

Fresno County DSS
&
Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. #ThrivingFamilies



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION IN FRESNO COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

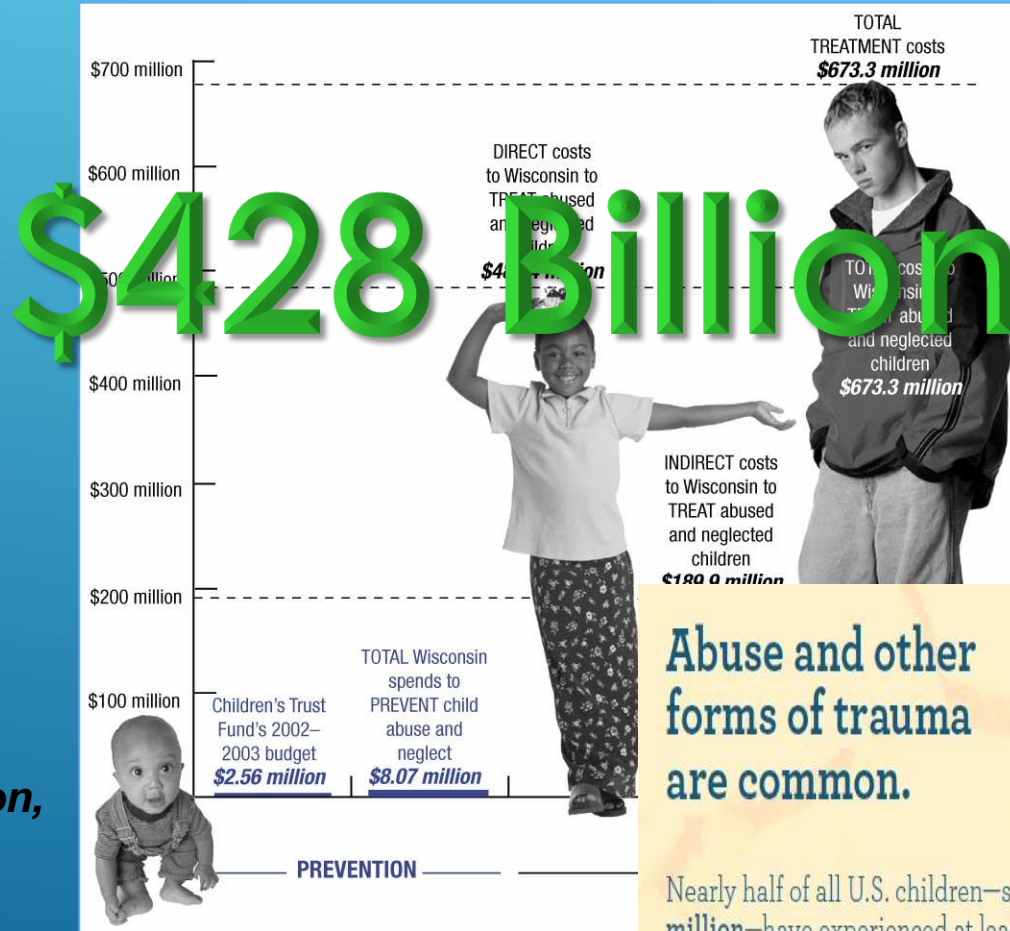
BECAUSE PREVENTION WORKS!

IF WE CAN PREDICT IT, WE CAN PREVENT IT!

Nationally, total estimated cost of child abuse & neglect is **\$103.8 billion dollars!**

- Direct – \$33,101,302,133 for child welfare system, hospitalization, mental health care and law enforcement
- Indirect – \$70,652,715,359 for lost productivity to society, adult criminal justice system, juvenile delinquency, special education and mental health & health care.

For every \$10 in prevention, \$1,000 is saved in intervention, treatment & suffering!



Abuse carries a heavy cost. The lifetime cost for each victim is

\$210,012

Each year, total lifetime costs of new cases of child abuse reach approximately

\$124 billion

FRESNO COUNTY DA, LISA SMITTCAMP (GVWIRE UNFILTERED PODCAST, MARCH 2022):
THERE IS NO WHERE FOR THESE PARENTS TO GO. WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS WE NEED TO EDUCATE! DRUGS & DRUG ADDICTION & ALCOHOL IS THE CORE OF WHAT IS THE DEMISE OF OUR FAMILIES, OF OUR SAFETY, OF OUR ECONOMY, OF OUR HEALTH. IF WE COULD CURE THE THIRST & THE NEED OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION TO GET OVER THEIR WANT & NEED OF DRUGS & DRUG ADDICTION WE WOULD BE A MUCH HAPPIER & SAFE SOCIETY.

Do we invest in preschools or prisons?

\$6,075
per year
for one child in early
learning program



\$216,081
per year
for one teen in
juvenile detention



THE BIGGEST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE THE SMALLEST

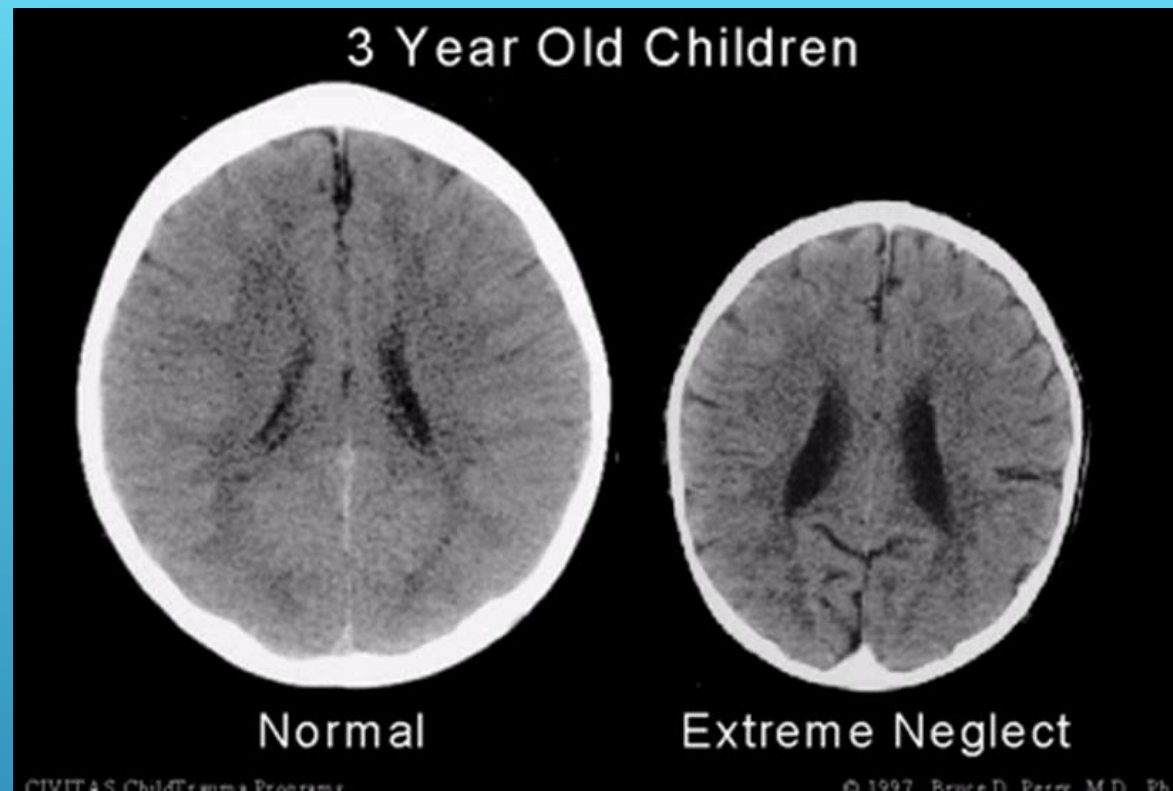
Every year millions of children watch/hear one parent violently assaulting another.

The tragic reality of children growing in domestic violence is that they end up with mental health problems at a rate higher than children who are actually the direct victims of physical abuse.

Children exposed to domestic violence, children who witness their parents fighting literally are experiencing a state of fear and when this happens the systems in your brain that are involved in thinking at the top part of the brain are literally shut down, it changes the brains of these children.

- Dr. Bruce Perry

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILD ABUSE CORRELATI ON



- In 60% of the cases where the partner is being abused, so are the children.
- Mothers who are in battering relationships are eight times more likely to hurt their children while they were being battered than while they were safe.
- Children from violent homes are 74% more likely to commit crimes against persons.

**Dr. Bruce Perry First Impressions Video at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4zP50tEad0>**

Know what hurts children & what protects them!



5 Risk Factors

Social and Emotional Competence

Children's early experiences of being nurtured and developing a positive relationship with caring adult affects all aspects of behavior and development.



Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

Children thrive when parents provide not only affection, but also respectful communication and listening, consistent rules and expectations, and safe opportunities that promote independence.



5

Protective Factors

Social Connections

Parents with a social network of emotionally supportive friends, family, and neighbors often find that it is easier to care for their children and themselves.



Resilience

Parents who can cope with the stresses of everyday life, as well as an occasional crisis, have resilience; they have the flexibility and inner strength necessary to bounce back when things are not going well.



Concrete Support

Families who can meet their own basic needs for food, clothing, housing, and transportation—and who know how to access essential services such as childcare, health care, and mental health services to address family-specific needs—are better able to ensure the safety and well-being of their children.



5 Protective Factors

PREVENTION & INTERVENTION SAVES LIVES

Samantha's perpetrator/murderer was a 26-year old male (Avila) who grew up in a home w/ severe domestic abuse. Although CPS was called and LE removed all 5 Avila children, they were returned within one week and continued to be abused attending **school** w/ bruises and broken bones but no other reports were made.

A year prior to murdering Samantha, Avila had sexually assaulted 3 other girls, 2 were his girlfriends daughters and the other was the daughter of one of his friends. No reports were made on any of these. Avila was also corresponding on the Internet with other child molesters and viewing child pornography on his home computer.

If early child abuse intervention and prevention had succeeded in Avila's childhood - - - Samantha would be alive today and the other child sexual abuse victims would have been spared the trauma and long lasting effects. Hopefully they received treatment to heal.

This story was told by Samantha's mother, Erin Runnion.



**Samantha
Runnion**

July 26, 1996 to
July 15, 2002

Kidnapped, raped
& murdered before
her 6th birthday.

The Joyful Child
Foundation

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN



*What you
don't know
can hurt me*



Make a difference.

A graphic featuring a yellow background with a honeycomb pattern. At the bottom center is a brown beehive with a yellow entrance. Three bees are shown flying around the beehive, leaving dotted lines behind them.

THE MOST
IMPORTANT WORK
you will ever do
WILL BE WITHIN
THE WALLS OF
**YOUR
OWN
HOME**
President Harold B. Lee

FRESNO COUNTY DSS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION



IN 2022..

15,516

Child abuse reports received

8,361

Investigations of abuse cases

1,232

Reports of abuse verified

1,104

Cases opened



DSS PREVENTION GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES



Goal

- Reduce child abuse and neglect through long-term investment in targeted family-friendly, culturally appropriate services in the community

OBJECTIVES

- TARGET AREAS THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CHILD REMOVAL RATES
- STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES IN THESE AREAS TO PROVIDE AN ARRAY OF AVAILABLE SERVICES
- SUPPORT FAMILIES AT RISK OF ENTERING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

STRATEGIES

- MAINTAIN A NETWORK OF NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTERS
- PROVIDE DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE SERVICES TO HIGH-RISK FAMILIES



Neighborhood Resource Centers serve as a hub of prevention and early intervention in their immediate communities. NRCs provide families with support, resources and individualized services based on their needs and interests.

Differential Response responds to families that have already been reported to Child Welfare, but where the risk factors are not high enough to warrant continued involvement. The goal is to reduce the likelihood that these families re-enter the system.

SERVICES INCLUDE

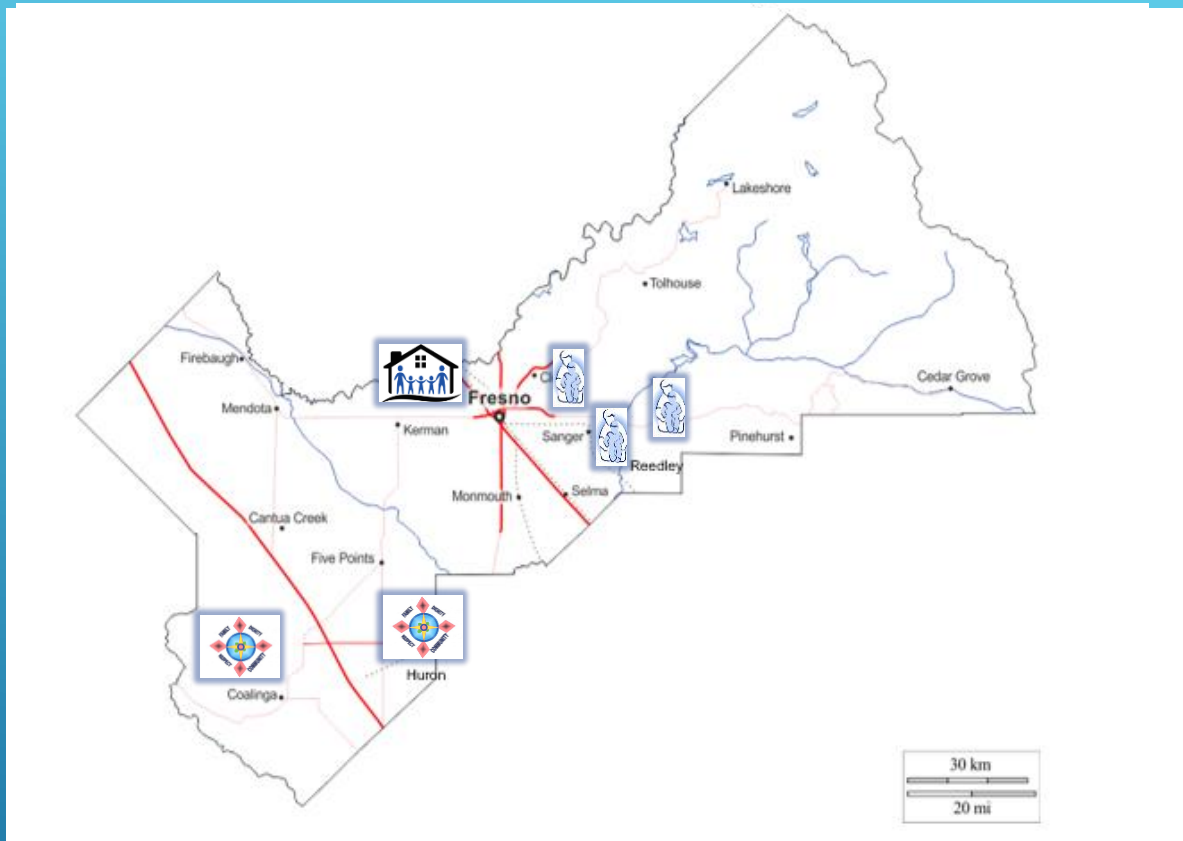
- Parenting support
- Home Visitation Services
- Assistance with food, clothing and housing
- Assistance with gas/electric bills
- Assistance with applications/paperwork
- Translation of forms/documents
- Counseling for children, teens and adults
- Employment assistance
- Immigration assistance
- Connection to other community resources
- Case Management

FY 2021-2022

- NRCs have helped 10,953 new families seeking services and support.
- The Department sent 1,249 DR referrals to our DR/NRCs.
- 390 new families accepted case management services.
- 339 DR cases were closed last year and 64% of the closed cases completed their case plan or showed progress at closure.



Rural Locations



Westside Family Preservation Services

- Coalinga
- Huron

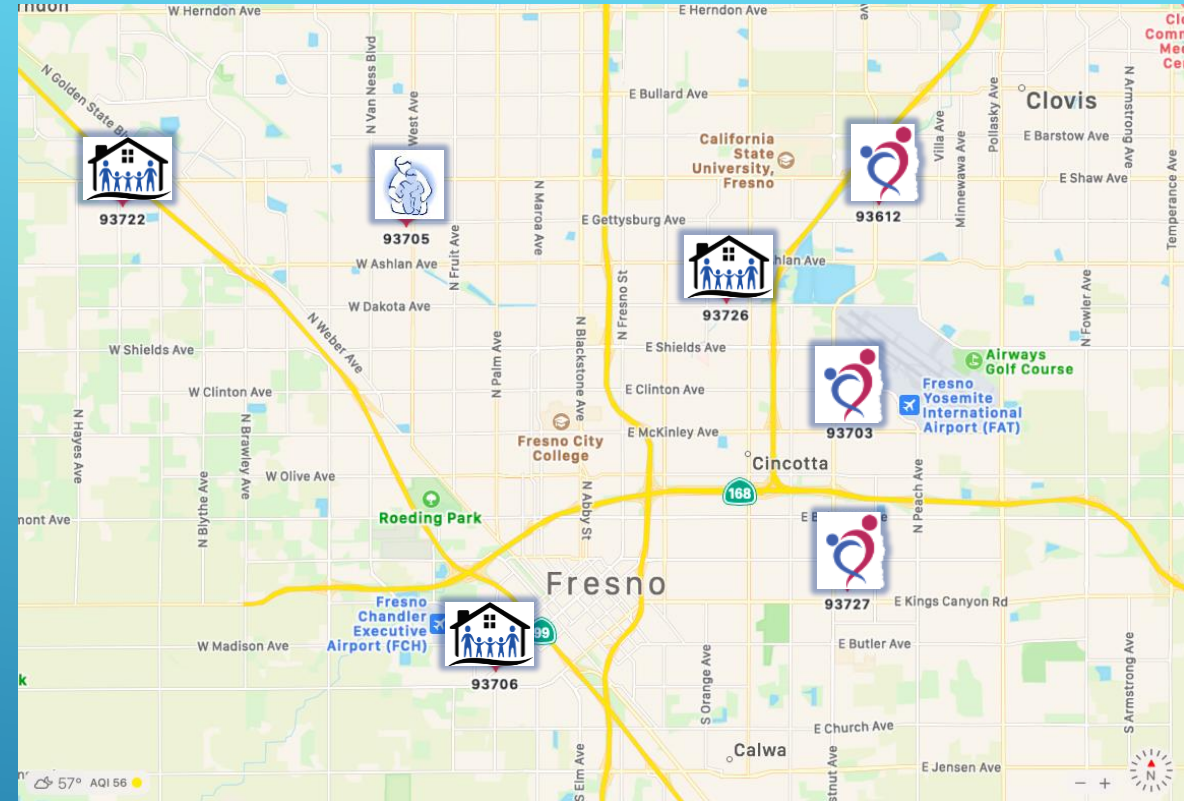
Comprehensive Youth Services

- Sanger
- Selma
- Reedley

Centro La Familia Advocacy

- Kerman

Metro Locations



Exceptional Parents Unlimited

- 93703
- 93727
- 93612

Comprehensive Youth Services

- 93705

Centro La Familia Advocacy

- 93706
- 93726
- 93722

DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE SUCCESS STORY

A single mother of an 11-month-old child. During the intake appointment, the mother stated that she was seeking counseling services and would like to improve her parenting skills. She also stated that she was taking medication for depression and wanted to see a psychiatrist, but she did not have the resources. The Case Manager successfully engaged and connected her with linkages to parent education services and the with the Department of Behavioral Health to see a psychiatrist. She is currently working towards completing her GED in order to attend college and is actively seeking a part-time job to provide for her family. Per conversation with her, she had her second job interview and is hoping to get a job soon. The Case Manager continues to provide supports to her while she is working towards her goals.



Families First Prevention Service Act FFPSA

California's Five-Year State Prevention Plan



Implementing the Title IV-E
Prevention Program
Established by the Family First
Prevention Services Act

California Department of Social Services | 202

Federal FFPSA Part 1: Title IVE funds can now be used to provide services to prevent children from entering foster care.

FFPSA Criteria:

- Children/Families served are at "imminent risk of entering foster care"
- Services provided must be Evidence-Based Programs (EBP)
- Counties must submit a State approved Comprehensive prevention plan.

April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



When we invest in children, we are investing in our communities. This April, help us bring attention to all the different ways we can help children and families thrive. #ChildAbusePreventionMonth #ThrivingFamilies