

# Agencies work to drive down child abuse

## Charlotte County had fourth highest rate across Florida in 2017

By ANNE EASKER  
STAFF WRITER

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the most recent data from the Florida Department of Health shows Charlotte County with the fourth highest rate of child abuse in the state for children ages 5 through 11.

In 2017, the county had 1,770.9 cases per 100,000 population, or 148 total children experiencing abuse. The number is somewhat lower than the peak in 2015 at 2,264.6 per 100,000 population, or 194 total children. Sarasota County had 182 children experiencing abuse in 2017, or 797.6 per 100,000 population.

Jennifer Sexton, spokesperson for the Department of Health in Charlotte County, said she couldn't guess what's driven up Charlotte County's numbers in recent years, but she noted for actual cases, Charlotte County ranks 24th. Regardless, the Department of Health and the Healthy Charlotte Council are committed to driving the rate back down, she said.

Last fall, Healthy Charlotte looked at local child abuse data, among other health issues in the county and decided to create an action plan, which will be unveiled at the April 23 Healthy Charlotte Steering Committee Meeting.

The focus of the plan is on educating the community on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, substance use disorders, incarceration of a family member, parental separation or divorce, domestic violence, and mental illness.

"We are currently focused on educating everybody and every organization in Charlotte County about ACEs science, including the lasting health impacts of childhood abuse and other traumas," Sexton said. "For example, ACEs can significantly influence a person's health, economic standing, and educational attainment, which are all protective factors for an individual."

Two out of three adults have one or more ACE, she said, but their impact can be minimized by the amount of support a child has.

Cecelia Lyew-Kong, of Behavior Analysis, Inc., is the director of one program that aims to support children coming out of difficult situation by better equipping their foster parents. Serving the 20th Judicial Circuit, the program teaches positive methods for managing difficult behavior. Children who have been abused or neglected might hoard toys or food, or act out negatively to get attention, because they're

used to getting a response that way. "One of the big things we say all the time is 'Your normal is not their normal,' Lyew-Kong said. "You need to be understanding and meet them where they're at as opposed to doing a comparison of where we are or where our children are." The most important tool is helping foster parents develop a strong bond with their children. "This may be the first healthy bond the child is

experiencing," she said. "We want to make sure the foster parents that we work with are building a strong relationship, one that's very loving, one that's very supportive, one that's setting them up for success." Healthy Charlotte is using a social network called ACEs Connection to track its impact, Sexton said. The network is working to "accelerate the global movement toward recognizing the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences

in shaping adult behavior and health, and reforming all communities and institutions — from schools to prisons to hospitals and churches — to help heal and develop a resilient community network of resources." In its 2-year plan, Healthy Charlotte plans to educate 1,740 individuals in Charlotte County about ACEs science, engage ten residents to join the local ACEs initiative, and find 20 organizations to

commit to integrating trauma-informed and resilience-based practices. Other initiatives within the county to reduce child abuse include the Green Dot program, which offers bystander training for individuals to intervene. Director Chris Hall said intervention doesn't mean a bystander has to get directly involved in someone else's business. The direct approach is one way, but there's also delegating and distracting.

# HOBBY LOBBY

FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU OR SHOP ONLINE AT HOBBYLOBBY.COM  
STORE HOURS: 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. • CLOSED SUNDAY

---

## TABLETOP DECOR 50% OFF

Categories Listed  
Does not include Seasonal Department

<b>Glass Decor</b> Glass Department and craft glass containers Does not include craft stained glass	<b>Decorative Lanterns, Birdcages &amp; Terrariums</b>	<b>Metal Tabletop Decor</b> Enamel & galvanized decor
<b>Ceramic, Resin &amp; Pottery Decor</b> Does not include "Your Price" items	<b>Wicker Department &amp; Pottery Decor</b> Decorative storage, boxes, trays, metal & cloth	<b>Decorative Table Clocks Spheres &amp; Globes</b>

Candles, Candle Holders, Scences, LED Candles, Fragrance Cubes & Warmers, Potpourri & Diffusers  
Price \$2.99 & Up. Does not include sale or "Your Price" items

Knobs, Pulls, Handles, Hooks & Decorative Hardware  
Lamps & Lampshades  
Floral Containers & Vases  
Ceramic, glass, pottery, resin, wood & metal  
Does not include "Your Price" items

---

Easter, Summer and items labeled The Spring Shop™ are not included in Home Decor sale.

YOU JUST NEED TO PURCHASE "ONE" SALE ITEM TO RECEIVE OUR BEST PRICE!

<b>EASTER PARTY, CRAFTS &amp; DECORATIONS</b> 40% OFF Plush Animals, Paper Plates & Napkins, Home Decor, Baskets, Plastic Eggs, Crafts and More Does not include candy or fabric.	<b>SUMMER TOYS</b> 40% OFF Includes Little Wishes™	<b>Items Labeled THE SPRING SHOP™</b> 40% OFF Fashion Items in Tableware, Garden, Wall Decor, Home Decor, Storage and More
<b>FLORAL 50% OFF</b> Categories Listed Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled "Your Price"	<b>FURNITURE</b> ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE	<b>ALL YARN</b> Every skein, brand, color and size 30% OFF Does not include thread and floss

<b>WEARABLE ART</b> Gildan Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts \$2.79 (Marked price \$3.99) Bandanas 99¢ (Marked price \$1.99) Boas 3.99 (Marked price \$4.99) T-Shirts 30% OFF (Marked price \$1.49) Includes Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts, Crewnecks, V-neck T-Shirts, Baseball & Long Sleeve T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Hoodies & Fleece T-Shirts All T-Shirt Products 40% OFF Does not include Happy Boot	<b>BEST-SELLING BOOKS</b> Bibles, Devotionals, Gift Books and Children's Books ALWAYS 40% OFF - 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE	<b>PARTY</b> Streamers 99¢ (Marked price \$1.99) Candy Walkers 1.99 (Marked price \$2.99) Solid Color Table Cover 99¢ (Marked price \$1.49) 12" Balloons \$2.99 (Marked price \$3.99) 3.5 lb Buttercream Decorating Icing 9.99 (Marked price \$14.99) White Fondant 15.99 (Marked price \$24.99)
---	---	--

<b>FRAMES 50% OFF</b> Categories Listed Photo Frames: Always 50% off their marked price. Includes photo storage. Collage Frames Art Prints & Posters: Always 50% off their marked price. Wall Frames: Poster, document and portrait frames with glass.	<b>CRAFTS 40% OFF</b> Categories Listed Unfinished Craft Wood: Priced \$5.99 & Up. Chalkboards, Corkboards & Dry-Erase Boards Paper Mache Letters & Numbers: All Sizes Perler Kits & Beads Cra-Z-Art® Products Children's Activity Kits, Paint & Pencil by Number Kits and Fuzzy Posters: Priced \$4.99 & Up
---	---

<b>PAPER CRAFTS 40% OFF</b> Most Categories Listed The Paper Studio Vinyl: Single Sheets, Rolled Vinyl and Iron-On All Stickers All Planners & Planner Kits: Includes the Happy Planner!	<b>ART SALE</b> All Master's Touch® & Fine Touch® 50% OFF Paint Sets, Single & Packaged Brushes, Art & Sketch Pads, Art Canvas & Panels, Tube Paints and more Does not include items priced under \$4.99 & "Your Price" items. All Art Tables & Easels 50% OFF
--	---

<b>JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF</b> Categories Listed Poetic Spirit™ by Bead Treasures®: Pendants, beads, bracelets and more. Strung, Tubed & Boxed Beads: Color-Glass™ Bead Treasures and Czech Glass Beads. Blank Slate: Create personalized look with stamping. Marks, beads and more. Vintage®: Unique glass components made in the USA. Instant Gratification™ by Traditions™: Combos: Mix-and-match components to create personalized jewelry. Instantly! No tools required. the Jewelry Shoppe™: Findings, hair accessories, nickel free and stamping liner.	<b>FABRIC</b> Home Dec Fabric: Prints, solids and more. Fleece: Prints, solids and microfleece. Calico Prints & Solids: Assorted prints and solids. Ribbon, Trim & Tulle Spools: Does not include ribbon trim sold by the yard or Seasonal Department. Easter Fabric: 50% OFF Sewing Machines: Priced \$69.99
--	---

<b>CUSTOM FRAMES 50% OFF</b> Always 50% off the marked price. Applies to frame only. See store for details. Compare our prices with our competitors' larger in-store discounts. <b>FREE QUOTES</b> See our Great Selection. Satisfaction Guaranteed.	<b>HOBBY LOBBY</b> 40% OFF One (1) item of regular price. CANNOT COMBINE WITH OTHER OFFERS. SELECTION AND QUANTITIES VARY BY STORE. ACCESSORIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REDUCED PRICE.
--	---

\*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. No coupons or other discounts may be applied to "Your Price" items.

Copyright (c)2019 Sun Coast Media Group, Edition 03/31/2019  
April 1, 2019 7:41 am (GMT +4:00)

Powered by TECNAVIA