

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### PCA-Riverside County Helps Make Mobile Safe Haven a Reality for Abused Children

Written By: *Amie Johnson*  
*Prevent Child Abuse Riverside, CA*



The first Community Resource Vehicle in the State.

Riverside, CA- An Investigator with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department developed the concept of a Community Resource Vehicle (CRV) that would serve as a mobile, child-friendly environment where abused, neglected, drug

exposed and/or lost children could be showered, provided clothing and nourishment, and entertained while an investigation was completed. The idea developed after watching children exposed to lethal drugs being rinsed off with a garden hose, wrapped in a towel, and placed in the back of a patrol car to await being interviewed or sent to foster care.

Children often suffer compounded emotional trauma because law enforcement and social services have not had a way to insulate children during criminal investigations in their homes. Consequently, children are often forced to view the activities of law enforcement while seeing their parents and caregivers handcuffed and taken away.

These innocent children are victims of the drug environment: abused, neglected, and frequently test positive for methamphetamine, a popular drug of choice in the Inland Empire.

Investigator Tom Salisbury, currently assigned to the Perris Sheriff's Station took the idea of the CRV to Rotary where both he and the concept captured the attention of John Barnes, a Perris businessman.

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### Legislative Watch

### Special Budget Feature

On July 11, after much debate in the legislature, revisions, and his final line-item vetoes, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Senate Bill 80, the \$117 billion California state budget for 2005-2006. Although the legislature is officially supposed to pass a budget bill by June 15, to be signed or vetoed by the governor within fifteen days thereafter, July 11 is the earliest the budget has been signed since 2000.

This year's budget is expected to leave the state with an ongoing yearly budget shortfall of \$4-5 billion (around \$100-150 per person), even taking current economic growth into account.

#### How Big is the Budget?

This year's budget is approximately \$117 billion<sup>1</sup>, which comes to around \$3,300 per Californian<sup>2</sup>. Compared to last year's budget, it is seven percent bigger (not accounting for inflation). Inflation over the past decade has ranged between one and three percent, so the budget is growing faster than inflation, which our economy is also doing, but not fast enough to keep up.

Our gross state product—the state-level equivalent of the national Gross Domestic Product, representing the gross dollars earned in California—was \$1.54 trillion in 2004, which comes to an average of \$44,000 per capita. Out of each of these dollars earned,

<sup>1</sup> All budget numbers given are expenditures. Income and expenses are often not exactly the same; for instance, last year the state spent nearly three percent (\$2 billion) more than it collected. Of the \$3,300 per person, \$2,400 comes from the General Fund, \$680 from Special Funds and the remaining \$230, which contains bond funds (borrowing), is not always included in budget totals given. This is why expenditures are rounded to \$3,200 per person.

<sup>2</sup> This number is not meant to represent the amount paid by the typical taxpayer, because of corporate taxes, non-linear variation in the amount of taxes paid by individuals, and the members of the population, such as children, who do not pay taxes. For all per-person data, the state population is assumed to be 35 million people.

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### Training SPOTLIGHT

Featuring:  
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### Fathers: Their Powerful Influence on the Lives of Children

September 21, 2005  
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### Child Abuse and Neglect Policy Conference

Strategizing the 2006 Child Abuse Prevention Bill Package

November 8, 2005  
 Sacramento, CA  
 State Capitol Assembly Chambers

**Legislative Watch** (Continued from page 1)

California spent an average of six cents on its state government (a nickel on the General Fund; including other funds brings it up to six or seven cents). In general, our state has spent around this amount—six or seven percent—of its gross state product on its state budget for the last decade.

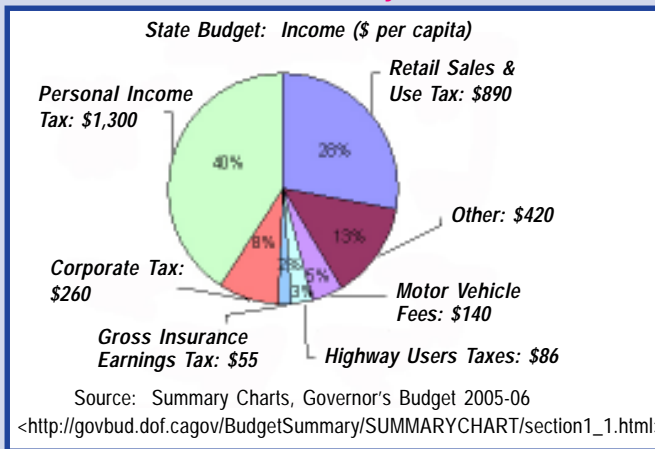
**Where Does the Money Come From?**

Of the taxes and fees expected to be collected this year, 40 percent will come from personal income taxes, 28 percent from retail sales and use taxes, and only 8 percent from corporate taxes. 5 percent will come from motor vehicle taxes, 3 percent from highway users taxes, 2 percent from taxes on gross insurance income, and the rest from a variety of other taxes and fees (see diagram below).

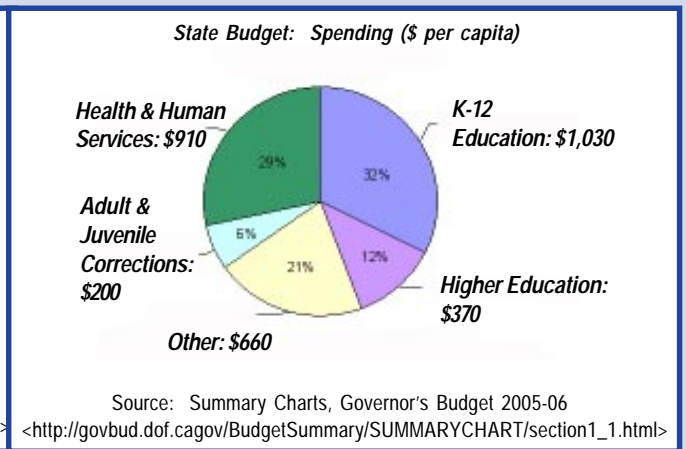
**Where Does the Money Go?**

The state budget is over \$3,200 per Californian, which breaks down into around 54 percent for education, 29 percent for Health and Human Services, 6 percent for corrections and 21 percent for everything else, including environmental protection, transportation, general government administration and general debt repayment. Most of the state budget is required by ballot measures and other rules to be allocated to specific programs; the remainder is up to the judgment of the legislature and governor.

**Where Does the Money Come From?**



**Where Does the Money Go?**



**What Changes Will Affect Child Services?**

Just as it did last year, Health and Human Services will receive around 31 percent of the General Fund. Since 1977, Health and Human Services has been range of 25% (in 2000-2001) and 34% (in '93-'94). Over the last several years, it has been increasing, but from last year to this it will stay about the same. The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) will receive \$12.5 million, or 36 cents per capita, which is similar to recent years.

State budget allocations for children's services remain about the same, with one major increase: an additional \$27 million, or 77 cents for every Californian, for counties to improve their Child Welfare Services outcomes by focusing on and thus increase their compliance with federal and state requirements and creating more positive outcomes for children. The project is based on Child Welfare Services Redesign and the legislative response to it and it focuses on improvement in three areas: differential response, safety standards and transitions to permanency (out of foster care). Slightly under half of this allocation, called the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project, will come from the General Fund. As noted by Greg Rose, the Director of the state's Office of Child Abuse Prevention, non-profits and other existing organizations may be well-positioned to help counties meet these goals using these funds.

While children's services benefited in the state budget, they took a hit from recent federal budget decisions. Although Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds increased slightly, Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) was cut much more, down to \$40 million (\$1.15 per Californian) for

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**Community Resource Vehicle** (Continued from page 1)

John Barnes, touched by the plight of children in those environments, initiated a fundraising drive to acquire a CRV to be stationed at the Perris Sheriff Station to serve the needs of children in the Perris community.

John appealed to the community for private donations, applied for and received grants from endowments, and raised a significant amount of the funding to support acquisition and first year operational costs. The Board of Directors of Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County and its Executive Director, Theresa Larsen, identified funding

to acquire three additional Community Resource Vehicles for use in communities throughout Riverside County.

With the assistance of friends and partners at Fleetwood Motor Homes, PCA Riverside purchased four of these fantastic mobile safe havens to protect children. When delivered to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for use, they will be the first such vehicles dedicated to the rescue of abused, neglected, and/or lost children anywhere in the state of California and perhaps the nation.



**Prevent Child Abuse California**  
4700 Roseville Road, Suite 102 - North Highlands, CA 95660  
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Issue

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**Legislative Watch** (Continued from page 2)

2005-2006. PSSF is the largest funding source for children's services programs in California. PSSF allocations are based in part on food stamp utilization rates and CalWORKS compliance, which are complex to calculate. Because of the desire to reverse the decrease in federal funding, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention and other state agencies are looking into how those rates are calculated.

**Further Sources:**

**Ongoing Budget Shortfall:** The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), at <[www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)>, conducts non-partisan analysis of state legislation for legislators and the public, including an analysis of the budget bill SB 77, the next-to-final version of this year's budget.

**Current and Historical Budget Data:** The Department of Finance (DOF), at <[www.dof.ca.gov](http://www.dof.ca.gov)>, provides many charts showing information about past and current state budgets, as well as about other economic characteristics of the California. See also the LAO's publications. Page 22 of the Governor's Summary/Veto Message Package, on the DOF website, covers the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project.

**Inflation:** The Consumer Price Index from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at <[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)>, was used to calculate inflation.

**Gross State Product:** The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, at <[www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)>, gives gross state product information for all states and various industries.



**PCA CA  
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*A monthly newsletter*

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4700 Roseville Rd., Suite 102  
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