



2026

Strong Families, Safe Futures

**When we care together,
families thrive**

Child Abuse Prevention Council of Napa County
Annual Report to the Napa County Board of Supervisors



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Executive Summary

Strong Families, Safe Futures

Across California and the nation, child abuse prevention efforts are evolving in response to changing federal policies, shifting funding priorities, and a growing body of research showing that the most effective way to keep children safe is to strengthen families before crises occur. Recent changes at both the federal and state level have created uncertainty for many prevention programs, making local and state partnerships more important than ever to ensure that families have access to the support they need.

The California Office of Child Abuse Prevention continues to promote a framework centered on healthy families, strong communities, and the protective factors known to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect. This approach emphasizes early support, access to concrete resources, and community-based services that help families remain stable, connected, and resilient. Prevention is most effective when systems work together to address the social and economic conditions that place stress on families, including food and housing instability, lack of childcare, behavioral health challenges, and financial hardship.

Napa County is fully engaged in both statewide and regional prevention initiatives. Through the Child Abuse Prevention Council, Health and Human Services, community-based organizations, schools, and family resource centers, Napa County continues to strengthen a prevention-focused system that prioritizes early intervention and community partnership. Local efforts during Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and throughout the year help raise awareness, educate the public, and connect families to services that reduce risk and promote well-being.

Research consistently shows that prevention is more effective, more humane, and more cost-efficient than responding after harm has occurred. By investing in family strengthening, community supports and coordinated prevention and early-intervention strategies, Napa County can continue to move toward a system that protects children by supporting the adults who care for them.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Napa County remains committed to working with the Board of Supervisors, Health and Human Services, and community partners to advance this vision and ensure that parents are supported, children are safe, and Napa County is a community where families can thrive.

A Prevention System Built on Partnership

The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) of Napa County is established under California law to coordinate community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. CAPCs promote public awareness, support prevention programs, and advocate for policies and strategies that strengthen families and protect children.



The Napa County CAPC serves as a collaborative body that brings together public agencies, community organizations, schools, healthcare providers, and residents to advance a prevention-focused approach to child and family well-being, helping ensure that families can access support early, before challenges escalate into crises that require formal child welfare intervention.

This work is made possible through strong partnerships across sectors. The Napa County CAPC is led by Cope Family Center and includes Napa County Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, Napa County District Attorney, Napa County Office of Education, First 5 Napa County, UpValley Family Centers, ParentsCAN, Aldea Children & Family Services, Community Resources for Children, Monarch Justice Center, On The Move, NEWS Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse Services, Mentis, Boys and Girls Clubs Napa Valley, Napa Valley Unified School District, Crosswalk Community Church, law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, and other community organizations. Together, these partners form a coordinated network committed to keeping families stable, connected, and supported.

Understanding the Need: Child & Family Well-Being in Napa County

In 2025, Child Welfare Services received 1,358 referrals related to concerns about child safety and well-being. Most were evaluated out or resolved without formal intervention, reflecting ongoing efforts to connect families with resources rather than relying solely on investigative responses. Of those, 54 referrals were substantiated, involving 65 children, indicating that only a small portion of reports met the legal threshold for abuse or neglect.

During the same period, 37 children were removed from their homes, with the majority being placed in family-based settings, which research associates with better long-term outcomes.

Behind these numbers is an important caveat: child maltreatment is significantly underreported in every community. Stigma, fear of consequences, and limited awareness of how to recognize abuse all keep families from coming forward. This is precisely why prevention work extends beyond direct services to include public education, mandated reporter training, and community outreach -- efforts that lower barriers and help more families access support before harm occurs.

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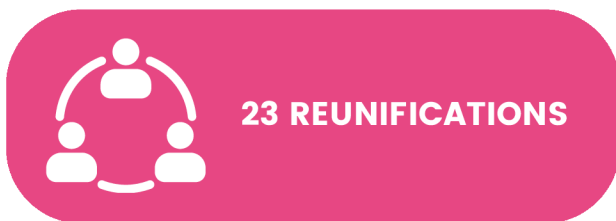
1,358 child maltreatment referrals made to CWS

54 referrals substantiated, involving 65 children

37 children removed from their homes

Many referrals are linked to family stressors including financial hardship, housing instability, lack of childcare, and mental health challenges. In recent years, additional stress has been observed among families experiencing fear and uncertainty related to immigration enforcement and changing federal policies. This fear can make families hesitant to seek help even when support is available, allowing small problems to grow into larger crises. These circumstances underscore the importance of trusted, community-based programs where families can access services safely and without hesitation.

When children do enter the system, Napa County's focus remains on keeping them connected to family and community. In 2025, 23 children were reunified with their families, 11 adoptions were finalized, and 5 guardianships were completed.



These outcomes reflect the work of Napa County Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services Division and community partners to support families through case management, concrete services, and prevention programs that keep children safe in their homes whenever possible or find loving adults who will make a life-long commitment in the event reunification is unsuccessful.

Taken together, the data points to a consistent conclusion: when families can access support early, the likelihood of child maltreatment decreases -- and when intervention does occur, the goal remains safety, permanency and well-being.

Prevention in Action

As the lead coordinating body for child abuse prevention in Napa County, CAPC's work spans direct community engagement, professional training, and policy advocacy -- all aimed at reaching families before challenges become crises.

In December 2025, Jeni Olsen joined Cope Family Center as Executive Director and stepped into the vacant CAPC Chair role, marking the start of a new chapter for the Council. Under Jeni's leadership, monthly Steering Committee meetings have resumed, ensuring stronger coordination among member agencies and a clear collective focus on the year ahead. On behalf of Napa County CAPC, Cope rejoined the Greater Bay Area CAPC Coalition, with plans to attend the 2026 Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Council Summit in person in Sacramento, representing Napa County.

Current CAPC initiatives include:

Comprehensive Prevention Plan



Continued collaboration with Napa County Health and Human Services to implement its Family First Prevention Services Act Comprehensive Prevention Plan, ensuring that a coordinated system of prevention services is available to all families in California through identified community pathways. Cope Family Center hosted a "watch party" this March for the 2026 Statewide Collaborative Prevention Convening, in partnership with HHSA's Child Welfare Services Division

Mandated Reporter Trainings

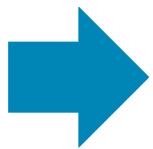


Worked with CWS to revise the MRT presentation to be aligned with state guidance regarding a shift from Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting and will be adding a comprehensive list of local resources for trained agencies to provide warm handoffs to clients, when appropriate, instead of reporting them to CWS.



Relaunched trainings in April 2025; delivered 9 trainings reaching 290 individuals including staff from NVUSD, NCOE, NEWS, Napa County HHSA, Boys and Girls Club of St. Helena and Calistoga, and Cope. This year we will be launching a fully bilingual training and expanding training beyond mandated reporters to the wider community.

Community Education and Outreach



Child Abuse Prevention Month: In April 2025, Cope and the Napa County CAPC led a month-long Blue Ribbon Month campaign in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.





The campaign engaged more than 30 local businesses through Paint the Town Blue, with participating businesses promoting awareness on social media, distributing materials, and hosting fundraisers, generating thousands of impressions across flyers, social media, and in-person engagements.

Community displays at Cope and in partnership with the District Attorney's office helped raise public visibility throughout the month.

Community members were invited to Wear Blue on April 4, and the Napa County Board of Supervisors presented a Proclamation declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month at its April 8 meeting.

Throughout the month, a robust social media and e-marketing campaign shared prevention statistics, promoted activities, and connected residents to educational resources through the Blue Ribbon website; Napa's events were also featured in the Greater Bay Area CAPC regional calendar coordinated by Safe and Sound.



The campaign concluded with Kids Day on May 3 at Oxbow Commons, a free, bilingual, community-wide family event that drew more than 500 attendees and 48 participating agencies.



This year's Blue Ribbon Month campaign is launching April 1 with a kickoff event at HHSA South Campus and will once again bring together local businesses, community partners, and residents across Napa County in a month-long effort to raise awareness, connect families to resources, and celebrate the community's commitment to every child's well-being.

Information about this year's campaign is available at
www.copefamilycenter.org/blueribbon.

Advocacy



In addition to local prevention work, CAPC advocates for policy, legislation, and community engagement that supports children and families, including speaking up on current issues that directly affect family well-being and child safety.



In April 2025, CAPC published a letter to the editor responding to President Trump's proclamation recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month.



The letter affirmed shared common ground on the value of strong families while pushing back on proposed federal funding cuts to the programs families rely on, a narrow definition of family that excludes many of the children and caregivers CAPC members serve, and the targeting of transgender youth and their families. It called on community members to support all children and families through advocacy, volunteerism, and local investment in housing, health care, early education, and mental health services.





In February 2026, CAPC lead agency Cope Family Center published a letter to the editor addressing the impact of national uncertainty and fear on children and families in Napa County. The letter offered practical guidance on supporting children through uncertain times, and reaffirmed Cope's commitment -- alongside its community partners -- to providing families with resources, connection, and safe spaces. The letter closed with a reminder that cuts across political lines: children everywhere deserve safety, protection, and dignity, and families are strongest when their communities show up for them.



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A Shared Responsibility: Priorities and Ways to Get Involved



Child abuse prevention is not the work of any single agency or system-- it belongs to all of us. Government, community organizations, and individual residents each have a role to play in building a county where every child is safe and every family is supported. The Child Abuse Prevention Council offers the following recommendations and invitations to action.

Priorities for County Leadership

The Child Abuse Prevention Council respectfully calls on the Napa County Board of Supervisors to continue investing in the following strategies:

Sustain funding for prevention and family support

Investing in prevention services helps families address challenges early, while improving outcomes for children.

Strengthen and expand Family Resource Centers

Family Resource Centers provide critical access to parenting support, case management, and concrete supports, allowing families to receive help in trusted community settings.

Advance implementation of the Comprehensive Prevention Plan

Continued support for Napa County's prevention plan will help expand the community-supporting model, improve coordination across agencies, and ensure families can access services before concerns rise to the level of abuse or neglect. Learn more here: [Napa County's Comprehensive Prevention Plan](#)

Support public awareness and education

Community education, mandated reporter training, and public awareness campaigns are essential to helping residents recognize risk factors, reduce stigma, and connect families to support early.

Champion cross-agency collaboration

Strong partnerships between County departments, schools, healthcare providers, nonprofits, and community organizations are key to building a coordinated prevention system that keeps children safe and families stable.



Get Involved

Get informed and get involved. Attend a CAPC meeting, visit a member agency, or complete a Mandated Reporter Training. With as little as an hour of your time, you can gain valuable insight into the work being done locally and learn how to contribute to a network of organizations dedicated to child well-being.

Volunteer and donate. Local family-supporting nonprofits depend on community generosity to deliver services. Your time and resources directly strengthen the safety net for Napa County's most vulnerable children and families.

Speak up. Talk openly about child abuse prevention with your neighbors, colleagues, and faith community. Awareness and honest conversation reduce the stigma that keeps families from seeking help.

Know the signs. Learn how to recognize indicators of abuse and neglect, and if you see something, say something. Reporting suspected abuse is one of the most direct ways any community member can protect a child. Call (707) 253-4261 to report suspected child abuse - 24 hours/day

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Support family-friendly policies. Advocate for legislation and candidates that prioritize children, families, affordable housing, health care, and mental health services -- and vote.

Show up for families. Offer encouragement, support, and a helping hand to the parents and caregivers in your own life. Strong communities are built one relationship at a time.

CONCLUSION

The work described in this report is the result of sustained commitment -- from County government, from community organizations, and from the individuals who show up every day for Napa County's children and families. The data from 2025 reflect real progress: families connected to resources before crises occur, children reunified with their families, and a prevention system that continues to grow stronger through collaboration.

That commitment remains as vital as ever. Families in Napa County are navigating real pressures including economic hardship, housing instability, immigration uncertainty, and mental health challenges. At the same time, programs that support them are facing an uncertain funding landscape at the federal level. Local investment and local partnerships are what stand in the gap.

Napa County has the relationships, the infrastructure, and the shared commitment to meet this moment. The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Napa County is grateful for the ongoing support of the Board of Supervisors and looks forward to continuing this work together, because when we invest in families, we protect children, and when we protect children, we strengthen our entire community.

