



Feature Story

Foster Care in Mendocino County

by Nichole Luher, MEd

Last year in Mendocino County there were roughly 280 children placed into the foster care system, this is 12.3 per 1,000; the California overall average is 5.8 per 1,000 children. In 2015 there were 355 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Mendocino County, this translates to 19 per every 1,000, while the California average is 9 per 1,000 (kidsdata.org). Our County has a disproportionate number of children in out of home care versus the state of California. Our community is in high need of folks willing to open up their homes and hearts to our community's most vulnerable children. When a foster placement is not available for a child that is, for various reasons, not able to live with their family, they are forced to leave their community. This causes additional trauma to the child; they must now leave everything that is "home" to them.

To read more click [HERE](#).



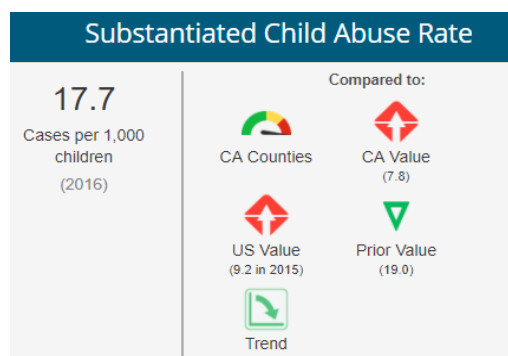
Mendocino County Fire Recovery Services

By Eva King, Disaster Case Management for Mendocino Fire Recovery

In response to the October Wildfires, organizations, community members, and businesses have been active in offering resources and support. At times, the lists of grants, loan opportunities, and other resources can seem overwhelming to try and track down. If you, or a loved one were affected by the October Wildfires, please visit the Redwood Fire Survivor Resource Room located at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center on 200 S. School Street in Ukiah. Their drop-in hours are Monday -Thursday 10 am – 2 pm or appointments can be made by calling (707) 621 8817 or emailing mendorecovery@gmail.com. The room was opened to try and condense all the information a fire survivor may need into one place. Case Managers staff the room to assist survivors in their path to recovery.

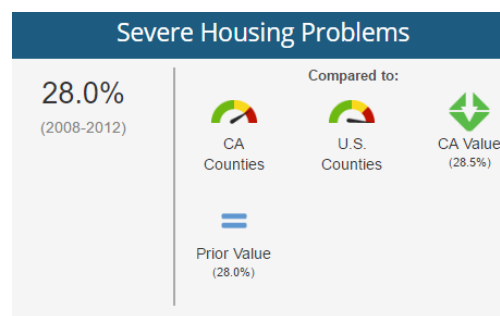
Click [HERE](#) for a list of some of the most current opportunities/support for fire survivors.

February Featured Indicators



This indicator shows the number of children under 18 years of age that experienced abuse or neglect in cases per 1,000 children. Rates are based on children with a substantiated maltreatment allegation. There are several types of child abuse including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Child abuse and neglect can have enduring physical, intellectual, and psychological repercussions into adolescence and adulthood. All types of child abuse and neglect have long lasting effects throughout life, damaging a child's sense of self, ability to have healthy relationships, and ability to function at home, at work, and at school.

Click [HERE](#) to view the indicator.



This indicator measures the percentage of households with at least one of the following four housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, or lack of plumbing facilities. Safe and affordable housing is an essential component of healthy communities, and the effects of housing problems are widespread. In areas where housing costs are high, low-income residents may be forced into substandard living conditions with an increased exposure to mold and mildew growth, pest infestation, and lead or other environmental hazards.

Click [HERE](#) to view the indicator.



Updates for the Healthy Mendocino Project

The **Healthy Mendocino Project Summit** will be on **March 8**, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Willits Community Center, look for the RSVP soon!

All Action Teams have been working on their Goals and Objectives along with Measurements and Key Strategies. These will be put into a preliminary CHIP report for Mendocino County HSA Public Health in March, to be submitted with their application for accreditation. We will continue to work on the report to include any additions to the Goals and Objectives to be finalized into a more comprehensive CHIP report in June.

Inland Ukiah Regional Chapter

Childhood Obesity/Family Wellness (CHOW): February Hashtag is: #FollowYourHeart.

Looking at specific indicators with actual measurable numbers. It is a challenge to reach the groups that need the change so can move data numbers.

Childhood Trauma: Trainings coming up related to Trauma and Community Resiliency. The Champion project has been launched at Nokomis School.

Housing: Making good progress in identifying the housing inventory for Ukiah. Want to identify who is homeless and what their issues are. 60% of homeless have families here so considered residents. If get a genuine picture of what is happening here so know where to put our resources.

Mental Health: Looking at a Mental Health resource guide that can be distributed to the community. Looking at using 211 and the need to strengthen it. Create a draft protocol for college interns to survey people at clinics.

Poverty: Developing and distributing surveys, looking at a Poverty summit

North Coast Regional Chapter

Family Wellness: Discussion on Goals and Objectives: How to define goals and objectives, what do we want to accomplish and how can we measure our impact?

Healthy Mendocino Trauma: Wanting a kinder community, teach about kindness. Interested in ACEs and Resiliency model going into the school and training teachers. Working with Child Protective Services and mandated reporters to increase the response to calls that come in.

Housing: The G-P site has a use plan that they want to see used for middle to low income housing. Look at abandoned houses for the city to buy and fix up for rentals Goal is for everyone to have access to safe and secure shelter.

Mental Health: Draft goals: Reduce suicide rates in the County, increase continuum of behavioral health services. Other possible goals: Reduce impact on ER by reducing # of patients, influence policy making, increase outreach to middle-school and high school suicide prevention by 30%.

Poverty: Looking at a pilot program on financial literacy with the Latino Coalition at Project Sanctuary. Goals and Objectives will include financial literacy for the community and youth leadership for vocational opportunities and education on finances.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full details for each Action Team and their meeting times and locations.

Presentations Available for your Organization!

Do you want to learn more about [HealthyMendocino.org](https://www.healthyhendocino.org)?

Learn about the new Community Dashboards, how to navigate the site, tools you can use to help write reports and grants, and how to add a custom Dashboard to your website.

Email:

healthymendocino@ncoinc.org or call 707-476-3228 to schedule a presentation and find ways you can utilize its many resources.



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