

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



# LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

— Nelson Mandela

Since I began working at SafeSpot in 2015, our agency has served thousands of maltreated children and families in Fairfax County. On any given day, children walk through our doors for a myriad of reasons. Children coming to our program report shocking crimes of sexual abuse, physical abuse and other forms of unspeakable violence.

At SafeSpot, we offer family advocacy, forensic interviews, therapy and case coordination for children that are victims of child abuse. SafeSpot collaborates with Fairfax police, child protection workers, victim services, forensic medical providers and prosecutors to minimize the number of times a child has to talk about the painful details of their abuse. Navigating the criminal justice system is daunting. This coordination minimizes trauma to the child during the investigation and encourages child abuse investigators to work collaboratively.

These services start the first time a family visits SafeSpot for a forensic interview and continue as long as the family needs our support. Non-offending caregivers often need help understanding what happened to their child, the criminal justice system and how to move forward. SafeSpot connects families with resources in the community as well as provides in-person and phone support as needed.

SafeSpot is projecting over 500 children will be served in 2019. Since 2015, SafeSpot has seen a 76% increase in forensic interview referrals and a 50% increase in mental health referrals. As a community, we must be vigilant in keeping children safe by ensuring that when a crime against a child occurs, that child is gently wrapped in services from SafeSpot. We must continue to provide no-cost, trauma-informed services to child victims in Fairfax County so that children can begin the path to healing and begin building resilience.

The work that is done at SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center is the result of a collective consensus of public investment. Our community must continue to protect our most vulnerable citizens- our children.

In gratitude,

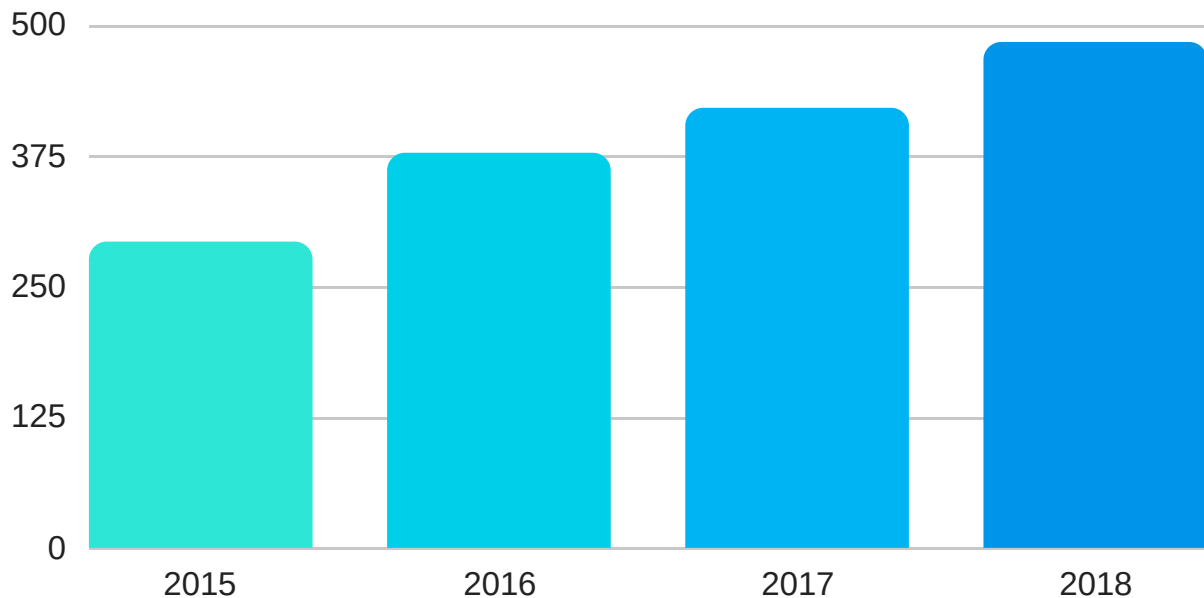
**MICHELE THAMES**

*Executive Director*

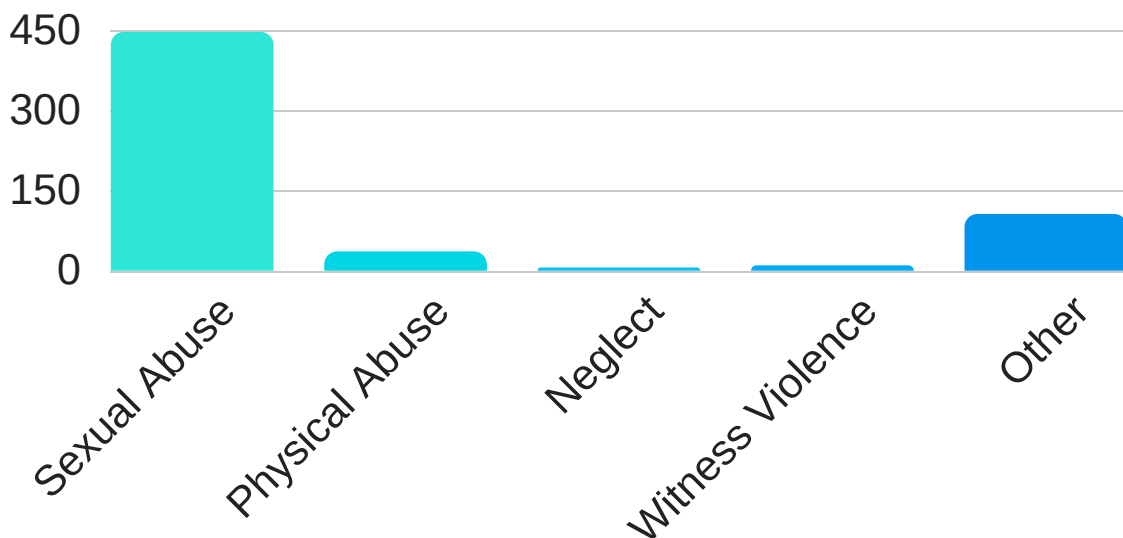
# TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE

The mission of SafeSpot Children’s Advocacy Center of Fairfax County is to provide a child-friendly, culturally sensitive environment that promotes the safety and well-being of child victims of abuse while facilitating a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary team approach to the intervention, investigation, prosecution and treatment of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

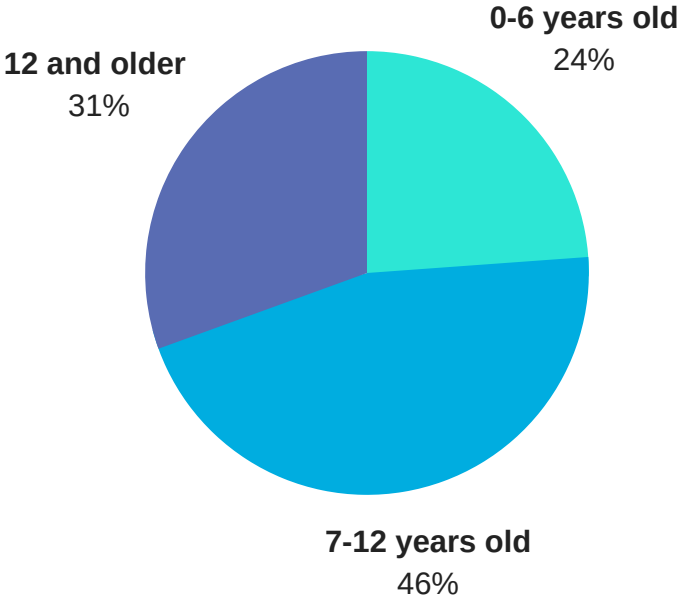
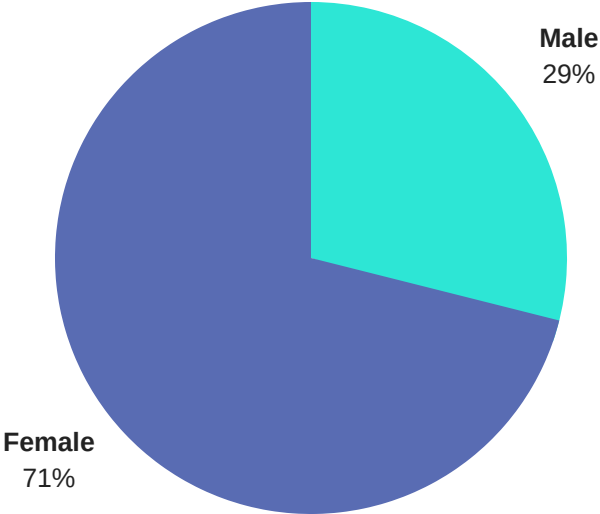
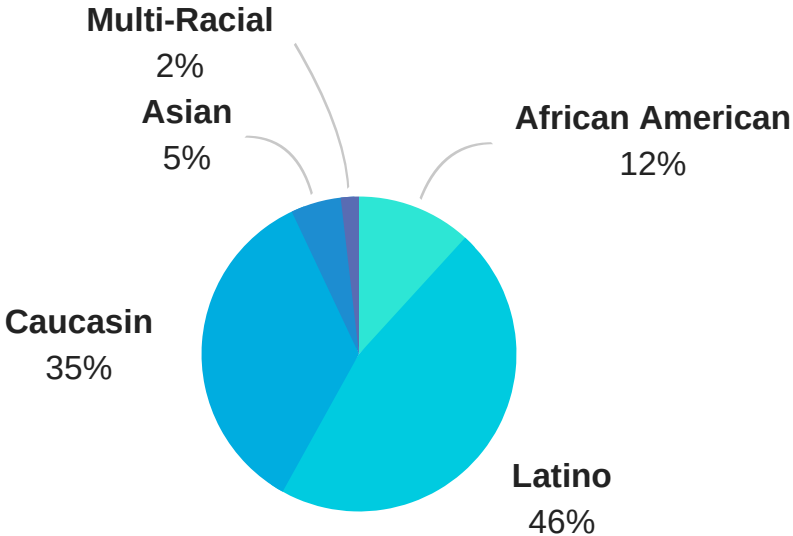
### Children Served at SafeSpot



### Type of Abuse Reported



# Demographics



# Exceptional Services

- 484 Forensic Interviews conducted by a trained professional
- 484 Family Advocacy sessions where immediate support and crisis intervention were provided
- 750 individual therapy sessions with children
- Sound-proofing and updates of forensic interview rooms complete
- Hired second, full-time therapist which increased mental health services by 50%
- 100% of clients that completed TF-CBT reported a decrease in trauma symptoms
- Received full accreditation by the National Children's Alliance

# Funding Sources

