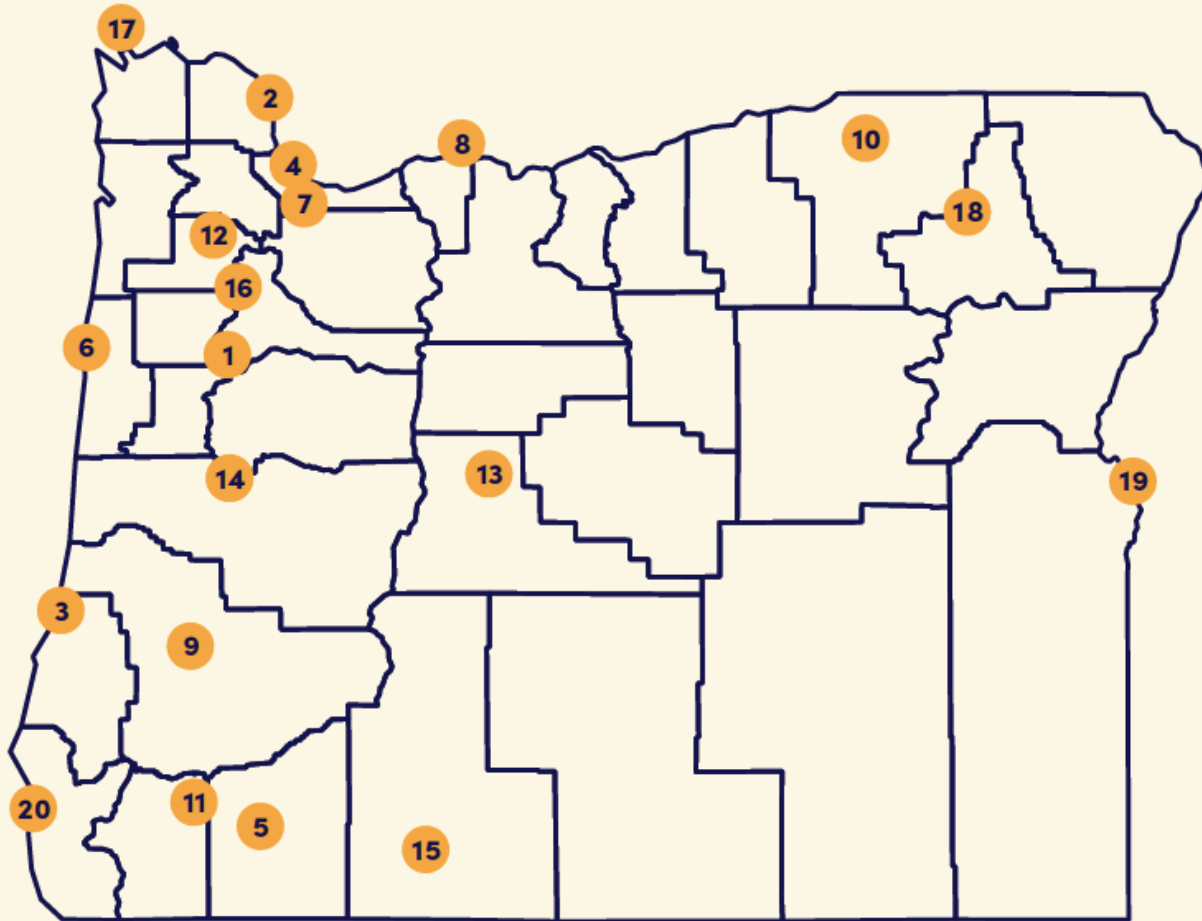


COVID-19

Impacts on families and children



Our 20 Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)



- Essential during pandemic
- Provide highly-specialized medical exams, forensic interviews, family advocacy, and therapy.
- Provide a coordinated response that saves money and time
- Divert children away from ERs, police stations, urgent care facilities



CAC Response During the Pandemic

- CACs are an essential health service providing care to children, often with immediate safety concerns
- **Health protocols:** masks, cleaning and sanitization, screening of families and partners, sneeze guards, skeleton crews, tele-health and mental health
- **Referrals:** initial drop followed by a steady rise in referrals, high severity
- **Financial Impacts:** 17% state investment, private funding has dipped, some CACs have laid off/furloughed/reduced hours, federal support mostly inaccessible

Stories from Frontlines

- Families are experiencing many stressors including substance use, domestic violence and isolation
- Children are stuck in harms way
- Younger children are presenting with more ingestions of substances and broken bones
- Delayed intervention is increasing severity, e.g. more severe neglect cases presenting at ER, witness to violence increasing
- CARES NW consulted on more cases in the Emergency Room in April than in the last ten years
- Kids FIRST has responded to an abnormally high number of acute sexual assaults during COVID-19
- 19 children were placed into foster care in 8 days in Linn county, typical for one month pre-COVID



What to do?

- Prepare for a tidal wave of severe abuse cases
- Our communities need to “be there!” for kids and families when they need us
- Invest in the experts that provide evidence that child welfare and law enforcement rely on to keep kids safe
- Promote basic safety for children as a right, using data like ACES to help us invest and focus preventatively



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