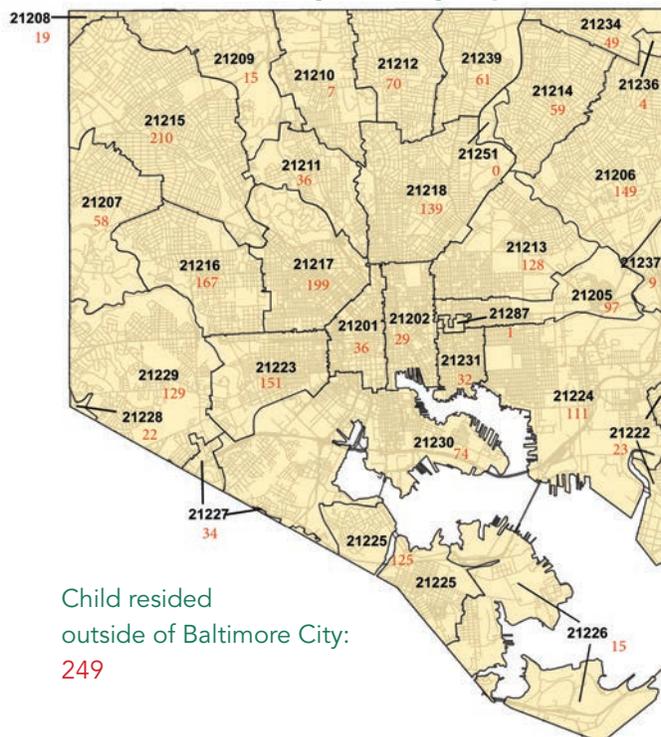
These issues, appropriately addressed, will ensure that fewer children will suffer in the future. New thinking and better solutions are needed to solve these problems.

In an analysis of zip code data where children seen at BCAC live, we discovered years ago that our top three neighborhoods were in West/Northwest

With a city in great upheaval, more resources are necessary to be able to provide assistance to an increased number of children living in distress and victim to violence.

Baltimore. It sadly came as no surprise when unrest broke in those parts of the city, which in our opinion, may possess the most pain. With a city in great upheaval, more resources are necessary to provide assistance to an increased number of children living in distress and victim to violence. While just over 10 percent of BCAC's budget comes from the City of Baltimore, more sustainable funds are necessary to provide solutions for children today.

Baltimore City, MD by Zip Code



Child resided outside of Baltimore City: 249

The red numbers represent the number of forensic interviews conducted by Baltimore Child Abuse Center from 2011-2014 per the zip code the child resides in.



The Solution: Campaign for Baltimore's Children

With an uptick in violence on the streets of Baltimore and our work largely dependent on funding from the government, the will of politicians, and the willingness of local leaders to support our mission, now more than ever BCAC is in need of a strong annual fund. We need to be able to grow the necessary resources to further our mission and to be ready for any crisis that may present itself. **That is why we are calling on you to invest in the future of our work by becoming a Hero Circle member of the Campaign for Baltimore's Children.**



We want to ensure BCAC is here for children in Baltimore when they need us most. BCAC's goal is to sustain our current operations and responsibly grow them to align with our strategic vision over the next five years.

By joining the Hero Circle, you will be a part of a philanthropic strategy that generates \$1,250,000 for BCAC over five years. Your commitment to the Campaign For Baltimore's Children will:

- Provide BCAC with the confidence that we can start new programs that will be able to continue to serve hundreds of children each year;
- Help provide mental health resources for an additional 300 children each year;
- Provide answers and solutions for professionals and parents unsure about suspected abuse on a 24-hour basis;

- Help intervene when youth exhibit concerning behavior before they offend and end up in the juvenile system;
- Respond to youthful juveniles who commit sex offenses to find out who offended them;
- Demonstrate to our community that you stand up for children.

As a member of the Hero Circle, you will make a significant impact in partnering with BCAC to reach hundreds of children each year and leave a demonstrable impression on the future of BCAC. We keep our fundraising and administrative expenses low and our financial health in order so you can be assured that your gifts are used wisely and judiciously.

Your investment in BCAC's long-term growth will ensure that we're here for children in Baltimore when they need us most. Together, we can make Baltimore a safer, healthier place for children.

Fiscal Year 2015 Expenses by Category

Forensic Services
62% \$1,332,878.60

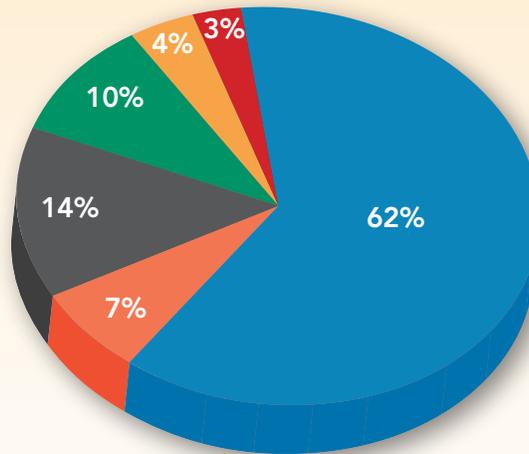
Medical Services
7% \$154,873.59

Educational & Outreach
14% \$301,143.10

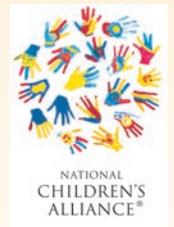
Administrative & Development
10% \$221,555.28

Mental Health Services
4% \$86,040.88

Advocacy
3% \$64,530.66



Total Expenses \$2,151,022.11



90 cents of every dollar is spent on programs and initiatives to benefit children in Baltimore.

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