



EMPLOYMENT &  
HUMAN SERVICES

M E M O R A N D U M

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To: Family and Human Services Committee Members Date: June 9, 2022  
Monica Nino, County Administrator

From: Marla Stuart, Director, Employment and Human Services  
Tamina Alon, Interim Assistant Director, Policy & Planning and Alliance to End Abuse

Subject: 2022 Report on Family Justice Centers and Commercially Sexually Exploited Children  
(Presented by Kimberly Baker, CSEC Team and Natalie Oleas, Family Justice Center)

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**RECOMMENDATION**

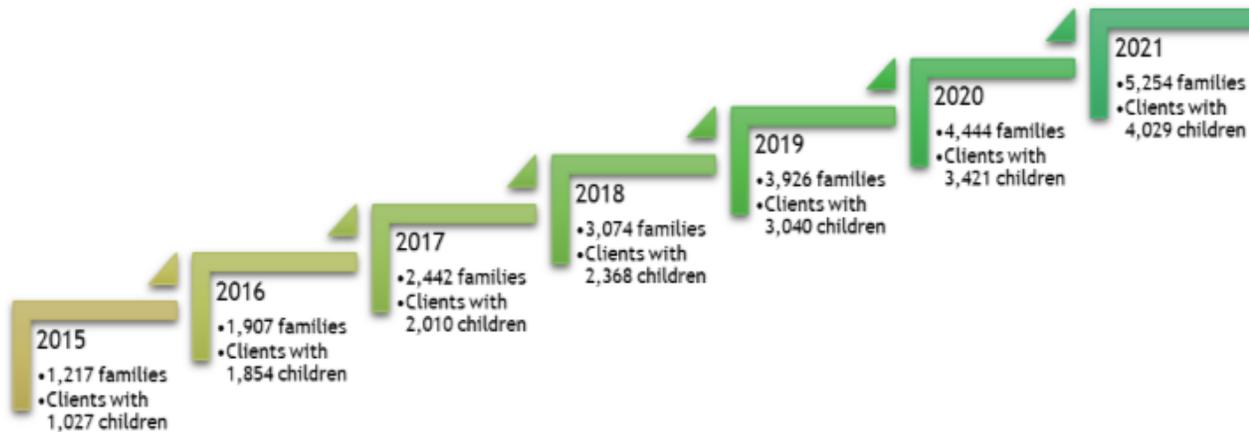
ACCEPT this report from the Family Justice Center (FJC) and the Children and Family Services (CFS) Bureau's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Services Team of Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD), which provides updates on programming and service provision in Contra Costa County over the course of the last year.

**FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS**

The Contra Costa Family Justice Alliance, a 501c3 nonprofit, operates three Family Justice Centers in Antioch, Concord, and Richmond. The Family Justice Center (the Center) is a one-stop center for families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, and human trafficking. The Family Justice Center coordinates with 65 on-site partners so clients can get safer sooner. The Family Justice Center was created in 2011 as a project of the Alliance to End Abuse (The Alliance) and gained its nonprofit status in 2015. The Alliance continues to support the development of the Center, and County departments remain essential partners among many, supporting residents who are accessing the centers.

In 2021, the Family Justice Centers provided services to 5,254 individuals who experienced interpersonal violence (2,210 clients from Central Center, 1,982 clients from West Center and 1,062 from East Center). This was an 18% increase in the number of clients from 2020. Those services impacted an additional 4,029 children living with these clients. Since 2015, the need for services at the Center has increased, and the number of clients served has increased from 1,217 families in 2015 to 5,254 families in 2021.

## Number of Clients served at Contra Costa Family Justice Centers, 2015 - 2021



The Family Justice Center regularly evaluates the top needs of clients and seeks to fill service gaps through enhanced and innovative programming. In 2021, the Family Justice Center remained open to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic for in person and virtual/phone services. During the pandemic, the Center formed new partners and collaborated on innovative projects to deliver safe and impactful programs to victims of interpersonal violence.

Recognizing that mental health was an issue due to COVID social distancing recommendations, the Center enhanced its mental health services by offering several different counseling options for clients of any age. This included starting the **Trauma Recovery Center** in July 2021, which provides free counseling to all victims of violent crime. The Center collaborated with emergency room doctors through **Vituity Healthcare** to pilot the **TeleCare** telehealth urgent care for victims of interpersonal violence so that victims can get care from a safe and confidential place.

To respond to survivors that do not have their own bank accounts, the Center partnered with **Community Financial Resources** to provide underbanked individuals with open reloadable debit cards and offered incentives towards their savings goals.

The Center also expanded its restraining order assistance by having attorneys in its Lawyers for Family Justice Program offer 18 additional hours of restraining order assistance per week.

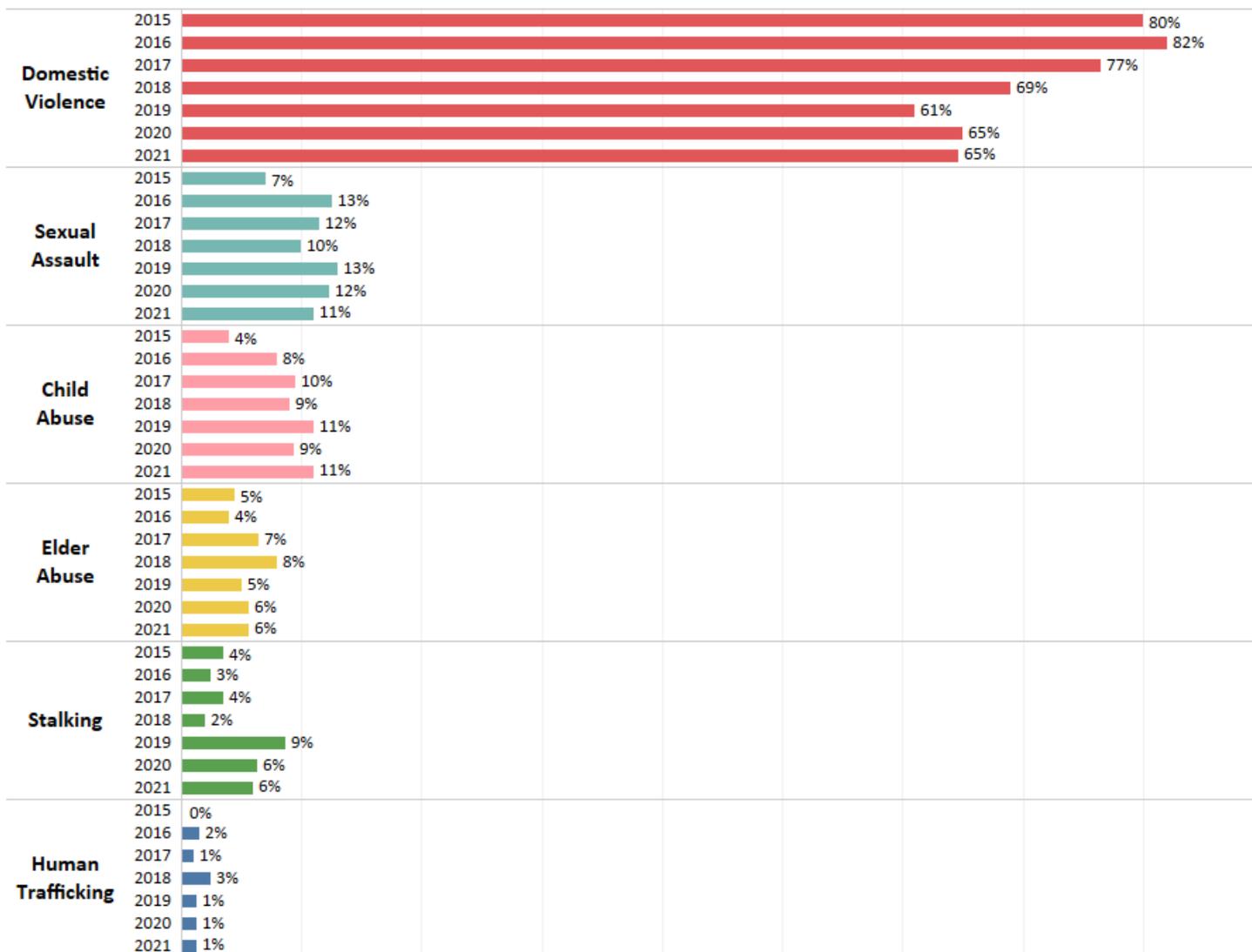
## Family Justice Centers Clients Top 5 Needs and Connections by Year

Top 5 Needs			Top 5 Connections		
<b>2015</b>	Advocacy (Comprehensive Services)	22%	<b>2015</b>	Stand	24%
	Family Law/Court Assistance	19%		Bay Area Legal Aid	19%
	Restraining Order	9%		Restraining Order Clinic	7%
	Shelter	8%		Shelter, Inc	4%
	Mental Health/Counseling	8%		Catholic Charities East Bay	3%
<b>2016</b>	Advocacy (Comprehensive Services)	23%	<b>2016</b>	Lawyers Family Justice	25%
	Family Law/Court Assistance	20%		Stand	24%
	Restraining Order	11%		Bay Area Legal Aid	8%
	Mental Health/Counseling	8%		DA Victim Witness	5%
	Shelter	7%		Community Violence Solutions	5%
<b>2017</b>	Advocacy (Comprehensive Services)	21%	<b>2017</b>	Stand	29%
	Family Law/Court Assistance	15%		Lawyers Family Justice	22%
	Restraining Order	11%		Community Violence Solutions	7%
	Victim Services	6%		Bay Area Legal Aid	5%
	Mental Health/Counseling	6%		DA Victim Witness	4%
	Civil Legal Assistance	6%			
<b>2018</b>	Advocacy (Comprehensive Services)	21%	<b>2018</b>	Stand	35%
	Family Law/Court Assistance	17%		Lawyers Family Justice	35%
	Restraining Order	10%		Bay Area Legal Aid	11%
	Mental Health/Counseling	6%		DA Victim Witness	10%
	Law Enforcement	6%		Community Violence Solutions	9%
	Victim Services	5%			
<b>2019</b>	Advocacy (Comprehensive Services)	21%	<b>2019</b>	Stand	19%
	Family Law/Court Assistance	17%		Lawyers Family Justice	19%
	Restraining Order	9%		Bay Area Legal Aid	7%
	Mental Health/Counseling	9%		DA Victim Witness	6%
	Victim Services	6%		Community Violence Solutions	5%
<b>2020</b>	Advocacy (Comprehensive Services)	18%	<b>2020</b>	Stand	18%
	Family Law/Court Assistance	15%		Lawyers Family Justice	18%
	Restraining Order	10%		Healing Conversations	6%
	Mental Health/Counseling	10%		Bay Area Legal Aid	5%
	Financial Assistance	10%		Restraining Order Clinic	4%
<b>2021</b>	Mental Health/Counseling	18%	<b>2021</b>	Stand	17%
	Family Law/Court Assistance	18%		Lawyers Family Justice	17%
	Advocacy (Comprehensive Services)	17%		Healing Conversations	5%
	Restraining Order	9%		Community Violence Solutions	3%
	Shelter	6%		Bay Area Legal Aid	3%

Data Source: Family Justice Centers Annual Reports 2015-2021

Since 2015, domestic violence has been the most prevalent type of interpersonal violence issue addressed at the Family Justice Centers in Contra Costa County. To improve identification of sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking, and human trafficking, the Center, along with the Alliance to End Abuse, are improving outreach efforts and best practices for identifying those cases. Through the Elder Abuse Prevention Project, awareness campaigns and coordinated resources are being implemented to increase awareness of elder abuse. Through the Human Trafficking Coalition, law enforcement agencies and service providers are collaborating to create streamlined community awareness campaigns and focused efforts to provide information to victims of sexual and labor trafficking.

**Percent of Clients Served by Type of Violence at The Family Justice Centers**



Data Source: Family Justice Centers Annual Reports 2015-2021

## COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC) SERVICES TEAM

The Children and Family Services (CFS) Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Services Team follows the federal and state guidelines by outlining trauma-informed protocols to support the commercially sexually exploited (CSE) population. The program's mission is to eliminate the exploitation of children and build a system of care that addresses the needs of at-risk youth and survivors across Child Welfare, Probation, and the Contra Costa community. The CFS CSEC Services Team works by following the mandate of ensuring that identification, documentation, and services are provided for all CSE youth. The Team meets monthly to review any new legal mandates or updates from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and discuss program needs and resources to increase CSE awareness, identification, and referrals for services.

Since the program's inception in 2015, there have been innovative additions to create a safety net for the youth we serve. One of the supporting components of the program is the countywide Interagency Steering Committee. The Interagency Steering Committee provides ongoing oversight and leadership to ensure all Contra Costa County departments and community service providers collaborate to identify and serve at-risk youth or survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. Additionally, the Interagency Protocol for Serving Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in Contra Costa County was revised last year to include the Contra Costa County Office of Education and the County Sheriff's Department. Each month, the CFS CSEC Services team and Juvenile Probation Department co-facilitate this meeting, where the Family Justice Center, Community Violence Solutions, and the Alliance to End Abuse meet to discuss high-risk CSEC cases to identify and assess system-involved youth who have lived experience or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. Those identified are nominated for case discussion at the Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (HT MDT) case review for further guidance by HT MDT members such as health professionals, social workers, advocates, and law enforcement.

Over the recent years, the CSEC/Y program identified that a significant number of youth were missing from care, which puts them at an even higher risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. As a result, in April 2022, CFS began a pilot program in partnership with **Love Never Fails (LNF)** to operate a "**Search and Recovery**" Program for exploited youth missing from care in Contra Costa County. Love Never Fails staff are fueled with love and equipped with a Recovery Investigator and Clinical Case Manager, each of whom provides recovery case management and community outreach and offers support to Children and Family Services as we make concerted efforts to locate and serve youth who go missing from care.

There continues to be ongoing training for social workers and community members to increase the identification of CSE youth. The continual collaborative efforts have led to the training of community partners to screen all youth ages ten and older with the **Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)**. CFS has trained many professionals, resource caregivers, community partners, and service providers on a range of topics from Harm Reduction, CSEC Red Flags, and the intersection of CSEC and Child Labor Trafficking. Contra Costa's Juvenile Probation and Public Health Departments also utilize this screening tool.

### CSEC/Y in Contra Costa County Facts:

- Children who are at-risk or are survivors of human trafficking vary in age. In Contra Costa, the largest groups of children/youth with CSE involvement are between ages 13 and 18, with a significant increase in CSE involvement at age 16.
- There are more females identified as CSEC/Y than males. This has historically been the case in Contra Costa, and is also reflective throughout the state as a whole and the nation. Males continue to be underreported.
- The majority of youth with CSE involvement are African American. There are also a significant number of youth with Central American heritage in Contra Costa who have CSE involvement.
- The number of children/youth identified as being CSE at-risk continues to grow in Contra Costa.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Contra Costa County Family Justice Centers](#)
- [CSEC \(Commercially Sexually Exploited Children\) | EHSD](#)
- [Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse](#)