



sonoma county kids COMMUNITY REPORT 2021

Many local agencies are part of the safety net supporting the well-being of Sonoma County children and youth. The County of Sonoma Human Services Department alone invested \$575,148 in child abuse prevention services in 2021.

This Sonoma County Kids Community Report gives us a picture of the wide scope and impact of local child welfare protection programs and services, including statistics on:

- Community Abuse Prevention & Therapeutic Training
- Reporting & Investigation
- Foster & Adoptive Care
- Family Reunification Efforts

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION OUTREACH

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, Family, Youth and Children's Division continued to educate and train community professionals who are Mandated Reporters in child abuse prevention and reporting. They included teachers, police, fire fighters, and health care professionals.

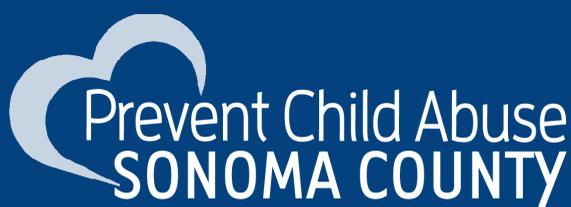
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

- 220** children and youth were brought into foster care because they weren't safe at home. individual children, youth and NMD's were in foster care at some time during 2021. They were cared for by foster families and relatives, in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program or Regional Center Homes, or in transitional homes for youth going to school or working.
- 639** on average, twenty children were cared for at the emergency shelter, the Valley of the Moon Children's Home, each month.
- 103** children and youth had their placement closed due to reunification with their families, after an average of 366 days in care.
- 95** children and youth were adopted by forever families.
- 26** children and youth were adopted by forever families.

REPORTS & INVESTIGATION

- 4,356** reported concerns to Sonoma County Child Protective Services.
- 1,776** reports required investigation.
- 640** investigated referrals were confirmed as rising to the legal level of abuse — known as *substantiated* allegations. The table below shows the percent of each type of abuse for all 640 substantiated allegations.

At Risk, Sibling Abused	2.34%
Caretaker Absence / Incapacity	2.66%
Emotional Abuse	2.34%
Sexual Abuse	7.19%
General Neglect	65.94%
Physical Abuse	5.16%
Severe Neglect	14.38%



Prevent Child Abuse Sonoma County (PCA-SC) helps prevent child abuse through community education, training, and promotion of policies and services that help support families and children.

As we slowly emerge from the pandemic we recognize that these past two year have impacted families financially, emotionally and socially. Therefore at Prevent Child Abuse - Sonoma County, we have joined together to advocate and plan for effective engagement in prevention and early intervention with the overlay of the Five Protective Factors (Social and Emotional Competence of Children, Knowledge of Child Development, Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Support in Times of Need) which when present in our communities, lowers the incidents of child abuse.

Child abuse is preventable - contact us to learn how you can help.