

# THE ECONOMICS OF CHILD ABUSE

## 2019 Study of San Francisco County

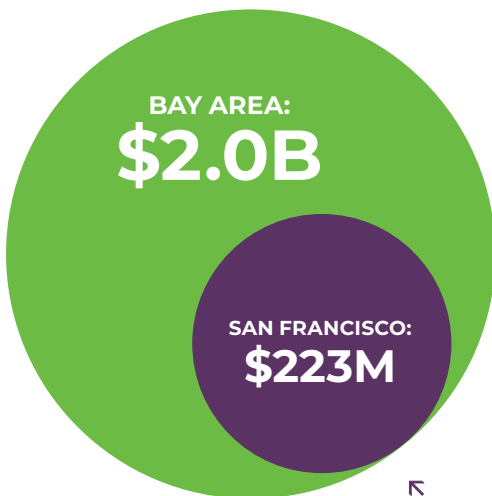
Child abuse is a persistent problem within San Francisco County and the greater Bay Area. Although it is a hidden social ill, its impact is significant. Child abuse impacts not just the child, but the family, the community, and society at large. While the impact of abuse not only morally devastates our 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 San Francisco community for the 489 verified child victims in 2018 is \$223M. 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:**



↳ *That same amount could send 23k kids to preschool*

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

**489**  
VERIFIED  
CHILD VICTIMS  
OF ABUSE



**5,133**  
REPORTED  
CHILD VICTIMS  
OF ABUSE

↓  
*That's one child every 2 hours*

**15,019**  
ESTIMATED  
CHILD VICTIMS  
OF ABUSE

→ *The resulting financial impact is as high as \$6.8B*

*This report was created in partnership with :*

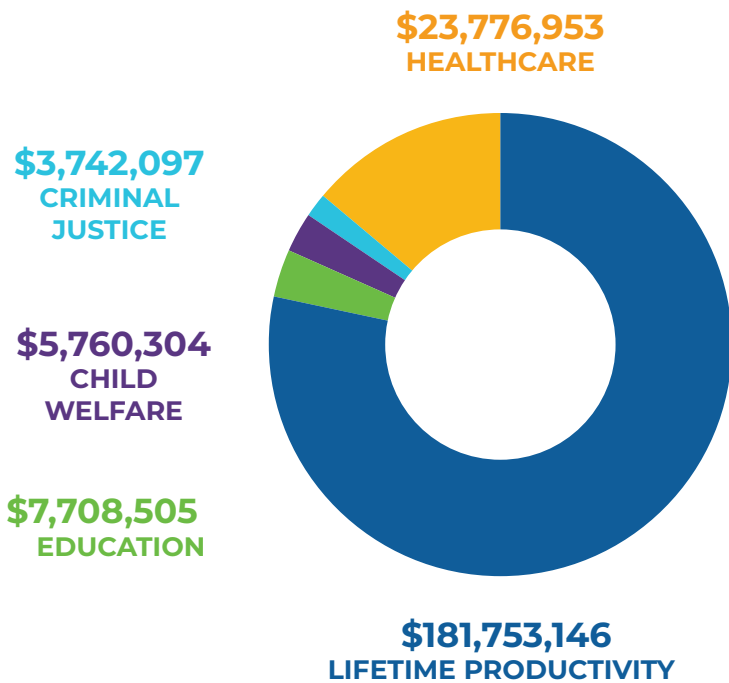


Strengthening Families.  
Ending Child Abuse.



# COST TO THE SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY

## A Breakdown of \$223M



### 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.

## SAFE & SOUND

Safe & Sound is a children's advocacy organization working to create a society where children are safe, families are strong, and communities are sound. We're working towards a future where child abuse no longer exists. [safeandsound.org](http://safeandsound.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 UC Berkeley Haas School of Business for this calculation and for generous funding from Blue Shield of California Foundation, California Department of Social Services—Office of Child Abuse Prevention, Casey Family Programs, County Welfare Directors Association of California, S.H. Cowell Foundation, The Golden Door Foundation, The HAND Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation. To learn more, please visit <http://economics.safeandsound.org>