



REACH FOR THE

STARS

2024
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.





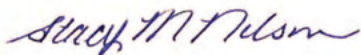
A LETTER FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

Child abuse is a grave issue that affects countless children in Wyoming. These victims, often left with emotional and physical scars, require a compassionate and supportive environment to heal and regain a sense of normalcy. CAP strives to provide support for all of the children who enter our doors each year, encouraging them to "shoot for the stars" and achieve their fullest potential. We aim to give them a voice and instill hope and ambition, showing them the abuse they have endured does not define them or their future.

While the journey of healing from abuse is challenging, with the right support and resources, child victims can become empowered and transform their trauma into triumph. CAP is proud to work with teams of investigators, advocates, and prosecutors who are all focused on holding offenders accountable and giving the children the resources to begin their journey of healing.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff thank you for your support of our mission, and most importantly, for the children we serve. Your support of CAP gives hundreds of children the chance to shoot for the stars and follow their dreams. Thank you!



Stacy M. Nelson, Executive Director



2024

BY THE NUMBERS



657

Individual Counseling
Sessions Conducted
in 2024

262

Forensic Interviews
Conducted in 2024



201

Community Members
Attended Trainings/
Presentations in 2024

117

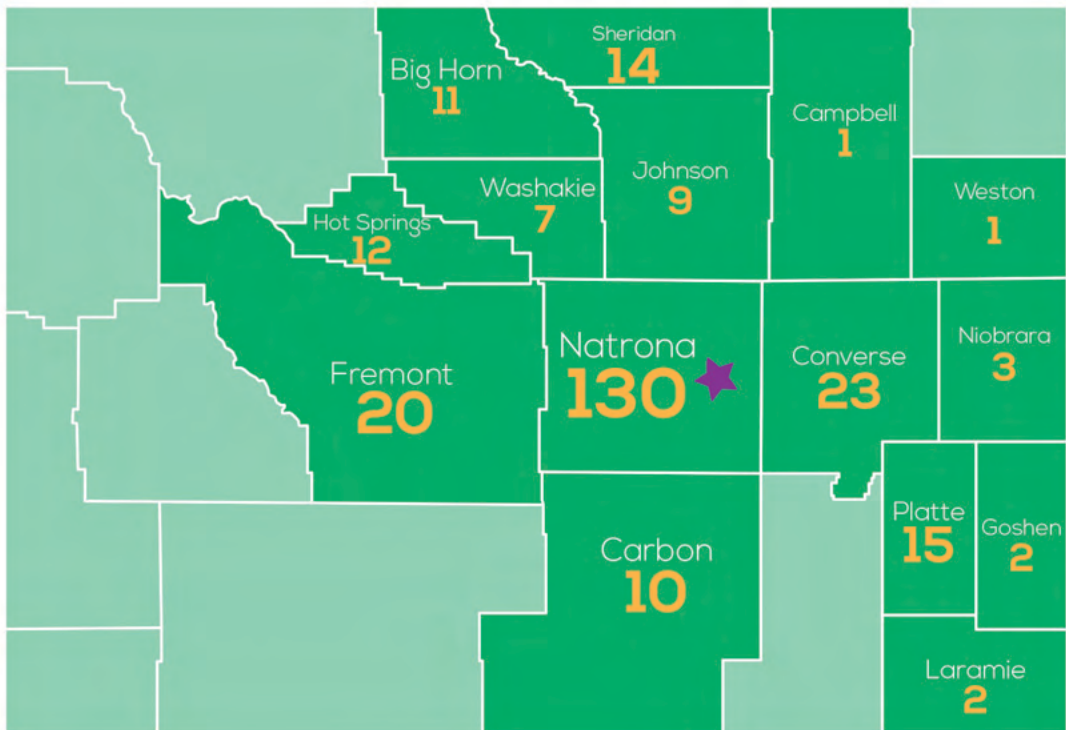
Attendees of
Professional Trainings
for Investigative Teams
in 2024

15

Counties Served
in 2024

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

BY COUNTY



Other Courtesy Interviews:
Colorado 1, Washington 1



WHAT IS A **FORENSIC** INTERVIEW?



Forensic interviews help to reduce trauma to the child by reducing the number of times they have to talk about what has happened to them.



Forensic interviews are the first step at the Children's Advocacy Project when there is suspected child abuse or maltreatment.



Forensic interviews are recorded and reviewed by our multidisciplinary team.



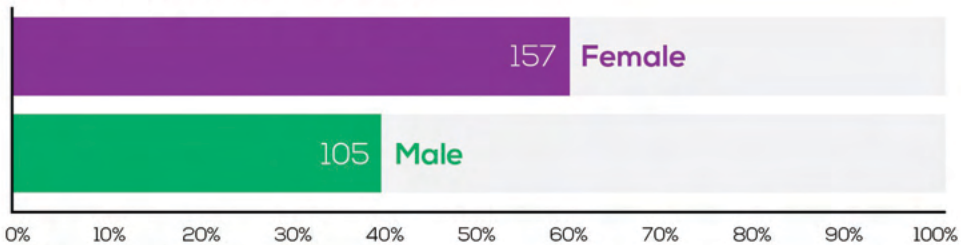
Forensic interviews obtain information from the child that might be helpful to a criminal investigation and create a case that can hold up in court.



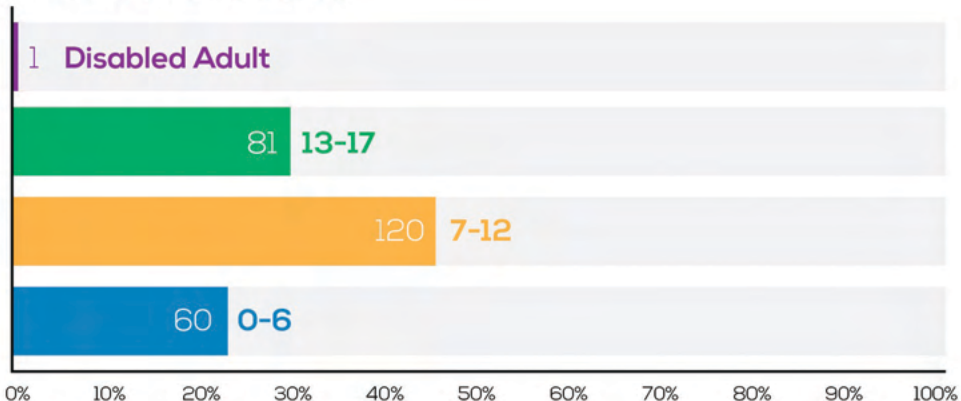
THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

From the
262 Forensic
Interviews done
in 2024:

GENDER OF VICTIMS



AGE OF VICTIMS

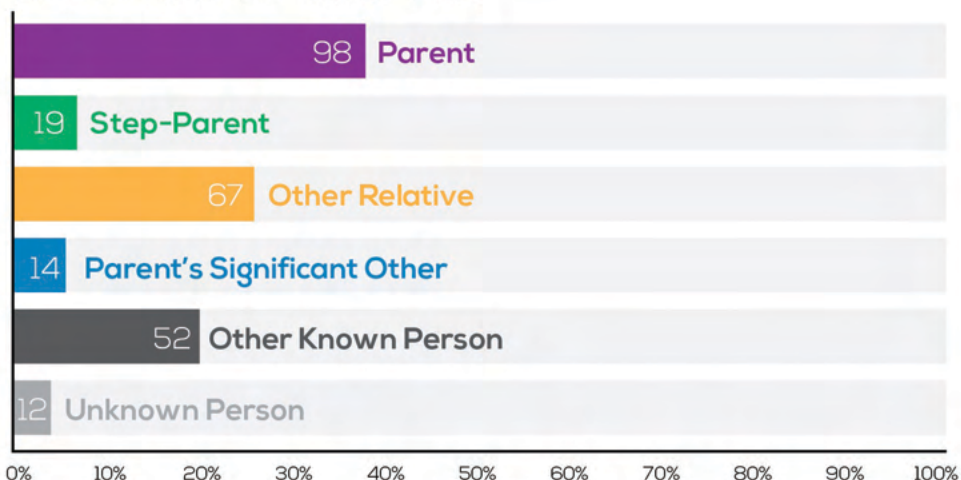


TYPES OF ABUSE

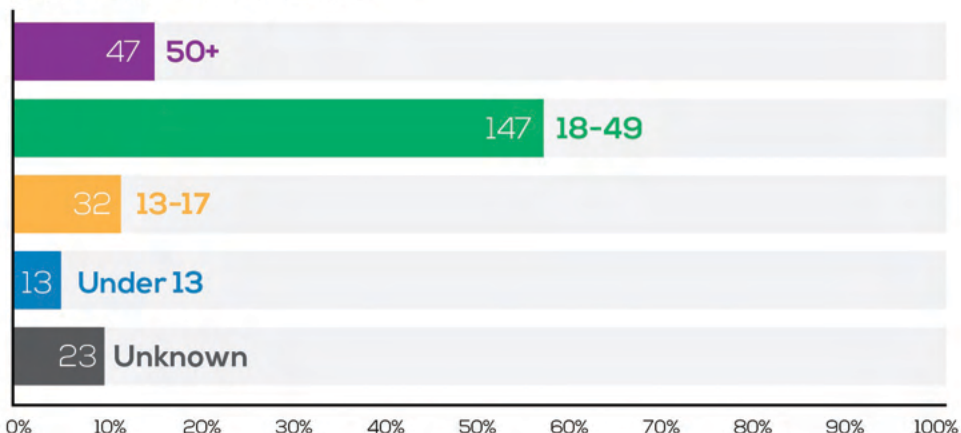
Of the 262 interviews, 42 children were victims of multiple abuse types.



RELATION OF SUSPECT



AGE OF SUSPECT





NORI'S STORY

15-year-old Nori had always been her dad's favorite. Everybody in her family knew it. They even called her "Precious Princess Nori." When she was young, he took her on dump runs, to work with him, and on daddy-daughter dates. Anything she asked for, she got.

Then, something changed. At first, Nori's dad would touch her chest or butt and say it was an accident. Over a few months, the "accidental" touching became more and more frequent. One night, she got to stay up late and watch a movie with her dad after everyone else went to bed. The movie had nudity and sexual content that made Nori feel uncomfortable. After the movie, her dad came into her room and laid down beside her. He began touching her inappropriately, telling her how much he loved her and how special she was.

Soon after, he came to her room again. Then another time. Again, and again. Nori was afraid to tell her dad to stop, and she was afraid if she tried to get away, he'd do the same things to her younger sister. So, she kept the secret.

One day, Nori saw her dad "accidentally" brush her sister's chest. Just like he used to do to her. Nori was so angry and sad! That day at school, Nori told her best friend, Brit, about what her dad had been doing to her and her worries about her sister. Brit told her mom, who reported the abuse. "It was the best day of my life when I got called to the principal's office

and a police officer was there. He asked me what I told Brit and said he would help me. He took me to the Children's Advocacy Project where a lady let me tell my story. She was kind and listened to everything I had to say. I felt safe and it felt so good to finally tell someone."

Nori's disclosure at the Children's Advocacy Project opened the door to an investigation of child sexual abuse by her father. Nori's disclosure gave grounds for law enforcement to obtain a search warrant for her house and her dad's phone. The evidence collected led to additional local and federal charges. "I was really anxious about testifying, but the court advocate let me see the courtroom in advance and the prosecutor helped me understand what testifying would be like."

Nori's dad was found guilty on multiple counts of child sexual abuse and possession and distribution of child pornography. "Looking back, I know this changed my life and my sister's for the better. At first, I blamed myself for not telling sooner and for my dad getting in bad trouble. Through counseling, I know that nothing bad that happened was because of me. I still have a way to go, but everyday I get stronger and more confident."



YEAR IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY

Natrona County foster parent, Steven Marler, charged 20 counts, including sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and immodest, immoral or indecent liberties with a minor. The investigation revealed inappropriate touching and contact with two girls—one for a period of eight years. Excessive discipline, such as running miles in the snow, withholding food, and standing on the wall for twelve to fourteen hours a day, was also disclosed.

MARCH

Casper man, Gary Dean, entered an Alford plea, and will spend the next 4-5 years in prison for felony voyeurism. Images and videos were captured by Dean on a camera hidden in the victim's room on a bookshelf. Findings revealed "prurient interests."

MAY

Mills resident, Feliciano Quiroz, was sentenced to 16-18 years in prison on child sexual abuse charges for seven victims over a period of four decades. Investigation began when two males made reports about abuse experienced at Quiroz's home around the age of twelve. Reports show it was common for Quiroz to babysit children of working parents and single mothers.

MAY

Natrona County man, William Patterson, will spend 14-20 years in prison for a conviction of second-degree sexual abuse of a minor after asking the then 4-year-old to touch his penis while babysitting.

MAY

Donald Sylvester, 41, sentenced to 4-5 years for Immodest liberties with a minor. Investigation began when the 15-16-year-old victim disclosed Sylvester touched her inappropriately and provided her with a dab pen to keep her quiet.

JUNE

Casper man, Wayne Reno, found guilty of three counts sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, will spend 21-30 years in prison. Investigation began when two young girls reported being molested while staying at a friend's house, while another reported Reno inappropriately touched her body. Previous cases involving Reno date back to 2016.

AUGUST

Natrona county man, Scott Erskine, arrested and charged with felony aggravated child abuse following years-long search. The case began in 2022 when two children under the age of three were life-flighted to the Children's Hospital in Denver due to their injuries, some of which were in the healing process. Many described the case as the worst abuse case ever seen in Natrona County.

SEPTEMBER

Casper man, Christopher Schmidt, pleads guilty to seven counts of child sexual abuse and possession and distribution of child sexual abuse materials. Investigation began when DCI's computer crime unit was contacted about an anonymous tip which led to the discovery of files, conversations, videos, and still images on an account registered to Schmidt. If convicted on all counts, he faces up to 147 years imprisonment.

OCTOBER

Thermopolis man, Douglas Nelson, sentenced to 30-50 years for two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree as well as 8-12 years for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, minor in the second degree to run concurrently. The investigation began in 2023 when one victim and his mother met with a Thermopolis Police Officer to report abuse that had happened for most of his childhood. This abuse only stopped when another boy came forward with allegations against Nelson.

OCTOBER

James Martin, 38, sentenced to 37-45 years for two counts of first-degree sexual abuse of a minor, among other charges. Martin began friendship, then a sexual relationship with the victim. In November 2022, he abruptly quit his job, picked up the victim from school, and transported her to Arizona. The victim was "brainwashed", provided alcohol, groomed, and isolated by Martin. Federal sentencing of ten years for transportation of a minor for sex will run concurrent to state sentencing.

OCTOBER

Casper man, James Brite, will spend the next 20 years behind bars after being charged with sexually abusing five children. Many of the victims were babysat by Brite. Some reported years of abuse beginning at ages four and five. One victim was also referred to as "his little girlfriend".

DECEMBER

Bobby Williams, 41, sentenced to 40-50 years for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and incest. Investigation began when it was reported to police that Williams was found assaulting the 15-year-old victim. The abuse happened over a time span of two years, occurring multiple times weekly, even daily.

DECEMBER

Ryan Townsend, 36, sentenced to 8-12 years for a conviction of third-degree sexual abuse of a minor. The 16-year-old victim was at her friends who lived next door to Townsend. Townsend initially invited the girls over to hit a CBD vape. Later that evening, they were invited over for more. Feeling very intoxicated and partially paralyzed this time, the victim was left alone with Townsend in his bedroom where the incident occurred.

DECEMBER

Worland man, Myron Chatwin, charged with two felony child sexual abuse charges. Investigation began when Worland Police Department sent DCI an email regarding several allegations of inappropriate sexual contact to a counselor. After this disclosure, other victims came forward, reporting abuse as early as age six. Chatwin faces up to 40 years if convicted on all counts.

ANNUAL BUDGET

FUNDING SOURCES

VOCA Federal Funding	\$49,830.00
State of Wyoming	\$90,500.00
Natrona Collective Health Trust	\$70,000.00
Natrona County	\$45,000.00
City of Casper	\$32,000.00
Town of Evansville	\$3,000.00
Town of Mills	\$6,500.00
Other City/County	\$35,137.00
Program Income	\$30,000.00
Wyoming Community Foundation	\$30,000.00
McMurry Foundation	\$20,000.00
United Way of Natrona County	\$24,960.00
Donations	\$10,000.00
Fundraising	\$45,000.00
Other Grant/Foundation Funds	\$38,360.00

\$530,287.50

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	75%
Contract Services	5%
Training & Travel	4%
Building (Utilities, Phone, Internet, Insurance, General Maintenance, Housekeeping)	3%
Fundraising	3%
Accounting / Legal Services	3%
Equipment and Equipment Maintenance	2%
Advertising, Website, Community Education	2%
Supplies/Printing/Postage	2%
Meetings, Memberships, Dues	1%

100%



THANK YOU

TO INFINITY & BEYOND!



2nd Street
Liquor & Wine
307 Orthodontics

5150 Tourism

Advanced Auto

Amanda Shipton & Josh Wilson

Amy Elizabeth Photography

ANB Bank

Anchor Designs

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Backwards Distilling Company

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Medical Center

Big Horn Polo Club

Bob & Stacy Nelson

Bon Agency

Boomtown Blast

Bosco's

Brad and Natalia Follensbee

Brad Legler

Brooke's Beauty Bar

Bryan & Kelcee Anderson

Buffalo Wild Wings

Carissa Marak

Casper Antique and
Collectors Club

Casper Cigar Company

Casper Country Club

Casper Police Department
FOP Lodge #6

Central Wyoming Fair
and Rodeo

Chad & Cheri Frimml

Chris Hadlock

City Brew

Clear Bra of Casper

ComTech

Cornerstone Cakes and Bakes

Cortni Saenz

Cottage Bakery

Crooked Creek Coffee

Daniel & Laurie Agee

Daylight Donuts

DC Flyers Upland
Bird Hunting

Diana Roby

Douglas Golf Club

Doyle Johnson

Dr. Novotny

Durbin Street Golf

Eat Wyoming

Edward & Barbara Reish

El Marko Lanes
 Evansville Fire Department
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 Ford Wyoming Center
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 Lorrie Anderson
 Lucille Barton in memory
 of Frank "Pinky" Ellis
 Luminous Skin Care
 by Brittany
 McMurry Foundation
 Meag's Detail
 Megan Spence State Farm
 Metro Coffee Company
 Michael Houck Real
 Estate Team
 Mills Chief of Police- Bryon
 Preciado

Modern Electric
 Moonlight Liquors
 Mountain West
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 Natrona County Airport
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 Natrona County
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 Occasions by Cory
 Old Town Family Fun
 Olive Garden
 P6 Station
 P6 Station Thermopolis
 Paradise Valley Country
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 Pepsi
 Perkins Restaurant
 and Bakery
 Poplar Wine & Spirits
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 sincerely appreciate your support
 and apologize for the omission.*



natrona
collective
 health trust



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