



# Child Abuse Program

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## FY2020 Annual Report

July 2019 – June 2020



Children's Hospital  
of The King's Daughters



**T**he child abuse program at CHKD is a place where hope and healing begin for children and families throughout Hampton Roads after a child has been suspected of suffering maltreatment. As an accredited child advocacy center, our program staff members assist and treat children and families within a multi-disciplinary team framework with partner agencies from across the region. This approach improves the investigative process, ensures that children receive needed services, and ultimately helps to provide the best outcome for each child referred to the program.

Our program does not turn away any child who meets the criteria for our services. Some specialty services are provided at no cost, simply because there is no reimbursement available. These best-practice services are essential to determining what has happened and reducing trauma and re-victimization. Community support helps ensure we can continue this vital work.

## COVID-19

No one has been immune to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. As schools and businesses closed and families isolated, service delivery at CHKD pivoted quickly. Clinicians quickly began to provide telehealth visits for mental health appointments. Urgent medical examinations and forensic interviews were still conducted while appointments that could be safely postponed were temporarily put on hold. Regular multidisciplinary team meetings and trainings are being held remotely until further notice. In early June, the program began to return to in-person services, while ensuring patient and staff safety.

Even with the pandemic, which resulted in a temporary reduction in visits, the total number of children seen by the program exceeded last year's total. When children return to school, activities, and other safe places our team expects a surge in the number of child abuse allegations, locally and nationally, as a result of the intense stress placed on families during this time.

## Expanding Our Reach

This year, CHKD's child abuse program became the lead agency of the *Hampton Roads Trauma Informed Community Network*, whose mission is to promote understanding of how trauma affects individuals and communities, and to advocate practices that help all people reach their full potential. By increasing awareness and advocacy, we can help move our families, communities, and workplaces toward healing, wellness, and prosperity. In collaboration with the United Way of South Hampton Roads, our network hired a coordinator, based at CHKD, who is establishing biweekly newsletters, monthly all-network meetings, monthly trainings, and coordinating an introduction to a trauma and resilience training program for providers and community members. The network is also involved in state policy and advocacy efforts to promote a more trauma-informed Virginia.

Our work to help commercially sexually exploited children and those who are at high risk of exploitation began in 2017 and continues. In addition to making program services available to this special population, we also link children to mentoring services through Identifiable Me. Many are still unaware of the special needs these children have and how common child trafficking is in Hampton Roads. We must all work together to better identify these patients and care for them appropriately.

## Thank You

The cost to provide this specialty program in our community far outweighs any reimbursement that it receives through insurance coverage. And because so many families who need the program are underserved, they can't afford to pay for this care themselves. That is why philanthropy is essential. Gifts from all areas of the region – at all levels – help to ensure that children suspected of suffering all forms of maltreatment have access to care close to home and from professionals dedicated to their unique needs.

## FY2020 Utilization

The Child Abuse Program at CHKD FY2020 Patients by Residence	
City	Patients Served
Chesapeake	129
Hampton	83
Newport News	148
Norfolk	349
Portsmouth	86
Suffolk	115
Virginia Beach	416
Other Locations	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,544</b>

The Child Abuse Program at CHKD FY2020 Services Provided	
Services Provided	Total
Mental Health Visits	3,416
Medical Visits	673
Forensic Interviews	940
Subpoenas Received	407
Expert Court Testimony Provided	64
Reduction in Trauma Symptoms*	88%
MDT Meetings	113
Meki Visits (facility dog)	66

\* The reduction in trauma percentage is based on trauma symptoms reported by the parent and child before and after mental health treatment.



**More than a hospital.**