



Children's
Home Society
of West Virginia



Safe Haven Child Advocacy Center

2012 Year in Review

CAC JARGON

"MDIT": An MDIT or Multidisciplinary Investigative Team is a group of professionals who represent various disciplines and work collaboratively from the point of (child abuse) report to assure the most effective coordinated response possible for every child. For us at Safe Haven, our MDIT's are the heart of a thriving CAC.

"Forensic Interview": A legally sound, neutral, fact-finding method that allows the child an opportunity to talk to a trained professional regarding what the child has experienced or knows that resulted in a concern about abuse.

"Case Review": A formal and routine process in which an MDIT shares information and discusses cases to ensure safety and wellbeing of children and families.



Safe Haven CAC and the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) proudly announce the launch of "One With Courage," a statewide public awareness campaign centered on protecting

children from abuse. "One With Courage" highlights the bravery that it takes for child victims to talk about their abuse and calls on all adults to have similar courage to identify abuse and know how to respond. The campaign also highlights the unique role children's advocacy centers play in providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to child victims of abuse.



To learn the signs of abuse, and be the "One With Courage" to make a difference, please visit www.wvcn.org or contact Melody Soukup at 304.264.0225 or email msoukup@childhswv.org

Safe Haven Gains New Satellite Site in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia

Safe Haven CAC has been working with Morgan County families since the program began in 2006. Now, families and investigators in Morgan County will no longer have to make the long drive to Martinsburg to access CAC services. On September 20th, 2012, we held our first two interviews at a new satellite site in the Morgan County Prosecutor's Office. Safe Haven CAC staff worked during the months of July, August, and September to prepare and furnish an interview room, observation room, and child and family-friendly waiting area. The site has also been equipped with a new closed-circuit

TV and video-audio recording equipment.

Through a partnership with the Morgan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Morgan County Commission, office space for the satellite site was provided in 2011. Much of the funding which made this new site possible comes from a generous donation from the 2nd Annual Walk to End Child Abuse in Hancock, MD, organized by families personally affected by the impact of child abuse, the Hancock Police Department and other



community members. The walk/run was held on April 28th, 2012, and raised \$10,000 in total, \$4,500 of which was given to Safe Haven CAC for services in Morgan County. The 3rd Annual Walk to End Child Abuse will be held on April 27th, 2013, and we are looking forward to participating in the event once again.

For more info contact Melody Soukup via email: msoukup@childhswv.org



**DARKNESS
to LIGHT**

Trainings Seek to Strengthen Community Response to Child Abuse

As of October 2012, Safe Haven CAC now has three staff members who are trained to facilitate *Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children* trainings. The Stewards of Children curriculum, which is designed by the organization Darkness to Light, based in South Carolina, focuses on educating and empowering adults to protect children from sexual abuse. According to Darkness to Light, it is currently the only nationally available program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes and change child-protective behaviors in adults.

In the past year, Safe Haven CAC staff members have offered 12 *Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children* trainings in the Eastern Panhandle as well as several other locations in West Virginia. Staff has trained approximately 190 individuals whose community involvements range from parents and caregivers of children to professionals such as social workers, mentors, Head Start staff, and school personnel. We hope to offer several open trainings for community members in the coming year, as well as deliver the training to specific child-serving groups in the local area. Individuals interested in attending a Stewards of Children training can contact Safe Haven CAC for more information.

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Types of abuse reported in 2012 at Safe Haven CAC | Sexual Abuse | 128 | Witness to Violence | 12 |
| | Physical Abuse | 27 | Drug Endangerment | 5 |
| | Neglect | 11 | Other (screening for abuse) | 28 |



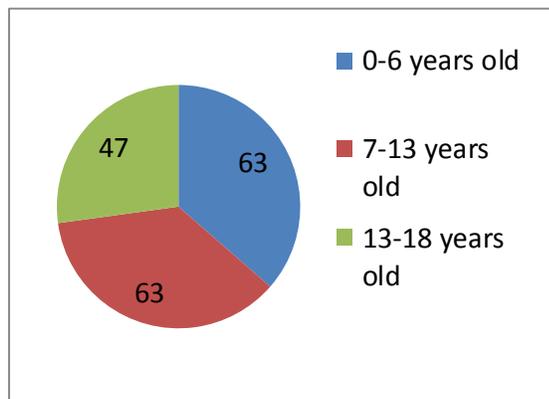
Centers for Disease Control Links Child Sexual Abuse to Costly Public Health Problems

A study put out by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Keiser Permanente has shown a significant correlation between childhood trauma and the development of medical and mental health concerns later on in life. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, first published in 1998, surveyed 17,421 people over the course of two years to learn about their childhood exposure to 10 types of childhood trauma: mentally ill or alcoholic parent(s), parent(s) who were domestic violence victims, incarceration

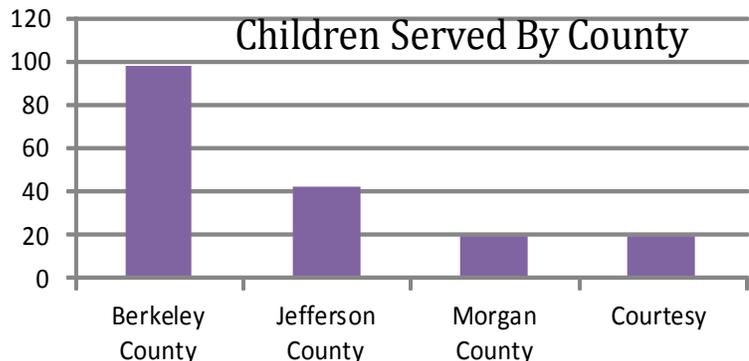
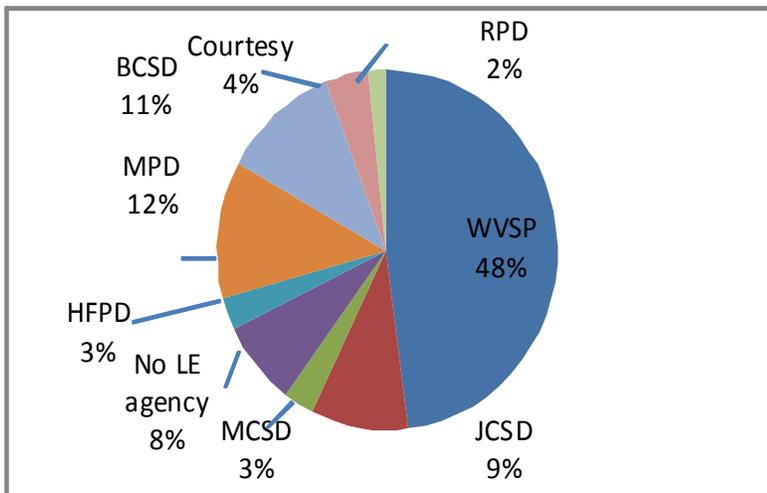
of family member, loss of parent(s) through divorce/abandonment, physical, verbal or sexual abuse, and emotional or physical neglect. The study showed that participants who had experienced one or more of these adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) were more at risk to suffer from chronic disease, mental illness, incarceration, or employment difficulties later in life. The more ACEs a person had, the more likely they were to be at risk for physical, mental, or social problems. The study showed that more than two-thirds of

Who Comes to the CAC?

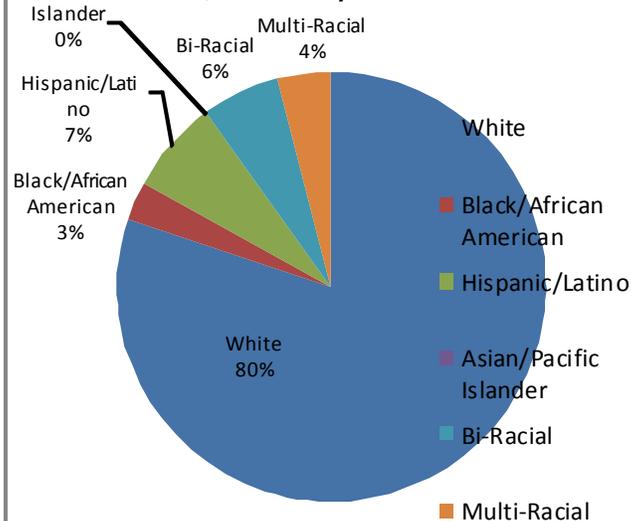
Girls: 120 Boys: 53



Children Served by Police Agency



Race/Ethnicity of Children



ALLEGED OFFENDERS

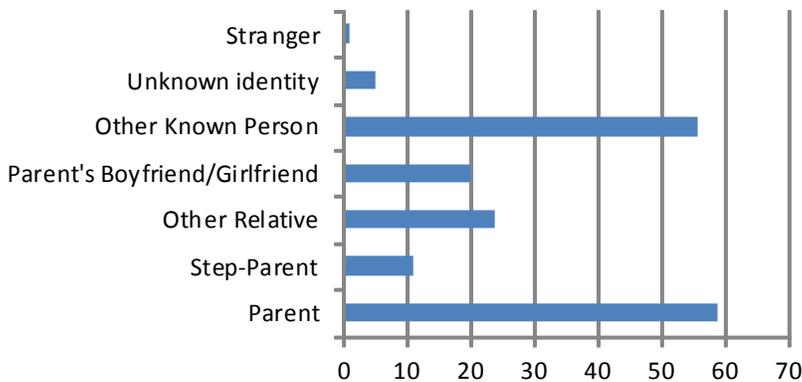
Total Number of Reported

Offenders = 161

Age of Offender

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Under 13 years | 2 |
| 13-17 years | 15 |
| 18+ years | 117 |
| Unknown | 26 |

Relationship of Abuser to Child



Note: Offender may have relationships with more than one child, creating potential discrepancies between the relationship breakout and total number of offenders.

Safe Haven has served over 870 children since 2006



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Serving children and families since 1896

Services Provided in 2012

+/- % change
from 2011

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| Forensic Interviews | 173 | +1% |
| Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team Meetings | 29 | -13% |
| Cases Reviewed *new and ongoing cases | 568 | +20% |
| Forensic Medical Evaluations | 34 | +30% |
| Referrals for Mental Health Services | 47 | +23% |
| Victim Advocacy & Support Services | 398 | +272% |

(CDC continued) an average American group of participants had experienced at least one ACE, and 87% of those two-thirds had experienced more than one.

This study, combined with other studies released by the CDC and other research organizations, presents a picture of the tremendous cost, both in lives and in dollars, which our country pays as a result of child abuse. The CDC estimates that, in one year, the cost of child abuse/maltreatment for confirmed cases adds up to \$124 billion; costs include childhood healthcare, adult medical

costs, productivity losses, child welfare, criminal justice, and special education. Knowing this, it is clear, both economically and socially, that investments in child abuse prevention and early intervention will reduce future expenses while protecting our most valuable assets; our children.



Safe Haven CAC is a member
of the West Virginia Child
Advocacy Network and
National Children's Alliance

