

safe passage
Helping Abused Children Begin to Heal



Colorado Springs
City Council
Work Session
April 13, 2026

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

- Opportunity to raise awareness
- Child abuse is preventable
- Value in awareness, education, and collective responsibility
- Collaborative models are key to child and family supports

El Paso County by the numbers

- El Paso County continues to lead the state in reports of suspected child abuse or neglect to a statewide hotline, 844-CO4-KIDS
 - 117,000 of calls State
 - 24,620 El Paso County
 - 18,306 referrals
 - 5,186 assessments
 - 691 monthly average court involvement



What is a Children's Advocacy Center

- A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a nationally accredited facility-based program designed
- CACs are child-focused, with representatives from many disciplines working together



- They create a sense of safety and security for victims and their families
- 19 CACs in Colorado

Why our CAC is Special

- Only co-located CAC in Colorado
- Safe Passage serves the 4th Judicial District
- 5th Anniversary of colocation in October 2026



- Partner agencies
 - Safe Passage
 - Colorado Springs Police Department Crimes Against Children Unit - Commander Thompson joining me today
 - El Paso County Sheriff's Office
 - El Paso County Department of Human Services
 - UCHealth
 - Kidpower Colorado

New in 2025



- Added in-house mental health counseling, free of charge to child victims seen at Safe Passage
- 2 therapists; trauma informed care
- By shifting from a community based partner to an integrated clinical team, we increased the number of children receiving on-site therapy from just two in 2024 to forty-four in 2025
- Crisis intervention services surged from twelve children in 2024 to seventy-nine in 2025

What we do in action



Safe Passage by the numbers

Impact by The Numbers

 **791**
Primary victims

 **731**
Caregivers served

 **858**
Children cared for (non-victims)

 **36**
Children who received a forensic medical exam

 **547**
Children who had contact with a nurse for a general medical exam or medical resources/support

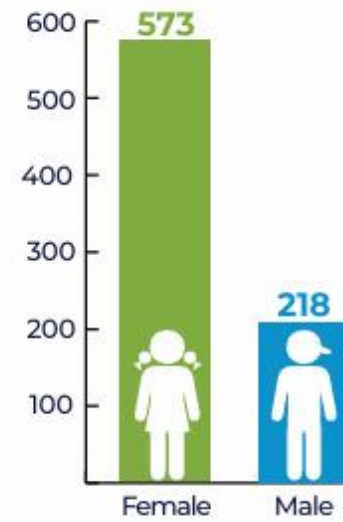
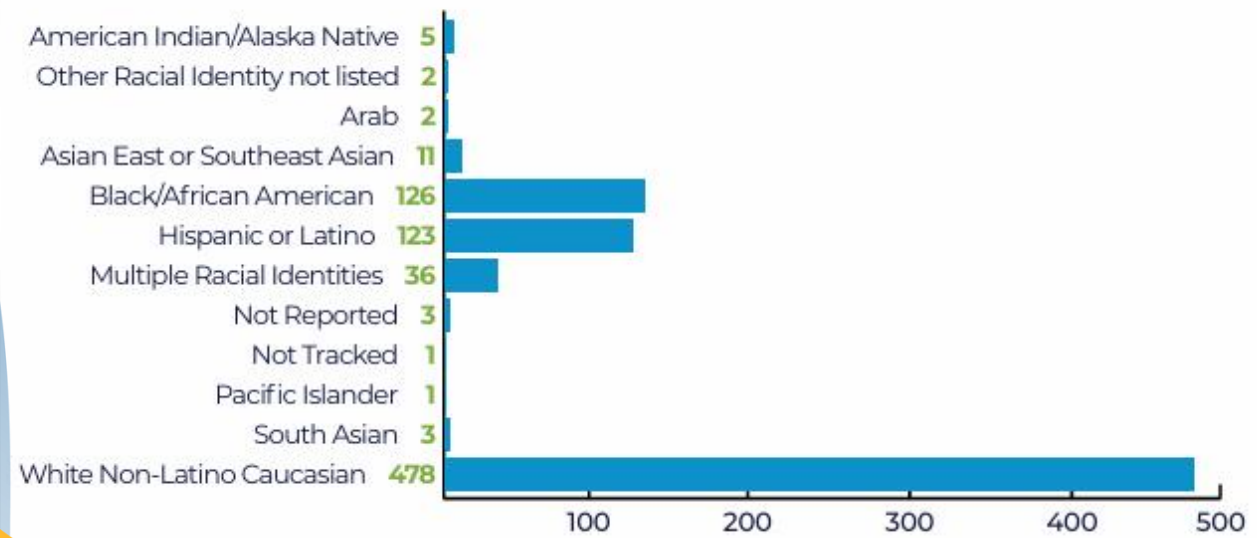
 **44**
Children/teens who received therapy

 **560**
(Includes 20 telehealth sessions)
Number of therapy sessions

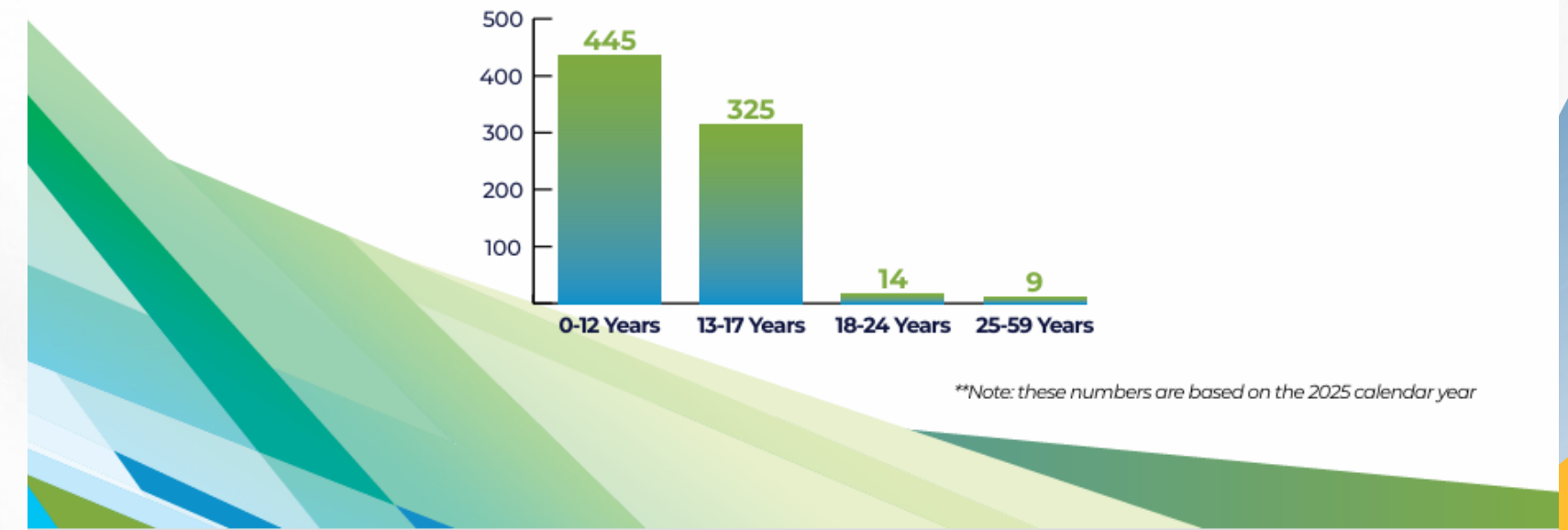
 **79**
Onsite mental health crisis sessions

Demographics

Race and Gender of Victims Served



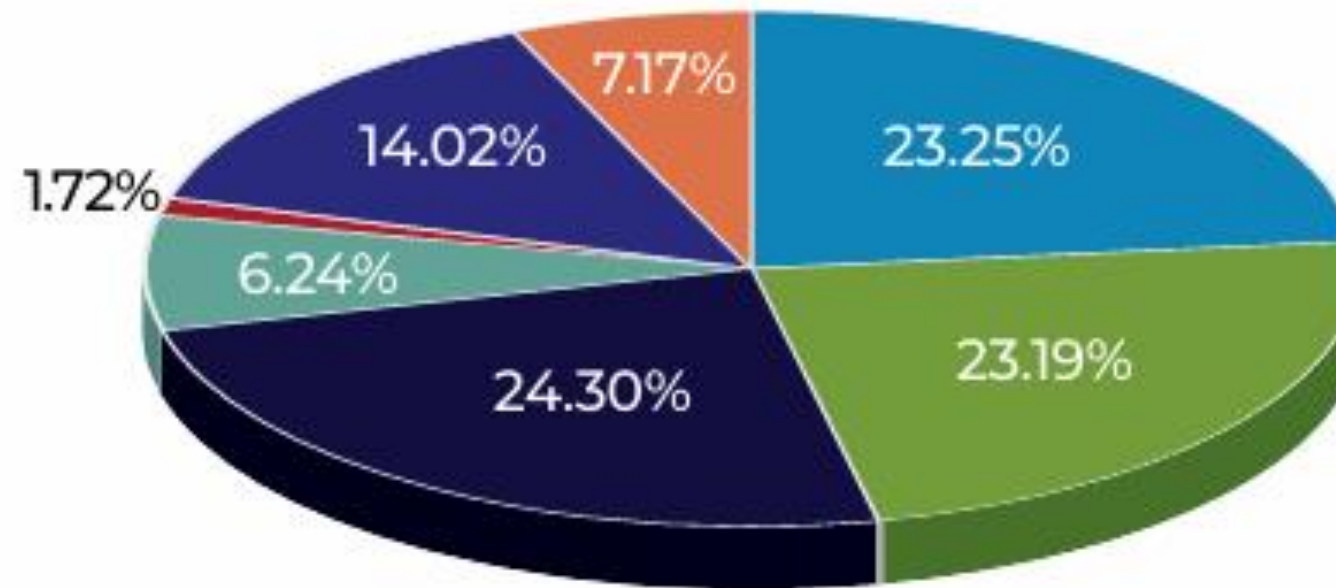
Age of Victims Served



Funding Overview

Mix of funding streams

REVENUE BREAKDOWN



Community Donations -	23.35%
Grants/Foundations -	23.19%
Government Grants -	24.30%
Special Events -	7.17%
In Kind -	1.72%
Rent from Partners -	14.02%
Service Contracts -	6.24%

Total Revenue: \$1,588,691.90

***Note-these numbers are based on the 2025 calendar year*

CSPD Special Victims Section

- Crimes Against Children Unit – 2 Supervisors, 10 Detectives
- Forensic Interview Unit – 1 Supervisor, 3 Investigative Specialists
- Crimes Against At-Risk Adults Unit – 2 Detectives

CSPD Crimes Against Children and Forensic Interview Units

- Crimes Against Children investigates between 650 and 800 cases a year
 - 85% of which involve acts of sexual abuse
 - The remaining 15% include felony child abuse, parental kidnappings, and child deaths
 - Nearly all cases include familiar relationships
- Forensic interviewers conduct 450 – 600 interviews a year
 - Ages 3 to 17
 - Intellectually and developmentally delayed

CSPD Investigative Methodology

- Victim-Centered, Trauma-Informed, Offender-Focused Investigations
- The strength in wrap-around services
 - Investigation
 - Victim services
 - Medical care
 - Mental health

Awareness

WATCH: Preparing kids to go back to school

Updated: Aug. 7, 2025 at 4:17 PM MDT



SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING EFFECT FOR BENT COUNTY, UNTIL 5:00 PM. FOR YOUR PROTECTION MOVE TO A

CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ROOFING

PREPARING KIDS TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

11 4:53 88°

0:41 0:59

Reports of child abuse drop holiday weeks, that doesn't mean the abuse does

CHILD ABUSE/NLECT HOTLINE
844-C 4-KIDS

5 6:35

Watch NBC for nations that take the most medals in winter. #WinterOlympics

COUNTRY	Medals
Norway	18 11
United States	11 12

AI: New law targets fake sexual image distribution

NEW INFORMATION THIS IS A GOOD FIRST STEP

Advocacy



Community Collaboration

- The Clinical Directors Collaboration
- School Counselors Roundtable
- Human Trafficking Panel



Future

Mental Health
expansion

Tracking
population
growth

A Moment of Gratitude

Commander Daniel Thompson,
7 years dedicated to child crimes



Questions?

Thank You

Maureen “Mo” Basenberg, MPA

Executive Director,

Safe Passage Children’s Advocacy Center

Commander Daniel Thompson

Colorado Springs Police Department