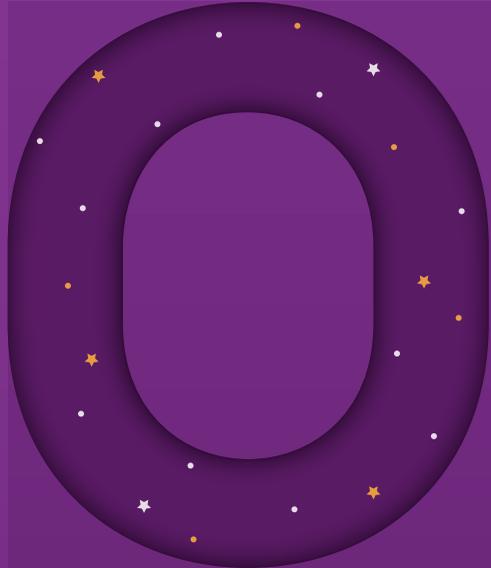




Children's
Advocacy Project



SUPER KIDS

* 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.

A LETTER FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

These days, the news and social media inundate the public with stories of war, shootings, and other traumatic events in the world. It is easy to miss the uplifting and heroic events that occur every day.

In 2021, CAP was lucky to be witness to so many superheroes, big and small, old and young. The team of adults who work every day to help children experiencing trauma are so often overlooked. The countless hours each person takes is absolutely heroic as they provide support to these children. Thank you to the investigators, caseworkers, advocates, interviewers, therapists, and prosecutors.... you are all Superheroes in the CAC world!

The most amazing superheroes of all are the children who speak up and share their story, finding the courage to hold their perpetrators accountable and begin their own journey of healing. CAP is proud to have helped more children in 2021 than in any other year since we opened. **354 children** heroically found the courage many struggle to find and trusted the entire CAP team to help begin to address their trauma.

Thank you to all who have continued to support CAP throughout the years and thank you to all of the superheroes in our community as we strive to give children renewed hope and a better future.



Stacy M. Nelson, Executive Director



*"If no one else will
defend the world,
then I must."*

—DIANA, WONDER WOMAN

CAP BY THE NUMBERS

4,719

Children have bravely completed a forensic interview since opening

354

Forensic interviews conducted in 2021

355

Individual counseling sessions conducted in 2021

14

Emergency/after-hour interviews conducted in 2021

16

Counties in Wyoming served in 2021

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS BY COUNTY



Other Courtesy Interviews:
Oklahoma: **2**, Utah: **1**, Nebraska: **7**, Texas: **1**,
Michigan: **1**, Oregon: **1**, Arizona: **1**

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles"

–SUPERMAN

Annie's own dad was out of the picture. He got arrested when they were living in another state and he went to prison on drug charges. Since that time, her mom had had lots of boyfriends, but Annie just knew this one was going to be different.

For one thing, he was good to her mom – a “keeper,” as her grandma would say. Josh didn't hit or throw things. He didn't drink, or smoke, or use drugs. He hardly ever even yelled. Josh had a good job and they didn't have to worry so much about money. She'd heard Josh and her mom talking about her mom quitting one of her jobs in order to be home more.

For another thing, Josh really seemed to “get” her. He was patient when Annie was having a bad day in middle school or

a fight with one of her friends. He told her she could talk to him about anything. Sometimes, when Josh picked her up from school he'd take Annie somewhere for ice cream. Once, he took her to Jump Craze. Another time they went to the mall and he bought her the Vans she'd been wanting.

It was weird, though. Sometimes Josh said or did things that made her uncomfortable. Don't misunderstand – Josh wasn't creepy. Still...there was something that felt, well, wrong. She started expressing fears that someone was sneaking into her room and kissing her lips. One time, she told her mom about a nightmare that someone was touching her chest and “privates”. The dreams started coming more and more often,

until she was waking up almost every night with her heart racing. But there was never anyone there.

Annie talked to Josh and her mom about the dreams. They listened carefully and assured her she was safe. No one was going to hurt her and that they were only dreams. Josh and her mom “smudged” her room to chase the bad dreams away. It didn’t help, but Annie stopped talking about the dreams.

One day at school, Annie was called to the principle’s office. Law enforcement from another state had contacted local investigators after pornographic images and videos had been found on a computer. There was a police officer and a lady from DFS waiting for her. They told Annie they were there to talk to her about being safe. The DFS lady asked about her friends, her mom, and Josh. They asked her lots of questions about her real dad. They asked about her dreams. Annie took a deep breath and told the investigators they weren’t really dreams; sometimes she would wake up and her dad was beside her on the bed. She’d pretend to be asleep, but she knew the touching was real.

Annie was taken to the Children’s Advocacy Project for a forensic interview. She was really nervous and didn’t really understand what was going to happen. There was a lady who opened the door and welcomed Annie and her mom to CAP. She was nice. The lady told Annie about the building and showed her the

room she would be interviewed in. It was almost like a living room with a picture on the wall and comfy, overstuffed chairs to sit in.

The interviewer who spoke with Annie used protocol consisting of non-leading, non-suggestive questions to begin to understand what had occurred. During the interview, Annie was asked to describe the abuse in as much detail as possible. Annie did her best to tell the interviewer everything she could remember. The interviewer helped her feel comfortable by listening patiently and asking follow-up questions.

Sometimes it takes more than a village to save a child. Boyfriends aren’t always the bad guy. Legal jurisdictions do work together. Annie’s description of her bedroom when her mom and dad had been together matched the room in the images found on the computer. Annie also relayed experiences that were consistent with the abuse captured on video. Annie was finally able to disclose the abuse she had experienced. Josh’s support and willingness to listen to Annie created a safe environment. Local investigators responded swiftly to information provided from another agency.

The Children’s Advocacy Project is part of a team that includes forensic interviewers, law enforcement, DFS investigators, prosecutors, and mental health therapists who work together for the safety and well-being of child victims of abuse and gross neglect. In Annie’s case,

the team also included law enforcement and prosecutors from another state. Sometimes victim advocates are involved as well. This multi-disciplinary team approach helps to provide justice and continued support for the child and family.

What happened with Annie? Both Annie and her mom attended regular counseling. Annie started playing volleyball on a school team this year for the first time. It has given her a love for team sports and she plans to continue playing. She wants to try out for her school basketball team next year as well. Annie's mom and Josh got married and they have recently moved into a bigger house. She calls Josh "Dad." Her biological father was charged, tried, and found guilty. He was sentenced to the maximum time allowed under that state's statutes and, by the time he is eligible for release, Annie will be an adult.

***In the meantime,
Annie has the
opportunity to heal,
be a kid, and thrive in
a safe home.***



*"You are much stronger than
you think you are. Trust me"*

-SUPERMAN





WHAT WE DO

1



Child tells that they are being hurt by someone they know

2



Children's Advocacy Project, District Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement, and the Department of Family Services are all notified and begin working together on a joint investigation

4



Child goes to emergency room and receives a forensic medical exam

3



Child receives a Forensic Interview at CAP that is monitored by the Multidisciplinary Team to ensure it is legally sound and developmentally appropriate

5



The victim is referred to a counselor who will teach them ways to deal with the impacts of the trauma they endured and help them begin to heal.

6



Family or caregivers receive support and information from CAP's Child Advocate

7

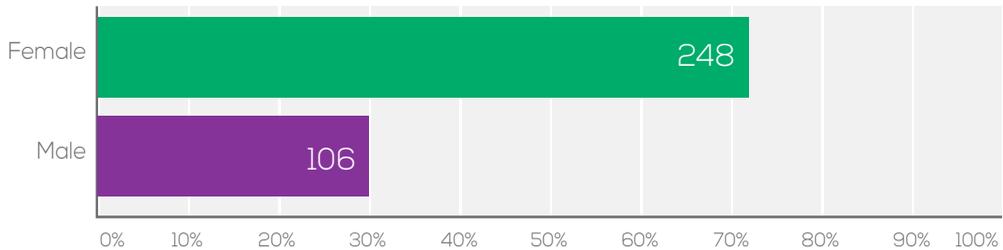


CAP continues to provide counseling and checks in with families frequently to offer support

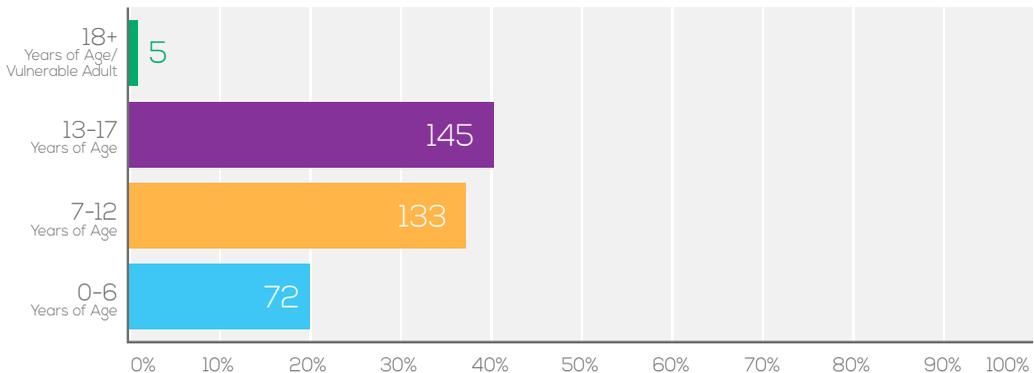
"I have no idea where I'm going to be tomorrow but I accept the fact that tomorrow will come and I'm going to rise to meet it."

-DONNA TROY, TITANS

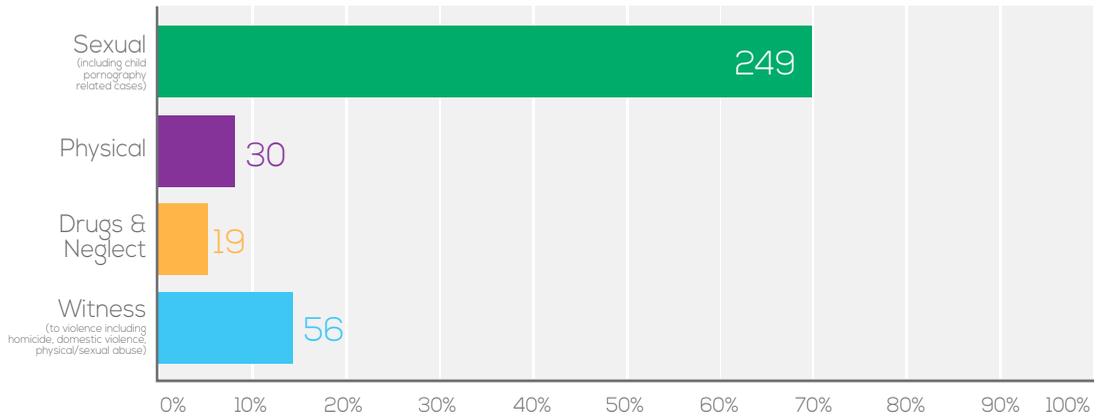
GENDER OF *VICTIM*



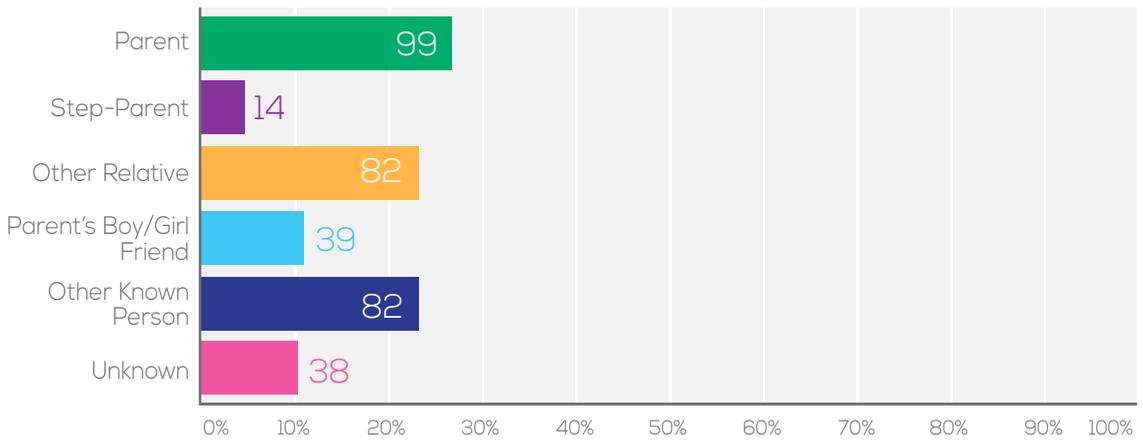
AGE OF *VICTIM*



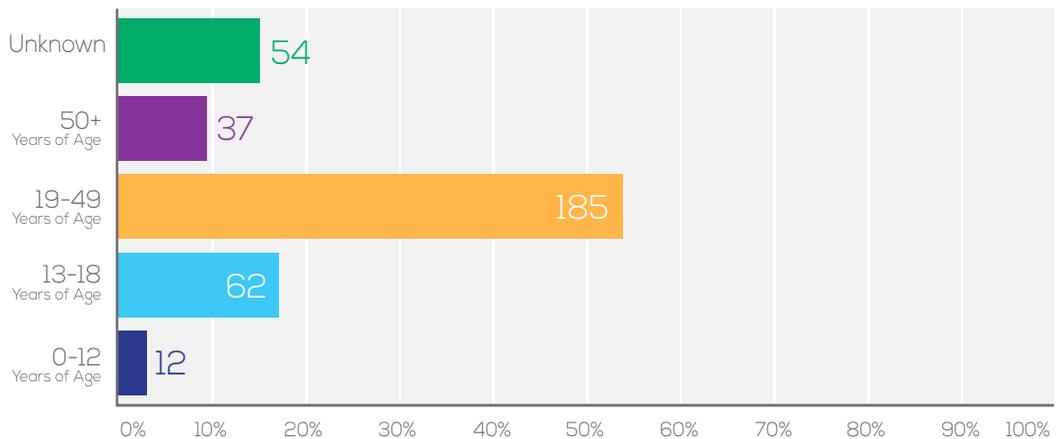
TYPES OF *ABUSE*



RELATION OF *SUSPECT*



AGE OF *SUSPECT*



YEAR IN REVIEW

January

Mills woman, Sarah Marie Hilyard pleads not guilty by mental illness to four felony charges, including two counts of child abuse, one of aggravated child abuse and one of attempted second-degree murder. In August, Hilyard brought her 12-year-old stepson to the emergency room at Wyoming Medical Center. Officers responded to a report of suspected child abuse after finding the child with extensive bruising, brain bleeding and swelling, organ damage, and was unresponsive. Hilyard said he fell down the stairs; she repeatedly changed her stories in interviews. During the investigation, authorities learned through testimony from two of Hilyard's children that the stepson had been dragged up and down the stairway, both parents would hit the stepson with their fists, Hilyard's husband Ryan would pick up the children by their throats and the parents would withhold food and water from the children.

February

Mac Reynolds, 43, from Cheyenne was arrested on the allegation that he intentionally struck a child who was in his care while the child's parents were at work. He now faces a felony charge of child abuse. The reporting parent told deputies that they noticed bright marks on the less than six year old child's face the next day. When asked, the child stated to their parent that Reynolds had hit their face and spanked them.

February

Thirty year old, Kaila Krotzer of Rock Springs will spend at least the next seven years in Wyoming Women's Center after pleading no contest to one count of second-degree sexual assault of a minor. Krotzer, a "registered" counselor, accompanied a 14-year-old boy who was in her custody, to a bonfire. While at the bonfire, the two drank beer and later had sexual intercourse in her car.

March

Jason Sebo, of Casper, pleads guilty to possessing child pornography, gets up to eight years in prison. In an interview with investigators, Sebo admitted to downloading child pornography from chat websites. Sebo said he would get high on methamphetamine and search for content depicting children having sexual intercourse because he was "curious."

March

Jacob Dudley, of Casper, faces multiple counts of sexual abuse of a minor. The charges against him stem from two separate incidents that involve two different juvenile victims. In 2019, Dudley was accused of touching a minor victim in intimate areas of the body. The second incident was more recent in which Dudley engaged in sex with a juvenile once in his vehicle and another time in the bedroom of his home.

May

Cody couple, Moshe Williams and Caroyne Aune are charged with first-degree murder for the death of their two-year-old daughter. Police began investigating after receiving a call from the hospital staff in Cody. Williams took the child to the hospital where she was found to have numerous bruises, bone fractures including in the ribs that were in multiple stages of healing. She succumbed to her injuries after being airlifted to Colorado Children's Hospital.

May

Christopher Petty of Casper pleads guilty to charges of minor sexual abuse and child porn after being accused of forcing a 14-year-old into sex and recording it. He kept three of the videos in a PIN-protected app on his phone.

May

Man pleads not guilty to 31 counts of aggravated child abuse. Tyler Bryan Martinson, 28, of Gillette was arrested after his 3-month-old son was found with 26 rib fractures and five broken bones in his legs. The boy's parents had taken him to the emergency room because he was crying and "inconsolable" and a popping sound came from his ribs when he breathed that worried them. Tests showed the breaks on his ribs were in various stages of healing.

June

Christopher James Nielsen, 27, of Green River has been sentenced to life without parole in the death of a 5-year-old boy who was under his care. The child was taken to the hospital with severe bleeding and pressure on his brain. Nielsen admitted to

shaking the boy and throwing him on the bed. The child never regained consciousness after being admitted to the hospital and succumbed to his injuries after a two week period.

June

Fort Bridger woman, Moria N. Black faces up to 10 years of imprisonment for two counts of felony child abuse after a child in her care reported Black discharged a taser on the child on more than one occasion as a form of punishment. Black admitted to using the taser on the child, stating the child "made me do it because (the child) wouldn't give me the phone."

October

Cheyenne man, Wyatt Dean Lamb pleads not guilty to first degree murder and 10 felony counts of child abuse. Lamb is accused of killing a local 2-year old and putting his body in a dumpster. The toddler died from brain swelling caused by blunt force trauma, restriction of oxygen or both. The child's body had blunt force injuries scattered over much of the body, including contusions and abrasions, as well as burn marks on genitals, upper legs, and groin area.

December

A federal judge has sentenced Dalco Gabriel Whiteman of Riverton to 71 years in prison for sexually abusing multiple children on the Wind River Reservation over a 25-year period. During the trial, six victims testified that Whiteman sexually abused them, some on numerous occasions. Several of the victims did not know one another.



*"With great power
comes great
responsibility."*

-UNCLE BEN, SPIDERMAN

ANNUAL BUDGET

FUNDING SOURCES	
VOCA Federal Funding	\$148,937.00
Natrona County and City of Casper	\$74,583.00
Other City & County Funds	\$33,450.00
Program Income	\$55,000.00
Fundraising	\$48,000.00
Wyoming Community Foundation	\$45,000.00
McMurry Foundation	\$30,250.00
United Way of Natrona County	\$21,750.00
National Children's Alliance	\$17,000.00
Donations/Other Grants	\$25,000.00
	\$498,720.00

EXPENSES	
Salaries & Benefits	72%
Contract Services	8%
Equipment & Supplies	3.5%
Training & Travel	3%
Fundraising	3%
Accounting	3%
Building (Utilities, Phone, Internet, Insurance, General Maintenance, Housekeeping)	3%
Advertising, Website, Education	1.5%
Meetings, Memberships, Dues	1%
Legal Services	1%
Printing & Postage	1%

100%

A SUPER BIG **THANK YOU!**

*A true hero isn't measured by
the size of his strength, but by
the size of his heart. -ZEUS*



We would like to give a SUPER thank you to the individuals, businesses, and partners who have continued to support our mission of fostering a more effective and efficient community response to child abuse and neglect. Our work would not be possible without people like you!

If your name is not included in the list of donors please know we sincerely appreciate your support and apologize for the omission.

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