

# Berkeley Social Welfare

## **The Use of Administrative Data to Improve Identification and Outcomes for Youth who Experience Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

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## Background

In 2014, President Obama signed Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, which required that agencies develop policies and procedures for identifying and serving children and youth who experience sex trafficking or are at-risk of such experiences.

These requirements were codified by California law and implemented in 2016.

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## Background

WIC § 300 (b)(2) defines a **commercially sexually exploited child (CSEC)** as:

“A child who is sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the Penal Code, or who receives food or shelter in exchange for, or who is paid to perform, sexual acts described in Section 236.1 or 11165.1 of the Penal Code, and whose parent or guardian failed to, or was unable to, protect the child”

WIC § 16501.35, & WIC § 16501.45 require child welfare agencies to identify children receiving child welfare services that have experienced **commercial sexual exploitation (CSE)** or are at-risk of CSE victimization

## CSEC Data Grid

The screenshot shows a software application window with a menu bar containing 'ch Log', 'AFDC-FC', 'Attorneys', 'Service Providers', 'I.C.W.A.', 'Adoption Info', and 'AAP Eligibility'. Below the menu bar is a toolbar with icons for a document with a dollar sign, a person at a desk, and a person with a bag. The main area is titled 'CSEC Data' and contains a table with the following structure:

	CSEC Type	Start Date	End Date
+			
1			

Below the table, there are three input fields: 'CSEC Type', 'Start Date', and 'End Date'. The 'CSEC Type' dropdown menu is open, showing the following options:

- <None>
- <None>
- At Risk
- Victim Before Foster Care
- Victim During Foster Care
- Victim in Open Case not in Foster Care
- Victim while Absent from Placement
- Victim with Closed Case, Rcv ILP Svcs

A red arrow points from the table area down to the 'CSEC Type' dropdown menu.

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## Exploitation Allegations

Client Services - Referral [L, Mother] - [Allegation [L, Susie (15)]]

File Edit Search Action Associated Attach/Detach Window Help Toolz

Conclusion

**Current Conclusion**

**People Involved**

Alleged Victim: L, Susie

Abuse Category: Exploitation

Alleged Perpetrator:

Conclusion Date: 04/12/2016

Allegation Conclusion: Substantiated

Conclusion Description

**Abuse Information**

+ Abuse Subcategory

**Conclusion History**

Allegation Conclusion History			
Date	Conclusion	Grievance	

Allegation Conclusion modified as a result of grievance?

No  Yes

**Select Abuse Information**

Abuse SubCategory

- Child Porno, Knowledge/Involvement of Parent
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Exploiting Child's Labor
- Involving Child in Criminal Behavior
- Other Exploitation
- Selling/Offering to Sell Child

OK Cancel Help

## Background: Relevant Research

A recent study found that youth confirmed to have experienced CSEC were more likely to experience kidnapping, physical abuse and sexual assault by a non-relative and were less likely to be in than youth identified only as at-risk of CSEC using a sex trafficking screening tool (Kenny et al., 2019).

*These findings suggest that distinguishing between youth at-risk for and actually experiencing CSE may have important implications for service provision.*

## Background: Relevant Research

Some research suggests that CSE disproportionately impacts certain subsets of the child population, including African American, LGB and gender nonconforming youth (Alessi et al., 2020; Baker, 2018; Mitchell et al., 2010). However, other evidence suggests the presence of bias in the identification of CSE across the child population (Halter, 2010).

*Taken together, these findings reveal a need for rigorous research on the experiences of CSE among the child population.*

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## Questions of Interest

- What is the scope of exploitation across California?
- To what extent is exploitation specific to CSEC?
- Who is identified as being a *victim* of CSEC?
- Who is identified only as being *at-risk* of CSEC?
- To what extent can we assess recurrence of CSEC?

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## Findings: CSEC Data Grid

- Since 2014, a total of 8,855 youth before the age of 18 years received one or more entry on the CSEC Data Grid
- Among all youth with entries:
  - 26.8% ever had a “victim” data grid entry
  - Across counties that entered information on the CSEC data grid for at least 250 youth, the percentage of youth with one or more “victim” entry ranged from 5.5 to 67.0%

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## Findings: Exploitation Allegations

- Since 2014, a total of 9,297 youth were the subject of one or more allegations of exploitation
- Among all youth with allegations of exploitation:
  - 18.2% ever had a substantiated exploitation allegation

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## Taken together...

- Since 2014, a total of 14,892 youth have been identified by the CWS for suspected exploitation and/or trafficking by age 18
- Among all youth:
  - 11.5% ever received a substantiation
  - 15.9% has a “victim” data grid entry
  - 6.3% has a substantiation and a victim data grid entry
  - 9.6% had a “victim” grid entry but had no substantiated allegation of exploitation
  - 3.7% had substantiated allegations of exploitation but no data grid entry

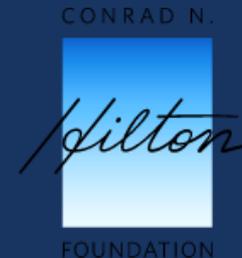
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## Thank You

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# Questions?

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