

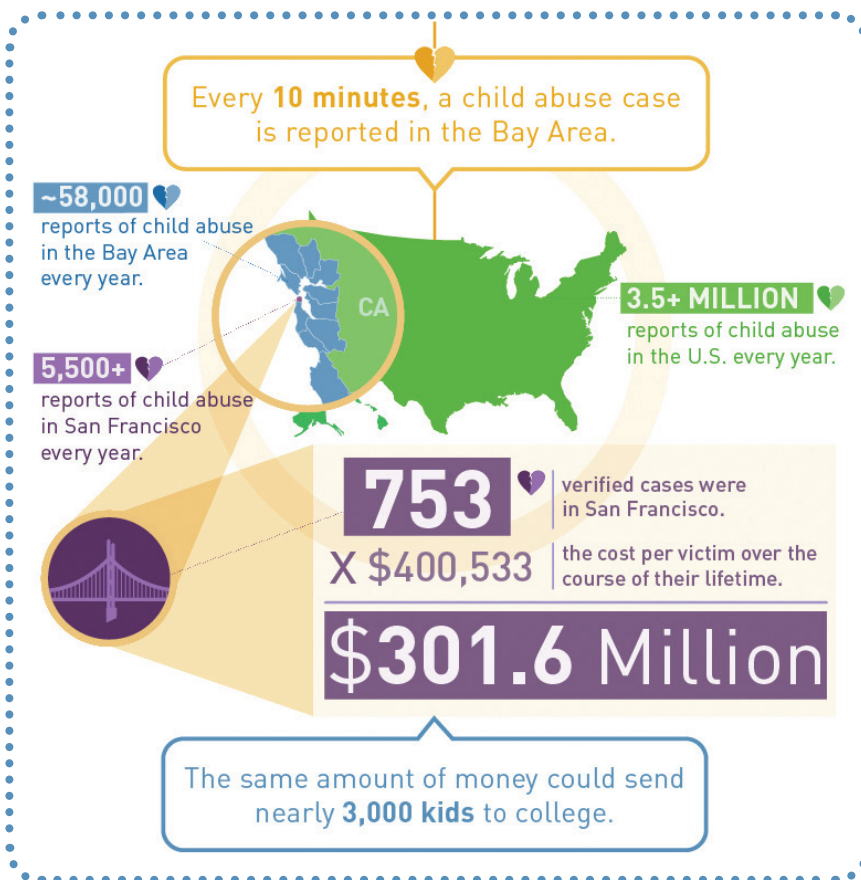
# THE ECONOMICS OF CHILD ABUSE

## A STUDY OF SAN FRANCISCO | SUMMARY

Child abuse is a persistent problem within San Francisco and the greater Bay Area. Although it is a hidden social ill, its impact is significant. A single incidence of child abuse impacts not just the child, but the family, the community, and society at large. In fact, child abuse is a core underlying factor to many of the ongoing struggles of this community, such as dropout rates, homelessness, high incarceration, and health concerns.

The devastating physical, mental, and emotional effects of abuse persist long after maltreatment occurs, and result in ongoing costs to every sector of our community. This report brings to light this largely ignored issue, and the negative impact it has on all of us.

### CHILD ABUSE AFFECTS ALL OF US



#### COST EXPLANATION

The lifetime economic burden per victim is \$400,533, which is an indication of the financial importance to San Francisco of preventing a single child from becoming a victim. The total annual economic burden of child abuse in San Francisco is \$301.6 million.

GIVEN THAT CHILD ABUSE IS VASTLY UNDERREPORTED.

THE TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC BURDEN COULD BE AS HIGH AS **\$5.6 BILLION**



# BREAKDOWN OF \$400,533

## LIFETIME PRODUCTIVITY

Victims are more likely to be unemployed and rely on public assistance and may face barriers to employment, which lead to diminished earning potential throughout adulthood.

## EDUCATION

Abused children are 77 percent more likely to require special education.

## CHILD WELFARE

Victims may require intervention services, foster care, and counseling services.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Abused children are 59 percent more likely to be arrested as juveniles, and 28 percent more likely to have an adult criminal record.

## HEALTHCARE

Victims may require hospital care, mental health services, and other medical services throughout childhood, and have a higher incidence of chronic health problems, mental health issues, substance abuse, and risky sexual behavior throughout adulthood.

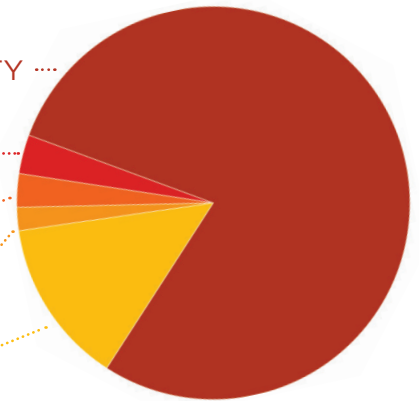
**\$314,417**  
LIFETIME PRODUCTIVITY ...

**\$12,891**  
EDUCATION .....

**\$11,035**  
CHILD WELFARE .....

**\$7,637**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE .....

**\$54,553**  
HEALTHCARE .....



## COMMUNITY RISK FACTORS

A variety of factors make individuals and families more vulnerable to abuse. Risk factors are often related to life experiences such as being a victim of abuse; other risk factors are biological predispositions such as mental illness or addiction, while some are a result of the community in which one lives.

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

In recent years, San Francisco has had the ninth highest income inequality of all major cities and the third highest of all metropolitan areas in the U.S.

## POOR SOCIAL CONNECTIONS & SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Rising costs push low- and middle-income families out of San Francisco. By the last census estimate, San Francisco had the lowest percentage of children among all major cities in the U.S. Immigrants and their children, who comprise 43 percent of the Bay Area population, face cultural and language differences, discrimination, and social isolation.

## RESIDENTIAL INSTABILITY

In 2015, San Francisco was ranked the least affordable county for housing in California and since the 80's, housing prices have grown faster than every other U.S. city. In 2015, there were an estimated 3,222 homeless children in San Francisco — a 94 percent growth in less than 10 years.

## STRESSFUL ENVIRONMENTS

In 2012, San Francisco had nearly double the national rate of violent crimes per capita. In 2015, unemployment among African Americans was more than double the city average, while unemployment among young workers was four times as high. San Francisco has 20 to 30 percent more liquor stores per capita than both the state and national average.

**VIEW THE FULL REPORT: [HTTP://SFCAPC.ORG/COSTOFABUSE](http://SFCAPC.ORG/COSTOFABUSE)**