Did You Know?

The average when a young person is first trafficked is 12-13.

One in three teens will be recruited by a trafficker within 48 to 72 hours of running from home.

The National Runaway Switchboard estimates as many as 1.6 to 2.8 million children are on the streets at any time.

Partners

County of San Bernardino:
Children & Family Services
Children’s Network
Department of Behavioral Health
District Attorney
Probation
Public Defender
Public Health
Sheriff
Superintendent of Schools
Superior Court of California, Juvenile Division

Local non-profits and faith-based groups.

Services provided in collaboration with the County of San Bernardino, Department of Behavioral Health and funded by the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63).
Goals
The Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation includes partnerships between the District Attorney, Public Defender, Public Health, Probation Department, Sheriff’s Department, Children & Family Services, Behavioral Health, County Schools, Superior Court of California—Juvenile Division and Children’s Network and aims to:

- Empower victims to leave their exploiter and utilize opportunities to regain control of their life and future.
- Ensure victims’ physical and psychological safety.
- Ensure victims’ access to resources and services, including: medical care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, educational opportunities, job skills training, mentors/advocates and more.
- Address the larger social issues impacting at-risk youth.

Overview
The commercial sexual exploitation of youth is a serious and pervasive issue affecting individuals, families and communities around the world. Exploiting children is a form of child abuse and those being exploited are victims of this serious crime. It is a complicated issue and in response, the County of San Bernardino has formed a coalition made up of law enforcement and social service agencies at a local level to coordinate their activities to capture adult offenders and best connect exploited youth to needed services.

What are potential indicators of trafficking and exploitation?

- Multiple reports of running away with no explanation as to whereabouts or running out of state
- History of emotional, sexual or other physical abuse
- Signs of current physical abuse and/or sexually transmitted diseases
- Inexplicable appearance of expensive gifts, clothing, or other costly items
- Presence of an older boy-/girlfriend
- Drug addiction
- Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities
- Gang involvement
- Tattoos or branding that indicate ownership

Our Approach
- Multi-disciplinary
- Centralized referral mechanism
- Identification of a point person: The CASE Coordinator
- CASE-dedicated staff from Probation, Department of Behavioral Health, Children & Family Services, Public Defender, District Attorney and the Children’s Network.
- Ability to respond quickly
- Coordinated communication among providers
- Provider accountability
- Outreach & Education
- Countywide training and technical assistance on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) issues
- Tracking of referrals and outcomes