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## **NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS RELEASE 2015 STATISTICS SHOWING OVER 2300 CHILDREN SERVED**

**Nashua, NH — February 24, 2016** — Statistics compiled by the Granite State Children's Alliance show that New Hampshire's child advocacy centers saw an increase of 33% from the year before, serving 2,300 child victims of crime. Nearly two-thirds of the children served in 2015 were reported child victims of sexual abuse.

"People don't like to talk about the sexual abuse of children," said Joy Barrett, Executive Director of the Granite State Children's Alliance, "but these statistics are a loud wake-up call that it does happen, and that it happens in every corner of New Hampshire." She added, "Only 10% of the children we served last year were abused by strangers, which is a reminder of how important it is for parents to be vigilant, even with people they know and trust."

Based on a nationally recognized model, child advocacy centers are community partnerships dedicated to pursuing the truth in child abuse cases, as well as providing referrals for social services to child victims. By bringing together New Hampshire's law enforcement, Department of Children, Youth and Families, county attorneys, victim advocates and health professionals, a child advocacy center provides a safe, child friendly location for a forensic interview of child victims. The CAC coordinates the investigative team and provides ongoing help for the victim's healthy recovery.

Among the statistics released today:

Total Cases:	2,359	Victim Ages:	
Sexual Abuse	1,468	0 - 6 years	23%
Physical Abuse	426	7-12 years	36%
Witness to Crime	190	12-18 years	30%
Neglect	33	Undisclosed	11%
Other	242		
Victim Gender:			
Male	33%		
Female	53%		
Undisclosed	14%		

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For additional information on the members of the Granite State Children's Alliance, child abuse or related subjects, please contact Megan Oliviero at (603) 864-0216 or [moliviero@cac-nh.org](mailto:moliviero@cac-nh.org).