



Every kid needs a family...

**giving children in the
child welfare system**

the best chance for success

Policy report
KIDS COUNT

Every kid needs a family. This, we know. We know it when we look at our own children and think about our dreams for them. We know it in our hearts, in our bones and from our own stories. Whether “family” means a mother and father, a single parent, a beloved aunt or uncle, a grandparent or a caring foster or adoptive family, this bond gives meaning to our successes, cushions our hardships and allows us to be most ourselves. A family loves us at our worst and summons our best when nothing else will. A family provides a compass from birth to death. It is the definition of home.



[KIDS COUNT](#)

Mendocino County Grand Jury Report

**FAMILY AND
CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

Children at Risk



The Mendocino County Family and Children’s Services Agency is one of the lowest scoring child protective services agencies in the State of California (State). In spite of a dedicated, caring, hardworking staff, the agency appears to be falling further behind. Every performance indicator points to understaffing as the main culprit. The understaffing has many causes: noncompetitive compensation, work overload, poor management, and low morale. Senior management is aware of the issues and their consequences but has failed to address them.

A number of the interviewees expressed the grave concern, that because of the current state of affairs in Family and Children’s Services Agency, “a disaster is waiting to happen.” The purpose of this investigation is to find out why and to publish the facts.

[Full Report—Click on Family and Children’s Services](#)

Emotional and Psychological Well-Being of Children in Foster Care

By Shoshana Indyk
May 2015



Children in foster care are more vulnerable to maladaptive development given their exposure to high risk environments prior to placement, as well as the process of out of home placement itself. Children and youth in foster care may have been exposed to neglect, abuse, poverty, homelessness, and maltreatment, prior to placement in the system. Furthermore, foster care placement and home instability, compounded by the potential lack of a consistent caregiver, can lead to an interruption in proper development.

Wellbeing

**Continuing
Education**

Each CASA program is mandated by the California Rule of Court 5.655, to insure our volunteers complete 12 hours of continuing education each year. In addition to in-person training opportunities, we offer independent study to meet this requirement. To catch up on your continuing education credits, please visit our continuing education opportunities on our [website](#), choose a topic, and after reviewing, mail a paragraph or two about the topic you chose, what you learned, and felt was the most noteworthy. Email Sheryn at shildebrand@mendocinocasa.org

**Substantiated Cases
of Child Abuse and
Neglect**
per 1,000 children
under age 18

Locations	Rate per 1,000
California	8.9
Alameda County	2.7
Alpine County	LNE
Amador County	10.8
Butte County	11.3
Calaveras County	23.9
Colusa County	11.8
Contra Costa County	5.1
Del Norte County	18.6
El Dorado County	9.2
Fresno County	8.6
Glenn County	14.6
Humboldt County	8.5
Imperial County	7.7
Inyo County	7.9
Kern County	15.2
Kings County	7.7
Lake County	8.4
Lassen County	10.8
Los Angeles County	12.2
Madera County	12.2
Marin County	3.7
Mariposa County	21.1
Mendocino County	16.8
Merced County	10.4
Modoc County	25.6
Mono County	LNE
Monterey County	3.2
Napa County	6.5
Nevada County	5.9
Orange County	7.2
Placer County	8.2
Plumas County	13.2
Riverside County	10.3
Sacramento County	10.4
San Benito County	4.6
San Bernardino County	8.3
San Diego County	6.9
San Francisco County	5.5
San Joaquin County	7.0
San Luis Obispo County	12.2
San Mateo County	2.6
Santa Barbara County	5.8
Santa Clara County	4.9
Santa Cruz County	7.3
Shasta County	15.9
Sierra County	LNE
Siskiyou County	23.0
Solano County	5.1
Sonoma County	4.9
Stanislaus County	15.8
Sutter County	5.9
Tehama County	14.2
Trinity County	31.2
Tulare County	5.8
Tuolumne County	18.0
Ventura County	7.4
Yolo County	8.8
Yuba County	12.3

[KIDS COUNT \(Apr. 2013\)](#)