



National Family Justice Center Alliance
Webinar Training
CEU Accreditation
Provider # PCE 5095
MCLE Accreditation
Provider # 15493

Webinar Course Description

Title: Sexual Exploitation of Minors: What It Is, and How Your Community Can Combat It

Human trafficking is an international epidemic that also hits close to home in cities like Oakland, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Miami and New York. During this webinar, the presenters will discuss the sexual exploitation of minors (SEM) and Alameda County's response. The presenters will breakdown "The Game" by outlining the players, terminology, and it's rules. Finally, the presenters will discuss the 5-point strategy created by the Human Exploitation & Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch Program under the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, as a way to combat DMST in the Bay Area. Attendees will leave the webinar with knowledge of how SEM works, what it is, and how their community can combat it by utilizing H.E.A.T. Watch's 5-point strategy.

This session is approved for 1 California Minimum Continuing Education (CEU) credit and 1 Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit. The Family Justice Center Alliance is a California approved provider of CEU for MFT, LCSW, LEP, LPCC (Provider # PCE 5095) and MCLE for attorneys (Provider #15493). Professionals in states outside of California should check with their own state board to determine whether these credits are approved in their jurisdiction. Information on how to obtain credit will be provided during the webinar and within the course materials.

Presenters:

Casey Bates, DDA, Alameda County District Attorney's Office

Maia Sciupac, H.E.A.T Watch Coordinator

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- The presentation will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
- If you are experiencing technical difficulties, email Natalia@nfjca.org
- To LISTEN to the presentation on your phone, dial +1 (646) 307-1706
Access Code: 281-692-5111 or listen on your computer speakers
- Attendees will be muted throughout the presentation
- To send questions to the presenter during presentation:
 - Click on “Questions” in the toolbar (top right corner)
 - Type your comments & send to presenter
- There will be a Q & A session at the end of the presentation.
- The presentation will be recorded & posted on www.familyjusticecenter.org
- Please complete the evaluation at the end of the presentation. We value your input.

Your host today:



Gael Strack

CEO

Family Justice Center Alliance





Thank You to Our Sponsor

Thank you to the US Department of Justice,
Office on Violence Against Women
for making this training possible!

This project is supported all or in part by Grant No. 2012-TA-AX-K017 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



2014 International Family Justice Center Conference

April 2-4, 2014 in San Diego, CA



www.familyjusticecenter.org

The three-day conference will include discussions on issues related to the handling of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and elder abuse cases in the context of the Family Justice Center model.

The conference faculty includes nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts, advocates, and survivors. During the conference participants will have the opportunity to meet with survivors and professionals who currently work in Family Justice Centers in the United States and internationally.



The FJC Alliance Team



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California Continuing Education

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- A checklist detailing how to obtain the credit will be included in the course materials and available for download.
- The checklist will also be emailed after the webinar training.

Today's Presenters:



Maia Sciupac

Alameda County
District Attorney's Office,
(H.E.A.T.) Watch
Coordinator



Casey Bates

Alameda County
District Attorney's Office,
(H.E.A.T.) Unit Supervisor



The Sexual Exploitation of Minors

What It Is & How Your Community Can Combat It



What is CSEC?

- **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is Child Abuse**
- Commercial transaction (cash, goods, in-kind) in exchange for sexual purposes
- Prostitution, pornography, child sex tourism
- Force, fraud, coercion



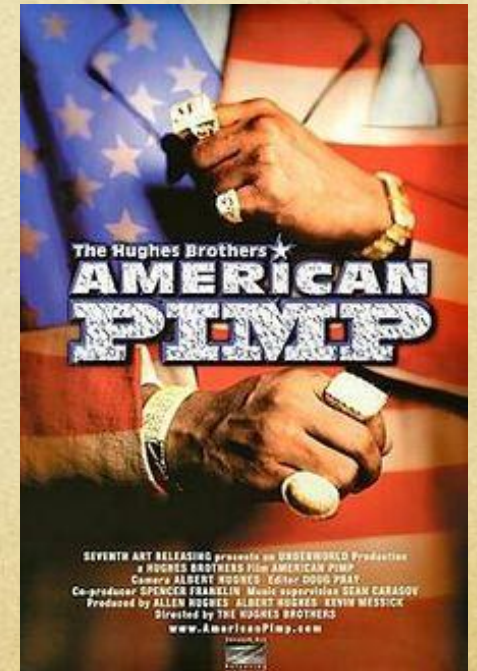
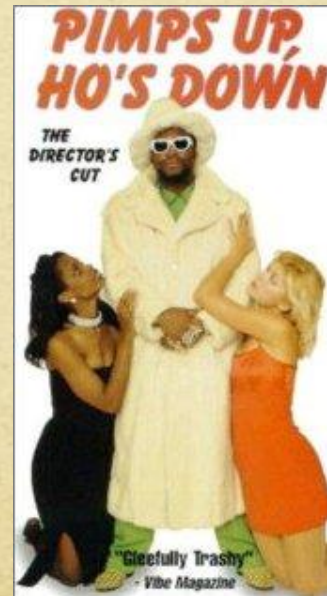


Audrey's Story



STOP H.E.A.T.

The Illusion





The Reality

How Lucrative is Sex Trafficking?

1 girl

\$300/night minimum

x 5 nights a week

\$72,000 a year





Types of Sex Trafficking?

backpage.com

adult

- [escorts](#)
- [body rubs](#)
- [strippers & strip clubs](#)
- [dom & fetish](#)
- [TS](#)
- [male escorts](#)
- [phone & websites](#)
- [adult jobs](#)



A young girl and her elderly "child sex tourist" client captured on film on the beach at Pattaya, Thailand. "Child sex tourism" draws men from wealthy countries to less developed countries where they take advantage of economically vulnerable women and children and weak criminal justice systems





Fillmore Slim



“The game has changed, its not like in my day... These youngsters got no respect for the game... Beat they hos, fight each other....Not like back in my day.”

STOP H.E.A.T.



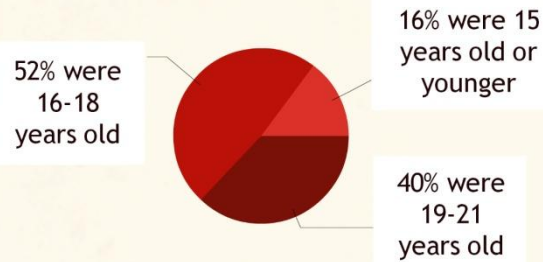


Who Are The Victims?

Sexually Exploited Minors

A review of 295 cases identified in Alameda County from January 2011 to April 2013

AGE & GENDER



RACE & ETHNICITY



All data was collected over a two-year time period through the Alameda County Safety Net Program, a multi-disciplinary, weekly case review of at-risk or involved sexually exploited youth. For more information, go to www.heat-watch.org.

KAMALA HARRIS. CAL. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, THE STATE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CALIFORNIA 2012 4 (2012)
[hereinafter HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CALIFORNIA available at ag.ca.gov/publications/Human_Trafficking_Final_Report.pdf]

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Sexually Exploited Minors

A review of 295 cases identified in Alameda County from January 2011 to April 2013

SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT



4%

had no system involvement

20%

Foster Care Youth (300)

51%

Juvenile Probation (602)

18% 300 History

13% 602 History

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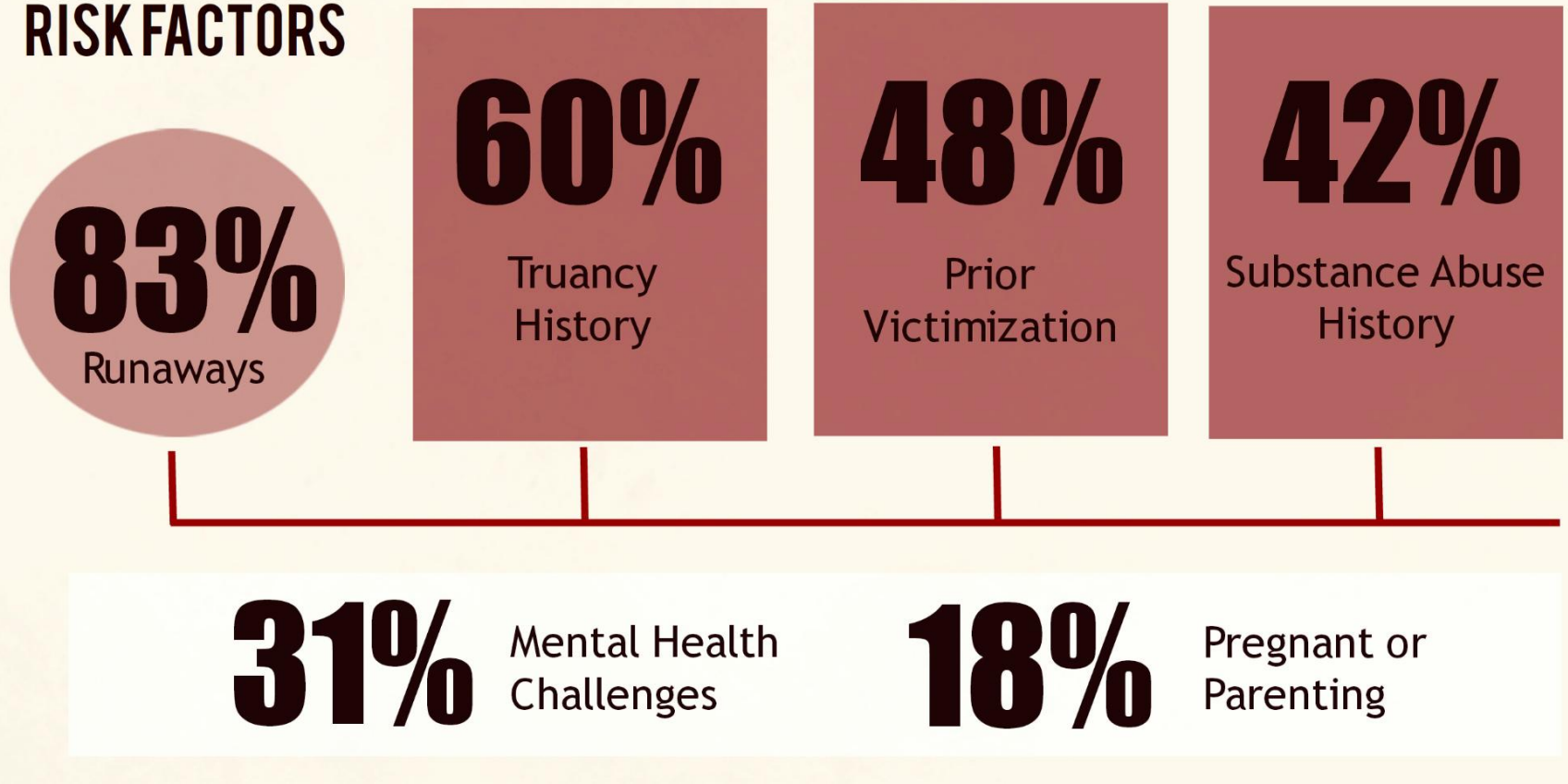
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RISK FACTORS



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Sexually Exploited Minors

A review of 295 cases identified in Alameda County from January 2011 to April 2013

WHERE THEY CAME FROM

51

Cities

25

Counties

5

States



61%

were from
Alameda County



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TOP REFERRAL CITIES FROM THE BAY AREA



28%
Oakland

8%
Hayward

11%
Contra Costa
County

4%
San Francisco

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A review of 295 cases identified in Alameda County from January 2011 to April 2013

CURRENT SAFETY STATUS

The Alameda
County District
Attorney's Office
has tried

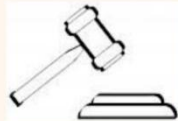
46%

of all human
trafficking cases
in California



fifty six percent

were in custody, in placement,
or currently stable



From 2006-2013, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office has charged over 300 human exploitation & trafficking cases, with an 80% conviction rate.

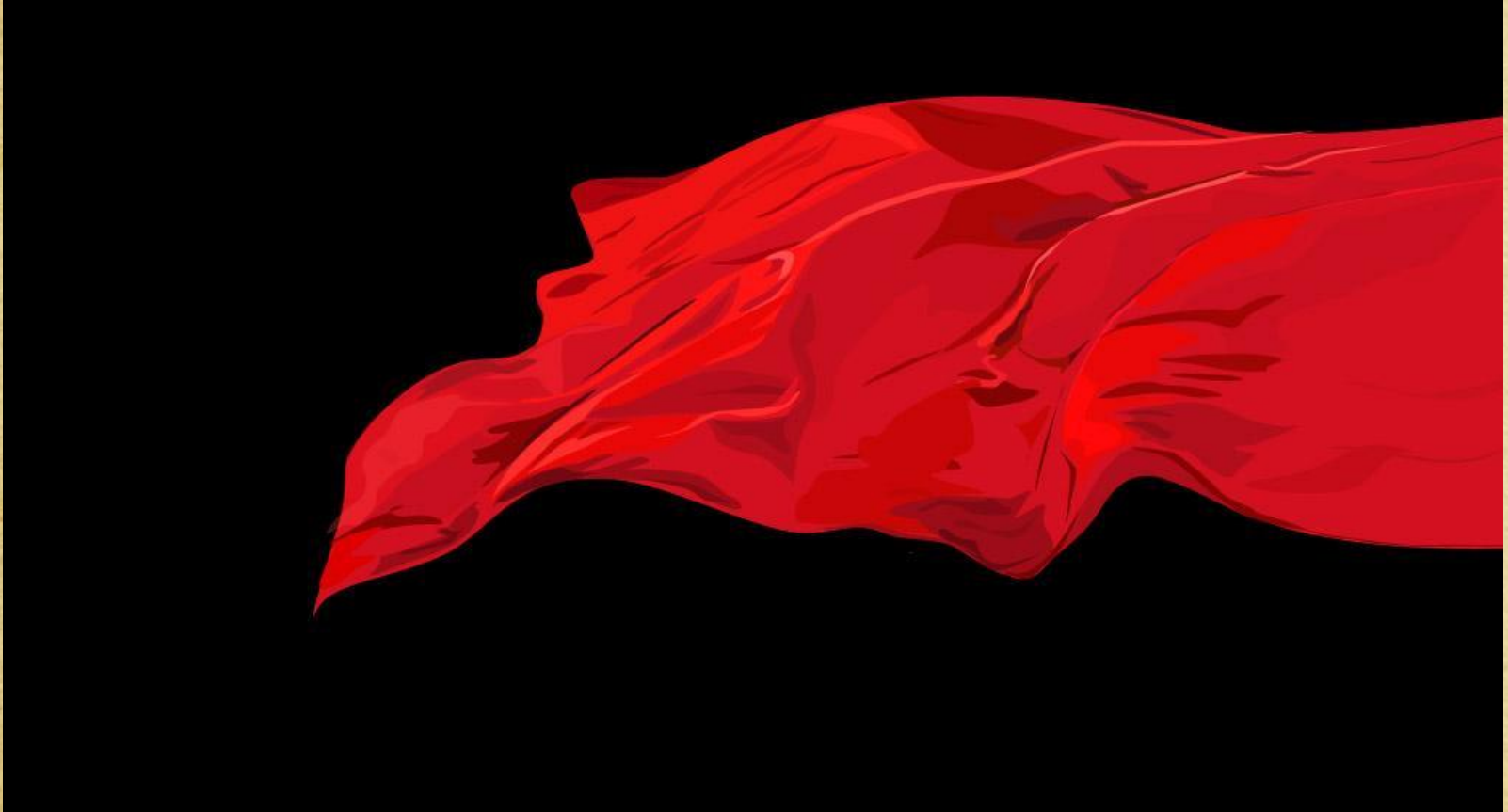
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Red Flags





Major Push & Pull Factors

No Support Systems POOR SOCIAL SKILLS
Runaway **SEXUAL ABUSE**
Throwaway Drugs & Alcohol
FAMILY HISTORY OF PROSTITUTION Poor Academics
POOR LIFE SKILLS **Poverty**

← **Push
Factors**

**Pull →
Factors**

"PRETTY WOMAN" POP CULTURE
YOUTH WHO WANT EXCITEMENT & DANGER
Cinderella Syndrome **THE MEDIA**



Who are the Exploiters?



Main Types of Exploiters

**Romeo
Pimp**

VS.

**Gorilla
Pimp**



“The Game”



Terminology

Players

- Bottom Girl
- Daddy/Boyfriend
- B*\$@#/Ho
- Trick/Date
- Family/Stable
- Renegade

Language

- Broke/Breaking In
- Out of Pocket
- Choosing Up
- Serving Papers



Terminology & Techniques

Where it Happens

- Stroll/Track/Blade
- Circuit



Techniques on the Track





Rules & Practices

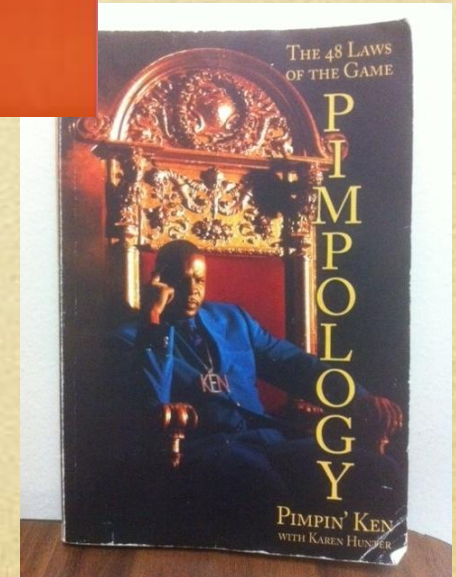
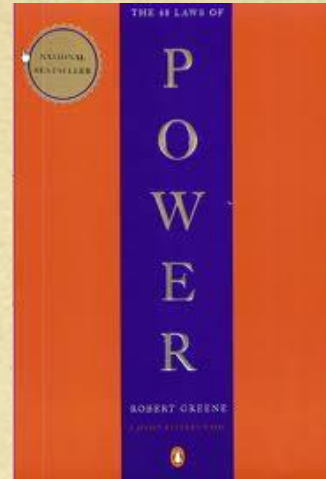
- Can't defy pimp/must show respect to them
- Who to date, when to work, where to work
- Sexual acts to offer, price, minimum quota, collect ALL money for pimp
- Street name, Fake DOB (to say over 18)
- Travel
- Sex, pregnancy



48 Laws of “The Game”

Some examples:

- Don't chase 'em, replace 'em
- Prey on the weak
- Plan your work, work your plan
- Ain't no love in this shit
- Get into a Ho's head
- Keep your Game on the low
- Play one Ho against the next





Major Hotspots Throughout California for Child Sex Trafficking

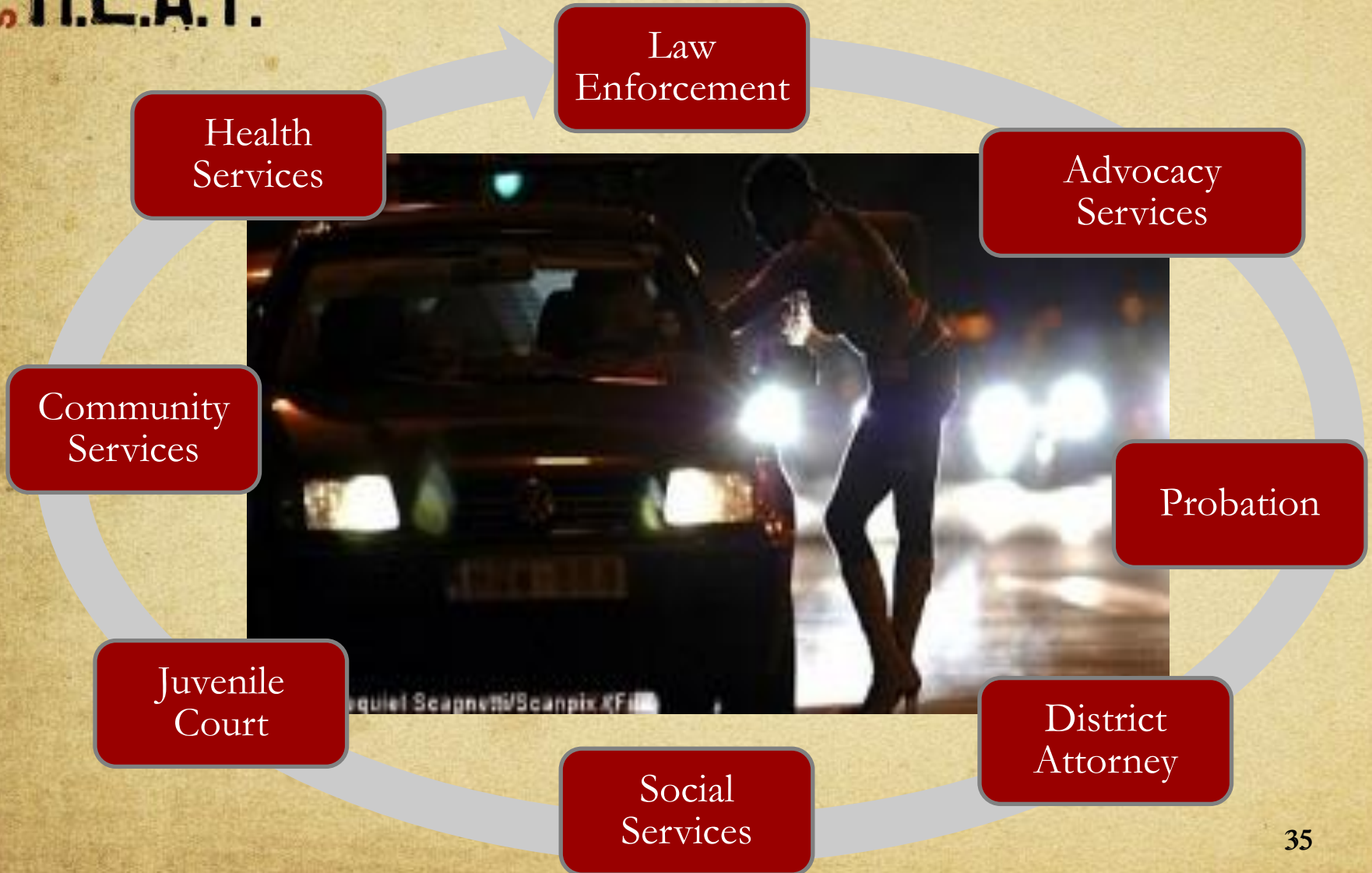




How Do We Combat CSEC?



Coordinated Response





Alameda County Family Justice Center Response



- One-stop-shop for families experiencing domestic & family violence, sexual assault and exploitation





HEATWATCH

STOP HUMAN EXPLOITATION
AND TRAFFICKING

WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.



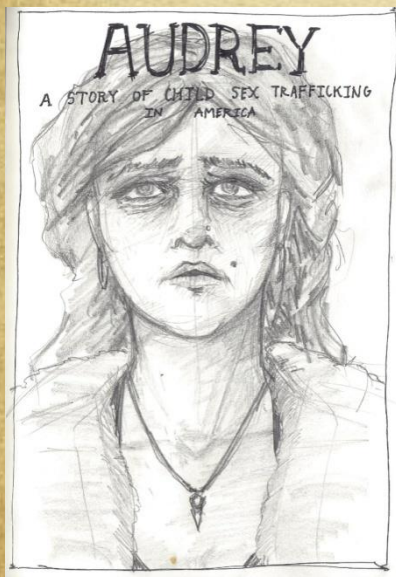
Alameda County DA's 5-Point Strategy to Combat CSEC

1. Community Outreach & Education
2. Law Enforcement Training and Intel. Sharing
3. Prosecuting Traffickers
4. Engaging Policymakers
5. Coordinating CSEC Services and Stabilization

H.E.A.T.WATCH®
STOP HUMAN EXPLOITATION
AND TRAFFICKING



Community Outreach & Education





Law Enforcement Training and Intelligence Sharing



- Trained
 - **29 law enforcement agencies** in AlCo
 - **900+ LE** across the Nation
- Convened a National Human Trafficking Conference in June 2012 for **456 attendees** (law enforcement, practitioners, community) and **67 speakers** from around the world



Prosecuting Traffickers

SUCCESS IN THE COURTROOM Holding Traffickers Accountable

305

Charged

223

Convicted

89%

Conviction Rate²

THE BIG PICTURE How Do We Compare?



46%

of all human trafficking cases in California were prosecuted by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office³

The SF Bay Area is one of the FBI's top thirteen hot spots in the Nation for child sex trafficking⁴

*These statistics were gathered from prosecution data within the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. For more information, contact info@heat-watch.org or go to www.heat-watch.org

2. The Prosecution conviction rate actually increases to over 79% once you account for getting convictions in other ways, such as revoking probation, Federal prosecutions, pleading guilty in other cases, and more.

3. KAMALA HARRIS, CAL. DEP'T. OF JUSTICE, THE STATE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CALIFORNIA 2012 4 (2012) [hereinafter HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CALIFORNIA] available at <http://bit.ly/ZQ5QoR>; also see The CA DOJ, Division of DJIS

4. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Efforts to Combat Crimes Against Children, Audit Report 09-08, January 2009. <http://1.usa.gov/13FT4JH>

Infographic created by

H.E.A.T.WATCH®
STOP HUMAN EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING



Engaging Policymakers





Coordinating CSEC Services and Stabilization

- Safety Net
- Girls Court
- Young Women's Saturday Program





Thank You!



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H.E.A.T. Watch Tip Line **510-208-4959** or
tipline@heat-watch.org

www.heat-watch.org

Facebook.com/AlamedaCountyDAHEAT

Twitter.com/HEATWatch

Questions?

Submit questions via the webinar toolbar

2014 International Family Justice Center Conference

April 2-4, 2014 in San Diego, CA



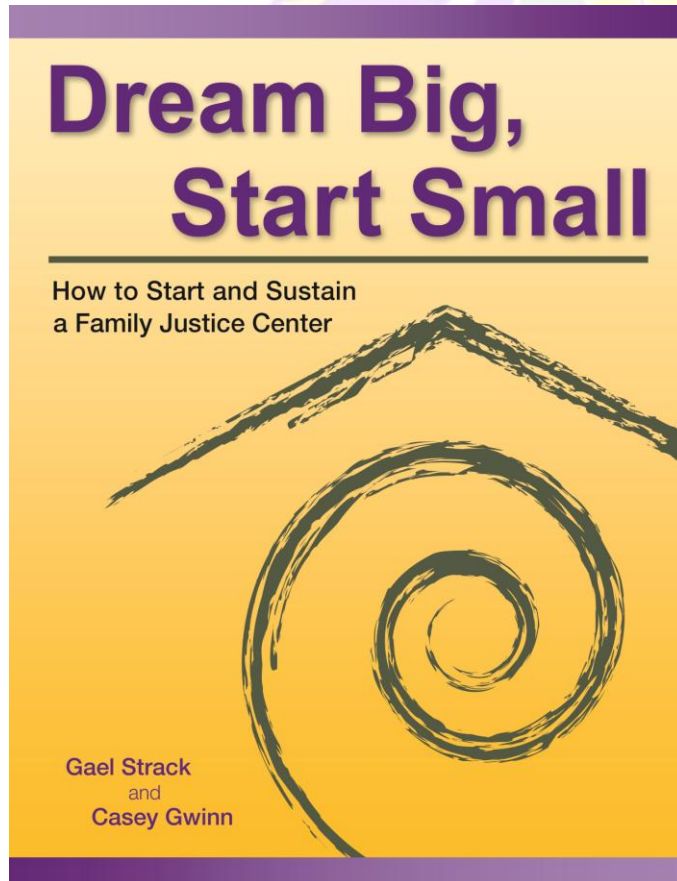
www.familyjusticecenter.org

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Dream Big, Start Small: How to Start and Sustain a Family Justice Center



In *Dream Big, Start Small* the visionaries behind the Family Justice Center movement use the outcomes and lessons learned from a decade of starting Centers in the United States and around the world to show the road to a better way to help victims of violence and abuse- by bringing all the community services for family violence, elder abuse, stalking, and sexual assault under one roof. Any community can do it. *Dream Big, Start Small* will show you the way.

Go to the “Store” at www.familyjusticecenter.org to purchase *Dream Big, Start Small*



Thank You

Thank you for joining today's presentation

Family Justice Center Alliance

707 Broadway, Suite 700

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888-511-3522

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SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HOMELESS YOUTH IN CALIFORNIA: WHAT POLICYMAKERS NEED TO KNOW

*by Shahera Hyatt, MSW,
Kathryn Spuur, MSW Intern
and Maia Sciupac, BA*

OVERVIEW

Few crimes are as unsettling to a community as the sexual victimization of a child, yet an estimated 300,000 youth are either victims or at risk of becoming victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) each year. **Sixty percent of these victimized children are homeless.**¹ Coerced into prostitution, pornography, stripping and other forms of exploitation, the problem of homeless youth entering into sex trafficking has reached a level of "epidemic proportion" in the United States according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.²

Victims of sexual exploitation often have a history of child abuse (including neglect and sexual and/or physical abuse) that may have led them to run away from home in order to escape their abusers.³ Once homeless, these youth are an especially vulnerable population. Lacking social and financial support, 10 to 50 percent of homeless youth engage in "survival sex" – the exchange of sex for food, money, shelter, drugs or other basic daily needs – that may appear to be their only option.⁴

This issue brief establishes what is known about sexually exploited homeless youth and highlights

significant pieces of legislation in California aimed at addressing the problem. Finally, the brief reviews efforts underway in Alameda County to implement a diversion program aimed at better protecting and serving sexually exploited minors.^a

WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

The sexual exploitation of children and youth involves physical abuse, pornography, prostitution, and smuggling for unlawful purposes involving economic gain. The cycle of sexual exploitation often begins when an adult family member or friend sexually abuses a child in their care. The resulting physical and emotional trauma makes these youth prime targets for further exploitation.⁵

Research on child sexual exploitation has revealed three levels of sex trafficking: local exploitation by one or a few individuals, small regional networks involving multiple adults and children, and large national or international networks where children are traded or sold as commodities.⁶ A trafficked individual can be American or foreign-born, and does not necessarily have to be moved across country or state lines.⁷

Domestically trafficked minors are rarely identified or are misidentified due to a number of barriers including a lack of training in identifying

^a The term "minor" refers to a person under the age of 18, and the term "youth" refers to a person between the ages of 12-24.

domestically trafficked youth, the invisibility of sex crimes (many of which take place on the internet or in private homes), the inability or unwillingness of victims to testify, and the lack of systematic data for tracking these victims.⁸

WHO IS AT-RISK FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

- ❖ **Youth of color** – 83 percent of youth under the age of 18 arrested for prostitution-related offenses identified as non-white (primarily African American).⁹
- ❖ **Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth** – LGBT youth are at an increased risk for becoming sexually exploited due to their over-representation in the homeless youth population (20 to 40 percent of homeless youth in California identify as LGBT).¹⁰
- ❖ **Youth who have been exposed to abuse and neglect** – About 70 percent of homeless youth are victims of all types of abuse (physical, verbal, sexual), and/or neglect, a link that has been directly made to risk for sexual exploitation.¹¹
- ❖ **Young girls** – Young girls are disproportionately victimized by sexual exploitation – girls under the age of 18 were over 14 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution than their male peers.¹²

HOMELESSNESS IS A PATHWAY TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The root of the problem for many sexually exploited youth is homelessness itself – a circumstance most commonly brought on by family conflict and abuse at home. Lacking social and financial support, homeless youth engage in a number of risky behaviors and coping strategies in order to survive, making them easy targets for sex traffickers.¹³

There is little to distinguish sexually exploited youth and sexually exploited homeless youth; both populations lack permanent and safe residences, experience family breakdown, and suffer from system failure.^{14 15} Studies pointing to the link between sexual assault and homelessness note that 20 to 40 percent of homeless youth were sexually abused prior to becoming homeless.¹⁶ Sexual abuse often continues once these youth leave home, as they are at an increased risk of being sexually assaulted, raped, or exploited, due to their vulnerability on the streets.^{17 18}

Once on the street, these youth often turn to sex as a survival strategy. Researchers have found that **survival sex is nearly three times**

more prevalent among street youth (28 percent), than homeless youth in shelters (10 percent).¹⁹ This supports the conclusion that survival sex is an economic strategy linked to housing stability and duration of homelessness.

Homeless youth are also more likely than their peers to engage in drug and alcohol abuse, limiting their ability to stop unwanted advances from pimps and johns.²⁰ A national study comparing substance use among street, shelter, and housed youth found that street youth have the highest rates of drug use in every category – particularly illicit drugs (e.g. marijuana, cocaine, and ecstasy).²¹

Finally, sexually exploited and homeless youth often suffer from physical and mental health problems. Post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety disorders result from being displaced and abused.²² Life on the street also contributes to an increased risk of physical health problems for sexually exploited homeless youth, including tuberculosis, hepatitis, and HIV/AIDS.²³ Homeless and exploited youth often have difficulty seeking health or mental health care services due to a lack of access to appropriate services, and/or a distrust of providers within those systems.²⁴

RECENT CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

Over the last five years, California has seen an evolution in its approach to helping victims of sexual exploitation. Recent legislation has involved increasing fines placed on perpetrators, reframing the definition and criminalization of sexual exploitation, and increasing funding for mental health services. The following is not a comprehensive list of bills aimed to fight sexual exploitation, but instead highlights recent landmark legislation.²⁵

- AB 499 [2008] authorized the District Attorney of Alameda County to create a three-year pilot program for the purposes of developing a comprehensive, easily replicated, and multidisciplinary model to address the needs and treatment of commercially sexually exploited minors. This included developing (1) a protocol for assessing and identifying minors arrested or detained by law enforcement who may be victims of commercial sexual exploitation, (2) a diversion program of best practices to address the needs and services of these youth, and (3) a training curriculum to be provided to county employees and law enforcement.

The pilot project was extended until January 1, 2017 through AB799 [2011]. The bill requires the District Attorney for the County of Alameda to submit a report by April 1, 2016, summarizing activities performed to determine if the pilot program should be extended and distributed to other counties in 2017.

- AB 12 [2011], the Abolition of Child Commerce, Exploitation, and Sexual Slavery Act (ACCESS), required that a person convicted of seeking the services of a prostitute under the age of 18 be ordered to pay an additional fine not to exceed \$25,000. This money is used to fund programs and services for commercially sexually exploited minors

in the counties where the offenses took place. Previous law only recognized minors under the age of 16, and an additional fine not to exceed \$5,000.

The ACCESS Act of 2011 recognized sexual exploitation of minors through human trafficking as one of the most sophisticated forms of organized crime in the country. The Act recognized California as a major hub for international and domestic interstate human trafficking. This law instructs the state to **treat sexually exploited minors as victims, rather than criminals, ensuring access to proper treatment and resources to remain safe from perpetrators.**

Where Does California Rank?

According to the Polaris Project, an organization that conducts annual state ratings tracking anti-trafficking laws and statutes around the country, California is currently ranked among the top 11 states in addressing the sexual exploitation of minors. Areas in which California was credited for its progress include:

- ✓ [Asset forfeiture](#): provides the courts with the authority to seize assets of convicted human traffickers which were gained due to human trafficking crimes.
- ✓ [Investigative tools](#): provides law enforcement with an exemption to any prohibition on one-party wire tapping during investigations of human trafficking.
- ✓ [Training for law enforcement](#): law enforcement are given instruction in the handling of human trafficking complaints and guidelines on responding to trafficking, including identifying and communicating with a victim, therapeutically appropriate investigative techniques, and protection of the victim.
- ✓ [Victim assistance](#): provides non-citizen victims of trafficking access to refugee cash assistance and employment services.

- ✓ Access to civil damages: allows a victim of trafficking to bring a civil action lawsuit for compensatory damages, punitive damages, and injunctive relief against their perpetrator.

Areas in which California could improve include:

- ✓ Human trafficking task force: California's human trafficking task force expired in January 2008 and should be reinstated to address the needs of this population.
- ✓ National hotline: requires the posting of the National Human Trafficking Center Hotline or a state run hotline in certain targeted locations to ensure that victims are identified and served.
- ✓ Safe harbor: ensures that minors in commercial sex are not prosecuted for

prostitution and are instead provided with specialized services.

- ✓ Lower burden of proof: reduces the burden of proof to substantiate sex trafficking cases for minors.
- ✓ Vacating convictions for victims of sex trafficking: provides a mechanism for victims of human trafficking to have completely removed from their record arrests or convictions for prostitution that occurred during trafficking.^{26 27}

While California is making efforts to strengthen legislation in the fight against sexual exploitation, it is clear that there are areas where further policy change would be beneficial. A number of counties in California have also been working to address the needs of this vulnerable population, most notably in Alameda County.

Alameda County: A Leader in Addressing the Sexual Exploitation of Youth

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office (ACDAO) is a nationally recognized leader in combating CSEC, with the primary goals of victim safety and trafficker prosecution. Recognizing that eliminating the sexual exploitation of youth requires an active, committed collaboration between local agencies, the ACDAO created HEAT Watch in 2005, a partnership between the District Attorney, local law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, victim advocates, the probation department, the courts, child welfare services, health services, and community leaders in order to develop innovative solutions to effectively respond to this problem.

HEAT Watch uses the following five strategies to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of youth:

- Community Education, Engagement, and Collaboration
- Law Enforcement Training, Intelligence Sharing, and Coordination
- Innovative Charging of CSEC Cases and Vigorous Prosecution of Offenders
- Policymaker, Legislator, and Community Decision Maker Engagement
- Coordinated Delivery of Essential CSEC Services

Alameda County coordinates the delivery of services for victims of CSEC through its HEAT Watch "Safety Net" program. Participating organizations meet on a weekly basis to discuss potential CSEC cases and decide how to best connect these youth with the existing system of care. Most significantly, **a single point of contact is now assigned in order to coordinate the delivery of services and the collection of data for all CSEC cases.** The county has also developed an anonymous tip line to enlist the community as the "eyes and ears" for law enforcement in order to assist them in gathering information that could lead to the prosecution of a trafficker and the rescue of a victim.

ADDRESSING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Prevention and early intervention efforts hold the long-term answer to reducing sexual exploitation and youth homelessness. Breaking the cycle of family violence, preventing and addressing child abuse, and providing family support before crises erupt will all help reduce homelessness and sexual exploitation.²⁸ The following recommendations aim to address the needs of this population:

- When homes are too dangerous and reunification is not possible, homeless youth need immediate assistance finding safe and long-term homes, continuing education services, and job training to prevent a life on the streets.²⁹
- Collaboration between law enforcement and community-based organizations can be used as a gateway to services. Law enforcement often acts as a first point of contact for victims of sexual exploitation, thus partnerships with local resources for sexually exploited and homeless youth are crucial for immediate referral to the services and assistance they need.³⁰ This approach may also benefit law enforcement and prosecutors with cases against traffickers if their victims feel supported and cared for.³¹
- Increase access to health care and mental health services for sexually exploited and homeless youth, such as testing for sexually transmitted infections and trauma-informed therapy.
- Research that focuses on the sexual exploitation of boys, young men, and LGBT youth is needed to better understand the needs of these underserved populations.³²
- Improve data collection at the state level to accurately gauge the sexually exploited and homeless youth population.³³ The hidden nature of this problem leaves many questions unanswered, the number of victims uncounted, and the extent of their trauma largely unrecognized.
- Community leaders and policymakers need to be better informed of the long-term effects of sexual exploitation and homelessness on young people's lives so we are equipped to create new and improved public policy to assist these youth.

To Learn More:

A number of community-based organizations in California are currently working to address the sexual exploitation of minors, including:

The SAGE Project
<http://www.sagesf.org>

Freedom House in San Mateo
<http://www.freedomhousesfbay.org>

Bay Area Women Against Rape
<http://www.bawar.org>

The Bill Wilson Center
<http://www.billwilsoncenter.org>

West Coast Children's Clinic
<http://www.westcoastcc.org/index.html>

Courage to be You
<http://www.couragetobeyou.org>

Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting and Serving
Sexually Exploited Youth <http://www.missesey.org>

Opening Doors
<http://www.openingdoorsinc.com>

Community Violence Solution
<http://www.cvsolutions.org/>

For more information regarding Alameda County's HEAT program, please contact the HEAT Watch Coordinator at the ACDAO: (510) 272-2222 or BAHC@acgov.org.

The Polaris Project (<http://www.polarisproject.org>) is a national organization working to end human trafficking. It operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline (1-888-373-7888).

For research and policy information on youth homelessness in California, see The California Homeless Youth Project, John Burton Foundation, and the California Coalition for Youth websites and publications.

Acknowledgements

This issue brief would not have been possible without foundational research and assistance from HEAT Watch Coordinator, Maia Sciupac, and Senior Research and Policy Analyst (retired), Amanda Noble. The California Homeless Youth Project and the California Research Bureau greatly appreciate their contribution to this project.

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BLACK GIRLS FOR SALE

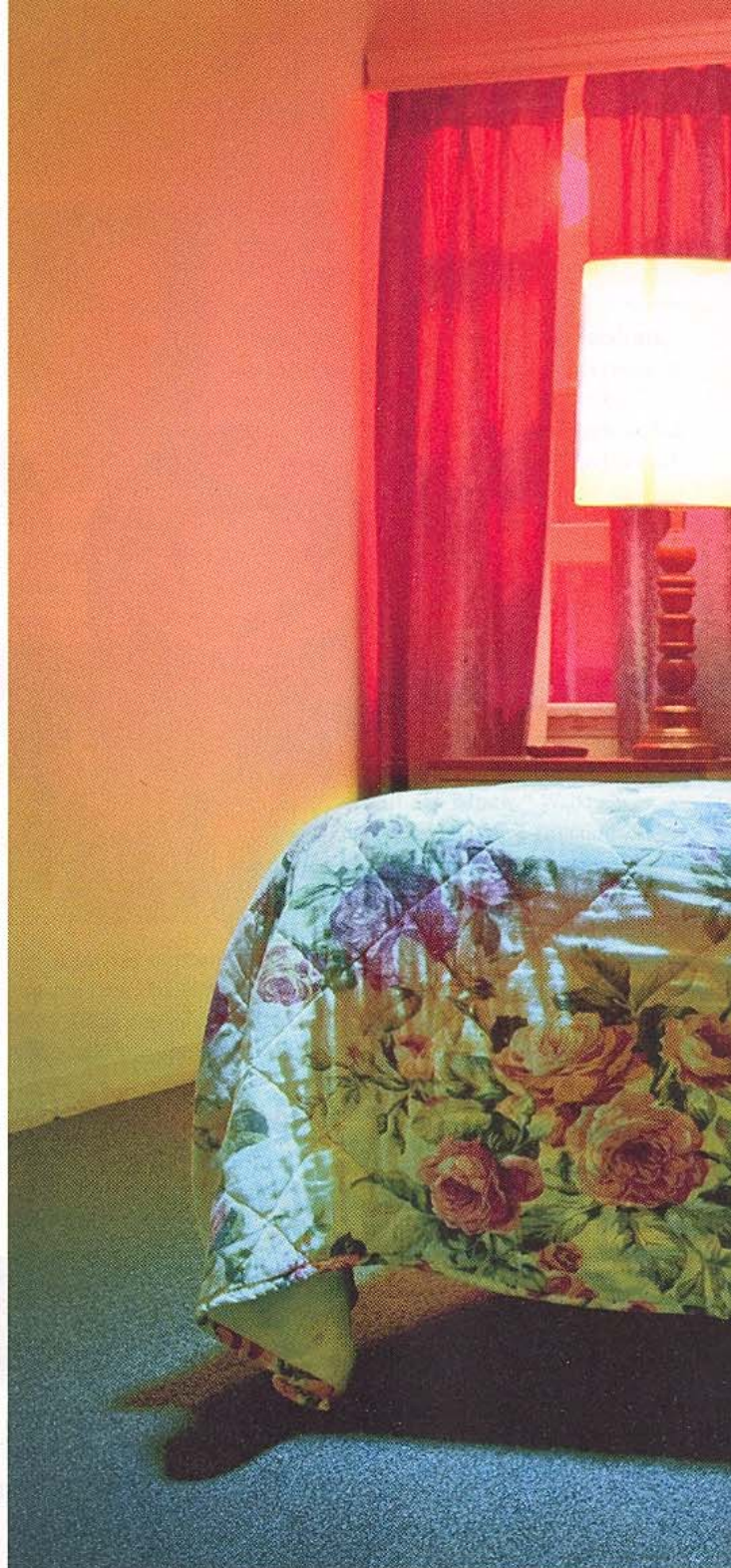
Pretty Young Thing.
Petite Chocolate Treat.
Exotic Ebony Cutie.

Every day on city
street corners and on
sites like Craigslist,
African-American girls
are being sold for sex.
For part two of a series
on child sex trafficking,

JEANNINE AMBER

spent a year
investigating how
police and prosecutors
in Oakland, a city
notorious for its sex
trade, are waging a war
to stop pimps and rescue
their young victims

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHIAS CLAMER



She was snatched in broad daylight. The 15-year-old girl, who would later be referred to in court records as Jane Doe One, was sitting alone at a taco truck on the corner of International Boulevard and 22nd Street in East Oakland eating potato chips and drinking a strawberry-kiwi Snapple. A man walked over and put his hand on the girl's right shoulder. "You can do this the hard way or the easy way," he said under his breath.

The girl had seen this man before, harassing one of her friends. When he touched her, she had one thought: *Run!* She jumped to her feet and bolted toward the nearest doorway, a liquor store,



The pimp told Jane Doe One that he liked his girls young so he could "raise them."

dropping her Snapple. The man picked up the bottle and whipped it after her. Later she would testify that it slammed into her back, knocking her to her knees. She got up and staggered into the store. Crouching behind the counter, she pleaded with the clerk to call 911. The shopkeeper looked down at the child and didn't move. The man entered, reached over the counter, and grabbed the girl roughly by her left arm. He dragged her out to the street and toward a gray car parked at the curb. Gesturing to a teenager sitting in the passenger seat, he told Jane Doe One that the girl had a gun. He pointed to two other girls in the backseat and said if she didn't get in the car they were going to jump her. Then he

opened the door and pushed a trembling Jane Doe One inside.

The man drove the girls to a two-bedroom apartment in Stockton, 50 miles east of Oakland. One bedroom was outfitted with a bunk bed and girls' clothing. The other bedroom was his. At the house, one of the girls from the car pulled Jane Doe One aside and told her to play it cool and maybe the man would let her go. She sat on the edge of his bed, nervously watching as the other girls left the room. The man stroked her legs, grabbed at her breasts, and pulled off her pants. "I didn't know what to say," she would tell the court. "I didn't know what to do." As she fought back tears, he raped her. ▸

BLACK GIRLS FOR SALE



Jane Doe One was picked up on an infamous prostitution track in Oakland.

The girl would describe to the police how the man kept her in the apartment for two days, set a pit bull on her, threatened and barely fed her. And she would testify in court that on the second day of captivity he took her to a corner in Oakland known for prostitution and ordered her to get to work.

What happened to Jane Doe One—the abduction, the rape, the sexual exploitation—is a scenario so horrendous that most of us refuse to believe it could happen to a child we know. Yet law enforcement officials report that in cities across America, pimps are selling children for sex. And experts say that the ones most often targeted are poor African-American girls.

Pimps operate in a shadowy underworld, making it almost impossible to obtain exact numbers of the girls they victimize. However, the U.S. Department of Justice estimates that some 300,000 American children are at risk of being forced into prostitution. Oakland has been especially hard hit. Its high incidence of poverty and crime destabilizes families, making girls more vulnerable to exploitation and some men more prone to engage in illegal activities for money. A 2007 report by the Oakland Police Department notes that the city's reputation as a provider of young prostitutes is even being marketed to would-be johns via the Internet.

Not that long ago, these girls would have been picked up, charged with solicitation, and sent to juvenile jails. Their pimps might have received a slap on the wrist. Indeed, in many parts of the country, this brand of justice is still being meted out. But not in Oakland. Here both the police department and the district attorney's office have launched aggressive campaigns against child sex trafficking. From conducting weekly undercover sweeps of prostitution tracks looking for underage girls to seeking the most severe penalties for convicted traffickers, law enforcement is determined to get pimps off the streets. But what makes the job so difficult is the same thing that makes many pimps so rich—the power they wield over their victims.

“Drug traffickers realize that exploiting children is more profitable and less risky than selling drugs.”

Pimps systematically intimidate, lie to, starve, beat and sleep-deprive their victims, some as young as 11 years old. The goal is to keep them too terrified to talk to the police. “I remember a girl telling me her pimp had her hold his gun,” recounts Officer Jim Beere, a seven-year veteran of the Oakland PD's Vice and Child Exploitation Unit. “Then he told her the gun was used in a murder and if she went to the police he would turn her in.”

When questioned, many girls do as they've been told: They cover for their pimp, refuse to give his real name, insist he's a boyfriend, not a trafficker. “They're victims,” says Officer Holly Joshi, who used to work with Beere in the Vice and Child Exploitation Unit and is now an official spokesperson for the department. “But they don't always act like it.” This reluctance by victims to reveal the men who are exploiting them is a constant challenge faced by Oakland law enforcement. The day the cops pick up Jane Doe One will be no different.

MEAN STREETS

On a warm April afternoon in 2009, a little more than a week after Jane Doe One was abducted, Officer Joshi is at her desk on the fourth floor of the Oakland PD headquarters. In the past, Joshi, the daughter of a retired police lieutenant, worked undercover posing as a prostitute to lure johns. Today she's fielding calls from officers on the street who are performing a sweep of prostitution tracks, looking for young girls.

These girls don't look like stereotypical prostitutes, dressed in skimpy outfits and towering heels. Rather, they are almost indistinguishable from middle-school students, wearing jeans and T-shirts, with backpacks over their shoulders. "They call them undercover hos," explains Beere, detailing how pimps have responded to the police crackdown by having the girls dress as inconspicuously as possible. They'll hang out at a bus stop around the time school gets out. "But then two buses will go by and at no time do the girls get on the bus," he says. "Instead, you'll see them start waving at male drivers to pull over."

It's 5:15 P.M. and still daylight when the cops start bringing the girls into the station. There are 15 of them, almost all are African-American. "Since 2006, we've seen a rise in domestic sex trafficking of nearly 100 percent," says Sharmin Bock, deputy district attorney for Alameda County, which includes Oakland. Bock, who heads the DA's Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit, attributes the spike in part to free Internet sites like Craigslist, where traffickers are able to sell sex online with very little risk of getting caught. According to the Advanced Interactive Media Group, this year alone Craigslist will earn up to \$36 million from its Adult Services postings. The ads feature barely dressed females squeezing their naked breasts, bending over a bed, standing soaking wet in a shower.

Despite policy changes enacted by Craigslist last year to crack down on prostitution, the ads remain. Advocates at A Future Not a Past, a Georgia-based project to combat domestic trafficking of children, assert that a substantial number of postings actually feature underage girls. While the number of girls being sold varies from month to month, Kaffie McCullough, AFNAP's campaign director, says studies conducted quarterly by the Governor's Office for Children and Families show a steady increase in minors peddled online since 2007. "The Internet is a runaway train when it comes to trafficking minors," she says.

Also contributing to the rise, says Bock, are the ruthless economics of crime. "We're seeing drug traffickers migrating to pimping because they've realized that exploiting children is more profitable and less risky than selling drugs." The Polaris Project, a national agency dedicated to ending human trafficking, calculates that a pimp who demands his girls bring in the standard quota of \$500 nightly will earn half a million dollars a year if he prostitutes three girls.

"That's tax-free," points out Bock. "Where else can you make that kind of money so easily?" She adds that drug dealers face the constant threat of being killed by rivals, turned on by associates, or apprehended during drug busts. They also have to come up with an outlay of cash up front. "You've got to buy the dope, cut the dope, package the dope, then you've got to get people to help you sell it," Bock notes. In contrast, pimps stay out of sight of law enforcement, sitting in their cars while their girls work the corner. And a pimp's product can be sold over and over. "You take all the girls' money and what do you do at the end of the day?" continues Bock. "Maybe buy them a McDonald's Happy Meal for a buck thirty-nine? Sadly, there is no better investment for your money than selling a child for sex."

GOOD COP, BAD COP

It's 5:48 P.M. when Holly Joshi and her partner Jim Saleda begin interviewing the girls one at a time in a small room at the ▶

THE PREDATOR IN YOUR DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM

There is no better tool for predators than the Internet, says Nola Brantly, executive director of the Oakland-based Motivating Inspiring Serving and Supporting Sexually Exploited Youth, Inc. (missey.org), an organization providing counseling to trafficked children. Here she describes how pimps use the Web to groom and sell young girls and offers ways you can help in your community:

When we were growing up, parents felt children were vulnerable when they were in the streets. You didn't worry about them so much when they were at home. But the computer has changed all that. Now the predator is in your child's bedroom, talking to her for hours, getting inside her head, all while you're asleep.

This might go on for months. By the time parents catch wind of it, they can't tell that child, "You don't know this person." As far as that child is concerned she has a full relationship and the parent is the one who doesn't get it. About a quarter of the girls we see at MISSEY were groomed online. Some met their predators on a social network site like MySpace; others first met him in a public space, like a mall, and then the relationship developed online.

People look to law enforcement to catch predators, but the underground nature of the sex industry makes it near impossible for police to combat this on their own. Consider: You have a white van parked in a lot. Inside is a trafficker, a 12-year-old girl, a laptop computer, a digital camera and a cell phone. The trafficker takes nude pictures of the girl, puts them on Craigslist, and within hours men are turning up to that van to have sex with that girl. The girl has never left the van and the van never left the parking lot. This crime exists in the shadows.

We can't monitor our children 24 hours a day. The best thing you can do is to make sure they are aware of the dangers. They need to know that the 16-year-old boy they met online may in fact be a 40-year-old man. Remind them never to give out their address or the name of their school or agree to meet anyone in person, even in a public space. Parents should be aware of who is calling their child's cell phone. They also need to remind children and teens never to take rides from strangers. A common thread with many girls who've been exploited is that at some point they got into a car with someone they didn't know.

People can get involved with their faith-based organizations to help increase sensitivity toward children who've been trafficked. We need to support agencies that provide services for exploited children and to advocate for legislative change to ensure stiffer penalties for predators. Most of all, we need to make sure the children are treated as victims, free of criminalization. —J.A.

BLACK GIRLS FOR SALE

station. The two make an odd couple. Joshi, dressed in Converse low-tops, jeans and her hair in a ponytail, is all kinetic energy. Saleda, with his hunched shoulders, shaggy gray hair and three days worth of stubble, has the worn look of a man who's just about had enough. Together, in the interview room, the two are masterful at getting the information they need to make an arrest.

The first girl is brought in. She's petite, dressed in baggy jeans held up by a fat shoelace and a sweatshirt. Her hair is tied in a messy ponytail and her teeth are a jumble of braces. The girl sits down in a metal chair. Joshi and Saleda follow her in.

"We're here to help you, sweetie," says Joshi, "not hurt you." Joshi asks the girl about her family, school, boys and finally inquires what she's doing on the street. The girl, who's 15, speaks in a baby voice. She says she has never done this before. It's just that her boyfriend needed \$60 to pay the phone bill. Selling herself was her idea, she insists. Joshi asks for the name of the boyfriend. "I don't like to talk about him," says the girl.

Joshi pushes. "What I don't get is, what's the point of having a grown-ass boyfriend if he doesn't have \$60 for the phone bill?"

The girl giggles nervously.

"Is he hell a fine?" asks Joshi. The girl shrugs.

Joshi says, "I'm not trying to lecture you, but a grown man? Why isn't he with someone his own age?"

"I don't know," says the girl. "He just likes young girls."

Then Saleda interjects. "Look," he says, "I'm not trying to be mean, but you're just a commodity to this guy. So you want to sit up here while he goes out and looks for the next girl?"

After an hour, the girl finally gives up the name. Joshi recognizes the suspect. He'd been reported by another girl a week earlier. That girl said she'd been kidnapped and raped by a pimp. Joshi clips his photograph to a manila folder. The suspect has an extensive record of drug violations.

Another girl is brought in to be interviewed. This one insists she is not prostituting, but she recognizes the picture clipped to the manila file. She says she saw the man set his pit bull on a girl.

A third girl is brought in—the girl who will later be known as Jane Doe One. Joshi recognizes her as a chronic runaway who has been exploited by pimps before. "I don't usually get emotional," says Joshi as she recounts the interview later that night. "But this is a girl we've been trying to rescue for years. She's lied to officers about her age and wouldn't tell them who was pimping her." On this night, with Joshi's gentle probing, the girl finally decides to tell about the kidnapping, the threats, the rape, everything. Afterward, Joshi and Saleda meet in the hallway. It's clear the girls are all talking about the same man. "We're gonna be on him like vultures," says Joshi.

THE RULE OF FEAR

For officers in the Vice and Child Exploitation Unit, there is an urgency to getting traffickers off the streets that is fueled, at least in part, by the level of brutality they are seeing directed at young girls. "I'm not saying that girls weren't killed or raped by pimps 20 years ago," says Beere, "but it's really bad now." The cop recites atrocities he has witnessed like a grocery list: skull fractures, broken bones, girls who've been stabbed, shot, whipped, chopped into pieces, their bodies stuffed in garbage pails. Beere traces the increase in violence directly to the migration of drug traffickers to pimping. "You look at the arrest records of the pimps involved in these cases, and they'll have like 20 pages of arrests and it'll be all dope, dope, dope," says Beere. "Then all of a sudden you'll see a charge for human trafficking." He notes that these new pimps bring with them the territorial ruthlessness they learned in the drug trade. "The violence is directed toward anyone who is going to stand between them and their money."

On the streets, the most brutal traffickers are called guerrilla pimps. "A guerrilla pimp will grab a girl off the street, maybe throw her in the trunk of a car, take her to a crash pad—an apartment or an abandoned house—and have a 'pimp party,'" says Joshi. "That means he'll bring in his associates to gang-rape her for a few days to show her who's in control. After that, he'll put

PROTECT YOUR CHILD

Officer James Beere, who worked with the Oakland Police Department's Vice and Child Exploitation Unit until last March, shares tips for keeping girls safe:

1 TEACH HER A PIMP CAN BE ANYONE. We've arrested doctors and government employees. I've also seen a rise in teenage boys pimping out classmates. Let her know that no one should ask her to sell her body.

2 SHOW HER YOU CARE. Pimps look for girls who have a weakness they can exploit. Sometimes there are issues at home—the discipline's too

severe or the girl feels neglected. The most important thing you can do to safeguard your girl is to let her know you love and support her.

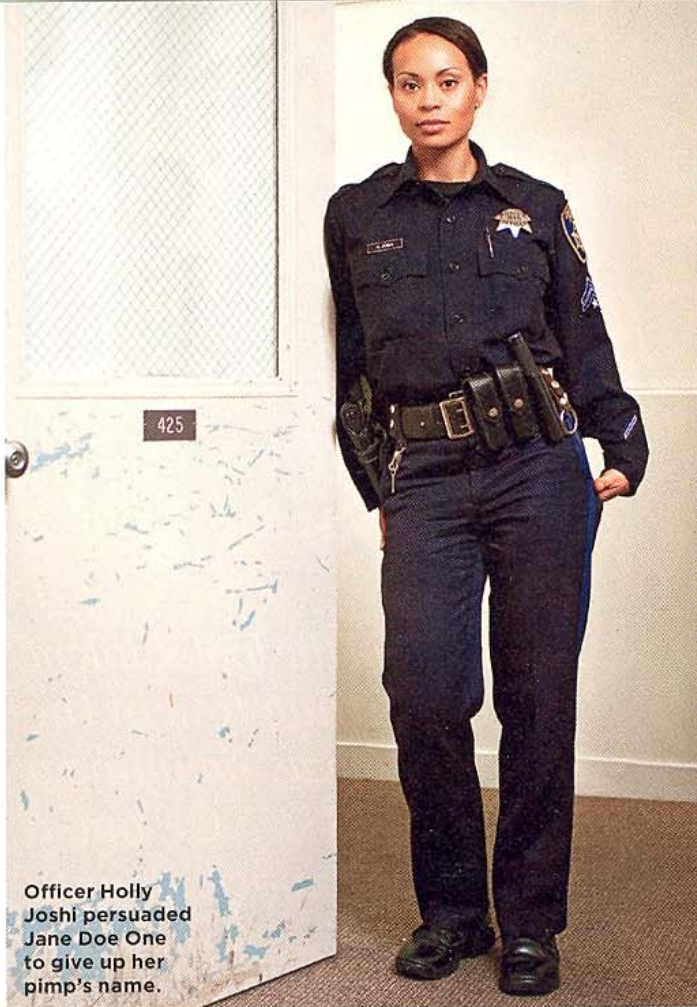
3 STAY CONNECTED. Talk to your child about who she's hanging out with, where she's going and what she's doing on the computer. All types of children are vulnerable to trafficking—rich kids, poor kids, we've seen it all.

4 PAY ATTENTION TO CHANGES. If she is dressing differently, becoming secretive, or has changed her group of friends, you need to approach her. Start with something like, "I truly love you and I want to help you. Please tell me what's going on. I'm not going to love you any less."

5 SEEK ANSWERS. If a child closes down the lines of communication, then you're going to have to be the parent and start searching. Make sure there are no drugs in her room. Look for strange numbers on her cell phone bill. Is someone buying her revealing clothes? Does she have a boyfriend you've never met? Is she staying out all night? Did someone give her a new phone? These are warning signs that could indicate she's being exploited.

6 TAKE ACTION. If you discover someone is sexually exploiting a child, whether it's your daughter, niece or a young neighbor, you need to get the police involved. Preventing that man's access to the child is priority number one.

—J.A.



Officer Holly Joshi persuaded Jane Doe One to give up her pimp's name.

“Calling a girl a prostitute implies she chose to work for the pimp, when in fact she isn’t old enough to legally consent to sex.”

her on the track. She’s so afraid of him that she’s not going to flag down the police or do anything that a normal person would do to get away. She’s been completely broken down.”

But violence isn’t the only way pimps exert their intense hold on victims. Consider the tactics of the men known as Romeo pimps: These traffickers prey upon lonely, insecure children, showering them with compliments and promises of love and devotion. Once a girl is hooked, he’ll put her on the street, telling her this is her way of contributing to the relationship. Runaways, foster kids and girls with trouble at home are particularly vulnerable, but even girls from stable families are not immune. “I remember the first time I encountered this,” says Deputy District Attorney Sharon Carney. “An officer picked up a 12-year-old girl from a very affluent neighborhood soliciting in another part of town.” The girl, a good student, with two involved parents, had been crawling out of her bedroom window at night. Her parents had no idea. “These men are master manipulators,” adds Joshi. “I’ve seen pimps who are so well-spoken that if they came to take out your 18-year-old daughter, you’d think, *Oh, he’s college-educated*, and you might let her go.”

Experts say compounding the problem is the fact that most

girls, and their parents, are totally naive about the dangers of domestic sex trafficking. All they know of pimping is what they see in music videos—flashy men surrounded by pretty girls and fancy cars. “There are young girls who come to Oakland and think hanging out with pimps is going to be like a fun rap video,” says Joshi. “People don’t like to hear it, but hip-hop culture plays a part in desensitizing these girls to the actual dangers of the game.”

Traffickers themselves are such fans of Hollywood’s depiction of their vocation that some use pimp-themed films to help indoctrinate their victims. Joshi recalls one girl telling how she was made to watch the Hughes Brothers’ 1999 documentary, *American Pimp*, as part of her training. “The pimp used that film to help her understand the rules of the game,” says Joshi. “Then he put her on the street and graded her. The girl told me that on her first night she got all A’s and her pimp said she was the best.”

TO CATCH A PIMP

The day after the girls were brought into the station, Joshi and Saleda make the 15-minute drive to the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center to complete their interviews. Again, Joshi plays the big sister, comforting the girls and offering them connections to social service agencies where they can receive counseling and support once they are released. Joshi says sometimes the conversation focuses on the rudimentary task of helping the girls understand that what their pimp did to them was wrong. “You have to start with basics like what is not acceptable in a relationship,” she says. “I ask, ‘Do you think a man who loves you beats you and wants you to have sex with other men?’”

The officers spend several hours collecting the details they will later pass on to the DA. When they’re done, they put out an APB listing Vincent Turner, aka Legs, as a suspect. Six days later, he is picked up by police.

Almost a full year from the day police brought the child now known as Jane Doe One to the station, Officer Holly Joshi, dressed in a gray pantsuit, is in court to testify as an expert witness at the criminal trial of Vincent Turner. He’s charged with eight counts, including human trafficking, rape and kidnapping—charges he might not be facing if not for the cops’ skilled questioning of the victims and the aggressive tactics of Deputy District Attorney Bock. Her approach, which includes charging pimps with serious felonies such as extortion and kidnapping, has yielded impressive results. Between 2006 and April of this year, her office has charged 156 defendants; 111 of those cases resulted in convictions with some sentences as harsh as life in prison. By comparison, in states such as Kentucky and Utah, pimps can be charged with misdemeanors and serve as little as a few months before returning to the streets and business as usual.

Federal law enforcement has taken a much stronger approach than many states. In 2000 Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which stipulates that traffickers who exploit children can be imprisoned for life. Advocates argue that these kinds of penalties should be enacted from state to state, not just at a federal level. “Oakland is really a model for what should be happening everywhere,” says Carol Smolenski, executive director of End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, USA. “The children are treated like victims and offered assistance. And the bad guys are strenuously punished.”

At Turner’s criminal trial, Jane Doe [continued on page 202]

BLACK GIRLS FOR SALE [continued from page 169]

One and another girl, referred to as Jane Doe Two, have agreed to testify. Prompted by prosecutor Sharon Carney, Jane Doe One recounts how she was kidnapped, raped and put on the street. She recalls that the defendant had a tattoo across his chest: “MOB,” which stands for “Money Over Bitches.” Jane Doe Two is tiny, not even 5 feet tall. In a small voice she tells the court how the defendant tricked her into getting in his car, then drove her to Stockton, demanding she call her boyfriend and ask him to pay \$2,500 to get her back. She says the defendant gave her a choice: He could kill her, have his friends run a train (gang-rape her) or she could have sex with him—which she did.

On the third day, Joshi takes the stand. As she details the brutality of pimps and the vulnerability of the girls they recruit, the mostly female jurors listen attentively. Sponsor Strellis, Turner’s trial attorney, approaches Joshi for his cross-examination. A tall, thin man with white-gray hair, the lawyer refers to young girls being sold on the street as “prostitutes.” Joshi bristles. “We don’t refer to them as prostitutes,” she says in a clear voice. To experts in the fight against child trafficking, calling an underage girl a prostitute implies she chose to work for the pimp, when in fact she isn’t old enough to legally consent to having sex, let alone sell her body. “They are victims of child exploitation,” Joshi emphasizes.

The trial lasts seven days. Turner does not testify. Instead he stares down witnesses as the prosecutor calls them to the stand.

Then, after a day and a half of deliberation, on April 2, 2010, the jury renders its verdict: Vincent Turner is found guilty on seven charges, including human trafficking, kidnapping and forcible rape. The following July, the man who snatched Jane Doe One off the street is sentenced to three consecutive prison terms totaling 48 years to life. (He plans to appeal.)

Bock maintains that Turner’s harsh sentence puts other pimps in Oakland on notice. “They think they’re manipulating the system,” she says, “but they’re playing by our rules now.” □

Jeannine Amber is the senior writer for this magazine.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

For tips on speaking to your child about online safety, visit netsmartz.org. To support or volunteer for an agency in your state that provides services for trafficked children, log on to gems-girls.org. For information about advocating for stiffer penalties for child traffickers, go to polarisproject.org. If you think a child might be in trouble, call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at **800-THE-LOST** (800-843-5678). —J.A.



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Subject Matter/Title: Sexual Exploitation of Minors: What It Is, and How Your Community Can Combat It
Date and Time of Activity: June 6, 2013 at 10:00 am PST
Location: San Diego, CA - Webinar
Length of Presentation: 1.5 hours; 1 MCLE and 1 CEU

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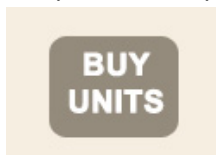
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Casey Bates, JD

Deputy District Attorney

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Casey Bates grew up in Oakland, California and graduated from St. Mary's College High School in 1982. He graduated with high honors from the University of California, Berkeley with bachelor degree's in both Political Science and Economics. Casey received his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law and was admitted to the California Bar in 1994.

Before entering law school, he worked as a Congressional Aide to Congressman Howard L. Berman working on issues related to the House Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

In 1997, Casey began his career as a prosecuting attorney with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. In 2000, he joined his current employer, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. In the course of his career he has been assigned to the Alameda County Family Justice Center where he served as the supervisor of the Felony Domestic Violence Unit. Casey is currently the head of the Sexual Assault Division, including the H.E.A.T. Unit. He has tried over 35 jury trials to verdicts including numerous cases involving murder, 3 strikes, kidnap, rape and torture.

Casey currently serves on the board of St. Mary's College High School and has served on the school board at Corpus Christi and on the board of the Fred Finch Youth Center. He currently coaches the mock trial team for Oakland Technical High School and has served as an instructor for a mock trial class at Corpus Christi School in Piedmont. Casey has also coached his childrens' soccer teams for the past 10 years.

Casey is a life-long resident of Oakland where he lives with his wife and two children.



Maia Sciupac

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Maia Sciupac is the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch Coordinator with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (ACDAO).

As Program Coordinator, Maia facilitates a coordinated Bay Area response among law enforcement, service providers, youth-serving systems, community members, and elected officials, to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Prior to her work with ACDAO, Maia was a Public Outreach and Client Services Fellow with the Polaris Project in Washington D.C., where she assisted survivors of human trafficking. Maia also created and hosted an online radio show on Modern-Day Slavery, where she interviewed experts and activists in the field (see www.blogtalkradio.com/moderndayslavery); was an intern with The SOLD Project to raise awareness and scholarships for children at risk for sex trafficking in Thailand; and was a Fellow with the California Research Bureau in 2009, where she co-wrote and published a policy memo for lawmakers and state agencies on the sexual exploitation of homeless youth and CSEC in California.

Maia graduated from UC Berkeley summa cum laude, with a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and is a 2008 Public Policy and International Area (PPIA) alum. Maia is also a 2008-2009 La Raza Law Journal Fellow with the Berkeley School of Law, and a 2011 New Leader's Council alumni. Maia's published works include the *Sexual Exploitation & Homeless Youth: What Policymakers Need to Know* (California Research Bureau, 2012) and *Girl Sex Trafficking from Nepal to India* (Berkeley Human Rights Review, 2009).

A native to the Bay Area, Maia lives in Berkeley with her husband.



National Family Justice Center Alliance
Webinar Training

**Sexual Exploitation of Minors: What It Is, and How Your Community Can
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Presented by Casey Bates & Maia Sciupac
June 6, 2013

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Gael Strack, JD
Co-Founder and CEO
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Natalia Aguirre
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Date of Issue: June 6, 2013