

Quick Facts

SRKH History:

In 2003, local child advocates approached the existing Santa Rosa County Multidisciplinary Team about creating a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Santa Rosa County, to fill existing gaps in services and service delivery.

In 2004, the Santa Rosa Kids' House (SRKH) was registered as a 501c3. In 2005, the Burris family bought property and donated \$1 million towards the construction of the house.

In 2006, the board hired an interim Executive Director to oversee the construction of the house. The house was opened in April 2008 and Multidisciplinary Team members moved in June 2008.

SRKH is a CAC based on the model first developed in 1985 in Huntsville, Ala. This model promotes a multidisciplinary, child-friendly approach to the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

A cost-benefit analysis of this model, when compared to the traditional model of investigation, prosecution and treatment, indicates that this model saves more than \$1,000 per case (\$2,902 per investigation on the CAC model and \$3,949 per investigation using the traditional model). CAC's are also able to demonstrate greater law enforcement involvement in abuse and neglect investigations, greater access to medical exams for child victims, and more referrals to mental health treatment for victims (US Department of Justice, August 2008).

The Santa Rosa Kids' House is one of more than 900 Child Advocacy Centers in the United States. The SRKH's **mission** is to deliver a well-coordinated and multi-disciplined response to child abuse in an environment that puts the needs of children first.

-- *Additional information on next page.* --

Quick Facts, Cont.

SRKH Statistical Data:

From January through December 2008, there were **1,762 reports of child abuse and neglect investigated in Santa Rosa County**. Of those, 865 reports contained at least one confirmed child victim. Of the total number of child victims, 42% were children between the ages of 0 and 5 years of age.

From June through December 2008, 154 children were served at the SRKH (interviews, medical exams, therapy and depositions).

From January through July of 2009, 99 children were served at the SRKH.

In 2008, the State Attorney's Office filed more than 50 cases for prosecution.

Putting Child Abuse into Social Context:

- The U.S. Census estimates approximately 75 million children in the US have been abused.
- Research suggests that one in five girls and one in seven boys will be the victim of some type of sexual abuse/assault before they are 18 years old. **This translates to almost 15 million children who will be sexually abused or assaulted over the next 18 years!**
- There are approximately 4 million disabled children (Joni and Friends International Disability Center) and 15 million sexually abused children in the U.S. **Therefore, childhood sexual abuse is 3.75 times more common than childhood disability.**
- According to the National Cancer Institute, 10,500 children were diagnosed with childhood cancer in 2007. If that rate remains constant, that will affect 198,000 children in 2008. **Therefore, childhood sexual abuse is 75 times more the common than childhood cancer.**