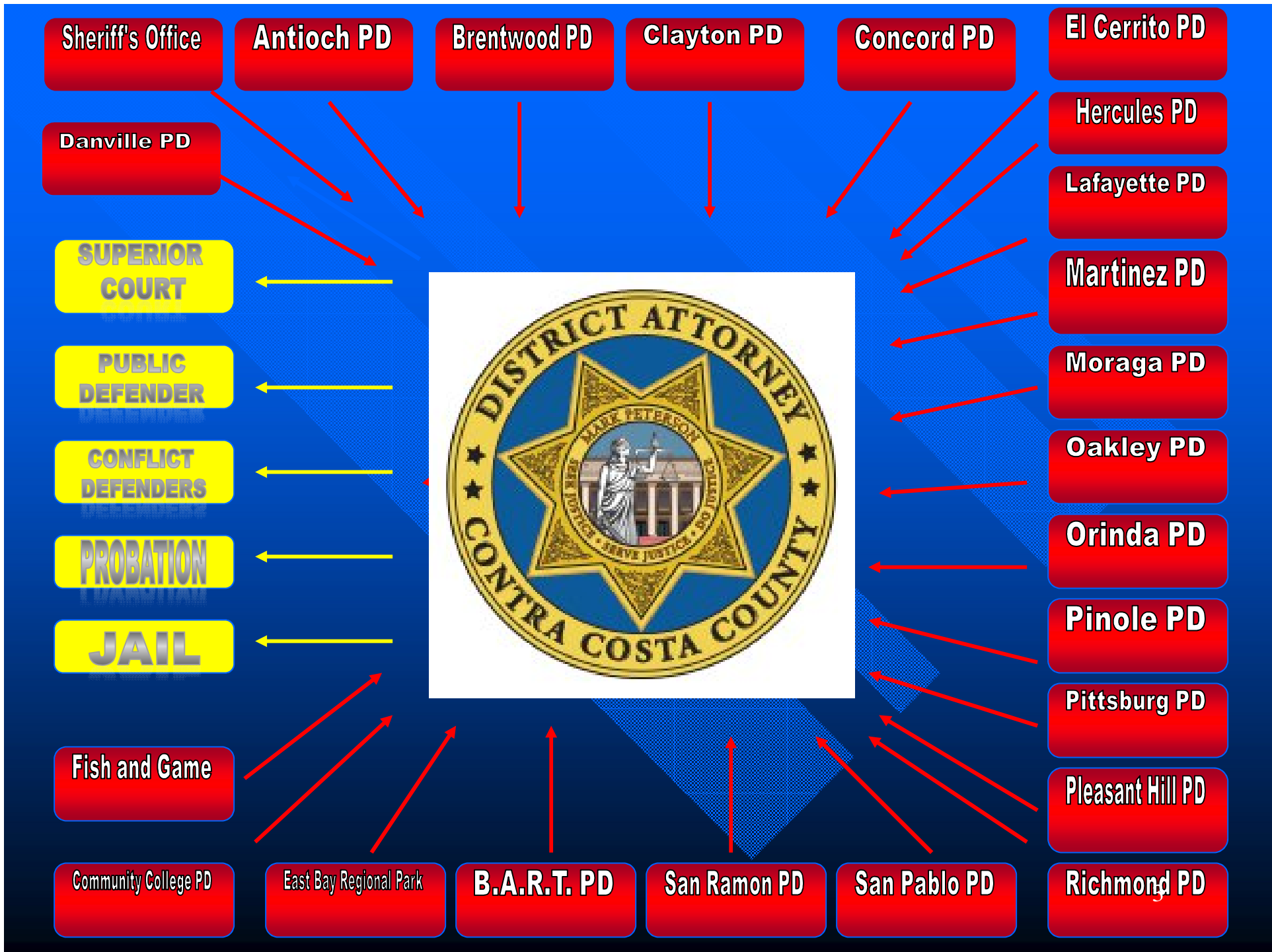


# Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office

April 19, 2016

# Mission Statement

- The mission of the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office is to seek justice and enhance public safety for all our residents.
- We do this by fairly, ethically, aggressively, and efficiently prosecuting those who violate the law, **and by working to prevent crime.**



# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- 107 Felony Jury Trials (2014 - 133)
- 1,154 Felony Trial Days (2014 - 1,364)
- Felony Trial Team – 342 Trial Days (48 JT)
  - 2014 - 360 (61 JT)
- Sexual Assault Unit – 304 Trial Days (23 JT)
  - 2014 - 504 (33 JT)
- Homicides – 243 Trial Days (10 JT) 2014 - 173 (11 JT)
- Gang Unit – 145 Trial Days (5 JT) 2014 - 167 (9 JT)
- Domestic Violence - 98 Trial Days (11 JT) 2014 - 92 (9 JT)
- Drug Unit/CVRU – 65 Trial Days (6 JT)
  - 2014 - 37 (4 JT)
- Jury Trial Felony Conviction Rate: 87%

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## ■ Office Totals:

- 18,497 Misdemeanors logged In
- 8,044 Misdemeanors filed
  
- 5,455 Felonies logged in
- 3,029 Felonies filed

## ■ Richmond Office

- 75 misdemeanor jury trials

## ■ 10 Douglas Office

- 129 misdemeanor jury trials

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## ■ Drug → Community Violence Reduction Unit

- Partnered with DA/FBI Safe Neighborhoods Task Force and DOJ CASE Gun Task Force to target violent crime
- GIFT education program expanded to all east County middle schools + implementation of Adult Truancy Court
- 12/31/15: \$419,718.86 forfeited; \$1,686,020.85 pending

## Juvenile Unit

- 485 felonies filed
- 270 misdemeanors filed
- 6,515 subpoenas sent

## Special Operations

- \$927,583 million in penalties
- \$ 2.9 million in restitution ordered

# Drug Unit

- Presumptive Drug Test Protocol Developed
  - Pilot program in west county
  - Countywide MOU
  - 500 Officers trained
  - No testing backlog

# Investigative Unit

- Responded to 23 LEIF Protocol Incidents
- Investigated 9 Officer Involved Shootings
- 7 In-Custody Deaths
- 6 Fatal / Major Injury Pursuits
- 1 On-View Suicide
- Handled over 5,432 personal serve subpoena requests



# Investigative Unit

2015:

- Training/sharing information about all officer involved shootings with all law enforcement in county

# VICTIM-WITNESS UNIT

- Program served 3,621 victims in 2015
- Including 965 victims on Realignment cases
- 373 in CVAP and 64 in Human Trafficking
- Victim-Witness volunteers provided 2,720 hours of service to the county
- Victim-Witness staff assigned at all branches as well as both the Richmond and Pittsburg Police Departments
- Human Trafficking Advocacy Grant running
- Court ordered restitution: **\$14,691,602.25**

# Victim Witness – National Crime Victims' Rights Week

In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, our office will recognize individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to provide services to crime victims.

Thank you for recognizing victims and other individuals on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

# Support Staff

- Logged 23,952 Misdemeanor and Felony cases
- Prepared 11,074 Misdemeanor and Felony Complaints
- Issued 72,148 Subpoenas Officewide
- Issued 848 Subpoena Duces Tecum

# Special Prosecutions Unit

- 345 Suspected Criminal Fraud Referrals
- 232 citizen complaints
- 653 open active investigations
- 120 search warrants served
- Ins. Fraud, Environmental Fraud, Wage Theft, Chop Shops

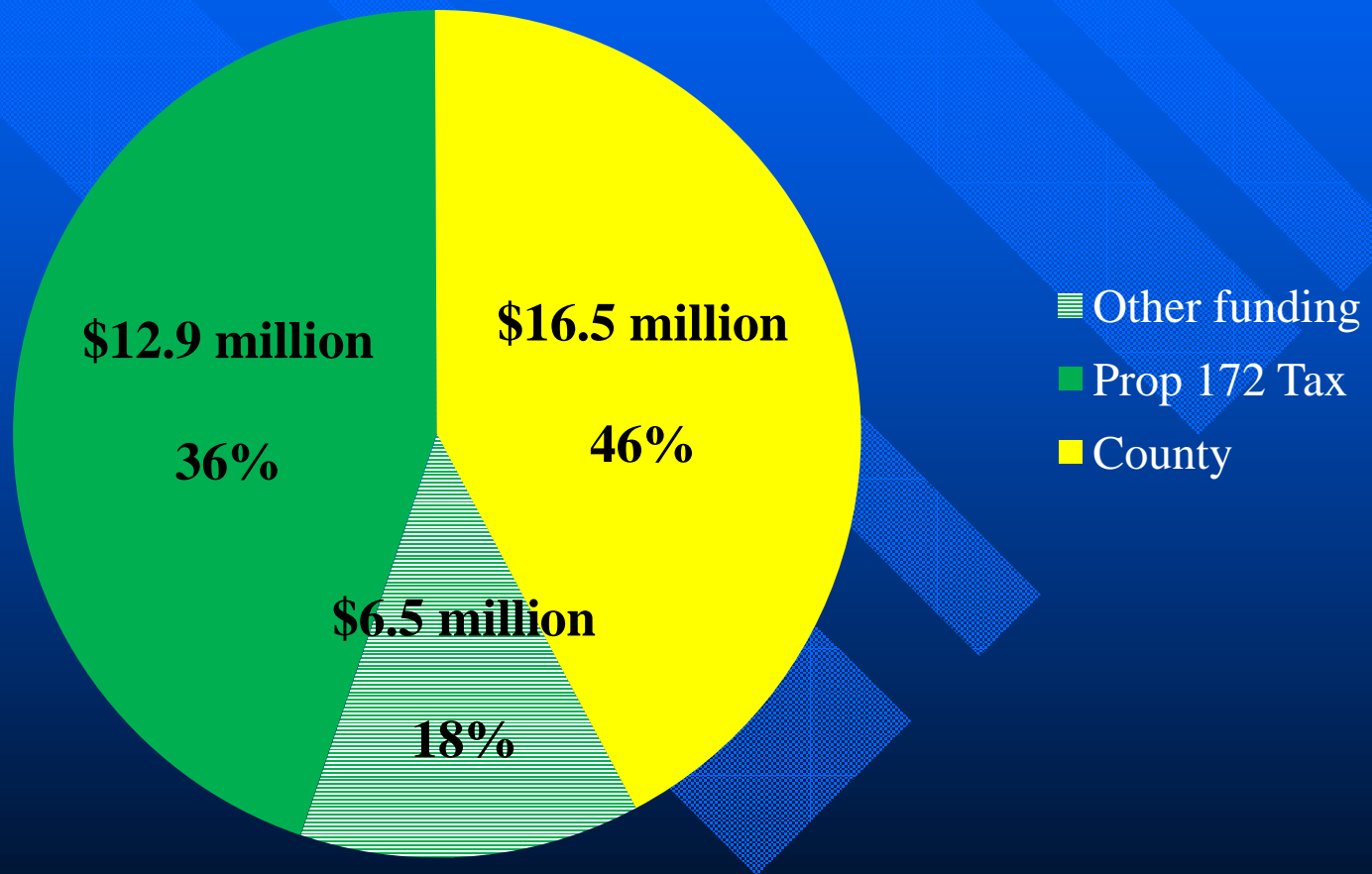
## District Attorney's Office

- 2015/2016 Budget -\$35.9 M
  - Prop 172 Tax \$12.9 M (36%)
  - Other funding \$ 6.5M (18%)
  - County \$16.5 M (46%)

- 90% of DA budget is salaries and benefits

# District Attorney's Office

2015-2016 Budget: \$35.9 million



90% of DA budget is salaries and benefits

# District Attorney's Office

## ■ Grants:

■ Fund 23 DDAs

■ Fund 14 Inspectors

■ Fund 14 Victim Witness employees

■ Fund 3 paralegal

■ Fund 1 Forensic Accountant

■ Fund 4 clerks



# District Attorney's Office (2015/16)

- 102 attorneys
  - 33 Investigators and 4 CPA's
  - 14 victim/witness
  - 56 support/admin staff
- 219 employees
- 
- \$35.9 million dollar budget
    - \$16.5 M county monies
    - 4.3% of county GP monies (\$384 Million)

# Office Priorities

- Always prosecute misdemeanors
- Gang prosecutions and injunctions
  - Ceasefire program
- Realignment
- Crime Prevention
- Change

# Richmond Violence Reduction Plan

- Ceasefire
- Coalition meetings with law enforcement
- Deputy District Attorneys at RPD
- Investigative partnership with RPD
- Target List

## ■ Richmond Violence:

- 2007 – 47 murders
- 2008 – 27 murders
- 2009 – 47 murders
- 2010 - 21 murders (32 in W County)
- 2011 – 27 murders
- 2012 - 18 murders
- 2013 – 16 murders
- **2014 – 11 murders**
- 2015 – 21 murders

'NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP HER'

# Courage personified

**SHOOTING:** Woman paralyzed by stray bullet vows to walk again



RAY CHAVEZ/STAFF PHOTOS

Dominique Romero, 19, gets a kiss from her grandfather, Jesse Romero, during a community support event for her recovery at the RYSE Center in Richmond on Saturday. Romero was hit by a stray bullet while watching TV at home in December.

# Gun Buyback



# 2011 New Programs

## ■ Anti-Truancy Program

### RODEO SCHOOLS

## Parents face charges over kids' truancy

By Karl Fischer

[Kfischer@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:Kfischer@bayareanewsgroup.com)

Two parents of students attending Rodeo Hills Elementary School must appear in criminal court next month because their children were absent from too many classes this year.

The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office made a public statement announcing the case, the first time in county history parents are facing charges for not ensuring their children attend school.

The two parents each have at least one student at the school, District Attorney Mark Peterson said. Both face a misdemeanor charge for "failing to encourage their truant children's attendance

*Continued from Page 1*

in school," referencing a new law dealing with child neglect.

One student, a fifth-grader, missed more than half of the current school year with unexcused absences. The other, a third-grader, missed more than one-third of the school year unexcused.

"Our goal is to get these kids back in school and to get parents to take responsibility for making that happen," Peterson said.

Peterson works closely with school districts around Contra Costa County regarding truancy. Prosecutors filed these two cases Friday be-

cause they were particularly egregious and because the John Swett Unified School District devoted a lot of time and effort to resolving the problem with the parents, without success. Bay Area News Group is not identifying the defendants to protect the identity of their children.

The new law took effect in January 2011. It applies to parents of truant children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Each parent will receive mailed notices instructing them to appear in court next month, Peterson said.

If convicted, they could face as much as a year in county jail and a \$2,000 fine.

The superintendent of the John Swett district could not be reached for comment.

See TRUANCY.

# Reduce Truancy

- Working with County Office of Education to increase school attendance
- 10% increase in graduation rates would result in 20% reduction in crime
  - 15 less murders
  - 465 less aggravated assaults



# On-going Programs

# Ongoing Programs

- City council meetings
- City attorney meetings
- Police Dept. DDA's - RPD, SO, PPD/APD/BPD
- GIFT program – DDA speaks at schools
- Real Estate Fraud Notices (Sales, Notices)
- Gun Buyback program
- Family Justice Center
- Fully staffed Children's Interview Center
- Risk assessment tool
- Expanded diversion program
- Community Correction Partnership

# 2013 New Programs

- Best-practices survey
  - Conducted Statewide survey
  - Report given at CDAA Summer Conference
  - Ongoing implementation of best practices
  - 2015 update
- Mock Trial participation

# Intern Program (2015 class)



# 2014 New Program Courthouse Dog

On duty at the courthouse

## Facility dogs relax victims, witnesses

*Law enforcement finds canines put people at ease enough to give testimony*

By Gary Peterson

[gpeterson@bayareanews.com](mailto:gpeterson@bayareanews.com)

MARTINEZ — A recent hire by the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office doesn't know much about the law. She has a limited vocabulary, sleeps

on the floor for much of the workday and drinks water from a bowl.

But what Joann III, a 2-year-old yellow Lab, lacks in higher education, she makes up for in soothing companionship. Joann III — her friends call her Jojo, and most everyone is her friend — is a courthouse facility dog. Her job is to provide emotional support to victims and witnesses for whom interact-

See **Court** on Page 6



DAN ROSEN/STRAUCH/STAFF

Jojo, the new courthouse dog, lies down recently at the A.F. Bray Courthouse in Martinez.

95

Number of courthouse facility dogs working in 29 states, according to the Courthouse Dogs Foundation.

# 2014 New Programs

## Human Trafficking Awareness:



# Initiatives

## ■ West County Violence Reduction

(2011)

– RPD, SPPD, BART PD, Sheriff,  
Probation, FBI/ATF/DEA/DOJ

## ■ East County Violence Reduction

(2014)

– Pittsburg PD, Antioch PD, SO, Brentwood PD  
Oakley PD, Probation, CHP, FBI/DEA/ATF

# Contra Costa County/FBI “Safe Streets” Task Force

Countywide gang and violence reduction task force is located here in Martinez.

**21 assigned officers** including members of the FBI, Richmond Police Department, Antioch Police Department, Pittsburg Police Department, Concord Police Department, Probation Office, the Office of the Sheriff and the Department of Corrections.



The task force is available to assist any agency with large scale investigations.



# Safe Streets Task Force

- Operation “Venom”
  - Multi State Human Trafficking wire operation
  - 5 suspects



# Cold Case Unit

Forensic Services Director Paul  
Holes working to solve cold  
cases - homicides and rapes



San Pablo man charged

# DNA evidence links suspect to two cold case slayings

## Newly upgraded technology helps find match in archives

By Gary Peterson

[gpeterson@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:gpeterson@bayareanewsgroup.com)

MARTINEZ — Authorities say that with DNA evidence — and by putting their heads together — they have solved the mystery of two decades-old murder cases and charged the same man for both.

William Lee Huff, 51, of San Pablo, has been charged with murder with special circumstances in the deaths of Deanna Butterfield, 21, in 1987, and Mueylin Saechao, a Laotian immigrant in her mid-50s, in 1993.

Huff was in custody in Solano County but was transferred to the Martinez jail Tuesday, according to Contra Costa District Attorney Chief of Forensics Investigator Paul Holes.

The key was DNA testing, which emerged as a reliable forensic tool in 1985, just two years before the first killing.



Butterfield

## Slayings

Continued from Page 1

According to Holes, Huff's DNA has been in a law enforcement databank since 2006. While San Pablo police had DNA from the two murder investigations, they only recently upgraded their technology to be able to search the databank in which Huff's DNA has been archived. Shortly after the upgrade, the match was discovered.

Both cases were reopened in a collaborative effort by the Contra Costa District Attorney's Cold Case Unit, the East Bay Regional Park District and San Pablo police, Contra Costa District Attorney Mark Peterson said.

Huff was originally a suspect in the killing of Butterfield, who was raised in Livermore and had a 4-year-old daughter. Butterfield's partially clothed body was found in Tilden Park near Orinda on Dec. 5, 1987. She had



This photo of Deanna Butterfield, 20, and her daughter, Melissa Silva, was taken about a year before Butterfield was slain.

been sexually assaulted and suffocated.

In a 2000 story in the Contra Costa Times, Butterfield's daughter, Melissa Silva, said her mother was struggling with drug addiction just before her death. Silva also vowed to find her mother's killer.

"It would be great knowing the person who did this isn't out there and able to

do that to somebody else," Silva said.

Authorities believe Huff killed Saechao in a similar manner six years later. Saechao's partially clothed body was found in the backyard of her boyfriend's San Pablo residence the morning of June 11, 1993. She had been sexually assaulted and strangled with a sock.

DNA evidence collected at the crime scenes linked Huff to the killings.

"We are very pleased with the success of our recently formed Cold Case Unit," Peterson said. "Solving cold case murders and rapes is a priority for our office in order to bring those responsible to justice, and provide closure for victims and their families."

Anyone with information about Huff or with knowledge of unsolved rape-asphyxiation rapes or murders can call Holes at 925-957-8751.

Contact Gary Peterson at 925-952-5053. Follow him at [Twitter.com/garyscribe](https://twitter.com/garyscribe).

# 2015 New Programs

## ■ Cold Case Unit:

- Investigate unsolved murder and rape cases
- Paul Holes – Forensic Services Director

## ■ Untested Rape Kits:

- Review/prioritize the 2000 untested rape kits in this county
- \$1.8 million grant from NY DA Office

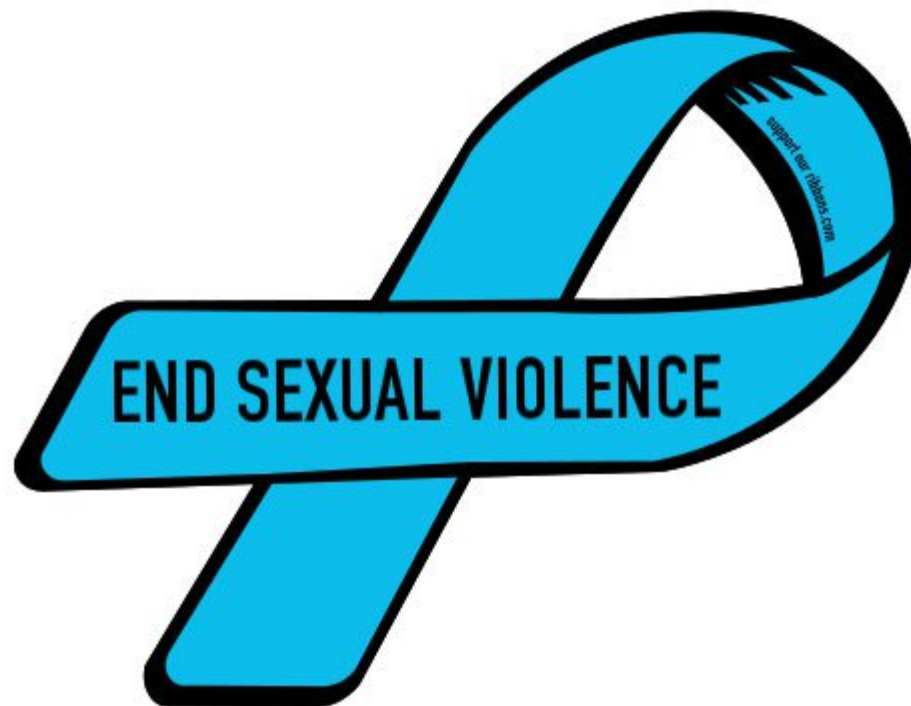
# 2015 New Programs

## Staffing of Family Justice Centers



# 2015 New Programs

## Campus Sexual Assault Training



# Office Survey



# Management Workshop Build a Bridge





# 2016 New Programs

# Community Courts



# Truancy Court



# Human Trafficking Poster

A poster with a black background. At the top, a close-up of a person's eyes with red, bloodshot irises. Below the eyes, the words "HUMAN TRAFFICKING" are written in large, bold, yellow, distressed font. Below the title, white text reads: "IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING FORCED TO ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITY AND CANNOT LEAVE -- WHETHER IT IS COMMERCIAL SEX, HOUSEWORK, FARM WORK, CONSTRUCTION, FACTORY, RETAIL, OR RESTAURANT WORK, OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY -- CALL THE". This is followed by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at "1-888-373-7888" and the California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) at "1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM)" or "1-888-539-2373". Below the phone numbers, it says "to access help and services." A line of white text reads: "VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARE PROTECTED UNDER UNITED STATES AND CALIFORNIA LAW." Below this, a list of hotline features: "The hotlines are: • Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week • Toll-free • Operated by nonprofit, non-governmental organizations • Anonymous and confidential • Accessible in more than 160 languages." and "• Able to provide help, referral to services, training, and general information." At the bottom left is the seal of the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare. At the bottom right is the text: "Office of the District Attorney  
County of Tulare  
Tim Ward, District Attorney  
Victim/Witness Assistance Division  
(559) 636-5471 (Visalia)  
(559) 782-9617 (Porterville)".

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING FORCED TO ENGAGE  
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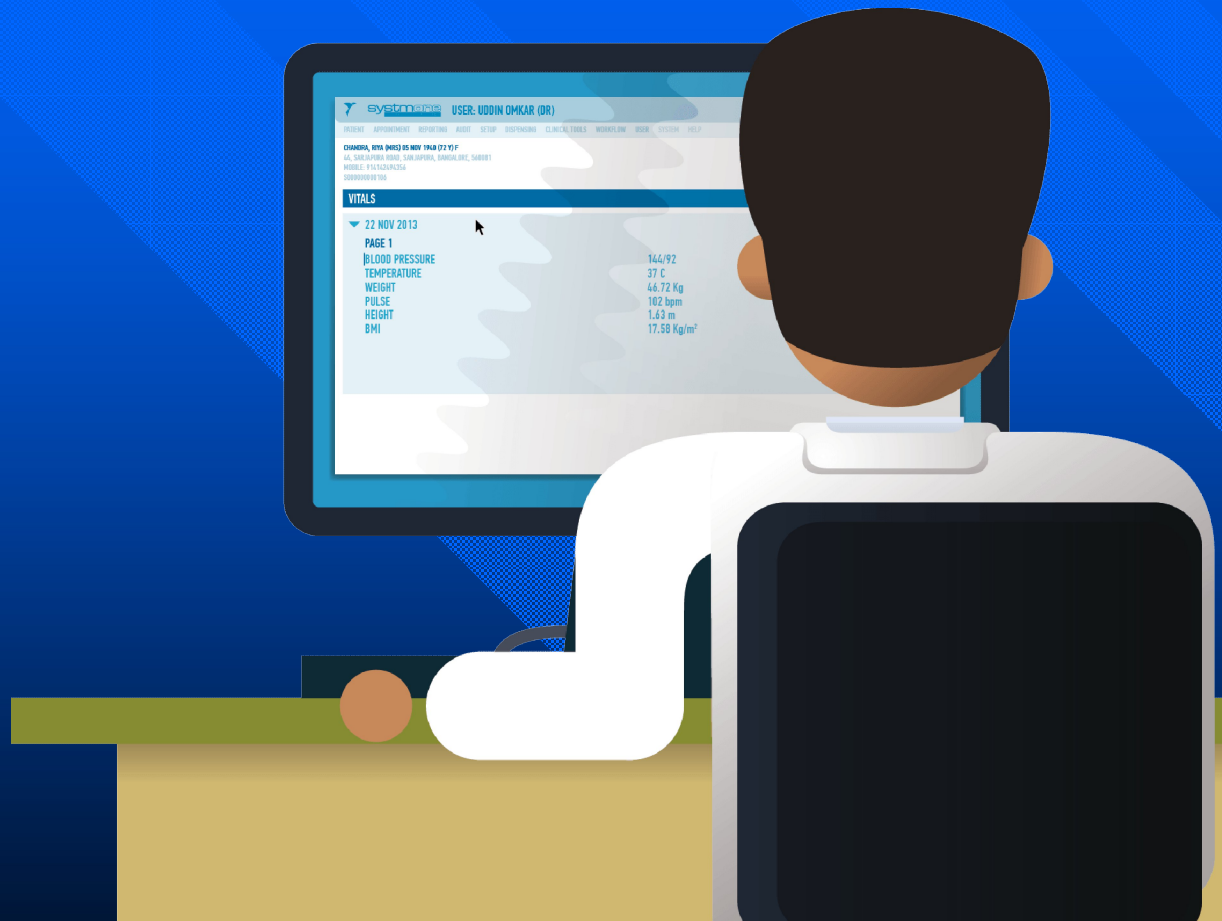
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 Office of the District Attorney  
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SB 1193 ENG

# PBK



# 2015 New Programs

- Case Management System –  
Went “live” October 2015
  - 2016 ?:
  - Paperless filing by police
  - Paperless case files

# Public Information Officer



# Internal Programs



# Committees at work in our office...



# Best Practices Committee



# Lessons Learned Committee

Lessons Learned  
recognize mistakes  
observe what works  
document them  
share them

# Recruitment and Retention Committee



# Evaluation Committee

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

# Mentorship Program

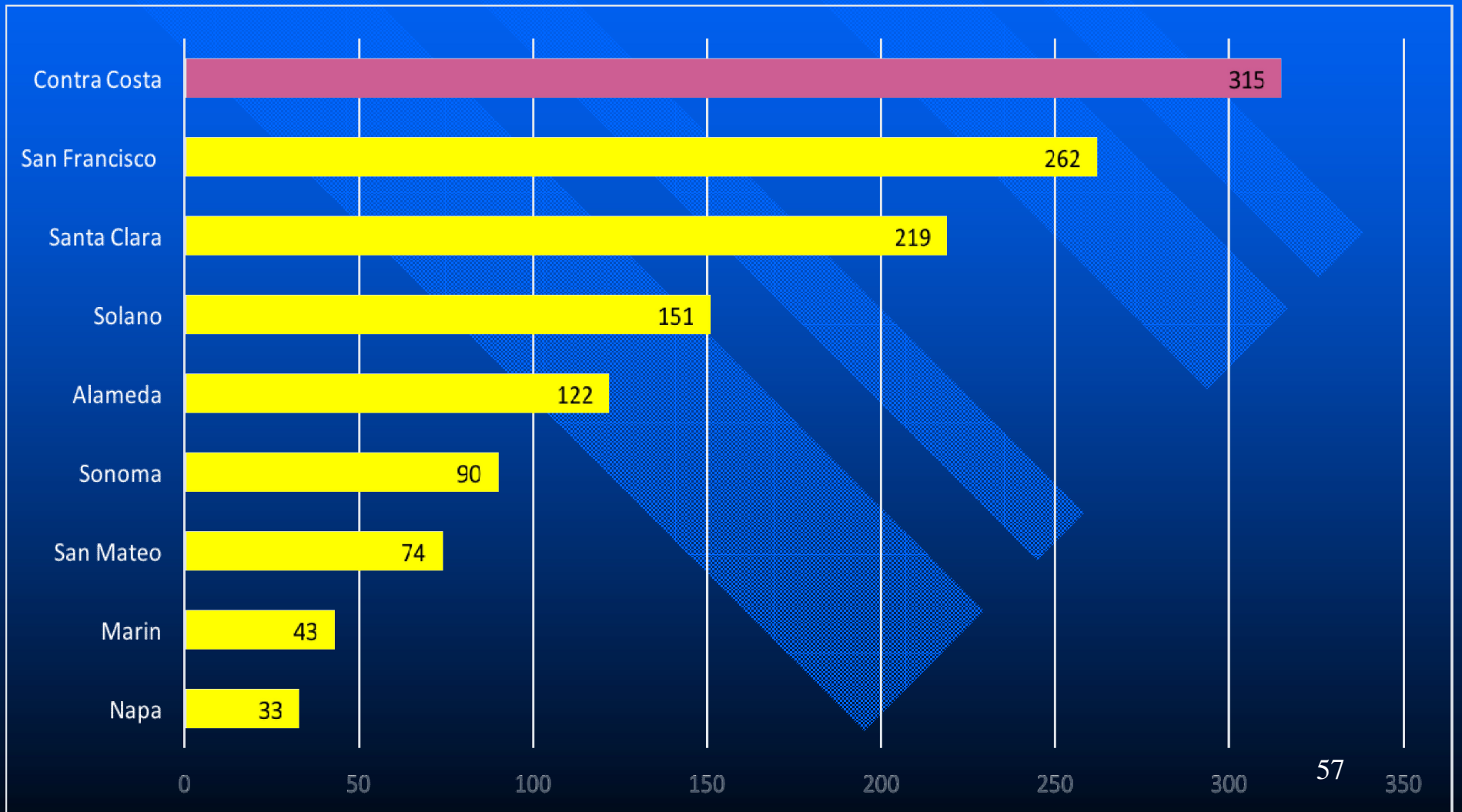




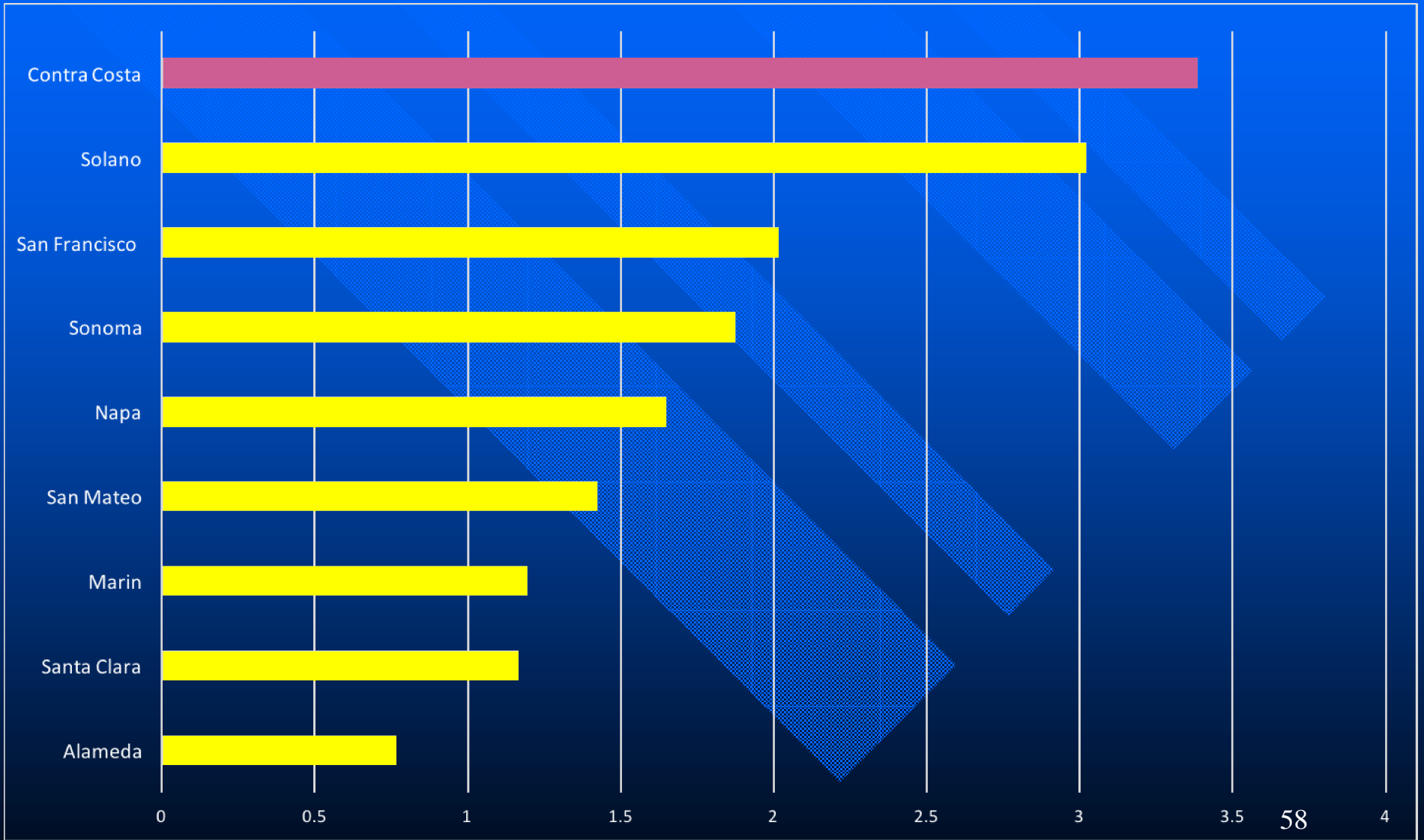
# Office Statistics



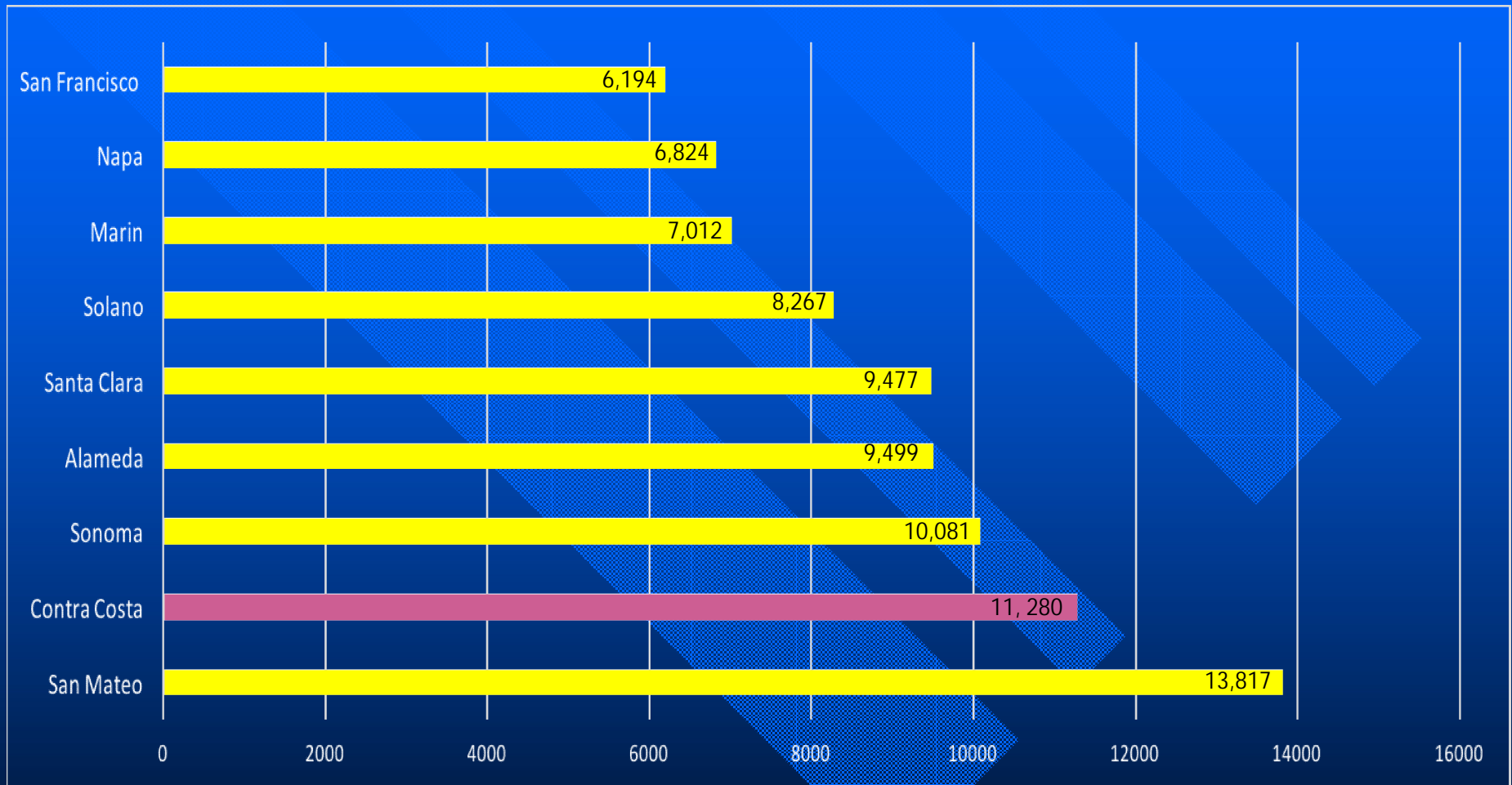
# Total Criminal Jury Trials 2014-2015



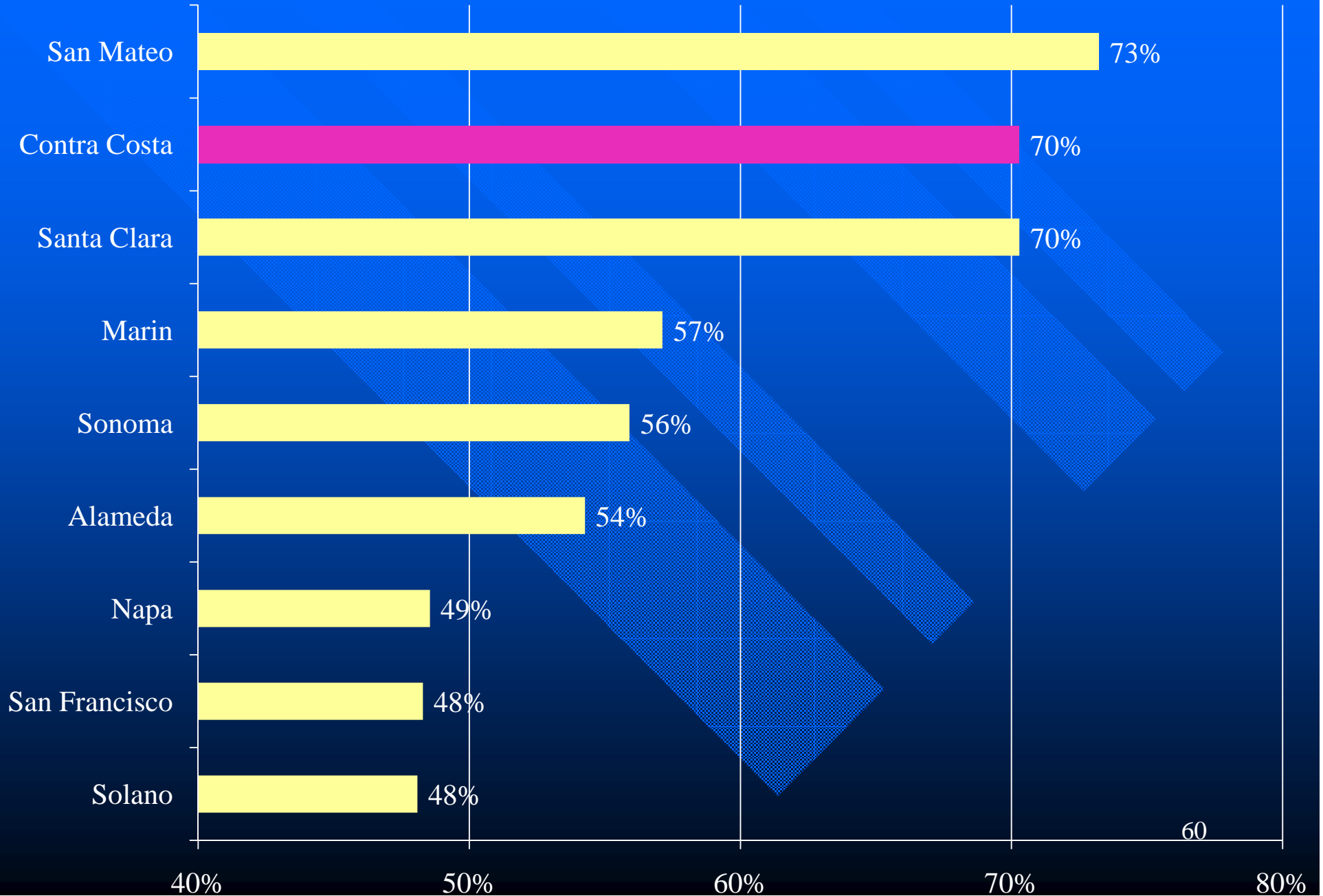
# Trials Per Deputy District Attorney



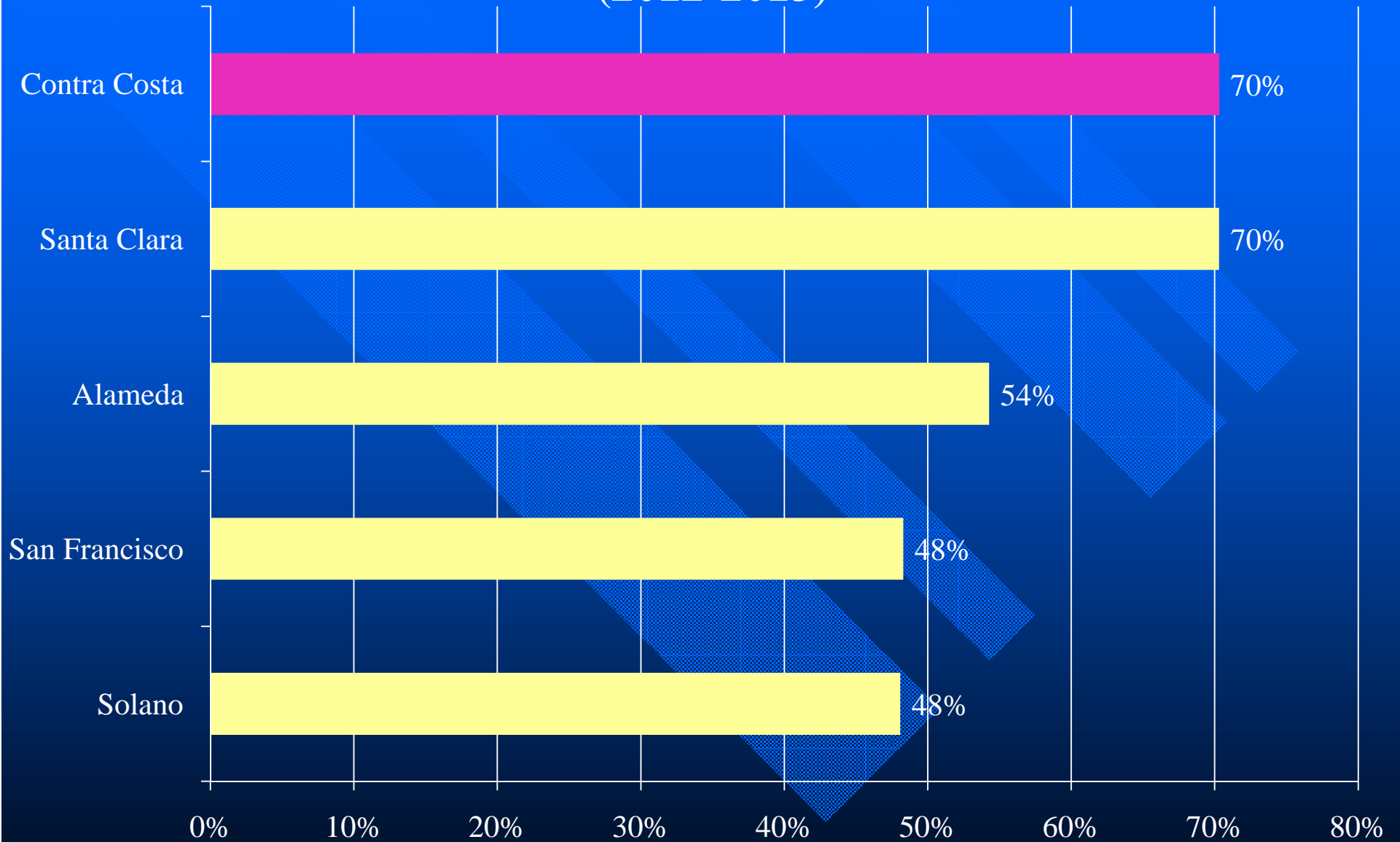
# Number of Citizens Served Per DDA



# Felony Conviction Rate, 2012-2013



# Felony Conviction Rate Amongst the 5 Most Violent Counties (2012-2013)



# Budget

# Budget

- 2010/2011: \$1.2 million under budget
- 2011/2012: \$1.3 million under budget
- 2012/2013: \$1.1 million under budget
- 2013/ 2014: \$700,000 under budget
- 2014/2015: \$1 million under budget

# Budget

- Since 2010/11 Special Prosecutions Unit has obtained approx. **\$4.8 million** in civil judgments and penalties in Environmental and Consumer Fraud prosecutions that were applied to the General Fund and special prosecution units.
- **An average of \$970,000 per year.**



# Current Fiscal Year's Budget

## ■ 2015/2016 Budget -\$35.9 M

–Prop 172 Tax \$12.9 M (36%)

–Other funding \$ 6.5M (18%)

–County \$16.5 M (46%)

■ 90% of DA budget is salaries and  
benefits

# Next Fiscal Year Budget Needed (Status Quo Budget)

## ■ 2015/2016 Budget: \$35.9 M

– Prop 172 Tax: \$12.9 M (36%)

– Other funding: \$6.5 M (18%)

– County: \$16.5 M (46%)

## ■ 2016/2017 Budget: \$39.5 M

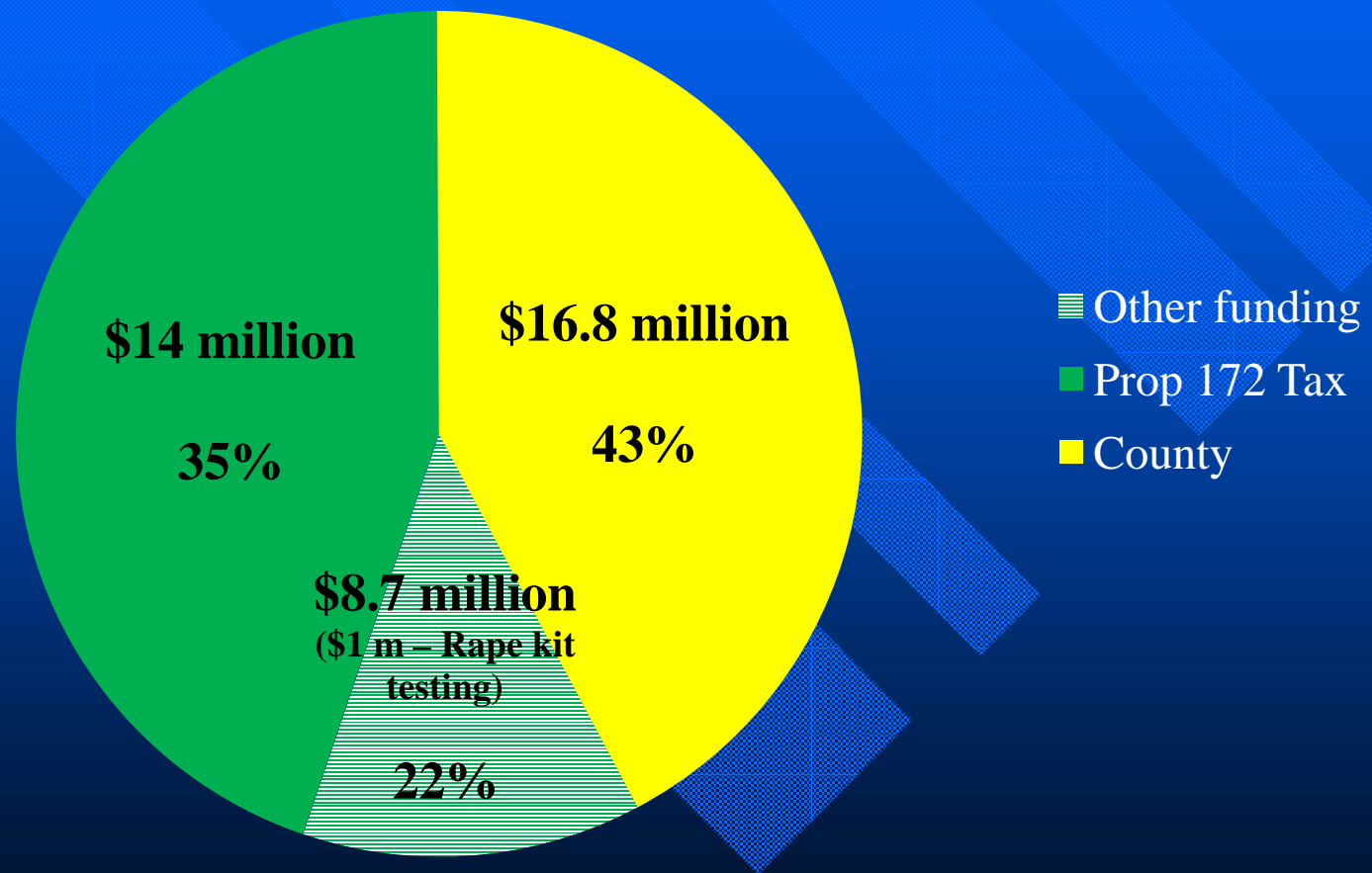
– Prop 172 \$14.0 M (35%)

– Other funding \$ 8.7 M (22%)

– County \$16.8 M (43%)

# District Attorney's Office

2016-2017 Budget: \$39.5 million



89% of DA budget is salaries and benefits

# Office Needs – Additional Costs

- Need 7 clerical positions
  - Received 6 clerical positions
  - \$330,000 NCC
- Need 3 paralegals
  - » Received none

# Mission Statement

- The mission of the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office is to seek justice and enhance public safety for all our residents.
- We do this by fairly, ethically, aggressively, and efficiently prosecuting those who violate the law, and by working to prevent crime.

# Our Mission

SEEK JUSTICE

SERVE JUSTICE

DO JUSTICE

Questions?