

2023



Annual Impact Report

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center

- Because EVERY child abuse victim deserves safety, justice, and healing -



Dawson Place
Child Advocacy Center

1509 California Street
Everett, WA 98201



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Annual Impact Report

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center – 2023

2023 emphasized the importance and complexity of maintaining a fully staffed Child Advocacy Center. This includes our organization and the 5 co-located agencies that provide direct services at Dawson Place. We entered the year with staff health issues, leadership transitions, and open positions resulting in less referrals, fewer direct service providers, and a 4-month stretch where clients served was 25% below our 5-year running average. By the summer, we had created new positions, made new hires, and had our Child Advocacy Center running at-or-near full capacity. This influx resulted in more referrals, a new high-level of service providers (69), a new benchmark in clients served in a month (136 in May), and 600 beneficiaries served by the end of June, 6.4% above our 5-year running average. Though the total number of clients served last year was below our 5-year average, we increased our service capacity and are prepared to help more children and families.

Operational Achievements

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center (Dawson Place) is grateful for the wonderful community support and professional dedication that made the following accomplishments possible. This report details our impact on child abuse victims and families in Snohomish County in 2023.

Clients Served

Dawson Place provided free intervention and healing services to 1,071 child abuse victims and non-offending family members in 2023. This is a mere 1.9% below our 5-year annual average of 1,091, and 23 children less than the 1,094 individuals served in 2022. This dip in number served does not reflect a drop in demand by children and families. Nor does it involve a step back in our provision of services. It highlights the complexity inherent in six agencies, each with its own budget and management, co-located in one building, collaborating to provide services to child abuse victims and families.

The client service numbers reveal the individual children (ages 0-18) who received at least one service at our Child Advocacy Center. It does not convey that most of the children who come to Dawson Place receive several services over weeks, months, and sometimes years. They return to Dawson Place for prosecution services, follow-up medical exams, and ongoing therapy. Since we opened in 2006 over 17,000 child abuse victims and their families have received the professional care and treatment that has put them on a pathway to healing. On average, we serve over 20 new child abuse victims every week – about 4 per day, Monday through Friday.

Client Demographics

Child abuse victims served at Dawson Place; these cases involved 1,003 alleged offenders.

Gender	Clients	%	Age	Clients	%
Male	321	30.0%	0-6 years	399	37.3%
Female	744	69.5%	7-12 years	317	29.6%
Non-Binary	6	0.6%	13-18 years	355	33.1%
Total	1071	100.0%	Total	1071	100.0%

Race	Clients	%	Abuse Type	Clients	%
White/Caucasian	589	55.0%	Sexual	732	61.3%
Black/African Amer.	51	4.8%	Physical	308	25.8%
Hispanic/Latino	141	13.2%	Neglect	89	7.4%
Amer/Alaskan Native	27	2.5%	Witness to Violence	35	2.9%
Asian/Pac. Islander	27	2.5%	Drug Endangerment	22	1.8%
Other/Not Reported	236	22.0%	Other	9	0.8%
Total	1071	100.0%	Total*	1195	100.0%

*Some clients bore multiple abuse types

Direct Service by Partner Agencies

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center is a unique combination of the six agencies in Snohomish County that respond to issues of child abuse. Dawson Place collaborates with five co-located organizations to provide safety, justice, and healing to child abuse victims and families.

Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse (PICAA)



PICAA is located at Dawson Place and provides victim advocacy and medical healthcare services including well-child checks and forensic examinations. The victim advocates play a crucial role in helping families navigate the interagency process, to access financial and other recourses, and even to fill out forms for restraining orders and job applications. Most importantly, they help the family schedule any service at Dawson Place that will help them through their situation. Last year PICAA provided services for 356 clients, 180 child sexual assault victims and 176 victims of other crimes (some clients were victims of both sexual assault and other crimes). This included legal advocacy for 68 clients, victim advocacy to 317 clients, and 131 forensic medical examinations.

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Compass Health Child Advocacy Program (CAP)



The Compass Health Child Advocacy Program provides mental health therapy to the children, youth, and families who come to Dawson Place. The therapists use a proven, evidence-based behavioral health treatment that has been evaluated and refined over the last 30 years. Their services are provided at no cost to clients and are delivered until they are no longer needed by the child and family, or until they reach the age of 23 years. Last year CAP therapists completed 200 initial mental health assessments, provided 4,944 hours of therapy for 366 clients. Our therapists have adapted to providing remote counseling sessions as well as in-person sessions. The CAP team provided 373 more hours of therapy over last year, an 8.2% increase.

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Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: Special Investigations Unit (SIU)



The Special Investigations Unit located at Dawson Place includes a team of eight Detectives led by the unit's Sergeant. They respond to allegations of child abuse and sexual assault and are vital to the protection of the children and families who come to Dawson Place, and to our entire community. During 2023, in addition to their ongoing caseload, this team of detectives and support staff investigated 146 new cases of child abuse in Snohomish County and carried over 350 open cases.

Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Special Assault Unit (SAU)



The Special Assault Unit located at Dawson Place accepted 368 new cases for prosecution, had 62 convictions of which 51 were plea deals, and 1 acquittal. The transition in SAU leadership and rotation of deputy prosecutors contributed to a lower number of completed cases than in 2022.

Child Protective Services (CPS)



Child Protective Services is part of the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, & Families (DCYF). They investigate allegations of abuse, often before a case has been filed by law enforcement. There is one CPS special services agent located at Dawson Place, and the regional manager serves on our Board of Directors. CPS is the front-line against child maltreatment. They refer families to our Child Advocacy Center and help them develop safety plans so that the State does not have to dismantle the family for the child's safety. Last year CPS referred 106 children to Dawson Place.

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center (Child Forensic Interviews)



Dawson Place employs two Child Interview Specialists who provide Child Forensic Interviews for all law enforcement jurisdictions in Snohomish County, as well as State and Federal agencies when their cases are related to our region. This service is integral to the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children. The interviews follow strict state-enforced protocols so that the disclosed information holds up

in court. Last year our Child Interview Specialists performed 300 onsite child forensic interviews and 18 offsite interviews.

Community Outreach Program

The Community Outreach Program (Outreach) increases access to the free services at our Child Advocacy Center. Outreach is conducted via person-to-person engagement, group trainings, presentations, and digital/social media engagement. Outreach: 1) spreads awareness about our services, 2) grows the network that refers victims to Dawson Place, and 3) empowers child abuse victims and families to get the help they need to stop abuse and live safe, healthy lives. Our goal is to close the 19% gap between the number of children served at Dawson Place (1,091/year) and the statistical demand for our services (1,302/year).



Service Gap Analysis

Service gap analysis uses real data to assess whether Dawson Place is serving EVERY child abuse victim in Snohomish County. The information guides our strategic planning for outreach (increase access) and operational capacity (increase services). Dawson Place uses a 5-year average to estimate how many victims will be served annually. The 5-year average of 1,091 children served annually is from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2023. The 19.3% service gap compares the average annual clients served at Dawson Place to national child abuse statistics for the population of children aged 0-18 years in Snohomish County (US Census Bureau, July 2022). See Appendix B for analysis details.

Person-to-Person Outreach Activities

Outreach spends much of their time in the community engaging with individuals while spreading the word about the free child abuse services at Dawson Place. They also use the outings to grow their network with other service providers who attend the events. When they are not hosting information tables at public events, they deliver presentations and trainings at schools, coalitions, military installations, and other organizations. Last year Outreach attended or hosted 65 public events and interacted with over 8,000 members of our community.

Trainings and Presentations

Most of the families who come to Dawson Place are referred by a professional, often a police officer, nurse or doctor, student advocate, school counselor, teacher, or Child Protective Services. Presentations and mandatory reporter training give these professionals the information and contacts they need to refer families to Dawson Place. Last year Outreach presented or hosted tours for 194 members from six schools and 195 professionals from five organizations that encounter child abuse.

Information Tables

The Community Outreach Program attends public gatherings across Snohomish County hosting tables with information about the services at Dawson Place. Outreach attended farmers markets, food banks, back-to-school and community resource fairs, festivals, malls, and other public events. They connected with 16 municipalities, including Arlington to the north (20 miles), Lynnwood to the south (15 miles), and as far east as Sultan (23 miles). In total, Outreach drove over 1,500 miles in 2023.

Hygiene & Infant Care Packs

Two years ago, Outreach began assembling and distributing Hygiene Care Packs along with information about the free services at Dawson Place. The packs contain socks, deodorant, toothbrush and paste, shampoo, feminine products, and other useful items. Last year we expanded this project to include Infant Care Packs stocked with diapers, wipes, formula, and other items needed by new parents. Most of the packs are distributed at food banks in Snohomish County, and by our partners at Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse and Child Protective Services. This provision of basic needs helped open people up to learning about our services. The addition of the infant packs was in late 2023, so there is no data yet. However, last year Outreach handed out important child abuse service information along with 2,471 Hygiene Care Packs. That is a 123% increase over the previous year's distribution of 1,107 packs!

*NEW-Placement Bags Project

The Placement Bags Project was added to Outreach in 2023. The project provides bags stocked with fresh clothes, toiletries, books/color books, and puzzles/games to children being removed from unsafe households by CPS. The goals of the project are to add dignity and hope to children and youth during a traumatic situation, and to increase the number of referrals made by CPS to Dawson Place. This new program will be assessed and reported on after it's first full year in July 2024.

Operation Elf



Families throughout our community celebrate the holidays in many ways. The season tends to be a time of joy and excitement for kids from all walks of life. However, not all families are able to afford the holiday food, toys, decorations, and activities that many of us take for granted. Instead of joy, the holidays can cause deep anxiety for families who must decide between necessities and luxuries. For the past 8 years Dawson Place has carved out a few days in mid-December to invite families to come “shop” for gifts. The gifts are provided by individuals and businesses in our community who raise money and host toy drives specifically for this program. Last year 21 volunteers signed up to help make the 2023 Operation Elf a holiday miracle for many happy kids and families. Over 1,600 gifts were selected by parents and guardians, wrapped on site by volunteers, and given to more than 500 kids from 145 families in our community.

Super Kids Community Resource Fair



To mark national Child Abuse Prevention Month, Dawson Place hosted its second annual public resource fair. The theme for April was “Your Voice Is Your Superpower”, and the April 29th event was called the *Super Kids Community Resource Fair*. The goal of the event is to attract families to join the resource fair for fun, and to learn about the many incredible people, programs, and services available to the public. There was music, bubbles, games, prizes, a fire truck, a bouncy house, and the Snohomish County Sheriff’s office even brought a search and rescue helicopter – which was a big hit with the kids!

This wonderful event took place right outside our Child Advocacy Center and was enthusiastically joined by 20+ organizations sharing information about the resources they provide for our community. Over 300 community members joined in the fun celebration and tours were given to 10 people from other organizations.

New Outreach Vehicle



The Dawson Place Outreach Van!

Dawson Place purchased a new outreach van, thanks to a grant from the **Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound**. The van was completely wrapped and branded for free by **FASTSIGNS** in Everett. The new vehicle is used to transport the Outreach Team, materials, and equipment to events across Snohomish County. In Summer 2023, a parent called the front desk to request an appointment for their child and stated that they got our phone number from a Dawson Place van.



Digital/Social Media Outreach Activities

The Community Outreach Program's Communications Specialist created and posted 926 posts to social media last year: 226 Facebook, 308 Instagram, 194 X (formerly Twitter), and 198 LinkedIn. This resulted in a 33% increase in followers from 1,742 to 2,310 (568 new followers). Our social media channels are connected to each other and lead to the home website. Our website is the hub where more information, emergency contacts, events calendar, training signups, and other public resources can be accessed.

Parenting Education Program

The Parenting Education Program was launched in the fall of 2020. This Program 1) educates parents so that their children are safe from abuse and neglect, 2) builds families' capacity to support, nurture, and guide their children, and 3) promotes responsive parenting to improve children's emotional, physical, and social well-being. The expected outcome is to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote healthy families.

Last year two of our four educators/facilitators left the Parenting Education Program, so the offerings were scaled back from 4 classes to 3 classes, one in the spring and two in the fall. The classes were targeted for parents of pre-Kindergarten children, and school-aged children. Each class met once a week for 10 - 16 weeks. These free classes impacted 15 parents/caregivers with 30 children for a total of 45 beneficiaries.

Parent feedback: *"Thank you for having me be part of the parent training classes. It has been very useful to me. Got lot of improvisation ideas and tips. As a mom of two kids, I have to say now I'm spending a lot more quality time with my kids than I was before."* – Spring 2023

Cribs for Kids Program

Dawson Place has been a member of the national Cribs for Kids organization since 2015. We purchase and distribute cribs for free to families who cannot afford a safe place for their baby to sleep and grow. Last year we gave out 58 free portable cribs to families from 14 cities. This is 48% more than the 39 cribs distributed the previous year, but well below the pre-pandemic annual totals of 100+ cribs. To boost demand, our Outreach Team promotes this service from their information tables at public events, and to their network of organizations that serve families who would benefit from this program such as Child Strive, Sea Mar Medical Clinic, and the Snohomish County Health District.

Annual Fundraiser

Dawson Place is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that finances its operations with a portfolio of revenue sources: government grants/contracts, foundation grants, rent from co-located agencies, individual donations, and the annual fundraiser (individual gifts & corporate sponsorships). Most of our funding is restricted for specific uses, which is vital to our operations and programs but limits our ability to respond to emergencies and opportunities. Unrestricted revenue raised at the annual event provides flexibility to invest in program expansions, facility upgrades, and operational capacity.

The 11th Annual Transforming Hurt to Hope Luncheon was attended by over 600 guests, 200 more than in 2022. The event revenue exceeded \$235,000, which was a new benchmark for this important community event.



Challenges

2023 challenged every agency at Dawson Place to stay fully staffed and maintain their service capacity. A tight job market made filling open positions a difficult and lengthy process. Long-term leave from illness, maternity/paternity leave, and National Guard duties also played a role in this challenge.

Dawson Place

Dawson Place hired a new Administrative Assistant to stabilize coverage of the front desk and reception area. Every child and family receiving services at Dawson Place starts at the front desk. Before the new hire, the front desk was covered by a patchwork of staff who would halt their assigned responsibilities and tasks to keep our Child Advocacy Center open by working the front desk.

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, Special Assault Unit (SIU)

SIU has 8 detectives on staff, led by the head sergeant. However, at one-point last year 3 of the 8 detective positions were filled but inactive for maternity/paternity leave and active duty for the National Guard. The SIU detectives already carry a case load of 50-60, where a full workload is normally considered around 30 cases. These are active cases that are prioritized and methodically worked through by the devoted law enforcement located at Dawson Place. New cases that came in while SIU was down 3 active detectives were spread out among the 5 active officers. This slowed the process and decreased the rate of cases that were brought to Dawson Place by SIU.

Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Special Assault Unit (SAU)

Last year, Dawson Place converted SAU's files room into two new offices. The additional space was used to expand SAU from 6 to 8 Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys (DPAs). SAU was fully staffed all year, but there was transition in leadership and staff. Seven of the 8 DPA's were new last year and the Lead DPA was also rotated out. Fortunately, his replacement was returning to SAU with experience from a tour at Dawson Place five years earlier.

The result of this transition did not affect the number of cases accepted but was reflected in the number of cases completed compared to last year. SAU accepted 368 cases last year compared to 362 the year before. However, only 114 cases were closed compared to 187 cases the previous year. These case numbers will steadily rise as the new SAU team of DPAs builds experience and grows more confident and efficient in the legal process.

Compass Health, Child Advocacy Program (CAP)

CAP was short four therapists to start last fiscal year, and the mental health therapy job market is extremely tight. The CAP manager addressed this issue by increasing the internships, and aggressively recruited new staff. The open positions were filled in a timely manner which resulted in an increase in therapy service hours.

Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse (PICAA)

In 2022, PICAA transitioned one of their 3 Program Nurses to the Interim Manager position, and by 2023 she had just transitioned into the role of acting Manager. During this transition, the new manager's Program Nurse position was open while she acclimated to her new role as manager. PICAA's Legal Advocate as well as 1 to 2 Victim Advocate positions were also open for significant spans over the course of the year.



Child Protective Services (CPS)

CPS historically has a difficult time keeping their offices fully staffed. This is mostly due to highly stressful work, sometimes requiring them to remove children from unsafe homes. The CPS office at Dawson Place was staffed all last year, but up to 30% of the positions in the region were open at one point or another during 2023.

New Benchmarks

Number of Professionals at Dawson Place

In June 2023, there were 69 professionals working at Dawson Place, which is a new benchmark. Space was created by converting rooms to offices, setting up temporary work areas in break rooms, and rotating desks between multiple part time staff. See Appendix A for a list of positions and short descriptions.

Record Clients Served in a Month

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center provided free intervention and healing services to 136 child abuse victims in May 2023. Those were new clients and do not account for those receiving ongoing service. This is the highest number of children served in one month over at least the last 5 years. The previous high was in March 2022 when we served 124 kids at our Center. What is exciting about serving 136 clients in a month is that it establishes a new benchmark for service capacity at Dawson Place. Extrapolated over 12 months this would be 1,632 children and families annually, which exceeds the level of service required to meet the statistical demand of EVERY child abuse victim in Snohomish County.

Conclusion

Last year Dawson Place, and our co-located partner agencies, overcame a staffing challenge to begin the year, which resulted in a surge of hirings and service capacity. New leaders stepped into open management roles while their agencies experienced staff rotations and open positions. The devoted professionals from all six agencies stepped up to take on more cases, clients, and responsibilities as the ranks were replenished and gained experience. The result was a new benchmark of 69 services providers at our Child Advocacy Center, and 136 child abuse victims served in one month. Amidst the transition, turmoil, and ultimate triumph, Dawson Place maintained a steady approach of providing the highest quality services from a humble place of compassion. We move into the new year proud of our accomplishments and excited to find how high we can climb.

Appendix A

Dawson Place Professionals by Agency – July 2022 to June 2023

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center		
Position	#	Description
Executive Director	1	Manages personnel, facility, and operations
Administrative Operations Manager	1	Manages front office (client records, payables, service coordination, etc.)
Administrative Assistant	1	Client intake, records, and services coordination
Receptionist/Admin Assistant	1	Client intake, records, and services coordination
Child Interview Specialist	2	Performs Child Forensic Interviews
Outreach & Education Lead	1	Community engagement and parenting classes
Engagement & Communications Lead	1	Community engagement, branding, social media
Director of Development	1	Raises funds for operations and programs
Compass Health: Child Advocacy Program (CAP)		
Position	#	Description
Manager	1	Leads CAP personnel and therapy services
Supervisor	1	Oversees personnel
Office Manager	1	Manages office personnel, client intake, records
CAP Scheduling	1	Schedules client therapy sessions
Clinical Program Assistant	2	Scheduling, client intake, and records assistant
CAP Therapist	7	Performs mental health therapy
CAP Therapist Intern	4	Performs mental health therapy
Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse (PICAA)		
Position	#	Description
Manager	1	Manages personnel and PICAA operations
Department Secretary	1	Patient records and operation administration
Legal Advocate	1	Connects victims with civil legal services and resources
Advocate Specialist	3	Connects victims with services/resources
Support Group Facilitator	1	Coordinates/facilitates interactive group sessions
Advocate/Volunteer Coordinator	1	Connects victims with services/resources, manages volunteers
Nurse Practitioner	2	Performs forensic exams, well-child checks, STD tests, etc.
Medical Assistant	2	Client intake, records, client medical prep
Medical Assistant/Evidence Advisor	1	Client intake, records, client medical prep, rape kits
Program Nurse	1	Coordinates services, client intake, records
Therapist	3	Mental health therapy, support group counseling



Department of Children, Youth, and Families: Child Protective Services (DCYF:CPS)		
Position	#	Description
CPS Social Service Specialist	1	Investigates concerns of child safety, creates family safety plans, removes children from unsafe homes
Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: Special Investigation Unit (SIU)		
Position	#	Description
SIU Supervisor	1	Assesses and assigns cases, manages personnel
Secretary	1	Office administration, case records, scheduling
Detective	8	Case investigation
Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Special Assault Unit (SAU)		
Position	#	Description
Lead Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA)	1	Assess/accepts cases, manages personnel, + DPA duties
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA)	8	Builds prosecution cases, pleas, trials
Victim Advocate	2	Guides clients through legal process
Legal Assistant	1	Scheduling, records, client service coordination
Legal Secretary	2	Administration, scheduling, records, client service coordination
Paralegal	1	Legal research, drafting documents, records



Appendix B

Methodology: Dawson Place Service GP Analysis – June 2023

The following outlines the methodology used to perform a gap analysis between the number of clients served at Dawson Place and the demand for our services. Dawson Place uses a 5-year average to estimate how many victims will be served annually. The actual client statistics are the 5-year average from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2023.

Assumption 1: The ratio of Sexual Assault (SA) victims served at Dawson Place (72%) compared to all other child abuse victims served (28%) is the same as the statistical demand for our services. The ratio was extrapolated to the entire population of youth (0-18) in Snohomish County (US Census data; July 1, 2022).

Assumption 2: 1 in 10 children (10%) will be victims of sexual assault before they turn 18 years old (National Children's Alliance). Therefore, 28% added to the total number of SA victims will account for ALL the victims who will need services at Dawson Place. For example, if there are 100 SA victims, then $100 \times 27.3\%$ equals 27 more victims (non-SA) for a total of 127 victims.

Actual Services Provided at Dawson Place (Over 5 Years: July 2019–June 2023)

- Total SA victims served: 3,931 (72%)
- All other victims served: 1,525 (28%)
- Total victims served: 5,456 clients

Statistical Demand

- Population aged less than 18 years: 183,137 (US Census: July 1, 2022)
- Statistical number of SA victims over the next 18 years (10%): 18,314
- Statistical number of other victims served ($18,314 \times 27.7\%$): 5,128
- Total demand for victim services over the next 18 years ($18,314 + 5,128$): 23,442
- Annual Demand: 1,302 clients/year

Service Gap Analysis

- 18-year demand for victim services: 23,442
- Annual demand for victim services: 1,302 clients/year
- Actual victims served (5-year average): 1,091 clients/year
- Difference between victims served and statistical demand: 211 clients/year
- Gap Total: **19.3%**

*Service gap analysis uses real data to assess whether Dawson Place is serving EVERY child abuse victim in Snohomish County. The information guides our strategic planning for outreach (increase service accessibility) and operational capacity (increase service availability).