

# People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



## Know the Facts: Child Abuse and Neglect

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Child maltreatment includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver or another person in a custodial role (e.g. clergy, coach, teacher). The four common types of abuse are:
  - ▶ Neglect
  - ▶ Emotional abuse
  - ▶ Physical abuse
  - ▶ Sexual abuse
- More than 686,000 children were victims of maltreatment and another 1,640 died in the United States in 2012 from abuse and neglect.
- The total lifetime cost of child maltreatment is \$124 billion each year.
- More than 3 million referrals of child maltreatment are received by state and local agencies each year—that's nearly 6 referrals every minute.

### WHERE WE WERE (BASELINE):

In 1998, 75.5 referrals and 21.7 substantiated cases per 1,000 children aged 0-18 years were reported in Shasta County.

### WHERE WE ARE:

Since 1998, the rate of substantiated maltreatment in Shasta County decreased by 25% to a rate of 16.2 per 1,000 children in 2013.

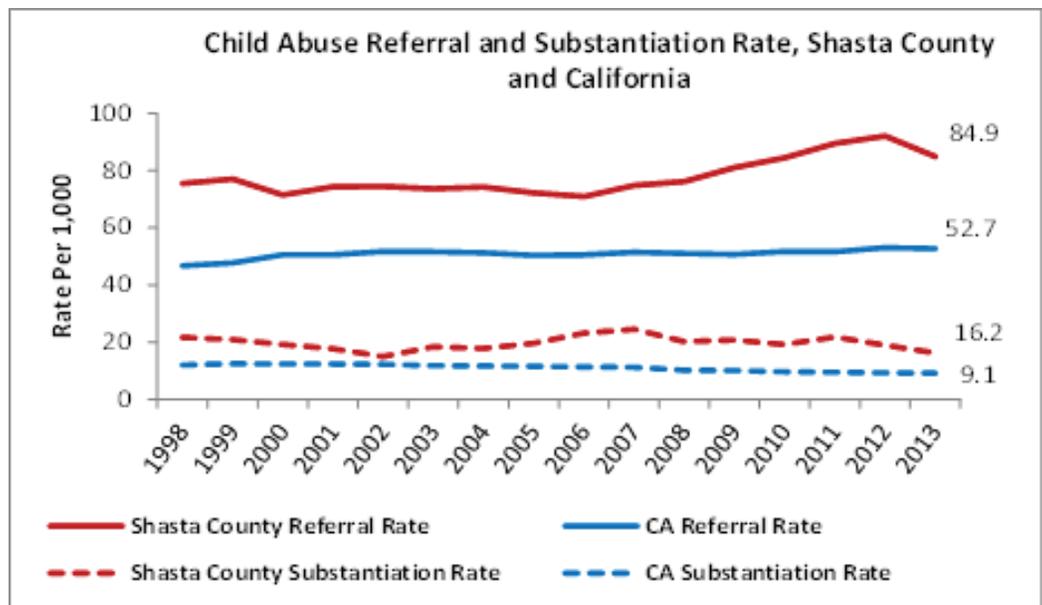
### WHERE WE ARE AIMING:

The Healthy People 2020 goal is to reduce the incidence of maltreatment of children younger than age 18 to 8.5 per 1,000 children.

### DEFINITION:

Referrals are defined as incidents reported for follow-up investigation of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of children aged 0-17 years per 1,000 children in Shasta County.

Substantiated cases are defined as those investigations yielding charges verified of abuse, neglect or exploitation of children aged 0-17 years per 1,000 children in Shasta County.



**Contributing Staff:** Ali Abadi and Stephanie Taylor. Last updated: April 2016.

Find more health information at [www.shastahhsa.net](http://www.shastahhsa.net). Click on "Health and Safety," then "Current Health Concerns." Questions? Email [shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us)

## KEY POINTS:

- The incidence of maltreatment of children in Shasta County (16.2/1000) and California (9.1/1000) did not meet the expected target of Healthy People 2020 (8.5/1000) by 2013.
- Both rates of referrals and substantiations of child abuse were significantly higher in Shasta County than in California during 1998-2013.
- The most frequent type of reported child abuse in Shasta County in 2012 was general neglect (67%), followed by emotional (11%), physical (9%) and sexual (7%) abuse.

## PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Incorporate child development and parenting skills into existing educational curriculum for kindergarten through high school.
- Provide child development education to expectant parents to develop age-appropriate expectations for small children.
- Provide well-supported home visiting services for selected high-risk parents.
- Assure availability of universal mental health and substance abuse services to parents.
- Increase community understanding of the critical importance of the earliest years of a child's life (prenatal to three years) for brain development, bonding with parents and future functioning and health.
- Provide greater financial support for child development services during the first three years of life.
- Support voluntary universal preschool, accessible to all, for ages 3 and 4.
- Prevent unplanned pregnancies and teenage parenthood.

### From the Desk of **Andrew Deckert,** **MD, MPH** *Shasta County Public Health Officer*

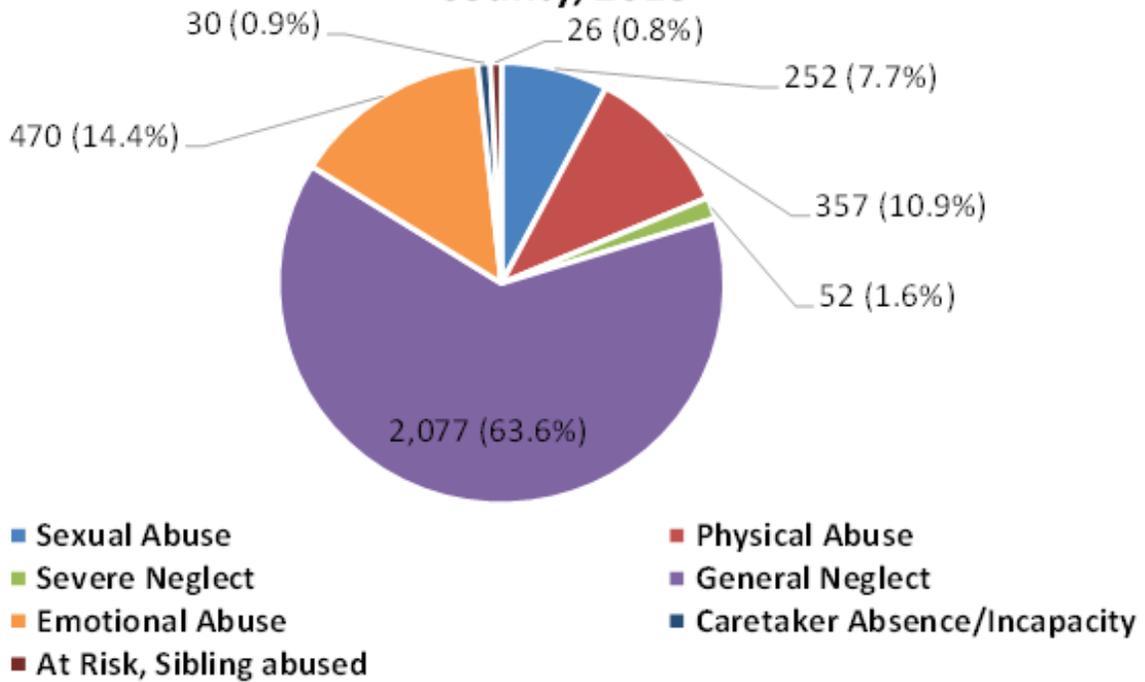


Childhood abuse, neglect, and exposure to other traumatic stressors (Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACE) have been shown to increase the risk of a multitude of health and social problems, including alcoholism, lung disease, depression, illicit drug use, heart disease, liver disease, smoking, intimate partner violence, suicide and unplanned pregnancies.

Everyone can play a role in creating healthy homes, schools and neighborhoods for children. Healthy relationships with parents, teachers and other caregivers as a buffer against adverse childhood experiences. These relationships are necessary to ensure the long-term physical and emotional well-being of children. One key to prevent child abuse and neglect is to promote the development of safe, stable and nurturing environments and relationships between children and their parents or caregivers. This is a worthwhile investment in our future.

***To your health!***

## Frequency of Types of Child Abuse Reported in Shasta County, 2013



## Trends in Substantiated Child Abuse Allegations by Allegation Type Shasta County 1998-2013

