

# THE ECONOMICS OF CHILD ABUSE

## A STUDY OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Child abuse is a persistent problem within Contra Costa 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. In fact, child abuse is a core underlying factor to many of the ongoing struggles of this community, such as dropout rates, homelessness, high incarceration, and health concerns.

The devastating physical, mental, and emotional effects of abuse persist long after maltreatment occurs, and result in ongoing costs to every sector of our community. This report brings to light this largely ignored issue, and the negative impact it has on all of us.

## THE IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE

### COST EXPLANATION

The lifetime economic burden per victim is \$307,545 which is an indication of the financial importance to Contra Costa of preventing a single child from becoming a victim. The total annual economic burden of child abuse in Contra Costa is \$359.3 million. That amount could send 3,500+ kids to college.

### THE STATISTICS

There are 3.5 million reports of child abuse made in the U.S. each year, involving 6 million children

There are ~58,000 reports of child abuse made in the Bay Area every year.

That means every 10 minutes a report of child abuse is made in the Bay Area.

### COSTS TO CONTRA COSTA:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1,150 \text{ | VERIFIED CASES IN} \\ \text{CONTRA COSTA COUNTY} \\ \times \$307,545 \text{ | COST PER VICTIM OVER THE} \\ \text{COURSE OF THEIR LIFETIME} \\ \hline + \$5,630,920 \text{ | CUMULATIVE COST FOR} \\ \text{THREE FATAL CASES} \end{array}$$

**\$359.3** MILLION

### COSTS TO BAY AREA:

COST TO 10 COUNTIES USING VERIFIED CASES OF ABUSE

**\$2.2** BILLION

GIVEN THAT CHILD ABUSE IS VASTLY UNDER-REPORTED. **THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC BURDEN TO THE BAY AREA COULD BE AS HIGH AS**

**\$62.8** BILLION

THIS CALCULATION WAS CREATED  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



# BREAKDOWN OF \$307,545

## LIFETIME PRODUCTIVITY

Victims are more likely to be unemployed and rely on public assistance and may face barriers to employment, which lead to diminished earning potential throughout adulthood.

## EDUCATION

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

## CHILD WELFARE

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

## 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.

## HEALTHCARE

Victims may require hospital care, mental health services, and other medical services throughout childhood, and have a higher incidence of chronic health problems, mental health issues, substance abuse, and risky sexual behavior throughout adulthood.

**\$221,224**

LIFETIME PRODUCTIVITY

**\$12,891**

EDUCATION

**\$11,035**

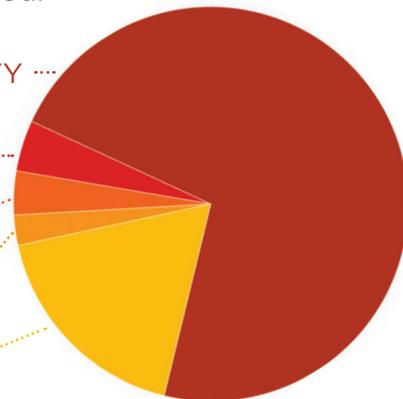
CHILD WELFARE

**\$7,637**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**\$54,738**

HEALTHCARE



## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Children all over Contra Costa suffer needlessly from abuse and neglect at the hands of the people who should be protecting them. The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County (CAPC) believes “It Shouldn’t Hurt to Be a Child”. Our mission is to promote the safety of children and prevent child abuse and neglect by raising awareness, influencing public policy, advocacy, educating our community, and providing resources and support programs to families. Using the Strengthening Families Framework, Five Protective Factors, and other prevention programs and resources, we educate parents and children how to break-the-cycle and stop child abuse. CAPC is keeping kids safe and leading the county’s efforts to protect children and strengthen families. We believe child abuse and neglect is 100% preventable.

## FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Research is proving that there are five commonalities that healthy families, free from abuse, share. These five protective factors can be supported and strengthened within vulnerable families to combat risk factors (history of abuse, isolation, community violence, etc.) and prevent incidences of child abuse.

### 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, instrumental, and spiritual support

### CONCRETE SUPPORT

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

<http://www.capc-coco.org> #CostOfAbuse

Thanks to the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center and Haas School of Business, University of California Berkeley’s Social Sector Solutions for the calculation formula. To learn more about the cost calculation, read the report <http://sfcapc.org/CostOfAbuse>. Thanks to HAND Foundation for supporting the release of the report.