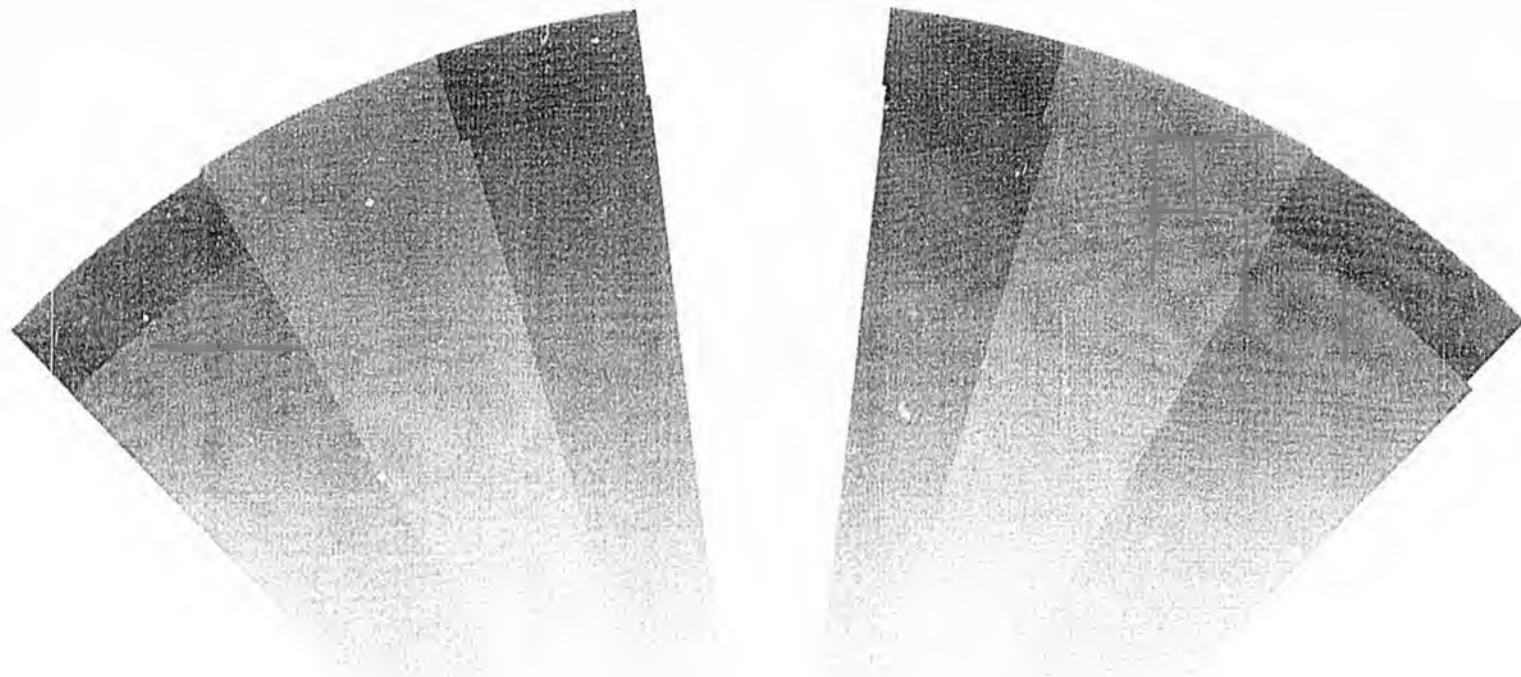


**OVERVIEW**

**CHILD**

**ADVOCACY**

**2/22/01**



# *ALASKA'S CHILDREN*

The Children's Advocacy Center  
Model for investigation of crimes  
against children



- ▶ Presented by Alaska CARES staff, Cory Bryant, Manager and Nancy Morgan, Coordinator
- ▶ Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Teresa Cain, Executive Director
- ▶ National Children's Alliance, Roe Bubar, Immediate Past President, Native American Children'



*The Problem: Alaska's children are not safe.*

- ▶ According to the Children's Bureau 1998 Report on Child maltreatment, Alaska has the highest rate of child sexual abuse:
- ▶ Alaska                    4.0/1,000
- ▶ Idaho                     3.7/1,000
- ▶ Arkansas                3.6/1,000
- ▶ Alabama                3.3/1,000
- ▶ Indiana                 3.3/1,000

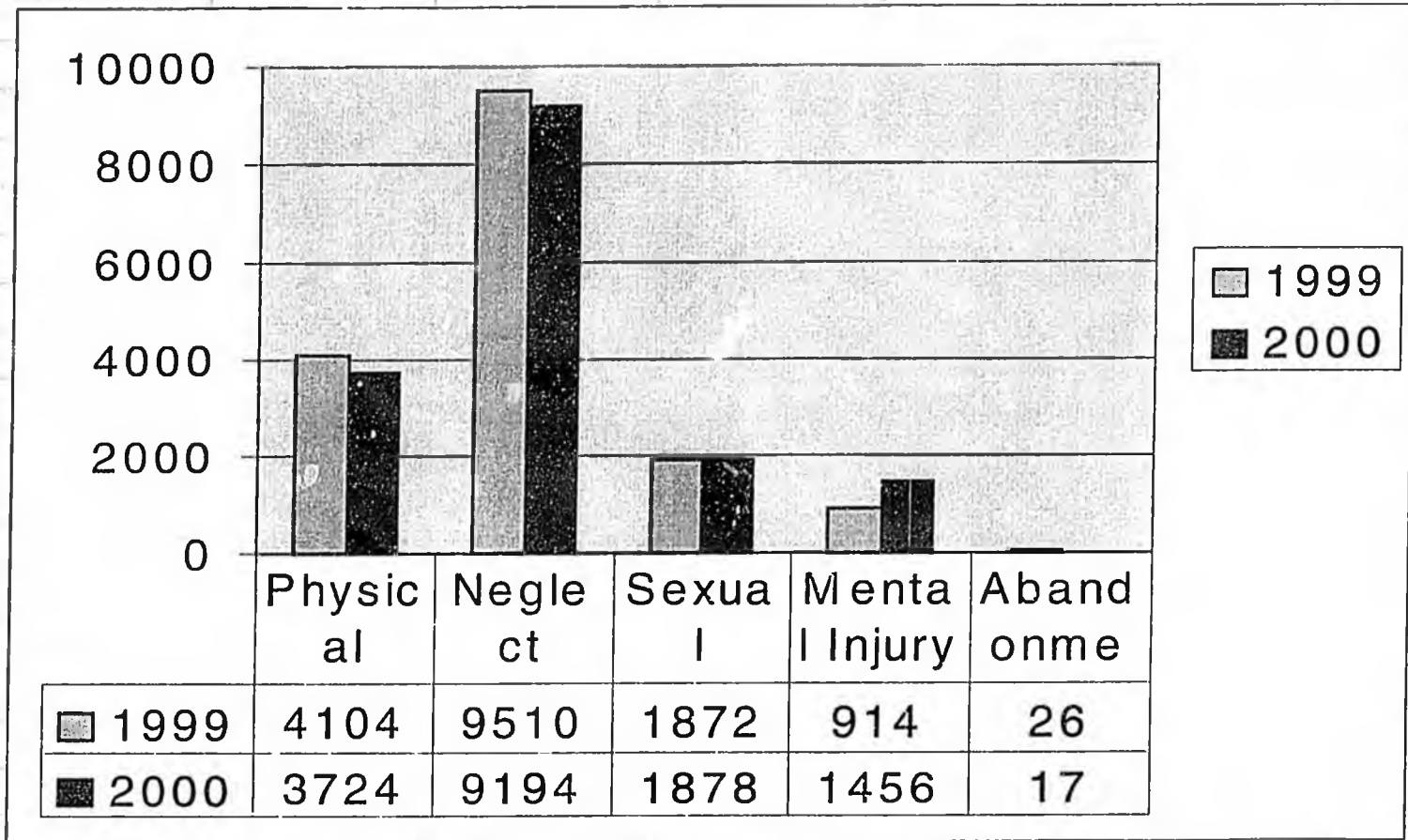


## *Definition of child sexual abuse*

- “Contact or interaction between a child and adult when a child is being used for the sexual stimulation of that adult or another person. Sexual abuse may also be committed by another minor when that person is either significantly older than the victim or when the abuser is in a position of power or control over that child.” (National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect)



# *Incidence of child maltreatment in Alaska, years 1999, 2000 per DFYS*





## *Sexual abuse of minor cases reported to law enforcement:*

- ▶ Alaska State Troopers report that in 1999, they received 554 SAM cases and in 2000 518 SAM cases were received.
- ▶ The Anchorage Police Department reported the received 602 SAM cases in the year 2000.



## *Child sexual abuse incidence comparison*

- ▶ Childhood Cancer      6,500/yr < 15 y.o.
- ▶ Head Trauma            250,000/yr < 15 y.o.
- ▶ Drowning deaths        3,200/yr < 4 y.o.
- ▶ Sexual Abuse            300,000/yr < 18 y.o.



## *Effects on Children*

- ▮ Sexual abuse only atypically occurs on its own and is frequently combined with physical abuse, emotional abuse or both. (Bagley, Young & Mallick, 1999)
- ▮ There are two forms of child abuse & neglect: physical and psychological. Sexual abuse is a combination of the two, often psychological in the nature of its act and consequences. (Hart, Brassard & Karlson, 1996)



## *More effects...*

- ▶ Compared to non-abused children, children who have been sexually abused are more likely to be diagnosed with depression, exhibit suicidal behavior (Lanktree, etal, 1999) and have lower self-esteem (Wozenkraft, Wagner & Pellegrin, 1999) greater symptoms of anxiety (Kolko, Mosher & Wedledy, 1988) and more substance abuse problems (Singer, Petchers & Hussey, 1989).



## *More effect...*

- ▶ Research indicates that children with disabilities are twice (2.2 times) as likely to be abused as children without disabilities, and that it is likely to be chronic and across the life-span.
- ▶ Children with disabilities are 1.75 times as likely to be sexually abused (National Center of Child Abuse and Neglect, 1993)

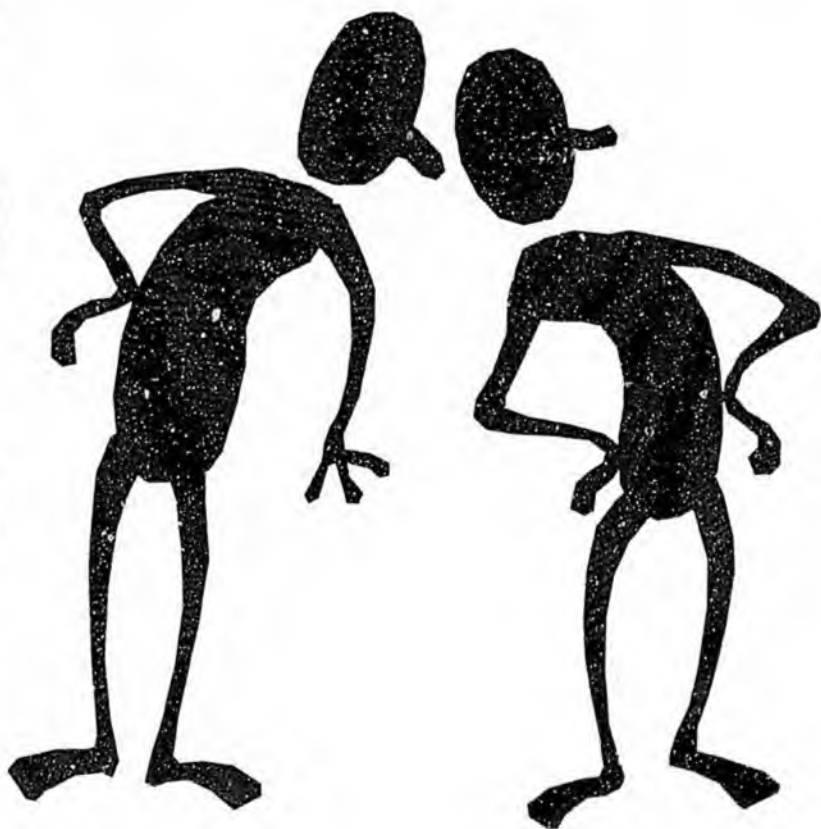


## *How to lessen the impact of child sexual abuse?*


- ▶ A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a comprehensive, child-focused program, based in a facility that allows law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, advocacy and medical communities to work together to handle child abuse cases. CACs are designed by communities to meet their own needs so there are as many types of facilities in which CACs exist as there are different kinds of communities. The over-arching goal of all CACs is to make sure children are not further victimized by systems designed to protect them.

TEAMWORK

## *Doing business differently*



- ▶ Team work is:  
Collaboration,  
communication,  
sharing knowledge  
and resources,  
building relationships  
and trust . Listening  
to everyone's view.



*Past: State-wide CAC working group*

- ▶ Was established by Representative Dyson, in January of 1999,
- ▶ To improve state-wide response to child maltreatment,
- ▶ To investigate the feasibility of establishing a network of regional CACs in Alaska,
- ▶ looked at the inter-relatedness of alcohol abuse, domestic violence, child sexual abuse and fetal alcohol syndrome.



## *Past: December 1999*

- ▶ Tribal children's service providers joined the CAC working group.
- ▶ The group proposed a series of 4 new CACs through a paper to Senator Ted Stevens to request funding.
- ▶ A Retreat was held to discuss state-wide inclusion into this process.



*Present: April 2000*

- ▶ Group continues to meet through the support of a half time person at Alaska CARES, funding through the Children's Justice Act/DHHS/DFYS.
- ▶ Two projects in the works:
  - Community assessment inventory
  - Alaska Strategic Planning Retreat



*Future: February 2001 -*

- Meeting in Juneau to begin discussion about a state-wide model. :
  - Allow for communities to network
  - look at how other states have developed their state-wide program of CACs
  - sharing of resources, training, mentoring
  - commitment to working together as a state rather than fighting for resources in individual programs.

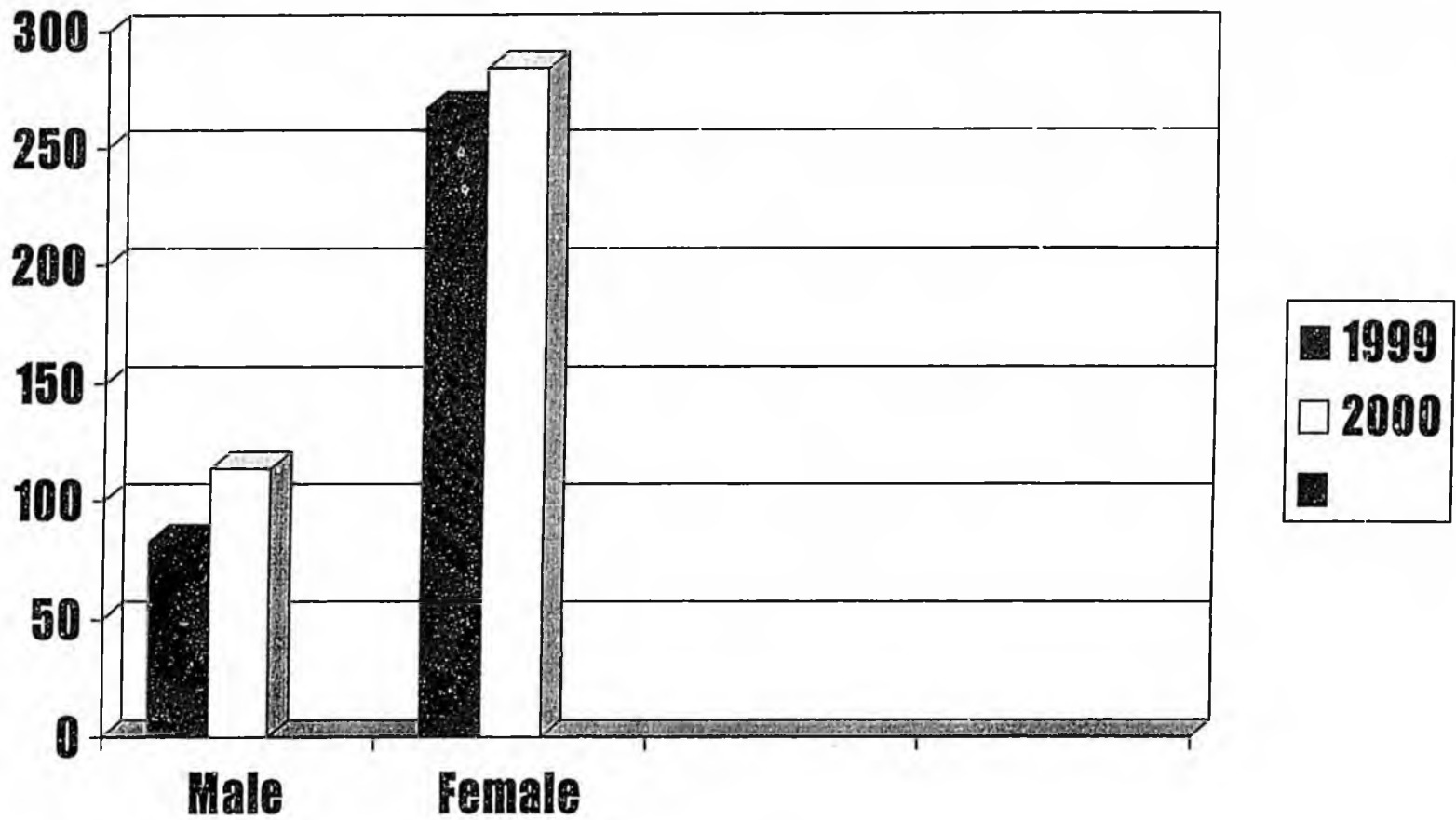


## *Alaska C.A.R.E.S.*

- ▶ C.A.R.E.S. was established in August of 1996 and funded through Southcentral Foundation due to the high rates of child sexual abuse amongst Alaska Native Children
- ▶ In establishing this CAC, a Team was developed that includes medical, prosecution, law enforcement, child protection, advocacy, and Indian Health Service to oversee the management of this program.

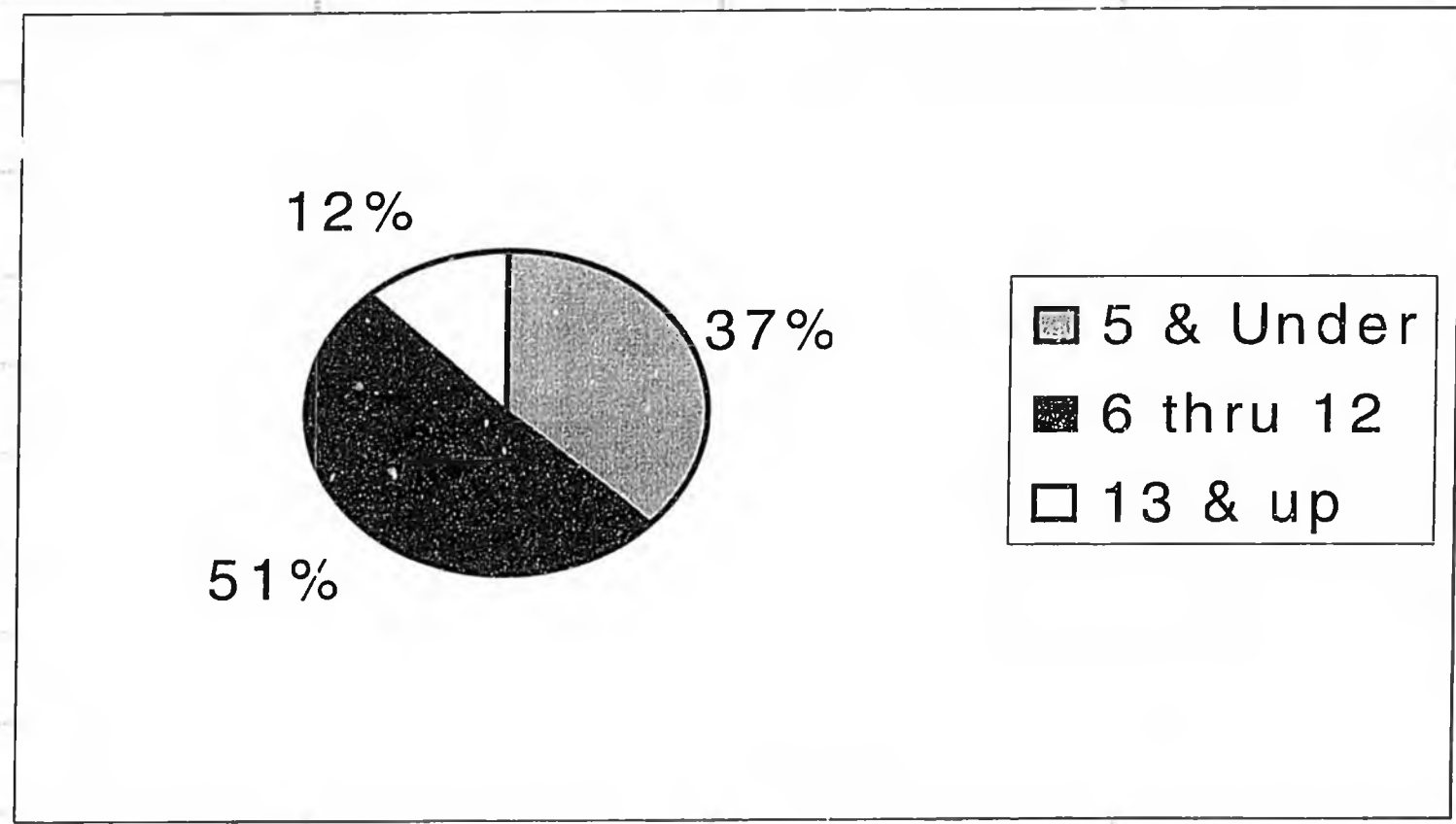


# *Demographics: Gender of children evaluated:*





# *Demographics: By age*





# *Demographics: By race/ Year*

## *2000*

