



2018   
sonoma county kids  
every child safe, every community aware





a community report from

**PREVENT CHILD ABUSE**  
Sonoma County

The mission of Prevent Child Abuse Sonoma County (PCA-SC) is to establish an effective, cooperative, and coordinated response to end child abuse. Under the authorization of the Board of Supervisors and with funding support from the Human Services Department, Child Parent Institute coordinates and leads the council.

**Interested in becoming involved?**

Email: [robinb@calparents.org](mailto:robinb@calparents.org)

**Child Abuse is Everyone's Business**

To report child abuse, call Sonoma County Child Protective Services 24 hour hotline (707) 565-4304.

to achieve our mission

**PCA-SC supports family strengthening organizations by providing:**



AWARENESS



EDUCATION

**PCA-SC provides leadership for child abuse prevention through:**



OUTREACH



ADVOCACY



Remember when people  
used to underestimate you —



and the one person who didn't ?

Contact us to find out if **YOU** would make a great foster parent.  
(707) 565-4274 [www.SonomaFosterCare.org](http://www.SonomaFosterCare.org)



Through no fault of their own, each day between **50 – 75 Sonoma County children and teens** need a safe place to live.

**Most just need a temporary haven** while their parents get help coping with the issues that created an unstable home.

Some will need **a forever family.**

Others are teens trying to stand on their own two feet who need **a room to rent and some encouragement.**

**How children are treated in our community will shape their lives.**

**We need to show them kindness and give them faith in their futures.**

Whether you are a teacher, firefighter, pastor, counselor, working professional, retiree or work in the home, gay or straight, single or married, you can help fill the **URGENT NEED** for foster parents.

Consider becoming a foster parent, adoptive parent or host home.

Contact us today: (707) 565-4274 • [www.SonomaFosterCare.org](http://www.SonomaFosterCare.org)

# THE ECONOMICS OF CHILD ABUSE

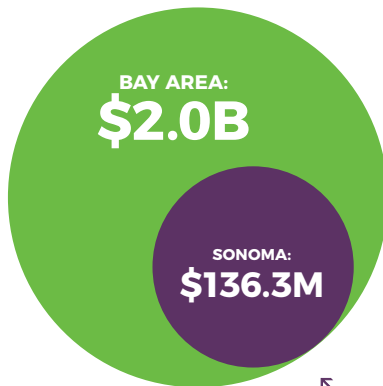
## 2018 Study of Sonoma County

Child abuse is a persistent problem within Sonoma County and the greater Bay Area. Although it is a hidden social ill, its impact is significant. A single incidence of child abuse impacts not just the child, but the family, the community, and society at large. While the impact of abuse not only morally devastates our community, it also significantly hurts our economy. In fact, the physical, mental, and emotional effects of abuse persist long after child abuse occurs, and result in ongoing costs to every sector of our community.

Child abuse is a core underlying factor to many of the ongoing struggles of communities, such as high rates of school drop out, homelessness, incarceration, and chronic health issues. This report shines a light on this largely ignored issue and the negative impact it has on all of us.

## THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE

**Financial impact for verified cases last year:**



↳ That same amount could send 14.4k kids to preschool

**Since child abuse is vastly underreported, in reality, the cost to the Bay Area is likely far higher. Last year, there were:**

**5.8K**  
VERIFIED  
CASES OF  
CHILD ABUSE



**199K**  
ESTIMATED  
CASES OF  
CHILD ABUSE

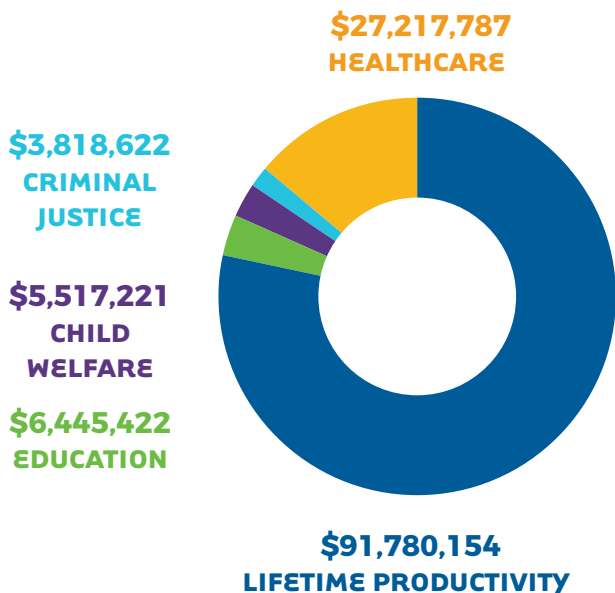
The resulting financial impact is \$67.8B

**64K**  
REPORTED  
CASES OF  
CHILD ABUSE

↓  
That's one report every 9 minutes

# COST TO THE SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY

## A Breakdown of \$136.3M



### HEALTHCARE

Victims may require hospital care, mental health services, and other medical services during childhood, and have a higher incidence of physical and mental health issues throughout adulthood.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Abused children are 59 percent more likely to be arrested as juveniles, and 28 percent more likely to have an adult criminal record.

### CHILD WELFARE

Victims may require intervention services, foster care, and counseling services.

### EDUCATION

Abused children are 77 percent more likely to require special education.

### LIFETIME PRODUCTIVITY

Victims are more likely to be unemployed and rely on public assistance which lead to diminished earning potential.

*This report was created  
in partnership with:*



Strengthening  
Families.  
Ending Child  
Abuse.

**BerkeleyHaas**  
Haas School of Business  
University of California Berkeley



# SONOMA COUNTY CHILD ABUSE Prevention, Protection and Care

**Many agencies belong to the local safety net that supports the well-being of children and youth.** The County of Sonoma Human Services Department – Family, Youth and Children’s Division invested **\$627,000** in child abuse prevention in 2017. The following data describes the wide scope and impact of child welfare and protection programs and services.

## PREVENTION



- They included teachers, police, firefighters and health care professionals.

## REPORTS & INVESTIGATION



- **1,914** reports required investigation by Family, Youth and Children’s Division.
- The majority of children could safely remain with their families with in-home support and services from social workers, such as parent and child counseling, housing support, parenting classes, child care and referrals to community resources.

## REUNIFYING CHILDREN & FAMILIES







- They spent an average of **289** days in foster care before returning home.
- Others remained in foster care, or left foster care when they became adults at age 18, entered legal guardianship or were legally emancipated.



- There were **3,375** total allegations of the types of abuse listed below; often more than one type affected the same child or youth.



### ALLEGATION BY TYPE % OF 629

Neglect	59%
Emotional Abuse	19%
At Risk, Sibling Abused	7%
Caretaker Absence / Incapacity	8%
Physical Abuse	5%
Severe Neglect	5%
Sexual Abuse	4%
Exploitation	<1%

### FOSTER CARE / ADOPTION



- They were cared for by foster families and relatives, in group homes or in transitional homes for youth going to school or working.
- On average, **45** children were cared for at the emergency shelter, Valley of the Moon Children's Home, each month in 2017.
- **31** children and youth were adopted by forever families.

# PREVENT CHILD ABUSE Sonoma County

## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

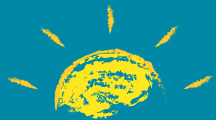
Research shows that healthy and safe families share these five commonalities:

- **KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT**
- **SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN**
- **PARENTAL RESILIENCE**
- **CONCRETE SUPPORT**
- **SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**

*thank you to our many community supporters and partners*



child parent institute



child parent institute

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*building brighter futures for our children and families*

