

# COMMUNITY REPORT 2018



## Many agencies are part of the safety net supporting the well-being of local children and youth.

The County of Sonoma Human Services Department alone invested \$627,000 in child abuse prevention services in 2018.

The following offers a picture of the wide scope and impact of local child welfare protection programs and services, including:

- Community abuse prevention
- Reporting and investigation
- Family reunification efforts and
- Foster and adoptive care

### Child Abuse Prevention Outreach

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

- 236 children and youth were brought into foster care because they weren't safe at home.
- 766 individual youth were in foster care at some time during 2018. They were cared for by foster families and relatives, in group homes or in transitional homes for youth going to school or working.
- On average, 33 children were cared for at the emergency shelter, the Valley of the Moon Children's Home, each month.
- 135 children and youth returned to their families once their homes were safe, after an average of 283 days in care.
- 51 children and youth were adopted by forever families.

### Reports and Investigation

- 6,465 callers reported concerns to the Child Protection Hotline
- 2,434 reports required investigation by the Family, Youth and Children's Division
- Of 3,740 total counts of abuse, 502 were confirmed as rising to the legal level of abuse—known as substantiated allegations. The table below shows the percentage of each type of abuse for all 502 substantiated allegations.

Type of Abuse	% of Total
General Neglect	57%
Emotional Abuse	10%
Caretaker Absence/Incapacity	7%
At Risk: Sibling Abused	7%
Severe Neglect	10%
Physical Abuse	5%
Sexual Abuse	5%
Exploitation	<1%





# Prevent Child Abuse SONOMA COUNTY

## Mission

To establish an effective, cooperative and coordinated response to end child abuse. Under the authorization of the Board of Supervisors and with funding support from the Sonoma County Human Services Department, Child Parent Institute coordinates and leads the group.

## Get involved

To join our efforts, email [robinb@calparents.org](mailto:robinb@calparents.org). Find this report online at [www.calparents.org](http://www.calparents.org).

## Preventing Child Abuse is Everyone's Concern

To report concerns about the well-being of a child or youth, call the anonymous and confidential Sonoma County Child Protection Hotline 24/7: (707) 565-4304.



child parent institute



"Empower, Support, Protect"

Human Services Department  
COUNTY OF SONOMA

## Thank a foster parent for helping our local kids.

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