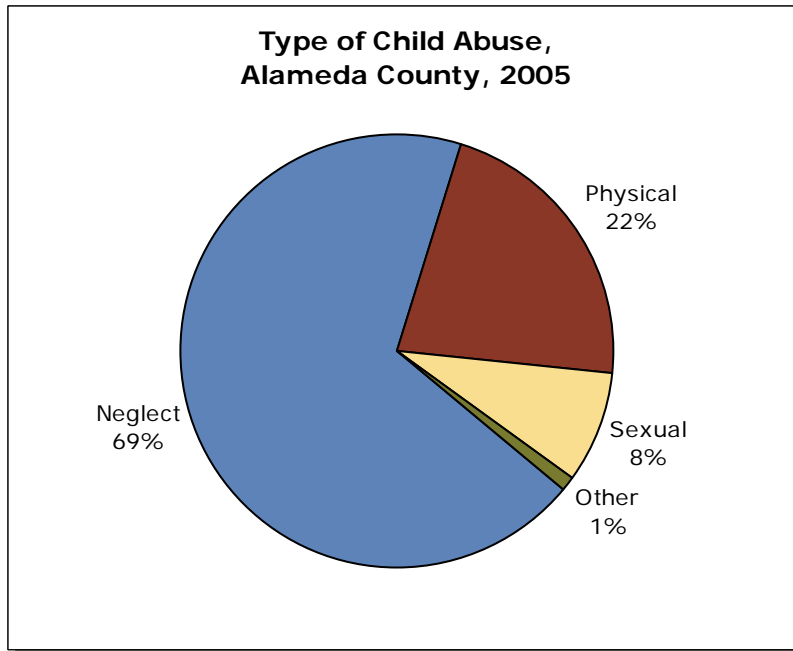




Child Abuse and Neglect in Alameda County: A Fact Sheet

Despite tremendous efforts for prevention and intervention over the past thirty years, **child abuse remains the most common type of major childhood trauma today**, and its impact on child health, families and societies is pervasive. Child neglect is the primary reason why children are removed from families at the national, state and county level.



Of 853 children who were removed from their homes in 2005, almost 70% were removed for neglect or severe neglect.

Impact of Child Maltreatment

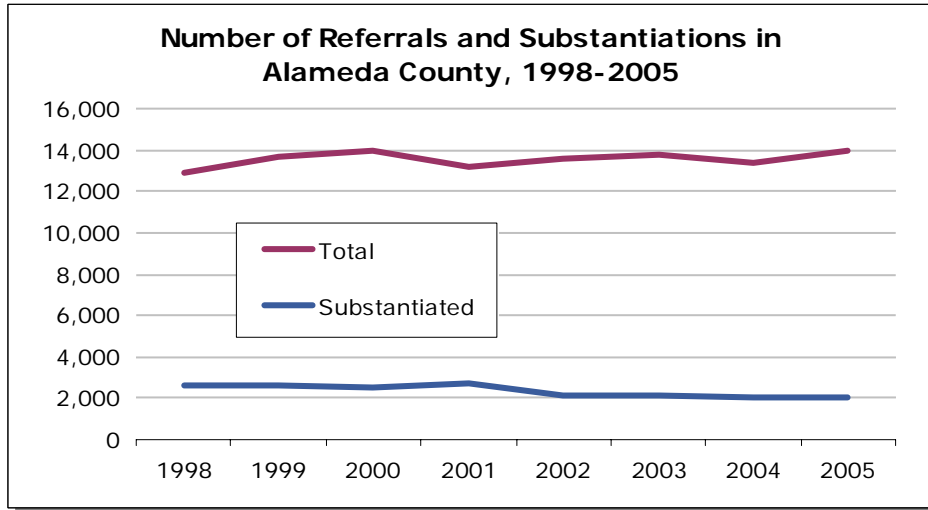
Children who have experienced abuse or neglect frequently experience long-term negative health and social outcomes. These negative consequences can be devastating for maltreated individuals, while impacting society as a whole through increased public health and mental health costs, incarceration, teen pregnancy, and emergency housing and income assistance needs.

Long-term consequences of child abuse:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Depression
- Anxiety disorders
- Smoking
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Relationship problems
- Adjustment disorders

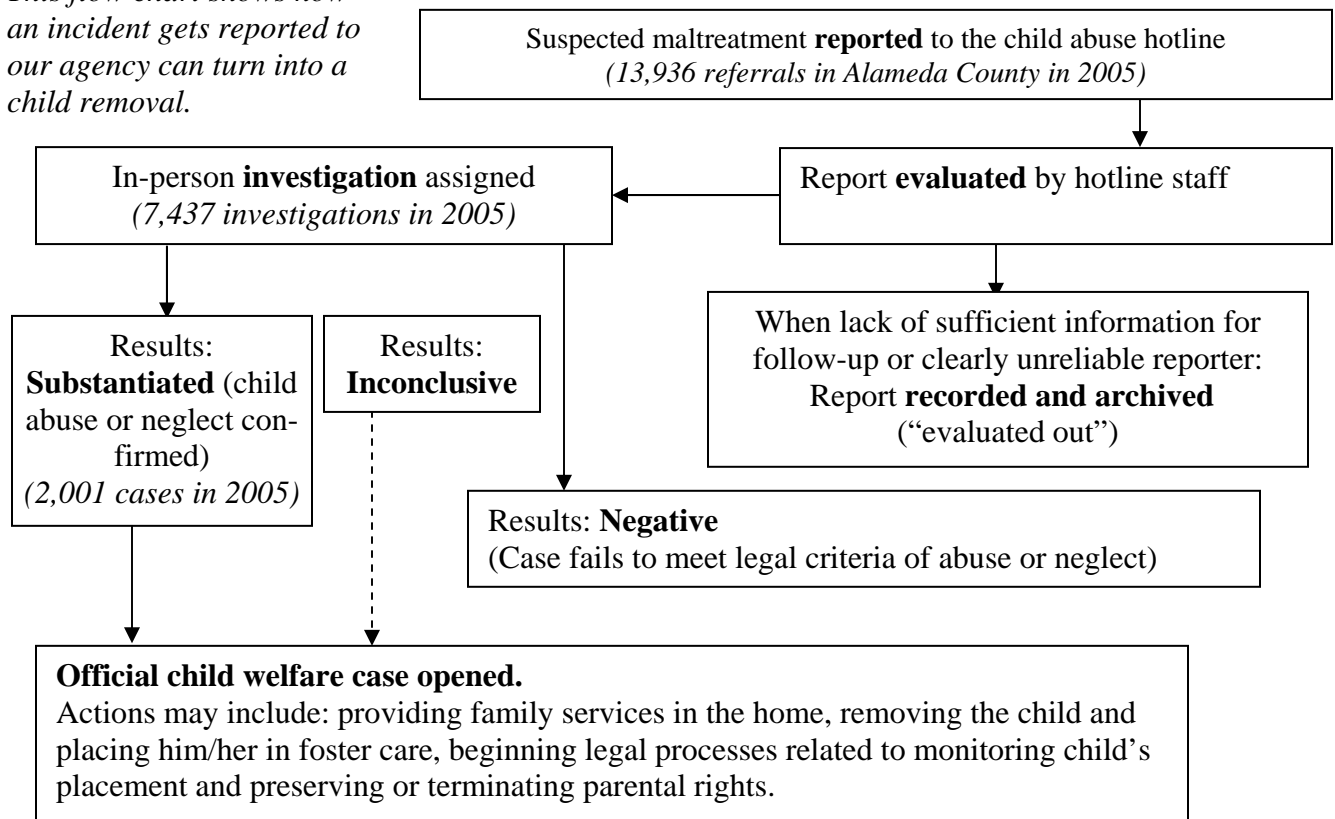
Reports of Suspected Abuse and Neglect

From 1998 to 2005, there were approximately 13,000 reports each year of suspected child abuse and neglect cases. Of these, about 20% were confirmed (substantiated) cases.



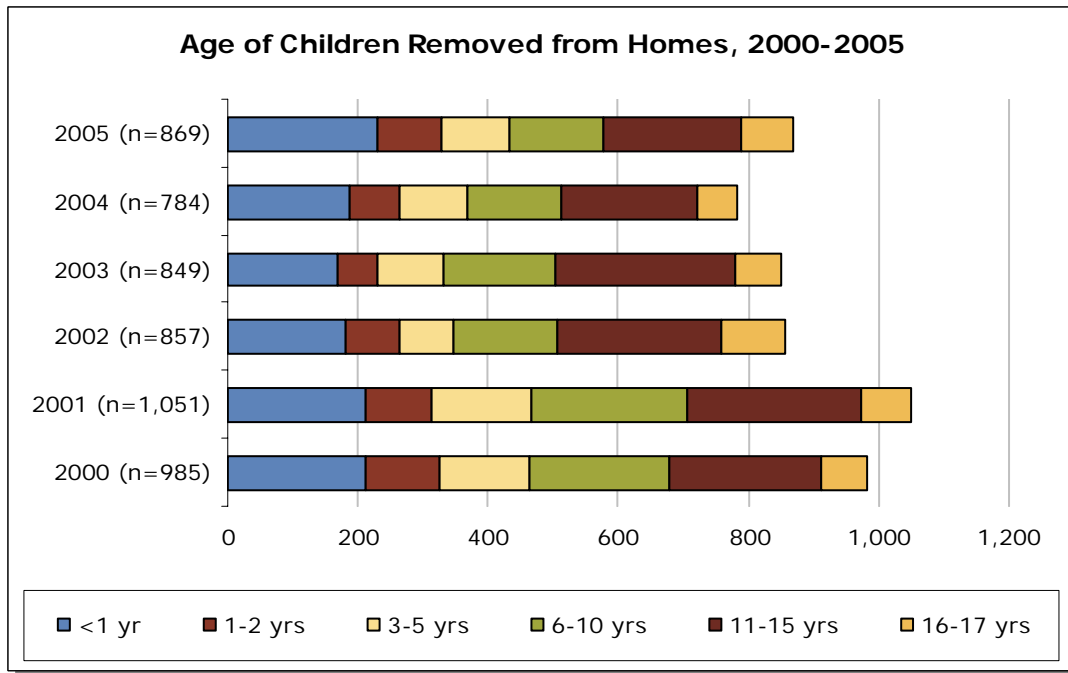
How the Child Welfare System Works

This flow chart shows how an incident gets reported to our agency can turn into a child removal.



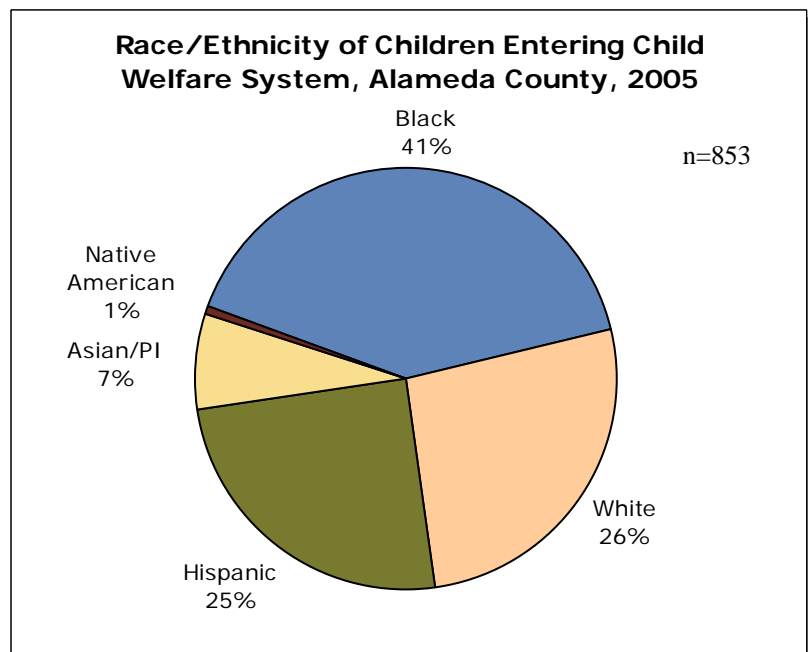
Removing Children from Their Homes

- In 2005, 853 children countywide were removed from their families and placed in foster care, a rate of 2.4 children per 1,000. The statewide rate was 3.0 children per 1,000.
- From 2000 to 2005, the age breakdown of children removed from homes due to child abuse and neglect was as follows: <1 year (22%), 1-5 years (23%), 6-10 years (20%), 11-15 years (27%), and 16-17 years (8%).



Racial/Ethnic Disparities

- African American children were over-represented in the child welfare system in Alameda County as observed statewide and nationally. African Americans made up 41% of the children entering foster care system for the first time in year 2005; though they comprise 15% of Alameda County's total child population.
- Native American children were also over-represented in the child welfare system.



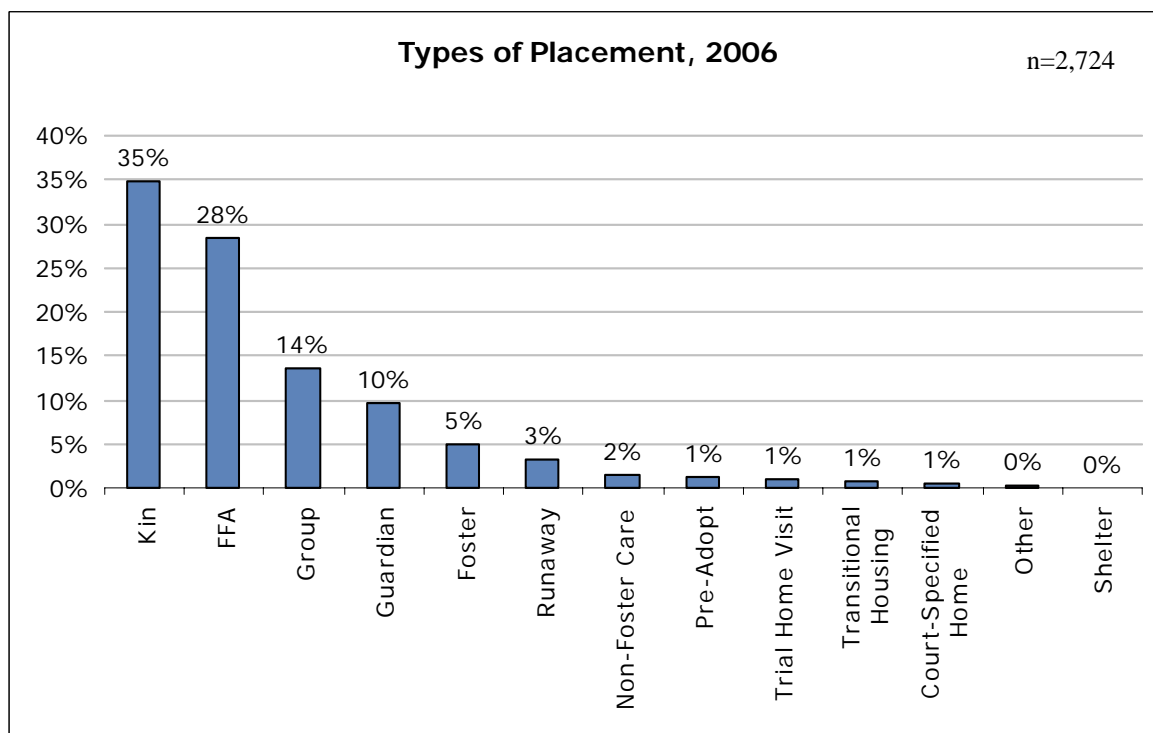
Foster Care Child Demographics and Placement Type

Age of Children in Foster Care, 2005

Age Group	Caseload	Child Population	Rate per 1,000 Children
<1 yr	122	21,195	5.8
1-2 yrs	183	40,132	4.6
3-5 yrs	216	60,951	3.5
6-10 yrs	530	93,600	5.7
11-15 yrs	1,153	100,889	11.4
16-18 yrs	718	59,753	12
Total	2,922	376,520	7.8

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care, 2005

Race/Ethnicity	Caseload	Child Population	Rate per 1,000 Children
Black	1,961	55,363	35.4
White	455	90,719	5.0
Hispanic	389	113,748	3.4
Asian	94	92,773	1.0
Native American	19	2,566	7.4
Other	0	21,351	0.0
Missing	4	NA	NA
Total	2,922	376,520	7.8



FFA: Non-profit foster agency home.

Definitions

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs including physical, medical, educational and emotional needs.

Physical abuse is physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting, or otherwise physically harming a child.

Sexual abuse includes activities such as fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.

Emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection, as well as withholding love, support, or guidance.

References

- Alameda County Children and Family Services Self-Assessment, Social Services Agency, January 2007
- CWS/CMS Reports, Child Welfare Research Center, UC Berkeley: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/>
- The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu/NDACAN/Datasets/Abstracts/DatasetAbstract_NCANDS_General.html
- Child Welfare League of America: <http://www.cwla.org>
- Alameda County Social Services Agency, Dept. of Children and Family Services: http://www.alamedasocialservices.org/public/about/departments/children_and_family/

Alameda County Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

(510) 259-1800



For more information, please contact
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