



MAKE YOUR OWN
adventure

2020 ANNUAL
REPORT





Our MISSION

The Children's Advocacy Project is a team of committed agencies and individuals who work together to provide coordinated forensic and comprehensive services for alleged victims of child abuse and neglect in order to minimize trauma to children, break the cycle of abuse, and foster a more effective and efficient community response to child maltreatment.



To live will be an
awfully big adventure

-Peter Pan



A letter from our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Whew! 2020 has come to an end. 2020 was most definitely a year full of adventure! The pandemic created new challenges and forced us to adapt to new and different routines and wow, did we have to be flexible!

We have all known many who have stated they would like to just erase 2020. This is likely how most child victims feel about the trauma they experienced. Isn't it better though, to take the lead of these children? They are the epitome of resilience. Their willingness to address challenges head on and begin the new adventure of healing is something we can all admire and strive for.

CAP is proud to have continued to provide uninterrupted services throughout the pandemic, serving 314 children who ventured through our doors as they began to travel down their road of healing.

We all hope 2021 comes with many new and great adventures in a MUCH better form than 2020! We look forward to continuing our mission in 2021 as we continue serve our community's children. Thank you for supporting the Children's Advocacy Project! Your support is invaluable!



Stacy M. Nelson, Executive Director

CAP by the NUMBERS

4,598

Children have bravely completed a Forensic Interview since CAP opened

314

Forensic Interviews Conducted in 2020

554

Individual Counseling Sessions

National NUMBERS



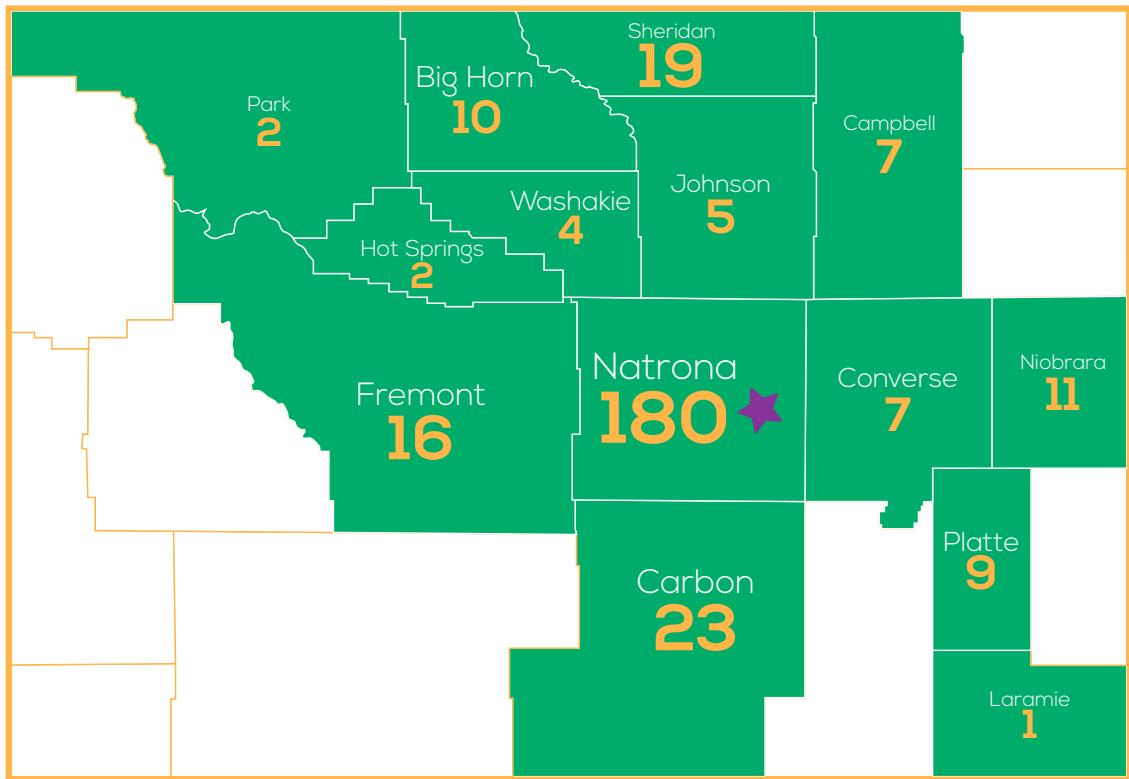
1 in 7 children experienced abuse and neglect in the last year



90%

of sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS by County



Other Courtesy Interviews:

Colorado: 1, Indiana: 2, Oklahoma: 1, Oregon: 1, South Dakota: 2, Texas: 3, Wisconsin: 2, FBI: 5

CHILD ABUSE and COVID-19

In 2020, home became the intended safe space to shelter from coronavirus, but the sad fact for many children is that the majority of child abuse happens at home and happens within the family. With schools closed, teachers and other school staff who make up the largest portion of child abuse reports were no longer regularly seeing children to be able to spot the signs of abuse.

Added stress on families, financial stress, disrupted routines, and lack of access to community support due to COVID-19 are all contributors to an uptick in child maltreatment. This period of isolation, while necessary to keep children and families safe from the pandemic, is a perfect storm for child abuse to rise and for cases to go unreported.

Everyone can play a role in maintaining the health and well-being of families, and communities:

- Stay connected to family and friends, and checking in on neighbors and other community members (while taking the proper safety measures).
- Share positive news and acts of kindness with your community.
- Connect families with virtual programming for children—many public institutions and community centers are providing free virtual experiences, including educational resources, games and activities, tours of popular museums and attractions, and physical activities.
- Continue to help support programs and services that strengthen families in our community.
- Learn to recognize the warning signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS of Abuse



Behavioral Clues:

- infants excessive crying or developmental delay
- fear, anxiety, clinging
- phobias
- nightmares, bed wetting
- social withdrawal
- hyperactivity
- poor concentration/distractibility
- chronic school absenteeism
- speech disorders
- regressive behavior for age
- seems afraid of parent
- eating issues
- depression, passivity
- increased verbal abuse or physically aggressive behavior with others
- destroys or injures objects or pets
- substance abuse
- self-harm such as cutting
- sexualized behavior
- symptoms of PTSD
- avoidance of undressing
- withdrawal to touch

Symptom Clues:

- headaches
- abdominal pain
- worsening medical problems
- frequent, unexplained sore throat
- abnormal weight gain or loss
- reluctance to use an extremity
- difficulty walking or sitting
- genital discomfort or painful urination or defecation
- unexplained symptoms
- vomiting, irritability or abnormal respiration

Physical Clues:

- poor hygiene
- dressed inappropriately for weather
- lack of care of medical needs (wound care, medication)
- fractures, dislocation, bruising
- bites, burns, laceration
- traumatic hair loss
- facial injuries without good explanation

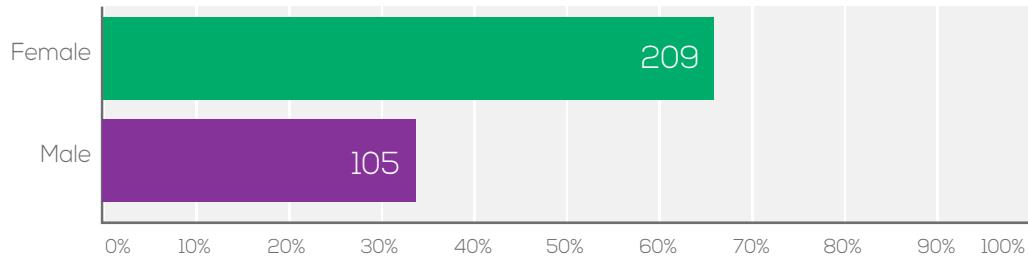




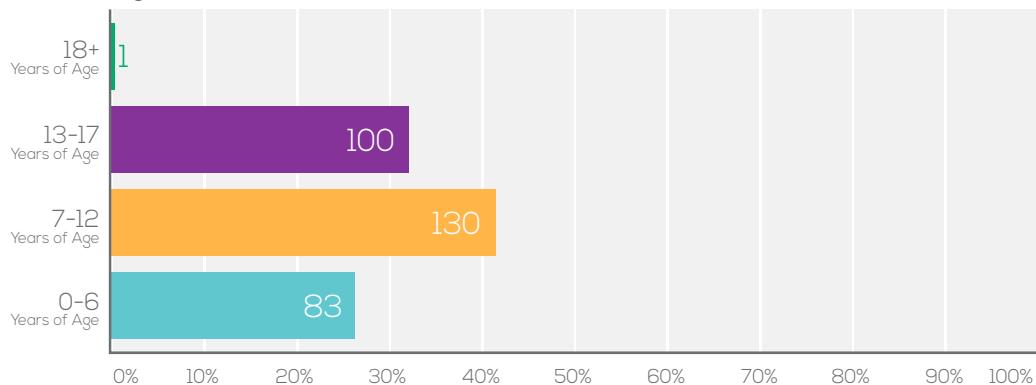
As soon as a saw
you I knew a grand
adventure was
about to start.

-Pooh

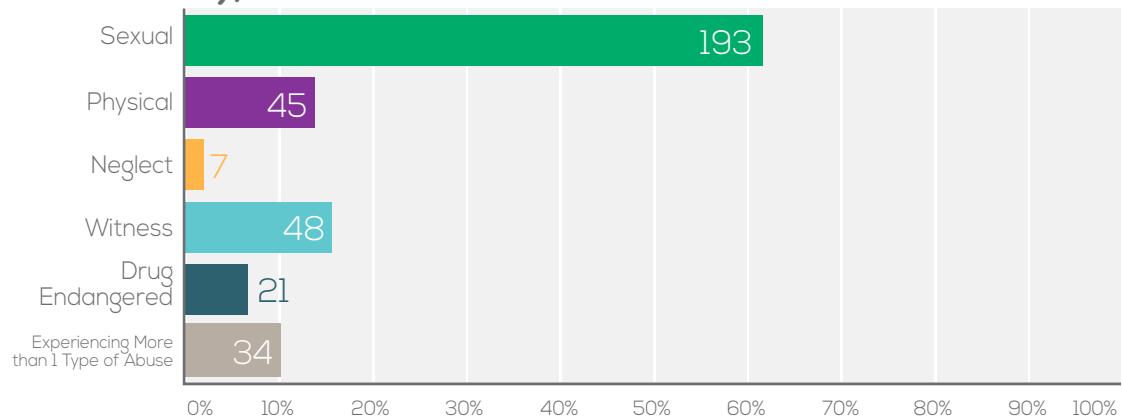
Gender of VICTIM



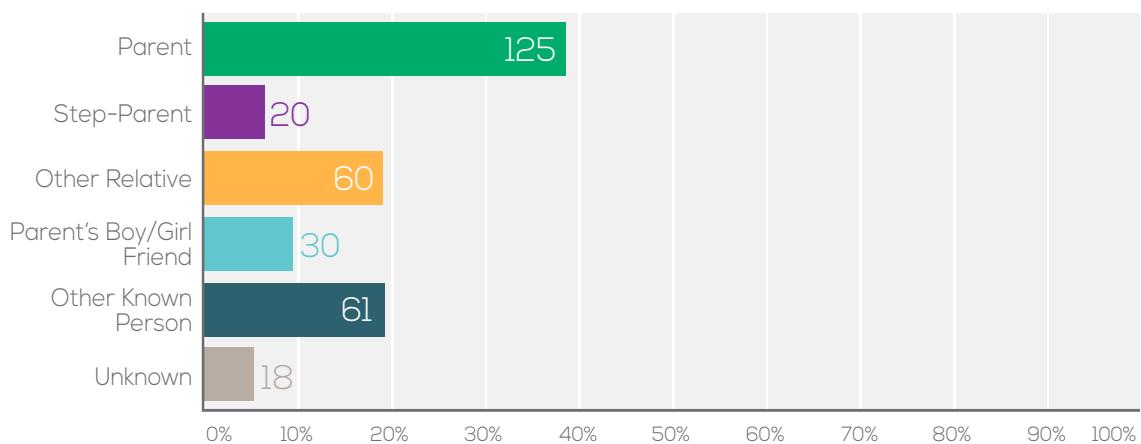
Age of VICTIM



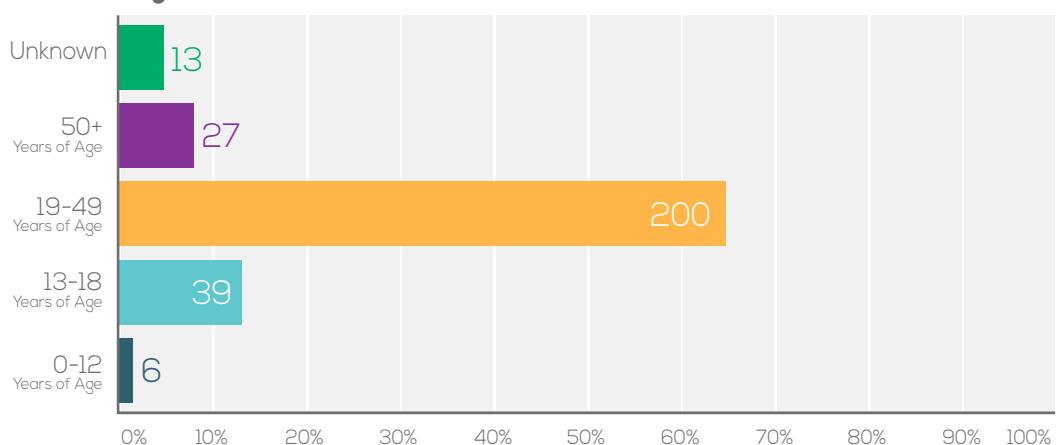
Types of ABUSE



Relation of SUSPECT



Age of SUSPECT



YEAR IN review

February

Natrona County man, Talon Johnson, 21, was arrested after his infant son was found dead on the couch after being left on his stomach. A physical examination also revealed bruises on his brain, a Vitamin D deficiency, and signs that he had been left in a dirty diaper for an extended period of time. The house reeked of animal urine and feces and a highchair that was plastered in rotten baby food. Johnson is charged with manslaughter, two counts of child endangerment with meth present and two more counts of child endangerment.

March

Mills man, Tyrell Wimer entered a plea to a single count of aggravated child abuse, which alleges he injured a 6-month-old boy who he is not related to. The child was diagnosed with six broken bones – including a skull fracture and a traumatic brain injury. In an interview with a police detective, Wimer said that he did not abuse the child, but the documents state he said he could have accidentally stepped on the boy while moving boxes. The child abuse pediatrician who treated the baby told the detective that the skull fracture could only be the result of intentional abuse, according to the documents.

May

Two-month-old infant was “in a state of

starvation” while under the care of Natrona County woman, Dominique Clark. Clark was charged with two counts of child abuse and a single count of child endangerment. The child was not Clark’s but her boyfriend’s. Clark was responsible for the child’s care while he was at work. The investigation began when the child was taken to her two-month checkup. The baby should have weighed 9.81 pounds but instead weighed 6.57, less than she did when she was born roughly two months earlier. The baby also had bruises on her face and neck including her left eye, ear, temple and cheek, as well as a significant rash on her torso. The baby had a large bald spot on the back of her head, consistent with being forced to lay down for long periods of time. Child abuse is a felony punishable by up to 10 years behind bars while child endangerment is a misdemeanor punishable by a year in jail.

June

Rowdy Irish Patterson of Casper faces felony child endangerment and abuse charges after allegedly feeding methamphetamine to a 5-year-old. The mother returned from work to find the child victim “acting strangely” with dilated pupils and “didn’t seem to have control.” This prompted the mother to take the child to Wyoming Medical Center. The child made references to eating something that looked like “snow” on his dinosaur-shaped chicken nugget.

June

Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers were notified of a possible victim of human trafficking. The initial clues were observed by a Colorado Port of Entry officer while inspecting a commercial vehicle. The officer had recently completed in-depth training provided by Truckers Against Trafficking. The driver of the truck had an outstanding warrant from Oklahoma for child sexual abuse and was arrested without incident.

August

Former Casper middle school teacher, Jason Waugaman, pleads guilty to sexual abuse of a 14-year-old student whose seventh grade class he taught for about a month. Wau-gaman worked for Natrona County School District for more than a decade, is now charged with three felony counts of sexual abuse: two in the second-degree and another in the third.

August

Lisa Canady of Mills who admitted to duct taping her children and giving them marijuana was sentenced to probation of three years. If she breaks the conditions of the plea agreement, she could serve a sentence of 8-15 years in prison. The juvenile victim told school officials that they had been duct taped, leading to Canady's arrest. The child also told police that they and their siblings were given marijuana to "take a nap" and were duct taped because they "would not take a nap."

August

Judge sentences Joshua Hicks to 55 years in prison and supervision for 85 years for the abduction and molestation of a 4-year-old girl. Hicks had taken the child from where

she played outside of a Casper home, sparking a law enforcement man hunt that lasted 18 hours. Police caught up with him when his truck rolled through a stop signs. He admitted to kidnapping the girl and exposing himself to her. Hicks has abused children before and had previously been suspected of a sexual crime.

October

Steven Lockard, 25, of Natrona County was sentenced to three to five years in prison after pleading guilty to taking indecent liberties with a child. The 14-year-old victim was found by police lying naked in bed with Lockard hiding beneath the sheets. The victim defended Lockard, but a girl of her age is legally unable to provide consent to a man of Lockard's age.

November

Mills couple Ryan and Sarah Hilyard are being charged after causing injuries to a 12-year-old that left the child needing to be intubated and required him to have part of his skull removed. Sarah brought the boy – her stepson – into the hospital after calling staff and reporting that he was unresponsive. The child was suffering from respiratory failure, retinal hemorrhage, and severe traumatic brain injury. Sarah told investigators that the child fell down the stairs a day or two before the hospital visit. One of the siblings in the case told police Ryan was making the 12-year-old run up and down the stairs, punching him, dragging the victim up and down the stairs, and eventually pushed the victim down the stairs. The victim was knocked out and the couple reportedly yelled, punched and kicked him while on the ground.



You're off to great places,
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So . . . get on your way!

-Dr. Seuss



Annual BUDGET

FUNDING SOURCES

VOCA Federal Funding	\$148,937.00
Natrona County and City of Casper	\$62,667.00
Other City & County Funds	\$29,410.00
Program Income	\$61,000.00
Fundraising	\$8,000.00
Wyoming Community Foundation	\$40,000.00
McMurry Foundation	\$30,000.00
United Way	\$20,250.00
Donations	\$10,000.00
National Children's Alliance	\$10,000.00
Other Grant/Donation Income	\$48,000.00
	\$508,864.00

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	72%
Contract Services	8%
Advertising, Website, Education	5%
Training & Travel	3%
Accounting	3%
Building (Utilities, Phone, Internet, Insurance, Housekeeping)	3%
Equipment & Supplies	3%
Meetings, Memberships, Dues	1%
Legal Services	1%
Printing & Postage	1%
	100%



Thank You!

The Children's Advocacy Project would like to extend our deepest appreciation for the individuals, businesses, and partners who continue to support the work we do year after year. In a year filled with hardship for many and with COVID restrictions, no fundraisers were held in 2020. However, we would like to thank all of those who have donated in past years and who continue to invest in the belief that no child should be without services needed to heal from abuse. With your support we will continue to work together to create a world that better responds to and prevents child abuse.

1890 Craft Apparel
307 Healing Waters
307 Orthodontics
All Creatures Veterinary Hospital
Allure Beauty
Anchor Designs
Andrea Gomez/Advocare
Arbonne
Artisan Alley
Ashby Construction
Ashley Lundblade
Aspen Creek Massage
Avalanche Harley Davidson
Backwards Distillery
Big Horn Polo Club

Big O Tires
Bloedorn Lumber
Brad & Natalia Follensbee
Brattis Meat Market
Brenna & Nimo Gatimu
Brittany Tarvares
Butterfly Pavilion
C85 Restaurants
Casidy Mittelstadt
Casper Animal Medical
Casper Events Center
Casper Fire Fighters
Casper Police Department
Central Wyoming Counseling Center
Central Wyoming

Medical Aesthetics
Cheyenne Frontier Days
Chris & Tiffany Elhart
Chris Hadlock
Cloud Peak Energy
Coleen Edwards
Colorado Symphony
Communication Technologies
Computer Logic
ComTech
Dan's Meat Processing
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver Zoo
Digital Blues Print Shop
Donnell Tate

Douglas Golf Club
Dr. Roussalis
Dsasumo
Durbin Street Golf
Dustin & Baleigh Hite
Ed & Linda Toohey
El Marko Lanes
Firerock
Floral Rhino
FOP Lodge #6
Fox Field Services
Frosted Tops
Gaslight Social
Gear Up & Get Out There
Girl In Air
Global Specialized Services LLC
Global Sporting Safaris
Good As Sold Inc.
Great Harvest Bread Company
Greater Wyoming FCU
Gudahl Williams Investigative Security
Hair of the Dog
Hampton Inn & Suites Riverton
Hilltop National Bank
Holiday Inn Sheridan
Honalo Farms
Indian Ice
IPA Machining
Jackson Hole Golf
Jackson Hole Outfitters
Jackson Restaurant Group
Janet Zambai
Jen Wilson / Rodan + Fields
Jennifer Schieck
John's Crazy Socks
Johnson Restaurant Group
Kalic Kat Quilt Shop
Katie Boulter
Keefe's Flowers

Kids Works
Killmer & Associates
Kimberly Mittelstadt
Kristin Songe / LuLaRoe
La Cocina
Lagoon
Leah & Chad Schieck
Leslie Gilliland
Lifetime Health & Fitness Center
Meador Environmental Consulting
Mike & Meegan Steinberg
Modern Electric
Mouthful
Outback Steakhouse
Paradise Valley Country Club
Paragon Painting
Paul & Leslie Fritzler
Peak Asset Managers
Powder River Armory
Qdoba
Quality Auto
Quinn & Kayleigh Clark
Ramkota Hotel Center
Rib & Chop House (Sheridan)
RJ's Carpet Cleaning
Rocky Mountain Discount Sports
Rootz Salon
Rose Fry
S&S Outfitters
Salon 307
Salon Savvy
Sams Club
Saratoga Resort & Spa
Science Zone
Service First Insurance
Shannon Green Photography
Sherry's Place
Sierra West
SM Energy
Smile Doctors Braces by Braces

Snow King Resort
Southern Flare Lash
Spruce Nail Bar
Stacy & Bob Nelson
Stacy Hill
Stamp It Up
Stirling Skin Care
SunSations Tanning Salon
T Bee S Pollination
Tara Ashcraft / Salon Savvy
The Flour Bin
The Spence Law Firm
The Wort Hotel
Thrive Therapeutic Massage, LLC
Tom Lukas Artwork
Toy Town
Triggers Gun Shop & Mercantile LLC
Uncorked Wine & Spirits
US Bank
Wagner's
Walmart
White's Mountain Motors
Wholehealth Group
Wild Well Control
Wildlife Art Museum (Jackson)
Williams Porter Day and Neville
Wind City Books
Wind City Dental
Wind River Casino
Wyoming Behavioral Institute
Wyoming Dinosaur Center
Wyoming Mountain Song Soaps
Wyoming Otolaryngology
Wyoming Symphony Orchestra
WyOMing Yoga and Massage
WyoMovies
YMCA
Zimmerman Family Foundation





If you would like to make a donation or if you have
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