

# Preliminary Findings

Profile of Family Violence in  
Contra Costa County,  
January 2000

# Acknowledgements

- Advisory Council Against Domestic Violence Data Committee

# Data Sources

- **State Agencies**
  - Dept. Of Justice
  - Dept. of Health Services
  - FBI (Uniform Crime Reports)
- **Local Government**
  - Sheriff's Office
  - CCC Children & Families Policy Forum
  - Juvenile Probation
- **Local Non-profit Agencies**
  - Battered Women's Alternatives
  - No. Calif. Family Center
  - Rape Crisis Center
  - CCC Crisis Center

# Review of the Literature

- National statistics on child abuse and neglect estimate that 3 million children (2.5%) are physically, sexually, or emotionally abused each year (Patterson, 1998).
- Child abuse reports increased dramatically throughout the country during the 1980's, and by 1993 California had the highest rate of reported abuse/neglect among the ten largest states. (California Legislative Analysts Office, 1996).
- Domestic violence is a significant cause of injuries to women, accounting for more violent incidents than the number of automobile accidents, muggings and rapes combined (Matlock, 1995).

# Review of the Literature

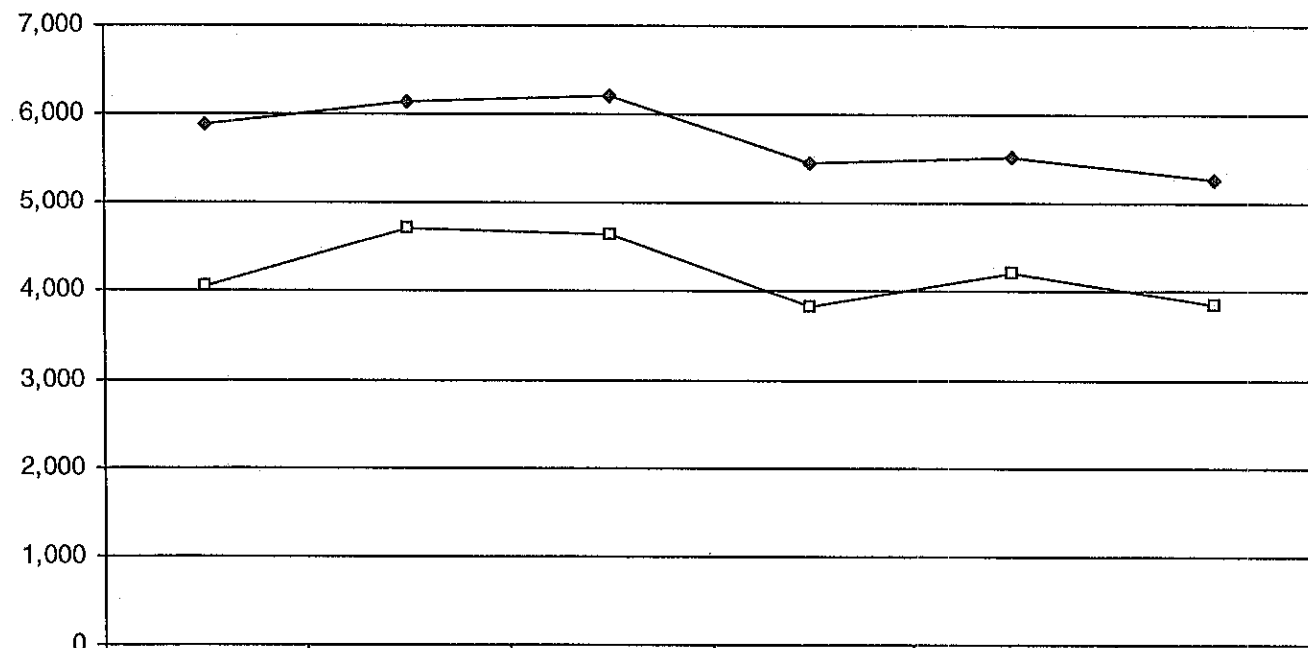
(part 2)

- While estimates vary by community and definition of abuse, on average 5% of women are currently experiencing abuse, approximately 15% have experienced physical or sexual abuse within the past year, and one in four have experienced partner violence as an adult (McCauley, 1995; Quillian, 1996; Johnson, 1997).
- Approximately two million older Americans are believed to be victims of elder abuse each year (Bird, 1998; McKenna, 1997); with fewer than 10% of the cases reported (Kleinschmidt, 1997).
- The prevalence of elder abuse is likely to increase as the “baby boom” generation ages; by the year 2020 over 20% of the population will be 65 or older. (Thobaben, 1996).

# Findings

# Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Law Enforcement Assistance

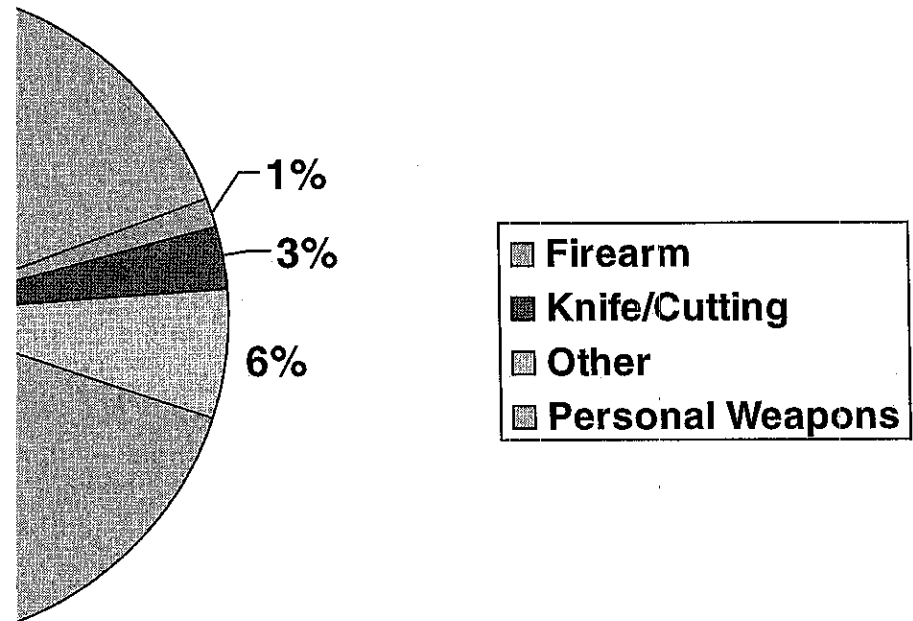
Contra Costa County 1993-1998



	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
◆ Number of calls	5,880	6,138	6,218	5,456	5,519	5,287
□ Cases w/ weapons	4,059	4,702	4,642	3,830	4,218	3,842

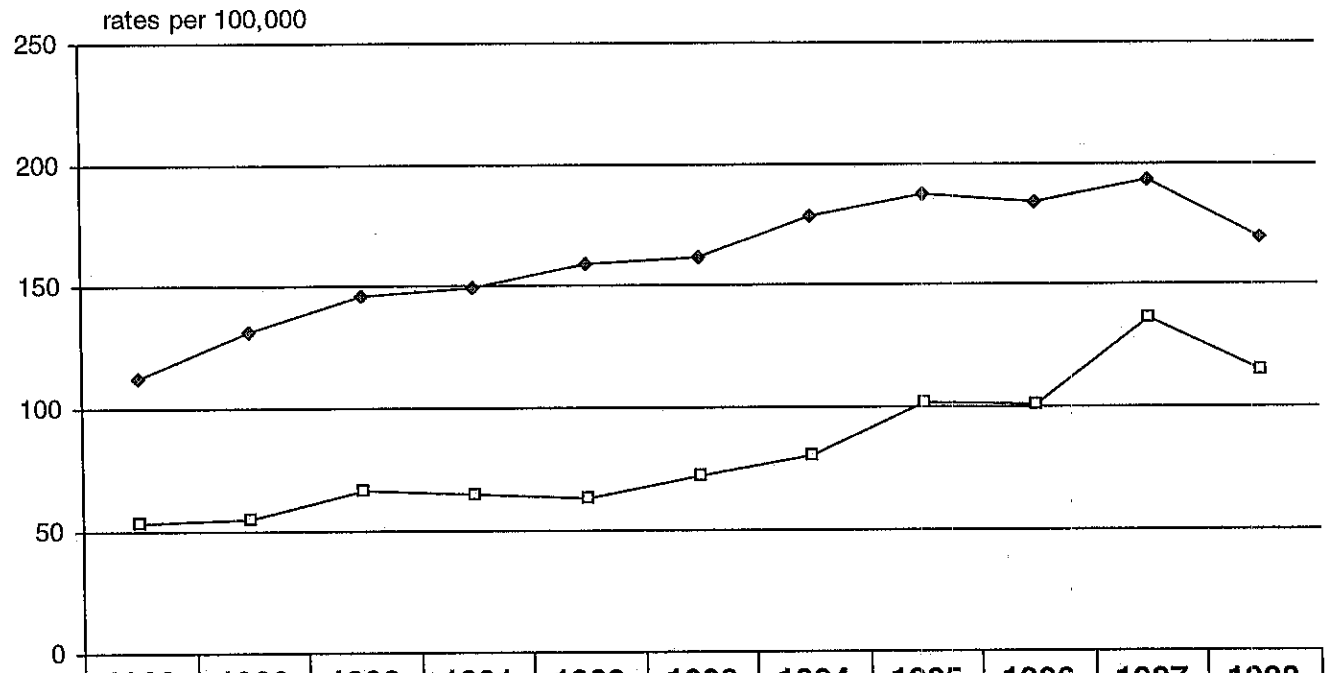
Source: California Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis

# Percentage of Weapon Use Related Calls for Assistance Casta County, 1998





# Domestic Violence Arrest Rates, California & Contra Costa County 1988-1998

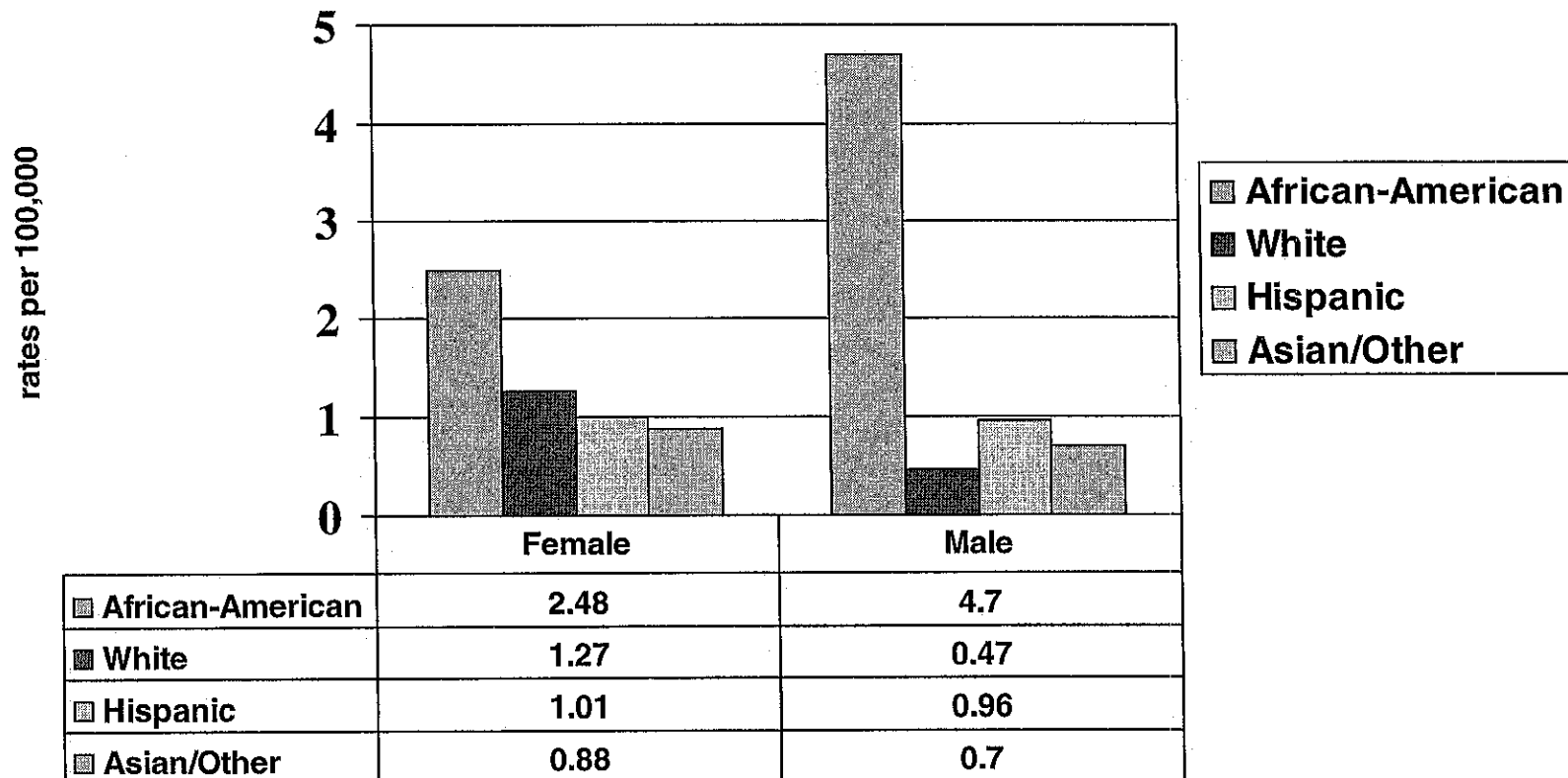


	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
—◆— California	112.3	131.08	146.14	149.44	158.87	161.76	179.04	188.00	184.50	193.09	169.86
—□— Contra Costa	53.63	54.81	66.49	64.63	63.31	72.32	80.71	101.75	100.43	136.14	114.54

Source: California Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis

# Race of Victims of Homicides Committed by an Intimate, by Gender

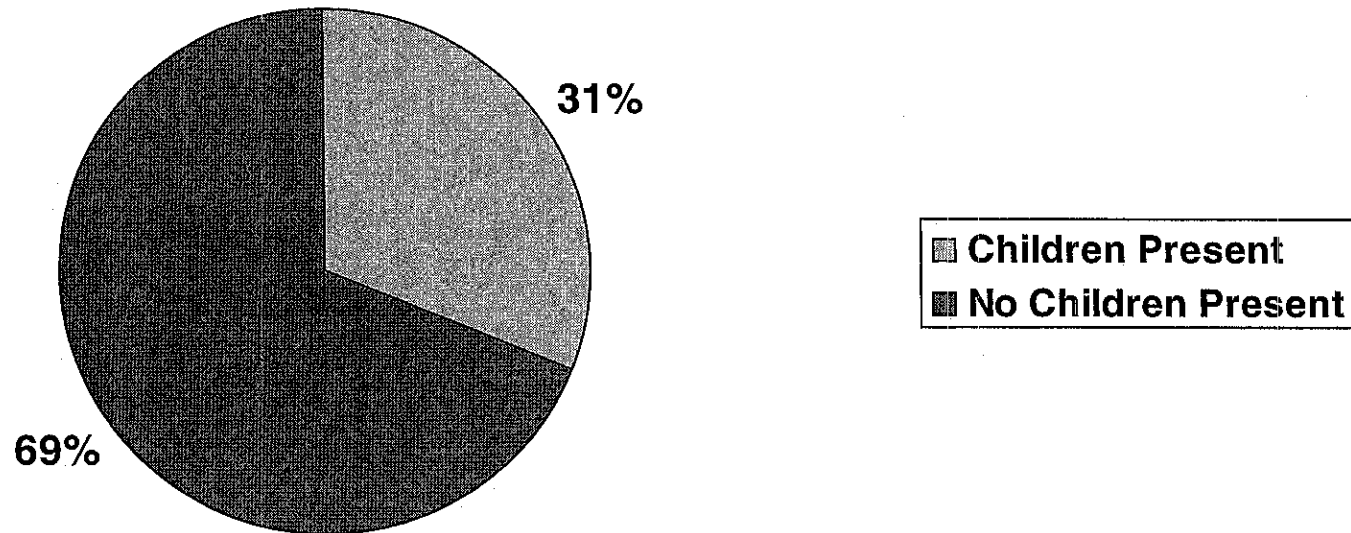
Contra Costa County, 1988-1997



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting

# How often are children present?

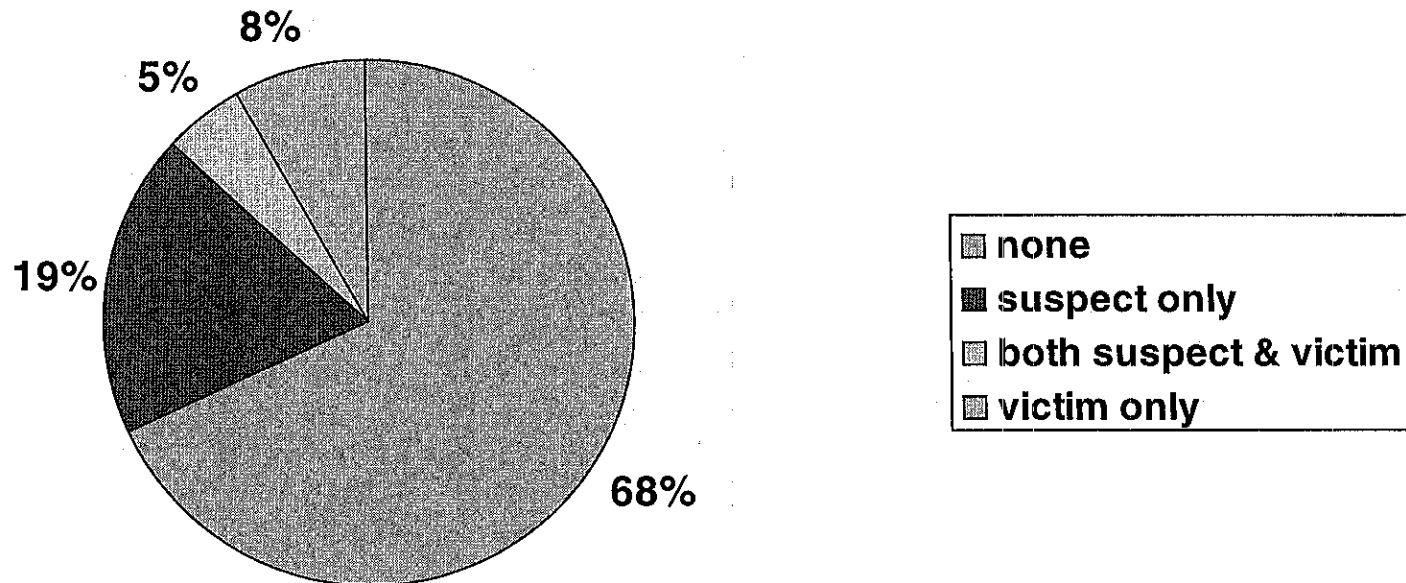
Domestic Violence Incidents Investigated by Law Enforcement  
Contra Costa County, 7/1/97 to 6/30/99



Source: Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, Domestic Violence Unit (January, 2000)

# How often is there substance abuse?

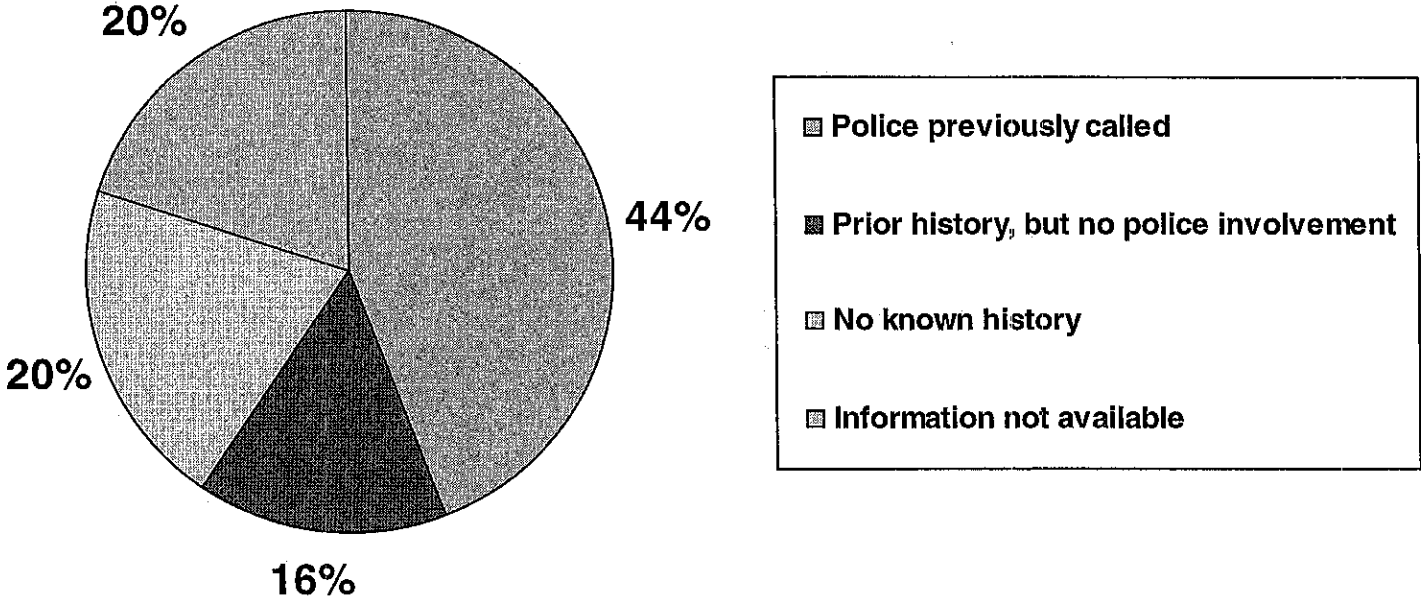
Domestic Violence Incidents Investigated by Law Enforcement  
Contra Costa County, 7/1/97 to 6/30/99



Source: Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, Domestic Violence Unit (January, 2000)

# How often is there a history of domestic violence?

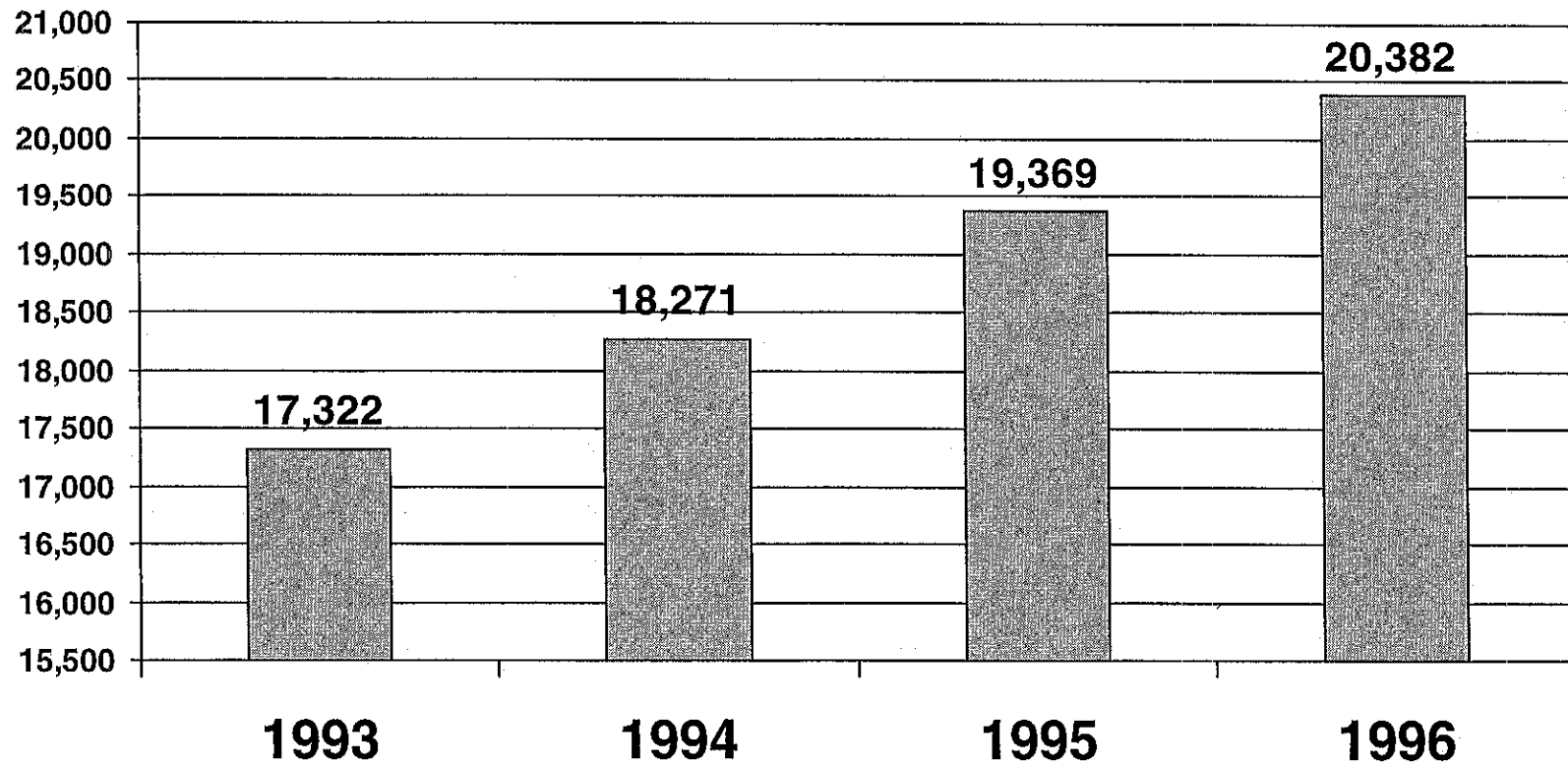
Domestic Violence Incidents Investigated by Law Enforcement  
Contra Costa County, 7/1/97 to 6/30/99



Source: Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, Domestic Violence Unit (January, 2000)

# Total Number of Child Abuse Reports

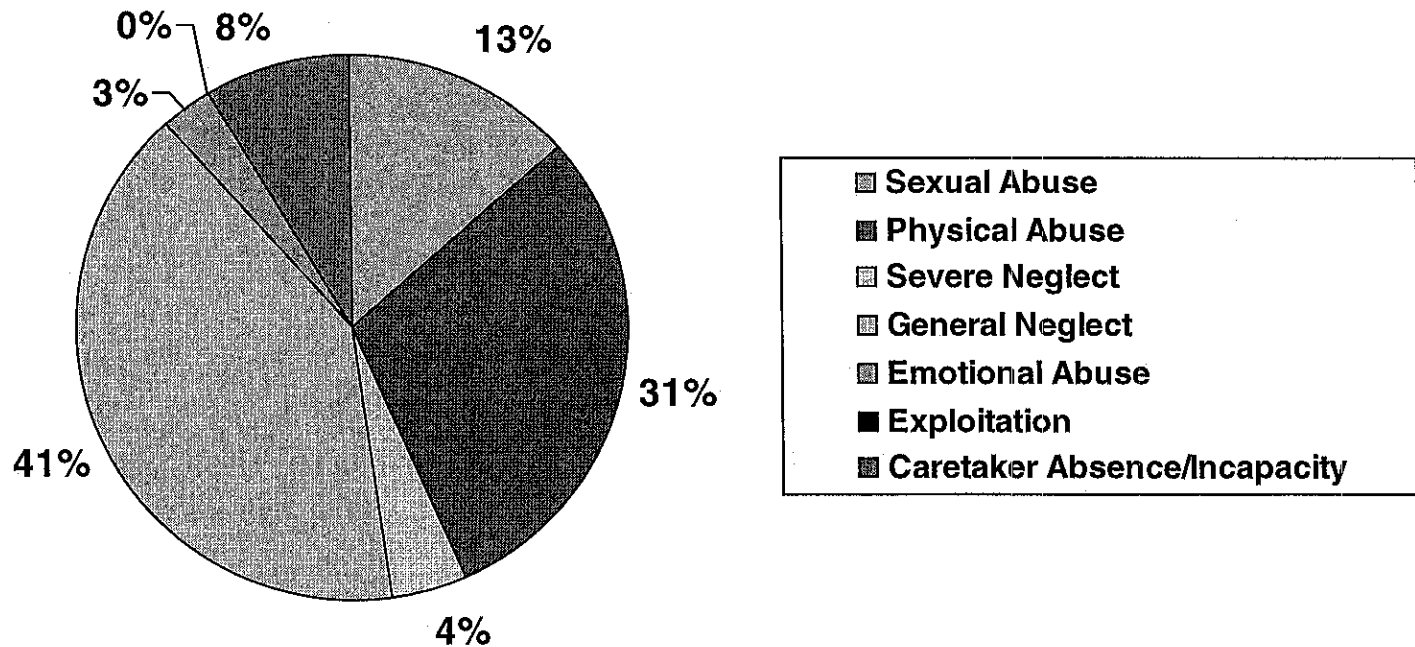
## Contra Costa County 1993-1996



Source: Contra Costa County Children's Report Card, Fall 1998

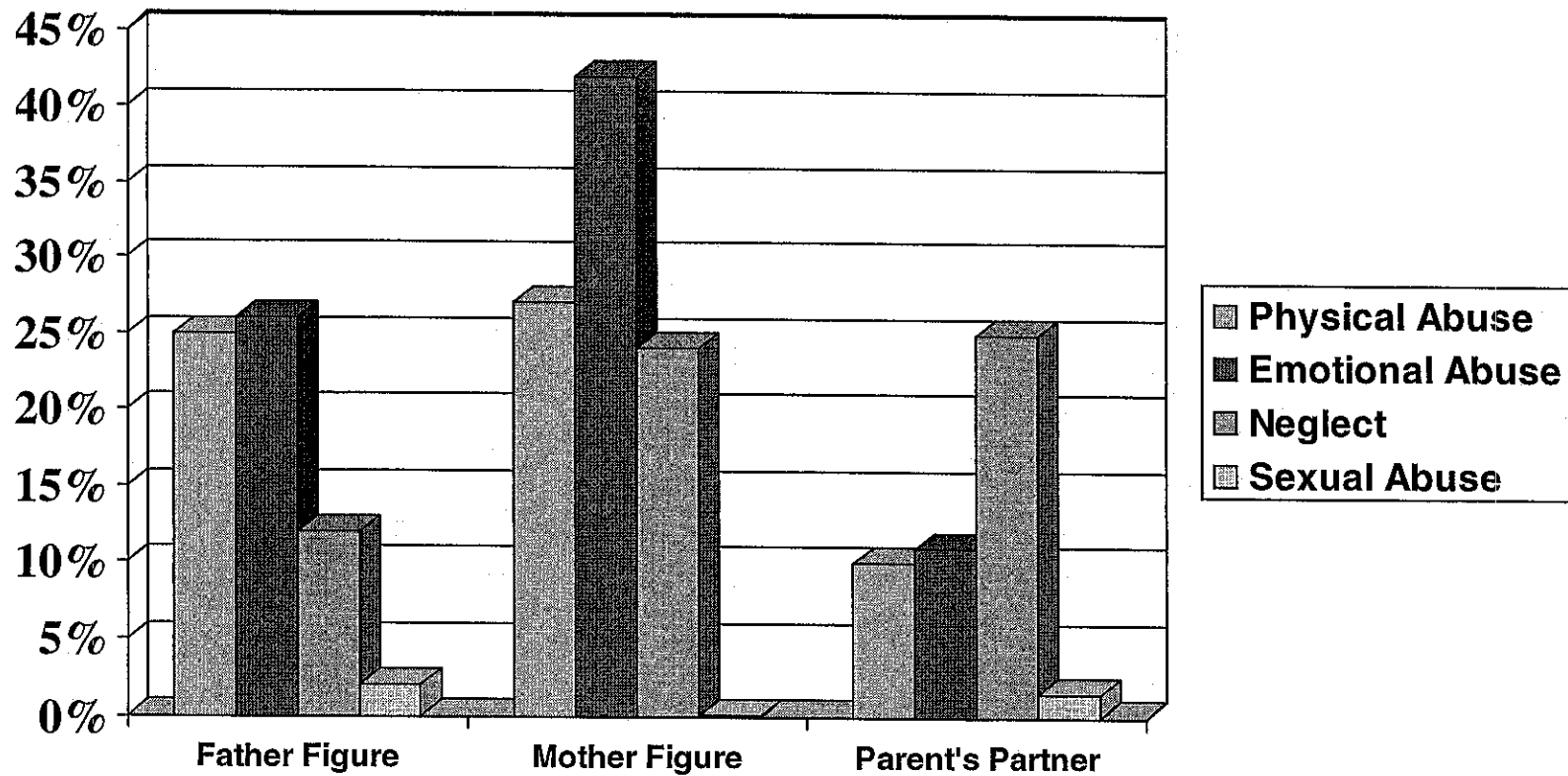
# Child Abuse Reports by Type

## Contra Costa County, 1997



Source: Contra Costa County Children's Report Card, Fall 1998

# Youth Served by the *Northern California Family Center* Contra Costa County, 1996-1999

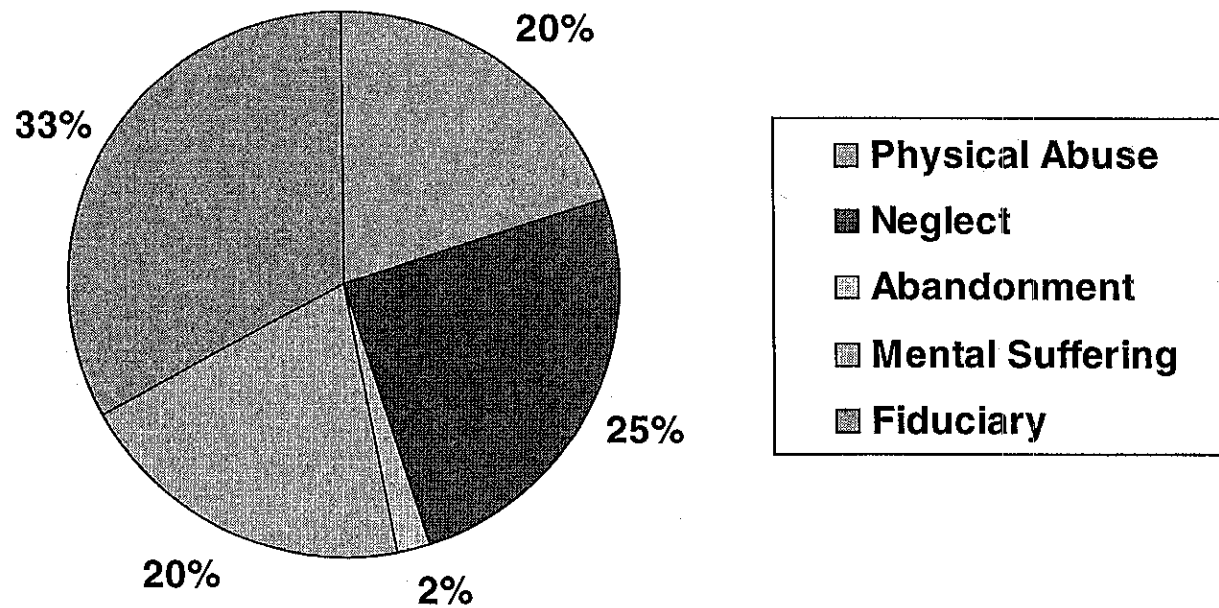


Source: *Northern California Family Center*, December 1999.



# Elder Abuse Reports by Type

## Contra Costa County, 1995

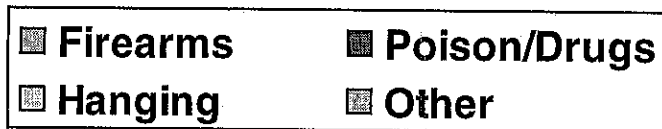
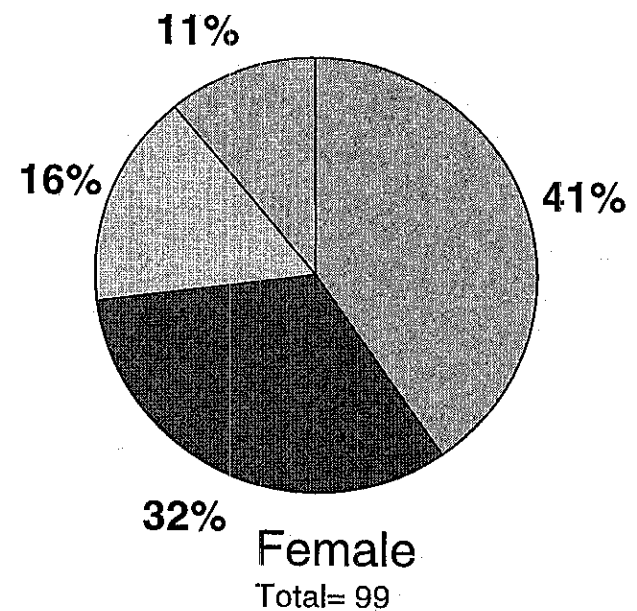
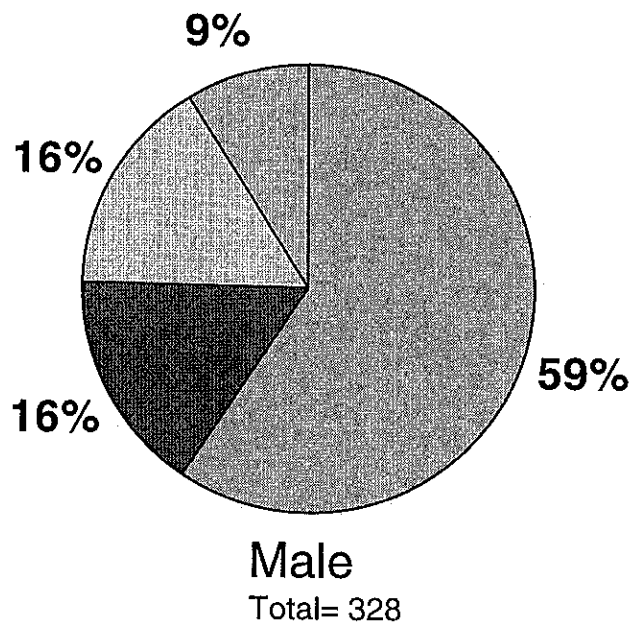


Source: California Department of Social Services

# Suicide Deaths 1993-1997

- 429 Contra Costa residents died from suicide.
- The rate of suicide among Contra Costa remained relatively stable over the five-year period.
- Whites were more likely to commit suicide than any other racial/ethnic group.
- People 65 and older were the county residents most likely to commit suicide (18.32 per 100,000), followed by those 34 to 44 (13.6 per 100,000).

# Distribution of Suicide Deaths by Gender Contra Costa County, 1993-1997



Source: California Department of Health Services

# Limitations of the Data

- We know more about the people who seek help (services), than those who do not.
- It's difficult to aggregate & compare data when it's collected by different agencies for different purposes.
- It's difficult to draw conclusions with small numbers.
- Behavioral risk factor data is not available at the local level.

# Recommendations

- Recruit child abuse and elder abuse experts to participate in ACAD Data Committee.
- Conduct "Family Violence Data Inventory" more broadly to include child and elder abuse data.
- Establish procedures for collecting and reporting family violence data on an annual or bi-annual (every two years) basis, including comparisons with statewide numbers and trends.
- Explore ways to integrate collection of data on family violence into the ongoing data collection processes of other departments/agencies.
- Explore ways to collect qualitative information about family violence issues.