



Children's Cove

Children's Cove: The Cape & Islands Child Advocacy Center

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Child sexual abuse is an epidemic that knows no boundaries. It affects children in all cultures, religions, and countries. This includes Cape Cod and the Islands. Every year, Children's Cove: The Cape & Islands Child Advocacy Center advocates for hundreds of children who are seen at our Center.

Children's Cove is a free standing, child friendly facility designed, staffed, and equipped to provide comprehensive and coordinated multidisciplinary services to child sexual abuse victims and their families. Children's Cove, a Department within Barnstable County, is a unique collaborative effort between partner agencies including Barnstable County, the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office, Department of Children and Families, Department of Mental Health and Cape Cod Hospital. Children's Cove has proven over the past thirteen years that taking a regional approach to helping vulnerable, sexually abused children brings the best out in every agency involved in the recovery of the victim and the prosecution of the offender. As pioneers of a groundbreaking collaborative regional approach, Children's Cove has gained statewide and national attention, a model organization with programs that could be replicated on a broader scale. Children's Cove dedicates its efforts to assisting with the investigations and support of children who have been sexually abused, severely physically abused and child witness to domestic violence.

Children's Cove is a fully operational and accredited Child Advocacy Center whose components include the Sexual Abuse Intervention Network (SAIN) Team, (the investigatory piece of the program); the medical exam, with a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) which utilizes a state of the art video culposcope; case tracking and team review; family service referrals; specialized therapeutic support; education and training; and family program to assist in rebuilding family values once such a tragic event occurs.

A person that is sexually assaulted is:

- ♥ *3x more likely to suffer from depression*
- ♥ *6x more likely to suffer from post traumatic stress disorder*
- ♥ *13x more likely to abuse alcohol*
- ♥ *26x more likely to abuse drugs*
- ♥ *4x more likely to contemplate suicide*

In this past fiscal year alone, over 3534 individuals were trained, including law enforcement, prosecutors, and child protection professionals and presentations were made to human service providers, community groups, schools, and organizations.

Children's Cove continues to plan and implement its Awareness Campaign, including radio ads, news articles, and public service announcements as part of its outreach to the community regarding child sexual abuse. We are dedicated to reaching the various communities that comprise the Cape and Islands in order to educate the public about child sexual abuse.

During the twelve-month period of July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010, 181 children were seen for services and 148 of the 181 were provided with forensic interviews at Children's Cove. SAIN protocols mandate that, the victim has made some form of disclosure, and that the alleged abuse is thought to have occurred within the jurisdictional area of Cape Cod and the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The alleged victim may be from the age of two years old, depending upon the child's cognitive and developmental abilities, to the age of seventeen years old, with exception to certain cases. The legal guardian of the child must also consent to the interview. Based upon these protocols, the Department of Children and Families referred 40 cases, state and local police referred 108 cases.

Referral Source Percentages	
DCF	27%
Law Enforcement	73%

Types of Abuse in Percentages	
Physical	2%
Sexual	81%
Unknown / Other	17%

FOR THE 181 CHILDREN REFERRED TO CHILDREN'S COVE FOR SERVICES, THE GENDER AND THE AGES OF THE VICTIMS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Victims by age and gender:

Age	Females	Males
2	3	1
3	12	5
4	20	4
5	22	4
6	18	3
7	1	2
8	2	4
9	3	1
10	2	4
11	4	2
12	8	4
13	11	1
14	8	3
15	7	2
16	8	3
17	4	1
18	0	1
19	0	1
20	0	1
22	1	0

Total	134	47
%	74%	26%

FOR THE 122 ALLEGED PERPETRATORS, INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS IS BROKEN INTO AGE AND GENDER CLASSIFICATIONS.

Age of Perpetrator	
Adult (17 and older)	93
Juvenile (under 17)	27
Unknown	2

Gender of Perpetrator	
Unknown	0
Female	10
Male	112

The jurisdictional zones of the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office and the area office of the Department of Children and Families serve to delineate the areas that Children's Cove can provide routine services for the alleged abuse must have occurred within that area. This includes the fifteen towns of Cape Cod, and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. FY2010 interviews covered consumers from Cape towns and both islands, as well as to children who were visiting these areas and permanently or at the time of disclosure reside elsewhere.

THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS:

# of Perpetrators by Town	
Barnstable	20
Bourne	3
Brewster	1
Chatham	1
Dennis	6
Edgartown	2
Eastham	2
Falmouth	11
Harwich	3
Mashpee	11
Nantucket	2
Orleans	4
Provincetown	2
Sandwich	7
Tisbury	2
Vineyard Haven	2
Yarmouth	11
Out of Barnstable County	34
Total	124

The Family Program seeks to heal the family from within by introducing recreational activities such as family based arts and crafts, family swims, and camping adventures. The concept of modeling interdependence and trust rebuilding within families that have suffered sexual abuse was developed within Children's Cove and has proven to be very successful. Educational sessions such as parenting,

child safety and teen dating are also provided through the Family Program to ensure families are receiving additional support. The goal of the family program is to strengthen relationships between family members through meetings, special events, activities and exercises which allow non offending parents, child and siblings to spend "quality time" together rebuilding trust, support and acceptance. Over 716 children and their families were involved with Cove family activities this year.

The Family Services Program provides much needed financial assistance to families who are clients of Children's Cove. This support assists families with payment of certain financial burdens during such a difficult time, as assessed by the team.

Medical examinations were provided for 66 children. It is the goal of the Nurse Practitioner/Pedi SANE to provide comprehensive, compassionate care to child victims and their families. All children referred to the CAC are offered timely medical examinations with the consent of their parents at no cost. These exams are provided by the Nurse Practitioner/Pedi SANE on site in the medical suite.

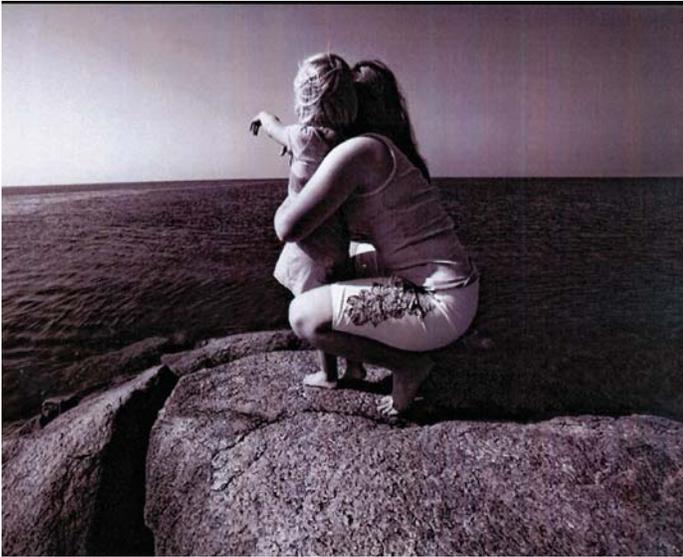
Children's Cove clinical component provided individual treatment to 86 clients in 375 sessions. Specialized clinical treatment is offered to all children who are referred to Children's Cove. These short term therapeutic sessions assist children in the healing process and guide the families in the right direction in order for the child to make the most out of treatment.

All Children's Cove services are free of charge.

The reality of child sexual abuse is devastating. Children's Cove is committed to providing comprehensive services which protect, promote healing, and enhance the quality of life for abused and neglected children on Cape Cod and the Islands.

Please view our recently released pictorial documentary, "Visions, Voices, Healing" depicting real child victims of sexual abuse here on Cape Cod and the Islands on our website at www.childrenscove.org

*Images from Children's Cove project.
Barnstable County's most vulnerable population receives advocacy through this county department.*



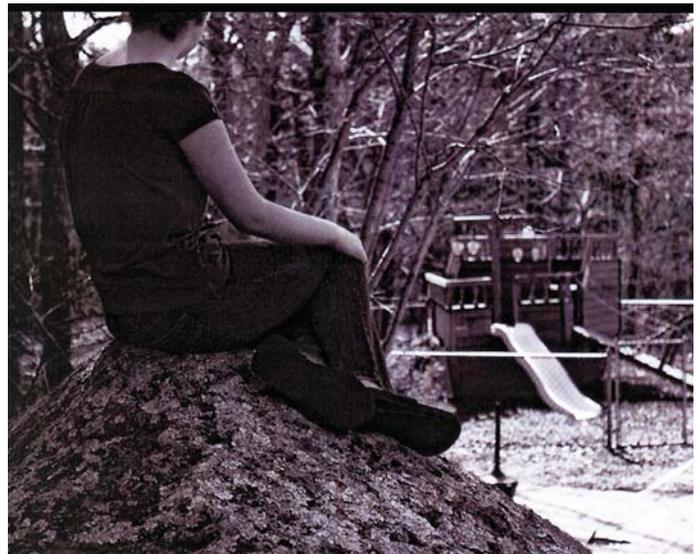
1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18



1 in 5 children are solicited online sexually



An average serial child molester may have as many as 400 victims in his lifetime



90% of sexually abused children are abused by someone they know, love, and trust.

