

# THE ECONOMICS OF CHILD ABUSE

## 2018 Study of the San Francisco Bay Area

Child abuse is a persistent problem throughout the Bay Area and the entire state. 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 this community, such as high rates of school dropout, 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

The cumulative financial impact to the Bay Area community for the 5,775 verified child victims last year is \$2 billion. Though these costs are accrued over the course of the victim's life, the community will continue to incur the same cost each year until we are able to reduce and ultimately end child abuse.

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

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



**5,775**  
VERIFIED  
CASES OF  
CHILD ABUSE



**63,813**  
REPORTED  
CASES OF  
CHILD ABUSE



↓  
That's one report every 9 minutes



**198,746**  
ESTIMATED  
CASES OF  
CHILD ABUSE

→ The resulting financial impact is \$67.8B

This report was created in partnership with:



Strengthening Families.  
Ending Child Abuse.

# COST TO THE BAY AREA COMMUNITY

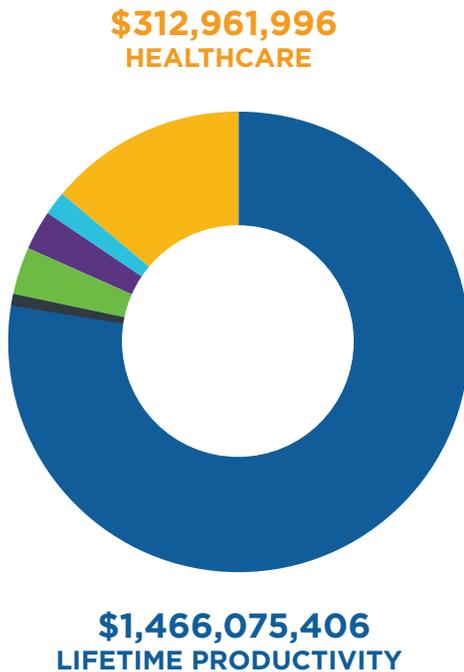
## A Breakdown of \$2B

**\$44,193,475**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**\$63,851,606**  
CHILD WELFARE

**\$74,593,808**  
EDUCATION

**\$26,231,981**  
FATAL CASES



### 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.

### FATAL CASES

Fatal cases result in a one-time medical cost and loss of the child's potential lifetime earnings.

## GREATER BAY AREA CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL COALITION

The Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition represents 10 counties coordinating resources, advocating for public policy, producing conferences, and sharing best practices. The 10 Bay Area counties include: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. <http://www.bayareapreventchildabuse.org>

### PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Communities can support vulnerable children and families by fostering the five protective factors. By helping families to enhance their protective factors, they will be better equipped to combat risk factors (history of abuse, isolation, substance abuse, and others) and prevent incidences of child abuse. Research shows that healthy and safe families share these five commonalities:

#### SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN

Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions, and establish and maintain relationships

#### KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Understanding parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development

#### PARENTAL RESILIENCE

Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma

#### SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, and spiritual support

#### CONCRETE SUPPORT

Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and help minimize stress caused by life's challenges

### #CostOfAbuse

Thanks to Safe & Sound and Haas School of Business, University of California Berkeley's Social Sector Solutions for the calculation. To learn more about the cost calculation, read the report <http://safeandsound.org/CostOfAbuse>. This report was made possible by the generous support of the Casey Family Programs, S.H. Cowell Foundation, The Golden Door Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, and the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention.