

# THE ECONOMICS OF CHILD ABUSE

## 2018 Study of Yuba County

Child abuse is a persistent problem within Yuba County and the entire state. 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 Yuba community for the 249 verified child victims in 2017 is \$51.6M. 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 Yuba community is likely far higher. Last year, there were:**

249  
VERIFIED  
CHILD VICTIMS  
OF ABUSE



1,488  
REPORTED  
CHILD VICTIMS  
OF ABUSE

↓  
That's one child every 6 hours

2,473  
ESTIMATED  
CHILD VICTIMS  
OF ABUSE

→ The resulting financial impact is as high as \$512.1M

This report was created in partnership with:

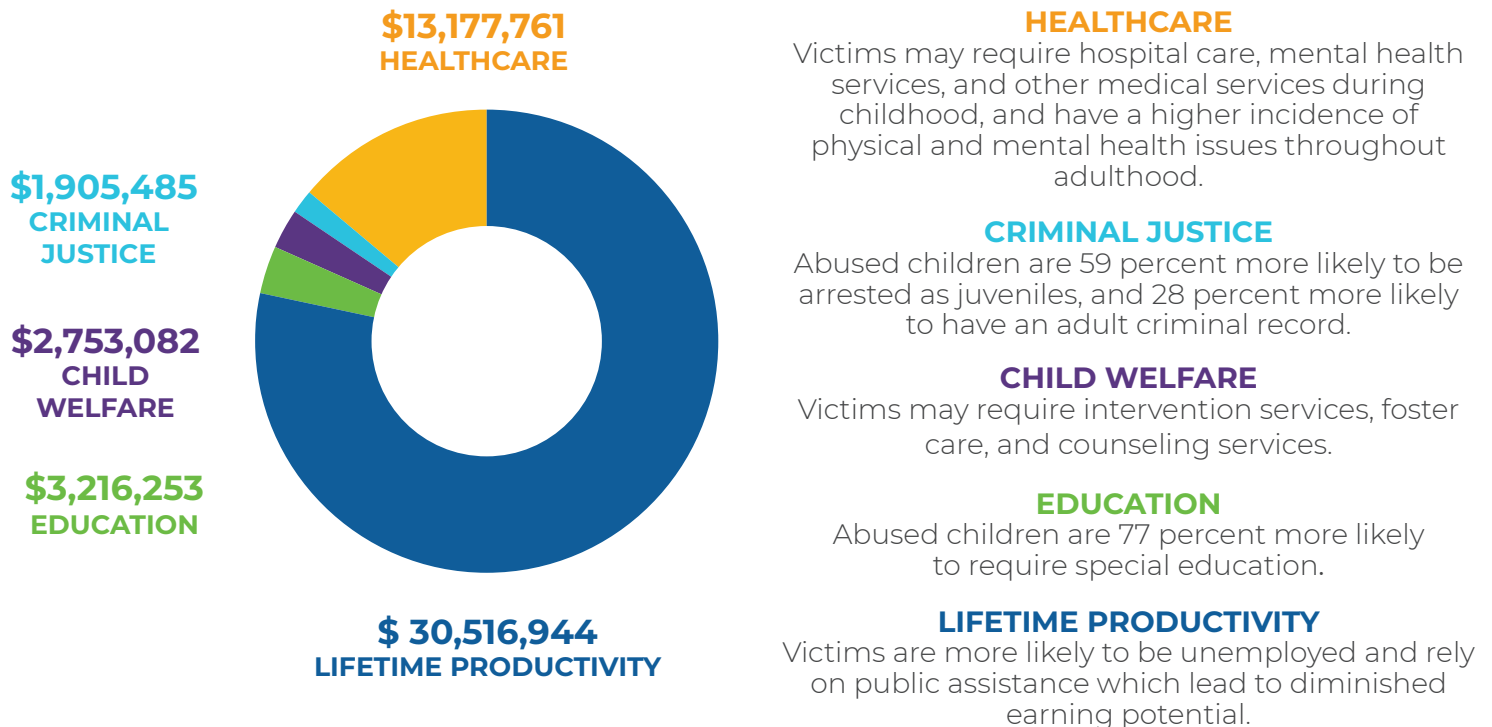


Strengthening Families.  
Ending Child Abuse.



# COST TO THE YUBA COMMUNITY

## A Breakdown of \$51.6M



## YUBA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Health and Human Services Department is dedicated to being a catalyst for a healthy and thriving community and providing a broad array of benefits and services to the residents of Yuba County. Child Welfare Services is committed to protecting children and strengthening families through engagement, prevention and early intervention. [www.yuba.org/departments/health\\_and\\_human\\_services/index.php](http://www.yuba.org/departments/health_and_human_services/index.php)

### 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

### #CutTheCost & #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://safeandsound.org/CostOfAbuse>.