

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Protocol for OC Educators

3/9/26 Webinar

We acknowledge that this topic is difficult, if you need to step away at any point, please do so. We encourage you to seek support as needed.

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Agenda

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Overview
- Review of the CSEC Protocol for Orange County Educators
 - *Developed by the CSEC Steering Committee's Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee
- Spotlight on Anaheim UHSD's response to CSEC
- Local resources to support prevention and early intervention



What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)?



Human Trafficking

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to the **exchange of something of value** with a child for an obscene act.

- Something the youth cannot get on their own that they want (e.g., love, affection, social media following, invites to parties, in game currency, etc.).

When a third party benefits from the sale of a child this becomes **human trafficking**.

- This includes Survival Sex, defined as exchanging sex acts or sexual material for one's basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, emotional connection.

Exploitation

Encouraging, assisting, or persuading a minor to produce obscene material is **exploitation**.

Sextortion is a form of exploitation where a person uses deceit, coercion, or another method to obtain a nude or sexual image of a child and then blackmails them for more sexual content/activity or for money.

CSEC may also include:

Sugar dating: an exchange between a younger person providing companionship, dates, or intimacy **AND** an older and wealthier person providing financial support

Pornography: nude images of children (child sexual abuse material)

- Self generated, AI generated, encouraged by another person to create
- Used as a grooming tool for exploitation and human trafficking

Trafficker Types & Tactics

Force

Uses violence, threats, kidnapping, drugs, and blackmail

Fraud

Uses opportunity, money, and experiences

Coercion

Uses relationships, charm, gifts, flattery, romance, and love

Vulnerabilities

- History of child (sexual) abuse
- Leaving Care/Runaway behavior
- Substance use/misuse
- Exposure to violence
- LGBTQ+ youth
- Unmonitored/misuse of social media and online activity

***Note: ALL youth can be vulnerable and potentially at risk for exploitation.**

Trafficking Indicators:

- Absences from school
- Decreased participation and performance in academics or extracurricular activities
- Sudden change in dress, appearance, or behavior
- Problem behaviors, such as aggression or otherwise acting out
- Withdrawal from friends or usual activities
- Depressed mood or anxiety
- Eating or sleeping disturbances
- Self-harm
- Loss of self-esteem
- Signs of physical or sexual abuse
- Suspicious tattoos/branding
- Multiple cell phones
- Refers to much older boyfriend/girlfriend/partner
- Controlling/dominating relationships
- Monitored movement or communication
- Pressure to keep relationship a secret
- Sexualized behavior
- Dresses provocatively or inappropriately for age
- Unexplained money or gifts
- Unexplained sexually transmitted infections or pregnancies
- Substance abuse or signs of addiction
- Language and terms associated with trafficking ("the life/game," "daddy," "trick," "stroll/track/blade," "hotel parties," "trap houses")



**Why is this
relevant to
educators?**

2015-2025 Data Trends

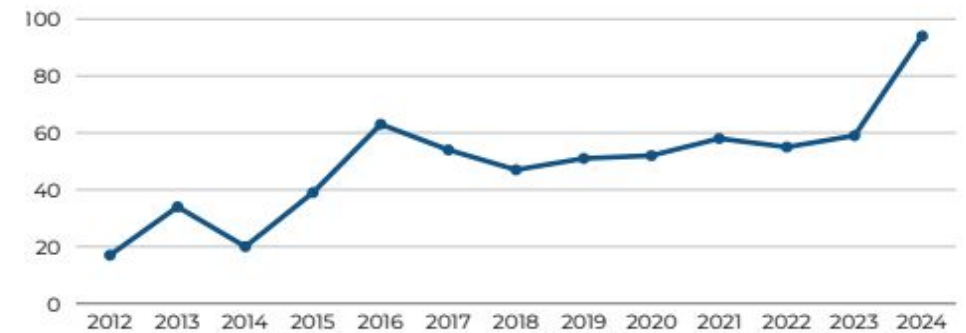
- Online exploitation and sextortion are rising, while the average age of victims is falling.
- The average age in 2024 was just under 15 years old.
- Middle school-aged students are increasingly at risk, despite more parental monitoring compared to older youth.
- 91% of reports made to CPS involve residents of the County of Orange.
- In 2025, 96% of youth remained in the care of their family.



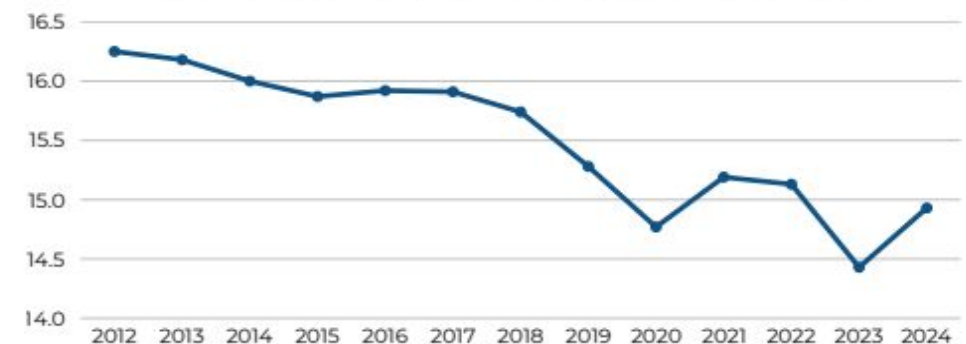
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The data collected between 2012 and 2024 of exploited minor victims shown in the following graphs are courtesy of a collaborative pilot project between the County of Orange Social Service Agency (SSA) and Dr. Jodi Quas at the University of California, Irvine, designed to improve understanding of exploitation and trafficking of minors in the county. Support for the pilot was provided by Orange County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Katrina Foley, Fifth District. Social Service Agency (SSA); Unfounded reports excluded.

Number of Minor Victims Reported to SSA



Average Age of Minor Victims Reported to SSA



ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

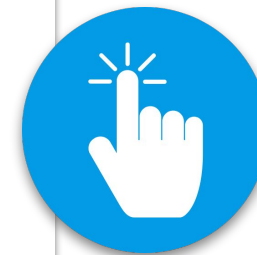
2025 HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM REPORT



9TH EDITION

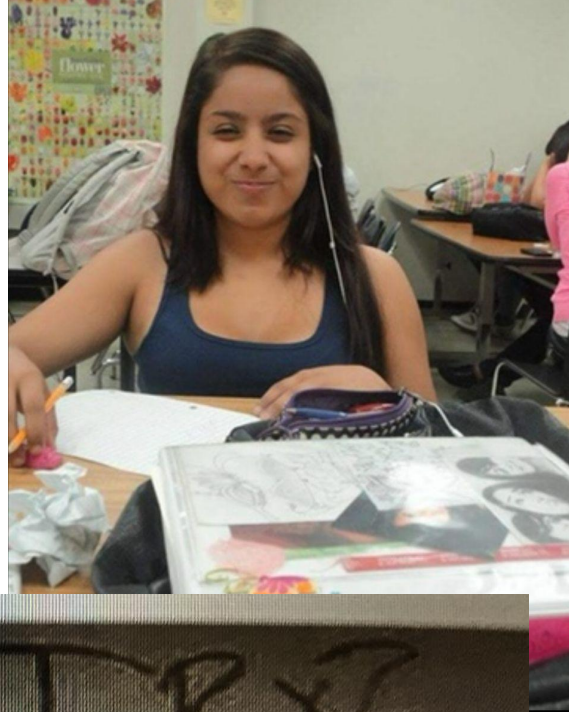
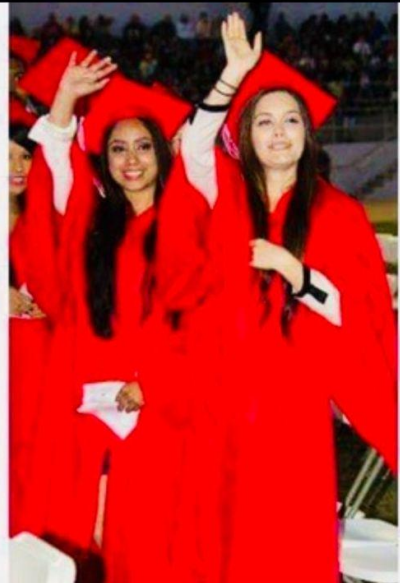


**2025 Human Trafficking
Victim Report**

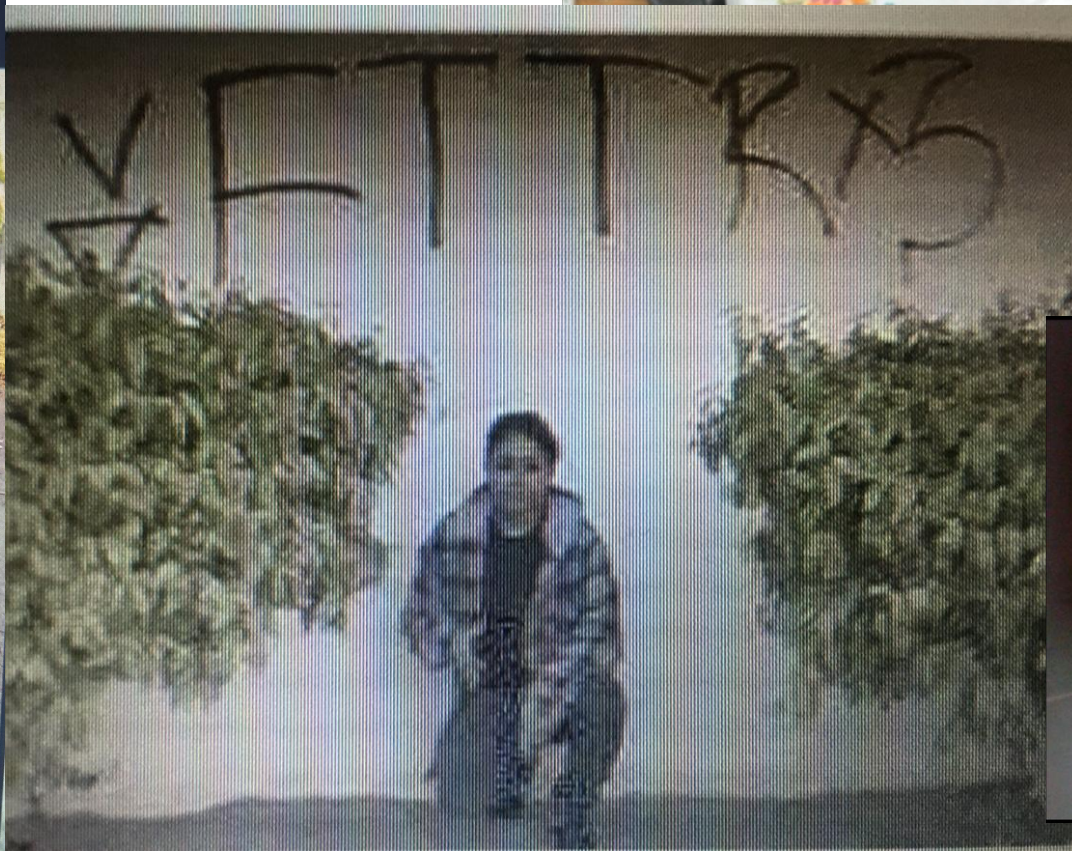




Martha Trujillo: her story in her own words



My foolish life;
Diaries of a Girl



What does recruitment look like?

- Can occur amongst peers
- Recruiters offer their friends an opportunity they will benefit from
- Considered a form of labor trafficking and forced criminalization
- Grooming that involves building trust to manipulate or coerce someone into participating in sexually explicit interactions
- Common among those involved with gangs, drug use, and missing from care or leaving care

CSEC Protocol for OC Educators

The protocol is not a protocol until you **adapt** it to meet the needs of your school community and **use** it to support students.



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Protocol for Orange County Educators

Commercial sexual exploitation of children refers to the exchange of something of value to a child for an obscene act. This may or may not involve a third party benefitting from the exchange and may involve "survival sex." Survival sex is exchanging sex acts or sexual material for one's basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, etc.

Sexual exploitation includes promoting, assisting, employing, persuading, or coercing a child to engage in prostitution, a live performance, or to produce a photo involving an obscene act. This includes sextortion: using deceit, coercion, or another method to obtain a nude or sexual image of a child and blackmailing them for more sexual content/activity or money.

California Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to provide human trafficking prevention education for students in grades 7-12; may offer training for school staff; and in collaboration with community partners, may develop protocols for the early identification, case management, and service planning to reduce incidents of commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. (Education Code (EC) 51934, 51950 and Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16524.6, 16524.7, 16524.8, 16524.9)



AT RISK FACTORS - CRITERIA 1

(as determined by the California Department of Social Services)

Student meets at-risk concern if at least one factor is present:

- Exhibits behaviors or otherwise indicates that they are being controlled or groomed by another person
- Spends time with people known to be involved in commercial sex
- Internet, cellphone, or social media use involves social or sexual behavior that is atypical for their age

AT RISK FACTORS - CRITERIA 2

(as determined by the California Department of Social Services)

Student meets at-risk concern if at least two factors are present:

- History of running away, unstable housing, multiple foster care placements, homelessness, and couch surfing
- Prior involvement with law enforcement or the juvenile justice system
- Frequently missing from school
- Relationships are of concern, placing them at risk or in danger of exploitation
- History of substance use

AT-RISK FOR CSEC - RECOMMENDED PROTOCOL



**Anaheim UHSD's
Response to Suspected
CSEC / Human Trafficking**

Legal Framework for Local Education Agency

- Federal: Trafficking Victims Protection Act; 18 U.S.C. §1591 (sex trafficking of children)
- California: Penal Code §236.1 (human trafficking); Penal Code §§11165.7, 11166 (mandated reporting)
- Education Code: §51934 (required trafficking prevention education, grades 7–12); §49380–49381 (prevention training and parent resources)

Immediate Actions for School Staff

1. Administrator should be notified immediately
2. Ensure immediate safety (minutes, not days)
3. A collaborative approach where the school counselor, social worker, or school psychologists meet with the student and confirm the facts.
 - a. Receive disclosure safely (trauma-informed, minimal facts)
4. Mandated report immediately (CPS or Local Police)
5. Implement the OC Protocol steps (school-based stabilization + monitoring)
6. After the report: Re-Entry Meeting (take a need-to-know approach)

Confidentiality, Parent Contact, and Documentation

1. Confidentiality (share what you need to protect the student)
2. Parent/guardian contact (consult protocol and consider safety risk)
3. Documentation (maintain separate and support notes vs. investigative content)

LEA's duties go beyond response. LEAs can serve as stakeholders in prevention, awareness, and response.

The image features a central orange circle with the word "RESOURCES" written in white, bold, uppercase letters. This circle is surrounded by a sunburst pattern of numerous colored pencils in various colors including orange, blue, red, teal, and pink, all pointing outwards from the center. The background is white.

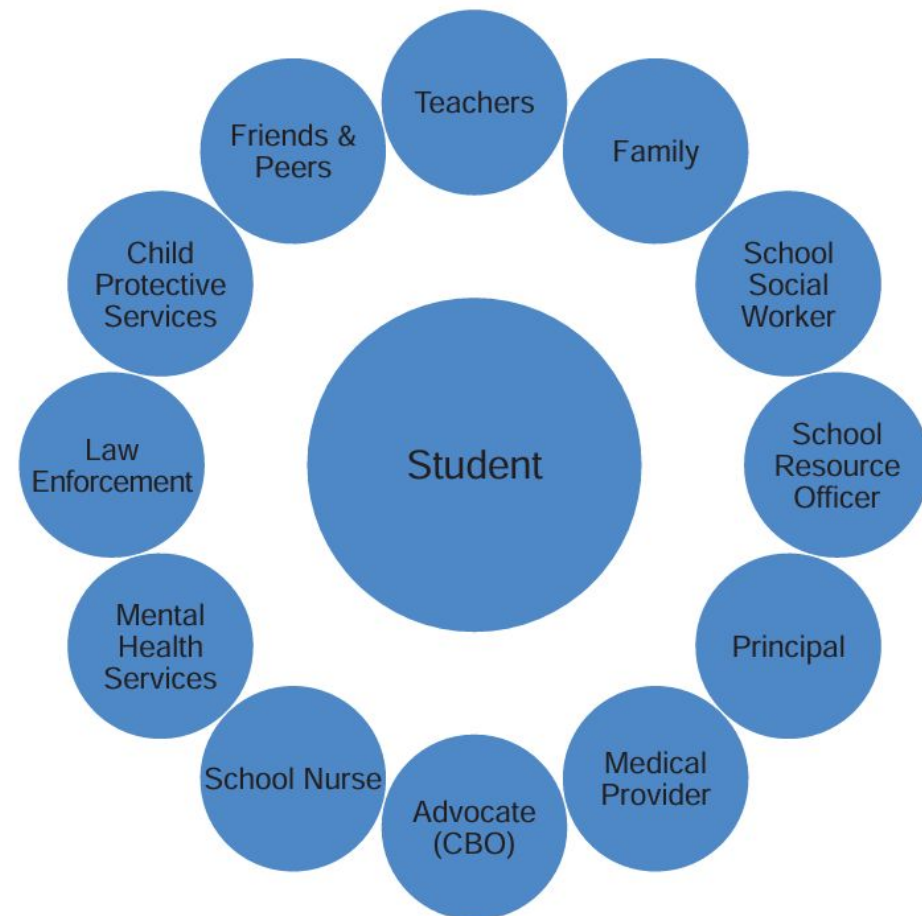
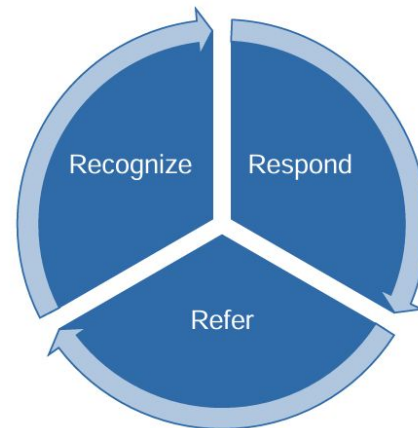
RESOURCES



Early Identification of
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

CSEC TOOLKIT

*Specifically designed for Educators and Administrators in
Elementary, Middle, and High Schools*





California Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required
to **provide human trafficking prevention
education for students in grades 7-12** as a part of
the California Healthy Youth Act.

(Education Code (EC) 51930-9)



GUEST SPEAKER

[The Safe Communities; Safe Kids Program](#)

Trained Vanguard University college students, called Peer Educators, and dedicated teachers provide **2 lessons to students** on human trafficking, online safety, and healthy relationships.

Contact: Jamie Macintosh
jamie.macintosh@vanguard.edu

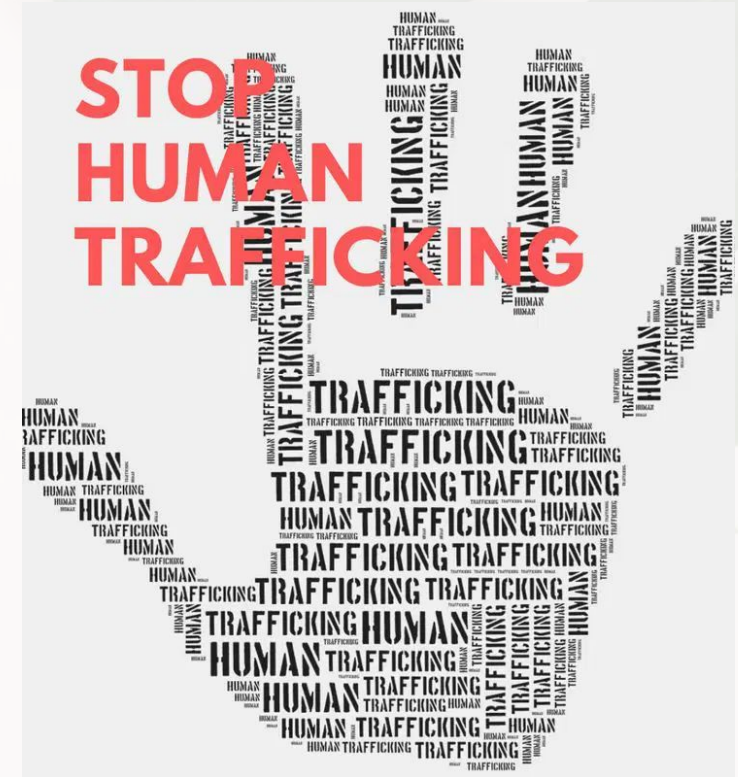
[Higher Ground- Human Trafficking Prevention](#)

Trained college students and college age adults provide **a four-lesson curriculum to students** on human trafficking, healthy relationships, online and social media safety, and grooming.

Contact: Katrina Salenieks
katrinasalenieks@highergroundoc.org

Professional Development

- [Sexual Health Educator \(SHE\) Training Program](#): no cost, online modules
 - **Child Trafficking Myths and Facts** by Love146
 - **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Awareness** by the Public Child Welfare Training Academy, the California Department of Social Services, and the California Social Work Education Center
 - **Human Trafficking 101** by Polaris
 - **Recognizing Red Flags and Helping Youth Find a Safe Adult** by Love146
- [WEAVE Learn Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children \(CSEC\) Webinars](#)



Additional Resources

- Information & resources: [Blue Campaign](#), [Thorn](#), & [Love146](#)
- Healthy relationship resources for youth and young adults: [One Love](#) (*includes new trusted adult resources*)
- Online safety education program: [NetSmartz](#) (*includes CyberTipline to report online exploitation*)
- Curriculum options (at cost):
 - [PROTECTeen](#)
 - [The Cool Aunt Series](#)



County of Orange Resources

Drop-in Centers:

Orangewood Foundation Project Choice-
1575 E. 17th St., Santa Ana, 619- 8413

Olive Crest Drop-in Center- 1237 Euclid St.,
Anaheim, 92804, 888-311-7725

National Center for Missing and Exploited
Children (NCMEC):

- [Get Help Now](#)
- [Take It Down](#) helps minors remove explicit photos online
- [Interactive Film: No Escape Room](#)

Resources for Parents,
Caregivers, and Trusted Adults

[CSEC Caregiver Resource Guide](#)





County of Orange CSEC Steering
Committee

Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee

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