



March 2017- Vol 6, Issue 2

### Court Appointed Special Advocates of Mendocino & Lake Counties



## OVERMEDICATION OF FOSTER KIDS

CALIFORNIA SEEKS TO PREVENT

ELEVATEREHAB.ORG

In the past, lawmakers didn't think twice about how doctors treated foster children suffering from emotional traumas such as abandonment

and abuse. Nobody controlled how often practitioners prescribed psychiatric drugs that had serious potential for doing more harm than good. Today, investigations into California's foster care system shed light on the doctors who fuel medication problems by inappropriately prescribing narcotics to the state's most vulnerable children – ultimately leading to three new California laws.

[Read More](#)

### Kids Data: Walk-through instructions for accessing ACE's data

Type [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org) into your web browser

Click on the tab for "Data by Topic"

Click the plus sign next to "Child Youth and Safety"

Click the plus sign next to "Child Adversity and Resilience"

Click on "Children with Two or More Adverse Experiences (Parent Reported)".

Find the appropriate county percentage &

If your county (displayed on the left hand side) has a plus (+) next to it, there is additional information available, broken down by city, or...

**kidsdata.org**

A Program of Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health

Type [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org) into your web browser

Click on the tab for "Data by Region"

Select the appropriate County/Region

Select "County-Level Data"

From there, the search will default to Demographic Information. You can browse this information, or select the "County Fact Sheet" in the upper right hand corner, for general information. Some Demographics offer you the opportunity to compare with CA.

Select "Child and Youth Safety" in the upper left hand corner.

Scroll to the bottom of the page to see "Children with Two or More Adverse Experiences (Parent Reported)".

Select "Customize Chart" in the bottom right corner to view more information on the data represented.

CASA is an organization that works alongside social workers to improve the lives of foster children, we at CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties recognize the immense dedication and invaluable service social workers provide to our communities. They witness harrowing, heartbreaking tragedy, and try to mend families torn apart by substance abuse, domestic violence, and other overwhelming challenges that prevent parents from safely caring for their children. Often, it is a social worker who must remove a child from their home when they enter the foster care system, and they work with children and families day in, day out to help them move past conflicts and heal. Our CASA volunteers, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, work on behalf of the child they're matched with, and collaborate with social workers to consider and secure resources for the child. CASA volunteers work to complement the social worker's efforts, provide an objective perspective that can result in the child reunifying with their biological parents, adoption by a family member, or adoption with a new "forever family". We thank social workers for their tireless efforts, and encourage you to support them and foster youth by becoming a CASA volunteer.



### California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare Archive Webinar: Sustainment of Prevention Programs and Initiatives



Sustainment of evidence-based practices and programs in public youth-serving systems is one of the greatest, yet least understood challenges of implementation science. A large knowledge gap exists regarding the meaning of the term "sustainment" and what factors predict or even measure sustainment of effective prevention programs and support systems. In this presentation, Dr. Palinkas reviews some of the current barriers to sustaining evidence-based programs in child welfare and child mental health, describes potential strategies for achieving long-term sustainment, and presents findings from an ongoing study to develop a system for measuring and monitoring progress toward sustainment.

[Webinar & PowerPoint](#)



COMING next month  
April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Become a CASA Volunteer!**  
**Call Sheryn at 707-489-5346**