

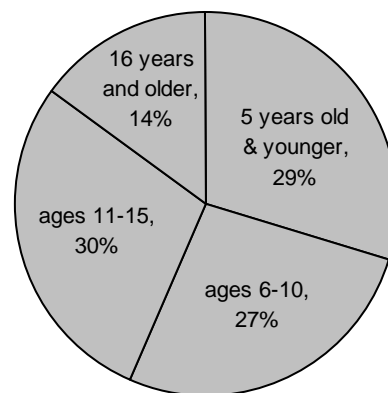
Statistics on Child Abuse Reporting and Response in Sonoma County

All reports of child abuse and neglect are received by the Emergency Response Program. Social workers are available 24 hours a day to provide risk assessment and support to callers who are reporting suspected child abuse and to make immediate in-person response if necessary. After a risk assessment has been conducted if the risk of abuse or neglect is severe, the Emergency Response team will coordinate with Law Enforcement to have the child(ren) removed from the home and placed, often with siblings, in an appropriate placement. As of February 29, 2008 there were 935 active child welfare cases.

In Calendar Year 2007 there were:

- **10,020** inquiries/reports of suspected child abuse received by child abuse hotline
- **2,772** face-to-face investigations to determine if allegations of abuse were substantiated
- **177** petitions were filed to remove children from abusive homes

Age Distribution in Active Cases



As of February 29, 2008 there were:

- **220** children in families who voluntarily received support services
- **537** children in placement: **273** boys and **264** girls
- **174** children placed in relative/extended family homes
- **65%** children with siblings placed with at least one sibling

In November 2007 **49%** of active child welfare cases involved at least family member who abuses (or used to abuse) methamphetamine.

Ethnicity breakdown for children in active cases as of 2/29/08

	Emergency Response (Court)	Family Maintenance	Family Reunification	Permanency Planning
Native American	12.5%	2.4%	0%	10.1%
African-American	3.1%	3.8%	6.3%	5.1%
Hispanic	25%	43%	42%	21.5%
White	48.4%	45%	50.8%	61.9%
Other	1.6%	2.7%	.9%	1.2%
Not Reported	9.4%	3.1%	0%	.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Types of child abuse referrals

Social workers investigate reports of child abuse and determine if allegations are substantiated, inconclusive or unfounded. The types of allegations fall into the following categories: **physical abuse, sexual abuse, caretaker absence/incapacity, emotional abuse, general neglect or severe neglect, substantial risk, and at-risk due to a sibling having been abused.** In Calendar Year 2007, there were 963 substantiated allegations of abuse:

Substantial Risk 33%	Neglect 32%	Emotional Abuse 15%	Physical Abuse 12%	Sexual Abuse 8%
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