

A photograph of a man in a brown hoodie carrying a young child on his shoulders. They are on a beach with the ocean and a clear sky in the background. The man is smiling and looking down at the child.

**EVIDENT
CHANGE**
Inform Systems. Transform Lives.

COUNTY- LEVEL DATA

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE
STRUCTURED DECISION
MAKING® SYSTEM IN CHILD
WELFARE SERVICES
IN CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

May 2024

Structured Decision Making and SDM are registered trademarks of Evident Change.



ABOUT EVIDENT CHANGE

Evident Change promotes just and equitable social systems for individuals, families, and communities through research, public policy, and practice. For more information, call (800) 306-6223 or visit us online at EvidentChange.org. Find us on social media by visiting Linktr.ee/EvidentChange.

© 2024 Evident Change

CONTENTS

Introduction..... 1

Screening and Response Time Decisions 1

SDM Safety Assessment Findings14

SDM Risk Assessment Findings 23

SDM Risk Level and Safety Decision Combinations 29

SDM Reunification Assessment Findings..... 32

SDM Risk Reassessment Findings36

INTRODUCTION

This county-level data report provides tables containing select data analyses from the Structured Decision Making® (SDM) System in Child Welfare Services management report (May 2024). Evident Change encourages counties to use the information in this report to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement with respect to the use of the SDM® tools. Also, the information may encourage counties to share successful strategies that support use of the SDM tools with fidelity. Note that California counties are unique and diverse with respect to population, geography, and resource availability. This context should be considered when comparing information between counties. Results for counties with fewer than 25 referrals, investigations, or cases available for analysis are included in the total but are not listed by county. Therefore, the sums of the columns may not equal the numbers in the “Total” row.

SCREENING AND RESPONSE TIME DECISIONS

In 2023, California counties received 402,945 referrals concerning child abuse or neglect. A total of 195,517 referrals were assigned for an in-person response according to the child welfare services case management system (CWS/CMS).

TABLE 1					
EMERGENCY RESPONSE REFERRALS CWS/CMS SCREENING DECISION					
COUNTY	ACCEPT		EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	3,482	31%	7,693	69%	11,175
Alpine	12	40%	18	60%	30
Amador	263	39%	405	61%	668
Butte	747	22%	2,607	78%	3,354
Calaveras	471	51%	461	49%	932
Colusa	131	49%	135	51%	266
Contra Costa	3,369	41%	4,791	59%	8,160
Del Norte	395	48%	426	52%	821
El Dorado	929	43%	1,221	57%	2,150
Fresno	7,638	48%	8,351	52%	15,989
Glenn	362	45%	450	55%	812
Humboldt	1,021	31%	2,274	69%	3,295
Imperial	1,071	54%	900	46%	1,971

TABLE 1

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE REFERRALS
CWS/CMS SCREENING DECISION**

COUNTY	ACCEPT		EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	
Inyo	168	44%	213	56%	381
Kern	4,146	34%	8,043	66%	12,189
Kings	1,042	46%	1,211	54%	2,253
Lake	491	39%	764	61%	1,255
Lassen	175	32%	378	68%	553
Los Angeles	42,321	64%	24,151	36%	66,472
Madera	1,726	57%	1,282	43%	3,008
Marin	332	33%	662	67%	994
Mariposa	167	79%	44	21%	211
Mendocino	790	31%	1,720	69%	2,510
Merced	1,819	38%	3,031	62%	4,850
Modoc	308	75%	100	25%	408
Mono	51	25%	156	75%	207
Monterey	1,762	35%	3,291	65%	5,053
Napa	538	35%	986	65%	1,524
Nevada	527	43%	691	57%	1,218
Orange	9,234	30%	21,611	70%	30,845
Placer	1,077	27%	2,948	73%	4,025
Plumas	88	89%	11	11%	99
Riverside	22,903	65%	12,449	35%	35,352
Sacramento	9,873	44%	12,734	56%	22,607
San Benito	265	34%	510	66%	775
San Bernardino	17,989	64%	10,063	36%	28,052
San Diego	20,313	52%	19,037	48%	39,350
San Francisco	1,713	41%	2,448	59%	4,161
San Joaquin	3,762	36%	6,548	64%	10,310
San Luis Obispo	1,886	50%	1,900	50%	3,786
San Mateo	2,105	39%	3,240	61%	5,345
Santa Barbara	3,415	59%	2,367	41%	5,782
Santa Clara	6,307	60%	4,187	40%	10,494
Santa Cruz	821	38%	1,318	62%	2,139
Shasta	1,529	44%	1,946	56%	3,475

TABLE 1					
EMERGENCY RESPONSE REFERRALS CWS/CMS SCREENING DECISION					
COUNTY	ACCEPT		EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	
Siskiyou	503	60%	334	40%	837
Solano	2,014	41%	2,921	59%	4,935
Sonoma	1,563	30%	3,701	70%	5,264
Stanislaus	2,784	35%	5,122	65%	7,906
Sutter	411	30%	978	70%	1,389
Tehama	502	37%	846	63%	1,348
Trinity	80	39%	125	61%	205
Tulare	3,750	40%	5,647	60%	9,397
Tuolumne	279	27%	754	73%	1,033
Ventura	2,769	37%	4,733	63%	7,502
Yolo	716	32%	1,543	68%	2,259
Yuba	598	39%	952	61%	1,550
Total	195,517	49%	207,428	51%	402,945

In 2023, counties received 402,945 referrals concerning child abuse or neglect. Of those, 397,213 (98.6%) had completed SDM hotline tools.

TABLE 2					
SDM SCREENING COMPLETION RATE					
COUNTY	COMPLETED		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	11,007	98%	168	2%	11,175
Alpine	25	83%	5	17%	30
Amador	653	98%	15	2%	668
Butte	3,342	>99%	12	<1%	3,354
Calaveras	923	99%	9	1%	932
Colusa	229	86%	37	14%	266
Contra Costa	8,155	>99%	5	<1%	8,160
Del Norte	814	99%	7	1%	821
El Dorado	2,030	94%	120	6%	2,150
Fresno	15,515	97%	474	3%	15,989
Glenn	790	97%	22	3%	812

TABLE 2**SDM SCREENING COMPLETION RATE**

COUNTY	COMPLETED		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	
Humboldt	3,217	98%	78	2%	3,295
Imperial	1,970	>99%	1	<1%	1,971
Inyo	313	82%	68	18%	381
Kern	12,032	99%	157	1%	12,189
Kings	2,164	96%	89	4%	2,253
Lake	1,215	97%	40	3%	1,255
Lassen	539	97%	14	3%	553
Los Angeles	66,312	>99%	160	<1%	66,472
Madera	2,977	99%	31	1%	3,008
Marin	948	95%	46	5%	994
Mariposa	198	94%	13	6%	211
Mendocino	2,437	97%	73	3%	2,510
Merced	4,453	92%	397	8%	4,850
Modoc	385	94%	23	6%	408
Mono	205	99%	2	1%	207
Monterey	5,048	>99%	5	<1%	5,053
Napa	1,518	>99%	6	<1%	1,524
Nevada	1,178	97%	40	3%	1,218
Orange	30,528	99%	317	1%	30,845
Placer	4,024	>99%	1	<1%	4,025
Plumas	83	84%	16	16%	99
Riverside	35,186	>99%	166	<1%	35,352
Sacramento	22,410	99%	197	1%	22,607
San Benito	771	99%	4	1%	775
San Bernardino	27,876	99%	176	1%	28,052
San Diego	38,743	98%	607	2%	39,350
San Francisco	3,992	96%	169	4%	4,161
San Joaquin	10,206	99%	104	1%	10,310
San Luis Obispo	3,725	98%	61	2%	3,786
San Mateo	5,178	97%	167	3%	5,345
Santa Barbara	5,672	98%	110	2%	5,782
Santa Clara	10,457	>99%	37	<1%	10,494
Santa Cruz	2,123	99%	16	1%	2,139

TABLE 2					
SDM SCREENING COMPLETION RATE					
COUNTY	COMPLETED		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	
Shasta	3,474	>99%	1	<1%	3,475
Siskiyou	814	97%	23	3%	837
Solano	4,812	98%	123	2%	4,935
Sonoma	5,150	98%	114	2%	5,264
Stanislaus	7,499	95%	407	5%	7,906
Sutter	1,348	97%	41	3%	1,389
Tehama	1,343	>99%	5	<1%	1,348
Trinity	200	98%	5	2%	205
Tulare	9,162	97%	235	3%	9,397
Tuolumne	1,005	97%	28	3%	1,033
Ventura	7,502	100%	0	0%	7,502
Yolo	2,113	94%	146	6%	2,259
Yuba	1,218	79%	332	21%	1,550
Total	397,213	99%	5,732	1%	402,945

Of 397,209 referrals received concerning child abuse or neglect with completed SDM hotline tools, 210,679 (53.0%) were screened in for an in-person response. The analysis excludes four referrals that had a data anomaly in the hotline tools.

TABLE 3					
FINAL SDM SCREENING DECISION					
COUNTY	IN-PERSON RESPONSE		EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	3,448	31%	7,559	69%	11,007
Alpine	13	52%	12	48%	25
Amador	259	40%	394	60%	653
Butte	818	24%	2,524	76%	3,342
Calaveras	466	50%	457	50%	923
Colusa	127	55%	102	45%	229
Contra Costa	3,540	43%	4,615	57%	8,155
Del Norte	397	49%	417	51%	814
El Dorado	1,161	57%	869	43%	2,030
Fresno	11,074	71%	4,441	29%	15,515

TABLE 3**FINAL SDM SCREENING DECISION**

COUNTY	IN-PERSON RESPONSE		EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	
Glenn	345	44%	445	56%	790
Humboldt	1,086	34%	2,131	66%	3,217
Imperial	1,071	54%	899	46%	1,970
Inyo	98	31%	215	69%	313
Kern	4,999	42%	7,033	58%	12,032
Kings	1,064	49%	1,100	51%	2,164
Lake	484	40%	731	60%	1,215
Lassen	176	33%	363	67%	539
Los Angeles	43,381	65%	22,928	35%	66,309
Madera	1,752	59%	1,225	41%	2,977
Marin	335	35%	613	65%	948
Mariposa	159	80%	39	20%	198
Mendocino	819	34%	1,618	66%	2,437
Merced	1,618	36%	2,835	64%	4,453
Modoc	299	78%	86	22%	385
Mono	54	26%	151	74%	205
Monterey	1,787	35%	3,261	65%	5,048
Napa	554	36%	964	64%	1,518
Nevada	519	44%	659	56%	1,178
Orange	9,173	30%	21,355	70%	30,528
Placer	1,565	39%	2,459	61%	4,024
Plumas	73	88%	10	12%	83
Riverside	25,856	73%	9,330	27%	35,186
Sacramento	9,884	44%	12,526	56%	22,410
San Benito	271	35%	500	65%	771
San Bernardino	21,879	78%	5,996	22%	27,875
San Diego	21,857	56%	16,886	44%	38,743
San Francisco	1,762	44%	2,230	56%	3,992
San Joaquin	3,721	36%	6,485	64%	10,206
San Luis Obispo	1,896	51%	1,829	49%	3,725
San Mateo	2,129	41%	3,049	59%	5,178
Santa Barbara	3,702	65%	1,970	35%	5,672
Santa Clara	6,365	61%	4,092	39%	10,457

TABLE 3					
FINAL SDM SCREENING DECISION					
COUNTY	IN-PERSON RESPONSE		EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	
Santa Cruz	824	39%	1,299	61%	2,123
Shasta	1,530	44%	1,944	56%	3,474
Siskiyou	501	62%	313	38%	814
Solano	1,969	41%	2,843	59%	4,812
Sonoma	1,657	32%	3,493	68%	5,150
Stanislaus	2,899	39%	4,600	61%	7,499
Sutter	424	31%	924	69%	1,348
Tehama	510	38%	833	62%	1,343
Trinity	82	41%	118	59%	200
Tulare	3,709	40%	5,453	60%	9,162
Tuolumne	276	27%	729	73%	1,005
Ventura	2,769	37%	4,733	63%	7,502
Yolo	771	36%	1,342	64%	2,113
Yuba	715	59%	503	41%	1,218
Total	210,679	53%	186,530	47%	397,209

In 2023, of 397,209 referrals with completed SDM hotline tools, 364,368 were eligible for a screening decision override. The analysis excludes four referrals that had a data anomaly in the hotline tools as well as 32,841 referrals for which a review of screening criteria was not required due to the presence of at least one preliminary screening criterion.

TABLE 4							
SDM SCREENING OVERRIDES							
COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		OVERRIDE TO IN-PERSON RESPONSE, NO CRITERIA SELECTED		OVERRIDE TO EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	8,875	94%	58	1%	487	5%	9,420
Amador	496	95%	11	2%	15	3%	522
Butte	3,165	96%	7	<1%	136	4%	3,308
Calaveras	755	92%	57	7%	8	1%	820
Colusa	168	84%	0	0%	31	16%	199

TABLE 4

SDM SCREENING OVERRIDES

COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		OVERRIDE TO IN-PERSON RESPONSE, NO CRITERIA SELECTED		OVERRIDE TO EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Contra Costa	7,845	99%	23	<1%	36	<1%	7,904
Del Norte	734	92%	51	6%	12	2%	797
El Dorado	1,807	96%	17	1%	54	3%	1,878
Fresno	13,281	89%	126	1%	1,516	10%	14,923
Glenn	664	96%	10	1%	18	3%	692
Humboldt	2,609	97%	55	2%	36	1%	2,700
Imperial	1,879	<99%	0	0%	6	<1%	1,885
Inyo	234	96%	0	0%	10	4%	244
Kern	11,611	98%	1	<1%	282	2%	11,894
Kings	1,909	98%	12	1%	26	1%	1,947
Lake	1,122	96%	17	1%	24	2%	1,163
Lassen	494	95%	1	<1%	25	5%	520
Los Angeles	56,591	94%	729	1%	2,770	5%	60,090
Madera	2,417	93%	5	<1%	165	6%	2,587
Marin	908	99%	6	1%	1	<1%	915
Mariposa	179	95%	1	1%	9	5%	189
Mendocino	2,066	98%	0	0%	51	2%	2,117
Merced	4,032	99%	40	1%	21	1%	4,093
Modoc	356	98%	3	1%	3	1%	362
Mono	170	97%	0	0%	5	3%	175
Monterey	4,410	98%	36	1%	70	2%	4,516
Napa	1,334	97%	27	2%	19	1%	1,380
Nevada	1,018	96%	13	1%	28	3%	1,059
Orange	26,016	95%	81	<1%	1,277	5%	27,374
Placer	3,736	96%	2	<1%	152	4%	3,890
Plumas	79	95%	0	0%	4	5%	83
Riverside	29,351	91%	696	2%	2,108	7%	32,155
Sacramento	20,004	98%	41	<1%	292	1%	20,337
San Benito	624	94%	5	1%	36	5%	665
San Bernardino	25,401	98%	0	0%	503	2%	25,904
San Diego	33,848	98%	138	<1%	538	2%	34,524

TABLE 4

SDM SCREENING OVERRIDES

COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		OVERRIDE TO IN-PERSON RESPONSE, NO CRITERIA SELECTED		OVERRIDE TO EVALUATE OUT		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
San Francisco	3,510	95%	8	<1%	188	5%	3,706
San Joaquin	9,025	96%	297	3%	54	1%	9,376
San Luis Obispo	3,066	95%	15	<1%	136	4%	3,217
San Mateo	4,817	97%	90	2%	71	1%	4,978
Santa Barbara	5,002	92%	3	<1%	426	8%	5,431
Santa Clara	9,502	93%	107	1%	599	6%	10,208
Santa Cruz	2,117	100%	0	0%	0	0%	2,117
Shasta	3,347	97%	53	2%	61	2%	3,461
Siskiyou	748	97%	1	<1%	23	3%	772
Solano	4,123	96%	81	2%	95	2%	4,299
Sonoma	4,862	98%	18	<1%	106	2%	4,986
Stanislaus	6,702	94%	21	<1%	379	5%	7,102
Sutter	1,207	96%	11	1%	34	3%	1,252
Tehama	1,183	97%	5	<1%	34	3%	1,222
Trinity	190	99%	0	0%	2	1%	192
Tulare	7,966	97%	81	1%	134	2%	8,181
Tuolumne	915	97%	1	<1%	24	3%	940
Ventura	5,992	92%	1	<1%	504	8%	6,497
Yolo	1,909	95%	14	1%	78	4%	2,001
Yuba	1,074	92%	20	2%	74	6%	1,168
Total	347,473	95%	3,097	1%	13,798	4%	364,368

Referrals with an initial and final recommendation for an in-person response are eligible for the response priority section. In 2023, 207,582 referrals had an SDM response priority recorded.

TABLE 5					
FINAL SDM RESPONSE PRIORITY LEVEL					
COUNTY	WITHIN 24 HOURS		10 DAYS*		N
	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	1,335	39%	2,055	61%	3,390
Amador	101	41%	147	59%	248
Butte	265	33%	546	67%	811
Calaveras	172	42%	237	58%	409
Colusa	24	19%	103	81%	127
Contra Costa	379	11%	3,138	89%	3,517
Del Norte	67	19%	279	81%	346
El Dorado	191	17%	953	83%	1,144
Fresno	2,097	19%	8,851	81%	10,948
Glenn	66	20%	269	80%	335
Humboldt	149	14%	882	86%	1,031
Imperial	252	24%	819	76%	1,071
Inyo	24	24%	74	76%	98
Kern	1,691	34%	3,307	66%	4,998
Kings	427	41%	625	59%	1,052
Lake	93	20%	374	80%	467
Lassen	65	37%	110	63%	175
Los Angeles	8,925	21%	33,727	79%	42,652
Madera	453	26%	1,294	74%	1,747
Marin	70	21%	259	79%	329
Mariposa	43	27%	115	73%	158
Mendocino	253	31%	566	69%	819
Merced	537	34%	1,041	66%	1,578
Modoc	127	43%	169	57%	296
Mono	5	9%	49	91%	54
Monterey	607	35%	1,144	65%	1,751
Napa	122	23%	405	77%	527
Nevada	67	13%	439	87%	506
Orange	1,648	18%	7,444	82%	9,092
Placer	138	9%	1,425	91%	1,563

TABLE 5					
FINAL SDM RESPONSE PRIORITY LEVEL					
COUNTY	WITHIN 24 HOURS		10 DAYS*		N
	n	%	n	%	
Plumas	13	18%	60	82%	73
Riverside	4,614	18%	20,546	82%	25,160
Sacramento	2,843	29%	7,000	71%	9,843
San Benito	58	22%	208	78%	266
San Bernardino	2,004	9%	19,875	91%	21,879
San Diego	8,643	40%	13,076	60%	21,719
San Francisco	738	42%	1,016	58%	1,754
San Joaquin	996	29%	2,428	71%	3,424
San Luis Obispo	528	28%	1,353	72%	1,881
San Mateo	565	28%	1,474	72%	2,039
Santa Barbara	488	13%	3,211	87%	3,699
Santa Clara	1,416	23%	4,842	77%	6,258
Santa Cruz	157	19%	667	81%	824
Shasta	241	16%	1,236	84%	1,477
Siskiyou	88	18%	412	82%	500
Solano	608	32%	1,280	68%	1,888
Sonoma	542	33%	1,097	67%	1,639
Stanislaus	843	29%	2,035	71%	2,878
Sutter	119	29%	294	71%	413
Tehama	100	20%	405	80%	505
Trinity	18	22%	64	78%	82
Tulare	1,414	39%	2,214	61%	3,628
Tuolumne	49	18%	226	82%	275
Ventura	515	19%	2,253	81%	2,768
Yolo	195	26%	562	74%	757
Yuba	262	38%	433	62%	695
Total	48,456	23%	159,126	77%	207,582

*Five days in Los Angeles County.

TABLE 6

SDM RESPONSE PRIORITY OVERRIDE RATE

COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		OVERRIDE TO WITHIN 24 HOURS		OVERRIDE TO 10 DAYS*		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	3,033	89%	48	1%	309	9%	3,390
Amador	218	88%	10	4%	20	8%	248
Butte	761	94%	34	4%	16	2%	811
Calaveras	380	93%	12	3%	17	4%	409
Colusa	121	95%	5	4%	1	1%	127
Contra Costa	3,438	98%	30	1%	49	1%	3,517
Del Norte	327	95%	2	1%	17	5%	346
El Dorado	1,112	97%	3	<1%	29	3%	1,144
Fresno	10,658	97%	142	1%	148	1%	10,948
Glenn	321	96%	6	2%	8	2%	335
Humboldt	973	94%	23	2%	35	3%	1,031
Imperial	1,050	98%	20	2%	1	<1%	1,071
Inyo	86	88%	7	7%	5	5%	98
Kern	4,416	88%	458	9%	124	2%	4,998
Kings	996	95%	42	4%	14	1%	1,052
Lake	411	88%	13	3%	43	9%	467
Lassen	159	91%	16	9%	0	0%	175
Los Angeles	38,060	89%	1,011	2%	3,581	8%	42,652
Madera	1,672	96%	43	2%	32	2%	1,747
Marin	294	89%	8	2%	27	8%	329
Mariposa	144	91%	13	8%	1	1%	158
Mendocino	784	96%	20	2%	15	2%	819
Merced	1,445	92%	131	8%	2	<1%	1,578
Modoc	255	86%	39	13%	2	1%	296
Mono	54	100%	0	0%	0	0%	54
Monterey	1,555	89%	93	5%	103	6%	1,751
Napa	493	94%	24	5%	10	2%	527
Nevada	494	98%	10	2%	2	<1%	506
Orange	8,310	91%	150	2%	632	7%	9,092
Placer	1,542	99%	14	1%	7	<1%	1,563
Plumas	68	93%	2	3%	3	4%	73
Riverside	24,009	95%	549	2%	602	2%	25,160

TABLE 6

SDM RESPONSE PRIORITY OVERRIDE RATE

COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		OVERRIDE TO WITHIN 24 HOURS		OVERRIDE TO 10 DAYS*		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Sacramento	9,086	92%	130	1%	627	6%	9,843
San Benito	251	94%	9	3%	6	2%	266
San Bernardino	21,157	97%	379	2%	343	2%	21,879
San Diego	20,963	97%	346	2%	410	2%	21,719
San Francisco	1,689	96%	36	2%	29	2%	1,754
San Joaquin	3,058	89%	126	4%	240	7%	3,424
San Luis Obispo	1,760	94%	52	3%	69	4%	1,881
San Mateo	1,891	93%	44	2%	104	5%	2,039
Santa Barbara	3,614	98%	50	1%	35	1%	3,699
Santa Clara	5,417	87%	207	3%	634	10%	6,258
Santa Cruz	824	100%	0	0%	0	0%	824
Shasta	1,414	96%	31	2%	32	2%	1,477
Siskiyou	476	95%	15	3%	9	2%	500
Solano	1,696	90%	45	2%	147	8%	1,888
Sonoma	1,450	88%	65	4%	124	8%	1,639
Stanislaus	2,711	94%	113	4%	54	2%	2,878
Sutter	379	92%	27	7%	7	2%	413
Tehama	450	89%	22	4%	33	7%	505
Trinity	79	96%	2	2%	1	1%	82
Tulare	3,411	94%	181	5%	36	1%	3,628
Tuolumne	264	96%	6	2%	5	2%	275
Ventura	2,670	96%	47	2%	51	2%	2,768
Yolo	709	94%	33	4%	15	2%	757
Yuba	608	87%	75	11%	12	2%	695
Total	193,681	93%	5,022	2%	8,879	4%	207,582

*Five days in Los Angeles County.

SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

In 2023, 152,485 (86.4%) of 176,459 investigations had a safety assessment completed on the allegation household. Referrals overridden to an in-person response on the hotline tools were excluded from the safety assessment completion rates because, based on policy, no further SDM assessments are required for these referrals.

TABLE 7					
SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE					
COUNTY	COMPLETED		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	1,989	61%	1,260	39%	3,249
Amador	194	87%	30	13%	224
Butte	525	80%	134	20%	659
Calaveras	328	86%	54	14%	382
Colusa	79	68%	38	32%	117
Contra Costa	2,235	71%	930	29%	3,165
Del Norte	230	83%	47	17%	277
El Dorado	662	81%	160	19%	822
Fresno	5,619	86%	912	14%	6,531
Glenn	259	82%	57	18%	316
Humboldt	820	90%	87	10%	907
Imperial	854	96%	36	4%	890
Inyo	29	18%	134	82%	163
Kern	3,429	92%	289	8%	3,718
Kings	846	90%	90	10%	936
Lake	360	81%	84	19%	444
Lassen	156	97%	5	3%	161
Los Angeles	34,771	89%	4,274	11%	39,045
Madera	1,357	94%	88	6%	1,445
Marin	263	91%	25	9%	288
Mariposa	140	90%	16	10%	156
Mendocino	602	82%	129	18%	731
Merced	1,356	86%	227	14%	1,583
Modoc	204	71%	84	29%	288
Mono	46	90%	5	10%	51
Monterey	1,150	76%	371	24%	1,521

TABLE 7

SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE

COUNTY	COMPLETED		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	
Napa	444	91%	44	9%	488
Nevada	287	74%	102	26%	389
Orange	7,968	91%	771	9%	8,739
Placer	863	87%	127	13%	990
Plumas	33	43%	44	57%	77
Riverside	18,568	89%	2,289	11%	20,857
Sacramento	7,692	87%	1,124	13%	8,816
San Benito	232	94%	14	6%	246
San Bernardino	11,886	76%	3,849	24%	15,735
San Diego	15,483	87%	2,316	13%	17,799
San Francisco	1,475	93%	106	7%	1,581
San Joaquin	2,922	92%	251	8%	3,173
San Luis Obispo	1,523	88%	214	12%	1,737
San Mateo	1,589	83%	317	17%	1,906
Santa Barbara	2,791	88%	389	12%	3,180
Santa Clara	5,430	92%	450	8%	5,880
Santa Cruz	651	86%	110	14%	761
Shasta	1,213	88%	160	12%	1,373
Siskiyou	423	90%	48	10%	471
Solano	1,505	87%	233	13%	1,738
Sonoma	1,221	87%	187	13%	1,408
Stanislaus	2,327	87%	336	13%	2,663
Sutter	310	87%	45	13%	355
Tehama	404	88%	54	12%	458
Trinity	73	99%	1	1%	74
Tulare	3,188	94%	211	6%	3,399
Tuolumne	208	81%	48	19%	256
Ventura	2,295	87%	331	13%	2,626
Yolo	525	79%	136	21%	661
Yuba	442	83%	92	17%	534
Total	152,485	86%	23,974	14%	176,459

TABLE 8

SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

COUNTY	SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	1,592	80%	178	9%	219	11%	1,989
Amador	135	70%	39	20%	20	10%	194
Butte	280	53%	153	29%	92	18%	525
Calaveras	280	85%	22	7%	26	8%	328
Colusa	38	48%	36	46%	5	6%	79
Contra Costa	1,818	81%	310	14%	107	5%	2,235
Del Norte	202	88%	13	6%	15	7%	230
El Dorado	520	79%	107	16%	35	5%	662
Fresno	4,637	83%	557	10%	425	8%	5,619
Glenn	213	82%	23	9%	23	9%	259
Humboldt	736	90%	41	5%	43	5%	820
Imperial	691	81%	79	9%	84	10%	854
Inyo	17	59%	9	31%	3	10%	29
Kern	2,758	80%	369	11%	302	9%	3,429
Kings	630	74%	143	17%	73	9%	846
Lake	295	82%	52	14%	13	4%	360
Lassen	123	79%	18	12%	15	10%	156
Los Angeles	28,925	83%	4,622	13%	1,224	4%	34,771
Madera	1,044	77%	250	18%	63	5%	1,357
Marin	123	47%	120	46%	20	8%	263
Mariposa	114	81%	22	16%	4	3%	140
Mendocino	481	80%	72	12%	49	8%	602
Merced	1,065	79%	152	11%	139	10%	1,356
Modoc	180	88%	11	5%	13	6%	204
Mono	33	72%	13	28%	0	0%	46
Monterey	941	82%	168	15%	41	4%	1,150
Napa	393	89%	40	9%	11	2%	444
Nevada	260	91%	8	3%	19	7%	287
Orange	6,402	80%	1,046	13%	520	7%	7,968
Placer	757	88%	49	6%	57	7%	863
Plumas	16	48%	13	39%	4	12%	33
Riverside	16,130	87%	1,847	10%	591	3%	18,568
Sacramento	6,209	81%	1,241	16%	242	3%	7,692

TABLE 8

SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

COUNTY	SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
San Benito	202	87%	21	9%	9	4%	232
San Bernardino	10,470	88%	501	4%	915	8%	11,886
San Diego	13,917	90%	1,264	8%	302	2%	15,483
San Francisco	917	62%	384	26%	174	12%	1,475
San Joaquin	2,521	86%	240	8%	161	6%	2,922
San Luis Obispo	1,268	83%	192	13%	63	4%	1,523
San Mateo	1,435	90%	122	8%	32	2%	1,589
Santa Barbara	2,625	94%	100	4%	66	2%	2,791
Santa Clara	4,910	90%	420	8%	100	2%	5,430
Santa Cruz	438	67%	183	28%	30	5%	651
Shasta	847	70%	266	22%	100	8%	1,213
Siskiyou	371	88%	25	6%	27	6%	423
Solano	1,308	87%	135	9%	62	4%	1,505
Sonoma	884	72%	293	24%	44	4%	1,221
Stanislaus	2,120	91%	148	6%	59	3%	2,327
Sutter	230	74%	57	18%	23	7%	310
Tehama	264	65%	95	24%	45	11%	404
Trinity	39	53%	25	34%	9	12%	73
Tulare	2,531	79%	452	14%	205	6%	3,188
Tuolumne	132	63%	52	25%	24	12%	208
Ventura	2,067	90%	176	8%	52	2%	2,295
Yolo	373	71%	124	24%	28	5%	525
Yuba	213	48%	178	40%	51	12%	442
Total	128,127	84%	17,280	11%	7,078	5%	152,485

Of 152,485 SDM safety assessments completed on allegation households in 2023, 7,078 had a safety decision of “unsafe.”

TABLE 9		
THREE MOST PREVALENT SAFETY THREATS IDENTIFIED IN HOUSEHOLDS ASSESSED AS “UNSAFE”		
SAFETY THREAT	n	%
Alameda (N = 219)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	132	60%
Physical Harm	94	43%
Failure to Protect	46	21%
Butte (N = 92)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	76	83%
Hazardous Living Conditions	49	53%
Physical Harm	42	46%
Calaveras (N = 26)		
Physical Harm	12	46%
Failure to Protect	7	27%
Previous Maltreatment	6	23%
Hazardous Living Conditions	6	23%
Contra Costa (N = 107)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	61	57%
Physical Harm	47	44%
Failure to Protect	34	32%
El Dorado (N = 35)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	22	63%
Failure to Protect	14	40%
Physical Harm	13	37%
Fresno (N = 425)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	238	56%
Physical Harm	157	37%
Failure to Protect	105	25%
Humboldt (N = 43)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	30	70%
Physical Harm	11	26%
Previous Maltreatment	10	23%

TABLE 9

**THREE MOST PREVALENT SAFETY THREATS IDENTIFIED
IN HOUSEHOLDS ASSESSED AS “UNSAFE”**

SAFETY THREAT	n	%
Imperial (N = 84)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	51	61%
Physical Harm	30	36%
Failure to Protect	21	25%
Kern (N = 302)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	188	62%
Hazardous Living Conditions	100	33%
Physical Harm	95	31%
Kings (N = 73)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	41	56%
Physical Harm	29	40%
Failure to Protect	16	22%
Los Angeles (N = 1,224)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	577	47%
Physical Harm	541	44%
Other	269	22%
Madera (N = 63)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	34	54%
Physical Harm	24	38%
Failure to Protect	24	38%
Mendocino (N = 49)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	30	61%
Failure to Protect	20	41%
Physical Harm	18	37%
Merced (N = 139)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	93	67%
Physical Harm	74	53%
Failure to Protect	55	40%
Monterey (N = 41)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	30	73%
Physical Harm	9	22%
Failure to Protect	7	17%

TABLE 9

**THREE MOST PREVALENT SAFETY THREATS IDENTIFIED
IN HOUSEHOLDS ASSESSED AS “UNSAFE”**

SAFETY THREAT	n	%
Orange (N = 520)		
Physical Harm	238	46%
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	235	45%
Failure to Protect	110	21%
Placer (N = 57)		
Physical Harm	25	44%
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	25	44%
Previous Maltreatment	18	32%
Riverside (N = 591)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	306	52%
Physical Harm	284	48%
Failure to Protect	233	39%
Sacramento (N = 242)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	134	55%
Physical Harm	103	43%
Hazardous Living Conditions	51	21%
San Bernardino (N = 915)		
Physical Harm	468	51%
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	415	45%
Previous Maltreatment	287	31%
San Diego (N = 302)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	172	57%
Physical Harm	120	40%
Other	47	16%
San Francisco (N = 174)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	106	61%
Physical Harm	74	43%
Failure to Protect	34	20%
San Joaquin (N = 161)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	75	47%
Physical Harm	62	39%
Hazardous Living Conditions	32	20%

TABLE 9

**THREE MOST PREVALENT SAFETY THREATS IDENTIFIED
IN HOUSEHOLDS ASSESSED AS “UNSAFE”**

SAFETY THREAT	n	%
San Luis Obispo (N = 63)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	50	79%
Failure to Protect	21	33%
Hazardous Living Conditions	21	33%
Santa Mateo (N = 32)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	22	69%
Physical Harm	10	31%
Previous Maltreatment	5	16%
Santa Barbara (N = 66)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	42	64%
Physical Harm	24	36%
Failure to Protect	22	33%
Santa Clara (N = 100)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	70	70%
Other	25	25%
Physical Harm	24	24%
Santa Cruz (N = 30)		
Physical Harm	17	57%
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	15	50%
Previous Maltreatment	8	27%
Shasta (N = 100)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	58	58%
Physical Harm	53	53%
Previous Maltreatment	43	43%
Siskiyou (N = 27)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	21	78%
Physical Harm	10	37%
Hazardous Living Conditions	6	22%
Solano (N = 62)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	37	60%
Physical Harm	25	40%
Previous Maltreatment	21	34%

TABLE 9

**THREE MOST PREVALENT SAFETY THREATS IDENTIFIED
IN HOUSEHOLDS ASSESSED AS “UNSAFE”**

SAFETY THREAT	n	%
Sonoma (N = 44)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	31	70%
Physical Harm	17	39%
Hazardous Living Conditions	11	25%
Stanislaus (N = 59)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	31	53%
Previous Maltreatment	21	36%
Physical Harm	18	31%
Tehama (N = 45)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	30	67%
Physical Harm	19	42%
Failure to Protect	17	38%
Tulare (N = 205)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	85	41%
Physical Harm	80	39%
Hazardous Living Conditions	49	24%
Ventura (N = 52)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	30	58%
Physical Harm	29	56%
Previous Maltreatment	8	15%
Yolo (N = 28)		
Physical Harm	15	54%
Failure to Protect	11	39%
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	10	36%
Yuba (N = 51)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	28	55%
Hazardous Living Conditions	21	41%
Physical Harm	19	37%
COMBINED (N = 7,078; includes all safety threats on the assessment and all counties in the state)		
Child Immediate Needs Not Met	3,765	53%
Physical Harm	3,043	43%
Failure to Protect	1,728	24%

SDM RISK ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Of substantiated (n=29,617) or inconclusive (n=70,818) investigations in 2023, 95,590 (95.2%) had a risk assessment completed. Referrals overridden to an in-person response on the hotline tool were excluded from the risk assessment completion rate because, based on policy, no further SDM assessments are required on these referrals.

TABLE 10					
SDM RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE: SUBSTANTIATED AND INCONCLUSIVE INVESTIGATIONS					
COUNTY	COMPLETED		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	910	95%	48	5%	958
Amador	105	94%	7	6%	112
Butte	416	82%	91	18%	507
Calaveras	169	84%	32	16%	201
Colusa	50	63%	30	38%	80
Contra Costa	919	93%	68	7%	987
Del Norte	128	98%	2	2%	130
El Dorado	451	89%	57	11%	508
Fresno	3,232	84%	610	16%	3,842
Glenn	134	98%	3	2%	137
Humboldt	413	99%	3	1%	416
Imperial	456	88%	64	12%	520
Kern	2,297	97%	69	3%	2,366
Kings	582	97%	21	3%	603
Lake	323	98%	8	2%	331
Lassen	57	98%	1	2%	58
Los Angeles	32,378	99%	487	1%	32,865
Madera	773	97%	25	3%	798
Marin	210	97%	6	3%	216
Mariposa	17	39%	27	61%	44
Mendocino	481	95%	26	5%	507
Merced	509	73%	192	27%	701
Modoc	69	77%	21	23%	90
Monterey	311	78%	86	22%	397
Napa	207	99%	2	1%	209

TABLE 10

**SDM RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE:
SUBSTANTIATED AND INCONCLUSIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

COUNTY	COMPLETED		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	
Nevada	139	93%	10	7%	149
Orange	5,544	98%	88	2%	5,632
Placer	608	96%	23	4%	631
Plumas	16	31%	36	69%	52
Riverside	9,190	97%	306	3%	9,496
Sacramento	4,126	92%	339	8%	4,465
San Benito	57	92%	5	8%	62
San Bernardino	4,730	82%	1,047	18%	5,777
San Diego	8,112	96%	336	4%	8,448
San Francisco	564	93%	42	7%	606
San Joaquin	2,291	98%	43	2%	2,334
San Luis Obispo	611	99%	8	1%	619
San Mateo	645	96%	30	4%	675
Santa Barbara	1,519	98%	29	2%	1,548
Santa Clara	3,175	98%	50	2%	3,225
Santa Cruz	462	97%	16	3%	478
Shasta	818	<99%	1	<1%	819
Siskiyou	332	99%	5	1%	337
Solano	525	88%	72	12%	597
Sonoma	667	88%	91	12%	758
Stanislaus	1,918	99%	26	1%	1,944
Sutter	182	83%	36	17%	218
Tehama	212	88%	28	12%	240
Trinity	53	100%	0	0%	53
Tulare	1,370	>99%	6	<1%	1,376
Tuolumne	130	88%	17	12%	147
Ventura	1,300	95%	68	5%	1,368
Yolo	341	87%	51	13%	392
Yuba	318	88%	42	12%	360
Total	95,590	95%	4,845	5%	100,435

TABLE 11

FINAL SDM RISK LEVEL

COUNTY	LOW		MODERATE		HIGH		VERY HIGH		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	183	20%	446	49%	178	20%	103	11%	910
Amador	7	7%	47	45%	34	32%	17	16%	105
Butte	41	10%	170	41%	135	32%	70	17%	416
Calaveras	35	21%	89	53%	35	21%	10	6%	169
Colusa	11	22%	34	68%	5	10%	0	0%	50
Contra Costa	154	17%	468	51%	210	23%	87	9%	919
Del Norte	12	9%	45	35%	55	43%	16	13%	128
El Dorado	66	15%	232	51%	104	23%	49	11%	451
Fresno	563	17%	1,609	50%	802	25%	258	8%	3,232
Glenn	9	7%	54	40%	43	32%	28	21%	134
Humboldt	42	10%	182	44%	121	29%	68	16%	413
Imperial	119	26%	248	54%	74	16%	15	3%	456
Kern	235	10%	928	40%	764	33%	370	16%	2,297
Kings	119	20%	269	46%	141	24%	53	9%	582
Lake	62	19%	166	51%	77	24%	18	6%	323
Lassen	6	11%	27	47%	16	28%	8	14%	57
Los Angeles	5,838	18%	15,166	47%	8,625	27%	2,749	8%	32,378
Madera	149	19%	367	47%	198	26%	59	8%	773
Marin	44	21%	96	46%	50	24%	20	10%	210
Mendocino	71	15%	199	41%	142	30%	69	14%	481
Merced	91	18%	269	53%	101	20%	48	9%	509
Modoc	9	13%	44	64%	8	12%	8	12%	69
Monterey	65	21%	141	45%	65	21%	40	13%	311
Napa	35	17%	100	48%	50	24%	22	11%	207
Nevada	18	13%	74	53%	40	29%	7	5%	139
Orange	1,330	24%	2,547	46%	1,277	23%	390	7%	5,544
Placer	148	24%	294	48%	126	21%	40	7%	608
Riverside	1,592	17%	4,597	50%	2,273	25%	728	8%	9,190
Sacramento	666	16%	1,995	48%	1,166	28%	299	7%	4,126
San Benito	9	16%	38	67%	6	11%	4	7%	57
San Bernardino	793	17%	2,224	47%	1,113	24%	600	13%	4,730
San Diego	1,625	20%	3,958	49%	1,972	24%	557	7%	8,112
San Francisco	70	12%	231	41%	185	33%	78	14%	564

TABLE 11

FINAL SDM RISK LEVEL

COUNTY	LOW		MODERATE		HIGH		VERY HIGH		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
San Joaquin	591	26%	1,170	51%	381	17%	149	7%	2,291
San Luis Obispo	73	12%	266	44%	190	31%	82	13%	611
San Mateo	215	33%	300	47%	100	16%	30	5%	645
Santa Barbara	349	23%	716	47%	345	23%	109	7%	1,519
Santa Clara	737	23%	1,559	49%	655	21%	224	7%	3,175
Santa Cruz	84	18%	229	50%	102	22%	47	10%	462
Shasta	71	9%	370	45%	265	32%	112	14%	818
Siskiyou	55	17%	160	48%	96	29%	21	6%	332
Solano	98	19%	251	48%	120	23%	56	11%	525
Sonoma	85	13%	374	56%	163	24%	45	7%	667
Stanislaus	483	25%	1,063	55%	282	15%	90	5%	1,918
Sutter	51	28%	96	53%	27	15%	8	4%	182
Tehama	24	11%	96	45%	59	28%	33	16%	212
Trinity	5	9%	21	40%	18	34%	9	17%	53
Tulare	177	13%	594	43%	423	31%	176	13%	1,370
Tuolumne	11	8%	61	47%	42	32%	16	12%	130
Ventura	251	19%	665	51%	289	22%	95	7%	1,300
Yolo	53	16%	155	45%	89	26%	44	13%	341
Yuba	50	16%	171	54%	75	24%	22	7%	318
Total	17,687	19%	45,697	48%	23,937	25%	8,269	9%	95,590

TABLE 12**SDM RISK ASSESSMENT OVERRIDE RATE**

COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		POLICY OVERRIDE		DISCRETIONARY OVERRIDE		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	864	95%	23	3%	23	3%	910
Amador	101	96%	1	1%	3	3%	105
Butte	400	96%	7	2%	9	2%	416
Calaveras	167	99%	2	1%	0	0%	169
Colusa	49	98%	0	0%	1	2%	50
Contra Costa	878	96%	18	2%	23	3%	919
Del Norte	126	98%	1	1%	1	1%	128
El Dorado	438	97%	7	2%	6	1%	451
Fresno	3,146	97%	48	1%	38	1%	3,232
Glenn	131	98%	2	1%	1	1%	134
Humboldt	396	96%	4	1%	13	3%	413
Imperial	450	99%	1	<1%	5	1%	456
Kern	2,204	96%	46	2%	47	2%	2,297
Kings	571	98%	9	2%	2	<1%	582
Lake	320	99%	2	1%	1	<1%	323
Lassen	57	100%	0	0%	0	0%	57
Los Angeles	30,834	95%	305	1%	1,239	4%	32,378
Madera	754	98%	11	1%	8	1%	773
Marin	193	92%	6	3%	11	5%	210
Mendocino	473	98%	5	1%	3	1%	481
Merced	501	98%	4	1%	4	1%	509
Modoc	64	93%	0	0%	5	7%	69
Monterey	288	93%	13	4%	10	3%	311
Napa	200	97%	5	2%	2	1%	207
Nevada	135	97%	1	1%	3	2%	139
Orange	5,194	94%	81	1%	269	5%	5,544
Placer	585	96%	7	1%	16	3%	608
Riverside	8,893	97%	139	2%	158	2%	9,190
Sacramento	4,017	97%	34	1%	75	2%	4,126
San Benito	55	96%	2	4%	0	0%	57
San Bernardino	4,390	93%	137	3%	203	4%	4,730
San Diego	7,931	98%	76	1%	105	1%	8,112

TABLE 12

SDM RISK ASSESSMENT OVERRIDE RATE

COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		POLICY OVERRIDE		DISCRETIONARY OVERRIDE		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
San Francisco	522	93%	16	3%	26	5%	564
San Joaquin	2,244	98%	13	1%	34	1%	2,291
San Luis Obispo	587	96%	10	2%	14	2%	611
San Mateo	630	98%	9	1%	6	1%	645
Santa Barbara	1,480	97%	20	1%	19	1%	1,519
Santa Clara	3,103	98%	15	<1%	57	2%	3,175
Santa Cruz	454	98%	5	1%	3	1%	462
Shasta	795	97%	4	<1%	19	2%	818
Siskiyou	325	98%	4	1%	3	1%	332
Solano	503	96%	16	3%	6	1%	525
Sonoma	647	97%	9	1%	11	2%	667
Stanislaus	1,868	97%	15	1%	35	2%	1,918
Sutter	174	96%	1	1%	7	4%	182
Tehama	206	97%	4	2%	2	1%	212
Trinity	49	92%	3	6%	1	2%	53
Tulare	1,310	96%	29	2%	31	2%	1,370
Tuolumne	122	94%	2	2%	6	5%	130
Ventura	1,248	96%	21	2%	31	2%	1,300
Yolo	324	95%	9	3%	8	2%	341
Yuba	312	98%	3	1%	3	1%	318
Total	91,776	96%	1,206	1%	2,608	3%	95,590

SDM RISK LEVEL AND SAFETY DECISION COMBINATIONS

In 2023, 126,989 investigations for families that did not already have an open case had a completed safety and risk assessment. The analysis examined findings from the last safety assessment completed during the investigation and the risk assessment.

TABLE 13													
SDM RISK LEVEL AND SAFETY DECISION													
COUNTY	LOW/MODERATE RISK						HIGH/VERY HIGH RISK						N
	SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	1,269	73%	87	5%	69	4%	148	9%	35	2%	133	8%	1,741
Amador	52	46%	7	6%	1	1%	25	22%	11	10%	18	16%	114
Butte	121	32%	74	19%	13	3%	50	13%	59	15%	65	17%	382
Calaveras	176	70%	4	2%	6	2%	47	19%	6	2%	13	5%	252
Colusa	18	33%	30	55%	1	2%	1	2%	2	4%	3	5%	55
Contra Costa	1,379	73%	124	7%	17	1%	220	12%	82	4%	74	4%	1,896
Del Norte	115	63%	0	0%	2	1%	56	30%	1	1%	10	5%	184
El Dorado	383	66%	37	6%	9	2%	103	18%	25	4%	23	4%	580
Fresno	2,831	65%	265	6%	82	2%	736	17%	181	4%	275	6%	4,370
Glenn	144	62%	7	3%	2	1%	52	23%	9	4%	17	7%	231
Humboldt	515	70%	3	<1%	5	1%	176	24%	2	<1%	40	5%	741
Imperial	413	75%	28	5%	20	4%	48	9%	0	0%	40	7%	549
Kern	1,060	49%	44	2%	48	2%	706	33%	41	2%	269	12%	2,168
Kings	549	68%	27	3%	19	2%	143	18%	15	2%	53	7%	806
Lake	230	66%	25	7%	0	0%	58	17%	25	7%	9	3%	347
Lassen	103	67%	11	7%	4	3%	21	14%	5	3%	10	6%	154

TABLE 13

SDM RISK LEVEL AND SAFETY DECISION

COUNTY	LOW/MODERATE RISK						HIGH/VERY HIGH RISK						N
	SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Los Angeles	21,630	66%	1,134	3%	160	<1%	7,439	23%	1,468	4%	1,017	3%	32,848
Madera	778	60%	154	12%	16	1%	221	17%	88	7%	37	3%	1,294
Marin	103	42%	78	32%	4	2%	18	7%	29	12%	12	5%	244
Mariposa	43	75%	4	7%	0	0%	4	7%	4	7%	2	4%	57
Mendocino	285	59%	7	1%	9	2%	141	29%	9	2%	31	6%	482
Merced	297	61%	35	7%	10	2%	95	19%	25	5%	26	5%	488
Modoc	91	81%	5	4%	3	3%	6	5%	3	3%	4	4%	112
Monterey	181	54%	46	14%	8	2%	27	8%	38	11%	35	10%	335
Napa	320	73%	2	<1%	4	1%	95	22%	6	1%	9	2%	436
Nevada	198	73%	0	0%	1	<1%	61	23%	0	0%	11	4%	271
Orange	5,164	68%	551	7%	53	1%	1,032	14%	268	4%	479	6%	7,547
Placer	582	77%	3	<1%	10	1%	100	13%	5	1%	56	7%	756
Riverside	13,023	74%	405	2%	98	1%	3,089	18%	445	3%	498	3%	17,558
Sacramento	2,539	61%	248	6%	19	<1%	904	22%	280	7%	172	4%	4,162
San Benito	41	75%	5	9%	1	2%	1	2%	0	0%	7	13%	55
San Bernardino	4,020	69%	126	2%	80	1%	679	12%	86	1%	810	14%	5,801
San Diego	10,772	76%	125	1%	30	<1%	2,860	20%	153	1%	252	2%	14,192
San Francisco	851	61%	144	10%	47	3%	144	10%	84	6%	119	9%	1,389
San Joaquin	1,673	78%	24	1%	19	1%	266	12%	27	1%	148	7%	2,157
San Luis Obispo	970	66%	17	1%	4	<1%	412	28%	18	1%	59	4%	1,480
San Mateo	549	80%	15	2%	7	1%	88	13%	10	1%	17	2%	686

TABLE 13

SDM RISK LEVEL AND SAFETY DECISION

COUNTY	LOW/MODERATE RISK						HIGH/VERY HIGH RISK						N
	SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		SAFE		SAFE WITH PLAN		UNSAFE		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Santa Barbara	1,963	79%	11	<1%	10	<1%	420	17%	12	<1%	80	3%	2,496
Santa Clara	3,829	76%	134	3%	11	<1%	866	17%	126	3%	65	1%	5,031
Santa Cruz	325	53%	111	18%	2	<1%	94	15%	59	10%	19	3%	610
Shasta	584	51%	112	10%	14	1%	247	22%	105	9%	80	7%	1,142
Siskiyou	270	67%	3	1%	4	1%	95	24%	2	<1%	30	7%	404
Solano	390	65%	43	7%	8	1%	85	14%	29	5%	48	8%	603
Sonoma	590	66%	78	9%	1	<1%	173	19%	41	5%	15	2%	898
Stanislaus	1,709	80%	53	2%	5	<1%	280	13%	41	2%	47	2%	2,135
Sutter	124	63%	33	17%	5	3%	12	6%	10	5%	13	7%	197
Tehama	65	29%	61	27%	5	2%	33	15%	31	14%	29	13%	224
Trinity	37	51%	7	10%	2	3%	7	10%	7	10%	12	17%	72
Tulare	2,016	67%	118	4%	33	1%	614	20%	99	3%	132	4%	3,012
Tuolumne	64	38%	35	21%	1	1%	36	21%	14	8%	20	12%	170
Ventura	1,662	76%	35	2%	5	<1%	379	17%	62	3%	57	3%	2,200
Yolo	270	60%	41	9%	2	<1%	71	16%	38	8%	30	7%	452
Yuba	161	45%	94	26%	13	4%	31	9%	27	8%	31	9%	357
Total	87,557	69%	4,880	4%	1,002	1%	23,725	19%	4,259	3%	5,566	4%	126,989

SDM REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Evident Change identified children in placement episodes that began in 2022 and examined whether workers completed a reunification assessment within six or nine months of the start of a child’s family reunification (FR) services. Placement episodes lasting less than eight days were excluded from the analysis; probate guardianship, Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program, and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children placement episodes were also excluded. Note that the dates on which these started and whether the young person reached their 18th birthday were considered. Placement episodes with FR services active less than nine months—and still open as of the extract date during each year examined (e.g., the extract for the current year was February 19, 2024)—were excluded to allow equal opportunity (i.e., at least nine months) to complete the reunification assessment.

TABLE 14							
SDM REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE							
COUNTY	COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS		COMPLETED BETWEEN SIX AND NINE MONTHS		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	190	73%	8	3%	62	24%	260
Butte	17	9%	20	11%	143	79%	180
Calaveras	39	75%	10	19%	3	6%	52
Contra Costa	48	19%	37	15%	165	66%	250
Del Norte	15	33%	3	7%	28	61%	46
El Dorado	3	5%	13	21%	47	75%	63
Fresno	2	<1%	11	1%	891	99%	904
Humboldt	11	10%	28	25%	75	66%	114
Imperial	9	6%	27	18%	112	76%	148
Kern	97	12%	212	26%	507	62%	816
Kings	39	20%	49	26%	104	54%	192
Los Angeles	2,753	51%	1,286	24%	1,328	25%	5,367
Madera	28	33%	16	19%	41	48%	85
Marin	3	9%	12	36%	18	55%	33
Mendocino	0	0%	2	2%	114	98%	116
Merced	49	19%	100	39%	110	42%	259
Monterey	0	0%	0	0%	70	100%	70
Napa	20	45%	12	27%	12	27%	44
Nevada	2	7%	0	0%	26	93%	28

TABLE 14

SDM REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE

COUNTY	COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS		COMPLETED BETWEEN SIX AND NINE MONTHS		NOT COMPLETED		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Orange	84	8%	217	20%	806	73%	1,107
Placer	8	11%	25	34%	41	55%	74
Riverside	132	9%	178	12%	1,150	79%	1,460
Sacramento	49	10%	123	25%	319	65%	491
San Bernardino	134	7%	604	32%	1,146	61%	1,884
San Diego	105	14%	258	34%	390	52%	753
San Francisco	53	19%	85	31%	139	50%	277
San Joaquin	25	5%	99	21%	349	74%	473
San Luis Obispo	48	52%	13	14%	32	34%	93
San Mateo	15	42%	7	19%	14	39%	36
Santa Barbara	43	32%	3	2%	87	65%	133
Santa Clara	48	46%	1	1%	56	53%	105
Santa Cruz	34	69%	8	16%	7	14%	49
Shasta	68	31%	64	29%	86	39%	218
Siskiyou	16	40%	14	35%	10	25%	40
Solano	46	41%	14	13%	51	46%	111
Sonoma	30	22%	8	6%	101	73%	139
Stanislaus	6	4%	64	38%	100	59%	170
Sutter	1	2%	0	0%	40	98%	41
Tehama	19	36%	1	2%	33	62%	53
Tulare	33	8%	111	28%	249	63%	393
Tuolumne	26	87%	0	0%	4	13%	30
Ventura	54	32%	25	15%	90	53%	169
Yolo	2	2%	32	24%	98	74%	132
Yuba	4	6%	7	10%	57	84%	68
Total	4,444	25%	3,825	22%	9,420	53%	17,689

Note: There were nine placement episodes in 2022 that had no initial recommendation in the reunification assessment; these were excluded from this analysis.

The children involved in 8,269 placement episodes starting in 2022 had a reunification assessment completed within six or nine months of the start of FR services. There were nine placement episodes in 2022 that had no initial recommendation in the reunification assessment; these were excluded from this analysis.

TABLE 15							
SDM REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT PERMANENCY PLAN RECOMMENDATION							
COUNTY	CONTINUE SERVICES		TERMINATE SERVICES		RETURN HOME		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	127	65%	55	28%	13	7%	195
Butte	23	62%	4	11%	10	27%	37
Calaveras	42	86%	5	10%	2	4%	49
Contra Costa	53	62%	15	18%	17	20%	85
Humboldt	22	56%	6	15%	11	28%	39
Imperial	18	50%	17	47%	1	3%	36
Kern	165	53%	101	33%	43	14%	309
Kings	42	48%	17	19%	29	33%	88
Los Angeles	2,935	73%	685	17%	415	10%	4,035
Madera	27	61%	8	18%	9	20%	44
Merced	85	57%	27	18%	37	25%	149
Napa	22	69%	4	13%	6	19%	32
Orange	149	50%	67	22%	85	28%	301
Placer	21	64%	5	15%	7	21%	33
Riverside	180	58%	83	27%	47	15%	310
Sacramento	95	55%	47	27%	30	17%	172
San Bernardino	456	62%	110	15%	171	23%	737
San Diego	235	65%	85	23%	43	12%	363
San Francisco	75	55%	32	23%	30	22%	137
San Joaquin	89	72%	20	16%	15	12%	124
San Luis Obispo	47	77%	7	11%	7	11%	61
Santa Barbara	19	41%	11	24%	16	35%	46
Santa Clara	29	59%	10	20%	10	20%	49
Santa Cruz	24	57%	8	19%	10	24%	42
Shasta	76	58%	40	30%	16	12%	132
Siskiyou	22	73%	5	17%	3	10%	30
Solano	45	75%	10	17%	5	8%	60
Sonoma	24	63%	6	16%	8	21%	38

TABLE 15							
SDM REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT PERMANENCY PLAN RECOMMENDATION							
COUNTY	CONTINUE SERVICES		TERMINATE SERVICES		RETURN HOME		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Stanislaus	43	61%	26	37%	1	1%	70
Tulare	78	54%	34	24%	32	22%	144
Tuolumne	21	81%	2	8%	3	12%	26
Ventura	49	62%	20	25%	10	13%	79
Yolo	22	65%	8	24%	4	12%	34
Total	5,458	66%	1,617	20%	1,185	14%	8,260

TABLE 16							
SDM REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT PERMANENCY PLAN OVERRIDE							
COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		POLICY OVERRIDE		DISCRETIONARY OVERRIDE		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	147	75%	27	14%	21	11%	195
Butte	36	97%	1	3%	0	0%	37
Calaveras	47	96%	0	0%	2	4%	49
Contra Costa	76	89%	6	7%	3	4%	85
Humboldt	37	95%	2	5%	0	0%	39
Imperial	32	89%	3	8%	1	3%	36
Kern	257	83%	32	10%	20	6%	309
Kings	70	80%	10	11%	8	9%	88
Los Angeles	3,578	89%	241	6%	216	5%	4,035
Madera	38	86%	1	2%	5	11%	44
Merced	131	88%	14	9%	4	3%	149
Napa	27	84%	4	13%	1	3%	32
Orange	263	87%	28	9%	10	3%	301
Placer	28	85%	5	15%	0	0%	33
Riverside	242	78%	42	14%	26	8%	310
Sacramento	153	89%	15	9%	4	2%	172
San Bernardino	582	79%	127	17%	28	4%	737
San Diego	318	88%	29	8%	16	4%	363
San Francisco	108	79%	13	9%	16	12%	137
San Joaquin	98	79%	17	14%	9	7%	124

TABLE 16							
SDM REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT PERMANENCY PLAN OVERRIDE							
COUNTY	NO OVERRIDE		POLICY OVERRIDE		DISCRETIONARY OVERRIDE		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
San Luis Obispo	47	77%	12	20%	2	3%	61
Santa Barbara	44	96%	2	4%	0	0%	46
Santa Clara	38	78%	5	10%	6	12%	49
Santa Cruz	34	81%	8	19%	0	0%	42
Shasta	119	90%	12	9%	1	1%	132
Siskiyou	22	73%	3	10%	5	17%	30
Solano	53	88%	5	8%	2	3%	60
Sonoma	32	84%	4	11%	2	5%	38
Stanislaus	47	67%	17	24%	6	9%	70
Tulare	115	80%	11	8%	18	13%	144
Tuolumne	25	96%	0	0%	1	4%	26
Ventura	65	82%	10	13%	4	5%	79
Yolo	25	74%	6	18%	3	9%	34
Total	7,084	86%	731	9%	445	5%	8,260

SDM RISK REASSESSMENT FINDINGS

This analysis identified children in cases that began in 2022 and examined whether children whose cases began in family maintenance (FM) services received a completed risk reassessment within six or nine months of their FM services starting. Children who were included received FM services for at least nine months or for the life of a case that was active for less than nine months.

TABLE 17							
SDM RISK REASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE							
COUNTY	COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS		COMPLETED BETWEEN SIX AND NINE MONTHS		NOT COMPLETED OR COMPLETED AFTER NINE MONTHS		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	94	48%	47	24%	56	28%	197
Contra Costa	98	67%	12	8%	36	25%	146

TABLE 17

SDM RISK REASSESSMENT COMPLETION RATE

COUNTY	COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS		COMPLETED BETWEEN SIX AND NINE MONTHS		NOT COMPLETED OR COMPLETED AFTER NINE MONTHS		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
El Dorado	3	4%	2	3%	69	93%	74
Fresno	104	68%	29	19%	20	13%	153
Glenn	6	18%	18	53%	10	29%	34
Humboldt	17	22%	18	24%	41	54%	76
Imperial	7	28%	6	24%	12	48%	25
Kern	38	26%	67	45%	43	29%	148
Kings	11	19%	8	14%	40	68%	59
Los Angeles	2,108	33%	2,649	41%	1,677	26%	6,434
Madera	34	51%	13	19%	20	30%	67
Marin	20	65%	6	19%	5	16%	31
Merced	5	19%	16	59%	6	22%	27
Modoc	6	22%	0	0%	21	78%	27
Monterey	43	66%	13	20%	9	14%	65
Napa	14	47%	7	23%	9	30%	30
Orange	197	27%	216	30%	318	44%	731
Placer	13	23%	19	33%	25	44%	57
Riverside	278	22%	225	18%	735	59%	1,238
Sacramento	349	79%	46	10%	47	11%	442
San Bernardino	106	23%	93	21%	253	56%	452
San Diego	185	51%	102	28%	73	20%	360
San Francisco	73	36%	65	32%	67	33%	205
San Joaquin	8	10%	48	59%	25	31%	81
San Luis Obispo	45	50%	20	22%	25	28%	90
San Mateo	25	39%	16	25%	23	36%	64
Santa Barbara	38	67%	11	19%	8	14%	57
Santa Clara	238	59%	94	23%	71	18%	403
Sonoma	55	36%	25	16%	73	48%	153
Stanislaus	98	66%	43	29%	8	5%	149
Tulare	7	5%	80	52%	68	44%	155
Ventura	173	91%	10	5%	8	4%	191
Total	4,554	36%	4,036	32%	4,059	32%	12,649

In 2022, 8,590 children whose cases began in FM services received a completed risk reassessment within six or nine months of their FM services starting.

TABLE 18									
SDM RISK REASSESSMENT LEVEL AFTER OVERRIDES									
COUNTY	LOW		MODERATE		HIGH		VERY HIGH		N
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Alameda	60	43%	68	48%	13	9%	0	0%	141
Contra Costa	25	23%	73	66%	8	7%	4	4%	110
Fresno	56	42%	77	58%	0	0%	0	0%	133
Humboldt	7	20%	28	80%	0	0%	0	0%	35
Kern	18	17%	62	59%	24	23%	1	1%	105
Los Angeles	1,614	34%	2,281	48%	723	15%	139	3%	4,757
Madera	21	45%	15	32%	11	23%	0	0%	47
Marin	4	15%	10	38%	4	15%	8	31%	26
Monterey	16	29%	27	48%	8	14%	5	9%	56
Orange	180	44%	189	46%	41	10%	3	1%	413
Placer	9	28%	19	59%	4	13%	0	0%	32
Riverside	175	35%	253	50%	69	14%	6	1%	503
Sacramento	108	27%	248	63%	38	10%	1	<1%	395
San Bernardino	89	45%	102	51%	6	3%	2	1%	199
San Diego	75	26%	131	46%	65	23%	16	6%	287
San Francisco	54	39%	69	50%	15	11%	0	0%	138
San Joaquin	12	21%	34	61%	10	18%	0	0%	56
San Luis Obispo	4	6%	43	66%	14	22%	4	6%	65
San Mateo	14	34%	20	49%	4	10%	3	7%	41
Santa Barbara	7	14%	40	82%	0	0%	2	4%	49
Santa Clara	63	19%	208	63%	47	14%	14	4%	332
Sonoma	9	11%	45	56%	25	31%	1	1%	80
Stanislaus	40	28%	74	52%	24	17%	3	2%	141
Tulare	37	43%	39	45%	11	13%	0	0%	87
Ventura	30	16%	115	63%	34	19%	4	2%	183
Total	2,766	32%	4,380	51%	1,214	14%	230	3%	8,590