

Northridge Hospital Medical Center is a 411-bed healthcare facility in the San Fernando Valley. As a nonprofit, community-based hospital, Northridge Hospital offers a full spectrum of healthcare programs and Centers of Excellence. Northridge Hospital is affiliated with Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) and shares with them a long and rich legacy of caring and compassion.

The Center for Healthier Communities of Northridge Hospital Medical Center encompasses several community health programs and services that significantly benefit the quality of life for the diverse residents of the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. The Center is dedicated to building community collaboratives, leveraging local resources and developing effective strategies that assist children, adults and families.



GET INVOLVED

CATS is funded by private, corporate and individual donations. If you would like to make a contribution, or join the CATS Meow Guild, please call **(818) 785-3489**.

You can also support CATS by participating in our annual "Victory for Victims" 5K/8K River Run & Walk. For sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, please call **(818) 363-5035** or email **victory4victims@aol.com**.

Available Resources

- ◆ For specialized medical treatment and evidence collection following sexual assault, call **(818) 908-8630**.
- ◆ Inquire about our 24-hour sexual assault crisis counseling and referrals through the Valley Trauma Center by calling **(818) 886-0453**. The Center provides a certified rape crisis advocate who provides post-traumatic counseling to victims and will accompany them to the police station, medical examinations and court procedures if needed.
- ◆ See our self-guided online training for mandated reporters at **www.abuse-assaultservices.org**
- ◆ For more information regarding CATS outreach activities or any of the Center for Healthier Communities' programs, call **(818) 785-3489**.



Center for Assault
Treatment Services



Northridge Hospital Medical Center
Center for Healthier Communities

A member of CHW
www.abuse-assaultservices.org



Center for Assault
Treatment Services



*Dedicated to Treating Children and
Adults Affected by Violence*



Northridge Hospital Medical Center
Center for Healthier Communities

A member of CHW

Center for Assault Treatment Services

One in four females and one in six males are sexually assaulted or abused before the age of 18. Chronic abuse can cause psychological issues, which can affect a child's sense of security and well-being.



The Center for Assault Treatment Services (CATS) at Northridge Hospital Medical Center is the only 24-hour/7-day-per-week program in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys providing care to adult and child victims of sexual assault and abuse.

CATS' mission is to provide compassionate, comprehensive care to adult and child victims of sexual abuse in a supportive and comforting environment through a coordinated collaborative effort.

CATS' services include:

- ◆ **Clinical Service:** CATS is the only designated Sexual Assault Response Team in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. We provide the highest level of evidence collection services. CATS' Medical Director, Nurses and Nurse Practitioners all have advanced training as Sexual Assault Examiners and provide evidence collection, assessment of injuries, laboratory testing, medication for acute assault victims, medical referrals, and follow-up examinations as necessary—all of which are performed at no cost to the victim.



- ◆ **Participation in the justice system:** Specialized forensic interviews and medical evidentiary examinations of victims are provided to law enforcement, local district attorneys and child protective services.



- ◆ **Identifying victims of abuse:** Our strong, concerted community outreach educates thousands of teachers, childcare providers, medical professionals, police departments and community members each year about the different types of abuse, indicators of abuse, the importance of reporting abuse and the short- and long-term consequences of failing to report abuse.
- ◆ **Crisis intervention:** An advocacy team provides individual counseling, group counseling, and referrals to state and local agencies.

Advantages of CATS

- ◆ **Evidentiary medical examinations of victims** are performed in CATS' supportive and comforting environment, designed to provide privacy and confidentiality
- ◆ **Reduction of repetitive victim interviews** through the use of audio and video recording.
- ◆ **Translation services** for non-English speaking individuals.
- ◆ **Coordination of services:** Medical, Advocacy and Investigation.

FREE WORKSHOPS

CATS can conduct a Mandated Reporting workshop at your facility to review:

- Indicators of abuse
- Procedures for filing a report
- Protections afforded to mandated reporters

Call (818) 785-3489 for more information.

Mandated Reporters

Under California law, specific professional groups are required to report known or suspected abuse of a child. Mandated reporters who fail to do so are in violation of the law and subject to misdemeanor charges. Supervisors or administrators may not obstruct or restrain reporting by a mandated reporter, nor may they take any actions against the reporter for making a report. Mandated child abuse reporters include, but are not limited to:

- Child care custodians (teachers, foster parents, child care providers, etc.).
- Health practitioners
- Law enforcement officers
- Commercial film processors
- Clergy
- Animal control officers
- Anyone who works with children

Community members may make an anonymous report of known or suspected abuse of a child or dependent adult to appropriate child or adult protective service agencies.



To make a report you must:

- Have a reasonable suspicion.
- Call law enforcement, the child abuse hotline or Adult Protective Services.
- File a written report or complete the report online.

The child abuse hotline for Los Angeles County is (800) 540-4000.

The Adult Protective Services Elder Abuse reporting line is (877) 477-3646.

See our self-guided online training for mandated child abuse reporters at www.abuse-assaultservices.org