



CONTACT:

Emily Chittenden-Laird, Executive Director
WV Child Advocacy Network
304.414.4455
elaird@wvcana.org

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**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS SEE
13.57% INCREASE IN CHILD VICTIMS SERVED**

WVCAN Releases 2018 State Aggregate Data

Charleston, WV — Today, West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) released its Statewide Data for the 2018 fiscal year. The data in the report reflects service from West Virginia's 21 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) which provided official service to 42 of 55 counties in the state and courtesy services to other counties.

This past fiscal year CACs served 4,445 children – a 69% increase in the last five years. Highlights from the report include:

- 58% of the children served were there because of allegations of sexual abuse
- 31% of the children served by CACs were under the age of six-years-old
- 99% of alleged offenders were someone the child knew
- 44% of alleged offenders were the child's parent
- 18% of children are reported to have one or more disability
- 573 cases had charges filed
- 298 individuals were convicted for crimes against children

After receiving services, 99% of surveyed caregivers agreed "If I knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one my family faced, I would tell that person about the center."

The report includes data on victim demographics, alleged offender demographics, reported vs. disclosed abuse, services performed, criminal justice response, and CAC income budget breakdown. The full statewide data report can be found at <http://wvcana.org/media/>.

"As you can see, the number of children we serve is increasing every year. This data helps show we aren't done elevating the conversation about child abuse in West Virginia," said Emily Chittenden-Laird, Executive Director of the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network. "Kids can go on to live full and rich lives, and child advocacy centers help them get there."

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West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) provides statewide leadership in the fight against child abuse while working side-by-side with the 21 Child Advocacy Centers throughout the state. WVCAN provides training, technical assistance, leadership, legislative and policy advocacy, and overall

coordination to Child Advocacy Centers around the state. A CAC is a child-friendly facility in which child protection, criminal justice, and child treatment professionals work together to investigate abuse, hold offenders accountable, and help children heal. Rather than having a child taken from agency to agency to endure multiple interviews, the CAC model brings the system to the child for an effective, child-centered, healing process. As the statewide authority on multidisciplinary approaches to supporting child victims of abuse, WVCAN's purpose is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse.