

2014 Impact



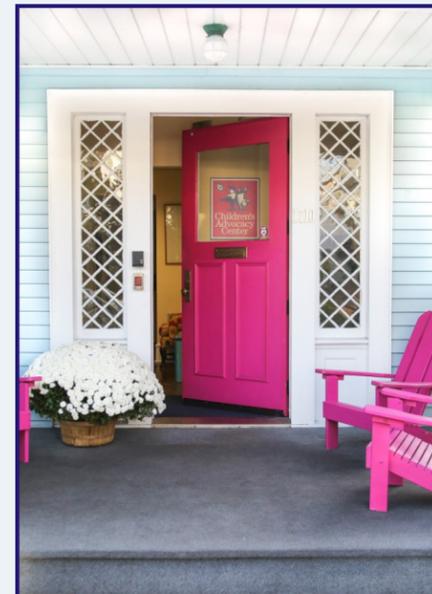
Our Mission: The Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania

is a private, non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to provide excellence in the assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect. CAC/NEPA provides medical assessments and child forensic interviews for victims of abuse and neglect and coordinates a multidisciplinary team response to child abuse and neglect in Lackawanna and surrounding counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Center provides child abuse prevention education to professionals and communities served.



Our Center: Our recognizable blue house with a bright pink door at the top of Mulberry Street is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania is the first stop for children before entering the justice system. Here, in the safety of a comfortable environment, full of childhood comforts, they can speak of the unimaginable.

The designated child abuse center for Lackawanna County, the CAC/NEPA also provides Forensic Medical Assessments and Forensic Interviews for cases referred from Monroe, Wayne, Carbon, Susquehanna, Luzerne, Pike and Wyoming counties. Our core services include Forensic Medical Examinations/Assessments, Forensic Interviews, Trauma Therapy/Counseling Coordination, Child Advocacy Services, Professional Consultation, Expert Witness Testimony, Case Review, Case Tracking, and Child Abuse Prevention Education. The CAC NEPA utilizes a coordinated (MDIT) approach that involves an incredible team with representation from Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, Prosecution, Medical and Mental Health Providers, Victim Advocates, and our CAC Team.



CAC/NEPA 2014 Facts:

In 2014, the CAC/NEPA provided forensic interviews, medical assessments, trauma therapy, and support services to **1,448** children, adolescents, and their families. Therapists conducted **793** trauma therapy sessions with child victims.

 **80%** of children and adolescents seen experienced sexual abuse, **16%** experienced physical abuse, and the remainder experienced both physical and sexual abuse and/or serious neglect.

 **64%** of children seen by the CAC/NEPA were girls and **36%** were boys.

 **34%** of children seen were between the ages of 0-6, **36%** were between the ages of 7-12, and **31%** were between the ages of 13-18.

 **64%** of children seen were Caucasian, **14%** were African American, **12%** were Hispanic, and the remaining **10%** were either not given or other.

 **Since 2004**, there has been a **210%** increase in the number of children seen at The Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

 More than **90%** of perpetrators are a person known to the child and/or family.



We can't change what has already happened, but we can change what happens next.

Our Approach: The CAC/NEPA responds to each case with a multidisciplinary team, acting as the central contact point for treating, tracking and follow-through. Experienced experts thoroughly assess all aspects of a child's needs and develop an individualized plan for each child to help him or her move through the pain and confusion of disclosure. This includes medical treatment, counseling, court services and mental health services.

Children in the midst of emotional turmoil require immediate attention. They do not need to be shuttled from place to place. At the CAC/NEPA children speak with a trained forensic interviewer while the team listens. The interview is videotaped to minimize the number of times they must detail their trauma and increases the accuracy of information provided. The child is then evaluated by a medical professional while the parent meets with members of the Multidisciplinary Team. This calming approach ensures children are not re-traumatized by the very system designed to protect them.

Since 1998, Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania has helped more than 11,000 children and adolescents by effectively assessing and treating child abuse and neglect. Often experiencing shame and guilt, these children undeniably need the time, love and special treatment they receive at CAC to repair their broken childhood...and keep it from having a lasting affect on their adulthood.

