Child abuse is a persistent problem within Santa Clara 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 Santa Clara community for the 2,014 verified child victims in 2018 is $782M. 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:

- **Bay Area:** $2.0B
- **Santa Clara:** $782M

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

- **2,014** verified child victims of abuse
- **14,750** reported child victims of abuse
- **51,211** estimated child victims of abuse

That’s one child every 30 minutes.

That same amount could put 7.3k kids through college.

The resulting financial impact is as high as $20B.
The mission of the Child Abuse Prevention Council is to prevent and respond to all forms of child abuse and neglect through community partnerships, education, collaboration, and advocacy.

www.capcscc.org

The Cost of Abuse to the Santa Clara Community

A Breakdown of $782M

- Healthcare: $98,665,074
- Criminal Justice: $15,412,235
- Child Welfare: $23,724,442
- Education: $31,748,323
- Lifetime Productivity: $612,205,389

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

LEARN MORE: http://www.healthyrelationshipsac.com

#CostOfAbuse

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