

"Our nation's overreliance on foster care fails to address the conditions that lead to child removal, devastate families, strain state and local budgets, and contribute to long-term outcomes for children, families and communities."

– Casey Family Programs

"We are willing to spend the least amount of money to keep a kid at home, more to put him in foster care, and the most to institutionalize him."

– Marian Wright Edelman, Founder, Children's Defense Fund

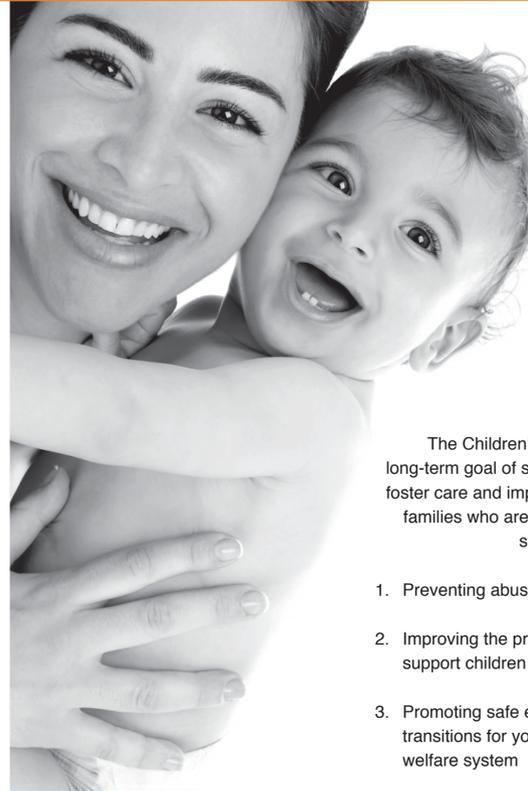


For more information about the CAA's child welfare campaign, Community We Will, please visit our website at www.caanv.org.



(702) 228-1869

2101 S. Jones Blvd., Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89146
www.caanv.org



Children's Safety

Ensuring Our Children are Safe and Well

The Children's Advocacy Alliance is committed to the long-term goal of safely reducing the number of children in foster care and improving outcomes for those children and families who are already in care by addressing the three strategic drivers of progress and change:

1. Preventing abuse and neglect and entry into foster care
2. Improving the programs and practices necessary to support children and families in the child welfare system
3. Promoting safe exits and ensuring successful transitions for youth and families leaving the child welfare system

In FY11, over 7,200 children in Nevada were in foster care – more than 68% were returned to their birth family within one year and 13% returned home within 7 days. This staggering phenomenon suggests that if our community had a stronger array of critical family support services, and a community ethic of investing in children and families before crisis hits, many children could remain safely with their parents, instead of entering foster care. Studies have shown that we can save taxpayer dollars and increase our return on investment by re-directing the exorbitant costs of foster care into child abuse preservation and family support services.

Child abuse and neglect costs United States taxpayers approximately \$103.8 billion each year, with a mere 25 percent of these costs attributable to child welfare services themselves. The remaining 75 percent of costs (\$70.7 billion) consist of indirect costs to society and involvement with other social services systems, such as the health care and criminal justice systems. Child abuse and neglect costs each Nevada household roughly \$95, for a statewide total of \$79 million, every year.

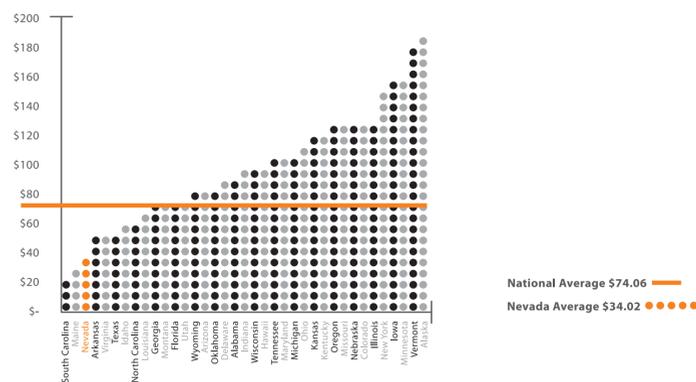
2007 Annual Estimated Costs of U.S. Child Abuse & Neglect

DIRECT COSTS	ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST	PERCENTAGE	DAILY COST
Hospitalization	\$ 6,625,959,263	6.4%	\$ 18,153,313
Mental Health Care	\$ 1,080,706,049	1.0%	\$ 2,960,838
Child Welfare Services	\$ 25,361,329,051	24.4%	\$ 69,483,093
Law Enforcement	\$ 33,307,770	0.0%	\$ 91,254
Total Direct	\$ 33,101,302,133	31.9%	\$90,688,499
INDIRECT COSTS	ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST	PERCENTAGE	DAILY COST
Special Education	\$ 2,410,306,242	2.3%	\$ 6,603,579
Juvenile Delinquency	\$ 7,174,814,134	6.9%	\$ 19,657,025
Mental Health Care	\$ 67,863,457	0.1%	\$ 185,927
Adult Criminal Justice System	\$ 27,979,811,982	27.0%	\$ 76,657,019
Lost Productivity to Society	\$ 33,019,919,544	31.8%	\$ 90,465,533
Total Indirect	\$ 70,652,715,359	68.1%	\$193,569,083
Total	\$103,754,017,492	100.0%	\$284,257,582

Source: Prevent Child Abuse America

Average per capita expenditures in child welfare

Source: Every Child Matters Education Fund, 2007



To ensure the safety and well-being of our children, and their families, the Children's Advocacy Alliance is working to:

- ♥ Engage a broad, diverse and deep coalition of community members in identifying and developing a shared vision for child and family wellbeing in our community.
- ♥ Collect data and conduct research on best practices to develop a comprehensive system for preventing child abuse and neglect and providing necessary care and services for children and families in the system.
- ♥ Revise and update laws affecting child welfare to ensure that they are consistent with federal laws and to ensure the appropriate level of services for children and families in the system.
- ♥ Ensure that the use of psychotropic medications among children and youth in the child welfare system are monitored, tracked and appropriately prescribed to meet the health needs of the child.
- ♥ Ensure that appropriate services are available to ensure the safety and well-being of youth and young adults who are involved in sex trafficking in our State.
- ♥ Review and revise the funding structure in Nevada that supports prevention services for children and families at risk of becoming involved with child welfare and for those who are currently involved with child welfare.