

JANUARY IS NATIONAL SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Children who are sex trafficked are more commonly known as **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children**. It is estimated that as many as 12,500 children are already Commercially Sexually Exploited within the state of California alone. Between 50-80% of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children are or were formerly involved with the child welfare system. Additionally, exploiters target foster and group homes to recruit victims. At greater risk are children who are runaways, have a history of sexual abuse, and youth identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ).

As the lead agency implementing federal and state policy relating to commercially sexually exploited children, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) created a Child Trafficking Response Unit to integrate policy, participate in collaborative efforts, and invest in programs to identify and support commercially sexually exploited children.

WHAT'S CDSS DOING TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING?

California Department of Social Services has established a Child Labor Trafficking Work Group comprised of state and national experts, policymakers, victims, providers, advocates and others. The knowledge shared and research compiled will combat child labor trafficking. (Read the [Governor's Veto Message](#).)

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT COMMERCIAL SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN?

CDSS participates in collaborative efforts including the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Action team developed by the Child Welfare Council to integrate policy and local practice to support sexually exploited children.

STATE AND FEDERAL INVESTMENT

Legislation was passed at the [state](#) and [federal](#) level, seeking to better identify and understand the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children population in an effort to prevent and intervene when such victimization and exploitation of children occurs. Counties that choose to opt-in can receive state funding for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children prevention and intervention.

The state investment in counties is \$14 million per year to identify and provide services to victims. CDSS is investing in programs to enable social workers, probation officers, group home leaders and foster parents – those closest to children and teens most at risk – to identify and support these victims.

CHILD TRAFFICKING FACTS*



California is home to 3 of the most problematic child trafficking regions:

[Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, and San Diego](#)

95%

Nearly 95% of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children victims in the US are female.

72%

Children made up 72% of labor trafficking cases involving peddling rings nationwide.

25%

One-fourth of children with Internet access in the US have been solicited by online predators at least on

To get help and assistance for trafficking victims and to report suspected trafficking

Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center

1-800-373-7888

*Sources: Estes, R.J. & Weiner, N.A. (2001). The commercial sexual exploitation of children in the US, Canada and Mexico. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania; <http://www.ojdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/CSECSexTrafficking.pdf>; http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/factsheet_1in7.html; <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/Human%20Trafficking%20Trends%20in%20the%20US%2007-2012.pdf>